

# Cat Chat

Harlow, Epping Forest & District

April/May 2017



Dear Supporters

By the time you read this we will have had our Quiz Night which I am sure will have been a massive success, due of course to all who came along but especially to Jackie and Peter who were the masterminds behind it all. We are also grateful to the businesses who gave generously to the raffle. More next issue!

From last time you may remember Charlie, the FIV+ve black and white cat. We are pleased to say that has found a loving home and we have agreed to meet the vet costs relating to any ongoing mouth problems. Charlie was a Brockles Mead foundling, an area which seems to be a hotspot for unwanted and stray cats. We are therefore having a Neutering Drive there until the end of March. This is in addition to our normal support for neutering for people of limited means.

Also, we are looking for another **Fosterer**, for logistical reasons preferably in Harlow, Epping or Bishop's Stortford.

And finally, some of our foster cabins could do with a bit of preventive maintenance with a lick of Ronseal (other wood preservative coatings are available!). Any **willing handypersons** out there should contact me in the first instance (see Contacts on back page).

*Sue Harris  
Coordinator*

## HOMES WANTED FOR OUR LONG STAYERS

Sadly two of our longer term residents, Sasha and Frodo, were (separately) both homed but came back to us shortly afterwards through no fault of their own.

They are both super cats and friendly but, as you can see from her photograph, Sasha does have a bit of an issue with her weight, and Frodo is older, black and long-haired, all factors that can deter people, so please put the word out for them.



*Sue Harris*

## FOR YOUR DIARY

- ☛ Sunday, 21 May
- ☛ Sunday, 2 July

Tesco store collection, Edinburgh Way, Harlow  
Epping Town Show

# FUNDRAISING

Hi Everyone

The sun is shining, the bulbs have their little heads up and I am loving the fact that Spring appears to be here at last.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who gave up their time on 26 February for our first store collection of the year. Tesco very kindly awarded us a slot at their Bishops Park store, Bishops Stortford and we raised £176.00 on the day.



## Pets at Home Weekend, 11-12 March

This is part of the national promotional weekend that Pets at Home/Support Adoption For Pets do with Cats Protection and if we attend the store we get the money raised through their "round-to-a-pound" and the like. We are partnered with both the Stortford and Harlow stores and this time had a stall at the Stortford store, which wasn't massively busy, but hopefully we will get a nice fat cheque in a few months' time!

## Summer Boot Sales

Once the boot sale season starts (usually around beginning of May), we are hoping to resurrect these. However, we still have very limited storage facilities at present, so may I ask that you hold on to any items you would like to donate until Susan Eggleton (who has kindly volunteered to be our boot seller) is available to begin sales.



**Jackie Horrigan**  
Fundraising Officer

# NATASHA 'UNDER OBSERVATION'

"I felt ill, off my food. Mum hooked me down from my cushion atop the wardrobe, shoved me in a box (such indignity!) and took me to the Vet. My mouth looked sore, Gingivitis they called it, though why a cat my colour should have ginger vitals I don't know. OUCH! Antibiotics and home.

Two days I sat hunched and miserable, while winter weather closed in. A neighbour drove us back to the Vet through dusk, gale and hailstones pounding the car. Mum called him a saint.



This time I was kept in 'Under Observation'. Blood test, X-ray. I couldn't eat or use my litter. Urinary infection was diagnosed. More jabs. Now everything hinged on what I might deposit in my litter tray. The Vets Practice, Mum and her friends waited. At last I was able to oblige and the news was passed round: 'Natasha has peed!'. After two nights the Vet drove me home through the snow. I am indeed a lucky black cat to have so many people caring about me."

**Natasha from Orkney**  
(with just a little help  
from Verity Poole)





# SOME CATS WE HAVE CARED FOR

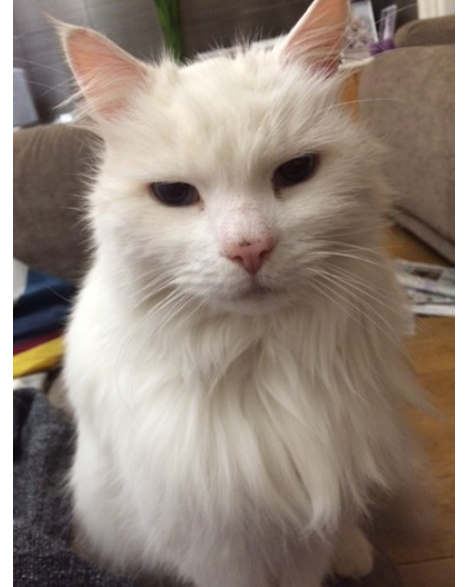


## Tilly - fostered by Peter

This stunning girl came into our care when her owner passed away. She's under a year old and is a real sweetie. She seemed to have problems with her eyesight and a visit to the eye specialist confirmed that she has cataracts, probably congenital, so she has only peripheral vision. The good news is that the condition is stable and causes her no distress. She manages well, but needs a secure, quiet home.

## Oscar - fostered by Anne-Marie and Simon

As his former owner said, "Oscar is very pretty for a boy", and who would disagree? He came into our care due to the changed family circumstances of his owner, and Anne-Marie and Simon who were fostering fell for him and decided to take him on when he proved to get on OK with their other cats. He's a gent of more mature years and many adopters want young cats, so he has definitely fallen on his four paws.

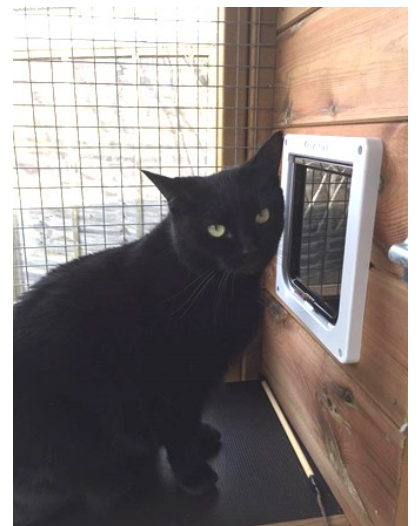


## TC - fostered by Sarah

Jess, renamed TC, had a nasty lump on his leg when he came to us but it was soon fixed by our friends at North Weald vets. He had been banished to the garden by his former owner who resented his presence as she claimed he had caused her to fall. A friendly boy, he was quickly homed once his leg was better.

## Pippa - fostered by Lissa

Lissa is in danger of becoming our Black Cat specialist! The story is somewhat confused, but it seems that after a relationship break up Pippa was left behind at the house where the new occupants couldn't or wouldn't care for her. Pippa is a sweet girl but really does not like other cats so has to be The Only Cat in the house.



Cont'd on page 5

## SOME CATS WE HAVE CARED FOR (Cont'd)



### Pepper and Lola – fostered by Carolyn

More victims of bereavement, this sweet, gentle mother-and-daughter pair now have a home lined up. Who could resist those appealing and sad looks? ...although they have grown in confidence while they have been with us.

Sue Harris

## BOOK REVIEW

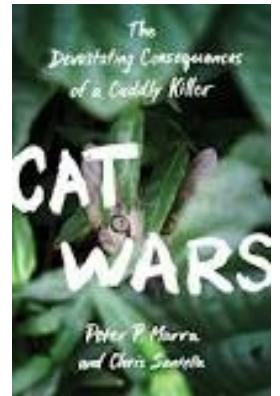
Princeton University Press, 2016. ISBN: 9780691167411; eBook ISBN: 9781400882878

The clue's in the title. I haven't read it, but the blurb says:

*Cat Wars* tells the story of the threats free-ranging cats pose to biodiversity and public health throughout the world, and sheds new light on the controversies surrounding the management of the explosion of these cat populations.

Inevitably this book bolsters the anti-cat lobby's position and invites accusations of being "junk science" from many pro-cat people. I am not in a position to decry the studies quoted, although the authors may be cherry-picking the evidence, but it is American and I would make these comments on it from a UK perspective:

- Certainly, introduced predators of all kinds can decimate native populations on restricted habitats like islands or in specialised habitats with rare species.
- In the UK, whilst cats undoubtedly kill birds, this, according to the RSPB, appears insignificant on a population level with the main threat being habitat loss or degradation and the use of agricultural chemicals – see <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/community-and-advice/garden-advice/unwantedvisitors/cats/birddeclines.aspx>
- In the UK, rabies is not an issue.
- Toxoplasmosis ....studies show that cat owners are statistically no more likely to contract it than non-cat owners and it is more likely to come from handling raw meat than contact with cats.
- Avian flu (yes – spread by birds) is a much more serious threat to people than toxoplasmosis.
- Cat ownership has huge benefits for people, and cats benefit from an outdoor life.
- We are all for the humane (by neutering) control of feral cat populations on (human and animal) welfare grounds, but slaughter is not the answer.
- By far the biggest threat to biodiversity and public health is people – a crass statement, but true.



Sue Harris

# NOTICEBOARD

Deadline for the next issue is 10 May. 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](http://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/catsprotectionharlow)

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

# BRANCH CONTACTS

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