

## www.lichfield.cats.org.uk June 2014

## Welcome to the CP June 2014 Newsletter

## Fundraising **Indoor Market** and Craft Stall at The Guildhall, Lichfield

Thank you to everyone who helped on the day and to those who visited and spent at our Indoor Market and Craft Fayre on Saturday 26th April as well as to the stall holders who supported us. You all helped us to raise around £400 (after we paid for the hall) which is desperately needed with so many cats, kittens and pregnant cats in branch at present!

## **Lichfield Bower**

Massive thanks to everyone who was involved with the CP Bower Float and Stall ... what a successful day :-)

Stall raised £191.54!! Float won 3rd prize of £100!!

#### Total of £291.54

Julia <sup>x</sup>

Bower photos inside and on our website www.cats.org.uk/lichfield

#### **Editor's Note**

This will be my last newsletter as I am handing the reigns over to another volunteer after 3 years. Thank you for all your support and you can look forward to reading Cath and Nat's re-designed newsletter in August. Su X

### 0845 371 2741 lichfieldcats@gmail.com www.cats.org.uk/lichfield

## **Lichfield Bower - Letter from Val S**

Hello Ladies.

Sorry didn't have time to see float but the C/P stall was pretty hectic. With Tombola, a few plants and donations (sorry forgot a "cat tin") we raised £191.54.

Thanks to Tom who took all the gear, set up cover and banners then stayed around and about all day to help pack away.

A big thanks to Doreen who arrived mid day with a bag of more prizes-- we were running soooo low! And a

massive thanks to Dianne busy day. who stayed ALL day.

I have sent a picture of our first customers who were a family of 6 children, all really polite and well behaved. Dad allowed £1 (5 tickets). We let them have 6 even though the littley was about 3 months old and in Mom's arms. They won just one prize so we gave them all (but littley) a mask and badge. They were so pleased and with Dad's permission we took their photograph (attached). What a lovely start to our

Weren't we lucky with the weather? We had to close up at about 3.15pm as we were down to about 10 prizes even though apart from the donations that Doreen bought we had to send her to the pound shop for another top up. That is why friends I am begging for more donations for the Guild Hall.

Well done for 3rd prize.

Regards Val S



Charity No. 203644 (England and Wales) SC037711 (Scotland)



Our vision is a world where every cat is treated with kindness and an understanding of its needs.



Rogue's Gallery \*

## Billy





Billy is a gorgeous ginger and white longhaired cat - everyone has fallen in love with him! He is anything between 6 and 10 years old, neutered, microchipped and vaccinated. Billy came into the care of Cats Protection after having been a stray found in Tamworth covered in oil and his fur all matted together.

He was then quite a matted, grubby tom cat who had been used to searching for his next meal rather than looking after himself. Because of this Billy had a trip to the vets to neuter, vaccinate, micro-chip and shave the fur off that was matted. He was also treated for fleas & worms as routine.

Now he is comfortable, Billy is looking after himself and regularly washing, so his white is getting bright again and the fur that was shaved off is starting to come back too. However, because he is long haired, Billy will always need daily combing so that he does not get matted again.

Billy will make an extremely loving and friendly pet, he is very affectionate, rubbing his head round yours and pushing into your hands as you stroke him. He also loves to play a lot! Poor Billy can't meow or purr, instead he makes a noise like Donald Duck and grunts. He also doesn't have many teeth so his tongue sticks out a little ... which makes him even cuter! We suspect he may be ok with other cats, but we have not mixed him with dogs or children so we do not know if he would get on with them.

Billy is litter trained and easy going with his food, he will eat any type and any flavour wet and dry food.

If you can offer this gorgeous boy a loving permanent home please contact us on 0845 371 2741.

## Lexi

Lexi is a very sweet young cat who is nursing her litter of kittens at the moment. She is a very loving mother but also loves a fuss herself. She will not be ready for rehoming until her kittens are weaned but she can be reserved. Lexi will be neutered, vaccinated and microchipped prior to being homed. If you would like to offer Lexi a permanent loving home when she is ready please contact us on 0845 371 2741 or email lichfieldcats@gmail.com

## **3 kittens**

Three gorgeous tabby and white kittens, 2 girls and one boy (TBC) will be ready for homing 18 June. They will have had their first vaccination prior to homing. If you can offer any of these sweet kittens a loving permanent home please contact us on 0845 371 2741 or email us at lichfieldcats@gmail.com

## Missie

Missie is a very friendly black and white female who has had a litter of beautiful kittens. She is approximately 12 to 18 months old. Missie will be ready for homing from 18 June when her kittens are weaned. She will be vaccinated, microchipped and neutered before being homed. If you can offer Missie the loving permanent home she needs please contact us on 0845 371 2741 or email us to lichfieldcats@gmail.com

## Jessie

Jessie is a lovely Tortie female, approximately 12 months old. She has a slightly deformed front leg but manages well with walking and playing footie! She needs to be homed as an indoor cat only. Jessie is feeding her kittens as the moment and will not be ready for homing until the end of June, but can be reserved. If you can offer Jessie the loving permanent home she needs please contact us on 0845 371 2741 or email lichfieldcats@gmail.com

## 4 kittens

Jessie has four very cute kittens, two ginger and two black, five weeks old. They will be ready for homing at the end of June, but can be reserved. If you can offer a loving permanent home to one or two of these pretty kittens please contact us on 0845 371 2741 or email lichfieldcats@gmail.com

If you live in the Lichfield or Tamworth Area and can offer any of our cats or kittens the loving permanent home they deserve please contact us on 0845 371 2741 or email lichfieldcats@gmail.com

Not all the cats in our care are ready to be rehomed, if you would like information on all our cats please call our Welfare Officer on the above number. Also why not visit our website on www.cats.org.uk/lichfield

All adoptions are subject to a successful homing visit



# **Info Page**





There may be times when you will need to increase your cat's water intake for a variety of therapeutic reasons.

Your cat may have idiopathic cystitis and the aim is to encourage it to produce a more dilute urine, or it may have renal insufficiency and you need to help prevent dehydration. Whatever the reason here are some tips on increasing hydration.

#### Tips for increasing a cat's water intake

- · Feed a wet food.
- Add water to the food.
- Offer 'broths' (eg, water that meat has been boiled in).
- Use flavoured ice cubes. These can be made by boiling meat and freezing the water from the meat in ice cube trays. An ice cube can be put in the water bowl each day to add a 'meaty' flavour to the water.

- Many cats prefer a specific type of water rain water, puddle water, bottled water or tap water. Try different types to find the cat's preference.
- Some cats prefer flowing water (eg, water fountains, a dripping tap) to still water.
- Many cats also have a preference for the type of container that the water is in (glass, metal or ceramic rather than plastic, which retains odours), as well as the shape of the container (large wide container, glass, mug, etc).
- It is useful to try different containers in different locations in the house to identify an individual cat's preference.
- Multiple water bowls should be provided, located away from food and litter areas.
- Cats should be able to drink alone without the risk of another cat coming up behind them.

Article taken from International Cat Care



# **Info Page**

## Satisfying the needs of the indoor cat



Keeping a cat permanently indoors away from all the potential hazards outside may sound the ideal solution, however, the benefits of safety need to be weighed up against the needs of that particular cat.

Some of the potential problems are listed below:

#### Behavioural problems

Cats in the USA have a much higher incidence of anxiety-related problems such as urine marking than cats in the UK, possibly because British cats are allowed out more whereas in the USA they are more commonly kept permanently indoors. There are many stress-linked psychological problems in indoor cats.

#### Fear of change

Indoor cats may become over-reactive to changes within their small territory (the house) and become unable to cope with novelty, be it people or objects or new smells. It can be difficult to introduce a new cat (or even a new person) to your cat's restricted territory – there is no neutral ground to retire to for either party.

#### Obesity

A lack of exercise can lead to weight problems that in

turn can result in major health problems such as heart disease, osteoarthritis and diabetes.

#### Over dependence

A solitary indoor cat will rely on its owner to provide stimulation, companionship and exercise.

#### **Cleaning litter trays**

A chore those with outdoor cats don't have to do.

#### Damage to the house

Your furniture and carpets may suffer from being scratched excessively. Cats may also expend energy climbing, jumping and generally whizzing around the house in mad moments – again damage can occur.

#### House rules

Keeping doors/windows shut or covered so cats cannot escape can be impossible with children around.

#### Household hazards

An active indoor cat will explore crevices that an outdoor cat would probably not bother to investigate. Boredom



**Info Page** 



and curiosity can be a dangerous combination. Washing machines, toilets, medicines, cleaners, small holes, exposed wires and wobbly shelving are all particular hazards for curious kittens. While outside, cats will often nibble grass or herbs. If there is no access to this they may turn to indoor plants, some of which are poisonous.

#### Escape

An indoor cat that gets out may be disorientated and will not have any street skills. Escape from a high rise flat could be fatal. The cat may also be highly stressed to find itself suddenly in an unknown environment.

#### Frustration/boredom

Cats may develop behaviour problems if they are stressed by the lack of opportunity to express their normal behavioural repertoire. They also have the problem of being unable to escape from a situation or another cat which they find difficult to deal with.

#### Displaying normal behaviours

The main problem faced by the indoor cat is lack of opportunity to display a normal repertoire of behaviours. The cat is a natural hunter and if he cannot go out he be may be frustrated and develop behaviours which stimulate this activity. Thus, if you wish to keep an indoor cat content you will have to continue to be creative and produce new toys and games to keep your cat stimulated and exercised, physically and mentally. Kittens and cats love newspaper tents, cardboard boxes and paper bags, not to mention various cat play centres, fishing rod toys/laser pointers, etc, which encourage stalking and pouncing.

#### Start with two

It is best to get two kittens instead of one from the start in a totally indoor situation. It will provide companionship and also help you to get over feelings of guilt associated with leaving one kitten on its own while you are at work. Having two kittens relieves you of some of the burden of having to stimulate and exercise it as they will happily wear each other out playing and then collapse in a heap to sleep. They will, however, need somewhere safe to play.

#### Things to do

Make sure that you have regular visitors and life is not too quiet, especially when your kitten is small, because

this is what it will come to see as normal. Because the cat's whole world may be made up of a couple of rooms in a flat which it knows inside out, it can become hypersensitive to change. Human or animal visitors or even changes in household routine can introduce a potentially huge novelty to the cat's day to day environment and cause stress.

Indoor cats, especially when young, are likely to have quite an impact on your furniture and fittings. Try not to be too house-proud about the ensuing damage. Prevent rather than regret. Move all the ornaments and imagine that you have a toddler that can fly! Provide places where cats can have a 'free for all'.

Your cat will need to act out its natural behavioural repertoires such as sharpening claws within your home. Outdoor cats usually use a tree or garden post. An indoor cat must be provided with a good scratch post and even with this it is likely to use the furniture occasionally too.

Monitor your cat's food intake if it is tending to put on excess weight either through lack of exercise or is overeating because of boredom.

A cat that goes outdoors will nibble on grass and herbs as part of its diet. It is believed that eating vegetation helps cats to regurgitate hair balls. You can overcome the deficit by providing the cat with an indoor window box. Grass, catnip (Nepeta), thyme, sage, parsley or wheat and oats can all be sown indoors in a potting mixture. Sow seeds every couple of weeks to provide a fresh supply for your cat.

Invest in some good nail clippers as your cat's claws may not wear down as quickly as they would if it went outside and walked on hard surfaces. Long claws can become snagged in carpets and upholstery.

It is important to cat-proof your home carefully as an inquisitive kitten can get though a very small hole. If you live several storeys up, put mesh over the windows and train everyone in the family to keep doors shut. A purpose built outdoor enclosure could provide your cat with the sights and smells of the outside world and give its life some variety without exposing it to many of the outdoor risks. Alternatively you might consider using secure cat fencing to keep your cat within the confines of your own garden.

Article taken from International Cat Care



**Recent Events** 

## **Lichfield Bower**



## **Dedication Day**

We were honoured this year that our branch was invited to represent Cats Protection at a Dedication Day at Whittington Barracks in Whittington, Lichfield. This event was being attended by Royalty, as you can see by the photographs (sorry they are a little blurred but the Duchess of Cornwall was so busy that she didn't stand still for long). This was a great opportunity to represent Cats Protection and explain to the soldiers and their wives and families at the barracks how our Charity works.

A big thank you to the volunteers who braved the rain to attend the function and to top it all we were glimpsed on the TV on Central News!





# **True Story**



## Tango an amazing but true story

Tango is a large and very regal ginger tomcat that can often be found teaching the scratching post a lesson it will never forget.

If it weren't for his gentle nature it would be easy to get intimidated by him, but even though he's the largest of our cats by a long way he's just too laid back to fall out with anyone.

When Tango was still just a couple of years old he disappeared. We were sure he'd just fallen asleep somewhere out of earshot but when he didn't come home for breakfast the next morning we were sure something was wrong.

We all went out looking for him and, thinking the worst, we scoured the main roads in the area to no avail. Walking around the housing estate and the local fields calling him didn't do any good either.

I was just about to give up when an unknown cat accosted me. I was a little surprised that, seeing how I'd never met this cat before, he was rubbing up against my leg, meowing at me very purposefully and then running a few yards away before repeating the routine.

Now, I've seen the odd episode of Lassie and always laughed at how the people always understood that the boy had fallen down the well simply from a few barks and a bit of running about, but in my desperation to find Tango I convinced myself that this cat was trying to tell me that he knew where Tango was.

Yes, I felt silly, and yes, I doubted myself, but short of other options I decided to follow the cat and see where he lead me. We walked quite a way up the road and around a few corners, with my new friend looking round regularly to see if I was still there.

Eventually he stopped and sat down in the garden of a slightly dishevelled house, before disappearing round the back.

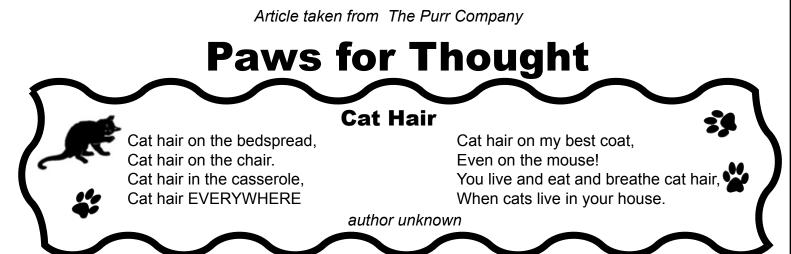
By this point I was very aware that what I was doing was ridiculous, but none the less, I checked around me to see if anyone was about and noticing no one I walked round the side of the house.

I got to the back of the house and looked up, to my complete shock there was Tango, standing at the window, looking at me through an upstairs window scratching to get out!!

Being only 15 at the time I returned later with my Dad. After a rather protracted and heated discussion with the owner, who was almost as dishevelled as his house, my Dad eventually persuaded the man to let him in for a look.

A few minutes later he returned with Tango in his arms and the owner of the house apologising profusely, saying " well I thought I heard a cat, but I haven't got one so I ignored it"

We've never been able to find out exactly how Tango got into the house, and I've never again seen the furry friend who took me to him, but I will always be thankful to that cat.





# **True Story**

## **Cat's Nest in Norfolk!**

Based on a cat rescue article from The Times. *Cats build their nests early in Norfolk* 

The Daily Mail reports a true story about a cat who has made itself a home in a pigeon's nest up a cherry tree in Reepham, Norfolk, England. The tortoiseshell cat, pictured, has been there for a week or so.

Miss Wendy Hobbs, in whose garden the cat is living, feeds the animal regularly when it comes down to terra firma. After it's meal it climbs back into the tree. Previously the feline had been seen travelling on the milkman's float.

Miss Hobbs, an animal lover, is keen to return the moggy to its rightful owners.

Ornithologists say they have never seen the phenomenon of a cat nest before. There are unconfirmed reports that 'twitchers' have detoured from their bird watching vigils on the nearby Norfolk Broads to observe Mrs Hobbs cat's nest.



# Cat Ordered to Do Jury Service



Tabby Sal, the cat, has been summoned to do jury service, despite the fact that his owners told the court he was 'unable to speak and understand English.' Will and Guy have learned.

Anna Esposito, wrote to Suffolk Superior Crown Court in Boston, USA, to explain that a mistake had been made, but a jury commissioner replied saying the cat, named Tabby Sal, 'must attend.'

Mrs Esposito had included a letter from her vet confirming that the cat was 'a domestic short-haired neutered feline.' Tabby Sal had been entered by Mrs Esposito under the "pets" section of the last census. "When they ask him guilty or not guilty? What's he supposed to say - miaow?" She said.

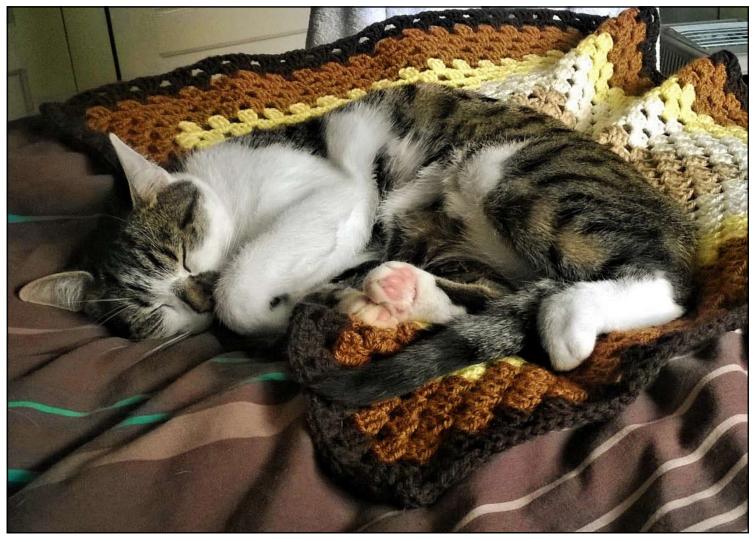
Research has shown Will and Guy that the US judicial system states that jurors are 'not expected to speak perfect English.'

We surmise that it would be sufficient for Tabby Sal to answer, 'Miaow' to all questions!



**Success Story** 

# Smudge



Smudge is a really sweet cat that had been with our fosterer, Vanessa, for a while. We had an email from Rhianne who was interested in her so a homing visit was carried out. Rhianne was very excited at the thought of getting Smudge as she and her family had never had a cat before. Here is the message she sent to the homing officer, Su:

Hello Su! Its Rhianne. We went and got smudge yesterday, she is a lovely sweet girl :). She has settled in really nicely, had a roam around the whole house. Absolutely loves fuss and seems quite comfortable here. I'll send some pictures through in the next couple of days. Thank you so much for everything, I am so happy :)

Here are some pictures we received the next day. Talk about settled in, anyone would think Smudge had lived there for years!





# **Success Story**



# J.D.

J.D. is very friendly and loving big ginger fur ball. He came into cats protection care because his owner had to move house and was unable to take him with her. He stayed for us for a while and then was adopted by Elizabeth and, as you can see, he has settled in very well in his new home. Here he is enjoying lying on Elizabeth's lap. What a snuggle-puss he is!



#### The Black Cat (Author Unknown) A cat as black

As blackest coal Is out upon His midnight stroll, His steps are soft, His walk is slow, His eyes are gold, They flash and glow. And so I run And so I duck, I do not need His black-cat luck. This newsletter is sponsored by Bromley Hayes Cattery

Tel: 07877 033 815 Holly Cottage, Common Lane, Riley Hill, Bromley Hayes, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 8HR www.bromleyhayescattery.com



# **Success Story**



Toby (Baxter) came into branch care as a cruelty case and we wondered how he would react to being rehomed but it looks as though we didn't have to worry as this is what he has written to his fosterer Julia:

Hi Julia,

Please find enclosed the photograph that Slave has been trying to take for weeks and weeks. She is not very bright, you know, and up until now I have managed to escape her clutches. When I was enjoying myself (gracefully, of course), playing with bits of cardboard, winding myself around the banisters in a graceful feline pole-dance, exploring the upper reaches of her bookshelves or getting to grips with her latest jigsaw puzzle, she would say to herself, weeping a little, that all my innocent activities 'would make a lovely photo' (I exaggerate a bit about the weeping).

But in the end she got me. Twice. It was brazen underhand persecution. I was innocently asleep in my den (which, incidentally, I didn't know she was aware of), and the next thing I knew was Slave saying 'Gotcha' under her breath, and there she was waving this thing about. Like the trouper I am, I had the presence of mind to play up to what I now know is a camera and here are the results. Take your pick.

Despite this disrespectful behaviour of someone who should know her place, I am having a lovely time here. The food is good and after being a bit cautious I now love the outdoors and have learnt how to climb fences, dig holes in the garden (particularly where she has earthed up the potatoes). I have a comfortable bench - and my den of course. I shall have to move to another one if there is further invasions of my privacy.

I have made a friend, who Slave calls Felix, because he/she looks just like the cat on the Felix boxes. We meet regularly; Felix usually calls for me in the morning. He comes to the French window at night sometimes, too, but interfering Slave won't let me out for a late night adventure. She really is a TYRANT, which is unfair as I help her a lot around the house. She doesn't appreciate that a duvet should be rolled about in and the pillow case has to be grabbed by a corner and swung on; that the washing line is dangerous and has to be stalked while its being wound up and that she really needs help when she's knitting. I say no more.



Dictated and signed by Toby, previously known as Baxter, and typed by Slave, a.k.a. Christine Miller.







# **Fun Time**



# Dateline

A number jig with a difference: with clues to figure out (with the help of a calculator if you wish!) to discover the date in the shaded line - in this case, a significant date in astronomy.

## ACROSS

- 1 Subtract 28 Down from 6 Down
- 4 Next in the series 89,878, 88,031, 86,184...
- 7 Two-thirds of 249
- 9 Add 11 Down to 21 Down
- 12 Add together Golden and Ruby Wedding years
- 13 Pounds in seven stone
- 14 Multiply a gross by 8,081
- 20 Add 14 Across to 6 Down
- 22 Add together the digits in 21 Down
- 23 Subtract 129 from 3 Down
- 24 Multiply 21 Down by 46
- 29 Divide 31 Across by 22 Across
- 30 Subtract 17 Down from 4 Across
- 31 Cube two dozen

## DOWN

- 1 Divide 11 Down by ounces in one pound
- 2 Subtract 22 Across from 28 Down
- 3 Sides on twenty-seven octagons
- 4 Days in one hundred and twenty-four weeks
- 5 Inches in twenty-eight feet
- 6 Subtract 16 Down from 1 Down
- 8 Total days in July and August
- 10 Square 1,792
- 11 Multiply 21 Down by a baker's dozen
- 14 Subtract 687 from 4 Down
- 15 Add 14 to thirty score
- 16 Multiply Roman numerals XXVI by XII
- 17 Quadruple 7 Across
- 18 Square root of 215,296
- 19 Divide 21 Down by 8
- 21 Square 16 Down
- 24 Average of 4 Down, 13 Across and 16 Down
- 25 Treble 251
- 26 Subtract 22 Across from 13 Across
- 27 Minutes between 8.20am and 10.01pm
- 28 Hours in seventeen days

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# **Paws for Thought**

## A Plea for a Cat

Would you care for me, as I care for my cat? Oh, I know she is treacherous and her thoughts go no higher Than mice and milk and a place by my fire; She is getting old and fat.

But when I sit alone in my evening chair, I stroke her fur I like to know she is there and to hear her purr. Of course, you could not care for me Like that! I can not purr as flatteringly as a cat.

Anonymous



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# **Fun Time**

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From the bold centre letter, move up or down or sideways (but NOT diagonally) to find the path through fifteen terms connected with an art gallery

# **Paws** for Thought

## **Under the Table Manners** Author Unknown

It's very hard to be polite If you're a cat. When other folks are up at table Eating all that they are able, You are down upon the mat If you're a cat.

You're expected just to sit If you're a cat. Not to let them know you're there By scratching at the chair, Or a light, respected pat If you're a cat.

You are not to make a fuss If you're a cat. You're expected just to wait, Wait politely on the mat If you're a cat.

Tho' there's fish upon the plate

collection, trame, landscape watercolour, painting, artist, miniature, etching, canvas, still lite, exhibition, Display, curator, sculpture, portrait,

Pathfinder

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# What's On



## Saturday 14 June 2014 Come and join us at The Guildhall, Bore Street, Lichfield

Browse our craft stalls, new goods and bric-a-brac, have a go on our tombola and stop for refreshments.

Every penny we make goes to keeping those furry friends in our care safe and well.

## lichfieldcats@gmail.com www.cats.org.uk/lichfield

Our vision is a world where every cat is treated with kindness and an understanding of its needs.

Charity No. 203644 (England and Wales) SC037711 (Scotland)





the show

What's On

# Visit us at the state the state of the

Open to the public from 2.20pm to .00pm only s is due to judging in the morning)

Thank you for your continued support x

lichfieldcats@gmail.com www.cats.org.uk/lichfield

Our vision is a world where every cat is treated with kindness and an understanding of its needs.



Charity No. 203644 (England and Wales) and SC037711 (Scotland)



What's On

\*\* \*\*

The Party Night

# Saturday 23rd August 2014



Doors and Bar Open 7.30pm Boley Park Community Centre, Lichfield

# Tickets £10 Each

Includes Food & Entertainment

## Live Music by four piece rock & roll band



## Playing covers from 50's to present day

~ Licensed Bar ~

Tickets now on sale & available from: Bromley Hayes Cattery Julia - 07877033815 Or email lichfieldcats@gmail.com

Our vision is a world where every cat is treated with kindness and an understanding of its needs.





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