

# ***Newsletter***

***3: 2004***



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

# *Editorial*



Hello and welcome to the third and final newsletter of 2004.

There are a number of fund-raising events coming up before Christmas, so please come along to one of them. We have Christmas cards, calendars, diaries and lots of lovely gifts for people and pets. The Christmas cards etc are also available in the local vet practices. Enclosed with this newsletter is a bottle draw sheet for our annual draw; there are lots of prizes so please sell as many squares as you can. If you would like more sheets, give Anne a ring & she will be happy to put them in the post.

With Christmas just round the corner, I would like to remind you that we can sell used stamps, so if you could save your stamps, (trimmed please) we can put them to good use.

Thanks to everyone who has helped us over the past year, fund-raising, fostering and everything else, we could not do this without your support.

Thanks to Eleanor who on a very wet & windy morning (it was dry when she set off) together with 4 children, did a car boot sale and raised £2.40. I promised I would give her a mention in the newsletter.

Thanks for all your support all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

*Fiona*

# Cat Work



99 Cats & kittens have been homed

42 are in care

6 are on the help to home list

Up to present date we haven't had as many kittens compared to other years, but we haven't neutered as many cats either. Whether things are improving or we are in for an explosion of kittens next year remains to be seen.

Some of the cats in care include:-

## **Harry**

3 yrs old, male, black, long-haired. Harry came into care when his owners moved house and left him behind. He is a very friendly cat & loves lots of attention, but would not be suitable to be homed with small children or other cats.

## **Ailsa**

6 months old, female, grey tabby. Ailsa was a feral kitten caught in Asda car park. She was about 4 months old when caught so is quite a shy little cat. Ailsa needs a home with someone who is prepared to give her time to settle.

## **Jess**

2-3 yrs, female, dark tortie. Jess's owner took her to the vets to be put to sleep, they didn't want her anymore. The vet suggested they contact Cats Protection to rehome her which they did. Jess has a flea allergy and needs regular flea treatment. She also has a dietary problem, she had obviously been used to eating scraps & now refuses to eat cat food & will eat nothing but human food.

## **Hattie**

7 years old, female, tortie. Hattie's owner died and Hattie was left homeless when the property had to be sold. She is a friendly little cat and would probably suit most homes.

*Anne*

# *The New Pets*

On Wednesday the 17th of August I was very excited because my mum my dad and I were going to see some kittens I couldn't wait. So I kept on nagging my mum then my mum said if you keep on nagging we won't go so I stopped nagging my mum and started nagging my dad and he said the same thing as my mum did.

I got really bored and then I found a book and started to read it and then as if it was magic it was time to go and see the kittens. So I put my book down and put my coat on and got in the car and we went.

When we got there we couldn't remember what number the door was. We didn't know if it was number 42 or 40 my mum thought it was number 40 so she rang the doorbell and no-one answered. So my mum tried number 42 and it was right. A lady answered the door and she was called Ann. She was very kind.

When we went in we had to go in to a room. In the room there were kittens. The kittens were different. There were two grey tabbies, two ginger tabbies, three black and white ones and one big grey tabby. They were all cute but the black and white ones were the cutest so I had to choose between them, but I couldn't they were so cute. I didn't choose the shy one, so I had to choose between two of them. My mum said would I like both of them and I said yes and then my dad said I have to look after them very well. Then I said yes and I got both of them. I was really happy when it was time to go all of the kittens ran after my shoelace then all of the grownups laughed.

We still had to stay to put them in the carry case then we went home. When we got home the kittens were bursting to get out. When we let them out they were running riot around the kitchen. At night they fell asleep and were happy.

Rebecca Lumb

(Rebecca got two kittens, Mandy and Francis, from us during the summer holidays. When they went back to school they had to write a story about what they'd been doing during the holidays and this was Rebecca's.)

# *Fundraising News*

In spite of the awful weather this summer our fundraising seems to have done quite well. We were very lucky with the weather both at the Holm Show and at Langholm Show and takings were about the same as 2003 or slightly up, at around £250 for each event. The dog show in Annan also did quite well, making about £238, although we could do with a few more entries next year. Maybe if all the doggy members mentioned it to their doggy friends, and at dog training groups, we might get the numbers up for 2005. Thank you to Rhona, Janet and Emma for their work organising classes and prizes and dogs (and owners).

Does anyone have strong views on the Sponsored Walk? We were a very select few this year, and I don't think I was the only one who felt (given the pathetic sponsorship I mustered) it would have been just as good to put £20 in the kitty and not bother walking!

The Coffee Morning in Hawick in October was very successful, raising around £370, so thanks to all our supporters up in the Borders, and to all the valiant helpers who had rather a long drive to get there. Does anyone know of another venue in Hawick without quite so many stairs, and that isn't perched half way up a steep hill? Trinity Church Hall is lovely and very central, but I would not call it user friendly.

It seems almost incredible that we are now nearing the end of 2004 and there are only a handful of events left. We have lots and lots of cards and gifts for Christmas, so please come along to one of the sales in November or December and help to boost the funds. Cards and calendars are also on sale in most of the vets.

I still live in hope of having another Silent Auction soon. We are gradually amassing goods for this, while siphoning some off to Phyllis and Elaine to sell for us on Ebay. People tell me Ebay is addictive, and maybe if you are better with computers than I am, it is. I just find it a tremendous muddle.



## Finally - **HELP WANTED** .....

Would anyone care to help with organising events? Fundraising coordinator is what you might call a multifaceted job and if anyone would like to take on one or two of its multi facets – like booking events, organising helpers, booking advertisements, finding new venues, thinking of new events, coordinating baking (that means making sure there will be some cakes at each Coffee Morning) making the Sponsored Walk more profitable, sorting out a Fun Day ..... I would be very happy to explain what is involved.

### ***Tuneful Memories***

Here are some trivia that may amuse you, particularly the older readers. Pre WW2 the “papers” meant popular for the whole family, Dad knew the songs as well as the little ones beating time on their high chairs. Most of these songs came over the radio and whistling errand boys were all around. I can remember a big hefty dustman singing “I’m dancing with tears in my eyes” as he stamped down the rubbish in the cart!

Another really popular source of comic songs was the Christmas Pantomime, where the leading comedian (whatever character he might be) used to lead an enthusiastic audience in singing some catchy tune. Some of the tunes came out on little gramophone records, probably sold at “Woollies”, and one I can recall was “Puss, Puss, Puss”.

*Here is what I remember:*

Late in the evening, when all the town’s asleep  
Neighbours with candles around the garden creep  
“Where’s the cat, where is that  
Wandering boy tonight” etc  
Nightly you hear the neighbours call  
“Puss, Puss, Puss”, “Puss, Puss, Puss  
Come down from the garden wall.  
Puss, Puss, Puss, Puss, Puss, Puss,”  
Each night, when time to retire  
“Where’s Tom?” “He’s out with Mariah  
Asking if she’ll be his  
Little Puss Puss Puss, Puss Puss?”



*Does anyone remember it?*

# Letter from Toby

Dear Fergus,

Thank you for your letter. It sounds as though your folk have been busy building that new cat house. It could be handy if you find Isaac a bit much, you could move into the Garden House for a rest. My mum and dad are busy with the new bit of garden behind the cat house. They say they are doing something called 'draining' it. It's a real mess but great fun. The mud is really sticky and gloopy and feels lovely between my toes. Only thing is that I'm not popular in the house with gloopy toes and it makes a mark on my comfort blanket. I have to spend ages licking it off.

Our cat family is just the same but my friend Judy isn't here any more. Mum and dad said she was very old and tired and she went off to sleep and didn't wake up. I've checked where she used to sleep and she isn't there any more. But, I'm not on my own, because a very cheerful chap called Ollie came to live with us in August. He is very big compared to me and very bouncy. The only thing I wish he wouldn't do is sit on my comfort blanket because I can't pull it out from under him no matter how hard I try.

We've got two temporary residents at the moment which mum has let me have a look at. Apparently they are cats but they are really really small, even smaller than me. They seem to like being together because they were curled up in a tiny ball, I thought it was just one cat for a start. Mum says they are going to live with another family when they're big enough but in the meantime I'm allowed to keep an eye on them - it's a big responsibility. I hope life is treating you well. Look forward to hearing from you.

Toby.



# ***Events***

- 20th November      Coffee Morning & Sale,  
Newcastleton Village Hall 10:30am – 12:30pm
- 27th November      Stall at the Dumfries Charities Fair, Loreburn Hall  
All day.
- 4th December      Coffee Morning at Elspeth's at Collin.  
Ring 013877 50397 for details
- 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*



# Webcats



More amusements  
found on the web  
and in our emails

# OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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*General Committee on inside back cover*



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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*