



The Rescuer

Registered Charity 1108880

May 2015



2 Hedgehogs Stolen - See Page 7

RESCUE LINE: 07815-078234

Brown Long Eared Bat Rescued at Piltdown.

WRAS rescuers were called out to this lovely Brown Long Eared Bat at Piltdown in February. The finder's cat had caught the bat 3 days previous and unsure what to do the finder placed the bat onto an empty bird feeder thinking it would fly off.

Rescuers rushed to the scene once alerted to the bat's plight knowing that after 3 days the poor creature would be badly emaciated and at deaths door.

The bat was warmed up and given vital life saving fluids out on site before being transport to Bat Expert Jenny Clark MBE at her Bat Hospital at her Forest Row home.



First Fox Cubs of 2015.

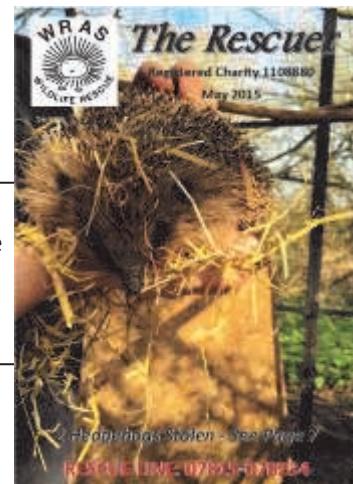
This fox cub came into WRAS's care in late March after being found hypothermic, underweight and out in the open. The cub was initially fed during the night every 3 hours and but quickly moved onto solids, then joined a loan cub at Wildlife Aid at Leatherhead. Three others have come in since and our now in WRAS's Care.

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If you see the You Tube Logo, it means there is video footage of the rescue, treatment or release of this casualty on our You Tube Channel.
www.youtube.com/user/eastsussexwras



Front Cover: One of our over wintered Hedgehogs at Burgess Hill, being checked over prior to being returned to where found and released back to the wild.

New Newsletter Format saves funds!

In 2013 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, and we can't afford to print the entire newsletter in colour. Luckily we have been able to come to a compromise as we have found a new online print company which is able to offer us cheaper printing and a colour front cover, and still save WRAS over £300 per newsletter print run. This has also helped us achieve advertising which has also helped reduce the cost of printing newsletters too, so we can spend more money on the casualties.

Rapid increase in Casualties halts Centre Works!

In October 2010 our new Whitesmith Casualty Care Centre was officially opened for business. WRAS did not have the funds to construct and equip the centre all in one go, so set up a 5 year plan to establish the centre. Thanks to a legacy left to WRAS in 2014 WRAS was able to start work on the final phase of work.

In November 2014 WRAS gained access to the final section of building to complete the centre. WRAS volunteer Tim has been working hard constructing most of the walls, and installing the new offices, reception, orphan rearing room, additional indoor pens, assessment room, new casualty rooms and helping to redo some of the older sections of the centre too.

WRAS trustee Kathy along with fellow volunteers have been painting and decorating, and volunteer Jonathon kindly spent two days tiling the new shower and at the back of the work surfaces.

However work has now had to stop as the busy spring season saw a dramatic increase in the number of casualties being admitted meaning fundraising events ended up being cancelled.

The final work in equipping the Operating Theatre and setting up the room in a suitable manner has now been put on hold until further funds can be raised.

Celebration Party

You're Invited!

On Saturday 15th August 2015 we are holding a celebration party at East Dean Village Hall. Tickets are just £5 a head to cover costs and booking in advance is required. There will be vegetarian butternut squash and ginger soup and bread, green pesto and mushroom pasta as well as other nibbles and a bar. There will be music and a photographer too. We will be showing a short video of the development of WRAS over the years including some early footage of Trevor rescuing as well as some more modern footage and photos too. There will be other entertainment too. To book tickets call Lindsay on 01825-873003.



The New Casualty Room 3.



Works underway to create a new reception and assessment area.



New Orphan Rearing Room.



Seaford Gold Crest.

This gold crest was admitted with minor concussion after being found at a school in Firle Road, Seaford.

One of the students found the bird and asked permission to called out WRAS. The bird was just concussed and released the following day back in Seaford.



Jevington Meadow Pipet.

This lovely meadow pipit came into care back in February after being found in Jevington. She had an injured wing which did not appear to be fractured, but clearly couldn't fly. She was checked over by our vets who advised rest, medication and time to heal.



Robin Rescue.

This cheeky robin came into care after being found grounded on the floor in a garden in Tolkien Road Eastbourne.

One of his shoulders was not working properly, but luckily this healed with medication and rest.

The robin was returned after a two week spell at WRAS's Casualty Centre before being returned back to Eastbourne for release.



Guillemot Wrecks.

This Guillemot was a lucky one, but numerous others washed up dead along the Seaford and Newhaven coastline in March after what appears to be a small Seabird Wreck.

Wrecks are the term used when multiple seabirds wash ashore dead and emaciated normally after storms when the birds have lost contact with their food source which they have been following out at sea.

Events in 2015!

Michelham Priory's **Wildlife Weekend**,
Upper Dicker—13th / 14th June.

25th / 26th July - **Lammas Music Festival** on the Western Lawns on Eastbourne Seafront. WRAS will have a stand and display.

19th September: **WRAS's Nature Trail** Free entry. Series of short talks all day. Pasta meal provided between 12noon and 2pm. Refreshments available all day. Various Wildlife & Conservation Stalls and displays.

Keep an eye out on our facebook page for more updates on displays and collections in the area. www.facebook.com/wildlifeambulance



Maresfield Sparrowhawk Rescue.

WRAS founder Trevor Weeks rushed to the aid of this sparrowhawk which a van driver spotted sat on the white lines of the busy A22 Maresfield By-Pass.

The van driver turned round and returned and was able to stop and pick up the dazed bird.

Trevor was luckily only 5 minutes away and was able to deliver the bird to WRAS's Casualty Centre for medication and treatment.

A week later the bird was fit for release and returned.

Donate Supplies
from our
amazon
wishlist

WRAS's Amazon Wish List.

WRAS would like to express its deepest thanks to everyone who send a donation from our Amazon Wish List over the past year, especially Karen in the USA who has sent over 40 orders! You too can send our casualties gifts off our Amazon Wish List by going to:

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/registry/wishlist/35VQCQWZZ8PM1>



Two Hedgehogs Stolen.

WRAS has discovered two of its over wintered hedgehogs have been stolen from one of its pens in Uckfield and have reported the incident to Sussex Police.

"We believe they will have been taken at some point between 8pm Friday 17th April and 11am Saturday 18th April. The pens and hedgehogs are checked twice a day and these were about to be put into carriers and returned to our Casualty Centre so they could be taken out for release" said WRAS Hedgehog Co-ordinator Kathy Martyn.

The two hedgehogs are microchipped and can be identified and WRAS is appealing for the hedgehogs to be returned, as wild hedgehogs do not make good pets, and struggle to survive if released into an area which does not already have hedgehogs.

"WRAS's volunteers have worked so hard this winter looking after these hedgehogs and it feels like a kick in the teeth that someone has taken them and wasted all our hard work and we obviously don't want them to end up suffering" said Trevor Weeks, "This is the first time we have had anything like this happen in the 30 years which I have doing rescue work. I am more concerned that the hedgehogs are returned, so we can rehabilitate them back to the wild safely. So would appeal to those responsible to contact us and arrange to leave them somewhere we can find or collect them."

The charity is now putting padlocks on all its pens and enclosures at various sites across the county. Anyone with any information should contact Sussex Police on 101 quoting crime reference number 47150047796.



Rescues Break up Fight at Brighton Marina.

A fight had to be broken up at Brighton Marina on Saturday 7th March but not by Police but by WRAS Rescuer Tony Neads. WRAS received a call out by Brighton Marina security after two swans started fighting in the marina and became stuck and in need of help. Rescuers had to scare off one of the two swans, which was attacking the other, and had become stuck between a pontoon and wall at the side of the marina.

The swan had a wound right along the side of the toe down to the bone and damaged the nail bed too. We struggled at first to stop the bleeding. We think this swan became stuck and struggling to get away from the attacking swan which we believe was trying to chase off the intruder in his territory.

The swan was taken up to the Swan Sanctuary in Shepperton for specialist veterinary care due to the severity but suitable for release after a week.



CEVA Animal Welfare Awards 2015.

East Sussex WRAS was shortlisted to the final three in the 2015 CEVA Animal Welfare Awards Charity Team of the Year. WRAS representatives Trevor Weeks MBE, Managers Kathy Martyn and Chris Riddington, Vet Simon Harris MRCVS, and volunteers Sally Morris and Jeanette Snow attended the ceremony at the Grand Burlington Hotel in the centre of Birmingham on Wednesday 8th April 2015.

"WRAS was up against some tough competition and sadly did not win. "To make it as far as the final three out of hundreds of nominations at such a prestigious veterinary awards is amazing. I feel so proud of the work of our small humble charity and especially the hard work of all our volunteers. There are truly some amazing people out there working hard for animal welfare" said Trevor.

WRAS was presented with a framed certificate as finalists and a personalised crystal pyramid saying CEVA Charity Team of the Year Finalist.

Brighton Marathon Runners.



Sarah Bonnot-Tijhaar ran the Brighton Half Marathon to raise money for WRAS in February. She completed the course in 2 hours and 10 minutes and raised £335 and an additional £70 in gift aid. Sarah tragically nearly didn't start as she had to have her 15 year old amazing eldest cat put to sleep the day before - nothing short of devastating for her. Sarah decided to dedicate her efforts to Casper, her lovely white cat.

Our Friday morning Feed & Clean shift volunteer Jenny also took part in the full Brighton Marathon and raised

an amazing £608.94 plus £92.50 in gift aid.

Thank you so much to everyone who has helped raising money for WRAS over the past 6 months. It is difficult to mention everyone but if you send us a photo we will always try, or at least display it on facebook!



Trevor's in the Dog House!



Trevor had to send out a "May Day" on May 1st, after finding himself locked in a cage outside Heathfield Sainsbury's.

Staff wouldn't let Trevor out till he raised £300 for WRAS! It took almost 3 hours for Trevor to do so, but eventually he raised over £325.

Members of staff at the store then took over and took turns in ring in round friends and family to raise money for WRAS as their chosen store charity.

Heathfield Sainsbury's have raised over £2000 for WRAS and hopefully more by the end of the year.

It was an extremely cold morning and Trevor was desperate for a hot cup of coffee by the end.

Thank you to everyone who got involved and raised money for WRAS.

Dramatic Deer Rescue leads to Warning over Baler Twine

WRAS's Volunteer rescuers jumped into their ambulance after receiving a call about a Fallow Deer buck with full palmate antlers caught in baler twine and a barbed wire fence. "Apart from a few minor cuts and grazes, the deer was fit for release, and it was a delight to see it run off across the fields back home safe and sound. This really goes to show the dangers of leaving discarded baler twine on the ground, where animals can get it caught round their legs, wings, or with deer round their antlers" said rescuer Chris Riddington.

East Sussex WRAS is asking anyone walking, visiting or working in the countryside to keep an eye out for baler twine and pick up any discard twine and dispose of it proper and safely. A video of the full rescue can be seen on our You Tube Channel.

Trapped Hedgehog Rescued at Rottingdean.

Kathy and Trevor had to sit in the dark on top of a cold wall about 5ft off the ground waiting to rescue a hedgehog.

The hedgehog had been living in the trapped patio for 3 days after falling down the embankment and over the retaining wall and was unable to climb out again.

Using a children's night scope, Kathy whispered instructions to Trevor who was waiting to block the pipe which the hedgehogs had decided to make home.



The residence had tried several times to catch the hedgehogs but it was just too quick dashing back inside the pipe.

After a couple of hours Trevor and Kathy sprung into action blocking off the hedgehogs escape. Due to a lungworm problem the hedgehog was admitted for treatment prior to being released back to the wild.



Duck Dumpers in Hot Water!

WRAS is urging people not to dump unwanted domestic ducks and other animals into the wild, after rescuing a dumped Aylesbury duck at Piltdown Pond, near Uckfield and one on Decoy Pond, Hampden Park.



Rescuer Kathy Martyn managed to catch the bird at Piltdown Pond quite easily on her own. "He didn't put up much resistance and was clearly not well" said Kathy, who then delivered the duck to WRAS's Casualty Care Centre at Whitesmith.

The female duck at Hampden Park was being attacked and bullied by the swan and other ducks. Rescuers visited the pond 11 times trying to catch the duck without an invasive approach, due to the other nesting birds on site. Eventually WRAS got together a team of rescuers which attended on site to go in after the duck. The islands were first assessed, to avoid the nesting birds, before the team commenced the rescue. After a few misses the duck was eventually rescued.

It is not uncommon for people to dump pets into the wild, thinking they can take their chances or have a good life, apart from it being illegal, it's not fair on the animals which frequently end up suffering.





Chailey Buzzard Release.

This Buzzard found rescued in Chailey after being found on the ground very concussed. After several days in WRAS's care the bird made a full recovery and was able to be returned to where found for release back to the wild.



Mayfield Tawny Owl Rescue.

Former BBC South East Today presenter Beverley Thompson rescued a road casualty Tawny Owl back in February. She found the owl on the ground and called out WRAS. The owl was taken into WRAS's Casualty Care Centre very concussed.

He stayed in WRAS's care for almost a week before being returned to the wild.



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
Pet Portrait Artist

Internet
www.finepetportraits.co.uk

Mail
admin@finepetportraits.co.uk



Phone
(0044)1306711591



Fire Service assists WRAS in Rook Rescue.

On 20th February WRAS worked with East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service to rescue a rook caught in a tree in Lewes. Upon arrival rescuers quickly spotted the bird and realised that additional help was required. Officer from Lewes Fire Station called in help from their aerial platform ladder from Brighton. The bird was in quite a bad way and in obvious discomfort, caught upside down between two branches, and was desperately flapping his wings to free himself.

Once free the bird was given the once over in WRAS's ambulance then rushed to the casualty centre. Trevor and Lindsay checked the Rook over on arrival where he was then gently warmed and wrapped in an insulating and absorbent blanket, given much needed fluids and medication. The Rook made a full recovery and was released a week later.

Baby Badger now in good Hands.

A baby badger found wandering in circles in the middle of a road near Cowbeach, is now in the good hands of WRAS's colleagues at Folly Wildlife Rescue near Tunbridge Wells. WRAS doesn't see many baby badgers and they need to be reared in groups, Folly frequently groups baby badgers from various sources in the southeast to form a social group which then can be rehabbed back to the wild.



International Animal Rescue funds 50% of the wages for the part time employment (36 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.



Cooden Beach Fox Saved.

A fox which was trapped by a rear leg in stock fencing at Cooden Beach had to be rescued by WRAS rescuer Tony Neads back in February.

The wire had cut deeply into the leg by the joint and rescuers first thought the fox may lose the leg. After initial emergency medication at WRAS's Casualty Centre, WRAS vet Mike Symons attended and managed to repair the damage and suture up the wound.

As usually happens with ligature wounds an area of skin died back which prolonged the healing.

Twice a week the bandages were changed, the wounds cleaned and flushed and fresh medication and bandages applied.

A faecal sample also showed the fox to have mild lung worm too, which was easily treated.

The fox was a great patient, co-operating and coping with the treatment very well.

The fox was taken back out for release mid March back to Little Common where he was released late in the evening to avoid problems with traffic.



Student Work Placements by

Lindsay Redfern BSc Hons

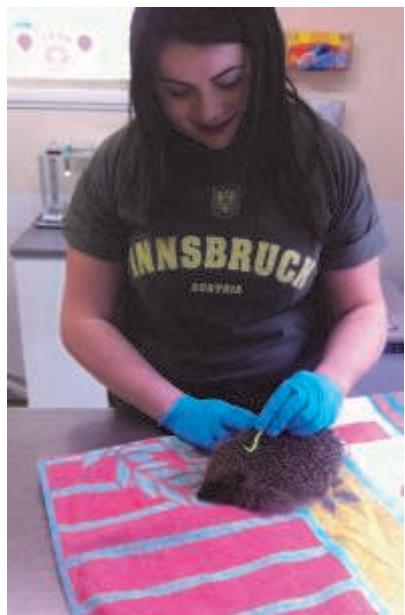
WRAS has offered work placements to students for several years now, thanks to great relationships with surrounding schools and colleges such as Plumpton and Hadlow. As a charity which heavily relies on volunteer support, we are happy to accept students for placements to both increase their knowledge and experience of animal rescue and rehabilitation, as well as to offer a much needed spare pair of hands to assist staff and volunteers at the centre.

Placements are available either as a block placement of 1-2 weeks Monday to Friday or for one day a week for an extended period. Working hours start at 10am and finish at 6pm, which provides students with the opportunity to experience a range of activities and offers



Examples of jobs which they will be involved in include: animal handling and restraint, feed and clean shifts, microscope work, assisting staff with first aid, rescue work, orphan rearing and fundraising. Like any placement, the more effort and enthusiasm shown, the more opportunities students will have to get involved in further aspects of work at the centre.

Due to our reliance on help from students and volunteers, we need people that are able to commit to their shifts and remain punctual, polite and professional throughout. WRAS is one of the few placements which offers actual hands on experience and is a great opportunity for anyone looking to gain more experience with animals or for those considering a career in rescue and rehabilitation.



a more accurate insight in to rescue and rehabilitation work.

As part of the placement, students are given a Training Handbook to accompany their practical work; this contains some background theory and also a record of activities which they have completed successfully to be recorded along the way.



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:

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.)

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

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



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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!

“Tank” the Wilderness Badger Rescued.

WRAS rescuers Trevor and Kathy were called out to a badger found at Wilderness Wood at Hadlow Down. In the dark Kathy and Trevor had to search for the badger which was eventually found hidden in the woods.

The badger which they named “Tank” had a nasty bite wound above its rump, which is typical of badger territorial fighting. Under sedation WRAS Vet Mike discovered one of the canine teeth was shattered and the jaw broken.

After three weeks on a soft food diet and cage rest, the badger was sedated again. The jaw had successfully healed without the need for invasive surgery, but the canine tooth was in need of some dental work which was undertaken at Henley House Vets in Uckfield.

The badger was given a further two weeks and then sent back out for release.

5 Badgers in at Once!

April saw WRAS with five badgers in care all at the same time. As well as Tank, we had four road casualty badgers in care. One from Alfriston Road near Seaford, another from Bexhill and two from Heathfield.

The female from Alfriston road was very lucky and had no serious injuries but had damaged two teeth. The Bexhill badger also had a fracture in the mouth but this time in the roof of the mouth. This healed well and was eventually returned to Bexhill fit and well. Sadly despite our best efforts the Seaford and one of the Heathfield badgers



First Ducklings of 2015

This is one of WRAS's first two duckling of 2015. They were found wandering around the roads of Polegate back in early April.

During April WRAS also dealt a duckling caught by a dog and a mum and ducklings trapped in a secure garden near Boship Roundabout.

WRAS's Hedgehogs return home.

This Easter saw WRAS launch its annual "Operation Hedgehog" to return WRAS's over wintered hedgehogs back to the wild. Over 95 hedgehogs were successfully overwintered and the majority of them returned back to the same garden or home range as where found.

RIGHT: WRAS's Kathy Martyn shows helpers Mila and Clementine one of our overwintered hedgehogs.



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.