



MESSAGE FROM BEVERLEY



As you all know, things have not gone too well this year!!!

So I would like to sincerely thank everyone who rallied around to clean, cat cuddle, carry, organise and generally look after the cats whilst I was in hospital and in the following weeks. We could not have managed without you!

The animals, of course, knew nothing about it, except, as Sue told me afterwards, they looked very grumpy when she came to feed on Saturday morning. It was about feeding time on the Friday evening when I was taken to hospital so they were hungry and bewildered.

Once again, thank you all.

I hope that you have a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Beverley





**IMPORTANT CHANGES AT THE CATTERY**

Due to Beverley's TIA in September a few things have changed at Bear Cottage.

One is that Sue, who already looks after the helpline, is now responsible for admissions and homings at the cattery.

So in future

**PLEASE DO NOT CALL BEVERLEY TO TAKE CATS IN.**

Sue has an overview of all pens so ring her on the C.L.A.W.S. helpline on

**01189 341699**

**C.L.A.W.S. IS FULL**

Thank you.

**A PHOTOGRAPHER FROM THE MAIDENHEAD ADVERTISER VISITED BEAR COTTAGE**



We were pleased to welcome a photographer from the Maidenhead Advertiser who spent some time meeting our residents and taking photographs to help publicise the sale of the C.L.A.W.S. calendar for 2019.

Monty was happy to pose for the camera making a very handsome ambassador for C.L.A.W.S. (not forgetting Maggie who agreed reluctantly to provide a comfortable lap for him to sit on !)

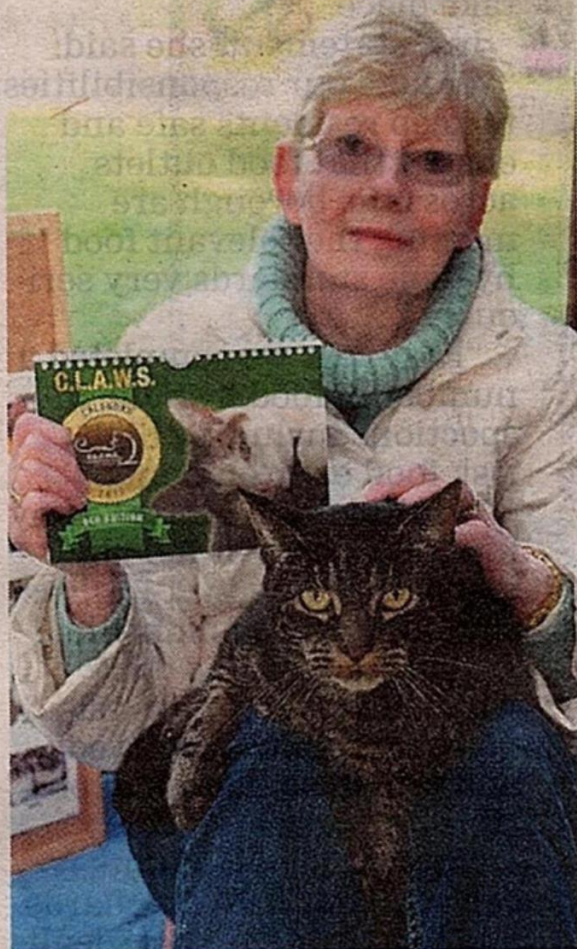
Although Princess Pru could not be persuaded to get out of her bed as the cover cat for this year's calendar she did lend her support by allowing herself to be photographed alongside a copy of the 2019 C.L.A.W.S. calendar. The article appeared in the Maidenhead Advertiser on 1 November 2018.

# Cat lovers release calendar

**ALL AREAS:** The Cat Lovers Animal Welfare Society (CLAWS) is releasing its ninth calendar in time for Christmas, featuring pictures and stories of some of its rescue cats.

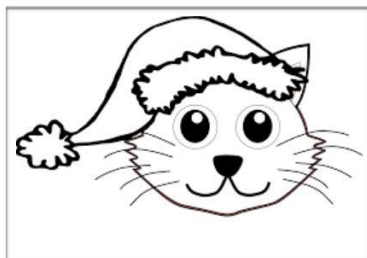
CLAWS founder Beverley Gubbins said: "The cats that are residents here sometimes do something really funny or silly, and I have my camera with me and we take photographs. It's been one of our biggest money spinners."

The £4 calendar is on sale at Kelperland Veterinary Centre in Forest Green Road, Fifield, and Alma Veterinary Hospital, Alma Road, Windsor. It will also be on sale at the Combined Charities Fair at Maidenhead Town Hall on Saturday and at the Cox Green Christmas Fair on Saturday, November 17.



**Monty and Maggie, a volunteer with CLAWS. Ref:130532-7**

Photo and article both published by kind permission of the Maidenhead Advertiser



## C.L.A.W.S. FACEBOOK PAGE

Due to heavy work commitments Helen had to stand down from managing our Facebook page. Thank you for all your hard work, Helen.

We are pleased that Ray Ursell, our web master, agreed to take the helm. He has been busy developing the page and has formed a C.L.A.W.S. group which has 62 members.

By popular demand it contains an Amazon wish list. We have already received a number of items, including warm blankets and, joy of joy, cat nip bananas !! Thank you so much.

### AMAZON WISH LIST

Jumbo rolls of J cloths Cream

Covered litter trays

Cleanser Antibacterial wipes - apple scent

Medium cat igloos

Anigene high level disinfectant 5 litres - apple scent

Purrfect pet blankets

Feliway Original diffuser refills

Wilko Supersoft Throw 200 x 200cm

Mikki ball pin slicker medium

Yeowww cat nip bananas

Items to be delivered to : 1 Bear Farm Cottages, Binfield Road, Bracknell, RG42 5QG

#### BETH

In the last newsletter we said that Beth was much braver.

Proof at last - a photo !  
Isn't she lovely ?



#### DOLORES

Dolores has been in her new home for 3 months now and has settled in well - in fact, you could say that she rules the roost !.

She doesn't hesitate to wake her "mum" up in the middle of the night when she fancies a snack.

For an "oldie" she has a remarkable turn of speed !

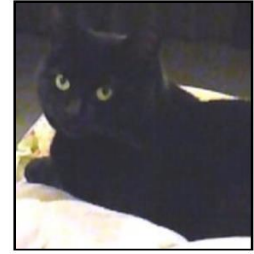
It is amazing how quickly a bedraggled, poorly little stray becomes a bit of a diva



## UPDATE : FLEUR AND ANGIE



"Why should Fleur and Angie be included in the same article ?"  
Read on !



After Molly died Fleur had the run of the house. It took her a little while to get used to this unexpected freedom (she is a very shy little soul) but she began to explore and eventually came downstairs. She enjoyed the different views but often returned upstairs to make sure "her" chickens were still in the next door garden.

At this time Angie had been with C.L.A.W.S for about 3 months and was proving a "force to be reckoned with" not improved by the fact she was on a diet which she considered the ultimate insult. She expressed her disapproval in no uncertain terms as you will remember from the last newsletter. As they were both on a diet it seemed logical for them to be together so in a moment of madness I asked Beverley what she thought of Angie coming to live with Fleur and I. She said YES and the rest is history. Sue takes up the tale :-

I had arranged for a "screen door" to be installed between the kitchen and the lounge which meant that they were secure when people came and went via the back door and it gave me peace of mind.

I took her carrying basket into the lounge and released her - and waited with bated breath ! Nothing daunted she marched round the lounge to see what was going on. Fleur's face was a picture - what was this little whipper snapper doing on her territory? I had already explained to her that Angie was only a little girl (still less than a year old) that had had a rough start in life so she had to be kind to her - umm !!!

Of course, we have had a number of spats (and spits !!) but on the whole the transition has gone much more smoothly than expected (Beverley and I knew it was a "high risk" strategy" but thought that the benefits of success far outweighed the possibility of failure)

Fleur likes to sit on the back of the sofa so she can look out of the window. The sight of her tail gently waving is too much for Angie - she just has to jump up and catch it. On one occasion she leapt so high she knocked Fleur off - what a kerfuffle !!

She also lies in wait behind the curtains and leaps out at Fleur as she passes by. She has so much energy !

She knows when she has pushed her luck and rushes to the far end of the lounge and leaps on a chair, out of harm's way ! We now call this the "naughty corner" !

There is still a long way to go but the prospects are looking good. Angie has been good for Fleur who is learning to "stand her corner" and Angie is becoming less combative as she realises she is safe.

A tiny little tot with the heart of a lion - you just have to love her !

STOP PRESS !

On 6 December Fleur and Angie went to Alma to see Lisa, their dietician. Good news ! Fleur weighed 3.81 kilos (down from 3.88 kilos) As her target weight is 4 kilos she is being allowed  $\frac{1}{2}$  a pouch of Satiety wet food daily in addition to 50 gms of Satiety biscuits.

Angie weighed 3.48 kilos (down from 3.55 kilos) so she remains on the same daily food ration : 2 pouches of Satiety wet food and 10 gram of Satiety biscuits.

## NANCY (aka BO BO aka PUSSIKINS)

Another local rescue asked C.L.A.W.S. to trap a cat which was "on its patch" near the A4 in Maidenhead. We contacted one of the ladies who had been looking after the cat who told us that it was in the grounds of Cliveden House in Taplow.



It had been resident there for several years. It had been named Pussikins. Recently she had noticed that it had a "bad" tail. She thought it might have been attacked by a fox. When Beverley arrived with a trap the cat was there and she was able to look at the wound. It was not a bite but a long wound which might have been made when the cat got caught on a thorny bush or entangled on barbed wire.

She set the trap and suggested they back off in the hope the cat would enter the trap. In the meantime one of its "carers" leaned over grasped the cat in both hands and put it in the basket. It was taken to Alma Vets for treatment. It was a female and micro-chipped so the first thing to do, apart from administer pain relief and antibiotics, was to contact the microchip company so her owners could be traced.

Her owner had died about 4 years ago and the contact telephone number was her daughter's who, though unable to offer her a home, has been following her progress with keen interest. She was called Bo Bo and disappeared within a few weeks of going to live with her mum who resided in Taplow so she hadn't strayed far. A waiver of ownership form was dispatched for completion by the daughter which enabled treatment to commence.

She was sedated so a thorough examination could be carried out. Her tail was badly damaged and had to be amputated. Her pelvis had been fractured (probably as a result of an RTA) It had been left to self-heal as a result of which it was now crooked so that her hips were twisted (causing her to limp and slightly restricting the passing of poo). Her left back paw was causing her severe pain so it was X-rayed. There was no physical injury : the vet thought it might be a touch a sciatica so she will be on pain relief for the foreseeable future.

She has been discharged into C.L.A.W.S. care with the full support of the 2 staff who had cared for her at Cliveden. One of them has already been to visit her.

We called her NANCY (because of the Aster connection with Cliveden). She is a dear little girl and, although nervous, allows her carer to stroke her gently and stays quietly in her bed when another volunteer comes in, keeping her distance and talking to her so she becomes used to more people.

She will stay with C.L.A.W.S at least for the winter so she can regain her health and strength





## MONTY GOES TO HIS NEW HOME

Monty went to his new home on 1 December - a wonderful start to the festive season for all his friends at C.L.A.W.S.

You may remember that MONTY is a youthful 13 year old who won all hearts with his loving nature and winning ways. As a kitten he was homed by C.L.A.W.S. in 2005. In 2018 a change in domestic circumstances meant that he could no longer stay in the home where he had spent 13 happy years. Poor Monty !

He returned to C.L.A.W.S. in July 2018. He has been such a good boy settling into his new environment with the minimum of fuss.

A lady was looking for a cat for her elderly mum. She went on to the C.L.A.W.S. web site and spotted Monty. She thought he would be perfect for her mum so rang the C.L.A.W.S. help line for more information. "All he wants is to be made a fuss of" Sue told her and "All my mum wants is a loving companion". She downloaded Monty's photo and said she would show it to her mum and tell her all about him when she saw her the next day.

She rang back to say her mum was interested so a home check was arranged. The lady lived in a sheltered housing complex in a very quiet area which backs on to a golf course. The manager of the unit was very supportive - there were several other animals there and she herself had a little dog.

It wasn't long before the phone rang again. It was the lady's daughter to say that her mum wanted to offer Monty a home.

Beverley carried him into the lounge and lifted him out. He announced his arrival with a few of his trademark "rusty" shouts, walked round, went under a chair, said "Hello" to Beverley and I in passing and jumped on his new "mum's" lap and started to purr.

And he was still there when we left half an hour later. We were amazed - neither of us had seen a cat settle into new surroundings so quickly. Happy owner ! Happy Monty ! Perfect !



### STOP PRESS

We received an email from Monty's owner's daughter who wrote:

"Mum is delighted with him and he had settled in brilliantly - last update was that he was venturing upstairs in the morning."

## FUND RAISING EVENTS

6 November	Combined Charities Fair Maidenhead Town Hall	£164.10
17 November	Cox Green Christmas Fair Community Centre, Cox Green	£182.40
22 November	Sale at Wood, Reading	£18.00
	Waitrose Cash Collection	£185.54
1 December	Christmas Market, Reddam School	£47.50
16 December	Cash Collection Tesco Superstore, County Lane, Warfeld, RG42 3JP	£169.37

Thank you!



Thank you to everyone who helped at these fund raising events. They not only help with funds but also keep C.L.A.W.S in the public eye - so very positive all round and well worth doing.





## MEMORIES



### DOLLY

**DOLLY** came to C.L.A.W.S. in the snowy January of 2013.

She had suffered years of neglect and so had become unused to human contact. Apart from very bad teeth, all of which had to be removed, she was in remarkably good health.

She settled into the Golden Oldies Home with other older cats but for the past couple of years had been the sole resident. So it was with bated breath that we transferred Joules and Violet to join her. All went well (we even saw Joules and Dolly rubbing noses !)

Joules and Violet soon settled down but it was Dolly that caught our attention. She was a changed cat ! Whereas before she spent her life snoozing, either under her favourite bush in the sun or in the armchair in the chalet if the weather was inclement she now ran up and down the enclosure, climbed the ramps to sit on the shelf to watch what was happening in the surrounding countryside and even lay on the shelf to have a snooze.

She had also taken a liking to the toy tunnel and could often be seen snoozing in it - no need to move even when it rained !

At age 15 she had blossomed - we were delighted !

Then one morning when we went to feed her we noticed she was struggling for breath so she was rushed down to Alma. Once she was put in an oxygen tent her breathing steadied.

A thorough physical examination showed no blockages so she was put on medication for asthma and bronchitis. After 48 hours there was no real improvement so a scan was planned for the next day.

The cause of the problem soon became apparent. A tumor has wrapped itself round her larynx thus impeding her breathing. There had been no sign of it when she was examined on admittance so it was obviously very aggressive and nothing could be done so she was gently put to sleep.

Dolly had spent 5 happy years at C.L.A.W.S. changing from a terrified semi feral cat to a happy and contented girl.

We miss her.





## MOLLY

Molly and her sister, Elsa, were adopted by a C.L.A.W.S. volunteer in March 2015. By then they had been moved more than a dozen times.

No wonder they were nervous and appeared to be "looking over their shoulders" constantly expecting their carrying cases to be brought which meant another journey and another home. Molly was always the less nervous of the two but they took a long time to settle and remained jittery.

They had never appeared to be very close, sometimes even slightly hostile, but after Elsa's death it was obvious that Molly missed her, rushing about and crying bitterly and she lost weight.

Eventually she did calm down but still had "Elsa" days when she was very unhappy.

Worryingly the weight loss continued and a series of tests identified the problem - pancreatitis. Despite everyone's best efforts she continued to go downhill.

One morning her owner returned to be greeted by Molly with a little chirrup but almost immediately she suffered a severe fit. She was rushed to Alma and, although she survived it, she had been badly affected by it and it was decided the kindest thing would be to put her to sleep. She was 17 years old.

She was a sweet, gentle soul. She left a big gap and is much missed.



### ABBEY

In October Chris wrote : -

"Well, almost a year since Abbey came to live with us and everything is going well. She still looks a bit 'spooked' at times but she is very happy with her house and companions. Enjoys playing, running around the house and resting in her many favourite places. A totally lovely girl."

Thank you Chris and Sheila for all you have done for Abbey over the past year. She is a very lucky girl and all her friends at C.L.A.W.S are delighted. Ed



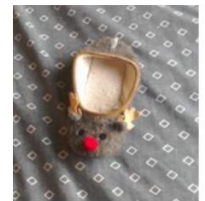
### COCO and The Mystery of the Missing Slipper

Simon writes : - Maggie has got a pair of slippers that she leaves at my house. They are normally tucked under the coffee table. A couple of weeks ago when I was on afternoons I came home and one of them had been moved around the living/dining room every day that week.

One of the boys was the culprit so I put them upstairs in the bedroom. I then started my nights and when I came home in the morning one of the slippers was downstairs every morning. Midweek when I got up I had a shower and as I came out the bathroom I caught Coco red pawed trying to sneak it down stairs! He must think it is a mouse or rat and he is offering me a present.

Just before I left for work one of the slippers was at the top of the stairs again naughty little Coco! It is funny that he has paid no attention to them until recently.

The slippers are suitably festive! Ed



### "THE HERBS"

Harry (he's the one that looks like a snowie owl and Matilda is "the butter wouldn't melt in her mouth" grey one), affectionately known as The Herbs, were adopted as kittens in 2017.

They are like a pack of lions when they are on the prowl looking for mischief.

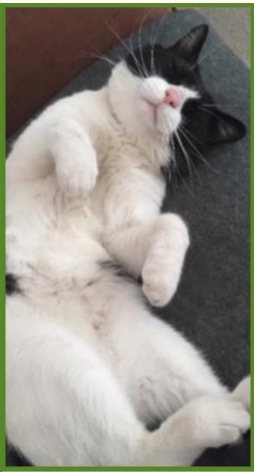
Harry is a beautiful soul, very chatty, soft, gentle, purry and loving - hasn't a bad bone in his body and is so laid back he is almost horizontal !!

Matilda is the oddest little cat. She is built like a Serval with long back legs - she can jump about 4 ft in the air from a standing position. One poor blackbird had his whole life flash before him one night, she is so fast. Everything is done at break neck speed : her family call her crazy horse which is very fitting. She eats her food in a trice and then raids the other cats' dishes. No butterfly is safe. It is amusing to see them leaping about at night after the moths.

Jim, the resident cat is 18 now - a little old boy, very arthritic, but always round for food and a fuss and still manages to jump on the bed every night.. Since the arrival of the Herbs he has had a new lease of life and likes to join in their games.

These photos of The Herbs are so delightful - they deserve a page all to themselves.





## HERBERT

Jenny writes : -

During the heavy snow earlier this year I started noticing a black and white cat in our garden a lot. My two cats accepted him. As the weather got worse he started sleeping at the end of the garden open to the elements on a pile of twigs all night and all day in the freezing cold. He would sleep constantly as it was so cold. After a week or so I couldn't restrain myself any longer and decided to feed him as he wasn't going anywhere. He was so scared I couldn't get near him so I would just leave him food at a distance and go inside. I took photos and posted them online trying to find an owner. Nothing.

Over weeks and weeks little by little I got closer to him eventually sitting with him as he ate. That's when I called C.L.A.W.S. for help. We came up with a plan to gain his trust and get him to a vet to see if he was micro-chipped and have him tested for FIV as I was worried he was ill. I managed to trick him into the cat carrier - which he wasn't happy about! - and took him to the vet. They were armed with long leather gloves expecting him to go crazy but he was an angel and just listened to my voice and watched me constantly while they checked him over. He had no chip and was FIV negative.

Thanks to C.L.A.W.S. he was given a thorough MOT and was neutered and I took him home.

He now lives with us and my daughter loves him. He is a gentle loving soul and very patient. To begin with he was a bit naughty with his food, not knowing when to stop eating, just in case there would be no more. That's a stray for you!

6 months later he's rather round and his coat is like velvet. I did find him a home with a good friend of mine but we just couldn't bear to part with him and his funny ways.

So now he is part of our family forever.

Thank you Jenny for rescuing Herbert. We were delighted to help.



## MISSIE AND HER FRIEND BANDIE

Do you remember Missie and her kittens Eve, Josh and Zac (now healthy young cats happily settled in lovely homes)?

As you can see Missie is taking the opportunity to take things easy. She is still very wary of other cats but, for some reason best known to herself, has made friends with Bandie..



He is another stray and in all the years he has been visiting Missie her owners haven't been able to get within 10 feet of him, although he will launch undercover missions into the kitchen to finish off Missie's leftovers when he thinks the coast is clear. His face is a picture when he gets caught halfway across the kitchen!

It is good that two scaredy cats have struck up a friendship and can often be seen in the back garden enjoying the sun.

## PUMPKIN MARMITE AND ZAC



Their mum wrote

Pumpkin, Marmite and Zac are all doing well. They coped better than we did with the hot summer!

They are a bit annoyed with us as we have been working on the garden this year and took away their favourite covered picnic bench that they loved to sit under in the rain and then we took up the decking which they loved to play under. I hope they forgive us soon.

Pumpkin is still king of the house and helps himself to the best sleeping spaces, though when he hears the fireworks, he comes running to snuggle up with Marmite and Zac on the sofa.

Marmite is still the hunter. I came home the other day to find a wood pigeon wandering in the kitchen and feathers everywhere! How she managed to fit it through the cat flap I have no idea. It seemed to fly off OK, but it took over an hour to clean up after it! (She must have been talking to Toby! Ed)

She has such a sweet "butter wouldn't melt" face to us but outside she definitely has a wild side.

Zac continues to get much braver and isn't afraid of the outdoors any longer. He's even pretty good with visitors these days (as long as they don't use the door bell! He seems to have the best internal clock I ever seen - you can set your watch by him! At 8.30 pm he comes looking for us to ask for his tea and then he curls up on the sofa for a good sleep.

## A LETTER FROM MAISIE

I thought I would put paws to paper. Mummy Mary said it was so nice to see you. I was very happy you remembered me and my mum Rosie who I still miss very much. Mummy Mary says I am the sweetest little girl. She keeps me well on my tablets. Daddy Fred keeps my litter tray clean and fresh. I love them both to bits.

I feel I ought to get a job to help out but I don't chase birds or catch them things called mice - it's not my bag so I'll just have to think of something else to earn a crust.

I've just heard that I'm in the newsletter so maybe I can be a model. Hope it goes furrole (I think she means viral !!! Ed) and then I'll be famous. Lots of Love Maisie



WE LOVE YOU TOO, MAISIE !

## ALL SWEETIE'S KITTENS HAVE BEEN HOMED

We were delighted to hear from Mary that all Sweetie's kittens had been homed and were doing well with their new families.



**FLEUR AND THE TOASTER**

Since she reached her target weight Fleur's food ration has been increased by 20% but she is hungrier than ever !

The other day I had put a slice of bread in the toaster, went to the cupboard to get something out and as I turned round there was the slice of bread on the floor !

She had leapt up on to the top, hooked the bread out of the toaster (fortunately not switched on) decided it was rubbish and dropped it on the floor !

Now nothing edible is left within reach of her paws!

I was telling a friend about this and she said she had wondered why one of her cats had straight whiskers on one side and wavy ones on the other until she caught it leaning over the toaster which was toasting. The whiskers on one side had been done to a crisp !!!!

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**MAN AND MACHINE**

Fenton busy making catnip bags ahead of a sale to raise funds for C.L.A.W.S.

We think he is probably muttering something about child labour !



**MAGGIE THE FLYING CAT AGAIN !**

The Bear Cottage gang had had their daily treat (fish !!) and had settled down for a snooze.

Beverley went to get something from the fridge and Maggie, ever alert and hopeful, thought it was more fish ! She launched herself just as Beverley turned away so she flew straight into the fridge upsetting a partly used can of baked beans !!

Baked beans all over Maggie and the fridge!

She liked the taste of her unexpected treat and was quite put out when Beverley insisted on cleaning her up (as well as the fridge !)



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**WISHING YOU AND ALL YOUR FURRY FRIENDS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**FROM ALL OF US AT C.L.A.W.S**

