

Newsletter

Spring 2020 No. 114

Jemima - one of our rescued cats
happy in her forever home. ♥

**Bury St Edmunds and
Stowmarket Branch**



Committee Members

Co-ordinator	Margaret Spratt
Treasurer	Sharon Hicks
Admissions/Lost & Found	Marina Veal
Homing/Welfare/Neutering	Margaret Spratt
Newsletter	Jenny Redington-Scott
Publicity	Rebecca George
Membership	Julie Nunn

Cats Protection (Bury St Edmunds & Stowmarket Branch)

PO Box 90
Bury St Edmunds
IP28 9BT **Branch Helpline:**
01284 850887

www.cats.org.uk/bury-st-edmunds
email: info@cplbury.org.uk
and follow us on Facebook





Welcome to the Spring Newsletter,

Hello to you all, I hope that you are all keeping well. My cats and I have been enjoying the beautiful sunshine in our garden.

I realised that in most of the pictures that I have of Teddy he is asleep. The picture below shows him stretched out on the coveted window sill. Poppy had been staying inside as it has been cold but with the warmer weather has again been really busy catching mice and bringing them inside to play with. Joey has been keeping them all in check as he does.

I have included in this issue pictures of cats helping their owners work from home, I am currently working from home, which the cats are enjoying as they have extra mum time. It's a constant struggle to keep Teddy from my laptop! He creeps along the back of the settee and flops on my keyboard, its very cute but not very productive.

As we are not rehoming cats until further notice we have a bonus section on our rehomed cats looking relaxed and happy in their new home. It's great when we receive pictures of them enjoying life in their forever home.

Kind regards to you all,

Jenny - Editor

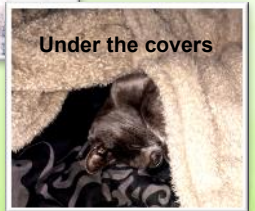


Teddy

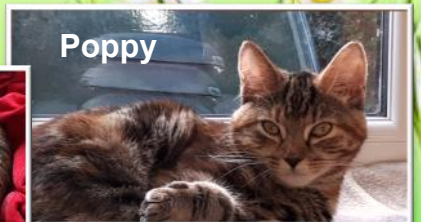


Joey

My moggies



Under the covers



Poppy

Coordinators report

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter and hopefully to better and brighter weather as the days are getting longer. It should also mean that my cats will be spending less time indoors spreading themselves across the backs of chairs and the tops of radiators and hopefully will be sunning themselves in the garden.

You will see from my report on our work with cats in 2019 that we had a great result from our neutering work which must make a difference to the lives of cats in our area. All this neutering work was completely funded by our branch as we didn't request a neutering grant from CP HQ last year and we haven't requested one this year either. We are very grateful indeed to all our supporters who donate money to us and to those who leave legacies in their will as this helps us to continue to fund this neutering work. We are currently running a "Snip & Chip" scheme in the Stowmarket area for the month of March and have nearly 80 cats registered so far.

From time to time we always have cats in care that have health or other issues that make them harder to home even though we will support them with the cost of medication etc. Fortunately for us and the cats the "right " home does come along eventually for which we are very grateful. This is particularly true for sweet Ruby – a lovely white & tortie girl who has a quite serous heart murmur so we thought she would be with us for some time. To our surprise a lovely lady came forward very quickly and Ruby is now a very much loved cat in her new home.

Cat Protection has recently introduced a free online course which is open to all called Understanding Cats' Needs – a guide to the basics of why cats do what they do! This course helps to understand the needs of your own cat living in your home as well as cats in the rescue environment and can make you think how you can make your home more cat friendly. The course can be accessed by visiting www.cats.org.uk/online-learning

With many thanks to all our helpers, supporters and volunteers.

Very best wishes
Margaret



Statement from Cats Protection

In these challenging times with the developing situation with coronavirus (COVID-19), Cats Protection is taking extra precautions to keep our cats, volunteers, employees and the public safe and continue to provide high levels of care for the cats in our centres and branches as well as helpful welfare advice to cat owners.

Unfortunately this does mean that with immediate effect, some activities, including homing, face-to-face fundraising and events, have been put on hold until further notice.

At this time we are also unable to take any more cats into our care other than in exceptional circumstances. If you have an emergency situation and you think you need to rehome your cat please contact us on 03000 12 12 12 or info@cats.org.uk

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Dates for your Diary

Due to the current situation with Covid19 all events are cancelled until further notice. I have included dates for later in 2020.

<i>Saturday 5th September</i>	<i>2-4pm</i>	<i>Autumn Fayre - Woolpit Village Hall, Woolpit, IP30 9QX</i>
<i>Sunday October 18th</i>	<i>10-4pm</i>	<i>Stall at Needham Market Community Centre, Needham Market IP6 8BB</i>





Meet the Cats Protection team

Rebecca George is our PR officer. She runs our Facebook page, liaises with local media and occasionally contributes to discussions on BBC Radio Suffolk when the presenters are discussing cat-related topics. Rebecca is a member of the branch committee.



How did you get involved with Cats Protection?

Former branch coordinator Penny Alborough is a former colleague and 'encouraged' me to come along to a committee meeting. Umpteen years on, here I still am. Our branch, under Margaret's sterling leadership, does great work so I am very happy to support it. We make such a difference to the unfortunate cats which end up in our care and to the wider cat community through our neutering work. It's well worth the investment of time.



Bramble



Bramble

What is the role of Social Media within the CP?

Our facebook page helps us to publicise our work to people (especially cat lovers) in our catchment area. I post several times a week – perhaps a new cat we're looking to rehome, a missing cat, news of an event or initiative, or general cat care advice. It's a successful page with lots of followers and lots of engagement. From time to time it has helped us to find one of our cats a new home too!



Archie and Max

Where does your love of cats come from?

I had cats as a child so they were my 'first love' but I love all animals and have had ex-battery chickens, guinea pigs and other pets over the years.

I currently have two 15 year old tabby brothers, Archie and Max. We got them as kittens

when my twin daughters were about 8 years old and we'd just moved to Suffolk from London. My daughters have since grown up and moved out but the cats are still going strong and loving life.

I work full-time but usually from home so they have plenty of company and regularly gate-crash my skype calls. About six years ago, we took on a rescue Labrador, Bramble, and, once they got over the shock, the cats took this in their stride and all three have learned to co-exist – on the proviso that Bramble knows that the cats are in charge.



What is the most challenging aspect of your work?

I don't find anything particularly challenging. It can be a little disheartening when it takes a very long time to find a cat a home – or when people don't understand the way we work or that we are all volunteers. The majority of people we deal with are considerate though and grateful for our help - and the feeling of joy and relief when one of our cats, particularly our long-stay cats, goes off to a wonderful new home, makes it all worthwhile.



Annual Raffle 2019 - Results

The 2019 Annual Raffle was drawn at Stowe Veterinary Group in Stowmarket on Wednesday 11th December 2019.

The lucky winners were as follows:

- 1st Prize of £150 - Mrs A Heard
- 2nd Prize of £75 - Mrs P Honeyball
- 3rd Prize of £50 - Mrs J Perkins
- 4th Prize of £25 - Miss S Manning - Donated winnings to the branch

Many thanks to everyone who supported this worthwhile annual event. The monies raised have been extremely helpful in continuing our work for the many cats and kittens in our care.

Best wishes, *Carol Wood*



Money raised by fundraising events - thank you.

Event	Date	Amount raised
Pets at Home BSE w/e	March 23 rd /24th	£174.28
Collection at Tesco, Stowmarket	April 26th	£183.38
Coffee morning @ Margaret's	May 18 th	£300.86
Jumble Sale @ Stowmarket	June 22 nd	£650.65
Pets at Home BSE	August 3rd	£90.84
Autumn Fayre @ Woolpit	September 21st	£1,700
Table top sale at Needham Market community centre	October 20th	£257.17
Table top sale at Needham Market community centre	December 1st	£226.28
Annual Raffle		£1,140.00



News from Needham Market & Stowmarket

I am delighted to tell you that our table in the Needham Market Community Centre in December raised £226. Many Thanks to all who helped on the day and to the many friends and supporters who called in to see us.

Unfortunately our **Jumble Sale on Saturday 16th May has been cancelled.** We will update you on future events in the area.

I am still collecting both used postage stamps and coins to raise funds but still have a way to go before I have enough to send off again. If you are not able to bring them along to one of our fundraising events please ring 01449 720003 (Stowmarket) or 01284 700068 (Bury St Edmunds) to arrange collection or delivery when restrictions are lifted.

Thank you for continuing to leave both cat food and cat items in our cat food collecting baskets at Needham Market Post Office and Cedarwood Vets. The cats in our care are very grateful. Special thanks to the management in both locations for their help. *Sue Coburn*

The charity makes most money from modern stamps, those printed before 2008 without security tabs have little or no value so please do not send them.

Please separate the stamps into British/Overseas, no other sorting is necessary, to ensure that the stamps reach us safely please pack the envelope as evenly as possible and try not to over fill it. There is no rush to get the stamps to us so please feel free to hold onto the envelope until it is sufficiently filled. We would like to thank you for your donation and send you a replacement envelope. Therefore, please fill out the simple form below so that we can get this to you. If you would like more than one envelope sent to you for yourself, family or friends please let us know on the form below.

We also now are able to take donations of foreign coins. We would be very grateful if you would choose to collect them for us. If you do please tick the relevant box below and we will send you one!

Thank you for your donation!

From: (first/last name)

Address:
.....
.....

Postcode: Email:

Yes! I'd like to collect foreign coins for Cats Protection, please send me a Collection Pack ☐

Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket Branch CP

Our work with cats 2018 & 2019

	2018	2019
Cats & kittens rehomed	30	33
Cats neutered in care	8	6
Cats vaccinated in care	30	26
Cats blood tested in care	27	33
Cats microchipped in care	26	19
Cats treated with branch help but not taken into care	24	24
Neutering vouchers issued to assist with the cost of neutering including full & part cost	419	523
Including feral cats - some full cost & some part cost	83	125

The 2019 figures above include the 2 free neutering campaigns for the IP6, IP7, IP8 & IP14 areas of Stowmarket in March and the IP30, IP31, IP32, IP33 areas of Bury St Edmunds in October. In addition in October we also paid for the cats to be microchipped at the time of neutering (Snip & Chip).

Details of neutering schemes in 2019

	Spays	Castrations	Total
Stowmarket area	54	37	91
Bury St Edmunds area.	66	41	107

In total we have spent £24, 314.99 on neutering in 2019 !!



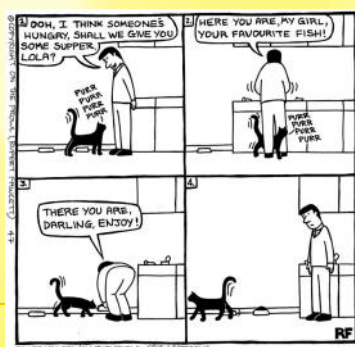


Why should I neuter my cat?

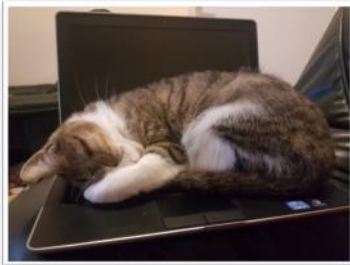
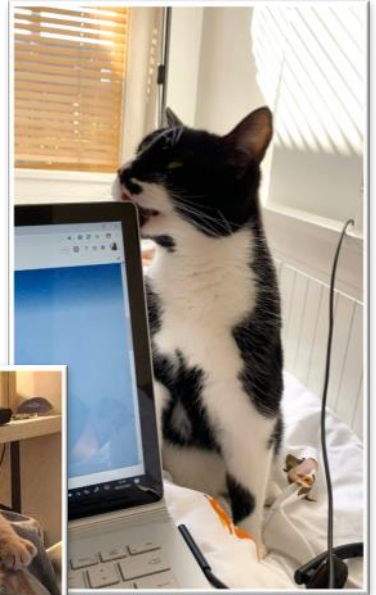
Getting your cat done is good for them... and you! Why? Read on...



Did you know?



At the moment a lot of people are working from home, with a little 'help' from their furry friends ...



Look at this lovely leg!
He's obviously not getting
enough attention.



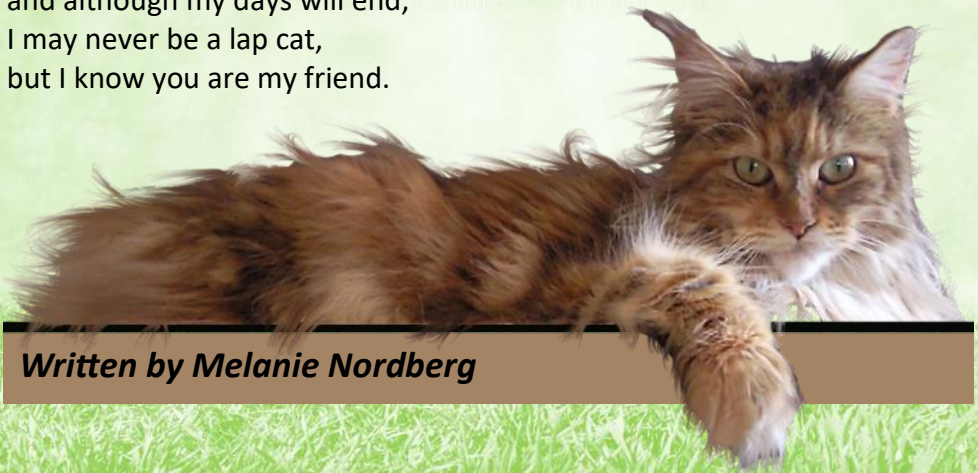


I may never be a lap cat

I may never be a lap cat,
or one who comes when called,
I may resist the hand that tries to touch,
and some may think I'm flawed.
I may prefer my freedom,
to your warm and cosy house,
I may reject the bowl of finest foods,
for the chance to chase a mouse.

But the box that you put out for me,
feels safe and warm and dry,
and I raise my eyes to thank you,
when I see you walking by.
And I eat the food you give me,
and I listen to your voice,
I may never be a lap cat,
but you offer me that choice.

One day I'll see the winter,
one day I'll see the rain,
I may grow old not knowing,
that there is freedom from this pain.
But I know you try to help me,
and although my days will end,
I may never be a lap cat,
but I know you are my friend.



Written by Melanie Nordberg



The One Hundred Club

Many thanks for all who continue to support us through the 100 Club, your subscriptions help us to help the cats in need and we really do appreciate everything you contribute. **Please Note:** With effect from 1st January 2020 we are changing the way in which we run the scheme. In order to cut down on administration time and costs and enable more monies to be used for the cats and kittens in our area we are reducing the monthly prize to one of £30. We hope you will continue to support us.

	September 2019	October 2019
1st	S Newson	J Marshall (donated back to the branch)
2nd	S N Bertie	J Daniels (donated back to the branch)
3rd	C Humphries	J Andrews
4th	J Cook	P M Petley

	November 2019	December 2019
1st	R Rue	N Powell (donated back to the branch)
2nd	E A Penistone (donated back to the branch)	G Clarkson (donated back to the branch)
3rd	S Elms	L Stranaghan (donated back to the branch)
4th	L Mason	J Sladen (donated back to the branch)

If you are not already a member (or you are a lapsed member) and would like to join, please contact me on 01379 854770, or complete the form below. The cost is £12 per year for each number entered and you could win our monthly prize of £30!

Thank you, *Carol Wood*

Name

Address

.....

.....Tel no.

E-mail

Return to: **C Wood, 91 Mendham Lane, Harleston, Norfolk, IP20 9DW**

Please make cheques payable to *Cats Protection Bury St Edmunds*

If you wish to join both the 100 Club and also become a member, please send to either Carol or Julie and it will be passed on.



Legacies

We're a busy branch juggling the rising costs of looking after the cats in our care – veterinary bills, food, litter and other equipment – with our efforts to help the cat population locally. We do this by offering financial support with neutering to those who need it and by neutering cats in feral colonies.

While we are all volunteers and put a huge amount of our own time into caring for and rehoming unwanted or abandoned cats, running our branch is expensive and we have to raise all of the funds we need ourselves. To give you an idea, the total cost of caring for our cats in 2018, including our neutering work, was around £16,000 and this excludes our running costs. With a diminishing band of volunteers, we are unable to run as many fundraising events as we used to so we are increasingly looking for other ways to raise funds.

One simple way you can help us is to leave us a gift in your will. It is a wonderful way to ensure that you continue to help cats after your death and leave a legacy to be proud of.

We are grateful to have been the beneficiaries of several legacies over the last few years and they have made a huge difference to the level of support we have been able to offer. We always try to send a personal thank you to each donor but we have been advised not to publish a list of our kind benefactors due to Data Protection Legislation.

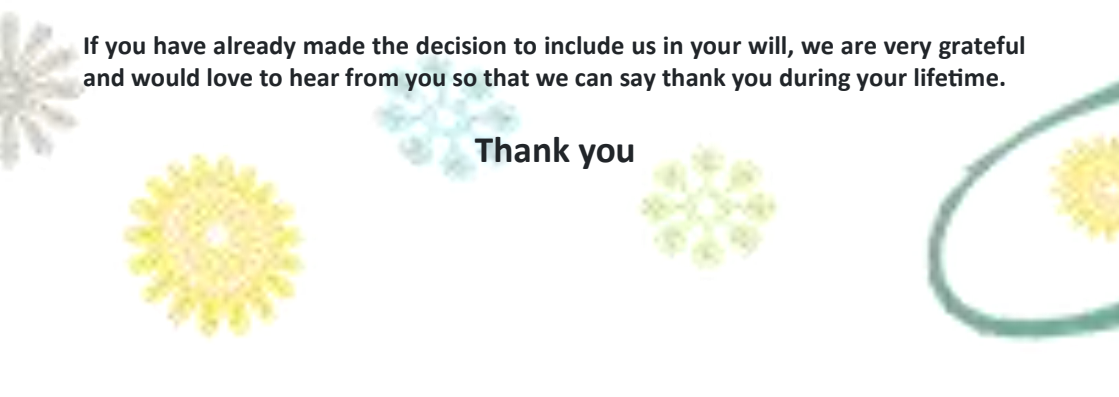
Making a will is the best way to make sure that your wishes will be respected, that your family and friends are taken care of and that any gifts you wish to leave are clearly understood. If you decide to leave a gift to us, please state that you would like it to come to our branch specifically – Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket. Thank you. We can assure you that every penny will be spent helping needy cats in our area.

If you would like information on how to make a will or how to leave us a gift in your will, the Cats Protection website has some useful information at:

<https://www.cats.org.uk/get-involved/support-us/gifts-in-wills>

If you have already made the decision to include us in your will, we are very grateful and would love to hear from you so that we can say thank you during your lifetime.

Thank you



MEWSFLASH!!!

Moggies in the news



An educated feline!

A committed cat has been putting his education first by attending a college in Wales for the past four years. George, who is believed to be around eight or nine years old, first started visiting Coleg Ceredigion in Aberystwyth a few years back. At the time, his owner was working on campus.

Since then, George has been befriending professors and students alike. Mostly, he spends his time walking from building to building and seeking treats and fuss from passers-by. George can often be found sleeping on campus – which is one of his favourite things to do. Matt Moreden, a professor says: “He loves all of the attention that he gets, and seeks it out where possible. He is phased by very little and will fall asleep just about anywhere. ‘The students absolutely adore him.’

He adds: ‘If we have a complete lockdown I think his actual owners will see much more of him than they probably do now. ‘As much as we will all miss seeing him every day there are no worries about him being pampered and looked after. He is one lucky cat in that respect.’



Arlo the adventurous cat enjoys hiking with his friends



Owners Crissy Lister and Marc Shaw first discovered Arlo’s love for the outdoors when they took him on a walk with their three dogs last year. Since then, he’s joined them on lots of hikes through the UK’s most beautiful scenery and has become something of an internet sensation.

Understandably, he gets some rather odd looks from fellow trekkers. ‘Arlo usually comes out three times a week for a good hour or two,’ explains Crissy. ‘People are usually shocked when they see him and they make a big fuss of him or ask us questions.

At first I was a bit embarrassed having a cat with me on dog walks, but when I saw much he enjoyed it, it spurred me onto keep taking him. ‘He didn’t enjoy being on a short lead, so we got him a long one so he could roam free while keeping him safe. When he’s had enough he just climbs up onto our shoulders.’



Bury St Edmunds & Stowmarket Branch

Registered Charity No 2036449 (England & Wales) SCO37711 (Scotland)



Membership Application Form

I / We would like to enrol as a member(s) of the Branch

Name _____ Title Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Dr/Other _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Tel No (optional) _____ Email (optional) _____

Annual Membership @ £12.00 (Cheque/Postal Order) £ _____

Donation £ _____

Total Amount Enclosed £ _____

Paid by Bank Transfer ☐ Ref _____ /M (please use your First Initial and Surname)

Cheques / Bank Transfer Payable to: **Bury St Edmunds Cats Protection**
A/c No: 50203394 Sort Code: 20-42-66

Gift Aid Declaration We are able to claim Gift Aid on your subscription/donations.

If you would like to do this, please complete the following, and sign below:

☐ I would like to Gift Aid this subscription and any other donations I make

☐ I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations, it is my responsibility to pay any difference

We can claim a further 25p for every £1 you give until you notify us differently

Payment must be in the **same name** as the person who completes this form

Please amend the following Privacy statements / boxes, as appropriate, and sign below

I agree / don't agree for my details to be held on a database by Cats Protection

I am / am not happy for Bury St Edmunds & Stowmarket Cats Protection to contact me by –

☐ email with news, updates, event details etc

☐ Newsletters via post

Preferred method of Contact Post ☐ Email ☐ Telephone ☐

Raffle Tickets

I am / am not happy to be sent Raffle Tickets, annually, to sell for Fundraising

Please Sign _____ **Date** _____

Please return completed form to Miss Julie Nunn, Membership Secretary
2 Covell Close, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 2HU

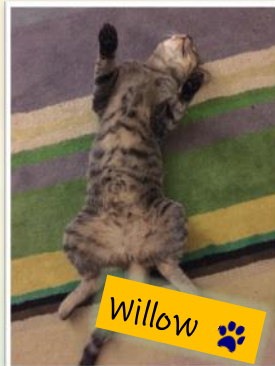
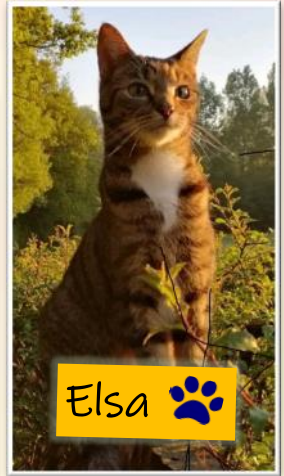
You can follow us on our website www.cats.org.uk/bury-st-edmunds and on **Facebook**

If you'd prefer not to receive information by post, or wish to change the ways we contact you, please contact Supporter Services by telephoning 0800 160 1012 Monday to Friday during office hours (9am-5pm), emailing preferences@cats.org.uk or writing to us at Freepost RTJK-TJJK-GREZ, Supporter Services, Cats Protection, National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, RH17 7TT

Please visit www.cats.org.uk/terms-privacy if you have any questions about how we use your data.



Happily Homed





Gipping Advert

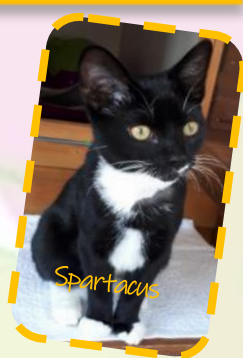
Cats rehomed since last Newsletter



Mimi & Leo



Custard



Spartacus



Rudie, Stan & Minnie



Ralph



Tia



Oreo



Twiggy



Susie and Sally



Betsy & Enid



Ruby



Willy



Jasper

If you'd prefer not to receive information by post, or wish to change the ways we contact you, please contact Supporter Services by telephoning 0800 160 1012 Monday to Friday during office hours (9am-5pm), emailing preferences@cats.org.uk or writing to us at Freepost RTJK-TJJK-GREZ, Supporter Services, Cats Protection, National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, RH17 7TT. Please visit www.cats.org.uk/terms-privacy if you have any questions about how we use your data.