

VOLUNTEERS' MEWSLETTER 39

Nov-Dec 2011



Hello Catlovers!

Here we are at the end of the year and this is the final Mewsletter of 2011. I hope you've enjoyed reading about the combined fundraising efforts of CLAWS volunteers, as well as the updates on our rescued felines. Without your support, CLAWS would not be able to do the work it does.

For reasons which will become evident as you read on, this Mewsletter is a little shorter than usual.

My thanks go to Sue Collins, Jenny Alder, Ann Maine and Vaughan Williams for providing the information for this newsletter.

NEWS FROM HQ

Beverley would like to thank everyone who has helped out in any way with CLAWS this past year.

All your help, be it fundraising, helping out at events, gathering items for sale, dealing with the various collection boxes and catfood, feeding stray cats or ferrying cats to and from the vets – it's all hugely important to the work of CLAWS and enabling CLAWS to do what it was set up to tackle – namely rescue and care for cats in need.

Thank you also to those who have participated in our People for Pets scheme, and also the vets and nursing staff who have helped deal with sundry medical needs of our rescued and adopted cats. It's definitely a team effort to keep things rolling.

MIKE COLLINS

For those of you who haven't already heard, it's with great sadness that I report the death of CLAWS co-ordinator Sue's husband Mike, after a prolonged period of ill-health.

Everyone who knew Mike will remember him as a gentle, kindly and supportive man, who loved having company and who loved pottering in his garden.

I came to know Mike through Sue's involvement with CLAWS. He was the perfect foil for Sue's energy and it has always been a pleasure to visit with them both over the years.

A stalwart support to Sue as she has wrangled with enquiries and coordinating fundraising efforts since joining CLAWS, Mike was as gracious as he was helpful. I once had the privilege of attending a party in his honour and it was wonderful to see his face light up with pleasure and surprise as more and more guests arrived.

When Sue took on the challenge of organising Bramble's Bazaar at their home back in 2006, Mike went to great lengths to ensure their garden was in tiptop order for all the stalls to be set out, and even

fashioned some bits of the stalls himself. On this great fundraising day, Mike readily made himself available to anybody who needed extra help.

He also became very fond of the various foster cats which have come into his and Sue's care over the years. Always patient. Always ready to do more when he could. A real blessing, who will be sorely missed.

I'm mad at myself for not making the effort to go and see Sue & Mike before decamping to Devon. I'll miss seeing his welcoming smile and hearing him ask if he can make me a cup of tea.

Our thoughts and prayers go to Sue and Mike's family for their loss and the added poignancy of it being a special time of year.



Photo: Mike Collins at Bramble's Bazaar 2006

CAT TALLY

As I write, the final tally for re-homing of cats during 2011 has reached 35. I gather that lots of homechecks have recently been undertaken for the influx of kittens CLAWS has had this year.

CLAWS CALENDARS

A reminder that, so far as I'm aware, calendars are still available if you are still looking for a gift, but not wishing to spend a large sum on it. Why not share as you care?

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

I can't wait to start using mine, and I've also designated one for my neighbour whose birthday is at Xmas and often gets forgotten!

BARBARA KEMP

Volunteer Barbara Kemp has now taken over from Ann Maine the collection of our charity box at the pet store and food donations from Budgens. Many thanks to Barbara for stepping into the breach and doing these important tasks.

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CAT TAILS

An update on some of our rescued babies has been deferred for the moment.

MEWS FROM PORTUGAL

We had a cat visit us here for about a week. There are no houses, even nearby, but suddenly it appeared - black and white. It hung around watching us, lying quite close and partaking of the bit of food and water we put out for it. But it seemed quite happy with its life and environment. Then as suddenly as it appeared, it disappeared. I reckon it was a feral (there's plenty of little mice etc around here) and it was curious about us all - it had a couple of confrontations with me through the window - then it moved on. We felt it had no real need of us.

Tigger Maine



Photo: Tigger playing a game of chicken!

ANOTHER TILLY

We were recently contacted by Serena, who adopted a CLAWS kitten. This is her story.

"I was in the vets the other day purchasing some Frontline when I saw your calendar and had to purchase it. The reason why? Well in 1998 I came to CLAWS in Maidenhead as I was told about a shy black and white kitten (she was there with triplets called the Velcro boys and a little kitten with sore eyes called Scampi). I named her Tilly and in November 1998 she came to live with me.

She was indeed a shy kitten and spent the first few weeks hiding behind the sofa. We set up all she need near by and did not force her to come out of shell. We would however coax her out with a play stick which she loved playing with and would only realise she was in the centre of the room when she stopped to catch her breath and then she would hid again.

Eventually she felt comfortable to sit on top of the sofa and watch all from there. She would play with

my hair if I sat in front of her. Then one day I came home from work early ill and fell asleep on the sofa, when I awoke she was asleep on my chest. That confirmed for me that she was happy in our home.

Tilly then developed into the most comical of kittens. If she wanted to play she would find the tickle stick and drop it at our feet. Once she went missing for a few hours and we were frantic, she finally came home in the early hours and awoke the house to proudly show off a sausage she had taken from next doors BBQ.

I enclose two photos of her to show what a happy cat she is. As I type this email she is purring away beside me.

Tilly is now 13, but still a petite elegant little cat who is full of personality. Thank you CLAWS for bringing Tilly into my life.

Kind Regards
Serena"



Photo: Tilly with cat tv!



Photo: Tilly snuggling up

Thank you to Serena for sharing Tilly's story.

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It's always wonderful to hear how our cats are doing and we'd love to hear from more of you out there who have adopted a CLAWS cat.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

6/11 Woodley Pagoda £TBA

26/11 Sheeplands stall, Hare Hatch £Nil – cancelled

The grand total raised for the year via advertised events, and individual fundraising efforts, comes to just over £3,000. Thank you to all who helped achieve this.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR 2012

These have yet to be notified to Vaughan and to me, but keep an eye on the website as the details will be uploaded there before the next Mewsletter.

www.claws.org.uk



OZZIE'S OBSERVATIONS

Greetings Catpeople!

We're looking forward to something to Crimblemas. We know that MummySam has got a chicken to roast. Can't wait to taste it. I'll keep a eye out in case she's not looking. I know she'll probably put a plate of food down for us, but I'm not taking any chances. That chicken has my name on it! That's if Rocky doesn't butt me out of the way first!

We've already played with some shiny ribbons and helped MummySam to wrap the gifts for young Daisy next door. She's just turned 9 year old and loves animals. She comes in sometimes to play with Rocky. My sister and I play hide and seek when she visits.

MummySam has been feeding a scrattycat. We don't know where it lives or if it's a stray, but it's too scared to stick around if one of us sees it. We only leave out our leftovers and some kibble which we've never liked. No point it going to waste, or so I'm told.

We hope one day to find out if the scrattycat belongs to anybody in our lane, but for now, we're happy to feed it. We call it Patch, cos it's got a patch of black on its nose.

So, MummySam leaves the bowl on the doorstep one side of the house for that scrattycat, and now she also leaves out a bowl for the foxes on the other side of the house. We've heard the foxes in the lane but we've yet to see them. I can't wait!

They were getting into the rubbish bags, but MummySam got wise to it and said some rude words. She now puts the rubbish bags out on the morning of collection, coz the foxes can't be trusted! She thinks they were after the leftover catfood that now goes to Patch.

It's been pretty cold at times here. I didn't like the hailstones very much the other day. We've been snuggling up on the big bed when the leccy blanket is on, and on the sofa when the heatpad is on. We all fight to sit on MummySam's lap. Jet usually wins.

Well, that's all for now, other than to wish you all a very merry Purrmas and a happy New Year. See you next time.

Oswald Archibald Collywobbles xxx



Photo: my sister Jet

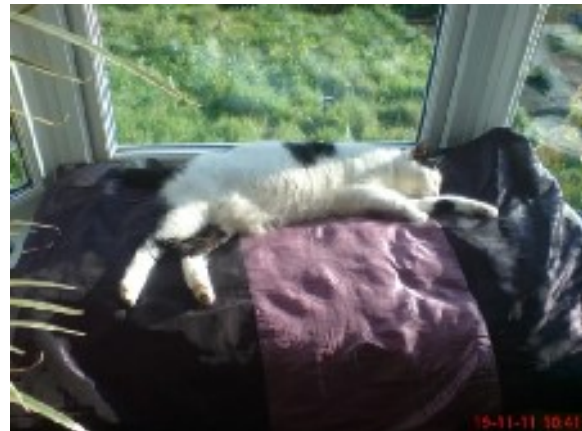


Photo: Rocky kipping – too much partying?

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Photo: me with my new kicker toy – giving it some welly!

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 Beverley or me know.

For anybody who currently receives this Mewsletter by snail mail, but now has email facilities, I should be grateful if you would let Beverley or Sue have your email address details. It saves on costs. Thank you.

All that remains is for me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope that 2012 brings you all you wish for.

Until next time...

Sam Collington
Dec 2011

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