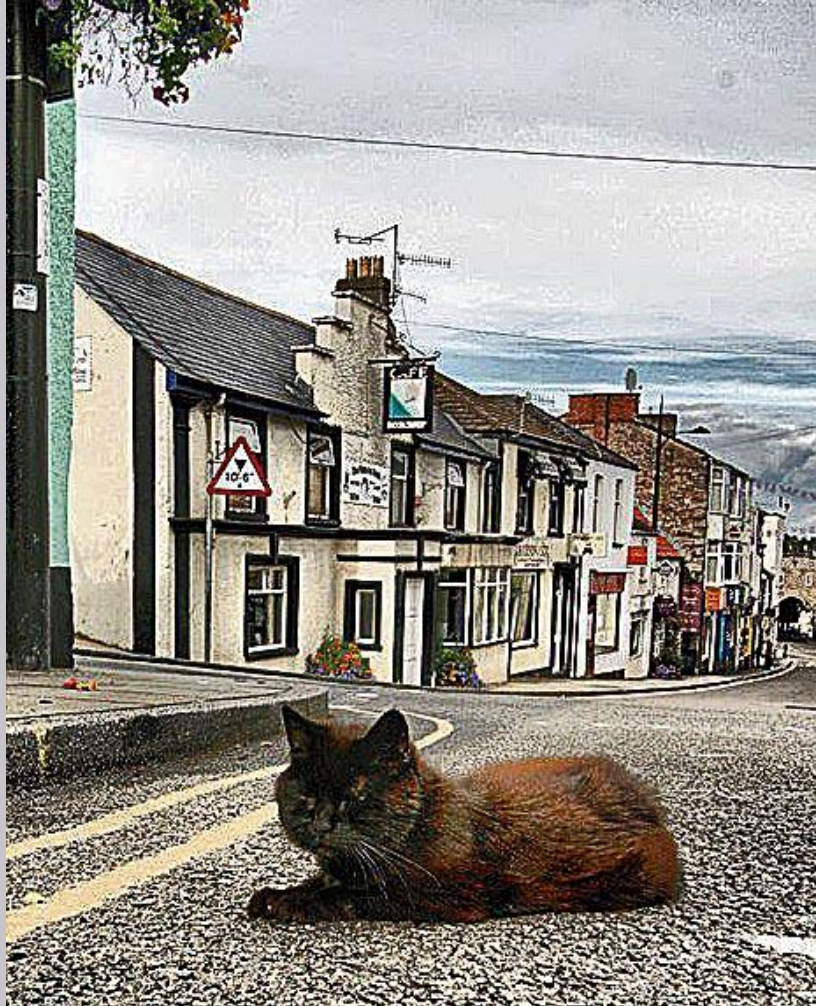


Featured Felines: Cats' Adventures & Travels 24

Cats about Town 4

Alfie of Chepstow, Monmouthshire, Wales



Black cat Alfie, originally a rescue cat, was a part of daily life in the small South Wales town of Chepstow, in Monmouthshire. from 2003 when his humans, Caroline Gammon and her three children, moved there from Cirencester in Gloucestershire. Over the next ten years he became something of a town mascot and had been described as 'the most famous cat in Wales'.

He loved to bask in the sun outside his home at the bottom of Steep Street, by Merrick's the chemist's shop, and everyone from pensioners to bus drivers would stop to say 'hello' to him. Some people thought he was a stray, but he had a loving home and just liked meeting people and getting a bit of petting and a stroke; being friendly and gentle he had many friends. His fame spread much further afield when in 2013 the children, Tom, Sam and Alice, set up a [Facebook page](#) for him (*last used regularly 2014*), and he gained followers from as far away as Australia and South Africa.



If he were not at his usual spot, people would ask after him and many enquiries were made during the very cold weather of early 2013 – but Alfie was safely keeping warm indoors. However, On 12 March there was a message on Facebook saying that the last of Alfie's nine lives had come to an end and he had died peacefully in his sleep, aged about 19. There were hundreds of tributes and messages of condolence from far and wide.



Alfie at home and (below)
in his younger days





His funeral was well attended and he is buried in the garden of his home. An unusual way of celebrating his life was a wake, organised by the landlord of the Coach and Horses, the local pub, who said: 'Ms Gammon and her family are regular customers of mine and we all knew Alfie, so I decided to organise something where we could have a sing-song and pay tribute to him.' About 100 people attended the wake, some coming quite a distance; there was a eulogy and a specially written poem was read. A collection raised funds for Cats Protection, and another pub in the town also raised over £100 for the RSPCA in Alfie's memory.

There were calls from townsfolk for Alfie to be permanently remembered, perhaps by renaming the part of the street where he would hold court as 'Alfie's Corner', or perhaps by means of a plaque or statue in his memory. The town council was considering the requests, then Chepstow potter Ned Heywood, who makes Blue Plaques for the City of London and elsewhere, offered to make a special plaque at no cost in memory of Alfie. It was completed by May and there was a photo (*above left*) — a lovely tribute indeed.

Alfie's family confirmed on Facebook that in October 2013 the plaque had been mounted close to where he used to sit.

Links

- *Free Press*, Apr 2013: [Potter makes plaque as tribute to Alfie the Chepstow cat](#).
- *Free Press*, October 2013: [Plaque unveiled in memory of Alfie](#)

For other 'cats about town' see [Featuring /Adventures & Travels 21, 22, 23 25 \(below\)](#); [Mini Fragments 3 – Ludlow](#); [Famous – Hamish McHamish](#)

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Featuring Felines: Cats' Adventures & Travels 25 (2024) (page checked May 2026)

Cats about Town 5

Charlie Charles of Wadebridge; Dexter of Alderbury; Raymond of Llangollen;
Mischief of Plymouth

Charlie Charles Wadebridge, Cornwall, England



In 2021 Emma Williams and her young daughters thought they'd chosen a little girl-kitten from a litter of black kits, but because of a mix-up with coloured ribbons they wore, they ended up with mischievous **Charlie Charles** instead! An adventurous cat, Charlie has become Wadebridge's 'town cat' and is known and loved throughout the community. Apparently his first night out was when he joined delighted 'trick or treaters' at Halloween, and since then his life has been something of a social whirl!

Charlie tends to begin his day at the pet shop, where he'll check out the treats and have a nap, then he moves on to the Co-op store and the post office. Afternoons are often spent at the Antiques Centre, or if there's a rugby or cricket match on he might go and lend his support. Later he'll go to 'help' at the cinema ticket kiosk. At Christmas he likes to investigate the church's Christmas tree.



When he was younger people would 'post' him through the cat-flap if they knew where he lived or, if they didn't but fell for his 'lost and hungry' act, they'd take him to the vet! So Emma set up a [Facebook](#) page so that people know he has a home. His reputation as a cheeky but charming character and big personality means tourists even come to the town hoping to meet him. In 2024 Charlie was one of three finalists in the 'Connected Cats' section of Cats Protection's annual National Cat awards; the others were Dexter (*below*) and Cilla of Outwoods School (see [Featuring / Miscellany 17](#)).



[Cornwall Live](#) (July 2024) | [Cats Protection](#) (short video)

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Dexter

Alderbury, Wiltshire, England



Thought to be about 11 years old in 2024, tabby cat **Dexter** has been around the village of Alderbury, near Salisbury, for at least a decade and has become the 'community cat'. Based at the village shop, he turns up for 'work' each morning, bushy tail in the air, ready to greet customers and waiting for someone to make a fuss of him! It's thought he originally had a home, but for some reason he was sleeping outside at night. When people at the shop found that out, a wooden house was built for him outside the shop, complete with name plaque (*above*), and he was fed and watered.

During the winter of 2023 Dexter suffered deep wounds around his neck from a fight with another cat; those became infected, so the village raised £800 for his vet fees. Following that, a kind couple living near the shop offered him a warm home where he could recuperate – so Dexter has the best of both worlds: his job at the shop and a home to return to!



[Salisbury & Avon Gazette](#) (July 2024) | [Cats Protection](#) (short video) | [Facebook](#)

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Raymond Llangollen, North Wales



Moving to the town during spring 2023 with his human Rebecca Palombella, it didn't take long for **Raymond** to begin his wanderings; he loves to explore new places and gain as much attention as possible! 'It was a worry at first,' said Rebecca, 'with crossing roads and so on, but there's not much I can do about it. He'd be miserable if kept in as a house cat.' As it is, he 'graces home with his presence' for a few hours, and gets plenty of attention there, but then he's off again, leaving early and sometimes not going home until quite late.

Raymond is now well-known around the town, snoozing in shop windows or, if he can, sneaking into hotel bedrooms for a nap! (He was put out of the Hand Hotel three times one day.) He also tends to be removed from pubs because of allergy fears. None of that seems to bother him, and he'll just move on to the next port of call – maybe a visit to the school, or a stroll across the bridge ...

#=Unfortunately at the end of December 2024 Raymond was hit by a car after being scared by a dog. His pelvis was fractured and required surgery; that was completed successfully, but sadly Raymond then had to undergo 'cage t=rest' for six weeks, which prevented him from being out and about until he's fully recovered.

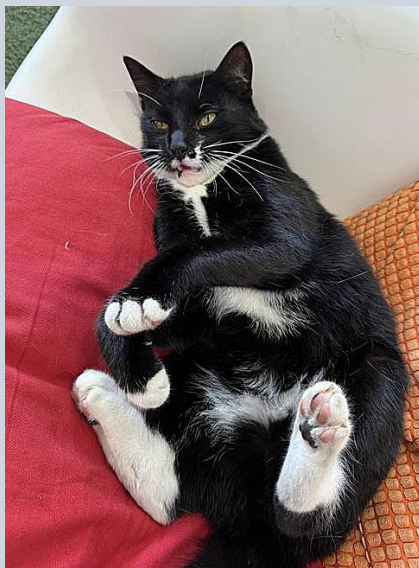
A [Facebook](#) page was set up for Raymond, but doesn't seem to have been used since January 2025.

[Wrexham Leader](#) (Sept. 2024) | [Wrexham Leader](#) (Dec. 2024) | [BBC News](#) (Nov. 2024)
[Denbighshire Free Press](#) (Jan. 2025)



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Mischief Plymouth, Devon



When Tonie Blackmore's cat Kiki had kittens in late 2021, the family kept two of them, naming them **Mischief** and **Chaos**. Mischief, in particular lives up to his name and has become well-known in the area because of his wanderings.

He has spent a day in an office at the Dockyard, has attended a Slimming World meeting,, and has visited a school, a nursery – where he’s become something of a mascot – a post office, City College, and the local police station. Sometimes he’ll be gone for two or three days, and he’s often been taken to the vet’s because people thought he was lost. A [Facebook](#) page has been set up for Mischief, and that can help to keep track of where he is, but Tonie says, ‘Sometimes I have to ground him and keep him in when he’s gone too far; I have to remind him he has a home.’



[Plymouth Live](#) (March 2023) | [Yahoo News](#) (March 2025) | [YouTube](#)

**For other ‘cats about town’ see [Featuring /Adventures & Travels 21 to 24;](#)
[Mini Fragments 3 – Ludlow;](#) [Famous – Hamish McHamish](#)**

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