

Mewsletter - Spring 2018

Chairman's Welcome ...

Welcome to our Spring 2018 Mewsletter, hoping that it finds you all safe and well. 2017 was an "interesting" year to say the least, and before I go any further, I must gratefully thank everyone involved with Worthing Cat Welfare for their support and time. We ended on a positive note and are optimistic as to what 2018 may throw at us.

Our appreciation also goes to Amanda Nicholls and Mike Glennon for bringing in additional expertise and enthusiasm and also to Alison Dunkley at *Cat's Whiskers* for keeping us in the public eye on their excellent Facebook page.

Our shop has certainly benefited since Abigail Corcoran-Green became manager there in South Street, Tarring. She is a lovely lady, friendly and happy, and has some great ideas for enhancing our shop, so that it can carry on being a success.



Sandra Collins

Jackie Riddles has also been enormously busy bringing in and re-homing our cats; if any of you feel you could help her with taking cats to veterinary appointments, collecting food from our drop-off points or any other help, please do let her know. She would be very pleased to hear from you on either (01903) 883179 or 07818 824407.

As always, we continue to do what we do extremely well, i.e. rescuing and re-homing cats needing our help. We hope to have some positive news, regarding the concept of a sanctuary and re-homing centre at our forthcoming **AGM**, so please see **details on Page 3**.



Worthing Cat Welfare Trust

Worthing Cat Welfare Trust - Registered Charity No: 1049596, Registered Address: 36 Orchard Avenue, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 7PY (01903) 202251

Independent Examiner - A. Kelly FCA, Roffe Swayne Chartered Accountants, Woolsack Way, Godalming GU7 1LQ Tel. (01483) 416232 www.roffeswayne.com

Re-Homing & Rescue - Jackie Riddles Tel. (01903) 883179 or 07818 824407

Management Committee

Chairman	Sandra Collins	Veterinary Advisor	Dr. Amanda Nicholls
Treasurer	Roger Lovell	Lost & Found	Sharon Peters
Welfare	Jackie Riddles	Marketing	Mike Glennon
Co-Founder	Iris Green	Facebook	Alison Dunkley
Membership	Linda Kenealy	Website	T.B.A.
Secretary	Catharine Duff	Shop Manager	Abigail Corcoran-Green

Brave Little Leona

In the last Mewsletter I wrote about my little cat Leona, who is now 20 years old – and here is a brief update, as she has now become a very brave little cat, having had two operations to remove a tumour from her mouth.

Amanda, our vet, has done a marvellous job in treating her. She had one operation under sedation, when part of it was removed, but unfortunately it began to grow again, so Amanda gave her an anaesthetic this time and was able to do a complete removal.



Her post-operative check-up was very satisfactory and she never stops eating and is putting on weight.

All cats are special in their own ways and I look after a lot of them, but every now and then one comes along that tugs at the heart strings and Leona is such a brave little cat.

Iris Green

Our Shop Needs More Volunteers

Our charity shop at 31 South Street, Tarring is a friendly, welcoming place, full of interesting items at great prices. I've been fortunate enough to be the manager of this lovely shop since November of last year and I enjoy every moment, whether it's chatting to our many regular customers or sorting through the super donations we receive from the public.

Everyone has made me feel so very welcome here - the only down side is it's extremely difficult *for me* not to go home myself with new purchases every day, especially books (3 for £1!). We have a very happy and hardworking team of volunteers, who ensure the shop stays tidy and inviting for our customers and are always busy putting out new stock.



However, we always need new folks to join our team, especially to help with the mountain of sorting and pricing of stock. Please pop in for an application form if you could spare a few hours each week. I have lots of great plans for the shop, so come round and see for yourself!



**Abigail, Manager
at WCWT shop**

Abigail Corcoran-Green

**AGM
Alert**

**Our 2018 AGM will be held at
10:30am Saturday 30th June 2018
Ardington Hotel, 30 Steyne Gardens,
Worthing BN11 3DZ. Coffee will be
available from 10:00am onwards.**

Treasurer Needed

Running any successful charity like ours needs two things essentially: money and people. Oh, and in our case cats in need, of course! On the human resource side, it's all about attracting volunteers and we have a superb line-up of kind, enthusiastic colleagues, who give generously of their time and effort.

From time to time, however, there is a need for a volunteer to undertake a more specialist role and currently we have just such a "vacancy", i.e. looking after that tiresome old subject of money. Our present Treasurer, after more than a decade in post, wants to reduce the amount of his workload and carve out a bit more time for that little old past-time called Retirement. He's earned it!

So, we are seeking a volunteer, maybe also in early retirement, but not necessarily, who could spare a dozen hours a week (to suit) to take on this fulfilling role. The Treasurer has all-round responsibility of banking, paying bills, keeping financial records and producing the statutory accounts for the Independent Examiner to review. There are usually four or five trustee meetings per year and, of course, the AGM.



Current Accounting Assistant, Ollywally, is also retiring!

Obviously, some experience of book-keeping and accounts preparation is the fundamental need, but the outgoing post holder would be available throughout the first year to assist, if required.

This work can be done at home; so no need to "come to work" as such, except for attending the said meetings.

If you feel you might have the necessary knowledge and experience, please get in touch with our Chairman, Sandra Collins on (01903) 873353; she would be delighted to hear from you.

Ria – not one to flap!

She came to live with us in April 2015, aged seven. *She* actually chose *us* - the hunched little creature, growling under her breath at me, stepped forward to lick Matt's hand when he went in with her. Jackie Riddles was amazed and said, "That was the best she's been with anyone! One would think you had had her quite a long time!" So that was that.

She is now one very happy cat. Daylight hours are spent patrolling her territory - some singing and staring matches soon sorted out the neighbouring cats - which extends over several gardens running down to the River Arun.

She is a great mouser and ratter, but luckily not terribly interested in birds and she has proved very sensible about keeping off our busy main road at the front, which was our chief worry.



Ria dictating to Matt again

She still licks Matt's hand and enjoys bouts of arm-wrestling with him, accompanied by ferocious growls and much tail-lashing. She is the easiest of cats to feed, strictly one for cat food; *No Thank You* to fish/chicken/cheese(!) and she never steals off our plates.

On the minus side, she refuses point blank to use a cat flap, unless it is held wide open for her, and never, never, never try to pick her up! There are some ownership disputes over the nearest chair to the fire when she comes in for the night (more hard staring), but once having gained it, she slinks off to sleep on the spare bed after we have turned in ourselves.

What a little character she is!

Sue and Matt Cooper



Rescuing Cats in Sicily

The rescue of a feral cat, Lizzie, set me on a mission, which has seen many obstacles, but also plenty of success.

My eyes have been opened to the shadowy side of Sicily! Back in 2002 while staying on the island, I found this badly wounded cat. I managed to find a vet, who restored her back to health and I was delighted to be able to take her back to her colony. Imagine my horror, when a few months later, I learned Lizzie and her family had all been poisoned.



Kitten awaits rescue

Catsnip

My grief turned to determination; this was the spur to creating my cat project, *Catsnip*: to treat and neuter these unfortunate creatures. I set about raising funds, writing to charities and collecting drugs and equipment. In 2003 I took a team of vets and helpers to carry out a week's neutering in someone's summerhouse, which we turned into a makeshift hospital.

Since then I have returned many times on similar trips, when I have met some marvellous *gattare* (cat ladies), who devote their time to saving feral cat colonies. I've ventured into unknown Sicily, which owes nothing to tourist posters – and come to understand the culture behind the Mafia. I've fought bureaucracy and risked prosecutions by the authorities in my quest to rescue the felines which I so love.

15 years on and *Catsnip* still thrives. I advise and help tourists who e-mail me stories of cats in distress. Sometimes this is a lengthy business when they decide they want to bring the cat back home to the UK or elsewhere. Kind donations to *Catsnip* enable me to support cat loving individuals and vets in Sicily with equipment and funds. I will never give up on these beautiful, so often-abused cats.

Jennifer Pulling

For more of Jennifer's story :
www.jenniferpulling.co.uk

Jessie

One evening I decided to look at the **Worthing Cat Welfare Trust** website and to my amazement there was Jessie staring back at me. Immediately I arranged to visit her at her foster home.

When I saw Jessie it was love at first sight and she came straight to me, had a sniff of my hand, I scooped her up in my arms and she was purring loudly.

When we got home, Jessie had a look round and within ten minutes she was sitting right on my lap and - much to my delight - purring loudly and we both were very happy. At night she loves to lay on our bed between us, but when the light finally goes out she snuggles back into her own little bed.

She wakes us up each morning, wanting her breakfast and then loves to sit at the window and chats to the birds. If we don't wake up she simply sits on my husband until he wakes up! She loves to have a good play with us, which is such great fun for all.

When we come home after being out Jessie lays on her back for a tummy tickle to welcome us back home, which is so lovely.

We have had her three years in March 2018 and we look forward to many more happy years together.

She has really changed our lives – before she came to us I was feeling very low, but thanks to Jessie I was soon back to normal.



Jessie - ever playful

Yvonne Balkham

Coco Wells Doing Well

Coco is a *Golden Oldie*, thought to be 11 years old when I first became her proud owner. She is black, very small with huge expressive amber eyes - though certainly not a *beautiful* cat.

When she came to me she had several bald patches, where she'd pulled out some fur. As I had just lost my very elderly black cat, I was desperate to own another one and didn't care what she looked like.

Coco soon settled, but the bald patches remained and she continued pulling out fur. David at Pet Doctors of Rustington diagnosed the problem as an allergy and an injection (still repeated every couple of months) quickly restored her coat to being shiny and soft.



Coco training Arthur

She is now nearly 18 and a few years ago accepted a slight disruption in her life, as I remarried. My husband didn't know much about cats, but he certainly does now!

Coco soon trained him and whilst she allowed me to continue with the mundane sort of jobs, like feeding and hygiene arrangements, she was very quick to let him know of all her other requirements.

These include a daily brushing, constant stroking, intelligent conversation and latterly a supply of cat treats. She also requires the services of a door-keeper to open and shut the back door.

The centre of our bed is the preferred sleeping place and she makes it very clear when she is ready to turn in and in the morning if we don't comply with her wishes, she gets noisier until we do.

Yet, she provides us with a great deal of amusement and gives us lots of affection in her gentle way.

Maureen Wells



Sukie and Charlie

Sukie joined us about four years ago after we lost our previous cat to cancer and she had been in a foster home for four months and was desperate for a loving home. I remember the evening I brought her back and I opened up her basket and she stepped out, took a sniff at the dogs and thought, "This will do!" - and promptly settled in beautifully!

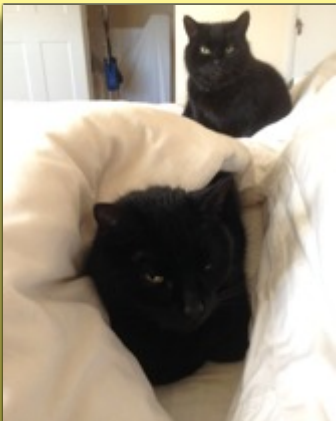
She often sits in during piano lessons when I am teaching and the photo is of her enjoying James playing. By the way, Sukie is from Poland, as she has a Polish microchip and was found abandoned in the Barnham area. She was around two years old.

Charlie is a *Golden Oldie*, rescued when he was simply left behind when the owners moved. My mother was diagnosed with dementia and because she always loved her cats, we thought having one around again would help.

She went into a home three years ago and Charlie has been the most amazing companion for my elderly father. Unfortunately, he now also has had to go into a residential home, so I brought Charlie back to live with us.



Sukie - has quite an ear for James' music!



He has settled in so happily, despite a lot of hissing and spitting from Sukie (a real little princess!), but she has now accepted that Charlie is one of us and they eat and nap together. Their speciality is sleeping on my bed, Sukie under the duvet and Charlie on top. A real success story, which is so heartening!

Can Charlie find Sukie?

Ros Jenkins

Felines in Fuerteventura

In January my wife and I were on holiday on the magnificent island of Fuerteventura and, as always, we look out for the poor strays, which lurk around hotels and eateries all around the world.

Smuggling a good supply of prime food from the hotel buffet is our eternal objective, which requires a certain level of covert deviousness on occasions, as waiting staff don't always approve! The great news was that cats on that island seem to receive a level of care and kindness, which should make many countries feel ashamed.

We fell in love with a little cinnamon female, maybe 9 months old, who was hanging around our chalet the first night. She scampered in, we picked her up, cuddled her and she spent the next seven nights snuggled up and purring on our bed! We must have put a month's food in her during that period! We christened her *Cinny*, though she has probably been christened a dozen times by other benefactors!



**Little Cinny -
7 nights on our bed!**

In the corner of the hotel grounds there was a feeding station with plenty of dried food and fresh water topped up daily. Well-fed cats, of course, tend to be healthy and the ten or so residents there were all strong, clean and happy.

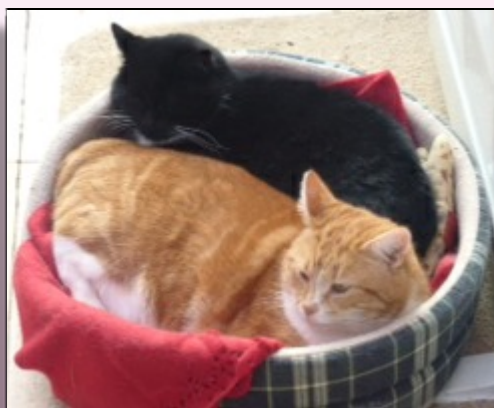
I thought *Cinny* had been mauled in a fight at some point, as the top edge of her left ear was missing, but noticed on the cat station that all the cats had been neutered by a charity and they just clip the ear tip to denote that. The tourists, mainly Brits and Germans loved 'em and the hotel management were obviously very supportive. If only there were more happy cat stories across the world, eh?

Mike Glennon

Charlie joins Willow

Charlie came into our lives in January 2011, aged three and from being a very shy boy, hiding under the bed covers, he was soon running to greet us at the front door. He is the most affectionate and entertaining cat you could imagine. Ginger and white, spotlessly clean and with chubby cheeks.

When we adopted Charlie, Jackie Riddles gave us a very poignant letter, written by a neighbour of Charlie's previous owner, who had died suddenly. It said, "He is used to a garden and lots of attention, he is very much still a kitten." Charlie will always be a kitten to us, as he loves playing and "helping" with everything – whether making beds or sitting on our work.



**Charlie and Willow
Peaceful Collusion**

He loves our garden, which backs on to the downs in Steyning, but he never goes far and will often be found sunning himself on the garden table. He does catch some mice and voles and on one occasion, brought us a pigeon through the cat flap.

He is not a great lover of the cat flap though and prefers a personal service of doors being opened for him, often climbing up and tapping on the patio doors to demand some action.

Charlie was chosen by us as a companion to our black and white female cat, Willow, who had recently lost her ginger mate. It took time for Willow to stop hissing, but Charlie charmed her and although she remains the boss, they groom each other and actually snuggle up in their bed together.

Sarah and Mike Warren

Food

Collection

Strand Pet Supplies

17-19 Strand Parade
Goring-on-Sea

Boxes

Near You

Exotic Pets

36 High Street
Littlehampton

East Worthing

Community Centre
Pages Lane, Worthing

Gatleys

2 Mill Lane
Storrington

WCWT Charity Shop

31 South Street, Tarring

Herald Offices

Cannon House
Chatsworth Road, Worthing



WCWT Facebook Upgrade

Since mid January our *Facebook* page has been kept up to date by Alison Dunkley. With almost 2,000 likes on the page we are able to keep in touch with so many people. There are regular updates about cats that are looking for their purrfect homes, as well as sharing details about volunteers, charity events and our brilliant shop in Tarring. It's a great place to leave us a review! You can find our *Facebook* address at the bottom of this page, so please do have a look and share it with any of your friends, who may be looking to adopt a feline friend.

Cat Re-Homing Days

We hold special cat re-homing days throughout the calendar. Please check our Website and our Facebook for further details and tell all of your friends too!



Worthing Cat Welfare Trust

www.worthingcatwelfaretrust.co.uk

01903 202251 or 241858

www.facebook.com/wcwt1