

Lea Valley Branch Newsletter



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Take a look at
the lovely
figures on
Page 3!

Heroic Hunter

Hunter came into our care as a very poorly, five-month old. It was clear that he was seriously unwell and had not been eating or drinking for a number of days and, as a result, was severely dehydrated. However, he was somewhat responsive and trying hard to cope with being so unwell.

He was immediately admitted to hospital and put on a drip. Later that day he was given a scan which revealed he had a blockage in his intestine. When trying to eat

Hunter recovering in bed following his initial operation.



or drink, it wouldn't pass through – instead the poor little chap would be sick, therefore not getting any nutrition. Medivet stabilised him overnight and operated the next morning. They found that he had an intussusception, a condition where part of the intestine folds into another section of the intestine, resulting in an obstruction. The section of intestine that was blocked was soon removed.

The operation went well and, after a five-day stay in hospital, Hunter came home to our Welfare Officer. He was on a restricted diet and had five medications daily, and for 10 days he was doing well. Then, suddenly, he became very quiet and listless,

(Continued on page 2)



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Heroic Hunter

(Continued from page 1)

"He was operated on again and had a further section of his intestine removed."

"He truly deserved his chance, battling bravely throughout his ordeal."

"Such a brave and lovely little chap didn't take long to find a new home."



Hey! I'm feeling much better now.

very painful and stressful, double ordeal to ensure that he recovered well. As you can see from the photos, he really deserved this chance, battling bravely throughout his ordeal.

Such a brave and lovely little chap didn't take long to find a new home. We are so pleased to report that he was adopted by a caring family in January and we hope that he will now live a long and healthy life with them, enjoying doing all the things such a young, brave cat deserves to be able to do. Hunter truly is a hero.

If you would like to support our branch to help other cats like Hunter, who come into our care, then please donate at: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/CPLeaValley-HunterAppeal.

As you well know, our branch is run solely by volunteers, so all donations go directly to help the cats and kittens just like Hunter who end up in our care.

so he was rushed back to the vet. Another scan revealed that he had another blockage caused from the scarring from the first operation. He was operated on a second time and had a further section of his intestine removed. He spent a further five days in hospital before coming home again with the same regime of a restricted diet and more medication.

By the middle of December, two and-a-half weeks after his second operation, he was well and lively. He was eating, drinking and, quite importantly, toileting as he should be. The vet said that to have such a complication following the first operation was extremely rare.

The vets at Medivet in Enfield were wonderful, working with Hunter during this life-threatening,



Hunter ready and waiting to go to his new home.

Where Does The Money Go?

Moonlight, Moonstone and Opal enjoying the good life!



The story of Hunter on the front page is a clear example of where the money goes. Another, is the story of these three beautiful cats that came to us as kittens with their mum, Emerald, last year. They all seemed well and went off to the vet for their vaccinations but, soon after, became very ill with parvo virus, a serious, sometimes life-threatening condition that required intensive medical care from the good vets at Medivet.

We nearly lost all three of them but, thankfully, they recovered. The treatment for the three cats obviously cost the branch an awful lot of money and I would like to show our Friends and volunteers yet another good example of how some of the money that they donate or raise is spent - and how very worthwhile the end results can be. Not all cats are this lucky.

After they were fully-recovered from their illness, a lovely family adopted all three of the cats (named Moonlight, Moonstone and Opal) and we receive regular updates of their progress. This picture is stunning and shows the three cats enjoying life in very comfortable surroundings.

Pat Frankland

P.S. Mum Emerald and her other daughter Amber are now sponsored cats. See page 5 for how to sponsor a cat.

2016 in Numbers

Lea Valley's wonderful volunteers achieved the following in 2016:

233 cats and kittens cared for

192 cats and kittens homed

176 cats and kittens neutered and microchipped

65 feral cats treated

57 ferals neutered

2 cats reunited with their owners

Cats Protection will never put a healthy cat to sleep. Sadly, on veterinary advice, we put three cats to sleep in 2016. It is always a difficult decision, but we have to think of what is in the best interest of each cat in difficult circumstances.

In May 2016, the Branch homed its 1,000th cat since 2010.



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Co-ordinator's Message

Welcome to our first Newsletter in 2017. Firstly, let me say what a good year we had in 2016. We continued the great work with cats and kittens as you can see from the figures on page 3. Secondly, what a good year we had in our shop, as the article on page 6 explains. All this success has been achieved through our wonderful volunteers. Where would we and, especially, the cats be without them?

February 28 was 'World Spay Day'. This may have passed you by, but the message is clear: be kind to your cat and have it spayed. 1 March was the first day of the meteorological spring. 20 March is the first day of the astronomical spring. Whichever start of spring you prefer, one thing is certain, as Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote: "*In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love*". The same is true for cats. So please, if you know of people with an un-neutered cat, please ask them to look at our website or call our Helpline for advice and, if they are unable to pay for the op, there is the possibility of the Branch being able to pay some or all of the cost.

This year we want to build on the work that we do – and you could help us. We are always on the look-out for people to foster cats whilst in our care, trap feral cats and kittens, provide somewhere for feral cats to be relocated, work in our shop, even to edit and produce our newsletters. All you need to do is (a) have some spare time and (b) want to work with like-minded people to care for cats in need and (c) call 0333 567 4746, register your interest and ask for a volunteer to call you back to talk about how you might volunteer with us. Alternatively, simply email cpleavalley@live.co.uk and tell us what you are interested in doing.

As always, many thanks for your continuing support.

Bernie Till

Textgiving

We now have an easy way for our supporters to help us to help cats in need: **Textgiving**. To make a one-off £3 donation, simply text "**CATS59**" to **70660** or a one-off £5 donation text "**KITTEN59**" to **70660**. Simple! You can GiftAid your donation too. Our thanks in advance for any donations you make in this way.

This is a charity donation service run by a third party for Cats Protection. Texts cost £3 plus network charge for the keyword CATS and £5 plus network charge for the keyword KITTEN. Cats Protection receives 100% of your donation. Obtain bill payer's permission. Customer Care Number 0800 917 2287.

For just £7 per year, you can be a Friend of the Branch. It's a small sum but a simple act of kindness towards cats in need. Please email cpleavalley@live.co.uk to request a standing order; complete the form and send it back to us. It's as simple as that.

Where Does The Money Go?

£85,000

In 2016 it cost almost **£85,000** to fund our work for cats. Our vet bills alone in 2016 amounted to nearly **£48,000**. All this money is raised through fees for adopting our cats and by volunteers working in our shop or at events throughout the year.



£1,000

Since we started promoting *EasyFundraising*, our supporters have raised over £1,000 – and this money is free! As the name implies, it is easy to use; simply visit, <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>, choose Cats Protection Lea Valley Branch as your charity and begin raising money at no cost or inconvenience. Each time that you shop with a vast number of retailers on-line, a small donation is made to us. As you can see, these soon add up to a significant sum. We only have 18 *EasyFundraising* supporters; imagine how much we could raise simply by doubling that number.



Just £4.00 per month brings a good chance of being one of the four lucky winners of £20 each month in our Lottery.

For details, call Kypros on: 01992 631556 or email: kyprosav.44@hotmail.com



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Booking is
essential for our
next

Quiz Night

at Elm Court,
Potters Bar, EN6
3BP on Saturday 22
April. £6 per
person. Max 10 per
table.

Please contact
Stephanie on 01707
657876 or email
stephanie.duffy1@btinternet.com

Sponsorship scheme.

Why not sponsor one
of the cats in our
scheme? Please call
Stephanie on: 01707
657876 or email:
stephanie.duffy1@btinternet.com who
will send you more
information.

Book now for our
next

Family Fortunes Night

at Elm Court,
Potters Bar, EN6
3BP on Saturday 17
June. £6 per
person. Please
Maureen on 0776
997 3724 or email
cpleavalley@live.com



Facebook



We now have nearly 600 'likes' for our Branch Facebook page: www.facebook.com/cpleavalley. Our recent post about the brave little kitten called Hunter (repeated on the front page of this edition) reached nearly 1,600 people. Our story about a government review of animal establishments recommending that anyone operating a business selling pets will require a license (see story below) reached 700 people. Please help us spread the word about the work that we and the national charity do by liking our page and sharing our information and postings.

Kitten Sales to be Regulated

Cats Protection has welcomed proposals for a change in the law on pet sales after more than 47,000 supporters backed its campaign to protect kittens sold by those more motivated by money than welfare.

The recommendations in a government review of animal establishments will mean that anyone operating a business selling pets will require a license – marking a major step forward in improving feline welfare. The proposals come just weeks after Cats Protection's *True Cost of Kittens* campaign.

Launched in October, the campaign highlighted the growing kitten market and call for change in the laws to protect cats and kittens. Since then, over 40,000 supporters have contacted their MP to ask for support – an average of 60 letters per MP – and more than 7,000 supporters sent postcards to the Minister at Defra calling for a change in the law.

Proposed changes in the recently-published government report will include licencing requirements for anyone selling pets as a business and an end to the sale of kittens under 8 weeks old.

Licensing requirements will also apply to 'animal activities' rather than individual establishments, making it much clearer that the online sale of kittens could be considered as a business activity requiring a license.

Cats Protection's Advocacy Manager, Jacqui Cuff, said the new recommendations are vital in addressing the issue of commercial kitten sales. "We launched our True Cost of Kittens campaign to call on the government to ban the sales of kittens under 8 weeks old and impose licensing conditions on those who breed and sell cats commercially." Jacqui added: "We are delighted that Cats Protection's Director of Veterinary Services, Dr Maggie Roberts, is on the expert group. It is hugely encouraging that the government has listened to our concerns. We will continue to work with the government on details of the proposal to maximise protection when kittens are sold commercially."



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Our Superstore's Best Year Yet!

I am very pleased to report that our little 'superstore' in Enfield had its best trading year since I started keeping records in 2009.

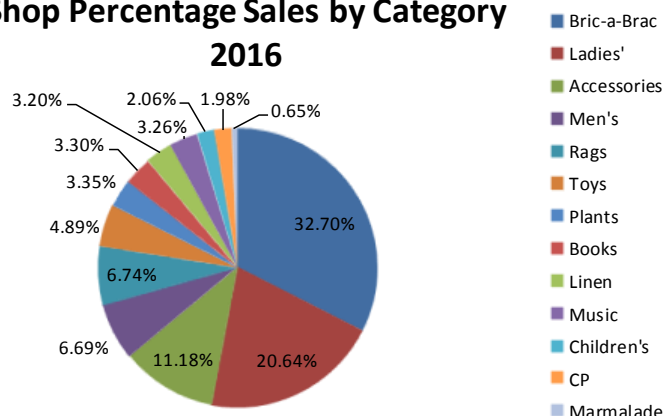
We have a long-time supporter and friend of the Branch to thank for having a shop. Carol Pavey who, for many years, was the Branch Fundraising Officer, fought for the Branch to open a shop in the late 1990's. Her dream came true when the first shop opened in Lancaster Road, Enfield. When the lease expired in 2006, it moved to its current location at 145 Chase Side, Enfield.

You will recall that the shop had a makeover in the late summer of 2015. This seems to have been a hit with our many regular and our new customers who are spending record amounts with us.

Takings in 2016 were nearly 15% up on 2015 and, fortunately, the upward trend seems to have continued into the early part of this year.

As the shop contributes so much to the financial well-being of our Branch (it pays for most of our

Shop Percentage Sales by Category 2016



annual veterinary bills), this is really good news.

As you will see in the chart, our shop sells a wide range of differing items. The largest selling category is bric-a-brac (33%) followed closely by ladies clothing and accessories which, together, account for 32% of our sales. Menswear, Toys, Plants (this value boosted by our annual Plant Sale at end-May/early-June), Books, Linen, DVDs/CDs and Children's clothes make up the bulk of the remainder. Special thanks, too, to one of our fosterers, Val Everett who, between looking after the cats and kittens in her care, makes very tasty, orange and lemon marmalade (my favourite is the lemon). Sales of this through the shop brought in £320. Another volunteer, Beryl Darton, makes Seville orange marmalade each spring: watch out for it in the shop soon! Marmalade is a real hit with many of our regulars who keep coming back for more.

As you can see in the chart, we also make money by selling clothing that we are unable to sell 'into the trade' (unkindly called 'rags'), so we really can make money on most donated items.

This success could not have been achieved without the hard work of our volunteers. The shop is entirely volunteer-run - we have no paid staff, resulting in all proceeds (after paying costs like rent, rates and utility bills) going directly into Branch funds to support the work that we do with cats locally. The team of volunteers is different every day but, whoever is there when you visit, they will make you most welcome.

So, if you haven't visited our shop yet, to buy a bargain or donate items, you really should - and if you like the look of it, why not consider volunteering? It is most interesting work and meeting and getting to know the regular customers is a bonus.

We'd love see you - come on in!

Bernie Till



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2017 Events Diary

Quiz Night:

22 April; 19.30 – 22.30; £6.00

Elm Court, Mutton Lane, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3BP

£6 per person includes entry to the Heads & Tails game with a chance to win £20 cash.

Maximum of 10 per table. Please bring your own food and drink.

Tea, coffee and biscuits provided during the interval.

Plenty of free parking at the venue.



Plant Sale At The Shop:

25 May or 3 June (to be confirmed); 10.00 – 15.00

145, Chase Side, Enfield, Middx EN2 0PN 3BP

Come early to avoid disappointment: the best plants sell out fast!



Potters Bar Carnival:

11 June; 13.00 – 16.00

Elm Court, Mutton Lane, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3BP

We shall have a stall as usual at this colourful, annual event.



Family Fortunes:

17 June; 19.30 – 22.30; £5.00

Elm Court, Mutton Lane, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3BP

A repeat of last year's successful and enjoyable evening.

£6 per person. Please bring your own food and drink.

Tea, coffee and biscuits provided during the interval.

Plenty of free parking at the venue.



RSPCA Family Fun Day:

16 July 12.00 – 16.00

South Ridge Animal Centre, Packhorse Lane, Ridge, Potters Bar EN6 3LZ

We shall have a stall at this entertaining day out for all animal-lovers. Come and support us and our RSPCA friends. Plenty of free parking at the venue.



Christmas Bazaar:

11 November; 11.00 – 13.00; 50p or cat food donation

The Undercroft, St Andrew's Church, Cuffley, Herts EN6 4DR

As usual, packed with great value Christmas gifts, cards and 2018 calendars.



Quiz Night:

18 November; 19.30 – 22.30; £6.00

Elm Court, Mutton Lane, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3BP

£6 per person includes entry to the Heads & Tails game with a chance to win £20 cash.

Maximum of 10 per table. Please bring your own food and drink.

Tea, coffee and biscuits provided during the interval.

Plenty of free parking at the venue.



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About the Branch

Branch activities cover the postcodes E4, EN1, EN2, EN3, EN4, EN6, EN7, EN8, EN9, N9, N18 and N21. Amongst other areas, our postcodes include Barnet, Cheshunt, Chingford, Cuffley, Edmonton, Enfield, Potters Bar, Waltham Abbey, Waltham Cross and Winchmore Hill.

The Branch has a very active group of volunteers that provides much-needed care and attention to cats in need, education and advice on neutering and cat welfare and, of course, fundraising to pay for all the cat care, vet bills, food and associated expenses. Branch activities are overseen by the Management Committee:

Pat Frankland; Adoption Team Leader

Roger Hales, Treasurer

Kay Moore, Secretary and Neutering Officer

Yvonne Rapley, Welfare Officer

Bernie Till, Co-ordinator

Maureen Till, Fundraising and Advertising Officer

Contact us:

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0333 567 4746

patricia4cats@gmail.com

Co-ordinator:

Bernie Till

07801 926 171

cpleavalley@live.co.uk

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Roger Hales

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Welfare Officer:

Yvonne Rapley

0333 567 4746

yvonne.rapley@hotmail.co.uk

Neighbouring Branches

All CP branches co-operate with one another, but operate within recognised areas. Lea Valley covers postcodes E4, EN1, EN2, EN3, EN4, EN6, EN7, EN8, EN9, N9, N18 and N21. If you know of cat care issues in surrounding areas, they should be addressed initially to the relevant local branch. The table below lists contact details for surrounding branches.

National branch coverage can be found through the main Cats Protection website at www.cats.org.uk/find-us

Neighbouring Branch / Adoption Centre	Telephone	Website
Basildon, Brentwood & District	01268 285778	www.bascats.org.uk
Harlow, Epping Forest & District	0333 200 1484	www.harlow.cats.org.uk
Hemel Hempstead & Berkhamsted Branch	0345 371 1851	www.dacorum.cats.org.uk
Hendon, Finchley & Mill Hill	020 8952 1350	www.hendon.cats.org.uk
North Hertfordshire	01438 228877	www.northherts.cats.org.uk
North London Adoption Centre	020 7272 6048	www.northlondon.cats.org.uk
St Albans & District	0345 371 2064	www.stalbans.cats.org.uk
Three Rivers & Watford	01923 283338	www.threerivers.cats.org.uk
Waltham Forest (Ferals Only)	0345 260 1681	www.cats.org.uk/waltham
Welwyn, Hatfield & District	0345 371 1855	www.welwynhatfield.cats.org.uk



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