

THE  
**Cat's Whiskers**  
Quarterly magazine from Shropshire Cat Rescue

**FREE**

Issue 130  
Autumn/Winter  
2020



Inside ...

- Latest news from our Shelter and Boutique.
- Read about Maia, our cover star.

follow us



[www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk](http://www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk)

# Contents

- 4..... Message from the Chairman – Marion Micklewright
- 6..... Shelter News –Karen and Rachael Ashton, Volunteers.
- 8..... Village Life - Karen Wainwright, Volunteer.
- 10..... Hamish and the Big Weigela Plant – Heather Acheson, Volunteer.
- 12..... Corporate Sponsorship – Cindy Mason Morris.
- 14..... Shropshire Cat Rescue 2021 Calendar – Anji Smith, Volunteer.
- 16..... Tabletop Sale makes £800! - Carol Beels, Volunteer.
- 16..... In memory of ...Kenneth Gordon Robinson 1937 – 2020.
- 17..... How to sponsor Shropshire Cat Rescue.
- 20..... How you can help us.
- 21..... Just Giving – Margaret Lloyd, Trustee and Volunteer.
- 25..... Your Cat Questions – Susie Phillips, Registered Veterinary Nurse and Volunteer.
- 26..... Maia's Story – Susan Marine, Magazine Distribution and Volunteer.
- 29..... Boutique News – Melanie Smith, Boutique Manager.
- 32..... Giving Oral Medication – Susie Phillips, Registered Veterinary Nurse and Volunteer.
- 34..... Gift Aid – Margaret Lloyd, Trustee and Volunteer.
- 35..... Who's Who at Shropshire Cat Rescue.

Disclaimer: The information contained within The Cat's Whiskers we believe to be correct at the time of going to press. No responsibility can be accepted for any errors or omissions. The features in this publication are intended as guidelines only. The businesses and products advertised in this publication are in no way endorsed by the Charity

Printed and published by [www.spottypenguin.com](http://www.spottypenguin.com) 07545551596

## Editor

David Bates

**Email:** waltonbarns@zen.co.uk

**Tel:** 01952 771163

**Mob:** 07808366139

## Copy deadline

for

Spring 2021 edition is

**Monday 18th January 2021.**

# Autumn/Winter 2020

Welcome to the Autumn/Winter edition of The Cat's Whiskers. We did not produce a summer edition. We have some new contributors and advertisers and are grateful to them for their support. In this edition we have information as to how you can support the Charity, such as Gift Aid, Just Giving and corporate Sponsorship.

Our cover star is Maia who was rehomed to one of our volunteers during lockdown. Read her story on pages 26/27.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition.

David Bates  
Magazine Editor.

## Advertise your business in The Cat's Whiskers

Published quarterly – March, June, September and December

In June 2017 Shropshire Cat Rescue relaunched its quarterly magazine as a brand new, full-colour glossy magazine. It is full of interesting and informative articles about cat care and the work the Shelter does.

With a quarterly distribution of 1000 copies, your advertisement can be seen in homes, Vets and more all around Shropshire. It is available online through our website and Facebook page, which has an audience of around 50,000 cat lovers.

### Advertising space for sale

**BUSINESSES** – why not promote your goods and services to these cat lovers with an advertisement in this exciting new publication? The magazine is A5 (14.8x21cm)

**Quarter of a page** - £35 per edition - £105 for the year

**Half Page** - £55 per edition - £165 for the year

**Full Page** - £80 per edition - £240 for the year

**Prestigious Back Cover Position** - £120 per edition - £360 for the year



Contact us NOW to be part of this exciting magazine!

Telephone Marion Micklewright on:

**01743 872857**

Email:

[info@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk](mailto:info@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk)

[www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk](http://www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk)

# Message from the Chairman

By Marion Micklewright, Chairman

When lockdown happened, nobody expected or knew the impact it would have on our day-to-day lives; No-one knew how we, as human beings, would react and behave in such surreal circumstances and no-one knew how long it would last.

My Dad passed away on the eve of lockdown, unable to support one another in the way a family normally would, our priority was to shield mum and also my parents-in-law who live with us. A funeral for such a large number of us was out of the question and the following weeks proceeded in a blur as the realities of lockdown started to hit hard. My Dad had always supported my quest and in the past he had made wooden bird tables for us to sell and had been the person I turned to when I needed "something fixing, hanging or constructing", he

Our Boutique was closed, the manager furloughed and all fundraising events cancelled. The Shelter was closed to visitors and many of our volunteers were unable to help for a variety of Covid related reasons. Thankfully, we had managed to secure homes for the majority of the cats in our care and Karen



loved animals and enjoyed seeing them all at the shelter. He will be greatly missed by all that knew him, but I will see him forever in the many things he wove memories into and hope that one day we will be able to honour his memory with a celebration of his life – for the timebeing though, that like many other events, this will be put on hold.

and Rachael Ashton were able to deliver the cats to their new homes without breaking any "rules". For several weeks, the Shelter was eerily quiet, no telephone calls, fewer emails, no visitors, no problems and my garden got the attention it deserved.

But then reality started to hit. Supplies were getting low and our suppliers were unable to meet demands. Our finances were taking a battering and calls for our help with stray cats started to flow. Our vets were unable to visit the shelter and we had to take basket loads of cats directly to the veterinary practice, in addition the vets were only able to operate two days a week. Everything was becoming a challenge.

Gradually donations started to arrive; cheques and goodwill letters, emails offering support, Give as you Live donations and most importantly hope and understanding. Appeals for help were met instantly and our spirits were well and truly lifted.

Cats and kittens were promoted on social media and thanks to the ingenious skills of Karen and Rachael who managed to capture the characters and personalities of the cats and kittens they filmed, homing has thrived and enabled to us to continue to help many, many cats and kittens without people coming to the shelter. Our van has been well used to deliver cats to their new homes. Purchases from our shelter shop have also done well through social media use and adopters know that they can get all they need for their new family member by checking out our shop listings.

It is thanks to all our wonderful and generous supporters and volunteers that we have survived so far and will continue to do so as our Boutique has now re-opened its doors to a flurry of loyal customers and our fundraising team continues to work hard selling goods on Social Media to help meet the demands of our now bursting shelter. Covid-19 protocols have been put in place for our Boutique and Shelter to ensure the safety of all that pass through and we all listen intently to the news, in the hope that maybe a super vaccine has been found that can be administered quickly and effectively to the world!

Thank you so much everyone for being there and showing you care, we really do appreciate it.



# Shelter News

By Karen and Rachael Ashton, Shelter Volunteers

The lockdown may have stopped people from being able to continue to live normally, but it didn't stop the number of cats that still needed our help for various reasons. As life ground to a halt, we've been fortunate enough to be able to continue our duties from home and restrict the amount of time at the shelter from an administration point of view. We've seen plenty of pleas for help and have answered as many as we've been able to and have met lots of different cats with different stories. So, we've collected a few memorable cats' stories to share with you.

## Chip



A plea for help from a business park came in, a young unneutered tomcat who did not look healthy was found scrounging for food and attention in a Chips Away workshop. Aptly named, Chip had no home and no one looking out for him until his rescuer started to feed him whilst we tried to find a space to house and rehome

him. He was soon neutered, and we proceeded to spend time with him, getting to know his personality and likes/dislikes. After a few weeks, he showed us he was still trusting of humans and was happy to accept our love and attention. Now in his new home, he is making the most of a warm comfy bed and a loving human with only eyes for him.

## Tabitha



Tabitha was a young tabby cat who had taken up residence in a forklift truck on the busy Jaguar Land Rover site to give birth to her 5 kittens! After a rescue mission by one of our wonderful volunteers, we took the young mum into our nursery and she became one of the first cats of the dreaded Kitten Season. Despite raising a fair few kittens, she was a very patient and loving cat who was happy to let us socialize and care for the kittens, often giving her a well earned peaceful few

minutes! Now her kittens are all happily settled in their new homes, Tabitha found her own home and now goes by the name of Minnie.

## Tom & Tania



Unfortunately, not every cat is lucky enough to have a clear understanding of how to be a good mum. Tania came to us as a very scared and very pregnant 6-month-old stray with her brother – who unfortunately was also the father to her kittens. Being a kitten herself, she did not know how to care for the kittens she eventually produced, and we had to intervene for the safety of the kittens and the well being of Tania. Never a decision to take lightly, Tania was unable to care for herself let alone her small babies. As her kittens were hand reared, we allowed Tania to regain the trust she was so clearly missing of humans and she eventually found a home where her new owner is at her beck and call!

## Jenga & Scrabble



Towards the start of lockdown, a small vets practice in a more rural location asked us to take in two very tiny kittens who had been dumped outside in a taped up box. Their sibling had already succumbed to the cold and it was a race to help the two remaining kittens but being a small vets practice with few staff due to lockdown, we stepped in and took the kittens to give them round the clock care. Despite being so small and suffering greatly from cat flu, the two were nursed back to health on site and eventually fought back and have since become happy, friendly little kittens. Whilst cat flu will always be a lingering illness for these two, they have clearly no idea there's anything wrong with them and have found a loving home with a volunteer who will spoil them rotten. After a rubbish start, it's exactly what they deserve!

*Karen and Rachael Ashton, sisters, have been Shelter volunteers for 4 years. They also have administration roles and during lockdown, they have been the Homing Team and have also monitored the cats in the Moggies Retirement Village in liaison with Quarry vets.*

# Village Life

By Karen Wainwright, Volunteer

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, I have been unable to visit our retirement village recently. However, I can report that the following moggies have joined the village over the past few months.



## Sally and Sophie

They both arrived together in early January 2020. Sally is just coming up to 16 years and Sophie is 9 years old. Both are adorable and like plenty of fuss.



## Jinxie

She is coming up to 13 years old and arrived at the shelter early January 2020. She is very friendly and affectionate. Unfortunately, she has a very bad heart murmur and an enlarged heart chamber. Jinxie is closely monitored



## Xbie, Hunahpu and Kupala

These moggies came to us in late June 2020. Sadly, their owner passed away. They are all 15 years old. They all love having lots of fuss and attention.

## Latest village facts.

- Currently we have 7 male and 16 female moggies
- Average age of residents in the retirement village is 14 years and 9 months
- Retirement Village vet fees (for 2018) - £9,722.28. Fees for 2019 are expected to be higher! Donations always appreciated



**Patch the oldest resident.  
Nearly 20 years old**



**Rob, second youngest resident at 10½ years old. Sophie, featured above is the youngest resident at 9 years old.**

Photographs of Han, Kupala and Xbie provided by Rachael Aston, SCR Volunteer. All other photographs provided by Karen Wainwright.



# CAT WORLD

## FELINE SUPERSTORE

Visit our shop to find a huge range of products, chosen with care, for all cat lovers everywhere!

**3c Church Street, Oswestry**  
(in the alleyway next to Boots)

Shop online at  
[bengalcatworld.co.uk](http://bengalcatworld.co.uk)



### SUPERB CLEANING

- CARPETS
- UPHOLSTERY
- LEATHER
- RUGS
- CURTAINS
- MATTRESSES
- STAIN REMOVAL & PROTECTION
- STONE
- TILE & GROUT
- WOOD
- DRIVEWAYS
- PATIOS
- DECKING



*Tim Shaw recommended & used by leading home furnishing retailers since 1997.*

[www.shawclean.co.uk](http://www.shawclean.co.uk)

FREE advice, quotes and fully insured.

**07976 559072**

**0800 612 8817**



**ADVERTISE YOUR  
BUSINESS HERE,  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR  
DETAILS**

# Hamish and the big weigela plant

By Heather Acheson, Volunteer and Magazine Assistant.



Hamish and the weigela

Our rescue cat Hamish came to us in the summer of 2017\*. It took quite a while for him to settle down at our home. We had to make repeated trips to the vet's and no doubt he wondered if he was better off living rough but on his own terms! Whilst he was nervous, he also showed great affection when he could relax – for this reason, we believe that he had previously had a very happy life, but that something catastrophic had happened and he had been callously dumped. Even now, car journeys make him very nervous.

Our garden is designed with cats in mind – we have six catmint (*Nepeta*) plants, of three different varieties. When

Hamish came to us that summer, I had already cut the plants back to allow a second flowering, and Hamish, like many cats before him, showed great interest in them. As his confidence and trust in us grew, he'd sit beside his chosen plant, breathing in the heady scent and nibbling the tender new growth. Catmint is well known as being a natural high for many cats. The active ingredient (called nepetalactone) can really

hit the spot. Some cats sit in the plant, or roll in it, rub their faces on the leaves and flowers, or nibble it. Of course, what goes up, must also come down, and after enjoying the 15-20 minute euphoria that catmint delivers, most cats will nod off. It certainly seemed to help Hamish to feel relaxed in his new garden space.

As well as catmint, we have an old weigela plant that produces beautiful pink flowers in April-May time. In spring 2018 Hamish began to take quite a bit of interest in the newly-budding weigela. We didn't worry about it, until we saw him eating a flower. We quickly verified that it's not harmful to cats and that some

cats seek it out. What's more, weigela's aromatic compounds have an even more euphoric effect on some cats than catmint. And so it is with Hamish; yes he enjoys his catmint, thank you very much, but he completely ignores it once the weigela is in flower. He buries his nose right into the midst of the plant, so as it grows bigger, he all but disappears, just his black tail giving away his position amongst a sea of green leaves and pink flowers. He eats one or two flowers at a time, and then the euphoria hits! He runs across the garden, has mad zoomies round the house, enjoys a crazy play time with a toy, and then, as the euphoric hit wears off, he crashes - he sleeps long and hard (even by cat standards!), only waking up for food. I suppose

there are worse ways to spend the pandemic lockdown, than getting naturally high then sleeping for hours.

We often see other cats coming into the garden and enjoying the catmint but Hamish seems to have exclusive rights on the weigela, as we've never seen any other cats interested in it.



I'll need to prune the plant hard this year, this means that it won't flower again until 2022 so I've told Hamish he'd better make the best of this year's bumper blooming!

*\* Hamish had turned up hungry and a bit the worse for wear, in the garden of a lovely, cat-friendly couple, who weren't in a position to keep him. He would have ended up going to the SCR shelter for rehoming, but we adopted him directly from his rescuers, gaining one feline and two human friends in the process.*



# SHROPSHIRE CAT RESCUE

Registered Charity No. 1071884

Are you a business looking to market and help raise the awareness of your company?

Would you like to be known as a supporter of an amazing local Charity?

Shropshire Cat Rescue have a fantastic range of ways to advertise your company at very affordable prices.

Amazing Sponsor	Cherished Sponsor
<b>£250</b>	<b>£500</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>'Amazing Sponsor'</b> plaque with company details displayed at the entrance of the Shelter.</li><li>• Annual Social Media update to thank your company for being one of our sponsors.</li><li>• VIP invitation for up to four people to the annual Winter Wonderland (or similar) event.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>'Cherished Sponsor'</b> plaque with company details displayed at the entrance of the Shelter.</li><li>• Company logo and details in our magazine – Cat's Whiskers - which is published four times a year and reaches 1,000s of people.</li><li>• Annual Social Media update to thank your company for being one of our sponsors.</li><li>• VIP invitation for up to four people to the annual Winter Wonderland (or similar) event.</li></ul>

## In Kind Donations

Would you prefer to donate a product, or even your time and efforts, that will benefit the Shelter instead of money? If so, please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss a sponsorship package that will suit your organisation.

# CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES



Our packages start at just £250 ranging up to £2,000 per year. If you are interested in our Corporate Packages, or wish to discuss a bespoke option, please contact

**Mrs Cindy Mason-Morris on 01743 872857 or email [sponsorship@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk](mailto:sponsorship@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk)**

Prestige Sponsor	Super Sponsor
£1000	£2000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>‘Prestige Sponsor’</b> plaque with company details displayed at the entrance of the Shelter.</li> <li>• Company logo and details in our magazine – Cat’s Whiskers - which is published four times a year and reaches 1,000s of people.</li> <li>• Monthly Social Media update to thank your company for being one of our sponsors.</li> <li>• VIP invitation for up to six people to the annual Winter Wonderland (or similar) event.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>‘Super Sponsor’</b> plaque with company details displayed at the entrance of the Shelter.</li> <li>• Super Sponsor’ plaque with company details displayed on the wall of our award-winning charity shop in the centre of Shrewsbury.</li> <li>• Company logo and details in our magazine – Cat’s Whiskers - which is published four times a year and reaches 1,000s of people.</li> <li>• Monthly Social Media update to thank your company for being one of our sponsors.</li> <li>• VIP invitation for up to eight people to the annual Winter Wonderland (or similar) event.</li> </ul>

## Sponsorship instalments

Would you prefer to pay for your sponsorship in instalments rather than in one full payment? That is fine! You can spread the costs between 2-12 regular instalments within one calendar year.

# 2021 Shropshire Cat Rescue Calendar

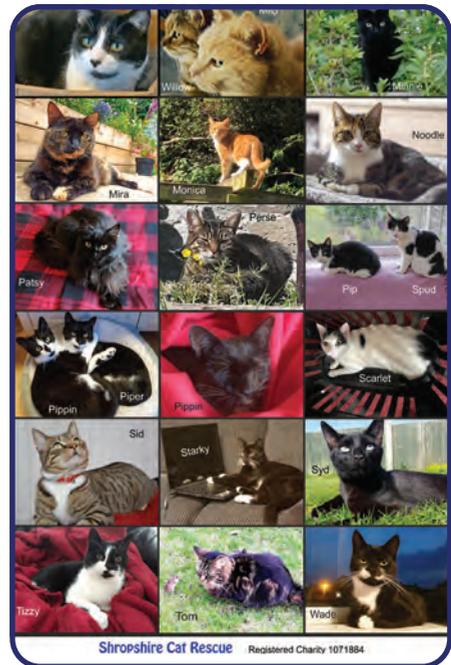
Now on sale - £6

We have had an unprecedented number of entries for our 2021 calendar; 115 cats and kittens in total. Many thanks for all your entries. The 2021 calendar is larger than ever, with more collage pages, and more cats featured on the pages for notes and the front cover. Due to the extra pages and printing involved our production costs have increased. We have absorbed previous small price rises but this year we are having to charge £6 instead of £5 per calendar. This is still good value with 13 pages

packed full of beautiful pictures of cats along with some of their stories.

Hopefully, the calendars will be available by the time you read this. They can be bought through our online shop and from our Boutique in Roushill Bank, Shrewsbury. Due to COVID19 restrictions they won't be available to buy from our Shelter in Bayston Hill.

Many thanks to Anji Smith for her hard work on producing the calendar once again.



# DAISY & TILLY'S SHOP ON THE HILL

Fresh local bakery and deli products from **Caroline's Classic Cakes, Katz Kitchen, La Bonne Parisienne and Swifts:**

Home made quiche and cheesecakes by the slice; sponges, Bakewell and egg/dairy free cakes; authentic hand made French breads and pastries and gluten free breads and rolls (weekends)

Fine wines & spirits from **Tanners** & beers and ciders from 7 local brewers



**Moyden's Cheeses, Wenlock Edge** bacon and sausages, **Emsdon Farm** meats, **Barkworth's Fish**, organic milk from **Cotteswold Dairy**, teas and coffee from **Aroma and Iron & Fire**, **Lefevre Chocolate** handmade in Shrewsbury

Extensive range of unusual greetings cards and fairly traded gifts plus locally made stained glass jewellery & more

## Refill Station:

We can refill all your regular detergents plus shampoo, body wash, Kalamata cold press olive oil and Wenlock Spring water.

**Refill 7 times get 8<sup>th</sup> free**



Visit us for gluten free, sugar free, vegan, organic & other lovely foods

13a Lyth Hill Road, Bayston Hill

[www.daisyandtillys.co.uk](http://www.daisyandtillys.co.uk)

*Always something new!*



# COPTHORNE VETS



## Your Pets Health is our Top Priority!

- **Free Health Checks** for all new pets
- **Pet Health Club** providing your pet with the preventative treatments they need to live a happy and healthy life including **FREE VACCINATIONS**

01743 360614

#wecareasmuchasyoudo

[copthorne-vets.co.uk](http://copthorne-vets.co.uk)

# Tabletop Sale makes £800!

By Carol Beels, Volunteer

Having had to cancel many of the events planned by the Fundraising Team from March to July, we were excited when Shrewsbury Council offered us another date to hold the Tabletop Sale in The Square in Shrewsbury.

Saturday 26th July started very wet; which was a little worrying! We set up our tables and hoped that the weather would improve, and the people would come. The tables were groaning with masses of gorgeous things that we had accumulated, and that people had generously donated. The weather changed and we were visited by new and old friends of SCR.

We offered the goods for a donation (this allowed us to



collect Gift Aid on the total). It was a very successful day and our collection bucket filled very nicely. The grand total was £772.41 which was later rounded up to £800. We had an exhausting but a thrilling day none the less - we are going to do it again next year!!

## In memory of ... Kenneth Gordon Robinson 1937-2020



Ken was a massive cat/animal lover. In the past had adopted cats from Shropshire

Cat Rescue, the last one being Oscar who he adopted in April 2012. After letting Oscar out

for the very first time after a few weeks, Ken sat up all night waiting for Oscar to come home, which of course he did.

Sadly, Ken died on 30th March 2020. His family gave a donation to SCR in memory of Ken.

# How to sponsor Shropshire Cat Rescue

## Sponsor a Cat - £12 a year



**Pickle** moved into the Retirement Village in 2016 at the age of 10. She is tabby and white.



**Titch** is an elderly stray who came to live in the Retirement Village in February 2013. She is black and white and blind, but she still enjoys a good life.



**Annwyn** is around 4 years old, tortoiseshell and white female. She now lives at the Shelter and has put herself in charge of vermin control.



**Morris** is our first male Sponsor Cat, he lives as a free ranger at the Shelter with his mother, Vera.

## Sponsor the Nursery - £25 a year



The Nursery was built in 2011 from a grant by Support Adoption for Pets. There are seven pens for pregnant and nursing females and two incubators for orphans.

# How to sponsor Shropshire Cat Rescue

## Sponsor the Moggies Retirement Village - £50 a year



The Moggies Retirement Village was built in 2010 and is currently home to over 25 elderly cats.

## Sponsor the Shelter - £100 a year



The Shelter was built in 1999 and has continued to grow. We have 13 free ranger cats, 25 cats in the Retirement Village plus up to 122 cats and kittens waiting for homes.

## Your sponsorship or your gift

Pickle	<b>£12</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your sponsorship begins on the first of the month following receipt of payment and lasts for 12 months.</li> <li>You will receive a Sponsorship Certificate, plus an information sheet about your chosen sponsorship package, one or more photographs and an annual update to keep you in touch.</li> <li>In addition to the above you will also receive 4 editions of The Cat's Whiskers Magazine</li> </ul>
Morris			
Titch			
Annwyn			
The Nursery	<b>£25</b>		
The Moggies Retirement Village	<b>£50</b>		
The Shelter	<b>£100</b>		
<b>TOTAL PAYABLE</b>		<b>£</b>	

Please return this form with either a cheque, made payable to Shropshire Cat Rescue, Windy Ridge, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, SY3 0AU. Or a BACS payment to Shropshire Cat Rescue. Account number: 12504025 Sort Code: 555005. Reference: SPONSORSHIP. More information about our sponsorship packages can be found online at [www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk](http://www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk)

# How to sponsor Shropshire Cat Rescue



## Your details

Title:	Address:
First Name(s):	
Surname:	
Tel:	
Email:	Postcode:

## Is this a Gift?

If you are purchasing a sponsorship package as a gift, please provide the recipient's details below. Your gift will be sent directly to them with a gift card bearing your name. **To ensure your gift arrives on time, please order your gift package at least 2 weeks before the special day.**

Date gift should arrive:	Occasion: Birthday/Anniversary/ Christmas
Who is gift from (to appear on card):	Other occasion:
Name of recipient:	
Address:	

*giftaid it* - boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate!

I am a UK Taxpayer and would like to Gift Aid the cost of my sponsorship package.  I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.	Please tick
---	-------------

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the Shropshire Cat Rescue from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

# How you can help us

Not everyone can adopt a cat but there are lots of ways you can support the work we do at the Shelter.

You can find out about our sponsorship packages on **pages 19 and 20**, visit us online at **www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk** or contact Marion Micklewright at the Shelter on **01743 872857**.



Donate any sum of money at our Virgin money giving page.



Giveacar is a not-for-profit social enterprise that can turn your old car into cash for UK charity.



By Cheque, payable to Shropshire Cat Rescue and sent to Windy Ridge, Lyth Hill Road, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, SY3 0AU.



To buy from a unique range of Shropshire Cat Rescue from our eBay shop.



Visit our page and donate goods from our wishlist.



When you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the Shropshire Cat Rescue.



Give as you Live™

A free way to raise money for Shropshire Cat Rescue when you shop online! Shop at over 4,300 leading stores via their website and you'll raise free funds for us.

## The Cat's Whiskers Magazine

The quarterly magazine can be sent to you by post for a minimum donation of £5 for 4 editions. This covers the cost of postage and packaging. You can subscribe or contact the Shelter on **01743 872857**.

## Leaving a Legacy

If you would like to remember Shropshire Cat Rescue, please write us into your Will and register it with your solicitor; that way you can rest assured that you are going to make a real difference to the lives of many cats. Ask your solicitor to record our charity name "Shropshire Cat Rescue" and number (No. 1071884) or contact the Shelter if more information is required.

# SHROPSHIRE CAT RESCUE BOUTIQUE



Open  
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri & Sat 10.00am to 4pm.  
Closed Thursday & Sunday  
Subject to change.

Tel: 01743 236222

3 Roushill Bank, Shrewsbury, SY1 1PN

Follow us on





Six months ago, everything was fine at the Shelter. The volunteers were looking forward to hosting the Open Days on Saturdays commencing in April when visitors can come without an appointment to enjoy the Moggies Retirement Village, meet the Free Rangers, see the cats for rehoming, and then enjoy cream teas and homemade cake in the Bistro area or sitting on the lawn.

COVID 19 strikes. Disaster! No open days, all fundraising events cancelled, and the Boutique closed on 23rd March 2020. Shropshire Cat Rescue receives no grants and relies on adoption fees, sponsorship, donations,

legacies and sales from the Boutique to provide income.

The Charity needed funds to pay the bills for the foreseeable future, but where would sufficient monies come from? I estimated the vets bills for the previous year to be at least £40,000, equating to £3,500 per month. In fact, the 2019 accounts have now been finalised and audited showing the actual bill for Vets fees were £45,390.

I discussed Just Giving (which we already had set up but used infrequently) with Chairman and Shelter Manager, Marion Micklewright, and convinced her



that we needed to approach our loyal supporters for financial support at this difficult time. Whilst reluctant to impose upon them in the present circumstances, she agreed.

I set up the Just Giving page: <https://tinyurl.com/shropcr> with photos of the Villagers.

I, and the other Trustees and Volunteers, cannot thank everyone enough for their ongoing support. I remain completely overwhelmed by all their kindness and generosity.

I was unable to volunteer at the Shelter during this time (although I have other duties that keep me out of mischief) but I have now been back at the Shelter for four

weeks. During this time Marion had agreed to admit a number of cats, which were in desperate need, to the Village. The Villagers and Free Rangers are well and it's good to see them again.

There is still no outside funding which we can apply for except perhaps £500 from Tesco's 'Bags of Help' scheme for which we are in the process of applying.

One of the volunteers, who was still able to go to the Shelter took photos each week and posted on Facebook, these I shared on Twitter to keep in touch with as many of our supporters as possible until Open Days can commence once more.

# Design Print Promotion

## For Businesses & Charities

- Roller & Vinyl Banners
- Stickers, Labels & Signs
- Promotional T-Shirts & Bags
- Business Stationery
- Leaflets, Flyers & Posters
- Workwear & Corporate Clothing
- Promotional Videos



[www.amdpromotions.co.uk](http://www.amdpromotions.co.uk)

Contact 07825133056

[enquiries@amdpromotions.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@amdpromotions.co.uk)

## Bootiful Car Booters

By Carol Beels, Volunteer

Very early on Sunday 9th August the Fundraising Team set up their tables at the West Midland Showground. Lots of bargains to be had and lots of booters around to buy.

A good morning's work netted £190 for Shropshire Cat Rescue. The Team plan to do another Car Boot in mid-September. Please come and see what we have to sell. All proceeds support the Rescue Centre.



# Your Cat Questions

Answered by Susie Phillips, Registered Veterinary Nurse and Volunteer

**My cat has started to ambush and attack my other one. They haven't had problems before and it's a new development. I am concerned why he has started doing this. Could you please give me some advice?**

Hello, changes in behaviour can be due to a multitude of reasons which include illness, pain and stress. For example, my cat Gizzmo becomes aggressive when he is in pain. I can tell by the change in his behaviour that his pain medication is due or needs altering. In case the change in your cat's behaviour is due to illness or pain I would strongly advise making an appointment to see your vet to ensure there isn't a medical reason for this change in behaviour. Cats hide ailments as they are descended from solitary hunters that are also prey animals. They cannot afford to show pain as showing a weakness can result in loss of hunting territory or falling victim to a predator. Our domestic cats are hard wired by their inherited genes to hide pain and they are very good at it. A dog will hold its paw up and show lameness for the slightest reason as they are pack animals and expect support when ill or in pain whereas a cat will try and walk normally even when its leg might be broken.

Stress is a big factor for a cat's change in behaviour. What may seem insignificant to us can be a



huge thing for cats causing them serious stress. Some factors that can cause cats stress include building work, changes in your routine and new cats in the area. See if you can notice a pattern in the attacks e.g. do they occur at certain times of day? This may help to work out what the trigger may be if the cause is not medical. There are a variety of things you can do to help reduce stress including ensuring that both cats have safe places to hide and calm down. I would advise contacting an animal behaviourist who specialises in cats for further help if this behaviour continues or becomes more frequent. The Animal Behaviour and Training Council ([www.abtc.org.uk](http://www.abtc.org.uk)) have the names and contact details of practising therapists and you should be able to find one close to where you live.

# Maia's Story.

By Susan Marine, Volunteer and Magazine Co-ordinator

I lost my beloved 18-year-old cat Daisy this year and although I missed her, I felt it was time to give another rescue cat a home, so I contacted Shropshire Cat Rescue.

Normally SCR encourages people to visit the Shelter either by appointment or by coming to one of their Open Days, a chance not only to see what cats and kittens are available for adoption but also an opportunity to visit their

Moggies Retirement Village and find out more about the Charity from the volunteers. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions this wasn't possible. However, the admin volunteers were very helpful and sent me pictures of some kittens that were available. All of the kittens were gorgeous of course, but there was something about one of them, a little tabby and white girl, that appealed to me. She had arrived



at SCR in July as a tiny 4-week-old kitten with her mum Kitkat and her 3 siblings. She was now 7 weeks and I was told she could come home at 9 weeks.

I had nothing in the house for a kitten but Karen, one of the volunteers, reassured me that I could purchase anything I needed from the SCR gift shop and sent me a price list and photos of the stock I was interested in.

This sounded a great idea as it would benefit the charity as well as me.

So, on the 27th August Maia, kitten food, bowls, beds, scratching post, litter, litter tray and toys were all delivered straight to my door! That certainly made a change from my usual Asda delivery! Any forms I had to fill in were photographed and emailed to the Shelter. I also received an information pack with details regarding immunisations,

neutering and general well-being tips. Everyone was very helpful, and it feels good to know the volunteers are only an email away if I have any concerns.

I must admit I was wondering what I'd let myself in for, adopting a kitten after spending so many

years with an older cat, but my doubts soon melted away as Maia has proved to be an absolute delight! She's been a welcome distraction for us, and I feel privileged to have her as part of our family. Thank you, Shropshire Cat Rescue!



Flexible car and van hire from £16 per day



- New vehicles
- No deposit
- No mileage cap
- European van hire
- Open 7 days a week from 7am
- Delivery/collection available

Call 0333 555 3000

Book online at [bayfieldvehiclehire.co.uk](http://bayfieldvehiclehire.co.uk)



**Telford depot**  
[telford@bayfieldgroup.co.uk](mailto:telford@bayfieldgroup.co.uk)  
 Unit A2 Harcourt,  
 Halesfield 13,  
 Telford, TF7 4PL

**Shrewsbury depot**  
[shrewsbury@bayfieldgroup.co.uk](mailto:shrewsbury@bayfieldgroup.co.uk)  
 Hereford Rd,  
 Bayston Hill,  
 Shrewsbury, SY3 0ET



**CAT**  
 SITTING  
 AND HOME  
 VISITS  
 FROM £7

[WWW.HOMEFROMHOMEPETCARE.CO.UK](http://WWW.HOMEFROMHOMEPETCARE.CO.UK)

FULLY  
 INSURED.  
 DBS  
 CHECKED

SMALL  
 ANIMAL  
 BOARDING

DOG  
 WALKING



07837954988

[BECKY@HOMEFROMHOMEPETCARE.CO.UK](mailto:BECKY@HOMEFROMHOMEPETCARE.CO.UK)



**English**  
 CARE



01743 247071  
 01952 727203

*English Care is a family based company dedicated to providing professional care in friendly and relaxed homes based in Shrewsbury and Much Wenlock.*

BOWBROOK HOUSE  
 LADY FORESTER  
 FORESTERS COURT

- Nursing, residential, dementia care, respite and day care
- Retirement apartments offering independent living
- Comfortable accommodation in period homes
- Friendly and highly skilled staff
- Pleasant gardens
- Home cooked food offering plenty of choice
- Award winning company recognised both locally and nationally
- Comprehensive activity schedule

[www.englishcare.co.uk](http://www.englishcare.co.uk)

**LOWER MILL  
 BOARDING KENNELS  
 & CATTERY**

We know that cats love nothing more than to explore, that's why our luxury heated chalets offer ample space for your cat to wander around during the day. Our outside chalets have fully insulated and heated back cabins.

For more information on our services, for prices or to make a booking call us today:

01743 790160

[www.lowermillkennels.co.uk](http://www.lowermillkennels.co.uk)

Pontesbury, Shropshire



# Boutique news

By Melanie Smith, Boutique Manager

A big thank you to Eliza Howe aged 11 and Milla Schirge aged 7 who gave a circus show in their street, Park Avenue, Shrewsbury during lockdown. Their socially distanced singing and scooter show lasted 20 minutes. The neighbours all came out to watch and donated to help Shropshire Cat Rescue while our Boutique was closed. They raised a brilliant £57.62. Well done girls and thank you so much.



Eliza and Milla

## Boutique reopens its doors!



It has been a difficult time during lockdown, our Boutique provides the income to ensure the Charity have funds at the Shelter to

pay for the cats needs. For four months we were locked down as a non-essential store. This was detrimental to the Shelter, so we were very pleased to be open again on August 8th. We have vigilant cleaning procedures to ensure all our customers and volunteers are safe while shopping in our Boutique. It has been wonderful to see our customers again who are very happy to see us open too. Thank you for all the fabulous donations from your clear outs during the lockdown, we are very grateful you hung on to it until we were ready to receive it. We are allowing one bag per customer at the Boutique at the present

time as we are quarantining all donations for 72 hours as a safety procedure and we have limited space on the premises to take more. If you have more to donate to us, please could you contact the Shelter:

**info@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk**

in Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, where you can book a slot and drop off there. Thank you for your patience. We have some amazing items for sale thanks to all your donations, it has helped us no end. Keep safe, we look forward to seeing you soon.



## Volunteering at Shropshire Cat Rescue Boutique

Do you have any spare time to help us in our Boutique? Are you retired and looking for something to do? Volunteering with us is a great way to meet new friends. Are you looking for work and need some retail experience on your CV? Are you at college and would be happy to help us out? We can give you full training in retail. We would love you to join our team of friendly volunteers. Working

for the charity to help the cats at the Shelter gives immense satisfaction that you are helping a local good cause. We are so grateful to all our volunteers and have a lot of fun. If you are interested, please call Melanie on 07773 635975 or pop in the Boutique to say hello or pick up an application form. We look forward to meeting you.



Volunteers Annette, Sheelagh and Alison



Volunteer Anna



Volunteer Kaitie



**Quarry**  
VETERINARY GROUP

Brassey Road, Shrewsbury, SY3 7FA  
Tel:01743 362556

### *Opening Times*

Mon-Friday 8.30am-6.30pm

Sat 9.00am-12 noon



*Happy to support Shropshire Cat Rescue*

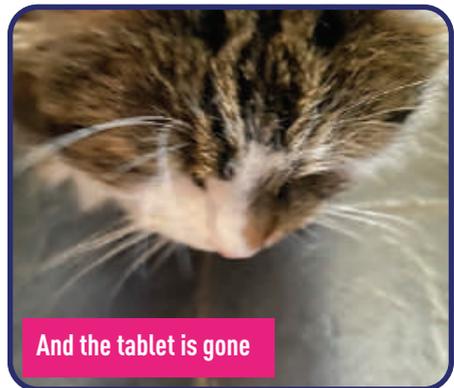
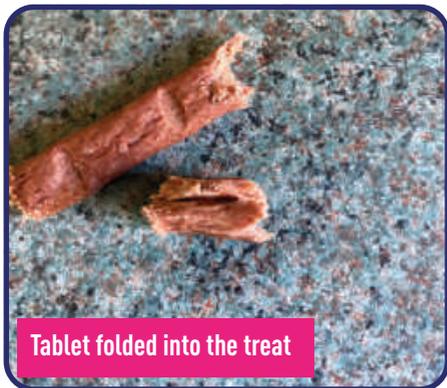
# Giving Oral Medication

By Susie Phillips, Registered Veterinary Nurse and Volunteer

**Golden Rule:** Use the method that is the least stressful for your cat and so for yourself. This is especially important when you have to give long term medication as using a method that your cat finds acceptable means you are less likely to have problems with giving the medication in the long run.

## Giving tablets:

A great way to give tablets is to put them into the chewy meat sticks you can purchase or other soft treats. My cat Gizzmo is on long term pain medication and he has two tablets a day, both given in a treat. My other cats come to get a treat at the same time which is perfect as it means when worming is due they all happily take their tablets in the treat.



Another method is to add tablets to a small amount of your cat's normal food, just a teaspoon should be enough. Only crush the tablet if your cat eats around it and as long as it doesn't state on the instructions that you can't crush them; some tablets have to be taken whole but the instructions will advise if this is the case. Once they have eaten the medicated food then you can give your cat the rest of his food.

**Tip:** To help increase your cat's desire to eat the small amount of food heat it in a microwave for a few seconds and then put the medication into it. Do check it's not too hot, it should be just warm to the touch. Warming the food increases its smell, making it more desirable to your cat as smell plays an important role for cats when eating. It should also help to mask any odour of the medication.

### **Giving liquid oral medication:**

These are usually provided with a syringe and can be given directly into a cat's mouth but most cats will not like this and it will be a daily struggle to give them their medication using this method. You can use the same methods as above by adding the dose to a small amount your cat's normal food or by disguising the medication in tasty liquid treats which you can purchase from most supermarkets or pet shops.

**Tip:** If your cat prefers dried food liquid meds can still be given with the biscuits. For example Sophie, who is a retirement village resident at Shropshire Cat Rescue, needs Meloxicam every day. She happily eats her dry food with dots of the liquid put onto her biscuits which is perfect as this specific medication should be given with food. If you feel your cat might not eat his normal dried food with the medication on you could try a different dried food just for the medication. There are dried foods which are specifically created with strong odours for fussier cats that can also be used as an alternative for normal treats.

If your cat won't take medication in food and giving orally is the only option, follow the guidance given by your vet on how to give the medication. Ask the vet or nurse for a demonstration; they will be happy to help you. Have a treat or a toy close to hand so as soon as your cat has taken his medication then either give him the treat or play with him, whichever is his favourite reward. This will help the medication procedure have a positive experience attached to it.

*Susie Phillips is a Registered Veterinary Nurse and has completed the ISFM Advanced Certificate in Feline Behaviour. Susie has volunteered for Shropshire Cat Rescue with her mum for over 5 years and loves it.*

# Gift Aid

By Marg Lloyd, Trustee and Gift Aid Officer

If you are a UK tax payer and you adopt animals, sponsor, make donations, whatever the Charity, not just Shropshire Cat Rescue, please consider #ticking the box which, if the Charity is registered with HMRC, means the charity can claim 25p in every £ you give to the Charity, from the tax you have paid. So everyone wins, all round.

This can make such a difference to charities especially at the present time, when charity shops have been closed, fundraising events cancelled and many charities, like ourselves, find that there are no grants or funds that they can apply for. The pandemic has affected charities particularly badly.

The Charity Tax Group and larger charities, like Cancer Research UK, and even Shropshire Cat Rescue are involved in asking HMRC to increase gift aid from 25% to 33% over the next 2 years to help. This is an ongoing matter.

Shropshire Cat Rescue is a member of the Small Charities Coalition whose objective is to ensure that charities whose turnover is under £1million get their voices heard.

Once again, if you are a UK taxpayer and donate preloved goods to our Charity Boutique, gift aid can also be claimed once the goods are sold. The Retail gift aid form differs from the regular

form and will be explained to you by one of the Boutique or Shelter volunteers.

You may have seen the phrase #NeverMoreNeeded – (<https://www.nmn.org.uk>). This campaign recently launched proclaims the message –

**“ In the face of coronavirus, charities are #NeverMoreNeeded - for the essential support they provide in crisis and beyond, and how they shape our society for the better”**

Shropshire Cat Rescue and other charities need your ‘Ticks’ on the form. A “Yes” Tick will help them survive. #HelpMakeaDifference #Everypennycounts.

If your status changes and you are no longer a tax payer or you change your address, please advise the Charity so that their records may be updated. Thank you.



# Who's Who at Shropshire Cat Rescue.

Shropshire Cat Rescue is a Registered Charity (number 1071884). The charity was established in 1998 and is proud to have Virginia McKenna and Jim Hawkins as Patrons.

You can contact the Shelter on **01743 872857** and the Shropshire Cat Rescue Boutique (3 Roushill Bank, Shrewsbury, SY1 1PN) on **01743 236222**. You can write to the Shelter Manager, Shropshire Cat Rescue, Windy Ridge, Lyth Hill Road, Bayston Road, Shrewsbury, SY3 0AU or email **info@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk**

Chairman .....	Marion Micklewright
Trustees .....	Dianne Beaumont, Gill Bowler, Marg Lloyd, Cindy Mason-Morris, Ola Trillo
Accounts Manager .....	Suzanne Dolphin
Boutique Manager .....	Mel Smith
Duke of Edinburgh Officer .....	Tracy Frampton
Facebook .....	Pat Piggott
Fundraising .....	Gill Bowler
Gift Aid Officer .....	Marg Lloyd
Legacies Officer .....	Peter Kampler
Outreach.....	Julie Kampler
Shelter Manager .....	Marion Micklewright
Social Media Officer .....	Dianne Beaumont
Sponsorship .....	Cindy Mason-Morris
Twitter .....	Susan Marine @bigPURRproject, Marg Lloyd @ShropsCatRescue
Website Design .....	Jem Turner

# Who's Who at the magazine.

Magazine Editor .....	David Bates: waltonbarns@zen.co.uk
Magazine Advertising...	Marion Micklewright: info@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk
Magazine Co-ordinator .....	Susan Marine: susanmarine000@gmail.com
Magazine Assistant .....	Heather Acheson
Magazine Distribution & Accounts Officer .....	Karen Wainwright
Magazine Subscription .....	Cindy Mason-Morris

Printed and published by **www.spottypenguin.com** 07545551596



**Croft & Oakes**

CHARTERED FINANCIAL PLANNERS

A brighter future for  
your finances - and  
helping local cats too!

Proud to support  
**Shropshire Cat Rescue**

With you every step of the way  
to a bright financial future.

“

**FOR EVERY NEW CLIENT  
WE WILL MAKE A DONATION  
TO SHROPSHIRE CAT RESCUE.”**

**CHRIS OAKES**  
FOUNDER AND INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISER

**INDIVIDUALS**

- Final Salary Pension Advice
- Pension Planning/Transfers
- Inheritance Tax Planning
- Investment Advice
- Wills and Inheritance Tax

**BUSINESSES**

- Pension Scheme Guidance
- Succession Planning
- Business Protection
- Shareholder Agreements
- Corporate Investments

*Call or email us to arrange a free, no-obligation consultation...*

**01743 816115 or [info@croftandoakes.co.uk](mailto:info@croftandoakes.co.uk)**

[www.croftandoakes.co.uk](http://www.croftandoakes.co.uk)



Croft & Oakes Chartered Financial Planners Ltd is Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.  
Financial Services Register Number 731020. Registered in England & Wales, Company Number 9879146.