

Cat Chat

Harlow, Epping Forest & District

December 2016/January 2017



Dear Supporters

By the time you read this, Bob the Street Cat will have hit the big screen, so cue lots of adoption requests for ginger cats. With luck they won't be dumped on rescues when the novelty wears off. We have had *unprecedented* interest in a litter of 6 stray ginger kittens - all now reserved - that came from an enclave of ginger feral cats in Roydon Hamlet. We worked with RSPCA Stort Valley and The Scratching Post on this colony.

(By the way, if you are interested in why the majority of ginger cats are male, and almost all tortie cats are female, see <http://messybeast.com/quickfacts.htm>.)

We have a few more stories on the ginger theme to illustrate our recent work. We are keeping a close eye on the welfare of an old boy in poor health previously reported to us as a stray but reclaimed by his owner who is now, with our encouragement, looking after him properly. We have also taken in Gizmo, a cat who was being fed by one of our supporters after having been abandoned when his owners moved away; he will go to his new home in a few days. Fosterer Carolyn will adopt her charge Thomas, an affectionate elderly ginger stray with a few (manageable) health problems who was handed in at the vets and whose days were probably numbered had we not intervened.

As a result of taking in some sad cases, we have been hit with big vet bills, so any financial contribution towards these is welcome. An update on Amy's case, that you might have been following in past issues, is below.

We wish you and your four-footed friends a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year and thank you for your support during the past year.

Sue Harris
Coordinator

Paws for thought

Some people talk to animals. Not many listen. That's the problem.

A.A. Milne as Winnie the Pooh



Friday, 16 December

FOR YOUR DIARY

Collection at Tesco, Church Langley Store



FUNDRAISING

After many years of having a Christmas stall outside Wilkinson's store, Harvey Centre, Harlow Town Centre, this year we have not been granted permission. The Harvey Centre is privately owned and Harlow Council can no longer give licensing permission to land that is not theirs. The Harvey Centre Management were not willing to permit our stall.

However, on a positive note we recently had bucket collections outside Asda, Harlow and Budgen's in Sawbridgeworth which helped raise over £300 of much needed funds for our cats.



Boot Sales : Boot sales have ended for this year and will start again in the Spring (weather permitting, of course).

As many of you know, Frank Lester got up at 'the crack of dawn' on Sundays and worked tirelessly raising money for Harlow, Epping Forest & District Branch through boot selling. Frank and Carole retired in January, and while Carole is still very much involved with us, volunteering whenever she can, they no longer carry out boot sales. Some people are still leaving goods for sale and bric-a-brac at their property in Coopersale, but as they do not have a dedicated storage area now, they can no longer accept these.

We now have a new supporter and volunteer, Mrs. Susan Eggleton, who will be hoping to sell donated goods at local boot sales during the summer months. We are, however, unable to take goods prior to or during the Christmas and New Year period. If you have anything to donate, please either contact me at Jackie.horrigan@virginmedia.com, T: 07914 819474, or Sue Harris at Catsharlow@dsl.pipex.com, T: 07715 452734.



Upcoming Events : We are looking for volunteers for our forthcoming collection at Tesco, Church Langley Store on Friday, 16 December. If you can help, even for an hour, please let me know.

I would like to say a huge thank you for all my team of wonderful volunteers who have raised funds in all kinds of weather over the past year, and wish them a very Merry Christmas.

Jackie Horrigan
Fundraising Officer



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING



You can order your Cats Protection calendars and diaries, Christmas cards and gift wrap direct from <http://www.cpchristmasshop.co.uk/> or call 01268 888215.

For other Christmas and general gifts, you can request a catalogue from 0844 324 8523 or go to <http://www.catsprotectionshop.co.uk/>.

For other ways to support CP while shopping for humans or pets, see <http://www.cats.org.uk/get-involved/shop/shop-with-our-partners>.

**Kitten
Calendar
2017**



PEPSI'S PROGRESS

It's late October. I am in my usual hidey hole in Kathy's wardrobe. It's cold outside so I decide I shall stay here, at least until I am required to make my next dash outside, for reasons we needn't go into here. Anyway,



having made this decision, I am slightly annoyed when Kathy pops her head round the door and wakes me up. And guess what she is holding - that camera! Oh dear - looks like it's Cat Chat time again.

But no, Kathy is on a different mission this time. "Hello Pepsi" she says. "It's time to make our Christmas card." Christmas card? In October? Now, I have come to realise that it really is no good protesting when Kathy is on a mission. It is better to grin and bear it - well bear it anyway - I'm not very good at grinning, not being a Cheshire Cat.

So I sit quietly while she wraps the tinsel around my collar, and I dutifully suffer the indignation of sitting in front of a random selection of old Christmas stuff she has found in the loft. When she says "watch the birdie" I don't really know which way to look as it seems to me I am surrounded by birdies. Anyway, I decide to look straight into the camera, with what I would describe as an air of long-suffering, and hope for the best.

She's let me go back into the wardrobe now at last. Please don't give Kathy any ideas about making a Pepsi Calendar!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS everyone.

Pepsi

True cost of kittens

Join our campaign to protect kittens bred for sale




Help change the law to prevent the sale of sick and underage kittens

Cats Protection is calling for:

- the prohibition of sales of kittens under eight weeks old
- the closure of legal loopholes that allow repeat commercial breeding for sale from the family cat or cats
- a clear definition of commercial pet sales to protect the welfare of cats and kittens

To help, visit <http://www.cats.org.uk/news/join-our-campaign-to-protect-kittens-bred-for-sale> or if you have no internet access contact Sue Harris for a postcard to send to your MP or the Minister.

We were pleased to learn that Mark Prisk, MP for Hertford and Stortford, is supporting this.

SOME CATS WE HAVE HELPED.....

Update on Amy and her kittens (fostered by Lissa) :

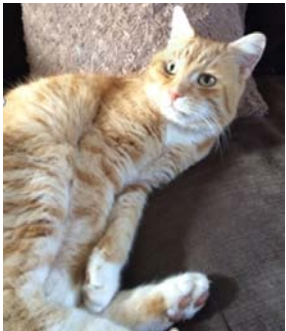
Pipsqueak went to his new home in October, leaving Amy (on the left) and daughter Rolo, who have grown very close. We are pleased to say they have now been reserved and will hopefully be settled together in their new home by the time you read this.

Amy saw the specialist at the Animal Health Trust in Newmarket and, given his verdict on the state of her left eye, it was decided that her quality of life would be much improved if it were removed, saving her from possible pain and the stress of thrice-daily eye drops. She has adapted brilliantly with one eye and is happier.

She will still need her daily drops in the other eye, and it kept under observation, but we know she now has a bright future.

Lissa, their fosterer, has done so much for Amy and will be sorry to see them both go, but glad to get her spare room back, no doubt, and comforted by Amy's prospects.

If you would like to contribute to Amy's vet bills, please see www.cats.org.uk/harlow/support-us or send a cheque payable to Cats Protection, or contact Jackie Horrigan or Sue Harris for account details.



Gizmo (fostered by Anne-Marie and Simon) : Gizmo had been fed by one of our supporters and had been hanging around for a while. It was believed that his owners had moved away and left him to fend for himself. Gizmo has now been reserved, and once he has recovered from his dental op will be off to his new home. He's a friendly boy, but his new owners have been warned not to be tempted to tickle that ginger tum, as he doesn't like it...

Snowdon (fostered by Peter) : This handsome lad has also now found a new home. He was found under a bush with a bad foot, now mended. He is a quiet, dignified chap who loves fuss and cuddles almost as much as his food.



....AND SOME OF OUR OTHER CATS



Pumpkin (fostered by Sarah) : Another stray handed into the vets in North Weald around Hallowe'en time (hence the name) - we don't expect this cutie-pie to be with us for long. She's not much more than a year old. Who could leave her out in the cold?

....AND SOME OF OUR OTHER CATS (Cont'd)



Thomas (fostered by Carolyn) : Thomas is an elderly stray who was handed in at the vets in Bishop's Stortford. No one claimed him so we took him on. He proved to have a few problems with his kidneys but his test results have improved with some rehydration and flushing through at the vets and a special diet. He is a lovely friendly cat and Carolyn hopes to adopt him herself, as he's probably not such an attractive option to an adopter as a younger, fitter cat.

Sue Harris

THE STABLE CAT

When Christ was born in Bethlehem
So many years ago,
Ox and ass and gentle lambs
Watched there by lantern's glow.

The stable cat would surely be
Crouched curious and shy
Adding her contented purr
To that strange lullaby.

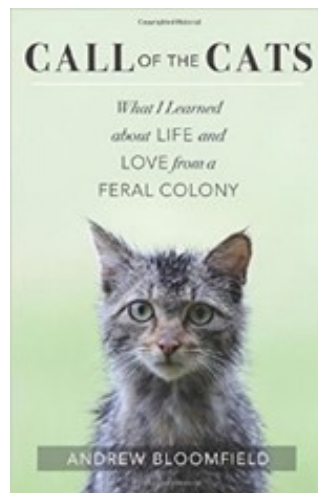
Kits close huddled by her side
Half-hidden in the hay
The stable warmed by mother love
On that first Christmas Day.

Would that love could overflow
So that, on Christmas morn,
All lonely cats could have a home
And none be left forlorn.

But till that happy day, dear friends,
Our plea we hope you'll heed,
Please send a gift that we may give
A hand, to cats in need.

W Girt

BOOK REVIEW



Call of the cats: what I learnt about life and love from a feral colony
by Andrew Bloomfield.

New World Library, Oct 2016. ISBN 978-1608683987

When aspiring screenwriter Andrew Bloomfield moved into a bungalow in Southern California, he soon discovered that he shared the property with a large colony of feral

cats - untamed, uninterested in human touch, not purring pets in waiting.

But after a midnight attack by predators that decimated yet another litter of kittens, Bloomfield decided to intervene. He began to name and nurse, feed and house, rescue and neuter.

Drawing on his time living in Asia among spiritual teachers, he takes us on the contemplative, humorous, and poignant journey of saving these cats, only to find it was they who saved him by revealing a world of meaning beyond his unrealised Hollywood dreams.

NOTICEBOARD

Deadline for the next issue is 10 January. Articles etc by post or e-mail to Denise Williams (see below).

Please support the Cats Protection Lottery



Tel: 01628 825928, or direct from Branch website: <http://www.cats.org.uk/harlow/support-us/weekly-lottery/>

If you shop online....



Give as you Live®

...register to support Cats Protection Harlow, Epping Forest & District Branch at www.giveasyoulive.com/join/catsprotectionharlow

If you have any unwanted Christmas gifts, collectibles, jewellery, toys, scarves, shawls, bags, cat goods, china/glassware that we can offer for sale, please contact Jackie Horrigan on 07914 819474.

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