



The Rescuer

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Winter 2013/14 Newsletter

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New Ambulance Launched

Read more on Page 12 & 13

24Hr Rescue Line: 07815-078234

An Update on “Victoria” by Chief Inspector Martin Sims.

“Victoria” the hedgehog that was the target of horrifying cruelty at the hands of three boys in Eastbourne has recovered and been returned to the wild thanks to East Sussex WRAS.

On 3 September last year, the boys came across the female hedgehog in Victoria Gardens, Eastbourne and then subjected her to extreme abuse, running over her with a mountain bike, prodding her and knocking her with a stick and then using her as a football when she rolled herself up in a sad attempt to protect herself. The boys then played football with her, before kicking her on to a swing and then catapulting her off it.

At this point, the hedgehog was left abandoned with a broken leg and several broken ribs. It was some time later that she was found by the mother of one of the boys, who had been horrified at her son’s part in the incident and subsequently contacted police. The hedgehog was subsequently treated at WRAS’s Casualty Care Centre, being dubbed Victoria due to where she was found.

The three boys concerned were interviewed by police where two of them admitted using Victoria as a football and causing unnecessary suffering. They received cautions and are now spending time working with animals as a ‘pay back’.

The third boy was given a community resolution and told to write a letter of apology for his actions and to reflect upon this matter, which he completed. All three were given strong words of advice regarding their behaviour when they attended for their cautions and community resolution.



Trevor Weeks MBE, Victoria the Hedgehog and CI Martin Sims

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Badger Survives 20ft drop into Hastings basement.

WRAS rescuers Jen and Chris rushed to the aid of this badger which became trapped in a basement area of a house in Hastings in November. The houses in Belmont Road

Hastings are built into a slope and the rear gardens are almost at roof level. The badger fell down the pictured drop into the basement below, but amazingly did not injure himself. He was caught and taken back to WRAS's Casualty Centre for observations, but was deemed fit enough to be released the following night at the rear of the property.



Stormy Winter.

This Diver was admitted after crash landing on an industrial Estate in East-borune.



Numerous Pigeons had to be rescued after being blown out of their nests in October

Generally the stormy weather has not caused much of a problem at WRAS. The first storms back in late October were the worst and saw WRAS inundated with call-outs after the strongest windy weather in years battered the county. The later storms caused very few casualties. The stormy weather meant WRAS's Trevor Weeks had to stay over at the Casualty Centre just in case fallen trees caused problems for, or prevented WRAS volunteers getting to the centre. Although there was a power cut during the night it was all back up and running well in time for the morning shift and everyone managed to get in. Looking after any animal is a responsibility and one that WRAS takes very seriously. Wildlife Rescue is not a hobby which can be picked up and put down as and when you want, so to ensure WRAS's casualties do not miss out on being fed, watered and medicated, WRAS always has someone staying overnight when there is a severe weather warning.



Meet "Stinking Bishop"

This hedgehog came into WRAS's care from Chris and Lyn who do a small wildlife rescue from their home in Bexhill. The hedgehog was in a severe condition, with a very nasty series of wounds on its body. He was named "Sticking Bishop" after the cheese, as he smelt so bad. He had to be seen by our vets and be anaesthetised so the wounds could be thoroughly cleaned out. WRAS's care team cleaned the wounds on a daily basis but one section of wounds was very difficult to

get to so he end up being seen twice more at Henley House Vets in Uckfield. Each time Vets anaesthetised him to ensure the hard to get to wounds were staying clean and not becoming re-infected. He is still in care and his wounds almost fully healed now and will be able to be returned to the wild soon.

WRAS expands its Educational Work.

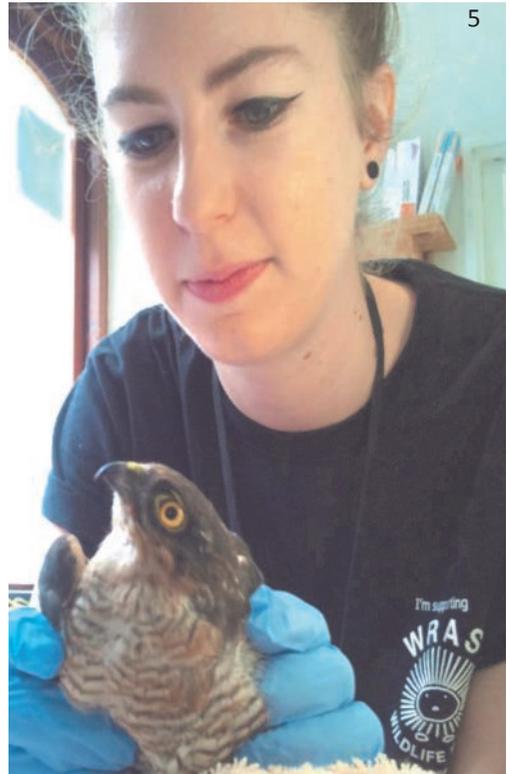
Assistant Manager Lindsay Redfern has been awarded a grant of £10,000 by 'Lush' Cosmetics Company to complete an 'Education' project.

Lindsay approached Lush in 2013 wanting to put more effort into educating the public about wildlife and to raise awareness of the common problems seen at the Casualty Care Centre. Having completed a dissertation on the most common causes of harm to wild birds in 2013, Lindsay discovered that around half of the injuries suffered by wild birds were caused by humans or human activity.

"My dissertation helped me to realise that human activity is having a much larger impact upon wild animals than most people may realise, this discovery prompted me to get in touch with Lush to see if they may be able to help fund me working full time with WRAS and in turn provide me with the time to promote the problems, possible solutions and to raise general awareness of the most common concerns to wild animals." Lindsay explained.

Thankfully Lush was happy to help and generously donated £10,000 towards a salary for Lindsay to work full time on minimum wage. WRAS has worked closely with local schools and college for a number of years providing work experience placements, but Lush's donation has provided the opportunity to offer more in depth training in a variety of rehabilitation subjects as well as to the general public through fundraising stalls and the educational tools which Lindsay is in the process of creating.

THANK YOU LUSH!



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Online: www.lush.co.uk

Lush Eastbourne: Unit 51a, Arndale Centre, Eastbourne. BN21 3NW

Lush Brighton: 41 East Street
Brighton, BN1 1HL

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Blue Light Swan Rescue.

This Swan crash landed on Royal Parade, Eastbourne. Rescuer Tony attended on site to find a human ambulance and police car guarding the swan and keeping it safe. The swan was kept in for 24 hours and then released back at Princes Park.



Are you able to sponsor a cage?

Our Cage appeal has been going very well and over half the cages have now been funded. As a result we are in the process of ordering the cages and hope to have them installed soon. But we still have some small cages costing £250 each, some Medium cages costing £275 and 2 large cages costing £300 left to sponsor. All the extra large cages have now been sponsored costing £400 each. After a visit from the cage company the layout has changed slightly, and should be better for the volunteers who have to feed and clean the casualties.

As well as asking people to donate what they can afford, we are also asking people if they would like to sponsor one of the cages. There are four different sizes of cages but we are only in need of these sizes being sponsored now.

- 1) Small - costing £250 each.
- 2) Medium - costing £275 each.
- 3) Large - costing £300 each.

Those who make donations of these amounts will be able to sponsor the cage and have their name displayed on the cage as well as being invited to visit and see the bank of cages once installed. Smaller donations are very much appreciated as well. Please e-mail trevor@eastsussexwras.org.uk when sponsoring a cage so we have your full details and can invite you to visit once they are installed. You can also donate at: www.justgiving.com/HospitalCageAppeal2013



Example of some of the new cages being installed.



Moorhen plays hard to catch!

A moorhen gave WRAS rescuers as well as members of the public the run around for almost two weeks, after injuring its leg at the Pells Pond in Lewes. WRAS received numerous calls from local residents who were concerned about the moorhen. Several rescuers attended on site to try and catch the bird and were even helped by local residents but the moorhen managed to escape every time. Eventually a four strong team of rescuers from WRAS spent over an hour trying and eventually managed to catch the bird using a dry suit and various nets. The moorhen had an unusual deformity to one leg and was sent up to the Swan Sanctuary at Shepperton for their vets to assess and decide the best treatment.



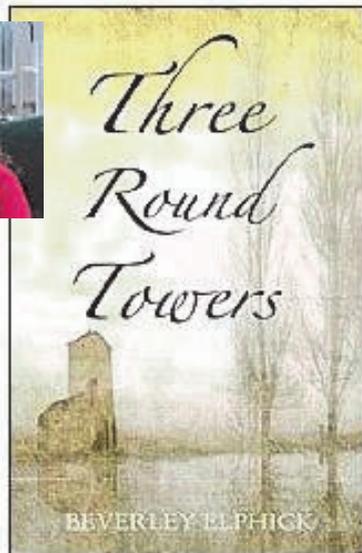
WRAS's Trevor Weeks now has a monthly slot on Uckfield FM community radio station. You can listen at 105FM or online at uckfieldfm.co.uk on the 2nd Thursday of each month. A recording is also available on our website www.wildlifeambulance.org. Don't forget Trevor's weekly column in the Hailsham, Eastbourne and Seaford Gazette as well as the Sussex Express.



Three Round Towers

by Beverley Elphick.

I am one of WRAS's feed and clean shift volunteers on Thursday where I work with a great team. I have written an historical novel set in Lewes and the villages down river towards Newhaven.



I would like to offer WRAS a contribution for every copy sold through their database and perhaps when you have read the following you might like to give it a go. This is my first novel but I hope to write a sequel very soon.

Three Round Towers by Beverley Elphick

It is 1795 and Esther Coad is plunged into destitution when her mother, father and younger brother are taken by the Great Sickness. She is relieved when a distant relative offers her a home at Coad Farm in the tiny hamlet of Hamsey but soon discovers that the offer is not made in kindness but from the desire for cheap labour. She finds her relatives unkind and mean spirited and the work is hard, especially with the lippy leg Esther has suffered from since birth.

Esther's life improves when a new servant, Becca arrives. Becca is young, vivacious and pretty and in no time the girls become firm friends. One bright Midsummer's day they venture to the hiring fair at nearby Lewes, a decision that will trigger a sequence of events that will test Esther to the limit.

A tragedy leaves Esther with a tiny baby and mourning a senseless death. Esther fears for her own life and that of the child and runs away from the farm throwing herself at the mercy of strangers who support her as she fights to prove her innocence in the case she has become entangled in.

Can Esther escape the malevolent reach of the Coads and their accusations of murder and kidnap? Can she create a life for herself and Beth and triumph over the smugglers and the press gang who threaten her hard won freedom? And will she find the happiness she deserves at last?

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Click on "My Boiler Juice Communities" on the left hand menu, search for local charities or enter our Charity ID number "35109", then click on the "Support" button. Every time you order fuel WRAS will get a donation from Boiler Juice.com. Thank you.

In Memory of Eileen.

Eileen Clayton lived in Eastbourne for almost 30 years, having moved there from London after retirement. She died at age 82 having said that she felt she was 'on holiday' every day in such a beautiful place. She dearly loved animals and birds, and had a Golden Retriever, Brandy, who enjoyed the good life with her for many years. She always helped animals if she could, and took in several stray cats and Brandy, eventually one after another they would die. As each passed away, we think the word went out that there was a vacancy at the best place to live in town, and another cat seemed to arrive needing her help. She also made regular donations to various animal or wildlife charities, and true to form, in her Will she asked her family to donation a sum of money

to charity to help animals in her memory. Her family lovingly sent a £500 donation to East Sussex Wildlife Rescue to help more deserving recipients. Thank you Eileen for your donation and for a life well lived, and you can be sure you will never be forgotten.

Gorgeous Crossbill rescued near Hailsham.

This amazing Cross Bill was admitted into WRAS's Care after being found in Abbot's Wood, near Hailsham. The bird was found on the ground, disorientated and unable to fly. On examination the bird was found to have bruising and a swelling by one shoulder, but no fractures were found. The female Cross Bill was placed in a suitable cage with evergreen foliage as well as pine cones and various seeds and fruit. After 3 weeks in care she was flying well and suitable for release. Several WRAS volunteers who walk in the woods managed to find a large flock of Cross Bills so this girl was returned and released back in the wood.





Hedgehog caught in Plastic Beer Can Ring

Meet "Marciana", this poor hedgehog came in from Eastbourne after being found caught in one of the plastic rings from a four pack beer can holder. This unfortunate hedgehog had wounds running round 80% of the circumference of her body - from her neck, under both front legs and back up the other side which were infected and deep where the plastic had cut in. She was rushed to the out of hours emergency vets for treatment, and then to our vets in the morning for additional work. She ended up having 4 visits to the vets due to the amount of work required to save her life costing WRAS over £350.00. She made a full recovery and as she was big enough to survive hibernation when admitted, she was released back where found with a hedgehog box for safety.



Scrap it for WRAS!

Giveacar is a social enterprise that raises money for charity by scrapping or selling old cars. If you have an unwanted car, you can give them a call and they will dispose of it free of charge and when mentioning East Sussex WRAS they will make a donation to help us help wildlife in need! Just visit...

www.giveacar.co.uk/charities/east-sussex-wras or phone 020-0011-1664

Donate your unwanted clothes to raise money for WRAS!

Its easy and simple and won't cost you anything, and can all be done from the comfort of your home without having to go anywhere. Just visit this website...

www.charity-ecosystem.org/animals/east-sussex-wildlife-rescue-ambulance.html

8th March - WRAS's Unusual Quiz Night - Indian Theme.

East Dean Village Hall—7pm onwards. £10 Tickets in advance by calling 01825-873003. Tickets include free meal and entry to our fun quiz.

22nd March - Educational Display at Lewes Waitrose. 9am - 6pm.

30th March - Vegfest, Brighton. 11am till 6pm.

19th April - WRAS Pamper Day! Lansdowne Hotel, Eastbourne 11am—5pm.

Only £15 for a day of treatments Call 01825873003 to book.

10th May - Plumpton College Open Day. 10am till 5pm.

24th May - "Walk on the Wild Side" Sponsored Walk in aid of WRAS. £5 to enter and picnic lunch at the end. Walking from Bell Tout Light house to Hollywell. Starting 11.30am. Contact Lindsay on 01825-873003 for more information or to take part.

5th, 6th, 7th June—South of England Show. WRAS's new Ambulance will be on display along with an educational stand for the three day event.

9th August - Princes Park Fun Day. Princes Park Eastbourne. 10am till 4pm.

16th August - WRAS's Unusual Quiz Night , East Dean Village Hall. (See above)

6th September - WRAS Bingo Night at Hailsham Civic Community Centre. 6pm till 11pm.

10 games at £1 per card with a great range of prizes up for grabs!

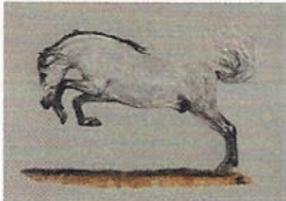
1st November - WRAS's Unusual Quiz Night, East Dean Village Hall. (See above)

For more information on any of these events please contact Lindsay on lindsay@eastsussexwras.org.uk or 01825-873003.

Sandra Palme is an amazing artist and really knows how to capture the true character of the pets she draws.

To help support WRAS, Sandra is happy to donate to WRAS 15% of the value of any commissioned work when WRAS is mentioned.

Custom Pet Portraits From Photos



Sandra Palme
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New Ambulance Unwrapped thanks to Insurance Company.

One of the UK's largest pet insurers Animal Friends Insurance, decided to celebrate Christmas 2013 by making a huge donation to East Sussex Wildlife Rescue and Ambulance Services. Animal Friends has donated £9,250 to sponsor a new wildlife ambulance.

WRAS's Trevor Weeks commented on the donation saying; "This has to be the best Christmas Gift our charity has had in years! 2013 has been a difficult year with many challenges especially trying to keep on top of the workload. One of our major worries was knowing that we were going to have to take one of our ambulances off the road in 2014. With vets bills, food bills, utility bills and other care costs continually increasing we were not sure if we could afford to replace the ambulance, which would have left us with a vehicles short and less able to rescue casualties. We were even considering stopping our night work. Animal Friends Insurance will be helping to ensure hundreds of wildlife casualties a year are saved from suffering as a result of their support and on behalf of the casualties thank you Animal Friends Insurance."

The concept of a charity Christmas giveaway was the brainwave of Managing Director of Animal Friends Insurance Elaine Fairfax. The donations will assist with not just the immediate care of many rescued animals but also the long term rehabilitation they



Photos by Ron Hill — HillPhotographic@aol.com

require. In total Animal Friends Insurance gave away £70,000 to various animal charities.

MD and Founder of Animal Friends Insurance, Elaine Fairfax said: "It's wonderful to be able to make such a big donation to so many very worthy charities

this Christmas. We can't help every animal but these donations really show our appreciation for some of the charities who work so hard and often go above and beyond the line of duty."

On the 13th January Elaine and Chris Fairfax drove across from Wiltshire to hand over the keys to the new ambulance live on air at a launch at the Uckfield FM studio. Outside the new ambulance was wrapped in Christmas paper, ribbon and balloons was unwrapped to the cheers and applause from WRAS volunteers and local media. A video of the unwrapping can be watched at http://youtu.be/_sGhCeyl__M as well as a message from Chris and Elaine to all our volunteers and supporters.



Elaine and Chris Fairfax help Trevor to unwrap the new ambulance.



WRAS volunteers are first Lay Vaccinators in East Sussex.



Trevor sets a trap ready to vaccinate a badger



Trevor vaccinates the trapped badger the following morning.



The badger is released back to the wild.

For decades, farmers have been struggling with the problem of tuberculosis in cattle, and successive governments have sought a solution to the problem. As well as cattle, bovine TB (bTB) affects badgers and other forms of wildlife. Various trials have taken place in an effort to eradicate the disease. The summer 2013 saw two pilot culls of badgers began in the West Country. However, the largest ever study of badger culling warned that any benefit might well be offset by “perturbation” as potentially infected badgers are known to flee or migrate into surrounding areas or into locations no longer guarded by territorial badgers which have been culled. The problem of perturbation doesn’t occur when you vaccinate.

Earlier this year East Sussex WRAS volunteer Kate Edmonds wanted to do something out of concern that a badger cull could come to Sussex. After speaking with WRAS’s Trevor Weeks and seeing that a badger vaccination project already existed in the southwest of England she looked into whether it would be possible to start a similar scheme here in East Sussex.

As a result the Sussex Badger Vaccination Project was launched in October. The coalition is

now made up of East Sussex WRAS, the Badger Trust Sussex and International Animal Rescue. At the beginning of October WRAS volunteers John, Sue, Chris, Sue and Trevor attended the 4 day Cage Trapping and Vaccination of Badgers training course run by the Animal Health & Veterinary Laboratories Agency in Gloucestershire. Under the new badger vaccination order “Veterinary Surgery (Vaccination of Badgers Against Tuberculosis) Order 2010” it is now legal for a “lay” vaccinator to vaccinate badgers without a veterinary surgeon being present out in the field. The Sussex Badger Vaccination Project has been set up to offer farmers and landowners in Sussex an alternative to culling the badgers on their land. Those who argue against vaccination say it is too costly; however, when carried out by voluntary groups like SBVP, it can be done for as little as £25 per badger.



Sussex Badger Vaccination Project

www.sussexbadgervaccinationproject.co.uk

Working together to combat bTB in badgers and cattle

Last year was certainly a record year for rearing baby doves and baby pigeons both feral and wood pigeons. The casualty centre was often echoing with the insistent squeaking of the babies demanding food whenever they saw someone pass them. The season extended an extra month due to the mild, if not wet and windy weather that we had, with wood pigeons breeding into November, meaning their offspring got into awful difficulties in the bad storms and torrential rains we had. It has also meant that doves have started to breed a month early this year with our first babies in January. Doves are latecomers to the UK as a species and as such their breeding season is not in synch with our weather. They usually have early babies towards March, which means that there is not good food sources around for them, so the babies end up in care with calcium and vitamin deficiencies, which results in them being weak and under developed. I have had one of our new aviaries erected in my garden this year, which has allowed me to soft release some of our wood pigeon and dove babies from it. It has been so satisfying seeing them return to the garden for food, but also seeing them thrive and mix in with the local flock in the neighbourhood. I have a couple of characters who decide to return to the aviary if they see the door is open, even now some 3 months after their release. We have also had a lot of very thin white pigeons and doves in care, sadly these appear to have been released at 'events' and are then found struggling to find food after not returning home as expected, these are often the young and inexperienced birds.



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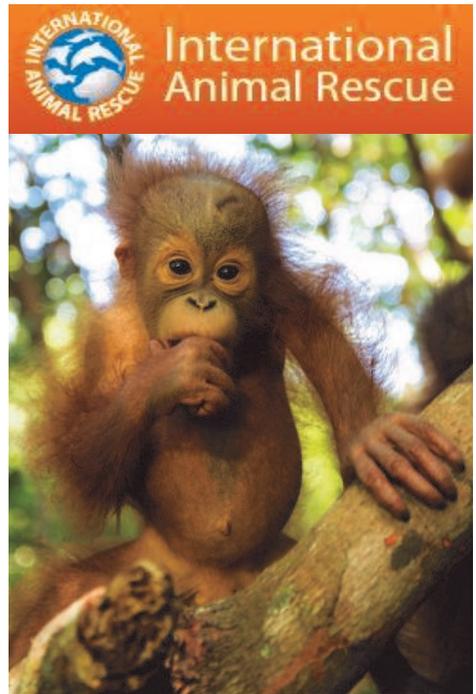
IAR in Uckfield gets special recognition for its Orangutan Conservation Project

Uckfield-based International Animal Rescue (IAR) – a strong supporter of WRAS’s work – has received special recognition for its orangutan project in Borneo. As of 17 January 2014 IAR’s Orangutan Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre in Indonesia has achieved accreditation by The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) in the United States. The centre is the first facility in Asia to receive such recognition.

Accreditation means that the centre meets the GFAS definition of a true rehabilitation centre and is providing humane and responsible care for the orangutans and meets rigorous standards for governance, operations, administration and veterinary care.

Jackie Bennett, GFAS Deputy Director of Great Apes and Regional Accreditation, said: “IAR’s Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre for Orangutans has excellent care protocols and also a solid operational foundation in place to support its growth and long-term sustainability. We also commend IAR for the development of its education and outreach programmes and its commitment to mitigating human-orangutan conflict and engaging local communities in its orangutan conservation efforts.”

IAR Indonesia was established in 2008 and focuses on the rescue, rehabilitation and release of Indonesian primates. Its orangutan centre is based in Ketapang, West Kalimantan, one of the most heavily deforested areas of Borneo. Since November 2009 more than 90 orangutans have been rescued. Some have already been successfully returned to the wild. Currently 66 orangutans are in the rescue centre and undergoing rehabilitation in preparation for their release. Also in Indonesia, on the island of Java, IAR’s team is caring for nearly 400 slow lorises – big-eyed, furry little primates that are seriously threatened by the illegal trade in wildlife in Indonesia. Two hundred and thirty-eight slow lorises were recently confiscated from smugglers in Jakarta and brought to IAR’s centre for care and rehabilitation. Again it is hoped that many of these will eventually be released back into the wild.



International Animal Rescue funds 60% of the wages for the part time employment (34 hours a week) of Trevor Weeks MBE to manage WRAS’s Casualty Care Centre (earning just minimum wage). Trevor Weeks regularly puts in between 70 –110 hours a week, working many hours on a voluntary basis above what he is paid for because of his commitment and dedication to giving the casualties the care that they deserve. WRAS would not be able to operate its Casualty Care Centre without the help and support of Trevor Weeks or International Animal Rescue, plus the many other volunteers within WRAS, ensuring your donations go as far as possible.



Players Spotlight WRAS for funding.

East Sussex WRAS was the chosen charity of the Spotlight Player for 2013. They spent the year raising money for WRAS and at their end of year Panto "The Wizard of Oz" WRAS's Trevor Weeks was presented with a cheque for £1450.00.

"Throughout the whole panto it was constantly going through my mind how much hard work by so many people had gone into this panto and other productions in order to raise so much money for the rescue work I started so many years ago. When I was asked up onto the stage and presented with the cheque I was genuinely moved and humbled by everyone's efforts. Thank you to the Spotlight Players and their supporters who thought our small charity worthy of their time and energy when raising funds throughout 2013, from the bottom of my heart (and on behalf of all the casualties) thank you all very much." Trevor Weeks MBE

Morecambe - Devonshire Park Theatre

Tuesday 1 - Saturday 5 April 2014

This unmissable brand new production of Tim Whitnall's Olivier Award-winning play, stars the Olivier-nominated Bob Golding as comedy icon, Eric Morecambe.

Directed by Paul Henty, the show is a moving, often hilarious tale about one of Britain's best-loved entertainers: from humble beginnings in Music Hall to 28 million viewers on Christmas Day, it's the heart-warming, tear-jerking, laughter-inducing story of the man what brought us the sunshine. What do you think of it so far? Brilliant!

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www.arkwildlife.co.uk/Agent/0/WRAS.html. When phoning don't forget to mention East Sussex Wildlife Rescue as they will give us a donation if you do!

Eastbourne Archers hit the spot for WRAS!

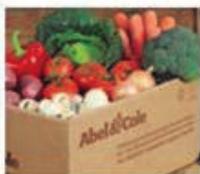
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Eastbourne Archers held a 24 hour archery event back in the summer and in October presented East Sussex WRAS with a cheque for £1350.00. Trevor was presented with the cheque from the president, organisers and members of the club at their grounds in Langney.

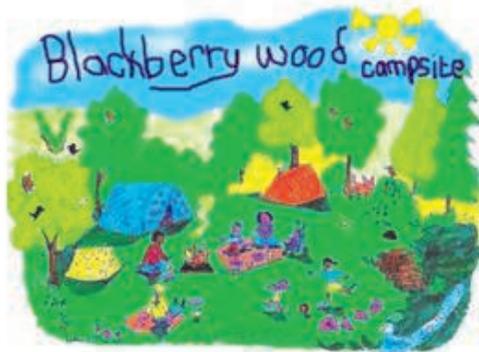
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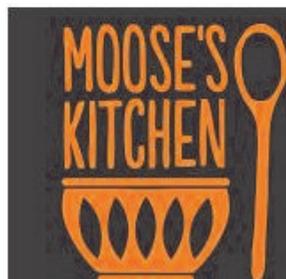
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www.facebook.com/moosekitchen



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RESTAURANT ENQUIRIES AND RESERVATIONS Tel: 01580 761616

Sussex Police Swan Call.

One of the first call-outs WRAS's new ambulance attended was to a swan wandering along Beech Road in Eastbourne. The Swan was being guarded by two officers from Sussex Police. The swan was checked over and found to be fighting fit with no injuries. After a short drive along the road to Prince's Park in Eastbourne, the swan was released onto the water where it quickly settled in.

A video of the release is on our You Tube Channel at www.youtube.com/user/eastsussexwras.



We pride ourselves on our menu inspired by flavours and cooking from around the world, which also offers the best selection of vegetarian and vegan dishes in the North Laines in Brighton

11a Kensington Gardens, Brighton
Call:-01273 671117
<http://waikikamookau.co.uk/>

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Information:

East Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service.

Reg Charity 1108880

Postal Address: PO Box 2148, Seaford, East Sussex, BN25 9DE.

Casualty Centre Address: Unit 8, The Shaw Barn, Whitesmith, East Sussex, BN8 6JD.

Registered Address: 8 Stour Close, Stone Cross, Pevensey, East Sussex, BN24 5QU.

(Please DO NOT deliver casualties to ANY of these addresses as none of them are constantly manned, please call the rescue line first for advice and assistance.)

Directors: Monica Russell, Murrae Hume, Kathy Martyn

Patrons: Sarah Jane Honeywell, Chris Packham

Casualty Care Centre Management Team:

Operations Director: Trevor Weeks MBE

Centre Managers: Lindsay Redfern & Kathy Martyn

Assistant Managers: Chris Riddington & Kirsti Sibbald.

Phone Numbers:

24Hr Rescue Line: 07815-078234

(Please DO NOT ring any other WRAS numbers concerning rescuing casualties)

Office / Non-Casualty Calls: 01825-873003

Treasurers: Murrae Hume 07815-070432

(PO Box / Postal Donations) Julia 07732-575989

Sales / Volunteering: Kathy 07931-519646

kathy@eastsussexwras.org.uk

Events: Lindsay 01825-873003

lindsay@eastsussexwras.org.uk

To Book a Talk:

trevor@eastsussexwras.org.uk or call 01825-873003

(Please be aware we are unable to book talks for May, June, July and August.)

General E-mail:

trevor@eastsussexwras.org.uk

WRAS's Registered Vets:

Simon Harris BVM&S, MRCVS, Cert VR

Chris Halls BVM&S, MRCVS

Veterinary Premises:

The Casualty Care Centre at Whitesmith is registered with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons as a Veterinary premise, No. 6548374.

Members of:

British Hedgehog Preservation Society

British Wildlife Rehabilitation Society

European Wildlife Rehabilitation Association

Social Media:

www.facebook.com/wildlifeambulance

www.youtube.com/user/eastsussexwras

Website: www.wildlifeambulance.org

Baby birds – When to intervene

By Centre Manager Lindsay Redfern.

Orphaned birds are a common occurrence in rescue centres throughout spring and summer. It is not unusual for many birds to leave their babies for short or even extended periods of time, so how do you know when a bird has been orphaned or abandoned?

Young birds go through three stages of development, hatchling, nestling and fledgling.

Hatchlings are bald and usually come in to care after being pushed out of the nest or having been taken by a predator, nestlings are partially feathered (usually bald under the wings) and are more vocal so are commonly victims of predator attacks. Both hatchlings and nestlings should remain in the nest so if you ever find one on the ground, contact your local rescue centre for advice.

Fledglings, unlike hatchlings and nestlings are usually seen on the ground, this is completely normal and these birds should not be removed or taken in to care. Fledglings are fully feathered and more mobile as they are able to hop and flutter but cannot yet fly. Fledging is an important stage of development during which young birds will remain on the ground from 1 – 7 days (depending on the species) as they build up the strength in their muscles to fly. If you are worried about the safety of a fledgling then you can move the young bird in to an area of cover close by - for better protection from predators - but they should never be removed from that area as their parents will still be caring for and feeding them, although less often at this stage.

If a young bird is showing signs of illness or injury then contact your local rescue centre as they may need medication. Victims of cat attacks will need immediate treatment as a cat's mouth holds so much bacteria, even the smallest wound can prove fatal without antibiotics.

If you find a bird which needs rescuing, place it in to a box with a towel or blanket in a warm, quiet room. **DO NOT** try to force feed any bird as if done incorrectly it can be fatal, keeping the bird warm will be enough until you can get the bird to a rescue centre.



Hatchling



Nestling



Fledgling

Xmas Tawny.

This tawny was rescued after being stuck in a chimney in Buxted. He came in just before the Christmas storms and was ready for release within 4 days but ended up staying for several weeks. Every time WRAS planned a release more storms blew through. Eventually once the rain and winds died down early January he was returned to Buxted where found.



Amazing Winter Coated Fox

A member of staff from the Kit Wilson Trust charity shop in Eastbourne contacted WRAS after coming across this fox disorientated in the middle of a road in Eastbourne in January. The fox was admitted at WRAS's Casualty Centre and luckily had no serious injuries and was suffering just from concussion and shock. He was released after a week in WRAS's Care.

PLEASE SUPPORT WRAS. The casualties features in this newsletter would have been left to suffer if it had not been for WRAS. The charity can only survive thanks to your donations. To make a donation please call 01825-873003 or post a donation to: East Sussex WRAS, PO Box 2148, Seaford, East Sussex, BN25 9DE. Thank you.