



EAST SUSSEX
WRAS
WILDLIFE RESCUE

The Rescuer

AUGUST 2024 EDITION

REG CHARITY 1108880



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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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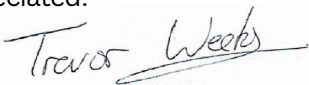
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I'm sat in my office preparing this newsletter between answering phone calls and all I can hear is the constant chirping of a nest of swifts which Katie is looking after in a little portable incubator, its a magical tune! This year is turning into another busy one and staff are working amazingly hard.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our Summer Staff Appeal. Your support has really helped. We have also been looking at a couple of potential sites for a new hospital, one wasn't suitable but the other might be but its early days still.

You can read more throughout this newsletter about how hard we have all been working for our local wildlife and some of the amazing creatures we have dealt with. It never fails to amaze me the dedication our staff and volunteers put in every summer when its so busy. But this would not be possible if it wasn't for your help and support, so thank you so much for all you do to support us, it is really appreciated!



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.



First Red Kite and Goshawk.

This summer, WRAS had two first-time visitors, a Red Kite and a Goshawk. The male Goshawk was brought in as a nestling with a fractured pelvis, requiring rearing and time to heal. The Red Kite, an adult, was admitted due to a road accident resulting in tail feather damage, preventing its release. After initial care at WRAS, the Kite underwent a procedure called "Imping" at South Essex Wildlife Hospital, where damaged feathers are replaced with a suitable moulted feathers or feathers from deceased bird. This delicate process involves precise trimming, measuring, and aligning to ensure the new feathers mimics the original. The Kite successfully underwent the procedure and was released shortly after regaining strength. The Goshawk is also expected to be ready for release soon. Both birds have been ringed by the BTO for future identification.



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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!

Adult & cygnet death prompts motorist plea!

WRAS founder Trevor Weeks found himself emotionally urging motorists to be more cautious after encountering two distressing road incidents in the county.

On Monday, July 15th, Trevor and senior rescuer Keith Ring responded to a situation involving two cygnets just north of Alfriston. While a family of swans was crossing a road, a car approached, leading to one cygnet being fatally injured and another separated from its family on the opposite side of the road. Rescuers successfully captured the cygnet and reunited it with its family on the correct side of the road.

On Wednesday 24th July Trevor was called to an adult swan that had been hit on Wartling Road across the Pevensey Levels. A witness reported seeing a van drive directly over the swan without slowing down or swerving, despite the swan being clearly visible from a distance.

WRAS cautioned drivers about the late summer season, when young wildlife might be exploring roads for the first time. Motorists should be vigilant not only for deer but also for badgers, foxes, hedgehogs, and young waterfowl that are not yet able to fly.

At the site of the adult swan's accident, founder Trevor emotionally appealed to drivers to exercise greater care. He emphasized the importance of not just reducing speed but also being attentive to potential accident areas, observing road signs, and being prepared for wildlife crossings.



This seagull's fate took a positive turn, all thanks to the Asda staff at Crumbles Eastbourne and the prompt action of WRAS rescuers. The bird, trapped inside for five days, was facing being shot by pest control officers until several members of the public urged managers to allow WRAS rescuers in to try a rescue. Late at night, a team of four rescuers entered the building to attempt the rescue mission. During the rescue, the gull kept flying around, almost eluding capture until it got caught on a wire from a hanging ceiling sign. The rescuers swiftly positioned themselves, supporting the bird with nets until a ladder was secured to safely bring it down. The gull was then taken to the Casualty Centre for observation and released two days later.

Save Gulls, Live Better



To donate scan the QR code using a smart phone or call 01825-873003, or visit our website.



By Katie Nunn Nash, Lead Casualty
Manager



It seems that one of our hedgehogs, who enjoyed “Hotel” WRAS a bit too much, has returned almost a year later!

Here at our facility, we microchip all released hedgehogs to track their return visits and monitor their time in the wild and travel distances.

Initially arriving on June 14, 2023, found out during the day but in good health with no injuries, a negative faecal sample, and a healthy weight. She was released a week later.

On June 13, 2024, she reappeared, crossing the road during the day near where she was

found the previous year. We checked if she was pregnant using ultrasound, but the result was negative. Even though her faecal sample showed no signs of parasites, we suspect that, similar to last year, the parasites might not have been at a detectable stage.

We've grown a Tawny owl!

Well sort of, we have helped the poor sole grow. Arriving at the centre in a plant pot after being found by a dog in a hedge, this young nestling owl was underweight and required additional care, but fortunately, was unharmed.

Having successfully completed the orphan room program, he is now feeding independently. Soon, this fluffy bundle will transition to an outdoor aviary to enhance strength and practice flight skills. As he grows stronger and more confident, our Care Team will closely monitor the progress, ensuring preparation for the ultimate goal: a return to the wild.



Crashed Swan



Rescuers rushed out to a swan which was seen crashing through trees at Lewes in June. The juvenile swan crashed down into the car park of Malling Community Centre. Staff at the centre promptly contact WRAS for assistance. Trevor attended on site and found the swan sat under a tree with pedestrians passing by looking in disbelief that they had just passed a swan.

Trevor was able to quickly catch the swan and secure it in a pillow case and carry it back to the ambulance for a check over. The

bird was a bit underweight and had scraps and cuts to its feet so the bird was taken back to WRAS for minor treatment, observation and further assessment.

The swan made a quick recovery and 48hours later was returned release back into the wild again. if you come across a crashed swan please don't just walk them down to the nearest water, as they may have internal injuries you can't see.

Slow down for orange beacons!

Our ambulances use orange beacons in risky situations, such as working on roads. Recently, around 22:20 at night, rescuers returning from a call spotted an adult badger in the centre of the A22 East Hoathly bypass. Fairly confident it was dead, they wanted to double check. They turned the ambulance around, parked on the northbound side, activated hazard and amber flashing lights, and wore hi-viz jackets upon exiting the vehicle. Despite their visible presence and the ambulance's warning lights, three approaching cars ran over the badger at high speed without stopping - shocking rescuers at the lack of caution on approach. If rescuers had thought the badger was alive they would have parked differently to protect the badger.

Rescuers would like to remind drivers that ambulances don't park with all lights on unless necessary. They also caution about the active deer presence in this area. When encountering a vehicle with orange beacons, drive cautiously and slow down for everyone's safety, wildlife and human!





Making a lasting impact on local wildlife

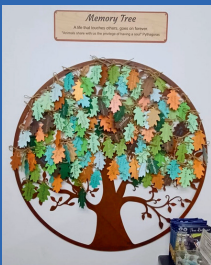
As a registered charity we rely on donations and gifts left in wills (legacies) to continue their work. Leaving a gift to East Sussex WRAS in your will can make a significant impact, which can range from replacing a veterinary ambulance to helping fund a new hospital and rescue centre. To include East 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 likely to be 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.



Find out more about leaving a gift to WRAS in your will, on our website www.wildlifeambulance.org



We stretch ourselves every summer!

By Trevor Weeks MBE

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During the summer, both the daylight hours and our working hours increase. Katie Nunn Nash and I oversee the day-to-day operations of the charity, bearing the ultimate responsibility. Consequently, each summer, our workload, along with that of our colleagues, expands. Even during illnesses and vacations, the animals still require care and long hours are frequent.

On July 1st, upon arriving at the center at 8 am, I found the orphan team already hard at work. My day's agenda involved managing administrative tasks and supervising rescue coordination to allow Kristy to focus on donation processing. Throughout the day, we handled various rescues, including a hedgehog from Knockhatch Adventure Park, a trapped gull in Eastbourne, and checking on goslings in Hampden Park. Rescuers Keith and Tony were active in multiple locations like Seaford, Haywards Heath, Bexhill, Hastings, Wartling, Uckfield, Hailsham, Polegate, and Hampden Park. Alongside rescues, releases were carried out in Seaford, Polegate, Hailsham, Uckfield, and Lewes. Additionally, casualties were delivered by kind individuals from Heathfield, Ringmer, Lewes, Hailsham, and Gatwick Airport.

Working through lunch with a constant stream of calls, I continued into the evening providing support to rescuers Greg and Tony who addressed various incidents involving multiple foxes and a goose in different locations. Although I had initially planned to leave at 9 pm, I stayed to assist Tony with injured wood pigeons in Hailsham. By 9:45 pm, Katie and I were concluding our tasks at the centre. While managing overnight emergency calls from home, I received numerous non-urgent calls until Seahaven Wildlife Rescue requested our presence at a road casualty badger near Chelwood Gate around 11:45 pm. Despite our efforts, the badger unfortunately passed away after our arrival. Returning home around 1 am, we had a short break before receiving an emergency call regarding a fox in Worthing. Being wide awake and with no other local services available, Kristy and I responded promptly, taking the fox to the emergency vets in Brighton. We finally returned home at 3:30 am, catching a couple of hours of sleep before heading back to work at 8 am. Sadly despite working so hard WRAS isn't big enough to deal with everything, but we do try our best. Please support us so we can do more!



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Pigeon Post

by Kathy Martyn Rehab Supervisor

Currently, we are in the midst of the busy season, with all three dedicated pigeon rooms bustling with baby Woodies, Ferals, Stock, and Collared Doves. The main challenge we face is managing aviary space for their release once they are fully weaned.

A recent notable success story involves 'Magpie', the stock dove, who arrived with feathers just starting to emerge from being in-pin, showing streaks of white and light grey instead of the usual dark grey with black bars. This unusual colouring indicated nutritional deficiencies, often resulting in brittle feathers that are prone to breakage. Despite this, Magpie's feathers remained strong, and she successfully moulted out all her body feathers, now displaying the correct darker grey colour. Although her wings still have white and grey patches, the feathers are sturdy.

She is now sharing the aviary with another young Stocky, who initially struggled during the weaning process. We have observed that Stock Doves generally take longer to wean and reach their ideal weight, requiring additional support during feeding.

Team work to save baby Roe Deer



WRAS was alerted to a situation in June where two roe deer were spotted sliding across the road at the peak of Ditchling Beacon. While one of the young deer successfully crossed, the other found itself stranded in the middle of the road.

Upon receiving the call, WRAS reached out to Brighton & Hove WARS, and fortunately, their rescuer Sharon Hawthorn was passing by. With prompt action, they were able to save the deer in distress.

The rescued deer was then transferred to WRAS's Casualty Centre, where Katie Nunn Nash cared for it overnight until it could be transported to Folly Wildlife Rescue, accompanied by a companion.

Gull chick rescued from conditioning unit

Rescuers were called to a gull chick that had fallen from a roof into an air conditioning unit in a factory at Ridgewood Industrial Estate in Uckfield.

Staff at the unit were extremely wildlife friendly and very concerned for the welfare of the chick who could be heard calling out for inside the ducting.

A quick survey of the roof found that there was no access from that level. Therefore it was decided to attempt a rescue internally. This involved the use of forklift platform designed to hold persons.



Full working at height equipment was donned by the rescuer and a plan hatched, excuse the pun. A very lean member of staff at the premise was able to get his head, shoulders and torso into the end of the ducting and could see the chick about 3m away.

Unable to use the normal rescue poles, as they are rigid, other members of staff hunted round and found some strong but bendy wire. They then made a makeshift net out of some plastic and held it all together with gaffer tape. The lean member of staff then used this makeshift net to guide the gull along the ducting until it got to a certain part where the rescuer was able to just fit his hand through a small gap and managed to grab the chick.

After a quick check over the gull was returned to its nest.

WRAS would sincerely like to thank the staff for their full support and assistance with this rescue.

This was one of over 150 gull chicks rescued by WRAS and returned to roof tops this year. We are also in the process of dealing with numerous gull fledglings been hit by cars as they learn to fly and adult gulls drunk after eating flying ants.



Fundraising Thank you!

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A heartfelt thank you to Amplicon for their generous contribution of £1950 in sales bonuses to our charity. Their sales representatives receive £10 tokens each time they achieve a sales target, which they can then allocate to one of three selected annual charities. The support from local businesses like Amplicon is truly touching and valued. Their kindness plays a vital role in our continuous community endeavours to assist individuals encountering sick, injured, orphaned, or trapped wildlife.

Additionally, we received incredible support from Eastbourne Rock Choir, raising £XXXX, and from Eastbourne & Hailsham Voices Pop Choirs, who raised £173.63. Classic Cottages also donated £250 to WRAS. Natasha Bartlett Area Manager said "With many of our holiday cottages nestled in the heart of East Sussex, we understand the importance of protecting and saving the local wildlife in this beautiful county. By giving back to the community and maintaining conservation efforts, we can help to keep the East Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service running, safeguard the local wildlife and support this valuable front-line rescue service."

Thank you also to Dave, Karen S, Lesley, Kelly, Julie G, Karen N, Sharon, Ricia, Carole, Julie S, Tish, Emma, Lyn, Julia, Julien, Wendy and Mandy for raising £1274 via Facebook Birthday Fundraisers - Amazing and Happy Birthday to you all!



Someone mentioned it's time for dinner.

Two orphaned hoglets were brought in back in May. Tragically, they were discovered beside their deceased mother, who had become entangled in netting material after a lengthy struggle. Fortunately, these two will survive and carry on their family legacy.



Follow us on Facebook to see more of our rescues!
<https://www.facebook.com/wildlifeambulance>

Rescuers hurried to Beckley, near the Kent border, following a report from visitors at the recreation ground who discovered a young fox trapped tightly. With local groups and WRAS rescuers being snowed under, Trevor (who was off rescue duty at the time) stepped up to offer assistance. After facing some challenges while attempting to free the fox, they managed to secure the distressed animal. Due to the potential risk of hidden ligature wounds, the fox was taken in for care and is currently under observation.



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

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