



ELTHAM, SIDCUP & DISTRICT BRANCH

Registered Charity No. 203644

## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2021

# THIRD TIME LOCKY!

**HERE we go again... another newsletter to mark the end of another Covid lockdown.**

This the third time so let's hope it's definitely the last!

Like the earlier shutdowns, our shop had to close but fortunately we were able to still take in and home cats.

This was also the case in the second lockdown last November, with the worst of the three being the first from March 2020 when all our cat activities had to stop.

Our shop reopened last summer and we started taking in cats again.

Homing has been good since then and in 2020, we helped 92 cats and kittens to new lives - an incredible achievement considering everything that happened.

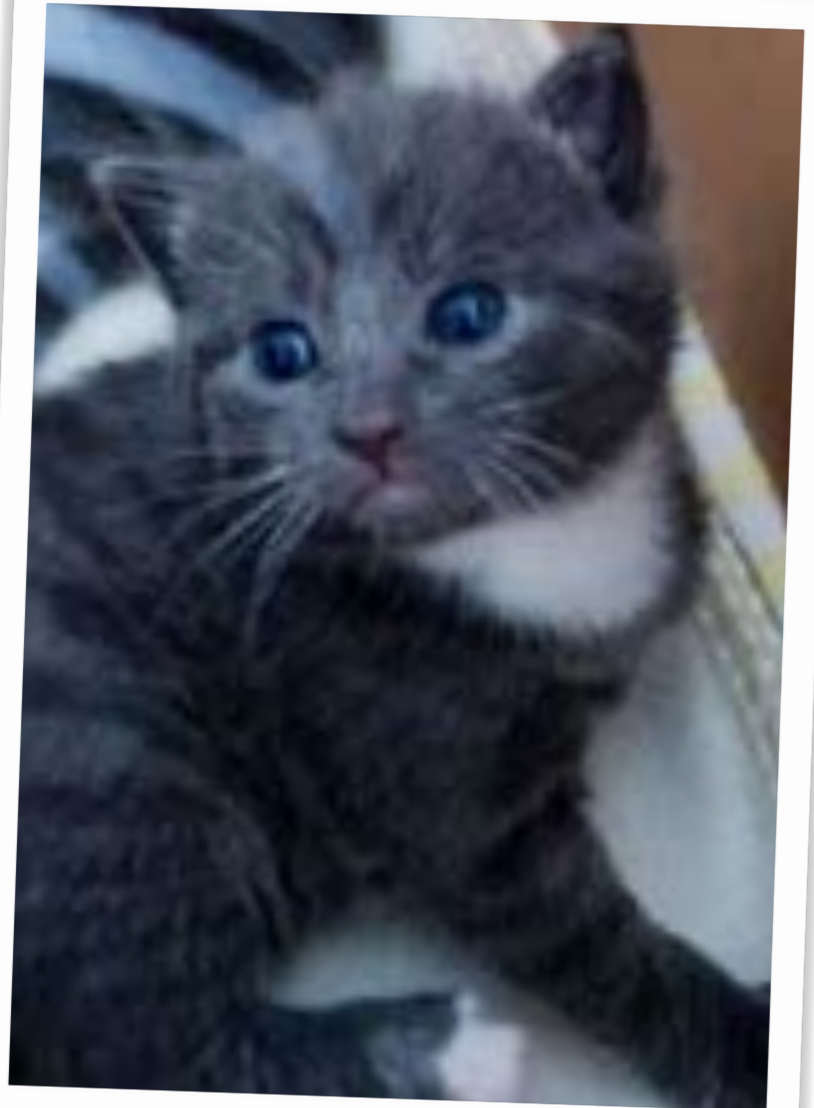
It's also a great total because we only have a small number of fosterers. Fortunately turnaround was quick with high demand from potential new owners.

The pandemic had a major impact on the way all Cats Protection branches work as rules changed to limit personal interaction and keep the public and helpers safe.

We have been using "hands-free homing" which means people do not visit cats in their foster homes but meet them on FaceTime or see a video. Adoption fees are also paid online to stop money or cheques being handled.

These measures have worked well, saving volunteers time and effort, so may continue in the future.

Many thanks for your support and we hope the remainder of 2021 will be more settled for all of us as the branch works hard to help as many local cats as possible.



**THIS gorgeous little one came into us with mum Wolfie and two littermates after their owner could not look after them any more. But it wasn't a smooth start for the family in foster care - see next page for the full story.**

[www.elthamsidcup.cats.org.uk](http://www.elthamsidcup.cats.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/cpelthamsidcup](https://www.facebook.com/cpelthamsidcup)



**YOUNG** mum Wolfie came into our care when her three beautiful grey kittens were less than a day old.

Her owner had just had a baby herself and the situation was not working so she decided it would be better to give up her pet.

It was all very unsettling for Wolfie, aged two. She was very nervous and extremely protective of her brood so was too hostile to let our fosterer near them.

For her first ten days with us, we couldn't even think about socialising the little ones which could have caused problems in the future.

It's vital that kittens are handled and get used to humans in their first few months or they will grow up feral and lose out on the chance of living in a normal home.

But with lots of patience and TLC from her fosterer, Wolfie has thankfully learned to trust people.

Now she's happy to show off her litter of two boys and their sister.

We have a waiting list of potential owners so all the kittens have perfect homes to go to once they are old enough.

Then Wolfie will be neutered and have the chance of a fresh start when she is put up for adoption after all her hard work as a mum.

# A GREYT MOTHER





# PURRRFECT FIT



**WHEN one door closes, another opens...**

**Pretty tortie Purdy found this out when her owner had to give her up for personal reasons.**

**The 12-year-old had originally been homed by our branch so we took her back into our care.**

**She has a very gentle nature so would make a lovely pet for another owner and Jacqui had just the person in mind. She contacted Mark, whose cat Curly has been featured in our newsletter.**

**He adopted the tabby-and-white boy after he had been dumped at a vet by his previous owner, and Curly**

**became a much-loved pet.**

**Sadly Curly had to be put down with health problems and he was badly missed by Mark.**

**However, Mark said he would like to offer a home to another rescue cat to join his other feline companion Kitty, who is aged about five.**

**So Purdy moved in with them and Mark posted an update and photos on Facebook, saying: "She has settled in well. She slept on my bed last night and followed me into the kitchen this morning for breakfast."**

**Diane replied: "That's really good news Mark. What about your other cat - have they**

**seen each other? Purdy is a sweetheart, hope it works out for both of them."**

**He came back to say: "No issues yet. They sniffed each other and both just went their separate ways."**

**Kitty did have a jealous patch and kept following Mark around but the signs were promising as they all got used to each other.**

**In a later photo, Purdy is shown looking very contented and comfy on a bed and Jacqui said: "She is enjoying her new comforts."**

**It's another chapter not only for Purdy but for Mark and Kitty too and we wish them all well.**

# Where there's a will..

**MANY supporters do a lot to help cats now but it is also possible for this generosity to continue once you are no longer here by remembering Cats Protection in your will.**

**If you wish to help our branch (Eltham, Sidcup and District), please state this clearly as money not specified for a particular branch will go towards general head office funds.**

**In the unlikely event that this branch ceases to exist, please give directions as to what area of work or particular purpose you would like the money used for, eg neutering. Many thanks if you are considering leaving a legacy to help cats.**



## WE MEAN BUSINESS

**OUR charity shop reopened on April 12 as part of the slow lifting of Covid restrictions.**

**We were very happy to welcome back helpers and customers after what was hopefully the last time we have to close our doors.**

**It was already Covid-safe after the hard work of our volunteer manager Jacqui to reorganise the layout to ensure social distancing and obtain supplies of PPE. As with other shops, masks must be worn unless someone is exempt.**

**Now we're back up and running, it would be great to have more helpers so we can extend our opening hours.**

**Could you spare a few hours a week to volunteer and help us raise vital funds?**

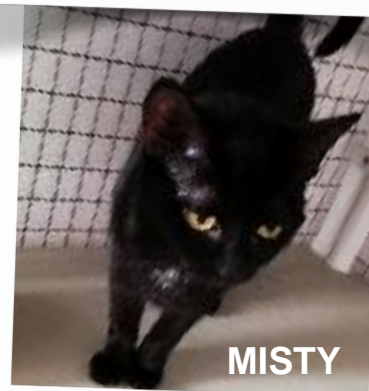
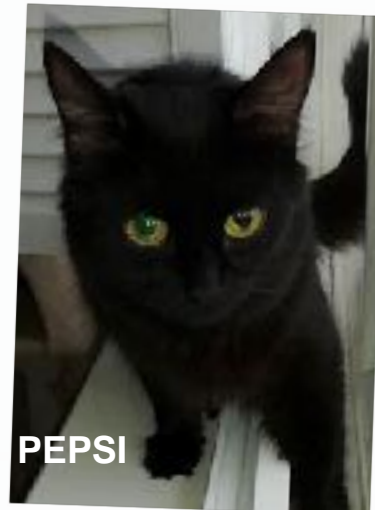
**We have two shifts - 10am to 1pm or 1pm to 4pm - to fit in with the other commitments of volunteers.**

**It's never boring! There's always plenty to do as donations need sorting and pricing while customers need to be served. But there's always time for a chat and a cuppa - and even a biscuit or two!**

**Please consider giving it a try. Find out more by calling our volunteer manager Jacqui for a chat on 0208 859 6009 or pop into us at 14 Tudor Parade, Well Hall Road, Eltham, London SE9 6SX.**

**Our opening hours are Monday: 10am-3.30pm; Tuesday: 10am-1pm; Wednesday: 10am-3.30pm; Thursday: closed; Friday and Saturday: 10am-3.30pm.**





# Twinkle a little star

**PEPSI** was a mum despite not being much more than a kitten herself.

She was living outside as a stray being fed by kind residents in Nottingham with her four little ones.

The people looking after her adopted two, and Pepsi came into us with the other pair when they were about eight weeks old.

Despite their poor start in life, the kittens Ronnie and Twinkle were adorable, very fluffy and lively boys who loved to play.

Twinkle was a jet black cat, just like his mum, while Ronnie was a tabby.

When they were a few weeks older, the kits were ready for homing and went on our website.

Diane wrote: "The boys have plenty of energy so they ideally need someone at home during the day who has the time to play with them. They were a little reserved for a couple of days when they first came into care but they soon found their feet and made themselves at home."

Lots of offers came in within hours so Ronnie and Twinkle were soon heading to a new home in Eltham where they were going

to receive lots of attention and love.

Meanwhile Pepsi was also looking for a fresh start after being listed online as "a lovely, very gentle girl who has been a brilliant mum. She has been spayed, chipped and vaccinated so she can start to enjoy being a kitten cat herself."

We were aiming for a quiet home without very young children to suit Pepsi and, like her boys, the right person came along within a day. It was a busy time for Diane but we were happy to see the whole family settled into their new happy lives.

Young Misty was a very sweet-natured girl who came into us after her owner died.

The 18-month-old loved human contact but was a little nervous around other cats so needed to be homed as an only cat.

With her lovely eyes and nice character, Misty drew a lot of inquiries when we listed her on our website.

But many were out of the SE London and North Kent area so we had to say No.

After a short spell online, the right offer came in and Misty left us for a fresh start with a new owner.

# DEFINITELY MAYBE

**TORTIE** girl May lived with her disabled owner in a tiny flat and was well loved. But as he became very ill, it was his carers who fed May, even allowing her to eat whatever human food her owner didn't eat. Needless to say May, aged seven, put on a lot of weight! Sadly her owner passed away and May came into our care, going on a strict diet while we looked for a new home. Her ideal home would be without young children with someone who is at home most of the day. A bonus would be a house with stairs to boost her fitness regime!



# READY EDDIE GO!



**THIS** sweet tabby boy had been a stray for some time but thankfully was being given food and shelter by a lovely lady.

Unfortunately she could not adopt him and asked for help, so Eddie came into us.

He enjoyed the comforts of being in the warm in a nice soft bed but blood tests revealed that he was FIV positive. This means he has feline immunodeficiency virus, which is contagious for other cats and commonly caught from bites.

So he had to be an only cat in an indoor home to stop him spreading the illness, which cannot transfer to humans.

He had a lot to offer and our website listing said: "He is such a good-natured boy. Eddie will make a lovely family member, and will settle in quickly. He is a healthy boy and has been given a clean bill of health from the vet. FIV cats can live a normal healthy life but need to be kept away from other cats."

Any concern we had that Eddie would struggle to be adopted disappeared as he was offered a home within a day!

Elysia and her partner were looking for an indoor cat as they live in a flat in Erith. Eddie fitted the bill perfectly and was soon on his way to his new home which does have a balcony so he can watch the world go by and still enjoy being outside.



**HER cat Blossom has been a great comfort to our member Wendy since being adopted in 2015.**

This was especially true after the death of Wendy's husband three years ago and in the aftermath of a serious fire at her home last May.

Wendy and her beloved pet had to move out for repairs, which took months longer than usual because of the lockdowns.

She said: "Poor Blossom had to adapt to becoming a house cat rather than roaming around our garden.

"She has done that quite well and I don't know what I would have done without her company in the temporary flat we have found ourselves in. She is hoping for a return to her roaming days soon!"

They were due to finally return home to Sidcup in March, with Wendy saying: "Yippee and many mews from puss cat."

She initially contacted us with an article she had penned about Blossom telling how the tortie started out as Pumpkin and had an adventure on her first trip away with her new owners in their camper van.

Wendy wrote: "My adopted pussycat started her path to our household when she was brought into Eltham CP with her two babes in 2015. My dear late husband and I were actually looking for yet another black-and-white female moggy (our fourth) but when we saw this friendly tortoiseshell, we gave her a quick stroke and that was it.

"We renamed her from Pumpkin to Blossom, but a shy, retiring, delicate kitty she was not. Being motorhome campers, we took her away in the camper that first weekend and she travelled like a veteran. However, not long after arriving at our weekend site, she wriggled her way out of her harness and lead and escaped over the field.

"We found where she'd holed up but Blossie was having far too much fun to come home.

"She must have preferred the younger generation because a fellow camper's young daughter finally enticed her into their motorhome with ham slices. Or perhaps she preferred their model of camper!

"By this time, the whole site knew of her so she certainly left her mark. We were just astounded that



# SPRING BLOSSOM

she recognised which vehicle to return to as there were many white boxes on wheels near us.

"Since then she has become a perfect companion. She enjoys travelling distances by car or camper. She loves the garden but is always in calling distance and likes to be in sight of the house.

"Blossom chases the pigeons and tracks the foxes but is happy to be in early of a night when she reposes on a settee back with a front leg casually hanging over the side.

"She guards my bedroom door of a night and often beats me to bed. I

think secretly she would like our roles to be reversed as she often has to be shooshed off the pillow. That is definitely a no-no.

"Like all puss cats, Blossom has her moments. Sometimes refusing to eat her normal food because she fancies a change. Always looking for the chance to try something new meal-wise, especially if it means begging morsels from my plate. In other words, she is a normal moggy.

"She really has been and continues to be a great comfort and pal. Long live puss cats and mine in particular."

# CHEWI BACK, HA!

**PEDIGREE** boy Chewi caused a lot of stress to his owner Domonic when he disappeared from home in Sidcup.

Aged ten months, he is a beautiful blue and grey British Shorthair who could have been a target for kidnappers in the terrible spate of animal thefts during lockdown.

Fortunately that hadn't happened to Chewi who was featured on our Lost and Found page on Facebook.

That post reached more than 3,200 online users and the publicity paid off as, within a few days, he was spotted by Louise in her garden and she alerted us.

That was the good news; the next step was catching Chewi to get him back home.

Time was of the essence as he could have decided to move on and disappear again.

We were able to alert Domonic via a Facebook message and he was quickly on his way.

He told us: "Just to keep you updated - yes it is him but we have not yet managed to get him. Have

left a basket and food with the kind lady as he got spooked. Hopefully he will return there as they have seen him all week."

Thankfully Chewi stayed put and was soon in a carrier and on his way home, eight days after going missing, none the worse for his adventure. A very relieved

Domonic posted an update: "Now found, thanks for all the shares and help finding him"

Chewi had been microchipped so he could always have been traced back to his owner.

Getting this done is quick and easy, so if your cat is not chipped, please see your vet.



# THE OLDER BAILEY



**LIFE** with his previous owner became too much for older boy Bailey as he had to deal with a family of four children plus a dog which chased him. He sought peace and a refuge with a neighbour but then she needed to move and could not take him with her. So the friendly 16-year-old came into us looking for a new home for his twilight years. He had the

sweetest nature and all he needed to be happy was a lap to sit on in the evenings and a nice warm spot to relax during the day. Bailey was also deaf so we had everything crossed that we could find him a new owner to offer him an indoor home. The right people for Bailey were a couple in Greenwich and we were delighted when he headed off to a new life with them.



# Whiskey, Shandy.. we'll drink to cat!



**WHISKEY**



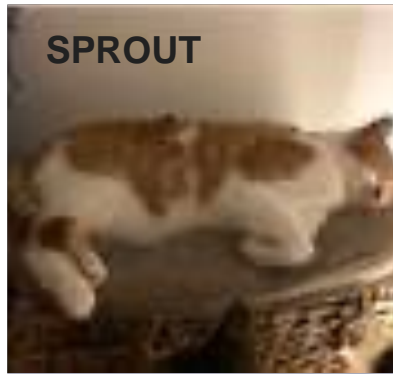
**SHANDY**

**WHISKEY** and his sister **Shandy** had to come into care after their owner sadly died. The nine-year-olds had a lot to offer as they were both easy-going and friendly, and we were delighted when they were adopted together. Another older cat **Munchkins** also needed a new home after finding it hard to adjust when her owners started a family. The eight-year-old tabby had a very gentle nature and loved company but was a little nervous. This became a problem when she was sharing her home with two young children. Her website listing read: "She needs a child-free home and one that can give her all the reassurance she needs while she adapts to her new forever home. **Munchkins** has settled really quickly with her fosterer and is loving all the attention." Several potential owners got in touch and

within a couple of days she was reserved ready for a new start in a loving home. A big teddy bear is how his web listing described **Sprout**, a lovely ginger-and-white boy. Despite this, the four-year-old was quite shy, even frightened of his own shadow at times. Luckily he had his pal **Dashi**, a more confident all-black girl aged three, to look out for him. They were not related but had been living together when they came into us so we wanted to keep them as a pair. Both were very nice-natured and would be super pets in a home without young children. After a couple of days online, **Dashi** and **Sprout** were offered a home by **Laura** and her partner in SE18. They were working from home so the cats would have plenty of company as they settled in to enjoy life in their forever home.



**MUNCHKINS**



**SPROUT**



**DASHI**

# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

## NEW MEMBERS

Sadly no new members to welcome this time.

Please encourage fellow cat-lovers to join us, and if you have adopted a cat or had other support from us, please consider supporting our branch by becoming a member.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Many thanks to all of you have already renewed your membership for 2021. At the time of writing there are 36 members who have not yet renewed, so I hope all has been well for them through this strange year we have experienced.

Please post off your renewal form plus cheque or postal order as soon as you can. You can also pay online - it's very straightforward and quick. Please email Clare at [coordinator@eltham.cats.org.uk](mailto:coordinator@eltham.cats.org.uk) for details as we can't print details here for security reasons.

New membership cards will be sent with the next newsletter. Email newsletter recipients - please print off the membership form if you can; if not just state clearly who it is from.

Remember to let me know if you would like your card posted as it does act as a reminder of renewal date.

You are all very welcome to pay for a few years in advance to save this annual chore. Please just make it clear if any extra money is given for that reason and is not a donation. I always thank donations over £5 but if you would rather not receive one just let me know. Stamped addressed envelopes (or just a stamp even) are always most welcome.

Many thanks for the welcome Christmas cards and letters which



were sent to me and for the kindness of your much appreciated donations too.  
**Don't delay, renew today!**

**Let us hope for happier times ahead in 2021.**

**Sue Kelly (Membership Secretary)**

## IN MEMORY OF JACQUELYN McLEOD

**IT was with great sadness that we heard of the death last year of our member**

**Jacquelyn McLeod. She joined the branch in 2008 and was also a customer at our charity shop.**



**Jacquelyn suffered a sudden and severe brain haemorrhage while on holiday in Austria with her partner Philip and could not be saved by medical staff. He wrote to tell us of her passing and enclosed a cheque for £1,000 which Jacquelyn had very kindly left us in her will. Three years ago, she and Philip had also adopted a cat called Simon from us to live with them at their home in Lee.**

**At around the same time as we received her generous legacy, the branch was also helped by a man who came into the shop with a cheque for £100. Our volunteer manager Jacqui said he wanted to help charities which had been hit by the pandemic. She added: "He left no details but it boosts us when strangers are so kind."**





# Why should I neuter my cat?

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



Reduces spraying  
and wailing



It's normal to neuter!

92% of owned cats  
are neutered\*  
(\*PDSA, PAW Report 2019)



Reduces fighting,  
injuries and vet bills



Kittens are hard  
work and cost time,  
effort and money



Reduces risk of cancers  
and other diseases  
through mating



Less likely to roam,  
get lost and injured  
on roads



## Did you know?



Cats can  
breed from  
four months  
of age

Females can  
come into  
heat every  
2-3 weeks

Females can  
have up to  
18 kittens a  
year

Cats don't  
need 'just one  
litter' before  
being spayed

Cats will  
mate with  
their brothers,  
sisters and  
parents

We can give you a voucher for your vet to pay for your cat/s to be neutered.  
Just contact us and we can help:

- email [neutering@eltham.cats.org.uk](mailto:neutering@eltham.cats.org.uk)
- pop into our shop at Tudor Parade, Well Hall Road, Eltham SE9 6SX
- inbox us on our Facebook page
- call us on 07591 120331



# Eltham, Sidcup and District

We need  
fosterers!



- UNABLE TO COMMIT TO LONG-TERM CAT OWNERSHIP, BUT CAN'T PASS A STREETCAT WITHOUT STOPPING FOR A STROKE?
- IS YOUR PHONE FULL OF PICS OF OTHER PEOPLE'S CATS?

**THEN WHY NOT TRY CAT FOSTERING?!!**

- Caring for our cats & kittens in your own home while they wait for adoption won't cost you a penny, & we provide training and lots of support.
- Time and love are all you need to get started!

**Please contact us via our website or Facebook page,  
or email: [adoption@eltham.cats.org.uk](mailto:adoption@eltham.cats.org.uk)**



# CATS PROTECTION

## Eltham, Sidcup and District branch

### MEMBERSHIP FORM



I wish to become a member of this branch/renew my membership:

Full name.....

Address including postcode.....

Date of birth (if under 18).....Telephone number.....

Email address.....Date.....

Tick to receive newsletter by email ☐

Subscription: (tick as applicable) Individual membership £10 ☐

Joint or family £10 ☐

Junior, senior citizen, joint senior citizen, HQ member £7 ☐

Donations always welcome! Thank you £.....

Please make cheques payable to Cats Protection and send completed page to:  
Mrs Sue Kelly, Membership secretary, 354 Well Hall Road, London SE9 6UE

### ***Gift Aid It! Cats get an extra 25p for every £1 with gift aid***

I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less income tax and/or capital gains tax than the amount of gift aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year (6<sup>th</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> April) then it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please tick this box if you want to gift aid this donation and any other donations you make in the future or have made in the past four years to Cats Protection [ ☐ ]

Or if you are not a UK taxpayer, please tick the box [ ☐ ]

Please notify us if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

*We would love to keep in touch, by telling you about our work with cats, inviting you to support fundraising appeals, join events, campaigns or to volunteer. Rest assured, we'll never swap or sell any details about you with other organisations.*

If you'd like to receive information in the following ways, please tick accordingly:

Email [ ☐ ] SMS [ ☐ ] Telephone [ ☐ ]

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

Visit [www.cats.org.uk/terms-privacy](http://www.cats.org.uk/terms-privacy) to see how we use your data.

# Eltham, Sidcup and District Branch Committee



## SHOP MANAGER

## JACQUI TRAYFOOT

Tel: 0208 859 6009

Email: [eltham.shopmanager@cats.org.uk](mailto:eltham.shopmanager@cats.org.uk)

*(Shop address: 14 Tudor Parade, Well Hall Road, Eltham, London SE9 6SX.  
Open Monday 10am-3.30pm, Tuesday 10am-1pm, Wednesday 10am-3.30pm,  
Thursday closed, Friday and Saturday 10am-3.30pm)*

## CO-ORDINATOR

## CLARE CHEESERIGHT

Email: [coordinator@eltham.cats.org.uk](mailto:coordinator@eltham.cats.org.uk)

## HOMING AND NEUTER VOUCHERS

## DIANE WILLIS

Tel: 07591 120331

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[neutering@eltham.cats.org.uk](mailto:neutering@eltham.cats.org.uk)

## TREASURER

## FIONA KLIS

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## LOST AND FOUND SOCIAL MEDIA

## SAM SHORTT

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[socialmedia@eltham.cats.org.uk](mailto:socialmedia@eltham.cats.org.uk)

## SECRETARY

## LESLEY ROBINS

Email: [secretary@eltham.cats.org.uk](mailto:secretary@eltham.cats.org.uk)

## AUXILIARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

## SUE KELLY

Email: [membership@eltham.cats.org.uk](mailto:membership@eltham.cats.org.uk)

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# CATS PROTECTION

Eltham, Sidcup and District branch



## STANDING ORDER FORM

Please complete using BLOCK CAPITALS for donations only (not membership renewals) and return to us (not your bank) at:

Treasurer,

Cats Protection (Eltham, Sidcup and District branch),

14 Tudor Parade,

Well Hall Road,

London SE9 6SX

### YOUR DETAILS:

Title..... Forenames.....

Surname.....

Address including postcode.....

Telephone number (for any queries).....

(To be filled in by CP) Standing order reference.....

### NAME AND FULL ADDRESS OF YOUR BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY:

To the manager of .....

Sort code \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ Account number \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay the sum of.....starting on \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_  
and every month/year\* on the same day until further notice to the account of  
Cats Protection ((Eltham, Sidcup and District branch)

Sort code \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ Account number \_\_\_\_\_

(These details to be filled in by CP)

\* Delete as applicable

### YOUR NAME AND SIGNATURE

Name of account holder.....

Signed.....Date.....

### **Many thanks for your support!**

We'd love to keep in touch, by telling you about our work with cats, inviting you to support fundraising appeals, join events, campaigns or to volunteer. Rest assured, we'll never swap or sell any details about you with other organisations.

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