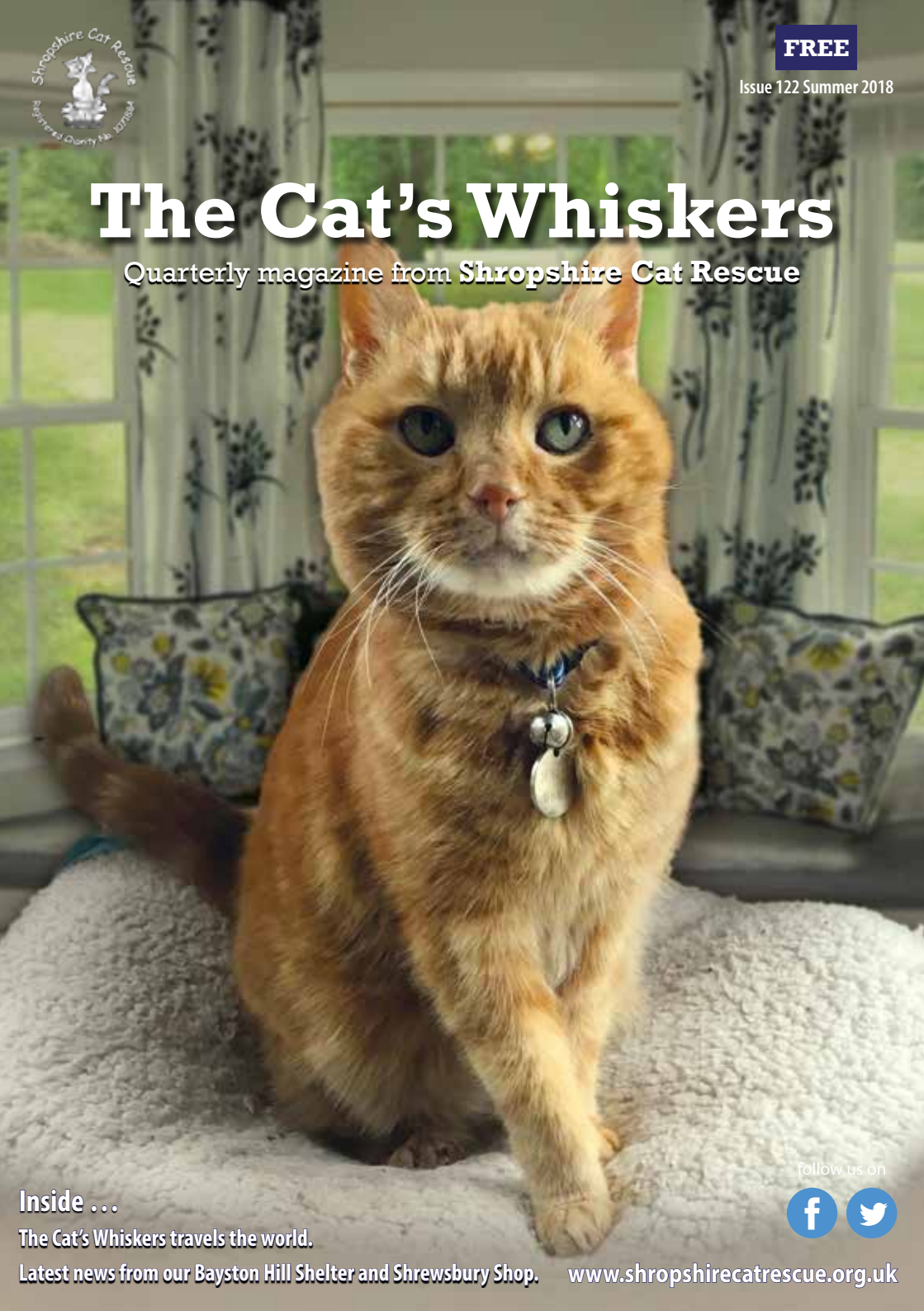


The Cat's Whiskers

Quarterly magazine from **Shropshire Cat Rescue**



Inside ...

The Cat's Whiskers travels the world.

Latest news from our Bayston Hill Shelter and Shrewsbury Shop.

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Welcome to the Summer 2018 edition of The Cat's Whiskers.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of The Cat's Whiskers. Many thanks to those who have contributed with articles, pictures or advertisements.

Our cover star is Sparkle photographed by Julie Kampler, a volunteer at the Shelter Gift Shop. In this edition our magazine goes on a world tour and take a look at Shelter News to see what our new van has been up to.

Thank you to Alice Leiper and Daphne Owen for their contributions to The Cat's Whiskers as both have stepped down and a warm welcome to Heather Acheson, the latest

recruit to the Magazine Team. I wish Alice and Daphne good luck for their future endeavours and look forward to working with Heather.

Thanks to Anne Wignall for pointing out that Derek Tangye's books are available on Kindle. See "Recommended Reading", page 31 of our Spring Magazine.

David Bates,
Magazine Editor.

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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



Shelter News

By Marion Micklewright, Shelter Manager.

Assistant Shelter Manager John Coles and I went to collect our brand-new van from Furrows in Shrewsbury in February. The £10,000 grant, we successfully bid for through the Support Adoption for Pets Grant Programme, went towards the purchase of a vehicle to support the work of the charity. The van has been pressed into immediate service and on its first day took a trip to Cannock to rescue Ford Van Dyke. Ford Van Dyke has

taken up residence in the Moggies Retirement Village and is settling in very well.





Every day, the van is in use for trips to the vets, collecting supplies and stores, delivering donated goods to our Shrewsbury Charity Shop and carrying out vital rescue missions!

The latest mission “**Operation Newport**” saw 31 cats who needed our urgent help, all in varying states of timidness. Our grateful thanks go to **Sue Tipton** at Moorlands Kennels (**01743 872395** or email: **mail@moorlandskennels.co.uk**) who took in seven of them whilst we waited for additional pen space to become available.

Just in case you are wondering how on earth you manage to have such a large number of cats – the owners who lived in a one bedroomed bungalow started off with one who got pregnant, had a litter and got pregnant again soon after, then the kittens started having kittens and so it goes on. Having brought them back to the shelter, we found one was about to have kittens and two others were in the very early stages of pregnancy. The youngest of the kittens have all been rehomed but all of the adults are going to be very difficult to rehome as they clearly

didn't receive sufficient socialisation at the key stages of their lives.



The early months of this year have been terribly sad for us all at the shelter as we have lost several of our much loved, character cats including Charlie, Sparkie, Rosie, Pebbles, Lucy, Lilly, Astra and Salem.



Charlie



Sparkie



Rosie



Pebbles



Lucy



Lilly



Astra



Salem

Charlie had been with us since July 2011 and all of the cats mentioned had reached ages of 15 years plus. It is never a simple task deciding when the time is right to say goodbye. The cats are weighed weekly by volunteer Anji and the vet visits any that we are concerned about on a weekly basis. As we get to know the cats so well, we recognise the tell-tale signs that "all is not well" and monitor each cat carefully.



We have had another visit from Runcorn School who were given their "Cat Club" badges, designed and created by Anji. The children were thrilled to feel part of something so inspiring that they could all be involved in. The challenge set for them was to make fat ball feeders for the hungry birds, struggling to find food due to the longer than usual cold and wet spell. Of course, the visit wouldn't have been complete without a cuddle or two from our delightful kittens in the Nursery!





We have had several students complete their Duke of Edinburgh Volunteering Programme including Billie and Ed, Alex and Ciara, Ester and Josh, well done to all.

Our shelter will be opening to the public for the first two Saturdays of June, July, August and September. Our coffee shop "Paws for a Cuppa" where we sell homemade cakes, chocolates, eggs and other produce will be open along with our small gift shop and as usual, there will

be plenty of cats to see and stroke as well as the ponies, goats, sheep, ducks and hens to meet. This year we will be open from 12.00pm to 4.00pm and we very much look forward to meeting you.

Photographs supplied by Marion Micklewright, John Cole and Karen Wainwright.

Last edition's competition winners

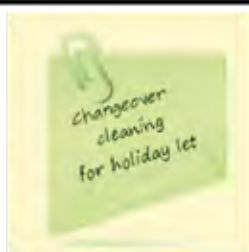
Thank you for all your entries to the spring edition contests. The Keeper for a Day at North Shropshire College tickets were won by Tracey Howes, who correctly answered that snow was the unusual weather. The Cream Tea for 2 at Café on the Cop was won by Rose Laird, for correctly answering that Whiskey was featured in Village Life. The £20 Pets at Home voucher winner was Mrs B. Groves, who correctly answered that 15 Teams entered the Twenty 20 Grand Quiz.

Thanks for your entries.



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Forthcoming Events

Shropshire Cat Rescue will be represented at the following events. Please come and support us and say "hello" to our amazing fundraisers and outreach workers.

JUNE 1ST – GENERAL MEETING AT THE SHELTER Cat Rescue Shelter, Windy Ridge, Lyth Hill Road, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, SY3 0AU 7pm to 9pm. For anyone who is interested in what we do.	JULY 28TH – FUNDRAISING COLLECTION Shrewsbury Market Hall, 10am to 4pm Twenty20
JUNE 2ND – PETS AT HOME Shrewsbury 1.30 to 3.30pm. Meet the Volunteers and find out about the Moggies retirement Village.	AUGUST 2ND – GENERAL MEETING AT THE SHELTER Cat Rescue Shelter, Windy Ridge, Lyth Hill Road, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, SY3 0AU 7pm to 9pm. For anyone who is interested in what we do.
JUNE 11TH – QUIZ NIGHT Havana Club, 18 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE. 7pm for 7.30pm. £5 per person and teams of up to 6. To book contact Amanda Mullins 07720 677530. Twenty20	AUGUST 4TH – PETS AT HOME Shrewsbury 1.30 to 3.30pm. Meet the Volunteers and find out about the Moggies retirement Village.
JUNE 16TH – SHREWSBURY CARNIVAL AND SHOW The Quarry, Shrewsbury. Visit our stand. Meet the volunteers and find out about the Moggies Retirement Village.	AUGUST 10TH AND 11TH – SHREWSBURY FLOWER SHOW The Quarry, Shrewsbury. Visit our stand. Meet the Volunteers and find out about the Moggies retirement Village.
JULY 7TH – PETS AT HOME Shrewsbury 1.30 to 3.30pm. Meet the Volunteers and find out about the Moggies retirement Village.	AUGUST 24TH, 25TH, 26TH & 27TH - SHREWSBURY FOLK FESTIVAL West Midlands Showground, Shrewsbury. Gift shop and meet the volunteers.
JULY 8TH - TELFORD LIONS WHEELS DAY Bowring Park, Wellington, Telford. 11am - 4pm Meet the volunteers and find out about the Moggies Retirement Village.	SEPTEMBER 15TH - MOTOWN NIGHT Save the date! Details will be announced via our website, Facebook and Twitter. Twenty20

Keep up-to-date about events and other news at www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk,

[f @Shropshirecatrescue](#) or [t @shropshirecatrescue](#) @bigPURRproject.

Shropshire Cat Rescue Open Days 2018.

The Shelter will be open to the Public, without appointment, on the first 2 Saturdays of June (2nd and 9th), July (7th and 14th), August (4th and 11th) and September (1st and 8th) 2018 from 12.00 to 4.00pm.

You need to book an appointment to visit the Shelter on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Appointments are available between 11.00am and 3.30pm. The Shelter is closed to

the Public on Wednesdays and Sundays.



Village Life By Karen Wainwright, Volunteer

It is with sadness that I report that we have lost a number of moggies from the Retirement Village during February and March this year. This includes the adorable sisters Rosie and Sparkie along with Lucy, Charlie, Astra and Lilly – see **Shelter News** and **Two special sisters**.

Whenever we lose a cat in the retirement village it is amazing

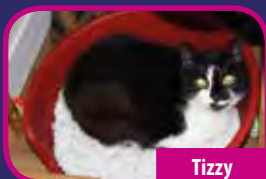
how quickly the dynamics of the village change, with some cats who primarily resided in the summer house now preferring to stay in one of the six cottages. All seem very happy with this arrangement.

In recent weeks we have had a number of new additions to the retirement village including:

Photographs supplied by Karen Wainwright.



New additions recently rehomed from the Retirement Village ...



All of these new additions are very friendly. Millie, Tizzy and Pippa arrived together, sadly they could no longer be looked after by their owner. We are very pleased to report that they have been rehomed together. The retirement village has a very calm atmosphere and volunteering in this area is very rewarding.

Kitten Club

Welcome to Kitten Club! These pages are just for kids. Have fun!

Did you know?

A cat can travel at a top speed of approximately 31 mph (49 km) over a short distance.

Did you know?

On average cats live for around 12 to 15 years.

Anagrams

Can you sort out all these 10 mixed-up words? They are all 'cat' words.

Cast	Gulf Rose
A sniper	Kit net
Wasp	Horrid Haste
We shirk	Task be
Lait	Catching sport

Answers on Page 33.

Jokes

What do cats like to eat for breakfast?
Mice Krispies.

What does a cat like to eat on a hot day?
A mice cream cone.



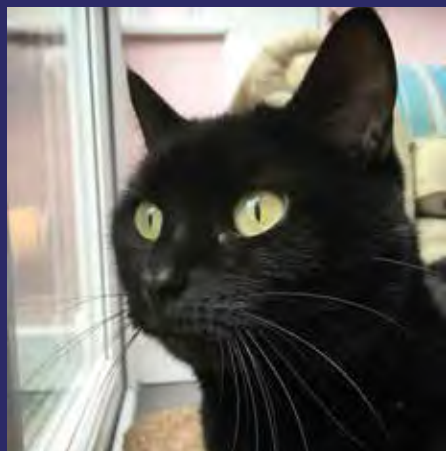


Sparkle's story

By Alicia Williams (age 7)

Three years ago, we adopted our second cat, Sparkle. She is a rescue cat. Her previous owners didn't look after her properly and so she was taken from them!

When we first got her and brought her home she hid behind our sofa, and anyone who came near would just make her go back further. She was scared of us because she thought we would treat her the same as the other people did, but of course we didn't.



She is my best friend in the world and every time I go on my hands and knees and put my head down she cat hugs me. She also jumps on my bed every night when I go to sleep and curls up next to me. She is probably the best cat I will ever have.

It just goes to show how adopted cats are still very important, cute and lovely, so don't think because they have been rescued they are bad because Sparkle is exactly the opposite!

Photographs by Andy and Jenny Williams.

Do you want to share your story or your artwork? Have you heard a great cat joke you think will have us rolling around laughing? If so, please send it in! We love seeing what kids write, draw, paint and create.

Send any contributions to:

Magazine Kitten Club, Shropshire Cat Rescue, Windy Ridge, Lyth Hill Road, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, SY3 0AU or email them to waltonbarns@zen.co.uk We cannot guarantee that all submissions will be published.

Pleased to meet you...

Laura Tarrel, Acting Shop Manager.



I have volunteered in the SCR shop for six years, now holding the giddy title of Acting Shop Manager! This is a position I hold reluctantly and one I couldn't do without the help and support of all the fab peeps at the shop and beyond!

I've had a varied life career-wise having been in sales, secretarial work and support work with children and adults with learning difficulties, to name a few. However, I've never worked in a shop before! I met Marion by chance at Quarry Vets six years ago where she was laden with baskets containing various moggies to be neutered. I was taking my adored rescue moggy with attitude, Baboushka, for her annual check. We got chatting and the rest, as they say, is history.

I love our shop and with lots of help front of house and behind the scenes with the dreaded paperwork



and training which I avoid at every turn, we try to keep the shop looking fab and running smoothly. Sometimes it can be chaotic

especially after a large donation delivery from the shelter, but we soon get organised.



That's what I say anyway! I'm also now the reluctant 'clothes horse' for the shop and have squeezed myself into various outfits, always retaining my dignity of course, in an effort to boost sales. It's probably had the opposite effect if truth be known! For my sins I dress the window, usually every fortnight on a Sunday, and people passing sometimes stop for a look to see what the latest offering will be. To be honest, I don't have a clue myself until it happens!

We get lots of very different customers coming in and we have a good rapport with most. Everyone comments how nice the shop looks. "Not like a charity shop, more like a boutique" is a common statement



which is lovely to hear. They love the upbeat atmosphere and the music we play - usually 60's. Not for the first time we've had a group singalong, volunteers and customers, together with dance moves to 'compliment' the singing! I've put my back out more than once trying to pretend I'm 16 again!

I think this year will be challenging income-wise for our shop and although we're not alone in this, we always want more for the pusscats, that's why we depend so much on people's generosity both to donate and buy. Come and see our lovely shop if you can and I think you'll be surprised at the quality of our stock and staff!

I've made many lovely friends through SCR and we enjoy socialising out of hours too so it's not all work and no play! We would love to welcome new volunteers to join our happy band if you have a bit of time to spare.

Finally, my thanks again to everyone, not forgetting those who don't actually work at the shop but who do other jobs to support us. We couldn't do it without you!

Photographs supplied by Julie Kampler and Susan Marine.

Location

The shop is located on Roushill Bank which is between Lloyds Bank and Café Nero at the bottom of Pride Hill, Shrewsbury. It is attractively laid out on two floors and sells a wide range of books, CDs, DVDs, clothing, bags, bric-a-brac, jewellery and vintage goods. There are some real bargains to be found within; why not come and look when you are in Shrewsbury?

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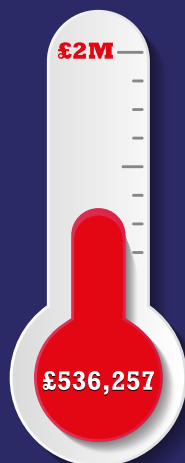
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Shrewsbury,
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Telephone: 01743 236222

Email: kimmason.scr@gmail.com

The Big PURR Project

By Marion Micklewright, Chairman



The Big Plan for **Ultimate Rescue Relocation (PURR)** Project aims to raise £2 million to create an exciting new centre near Shrewsbury to encourage education, community activities, leisure, tourism and animal welfare, to benefit the whole community.

Shropshire Cat Rescue has outgrown the current Shelter at Bayston Hill. There is no more room for expansion and we desperately want to support more cats and kittens to find their forever homes. Over the next year, the magazine will focus on key aspects of this ambitious project. In this edition, we feature the Rehabilitation Centre.



A rehabilitation centre is high on our list of priorities for the proposed new Shelter. With more cars on more roads, there are more road traffic accidents (RTA's) involving cats, many of which are never reunited with their owners. We are receiving a growing number of

calls from veterinary practices asking us to take cats that have been involved in RTAs, the majority of which require cage rest and then gradual introduction to exercise. It can take weeks, or even months, for these cats to recover and to prepare them for a new life, in a new home.

We currently use the ponies' stable (when not in use) where we erect a specially built step ladder and provide a bespoke exercise programme delivered by our volunteers. We aim to have a purpose-built room with additional equipment to aid rehabilitation in cats.

We would also use the Rehabilitation Centre to help combat obesity in cats and encourage "cat gym membership". It may sound humorous, but cat obesity is a growing trend and causes many problems for cats and great expense for their owners.

The detailed planning for all aspects the Big PURR Project is continuing as the Charity aims to reach the £2m to fund this ambitious plan.

You can donate to the Big PURR Project in many ways. Please go to page 38 to see how you can help us achieve our ambitious fundraising target.

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, pet shops, waiting rooms 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.

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Meet your new feline friend...Part 2

By Claire Kirby, 4-Legs-Good



Part 1 of this article in the Spring edition talked about what a cat is. From here one can deduce what a cat needs. When introducing another cat, you need to ensure that the existing cat and any new cat each have their own 'core territory'. An easy way of rationalising this is a room each! Groups of cats living together need to feel that there is enough of what they need to go around. Each 'core territory' should provide:

- Food (ideally off floor)
- Water (separate from food)
- Hiding places
- High resting places – having access to high space reduces stress
- A litter tray (or direct access to the outdoors)
- Scratching post

It will always be best to establish the core area for the new cat before introducing the new cat. The existing cat should be denied access to this area.

Cats use a wider territory outside of their 'core territory' and provided each cat has their own core territory away from that of the other cat/s, it's perfectly possible to time share other areas of the house from the beginning. This will facilitate 'scent sharing' allowing each cat to get used to the scent of the other cat before

they actually meet. In this way they will already be semi used to each other before this meeting and they should feel correspondingly less threatened. The ideal set up could be a 'core territory' either side of the house and shared communal areas in between. In addition to the resources in each individual cat's core territory you also need to provide resources in the communal areas. I will discuss the provision of such resources in my next article.

Child-gates reinforced with chicken wire can be a good way to separate the house so that the cats each have freedom but can't actually meet. Then the new cat can be confined to their 'core territory' while the resident cat roams and vice versa. However, it will be best that they don't meet at the barrier to begin with. Over time the idea will be to allow them to meet at the child gate interface with a lovely bowl of cat food or their favourite treat so that they make a pleasant association.

If each cat has their own 'core territory' and time-shared access to the rest of the house from the start, then there is no pressure to introduce them quickly. The longer you take the more likely you will be to succeed!

Claire Kirby is a member of the Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors (APBC), The Canine Behaviour & Training Society (TCBTS) and is a Certified Clinical Animal Behaviourist. Claire is also a visiting lecturer and consultant at Harper Adams University. 4-Legs-Good Community Interest Company, based in Shrewsbury, counsels clients in and around the West Midlands. Visit www.4-legs-good.co.uk, email Claire@4-legs-good.co.uk, or phone 01743 249968 or 07929954310 for more information.

How to sponsor Shropshire Cat Rescue

Sponsor a Cat - £12 a year



Pickle moved into the Retirement Village in 2016 at the age of 10. She is tabby and white.



Titch is an elderly stray who came to live in the Retirement Village in February 2013. She is black and white and blind, but she still enjoys a good life.



Annwyn is a 12 month old tortoiseshell and white female. She now lives at the Shelter and has put herself in charge of vermin control.



Mandy moved into the Retirement Village in October 2014. She is a blue Chinchilla Persian with lots of character.

Sponsor the Rabbits and Guinea Pigs - £15 a year



There are seven hutches and a large enclosure for the rabbits and guinea pigs. The rabbits are neutered and vaccinated. Some are rehomed whilst others are cared for at the Shelter.

Sponsor the Nursery - £25 a year



The Nursery was built in 2011 from a grant by Support Adoption for Pets. There are seven pens for pregnant and nursing females and two incubators for orphans.

How to sponsor Shropshire Cat Rescue

Sponsor the Moggies Retirement Village - £50 a year



The Moggies Retirement Village was built in 2010 and is currently home to over 25 elderly cats.

Sponsor the Shelter - £100 a year



The Shelter was built in 1999 and has continued to grow. We have 13 free ranger cats, 25 cats in the Retirement Village plus up to 122 cats and kittens waiting for homes.

Your sponsorship or your gift

Pickle	£12		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Your sponsorship begins on the first of the month following receipt of payment and lasts for 12 months.
Mandy			
Titch			
Annwyn			
Rabbits and guinea pigs	£15		<ul style="list-style-type: none">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.
The Nursery	£25		
The Moggies Retirement Village	£50		
The Shelter	£100		<ul style="list-style-type: none">In addition to the above you will also receive 4 editions of The Cat's Whiskers Magazine
TOTAL PAYABLE		£	

Please return the form and a cheque, made payable to **Shropshire Cat Rescue, to Shropshire Cat Rescue, Windy Ridge, Lyth Hill Road, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, SY3 0AU.**

More information about our sponsorship packages can be found online at **www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk**

How to sponsor Shropshire Cat Rescue



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Date gift should arrive:	Occasion: Birthday/Anniversary/Christmas
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Name of recipient:	Address:
Tel:	
Mobile:	
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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.

Two special sisters - Sparkie and Rosie

By Marion Micklewright, Shelter Manager.



Sparkie and Rose arrived at the shelter in June 2013 quite simply because the owner's partner wasn't keen on them and they were weeing on the floor.

From the minute this pair arrived and were placed in our Moggies Retirement Village they settled in and everyone that met them adored them. Sparkie loved to climb up and snuggle into your neck with her paws around your neck, Rosie looked on in adoration.

Several months after their arrival, Rosie became seriously ill and had a stroke. She was taken to the vets; the prognosis wasn't good. Sparkie was clearly pining back at the Shelter and so we

took her to the vets to stay with Rosie. Sparkie set to cleaning her sister and snuggling up to her and within days the transformation was remarkable. Rosie was allowed to come home along with her sister and they stayed close together for weeks. One day I observed Sparkie sitting on the bench in one of the cottages, Rosie called up to her and Sparkie reached with her foot down to Rosie, offering encouragement for her to jump up. Rosie literally climbed up Sparkie's leg and snuggled up next to her.

So strong was the bond between the two cats that artists and photographers visited, and we are lucky enough to have a wonderful

portrait hanging on the wall in Peach cottage where they both spent so much time.

Once Rosie made a good recovery, Sparkie and she spent less time together, living in different parts of the village in separate cottages. Both had their own friends and so Sparkie with her outgoing confidence was taken out to visit the elderly people in nursing homes. She loved her visits and soon became very popular. When children came to visit the shelter, she was always one of the favourites as she quickly became friends with anyone that spoke to her.

As time went by age-related problems set in. The two sisters,

who had appeared to drift apart, were drawn together again, and were often found curled up together on the couch in the summer house, next to the radiator listening to Classic FM. Too frail now to take on visits, too weary to make new friends, we knew that the time was coming when decisions would need to be made.

We were blessed to have known such beautiful cats. Sparkie and Rosie were put to sleep one after the other on the same day. Much loved and always missed, Sparkie and Rosie were very special sisters to one another and to everyone who met them.

Photograph supplied by Marion Micklewright.

How to leave a lasting gift - ActiveWills

By Marion Micklewright, Chairman.



Shropshire Cat Rescue has partnered with ActiveWills to make writing a Will that includes a gift to your favourite charities quick and easy. ActiveWills' mission is to make writing a Will, that is fully legally binding, so easy and so affordable

that everyone can enjoy the peace of mind of knowing their family, their wealth and their wishes are protected.

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Happy Heads, Happy Hearts.

By Christina Morgan, Snowdrop House.



Snowdrop House and A Healthy Home are so thrilled to have been able to have our latest Happy Heads, Happy Hearts Children's Mindfulness course at Shropshire Cat Rescue. It is specifically designed for children to mindfully explore thoughts, feelings and emotions, without fear of judgement or criticism.

The course uses a range of mindfulness activities and meditations to help children become more aware of living in the present moment. This included spending some time with the cats in the retirement village, one of the volunteers John kindly allowed us to feed the goats too! We were also very lucky to witness a very wonderful cat give birth to 5 kittens, the day was magical, and the children went away happier and calmer as a result of being at this wonderful venue!

The social, emotional and cognitive benefits of practising mindfulness around animals, includes building self-confidence and self-esteem, reducing anxiety and stress, and enhancing learning and focus. We

also explore mindful eating with our Nutritional Therapist Kate Bevan Wood from 'A Healthy Home', we provide snacks and make nutrition fun and relevant for the children and parents.

We will now be running more children's sessions throughout the summer holidays.

If you would like further information on how to book on, please contact Christina on 07807 991251, email christina@snowdrophouse.co.uk or visit www.snowdrophouse.co.uk.

Christina Morgan of Snowdrop House in Shrewsbury is a qualified Clinical Hypnotherapist, Mindfulness Meditation Teacher and NLP Coach, working with local clients as well as those who travel from the wider Shropshire area, Herefordshire, Powys and the West Midlands to work with her.

Photographs supplied by Christina Morgan.



The Beast from the East.

By Marion Micklewright, Shelter Manager.



We were all warned that it was coming, we were all told to prepare for the worst and then just when it couldn't sound any more scary we were told that the Beast was to be joined by Storm Emma.

Having experienced the heavy snow pre Christmas, we took all necessary precautions. John and I sealed off the North facing doorway to the ponies' outdoor field shelter; The sheep were moved to a paddock with more substantial shelter which we filled with a deep layer of straw; The extractor fan in the Nursery which faces North was blocked off; The guinea pig hutches had Winter boards put up so that the driving weather would not be able to enter their hay filled hutches and we drove out to Hanwood to fill up on bales of hay. In addition, and just to be extra prepared, John kept his sleeping bag in his car and offered

to stay over to ensure that all the animals would be cared for.

We could see the beast arriving over the Wenlock Edge, a blackened sky, drop in temperature and over the course of 24 hours he edged his way into our space and then let rip. As Windy Ridge faces East and we are situated on the top of a hill, we got full impact. The snow was dry and powdery and there were areas of the shelter that had no snow at all, thanks to storm Emma frantically blowing with all her might creating unusual sculptures along the lane and hedgerows and drifts of up to six feet deep.



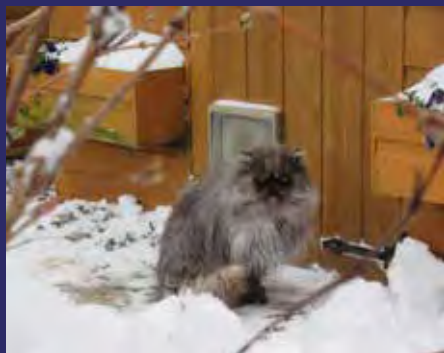
All the animals stayed within their shelters for three days whilst John and I lugged food and hay for them to eat and keep warm. Water bottles and buckets were frozen solid and all had to be replaced. Additional insulated jackets for the water bottles were purchased for the guinea pigs and rabbits, but the water still froze two hours after putting fresh water out.



Volunteers were told to stay away as the lane outside of Windy Ridge was lethal as cars, driving up the relatively clear lane turned the bend and were hit with shock, surprise and a huge drift of snow.



I would like to thank John Coles so very much for staying over in the staff room for two nights, keeping Annwyn, Meg and Precious warm, and for helping me with the epic task. Thanks too to Christine who lives a few doors down but had no snow drifts on her part of the lane but came up to help.



Photographs by Marion Micklewright and Margaret Lloyd.



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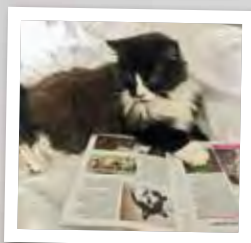
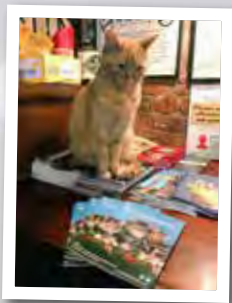
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The Cat's Whiskers – Happy 1st Birthday.

By David Bates, Magazine Editor.

This edition marks the 1st birthday of the new look The Cat's Whiskers magazine. Look at how some of our furry readers like the magazine!



Thank you to all the advertisers, contributors and volunteers who have been involved with the first 4 editions of the magazine. My personal thanks go to the Magazine Team and our publisher, Sam Macnamara at Spotty Penguin (www.spottypenguin.com) for creating a fabulous magazine. The magazine aims to raise awareness about Shropshire Cat Rescue and the vital work it does. We are delighted that many of the advertisers will continue to support the magazine and we are able to produce a further 4 magazines over the coming year.

The Cat's Whiskers travels the world!

By Dianne Beaumont, Volunteer and Trustee.

During the last year The Cat's Whiskers magazine has clocked up thousands of miles, climbed mountains and travelled on just about every mode of transport. Volunteers have been raising awareness about Shropshire Cat Rescue by seeing how far The Cat's Whiskers could travel.

Here are a few of the postcards from around the world that feature this magazine!

Postcards from Dianne Beaumont from an epic 3-week journey to Asia. Travel included: planes, trains and automobiles; luxury liner, river barge sampan and junk; cable cars and a whole lot of walking! The Cat's Whiskers travelled 3,137.1 nautical miles, 14,420 air miles and many land miles on our different excursions from UK, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Taiwan and China.

POSTCARD

1

Dear Shropshire
Cat Rescue,
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all, can't wait
to see the next
magazine soon.

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Butterfly farm in Aruba which is north of Venezuela



Yes that is Mount Everest in the background!

Mera Peak in the Himalayas and at one of the Buddhist temples in Kathmandu, Nepal. Mera Peak is 6,476 metres (21,247 ft.) high!



Postcards sent by Dianne Beaumont, Margaret Lloyd, Julie and Peter Kampler, Rose Laird and Andy Halliwell.

Art Squad Anarchy - A fundraising event with a difference.

By Susan Marine, Volunteer.

As some of you may know, 2018 is the 20th anniversary of Shropshire Cat Rescue being a registered charity, and the Twenty 20 Team are marking the occasion by organising up to 20 events to raise awareness and funds for the Big PURR Project.

The year-long programme continued on the 15th of February at the Old Post Office in Shrewsbury with Art Squad Anarchy (ASA), an event organised by a local art group. ASA started 2 years ago and has become a huge hit with the local art community, so the Twenty 20 team were absolutely delighted when they agreed to host a fundraiser called 'February Feline Fine' including their comical version of 'Kitten's Got Talent'.

Host and co-organiser Pip Bayley explained "The idea for Art Squad Anarchy is quite simple, we pick a theme, create a variety of costumes on that theme, and get people to draw them! This is interspersed with music, dance, and ridiculous nonsense from myself and my long-suffering co-host Moroccan Tom. You don't have to be an amazing artist to join in, indeed many of our guests haven't drawn since school and often they produce the best work. All artistic levels are welcomed, and the emphasis of the events is very

much encouraging creativity, whilst having a lot of silly, risqué, and crazy fun".

On the night, guests were presented with a wide array of cat themed models to draw including Top Cat, Love Cats, Pussy Riot, a mime act by Sal and Andy aka Doctor Johnson's Dog and a model wearing a giant handmade cat head and Japanese style clothing, to name just a few. Each pose was accompanied by 'cat' inspired music.

The evening, frequently referred to as 'Life drawing with a difference' was a lot of fun and well organised by Pip and the ASA team. SCR trustees Marg Lloyd and Di Beaumont organised the raffle, and a total of £338.62 was raised on the night.

The Twenty 20 team would like to thank Pip Bayley, John Bengé, the Art Squad Anarchy Team, The Old Post Office, guests and all who donated to the raffle including Thighs the Limit, Taste of Shrewsbury, Sabrina Boat, The Barber Shop, Fusion Hair & Beauty, Bodytech Health Club and Buttonbury.

For more information about Twenty 20 events see Page 10 and look for the Twenty 20 logo.

Photographs supplied by Susan Marine



Forever Homes

By David Bates, Magazine Editor

It is fantastic to see cats find their forever homes. Shropshire Cat Rescue aims to rehome cats to appropriate homes but, for those who cannot be found a forever home, they can reside in the

Moggies Retirement Village which we feature in each edition of this magazine.

Recently, Molly, Pepe and Millie found their forever homes.



Molly



Pepe



Millie

Photographs taken from Shropshire Cat Rescue Facebook page

Kitten Club Anagrams Answers

Cast = **Cats**

A sniper = **Persian**

Wasp = **Paws**

We shirk = **Whisker**

Lait = **Tail**

Gulf Rose = **Four legs**

Kit net = **Kitten**

Horrid Haste = **Short haired**

Task be = **Basket**

Catching sports = **Scratching post**

HEALTH MATTERS – Kidney Disease

Advice from Rebecca Bennett, Quarry Vets, Shrewsbury.



In this final article about the retirement village and the health problems the older cats can face, we will consider kidney disease.

Kidney disease is one of the most common conditions affecting older cats, its onset is usually very gradual - in the early stages there are often not many outward signs that there may be a problem. Some cats may deteriorate rapidly, others may cope well for a significant time. There is no way of predicting the long-term outcome for an individual cat. Lots of the village cats are affected by varying stages of kidney failure.

The kidneys are important in the body to regulate fluid balance, produce hormones and excrete waste products. As cats age, the function of the kidneys deteriorates, and they are unable to carry out all these vital jobs. Your cat may start to show signs such as losing weight, drinking more, vomiting, going off their food or becoming 'picky' with their food amongst other things.

These signs will often only show up once kidney disease is fairly severe, when up to 75% of the kidneys are not working. 'Chronic' kidney disease is where this deterioration has happened gradually over time usually as a natural ageing process although there can be other underlying medical problems that can also be present. We also see 'acute' kidney failure where there is a sudden, more rapid deterioration in kidney function.

To investigate kidney disease at the

surgery, as a minimum we would usually run a blood sample and a urine sample. Checking blood pressure is also sensible.

Treatment is usually aimed at managing the disease and complications that arise from it rather than there being a cure. We sometimes admit cats at the surgery on a fluid drip to get a short-term improvement although this is usually more useful in acute kidney failure rather than chronic kidney failure.

In the chronic form, the treatment often depends on the severity of the kidney failure. Diet modification has been shown to be one of the most effective ways of slowing down the progression of kidney disease, but cats can be fussy, especially if they are feeling unwell. Diet change is often most useful when started in the earlier stages of kidney failure before things deteriorate too far. The best, most balanced diets for kidney disease are prescription diets from your vet.

There are medications which help with the symptoms of kidney disease, such as appetite stimulants and medications that can help blood pressure or nausea.

Drinking plenty of water is essential. It can be useful to have multiple bowls around the house - some cats like drinking from dripping taps and 'water fountains' can be a very effective way of encouraging your cat to drink.

If you think your cat may be showing some of the signs of kidney disease, then contact your vet for further advice.

Rebecca Bennett graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 1999, and has worked at Quarry Vets, Shrewsbury since 2008. She enjoys all aspects of her job, especially working with cats. Quarry Vets can be contacted at **www.quarryvets-shrewsbury.co.uk** or telephone **01743 362556**.



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Dear Shelter Manager

We had a cat from you last year and she settled in so well. There is one other cat in our cul de sac and since Christmas when she sees him she vents her frustration and aggression towards us. We have read it is called "Redirected aggression". Can you give us any advice on ways to calm her down or prevent the aggression towards us she has scratched and bitten us as well as hissing etc. This behaviour is certainly not her normal way with us and as I said has only started in the last month or so.

Any advice will be very much appreciated

Sorry to hear that you are having a tough time with your cat. Redirected Aggression should never be taken personally even though it's your person that is being attacked. The cat hasn't decided it no longer loves you - it's just that you are the only thing it can lash out at the time it's feeling particularly bad tempered.

1. Try to recognise when your cat has "seen" the offending cat and distract it with treats, food or a fishing rod toy.
2. Use a Feliway plug-in diffuser so

that the home smells calm and wonderful

3. Keep well away when your pet starts showing signs of aggression i.e. swishing tail, large dilated pupils, flat ears and leave her to calm down on her own.

Dear Shelter Manager

My cat loves to sunbathe in the lane outside of my house, doesn't move when a car comes and expects it to stop and wait whilst she finishes (which up until now they have done)! I am so worried that one day the driver won't stop – how can I stop her from doing this?

Firstly, you need to understand why your cat is doing this; cats will seek out the warmest (not always the comfiest) place to lie and as the tarmac on the lane warms up under the sun, it's a lovely warm spot for your cat to soak in the sun's rays. Secondly, you need to make the lane an unattractive place to lie – you could put fine gravel over the area outside your home or better still you could blast your cat with water every time she goes near it. The important thing is that your cat learns that the lane is not a nice place to go. By way of a compromise I would try to create a sunbathing spot in your garden, right where the sun shines down; compacted soil warms up nicely especially if it is dark soil, if you don't compact it, it will just become a litter tray. To encourage the cat to lie in her new special place I would plant cat nip (Nepeta) around and treat her with some delicious cat treats when you find her there.

Dear Shelter Manager

My cat isn't hungry anymore, she has no appetite, I've tried different brands, but it has made no difference, how long can she carry on with no food?

(this question was taken as a phone call and dealt with immediately – the cat lived and would have told the tale if she could talk)

Loss of appetite or refusal to eat is a serious matter and whilst an attempt to entice the cat to eat should be recommended, there should be a limit on time here as prolonged starvation can lead to liver problems.

- Try to warm up the food to release the smell, this can encourage cats whose sense of smell is compromised.
- Ensure the feeding dish is very clean, cats don't like eating from soiled plates.
- A plate is preferable to feed off than a bowl to some cats as they don't like the feel of their whiskers touching the sides.
- Add something really tasty to the meal such as cooked chicken or pilchards in tomato sauce.

If your cat is still refusing food after trying the above and you are on day three of no eating, do make an appointment to see or speak to the vet.

Most cats get most of their water intake from wet food and whilst a cat can go several weeks without food, their kidneys cannot cope for longer than three days without water.



Dear Shelter Manager

I recently adopted a very nervous cat from a social media page. Every time I get him out from under the bed, he just runs back again, do you have any advice please on how I should try to bond with the cat?

Firstly, don't try too hard. Nervous and frightened cats like to "suss out" the situation from the safety of a high or safe place and only when they are happy that there is nothing out there that is going to eat them are they likely to venture out. My advice would be to ensure there are plenty of hiding places for the cat that give it a good vantage point i.e. under the bed is not particularly good so I would suggest you shut the bedroom door, a well-placed cardboard box with large holes cut out and placed on a table as well as floor will suffice. Allow the cat to hide and just talk to him or talk to yourself, your voice will become more and more familiar. He will come out when he is good and ready.

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 19 and 20**, visit us online at **www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk** or contact Marion Micklewright at the Shelter on **01743 872857**.



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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 online at www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk or contact Cindy Mason-Morris at 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.

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 Shop (3 Roushill Bank, Shrewsbury) 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**

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Shelter Manager	Marion Micklewright
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Website Design	Jem Turner

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