

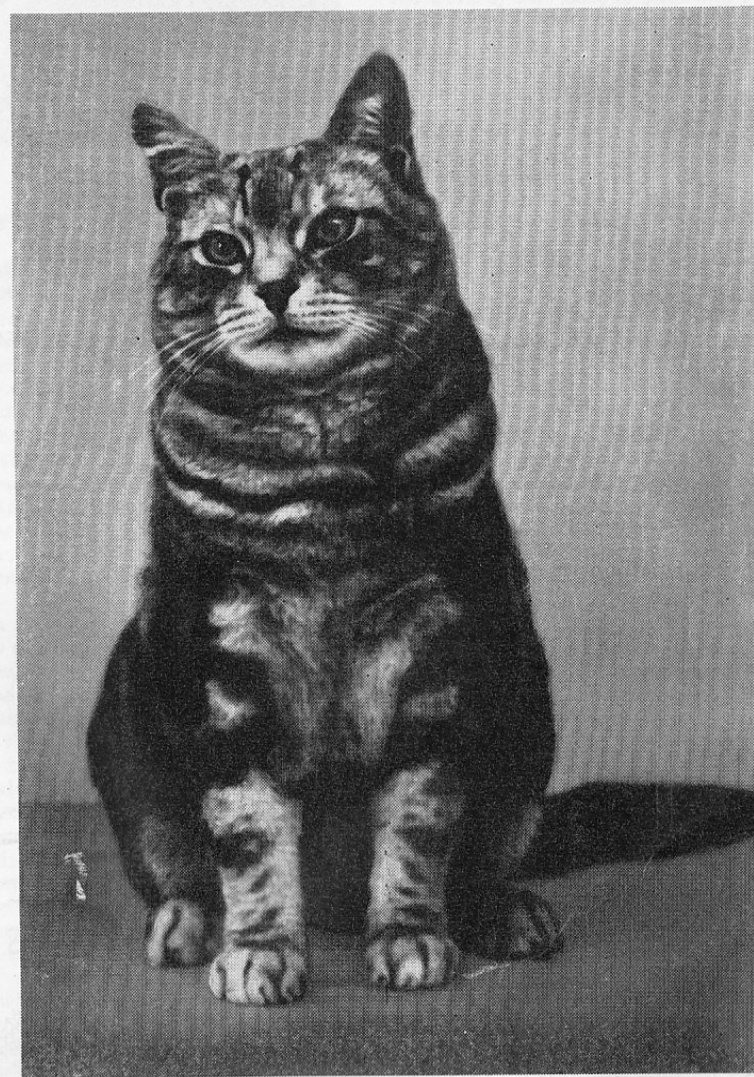
WILL YOU TRY

TO ENROL ONE NEW MEMBER

DURING 1974?

THE CAT

THE OLDEST MAGAZINE
DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO
CATS AND THEIR
WELFARE



The Cat is indeed the symbol of the home. Mark Twain summed this up when he wrote in Pudd'nhead Wilson that 'a house without a cat, and a well-fed, well-petted, and properly revered cat, may be a perfect house, perhaps, but how can it prove its title?'

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY

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
(Founded 1927)

Registered National Charity N. 203644

Headquarters Office and Clinic are at
PRESTBURY LODGE, 29 CHURCH STREET, SLOUGH SL1 1PW
Telephone Slough 20173

Editor
Arthur E. Parratt

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Unwanted birthday and Christmas presents or anything saleable.

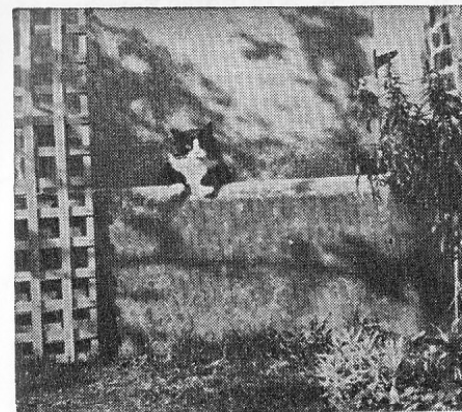
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Used stamps. British Foreign and commemorative.

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

Secretary.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Spring has again burst upon us and as I look back at my comments in the March magazine, I realise how quickly we forget the winter and of the restrictions that faced us at the beginning of 1974.

Since I last wrote, the reports and annual accounts from our branches and groups have been received and at Headquarters we have been encouraged by the progress made throughout the land, apart from a record breaking year of expenditure from H.Q., itself. Our Annual Report accompanies this edition of the magazine and I trust that all our members and friends will also find encouragement when they study the year's results.

The kitten season is again with us and in spite of press reports claiming that the C.P.L. has been the chief cause of a shortage of kittens in the first three months of the year due to our neutering campaign, we know only too well that we shall still be faced with a large number of unwanted kittens during the next few months. Unfortunately, people who write such articles do not appreciate the part that nature plays in the production of kittens and the fact that pet shops and markets complain that they have no kittens for sale during these winter months is rewarding news to us, and I personally look forward to the day when there are no surplus kittens available for sale in this particular manner, a thought which I am sure is shared by genuine animal lovers every year.

Our progress in enrolling new members continues most favourably and in the first three months of this year we have, at H.Q., alone, welcomed a further 145 new members to the League and many of our branches have also reported growing membership. Since July 1971 over 800 new members have

joined through Headquarters and the printing of our magazine has been increased by some 18% to meet the requirements.

Recently our Executive Committee have taken steps to widen our publicity service and we hope that we shall soon be embarking on new plans which will produce even far greater results than those we have experienced in recent years. When these plans are put into action, I shall be able to tell you more of our future hopes.

In my own small way, I am continuing to keep in contact with the branches and my visits to date this year have enabled me to meet the workers and helpers in Birmingham, Edmonton, Newbury, North Kent, Nottingham, the Isle of Wight and Southampton, apart from also visiting the Haslemere Home and friends in Pinner, Cheshunt, Bishops Stortford and Swansea. Arrangements are already confirmed for visits to Bournemouth and the Isle of Wight (to re-organise arrangements following the death of Mrs. Kent) and it is also hoped that the opening of our two new branches formed in 1973 will shortly be repeated with the opening of yet two more widely spread groups.

Elsewhere in this issue you will read of the successful Cats Fiesta evening but I would like to add my own personal thanks to Miss Veronica Troughton and several of her London based committee colleagues and also Mrs. Davies and her North London branch helpers who did so much to make the evening a most pleasant and rewarding occasion.

Finally, I would remind you of the A.G.M., to be held at Caxton Hall on the 15th June, 1974 where we hope to see many old friends, together with as many branch representatives that can make the journey to London.

Arthur E. Parratt,
General Secretary.

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that I have to report the death of Mrs. M. Norton for so long the most excellent Secretary of our Derby and District branch.

I had the good fortune to speak often with her and had met her on her own ground in Derby and I know only too well what the loss of Mrs. Margaret Norton has meant to the rest of the branch workers in that area.

Arthur E. Parratt,
General Secretary.

RETURNED THANKS

I would like to express my deep appreciation and thanks to the many, many member and friends who have written to me, from every part of the country telling me of the sadness and sense of personal loss they felt on learning of the death of my husband. These letters have been a source of comfort to me, as they all convey the same message "He was a good man." I who had known him all my life and was married to him for 47 years, really knew his worth. I will try to answer all your letters in time, but now will just say "Thank you all." You have helped me.

Agnes Steward,
4 Moore Avenue,
Sprowston,
Norwich NOR 560

CATS ABROAD

I am pleased to report that the Executive Committee resolved at their February meeting to open a Foreign Fund. It is now wished to build this up with donations from members and other well wishers, and may I say - in the future, with bequests!

It is proposed now to contact the various individuals, groups and societies working abroad, whose names and addresses have been sent to H.Q. Later it is hoped to obtain information about other such persons and societies working elsewhere. Some particulars of their work for cats will be requested with a view to making a donation for their work.

These are initial steps and depending on the information received and the response generally for funds, further grants and the issue of literature will be considered. We shall see how matters develop.

All contributions to the new Foreign Fund - large and small will be most gratefully received.

Ethel Smith,
Honorary Treasurer.

THE CATS' FIESTA

This was a delightful evening. We owe the idea to the suggestion of Miss Scott, who brought together Alexandra Anderson

and Margarita Perez with Miss Troughton of the C.P.L. They organised the Cats Fiesta, with this wonderful success. We all had a pleasant evening, and we have to thank a great many people for their work and talents and generous giving of their art which made this possible. First of course, the Del Campo dancers, that wonderful family, and then Nady Santander and her dancers, and the soloist musicians, Stella Searson the pianist, Margaret Jayasinha the flautista, and of course Ray Mitchell who for our Fiesta was mostly guitarist, though we did also have the benefit of his pencil in the charming Spanish-type cats decorating the programme. I am exceptionally fortunate in having lived many happy years in Spain, to me these lovely dances re-opened the gates of the beautiful, varied, amazingly varied and different regions of Spain. Not everyone here knows or understands the immense riches in history, culture and art to be found in Spain, but everyone seeing these dances must have gathered some idea of the wide range covered by the different provinces, through the folk dances. Costume, specially regional costume, has always been my interest, the dresses of los del Campo family and of the Nady Santander dancers were a real joy to see, and specially los del Campo dresses were exact in detail and in line. Every dance had its own charm, but for me the dancers from Murcia were the best. There was heated argument among the audience on this point, but all were agreed on one thing - we all hope very much that we may have a repeat performance someday soon. Two handsome cheques have been sent, one to North London C.P.L., the other for the Close Rescue Centre, and very grateful thanks come from both centres to everyone concerned in this happy evening.

Nerea de Clifford.

THE FELINE SYMPOSIUM on 30th March

A report of our doings at the Symposium appears elsewhere. I want to thank all those members who came, many having made long journeys, to support and help us. It was delightful to have so many friends, I much enjoyed talking to everyone; but even better was the fact that so many people are sincerely interested in the problem we face and really which is of even greater value, to take an active part in stamping out one of the greatest evils of our time. This is not a job which can be tackled by anyone single-handed, it will need many people fully determined to cure it, and I think that we have made a good start in getting together and planning for our future battles.

Nerea de Clifford

SACK FOR LOSING CAT

Twinkle the cat had won a place in the hearts of a factory's employees, an industrial tribunal heard yesterday.

When he disappeared tempers throughout the works became frayed. One of the directors confessed he was "extremely angry and very upset".

Feeling ran so high that the man who caused Twinkle's disappearance, Mr. Roodal Ramroop, 44, lost his job as a credit controller with the firm, H. Goldman Ltd. of Claremont Road, Cricklewood.

Appealing against his dismissal he told the tribunal that he had taken Twinkle to his home in Leghorn Road, Harlesden, to clean him. But the cat wandered off.

Mr. Brian Norman, a director, said the long-haired tabby was dearly loved. "People are funny about cats. Mr. Ramroop made his working relationship with people around him very difficult. "We felt the unauthorised removal of property and failure to return it were grounds for dismissal".

But, Mr. E. G. Wintmore, tribunal chairman, did not agree. He said it was rather severe to sack a man for losing the company cat, and awarded Mr. Ramroop £154 compensation.

Daily Telegraph,
March 23rd, 1974

PET FACTS

Cuddly cats can prove the answer to our present heating problems, particularly for elderly people who don't move about much. A cat purring in the lap can generate enough warmth to keep a person warm even in a chilly room. Try it and see!

Gloucester City Shopper,
Thursday, March 28th, 1974

TV CRITIC

Being vain, I'm a cat man.

Dogs are fine, though smelly, but a sense of duty impels most of them to be polite, if not fawning, towards humans giving them food and shelter.

Cats, on the other hand, are like some women. Gratitude doesn't come into it; if they like you it is on their own terms. Food may win a little perfunctory affection, but when a cat gets demonstrative I know it fancies me.

Daily Mail,
March 21st, 1974

GLAMOUR PUSS

Laugh? She could have died. . . Mandy Lou never thought of as a glamour puss, swept the board when she was entered in her first cat show at the advanced age of 15.

It's a bit like an old age pensioner winning the Miss England title, and it happened like this. . .

Cat breeder Mrs. Pyllis Hodge, of Wilton Avenue, Southampton, couldn't enter any of her pedigree cats in the Wessex Cat Club show at Bournemouth, because they were all "calling" and had to stay at home.

Rather than go to the show empty-handed, Mrs. Hodge took her household cat, Mandy Lou, who had been saved from death by the Cats Protection League some 15 years ago.

Mandy Lou was placed in the Pen of Honour (would you believe it?) after winning six classes, including Best Long Haired Female, Best Household Pet and Best Rescued Cat.

"I never for one moment thought she would succeed and glow like she did, right at the front of her pen talking and purring to everyone", purred an extremely content Mrs. Hodge.

Southern Evening Echo,
March 9th, 1974

ROAMING CATS

I would like to praise the work of the Cats Protection League who, immediately I contacted them collected three abandoned cats from the redevelopment area opposite me though I regret that over many weeks they had become wild and in a sorry state.

I would earnestly ask that anyone intending to leave a cat behind on being re-housed would straightaway phone the Cats Protection League at 435, Caledonian Road, N7. (Tel: 607 5355) who would collect it and if possible find a home for it. It is after all the humane thing to do rather than abandon it to the shocking life of a stray. I do hope that countless cat owners will avail themselves of this wonderful charitable service.

Mrs. A. Booth, Elthorne Road, N19
Islington Gazette,
March 1st 1974

NOBODY CARES

About 3 p.m. on Thursday, January 3rd, I noticed the body of a ginger cat outside Boots Farm Sales in Oxpens.

It was still there a day later. I made inquiries in nearby Osney Lane and Hollybush Row, but no-one knew who owned it.

The body was still there on Monday morning, so I assumed that it was not a local cat and removed it for decent burial.

Possibly a more distant owner is worrying about it being missing. It had been struck on the head and probably died instantly. I would like to extend my sympathy to the sorrowing owner.

Oxford Mail,
January 9th, 1974

INSIDE THE CAT'S CRADLE

I'd never pictured Islington as a borough swarming with abandoned cats, living half-wild in derelict or empty buildings, and all of them breeding at an alarming rate – or, rather, I hadn't until I visited the Cats Protection League's North London Branch in Caledonian Road, Holloway. There you will hear tales of neglect to amaze and shock even a hardened cat hater like myself.

People – and a surprisingly large number of them it seems – simply abandon their cats when they move, leaving them to fend for themselves as best they can.

"And if they could see them six months after, they'd wish they hadn't," said Mr. Reggie Smith, the league's driver.

They are in a good position, at the League to know just how miserable the life of a stray can be – half-starved, dehydrated in summer (where does a cat get water in London), and no hope of treatment if they are ill.

Some strays are fed – but not given a home – by people round about. But strays (and their numerous offspring) become wild. They can get so wild that it's impossible for the Cats Protection League workers to pick them up off the streets, as it were, or even if they do manage to bring them into the shelter they are too wild to be found homes. And in that case they have to be put to sleep.

Apparently one cat can produce 200 kittens in her lifetime, so you can be sure that unless strays are neutered the population of strays is going to go racing up. "You get a cat left, an old lady feeds it, it has kittens and they interbreed; the old lady rings up and says she can't manage to feed them on her pension and you go down there and find 30 or 40 cats," said Reggie Smith.

Homes

And as he pointed out, if you go down to a derelict site to pick up the strays and don't pick up the strays and don't manage to pick up the last five, in a year's time you're back where you started. They breed so fast.

The League will collect strays anywhere in Islington, (it goes outside the borough as well), and will house them in its premises, and give them treatment if they are ill. They will also take in unwanted cats brought in by the public.

The cats – except for a handful of permanent residents don't stay permanently at the League. They try to find homes for them, but this can be very difficult, especially if the cat is old or ill. In 1972 they took in 1,956 strays, but only managed to find homes for ten per cent of them. As Mrs. Maureen Davies, the secretary said "That's where you get stuck – when nobody offers them a home.

You get so fond of them when you've pulled them round."

But if they can't find homes for them they have to put them to sleep – which they believe is better than condemning them to the life of a stray. They insist on finding good homes for them, and will only place them with people who believe in neutering cats.

For not surprisingly, they are very strongly in favour of neutering, to prevent the increase in strays and unwanted cats.

The cats are looked after full time by Miss Daisy Neary, with the help of two part-time workers. Mr. Reggie Smith, as the league's driver, covered 18,000 miles last year collecting strays and taking cats to be spayed.

Bazaars

The League also has a committee, of course, to deal with the administrative side of things, and it was the secretary, Mrs. Davies, who showed me round and told me about the work of the League.

Where does the money for all this come from? Jumbles and bazaars – last year they raised £1,000 like this, collecting boxes, membership subscriptions (a guinea a year), and donations in wills. "We couldn't survive if people didn't remember us in their wills," said Mrs. Davies. "But this year," she added, "we're very concerned – everything's going up."

This branch of the league started as an independent organisation 23 years ago. It was founded by the late Dr. Kathleen Mathews, who was so distressed about the abandoned cats she saw that she decided to do something about it. It then amalgamated with the Cats Protection League (the main headquarters are in Slough) and became the North London branch of the league.

Caroline Murray-Browne
Islington Gazette, 25/1/74

FAREWELL TO FRED

When retirement day arrived for Fred, the factory ratcatcher, his workmates saw him off in style. He would probably have preferred to slip quietly away, without any fuss, but he didn't have any say in the matter.

For Fred is a cat, a celebrated member of the staff at the Hamworthy Engineering works in Poole, Dorset. And Fred was given a £25 cheque to help him out in his old age.

The black-and-white cat has been with the firm for ten years and tales of his exploits are already a local legend. Factory workers still talk of the day they came in and found a whole row of dead rats that Fred had left, neatly, for burial.

Once he almost caused a strike. When the firm moved to new premises, it was planned to make him redundant. The work force protested and a dispute was averted when

Farewell to Fred, *contd.*

Fred was officially transferred on a form signed by the works foreman and a divisional director.

The supercat finally quit. Not because he was sixteen – about 112 in human terms – but because his owner Fred Barbenson, of Sterte Avenue, Poole was retiring. There was a pension for Mr. Barbenson. And a cheque for Fred.

Company director Ray Millier explained: "Although on our staff, Fred was never in the pension scheme. Nevertheless, we could not let his retirement go without some recognition."

Daily Mirror
Friday, 1st March 1974

WILD CAT

I remember an old gamekeeper who told me an unusual story about a stray domestic cat which had turned wild. He'd caught glimpses of it in the neighbourhood but one day it sat outside his cottage door and mewed until his wife appeared. It ignored the saucer of milk she offered, moved a short distance away, turned round and looked at her. The expression in the cat's eyes was so pleading that she felt compelled to follow. The cat led the way to the loft of an old barn where in a corner lay three tiny, blind kittens.

It all seemed very strange, the gamekeeper mused when she told him that night. Cats normally go to any lengths to keep secret the location of their kittens. So next day he went to see for himself. The starving kittens were desperately trying to nurse while their mother lay still in death, her body lying protectively over them.

Suddenly the keeper understood. Nature had warned the cat that death was near. She'd used her last strength to make sure that someone would care for her loved ones.

Yes, animals can teach us a lot if we have the patience to understand.

The People's Friend,
February 9th, 1974

SITA—A LAMENT

She was our dear little pet for 12 days short of 9 years. She came to us when only six months old from a home for lost cats in replacement of our JOE who had died at the age of 15½ years from a cancerous tumour on the liver. She was black with white paws and legs and "dicky" shirt front. We named her SITA. Tragically we had to put an end to her life due to an exactly similar cause – a cancerous tumour on the liver. But she was only 9½ years old. Her early history was recorded in "The Cat" of September 1966.

Although she had allegedly been spayed,

she was in kitten before we got her and she gave birth to two toms, one a tabby which we named VICTOR (but always known as VICKY) and the other a black and white named RAMA. We had all three neutered and settled down to what we hoped would be many years of joy with this little family, for we kept both kittens. All three became very fine cats, SITA weighing 12 lbs and the boys 15 to 16 lbs each. SITA was a most affectionate little lady and especially adored her "master." She had a strong character and kept her sons well smacked. She loved music and especially Chopin and would come running down stairs when we put a Chopin record on the gramophone.

Then for no apparent reason, SITA our little "kitch" as we called her, started losing weight and in the course of a few months went down from 12 to 8 lbs, lost her appetite and became very thin. Our vet could not find any reason. During the past year her motions became very pale and constipated and she suffered with fur ball which we thought was affecting her liver. Then one day last November she was sick and from that time regained her appetite and we thought she had removed some obstruction. But alas she still remained very thin. Instead she started becoming distended in the abdomen. At first we thought she was having a false pregnancy, but just after Christmas we found a hard lump below the ribs. We took her to the vet who listened to our resume of the case. He then examined her and said "This is very serious. She has a large tumour probably cancerous, on the liver and I cannot do anything for her." He said she was going down hill and might linger for a short while, probably in increasing pain and distress both to her and to us and that the best course was to put her painlessly to sleep there and then. Tearfully we agreed and took our last farewell of her and fled. Little did we think that when we put her into her basket to take her down to the vet, probably to get some medicine, she would never come back again.

Kipling wrote:-

"—Brother and sisters, I bid you beware of giving your heart to a dog to tear."

So why not to a well loved and loving little cat? Perhaps she has already met our JOE in some cats' Valhalla in the great beyond?

At least we have her two sons to love and RAMA especially, the black and white, seems to know all about it and is always with us.

May they both continue in happiness and health with us for several years yet.

SITA was Tailwaver No. 4052 and RAMA and VICKY are Nos. 4053 and 4054 respectively.

E. C. B. Thornton

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

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH

These should surely be known as the heartbreak months, when we realise that in spite of all our past efforts, the enormous problem is still with us; every post, every telephone call bringing in details of fresh cases of cats and kittens in need. Perhaps it would be easier to bear if we had some sort of shelter, but here in Birmingham we have nowhere at all to keep the cats, except those few we can house in members' own homes, and these are few and far between. We would ask those of our members who come across cases of distress to try to cope with them personally, rather than pass them on to Committee members, for we simply cannot cope with them all. Vouchers we can supply, also boxes and traps, and we advertise regularly for homes — these not too plentiful at this time of year — but we cannot take the cats into care. This is one case in which everyone must realise that if you want a helping hand there is one at the end of your arm.

We are most grateful to all those who have sent in gifts and donations — some reach us anonymously and these we acknowledge herein, including a special thank you to Snowball from the spring kittens. We no longer have Mrs. Thulborn with us as she is now enjoying her new life in Australia, but we hope that members who used to send to her will continue to help us by sending to me. Our A.G.M. with its Bring and Buy sale has now been extended to include a talk and a film show by Mr. Spear, M.R.C.V.S. so we are hoping for a large attendance on May 7th, also at our Spring bazaar on May 11th at Church House, Erdington. We are keeping our fingers crossed for fine weather for our garden party at Elmwood, Hamstead Hill, Handsworth Wood on either July 13th or 20th — date not yet decided — and we have a coffee morning at Solihull Old Manor House at 10.30 a.m. on Saturday August 3rd. For all these occasions we need things to sell — the more the better. We could find a ready market for good quality buttons — especially older ones of the pre-plastic era — and we have a customer for books by Gene Stratton-Porter, now long out of print.

This magazine article invariably carries the same theme — we want more helpers, homes, money, goods and transport. Just as a chain is only as strong as its weakest link so our capabilities depend on the support we receive and without that support we are reduced to ineffectuality.

CHELMSFORD AND DISTRICT BRANCH

We had a lovely time at our Easter Fair on April 6th, thanks to all the good friends who helped to stock our Stalls. £122 cat-care money was raised and our Treasurer was able to order another supply of food. (Bulk buying of food direct from the manufacturers is a great help and saving, but we need some capital to be able to do it, and our eight "big" bazaars help us to do this). So indirectly anything you send for our bazaar stalls and Saturday Sales ends up as food for all our pussycats. We still have about 150 to feed each day. The number ought not to be as high as this but we had an unexpected sudden increase of more than 50 when we rescued them from an old people's home where they were allegedly under threat of death by so-called marksmen. What a lovely lot of cats they are — in appearance, if not in character! Unusually, a lot of them are long haired female gingers and there are some very pretty torties and tabbytorties. But unfortunately these cats haven't had much contact with loving humans until now, so some will take a long while to gain confidence and be ready to go to a good home. We would be very grateful for any financial help you can give to these cats. We're having to spend a great deal of money on veterinary treatment for them as so many were suffering from the various after effects of cat 'flu. They're all responding well to treatment and will soon be as good as new. Please send anything you can spare to the *Tabby-Tortie Fund*.

If only we had permission to go ahead with our new Shelter, how very much easier it would be to care for all these cats. Alas, we still await planning permission. We have made a new application accompanied by our views and objections at refusal, and we understand that this second application is once again

with the County Planning authorities who turned us down on the grounds that we would "constitute an additional traffic hazard on an already busy road." Since there is adequate parking space and turning space for at least 6 cars in the front garden of "Catkins" and since it is most unlikely that we'd receive that many visiting cars in a week, never mind all at the same time — it all seems to us a very poor reason for refusing our application. However, once again we'll have to wait months and months for a decision. So many good happenings, or near miracles, have kept us going for the past 11 years that we just don't believe that we won't get our permission eventually.

Our next few dates to remember are:—

May 25th "Saturday Sale," Chelmsford Shire Hall, 10.30 to noon.

June 29th, "Summer Fair/Cats' Tea Party", in the Garden of Laburnam Cottage, Brook End, Chelmsford at the kind invitation of Mrs. Tarling. Sunday afternoon, 2 to 4.30.

August 3rd "Saturday Sale," as above.

As ever, we are very grateful for gifts for our stalls, knitting wool, soft toys, knitwear, paper backs, records, envelopes, good-as-new clothing, used postage stamps, trading stamps, dolls (and jam pans and hat pins!) and *anything* which will bring us some cat-care money.

I had hoped to be deluged with strong jam pans and old hat pins after our last appeal! So far no jam pans, but a very pretty collection of her mother's hat pins from Miss J, whom we'd thank properly if we knew her address. We sold the hat pins for £3. They are in great demand as people make sort-of-flower arrangements out of them!

Mrs. Christine Peterson (Chairman)
Piers Gill, Darcy Rise,
Little Baddow, Chelmsford CM3 4SS

DERBY AND DISTRICT

Through circumstances beyond our control we missed the post regarding our article for the last copy of the magazine, but we are deeply troubled here, dogged by bad luck, and things seem to be going from bad to worse. We mourn the loss of Margaret Norton, our secretary, who died very suddenly on the 12th February. Margaret was the first secretary of Derby branch and was a founder member. We were all shocked, and she is sadly missed. What can one say about the loss of a personal friend of many years, and one who was so dedicated to the cause of the cat, and indeed all animals. She will always be remembered with affection.

The next blow is the closure of our C.P.L. cattery by the "City Fathers" in their lack

of wisdom and foresight. With one hand we were given £100 of trapping equipment, with the other, the planning department decided we must close down: their reason? it causes loss of amenity to the area because it is situated in a garden in a residential part of the town. Only this week a large industrial concern approached the R.S.P.C.A. and the Public Health Department for help concerning the invasion of their extensive premises (the largest industrial site in the Midlands) by wild and semi-wild cats — these cats injure themselves on machinery, have ruined expensive fabric, and it had reached the stage whereby maintenance operatives were refusing to work. The R.S.P.C.A. and the P.H.D. did not want to know, and we were approached. Within a matter of days, Des Gratton, our cattery manager cleared 15 cats from the site; all these cats were badly burned by acid and had to be destroyed. The Security Officer of this organisation has written to the Corporation of Derby, explaining the situation and pleading for our cause, and asking them to reconsider their views with regard to the renewal of Des Gratton's licence. We have worked hard and long here, and will not be easily put off by Bureaucracy; nevertheless we are suffering from heartache as the bulldozers continue to knock down the town, and the amount of homeless cats is growing by the hour.

Our A.G.M. was held on 23rd March, and Mr. H. F. Betts was elected as our new secretary. Our Easter Bazaar was held on 30th March, at the Guild Hall, centrally situated it attracted very many people; we now have an organised petition to save our cattery, and everyone we could lay our hands on signed it.

To try and cheer this gloomy picture, may we thank all those generous people who donate; our dear friend Miss Burgess in U.S.A., "Percy" who is one of our four-footed friends; Mr. Freer, Miss Storr, Miss Durell, and many others. Our Chairman, Steve Pratley, suggested we show our gratitude by electing honorary members — Lucy Orgill our President and journalist on our local paper who is unfailing in her support, Mr. Ken Saunders, our accountant, Mrs. Thompson who provides us with room to store our items to sell for fund raising, we are proud of you all. Welcome to new members, Miss Sue Acdock, Mr. Gregory Clarke, Mrs. P. Goodwin, Mrs. E. B. Lambert, Mrs. P. Gerrard, Mrs. Betty Rhodes. Finally, we hope our appeal to re-open our cattery will be successful, meanwhile the velvet gloves have been peeled off, our claws are bared for action.

Mrs. Dreena Ellis,
Treasurer, C.P.L. Derby.

DOVER BRANCH 1973

The work of the Dover branch is small but has continued to help with the neutering of a number of cats of both sexes and also in helping people in need with treatment at local Veterinary Surgeons' and also helping with the feeding and treatment of needy cats.

We are grateful to all collecting box holders who contribute to our funds and our grateful thanks are extended to our Veterinary Surgeons' for their help and attention at all times. In conclusion we record our thanks to Mr. F. G. Gossling our Honorary Auditor.

M. Smalley & L. E. Kelley,
Joint Honorary Treasurers and acting Secretary

EDMONTON GROUP REPORT 1973

Since our last annual report, the scope of my work has grown enormously. Doctoring throughout the year numbered at least twenty five each week and quite a number of owners have paid themselves.

People write or telephone from near and far seeking advice on feline problems. I am always pleased to help when I can and I am pleased to find a growing awareness of cats and their welfare in general.

Since I have been giving lectures at young and old peoples' clubs I think that I have been a great help to some members of the public, and I have taught them a lot about cats.

During the Christmas holiday I had fifteen Old Age Pensioners' cats here to give them a break so that they could visit and stay a few days with relatives and friends. As you know, an old person will not leave their pets unless they know that it is in good hands.

Recently, I had the Welfare Office telephone me to say that an old lady had to go into hospital, but she had told the doctor she would not leave her two cats. After a lot of persuasion she agreed to leave them at our Sanctuary, and her "pussys" sent her a card every other day to cheer her up. I think that I kept her going until she recovered, and she is now home and they are all happy together again.

I am still supplying tins of pet food to a number of elderly people, so if you can spare a tin or two I shall be very grateful because the more that is given to me the more I can give out to help the old folks. YOU CAN HELP TO MAKE AN OLD PERSON AND THEIR PET HAPPY.

With rising costs, people seem to be hanging on to their old clothes and this is making it hard to get goods to sell at our Charity Shop, so please do have a good look round and let me have all that you do not need. All kinds of jewellery, beads, earrings, brooches, rings, etc., also, trading stamps,

cigarette coupons and anything saleable to help those who cannot help themselves.

During the recent storms I had over £50 worth of damage done to the Cattery, something which I could have very well done without. However, perhaps some kind Members would like to sponsor a bed in the Maternity Ward, my special "Mother and Baby Ward."

"Fluffy's" Birthday Party will be held on July 20th, when she will be 28 years young. I also have "Lady" who will be 21 in April and she will be having her party with "Fluffy" If any Members wish to attend will they please write for an Invitation Card first as space is limited.

This year I have dealt with more accident cases than ever. I think it is mostly due to shops and houses in this area being pulled down and some callous people have been leaving their pets to fend for themselves and they tend to panic. This area alone is a "death trap" at the moment, and I shall be glad when the redevelopment is all finished when things may quieten down. In my road alone I had three accident cases in a fortnight.

C.Walledge

GLOSSOP AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Despite the ever mounting costs, we are slowly progressing in the battle to keep this branch alive.

On March 30th we had our first stall in Stockport Market, and were most encouraged to find that we had made £42. Our grateful thanks to our two friends, Mr. and Mrs. Swinden who did all the donkey work.

Our next big venture is a summer raffle in June and if all our members will sell just a few tickets, we shall have another success.

On the animal side too our figures are encouraging, 222 cats and kittens placed in good homes, during the past year, and 341 neutering vouchers issued.

Recently a white cat, badly injured in a road accident, came to join our rescues. Paddy, he arrived on St. Patrick's day, had a broken leg, internal injuries and an injured jaw, but thanks to the skill of the veterinary surgeon who put him together again and advised on his care, he is now a cuddly snowball, full of mischief who sleeps with my labrador. No need to look for a home for him he has established himself here.

Our A.G.M. will be held on May 9th, at 8 p.m. at Community House Glossop. We do hope all members and cat-lovers will come and meet us.

Our thanks to Fergie and his Missus for a lovely parcel for our market stall, we were so pleased to receive such a good help.

Please continue to send your unwanted gifts for our next market stall, and any

pieces of material you may find to make toys and fancy goods.

D. E. Hooper,
Ivy House, Glossop Road, Chisworth,
Broadbottom, Hyde, Cheshire

GREAT AMWELL AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Although saddened by the loss of our Founder late last year, we have been determined to carry on the good work started by her. Miss Harvey who was very well known and loved in this area passed away at the age of 86 years having dedicated her life to the care of animals.

This year we have already managed to trace the owners of two cats found straying in Hoddesdon, and placed twelve cats and kittens in good homes.

On the 21st March we held a Cheese and Wine Evening at the home of one of our Committee Members, Mrs. G. Craigs of Dane End. From the Tombola, Raffle and Bring and Buy stalls we raised the sum of £22.80. Not a very big return for the amount of work entailed but as I am sure other groups have found, money is very short at the moment.

Our next venture is a Rummage Sale to be held in a small hall at Hertford Heath on the 5th April. Perhaps this will bring in a little more to help us carry on our work.

Best wishes for a successful year to all our Groups.

Mrs. M. K. Phelps,
Treasurer/Acting Secretary.

MANCHESTER 1973 REPORT

I present herewith on behalf of my Chairman and Committee a report on the activities carried out on behalf of our Branch for the year under review - 1973.

Let me state at the outset that it was a successful year as far as the rescue, care and welfare of abandoned, unwanted and lost cats and kittens was concerned. All these endeavours obviously brought about the alleviation of unnecessary suffering for many creatures and many more would undoubtedly have suffered had we not intervened and put rescue operations into effect.

We must not lose sight of the fact of the theoretical aspect of the work carried out which embraced lectures in schools, youth centres and adult gatherings. Colleagues and myself were also engaged in the dissemination of humane teachings through the medium of literature, correspondence as well as verbal contact with members of the general public. All these activities are worthwhile, especially the educational, because through this medium we are endeavouring to eradicate the cause of cruelty and unnecessary suffering through ignorance and lack of education with regard to the care and welfare of cats and kittens. The theoretical and the practical aspects of our work are closely linked because animals must be rescued and we must

endeavour, to the best of our ability, to educate the rising generation as well as adults in humaneness in respect of their treatment towards cats and kittens in their possession. It is understood by colleagues and myself that the rescue as well as the care and welfare of abandoned, unwanted and lost cats and kittens should be our first priority, and obviously this is precisely the adopted policy. We must prevent unnecessary suffering wherever possible but at the same time we must remember that it is our duty to influence members of the rising generation and adults with regard to educating these people in humaneness, or to be more specific, to treat cats and kittens in a manner that will be accepted by the Cats Protection League.

It is not necessary to quote figures relating to our Report because these appear with this publication, but it is most encouraging to note the excellent progress achieved in the major campaign fulfilled by Headquarters in relation to the neutering of male and female cats and kittens. We must digest the report issued by Headquarters, and from this we will realize the extraordinary number of castrations and hysterectomies carried out during the year under review, and this is without taking into account those operations carried out on behalf of branches, and in many cases the cost involved borne by Headquarters. I would be failing in my duty if I did not record here and now my appreciation, gratitude and thanks to the General Secretary for his excellent work carried out during 1973, especially the financial assistance which is so readily available for branches if and when requested.

Our Branch was instrumental in providing care and welfare for 270 rescued cats and kittens during 1973. The figure quoted above only refers to the number of creatures received at our centre in Burton Road, Didsbury, and does not include the numerous calls received by my office staff, many of which involve the collection of cats and kittens, and these animals are brought direct to the Animals' Convalescent Home in Wilmslow, Cheshire. I respond to all calls for assistance, and on behalf of the Branch collected 65 cats and 13 kittens, and these are in excess to the 270 referred to in the report. Unfortunately 7 cats and 3 kittens were ill at the time of collection and this necessitated my having to administer an immediate humane passing. I do feel that excellent humane work is being accomplished, and this in fact means progress on behalf of the branch. Many readers may wonder why our branch is at Burton Road, Didsbury, and yet anyone wishing to contact me is recommended to write to my home at The Homestead, Newgate Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire.

Manchester, contd'
The reason for the two addresses is simple, because I am the Official who operates the animals' Convalescent Home on behalf of the Humane Education Society. The same committee represents both organisations, and this in fact means that the Convalescent Home, as well as the Cats Protection League (Manchester branch) do possess a very close relationship. In fact, it is true to say, that the Cat Chalets, with runs, are spacious and could, if required, accommodate a large dog, but they are used exclusively for cats. Heating facilities are available if and when required. These Chalets are also contained in a large building measuring 150 ft. x 45 ft. and, therefore, even in the Winter, any cats or kittens in our care receive adequate protection and also have the benefit of heating if required.

It must also be stressed in this report that cruelty, intentional or otherwise, receives my immediate attention, and numerous investigations were carried out during the year under review on behalf of the Branch. Often it necessitated my having to remove the cats or kittens in question, and in a certain percentage of cases I have been instrumental in educating the people concerned with regard to their responsibilities towards the cat or kitten in their care. This, I believe, to be work of paramount importance because the reason why we operate a branch of the Cats Protection League is to prevent unnecessary suffering when and wherever possible. In the majority of cases I have found that the people interviewed are always eager to co-operate and have no hesitation in promising to carry out humane suggestions in order to establish better conditions for the animals concerned. This avenue of my work demands a certain proportion of my time, but I do feel it is time well spent because it is my humble opinion that just to rescue cats and kittens and not to carry out investigations into alleged cases of cruelty would, in fact, mean that I should be failing to carry out the responsibilities of the League. After being engaged in animal welfare work for 26 years, and having dealt with all animals domestic and wild, it is my firm conviction that cats, especially kittens, are the most maligned creatures in our midst. They are independent and, therefore, cannot be trained to walk to heel, travel on a lead or obey instant commands, and many people are of the opinion that cats are a nuisance and disease carriers. I cannot accept these facts, even if they are put forward by experts, because having spent a lifetime with these creatures I have discovered that they are elegant, intelligent, and exceptionally independent and know precisely what they want,

where they are wanted, and most important of all possess a mind of their own. It is not the "law" of the cat to obey the commands of the homo-sapiens because they have a very active brain and therefore will not be made subservient to man. As far as disease carrying is concerned, and we are often reminded of this through the press, I can only say in defence of the cat that my life has been spent in close contact with dogs, pigeons and other domestic creatures, and any number of cats and kittens, and I can state without fear of contradiction that I have not at any time contracted a feline disease. I realize and appreciate that there are certain people who are allergic to cats, dogs and horses and, therefore, it is only right and proper that these people should not have such a pet in their possession. I could go on at length dealing with many aspects of my work appertaining to cats and kittens on whose behalf we are striving to save from unnecessary suffering, as well as to find good homes for these creatures. It would take up a great deal of space, and I am sure that this is not available in this report.

It was an inspiration to see our General Secretary, Mr. A. E. Parratt of Headquarters, when he appeared on B.B.C. Television, and his image and diplomacy certainly impressed me, and I am sure that his appearance on Television would have an educational as well as a psychological effect upon all viewers who saw the programme, and this could only serve to enhance the humane cause and especially the Cats Protection League.

In conclusion may I draw your attention to our "Bring and Buy" Fair which is to be held on the 18th May from 2-5 p.m. in the Town Hall, Lapwing Lane, Manchester. Obviously goods will be required for this event, and if any reader could assist by forwarding unwanted Christmas gifts etc., colleagues and myself will be deeply grateful for such co-operation. Funds are always desperately required because we operate on an annual deficit and, therefore, with a limited amount of capital at our disposal it is always an ambition to raise money through events in order to help meet the financial outlay involved as well as to intensify our humane endeavours.

Sincere best wishes to officials at Headquarters and officials of all branches for good health and continued success in all their animal endeavours. Arthur Thompson

NEWBURY BRANCH REPORT 1973

The usual routine of taking as many cats and kittens as we can find space for, finding good homes, giving help and advice where needed and helping when taking these cats and kittens in their owners to find good

Newbury, contd.

homes makes up the bulk of our work throughout 1973.

Two coffee mornings have been held at members homes, a stall was given to the branch for the Reading Cat Show and a jumble sale was held at Thatcham.

Fourteen kittens and six adults had to be put to sleep by the vet or local Inspector but one hundred and thirty-four cats and kittens were found good homes. Sixty-two cats were spayed and twenty-three castrations were carried out during the year. This does not include those cats the owners of which have been given vouchers or those owners who have been persuaded to have their cats and kittens neutered or have themselves met the cost of this treatment. The cat population is going slowly down in this district but parts of June, July and August still remain heartbreaking months with obviously too many abandoned cats to take in often as the result of people going on holiday who decide they no longer require their cats.

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

NORTH LONDON BRANCH

Way back in 1961, a black and terrified little mongrel dog was brought into the Shelter with the threat that if we refused to take it in, the owner would slip its collar and abandon it in the street. Naturally, Dr. Matthews, then in charge of the Shelter, accepted the dog, which, from that moment, adored all cats. It was found a good home and, quickly overcoming its fear of humans, the dog became a happy and intelligent animal. Sadly, the little dog has recently died of a heart attack. During its last painful night, a cat, which had been its constant companion for seven years, lay by its side, as close as possible, as though to comfort the little dog in its distress. And so, yet another link between the Shelter and the late Dr. Matthews, its Founder, is broken.

March has been a good month for the adult cats of the Shelter. Eight have gone to good homes after being with us for many months. To see a cat and its new owner leaving the Shelter happy with each other makes our work well worthwhile.

The Budget is causing us great concern, with the increases in the cost of petrol and postal charges. Our neutering activities and the collection of strays causes us to use large quantities of petrol. Similarly, our correspondence is voluminous. Apart from normal letters, 450 notices are sent to members and supporters on each jumble sale and bazaar. We are always grateful to members who send a stamped and addressed envelope with their enquiries.

Green Shield and other trading stamps continue to flow into the Shelter and we are most grateful to the members who send them. We have saved much money over the years buying Shelter equipment with trading stamps in place of money.

If members have occasion to telephone us or to ring the Shelter door bell, may we ask them to be patient if they do not receive an immediate reply. Our assistant may be tending a sick cat or feeding our charges in the basement. Our "Daisy" was most upset recently to be asked by a caller "How dare you keep me waiting so long" when she had been ministering to a badly injured cat in our basement isolation room.

The holiday season will soon be upon us. If any member wishes a list of boarding catteries, will they please apply soon and enclose a stamped, addressed envelope. While we will send a list on request, we cannot, of course, guarantee any particular cattery as suitable since we could not possibly visit and inspect all the catteries on our list. It is for members to inspect the cattery on arrival.

Since the turn of the year, life has been hectic for us, one way and another, and we must apologize to those members who have asked us to collect jumble from longish distances. Much as we would like to have the goods, force of circumstances and pressure of work has compelled us to decline.

Our next two Jumble sales are on the 8th June and the 5th October at 602A, Holloway Road, London, N.19. We need goods for both sales and would be glad if you would remember us when turning out during Spring cleaning.

M. Davies

SUSSEX BRANCH

We are very busy at the moment preparing for our A.G.M. and the Sale to follow, and getting out all the invitations. We have been lucky to receive a number of gifts including an electric lawn mower, which we have already sold, an excellent start. We are so grateful to this member and the many others too, who sale after sale manage to find us these wonderful things, and also all those who come with gifts and say "it is nothing" because it is and without them there would be no sale.

Cat Haven and the Annexe are full right up, not to say bulging at the seams. A number of cats have come from people who have been ordered abroad to work; an unfortunate side to our entry into the Common Market! We have nearly all older cats, but are continually asked for a tiny kitten, which we have not got, and they are not tiny for long, so hope people will see that the older ones are more in need of a home, and take them.

The next event to work for will be our stall at the Charities Fair, Hastings Pier on

Sussex, cont'd.

June 12th, this goes on all day and we need masses of things to sell. Spring cleaning should have brought to light something you can spare that is perhaps just what somebody else wants and would buy from our stall, to provide food for all these furry faces that listen for the frig. door to open so eagerly, and must not be disappointed.

P. Mark

ULSTER BRANCH

Our Annual General Meeting took place on Saturday, 30th March in the Y.W.C.A. Hall, Lisburn Road and was surprisingly well attended. Furthermore, we enrolled five new members which was most encouraging and we hope they will enjoy coming along to our fund-raising functions and other activities. Following the business we enjoyed a cup of tea and a chat, while the stalls which had been set up round the hall did brisk trade. Now to bring you up-to-date with things I have first to tell you that we have - yes again - a NEW HONORARY TREASURER. Will members please take a note of the name and address. Here it is: Mrs. Patricia Cameron, 16 Monaville Drive, Lisburn.

We are sorry that Mrs. Eastwood has felt it necessary to resign as Appeals Secretary. She did a splendid job and will be much missed on the Committee, but we thank her for the time and effort she gave so unstintingly in the past and we know she will continue to help in many ways. We are happy to welcome Mrs. Irvine as a member of the Committee.

I think most everybody has got the message by now that as from this year ALL subscriptions are payable in March. If you have not already paid yours please contact Mrs. Cameron. While on the subject of subscriptions may I again remind you that if you pay Income Tax and are willing to covenant, Mr. S. S. Hill would like to hear from you. His address is 19 Bawnmore Road, Belfast 9.

Could I, at this point, thank the friends who have sent along stamps, money, wool and suchlike with nothing to indicate to whom we are indebted, also those who have kindly said not to acknowledge their letters. I've taken them at their word for the most part, postage is expensive now and will be more so in future. By the way, can I tell the good friends who sent a parcel of stamps to Mr. Liken that it turned up safely, even though it was addressed to Dundonald, Ayrshire, Scotland! The postmark was St. Ives. Our Dundonald is, of course, in Belfast, or rather just outside it.

I'm sorry that even now I can't give definite dates of our future events, perhaps

you will find details enclosed in this copy of the Magazine. However, can I say again that it's a BIG YEAR for us. We have just completed 25 years as a Branch, ten years with our own Shelter - and Marmalade is 21! So we think we have a lot to celebrate and celebrate we will, probably in September. However it's a bit long for Marmalade to wait so you might care to forward a Birthday gift for him right now. He's a great lad who came to live at the Shelter a few years ago when his "Dad" had to go into an old people's home. Marmalade, who is now one of the "house cats" is in excellent health and, by the way his Dad often trots along to visit him.

Last month I mentioned that I might be on holiday in May and now I can confirm this so please, if you have any queries address them to the Shelter and some member of the Committee will deal with them. In June I hope to attend the Annual General Meeting in London and will look forward very much to meeting old friends, and perhaps some new ones, on that occasion.

Finally, a reminder about HOMES. Our cats and kittens need new homes so much. PLEASE, PLEASE make your Birthday Slogan "A Happy home - for one or more in 1974." Help us to find a record number of homes in this, our Silver Year.

WEST CORNWALL

Our good intentions regarding being nice to owners of troublesome cats are reaping a surprising reward. All their friends have been told how kind they are at Cathlowena, take your unwanted cat along there and they will love to have it, one can always breed a few more kittens and they will love those as well. You can't win, with the catteries at bursting point and our funds decreasing rapidly we are praying for help as to what to do next. Homes are becoming so scarce, most likely because we are fussier where our cats go to and there seems no answer to the problem. When we spend years of our lives trying to save cats and then end up by killing them it does become depressing to say the least. We hope we are not too emotional about cats, but we do regard them as friends, and the relationships we have built up over the years with felines have been rewarding, so it doesn't help to be instrumental in ending their earthly lives. An irate person on the phone recently shouted "call yourself the Cats' Protection League. . . ." and hung up, food for thought. . . .

Most C.P.L. members know too well that the neutering of all domestic cats would most likely make us all redundant, surely this isn't out of the bounds of reality. Advertising plays an important part in most peoples lives, we are constantly being brainwashed by

W. Cornwall, contd.

T.V. adverts, would a T.V. advert running regularly shame cat owners into not keeping unwanted kittens, and to have the older cats neutered. It would cost a fortune and our funds could never run to it, but a get-together of branches and members might get some results, suggestions please. . . .

Our very good friends in North Cornwall have again handed us £20 from the takings of a jumble sale. Jackie Saunders, Vivien Hircock, Wendy and Peter and the gang of helpful workers have indeed excelled themselves and we are grateful. We are running a Mini Boutique in Redruth over Easter in the home of Pat Worrall a good person who likes to help. Outside the cattery money raisers are to be our future aim, we now feel the cats here tend to take the visitors eyes and they forget to spend any money. If anyone has any money making ideas which do not involve too much time and work we would love to know, perhaps a good tip for the Derby.

Kay Beesley

THE STUDIO RESCUE CENTRE

Haslemere

One day I must try to find out just what size our big compound is. I suffer from a blank spot, I cannot in any way learn what is meant by an acre. Various people who know about these things have told me that we have two. . . or three. . . of four acres. Be that as it may, we have a good, big compound. We are curiously situated in that Surrey is behind us, Hampshire in front and Sussex just down the road. On every side is open country, trees and bushes, common land and fields, and at this time of year, from every side, scorning the lovely country, determined pairs of birds arrive to build their nests in the compound where fifty-odd cats are running free. I think birds are pretty creatures, but they cannot be very clever. Why select our compound as a good nesting place? There have been cats here for the last fifty years, by now surely the birds ought to have gotten the message, but the same thing happens every year. We spend most of our day trying to make birds understand that cats are dangerous and that there are lovely nesting places elsewhere, and telling indignant cats that they must NOT hunt the birds. We have more success with the cats than with the birds, not that the cats have stopped hunting, but they try to pretend they are just dreamily looking at clouds when we are near, and if we shout loudly enough, the cats will actually climb down from the trees, though I am afraid that they expect a small reward for so doing.

In the exact centre of the compound we had a small pile of hedge-trimmings, and not one

but two pairs of birds insisted on trying to build a nest right inside this pile. I had to demolish it twig by twig to stop them.

I cannot think of any further steps we can take to deter birds, if fifty cats are not sufficient, what can be done? In the last four years, since we re-started, we have had six tragedies, but I must say that of the fairly permanent house-pets we have managed to make non-hunting the rule. They look at birds, but they do not try to catch them. It is the newcomers, fresh from the heart of London who are inclined to hunt.

Apart from hunting though, it is a joy to watch these cats; many of them have spent all their lives inside buildings, or on sites which are rubble and paving stones. They really have never seen grass nor trees. At first they are not at all pleased, they gaze with large horrified eyes, and dart into the depths of their house at every sudden sound but very quickly they adapt and there soon comes a lovely moment when each cat realises the space around is his, and he runs in a wide circle, stretching his legs and using all the fine energy which has been building up inside him. I do like to see these real old tough fellows taking possession of their kingdom; the next step is climbing the trees, they go up and up to the very top and there is triumph in every line of their bodies. They are doing what they always wanted but never knew they lacked.

Another big step forward is cleaning their coats. They arrive so very dirty, with dry dusty hair, just a little clean patch round their mouths and whiskers. A cat has to be far downhill to let his whiskers get dull and dirty. Little by little the clean part grows and then one day the whole cat is gleaming, white paws are white and there is an air of dandyism which is delightful to see.

Table manners improve too. At first there is hesitation, then comes a phase of grabbing often with violent growls and dashing about with large mouthfuls of food. When that stage is passed and two or three cats all share one plate without noise or grabbing, we know that soon there will be some handsome pet-cats ready to go out into the world again to take their places in new homes. I sometimes feel almost sorry for the kind people who come to take our cats to homes, they are so anxious to be sure that he will be clean and friendly and a credit to them, to my mind they are missing the real pleasure of helping cats, they have not watched the cat gradually unfold into the lovely creature they are taking, they cannot know the whole wonderful story behind him. I am glad to get homes of course, I want our cats to have new homes and families and happy lives as pets but I feel as each one goes that a little bit of

Haslemere, cont'd
me is being torn off to go with him. That, I suppose, is Cat Biz.

Nerea de Clifford

ISLE OF WIGHT

Here on the Isle of Wight we find that our intake of strays and accidents increases noticeably as each month goes by.

We are able to collect cats and kittens, lost or injured at any given time, anywhere on the Island thanks mainly to Mr. Parratt and the Committee at Headquarters who so generously presented us with an ambulance last year.

This is in constant use now and enables us to take any emergency to our Veterinary Surgeon any time of day or night.

Two examples, just recently, I should like to bring to the attention of our readers. Nelson was collected one Saturday lunch time, having spent many hours of wandering around in agony. We found him hiding underneath a garden shed. Fear and pain made him quite a handful but gentle words and a bit of psychology eventually won him over. The poor creature had been hit by a car the previous evening and the blow had knocked his right eye completely out. He was taken straight to our vet, who after examination, proclaimed the eye-ball itself to be ruptured and removal of the eye was the only treatment possible. This was carried out without delay. Nelson who acquired his name for obvious reasons, was a marvellous patient and made a very quick recovery. After two weeks of intensive care in our Clinic he was placed into a new home. He settled down very quickly and has been visited by the Superintendent at regular intervals.

Cleo, is another story worth telling. She was reported to us as a stray, badly in need of veterinary treatment. She was collected in our ambulance one evening in bitterly cold weather. Hunger had overcome her fear and we caught her by trapping with a tasty dish of chicken. Her head was completely smothered by congealed blood. Examination revealed that her ears were badly ulcerated, due to months and months of neglect. Ear mites had set up such a dreadful infection that by the time we got her, her ears were just two lumps of flesh, swollen and furless. Once again, treatment had to be drastic. Amputation was the only way out for her. She was driven insane with pain and irritation and had to be handled with great care, as deafness was also part of her agony. The operation was carried out and once again this patient made a remarkable recovery. Life was good once more.

Our Clinic provided all the rest and quiet she needed for the first few days but it was not long before Cleo was sunning herself in her outside run. She too was a wonderful patient, and it was obvious to us that she was no longer deaf. Once the stitches were removed, her fur started to grow and although she looked unusual at first glance, no one could ever say she looked ugly. She gradually became very affectionate and was placed into a wonderful home, not too far away from us. She now lives a life of luxury with her new owner and is pampered beyond words. She has the pleasure of a beautiful garden and the company of a retired gentleman whenever she needs it. She too is visited regularly by the Superintendent although seldom does she turn to acknowledge, as the warming fire, red carpet and coloured television are far more interesting to her.

As a matter of interest both operations were carried out by a very young Veterinary Surgeon, new to our local practice and we would like to congratulate and thank him for the wonderful care he showed these two feline friends of ours. Both operations were 100% successful in every way.

We are now trying to organise a jumble sale and would be very grateful for any help our readers can offer. If you have anything at all, that is of no further use to you, please don't throw it away, keep it by you, telephone Ryde 2609 and we will collect anything, anywhere on the Island at a time convenient to you. Remember, we can only carry out our work with your help, and don't forget we are always looking for good homes for our many unwanted cats and kittens, so think of us if you or your friends have good homes to offer.

There is always some in attendance at the home and we invite you to call anytime, bring your friends too. No appointment needed if within our opening hours.

Mrs. Janet Eldridge,
The Bungalow, 122 Marlborough Road,
Ryde, Isle of Wight

HEADSTONE AND PLAQUES

Handpainted in genuine Dutch Delft to commemorate deceased pets. Superb craftsmanship. A 50p donation for C.P.L., sent in your name, with each order. Perpetual Treasures, 6 Blackwater Road, Eastbourne.

**NEXT ISSUE—
JULY/AUGUST 1974**

MEMBERS' CORNER

VISITING STRAY

We once had a visiting stray black and white cat who came to occasional meals, especially breakfast. He would take up his position at the table on a chair or on my knee. When the food arrived he placed both elbows on the table watching me eat, and occasionally receiving a tit bit from my fork, first "reminding" me with a gentle paw. In fine weather he took various scraps out on the lawn about 30ft from the house. One morning he was busy with a piece of meat, when we saw a magpie, which also called for food, walking round the cat and obviously wanting what he was eating. The cat took no notice, and the bird stopped at the rear and gave his tail a peck. Puss gave a quick look round then continued eating. This was repeated a second time, with the same result, then on the third peck, the cat turned and spat, picked up his meat and took it to a safer pitch, the bird then flew off to the trees.

Miss E. O., Malvern, Wores.

A TALE OF AN INTELLIGENT CAT WITH A HAPPY ENDING

A lady and her Mother (who is 87) live about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile away from me on the 1st floor of a block of older type flats.

About 15 months ago a young black cat was noticed wandering around the estate but ran away immediately anybody approached. My friend took to leaving food for the cat on the front door mat and this vanished during the night, eventually it was persuaded to come into the kitchen for food and was put out of the front door after it had finished. To the daughter's surprise and astonishment they heard a mewling outside on the balcony and on opening the door the cat ran in.

It had run down the stairs outside into the yard, up a brick wall 40ft high to reach the balcony, they were surprised that the cat was able to find the right balcony, not having been inside before how did it know which balcony referred to that particular flat? to say nothing of climbing a 40ft wall to reach it.

They didn't really want to keep it as pets are forbidden on the Council Estate and they also have a budgerigar. But, it had tried so hard to find a home that they took it in and have had it ever since, apart from knocking over the bird cage a couple of times they wouldn't part with her.

She has been spayed by the Vet and is perfectly contented now although she runs away and hides under a bed if anybody strangle is admitted.

Having told you all about "Tiggy" as they have named her; my friend wants to join the Cats Protection League, so would you please send an enrolment form. I enclose stamp to pay postage.

K. G. Osmond, London, S.W.2.

TO THE MEMORY OF STAR 1969-1974

I pray you do not share with me the loneliness and agony,
Since death has claimed you for her own and taken you to shores unknown.
I pray you do not wonder why I do not answer if you cry,
Nor stroke your coat with loving hand. I fear you may not understand
That for awhile our paths must part, although I hold you in my heart.
I do not want your peace to be lost in a loneliness for me.
I pray you do not gaze for me in vain through some celestial windowpane.

Melody Collier

TO THE NON-CATLOVER

Star died on Thursday.
"Who is Star?" you say, "why do you look like that? Was she a friend of yours?"
I hear my own voice say, "Star was my cat".
I hear your voice reply, "Oh, is that all? Only a cat!"
We part where the pavement ends, politely say "Goodbye".

I know for certain now that you and I
Could never, in a thousand years,
Be friends.

Melody Collier

KITTEN'S LAMENT

It rains all day it blows all night,
It rains and blows with all its might.
It blows all night it rains all day,
I wish the rain would blow away.
I nearly drown when I go out
And try to find my way about.
When I go out I nearly drown
In all this water coming down.
The rain it pours the wind is strong
It soaks and buffets me along.
The wind is strong the rain it pours
My tail is drenched, my ears, my paws.
O rain! O wet! O wind! O blow!
What I shall do I do not know!
O blow! O wet! O wind! O rain!
When will my fur be dry again!
Good! Here's the sun! Now disappear
And rain and blow another year!
Now disappear! Good! Here's the sun
And I can dry and have some fun!

Margaret Arnott

NOW YOU TAKE CARE, TOO

Cats in catteries are well looked after, but people in catteries do not always look after themselves so well. I am not referring to the well-run Rescue Centres of the big Societies, but to many of the smaller Homes, Shelters and Sanctuaries which are to be found, usually far in the country, run by one or sometimes two people who give up their lives to the work. I have recently visited several of these and I am more than ever convinced of what I have always known, that for dedication, general care, the saving of feline suffering and for offering a chance of a happy life to cats, the real hard work and the best work is being done today in these small units by single people on their own.

The C.P.L. gives help and encouragement to many of these, (and if I have my way with a scheme I am hatching, the C.P.L. will be doing even more soon) but there is another point.

It struck me that all these people, who were different in so many ways, had in common a certain kind of "peaked" look, and I seemed to hear the same phrases in each place:

"It was ten o'clock that night and I had just sat down for my first meal. . ." "We never try to eat during the day, no time. . ." "It was about one in the morning, I was writing letters, I always write during the night, no time during the day. . ." "I am always out with the cats between 2 and 3 a.m. . ." "We are far too busy to think about holidays. . ." "My last holiday was before the war. . ." and, very often, "I was in hospital with blood poisoning. . ." "I was handicapped then because a cat-bite had festered. . ." and "I had a bout of flu, but I had to go out in spite of the snow, to see to the cats. . ." "I had a streaming cold and it was blowing a gale, but the cats had to be fed of course. . ." "Of course, I don't ever sleep more than four hours a night. . ." "If any of the cats is ill I always set my alarm to get me up every hour. . ."

I admire dedication and I admire hard work, but I also admire self-discipline and common-sense, and I do think that everyone has an obligation to keep in good health and spirits as far as is humanly possible. Cats are generally considered nocturnal animals, but all I have under my care seem perfectly willing to sleep soundly all night. And a cat would have to be very ill indeed to need hourly attention.

Here and now, I do appeal to everyone looking after cats to adopt and follow simple rules for maintaining health and fitness for the sake of those cats who will want care and attention for many years to come.

Nerea de Clifford

AND NOW A CANDIDATE

It appears that Oxford has now not only a cat burglar, as reported in the last issue of THE CAT, but a cat interested in student politics. When the time came round for nominations for the President and Officers of Oxford University Students' Union, the officers concerned received a formal nomination, with an election manifesto, for "W.C.Cat". On investigation, they found that this candidate was the handsome and happy cat of Wadham College. He is a noble animal and the present writer was once privileged to see him chasing a dog away.

The election officers solved what looked like an interesting constitutional problem by the statement that: "The said cat is not matriculated and so cannot be submitted as a candidate". Whether in view of the current mania for everyone to be represented on everything, we are soon to see college cats wanting representation on university committees, is not known. If they hold a demonstration in Oxford, presumably it will be in the beautiful street, conveniently near Wadham, called Catte Street.

Marjorie Boulton

THE YOWLER

I'm an alley cat,
A bally cat,
A fighting cat,
A biting cat,
A torn ear cat,
A wake cat,
A wet cat,
A wild cat,
I'd scorn to be,
A child cat,
A dear cat,
A pet cat,
A lap cat,
A pap cat,
A sleepy cat,
A soft cat,
A tame cat,
A house cat,
Can't catch a mouse cat.

Scat

THE SINGING TOMS

O listen to the singing Toms;
No pussy catnaps while they sing,
No purring on a pillow soft
Can counteract their warbelling.
They sing of those Egyptian times
When cats were worshipped and adored
As venerable and sacred gods
Before the coming of The Lord.
Now cats no longer reign sublime,
They are the prisoners of time.

Sally Lunn

CATASTROPHE

Look at the furniture!
Look at the stairs!
Look at the carpets! and
Look at the chairs!
There's visitors coming.
A fat lot she cares
If the carpet's all muddy
And covered in hairs!
She flies round the house
At a terrible pace,
She knocks down the case
From its mantelpiece place.
She sharpens her claws
With a great deal of grace
On the new rocking-chair
With a grin on her face.
CAT in the coal-bucket!
CAT full of glee!
CAT in the larder!
CAT - as - tro - phe!

Gillian Thomas, aged 8
(Gillian was 9 on 15th March, but she wrote this last October).

NO PETS ALLOWED

"No pets allowed". I wonder why
When animals inspire great love,
Giving loyal companionship
Yet asking little in return?
Cats, who choose their friends with care
Deserve long years of purring warmth
With quiet naps and tasty meals
Served each day by loving hands.
No other creature understands
The innate loneliness of Man
So how can faceless landlords state
"No pets allowed" - not even cats?

Sally Lunn

MOTHER CAT

Mother cat is arrogant in maternity:
With narrowed eyes, black velvet legs out-
stretched
Her new-born kittens mew their way to life
Into the harsh unfriendly world of Man.
Gently she cuffs and licks each tiny form,
Like damp and woolly chicks with tight
shut eyes
Till Mother Nature tells the Mother cat
That all is well and over - till next time.

Sally Lunn

CAT SANCTUARY

Cats refulgent, cats sublime.
Cats who live a life of crime.
Cats a'wauling, cats galore,
Cats a'plenty by the score.
Little leo's leap on chairs,
Mighty moggies race upstairs,
Furry felines feel no fear -
Every cat is welcomed here.

Sally Lunn

"WILD AND FREE"

I hope you're running wild and free
now you have gone - to eternity.
Free from pain, and young again
as once you used to be.
I hope you're running wild and free,
as free as the wind in the trees.
Playing and purring in ecstasy,
or sleeping and dreaming, at ease.
I hope you're running wild and free,
as free as the clouds in the sky.
Rushing excitedly, a kitten again,
with eyes as blue as the sea.
I hope you're running wild and free,
sometimes maybe, remembering me.
For I know the time will come one day,
when we'll both be wild and free.

(To a Siamese feline friend)
P. J. Quick, Brighton

BUT SOME MUST DIE

Destruction is the worst, saddest and most worrying part of Cat Welfare Work. I am sure that many people who are truly fond of cats and who would like to help, are prevented from undertaking active work because they are genuinely afraid of having to face the need to destroy. I felt like that myself, and I started my work for the C.P.L. with an understanding that I would do anything required except take any part in destruction.

However, I am forced to realise, as we all do have to in time, that there are cases when destruction must be done.

Any cat, whether beloved cat or homeless stray, must be given quiet and quick release when it is clear that he has come to the end. It is not right to prolong his dying. I feel this more and more strongly as I get to know more and more about cats and their feelings. I don't think we can ever judge what health and strength mean to a cat. He lives so much more through his senses than we do, he depends so much more on himself, that feeling he is failing physically must distress him in a way we cannot understand, even when there is no pain, I think that a cat suffers from knowing he is below par.

We must remember that the time-sense of a cat is different from ours. He cannot live much beyond twenty and most probably not beyond fourteen years, we know that we can hope for a three-score and ten and maybe twenty more. An hour to a cat is a different period from what we call an hour, and for that reason, I don't think that a cat should be subjected to a long illness.

Having faced and agreed the necessity for some destruction, then comes the question of the way it should be done. For the pet, there is no question, a veterinary surgeon must come to the cat's home and there put him to sleep. I strongly deprecate the idea

But Some must Die—contd.

of taking a dying cat to a strange place for his last few minutes. The expression "putting to sleep" is not one I often use, but it is justified, with modern drugs handled by a well-trained vet, a cat does just go to sleep.

When we consider the wild stray, however, it is not so simple. If a cat cannot be handled, he cannot be given the injection, and it is not easy to find any other method which does not distress him. Fortunately, nearly all cats, even the wildest stray, when they feel death near, will submit to some handling. but for a Shelter, there is always lurking in everyone's mind the actual cost in money. To have a veterinary surgeon does cost, but the drugs which are the best to use can only be administered by a vet. Somehow, it seems impossible to launch an appeal for a special fund of expensive destruction, but I do feel that this is important and I should like all shelters to spend on this sad work enough money to ensure the very best for every cat who has to die.

Nerea de Clifford

IN MEMORIAM

The Duchess Nana - May 1948 to May 1960, loved and remembered.

E. Castonier

In ever-loving memory of our darling HARDY who died on the 2nd June, 1973 after an accident, aged 5. Sadly missed by his sorrowing Mummy and Daddy.

M. Hughes-Jones

In adored memory of Star. Died March 21st 1974. Five perfect years; so loving, so much loved.

Melody and Angela

In memory of MINETTE, our very dear tabby, who died of an illness aged 16½ years. God bless you, Pussy, for your love and devotion. We will never forget you. May we meet again one day

A. & S. Mason

In memory of my dear little pet, Lucy, who died on the 13th December, 1973 aged 13 years and 8 months. Was put to sleep to save further suffering from incurable cancer. Greatly loved and sadly missed.

Vera M. Clarke

In loving memory of my darling Ginger Minchin, who died on Sunday February 10th 1974. He was the oldest of my family of 22 strays, and I am thankful that I was able to give him a year of love and care before he died.

John Cox

GARDEN PARTY

in aid of

CANTERBURY CAT SOCIETY
(affiliated to the C.P.L.)

on

Saturday, 27th July, 1974

at

17 HERNEVILLE GARDENS,
HERNE BAY,
KENT

(Opposite the Water Tower,
top of Mickleburgh Hill)

between 2.30 and 5.00 p.m.

TEAS, CAKE STALL, JAR & BOTTLE
STALL, GARDEN PRODUCE, BRING &
BUY

Gifts for sale gratefully received!

Whether you live nearby or will be on holiday
in the area IF YOU ARE A CAT LOVER
WE SHALL BE GLAD TO SEE YOU.
So make a note in your diary NOW!

In treasured memory of our best beloved
MUMSIE and her darling daughter CO-CO
and her dearest son, MACKIE. Also our
most beloved FOO-FOO and TIBBS. All so
greatly loved.

Auntie Averill

In loving memory of our precious baby girl
"Homer Dear" who went to sleep February
23rd 1973 aged 20½ years. Always in our
hearts.

Al & Lyn Solomon (New York)

To my little cat Benjamin - died 11th
December, 1973 "He is a portion of the
loveliness that once he made more lovely".

E. McCann

In loving memory of ELLA, T.W. 4704 who
was put to sleep on 5th December, 1973 aged
12 years.

E. & A. Cobb

In loving memory of my beloved pets,
Buttons, Andy, Pippins and Eros - all
Tailwavers and greatly missed.

M. Meredith

SOUTH LONDON COMMITTEE NOTES

The first quarter of this year has been an awful one for us. We have had almost no donations, and few homes have been found. The advice to count one's blessings in adversity comes to my mind; we have twenty-seven blessings, all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, with cold noses and excellent appetites - no, hold it, the blessings now number 34, 7 kittens born this morning, all large and almost certain to grow into beauties can be added to the total. We must be thankful that they are all well and ready for the homes which ought to be found soon for them, but one must face it, life is becoming a struggle. Well, if we must, we will have to do more and more to keep going. So now, will everyone please get ready to help, and to help just that little bit more which will make all the difference. After doing accounts all the morning I am forced to acknowledge that things are just as bad as I feared. . . so I hurried to the telephone and I have booked

St. Philips Church Hall,
Earls Court Road, W.8.

for a really big RAG FAIR on Saturday
June 22nd

this leaves time for everyone to make plans to help, either by coming on the day, or gathering goods for it, or telling all friends to ensure we have plenty of customers. We will have a beautiful leaflet to distribute, so

ask for as many as you can spread around.

Can anyone send us a fencing mask and rapiers? We happen to need these urgently - or at least one of our members does, and, for another person, can you give us a golden thimble? or even a silver one? Apart from the special requests, we are glad of all the usual things, hand-made gifts are always wanted, also china and glass (we can collect this in and around London) and specially any trinkets or bits of new or old fashioned jewellery.

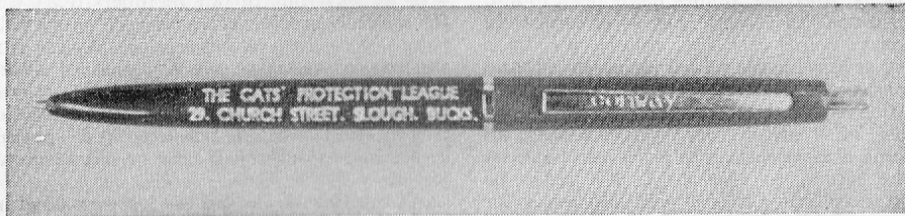
At the Rescue Centre the kitten season has opened, we are booking homes for kittens as fast as they are old enough to go. What we would like is to find homes for the young mothers, who were last year's kittens. They are all gay and friendly and we can offer just about every pattern and design of coat, though our best line is undoubtedly the "Penguin" or black trimmed with white.

Please send a special gift for "Selina" who is small and shy and needs a bit extra, and for "Bossy Boots" who is large and gentle and worried. We also have a half-fiend, called Perfidia, who does not deserve anything - but who ever gets their just deserts? Perfidia thinks she needs special treats as much as the next cat. Anyway, please help and thank you.

Nerea de Clifford

12 The Close, New Malden, Surrey

SHOP WINDOW



C.P.L. PENS: 7½p each REFILLS 2½p POSTAGE 3p

Two or more post free from Headquarters only

FAULTY PENS OR REFILLS REPLACED FREE

OTHER WAYS OF SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE LEAGUE

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: Cat "Charms" — gold and silver. All silver charms received will earn 50p and all gold charms £1 for my C.P.L., collecting box. Your interest and help will be much appreciated. Miss D. Gowing, Rosemary, Cromer Road, Roughton, Norwich NOR 29Y.

Wanted: by cat lover/writer: unusual cat stories for eventual publication; part of proceeds to go to the Cats Protection League. Epton, 58 Vale Road, Seaford, Sx.

Toy Mice — home-made and a source of enjoyment to your pets for only 12½p including postage. All proceeds to the C.P.L., — orders please to Miss R. Schefer, 1, Castle Court, Pollard Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 6EJ.

C.P.L. members writing paper now available at 20p plus 5p postage and packing. Orders of two pads or more post free. Available only from 29, Church Street, Slough, Bucks.

C.P.L. Slogan Labels are sold in Aid of Funds 17½p 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.

Cat Blankets — home knitted all wool cat blankets — matching colours at 40p each proceeds for my C.P.L., collecting box. Mrs. M. Foster, 11, Monmouth Road, Oxford, OX1 4TD.

Water colour portraits of pets or children — from clear snaps with description — price 60 pence. All money for C.P.L.

also
Wanted — Dolls to dress for sales in aid of C.P.L. Mrs. D. Hall, 78, Hill Road, Watlington, Oxford.

BRANCH and GROUP SECRETARIES

BIRMINGHAM:*

Miss F. Primmatt,
109 Handsworth Wood Road
Birmingham, B20 2PA

BOURNEMOUTH:

Miss A. Sydenham,
59, King's Road,
Bournemouth, Hants.

CANTERBURY: Affiliated to C.P.L.:*

Miss M. W. Paine,
37, Beverley Road,
Canterbury, Kent.

CHELMSFORD & DISTRICT:*

Mrs. J. Middlemiss,
112, Watchouse Road, Galleywood,
Chelmsford, Essex.

COVENTRY:*

Mrs. F. M. Fullerton,
14, Seneschal Road,
Cheylesmore, Coventry.

DERBY and DISTRICT:

Mrs. N. Shepherdson,
Putney Close, Derby.

DOVER:

Mrs. M. Smalley,
46, Adler Road,
Folkestone, Kent.

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Mrs. S. Connolly,
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Rathgar, Dublin,
Eire.

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Mrs. C. Walledge,
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Lower Edmonton, London, N.9.

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ISLE OF WIGHT:*

Mrs. J. Eldridge,
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211, Anstey Lane,
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Mrs. M. Davies,
435, Caledonian Road,
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Radcliffe-on-Trent,
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Netley, Abbey, Southampton.

SOUTH DORSET

Mrs. A. South,
23 Queens Road,
Radipole, Weymouth,
Dorset

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.