



EAST SUSSEX  
**WRAS**  
WILDLIFE RESCUE

November 2021

# THE RESCUER

Rescue Line: 07815-078234.

Reg Charity 1108880

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



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

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# TREVOR'S EDITORIAL

By Trevor Weeks MBE,  
WRAS Founder & Operations Director

What a summer it has been! Although the spring and summer have not generally been as busy as the manic 2020, our hospital has still been very busy - above the levels of 2019. We have taken in more casualties than normal from Brighton and Hastings areas.

This industry is well known for being stressful on those involved - physically, mentally, financially and emotionally. The demand on wildlife rescue services has always been much higher than most of these services can cope with. I have seen so many organisations close due to burn out, lack of funding, emotional blackmail, and stress.

WRAS has always tried to help provide support to neighbouring organisations, but the demand for support is ever increasing.

Over the last few years WRAS has provided financial support to Bird Aid at Hailsham to help during the orphan gull season. Unfortunately this year they have struggled and had to limit the number and type of casualties they take in, meaning WRAS has had more long term young gulls to deal with than before. WRAS has also approached Rogers Wildlife Rescue at Woodingdean and offered veterinary support after they have had a very stressful summer where they have also had to limit what they can take in. Roger, with just the help of his family

and some local volunteers has done amazing for over 40 years helping wildlife in the Brighton & Hove area preventing thousands of wildlife casualties from just being put to sleep locally. Roger is close to retiring but is reluctant to stop. We have also taken on casualties from Folly Wildlife Rescue to help after the sad loss of their founder Annette Risley back in January. WRAS continues to work with Brighton & Hove Wildlife Advice and Rescue Service. Bexhill & Hastings Wildlife Rescue has requested our support with rescues and a few casualties too. The demand on rescue services is high!

As you will see from this edition WRAS has been at bursting point too this summer, but thanks to long term plans put in place almost 5 years ago, WRAS has managed to put aside some funds from a few legacies received and is now close to being able to purchase land with a view to building our own veterinary centre. It's still early days but money has been ring fenced specifically for this.

Your support is essential to help us continue wildlife rescue in East Sussex. Legacies, fundraising, donations and monthly standing orders are so vital to our work and ensuring the long-term future of our charities work. With your help we can help relieve the suffering of local at risk wildlife. Thank you!

Trevor Weeks MBE.



# LATE NIGHT SEAL RESCUE



East Sussex WRAS received a call from British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR) after they were called out to an injured seal by Brighton Pier.

Local Marine Mammal Medics attended on site quickly and confirmed the seal was in need of rescue and treatment. Out of Hours Co-ordinator for BDMLR Sara Strachan called WRAS's Trevor Weeks for help as the seal needed treatment and housing over night.

WRAS's Trevor Weeks and Kristy Sayer drove across to meet Sara and Medics from BDMLR at Brighton Pier. Sara was able to jump the seal and lift it up to the promenade where Trevor positioned WRAS's veterinary ambulance.

Trevor and Sara then checked the young Harbour Seal over in more detail and with better light. The seal had a number of puncture wounds around its

rear flippers and on its body as well as a cut on the lip. The seal was also underweight for its size. The seal was transferred from BDMLR's seal bag into one of WRAS's large animal cages before being driven across to WRAS's Casualty Care Centre.

WRAS's Vet Mike Symons was contacted and medication administered along with the wounds being cleaned and the rather tricky job of tubing vital rehydration fluids into the seal before being allowed to recover with a safe and restful night at the centre. The team finally got home at 1am!

BDMLR arranged for the seal to be transported to RSPCA Mallydams Wood Wildlife Hospital the following morning.

It's amazing what can be accomplished when organisations work together as a team. Thank you to everyone involved.







## **WRAS TAKES ON ITS OWN EMPLOYED PART TIME VETERINARY SURGEON FOR THE FIRST TIME.**

WRAS would like to welcome on board veterinary surgeon Lourdes Cortes Saez MRCVS. Originally from Albacete in Spain she studied to become a veterinary surgeon at Complutense University of Madrid between 2009 and 2015.

The 15th November will see Lourdes start her new part time role at WRAS. She has moved down from Chesterfield for the part time position after successfully applying for the role over the summer. She brings with her wildlife experience including a year's internship at the RSPCA Stapeley Grange Wildlife Centre in Cheshire back in 2018 as well as having worked as a locum vet for the centre until this autumn. Her work has also included undertaking emergency work with Vets Now Chesterfield and at Lincvet in Lincoln. Lourdes is also currently studying a Masters in Conservation Medicine.

Lourdes experience has not just been in the UK, as originally from Spain she has spent a year working at a small animal internship at Rof Codina Veterinary Hospital, University Santiago de Compostela Lugo, Spain where she trained in diagnostic imaging, surgery,

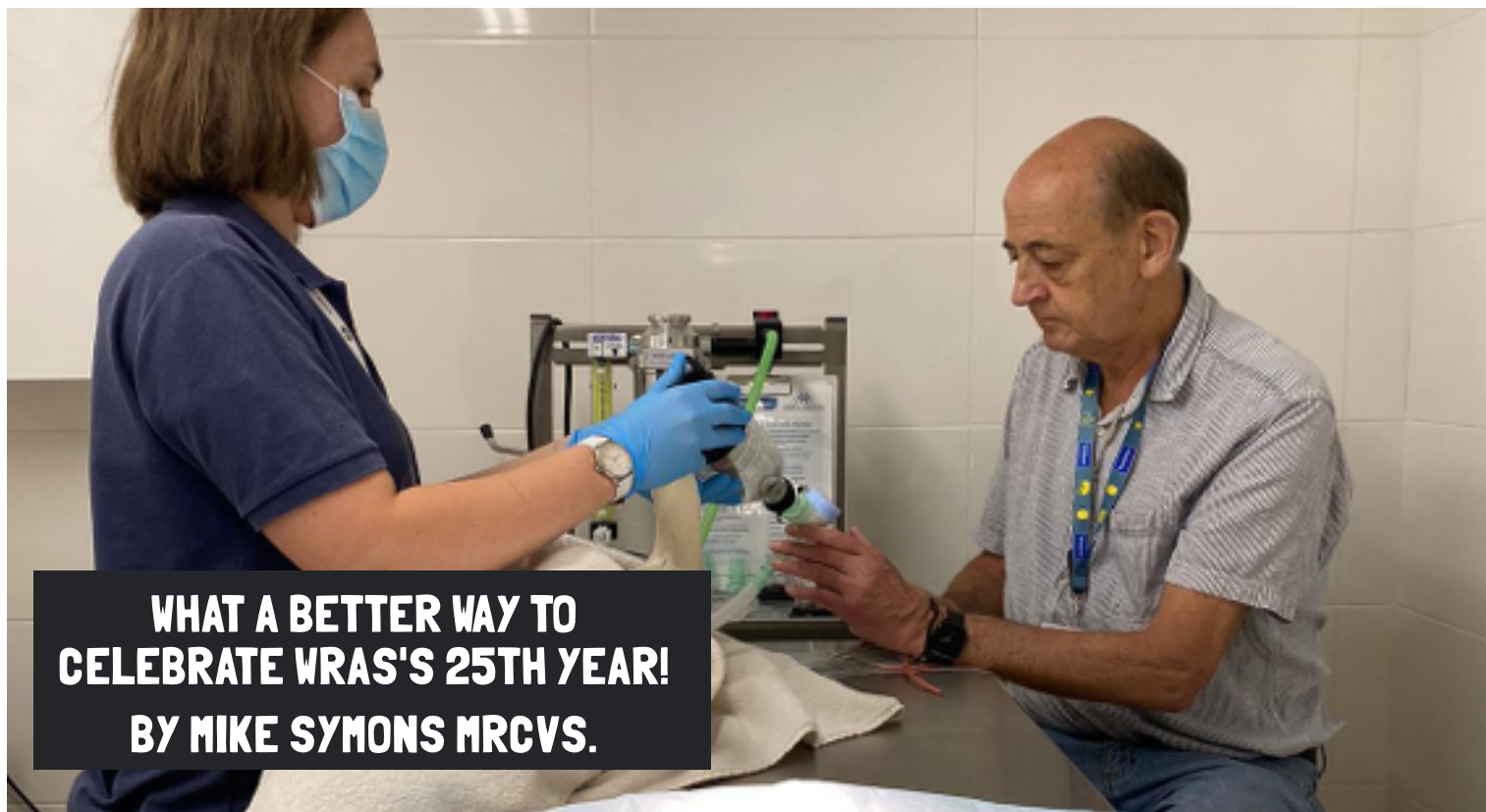
anaesthesia and internal medicine. Her experience with wildlife abroad has taken her to the South Florida Wildlife Center Fort Lauderdale in the USA assisting in the treatment and rehabilitation of wild animals as well as for GREFA a wildlife hospital in Madrid Spain. She has also shadowed and assisted in the treatment of marine turtles, marine mammals and fish at Oceanographic Valencia Spain in their veterinary department.

This will be a big step up from our current consultant vets who have to balance their own full time work whilst trying to visit WRAS at suitable opportunities. Having our part time vet will ensure casualties have faster and even more regular access to a veterinary surgeon improving the quality of care we can provide. Lourdes is set to be a great asset to the WRAS team.

A big thank you to our existing main vet Mike Symons who has helped so much over the last 7 years, as well as vets Chris Hall, Simon Harris and Sophie Common for all their continued support.

In 2011 WRAS dealt with around 1,100 casualties; we now deal with around 4-5,000 every year. Despite tightening regulations around the treatment and care of animals and use of veterinary medication, WRAS has always been as professional as possible in its approach to the veterinary care provided. As the charity has grown, our vets have become more stretched and the charity needs to now take the leap to employing its own part-time veterinary surgeon.





**WHAT A BETTER WAY TO  
CELEBRATE WRAS'S 25TH YEAR!  
BY MIKE SYMONS MRCVS.**

What a better way to celebrate 25 years of WRAS by the charity now employing its own part time veterinary surgeon! It is great that WRAS will have an ambitious new person who will take up the baton and who I will be delighted to support and work alongside.

The past seven years now of my fill-in role has been a great period for me through the ups and downs at the Shaw Barn. I reached biblical age through the horrors and changes inflicted by Covid and fully enjoyed being an active vet through that period. It kept me sane through being with kind and devoted people.

Despite the unfortunate numbers of casualties increasing, the joy for me with WRAS is that the ethos has little changed in the past 7 years as people have left and others join the same high standard for care of wildlife have been retained and remain. The major difference has been in the refinement of how things are done with the ability to use gaseous anaesthesia, a clean

operating area and a digital X ray machine, as well as the expansion works with more and better rehabilitation facilities and capacity. All done with passion and compassion as well as constantly aiming to be as professional as possible.

Congratulations on WRAS 25th year and my very best wishes to WRAS and Lourdes as it further evolves and moves forward, the next few years will see some exciting opportunities for WRAS opening up.

Mike Symons RCVS WRAS Consultant

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# Christmas Virtual Race 2021

**£13.99 +**  
Eventbrite fees

**Friday 24th Dec 2021**  
to  
**Tuesday 4th Jan 2022.**

Run, walk, cycle or swim just 2.5 miles (4km) to take part and receive your medal and certificate!

<https://wildlifeambulance.org/donate/christmas-wildlife-race-2021>

**Special Bespoke Medal for all finishers!**

We would love your help in raising money for East Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service (WRAS) by taking part in our 2021 Christmas Wildlife Virtual race!

As its WRAS 25th year we want to you run, walk, swim or cycle 2.5 miles! You can do longer if you wish! It doesn't matter how fast you do it either. You are welcome to do it just in your house and garden or even on a treadmill! We also have a special bespoke medal just for this event!

Over the holiday season between Friday 24th December 2021 and Tuesday 4th January 2022 we want you to record a run, walk, cycle or swim.

To get your limited edition bespoke medal and certificate you will need to send a screen shot of your fitness, exercise or tracker app showing how far you have gone and a photo of you taking part, along with your name, time and distance to [events@eastsussexwras.org.uk](mailto:events@eastsussexwras.org.uk).

Don't forget to include on the e-mail your name, address, how far you managed to get and your time taken. We will try to upload as many photos sent to us as possible during the event so keep an eye out on our facebook page!

You can help raise even more money by getting your friends and family to sponsor you. This can be done by setting up fundraising pages on platforms like Just Giving, Go Fund Me and Facebook fundraising. You can find links to these sites on our website at [www.wildlifeambulance.org](http://www.wildlifeambulance.org) under the fund raise tab.

We cannot stress enough how important it is to ensure you follow the current guidance and advice on Covid-19 whilst taking part and to keep your activity within any local or national restrictions.

Places are limited to 100. To book or for more information head to:

<https://wildlifeambulance.org/donate/christmas-wildlife-race-2021>

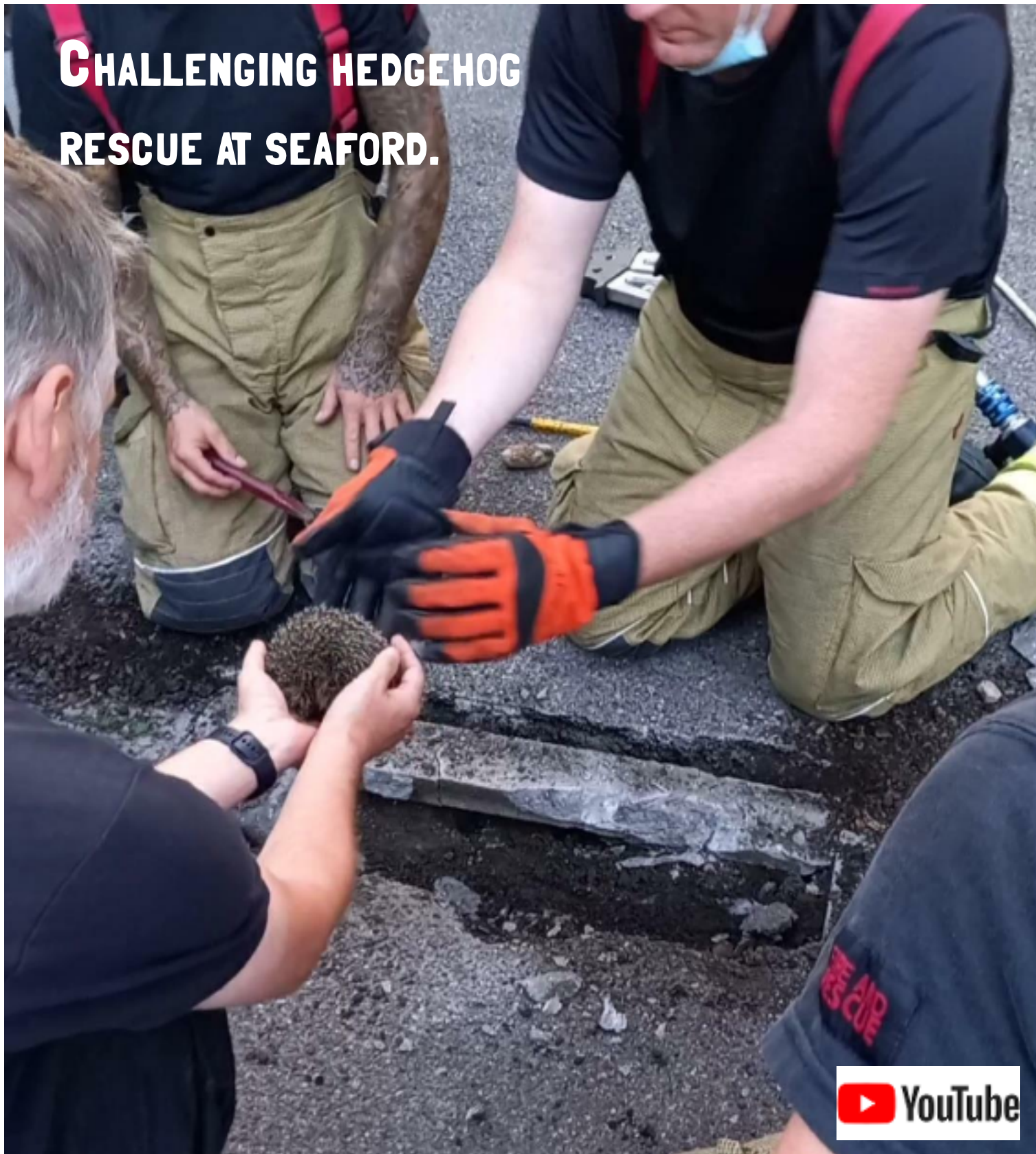


Some of the participants last Easter.





# CHALLENGING HEDGEHOG RESCUE AT SEAFORD.



East Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service (WRAS) were called out at 6pm on Monday 23rd August 2021 to Rayford Court, St Johns Road, Seaford after a resident spotted a hedgehog stuck in a drain running across their car park.

Rescuers Trevor Weeks MBE and Kristy Sayer attended on site in one of WRAS's veterinary ambulances. On scene they found residents trying to break into the drain with little luck.

The drain which was made from concrete blocks which runs horizontally across the car park with a narrow slit along the top to drain water away, was



over 100 metres in length. There was no obvious way the hedgehog could get in from the car park and rescuers and residents were baffled by how the hedgehog got inside.

After assessing the situation WRAS rescuers asked for assistance from East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service as the hedgehog was showing signs of distress and discomfort, unable to turn round in the narrow and shallow gap.

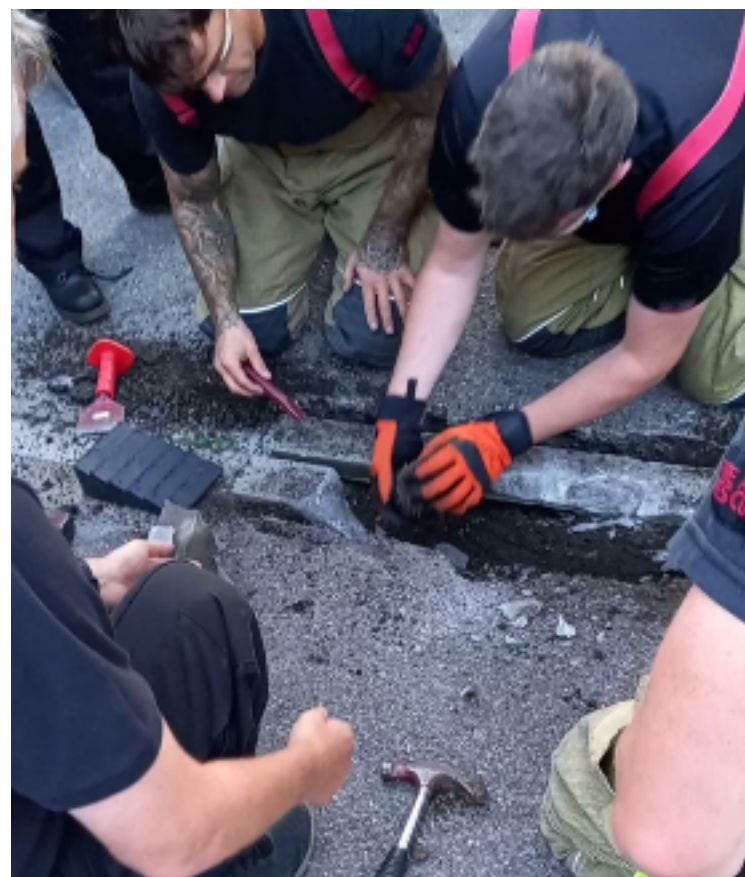
Once they arrived the fire officers were also unsure how to get into the gap easily. They tried various tools to loosen one of the concrete blocks which formed the drain but without any luck. After trying their best not to destroy the concrete block, they were left with no other option but to break the concrete block open using a tool normally used to force open car doors at road accidents.

Fire officers were soon able to pass the juvenile hedgehog to WRAS's Trevor Weeks where the hedgehog was given a check over.

The hedgehog was very dirty and dehydrated and had lost weight too. The hedgehog was taken back to WRAS's Casualty Care Centre at Whitesmith near Lewes where it was checked over and his limbs checked for any damage. Other than bruising the hedgehog seemed fine.

The hedgehog was bedded down and will be monitored for any lasting damage and then rehabilitated back to the wild once more mature and a suitable release site is found close by.

A huge thank you to East Sussex Fire & Rescue for all their help in what rescuers believe to be one of the most unusual rescues of its type. There is no doubt this hedgehog would have died if it had not been rescued.







**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...**

provide the medication and treatment needed to deal with an oil covered bird.

**A DONATION OF £60 CAN...**

fill up the tank of one of our ambulances to help provide our vital 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







# WRAS's YouTube CHANNEL

Since 2008 East Sussex WRAS has been posting videos to its You Tube channel.

The charity now has over 950 videos of rescues, releases and casualties being looked after thanks to your support.

Our top five most watched videos are:

- 1) A deer rescue at Heathfield which took place in September 2005 with 1,136,782 views!
- 2) Fox cub trapped in a drain at Cooden Beach in May 2016 with 341,611 views.
- 3) Fox cub in Eastbourne rescued with a plastic tub on his head in March 2015 with 243,125 views.
- 4) Casualty Manager Katie cleaning up maggots from a hedgehog using a suction unit in September 2016 with 107,752 views.
- 5) Dottie the baby deer in June 2011 with 12,866 views.

There are videos of baby fox cubs, difficult swan, dangerous deer, bitey fox, flappy gull, prickly hedgehog rescues and much more!

Unfortunately we don't always have a camera or mobile phone to hand nor a spare pair of hands to film, so we sometimes only manage to video part of the story. Some of the videos are just of the rescue, treatment or release.

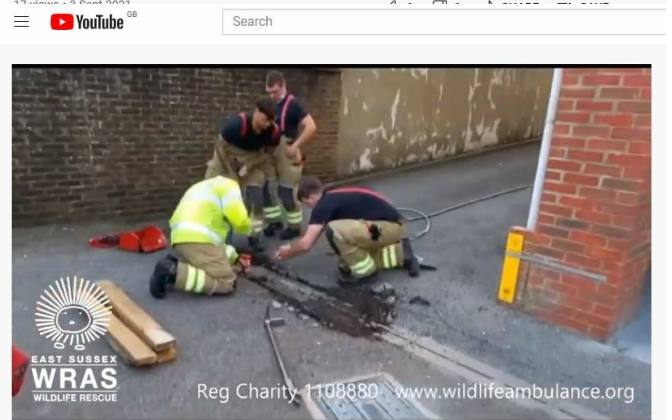
Not all our videos make it to You Tube and shorter videos are often posted on our Facebook page  
[www.facebook.com/wildlifeambulance](http://www.facebook.com/wildlifeambulance).

Last year students from Solent University made a video about WRAS's work and this is also on our You Tube page and is a great half hour programme and can be found at <https://youtu.be/wZwYpRNCgd0>.

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



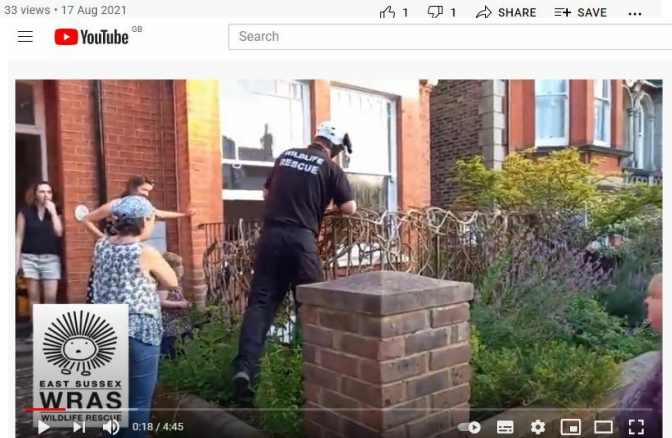
Duck Release Shinewater Park



Hedgehog Drain Rescue Seaford 23rd Aug 2021 YT



Harbour Seal from Ovingdean 16th Aug 2021



Fox Fallen into light well in Brighton 16th July 2021 YT

The YouTube symbol on our articles means there are videos available on our You Tube Channel about that rescue.



# 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 have an 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 an inscription 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 construct 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)



# PIGEON POST BY KATHY MARTYN

Going into Autumn I thought I would have a little count up of roughly how many babies I have reared at home this year. My notes indicate that so far I have reared 51 wood pigeons starting on 26th March; 39 feral pigeons starting on 27th March and 37 Collared Doves starting on 12th February so that is 127 so far although my figures will be out slightly when it got so busy and it feels more! Overall I feel my success rate has been pretty good – there are always those that you get that are just so poor you don't stand a chance. Or those that people have tried to rear or hatch at home then pass on when they realise something is going wrong. Their intentions are good but it is upsetting for us trying to pull them through.

The almost non existent Summer has lead to a lot more illness amongst woodies and feral pigeons in the wild with a lot of viral/respiratory problems that have been very hard hitting on them with birds coming in very poorly towards the end of the Summer. I have had the privilege of releasing in my garden some of the woodies I reared from a day old. That has been amazing watching them grow day by day and then seeing them mature in the wild as they come down to feed. That is what it is all about and reminds you what all those sleepless nights and heartache are all about. The season for me is still going strong with 18 youngsters still at home including 2 five day old Collared Doves.

# SQUIRRELS UP TELEGRAPH POLES!

It is quite common for young squirrels to run up telegraph poles, street lights, drain pipes, or even up brick walls out of fear after being chased by a predator, dog, cat, children or after having a near miss with a car. They will often climb to the top and stay there frightened to come down for up to 48 hours. They will often sit there chuntering away swearing in squirrel language at anyone going past. The worse thing anyone can do is put a ladder up and try and catch them, as they are likely to jump from the top and this can cause serious life threatening injuries. Despite not having access to food or water for 48 hours they rarely develop problems as a result of being there for so long. They need time to calm down, and build up their confidence before they climb down (normally during the night). Best thing you can do is observe from a distance. If you can see an injury or you are concerned that the squirrel is caught up then please call straight away.



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*Helping to support the wildlife of Sussex.*



## ANOTHER VICTIM OF FISHING GEAR!



Sadly another victim of fishing hooks.

In late September we received a call to a gull struggling in the water at the Sovereign Harbour, Eastbourne. He was reported as having become waterlogged and was using his wings to get onto some rocks.

Rescuer Tony attended and using a pole and net managed to get the gull to safety.

Once away from the water it was discovered that the juvenile Greater Black Backed Gull had managed to get fishing hooks caught inside his beak and around his feet, hooking them together and making them unusable in the water. Rescuer Tony cut the line between the hooks to make the gull a little more comfortable for his journey to WRAS's casualty centre.

During the journey the gull had managed to pull one of the hooks out of his leg causing some bleeding. A pressure bandage was applied to allow the bleeding to stop whilst the other hooks were carefully removed

from his mouth and feet.

As a result of the hook in the mouth causing a lot of bruising, swelling and tissue damage WRAS's care team were concerned how this would heal and how he would find eating.

After a worrying five days of close supervision and attention the gull stabilised and the team could relax.

The gull was with WRAS for a further 10 days before it was ready to be taken back down to the harbour at Eastbourne for release.

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# FUNDRAISING THANK YOUS

A big thank you to the staff and customers of One Stop St Leonards who held a fundraising day on 12th September and raised £610 for WRAS! They held a raffle and tombola as well as sold cakes and a lucky dip, jewellery, hand made cards, pick a straw game and throw sponges at the manager in the stocks! What an amazing effort by everyone, thank you!

WRAS founder Trevor Weeks has raised more than £900 for WRAS by taking part in the Bates Green Gallop. Trevor completed 4 laps of the course which is 14 miles just over a Half Marathon.

Thank you to Veronica Ewens, Janette Dobbins, Hayley Beddows, Willow Claire and Daniel Townsend for raising money for WRAS via Facebook. Also a thank you to Andrea Weetch, Maria Pali, Natasha Tashie, Carolyn Nicholls, Terri Cooper, Nick Heath, Jacky Ashworth and Kim Wheeler who have raised money by setting up birthday fundraisers to support WRAS! These amazing people have together raised over £700. Thank you so much!

Harriet Pavey and Robert Townsend have raised over £1,600.00 between them in running the London Marathon!

As part of Harriet's training she also took part in the Wimbledon Common Half Marathon. Robert's training involved him running over 275km around London which has included running to all the Premier and Football League stadiums in London. Thank you Robert and Harriet for helping to raise so much money for WRAS! What an achievement!

Also thank you to Class 2/3 of Barcombe Primary School who have raised £82.00 during the last academic year too!

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 as possible.





# LATE DUCKLINGS RESCUE AT SHEFFIELD PARK

Staff at the National Trust property Sheffield Park grew concerned after the mum of 8 ducklings disappeared.

Rescuer Trevor Weeks and Sandra Furner headed across as these sort of rescues often require multiple rescuers.

Once on site the eight ducklings were

happily swimming about at the far side of the pond. With lots of vegetation, bushes and brush wood at the edges of the water the rescue had the potential to be really challenging.

Trevor decided to don a storm suit, waded out and try and bring the ducklings to a more easily managable



area of the pond.

The ducklings were very co-operative and through more luck than skill Trevor was able to corral them next to a large fallen tree trunk in the pond. With Sandra's help they all suddenly ran straight into Trevor net in what has to be one of the quickest duckling rescues of its type!

WRAS's transit was stood down and Trevor and Sandra loaded the

ducklings onboard and headed back across the park and on to WRAS's Casualty Centre at Whitesmith.

They will now be reared in safety and it is hoped that they will be releasable back at Sheffield Park once old enough to look after themselves properly.

Big thank you to the National Trust Staff who waited for rescuers to arrive and assisted.



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 may produce a calendar of the best entries and 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/>

## 25TH YEAR CELEBRATION PHOTO COMPETITION

25 YEARS

RESCUING  
WILDLIFE since 1996



EAST SUSSEX  
**WRAS**  
WILDLIFE RESCUE

**Giving injured wildlife  
another chance!**

RESCUE • REHABILITATE • RELEASE

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





On Saturday 17th July 'Lucky' the gull was brought into care having been saved from the sea off Eastbourne beach by an amazing pair of kayakers.

After being spotted struggling to stay afloat due to fishing line and weights pulling him down he was retrieved from the water. He was saved and brought to shore where another amazing member of the public removed the weights and brought him straight to our casualty centre arriving just before 12 noon.

On arrival it was suspected he had swallowed a hook due to visible line still in his throat.

'Lucky' was immediately seen and assessed by WRAS vet Mike Symons. Then he underwent an anesthetic and had an x ray taken to confirm and view the position of the hook.

On further examination it revealed the hook had torn through both the oesophagus and the outer layer of skin in the neck but remained inside, making this case more complicated than first expected.

After carefully removing the hook using a crop tube, the layer of tissue were cleaned and sutured successfully.

Five days post operation and with no complications and the wound healing as hoped, Lucky was able to move into one of our indoor pens. Here we could continue to monitor his eating and keep an eye on the wound whilst he was able to use his wings again and prepare for his release. A couple of weeks after that and it was release day!

A huge thank you and well done to everyone involved in getting this gull to safety and enabling him to recover for release.





# MICHAELA'S HEDGEHOG SAFETY PLEA

Dear WRAS,

*I would just like to say that I am eternally grateful for all of your help over the past five years with the myriad of rescues we have brought to you. Sadly, some of them didn't make it through and that has been an emotional time for us as we try very hard to not only keep our population of local hedgehogs but also try to keep them safe and healthy.*

*A special mention goes out to Katie, Amy and Holly who have kept us reassured during difficult times.*

*I say difficult not only because since the pandemic and an influx of injured wildlife but moreover ensuring that the life was saved of the little hog found with a severed leg on the 11th July. I recognise that surgery on this little creature would have been timely and expensive but I was overjoyed when he was returned back to me. I had a little one to one with him when he uncurled on my lap the evening I released him and watched him waddle off under our native hedge.*

*A couple of months later I noticed on camera a hedgehog with a nasty gash on his back. I was pleased it was not the same hedgehog as last time. Although finding this poor creature with both rear legs missing and in no doubt excruciating pain we rushed him to you.*

*It prompted me to type out a leaflet to my neighbours pleading with them to take care when strimming and mowing and to check at the base of every plant growing low to the ground, every hedge, every lawn edge that creeps into lowering branches of shrubs. I posted them through the*

**STRIMMER WARNING**

**Every year many hedgehogs are seriously injured or killed by cutting machines in the garden.**

Please check grass and hedges thoroughly before using mowers, strimmers, or hedge cutters.

A hedgehog's natural defence is to roll in a ball rather than run away, but their spines are no match for a strimmer.




Photo Credit: Oliver Wilks



British Hedgehog Preservation Society  
Charity number: 1106162 (January 2008)

Hedgehog House, Dhustone, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 3PL  
Tel: 01584 890801 info@britishhedgehogs.org.uk  
www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk @hedgehogsociety

*doors of all the neighbours that have connecting gardens - there are 16 and I attached your leaflet.*

*I offered any help if any of my neighbours don't know what to do with an injured or sick hedgehog. I am more than willing to pick them up and bring to you. I hope they read it and take notice.*

*Thank you all once again for the wonderful work you do.*

*Michaela, Hailsham.*

*Dear Michaela, Thank you so much for helping to spread the word about hedgehogs. People often don't take any notice of such problems unless it is happening on their doorstep, so well done for bringing this to their attention. Thank you also for your kind words too.*

*Trevor Weeks - East Sussex WRAS*



# DANGEROUS DEER RESCUE !

WRAS rescuers rushed to Crockstead near Halland on Friday 1st October after a fallow deer caught its antlers in electric rope. The finders initially cut the deer free but it quickly became caught again.

WRAS was phoned and were onsite rapidly and joined the finders who were pinning the deer to the floor. It took three people to control the deer whilst the rope was completely removed from the antlers before they could release the deer to safely run off.

If you find a deer with its antlers entangled in rope it is not advisable to cut the rope letting the deer run off trailing the rope. This often leads to them becoming entangled again and often in locations where they are not spotted. It is best to keep your distance ideally out of sight of the deer, as well as keep noise and dogs away. Then call a rescue service for help.

It is thought that hundreds of deer die every year as a result of not being found in time.





## NEWS IN BRIEF:



## GULL RESCUE AT HAILSHAM POND.

An eagle eyed member of the public spotted a juvenile gull caught at the edge of the main island in the middle of Hailsham Common Pond in October.

Rescuers Julie, Ellie and Lisa attended with boats to paddle across to the island where they worked together to safely reach the gull and cut it free.

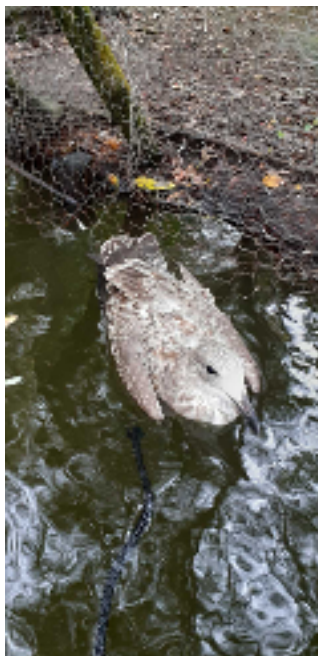
The fishing line was well wrapped round the bird which would not have

been able to fly in that condition.

Fishing is not allowed on the pond – perhaps the line was brought there attached to another bird and fell off. The line was hooked up to wire mesh around the edge of the island. Mesh is often used around ponds when landscaping to protect new plants, but it frequently causes entanglement and injury.

After cutting the bird free Julie paddled back to shore leaving Ellie and Lisa to remove the rest of the line to avoid any further problems.

The gull was taken back to WRAS's Casualty Centre where the Care Team removed the rest of the line that was wrapped round its wings, body and legs. The gull was released several days later once fully recovered from its ordeal.



## TRAPPED BADGER IN BRIGHTON ESCAPES WITH A LITTLE HELP!

A badger fell into a walled garden in Freshfield Road Brighton in September after walking along the wall between the gardens during the night.

Rescuers attempted to catch the badger which put up quite a fight being healthy and young. A couple of attempts to catch the badger were made using a dog grasper and cage, but the badger outwitted rescuers each time.

The badger ran to the bottom of the garden to escape rescuers and just about managed to climb the wall and get out and run off along the wall.







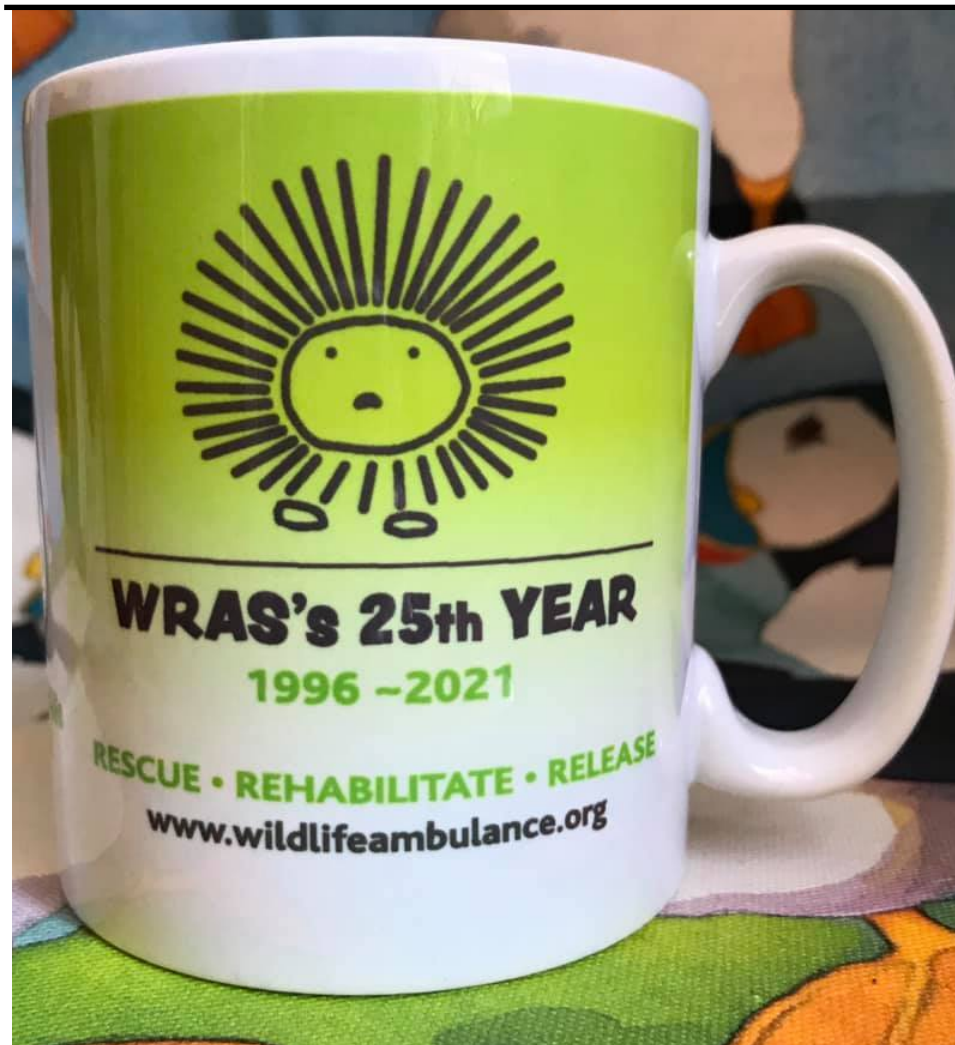
## **TOAD & NEWT DRAIN RESCUE IN SEAFORD.**

WRAS received an unusual call after a member of the public noticed something moving down a drain in Seaford.

Unable to lift the drain cover rescuers were called out . Using WRAS's drain tools they were able to lift the drain cover and rescue ten toads and a smooth newt from down the bottom of the drain.

It is likely that they had fallen down during their autumn migration back to their hibernation grounds in woods, gardens and hedgerows.

All the amphibians were released unharmed.



## **GET YOUR CELEBRATORY 25TH YEAR WRAS MUG!**

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.



**Photo Competition Winner:**

Pavel Babic of Brighton

**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](https://www.facebook.com/wildlifeambulance)  
[www.instagram.com/eastsussexwras](https://www.instagram.com/eastsussexwras)**

**[www.youtube.com/user/eastsussexwras](https://www.youtube.com/user/eastsussexwras)  
[www.twitter.com/eastsussexwras](https://www.twitter.com/eastsussexwras)**

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