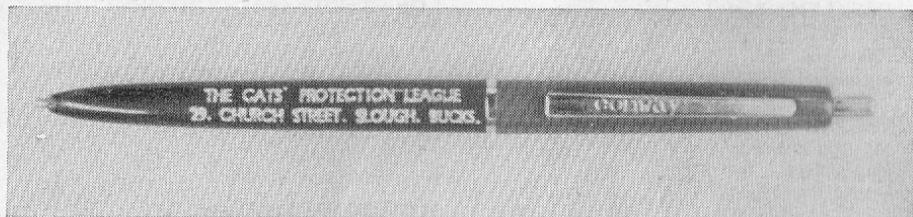


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Astrological analysis of character. Letter with date of birth, stamped addressed envelope and donation for the C.P.L. to Mr Curtler, 5, Hill Avenue, Worcester.

Buy: Hand-knitted dishcloths and/or Aprons, from Mrs. P. Ilves, 1 Penn Street, Oakham, Rutland. Prices, Aprons 45p. Dishcloths 9p.

Wanted: Cloth Badges, County, Club, School Cap or Blazer. Each will earn 10p for my C.P.L. Collecting Box.

Your interest and co-operation will be much appreciated. Miss D. Gowing, Rosemary Cromer Road, Roughton. NOR 29Y Norfolk.

C.P.L. Slogan Labels are sold in Aid of Funds 15p per packet. The Cat's Protection League, 29, Church Street, Slough, Bucks.

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.

Perspex Name Brooches in various colours 7½p each. Profits to C.P.L. Send S.A.E. to Miss P. E. George, Rose Villa, Ackhill Prestiegne, Radnorshire.

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**WILL YOU TRY
TO ENROL ONE NEW MEMBER
DURING 1972?**

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

THE CAT

THE OLDEST MAGAZINE
DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO
CATS AND THEIR
WELFARE

A Happy
and Prosperous
New Year
to all our readers

"Perhaps the most valuable gifts which the cat can give to man are its tranquility and grace and detachment, and in this distracted era of ours we were never more in need of tranquillity and grace and detachment." *Compton Mackenzie.*

JAN/FEB. 1972

THE CAT Vol. XLVI No. 1 JAN./FEB. 1972

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY - FIRST OF THE MONTH

CONTENT: Short Stories — Branch and Group News — Members Letters — CAT CHAT dealing with published references to Cat Welfare and the League's activities and appeals.

ILLUSTRATIONS: Selected photos of Members' cats and kittens.
Literary contributions and photos welcome. NO PUBLISHING FEES PAID.

Official Organ of
THE CATS' PROTECTION LEAGUE AND TAILWAVERS
(Founded 1927)

Registered National Charity N. 203644

Headquarters Office and Clinic are at
PRESTBURY LODGE, 29 CHURCH STREET, SLOUGH, BUCKS.
Telephone Slough 20173

Editor
Albert A. Steward

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ALWAYS WANTED AT HEADQUARTERS

Unwanted birthday and Christmas presents or anything saleable.

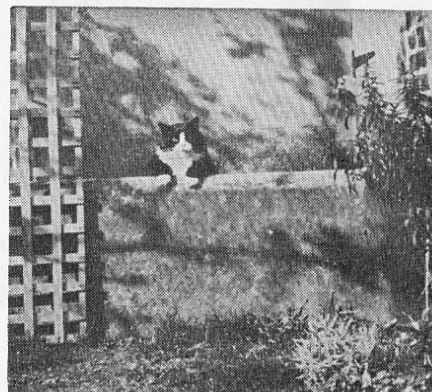
Notification of change of address.

Linen and blanket pieces, 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 com memorative.

Names and Addresses of Boarding Catteries.



ROUND AND ABOUT

Report and Comments on "this and that" concerning the welfare of cats and kittens and the work of the League generally by the Editor.

EDITORIAL 1972

Here we are, at the threshold of another year, wondering just what 1972 has in store for us. The past, pleasant or otherwise, is behind us, the future lies ahead and our fortunes are often in the lap of the Gods. For our part at Headquarters we can only strive to intensify our efforts on behalf of cat and kittens in general and the homeless and unwanted in particular, thus keeping the League on the path of duty to the feline cause and fulfilling our obligations to those whose support enables us to pursue this policy.

As you will see there is a special message from our Chairman on page 4 together with the General Secretary's Report/Comment and elsewhere there is an editorial "special" under the caption WHY?

Now for other things. I have been asked to analyse the Animals Act 1971. To the best of my knowledge the Act is intended to safeguard owners of livestock, farmers and smallholders against damage and destruction of their animals, poultry etc: by dogs. Cats are not mentioned nor involved, except perhaps the poaching cat which, unfortunately, gamekeepers consider vermin and shoot on sight, and cats that kill young chickens or pigeons etc. on their owners' property. In such cases damages may be claimed. In General terms the Act is concerned with the behaviour of dogs. Cats are not mentioned.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT. A further donation of £9. from the sale of stamps has been received from Miss Audrey Cozens. The total from her for 1971 at the time of recording is £74.

CATS IN THE NEWS. I am grateful to all who send me news cuttings and especially pleased to have the items referring to the rescue of a kitten from her blazing caravan by a young mother-to-be. The details along with other interesting news reports are included in these comments. I have suggested to the General Secretary that the League might consider a commendation to Mrs. Fuller. Naturally, the story will be checked first.

OBITUARY. We regret to have to record the death of Miss Brenda Lodge, of Shepton Beauchamp, aged 84. Miss Lodge was a Life Member of the League and following her request that in lieu of flowers, donations should be sent to the Cats' Protection League, an amount of £8 has been received to date.



1972

A HOPEFUL NEW YEAR

At the end of the first six months with the new Secretary I am glad to be able to report that all goes well with the League. Mr. Parratt brings a new out-look and a direct approach to matters that should augur well for the future. I am sure you will all join me in wishing him all the best in his work.

I should also like to remind you that all correspondence relating to League affairs should be addressed to Mr. Parratt. Please be sure to do this, it will save Mr. Steward the disappointment of opening letters with his name on, only to find that they do not concern him. His letters should be marked "personal".

A happy new year to us all. OSYTH SHERRATT,

CHAIRMAN.

Secretary's Comments

Another year has passed, another year has arrived and with it our best wishes and hopes for a successful year to come for all our workers, members and friends not only here at home but also those resident in many parts of the world.

A special prayer and hope goes out to our friends in Belfast who have kept the flag flying throughout a year of great difficulty and often at the risk of personal injury. Let us hope that 1972 will see the restoration of normal living and peace throughout the whole of Ulster.

Since my last report, a steady flow of new members have been welcomed to the League and in our next issue I hope to give the total number of members enrolled during 1971 and this will give us all a target for the coming year.

Several decisions made at Executive level recently will, we hope, in the near future

grow into reality. Our Memorial Home at Haslemere is to be a permanent part of our activities and will shortly be enlarged with virtually double the accommodation available for the strays and rescued cats from London. A new Resident Warden has now been appointed at our Isle of Wight Memorial Home and we are looking forward to great things from Ryde and the Isle of Wight Branch in the days to come and feel sure that any of our members going to the Island for their holidays, will find our Home more than worthwhile visiting.

My thanks to all the Branches and their Committee Members for their great efforts and my thanks also to all our members and readers for their financial and active support throughout the past year in which I know I am joined by our Chairman, the Executive Committee and all Headquarters staff.

Arthur E. Parratt
General Secretary



WHY!! This word is in such common use that seldom is more than fleeting notice taken of it, but when it precedes a definite question it demands attention. Editors, like many others with a specific job to do are so often confronted with "why this" and "why that" with which readers seem not to agree. One comes to accept the questioning of those whose enquiries are born of interest of a co-operative nature, but when there is a condemnatory angle, without knowledge of circumstances, etc: it is quite another story. My experience over many years of association with people and organisations has been that to criticise without knowing all the facts can be very unfair. There are times when things go wrong and cannot be righted in time to prevent comment, and from an editorial angle this is rather disconcerting. Only those who have had the often thankless task of producing a magazine, however small, are aware of the pitfalls that lead to kicks and not happiness. Invariably an editor has a perfectly good reason for what he or she does, or is faced with circumstances beyond the control of mere humans. Perhaps it might help to explain as far as it is possible to do so within limited space, what my problems are. I cannot speak for other Editors.

Magazine contents. Apart from the covers the front and reverse of which are more or less constant, there are 16 pages (32 columns) to fill with words and illustrations: that is from

six to eight thousand words according to what space is used for the reproduction of pictures. Branch Reports are always given priority, but how much space is required is always an unknown quantity, despite a ruling that only a specified number of words should be submitted. Another important feature is time of receipt although there is a schedule of "dates" for copy to be available to me. Some Branches contribute regularly and their "copy" is received in good time. Others send Reports spasmodically with varying numbers of words. Some Reports arrive too late to be included in full, so if they include important dates, these are allocated display space in order to bring the announcements to readers' notice. Illustrations: Where an "article" is supported by a picture it is used, and word space has to be allocated to it. Stock blocks from which illustrations are produced often have to be used to "fill-in" and it is not always easy to choose the appropriate one. From about 300 stock blocks it would seem a simple matter to find one the size and that lends itself to requirements, but there can be difficulties. At times the very block chosen from the illustrated records books is not where it should be. It could be at the printers', in the wrong tray of which there are about 30. All this can be very frustrating, especially when time is a deciding factor. This is just the outline of my editorial problems; there are many more - at times quite complicated.

CAT (Press Item) NEWS

PUSS the supercat is about to join the jet set. Tonight she is leaving Britain—to fly to South Africa

For the family pet is far too important to be left behind by the Willis boys.

Just like Mary's little lamb, Puss would follow brothers Michael and Stephen Willis to school each day.

And when their parents announced plans to emigrate, the boys refused to go... unless Puss went along, too.

Ticket

Stephen, aged nine, and Michael, eight, said they'd rather stay at home than leave their feline fan behind.

So 29-year-old shipwright Dave Willis and his wife Cindy have paid £30 for the cat's one way plane ticket to Durban.

And when the family board their Heathrow jet for the 15-hour flight tonight, . . . Puss will be on board.

The cat's fare is costing more than the family's.

At his home in King's Close, Formby, Lanes Dave said yesterday: "We're travelling assisted passage, which costs just over £20 for us all.

Farewell

"But Puss is worth the extra. We've had her since she was a kitten and now she's part of the family.

Stephen took Puss to say farewell to classmates at Raven Meols County Primary School yesterday. Daily Mirror 22/11/71

MORE CAT NEWS NEXT PAGE

CAT NEWS—contd.

GERRY the kitten has every reason to laugh. For she has been snatched from the very doors of death.

Gerry, whose job is to keep the mice population down at the Post Office stores depot in Horfield, Bristol was trapped between two swing doors.

She had a ruptured diaphragm, broken ribs and a collapsed lung.

It seemed she would have to be put to sleep.

But the workers at the depot thought that seven weeks was too early an age to die.

Whip round

Could Gerry be saved?

Yes, by intricate surgery, at a cost of £17.

A whip round quickly secured the money; Gerry was whisked off to Bristol University School of Veterinary Science.

Now she is as good as new, with seven more lives to go.

For she "died" twice on the operating table.

Said Bill Davidson, a senior technician at the Horfield depot: "You would never credit that she has been through it at all, if it weren't for the scar stretching from her chin to her tail."

Weston Daily Press
29/10/71

FRIENDLY persuasion: That's the tactic Dursley rural council officials plan to use to get 69-year-old Miss Doris Tavender to quit her decaying home in Wotton-under-Edge.

For 60 years Miss Tavender has lived in No. 14, Market Street, where she keeps her 13 cats.

Now the council wants to make it a slum clearance area.

It has given Miss Tavender a neat bungalow in Pitman Place and said her 64-year-old sister Mrs. Ena Gardiner from Kilcote can live there with her.

But Miss Tavender keeps returning to sleep at No. 14 Market Street, with her furniture and cats. "They are my life," she said yesterday.

Miss Tavender said she would move out if she had somewhere to put her furniture.

"A place in Wickwar is what I want, large enough for me my sister and our furniture," she said.

Meanwhile, Miss Tavender makes the regular walk from her cosy Pitman Place bungalow to the damp of her Market Street home.

Dursley council public health chief Mr. Thomas Chaffe said last night: "I think the council has been perfectly fair with her."

"If we can persuade her to store those items of furniture that are of value to her, then we shall move the rest. We shall persist with our persuasion."

Weston Daily Press.
12/11/71

sister had obviously tried to get up but had fallen back across her bed and was unconscious."

Mrs Towers, who ran to a neighbour's house to get help, said: "I'm sure that if she had been left much longer my sister would not be alive now."

Last night Miss Mearns was "quite comfortable" in Fraserburgh Hospital.

A Scottish Gas Board spokesman in Edinburgh said last night: "A gas leak was found in the vicinity and repairs were completed by 7 o'clock tonight."

Gas Board officials were called in to investigate the incident.

Mrs Towers said the odd thing was that there was no gas appliances in the cottage now—they had been removed some years ago.

From The Aberdeen Press, Journal
23/10/71

AN ELDERLY Fraserburgh woman may have been saved from gassing by her cat.

Retired librarian Miss Catherine Mearns, 82 Main Street, Broadsea, was taken to Fraserburgh Hospital early yesterday after being found unconscious in her bedroom by her sister, Miss Isobel Towers, a Fraserburgh Academy teacher and a former Fraserburgh town councillor.

A shaken Mrs Towers told later how she had been woken in the early hours by a loud "yowling."

"I thought at first it was cats outside," she said stroking the cat, Tricksey. "She gets up to all kinds of tricks. But it kept on and I thought it must be Tricksey and that something was wrong."

Going through her cottage home, Mrs Towers opened the door to her sister's bedroom which "was just like an oven."

"There was a very strong smell of gas. My

A YOUNG mother-to-be fought her way into a blazing caravan at Drayton last night to rescue her pet kitten.

Mrs. Janet Fuller, 17, was alone in her home at Eastway Caravan Site, Drayton, when she smelled smoke. Within seconds the caravan was ablaze.

Firemen from Abingdon attended, but the caravan and its contents, including about £50 worth of clothes for the baby, were destroyed. They were not insured.

Mrs. Fuller, who expects a baby next month, rushed out to call for help before fighting her way back into the caravan to rescue 16-week-old kitten Topsy.

"No one on the site came to help. They just left me to it," said Mrs Fuller.

It was the third fire at the caravan since Mrs Fuller and her husband, 21-year-old Pressed Steel Fisher worker Bob Fuller moved in after their wedding.

The other fires caused little damage.

Mr and Mrs Fuller stayed last night with friends. This morning Mr Fuller said he was going to see the council to try to get a new home. Meanwhile, Mrs Fuller will be going to stay with her parents in Ipswich.

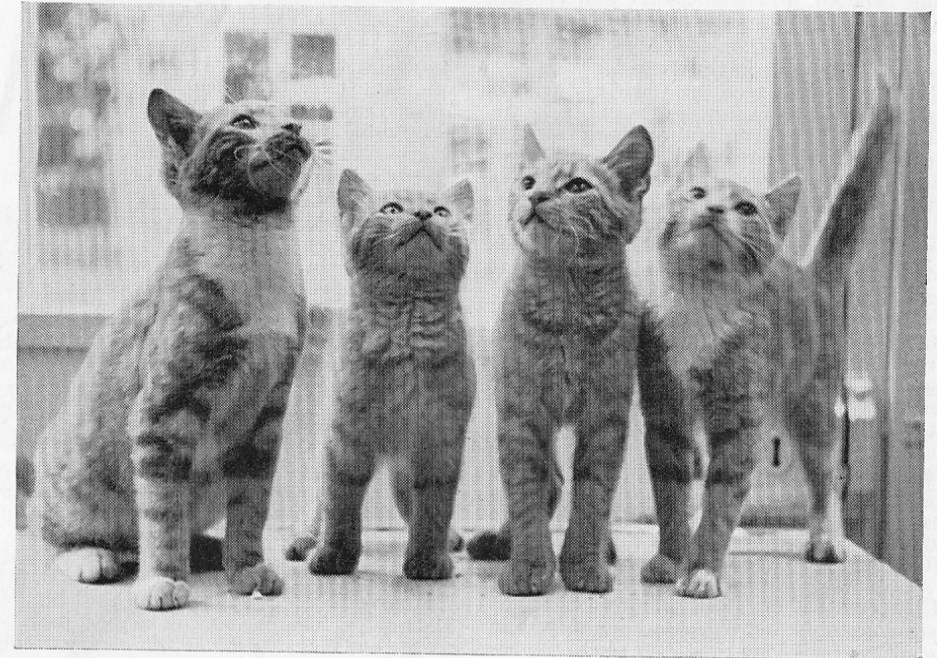
"We've lost everything," said Mr Fuller.

"About £50 worth of baby clothes which we'd been collecting were in the airing cupboard right next to where the fire started. We're just going to have to start from scratch.

Oxford Mail
30/11/71

C IS FOR CAT

By Frank Manonlson—Handy size, 7 in. x 4½ in.—220 pages—
Art paper covers—27½p. including postage. From Cats Protection
League, Prestbury Lodge, 29, Church Street, Slough, Bucks.



CAT NEWS CONCLUDED NEXT PAGE

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.

SEE INSIDE BACK COVER — FOR BRANCH AND GROUP HONORARY REPRESENTATIVES NAMES AND ADDRESSES

CHELMSFORD

We think that October and November were record months in 1971 for homefinding, for in those two months, 187 cats and kittens were placed. Wouldn't you think that we would now have fewer cats in the Shelter? Today, December 1st, we still have 62 and at Mrs. Peachey's Mini-Shelter in Witham there are 14. We have had several batches of cats from factories in Essex which have closed down, and presumably the cats have become redundant along with the employees. A sign of the times, sadly, but we hope not a permanent one. Fortunately these factory cats are nice friendly pussies and so homes will soon be found for them.

1971 has been the year for late kittens as well. It is quite unusual that so many are still being brought into the Shelter and though they quickly go to homes, it means that adult cats which might otherwise have been chosen have to stay longer in the shelter.

By the time you read this Christmas will be over, and the cats in the Shelter and those we feed in factories, farms and car parks around Chelmsford, will have had a splendid time eating all the special foods which their HONORARY AUNT/UNCLE TUCK BOX SCHEME has provided. Thank you to all of you for your generosity. You should by now have had a letter of thanks from your pusskin! The HON. AUNT/UNCLE TUCK BOX SCHEME will continue because it has been wonderful to be able to provide the cats with every kind of tinned cat food, dried meat and Seanip in 3 flavours! Also with the money so generously sent, we have been able to give the cats fresh fish, meat and liver twice a week as a change from tins. They get terribly bored with tinned and dried food only, good though it is, and on the days when they have coley or meat and liver, there's hardly any need to wash the cats' dishes for there isn't a scrap left anywhere, so clean are the plates licked!

And please don't forget our PERMANENT AUNT/UNCLE SCHEME for the cats who are old or timid and likely to have to stay in the shelter for a long time. Our photographer

has taken some very nice coloured photos of most of them and he will try to take some more of the terrified cats who hide away, because they have no faith in humans, when he has a sunny day to spare, for time and patience are needed to coax them out. But these cats are the ones who really need a permanent aunt to care about them, so please adopt one if you care. A regular contribution of any amount, small or large, will make them into special cats.

Away from the shelter, life is very busy. During the present three weeks we have two Christmas Bazaars, one Rummage Sale and one Saturday Sale and our little band of helpers is frantically busy. Lets hope we make lots of money to last us a few more months in this hand to mouth existence.

Please send us your unwanted Christmas presents (if any!) before you grow to like them, your good second hand clothing, stamps in large quantities and anything else you can think of which we can turn into "pussy cat care money". We shall also be pleased to have your 1971 calendars, especially the "turn over each month" ones, and Christmas cards with pictures of cats, animals pretty scenes, flowers etc.

A big thank you to all the good friends who helped our cats and our Branch in 1971, and to the thoughtful people who sent us parcels anonymously for our sales and bazaars. A very Happy New Year to you all from our pussecats and the Committee.

DERBY

December is fast approaching as this report is prepared, and the cat scene is as busy as ever during the summer months; we had hoped for better things in view of the large amount of vouchers we have issued for spays throughout the year — to use that well worn phrase — "where do they all come from"?

We have been fortunate indeed in having a shelter transported from Nottingham Branch for our use here. It is now in the garden of Mr. D. Gratton. This shelter will be most useful to us in that it does provide temporary accom-

DERBY—cont.

modation for two adult cats, or two litters of kittens with their respective mothers. Our thanks to Miss Marriott of Nottingham for her help in arranging transport of the shelter to Derby.

Our annual bazaar was successful, and could have been more so, had we not clashed once again with various other functions held on the same day. Michael Murray of Radio Derby was the opener, and we are grateful to him for his help in announcing the bazaar on Radio Derby, and by interviewing junior members on his programme. Somehow Michael Barratt of Nationwide T.V. became mixed up in our advertising in a local paper — we shall never know what happened, but if ever he reads this column we trust he will accept our apologies. Many thanks to all helpers at our bazaar. As a final fling for fund-raising this year we are holding a jumble sale on December 4th.

We made the usual preparations for the distribution of food for cats of our senior citizens at Christmas, this was much appreciated last year.

Ten members visited H.Q. at Slough in early October. We take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Parratt and his staff for their hospitality and the delightful refreshments. We all had a very interesting and enjoyable afternoon. Alas our journey home was not smooth. Our hired minibus broke down on the M1 at Lutterworth, many miles from home. We had to wait two hours for a replacement bus, fortunately everyone concerned saw the humorous side of the situation and it did not spoil our day. We did have with us a supply of cardboard cat boxes which Mr. Parratt had given us for use here. These boxes in their unmade state are rather unwieldy, and reluctantly we had to leave them behind on the broken down minibus.

We are still awaiting delivery of these boxes which are with the minibus at Bristol while repairs are carried out!

We have just received a handsome cheque for £43.00 proceeds from a Bring and Buy Sale at the home of Miss Fryer at Riber, this is a lovely surprise. Miss Fryer is a member of Derby Branch and we would like to take this opportunity of extending to her our grateful thanks.

EDMONTON

We would like our friends to know that we are still as busy as ever and, unfortunately, we are unable to find the time to get a report out for each edition of the magazine due to the pressure of work. However, we will try to give you all our news when we do send a report.

First, we would like to tell you about 'Fluffy'

who is now nearly 26 years old. She is still as frisky as ever, and has an enormous appetite; she is very fond of chicken, so if you should have one to spare she will be very grateful and be pleased to share it with our other residents. Also, poor old 'Tich' whose owner, an old lady, had to move and could not take him with her; it seems so cruel for them to be parted when they are both growing old together.

This year has been a very bad year for home finding, it has been the worst for over forty years for Mrs. Walledge.

The mild weather has no doubt contributed to the high birth rate of kittens, and with more and more flats erected, good homes are difficult to find. Spaying and neutering seems to be the only answer, but bills for this are keeping us poor.

We did our usual rounds at Christmas, feeding cats in factories, offices, shops, etc. Also, we distributed food for the pets of old folk. Last year 73 O.A.P.s were helped, and we quote from a letter received from one old lady of 85 — "Dear Mrs. Walledge and Pussys, If it was not for you my darling puss Beryl would have had to be put to sleep, I could not afford to buy her food as I have rent and other expenses. I only made tea once a day and watered it down for the rest of the day, also we shared ½ pint of milk, but with your very kind help with her food each week, I am now a happy and contented old lady. I can manage a little better now and I will always remember your kindness to me when the worry nearly killed me".

So you see what a little help can do.

I would like to thank all our members who send parcels to us and also H.Q. for their generous help. Wishing you all a very Happy New Year.

GLOSSOP

A happy New Year to all cats and their friends everywhere and particularly to those who so kindly remember the strays. The Christmas Tree, a real one from the garden is gay with little red foil stockings each representing a donation to help to provide winter food for the shelter cats and strays fed by elderly people.

We thank the many friends who sent donations, parcels, and blankets for the shelter and all who helped with the stalls and transport.

Although more good homes are available at this time of the year, more and more strays are coming in, and at present the shelter is full. Several of the recently rescued ones have had to be temporarily boarded elsewhere at greater cost.

During these bitterly cold winter months we again ask our friends to give us a little

extra help to enable us to provide food, shelter and some heating for as many of the destitute strays as possible. We have a splendid team of workers but our sales alone nowhere near meet the cost and we depend very largely on help from readers of 'The Cat'.
NEWS OF THE CATS.

Ella May, Jane and her kitten, Whisky, Fred and others have gone to good homes. We regret to report that Cindy had to be put to sleep when she lost the use of her legs due to kidney trouble.

We think we have traced the tortoiseshell cat and kitten reported straying near a sewage pump in Stalybridge several months ago. They disappeared before we could get them. Now two tortoiseshell cats, one with young kittens have been found on a nearby housing estate where an elderly lady has been feeding them in her garden.

Stella was being fed by workers in a Hyde factory, but when they found she had a little family under the pavilion they asked us to take them. Samuel a lovely young white Persian had been straying for several weeks on a local housing estate. A white female stray which has been sleeping in a washhouse for some time is coming in today, from Ashton-under-Lyne.

The young attractive cats are getting homes when they have been speyed but Rusty, Angus and some of the other older friendly cats would be so grateful if some kindly people would choose them. They would dearly love to share a fireside. Several older cats recently placed in homes have settled down immediately without any trouble at all.

Five of the shelter cats have now been temporarily 'adopted' by readers of the Cat'. Ten new pence each a day covers all expenses.
WE STILL NEED

1. Unwanted Christmas presents for our sales.
2. Old prewar picture post cards.
3. Old pennies and other coins.
4. Pieces of Woollen blanket provided they have not been near any cat infection.
5. Used postage stamps particularly foreign and special issue. Please leave a margin of paper all round.
6. Used postage stamp books.
7. Loose Green Shield and S & H stamps to Miss M. Thomas, 292, Hyde Road, Woodley, via Stockport, Cheshire.
7. Full Green Shield and S & H books also loose Cooperative Society stamps to me at Cowbrook, Please do not stick the latter in a book unless it is one for this area.
8. Post war novels including paperbacks for the little Lending Library Miss Houston

runs for us in a South coast town, also unbreakable disc records which she sells for our funds. Address on request.

I would be pleased to send a little collecting box to any friend who would care to have one. Please remember to put out clean drinking water for strays and the birds and to see that the ice is broken in frosty weather.

LEICESTER AND LOUGHBOROUGH

What a wonderful feeling we all have up here in Leicester to read about the care and interest other Branches have for their unfortunate little cats and kittens.

Mrs. Bakewell's first-ever Coffee Evening cum Bring and Buy was a very jolly affair. At least half a dozen pretty teenage girls willingly came along to help. Seven elderly ladies also spent a whole happy day pricing things for her, having fun eating a picnic lunch and tea. Mrs. Linwood-Wright brought along, in the draught-proof perspex cat-carrier, a dear frail injured five week old black kitten to show everyone the type of cruelty we have to deal with, and we have found quite a number of new helpers who had no idea of the plight of unwanted cats. £32 was put into our C.P.L. Bank.

Mrs. Manger is going to hold a Coffee Evening in January, and we are having stalls at the Cat shows at Granby Halls, Leicester, on January 8th 1972, and at, as yet, an unknown date in late February. May we please beg for ANYTHING to sell at these functions, and at the Baggrave Park Agricultural Show on June 10th and 11th?

We just cannot cope with the swarms of cats and kittens which have been abandoned by people who are being re-housed from the slums into pet-forbidden flats. Our shelter at 131 Upperton Road had to be removed at very short notice to 233 Wigston Lane, Leicester, and the huts are now in a very bad state - draughty and leaky, so we have had to resort to the heartbreaking task of asking our kind, reliable Vets to put down any neglected, sick cats and a few kittens of large litters, and for pennance only, we see each cat to its end, but will never become used to the sadness. (This will never apply to Mrs. Linwood-Wright, our ever-optimistic Samaritan, but someone has to take a firm attitude).

We started on a happy note, now here's more good news. Three tiny kittens were placed on the M1 at Leicester, in a cardboard box. Someone idly watching the vehicles passing by the hundreds over it, suddenly became aware of little faces peering over the edge of the carton, and taking his own life in his hands, retrieved the little ones. THEY HAVE ALL THREE BEEN FOUND GOOD HOMES TOGETHER.

LONDON COMMITTEE

Our Christmas Bazaar has been a wonderful success and all our needy little cats are grateful to everyone who made the whole day such a good one. We started in the morning with stalls all loaded with goods, and we ended in the evening with bare tables and only empty cases to take home. So now, of course, we need stock very urgently. We have sold all the pretty aprons and knitted goods and other nice things which had been made for us, and so we have to ask everyone who can do so, to send us more. If you can sew or knit, please make a quick start and let us have some things as soon as possible. We will be glad of anything you can spare. Curio corner needs any old oddities you can find, and the china stall, the jewellery stall and the one selling cosmetics, all need re-stocking. Anything and everything can be sent to 12 The Close, New Malden, Surrey and will be truly appreciated. We rely on our sales for keeping the Rescue Centre in funds and needy cats rely on the Rescue for their only chance, so we all agree that funds must be found. Towards the end of January we will be having a Giant Jumble-Sale-Bazaar in London, anyone who would like to know more about this, please send a stamped envelope. On 18th March we will be having our Spring Fair, please keep this date free, all particulars in the March issue of this magazine.

The Rescue Centre is busy. We have three lovely tortie cats, all three rather shy, and three very plain little black cats brimming over with good will and high spirits, and two pretty little tabbies, each much involved with a kitten, these will be ready for homes when you read these notes, so please look around for them. My own favourite is a small black black puss, Sally, with beautiful eyes, she is naturally friendly, but she has had a very bad time, and she cannot quite bring herself to trust anyone as yet, she needs that little bit of extra care which makes all the difference, any friend who would like to send a little something specially for her, please mark it "SALLY."

Our £5-doubled appeal is still in full swing, so far we have not had quite the response we hoped, so our kind friend has said that his offer remains open till 1st March. Any gift of £5 sent to us especially, will be doubled; the money can be the joint gift of several people or collected, if it is sent for the "doubled" appeal, it will be doubled, this is a grand chance.

We have been asked for a tray - if possible a silver or metal tray, or a papier-mache one, or any kind of a wooden one, of any size. So if you happen to have a tray you are not using please remember us. Thank you.

MANCHESTER

We are now in 1972 and the old year is behind us and we face the future and all it may entail with confidence and a determination to alleviate unnecessary suffering whenever possible.

One cannot claim success in our work but it is possible to state that good progress was accomplished in all our humanitarian activities during 1971 and if necessary we shall repeat the programme during 1972. I also pray that through the medium of education many people, especially those of the younger generation, will learn of the urgent necessity to practice the 'Language of Kindness' especially in relation to their association with cats and kittens. I lecture in the Lancashire and Cheshire schools and impress upon the younger minds the desirability of treating cats and all other pets with proper respect and see to their essential needs viz: regular meals, milk, water, clean warm bed, grooming, identity discs, neutering etc. To educate children in humaneness is vitally necessary if we are to attack this problem of cruelty at its very roots and it falls upon me in a professional capacity to try and educate some children on my travels through the medium of school lectures. Teachers in Lancashire and Cheshire are invited to contact me if they feel that a talk on the care and welfare of cats and other pets will be beneficial to their pupils. May I say that I have twenty five years experience with regard to lecturing on the care and welfare of pets to children in the North and even spent a few weeks in the Dalston area of London. Cats are abandoned, underfed, neglected and wander from street to street, hence the dire necessity to educate those who condone such crimes to 'think again' and join our ranks so that cats, the most despised and neglected of all our pets, will be shown more respect so there will be less suffering inflicted upon these often terrified, half-starved, neglected creatures.

In this work one experiences moments of joy and sadness. The little abandoned kitten of five to six weeks old brings tears to the eyes of those who are often indifferent to the suffering endured by sentient creatures. What a joy to experience when having succeeded in restoring the kitten to good health a really good home is found for the little waif, this is just one isolated example of a 'RESCUE' and to those actively engaged in the care and welfare of cats and kittens; life is full of similar incidents.

As I prepare this draft for the Editor, I have just accepted a 'phone call - yes, two tiny kittens. An excellent teacher - whom I met many years ago when lecturing to the pupils at the school, will be bringing these

MANCHESTER—cont.

two homeless little kittens to our Shelter. In our midst there are many well-meaning people full of kindness and eager to help those cats and kittens desperately in need of the "hand of friendship".

I am grateful to all who help colleagues and myself especially those engaged in the noble profession of teaching. Unwanted, abandoned, lost and homeless cats and kittens require your help and such cases exist all over the country. You can assist by supporting your Branch or Headquarters and if you have a trifle over, yes, a drop in the mighty ocean, we here in Manchester will be most grateful for same, but remember your respective Branches - Charity begins at Home.

Renewed thanks to all at Headquarters' and sincere good wishes to all in the Cats' Protection League for good health and good results during 1972. I refrain from saying "SUCCESS".

NORTH LONDON BRANCH

We at North London Branch wish you all a very Happy New Year and extend our heartfelt thanks to you for all your help during 1971. Without the help and sympathy with our aims of all members, it would be impossible to continue. Help comes in so many different ways. Among other ways, the purchase of our Christmas cards helps us and we thank the record number of buyers who this year, caused us to order more cards from the Printers during November. It is a pity so many members applied to Headquarters for the cards and we are grateful to Mr. Parratt for redirecting so much mail without complaint.

Billy, our stray white rabbit, died in his sleep last month. We knew he was getting on in age but his death saddened us. Within a week we were brought a very thin, bedraggled, young replacement which, after two days of eating, drinking and sleeping is now like his predecessor, a friend of all our cats.

His particular friend is a young kitten, convalescent after being burnt by a firework on November the 5th. They share the same basket at night.

Apart from our white rabbit, we also have our usual quota of 40 beautiful cats. Those who purchased our Christmas cards will know how beautiful our residents are. In 1972, please try to find a good home for one of them. Our lives here would be so much happier if more of our lovely cats found good homes.

Freddie - our scatty cat - is still with us. He was offered a home in Brighton but when we found he was to join the family of five cats of one of our charitable members, we who knew Freddy and his scatty brained ways felt that we could not inflict him on such a kind

lady. She took one of our more normal cats - and we thank Tobie Vare for delivering him to Brighton on one of her free Sundays. We know that, one day, a scatty member will give Freddy a good and loving home.

We rely on the help of you all in 1972 in all the usual ways. Please remember that Green Shield and other trading stamps are also very useful to us. We also rely very much on our Shelter staff and we thank them all so much for all their help during 1971.

We are sorry that our report is so short but we are harassed with the thought of two bazaars in the next two weeks.

SUSSEX

The Sussex Branch has had a busy time during these last two months, culminating in our Christmas Bring and Buy last Saturday. It was a nasty foggy day, but even so the people flocked in and all seemed to go well. We had lots to sell as people had been so kind and sent us wonderful gifts for our Raffle and the stalls, and now we hear the grand total is £78.15. Our grateful thanks go to all those who made this possible.

There are still a few cats and kittens hoping for a home, though we have been lucky lately. A little black and white cat with bandy back legs, we don't know if she was injured, or born like that, captured the hearts of a family who took her home and adore her. A little black cat found a new home and we hear she is 'the best cat in the world'. This morning a coloured photo arrived of a fluffy ginger kitten that went to a new home in Essex, to show how beautiful he had grown, all of which is most encouraging. A hungry cat appeared in a garden not far from here, and was given food, but on returning from a weekend away it was discovered she had had three kittens! They took them into the flat above their business, and for six weeks looked after them, and this meant taking the mother down to the garden and waiting for her and carrying her back up two flights of stairs! When they got old enough to run about they were brought to us as the road is so dangerous there and these kind people have had three cats run over and will not risk it again. Now two of the kittens have gone to a home together, which is always a delight.

More and more we are asked for Vouchers for spaying, so surely there must come a time when there are, at any rate, fewer unwanted kittens, but what is the solution to the problem of older cats turned out because their owners are tired of them?

ULSTER

A very Happy New Year to all members and friends of the Ulster Branch, and may 1972 bring peace to this troubled corner of the United Kingdom.

ULSTER—cont.

First and foremost I would like to say how very much the Committee appreciate the kindness and generosity of our friends across the water. The notes in the previous issue of "The Cat" were not in any way meant to read like an appeal, though I did suggest that possibly some of you who live in less troubled areas might like to join us in putting aside a small weekly amount and sending it to us at intervals to help in the present crisis. I was overwhelmed and surprised beyond words when sympathetic letters and generous donations flowed in from all over the British Isles. This was extremely heartening and a very real boost to our morale. I think I have answered all letters, but there were one or two exceptions where the senders specifically requested no reply. To all may I now say a warm, sincere "Thank You".

The Sale of Work DID take place, though up to a few days before it we were very doubtful of the wisdom of our decision and almost cancelled it. We were so glad we didn't - once again we got a good day, weatherwise, and despite the fact that just round the corner there was a blazing building, following an explosion earlier in the morning, we got an excellent attendance. In spite of our fears we had no bomb scare, no masked gunmen demanding our takings and we raised around £300. Thanks are due to stall-holders, helpers and customers who were brave enough to support us. A Coffee Party planned for December will, we hope, bring the total up to last year's amount and indeed may even pass it.

Now a word about the Pledging Scheme. Mrs. Eastwood has asked me to remind you not to forget - does that sound rather Irish? Time passes so quickly and it's easy to overlook the fact that the money is due again but of course with postage so high we simply cannot send out individual reminders. You'll all try to be like the elephant, won't you?

I promised to give you the new address to which used postage stamps should be sent. Here it is: Mrs. N. Wilson, Cnocallagh, Wardhouse, Tullaghan, Co. Eeirim, Eire. Please leave a small margin round the stamp and don't send damaged or disfigured stamps, which are quite useless.

Jumble Sales. We hope we will be able to re-start the jumble Sales early in the New Year, though possibly not at the Shelter. Will you please start collecting again and we'll send out notices with the Magazine. BUT, oh dear, please can we have a fairly high quality of jumble. We get so much which is quite unsaleable and getting rid of it is a positive nightmare. Space is precious so we feel sure you will help us to make the best possible use of what we have.

Miss Bradshaw, 21 Knockburn Park, Belfast, 5 still needs lots and lots of wool scraps. Every time I call with her she is surrounded by wool and crochet squares and the delightful cat blankets, so attractively done up in cellophane bags with cat pictures on the front "went like a bomb" at the Sale, to quote the stall-holder, though she hastened to add perhaps that was not the best way to describe it at the moment.

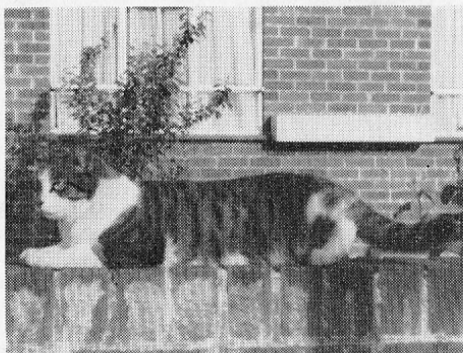
FUTURE EVENTS. I just don't know - so much depends on how things go, and as I write we have experienced the worst week-end of violence yet. Yesterday on my way to the Cattery I had just passed Cliftonville Circus when shots rang out and a young girl was badly injured, and walking along Cliftonpark Avenue (instead of rushing past in the car as usual) I was sad to see how many of the houses were boarded up and empty, the result of much nail-bomb throwing. One trembles to think of the result if the Cattery came under the attention of the bombers. The fact that we have an Army Post only yards away and that our garden adjoins the Prison grounds makes us vulnerable. So far we have been lucky - we are thankful and hope it stays that way.

WEST CORNWALL

Forty unwanted cats in the catteries was proving quite a problem and I had to decide that if homes could not be found the kindest thing would be to put some of them to sleep and keep a few in order to help the dozens of stray and unwanted cats waiting to come in. However the gods were kind and after extensive advertising we managed to find wonderful homes for twenty four cats in three weeks. The remaining ones are old and if we don't find them homes soon they will have to join our Darby and Joan felinities and we shall pretend the numbers haven't gone up in the house. I suffer with acute embarrassment when callers ask the inevitable question "How many animals have you got in the home?" I avoid their gaze and mumble something about my bad memory or I haven't counted lately, and then to make things worse numerous elderly cats and dogs appear from nowhere and crowd the living space. The cost of keeping these cats is enormous and we realise it would be more sensible to put them to sleep and use the money on other things, but so many of our kind readers in The Cat feel for these aged felines that they spend regular donations to help them along, so all the while we have a spare corner and a cosy bed, then the old timers can stay and enjoy their remaining years whilst the youngsters romp in the catteries and attract the would-be adopters.

We are now busy preparing for our Christmas Fayre. Last year we did very well and we hope to repeat this and make a large amount for our funds. Your parcels have been so helpful, many of you make us beautiful thing to sell, and the bits and pieces you are always turning out and sending on have ready markets. We are still anxious for old grandma bits, such as clothes, ribbons, jewelry, lace etc. A kind reader sent us a pair of Victorian sunglasses, they are quite unique and will make a marvelous addition to the exhibition we aim to put on next year. We feel

IN MEMORIAM



TIMOTHY, DIED 19-1-71

In loving memory of Timothy put to sleep Jan. 1971. Gone from our Home but not from our Hearts.

Ange & Doug.

To Darling 'Little Puff' our beautiful adored siamese, you gave us so much. We love you dearly. Nestle in our hearts my sweet precious until we can see and touch you again.

J. & M. Jackson

In loving memory of "Tony" my one eyed cat, aged 4 years died of Pneumonia after short illness on Wednesday 27th October, 1971. We will meet again in God's Kingdom. Remembered for ever, sadly missed.

John Murphy
Glasgow

we can make more money showing these lovely old things than selling them, although we have a ready market for them if we wish. Stamps too, particularly British Commonwealth well and Miss Loane from Glastonbury sorts, prices and mounts these stamps ready for sale. This is a real help to us as we don't have to even think about this fund raiser, we just sell the stamps.

1972 seems to have arrived with a rush this year and it seems a short time ago we were wishing you a very Happy New Year. So we will send more warm wishes and sincere thanks and we hope to hear from you and see many of you during the coming months.

"My Adored Fraser age 12, May 1969; Little Panda July 1970 (age not known but with me for 11 years); beloved Conrad age 13, Oct. 1971. Also my other dear ones, Bub, Anne, Fairy, Fergus, Little wee one, Sam, Clarence and Adam. My love goes out to you all Darlings".

"Jenny - passed on 2/4/71

"Not just a cat but companion and friend, for her life and ours did so happily blend, Always beside us, in garden or room. We could never be lonely, or feel any gloom, BUT there came a day when Time took its toll, And her thirteen sweet years had reached their goal. So, gently we laid her to rest-free from pain, in the garden she loved. "Till we meet again." Dorothy L. Turner

In memory of Kim, Tailwaver 4844 who died recently of dehydration belonging to Mrs. Bowen. Bridgit Coates.

In ever loving memory of my dear "Fred" aged 4 who "Passed over Sept 28th 1971 he will always be remembered with love and affection". Mr. Leo Guise

In loving memory of Kitty, T.W. 2943, who passed away on 11th November, 1964 - still sadly missed by E. & M. Emery.

In ever loving memory of our best beloved Buttons, who passed over 10th October 1971, aged 13 years and 10 months. So much love and happiness you gave us all, my dearest one. Auntie Averil

In loving memory of 'Binks' aged one year, died in a coma on Saturday 17th April, 1971. He was abandoned and died of malnutrition by his cruel owner, I rescued him too late. Till we meet again in God's Kingdom.

John Murphy



OUR CATS

Billy, a chubby all-black kitten came to us from a farm where they had at least twenty cats of all ages and sizes.

It was amusing to watch these cats feeding out of a large dish in the yard. When they wanted milk they had to stand around a bucket on their hind legs with their paws on the rim and lap for dear life, When the level of the milk fell they had to stop at any rate until the next bucket arrived. Needless to say these were the pigs buckets not the dairy ones.

Billy became a great pet with all of us. He was especially fond of my mother who, as an old lady wore long skirts and "her feet beneath her petticoat like little mice stole in and out" No doubt Billy thought they really were mice for he was always chasing them.

One year, when the cat show was on I decided as Billy was in such good condition to show him in the Household Pet Section. Perhaps it seemed a little unkind to put him for almost a whole day into a strange hall but he was very good, ate his dinner and never yowled at all, while the Siamese and others were rending the air with their screams. He was very highly commended.

I was away in New Zealand when dear Billy died. He had been devotedly cared for by the woman I left in charge of him.

This woman was a quaint soul. We only had one name for her because when she came to apply for the job of looking after the house she dropped a curtsy and said, "I'm a sweet young virgin of fifty-five." This original way of introducing herself was quite sufficient recommendation to me to take her. She had considerable literary ability and a good deal of her verse found its way into the local paper.

Before I returned from New Zealand early in 1945 the woman had also died, never having got over the loss of Billy.

For some time I was without a cat. Then a friend from the country brought me an adorable tabby kitten. I never knew such a playful little animal. Miss Willcocks, the writer, who now lived in my flat, loved to have him with her while she was writing. She never minded if he turned the waste paper basket upside down and scattered the contents. Suddenly after a rollicking scramble he would be tired and would drop down asleep on the floor.

As Tabby grew older he became very affectionate and loved us all not just one person only. We taught him little tricks. One was 'letters'. A piece of meat would be put in an envelope and fastened down. Then we would call, "Tabby, a letter for you" And he would come and work away at the envelope until he got it open. And didn't he enjoy it! We gave him a Christmas tree chiefly to amuse a small boy in the house. On the tree were various parcels containing fish, meat, liver and so on, also a small automatic mouse and other toys. He played up well and we all enjoyed the fun.

But Tabby was venturesome, and we lived right on the main road. Unfortunately it was quite impossible to keep him in.

One Friday when I returned from market, I found Miss Willcocks waiting for me. The worst had happened. A lorry had caught him just as he was crossing the road. Fortunately the driver was kind and did not allow him to suffer a moment longer than necessary. Miss Willcocks would not allow me to see him. She had covered him up and later in the day they buried him in the garden.

Quite apart from missing Tabby for his own sake we felt lost without a cat in the house.

How do cats know when there is a vacancy? Perhaps they have some kind of bureau or advertising agency among themselves for I've known it happen more than once that when a cat dies another-sometimes a stray and sometimes from an unhappy home-comes to take its place.

continued next page

OUR CATS—contd.

Had Snooks not been beautiful with his lovely grey-blue coat and orange eyes he'd probably have had things thrown at him for he was the worst-tempered cat I've ever known. However he'd made up his mind to stay and the remark was made, "Best looking cat you ever had" So he stayed.

It happened soon after this that my country cousin brought me a black and white kitten our present one, Whisky so I didn't really want Snookie. However Miss Willcocks adopted him and he soon learnt to twist her around his little finger or whatever part of a cat's anatomy the metaphor fits.

Miss Willcocks never saw the evil side of Snookie's nature—the poisonous darts his eyes shot at you, the way he bared his claws at you—not even when he stole her weeks meat ration and hid it under the settee. To me this was unpardonable for no cat in the country was fed as well as Snookie. Frail as she was, she would go out in all weathers to get fish for him. Meat at that time was almost unprocurable, I suppose that was why he went every day and enjoyed an extra meal under the settee, and not until the charlady came to turn out the room were the mangled remains of the joint discovered.

Snookie would sit on Miss Willcock's lap when she was writing and she would stroke him and murmur "My lamb". Lamb indeed; Anything less like a lamb could hardly be imagined.

On one occasion the vet came to attend to him when he was suffering from furball. This is where Snookie's claws came in. The man found it impossible to hold him. "You devil!" he cried, holding up his lacerated hands.

Miss Willcocks was furious. "It's that cruel vet's fault", she said, "Fancy upsetting him like that, poor lamb. I'll never have that man again."

There were scenes every night when Snookie had to be put out. Only one person and inveterate animal lover could manage him at all and even then it took a considerable amount of her time chasing him all over the place before he condescended to give in.

There is no doubt that he ruled our house and in this hitherto peaceful domain more than one unpleasant episode was recorded of his thefts though Miss Willcocks excused him on the grounds that he was perhaps a blitzed kitten and had been obliged to fight for his life and to forage for food wherever he could. This excuse certainly did not make it any pleasanter for people from whom he had stolen and whose china he had smashed when it stood in his way.

The fact is we never found out where Snookie came from. Someone suggested the University, but when I made inquiries there they all with one voice disowned him.

When Miss Willcocks died she left no instructions about the future of her pet. Having so many friends that were animal lovers she probably thought it unnecessary. So her executrix decided to offer him to a friend in North Devon, and it was there that Snookie went.

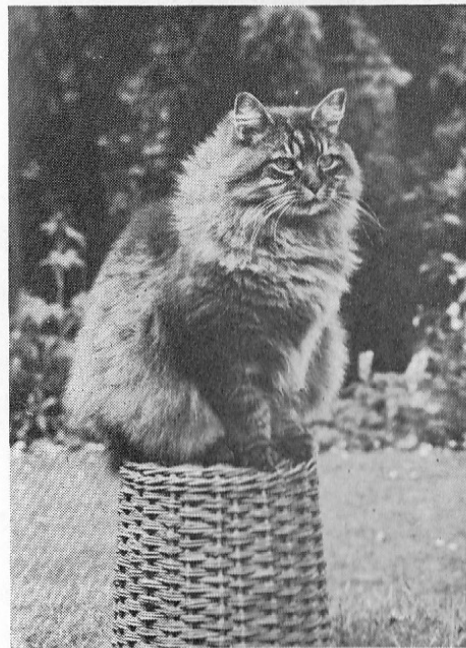
The friend already had eight cats, two dogs, a few geese and other livestock.

Needless to say Snookie did not fit in very well in his new home. He was quarrelsome that he had to be put in a place by himself. He must have been a considerable worry to his kind owner but nevertheless when he died about a year after Miss Willcocks I had the following letter,—

"....You will be sorry to hear that Snooks died on Christmas Eve. It made us very unhappy as we had become very fond of him, he had some sweet ways and had been a very good boy. He had a slight cold for a few weeks which I had been treating and I thought it was cured when all of a sudden it developed rapidly on the Sunday previous to Christmas. He ate well all Sunday, had one good meal on Monday and one enormous rabbit meal on Tuesday. From the Sunday I kept him in night and day and kept a fire burning for him all the time. I came down in the night to see he was all right on Tuesday and Wednesday night and of course treated him. It turned to a kind of septic bronchitis and I think his age was against him. He had looked rather thin since about May although he had eaten well all the time I had him. I miss him very much indeed...."

It is said that Fortune sometimes gives honour without deserving and it might be argued that Snookie hardly deserved all the attention given him by his kind benefactor. Nevertheless I'm glad he had it.

N. J. Drake (Miss)



MEMBERS' CORNER

In the Sept/Oct. issue of "The Cat", the Secretary of the Chelmsford Branch asks "Wherever do all the unwanted or stray cats come from?" What I would like to know is whether it is in the nature of many cats to stray, some wandering streak that makes them go.

Over the past five years I have acquired 14 cats, some were half-starved farm cats, the rest their offspring. I had them all neutered or spayed and vaccinated against feline enteritis, they had the run of the house, plenty of food and individual attention, a cat-flap so that they could come and go as they wished, and acres of fields and woodlands in which to hunt and play.

3 cats have died, I was adopted by a doting new owner, and I have four left. The other 6 - 4 toms and 2 females, all born here and not strays - just walked out of the house without any warning and disappeared. I have walked miles looking for each of them, advertised in local papers and shop windows etc., but have never found a trace of one of them. Cat snatchers are highly unlikely in this country area.

What made my 6 cats leave a good home and take to the road? They were country cats

and loved hunting, surely they couldn't have got lost in their own territory? Do cats dislike living in fairly large colonies perhaps?

The latest to disappear is a lovely ginger tom, the first one to come here as a new-born kitten nearly 4 years ago. He was, perhaps, the most pampered of them all, and went when the 'family' was down to only five cats.

One naturally thinks of strays as poor, unwanted creatures, but believe me, many leave a lot of heartsache behind them.

J.H.

LOTTIE

Having just read in this month's copy of The Cat about the cat Becky Sharp who went out and caught a mouse after hearing her mistress say she was much too fat for such activities, I am reminded of the following incident which occurred more than thirty years ago.

My sister had a beautiful pedigree black persian which I bred myself and gave to her as a kitten. Her name was Lottie.

One day a friend came to tea and she was very derogative about persians in general and Lottie in particular.

"Of course persians are pretty", she said but they are no use. They never catch mice".

"Oh" said my sister "Lottie does bring in mice sometimes" but her friend was quite unconvinced.

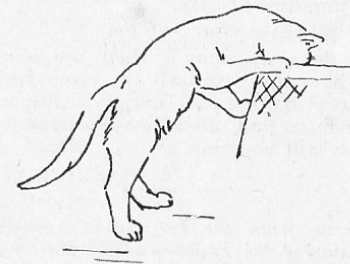
Lottie who had been sitting on the hearth rug taking all this in went to the door and asked to go out, my sister let her out. In fifteen minutes she came back with a mouse in her mouth, and laid it at the visitors feet.

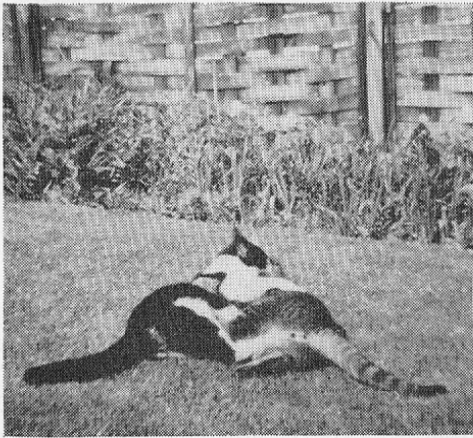
The visitor who was terrified of mice nearly jumped out of her skin.

"Oh! she's got a mouse! She's got a mouse!" she cried.

Lottie, having proved her point, returned to the hearth rug and began to wash her face.

D. Mills-Palmer





WESSEX TAILS

by M. C. Atkins.

That the cat rarely appears in the novels of Thomas Hardy does not mean that he did not recognize its place in the Wessex Scene.

In "Far From The Madding Crowd" Bathsheba Everdene's cat is first seen resting cosily in a basket amid the cartloads of her household goods. Later, when Gabriel Oak calls on her, Hardy, in a few words shows that he has closely observed the ways of cats for; "Just as Oak arrived by the gate he saw a cat inside, going into various arched shapes and fiendish convulsions at the sight of his dog George".

Hardy evidently liked the company of cats at Max Gate as Edmund Blunden clearly shows in his book, "Thomas Hardy". Blunden wrote; "In 1900, when Professor William Lyon Phelps called on him, there was no invitation into the study, although kindness and hospitality shone. These qualities were enjoyed not only by human visitors. The place was a paradise of cats."

"Are all these your own cats'?"

"Oh, dear, no, some of them are, some are cats who came regularly to have tea, and some are still other cats, not invited by us, but who seem to find out about this time of day that tea will be going."

Quotations from the two books specified by permission of the Trustees of the Hardy Estate and publishers Macmillan of London and Basingstoke.

ANYTHING YOU CAN DO I CAN DO BETTER



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NEWBURY and DISTRICT: *

Mrs. I. A. Earnshaw,
Curridge,
Newbury, Berks.

NORTH LONDON: *

Mrs. M. Davies,
435, Caledonian Road,
London, N.7.

NOTTINGHAM:

Miss M. J. Marriott,
Risewood,
Debdale Lane, Keyworth,
Notts., NG12 5HZ.

OAKHAM AND DISTRICT:

Mrs. P. Ilves,
1, Penn Street,
Oakham, Rutland.

SOUTHAMPTON: *

Mrs. G. Phipps,
46, Victoria Road,
Netley, Abbey,
Southampton.

SUSSEX: *

Miss P. Mark,
113 Ashburnham Road,
HASTINGS,
Sussex.

ULSTER: *

Miss E. R. McKee,
92a, Earlswood Road,
Belfast 4. Northern Ireland.

WALSALL:

Miss R. Nash,
25, Wolverhampton Street,
Walsall, Staffs.

WEST CORNWALL: *

Mrs. K. Beesley,
Cathlowena,
Cusgarne Catteries,
Cusgarne,
Truro, Cornwall.