

CATS PROTECTION  
EASTBOURNE FRIENDS GROUP  
**NEWSLETTER**



**SPRING/SUMMER 2011**

Reg Charity 203644 (England and Wales) and SCO 37711 (Scotland)

## Co-ordinator's Report

Hi everyone,

We have lots going on this year as far as fundraising goes and I am still organising more events as we speak. As usual don't forget to read our events page as there are more fundraising dates booked in.

Since the last newsletter a few events have come and gone - a bucket collection at Tesco in Hailsham on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January raised a whopping £212 and I would like to say a big thank you to all the volunteers that stood in the freezing weather, with smiles on their faces, collecting money.... ladies you know who you are!

We were also very lucky to have a donation from a very popular quiz night that is held regularly at Westham Village Hall. Some of us went to support the evening, although we didn't get very high up the points board, still it was enjoyable and at least we didn't come last..... well, not quite! After the quiz the organisers donated £279 to the Eastbourne Adoption Centre - isn't that wonderful!

The Southdown singers put on a marvellous concert on 2<sup>nd</sup> April which raised well over £150 (still counting), so our thanks goes to them - a very enjoyable evening.

I will be phoning my trusty volunteering colleagues for the next collection at the Arndale Centre on 23<sup>rd</sup> April - at least that will be in the warm this time!

Vicki

If anyone wants to contact me at any time for any reason my details are: **01323 762143 / 07512 841992** [rockyradar@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rockyradar@yahoo.co.uk)

### **A Note from Chris**

Hi Everyone,

After many years as manager at the Adoption Centre I have decided to hand over the reins!

Now, you might think you're getting rid of me but no such luck. I will be doing my bit to help at the Centre a couple of times a week and I will be continuing to do the Newsletter. I will be at every open day to meet all my old friends and supporters - I just won't look so tired and harassed!

Mandy will be taking over from me - she has been my Deputy for a few years and has just the right attributes and a great passion for the cats and I have no doubt at all that she will keep things running smoothly and do a brilliant job. Good luck Mandy.



### **What's in a Meow?**

It is estimated that cats have roughly 100 vocal sounds and that they reserve all of them for communication with their owners. (They very rarely meow at other cats.) It can take a while but, if you listen to the different types of meow, you'll begin to pick up on what each one means (much like the different cries of a baby). As I mentioned before, they usually meow when they want something and the most common reasons for meowing is to say:

- I'm hungry
- I want to go out
- I want to come in
- I want some attention
- Help

Each of these meows will be different and some are easier to understand than others. The 'I'm hungry meow is usually easy to work out as cats are pretty good at standing by their empty food bowl or the cupboard their food is kept in when they make this noise.

All of the sounds need to be evaluated alongside your cat's body language and facial expression. Over time, as you get familiar with your cat, you'll be able to recognise what each meow means. If all else fails, just ask them what they want!

## NEWS FROM THE ADOPTION CENTRE

After a long hard winter, at last Spring is here and the cats are loving it. Some of them are loving it a bit too much as already we have two litters of kittens and more to come I suspect. Hopefully, our Free Neutering Campaign during March will be successful in reducing the number of unwanted kittens and go a long way towards preventing the spread of diseases such as Feline Aids and Leukemia. Am I being too optimistic? I sincerely hope not. Thank you to everyone who helped with the Campaign, from sending in donations to helping on the neutering stands. You came up trumps, as always.

We have taken down the storm barriers from the front of the homing block and, I am afraid, they will not survive another year as the wood is completely rotten. So this may have to be the next big project for us to save for. The cats love to sniff the fresh air but the barriers do help to keep the worst of the weather out during winter.

Trevor was hit by a car in early December (front cover) and suffered two broken hind legs, a fractured pelvis and tail and was paralysed. This beautiful tabby boy has been through more than a cat should endure during the last few months and is one of the most placid and happy cats I have ever met. He has had to wear a metal frame over one of his legs which is screwed into his thigh and knee joints and, at times, I despaired for him, thinking that maybe we were putting him through too much. However, this incredibly brave cat has now had part of the frame removed and is walking around extremely well. He has the run of my office (and, I'm afraid, most of my house) and we are expecting a full recovery in the not too distant future.

We had a call one morning from a factory on a local industrial site to say they had found newborn kittens in one of the boxes in the factory. We rushed out but by the time we got there the mum cat, who had apparently been hanging around as a stray for nearly three years, had moved them under a huge pallet and was very protective and rather aggressive. However, after spending an hour crawling on my tummy and enticing her with food we managed to get her and all three kittens into a basket (to the applause of the factory workers) and back to the Adoption Centre.

Lucky (as we called Mum) is a lot more approachable now but it is natural for her to be protective while here kittens are young. Hopefully,

given time and love, she will learn to trust and go to people who will spoil her to make up for her past.

Mojo came into our care in January. He was unneutered and had a badly matted coat. With a huge wound on his head and scuffed claws, we think he may have been knocked by a car. The top of his head was virtually skinned and looked dreadful but, three months along the line he has been castrated, de-matted and his wound has healed and he now looks gorgeous. He is a big, grey, long-haired cat with a superbly gentle nature and is now looking for a good home.

### **A 556 mile round trip.**

“Star” a short haired black cat went missing in October 2009 from his home in the Isle of Wight. He had been homed as a kitten and was then 9 months old. His distraught owner contacted neighbours and vets, put up posters, but to no avail.

By Christmas 2010 they had given up all hope of ever finding him and contacted their local Cats Protection with a view to re-homing another cat. A few days later CP ‘phoned them to tell them that Star was safe and sound and awaiting reunion

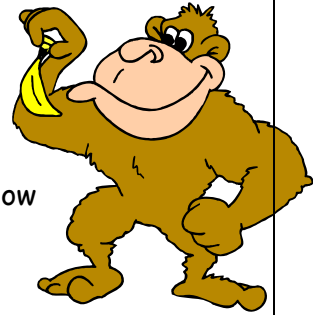
Star had been microchipped as a kitten and amazingly had been handed in to York Cats Protection some 278 miles away. How he got there no one knows, and, but for his microchip, would never have been returned to his loving owners.

Whilst every cat leaving Cats Protection is microchipped we wish that all cats were. It would certainly mean that many of the hundreds of cats that go missing or are reported lost could be returned to their owners!



## COME JOIN US FOR OUR SPONSORED TREE WALK

On Saturday September 3<sup>rd</sup> we are going down to Go-ape which is a centre just off the A21 in Kent (address at bottom of page) where we will be walking through the trees starting down low and walking higher and higher then somewhere along the way we will be using a zip wire to fly down to the ground!!! How scary.....but we will, hopefully, raise lots of money for Eastbourne Adoption Centre. If you would like to take part then please contact me on 01323 762143/07512 841992 [rockyradar@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rockyradar@yahoo.co.uk) and I will give you more information. If, however, you would prefer to take the sensible approach and stay at home but maybe sponsor one of us then you can send donations to Eastbourne Adoption Centre at 63, Marshfoot Lane, Hailsham. BN27 2RB writing "Tree Walk" on the envelope.



Another way of giving a donation is to go online. We have a web page where you can donate using credit/debit cards the address is <http://www.justgiving.com/FriendsofEastbourneAdoptionCentre>

**Go Ape! Bedgebury Road Goudhurst Crankbrook Kent TN17 2SJ**



# Free Neutering Campaign

Well, the first day of our Free Neutering Campaign took place at Asda on March 5<sup>th</sup> and was a huge success. There was a queue of people waiting for vouchers as our promotional cat van pulled up. It just shows how important this Campaign was for the people (and cats) of Eastbourne. We immediately started giving out our full cost neutering vouchers, some people gave us a donation which was gratefully received. I must say thank you to Asda, especially Theresa, one of the Asda Events Co-ordinators, for allowing us use their store to run the event.

Our next Neutering Day took place at Vicarage Fields in Hailsham on March 12<sup>th</sup> and, although this location was not quite as busy, we still gave out quite a lot of free vouchers as well as information for people that were interested in taking on a cat. A big thank you to BTW Shiells Ltd, the owners of Vicarage Fields, for allowing us to use this location.

Our last Neutering Day took place at Tesco in Hampden Park on March 19<sup>th</sup>. By the end of the day we had used all the vouchers allocated to us and still had more names and addresses of people wanting vouchers. The Friends of Eastbourne Adoption Centre committee decided that, as there was such a need in the Eastbourne area, we needed to add more funds to cover the cost of extra vouchers. I would also like to thank all the Vets who took part in this important event, reducing their prices so that we were able to neuter even more cats.

Vicki



**CAT FACT:** A group of kittens is called a "KINDLE". A group of cats is called a CLOWDER".

## CAT BURGLARS

The Centre office is joined to the Manager's house and obviously staff do not just walk in, but on this occasion, on hearing a cat howl as if in pain, and Chris was not there, I decided not to stand on ceremony but just to open the door and go in.

There was Flo an elderly cat, lying flat out on the floor, I knelt to see what was wrong. She looked up and purred and with a little sigh continued to rest, again I heard the throaty howl and, following it, found Chris' cat 'Tiny' preying over a sodden dishcloth, with water trails back to the sink.

He is a magnificent, handsome boy, hand reared by her from a few hours old, but a real thief, no dish cloth is safe from him whether brand new or, as is his preference, soaking in a bowl of water!

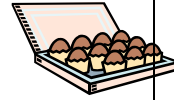
Cats Protection have done some studies of the perennial cat thief and I think Tiny falls into that category.

One owner was somewhat alarmed to find 3 gardening gloves and a gentleman's toupee under her bed. [who wouldn't be!]. She remained perplexed as more and more items arrived in her house and were often to be found under her bed. Some time later her Siamese cat, Bertie carried a chewed up Barbie doll through the cat flap and she thought she might have found the bounty hunter.

Her cat became the subject for a cat behaviourist who recognized that Bertie's behaviour seemed to be driven to stash items but not to retrieve them, and like other cat burglars would hoard in a special place, sometimes secretly like Bertie or like Tiny announced with a triumphant howl.

The motivation is thought to be an example of predatory behaviour, somewhat misplaced and not necessary for a well fed domestic cat. Feral cats would not waste energy on such useless objects. Although Tiny's human mum or Bertie's feline one didn't teach them to hunt, these two cats instinctively do so and as cats can spend up to 12 out of every 24 hours seeking prey Bertie's owner had to seek help or risk the irritation of neighbours whose belongings often ended up under someone's bed!

# SODUKU



WIN CHOCOLATES AND WINE

	9		3	5			1	
5			1					8
	4				9	2		5
2		8	5	4	3			
4	3	5	7	9		6	8	
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		4		6	7	8	2	3
6	7		2	3			4	

The game of logic, no guessing or mathematics required. All you have to do is to place each of the digits 1 to 9 in each row, column and 3 x 3 box.

There is only one solution.

Answers by 15<sup>th</sup> May



**CAT FACT:** Egyptians shaved their eyebrows as a sign of mourning when they lost a beloved cat.

## **SUMMER SPONSORED WALK**

In the past we have raised a substantial amount of money from doing the annual sponsored walk. This year we are aiming to make more than ever – let's face it, we have a great goal to work towards, what with the new pens and the neutering campaign. So, come on everyone, get your walking shoes on and let's do it for the cats.



The Sponsored Walk will be on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June at 12.30 pm sharp. We are walking from the Willow Car Park in Alfriston and the walk will be approximately 5 miles through Friston Forest and the Downs, to end up back at the same car park we started. Bring a picnic, dogs on leads welcome and expect to walk at a leisurely pace for about 2 – 3 hours.

There is a charge of £4 for a 10 hour stay in the Willow Car Park and there is free parking opposite, although this is limited to 3 hours.

I've walk this walk twice now and it is really picturesque so please join us and support of cats.

Please contact the Adoption Centre on 01323 440101 for a sponsorship form.

Derrick



**CAT FACT: Ailurophilia is the “love of cats”**

## **Friends of Eastbourne AC**

Welcome to all our members.

As I sit writing this blog the sun is shining, the birds are singing and it really makes me think that spring has finally sprung!

With that thought in mind it seems a good time to remind everyone that it will soon be time for our Spring Fayre which will be at the Adoption Centre on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May.

As always we welcome any offers of help, either with the setting up of the stalls or even manning them for us.

If anyone can also help with donations of gifts for the raffle and Tombola stalls they will be gratefully accepted.

Our March neutering campaign was such a great success that the 'Friends of' had to purchase more vouchers to meet the demand!

I know it is hard when confronted by a fluffy, playful kitten to even think of getting your cat neutered; even we cattery assistants go 'ahh' when we have litters of kittens in the Adoption Centre; but those kittens will very soon become adult cats and although, hopefully, they will still be much loved pets, the cycle of reproduction begins again very soon, as young as five months!

There is also the added danger of diseases that can be past on through mating not only to the queen but also to her kittens. Most of these illnesses can, unfortunately, be killers to the adult cat or kitten.

This is why neutering and public awareness is so important.

Any way, enough of the lectures!

On a very sad note it is with great regret that we say goodbye to Chris Drake as Manager of Eastbourne Adoption Centre.

Eastbourne Adoption Centre has been Chris's life 24/7 for the last fifteen years or more and the Centre that we are all so familiar with is mainly all down to Chris and her hard work.

When Chris first took over, the litter trays were washed at an outside cold water tap and the cats feeding bowls were all washed in her kitchen as there were not the facilities then that we are so lucky to have now; and remember this was in winter as well as summer!

Chris has always been ready to answer telephone calls from the public; even at a late hour; how lucky are we that leave our jobs at five!

A private life is something Chris hasn't been lucky to have had for many years but she did this because she loves the cats and is caring of their welfare.

We hope you will join with us in wishing Chris and her husband, Tony, a very happy future.

She has assured us that we will not get rid of her that easy and that she will still take part in our events and even to occasionally volunteer!

Happy Retirement Chris and enjoy all those lie- ins in the mornings!

It just leaves me to say I hope everyone enjoys the beautiful weather and that we all look forward to seeing you at our Spring Fayre.

Bye for now

Email: [thefriendsofeastbourne@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thefriendsofeastbourne@yahoo.co.uk)

**Jan.** (Secretary for the Eastbourne Friends of Group)



Ginger  
&  
Tigger



**REPORT TO THE ADOPTION CENTRE  
FROM MEOW-MEOW – ADOPTED 31 DECEMBER 2010**

I have now been in my new home for three months and I thought that you might like to hear from me. Only the day before my adoption I had to have six teeth removed so, you can imagine, I was not at my best but, now that my gums have hardened off, I can eat almost anything put in front of me – and you know how much I like my food!

I am very happy here – the food is good and plentiful and the beds are comfortable. My new owners – or should I say slaves – attend to my every wish, which is, of course, how it should be!

As the weather had been so dreadful, I wasn't let outside until last Saturday – you may remember, it was the first warm day of the year. I had a very exciting time – I cautiously explored every inch of the garden, ventured into the wood and then jumped over the neighbouring fences – much to the anxiety of my people – but I soon came back. I did, however, have one alarming experience. I was enjoying my freedom and minding my own business, chasing squirrels and pigeons, when I heard an awful menacing yowling! As you can imagine, I froze and all my hair stood on end – one of my slaves came out and rescued me! Then I saw the 'cat-next-door' looking at me through a hole under the fence – his head was enormous so I didn't stay to see the rest of him, but rushed back through the cat-flap to the safety of my home. The hole has been blocked now. I later learnt that his name is 'Trouble' and that is something I don't want. It is true that I had been into his garden earlier but didn't realize that I was trespassing – I now keep well clear of that garden!

At dusk, my cat flap is closed which is a good thing as I've seen foxes and badgers in the garden, they look very big and I really would prefer not to meet one of them!

I really am looking forward to the summer here and I thank you all at the Adoption Centre for looking after me and finding me a good home.

Meow-Meow

**CAT FACT:** The behaviours shown by most house cats have a parallel in the wild.

## DIARY OF EVENTS



- SAT 2 APRIL** Southdown Singers Concert ~ St. Andrews Church  
Blackwater Rd. E/B ~ 7.30pm ~ £7 per ticket ~ -----  
Contact Carol 01323 842786
- SAT 23 APRIL** Bucket Collection and Sale ~ Arndale Centre E/B  
From 9 am
- SAT 14 MAY** Spring Fayre ~ Adoption Centre Marshfoot Lane  
Hailsham 12-3pm
- SAT 21 MAY** Bucket Collection ~ ESK Courtlands Rd. E/B
- SAT 4 JUNE** Bucket Collection ~ Tesco Hailsham  
9.30am-6pm
- SUN 12 JUNE** Sponsored Walk ~ Start Alfriston Willows C/Pk  
12.30pm
- SAT 16 JULY** Summer Fayre ~ Adoption Centre Marshfoot Lane  
Hailsham ~ 12-3pm
- SAT 6 AUG** Bucket Collection ~ Waitrose Old Town  
From 9 am
- SAT 27 AUG** Bucket Collection ~ Banks Corner E/B  
From 9 am
- SAT 3 SEPT** Sponsored Tree Walk ~ Go-Ape ~ Nr. Bedgebury  
(A21)
- SUN 11 SEPT** Cream Teas Afternoon ~ Adoption Centre  
Marshfoot Lane Hailsham 12-3pm
- SAT 29 OCT** Bucket Collection/CP Xmas goods ~ Arndale Centre  
E/B from 9 am
- SAT 19 NOV** Table Sale/Xmas goods/Bric-a-Brac ~ Quintins Centre  
Hailsham ~ From 9 am

Dear Marge

My cat will insist on clawing the back and arms of my new sofa – why does she do this and how can I stop her.

Answer

There are three reasons why cats scratch where we don't want them too. Firstly, in the wild cats claw at tree bark to clean and shed the outer layer of their claws. Ask your vet to clip her claws. Secondly, cats mark their territory by scratching. The fact that your sofa is new is likely to cause her to leave her mark. And, thirdly, sometimes cats scratch from boredom. Make sure she is stimulated by playing with her, giving her a treat ball so that she has to work out how to get the tasty morsels out.

For whatever reason she is scratching your furniture you should cover it with a throw to stop it from getting damaged and provide her with a scratching post (sprinkled with a little catnip).



**CAT FACT:** The giraffe, camel and cat are the only animals that walk moving *both* their left feet and *both* their right feet when walking. This method of walking ensures speed, agility and silence.



To email 'The Friends of Eastbourne Adoption Centre' for any fundraising queries or to find out about volunteering with us: email [friendsofeastbourne@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:friendsofeastbourne@yahoo.co.uk)

To donate online using credit/debit cards for sponsored events go to: [www.justgiving.com/FriendsofEastbourneAdoptionCentre](http://www.justgiving.com/FriendsofEastbourneAdoptionCentre)

To contact Eastbourne Adoption Centre [eastbourne@cats.org.uk](mailto:eastbourne@cats.org.uk)

To check out the website go to [www.cats.org.uk/eastbourne](http://www.cats.org.uk/eastbourne)

To buy online at stores like Amazon, Boots, HMV or any other store, that company donate a % of your purchase price to Eastbourne Cats Protection go to: [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cpeastbourne](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cpeastbourne)

Twitter [www.twitter.com/catsprotection](http://www.twitter.com/catsprotection)

Facebook [www.facebook.com/catsprotection](http://www.facebook.com/catsprotection)

### How can you help the cats?.....by shopping online!

There is a really quick and easy way of making **FREE** donations to our Adoption Centre! We have registered '**Cats Protection - The Friends of Eastbourne Adoption Centre**' on a website called easyfundraising. If you go to their site at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cpeastbourne](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cpeastbourne) and register (which is free) then log in using your newly created username and password, all you need to do then is connect to over 2,000 retailers through the site. These include Argos, Amazon, John Lewis, Gap, Sky, Boots, Apple, Waitrose, M&S, Debenhams and many more! Shop as normal then, at no cost to yourself, when your transaction is complete the retailer donates a % of the total amount to us. It doesn't cost a penny extra to shop and you are raising funds for a good cause at the click of a mouse! Providing you login and use the retailer links provided then any purchases you make will benefit Eastbourne Adoption Centre.

Friends of Eastbourne Adoption Centre

Did you know that if you are a UK Tax payer then we as a registered charity can claim Gift Aid on your behalf from any donation that you generously give? This includes sponsorship, membership and either regular monthly donations or just 'one off' donations. All you need to do is fill in this form with your donation, send it to the Adoption Centre and we can do the rest.

If you are a UK tax payer and would like us to claim a further 25p for every £1 you donate please fill in the declaration below.

**Supporter Details:**

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other

Name.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

Tel (inc STD code): Day.....Evening.....

Email.....Date.....

**PLEASE TICK CAREFULLY**

To qualify for Gift Aid, what you pay in income tax or capital gains tax must equal at least the amount we will claim in the tax year.

Please tick the box to enable us to treat this and all past and future donations/membership , until further notice, as Gift Aid.

It really helps Cats Protection if we can keep you informed about our exciting work, campaigns, activities and fundraising. If you would prefer us not to contact you by post please tick this box.

Reg Charity 203644 (England and Wales) SCO37711 (Scotland)

Please send to Cats Protection  
63 Marshfoot Lane  
Hailsham  
East Sussex  
BN27 2RB

**YOUR EASTBOURNE TEAM**

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01323 440101

**Shop Manageress: Liz Cunningham 14 Seaside Rd.**  
Eastbourne BN21 3PA  
01323 733888

**Friends Secretary: Jan Varndell**  
01323 440101  
Email: [thefriendsofeastbourne@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thefriendsofeastbourne@yahoo.co.uk)

**Lost and Found: Adoption Centre,**  
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01323 440101

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