

## Featured Felines: Cat Statues and Memorials 1 (2020)

(page checked July 2026)\_

These are ones that are covered in more detail on the [Purr 'n' Fur](http://Purr'n'Fur) website.  
There's a large gallery of images, but no details, at <https://disk.yandex.com/a/AfPIzJOy3WUPaP>



The tale of the **Bremen Town Musicians** (Die Bremer Stadtmusikanten) by Grimm, first published in 1819, is well-known and there are various statues and sculptures depicting the animals, especially in Europe. The above, with the cat clearly seen second from the top, is in the Latvian capital, **Riga**. For the full story see [Pot-purri / Fabled](http://Purr-n-fur.org.uk/fabled/bremen.html) or <http://Purr-n-fur.org.uk/fabled/bremen.html>



**Brutus** was a tabby cat who lived near a supermarket in **Chester**, UK and would visit the store every day, becoming a favourite with customers. When he died early in 2017 a funding campaign raised £4000 for a permanent bronze statue of him, which now stands in his memory in the store. See [Pot-purri / Mini-Fragments 2](#) and also [this article](#) (July 2020)



The **Catford Cat** is a large, fibreglass sculpture over the entrance to the Catford Centre, a shopping mall in Lewisham, south-east **London**. Erected in 1974, council proposals to remove it caused such an outcry that it not only remains but is expected to stay there for the long term. See [Poy-porri / Fragments 16](#) and [East London Lines](#) (March 2017).



**Cat'n Around** is an annual festival held in **Catskill**, New York state, USA in which artists decorate 50 large cat busts; these are then displayed in the streets and finally auctioned. See [Facebook](#) and [Pot-purri / Fabled / Two other cat festivals](#).



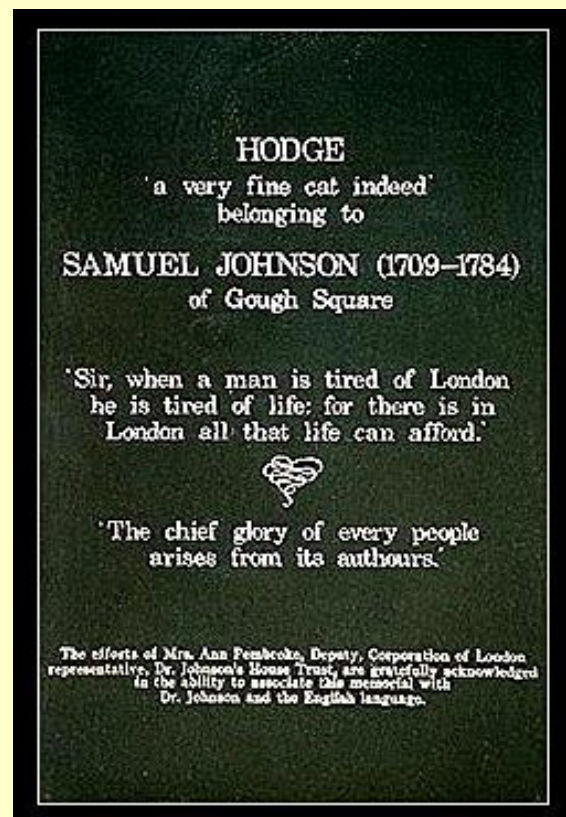
In October 1963 a French cat, later named **Félicette**, made a short but successful trip into space aboard a Véronique rocket, and was recovered afterwards. While Laika, the 'space dog', has been honoured with various memorials, Félicette had to wait until December 2019 before a memorial to her was unveiled at the International Space University in **Strasbourg**, France. See **Pot-purri / Famous / Félicette**.



**Hamish McHamish** was 'cat about town' in **St Andrews**, Scotland, and although he had a good home he spent most of his time visiting local businesses and making friends with students, tourists and residents. Unusually, £5000 for a memorial to him was raised and the statue unveiled before he became ill and died in September 2014. See **Pot-purri / Famous / Hamish McHamish**.



**Hodge** was the much loved cat – once described as 'a very fine cat indeed' – of Samuel Johnson, English lexicographer and man of letters. The statue is close to Johnson's house in **London's** Gough Square, and the cat is sitting on a book, representing Johnson's *Dictionary of the English Language*. A couple of oyster shells are near him, as Hodge loved oysters. See **Pot-purri / Famous / Hodge**.





The cat, name unknown, is part of a group of sculptures entitled 'Dr Salter's Daydream', situated by Bermondsey East Wall on the Thames Path in east **London**. The group includes Alfred Salter, a social reformer and philanthropist from the early twentieth century, his wife Ada, his daughter Joyce, who died from scarlet fever aged just 8, and her cat. Following the earlier theft of the figure of Salter, the new group was unveiled in November 2014 – since covered by CCTV.

See **Pot-purri / Fragments 16**.



The statue of **Sam** in Queen Square Gardens, Holborn, **London** was unveiled in 1997; it was donated by the community to honour Patricia Penn, a popular, if formidable, lady who'd been an active campaigner in the 1970s. She helped to preserve historic buildings and save the area from developers. She was a cat lover and Sam was one of her favourites.

See **Pot-purri / Fragments 16**.



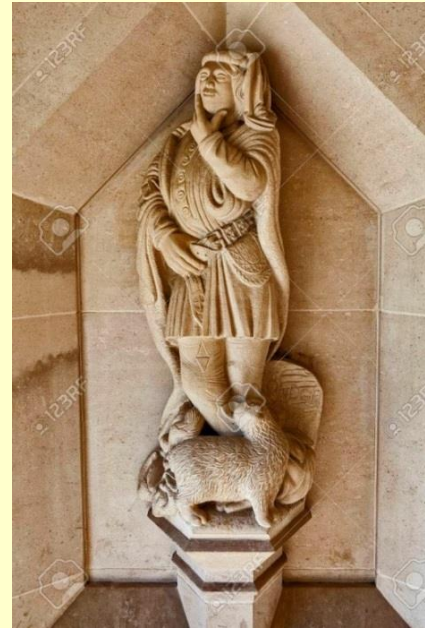
**Tiddles** was the church cat at St Mary the Virgin in the Gloucestershire village of **Fairford** in England. A much loved fixture at the church, she arrived there in 1963 and died in 1980 – a good long life for a cat at the time. She's buried in the churchyard, with the inscription 'Tiddles, the church cat, 1963–1980'. This photo was taken soon after the headstone was installed; it's deteriorated a lot since then. See **Pot-purri / Featuring / Church 2**.



The first of a line of felines that continues to the present day at the Glenturret Distillery in Scotland, long-haired tortoiseshell female **Towser** ruled for 24 years from 1963 on and became the Guinness world-record holder for mousing, with an estimate of nearly 29,000 mice over her lifetime! She's commemorated with this statue at the distillery. See **Pot-purri / Working / Distillery cats 1**.



Did Dick Whittington ever have a cat that brought him fame and fortune? Quite possibly not, but the popular myth persists, and this statue of the cat is found on Highgate Hill in **London**. Richard Whittington, believed to be of humble origins, was a real person living from about 1350 until 1423, and he was indeed mayor of London three times. But the cat? – well, it makes a good story! See [Pot-purri / Fabled / Dick Whittington](#).



This statue of Whittington himself, with the cat at his feet, is by Laurence Tindall and is outside **London's** Guildhall Art Gallery, opened in 1999. See [Pot-purri / Fabled / Dick Whittington](#).



**Streetcat Bob**, who befriended and helped former homeless drug addict James Bowen to reclaim his life, became a real celebrity cat and accompanied James almost everywhere. The star of two films and several books, Bob died tragically in a road accident in June 2020. James was determined he should have a fitting memorial, which now stands near the **London** bookshop where James did many of his book signings. For full story see [Pot-purri / Famous / Streetcat Bob.& James Bowen](#)



**Trim**, born at sea in 1797, was the beloved cat of explorer Matthew Flinders, accompanied him on many of his voyages and shared numerous adventures with him. He was with Flinders when he circumnavigated Australia, and by all accounts was a remarkable, intelligent and self-assured cat – if a little vain, according to Flinders. He disappeared, presumably killed, while he and his master were imprisoned on Mauritius in the early 1800s, and Flinders was heart-broken. This statue of the cat (there are others – see below), unveiled in 1998, stands directly behind one of his master, outside the Mitchell Library on Macquarie Street in **Sydney**, Australia. See [Pot-purri / Famous / Trim](#). See also below.



There are two further statues of **Trim** (*here and opposite*). This one, depicting him at his master's feet, forms part of a memorial to Flinders in his home town of **Donington**, Lincolnshire, and was unveiled in 2006.

See [Pot-purri / Famous / Trim](#) for more details..

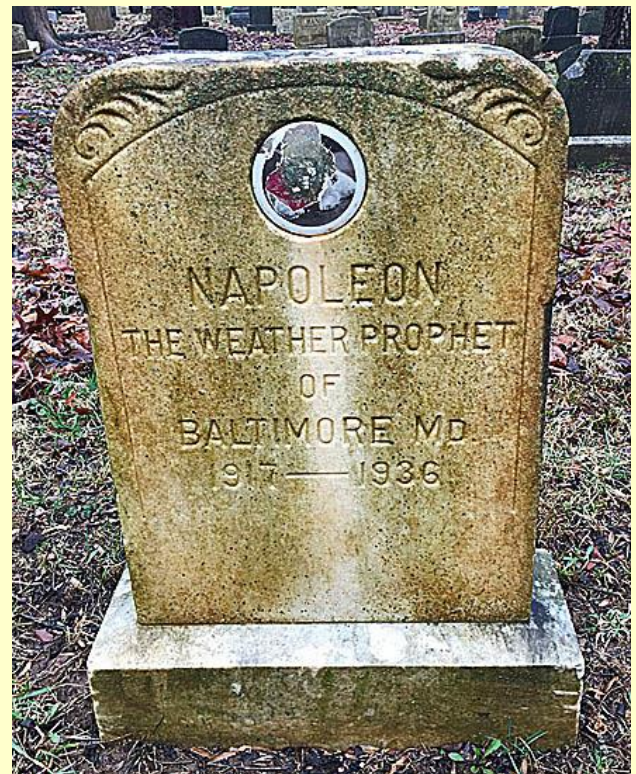


In July 2014 a further memorial was unveiled for the bicentenary of Flinders' death. Accompanied of course by **Trim**, 'his close companion', it stands in the concourse of **London's** Euston railway station, which is thought to lie above the site of Flinders' grave.



Memorial to **Tom** of St Mary Redcliffe church, **Bristol**, south-west England. He was a well-known and much loved character during his 15 years at the church.

See [Working / Church 1](#) for Tom's story..



**Napoleon** was a cat who became famous for his accurate weather forecasts in **Baltimore**, Maryland, during the 1930s. For his story, see [Pot-purri / Mini Fragments 1 / Baltimore](#).



**Jess** was the much loved cat at the railway station in **Andover** in southern England. He'd been there some 13 years until his death in October 2023, aged about 19. This sculpture in his memory now stands in the station booking hall. See [Working / Rail Cats 4-1](#) for more about Jess.



Following the death in 1898 of a diamond magnate who'd recently hosted a dinner for 13 guests at **London's** Savoy Hotel, the hotel provided a staff member as 14th guest for parties of 13, but that didn't prove popular. In 1926, therefore, a wooden sculpture, about 3 feet tall, was commissioned. Named **Kaspar**, it has accompanied dinner parties of 13 people ever since. See [Working / Hotel 2](#).

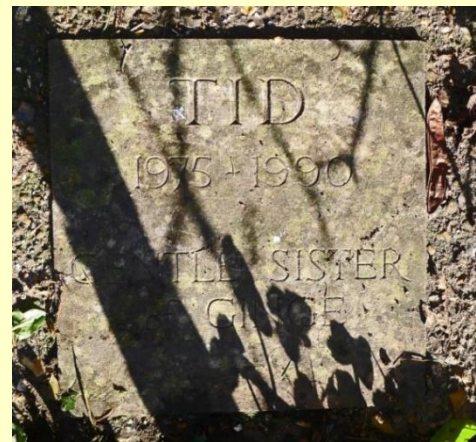


Memorial to **Ginge**, one of **Salisbury** Cathedral's cays. He and Tid (*right*) were workshop cats. The inscription reads:

'Ginge  
1976-1988

A cat of great character'

See [Working / Church 5](#).



Ginge's companion was **Tiddler** ('Tid'). The inscription here reads:

'Tid  
1976-1990  
Gentle sister of Ginge'



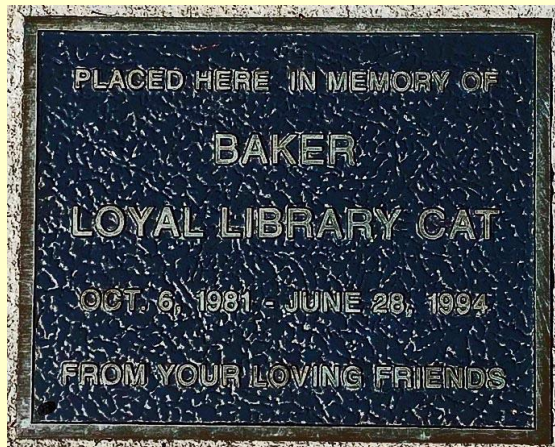
Fishguard & Goodwick station in **Pembrokeshire**, Wales was reopened in 2012 after nearly 50 years of closure – and a new memorial to a long-dead station cat was created. The superb mouser, name unknown, served in the years following WW1, died in 1930 and was buried nearby. The new statue in her memory, made in Preseli bluestone by sculptor Darren Yeadon, was unveiled in January 2017 together with a new board (see left) with details. See [Working / Rail Cats 4 part 1](#).



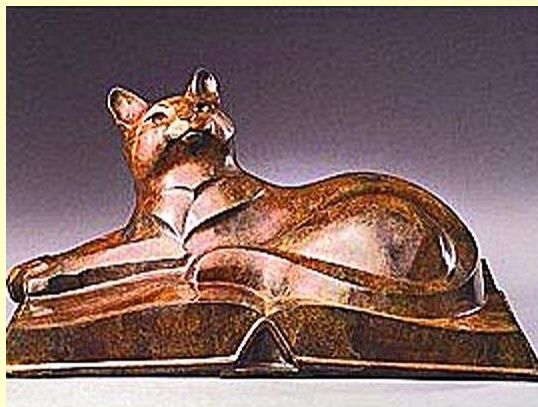
The grave of **Simon**, famous ship's cat of HMS *Amethyst*; he was the only cat and the only Royal Navy animal to have been awarded the prestigious Dickin Medal, sometimes known as the Animals' VC. He's buried at the PDSA's animal cemetery near **Ilford**, east London. See [Pot-purri / Famous / Simon](#) for his full story



Also buried in the PDSA animal cemetery at **Ilford** is **Peter**, one of a succession of cats who served at the Home Office. His original headstone was paid for by donations from his many fans, both in Britain and beyond; the photo is of a new one made for the cemetery's refurbishment in 2007. See [Pot-purri / Famous / Peter](#) for his story.



**Baker** and **Taylor** were two Scottish Fold cats who were resident at the small Douglas County Public Library in **Minden**, Nevada, USA from early 1983 until their deaths in 1994 and 1997 respectively. Named after the company supplying most of the library's books, they became famous throughout the US and beyond because of the company's publicity featuring them, and were very much mourned when they died. The plaques, rather worn now, were placed at the library near the spot where their ashes were buried beneath a hawthorn tree.  
See [Working / Library / USA !-2](#).



**Molli**, named after the library's computer system at the time, was the much loved resident cat at the Azle Memorial Library in the town of **Azle**, Texas. When she died in 2007 construction of a new library was under way, and it was decided a sculpture of Molli would be commissioned and would keep her memory alive in the new building.  
See [Working / Library / USA !-1](#).



Another much loved cat was **Emily**, of the Mystic & Noank Library in **Connecticut**, USA. Found as an abandoned kitten in 1989, she graced the library with her presence for nearly 17 years until she died of kidney failure in 2006. She's buried in the grounds, and a memorial stone was placed beside the pathway leading to the library.  
See [Working / Library / USA 2-2](#).



This memorial stone (*left*) in the grounds of **London's** Southwark Cathedral is dedicated to the memory of **Doorkins Magnificat**, much loved cathedral cat for some 10 years from early 2009 until her retirement in 2019 and her death a year later.

See [Working / Church 5](#) for Doorkins' full story and that of her successor **Hodge**.



**Polar Bear** was the beloved cat of Cleveland Amory and the subject of three books by him. Amory was the founder of the Black Beauty Ranch in **Texas**, which cares for rescued animals of many species; Polar Bear visited it many times. When he died in 1992 he was buried in a favourite spot there, and when Amory later died he was buried close to Polar Bear. See [Pot-purri / Fragments 12](#).



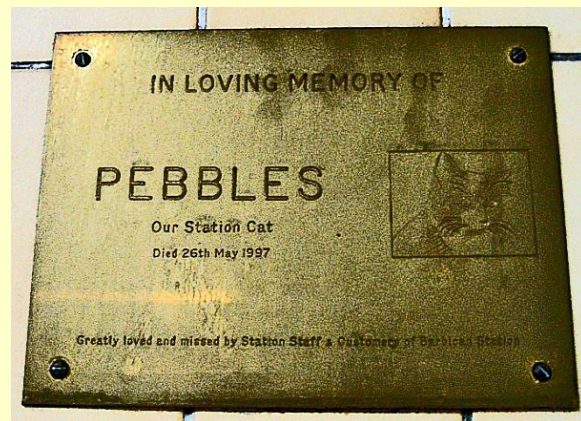
**JoJo** arrived at **Southend** Victoria station in 2001 and graced it with her presence for 15 years until her death in 2016. A memorial portrait and plaque to her reads, 'Booked off duty Friday 22 July 2016. Sadly missed.' See [Working / Rail / UK 4-2 / Southend](#).



This rather impromptu-looking memorial was placed at **Inverness** railway station in Scotland, in memory of the two cats, **Gasket** and **Diesel**, who used to live there. It was by the buffer stop at the end of platform 6, one of the cats' favourite spots. The photo is from 2009, so I should think it likely the little shrine is no longer there. See [Working / Rail / UK 4-1 / Inverness](#).



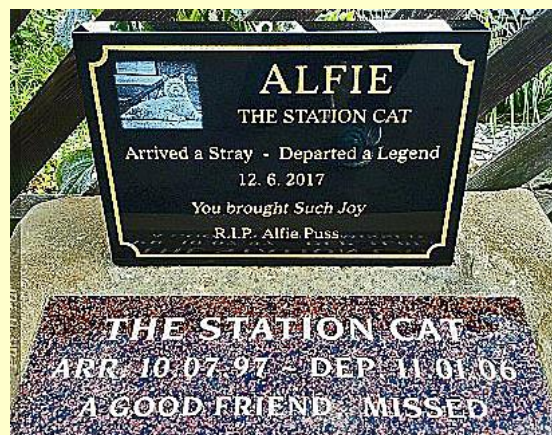
A memorial to a much loved station cat is still to be seen at the main-line railway station at **Grantham** in Lincolnshire, eastern England, although rather worn now. The inscription reads, 'In loving memory of "**Shag**" station cat died 16th September 2000'. See [Working / Rail / UK 4-1 / Grantham](#) for his story.



Likewise I have no dates for **Pebbles**, who lived at London Underground's Barbican station. The inscription reads, 'In memory of Pebbles, our station cat, died 26th May 1987. Greatly loved and missed by Station Staff & Customers at Barbican Station.' See [Working / Rail / UK 4-1 / London Underground](#).

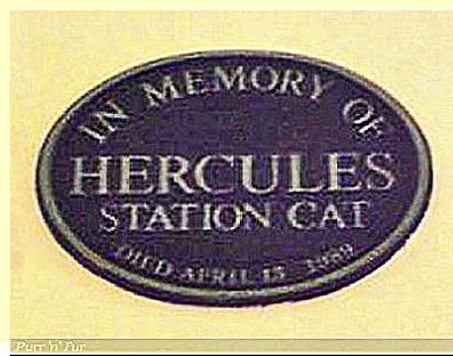


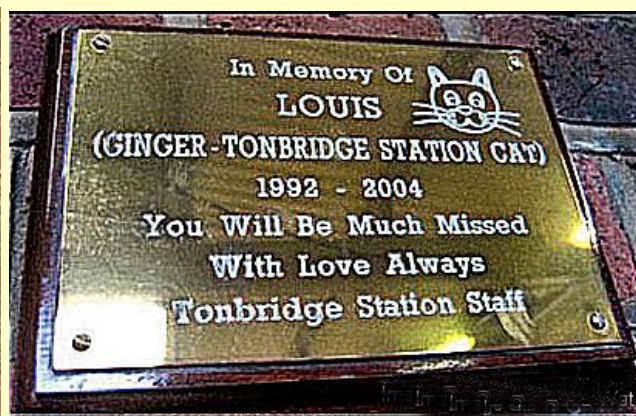
**Brian Mooney** was one of many cats who frequented the North Yorkshire Moors Railway at **Grosmont**; I have no dates for him, but I think he was one of the early ones, maybe in the 1990s. or early 2000s He has a simple memorial by the sheds that were his domain; it reads: 'Here lies Brian Mooney, our beloved shed cat. R.I.P.' See [Working / Rail / UK 4-2 / North Yorkshire](#).



At the Rushden Historical Transport Society in Northamptonshire, England are side-by-side memorials to two beloved station cats. The first was simply known as **The Station Cat**, while his successor was **Alfie**, who arrived there in 2010 as a stray. See [Working / Rail / UK 4-2 / Rushden](#).

**Hercules** was station cat at **Llandudno** in North Wales; I don't know how long he was there, but his death is given as 15 April 1989. As the station was completely refurbished in 2013, it's possible the plaque is no longer there.





From 1992 until 2004 there were two much loved cats at Tonbridge railway station in Kent, England, although one of them, **Jill**, arrived before the other, **Louis**, and also outlived him. They both gained memorial plaques at the station when they died. They were succeeded by Sapphire, or 'Sapphie' (below left). See [Working / Rail / UK 4-2 / Tonbridge](#).



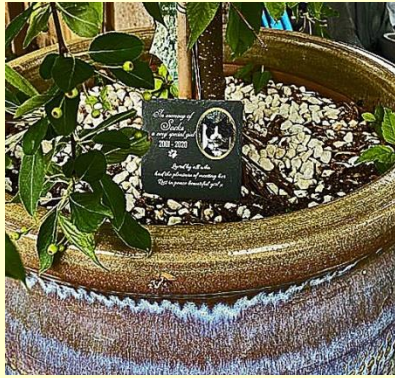
Following the deaths of Jill and Louis (above), in 2007 **Tonbridge** station took on **Sapphire** after her owners moved away. The heartfelt tribute on the plaque in her memory shows how much she was loved and missed when she died in 2018,



Although she had a home nearby, since 2009 calico cat **Ringwood** was usually to be found at her engine shed of the **Swanage** Railway or somewhere nearby. When she died this memorial was placed where she was buried, at the viewing point' within sight of the shed she loved so much. See [Working / Rail / UK 4-2 / Swanage](#).



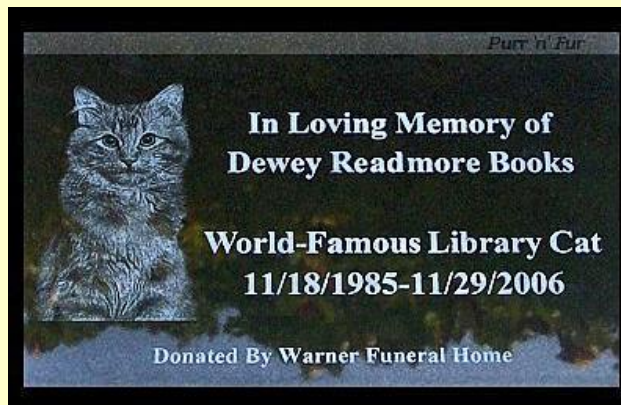
This unusual memorial (left) reads simply, '8-8-75 Morte d'Arthur' and commemorates **Arthur**, a cat who lived at **Whitby** station in North Yorkshire for 10 years until his death in 1975. The plaque next to it explains that the memorial was originally by his grave on Platform 3, but was moved during later construction work. See [Working / Rail / UK 4-2 / Whitby](#).



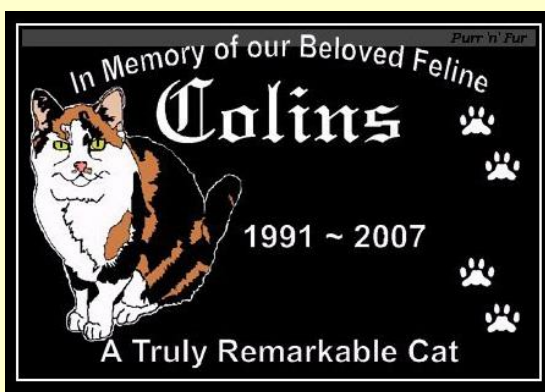
**Socks**, former resident of the Bournville Garden Centre near **Birmingham**, England, for a number of years died in around 2020. She's remembered with a small plaque in a tub outside. It reads, 'In loving memory of Socks – a very special girl. Loved by all that had the pleasure of meeting her. Rest in peace, beautiful girl.' See [Working / Shop & store 2](#).



Memorial plaque for **Percy**, who used to enjoy riding the miniature North Bay Railway trains in **Scarborough**, North Yorkshire for a number of years until his death in 2017. See [Featuring / Adventures-Travels 1](#).



There are two memorials to Dewey, the famous Iowa library cat. A life-sized bronze sculpture is to be found inside the library at Spencer, while his grave and memorial plaque are outside. It's unfortunate that the latter has his birth year wrong; it should be 1987. See [Pot-purri / Famous/ Dewey](#).



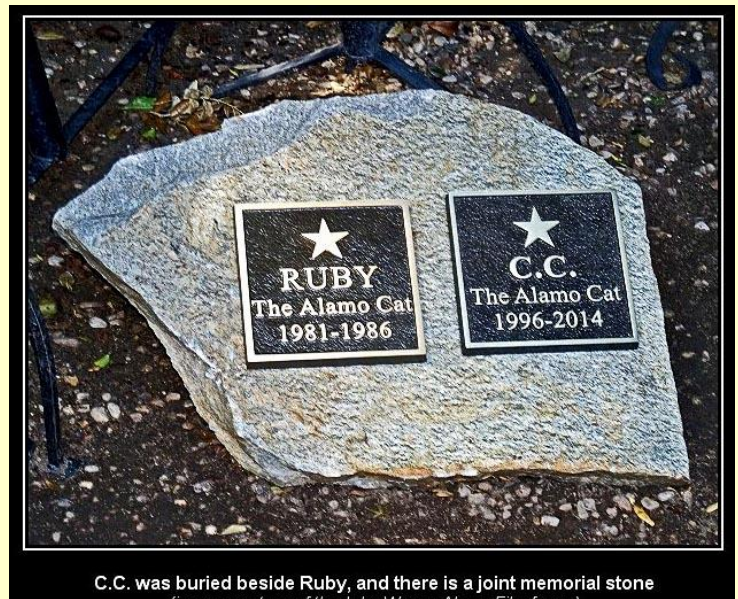
**Colin's** (named after her original owner) became 'port cat' at the Port Taranaki tanker terminal in **New Zealand**, and became famous after making an unplanned voyage to South Korea after boarding one of that country's vessels. Safely returned, she continued to delight employees at the port. See [Famous / Colin's](#) for her story.



The plaque for the famous presidential cat is in the garden of the Governor's Mansion in Socks' home state of Arkansas. It reads: 'Socks 1991–2009 First Cat of Arkansas 1991–1993 First Cat of the U.S. 1993–2001' See [Pot-purri / Famous/ Socks](#).



A fine sculpture of his beloved cat **Mrs Chippy** (who was actually a tomcat) adorns ship's carpenter Harry McNish's grave in **Wellington**, New Zealand. Mrs Chippy had accompanied Shackleton's ship *Endurance* to the Antarctic – but when the ship became trapped in ice and had to be abandoned, he and other animals were shot on Shackleton's orders, as they wouldn't have been able to accompany the men. To his dying day McNish never forgave Shackleton for killing his cat. See [Pot-purri / Famous / Mrs Chippy](#).



The first two of the Alamo cats are buried side by side at a spot near the north wall of the site. See [Working / Museum 11](#).



**Agie** was the resident cat at the public library in Willamina, a town in Oregon in the north-western USA. The tile is situated near the library on Willamina's main street. See [Working / Library / USA 3-2](#).



A memorial stone at the People's Palace in Glasgow, Scotland, remembers Smudge who, as stated, was the only cat ever to become a Trade Union member. Before retiring she had a spell at the pest controller at the Smith Art Gallery and Museum in Stirling. For her full story see [Working / Museum 12](#).



As can be seen from the inscription, **Boulton** was the first cat to be resident at the **London** Museum of Water and Steam, a post he held for 19 years. See [Working / Museum 18](#).