

Care queen is cat's whiskers with award

by FRANCES IVENS

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An animal lover won a national award for her lifelong work with cats.

Ann Knowles was recognised with a special award from the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) at the House of Lords, honouring more than 50 years of dedication to rescuing and re-homing cats.

The 70-year-old runs Katz Castle, an animal shelter and cattery in Cobham, which cares for about 50 cats at any one time.

Most of the cats cared for are re-homed, with some staying in her long-term care.

Mrs Knowles and her husband Jon, 91, first became involved with animal welfare during the post-war reconstruction of the East End of London in the 1960s.

They found colonies of stray cats and fed and sheltered them.

Since then the couple have cared for and re-homed countless cats as well as a few other guests including dogs, tortoises and three elderly sheep saved from slaughter.

Mrs Knowles said: "What I find most fulfilling is when a cat that came in ill or with antisocial problems leaves after long-term care to a loving, permanent home. I take great care to match the right person to the right cat. That's very important."

Robbie Marsland, UK director of IFAW, said: "Ann's dedication



Feline friend: Ann Knowles of Katz Castle in Cobham

has seen her rescue many thousands of cats over the years and she is a great role model and example of animal welfare

in action. "She is a very deserving winner of IFAW's lifetime achievement award."

Elderly man saved from kitchen fire

An elderly man was brought to safety after a kitchen fire broke out in a sheltered housing block.

Firefighters from Esher, Painshill, Walton and Surbiton fire stations were called to Hinchley Manor, Manor Road North, at about 10.10am on Friday, October 18.

The blaze started in a flat on the second floor of the building and firefighters used six sets of breathing apparatus, one hose reel and one jet to extinguish it.

The gentleman who lived in the flat escaped the blaze unharmed and surrounding flats were evacuated as a precaution.

Crews contained the fire to



Scene: The flats Deadlinepix EL80276

the kitchen, with the rest of the flat suffering from some smoke and water damage.

An Esher firefighter said:

"The wardens did a brilliant job there, hence why we managed to contain it to the flat."

No other properties were affected by the fire.

William Butchart, managing director of Kingsdale Group who manage the development, said: "The gentleman is fine now and is with his daughter. This was a relatively small incident. Smoke damage is always the worst aspect of a fire but it [the flat] is repairable."

"We want to get it resolved as quickly as possible and get the gentleman back into his home."

A spokesman for Surrey Police said the fire was not being treated as suspicious and was not being investigated.

Burglars steal £15k in jewellery

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David Hollingsworth, Elmbridge Neighbourhood Inspector, said burglary rates in the borough were low but warned they still happen.

He said: "People should make sure they lock their doors and shut their win-

dows because they are making themselves more vulnerable to burglary if they don't.

"If people can get in without breaking in they will. They don't like to spend a lot of time getting in or making noise. He has been extremely unlucky but there will always be people who take those

opportunities."

Detective Constable Debbie White, investigating officer, said the house could have been deliberately targeted for the gold jewellery.

Witnesses or anyone with information should call Surrey Police on 101, quoting reference EL/13/6717.

Brother speaks out over 'feud'

The brother of murdered Claygate man Saad Al-Hilli has been rebailed by police.

Zaid Al-Hilli, 54, of North Parade, Chessington, was arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit murder on June 24, and interviewed as part of an ongoing investigation.

He was rebailed on October 22, and is due to return on bail on January 15.

Zaid Al-Hilli is the only person to be arrested in connection with the



Saad Al-Hilli

murder of his brother Saad Al-Hilli, 50, his wife Iqbal, 47, and her mother, Suhalia Al-Allaf, 74.

They were shot dead in

their BMW while on holiday in the French Alps on September 5, last year.

The two Al-Hilli children survived the attack, with Zainab, then seven, shot and pistol whipped by the gunman and Zeena, then four, escaping unharmed after she hid beneath her mother's skirt.

Zaid Al-Hilli spoke out about a feud with his sibling for the first time for a BBC Panorama documentary, shown on Monday.

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Chemical danger

Fears of potentially dangerous chemicals inside a Weybridge property prompted neighbours to be evacuated for two hours.

Police were called to Paynetts Court, in Queens Road, just before noon on Saturday, October 19, after reports of a concern for safety.

A Surrey Police spokeswoman said following an investigation, there was no chemical risk and residents were able to return home at about 5.45pm. A man was sectioned by officers and was taken to St Peter's Hospital by ambulance.

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