



The Rescuer

Registered Charity 1108880

Winter 2014/15



Helping Wildlife This Winter

See Page 16

24Hr Rescue Line: 07815-078234

2 *Successful Buzzard Release near Ringmer.*

The Buzzard is one the county's biggest birds of prey. This one was found at the side of the B2192, The Broyle, between Ringmer and Halland at 11pm on Monday 20th October by a passing motorist. WRAS's On-Call Co-ordinator Chris Riddington attended to the buzzard which was very dazed and concussed. At WRAS's Casualty Care Centre at Whitesmith, the bird was given emergency medication under veterinary advice, and a wound on it's chest cleaned up. The following morning the Buzzard was examined at Henley House Vets in Uckfield where the wound received further treatment and suturing.

"We have dealt with 9 Buzzards in the past 5 years and all of them have had fractures and internal injuries that meant that they had to be put to sleep. We even...



WRAS's Lindsay Redfern releasing the Buzzard back to the wild.

...transported them to rescue centre elsewhere in the country for specialist veterinary advice and support, but they have all had to be put to sleep. This has been quite disheartening" said Trevor Weeks MBE founder of WRAS.

"The Broyle Buzzard stayed very concussed and dazed most of the week, but then at the weekend he came round and was much more lively. He was moved to one of our indoor pens so he could spread his wings and fly. Everyone working at our centre has had a big smile on their faces, just so happy that he has recovered so well" said Casualty Centre Manager Lindsay Redfern.

On Monday afternoon 27th October, the Buzzard was taken back to The Broyle and released where he was found. "This is what we strive to achieve with all the casualties that have come into care. We really weren't sure whether he was going to recover. We are so pleased for him. This is yet another example of the vital work our out-of-hour rescue service provides" added WRAS Duty Rescue Co-ordinator Chris Riddington.

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Front Page Picture:

This edition's front cover is one of our released collared doves. Pictured perching in a hedge at the bottom of WRAS volunteer Kathy Martyn's garden in Uckfield during the snow of 2013.

Kathy has an aviary in her garden which is used to soft release doves back to the wild. They always know they can find a meal in her garden during the winter weather.



New Newsletter Format saves funds!

A while ago we contacted a number of supporters about our newsletters and many mentioned they would like to see a colour newsletter. Cost has been our biggest concern, but luckily we have found a new online print company which is able to offer us cheaper printing, better paper and a colour front cover, and still save WRAS over £300 per newsletter print run.



Stock Dove Rescue.

One of our favourite birds came into care from Laughton back in October. A Stock Dove!

It appeared to have had a collision with something and damaged its shoulder. He was given first aid and medication and was booked in to see one of WRAS's vets.

His shoulder injury improved but unfortunately had a very high level of Coccidia and was producing some rather horrible faeces.

He was released mid November back at Laughton, close to where found.

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Mum and Youngster admitted from Seaford.

This Mum and young hedgehog were admitted to WRAS's Casualty Centre on 7th November after the youngster was found out during the day in the middle of a garden with mum. By the time the caller went outside to pick them up, mum had disappeared, but she was spotted a short while later back in the same spot. We were keen to reunite them as soon as possible and they are now both living together at the centre and mum has allowed her youngster to suckle from her.

As both had been out during the day, WRAS's Care Team assessed them and did some faecal sampling. These discovered that mum was suffering from a parasite called fluke. Both are now being treated and have settled well in to care.

Every year hundreds if not thousands of hedgehogs die up and down the country because well meaning members of the public take them in during the Autumn and Winter thinking small hedgehogs just need feeding up and a safe place to sleep over winter. It is more common for these hedgehogs to have parasite burdens, or be injured or ill in some way. Sadly we get loads of calls from people who take them in, bed them down, and try to do their best to look after them, and then we are called only when it is too late and the hedgehog is plummeting down hill sick - many of these die as a result. Some of these may not have survived even if we had picked them up, but many of them would if they are assessed, given faecal analysis, and monitored closely with veterinary supervision. PLEASE if you don't know how to identify internal hedgehog parasites, don't know the various type of faeces they produce and why, and if you aren't familiar with the symptoms of illness and disease in hedgehogs, then please don't take them in, but please pass them to an experienced hedgehog carer.

Snakes Alive!

WRAS has been called to rescue and free seven grass snakes this summer! This is double the number of previous calls for that time of year. All the calls have been to gardens where green garden netting has been used to protect fruit and vegetables from birds or discarded netting just left lying around in a garden.



WRAS rescuers have responded to all these calls and only one snake had injuries which needed treatment at WRAS's Casualty Centre at Whitesmith.

This grass snake needed maggots removing from a wound on the side of its neck, which was then flushed and cleaned up. The wound needed a stitch and within a few days the snake was suitable for release.

All the snakes which have been dealt with by WRAS this year have been successfully released back to the wild where found.

We have three native snakes in the UK, the Grass Snake, Adder and Smooth Snake. The Grass Snake and Adder are both resident in East Sussex. All snakes are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Wake me up when it's all over!

By Centre Manager Lindsey Redfern.

The low temperatures of winter and general lack of food are difficult for any animal to cope with. To counteract this, some British mammals have evolved to avoid it pretty much altogether through hibernation.

Hibernation is an extended period of sleep during which an animal will experience a decreased metabolism, a lower than normal heart and respiration rate as well as a big reduction in body temperature. These alterations allow their bodies to survive simply on the fat reserves that they have built up during summer and autumn.

There are only 3 types of British Mammal which hibernate – hedgehogs, dormice and bats. All 17 species of British bat hibernate, generally between November and April when there is a distinct lack of insects to feed on. During this time they may awaken to top up on food and to defecate. Hedgehogs similarly do not fully hibernate but they will also wake up during winter to search for food. In order to survive the gruelling hibernation process, hedgehogs must weigh at least 600g prior to hibernating, if less than this then they simply will not have the fat reserves needed to fuel the body for the whole of winter. Dormice nest underground and need to double in size before hibernating as they will lose half of their bodyweight over winter when their temperature drops to just a few degrees above freezing.

Although they don't hibernate, other species will also alter their behaviour during the cold winter months to increase their chances of survival. Squirrels for example will bury hordes of nuts to feast upon when food is scarce. Forgotten stashes often benefit the environment as the acorns take root and grow in to trees. Badgers also do not technically hibernate, but spend much longer periods underground in the warmth of the sett and will build up their fat reserves in preparation for a 'winter sleep'.

If you have any concerns regarding an animal which is or should be hibernating then please get in touch with your local wildlife rescue centre for advice and information.



Unusual Quiz Nights!

WRAS's fun unusual quiz nights have proved very popular this year with almost sell out attendance every time. The last event was our Halloween Themed Quiz which included Garlic Bobbing, at East Dean Village Hall.



Autumn Road Casualties.

This year has seen an increase in road casualties. We have had more than double the usual number of road casualty Tawny Owls, but even deer, badgers and foxes have increased. Please slow down and take care on our roads at night.

If you hit or see an injured deer on the roadside, call Sussex Police on 101 and ask for a deer warden to be informed.



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!

It's 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



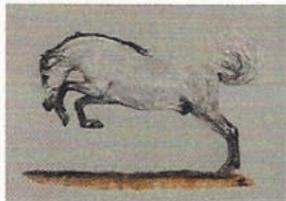
Wallsend Road Swan Poisoning.

This swan was rescued by WRAS rescuer Tony after being found on the side of Wallsend Road, Pevensey. Initial thoughts were that the swan had crash landed or had a near miss with a car. Weighing only 8kg WRAS's Care Team were worried about her condition and how lethargic she was. She was taken to the Swan Sanctuary where she was found to have lead poisoning, and sadly passed away. A post mortem showed a very high level of lead shot in her body. The Swan Sanctuary told WRAS "There is no way she would have survived with that amount of lead in her."

Custom Pet Portraits From Photos

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.



Sandra Palme
Pet Portrait Artist

Internet
www.finepetportraits.co.uk

Mail
admin@finepetportraits.co.uk

Phone
(0044)1306711591

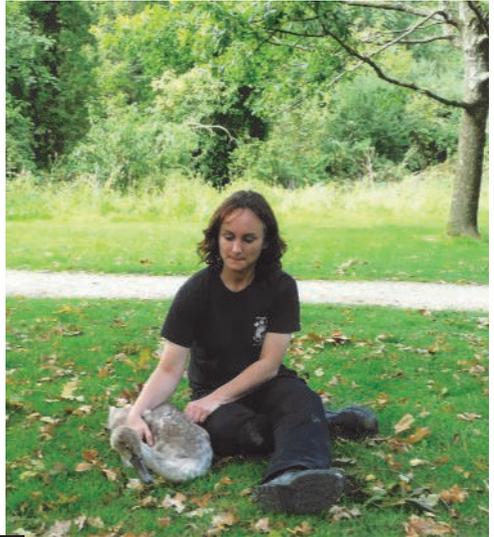
Emergency Swan Rescue, Hampden Park.

Back in September WRAS was contacted by the Swan Sanctuary based in Shepperton and asked if we could check out the cygnets on Decoy Pond in the middle of Hampden Park.

Eastbourne Borough Council had taken a dead cygnet the previous day to the Swan Sanctuary for a post mortem examination and discovered that the poor bird was less than half the normal body weight and full of parasites.

The Swan Sanctuary asked WRAS to catch the remaining cygnets and check their weight and bring them in if necessary.

Trevor and Kathy went down and met council



staff who helped with the rescue.

They were much easier to catch than normal and the lightest cygnet was only 2.6kg. They should have weighed between 5 and 7kg at this development stage.

All the cygnets were underweight and lethargic so they were rushed up to the Swan Sanctuary for expert help.

Rescuer Kathy also caught the cob swan (dad) and he was checked over and found to be a good 12kg in weight. As mum was proving difficult to catch it was decided to leave the parents on the pond. We would not be able to return the cygnets due to the parasite problems with the lake.

The parasite causing the problems is common in slow moving shallow water and had infected the previous family of cygnets back in 2008. The

Swan Sanctuary are now talking with Eastbourne Borough Council.

The rescued cygnets stayed at WRAS's Casualty Centre initially and were then

transported up to Shepperton.

Three of the cygnets were so poorly that they needed intravenous fluids. Sadly the lightest one passed away a few days later.

The remaining four cygnets are now doing well, have a new foster mum, and are expected to make a full recovery.



Thank you to Bonfire Societies.

WRAS volunteers attended two bonfire parades this year in order to raise money to help our local wildlife.

Hailsham Bonfire Society invited WRAS to take part in their parade in Hailsham, as did South Street Bonfire Society at the main Lewes Bonfire Celebrations.

A big thank you to Lillian, Laura (picture left at Hailsham) and Hannah and her mum for attending and helping to raise much needed funds.

The bonfire season this year was a very quiet one for WRAS and no call-outs to bonfire casualties were received.

We hope our safety messages about wildlife and bonfires are being heard.

10 *First Badgers Vaccinated in East Sussex.*

As you may have seen in the local media, East Sussex WRAS has been playing a considerable role in helping the Sussex Badger Vaccination Project, to get its programme of vaccination work off the ground in East Sussex.

WRAS's Trevor Weeks and Kathy Martyn with help from Lindsay Redfern, Chris Riddington and Kate Edmonds, spent 20 days pre-baiting and placing traps on land belonging to the Sussex Horse Rescue Trust on the edge of Uckfield. Kathy's garden in Oakwood Drive Uckfield was also added to the licence.

"We were worried about the western side of the Horse Sanctuary land where Hempstead lane crosses the River Uck, as there was clearly activity in that area, but also a lot of public access and little cover. Then when we realised the badgers had started visiting Kathy's garden which backs on to the lane, we decided to add it to the licence and place a trap which solved the problem" explained Trevor Weeks.

The first two badgers were caught in Kathy's garden. Within a couple of hours of the trap being set a badger had gone inside and we were able to vaccinate the badger and release it without causing too much of a problem to the poor creature. Amazingly within a couple of hours a second badger had gone inside which was also vaccinated and released.

In the morning Trevor and Kathy met vet Mike and fellow vaccinator Chris and in the drizzle and rain checked the traps and vaccinated another two badgers. Unfortunately there were some problems with the traps tripping themselves due to the weather, and the string not being set correctly. The following night we returned and caught an additional three badgers. This time the other traps were not tripped so we are happy we have caught those which were present and had been taking the bait. We didn't catch anymore at Oakwood Drive but then we knew there were only two badgers visiting. Within 48 hours Kathy's two badgers had returned and were sniffing around looking for more peanuts none the worse for their experience!





Sussex Badger Vaccination Project

Working together to combat bTB in badgers and cattle

In addition to the Sussex Horse Rescue land at Uckfield, badgers were also vaccinated on another site near Eastbourne and in a private garden near Forest Row.

Thanks to a generous donation WRAS has decided to fund the employment of SBVP's new Field Work Co-ordinator, Chris Riddington who will be working for 1.5 days a week on minimum wage in addition to his existing work as one of WRAS's Casualty Centre Managers.

DEFRA has awarded SBVP some funding to help pay up to 50% of the costs of our work in 2014 and SBVP is applying for funding for 2015 onwards.

The project needs landowners in the Eastbourne, Polegate, Seaford, Lewes, Ringmer, Friston, Alfriston, Firl, Glynde, and Lewes area to come on board. If interested please contact Chris on 01825873003 or chris@sussexbadgervac.co.uk



Pictures. Right: A trap being set ready for vaccination near Uckfield.

Below: A badger at Uckfield being vaccinated.



Far Left: Badger in a trap near Eastbourne in October.

Left: Trevor baiting and setting a trap.

Below: A badger being released.



Animal Careers College

Raising standards in Animal Welfare through education

Wildlife First Aid & Rehabilitation Diploma with Practical - Level 3.

The Wildlife Rescue Course is suitable training for working in a hands-on rescue, care and rehabilitation role with wildlife.

The course is of value to anyone wanting to gain valuable knowledge to enable them to rescue, rehabilitate and release injured wildlife. This comprehensive course aims to provide learners with the skills necessary for administering basic first aid to wildlife. Students attending this practical will gain hands-on experience assisting with the rescue, care and release of wildlife.

There are 6 modules and a week long practical working with East Sussex WRAS at their Casualty Care Centre. The modules are:

Module 1: First Aid Principles.

Module 2: Vital Signs and how to assist an injured animal.

Module 3: Treating an injury

Module 4: Hygiene & Health

Module 5: First Aid Kit Essentials

Module 6: Wildlife Care and Rescue Centre.

More information about this course as well as others go to:

www.animal-job.co.uk/wildlife-rescue-course.html



Animal Jobs Direct
passionate about animal welfare



International Animal Rescue funds 50% 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 without the help and support of Trevor Weeks or International Animal Rescue, plus the staff and many other volunteers within WRAS, ensuring your donations go as far as possible.



Roe Deer Released after being trapped in Tennis Court.

These two juvenile Roe Deer found themselves trapped inside a tennis court at Burgess Hill back in September . Their mum was unfortunately found dead in the tennis court, and is thought to have been hit by a car on the near by road. “She probably ran off using her reserves of adrenalin and collapsed in the tennis court” explained WRAS Rescuer Kathy Martyn, “We think the two youngsters may well have also been crossing the road and followed her into the tennis courts and then couldn’t find their way out”. Kathy accompanied Chris and Sylvia from Wildlife A&E on the rescue and helped them to free the youngsters which were luckily old enough to fend for themselves.

Fruit and Veg Raises money for WRAS!

WRAS had an unusual donation this summer thanks to the green fingers of supporters Julie and Malcolm Redford. They decided to give away their unwanted



vegetables from their allotments in return for a donation which they kindly donated to East Sussex WRAS, raising £140. We can't mention everyone who raises money for WRAS but if you would like your fundraising efforts to be mentioned please e-mail a photo and details to media@eastsussexwras.org.uk.

Helping wildlife in the winter months.

*By Ast
Manager Kirsti
Sibbald*

Whilst some animals hibernate throughout winter, others do not. These have the job of fighting the harsh weather and surviving the cold. The four particular problems that wildlife faces in winter are wind, rain, cold and lack of food.

You can help wildlife survive the winter months by providing them with food with a

high fat content. These include suet balls, bird cakes, fruit such as apples and raisins, finely grated cheese along with a grain or seed mix to give them a balanced diet. Foxes can eat cheese, boiled potatoes, bread and fat scraps left out at dusk. A Badger's favourite food is earthworms but due to the ground being frozen in winter it is hard for them to dig them up. Instead, cheese, peanuts and fruit are recommended. Offer squirrels a variety of nuts, chopped apple, beans and spinach.

As well as food, all wildlife will need a water source so provide a shallow dish of water on the ground so both birds and mammals can get to it. Alternatively ponds are a good source of water for them, so ensuring that your pond doesn't freeze over completely is a good idea. By placing a pot/pan of hot water on it, the ice will melt away to give animals access the water underneath. Toxic gases build up under ice covered ponds, harming the fish and amphibians living in it. Therefore ensuring a hole is made in the ice, it makes it safer for all. Compost heaps, bonfire piles and other garden heaps are warm and sheltered, making them the perfect place for wildlife to hide in winter. As many creatures call your garden home in winter, is it a good idea to let it grow wild until springtime. Hedgehog boxes or wooden boxes with straw/hay can make a good alternative shelter if there is no compost heaps in your garden.



Why we are supporting WRAS's Ambulance Appeal!

"I called out WRAS as one of my friend's cats caught a wood pigeon. I was worried and the poor bird was in shock. The more I thought about how scared the bird was the more anxious I became. I took a few deep breaths and decided to call my local vet who gave me the rescue line for WRAS. I



had not heard of WRAS before, but as soon as I called them they were really helpful and were able to reassure me. They advised me to cover the poor bird with a towel and keep him calm and that they would be with me as soon as possible. I was so relieved to see their ambulance pull up outside about 5 minutes later as they were already in the area. Their rescuer gently picked up the bird cradled it in his hands and calmly assessed the poor bird. He reassured us that they would do the best they could to relieve the bird's suffering.

I hate to think what would have happened if WRAS did not exist. There is no way I would have been able to get it to a vet or to a rescue centre myself as I do not have any transport. Some might say 'it's only a pigeon' but, they are wildlife and WRAS don't discriminate. WRAS are so over worked they need all the support they can get" by Hannah Stainton.

"I was so worried about a swan which walked across the busy A27 and I feared that it would get run over. It's dangerous enough for a human to cross that road and even more so for wildlife. There is no way I could have tackled it or tried to catch it. I was so relieved when WRAS's ambulance arrived so quickly. I hate to think what would have happened to the swan otherwise. Luckily WRAS were on site within 15 minutes and prevent the swans death" by Emma Feirn.

"I called on WRAS's service recently after finding a Buzzard at the side of the road. I was so pleased and grateful that they were there to help, as late at night most places are closed. They did a great job and it brought me to tears when I saw the video of the Buzzard being released back to the wild. I really hope WRAS don't have to stop their night time work as so many casualties would suffer as a result. Night time vets are too far away and too busy to help and the RSPCA have such limited resources too. I would beg people to please support WRAS's Ambulance Appeal" said Emma Kirsty Whiteman from Heathfield.

Donations can be made by calling 01825873003 during office hours, or online at <http://wildlifeambulance.org/donate/ambulance-appeal/>

Pigeons are like Marmite - you either love them or hate them! By Kathy Martyn Casualty Centre Manager.

As we go into the Autumn and Winter we can take a breather knowing we have reached the end of 'baby' season. Although mammals and garden birds have finished raising their young, feral pigeons continue to raise their young throughout Winter.

Feral Pigeons are much maligned and there are those who even believe that we should not rehabilitate them. They are descended from Rock Doves, who lived on cliff edges, so to a feral roosting on a roof of a shop, or house is their urban equivalent, rather than in trees like Wood Pigeons and Doves.

The abundance of dropped food in town centres and the warmth created by the close packed buildings creates an ideal environment for them – an environment we have created. Yet then we complain when they are there, put up unsuitable netting which becomes death traps for birds who literally starve to death entangled in it and even shoot them.

Why not take a minute to watch a flock and see the amazing variation in colours they have. The characters of the individual birds soon shines through; the timid, the bold, the male strutting his stuff cooing and bowing to the females, puffing out his breast to twice the size and seeing off his rivals. Notice also the tender moments, the gentle preening of a pair to each other, showing off presenting twigs or feathers in their beaks, 'kissing' with their beaks entwined, and if you are lucky, seeing a youngster squeaking and waggling his wings at his Mum or Dad, asking for food even though he looks fully grown to us.

Most people never get to see a baby pigeon, as by the time they fledge they are almost full size, only the 'cere' the knobbly bit on the top of their beaks may give their age away, as it is still pink in youngsters, and goes white as they mature. To wildlife rehabbers there are few better sounds to hear than a baby pigeon squeaking loudly for his food, and who could resist that frantic wing waggling at you, begging to be fed and wanting a gentle scratch on the back of his neck like Mum and Dad would do when preening him.

One of our most memorable youngsters at the end of the year was little Jack, who I have just released at the time I write this. Jack came in from the Eastbourne DGH. He was running around on the ground squeaking madly for his Mum and Dad. He had been running up to other adults begging for food and as they did not know him they had pecked



at him to make him go away, which left him very bald across his head and back making him 19 look a real character.

He was extremely thin and would not have survived another night. Jack was one of the most noisy babies I have ever had. I have also literally never seen what looked like relief on a pigeon's face when I fed him for the first time and he realised he was safe and warm and had food on tap. He snuggled down and fell so soundly asleep I struggled to wake him up for his next feed!

Thankfully we soon had another baby in not much older than Jack – who we named Beanstalk. I am not sure what Beanstalk made of this little bald squeaky thing he was asked to share a nest with though. Luckily both were healthy youngsters and soon joined another baby – Bingo. Bingo was delivered to us by volunteer Lisa on our Bingo night in Hailsham after being found starving on the ground in Brighton. They all settled in to their new surroundings forming an endearing little group of friends who all our volunteers loved watching grow and develop.

They were all released together when they were fully grown and Jack had a full compliment of feathers. So please when you see 'just another pigeon' in the town centre, spare a thought for Jack and his friends, and take a moment to enjoy the wildlife around you.



WRAS's T-shirt Design Competition.



Congratulations to Sharna Richardson from Hastings who has won our T-shirt Design Competition! She has designed a great T-shirt which features the heads of a badger, fox, bird and hedgehog looking up at the word "WRAS" or on the back of the T-shirt the WRAS logo. These Fruits of the Loom T-shirts are available to buy for £12.00 plus £2.50 postage and packaging. More details are available on our website at www.wildlifeambulance.org/supporters-wearing-new-wras-t-shirt or to order over the phone call 01825-873003 and speak to Chris.

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 staffed, please call the rescue line first for advice and assistance.)

Directors: Monica Russell, Murrae Hume, Kathy Martyn

Patrons: Sarah Jane Honeywell, Chris Packham, CJ de Mooi

Casualty Care Centre Management Team:

Operations Director: Trevor Weeks MBE

Centre Managers: Lindsay Redfern BSc (Hons) & Kathy Martyn

Weekend Managers: Chris Riddington & Kirsti Sibbald.

Vets: Simon Harris BVSc Cert VR, MRCVS.

Chris Hall BVSc, MRCVS & Mike Symons BVSc MRCVS

All WRAS's Managers have or are currently studying Diplomas in Wildlife First Aid and Rehabilitation or a similar qualifications in Animal Care, have completed the British Hedgehog Preservation Society & Vale Wildlife Rescue's Hedgehog Basic First Aid, Care & Rehabilitation Course as well as undertaking regular training with WRAS's vets and other organisations.

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

Volunteering: Kathy 07931-519646

kathy@eastsussexwras.org.uk

Sales: Chris 01825-873003

chris@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

Events:

Lindsay 01825-873003

lindsay@eastsussexwras.org.uk

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 Council

Social Media:

www.facebook.com/wildlifeambulance
www.youtube.com/user/eastsussexwras

Website: www.wildlifeambulance.org

School Visits & Work Placements: Please see our website for more information or contact Lindsay on 01825-873003 or lindsay@eastsussexwras.org.uk.



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Aspen Air Conditioning & Heat Pumps is proud to support East Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service.



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Kim Stallwood

www.kimstallwood.com

kim@kimstallwood.com

0794-345-6815

Graphic design
Illustration
Web design

Aura Beckhöfer-Fialho

www.portraitsbyaura.co.uk

aurabf@gmail.com



Ark 
Wildlife
for a garden full of life™

Ark Wildlife are suppliers of high quality food for a wide variety of wildlife. They also sell habitats for wildlife like hedgehog houses and bird boxes, as well as wild flower seeds and gift cards, toys and more. You can contact them on 0800 085 4865 or via 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!

Heathfield Sainsburys supports WRAS!

WRAS's has been chosen as the official store charity for 12 months. Staff at the store have been very busy helping to raise money for WRAS. They have helped WRAS by organising a Summer Fair, handing out our Wildlife Bonfire Safety Leaflets to customers, having a second hand book stall, and running various competitions including a wildlife colouring competition, and "Spot the hedgehogs in the store". So please go along and support WRAS and Sainsburys at Heathfield.



PLEASE REMEMBER TO MAKE A DONATION TO WRAS! The casualties featured 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.

The logo for BBC Countryfile, featuring the BBC logo and the word 'COUNTRYFILE' in a bold, sans-serif font.

Countryfile Presenter Joe Crowley talks to camera then assists with the deer rescue. Thank you to BBC Countryfile for allowing us to use their photo.

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BBC Countryfile visits WRAS.

BBC Countryfile visited on 13th November. They spent the day at WRAS's Casualty Centre and filmed with our new vet Mike, as well as with our hard working Feed & Clean shift volunteers and Managers Lindsay and Trevor. It was a very quiet day on the rescue front but the one rescue which did occur was an amazing deer rescue near Battle.

The fully grown fallow buck, with full palmate antlers, was caught in a rope fence in the middle of a field. On site we quickly found the deer which was thrashing around. Trevor approached first to assess the situation as it was not clear how, and to what extent, the deer was caught. It was not an easy rescue. Trevor and Kathy approached and caught the deer using a walk-to-wards net, but his capture didn't quite go according to plan. As Trevor tried to secure the deer, it moved, meaning Trevor's legs were at risk of being kicked. Trevor managed to roll forward and gain control allowing Chris and Kathy to start cutting the rope. Luckily most of the line was going between the two antlers which made the rescuer's job of cutting the rope much easier.

With the rope and rescue net removed it was time for Kathy and Chris moved away, leaving Trevor with the job of releasing the deer. Being in an awkward position from the capture Trevor had to get up and move away quick to avoid being kicked or hit by the antlers. Rescuers were relieved to see him spring to his feet and run off across the field to freedom! The programme is due to be aired on 7th December.