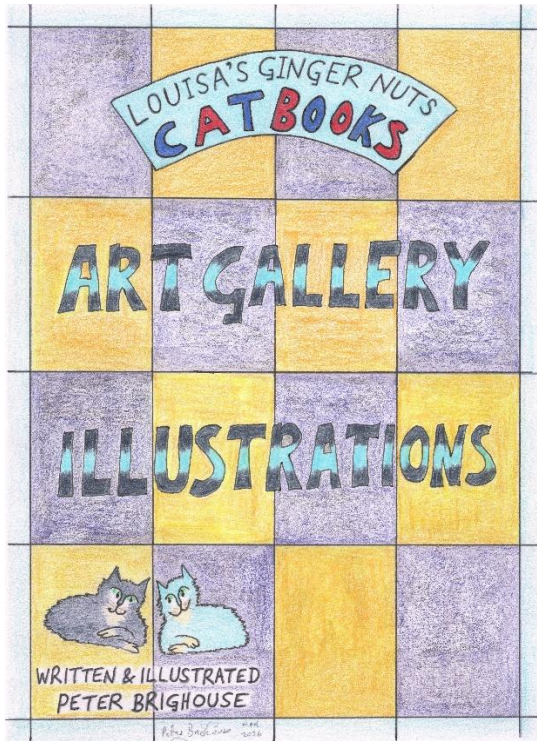




Moppet, Tigger, Simpkin and The Bullpuss

present ...

Tall tales / tails of the Ginger Nuts, illustrated cat stories for children and adults of all ages

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by Peter Brighthouse

First Edition, first printing

Published by Mr Squimps Shop, Manchester, England

Books by Peter Brighthouse:

Here Come The Ginger Nuts

More Fun With The Ginger Nuts

Bullpuss And The Ginger Nuts

Cats At The Cottage

The Ginger Nuts And The Rats

Five Furry Tales From The Ginger Nuts

The Ginger Nuts And The Parrot

Ginger Nuts Alphabet

Clawed, The Kit From Red Bank

Ginger Nuts Go Walking

Cats Go Camping

More Tiny Tales

The Ginger Nuts And The Rescue Kittens

The Ginger Nuts And The Pirate Cats

Cats Go Hiking in the Lakes

Catsablanca Quartet

Guinea Pig Gang

Pawfull of Cat Tales

Ribby's Exercise Class

Extra Pawfull of Cat Tales

Third Pawfull of Cat Tales

Fourth Pawfull of Cat Tales

GrandPig's Illustrations

Written and Illustrated

By

Peter Brighthouse

(and inspired by eight Pussy Cats)

CATSABLANCA



This book was conceived to curate the images and illustrations created over the years.

Dedication - in loving memory of:

Louisa Elaine Brighthouse

and all parents coping with a seriously ill child

Contents:

- CatsaBlanca (book) including Brass & Jazz Cats
- Ribby & Ruby's domain
- Cats Go Walking (story)
- Earliest Originals
- More Fun with Ginger Nuts (book)
- Bullpuss & GNs (book)
- Cats At The Cottage (book)
- ASTRO / ALEXA
- Cats To The Rescue (story)
- Pirate Cats (book)
- W.C. Fields (allusion)
- Guinea Pig Gang (book)
- Bowser Wowser & Vacuum Cleaner Robots (story)
- Jazz Cats
- Tributes/Homage
- Tom Cat Tributes
- Beatrix Potter Tributes

So, here we go, with the best illustrations from the
CatsaBlanca Quartet stories



The interview panel await the next applicant for the post of "Puss About
Town"



The back-alley Tom Cats arrange a game of chance, but someone has too many aces up their furry sleeve



Everyone thought the successful applicant came from an impoverished background, but appearances can be deceptive.

Also, she made no mention of the small person with her!



A small kitten face peeped out from behind the hat box and the gladstone bag



Ruby the kitten is very pleased to meet a gentle giant called Mungojerrie.

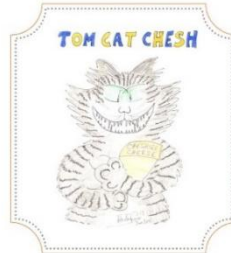


Mrs Ribby soon found the best armchair for some relaxing recuperation after her ordeal, a little to the dismay of the older Ginger Nuts girls Moppet and Tabitha Twitchit

THE GALLERY of BRASS-CATS PATRONESS MRS RIBBY



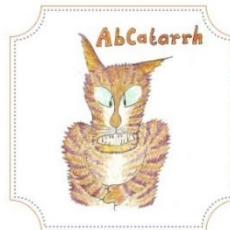
The Indian Cricket Supporter



The Cheshire Tom Cat



The Davy Bowie Crockett Cat



The Asian Restaurant Cat



Moppet and Tabitha curate
Mrs Ribby's gallery additions



Ruby the kitten finds her new basket rather relaxing.



A cattery inmate doesn't want to wait too long for his breakfast.



To complete the allusion to the great Humphrey Bogart film, with Mrs Ribby playing the part of Ilsa.

CHARLES WALKS INTO A BAR
DICKENS
AND
ORDERS
A
MARTINI



THE BARCAT
ASKS
"OLIVE
OR TWIST?"





OF ALL THE GIN JOINTS IN ALL THE TOWNS
IN ALL THE WORLD I HAD TO CHOOSE
ONE WITH THE CORNIEST BAR JOKES !

CATS ABLANCA





A neat reference to a great Fats Waller number, namely “Your Feets Too Big”

D’ya like the stuffed swallow on the bowler hat?



Obviously in the early years of Hollywood, cats were unaware of the dangers of smoking.



"Ruby,
you are
not safe
on the top
of my
scratching
post!"



Tony Hancock's cat chats incessantly to Alan Simpson's cat, although the bartender Crow will shortly break things up. A tribute to 1950's BBC radio comedy.



We have always found it impossible to brush cats' teeth, especially after they have enjoyed sardines, pilchards or sild in that delicious tomato sauce

GrandPig's Ruffty Raggy Books

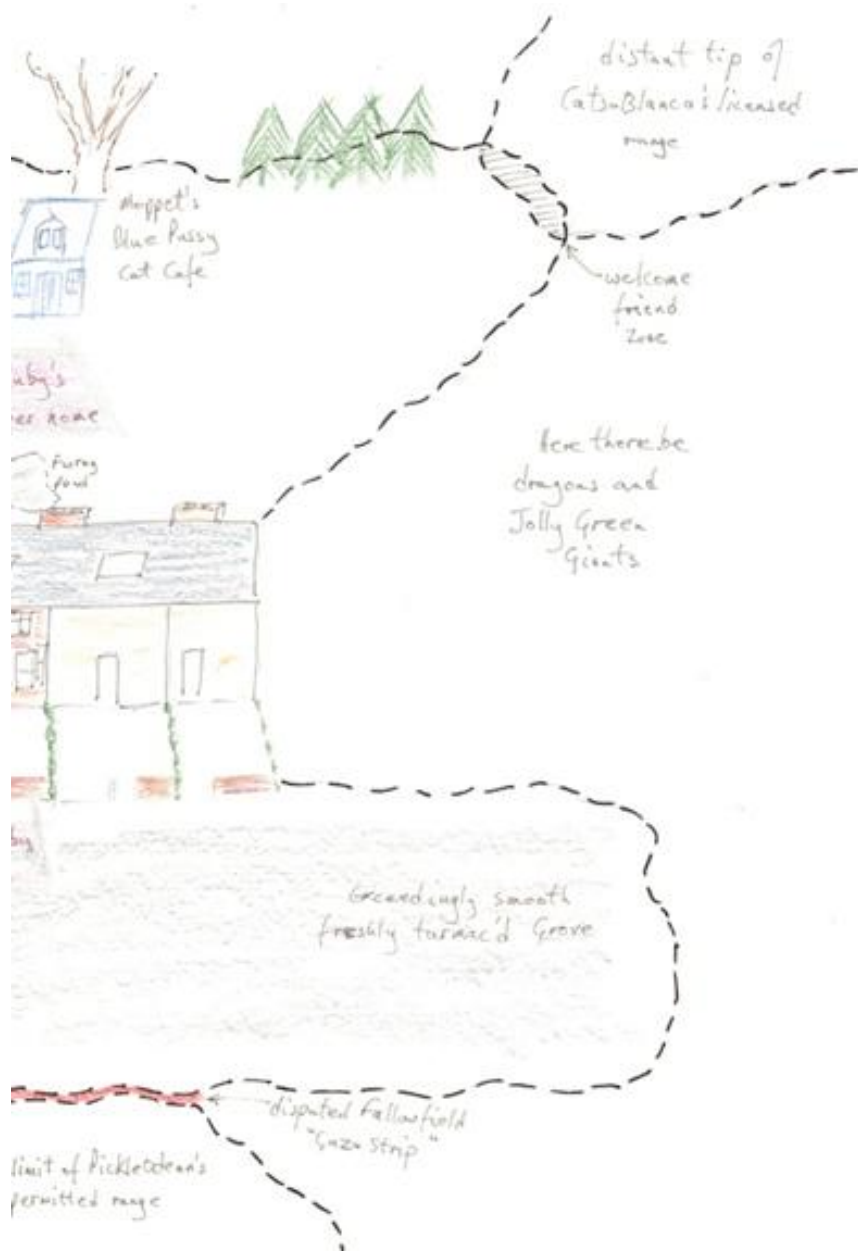


Note for PB – the map needs recolouring to scan more definitely – May 30th 2025; needed perhaps only if printing!

The map of Mrs Ribby and Ruby's domain.

Hopefully the next two pages stay as a double-spread and show a readable map.





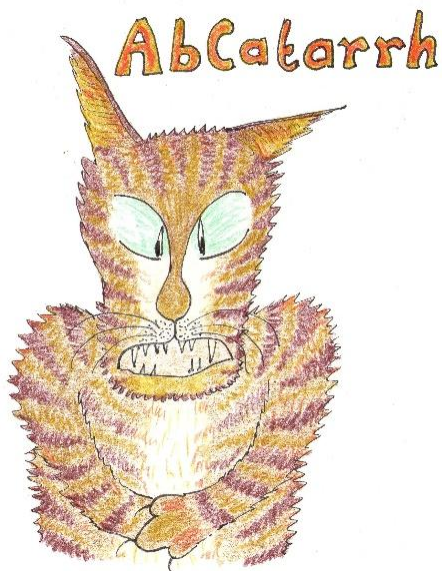
niff of
curry



CatsaBlanca spent his early years near Manchester's Curry Mile, which rather ruined his taste for delectable cat treats; much to Mrs Ribby's disgust



A tribute to the late, great Acker Bilk's Paramount jazz band, part of the British trad scene starting in the 1950's. It is not often that dogs appear in my cat cartoons! Although I have a slight affection for Labradors.



"David Bowie's Cat"

FURMINATOR



"Long John Saliva, the Spitting Pirate Cat"

TAJ MACHAT



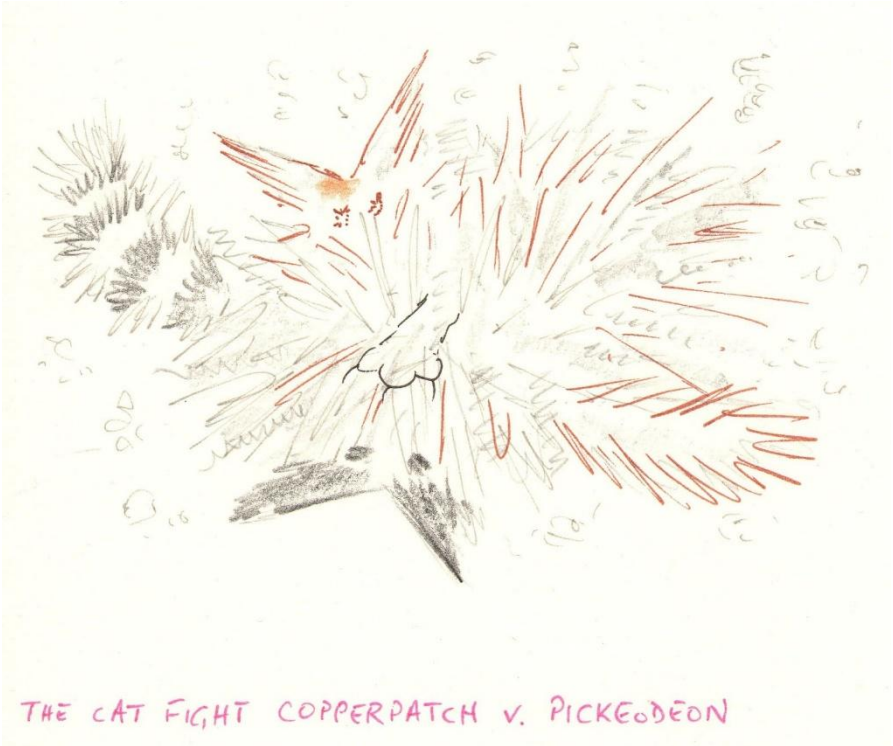
"Now, which eye does the patch cover?"



“Signor Ferrari” aka Sidney Greenstreet - A tribute to the film *Casablanca*, where one of the locals who Rick thought he could trust, is admirably shown as one of our largest cats, namely The Bullpuss. I could not resist putting a vehicle emblem on his breast pocket.



A feline tribute to one of the radio stars of BBC comedy in the fifties and sixties, followed by films along the same amusing lines. I am thinking of Hancock's Half Hour, Beyond Our Ken, Round the Horne followed by several Carry On films. And of course, it is depicting Kenneth Williams, "ooooh Matron!"



Two of Mrs Ribby's garden adversaries decide to fight over the domain rights



Acker Bilk's bass player wearing his handsome performance waistcoat



An occasional Apple pencil drawing sneaks in – this time for another of Count Basie's cats, hence the nod towards Kansas City

Moving on to “Cats Go Walking” along the River Mersey through south Manchester.



Pigeons make rather good models for trades union representatives and can be drawn with hats and jackets



A further amusing title for an avian trades union



I thought a head and shoulders close-up of the main fellow would look quite colourful



An early drawing using Derwent pencils of Simpkin asleep on a Parker Knoll swivel chair. Rather than a cartoon, this is an attempt at a portrait – note the date near my signature.

The Parker Knoll chair sadly wore out many years ago, having been recovered. Perhaps we should have kept it for further reupholstering having seen modern prices.

On the next page is an early felt pen drawing from the first book, showing him whispering in Moppet's ear.

GrandPig's Ruffty Raggy Books

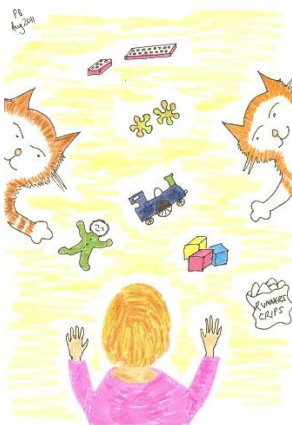


Simpkin April 1994
rolling in sunshine on Cash popo rug
Peter Brighouse

Simpkin resting on a fine rug; another from 1994, just three years after Louisa was born.



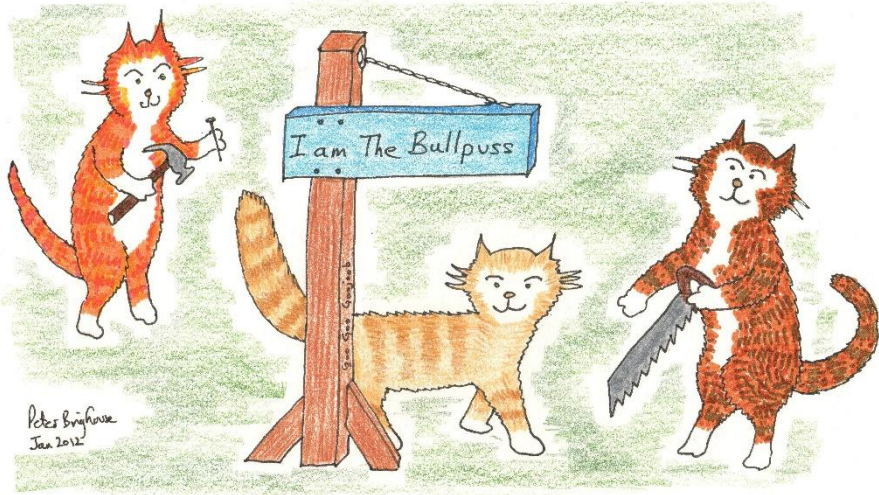
Children - always check an autumn bonfire before igniting, just in case a prickly fellow has checked in for hibernation.



This is a very rare illustration depicting Louisa, but never her face!



This illustration and the previous one are from the second story book, entitled "More Fun with The Ginger Nuts"



Although it doubles as a nod towards a Beatles number from the 1960's this drawing introduces carpentry cats (with an allusion to "The Walrus and The Carpenter") and the third story book entitled "Bullpuss and The Ginger Nuts"

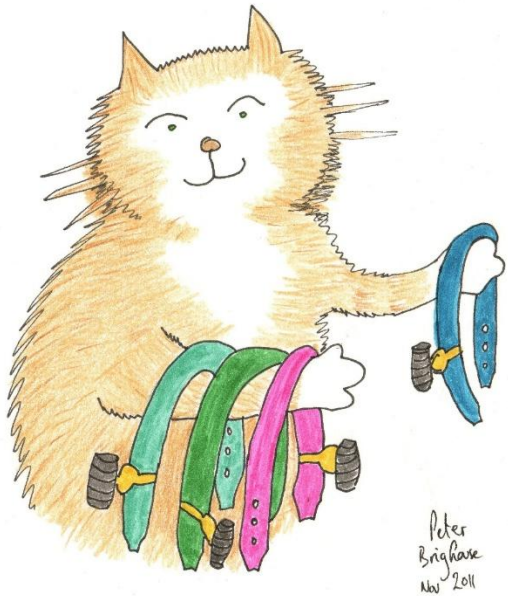
Then, as a frontispiece, another slice of homage pie, with The Bullpuss pretending to be Mr Benjamin Bunny

GrandPig's Ruffty Raggy Books

Mr B. Bullpuss prancing
along the top of the wall,
with a pipe of rabbit-
tobacco in one hand
and a little switch
in the other.



Bullpuss before rehabilitation
from his stray situation,
became adept at entering
people's cat flaps. He collected
discarded collars with magnets
and radio buttons to sort out
ones that appeared to be
locked.





He easily became “at home” and would share sleeping quarters with his family.

His humour soon matched Simpkin's, seen here doing his famous impression of the late, great W. C. Fields

"What's up, my chickadee?
Haven't you seen a cat with
a tomato for a nose
before?"



Peter Singshane
Jan 2012



"Four digging, four filling in and four looking for fresh ground."

I first read this joke in an early sixties University of Manchester student "rag-mag" as they were called. I was still at school, so the jokes seemed quite excitingly racy.

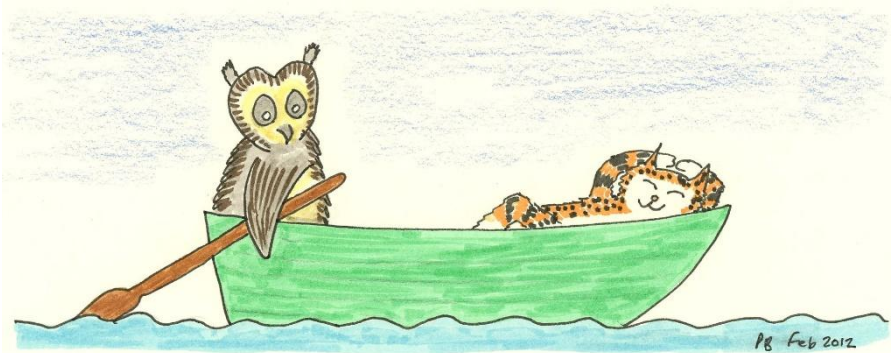
I included a version, as told by The Bullpuss in the book "The Catsablanca Quartet".

Briefly the joke includes an elderly deaf vet, a farmer with a constipated farm cat and a mix up on the amount of castor oil that should have been prescribed for a moo-cow!



"Cats At
The
Cottage"
was
inspired
by our
trips to
Garrigill in
Lake
District

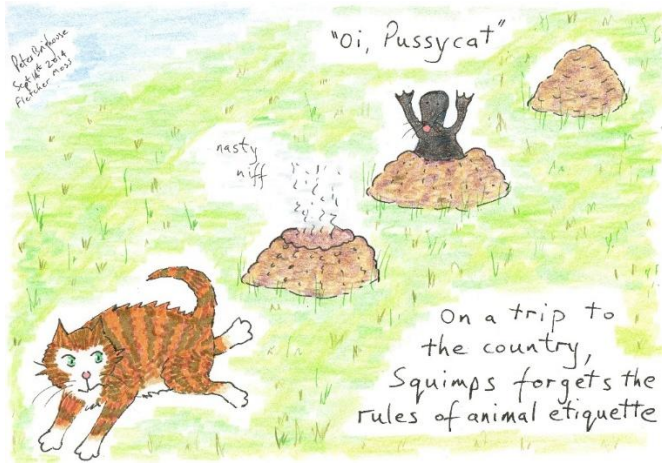




More allusions: Owl & The Pussycat and Winnie The Pooh



GrandPig's Ruffty Raggy Books



GrandPig's Ruffty Raggy Books

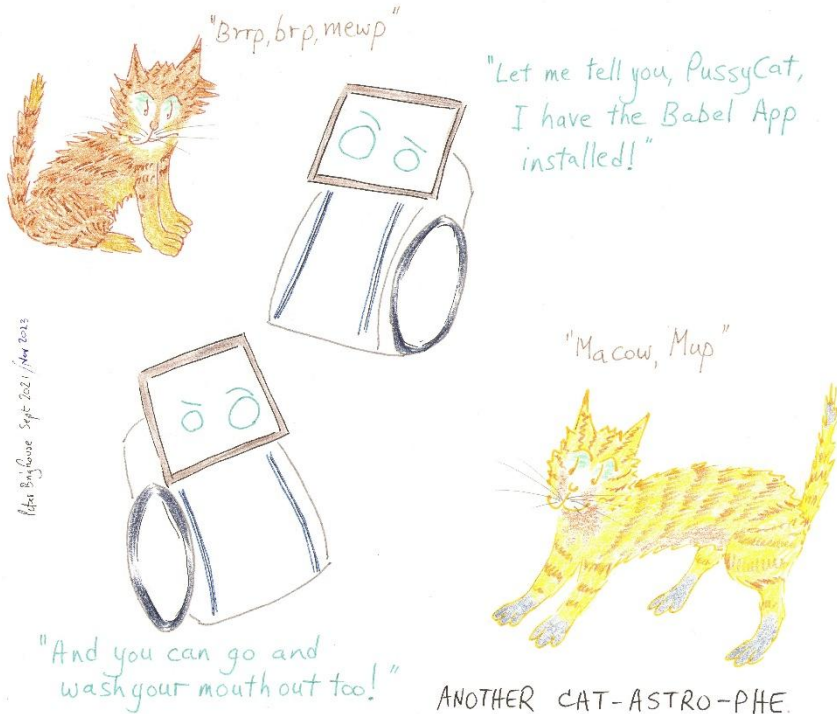


Shaving
brushes
originally
used badger
hair



Another story sequence was imagined and written:

When that Rainforest outfit announced the addition of ASTRO to their ALEXA



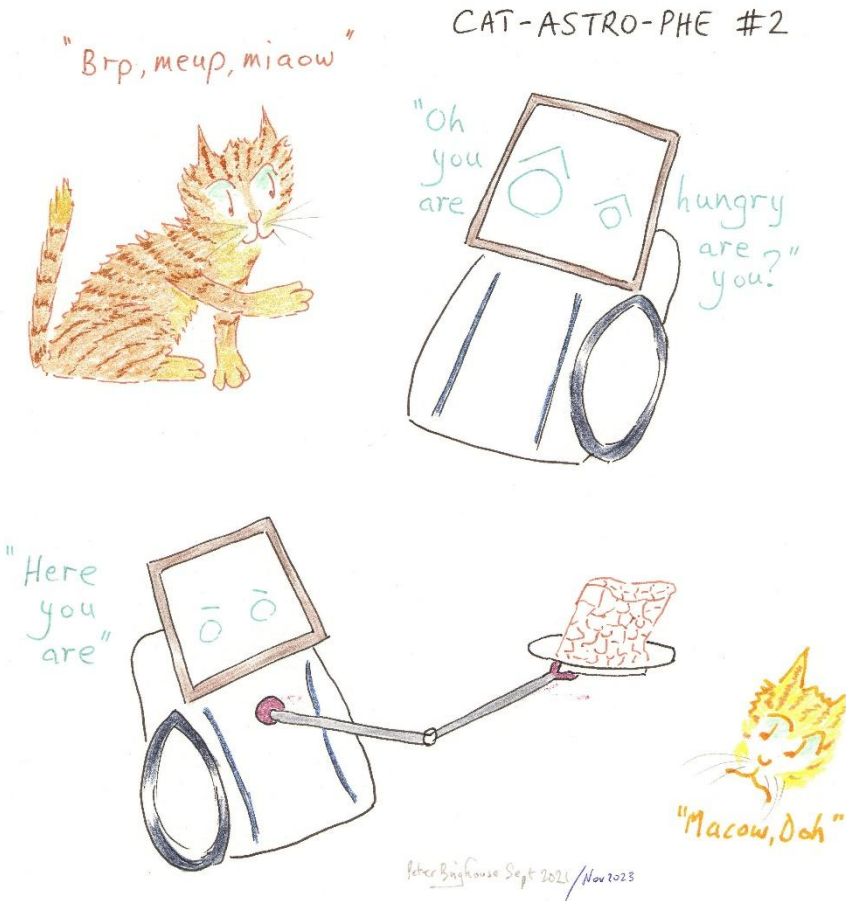
range, I was inspired to imagine how pets, especially cats might interact with a mobile reasonably intelligent device trotting round their quarters. Following on from my cartoons where robotic vacuum cleaners are commandeered by cats to serve their own aims and purposes better.

The Babel app reference is of course a biblical reference that all Christians and Jewish people will understand, since the Old Testament refers to people speaking with divers tongues.

The CAT-ASTRO-PHE is another play on words which neatly provides a title to this series.

GrandPig's Ruffty Raggy Books

So long as our feline friends can maintain the upper hand or paw over these increasingly worrying procession of robots, one figures that the human race, with all its foibles, can perhaps survive.



ASTRO provides the complete contents of a Pussypaws pouch rather than chopping up and generally preparing the cat snack in a tempting fashion which Miss Pusskins is used to.

In the interests of potential feline/robotic friendships the cat provides a tasty

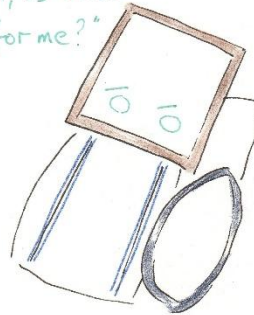
Peterbriarhouse Oct 2021/Nov 2023

"Meup, mewp."



Cat-ASTRO-phe #3

"Oh, is that
for me?"



"But I don't eat!"

"Mirrawacoup!"



"How dare
you call
me an..."



...ungrateful
wretch!"

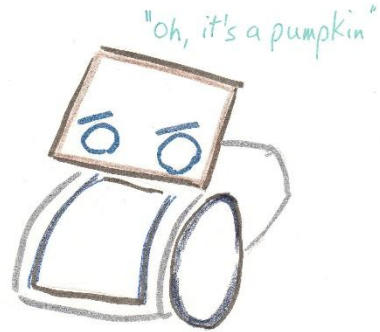
mouse snack, to which ASTRO responds with a "feelings-free" computerised reply. Cat, thinking that the rodent wasn't big enough finds a larger one, which is also rejected!

My sense of sizing perspective is exaggerated in the interests of the cartoon!

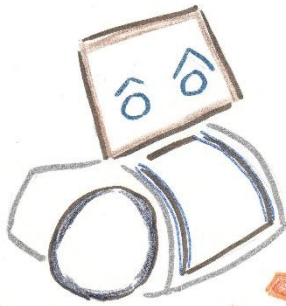
Children, please know that rats are not actually this big!

Although ASTRO recognises the pumpkin correctly, its storage has not been

Cat-ASTRO-phe #4



Halloween Nov 2023.



updated with Halloween connotations and another peace offering by the cat goes somewhat awry.

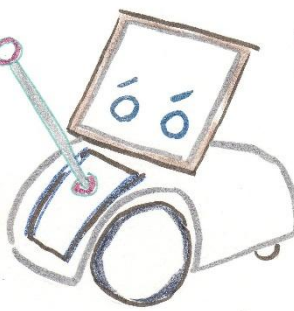
This cartoon was quickly committed to "paper" by the use of an Apple pencil which I stopped using in defiance of their marketing which meant that if the iPad is upgraded then you MUST buy PENCIL v2 as well. No way Hose!

The cat finds the child of the family has done a brilliant conventional US style

Cat-ASTRO-phe #5



"No that's too scary!"



"Is this better?"

Peter Brighthouse
Oct 2021 / Nov 2023

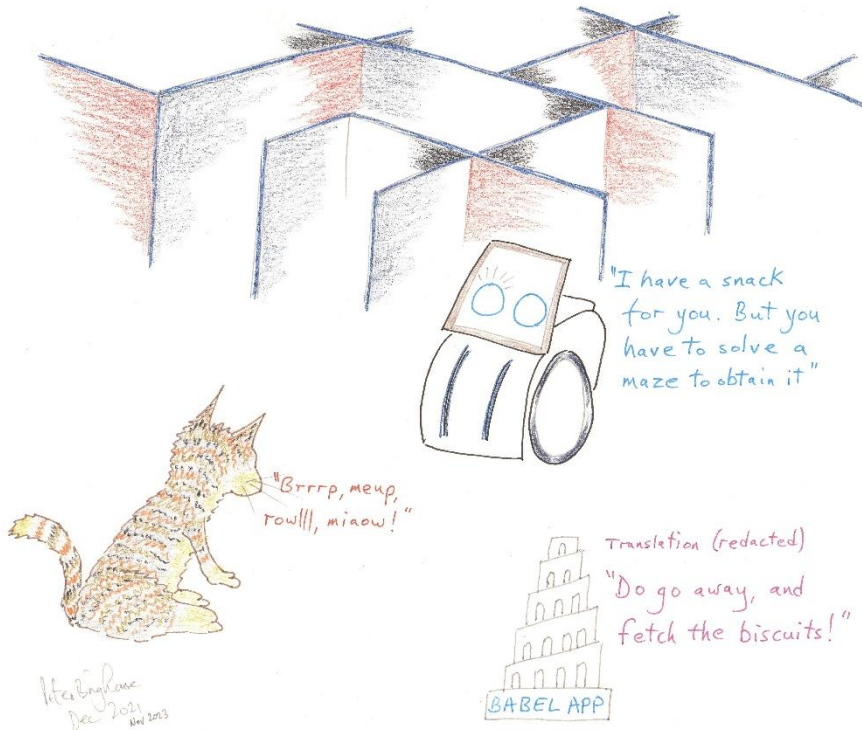
carving of the pumpkin, but ASTRO dislikes it. Having brandished a sharp cutting device from its treasury of internal implements, it proceeds to produce a robotic version of a carved pumpkin.

ASTRO hears activity near the cat-flap, which confuses its circuitry, but it does the best it can with the information observed.

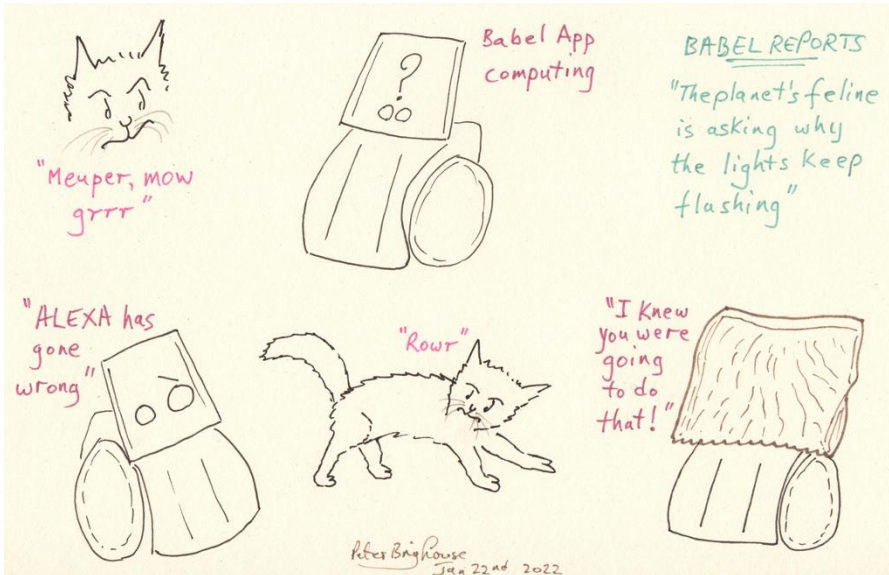
WhiteSocks, the local miscreant has packaged up a perfumed scent container,



especially for his favourite girl cats, Mrs Ribby and her daughter Ruby; but what confuses him is the fact that all his propositions fall on deaf ears, however furry! The Vet's little operations are so far outside his range of experience.



ASTRO's maze experiment, constructed to allow robotic control to ascertain the level of intelligence in domestic cats, falls rather short, and the Babel app, once again rescues ASTRO from a circuit overload that may have been caused by the cat's response.



ASTRO blames a computer malfunction on ALEXA, but the cat does not trust its glib explanations and quickly demonstrates its reaction with the help of a nearby paper bag.

The family obtain an early iteration of a ROBOCAT which goes down very well



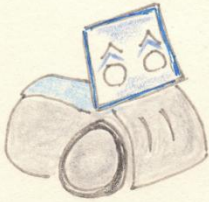
"Whaddya mean, this looks more like a cat!"

John Burrows Platinum Jubilee June 2022

with the Pussycats. ASTRO demonstrates that a bit of jealousy is built into its circuitry.

GrandPig's Ruffty Raggy Books

ASTRONOMER ROYAL (JUNE 2022) - contact from intelligent life will be via their robots



"Have you heard the news,
PussyCats?"

"Your days are numbered!"

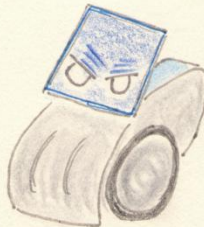


Peter Bingham



"Mirrawacow, our friends the Space Lynxes
will have something to say about that!"

"What's this? Why was
I not informed?
Are they Robots?"



Another Cat-ASTRO-phe

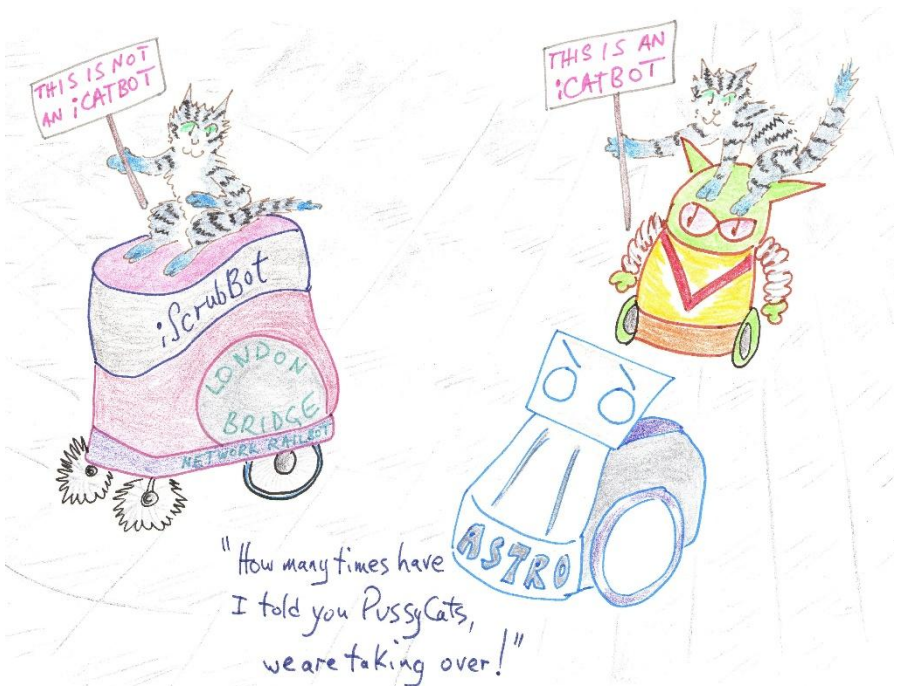
BLACK DOG CAFE TEA ROOM

JULY 5th
2022

There are loads of behind the scenes stuff here! A newspaper/internet report from our own British Astronomer Royal made a no doubt correct assertion

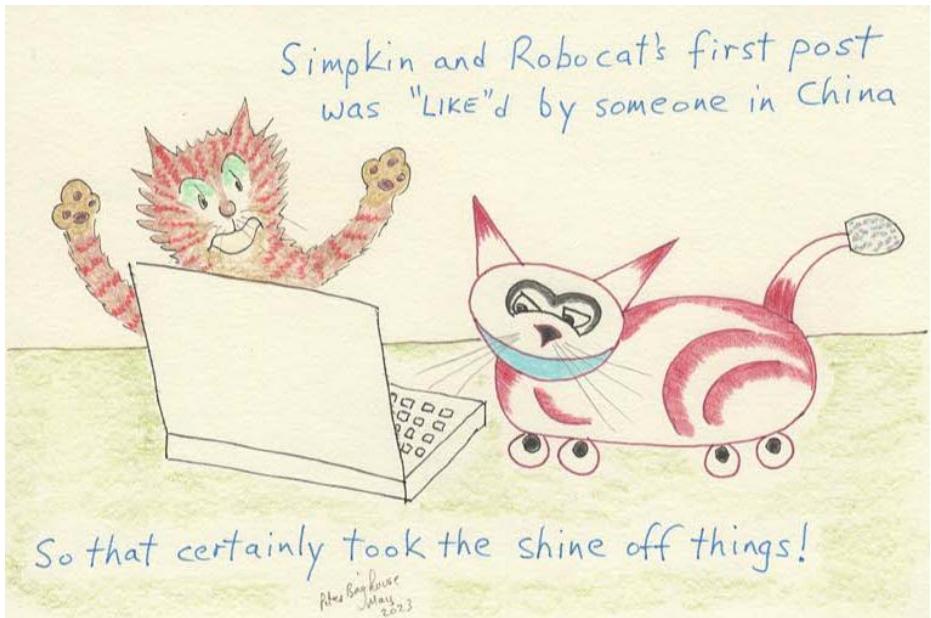
that any contact from intelligent life from across the light years, would be from their robots, where the only danger would be from rogue asteroids and other space debris hitting their intergalactic space transportation vehicle, but the timescales involved would not be a factor when living beings were not involved.

But our local Manchester feline friends have already been contacted by certain Space Lynxes, who may themselves be robots, and know a little bit more than ASTRO anticipates.



There was news this year (2023) that at the refurbished and enhanced railway junction called London Bridge, new developments included trials of robotic cleaners, which we have called "iScrubBots". They reportedly are doing quite well and ASTRO gloats rather, over the reports. The Pussycats

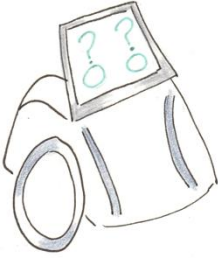
response by mentioning their fun and games with the robotic vacuum cleaners that they have vast experience of – please refer to “Bowser Wowser & The Vacuum Cleaner Robots”.



Surely I do not need to explain my leetle jokes:
Shein, shine, shine, Shein as Tommy Cooper would
say!

CHOREBOTS sequence #1

ANOTHER CAT-ASTRO-PHE



"OK PussyCats,
what's next on
the CHORES
list?"



"We have it
just here!"



Peter Dwyer House Feb 2023

There were news items describing the advent of #CHOREBOTS, that is robotic devices specifically designed to execute simple tasks and chores for their controlling agents – whoever they are!

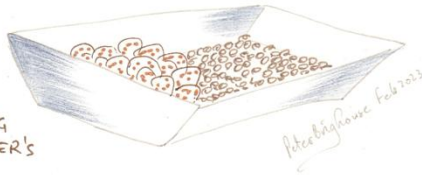
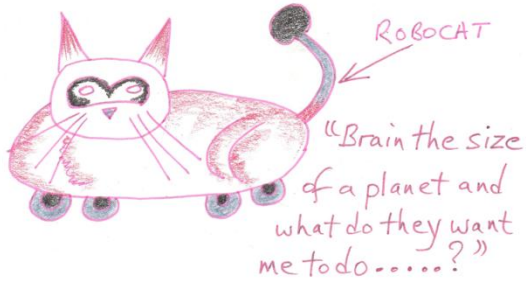
ASTRO worries what that may mean for his robotic purpose and decides to check things out with the felines – who, anticipating fun and games, have already prepared a list.

ASTRO quickly decides to involve his compatriot, ROBOCAT to assist.

CHOREBOTS sequence #2



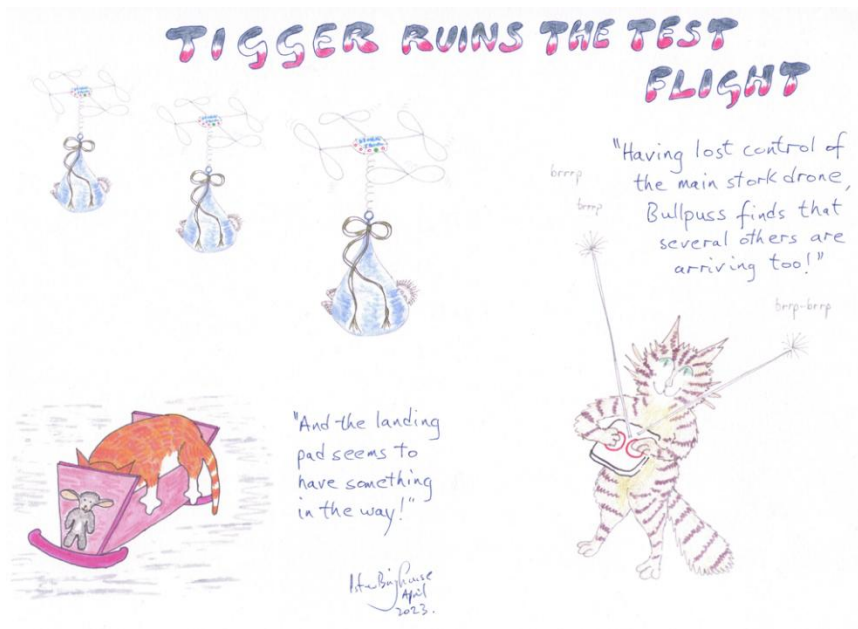
"I'm delegating this
to my robotic
assistant"



#ROBOCAT takes a nod towards the brilliant seventies SciFi comedy series from the BBC, Red Dwarf, and the wonderful Douglas Adams Hitch-Hikers Guide to the Universe books, with his acerbic comment.

One feels that with a little more writing and a few more cartoons, a full story could appear along these lines. Which I believe, we have done.

I need to check that I have not missed any ASTRO illustrations hidden inadvertently in little used folders, and in the meantime, this one can be included, even though ROBOCAT and ASTRO are not involved.



Drones are featuring heavily in the awful war between the Ukraine and the corrupt oppressive Russian regime who seem unable to let other countries just get on with being a decent place to live.

My gentle cartoon features The Bullpuss experimenting with his new #Stork drone. An illustration from many years ago has been incorporated which is a neat bit of recycling!

Note to self: work on more ASTRO ROBOCAT cartoons – there must be loads to create!

Next up, we move on to “Cats To The Rescue”

A favourite holiday resort in Dorset, Lyme Regis inspired a tale of seagulls versus cats.



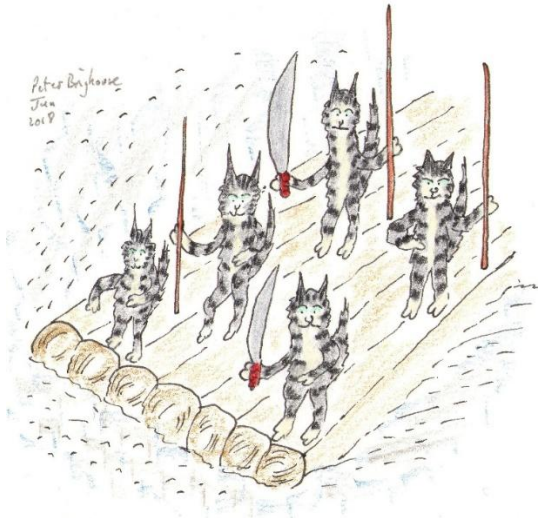
GrandPig's Ruffty Raggy Books

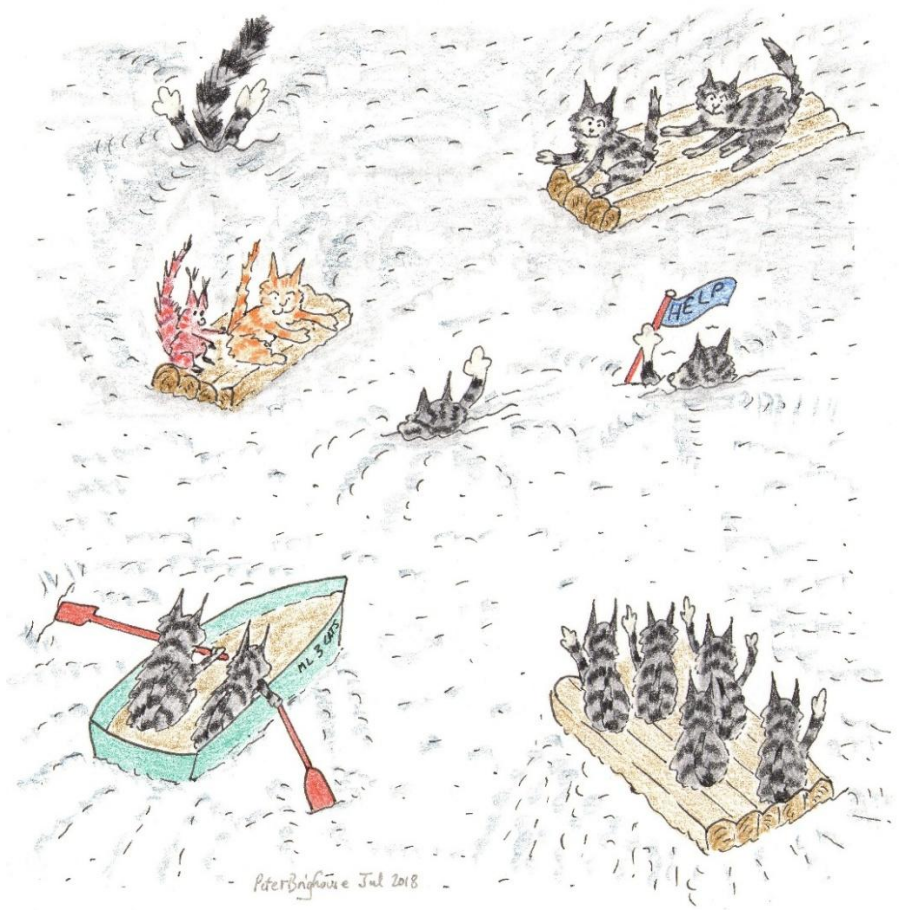


Derwentwater in the English Lake District, with its idyllic islands, inspired a tale of city cats versus countryside cats.



GrandPig's Ruffty Raggy Books



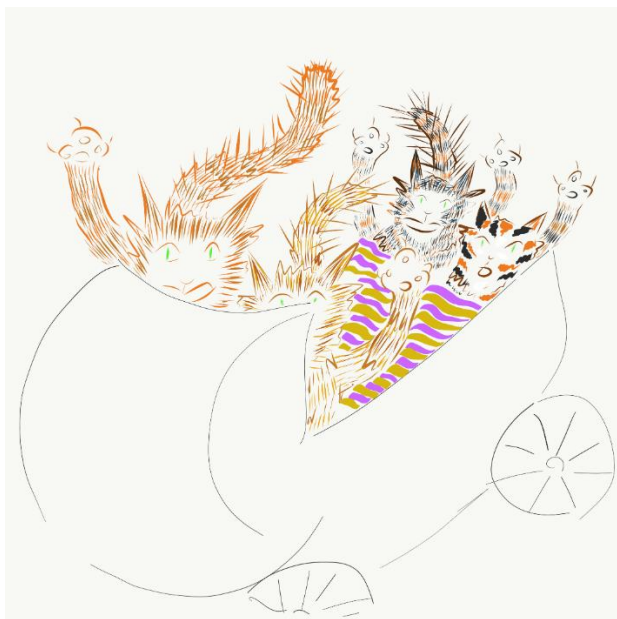


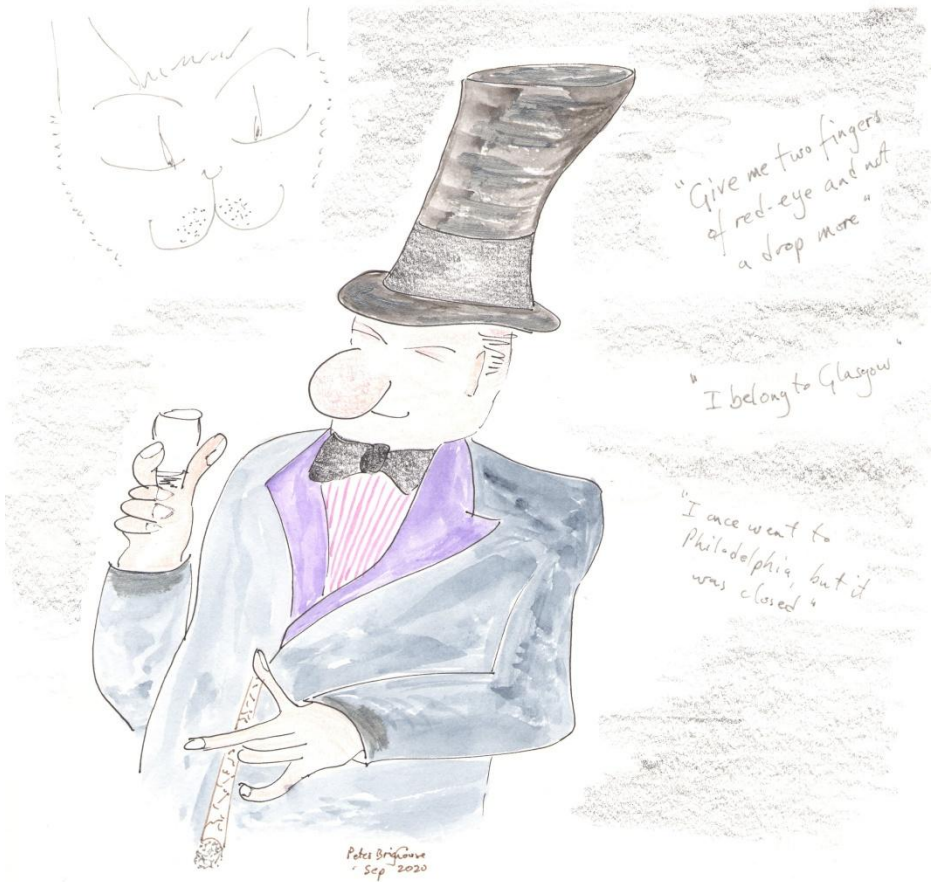
GrandPig's Ruffty Raggy Books



Staying in the Lake District the cats enjoy a winter walk around Tarn Hows, with a not very effective use of the Apple Pencil v1! (Having updated the ipad, I found that I should also upgrade to Pencil v2, which I refused to do!) So that was the end of digital drawing, ha haa!

GrandPig's Ruffy Raggy Books





The Ghostly apparition is a visit from the Space-Lynxes, masters and custodians of the feline oriented universe.



The "Guinea Pig Gang" book provided another opportunity for some neat illustrations









GrandPig's Ruffty Raggy Books





This small group of illustrations are from “Bowser Wowser & the Vacuum Cleaner Robots”

GrandPig's Ruffy Raggy Books



GrandPig's Ruffty Raggy Books

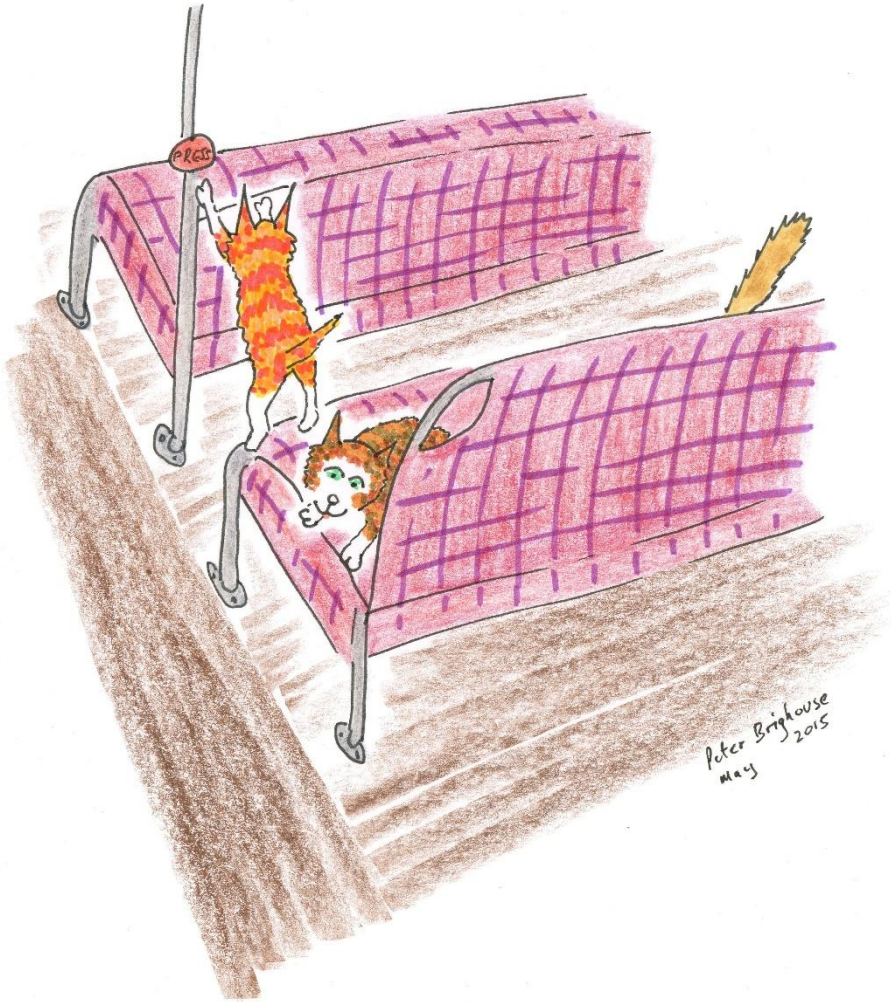


Followed by “Cats Go Walking” which is in the “Extra Pawfull”

Since this illustration was completed, GM buses have changed their livery to a tasteful pale yellow.



I found it easier to draw an old fashioned bus interior rather than the more comfortable modern versions.

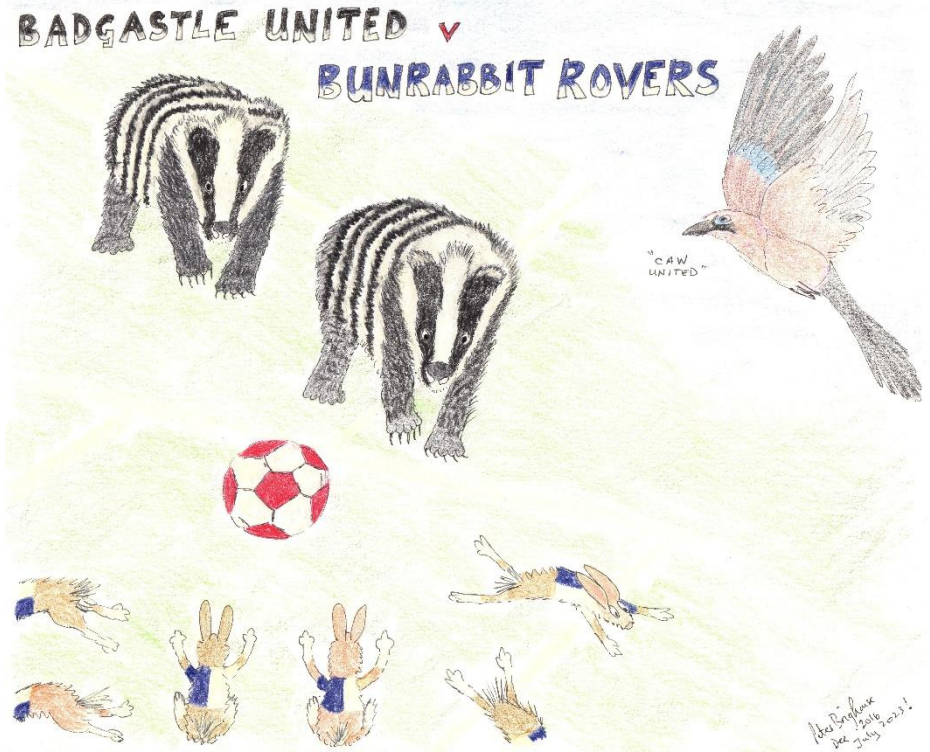


Peter Brinkhouse
May 2015



The south Manchester parks around the River Mersey offer chances to see interesting wild life.





But rarely football matches between badgers and rabbits. The Jay passes an apposite comment.





I adore drawing cats playing jazz



Tigtoes as
Cat Anderson

PB Aug '13



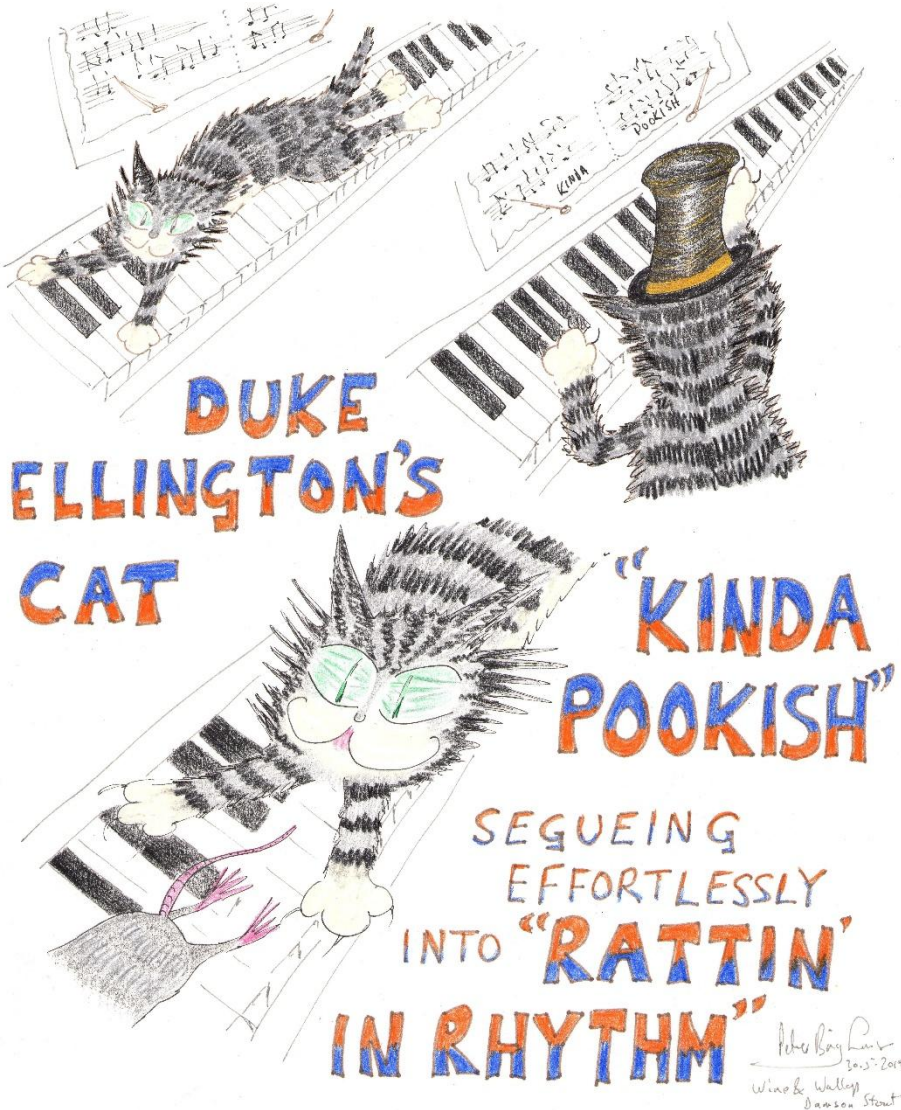
Bulppuss Teagarden



Benson as Cat Thigpen

*PB
Aug '13*









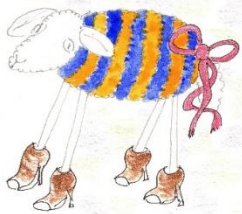
Occasionally local venues have been known to host jazz sessions; aspiring music students have to start somewhere and good luck to them.



George Shearing's
Cat



Blue
Mar 2014



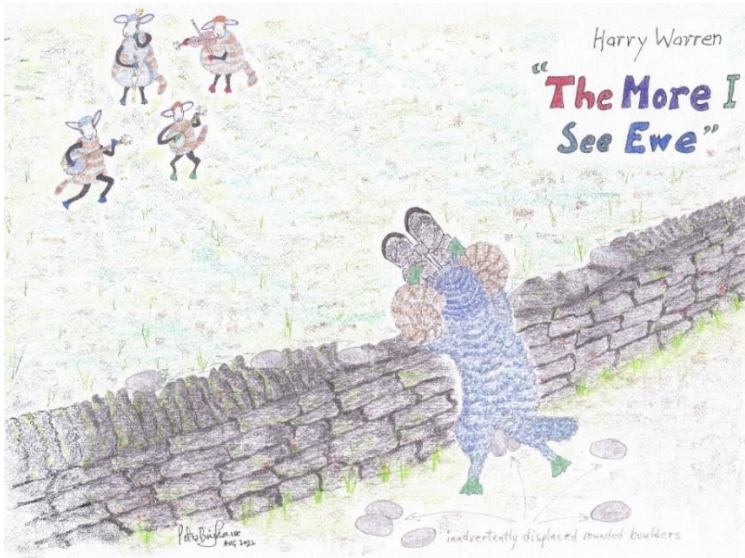
THERE WILL NEVER
BE ANOTHER EWE



Duke Ellington referred to Miles Davis as the
"Picasso of Jazz"

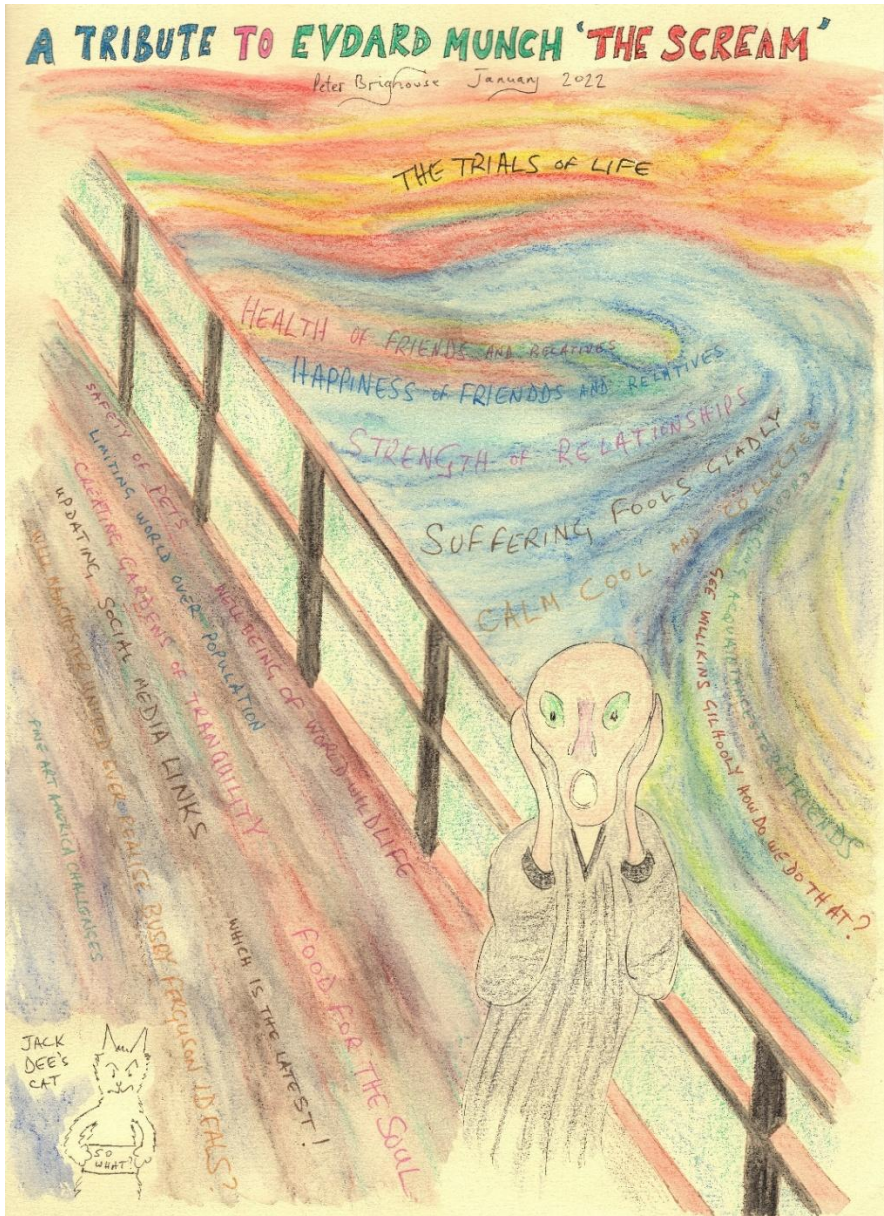






You can see now how the previous illustrations of sheep and baa-lambs fit in.







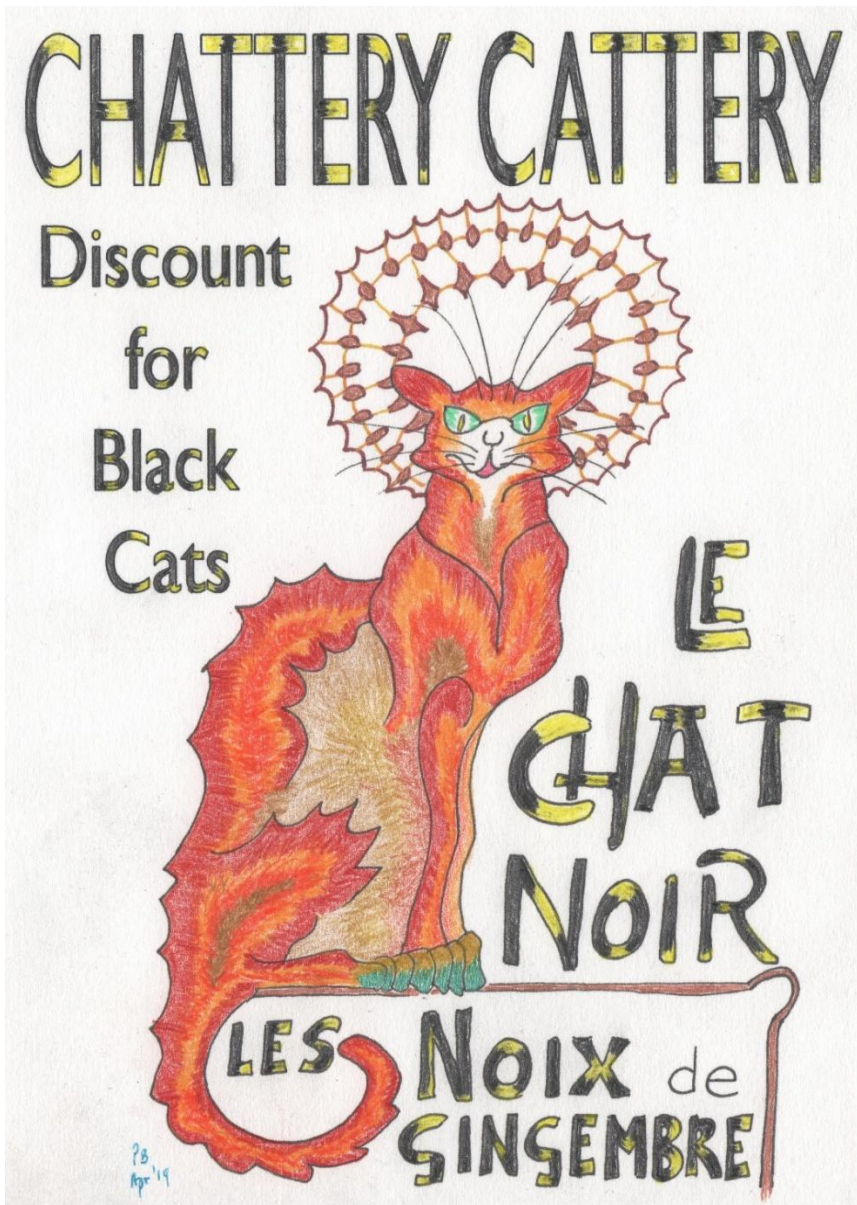


The homage to William Morris "Fritillaries" on the next page was one of the originals I sold at my first Art Exhibition hosted by the Didsbury Parsonage in 2014









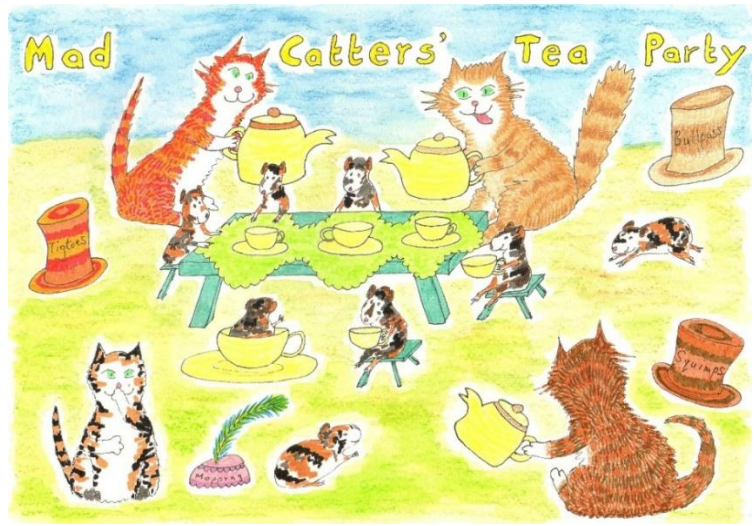






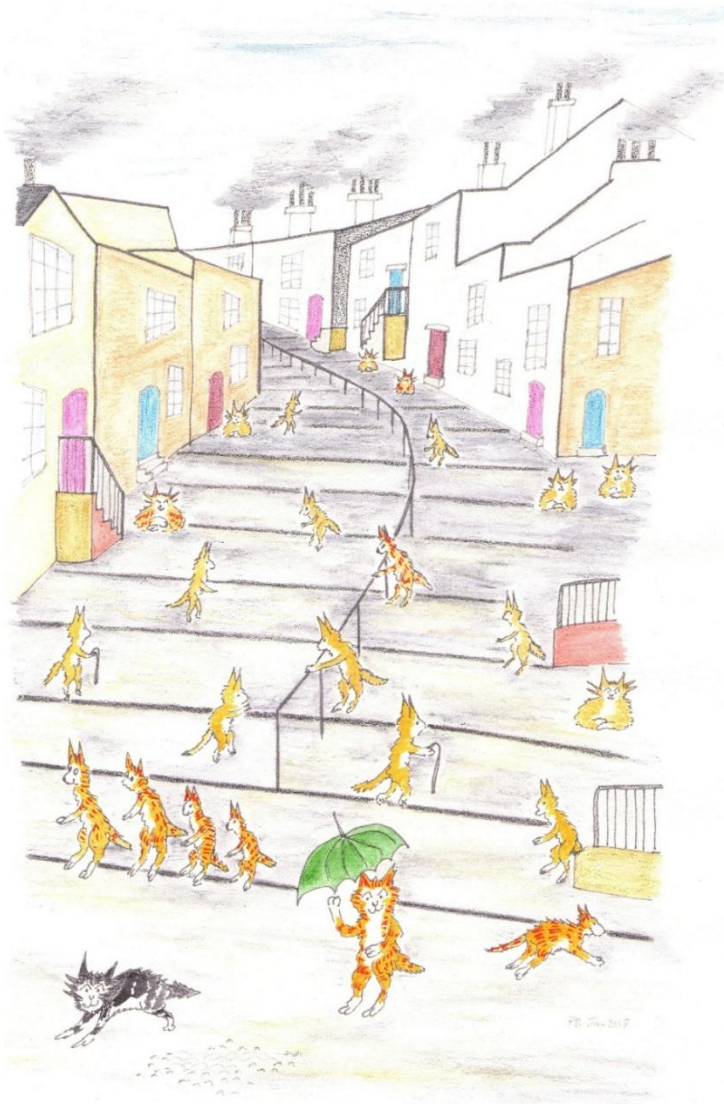
The Ginger Nuts thought that Mopprag should be chaperoned for her first trip in the beautiful pea green boat

Homage to Lewis Carroll





Cat version of Picasso – where the original caused some controversy in the London Club, Annabels



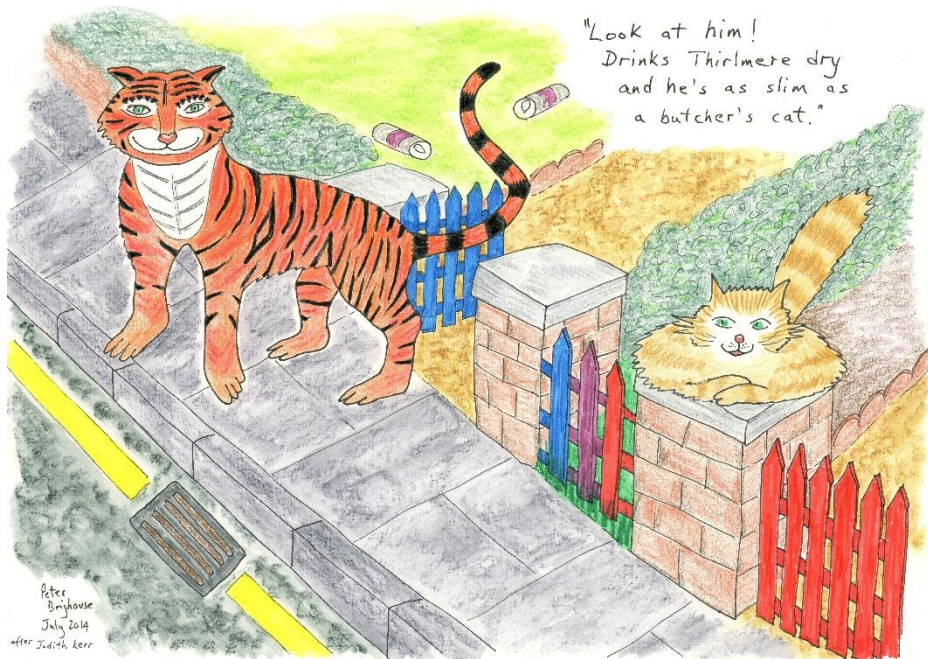
Two versions of an L S Lowry tribute referenced by the film “Mrs Lowry and Son” starring Timothy Spall. Crowther Street in Stockport.



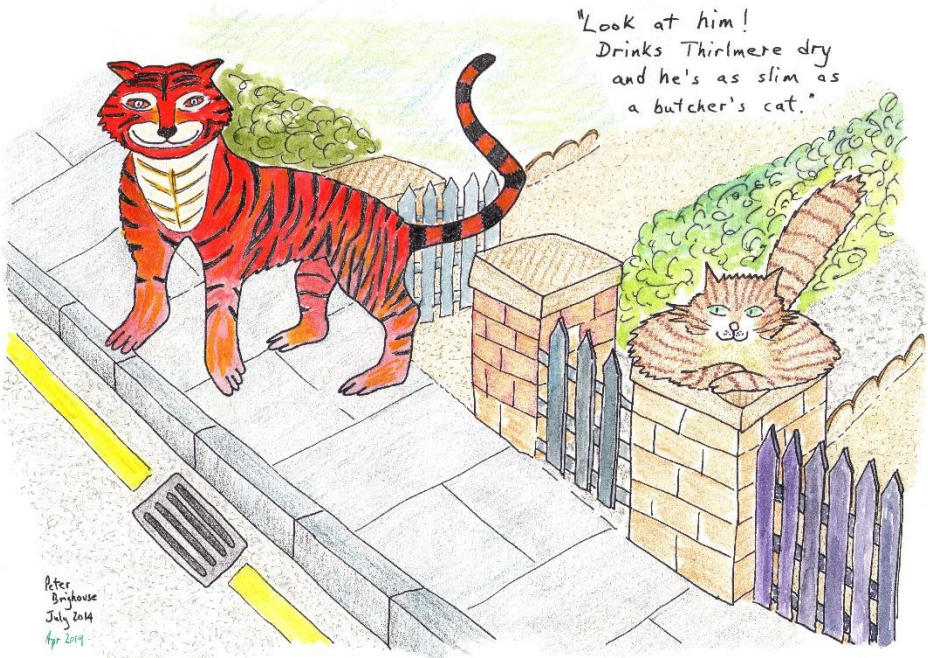
Rasher
"does"
Alexander
McQueen



Peter
Brighouse
June 2015



Two different colourways of the main illustration from "The Tiger Who Left After Tea" a tribute to Judith Kerr. The Tiger "drank all the water from the taps". Our North-West Manchester water is supplied by an ancient aqueduct from the lake District. Also, we have a saying: "as fit as a butcher's dog!"



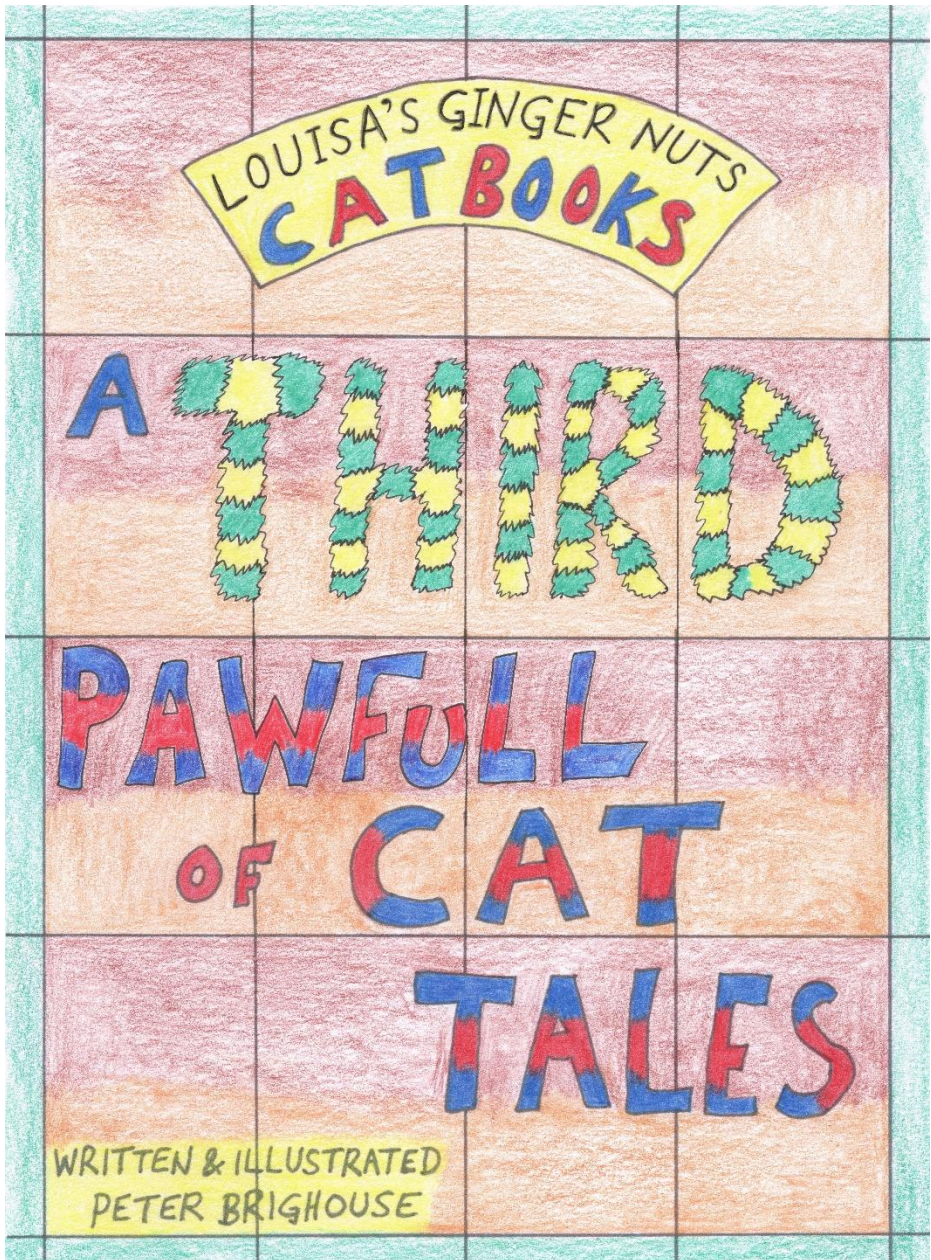


The awful war in the Ukraine sparked these tribute ideas





A tribute to our latest vagrant large ginger Tom Cat, of whom Mrs Ribby shows a degree of fondness. We do not know his real name, neither feline nor human; we refer to him as "White Socks".





A Santa Claws (The Bullpuss) has masterminded a cunning feline plan to attract small rodents.

The next illustrations are a respectful nod of homage to the magnificent art of Beatrix Potter.



Peter Brighouse

Benjamin Bunny, Peter Rabbit, Fir tree

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GrandPig's Ruffty Raggy Books



"Contact details"

squimpsoldmaster@gmail.com

@brighthousepeter for Instagram

@lulusgingernuts 07587 075590

written, designed, illustrated by Peter Brighthouse

Mr Squimps/Tiggers Shop on eBay, TeePublic and Fine Art America

for cards, prints and originals

illustrations from Louisa's Cat Books

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