



The Rescuer

Registered Charity 1108880

May 2017



Photo Courtesy of Ben Duffy

WRAS's own Super Hero!

RESCUE LINE: 07815-078234



Early influx of young Doves sees orphan season start early.

This gorgeous mallard came in via Bexhill Wildlife Rescue. Due to a nasty fracture on the wing WRAS transported the poor duck up to the Swan Sanctuary for specialist vets to assess and treat.



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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:

Daryl Farmer before he set off on his Atlantic solo row to raise money for WRAS. What an amazing achievement. Read more on Page 8 and 9. Photos courtesy of Ben Duffy and Ted Martin.



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.

Major Rescue after Swan hits busy Road Bridge.

Rescuers from our hospital in Whitesmith and a rescuer from Eastbourne rushed to the Golden Jubilee bypass after reports of a swan crashing into the bridge.

Rescuers Kai, Fiona and Chris searched the area in the pouring rain using torch light and a thermal imaging camera. They walked the whole area over the bridge and under the bridge and the surrounding lake and run offs.

After spending over an hour searching the area Kai spotted a lone swan in a small pool not too far from the bridge. The pool linked to a river that went close to the bridge. The team assessed the swan and its behaviour and the location and it didn't seem right. With the rain pouring down, the swan in water and working in pitch black darkness a rescue plan was formed.

Kai rushed back to the ambulance and grabbed a swan hook, long poles and some nets. Fiona covered the inlet with a net to stop the swan escaping and provided torch light for Chris and Kai to attempt a rescue.

Chris stood on one bank with a net and long pole, and Kai on the other with a swan hook. Due to the location of the rescue the rescuers had high-viz jackets on which were scaring the swan into the middle of the pool. Kai took his off and hid in the reeds whilst Chris pushed the swan towards him.

After a few attempts the swan got close enough for Kai to catch it using a swan hook. Chris quickly gave it a once over and it was rushed straight to the hospital.

At the hospital Katie, Kai and Fiona gave the swan a further once over and found he was pretty hungry, but luckily he seemed uninjured. After a few days rest the swan was released.



Escape to the sunshine...

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Raise **FREE funds** for us when booking your holiday and travel plans online



To find out more about Give as you Live and other ways you can help support WRAS please visit our website <http://wildlifeambulance.org/how-you-can-help/give-as-you-live/>

Rescuers Called to make Withdrawal from Bank!

Rescuers were called to London Road Brighton on Saturday 18th February, due to reports of a trapped gull on Natwest Bank. Callers had tried other closer organisations but no one was available to attend at the time.

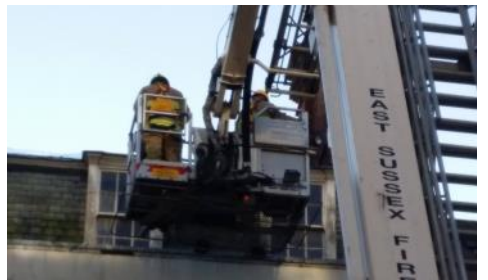
Rescuer Karen Francis from Eastbourne and Care Student Jack made the 40 minute journey from WRAS's Casualty Centre in Whitesmith. "When we arrived we soon saw that the poor bird was trapped behind netting four storeys up" said Karen, "it was just too high for us to attempt a rescue safely with our equipment, we tried to see if we could get to the window but this proved impossible too, so I had to call the fire brigade" she added.

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service sent an appliance to the scene. They requested that their aerial platform appliance attended for safety reasons. Rescuer Karen was quite surprised when firefighters turned to her and asked her to kit up. "I thought they were joking when they told me to put the uniform on" Karen said "they asked me to go up in the ladder and help them rescue the bird". Karen and the Fire Service went up in the aerial platform and fire officers and Karen managed to secure the gull safely. Once back on the ground Karen assessed the casualty and decided the best thing to do would be to get it back to WRAS's veterinary hospital.

On arrival Rescue Manager Chris Riddington gave the gull a once over. "The poor thing was obviously quite stressed and was clearly dehydrated" said Chris "we managed to re-hydrate him and settle him down. Luckily he didn't sustain any injuries from the ordeal".

"Sadly this is an all too common problem that our wildlife face. Poorly maintained netting can cause slow and painful deaths from dehydration, starvation and sometimes worse if they get their heads caught", said Chris "we deal with so many rescues with animals caught in netting, be it goal netting, bird netting or pond netting. Most of the time it can be avoided. Sadly WRAS are left to pick up the pieces. No animal be it bird, fox, cat or dog deserves to suffer that way. Especially in a way that can be avoided all too easily".

Thank you to East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service and everyone involved.





Princes Park Swan Rescued.

This poorly Swan was rescued by chance on Tuesday 14th March when Rescuer Katie Nunn Nash was at Princes Park in Eastbourne. She noticed that the swan had a wound on its face so contacted Rescue Co-ordinator Chris Riddington at the centre for some advice and they both agreed it needed to come in.

"Looking at the wound it was quite close to the eye so I spoke to Mel at the Swan Sanctuary in Shepperton. After looking at the photos they agreed to have it come up to them for examination by their vet where it could be sutured and given recuperation" explained Chris.

Once recovered WRAS will collect the Swan and release him back home.

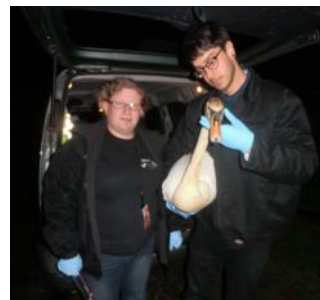


Baby Bird Season Starts Early for Kathy.

Normally young collared doves start coming into WRAS around the end of March and into April, but this year they started at the beginning of January. By mid March Kathy had already reared 25 young collared doves, most of which came in fairly advanced but suffering from calcium deficiency. A few of them were younger, but one was half inside its egg still when picked up by a cat and ended up being rescued.

Up every 2-3 hours, even through the night at first, Kathy had to work exceptionally hard to save this little one.

"Watching it grow day by day has been amazing and he has been so strong and fighting all the way" said Kathy.



Bexhill Swan Rescued.

Rescuers Gemma and Kai were called out to Bexhill after Bexhill Wildlife Rescue were called out to deal with a swan which is thought to have crashed in Battle.

Back at WRAS's Casualty Centre the swan was checked over and bedded down but no serious injuries could be found. The swan was underweight so kept in for a few days rest and recuperation before being released again.

42% Increase In Casualties!

East Sussex WRAS saw a staggering increase in casualties last year up by 42%, an increase of 854 casualties. During 2015 WRAS dealt with 2030 wildlife casualties but this increased to 2884 in 2016.

WRAS saw a 38% increase in wild mammals and 44% increase in wild birds. With Hedgehogs being the most common mammal rescued (473) and the feral pigeon the most common bird species (330).

“With our new Monica Russell Orphan Unit being opened last year we more than doubled the number of young birds coming into care for various reason. The number of hedgehogs which were too small to hibernate at the end of last year was almost double that of the previous year too” said WRAS founder Trevor Weeks MBE.

The single most common reason for wildlife casualties being admitted into care remains as a result of cats on 15% 450 casualties in 2016. “The real figure could actually be much higher as other casualties are admitted with injuries where the cause is unknown” added Trevor.

One of the biggest increases was in entanglements, be it birds caught in netting on buildings, deer entangled in electric rope or swans entangled in fishing line. Ditchling Common Country Park was one of the biggest causes on this increase last year.

Confirmed road casualty wildlife increased by 40% in 2016 too.

In Wealden District the three main towns are Hailsham, Uckfield and Polegate. WRAS has seen a steady increase in calls to the Uckfield area. In 2014 Uckfield was in third place with 84 casualties. 2015 saw Uckfield over take Polegate hitting 125 casualties just 1 behind Hailsham, and in 2016 Uckfield over took Hailsham to the number one slot with 203 casualties just 9 more than Hailsham.

WRAS is a registered charity and relies on donations to fund its vital work reducing the suffering which our wildlife faces. It's veterinary hospital at Whitesmith and five veterinary ambulances have struggled to cope with the workload. “We are worried that this summer we may have to put a limit on the number of casualties we deal with unless we can bring in additional funds to pay the extra costs” said Trevor.

“My colleague Chris and I have just agreed to reduce our paid ours by 1.5 hours a week as we know the charity can't afford to increase our wages in line with the national living wage and we don't want to take money away from the casualties. We know it is going to be tough on us financially but it will be even more tough on the casualties if we don't. We already work up to 110 hours a week of which we will now only get paid minimum wage for 35 hours. The volunteers and staff work extremely hard at WRAS looking after the thousands of wildlife casualties we deal with and we hope that the animal loving people of Sussex will get behind us

and help us to deal with this increase in workload, by making either a single donation or regular monthly standing order” said Trevor.

Call Month	Total	2014	2015	2016
January	245	57	63	125
February	230	60	56	114
March	291	73	92	126
April	586	178	162	246
May	862	278	250	334
June	1071	339	356	376
July	972	263	304	405
August	778	177	225	376
September	550	144	175	231
October	508	124	138	246
November	415	105	122	188
December	277	73	87	117

Rescue Response	Total	2014	2015	2016
On Site Rescue	5613	1582	1690	2341
Casualty Delivered	939	237	259	443
Vet Centre Collections	199	50	67	91
Other	25	2	14	9

Daryl's Atlantic Row

Success!

WRAS Rescuer Daryl Farmer from Forest Row completed a solo Atlantic Row in the early hours of Tuesday 21st March! After rowing 2978 nautical miles which is the equivalent of 3427 land miles!

He set off from La Gomera on the 14th December 2016 as part of the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge.

With no engine and no sails Daryl had to row every inch of the journey in his Pure Class traditional style ocean rowing boat. It is estimated that he has rowed over 1.5 million oar strokes whilst rowing up to 18 hours a day. More people have been into space and successfully climbed Everest than rowed across the Atlantic.

Daryl's journey has been a tremendous undertaking and seen him washed overboard, capsize, dodging enormous tankers, having to make repairs whilst at sea without any help other than advice over a satellite phone. Daryl was met by his partner Sabine and daughter Ellie at English Harbour Antigua in what was an emotional reunion for all.

After a few days rest and recuperation WRAS volunteers gathered at WRAS's Casualty Centre for a video call with Daryl on the Friday evening to welcome him back on dry land and for everyone to send him their best wishes.

"For the past 96 days we have all been dot watching on-line keeping a close eye on Daryl and his progress. For someone to choose to do something so amazing for our small and humble little charity is absolutely amazing" said Trevor Weeks, "We seem to be living in an age where so



Daryl Crossing the Start in La Gomera.



Photos courtesy of Ted Martin

many people want so much handed to them on a plate and moan about not being able to afford the latest designer clothing or buy the latest mobile phone or complain if no one will jump at their command to fix their car when it breaks down. We have become a nation of people who want everything done for us and lost our sense of true value for what matters in life. It is so refreshing to see Daryl work so hard for something he believes so strongly in and



deal with what ever mother nature threw at him. His determination, stamina, mental strength, and courage is amazing to have gone through so much and come out the other side alive. This man is a true hero and one people could learn a lot from."

Duty Officer Ian Couch from the Talisker Whisky Challenge said "Not just the duration makes this a significant feat but Daryl was without a rudder for a significant time and faced poor conditions. For those of you who have not rowed take a moment to picture the enormity of what he has done. Alone, communications through sat phone only, tired - wanting to rest but knowing every rest means you are making less progress forward, facing emotional highs and lows (happiness at good progress, fear during storms, loneliness), self-doubt- 'can I keep this going through the relentless routine?' 'Can I keep going through the physical discomfort?', guilt 'I should be with my family,' pride at what I am achieving and a thousand other conflicting emotions that can be experienced in just one hour. This challenge is not just strength, stamina and physical robustness but technical and above all mental and emotional. It strips away a lot of unimportant things and shows you what basic needs are. It highlights to each rower their strengths and weaknesses and deepest fears. The achievement in getting through this race in 30 or 100 days can never be overestimated."

On his return Daryl said "Just wanted to say a massive thank you for the incredible support that I was lucky and privileged to receive out there via Sabine. I feel totally humbled by the comments and donations and they had a huge effect on me during some pretty desperate times. There is obviously a lot more to come and I will get round to thanking everyone personally, but it's all a bit of a whirlwind right now sorting Bo for shipping back home, drinking rum punch etc. It was an incredible adventure, brutal, relentless, terrifying, painful, and amazing, everything a good adventure should be! Like I said, loads more to come, but just wanted to say thank you for being a big part of something that I'll never forget, hope you enjoyed it as much as I did!"

Daryl has raised over £13,000 via both his justgiving page

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/

atlanticsolo2016 and via his Go Fund Me page

www.gofundme.com/rowers-ark.

On 4th April Daryl returned to his volunteer rescue shift at WRAS.



Photos courtesy of Ted Martin

Uckfield Leisure Centre Pigeons Rescued.

Rescuers Chris, Laura, Katie, Kathy and Trevor were called to catch a pigeon inside Uckfield Leisure Centre on 8th February. Rescuer Sally attended during the day to assess the situation but decided it would be safer for a team to attend once the centre was closed to the public as the rescue would involve working around the swimming pool.

Just before 10pm rescuers arrived and set about catching the bird with long poles and nets. By chance the pigeon was at one end where rescuers could climb to the roof and by chance flew towards the end window allowing rescuers to swiftly catch and secure the bird. After an overnight stay the pigeon was released the following day. Just over a month later WRAS was called back again when 5 pigeons were flying round the roof. A late night rescue saw Trevor and Chris using harnesses and fall arrests to work in the roof to catch two of the pigeons. The other three could not be found. After a couple of late night visits proved unproductive and the pigeons disappeared, WRAS placed a bird trap which staff checked regularly. Within the week all three birds were caught and safely released.



WRAS Charity Shop has a new Manager By Faye Dabup

WRAS Charity Shop in the bustling street of terminus road, Eastbourne and opened in September last year. I had the privilege of taking over as the new Manager when I started in March. I am taking a much more creative approach and volunteers have really taken to being artistic and painting beautiful glassware and ceramic.

Here at the WRAS charity shop we are also starting to upcycle! We are taking disregarded items and repurposing them into something fun and quirky. This gives the formally unloved item a new lease of life. We have recently teamed up with a furniture shop to collect and repurpose their broken furniture. Volunteers are starting to create bird boxes, bat boxes, bird tables and insect houses which are for sale in our shop. This is great for us as we are not only preventing more waste going to landfill and destroying the environment but we are now using these materials to create homes for the beautiful wildlife that surrounds us.

Easter weekend we held an event where we opened our newly refurbished upstairs area which will now have an education space where adults and children can learn more about wildlife. In addition to this we will display our up-cycled and vintage items including small pieces of furniture in the upstairs area. There were also crafts for all the family to take part in too including decorating bird boxes, painting ceramic decorations and making a classic Easter bonnet! Cakes and refreshments were soon snapped up.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the shop volunteers who are invaluable also all those who have kindly donated items. This makes it all possible. We are always on the look out for more volunteers and more donations. So if you have a few hours a week to spare pop by the shop and say hello, we'd love to meet you at 192 Terminus Road, opposite T J Hughes!



Tragic Death of Three Fallow Deer after Dog Attack.

A walker witnessed a horrific uncontrolled dog attack on a herd of deer near Newick just before 5pm on Wednesday 8th February, resulting in the death of three female Fallow deer.

Debbie Ticehurst from Town Little Worth, was walking her dogs along a public footpath when she witnessed the incident. She said "I heard a couple of dogs barking, then a man shouting 'Luther' which I assume was one of the dogs names.

I then saw two herds of deer running in two different directions within 50 yards of each other both being chased by dogs. One herd

ran into the trees whilst the other went across two fields chased by a dark coloured whippet type dog, they disappeared out of sight but the barking persisted. As I walked back to my car I noticed the whippet dog running across the field back towards the man but then noticed two deer between two trees on the ground. One was clearly dead but the other was alive and on its back struggling, unable to get up. I was horrified and called East Sussex Wildlife Rescue straight away to get help and seek advice. As soon as I was off the phone I then noticed a third deer slightly further along the hedgerow struggling to get up too. The second dog was smaller and I think a terrier, and very vocal and the man clearly had no control over either dog."

Trevor Weeks, Chris Riddington, Gemma Ashcroft and Kathy Martyn from East Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service (WRAS) rushed to the scene to try and help the deer.

"This has to be one of the worst scenes I have ever come across, I've learnt to be professional when out on a rescue for the sake of the casualties, but this scene was shocking and it just got worse" said rescuer Chris Riddington.

The first deer was already dead but lying on top of the second deer which was alive. It soon became apparent that this deer had a broken spine. Chris and Gemma secured the third deer and on examination they found it too had broken its spine and one of its rear legs in the panic. Chris Collinson from a deer rescue based at Chelwood Gate, had been contacted by us in advance and met the rescuers on site. "It was clear to everyone that there were going to be no survivors and Chris had no choice but to humanely shoot the two deer to end their suffering" said Trevor.

"This has to be the worst case of dogs attacking deer we have ever dealt with and one I sincerely hope I never get called to again. We have reported the incident to the Police. It's not just deer we are worried about, but for the sake of the dogs, you don't want them running off chasing deer, sheep or other wildlife and running out across a road and getting hit by a car or being injured by the animal they are attacking. So PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE if you can't control your dog get it trained and don't let it off the lead." said Trevor.

Anyone with any information about the event should contact Sussex Police on 101 quoting Ref 756 of 9th Feb 2017.



WRAS's First X-ray taken.

WRAS has reached another milestone in our development and, with our vet Simon Harris, we have carried out our first X-Ray at the hospital.

We have had an X-ray machine and room for a while but due to having several issues with the equipment and flooding in a neighbouring room it has delayed our ability to carry out any x-rays.

Thanks to a kind hearted supporter Trevor and Chris were able to train as Radiation Protection Supervisors last year. We have also, due to supporters and kind donations, been able to purchase a new digital processor.

On Saturday 11th March our vet Simon was able to carry out an X-ray on a road casualty pheasant. Sadly the x-ray did show a nasty fracture which was not fixable and it had to be put to sleep, but the x-ray was carried out in our wildlife hospital meaning that the bird did not have to travel to a domestic surgery, meaning less stress.

Thank you so much for all your support and generous donations they really are pushing us forward and making a huge difference here at WRAS and animal welfare.



Razorbill Rescue.

This beautiful Razorbill came into care found by a fisherman on the beach by Royal Parade, Eastbourne. Rescuer Katie attended and brought the bird to the hospital. On arrival Trevor, Katie and Chris assessed the poor thing and found him to be tired and emaciated. Fluid therapy was given to rehydrate the bird. Once stable it was transferred to the Swan Sanctuary for specialist help.



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

Lewes Railway Station Pigeon Rescue.

Rescuers Kai Ahmed, Laura Carrick, Fiona Palmer and Chris Riddington from East Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service attended to a trapped pigeon in netting at Lewes Railway Station.

The poor pigeon had been trapped in the netting at the front of the station and a number of taxi drivers called WRAS to express concerns.

When rescuers arrived they found the pigeon in the corner inside the netting and clearly entangled.

Rescuers Kai and Chris used two ladders from WRAS's Ambulance to gain access to the bird.

"Chris went up first and managed to grab the bird's legs to prevent it escaping elsewhere in the netted off area, whilst I reached in and managed to grab the bird and gently lower it through the netting where Chris had cut a hole" explained Kai.

"The poor pigeon was underweight and needed to be taken back to WRAS's Casualty Centre for care" added Chris, "all too often birds are getting trapped in netting which is either badly erected or not maintained."

At WRAS's Casualty Centre the pigeon was given fluids by Casualty Manager Katie Nunn-Nash and bedded down and was soon tucking into food. WRAS has also been called out to Uckfield Leisure Centre numerous times to help catch pigeons flying around inside but after removing them more have appeared. Investigations are progressing.



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WRAS Events.

Herstmonceux Castle Connections

20th & 21st May 2017 10am till 6pm

At Herstmonceux Castle, Wartling Road,
Herstmonceux, BN27 1RN

Wild About Mid Sussex

3rd June 2017 10am till 4pm

St John's Park, Park Road, Burgess Hill, RH15 9AA

Forest Row Primary School Fair

15th July 2017

School Lane, Hartfield Road, Forest Row RH18
5DZ

Lammas Festival 2017

29th & 30th July 2017 10am till 5pm

Western Lawns, King Edwards Parade,
Eastbourne Seafront, BN21 4EH .

WRAS will be attending various other events
throughout 2017 so keep an eye on our facebook
page and the local newspapers for more
information. Either WRAS's gazebo, trailer and/
or ambulances will be at the above events.



Portslade Badger Rescue.

Badger Trust Sussex asked WRAS to attend
to an injured badger in Portslade on 19th
March.

The badger had nasty open wounds to his
head, neck, shoulders and rump thought to
be as a result of territorial badger fighting.
Thanks to Henley House Vets in Uckfield for
spending so long cleaning up his wounds
under anaesthetic.

At first he wasn't very keen on eating but
this is not unusual for badgers, but the hon-
ey sandwiches and Hills AD proved too
tempting. His wounds slowly granulated
and closed over.

The badger is expected to be released in
April.

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Thank you for your Marathon Support. By Trevor Weeks.

Thank you to everyone who supported me with my Eastbourne Half Marathon on Sunday 5th March. It was a very difficult day. I woke not feeling well and from 6am in the morning I spent most of my time in the bathroom being ill, but I convinced myself this was just nerves. Not wanting to let anyone down I managed to pull myself together and headed to Eastbourne. I met up with my colleague Chris and his partner Laura who gave us a lift to the start. The weather was terrible but as we approached the start time it cleared up.

My knee has been causing me quite a few problems and apparently I have an IT band problem. I knew my knee was not going to cope with running the entire half marathon, despite having trained for it, but wanted to do my best so tried to run and walk sections. The steep downhill into Hollywell proved too much for my knee and I struggled from that point onwards. By the time I got to the Fishermans Green which was about the 7 mile mark I suddenly felt really faint and had to sit down for a few minutes. I was burning off too much energy and my knee was shouting at me too. I must say a huge thank you to the lady who very kindly gave me her energy drink and tablets to pick me up, and within a few minutes I was back on my feet and able to push on again.

There was no way I could run with my knee so had to do my best to walk the rest of the route. I did not want to let anyone down so had to ignore the pain and just keep going. Chris was amazing support and really helped me keep going and was a real gentleman letting me cross the finishing line before him as we ran the last 100 metres together.

I really struggled throughout the 13 mile route, and I was getting very frustrated that I was finding it so difficult. It was only over the following days that I realised it wasn't nerves which had caused me to be ill that morning, but a bug which left me ill for the rest of the week. If it wasn't for everyone's donations I'm not sure I would have completed it, so thank you everyone for your support and generosity!



Sandhurst Owl.

WRAS rushed to the aid of this road casualty Tawny Owl on 26th March as WRAS turned out to be the nearest organisation able to attend Sandhurst just over the Kent Border. Trevor and Kathy drove the hour journey from their home in Uckfield. The owl was concussed and showing signs of a blow to the head, so was therefore admitted into WRAS's Care. After several days rest and recuperation the owl was test flown and then taken back to Iden Green in Kent where found and released home.



A young robin.

Orphan Season Well and Truly Underway!

Orphan Team Leader Katie Nunn Nash has had her hands full with the orphan season starting early this year. She is working with Nicola Upton who is helping with orphan mammals, plus Karen Francis and Hannah Stainton who are assisting throughout the week, in addition to our amazing volunteers too.



A baby rabbit.



Five baby mice.

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Find out more and register at www.savoo.co.uk/charities/East-Sussex-Wildlife-Rescue-and-Ambulance-Service.html

A weekend of Fox Cubs.

The weekend of 1st and 2nd April turned out to be no April Fools weekend. Eight Fox cubs were dealt with.

The first six were found in Newhaven not far from McDonald's on the Industrial Estate. They were wandering around and calling and getting onto the road. They were not in the best of health so taken back to WRAS's Casualty Centre, where they are now being hand reared.



The other two fox cubs, one from Eastbourne and another from Newhaven have been reunited with their mum thanks to WRAS.

The Eastbourne cub was found wandering around a lawn and a second from Newhaven seen barking at a doorway.

Both cubs were picked up as out in the open and checked over but as they were in a good condition rescuers decided to try and get them back to their mums.

When rescuers returned to the Eastbourne garden they could hear cubs chattering and managed to find the fox's den. It was close enough to be where the cub had wandered from. "At this age about 3-4 weeks old, they start to get restless and will sometimes come out of their den wandering where their mum is, as she doesn't always sleep with them, especially as they get bigger and take up more room" said WRAS Duty Rescue Co-ordinator Chris Riddington.

The Eastbourne cub was placed on the floor next to the den entrance and he walked straight back home after turning round to say goodbye first.

Chris then met Hannah in Newhaven and set up the next cub for release. "We normally leave them in the safety of a large box and let mum come and retrieve them. Annoyingly the cub was having none of it and kept trying to jump out. So after several attempted escapes I decided to ring WRAS founder Trevor Weeks for advice and explained the difficult situation" said Chris.

As the cub was quite mature and at an age where it would start to wander out of the den anyway, and as we knew mum was around, we took the difficult and risky decision of releasing the cub and monitored from a distance.

For about 20 minutes the cub sat by a back gate calling. "I monitored the cub from a distance until the cub started calling different. I approached slowly and quietly and could hear a commotion, and soon realised the noise was mum trying to climb over the fence with her baby. I dropped to the floor so I couldn't be spotted and peeked over the wall to see mum walking down the road with baby following closely behind" said Chris.

What an incredible night and an emotional one for everyone involved in their care. It's so important to try and get them back home to their parents for their best chance of learning life skills. It's a long process admitting cubs to hand-rear and takes up to 4 months in care. That's as long time in as foxes life. A time when they are learning important life skills from

parents."

"We've worked some long hours this weekend dealing with casualties but its been worth it. We always try our best to help as many people and casualties as we can. When busy its not always possible to help everyone but we do as much as we can. It does get stressful and tiring at times but its worth it when you get to see cubs being reunited with their mums," said Chris. It is common for vixens to move their young as they out-grow their den. This process can take a couple of nights to achieve. Moving them one at a time she often leaves them hidden behind bushes or in long grass and comes back for them the following night. If you find a cub in long grass or hidden behind bushes, it is always best to leave alone unless it is obvious they are sick or injured.



First Fox Cubs of 2017.

Our new Orphan Team Leader has been kept busy with the arrival of our first fox cubs in mid March.

The first one was handed into Eastbourne Vets but had a small puncture wound on the head as well as an eye infection. The second was picked up after being found on the A22 near East Grinstead. With cars swerving round the cub, a couple driving home to Eastbourne stopped and picked him up and delivered him to WRAS's Casualty Centre. Both are recovering from their ordeals and will hopefully be released back to the wild in early Autumn.



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

Care Assistant & Orphan Support: Nikola Upton, Karen Francis, 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: _____

My Account No: _____

My Sort Code: ____ / ____ / ____

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.

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

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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.



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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!



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Students Cake Sale for WRAS!

Scarlett, Chloe and Fleur who are in year 6 at Seaford Primary School arranged a bake sale after school on Monday 20th February to support East Sussex WRAS. They all worked really hard and raised an amazing £82.56! Well done girls.



WRAS Visits Forest Row Primary School.

In February WRAS's Trevor Weeks and Chris Riddington spent the morning with the children of Forest Row Primary School as they have been supporting WRAS Rescuer Daryl Farmer and his Atlantic Row in aid of WRAS.

Daryl's partner Sabine and daughter Elli addressed the entire school at a large assembly explaining about Daryl's row. Then after a break each class came out one at a time for a tour of one of WRAS's emergency ambulances and to look at the equipment carried on board followed by a look round WRAS's educational trailer which was playing footage from some recent rescues.

If your primary school would like a similar event at their school please contact Trevor on 01825-873003 for more information. A donation of £100 is required for up to a 3 hour morning or afternoon session.



Emergency Swan Rescue at Princes Park.

Rescuers rushed to Princes Park in Eastbourne on 22nd March after reports of a swan with blood on its head and body. Rescuers Chris Riddington and Katie Nunn Nash attended on site and found the swan in the inlet stream at the Wartling Road end of the park. "These rescues are always tricky. When we normally catch a swan you grab hold of their neck using a swan hook, on this occasion the use of a swan hook was not appropriate due to the injury. Using bread I encouraged the swan towards me and had to carefully reach down and grab the swan using my hands in a more controlled and careful way to prevent any further injury" explained Chris. The swan was transported up to WRAS's Casualty Centre at Whitesmith where Trevor Weeks examined the swan and gave emergency first aid. Photos were sent to veterinary staff at the Swan Sanctuary at Shepperton for assessment and agreed to get the swan up to their veterinary facilities for specialist care. "The swan had blood coming from one of his eyes and from the nose, the cause of which is unclear" said Trevor .



All these rescues have been funded due to the support we receive from kind hearted members 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