



ELTHAM, SIDCUP & DISTRICT BRANCH

Registered Charity No. 203644

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2020

Purrlleased to be back!

THERE has been no escape for any of us from the coronavirus outbreak.

Like other charities, we had to close our shop and put our good work on hold when the lockdown was imposed in late March.

We had two cats in our care at that time which stayed with Diane until restrictions were eased.

As normal life stopped, we put a request on Facebook asking for owners who have adopted from us to share a photo and details of their cats.

Our followers didn't let us down! We were delighted when dozens posted and enjoyed reading about our former foster cats now happy in their new homes. Some stories were very recent while others told of cats helped by the branch more than a decade ago.

They included gorgeous Gertie, *right*, who was rescued as a very young kitten along with her mum Gracie and three siblings. They were found sheltering in a hole under a wall on a building site in 2015. The whole brood was looked after by one of our members Sarah, who went on to adopt Gertie and Gracie.

We have featured as many updates as possible in this newsletter. Looking back at so many cats enjoying new lives brings home the importance of our work.

We have also been heartened through the lockdown by donations of money. These include monthly direct debits, members who have renewed while adding a gift to their subscriptions and one-off payments.

Each and every contribution is appreciated as we still have bills to pay.

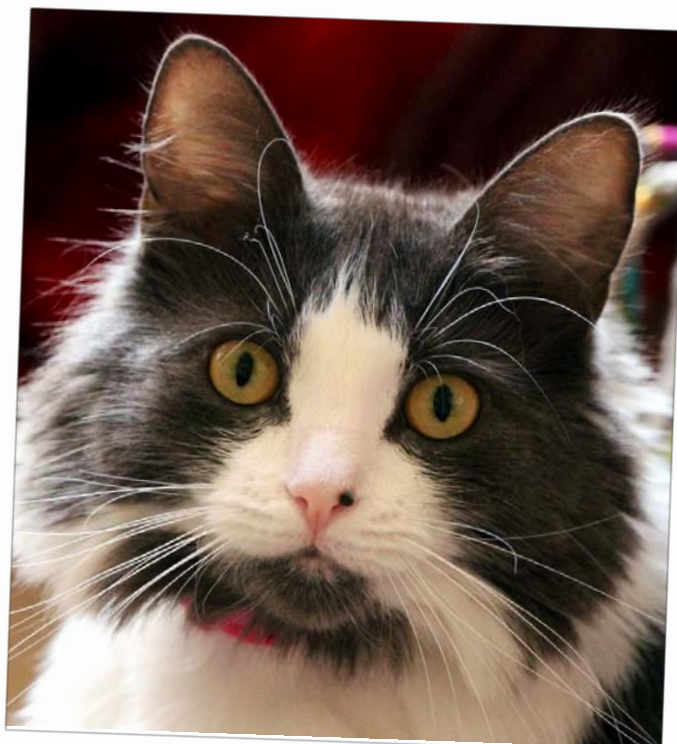
We are also grateful to past legacies from supporters who have remembered us in their wills, helping us to see out the lockdown.

Sadly our member Bunny (Maureen) King passed away recently and her family kindly nominated us to receive donations in her memory.

Many thanks to her daughter Sue, also a branch member, for arranging the collection and to friends and relatives who donated more than £300.

We have had positive news on welcoming customers back into our shop, with **July 27** being set as our date to reopen.

Volunteer manager Jacqui has been busy with measures to keep shoppers and volunteers safe. They include tape on the floor for distancing and a one-way



system, a perspex screen at the till and keeping donated items for 72 hours before pricing up and selling. Space is limited at the shop so, once we are open, please check on **020 8859 6009** before bringing in donations.

Meanwhile the national charity is moving to enable branches to help cats while keeping volunteers and the public safe. The first stage was preparing for "hands-free homing" which means placing cats with adopters without any close interaction. Initially potential owners could not visit a cat but saw them in photos or videos.

The progress to hands-free homing has entailed volunteers completing six training courses. That hard work enabled Diane to home the two female cats in our care at the start of lockdown. The next step is getting permission to take in needy cats.

We have also been contacted by some potential new volunteers although they are having to wait as recruitment has been put on hold.

But we will be back as soon as we can helping cats and kittens who need us, stronger and better than ever!

www.elthamsidcup.cats.org.uk

www.facebook.com/cpelthamsidcup

ONE vital part of our work which was not halted by the pandemic was our Lost and Found page on Facebook. It is run by volunteer Sam, who checks for messages daily. Sometimes there are no updates needing action; at other times events unfold quickly over a few hours when a cat needs help.

Jack was one missing pet who was rescued thanks to Sam's prompt actions.

Recalling his rescue, Sam says: "Glancing at my phone, I saw I had several notifications to check while I had my morning cup of tea. The first was on our branch's Facebook Lost and Found page. My heart sank as I read Nicole's messages saying her beautiful white cat Jack was missing from home.

"He is neutered and microchipped, so I was hoping someone might find him and there would be a way to reunite him.

"A couple of hours later, Jack was still on my mind. I was thinking about how much harder it must be to look for a missing pet while we are in lockdown. I kept my own cat a little closer to me that morning.

"That's when I looked at some incoming notifications on the WhatsApp group for the Covid 19 Mutual Aid group for my estate. I have been responding to calls for help for errands on that group.

"I clicked on one message and it was a photo of Jack in a tree!

"The alert was from a kind lady called Ruta and her daughter Laura, a pupil at a local primary school. On that particular day they had walked through Oxleas Wood instead of their usual



TREEMENDOUS EFFORT, SAM!

route. That's when they spotted Jack miaowing 20ft up a tree. They realised he was probably stuck and set about getting his picture out via social media.

"As soon as I saw it, I knew it was Jack and was able to contact Nicole immediately.

"I was able to put Ruta and Nicole in touch, and before long Nicole was there.

"But how was she going to get him down? Luck was on Jack's side again as Nicole knew

someone who might be able to help; a family friend with a ladder got there in time to rescue Jack. Nicole took him home to rest, safe and sound after his adventure. We are all grateful for the string of coincidences which led to Jack's safe return, and wish him and his family a long spell of peace and quiet following his adventures!

"Many thanks also to Ruta and Laura for their part in his rescue."

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



SADLY there are no new members to report. However, so many of you responded very speedily to your membership renewal reminder. It felt very heartwarming that so many members enclosed kind donations in these difficult times. It was all much appreciated; what a lovely membership we are blessed with. Hope all is well with the few of you that we didn't hear from. I will send a

last reminder and, fingers crossed, will hear from you soon.

Finally, we had a memorial donation from our long-term members Gladys and Louise Wayman in honour of their friend Rosemary Thomas.

She was a member of Bexley CP and in 1992 homed them a cute kitten called Hattie, left, who was with them for 13 fun years.

SUE KELLY (membership secretary)

LOVELY LUNA

ELDERLY lady Luna featured in our last newsletter when we told how she had found peace and comfort with us in her twilight years. Sadly, the sweet black cat passed away during lockdown while living with Jacqui.

Luna had reached a good age but became weak and poorly, so the kindest action was to have her put to sleep by our vet.

Jacqui posted on Facebook: "Sad news for anyone who knew Luna - she finally gave up yesterday at the grand old age of 21 years. "After living in a garden for a long time, she became a regular at our charity shop. From there she came home with me and finished her days like a princess; she ate whatever and whenever she wanted to."

This included scoffing the fresh chicken dished up for Jacqui's dog Buddy, who stood back to let Luna tuck in. Her "typical day" was spent relaxing on a bed.

Jacqui added: "She has left a huge hole in our home and will be sadly missed, but just living had become a struggle for her..."

"Goodbye Luna xxxx."

Just how popular Luna was among our supporters was clear from the messages that flooded in.

Ann said: "RIP Luna. Me and my son used to come in just to see her and give money for treats even if we didn't buy anything. She was so loved."

Nikki posted: "I loved popping in to donate to the shop and giving her a little stroke. She was a grand old age, bless her. At least she got to see kindness and she's crossed the rainbow bridge knowing she was loved and with a full belly."

Angela said: "Aw, love her, it was so lovely to see her basking in her window chair in the shop. Run free, sweet kitty."

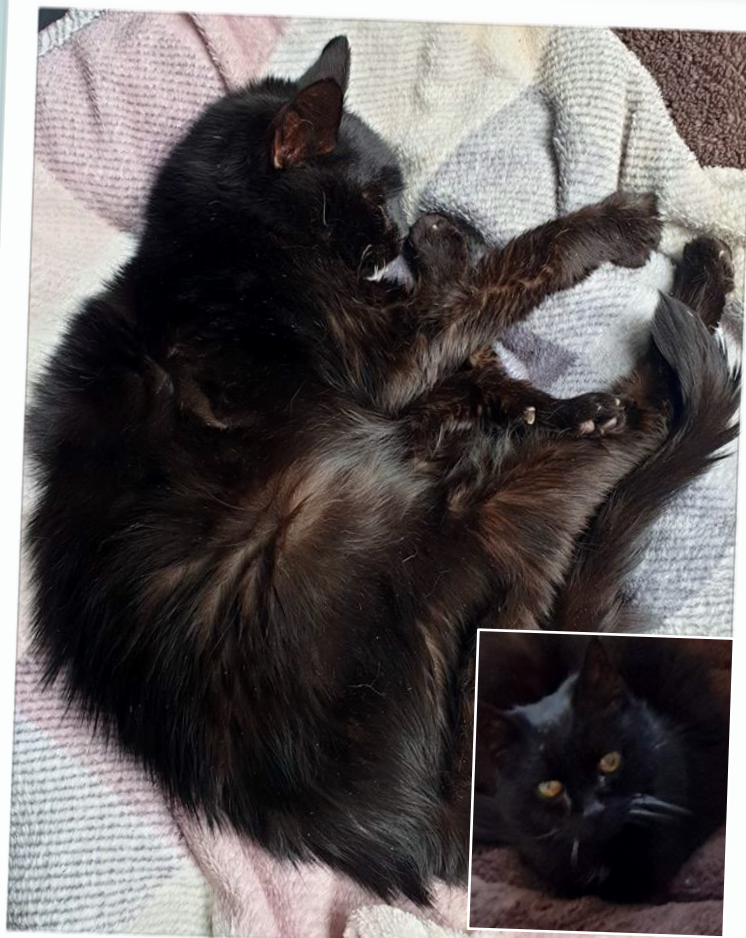
Deborah M said: "When our pets pass away they always leave a big hole in our lives, but she will have known a happy, loving life in her later years, thanks to you."

Ian said: "Rest in peace, Luna. And love to Jacqui and her helpers who do amazing cat miracles."

Elaine added: "Sorry for your loss. She was blessed when she came into your care."

And Rosemary posted: "So sad. RIP sweet, beautiful lady."

Luna had been a stray in Woolwich. Her microchip had been put in 20 years ago, so she must once have had an owner who cared, but we had no luck tracing anyone. We think her owner had



died and there was no one to look after poor Luna.

She had been fed outside by a kind man for about two years, but when he began to suffer from dementia his daughter asked for our help. So Luna went to live with Jacqui, who brought her into the shop each day. She had a special snoozing spot set up in our shop window by volunteers with a step to help her get in as arthritis had started to affect her. When not sleeping, Luna liked to watch the world go by on Well Hall Road and enjoy strokes from customers and helpers.

Being in the warm with regular meals during those months had really helped Luna.

Jacqui said: "She had been in a lot of leg pain and her fur had been shaved because she was in such a state."

"But she began to walk much better and she trotted into the back room for her food and then back out to the front of the shop to keep an eye on proceedings. She was quite happy and she just loved to sleep and eat."

RIP Luna, we'll miss you...

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 monies 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.



OUR SHOP NEEDS YOU

OUR shop is set to reopen on July 27 and we would love to have some extra help as we welcome back our loyal customers and welcome new ones.

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

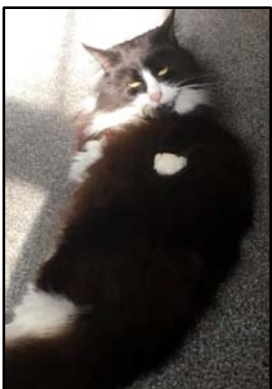
We have two shifts, 10am to 1pm or 1pm to 4pm, to fit in with the other commitments of volunteers.

It's never boring! There's always plenty to do as donations need sorting and pricing while customers need to be served.

We have measures in place to make sure helpers are safe, with supplies of PPE and ways to keep everyone a safe distance apart.

Please consider giving it a try! Find out more by calling our volunteer manager Jacqui for a chat on 07591 120331.

THE GOLDEN OLDIES



SOME of our favourite older cats have been celebrated with posts on Facebook during lockdown.

Top spot has to go to CLARENCE, *left*, who was adopted as a kitten and has now reached the grand old age of 20.

Owner Lorraine said: "She is still going strong but a little deaf. Love her to bits."

TEGAN is also doing well, marking her 17th birthday this summer after being adopted by Emma in 2006.

Then there is mum PEPSI who lives with

our former fosterer Dawn, who is now a carer. Dawn said: "Her babies all found homes but no one wanted Pepsi, so I kept her. She's around 13 years young."

Helen adopted her black cat LUCKY from us in 2015. She said "He was already eight when he chose us. We love him to pieces. The vet says he is amazing for his age. We thank you so much for what you do."

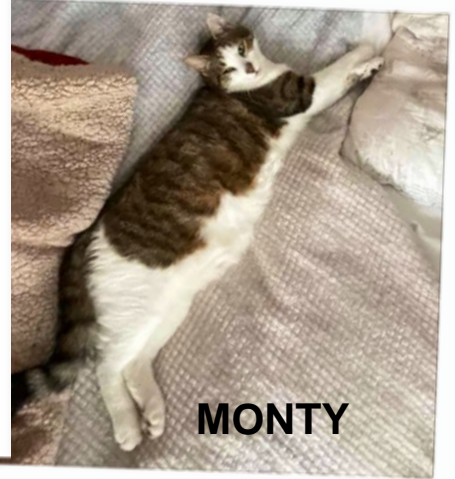
And TALLULAH is also into double figures after being adopted by Sue in August 2010.



TUFTY



DAISY



MONTY

Tails of the unexpected

ALL of our cats are special to us and their new owners, but there was a little twist in the "tail" when it came to rehoming this lovely lot...

TUFTY was the last cat homed from our former shelter in Lee before we had to leave after being given notice. She was adopted by Ana, who said: "My gorgeous little princess came from you three years ago."

DAISY got her new home with Sally, who had thought she was getting a male cat called Robert. A quick name change was called for when the error came to light. Jacqui joked: "I remember this little one. Not my only mistake (sex-wise)."

MONTY began a new life with owner Ellie seven years ago after being rescued from an overcrowded flat packed with about 50 cats. And timing was crucial for Lesley who adopted ginger and white PUMPKIN after she was returned for rehoming. She said: "It was thought she'd been thrown from a window. She's a lovely little character, so

glad I saw her. She had been returned after 24 hours as the other people's cat wouldn't come in. I was on Facebook at the right time when you posted about her being returned and I picked her up the next day."

Pumpkin is even content to pose for pictures with her canine companion. Scaredy cats often come out of their shells once someone has given them a secure, loving home.

Since Jill homed shy ginger stray COLIN she has seen him blossom. She said: "He came to us as a stray eight years ago. He was so scared at first, so different now."

It is a similar story with BUBBLES. Owner Helen said: "He was a very timid little boy when we got him from Diane in September 2016.

"He now loves cuddles (on his own terms, of course) and also loves bringing mice home in the early hours of the morning.

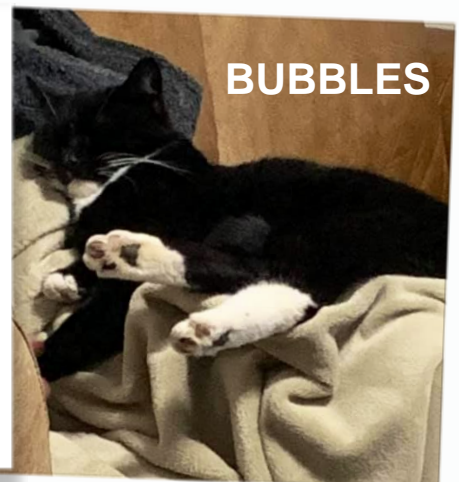
"A proper naughty boy who we wouldn't be without."



PUMPKIN



COLIN



BUBBLES

SNOOZE BROTHERS..

LOTS of lovely photos came in after our request for updates on cats homed by our branch before lockdown, whether it was a few months or many years ago! They have lifted our spirits and delighted our online supporters so we hope you enjoy them as well as we devote the next few pages to these cute cats. First off are these two sleepy cuties who marked their fourth birthday in May. Owner Tracy, one of our new members, homed ginger Eddie and Ariel from us as kittens. She said: "I adopted these two from CP Eltham & Sidcup four years ago and today is their fourth birthday! Their mum was Lulu and they were born at CP. Thought you might like to see them."



..DOUBLE TAKE



IT'S hard to spot the family resemblance but these two are from the same litter!

Their owner Tracey posted an update, saying: "Here's Coco and Cookie, who I got from you five years ago this November "They are brother and sister, believe it or not. They were from a litter of kittens plus their mum who the lovely Diane and her husband rescued from a bad situation. "So thankful there's people like you guys out there!! Xxx"

Diane responded: "Lovely to see them both grown up! Yes it was hard to believe they were from the same litter - but I did see their mum and dad."

Tracey then said: "I know the mum was small and black like Coco but didn't know you'd seen the dad as well!!?"

Diane explained: "There was a male cat outside the house when we picked them up, looked just like Cookie."

Unexpected cat in the bagging area..

GINGER boy Nobby often winds up in a tight spot, but that's just the way he likes it.

Owner Gill posted this cute snap of him sat inside her bag, which sparked a flurry of comments on social media.

Jacqui, who shared the post, remembered when Nobby first came to us, looking a bit sorry for himself because someone had shaved his fur.

She said: "We advertised him a couple of years ago. Gill saw his listing, came, saw and rehomed him.

"Why he had been shaved before he came to us is a mystery. Bless him, he now lives in a bag and is quite happy. I am sure Gill lets him out sometimes!

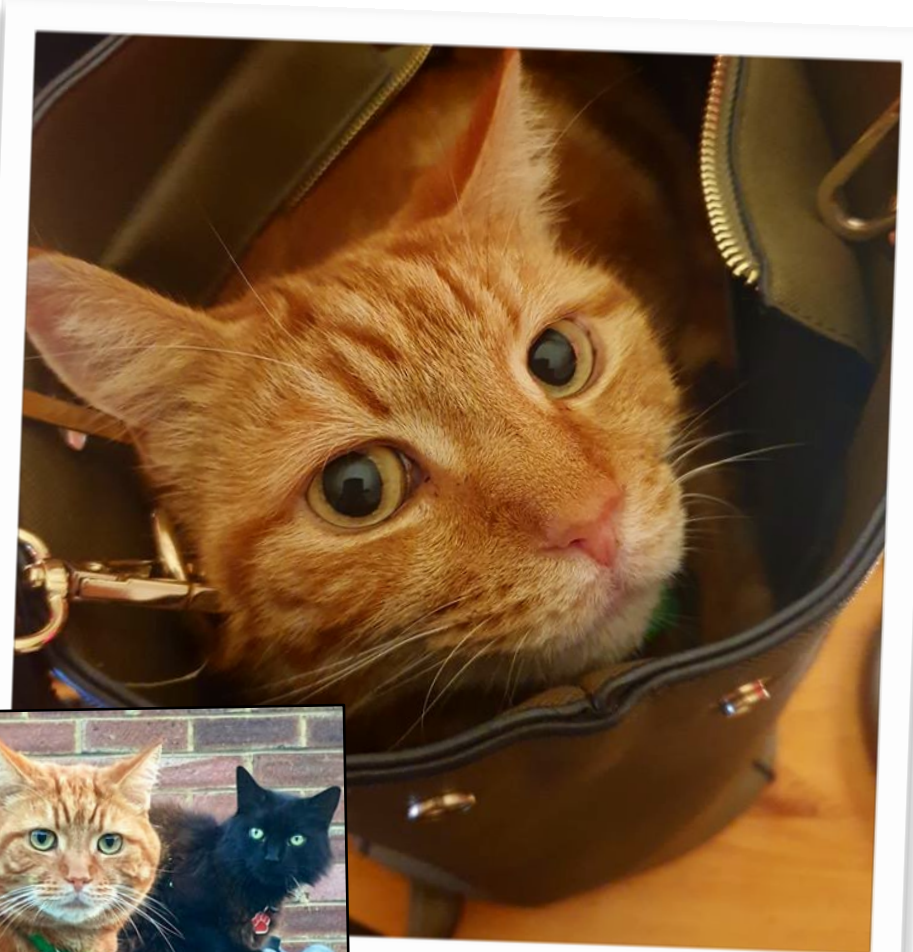
"Joking apart, he now has the life all animals deserve."

Nobby's picture bagged a lot of compliments from our supporters. Ell said: "What a sweet face."

Sarah posted: "Beautiful, lucky puss to get his forever home."

Edwina said: "Aww, I remember Nobby when he was first brought in and you put him on FB. So glad he is happy and in a lovely caring home. He is just like my Jenson, gingers are so gorgeous!"

And Ann Marie added: "How spooky! We were talking about Eltham CP last night and I was wondering how your gorgeous ginger



boy that had been shaved was getting on. He looks wonderful. You all do such a wonderful job. I love your posts."

Gill replied with another photo of Nobby with his black cat pal Steve,

inset. Ann Marie said: "They are totally gorgeous."

Karen posted: "Ginger and black cats always look so great together."

And Debbie summed it up with: "I love a happy ending."

The dear Hunter!

IT is not just a loving home that handsome Hunter shares with his owner Georgia, they also have the same date of birth. Georgia said: "He was originally named Jack, we got him from the Eltham branch in 2012, and we also share the same birthday."



PERFECT POPPETS



THANKS to Sarah for this gorgeous photo of Poppet living up to her name and enjoying a snooze in the sun! She was adopted from us six years ago. Elaine said what we thought when she posted: "What a beauty."



LUCKILY Jill was able to adopt Sophie and Phoebe, *above*, before lockdown kicked in. She posted: "They have only been with us a few weeks but we wouldn't want to be without them. Thank you."



THESE siblings have contrasting characters: shy girl Milli, *right*, and mischievous Max. Their owner Penny posted: "I got timid Milli from you in November 2013 along with her naughty brother Max. "She has grown into an adorable, affectionate cat. She is still shy but loves her mum! Max is



still a little monkey!" They were looked after by our former fosterer Dawn, who said: "I remember these two in my pen, Max was always up to something!" Penny replied: "He is the naughtiest cat I have ever known! But that just makes him more loveable. I'm glad he chose me to torment!"



MUMMY'S BOYS

JACKIE sent us a lovely photo, *above*, of PIPPA and her matching tabby son DYLAN. Mum (then called Pepper) and her litter of four were at our old cattery in 2013 and luckily she was adopted with one of her kittens. "They are still as close as ever and bring joy into my life each and every day," said Jackie. Mum SKY and her son BONZO, *right*, were adopted from us three years ago and look great in this update from their owner Lee.

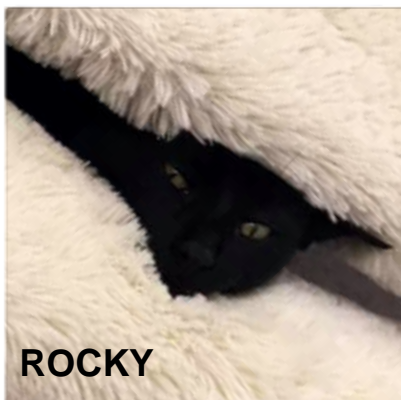


LILY IS IN THE PINK

LILY was a devoted mum who was rescued when she was looking after her kittens on a garage roof in Lee. She has a lovely home with Belinda who told us: "Her tail is missing but that never put us off homing her. She is such a gentle cat and we love her dearly."



**KIKI &
GODZILLA**



ROCKY



**ASLAN &
Mr TUMNUS**

KITS A KNOCKOUT

THIS summer it's a happy first birthday to KIKI and her brother GODZILLA, who were homed as kittens. Their owner Amy, who also has another cat Amber, posted this nice picture of the lively pair snuggled up together in "a moment of peace!"

Dee sent in photos of her cat FRANK snoozing on a mat and his brother ROCKY peeking out of his furry sleeping spot. The boys were previously cared for by our former fosterer Anne, who looked after hundreds of kittens in her two decades of volunteering with us.

Tabbies ASLAN and MR TUMNUS were not the babies of the house for long after being adopted in October 2015 by Catherine.

She said: "They are living their best lives right now. They are also amazing with our daughter who arrived in August 2016."

Janice posted a photo of SLINKIE, still young at heart after being adopted seven years ago: "She's lovely and lots of fun!"

Emma told us about siblings CHARLIE and

LOLA, who were homed eight years ago when they were six months.

She said: "Charlie's living his best life, but going a little grey now."

Sociable Lola is best pals with a cat called Alfie, who Emma has been looking after for a friend. Apparently Lola gets on better with Alfie than with her own brother.

Diane was particularly pleased to see a snap of her former foster kittens, ginger-and-white boy HECTOR and his white sister PYEWACKET, who were adopted by Jim three years ago. She said: "My, they are all grown up. Lovely to see them."

Jim said: "They are still adorable and we're especially grateful for them during lockdown."

PRIN and TINK were adopted seven years ago and owner Charley reckons they are "still as naughty as ever".

Diane also fostered them and said: "I can't believe it's seven years. So pleased to see they are still healthy and happy."



SLINKIE



CHARLIE



HECTOR

FURRY FRIENDS



GORGEOUS girl SUKI has a furry friend in this lovely photo from her owner Cate, *above left*. Meanwhile, mum Sophie had her paws full with this all-ginger litter of five, *bottom left*. Sarah adopted one of the babies who she called RUSTY, *middle pic*, and his sister, the only girl in the brood, three years ago after they had been fostered by Diane. It's also been wonderful to see so many updates on our homed cats.

They include TIMMY, *pictured enjoying the sun below*, whose owner Angela said: "He came from you in 2015, very dearly loved."

Claire posted an update on ROSIE, saying: "We got her from you about nine years ago. She was looking after a litter of kittens behind an undertakers when you trapped her. She is extremely soft and loving except when she sees another cat, and then she goes off like a siren."

Sadly, BELLE was left behind when her previous owners moved three years ago but she found a happy new life with Sarah.

Kathleen told us about RINGO, *bottom*: "We got him from you about seven years ago. He was called Simba then. He's a big character."



Sophie & kittens
11 days old





Three mouseketeers

THESE three beauties found a lovely forever home with Tracy. She adopted **SIDNEY** and his sister **TILLY**, *above left*, from us in 2013 then a year later they were joined by **SOX**, who she describes as “such a character”. We bet they get up to all sorts. Some lucky cats were adopted in the early months of the year before lockdown. Beautiful **BAGIRA** needed a new home when his owners had family problems. The two-year-old was a friendly and playful boy so it was no surprise when he was snapped up by James after only a week with us. **PEPPER** also needed help when her owner became ill and could not look after her any more. The two-year old tabby liked a comfy lap and enjoyed playtime but was a little scared when

she first came in. She hid from her fosterer for a couple of days until she was sure she was safe. But once **Pepper** gained confidence, she followed her carer round and loved attention before going off to her own home with Rachel.

Poor **GRACE** had been surviving as a stray, living and being fed around communal dustbins in Eltham near our shop.

Thankfully a kind lady contacted us, worried about the tabby girl's health as she had bald patches in her fur.

A visit to our vet revealed the problem was a flea allergy and Grace, aged five, was given medicine for her sores as well as flea and worm treatment. We were delighted when Grace was soon snapped up and offered a new home.



GRACE



PEPPER



BAGIRA



ELTHAM AND SIDCUP & DISTRICT BRANCH COMMITTEE

TREASURER

POSITION VACANT

LOST AND FOUND

SAM SHORTT

**SHOP MANAGERESS/
HOMING**

JACQUI TRAYFOOT

Mobile: 07591 120331

Email: eltham.shopmanager@cats.org.uk

**CO-ORDINATOR &
WEBSITE**

CLARE CHEESERIGHT

Email: coordinator@eltham.cats.org.uk

**WELFARE OFFICER &
NEUTERING VOUCHERS**

DIANE WILLIS

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Email: neutering@eltham.cats.org.uk

Email: adoption@eltham.cats.org.uk

SECRETARY

LESLEY ROBINS

Email: secretary@eltham.cats.org.uk

AUXILIARIES (NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS)

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY SUE KELLY

Tel: 020 8319 0920

Email: membership@eltham.cats.org.uk

EVENTS

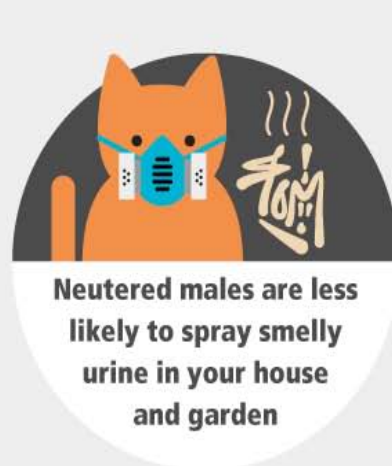
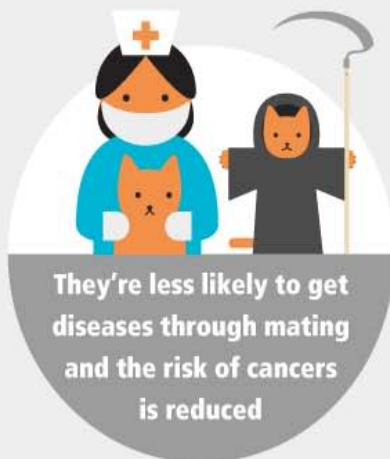
ANA GARABAN

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

Why should I neuter my cat?

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



Cats can breed from four months of age

Cats will mate with their brothers, sisters and parents

Did you know?

One unneutered female can be responsible for 20,000 descendants in just five years

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

Want to know more?

Neuter your cat at four months of age or younger.

For help and advice, email neutering@eltham.cats.org.uk or call us on 07591 120331

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

Cats get an extra 25p for every £1 with gift aid

If you are a taxpayer, please make your contribution go further with gift aid. All you have to do is complete your details above and tick the box below.

I want Cats Protection to treat as gift aid all donations and subscriptions I have made in the last four years, and any donations and subscriptions I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise. ☐ (please tick)

- * You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that Cats Protection reclaims on your donations in the tax year
- * You must notify us if you change your name or address while this declaration applies
- * If your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax, you can cancel the declaration at any time by notifying us.

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.

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

Email ☐ SMS ☐ Telephone ☐

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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!

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Supporter Services, Cats Protection, National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, RH17 7TT

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