



## **Beverley & Pocklington BRANCH MEWS November 2007**

2007 does not seem to be a particularly good year so far. Homing is difficult because so many people are making money from their cats by not neutering their females and letting them have kittens. The kitten season was late starting and people were able to obtain £40 - £50 for a kitten, certainly not vaccinated and often not even treated for fleas and worms. A nice little earner ... One Friday evening there were over 50 cats and kittens offered for sale in the local paper!

An open afternoon at Sheila's on 12th August was well attended but resulted in very few homes and people are obviously doing the rounds, visiting all the local animal shelters. We have a big advantage thanks to Cats Protection that all our cats and kittens are vaccinated, our adult cats are neutered and micro-chipped and we pay for micro-chipping kittens at selected vets when they are neutered.

Fund raising has not been brilliant either - the weather has played a big part and people in general do not seem to have as much money to spend. The tombola at the Market Stall in Beverley in April raised £126.10, which was good as it is pure profit and reduced some of the huge number of prizes we had accumulated thanks to generous supporters. We tried Beverley's first Green Fair in May, attendance was reasonable but takings were poor, £121.39 and mainly due to one of our helpers starting her Christmas shopping early!

It did not stop raining at Giant Bradley Day at the end of May and our takings were £150.09 compared with a record £435.08 last year. It was disappointing for the organisers too because they had made such big effort to promote the event.

Town & Country Day at Bishop Burton College, usually a profitable day, did not take place due to construction work going on at the college.

This year due to a problem with bookings at the Lincolnshire Showground the Lincolnshire Cat Club Show was held at the Dome in Doncaster in July. Attendance was reasonable rather than good - whether people did not want to travel from Lincoln or whether it was not widely advertised in the Doncaster area may have been the cause. We took £192.00 which was disappointing from a tired audience of cat lovers.

The weather at the Drifffield Show was better than forecast but attendance was down on previous years and again, people did not seem to be spending. We were located on one of the main paths to the exit and it was very noticeable how few people were carrying bags. We took £343.35 (£420.52 last year) and also had the promise of an outdoor home for two cats at stables at the end of August. The Bishop Wilton Show was another victim of the weather, the fields were waterlogged and the show had to be cancelled.

Our own pens suffered badly in the floods on 25th June. Sheila was on holiday and Brenda on cat feeding/pen cleaning duty rang to say the pens were flooding. The water rose rapidly, it was over the top of my wellingtons on the path and soon reached our newly refurbished kitchen.

Most cats had been sensible and moved to their cat cabins. However, the feral mum with her kittens were afloat in their plastic bed. When she and her kittens were first moved to Woodmansey the kittens were put in a heated bed but she ignored them for 24 hours before moving them down onto the concrete floor. We therefore took the heat pad out of the bed and placed the bed on the floor, which she accepted. Fortunately it was a rigid plastic bed and not a fabric bed and it floated well. Being brave I pulled up my hood, curled myself up to be as small as possible and lifted the bed and placed it on the shelf. Mother cat, who is extremely timid, jumped out and did the 'wall of death' around the top of the pen, before joining her kittens. The shelf in the largest pen is too high to reach but fortunately all our pens are equipped with tall scratching posts with big tops so that the cats can look out at the garden. Mother cat and five kittens were all huddled up together, surrounded by water. They were soon moved to another pen. The mother cat and a total of 10 kittens were booked at the vets for their first vaccination that afternoon and Norwood Vets kindly looked after all of them for a few days.

That evening the water was even higher. We had placed all the scratching posts on top of crates, tops of litter trays etc. to keep them out of the water but they were all submerged again. From Monday evening onwards it was shorts and plastic sandals, much more suitable than wellington boots full of water!

The water showed no sign of subsiding. The bins containing cat litter all tipped over, the fridge was full of water but fortunately we had put up a new shelf unit on Sunday so were able to pile lots onto that. The wheelie bins were floating the drive, the lawn was under about 3 feet of water, the neighbour's pond had overflowed - attempts to catch goldfish in a litter tray proved unsuccessful. Yorkshire Water admitted the main drain was blocked and promised to jet it out within 48 hours. Once this happened, the water went down quickly.

Sheila was due back at the weekend so a work party was organised for the Sunday morning (the weather forecast for Saturday was not good). It was amazing how much a good team of volunteers could achieve in a few hours. A kindly electrician, the husband of one of our helpers, provided his services for free and sorted out the electrics for the pens and kitchen (and also the garage door).



The water quickly disappeared after the drain was jetted out

H	Y	S	N	A	G	G	L	E	P	U	S	S	T	P	U
E	E	I	L	T	D	U	C	H	E	S	S	S	I	H	S
N	R	M	O	O	N	C	A	T	B	N	E	I	G	E	H
R	H	B	O	P	F	A	T	A	O	N	J	T	G	L	E
Y	P	A	C	C	B	A	G	W	G	O	A	R	E	L	A
R	M	U	O	A	C	P	B	A	T	H	U	L	R	O	T
E	U	S	S	T	U	A	R	E	E	H	R	E	T	K	H
H	H	A	A	S	L	F	N	H	T	A	F	A	O	I	C
T	M	B	S	L	I	E	T	R	C	I	J	R	M	T	L
N	U	N	D	E	L	N	A	S	C	M	I	Z	A	T	I
A	F	H	L	R	I	E	B	U	L	O	N	A	L	Y	F
P	A	D	A	T	A	T	L	O	E	G	X	I	L	E	F
K	S	T	A	C	D	A	M	S	O	C	K	S	E	H	C
N	A	C	H	E	S	H	I	R	E	T	I	L	Y	F	F
I	T	H	U	N	D	E	R	C	A	T	S	A	L	E	M
P	F	I	G	A	R	O	R	E	T	S	E	V	L	Y	S

Find these famous cat names. Answers read up, down, forward, back or diagonally in either direction

ARLENE	FAT	LUCIFER	SIMBA
ARTHUR	FELIX	MADCAT	SNAGGLEPUSS
AZRAEL	FIGARO	MOG	SNOWBALL
BAGPUSS	GARFIELD	MOONCAT	SOCKS
BAT CAT	HEATHCLIFF	MUPASA	SYLVESTER
CAT IN THE HAT	HELLO KITTY	O'MALLEY	TAO
CHESHIRE	HENRY	PINK PANTHER	THUNDER CATS
CLEO	HUMPHREY	PUSS IN BOOTS	TIGGER
COOL	JESS	SALEM	TOM
DUCHESS	JINX	SCAR	TOP CAT

Our Pet Show took place at the Memorial Hall in Beverley on Saturday, 15th September and as usual was an enjoyable day plus some lovely cats. Best in Show Cat was Jordan, a beautiful 7 year old, blue long haired cat, owned by Joyce Baker of Aylesbury, near Grimsby. This was a wonderful achievement as Jordan was rescued as a starving kitten from a bad housing estate at 16 weeks and had not been fed, only milk from his mother. Jordan could not be neutered until he was 11 months old as it took that long for him to reach 5lbs in weight. Best in Show Kitten was a late entry, Pip owned by Debbie Dale of Hull.

The show raised much needed funds for the Branch with a busy stall, tombola, delicious refreshments and of course entry and door money. Our thanks to John and Caroline Shields of Norwood Vets for doing the vetting in and Doris Wilson, Chris Campion and Helen Shaw for the judging. All these people give up their valuable time for free to support us.



**Wizard** is one of our special needs cats. He is 15 months old and possibly slightly brain damaged. He is a handsome grey tabby and spends a lot of time running round in circles. He is very playful but unfortunately can get carried away and nip. We would not recommend Wizard with small children.

We have many other cats and kittens ready for adoption. They have all been vet checked and vaccinated and treated for fleas and worms. Adult cats are neutered and microchipped and we will pay for kittens to be neutered at selected vets when they are neutered.

Our cats and kittens also have 6 weeks free Petplan insurance .

**Holly**, a friendly black and white cat homed by the Branch was unfortunately knocked down and suffered a badly fractured pelvis within six weeks of being rehomed. Thanks to Petplan she was able to be referred to a clinic in Birmingham for specialist treatment. The vet bill will probably be enormous!

## Volunteering by Sheila Rees

I volunteered to help with Cat Protection about twenty years ago when the children were small and I worked part time. A unit was erected in my garden which consisted of three pens. It has been improved and added to since then and now I look after three units comprising eleven pens, one storage area and a precast garage equipped with sinks, hot water, fridge and storage. Here I store food, clean bedding and litter trays. I now work full time for a GP surgery and full time for Cats Protection so you will realise I have very little free time. I have volunteers who help with the pens when they can, which gives me a little more time for paper work and phone calls.

Many people think I must really miss the cats when they go to a new home and feel sad. In fact, the feelings I have are just the opposite. I do miss them for a short while when they go, but a new home, a happy cat and delighted new owners are the main reasons I carry on. The gap is soon filled again.



Towards Christmas we will be busy trying to settle the cats into new homes before the busy Christmas break. We have a stall on a local market and various Christmas fairs plus Beverley also has a big Christmas market. We have very good team of volunteers who organise our events. As well as Christmas goods we will be selling lots of new cat orientated items and novelties, perfect presents for cat loving friends.

I am often asked why I work for a cat charity, usually by people who don't like cats, but in reality it's not a cat on the end of the phone or knocking on my door. The cat on the doorstep in a box didn't arrive there on its own. My biggest disappointment is for the people who ring for help and I can't give them anything but advice. Facilities and time being limited, I can only take in cats when I have the time and space to look after them properly.

For me being a volunteer is half of my life. The people and cats I meet make all the hard work worthwhile.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**SATURDAY** SUPREME CAT SHOW  
**17TH NOVEMBER** NEC Birmingham  
The place to see Britain's best cats.

**SUNDAY** BEVERLEY'S FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS  
**9TH DECEMBER** Saturday and Wednesday Markets  
Traditional Victorian Christmas market

We have a good selection of Christmas cards plus our popular cat and kitten calendars and Norwood Vets are kindly selling these on our behalf again this year. If you are member of Cats Protection nationally and have received the Christmas catalogue, we can order goods on your behalf which saves you postage and helps raise funds for our branch. Please ring Carol on 01482 882347.

### Tips for Cats

Place your bottom firmly on the newspaper your human is reading, being careful to cover the area scanned by its eyes.

We always like to hear about cats and kittens we have homed and often receive notes/photos with kitten's 'Proof of Neutering'.

*Sorry this took so long to get to you - I carefully filed it away and forgot about it. Oskar has turned into a lovely young cat. He gets on reasonably well with Holly - she still likes to think that she is the boss, but he's twice her size!*

*He's a "lodger" cat - he likes to go out through the day but always make sure he's home at night and tucked up in our (his) bed.*

### Tips for Cats

Be unpredictable. One day be all over your human, the next day ignore it. Inconsistency trains better than reliability. Or as a learning theory puts it, an intermittent reward is more effective than a continuous reward schedule!

We never run out of cats (nor kittens so far this year) and always have a waiting list of cats to come in, so please recommend us to your cat loving friends. Details of some of the cats in the pens at Woodmansey are always available on our website [www.bpcp.org.uk](http://www.bpcp.org.uk) and our page on the Catchat website ([www.catchat.org](http://www.catchat.org)). Please ring Sheila on 01482 861866 to arrange a visit.

Would you enjoy short term fostering - we often need homes for kittens or a mother cat and kittens for a few weeks. Cats Protection provide food and litter, you provide time and TLC - ring Sheila if you are interested.

We are also seeking outdoor homes for ferals. Homes at stables, small holdings, farms etc. are ideal, the cats (all healthy and neutered) need shelter and one good meal a day. Please ring Carol on 01482 882347 with offers of outdoor homes.

### **Tips for Cats**

Some cats feel it is bad for discipline to let humans up on the bed. But be generous and share. They do so love sleeping next to you.

### **A Lonely Cat**

I wish someone would tell me what is it that I've done wrong.  
Why do I have to stay outside in the rain and be left alone so long?  
They seemed so glad to have me when I came here as a kitten.  
There were so many things we'd do while I was growing up.

The Master said he'd love me as a companion and a friend.  
The Mistress said she'd never fear to be left alone again.  
The children said they'd feed me and brush me every day.  
They'd play with me and walk me if I would only stay.'

But now the Master hasn't time, the Mistress says I shed.  
She doesn't want me in the house, not even to be fed."  
The Children never pet me; they always say, "Not now"  
I wish that I could please them. Won't someone tell me how?

All I had, you see, was love.  
I wish they would explain  
Why they said they wanted mine,  
And then left it outside in the rain.