

Hemel Hempstead & Berkhamsted Branch



December 2010 News Sheet

Co-ordinator's Report

Hi to every one of you and the cats of course.

A BIG THANK you for all of your support throughout this year and long may it continue, as without it, we would not have a branch.

This year seems a lot slower in rehoming cats but we will soon see when I have to do the end of year figures. We seem to have had more cats waiting to come in or strays. It is always hard when I have to inform the caller that we can not help and just put the cat on the ever increasing list. We need more fosterers, either in the home or pens in their garden. Please see below in this newsletter and if you can help then PLEASE call me. There is nothing better than to see a cat come in and then go off to a nice new home.

Let's hope that this year is a better one all round.

Hope you all have a very good Christmas and a very Happy New Year and hope to see your continued support in 2011.

Vanessa.

*Vanessa Peters,
Co-Ordinator and Homing Officer*

Your New Year Resolution?

As an unusual New Year's Resolution why not make a gift of some of your time for volunteering in 2011? We would love to hear from you if you can help with cat welfare e.g. fostering cats and kittens,

home visits, transport, or with fundraising events. Volunteering can be fun and a way of meeting people and you have the satisfaction of making a direct contribution to the welfare of our homeless feline friends. If you can help in any way, even occasionally, and if you would be interested in joining our team please give one of us a call to have a cat chat!

Change of Website Address

Please note that we now have a new website address and we hope you'll like it! Check it out at <http://www.cats.org.uk/dacorum>

We have more scope to add news items to this site so if you have any newsworthy items you wish to share please email them to Caroline.

The change is due to CP HQ standardising on website names and templates.

Cat lovers in Berkhamsted and Tring

If you are able to spare some time for collecting donations at Tesco in Tring on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th April please get in touch with Vanessa Chenery on 01442 879974. Even if you can only spare an hour it will be a big help. The collection we had there in August raised £190 and about £130 worth of cat food in one day, so it was well worth the effort. We also need bucket shakers for the annual street collection in Berkhamsted (2011 date to be confirmed)

The Pussycat Stall

If you have been to our events you may have seen Beryl at the Pussycat Stall which she has been tirelessly running for nearly 20 years, selling anything from CP pencils to cat carriers. If it was in good condition and had a cat on it Beryl would clean it up and sell it sooner or later! Well, unfortunately for us, Beryl is retiring from her role with the Pussycat Stall due to health problems, although she will continue to be involved in CP events as much as she can.

We are very grateful that Beryl and Nicholas have used their spare room as a storage facility for all

the Pussycat stuff over the years but now they need to reclaim space in their house. As we haven't found a new Beryl (surely irreplaceable!) we are sorting out alternative options to maintain the Pussycat Stall and make sure it is available at events. Beryl will continue to order and sell catnip bags and help out with events where possible. Just this month she raised over £30 in 'home sales' and another £62 in October. Thank you Beryl for your tremendous efforts over the years with the Pussycat Stall, the summer fete which you used to host in your garden and other fundraising events.

eBay

The amount raised in November was £344.91. Congratulations once again to Caroline as this amount brings her grand total to over £15,000!!!

As reported in the last issue Caroline has been selling goods for Cats Protection on eBay for five years, and at the time of reporting had raised a total of £14,460.06. She set herself a target of increasing that total to £15,000 by the end of the year and she has already done it. Caroline was thrilled to announce that the magic number has been reached – a fantastic **£15,114.96**. She would like to thank everyone who has passed on stuff for her to sell – and to say please don't stop!

If you have received unwanted gifts please donate them to us to recycle for you. We'd love to have your unwanted clothes, shoes, ornaments, paperbacks, bric-a-brac, jewellery, cuddly toys etc. Obviously these have to be in good condition for selling on ebay but donations are also welcome for jumble sales and other stalls. Sorry we can't sell electrical goods.

Contact Caroline at caroline@wwsl.co.uk (please mark your email with subject 'CP eBay item for sale') or call 01442 230874. Her user ID on ebay is 99kittykats if you're interested in buying. Call Sallie with donations for jumble on 01442 256545

Gift Bags

When you receive presents in those pretty little carrier bags please will you pass on the bags to us to recycle. Pat's Hook-a-Bag game is very popular with children and even adults like to have a go too but we need more bags! It is a simple game involving a hook on the end of a pole used to pick up a gift bag. The winner keeps the bag as well as the goodies so it means we need a constant supply of gift bags of different size, and small gifts to go inside them. We can even use the little brown bags which arrive with takeaway dinners (provided that the bags are clean, not greasy) because the bag can be decorated with cat pictures to make it more attractive. If you have bags or gifts to donate please bring them along to one of our events or call Pat on 01442 247848.

Jackie Gomme – Chutneys and Veg

Jackie helps out at West Valley and has done fantastic work with the harder to home cats there, plus regular pen cleaning duties. She has an allotment and sold home-made chutneys and veg at her workplace, raising a brilliant £58.99 and collecting an additional £6. Thanks Jackie!

Are there any more enterprising people out there like Jackie who could make and sell things for us? Could you make cakes to sell at work or organise a raffle of unwanted gifts? Every little helps.

Kitty Cat Care – the Mobile Cattery

Our own Vanessa Chenery has started a new local service, the 'Kitty Cat Care Mobile Cattery', looking after cats while owners are away 'providing personal and loving care so that your cat can stay safe and happy at home while you are away. All special needs and diets catered for'.

For further information and rates call 07763 79247 or 01442 879974 or email kittycatcare@live.co.uk For each booking a donation will be made to our CP branch.

Walk the Dog

Walk the Dog are supporters of Cats Protection, having sponsored a cat pen for us earlier in the year and we hope to explore ways in which we can join together for events. It is in the interests of our feline friends that dog owners ensure their pet is well behaved and 'Dog Listener' Hanna Grice has written a book called 'Playing with your Dog' to help owners understand and stop their pet's behaviour problems. They also have a pet sitting service to include cats and other small animals. Call 07976 743 031 or 01442 878628 or see their website <http://www.walk-the-dog.net>

Fundraising – Past Events

Sunday 31st October – Halloween, Old High Street Hemel Hempstead – raised £80

Not a promising day for this, with almost non-stop drizzle all morning it seemed unlikely that we would attend but the clouds started to lift and it seemed a bit drier so we decided to go for it. The organisers (Community Action Dacorum) had been busy on publicity this year so it seemed a lot more people were aware of it. This is a fun event for 'people watching' and some of the costumes were superb and really inventive. Thanks to Sallie, Viv and Adrien for running this, it was very wet by packing

up time and Sallie took the gazebo home to dry it out.

Sat Nov 13th – Jumble Sale, Methodist Church, Northridge Way, Hemel – raised £418.30 including a donation of £20.

This was an extra one scheduled at short notice. Jumble sales are great fun and ours do seem to be popular, attracting regular attendees so we usually get a good result. It's often a mad scramble to get ready before the doors open but you never know what you might find and of course it is a valuable way of recycling – one person's jumble is another person's 'that's just what I was looking for'!

Generally we do well with jumble sales – we've had five jumbles this year which have brought in over £2209 and the previous year six jumbles raised over £2500. Jumble sales also bring in some donated items which are good enough to sell elsewhere, meaning we can raise more money from them. Thanks to Sallie and Mavis and all of the jumble volunteers. Mavis has already made bookings for jumbles next year – see the events list.

Sat Nov 27th – Christmas Fair, Queens Square, Adeyfield, Hemel Hempstead – raised £114

Di was running our stall, offering an early chance to buy some Christmas goodies, decorations and baubles but knitted mittens, hats and scarves proved to be the most popular items!

Sat Nov 27th – Winter Fayre, Leverstock Green Village Hall – raised £80.20

A very cold day outside following a light fall of snow - by mid afternoon there weren't many visitors and we thought we might be lucky to take £30. Then more people started arriving to see the switch on of the lights and eventually we made just over £80 selling items from the Pussycat stall and a little jewellery and the Lucky Dip was popular with the children.

Sun Nov 28th – Christmas Fair, Berkhamsted Sports Centre – raised £71.20

Vanessa P and Heather ran the CP stall at this event organised by Berkhamsted Sports centre. Vanessa felt that the event suffered from not having enough publicity and they were a bit disappointed to take only £71.20

Pat's Christmas Party – Saturday 4th December Raised £193.25

On Saturday Pat kindly hosted a Christmas party for all of our CP branch volunteers. Apart from the festive punch, delicious munchies including chocolate log, mince pies and sausage rolls, there was a raffle and the opportunity to buy goodies

from Di and Caroline's stall and pussycat things from Beryl.

Heather's raffle raised £51.00, Di's stall £52.25 and Beryl's stall £90.00, a whopping total of £193.25. Thanks again to Pat for generously hosting the event and providing refreshments and thanks to everyone who helped. As Vanessa Peters said, our branch would not be able to function without volunteers and it was lovely to see those who were able to attend.

Sun 5th Dec - Festival of Light Berkhamsted

Due to the extreme cold weather it was decided that CP would not attend this event. Sorry if you turned up and could not find our stall. We try not to cancel at late notice but sometimes, especially with outdoor events, it is unavoidable.

Some Fundraising Events booked for 2011 to note in your diary

Please don't hesitate to call if you can help with any of the following events or if you have ideas for new events.

Sat Jan 29th Jumble Sale Potten End Village Hall – (doors open 11.30)

A great way to get over the excesses of Christmas and the New Year if you would like to come and help us or let us know if you have excess presents that you might be able to donate.

Sat March 19th Jumble Sale Potten End Village Hall – (doors open 11.30)

Kitty Quiz Night No. 3 – March/April date to be announced

We don't have a date for this yet but we are hoping to have another kitty quiz night in March or April. Vanessa already has reservations from 9 teams who enjoyed the last one so much they are just waiting for the date to be announced. If you are interested in reserving a table please let Vanessa Chenery know and she will put you on the waiting list.

15 – 16 April – Tring Tesco collection

Collectors needed to cover the time periods 9.30 – 6pm – even if you can only do an hour that would really help a lot, especially on Friday – please contact Vanessa Chenery

Sat June 4th Jumble Sale Potten End Village Hall – (doors open 11.30)

Sat/Sun 9-10th July Music on the Moor – Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead

The dates have now been set for Music on the Moor - two days of musical entertainment for the local community. Sallie will be booking a stall for CP at this family event which includes charity and other stalls.

Sat 3rd Sept – Street Collection & Stall, Marlowes, Hemel

We had a brilliant day in 2010 and if you would like to join the team next year Janet would love to hear from you.

Sat Sept 17th Jumble Sale Potten End Village Hall – (doors open 11.30)

Please note that we make every effort to ensure event dates and times are correct but there may be last minute changes or cancellations due to bad weather or other circumstances. If in doubt please contact us or check our website www.cats.org.uk/hemel-hempstead


Thank you to everyone who helps at our events or donates things to sell or supports us in any other way, for example in cat welfare by looking after foster cats or taking cats to the vet for checks. We do not have the space to mention everybody but we are always very grateful and we would not have such a thriving branch without your support.


Future editions of the Newsheet

If you have been receiving your newsletter by post you have Ruth Lavanchy to thank for her efforts – she has been printing it out, stuffing it into envelopes and posting it for the last 7 years! However Ruth's photocopier has reached an advanced age and its complaints about its workload are increasing. Therefore, Ruth has decided that they will both 'retire'. *"I started doing the printing and mailing for Margaret in 2003. My husband died at the beginning of the year and I inherited the photocopier and a bulk supply of paper that he had just ordered. He was as fond of cats as I am, so I knew he would be happy for them to be used to help Cats Protection. Now I am down to the last packet of paper and you know about the photocopier. So it is time to hand over to someone else".* We have been extremely fortunate in having Ruth to handle the distribution

of the news sheet for us and we are all very grateful for the support she has given over the years. Thank you Ruth, we hope you will continue to be involved and to see you at some of our events.

If you have been receiving the newsheet by post but now have an email address please let us know so that we can send it to you by email. We try to keep our costs down as much as possible therefore email is our preferred, and quickest, way of sending out the News Sheet.

 To receive this newsheet by email please contact j.taylor0402@ntlworld.com

 If you don't have access to email and want to continue receiving the News Sheet by post in 2011 we will need a contribution of stamps to cover postage costs. Please contact Janet on 01923 400520 to confirm that you wish to receive it by post. We also aim to have spare copies available at events and will do our best to get the newsheet out at regular intervals.

This Newsheet is available in alternative formats, including large print, on request. If you would like to arrange an alternative version, please contact Janet for assistance.

Copy date for next News Sheet

All articles, items for the Events listing, etc. to Janet j.taylor0402@ntlworld.com by 20th January

Branch contact no: 0845 371 1851
www.cats.org.uk/hemel-hempstead

Contact Details (local code 01442 unless otherwise stated)

Co-ordinator and all rehoming calls.

Vanessa Peters 0845 371 1851

Treasurer/Gift Aid

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Branch Secretary

Heather
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Hemel Hempstead Fundraising & Newsheet

Janet 01923 400520

Berkhamsted/Tring Fundraising

Vanessa Chenery 879974

Welfare	
Chris	244945
Neutering Vouchers/Assistance	
Ali	251536
All calls for Jumble Sales	
Mavis	251077
Sallie	256545
John	01923 260233
Lost & Found Register	
Margaret	263047
eBay items for sale	
Caroline (caroline@wwsl.co.uk)	230874
(email subject marked 'CP eBay item for sale').	