

ferrets in need



Newsletter

Issue 5, September 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

END OF ANOTHER EVENT SEASON



Well the 2004 event season is now over, and while it's great to have some free time at the weekends I'm going to miss those days spent out in the open with ferrets and friends. Plus the quick visit to the pub afterwards of course.

Despite the wet and muddy conditions this year, the ferrets have continued to be a great success at shows and carnivals around the North West. The FIN stand has been well attended, and there are quite a few more people out there who now know from first-hand experience that ferrets aren't the nasty, bitey, smelly creatures they'd been led to believe.

The events have also been successful from the fund raising perspective and have made a total of £747.24. Since the weather has been against us for much of the year, I can only attribute that success to the hard work that everyone put in trudging endlessly after children and ferrets across wet and muddy fields, and

to the endless cheerfulness with which FIN members dealt with children and adults alike.

It can be hard dragging yourself out of bed early on a Sunday morning to get yourself and your ferrets ready for yet another event, and I understand that not everyone's able to help at FIN events anyway. So special thanks are due to Margaret and Tony Winstanley who, along with their equally indefatigable ferrets, have supported every FIN event this year. It's been very much appreciated.

The secret of FIN is, I believe, having fun with our ferrets. I hope that all of you who helped with the events had lots of fun. And if you didn't, well you know who to complain to.

*Ruth Corbett
Events Disorganiser*

Champion Dizzy



This is Dizzy, owned by Diane and Cliff Bull, who won the ferret racing at the August FIN social. Despite being only a youngster she managed to beat some strong opposition from Damien, who came second, and Harry, who was third.

Sadly Dizzy, pictured below, fell ill and died a few days after becoming the FIN racing champion. She'd suffered from a major head trauma before being rescued, and perhaps it was a miracle that she lived as long as she did. Dizzy will be missed by everyone who met her.

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Events Diary



October 2004

Wednesday 27th October, Social Evening - Halloween Decorated Carrier Competition

November 2004

Wednesday 24th November, Social Evening - Ferret Racing, Ferret Product Stall

December 2004

Wednesday 29th December, Social Evening - Ferret Fun Show

Treasurer's Report

With our event season now over this is a good time to summarise what funds have been raised at our events this year.

FIN attended 11 events in 2004 and raised a total of £747.24 from those events. That compares with the £1,178.73 raised at 15 events last year. That's an average of £67.93 raised from each event in 2004 compared with £78.58 in 2003.

The weather has not been kind to

us this year, and at several events we've found ourselves almost alone on a wet and windy show ground huddled in our marquee trying to keep both ourselves and the ferrets warm and dry. Orford on the 26th June stands out in my own memory. So the figures reflect well on the hard work done by everyone who helped at the FIN events.

We didn't run any open shows this year. The Flying Ferret and Pickering's Pastures shows alone

raised £578 in 2003. But the world has moved on, and there's now an established ferret show circuit. So this year the committee decided instead to support the Christmas Show organised by the C & D Ferret Sanctuary.

And finally, funds raised at the Arley Hall event attended by Ann & Bill Beck on behalf of FIN have not yet been received.

Eric Corbett
Treasurer

Events Income 2004

Newton-le-Willows	£98.66	Colliers Wood	£34.35
Birchwood	£69.90	Woolston	£68.93
Hale Carnival	£91.14	Rainford Craft Fair	£116.36
Marple Carnival	£25.07	Total	£747.24
Orford Walking Day	£26.19		
Risley Moss Safari	£32.23		
Croft Carnival	£113.20		
Pickering's Pasture	£71.21		

Ferret Fun

Walking past a house, a man sees a sign in front of a house: "Talking Ferret for Sale." He rings the bell and the owner tells him the ferret's in a pen in the back garden. The man goes into the back garden and sees a pretty ordinary looking albino just lying about about in its pen.

"You talk?" he asks.

"Yep," the albino replies.

"So, what's your story?"

The ferret looks up and says, "Well, I discovered this gift at a

very young age, and I wanted to help my country. So I told MI5 about my gift, and in no time they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one figured a ferret would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies five years running. But the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger and I wanted to settle down. So I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security work, mostly wandering near suspicious characters and listening in.

I uncovered some incredible dealings there and was awarded a batch of medals. Had a wife, a load of kits, and now I'm just retired."

The man is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the ferret.

The owner says, "Ten pounds."

The man says, "But that ferret's amazing. Why on earth are you selling him, so cheap?"

The owner replies, "He's such a liar. He didn't do any of that stuff."

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