



EAST SUSSEX  
**WRAS**  
WILDLIFE RESCUE

# The Rescuer

OCTOBER 2024 EDITION

REG CHARITY 1108880

Thank you for helping us  
to rescue our wildlife!



Scan to donate



Find out why they are so wet  
and muddy on page 10

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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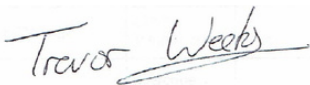
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This summer has been incredibly busy, with a 16% increase in casualties compared to last year. While August usually brings a slight dip in phone calls, the workload remains substantial, keeping our Casualty Centre consistently busy. As summer progresses, the types of casualties shift, with fewer small animals and more larger creatures needing individual care. This season has pushed WRAS to its limits, with staff and volunteers tirelessly aiding local wildlife.

As you can see on page 3 that we are having a Christmas Evening which will involve Hailsham Voices Pop Choir signing various songs, myself talking about some of the unusual rescues I've attended over the years, followed by the choir signing Christmas songs to finish. There will be a bat and nibbles available and we would be delighted if you could join us. Tickets are a very reasonable £5 each and we will be delighted to see you there!

Finally, I've just started my 40th year, so watch out for more news about this coming soon!



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.



# Christmas Evening of Music & Tails

Join us for an evening of music by Hailsham Voices Pop Choir and WRAS founder Trevor Weeks will also talk about some of the unusual rescues he has attended over the years, rounded off by Christmas Music from Hailsham Voices Pop Choir. There will be an opportunity to talk to Trevor and other staff and volunteers at the end.



**29 November 2024**



Bar



Snacks



Entertainment



**Doors Open 6.30pm. 7pm Start.**



**Hailsham Civic Community Hall, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, BN27 1BE.**



**Free Car Parking on site.**



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



**Advance tickets: £5.00**  
**Late tickets or on the door: £8.00**  
**Plus Eventbrite fees.**

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## Kingsfisher Trapped in Warehouse.

Rescuers had the unusual job of rescuing a Kingfisher inside a warehouse at Holme's Hill. The bird mistakenly flew inside and couldn't find its way out. Three rescuers attended on site and used long poles and nets to secure the bird as it flew around. It was not long before the bird was netted and in the hands of rescuers. The bird was checked over and found to be in a good condition and weight. Rescuers were able to release the bird at the on site pond where they have previously been seen.



Support our efforts to build a new hospital so we can help them more.

# Dozens of Ducks!

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In late August, WRAS received multiple calls regarding a group of approximately 100 ducks crossing a busy road in Ridgewood near Uckfield. These mallard ducks, clearly captive breed, posed a safety hazard for both motorists and themselves. Concerned local residents sought assistance, prompting off-duty rescuer Trevor Weeks



and duty rescuer Philly Cole to help guide the ducks to safety, leading them to a pond on the other side of the housing estate. However, the ducks continued to roam aimlessly around the estate, even attempting to return to the main road. To resolve the situation, Trevor and duty rescuer Jan McCord devised a plan to relocate the ducks to a sanctuary. Although tame, catching the ducks proved challenging, with 86 eventually being captured. Special thanks to the Retreat Animal Rescue Centre near Ashford for accommodating the ducks on short notice. WRAS is currently caring for two ducks that sustained injuries during their time wandering the estate.





# Trapped Downland Gulls Rescued

In late August, WRAS rescuers received an unusual call regarding 13 unlucky gulls trapped in a water trough near Crowlink, located between Eastbourne and Seaford.

One gull was quickly freed and released on-site, while the remaining 12 were exhausted and soaked. They were taken to WRAS for rehabilitation.

It appeared that the gulls were diving in for water, likely due to a lack of natural water sources in the area, but they found it difficult to escape. As the trapped gulls struggled, more gulls were attracted to the scene. The narrow space and high tank edges made it impossible for them to fly out.

The rescuers returned the following day and installed a small ramp to help any future gulls that might find themselves in the same predicament.

After several weeks of treating feather damage and waterproofing, all of the gulls were successfully released back into the wild.



**Weekly  
Lottery WIN  
up to £25,000**



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!

# WRAS PEN FRIEND

## Become a "Pen Friend" this Christmas!

By sponsoring a pen and becoming a Pen Friend your donation will make a difference to the wildlife in our care, providing the expert care, treatment and food they need before they are returned to the wild.

Choose one of our animals to support, including Badgers, Foxes, Hedgehogs, Birds of Prey or a Special Pen Friend supporting many creatures in our care. A monthly gift from £3 can make all the difference.

Pen Friend membership also makes a great gift for someone special, just add their details when you sign up. By becoming a Pen Friend you will be helping to give wildlife a second chance.

To find out more scan the QR code or visit our website.



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<https://wildlifeambulance.org>

# CHRISTMAS DAY VIDEO!

## Don't want to buy Christmas cards?

## Stuck for a gift this Christmas?

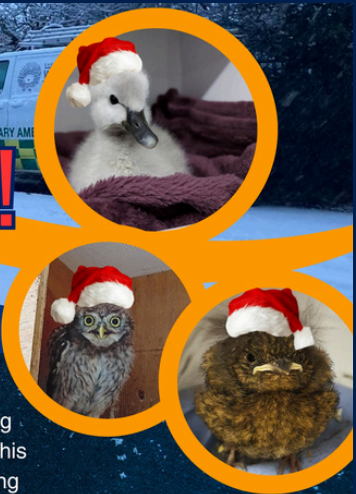
## Do you want to support local wildlife?

Whether it's for yourself, a friend, relative, or coworker, instead of spending money on unwanted gifts and cards, consider using your resources wisely this holiday season. Join us in supporting our local wildlife during the challenging winter days when life can be particularly tough.

- ✓ £10 gets a name(s) displayed during our Christmas Video.
- ✓ £25 you can add a short personalised message.
- ✓ £45 you can add a short video message (Limited Availability)

To find out more scan the QR code or visit  
<https://wildlifeambulance.org/christmas-day-video-2024/>

Deadline: 10th December 2024.



# Baby grass snake stuck on sticky label

WRAS is accustomed to assisting birds and bats entangled in sticky situations like fly paper and glue traps. However, this August, a baby grass snake was brought in, stuck to a sticky label. The poor snake was dehydrated and underweight. The dedicated WRAS care team managed to free the snake gently, cleanse off the sticky residue, and placed the young snake in one of WRAS's tanks for recovery. The relieved snake was happy to be liberated and quickly resumed eating well. After a few weeks of care and rehabilitation, the snake was released back into the wild, healthy and fit.



## Fuel Thank You!

Throughout the day, our ambulances are constantly engaged in rescues, releases, and tending to our off-site pens. Especially during the summer months, the mileage accumulates significantly. On 23rd August, when our rescuer went to refuel, they were surprised to find out that another customer had already paid for it intentionally while settling their own bill. Initially, there was confusion when attempting to pay, as we were informed that it had already been taken care of. Before we could express our gratitude, the generous individual had left, leaving us truly amazed by this unexpected act of kindness.



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

# Most distressed swan ever!

By Trevor Weeks MBE

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A young swan has been saved from drowning by two rowers and WRAS rescuers at the River Ouse in Lewes on Wednesday 13th August. My partner Kristy and I were in Ditchling attending to an injured blackbird, so as not too far away agreed to head down assess the situation.

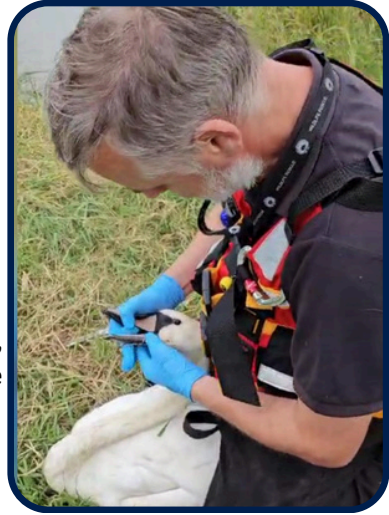
The swan was found aimlessly floating in the river next to Tesco. Clearly in distress and unable to lift its head or move its wings and legs freely because of the entangled fishing line. Every time it tried to break free, it would lose balance and end up submerged. We were afraid it might drown before we could rescue it.

Other rescuers were preparing boats and water rescue gear but were some distance away. While rowing along the river, a couple of men offered their help. Since their boat was not very stable, caution was necessary. They skilfully guided the swan towards the bank with the boat's end, ensuring its safety. Despite a few tumbles, the swan managed to stay afloat. After a long and tense moment, the swan was finally close to the shore, allowing me to use a swan hook to secure it.

Once on the riverbank, we eased the pressure on the swan by cutting the line. Unfortunately, the swan had line tightly wrapped round one of its legs which was too difficult to remove out on site as well as a hook caught in its cheek.

This was one of the worst entangled swans I have encountered in my 39 years of wildlife rescue work! I would like to express our gratitude to the two rowers for their help in saving the swan's life, as their swift action saved the swan from further distress and saved valuable time.

The swan was clearly very traumatised and after week at WRAS's Centre the swan was returned to the River Ouse by Tesco for release.



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





# Making a lasting impact on local wildlife

As a registered charity we rely on donations and gifts left in wills (legacies) to continue our 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 our charity 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 2 years 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](http://www.wildlifeambulance.org)

# Nine deer in six weeks

September typically marks the beginning of our deer season, but this year it appears to have started early in mid August.

- 12th August: A baby fallow deer was found stuck in a stream at Blackboys; it was dried off and released once its mother was present.
- 24th August: An antler-entangled fallow buck was rescued at Hempstead Farm in Uckfield and released on-site.
- 25th August: A mobile fallow buck was spotted with large posts and line attached but could not be located after an extensive search.
- 26th August: Another antler-entangled fallow buck (see photo) was found on Down Street in Nutley and was released on-site.
- 28th August: A juvenile Roe deer was found with its leg entangled in stock fencing; unfortunately, it was severely injured and had to be euthanized.

This was followed by 5 more deer entanglements in September, including 2 in one day.

- 17th September: A fallow buck was found in a hedgerow with its antlers caught in rope at Waldron and was released on-site.
- 17th September: Another antler-entangled Fallow buck at Piltdown. Rescued from a deep dry stream bed and successfully released.
- 20th September: Tricky fallow buck with antler entanglement in a wet and muddy stream in Ticehurst. Successfully released. (Cover Photo)
- 21st September: Road side antler entangled fallow buck. Police closed road to aid with release for guidance. Stay calm and be patient.





# Fundraising Updates

Scan to donate



We are truly delighted to be among the twelve selected charities benefiting from the Brighton & Hove Santa Bus this Christmas season. There will be a total of 20 collection nights, commencing on Monday, November 25, and concluding on Monday, December 23.

The routes will cover various areas, including Brighton & Hove, as well as Saltdean, Peacehaven, and Southwick. For more information about the Santa Bus, visit [www.buses.co.uk/santa-bus-video](http://www.buses.co.uk/santa-bus-video).



A heartfelt thank you to Trevor and Cathy Hollingdale for organizing a coffee morning that raised £360 for WRAS.

In our previous newsletter, we didn't update the impressive amount raised by the Rock Choir in Eastbourne. With the donations WRAS collected that day, the total came to £1,077.43. Additionally, Grovelands School in Hailsham hosted a math day at the end of the school term, contributing £226.00 to support WRAS's efforts.

We also extend our gratitude to Justine at Paws-n-Claws shop in Olives Yard, Uckfield, for generously donating food, bowls, litter trays, and more to benefit everyone at WRAS!

If you would like to help celebrate these accomplishments, consider organizing a coffee morning, sponsored event, or garage sale in support of WRAS. You are also welcome to invite Trevor to your event; if he's available, he would be thrilled to attend! Just email [admin@eastsussexwras.org.uk](mailto:admin@eastsussexwras.org.uk).

WRAS volunteers participated in the Woodland Fair at Bentley near Ringmer in September, where they raised essential funds and boosted awareness for our charity. We also connected with several potential new volunteers. If you're interested in helping us attend similar events to raise awareness and funds for our cause, please reach out by emailing [fundraising@eastsussexwras.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@eastsussexwras.org.uk).



Can you help us raise vital funds? Contact [fundraising@eastsussexwras.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@eastsussexwras.org.uk) if you can!

# Network Rail requests WRAS's help.

WRAS received a call from one of Network Rail's Incident Response Managers after an injured gull was spotted between platforms 2 and 3 at Eastbourne Railway Station.

The poor bird which had an obviously fractured wing and was bleeding, clearly couldn't be left to suffer.

Rescuer Trevor Weeks attended and allow staff to use WRAS equipment and advised on how best to catch and handle the bird. Trains had to be spotted from for 5 minutes whilst the rescue took place.

Once on the platform Trevor examined the bird which had a extensive injuries and multiple fractures. the bird was taken to the nearby vets where its suffering was ended,



## 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](http://www.twitter.com/eastsussexwras)

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

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