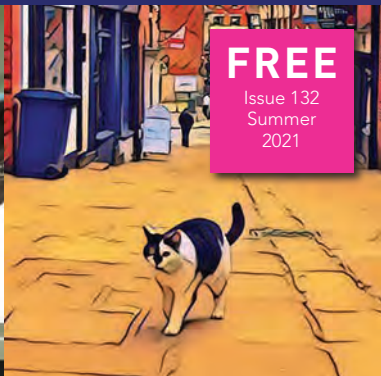


THE Cat's Whiskers

Quarterly magazine from Shropshire Cat Rescue



Inside ...

• Latest news from our Shelter and Shop.

follow us



www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk

Contents

- 4..... Message from the Chairman** – Marion Micklewright
- 5..... Caring for a cat with chronic kidney disease** –
Susie Phillips, Registered Veterinary Nurse and Volunteer.
- 10..... Pleased to meet you. Meet the Trustees** (part 2)
- 12..... Lockdown Tails** – Rachael Ashton, Volunteer.
- 16..... Village Life** – Karen Wainwright, Volunteer.
- 17..... How to sponsor Shropshire Cat Rescue.**
- 20..... How you can help us.**
- 22..... Three legs are not the end of the world** – Anji Smith,
Volunteer.
- 25..... Finding new homes for 8 cats** – Karen Ashton, Volunteer.
- 29..... Challenging Times ... but Shropshire Cat Rescue Shop
reopens!** – Shop Volunteers.
- 30..... Vet Detectives – the case of Smokey and his Pillow Foot** –
Rebecca Bennett, Quarry Vets.
- 34..... Introducing ... our new Magazine Editor.**
- 35..... Who's Who at Shropshire Cat Rescue.**

Disclaimer: The information contained within The Cat's Whiskers we believe to be correct at the time of going to press. No responsibility can be accepted for any errors or omissions. The features in this publication are intended as guidelines only. The businesses and products advertised in this publication are in no way endorsed by the Charity

Printed and published by www.spottypenguin.com 07545551596

Editor

Melissa J Severn

Email: melissasevern@outlook.ie

Copy deadline for
Autumn 2021 edition is

Monday 26th July.

Summer 2021

After producing fifteen issues of The Cat's Whiskers, I am stepping down to let someone else edit the magazine.

My daughter and family are moving back to Shropshire having been in Southampton for three years, and Elayne and I would like to spend more time with them. Our new editor is Melissa Severn, and you can read all about her and her cat on page 34.

Sadly, Colin has passed away.

Colin was the cat on the cover of our magazine in Spring 2020 in a photograph from Lorraine Fletcher taken on Claremont Hill, Shrewsbury.

His owner had no idea he'd been on the cover of The Cat's Whiskers magazine and at the time we didn't know that the cat in the photograph was called Colin.

A big thank you to everyone who has contributed to the magazine over the last four years in any way.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition and will continue to support the Charity.

David Bates

Magazine editor.

Advertise your business in The Cat's Whiskers

Published quarterly – March, June, September and December

In June 2017 Shropshire Cat Rescue relaunched its quarterly magazine as a brand new, full-colour glossy magazine. It is full of interesting and informative articles about cat care and the work the Shelter does.

With a quarterly distribution of 1000 copies, your advertisement can be seen in homes, Vets and more all around Shropshire. It is available online through our website and Facebook page, which has an audience of around 50,000 cat lovers.

Advertising space for sale

BUSINESSES – why not promote your goods and services to these cat lovers with an advertisement in this exciting new publication? The magazine is A5 (14.8x21cm)

Quarter of a page - £35 per edition - £105 for the year

Half Page - £55 per edition - £165 for the year

Full Page - £80 per edition - £240 for the year

Prestigious Back Cover Position - £120 per edition - £360 for the year



Contact us NOW to be part of this exciting magazine!

Telephone Marion Micklewright on:

01743 872857

Email:

info@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk

www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk

Message from the Chairman.

By Marion Micklewright, Chairman.



Restrictions are being lifted and our shop in Roushill Bank, Shrewsbury has opened its doors again though with plenty of rules, regulations and social distancing still in force. Our shop has undergone a major overhaul over the last few months. With the two lockdowns and little time to catch up in between, our stock levels had overwhelmed us all and we clearly and urgently needed a clear out. A strong team of very willing and capable volunteers led by Julie, Rose and Carol worked behind the locked doors to sort, arrange, price and change the systems that had been in play for years and finally with the much-appreciated help of Peter, Ann, Mandy, Daphne and Laura, the doors are ready to open and hopefully the till will be

clinking away raising our much-needed funds. Most of the stock has been sold by Carol through Facebook Marketplace and Music Magpie and some has been saved to sell at boot sales which we will be attending once restrictions are lifted.

Donations of clean, undamaged clothing, accessories, books, CDs, Dvds, toys, bric-a-brac, pictures and unwanted gifts can be donated by the following methods: take no more than one bag into our Roushill Bank Shop; take a car load to the Shelter preferably on a Monday afternoon, Thursday or Saturday; leave a message on the shop telephone requesting a collection from your home **01743 236222**.

Once the final restrictions are lifted in June, we hope our Shelter can resume Open Days again, but it is too soon say.

To all our supporters who have donated so generously throughout the pandemic, we thank you so very much for it is you that have enabled us to carry on our role in the community of admitting unwanted, abandoned and stray cats and providing the care they so desperately need.

Caring for A Cat with Chronic Kidney Disease.

By Susie Phillips, Registered Veterinary Nurse and Volunteer.

There are 4 stages of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) that are defined by the IRIS scale, these are defined by blood and urine test results in relation to the function of the kidneys. The main areas of focus when caring for a cat with CKD are food, drinking and toileting.

Food and feeding.

What your cat eats when they have been diagnosed as having Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) can make a huge difference to them. A change to a Renal diet has been proven to help slow progression of the disease, it won't cure but will slow the progression and can make a difference to your cat's quality of life.

There are a few specific renal diets on the market, and as cats tend to have particular likes and dislikes when it comes to food, the selection available means with some time and searching you will find the renal diet that suits your cat.

Things to consider when choosing a Renal diet:

- What does your cat currently eat eg. wet, dry, mix?
- Do they prefer a certain shape of dry food or flavour?
- Are they a jelly, gravy or mousse/pate kind of cat?

- Does their usual brand make renal veterinary diets for cats?

Changing your cat's food should be done gradually over one to two weeks and not whilst they are particularly unwell; the reason for this is a food introduced whilst a cat is feeling sick for example can cause food aversion, due to the cat linking the food to that feeling; this is the reason why prescription diets are not introduced during hospitalisation at the vets.

Feeding a veterinary prescription diet within a multi cat household can be tricky. Ideally you need to be able to feed them separately and allow enough time for them to eat their renal food and not have access to steal the other cat's food. Microchip feeders can be really helpful, you may only need the one, but this will depend on your individual cats eating habits. Due to CKD generally being age related there may be other conditions, like Osteoarthritis, that may benefit from raising a food bowl when you introduce changes to feeding places.

For example, Gizzmo is a large breed cat with Osteoarthritis, the microchip feeder on the floor was less accessible, so raising it up created a more suitable and comfortable position for Gizzmo to eat.



Scent is very important for cats when eating so when your cat is reluctant to eat then try warming the food up for a few seconds in the microwave, ensure you check it is not too hot and only warm to the touch, warming the food can help increase the smell and encourage them to eat it. Food bowls need to be away from the wall so the cat eating can survey their surroundings.

Cat's nature and instincts are all related to being solitary hunters; because of this, encouraging cats to eat can also be done by using puzzle feeders, there are a lot on the market, or you can get creative, empty toilet rolls with a hole cut into the side with dry biscuits in is an effective puzzle feeder.

Water and drinking.

CKD causes cats to have a increased thirst and need for water to help prevent dehydration. Increasing the amount of water available and providing different locations and even new novel ways for them to access water is very valuable. Again, raising water bowls up, like food bowls, can

increase intake by making it more comfortable for your cat.

The general rule one water bowl per cat plus one, e.g., 2 cats = 3 water bowls would benefit with an increase of one or two more. Fill bowls right to the top, cats are reluctant to place their face fully into a bowl. Ideally, they need to be away from the wall so they can choose where to drink from and watch what's going on around them. Provide water on every floor in the home

Indoor cat water fountains are great for those cats that enjoy drinking from running water, you are not always on hand to turn the tap on for them.



Cats with access to outside need to have access to safe and clean water to help prevent them drinking unsafe water due to their

increased thirst. A water fountain is great but needs to be kept clean and free from harmful chemicals.

Get creative, for example a watering can that never has chemicals or additives in it filled to the top and left outside can be a safer outside drinking source than a puddle.

Something new on the market to help – Purina have a nutrient rich water supplement that can be given alongside a renal diet and water called Hydracare and helps cats maintain hydration which is very important for cats with CKD.



Toileting Facilities.

Due to CKD causing increased urination it is extremely helpful that even a cat who always goes outside has access inside to a litter tray, to help reduce stress and in house soiling.

The general rule of one litter tray per cat plus one e.g. 2 cats = 3 litter trays. Depending on

age and other health conditions adapting a litter tray to have a very low side can help those cats with Osteoarthritis. Using small sized litter granules can also help as treading on larger sized litter like wood pellets can be uncomfortable.

Place a litter tray on every floor of your home. Ensure they are away from busy and noisy areas. Avoid placing them next to entry and exits too.

Choose a litter tray that suits them, some prefer uncovered litter trays where others choose a covered litter tray. Cats are very smell sensitive and the use of scented cat litters or liners can put them off using the litter tray. Make sure the depth of the litter is about 3cms as this has been shown in studies to be preferred as the cat has enough to dig and then bury its business. Clean out any soiled litter asap and completely change the cat litter every week and clean the tray. Ideally use soap and hot water or an unscented specific litter tray cleaner to ensure that the product you are using is not toxic to cats.

Note: Amonia based products will put the cat off using the litter tray. If they are not using a litter tray, try moving its location. If they don't use any litter trays you may need to consider trying different cat litters and/or litter trays but don't do this all at the same time otherwise you will not know what change means they now want to use it.

If they go outside to the toilet help them by finding an area where they will be hidden, loosen the soil and add fine/play sand (not builders sand) to aid drainage.

What to look out for:

It is important to contact your vets if you are concerned in any way and even the slightest change in behaviour, can indicate a potential deterioration.

Some changes to look out for are:

- Not eating and being unable to tempt to eat, (don't leave it longer than 24 hours, especially if offering of food is accompanied by visible salivating).
- Appearance of disorientation, reluctance to jump, go out and moving slower and cautiously.
- Lethargy.

- Weight loss. A weekly weight check at home could help identify any weight changes and be very useful. (Neonatal or baby scales are ideal)
- Changes in toileting increased or decrease use of the litter tray or house soiling.

Check ups:

To monitor changes regular check ups are advisable to check blood pressure and undertake urine or blood tests depending on what the vet feels is necessary.

Susie Phillips is a Registered Veterinary Nurse and has completed the ISFM Advanced Certificate in Feline Behaviour. Susie has volunteered for Shropshire Cat Rescue with her mum for over 5 years and loves it.

Thank you.

By Marion Micklewright, Shelter Manager.



photograph supplied by Marion

We were presented with a delightful portrait of Morris by Harper Adams Volunteer Fay Georgallas.

As you can see from the photograph, Morris was lapping up the attention.

Our thanks also go to our fabulous volunteers who raised £205 at a car boot sale.



Daisy & Tilly's SHOP ON THE HILL

Artisan foods from near & far

Great choice of vegan, gluten free and organic foods

Fresh fruit & veg daily

Fresh fish from Barkworths

Fresh meats from Ensdon and Wenlock Edge Farms

Milk from Mawley Farm, Proper Good Dairy & Cotteswold

Artisan breads and pastries from La Bonne Parisienne

Plus lots of interesting (and delicious!) products:

everything from Black Garlic Ketchup to

Jamaican Blue Mountain coffee to

our own extensive range of herbs and spices

Fine wines and spirits from Tanners

Large selection of beers from 5 local brewers

13a Lyth Hill Road, Bayston Hill,
Shrewsbury SY3 0EW



www.daisyandtillys.shop



COPTHORNE VETS



Your Pets Health is our Top Priority!

- **Free Health Checks** for all new pets
- **Pet Health Club** providing your pet with the preventative treatments they need to live a happy and healthy life including **FREE VACCINATIONS**

01743 360614

#wecareasmuchasyoudo

copthorne-vets.co.uk

'Pleased to meet you' – the Trustees (part 2).

Shropshire Cat Rescue is managed by a dedicated team of 8 Trustees. In this edition we meet more of our Trustees.

MARGARET LLOYD.



On taking early retirement from her middle management role following a successful career with Lloyds Bank, Margaret then

embarked on a second career with North Shropshire District Council. Upon the creation of Shropshire Council as a unitary authority, and once again taking advantage of the opportunity of early retirement, she then, some 10 years ago, joined Shropshire Cat Rescue as a

volunteer, feeding and cleaning the cats each Friday (which she still does).

For the past seven years or so, utilising her expertise in financial matters, Margaret has acted as the Charity's Gift Aid Officer, while at the same time devoting her energies to a wide range of fundraising and social media activities.

Honoured to be invited to become a Trustee some four years ago, Margaret was delighted to accept, and looks forward to supporting the efforts of her fellow Trustees and Volunteers in the years ahead.

CINDY MASON-MORRIS.



Cindy currently works at Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council as the Armed Forces

Covenant Project Support Officer and is also the Treasurer, and Lead Fundraiser, for a local charitable group – Read Easy Telford & Wrekin which teaches adult literacy. She has volunteered at Shropshire Cat Rescue, as the Sponsorship

Secretary for approximately five years during which time, she was Mayor of Wellington and raised funds for both the Shelter and Maninplace – a local homelessness Charity. Her last three cats have all been rescued and her latest little treasure is Kiku who she adopted from the Retirement Village in January 2017. She was delighted to take on the role of Trustee, when asked by Marion, about 18 months ago and looks forward to being involved with such a forward-thinking Charity.

HELEN SMITH.



Helen is delighted to join SCR and fell in love with the retirement village upon her first visit. It was apparent to her that everyone here does incredible work. Originally from Sunderland, she now lives in Sutton Coldfield with her husband and beloved cats, Aslan and Cleo. She is a keen road cyclist (yes, one of those head to toe in lycra) and interested in interior design and all things house related. During the week, she works at HSBC UK and has been there for 12 years. She currently works in HR leading on

Employee Engagement and Insight which means listening to colleagues and making HSBC a great place to work as a result.

Trustee Ola Trillo retires from office.



A big thank you to Ola who retired from her post of Trustee after many years' service to our charity. Ola will continue to support Shropshire Cat Rescue through assisting Gill and her fundraising in and around Oswestry. We are extremely grateful to Ola who was a familiar sight in days gone by in Shrewsbury Square and many other fundraising

venues around Shrewsbury. Ola also played a bit part in caring for the Shrewsbury town feral colonies prior to the new bus station and the Darwin Centre being built. Ola will continue to run the Christmas Charities stall in Shrewsbury.

THANK YOU DAVID!

Hello I'm Sam. I have been designing and printing this magazine since its very beginning. While I am far better at drawing than writing, I wanted to take this opportunity to say a personal thank you to **David Bates** who is stepping down as Editor. Your support, guidance and help has been invaluable over the years. I will miss working with you but wish you every happiness going forward, Sam.

Lockdown Tails.

By Rachael Ashton, Shelter Volunteer.

As lockdown rules altered throughout the weeks, one thing remained certain at Shropshire Cat Rescue, we would remain closed and run with smaller teams to ensure safety. The cats

still needed our help, no matter what the rules, so, we continued to help as many cats as we could. The past few months have seen some interesting cases come our way, here are a few of them

Fudge and Neville.

Originally brought to us in December 2020, these two beautiful boys took a bit of time coming out of their shell and getting used to their new surroundings. Something that is not uncommon at the Shelter and often solved with some patience. Once they gained confidence, they appeared calm and quiet cats who were very much a bonded pair, Neville was reserved whilst Fudge was outgoing. We soon found them the perfect home with a man who had the time and love to give these two boys.

Two months later, we were in touch with their new owner to discover they were much more than the average quiet pair of boys. In fact, Neville was terrified of his new owner and would do whatever it took to avoid going near him – but never once lashed out to protect himself. Often taking to climbing walls and other obstacles if it meant he could avoid him! After a long chat, we



brought the boys back in and it was soon discovered they were afraid of men in particular – a problem we rarely come across to the extent these boys show.

Whilst both are friendly and happy to play with you through the bars of their pen, they start to panic when the barrier is removed and even with females, Neville will dip away from your touch and seek comfort in Fudge, who will accept a few head rubs before he retreats to his toys.

What we had thought was a simple homing situation is turning into something much more complicated and whilst we are working hard with them to help them with their fears, we are currently working to find them the perfect home.

Rusty, Pippa and Suki.

At the end of January this beautiful trio of littermates came to us after their owner sadly passed away and their carer could no longer look after them. It was soon clear these young cats had spent a long time alone and often only had each other for company, forming an inseparable trio who were not too trusting of us humans.

Little Suki soon showed herself to be the most confident of the three and was often on her ledge, talking to the volunteers and luring us in for cuddles and head rubs! Although Rusty and Pippa were shy and often hiding, they

could not resist affection and would often come join you on the floor as you cleaned up their pen every morning.

Trios are notoriously hard to home! Taking on 3 cats in one go is a huge ask and even more so when two of the three are very shy and were not going to be your best friend instantly. Thankfully, through the power of Facebook, we found the perfect family with the time, patience and most importantly, love to give these cats and they adopted them, giving them the fresh start that they deserved.



Coco and Jess.

As March rolled around, so did signs of kitten season. Within weeks of each other, two beautiful cats came into our care from different parts of Shropshire, both with a common trait – they were both pregnant. It was time to dust off the cobwebs in our nursery and open it up again! Both girls are friendly and had been well cared

for before coming to us, so all we had to do was wait until they were ready to give birth. We kept them fed, clean and happy until it was time for their labours – something we do not get involved in as nature takes its course without our interference.

Within a day of each other, the two mums had given birth! It seems

like the cries of Jess' new-borns set off labour in Coco and the nursery soon had 7 new additions between the mums. Both took to mothering like professionals and whilst Coco knew she could come out and get fuss and attention whilst her babies were asleep, Jess was a little more hesitant but that soon changed as the babies started moving around.

Now the proud mother to three boys, Coco has been teaching the kittens everything she can as they grow up, showing them how to play and groom themselves and is showing them the joys of wet

food to help wean them off her milk. Jess had two boys and two girls and is also teaching them well, also showing them the joy of human play and the best way to beg for food!

We know these two mums are the start of what will be a busy kitten season, but we are prepared thanks to these two special girls. We always remember the first mums of a season and these two are no exception! The last litter either girl will ever have, they will be spayed and looking for their new homes once their kittens have left us.

Frank and Betty.

Talking of kittens, we helped a kind lady who had discovered some kittens in an outhouse and was keen to get mum trapped and neutered but was concerned for the kittens' safety. We took in the kittens after she expertly trapped them, and we affectionately named them Frank and Betty. The two tabbies were a little bewildered but old enough to not need mum anymore, so we got working on socialising them – which did not take long for Frank as he decided faster than his sister that we were not too bad!

As with most stray/feral kittens, these two came in with terrible ear mites which they patiently let us treat, despite the discomfort it was causing them. They soon blossomed into friendly and very



playful little ones and were soon enough adopted and now go by Milo and Maisie.

These two and their mother have renewed our desire to invest in new and improved trapping equipment ahead of a busy season. We are thankful to our supporters for helping us to purchase the right traps and baskets that will go on to help the public in trapping cats that need help.



CAT WORLD

FELINE SUPERSTORE

Visit our shop to find a huge range of products, chosen with care, for all cat lovers everywhere!

3c Church Street, Oswestry
(in the alleyway next to Boots)

Shop online at
bengalcatworld.co.uk



SUPERB CLEANING

- CARPETS
- UPHOLSTERY
- LEATHER
- RUGS
- CURTAINS
- MATTRESSES
- STAIN REMOVAL & PROTECTION
- STONE
- TILE & GROUT
- WOOD
- DRIVEWAYS
- PATIOS
- DECKING



Tim Shaw recommended & used by leading home furnishing retailers since 1997.

www.shawclean.co.uk

FREE advice, quotes and fully insured.

07976 559072

0800 612 8817



**ADVERTISE YOUR
BUSINESS HERE,
SEE PAGE 3 FOR
DETAILS**

Village Life.

By Karen Wainwright, Volunteer.

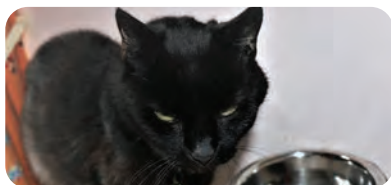
Welcome to Village Life. Since the spring magazine we have had four new residents move into the village. Due to the continued Covid-19 restrictions I have not

had an opportunity to fuss the moggies, but fingers crossed I am hoping that it will start to change in the very near future. The new arrivals are:



Buster has been with us since the middle of March. Buster has a low-grade heart murmur. He arrived with **Florence** and they have been inseparable since birth. They are both quite

shy but love playing with toys. Both are 15 years old.



Ginny arrived at the beginning of February and is 15 years old. Sadly, her previous owner has passed away. She is fitting in well in the village.



Mabel is a beautiful tabby who arrived at the Shelter during January 2021. She is 12 years old. Mabel appears quite shy and reserved but I am sure she will settle in well given time.

All the regulars in the village are being well looked after by the volunteers in these difficult times. They are looking forward to when

they can meet visitors at an open day which hopefully will be able to take place soon – so watch this space!

Special thanks to Rachael Aston for providing the photograph of Buster, all other photographs provided by Karen Wainwright.

How to sponsor Shropshire Cat Rescue

Sponsor a Cat - £20 a year



Pickle was admitted into the Shelter in 2014, rehomed and then re-admitted in 2016 at the age of 10. She is tabby and white and lives contently in the Retirement Village.



Titch was born in 2000 and lives at the Shelter. She is blind but that doesn't deter from her loving nature.



Annwyn came to live at the Shelter in Spring 2017 as a very young mother to one kitten. She is a tortoiseshell who lives life to the full!



Morris is just over 2 years old and has been one of our free rangers since December 2019. He's a tabby and white cat, and loving son to Vera, another one of our free rangers.

Sponsor the Nursery - £30 a year



The Nursery was completed in 2011 and has 7 units and 2 incubators. It is closely monitored by the dedicated volunteers as young kittens can get into trouble very quickly. Immediate veterinary attention is available to the mother and the kittens should they require it.

How to sponsor Shropshire Cat Rescue

Sponsor the Moggies Retirement Village - £60 a year



The Retirement Village was completed in June 2010 and was created using donations, sponsorship and the hard work from volunteers. It comprises 6 chalets and a summerhouse.

Sponsor the Shelter - £100 a year



The Shelter was established in Bayston Hill, Shropshire in 1998 and has continued to grow. The Shelter is currently home to 17 residents, 22 villagers and at full capacity holds around 122 cats and kittens. In addition to the Shelter there is a Hospital, Nursery, Retirement Village, office, laundry room, feeding room, a shop and café/snack bar for visitors.

Your sponsorship or your gift

Pickle	£20		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your sponsorship begins on the first of the month following receipt of payment and lasts for 12 months. You will receive a Sponsorship Certificate, plus an information sheet about your chosen sponsorship package, one or more photographs and an annual update to keep you in touch.
Morris			
Titch			
Annwyn			
The Nursery	£30		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to the above you will also receive 4 editions of The Cat's Whiskers Magazine
The Moggies Retirement Village	£60		
The Shelter	£100		
TOTAL PAYABLE		£	

Please return this form with either a cheque, made payable to Shropshire Cat Rescue, Windy Ridge, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, SY3 0AU. Or a BACS payment to Shropshire Cat Rescue. Account number: 12504025 Sort Code: 555005. Reference: SPONSORSHIP. More information about our sponsorship packages can be found online at www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk

How to sponsor Shropshire Cat Rescue



Your details

Title:	Address:
First Name(s):	
Surname:	
Tel:	
Email:	Postcode:

Is this a Gift?

If you are purchasing a sponsorship package as a gift, please provide the recipient's details below. Your gift will be sent directly to them with a gift card bearing your name. **To ensure your gift arrives on time, please order your gift package at least 2 weeks before the special day.**

Date gift should arrive:	Occasion: Birthday/Anniversary/ Christmas
Who is gift from (to appear on card):	Other occasion:
Name of recipient:	
Address:	

giftaid it - boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate!

I am a UK Taxpayer and would like to Gift Aid the cost of my sponsorship package. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.	Please tick
---	-------------

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the Shropshire Cat Rescue from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

How you can help us

Not everyone can adopt a cat but there are lots of ways you can support the work we do at the Shelter.

You can find out about our sponsorship packages on **pages 17 and 18**, visit us online at **www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk** or contact Marion Micklewright at the Shelter on **01743 872857**.



Donate any sum of money at our Virgin money giving page.



Giveacar is a not-for-profit social enterprise that can turn your old car into cash for UK charity.

The Bank The High Street		Sort Code 00-00-00	
Pay: <i>Shropshire Cat Rescue</i>		Date: _____	
Cheque Number 001234		£ <i>100.00</i>	
Sort Code 00-00-00		Mr. John Smith	
Account Number 01234567		<i>J. Smith</i>	

By Cheque, payable to Shropshire Cat Rescue and sent to Windy Ridge, Lyth Hill Road, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, SY3 0AU.



To buy from a unique range of Shropshire Cat Rescue from our eBay shop.



Visit our page and donate goods from our wishlist.



When you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the Shropshire Cat Rescue.



Give as you Live™

A free way to raise money for Shropshire Cat Rescue when you shop online! Shop at over 4,300 leading stores via their website and you'll raise free funds for us.

The Cat's Whiskers Magazine

The quarterly magazine can be sent to you by post for a minimum donation of £5 for 4 editions. This covers the cost of postage and packaging. You can subscribe by emailing info@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk or contact the Shelter on **01743 872857**.

Leaving a Legacy

If you would like to remember Shropshire Cat Rescue, please write us into your Will and register it with your solicitor; that way you can rest assured that you are going to make a real difference to the lives of many cats. Ask your solicitor to record our charity name "Shropshire Cat Rescue" and number (No. 1071884) or contact the Shelter if more information is required.

JOIN VIP CLUB

choose our charity
share your love of pets



instant
welcome
voucher

VIP treatment for your Very Important Pet

- ♥ A **VIP card** and handy key fob
- ♥ A **10% off voucher*** to use in store
- ♥ **Regular hints and tips**
- ♥ A **FREE** quarterly magazine

VIP treatment for our Very Important Pets

- ♥ Choose us as your Lifelines charity online or by downloading the app
- ♥ You raise Lifelines every time you swipe your VIP card when shopping at Pets at Home, or automatically at the Groom Room, Vets4Pets and Companion Care surgeries



Lifelines give us essential supplies to ensure less
fortunate animals know they're loved too!

Help us by joining
the VIP club

Visit petsathome.com/vip
or download the VIP club app



Lifelines



*Terms and conditions apply. See website for details.

Three legs are not the End of the World.

By Anji Smith, Shelter Volunteer.

I've always had a soft spot for Lucy. If you knew her when she first arrived at the Shelter in July 2018 you could be excused for wondering why. She was very stressed by her sudden change in circumstances. Her owner had gone to live in a care home so Lucy, for no reason apparent to her, and through no fault of her own, had suddenly found herself "in care" too. Consequently, she hated everyone and everything, or that's how it appeared. She rejected all overtures of friendship from the volunteers caring for her. As for other cats, Lucy demonstrated perfectly that she had the territorial genes of her solitary hunter ancestor from 10,000 years ago still doing their job in style. If any other cat dared to come within 2 metres of her (Lucy would have been very good at social distancing back, then!) she became a furious bundle of long tabby fur with three legs. Oh, I forgot to mention the three-legged bit, and that's important, but I'll get round to the reason why further on.

Initially the only way I could weigh Lucy was by blatant bribery or luring to make it sound more professional. Fortunately, Lucy couldn't resist a few Royal Canin exigent biscuits placed enticingly on the weighing scales. Worked



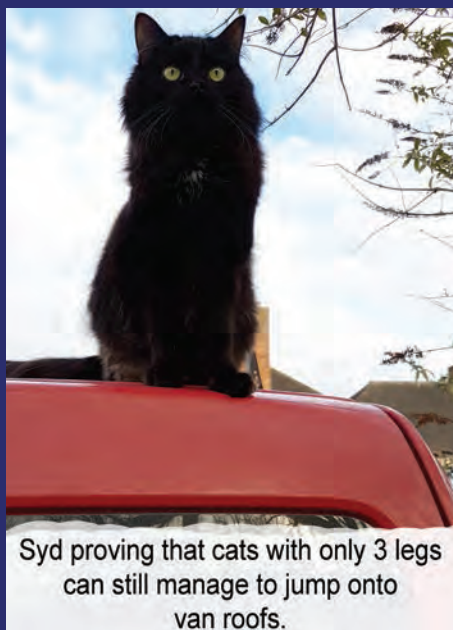
a treat and enabled us to spot sudden dips in her weight in 2018, 2019 and again in 2020 so she received the veterinary help she needed.

Initially Lucy was taken to our Retirement Village as she was a senior lady aged approaching 15 years. She was obviously unhappy there, as were the other cats who ventured too close to her, so she was returned to the homing pens in the hope that someone might take pity on her, but sadly that never happened. Another attempt was made to acclimatise Lucy to Village life, and this time, after a few weeks, it worked. I still maintain the deciding factor, or one of them at least, was Lucy's fascination with the hens and ducks who live close to the Village

enclosure. I often saw her sitting by the fence watching them. You might say she was thinking "lunch!" but even Lucy must have realised they were a bit more than she could take on, being a fairly small cat and challenged in the leg department.

Whatever the reasons Lucy began to mellow, and her tantrums became less frequent. Our main worry was that she insisted on being outside even in the most inclement weather. We knew she could use a cat flap as if any well-meaning volunteer was brave enough to carry her into a cottage (Lucy was sometimes still a bit temperamental about being picked up) she would waste no time in making her exit via the flap. Lucy always knew her own mind!

This strength of character was to help Lucy through some challenging health issues. She had already survived a road traffic accident which resulted in the amputation of a hind leg before she came to live at the shelter. In 2019 she was diagnosed with chronic renal failure and developed hyperthyroidism. In 2020 came high blood pressure then in October that same year she became blind. The odds seemed to be stacked against her and this sudden new disability would be the last straw but Lucy, being the determined cat she is, after a few days of confusion, sorted herself out and now gets



around just fine. At least she finally has the sense to shun the cold and finds herself a warm bed in Peach Cottage, although she still likes to have a nose around outside. Sadly, though she can no longer indulge in her favourite pastime watching the hens and ducks.

We do monitor Lucy closely as she is now over 17 years old and has some serious health issues but currently, she is holding her own. When she finally has to give in I for one will really miss her, grand old lady that she is. But hopefully this won't be for some time yet. And why the immediate soft spot for her when she first arrived at the shelter? Well, that's simple as I have a long-haired black cat called Syd who also, due to misadventure, but with a

dog in her case, is missing a right hind leg. Syd is young yet, only 4½ years old, but she has the same determination as Lucy to get on with life despite her disability. Fortunately for me she is a bit less temperamental than Lucy was back in 2018 but like most cats she still knows her own mind.

In memory of Lucy

Sadly, on Tuesday 13th April it became obvious to all but Lucy herself that she could no longer carry on with a life that had become a burden to her. She had developed a really aggressive abscess in her mouth that was affecting the whole of the left side of her face. She must have been in great pain. Although she was

still trying to struggle on, being the brave and indomitable cat she was, it was time to say goodbye to Lucy. The abscess was inoperable due to her frailty and was the final health issue that she could not overcome. Lucy was taken to our veterinary practice where the staff knew Lucy well and all agreed she should be mercifully put to sleep.

Farewell and Blessed Be Lucy.



Design Print Promotion

For Businesses & Charities

- Roller & Vinyl Banners
- Stickers, Labels & Signs
- Promotional T-Shirts & Bags
- Business Stationery
- Leaflets, Flyers & Posters
- Workwear & Corporate Clothing
- Promotional Videos



www.amdpromotions.co.uk

Contact 07825133056

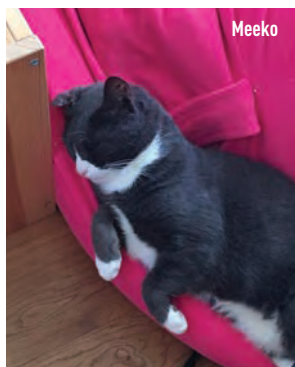
enquiries@amdpromotions.co.uk

Finding New Homes for Eight Cats.

By Karen Ashton, Volunteer.

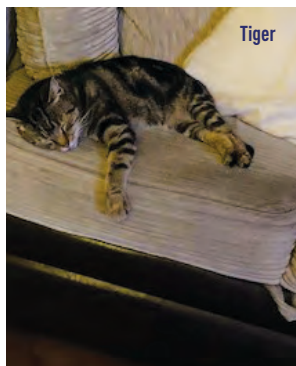
In January we received a plea for help to rehome 8 cats from someone who was sadly too sick to continue to care for them. Aged between 4-12 years old, we knew we had to help as soon as possible. Luckily, we were able to get a couple pens free for them and arranged to pick them up within a week. Their owner was devastated but understandably had to put his own health first. For 8 cats living together for years, it was clear that they all had their own personalities and needs. Previously all indoor only cats, it soon became clear that most wanted the opportunity to go outside. All but one have gone on to fantastic new homes where they are all adored by their new families.

Meeko and Tiger



Meeko arrived suffering an ear infection and badly infected skin, likely the result of flea bites.

Our brilliant vets gave him some antibiotics and steroids that made him feel much better, along with



some drops for his ears. Tiger ended up needing a dental, where 5 teeth were removed.

Both cats were initially shy, but once they started feeling better after their treatments, they quickly showed us how loving they are. They went to their new home together, and despite an initial rocky start from Meeko being a little unsure, have settled in wonderfully. Not yet lap cats, we are sure it will not be long before they discover the joy of cuddle time!

Minnie



Previously called Millie, Minnie was a bit of a concern straight away. A tiny cat, she was

being bullied by her big brothers Meeko and Tiger, so we separated

her from them and put her in a pen alone which she seemed to appreciate. During her health check, the vets noticed some discharge and strong-smelling urine, so she was kept with them for investigation. She had early pyometra with very cystic ovaries, which could have caused serious problems if left untreated. She was spayed immediately and recovered well. She was homed by herself and is a constant joy to her owners. She loves to sit on a lap and is now enjoying exploring the garden and is so inquisitive.

Florence

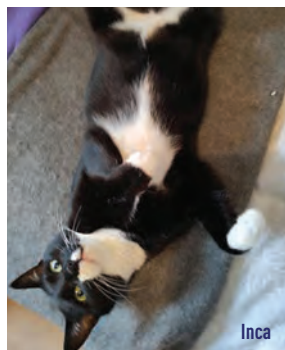


Previously known as Phoebe, Florence also came to us with terrible skin as the result of a flea allergy. This

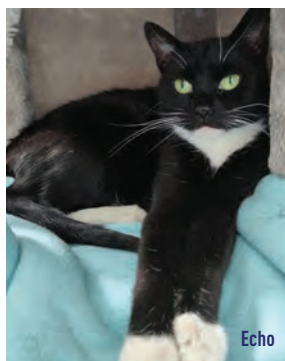
cleared up quickly thanks to antibiotics, steroids and Bravecto. The youngest of the group, Florence had been friendly and easy going from the very start. Originally, we wanted to try find her a home with Inca and Echo, but soon realised they would be fine without her. When it came to finding her home, she was extremely popular which made our decision extremely hard! She

now has a new sister cat called Mittens, and a lovely human sister who loves her dearly. She has taken to going outside like a duck to water and loves to watch the birds in the garden. It is hard to believe she had never been out before, as she has been a natural!

Inca and Echo



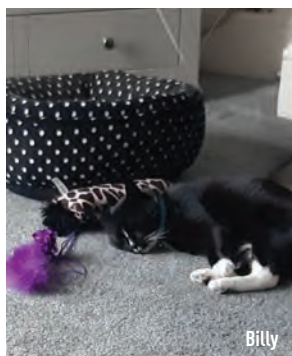
Our terrible twosome, Inca and Echo were incredibly shy once they arrived with us. Inca, in particular, shut down and was very scared. She did not trust us and took comfort in having Echo



around. Both needed dentals, with Echo having 7 teeth removed and Inca 3 teeth. Attempts to find a home for them did not yield much success, partly because we did not know how they would react to new owners. One of our fantastic volunteers offered to foster them, which is a great opportunity for

us to see how they would cope. After several weeks of learning their boundaries and their likes/dislikes, Inca and Echo now play like kittens and even come for gentle fuss. We are hopeful that if Juliet does not keep them, we can use everything she has learnt to find them their perfect home.

Billy



Previously known as Rubin, Billy came to live in our village after having 4 teeth extracted. A darling

little boy, he quickly endeared himself to volunteers and fellow villagers Xbie and Kupala who allowed him to share their cottage. However, Billy's weight kept fluctuating and he was examined by the vets to try and find a cause. No health issues were found, and we were advised he is simply not happy in the village. As he is a healthy boy, we knew that no matter how much we all loved him, we had to put his happiness first and found him a new home. He is now centre of attention with his adoring family and discovering the joys are toys, sofas and carpet flooring. He is certainly being spoilt!

Mabel



The oldest of the bunch at 12 years, Mabel took a few weeks but has settled into the village.

After having never been outside before, she now takes every opportunity to bask in the sun. She is adored by our volunteers, and our Shelter Manager's family have taken a shine to her too. Mabel's tiny but mighty! We sometimes must step in when she decides to try boss the other cats around. Mabel has taken a particular shine to Xbie and Titch, although Xbie does not seem too impressed, but Titch does allow her cuddles in Moggies Mansion.



Flexible car and van hire from £16 per day



- New vehicles
- No deposit
- No mileage cap
- European van hire
- Open 7 days a week from 7am
- Delivery/collection available

Call 0333 555 3000

Book online at bayfieldvehiclehire.co.uk



Telford depot

telford@bayfieldgroup.co.uk

Unit A2 Harcourt,
Halesfield 13,
Telford, TF7 4PL

Shrewsbury depot

shrewsbury@bayfieldgroup.co.uk

Hereford Rd,
Bayston Hill,
Shrewsbury, SY3 0ET



CAT
SITTING
AND HOME
VISITS
FROM £7

WWW.HOMEFROMHOMEPETCARE.CO.UK

**FULLY
INSURED.
DBS
CHECKED**

**SMALL
ANIMAL
BOARDING**

**DOG
WALKING**



07837954988

BECKY@HOMEFROMHOMEPETCARE.CO.UK



**English
CARE**



English Care is a family based company dedicated to providing professional care in friendly and relaxed homes based in Shrewsbury and Much Wenlock.

**01743 247071
01952 727203**

**BOWBROOK HOUSE
LADY FORESTER
FORESTERS COURT**

- Nursing, residential, dementia care, respite and day care
- Retirement apartments offering independent living
- Comfortable accommodation in period homes
- Friendly and highly skilled staff
- Pleasant gardens
- Home cooked food offering plenty of choice
- Award winning company recognised both locally and nationally
- Comprehensive activity schedule

www.englishcare.co.uk

LOWER MILL BOARDING KENNELS & CATTERY

We know that cats love nothing more than to explore, that's why our luxury heated chalets offer ample space for your cat to wander around during the day. Our outside chalets have fully insulated and heated back cabins.

For more information on our services, for prices or to make a booking call us today:

01743 790160

www.lowermillkennels.co.uk

Pontesbury, Shropshire



A CHALLENGING TIME ... but the Shropshire Cat Rescue Shop has reopened!

By the Shop Volunteers.

It has been a very difficult year for the Shropshire Cat Rescue Shop. The Covid lockdown closures have been the most obvious challenge of course, but before that Shrewsbury suffered severe flooding which affected the numbers of people getting into the town centre. Indeed, it affected some of our volunteers getting to the shop!

We have been closed for about 9 months on and off which has clearly had an impact on our fundraising, but our dedicated volunteers have risen to the challenge to try to keep generating funds to help our cats. Carol Beele has been selling donated items on our new and very popular SCR Selling Facebook page. She is so good at it – her next role is selling snow to the Inuit and I have no doubt she will excel at that too! We also had the idea of putting a contact email address in the shop window so people could enquire about any of the items we were showcasing in the window display. This was quite successful because we sold a couple of pictures for nearly £100.

Despite the challenges we looked forward to re-opening to our customers. In anticipation of

this a few volunteers spent some Sundays

getting the shop spic and span again (socially distanced and within Government guidelines of course). The donated items were sorted, and volunteers Peter and Julie Kampler gave some areas a lick of paint. Anne had been keeping up morale with much needed home-made cakes.

Obviously, it will be a bit different to normal to begin with. We will only be opening the ground floor to start with, and customer numbers will be limited to ensure a safe environment. We appreciate that some people may still be nervous about entering shops so we will have put baskets of books, DVD's and CD's outside the front door. Look out for some real bargains.

As always, we are looking for volunteers to pitch in and help out. From door control, working the counter to helping sort out donated items – there is never a shortage of work. If you feel you can help and have some spare time why not get in touch and join our friendly crew? You can contact the SCR Shop on **01743 236222**.



Vet Detectives- the case of Smokey and his Pillow Foot.

By Rebecca Bennett, Quarry Vets.

A large part of the work that Quarry Vets does for Shropshire Cat Rescue is the routine procedures- vaccines, neuters, dentals, sporadic cuddles with cute kittens and occasionally cats who really do not appreciate us! However, every now and then a particularly interesting or satisfying case comes along and I thought for my next few articles I would share with you some of the more unusual things we see at Quarry Vets.

I first met Smokey in October 2019 when I promised his new owner that I would try and give him his 15 minutes of fame in life. So here he is!

Smokey had been taken on as a stray by his new owner a few months before I met him. Cats are usually very good at picking their new owners, a good meal, warm house and a loving, dedicated new person to tend to their needs. It was also clear however that Smokey brought with him some problems - very soon he ended up having a trip to the vets. With help from Shropshire Cat Rescue, we decided on a treatment plan for him and rather than going up to live at the shelter he stayed with his new owner while we got him

back to full health.

Smokey had to be blood tested, castrated, have a dental and he also needed to have his tail amputated as it was limp and paralysed. But most significantly, he had a very sore paw.



He was suffering from a condition with the complicated veterinary name of Plasma Cell Pododermatitis. More commonly, and much easier to remember, is that he had 'Pillow Foot'



'Pillow Foot' is a condition for which the cause is not really known. It is thought it may be linked with problems with the immune system, possibly allergies, maybe viral infections, really no one knows for certain. Some cases get better on their own, some have a seasonal occurrence (hence the theory that they may have an allergic basis), some need treatments such as steroids and antibiotics, and occasionally, like in the case of Smokey, they have progressed so far that they need surgery.

In early cases we see soft, painless, uniform swellings of one or more-foot pads, particularly the large central foot pads. The pads look the right shape- but they are large and puffy, hence the name 'pillow foot'. Often crossed with white scaly cracks, the pads are usually non painful at this stage and sometimes we just see a cat who has got better, and the foot pads have a 'deflated' appearance. In more severe cases, this puffiness can progress to ulceration and infection and they become painful and cause lameness. Diagnosis at a veterinary practice can be made with a biopsy, or sometimes a needle sample. The condition is however fairly distinctive so often we are highly suspicious just by looking at the feet.

When I met Smokey, he had



advanced, ulcerated disease of one of his pads and some of his other feet were more mildly affected. It was decided that the best course of action would be to try operating. We carried out a first surgery at the end of October 2019, getting a partial response. We removed all obvious diseased tissue and stitched his pad together again. Smokey had been a stray cat- used to the outside life, freedom, and doing what a cat likes best- being the boss! It took him a bit of getting used to having to stay in a cage, use a litter tray, and to top off all the indignity, wear a buster collar to stop him licking his foot. Thanks to the dedication of his new owner, and lots of strokes and treats when he came to the surgery, his treatment started working.

One month later, we had reached a bit of a standstill, good healing, but not complete. A second surgery was therefore performed in late November 2019. After a bit

more recuperation, I finally saw Smokey in early January 2020 fully healed, and ready to get back out into the world. It shows that sometimes treatments can take a long time (3 months in this case) to work but if we have a happy cat who can live a normal life at the end, then we feel we have done our job well.



The photographs show some of the stages of healing. I have not included the one where we first saw him as it was fairly unpleasant (when I first met him most of his main pad was an open wound). The photos show him one month after the first surgery, with partial healing and just before the second surgery, and then the steady improvement until full healing. Also, a normal cat footpad and an early-stage case.



Rebecca Bennett works at Quarry Vets, Shrewsbury. Quarry Vets can be contacted at www.quarryvets-shrewsbury.co.uk or telephone 01743 362556.

Photographs supplied by Rebecca Bennett.





Quarry
VETERINARY GROUP

Brassey Road, Shrewsbury, SY3 7FA
Tel:01743 362556

Opening Times

Mon-Friday 8.30am-6.30pm

Sat 9.00am-12 noon



Happy to support Shropshire Cat Rescue

Introducing ...

Our new magazine Editor.



I am honoured to be the newly appointed Editor of The Cat's Whiskers. My name is Melissa Julianne Severn and my cat is called Shrew. I'm a writer, born and bred in Telford, whilst Shrew was found wandering around Shrewsbury in late 2019. He was a stray. I rescued him and brought him home, where he terrorised my partner by climbing up his legs like they were tree trunks, scratched my ankles to ribbons and ran away constantly! But Shrew persevered with us. Now, he rarely leaves my lap and likes to doze on my bed when I'm getting ready in the mornings. He especially likes it when I'm listening to Simon and Garfunkel

but he isn't keen on Taylor Swift. He was a defensive boy, but now he has learned how to love and how to be loved in return.

I believe that cats are often misunderstood, and it breaks my heart to see so many of them without fur-ever homes. For me, reading The Cat's Whiskers fuels my passion to protect these precious animals and reassures me that many people love them as much as I do. I will strive to maintain the informative and inspiring content of this magazine.

So, a bit about me! I'm twenty-three and a big fan of cats (obviously!), charity work, encouraging positive change, kindness, journalism and community. In a nutshell, The Cat's Whiskers feels like my calling and I can't wait to connect with you, our readers. I am a humble newbie to Shropshire Cat Rescue, and I am eager to learn all that I can from you and my colleagues. I predominantly write poetry and fiction for my Creative Writing degree, but the idea of journalism has always enthralled me. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to explore this literary pathway that intertwines with my devotion: cats!

We'll catch up in the Autumn issue.

Who's Who at Shropshire Cat Rescue.

Shropshire Cat Rescue is a Registered Charity (number 1071884). The charity was established in 1998 and is proud to have Virginia McKenna and Jim Hawkins as Patrons.

You can contact the Shelter on **01743 872857** and the Shropshire Cat Rescue Boutique (3 Roushill Bank, Shrewsbury, SY1 1PN) on **01743 236222**. You can write to the Shelter Manager, Shropshire Cat Rescue, Windy Ridge, Lyth Hill Road, Bayston Road, Shrewsbury, SY3 0AU or email **info@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk**

Chairman	Marion Micklewright
Trustees	Dianne Beaumont
Marg Lloyd, Helen Smith, Amy Callahan-Page, Cindy Mason-Morris, Tracy Cross, Bruce McKay	
Accounts Manager	Suzanne Dolphin
Boutique Managers.....	Anna Kent and Jonah Leese
Facebook	Pat Piggott
Gift Aid Officer	Marg Lloyd
Legacies Officer	Peter Kampler
Marketing and Fundraising Manager	Tracy Cross
Outreach.....	Julie Kampler
Personnel Manager	Helen Smith
Shelter Manager	Marion Micklewright
Social Media Officer	Dianne Beaumont
Sponsorship	Sam Rushby
Twitter	Susan Marine @bigPURRproject
Marg Lloyd @ShropsCatRescue	
Visitor Engagement Officer.....	Chris Warfield
Volunteer Recruitment Officer	Katie Ho
Volunteer Recruitment Officer (Shop)	Elle Randles
Website Design	The Launchbox

Who's Who at the magazine.

Magazine Editor	Melissa J Severn: melissasevern@outlook.ie
Magazine Co-ordinator	Susan Marine susanmarine000@gmail.com
Magazine Assistant	Heather Acheson
Magazine Advertising, Distribution & Accounts Officer	Karen Wainwright
Magazine Subscription	Sam Rushby



Proud to support
Shropshire Cat Rescue

With you every step of the way
to a bright financial future.

“
**FOR EVERY NEW CLIENT
WE WILL MAKE A DONATION
TO SHROPSHIRE CAT RESCUE.”**

CHRIS OAKES
FOUNDER AND INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISER

INDIVIDUALS

- Final Salary Pension Advice
- Pension Planning/Transfers
- Inheritance Tax Planning
- Investment Advice
- Wills and Inheritance Tax

BUSINESSES

- Pension Scheme Guidance
- Succession Planning
- Business Protection
- Shareholder Agreements
- Corporate Investments

Call or email us to arrange a free, no-obligation consultation...

01743 816115 or info@croftandoakes.co.uk

www.croftandoakes.co.uk



Croft & Oakes Chartered Financial Planners Ltd is Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.
Financial Services Register Number 731020. Registered in England & Wales, Company Number 9879146