

EAST SUSSEX  
**WRAS**  
WILDLIFE RESCUE



Bonfire  
Hedgehog  
Survives

**PAGE 12**



Burnt Owl  
Released

**PAGE 14**

**The Wildlife's Emergency Service.**

# THE Rescuer

**WINTER 2020/21**



*Short Eared  
Owl Released  
Pg 5.*

**24 Hr Rescue Line 07815-078234**



Celebrating 25  
years of  
rescuing wildlife  
across East  
Sussex!

**Page 3**

25th Year Mug  
& Photo  
Competition

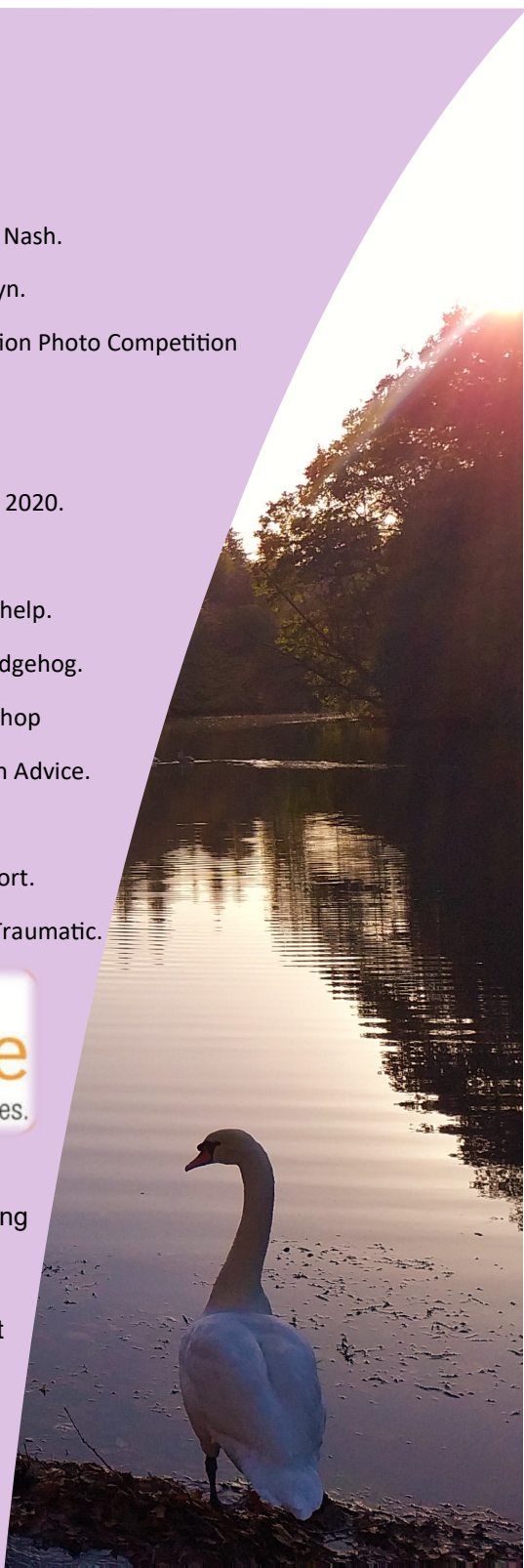
**Page 7**

## Content:

Page 3	WRAS's 25th Year!
Page 4	Crashed Swan.
Page 5	Owl Success by Katie Nunn Nash.
Page 6	Pigeon Post by Kathy Martyn.
Page 7	WRAS's 25th Year Celebration Photo Competition
Page 8 & 9	Meet the Volunteers
Page 10	Mud Rescue.
Page 11	WRAS's 5000th Casualty of 2020.
Page 12	Burnt Hedgehog Recovers.
Page 14 & 15	Burnt Owl needs specialist help.
Page 16	Sussex Police Help Save Hedgehog.
Page 17	Treasure Trove at Charity Shop
Page 18	New Hedgehog Hibernation Advice.
Page 19	Cliff Fall Fox Rescue.
Page 20	Festive Season Rescue Report.
Page 23	Finding a Casualty Can Be Traumatic.



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The wildlife, WRAS staff and volunteers would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for helping us get to our 25th anniversary! East Sussex Wildlife Rescue was established as a voluntary group in 1996.

February 1996 saw WRAS founder Trevor Weeks attend the Sea Empress Oil Spill helping Redbrook Wildlife Rescue, British Divers Marine Life Rescue and Greenpeace to deal with hundreds of oil covered sea birds. The resulting publicity also saw Trevor's own rescue work sky rocket as more people became aware of the service he was offering. The downside was that he couldn't cope, and ran up a large vets bill that he struggled to pay back. He took out a loan and got into debt, but Horam based veterinary surgeon Robin Hooper offered to cut his vets bill in half if Trevor established WRAS as a voluntary group to help fund his work. After appealing for help a public meeting was held in Hailsham and WRAS's first committee was formed.

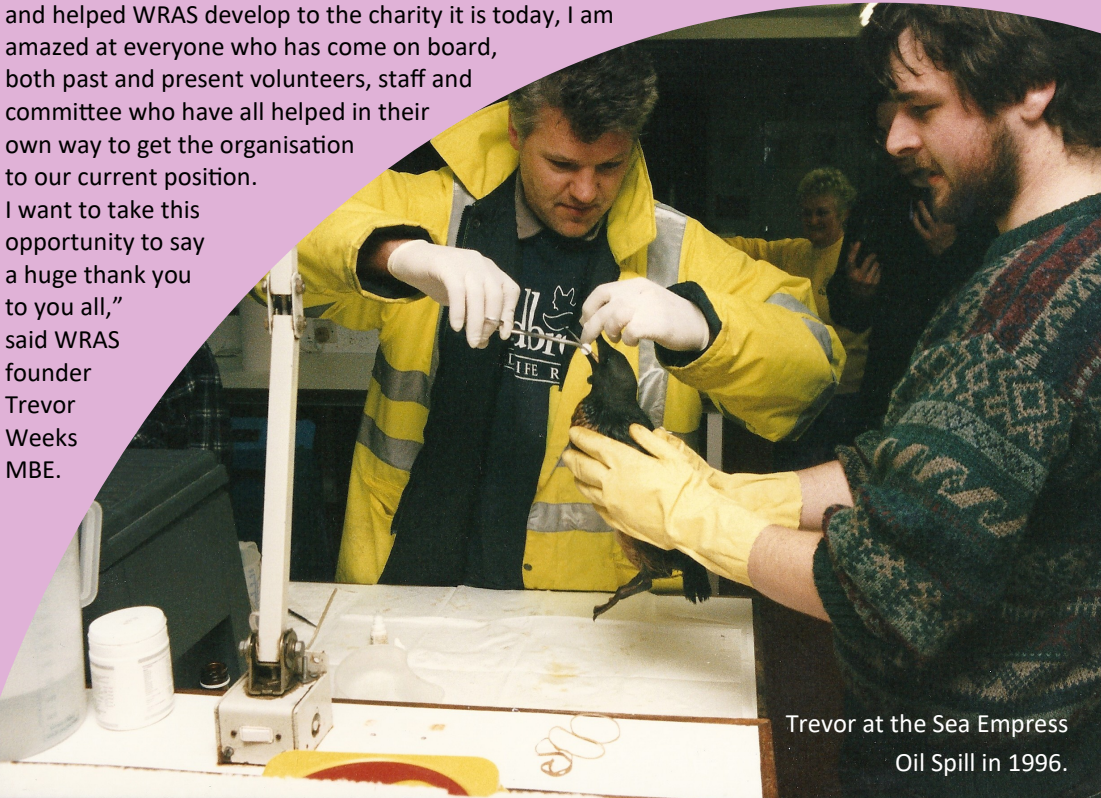
Over the last 25 years WRAS has grown enormously. Initially the group dealt with around 500 to a 1000 casualties a year, but has grown significantly. WRAS developed its first small holding hospital near Hailsham in the mid 2000s and rapidly needed more space, moving to its current location at the Shaw Barn at Whitesmith in 2008.

WRAS can now take over 250 casualties at any one time, has a fleet of 6 veterinary ambulances, a charity shop, has 5 full time and 4 part time members of staff, and is dealing with over 5000 casualties a year!

How has this been possible? Well that's all thanks to you - our supporters and donors! We may be out there doing the practical work, but this is all funded by donations, and without which none of this work would have been possible.

"I feel really humble that the people of Sussex have taken the plight of our wildlife so seriously and helped WRAS develop to the charity it is today, I am amazed at everyone who has come on board, both past and present volunteers, staff and committee who have all helped in their own way to get the organisation to our current position.

I want to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to you all," said WRAS founder Trevor Weeks MBE.



Trevor at the Sea Empress  
Oil Spill in 1996.



## Crashed Swan

The winter is the time of year where young swans are leaving their parents and begin flying around on their own, but they are still wearing their L plates. East Sussex WRAS is urging anyone who sees a swan crash land to call their local wildlife rescue as often these swans injure their keel or have very painful injuries which cannot be seen externally. WRAS is asking people not to herd swans into nearby ponds and rivers but to stay with the swan, keep them safe and call for help.

“The swan may still be able to walk around, but could be suffering from invisible injuries. Staying with the swan will keep the swan safe and stop them from walking out into the road, but will also help our ambulances to quickly find the swan and get them picked up and checked over” said WRAS Rescue Co-ordinator Trevor Weeks MBE. This morning WRAS’s veterinary ambulances have attended two calls within just 15 minutes of each other. One call via Sussex Police to a swan by Fort Fun on Eastbourne Sea Front and the other just off Wordsworth Drive Langney. Unfortunately nobody was waiting with the swan near Fort Fun which sadly was not found, but the lady stayed with the swan at Langney and that was picked

up and taken to WRAS’s Casualty Centre for assessment. “Most crashed swans recover within 24-48 hours and can be released, but those with more serious injuries can take a couple of weeks or more, and sometimes need specialist help from the Swan Sanctuary at Shepperton” said Trevor.

These incidents increase during the winter as youngsters start to fly off from their parents and explore the local area, but as they are not that experienced they get caught out during windy weather, as well as suffering from turbulence, it’s a myth that they land on roads thinking they are water. Below: Rescuer Tony Neads delivers a crashed swan from Langney to WRAS’s





# Owl Success!

By Katie Nunn Nash

In August 2020 a short eared owl was admitted after being found grounded at Firle Beacon.

On examination it was noticed he was suffering from a broken wing and that x-rays would be required to see the extent of the damage.

The owl was anesthetized and an x-ray was taken revealing what we thought, he had broken the right metacarpals. At this stage a full recovery could not be guaranteed due to the closeness to the joint. Nevertheless, the wing was splinted and re x-rayed to see how well the bones would realign. We were very pleased with how well they did and it had a good chance of calcifying correctly without impeding the joint movement.

He was placed in one of our incubators to recover from the anaesthetic and was monitored closely.

After a few days he was eating on his own and was a very well behaved patient.

Two weeks later and it was time to reassess. X-rays were retaken, the splint and bandage were removed and the fractures had calcified really well. Happy the fractures were stable, the splint was left off and he remained in his incubator for a further week to restrict movement and prevent further injury.

The following week, he was moved into an aviary and was flying within seconds! Not well, but he flew. This gave us the confidence needed that he would make a full recovery. Over the next 5 weeks, we focused on building his strength back in the wing. He was getting regular flight tests in our flight aviary and went from strength to strength, flying higher and stronger every time.

FINALLY, after 8 weeks in care, he was given the all clear to return home!

Successes like this wouldn't be possible without the generous donations from our supporters and the time given to us by our dedicated volunteers.





This year has certainly been my busiest for pigeons, wood pigeons in particular, although my dove numbers have been lower than usual. Storm Francis had a lot to answer for, going from 14 pigeons at home to 28 in 2 days was crazy!

When I have so many, I have to have them in separate areas dependant on age and illness etc, so that I can keep a close eye on those that need it, and also keep any potentially poorly or infectious ones away from the others.

We have had an influx of fancy pigeons this Summer, including white fan tails, and another fluffy footed tumbler, which will be looking for a home at some point in the next 6 months, along with lovely Malteaser, who sadly has still not found a home.

I ended the feral pigeon season with 2 different pairs of babies, each pair had 1 with nasty head injuries, having been scalped, and feathers missing all over their bodies and wings. Both are now doing really well, having had the odd set back. One, named Domino, has now settled into the indoor aviary, while the other is now weaning and will soon be going into the aviary joining his sibling.

We have certainly had some real characters this year, beginning with Pinocchio and Chip. Pinocchio, whom you may remember from my articles in previous newsletters has now gone home, I keep hoping she will be spotted in the wild with her distinctive beak. Chip, who we started the season with, is still with us, having got really poorly during weaning and developed neurological issues. She is still progressing, and was practising some controlled low level flying a few days ago, so I am hopeful she may still be releasable soon.

## **WRAS's 25th Year Celebration**

### **Sussex Nature Photo Competition & Mug.**

As it is WRAS's 25th year as a voluntary group, we want to celebrate the nature of East Sussex by running a nature photo competition. It will be £5 to enter up to 5 photos and then an additional £1 per extra photo sent. The photos have to be based on the theme of "Sussex Nature" so can include photos of wildlife, plants or country scenes etc. In each edition of the newsletter we will announce a winner who will receive a celebratory WRAS 25th Year mug and their photo in the newsletter and on our social media sites. We will also produce a calendar of the best entries, anyone featuring in the calendar will also receive a WRAS 25th year mug too.

**How to enter:** Your photos need to be in either a png, gif, jpg, bmp or similar picture format and between 1 and 2 MB in size. E-mail your photos as an attachment to [media@eastsussexwras.org.uk](mailto:media@eastsussexwras.org.uk) along with your name, address and phone number. Then send payment via paypal to the same e-mail address and add a note with the payment to say it is WRAS's Photo Competition and your name. If you are sending money from a different e-mail address from which you are sending the photos, please give the e-mail address in the note so we can match up the payment to the photos. We can also accept photos on disk or memory card with a cheque payable to "East Sussex WRAS" if sent to East Sussex WRAS, Unit 2, The Shaw Barn, Whitesmith, BN8 6JD.

**Want to buy a mug?** If you don't want to enter but fancy buying one of our celebratory 25th year mugs then you can pick one up from our Eastbourne Charity Shop at 192 Terminus Road Eastbourne BN21 3BB, or from our the reception at our Casualty Centre. They are also available via our Ebay site for £5.00 plus postage. T&C's apply please see our website.





# Meet the Volunteers...

## **Keith Ring - Volunteer Rescuer.**

Well I was looking at finding somewhere to volunteer at when I saw one of the WRAS transit vans driving around Polegate. A detailed look on the website and I thought yes this could definitely be it. Having spent 33 years of my life in the fire and rescue service responding to a range of rescues around the world, I thought my skills and experience must be transferable. Throughout my operational career I had responded to numerous incidents involving large animals such as cows and horses but I had very little experience with smaller wildlife.

After an interview with Trevor I was placed under the guidance of Ellie who showed me the ropes. After a few weeks I was off and running on my own. From day one I was very impressed with the welcome I received from all staff and fellow volunteers, they all quickly made me feel part of the team.

I have thoroughly enjoyed responding to collect a range of different wildlife taking them to the vets or back to the centre where the dedicated team provide the best chance of survival and release. It is always a great honour and pleasure to release any injured wildlife back into their natural habitat. It was amazing seeing a buzzard flying back up into the trees in the grounds of Glyndebourne. As well as the 33 years responding to emergency incidents in the fire and rescue service, I have also just completed a further 7 in a non-operational role. I was actually on a wildlife evening shift on the day of reaching my 40 years and completed the night with releasing an owl, seeing it fly off into the night was a perfect end to a milestone in my career.

## **Would you like to Volunteer at WRAS?**

To find out more, head to our website [wildlifeambulance.org](http://wildlifeambulance.org).

If you have any questions just contact Ellie Langridge Volunteer & Student Co-ordinator via e-mail [ellie@eastsussexwras.org.uk](mailto:ellie@eastsussexwras.org.uk) or call 01825-873003.





### **Linda Dunn - Trustee**

I had the privilege of being appointed as a WRAS Trustee at the beginning of 2020. Originally from London, I took early retirement to Hailsham 5 years ago. I have worked with a wide range of organisations both within the Charity and Public sector, providing Recruitment and H.R. services. I have a good knowledge of business development and project management and have jointly run a successful business which I was lucky enough to sell on as a going concern. I have volunteered with a number of organisations and worked with WRAS in the orphan room, looked after the winter Hedgehogs and covered some shifts feeding and cleaning. I have found my 'niche' with WRAS and have learnt so much more about our wildlife.



### **Laura Dwyer - Feed and Clean**

I have loved every minute of being a volunteer at WRAS. There's such a sense of 'team' and it's without a doubt that everyone at the centre is working towards a common goal which is to do everything they can to achieve the best outcome for all of the beautiful creatures.

Since my childhood, I've had a passion for our wonderful wildlife and to be part of a service that offers such amazing dedicated care is extremely gratifying.

I've grown to have a fondness for all sorts of animals and birds which I hadn't really encountered before. I always knew I loved hedgehogs and rabbits ...and any orphaned babies would tug on my heart strings, but I'd never really anticipated how much I'd love pigeons and seagulls too! Who knew they had so much character!

It's been a huge learning experience and I can share helpful information with friends and family about the amazing wildlife that is all around us. So thank you WRAS for making my Fridays my smiley day!

# Mud Rescue

By Rescuer Mark Harris

The 21st October had been a very wet but reasonably quiet day for rescues when a call came in that a lady had found a poorly young hedgehog in East Hoathly. Being on rescue duty that day Mark had just made a cup of tea when he was asked to attend. With East Hoathly only being a 5 minute drive from our rescue centre, Mark set out with every intention of finishing his still warm cup of tea on his return.

East Hoathly is a rather small village, with rather small roads, meaning for an interesting journey in a Transit Van searching for a named house! With the help of a Sat Nav, surely nothing could go wrong!

However what hadn't been mentioned was the fork in the road. Choosing the right hand fork there was a fifty percent chance of this being the right decision. However, the road seemed to narrow the more he travelled down it, when we came to a dead end, the Sat Nav was asking him to make a U – Turn. This wasn't possible, so reversing back down the lane it was! Unfortunately, it wasn't long before the ambulance became stuck in the mud!

After exhausting a supply of cardboard Hedgehog rescue boxes under the tyres without anything resembling grip, the tyres remained stuck. After walking some way up the lane to a house in the hope of borrowing a shovel Mark also made a call to our Rescue Line to report that there was a fair chance he might be the next rescue himself.

Luckily a kind resident provided a shovel, which Mark used to spend the next half an hour covering himself in a mixture of soft mud and horse dung. Still no luck! Finally someone was able to contact the owners of the land, who arrived onsite to unlock the gate and with the help of two other people, push the vehicle out on to a hard surface.

The lady with the poorly Hedgehog, having been informed that the rescuer was being rescued, had put up a very large sign saying “WRAS THIS WAY” with a large black arrow. “She was obviously beginning to have some doubts about my navigational skills” said Mark.

Finally a couple of hours after setting out on his 5 minute journey Mark was able to find a very relieved caller, collect the hog and bring him back to the centre, where he found a rather cold cup of tea as a reward.





Meet WRAS's 5000th casualty of 2020!

The hedgehog, called Henry, was found during the Night by residents in Christie Ave, Ringmer, after they heard his prolonged chesty coughing. Concerned for his welfare they picked him up and kept him safe before calling WRAS in the morning.

Casualty Manager Karen Francis admitted the hedgehog and said "initial examination and checks show he has a problem with lungworm, which will require several weeks' worth of treatment."

## *WRAS's 5000th Casualty!*

Henry is the 5000th casualty which East Sussex Wildlife Rescue and Ambulance Service have admitted into care so far in 2020. This is so far over 1032 more casualties than 2019, the biggest and most substantial increase the charity has ever faced.


"The spring and early summer were very busy for WRAS, not helped by so many people being at home during lockdown and so many young and baby wild creatures about, leading to more conflict between humans and wildlife" explained WRAS founder Trevor Weeks MBE.

"It is likely Henry will be in care with us for Christmas and into New Year but once fit and well, and as long as we have some suitable mild weather we will be able to release him back to his home range in the New Year" added Karen.

East Sussex WRAS has seen a reduction in donations during 2020 primarily due to the lack of fundraising events, unable to run their training courses, or attend fetes and talks. East Sussex WRAS is appealing for donation to help bolster the charities funds so they can continue to increase and build on their existing hospital which has started to hit its capacity for short periods of time during the busy season.

Anyone wanting to make a  
donation  
should call 01825-873003  
Or visit-  
[wildlifeambulance.org](http://wildlifeambulance.org)





WRAS  
was  
called out to  
a hedgehog  
which crawled out  
from under a bonfire  
in Pevensey Bay on 20th  
October 2020.

Rescuer Thea Taylor rushed to the scene to aid the hedgehog after residents in Coast Road, Pevensey Bay, spotted the hedgehog crawling out from under the bonfire mid afternoon.

“When I arrived I checked the hedgehog over and it was clear he had been one very lucky hedgehog! There were lots of burnt spikes he was suffering from smoke inhalation and on first glance it didn’t look like the skin was badly affected, so I rushed the hedgehog back to WRAS’s Casualty Centre” said Thea.

Once at WRAS’s Casualty Centre at Whitesmith, Casualty Manager Karen Francis checked the hedgehog, weighing over 1 kilo in weight, for burns and other injuries. “I couldn’t find anything serious but he had a lot of burnt spines which smelt horrible” said Karen. First aid was provided to the hedgehog including giving oxygen for the effects of the smoke inhalation and bathing him in cool water to ease the effects on the skin. WRAS’s Vet Mike Symons later checked the hedgehog over and was happy with its condition and treatment.

The hedgehog was kept in under observation to monitor its breathing and skin condition to ensure no complications develop. He was given daily treatment initially, and luckily not too much of the skin was affected. After a month in care for rehabilitation, he was eventually released back into the wild on 18th November!

***Burnt Hedgehog recovers***



## ***Christmas Thank You to Morrisons Seaford.***

Big Christmas thank you to Morrison's Seaford Store for presenting East Sussex Wildlife Rescue with a Christmas hamper for its animals, staff and volunteers. After a very busy and difficult year this has been a very welcomed and a pleasant surprise. Thank you Seaford Morrisons.



## ***December Baby Pigeon.***

This very small baby pigeon was rescued on 11th December in Willingdon. The little chap was delivered to our pigeon and dove expert Kathy Martyn for specialist care. Watched over by her version of the three wise men.



## ***A22 Crashed Swan.***

Rescues rushed to this swan after it crashed onto the A22 Golden Jubilee Way Eastbourne in October, after 48 hours rest he was released at

Princes Park.



## ***Stunned Sparrowhawk released.***

This amazing bird of prey was rescued on 12th October, very badly stunned. With no other obvious injuries the bird was treated and bedded down. After just 48 hours of care the Sparrowhawk had recovered enough to be released.



**Burnt Owl needs  
specialist help at  
Wildlife Aid.**



This gorgeous Tawny Owl was admitted into WRAS's care on Friday 4th December after falling down a chimney in Vines Cross near Horam. The bird fluttered down the chimney and landed on the hot embers of an open fire. The owl was extremely lucky not to have been seriously burnt but did have extensive damage to many of its tail and wing feathers. As a result, the bird needed specialist help to repair the damaged feathers. This is not something which East Sussex WRAS has experience of so the bird was sent to Wildlife Aid at Leatherhead. The specialist procedure called "Imping" involves repairing the feathers with remains of moulted feathers collected from other Tawny Owls whilst in care. Within just 48 hours of the repair work taking place the owl was flying well. So on Tuesday 15th December the owl returned to WRAS and was released back into the wild at Vines Cross. Thank you to Wildlife Aid for their help in getting this owl back home so fast.

**Release**









A big Thank you to Sussex Police for delivering this very poorly hedgehog to our veterinary hospital on Friday 11th December. Whilst driving through Windmill Hill officers noticed a gentlemen acting suspiciously so they pulled over. On stopping to question the gentleman they soon found out he was looking at a hedgehog.

Hedgehogs should not be out during the day time at any time of year, so the officers knew they needed to get the hedgehog some help. They were also concerned about the hedgehog's size with more cold winter weather on the way. Officers called East Sussex Wildlife Rescue for help and agreed to deliver the casualty across to their hospital at Whitesmith near Lewes.

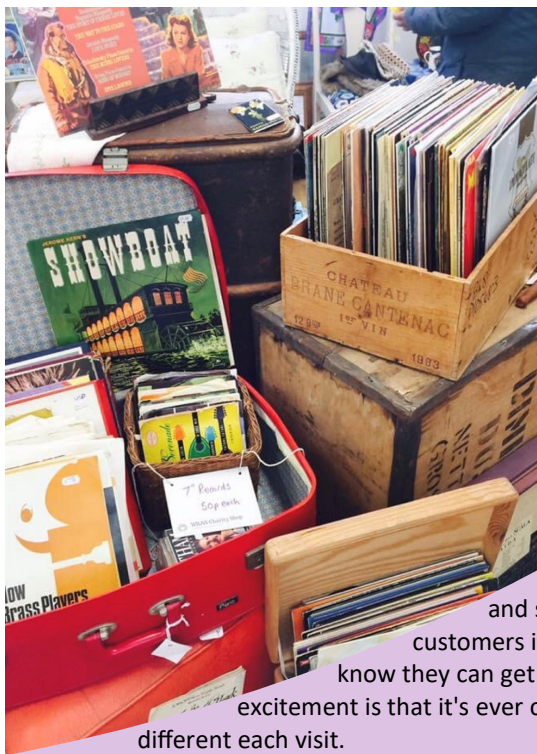
"A big thank you to Sussex Police for delivering the hedgehog to us, they did the right thing in calling to check what course of action to take. Our on duty ambulances were unfortunately quite a distance away so rather than wait for us to attend the officers kindly drove the hedgehog across to us" said Duty Rescue Co-ordinator Trevor Weeks.

The hedgehog which turns out to be a boy was checked over and weighed. His weight is only 380grams which is too small to survive hibernation.

"We have named the hedgehog 'Bill' and will take good care of him. The actions of the gentlemen and of Sussex Police have saved this hedgehogs life, and he will go on to live another day and hopefully help the hedgehog population in Windmill Hill to flourish once released" said Trevor.

***Sussex Police help save hedgehog.***





Since opening our charity shop in Terminus Road Eastbourne we have been fortunate to receive thousands of donated items.

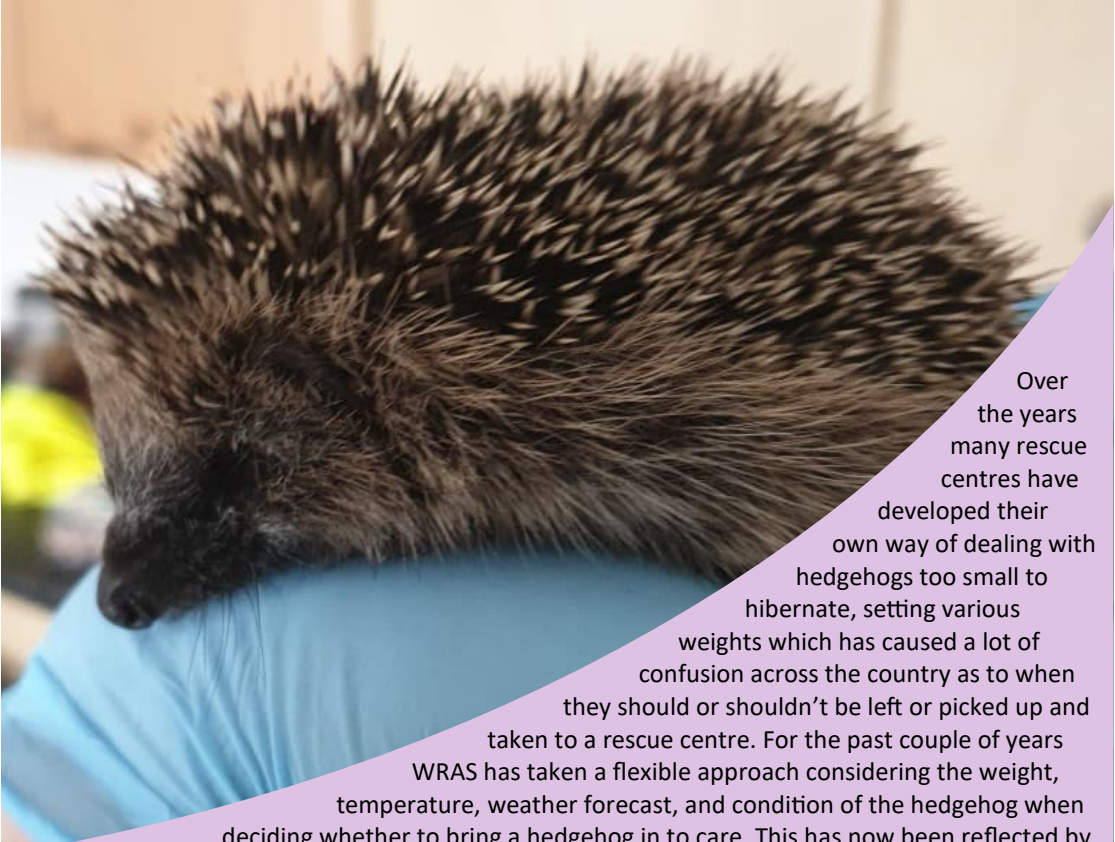
Something that is quite special to our charity shop is that upstairs we have a vintage/retro theme. Some people say it's like going back in time to their granny's lounge and spend what seems like hours reminiscing. For many customers it is their favourite part of our charity shop and they know they can get something unique for their home or wardrobe. The excitement is that it's ever changing as new things get donated and sold, it's different each visit.

There's always a selection of vinyl records, books ranging from antique to retro 60's 70's 80's, clothing & accessories, small furniture, prints & paintings, textile items, crockery and glassware. Often we're lucky to have unusual pieces such as gramophones, vintage dressing tables, art deco tea sets, vintage oil lamps, Victorian poison bottles, typewriters amongst other pieces. My favourite items are vintage suitcases, trunks and doctors bags. As much as trunks may seem impractical for their original purpose many people now use them for coffee tables and decoration. One customer recently bought a vintage suitcase to make into a dog bed, what was extra fitting was the initials stamped into the case were the first letters of the dogs name!

A lot of the time people kindly give items to us after they have had a sort out and have items they no longer want or use. These items don't usually have sentimental attachment but once in a while people donate things that are very precious to them. A very special donation that sticks in my mind was of a lady's childhood doll (pictured above) this beautiful vintage doll had been with this lady for 60 years. She obviously had a special attachment to her and many fond memories. She had researched and realised that the doll being a walking 'pedigree' doll from the 50s, could make £50 - £80 and had decided that as she didn't have anyone to hand the doll down to she would like to donate the doll to make money for WRAS. This was such a special donation and was a privilege that she chose to donate something so sentimental to

a cause close to her heart. We are always in need of more stock for our vintage area so if you have things you would like to donate please contact us on 01323 643111.

**Treasure Trove at Charity Shop** by Faye Carrick, Shop Manager



Over the years many rescue centres have developed their own way of dealing with hedgehogs too small to hibernate, setting various weights which has caused a lot of confusion across the country as to when they should or shouldn't be left or picked up and taken to a rescue centre. For the past couple of years WRAS has taken a flexible approach considering the weight, temperature, weather forecast, and condition of the hedgehog when deciding whether to bring a hedgehog in to care. This has now been reflected by many of the larger rescue centres and hedgehog organisations, standardising the advice given on bringing hedgehogs into rescue centres as it can be detrimental to their health if they do not need to be in care.

Hedgehogs do not hibernate at a set time of the year, and as we saw last winter, most of them did not hibernate at all, so many hedgehogs with supportive feeding were able to stay in the wild without needing to come into WRAS.

Studies have shown that hedgehogs that weigh less than 450grams will probably not survive hibernation (although some occasionally do). Greater weight may enhance their chances of survival. Many hedgehogs weighing less than 600grams do survive hibernation. Nationally rescue centres are adopting the advice that healthy hedgehogs over 500grams should not need bringing into rescue centres and should be allowed to hibernate naturally.

Bringing healthy hedgehogs into care unnecessarily is counterproductive, causing stress and amplifying any parasite levels as a result.

If a hedgehog is out during the day time or appears ill or injured in any way it should still be rescued and dealt with by a rescue charity. Please do not attempt to look after an underweight hedgehog without getting it checked over by an experienced hedgehog carer.

***New National Hedgehog Hibernation Advice***

## ***Cliff Fall Fox rescued.***

East Sussex WRAS received reports on Thursday 17th September about a fox with an injured leg at Cuckmere Haven near Seaford, we were called to go and assess the situation so without hesitation we rushed straight there and upon arriving we realised we couldn't drive down to where the fox was located, we had to take the long walk down to the beach area where it was last seen. Unfortunately we couldn't see the fox so we walked back to our vehicle and made the decision to return later for a second look. Just before 7pm determined not to give up and knowing that we were rapidly losing daylight, we walked as quickly as we could carrying a cage, dog grasper and a net, along with safety equipment, as we would be working extremely close to the cliffs. The walk down to the site was approximately 2 miles, so we certainly got our step count up!

Upon arriving on the beach we couldn't see the fox, until we spotted it hobbling along the bottom of the cliff face and saw the injury to the rear leg. The fox was clearly in a lot of discomfort. We watched the fox for a few minutes to see what it wanted to do before we decided to use the net and successfully captured the fox and secured it in the cage. We then contacted the on call rescue coordinator Ellie who decided it would need to come to the centre for further assessment. When we arrived at the centre both Ellie and Trevor put a muzzle on the fox and began to assess the fox and found she was clearly very underweight, severely dehydrated as well as suffering from an old injury to the foot. The marks on the fox and its injuries suggested that the fox may have fallen from the cliff at some point. WRAS's vets found the fox to be deaf and suffering from head trauma. Despite attempting treatment, sadly the fox had to be put to sleep.

Cases like this are not easy to deal with, after putting in so much effort to find, rescue and treat the fox, to then have to euthanize the animal is so heart wrenching and disappointing.

We have to remind ourselves that we are doing this job to prevent and stop suffering and sometimes putting casualties to sleep is the kindest option and we can't let our emotions make the decisions and we must always act in the best interest of the animal, however sad.

Written by Rescuers  
Andrew &  
Charlotte Loftus.







Like most people WRAS is glad 2020 is over and has high hopes for 2021!

The festive season saw staff taking less time off than normal due to Covid 19 and very few volunteers able to work within the centre. Christmas Day saw Kathy, Karen, Carla, Andy, Ollie and Kristy helping out at the centre, and the admission of just two casualties, a road casualty pheasant and a rare visitor for us, a velvet scoter. The scoter was picked up by a member of public due to unusual behaviour, sitting on the busy walkway at Eastbourne Harbour. Showing signs of a possible collision with a boat, she is now doing well, putting weight on and has a great attitude!

A sparrowhawk needed rescuing on 29th December at Isfield Recreation Ground. The bird is thought to have flown into the green mesh fencing surrounding the children's playground. Rescuers had to catch the bird in a hedge whilst standing in a stream full of cold water. The very small sparrowhawk is recovering and expected to be released soon.

A stunning Red Throated Diver was admitted from Bexhill beach after being seen struggling. Once caught it was clear he was really underweight, and despite the care teams best efforts he passed away within 48 hours of admission.

WRAS also received reports of a penguin like bird off Newhaven. A photo of the bird sent to WRAS revealed the bird to be a juvenile razor bill which are common off the Sussex coast during the winter.

Our first release of 2021 was a juvenile gull being released at Birling Gap. He was admitted back in November with a large infected foot and broken leg. After weeks of treatment he was finally ready to be released.

The year started with two rescues involving East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, who helped rescue a pigeon trapped in netting of a building in Uckfield High Street, and a gull in a chimney in Hastings, both of which are now in care at WRAS.

***Festive Season Rescue Report.***

**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](http://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/](http://www.wildlifeambulance.org/how-you-can-help/fundraising/)



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## Finding a Casualty Can Be Traumatic

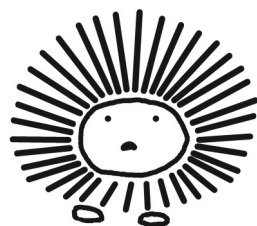
Finding a casualty can be quite a traumatic experience. It causes people to feel a wide range of emotions from frustration and anger to becoming upset and crying. In addition, it can be very difficult to find someone to help. This compounds the frustration and multiplies the emotions. Covid has not helped with resources being more limited nationally, with some rescue centres having only just re-opened their doors, and others working limited hours still and many just not able to provide an out of hours service, because they don't have the resources.

Here at WRAS we decided that we wanted to put measures in place to continue providing our service round the clock the best we could. We also decided to continue providing as much of an out of hours service as we could, but only dealing with emergencies, as the staff who help cover also have to work during the day. Providing this service does stretch us to our limit. Our staff and volunteers go out of their way to do as much as they can.

In many parts of the UK and even in parts of neighbouring counties, services like WRAS do not exist especially out of hours. Some wildlife hospitals rely on people delivering casualties and will not collect or go out to rescues. Nevertheless, here in East Sussex, WRAS does.

We frequently receive calls from angry and frustrated people who are clearly struggling to deal with the emotions of finding a sick or injured casualty. We especially find people who have found sick or injured pets or agricultural animals get very frustrated because they cannot get help. We often experience very aggressive behaviour towards us. We do understand, empathise and appreciate that this behaviour is caused by the exasperation of the incident and out of desperation to get the poor creature the relief and care it so needs. Over the last ten years, we have increased our ability to deal with rescues from with around 1800 rescues in 2014 up to 5000 a year (during 2020). Annoyingly this never seems to be enough.

We need your help; the only way we are going to be able to help more casualties and people, especially out of hours is to have more regular support and donations. We need trained staff to provide emergency out of hours coverage, rescue and treatment. If you can spare us just £1 a month as a standing order, it would help us budget and plan for the future. If you can't commit to a regular donation please consider a one off donation. We promise you that we will continue to strive to expand and improve our service so we can help even more people.



**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.)

**Operations Director:** Trevor Weeks MBE

**Casualty Managers:** Katie Nunn Nash, Karen Francis

**Rehabilitation Supervisor:** Kathy Martyn

**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](http://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.*

