



Kidderminster & District Branch

Registered Charity No: 205708

# BRANCH NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2010



[www.rspca-kidderminster.co.uk](http://www.rspca-kidderminster.co.uk) [www.rspca-kidderminster.co.uk](http://www.rspca-kidderminster.co.uk) [www.rspca-kidderminster.co.uk](http://www.rspca-kidderminster.co.uk)

## At a Glance

## The Story of Blinky & Winky

### Editors Note

Over Christmas we had two very poorly cats come into our care, both young, male tabbies.

### Christmas Stocking Appeal

The first one came in Christmas week with a very severe ulcer in his eye.

Unfortunately it was so bad that the eye could not be saved and sadly, it had to be removed. We decided to call him Blinky. In spite of this Blinky remained an exceptionally affectionate cat that likes to play and loves a fuss.

### Dates for the Diary



Thankfully, only having one eye didn't seem to bother him one bit.

### Word from the Chairman

The second one arrived into our care on Boxing Day, in desperate need of veterinary attention and having been abandoned by his previous owners. He had severe wounds to one of his front legs and one of his eyes had been very badly damaged. Unfortunately this poor cat also had to have the damaged eye removed. We called this one Winky. Not surprisingly, as a result of everything he had been through Winky was quite a nervous cat but with a gentle temperament.

### Volunteer Recruitment Morning

Both cats were desperate for a loving home and in February 2010, after being showcased in an RSPCA advert in the local paper, they both got their wish and were successfully re-homed.

### Bingo Night

Strangely, these two tabbies who came into our care within a week of each other and both lost an eye because of their injuries were also re-homed within a week of each other. We all hope, here at the



### Fundraising News

Branch, that they now continue to have long, happy and healthy lives in their loving new homes.

### Homes Wanted

## Editors Note

Welcome to our Spring 2010 Newsletter. The first part of our year has been very busy already, with increasing numbers of animals to re-home, particularly cats and small animals. The great contribution from the Christmas Stocking Appeal along with our other fundraising events and the continued support of volunteers and supporters is, of course, helping to cope with this, but we desperately need more funds.

We have also been busy trying to recruit new volunteers to help with all aspects of the Branch's work, which has received a very good response and we are now welcoming our new helpers.

Planning and organising our 2010 fundraising events is well under way and we are trying several new ideas this year so we hope you all enjoy supporting them. Here's to another successful year of caring for local animals.

If you have any comments, suggestions or ideas for future issues of the Newsletter, I would love to hear from you.

Many thanks for your support.

**Karen**

## Christmas Stocking Appeal

Every year we ask members of the public, Branch members and people who have adopted animals throughout the year to buy a Christmas stocking for the many animals in our care. The sum raised for our 2009 Appeal finally amounted to a fantastic £726, which as you can imagine has helped the Branch greatly, so a very big thank you to all those who contributed to this appeal, it was much appreciated.



## Dates for the diary

Saturday 17th April 2010 - coffee morning at Kidderminster Library

Week Commencing 26th April 2010 - X factor Pet Photo Competition at the RSPCA shop in Stourport

Monday 26th April - Sunday 2nd May 2010 RSPCA Week Collections at Tesco, Kidderminster

Wednesday 7th April 2010 - Fundraising Meeting at Stone Manor Hotel

Sunday 2nd May 2010 - Pound the Bounds Sponsored Walk at Rock

Wednesday 5th May 2010 - Fundraising Meeting at Stone Manor Hotel

Thursday 13th May 2010 - Pollyanna Pickering Evening at Stone Manor Hotel

Thursday 20th May 2010 - Branch Golf Competition at Kidderminster Golf Club

Wednesday 2nd June 2010 - Fundraising Meeting at Stone Manor Hotel

Monday 14th June 2010 - Branch AGM at Stone Manor Hotel

## Coffee Morning

Our coffee morning at Areley Kings Village Hall in Stourport on 10th February was another great success. We had a good turn out, despite it being a bitterly cold day, and raised a fantastic £249.29. We had a great choice of homemade cakes from volunteers, friends and family. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped on the day and/or donated items.

We had another new addition to our stalls this time, by one of our volunteers who makes handmade arts and crafts (see photo). Angela had a lovely selection of handmade cards, Easter gifts etc. Our jewellery lady, Amanda, also came along again with her great array of reasonably priced items. Our usual RSPCA logo goods stall, 'bring and buy' nearly new stall, tombola and raffle all continued to be well supported, especially the nearly new. So, once again, a very successful and enjoyable morning was had by all.

Our next coffee morning is at Kidderminster Library on Saturday 17th April 2010, please come along and support us.



## Word from the chair

2009 saw more animals than ever coming into the Branch's care owing to the economic climate with people having to vacate homes and go into rented accommodation, unable to take their animals with them (many just abandoned the animals without a second thought). The increase of animal welfare has resulted in a heavy financial burden upon the Branch with boarding kennels and fosterers full to capacity.

During the year we also ran a Neutering Scheme for cats in the hope that this would help the situation during 2010, in total we neutered 119 cats which was absolutely fantastic, so we are hoping that we shall see the benefits of this scheme during the year.

I would like to say a big thank you to all our fosterers/boarding establishments, home visitors and the rehoming officers who man the telephones for all their help during a difficult period. The total number of animals re-homed last year was 251 and the continued support of volunteers and branch members is vital to our much needed work and is very much appreciated.

In the Newsletter there are various forthcoming events which all very much need your support but also you may like to attend the Branch's Annual General Meeting which takes place on Monday the 14th June 2010 at The Stone Manor Hotel - 7.30pm. Our Guest Speaker will be Sally Learoyd, who is the RSPCA's Equine Rehoming Officer. Her first responsibility is for horses and ponies in Wales, but she also re-homes horses throughout the Country. Her presentation 'Horses in the Twenty First Century' will explore the challenges and rewards of working with RSPCA horses. Go on make it a date, all the reality shows are never on Monday nights so PLEASE do join us.

**Janis Borley**

**Hon. Chairman**

# Volunteer Recruitment Morning

The Branch held a very successful Volunteer Recruitment Morning on Saturday 6th February 2010 at Kidderminster Library. The morning was advertised in the local paper and posters were displayed in local shops, veterinary practices, the library and college etc. Members of the public were invited to attend our drop in session where they could have an informal chat with two of the branch co-ordinators, browse the information boards and pick up some literature. The boards displayed pictures and information about some of the branch's animals for re-homing, details and posters of planned fundraising events, Flag Day collections for the year ahead and events currently in the planning.



Volunteer Co-ordinator, Vicky Chell and Fundraising Co-ordinator, Karen Drake, spoke to over 20 people during the morning about volunteering opportunities available within the branch and are now welcoming some great new volunteers! Thank you to all those who attended... the branch is always in need of new volunteers to help raise funds for our vital work.

## Bingo Night

Kidderminster and Stourbridge local branches held a joint Fun Bingo Night on Tuesday 16th March at The Whittington Inn near to Kinver, Stourbridge. The night was a huge success and we had a great turnout of around 70 people. An enjoyable night was had by all... with many people enquiring when the next one would be!

The star of the night was Natalie Gayle, our professional international bingo caller! Natalie has been entertaining audiences on cruise ships for years and kindly offered to do the calling for us at no cost. She did a wonderful job and kept everyone smiling throughout the evening. Thank you Nat.

We had a wonderful range of prizes on offer, many of which were generously donated by local businesses and supporters of the branches. Prizes included: meal vouchers at local reputable restaurants; bottles of spirits, wine, beer and champagne; chocolates; beauty and hair salon vouchers and many many more. There was something for everyone. Some lucky bingo players walked away with three prizes each!!

We also played a game of 'Last Person Standing' which cost £1 per person to enter and a cash prize of £50 was up for grabs. The gentleman who won went home very pleased.

We raised a total of £451.00 on the night from the sale of bingo books, dabbers, Last Person Standing tickets and Raffle tickets which was a wonderful achievement and the profit will be split between the two branches. Thank you to all those who joined us, everyone really got into the spirit and it made all the difference. We're hoping to organise another Bingo Night in a couple of months time so please keep your eyes peeled for our posters and newspaper advertisements!

# Fundraising News

## Shop and Street Collections

Our first collection of the New Year (in the snow) at The Range in Kidderminster raised £195.94, our new venue of Morrisons in Kidderminster on 5th & 6th February raised a fantastic £244.39 and our Bewdley street collection on Saturday 27th March raised £204.30. A big 'THANK YOU' to all our hardy volunteers who stood with their shakers, especially on the cold, wintry days. These donations, by generous members of the public, are vital to help meet our ever increasing costs.

Our next collections are :

Monday 26th April - Sunday 2nd May - Tesco, Kidderminster (end of National RSPCA week)

Saturday 12th June at The Range, Kidderminster

We have shop or street collections every month and we are always after additional people to help out, so if you are interested or know anyone who may be, please contact Karen on 07979 225407.

## Has your pet got the 'X FACTOR' ?

For RSPCA Week (Monday 26th April to Sunday 2nd May 2010) we are holding an

'X FACTOR' pet photo competition at our shop in Lombard Street, Stourport.

As in the show there will be four categories for all animals:

1. The pairs/groups
2. Single Males
3. Single Females
4. The over 8 year olds

All categories will be on display in our Charity Shop during RSPCA Week and will be judged by the general public who will select four winners and two runner ups in the above categories and one overall 'X FACTOR' WINNER.

For further information/application form please phone

# Fundraising News continued



## Join us for a Sponsored Walk



On Sunday 2nd May 2010 some of our volunteers will, once again, be putting their walking boots on to 'Pound the Bounds' and raise money for the branch. They will be joining the 300+ people who annually take part in the 'Pound the Bounds' walk round the ancient parishes of Rock. There are a range of guided and un-guided walks to choose from, dependant on your ability. The £5 entry fee goes to the Rock Village Hall Charity and then any money raised can be donated to the charity of your choice...RSPCA-Kidderminster & District of course! Last year our volunteers raised almost £1,000 on this event, so please come along and join us. If it's not your cup of tea why not help by sponsoring our volunteers.

For more information go to [www.rockvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.rockvillagehall.co.uk) or contact Karen at the Branch on 07979 225407.

## An Evening with Pollyanna Pickering



One of our many new events this year is an evening with Pollyanna Pickering, which we are holding at the Stone Manor Hotel on Thursday 13th May 2010. We are very excited about this event as Pollyanna has very kindly agreed to give a talk to our Branch regarding her work rescuing wildlife and as one of Europe's foremost wildlife artists. Her paintings will be familiar to most people from her extensive ranges of prints and cards, many commissioned by charities including the WWF, Guide Dogs for the Blind and RSPB.

She paints only animals which she has observed in their natural habitats and as the most published artist in the UK, her work sells in over eighty countries worldwide. It promises to be a great evening so please come along and support us. In the meantime, if you want to find out more about

Pollyanna and the Pollyanna Pickering Foundation, go to her website: [www.pollyannapickering.co.uk](http://www.pollyannapickering.co.uk) . Tickets are available now priced £7.50, please contact Janis on 07715 201239.

# Fundraising News continued



## Do you know any golfers ?

The first Branch Golf Competition is on Thursday 20th May 2010 at Kidderminster Golf Club and we are looking for teams of 4 players to join us. Posters and leaflets are about locally and entry forms/sponsorship forms are available from Karen Drake.

The details, for any golfers, are that it's an 18 hole Am-Am Medal. Two scores to count.  $\frac{3}{4}$  handicap. Handicap Limit: Men 24, Ladies 30. Teams of 4 players, entry fee £120.00 per team, which includes a running buffet. Tee off times 10.00am -2.00pm. There will be team prizes, individual spot prizes and a raffle.

We are trying to get sponsorship for as many holes as possible (with an animal linked to it), at a cost of £50 per hole for businesses or £40 per hole for individuals or family sponsorship (these can be in memory of a pet if requested). All sponsors (and donators of prizes) will be named in the programme, given to all players at registration on the day, on our display boards in the golf club on the day and thanked on our website.

We have so far had prizes generously donated by:

Adam Bourne Jewellers, Kidderminster

IPC Media, West Sussex

The Mill Hotel at Alverley

Mid Counties Co-operative

Morrisons, Kidderminster

Harvington Hall

Birmingham Reperatory Theatre

Severn Valley Railway

And sponsorship received from:

Rogela Accounting Services, Nuneaton

The Cabinet Office, Erdington

Charnock Shepherd Veterinary Surgeons

If you know anyone/local businesses who would be kind enough to donate a prize or sponsor a hole/animal please give them the details or ask them to contact Karen on 07979 225407.

# Homes Wanted



**Mojo & Pepe- brothers**



**Charlie-found tightly tied to a car bumper but now fully recovered.**



**The Cookley Four**

**rescued from a hedge on the A449, then aged 2 weeks, now aged 5 months and are brilliant fun.**



**Lucy**



**Carter & Kelly - mother and daughter found setting off alarms at Carters' Warehouse**



**We also have many lovely rabbits, bunnies and guinea pigs to re-home**



# How you can help

The Kidderminster & District branch of the RSPCA is an independently registered charity and receives no State or lottery funding. We rely on voluntary donations and help from people like you to undertake our vital welfare work.

Your generosity could mean the difference between life and death to an injured, sick or neglected animal.

There are lots of ways you can help us -



## **Volunteering**

We are always desperate for new volunteers. Please phone Vicky on 07812 022250 or Karen on 07979 225407 for further details.



## **Supporting our events**

We hold a wide variety of fun events throughout the year. Simply come along... there's something for everyone!



## **Become a member of the RSPCA**

For more information see [www.rspca.org.uk](http://www.rspca.org.uk)



## **Become a Branch Trustee**

Have a say in how the branch is run. Training is provided.



## **Recycle mobile phones, printer cartridges and jewellery**

Contact Karen on 07979 225407 for a recycling envelope.



## **Internet shopping sites**

If you are buying branded goods from the internet why not look for websites that donate a percentage of your money to charity? Try [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk), [www.we-care.com](http://www.we-care.com) or [www.thegivingmachine.co.uk](http://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk)



## **Make a donation to the Branch**

By cash, cheque, direct debit or through PayPal on our website [www.rspca-kidderminster.co.uk](http://www.rspca-kidderminster.co.uk)



## **Payroll Giving**

If your company offers Payroll Giving you can authorise regular donations to be deducted from your pay. For more information visit [www.giveasyouearn.org](http://www.giveasyouearn.org)

# Events in the Planning

June	3rd	Gardeners Question Time at Areley Kings Village Hall
	19th	Stall at Kidderminster Carnival
July		Coffee Morning at Areley Kings Village Hall
		Bingo Night
September	4th	Stall at Stourport Carnival
		Ladies Pamper Evening / Champagne & Shopping
October		Mutt Strutt Sponsored Walk
		Curry & Quiz Night
November		Coffee Morning at Areley Kings Village Hall
		Nostalgia Evening

## Contact Numbers

Animal Cruelty Line: 0300 1234 999

Re-homing:

Cats: Julia - 01562 634427

Dogs: Jackie - 01562 701115

Small Animals: Leesa - 07966 220666

Interested in volunteering:

Volunteer Co-ordinator - Vicky Chell - 07812 022250

Fundraising Co-ordinator - Karen Drake - 07979 225407

Branch Shop:

Lombard Street, Stourport on Severn

Tel; 01299 821313

