

# Newsletter

1/2002



Magazine of Eskdale & District Branch  
Cats Protection  
Spring 2002

## **Editorial - Fiona**

Hello and welcome to the first newsletter of 2002.

The snow & wintry weather is still with us but we have already had two litters of kittens brought into care and people are saying it's not the kitten season yet!

We had a very busy year in 2001 even though there was a lull in the neutering of farm cats due to foot & mouth, we seemed to make up for it later as you will see by the figures given under catwork.

We are having another free neutering campaign in April, so if you know of anyone on low income, pension or benefits who has a cat or cats to be neutered then please get them to contact us.

Ginnie has already booked a large number of fund-raising events and I'm sure these will be added to as time goes on. Please try to get to one of these events if you can. If you would like to attend a car boot sale on our behalf, (we have plenty of bric-a-brac you could sell), then please give one of us a ring.

Our Annual Raffle is to be drawn at the Fun Day on 4th August, tickets are enclosed, if you can sell any more then please give us a ring.

Do you know someone who likes cats and would like to receive this newsletter. If so, could you persuade them to join? Membership money is one of our guaranteed incomes, so the more members the more money we have for the cats & kittens.

And finally, is there anyone out there who would be able to give talk, about Cats Protection, to schools, youth groups, WI meeting etc? This is an area in which we could do more. We need someone who will contact groups and go along to talk to them. We have videos and flip charts to help and will give you all the support we can. The committee and helpers we have at the moment are fully occupied with the work that is already ongoing, so we are looking for a new helper or two! Are you that person?? If you think you could take on this task, or would like some more information, then please ring Anne on 01228 791364, Ginnie on 013873 76738 or myself on 01461 202761.

# Cat Work



**2001 has been our busiest year since we started in 1997.**

206 cats and kittens were rehomed.

10 cats or kittens died or had to be PTS

4 lost cats were reunited with their owners

28 cat owners had help with vet bills

## **Neutering**

74 cats were neutered whilst in care

217 ferals were neutered

368 cats living with their owners were neutered with our help

659 cats neutered in total, yet we still have kittens. The first litter of feral 8 week old kittens arrived on the 7th of February.

As you can see from the figures more domestic cats than ferals were neutered. These figures correspond with the number of kittens in 2001 :-  
30 domestic kittens

125 feral kittens

*We shall have to try and work harder with the ferals this year!!*

Anne

## **Christmas Bottle Draw Winners**

|                                |            |                   |
|--------------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Jill                           | Firth Vets | Pina Colada       |
| Roy Grierson                   | CXPP       | Bottle Whisky     |
| Eden Parker                    | Annan      | Red Wine          |
| Mandy Dalgliesh                | Seafoods   | Port              |
| M Wetherstone                  | Langholm   | Harvey Wallbanger |
| Audrey Mackie                  | Esk Vets   | Bottle Whisky     |
| Bobby Litke                    |            | Apperetife        |
| Fiona Duff                     |            | Black Russian     |
| Elaine Carswell                |            | White Wine        |
| S.Elliot                       | DFS        | Croft Original    |
| David Nelson                   | Eastriggs  | White Wine        |
| John Webster                   | DFS        | Bottle Bacardi    |
| E Hodgson                      | K'Flemming | Croft Original    |
| Gary (01228 536701)            |            | Harvey Wallbanger |
| Mrs E.M Spencer (01576 610279) |            | Whisky & Mints    |
| Sheba & Ally                   | Langholm   | Red Wine          |
| Linda Spooner (016977 46817)   |            | Red Wine          |
| Mary Waite                     | Eastriggs  | Sherry            |
| Woody                          | CXPP       | White Wine        |
| Bruce (01228 402410)           |            | Margarita         |

Grateful thanks to everyone who bought and sold bottle draw sheets.

# **Cat Work 2002**

34 Cats & Kittens have been homed  
32 are in care  
7 are on the help to home list

February & March are usually the months when we have no kittens in care, but not this year. We will be doing a 'free neutering' during the month of April, if anyone knows of any cats needing neutered then please ask the owners to get in touch.

Some of the cats in care include:-

## **Misty & Lily**

10yr old females, 1 black long-haired, 1 tabby & white, they do not need to be homed together. Both cats were originally Cats Protection cats, quite a number of years ago, unfortunately their owner has died. Misty is quite happy curling up on the bed and staying there all day; Lily is an independent cat.

## **Geordie & Tiny**

Geordie, 9yrs, female, tortie & white, very friendly & affectionate. Tiny, 1yr, male, black & white, would be timid at first but wouldn't take long to gain confidence. These two cats came into care when their owner moved and was unable to take them. They need to be homed together.

## **Sindy & Mitsy**

6 & 4 yrs old, female, tabbies. Sindy & Mitsy sadly had to come into care when their owner also died. They were very frightened & timid at first, but are much happier now.

## **Tansy**

6months, female, tabby. Came into care in November, from a farm of 23 cats & kittens. Tansy went to the vets to be spayed & returned but was so underweight the vet was unable to do so. She obviously felt very unwell as she tamed almost immediately. Tansy is a very affectionate cat but needs a home with no small children.

Anne

# FUNDRAISING NEWS

Here we are again at the start of the fundraising season. Our first event of the year was an invitation to have a stall at the Gretna Guides Pet Show on 9th February. It was good fun and I would like to thank Sarah and all the girls for asking us and for generously dividing the proceeds between Cats Protection and Canine Defence, which meant that we made a grand total of £140.

One down and forty to go!

If you take a look at the list you will see there are quite a number of things booked already. One change is that the Fun Day is in August this year, not September - I just thought we had a slight chance of getting a bit of sun in August and less of the howling wind which tried to remove the tents last year. The hovercraft will be back so if you didn't have a go last year - come on, be brave this year. I hope Muriel will be doing Reiki and Indian Head Massage too, so we should have something relaxing as well as something exciting.

However, back to the present. We have booked the Moot Hall in Brampton and the Richard Greenhow Centre in Gretna for Coffee Mornings for the first time this year. Do please come along and support us - the Moot Hall is where the Information Centre is in Brampton (in the middle) and the Richard Greenhow Centre is opposite the shops in Gretna. If there are any members who can help at these venues - or indeed at any of the events - please give me a ring, as we always need more helpers and it's actually quite fun because you get to meet some more of our members and then there are other people who take stalls selling their own crafts so there are lots of new and interesting things to look at and buy - and not just cat things too. We have stalls with woodturning, jewellery, quilting, collectables, and all sorts. Not more than two or three at each event usually, however, so you need to come along to a variety of events to meet everyone. And of course there is Ruthie's baking! If any member would like to take a stall at one of the Coffee Mornings or at the Fun Day, you'd be very welcome. Give me a ring on 013873 76738.

And now Begging Time! Can I ask, please, please, please, if you have any unwanted Christmas presents (or indeed ANYTHING SALEABLE except heavy furniture or anything live!) can we have them for our various stalls - raffle, tombola, crafts, bric-a-brac, books, plants - anything is grist to our mill. And Anne needs 5" plant pots so could you root about in the potting shed to see if you have anything about that size. Ring Anne or me or Fiona, and if you want, we can collect.

Can anyone do some baking? Ruthie and Fiona bake for us and do a grand job - I don't know how Ruthie manages such a variety of gorgeous goodies - those apple Danish pastries are fantastic (and the lemon tarts !!) so please could they have a bit of support from anyone who can bake a rock cake or a biscuit or do fudge, or whatever? Thanks.

While we are on the subject of thanking people, I'd like also to thank our faithful band of helpers who turn out for all the events come rain or rain - Eileen and Janet and Meg and Audrey and Muriel and Ruthie. It is much appreciated and of course absolutely vital for keeping the group going.

So we look forward to meeting all the members this year. Don't forget the Silent Auction on 5th April - lots of great bargains.

## **GRAND RAFFLE WINNERS**

**£50 Cash :- Crawford c/o Susan Hair Salon, Newcastleton**

**Border Fine Art :- Kathy Davidson, Lockerbie**

**Toaster :- Mary, Langholm**

**Photo Album :- G. Glasgow, CX**

**35 miniature bottles of Vodka - Christine Cassell c/o Cochran Boilers**

**Garden House Voucher - Margaret Dunbar, Lockerbie**

**Bottle of Wine - Sheena Grant, OU**

**Binoculars - Sandra Woodley, Eaglesfield**

**Toiletries - Vera, Eastriggs**

**Bottle of Wine : Lauren Forbes, OU**

**Thanks to everyone who bought and sold raffle tickets, £327 was raised.**

## **DOUGIE**

I am sorry to have to tell you that little Dougie died on 8th February. She was a lovely, positive cat with such a bright, eager look on her face and she would follow me all round the house trotting sideways with a jaunty spring in her step. She loved a bit of fuss and was as game as anything and as lively as many a cat half her age - you will recall her letter in the Autumn Newsletter last year telling how she had caught a shrew (and they are not slow). She was poorly off and on for some days before she died, but each time I thought she was slipping away she would rally and perk up and start eating and trotting about again. On the day she died she had several little snacks and was bright as anything until she slipped into a semi-comatose state during the late afternoon, and went to Rainbow Bridge in the evening. We were with her when she went and she is buried in the garden. Be happy Dougie, we miss you.

## Forthcoming Events 2002

- 23rd March Coffee Morning and Sale. Newcastleton Village Hall, 10:30am - 12:30pm
- 30th March Coffee Morning and Sale. Langholm Day Centre 10am to 12pm
- 5th April Silent Auction. Longtown Community Centre, 6:30pm - 8:30pm
- 18th May Coffee Morning and Sale. Moot Hall Brampton, 10:30am - to 12:30pm
- 25th May Stall at Kelso Equine Extravaganza. Springwood Park, Kelso
- 1st June Stall at Queen's Jubilee Fair, Longtown Junior School Playing Field
- 1st - 8th June Stall at Newcastleton Craft Fayre
- 15th June Coffee Morning and Sale. Canonbie Parish Hall 10am to 12pm
- 22nd June Coffee Morning and Sale. Newcastleton Village Hall 10:30am to 12:30pm
- July Open Garden Day. Anne's, 38 English St. Longtown
- 26-27th July Stall at Border Union Show, Kelso
- 4th August Fun Day, Garden House Hotel, Gretna, 11am to 4pm
- August Stall at Holm Show, Newcastleton
- 8th Sept Sponsored Walk - Location to be decided, probably Langholm Area
- 27th Oct Crafts For Christmas at Anne's, 38 English St. Longtown 7pm - 9pm
- 9th Nov Coffee Morning and Autumn Fair. Day Centre Langholm, 10am to 12
- 16th Nov Coffee Morning and Christmas Fair. Lockerbie Town Hall, 10am to 12pm
- 23rd Nov Stalls at Christmas Charities Fair. Loreburn Hall, Dumfries
- 30th Nov Coffee Morning and Christmas Fair. Newcastleton Village Hall, 10:30 to 12:30

**If anyone would like to book a table at one of these events please phone GINNIE on 013873 76738**

Hello Fergus,

I'm Shep - guess what - I'm a dog (and yes I'm a collie). Mum read me some of your letters and I'm writing to say I wish you lived with us - you sound like my kind of cat. You're quite right to steer clear of those vets, they sneak up on you when you least expect it and jab you. Sometimes they even come and do it in your own home, it's terrible. I think it's really underhand when they don't wear their white coats - you don't get any warning at all!! I live with four cats and they are sickeningly well-behaved at the vets - totally letting the side down. One is big enough to inflict some serious damage if he chose to. But does he - no, he just lies there and purrs while he's getting his jab.

There were three cats in the house until summer but there is this big fluffy creamy coloured thing lives in the garden (mum says it's a cat but I'm not convinced). Anyway, it took to disappearing behind the shed with mice and things and mum followed it only to find it was taking care of three of the teeniest, tiniest mini cats I have ever seen - they weren't impressed with me. Mum took to spending hours trying to catch them (I'm sure my walks were neglected!!!!) She caught one and horror of horrors it moved into the house and if there is one thing really tortures my nerves it's small cats - you just never know where they are going to turn up next. Mum borrowed a cage and caught the other two.

I had high hopes that they were only temporary, but no, the first one had already spent a week in Dad's office and it got its feet well and truly under the table and it stayed. Fortunately the other two went to a nice new home together - what a relief! I've just about knocked the little chap into shape, he's not really terrifying me when I leap into the air out of my bed when I haven't seen him coming, no, really, it's a new game I've invented, he's just not caught on yet!!

Well Fergus that's my news; look forward to hearing more of yours.

Shep

# 100+ CLUB

Anyone wishing to join please contact Fiona, Ginnie or Anne.

Winning numbers since last newsletter:

|          |        |                 |
|----------|--------|-----------------|
| November | no 113 | Alistair Moir   |
|          | no 109 | Hazel White     |
| December | no 35  | Cameron Thomson |
|          | no 65  | Margaret Bell   |
| January  | no 85  | Doris Irving    |
|          | no 23  | Ann Kirkpatrick |
| February | no 62  | Elaine Briggs   |
|          | no 116 | Billy Thomson   |

## Treasurer's Report 2001

### **Income**

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Donations                              | £ 5815.32 |
| Membership                             | £ 486.00  |
| Sponsorship                            | £ 1067.00 |
| HQ Grant                               | £ 4178.27 |
| Table Tops, Fairs &<br>Coffee Mornings | £11086.54 |
| Collecting Boxes                       | £ 1161.10 |
| Raffles & Competitions                 | £ 3257.71 |

**Total**                                **£27051.94**

### **Expenditure**

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Vets   | £ 5619.88 |
| Food & Litter  | £ 2481.91 |
| Print, Stationery                                    | £ 225.81  |
| Postage  | £ 291.11  |
| Repairs & Renewals<br>(Pens)                         | £ 5757.73 |
| Fundraising (Goods to re-sell, hire<br>of halls etc) | £ 5581.01 |
| Fostering  | £ 631.36  |
| Misc.  | £ 494.00  |

**Total**                                **£21082.81**

As you can see, our dedicated band of helpers have raised an enormous amount of money, we have also spent a lot. Although we were left with a healthy balance at the end of December, with 2 very large vet bills and no fund-raising in January & February, this amount is now drastically reduced.

HQ is not funding a 'Free Neutering Campaign' this year, but we are going to fund one ourselves in April.

Please help us again this year, we need to do it all again.

Your continuing support is very much appreciated, our funds depict the amount of cat work we are able to do.

Christine

# OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS



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### *Disclaimer*

*The views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Eskdale & District Branch of Cats Protection*