



EAST SUSSEX
WRAS
WILDLIFE RESCUE

The Rescuer

JULY 2024 EDITION

REG CHARITY 1108880



Scan to donate



EAST SUSSEX
WILDLIFE RESCUE AMBULANCE
SERVICE
UNIT 2
THE SHAW BARN
WHITESMITH
EAST SUSSEX
BN8 6JD



24 HOUR RESCUE LINE: 0300-10-26-999

GENERAL ENQUIRIES: 01825-873003

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



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A huge thank you to everyone who has made a donation so far to help with our Summer Staff Appeal. If you haven't already donated, please scan the QR code or visit www.wildlifeambulance.org for more information. WRAS was privileged to be chosen as one of the partner charities at the Arlington Bluebell Walk in April. The season started early, so our day on site ended up coinciding with the bluebells being well in flower. Around 650 people purchased tickets to get into the walk, and many more attended just to support WRAS in the café. Our volunteers did an amazing job on a busier than expected day. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Faye Carrick (above) back to our Charity Shop in Eastbourne, who has been off on maternity leave. A thank you to Oriana Stefa for filling her shoes in her absence. Our charity shop is an amazing place and really helps to raise much-needed funds to support our vital work.

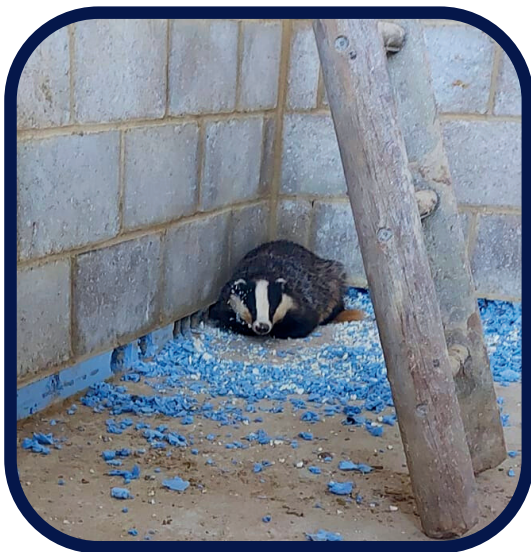
Trevor Weeks MBE
Founder & Operations Director.

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.

Basement Badger Rescue

This badger found himself in a bit of trouble after accidentally falling into the basement foundations at a construction site in Bexhill. Fortunately, the site was regularly monitored, and he was discovered in the morning, prompting immediate contact with WRAS.

Builders took action to secure the area to confine him. Rescuers swiftly captured and safely extracted him. He was cared for throughout the day and released the following night after further work was completed.



All creatures great and small are dealt with at WRAS. This frog came into WRAS with an injured foot. The swelling warranted an X-ray being taken by WRAS's Veterinary Surgeon.

Luckily there was no fractures and after a week in care the frog made a complete recovery and was returned to the wild close to where found.

A local brewery is donating the profits from its latest beer to assist Sussex wildlife. The earnings from the newest IPA created by The Hastings Project will aid East Sussex WRAS.

The Hastings Project brews beer to fund diverse local charitable and community projects. According to Ed Nash from the brewery, "This contribution will help WRAS obtain a new microscope and blood analysis machine, improving the efficiency and quality of treatment and care offered."



A day of ladders

By Keith Ring Senior Rescuer



Monday January 12th turned out to be an interesting day for rescues with 3 requiring the use of ladders.

The first call of the morning was a seagull trapped near the top of a telegraph pole. It had managed to get most of its foot down a 2mm gap in a metal footpeg. Our ladder was not long enough so a quick request resulted in a fire crew from Newhaven arriving on scene. Once their ladder was pitched the gull was quickly released. Unfortunately all the bones and joints in its leg were broken so it had to be put to sleep.

Next was a pigeon trapped in netting above a shop in Uckfield High Street, again caught by its foot and dangling. This time our ladder was long enough and the bird was quickly released. Although the leg appeared badly damaged at first, it was able to walk about back at the centre.

Then rescuers went to a squirrel that was in a wood burner. Rescuers panicked when, on arrival they were faced with a very angry and sooty squirrel and the premise had cream carpets! A plan was devised and put into action. Luckily the lightning quick reactions of the rescuers (never knew we could be that quick/lucky) resulted in the squirrel being caught midair by hand as it tried to make its escape to freedom. This was very much to the delight of the house owner.

Final ladder rescue of the day was for a starling that had managed to get the toes of both feet caught in the soffit of a house in Lewes. Each toe have to be pulled free individually and the bird escaped with minor injuries.

Thank you ASDA Polegate.

A huge thank you to all the staff and customers of ASDA Express store and petrol station at Cophall Roundabout in Polegate. They very kindly donated £1,000 towards WRAS's Summer Staff Appeal. If your company would like to help support our appeal contact Trevor on 01825-873003.





Summer Staff Appeal

Please help!

Many of you may have come across our appeal letter, social media posts, or heard about our Summer Staff Appeal on the local BBC radio and news. The response has been positive, but we still require more support!

As the operational costs of our service increase, there is a risk of reducing services if we do not receive enough support.

If you can spare an additional donation, our wildlife would be truly grateful. Does your company provide community grants? If so, please consider nominating our essential community work. You can donate by scanning the QR code, visiting our website at www.wildlifeambulance.org, or calling 01825-873003. Thank you!

EAST SUSSEX WRAS WILDLIFE RESCUE

VITAL SUMMER STAFF APPEAL

We urgently need your help to avoid us having to cut back on essential services this summer!

PLEASE HELP US FUND:

- Up to 1000 casualties a month!
- Dedicated Veterinary Support
- 24hr Rescue Co-ordination
- Expanded Care Team

SO WE CAN HELP SAVE MORE WILDLIFE

REG CHARITY 1108880
www.wildlifeambulance.org

SCAN TO DONATE



Weekly Lottery WIN up to £25,000

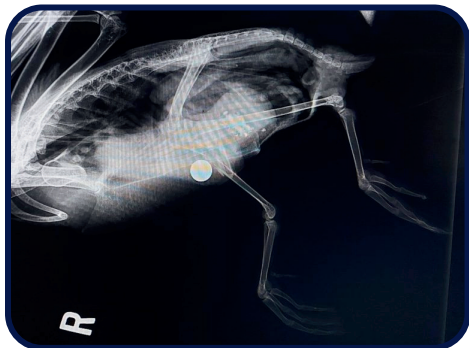
Lottery delivered by

unity

Take part in our online weekly lottery. Sign up from £1 a week and receive 6 unique numbers, every Friday numbers are drawn and if all six match you could win up to £25,000. Head to the website to find out more or call us on 01825 873003

Your donation will directly help us to prevent the suffering of our declining wildlife!

News in Brief



A duck was critically injured by a ball bearing and had to be euthanised. The bird was found with a fractured leg and extensive abdominal injuries, caused by a catapult-launched ball bearing. The incident which occurred in Ringmer was reported to Sussex Police. Founder Trevor Weeks expressed concern over the duck's suffering and urged anyone with information to contact the police with more information before other wildlife, pets or people are injured.

WRAS was invited to a reception at Brighton Town Hall by Cllr Jackie O'Quinn and Marc Abraham OBE to celebrate the work of local Animal Welfare Champions. It was great to meet local independent vets and their staff like Dr Julia Mewes Practice Director & Vet Surgeon of Mewes Vets from Rottingdean, pictured left with the Mayor.



This little nestling Tawny Owl was found away from trees and at risk, too young to be exploring so far away from safety so ended up being rescued.

These amazing creatures are capable of climbing up and down tree trunks even at this age, and should generally be left alone. If you find one and are concerned please call for advice.





Making a lasting impact on local wildlife

As a registered charity we rely on donations and gifts left in wills (legacies) to continue their work. Leaving a gift to East Sussex WRAS in your will can make a significant impact, which can range from replacing a veterinary ambulance to helping fund a new hospital and rescue centre. To include East Sussex WRAS in your will, you need to include the charity name and charity number. Seeking professional advice when writing a will is recommended to ensure your wishes are met.



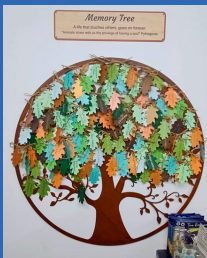
Help us make the switch!

If you have a monthly donation which set up more than 18 months ago, it is like it is a standing order. We are asking our supporters to help us save time and money by switching over to direct debits. We have partnered with Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) who offer direct debit services to charities at discounted prices, which makes the recording and processing much quicker and efficient.

To set up a Direct Debit scan this QR code or head to:

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/24454>

Alternatively go to our website, fill in one of our new donation forms, or call 01825873003. Don't forget to cancel your old Standing Order with you bank afterwards.



Let their memory live on!

Scan this QR code if you want to make a donation in memory of a lost loved one. We will display a leaf on our memory tree in reception, for every person remembered.



Our Reception & Rescue Co-ordinators

We're proud of our amazing team – but often forgotten is the hard work of our reception team. Our two permanent staff work with three part time temporary summer staff, along with a team of volunteers.

As well as helping to admit casualties, they also answer the phones, co-ordinate rescues and are also responsible for processing donations, sending out thank you letters, helping set up monthly donations, keeping our database up to date and trying to sent out casualty updates.

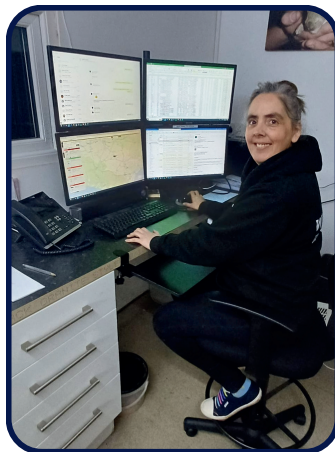
Their workload has been huge over the past few years and with the significant increases in

workload, not surprisingly they fell behind. Despite the challenge, our team is working hard to catch up.

“Taking a rescue call and hearing the distress, frustration or anger in the persons voice, is difficult at times. However, being able to co-ordinate rescuers attending and then welcoming them back and seeing the casualties go on to be treated is so worth while” explained Amy Davis, Co-ordinator.

Most volunteers are drawn to the hands-on work of caring for wildlife, but equally important is the work done by our reception team.

“I love my job at WRAS and the people I work with. I would highly recommend volunteering here” added Kristy Sayer, WRAS Co-ordinator.

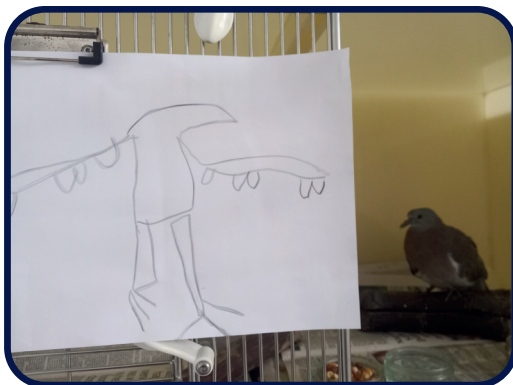


You can help support our wildlife by making a donation today.
www.wildlifeambulance.org or call 01825-873003

Pigeon Post

by Kathy Martyn Rehab Supervisor

Its been a quiet Winter for me at home baby pigeon wise, but we have had plenty of young doves in already, as well as the usual feral pigeons babies, and the wood pigeons are now coming in strong with youngsters arriving regularly. I have already had 6 at home, alongside my first hatchling ferals of the year - 4 babies covered in yellow fluff, they are already out in the release pens. We are getting a number of older fledged youngsters in, including this fully grown youngster just found on the ground with an old wing fracture. One of the finders children did this gorgeous drawing of him, I think he has captured him perfectly. Hopefully he can go home again soon.



Orphan Season in full swing!



During the spring and summer, our workload increases due to an influx of orphaned birds, leading to a need for seasonal volunteers called Orphan Rearing Assistants. These dedicated helpers hand-feed the orphaned birds continuously, caring for a variety of species from tiny sparrow hatchlings to nestling crows, young swallows, and tawny owlets.

This year, we welcomed more than 20 new volunteers to our orphan rearing team. Starting their shifts in early May, they work in pairs for 3 to 4 hours to ensure the hungry birds are fed. Our capacity to care for hundreds of orphaned birds each year is made possible by our devoted volunteers, who selflessly dedicate their time to this important cause.

If you have a passion for wildlife check out our volunteering opportunities at:
www.wildlifeambulance.org/volunteer

Katie expands WRAS's knowledge

Continued professional development plays a crucial role in wildlife rescue as the industry is continuously evolving. Networking and sharing information are key to ensuring the well-being of wildlife entrusted to us.

Lead Casualty Manager Katie Nunn Nash from WRAS undertook a trip to the South West earlier this year for seal training, visits to various rescue centres, and has attended an International Hedgehog Conference at Secret World, all with the aim to enhance and expand WRAS's knowledge and experience.



Training at the British Divers Marine Life Rescue Seal Hospital in Cornwall was extremely valuable, gaining vital new skills and knowledge on seal care, assessments, and daily tasks like monitoring vital signs. All skills which will help WRAS to improve its ability to hold on to and care for sick and injured seals for longer periods of time.

The trip included visits to Moyles Court Wildlife Rescue, Cornish Seal Sanctuary and Screech Owl Sanctuary. The impressive facilities at Moyles Court Wildlife Rescue, especially the seabird facilities were valuable to see. Discussions with these organisations highlighted common challenges facing our organisations. Exploring their facilities provided insights for improving WRAS's off-site release pens and equipment recommendations. Observing the admissions process at other rescues aligned with WRAS's procedures, including standard X-rays for assessing animals.

Attending the Hedgehog Conference also highlighted how WRAS could help collaborate on wildlife care and research. These experiences, conferences, and research studies will guide WRAS in developing protocols, enhancing care quality, and expanding the team's expertise.



A big thank you to all these organisations accommodating our visits and to Hellingly Parish Council for helping to fund this trip.

Please help us improve our success rate by making a donation today!

More Rescues!



Our rescuers were called out to a sparrowhawk flying around inside Sports Direct in Eastbourne. When they arrived they were able to take advantage of an in-store bonus and get two for the price of one - mix n match - a sparrowhawk and a pigeon! These rescues are not easy and in some buildings the metal work and structures in the ceilings can make capture impossible. On this occasion WRAS were successful and both birds released well.

Rescuers Sally and Brian attended a fox rescue in Grand Avenue Hove late at night. The fox had fallen down into a basement area behind some buildings. Rescuers had to catch the lively fox in the basement before taking it up to ground level to be released safely back home. Luckily the road were nice and quiet at that time.



A water rescue team from WRAS was sent to Ditchling in March to rescue a duckling. Local residents had not seen the mother for a couple of days and the ducklings were getting weak and disappearing. WRAS rescuer have to be careful not to jump to conclusions that the youngster is orphaned and avoid stepping in too early. The teamed to ensure mum has gone so spent a while observing the site before stepping in. The young duckling which did not have an island or anywhere safe to stay at night was caught and taken into care.

Arlington Bluebell Walk.

WRAS was privileged to be chosen as one of the Arlington Bluebell Walk daily charities.

This meant providing food and volunteers to run the café and woodland gate entry.

The site opened at 10am and there was a variety of delicious homemade cakes available as well as a team working hard in the kitchen providing jacket potatoes, sandwiches and soups.

Over 650 people paid to enter wood and many more attended just for the café. The event raised over £2,000 profit for our charity! A big thank you John McCutchan and his Bluebell Walk & Garden team, for their support of WRAS!

Photos courtesy of
Keith Churchill



East Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service (WRAS)

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

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

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

Rescue Line: 0300 10 26 999 **Non-emergency Line:** 01825-873003

E-mail: admin@eastsussexwras.org.uk

Fundraising: fundraising@eastsussexwras.org.uk

Volunteering & Work Experience: volunteers@eastsussexwras.org.uk

Website: www.wildlifeambulance.org

RCVS Premise # 6548370

To make a donation please call: 01825-873003.

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www.twitter.com/eastsussexwras

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

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