

EAST SUSSEX  
**WRAS**  
WILDLIFE RESCUE

September 2021



# THE RESCUER

Rescue Line: 07815-078234.

Reg Charity 1108880

[www.wildlifeambulance.org](http://www.wildlifeambulance.org)

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*WRAS's mission is to save, care and protect our precious and endangered wildlife across East Sussex.*

*Our vision is to be the leading provider of veterinary care and treatment to all wildlife in East Sussex.*

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Reg Charity 1108880

Reg Address: 8 Stour Close,  
Stone Cross, Pevensey, BN24 5QU



# STORK WITH FRACTURED WING RESCUED

WRAS receive a call in June to a stork with a damaged wing at Mayfield.

On answering the call, rescuers thought the bird was probably a heron, but to their surprise, the patient was actually a white stork.

Once back at WRAS's Casualty Centre in Whitesmith, the care team discovered that the poor bird's wing was badly fractured. Its wounds were cleaned up and medication was administered. WRAS vet Mike Symons drove up to the centre to assess its condition.

Casualty manager Katie contacted the White Stork Project as the bird was ringed. Liaising with the project it was agreed that WRAS's vets would look at removing the fractured section of wing and allowing the bird to live at the White Stork Project as part of a breed and release programme.

This stork was apparently released at

Wadhurst last year and had made its way down to Mayfield.

On 7th June WRAS's vet Mike anaesthetised the stork after having to make a special mask for him as the bird's beak was too long. The operation was a success but the recovery was longer than expected.

The stork was then transported to the White Stork Project and returned to their care.

We are all hoping that we start to see more of these birds in East Sussex in the near future.





## RESCUED GANNET FROM SEAFORD TURNS OUT TO BE 15 YEARS OLD!

Rescuers Lisa Turner and Sandra Furner attended a rescue of a gannet struggling in entangled plastic netting at Splash Point, Seaford.

On arrival, they couldn't see the bird anywhere nearby or along the shoreline. Disappointed with the outcome, Lisa and Sandra jumped back in the ambulance but WRAS received a second call to say there was a gannet in similar circumstances in a garden close by, so they were on site quickly and contained the bird using our rescue nets.

The bird was loaded into WRAS Ambulance and drive to the centre at Whitesmith.

Gannets have strong, sharp beaks so to avoid injury Holly and Karen held the bird while lead casualty manager Katie cut the plastic away from its legs.

After a couple of days of feeding up the gannet was sent to RSPCA Mallydams Wood at Fairlight for more specialist treatment.

The gannet had a ring on its leg, and on looking up the records the bird was released in 2006, and was now 15 years old!

Their vet had to administer an anesthetic in order to cut away the dead tissue caused by the tightness of the plastic when wrapped around the legs and feet. The operation was a success, and the bird placed into an outside pen with access to fish and water for swimming.

It is hoped the gannet will be suitable for release in the near future.

Big thank you to RSPCA Mallydams for their assistance with this Gannet.



# TWO GREEN WOODPECKERS

Did you know ?

The green woodpecker's diet mainly consists of ants - adults, larvae and eggs.

They have relatively soft beaks compared to their spotted cousins so when making holes in trees they prefer soft wood.

The alternative name for a green woodpecker is the "Yaffle". There are a range of other folk names for them including Laughing Betsey, Nickle, Weather Bird and Nicker Pecker.

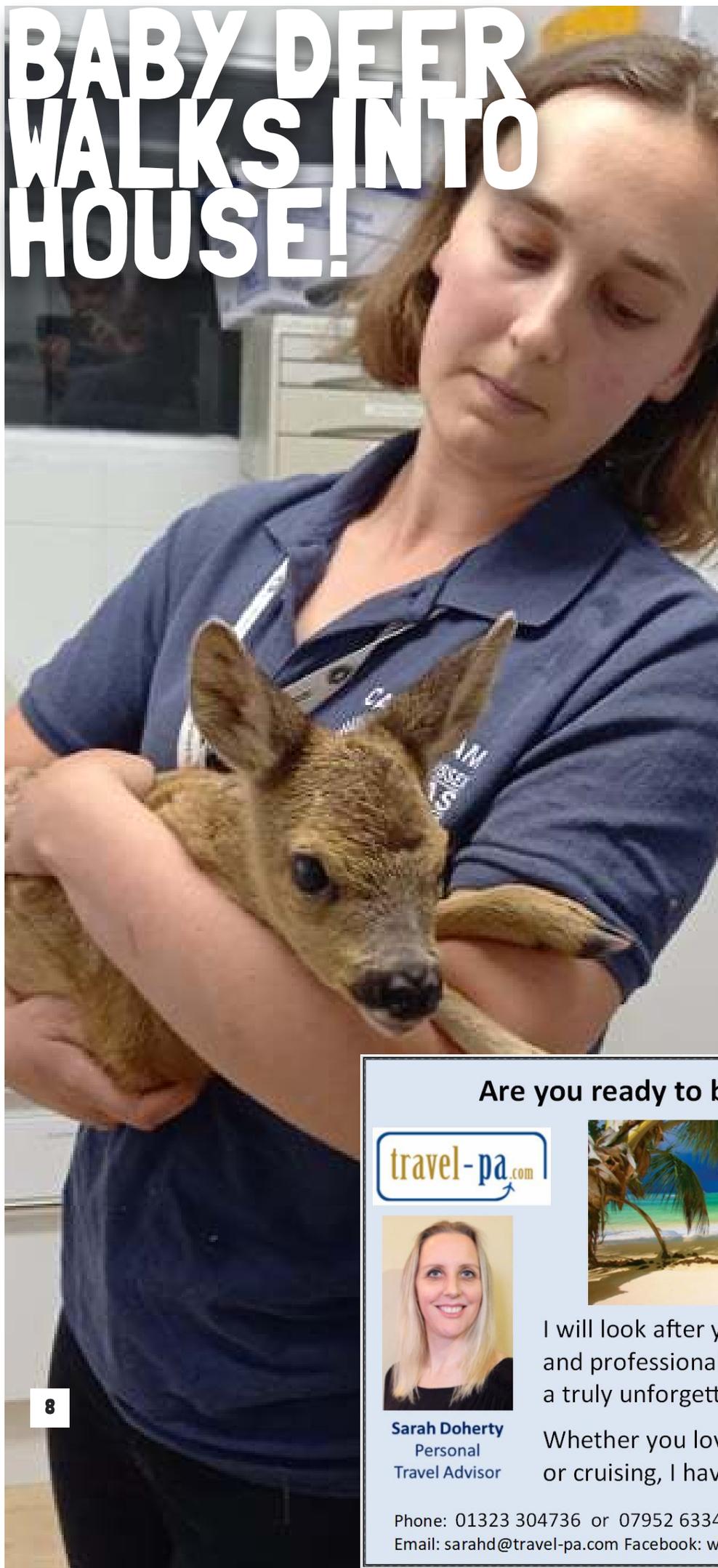
Also green woodpeckers can mate for life, but they are generally antisocial and spend most of the year living alone.



We don't see many young green woodpeckers and the spotted are much more common as casualties. However in June we had not one but two young greens come into our care.

The first came from Hailsham after he was caught by a cat, luckily he sustained no injuries and joined our orphan room to continue his rearing. The second younger one was from Jevington and was rescued after being found alone on the ground, very dehydrated and lethargic. After some re-hydration and time to warm up he certainly brightened up and found his voice when it was food time.

# BABY DEER WALKS INTO HOUSE!



Both East Sussex WRAS and Folly Wildlife Rescue were called about a young deer in a garden in Broad Oak, near Heathfield. The baby roe deer wandered in through the rear door of the house and had to be chased out. However, the baby deer stayed wandering around their garden. Thought to be abandoned WRAS rescuers agreed to attend on site.

Experienced rescuers Trevor and Katie managed to track down the deer and using nets managed to catch her under some bushes.

The deer was taken back to WRAS's casualty centre before being transported to Folly Wildlife Rescue in exchange for some baby hedgehogs!

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# ARE YOU AWARE OF WHAT IT WOULD MEAN TO LEAVE EAST SUSSEX WRAS A GIFT IN YOUR WILL ?

Leaving a gift to East Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service in your will is a way of leaving an expression of your passion and love for our local wildlife.

Last year over 5,000 wildlife casualties were responded to by our small team of dedicated staff and volunteers. We anticipate that during 2021 the number of casualties will grow. Habitat degradation, pollution, disruption of ecosystem and climate change are all challenges that impact on the life and survival of our wildlife.

East Sussex WRAS's work focuses on the rescue, care, rehabilitation and release of injured, lost, abandoned and displaced wildlife. Our work is totally dependent upon the generosity of our supporters, and gifts left in wills (legacies) are especially important. Your gift may be big or small but the impact creates the opportunity for our wildlife to have a second chance.

Once you have looked after your loved ones please remember East Sussex WRAS in your will. Your action today will make a difference tomorrow.

After the passing of the mother of one of our volunteers we were kindly donated £10,000 from money left in her will to help us replace one of our veterinary ambulances. We were able to acknowledge her support with a note on our ambulances saying "In Memory of Betty Arber". This simple act has had a huge knock on impact to our work. The ambulance has driven over 60,000 miles since it was purchased and helped rescue thousands of casualties.

WRAS is currently raising money to purchase a property in order to look at constructing a new hospital and rescue centre more suited to our needs than our current hospital. Legacies will play an important part in ensuring our ability to fulfil this project.

A recent small legacy of £500 was sufficient for us to purchase some additional and replacement rescue equipment including some long poles and nets as well as a cage trap.

## **Make your Will For Good**

WRAS has teamed up with Bequeathed, a free will-writing service. When you choose Bequeathed to make your will you get as much support as you need to complete their online will interview. Bequeathed then arrange a free 30 minute appointment with an accredited legal firm, which can be by phone or video call or in person. The firm advises you on your will and sends it to you to sign and have witnessed. There's no obligation to include a gift to WRAS in your free Will For Good, but we'd appreciate it if you would consider supporting our future work in this special way.

Give yourself peace of mind, and get started on your will today. With East Sussex WRAS and Bequeathed, it's quick, efficient and free. Good for friends, good for family, and good for charities like ours.

For more information head to:

[www.bequeathed.org/eastsussexwras](http://www.bequeathed.org/eastsussexwras)

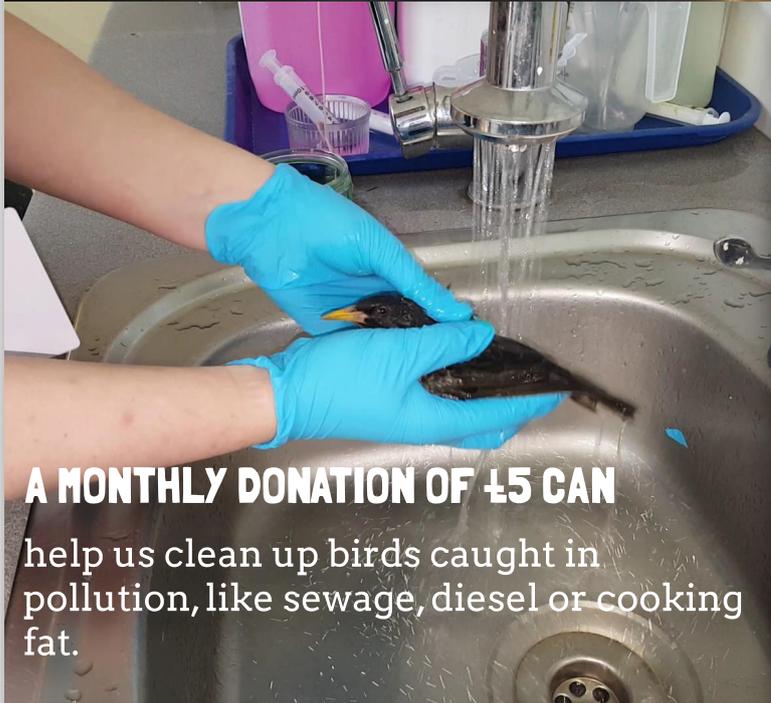


**YOUR SUPPORT  
MAKES A HUGE  
DIFFERENCE TO  
THE WILDLIFE  
OF EAST  
SUSSEX**

Your donations have helped us buy essential veterinary equipment like X-ray machines, processors and ultrasounds to ensure a quick and efficient diagnosis and fast treatment of casualties.

**£25 WILL FUND:**

Essential food for the casualties in our care, like cat food, mixed corn, lettuce, kale, bird seed and fish.



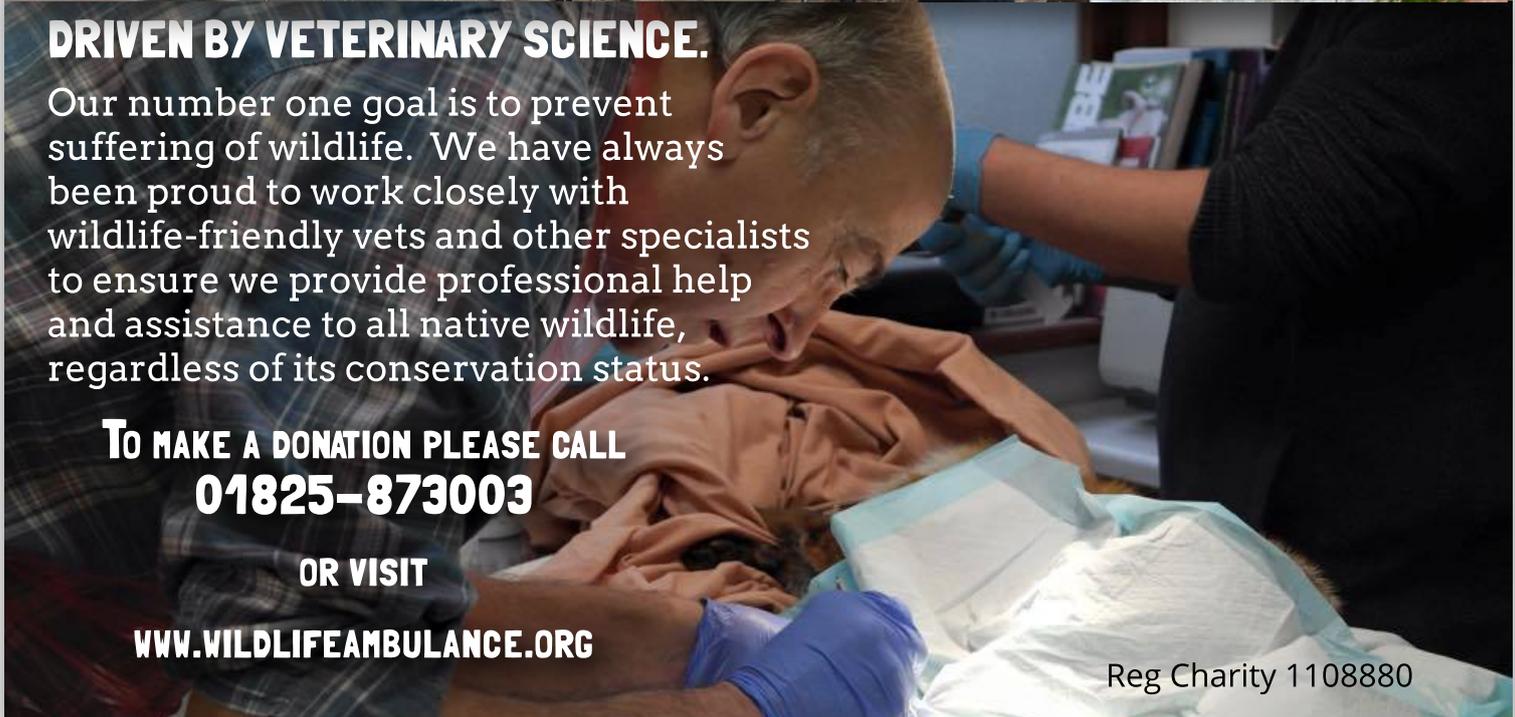
**A MONTHLY DONATION OF £5 CAN**

help us clean up birds caught in pollution, like sewage, diesel or cooking fat.



**£60 WILL:**

fill up the tank of one of our ambulances to help provide our vital ambulance and rescue service.



**DRIVEN BY VETERINARY SCIENCE.**

Our number one goal is to prevent suffering of wildlife. We have always been proud to work closely with wildlife-friendly vets and other specialists to ensure we provide professional help and assistance to all native wildlife, regardless of its conservation status.

**TO MAKE A DONATION PLEASE CALL  
01825-873003**

**OR VISIT**

**[WWW.WILDLIFEAMBULANCE.ORG](http://WWW.WILDLIFEAMBULANCE.ORG)**

Reg Charity 1108880

# FUND-RAISING THANK YOU'S

Congratulations to Faye Dann for raising £100 for East Sussex WRAS at a charity walk organised by Seaford Rotary Club in June. Thank you very much indeed, its donations like these which help keep our charity going.



WRAS's Trevor Weeks was privileged enough to meet Amanda Rock and thank her in person for organising Bear's 18th birthday blessing charity event in Gildredge Park Eastbourne on 19th June in honor of her son, Harry Rock, who tragically lost his life aged 13. Amanda kindly chose to donate the proceeds of the event to Cats Protection, You Raise Me Up and East Sussex WRAS and we have now received an amazing donation of £1161.37 as a result. Thank you Amanda. We are sure Bear is proud of you and what you've achieved.

Congratulations to everyone who has supported us via Facebook birthday fund-raising events.

Also our grateful thanks to the following people:

Kim Rees, Lesley Davis, Sharon Christmas, Jacqui Reynolds, Laura Rumble, Alys Kelly, Kay Brooker, Marion Williamson, Stacey Marshall, Ji Smith, Emma Lee Downs, Julie Stafford, Susan Jane Anderson, Angel Knott, Jane Neyland, Niki Rowley, Helen Fothergill, Emma Hunnisett and Charlotte Slater who have jointly raised £1832 for WRAS!



And well done to Harriet Pavey who has so far raised £340 of her target of £500 via her London Marathon Just Giving fundraising page. The marathon is taking place in October this year.

Thank you to Vanessa and John Wood-Mewett who have raised £70 as a WRAS 25th year birthday fundraiser. Congratulations to Sarah and David Goddard who have raised £620 so far to celebrate their wedding. Thank you to Vina Reeves for setting up a fundraising page in memory of Oliver (John) Madgwick.

Your support is so much appreciated. If you would like to set up a similar fundraising event or donate to an existing fundraiser head to [www.justgiving.com/eastsussexwras](http://www.justgiving.com/eastsussexwras).

Thank you to everyone else who has helped raise money for WRAS recently, we are unable to mention everyone, but if you send us a photo we will always try our best to include as many people as possible.

# APPEAL FOR WITNESSES AFTER DUCK SUFFERS FATAL INJURIES AT HELLINGLY.

East Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service (WRAS) are appealing for witnesses to an horrific incident at Hellingly Country Park on Thursday 22nd July around 3pm.



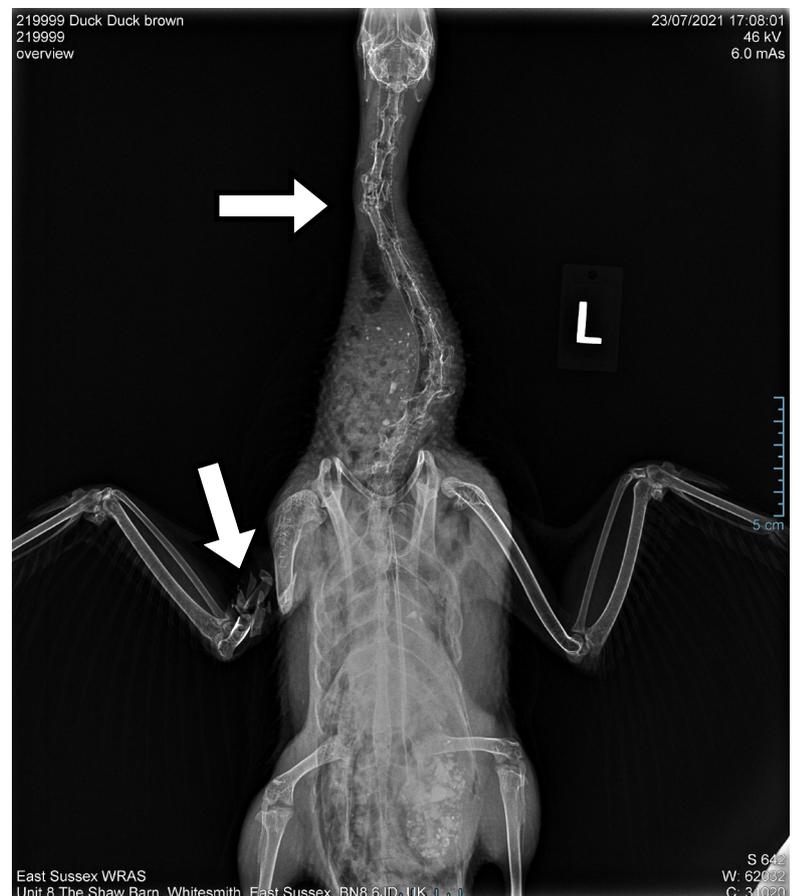
Rescuers Trevor Weeks, Julie Stafford and Jack Ley attended the site after reports of an injured goose, but on their arrival they discovered a severely injured mallard duck struggling to breathe. Rescuers witnessed several young lads with the duck, but they fled as rescuers approached. Unfortunately the duck was unconscious, unresponsive and passed away at the scene.

Rescuers dialled 999 and Sussex Police attended on site. Sussex Police's Rural Crime Team are now investigating the incident so if you have any information or were a witness to this cruel and vicious attack in Hellingly Country Park on the afternoon of Thursday 22nd, please contact Sussex Police via e-mail: 101@sussex.pnn.police or by dialing 101 quoting reference 887 of 22/7/21.

WRAS's vet Mike Symons, undertook a post mortem examination of the duck and concluded it had suffered a broken neck, fractured lower mandible (jaw) and beak, and shattered wing. An internal examination also revealed several rib fractures as well as severe bruising and blood clots.

Vet Mike added that "in the absence of bite wounds and if no vehicles in the area, the injuries were caused through having been kicked or struck several times by a human. The duck may well have survived several minutes before actual death after receiving the injuries with the neck injury being the main one causing death".

Trevor Weeks said that "despite being involved in wildlife rescue for 35 years now, I felt physically sick after dealing with this duck. The suffering which this poor creature must have gone through is horrific. I don't understand why anyone would do such a thing. I hope that someone comes forward with information to help prevent this from occurring again" said Trevor Weeks.



# GULL RESCUED FROM ROOF OF FLATS.

East Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service were called out to a gull entangled in netting on top of a building off Deroos Road / Selwyn Road Eastbourne.

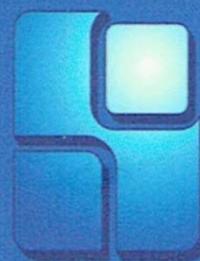
When rescuers arrived, it was obvious their ladders would not reach so they contacted East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service and asked for assistance.

They kindly attended but their ladders were not suitable either, so they requested an aerial platform from their Hastings Station.

There was also a young gull chick on the roof, so fire officers cut a large section of netting away to ensure the remaining parent could get to its young safely.

Once on the ground the entangled gull was checked over by East Sussex WRAS rescuers Jen and Brian who then delivered it to the Casualty Centre at Whitesmith near Hailsham.

The gull is now being treated for ligature wounds around its left leg and foot.



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## MARESFIELD DUCKLING REUNITED WITH MUM AND SIBLINGS AFTER FALLING INTO DRAIN!

Rescuers Ellie Langridge and Julie Stafford were called to Maresfield after a mum and ducklings were discovered wandering around a close. When they arrived they were told the mum had nine ducklings but on counting them one was missing.

Rescuers searched the area and soon found the lost duckling down a drain but were unable to lift the cover. Using a padded net, they were able to lift the duckling back to safety without injury. He was quickly reintroduced to his mum and siblings who were now in the caller's rear garden.

After assessing the area, Ellie worked with Julie to encourage mum of leave the garden and walk with her to a potential pond. Unfortunately this would mean walking her in the opposite direction to the pond in order to get out of the close before turning back and heading to the pond. Mum was having none of it and insisted on trying to find a direct route from the garden to the

pond.

Eventually rescuers had no choice but to take the risky approach of catching mum and all the ducklings. Working as a team Ellie and Julie successfully rounded them all up and took them to the pond, where they were released and swan off as a family.



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*Helping to support the wildlife of Sussex.*



# ORPHAN SEASON 2021



Late spring into summer are the busiest times of the year for WRAS and also the most expensive.

Not all orphaned birds require our rescuers to attend on site in a veterinary ambulance, but when they are difficult to reach - after falling into a narrow gap between a wall and a conservatory for example, WRAS's The average cost to WRAS of responding on site to an incident is £85 - we don't charge for any of our services.

The amount of work required for each little creature varies enormously. Some species like ducklings if kept in groups very much look after themselves, where as baby blue tits and other similar baby birds needs constant feeding. Any baby mammals which are less than 5 days old may need round the clock attention, and feeding. We use a variety of different formulas and food mixes for each type of species depending on their normal diet. We are constantly buying mince, specialist powdered milk substitutes, various greens, seed mixes and suet to help with feeding. A large 25kg bag of seed mix can cost between £15 and £45 depending on the mixture. Large tins of esbilac can cost over £45. Packets of mince can cost between £3 and £6 depending on the size and brand.

At a time of year when most people are turning off their central heating WRAS is turning on its incubators in order to keep babies cosy and warm. We have three different sizes of incubators from small portable ones which our care team can take home to large versions which entire nests of owls or litters of fox cubs can be reared in. These cost up to £700 each to purchase and when we have them all running together it costs WRAS

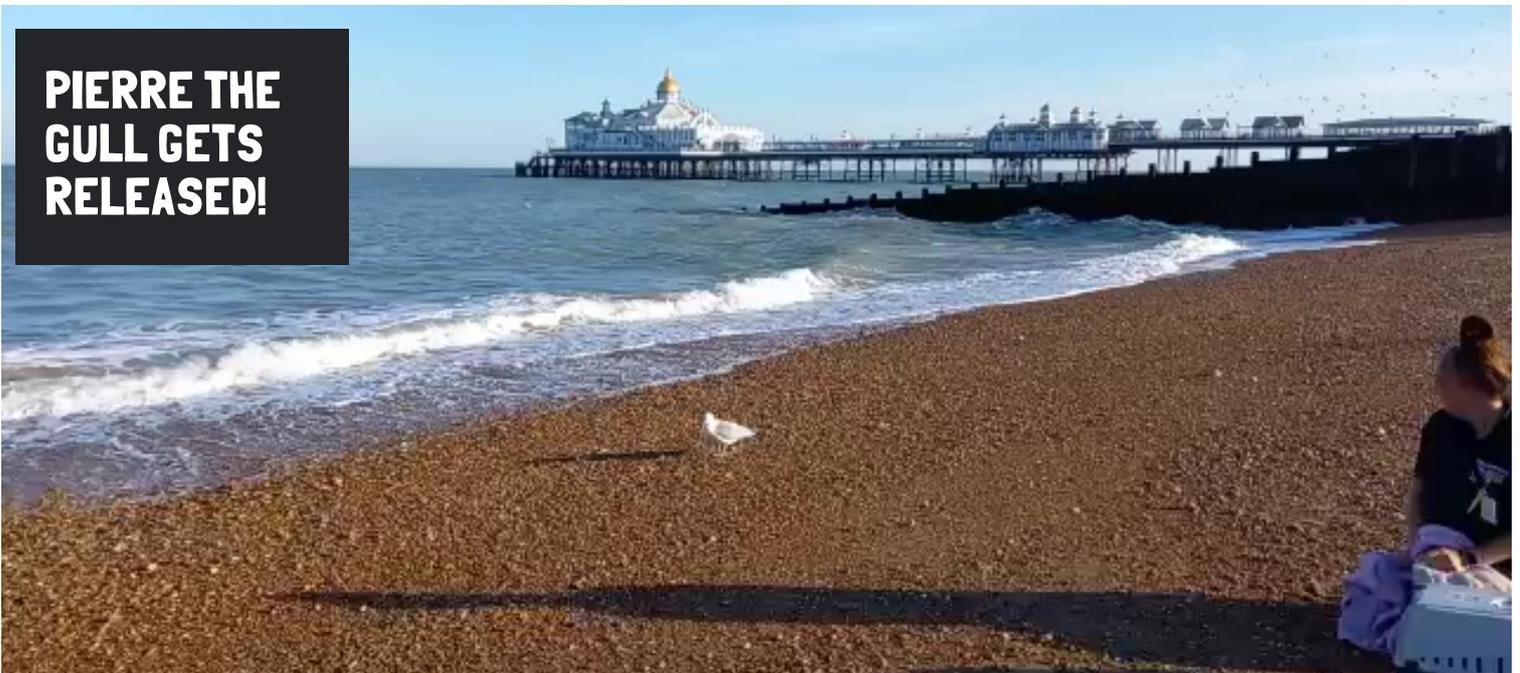


about £45 a week in electric.

Once old enough to look after themselves its not simply a case of letting them go. They don't have their mums to look after them nor show them the ropes, so its important to group them with their own kind, and soft release them from safe release sites. We now have 17 sites in operation and more being erected. Each pen varies in size and shape to help with the rehabilitation of various species. They cost between £800 and £5500. We regularly have to refresh the bedding and substrate. At the height of our busy season we can be purchasing hay, straw and wood shavings costing over £75 a week.

Orphan season is a big commitment and our staff work tirelessly to help as many orphans as we can each and every year.

## PIERRE THE GULL GETS RELEASED!



Meet Pierre the herring gull, who had a lucky escape thanks to the WRAS rescue team, East Sussex Police and an eagle-eyed member of the public who reported seeing the bird dangling in distress underneath Eastbourne Pier. Poor Pierre's wing was trapped in a long fishing line strung between the top of the pier and a metal girder just above the water level.

"I first saw the gull from the beach and at first I was really not sure how I was going to be able to reach him. I honestly thought I would be walking away unsuccessful" said rescuer Trevor Weeks.

"Once up on top of the pier I soon discovered that the fishing line was attached to the the back of the seats which run along the edge of the pier. Things were now looking

more positive and hopeful" added Trevor.

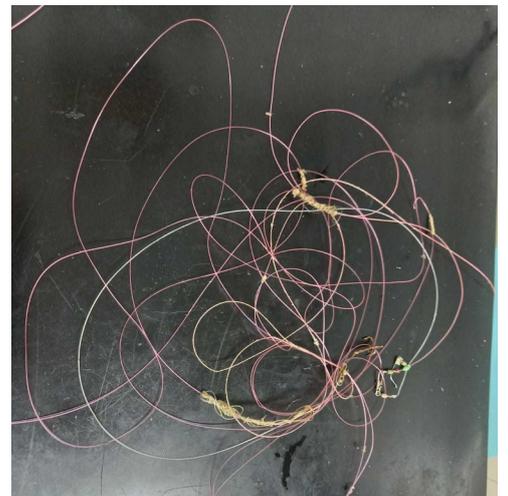
Wearing thick gloves rescuers were able to wind the fishing line around their hand pulling it tightly enough to snap the line so the gull could be pulled up to the top of the pier.

With help of the security on the pier the gull was lifted up over the edge of the pier, secured and the line cut.

The gull was then taken back to WRAS's casualty centre for a good meal and check over.

Luckily the line was only caught in the feathers, so no ligature wound to worry about.

With just a few days of rest and no lasting damage, Pierre was released on the beach and maybe even flew over to Dieppe for some moules et frites!



## 25TH YEAR CELEBRATION PHOTO COMPETITION

As this is WRAS's 25th year as a voluntary group, we'd like to celebrate the nature of East Sussex by running a 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.

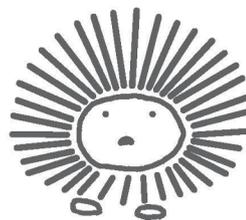
In each edition of the newsletter we will announce a winner who will receive a celebratory WRAS 25th Year mug and their photo in the newsletter and on our social media sites. We will also produce a calendar of the best entries, anyone featuring in the calendar will also receive a WRAS 25th year mug too.

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.

T&C's apply please see our website at: <https://wildlifeambulance.org/donate/photo-competition-2021/>

25 YEARS

RESCUING  
WILDLIFE since 1996

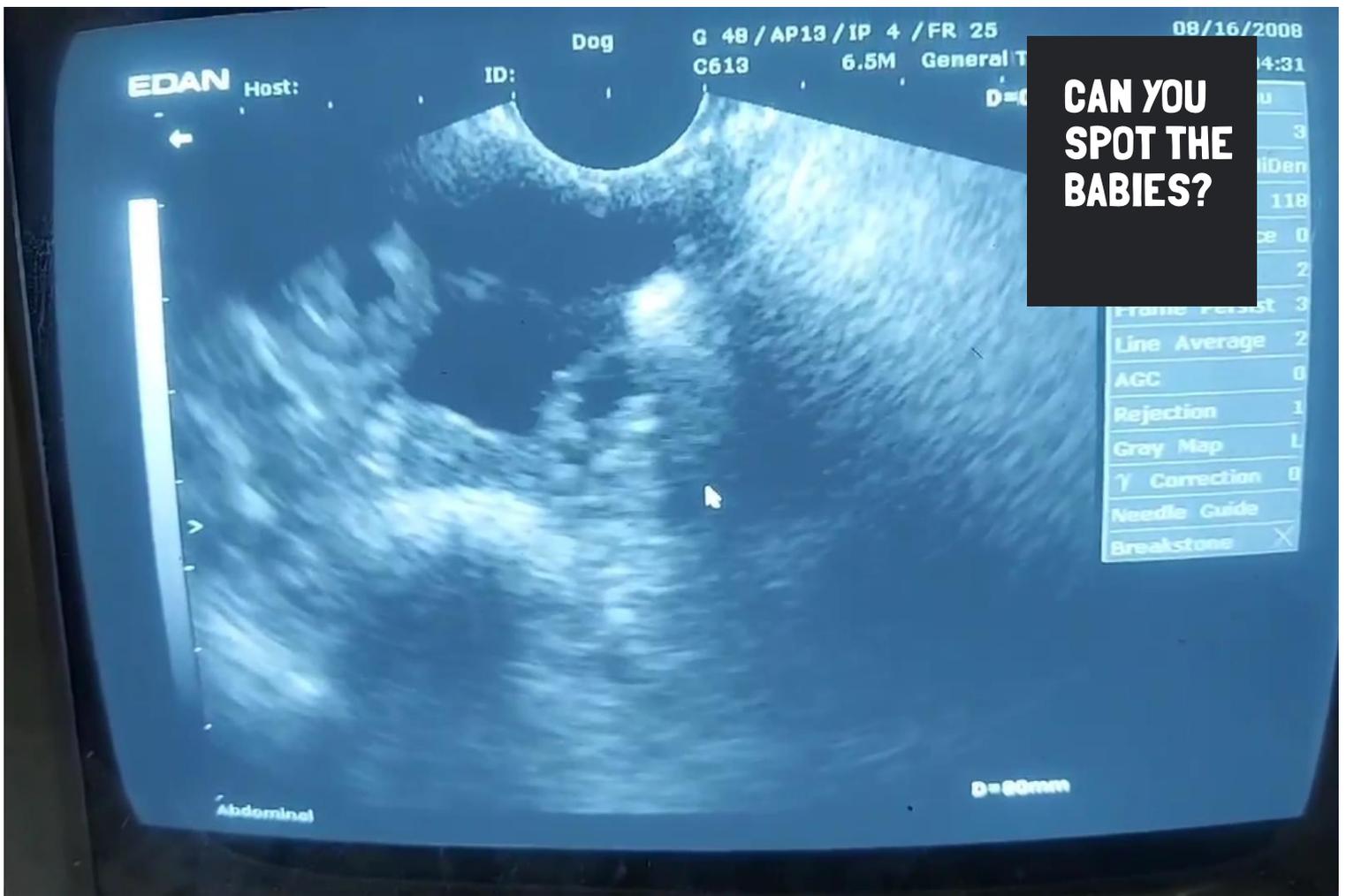


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another chance!**

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A hedgehog came into care from Herstmonceux having had her leg tightly entangled in netting causing her leg to be swollen, giving rise to concerns of a possible ligature injury.

She needed to be monitored closely by our care team to ensure no tissue breakdown occurred.

After an ultrasound, which we try to give all female hedgehogs at this time of year to test for pregnancy, we discovered she was indeed expecting hoglets. As they were quite advanced, however, it was important to get her to our specialist hedgehog maternity unit in ickfield for specialist care as soon as possible.

She gave birth just over a week later. This is a very critical time as you can't disturb them to avoid mum becoming stressed and killing them. At the same time the leg was not completely healed.

Much to the delight of Kathy, who looks after our hedgehog unit, our mum

gave birth to three 'urchins' just over a week later. Kathy needed to be extra careful, though, not to disturb them for fear of mum becoming stressed and killing them. She was also in some discomfort as her leg had not completely healed, but we're happy to report at the time of writing that she is recovering well and we are looking forward to releasing her back into her natural habitat.



## BASEMENT FOX RESCUE BRIGHTON

We received a call last month reporting a young fox trapped in a basement lightwell in front of a house in Rugby Road, Brighton.

WRAS contacted Lisa Barrow at Brighton & Hove Wildlife Advice & Rescue Service but as they had no experience of this type of rescue, WRAS rescuers Trevor and Kristy agreed to attend the site and assist them in return for them hold of the fox and releasing later that night.

They decided not to use ladders to reach the fox but climb through the basement window instead despite the tight fit.

"Rescues are always less stressful for the animal if you don't have to restrain them" said Trevor, "much better to encourage them to enter a cage of their own accord"

In the case of this cunning little fox, though, it proved harder than normal, so a net had to be used to encourage the fox into the cage before being taken back through the house and upstairs to WRAS's Ambulance much to the relief of watching local residents.

The surrounding roads were still quite busy so rescuers were reluctant to release the fox for fear it would panic and get run over. So, Lisa from Brighton & Hove WARS then took the fox to her home nearby for the evening, before returning at 11:30pm in order to release the young fox at a safer time of night when the surrounding roads were quieter.

"The fox was pleased to be free and ran off down the pavement to find his family. This is the best part of volunteering in this line of work. I'm glad I could help WRAS and save them from returning to Brighton later that night" said Lisa Barrow.

"This was a good bit of team work between the two organisations and a positive outcome" said Trevor.



## NEWS IN BRIEF:



## Celebrating WRAS's 25th year!

This year is WRAS's 25th Year as a voluntary group.

To help us celebrate this remarkable achievement we have some commemorative mugs for sale. They cost £5 each and are available from our Charity Shop at 192 Terminus Road Eastbourne, BN21 3BB, they can be order by phoning 01323643111 as well as from our Casualty Centre, Unit 2, The Shaw Barn, A22, Whitesmith, BN8 6JD or at our Ebay Shop.

## How adorable!

This tiny baby Natterer's bat came into care after he was found on the floor, dehydrated, out of his roost.

Once warmed up and rehydrated he was offered specialist milk formula every couple of hours overnight to help him stabilise before being passed over for expert care from Amanda at the Sussex Bat Hospital.



## Little Owl Success.

This very sweet Little Owl came into care as an emaciated nestling. He was found on the ground with a dead sibling nearby.

WRAS's care team were relieved that he had a good appetite right from the start and quickly started putting weight on. Day by day he went from strength to strength and staff watched in awe as he grew..

This little chap was rehabilitated at one of our outdoor pens and thoroughly enjoyed catching crickets and other insects learning to fend for himself. He was eventually soft released from the pen and introduced to the wild.



## PIGEON POST BY KATHY MARTYN

After a quieter than usual start to the season for me things have definitely started to get busier. I am not sure I have ever had so many day old hatchlings. I have frequently had 2 or 3 and even 4 at the same time. One of the real characters, so far this year, has been a little chap who I realised from the start would be white, but did not realise that he would develop fluffy feathers on his feet and lower legs. This means he is crossed with a fancy pigeon. We have to be really careful here as we can't release non-native species into the wild. We will have to wait and see how he develops but his fancy traits may be too



## EASTBOURNE OPEN GARDEN RAISES VITAL FUNDS

Regular visitors to Decoy Pond Hampden Park will probably have seen Derek Briggs taking photos around the park and lake. On Saturday 24th July Derek kindly opened his garden to the public to raise money for WRAS after witnessing the charities work first hand at the park.

The event raised over £300 for WRAS and was attended by local MP Caroline Ansell as well as by many local residents. WRAS's Trevor Weeks called in and was amazed by the the recently finished murals by Tanya-Lisa Jewl Parsnips on Derek's garage and fence. Thank you Derek and all involved.



## JOINT VENTURE FUNDS AMBULANCE

Earlier this year we celebrated a Ford Eco Sport joining our small fleet. This was only possible thanks to funding jointly by TE Connectivity, the Edyna Smylie Memorial Fund and smaller donations from four Eastbourne Neighbourhood First Housing Panels. At a socially distanced meet up at Hampden Park Community Centre the keys were officially handed to WRAS's Trevor Weeks by representatives of the panels. A big thank you to Eastbourne Borough Council for helping to arrange this as well as to everyone on the panels, trusts and companies which helped raise the required funds.



# WHATS IN OUR AMBULANCE CARS?



When WRAS was first formed as a voluntary group in 1996, the organisation didn't even have any ambulances and relied on volunteers using their own vehicles to run around collecting and rescuing sick and injured wildlife and transporting them to various rescue centres or vets for treatment.

25 years later the organisation now has a small fleet of vehicles. Not all of them are used for emergency response. Four are reserved for this work - two transits and two cars. WRAS also has two cars which are used by the Care Team to deal with our off site pens and aviaries and for transporting casualties to vets or other organisations.

The above ambulance car was very generously sponsored by Heathfield area Co-op in 2019 who donated over £12,000 for the purchase of this nearly new vehicle.

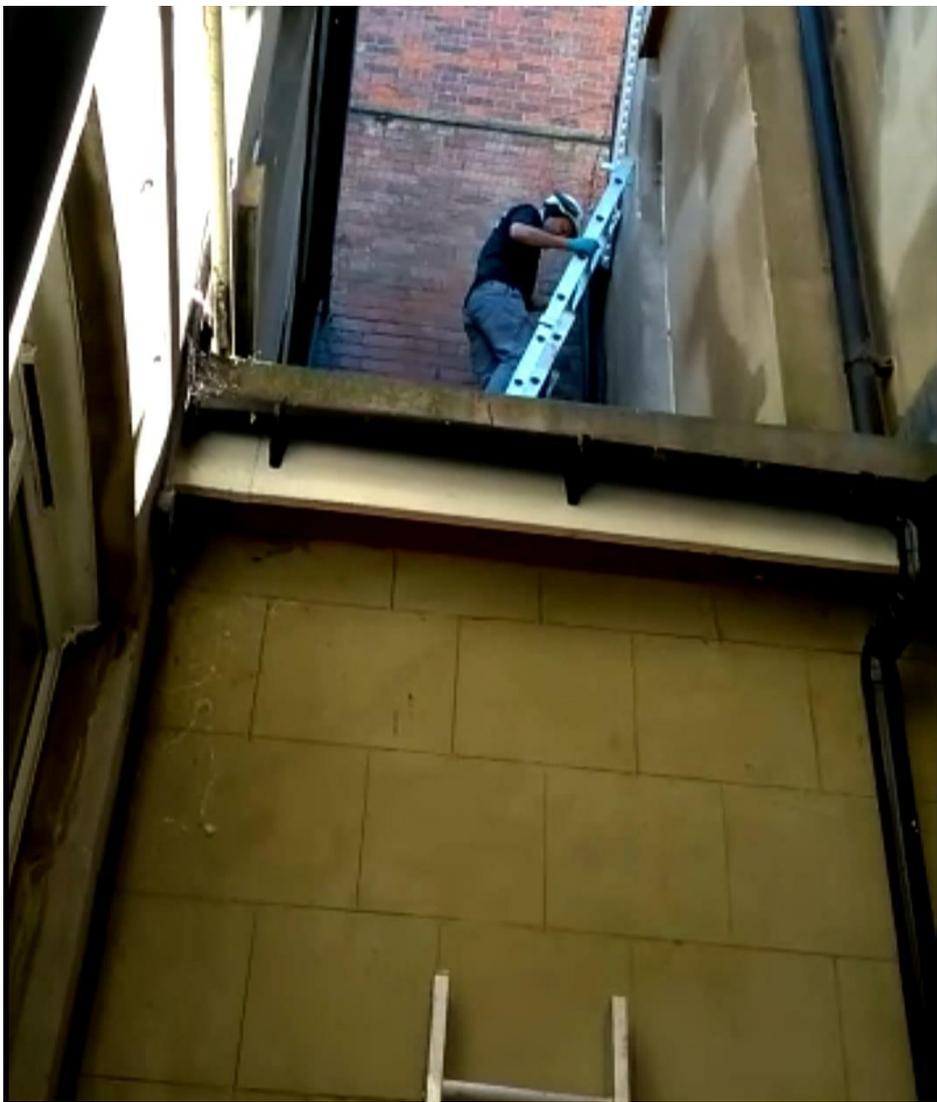
The ambulance has basic equipment

for dealing with the most popular and routine incidents, but can be used as a support vehicle at larger rescues.

Despite the limited equipment on board - emergency medical or rescue equipment can always be loaded onto an ambulance if necessary - we still carry essential items such as overalls, various nets and poles, dog grasper, animal and human first aid kits, various sized cages, blankets, towels and pillow cases, binoculars, night vision scope, tool kit, wellingtons, safety helmets, swan bag/wrap, small scales, head pads and high visibility jackets and tabbards and more!

We keep more expensive items at centre which can be loaded into vehicles as needed.

Every year we have to replace an ambulance, as they age and wear out. We are always interested in companies sponsoring them or them being dedicated in memory of loved ones.



## **GULL RESCUED FROM FORMER CHURCH ROOF.**

In July WRAS was called to a converted church in Ceylon Place, Eastbourne following reports that a gull had become entangled in netting and was clearly in a state of distress.

this was not a straightforward rescue, however, Brian and Mark had to manoeuvre ladders through the building into a small courtyard and then onto the roof, where the bird was stranded.

The poor gull's feathers were truly ruffled and he had a slight limp but after a few days of recuperation and TLC at the WRAS, he was suitable for release.

## **SUSSEX HEDGEHOGS FEATURED ON GLOBAL TELETHON EVENT**

Children's songwriter Al Start from Go Kid Music, Brighton, co-presented a live-streamed event on the 5th of June to co-inside with World Environment Day.

25 Countries took part in the event and each country hosted an hour of the show. As the UK's representative Al Start chose hedgehogs as her species to talk about and asked East Sussex WRAS for some help.

Her children's song "Hedgehog Hero" was a hit with local primary schools and children around the world. Al made a video of her visit to WRAS to see some of WRAS's hedgehogs and chose WRAS her charity to benefit from money raised during the UK's part of the show.

You can watch the "Hedgehog Hero" song and Al's visit to WRAS on You Tube at: [www.https://youtu.be/IYROIBFmeZ8](https://youtu.be/IYROIBFmeZ8) and <https://youtu.be/OiH6Tju-isM>

Thank you to Al for visiting and promoting Hedgehog survival.



Al Start visits WRAS to meet some hedgehogs

## NETTING HAZARDS TO WILDLIFE BY TREVOR WEEKS MBE

Every few days during the busy summer season we receive calls about wildlife caught in netting but it's not only gulls and pigeons who get trapped. . WRAs receives numerous calls every week about other birds including sparrows, goldfinches, blackbirds, corvids and even owls becoming entangled in a variety of netting, causing distress and harm.

On 22nd June we admitted both a hedgehog and a jackdaw who'd been ensnared by netting and in both cases it had wound itself so tightly on the leg of each casualty that it was very difficult to remove. A word of advice: once creatures are caught up in netting, they struggle firecely to break free and end up twisting themselves into knots and injuring themselves. Not only does this increase the pain and stress but can also lead to ligature wounds beneath the skin, which often prove fatal.

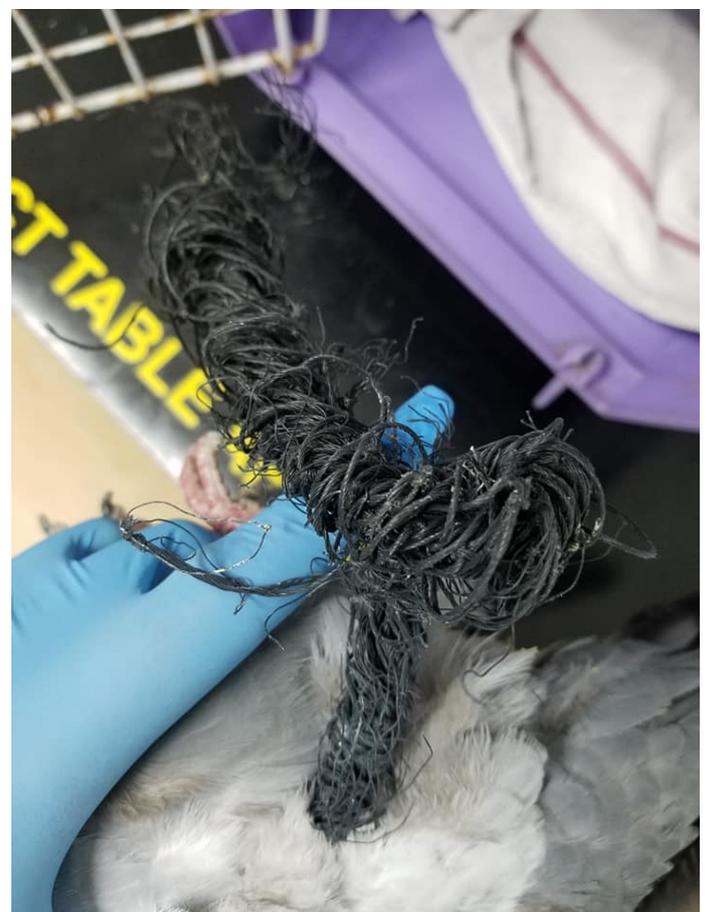
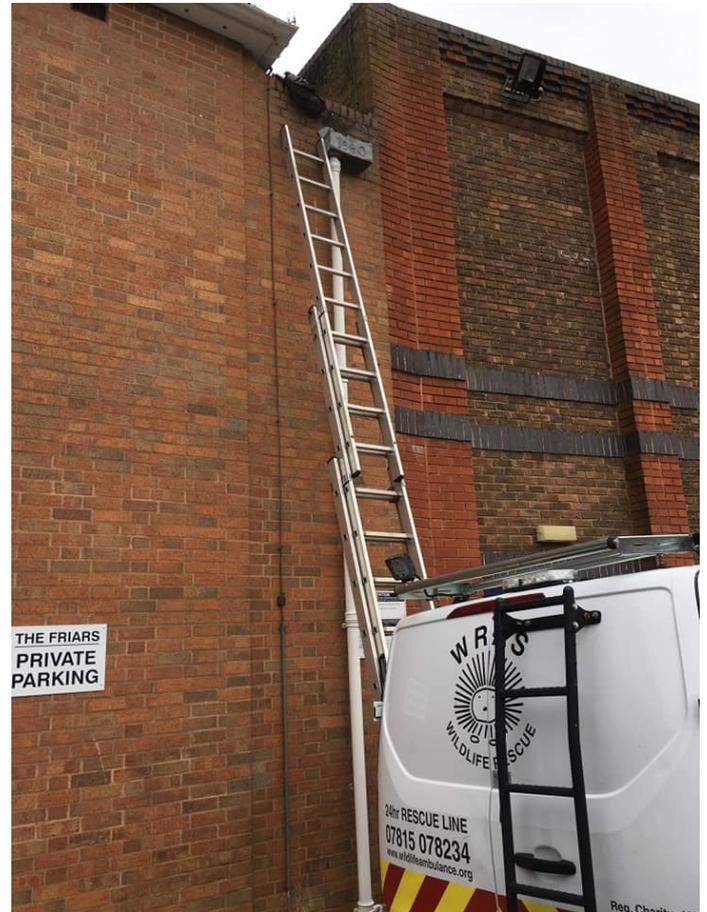
Should you ever encounter an animal or bird trapped in netting, please don't attempt to cut it free and release it yourself. Please call us on our WRAS emergency number: 07815078234 and we'll attend as soon as possible or offer advice over the phone.

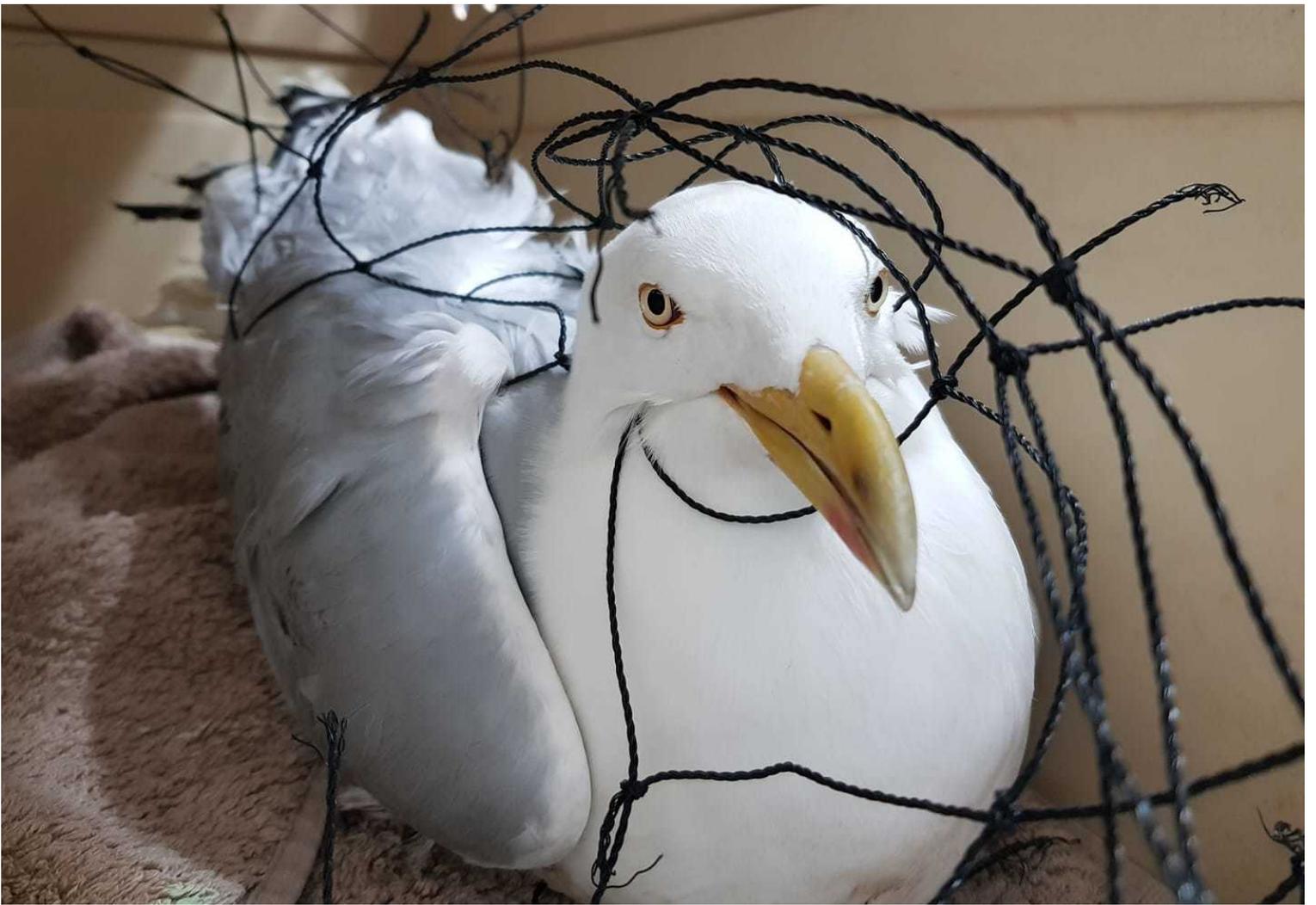
From a gardener's point of view, netting is seen as a useful protection for plants and vegetables but can accidentally or deliberately deter birds and animals such as foxes, hedgehogs or at worst entangle them.

Another type of netting is sports netting as used in football goals, tennis courts and cricket tunnels and screens to protect domestic gardens. These often involve foxes, hedgehogs, badgers, and birds of prey.

Bird netting on buildings is another huge problem. It can work if installed correctly and well-maintained, but the large swathes you see over some buildings seem pointless and get damaged so quickly, they are not fit for purpose.

Perhaps architects and local authorities should accept a greater responsibility for this unfortunate situation and be more considerate when designing buildings. If they were to factor designs which deterred or prevented nesting or perching birds,





there would be no need for netting at all, saving the appropriate bodies vast amounts of money.

What are the alternatives to garden and sports netting? The options are limited. Thought should be given as to whether netting is really needed. Perhaps if we plant fruit trees and bushes we should learn to live with wildlife and share what we grow with them. More safe and solid weld mesh panels could be used in some circumstances.

Netting which reaches the ground is a big hazard for wild mammals. Raising

this up off the floor is best so mammals can pass underneath or using planks of wood as a physical barrier preventing them some touching the netting or even weld mesh panels along the floor.

We would encourage all schools to remove sports netting from fields during the school holidays and preferably at weekends to prevent casualties occurring at times when they are less likely to be found. Raising sports netting off the ground especially in areas where there are hedgehogs is helpful. This can easily be done using cable ties.



**Photo Competition Winner:**

Michelle Clark of Horam.



**EAST SUSSEX WILDLIFE RESCUE & AMBULANCE SERVICE (WRAS)**

PO Box 2148, Seaford, East Sussex. BN25 9DE

Casualty Centre: Unit 2, The Shaw Barn, Whitesmith, BN8 6JD.

Registered Address: 8 Stour Close, Stone Cross, East Sussex. BN24 5QU.

Rescue Line: 07815-078234. Non-emergency Line: 01825-873003 (9am till 6pm)

E-mail: [hospital@eastsussexwras.org.uk](mailto:hospital@eastsussexwras.org.uk) Website: [www.wildlifeambulance.org](http://www.wildlifeambulance.org)

Volunteering, Students & Workplacement: [ellie@eastsussexwras.org.uk](mailto:ellie@eastsussexwras.org.uk)

To make a donation or enquire about a casualty please call: 01825-873003.

Reg Charity: 1108880

[www.facebook.com/wildlifeambulance](http://www.facebook.com/wildlifeambulance)

[www.instagram.com/eastsussexwras](http://www.instagram.com/eastsussexwras)

[www.youtube.com/user/eastsussexwras](http://www.youtube.com/user/eastsussexwras)

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Thank you to Aspen and International  
Animal Rescue  
for their continued support.

