



# Newsletter

Summer 2016



**Barnstaple & District Cats Protection**

**Registered Charity 203644**



## **Newsletter - Summer 2016**

Fostering doesn't stay quiet for very long and, sure enough, we have been full for the past couple of months with some 'difficult to home' cats, most of which are now fortunately settling into new homes. As ever, we have taken in some very poorly and abandoned kittens which always make a lot of work for the fosterers – Sue's babies, abandoned in a cardboard box in South Molton, will need good mothering from Sue as they don't have their 'real' mother to teach them all the things that well-brought up kittens need to know about washing and litter tray hygiene. As Vanessa has unfortunately been forced to give up fostering as a result of work and family pressures, we would like to find some new fosterers to share the workload – but we always need to find the 'right' person as it does require considerable commitment. We would all find running the branch easier with more volunteers as we seem to end up doing several jobs – the newsletter is a good example as first we have to put together the right amount of material and then SueC has to format it. When we are happy, it then needs to be printed as economically as possible (glossy, professionally produced newsletters cost money that we feel could be better spent on the cats) which involves finding someone happy to let us use a printer (last time Chris and I negotiated with a local primary school – I'm a Governor!) as it's too much work for our normal home-based printers, then stapling, putting in the envelopes (which all have to be addressed) and then stamped and posted to members. Even if you have opted to receive an email version, you may get this one in the post. Chris is trying to sort out the membership list which involves finding out who has moved and not informed us or changed their email address, so please let her have your details if they have changed.

Kay has now taken delivery of a van (brown tabby cat) and I was delighted this morning when my hairdresser said he had seen our vans about. It's certainly quite difficult to miss them and they do make life much easier – once, as Kay found out, you work out how to tether cat carriers in the back!

Lydia – Coordinator 01271 860787 - [Imshelton44@gmail.com](mailto:Imshelton44@gmail.com)

## Freddie

Many of our cat stories involve cooperation by several volunteers. Freddie's story started, as they usually do, with a telephone call about a stray cat who had been arriving regularly through the bedroom window and spending the day comfortably asleep on their bed. He was clearly intent on finding a home as he had tried a couple of their neighbours before. Although Peggy liked him, her dog-preferring husband wasn't enthusiastic and their daughter's dog was similarly unimpressed by 'Fido'. First stage is always to check for a micro-chip and as they lived just round a couple of corners from me, Sarah sent me to check. No chip, so he went on the waiting list until I could collect him and take him to a foster pen .

Lydia—Co-ordinator

I took in a pure white very large boy who had been straying for rather a long time in Yelland, I did the normal health check and he seemed in very good health especially as he had been straying for some time, he did not



have a micro chip so I did the normal message to all CP volunteers and one of our Fosterers remembered homing 2 pure white cats to a couple in Bishops Tawton a number of years ago, and she seemed to remember one of them going missing a year ago, she sent me her photo from when she fostered them, yes I said think he could be one of these, she (Kay) then contacted the owners and yes their cat had not returned, they sent me a photo and I was 99% certain it was their missing cat.

They came round to see him that day and yes it turned out it was their cat, he had be missing for 14 months!!! As it turned out the owner was our Electrician Rob Weatherley, so he knew most of our team anyway, his family were overjoyed with Freddie's return, as was Freddie's brother.

Chris Mason—Fosterer

## Abandoned kittens

In August we got a call from our Vets to say a litter of 4, 3 week old kittens had been found dumped in a cardboard box. The kittens were very weak and covered in some kind of gloopy liquid that had also got into their eyes, they were all very sore and red. The kittens weren't expected to survive but a veterinary nurse took them home with her and managed to feed them some kitten formula. Over the next few days they had eye drops administered twice daily and feeds every 3-4 hours. To everyone's relief they pulled through. I took the kittens at 4 weeks of age and continued where the veterinary nurse left off, by this stage they were being fed every 3-4 hours through the day but were ok to go from 10pm to 7.30 am without feeding.

The kittens are now 5 weeks old and are doing well. They have started eating some mashed up kitten meat and get extremely messy. I am no substitute for their Mum who would have washed them and taught them how to wash themselves.



MISTY



MARLEY



MAIZIE



MAX

But regular baths, which they hate, keep them relatively clean.  
Sue Carder - Fosterer.

## Our special 'thank you's':

- \* To the family of Ilse Speed who donated sums to animal charities in her name after her death;
- \* To all the lovely people who donated money for the operations and veterinary fees for our two kittens, Ella and Digger.
- \* A huge thanks to the very kind donor who wishes to remain anonymous, who purchased a new pen for us in memory of his late Wife.
- \* Thank you also to the businesses who have a collection box for us and the kind people who put money in them.



## Ella's story

It all started with Xena, a semi-feral kitten of approx 6 months who came into our care as she had fallen pregnant. Xena was very beautiful but not used to being touched so I had a mostly hands-off relationship with her.

She stayed in my foster pen for 3 weeks and then one morning when I went out to feed her and change her litter trays, she was not in her normal place but on the floor under a purpose built hide, so I knew she was ready to give birth. However, straight away I could see 2



lifeless little bodies and when I lifted the hide, there was another at the other end of the hide and also one nuzzled into Xena.

I gently checked all the kittens, but sadly there was only one survivor and on closer inspection, I noticed that the surviving kitten was missing a back foot and half her tail. I quickly took them all to the vet where it was discovered that due to

Xena's young age and inexperience, she had accidentally chewed off one foot and half the tail whilst chewing through the umbilical cord.

Apart from this disastrous start, Xena turned out to be an excellent and very doting mum. I had to regularly check the kitten's wounds for infection and sure enough, the leg became infected after about a week. Ella was then put on anti-biotics – as she was so small, a very tiny amount had to be syringed into her mouth twice a day, and she hated it!



It was also a challenge trying to pick Ella up without being attacked by Xena so that I could give her the medicine. I did get nipped a few times when returning Ella to her mum but Xena was generally getting better with me by then anyway. With no rival littermates,

Ella got plenty of milk from her mum and very soon became a very healthy and plump little kitten. There was no problem finding her a home as the lady who brought Xena in had decided to adopt both mum and baby when Ella was old enough.

Ella began to thrive but we knew her leg would need to be amputated as she got older and planned to have it done at the same time she would be neutered at around 4-5 months of age. However, by the time she reached 7 weeks old, and her legs became stronger, although she held the leg off the floor for walking, she was using it for purchase to climb and as expected, the stump soon got worn through to the bone and the vet recommended amputation immediately.

Ella had her operation the next day and was happily running around on 3 legs later that evening. Since she has been homed with her mother, Ella's new owner reports that she tears around the house like any normal kitten and she actually gets to the food bowls quicker than her mum!

Kay Twine—Fosterer



The printing of this newsletter has very kindly been sponsored by Market vets.

## **Fundraising**

Hello everyone, the summer seems to be passing us by quite quickly this year with good spells and wet and windy spells.

Fundraising is a bit like that too with ups and downs all the time. In June we had three very successful days at Pets at Home where we had our tombola and Kay brought a lot of home grown plants to sell which are always popular. We joined in again with the Dogs Trust in July, again having cupcakes made by Lydia and plants supplied by Kay, goods to sell and our trusty tombola. We had a lot of dog related prizes that day!

In between times we have had another Bingo session at Fremington, collections at various Tesco's and a table top sale in Braunton. We have been donated some wonderful DVD's and managed to sell them all.

Looking forward we have a collection in September at Tesco, Braunton and also Tesco, Rose Lane.

We have been asked to join in with The Voice radio on Saturday, 17th September who are having some stalls at their new premises at Belle Meadow.

On Friday 14th October we are again having a table in Barnstaple Pannier Market, please do pop in and say hello, we would love to see you.

A collection at Sainsbury's, South Molton on the 20th October and then we will be thinking about Christmas.

We now have our ever popular calendars, cards and diaries for 2017 which will soon be available to buy from Creature Comforts in Joy Street who very kindly offer to sell them for us every year. If you would like to reserve a calendar or diary please let me know.

Many thanks to those people who donate items for us to sell but most of all to our volunteers who donate their time to help us raise money to help cats in our area whether it be by selling goods on eBay, having a stall or selling raffle tickets.

Sue

email...[suecross235@icloud.com](mailto:suecross235@icloud.com)

phone...01271 379183



## **Barnstaple & District Branch**

Membership application form

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**Do you qualify as a UK taxpayer, for gift aid? Please tick the box ☐**

**to enable us to treat all donations in the last 4 years and any future donations until further notice, as gift aid.**

I would like to receive my newsletter by post .....Email.....  
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Mrs Chris Mason

2 Campion Drive

Barnstaple

Devon

EX32 8RB

