

Newsletter

1:2010



Cats Protection

Eskdale and District Branch

Spring 2010

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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

Editorial

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2010 – beginning of March and still bitterly cold. I hope everyone isn't getting too depressed by the constant cold and snow. The temperature went below zero so frequently that we had to replace the heaters in four of the new pens with ones twice the size, in order to keep the foster cats warm. Then we upped the cold weather payments to fosterers because of the extra heating the cats needed, which took quite a chunk out of our reserves.



We have a new RDM now, to replace Tracy. Her name is Kate Gallagher and Anne and I have met her and feel that we shall get on very well. She has a lot of experience with another major charity and seems to have a good fund of down to earth common sense. Here's hoping.

Anyway – now to the BIG NEWS. THE SHOP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Yes, we are now open for business three days a week, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at Anne's in Longtown. For those of you who haven't been to Anne's, that is 38 English St, which is the main road through Longtown. Heading south towards Carlisle it is about three quarters of the way through the town, on the right hand side, and to give you a clue, there is a sign saying 'Anne's' above the door. After 60 years of hairdressing (not all done by Anne!) it is giving way graciously to a new venture.

So – what are we selling?

Pictures, ornaments, jewellery, handbags, belts, collectables, cushions, brassware, books etc – all new or in really good condition. We also have the CP stuff which we sell at coffee mornings – cards, magnets, keyrings, jigsaws, mugs, mats, pens, etc.

Editorial

We are not selling clothes – and when you come into the shop you will see why. The shop is bright and light and full of attractive, small items. There is no room for clothes. We have one or two small bits of furniture but we can't fit large bits in – and when the weather improves we hope to have some plants.

Opening hours are 10 am to 4 pm

Please do come and support us, you won't be disappointed because there genuinely are lots of bargains and a wide range of stock.

Now to the helpers. If anyone would be able to help in the shop, that is, do a morning or afternoon stint, either regularly or as an occasional helper, we would love to hear from you. If we can get more assistants we can open more days and raise more money. Please ring either Anne on 01228 791364 or me, Ginnie on 013873 76738.

Free Neutering

APRIL 2010

This is for cats belonging to people who are on benefit or pension or very low income. Please spread the word – if you know of anyone who has cats that are not neutered and who is on benefit/pension/very low income, tell them about the scheme and tell them to ring either Anne on 01228 791364 or me on 013873 76738.

That way we can stop a lot of unwanted kittens from being born.

Cat Work

2009

| | |
|---|----|
| Domestic cats and kittens rehomed | 84 |
| Cats Died/P.T.S | 7 |
| Ferals rehomed | 3 |
| Owners receiving veterinary help for their cats | 42 |

All cats and kittens which come into care are now not only neutered but vaccinated and microchipped as well, which has made quite a difference to our vets bills

Neutering

139 Ferals were caught, neutered and rehomed to site

204 Cats belonging to members of public received full cost vouchers.

[Free neutering scheme]

88 Cats received part payment vouchers

Since the branch started in June 1997 we have neutered approx 5,626 cats.

2010

17 Cats have been successfully rehomed

27 Cats are in care

24 Cats are on the help to home list waiting to come into care.

Some of the cats in care:-

Hattie

1 year old, female, black and white. Hattie came into care a very pregnant stray who produced 5 kittens 4 days later. Her kittens have been rehomed.

Now she awaits a loving home.

Heidi

Another stray, approx 1-2 yrs. old, white and black. Heidi was found living at the back of a hotel covered in scabs due to a flea allergy. A dose of flea treatment and she is fine but will need regular flea treatment to keep her allergy at bay.

Charlie

6-8 months, male, tabby and white. Charlie was found dodging the traffic on Lockerbie High Street. We have since discovered Charlie's owner moved and just left him behind.

Jane and Hugo

Mother and son, both tabby. Jane was found living in a hay barn with her 3 kittens. On going to pick her up first thoughts were that she would probably be feral but she is a lovely cat.

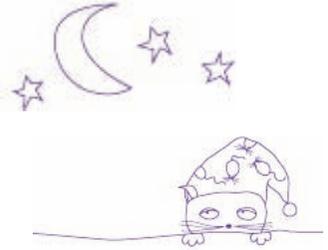
Jane and Hugo don't need to be homed together.

Poetry Corner

This is the second poem sent in by Gordon Forbes, one of our longstanding members.

Friendly Cats

*Cats are loving friends
They purr with love
And rub your leg
And jump up on your knee.
So much love is there.
Cats roll in the sun
They have so much fun
They jump up in the air
To catch a butterfly.
Then she goes on in
To get the food.
It's so good
You have a lovely day.
Now up to bed
My lovely queen
To sleep and dream.*



Now one by Emily Dickinson, a nineteenth century American poet

She Sights a Bird

*She sights a Bird – she chuckles –
She flattens – then she crawls –
She runs without the look of feet –
Her eyes increase to Balls –*

*Her Jaws stir – twitching – hungry –
Her Teeth can hardly stand –*

*She leaps, but Robin leaped the first –
Ah, Pussy, of the Sand,*

*The Hopes so juicy ripening –
You almost bathed your Tongue –
When Bliss disclosed a hundred Toes –
And fled with every one.*

Treasurer's Report 2009

INCOME

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Legacies & Grants from H.Q. | £10,005·00 |
| Donations [Cats Rehomed] | £ 745·00 |
| Donations | £ 8,552·63 |
| Membership | £ 440·00 |
| Collecting Boxes | £ 849·58 |
| Coffee mornings etc. | £ 8,133·44 |
| Raffles, Quiz & 100 Club | £ 1,529·11 |
| Gift Aid | £ 472·29 |
| Bank Interest | £ 24·74 |

£30,753·79

EXPENDITURE

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Food & Litter | £ 5,197·39 |
| Veterinary | £14,516·88 |
| Travel Costs | £ 1,052·75 |
| Cattery Costs | £ 155·25 |
| Equipment and New Pens | £ 8,770·50 |
| Repairs | £ 990·00 |
| Printing & Stationary etc. | £ 304·10 |
| Winter payment to fosterers | £ 700·00 |
| Goods for Resale | £ 2,010·00 |
| Hire of Halls etc. | £ 356·57 |
| 100 Club Payments | £ 476·50 |

£34,532·94

We desperately needed new pens this year causing us to overspend. Fortunately H.Q. helped us out with funds held centrally.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who sent donations to help with Molly's ear operation. Her operation went well, she has made a full recovery and is now waiting for a loving home.

Letter to Isaac

Dear Isaac

It was good to hear from you; but what a long time ago that was. I don't know what I have been doing since the summer, but probably sleeping, as that really is my favourite occupation.

I do know I haven't been taken for walks for a long time: something to do with "weather". Too much rain; too much snow and too much ice. I don't know: what kind of excuse is that?

Anyway, today the sun is shining and so I have taken Mum out for a walk. I do think I suit my harness. This picture was taken last summer, and I do hope that you like it:



Angus goes for a walk

It was a bit cold for my paws this morning, and the grass was cold and wet, so I didn't go and lie under my favourite shrubs:



Angus under his favourite shrubs

There isn't really room for Mum to lie here too, so she does feel a bit of a lemon just standing there while I sniff the lovely smells and she holds her arm out.

However, I did find some nice human beings to talk to. I let them tickle my ears and very graciously lay down on my back and let them tickle my tummy. They thought that it was very strange a cat taking its owner for a walk: they haven't seen me before, but said they will look out for me when I am lying on the settee by the window watching the birds in the garden, and people taking their dogs for walks.

Honestly: dogs are so strange aren't they? When they are on their leads, they simply let their owners take them where they want to: it's more fun being a cat: I just go where I want to!

Fundraising

We haven't wasted any time this year – hard at it already. On 19th and 20th of February we had a collection at Tesco in Lockerbie and raised nearly £200. Many thanks to all the people who helped and who donated money.

All the events booked so far are listed on the next page. Please note especially the plant sale on 6th June at Douglen. Douglen is between Langholm and Bentpath on the B709. Just under 4 miles out of Langholm along that road turn right down a little side road signposted for Hawick, and follow the signs. There will be lots of plants for sale all at very reasonable prices and refreshments in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits will be available.

We are only doing one coffee morning in Langholm this year, for two reasons. We now have the shop in Longtown and people can get to Longtown from Langholm quite easily, and the spring coffee morning is never very well attended. I don't know why, because we have lots of members and supporters in Langholm, but there it is.

100 CLUB

| | | |
|---------|-----|----------------|
| Nov' 09 | 116 | Billy Thomson |
| | 27 | Mr Irving |
| Dec'09 | 117 | Slipper |
| | 16 | Audrey King |
| Jan'10 | 7 | Linda Nawrocki |
| | 102 | Julie Fisher |
| Feb'10 | 17 | Carol Sawyers |
| | 10 | Freda Ward |



BOTTLE DRAW

| | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| Whisky | Emma McManus |
| ½ Whisky | Alex Smith |
| ½ Bacardi | Lorraine Stoddart |
| Box Wine | Amy Little |
| Wine | Linda Spooner |
| Wine | June Birrell |
| Wine | April Davey |
| Wine | Diane Barclay |

£205 was raised, thank you all who supported.

Events 2010

Various dates still to be confirmed – and there will be more events booked. Please keep checking for more definite information.

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| March 27th | Coffee Morning & Sale, Newcastleton Village Hall, 10:30 am – 12 noon. |
| April 10th | Coffee Morning & Sale, Lockerbie Town Hall, 10 am – 12 noon |
| 6th June | Plant Sale at Douglen, by Burnfoot, Westerkirk from 11 am For details ring Margaret on 013873 70234 |
| 20th June | Relaxation Day – Garden House Hotel, Gretna. From 1 pm |
| 29th May – 5th June | Stall at Newcastleton Craft Fair (all week) |
| 5th June | Stand at Longtown Gala |
| 28th August | Stand at Newcastleton (The Holm) Show |
| 4th September | Stand at Westerkirk (The Benty) Show |
| 25th September | Stand at Langholm Show |
| 9th October | Coffee Morning & Sale, Lockerbie Town Hall 10 am – 12 noon |
| October | Stall at Cat Show, Brampton |
| 23rd October | Coffee Morning & Sale, The Legion Jedburgh 10 am – 12 noon |
| November | Stall at Dumfries Charities Fair |
| 13th November | Coffee Morning and Sale, Newcastleton Village Hall 10:30am – 12. noon |
| 27th November | Coffee Morning and Sale, Langholm Day Centre 10 am – 12 noon |

If you would like to have a table at one of the coffee mornings, or can help in any way e.g., baking or making things to sell, or helping at one of the events, please ring me on 013873 76738

Kittens can get anywhere

At the time of this incident I had 3 4-month old black kittens. They came into care at 8 weeks old and were feral. They stayed in the kitchen until they were tamed and fully vaccinated, then had free run of the house.

Going to bed quite late one Saturday evening only 2 kittens could be seen, then I heard a little meow coming from the bedroom.

Opened wardrobe doors - no kitten. Opened drawers under bed - no kitten. Pulled drawers out of bed - no kitten. Took bedding off bed - no kitten. Removed mattress from bed - no kitten. Could still hear little meow coming from the base of the bed. Took scissors and cut mattress covering the base of the bed - found kitten. Kitten Archie had somehow got into the base springs and was well and truly stuck. By this time it was 1:30 in the morning. I had to phone a fireman friend who arrived with bolt cutters to free Archie. We soon had Archie free; he was quite unscathed by the trauma and trotted along the landing to see what he could do next. My bed destroyed.

The next day we removed the bed outside and couldn't find a gap or hole anywhere; to this day it is a mystery how Archie managed to get inside the bed.

Would anyone like to give Archie a home as two months later he's still here.

My new bed he hasn't investigated yet. *Anne*

A few cat quotations

A cat allows you to sleep on the bed. On the edge.

Two things are aesthetically perfect in the world – the clock and the cat.
(Emile-August Chartier)

If you want to be a psychological novelist and write about human beings, the best thing you can do is to keep a pair of cats.

(Aldous Huxley)

Alexander the Great, Napoleon, and Hitler Were apparently terrified of small felines If you want to conquer the world you had better not share even a moment with an animal that refuses to be conquered at any price, by anyone.

(Desmond Morris)