

## SHOP NEWS

As you know, the shop in South Molton closed at the end of September. We would all like to give a huge Thank You to the dedicated staff who worked there.

Our Barnstaple shop has done incredibly well and continues to provide us with a regular income. We are sincerely grateful to the loyal team who work there throughout the year.

We have acquired the lease for a shop in Bideford, **Look out for the opening in January.**

We are also negotiating the lease for a shop in **Braunton** and hope to open this in the spring.

**PLEASE** continue to support the shops. We rely on your continued generosity to bring us good quality stock.

**Have you a few hours a week when you could help in one of them?**

**You would meet a lot of interesting people and, more importantly, you would be helping NDAA to continue its work.**

**Animal welfare is a worldwide problem which we can't solve but, with your help, we can alleviate it HERE**

**IN NORTH DEVON**

## TELEPHONE NUMBERS

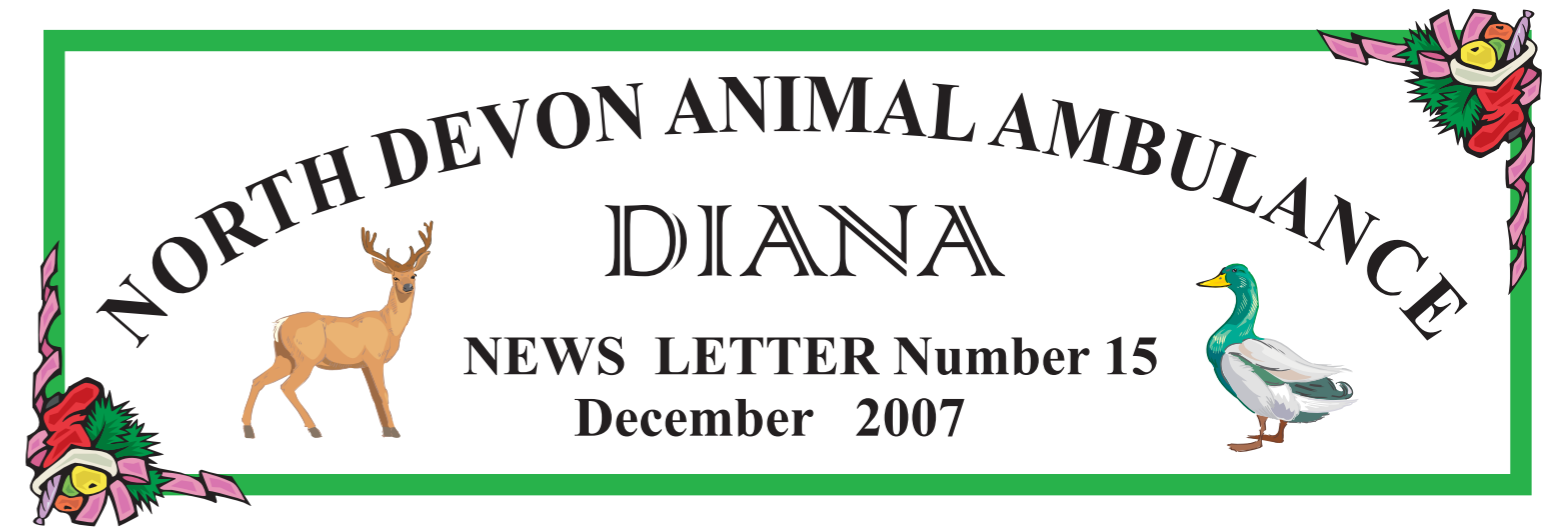
**DIANA** 01598 740603  
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**KITHILL CATTERY & CHAIRMAN** 01271 323740  
**DOG (rehoming)** 01237 476237  
01237 425354  
**SECRETARY** 01237 474486  
**TREASURER** 01643 831592

### Address for correspondence

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## COMMITTEE 2007/8

Pauline Bussell (chair),  
Jane McPhee (secretary)  
Jane Dennis-Smith (treasurer)  
Norman Bussell  
Michael & Bridget Jeffery  
Mick & Diana Lewis  
Liz Oram, Pat Bowden and  
Karen Dennis-Smith



## A Howling Success at AGM!

**The Fourth AGM at the Imperial hotel, Barnstaple on October 31st was a huge success with a rather special guest.**

Once again we would like to thank the Brend family for generously providing the venue and refreshments. The meeting was very well attended and it was a most enjoyable evening. The charity has had another successful year which was detailed in the Chairperson's and Treasurer's reports. Excerpts from Diana's report are on the centre pages. All the committee were re-elected and they will be joined by Pat Bowden and Karen Dennis-Smith. Mrs. Nancy Sawyer, a staunch supporter, has agreed to be our patron.

When the business was completed we were treated to a fascinating talk by our own local "Wolf Man", Shaun Ellis. Although he is based in Combe Martin, Shaun has extensive experience of living with wolves, notably in North America. We were very fortunate that Shaun, now an internationally recognised expert, was prepared to give up an evening to give us some insight into the complexities of a wolf pack. His enthusiasm was infectious. He showed us photos and explained about the intricacies of the pecking order of the pack. Each wolf has its place and can be recognised by its call.

The highlight of the evening was when Shaun made us close our eyes and demonstrated the calls. His amazing display was followed by a brief training session for a group of "volunteers" plucked from the unsuspecting audience and then the whole "pack" performed. The effect was realistic to the point it probably emptied the hotel of all its other guests! After a fascinating question and answer session it was announced that Shaun has also agreed to be our patron, which was a perfect end to the evening.

## DONATION SLIP

**NORTH DEVON ANIMAL AMBULANCE** (Registered Charity No. 1106314)

We are very grateful for any donation you would like to make. If you would like to support us regularly you might consider setting up a Standing Order which is both safe and cost effective. We depend on your donations to continue our work.

### Please return to:

The Treasurer, NDAA, White Rock, Simonsbath, Nr. Minehead. Somerset. TA24 7JT

I/WE enclose a donation of £..... To NDAA (cheques payable to NDAA)

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

I am a standard taxpayer  (If this applies tick box)

Date.....

If you have ticked the box you can sign a Gift Aid form. This will mean that your gift will be increased by 28p for every £1.00 you donate. The forms are available from our Treasurer.



*Pippa now dressed for her 14th Christmas!*

## A Happy Christmas & New Year for Pippa!

**Pippa was twelve years old and suffering from arthritis when her owner died.**

Lynn cared for her but we were concerned that she was not the ideal candidate for re-homing. Against the odds an elderly lady offered her a wonderful home and Pippa looked set to live her life out in comfort.

Unfortunately, her new owner had a stroke and Pippa was back in our care within a year. Things were looking bleak for her future until Diana related her plight to Jane, our treasurer, and her daughter Karen. There are no prizes for guessing where Pippa is now!

Although she has had most of her teeth out and is on heart medication she has a healthy appetite and runs round with the other two collies. Jane, Karen and Pippa are all very pleased with themselves. Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks?

## Fish now off the menu for Teasel?

A tiny 6 week old kitten was seen hiding in bushes in a farm near South Molton.

Now known as Teasel this tiny ball of fluff had a huge fish hook embedded in her throat, was terrified and in great pain. Despite the best efforts of the farmer and myself it took some days to catch Teasel. Eventually frightened and bedraggled, Teasel was rushed to *Market Veterinary Surgery* where she underwent immediate emergency surgery.

### One life down eight to go.....

The size of the hook and the extent of the related injuries meant the removal of most of her palette and she had to stay for days of treatment. Liz, our lovely veterinary nurse, took her home for long term convalescence and a great deal of TLC!

### Warm, safe and a change of life style....

Teasel has now decided that she does not want to be a feral cat. A bed by the fire and a bowl of food, preferably in a china dish, beat a farm yard and barn any day.

Besides which, she now knows about Christmas and is anticipating a stocking. Maybe, just maybe fish could be back on the menu after all!

## Thank You..

Last year **John and Jenny Wellham** from Braunton raised £900 for us by making and selling cakes. A wonderful effort. This year they have donated £1,000 and they have three more events planned! We wish them a very Happy Christmas and everybody who has supported us this year.

## Feel Free to Hit Us!

*Net Tecs International Solutions* and *Al Hidden*, a professional copywriter from Cheltenham, have built us a fabulous new web site.

They have done this completely free of charge and have promised to maintain it indefinitely. This has generated a whole new audience for NDAA. The site has already received a huge number of hits and we have had very positive feed back. Future plans include online donations as well as up to date information and pictures.



*In the hands of the professionals. The hook clearly seen that nearly ended in disaster.*

## A Christmas Message From Diana..

I am sure that you would be surprised if you knew how many times each day I say "Thank You". I say it every time I take a sick, unwanted or injured animal to the vet for treatment. I think it when I tell the vet he can do what ever is necessary to ease the pain. I know it when I see the same animal responding to the loving after care it receives from one of our fosterers and I could shout it from the rooftops when the same animal smiles at me after it has been happily re-homed.

**Thank you for your support. Thank you for your compassion. With my very Best Wishes for Christmas.**

*Diana*

**Christmas Cards**  
**Now Available**

Our Christmas cards featuring 'Misty' in his Santa Claus outfit are now available from the shop or committee members. Priced £1.70 for a pack of five.

All proceeds to NDAA.

## Amazing Prizes for New year Draw...

The New Year NDAA draw promises to be the best yet.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors we are able to offer a number of wonderful prizes in our draw which will take place at our Barnstaple shop at noon on February 1st. The first prize is **5 star luxury accommodation for up to 6 people** at Woolacombe (see enclosed leaflet).

Other prizes include: £50 dinner voucher, £70 bodyboard and bag, £50 cash prize, Freeview Digibox, a selection of food hampers, a flower arrangement, two further meal vouchers, a watch, £25 cash prize, a wetsuit and many more. Tickets are 50p each and available from the shop, committee members (contact numbers on the back page).

## 100 Club Winners!

Below are the winners of our **100 club** members. Congratulations to these lucky people and good luck to everyone else in the coming months draws.

Month	No.	Winners Name
August	24	<b>Mr. &amp; Mrs Grantham</b>
September	27	<b>Mr. C. Ireland</b>
October	70	<b>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Wolfe</b>

Have **YOU** considered joining the club? For a donation of **£5** each month you could receive the £100 prize!

## Bushy's too friendly!

Another case of misguided kindness. Diana gets called to an over friendly fox!



*Bushy in perfect condition abandoned.*

I was called to an area near Barnstaple where the residents were concerned that a peculiarly friendly fox was calling daily at their doors waiting for breakfast, lunch and supper. They couldn't touch him but he showed no fear and was obviously intending to take up residence in their gardens. This was not a good idea.

### Dogs, Cars and Hens; all a problem for Bushy...

The local dogs saw him as a threat not to mention the local hens who saw Bushy as a serious threat although, to be fair, Bushy was not interested in them. No consolation for the hens! The local drivers, on their way to work, saw him as a major problem as he seemed to think the road was his own and had no fear of cars.

Fortunately he was easily caught. He was not street wise but he was in magnificent condition. He was obviously hand reared (not a good survival rating for any wild animal.) He had probably become too much of a handful to cope with and had been turned out.

### A bright future for Bushy...

Bushy is now at "Secret World" where, thanks to their superb rehabilitation facilities, he will learn to be a real fox again and be released at a later date into the wild. Then his cunning rather friendliness may return!

# Extracts from Diana's AGM Report



To say that this year has been unusual in every way would not be an exaggeration. Our workload has increased again, as indicated by the doubling of our veterinary costs. Our fosterers and carers have been outstanding in their dedication and have achieved wonderful results. So many animals lovingly cared for and re-homed, many with difficult natures and severe physical disabilities. Each one has been cherished and stabilised until the team can find it a permanent, loving and secure home. Tiny hamsters, large dogs, elderly cats and a desperate pony have all found their "right person" thanks to the team who ask for no reward, other than seeing an animal they have cared for given another chance.

Can any of us forget "Mistletoe", the Christmas donkey? She was so emaciated that she could not stand. Her teeth had grown back into her gums, she was blind with pus sealing her eyes and she had been left in a barn for months. After wonderful equine treatment from vet Brian Crawford and superb dental work by Gill Spinney she is now well on the road to recovery. She is living with Gilly and Keith Pugsley and has her own Devon heaven in their paddock.

"Hobo" was another case who reduced us all to tears. The puppy was only ten weeks old when he was abandoned by travellers. He was a mass of broken bones (the reasons for this beggar belief) and his chances of survival were minimal. Thanks to the treatment given by Dave Tidell, at Charter Vets and the aftercare by our wonderful Lynn and Bob Lines "Hobo" has recovered and found a home that has exceeded our greatest expectations. His new owners have built him a hydro-therapy pool and are going to allow us to use it in the future.

Torbridge and Market Vets are the central pivot of our work. My unending appearances with desperate cases are always accepted with smiles by the nurses and treated with great skill by the vets. Norman Bussell, our own resident vet and committee member, knows all too well about these sort of incidents. Despite his ongoing fight with serious health problems Norman has not faltered when I have asked for assistance with a sheep, deer or dog that has needed immediate euthanasia in difficult circumstances. There are many creatures whose suffering has been eased by Norman's presence this year.

In 2007 our work experience girls and volunteers have been outstanding and given us great reassurance for the future. A special thank you to Leanne for three years of outstanding work. At only sixteen years of age and only just started at Bicton College, she surely is one of those who brings hope to the future of animal welfare. Thanks also to Sophie from Bideford, Lisa from Bicton College, Vicky, Lucy, Sonia and Lynn. They have cleaned, fed and loved all the little creatures I have brought in this year without any expectation of recognition or reward.

This year has brought many publicised rescues. None of these would have been possible if I had not had the support of our wonderful North Devon Police, Coast-guards and Fire Service. After the nationally famous rescue of Bushy by RAF Search and Rescue 22 Squadron, working with coast-guards and ourselves I must also give a huge vote of thanks to RAF Chivenor. During the dreadful summer rainfall I was also able to call on the Environment Agency and Highways Department for help with the rescue of wildlife on more than one occasion. My sincere thanks go to all of them.

A huge vote of thanks must go to the North Devon Journal. Without their coverage of so many stories we would not have found marvellous homes for our animals. They have also given us much needed publicity.

*Continued.....*



Then there are the marvellous workers who plod on, again without any recognition, raising the money which enables us to carry on. Without them we would not exist. When I look at the accounts I am humbled to see how much trust the North Devon public put in us to spend their money in the way they would wish.

On to our committee. After four years our little charity has settled into its policies. All our committee members share the same aim which is to achieve the very best for every animal we deal with. They all work tirelessly and their individual talents combine to make an amazing working group. We have no ambitions to expand beyond North Devon. Our constitution states that we aim to relieve the suffering of the animals we take into our care and to try to give them a better future and that says it all. In an effort to improve our service we are looking into the possible purchase of a Triage ambulance in the near future. This is possible because we have been offered the knowledge and practical help of two of our Trustees.

Finally, my special thanks go to our dedicated Treasurer Jane and her daughter Karen, who have guided us strictly and successfully through this financial year. Our chairperson Pauline and my wonderful husband Mick both work tirelessly at my beck and call and never refuse to go to the aid of an animal, regardless of the time of day, or more often night! Then there are you, the public, who are a constant source of support and often inspiration. Your kindness and encouragement make it all worth while. Our joint reward is the look in an animal's eyes when it realises that life can have so much more to offer than pain, hunger and rejection.

**Vicky Hammett, who is twenty-three, has been assisting Diana regularly on a voluntary basis. These are some of her thoughts about NDAA.**

**MY EXPECTATIONS:** When I joined the charity I thought the job would be glamorous, packed with drama and involve dangerous rescues. I thought that I would spend my days surrounded by cute puppies and kittens. I thought, stupidly, that it would not be demanding.

**THE REALITIES:** The job is not glamorous. Most of our calls are about welfare because owners lack the basic knowledge required for the care of their pet. So many people take on an animal without considering the costs involved and some suffer changes in their circumstances. As a result we spend much of our time taking their pets for veterinary treatment and covering the cost. Even worse are the "caring owners" who go on holiday or even move house, leaving the pets they have domesticated to fend for themselves. The number of strays, especially cats, we pick up is horrifying. There have been times when I have been ashamed to see the lack of respect and sometimes downright cruelty that my fellow humans inflict on defenceless creatures.

The job is demanding. The ambulance clocks up 40,000 miles a year. There are days we don't stop for lunch or even toilet breaks.....and the 'phone rings all the time.

I've also learned how much goes on behind the scenes of the charity. There is so much paperwork and administration and the people who cope with this all really know their stuff! Everyone I have met who works for NDAA has been very welcoming and they form a great team.

Although I have been upset by the way some people treat animals, I have also been amazed by the generosity and care shown by others.

**I find it a very rewarding voluntary job and wish that more young people were involved.**

