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DECEMBER 2013

Wharfe Valley

www.wharfevalley.cats.org.uk

Tel: 0845 1947 292



PAWPRINTS

NEWS AND STORIES FROM YOUR LOCAL CATS PROTECTION GROUP

GOING STRONG



Horsforth Shop Opens

Our branch charity shop opened on 4 July at 21 Town Street HORSFORTH. We had a splendid day with buns courtesy of our friends at Menston Village Bakery in the image of the Stars and Stripes. Our loyal members also contributed cakes. Thanks to all of you. The shop has done very well with Jimmy and Denise recruiting several new volunteers to make our welcoming team.

So how can you help?

- by being a customer
- donate some goods such as clothes, shoes and gifts
- encourage your circle to donate too
- enquire about volunteering (you need to be quite fit!)
- pop some cat food in the collection bin
- donate your Felix tokens to gain us free food

YOUNG AT HEART



Issy and her yummy cake stall

Issy from Bramhope helped us. She and her friends and family wanted to celebrate the life of a much loved cat who had recently passed away. Issy had never known life without her pet and was very sad but she felt she wanted to do something in his memory. So she organised a cake stall at home and donated the proceeds of over £60 to our branch. Not only did Issy and her friends gladden our hearts but they also made a few of us shed a tear. A lovely girl and a lovely memory.



Issy handing over her donation to shop manager Jimmy in August

Thank You

The branch wishes to thank all those locally and at the National Cat Centre who encouraged and enabled us to make this shop a reality- and to the late Sheila Hillas who made the refurbishment possible through her legacy. Well done also to those branch members who believed we could do it.

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

NEW EVENT

QUALITY GOODS AUCTION
Next year we intend to hold a quality goods auction - something we have wanted to do for a while. Our Horsforth shop team is making early plans around a local venue and date. More information will appear on our web site and in the spring newsletter. In the meantime there are things you can do:-

- dig out some unwanted gifts!
- ask your family and friends for gifts
- invite local businesses to donate goods or services
- take gifts to the shop

We will have professional support and if this goes well we may try other venues. The acquisition of a shop with storage facilities, and more volunteers has made this idea viable. Springtime is our plan.

LOTTERY

The brand new national Weekly Lottery is being launched. The concept is simple - players pay £1 a week to have a chance of winning one of 100 prizes, including a weekly jackpot of £1,000 and quarterly Super Draws with up to £5,000 jackpot.

Application forms are available via this branch and more information will follow on our web site. The branch receives about £37 per annum for each person who signs up.

There is £1000 first prize to be won each week and a hundred other cash prizes. There are 'superdraws' four times per year at £5000 for the winner.

News from Wharfe Valley Cats Protection

PARTNERSHIP WITH LEEDS CITY COUNCIL



RESPONSIBLE OWNERS

Since our initial approach to Leeds Council in 2006 we have held regular meetings with policy makers and housing managers. Our focus has been responsible pet ownership. As a cat charity we know full well that one of the keys to a better life for cats and people is to have a robust approach to neutering. Over the years we have offered free or discounted cost feline neutering to qualifying tenants of the council in Leeds. There have been about 8000 neuterings in the last seven years.

ENTHUSIASM

Our housing colleagues have shown such enthusiasm -many are of course pet owners-and all of them have very busy agendas. Recently we have been able to secure an annual budget of over £12000 from special funds at the National Cat Centre. This is in addition to our branch budget. Our friends in ENE Homes are leading the way in seeking out households who would benefit from help with neutering and CP vouchers are now held in several housing offices -mainly in the north west and north east of Leeds.

FARMS

HUMANE TRAPS USED

This autumn we have helped a farmer in Oxenhope to have his semi feral cats and kittens neutered-about twenty in all.

We were welcome at this location with our humane traps and were given a donation for part of the cost. In contrast we have had two volunteers, who tried to help cats on a farm

ALL CREATURES

On our working group we also have input from the RSPCA and Dogs Trust. These two organisations have been with us from the start and are involved in neutering and microchipping too. This month we welcome a new member from a rabbit rescue charity. These lovely creatures can lead lonely and miserable lives cooped up in cramped cabins. During our cat rescue and feral trapping forays we have seen some neglected rabbits in back streets and yards. We have taken action where we can but it will be good to have the rabbit lovers on board.

GOING FOR GOLD

For the last three years our group has seen the Council in Leeds awarded Bronze medal status for its work with tenants and pets. We are now pushing to upgrade this to silver and gold. Success will hinge on our ability as a partnership to enable the council to establish and maintain meaningful records of pet take up in the properties they manage and own.

nearer to our heartland, subject to threats and abuse.

This is sadly too common in our big cities where our small band of volunteers spend many days each week-sometimes supported by the locals but occasionally obstructed or harassed.

OBITUARY



THE LATE FREDA SHAW

We were sad to hear of the passing of Freda Shaw of Addingham. She was a founder member of the Branch and was present at its first meeting in July 1984. She had come to live in Addingham shortly before, and as she had always been a devoted admirer of cats she lost no time in giving her support to the new Branch.

At every bazaar and coffee morning she was to be seen helping on the antiques and collectables stall, particularly those held at the Kings Hall and Winter Gardens, Ilkley.

She was taken ill on her 95th birthday and her death occurred three days later.

It was good that she had her wish to stay in her own home to the end, helped in this by her many friends (and the daily visit of a neighbour's handsome ginger cat).

GIFTS IN WILLS CHANGING CATS LIVES

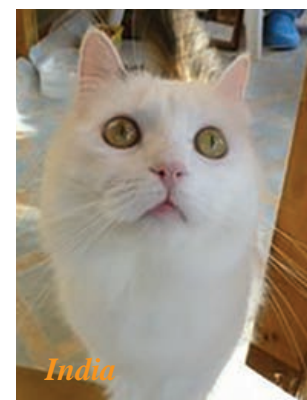
By leaving a gift in your will you can help change the lives of thousands of cats and kittens for years to come.

Without the kindness of people who remember Cats Protection in their wills we would not be the charity we are today; these special gifts fund more than half of everything we do.

More News from Wharfe Valley Cats Protection

OUT AND ABOUT WITH OUR TEAM....

It is fair to say we get about a bit! In recent weeks we have had volunteers deployed in Oxenhope, Silsden, Riddlesden, Addingham, Almscliffe Crag, Heaton and Manningham in Bradford, Manston in East Leeds. We have been rescuing cats, neutering cats and collecting house clearance goods. Sometimes we had a van full of black bags and another time full of black cats! If this sounds like a big team in action readers should be impressed to know about six of us were involved-usually in pairs or solo. We are all behind with the ironing and Christmas shopping is off!



India

WANDERING THE STREETS NEEDS A HOME

INDIA (above) was found wandering the streets in Leeds. She likes sitting on knees but has a mind of her own! She needs a home now.

1300 NEUTERED HEATON AGAIN

Often we get called back to places we have been before. Heaton is one such area. The little guy above called Stevie (right and bottom left) was born in a garden. He has a flu virus which threatens his sight and his mouth is sore. He is on the mend but may be left with a few challenges. Doing a good job often means we are remembered and called back. Such is the challenge of Bradford where we have neutered over 1300 every year for at least ten years.



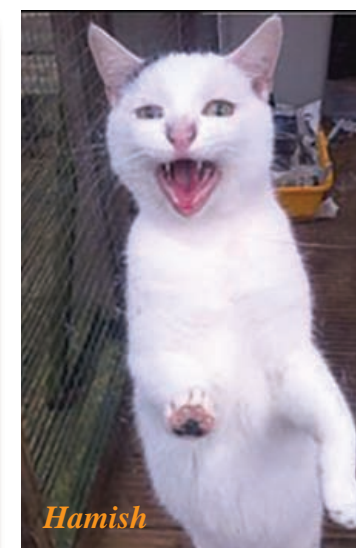
Hogan

HAMISH & HOGAN TWO BROTHERS

These two brothers (Hogan above left and Hamish above right) are gentle giants and would suit most homes. Sadly they are growing up in our cat cabins and really need some space. They came from central Bradford - an hour before the owner was evicted and signed them over to us. They love people and crave affection. They deserve a safe house with a large garden. Grand cats!



Stevie



Hamish

Homing procedure

If you can help these cats portrayed, or any of our dozens of others in care, please ring our help line 0845 1947 292 Ext 3.

You will, initially, be asked a few questions about your location and lifestyle to help us find the right cat for your situation. We may also do a formal home visit if we have not homed a cat to you before and if you are new to cat adopting. Obviously our volunteers prefer to operate on our home patch but for a special cat and a special offer we would consider travelling a bit beyond the Wharfe Valley and Aireborough.



Stevie

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

KEIGHLEY AREA

WORTH THE EFFORT

This busy town is not part of our usual patch. We have so much work in Wharfedale, Leeds and Bradford that prevents us from covering Keighley fully across our range of services. Also there are two well established cat charities in the town and Craven RSPCA has a foothold there. So we tend not to look for homes in Keighley nor do we have the capacity to admit cats from the town.

PRIORITIES

However we do help local residents with discounted neutering vouchers for folk on low income. Our branch has taken on some of the role since the CP branch in Keighley closed.

We are indebted to both Airedale and Aireworth veterinary practices for their sustained commitment to neutering and the discount they afford us. We also occasionally help Keighley residents, businesses and hill farmers in the Worth Valley area who have colonies of cats in need of neutering. Only this month we trapped, neutered and returned 17 cats on one farm and several strays in a garden.

COSTS

In the last year or so we have spent £6800 on neutering in the Keighley area which is about 12% of our budget for this vital service. We have done the same over ten years. The majority of the remainder of our budget is spent in the rest of Bradford post codes and much of west Leeds including Wharfedale and Aireborough

DONATIONS

We are grateful to Keighley Pets at Home and Jolleys for giving us some new litter trays and scratching posts and other catty goods. All contributions are welcome when you see our outgoings above.

More Information from Wharfe Valley Cats Protection

ONLINE PRESENCE EBAY BUY ONLINE

If you are familiar with eBay you may already know that you can buy donated items from us, with 100% of proceeds going to the branch.

I took over selling on eBay from another fundraising colleague in April of last year and so far have raised almost £1,400 not including Gift Aid.

Added to this, as the branch is registered with eBay all the fees are refunded if an item sells and Gift Aid can also be claimed, meaning even more money for the cats and kittens we are looking after.

Most items have been sold to buyers in the UK, but I have also had customers as far afield as Brazil, Australia and one of my first sales was a lovely Swarovski crystal cat that went all the way to South Africa.

So, what else have all these people been buying? The best-sellers at the moment are jewellery items, cosmetics and larger-sized clothes. Cat-themed items also sell well, of course. I will soon be listing some lovely china plates with cat designs, such as this one:



As Christmas is coming up I am now selling our CP calendars, diaries and cards. I am always looking for goods to sell, so if you are having a clear out and have any good quality items that are not too heavy or bulky, let us know by phone, email or on our Facebook page and we will work out the best way to collect them. Unfortunately postage charges have to be taken into account and paperbacks and some heavier items are just not worth selling any more unless they can be sold for a reasonable amount, so they generally go to our charity shop and will hopefully make money for us there.

Anybody selling an item on eBay can choose to donate a percentage to Wharfe Valley CP by choosing the 'sell for charity' option. And if you buy something, even if it's from another seller, you can still donate an extra amount to us at the checkout. Every little helps!

You can find our eBay page at <http://goo.gl/GRnClV> (This is a shortened version of the link for ease of typing!)

There is also a link on our web site. See you there soon!

AMAZON WISH LIST BUY ONLINE

A great way of helping us is to buy something for us from our Amazon wish list. It's very easy to do. Just go to the following link: <http://goo.gl/VB1ScX> (Again a shortened link) and have a look to see what we want.

You can also go to 'find a wish list' and type in 'Cats Protection Wharfe Valley Branch'. Most of the items on the list at the moment are food, which of course we always need in large quantities! We are very grateful for all the parcels we have already received and they go a long way to helping some of the cats and kittens in our care.

FACEBOOK LIKE US!

Keep up-to-date with what's happening at the branch by liking our Facebook page at <http://goo.gl/2vBhTj> (again a shorter web address)

Join us on the Internet!
LINDA

SUPPORT 500 CLUB JOIN THE 500 CLUB?

We are looking to expand our regular contact with members now we are having a central focus in our shop. Why not join the 500 Club? For a small donation annually you can receive our newsletters by post or by e-mail. We would prefer the letters to go out by e-mail so if you now receive it by post, but have e-mail, please let us know through our web site under 'CONTACT'.

You will also be entered into a fun prize draw for £50. E-mail us via our web site - www.wharfevalley.cats.org.uk

Or write to us at the address at the foot of this page and then our Secretary will send you Standing Order form to sign - all very simple!

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

DONCASTER

Gina attended the annual regional cat show again last month.

She raised nearly £200 on her collectibles stall. The event was a little less busy and this may reflect the times. A chance to raise the profile of our work as well as fund raising.

CHRISTMAS

We now are able to supply our cards and calendars at the Horsforth shop. We also have diaries and a few other 'catty' gifts.

We wish everyone a happy & peaceful Christmas!

WILL and WISHES

There is guidance on our web site about making a will to help cats.

If you simply wish to leave some money to this branch just specify this in your will using the words Wharfe Valley Cats Protection.

However should you be concerned about your own cats that might survive you there are two things you can do. Firstly ensure a relative or friend is willing to give them a home. This may not be possible to guarantee in law but it may help.

Also Cats Protection, nationally, runs a 'Guardian' scheme whereby the charity will do its best to find a space for any cats that survive you. You need to sign up for this in advance.

If you would like any further information about the service, get in touch with one of our team on 01825 741 271 or email us at giftsinwills@cats.org.uk