

VOLUNTEERS' MEWSLETTER 38

Sept-Oct 2011



Hello Catlovers!

Hope you have all enjoyed what you could of the British summer and the odd snatches of an Indian summer as we moved into autumn.

Four months on, my cats and I have been steadily getting used to the fact that there is no catflap at the new house. When I'm home I've often sat with the bay window wide open, even when it's been raining! The blanket box in the bay window remains a favourite "scouting" position for the 3 muskateers.

Cracking on: as ever, my thanks go to Sue Collins, Jenny Alder and 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 27, which is sadly down on last year. Another few weeks and CLAWS will be shutting down for Christmas where rehoming is concerned, although the daily care goes on, of course.

Last I heard, there were 36 cats/kittens in care and/or needing rehoming, so if you know of anybody interested in adopting a cat/cats, please get them to contact Sue or Beverley.

CLAWS CALENDARS

We ordered 500 calendars for sale. At last count, only 300 of them had been sold, which is pretty good, but not good enough.

So, please, pretty please, can you see your way to ordering some for yourselves, and/or your families as stocking fillers and gifts? We need to raise funds and would rather have the cash than the calendars sitting in a box! As before, it is a handy A5 size, but this time, it's a spiral-bound loose-leaf version. I love mine and am sure you will too. So please give it a go.

To make a decent profit, it is essential to sell every one and we certainly need to do that as we still have 24 kittens we're trying to home, plus our usual contingent of permanent residents to care for.

Please contact Sue on 0118 934 1699 to place your orders. The calendars cost £2.95 each.

MINUTES OF TRUSTEES' MEETING

Meeting held on 28 September 2011

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

1. TRUSTEES

Two of our Trustees have resigned:

Debbie Wilson for personal reasons;
Barry Alder, due to other commitments.

For the present time we will continue with three Trustees. The Charity Commission has been notified of the changes.

2. FUND RAISING

We have requested two of our Maidenhead street collections and our Sainsbury collection to be on a Friday. We are also applying to have an information stand in Nicholsons Walk.

3. EXPENDITURE

We have purchased a new van which is due for delivery at the end of November. We have been fortunate to receive a small legacy which will be used to pay for this.

4. ADVERTISING

We have decided to have a half page advertisement in the Maidenhead Advertiser every three months instead of the small one we have every two weeks. We hope that this may raise our profile and result in more and quicker rehoming. Our Webmaster is looking at changing the website in line with other rehoming charities, so that it is easier for visitors to the site to see our available cats. We now have a poster in all the local Age Concern shops publicising our People for Pets scheme.

5. REHOMING

We currently have lots of kittens that will soon be ready for rehoming. We will devote the first large advertisement in the Advertiser to them, ensuring they are rehomed as soon as possible. It was agreed that all cats coming to us would be put up for rehoming. We need to redefine a map of the Maidenhead area showing those roads where it would not be advisable to rehome cats. This would ensure that enquiries from potential adoptees living in these areas were not proceeded with and that they were aware from the outset that we would not be able to rehome one of our cats with them.

6. FINANCE

The accounts are ready to go to the Accountant. We have applied for our Gift Aid refund, which we should receive in the next month. This should be in the region of £1,500.

7. VOLUNTEERS

We will include a request for volunteers in one of our large adverts. Once we see how many people we have available to help at events, we can book for next year.

The meeting closed at 22.00. The next meeting will be in the spring of 2012.

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CAT TAILS

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

NEWS FROM PORTUGAL

Volunteer Ann Maine, her husband Michael and their furry family are now settled in at their Portuguese villa for several months. Tigger Maine has kindly sent us this report of how the move all went.

Dear All

Our Mum and Dad decided to live in Portugal for 10 months and to take us with them!

This meant lots of visits to the vet for rubbish injections and blood tests and then the vet declared us 'fit to fly'. What? Did this mean we were going to sprout wings? – we didn't want to turn into birds and get caught by a cat!

The flight was at 6am and we cats had to be checked in at Gatwick Cargo at 3 am. What? I'm normally comatose then. So we set off in the taxi. On the way I did a smelly poo. I could tell the taxi driver wasn't best pleased but he tried not to show it. For some reason we had all the windows open for the rest of the journey.

It was a long time before we found the right building then Mum went in and gave the lady our papers while Dad cleaned me up. Then a man came and took us away. I told Pinky not to panic but I can tell you I was worried as you hear about cats being taken away.

Mum and Dad were also worried that they would never see us again but when they got on the plane and asked the lady if there were two cats on board and she said yes they were mighty relieved.

There was a lot of whooshing then after some time a big bump. I was nearly sick and Pinky's ears popped. Then the doors opened and a man took us to Faro Airport cargo. We were so excited when Mum and Dad came to collect us but I told Pinky to start washing so as to appear cool and nonchalant now that we were jet-set cats.

When we arrived at the house we were overjoyed and started exploring, choosing the best places to have our litter trays, feeding stations and snoozing places. We checked out all the facilities and found them to be adequate. Then it was a big nosh and a nice kip.

I love going out wearing my harness on a long lead tied to a post so I feel safe and can't get lost. Pinky doesn't like going out much and she's not good on her legs so she can't go far but she loves lying in the sun. Mum put a thermometer by her one day and it read 44 deg. Mum said it was too hot for her, but Pinky said it was good for her bones.

We weren't really very good friends before we came here, but now we are best buddies because we have been through so much together and we love it here!

With love from

Tigger Maine

(My Mum and Dad are Ann and Michael Maine)



Photo: Pinky & Tigger relaxing in Portugal

UPDATE ON BLIND TILLY (adopted by Maggie)

You may recall that Tilly, the blind cat adopted by Maggie, was mentioned in the last newsletter. She is also one of our featured cats for the 2012 CLAWS calendar.

Sadly, adopter Maggie had to have Tilly put to sleep a couple of weeks ago as she had cancer. We're so glad that Tilly had the chance of a wonderful new life with Maggie and are naturally saddened that they couldn't enjoy each other's company for a little while longer. Sending you hugs, Maggie.



Photo: Blind Tilly

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PENGUIN

At almost precisely, the same time Penguin's mum made the final decision that she could no longer keep him.

Tilly's mum Maggie was already aware of Penguin's plight and, after careful thought, offered him a home with her. What a lucky boy he is! Maggie has a particular place in her heart for special needs cats, so with the benefit of her love and skill, we're sure he will thrive. He will continue to be cared for by the team at Alma Vets in Windsor.

Thank you also to Martin Trepte, editor of the Maidenhead Advertiser, for his support of CLAWS over many years and, in particular, for the article he wrote about Penguin.



Further thanks also go to Ann Maine, Jill Jones, Jean & Terry Phelan and Beverley for acting as Penguin's chauffeurs: he sends you his love and lots and lots of "Thank yous"!

TILLY 2 (adopted by Val)

Val tells Sue that Tilly is doing well. She says she is a typical example of the saying "you don't own your cat it owns you"!! Val sent in a photo, which you can see here.



Photo: Tilly 2

UPDATE ON SUKEY (mum) AND SUZIE (daughter)

You may recall I mentioned Suzie & Sukey, the two ferals, in the last newsletter. Sue & Mike are looking after these two, and the news is they are doing OK.

Suzie has made good progress and now comes to meet Sue & Mike, and she also likes to be stroked. Sukey is still very shy, but Sue is allowed to stroke her (occasionally!!) and has managed to give her a brief brush on a few occasions.

The radiator is a great attraction now the cooler weather is here and they both lie between the armchair and the radiator to soak up the warmth. The only thing that makes Sukey really brave is the prospect of food! She's a good little trencher-cat!! She may well continue to improve slowly, but she will never be a lap cat!

See the cute photo below. They are devoted to each other and spend many hours cuddled up together - it must be a great comfort to them.



Photo: Sukey and Sukie

TOMMY

We are delighted to welcome back Evelyn and Keith Jones to the "fostering fold". Although they now live in Cheshunt, they popped over to Maidenhead the other day and took Tommy home to look after until we can find a permanent home for him.

Poor Tommy! He was homed by CLAWS some 9 years ago and thought he was set for life. Alas, his elderly owners had to go into hospital and will never return to the family home. He is a dear boy and very affectionate. He also loves his food!

In his golden years, he is looking for a quiet home where he will be the only cat and receive lots of love and attention.



Photo: Tommy

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TOBY

We were very sorry to learn of Toby's (aka Treasure) death from a stomach tumour in July.

We send our love and best wishes to Jill.



Photo: Toby

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

29/08 Littlewick Show - £504.86 (Sue Hansom & family) (*Editor: wow, Sue that's amazing! Can I put my order in for some Xmas cakes please?!*)

03/09 Maidenhead Street collection - £121.35

04/09 RSPCA Chobham - £147.47 (Sue Hansom & family)

17/09 Cookham Dean Fete - £Nil (no volunteers available) :-)

24/09 Sheeplands stall - £115.50

05/11 Maidenhead Combined Charities Fair - £223.20 – an increase of £50 on last year!

Apologies

I also neglected to mention in the last newsletter that volunteer Kathy and her friend Eileen organised a stall at the Woodley Pagoda on 5th August. They raised a splendid £145 - well done for raising such a fantastic amount!

Incidentally, I've just heard from Sue that Kathy also organised a stall at the RSPCA event at Eversley last weekend, again with her friend Eileen, and they managed to raise a welcome £90.

Many thanks to both Kathy and Eileen for all your hard work.

Separately, volunteer Hazel held another of her table top sales in October and made £70.00. Thank you for all your hard work, Hazel, and for another terrific result.

REMAINING FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR 2011

Date	2011 EVENTS		
26/11/11	Sheeplands, Hare Hatch	Stall	9am - 4pm



OZZIE'S OBSERVATIONS

Greetings Catpeople!

It's raining again. It rains a lot down here. I think I'm growing webbed feet. When MummySam boots us out of the window to play outside, we have to jump onto the grass. The grass is long. We get soggy feet :(I walk like that John Cleese fella, shaking each leg out in turn as I tiptoe through the wet grass. I've decided I don't like wet feet!

When we're indoors it's betturr. We play ChaseMeCharlie round the house. My sister and me watch Rockhead play with his balls. His pingpong and bouncy rubber balls! The hallway in our house is good for bouncing balls off the wall and making a lot of noyse on the wooden floor. MummySam sits at the bottum of the stairs and bounces the balls for Rockhead. He then gallups to chase them and bat them around and play footie. He's good at footie. He likes making noyse. And wen the balls whizz past the living-room door, I stikk out my paw and pingpong them bakk if I time it rite. Jet mostly stands guard!

Wen we play the InnieOutie game cos we want to go outside, Rockhead genurrally leads the troops. If MummySam is on the puterthingie, we have to get her attenshun. Furrst we get all our toys out and spread them across the floor. Then we ruck up the rug by the fireplace and bury our toys underneath it. My sister is very good at that and toboggans around with the rug, sometimes covering the tellyvishun!

Rockhead usually loses pashence furrst, so he likes to start the game of LetsEatTheTwinklyTwiggs. He likes the twinkly twiggs. Sometimes they twinkle and sometimes they don't. MummySam shouts a lot wen he tries to eat them wen they twinkle. She keeps saying he'll get curly hair if the lecktric is on when he does that. He generally just gives her "the look"!

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And if the LetsEatTheTwinklyTwigs game doesn't wurrk on her and the windo don't get opened, Rockhead goes to DefCon2.

He plays MantlepeeceRoolette: he jumps up from the tellyvishun and walks along the mantlepeece. There's lots of pretty glassthingies on there. I run out of the room and hide behind my paws bekos I know that MummySam will shout and say naughty words bekos she doesn't want Rockhead breaking all her glassthingies. And if the windo still don't get opened, he goes to DefCon3. He plays MantlepeeceRooletteTurbo. He sits up there, washing his smelly bum, just to make the point!

At this point, MummySam will get up and have a hissyfit at Rockhead. She growls at him and poynts to the floor. If he ignores her, she goes after him with our fethurry sticktoy, so he kwikkly jumps down and runs to the windo. This usually wurrks bekos he gets thrown out. We then usually follow him out of the windo to go and explore. It's a good plan (gigglesnort)!

But this past week, the Boss wouldn't let us out much afturr dark. She growled about the bangy noisy rokkets she could see from the windo. Rockhead didn't mind the rokkets too much, but my sister and me weren't very keen on them. Rockhead still wanted to go out and kept being put on the naughty step when MantlepeeceRooletteTurbo didn't wurrk!

Since we mooved here, wen we've been outside and want to come back in, we now have to wait in the garden of no.4, til MummySam comes to the windo and spots us. Sometimes the noisy woofy thing at no.6 scares us away. Sometimes we go into nextdoors house. Rockhead usually goes round the long way to sit and yell outside the kitchen windo. MummySam laffs and for sum reeson calls him her SingySongySqueakyBoy when he does that. He squeals just like a baby!

Wen we've been outside for a while and got cold paws, we love to play the snuggly game of Let'sWearSammi'sSweater. Usually wen she's still wearing it. It's really good bekos my mate Rocky gets under her armpit on one side and I get under the other! That means MummySam can't move from the sofa, so we all cuddle up all toastielike. Jet makes sure she snags the lap space and gives MummySam a tummy massage furrst, to keep her quiet.

Now the winter's here, I think we'll play a lot of that game. We've got a big duvaythingy for snuggling up under as well. I like snuggling up! Lots!

Well, that's all for now. See you next time. Oh and I hope you like the photos of us.

Oswald Archibald Collywobbles xxx



Photo: me kipping, and my sister Jet with the voodoo eyes!



Photo: (L-R) Jet, Rocky and Ozzie

AND FINALLY...

As ever, I can't put this newsletter together without your input. So please, if there's something you would like me to include in the next newsletter, let me know.

Until next time...

Sam Collington
Nov 2011