

WHAT'S INSIDE:



Lewes Seal
Rescue

Pg 14/15



Trevor's
Climb for
Bat Box
Rescue

Pg 7

The Wildlife's Emergency Service.

THE Rescuer

*Uckfield Drain Ducklings
Reunited with
Mum*



Rescue Line: 07815-078234

SPRING 2020

Content:

Page 3	Coronavirus & WRAS.
Page 4	Fort Fun Crow Rescue.
Page 5	Pigeon Post by Kathy Martyn.
Page 7	Bat Box Rescue Climb.
Page 8	Wood Pigeon Rescued at Moat Pond.
Page 9	Our Miracle Fox Cub by Katie Nunn Nash.
Page 10	Coronavirus & Wildlife.
Page 12	Mum & Ducklings Walked to Safety.
Page 13	Rescued Ducklings Reunited with Mum.
Page 14	Fox Cub with Plastic Tub on Head
Page 15	Yet Another Duckling Rescue!
Page 16	News in Brief
Page 17	Bird of Prey Rescue Tenterden
Page 18 & 19	Lewes Trapped Seal Rescued
Page 23	Beacon Gull Rescue
Page 24	Contact Details.



If you shop on Amazon, don't forget to start shopping with Amazon Smile and select East Sussex WRAS as your chosen charity to help raise money free of charge for WRAS. Amazon Smile is now available as a mobile app too.





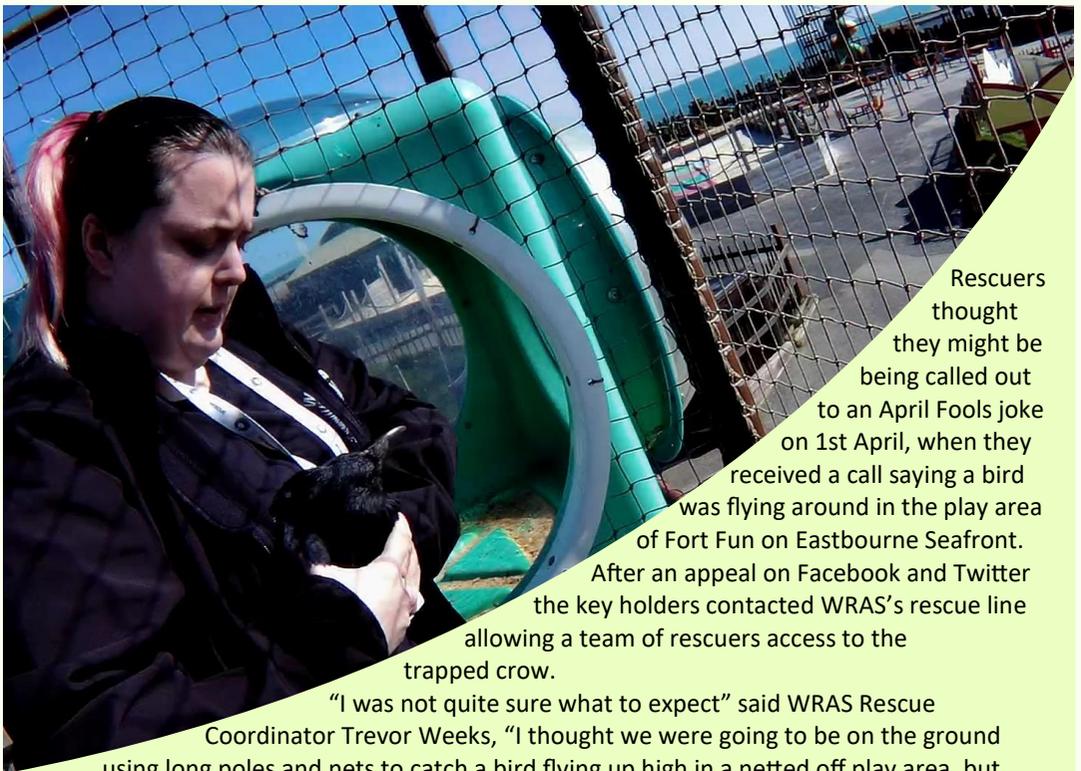
East Sussex WRAS is committed to continuing to help our wildlife as much as possible during the current Coronavirus lockdown. We have been concerned about posting out this newsletter so we have taken extra precautions in the handling and packaging of the newsletters to ensure we are not spreading the virus.

Along with everyone else, we are having to follow Government advice. Our staff and volunteers are classed as “key workers”. We have reduced right down the number of volunteers helping at the centre to restrict the number of ways the virus could potentially get to our essential staff and volunteers. We have a limited team of volunteers who have been working much longer hours and visit multiple days a week, to keep the number of people entering our Casualty Centre down to a minimum. Our rescuers are being extra careful with social distancing and also getting people to deliver casualties where suitable. Members of the public are not being allowed to enter the Casualty Centre. Our educational trailer has been turned into a drop off point for casualties. However, please remember to call the rescue line first as on some occasions delivering may be helpful but on other occasions not. There are clear instructions in what to do when you are dropping off a casualty.

Unfortunately our first aid courses as well as other events over the next few months have been cancelled. Our Charity Shop in Eastbourne has also had to close its doors. You can still purchase items via our ebay shop which can be found at <https://charity.ebay.co.uk/charity/East-Sussex-WRAS/124284>

We are applying for council and government support, but this is unlikely to cover the normal income we receive. We would like to wish all our supporters good health and urge you to stay safe during these troubled times.

Coronavirus and WRAS.



Rescuers thought they might be being called out to an April Fools joke on 1st April, when they received a call saying a bird was flying around in the play area of Fort Fun on Eastbourne Seafront. After an appeal on Facebook and Twitter the key holders contacted WRAS's rescue line allowing a team of rescuers access to the trapped crow.

"I was not quite sure what to expect" said WRAS Rescue Coordinator Trevor Weeks, "I thought we were going to be on the ground using long poles and nets to catch a bird flying up high in a netted off play area, but when we got there the bird was cornered right at the top of a climbing frame." Rescuers Trevor Weeks and Holly Davis had to climb up through the play park to the top in order to catch the crow which luckily had gone inside a large plastic cube, making capture easier. But the climb to reach the top was certainly a challenge, as it was designed for children not adults, with some fairly small gaps to climb through.

"I don't think I've seen Trevor work so hard getting to a rescue in a long time" laughed rescuer Holly, "being smaller I went forward and caught the crow but it quickly became apparent that he was losing a lot of blood from somewhere".

Rescuers checked the crow over and Trevor had to provide first aid to stop the bleeding which was coming from a damaged toe.

"I was quite relieved that I could spend a few minutes treating the bird before we could move him down to the ambulance to let me get my breath back, I'm certainly not as young as I used to be" joked Trevor.

After a climb back down to the veterinary ambulances the bird was driven to WRAS's Casualty Care Centre at Whitesmith where it received further treatment. The crow made a full recovery and was released back on Eastbourne Seafront the following day.

Thank you to those who helped on social media to contact the key holders and for their help in gaining entry to catch the crow and save its life.

Fortress Fun for Crow Rescue.



Amazingly this Winter I had one of my quietest years for babies, with a few months without any at home. Of course just as I began to finally stop waking up at 7am, they arrived again. Dove wise it has been quiet for me so far, in the main the doves we have had are coming in a bit older than usual, so have been ok to go straight to the hospital, probably due to the mild Winter and Spring. I have reared a few at home which have already been released. I also managed to catch a very poorly dove on the top of my aviary in the garden who had severe Canker, he was so ill he literally fell off in front of me. But 2 weeks later he was fit and well and is now back out with his partner.

My first feral pigeon babies were Pinocchio, followed by Womble, Mr Bean and Chip. Pinocchio had the worst Canker I have ever seen in a baby pigeon, right up inside her nostrils, making her look like a vulture as it deformed her beak shape. It took 5 weeks to go away in the end, and as she was so compromised her feather development was delayed, and then poor, so before she can be released she will need a proper moult. But she is now in the indoor aviary with Womble. Chip is now doing very well, she was found in a pile of woodchip, but once at the hospital she took a turn for the worst and spent 3 weeks fighting for her life, but is now on the mend and doing well again. Womble was so named as he was found 'wombling' around on the floor of an underground car park in a dreadful condition. He and Pinocchio are best friends and were delighted to be reunited.

My second batch of feral babies were Bubble and Squeak, who were just 2 days old when they arrived, just yellow cold bundles of fluff. They have done really well, and have so far been some of the most straightforward tinies I have reared. They are now 5 weeks old as I write this, and should be moving to the hospital in a week or so.

Pigeon Post by Kathy Martyn



Saturday 14th March saw WRAS rescuers deal with yet another pigeon entangled in netting, just off Uckfield High Street. Rescuers were able to use ladders to gain access and cut him free. Luckily he has only a minor wound and should make a full recovery and return home fairly soon.



Help keep wildlife safe : Spring Support

When cutting long grass double check that there are no hedgehogs or other creatures hidden in its depths.

Remember to keep water bowls topped up with refresh water or think about creating a shallow pond, which wildlife can drink from and not get trapped in.

When cutting back trees and bushes, take extra care to avoid disturbing nesting birds, doing so could be an offence. Best to leave such work till the late Autumn.

Don't be too hasty in moving piles of brush and leaves as these could now be the home of hidden wildlife.

If you find a nest of baby wildlife don't jump to the conclusion they have been abandoned if mum is not present. Frequently mums spent time away from their babies to avoid drawing attention to them. Just re-cover them, and leave alone. Abandoned babies will often call and wander from the nest.

Bat Box Rescue!

Rescuers were called out to check on a Bat Box after the oak tree it was located in fell across a lane overnight.

“A local resident spoke to the Sussex Bat Group and after advice from them called us out. It was not an easy box to reach, and being at an angle we couldn’t see from the ground if anything was using the box” said Trevor Weeks.

Despite the tree having fallen, it was still too high off the ground for rescuers to see inside. Trevor was able to climb up the tree to get to the box, but he was still unable to fully check. “I used my mobile phone to try and video inside the box as it was at such a difficult angle under the branch I still couldn’t tell for sure if anything was inside. So we decided to cut the box from the trunk of the tree and lower it to the ground” added Trevor.

Once on the ground rescuer Clare Greenaway checked the box and luckily couldn’t see any sign of any bats having been in or using the box “We were relieved that there was nothing in the box, and there was no sign of anything having come out anywhere either” said Trevor.

Tree surgeons were due to attend later that day to remove the tree which was blocking access to several properties. They were going to re-site the bat box in a neighbouring tree.

“That was certainly one of the more unusual call-outs we

have had in quite a while. If anyone is concerned about a roost or bats on their property

there is lots of information and

advice on the Sussex Bat

Group’s website at

[www.sussexbatgroup](http://www.sussexbatgroup.org.uk)

[.org.uk](http://www.sussexbatgroup.org.uk)” said

Trevor.



Pigeon Rescued at Moat Pond

Off duty rescuer Daryl Farmer was about to go to a gym in East Grinstead on Sunday 15th March when he heard about a pigeon in distress at Moat Pond next to the Gym. He noticed a post on Facebook mentioning a wood pigeon hanging by fishing line above the pond. "Friends of Moat Pond" had tried to get to the bird but due to the depth of water were unable to do so.

"Despite knowing it was technically out of East Sussex Wildlife Rescue's area he didn't feel he could ignore it as he was about to go to the Gym next door" said Lead Casualty Manager Katie Nunn Nash.

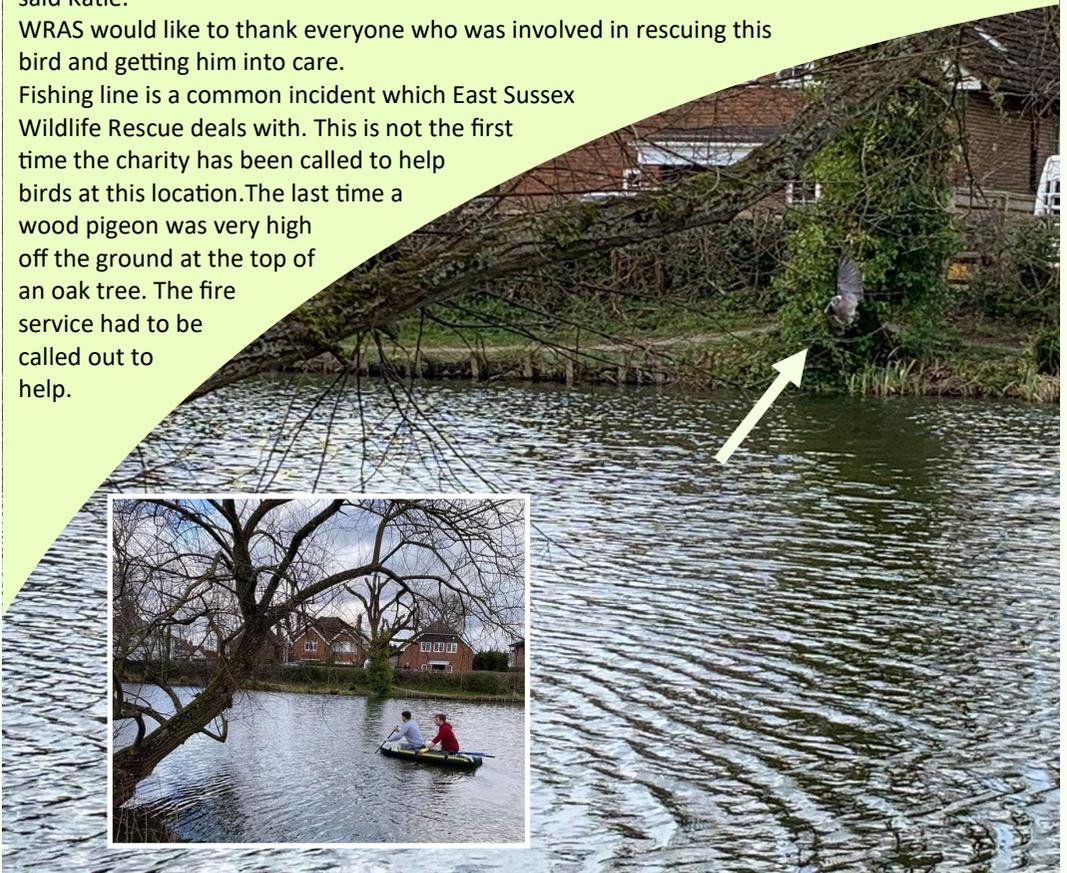
Daryl collected a boat from WRAS and drove to the scene to help. "I arrived at the same time as the RSPCA, so we had a chat about how to undertake the rescue and so I set off in the boat to get him free" said Daryl.

"It was not the easiest of rescues, trying to reach it and not over balancing on the boat was challenging. But he was soon in safe hands" said Daryl, who then drove the bird to East Sussex Wildlife Rescue's hospital on the A22 at Whitesmith between Hailsham and Uckfield.

"The poor bird was very tired and exhausted. Luckily his wings seem to be okay but there were concerns over his legs due to inflammation and he seemed to have limited use of them" said Katie.

WRAS would like to thank everyone who was involved in rescuing this bird and getting him into care.

Fishing line is a common incident which East Sussex Wildlife Rescue deals with. This is not the first time the charity has been called to help birds at this location. The last time a wood pigeon was very high off the ground at the top of an oak tree. The fire service had to be called out to help.



Our Miracle Fox Cub by Kate Nunn Nash

On 4th April we received a call to Furness Road in Eastbourne, to a fox who staggered into the bushes and was suspected of being clipped by a car. She was generally not in a very good state but attempts were made to stabilise her condition, sadly she lost her fight for life during the night.

When she was admitted it was discovered she was lactating, so a plea was put out on social media for people in the local area to keep an eye and ear out for any cubs that could possibly belong to her. Within a couple of hours we received a call from a resident in Furness Road, who thought they knew where they were. Rescuers attended straight away and tried multiple times but were unable to gain access to the property. They tried all means of contacting the owner, notes and answer phone messages were left for them to contact us as soon as possible.

First thing the following morning, finding the poor vixen had passed was horrible, but it was followed by a phone call to grant us access to see if the cubs were indeed on the property and potentially hers, so at least there would be some ray of hope!

Rescuers immediately attended the property to find a little cub - now named 'Hope' - wandering around on the lawn, helpless and blind, due to severe eye infections. She was sadly the only surviving member of the family of cubs.

It would seem mum had been struggling for some time, as multiple deceased cubs were removed from the garden. They are thought to have died over 48 hours prior to mum being rescued.

Hope's eyes cleared up really quickly after daily treatments and bathing of her eyes. She is a real character!

When she was moved to join our other cubs, she changed into a happy cub, one who just wanted to play with her new adopted brothers and sisters. Later this year she will get released with the rest of the group she has joined.



Before



After

Coronavirus and Wildlife.

According to the Animal & Plant Health Agency as of 10th April 2020, there is currently no evidence of coronavirus in pets or other animals in the UK and there is nothing to suggest animals may transmit the disease to humans.

There is a risk that wildlife could carry the virus on their hair or feathers for a short period of time, just as any other surface or objects which can carry the virus from one place to another. Where as we touch our pets and companion animals regularly, we don't with wildlife, so the risk is even more reduced.

There is no scientific evidence that washing animals is necessary to control the spread of COVID-19, and most importantly you should not undertake measures that compromise the welfare of the animals in our care unless there is robust evidence to do so.

Therefore we do not recommend that people become worried about wildlife visiting their gardens or bird feeders, but to continue their normal activities in a hygienic way. Following Government advice to wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and hot water before and after contact with pets or other animals. Alternatively use hand sanitisers if that's all you have access to.

If you find a wildlife casualty, you should not be alarmed about touching it, but please be sensible and wear gloves or pick up the casualty if you need to using a towel, old T-shirt or paper roll. Again, wash your hands with soap and hot water for 20 seconds after handling any wildlife. Give your local wildlife rescue a ring and they will advise you how to proceed. Rescue organisations up and down the country are operating often with skeleton crews so please be patient with them.



Coronavirus Questions

Should I be worried about Corvids visiting my garden?

No. WRAS has had a couple of calls from people concerned about corvids - crow family, like Jackdaws, Crows, Rooks, Jay and Magpies, believing that Coronavirus is something to do with Corvids. The virus is not called Corvid-19 but Covid-19. Rest assured that there is absolutely no connection at all between the two. So if you come across a corvid, there is virtually no chance of you catching coronavirus from helping it.

Are Bats a threat and do they spread Covid-19?

No. Bats do not spread COVID-19. COVID-19 is being transmitted from humans to other humans. There is no evidence that bats directly infected humans with COVID-19 in the first place. Scientific investigations are pointing to a chain of events that may have involved bats but most likely only through an intermediate animal. Culling of bats and their vilification during the pandemic is wrong. Bats provide enormous benefits including pollination, seed dispersal and pest control, worth billions of dollars annually.

A similar misdirected focus occurred at the height of the 2006 avian influenza, with calls for widespread culling of migratory water birds and the draining of their wetland habitats.

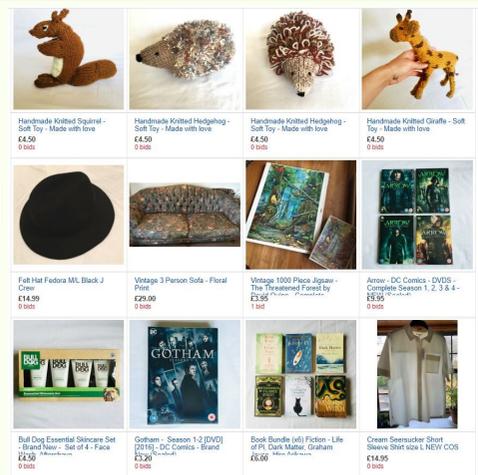
These bat facts are based on those prepared by the Secretariats of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals as listed on EUROBATs website.



Friston Egret Rescued.

This beautiful little egret has been admitted to our hospital this evening from Friston Forest, after he was seen falling through the trees and unable to fly.

He has a small wound to his leg and has damaged one of his feathers. We have started treatment for his wound and hope to get him fit and healthy to return home very soon.



AMAZON WISH LIST THANKS!

Huge thank you to Kerry Banks, Samantha Potter, Mark Tester, Jackie Jackson, Liz Thomas and everyone who has donated items from our Amazon Wish List over the last couple of months, unfortunately a lot have arrived without names inside for us to say thank you directly. Your donations are really appreciated by staff, volunteers and all the casualties we have in care at the moment.

If you would like to purchase something from our list head to: <https://amzn.eu/abJOttD>

Please support our Online Charity Shop!

As with all other non-essential shops WRAS's Charity Shop had to close in March. This has given Shop Manager Faye and her Assistant Rachel time to go through items in the shop, sort out loads of bits and start using an Ebay shop to raise money for WRAS.

There are lots of items available and the online shop changes every few days with new items being uploads.

Please pay our ebay charity shop a visit at :

<https://charity.ebay.co.uk/charity/East-Sussex-WRAS/124284>

Mum and Ducklings Walked to Safety

At lunchtime on Friday 17th April WRAS received a call out to a mum and six ducklings wandering around in Eden Close, Stone Cross, Eastbourne. The mum was seen wandering off the main road into Eden Close where she found herself trapped and surrounded by houses and fences.

Four rescuers from WRAS attended in two ambulances, and they monitored her behaviour for a while before attempting to walk them to Shinewater Park. Catching mum and ducklings can be problematic, and can cause mum to abandon her young if she flies off.

"Its always difficult to know where they want to go, and you have to be very careful that you don't just move them to the wrong location, or when your back is turned they will up and walk again. After monitoring them for a while it became clear which direction she wanted to head in, so started their 0.6 mile walk to safety" said WRAS's Trevor Weeks.

The first hurdle was trying to get them to go back out the close in the opposite direction to where they wanted to go. Progress was slow but eventually rescuers made it onto Adur Drive before turning left down the footpath into Adur Park and towards the railway line.

"It was amazing to see her change of pace once at the railway tunnel. She suddenly sped up running forward, clearly realising she was on the right route" said rescuer Ellie Langridge.

Once onto Hadlow Avenue, the mum and ducklings walked along the pavement dipping in and out of front gardens clearly wanting to turn right. Which she was finally able to do once on Larkspur Drive.

"This section of the walk was going to be the most problematic as it is a bus route and the pavements aren't very wide in places" said Ellie.

Crossing the junction with Rotherfield Avenue was difficult and cars had to be stopped whilst the ducklings made their way across.

"Once we passed the Meadows Nursery School in Larkspur Drive, without prompting her, she walked straight across the grass towards the stream" said Trevor.

All the ducklings one by one moved through the vegetation, jumping on rocks and ducking under brambles to get down to the waters edge.



Stone Cross & Shinewater

Rescued Ducklings Reunited with Mum

Rescuers were called out late morning on 5th April 2020, after a mum and 11 ducklings were found wandering around a close in Roman Way, Uckfield. When rescuers arrived, mum and 8 ducklings were wandering back and forth along a fence line trying to find a way through to get to a pond off the River Uck near Hempstead Lane. "We managed to open a gap in the fence for mum and ducklings to get through, but as soon as they were through, it quickly became apparent that there were more ducklings around as their cheeping echoed out of several drains."

WRAS's veterinary ambulance was positioned in the road to create a safe working environment for rescuers to lift a drain and attempt a rescue.

"It was really difficult as any sudden movement and the duckling would run back into the pipes" said rescuer Holly Davis.

Two were caught in a large inspection chamber in the middle of the close and another one was encouraged out of a rather smelly water pipe down a drain at the side of the road. The rescue took almost 90 minutes.

The third duckling was more problematic to get to as it was out of reach and had only a small hole to work from. However, eventually the duckling was encouraged out and secured.

Once rescuers were convinced that there were no more ducklings they took them over to the pond where mum had made her way successfully through the bushes.

Rescuers were then able to release the last three ducklings who swam off to their mum to be reunited. "It was so nice to see them all reunited together, and as

we were doing so we could hear the local residents in the houses cheering that they were all back together safely" said rescuer Ellie Langridge.

WRAS also received two other calls about mums and ducklings. Monday 20th April a mum and 5 ducklings had to be caught after walking along the busy South Road Hailsham.

Also Sunday 19th April to Swanley Close

Langney, where they had to be

walked to a gap in the fence by a pond.



Fox Cub with Plastic Tub Stuck on Head

On 19th April WRAS was asked if we could help catch a fox cub in Brighton with a plastic tub stuck on his head. The fox cub was in a garden behind an NHS building in Kemp Town, very close to the Royal Sussex County Hospital.

Rescuers had no idea if the cub was in the den or underneath all the vegetation in the garden, so we decided to stake out the garden to watch and see if the cub would appear. After three hours of patiently waiting, it was too dark to continue, so a second team of rescuers attended the following morning.

On arrival they noticed the healthy cubs were playing under some vegetation. After a check of the bushes to see if the cub with the tub was present, they discovered a second den which all the cubs had hidden in.

Rescuers backed off with just one person hidden on a wooden bench in the centre and the rest waited patiently above in a car park looking down on the garden.

After about an hour, rescuer Charlotte spotted the cub in the corner of the garden bumping into tree roots, so she quickly rushed down to the garden and as quietly as possible tried to sneak behind the cub to stop it going back down the den. Luckily, the cub's vision was impaired due to the tub being very dirty. Charlotte was able to grab the cub and bring him up to the ambulance for a check over.

The poor cub smelt horrible and was very dirty. He was driven to WRAS's Casualty Centre where WRAS's vet Mike gave him a good clean and placed him on antibiotics.

After 5 days of care and medication the little cub was returned to Brighton and reintroduced to his family.



Yet Another Duckling Rescue!

On 27th April after a busy day and evening, with over 33 incidents dealt with, rescuers were about to head home when a rescue call came in about 8 orphaned ducklings near Heathfield.

A lady whilst walking over a bridge, noticed the ducklings in the stream below. She monitored them for a while but there was no sign of mum anywhere. She returned home and called WRAS. She drove out to the bridge to check they were still there and there was still no mum. Rescuers Ellie and Ollie who had just returned home and Trevor who was luckily still at the centre, all met up at Boship Roundabout and drove to the site of the rescue.

When they arrived there was still no sign of mum. No noises coming from the other side of the road either. They had to use ladders to get down into the stream from a bridge on a rather narrow lane between Waldron and Little London (Heathfield area).

The ducklings started swimming down stream so Trevor had to encourage them back towards the bridge wading through the water. Ollie and Ellie waited with nets to catch them as they got closer to the concrete base of the bridge and tunnel going under the lane.

Trevor managed to catch two of the ducklings whilst encouraging them towards Ollie who was able to net four more, allowing Ellie to catch the remaining two.

A good bit of team work swiftly done. The ducklings are now bedded down in an incubator for the night.

Ducklings this young should not be on the water overnight without mum's back to climb on for warmth or they should be with mum on the bank hidden in vegetation but still tucked under mum for comfort.



News in Brief!



WRAS received a call just before 2am regarding a fox in Willowfield Road, Eastbourne who seems disorientated, weak on one of his back legs and kept collapsing and laying down in the middle of the road.

Huge thanks to the ladies who found him and managed to keep him safe, as well as assisted with securing him when rescuers arrived.

A little dazed but with no obvious injuries, he was given some pain relief and stabilized. He was released a week later.



Thank you to Uckfield Fire Fighters after they helped with a call out to Roman Way, Uckfield after reports of a sparrow, caught by his leg on a chimney. A big thank you to East Sussex Fire and Rescue for their help. Sadly, through his struggling the leg was too damaged to be saved but at least he was no longer suffering.



This lovely mallard was brought in from Uckfield Thursday 5th March after concerns she had a limp and was unable to take off.

On admission she was weak on her legs, but was still able to fly!

She improved rapidly on admission looking much brighter and stronger on her legs.

She was released a couple of days later without needing to stay in care for very long.



This bat was brought into care from Eastbourne, after being found in a bathroom, likely brought in by the cat. A lucky escape, suffering just a few minor tears to the wing membranes, which should heal rather quickly.

Bird of Prey

Rescue!

A sparrow hawk became trapped inside St Mildreds Church in Tenterden on Friday 20th March after chasing a pigeon inside the building for its lunch.

Chris Brown was in the process of opening the church for a funeral when the sparrow hawk was spotted flying around high up inside the church in the centre of Tenterden. Mr Brown contacted several animal rescue groups before calling East Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service (WRAS) for help.

"Tenterden is certainly outside of our area, but as they had exhausted the other options and because we were quiet at the time, we decided to go across and see what we could do" said Trevor Weeks.

When rescuers arrived the sparrow hawk was flying back and forth from the Altar, along the Nave and into the Medieval Bell Tower.

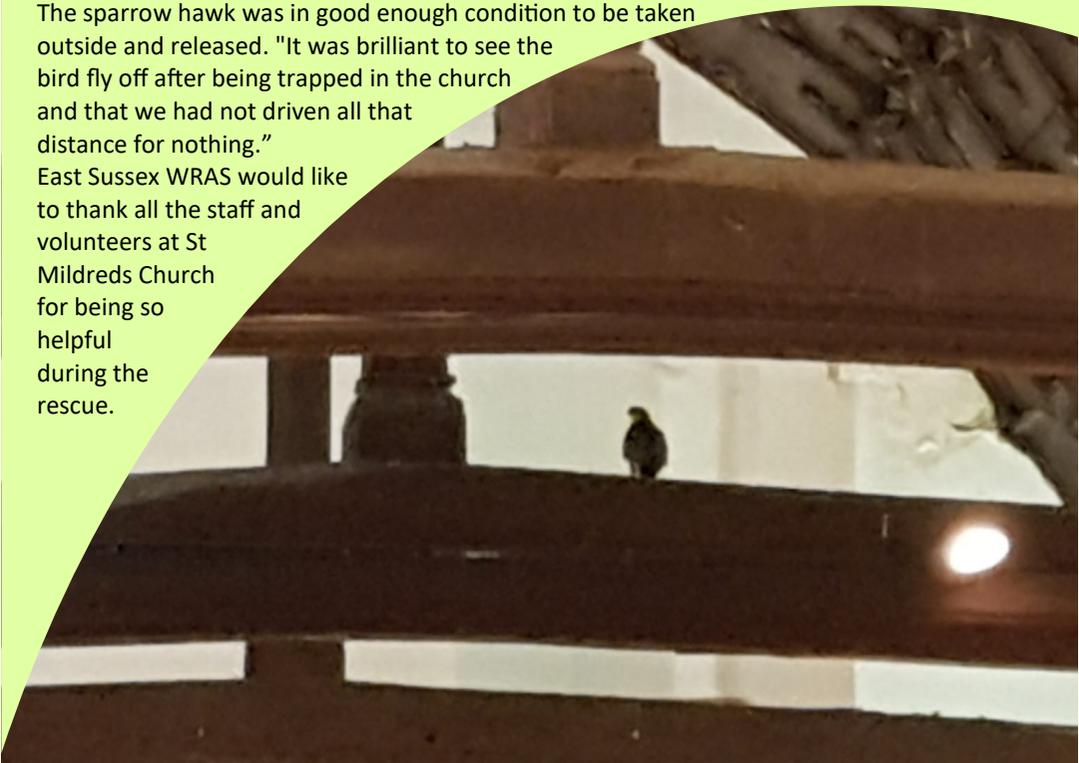
Rescuers Trevor Weeks, Julie Stafford and Brian Downing, used a ladder and three very long poles and nets. Brian stayed in the middle of the church with some ladders to keep the bird flying to either end of the church where Julie and Trevor would attempt capture.

"We had several very close calls, and on one occasion the bird managed to get out of the net before I could get the net against the wall. Trevor and I tried several times but after about 30 minutes I had a second chance and this time I was able to get the net against the wall so the bird was secure" said Julie.

Trevor sprinted to the other end of the church to help Julie, get the bird down to the ground safely. Where he was then able to check the bird over. "The bird was a little tired, which was to be expected, but otherwise in very good health" said Trevor.

The sparrow hawk was in good enough condition to be taken outside and released. "It was brilliant to see the bird fly off after being trapped in the church and that we had not driven all that distance for nothing."

East Sussex WRAS would like to thank all the staff and volunteers at St Mildreds Church for being so helpful during the rescue.



Lewes Trapped

Staff at the Linklater Pavilion on Lewes Railway Land Wildlife Trust were surprised to look out their window and see a seal swimming in the Winterbourne Stream on Monday 9th March. Concerned about the seal's behavior and that it must have come through two sluice gates to get into the stream, staff called out rescuers from East Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service (WRAS).

Trevor Weeks attended on site to assess the situation along with Ellie Langridge. "A passing member of the public who regularly uses the site said they had seen seals in the Winterbourne stream before, but the seal had managed to get into the area known as the heart of reeds due to the amount of flood water. We observed the seal's behavior for a while and it quickly became apparent that the seal was struggling to find his way back out to the stream and River Ouse."

Trevor called out colleagues from British Divers Marine Life Rescue, based in Uckfield, to help assess the situation.

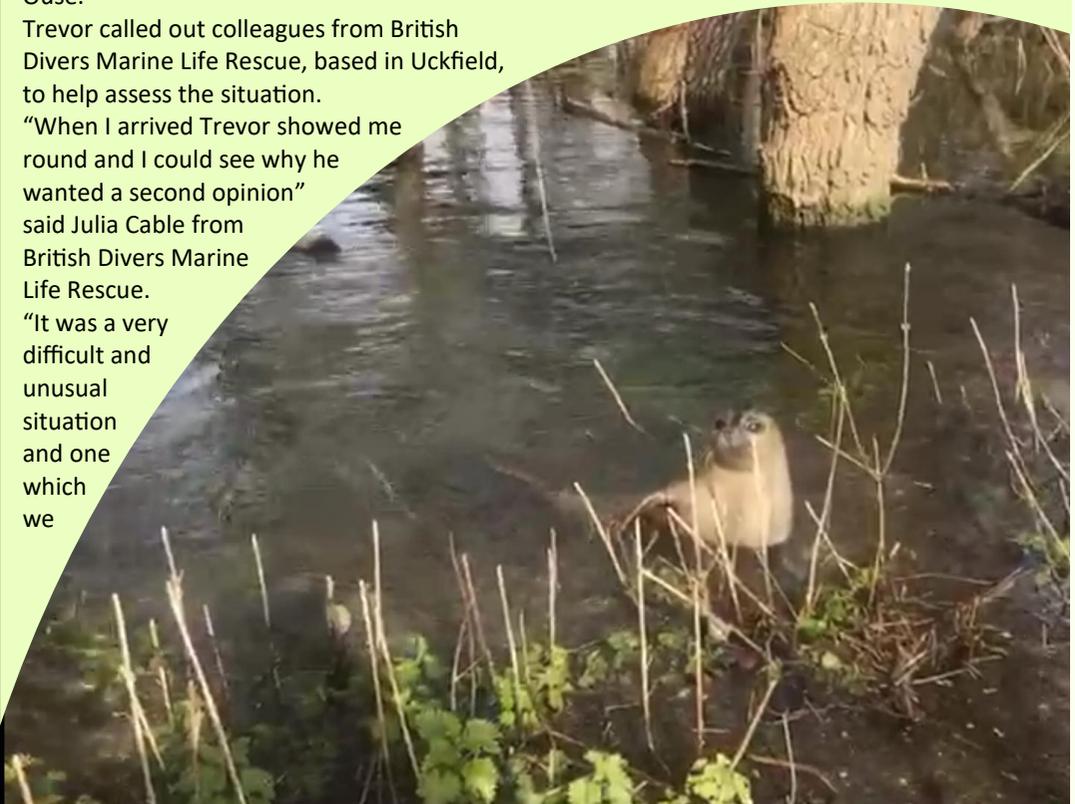
"When I arrived Trevor showed me round and I could see why he wanted a second opinion" said Julia Cable from British Divers Marine Life Rescue.

"It was a very difficult and unusual situation and one which we

were not going to rush into undertaking a capture, so we decided to hang back and monitor the situation for a while."

With the tide turned in the River Ouse, water started pouring out of the Winterbourne Stream and the flood water started to decrease, but rescuers could see the seal clearly wanted to get out via the land. Rescuers continued monitoring from a distance, keeping people away and checking the seal's behavior.

The rescuers luck suddenly changed when the seal decided to move into a flooded piece of woodland next to the "Heart of Reeds". Julia and Trevor moved a large metal fence panel across the flood water where the seal had gained access cutting off



its escape back to deeper water.

“It was very much a waiting game to see if the seal would try and cross the land to the Winterbourne Stream or try and go back into the Heart of Reeds. We weren’t really expecting to get an opportunity to catch the seal but it suddenly attempted to go right up to the blocked escape route, giving Julia a chance to throw a towel over it and attempt to catch it. I sprang forward with a net to help Julia and between the two of us we managed to get the very feisty seal secured” said Trevor. “Trevor and I got exceptionally wet and muddy, it certainly wasn’t the ideal location to attempt capture, but

probably the best opportunity we were going to get. Once Trevor was on top of the seal and had it secured, I prepared a crate and we got the lively seal loaded on board the veterinary ambulance” said Julia.

“Despite being a bit worried about one of its eyes initially, once in the crate we were able to have a better look and it was then clear the eyes were fine and the seal was fit and healthy” said Trevor.

To avoid the seal going straight back into the Winterbourne Stream the seal was transported and released from the slip way at Newhaven Marina.

Every year The River Ouse has Common Seals which swim in land, which is perfectly normal for them to do so on tidal rivers.

Seals have been seen in land as far as Barcombe Mills and on one occasion up towards the Anchor Inn.

They also visit less occasionally the River Cuckmere. The River Adur often has them visiting too. There are regularly seals in the outer harbour at Sovereign Harbour Eastbourne as well as around Denton Island at Newhaven.

If you want to find out more about helping seals in trouble

check out British Divers Marine Life Rescue’s website
bdmlr.org.uk.





As the Volunteer & Student Co-ordinator, my role has changed a lot over the last couple of months. It has obviously been rather strange for everyone. One minute I'm co-ordinating 160 volunteers and numerous students and the next virtually none. Although nothing has changed for the casualties which we are still getting called to. They still need caring for, but unfortunately we have had to reduce the usual number of volunteers from around 6 people per feed and clean shift to just one volunteer a shift.

This action was taken to prevent the spread of the virus, to reduce lots of people coming in close contact with one another, and especially our staff, in a small proximity at the hospital. As you can imagine, a workload for usually 6 people all on one shift can be a bit much, so the staff have been assisting where possible, as our roles have changed.

Staff have adapted their usual daily routine at the centre to doing the feed and clean shift, this is alongside their usual roles like answering the rescue line, admitting new casualties, providing medication, orphan rearing, office admin, rehabilitation monitoring and faecal samples. At the moment we haven't been as busy with casualty admissions as usual, and this has helped us have much more spare time to be able to care for the animals, however, I don't think it will be long before things get on top of us, so we are hoping the volunteers can return soon!

The volunteers are still in touch with us all at the centre, through our private volunteer page on Facebook where we are setting daily challenges to get everyone involved and interacting with each other, and through multiple group chats on WhatsApp with each shift.

As the volunteer coordinator, it's really nice to see all of the volunteers still in touch with each other, and all are keen to return as soon as this is all over. We are hugely grateful for every single one of our volunteers for helping us in so many ways through this difficult time.

From all at wras, including the animals, we miss you and hope to see you all back very soon.

Volunteer Report by Ellie Langridge

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.

Signed _____ Date: _____

Easy Ways to Support WRAS!

There are various ways in which you can help support WRAS and most of the completely free of charge. Check out the various links to Give As You Live, Savoo, Give A Car and many more on our website at:

www.wildlifeambulance.org/how-you-can-help/fundraising/



savoo



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

MARTLET
BUILDERS & DECORATORS LTD

Martlet Builders & Decorators Ltd

Sharpsbridge Farm, Piltdown

Uckfield, East Sussex. TN22 3XG

Helping to Support East Sussex WRAS



Beacon Gull Rescue

On 26th March rescuers received numerous calls after a gull walked inside the Beacon Shopping Centre Eastbourne and then couldn't find his way out.

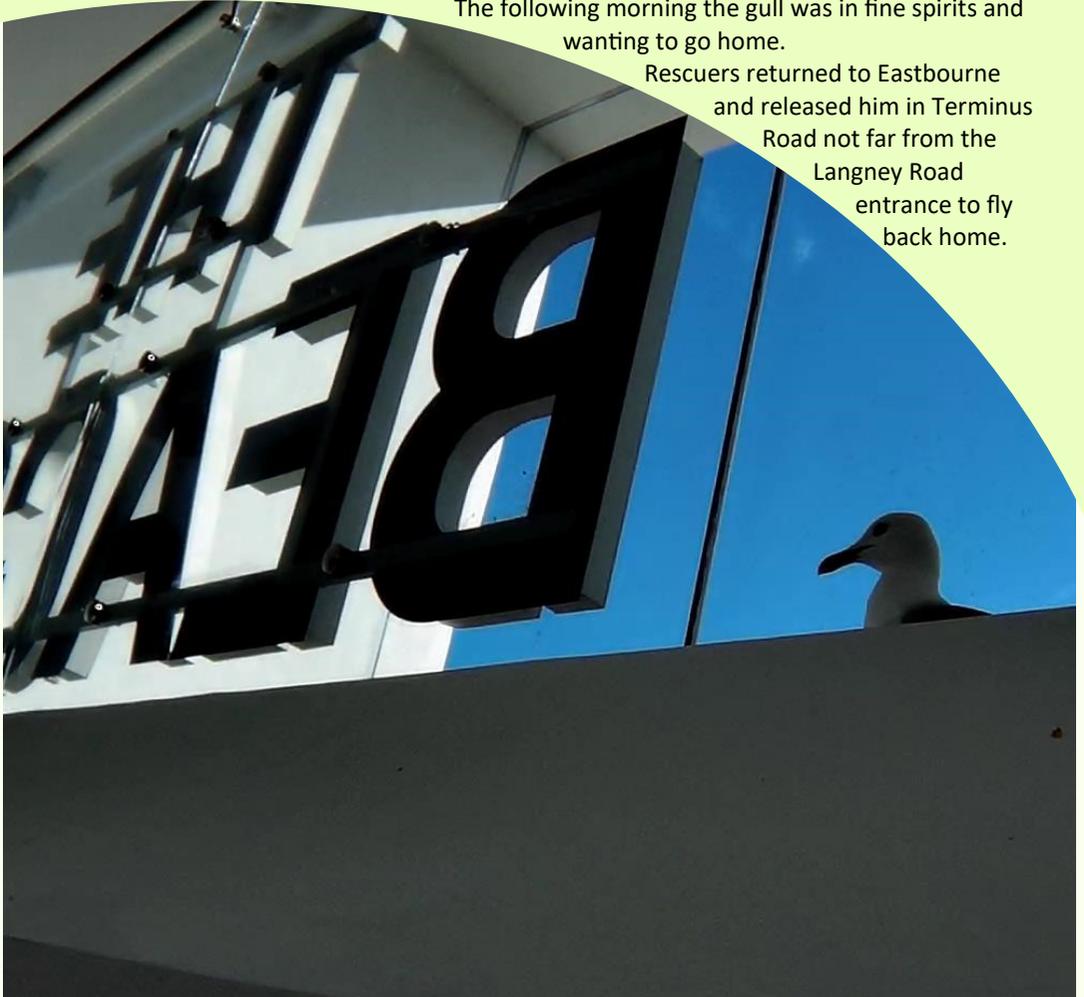
Security staff at the shopping Centre asked WRAS to attend to help the poor creature who was flapping along the windows above the entrance off Langney Road. Rescuers using long poles and nets were unable to catch the gull at first due to the depth of the ledge, so rescuers used the ladders from the ambulance to get up to the windows making capture easier.

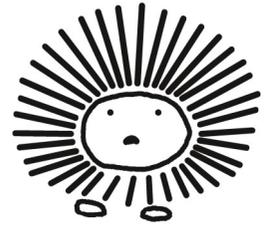
"I've not done many ladder rescues and I was rather nervous" said rescuer Ellie, "Sandra and Jack encouraged the gull towards me and I was then able to net the gull before getting it into a pillow case to for lowering to the ground."

Rescuers checked the gull over, which had an old injury to its foot, and took the gull back to WRAS's Casualty Centre for a check over by Lead Casualty Manager Katie. The bird was given plenty to eat and drink, and was provided with a safe home to rest for the night.

The following morning the gull was in fine spirits and wanting to go home.

Rescuers returned to Eastbourne and released him in Terminus Road not far from the Langney Road entrance to fly back home.





EAST SUSSEX
WRAS
WILDLIFE RESCUE

Information:

East Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service.

Reg Charity 1108880 RVCS No. 6548374

Postal Address: PO Box 2148, Seaford, East Sussex, BN25 9DE.

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

Registered Address: 8 Stour Close, Stone Cross, 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, (New Trustees currently being appointed).

Operations Director: Trevor Weeks MBE

Casualty Managers: Katie Nunn Nash, Kathy Martyn, Karen Francis

Duty Rescue Co-ordinators : Trevor Weeks. Katie Nunn Nash, Karen Francis, Ellie Langridge.

Care Assistant & Orphan Support: Nikola Upton, Holly Davis

Vets: Simon Harris BVSc Cert VR, MRCVS. Dr Chris Hall BVSc, MRCVS, Mike Symons BVSc MRCVS,

Volunteer & Student Co-ordinator: Ellie Langridge.

Casualty Centre: 01825-873003

Website: www.wildlifeambulance.org

24hr Rescue Line: 07815-078234



East Sussex WRAS is proud to receive regular support from International Animal Rescue and Aspen. Thank you.

