

PAWS for THOUGHT



Newsletter Of The Cat & Rabbit Rescue Centre Sidlesham.

(Registered Charity Number 1010000)

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February, 2014.

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Welcome to the first Paws for Thought for 2014. Sadly this year is tinged with the very sad death in January of Alexandra Bastedo, CRRC's President. She was so active, helping us, as well running her own sanctuary (www.abcanimalsanctuary.co.uk), and she will be so terribly missed. Please support Alex's charity, they need all the help they can get.

2013 was a very good year for rehoming and we rehomed **847** animals. Further details later in this Newsletter. To improve rehoming was one of 2013's targets and I must thank **Pamela Fitzsimons, Rosemary Dyson, Laura Brunton, Naomi Heard, and Sue Elkington, & many others** who have been responsible for highlighting the importance of contacting us if they want a pet, through local magazines, and in vets. Numerous other people have been involved, but the outstanding star has been **Giggles**, she has been telling everyone about CRRC, she was very dubious about it at first, but with a little persuasion from Pamela Fitzsimons, she has become a household name locally. People asking me what she is going to write about next. Pamela is her personal assistant, and ensuring all the info she gets from Giggles gets put in the papers and magazines accurately.



Even Mr Meldrew would struggle to believe this.

In October I received this email from 'a human' (I use the term very loosely) and couldn't believe this sort of person is in business. I hope she treats her customers better, poor little cat!

Hello,

We are aiming to get rid of our cat as we just don't have enough time for it due to increasing workloads.

It is not an unpleasant cat in the slightest.

Is there any way you can help?

Kind Regards,

I emailed her back to ring, but sadly she did not.

Pat O'Leary.

Many people involved with this Charity will remember **Pat**, who sadly passed away in December. She helped in the East Wittering Shop, helped at events, collected animals for us, in fact most everything we asked her. Considering she was disabled she always gave her utmost to help. We will miss you.

A large black cat comes to our rescue!

In November, just before 4 days of fund raising our animal ambulance broke down! We also had furniture deliveries and collections, and of course our usual animal work. So had to move fast and contacted Panther Van Hire in Chichester, and they came to our rescue for all the events, which was amazing. I cannot thank Nick and Di Gordon enough for donating this van for us to use, while we waited to get another one.



01243 778109

The Centre's vet facility.

CRRC is very fortunate to have our own vet facility, so practically all operations, checks can be done on site, this is not only nicer for the animals, but is very cost effective. We have also been able to help students at veterinary school with their training. At least 3 of these students have got veterinary positions, after qualifying, and have said their work here was invaluable. I would like to thank Mark, Mar, Sandra, and Jane who all helped these students. A special thank you goes to Marianne, our veterinary nurse, who has to 'be nurse' to all these extra people, but she does a grand job.

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Funds – where do they come from?

Everywhere, is the answer. Our shops bring in superb amounts, we apply to trusts and local councils, and **The Stella Symons Charitable Trust** kindly

gave us **£250** **The Walker 597 Trust** gave us **£200**, **Ms Rickards Cat Charity** **£480**. **Aldwick Parish Council** gave us **£50**, **Bersted Parish Council** **£100** Individuals (some detailed further into the PFT)

Jon Scott, a fantastic singer organized an event at **The Waverly** in Bognor and raised **£50**. **Nichollette** and **David** from **Rowans Caravan Park**, near Bognor Regis, ran and organized lots of collections and events for us, while they were running the site, and I cannot thank them enough. I must admit I had never been there before, but what a superb and beautifully kept site. **Rabbit Welfare Fund** gave us **£343.52**. **Westbourne animal feeds** continually help us with various donations and goodies

CRRC Christmas fayre - **£4189.37**. **Stansted Christmas fayre** **£788.70**.

Russells Garden Centre allowed us to have a table at their new animal feeds area, and we raised over **£30**, but also, and just as important, awareness of our existence. My thanks go to **Pamela Fitzsimons**. **Hayling Island Fayres** – this small group of people have been running these events for us and last year raised **£1,657**. Thank you so much. **Petersfield table top fayre** **£82**.

The Christmas Fayres were a great success, and I cannot thank the people involved enough, and of course the people who bought our goods. These fayres would not have been so successful, if it hadn't been for the fantastic donations from **Keydell Nurseries** in Horndean.

Events

What	Where	When	comments
Hayling Island Sprint Fayre	South Hayling United Reformed Church	Sat 10 th May 10-1200	help needed
CRRC AGM	CRRC Holborow Lodge, Sidlesham	Saturday 5 th April 3pm	
Stansted Garden Show	Stansted House Rowlands Castle	Fri, Sat & Sun 6 th , 7 th & 8 th June	help needed
Street Collections	Chichester	Sat. 26 th July	lots of help needed
Hotham Park Country Fair	Hotham Park Bognor	Sat & Sun 2 nd & 3 rd August	help needed
CRRC Open Day & Fete	CRRC Holborow Lodge, Sidlesham	Sunday 10 th August 11 -4pm	help needed
Pagham on Parade	Pagham	Sun 17 th August	help needed

Southdowns Folk Festival	Hotham Park Bognor	Sat & Sun 27 th & 28 th Sept	help needed
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More events are springing up all the time, and we try to do what we can, so if you can help with any of the above events or are willing to help at other events that are in your area, please let me know. Monique

Christmas at The Centre.

Each Christmas **Nigel** and **I** try to give the staff the day off, and a few years ago, we would do all the cleaning and feeding on that day, but now the Centre is far too big, so for last few years we have called on our wonderful volunteers, and again this year they came up trumps. It took a lot of organizing, but the following people came and cleaned and fed, when they could have been having a happy day off in front of the telly!

So a great big thank you to **Sue J, Cathy S, Simon S, Val P, Natasha vD, Maria vD, Tracey N, John B, Shona N, Karen N, Richard M, Michelle W, Sean H, Georgette W, Pam J, Maureen H, Celia G, Wendy M, Mark S and family**

Hope to see you again this year?

2013 Statistics.

In 2013 we were asked to take in **1907** animals compared with **1756** in 2012 and actually took in **970** compared with **832** in 2012. In 2013 we rehomed **847** animals (**385** cats, **338** kittens, **84** rabbits and **55** guinea pigs). We are extremely pleased with our improvement on the rehoming numbers, just got to get the numbers of unwanted down!

Neuter voucher scheme.

For over 15 years we have been running a scheme to help with cost of neutering cats and rabbits, in an attempt to lessen the number of unwanted and stray animals. To encourage more people to get their pets neutered, last year we made spaying a cat only **£10**, but we have to pick up the rest of the bill, and this can be quite significant, and the cost in 2012 was **£3,573**, and last year it as **£7148**, but we know this is only going to help the situation.....but....we are still getting people who apply for a voucher, and then do not use it, so it is a waste of our time, and of course money sending it out, so we will probably start asking people to pay on a debit card the initial payment.

Shop stats.

Our shops still continue to bring in funds and also promote the Centre, and last year's figures were impressive. Selsey **£41,450.58**, Bognor **£58,246.26**,

East Wittering £91,576.49. Total expenses are less than £35,000, So our shops brought in over £156,000 so everyone involved in running them, donating goods to them and purchasing from them, give yourselves a huge pat on the back

Gift aid.

Many charity shops are able to claim gift aid back from any goods sold in their charity shop if the donator is a tax payer. We have now introduced this is the Selsey shop, and this hopefully will make some more money.

The Tech Rescue Unit, West Sussex comes to Katrina's aid.

At The Centre we have around 30 cats that run free, and live in various parts of the grounds, the barn, greenhouse or **Fred's Room**, part of our lovely garden room. Periodically we catch them up (no mean feat), and they have their feline MOTs with the vet to ensure they have no teeth problems, etc. Unfortunately while trying to catch one of our ferals, she got into **Viv Eadon Lodge**, promptly climbed on top of the pens, and found a hole between the wall cavity. No worries, if she got down there she can get out, cats can climb, and give it until the next day and she would be out, but not **Katrina** (also known as **Moo Maa Bear!!**, although she has been given a few other names recently!!). 2 days passed and no sign, perhaps she had found a way out, but nowhere could she be found.

With some help from **RSPCA Mount Noddy**, 2 charming men **Anthony Walker** and **Joe Sacco** from **The Technical Rescue West Sussex** arrived. After more than an hour, it was not certain if puss-cat was down the hole, but dogged determination of these lovely men meant we found Katrina, and she was safe and well, which is more than I can say for the wall that had to have a hole made in it! Anyway **Nigel** managed to grab her, and she was safe. A few days later Nigel and Roger bricked up the wall again!!

Feral night sleep out.

I really cannot thank everyone enough this novel idea to raise money, it started off as a little idea of **Claire's**, (Centre's Liaison Officer) to raise money for a door on the barn so it was not so cold. Claire seemed to think it would be nice to spend the night in the barn, in freezing January! Nearly all the **staff**, and **Pamela**, one of our volunteers, decided to get sponsors, ask businesses, fund raise in whatever way they could. They worked incredibly hard, living, breathing, and talking about nothing but Feral Night Sleep out, but I suspect some of it was to block out the thoughts of those huge spiders who also live in the barn!

The evening came, and all dressed up in some really mind blowing cat outfits, they went off to the **Spotted Cow Pub** in Hunston, and had a lovey meal, and a few drinks. The landlord also let them fund raise, and so a bit more money came in.

Earlier some beds had been put together in the barn, some amongst the hay, some in the animal pens. The cats looked on rather curiously at all these beds, and rather dismayed as people started to climb into them! After a short time, most went to sleep, although some snoring was to be heard, and a formal complaint has been put in by the cats!! Some staff had to work the next day, and they were rather tired, but it made them want to raise money for the barn door more than ever, and I am pleased to say **THEY DID IT!** Fund raising carried on afterwards and now funds are over **£3,000. WELL DONE ALL.**

“Thank you Claire” for the initial idea, and for everyone who did it, and donated towards it. **A special mention to Ava Kirby who in memory of her husband Dennis kindly donated £500 towards the barn door.**

Monique

Legacies.

As I say in most of our newsletters, these make such a difference to our funds, and it means we can take the Charity forward, and therefore help more animals, and people. We are in the process of converting one of the outbuildings to a Mother and Baby Unit (feline and bunny), and this we can do, due to a legacy from **Pat O’Leary** one of our longest serving volunteers who died in December last year. It will be named, as requested, in honour of her late Mother **Mary Hignett**, an actress who appeared in a lot of TV and films, but is best known as the housekeeper Edna Hall in the lovely TV series ‘All Creatures Great & Small’. Also as a part of Pat’s will, the royalties of this TV show when Mary Hignett is in it, also comes to us.

Update on Joe (KM37-12).

Hello to all at Cat & Rabbit,

He has settled in really well, sharing everything with my other black cat **Mistamia**. They play together all day, (I think that should say sleep, not play) having unlimited access to the house and garden through the cat flap 24/7, and both come home quickly when called.

Joe eats very well, but isn’t so fond of fish based cat food or “Dreamies”. He’s into everything and spends lots of time outside. His confidence has grown enormously since I first had him. He sleeps where he likes, frequently on my bed at my feet, and has grown to trust me, although he is still wary of being

picked up and won his battle NOT to go to the cattery while I was on holiday in November by the simple process of fighting like a mad thing and scratching my arms quite badly in several places when I tried to get him into the travel box.

I gave in, washed the blood off, and arranged for **Natasha** to call in twice a day to feed them both, and he seems to have forgiven me for being so stupid. He has turned out to be a good mouser, bringing presents home for me most days of the week, and as he is also quite vocal he doesn't hesitate to wake me and tell me what he's done, sometimes leaving the bodies in the bathroom to save me the bother of going downstairs to find them.

He's a happy soul, sleeping on the settee next to me while I watch television and he purrs loudly whenever he gets stroked, (which is a lot). He has a healthy dislike of strangers, so I don't worry when he clears the fence or wall to go for a walk. Neither of my cats are interested in using the cat flap I fitted in the back gate, the 6 foot high garden wall offers them a good view point before they go outside. He is a lovely cat, healthy, active, always hungry (apparently), although he never loses out at feeding time, quite happy to pinch stuff from Mistamia's bowl if he gets the chance, and he is now the larger of the two.

I'm really pleased I've got him, and I think he likes being here.

The enclosed picture show Joe on the cushion on the settee



My thanks to you for letting me have him, and I wish you all a merry Christmas.

Bill Symington

Another little poem

Recently I have included poems/sayings sent to me by our wonderful readers, and not always about cats or rabbits, and this one I received from **Norma** about 'little men and their guns'

O little man I wish I knew
What motivates someone like you
To take a life you cannot give
Deprive a soul the right to live

One little man, one great big gun
Combine to make a day of fun

But one small bird with no defence
Is hardly sport in any sense

But little men must prove their power
Watch their victim cringe and cower
Now hold your fire and contemplate
A rifle does not make you great.

I couldn't ask for anymore.

This lovely letter received in November of last year from **Mrs Neiken**. 17 ½ years ago I came to the Cat & Rabbit Rescue Centre and found my lovely **Poppie** and **Binkie**, who have been my friends all these years. Last year Binkie passed away and sadly this week my Poppie. I miss them so.....
Thank you for all the good work you do. Poppie had been diabetic for 11 years, but she coped very well.

Diabetic Tarley lands on his feet and other places!!

For a long time we boarded a lovely cat, who was diabetic, no problem having his injections, but then his owner had to go back to South Africa, and was unable to take him. We had got very fond of him, and so we took him in, knowing it he would not be easy to rehome. Things went well to start with as his insulin injection was stopped by the owner's vet, but then he started to get worse, tests done by our vet and a small amount of insulin as needed, he was up and down to our vet, having even more tests, and eventually he came back here, and settled well. But he had worked his charm again, and this time with **Debby** one of the vet nurses at our vets. She asked if she could adopt him, well he is on our Foster Care Scheme, and so off he went. Debby of course was well experienced in coping with any animal problems, and we could not ask for a better home. After a few weeks we asked Debby how he was settling, and she told us about the time she was sitting on the loo and **Tarley** thought, "now that is a nice lap for me to sit on!". I will leave you to imagine the consequences!!

The Difference between animals and people.

This is a very emotive subject, but I have always believed we know when the time is right, and we should not doubt ourselves, and perhaps this poem by **Susan A. Jackson** sums it up. Monique

MAY I GO.

May I go now?
Do you think the time is right?

May I say goodbye to pain filled days
And endless lonely nights?

I've lived my life and done my best,
An example tried to be.
So can I take that step beyond
And set my spirit free?

I didn't want to go at first,
I fought with all my might.
But something seems to draw me now
To a warm and loving light.

I want to go. I really do.
It's difficult to stay
But I will try as best I can
To live just one more day.

To give you time to care for me
And share your love fears.
I know you're sad and so afraid,
Because I see your tears.

I'll not be far, I promise that,
And hope you'll always know
That my spirit will be close to you
Wherever you may go.

Thank you so for loving me.
You know I love you too.
That's why it's hard to say goodbye
And end this life with you.

So hold me now just one more time
And let me hear you say,
Because you care so much for me,
You'll let me go today.

Wish list.

Charity bags/large bin bags, Loo rolls, Kitchen roll, Cotton wool, Shredded paper (MUST be A4 length, and NOT double cut please), Newspapers. also

desperately need, BOTTLES for our events wine, shampoo etc. Not only the Open Day for June events. Please ensure they are “in date”.

George – regular reporter for Paws for Thought

Dear Aunties (sorry all you male helpers!!)

I've had a lovely Christmas, lots of cuddles (I'm rather partial to them), lots of toys and goodies and lots of visitor just to see me! I've had quite a few adventures since I last wrote, I've new friends to see and new gardens to explore, I've even been as far away as the next street, but Mum told me off, but I still creep off there when she's out. There is a nice old gent who lives there, he is always watching me, I was frightened at first and then he found out my name, and when he calls, I go for a stroke, then he sends me home.

I don't like the wind, it blows my furry trousers, and the rain makes my undi-pants grubby – Mum has to clean me up as being a boy, I don't mind dirty socks but Mum's carpet gets grubby as well.

I was pleased to see that 60 pussy cats have got new homes recently. I'm sending you some more of my pocket money to help.

Sunday Times Article.

I have always thought it was a good idea for children to be brought up with pets, but this is providing the family want them, can care for them responsibly, and in the 19/1/14 edition was a very interesting article about how a cat helped an autistic boy. This is a synopsis of the article.

The parents of **Fraser Booth**, an autistic boy, were told he would never attend mainstream school. When he was three, via the local Cats Protection they adopted a cat called **Billy**. Previously things like getting his hair washed was very stressful for Fraser, but when Billy put his paws up against the bath to see what was happening, it calmed the lad down and it was no longer a problem. He loves listening to his purring, and Billy has helped Fraser at every milestone, and now he is going to attend mainstream school. The book is called '**When Fraser Met Billy**'; The Rescue Cat that transformed a Little Boy's Life'

A big “thank you” to **John Dyer**, one of our book volunteers, who always gives me interesting paper cuttings.

Our Wonderful local Vets.

Many of the local vets have supported us over the years, with collection boxes, fund raising events, selling our wonderful mice (knitters still needed, please send me an email for the pattern (info@crre.co.uk)). They also support our neuter scheme, our attempt to lessen the number of animals. Also **Down-**

land vets at Bognor have very kindly donated their retired vet table for our use.

Donated gift.

Dear Kind People,

Please find enclosed a cheque sent on behalf of my niece, **Ellie**, 15, who has said that she doesn't need any more pressies and has asked to donate the money I would have spent on her to various animal rescue centres, so we have decided on yours and other little known ones that don't get nationwide advertising. I know you can put it to good use. On behalf of Ellie and myself, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and thank you for all the amazing good work that you do.

With Love **Theresa Hollett.**

Dancing Donation.

We received a lovely donation of **£30** from the **Country Folk, Line Dance Club**, from the proceeds of the raffle. Thanks to **Margaret Heater** an avid dancer.

Thank you so much, and keeeeeeeep..... dancing.....!

Mother & Baby Unit.

Another year with over 300 kittens, despite our very cheap neutering scheme. Sadly we lost some due to the flu, as they were too young to vaccinate, so we came up with idea of changing one of our outbuildings to be a facility for pregnant cats, and mums and babies. We were very kindly invited to look at the Cats Protection one in Chelwood Gate, and although we cannot have it the same as theirs, we got some good ideas, and also they came down and gave us some very useful advice, and also problems they had come across.

We are hoping, against hope to have this done by May of this year, and have received a fantastic donation of £250 from **Lesley Harris** in memory of her brother **Julian Grimsey**

Thank you so much.

Giggles.

So many people know about **Giggles**, CRRC roving reporter, she writes articles for practically every local magazine (but if you know of one she is not in – let me know). She has helped improve the rehoming, and has become rather a celebrity. She has received donations (although it is made very clear she

must share them), letters and in November she received a postcard from Wattergate Bay, Newquay. She was well impressed.

Some people might not realize but Giggles is a real cat, living here at The Rescue Centre for many years, she mainly spends her time in the greenhouse, and wanders about in the grounds. She does not really mix with the other cats, but likes people. One day **Pamela**, an extremely hardworking volunteer was chatting to her, and Giggles was telling her about the goings on at CRRC, Pamela thought this might be of interest to others. And so it began.

Thanks Suzanne.

You might remember **Suzanne Handsford**, one of our fabulous shop volunteers, who with **Karen**, held the day record in the shop (until **Zola** and **Joan** beat them). Well Suzanne also raised **£108** from a raffle at the **Village Home** (Gosport) **Christmas Shopping Evening**, thank you Sue, and next time you and Karen are in the East Wittering shop, there is a record to be beaten!!

Sky- another regular writer.

Dear Friends

“I don’t believe it”, as Victor Meldrew would say. Another year has passed and Christmas is almost upon us. I really must get to the shops and finish off my shopping. I would send the ‘staff’ but they would get something quite inappropriate and I would then be faced with the task of taking them back to the shops. Must try this ‘online’ shopping: it seems to be the ‘in thing’ these days. Sadly, my friend and neighbour **Mulder** passed away during the summer. Like me, he was a rescue cat but did not enjoy good health in his latter days. Still, I do miss him. The dreadful **Jasper** who lives opposite really has got the message at last; not only has he stopped following me everywhere, but he now ignores me as he struts past. I think he has his eye on a burmese floozy who lives lower down the lane. Other than that, life is pretty good – plenty of food and warm comfy places to sleep. I can usually be found curled up on the foot of the ‘staff’ bed every morning!

I was taken to the Vet the other day for my annual MOT; as usual I succeeded in having a nervous ‘poop’ in the car which I then finished off in the consulting room!

To celebrate my fourth year on Hayling Island., I have asked the ‘staff’ (aka **Mr & Mrs Payne**) to enclose a donation to your funds with my love and best wishes.

Have a very happy and peaceful Christmas

Love **Sky** (aka **Skyla**)

Putting this Newsletter together is made much easier by our lovely supporters who write in and tell us all about their adopted animal. The animals are also very good at giving me an update on their lives, so I thank you all. I hope you enjoy reading them, as much as I enjoy receiving them.

Witches are wonderful.

We received a lovely donation of £40 from **Sid** (full name Obsidian), and in his letter he told me he had asked his Mum to collect some pennies at the **Wandering Witches Fayre** in Bedhampton, and he wanted the money to go towards some special food for his little friends at CRRC (especially the black ones)



Sid

"Rescuing one animal may not change the world, but for that animal their world is changed forever!" - Unknown

The Fantastic Body Shop people.

Back last year we had an amazing group of people who all work at The Body Shop, and they kindly did lots of clearing out of the greenhouse ready for the Christmas Fayre, and bear in mind this building is 2000 sq feet, they did a superb job, getting all the tables out for the fayre, decorations up, hutches piled outside, rubbish to the bonfire.

Thank you everyone, see you again this year?

The fabulous folks from Southern Electric.

Wow, did these lovely people work hard, they painted miles of fencing, helped in the preparation of the Open Day, and did everything we asked them.

From **Hector** (with a bit of help from **Mr Cook**).

Dear All,

You haven't been forgotten but it has been a busy week.

Going to my new address last Sunday, I got a bit excited and soaked the towel in the basket, which then reached the car upholstery, so my carer is not best pleased about the persistent odour in his car!

Plenty of wandering room in the house but the carer will not let me into the bedrooms, I can't think why. Two good meals a day, varieties of Whiskas sachets and nice cat biscuits (which you wouldn't give me).

I have invented a new game for my carer at mealtimes, I leap onto the worktop and try and get to the food while he is putting it in my dish, he tries to fend me off with his left arm, then I go in low so he puts his head down to block me, then I head butt him. So far I am letting him win by a whisker, but he doesn't know that.

You would be proud of my toilet behaviour, all neatly piled and covered and hardly any kicked over the edge of the tray. My carer thinks the size, colour and consistency of my bowel movements would be regarded by his doctor as very satisfactory for a human, but he finds the odour can be overpowering.

I am able to view a large garden from a window, at least two trespassers have been seen, I look forward to advising them of the new management in a couple of weeks time.

All considered it has been a good move, actually my carer is the best thing since sliced mouse.

Best wishes to all, Hector

Sad, but it is all we ask for 'a happy home'.

Just thought I'd make contact to tell you about **Alfie**, we (my Wife **Samantha** and I) adopted him from you in 1993 as a small male kitten, his number was KM204.

He'd been with us for just over 20 years, been well loved and looked after and seen our



two children grow up.

Unfortunately he left

us today as he'd be-

come very old and

frail and his health had started to fail him, he was put to sleep and now rests in his favourite spot in the garden.



I've attached a couple of pictures of Alf, as a kitten, and just last week. Alf was a loving cat and we're really sad to see him go, but we're glad to see that you're still going strong, hopefully we'll come and visit again in the spring.

Kind regards

Darren

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Huge thanks to all at Support Adoption For Pets – twice over.

Last year I was contacted by Pets at Home about an event they were running in store in Chichester. They wanted to promote our work and raise funds as well. This time of the year we are still in thick of fund raising so decided to ask Pamela Fitzsimons who took up the challenge. Pets at Home also asked to support us at a similar but not so big event at Christmas time, and again Pamela's help was invaluable as well as the following people (hope I haven't missed anyone)

Barbara Symons

Janet Toseland

Dee Fraser

Jan Pniewski

Pamela Fitzsimons

Sophie, Oliver and Alexandra Shergold

The staff were very supportive, and an incredible **£5471.73p** was raised for CRRC, in these two events. Thank you everyone.

A Little idea that became a Big Fundraiser.

Always trying to think of new ways to raise those essential funds for Cat & Rabbit, we thought we'd try a stall for them at our local Petersfield market. It's a lovely Saturday market and is very well supported by locals as well as people from further afield.

The market organiser at the Council is really helpful and as we are a charity we don't pay anything for the space in the market, so everything is free; the donated goods, the space and the volunteers to run it. Every penny we make goes direct to Cat & Rabbit. At our first stall we sold bric-a-brac and it was very successful, so we started holding a regular monthly stall. To keep things simple we now only sell books, they're easy to store and move and are unbreakable.

We've met hundreds of lovely people and now have a regular customer base. Lots of them donate the books back to us and they always buy more. We've found new homes for the animals, more supporters for Cat & Rabbit and it also gives us an excellent platform to discuss the importance of NEUTERING!

We start at 8am and are generally packed up by 4pm. I enjoy every stall, we have some great conversations with so many lovely people and of course we bring in funds for the animals. So far we have raised **£6,145**. So if you have a local market, why not try a stall there for Cat & Rabbit Rescue, you may just get hooked!

Julia Connor.

Julia helps at numerous events, does home visiting for us, is an expert feral trapper, and after she has run a stall we always get interest in homing.

Funeral Memorials.

More and more people are deciding to give to charity instead of flowers at funerals these days and this has happened to us on numerous occasions, not only does it mean you are giving help particularly to someone or something the deceased was passionate about, but it also gives awareness of the charity's existence. So I thank everyone who thinks of this.

Monique

Lovely Youngsters.

I love receiving letters from children about their pets they have adopted from us. This is one I received.

Dear rescue centre

Smint and **Berry** are happy in their new home. They are eating well, and drinking well. They are having hops every day, they've been through 3 bags of rabbit nuggets, 4 dandy lion leaves. I have just fed them, and I wanted to let you know.

From **Annabel**.

Manic to Calm.

When the phone hasn't stopped ringing with people with their pets they can no longer keep, and the reasons they did not get them neutered, and it goes on and on, and you feel everyone is a moron, and then you receive a letter like the one below, and suddenly life is lovely.

Hello Everyone,

I thought I would send you a little message to let you how I am getting on in my new home. My name is now **Bertie** and I have really settled in well, I spend a lot of time in the garden, being a very friendly cat I have made lots of new pals and get along well with the other cats that live here also.

I can often be found dozing in a few favorite places around the garden and I still enjoy falling asleep on my back!

My new owners love me very much and are so pleased to have found me (they tell me this often!)

I do hope you are all well, thank you for taking care of me so well when I was with you, where would I be without you!

Please say hello to all my pals at the cattery and I hope they all find lovely new owners soon.

Love

Bertie xxxx (**Oslow**)

Ferals.

This is a lovely story written by the neighbours of the **Ridley family**, to whom we rehomed 2 ferals.

I was interested to hear that our near-neighbours had acquired two feral cats to patrol the nearby barn and keep the rats down. Not least, I was a little anxious about the reaction of my daughter's pampered white Persian, who sees the barn as her private playground, and might not welcome new playmates to her territory. My daughter, and Floofe, as the white Persian is unfortunately called (not my choice of name, I hasten to add), live next door to me...and to the barn.

Anyway the new cats seemed to settle in well, and as they are quite nervous I hardly ever saw them – just the odd streak of black and white disappearing rapidly round a corner, often pursued by an enthusiastic Dalmatian – our dogs too enjoyed having two new friends to chase.

At about this time my daughter went away for work for a couple of weeks, and I assumed Floofe-feeding duties. I was astonished at how hungry she was. Every time I went round, her food bowl was licked clean, and it was all I could do to keep up with her voracious appetite. I even rang my daughter to express my concern, wondering if **Floofe** was ill.

A couple of days later all was explained. I popped round to replenish the ever-empty food bowl, and as I opened the front door, something came flying down the stairs and shot out through the cat flap, in a flurry of fur. It took a few moments for realisation to dawn – Floofe's unexpected enthusiasm for cat food was actually down to the fact that I was now feeding three cats on a regular basis! Our neighbours' cats had also decided that they preferred the comfort of my daughter's bed to a chilly old barn! Floofe was unimpressed.

Public spirited as I am, I decided perhaps this was not an ideal situation, so I went out and bought one of those special cat flaps, triggered by a magnet on the resident cat's collar. This did the trick, and much to their annoyance our uninvited guests no longer came round for tea. Floofe has mastered the new cat flap reasonably well: the only problem is that the magnet on her collar is so strong that she keeps coming in with metal objects glued to her neck. The sight of a cat trying to retain her dignity while walking around with a fork stuck to her throat is quite entertaining.....although I don't think Floofe sees it that way – but at least she doesn't have to share her food any more!

Thank you for this very entertaining story. Talking of 'controlled cat flaps', these magnetic collar ones are a good idea, and there is also ones which can be controlled by the microchip in the puss cat. We needed one of these and I am pleased to say **Sureflap** kindly donated one to us. Please check out their website www.sureflap.co.uk .

Sadness tinged with Hope.

Over the years I have met some lovely people, some I met through various places I worked and some through horses and many via the rescue work. I met **Pamela Langridge** via a work colleague and we got on very well, as she was a definite cat lover. Sadly, life was not so good to her and she became ill when still young and, sadly she died last year. In her will she left The Centre £6,000 and this money will go towards one of our projects. So, in the sadness everyone felt when Pam died, there is hope for the animals that she loved so much.

Monique.

Do you have any of that precious commodity, TIME, to spare ? We can always use an extra pair of hands or three to help at our fund raising events and at The Centre. Volunteers are the life blood of a Charity like ours and we often find ourselves in the position of needing just a few more about the place. If you can help, no matter for how short a time, you will be welcomed with open arms and a lot of friendly faces.

I received this fantastic collage (on the next page) and I hope you enjoy it as much as I did Christmas greetings from **Pam** and **John Tonkin, Mac & Pepsi**. Adopted 31st July and loving their new home. And we love having them (formerly **Caius** and **Alec**) Pepsi is quite a character. They are both so loving a pleasure to have them.



THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CAT AND RABBIT
RESCUE CENTRE IS TO BE HELD AT THE CENTRE, SIDLESHAM ON
SATURDAY 5TH APRIL 2014 AT 3PM.

COMMITTEE (*indicates Trustee)

Chairman	Monique Turk
Treasurer	Nigel Oddy*
Secretary	Emma Nicoll (currently on adoption leave)
Fundraising Officer	Emma Nicoll (currently on adoption leave)
IT Consultant	Vacancy exists
Membership Secretary	Valerie Deacon
Veterinary Adviser	Mark Elliott

President	Alexandra Bastedo (died 12/1/14)
Patron	Susan Jameson (has kindly accepted position of President)
Trustee	Patricia Parkinson*
Trustee	Sarah Oddy*

All members of the committee are prepared to stand again for a further year but if you wish to make a nomination for committee, please complete the form below and email to the Secretary, Emma Nicoll, (admin@crrc.co.uk) or send to Holborow Lodge, Chalder Lane, Sidlesham, West Sussex PO20 7RJ

If you have any particular information you require please email me at info@crrc.co.uk beforehand

I,..... on contact no
would like to nominate with contact
no. for the following position.....

Agenda

- **Welcome, apologies & request for attendees to sign form going round**
- **Last AGM minutes read & confirmed as accurate**
- **Chairman's report of last year.**

- **Treasurer's report of last financial year.**
 - **Report of fund raising**
 - **Report of projects and other future plans**
 - **Election of auditors**
 - **Election of committee**
 - **Any other business**
-

Daisy thinks Bud is the real deal.

Dear Cat and Rabbit Rescue,

I am writing to let you know that **Ronan** (now called **Bud**) has settled in really well. At first he was a bit unsure about sitting on our laps but now he sits on our laps all the time. Bud has a great personality, he is a wonderful cat and is very spoilt because we give him lots of treats and strokes. Bud thinks he is a dog because he wags his tail and follows us everywhere round the house and



up and down the garden. He purrs very loudly. I couldn't wish for a better pet! I am sending you a photo of him. From **Daisy Hollingshead**, age 10.

No Longer Funny Feet.

We rehomed this very handsome cat, but he did have a very strange gait, but this seems to have cured itself since he has lived with Peter and Dawn. They sent me this lovely picture, and say he now walks and runs normally, and hasn't exhibited his 'funny walk' for at least 6 months! Is now a very solid and cuddly cat.



CATS and RABBIT ENCLOSURES FOR SPONSORSHIP

Alfie A HANDSOME BLACK & WHITE CAT WHO IS USUALLY CUDDLED UP WITH MOLLY
Buzz A REAL CUTE TABBY & WHITE LAD
Calista BRIGHTLY COLOURED TORTY AND WHITE FEMALE.
Carlos MAGNIFICENT BLACK CAT WHO LOVES BEING ON HIS OWN.
Giggles PRETTY TABBY & WHITE FEMALE WITH A NOT-SO-PRETTY TEMPER.
Honey Bee A PRETTY LITTLE GIRL WITH A HALF GINGER FACE
Lenny A HANDSOME LONG LEGGED TABBY WHO IS SEMI FERAL & LOVES OTHER CATS
Molly A ROTUND TORTY FEMALE WHO LOVES HER TUMMY BEING RUBBED
Pebbles SLEEK BLACK FEMALE WITH WOBBLY BITS
Rhett A BLACK GENTLEMEN WITH ONE EAR UP AND THE OTHER AT AN ANGLE.

Also MALLOW ORCHARD AND CHICORY GARDEN RABBIT ENCLOSURES.

The Cat & Rabbit Rescue Centre Sponsorship Scheme

I would like to sponsor(name of Cat/Rabbit Enclosure)

I enclose:-

First Year's Sponsorship Fee:- £ 15-00

Donation:- £

Total:- £

Name :- Telephone No.

Address :-

.....

.....

.....Post Code

Signed :- Date :-

Email:.....

If you would like The CRRC to make more of your sponsorship and you are a tax payer, please request and sign our separate Gift Aid declaration form and return it with this form.

Please send the completed form(s) to CRRC, Holborow Lodge, Chalder Lane, Sidlesham, West Sussex, PO20 7RJ.