

## SHOP WINDOW

**Astrological** analysis of character. Letter with date of birth, stamped addressed envelope and donation for the C.P.L. to Mr. Curtler, 5, Hill Avenue, Worcester.

Buy your hand-knitted dishcloths from Mrs. Peggie Ilves, 1 Penn Street, Oakham, Rutland. Price 1/9, including postage.

**Aprons to order** in aid of funds 6/11 each. Details from Mrs. P. Ilves, 1 Penn Street, Oakham, Rutland.

**Dolls**, specially old ones, bits and clothes for dolls are wanted by The Doll Club, 21, Holland Park, London, W.11.

**Graphology** (Character from handwriting), letter with signature, stamped addressed envelope and donation for my C.P.L. collecting box to Miss E. M. Jackson, 11, Clarence Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

**Old Postally Used Picture Postcards**, dated before 1920, of Britain or overseas wanted by the Revd. A. W. R. Hughes, The Vicarage, Arthog, Merionethshire. 5/- for every 100 received to the C.P.L. Sender's postage refunded.

**Perspex Name Brooches** in various colours 1/6d. each. Profits to C.P.L. Send S.A.E. to Miss P. E. George, Rose Villa, Ackhill Prestiegne, Radnorshire.

**Water Colour Portraits of Pets** from a clear snapshot, 10/6d. each. Snaps of pets or children, Enlarged and Coloured from own negatives, £1. Please give description. Cheques should be made payable to C.P.L.—Dorothy Hall, Plemont, Hill Road, Watlington, Oxford.

## THIS MONTH'S "SPECIAL"

### A HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH SPEAKING PEOPLES OF THE WORLD

6 VOLUMES (As new)

By Sir Winston Churchill

COST PRICE £6 WHAT OFFERS

PIANO MAT (after Louis Waine) WITHDRAWN

No reasonable offer received

## ALWAYS WANTED

Unwanted birthday and Christmas presents or anything saleable for our Bazaars.

Notification of change of address.

Linen and blanket pieces, newspapers and odd pieces of string (about 18 inches long), for use in the Clinic.

News-cuttings concerning cats, but please make sure that the name of the paper and the date of publication is given.

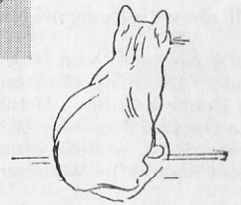
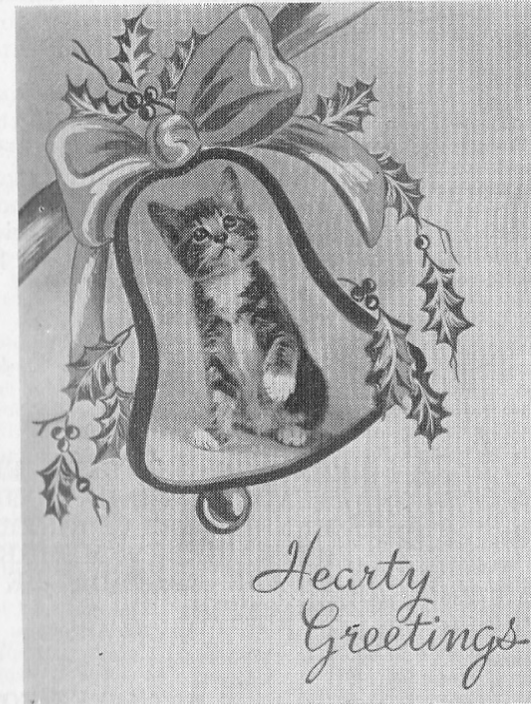
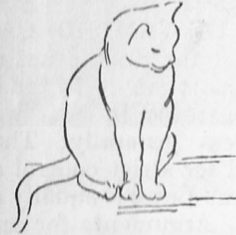
Used stamps, British Foreign and commemorative.

Names and Addresses of Boarding Catteries

Published Monthly by the Cat's Protection League, 29 Church Street, Slough and Printed by C. Luff & Co. Ltd., Albion Close, Petersfield Avenue, Slough.

# THE CAT

THE OLDEST MAGAZINE  
DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO  
CATS AND THEIR WEL-  
FARE



A CAT'S A CAT FOR A' THAT

DECEMBER 1968

# THE CAT

VOL. XLII

No. 10

Official Organ of the Cats' Protection League and Tail-wavers - Founded 1927 - Registered National Charity. Prestbury Lodge, 29 Church Street, Slough, Bucks, England. Telephone Slough 20173

EDITOR: Mr. A. A. Steward  
PUBLISHING DATE: First of the Month.  
ISSUES: 10 yearly.  
There are no commercial advertisements.

## CONTENT

Short Stories - Branch and Group News - Members Corner - CAT CHAT dealing with press and other published cat papers.

Selected photos of Members' cats and kittens - notes relating to Leagues' activities and appeals

Literary contributions and photos welcomed, but no publishing fees paid.

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(all above include magazine)

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NEXT ISSUE 1st JAN. 69

THIS IS IT! the last issue for 1968 and we reach the point when reflection is excusable. Has our little paper played the part intended or as the saying goes "where did we go wrong". Next year may see changes which in any case will be intentionally for the best, but what ever happens The Cat will always be the medium of contact between our supporters and Headquarters.

**THE STRAY AND UNWANTED CAT PROBLEM:** The need for drastic action was never more obvious than it is today when evidence of the traffic in cats was presented by the Press generally; That there is an urgent need for strict control at Government Department Level is equally as obvious and essential. Arguments for and against the use of animals in research experiments has gone on for years and will still go on unless action is taken.

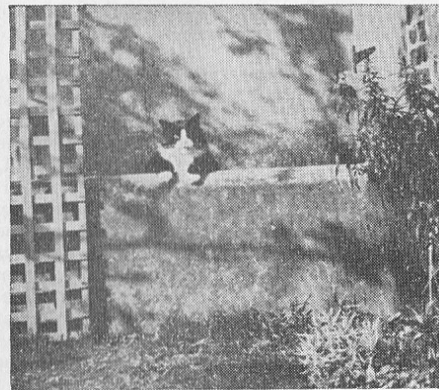
Somewhere along the line someone will have to decide whether in the circumstances of legalised experiments/research it would be in the interest of cats generally to press for the compromise, already proposed, at high level, that Laboratories should maintain their own catteries. Some do.



TO OUR MEMBERS FRIENDS AND READERS, WE EXTEND GREETINGS, MAY YOUR CHRISTMAS, SHARED WITH, OR IN MEMORY OF YOUR FELINE FRIEND/S BE HAPPY AND PEACEFUL.

**CAT WEEK TOTAL  
ON PAGE 134.**

A. A. Steward,  
EDITOR and GENERAL SECRETARY.



## ✠ ROUND AND ABOUT

*The Secretary's Comments on "this and that" concerning cats and kittens and the work of the League.*

### Round and about

**CATS AND THE PRESS:** More than ever before cats are "news" and to prove it I have twenty five Press reports beside me as I write, on which to comment.

The Coventry Standard and the Coventry Evening Telegraph reported on the problem of the colony of stray cats in Chain Gardens at Spon End, Coventry and explained what had been done about this very unsatisfactory situation. There were the usual "for and against", trapping and humane destruction and feeding and rehabilitating, as in similar cases. Many of the "opinions" were very much to the point and well worth giving earnest consideration by those of us in the animal welfare world who are concerned with the stray and unwanted cat problem. Note; We at C.P.L. Headquarters have made a note of the points that were raised.

The Daily Mirror reports the rounding up of cats that live wild on Mount Bingham, St. Helier, Jersey, by the order of the Constable of St. Helier and reference is made to the determined effort of Miss Lecocq to save some of the "colony" of unwanted cats which she had been feeding for five years. Again the usual "for and against". Some were trapped and destroyed by the Animal Shelter in Jersey and some were rehabilitated. The Daily Mirror also reported acts of cruelty alleged to be perpetrated by sadist hooligans, in Birmingham, which were being investigated by local Animal Welfare Societies and the Police. In this incident there was 100% condemnation of the dastardly incidents.

Also reported by the Daily Mirror was the attempted drowning of Sooty the kitten which as the Mirror puts it "nearly died because he was small, because he was in the way". Fortunately he was rescued and we understand found a home that offered all the love, care and attention he deserved.

So much for tragedy: now for curiosity, cleverness and cussedness. The Daily Mail reports on kitten's curiosity that nearly ended in "drowning by accident in a washing machine". However, she was rescued and having emerged from this experience none the worse for the soaking will no doubt exercise her natural bent for exploration. Then the clever cats. The grey tabby that climbs the door and presses the lever handle to open up and effect entry (Evening News) and the Siamese that uses the washing machine as a platform to enable him to reach the door knob which he twists with his paws (The Everett Herald). Lastly Georgette who lives in Armalade, Victoria, Australia who loves water and the tap, the shower and the sink are her mediums for getting thoroughly wet and having a soaking time. (Evening News).

Tib Wib The Terrier Tamer: a little kitten met a trained cat hating terrier and in no time at all changed things completely. Tessa the terror became all maternal and mothered the kitten and that was that. (Daily Sketch).

Bert the Boss Cat appears to be in charge of a squad of rat and mice catchers at his firm Mono Concrete, West Drayton, Middlesex and was presented with a long service medal in recognition of his ten years with the company. (Daily Mail).

Cathy the Cat: she journeyed a distance of 350 miles from Hantsville to Windsor, Canada and had been wandering about three months when found by her owners. (Ottawa Journal).

From the Daily Mirror we have the illustrated story of a tom cat mothering four orphan kittens and the Daily Sketch comments on the absorbing question of cat foods and the family tabby.

**CATS AND BIRD FRIENDSHIPS:** Now we turn to the Daily Express for picture of a cat and a pigeon and a cat and a duck. To the New York Sunday Times for picture of a cat and a parakeet and the Sunday Express for one of a cat and a raven.

**Pets (Church) Service:** The Evening Mail gives pictures of pets and a service in Merston near Sittingbourne Parish Church and of course cats were included.

For a change we refer to the family of Rex and Seal-point Siamese kittens which were the result of an unexpected mating (Daily Express). Often there are varied references to cats by Stanley Dangerfield

## ROUND AND ABOUT—contd.

(Daily Express), Gay Pauling (New York), John Keason (Everett Herald), Stay Cat Joey (Daily Mail) and Healing by Faith by George Tomkins, psychic man.

Lastly and with considerable emphasis we refer to the traffic in cats reported by the Press in general quite recently. What comments of mine can adequately express the indignation, horror and disgust cat lovers must feel at the blatant admission of the "dealer" who boasted he made £500 a week buying and selling cats. It is said he is an accredited cat dealer with a contract to supply a University with cat. Does that entitle him to buy from any or every unknown source of supply, in other words the cat stealers.

At this stage we can say no more but we are not by any means idle and the matter is receiving our immediate attention.

**WHICH—CAT FOODS:** The question often arises "which cat food is recommended?" and we do our best to give a satisfactory answer based on experience at H.Q. Clinic and Cattery as indicated in our leaflet on the subject. We have found Kattomeat has the best "acceptance" but we alternate with Whiskas, pilchards in tomato sauce, fresh fish and rabbit. A few odd tins of other foods are always in stock for the cat that, according to the owner, will not eat anything but this, that or the other. According to "Which" there are now 26 tinned and other cat foods from which to choose. Who could ask for more?

**OTHER SOCIETIES PUBLICATIONS:** Periodically we receive magazines, reports, etc., from other Animal Welfare Organisations. We would like to acknowledge the following:—from the Edinburgh Cat Protection League their Report for 1967—from The Catholic Study Circle for Animal Welfare, THE ARK—from the South Australian Animal Welfare League their magazine for September 1968.

We have an exchange arrangement with most sister societies which enable us to keep in touch with each others work.

The P.M.G. and Us: Since the introduction of the 4d. postage rate for printed paper and the 5d. stamps for urgent letters our postage expenditure has shown a 30% increase and coupled with other rising costs has created a situation that calls for considerable thought at Executive level on the question of economy in whatever direction it can be best effected without jeopardising the practical work of the League. It is not unlikely that important decisions will have to be made at an Executive

Committee meeting held before this issue of The Cat is in circulation, but not in time to give details.

IF your Executives finally approve the project outlined in Round and About last month and decide to give it a one, two or three year trial it will have committed itself to an expenditure which must be met and if YOU agree, as surely you must, that the plan is realistic and our policy the right one in the light of the need for serious attack on the stray and unwanted cat problem, then your co-operation in whatever encounter we institute in order to give more financial strength to our elbow can be replied upon, it will again prove that supporters of the Cats' Protection League will always rise to the occasion.

**ONE OF OURS:** It is not often we have the opportunity of showing one of the cats rehabilitated from H.Q. Cattery but on page 130 we present SUSAN who now occupies the "centre of the stage" at her new home. Having been spayed here at H.Q. Clinic before leaving for her life of luxury she is no longer worried about family matters. Thank you Mrs. Walton.

**THE ANNUAL REPORT:** This is now in the hands of the printers and should be available soon. The delay in printing and circulation was due to circumstances beyond our control.

**PENS:** We shall soon be able to supply both pens and refills; details later.

A. A. Steward.

**LOST:** Missing since July 23rd from the Enborne Kennels, Nr. Newbury, Berks. A perfectly marked medium coloured tabby cat (neutered male) answers to "Rochester", age about 5½ years. Belonging to a teacher, had to be kenneled for some time, and may be endeavouring to find his way back to the school at Woking, Surrey. Friendly disposition, but may be frightened. Reward offered for any information to: Miss Catherine M. Maze, 14 The Mount, off Christchurch Road, Reading, Berks.

**S.O.S. re above.**

Urgently wanted once weekly car and driver for search for missing cat. Newbury, district. Terms to be arranged. Miss C. E. Maze, 14 The Mount, off Christchurch Road, Reading, Berks.

## BRANCH AND GROUP NEWS AND DIRECTORY

Enquiries from anyone wanting a kitten or who would adopt a cat or two are welcomed by C.P.L. Honorary representatives whose names and addresses are starred. \*

But please note:— DO NOT CALL AT ANY OF THE ADDRESSES EXCEPT BY APPOINTMENT: MAKE CONTACT BY LETTER OR PHONE FIRST.

### CHELMSFORD

As Publicity Secretary I should have known better than to rely on memory for the last day for Copy. After a terrific effort by myself and my daughter (typist!) she posted August and September report just in time—I thought. However, it was too late, which was a pity, as there was quite a bit of it! This must be a summary of activities.

August events started on the first with a Coffee Evening to which our visitors were asked to bring photographs of their pets for a competition "The cat I would most like to own". Mrs. Snell's photograph of a lovely fluffy tabby kitten won the prize. The whole evening resulted in £8. On August 17th a Saturday Sale in the Shire Hall Foyer took £18 and the same venue saw the September Fair on September 14th. The "draw" to this event was another visit of Mr. and Mrs. Colville of Horden-on-the-Hill with the T.V. cats and other beauties. Nelson, now retired from films etc., is our "Mascot" and collects for us, as the perfect example of "Cable Street Stray" to "Stardom". Rosental Dishy Dolly, a Blue Cream Manx, attracted much attention as she recently won the Trophy at Alexandra Palace for the Best Short Haired Kitten in the Show. We were delighted to hear that Brumas, once "Arthur" has made a wonderful recovery from complete paralysis and is "working again". Rain (not unusual for us!) damped spirits but £66 10s. 0d. was taken.

We are now planning TWO Christmas Fairs, one on Saturday, December 7th in Chelmsford and another in Witham on November 29th evening, as we need so much money now! The latter is organised by Mrs. J. Gumbrell, 11, White House, Gambles Green Terling, Chelmsford. Any gifts would be welcomed for either. There is also a bumper Christmas Draw for which we should be grateful for prizes. Many thanks to "Cutie Cat" of Devon and "Anon, Bow" for their support and to some kind soul in Hastings for silver paper and stamps. Thanks, also to "Tilly" of Birmingham for stamps and to Mrs. or Miss Sumner for two tea cosies.

August and September proved one of our worst passages—the cattery was full over the holiday, then the owners went on a "working holiday" and their deputy had enough to

cope with. One appeal letter to a local paper, giving a number of ways in which people could help (the other paper ignored us) produced to date—nothing! We hope for a "delayed action!" A letter to the "East Anglican Daily Times" brought commiseration from a lady in Ipswich who once boarded cats for the R.S.P.C.A. also, due to a cut by the editor, an aggrieved letter from the local ex-secretary of the R.S.P.C.A.! However, a telephone call to the lady put that right and an Editors Note in a later edition soothed the other offended cat-welfare workers—I hope! I gave full credit to these people in the piece which the Editor cut!

Our main activity in October was another Saturday Sale on the morning of the 26th, which raised £31.

In August and September nineteen cats and ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY KITTENS went to homes! October figures are three cats and twenty nine kittens.

### EDMONTON

Members will be pleased to know that all our cats which we entered in the Herts. and Middx. Cat Club Show at Alexandra Palace did very well indeed. They won several First Prizes and quite a few other prizes. "Fluffy", who is aged almost 22 years, was in a decorated pen and won a special prize in the "21 yrs. old Class", incorporated to mark the Herts and Middx. Cat Club's 21st. birthday.

Although we still have kittens at the Sanctuary, we are hoping to place some of our older cats in good homes soon; at this time of the year, with kittens not being quite so numerous, and the holiday season over, it is usually a little easier to place the older cats.

Cat stealing appears to be rife in this area again, and one unfortunate young couple lost two cats in the same evening, one of them being a white Persian.

As pet stealing is widespread, please urge all pet owners that you know to take extra precautions to safeguard their pets.

It seems cruelty to animals by children is also very much on the increase, so please be on your guard.

We are still in need of any unwanted saleable items that you may have to spare. Jumble is always needed, also gifts, costume jewellery etc., to help stock our various stalls.

## LONDON COMMITTEE

Our two big bazaars are over. Both were successful. We had two delightful days. It was a great pleasure to meet so many of our friends, and especially to have news of so many of our "own" cats now settled in new homes. I lost count at the end, but I know I spoke to over 20 people who had our cats. Now we are starting to collect stock for our next sales, because we really have "sold out" of just about everything. We are ready and eager to receive any goods our kind friends can send (this means *you*). Please send us something to sell.

As usual, we shall be organising the 'Christmas Dinner for Cats'. We are preparing to take Christmas dinners to office or shop or factory or household, wherever a cat is left alone over the holiday, but, please we do want to know well in advance, it is very difficult to arrange these dinners at short notice. If anyone would like to help at Christmas time, let us know soon. We will be glad of some extra help.

At the Rescue Centre business continues brisk. Cats come in and go out all the time. Minnie-Ha-Ha is still with us and still disgracing us at every opportunity! We have a delightful pair of dancing cats, they never tire of going through their steps. Our latest arrival is "William" a silver tabby who does enjoy a nice egg with his tea. Contributions to allow him extra eggs would be very welcome, please.

Curio Corner is nearly empty. We have customers for just about anything old, and the older the better. Please go through all your cupboards and trunks, and find us some little item. Silver spoons are in great demand and we also have been asked for an old biscuit barrel. Our gold nugget is growing, any bit of gold, however small is welcome for this.

## NORTH LONDON

Our Jumble Sale on the 9th October was a great success. We broke all records for takings. It is, however, sad to reflect that it will all be spent very quickly since, with continually rising costs, the Shelter now eats away £50 a week in running expenses. We thank all our hard working helpers in achieving such a good result and, while costs continue to rise, will always welcome more voluntary helpers at our sales. We have long since formed the opinion that the more helpers we have, the greater are our takings, irrespective of the quantity of the goods we have for sale. With postage, printing of notices and the hire of a hall, every sale we hold now costs us nearly £20 and good results are essential.

To see all the vagaries of human nature, we are convinced that it is necessary to be involved with work for animals. Two burly workmen from a nearby building site called on us recently, one cradling a three day old kitten which had been found among building rubble. One of our nursing mothers immediately accepted the new arrival, and now, at three weeks old, it has been bespoken for a home in the country at 8 weeks old by Miss Perry, one of our members and helpers.

On the other side of the coin, is the lady who telephoned, wanting a young kitten. On being told that she would have to sign an undertaking to have the kitten neutered when old enough, she refused and said "You are one of the people who wishes to keep the cat population down". If only our caller could experience the heart-breaking work of our Shelter staff, who take in up to 3,000 stray and unwanted cats each year, many of them young and beautiful, she would not need to be convinced that a drastic reduction in the over-population of cats is essential and that wide-scale neutering is the only answer.

We apologise to some members for the delay in sending Christmas cards which they have ordered. Confusion has arisen with the printers over the question of purchase tax. By the time this report appears, the matter will have been sorted out and all arrears of orders despatched.

We at this Branch and all resident cats wish all readers a very happy Christmas and tender thanks for all help and kindnesses received during the past year. We also ask you to remember throughout the coming year that we have, at all times, many beautiful cats, all yearning for good homes.

Lastly, we remind you that our Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, the 14th December, in time to let you buy and post for Christmas all those last minute presents. It is held at the Hall of the Holloway Baptist Church in Holloway Road, N.7., next to the Northern Hospital. The entrance is at the side, in Tollington Way. Ask the bus conductor for "The Nag's Head, Holloway" and you are nearly there. We shall be open from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.—so please come in your dozens.

## OAKHAM AND DISTRICT

At last! we have taken the plunge and formed our own group. After 14 years with Leicester we felt it was time to try and work on our own. There are not many of us, but the work we want to concentrate on is spaying and neutering, and to give Veterinary treatment wherever necessary.

All the cash we are able to get will go on the above—the boarding and after care of the

patients will be done in our homes at no charge to the C.P.L.

Our first "worry" was to save the lives of 8 retired cats from a local factory—under new management and the cats had to go. We are happy to say they have been spayed and are enjoying a fire.

By the time this is in "The Cat" we will have held our first "Bring and Buy" which we are hoping will be a great success.

We will have a pile of Aprons, Dishcloths and calendars ready for sale in December, so we would be delighted to hear from any buyers—there should still be time for Christmas. Calendars are mostly cats at 2/6 each.

## SUSSEX

I would like to tell you about Tommy, a three months old kitten who was ill treated and starved, and more or less thrown out by his owner a brute of a man. A gentleman came to us very worried about him, as he had been feeding him, and was now going on holiday for a few weeks and didn't like to leave him. Fortunately, we had room at Cat Haven where he was given every care, and in a few weeks was fat and well and ready for a home. We put an advertisement in our local paper and had six replies. From these we picked a lady who had recently lost her cat through old age, and was very lonely without him. She said the kitten would be really loved if she might have him. When we took him along to her he had a wonderful reception; she had everything ready for him, even toys for him to play with, and we felt happy because we had made her happy and also Tommy.

The other six applicants took others of our little family of strays, and our Shelter was nearly cleared, making room for others who were being looked after until we could take them. These others were three little fluffy kittens who had been in the woods. Several people had been feeding the mother, and then one day she brought along her family as if to say "now they are old enough to feed themselves you must feed them too". A home was found for the mother, and we were asked to take the kittens. The day they arrived at Cat Haven a lady phoned to ask if we had a fluffy kitten. She had come down from Tonbridge for the day as she couldn't get a fluffy kitten anywhere there, and hoped she might do so here. She tried several places without any luck, and had almost given up hope, then someone told her to contact us. How delighted she was when we sent her to the Shelter to find exactly what she wanted. The other two have also gone to homes now.

I am now able to give the result of our Cats' Christmas Bazaar which was held on

October 29th. We made a profit of over £170 after deducting expenses. There were six stalls packed with goods, four raffles and four competitions. We also had a fortune teller who was very popular. Miss Madden our Assistant Secretary made a large model of Cat Haven which proved a great attention. The weather was fine, and all agreed that the day was a great success.

## ULSTER

I must begin by referring again to the Sale of Work which I mentioned briefly last month. This year was far and away the best we have ever had. Money is still coming in and total to date exceeds £340—a magnificent result for which I now want to thank all who helped, including the many friends who sent donations among them one of 24 dollars from America. The Catless Cat Show was a great attraction and all day people crowded round to cast their vote and money clanked into the little tubs. It was not easy to decide for there was so many lovely entrants and one felt that most of them deserved to win. I hope a picture of "Co-co" who was declared "Best of Show" will appear in "The Cat" but it won't, alas, show his glorious colour. A suggestion has been made that the Cat Show should be an annual event and "Co-co" is willing to return the little silver cup he won, to be competed for next year. Well, we'll see!

At the beginning of this year I suggested that perhaps some fund-raising events could be organised by members living outside the Belfast area. The idea was taken up by a small group living in the Rostrevor/Warrenpoint vicinity and as a result a most successful Coffee Party was held in October which has brought in the splendid sum of £46 0s. 7d. To all who helped we extend thanks and our hearty congratulations—and we hope their good example will be followed. There are lots of members living in Bangor—it just needs someone to take the initiative.

It's hard to realize that we are almost at the end of another year. It's been a busy one—but aren't they always? It has also been an eventful one, having seen the departure of Mr. J. King Carson as Honorary Treasurer after ten years of efficient and devoted service, the opening of the Norah Wilson Isolation unit and the coming of Mrs. Miller to take charge of the Shelter. I don't think it would have been possible to find anyone who slipped so easily and happily into the life of the Ulster Branch as Mrs. Miller. Immediately she seemed to belong and at the end of her first year we thank her for the way she tackled what might have seemed to many an exceedingly difficult job. She's friend to all—cats and humans alike.

This brings me to an important point. The Cattery is usually overflowing with cats and kittens and sometimes we have a "full house" so that, with the best will in the world, Mrs. Miller cannot cope with even one more unexpected arrival. Will any member wishing to bring in a cat please telephone beforehand—except in cases of extreme urgency—to check that there is room for it. Incidentally, it would be an enormous help if the member could, where possible, also "sponsor" the cat, for example by undertaking to advertise for a home for it. This might result in good homes being obtained for some of our other strays as well.

Finally, a reminder that we still need silver paper, used postage stamps, jumble, white elephants and if you happen to get more Christmas gifts than you really need—save some for the pussies. Christmas greetings to all our members, far and near, and to all cat-lovers.

#### WEST CORNWALL

Our log book has developed into a cross between Mrs. Dales' Diary and James Bond. The routine jobs continue monotonously, but the days are spiced with lively incidents, emotional upheavals, and hilarious adventures. Unwary friends sometimes offer to come and take charge whilst I have a few hours off. With a wicked gleam in my eye I leave the enthusiastic cat sitter with a list of instructions and my blessings, departing gratefully for a catless afternoon. On returning I am usually greeted by a wild eyed

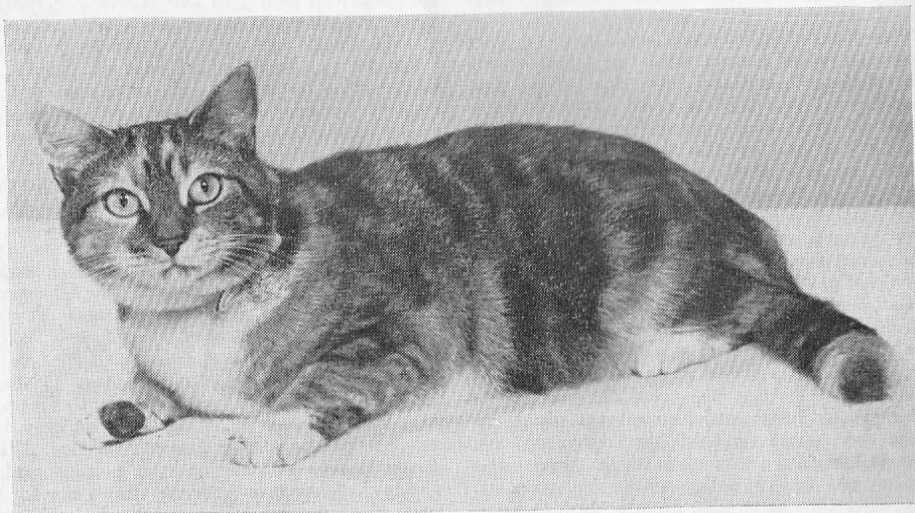
frantic friend eager to relate the days events which to say the least have been "all go". These staunch pals DO come again, but they usually need plenty of time to recover . . .

At the present time we are waging war on the owners of lost cats. A letter in the local paper from us set up a deal of interest and the phone has been alive. I advertised that we had found a ginger cat, and now we have a list of people who have lost ginger cats, why don't finders and losers come forward? The time factor in dealing with lost and found cats is enormous, and if this pressing problem could be resolved, our energies could be well spent on another branch of cat welfare.

Saturday afternoons continue to flourish and we have taken over £200 since we began. The colder weather has attracted the visitors into the old farm kitchen where they drink tea, cat chat, and submit to the attentions of the delighted family pets who are overjoyed to find so many willing laps. We shall continue opening on Saturdays for anyone who wants to come.

Christmas preparations are in operation. The Bazaar is full of attractive gifts and visitors are buying their presents. The unwanted catteries and the boarding catteries will be full. So many lost cats at holiday times, and many pets who come in for the few days whilst their family are away from home. They all enjoy the special party we throw for them with plenty of good things to eat and play with.

Cathlowena cats and humans send their warmest greetings, and happy wishes for the New Year.



SUSAN

## MEMBERS CORNER

#### LOST CATS

We were delighted to read in "The West Briton" that Lolly and Whiskey the cats are back in their homes again. These are the fortunate ones. It is heartbreaking to realise that for 15 years our catteries have housed hundreds of cats found wandering. Many of these have obviously come from good homes, but the owners will not do anything positive about recovering them. We keep a register of all cats reported lost and found, and this is a tremendous help in restoring them to their rightful homes.

Last year we were able to return a cat to Torquay which was picked up in Truro. This incident, which, sadly, is not a rare case, proves that people cannot do too much to regain a lost pet. We advocate an advert in the local papers, reports to police stations, R.S.P.C.A. and Cats' Protection League. Enquiries at the local vets can help, as sometimes a cat is run over or injured and a kindly person will take it into a vet's for treatment. These measures will often result in the cat's recovery.

It is true cats are sometimes stolen or taken by foxes, but not as often as people suppose. Many, many lost cats are destroyed as unwanted or strays. Some are adopted by their finders who cannot trace the original owners, and many more are brought to us and are cared for until new homes can be found.

**RE-ASSESS THE CAT:** I would like to second Mr. George Woods' plea for the enforcement of the 30 m.p.h. speed limit in built-up areas. All over the country these selfish motorists endanger human and animal life. Unfortunately the cat has not even the legal status of a dog. If a dog is killed or injured, the matter has to be reported to the police. Many of us feel it is high time that the cat is also legally recognised as a domestic animal. Katherine Hoyle, 9, Beach Road, Emsworth, Hants. (Braintree and Witham Times).

If any member of the C.P.L. or reader of "The Cat" has first hand experience of a fox catching, or even chasing a cat, will they please send details, with their name and address to: Miss G. A. Mariette, 4, Mansfield Avenue, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset. Code no. BH14 ODQ.



GEORGE

I thought you might be interested in the picture enclosed. We picked her up four years ago when she was only four weeks old, and nothing but skin, bones and fleas. A girl, true, but named George, and now she watches "Wild Kingdom" on television! I swear that is true. (Miss) Catherine E. Hopkins, Brooklyn, New York.

Please find enclosed cheque for £14 8s. 0d. This has all been made from the sale of stamps.

We have had to give up the school tuck-shop for the time being, owing to lack of space and this means that the children have much more money to spend on stamps Audrey Cozens, Sheba and Casey.

Sending out Christmas cards affords a good opportunity of enlightening people about animal welfare, (feline or otherwise) by enclosing leaflets on the subject with their cards. The ignorance of the average person of the tremendous amount of cruelty that goes on is very great, so let each C.P.L. member do his or her best to educate others. G.L.S.



### FELINE TOMBSTONES

In the churchyard of St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol is a stone engraved "The Church Cat, 1927". This dear creature was found in the church by the sacristan, and lived there very happily for some nine years. During services, it always slept in the front pew! Mr. G. H. Bristol.

In the grounds of stately homes all over the country there are dog cemeteries. A favourite parrot may find a place, but scarcely ever is any cat included.

In the grounds of Balbithan Castle, near Inverurie, in Aberdeenshire (now an alpine nursery garden) there are two little iron tombstones beautifully made and commemorating two beloved cats.

One reads . . . . . Fluffins, who died: April 17th 1880 aged 15.

The other reads . . . . . Sweetie who died: Feb. 19th 1882 aged nearly 18.

Sweetie and Fluffins must have had a pleasant life in their beautiful garden with a castle to roam in on wet days, and grand old fireplaces to warm themselves at with their loving humans.

### CATS . . . OF THE PARISH

In reply to the letter about the rarity of church cats, I felt I must tell you about our departed, but not forgotten, parish puss. His name was Omo, and he was a stray, using the church as a boarding house. His meals were served to him at the back of the church, and his bed was in the pulpit (between services, of course).

Unfortunately, he sometimes got a bit confused about the times of services, and many a congregation saw him tripping up the aisle with a harassed verger in pursuit! Miss S. Sunningdale, Berkshire.

In the archives of Exeter Cathedral is an order given to the masons that they should cut through the stone walls of the Cathedral (they are double Norman walls) so that the Cathedral cat, who protected the leather bellows of the organ from rats and mice, could go in and out. This was in the fourteenth or fifteenth century, but many successive cats must have used the entrance, which can still be seen below the big clock.

It's interesting that many well known people have been lovers of cats. St. Philip Neri, for example, had a pet cat who attended him at his devotions, and Cardinal Richelieu was also extremely fond of them Miss J. H. Worthing, Sussex. (Women's Realm).

### IN MEMORIAM

In memory of my beautiful blue cat SILVER aged about 3 years. Killed by a hit and run driver on August 15th, 1968: also little GAY, an attractive tabby & white who disappeared on July 21st, 1963, aged 3 years. Such happy cats and so full of mischief both came as strays at about 3 months old. Also dear old PONGO, so affectionate, died Dec. 4th, aged 15½ years. Little SALLY had to be put to sleep on August 31st, 1968, aged 12 years. All sadly missed. I. H. Ecclestone.

In memory of TIMOTHY, T.W.4387, put to sleep 7th October, 1968. Greatly missed. M. H.

Please use the enclosed donation towards helping and feeding homeless cats and kittens in memory of "Tuppence". B.S. Please accept the enclosed donation in memory of our beloved Georgie, who died on Saturday, Oct. 19th. P.I.N. Enclosed thanksgiving gift for Tuarth who walked in fat and sleek after an absence of four months. E.M.

In fondest memory of dear Petty, a wonderful and affectionate Pal, never to be forgotten, who left me in June, 1968 very suddenly, aged 16 years. Sleep peacefully Petty: I miss you so! Jimmie Benjamin. In memory of my beloved friends, Bubbles, Andy, Pippins and Eros. Never forgotten. M. Meredith.

### HUBBYCAT

Miss Ward came back weeks before her sick leave was up, obviously still a very sick woman but there was good reason in her excuse that she had to have her four cats out of the cattery where they were waiting for her. Pearl, the old queen had obviously been starved by the three hefty young men who had shared her captivity. Her coat stared, stretched tight over ribs like railings and she refused to venture indoors except to hurry on to the old beam below the pent of the roof of the kitchen. Outdoors she crouched under the kitchen garden hedge, a place where the boys did not venture; I wondered why until watching Pearl from the sewing-room window I saw her leave a third of her dinner. He was rusty black, tattered and battered old warrior, long stranger to civilized life but he had waited quietly until Pearl was satisfied when he slipped out and polished the plate. After a careful toilet he folded up in his cave under the hedge near Pearl's resting-place - Darby and Joan before the now gleaming plate.

Next day I doubled the rations and added a drink of milk for 'afters'. This last he smelt but refused until Pearl had a sip and clearly told him that she had hers at breakfast while the boys were doing their morning rounds. Days passed and Pearl recovered some of her nerve and Hubbycat recalled some

This story of the almost unbelievable mother love and courage of an ordinary cat has been told to me by a maintenance engineer at a large stone products works in this locality; the man is a great animal lover and also one whose veracity is unquestionable.

There are quite a few cats in the establishment, many of them half wild and Bingo - white socks and shirt fronts, otherwise black - decided to have her latest kindle of kittens in one of the kilns. The accouchement was safely accomplished and the youngsters - and Mum - happy in their sheltered and warm environment for the first three or four days.

However, in due course, it became necessary to fire this kiln again and, unaware of its inhabitants, the fire set to work: at the time Bingo was out foraging.

By the time she came back the kiln was - to put it in the words of the man who told the story - "Just about bloody red-hot"! How it happened that the kittens were not little lumps of charred flesh, he didn't know; but what he does know is that Bingo went into that "burning fiery-furnace" not once, but four times, each time in order to rescue one of her children.

This she successfully accomplished (surely they should be christened by their owners Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and Salamander, for each lived and has a home)

of the art of grooming his tattered self. An arrogant old tramp, he quickly learnt that I was 'a soft touch' and soon was coming to meet me but it was too late for rehabilitation. Regardless of police advice (anyway one could get into the house simply enough by removing one of the leaded panes anywhere round the old house. I left the lobby window open and made a nest inside the top shelf, a citadel that could be held against the boys.

But Pearl had no heart to face the winter cold and the vet brought her peace. Hubbycat came as usual for his dinner when I returned, looked again at me with something of the air of an ancient boulevardier raising an eyebrow. He ate thoughtfully but without pleasure, tidied up carefully came to me determinedly and for the first time settled quietly beside my sewing-table. In the morning he was still there, listless and he would not eat but he never left my side so long as I was in the sewing room. The next morning I took him to the vet, travelling peacefully in my arms and even once trying to remember how to purr. He accepted the vet's "Nuc dimittis" with perfect calm.

It was appropriate that Henry, half gypsy and wholly poacher should bury him deep in the Wild Wood placing an apple seed in his mouth. "Little old cat's got to pay his due like I did for the old lady", Henry remarked. Aldyth Stansfield.

but at a terrible cost to herself. The whole of her upper lip, the tip of her nose and part of her lower lip has been completely burned away - presumably by contact with the kiln floor as she picked up, one by one, the kittens, her belly is scorched and her hind legs have lost much of their flesh by charring as, of course, have her feet.

But - she is still alive! Always a rather stand-offish cat, my informant tells me now that she will not come near to anybody at all, but she manages to eat food put down for her when she is quite certain that nobody is going to try to catch her to see what can be done to help her. At the moment of writing, my informant is hoping that she will come out of hiding at a time when an R.S.P.C.A. Inspector can manage to capture her, or anaesthetize her with a dart, and see whether there can be any hope for her in future life. He tells me that she "looks like something out of a horror film" and this I can well believe, poor devoted Bingo.

This to me, is one of the most terrible and, at the same time, most wonderful stories I have ever heard. We read of humans entering blazing buildings to rescue others, and sometimes being unable to do so because of the heat, but Bingo went four times and finished up with "Mission Accomplished".

Mrs. Chambers.

## THE GANG

Our two peculiar, travelling, flat-dwelling cats, Harry the Siamese and Alfred the Black, of whom mention has been made before, have now been obliged to share their home with, not one, but three more additions to the family. The first was a 4 month old stray who had tried to attach herself to the local railway station buffet where she was certainly most unwelcome. After several weeks her plight was brought to our notice, and that was how Laura came to join Harry and Alf and Clara the whippet.

Soon after this came another call for help. A kitten about 2 or 3 months old was wandering in the local cemetery. After all the usual enquiries he remained unclaimed and unwanted so we named him Stanley and he too, came home to join the throng.

About a month later there came an S.O.S. from a friend who had heard that someone was about to dispose of a 6 week old kitten either by "drowning, bashing or dumping" - to use the exact words. Could we take it if she rescued it from its unpleasant fate? Of course we would, after all, four or five whats the difference - there is always room for one more! Thus did Chester arrive to take up residence with all the others, and in spite of his size it soon became obvious that he had more than his fair share of intelligence.

Naturally, five cats and a dog cannot be kept in all the time in an upstairs flat, so we had the kitchen wall knocked out and a doorway made leading onto a balcony-cum-flyover-cum-catwalk down into the garden. Needless to say they very much approve of this and there is a constant procession of two-way traffic. We also find it useful but of course that is only of secondary importance!

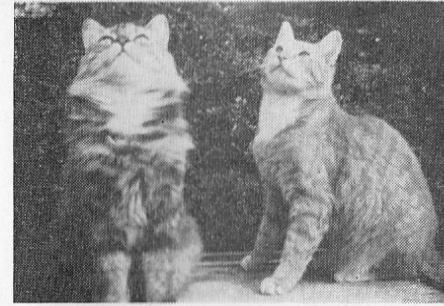
Each new arrival is accepted by the others without the slightest trouble and they all get on wonderfully well together. Alfred tends to lay down the law occasionally, but then every gang has to have its boss.



Are there any other Siamese with a partiality to brushes? I would be interested to know. Harry always had a passion for paint-brushes in particular, but this week he went too far. One evening he carried in a very nice car-wash brush complete with screw fittings - it was quite heavy. Unfortunately it was not ours. Some poor neighbour will wonder where it is - we have not yet found the owner.

The enclosed photo shows the gang having a light snack. The nearest is Harry the brush collector, then Alfred, next is Laura, Chester the baby slightly out of line, and finally Stanley. J. Olney.

**CAT WEEK 1968**  
**THE GRAND TOTAL WAS**  
**£1631 10 10**



### THE WAY WE LIVE

As long as I can remember my two great interests have been animals and drawing. Being brought up in the country and always having pets I started, even before I was old enough to go to school, drawing animals. At school I used to get into trouble because the pages of my exercise books were usually decorated with all sorts of animals running round the margins.

My favourite animal has always been the cat, and I have for many years been a member of the Cats' Protection League which has its Headquarters at Slough, Bucks, and branches run by voluntary organisers in London and many other large towns where they do wonderful work in rescuing and

### POPULATION EXPLOSION IN FINNMARK

To the British Association Meeting in Dundee this year there came a Norwegian Professor, who was guest of honour at the dinner of the Anthropological Section. In the course of his speech he told us of an experience with cats in the furthest north of Norway, where a few determined people scrape a living from rocks and sea.

He was examining remains of ancient settlements, with the aid of a local guide. But at one place the guide became agitated and refused to leave the boat. The Professor went up the hill himself and there found the owner of the tiny farm.

He was a very large man. Probably never of high intellect he now was distraught and unkempt to a degree. Around him were over twenty cats, all white with or without tabby or black patches.

finding homes for stray cats. The stray cat problem is desperate in all large towns and money is constantly needed to help in this work. I therefore decided to advertise "Pet Portraits" in water colour for 10/6 each from snapshots to try to raise money for this cause. I have been doing this work now for many years and have orders for portraits of all sorts of pets from all parts of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland and also from Canada and America. I have also written and illustrated animal and fairy tales for children and given a proportion of all money received from this work to help the work among animals. My own cat family at present consists of five so I have no lack of models.

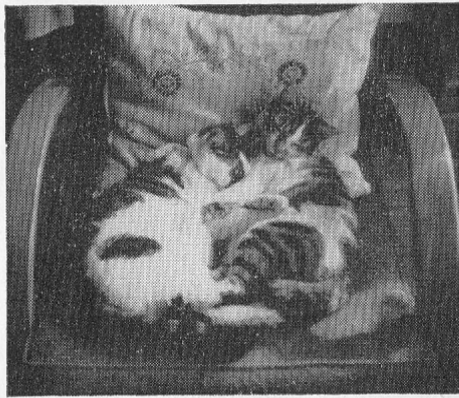
My work for the "Cat's Protection League has brought me many friends and has helped me in finding homes for some of the cats I have taken in. Only last year I took an abandoned cat, quite intending to add him to the family, but he had other ideas. Although most intelligent and affectionate towards me he would not agree with any of my other cats, so a home had to be found. After trying several people who would not take him because he was half grown I thought of an elderly gentleman for whom I had done a portrait of his cat, who had died at the age of 16. I wrote and asked if he would take "Sandy" and he was so delighted. So this was another one happily settled and a wonderful home. Dorothy Hall, "Plemont", Hill Road, Watlington, Oxford.

Having seen the ruins for which he had been searching the Professor remarked on the large number of cats, to be told that these were only a few! He was taken into an old barn. In the middle of it there was a pile of about a hundredweight of fresh caught fish. Around this another eighty or so cats were eating. In an old oven in a corner a cat was having kittens. So was another up on a shelf in a corner. The smell was indescribable.

Four years earlier someone had given the lonely man a pair of kittens, brother and sister. None of their descendants had ever been destroyed. Most of their owner's time was spent fishing for them.

As the professor was rowed away down from the fjord he saw many pairs of green and yellow eyes gleaming from under sheds in the rays of the setting sun. What will happen when the farmer dies? Dorothy M. McIntyre.

\* \* \*



### TEDDY AND JOHNNY

They were born in a field in Basildon; their Mother was a half-wild factory cat, their father unknown. Two kittens were taken at five weeks old, by the office staff, but Johnny and Teddy were whipped deep into the bushes, by their mother, and not seen again for two weeks.

At that time Aileen started taking food for them, and although it was impossible to get near them, they quickly realised that Aileen, and others in her office, put out plates of fish and meat. But it was four months before they managed to catch Johnny, and the girls had their arms badly scratched in the catching.

Aileen brought him to Leigh, took him straight to our local vet, who is very understanding, and neutered him immediately, popped him back in the basket, and he came home. This saved him two moves, and further upset. He was very dopey; very frightened, but made no attempt to scratch us.

We put him in a room alone, with a warm basket, a bowl of milk, and an earth box. Because he'd never before been inside a house, we thought the earth box would be hopeless, and completely covered the carpet with newspapers. In the morning I went in to see him. He was in his basket, and when I stroked him, and talked quietly, he started purring. The milk had gone, and he'd used his earth box! And the room was spotless.

That same day, Aileen managed to catch Teddy, who'd been searching for his brother. The same procedure followed as for Johnny.

They were kept in 'their' room for a week, and never did they slip up with their earth boxes. Their food and milk was given to them,

and the plates were clean in minutes. Now, they aren't so greedy. They know there will always be more food, but then they weren't certain and were very wary.

We still couldn't get near them, but after a week their door was left open whilst someone was home, and gradually they were enticed downstairs for meals, although they were always alert, and the slightest movement would send them scurrying up to their room. We would bang on their plates, and then ignore them and they would creep down – the thought of food overcoming their fear.

After a month, when they'd met the other five cats, and they knew the house thoroughly we opened the back door and the window upstairs, from which descends the cat-ladder – and waited for them to re-discover the outside world, and perhaps disappear. That was a chance we had to take. But they refused to leave the house, and it was another week before we managed to entice them into the garden. And they were so nervous, that, after a few minutes they darted up the ladder, and back to their room.

It was many weeks before we could handle them, and hours and hours of patience and quiet talking, and saying their names over and over. We spent a lot of our leisure playing with them, and gradually they came to trust us, and eventually allowed us to stroke them, and then to pick them up for a minute or two.

It was nearly a year before the great day, when Teddy voluntarily climbed on my lap and settled down to sleep. Now they have been with us almost two years they both climb all over all of us, and love a lap at any time.

Teddy has always been a busy cat; always looking for something to do, some mischief he can get into. Johnny is the prettiest, with his great eyes, but Teddy is the one with personality. You have a slogan – 'There is nothing brisker than his life when in motion, and nothing sweeter than his peace when at rest! That's Teddy.

As you will see from the enclosed photo, taken when they'd been with us for a year, that they are now the bosses. Still over wary of strangers, but with us they couldn't be more affectionate.

### HOMES WANTED

Cats requiring good homes.

1 12 month old neutered male Abyssinian cat, inoculated. 1 12 month old neutered female Abyssinian cat, innoculated. These are brother and sister and must go together to one home.

1 8 year old neutered, long hair tabby female (elderly owner just passed away).

2 8 weeks old female black kittens (sisters).

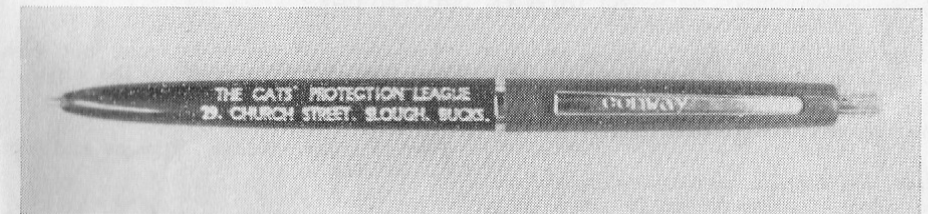


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