

# ferrets in need



## Newsletter

Issue 3, February 2004

A bi-monthly newsletter designed to keep every member in touch with what's happening at Ferrets in Need. If there's anything you'd like to

see discussed in the next issue, or you have an article or photograph you think might be suitable for the newsletter, please contact the editors at

editors@ferretsinnneed.org.uk, or via the contact details available on the Ferrets in Need Web site at [www.ferretsinnneed.org.uk](http://www.ferretsinnneed.org.uk)

### Annual General Meeting

Our second Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Tuesday, 30th March 2004 at our usual venue, the Mersey Pub Hotel.

All the members of FIN's executive committee are required to retire from office at the end of the AGM, but may be re-elected or re-appointed.

FIN's current executive committee is made up of 5 elected members; chairman, treasurer, secretary and 2 additional members without specific duties. At present Kath Frame is the chairman, Eric Corbett is the treasurer, Ruth Corbett is the secretary, with Bill and Ann Beck filling the other 2 positions.

Any member who wishes to stand for election to any of these positions on the executive committee should make their nominations to the secretary, either by email ([secretary@ferretsinnneed.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ferretsinnneed.org.uk)) or in writing to the secretary at 100 Derbyshire Lane, Stretford, Manchester M32 8DR, by Friday the 12th March 2004.

If nominations exceed vacancies, then election will be by ballot, in which case ballot papers will be distributed to all members to be returned either by post or at the AGM in person. Ballot papers returned by post must be received by the secretary no later than 5.00pm on Friday the 26th March 2004.

### Pet Travel Scheme



Hands up everyone who thought that, as from this summer, ferrets would be allowed to travel within Europe just as freely as cats and dogs have been able to do.

It turns out that things aren't quite that simple after all. Would you believe that the keeping of ferrets appears to be illegal in Portugal! The Portuguese government are therefore trying to negotiate some kind of exception to the rules for that country. Our north-west Member of the European Parliament, Chris Davies, intends to call for a change in the law.

Find out how you can help on page 2.

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## Events Diary



<b>May 2004</b>	Monday 31st May, Newton-le-Willows Rural Craft Display
<b>June 2004</b>	Saturday 5th June, Birchwood Carnival Saturday 19th June, Hale Carbnival Sunday 20th June, Orford Park Walking Day Saturday 26th June, Stretford Pageant Sunday 27th June, Risley Wood Safari
<b>July 2004</b>	Saturday 3rd July, Croft Carnival Saturday 17th July, Winwick Carnival
<b>August 2004</b>	Sunday 1st August, Pickering's Pastures Country Fair
<b>September 2004</b>	Sunday 5th September, Woolston Show Sunday 12th September, Rainford Rural Craft Display

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### Portugal and the Pet Travel Scheme

Although ferrets will be able to travel between European Union member countries from July onwards this year, it has come to light that it's illegal to keep ferrets in Portugal!

Chris Davies, MEP for the North West, recently raised this issue with the European Parliament, and was informed that the Portuguese government intends to issue a decree stating that there will be an additional obligation for owners of ferrets to obtain a permit from the Portuguese Environment Ministry prior to taking them into Portugal.

Well, I am not sure really how this will help anyone (can you image the problems of trying to get a

permit from the Portugese Environment Ministry from outside of Portugal?). Also, it is totally inconsistent for ferrets to be able to travel within Europe under European Law, and yet be illegal within an EU member state.

Chris intends to call for a change in the law. We'll keep you updated on his progress.

Meanwhile, you can help support the cause of legalising ferrets by signing an electronic petition organised by the Ferret Club of Portugal at <http://www.petitiononline.com/furaoPT/petition.html>



Chris Davies MEP with Pod

Ruth Corbett

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### Ferret Fun

Three women die together in an accident and go to heaven. When they get there, St. Peter says, "We only have one rule here in heaven ... don't step on the ferrets."

So they enter heaven, and sure enough, there are ferrets all over the place. It's almost impossible not to step on a ferret, and although they try their best to avoid them, the first woman accidentally steps on one. Along comes St. Peter with the ugliest man she ever saw. St. Peter chains them together and says "Your punishment for stepping on a ferret is to spend eternity chained to this ugly man!"

The next day, the second woman steps accidentally on a ferret, and along comes St. Peter, who doesn't miss a thing, and with him is another extremely ugly man. He chains them together with the same admonishment as for the first woman.

The third woman has observed all this and, not wanting to be chained for all eternity to an ugly man, is very, VERY careful where she steps.

She manages to go months without stepping on any ferrets, but one day St. Peter comes up to her with the most handsome man she

has ever laid eyes on. Very tall, long eyelashes, muscular, and thin.

St. Peter chains them together without saying a word. The woman remarks, "I wonder what I did to deserve being chained to you for all of eternity?"

The guy says, "I don't know about you, but I stepped on a ferret!"

Eric Corbett

Do you have a favourite ferret joke? Send it to the editor and we'll include the best in a future issue.