



The Rescuer

Registered Charity 1108880

Autumn 2016



Wildlife & Human Water Rescues!

RESCUE LINE: 07815-078234



Piltdown Pond Swan Rescue.

WRAS rescuers Chris, Kai, Tony, Daryl and Trevor were called out to Piltdown Pond, just west of Uckfield, to rescue a juvenile swan with a large fishing hook embedded through its top beak. The team used WRAS's new motorised boat as well as another smaller inflatable boat, plus drysuits to catch and rescue the swan behind the island. Luckily the hook was not in a dangerous location and easily removed on site by Trevor using wire cutters. After a check over the swan was released and allowed to flap off in a very ungrateful manner!



Page 2	<i>Piltdown Pond Swan Rescue.</i>
Page 4 & 5	<i>Ditchling Common—Worse Location for Hooks & Line.</i>
Page 6	<i>Return of Old Friends</i>
Page 7	<i>Lewes Swan Rescue</i>
	<i>Tribute to Les Stocker MBE</i>
Page 8 & 9	<i>A Busy Night for Rescuers! By Chris Riddington.</i>
Page 9	<i>Fundraising Help Boosts WRAS</i>
Page 10	<i>Jackdaw Silly Season by Trevor Weeks.</i>
Page 11	<i>Rescuers Escape Lewes Prison!</i>
Page 12	<i>Blue Tit Rescued from Underground</i>
Page 13	<i>Wildlife Rescue by Dave Earl.</i>
Page 14	<i>SuperTed by Kathy Martyn</i>
	<i>Seaford Seal</i>
Page 15	<i>Falmer Pond Duck Rescue</i>
	<i>Two Young Jays Rescued.</i>
Page 16	<i>An Extremely Busy Gull Season</i>
Page 17	<i>Pigeon Post By Kathy Martyn</i>
Page 18 & 19	<i>Trevor Recovers From Fall</i>
Page 19	<i>East Dean Entangled Badger</i>
	<i>Blackbird Caught in Squirrel Proof Feeder</i>
Page 20	<i>WRAS Information</i>
Page 21	<i>Donation Page</i>
Page 23	<i>Operation Buzzard Flies to Gloucester</i>
Page 24	<i>Jevington Fox Rescue.</i>



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:

Assistant Manager Katie Nunn-Nash rescues and checks over poorly swan in the outlet river at Princes Park in Eastbourne. The swan was transported up to the Swan Sanctuary for expert care and attention.

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 obtain more advertising which in turn has reduced the cost of printing newsletters, so we have more money to spend on the casualties.

Ditchling Common - Worst Location for Hooks & Line.

WRAS took the unusual step in releasing a graphic video of a swan being rescued and a fishing hook being removed from the swan's tongue after branding the lake at Ditchling Common Country Park as the worst place in East Sussex for discarded fishing line, hooks and number of wildlife rescue calls relating to fishing line and tackle.

"The lake is the worst place we know for tackle incidents and is one of the most dangerous locations for water fowl" said Trevor Weeks , "in the past twelve months we have responded to more than 25 incidents, of which the majority of them have been related to fishing line and tackle. There have also been numerous incidents relating to dogs attacking and injuring swans too."

On 2nd June 2016 WRAS received 6 phone calls after walkers at the park reported seeing a swan with blood on its body and a fishing hook in its mouth.

Three experienced rescuers, two trainee rescuers in three ambulances attended on site to deal with the rescue and to ensure the capture was swift.

Rescuer Kathy Martyn of Uckfield and Chris Riddington from Eastbourne, led the rescue drawing the swan and three cygnets close to the bank. Rescuer Trevor Weeks on the opposite bank of the stream provided back up in case the capture failed.

"We could see the hook in the swans mouth and line wrapping round the body and also attaching to the cygnets. Using bread we managed to build up the swans trust and Kathy managed to catch one of the cygnets, the parent was not too happy about this and eventually started trying to get out of the water allowing Chris to catch and secure. The remaining two cygnets were then swiftly caught. Trevor then joined us and checked over the swans. The other parent has not been seen for a few days so the cygnets had to be taken in to care along with this lone parent" said Chris.

A large carp hook was embedded in the tongue of the parent swan. "The hook was so well embedded that I was not able to treat on site so we called our vet Mike Symons who met us back at our Casualty Centre at Whitesmith to help" explained Trevor.

Vet Mike was able to remove the hook, which was deeply embedded in the tongue, by using a local anaesthetic and wire cutters. "It was not the easiest of hooks to remove, and there was a risk of catching a blood vessel which could have been life threatening, so it had to be a very careful procedure" explained Trevor.



YouTube

WRAS has released a graphic video of the swan rescue and the removal of the hook from the swan's mouth to show the extent of the damage and the trauma the swan has been put through as a result of the discarded line and hooks at Ditchling Park.

"We hope that people are shocked by this footage and that it discourages irresponsible fishing not just at Ditchling Common but elsewhere in East Sussex too. These types of incidents are way more common than they should be. We know the swan has not flown in with the hook on as she has been present looking after the cygnets for several weeks. The amount of line and hooks in the water, caught in bushes and in trees is horrendous and not difficult to find. We have mentioned the problem several times when we have received calls from the council but no one seems to be interested in doing anything. If the pond is not going to be looked after or managed properly or fished responsibly then the fishing should be banned, which is a shame for those who fish responsibly. It is laziness, selfishness and inconsideration on behalf of irresponsible anglers that leads to this amount of line and hooks being discarded" said Trevor.

In January a young swan had to be rescued at Ditchling Common lake after being reported as having a problem with its neck. Rescuers Dave Novell, Trevor Weeks and Chris Riddington had to use dry suits and a boat in order to separate the young swan from the parents and encourage it into the narrower inlet stream and catch it using a net. The swan had fishing line under its jaw which was pulling tightly down its throat, plus a swelling low down at the base of the neck. "It was a nightmare working in the lake as every step we took you could feel line under the water which was trying to trip you up. After the rescue I found two fishing hooks caught in my dry suit too. This is the worst site I know for discarded line, hooks and waterfowl encountering problems" said Trevor.

"Something needs to be done to clean up the pond, make it safe for wildlife and for the site to be patrolled better ensuring that either no fishing or only safe angling takes place to avoid the suffering of our local wildlife - it isn't simply a case of walking round picking up line you need to get in the water and check for line that is hidden as well as checking the islands." added Trevor.



Return of Old Friends

This Summer has seen some old friends re-join us at the centre, and has certainly shown the benefits of micro chipping our hedgehogs. First this Summer we had a call from an address in Heathfield where we had overwintered 5 young hogs last Autumn and released them in the Spring. A female hog had been found by a dog on the neighbours lawn with 3 tiny just born babies, with only the beginnings of their spines emerging, so just a couple of hours old. They were rushed to the casualty centre and then to the Maternity Shed in Uckfield. Sadly the smallest of the babies

had died, but the other 2 seemed strong and were quickly placed in the bed area of a hutch.

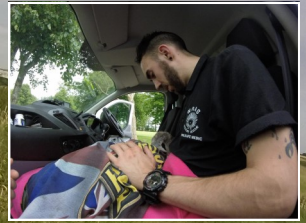
Suspecting mum was one of ours we quickly scanned her whilst giving her a check over and placed her in the hutch to find her babies which she did within 10 minutes. Mum turned out to be Chewbacca who we released there in Spring this year so

we knew this was her first litter. With such a trauma and the babies being so young we really did not expect them to survive and for her to accept them. So we were thrilled when 4 days later we saw they were alive and doing well. Now 4 weeks on they are starting to eat a little liquid food for themselves but still dependant on Mum. They have been named R2D2 and C3PO. Around the same time amazingly we also had two other chipped hogs back in care, a male called Sweetcorn from Seaford in 2014. The third old friend was a female called Mince Pie, who we overwintered in 2013! So imagine what stories she can tell and how many babies she has produced since then. She was found out in the day with an ear infection.



Lewes Swan Rescue

Rescuer Trevor and Chris have rescued another cygnet from the river behind Lewes Rugby Club. This time the cygnet had a nasty head injury exposing the skull, the cause of which is unknown. WRAS's rescue boat was used to help catch the cygnet. After first aid at WRAS's Casualty Centre the swan was delivered up to the Swan Sanctuary at Shepperton for specialist veterinary help and rehabilitation.



Tribute to Les Stocker MBE by Trevor Weeks.

Back in July the wildlife world lost one of the most inspirational wildlife rescuers the world has ever known. I first met Les Stocker at the Sea Empress Oil Spill in 1996 when he visited the Treatment Centre Gary Treadwell and I set up to help deal with the wildlife casualties at Dale Fort Field Centre. I was in my early 20s at the time so meeting him was like meeting a celebrity. Less than 10 years later St Tiggywinkles started phoning WRAS asking us and encouraging us to deal with deer casualties. We would often rescue them and rush them the 2.5 hour journey to St Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital. The one thing I remember most vividly about Les was how educational he was, he was always happy to explain things and encourage us to develop our own skills. I never thought that I would end up running a Marine Mammal Medic training course for Les and the staff at St Tiggywinkles several years later. The most memorable rescue was a roe deer running free around the old Haslar Naval Hospital near Portsmouth. WRAS rescuer Tony, Murrae and I worked with Les and staff from St Tiggywinkles in catching and relocating the confined deer and getting her back to safety. Les is a legend in the animal welfare world and the reason why so many people set up wildlife centres across the country. Millions have benefited because of this remarkable man, who will be sadly missed by so many.

A busy Night for Rescuers! By Chris Riddington Rescue Manager.

Since starting at WRAS, this summer has been the busiest I have ever experienced. The centre is regularly running at 95 to 100% capacity holding up to 300 casualties at a time.

On the evening of Tuesday 7th June we ended up with all five of our veterinary ambulances on the road at the same time and 11 different volunteer rescuers, many using their own cars, as we were so inundated with calls for help - receiving over 50 calls for help in the evening. I've lost count how many we had all day and dare not think about it either!

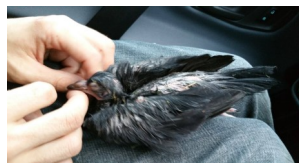
Trevor and I are regularly working over 15 hours a day dealing with rescues and attending to casualties at the Casualty Centre. On the 9th August Trevor work 23 hours without sleep. The charity is receiving over 250 to 400 calls a week during June. Tuesday 7th was very manic, we were just going from one job to the next to the next and it seemed like it was never ending, we didn't even get a chance to stop and have lunch, we had no choice but to eat on the go. Calls included having to rescue two jackdaws which had fallen down chimneys - see page 10 for their stories. We also had to rescue a gannet after multiple calls from the Sovereign Harbour Office and members of the public around the marina, we used long handled nets to reach the bird which was lethargically swimming around the harbour. Other calls Trevor and I dealt with included a young hypothermic pigeon which had fallen 6 floors from some flats in Gloucester Court, Eastbourne which was barely alive which needed emergency first aid and care. A gull in Ashgate road with a badly damaged shoulder which is suspected of being shot.

Rescuer Laura Carrick from Eastbourne rushed to Seaford to deal with a Crow handed in at the vets and a jackdaw that had fallen from a nest. Rescuer Tony Needs from Polegate dealt with an injured jackdaw and two gull chicks that were washed from their roofs by the torrential rain. Tony also rushed to Seaford for an injured gull with fishing line stuck in its throat which was luckily returned home after having it removed.

Rescuers Dave and Sarah Earl of Eastbourne, have dealt with a gull chick fallen from a nest in Eastbourne as well as another jackdaw.

Rescuer Kathy Martyn of Uckfield went to a jackdaw in Uckfield that was chased by cats and thought to be injured. The callers managed to catch the bird and place out of harms way on an extension roof. When Kathy arrived it flew off.

Rescuer Dave Novell from Newhaven brought in a catted sparrow from Newhaven. Rescuers Mitch Sasse and Katie Nunn-Nash based at our Casualty Centre last night, rushed to a Robin in Uckfield which was possibly hit by a car, a jackdaw in Halland with a broken leg which had to be splinted and a catted sparrow in Ringmer. Rescuers Andrew Loftus and Charlotte Humphreys from Eastbourne also rushed to a fox with open wounds in Eastbourne that was



found to be suffering from mange. There were also calls to a hedgehog out during the day in Delves Close Ringmer, and WRAS also admitted a woodpecker and took a fox cub into Cliffe Vets in Lewes for an operation.

The next day saw rescuer called to another Jackdaw in a chimney at Rushlake Green, gull chick in Jevington Gardens Eastbourne, an injured Crow at Ditchling, a hedgehog out during the day in Ringmer, a duckling down a drain in Eastbourne, a gull chick in Hailsham, two gull chicks in Meads Eastbourne, a call to a duck at Hampden Park with a limp and a major rescue of a juvenile swan at Piltown Pond (See page 4&5 for the full story.)

East Sussex WRAS's rescuers are volunteers and have worked extremely hard this summer to help thousands of wild animals and birds across the county. We have had to point some people in the

direction of other organisations and ask them to look at other possibilities as we have been so busy. We have been

taking numerous casualties on from Bexhill Wildlife Rescue. At one point holding 15 of their casualties at once. Raystede at Ringmer have been sending a lot of people to us with wildlife casualties and Seahaven Bird Rescue at Newhaven have been closed to new admission since the start of spring. Millions of wild animals and birds are being put to sleep across the country due to there not being enough organisations like WRAS around. WRAS needs as much help as possible and is asking people to consider taking out standing orders for as little as £1 a month to help them plan and budget and help with long term expansion plans so they can continue to increase the number of casualties they can look after.



Fundraising Helps Boost WRAS!

We have had loads of people helping to support us this summer, we obviously can't mention everyone but thank you to all those who have organised events or attended and donated money. This is all very much appreciated and helps us save even more animals. Pictured below left are the winners at the Willingdon Triangle Dog Show where £89 was raised in a tombola for WRAS. Pictured right are pupils Jack and Charlotte from Puffin Class at Denton Primary School. The class chose WRAS as their



charity for the year. They collected pennies in a jar, had an alien dressing up day and held a sponsored welly throw. Thank you to all our hard working volunteers to help with all our events like Lammas, 999 Display and Uckfield Festival Big Day Out too. Thank you everyone!



Jackdaw Silly Season! By Trevor Weeks MBE

June saw us deal with numerous calls to Jackdaws in Chimneys. There are three which stand out through the season. The first was a jackdaw in a chimney which was bricked up in Lewes. We



don't generally go knocking holes in walls, we ask people to find a builder to do so and we help with the removal once a gap has been made.

At Lewes we found ourselves using a mobile phone to video inside the chimney once a brick had been removed. You never know where the bird is or if you are going to be able to reach it so using a mobile phone help you know what you are dealing with.

Rescuer Chris was then able to reach in and feel in the right direction for the bird, which was gently removed through the narrow hole. As he had been in the chimney for several days he was underweight so came back to WRAS's Centre for care prior to being released back at Lewes several days later.



In Jevington Gardens Eastbourne we had a similar call but the chimney was behind an oven. We removed the oven to find a bricked up wall. Using a large screw driver and a hammer we were able to open up a plastered over air vent. Again use a mobile phone to check for the bird. The poor little chap was clearly glad to be out and back in the day light. He was placed on the window ledge outside and it wasn't long before mum was down with him.

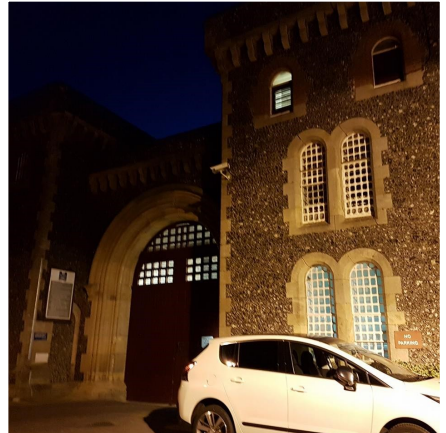
The third was a bit more challenging. The bird could be heard behind a shop display in the Steamer Trading shop at the old Heathfield Station. Unlike the other calls, this fire place had an 8ft high and 8ft wide shop display. The only way to get to the bird was to clear the entire display and move the unit forward. It took about an hour to move everything and unscrew the display unit and move it forward, whilst rescuer Chris and I were fascinated by some very unusual and ingenious gadgets on sale – some of which we ended up buying after the rescue! I might have lost quite a bit of weight recently as I've started running twice a week, but I'm still not as thin as Chris who was able to squeeze in and rescue the jackdaw from the open fire place. The fledgling bird was taken outside and released into the lovely coffee garden at the back of the shop.





Rescuers Escape Lewes Prison!

Rescuers Daryl Farmer and Chris Riddington were amazingly released from Lewes Prison after being called out to rescue a gull chick fallen from the prison roof. The little chap was delivered across to Bird Aid to go with numerous others rescued by WRAS.



MAGPIE

www.magpieline.com

THERE'S NO BONE IN OUR CHINA

Blue Tit Rescued from Underground.

Rescuers from WRAS were called to little blue tit which became stuck in a drain in Heathfield, East Sussex. Rescuers had to use ladders to check the guttering and pipes as they could hear the bird but were unsure where it was. It soon became clear it was underground.

“Pushing the bird along the pipe was likely to cause it injury so that was out of the question. We decided to use a machine which blows air in an attempt to encourage the bird along the pipe safely” said WRAS Rescuer Manager Chris Riddington, “this didn’t work as the distance along the pipe was just too great and branched off and too difficult to contain and control the air well enough. We were running out of options and we knew that if we left the bird it was almost certain death in the dark underground.”

Rescuers then decided to try a risky approach of flushing the bird out from the pipe. “This should only be done as a last resort, as it carries risks. You need to get a balance between the volume of water not being too high that you drown the bird and it not being enough that the bird doesn’t float and move anywhere and just gets wet, then cold and hypothermic. It is also really important that the water isn’t cold as the small young bird would potentially die of shock or hypothermia” explained Trevor.

Rescuer Chris positioned himself at the drain to catch the bird, whilst Trevor used his experience to gauge the level of water needed to flush the bird out safely. “To say the least I was worried about doing this and the risk of the bird drowning, but thankfully Trevor’s experience proved to be right and it worked” said Chris, “The little bird came floating out from the pipe into my net where I could then reach in and pick him up and bring him to safety. We borrowed a hairdryer on a low setting to gently warm him up” added Chris.

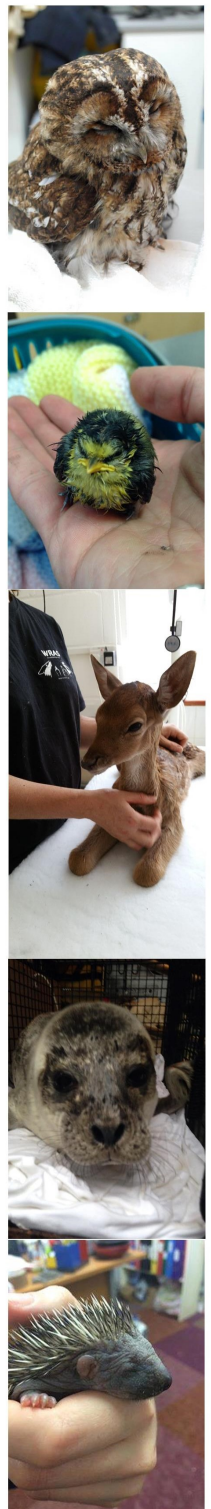
Rescuer then introduced him to two other similar aged fledgling blue tits already in care. “It was amazing to see his transformation from a little wet blob to a fluffy feathered squeaky lively blue tit. It is amazing that we rescued him and I really thought he was going to be a step too far for us.”





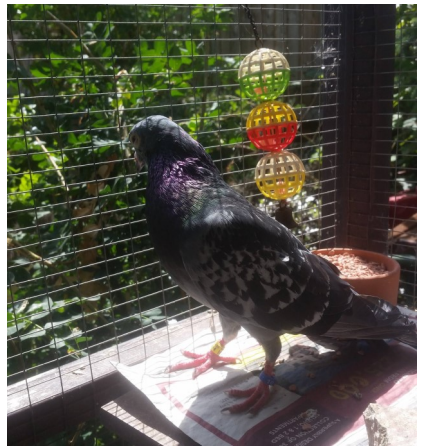
Foxes and Badgers,
 Hedgehogs, a few.
 Seagulls and Pigeons,
 Owls, twit t'whoo!
 Starlings and Robins,
 Lots of feathered friends,
 Come into our care,
 Us to make amends.
 Poorly and injured,
 They come in en masse,
 So we can look after them,
 Here at the WRAS.
 We feed them and clean them,
 Go rescue them too.
 Comfort and warm them,
 Til they are anew.
 We love all the creatures,
 With us that do dwell.
 Until we release them,
 "Take care and farewell !"

By Dave Earl



SuperTed by Kathy Martyn

Some of you may remember the story of SuperTed from last year, an amazing baby pigeon we had come into care, just before fledging. We discovered he had severely limited eyesight, which at the time we hoped may improve as he was initially emaciated and very ill, his eyes were blue, which often can be a temporary issue that resolves as their health does. Sadly although Ted's health improved, and his sight possibly improved a little, or perhaps it was just him adjusting to it, he was never going to be releasable. But we settled him into our indoor aviary to see how he would cope and whether we could find a permanent home for him. He has now been living with Sarah and some of her permanent pigeons in Surrey, and has settled so well that he even flies, and gets around all the perches in the aviary and has even found the best sun bathing spot. Her other pigeons have accepted him and seem to know he is special, and do not bully him and tolerate him more than other male pigeons on their patch in fact. We all adore Ted, as does Sarah, he is a real character and a very clever boy.



Seaford Seal

WRAS rescuer Chris Riddington collected this lovely little Common Seal pup from Seaford in July. Due to being underweight and a cut on its head and lip the poorly seal was transported to RSPCA Mallydams Wood at Fairlight on behalf of British Divers Marine Life Rescue.



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



Falmer Pond Duck Rescue.

Rescuers Kai and Chris were called to reports of a duck caught in a mesh fence on a pond in Falmer. Kai and Chris loaded the ambulance with WRAS's rescue boat and headed over.

On arrival the caller was waiting and pointed out where the duck was. It became clear he was well and truly stuck and needed urgent help.

Kai and Chris inflated the boat, donned their life vests and rowed over to the island. Kai went ashore and easily unhooked the little one and placed it into a pillow case for safe transport back to the ambulance. At WRAS's hospital the duck was checked over and found to have wounds which were treated and first aid given. The little chap was bedded down and quickly started tucking into some dinner.

The trauma to the leg was treated using IR light therapy and WRAS will home him to a suitable private lake where he can be looked after as a pet.

Sadly it seems these may have been dumped on the pond as they look to be ornamental or domestic ducks.



Two Young Jays.

These two little juvenile Jays came into care via Bexhill & Hastings Wildlife Rescue. They were very poorly and sadly one of them passed away, but the other sibling made a full recovery and has been released back to the wild.



Gary Hollands Ltd

Tel: 07968 735724

Supplier of
Ready Mix Floor
Screed
Building Sand
Ballast
MOT Type 1
Crushed Concrete
Aggregates

Helping to Support East Sussex WRAS.

Serving the East Sussex Area
Small or Large Quantities Supplied

An Extremely Busy Gull Season...



Photo Courtesy of Bird Aid.



This summer's gull season has seen WRAS receive over 400 calls about gulls and not just from our local area too. WRAS's two transit ambulances are able to carry ladders. As a result we have been able to place over a third of the young gulls fallen from roof tops back up to be with their parents. We work closely with Hailsham based charity Bird Aid who specialise in gull rehabilitation and support their work as they take on all the youngsters from WRAS which can't go back on roof tops or need rehabilitation prior to release—the above picture is courtesy of Bird Aid taken after releasing a group of fledging gulls down on the beach, they are certainly in a really good condition thanks to Bird Aid's work. WRAS still takes in injured gulls and treats them at the Casualty Centre where more intensive care is needed or the adults are a quick turn around prior to release.



Rescuers Jen & Brian had to call for assistance from East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service after being called out to a gull caught in netting on a house in De Roos Road Eastbourne. WRAS's ladders were not suitable. In some great team work the firemen managed to climb up and over the roof to rescue the bird and bring it down to WRAS.



The bird, pictured left, was also rescued by Kayakers after being found hanging from fishing line attached to Eastbourne Pier. The Kayakers paddled the bird to shore where they were met by a WRAS ambulance.

Pigeon Post by Kathy Martyn.

This Spring and Summer has been a quite remarkable one for me. Last Spring I had very low numbers of dovelets to rear – less than ten. This year I am nearly up to fifty, and have only lost two of them, which is pretty good even if I do say so myself. Usually there is a cross over of dovelets and baby wood pigeons early Summer, but we had very few baby woodies in, mainly fledglings, which hopefully means they were doing well in the wild. By this time of year the doves have normally stopped, but they are still coming in, and now the wood pigeons are in full flow as well and I have already reared around 25 from quite young. A few stories of note are feral pigeons Zizzi and Storm, Storm came to me during the Winter as a baby and was very ill and slow to develop, and spent a lot of time at home with me and in an outdoor pen until he was independent enough to be at the casualty centre. Eventually he went into an indoor aviary and then out at one of our outdoor pens in a release group in April, so imagine our surprise in June when we had a call from Aly who looks after the pen saying that there was a pigeon hanging around who looked poorly. We rushed over, she had managed to get him back in the pen and lo and behold it was Storm, poorly and come home for help. Thankfully he was just a bit run down and had some Coccidia and quickly recovered and was released in another group later June where he was able to show them the ropes. I saw him again 3 weeks later when he came down to feed when I was cleaning the pen and looked great. Zizzi came to us for release from another organization who had rehabbed her. She was a stunning precocious young lady, and an immediate hit with the boys – quite a few of them. Not long before she went out to the release pen she laid eggs, we replace these with fake ones when in care. She soon went out to the release pen, and literally days before release I had a call to say she was on the floor unable to stand and very unwell. We found she had laid 2 more eggs, and laying so many in quick succession can cause calcium deficiency which in turn causes them to go off their legs. She came back in and got high doses of a calcium supplement and soon began to stand again was back to her old self in a week. She was put in an indoor pen with some females to keep her out of trouble, and is now back out in the release aviary due for release next week.



MARTLET
BUILDERS & DECORATORS LTD



MARTLETS BUILDERS & DECORATORS LTD

SHARPSBRIDGE FARM

PILTDOWN

UCKFIELD

EAST SUSSEX

Helping to Support East Sussex WRAS

Tel: 01825 721166

Fax: 01825 721192

Email: info@martletbuilders.co.uk

www.martletbuilders.co.uk

WRAS founder Trevor Weeks has now recovered after falling during a rescue.

Tuesday 21st June, Trevor was called to a road casualty fox at Wick Street, between Berwick and Upper Dicker. The fox had been reported



Trevor Recovers From Fall

as going down the embankment and stopping under the old river bridge. Whilst waiting for fellow rescuer Chris Riddington to arrive, Trevor started setting up. A ladder was placed into the stream but whilst preparing Trevor slipped, banged his head on the side of the bridge and landed on the rocks in the 12ft wide small river.

"It all happened so fast, I just slipped and before I knew it, I was on my back in the water" explained Trevor "I felt sick, disorientated, and I was worried I was going to pass out and fall further into the water and if I passed out I knew I could drown"

"When we arrived I looked over the top of the bridge and Trevor was just laying there on his back not moving, half in the water and half on the rocks" explained Laura, Chris's partner.

"I climbed down to Trevor and just reassured him I was there, asked him where it was hurting. It seemed he was drifting out of consciousness and was shaking" added Chris.

Laura had called 999 and an ambulance response vehicle was on site very quickly followed by an ambulance and the fire brigade. The fire brigade had also sent out their rapid water rescue unit and a technical rescue unit. "The ambulance crew were amazing, they were so professional and explained everything to Trevor and myself throughout" explained Chris.

On a spinal board Trevor was winched out of the river by Fire crews with safety ropes using a ladder as a slipway. Trevor was rushed to Brighton Royal Sussex Hospital where he was joined by his partner Kathy. "I didn't know what to think, I had just drifted off to sleep when they called. Its the call that no one wants to have" said Kathy.

Trevor spent the next 7 hours in the Accident and Emergency majors department with Kathy by his side before moving to SAU later in the morning. After having an X-ray and an MRI, it was found not to have any fractures. Trevor was given the all clear to head home on crutches and was discharged home for rest at 11pm on Wednesday evening.

Once home Trevor said "A huge big thank you to the emergency services especially the Fire & Rescue Service and the Ambulance Service for helping me out. I don't remember much about the whole incident, apart from being in such pain, shaking so much and Chris talking to me, but it scared the hell out of me. I am so appreciative of everyone who was involved in getting me out of the water as that can't have been easy but especially to my colleagues Christopher and Laura for helping me so well, being so caring and supportive and for collecting Kathy and

bringing her down to see me at the hospital where the staff were nothing but amazing and kind. I am very lucky not to have come away with worse injuries and with nothing fractured. I'm on crutches at the moment but improving. I don't know what I have done to deserve friends like Chris and Laura or a partner like Kathy. I am VERY grateful and feel very humbled by the who experienced. Thank you to everyone at the Hospital for being so kind and helpful and also to everyone at WRAS's centre who covered especially Lindsay, Amy and Katie. It was SO reassuring that I didn't have to worry about all the casualties. We get a lot of flak at WRAS from people saying we don't do enough, we could do better, people accusing us of not caring or not doing enough, when we can't help because we are exhausted or don't have room, or we don't have the manpower - who then claim we wouldn't / refused to help or can't be bothered or don't care – perhaps if I wasn't so tired and working such long hours this might not have happened, but it is difficult to say no. I am so grateful I was wearing a safety helmet and had Chris on his way or the outcome may well have been completely different."

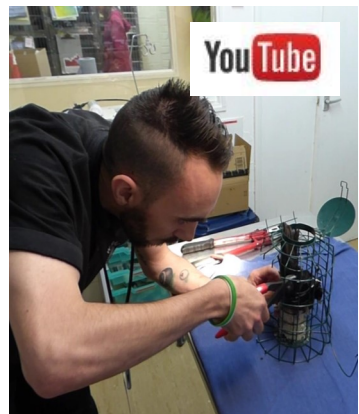
Before leaving the scene Chris checked for the fox but it could not be found.

Blackbird caught in Squirrel Proof Fat ball Feeder!

If you have a fat ball feeder please check it and ensure the lid is not missing and the lid is securely shut and can't be knocked open. This blackbird became stuck in this squirrel proof fat ball feeder. The lid had been knocked open allowing the bird to get inside and became stuck.

Rescue Manager Chris managed to cut the blackbird free. The bird was kept in care for a few days and then released back to the wild.

Please reconsider using such feeders.



East Dean Entangled Badger.

This badger had to be rescued after being found entangled in garden netting in a garden in Hill Rise East Dean in July. Rescuers Trevor and Dave attended on site and spent over 20 minutes cutting the badger free from the tightly wrapped netting. WRAS's Vet Mike was called to sedate the badger back at WRAS's Centre to remove the rest of the netting safely. Luckily the netting was spread across the body avoiding any serious ligature wounds. The badger was given medication and released the next night.



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: Murrae Hume, Kathy Martyn, Brian Russell

Patrons: Sarah Jane Honeywell, Chris Packham

Casualty Care Centre Management Team:

Operations Director: Trevor Weeks MBE

Casualty Managers: Chris Riddington, Kathy Martyn, Katie Nunn Nash

Duty Rescue Managers: Chris Riddington, Trevor Weeks

Orphan Support: Lindsay Redfern, Nikola Upton

Care Assistant: Amy Sandiford, Hannah Stainton

Vets: Simon Harris BVSc Cert VR, MRCVS.

Dr 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 qualification in Animal Care, have completed the British Hedgehog Preservation Society & Vale Wildlife Rescue's Hedgehog Basic First Aid, Care & Rehabilitation Course, BDMLR's Marine Mammal Medic Course, training with the Sussex Bat Hospital and undertake 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.)

Work Placements: Please see our website for more information or contact Amy or Chris on 01825-873003 or chris@eastsussexwras.org.uk.

General E-mail:

trevor@eastsussexwras.org.uk

Events:

Please call the office on 01825-873003 or e-mail christine@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

Donation Form: - Please Photocopy if you wish.

I enclose a cheque/postal order for: £10 ☐ £20 ☐ £50 ☐ £100 ☐ Other £

made payable to "East Sussex WRAS" or please debit my:

Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ Switch ☐ Other:

Card Number:

Start Date: / Expiry Date: /

Issue Number (Switch) Last 3 digits of Security Code

Card Holders Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone Number: _____ Date of Birth _____.

Do you require an acknowledgement of your donation? Yes / No (Please delete as appropriate).

Standing Order Form:

If you wish to make a standing order to WRAS please fill in your name and address above and complete your bank details then send this form to: East Sussex WRAS, Po Box 2148, Seaford, East Sussex, BN25 9DE.

Yes, I would like to help East Sussex WRAS by donating £ ____ on a regular monthly standing order until further notice.

Please start my standing order on ____ / ____ / ____.

(Please make this date at least 3 weeks away.)

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Bank Name: _____

Bank Address: _____

Bank Postcode: _____

Bank Instructions: Please pay to Lloyds TSB Plc, (30-92-86) , 104 Terminus Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 3AH, for the credit of "East Sussex WRAS", A/c 02529656.

My Account No: _____

My Sort Code: ____ / ____ / ____

Gift Aid Declaration: Yes, I am a UK taxpayer. I confirm that I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5th April 2008 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I gave on or after 6th April 2008.

Signed _____ Date: _____

Graphic design Illustration Web design

Aura Beckhöfer-Fialho

www.portraitsbyaura.co.uk

aurabf@gmail.com



International Animal Rescue

funds 50% of the wages for the employment (38 hours a week) of Trevor Weeks MBE to manage East Sussex WRAS



on a daily basis (earning just minimum wage). Trevor Weeks, like all WRAS staff, 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 the many volunteers within WRAS, ensuring your donations go as far as possible.



ASPEN
AIR CONDITIONING
& HEAT PUMPS

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



ASPEN
AIR CONDITIONING
& HEAT PUMPS

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!

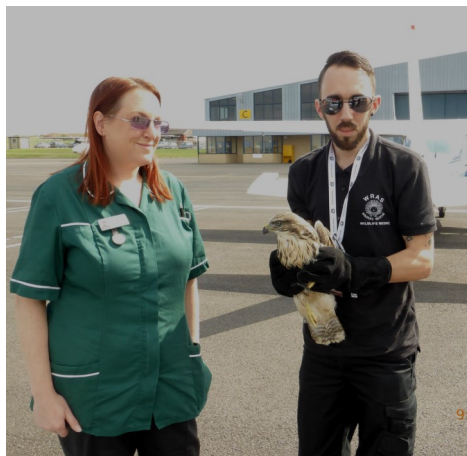


Operation Buzzard Flies to Gloucester.



An injured Buzzard from Sussex was flown free of charge to Vale Wildlife Rescue in Gloucestershire in July thanks to a kind hearted Graham Mountford from Leighton Buzzard! WRAS's Trevor Weeks knows Graham from his days working with British Divers Marine Life Rescue when Graham had been involved in flying seals across the country. Knowing that a road journey would take at least 3.5 hours Trevor asked Graham if it might be possible to fly the Buzzard and he agreed. Graham also managed to get the airports to waive their landing fees too and did not charge for the fuel.

WRAS's Chris Riddington delivered the Buzzard to Shoreham Airport and accompanied the bird in the plane for the 40 minutes flight to Gloucester (Staverton) Airport where they were met by Vale Wildlife Rescue's Vet Nurse Lucy Kells who then transported the bird to their nearby hospital. The buzzard had a fractured humerus and to fix the fracture was not going to be easy, so WRAS asked Vale's vet Tim Partridge to view the X-rays and he kindly offered to give the operation a go. "In order to survive and be releasable back to the wild this bird needed the best possible chance and a vet who is experienced in undertaking this operations. We are really grateful to Vale, Graham and the airports for all their help and support in making this a successful journey" said Trevor.



Jevington Fox Rescue.

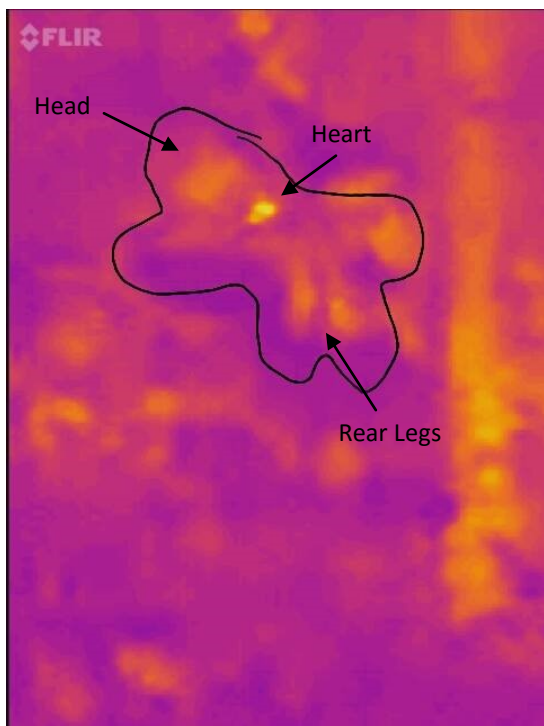
WRAS rescuers rushed to reports of a fox hit by a car in Jevington, near Friston Forest. The fox had dragged himself in to the thick undergrowth off the road. The callers waited and when rescuers arrived pointed out where the fox had entered the bushes.

There were too many leaves to see much so rescuer Chris used a thermal imaging camera that attaches to a mobile phone. He was then able to search for the fox following the path that warm fox had left. After Searching for about 30 minutes in the thick undergrowth, the faint outline and the foxes chest showed up as a yellow dot (circled).

Chris wrapped the fox and made his way back to the ambulance where his partner and fellow rescuer Laura was waiting and it was rushed to WRAS's vet Mike.

At first Chris thought the fox was paralysed, but this was soon found not to be the case, so the fox was medicated and bedded down at WRAS's Casualty Centre to recover.

The thermal imaging camera was in trial, as due to the cost we can not afford to buy more than one. This rescue was its real test and it has proved to be a life saver. They cost around £240 each. We would love to be able to afford another 3 for our ambulances and for our first aid room. If anyone interested in purchasing one for WRAS should contact chris@eastsussexwras.org.uk or call Chris on 01825-873003.



All these rescues have been funded due to the support we receive from kind hearted member of the public like you. Without your support WRAS would not be where it is today. Please help support us to look after our local wildlife. To make a donation please call 01825-873003 or visit www.wildlifeambulance.org