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Registered Charity
No. 1070330

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Dear Supporters

Happy New Year everyone. Thank you to everyone who kindly sent donations with Christmas cards last month. Thank you also to those supporters who donated through Standing Order all through 2011.

Please make a note of all the fund raising fixtures already booked for 2012.

AUCTION **Wed June 13th 7pm**

CHRISTMAS FAIR **Sat Nov 24th 2pm**

Note we have a new venue for these two events this year.

THE SPORTS PAVILION (THE ARDAGH) on Kellaway Avenue
(Opposite the vehicle entrance to Tesco). The new venue gives us more space and has the added benefit of car parking.

We also have the following collection & bag packing dates

ALMONDSBURY GARDEN CENTRE

Sat May 12th, Sat July 7th & Sat Dec 8th

MORRISONS (CRIBBS CAUSEWAY)

Fri 10th Aug & Sat 11th Aug

CADBURY GARDEN & LEISURE CENTRE

SAT 17th Nov

Help is always needed with these fund raising events so please mark your diary and call 0117 9243128 to offer an hour or two's support.

Last but not least – we urgently need homes for pairs of neutered ferals. If you know someone with stables or perhaps a barn conversion with outbuildings please call and we will fix them up with a pair of healthy cats who are used to living outdoors.

More next month.

Christine

13 Oct

"My friend got a kitten out of TRADE-IT last week and she can't cope. I'm taking it to another friend's house now, but she's got a dog – can you come and get it?" I left for the Kingwood area of Bristol and brought back a black and white kitten with a blotchy face. He can be Gilbert - named after the road he was in.

Oct 14

"My daughter's boyfriend has moved his Staffie in and it is attacking her cat." I arranged to admit the tabby female on Monday – jumping the waiting list which is over 100.

Oct 15

Friendly little Harvey was chosen today. He'll be happy anywhere as he loves people,

Oct 16 – 9.30pm

"I was in Sainsbury's car park and I saw a tabby cat thrown out of a white van near the recycling area." the caller had tried to catch the cat after she ran into the bushes but the cat was too frightened to be approached. I'll take a trap tomorrow after contacting the store manager.

Oct 19

Tonight was the third night I spent in Sainsbury's car park in Bedminster. I don't have permission to leave the trap unsupervised so I set the trap before spending two hours circling the car park tapping a tin or shaking a packet. The security staff tell me there are already two other cats who have been previously left. (All large supermarkets have landscaped car

parks which callous owners are using as convenient dumping grounds – the recycling area is the most popular as nobody questions a car stopping and putting down a box or a bag.

Oct 20th

Still no luck with trapping the tabby. The original caller is checking the bushes each night as she lives nearby.

Oct 21

Sadly I had to bury Chutney this morning. He was one of the four small black kittens born to a mother who had had repeated litters. Despite every care and frequent vet visits three of them have died. The fact that they stayed at the same size after a month in care was an ominous sign that something was very wrong. Chutney ran across the carpet and collapsed in front of me last night so I put him on a hot water bottle and stroked him for his last half hour.

Oct 23

Brita is now eating solid food in between bottles. She is only the second kitten I've managed to raise by bottle from birth in nearly sixteen years. She is also now biting my ankles while I clean my teeth. She only has four teeth but they're needle sharp!

Oct 24

Jade and Pea were chosen by a local family today. The sisters went over immediately to the children to be fussed. Lydia, a friendly tabby adult was chosen and Fluvia and Constance also left for new homes.



Oct 25

Kelly our Little Stoke foster homer heard about a Patchway woman who had turned her cat out because she realised the cat was pregnant for the third time this year. I asked Kelly to see if she could find the cat and take her straight to the vets for spaying if she was only in the early stages of pregnancy. Jasmin a friendly black and white was installed in Companion Care vets by tonight.

Oct 27

Jasmin was early pregnant and is now back with us after being spayed. Apparently her previous two litters had been 'turned out' by her owner. I'd like to hope that neighbours found these kittens and took them in in the Summer.

Oct 28

"My tenant moved out and left a black cat behind; she's been several days without food and water". Luckily by this evening this caller's sister had offered to give the cat a home.

Oct 29

The usual selection of calls today – several cats to come in, two families want to adopt and the vicar of a Bedminster church wants me to take in a stray pheasant!

Oct 31

I set a trap in the garden of a Bedminster pub today where a cat and her four tabby kittens are living. The bait was the usual pilchards in tomato sauce (it never fails).

Nov 1

I was surprised that the pub landlord didn't phone to say a cat had been caught overnight so I went back to check on the trap. It had been moved to a different part of the garden and in the process the hair trigger had sprung. Both entrances were now closed so the cats couldn't get in! I reset the trap in a different part of the garden. (Two traps have been stolen this month, probably due to the high price of scrap metal at the moment)

Nov 2

Brita is now nine weeks and had her first vaccination today. She's eating like a gannet as well as having a full bottle of milk 3 or 4 times a day.

Nov 3

The first pub cat was caught overnight. A young black and white who is not the mother. How many more are there?

Nov 4

A second pub cat was in the trap this morning - still not the mother cat but each one neutered has to make a difference.

A tabby cat had been spotted in the car park of U.W.E. in Bristol. The cat had lost weight and had her paw through her collar. A volunteer set a trap and she was caught overnight. She had a phone number on the disc on her collar and her owners came to collect her immediately – she had been missing three months!

Nov 5

Patron Ian Fergusson came to visit H/Q today and spent several hours



cuddling all the cats on all three floors. While he was here a caller rang to say a stray cat had had kittens in his shed. Foster home Maria went to collect the family from Knowle while I challenged Ian to think of six suitably firework related names for the babies. Flame, Ember and Ash joined Rocket, Sparkle and Smokey with mum being Catherine.

Nov 6

Admitted an obviously lost white female adult tonight. She had been running after people in the road outside H/Q. Perdita is yet another mouth to feed.

Nov 10

Volunteers saw 'lost cat' notices on Gloucester Road and Perdita has been claimed by her owner. Sadly however her owner is in rented accommodation actually on the main Gloucester Rd. If she gets out again she may not live to tell the tale.

Nov 15

Brita now has a little friend, Chester aka Little Titch. They spend their days playing chase and hide and seek.

Nov 20

A black and white cat was left in Tesco's Eastville car park. He was running after people and trying to get in the automatic doors. Tex was brought in to us and has cried continuously since arriving.

Nov 21

At last! Two adult black and white cats were adopted. Maxwell has gone to Weston-super-Mare and Copacabana to Thornbury.

Nov 25

Collected the Mogmobile from the local garage again today. I'm having regular rides home in recovery vehicles with flashing lights as the car seems to favour breaking down on Sunday nights on a two weekly basis.

Nov 26

A local couple came to choose one young male cat. They left with grey and white Guinevere, her son Lancelot and his friend, ginger Marcus!

Nov 28

A Brislington woman has a stray cat with small kits in her garden and her summer kittens are still with her. I had already arranged today to take in two adults from a frantic caller whose young daughter had developed a violent allergy to the cats they had taken in from a neighbour. I can't leave the Brislington family but there is no space anywhere for them.

Nov 29

Asked two volunteers to collect the two cats from the Speedwell house with the allergic daughter. They were taken straight to the vets to be neutered so I didn't see them. "Please don't tell me one of the cats is black" I said when the volunteers returned. "No" they said "they're *both* black" !

Nov 30

The mother cat at a council depot in Brislington was trapped for neutering last night. Dad had already been caught and neutered last week and the two summer kits were neutered last month so the tabby feral family can live out their lives together on the site.



Dec 1

Admitted the Brislington mum cat and two kittens this morning. Sadly the third kit had been found dead in the garden. One of the older pair of kittens has been taken to be neutered the other is wild and will need trapping. (Mum Delia and babies Sprout and Cranberry are fluffy black and whites.)

Dec 3

Patron Ian Fergusson came to open our Christmas Fair today. The weather was kind to us this year and we had a huge display of books, DVDs and gifts for the local residents to snap up at bargain prices. We raised £750 and some more funds will trickle in over the next few weeks as volunteers buy up the left over books.

Dec 5

A call came in from Cirencester today from a family who are not allowed to have their three cats in the rented house they have just moved into. Unfortunately all three female cats are unneutered and in danger of becoming pregnant so I'll arrange their spaying at the local vets while trying to find space to take them in. With over 150 on the waiting list I don't know when that will be.

Dec 8

Two tabby feral kits were brought in from a warehouse in Yate today. Turkey and Nut Roast are spitting and nervous but should be homeable after a couple of weeks of handling.

Dec 11

Patron Ian Fergusson came to choose another black cat today.



He took away Ken a friendly adult who had been left behind by his owners when they moved.

Dec 12

Jude arrived today. He had been left on the doorstep of a flat in St Judes along with half a tin of cat food. Yes, he's black!

Dec 17

Jasmin the bossy black and white cat was chosen by the Harris family from Longwell Green today and Shadrach, a friendly black cat left for his new home with a middle aged woman in Central Bristol.

Dec 19

A very friendly black and white kitten was spotted in the B&Q car park in Eastville by an 'off duty' volunteer. Noel was brought in tonight. Sisters Frosty and Snowflake (black and white and tabby and white) arrived from Hartcliffe.

Dec 20

Just when I'm thinking once more we have standing room only here I get a call from a Southville resident. A little black kitten was out in the street and none of the neighbours had claimed him. As the weather was bitter the caller had kept him in for three days but she was going away the next day so could she bring him to us? Gabriel arrived at 10.30pm.

Christmas Day

Supporters Lydia, Maria, Ailsa and Mike worked valiantly from 8am today. The morning round was finished by 10.30 to enable me to go to church and the others to

visit family. I was able to sit down in the evening with 5 cats on my lap – who needs a fire!

Dec 27

Woken early by what I thought was a car alarm going off – I listened – realised it wasn't mine and went back to sleep. Several hours later I discovered the rushing whirring sound was the downstairs hot water tap gushing. A few months ago I changed to lever taps to enable me to put taps on and off with my elbow while holding dishes and litter trays. I hadn't reckoned on fat bottomed cats being able to move the taps themselves! (I await my next gas bill with trepidation.)

Dec 28

"My cat is attacking my child, if you don't take the cat in I'll have to dump her." Admitted a nervous year old cat from a block of flats in Oldbury Court. Lametta had been in a high rise flat with toddlers and was unable to escape their attentions.

Dec 29

A past adopter from 10 years ago returned today to take the two black brothers Huey and Dewey.

Dec 31

Very sadly Lazarus and Colin left us today.

Lazarus had become very thin and blood tests didn't reveal a cause so the vet suspected a bowel tumour. He had a last meal of chicken at the surgery and was being stroked by three volunteers while he had his final injection.

Colin (who was one of the original group of ferals from Montpelier

that I took in 16 years ago) collapsed in front of me at 7pm tonight. I lifted him into a soft bed and covered him with a blanket so that he could die in peace.

