

Newsletter

3: 2008



Cats Protection

Eskdale and District Branch

Winter 2008

Editorial

Only five weeks to Christmas – where does the time go? Enclosed with this newsletter is the Christmas Bottle Draw; if you need more sheets please ring Anne on 01228 791364.



As you know, this year has been a time of change, and we have lost three of our fosterers. We would like to thank Chris and Shirley very, very much for all their help. They have fostered for us since we started in 1997; indeed before that, when Eskdale was part of the old Dumfries branch. Thanks also to Christine – we hope to have you back soon – and also to Marion.

We do have five new fosterers, however, which is very good news, and shall have a sixth when the new pen arrives. Margaret is at Westerkirk and has taken on several 'difficult to home' cats. Some of these have actually found homes now – mostly, it has to be said, with Margaret! Ruth is over at Middleshaw, and is now on her second foster cat, while Anne is on the other side of the Borders at Ashkirk, and she is on her third and fourth residents. Sarah at Tundergarth has taken on kittens over the summer (what summer?), and Kathleen in Lockerbie is about to take in her first foster cat. Elspeth is awaiting the arrival of the new pen which we hope will be very soon.

Even with our new fosterers we still have quite a waiting list of cats to come in, so if anyone else feels like trying their hand, give Anne or me a ring, because we still need you.

I wish all our members an enjoyable and cat friendly Christmas.

Ginnie 013873 76738

Cat Work

72 cats and kittens have been successfully homed

33 cats and kittens are in care

22 cats are on the help to home list waiting to come into care

Some of the cats in care include:

Tigger: 4 years, tabby. Tigger's owner was moving and unable to take him. He is a lovely, affectionate cat and lives up to his name, he is very bouncy.

Hannah: 2 years (approx) female, tortie and white. Hannah was found as a stray. She is a lovely little cat and has come from a home at some point as nothing seems to bother her at all.

Mole: 8 years, male, black and white. Another stray who seems to have been living outdoors for quite a while. He's not interested in coming into the house, is quite happy living outdoors with his pen to go back to.

100 Club

August	9	Mrs Irving
	120	Evelyn Pearson
September	116	Billy Thomson
	73	Muriel Jeffrey
October	103	Julia Fisher
	15	Fiona Gorman

Letter from Isaac

Dear Angus

Thank you for being my paw pal. We have actually met. You and Mischa stayed at our house when you were kittens in foster care. I would pop into the kitten room to see you from time to time.

We have four new cats living with us now so I've been really busy, I like to take charge and get everyone settled in. Not long after Fergus died, a poorly 4 month old kitten was in at the vets and Emma, who looks after us all, (well she sticks needles in us and pokes about in our ears and mouths) thought it was a good idea he came to stay with us. He was hard work always on the go. I'd just get settled for a snooze and he'd be running all over the house and I'd have to get up and check what he was doing. He's called Angus as well.

Next to arrive was Barney, just before Christmas. He was just about 7 weeks old – a bit small for my liking, so Angus took charge of him. Cindy and Samantha who used to come and stay for their holidays now live with us as well. Like us they lost their Dad, but they didn't have anyone else to look after them so they came to live with us. They are older, 13 and 8 years old and I just love them. I have been really trying to make them feel at home. Wherever they are I am two steps behind them.

Anyway everyone is settled in now and getting on with each other. Hope to hear from you soon.

Love from Isaac



A cautionary Tale of a legacy



Back in April I had a call from HQ to say that a local supporter had died and that we had been bequeathed her cat, with the promise of a legacy to come in due course.

The cat was very traumatised when he came in and required much TLC from Anne at Ashkirk. His coat was bad, his skin was bad, his teeth were bad and he was shaky mentally. He was eventually rehomed, however, in September, after one false start where he bit and attacked everyone, and had to come back into care.

Later that month I had a letter from HQ to say that the bequests had been sorted and we were to receive £250; so I rang the Legacy Department to thank them and ask how much the lady had actually left to Cats Protection. £20,000. Did they not think, I enquired very politely whilst counting to ten, that £250 was a bit of an insult – quite apart from the delinquent cat they dumped on us? No, that is what the local branch gets if no branch is specified in the will, as in this case.

I let it go and subsequently contacted Tracy, our RDM, who agreed that it was rather paltry and said she would take the matter up on our behalf.

The upshot of it all is that the legacy department agreed to up our share and we shall now receive £2,500, which is rather better, and the moral of the story is – if leaving money to Cats Protection, please always specify the branch which you wish to benefit from your bequest. If you don't, it will all go into the central pot, and the local branch will get £250 if they are lucky.

Fundraising

Firstly, thanks to Elaine and Dickie for doing a car boot and raising £72 and to Sue for the Quiz sheets which she devised. It does help when people do a bit of fundraising for us. Anyone else wanting to do a car boot, we have loads of bric-a-brac just waiting to be sold.

Fundraising has suffered a few hiccoughs over the summer due to the weather, and now also the Credit Crunch – a devious way of saying the cost of everything has gone up. The Benty Show was much reduced and the Langholm Show was cancelled. In fact the Benty show was reduced in a rather unexpected way when our tent collapsed on us shortly after setting everything out, covering us and our goods in damp canvas (it was of course raining heavily). The weight of the rain proved too much for the central pole holding up the canvas and it decided to call it a day and let go. It was one of the heavy tarpaulin canvasses too, not just our little tent, so it took a bit of time excavating us. After that we were moved in with the crafts and flower arrangements where we were in everyone's way, although we did appreciate the gesture. Somehow nothing seemed quite the same after being engulfed in what should have been the roof. What we never fathomed was what had happened to the tent pole. It didn't fall on us because we would have noticed that – something the size of a telegraph pole hitting you is difficult to miss – but when we viewed the remains of the tent, the central pole was only about four or five feet high. What happened to the rest of it?

Anyway, back to the future. You will be pleased to know that all our goods are still at 2007 prices – cards, calendars and gifts – so if you haven't got yours yet, do please buy from us. We have Coffee Mornings up to the end of November – see list - and all the following vets have supplies of cards and calendars

Ark in Lockerbie

Dryfe in Lockerbie

Firth in Annan

Capontree in Longtown

Eden in Carlisle

Ashleigh in Carlisle

Brown, Simpson and Stobo in Hawick

And of course you can call in at Anne's, which is 38 English St, Longtown.

Finally, HQ have a 'Sponsor a Cat Cabin' scheme which will benefit your local branch. You sponsor an HQ cat cabin, but we get the money. To find out more, pick up a leaflet at any of our events, or at Anne's, or ring me for details. Alternately you can just sponsor one of our cat pens or one of our long term cats, such as Cassidy or Misty (who is 17 years old and living with Johanna and David in Newcastleton)

Wishing everyone a peaceful Christmas and Joy in the New Year

Ginnie

Remaining Events 2008

22nd November

Christmas Fair & Coffee Morning, Lockerbie Town Hall

10 am – 12 noon

29th November

Christmas Fair & Coffee Morning, Langholm Day Centre

10 am – 12 noon

If anyone would like to help us – selling, baking etc – or would like to book a table at one of the Coffee Mornings, or would like more information, please ring me, Ginnie on 013873 76738

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Disclaimer

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