

► 30 NOT OUT..... 1

**SPRING 2014**

# Wharfe Valley

► BACKWARDS & FORWARDS.... 2/5

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

Tel: 0845 1947 292

► OTHER NEWS..... 3/4



## PAWPRINTS

NEWS AND STORIES FROM YOUR LOCAL CATS PROTECTION GROUP

# 30

## NOT OUT

*Congratulations  
Wharfe Valley branch.*

**Thirty years unbroken service in July 2014.  
See inside pages for reflections and aspirations**

### *The Long Straight Road*

To survive thirty years as a branch is no mean feat. The work is taxing of mind, painful for the back and certainly can break hearts. We don't go back to the 13th century but the sentiments below do.

'Where there is charity and wisdom, there is neither fear nor ignorance'

'Start by doing the necessary, then do what is possible... and suddenly you find you find you are doing the impossible'.

*St Francis of Assisi*

### *Geoff Boycat - still going strong!*

Kindly drawn for us by friend and supporter Charles Kelly of Ilkley - an accomplished wildlife and family pet artist [chadmac@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:chadmac@blueyonder.co.uk)



## SOME NUGGETS FROM THE LAST 30 YEARS

\* Since the 1990's we have **NEUTERED** about 20,000 cats

\* In the same period we found **NEW HOMES** for about 4000 cats

\* The vast majority of cats we help are from BD and LS Post Codes with Bradford being our biggest challenge.

\* Our vans have done more than 50,000 miles.

\* The most kittens in one litter has been **NINE**.

\* We have helped two cats that were Hermaphrodites- having both male and female sex organs.

\* We helped treat a cat with **LEPROSY** in its tail. Simple antibiotics soon sorted him out. Oh! - that the developing world had this resource throughout!

\* Our oldest client, who admitted to it, was 97 years young.

\* The oldest cat we met was 24 but you might know better!

\* We have helped trap, neuter rescue and treat cats and kittens from as far west as Colne - as far east as Tadcaster, as far south as Cleckheaton - as far north as Malham... AND all points in between.



# News from Wharfe Valley Cats Protection

## LOOKING BACK TO 1984



### AUDREY HARGREAVES

An early photograph from the branch's formative years showing founding Coordinator Audrey Hargreaves with two of her first charges. Audrey is still involved in fund raising and takes a keen interest in all branch activities (see her article below)

## 1984 AND ALL THAT

THIRTY YEARS AGO in July 1984 in an Ilkley flat, 27 people who cared about cats and their welfare, gathered to meet the Chief Executive of Cats Protection. He was impressed to see so many enthusiasts and in due course we received approval to the setting up of a new Branch in the Wharfe Valley. From that time onwards the Branch has rescued thousands of vulnerable cats and kittens.

I became Co-ordinator, Colin Taylor Treasurer and Editor of the Newsletter, Kate Taylor and Maureen Stedmond-Hunter fosterers.

In 1984 we had no funds apart from the initial grant of £175 and a couple of traps and cat carriers from Headquarters. Fundraising was therefore imperative. As yet we had no welcome legacies, no gift-aid scheme, no fixed adoption fees, no sponsorship scheme, but we did attract some generous donations.

We had four major bazaars a year in the popular Winter Gardens, Ilkley supplemented by coffee mornings elsewhere.

Fundraising events in the first year included a garden party, a carboot sale which the Branch organised in Tesco's carpark, a stall at a fleamarket, a wine and vegetarian buffet evening with songs and a guitar. The first of our major Winter Gardens bazaar was held in May 1985 followed by a flag day in July, an autumn bazaar in September and a very popular children's concert compered by Enid Blyton's daughter, Gillian Baverstock, the final big event being a Christmas Market.

The Internet had not been invented, so no websites or emailing, no word processors, laptops or desktop PC's, no mobile phones, no Facebook or Twitter, no digital cameras, no microchipping, no local photocopy shops. Our first newsletters (started early 1985) were typed on stencils and rolled out on a cylinder printing-machine. Branch accounts were written out by hand in cashbooks.

In early Spring of 1985 it was reported in the Newsletter that the Branch dealt with four feral colonies, two at Menston, a large one at Burley-in-Wharfedale and one of 14 cats at Silsden. As the Newsletter said: "The birth of many kittens, destined to homelessness and short lives of sickness and misery, had thus been avoided."

In 1985 the Branch became very concerned about the horrific cat fur trade. It was also concerned about sub-standard boarding catteries and pet shops, and about medical and cosmetic research on cats (6,371 in 1984).

In that year, too, the Branch took issue publicly with a Guiseley pigeon fancier who shot a cat which wasn't even stalking his pigeons. The Branch also campaigned against inorganic slug-baits and antifreeze dangers.

From the beginning the Branch was emphatic on the importance of neutering male and female cats. In the Branch's first year 138 cats and kittens were admitted, including ferals, and 72 homes were found and 48 cats neutered.

What will the next 30 years bring to the Branch? I suspect the changes will be dramatic and such as we cannot at present even envisage.

2044 – here we come!

*Audrey Hargreaves*



### COLIN TAYLOR

Here above we see Colin Taylor -also a founding member - with rescue cat in carrier at the veterinary practice in Cleasby Road, Menston. In those days the surgery was in a domestic setting in an outbuilding. Now the practice has evolved into a modern purpose built hospital setting

## 21ST CENTURY - THE CHALLENGES FOR 2014

Cats have not really changed since 1984. Society has changed. Some change has been for the good but not all. We are stable as a branch but that stability is founded on only a few shoulders.

In thirty years we have had only two Coordinators. We are backed by volunteers who care for cats and by others who oil the wheels in administration and finance. some do both!

# More Information from Wharfe Valley Cats Protection

## PARTY TIME

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY  
THURSDAY 3 JULY 2014  
10 AM to 4 PM

We will be having a 'party with bargains' all day at our shop at 21 Town Street Horsforth. It is the week of the Tour de France coming to Leeds so we will be looking to reflect that in our theme for the day - BEFORE the city seizes up!

More details on our web site as they unfold

## AUCTION IN AUTUMN

NEW DATE

We have a new date for our proposed auction in St Margaret's Hall, Horsforth  
**SATURDAY  
25th OCTOBER 2014**

Goods and services can be donated to the shop at 21 Town Street

## 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](http://www.wharfevalley.cats.org.uk)

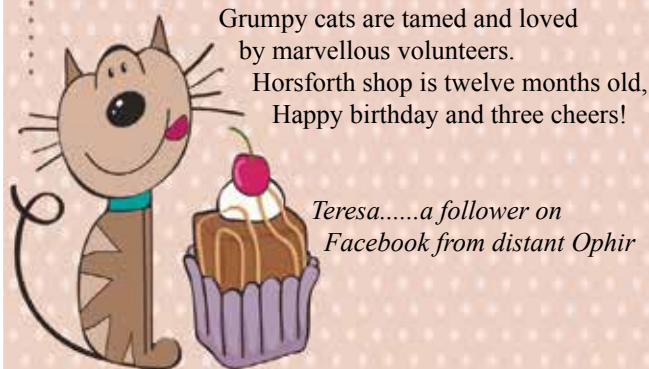
Or write to us at the address at the bottom of the back page and then our Secretary will send you Standing Order form to sign - all very simple!

## THE WHARFE VALLEY CELEBRATION

Let's charge our many glasses, to Wharfe Valley's great success. Thirty years of helping cats, with many in distress.

Inclusive and insightful, they'll share their expertise. Both young at heart, with lots of zest, and greying devotees.

The waifs and strays are neutered, fourteen hundred every year. Admissions come with many kits from far away and near!



Grumpy cats are tamed and loved by marvellous volunteers.

Horsforth shop is twelve months old, Happy birthday and three cheers!

*Teresa.....a follower on Facebook from distant Ophir*

## FACEBOOK LIKE US!

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

## GIVE A CAT A HOME UP TO DATE INFO

We always have adult cats and often kittens at various stages of readiness.

Our web site is the most up to date source of information.

Some of our foster cats are confident lap cats but others are shy or troubled by their past and need experienced owners with an appropriate life style.

## HELP NEEDED ON THE PHONES

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are still looking for a volunteer to take on the coordinating of our re-homing programme. At the moment the best way to contact us is via the web site and on e-mail at [catswharfecoord@aol.com](mailto:catswharfecoord@aol.com)



Telephone calls are being taken but by a volunteer but she is more likely to be out collecting strays and pregnant cats than sat at home. Such are the pressures on the phone and on the streets. We can divert incoming calls to land lines or mobiles.

## SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

### FLAVOURS OF THE WEEK

Hospital admission and nobody to care for cats. Put in touch with catteries or home cat feeders. (Monday)

\*\*\*

Telephone advice to nervous but determined pensioner on how to get a semi feral cat, she had befriended, into a carrier. Felt a bit like 'talking down' an aircraft with no pilot. Cat had a huge abscess and needed neutering. Talked her through tuna baiting a big cat carrier and pointed her towards local vets who readily cope with feral cats. Success! This time at least we did not have to travel. Twenty minutes well spent! (Tuesday)

Breeding colony between farm and industrial units in Aire Valley. Trap neuter and return. (Tuesday)

\*\*\*

Several cats breeding in housing complex for retired people in Heaton. Trap neuter and return. Residents willing to keep an eye on them and feed them occasionally. Growing numbers threat reduced. (Wednesday)

\*\*\*

Three fatal feline road accidents in Otley area in five days. One of our team called out. Heartbreaking voluntary work.

\*\*\*

Victim of domestic violence asks for help with re-homing many cats and neutering others. Visit during police presence and take several cats away. Some to be returned neutered and maybe a new house for the woman. Tough business! Very grateful lady. (Thursday and Friday)

\*\*\*

Housing (East Leeds) manager asks for help with tenant and umpteen resident and stray garden cats. Complex case. Some of these cats may have owners. Long job likely over many days. Leaflet doors and knock on windows for a week! Partnership working.

\*\*\*

Lady desperate to find new home for stray cat she has taken pity on in Esholt area. Lovely boy cat but tested positive for FIV. She has cats of her own and cannot safely keep him. The is no vaccine for FIV. Help! (Friday)

# More Information from Wharfe Valley Cats Protection

## GILDERSOME

Regular readers will know our national charity opened an adoption centre late last autumn. South of Leeds and Bradford, near the M62, it is accessible to a wider public. The centre is designed and staffed to showcase cats ready for new homes. The cats come in from foster homes supported by the Gildersome Centre Manager or from existing CP branches such as our own. A long waiting already exists for admission to these foster homes

### Transfers

We have been able to transfer over 50 cats to Gildersome in five months. This helps us with our turnover. Before Gildersome we had more cats waiting to come into care-some blocking cabins at our vets or others waiting and hoping in gardens

### Specific role

The new facility has helped. It is not a CP branch and does not have all the helpers one finds in a vibrant branch-such as trappers and neutering teams. However working with the small team at Gildersome gives us all someone else to share concerns and successes. We share news of challenges that reach our help lines. More Please!

During the coming weeks we will be searching for plots of land, or maybe buildings to adapt, that could become a second Gildersome. Hopefully north of Bradford and Leeds in a band from Horsforth to Ilkley or Guiseley to Baildon.

We hope it will be at least twice the size. As local ears and eyes we will put forward ideas to the national body of Trustees who already consider such a development as vital for 2016. The process of finding somewhere begins now.

Planning status is the key and good access with ample parking are pivotal.

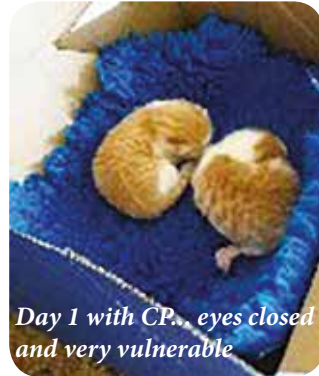
Minimum size plots will be around 2 acres but bigger might be better!. We would not readily consider sites with a very expensive domestic property included in the price.

## SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL BUT HARD WORK THREE LITTERS THIS YEAR ALREADY

Every year we come across, or are given, tiny kittens without a mother cat. This year we have had three litters already! Sometimes the queen has been killed or run away.

Other times illness prevents her feeding her family. This year one of our small team has had the challenge of a queen with FIV which can be life shortening and is readily passed on through mating or in this case, potentially by feeding kittens.

SEPARATION is sad but vital. If the kittens survive to about 8-10 weeks they too will need blood testing to see if the virus has affected them. Sometimes all a litter is affected - sometimes none or just half. They can live to a good age if they avoid major illnesses that need a robust immune system - sadly such cats are often compromised and find it hard to combat infections. The ones mentioned are doing well at the moment in new homes.



*Day 1 with CP... eyes closed and very vulnerable*

Other lucky kittens without serious complications such as the ginger ones have been fed by hand for weeks. Hand rearing is truly hard work. In the early days two hourly feeds by syringe mean broken sleep for weeks. It is worthy work.



*Day 5 with CP... eyes open and looking at a brighter future*

Anyone who has adopted a kitten that has been hand reared will tell you they are a delight but can remain over dependent - or less politely a bit 'in your face'

## HOLE IN THE WALL GANG THE CRIES OF THE KITTENS GOT LONGER AND LONGER

We had a call from a warehouse in central Bradford. A mother cat had smuggled some kittens into a cavity wall via a missing brick in the outside wall. Too small was the hole for a human arm and too deep down in the cavity were the kittens for any normal human arm. The cries of the kittens had got longer and louder when the mother cat failed to return. The only solution was to go inside the building and look for a weak point in the inner wall. Fortune favours the brave! A plasterboard panel seemed a little loose. We could hear crying behind it - at floor level. Warehouses and factory staff are good at finding crowbars. We really should have one! A three inch gap was engineered to reveal, with the help of a torch, a compressed pile of newspapers and lost mail.

Possibly in the past the postman thought the hole was a letterbox. A slim telescopic arm, essential in cat rescue, felt something warm and furry. It could have been anything! But a kitten fell out in view followed by one more. The pair are now safe with us but should have homes soon. The mother cat never came back - she would not have been able to get down to their level from above.. Was she run over in the busy streets or chased around by roaming toms - ready to start again. The local workers are on the look out.

## MESSAGE THE MAIN BATTLE IS STILL WITH NEUTERING

Successes are not certain - despite great skill and commitment we do lose some battles. The main battle is still with neutering. Too many pregnant cats walk our city streets and farm yards. Some have owners, others nobody, until rescue arrives.

NEUTER at 4 months to avoid all these tragic lives ..... and do not let kittens outside until neutered. They are vulnerable and giddy.

# 2014 and beyond with Wharfe Valley Cats Protection

We average about eight functioning foster homes over the period equating to about 15 purpose built cabins in use daily. This can mean as many as 60 cats and kittens in care if we are full of 'families' of felines.



## Focus

The biggest change has come in our approach. The charity nationally has had three prime aims as part of its strategy. They are, broadly REHOME, NEUTER AND EDUCATE. There are wide sub agendas under each heading!



## React or Prevent

For many years there was a perceived and real need to find more cats new homes. At the beginning we may have only rehomed about 70 cats in a year. At our peak a few years ago we found new homes for almost 300 in a year. To put this in some sort of perspective I ask a question? Would Barnardo's, or society as a whole, be delighted if the number of children adopted rose steeply every year? They might for a while if a long waiting list was cleared but if the supply of babies and children kept on coming... and growing.. would glee be the response? Of course not. Questions would be, and are, being asked about WHY?

## Cause and effect

Similarly in animal welfare we are looking at the causes of unwanted cats and kittens. The scrutiny and the action is around people.

When I became Coordinator about 12 years ago the branch enjoyed a neutering voucher allocation of about 450. Since then national policy has seen the charity increase its neutering budget substantially. Branches have also been subject to 'performance and need related' neutering allowances. This I fully support. If one is doing the work in areas of great need - often outside our natural habitat - one should expect support. We get it. Ten years ago we were issuing about 750 vouchers each year. The last five years have seen us issue about 1500 per year. Most of these are used in Bradford and Leeds where until recently we had no CP formal presence.

Our focus is also on cats in urban or rural feral colonies. Add to this the work we do with housing tenants with multicat premises.

## Partnership or solo?

For the past seven years we have worked in partnership with Leeds City Council in raising awareness amongst tenants and staff. There is a very long way to go but we now have true colleagues in the housing sector with whom we meet about twice a year but with whom we liaise weekly. Our national body has backed our initiative by affording us an additional £12000 per annum for neutering. These new and extra vouchers are held and managed by housing staff. The benefit to tenants and the wider community is clear to see. We have held staff training days in a dozen

venues in Leeds and ten in Bradford where we raise awareness not just of our role but how to intervene before the chaos of multiple breeding of cats. We do some of this work jointly with the Dogs Trust and the RSPCA



A couple of years ago the charity appointed a northern area Community Education Officer who is based in Leeds and with whom we work to recruit volunteers to spread the news.

We are addressing our fund raising challenges by going into the retail business with our charity shop at 21 Town Street Horsforth. We plan a second shop in another part of our patch by 2015.



The recession has made things harder but frankly the plight of cats in West Yorkshire was dire before the downturn. The phone rings endlessly for nine hours and across seven days each week. Calls come from far and near as about 1.3 million people have no other CP branch to

call upon for the range of expectations expressed by the public. Independent cat charities are doing their bit but resource and time are at a premium for all of us.

We have mobile phones and a branch computer. We have vans for gathering goods and delivering food as well as vans for trapping and cat rescue. We have emptied houses of clothes and utensils - full to the roof AND removed more than THIRTY cats on more than one occasion

We are making a difference but progress is slow when tackling human behaviour. We are in constant dialogue with policy makers and the man or woman in the street in the hope that changes will be manifest before we pass on the baton up to 2044.

Thanks Audrey for that target!

## Thank you

By the time we reach another 30 years your editor will be exactly 100 years old. So NOW seems a good time to thank everyone who is helping this branch TODAY - or has done so in the past. We are now without thee! Well done

*Graham Houlst - Coordinator*

# More Information from Wharfe Valley Cats Protection

## SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

### SOME SMART FUNDRAISING

#### FELIX TOKENS

If your cats eat Felix you can collect the tokens from the boxes, tins and treats and send them to us. We will get 1p for every token so, for example, 8p for the token on a box of 12 pouches. They soon add up and I recently sent off over 10,000 tokens!



You can put them in our food collection bin at Guiseley Morrison's, drop them off at our shop in Horsforth or at Baildon vet's or send them to us at:

Cats Protection  
c/o 20 Renton Avenue,  
Guiseley,  
Leeds  
LS20 8EE.

### A REMINDER

#### IT COSTS £100 PER DAY

This is used to feed cats awaiting new homes, pay vet bills for new rescues, to do cat pen maintenance, the list goes on and on! Every single penny you can donate is appreciated!

£5 could pay for a cat's litter tray, scoop and food dish!  
£10 could buy an 'igloo' for an elderly cat to curl up inside! £30 could pay for a stray or feral cat to be neutered! £50 pounds could vaccinate a kitten. See the following for ways to help.

### WEEKLY LOTTERY

#### WIN UP TO £5000

Cats Protection has a new lottery. Each entry costs £1 per week, giving you 100 chances of winning. Weekly prizes range from 95 prizes of £5, prizes of £50, £100, £150, £200 up to the jackpot of £1,000. During the year there will also be 4 super draws, giving you the chance to win an amazing £5,000!

If you sign up through our branch, we will receive funds to help us to look after the cats and kittens in our care.

For more details and an entry form please contact us on the usual number or send us an email at [wharfecat@talktalk.net](mailto:wharfecat@talktalk.net)

£ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £

### eBay

#### £1800 RAISED ALREADY

Certain items donated to us are sold on eBay with the money raised going directly to our branch. In the last year we have made more than £1,800 in this way. We are always looking for new goods to sell so please let us know if you have any good-quality items in good condition.

Things which sell best include jewellery, branded clothes and cat-related items. If you are selling something yourself on eBay you can choose to donate a certain percentage of what you make to us too. Find us at: <http://www.ebay.co.uk/sch/wharfecat2012/m.html>

### AMAZON

#### MANY DONATIONS

We have a wish list on Amazon through which you can buy food or other items that we need and have them sent to us.



We have so far had many generous donations in this way and as we will always need food to feed out cats and kittens it will all be very welcome. You can find our list here: <http://www.amazon.co.uk/registry/wishlist/2RYJ8K04Z25SB>

### easyfundraising

#### CHOOSE YOUR BRANCH

This is a way of raising funds which will cost you nothing! If you sign up to easyfundraising and choose our branch as your charity we will receive a percentage of what you spend online at no extra cost to you.

Most of the main online retailers such as Amazon, Currys, John Lewis and Thorntons are part of the scheme and you can download a tool bar to remind you each time you go to one of the retailers concerned. Sign up here: <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

Linda

### 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](mailto:giftsinwills@cats.org.uk)

