

CATS PROTECTION
EASTBOURNE FRIENDS
GROUP

NEWSLETTER



SUMMER/AUTUMN 2011

Reg Charity 203644 (England and Wales) and SCO 37711 (Scotland)

Co-ordinators report

Hello cat lovers,

Well, the Friends of Eastbourne Adoption Centre have had lots of fundraising events going on in the last few months. We have been very successful in our fundraising this year and I'm sure Carol our wonderful Treasurer will give you all the facts and figures. There are lots more events coming up this year including bucket collections in Eastbourne Town Centre as well as Waitrose in Eastbourne . We will also be having a stall at Pevfest in July. This will include a childrens tombola, official CP goods and the wind machine. The Friends of are also taking part in a sponsored tree walk which you can read more about further on in this Newsletter.

A very important part of what we do, as well as raising funds for the Eastbourne Adoption Centre, is raising the profile of Cats Protection. The more we can get the name of Cats Protection out into the community the more people will come through our doors and hopefully adopt more cats and allow the charity as a whole to help even more of our furry friends. The biggest thank you must go out to all the amazing volunteers that help organise and take part at all our events and, of course, the wonderful people that are happy to give for our lovely cats and kittens as it would be nothing without you all.

Our Summer Fayre is coming up on 16th July so fingers crossed for fab weather. There will be a ploughman's lunch and teas and coffees etc.

Please have a look at our events page & please do come and join us.

Vicki

If you would like any information about volunteering and fundraising for The Friends of Eastbourne Adoption Centre please feel free to contact myself at any time.

My contact details are: 01323 762143

07512 841992

rockyradar@yahoo.co.uk

Friends of Eastbourne

Welcome to all our members.

How quickly the year seems to be passing!

It only seemed like last week I was writing a 'blog' for the last newsletter reminding you that the Spring Fayre was upon us and now, by the time you receive this newsletter, we will have had our Summer Fayre!

This time of year we are always busy fund raising with open days, the sponsored walk, and various collection days.

It has been an exceptionally 'manic' time at the Adoption Centre too. Spring and summer is always kitten season but this year we seem to have an astonishingly amount of mother cats giving birth in sheds, outhouses and in one case a child's play house!

The litters seem to be larger also with at least two mums having litters of six kittens. Do you think they are trying to make up for the success of our neutering campaign?

Sadly two of the litters are very feral (wild) and we are hoping that our cat cuddlers will be able to tame them with enough love and handling that they will be able to be rehomed.

You will remember that in my last 'blog' I told you that Chris Drake, manager of the adoption centre for the past fifteen years, was retiring. Well I am happy to tell you that Chris is thoroughly enjoying her retirement but is also a frequent visitor to the adoption centre, still doing many of the things that she always did, (editing the newsletter for one!), but now in the guise of a volunteer .

I would also like to hope that you will welcome our new manager Mandy Clarke.

Mandy has been the deputy manager for a few years and we were all delighted with her promotion.

She is doing a splendid job and I'm sure a lot of you will have met her at the Summer Fayre.

Congratulations Mandy and here's to the next fifteen years!

It only leaves me to wish you all a very happy and enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you at our next Open Day which is the Cream Tea on Sunday 11th September.

Jan. (Secretary for the Eastbourne Friends of Group) 

Email: thefriendsofeastbourne@yahoo.co.uk

NEWS FROM THE ADOPTION CENTRE

As always, the summer means kittens here at the Adoption Centre. At the time of writing we have over thirty six kittens and forty adults in care and a long waiting list of cats needing to come in to us. Homing is ticking over but we always need more good homes, of course, otherwise our waiting list would be even longer. The local newspapers did a very nice piece on our predicament in June and this prompted people to come and view our cats and kittens and quite a few homes were offered. However, the problem remains the same – too many cats and not enough homes.

We had a litter of tiny kittens brought into us when their mum was killed on the road. The owner said she couldn't cope with hand-rearing all six kittens and wanted us to take four so that she only had two to rear herself. We did try to persuade her to hand over all six but she was adamant that she wanted to keep two so I offered her neutering vouchers for when they were old enough to avoid the same scenario. I was put firmly in my place when she said that it had been a planned pregnancy and that she didn't need vouchers!! Why then, I wonder, did she not keep mum with her kittens until they were weaned – or, better still, do the responsible thing and get her neutered? Perhaps the little cat would still be alive. All four babies have thrived, I'm pleased to say and will shortly be going to new homes.

We had an enquiry from someone wanting to adopt a white kitten so that she could breed from it! She was most indignant when told that all our cats and kittens are neutered before, or very shortly after, adoption – another really good reason for early neutering – it means no kitten slips through the net and ends up being unscrupulously bred from.

Poor Peaches has been at the AC for almost a year now and we would love to find her a new home. She is a pretty black and white 2 year old with a mind of her own. She can be quite affectionate on her terms – although I am sure she will be a lot more loving once she has her freedom. She would like a garden and would ideally suit someone who wants a fairly independent cat.

At last, it looks as if the building of our new maternity wing is imminent! It has taken a long time for planning permission to be

granted, pens to be designed, drawings to be drawn and sent to various departments to be approved and builders to be consulted BUT, hopefully, we are almost there. It is not going to be easy during the building process as we will have to find places for all the cats currently in the old maternity block until the new one is built – I'm sure we'll manage somehow.

And finally, our featured phone call: *"I want to adopt a friendly cat from you, I adopted one four days ago from another organization but the cat just sits under the cupboard and doesn't do anything so I'm taking it back" !!*



Bye for now.

Mandy

OUR MOVE

Having been Manager at the Adoption Centre for many years, one of the pitfalls of the job was the temptation to take on some of the more difficult to home cats and, over the years, I seem to have acquired 15! So, when the time came to move from the accommodation at the AC into our own home, we set about adapting it for a houseful of cats.

Firstly, we wanted to make sure they were going to be safe from cars. Our house is on a normal residential street but, as the crow flies, we are not a million miles from a busy road. We also wanted to protect the neighbours from a cat invasion. The small garden had a six foot fence all around but this is no deterrent to an agile cat and so we put posts at intervals, rafters across and wired over the whole lot! Then we added shelving at different levels along the fencing and erected a heated Cat Cabin for the cats who prefer the outdoor life.

Once this was complete, much to hubby's dismay, I thought the more lazy and sun-seeking cats might like a conservatory!

Neither of us being any good at DIY, we were reliant on tradesmen for everything and I wanted the work in the house and garden complete before we moved our four legged family in.

Come moving day, we got all but one cat in baskets and drove the four streets away to our new address. Our little semi-feral cat, Daisy,

could not be caught and Mandy, the new AC Manager had agreed to feed her until she could be trapped. I was expecting the worst – I imagined all the cats to be really nervous at first. We got all the baskets in the living room and opened them up. Out they all popped, tails up in the air, surveyed their new surroundings and settled in straight away – phew what a relief! As the garden was completely escape-proof we were able to let them out immediately which helped. They all love the garden (small though it is) and make full use of the climbing frames, shelving and Cat Cabin (as well as the sofas, bed, dressing table, kitchen chairs, etc.)

Daisy-May gave us the run-around for seven weeks but eventually she decided to give herself up and is sprawled out on our bed as I write. The move has done her good and she has become very domesticated and loving – bless her.

I certainly wouldn't recommend multi-cat households under normal circumstances – it can cause a variety of problems, from bullying to spraying, and cats do not naturally want to live in large groups. However, as I say, it was one of the pitfalls of the job when confronted daily with cats that nobody else seems to want.

Let me introduce you to some of the Drake Cats:

Oldest is Cassie, a darling longhaired ginger girl who I adopted fifteen years ago. She had given birth to numerous kittens over several years in peoples sheds. We were told that most of her kittens hadn't survived and when we picked her up she had four tiny babies but was so unwell that she couldn't feed them properly. All four kittens survived and Cassie was nursed back to health. She must be at least 19 now but still enjoying life despite having no teeth and being completely deaf.

Next is Alice (nickname The Bulldozer), a delinquent 15 year old. She came in as a stray and was re-homed twice and returned twice through no fault of her own (well, over-activity isn't really a fault). She has nerve damage on one side of her face, due to a run-in with a car, and has a droopy ear, eye and mouth – but we still tell her she is pretty! Nothing is safe when Alice is around and we have got used to having glued-together ornaments. She talks non-stop, a quality I would normally love, except that she sounds like a creaking door and it can be quite scary when she's standing on your pillow, looking down at you, with her wonky eye, chatting away in the middle of the night.

Then there's Duffy who was given up because of his nasty biting habit! He is a huge and very handsome black longhaired boy who just cannot resist a nip. However, his behaviour has improved over the years and we wouldn't be without him.



I'll try not to bore you any further with a besotted mum's ramblings but just let me mention Dora, Danny, Manuel, Wincey, Flo, Lilly, Nelly, Murray and Trebor.....and then there's Fern, Tiny and Daisy.

Retirement? If only!

Chris

Dear Marge,

My cat has scabby skin. I de-flea him regularly with a spot-on treatment I buy from my local supermarket. He is scratching, although I haven't seen any fleas on him.

The symptoms you describe should be checked by your vet but it is quite possible he has a flea allergy. Supermarket brands of any description will not be as effective as treatments prescribed by your vet. Also your vet will recommend a household flea spray as upholstery and carpets could be home to fleas, eggs and larvae which will keep reinfesting your cat.



SPONSORED TREE WALK

On Saturday September 3rd we are going down to Go-ape which is a centre just off the A21 in Kent (address at bottom of page) where we will be walking through the trees starting down low and walking higher and higher then somewhere along the way we will be using a zip wire to fly down to the ground!!! How scary.....but we will, hopefully, raise lots of money for Eastbourne Adoption Centre. If you would like to take part then please contact me on 01323 762143/07512 841992 rockyradar@yahoo.co.uk and I will give you more information. If, however, you would prefer to take the sensible approach and stay at home but maybe sponsor one of us then you can send donations to Eastbourne Adoption Centre at 63, Marshfoot Lane, Hailsham. BN27 2RB writing "Tree Walk" on the envelope.

Another way of giving a donation is to go online. We have a web page where you can donate using credit/debit cards the address is <http://www.justgiving.com/FriendsofEastbourneAdoptionCentre>

Go Ape! Bedgebury Road Goudhurst Crankbrook Kent TN17 2SJ

Could you sponsor a Cat Cabin at the Adoption Centre?

For £30 a quarter you will not only be helping our cats but you will also receive a personal letter and photos' of the cats in our care.



HELP!!!

WE ARE IN DESPARATE NEED OF RAFFLE AND TOMBOLA PRIZES, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, FOR OUR OPEN DAYS.

If you can spare anything from a tin of soup to a bottle of wine we would be extremely grateful.

Thank you.

DIARY OF EVENTS



- SAT 16 JULY** Summer Fayre ~ Adoption Centre Marshfoot Lane, Hailsham ~ 12-3pm
- SAT 23 JULY** Pevfest ~ Sea Road Car Park, Pevensey Bay – childrens win-a-prize and table sale
- SAT 6 AUG** Bucket Collection ~ Waitrose Old Town
From 9 am
- SAT 27 AUG** Bucket Collection ~ Banks Corner E/B
From 9 am
- SAT 3 SEPT** Sponsored Tree Walk ~ Go-Ape ~ Nr. Bedgebury (A21)
- SUN 11 SEPT** Cream Teas Afternoon ~ Adoption Centre Marshfoot Lane Hailsham 12-3pm
- SAT 29 OCT** Bucket Collection/CP Xmas goods ~ Arndale Centre E/B from 9 am
- SAT 19 NOV** Table Sale/Xmas goods/Bric-a-Brac ~ Quintins Centre Hailsham ~ From 9 am

EASTBOURNE CHARITY SHOP
14 Seaside Road
Eastbourne
BN21 3PA
Tel. 01323 733888
Open Monday to Saturday

APPEAL

Our Shop in Eastbourne is desperately looking for good quality bric-a-brac and clean clothing. If you have any china or kitchen utensils you know longer need and would like to donate please contact us. Also if you would like to become a shop volunteer we would really love to hear from you.



IF YOU ARE A UK TAX PAYER AND YOU WOULD LIKE US TO CLAIM GIFT AID ON YOUR SUBSCRIPTION OR DONATION PLEASE MARK YOUR CHEQUE 'GIFT AID' AND INCLUDE YOUR ADDRESS. This will enable us to claim 25p for every £1 you give. Thank you.

Coats, Colours and Characters

I have been lucky enough to know many cats of all shapes, sizes and colours during my life. Some have lived with us and others have been neighbours or friends. Over the years I have begun to think that coats and colours often go with certain characteristics, although, as in humans, these traits can be altered by the cat's life experiences.

I have found that black cats, whether boys or girls, are very bright and smart, although sometimes rather nervous.

Black and white cats are often happy and sociable, both with people and other cats.

Tabbies, the brown kind (are these called London tabbies?) self assured and affectionate. So are the stripy ones, though they tend to be more nervous.

Gingers are often crazy, like lifelong teenagers, and also very friendly, though I don't think this applies to tortoiseshells, perhaps because they are generally female.

Long haired cats are very loving to everyone and are convinced that the world in general loves them too. My dear old friend Bumble was a long haired ginger and he combined the ginger craziness with the idea that everyone loved him. He was right! I know one exception to the rule that long hairs love everyone and that is a pretty black and white, long coated girl called Susie, who was so badly treated before she came to Cats Protection that she mistrusts all human beings on sight, except, of course, her new family. She does trust me, but only after I had fed her many times.

I expect there will be plenty of members who disagree with my ideas. I'm sure Chris will be the one who really knows!

One thing is certain, I've loved all of them, whatever their sex, colour, size or peculiar characters!

Marjorie Apps

SPONSORED WALK



Despite the weather, twenty of us and one dog completed the seven mile walk in three hours, stopping for a picnic in the woods. We had a lovely afternoon and hopefully, once all the money has been collected, we will have raised a good sum for Friends of Eastbourne Adoption Centre.

Your Eastbourne Cats Protection Team

Friends Co-ordinator: Vicki Kemp
rockyradar@yahoo.co.uk

Adoption Centre Manager: Mandy Clarke, 63 Marshfoot Lane,
Hailsham, BN27 2RB
01323 440101
eastbourne@cats.org.uk

Shop Manageress: Liz Cunningham, 14 Seaside Road, Eastbourne,
BN21 3PA
01323 733888

Membership Enquires, Lost and Found, Newsletter
Please contact the Adoption Centre

LOCAL HEROES

No one would disagree that this is a tough economic time, therefore it was heartening to learn of a local company who left their contracted and paid work to try and rescue a cat [without charge!]

A 20 year old female cat got wind in her tail and decided to investigate a tree and up she went , and up higher still. Unable to get down, her only choice was up further. Her owner who finally saw her - she had been missing for 3 days - called the fire brigade but unfortunately they could not gain access and it was suggested that tree surgeons were the only option.

After a 40 feet climb the cat was located and the intention was to pick her up in a net, but she had other ideas and took a flying leap. Fortunately the groundsmen were holding a tarpaulin into which she bounced, leapt off and away.

At 5pm, her usual mealtime, she strolled in to her home and we are told was none the worse for wear. It is a fallacy to think that cats always land on their feet, they don't and horrible injuries can be suffered from a fall. So thank you, Richard and Gavin for saving the day and the cat!

Another Microchip Result

“ Basil” disappeared from Fairlight nearly 3 years ago. A concerned resident in Eastbourne reported a stray cat who had been around for some time. He was scanned and found to have a microchip and his owner traced and was delighted to have Basil back. So, microchipping really does work and, with the help of Lost and Found Registers, cats can be reunited with their owners. It was “Rosie’s Register” that scanned him and got him back home. It may be useful to know that vets will scan a cat free of charge too.

FRONT PAGE PIN UP BOY

You may remember Trevor, his photo was on the front page of the last Newsletter and Chris has written about this brave cat who had horrendous road traffic injuries at the beginning of January. He has now been rehomed and is settling in very well. A generous spirited cat who has had no problems getting on with the 4 other cats and 2 old dogs, although one of the cats, Twiglet, a feisty girl who can have personality problems and clash with just about everything is not as besotted with him as he is with her!

His mobility continues to improve although when tired he moves rather like a rabbit, hopping along with both back legs moving together, an image reinforced by his amputated tail. Nevertheless most of the time he moves at tremendous speed chasing the younger cat. He can now easily jump on chairs and is at the stage where he appears to be judging what he can leap or not. His judgment isn't perfect yet as he was found clinging to the edge of a kitchen worktop in pursuit of an open tin of pilchards, unable to move up or down!

I know Cats

Protection spent a very large amount on his treatment but when I see him so enjoying himself it must be worth it.

Like all recuperating patients he can become extremely tired and it is quite comical to see him go to his bed and literally "fall" asleep.



CATS BEHAVING BADLY.

It may not be as simple as this! The Adoption Centre often receives calls from the public who want help or advice, or more drastically to have their cats re-homed because of what the owner perceives as “bad behaviour”. It may be uncharacteristic aggression, changing grooming behaviour or toileting behaviour involving inappropriate urination around the house.

Just as it is for humans so it is for cats, the motivation of any behaviour can only be established by looking at the whole cat and it’s lifestyle, diet, character and, of course, health. Many owners report that, apart from their cat’s different behavior, they are not ill because they are “eating, drinking and look fine”. We have seen, and vets confirm, that there is often an underlying medical problem that needs attention. For example degenerative joint disease in a cat can ultimately result in the cat not wanting to be touched or held and showing aggression to its owner is to prevent the painful areas being touched. Cystitis, renal disease and Feline Immunodeficiency or Feline Leukaemia (in the unvaccinated cat) can provoke unwelcome toileting habits. Changed grooming behaviour involving over- grooming or fur plucking could indicate flea allergic dermatitis or dietary hypersensitivity.

There are many other behavioural changes that can occur whilst the cat “looks fine” but it would be prudent and kind to seek veterinary advice because there can clearly be a medical problem needing treatment.



THE MICE THAT CAME IN FROM THE COLD!

This is the story of our much-loved cat Xerxes, that died of a sudden and quite unexpected heart attack on 22nd November last year. Xerxes was adopted from the CP Adoption Centre in 1999 and was a remarkable cat. At first he was very frightened of people but soon became a dear and very loving pet – he never lost his fear of strangers though. He was of no danger to the birds in the garden or to any animal – except another cat, when his fury knew no bounds at the invasion of his territory.

He did, however, have the strange habit of bringing in mice but, I'm glad to say, they were quite unharmed and could eventually be caught in a humane trap and be safely put back into the wood at the end of the garden. I soon learned that wood mice, for that is what they were, are extremely resourceful creatures and remarkable adept at finding food under trying circumstances. One mouse collected a pile of large pieces of dry cat food which it softened in the tray of a self-defrosting 'fridge and also drank from Xerxes water bowl at night.

However, our biggest surprise as to the ability of mice to survive against all odds came a month or so after Xerxes' death! One night there appeared on the landing a mouse, apparently thirsty and looking for the water bowl that had always been available for Xerxes – how could the poor thing have survived without food or water? The answer came when, trying to catch the mouse that had disappeared under the bed, we found piles of cat food. The bed, being very heavy and there not being much space under it, the mouse had lived undetected there for some time. Eventually it was caught and released into the wood!

When the snow made it impossible to get down our hill, we could not go to the Adoption Centre to adopt another cat. A home is no home without a feline friend so, as soon as it was possible, we adopted Meow-Meow from the AC. He is a lovely boy and now has us completely 'under his paw'! When he had been with us for only a few days, one evening he spotted a mouse in the dining room – he darted after the poor little thing but it evaded capture and disappeared under the cooker, where for weeks it lived on over-ripe bananas. Eventually, tempted by some raisins in the humane trap, it was caught and returned to the wood!



Xerxes left us something to remember him by – he did not want to be forgotten and, of course, he never will be!

Jeanette Kamerman.

FREE DRAW

We would like to say a big thank you to all our valued members.

**If you would like the chance to win
£25 first prize, £15 second prize
bottle of wine third prize
please fill in the form below and you will be
entered into our Free Draw.**

**Entries to be in by 9th September and the
Draw will take place at the Cream Teas
Afternoon on Sunday 11th September.**



I would like to enter the Free Draw

Name.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

Telephone No.....

Treasurer's Report

We have had lots of successful fundraising events so far this year including stalls at the Eastbourne Arndale Centre and the Royal British Legion Women's Conference at the Winter Garden. The Spring Fayre held in May raised an amazing £2400. mainly thanks to all of our loyal supporters. Two bucket collections, at ESK and Tesco, Hailsham raised £343. and £223 respectively. A sponsored walk took place on a wet Sunday in June. Sponsorship money is being collected. The Friends were also able to sell goods at the Jevington Village Fete.

A big thanks to everyone who support our events in any way. We couldn't do it without you.

Hope to see you at our forthcoming events.

Best wishes

Carol



GINGER JOCK

Sir Winston Churchill, who obviously loved cats, left wishes on his death, that there should always be a cat "in comfortable residence " at Chartwell, his Kent home. The latest cat to live there is a ginger kitten called Jock. The wartime resident cat was a ginger called Sir Jock Colville, one of Churchill's private secretaries. The latest Jock was homed from a rescue charity. I wonder if it was Cats Protection!

All the best, Marjorie

