

# Newsletter

3: 2012



**Cats Protection**

**Eskdale and District Branch**

**Winter 2012**

# OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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**Our website:**  
<http://eskdale.cats.org.uk>

**Membership Secretary:**  
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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

Winter again, soon be Christmas - so please remember to fill in your Bottle Draw forms and return to me or Anne. If you need further forms then either photocopy the blank one enclosed or give Anne a ring for more (01228 791364).

Subs are due on 1st January. Please send your membership fee – still only £5 – to Betty Waite

Membership Secretary  
30 Albert St  
Longtown  
Carlisle CA6 5SF.



We are very much in need of new volunteers to help with **fundraising, fostering and publicity** – i.e., organising exhibitions in libraries, advertising events and generally getting the message across to people that we are always looking for good, permanent loving homes for cats and kittens, and telling them about the work that we do.

We need someone who is computer literate to set up a Facebook page for us so that we can reach people electronically. (That lets me out). They can liaise with Shaun who manages the branch website.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help, please ring me (013873 76738) or Anne. It is fun and you get to meet new people and it helps the needy cats in our area.

You may see an advertisement in the Annandale papers asking for volunteers. This has been paid for by our RDM, Kate, who is always very helpful and generous to the branch. So we shall be very sorry when she leaves us at the end of the year, in one of HQ's reshuffles. Tracy Shiels will be our new RDM. She was with us before Kate – what comes around goes around. Good luck, Kate, with Central Scotland.

Happy Christmas everyone, *Ginnie*

# Fundraising

Fundraising took a slight knock when the Holm Show was cancelled, so we missed out there, but Langholm Show went ahead albeit without the horses, and we made £250, which surprisingly was more than in 2010 (the show was cancelled in 2011). The Coffee Morning in Jedburgh made £320, and Lockerbie Coffee Morning was brilliant, making just over £400.

Thanks to everyone who supports us, and also to Craig Pilgrim and all Bannatyne's staff and members for buying the books that Elspeth staggers in with. The last sale there made £109 and there will be another one in the couple of weeks before Christmas, so get down there for bargain Christmas presents and reading. The books are very reasonably priced and all in good condition.

For anyone still needing cards, diaries and calendars, you can get them at most of the local vets who very kindly sell them for us. These are:

Ark and Dryfe in Lockerbie  
Capontree and Border Vets in Longtown  
Eden in Carlisle  
Firth in Annan  
Hawick vets.

And of course they can be found in the shop – 40 English Street, Longtown – along with home made Christmas cakes and Christmas hampers and lots of other things for the home and plenty of really nice and unusual gifts.

Open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10am to 4pm, and well worth a visit.

Ginnie



# Cat Work

37 cats and kittens have been successfully rehomed  
31 are in care  
15 are on the waiting list to come into care



*Some of the cats in care:*

## **Boris**

6 mths. old, male, white and black. Boris was a little 12 week old bedraggled stray kitten when he came into care. He is now a very handsome cat, is fine with other cats and dogs.

## **Pepsi**

Pepsi is a 9 years old female, black and white. Her owners were no longer able to keep her as one of the family members developed an allergy. Pepsi is a very friendly little cat, she has been used to living with dogs and children.

## **Thomas**

Thomas has been in care since February; he is about 5 yrs. old, male, white tabby. He would love to have a home before Christmas.

We have a Free Neutering in the month of November so hopefully will get a few more cats neutered.

96 cats were neutered in the March Free Neutering.

*Anne*

# Tanzy

It is about 10 years ago Elspeth and I visited Anne in Longtown and she took us upstairs to see her family of cats and kittens. And from behind the settee this little cat appeared with a long bushy tail, curly whiskers and big eyes and I was smitten !

On arriving home I described Tanzy to my husband and shortly after that she joined the rest of the family.

Sadly on February 12th after 2 operations and a course of antibiotic injections for her sore mouth we had to have her put to sleep.

However we have many happy memories of wee Tanzy -- she enjoyed sleeping in the greenhouse in the warm weather -- and sitting on the back of the chair in the living room watching the world go by -- and latterly opening doors !!

Our cats would be accounted for in the “wee room” at bedtime; however in the morning they were all happily asleep in the living room thanks to Tanzy and her ability to open doors .....

And my husband described her as a “wee sookie” .....



# 100 Club

## *August*

10 Freda Ward  
102 Julia Fisher

## *September*

40 Pauline  
52 Mrs Brown

## *October*

15 Fiona Gorman  
66 Christine Ridley

## *November*

23 Margaret Main  
7 Linda Nawrocki

## *Thank you, Stan and Rosie*

Sadly Stan and Rosie's foster cat Beth had to be put to sleep in September; she was about 18 yrs. old.

Stan and Rosie have decided to stop fostering to enable them to spend more time with their grandson down south.

We would like to thank them both for all their time and patience looking after the numerous foster cats they have had in their care.



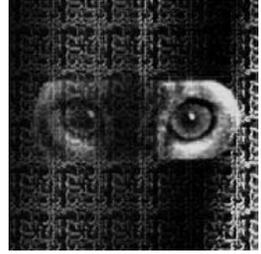
If we treated everyone we meet with the same affection we bestow upon our favorite cat, they too would purr.

*Martin Buxbaum*

# Verse

## ROSIE

Nobody knows where Rosie goes  
When she goes out to play;  
Nobody knows where she likes to go  
And where she likes to stay.



But Rosie knows where Rosie goes  
When she goes out to play;  
And she won't tell where she likes to go  
And what she does all day.

## CATS (EXTRACT)

Those who love cats which do not even purr  
Or which are thin and tired and very old,  
Bend down to them and stroke their fur  
And rub their ears, and smooth their breast and hold  
Them carefully, and gaze into their eyes of gold.

*Francis Scarfe*



## IN EGYPT

In Egypt, my Miranda,  
The sun's rising rays  
Shone over the sharp ears  
Of the Goddess.  
There, my Miranda,  
We tuned our prayers  
To the purring  
Of her servants.

# *A Cautionary Tale*

A couple of weeks ago we had a delivery of cat food for CP foster cats. The van driver reversed into the yard and came to see where to put the pallet.

His dog was running around and I saw it and thought fleetingly – must be OK with cats or he wouldn't let it out. He was, after all, delivering cat food to a Cats Protection location, with two trailers advertising Cats Protection along the sides. He got back in the van to reverse to the barn and I turned and was horrified to see the dog chasing Cassidy across the yard. Cassidy is a long stay CP cat because he has wonky back legs and can't run as fast as a normal cat and can't jump. Cassidy wasn't fast enough. He went under a trailer but the dog followed and then got hold of him as he tried to climb a fence. He pulled Cassidy off the fence and started to savage him, and that was when I reached them both. I just flung myself on top of the dog to try to get between it and Cassidy and get him out of its jaws. Trying to get that dog's jaws open was like trying to open a steel trap. It was a staffie type, wearing no collar and there was nothing on its body to get hold of. I wrenched at its jaws and yelled for Rob, who got the driver, who eventually managed to call the dog off the terrified and screaming cat.

I got Cassidy into the house and more or less passed out in the bathroom, dripping blood everywhere from my torn and bitten hands, and shaking like a leaf.

It was fortunate that Rob was home because he was able to drive us to the Health Centre where one of the doctors bandaged me up and gave me tetanus shots and antibiotics, anti-inflammatories etc, and then to the vet, where Cassidy was operated on for a hernia, and kept in to check him for shock. He is now recovering at home but is still very frightened and won't go outside, and he is still being monitored for neurological damage.

So be warned – don't allow anyone you don't know to let a strange dog loose near your cats, no matter how safe they think it is. We were assured that this dog was normally a "gentle little thing" and had never before attacked a cat. Maybe so, but it wasn't a gentle little thing that morning – as my hands and Cassidy can testify.

# Cats

"But I don't want to go among mad people," Alice remarked.

"Oh, you can't help that," said the Cat: "we're all mad here. I'm mad. You're mad."

"How do you know I'm mad?" said Alice.

"You must be," said the Cat, "or you wouldn't have come here."

Alice didn't think that proved it at all; however, she went on "And how do you know that you're mad?"

"To begin with," said the Cat, "a dog's not mad. You grant that?"

"I suppose so," said Alice.

"Well, then," the Cat went on, "you see, a dog growls when it's angry, and wags its tail when it's pleased. Now I growl when I'm pleased, and wag my tail when I'm angry. Therefore I'm mad."

*Lewis Carroll*

"I am as vigilant as a cat to steal cream."

*Wm Shakespeare, Henry IV*

When the tea is brought at five o'clock  
And all the neat curtains are drawn with care,  
The little black cat with bright green eyes  
Is suddenly purring there.

*Harold Monro*

Light breeze in the trees;  
Warming rays of the sun;  
Rest and relax:  
Week's work all done.

And all I will hear  
As my eyes close to nap  
Is the soft rumbling purr  
Of the cat on my lap.



# Big Dave

My foster cat at the moment, called Big Dave, is very large; some would say he is handsome, others would say he bears more than a passing resemblance to Adolf Hitler.

He was unfortunately dumped at Gretna and although being taken to the vets had many problems with ear mites, fleas and worms. He had obviously been well fed! The vet on duty had the wonderful honour of having the cat named after him.

Big Dave lives with my own three cats quite happily in spite of him trying, and failing, to exert his authority; my three ladies, Marmalade, Chutney and Beattie, are ruthless at putting him at the bottom of the pecking order.

He is one of the best natured cats I have had and what he lacks in looks he makes up for in personality. Big Dave loves a cuddle and adores sitting on a knee and watching telly. However after twenty minutes I am in danger of losing all feeling in my legs!

If anyone is out there who would like to take on a whopper of a cat I can assure you you won't regret it and you would not have a dull moment.

*Elsbeth.*

