



EAST SUSSEX  
**WRAS**  
WILDLIFE RESCUE

# The Rescuer

SUMMER 2022 EDITION • REG CHARITY 1108880



# WILDLIFE CRISIS IN SUSSEX!

EAST SUSSEX  
WILDLIFE RESCUE AMBULANCE SERVICE

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WHITESMITH  
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GENERAL ENQUIRIES: 01825-873003

[HTTPS://WILDLIFEAMBULANCE.ORG](https://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.

# Trevors' Editorial

Over the last few years we have had a lot to contend with. Covid-19, lockdowns working with no volunteers and a huge spike in casualties with everyone being at home. We have seen a huge increase in expenses with our ambulances costing over £100 to fill up with fuel. This winter has been a major problem with Avian Influenza and recently our Avian flu scare and large numbers of dead and dying gulls along the coast too. It has to be one of the most depressing periods for our wildlife ever!



Our staff and volunteers have however been amazing! I am so proud of how well they have pulled together and helped. The co-operation which has gone on between WRAS and our friends at Brighton & Hove Wildlife Advice and Rescue Service, Seahaven Wildlife Rescue, Bexhill & Hastings Wildlife Rescue, Folly Wildlife Rescue, British Divers Marine Life Rescue and RSPCA Mallydams Wood has been outstanding.

Sadly though with Rogers Wildlife Rescue having closed down and Bird Aid closed this summer there has been a huge strain on everyone. When we had to close our doors for just 18 hours due to our Avian Flu scare it really showed just how critical and delicate the situation is here in East Sussex and it suddenly made people sit up and think about just how much WRAS is needed and the volume of casualties which WRAS takes in. As you will read we are officially launching our Wildlife Crisis in Sussex Appeal. See page 5 for more information on how you can help and what our plans are.

Spring into Summer is a magical albeit busy time of year. Watching our Care Team so dedicatedly handling and caring for the little baby birds and mammals is so heart warming. The whole team is starting to look tired though and a bit worn out around the edges but hopefully the busy season will peak soon and things will start to calm down again.

As you will see from this newsletter our service has been very busy and we need your support more than ever before. If you can extend your standing order for just an extra £1 a month or make an extra contribution this month, edit your will to leave us a legacy, or even start volunteering, they are all ways in which you can help. Thank you in advance for all your help and support.



EAST SUSSEX  
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# WILDLIFE CRISIS IN SUSSEX

There is a huge wildlife crisis in East Sussex right now. With Rogers Wildlife Rescue closed, Bird Aid and RSPCA temporarily closed and others either not open or running a reduced service, this mixed with Avian Flu killing gulls along the East Sussex coast, our local wildlife is in serious trouble.

We fear that thousands of casualties are at risk of just being euthanised at local vets practices if East Sussex WRAS can't obtain more funding to expand, buy property and increase capacity. The pressure on East Sussex WRAS' staff and volunteers, to deliver our core purpose, has never been higher.

Many are working long into the night to do everything they can to help. We are trying our best to compensate for the loss of facilities in the county as much as we can, but it all comes at a cost which is already eating into our funds.

Our staff and volunteers have been in tears several times after being spoken to so badly by callers who take out their frustration on us. We are just as frustrated we hate the fact we can't do more, but without purchasing our own land and buildings it's going to be impossible. We are doing all we can. We really don't want to let our wildlife down and really need your help and support. This is a devastating wildlife crisis and it is happening right now.

We are one of the South East's biggest and most well established wildlife rescue organisations and help around 5000 wildlife casualties every year. WRAS has seen a unprecedented increase in calls over the last couple of months due to other rescue centres closing, some reducing their service and other neighbouring organisations becoming overwhelmed with their workload.

WRAS has also taken on casualties from Folly Wildlife Rescue near Tunbridge Wells, from Bexhill & Hastings Wildlife Rescue, from Worthing & District Animal Rescue Service, from Seahaven Wildlife Rescue. Bird Aid at Hailsham also tell people to contact us to undertake gull rescues as they don't have the resources to undertake rescues or transport gulls. Various vets in Haywards Heath, Burgess Hill, Bexhill, Seaford, Brighton, Hastings, Eastbourne, Lewes and more have been calling on our help. WRAS needs to expand its current facilities and improve its capacity especially to take in more gulls, coastal and sea birds, plus an improved seal holding facility. This includes having better waterfowl pens, fox and badger pens and hedgehog rehabilitation facilities and additional and better indoor and outdoor facilities. We also need bigger and better veterinary facilities to cope with the volume of operations, X-rays and surgical work being undertaken now. Everything WRAS does is led by veterinary science and compassion for our previous local wildlife. We ensure that we work within the 5 freedoms of the Animal Welfare Act and we always aim to provide the highest possible care we can. WRAS is not at risk of closing down, but if we don't manage to purchase land and build bigger and better facilities, thousands of casualties are going to suffer and end up just being euthanised at local vets practices because no one has the space to take in the casualties and look after them.

We need another £150,000 to hit our target to make Phase One a reality of procuring a site and undertaking the necessary surveys, planning and seeking the necessary permissions. The total amount needed to set up this new Casualty Centre is not going to be cheap and the final costs will vary depending on the site chosen but the final costs are expected to be around £2-3million. We will develop the site as funds become available over the next few years.

Your donation today, will help give our wildlife a brighter tomorrow. Thank you.



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## WILDLIFE CAPACITY CRISIS APPEAL

To donate, please call 01825-873003, or visit our website. Every donation made will help a wildlife casualty in need. Thank you for your continued support, from everyone at WRAS.

# Expansion of WRAS' Orphan Rooms

This spring, WRAS has been busy in more ways than one, with the expansion of the Monica Russel Orphan Rearing Rooms. Previously the unit had just two rooms, one primarily used for mammals and reptiles and the other for birds. As WRAS's workload has increased the demand has outgrown and the space become more difficult to work in.

As spring set in volunteers at WRAS started sorting out space and moving items around to free up space for an expansion. The room area is almost doubling the size of the orphan unit and will make the environment much better for both the casualties and our volunteers.

A huge thank you to Nathan Ring for donating his time and tools for constructing the new dividing wall and our staff for all their hard work on making this possible.



# Avian Flu Scare

## Avian Flu Scare increases the need for WRAS to set up a new centre.

Over the Queen's Jubilee bank holiday weekend, East Sussex WRAS admitted two gulls from Brighton and one from Eastbourne which were lethargic and clearly ill. They were showing no other signs which would support Avian Flu so were admitted into care. Within 24-48 hours they both deteriorated along with a third gull from Eastbourne. All three now showed signs of potential Avian Flu and a fourth gull from Brighton was delivered to the centre showing the same symptoms. Our Vet, legally bound to do so, had no option but to report this notifiable disease to the Animal Plant Health Agency (APHA), part of DEFRA.

WRAS was instructed to lock the premises down and were unable to admit or rescue any casualties until the APHA had investigated the incident. For what felt like a very long and distressing 18 hours, staff were worried sick about the outcome. Our ambulances were not allowed to leave or attend rescues in case they were contaminated with Avian Flu. Volunteers were stood down and staff at work had to isolate themselves in the volunteer and staff room until the investigation was finished.

We were delighted however when the investigator deemed the gull's illness and deaths not to be Avian Flu despite being very similar. Due to multiple dying and dead gulls being found in the Brighton and Hove area WRAS had no option but to put additional restrictions in place in case this was a virus or illness which had the potential to wipe out casualties within WRAS's care.

WRAS's current hospital has served its purpose really well over the last 12 years, but is no longer fit for purpose with the quantity of casualties being admitted and the workload being placed on WRAS' shoulders. Just for a few hours WRAS had to close its doors, smaller neighbouring organisations and local vets practices were inundated with calls for help and struggled with the demand, showing just how important East Sussex WRAS's service is to the wildlife of East Sussex.

WRAS' plans for a new centre include the need for a special isolation unit where casualties can be quarantined away from the main hospital to avoid any potential risk of Avian Flu or other illnesses being admitted into the main building and therefore remove the threat that APHA might cull all the bird in WRAS's care should Avian Flu hit the hospital.

# Duckling Season



When you think of spring one of the first cute and cuddly wild creatures you think about is ducklings. They are often some of the first baby birds we get to deal with and this year was no exception. As has happened in previous years mother ducks nest away from the dangers lurking around ponds and streams to nest in the relative safety of human's gardens.

Many people, even if they have cats and dogs don't even realise they have a duck nesting in their garden till the mum suddenly appears with a dozen or more ducklings trailing behind her. Once they are 24 hours old the mum will walk then to a pond or stream but this journey can be over a mile away from where she nests. This is where WRAS ends up getting called in to assist with escorting mum and her sibling to safety or rescuing them out of drains.

The first family of 2022 were reported wandering around London Road Hailsham on 12th April. Rescuers were quickly on site and with multiple water sources in the area they had to be careful not to force the family in the wrong direction, ensure no youngster were lost down road drains nor taken by cats or attacked by dogs out on walks.

The family steadily wandered north along London Road before turning into Anglesey Ave, then turning right down the path and into the northern end of Stroma Gardens. They proceeded all along the road turning right towards Farne Close before eventually stopping at the pond in Farne Close.

# Duckling Season

Within 3 days WRAS rescuers found themselves rushing to the Barley Mow Park on Eastbourne Road Uckfield where a mum and 14 ducklings started wandering out onto what is normally a busy road. Luckily she decided to move on Good Friday and the road was much quieter than normal making escorting the youngsters much easier.

This time it was a short 100 metre stretch of road before they were into a field on the opposite side of the road and could safely walk to a nearby pond. Sadly one of the ducklings was rather weak and couldn't keep up with the other and needed to be rescued. Another team of rescues had to attend Barcombe Mills on 24th April after reports of a lone duckling unable to get up the weir and separated from its family. With some patience rescuers were able to net the duckling from the bank. As they were leaving they were alerted to another lone duckling at a different position in the river.

This location proved to be more problematic and rescuers needed specialist water safe equipment to wade in and attempt rescue from the water. It wasn't long before this one was in care too. Not knowing where their mum was, both ducklings were admitted into WRAS's care. By the end of May WRAS had dealt with 135 ducklings either by helping them get to safety or after being orphaned and needing to come into care.





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# Blue Tits close shave with chainsaw!

A nest of 5 baby blue tits had a very narrow escape when their tree was cut down by a chain saw which missed their heads by about 1cm!

"We received a call on Thursday afternoon to say a nest of birds had been found after cutting a tree down on a property at Sedlescombe near Hastings. We sent one of our veterinary ambulances to the scene to assess the young and their condition" said Duty Rescue Co-ordinator Kristy Sayer from East Sussex WRAS.

WRAS Rescuers Hev Clarke and Sandra Furner attended on site and were presented with a round of the tree trunk which contained the nest of blue tits. "We were amazed at how close the saw blades must have come to the youngsters. Sadly there were signs that one may have perished but the five in the nest were extremely lucky and very narrowly missed the saw. If they had raised their heads up or the saw had been placed just 1cm lower they would all have been killed" said rescuer Hev.

A tree surgeon was undertaking the work on a property in Sedlescombe had undertaken checks to look for birds nests, but had no idea that there was a nest inside the tree trunk. They contacted WRAS as soon as they were discovered.

The nest of five nestling blue tits were taken to WRAS's Casualty Centre at Whitesmith in the middle of East Sussex and transferred into one of WRAS's incubators in the charities newly expanded Orphan Rearing Unit.

They will now be hand reared by WRAS's Care Team staff and Orphan Rearing volunteers being fed every 15 minutes from 7am till 10pm. "This is a timely reminder that at this time of year birds are nesting everywhere. It really isn't a good time of year to be cutting down trees or removing bushes although we appreciate that when there is a danger of a tree

falling or is diseased then more urgent action is sometimes needed. It is essential that trees and bushes are checked thoroughly and not to forget that holes in tree trunks are often used by not just woodpeckers but other smaller birds like blue tits and robins" said Trevor. East Sussex WRAS is one of the South East's biggest wildlife rescue centres and is well established and constantly expanding its facilities to help cope with the every increasing workload from gulls, pigeons, birds of prey, garden birds, waterfowl and hedgehogs, rabbits, foxes, bats, badgers and more. "Our staff and volunteers work really hard at this time of year and we have over 250 casualties in care at the moment" said Trevor.



To donate, please call 01825-873003, or visit our website. Every donation made will help a wildlife casualty in need. Thank you for your continued support, from everyone at WRAS.

# "Bear" from Brighton

## Case Study:

Species: Fox

Name: "Bear"

Date: 26th February 2022

Location: Brighton

Rescuers: Brighton & Hove

Wildlife Rescue & Advice

Service (B&H WARS).



## History & Background:

WRAS was asked to take on a fox from B&H WARS which they successfully trapped after reports of the fox having an injured ear and possible chest injury.

## Admission Assessment:

The left ear was swollen and discharging causing a mess on the fur including on the chest. Luckily there was no chest injury.

## Vet Treatment:

WRAS's Vet Mike assessed the fox to find a large abscess. Over 60ml of pus was drained from the ear, relieving the pressure and painfulness of the infection. Courses of antibiotics and pain relief were started. Vet Lourdes, using anaesthetic later worked on the ear removing further infection and cleaning up the damaged tissue as well as undertaking a small operation to help the ear heal. Plastic tubes were placed either side to encourage the ear to stay flat and prevent the ear from refilling. The ear needed regular cleaning and assessment including anaesthetising twice more.

## Housing & Care:

The fox was housed in one of WRAS's indoor pens with a straw bed, blankets and a shelter to hide in. WRAS's Care Team administered the twice daily medication and WRAS volunteers cleaned out the pen once a day and provided fresh food and water twice a day.

## Rehabilitation & Acclimatisation:

The fox was placed into an outside pen for rehabilitation and to ensure no infection would return

## Outcome:

After just over a month of care at WRAS, "Bear" the fox, was healed and fit enough to be returned back to Brighton for release. Volunteers at Brighton & Hove WARS collected Bear for release on 29th March. **Total cost: £375**

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# Leaving WRAS a gift in your will

## 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 2022 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)



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# Fundraising Thank You's

Thank you to Matthew, Elaine, Pamela, Kim, Julie, Nadia, Reigna, Angie and Donzi for setting up Facebook Birthday Fundraisers in aid of East Sussex WRAS and raising over £410 this spring. Thank you to Nadia N who raised £370 for East Sussex WRAS by climbing Mount Snowdon. This is a great way to support WRAS and unlike some platforms Facebook don't deduct any charges from your donation.

If you would like to set up a Birthday Fundraising for East Sussex WRAS just go to <https://www.facebook.com/wildlifeambulance/fundraisers> or click on the Fundraisers tab on our facebook page and then "Raise Money". Share the link which is created with all your friends and family as much as you can and keep posting every couple of days to ensure you maximise the amount you raise.

On Justgiving we have received over £168.75 in anonymous donation since the beginning of the year, if you are one of them thank you very much. Donations have also been received from Michelle B, Diana B, Jessica B, Daniel C, Joseph C, Ronald D, Barbara D, Roy E, Catherine H, Heidi L, Paul M, Joanna M, Dennis Q, Noreen R, Vanessa R, Jenni S and Genevieve W totalling over £726.

We are also receiving monthly donations from Colin W, Lisa V, Matt T, Dan M and Alison C which is amazing totalling over £147 per month.

We are continuing to receive donations via our Amazon Wish List, but unfortunately we more often than not don't know who has sent the donations to us. If you have sent us anything recently a huge thank you from all of us and the wildlife which benefits! You can donate via our Wish List using this link: <https://amzn.eu/2g06g90>  
We cannot thank everyone on here, but thank you to anyone who has supported WRAS.



# How your donations make a difference



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 DONATION CAN: Fund essential food for the casualties in our care. (E.G. Lettuce, Kale, Cat Food, Bird Seed & Fish)**



**£60 DONATION CAN: fill up the tank of one of our ambulances to help provide our vital rescue service.**



**£5 MONTHLY DONATION CAN: provide medication and care for an oil covered bird.**

## 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

# Two Grey Seals rescued in 3 days!



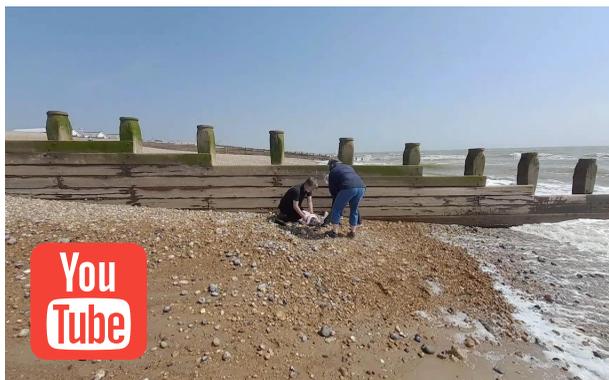
East Sussex has never been the best of places for seeing seals in comparison to neighbouring counties Kent or West Sussex, but over the last few years the number of harbour (common) seals has become more common. The larger Grey seals have been even more rarely spotted until this year. This spring has seen a number of juvenile grey seals spotted on local beaches. WRAS works closely with British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR) and has helped to keep several seals safe after they have hauled themselves out on beaches whilst moulting on Seaford and Eastbourne beaches.

On 23rd April WRAS was called down to a grey seal on Eastbourne Beach not far from Treasure Island. Rescuers were expecting the seal to be one of the moulting greys but photos taken showed this to be a different animal. This time the seal was clearly in need of help, its demeanour was not good, there was a discharge from the nose and puncture wounds. Rescuers from both BDMLR and WRAS worked together to get the seal secured and up to WRAS's ambulance.

It was then taken to WRAS's Casualty Centre where it was tubed vital rehydration fluid whilst waiting for BDMLR to find space at one of the specialist seal facilities around the country. Luckily a spot was available at the RSPCA Mallydams Wood Centre at Fairlight so the seal was soon on its way into their care for treatment for its wounds and for lungworm.



# Two Grey Seals rescued in 3 days!



Only a few days later on 27th April BDMLR ask for WRAS's assistance again with another grey seal on the beach at Hove. On arrival several local BDMLR medics were keeping the seal safe from harm.

They too initially had thought the seal was just one which was moulting till they too spotted puncture wounds. Rescuers from WRAS and BDMLR worked together to get the rather feisty seal secured and into a container. The seal was transported back to WRAS's Casualty Centre for tubing and cleaning of its wounds. It quickly became apparent this seal also had lungworm. WRAS agreed to house the seal overnight and BDMLR rang round to see if there were any space for the seal. After numerous phone calls a space was found at the South Essex Wildlife Hospital. WRAS drove the seal the hour and a half journey to the hospital where it was admitted into their care.

Both seals are responding well to treatment which has been difficult and drawn out, but are both expected to be released back into the wild once fit and well.

# Pigeon Post

## by Kathy Martyn

At the end of last year we had a pigeon come in who proceeded to give us one of the biggest challenges ever, but also taught us so much about the resilience of these birds, and ended in an incredible success story after months of work.

'Stinky' as he came to be known, was a feral pigeon who came in at a really good weight, and able to fly, but with a deep, fairly small wound on his side which went right into his body cavity. It stank, and everything was black and necrotic inside, weeping pus, but in himself he was bright as a button, fat, eating and flying, with an incredible will to live.

As well as the wound, which we were cleaning out and treating daily with our vet, he had a large solid mass on the other side of his body, higher up and initially our vet wasn't able to determine what it was. The wound itself was reluctant to start to heal, we xrayed him, and found no fractures anywhere, but it was not clear what this mass was.

So our vet decided to open it up under anaesthetic. We found that he had a HUGE mass of solid pus which filled most of the other side of his body, that the hole on the other side was connected to. After removing the mass, he was sutured and was back to himself in hours. The hole on the other side gradually closed over, and he was able to go into an indoor pen.

Unfortunately when he was reassessed for potential release a few weeks later there was a small scab on the suture line, and on investigation there was a build up again of debris in the cavity left after the mass was removed. This was fully cleaned out, but this time the large hole was left open, packed with medical grade honey. This was then cleaned out every few days.

Many weeks later, after hours of treatment the hole was visible shrinking, and the cavity filling in, leaving just a small dent in the skin it had been. This pigeon was the most amazing chap, never once off his food, recovering immediately after every procedure, and it was his personality and will to recover that allowed us to continue with his treatment and eventually get him released



# Fox Cub report by Katie Nunn-Nash



In March, we received a call from Highcroft Veterinary Group who had had 5 very young fox cubs handed to them after being disturbed during building works.

We went and collected the cubs who were in very good condition and looked to have been recently fed. In this situation we like to try and reunite cubs with mum who can move them to her back up den.

Luckily the contractors details had been taken and we were able to make contact, visit the site and make arrangements to return the cubs later that evening.

We were only too pleased to find that mum returned less than 30 minutes after the cubs returned and proceeded to collect all 5.

A family reunited, the best outcome we could have asked for!

This little girl was found on 11th April wandering along Western Road in Bexhill, she was left alone and monitored for a period of time incase mum returned for her. Unfortunately for this little one, mother didn't return.

In this time, and for the first 12 hours in care she didn't call out at all and was quite lethargic. After some fluids and food she soon perked up and became more alert and feisty. We introduced her to one of our many groups of cubs and found her a home with her newly formed group.



# Gull rescued from football goal

Rescuers were called out by grounds staff to the football pitches by Lewes Priory on Tuesday 5th April 2022.

A gull had become entangled in the netting of a football goal and become stuck. The more the gull struggled the tighter the gull became entangled. Rescuer Ellie Langridge attended on site with work placement students from Plumpton College and was able to cut the gull free.

"The gull was well entangled and very lucky he or she was at ground level or the poor bird would potentially have damaged to its wing" said Ellie. It took several long minutes to cut the netting away and disentangle the gull from the netting.

Once free the bird was taken back to WRAS's Casualty Centre at Whitesmith where the bird was admitted to monitor for invisible ligation wounds.

"Any casualty which has had line or netting applying pressure on any part of the body, should be taken into care for observation as the pressure can cause an invisible injury under the skin which can take 48 hours or more to appear" said Ellie.

The gull is currently in care and on track to making a full recovery and will be returned to Lewes Priory for release once fit and well again.



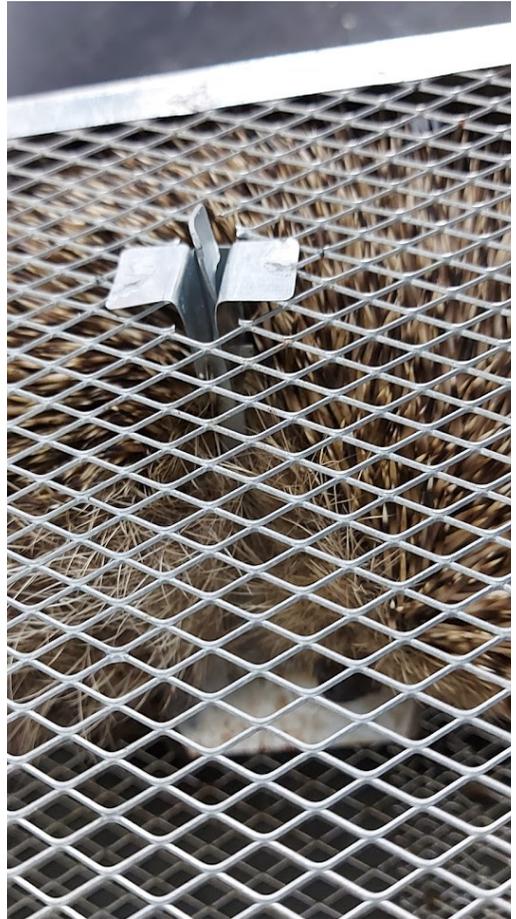


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# Hedgehog caught in rat trap

March saw WRAS admit a hedgehog after it became wedged inside a rat trap. Every year we get calls about hedgehogs caught in rodent traps, but these legally should only be set where they can only harm the target species and not other wildlife or pets.

Luckily for this hedgehog, the trap had been checked first thing in the morning and was brought straight down to us, the finders were very upset that it had become stuck and as a result removed the rest of the traps they had placed. This hedgehog was well stuck inside and had to be cut free.



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# News in brief

## Cormorant Rescued

This stunning cormorant came into care on 31st March from Sovereign Harbour Eastbourne after he was found sat up near the restaurants allowing people to get close to him. It is thought he had a collision causing him to become injured. A huge thank you to those who waited with him and ensured he remained safe until our rescuers arrived.



## Police close road for Swan Rescue

The A22 Golden Jubilee Way had to be closed on 20th May after a swan crash landed on the dual carriage way. A huge thank you to Sussex Police who were on scene & kept the swan safe till WRAS rescuers arrived and then stopped traffic to assist and keep rescuers safe during the rescue. It is always important that a crash landed swan is given a thorough check rather than just being put on the nearest lake or river. This swan for example showed no sign of injury when rescued but had a large wound to his keel which has required treatment and closing. Thank you so much to The Swan Sanctuary at Shepperton for taking him on and providing him with longer care than WRAS could provided and expert wound management. The swan was released back home after a full recovery.



## Pheasant gets new shoes

Rescued after being hit by a car this female pheasant was suffering from a broken toe and very bruised feet. She was completely unable to stand when she arrived. Shoes were put on to help stabilise the toe and give it time to heal. 2 weeks later she was standing and walking so her shoes were removed. It wasn't long after that she was returned back to her home in the wild.



# News in brief

## **Buzzard Release:**

Release day for one very lucky buzzard. He was found laying on his back by the side of the road through Maynards Green, he was scoped up by a very kind gentleman and brought straight to us.

Despite being a little dazed he had come away with no injuries or broken bones! Just over a week in care and he was back flying strongly and very keen to be back to his home range.



## **Swift Releases:**

Having been back in the UK for less than a month we started to get several adult swifts coming into care. They were either caught by cats, collisions with windows or just being found grounded and underweight. It's a common misconception that swifts can't take off from the ground, but a healthy swift can without any problems. By early June WRAS had already released four swifts back into the sky's of Sussex.

# Choking Fox Cub Saved

Wildlife Rescue crews rushed to the aid of a fox cub with its head trapped down the side of a shed in Stroma Gardens in Hailsham this afternoon.

This rescue was even more urgent as the cub's head was above a Rot or Kick Board running along the fence by the shed, meaning the cub at times was struggling to breathe properly each time it moved.

Rescuers were unsure how they were going to reach the cub as the gap between the shed and fence was so narrow. Keith Ring, Senior Rescuer, used a long pole with a rubber end to try and push the cub backwards where the gap became slightly wider but this proved difficult with the cub pointing in the wrong direction.

Trevor Weeks, WRAS Founder & Operations Director, then tried a circular crook on one of their rescue poles and managed to pull the cub backwards into a wider space.

"It was not easy and the cub was quite stressed. The cub kept choking when it attempted to move. I was concerned I might strangle the cub if I wasn't careful, but there was no easy way to get to the cub and it needed to get out of there quickly" explained Trevor.

Eventually Trevor was able to reach in and pull the cub to safety, but the cub was clearly in shock for his ordeal and started to collapse. The cub was quickly stimulated and encouraged to keep breathing and soon stabilised again.

The fox cub was rushed back to WRAS's Casualty Centre where the Casualty Manager Karen Francis admitted the cub to the Monica Russell Orphan Rearing Unit which has recently doubled in size! The cub has been treated, is being stabilised and now is in an incubator. Not out of the woods yet the cub will be closely monitored.



# Charity Shop Celebrates Queen's Jubilee

Whilst most people enjoyed the Platinum Jubilee our staff and volunteers were hard at work continuing to help the wildlife of East Sussex. Our Charity Shop helped to celebrate by organising an amazing jubilee shop window display with as many red, white and blue items as possible along with various royal memorabilia.





# Contact Us

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: 0300 10 26 999

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 & Student Placements:  
[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)  
[www.twitter.com/eastsussexwras](http://www.twitter.com/eastsussexwras)



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

EAST SUSSEX  
WILDLIFE RESCUE AMBULANCE SERVICE

UNIT 2  
THE SHAW BARN  
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24 HOUR RESCUE LINE: 0300-10-26-999

GENERAL ENQUIRIES: 01825-873003

[HTTPS://WILDLIFEAMBULANCE.ORG](https://wildlifeambulance.org)

