

VOLUNTEERS' MEWSLETTER 37

May-Aug 2011



Hello Catlovers!

Firstly, I must apologise for the delay in getting this newsletter out to you. I have now moved to north Devon. Sod's Law dictated that my PC blew up on the day my internet was connected, a fortnight after the move! Panic ensued and, luckily, a friend has lent me their spare laptop.

So, as a consequence of the kerfuffle, this newsletter will cover 4 months' worth of news rather than the usual 2 months. I hope you won't mind.

My pusscats have settled in well. They are enjoying the gardens along our terrace and spend lots of time with paws folded on the blanket box in my bay window, looking out at the views across the valley and fields, and watching all the winged insects which visit my jungle of a garden.

Now to business. As ever, my thanks go to Sue Collins and Jenny Alder, as well as Ann Maine, for providing the information for this newsletter.

NEWS FROM HQ

As I write, the tally for re-homing of cats in 2011 has reached 19. Times are tough for CLAWS, so if you know of anybody looking to bring a pusscat into their home, please get them to contact Sue or Beverley.

Minutes of the Trustees Meeting held on 31 May 2011

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

1. PENS

We now have the separate isolation pen ready for use. The Treasurer has written to Mars thanking them for their kind donation of £2,000 towards the cost and has sent them photographs of it. Beverley has requested that the cost of netting on another enclosure that she has in her garden is met by CLAWS. This was agreed so long as two quotes were obtained for the work.

2. FUND RAISING

We had to cancel our booking at the Duck Derby due to unavailability of volunteers. We are hoping to attend the rest of the fetes, sales and street collections that we have booked this year but as always are dependent on our loyal volunteers.

3. EXPENDITURE

We have purchased a new gazebo which is a lot stronger than the last ones we have had and has the CLAWS logo on the front.

4. REHOMING

We currently have three cats ready to be re-homed, one other that is very nervous and one that is aggressive. We need to find a method of publicising

these cats to the general public so that the re-homing process is speeded up and they do not stay in the pens for too long. We could use the advert that we put in the Maidenhead Advertiser every other week to highlight a specific cat that needs a new home. Other ideas are welcome from anyone.

5. FINANCE

Our finances are healthy at the moment and we are also expecting a small legacy in the near future. However, if we have to cancel any more fund raising events or receive any very large veterinary bills as we have recently, then this money will soon dwindle.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

We have been asked if we would like to have a link on our website to another which sells spiders. It was felt by the Trustees that this would not be in keeping with the ethos of CLAWS.

CATS IN CARE

CLAWS is as busy as ever. Currently we have 36 cats in care (10 adults, 17 kittens and 9 golden oldies / special cases that are likely to be with CLAWS for the rest of their lives).

CAT TAILS

Here's a note of how some of our rescued babies are doing.

TILLY

Volunteer Maggie has sent in a couple of photos of her cat Tilly. You may recall that Tilly is blind and was recently adopted by Maggie.



Photos: Tilly enjoying the sunshine

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COOPER

As a result of the article in the Maidenhead Advertiser in May, a lady rang his frantic owners saying the cat in the paper resembled the one in her garden and it was! He had travelled 2 ½ miles and lived rough for a month. He was gaunt and scruffy, but with lots of TLC and a little extra veterinary treatment (he has regular medication to support his kidneys) he has made an amazing recovery. He is not allowed outside now unless he is wearing a harness!



Photo: Cooper

She loves sleeping in Geoffrey's office chair (he has to sit on a stool at his computer now – glad to see he knows his place in the pecking order!) Poppy loves exploring and has to investigate everything, including the shower when it's still wet!



Photo: Poppy

FARTHING

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Farthing.

She was 18 years old and had been poorly for some considerable time.

She had a sweet character and, although small in size, made a big impression. She has left an enormous gap in the Allen household and will be sorely missed by Aidan and her sister Penny who is doing her best to fill her "shoes".



POPPY (aka Hazel or Phoebe)

Lauraine, Poppy's mum, tells us that she is doing very well. She is so friendly, always wanting to butt heads with them and spend time with them. She sits on the sofa with them, sleeping for a few minutes and then getting up to clamber all over them and butt heads and get a stroke. She is getting on OK with Ollie, the resident cat who was very sad after the loss of his companion of many years. He howled at her a little when he first saw her, but they are just about tolerating each other now. Ollie is not so withdrawn so Poppy is evidently doing him good!



Photo: Farthing

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SUKIE AND SUZIE

Sukie (mum: black and white) and Suzie (daughter: black) were adopted from CP, Bracknell, 15 years ago. Both feral. At the time of the adoption CP gave the lady who adopted them a letter undertaking to take them back if there were any problems. After her mum was taken into care, her daughter was unable to find the letter and when she rang CP and explained the situation she was told that the cats "were too old".

She rang round various rescues and was told that they were full and/or the cats were too old.

For the several weeks the cats had been on their own in the house, the family visiting twice a day to feed them. This exacerbated their nervousness.

Having run out of options she took them to Alma (who look after her dog – the reason she couldn't take the cats) to be put to sleep. They refused and kept the cats and then rang CLAWS and said "Help!!"

At the time, none of the fosterers had a vacancy so Alma agreed to keep them. Within a few days, we were able to place them in a foster home where they will stay for the rest of their days.

They are dear souls, but still very nervous. Hopefully with time and patience, they will become more confident and be able to enjoy a happy and peaceful retirement.

Sue commented that the photos below aren't brilliant, but full credit to her for the mini-miracle of being allowed near enough to take them!



Photo: Sukie

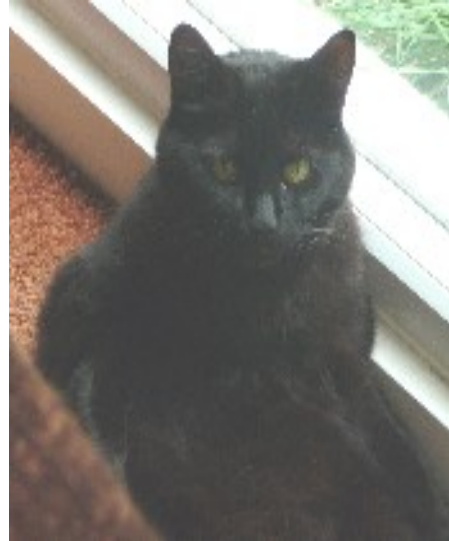


Photo: Suzie

EDDIE (aka LUCKY)

Maureen tells us that Eddie is thriving - as she rightly says he doesn't have a bad life! He is so handsome and well he knows it!



Photos: Eddie

UPDATE ON OLIVER

Oliver has a new home!

He was featured in Pets' Corner in the Maidenhead Advertiser and a lady was so moved by his story that she rang up and offered him a home, even though she hadn't been intending to adopt another cat.

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He is now happily settled with her and a beautiful tortie girl who is about two years old. They enjoy playing together and keep their "mum" on her toes!



Photo: Oliver

(editor's note: he's the spitting image of my Ozzie!)

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

22/05 Ducky Derby, Maidenhead - £Nil*
 28/05 Sheeplands, Hare Hatch - £91.70
 09/07 Marlow street collection - £101.43
 16/07 Maidenhead street collection - £123.23
 23/07 Sheeplands, Hare Hatch - £36.16
 06/08 Sainsbury's Taplow - £166.53

*Sadly, there were no volunteers for the Duck Derby so CLAWS was unable to attend the event and raise much-needed funds :(

Ann Maine's Garden Day

Ann dropped me a note to say that £175 was raised on the day and there were some donations coming in from those who didn't make it. Not at all bad considering the constraints on Ann on the day. About 60 people attended the event and our treasurer Jenny did well on sales. The day was blessed with sunshine and the reports are that it was a lovely. Thank you to all who attended.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR 2011

Date	2011 EVENTS		
29/08/11	Maidenhead	Littlewick Show	9am - 5pm
03/09/11	Maidenhead	Street Collection	9am - 4pm
17/09/11	Cookham Dean	Fete	1pm - 5pm
24/09/11	Sheeplands, Hare Hatch	Stall	9am - 4pm
05/11/11	Maidenhead	Combined	10.30am

	Town Hall	Charities Fair	- 3.30pm
06/11/11	Woodley Pagoda	Stall	10am - 4pm
26/11/11	Sheeplands, Hare Hatch	Stall	9am - 4pm

TAILS FROM THE HELPLINE

The phone rang.

"I know you are a cat charity but I wondered if anyone had reported a lost tortoise?"

"I'm afraid not - when did he go missing?"

"Yesterday."

"And where do you live?"

"Caversham."

Caversham to Maidenhead in a day ??!!!



OZZIE'S OBSERVATIONS

Hello there purrpeople!

Well, we made it!

At dawn one morning, MummySam crammed me, my sister Jet and my mate Rocky into her catmobile Juliet and pointed us westwurds towards cream tea country. That sounded promising at the time!

The night before, we kept MummySam up all night becoss the biggest room in the house was half-empty and we played chase-me-charlie and skidded around on the floor. We also needed to be ready to start our expedition early. MummySam muttered a lot to herself and watched TV all night, while we all curled up on her lap to make sure she didn't forget to feed us before leaving.

So, we ended up all tucked up in our cat carriers, so we could see each other during the jurney. Becos Juliet was loaded up with all sorts of stuff that MummySam said HAD to come with us (like kitty litter, poobox, food and the really noisy sucuumthingy), we were purched high up inside the catmobile and could

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see ahead as MummySam drove us away from our old house. I didn't like the travelling very much, but I was a brave boy and didn't grumble for too long, unlike some I could mention – Rocky!

The jurney was quite long and we had to stop a couple of times on the way. Rocky disgraced himself by pooing not once, but twice, in his box! It stank and we all nearly passed out from the stench. We had to stop so MummySam could sort him out and clean him up cos he was doing a durrry protest. She then had to go change her clothes becoss Rocky tried to escape from the car and cuvurred her in his poo!

When we pitched up at our new house, MummySam put us in a room upstairs, so we could stretch our legs and look out the window and have quiet time. All we could see were trees and fields and a bridge thing that looks exciting.

We heard lots of noise and comings and goings up and down the stairs. I hurrd MummySam say some naughty words a few times. My sister Jet didn't like the noises and hid under the big fleece on the floor! I thought that was a good idea and burrowed under the fleece too. When MummySam came to check on us, she laughed and said it was funny we were pretending to be rugs. We had a cuddle and she made a fuss of us, but she had a hard time getting up from the floor afterwards.

Later on, we were able to explore the house. We were scared, but we had a good look. Rocky jumped up on boxes and then found a big window to sit beside. We all went to look out the window at our new garden, then MummySam showed us the kitchen where we could eat our grub.

We all slept for a few days, so we could recover from the trip. We all agreed we liked our new home, but were not very pleased we couldn't go outside and explore the gardens. MummySam muttered we were grounded for a while, but that didn't stop us trying to sneak out when she wasn't looking.

We've spent a long time looking out at cream tea country. Next door has a fierce looking dog called Milly, but MummySam says she's a sobby thing and is really very nice. The other nayburrs have two pusscats called Jack & Nory. Jet howls at them, but Rocky isn't bothered by them. In fact, he goes in their house.

MummySam kept us in for lots of days and then opened the big window so we could go out. It actually took a while for us to be brave enough to go outside and we spent hours sniffing the air. Now we like to go out and explore, but only when MummySam is home so she can leave the window open for us.



Photo: 3 wusspusses!

"Go on then, after you, Jet"

"No, no, after you, Oz."

"I'm not going out there. Are you?"

"Nope, not me either! What about you, Rocky?"

"Am not bovvered really...is it time to eat yet?"



Photo: view from our upstairs windows

We haven't got a catflappything yet, so we go in and out of the big window when it's dry outside. We've been exploring and there's lots of lovely tall grass to hide in. The only thing I'm not too sure about is the addersnakes that live in the gardens. MummySam and me agree that we'll run away if we see one. She's seen them before when she was younger, but I haven't. She's got a strimmerthingy and is slowly cutting the tall grass down. She can't see us when we're down in that part of the garden!

One thing I will say is that it's funny how this is meant to be cream tea country and we have yet to see any yummy cream!

That's all for now. See you next time.

Oswald Archibald Collywobbles

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AND FINALLY...

Last year, we were unable to produce a CLAWS calendar as we concentrated all our efforts on promoting the Original Mountain Marathon.

As you know sponsorship from this event raised a magnificent £3,645.00, which enabled us to buy another pen so we can take in more cats.

But the calendar is back by popular demand for 2012!! Please see the front cover on the attached document. What a cutie to represent our charity!

Boldly (or rashly !) we have ordered 500 copies - now all we need to do is sell them!

So folks, please please step up and purchase some for friends and family. Please contact Sue on 0118 934 1699 to place your orders.

AND FINALLY FINALLY...

I would just like to say good luck and best wishes to volunteer Ann Maine, her husband, and fur family, on their Portuguese adventure which kicks off next month.

Ann has sent this note in:

Our timeshare in the Algarve has been our January home for 24 years and a couple of years ago we decided to buy a property in the hills.

On 1 Sept we are decamping there with Pinky (16) and Tigger (19) until 1 July so the past few months have been spent in preparation.

Tigger and Pinky have had their rabies jabs and are ready to go, assuming they are deemed 'fit to fly' at the vets a couple of days before departure (fingers crossed).

They are travelling in specially approved baskets for animal air transport and will fly on the same plane as us (not I hasten to add sitting next to us enjoying the cabin service but in a pressurised air conditioned hold compartment).

We have already registered with a vet just 20 mins from the airport at Faro just in case there is an immediate emergency when we collect them again.

Call us mad if you like but we are shipping Tigger's favourite chair and food out for him by road. Well, he's worth it!!

In January 2012 the rules about transport of pets to the EU will change and there is a table showing these changes with this newsletter as well as an article from 'The Resident', the Algarve's english weekly

newspaper.

What Tigger and Pinky will think of their new home remains to be seen but rest assured with Mummy and Daddy attending to their every need, life will go on much the same as usual. Normal service will be resumed, but in Portuguese

Sam Collington
August 2011