

PAWS for THOUGHT



Newsletter Of The Cat & Rabbit Rescue Centre Sidlesham.

(Registered Charity Number 1010000)

President – SUSAN JAMESON.
Chief Veterinary Officer – MARK ELLIOTT. (BVSc,
Vet MFHom, MRCVS, PCH, RSHom.)

June, 2014.

Holborow Lodge, Chalder Lane, Sidlesham, Chichester,
West Sussex, PO20 7RJ. Tel :- 01243-641409
e-mail :- info@crcc.co.uk Web Site :- www.crcc.co.uk

Welcome to the 2nd ‘Paws for Thought’ for 2014. So far this year, there has been a lot of ‘thoughts’, sadly mainly of animals that have passed away recently. Sorry to start on this depressing note, but a vet once told me, as I was crying my eyes out when one of the animals had died, ‘when you get used to this, then you must stop doing rescue’.

On a brighter note, this rescue will NOT stop helping all those animals that so badly need us.

This is now a large rescue, the oak tree has emerged from the acorn, and we need some younger people to come forward to be involved to help with the outsourcing work we do, collecting cats, feral work etc. Our events are going well, but we need people with lots of energy to help, preferably with a big vehicle to carry the gazebo etc in. So send me an email at info@ccrc.co.uk and we will set the wheels in motion. Monique

The Rehoming days.

These are days (every 4th Saturday in the Month) when people can come and see the cats and kittens without an appointment, and they can reserve and then we sort out a home visit before any puss-cat is adopted, of course people can still just ring the Centre, we take the details and organize the home visit before they see the cats.

These rehoming days have been a great success, and my thanks go to the staff who come in early, the lovely volunteers who show round, and superb cake makers. But there is someone who probably does the worst job of all on these days, but without fail, she is there directing the cars, it might seem like an easy job, but it is not, and as well as ensuring people park safely, our wonderful **Val Wickenden** takes people round, and often in the pouring rain. So a special thanks goes to **Val**.

The Owl & the Pussycat.

To rehome our animals we sometimes go a little bit out of our area, and I must be honest I sometimes enjoy, particularly on a nice evening to go for a drive. There was a home visit at Billingshurst, and I was given all the directions, and of course went completely wrong, and 2 hours later arrived there!

But sometimes there is a reason for things like this happening, and I must be honest, this was one of these occasions. It was dark, and am driving back on the A27 when I see in the middle of the road, what I thought was a cat, but as I drove slowly round it, saw it was a huge owl! I pulled over to the side, and to my dismay at least 8 cars came along the road, but they all missed this beautiful creature. I ran up the road, and without thinking grabbed it from behind, (it was dark, so did not see its huge tallons!) I took it back quickly to the van, of course no carrier, just a dismantled box, so with an owl under my

arm I managed to put this box together, and pop the owl in the box, and drove to the wonderful **Brent Lodge, the bird and wild animal hospital we have in Sidlesham, who took her. We are very lucky to have such a superb centre in our village to care for these wild creatures, very few places do, and they do an excellent job, so if you love wildlife and want to donate to them, just check out their website www.brentlodge.org**

Cat badly injured under a car (Booty).

This was the phone call I received on June 7th, I quickly took the details, but froze when they said it was Flansham, near Felpham, and you will know from my 'owl' story my sense of direction is horrendous, and even worse when I am in a panic. **Nigel** was covering at our shop in East Wittering, and so **Mandy**, one of our staff, kindly rushed down to take over from him, I got everything ready in the car, and as soon as Nigel was back from the shop he jumped in car with **Hannah**, another staff member, in case he needed help, and even Nigel had trouble finding it (please do not suggest I use Google, as even Google did not know where it was!!). Fortunately the cat was easy to get, but what a sight, her jaw was smashed, her eye badly injured and she was covered in flies eggs. Nigel took her straight to the vet, and she had fluids and anti biotics. We got a most of flies eggs off her. She was taken to the vet on Monday, and her injuries must of occurred at least 3 days ago, and it was amazing the flies eggs had not hatched into horrid little maggots. She has a very bad infection in the roof of her mouth, which has caused a huge hole, and her jaw has been wired up, she is still with the vet, and we are hoping she makes a full recovery. Because we know this vet bill will be huge, we are pushing our raffle tickets even more, so if you can buy an extra ticket or two this will go towards Booty's care. Monique.



Errors – we just love them!!

Most people involved with rescue are usually doing at least 4 things at once, and things get missed, delayed, etc, but we run with minimum staff, so think there is an excuse for it, but some retailers seem to make as many errors and they are big organizations, but having said all that, sometimes their mistakes are to our advantage. **Brian**, our wonderful Newsletter editor, told me about the ironing board cover sent in error. When they were contacted and Brian told them of the work he does for the Charity they said keep the cover, so thank you **Lakeland** for your kindness.

Microchipping.

Brilliant idea, but we have recently taken in a quite a few cats, duly microchipped, BUT not neutered, so of course some have had kittens, the toms stink the place out, and spend their time dodging bricks thrown at them because people cannot stand the smell. So please GET THEM DONE. Don't forget if you find a cat, always take it to the vet to check if it is microchipped.

Eye for an eye.

I have always thought the best punishment for any wrong doing was to give them a taste of their own medicine, ie if you steal something, then take their precious possessions away. If they vandalized something, then vandalize something of theirs, I really feel this would be much more affective than a prison sentence. I am sure many people saw the horrendous case of a trainee solicitor has been jailed for 18 weeks after she left her dog to starve to death in a house in Bristol. Put her in a locked room with no food or water for a while and see how she likes it (won't let her starve completely)! The sentences people get are pathetic, and prisons are very expensive to run, let's spend taxpayers money on new hips for people, help for the disabled etc.

Brent Lodge.

I hope you enjoyed the owl story, but I want to tell in about 10 days we visited this wonderful caring organization 4 times, firstly with a beautiful great spotted woodpecker baby that was found about 4 foot up a tree, on advice from Brent Lodge we left him for over an hour, hoping mum or dad would come to help him, but then cats were getting interested, so we had to take him. Few days later **Nigel**, his brother and sister were dismantling a large shed at the charity shop, and found under floor boards a mum hedgehog and 6 babes, so off to Brent Lodge again. A few days later, **Claire** the Centre Liaison Officer at the Centre went home to find distressed seagull, and no prizes for guessing where that went!

Events.

event	date	amount raised	Comments
Hayling Island United Reform Church		£345.87	
Pets at Home Chichester		£179.58	
Milland Country Fair		£61.91	

CRRC book sale		£97.50	
Cake Stall Emsworth		£60.52	
Support for Adoption		£1,239.26	
Stansted Garden Show		£1,060.07	
Bosham Manor House	Saturday 12 th July		awaiting confirmation
Tesco chichester	Saturday 19 th July		Rehoming event, no selling – HELP NEEDED
Chichester Street Collection	Saturday 26 th July		HELP NEEDED
Worthing Lions Festival	Sunday 27 th July		
Hotham Park Country Fair Bognor	Saturday 2 nd August		HELP NEEDED
Hotham Park Country Fair Bognor	Sunday 3 rd August		
CRRC Open Day & Summer Fayre	Sunday 10 th August 11-4pm		HELP NEEDED
Pagham on Parade	Sunday 17 th August		HELP NEEDED
South Downs Country Show Queen Elizabeth Park, nr Petersfield	Saturday 23 rd August 10-5pm		HELP NEEDED
South Downs Country Show Queen Elizabeth Park, nr Petersfield	Sunday 24 th August 10-5pm		HELP NEEDED

Emsworth Show, recreation ground, Horndean Road, Emsworth	Monday 25 th August		
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OPEN DAY & SUMMER FAYRE.

- Sunday August 10th 11-4pm
 - See the animals
 - Fantastic refreshments
 - Loads new goods to buy
 - Lots of bric-a-brac to rummage through
 - Toys & games to amuse the children in the holidays
 - Listen to Hospital radio
 - Win some wine on the bottle stall
 - Have a go at the tombola
 - Will the Silver mine bring you gold?
 - Jewels to brighten up your life
 - Win £300 cash on the raffle
 - Bid on our auction
-

Grand opening of our Mother & Baby Unit by Christopher Timothy

MBU.

Our planned Mother and Baby Unit, has been delayed, and fingers crossed it will be completed by the Open Day, and we have been given the money from a fantastic legacy from **Pat O'Leary**, and the MBU will be named in her Mother, **Mary Hignett**'s honour, as requested. Mary had worked with **Christopher Timothy** in All Creatures Great & Small and he is going to do his best to attend the opening.

Milkman enjoys his round even more now.

Sometimes cats just do not get along, and **Grebo** was a lovely cat, but would not tolerate the other cats the people had, so they had to rehome him, via CRRC. All was well, and then things got even better. When the cat was rehomed the milkman on his round noticed the cat and recognized it as one he had had to give up to CRRC, and so talked to his new adopters and now his round is brightened up because he knows the cat is now very happy and settled.

Boy saved by a cat.

I am sure many of you saw the video on YouTube about the dog attacking a 4 year old boy, and his cat chasing the dog off, it is worth a look. This lad was lucky, but there has been so much in the papers recently of dog attacks it is very worrying, but I do believe if you have a dog, please make sure it is trained properly, and of course talk to a rescue, there are some lovely dogs out there so desperate for a home, and very few have problems, and a reputable rescue will be honest with you.

Thank you St Mary's.

We had a lovely surprize cheque for £145 from a collection made at the Communion Service from residents and staff of **St. Mary's Hospital (Almshouses)**.

New Trustees at CRRC.

As the CRRC has grown so much over the years, and some of the things we want to do and achieve the Charity Commission recommended we increase the number of Trustees. The new Trustees are:

Pam Jobling – a volunteer who has helped us with admin, sales and promotion.

Cathy Smith – another volunteer who despite working full time, has given a huge amount of time to CRRC with cleaning and caring for the animals

Linda Read – a friend I have known for 40 years, through work, and also an ardent cat fan.

Thanks Pam.

Pam Jobling saw in the Telegraph, in the Pet subjects section, about someone wanted to leave some money to animal charities in their will, and wanted to know how to find out information about the charities, and the reply was to check out www.charitycommission.gov.uk for information about the many charities and many will give you a breakdown of how the money is being spent. Pam wrote to the Telegraph and mentioned us, and then I received an email from The Telegraph and did we want to include one of our animals in the Rescue Pet section which we did, so that was more coverage for us, so thanks Pam.

Lovely Poem by Sue Bilton.

This was sent to me last year, and the sun did shine on our Open Day, so I thought I would print it, so it could be guaranteed!!

Open Day 2013

The sunshine wanted to lie in today

But the kittens asked him to come out and play

“We’ve visitors coming and lots to do,

We don't want the raindrops soaking them through!
We've had our breakfast – rabbits have too,
And tidied our bedrooms – and been to the loo.
We've washed our whiskers and behind our ears,
Please come and play, Sun. Be a dear!"

Monique and her friends had everything planned,
The tables laid out and cheerfully manned!
But early, the rain wet some bric-a-brac through,
And a couple of tops – and a pair of shoes!

But as her visitors came through the doors,
Their feet like enormous, clattering paws,
Books flew off the shelves, and clothes off the rail,
Although she struggled with cucumber sales!

Sweet music drifted across the warm air –
The aroma of cooking was just too much to bear.
Tiger-face-painted children prowled all around
As their deep pocketed parents trampled the ground.

They looked all around, then in the stable
Found kittens and cats, charming and playful,
And gazing down from the hayloft on high
Magnolia watched with her cautious eye.

Su-purr-ving the steps of Monique's friends
As hence to the Mallow Orchard they did wend,
In search of bob-tailed bunnies large and small,
From tiny 'dwarfs' to 'Giants' 3 feet tall!

Later, full of ice-cream, chips and hot tea,
As the sunshine played now, quite happily,
Through Viv Eadon's Lodge the friends now moved
To see the therapy of kittens proved

As they fell in love a hundred times
With sleeping cats, and kitten pantomimes!
They stood and watched while minutes ticked on by –
The kittens played and fought to catch the eye

Of that friend with the time, and room to spare
To raise a cat, and give one love and care

“There’s people outside who’ll take your details
And tell you what homing a cat entails”

Now the kittens, exhausted fall asleep,
So the friends, a-smiling, outside did creep,
Back into the sunshine, now baking hot
And talked of whether they could or could not.

Offer a home to a special puss-cat.
The sun danced on their shoulders as they sat,
Hearts full of cats and bags filled with goodies
To eat ice-creams and chocolate chip cookies,

And a quick cuppa before they went home
Weary, but happy that they could all come,
And pleased the sun chose to come out to play
On Cat & Rabbit Rescue Open Day.

Giggles.

The wonderful tabby and white reporter for the CRRC has been very, very busy, and has written masses for the local magazines, but if you know of one that CRRC are not in, then let me know, and I will get Giggles on the case! Giggles is seriously thinking about setting up her own fan club, she is doing so well, she has had numerous postcards sent to her from people on holiday, had donations, which I’m pleased to say she does share out, as well as lots of comments from people. So thank you **Pamela** and **Naomi** who have been working as **Giggles**’s personal assistants for your efforts as well. **Laura** also helps with local articles, and this has all been a huge help with our rehoming.

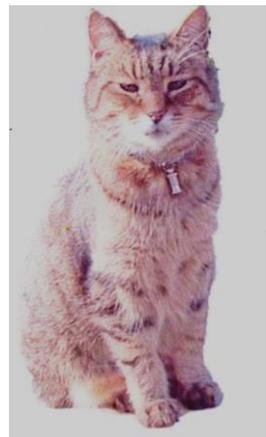
Arthur.

I received this lovely letter last year, but only just got round to including it in the Paws for Thought, so apologies to **Wendy** and **Peter, Mocha, Foggy** and **Gandalf**.

Dear Monique,

It is with great sadness that I inform you that **Arthur** (AKA **Little A**) was put to sleep on 16th July. You may remember that we found him living as a stray in need of medical attention in August 2010 and although he initially came to you, we adopted him in October the same Year.

He had been a lovely addition to our family with such great character and strong willpower to



overcome the debilitating affects of arthritis. His care has been hard work and very restricting over the last three years (although we are only just realizing that), but he was worth every minute. Despite his wobbly back legs, he managed very soon to find his way out onto the street. I had kittens every time I realized where he had gone, but there was no stopping him so I kept showing him where the front door was until he started to find it on his own. He then developed a habit that kept every passer by amused. Our letter box is at ground level and the spring was broken some time ago. Little A realized that if he tapped it one of us would let him in, give him a cuddle and some food. Needless to say he would do it repeatedly, particularly at night!

About a month ago he had an upset stomach, something he has had periodically since he came to live with us. A trip to the vet confirmed weight loss and blood test confirmed his thyroid had gone over active. Unfortunately his blood test also showed other problems with his red and white blood cells. A week and a half later lymph nodes were swollen and we were told that was only a few days, or a few weeks maybe at most before we would have to help him on his way. He stayed with us for another four weeks.

Despite the other three Cats in our life, the house seems very quiet. I would dearly love to be woken by the sound of him tapping the letter box. We are both devastated to lose him even though we did not expect him to live as long as he did. Our Vet did not think he would make it to his first Christmas! When we adopted him he was such a scrappy little chap that we decided that even if he only had one night with us it would be worth it. Thankfully, we were able to give him a lot more than that.

Fund raising – a simple but effective idea.

I received this lovely letter from Joan Hartley after she had raised over £50 for CRRC. She raised this money by putting a wheelbarrow and garden trolley outside her house and in boxes put some books she no longer wanted, with the following sign, “Free Books”

Please help yourself. If you would like to make a small donation to Cat & Rabbit Rescue Centre, a small local charity, this would be appreciated and can be put through our letter box.” Thank you”

You know you’ve been doing rescue too long when:

- You have a mental list of people you’d like to spay or neuter.
- Your chatroom handle is “Queen of Spayeds”
- You not only know all the characteristics of a good “stool” you discuss them at dinner.

This is just a few points on a very good article which made me smile.

An idea, any offers?

This letter was received and although it is good idea, our volunteers are already fully stretched at our Summer Fayre.

Pleased to know the Summer Fayre went well, you had some lovely stalls and we enjoyed it very much. One thought occurred to me while browsing the clothes. It would be a lot easier to have the clothing on the rails according to size, e.g. all size 12 items on one rail, to include dresses, skirts, blouses etc. I find I get fed up having to look through all the clothes on a rail to find something in my size. I know its difficult to get enough volunteers to do all these jobs, but I thought I would be cheeky and suggest it!! I don't think it would create a lot more work.

Who's the King of the Castle?

This lovely picture was sent by **Sarah Davenport**

Here is a photo of the 3 kittens I adopted from you in August, September and November. They are very settled. From the top it's **Jasper, Sadie and Dexter.**



Scratching posts are important to cats, especially ones that do not go out a lot.

Happy, settled cats.

I attach some of the latest photos of **Harley** (the all black male) and **Treacle** (the black and gold female) and how they have settled in.



Fair to say that since they (particularly Harley who came straight up to me when we entered the pen and settled on my knee to introduce himself!) chose us in the middle of October that they have settled in and now run the house!

We kept them indoors until after the fireworks around the 5th November had ceased and they do come in at night but they are now getting more adventurous particularly Harley who is developing his hunting skills! However things still seem to spook him as he comes charging through the cat flap telling us all about whatever it is! Treacle is far more ladylike and chooses her adventures. We believe that she is the more intelligent one letting her brother do all the work and then joining in or claiming the credit!

They both like and demand a cuddle and heaven to them seems to be either stretched out on us or the cushions conveniently placed on the sofa. Their internal clocks know when feeding time is and if we do want them to come in, they answer to our calls (or the shaking of the biscuit tin!).

We lost our previous cat after 17 years but these two (we only originally came for one!) have made their mark and certainly have enriched our lives even if life can be chaotic at times - the Christmas tree was a great novelty to them with it going over once but some of the round decorations proving to be great footballs!!

Thank you again

Best regards

Glen

Treacle is sitting in an empty wine box is she trying to tell us something? Or does she know we are desperate for wine for our Open Day Bottle stall?



From Valerie – our sponsorship secretary.

Can I take the opportunity of reminding you that sponsorship subscriptions are due on 1st September. They are remaining at **£15** for each of our deserving little sponsors. As we have well over 100 of you lovely sponsors, I hope by reminding you via the newsletter it will cut the postage of mailed reminders. If you renew before the due date it will take effect on **1st September**. Please help us to direct all our funds into the Centre by taking this as your cue to either put a note on your calendar or get your subscription in very soon. Many thanks to all of you who sponsor and for those who sponsor for others.

Valerie Deacon

Dear CRRC team.

We have had the kitten formerly known as **Gerrard** for a little over a week now and so I wanted to give you another update and send some photos (we have just a few already!)

He has been renamed to **Bobby** and has settled really well into his new home with us. Our resident cat, **Ginny**, is becoming more used to him and I am hopeful that in time we may find them curled up together in a chair or playing together with their many toys.

Bobby is into everything - I have a picture which I will send through where he is playing with a hairbrush. I inadvertently left my bag on the floor and he rifled through it to find a 'toy' to play with!

I will keep in touch.

Kind regards,



Linda, Steve, Ginny and Bobby.

This is a lovely picture of Bobby, he must have already used the hairbrush because his coat looks so lovely.

Sad News for 3 of our Sponsor Cats.

I have the very sad news to tell you that we have lost 3 of our sponsor cats this year. There were **Lennie, Alfie and Rhett**. Our sponsor cats are chosen because they are ones that are difficult to rehome, usually because of age or a disability, so often their lifespan is not as long as hoped. The new sponsors will be **Bonnie-Boots, Mabel & Francesca**.

To save the Charity stamps would you like Paws for Thought by email? If so let me know and it will be sorted. **Emma** (admin@crrc.co.uk)

Raffle TICKETS – PLEASE HELP TOWARDS BOOTY’S VET BILL AND BUY AN EXTRA RAFFLE TICKET.

Inadvertently we have ended up with 2 lots of raffle tickets, instead of 1,000 books, we have 2,000!! So can you please help to sell some? There are 5 in a book and each ticket is **£1**. Our fantastic first prize is **£300** in CASH, and masses of other fantastic prizes. We have enclosed 4 books this year so could you sell some at work, to your friends, relatives or neighbours? If you need more, please send us an email and we will post them to you or to save on postage you can go to <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/donate/makeDonationForCharityDisplay.action?charityId=1002771&frequencyType=S> specify how many raffle tickets you require and leave your email address and we will email you back with the numbers and put the counterfoils in the raffle. Please help us if you can to make good of this muddle!

Can anyone sponsor/support our Open Day?

The items we need are for the cafe which consists of:

£30.00 for 1,000 polystyrene cups; **£35.00** for 1,000 chip cones; **£40.00** for 6 bags of chips; **£25.00** for chip oil; **£15.00** for 500 paper plates, tomato ketchup, salt, vinegar, napkins; **£65.00** for soft drinks; **£6.00** for 24 pints of milk; **£20.00** for crisps; **£16.00** for tea/coffee and **£200** for Hospital Radio to attend.

Also, if anyone has something suitable for our auction, please let us know ASAP.

Can you help before, during and/or after at our Open Day on 10th August?
Please contact 01243 641409 (Monique) or email Emma – admin@crcc.co.uk.
We will be delighted to hear from you!

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Just a reminder, can you offer any assistance at any of our fund raising events? No matter how short a time, whether before, during or after the events, it doesn't matter as long as you are there and helping to raise the vital funds so badly needed to keep The Centre going and helping those helpless animals who cannot help themselves. If you can offer any assistance, please contact **Monique** or **Emma** and you will be their friends for life.

Rabbit Accommodation.

Our rabbit accommodation has changed over the years and now the rabbits live in a large fox proof enclosure in purpose built, metal hutch and run combinations and they are moved every day to a fresh grassy area.

One more final appeal, have you got any spare bottles that we can use on our extremely popular bottle stall at our fund raising events. Anything will suffice, provided it is contained in a bottle and is in date. "THANK YOU" in anticipation.

CATS and RABBIT ENCLOSURE FOR SPONSORSHIP

Bonny-Boots- BLACK FEMALE WHO PREVIOUSLY SHARED A HOME WITH 90 CATS.

Buzz - A REAL CUTE TABBY & WHITE LAD.

Calista - BRIGHTLY COLOURED TABBY AND WHITE FEMALE.

Carlos - MAGNIFICENT BLACK CAT WHO LOVES BEING ON HIS OWN.

Franchesca-MAINLY BLACK WHO LOVES HER LIFE IN THE BARN.

Giggles PRETTY TABBY & WHITE FEMALE WITH A NOT-SO-PRETTY TEMPER.

Honey Bee - A PRETTY LITTLE TORTY GIRL WITH A HALF GINGER FACE.

Mabel – A BEAUTIFUL BLACK & WHITE FERAL WHO WILL TOLERATE A STROKE.

Molly A ROTUND TORTY FEMALE WHO LOVES HER TUMMY BEING RUBBED.

Pebbles SLEEK BLACK FEMALE WITH WOBBLY BITS.

Also THE RABBIT ENCLOSURE – a 2,500 square feet area with hutch & run units which are moved onto fresh grass daily.

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.