

## Featured Felines: Miscellany 14 (2022)

(page checked July 2026)

### Supermarket visitors 4

Garfield of Ely; Molly of Yate; Lupin of Haverhill; Grace of Plymouth

#### Garfield Ely, Cambridgeshire



In 2012 a meadow and brownfield site in Ely, Cambridgeshire, were taken over by Sainsbury's and a supermarket was built there. The site was opposite the flat where ginger cat **Garfield** (widely known as 'Garfy') lived and he used to like to wander on the site; his owner said that when the supermarket was built, 'He simply carried on wandering there.' His innate cat's curiosity led him into car boots, shopping bags, boxes, and into the store. His favourite spot was a sofa in the Virgin travel shop in the supermarket lobby, and of course people started to notice him, to pet him and to buy him treats when they came in for their weekly shop. At one point Garfy was becoming so stout that, on vet's advice, his owner David asked Sainsbury's to put up a notice asking people not to feed him.



The local press noticed it and picked up the story, and articles were printed about him periodically; his fame spread and he became known nationally and even further afield, with a Facebook page having thousands of followers in various parts of the world. 'Garfield enjoyed celebrity,' said David; 'in fact he rather courted it. He certainly made the most of everyone who came to the Sainsbury's in Ely to see him.' A children's book featuring him was published, the title 'What's THAT doing there?' referring to the fence erected on the site where the supermarket was to be built.



A [book signing](#) was held (March 2019), with Garfy 'signing' books with his paw-print – and the books were sold out within half an hour! A second children's book followed later. He sponsored donations of cat food with a donation point in the store, raising over £1000-worth of food for the local Cats Protection branch.

Very sadly, in July 2019 Garfy was hit by a car in the car park that he frequented and where he loved to greet customers. He was rushed to the vet, but was unable to be saved. He was 12 years old. There was an outpouring of grief for the much loved feline, and in September of that year he was remembered especially and tributes were paid to him at Ely Cathedral's [annual service](#) in celebration of animals. In June 2022, delayed because of the Covid pandemic, a memorial pen was opened at Cats Protection in recognition of the good work Garfield had done for the charity by helping to raise funds.



And there's a permanent [memorial](#) (June 2022) to Garfield in the town! His human, David, approached the town council with the idea, and they agreed that a life-sized bronze statue and bench could be placed in Pocket Park. A funding campaign was organised and the necessary target was met. The sculpture was created by animal sculptor [Sally Dunham](#), and together with an accompanying memorial bench it was unveiled on 14 October 2023 (*below*)



*The inscription on the bench reads, 'In loving memory of 'Garfy'. Sit and relax for a moment with me.'*



[Your Cat](#) (Aug. 2022) | [Cambridge News](#) (July 2019) | [Facebook](#) | [Garfy website](#) (*archived copy but no photos*) | [Ely Standard](#) (unveiling, Oct. 2023)

There was a proposal to make limited-edition miniatures of Gardy, but they were considered overpriced and the project was shelved owing to insufficient demand

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## Molly

### Yate, Gloucestershire, UK



Another cat meeting the same unfortunate fate as Garfield (*above*) was **Molly**, who'd been frequenting the Tesco Extra store in Yate since about 2017 from her home nearby. She liked to sleep in the trolleys, or patrol the car park to greet shoppers as they arrived. She became a kind of 'community therapy cat', and some people would travel miles just in the hope of meeting her. Her owner Fiona said, 'I know how much joy she brought to everyone, which is why I never "clipped her wings". She was the most amazingly spirited, mischievous, adventurous, stubborn, cantankerous, grumpy, friendly and loving animal on the planet.' Rather than feeding her, a notice in the shop bearing her photo asked customers to donate to cat charities.

Tragically, and as has happened to other cats in similar situations, Molly was hit by a car in the car park and died from her injuries on 30 May 2022; she was a few days short of her tenth birthday. The driver stopped and was very upset, and Molly's owner asked that they shouldn't be castigated on social media. There was a huge outpouring of grief and tributes on her Facebook page for the 'Queen of Tesco'.



Tesco itself was very understanding and helpful, agreeing that a plaque remembering Molly could be placed near the trolleys where she used to like to snooze, and that a memorial bench, also with a plaque, could be placed by the store exit.



[Daily Mirror](#) (May 2022) | [Facebook](#) (still active in 2026, with donations being made in Molly's name)

**Update:** Molly's story didn't end there! When a new housing estate was built the developers asked for suggestions for street names on the estate. Will Gray, a 12-year-old pupil at the nearby school, who had loved meeting Molly at the supermarket, felt that the cat should be honoured and suggested the name Molly Meadows for the street near his school. The developers, Newland Homes, said it would be 'an honour' – and so Molly Meadows it became. In the photo below are Molly's owner Fiona, Will Gray and Newlands' head of marketing, Chris Parker.

[Somerset Live](#) (September 2024)



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## Lupin

### Haverhill, Suffolk, UK



His humans say that black cat **Lupin** likes to wander, and one of his favourite haunts is the Aldi supermarket. Staff have tried carrying him out in a basket, but that seems to make him cross and he just wanders back in! He is a former stray, and is microchipped in case his wanderings take him too far afield. He seems to know where the cat-food aisle is, and has been seen checking it out.

Apparently he also likes to visit a nearby Tesco, as well as a KFC take-away!

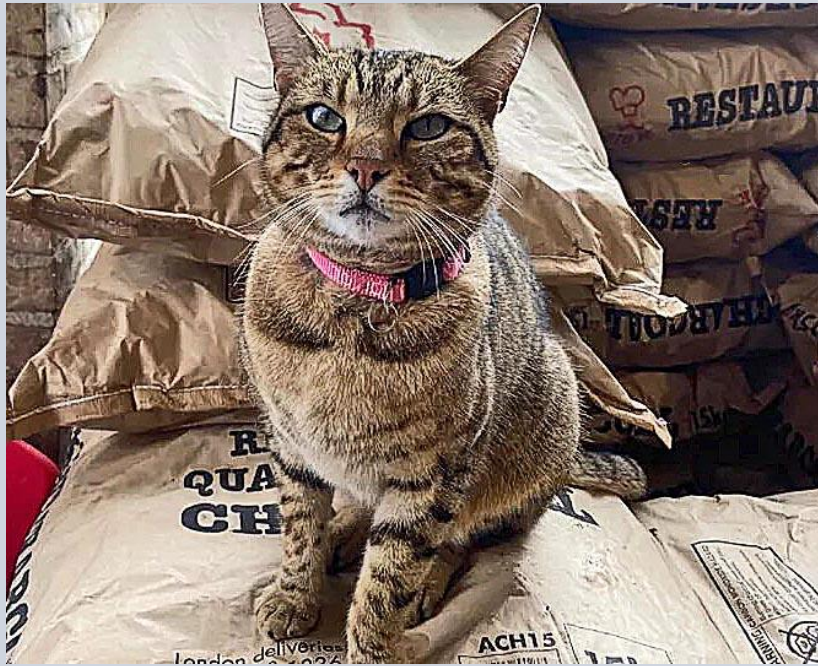


[BBC News](#) (Nov. 2022) | [Facebook](#) (post on BBC Norfolk page)

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## Grace

Plymouth, Devon, UK



**Grace** was a beautiful Bengal cat, very friendly, who'd been visiting the Morrisons store in Plymouth for several years, bringing much pleasure to customers and staff alike. She greeted them usually in the foyer, or even sometimes jumped into their car when they weren't looking; on at least one occasion a customer had to drive her back to the supermarket after arriving home to find Grace in the back of the car! Tragically, it was a car that hit and killed her near her home – a fate that befalls far too many cats – just before Christmas 2023. She had become something of a community icon, and numerous tributes were left on her Facebook page.



It was felt that there should be a permanent memorial to her, but rather than the usual sculpture or plaque, there is his fine mural on the end wall of a house facing the store, so her memory lives on in that way.



The mural was commissioned by two local councillors through Plymouth Artists Together and is a fitting tribute to the much loved cat. While it was being painted a collection was made for the local Cats |Protection branch.

A spokesman for Morrisons said, 'Grace was a well-loved extra member of our team, who always showed purr-fect customer service and made our customers and colleagues smile every day.'

[Plymouth Herald](#) (death: Dec. 2023) | [BBC News](#) (mural: Aug. 2024) | [Facebook](#)

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