



The Rescuer

Registered Charity 1108880

August 2018



Pigeon Post by Kathy Martyn on Page 23
Difficult Pigeon Rescue in Lewes Library Page 10

RESCUE LINE: 07815-078234



Young Owl's first flight!

A young tawny owl which was rescued over the weekend of 12th May with a nasty fractured leg and in need of a specialist operation has been flown from Sussex to Gloucestershire by aircraft.

WRAS rescued the bird but due to the specialist nature of the operation required the bird needed to...

...go to Vale Wildlife Rescue in Gloucestershire.

WRAS and Vale Wildlife Rescue supporter Graham Mountford of Sky Watch agreed to fly the bird the 45 minute flight to Gloucestershire rather than put it through a 3-4 hour road journey.

"The poor owl came in over the weekend with a nasty fractured leg. WRAS Care Team supported the fracture and emails were sent of an X-ray to Caroline Gould at Vale. Caroline very kindly offered to take on the owl and the team at Vale will attempt surgery on the injured leg" explained Chris.

WRAS would like to thank Vale for taking him on to do the operation as well as Graham for his support and help.

The owl was operated on and had a pin inserted in its wing with external fixators. The metal has now been removed and the owl has fully recovered and now been released back to the wild!



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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.



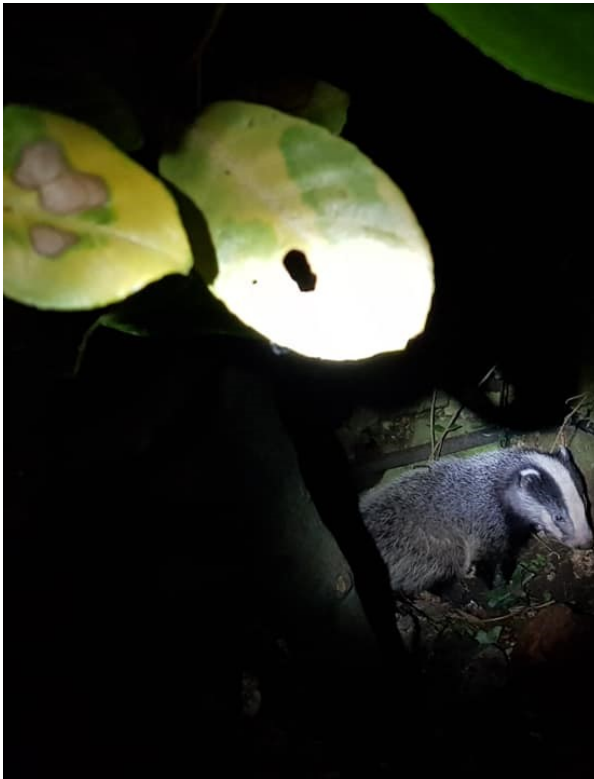
www.youtube.com/user/eastsussexwras

Front Cover:

This stunning pigeon was rescued at the Sussex Horse Rescue Trust in Uckfield. Loving the sunny weather at our aviary at Burgess Hill, prior to being released.

Inset: Ellie and Victoria at Lewes Library after rescuing a pigeon stuck inside a cavity.





Badger Cub Rescued in Brighton.

Rescuers have helped a badger cub in Gladstone Place Brighton just before midnight on 18th May.

The cub had been playing with siblings on an embankment and tumbled into a court yard 4ft down.

Being so small the badger cub was struggling to get back up. Luckily a neighbour noticed and called out East Sussex WRAS.

"It was luckily quite a simple rescue but a very enjoyable one. It was a case of careful handling and pick him up and plonking him back up on the embankment to which a grateful little badger ran off and straight into a nearby sett entrance" said Duty Rescue Co-ordinator Chris Riddington.

New Ambulance in Memory of Betty Arbur.

WRAS has launched its latest replacement ambulance thanks to a donation in memory of Betty Arbur who sadly passed away in November last year. Her daughter Elaine volunteers at WRAS and was given the choice of which charity the money would go to, and she chose WRAS.

The donation was enough to purchase a nearly new transit van which has been sign written and equipped as a veterinary ambulance. If you would like to know more about leaving WRAS a gift when you're gone have a look on our website www.wildlifeambulance.org.



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Castle Connections
Weekend.



***An Emotional Time* by Chris Riddington**

Just over a week ago this little cub was admitted from Marine avenue, Pevesney Bay. Rescuers were called just after 11pm after she was knocked down by a car. When rescuers arrived mum was dragging the lifeless body away. The cub was quickly picked up and taken back to the hospital.

On admission our care team and vets gave emergency treatment, fluid, medication and placed her in our Intensive care unit and went home with everything crossed.

The following day she was still alive but very concussed. She was monitored closely all day until sadly she took a massive turn for the worse that afternoon and began having seizures. Our vet was contacted and she was sedated. Our vets were concerned that once sedation wore off she would start again so our care team set up a bed at the hospital and watched her all night.

The next day she remained sedated, giving her brain time to heal. By the afternoon, she was eating and moved into a bigger cage.

The following day medication was stopped and she gradually perked up and was moved into a pen. Everything was going well until Wednesday when during a ward round another seizure happened. The care team had a difficult time treating her but after so much hard work they didn't want to give up. CCTV was put in place and our team watched her. By Sunday she was back to how a cub should be, bitey and a pain!

Rescuers took her home that tonight and as they arrived a shadow of a fox was spotted and they soon realised it was mum. Her carrier door was opened quickly and with a little nudge in the right direction, she ran off and was reunited with mum and they disappeared together. There were tears!



WRAS Joins Amazon Smile!

Many people buy from Amazon. There is now a way to continue doing so but at the same time raise money for your favourite charity at no additional cost to you.

All you need to do is shop at <https://smile.amazon.co.uk> and log in as normal to your existing amazon account. You will need to select "East Sussex WRAS" as your chosen charity and Amazon Smile does all the rest and quarterly we will receive a donation from Amazon. Don't forget to save Amazon Smile to you Desktop or Book mark list to avoid missing out on free donations to WRAS.

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Can you Sponsor one of our Isolation Room Cages?

Every time we purchase cages we offer them up for long term sponsorship, to help look after the casualties which come into care.

We have this new bank of 12 specially constructed isolation cages. They have Perspex doors and a lip across the bottom of the cage to prevent debris falling out into other cages below or onto the floor.

One of the cages has already been sponsored by the Born Free Foundation. They cost £500 per cage to sponsor. For this you get a small plaque on the cage saying you have sponsored it. This will be permanent and not removed and stay for the life of the cage. You will also be able to visit by arrangement to come and see the plaque in place once installed. Anyone interested should contact Trevor Weeks on 01825-873003 to arrange the donation and plaque. Previously cages have been sponsored in memory of loved ones and by businesses too.



Noisy Entangled Cub Wakes Neighbourhood at Midnight!

This fox cub became entangled in netting in a garden of a house in Stone Cross near Pevensay just after midnight on 14th April 2018.

Duty Rescue Co-ordinator Trevor Weeks MBE received an emergency call at about 12:40am and rushed to the scene after reports of a fox making a lot of noise.

He arrived on site about 1:15am and quickly discovered a 3 week old fox cub entangled in camouflage netting attached to an old children's play house.

"I cut around the fox first of all and then lifted it onto a blanket on the floor where I could see and control the cub better. I was then able to see how the netting was attached" explained Trevor.

"I was really pleased that the netting was not tightly attached so there was no chance of ligature wounds or pressure necrosis developing, and I was able to remove the netting using bandage scissors" said Trevor.

After a thorough check over of the cub, local residents showed Trevor a hole under some decking where they believed the fox had been born which was very close to where the cub was found.

"I had let the cub run around inside a large metal cage to ensure it was using all its legs properly and wasn't disorientated, and then moved the cage closer to the den entrance. I encouraged the cub to leave the cage and he quickly ran off and into the den" said Trevor. Trevor finally returned home about 2:30am.



Chris's Race to the Stones Turns into Race to the Hospital.

WRAS's Chris Riddington has completed one of the hardest races in England, the Race to the Stones. The 100km non-stop race started on Saturday 14th July at 8:30am. It follows the ancient Ridgeway track finishing at the famous standing stones at Avebury.

Chris was undertaking the race to raise money for the charity who he has dedicated the last 7 years of his life to.

Walking, running, constantly moving along he completed the route in 17 hours 56 minutes and 52 seconds finishing just before 2:30am Sunday morning.

"It was one of the hardest and amazing challenges that I have ever set myself to achieve" said Chris, "When I finally got to the stones it was quite emotional, 100k was in the bag and the finish was in sight. It was an euphoric experience at 2.30am in the morning after being awake for 18 hours of running."

"The sun set was one of the most beautiful I had seen. The colours were changing every kilometre I went and it really lifted my spirits as I imagined ancient Kings and Queens travelling this historic route"

The race was not without its problems and the day time temperatures reached 30 degrees.

"The heat really made it difficult to stay hydrated and run properly without over doing it. It was beaming down from early morning all the way through until the evening. When the sun set and it cooled down it as amazing" said Chris.

Chris's partner Laura Carrick had been meeting him at the check points along the route and was there



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for an emotional finish at Avebury. However Chris's race to the stones suddenly turned into a race to the hospital, when once back at their hotel Chris passed out in the car park resulting in a paramedic car and ambulance attending to him.

"Sadly I struggled to rehydrate and ended up collapsing after the race. A scary point after a massive high of finishing the race. It changed so rapidly and I was taken into hospital by ambulance and put on an IV drip at 3.30am Sunday morning. I was given three bags of IV fluids at Basingstoke Hospital over the next 10 hours before being discharged in the afternoon" said Chris.

Chris returned home to Eastbourne and spent the next few days recovering and was back on duty at the Rescue Centre on the Tuesday.

The fundraising total stood at over £2500, when this newsletter went to print, via Just Giving and facebook. Donations can still be made at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/christopher-wras1> or <https://www.facebook.com/donate/1881241128835299/>.

WRAS founder Trevor Weeks said "I feel so humble that my best mate would put himself through such endurance and exhaustion for a charity I started and believe so much in. I



am so proud of him and Laura for supporting him and keeping us updated throughout the day. What an amazing achievement and we are all wishing him a speedy recover, the animals need him too much."



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

Challenging Rescue in Lewes Library!

Rescuers had a difficulty rescue this afternoon in Lewes Library.

A pigeon managed to get itself down inside a hollow pillar inside the Library after flying in through an open window. Rescuers, working on the first floor, had to use a ladder to reach the top of the pillar before using an extending pole with a small net head on the end. It took about 5 minutes to get the bird into the net head but longer to get the bird up and out without losing it or it escaping. Working so close to the roof made it very difficult to manoeuvre the pole which had to be constantly shortened every few inches as the bird was lifted up through the pillar.

The bird must have been at least 10ft down inside the pillar. The bird was eventually in the rescuers hands and taken out to the waiting veterinary ambulance. Once checked over rescuers decided to bring the pigeon in as it was underweight. It is hoped that the pigeon will be released after a few days of rest and recuperation.

This is the sixth occasion WRAS rescuers have been called to Lewes Library to remove birds which have flown inside and couldn't get out again.



Hedgehog in a Hole



East Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service's rescuers were called to Meadow Place Uckfield to reports of a hedgehog stuck in a garden wall. Rescuers Katie Nunn Nash and Chris Riddington attended and were greeted with quite a challenge.

At the bottom of the 4ft breeze block wall was a 500 gram hedgehog in need of help. The wall was holding the garden in place so removing parts was going to be difficult. The caller did try and remove the top block but the concrete was solid.

"We used a dog grasper, a pair of grips and a fence pole, also a lot of patience, frustration and blood, sweat and a few tears, after an hour the grateful hedgehog was rescued" said Duty Rescue Co-ordinator Chris Riddington.

The hedgehog was taken back to WRAS's Hospital at Whitesmith where it was monitored for a few days before being released back home once the hole had been filled in.





Emergency Doctor Stops for Ducklings.

WRAS received an emergency call from an emergency doctor at 6am on 28th May after they came across a dead female mallard duck and their eight young on the A272 next to the petrol station at Cross-in-Hand.

On-call Rescuer Co-ordinator Trevor Weeks rushed across to find staff at the Petrol Station had made an enclosure out of bags of logs keeping them contained till he arrived.

The ducklings were checked over and placed in a large cage and driven to WRAS's Casualty Centre to join loads of other ducklings.

Dog Attacked Badger Bexhill.

This underweight and poorly badger was attacked by a dog in Sidley in June.

WRAS volunteer Gemma who lives next to where the incident occurred rushed out to help the badger which was bleeding badly. The animal was rushed into care but sadly had to be put to sleep due to an old jaw injury which had caused the badger to become underweight and lethargic. This was probably the reason the dog managed to catch the badger in the first place.

The Police and RSPCA were apparently called by the dogs owners out of their own concern.



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WRAS called to drowning fox cubs in Bexhill.

East Sussex WRAS received a call from Bexhill Wildlife Rescue on 24th May raising concern about some fox cubs in a basement which was flooding. Unsure how to deal with the situation they called WRAS. WRAS's Trevor Weeks, accompanied by rescuers Brian Russell and Jen Holloway attended. The cubs were inside a very small hole. but luckily were up high inside a cavity under the concrete stairs. It was going to be impossible to make the hole bigger and get them out. The original hole in the wall was for a small drainage pipe so there was no risk of the basement flooding to the point the cubs would drown. Using some building materials provided by the local residents a ramp was made to help the cubs exit the basement as they were quite mature and would be naturally following mum around at this age, but due to the depth of the basement they wouldn't be able to get out till much older. The following day residents reported that the cubs had been able to get out and were following mum off down the street.



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Orphan Season by Katie Nunn Nash.

This year has yet again proven to be a busy one for orphan mammals and birds. Disturbed nests have become a more frequent occurrence from bunnies to blue tits and all in between. We have had 3 litters of disturbed bunnies so far some from under hay bales, dug up by a farm diggers and others disturbed in garden clearance. None of these were suitable to be left for mum to return, so were all brought into care to be hand reared. Once weaned from hand feeds and all are eating for themselves, it is hands off to ensure they are not used to human contact. Just before being ready to go back to the wild they are moved to one of our soft release aviaries where they can acclimatise to the weather and outdoors before they are opened up, allowing them to come and go, explore and find their feet in the wild.

As well as the bunnies, we have also had an increased number of both mistle and song thrushes being admitted into care, our first nest of Mistle thrushes were brought in after the parents had been seen flitting back and forth feeding their young, until they were both sadly seen to be predated, that then left the chicks orphaned. The finders managed to





locate the nest and brought them into care. They grew very quickly under the care of our orphan team and after just 4 weeks of lots of feeds, singing away and shouting at all our volunteers making sure they weren't forgotten, they were outside and ready to be released back to the wild.

Another nest, this time disturbed due to hedge cutting was a nest of 4 song thrush's,

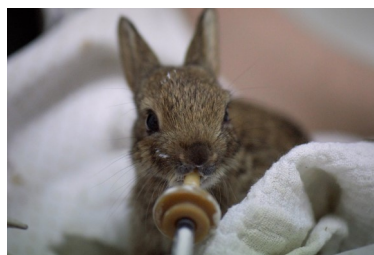


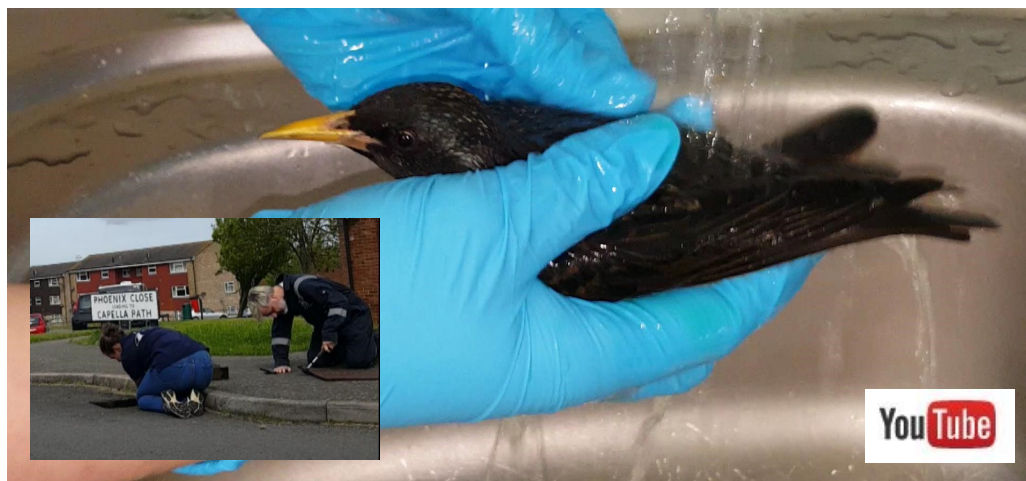
these 4 were much younger when admitted and their

feathers were only just starting to come out of pin.

Our orphan bird room has reached over 120 casualties at one time and that may have something to do with the 40+ blue tits that we have had. After the first tit arrived it opened the flood gates to the blue tits, great tits as well as 2 coal tits, it seemed they just came in one after another. These weren't coming in by the nest load but as individuals. Several of them had clearly fallen from nests, jumped and tried flying too early, some because they were getting too hot, disturbed by tree surgeons and other were just the weak ones left behind as they family fledged.

Aside from the smaller birds being looked after by the orphan team they have also cared for 5 tawny owl chicks who all came in individually after being found grounded away from any potential nest sites. Just as our first 3 moved out of the orphan rooms into the main centre another would arrive, all uninjured and were quick to eat for themselves. We were able to introduce all 5 together into one of our aviaries where they have got along just fine while they carry on growing in size and getting their feathers while they await their time to fly free.





Bird rescued from Hailsham Drain.

Rescuers were called out after a lady, on the Town Farm Estate in Hailsham, heard a flapping noise coming from a drain.

WRAS rescuers attended on site and at first couldn't see anything in the drain. "The lady who called us had to go out, and said the bird had been flapping around in the water, however when we arrived we couldn't see anything. However I noticed a pipe low down close to the water, which the bird might have been able to get into" said Trevor Weeks Duty Rescue Co-ordinator for WRAS.

Rescuers Trevor and Ellie had to use a crow bar to lift the drain at the corner of Phoenix Close and Observatory View in Hailsham.

A mobile phone was used to see inside the pipe revealing an adult starling inside.

"Luckily the pipe was only about 5 feet long and there was a drain cover on the pavement which we lifted to get to the other end of the pipe. Ellie used a net to cover one end, whilst I stuck my head down the other drain and tried to reach the bird by putting my arm along the pipe" said Trevor.

Unfortunately the bird was too far along the pipe and the other drain was too narrow for Ellie to reach into the pipe. "There was no way I would be able to reach the bird and catch it so I needed to encourage the bird out the other end and into Ellie's net. So I grabbed one of the drain keys and again stuck my head and arm down the drain and rattled it around. To my relief the bird came out the other end and Ellie was able to catch the bird and get it secure" said Trevor.

The adult starling had a smell of oil on its feather from splashing around in the drain water. "We decided to bring the bird back to WRAS's Casualty Centre at Whitesmith where Casualty Manager Katie Nunn Nash gave the bird a shower and wash, before a gentle blow dry" said Trevor.

After being cleaned up the bird was bedded down at the centre and given a hearty meal and left to recover.

"Mid afternoon after several hours of recovery, the bird was in a much better condition and flying well, so we decided to take the bird back to Phoenix Close and release him back home.

Ellie released the starling from its carrier to fly off strongly down the road. It was really nice to seem him flying back to the wild" said Trevor.

Night Rescue to Stop Gull from Drowning.

Rescuers Trevor, Kathy, Chris and Laura rescued an adult gull entangled in a fish-n-chip shop carrier bag in Prince's Park lake Eastbourne on Monday 9th July. The bird was sinking lower in the water and rescuers had to act fast. Working in the dark wearing a dry suit, Trevor waded out behind the struggling gull and encouraged it to swim to the edge.

This took quite a while as the gull was having difficulty swimming. Once close enough to the bank Kathy was able to net the gull allowing Chris and Laura to get the gull out onto dry land. The bag was entangled around one wing as well as its neck. A rather water logged gull was taken back to WRAS's Casualty Centre for the night. The gull was suitable for release the following day.



Young Deer Rescued at Buxted.

This young deer was transported to deer experts Chris and Sylvia on Ashdown Forest after being found in a field in Buxted on 9th June. Mum had just given birth when essential work scared mum off. The

callers tried to reunite and monitored the youngster but mum never returned, so WRAS was contacted. Rescuers assessed the youngster whose gums were very pale and clearly becoming dehydrated. They called Chris and Sylvia and the youngster was immediately transported to them. They now have a several weeks of disturbed sleep to contend with.



Volunteering - Can change your life.

By Brian Russell WRAS Chairman.

Shannon Donnelly has been volunteering with us now for some while on the Friday evening feed and clean shift. She first expressed a interest in wildlife when I was talking to her whilst visiting her family, as she was aware of my late wife Monica's long standing involvement with the charity and was I think curious.

I think it would be fair to say that Shannon was a bit of a loner and would spend a lot of time on her own with her tablet. I was also informed that her school work was suffering. Now don't get me wrong, this is by no means a judgement of her, at her tender age the way ahead is most often blurred as I am sure we have all experienced.

Working with animals seemed to appeal to her so as a trustee of the charity I approached Trevor and it was agreed that she could come along with

an older person (as she was a bit too young) and do a taster shift to see if it lived up to her expectations - she never looked back, she loved it, all the smells of the poo didn't faze her at all.

I am very pleased to say that all her friends and family I know have said she is a changed person and that is down to her belief in herself and her experiences at WRAS. The work she has done and the animals she has dealt with, but most of all the people on the shift who have welcomed her with a kind word and constructive advice and guidance. This has had a profound effect on her and has instilled a great confidence in her and her school work. She has now applied and been conditionally accepted to Plumpton College where I am sure she will go on to pastures new. We all wish her well and will follow her journey with interest. This, I feel typifies our role as also being a community charity, helping wildlife and people. Thank you all for making her so very welcome.



Grass Snake Entanglements.

This summer WRAS has dealt with a number of grass snakes entangled in netting in gardens and ponds.

This one pictured was caught up whilst trying to get into a pond near East Grinstead. Luckily the netting was not too tight and there was no damage to the scales or skin so could be released again.

Two grass snakes from Grove Hill Hellingly had to be admitted due to injuries caused by being entangled in garden netting. After a week in care they were returned and released again.





Duck Killed in Vicious Attack by Dogs in Hailsham.

A vicious attack on a female mallard duck took place on a local pond in Hailsham on 12 June. Residents of the area have been aware of a group of young men with lurchers and a small short haired dog disturbing the ducks at Farne Close Pond in Hailsham.

At around 19:30, residents witnessed a horrific attack and told WRAS they heard shouts of “get it” coming from the dogs owners. Three dogs managed to catch one of the ducks and tear it apart in front of distressed residents. One witness confronted them and was greeted with “it’s only a duck” and “my dogs need feeding”.

The duck was rushed to East Sussex Wildlife Rescue and Ambulance Service. “on arrival the duck was sadly almost gone, the bread that she was feeding on only moments before fell into my hand as her throat had been ripped open” said WRAS’s Casualty Manager Chris Riddington, “it was horrific for the duck, the people that brought it in and the volunteers who tried to calm the finders down”.

The duck died from its injuries shortly after admission.

“This is just one of several incidents where young lads have been involved in attacking wildlife with dogs, air rifles or catapults and think that no laws have been broken. This attack can be covered under the Dangerous Dog Act Section 3; out of control dog in public, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Part 1 Section 1 and the Hunting Act 2004. This is a clear case of animal cruelty and clearly laws have been broken.” added Chris.

Sussex Police have been notified and residents are looking for any witnesses to contact the police on 101 Ref 13/6 - 0165.

WRAS is urging anyone who sees such a crime taking place to call 999 immediately or after the event to call Sussex Police on 101 to report the details.

“It is well known that those involved in wildlife crime are generally also involved in more serious crimes like violence and child abuse, theft, drugs and fraud. So we would urge anyone who witnesses such incidents to report incidents to the police straight away.” Said WRAS founder Trevor Weeks.

The photos of the attacked duck are too horrendous for us to post.



Another Hedgehog caught in Rat Trap.

A WRAS ambulance rushed out to this poor hedgehog at Pevensey Road Polegate on the morning of Saturday 7th July at 5:50am. The poor hedgehog had a front leg caught in a rat trap and if that wasn't bad enough he then became entangled in a child's football goal netting.

Rescuer Trevor Weeks attended the address and found the hedgehog had a nasty swelling to one of his front legs. It was given emergency medication and admitted to WRAS's Casualty Centre. Our friends at Henley House Vets in Uckfield x-rayed the hedgehog under anaesthetic due to a swelling and bruising on the leg which was suspected as being fractured. However, the x-ray revealed it wasn't broken. "Roland" the hedgehog was placed on a course of antibiotics and pain relief and it is hoped the leg can be saved.

Hedgehog Rescued from Post Hole.

Trevor was called out early on Tuesday 10th July to a hedgehog stuck down a post hole in Valley Drive Seaford. Apparently there were two there the day before and one had managed to climb out leaving this one behind. Trevor was able to reach down into the hole and lift the hedgehog out to safety. The poor hedgehog had a damaged toe so was kept in for a few days to recover and for the holes to be filled in before being returned back home.



Hedgehog Rescued from Hailsham Pipe.

A hedgehog found himself in a "hole" lot of bother on Monday 2nd July after falling into a pipe close to the junction of Mill Road and String Walk Hailsham.

The hedgehog is thought to have fallen into the pipe during the night and spent all day curled up inside till observant walkers noticed his predicament.

East Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service (WRAS) were called out just before 6pm last night to rescue the hedgehog. WRAS founder Trevor Weeks MBE attended on site to find the hedgehog about 2ft down inside the pipe. "The animal was not exactly small and filled the pipe. There wasn't any room for me to get my hands in to lift it up so I had to use a dog grasper to try and free the hedgehog" said Trevor.

It took Trevor three attempts to get the hedgehog out and he had to use a crowbar to help get the loop of the dog grasper in place properly.

"I was so relieved once I had this loop in place and I could lift the hedgehog to safety" said Trevor, "he was a male and a good size and shape but I decided to bring him in for observation after being in the sun for most of the day."

East Sussex WRAS is urging people to keep an eye out for pipes, drains and holes which are uncovered and to call the council or relevant authority to ensure they are replaced or repaired as soon as possible. If anyone sees a hedgehog or other creature trapped they should call East Sussex WRAS on 07815-078234.



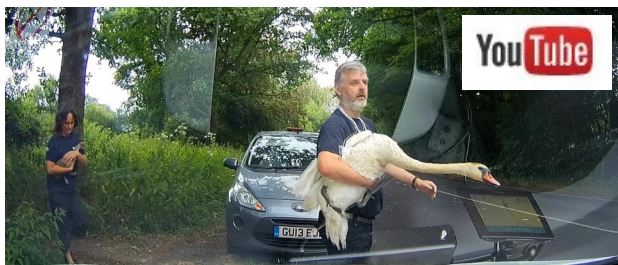
Swan Rescue on Eastbourne Road Uckfield.

Rescuer rushed to Eastbourne Road Uckfield on Friday 13th July after receiving numerous calls about a family of swans trying to cross the road.

Rescuer Trevor Weeks rushed to the scene and was quickly able to catch dad and the two cygnets who were wandering through the undergrowth close to the road.

Mum, who had been trapped behind some stock fencing, had now made her way down to the river. Rescuer Kathy joined Trevor to help catch mum. She used one of the cygnets to attract mum out of the river allowing Trevor to catch her.

It was clear the swans wanted to get across to a large lake on the opposite side of the road, but there was no easy access. Trevor and Kathy drove up the road and managed to get hold of someone at the neighbouring Highcross Estate who allowed them access to the site, where they were able to drive down to the lake. With help from staff on site the swans were safely returned to their home where they had been clearly missed.





Human Defibrillator Installed at WRAS's Hospital.

Volunteers and staff at WRAS have spent an evening learning about how to use a human defibrillator after the charity purchased a Defibrillator which is now, available for emergency use, outside East Sussex WRAS's Veterinary Hospital in Whitesmith East Sussex.

Choice Medics a medical training company based in East Sussex, which has been developed by three experienced HCPC Paramedics visited WRAS's Casualty Care Centre on the A22 at Whitesmith to carry out the training.

East Sussex WRAS's staff recently refreshed their training in human first aid but were concerned about being located in a rural area, and the effect it would have on saving someone's life. "We all thought that having a Defibrillator here and available to us and the local community just made sense. Life is valuable, be it a human, animal or bird as far as we are concerned and we felt this was the least we could do. The nearest Defibrillator would currently take us around 10-15 minutes to go and collect and being in a rural location it means doing good quality CPR and defibrillation will hugely increase the chances of survival for a person suffering a cardiac arrest. We see this as part of our community responsibility" said Trevor Weeks founder of East Sussex WRAS.

"We all share a passion for promoting First Aid in the community and work place and our aim is to provide a service, delivered by professionals who not only have expert knowledge of the syllabus but understand the application in real life situations, in a fun and engaging way. Our knowledge and experience as paramedics, will allow us to provide a training service, tailored to your needs and requirements at an appropriate level. We are really pleased to have this opportunity to work with WRAS and applaud them for being so responsible in having this public access defibrillator installed. If anyone is interested in know more about having such a unit installed at their work place please get in touch" said Richard Fletcher.

PIGEON POST by Kathy Martyn

Amongst all the usual good news stories of our hand reared pigeons being released we have also had some amazing results over the last year, and in particular the last few months by being able to release some of our longest term resident pigeons, some of which had been in care for various reasons since 2016. With our main feral pigeon release pen on notice to have to be moved to a new (as yet unknown) location, we have not been able to use it for the usual variety of species in case we suddenly need to move it. But it has allowed us to move a large group of our long term pigeons outside for the Spring/Summer, who are normally in 2 indoor aviaries, to see how they would progress with some extra space, new surroundings and extra stimulation. Although they are very settled and happy indoors, they can get rather lazy and it can be hard to judge how they are progressing, even though we get them out to fly them regularly. We were thrilled when after a month outside one of our longest residents Dogwood from 2016 was able to be released, along with 4 others and a group of handreared youngsters. We are hoping that still more may be able to be released as the Summer progresses, it has meant a lot of juggling with youngsters still needing to be released from the pen as and when they were ready, but the guys seem to be enjoying the variety in their lives. We have also had some amazing results with some very badly injured pigeons, one of which was a racing pigeon with two broken ankles and the whole of one side of her chest peeled back. The owner was happy for us to take on her care, and many thanks to Henley House vets for undertaking the job of suturing the flap back. Her legs were then splinted as well. Amazingly she is now fully healed and in an indoor pen, and although she now has knobbly bowed ankles, she walks, flies and perches and is soon going off to live with one of our friends in their aviary.



Dogwood and his gang outside.

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

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.

Charity Shop: 192 Terminus Road, Eastbourne, BN21 3BB.

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

Vets: Simon Harris BVSc Cert VR, MRCVS. Dr Chris Hall BVSc, MRCVS, Mike Symons BVSc MRCVS, Sophie Common BVetMed 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: Chris 01825-873003
chris@eastsussexwras.org.uk

Charity Shop: 01323-643111

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 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 _____.

Privacy Notice: Under the new fundraising and marketing guidelines it is considered "legitimate interest" to contact people who have made donations to our charity from time to time. You can call 01825-873003 at any time to stop future contact. Further details are on our website www.wildlifeambulance.org

Please tick if you would prefer not to be contacted by WRAS. ☐

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.

My Account No: _____ My Sort Code: ____ / ____ / ____

Please start my standing order on ____ / ____ / _____. (At Least 3 weeks away please.)

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.

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.

25 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!

Hedgehog rescued from Crocodile!

WRAS rushed to the aid of a hedgehog reported as being stuck on the back of a crocodile in Eastbourne today.

"We are quite lucky in the UK that our wildlife is quite tame in comparison to other countries, so we were a bit worried when we were told the hedgehog was on the back of a crocodile, but relieved when we were told the crocodile was not real" explained Chris Riddington Duty Rescue Co-ordinator.

Members of the public visiting Treasure Island park on Eastbourne Seafront spotted the hedgehog on the decorative crocodile surrounded by water. "The hedgehog had clearly got a bit lost found himself in the water and climbed out onto this helpful reptile to give him rest." said Chris.

Rescuers from WRAS attended on site to rescue the hedgehog which was in relatively good condition, quite bright and alert. The hedgehog was checked over at WRAS's Casualty Centre before being bedded down. After running some checks for parasites, treating for dehydration and building him up, he was released a week later.



Willy Wonka Rescued from Chocolate Factory!

Rescuers were called to a gull that found himself caught in a "sticky situation" at Britannia Chocolate Factory in Polegate this afternoon. This poor gull got him self covered in glucose syrup which had been left in an container in the yard outside the factory. Kind hearted and concerned staff tried to clean the gull but it was hard to get it off. Rescuers from East Sussex WRAS collected the gull and took it back at WRAS's hospital where members of the Care Team got stuck in cleaning him. After a bath "Willy Wonka" (what else really) was feeling sweet again. The gull did not gain access into the building nor to the production line and hasn't effected any food being produced. This was waste liquid in the yard outside. It is hoped that the gull will make a full recovery.



WRAS's Casualty Centre hits over 330 casualties in care!

On the 14th June WRAS's Casualty Centre was almost full to bursting. Every summer WRAS has to limit some species and sizes of casualties coming in as different size cages become occupied. This changes on almost a daily basis due to what is treated and released each day. On 14th June WRAS had the following list of casualties in care either at its Veterinary Hospital at Whitesmith, it's Hedgehog Unit at Uckfield or one of its off site aviary or pens.



10 Rabbits
1 Grtr Spt Wood Pecker
1 Mouse
10 Foxes
2 Kestrels
7 Tawny Owls
1 Chaffinch
1 Bullfinch
17 Sparrows
15 Great Tits
18 Jackdaws
14 Crows
8 Magpies
5 Swallows
1 Badger
1 Gosling
24 Blackbirds
44 Blue Tits
13 Starlings
8 Dunnocks
12 Robins
2 Gulls
14 Ducks
1 Warbler
36 Hedgehogs
21 Wood Pigeons
2 Collared Doves
43 Feral Pigeons

Well done to all our volunteers and staff for working so hard so far this spring and summer to help rescue, rehabilitate and release so many casualties back to the wild. If you can help support our work so we can expand our facilities please make a donation.

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 Reg Charity 1108880