



Newsletter Autumn 2023

New Chair Another Chapter

At our Annual General Meeting in September, Joss Loader took up the reins of Worthing Cat Welfare Trust for the coming year and we welcome her in this vital role in these difficult times:

It's been a challenging summer for everyone here at WCWT - not least the unprecedented numbers of scared and often bewildered cats, who came through our doors, desperately seeking new loving homes.

The re-homing crisis - combined with vet bills - means that we are now haemorrhaging money at an average rate of £900 every day. Thanks to the incredible generosity of previous and current donors, plus our own financial prudence, we are still in a far better financial position than many other similar small charities. However, we are continuing to review our operations, particularly with regard to future fund-raising, as a matter of urgency. If anyone has fund-raising skills, do please get in touch - and sincere thanks to those who have already come forward. We can only do this as a team.



Meanwhile, WCWT is “staffed” entirely by a passionate, committed and loyal team of volunteers, some of whom have been with us since Iris Green and Sandra Collins set up the charity we all love more than 30 years ago. Their dedication is and always has been phenomenal.

Moving forward, I have now been elected as the new Chair after Mike Glennon stepped down at last month's Annual General Meeting after four years at the helm.

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Worthing Cat Welfare Trust





Trustees* and Management Group

Chairman	Joss Loader*	Adoptions	Ana Sales*
Treasurer	Adrian Radford	Welfare	Sandra Collins*
Secretary	- Vacant -		Germaine Conroy-Schneider*
Administration	Georgina Woolley		Jackie Riddles*
Distribution	Andy Collins*	Fostering	Miriam Lopez
Membership	Linda Kenealy		
Newsletter	Mike Glennon	Lost & Found	Germaine Conroy-Schneider*
Pet Insurance	Cindy Willey		
Website	Lucy Todd		

Continued from front page On behalf of our charity, I'd like to thank Mike sincerely for his unstinting commitment, energy, leadership and sheer hard work during the most challenging times we have faced for a generation, including successive lockdowns.

Mike will still be continuing with WCWT, however, albeit it in a non-trustee role, providing valuable administrative and practical support in a number of operational areas. These include our subsidised neutering scheme, Arm's Length adoptions and some home checking in outlying areas, as well as producing our bi-annual newsletter.

This is also the moment to express our enormous gratitude to Christine Jones, who has been our treasurer these last five years and who retired from this post at the end of September. Not only has she been tireless with invoicing, banking and producing accounting reports, but she has been the source of much valuable advice and assistance across a wide range of our managerial challenges.

When Christine served notice of her intention to stand down - well over a year ago - a sense of trepidation set in, as suitably qualified and willing treasurers are notoriously difficult to come by. After considerable research we were finally able to find a candidate, who more than meets our requirements, both in terms of professional knowledge and experience with charities.

A big welcome, therefore, to Adrian Radford and you can read more from him elsewhere in this newsletter.

Joss Loader





2023 AGM at Ardington Hotel

Our Annual General Meeting took place on Saturday 2nd September yet again at the Ardington Hotel in Steyne Gardens, Worthing, just off the seafront. A total of 25 members were in attendance and we reviewed another highly successful year for the charity, having rescued, rehabilitated and re-homed over 300 cats and kittens across the county.

Outgoing Chairman, Mike Glennon, commented, "The bedrock of our organisation is our superb network of volunteers, who undertake such a wide range of duties for no reward, other than serving this wonderful cause of ours. The amount of work undertaken is simply enormous and ranges from the physical rescue of needy cats at one end of the process, right through the comprehensive care stage and on to highly selective onward adoptions to Forever Homes.

"Although we are – and intend to remain – a local, volunteer-driven charity, we look constantly for ways to strengthen and to streamline our operations. Chief among these is the eternal search for new sources of funding and for many more volunteers to bring in new ideas and the energy to shoulder some of the ever-growing workload. In short, we need money and good people!"



As outlined elsewhere in this newsletter, the AGM marked the departure of our Treasurer of five years, Christine Jones and the imminent arrival of new Treasurer, Adrian Radford. A prime purpose of an AGM is to elect the new Board of Trustees and a unanimous vote approved the following seven: Joss Loader (Chairman, whose introductory comments appear on the front page), Sandra and Andy Collins, Germaine Conroy-Schneider, Justin Herbert, Jackie Riddles and Ana Sales.

We would also like to express our ongoing gratitude to the **Ardington Hotel**, which has been a long time supporter of Worthing Cat Welfare Trust and provides the excellent meeting facilities, which have made our Annual General Meetings such a pleasant experience over recent years – and all on a very generous Gratis basis. The benefit of having such a prestigious, central venue is much appreciated by all.





An afternoon full of positive-tea



**For some fizzical therapy
include a glass of prosecco or aperol spritz
for only £6.50!**



AFTERNOON TEA

From 10.30am – 5pm
£10.75 per person

Traditional homemade vanilla
and gruyère cheese scones
Clotted cream, strawberry jam and butter

**A selection of teas
and freshly ground coffee**

ADD SANDWICHES

£7.75 supplement*

Mature Sussex cheddar and pickle
Locally smoked salmon
Free range egg mayonnaise
Roast beef and horseradish

FULL AFTERNOON TEA

From 10.30am – 5pm
£24.75 per person*

A selection of sandwiches
Mature Sussex cheddar and pickle
Locally smoked salmon
Free range egg mayonnaise
Roast beef and horseradish

*** A selection of macaroons ***

*** Traditional homemade vanilla
and gruyère cheese scones**

Clotted cream, strawberry jam and butter

*** Belgian Chocolate pots ***

*** White Chocolate mousse ***
lemon curd and raspberry

*** Victoria sponge ***
Strawberry jam and cream

*** Warm pork, herb and
sweet onion sausage roll**

**A selection of teas and
freshly ground coffee**

*Minimum 24 hours
notice required



Indigo Bistro, The Ardington Hotel, Steyne Gardens, Worthing BN11 3DZ
T: 01903 230451 E: reservations@ardingtonhotel.co.uk www.indigorestaurant.info





£££ Deficit Growing

Once again, I find myself reporting on the results of our last financial year, which ended on 31st March 2023 - time does seem to fly by!

Sadly, the charity made a significant loss of almost £295,000. Income was just over £64,000, the lowest in the last 10 years by a long way, while expenditure was nearly £339,000 and £90,000 higher than the previous year.

We know that we are heavily reliant on legacies from our wonderful supporters; something we have never taken for granted, however with such a huge increase in costs, it clearly shows we face enormous financial challenges in the future.

The biggest rise in costs was with rescue and re-homing: £331,000 or 92% of our total. Our costs have been under increasing scrutiny, which resulted in changes to our Golden Oldie scheme and the way in which dietary food required for these cats is purchased. We also defined more clearly what is included in our support for these cats. We know that these measures have resulted in savings, although it is more difficult to quantify them at this stage.

We must also note that a record 314 cats passed through between April 2022 and March 2023 and we saw a greater number given up or taken in by us as strays. In many ways, we are a victim of our own success; we appear to be the first - or maybe only - port of call for people sadly unable to fund expensive treatment for their injured or very poorly cats.

There are early indications of a slight improvement in income this current year, however costs remain high. The Trustees will continue to look at cost-savings and ways to generate more income.

As I say goodbye to you, I have enjoyed my last five years as Treasurer and feel privileged to play a small role in helping the many cats that we have taken in. It is sad to leave during challenging times, however I am delighted to hand over the reins in October to Adrian Radford, who will be a great asset and who is very experienced in looking after the finances of a charity.

Christine Jones





A Devoted Mother and Son

After having cats for over 50 years, when our last one passed away in March last year we decided that - as we were getting older - we would not have another one, as the chances were that a kitten would outlive us both. Fast forward to October and we were on a coach coming back from a holiday and I was flicking through Facebook on my phone. I saw a post from Worthing Cat Welfare Trust, asking for a home for a mother and her son, aged 12 and 10. I was completely smitten with the two gorgeous faces looking at me from their photograph.

When I arrived home I got in touch with WCWT, a home check was done and we were duly approved. We went to see Pouchy and Felix, although not a very successful visit, as they were both very shy, but we did briefly see them. We collected them a few weeks later and when we got them home they both disappeared under the sofa.

The next two days we hardly saw them, but the food was being eaten and the litter tray was being used. I used to just sit quietly in the room they were in and after about three days, Pouchy (mum) ventured out to see me and once contact had been made she couldn't get enough attention. Felix was still very unsure and it was about three weeks



Pouchy safe in my arms



before he semi trusted us. Now, it is as if they have always been here, although Felix is still timid and disappears upstairs when we have visitors, but he is slowly learning to trust people. Meanwhile, Pouchy just loves all the attention.

They are both an absolute delight and we are so glad we adopted them.

Dorothy & Michael Orpin





All Change at the Treasury

From 1st October **Adrian Radford** took over from Christine Jones as Treasurer of Worthing Cat Welfare Trust. Although we are a small local charity, the financial control of our affairs is no small job – as you will have read in Christine's numerous newsletter articles over recent years. Rescuing and re-homing over 300 cats annually generates an enormous volume of transactions for veterinary treatments, billeting and general purchasing across our five care locations. Furthermore, as a registered charity, we have a wide range of protocols to observe in order to maintain that status and, inevitably, this brings the need for surprisingly complex administrative processing internally. We are incredibly lucky to have found a highly qualified successor and we'll be carrying updates from Adrian in each and every newsletter in future. Meanwhile, here are a few words of introduction from Adrian himself:

"I am a qualified chartered accountant with over 20 years' experience in the charity sector. I live in West Chiltington with my wife Maria and our three rescue cats, Tilly, Ted and Lulu, who are 16, 12, and 9 years of age. We have always had cats and each one has had its own character. My photo here is with Tilly, as she is the only one who will pose – and even that begrudgingly! Following qualification, I spent 11 years working for a company, but in my heart I wanted to work in the charity sector and have worked for five different charities and volunteered in a few others. Now, with retirement imminent, I wanted to volunteer for a cat-related charity and the role of treasurer here became available and I so was happy to take up the post. Following an early meeting with the trustees, I recommended that the charity change its corporate status to that of a **Charitable Incorporated Organisation***, in order to provide the protection of limited liability for the charity's trustees."



* The reasonings and explanations behind this proposed change will be the subject of an Extraordinary General Meeting some time during the coming winter and all members will be briefed in detail well in advance.





Cats Get Clicks!

From Instagram to YouTube to Facebook, the internet nowadays is famously awash with cat videos. People love them. Anyone who works with websites or social media knows the mantra: “cats get clicks”.

This is something TV and radio presenter, Eddy Temple-Morris, is finding out, in the nicest possible way, thanks to the two adorable Maine Coon cross kittens he and his partner adopted from us. “Bigsby and Chibi have completely changed our lives and we are so grateful to everyone at Worthing Cat Welfare Trust.” said the presenter of Virgin Radio’s mid-morning show and co-presenter of The Three Drinkers in Cognac on Amazon Prime.

This uplifting crusade has taken a surprising new turn on Eddy’s Instagram (@eddytemplemorris) page, where he’s been sharing his journey as a father to rescue kittens. His ‘Floofwatch’ videos have become a much loved furry soap opera, starring these two beautiful little cats, who were abandoned with their mum and siblings just before Christmas last year.



Bigsby in arms, Chibi looks on

“I can’t believe how popular my silly cat videos became. I’ve never had so many people get in touch and since I started sharing them, I’ve gained thousands of new followers!”

Eddy has even given the two “floofs” - as he calls them - their own special Instagram page (@bigby_and_chibi), observing the world through their eyes.

“We’ve only had these gorgeous creatures for about six months and they have already established themselves as the rulers of this house. I honestly cannot imagine a life without them now.”

Eddy, who is also Patron of the mental health peer-to-peer charity,

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CAT'S WHISKERS

VETERINARY CLINIC

Here at Cat's Whiskers we are not just cat specialists! We also specialise in cat owners, cat lovers and everyone who cares about these wonderful little creatures.



We offer the highest level of customer care to all our clients, both two-legged and four - we've even had three-legged too!

Owners are treated like friends and their cats are treated as if they really belong to us. We give extensive feedback after each and every consultation and are always just a phone call away with specific advice to reassure owners further.

**Only specialists can
be really special**

From what our clients say, that simply isn't the case everywhere. We strive to make this not just a caring profession, but also a craft in customer care. Please be in touch some time soon and see for yourself.

125 South Farm Road, Worthing BN14 7AX (01903) 830577





A Baker's Dozen

Thirteen Lucky for some and the number of years since Cat's Whiskers, the specialist feline clinic in South Farm Road, Worthing, first opened its doors - and cat flaps!

In June the anniversary was celebrated in style with a charity fund-raising Open Day attended by existing and prospective clients.

Visitors were shown around the clinic to see the medical and care facilities, while kids enjoyed games, such as a mouse hunt, colouring-in tasks and face-paints.

To get coins and notes into a grateful Worthing Cat Welfare Trust's coffers, staff had organised a tombola, and a "Guess the most popular cat name!" there at the clinic, as well as selling donated hand-made greetings cards.



Tombola and Games



The end of a busy, productive day

Cats' names presumably go around in fashion cycles, rather like human ones, but a recent nationwide survey suggested the Top Three are currently Luna, Bella and Poppy, followed, more surprisingly perhaps, by Milo in 4th place!

There were plenty of refreshments, birthday cupcakes for all attendees plus a link with *Buddy's* next door to provide hot drinks for guests.

By the close of very a busy day, the charity funds raised had exceeded £300, which was a welcome boost for the strained financial resources at WCWT.



MOST POPULAR CAT NAMES AT CATIS WHISKERS ±1 A GO									
LILY	ZIGGY	OSCAR	MARLEY	CHOCOLATE	BOBBY	JEFF	MEG	RUBY	ALTIE
MONKEY	DUCKS	WHISKER	HILLY	DESPER	TOMMY	PICKLE	PEANIE	KITTY	SNOWY
GARFIELD	BUNCS	CHARLIE	BELLA	NAISIE	JACK	RUDY	CALLIE	PATIE	
HINA	TEDDY	FLUFFY	WINSTON	FELIX	HINDY	MONTY	SHEER	LULU	PIXIE
DILLY	HUGO	HABEL	ROLEY	DONNO	RENGE	AMBER	SHEER	GEORGE	MAX
TOM	OSCAR	JANE	SHANNON	HEVEY	YAZER	BONNIE	TANGO	POPPY	BERTIE
KELLY	HANCO	ARNIE	IRBY	SHUNNY	MOSEY	CHILLI	HUFFIN	BETTY	HARRY
ROSIE	ROB	BEHAR	ROLLO	WINNIE	FROG	DRIST	LUNA	COCO	WILLOW
FREDDIE	BENCHI	LORA	ROKY	DOD	HOLLY	HANGIE	FROGER	KATY	HILLY
MERLIN	SUKI	LOKI	KIKI	MILO	SINKER	MOLLI	MIA	LEO	NINNIE





Forty Six Years Rescuing Cats

Earlier this year we re-homed two of our Golden Oldies to Barry and Vicky Williams in Horsham. Two dear little cats called Ginge and Rags, who had been languishing for some months, constantly overlooked by most of the visitors we had coming in to choose a furry friend.

Barry and Vicky were very clear when they approached us: We want the cats which nobody else seems to want! If only all of our adoption enquirers had such a mellow attitude to the salvation of this world's really needy cats. Barry picks up the story:

Over the years we have taken in so many cats, mainly rescues, which would be difficult to home plus several from other sources. The RSPCA took rescue cats to our local vet to be checked and treated before they went for re-homing. If one were unlikely to find a new home, because of age, health or temperament, they would ask us to take them. Needless to say, we never refused and we've had some real characters. Our only condition was that they got on with our resident cats.

One thing we have learned, is that just like people, all cats are different and have their own personalities. No two cats are the same. Some are cleverer than others and I am absolutely convinced that they can think, despite what some of the experts say.

For over twenty five years we had between six and eight cats in the house, but in 2013 we realised that all of our cats were over 13 years of age. By 2015 we had just two left and one of the survivors made it clear that she did not want any others brought into the house, unless they were old and slow moving. She died in 2017 and we took in a very nervous little girl from our vets, which we lost last Christmas and have now taken in two lovely old ladies from WCWT. That makes twenty eight so far!



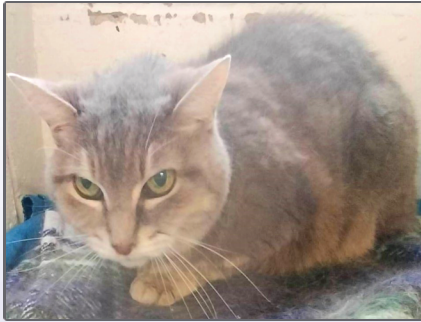
Ginge (shown on left) and Rags (next page) are real characters and, although they have spent all their lives together, they have nothing do with each other,





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but appear to be very contented in their new home. There is something really nice about taking in older cats: they are usually easy going and



From Rags to Riches

to see them enjoying their new life is very heart-warming. You never know how long you will have them for, of course, but some cats do not live to be old and we have lost some at a very young age. If you are thinking of giving a cat a home, do think of the “Oldies”, or those who are not pretty - they often have the sweetest natures.

Barry and Vicky Williams

Garfield becomes George

I had previously lost my cat, Beatrice, at the age of 16 and also suffered some ill health myself in 2022. After some dithering on my behalf I finally contacted Ana at Worthing Cat Welfare Trust and started looking for a new cat. Being candid, at first I was rather stuck on whether I really wanted another cat; I hate losing them and the sheer trauma of it all. Could I go through that once again? I then changed my mind set and came at it from the position of there being a cat needing a good, safe home - and that I can offer!

Early May I adopted George, who was formerly known at the cattery as Garfield, and got him back to my home in rural Wiston. There wasn't very much history about him, other than that he was five years old and his previous owner had sadly passed away and that he was a cat, who possibly could live happily as a house cat.



Continued overleaf

Window of Opportunity for George





Green Students Grow Money for Cats

When youngsters make a big effort to support something they believe in, it's always a heart-warming moment – and so it was with the Ormiston Six Villages Academy, based over at Westergate.

Fundraising was to the fore on the last day of the summer term and their Eco & Recycle Committee wanted to support a local animal welfare charity. Clara, Year 9 student committee member, had suggested, "It would be great to do a wear-it-green day for the fundraising event - that way it is Eco and fund-raises for a great cause."

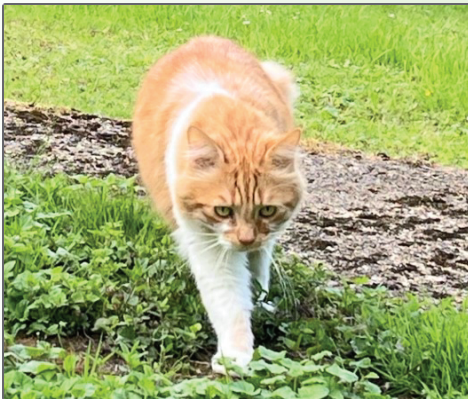
So, students were invited to dress Green for the day and leave their uniforms at home. For the privilege, each Greenie threw a pound into the pot and the great news was that Worthing Cat Welfare Trust was at the receiving end of £300! We would like to express much gratitude for this magnificent effort on behalf of all our trustees, volunteers – and most importantly - our wonderful cats!



Don't let the £300 out of the bag!

Continued

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The green, green grass of home

So, George has been here 5 months now and he is a pure delight with such a fabulous warm nature. Too curious at times, the rural garden has been an adventure park for him.

He's tried to mimic a keyboard, can't decide on being on his feet or his back and loves to watch the world go by from the front window!

Richard McKenna





Torn and Jerry - a WCWT Care Case Study

This poor Bengal came to us under sorrowful circumstances at the end of May when we received a call from a local veterinary clinic. An apparent stray, he had been cadging food from a very kindly Bulgarian couple, who were feeding him and noticed he had a horrible wound on the inside of his front right leg.



Wound inside front leg

They took him for initial treatment, but the mounting costs were overwhelming their meagre resources. A large area of flesh was torn wide open, which apart from being excruciatingly painful was exposed to all sorts of infection. There was no skeletal damage, so it wouldn't have been a road accident or an attack, so one can only assume he got caught on something very sharp like barbed wire and tore himself free. We'll never know. Alas, the extensive nature of the wound meant that it couldn't simply be stitched; it was the sort of wound needing to be "left open" (just like in the story we carried on *Blake* in the last issue of this newsletter).

We agreed to take him on - and christened him **Jerry**. After an initial, generously crowd-funded £700 surgical procedure to stabilise the wound, any chance of full recovery would hinge upon regular, professional (very costly) dressings and a calm environment for the long recuperation. Clearly, a case for very careful one-to-one fostering, as he needed close supervision, swathed as he was in bandages and wearing a head collar. Had he managed to untangle his accoutrements and access the wound himself, all would be in vain.

For the first week he was billeted with Kirstin, one of our very supportive fosterers, but then he moved on to one of our trustees for another three long months. Every vet visit was an anxious one to see whether healing was under way, but we knew it was always going to be a very slow process.





At one point it seemed like one step forward and then another step backwards to the point where there seemed little light at the end of the tunnel. Failure to heal – with infection concerns always present – might have brought a stark choice between amputation and euthanasia.



Lazy patient recovery!

Eventually, the vets decided that it was time to abandon all bandaging and expose the leg to the open air to boost granulation and then things gradually started looking up. Jerry was delighted to be rid of the physical restrictions and showed hardly any interest in his injury, so there was no need to revert to covering it up. Week by week the red raw area receded magically until by late August it had virtually disappeared altogether.

End result: One magnificent, ready-to-adopt, muscular 14-pounder in his absolute prime with an estimated age of five years. He has such a mournful expression always, but he is a very chilled, friendly gentleman without a shred of malice in him. Clearly, he has known lots of love and security in the past, because he is so well socialised, a lapper, a bedder and an addicted tummy-tickler – with an appetite like a small horse. Happy conclusion to Jerry's story is that he has now gone to an ideal, rural Forever Home, courtesy of Mandy and Bruce with masses of indoor space and a huge garden.



Jerry's vanishing wound

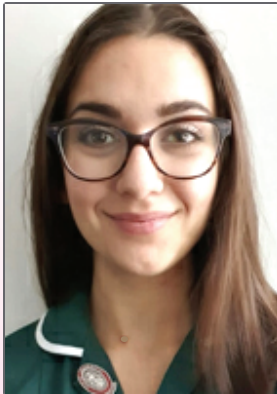


As Mandy explains: "When we went to meet Jerry, it was soon clear to both of us that he would be the ideal pet. Not only has he got such an engaging personality, but he's the sort of cat, who will benefit from unlimited territory, where he can be lord of his own manor. He has settled in really well and brought so much joy to this home of ours."





For readers with a more technical interest in Jerry's healing process (see previous two pages), we include here an explanation from Klaudia Wojcik RVN at Northdale veterinary practice:



Jerry came to Northdale here in Worthing at the end of May, after having been treated at another veterinary practice. His abscess burst and this led to a large, open wound covering his armpit and a substantial portion of his front leg.

We could not suture up the wound initially, so as to avoid closing in the infection, which was quite extensive. Under sedation, dead skin edges were trimmed and Jerry's leg was bandaged with underlying manuka honey dressing to fight the infection. All his bandaging needed changing every day and often this needed to be done under sedation. We needed to repetitively flush or further debride the wound. When infection was under control, we sedated Jerry once again to suture a part of the wound. Because of all the dead skin we needed to trim off, closing the whole wound was impossible, leaving Jerry with a portion of open injury. We were changing the dressing daily, applying manuka honey, but the wound was not healing as fast as we would have liked. In mid-June we sent a swab sample away to test for any bacterial growth that could be slowing down the progress.

The results came back with MRSA culture, which are bacteria, which stop the wound healing, so we added two different antibiotics to Jerry's daily medications and continued with dressing changes. Towards the end of June we could see what's called "granulation tissue" in the open portion of the wound, which indicated good healing at last. His bandages were changed a few more times before he was eventually discharged back to Worthing Cat Welfare Trust with a lovely, clean scar.





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My Black Dog, has been a great supporter of Worthing Cat Welfare Trust. He used his social media reach to find the mother of Bigsby (named after a guitar tremolo system) and Chibi (named after a character in the famous Japanese animé film 'My Neighbour Totoro') a loving forever home and help us raise awareness of what we do, of other cats we need to be re-homed and get financial help with vet bills.

He has even given extra food, litter and cat toys for Bigsby and Chibi's mum and other siblings. "There were too many cats and kittens in need of rescue for us to go to a breeder and we are so happy and grateful to Germaine ("Auntie G to the cats") and Mike at WCWT for everything they did. It was smooth, easy and they always had the kittens and their mum's welfare at the core of every decision. I can't recommend them enough. Having these cats is a life changing privilege and when I look at these magnificent creatures or hear them purring on my lap, it truly feels like the best decision I ever made."

You can listen to Eddy every weekday from 10am until 1pm on www.virginradio.co.uk and watch him on *The Three Drinkers in Cognac* on Amazon Prime. Follow his feline exploits with Bigsby and Chibi on @eddytemplemorris.



Chibi in her element



Grand Grant Most Welcome

Every penny counts, as they say, so a Grand £1,000 counts a lot!

Earlier this year the local Worthing vets, Northdale, nominated us at Worthing Cat Welfare Trust for their parent company, IVC Evidensia's, charity grant scheme. A generous £1,000 was the result, for which we thank all concerned.





Fostering so often ends in Adoption

After fostering cats for a year, we decided that we were ready for a cat that's all ours. We knew this was going to be tricky, as we could only have an indoor cat, but in early 2023 we got a call from WCWT about a cat, who was a fully indoor cat by his own choice.

We met Tom, who was terrified by the unfamiliar surroundings and hiding under a blanket. Even though he was clearly very anxious, we had a good hunch and took him home as soon as possible.



We renamed him Archie and introduced him to his new home, where he spent the first few days in hiding. After an uncomfortable 48 hours under a bookshelf, he then made a cave for himself, completely refusing to show his face. We spent time in the same room to get him used to us and on the fourth day we were treated to a tiny peak of Archie's nose from underneath the blanket. Encouraged by some treats, he slowly emerged and started to make our acquaintance.

Confident at last in a loving new home

Once he realised we weren't a threat, he could not get enough cuddles! Six months later and he is the cutest, most adorable lap cat and always wants to be in the same room with us.

He still gets spooked by strangers, but we're hopeful that over time he will learn that he can trust our friends and family as much as he trusts us. Archie is the best cat we could imagine.

He is unique: playful, very funny with his manners and just the most lovable cat - we could not feel happier that he came into our lives.

Josh and Pinja





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Two Little Boys

Readers may remember the story we carried this time last year about Junior, the kitten rescued from the jungle in Brunei by a British soldier, and the life they had together back here in Sussex. Another chapter has now just begun for Ian Smith:

After a short hiatus after losing my cat, Junior, the time was right to welcome another little companion or maybe even two into my home. The place - and life in general - just didn't feel the same without them. After narrowly missing out on a couple of year-old siblings, 12-week old kittens Fidget and Nugget appeared on the re-homing website. Now this was certainly an opportunity too good to miss! I made arrangements to meet the lovely Rachel, who owns and runs the Lancing Manor Cattery and make acquaintance with the two little fellas.



Luke and me! Bo was taking the photo!

Now renamed Bo and Luke, the two mischievous characters from the classic 1980s' television series "The Dukes of Hazzard" - if only they came with Daisy too! Being so very young the boys immediately settled into their new home and without the anxiety that can often be experienced with older cats. On the contrary, they just wanted to eat, sleep and play! We bonded really quickly and they were content to snuggle up and sleep on my lap within days of arriving.

Initially, I set aside a spare bedroom and then slowly opened up different rooms for them to explore and then they got the run of the whole house and were tearing around like mini tornados - to the detriment of my poor net curtains, but this was a small price to pay! With the symmetry of identical twins with black and white markings, it can be difficult to tell them apart until you clock Bo's massive fluffy tail in comparison with Luke's slim-Jim variant. Perhaps unknowingly his father was the beast of Bodmin Moor! They famously get along, groom each other and even me too, proof, I understand, that I've been fully accepted into their clique, unless they're trying to tell me something else!





Unsurprisingly, “treats” was the first word they seem interested in, but I guess this is a common phenomenon the cat world over! They were both confined to barracks until neutering at 5½ months, after which they were out on day release and soon mastering a microchip operated cat flap. Now relishing their new found independence, they love nothing more than exploring their garden and don’t seem particularly interested in straying too far. At night they come in of their own accord. Amazingly, they are also on friendly terms with the neighbour's cats - I guess it helps somewhat that they happen to be female though!



During this, their first summer on their own manor, it’s been a steep learning curve to the realities of outdoor life. Yes, the neighbour’s dog will chase you out of its garden. No, you can’t walk on pond water; you’ll sink and get wet. Yes, if you get too close to a wasp it may sting you and it hurts! Nowadays, they seem totally content lounging by the pond watching the Koi in dreamy anticipation of a fish supper, laying siege to the bird table or annoyingly digging holes in the lawn. Little rascals, but I’m glad they’re here and wouldn’t change a single thing!

Ian Smith





Signs of Sense & Nonsense



Road signs are taken for granted: No Entry, 40mph, Dangerous Bends - that's not to say they're always heeded, of course. One ridiculous sign I saw on the M20 recently was "Speed Cameras Not Working". I mean why would one go to the trouble (and expense) of reassuring motorists that they can speed merrily on that stretch with no consequence?

Anyway, here's a sign I do approve of and it would be nice to see them on every road in the UK. This one I found in a rather unexpected place: Malta. All along the relatively rural southern edge of the island, you see these signs!



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What an Extraordinary Thing!

On Saturday 24th June Worthing Cat Welfare Trust staged an Extraordinary General Meeting for members to consider and vote upon proposed amendments to the charity's Constitution. It had been thirteen years since it had last been revised and – as explained in our Spring Mewsletter – a number of updates seemed relevant. Apart from tidying up and clarifying the main phraseology to make it more reader-friendly, there were three distinct areas needing attention: Objects, Trustee Benefits and Dissolution.

Prior to the meeting, we had – in keeping with Charity Commission guidelines - circulated to all members the existing Constitution with an outline of the rationale for the amendments. To pretend that this is an exciting and stimulating subject would be stretching one's imagination perhaps (and some folks might even prefer stamp collecting, watching cricket or watching paint dry), but we had a huge turnout of nearly two hundred members on the day.

No, not really, there were thirteen of us present in total, including the trustees, so hearing oneself talk was hardly a problem. Furthermore, there were no furious debates about the fabric of the detailed amendments and a unanimous approval was gained. No riots broke out and we all had a nice cup of tea and some biscuits. If you were unfortunate to miss out on this extravaganza, we have good news for you:



**Constitutional Question
Time at thrilling EGM**

There will be another Extraordinary General Meeting during the coming winter to consider proposals to change our corporate structure to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. In effect, this will have virtually no impact upon the day-to-day running of our business, but it will address the need to provide important personal, financial indemnity for those of us willing to play the role of trustee. Detailed proposals will be circulated to members within the usual time scales, so that everyone has a chance to gain a thorough understanding.

Christine Jones





The Long Arm of the Paw

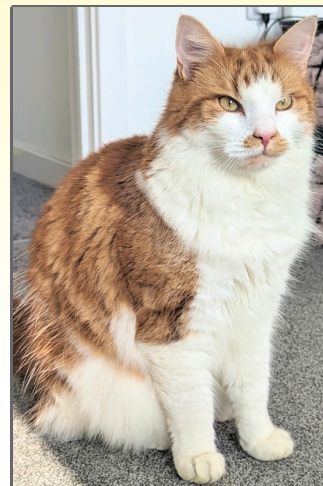
Our Arm's Length Adoption Scheme continues to provide a valuable extension to our re-homing capacity. Non-urgent re-homing cases are left securely in situ with existing owners, while we search the welfare market for top quality adopters. Careful introductions are then made and owners and adopters deal directly, with us as the background facilitator and underwriter. Since our last edition we have helped re-home six cats on this basis: Chewbacca, Goldie, Jasper, Roxy and also two brothers, Felix and Hunter. All are now safely homed without cost to WCWT.

Chewbacca is now with Tim Boxall: "When I saw Chewbacca, as a *Star Wars* fan, I knew it was fate! Being disabled, I needed to find an indoor cat and we matched perfectly. The *Arm's Length* process was incredibly simple. After a home visit from Pam, I was put in touch with Chewie's owner and we arranged it all ourselves – meeting, discussing his needs and the handover.



"WCWT remained in the background, supporting and facilitating. It was a great way to do things, really relaxed and I made a firm friend in Chewie's owner. He's settled beautifully – he's my trusted sidekick. We spend hours playing fetch or snuggling up to watch a film. We're inseparable companions now, so huge thanks to WCWT!"

Jasper is now with Rita Hunter: "This has worked out perfectly for all concerned. I was able to meet him in his own home with Annette, his previous owner, so I knew his full background and history. This meant that he didn't have the stress of going into a cattery and so was able to settle in well with me very quickly. He is such a joy after my previous cat, Rodney, left a very large gap to fill. Jasper has got me fully trained for food and attention as required and is even getting used to visiting grandchildren. He is such good company and always there for me - just as Rodney was. Long may this continue!"





Roxy's owner, Peter, was retiring to Australia, so she was featured within our Arm's Length re-homing section. Delighted new owner, Teresa Cochrane takes up the tale: "When we lost our beloved Stanley, we said no more, as the loss was too painful, but my husband said to me, "Teresa, the house is empty and you have so much love and time to give to another pet. Why don't you register with a rescue centre?"

"Justine from WCWT came to home visit and she recommended we look at Roxy, possibly a perfect match. We soon found ourselves at Roxy's house and saw her in the garden, where she was playing happily with a leaf on the grass. We both fell in love with this quirky little Siamese soul, who was very affectionate, sat on our laps, rubbed herself on our legs and even played with my husband's shoelaces!



"Our home was meticulously prepared, though I was a little nervous when we collected her for the short car trip home, but we didn't hear a peep out of her. We let her out of her carrier and expected her to hide, but she jumped straight onto the sofa and then had a good look round. After a few weeks we finally let her explore the garden, which she had been looking at so longingly. Again I was nervous, but I didn't have to worry: she was just happy following me around, rolling on the grass and climbing up our palm tree. She is the sweetest, gentlest little soul and a much loved member of our family."



Mia and Momo are a pending Arm's Length case, but excellent potential adopters have already been lined up via WCWT. These two sisters were adopted as kittens by Yoriko back in 2010 from a rescue centre in Brighton. Yoriko (pictured here with Momo in arms) explains: "My family situation has now changed after the passing of my husband three years ago and I have no choice but to retire back to Japan to be with my family."

Continued overleaf

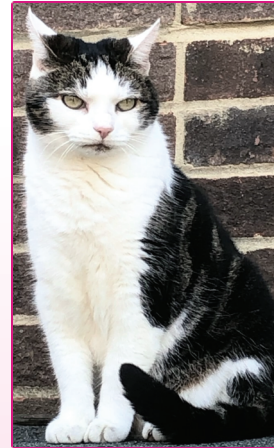




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"I have been so thankful for having the company of Mia and Momo day and night and am hoping they will be able to have a peaceful life with people, who love them and understand their characters and their situation. I know that once they have really settled down, they will be so friendly and lovable."

Mia (shown right) and Momo should be with their caring new owners early in the New Year if all goes to plan. We'll update our readers in the next issue.



Freddie and Lola

We adopted Freddie and Lola in May this year after initially considering two kittens. We definitely made the right decision! They have settled in really well and quickly became part of the family.



Lola with Freddie watching over her

Lola was a little more reserved to start with, but now she enjoys a bit of fuss on her own terms and has started sleeping on our daughter's bed (and waking her up every morning at 5am for some fuss).

Freddie has discovered he can jump over the neighbour's five-foot fence, but comes back speedily when called. He's quite a bit more playful than Lola and enjoys chasing around a bit of string. Not bad for a 13-yr old!



They are both happy to spend hours relaxing in a sunny spot and they like to keep me company pretty much wherever I go now!

Judy & Tom





Long road, but a great destination

Just like "*The Mounties always get their man*", Worthing Cat Welfare Trust always gets a good home for its cats – no matter how difficult and long the road may be. A good example here is Zeb, a sweet cat, though obviously very traumatised from previous experience of mankind. After six long months of gentle care from our Tracie Jenkins, he was finally ready for the "adoptions front window". Happily for Zeb, kind and patient new people were about to come on the scene and bring him the chance of a new life.

When we first got Zeb he was so scared of us, not trusting anyone. We had our ups and downs to the point we had to extend our probationary period with him, as we were not too sure whether we were able to care for him, because it was such a challenge. I'm so happy we did, though, as he is such a lovely cat and has really come out of his shell and is now trusting us to the point where he wants lots of cuddles. He comes and greets us when we arrive home and he walks around the house, knowing it's his haven, where he's safe and nobody will hurt him.



Dreams *can* come true

The story of Zeb before we adopted him from Tracey is amazing, how he was rescued with his siblings and how difficult he was. She told us that when he first arrived with her, they couldn't even touch him, as he would lash out at anyone in striking distance.



... and Heaven does exist!

Sophie Duval

Footnote Readers may remember the story on page 13 of our Spring issue about Matt, one of our WCWT adoptions officers attracting police attention when rounding up cats after dark. Zeb here was actually one of *those* cats!





Chapter 1 Meeting The Marchants

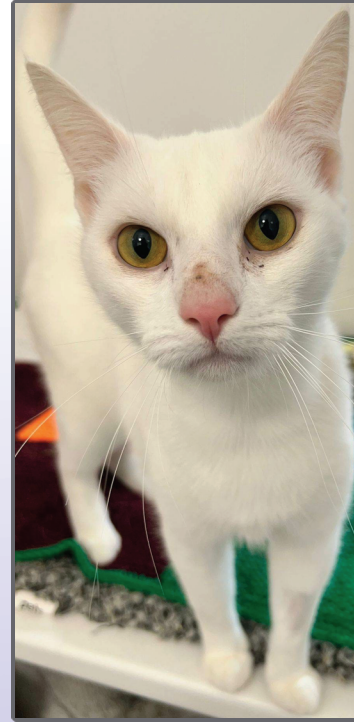
Hi, I'm Loki, welcome to my story. Just so you know I am a cat, but I've had enough of that chit chat, let's get on with the story. So, I lived with some people, but one day they took me to a different place called Worthing Cat Welfare Trust. And guess what? They left me there! And they did not come back. There were lots and lots of different cats, some were old and some were young. All of the cats had their own little room. It was quite lonely in our rooms, so we all had a chat when no one was there. But still it was very lonely and I was beginning to wonder if anyone would ever re-home me, but then one day a lady called Amy and a man called Matt came in. They were both staring open mouthed at something. Me! Then another lady opened the door of my room and then Amy and Matt started stroking me! A few minutes later they left and a few days later Amy came back, but instead of Matt, there were two little girls called Matilda and Hettie. Just like last time, the lady opened the door and Matilda and Hettie stroked me for a few minutes and then they left.





Chapter 2 Going to Marchant Home

A week later Matt came to see me. He picked me up and I was just about to give him a cuddle, but he put me in a basket. A basket! Then he carried me out and away! He took me to what's called a car. He put me in the back and drove off. I felt a tiny bit nervous. We were going quite fast. I was wondering what was going to happen to me. Matt drove on for a little while. Then the car stopped. We were where the Marchants live! Matt got out of the car and then picked up the basket with me in and then he carried me into the house.



Me. Loki the Cat.

Chapter 3 Hiding

As soon as Matt opened the door, I ran into a room and I was there for three days. Everyone was trying to get me out from under the sofa! I did get out a few times, but I always went back to my hiding place. And one day I got out of my hiding place and walked all the way in to the kitchen!



Me and Matilda. She's on the right.



Chapter 4 The Outside World

I noticed a tiny little door in the kitchen wall (my door!), I looked at it for a minute and then went through it. And boy, was it worth it. There were birds, trees and bushes. My new adventure had truly begun!

Matilda Marchant





Shifting Grey Jaguars?

The cat rescue business is unique? Or has it something in common with the second hand car trade? Well, yes it has. Whilst that blue Audi sold quickly and that red Lexus went the same day, that grey Jaguar just sat there and sat there. An absolutely lovely car and at a real bargain price, but nobody even seemed to look at it. Odd.

Here at Worthing Cat Welfare Trust we know all about grey jaguars, because from time to time we have them in stock. Delightful cat (or maybe a pair) and there is simply no interest from the adopting public with no apparent reason. So it was with Archie and Lulu (who, by the way, are neither grey, nor from South America).

In truth, some cats simply aren't as good at selling themselves when potential adopters come to view. Cats that are very timid tend to hide nervously, while others welcome visitors and come forward purring. Nevertheless, Archie and Lulu were missing out for no good reason, although their previous names of Scratchy (he never scratches anyone!) and BooBoo probably didn't help, so we changed their names. And then Margaret arrived on the scene! In her own words:



Lulu and Archie, stuck on the forecourt

My old friend, Tiger, had been put to sleep, because of kidney failure and her sister, Tiny, had departed six months earlier. Both were 15 and had been with me since they were seven. I decided to wait before looking for other cats, but that didn't last long. I had older cats in mind, as I'm not so young myself and realise that older cats are sometimes difficult to re-home. I searched local websites and, understandably, there was no shortage of Oldies looking for new homes, but something about Archie & Lulu, 11 and 10 years old, attracted me. There was also a video of Allison talking to Archie, saying "Don't worry, Archie, we will find you a new home soon." He looked so forlorn (I've since discovered that this is his normal look!). A few weeks later there was still no movement, so I thought I'd give it a try. They had been with Allison for about six months and nobody had been to see them. I was immediately smitten, although





they were both very timid and wary of me.

When I got them home they were straight under the bed, though they liked their food and came out occasionally to jump on everything and then hide behind the furniture. Archie is quite small and ended up in the most difficult places and a few days later I couldn't find him! I thought he was hiding somewhere again, but by lunch time I started to panic and eventually realised he wasn't there. He must have forced his way out of the locked cat flap.

I went into action with a friend, distributing flyers all around the neighbouring houses and the response was amazing. WCWT put him on their Facebook Lost & Found page straight away and I received lots of sightings, but there are several black cats in this area.

Two days later a neighbour phoned me to say that Archie was sitting on the fence, licking his paws, as if to say, "What is all the fuss about?" He came in quite happily and I really don't think he ever went far from home.



The smug look of escapologist Archie



And here's my lovely Lulu

It wasn't that long before they were both going out and they always return. Although they are older, they are still very lively at times, but I know that I made the right choice. I have two loving, older cats and they have a happy, peaceful home with me and a safe garden of their very own.

Margaret Storey

Footnote - At the end of the day, potential adopters coming to view our cats will get a good feeling as to which one is right for them and often the cat actually chooses the person! However, this case study shows how easy it could be to miss out on hidden gems like Archie and Lulu.





Feisty start, but happy Finish

We adopted Wiggles after he had been returned from another family and was very scared. We were told he was feisty and would need space and time to settle in his new home, so we gave him our spare bedroom with all he could possibly need: mainly just peace and quiet, but with hourly visits for a chat. After hiding under the bed for two days, he began to come out and eat while we were with him. After three days we left the door open and he began to explore the house, but still returned to his room if there was too much noise or strangers visiting us.

It took eight weeks before he would use the cat flap, but one morning we were delighted that the litter tray had not been used and he had taught himself to use the garden instead, YEH!



Wiggles has learned to trust our son and grandsons and will come to greet them. He enjoys the garden if we are out there, but only goes out on his own in the evening – then he will be out for two hours or so, checking out his safe world. His favourite is a really good brushing and he jumps up to say it is time and does not move until he's had enough. His favourite treat is the Co-Op

treat sticks, one per day at 8pm and that signals time to go out. If we can't find him we just shout "stick" and he comes out immediately – cats can *definitely* be trained! He's with me whenever I sit down, but doesn't like laps, just curls up next to me. He enjoys playing with my husband and having his belly rubbed, but lets you know when he's had enough!

Wiggles is still feisty and will nip for no apparent reason and recently I had to attend outpatients! Nevertheless, he is a joy and we are so happy that we have adopted him.

Barbara & Nevill

Footnote - This Summer we found ourselves awash with black and black & white cats - not an unknown phenomenon - as illustrated on pages 30-31. It's clear that these dear little souls, because of the colour of their fur, get overlooked. We even put out some booster publicity on our social networking channels. Hard to believe such colour prejudice prevails?





Pickle – Notes from the Past

I adopted my little black cat, called Pickle, from Worthing Cat Welfare Trust in October last year and she has become such a wonderful companion to me. She was seven years old at the time and I believe that she had had two homes previously in her life.

What amazed me was the coincidence, on reading through her medical notes: I discovered that some were written by a veterinary assistant, who lived next door to me in another part of Sussex when she was a child and whom I hadn't seen in 40 years!

Pickle had a lot to learn about her new owner and her home. After the first three months a cat flap was installed, one of those which only allows her to enter. It was such a wonderful feeling when I saw her come in that way for the very first time!

She is a really affectionate little cat, so friendly even to strangers and she loves curling up on my lap. I am so very grateful to Worthing Cat Welfare Trust for my lovely companion.



Val Worby

Such affectionate companion



Evie Even Happier Now

We adopted 8-year-old Evie from Worthing Cat Welfare Trust back in January. We would like you all to know how well Evie has settled in and how she's now a very much loved member of the family! She is very friendly and loves plenty of fuss and a comfortable lap to curl up on.

Jade and Charlie





Wonderful new addition to our family home

Tabitha (formerly Val) has turned out a very different cat from the one we went to look at. She was then known to be 'spikey' - friendly one minute and attacking you the next - so she wasn't considered to be child friendly. We were there looking at another cat, but Tabitha instantly wanted our attention, which apparently wasn't normal for her! She did get over stimulated and hissed and swiped at me, but I could see it came from a place of fear. In effect, *she* was choosing *us*!



**Fierce very often
just means Fear**

After we brought her home we took it very slowly: she was on high alert and hid under the bed, running back there at any sound. We did a gradual introduction to our 14-year old cat, Matilda. Tabitha was very treat orientated and easily distracted by them if she looked like she was going to get over-stimulated. Thankfully, Matilda is a very chilled cat and didn't react to Tabitha's initial hisses and now Tabitha will come up to her and even touch noses.

She loves being outdoors and was wide-eyed with excitement when she was first allowed out. Sadly, she had always been indoors and used for breeding before she was rescued. She gets so excited by chasing insects about and hiding

in our long grass! Thankfully, she absolutely loves being around the kids now and their noises don't faze her and she is even happy wandering around when they have their friends over. She is firmly attached to me, with her favourite spot to sleep being right next to my head and I can feel her purring every time I move.



Melanie Ling





A Golden Oldie's Autumn Years

We don't have outdoor space, but have a lovely flat with lots of fun places to explore and comfy beds and sofas to share with a little old Puss in the Autumn of Life.

We wanted to meet one of the 'Golden Oldies' and Ana at WCWT kindly let us visit out of hours, as we couldn't get there any other time. Amid an orchestra of "meows" from other pens, we met Jessie, a little old lady, grubby wrists and eyes and a tatty right ear. So small. Jessie took the initiative to wander around and ignored us completely. We were smitten!

Ana bundled us up with everything we needed to whisk Jess off home that very night. She was as good as gold on the train and when we got home immediately set about a comprehensive site inspection. She found a comfortable patch in our smallest room and made it her own. After a few months of up-and-down days, phases of keeping her distance, being playful, struggling to eat, struggling to settle, she is now finding her groove. She has a chronic ear problem, which has troubled her for a long time. She scratches her ears quite often, causing inflammation and we manage this with regular cleanings, though she doesn't take this without surprisingly youthful resistance. We know little about her past and how she became homeless, but we are here to reassure her of a comfortable and happy future.



Gentle Retirement



She's sensitive, introverted and sleeps like a champion. She loves a chin scratch and petting, but only at specific moments and usually at arm's length. She is obsessed by whatever we are eating and already has a reputation for foul language at the vets! Our little old lady has such a spark and we adore her.

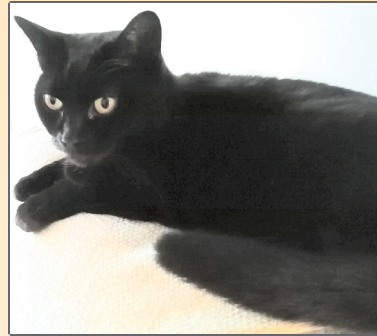
James and Perrine





Inky out on Mouse Safari

When Inky moved in she made herself at home immediately. She still can't decide which of the armchairs she prefers, so she alternates between all three of them! Same with beds, but she usually sleeps with 'Daddy' during the night (from about 4am when she comes in from mouse watch) and then she moves to 'Mummy's' bed after breakfast time.



Mouse watch in the back garden is her favourite pastime. She doesn't eat them - she plays with them and sometimes brings live ones in to share with us! She has us completely wrapped round her paw and we're delighted that we chose to bring her home with us.

Lynne James

Big Thank You to Pen Sponsors

Further reinforcements for our Pen Sponsors Squad continue to roll in. New arrivals are as follows: Sue & Matt Cooper, Margaret Lardner, Millie Roberts, Julian Sonnessa and Jenny Williams.



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