



# North Walsham and District Cats Protection

## Branch Newsletter – November 2011

### Upcoming Events

The fundraising year is coming to an end now. However, there are still opportunities to purchase Christmas cards and gifts while helping our cats:

- ❖ **Christmas Sale** – Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November, St Benet's Hall, North Walsham, 9.30 to 12.30.
- ❖ **Christmas Fair** featuring Cats Protection goods stall – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, Dilham Village Hall, 10.00 to 2.00.
- ❖ **Crafts and Things Sale** – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December, St. Benet's Hall, North Walsham, 9.30 to 1.00.

### Facts and statistics 2011

As every year, we have been busy helping the cats in our care. Here is what we have done:

- ❖ We've raised nearly £6000 through a variety of Fund Raising Events – street collections, sales and the highlight of the Fund Raising Year – the Hog Roast at Dilham. On top of that, we've also received a very generous donation of £1293 from Petrofac and Ennui Gas Companies.
- ❖ Out of 250 cats and kittens in our care, we've re-homed over 170, 88 of which were black and white. It is good news that so many people out there are prepared to give a cat a loving home regardless of its colour.

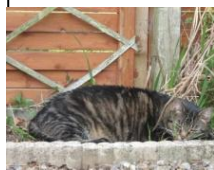
**None of the above would be possible without the dedication of our fosterers, volunteers and supporters. On behalf of the cats, we would like to thank everyone for their hard work and support.**



### About the author

**My name's** Justyna Rollason. I have been a volunteer at the North Walsham Branch for over five years. Recently, I have been invited to join the committee and taken on the task of producing the newsletter.

I started supporting North Walsham Branch after I had adopted my first cat, Janet. I now have two more Cats Protection cats, Rosie and Tabby. All my girls were 12+ when they came to live with me. As much as I love to play with the kittens that come into our care, I believe it is more important to help the cats who are least likely to get a new home.



Janet



Rosie



Tabby

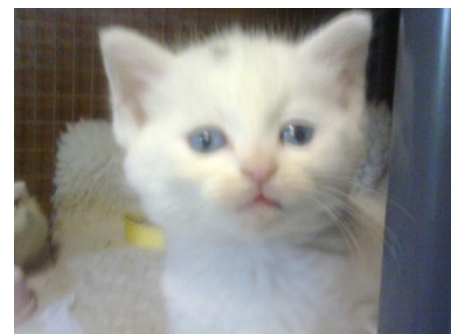
## The Kitten Season

Although the start of the kitten season this year seemed quite slow, eventually it appeared to be one of the busiest ones yet. So far, nearly 150 kittens have come into our care. Even now, in the middle of November, there are still kittens on the waiting list, as we are too short of space to be able to accommodate them all. **Also, there aren't quite as many people prepared to give kittens a new home,** which is most likely linked to the recession; with the vets bills being so high and the reduction of income in many households, owning a pet has become a luxury quite a few people can no longer afford.

Sadly, because of that, some of the beautiful kittens in our care this year have spent the first four-five months of their lives in a pen. An **example of this are two of Madge's kittens; in spite of being very friendly,** they struggled to find a new home until very recently. We are overjoyed that both of them have now left for new homes, but unfortunately their owners have missed the opportunity to see these adorable kittens developing into the young cats they are now.



Sometimes, even though we are short of space, there are emergency situations when cats and kittens have to come into care immediately. One such emergency happened in October, when six three-week old kittens were found in a coal shed in Knapton, around the time ground frost was forecasted. The kittens – four white ones, one tabby and one black (both long-haired) – have been with us for three **weeks now, but are still waiting for an empty pen. However, they are so beautiful we're hoping they will find new homes as soon as they're ready to leave us.**



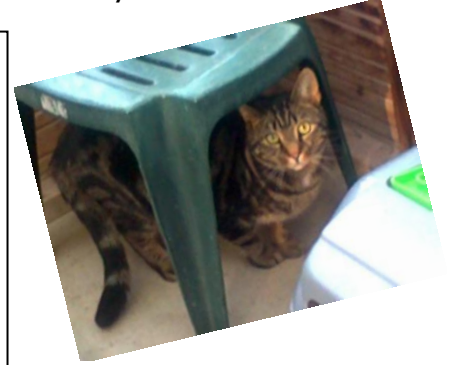
## Special Cats in Our Care

As Christine explained in one of her articles for North Walsham Times, although all the cats that come into our care receive lots of love and attention, there are some who, for various reasons, stay with us for long periods of time and become very special to us. **I'd like to introduce you to three such cats:**

### 1. Finn - the invisible cat

Our longest-term resident, Finn, has just left us for a new home. He had been with us for over two years, having come as a part of a large litter of feral kittens. Unlike his brothers and sisters, Finn proved very difficult to socialise. Usually, when I cleaned his pen, Finn would hide so well I had to double-check if he was there at all.

Luckily, last month a lady with a lot of experience in handling feral cats offered Finn a home. He has been given a whole floor of partly-converted barn all to himself and will be gradually introduced to other cats in the household.



### 2. Kitty – Christine's favourite

Kitty spent the first three years of her life in a first-floor flat. The owners – who deemed themselves cat lovers – thought that, as she stayed indoors, there was no need to neuter her. Because of the frustration that caused her, Kitty became very temperamental. Matters got worse when the couple who owned her had a baby, which is when Kitty had to come into care.

Two years later, Kitty is still with us and still quite temperamental – she goes from being affectionate to bad-tempered in a matter of seconds. However, she favours Christine; she never gets grumpy with her and will even sit on **Christine's lap. This proves that if someone patient enough** was prepared to give Kitty a loving home, they would be rewarded by seeing the affectionate side of her. Kitty is a beautiful cat who has been treated badly in the past, but does deserve a second chance.



### 3. Ginger Biscuit – my favourite

Ginger Biscuit has come into our care for the second time, having previously been re-homed to a couple who have since had two children and another cat. All of this proved too stressful for Biscuit, so she came back to us in the spring. In spite of being a beautiful cat, **Biscuit hasn't found a new home as she** proved to be a bit temperamental and hit the people who came to see her.

**Biscuit is a very affectionate, if a little shy, cat.** When I'm cleaning her pen, she always tries to attract my attention, but occasionally she hits me. I recently realised that Biscuit is slightly cross-eyed and I think this is the reason for her behaviour: she sometimes sees the hand approaching her as a threat, as if someone was trying to hit her, not stroke her. However, just like Kitty, with a little patience Biscuit will become a very loving and affectionate cat, if someone is prepared to give her a chance.



### News from Dilham

Everyone who was horrified and saddened to hear about the fire in **Stephanie's cottage in March 2010 will be pleased to know that the** builders have made much progress. The thatcher has completed the work on the roof and, although there is a lot of work still to be done on the interiors, Stephanie and Chris are hoping to move back in next year in March.

**Although we haven't finalised our Fund Raising Events for next year,** I imagine once the cottage is ready, we will have an Open Morning at Dilham at some point in the spring.



### Get in touch

If you have got any cat or fundraising news you think should be included in the next newsletter (planned for February 2012), get in touch. You can email me on [justyna90125@wp.pl](mailto:justyna90125@wp.pl) or let Stephanie or Christine know and I will get in touch with you.

