

NEWSLETTER

2/2004



**Magazine of Eskdale & District Branch
Cats Protection
Summer 2004**

EDITORIAL

Hello again and welcome to the second newsletter of 2004.

Please have a look at the coming events list and see if there is something you would like to come to, we would love to see you. Alternatively if there is something you think we could try then give Ginnie a ring, also if you would like to do something on our behalf then that would be wonderful! We really need to keep the money coming in so that we can continue with the amount of cat work we are doing.

Would you like to join the 100 Club? Sadly numbers have dropped as people have not renewed their numbers for another year. Please phone Anne to join (or re-join).

We have now got kittens in care, which sadly means that the older cats stay in care for longer, so if you are considering taking on another cat please give us a ring.

We have several microwaveable heat pads which we use to heat cat beds, we have had two reports of these pads exploding in the microwave, they are filled with a gel like substance which can cause burns. If you have one of these pads then please be careful, do not put the pad in the microwave without its cover and be careful when taking it from the microwave.

We are now selling some items we were given, on ebay. To see what we have for sale log onto www.ebay.co.uk ; on the home page select 'charities', then Cats Protection and look for Eskdale & District. If by any chance this does not work, then when you log onto ebay, do 'search user id' and search for eskdalecats. If all else fails give me a ring and I will put you in touch with someone who knows what they are doing (not me).

Thank you for your support

Fiona Gorman

CAT WORK

50 Cats & kittens have been homed

43 are in care

21 are on the help to home list i.e. Cats either waiting to be homed from their existing home or cats waiting to come into care.

Kittens have just started to come into care this past month, the majority being little ferals. There are quite a number of stray cats waiting to come in but until we find homes for the adults in care there is nothing we can do. Every phone call we receive, people are wanting a kitten, but of course feral kittens can't be homed into a busy household with children, it needs to be the right home for them.

Some of the cats in care include:-

Arnie

4yr old, male tabby, Arnie came into care when his owners had a baby! On his first night in care he bit his foster carer badly, he has since improved. Arnie is a cat with a mind of his own, he likes being petted for so long but lets you know when he has had enough.

Flossy

8yrs, female, black & white. Flossy is deaf, but copes remarkably well, she gets on well with other cats and is fine with dogs

Clarissa

4-5 yrs, black, female, Clarissa was a stray who came into care a very timid little cat who was 50% bald. Tests were carried out by the vet but nothing was found, her baldness was put down to stress. She now has a full fur coat and is fine. She is a lovely little cat who is used to other cats and dogs.

Anne

EVENTS

21st August	Dog Show, Market Hall, Annan
22nd August	Stall at Nupets Show, Carlisle
31st August	Stand at the Holm Show (Newcastleton)
September	Sponsored Walk – with dogs
11th September	Coffee Morning & Sale, Newcastleton Village Hall 10:30am to 12:30pm
25th September	Stand at Langholm Show
9th October	Coffee Morning & Sale, Langholm Day Centre 10am to 12noon
23rd October Hall	Coffee Morning & Sale, Hawick Trinity Church 10am to 12noon
6th November	Coffee Morning & Sale, Lockerbie Town Hall 10am to 12noon
20th November	Coffee Morning & Sale, Newcastleton Village Hall 10:30am – 12:30pm
27th November	Stall at the Dumfries Charities Fair, Loreburn Hall All day.
11th December	Coffee Morning & Sale, Langholm Day Centre 10am to 12noon

If you can help at any of these events, or can bake, or would like to book a table, please ring Ginnie on 013873 76738



LETTER FROM FERGUS

Dear Toby,

Sorry to hear Shep is no longer with us. I'm pleased you've decided to write to me, you sound an ok kind of dog.

I had a bit of a trauma the other week. Isaac & I were playing, not that I admit to playing with Isaac very often, I just tolerate him for so long. Anyway he was chasing me down the passage towards the back door, so I went to jump out of the cat flap, completely forgetting Mother had locked it. Crashed right through it and took the whole thing off its hinges, I had a bit of a sore head that night. A new cat flap has been fitted and when it's locked at night Mother sits the pedal bin in front of it, she seems to think I'd be stupid enough to do it again.

During the winter months a summer house appeared in the garden, I will never understand how humans think. The next thing walls have been built & mesh panels fitted, it was all a bit of a mystery. Then things became clearer, as cat beds & litter trays were moved in, I thought great, Robbie & Isaac are moving out into the garden. It was not to be, this new cat pen was for lodgers. First to come & stay was a ginger & white boy called Joe, Mother thought he was wonderful, even though he used to grab her ankles. It's quite satisfying with a cat in the pen, you can really show off climbing the apple tree and catching mice & playing with them in front of the pen. Joe has moved on to his new home, Mother has been to see him & says he is really happy catching lots of mice & birds & taking them into the house alive.

We have 2 girls now, Grace & Lucy, they don't seem to take any notice of me trying to impress them, a bit boring really.

Well I think that's all my news for now

From Fergus

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Fundraising has been ticking along quite well so far this year. Especial thanks to Brian at the Garden House Hotel for letting us have another Relaxation Day on 20th June – and to everyone who came along. I think everyone who had treatments of Indian Head Massage, Body Massage, Reflexology or Reiki, or had their fortunes told, went away feeling energised and relaxed. Many like to follow up their initial sessions and gain lasting benefit from the various treatments, so, all in all, it seems that these days are rewarding for everybody, and not just a way of making money for the cats. Lots of thanks also to the therapists who were all kept busy – Eileen, Eleanor, Muriel, Hazel and Sue. I hope everyone has now recovered!

We haven't got a date for the Silent Auction yet, because we don't have enough stuff to sell. Much of what has been given has been sold on Ebay by Elaine and Dickie, and Phyllis and Graham. Up to now this has brought in several hundred pounds – so please keep giving us auctionable items because it is a wonderful source of income. We are still hoping to do the Silent Auction, however, as it gives local people and those without internet access a chance to bid for things.

We have now fixed a date for the sponsored walk – 12th September, starting at 2pm. This year we are going to try one of the new walks around Longtown/Netherby way, so we will arrange a meeting place in Longtown – probably the Community Centre. Could we get a few more people to join in this year?

Dogs are welcome – being sociable and fairly biddable are the only two conditions. It won't be a strenuous walk, and as the countryside around Longtown is fairly level, it won't involve any hills either. There will be tea and biscuits available at Anne's afterwards to revive flagging walkers – and drinks of water for dogs.

Ring me or Fiona or Anne for more details and sponsor forms.

Help Wanted – Cushion Maker Needed

Is there anyone who could make cushions for us to sell? We have some lovely material waiting to be made up, and can supply fillings, but no longer have anyone to put everything together. Nothing grand – just regular scatter cushions, or little ones for cots, or whatever takes your fancy. Give me a ring if you could do it – even just as a one-off, that would be a real help.

Ginnie – 013873 76738

Last but not least – please do come and support us at some of the events which we have booked for the rest of the year. We now have calendars and diaries for next year, so if you want to shop early for Christmas, we can supply the goodies – lots of gifts as well as calendars. Have a look at the events list.

It is with great sadness that we have to tell you of the death on Wednesday 28th July, of Graham Elias. Phyllis and Graham did an awful lot of work for the cats. They have fostered numerous kittens, spent many an hour selling things via Ebay, and made all sorts of things for us to sell at coffee mornings. I think most of us have at least one of the splendid cat scratchers that Graham made. He was always happy to help, ever cheerful and great fun and he will be very much missed in the group. Our thoughts are with Phyllis and the Elias family at this time.

MINNEHAHA

There's a white cat in my woodshed,
Peering from a wigwam of old fence posts
In the corner.
Minnehaha...
I see you at last.

Disturbed at table
By my blundering in,
Poised for flight yet still,
I am examined and exposed
In her risk-assessment gaze.

Jade eyes cat scan me,
Computer imaging
My ponderous human form.
Measuring the distance to
The open door beyond.

She does not want my friendship,
But she likes the food I leave,
And I slowly bend
To right the up-turned bowl
From which she nightly steals.

I move aside
And fluid as mercury
She is gone from my world,
To stalk some wild and lonely place
Like a ghost.

Noel Stevenson



Minnehaha was adopted by Noel, from us, he kindly let us use his poem in this newsletter. The poem appears in a collection of poems by Noel, called Spinning Wheel, it is available from Chambers Bookshop & Gallery, High Street, Moffat, DG10 9ED.

100 CLUB

March	No 116	Billy Thomson
	No 58	Mrs Thomson
April	No 20	Elaine Adamson
	No 62	Elaine Briggs
May	No 29	Donna Benson
	No 3	Robert Willins
June	No 71	Angie Beattie
	No 62	Mary Briggs
July	No 4	Fiona Yeomans
	No 15	Fiona Gorman

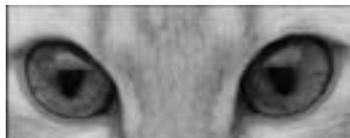
Anyone wishing to join please ring Anne :- 01228 791364

Winners of the Annual Raffle

- 1st Prize E. Steele
- 2nd Prize Jean Craig
- 3rd Prize Jean Irving
- 4th Prize A Riordan
- 5th Prize D Parker
- 6th Prize E Sharkey
- 7th Prize K Heywood
- 8th Prize Shirley c/o Eden Vets
- 9th Prize Roslyn Snaith
- 10th Prize Charlie Litke



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