



**The Ginger Cat House**  
Rescue, Rehome & Refuge Centre



## KITTY MEWS

### Quarterly Newsletter February 2023

June and her late husband Ian (Cat Daddy) started the GCH rescue 15 years ago, and she has been rescuing and rehoming cats and kittens in need ever since. June has a dedicated team of volunteers, amazing [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Insta](#) pages, some wonderful foster parents, and superb support from [Voo Vets](#). Starting with two cats, June now has 13 permanent rescue residents, as well as 8 cats of her own, and 7 in long-term foster care. In 2022, there were 117 cat adoptions and 128 kittens, total of 245. This year so far there have been 13 cats and 10 kittens adopted. The rescue work is 24/7 and it thrives thanks to June's commitment, expertise, and care, along with fantastic support from volunteers and amazing followers. Thanks to June and all of you, GCH really is a very special place: a cat sanctuary.

### Adoptions record

2022 was a hugely busy year for surrenders and adoptions at GCH. We think it was largely due to changes of circumstance as the country emerged from lockdown and the cost of living began to bite. In 2021, we facilitated 220 adoptions, and in 2022 it had risen to 245 (117 cats and 128 kittens). We are delighted that we were able to help so many people, but we worry that things aren't going to get any better for quite a while. We had a wonderful Christmas holiday period of adoptions, with a number of cats and kittens going to their forever homes for the New Year.

### Twixtmus adoptions



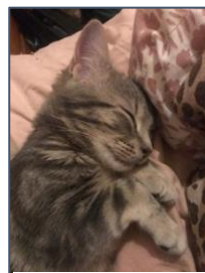
Hollis



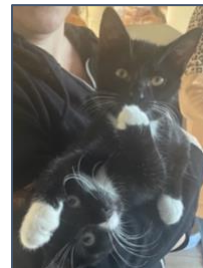
Hera



Lilibet



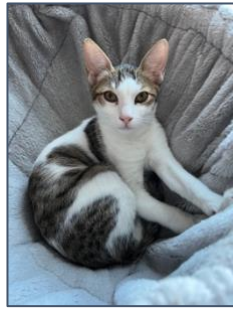
Perla



Bilbo & Frodo



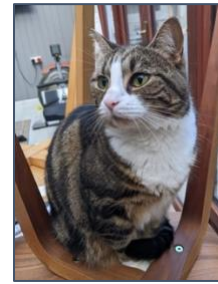
*Blackberry*



*Charlie*



*Henry*



*Smoooshie*



*Tiddles*

**Rasputin** [10] is our newest and much-loved resident cat. Raz came

to GCH in need of an operation to deal with his bladder crystals; his owners were no longer able to care for him. While he recovered, we were delighted to see how easily and quickly he integrated with the other resident cats; though he's not so keen on Shiloh and Symon! He is the perfect GCH cat, a gentle Persian who loves a cuddle! Raz has found a favourite spot on the sofa, and he loves just to sleep there all day on his blanket, getting strokes from visitors. We have to be careful not to sit in him as he is only small. When he is not sleeping (and snoring!), he loves to eat. Raz

reminds us so much of our beloved George – he also used to eat anything and everything! We had to have Raz's long coat groomed as it was very matted, but his fur is beginning to grow back, and he is now lovely and soft. He is a lovely old boy, whom we hope will enjoy his retirement days with us.



## Hope on Holiday



Hope is another one of our most popular resident cats, who was lucky enough before Christmas to go on an extended holiday to volunteer Gaynor's house, where she had the opportunity to spread her wings and blossom (and she was spoilt rotten!). We were delighted to receive regular updates showing Hope scooting around the house at top speed and then resting and enjoying her cuddles. She loved having time outside her pen, and she was able to behave as much like a normal cat as it is possible to do with her back leg paralysis.



The most wonderful thing about Hope is that she really doesn't know she is disabled! Since coming home, she sits up straighter and has more confidence about being outside of her pen. She can even climb the cat tree! Hope's time away has done her the world of good and we are hugely grateful to Gaynor and her family for the love and care they have shown her while she was away. We missed her loads and are glad she's home.



## New arrivals

Work at the rescue never stops. Here are some of the new, young arrivals in the past couple of weeks: Cassy & Casabian, Macy, Luna and Clive.



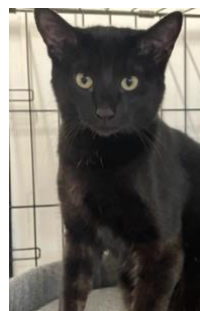
*Cassy [18mo]*



*Casabian [18mo]*



*Macy [3]*



*Luna [9mo]*



*Clive [6mo]*

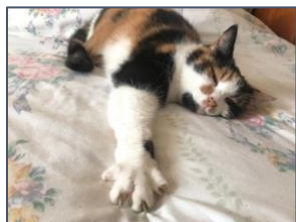


## New direct adoptions

Not all of our new cats come into the rescue. Some are able to stay in their own homes while we look for new owners for them. Meet Cookie & Milo, Jenny, Maggie, Crumble & Matisse.



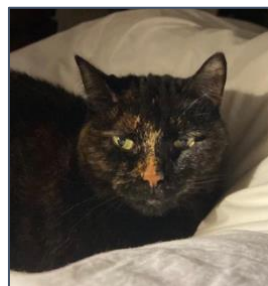
Cookie & Milo [9mo]



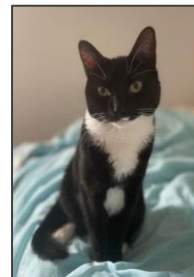
Jenny [17]



Maggie [1]

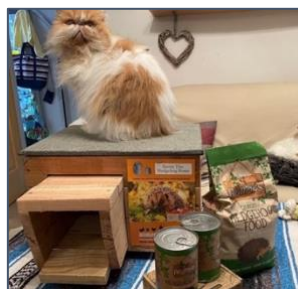


Crumble [9]



Matisse [2]

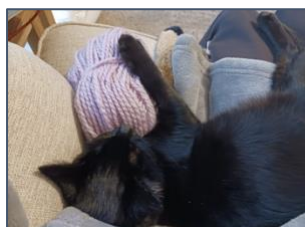
## Hedgehog House



We are fortunate to have so many generous followers. One such supporter is Leanne, who works at the [Lower Morden Garden Centre](#). In early December, Leanne saw our post about the hedgehog family that were visiting the front drive, and she asked us to pop down to the centre to pick up a wonderful donation of a hedgehog house and treats. What a lovely gesture, which provided much needed warmth and shelter for the hedgehogs during the cold snap. As you can see Gracie was also very pleased with the donation!

## Kitty Knitters

We are also lucky to have an army of knitters ready and waiting to knit wonderful things for our Bazaars, most notably our knitted cats! Queen of knitting is Margaret, ably supported now by Ellie, her nanny & Figgy; Brenda tries to catch up!



## Shed Shenanigans



While Pisa has its leaning tower, we had our very own, impressive, leaning shed. Having been let down more than once, we were finally rescued by super-builders Michael and his son Harry, who managed to save and straighten the shed in 4 hours! We were amazed at how quickly they worked, and the end result is amazing. The shed is reborn, and we are already filling it with stuff. Long live the shed!!! Next.....the garage!



## Jack's Back!



It's very touching when cats remember their previous owners. Salzi has now been with us for over 5 years, but he still remembers Jack, who took him in as a stray. Jack travels a lot so surrendered Salzi to us, but he still visits him several times a year and brings him treats. Salzi is always delighted to see him. He is one of our more nervous cats, but he has grown in confidence over the years and is now pretty chilled out. It's heart-warming to see them together, and it goes to show that some cats do have good memories!



## Fostering

Since the start of the pandemic, all rescues have been under enormous strain because of the huge increase in surrendered pets. While there has been no let-up, we have been able to keep helping struggling owners because of the wonderful foster mums and dads who look after cats and kittens for us when the rescue is full or when they need more individual care. [Fostering](#) is very rewarding, but it can also be challenging; it takes a lot of time, effort and patience. We are so grateful to our fosterers for their compassion and hard work.

## Short-term fostering

Short-term fostering can be for days, weeks or even a few months till a cat or kitten is ready to go to their forever home. Our most senior fosterer is Julie and here are some of her recent fosters for us: **Charlie, Henry, Elfie & Kiki, Phoebe, Paige, Hermione, Rosie, Bertie, Betsie & Billy.**



*Charlie*



*Henry*



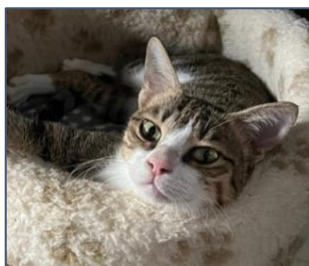
*Elfie & Kiki*



*Phoebe & Paige*



*Hermione*



*Rosie*



*Bertie*



*Betsie & Billy*



*Lilibet*

Mel is another of our experienced fosterers and she has looked after **Lilibet and Dolly P**; while Lindsay has taken care of **Dolly Buns (twice!)**, Signal, Noel & Nieve.



*Dolly P*





*Signal*



*Noel & Nieve*



*Dolly Buns*

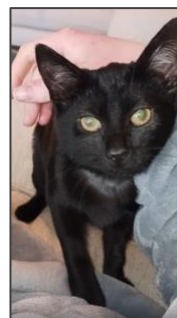
Ellie, one of our newest fosterers has started brilliantly with **Babs & Nikita, Harper, Hollis & Heba, Figgy.**



*Babs & Nikita*

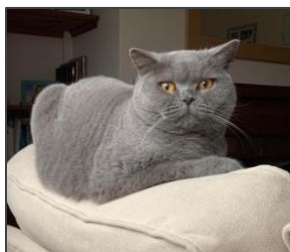


*Harper, Hollis & Heba*



*Figgy*

Keeley has continued her great work with **Nala**, and now **Macy**; while Lea has made great progress firstly with **Babes** and now **Figaro**.



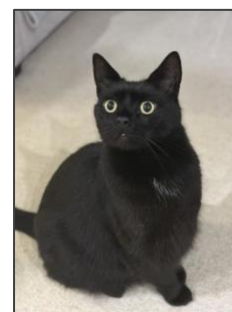
*Nala*



*Macy*



*Babes*



*Figaro*

Steve continues to do amazing work with cats who are very nervous and need a lot of time and special care, such as **Cinderella**; while **Zahra** was Nina's first kitten for us (she is used to older cats) and she totally fell for her. Meanwhile Natasha, who specialises in 'golden oldies', has been looking after 17-year-old **Ollie**. Finally, new foster mum Pam is taking care of the lovely **Renna**, and Richeall is looking after **Pickles**.



*Cinders*



*Zahra*



*Ollie*

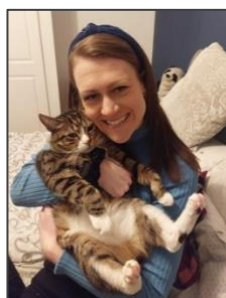


*Renna*



*Pickles*

## Long-term fostering



*Kentucky*

Some of our cats are with us for longer periods a variety of reasons. They may have more complicated medical issues, may be in need of a retirement home or just more time to adjust before rehoming. We think these cats are better suited in a smaller home with fewer cats around them, and this is where our fosterers are invaluable. Currently we have **Kentucky** with Louise; **Kamran** with Mel; **Memma** with Julie; **Pebbles** with Natasha; **Barclay** with Linda; and **Koda** with Brenda.



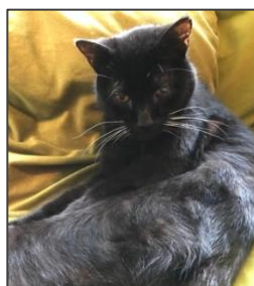
*Kamran*



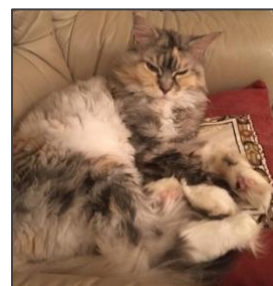
*Memma*



*Pebbles*



*Barclay*



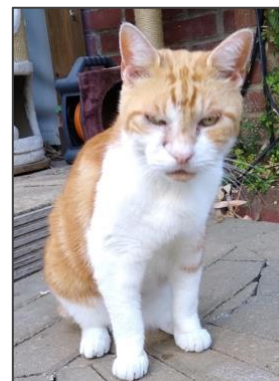
*Koda*



## Over The Rainbow Bridge



**Fudge** was our gorgeous old boy who came to us aged 17 in August 2019, after his owner died and her husband went to sheltered accommodation. Right from the start he was a lap cat, who was happy to potter around as long as he could jump up to get a cuddle. Fudge was a huge hit at our Cat Cafés because he wanted to sit on everybody. He would demand silver service for his breakfast out in the gazebo in summertime and on the sofa during the winter. He also made himself quite at home at Margaret's wool emporium during the last Easter bazaar. Shortly before Christmas, Fudge had a small fit and the vet identified a blood clot which he was being treated for, but on Christmas morning he suffered a saddle thrombosis, and sadly had to be put to sleep. At 20 years old, he had reached a grand old age, and we all adored him. We miss him terribly, but it was a privilege to know him for those 3 years. RIP, Fudge.



**Babes** was an adorable 15-year-old who came to stay in late October after her owner died, but she had some health issues from the start. Her bloated tummy turned out to be an enlarged spleen and a biopsy showed that she also had an enlarged liver and pancreas. Firstly, Babes stayed with Natasha, but she turned out to be allergic to her, so then she was loved and cared for by foster mum Lea. Unfortunately, she was admitted to hospital with high temperature before Christmas, and by late December, she had

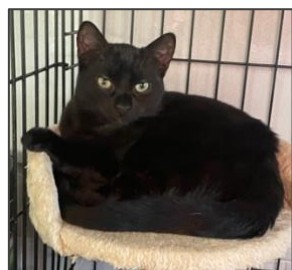


not eaten for a week despite appetite stimulants and a drip to help her kidneys. The vet felt she had given up and advised us to have Babes put to sleep. Babes was a beautiful girl who was unable to overcome her illnesses, but we loved her. RIP, Babes.

## Holby Kitty

Our main expense as a rescue is our vet bills and 2022 was no exception. We have so many cats and kittens through our doors, that inevitably from time to time we come across some serious and unusual health issues. We are fortunate to have access to excellent surgeons at Voo Vets and generous supporters, who help out when we need extra financial assistance for such unexpected and difficult circumstances. Here are some of our recent stories:

**Sabrina & Salina** were born to Endora at the rescue at the end of October, but developed respiratory infections in mid-January shortly after their first vaccination. While Salina made a quick recovery, Sabrina, was in intensive care for 8 days. She needed oxygen and a feeding tube, but eventually responded to treatment. She finally came home at the end of January, and both sisters were adopted by Hannah at the end of February. They are both on top form and doing really well.



**Jaq** came in with his mum Cinderella as a 3-week old kitten in September but developed FIP, a mutation of corona virus which he had picked up from his mum. He needed a course of antiviral medication Remdisivir (used in humans to treat COVID), if he were to survive. Fortunately, Voo had some at the surgery, and while it costs over £3000 for a 12 week course of tablets, they were able to let us have it in 10 day blocks, which made it more affordable. After a period of time in intensive care, Jaq responded really well to the medication and eventually was able to come home. He

is now reunited with his brother Gus. He has just had his 8 week review, and amazingly his bloods show almost everything is normal, so the drugs worked!! We shall be looking to rehome them as a pair.



**Pebbles** is our lovely 18-year-old, who came to live out her retirement days with us in October under Natasha's foster care. Underweight (and completely deaf) Pebbles turned out to have hyperthyroidism and a minor kidney infection, all of which are now being managed with medication. Her kidney levels are now normal, and she has a much brighter future.



**Betsie**, 18 months old, came to the rescue unvaccinated and pregnant with her brother Billy on 1 February. Unfortunately Betsie developed a respiratory infection, which couldn't be effectively treated because of her pregnancy, and she ended up in intensive care. Now she has made a great recovery and has gone home to foster mum, Julie. Her babies are due any day, and we can't wait to meet them – well done Betsie!



**Barclay** is 16 years old and is one of our long-term foster cats living with Linda. In early November he had a minor episode which may have been a fit or a mini stroke, so the vets are keeping an eye on him but they have found nothing untoward so far. He began to have some trouble eating and so we arranged for him to have a dental at the beginning of February to get the troublesome teeth extracted. He is now recovering well and is back to his normal lovely self with Linda.



**Ollie** is our 17 year-old boy who came to us in December and is in foster care with Natasha. He has recently had a biopsy on a lump on his face and he will be having a dental next month for a suspected impacted tooth.



**Figgy**, 5 months old, developed corona virus and a respiratory infection, ending up in hospital for a week. She has now finished her medication, and will be up for adoption, once she has been neutered next month. She is currently in foster care with Ellie and is back to being a normal, healthy kitten.



Among the resident cats, **Tazz** is still having problems with his pillowfoot, for which he needs steroid injections every 4 weeks. In January, **Pitter Patter** developed a skin condition, and needed a cone of shame, along with steroid injections. His condition is still being investigated. **Millie**



**Moo** is having some X-rays and tests as we are worried about her recent weight loss and blood tests, which showed some worrying markers. Unfortunately she is terrified of going to the vets, but it has to be done!





## Kittens Galore!

Although it is not yet 'kitten season', we have had a few adorable single kittens adopted over the past three months. Meet **Harper** ; **Blackberry**; **Lilibet**; **Zahra**; **Minnie** & **Mickey**. **Bertie** has just gone up for adoption.



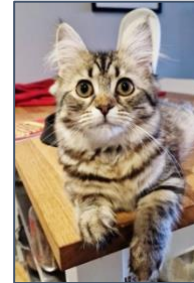
*Harper*



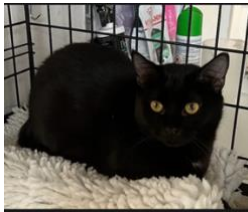
*Blackberry*



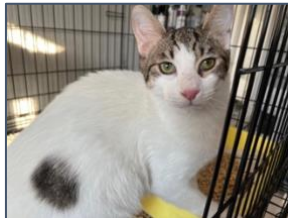
*Lilibet*



*Zahra*



*Mickey*



*Minnie*



*Bertie*

## Double Trouble!

We were very lucky to have so many gorgeous pairs of cats & kittens to adopt in this last quarter: **Babs & Nikita**; **Smooshie & Tiddles**; **Oreo & Oscar**; **Charlie & Henry**; **Frodo & Bilbo**; **Hollis & Hera**; **Kiki & Elfie**; **Daisy & Donna**; **Noel & Nieve**; **Salina & Sabrina**; **Cleo and Bleu**.



*Babs & Nikita*



*Smooshie*



*Tiddles*



*Oreo & Oscar*



*Charlie & Henry*



*Frodo & Bilbo*



*Hollis*



*Hera*



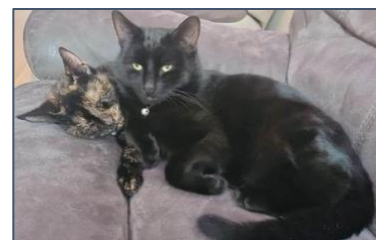
*Kiki & Elfie*



*Daisy*



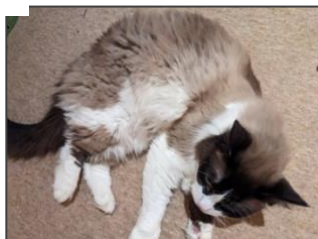
*Donna*



*Noel & Nieve*



*Sabrina & Salina*



*Cleo*

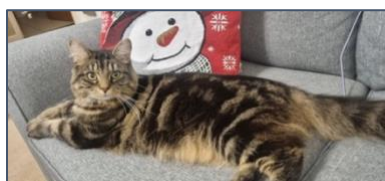


*Bleu*

**Cat Chronicles** We have also had some gorgeous single cats available for adoption in recent months: Paige, Phoebe, Signal, Hermione, Cinderella, Endora, Heba, Ragnar, Figaro & Nala



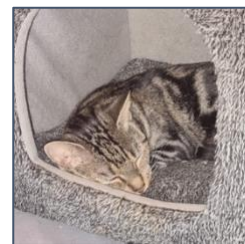
*Paige & Phoebe*



*Signal*



*Hermione*



*Cinderella*



*Endora*



*Heba*



*Ragnar*



*Figaro*



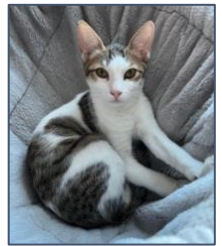
*Nala*

## GCH International



*Juno*

While we have not had any new international intake recently, we were able to help these beautiful felines find their forever homes: **Juno** the tripod from Abu Dhabi was rehomed (for the second time); and **Rosie** from Dubai and all of her kittens too.



*Charlie*



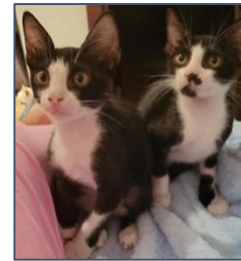
*Rosie*



*Penelope*



*Pippa*

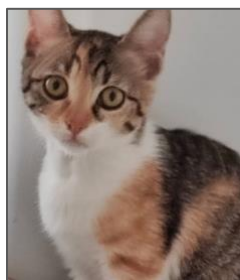


*Oscar & Oreo*

Also from Xristiana in Greece, we were able to rehome **Donna & Daisy, Micky & Minnie**.



*Donna*



*Daisy*



*Micky & Minnie*



## Sponsorship

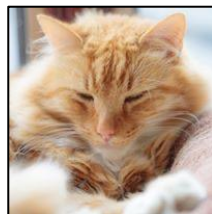
Some of our cats cannot be rehomed because of illness, old age, disability, anxiety or the difficult circumstances from which they were rescued. They are all rescue cats and live under the permanent protection of GCH and there are currently 13 with June and 6 (Memma, Barclay, Kentucky, Kamran, Pebbles and Koda) in long-term foster care with Julie, Linda, Mel, Natasha, Lea & Brenda. Thank you to those of you who sponsor them monthly. Please see the website if you are interested in [sponsorship](#). Here are the cats you can sponsor:



*Symon [9]*



*Millie (8)*



*Charlie (10)*



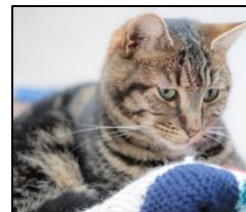
*Shiloh (4)*



*Gabby (3)*



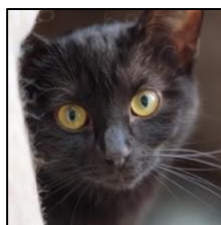
*Gracie (3)*



*Ellie May (4)*



*Benny (8)*



*Lily (4)*



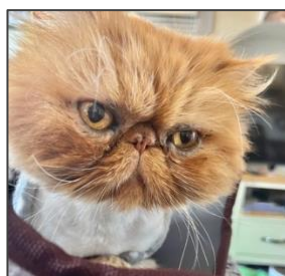
*Lizzie (9)*



*Salzi [13]*



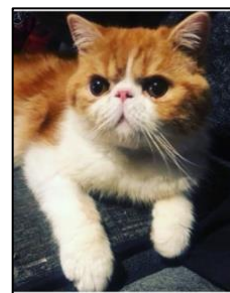
*Hope [1]*



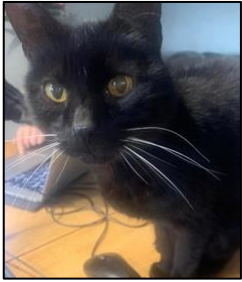
*Rasputin [10]*



*Kentucky [5]*



*Kamran [2]*



*Memma [1]*



*Barclay [17]*



*Pebbles [18]*



*Koda [10]*

## Fostering at GCH

If you are interested in fostering, please fill out the application form on the [Fostering](#) page of our website and email it to us on [team@gingercathousecare.co.uk](mailto:team@gingercathousecare.co.uk).

## Fundraising & Support

Fundraising is a huge part of the work we do at GCH. Last year alone we had over £83,000 of vet bills and the work and day-to-day care is ongoing. We have a number of initiatives, such as [Ping A Pound](#), which enable us to keep looking after our feline friends 24/7 all year round. We are so grateful for the fantastic support of our followers who are incredible generous with their financial donations as well as food, toys and cat furniture & treats. We couldn't manage without them.

## Xmas Bazaar

At the Xmas Bazaar in November, held at the Willow Tree pub, we raised £5000 in sales + £1000 in raffle tickets. It was a wonderful event, thank you so much to all of you who attended. We had a wonderful time!





**Raffles** We are so lucky to have so many generous donations for our raffles. Following the Christmas raffle at the pub, we then sold a further £1000 of Christmas raffle tickets online. A few weeks later, we held a smaller raffle to help pay for Jaq's treatment where we raised a further £875. Here are just a few of the wonderful raffle prizes we have had in the past three months:

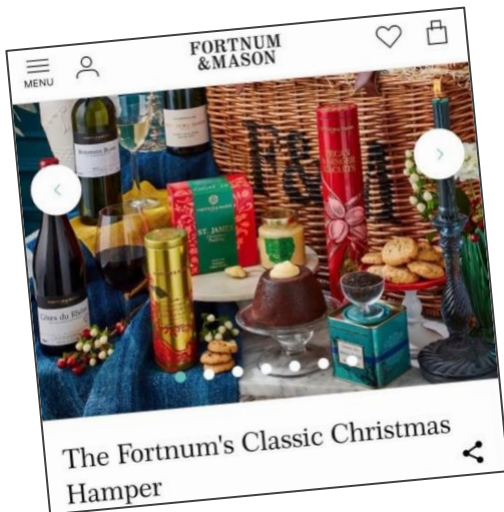




### Golden Ticket



Our Golden Ticket is a Gin Experience Gift Voucher.



In January, we also held an **Online Sale** where we raised £1400, and two of our volunteers Gaynor & Lynn held a **Cake Sale** with their friend Kat, where they raised £300. They would like to thank Amanda and Dee for the baking, and they were thrilled that the cakes and the cheese scones sold really well. Thank you, ladies!



Our latest initiative (after consulting our Facebook followers) is to have **Ping A Pound** on the first of every month to raise money for specific projects. In February we were raising money for Barclay [16] to have a heart scan and dental procedure, and we received £900 in donations. In March, we would like to raise money for Ollie [17] for his biopsy and treatment on his impacted tooth. Design is by Andy [@CosmicRubes](https://www.instagram.com/CosmicRubes)



## GCH Merchandise



We still have a lot of GCH merchandise available: mugs are £6; calendars and fridge magnets are £4 (all plus postage). You will be able to buy it at the Easter Bazaar. We are also looking at creating GCH t-shirts – watch this space! Again, designs are by Andy.





## Socials

We are very lucky to have over 17,000 followers on **Facebook**, but we are also delighted that our **Instagram** & **Twitter** accounts now have over 700 followers! This is all thanks to Nina, our social media guru, who regularly updates both sites with photos and news. Please follow us!

[Facebook](#): @gingercathouse118

[Twitter](#): @ginger\_rescue

[Instagram](#): @thegingercathouserescue

[Link tree](#): @gingercathouse



## Volunteers

### Daily Volunteers

Every morning, our daily volunteers come to clean the pens and look after the cats and kittens. This Daily Core Volunteer group is run by Kym, who comes herself on a Friday, and is made up of Amanda, Dee, Ellie, Jo, Nicola and Jackie. We also have a further bank of lovely ladies, who are ready to step in if we need the extra help or at busy times of year. We are so grateful for their invaluable help every day.

## Dates for your Diaries:

Saturday 18 March

**Yard Sale** of cat items at the rescue 10am-3pm

Saturday 1 April

**Easter Bazaar** at the Willow Tree Pub 12-5pm

Mid-April to October

**Car booting** at Hook Road Arena, dates TBC

Mid-April to September

**Cat Cafés** at the rescue, dates TBC





