



EAST SUSSEX
WRAS
WILDLIFE RESCUE

The Rescuer

FEBRUARY 2025 EDITION

REG CHARITY 1108880

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



1985

2025

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

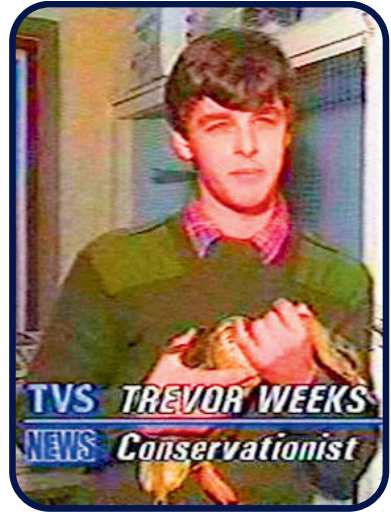
[HTTPS://WILDLIFEAMBULANCE.ORG](https://wildlifeambulance.org)



Trevor's Review

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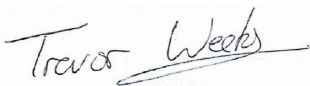


If only I could regain the youthful energy and vitality to work those long hours as I once did – and look as young as I used to! Time truly flies. Throughout the years, I've participated in countless rescues and met many wonderful individuals and animals, making it increasingly difficult to remember them all as I age!

This year marks my 40th year dedicated to helping wildlife, while WRAS is celebrating its 30th anniversary this March 2025.

Our organisation has experienced tremendous growth over the years, evolving from just myself to the incredible team we have today, along with our hospital and a small fleet of ambulances, now handling over 6,000 casualties annually!

I would greatly appreciate your support for my anniversary appeal as I walk 80 miles in March. Please consider supporting me, and feel free to organize your own fundraising event to join in the celebration!



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.

Where did it all start?



In September 1985, Trevor felt inspired to join the local Conservation Volunteers. Most weekends, he devoted his time to the countryside and local parks, engaging in various conservation projects. It was during an event at Cow Gap near Beachy Head that he first encountered wildlife rescue, discovering two oil-covered Guillemots on the nearby beach. These birds were taken to Meta Mann, who operated a bird hospital from her home in Seaford.

Trevor began regularly traveling by bus or train to Seaford to assist Meta, particularly during the winter months when numerous oiled seabirds required rescue along the coast. He even coordinated a significant rescue operation for dozens of ducks caught in a fuel oil leak at a pond near Golden Cross.

In 1993, Trevor's mother passed away from cancer at the age of 47, which profoundly affected him. A passionate animal lover, she had always surrounded herself with pets. Following her death, Trevor, as a young adult, redirected his energy toward wildlife work as a means of coping.

He started volunteering and participating in rescues with various local wildlife groups. In 1996, after an oil tanker struck rocks at Milford Haven in Wales, Trevor was invited to help operate a temporary wildlife hospital in partnership with Redbrook Wildlife Rescue, British Divers Marine Life Rescue, and Greenpeace.

Upon his return, Trevor found himself busier than ever with rescue efforts, frequently leaving work during lunch and staying out late into the night. After accumulating a vet bill of over £1,000, veterinarian Robin Hooper offered to halve the bill if Trevor established a group to assist him. This initiative ultimately led to the successful formation of WRAS in March 1996.



1988 - Guillemot rescue on Seaford beach



1989 - Working with the Conservation Volunteers



1996 - Sea Empress Spill, Dale Fort Field Centre



Compassionate Care Team

Scan to donate



Over the years, countless individuals have played a vital role in WRAS, with many still actively participating. As the demand for assistance has grown significantly, WRAS has formed a dedicated Care Team focused on the welfare of rescued animals.

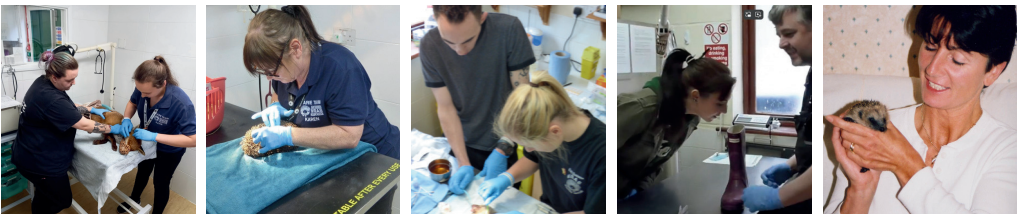
Lindy King was one of the original members of the Care Team, collaborating with Trevor in Telscombe Cliffs. They transformed a room in their home, followed by an insulated shed in their garden, to provide care for animals.

Numerous small pens, sheds, and aviaries were established in various locations until WRAS moved to The Shaw Barn in Whitesmith in 2008. By 2010, with the launch of the current centre, WRAS recognized the necessity for additional support and staff to meet its responsibilities under the Animal Welfare Act.

We express our heartfelt appreciation to Lindsay Redfern, Katie Cudis, Chris Riddington, Kirsti Sibbald, Carrie Grace, Monica Russell, Hannah Corke, and Karen Francis for their invaluable contributions to the Care Team in the past.

A special mention goes to Kathy Martyn, who has been with WRAS since 2008. During difficult times, she, like Trevor, has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to sustaining the charity, often sacrificing her personal time and putting in tremendous effort.

Our current team, led by Katie Nunn Nash and supported by Holly Davis, Kathy Martyn, Clare Greenaway, and Nicky Upton, has cared for thousands of animals in need, often providing around-the-clock support, even from their homes.



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



Our volunteers are amazing

WRAS has always relied on the commitment and support of its volunteers to fulfil its mission.

Val and Murrae Hume stand out as the longest-serving volunteers, having joined in 1997. They initially assisted Trevor at events and later broadened their involvement to include rescues and becoming part of one of the founding committees. Although they no longer participate in rescues, their contributions remain invaluable, with Murrae serving as WRAS's Finance Director and Val helping him with his responsibilities.

Tony Needs from Polegate joined in 2007 and has been a committed rescuer ever since. Like Trevor, he now finds the out-of-hours work challenging without the energy of his youth.

Elaine Lamb has been one of our longstanding volunteers, providing support with feeding and cleaning casualties at the centre since 2011.

WRAS has been fortunate to welcome thousands of volunteers who have contributed in various capacities, including feeding and cleaning, orphan rearing, fundraising, committee involvement, charity shop activities, rescues, and administrative tasks. While it's impossible to name everyone individually, both past and present volunteers have made a remarkable difference in WRAS's journey towards its current success.

Currently, our volunteers are expertly coordinated by the wonderful Ellie Langridge, who has taken on the role of Volunteer Co-ordinator since 2018.

If you would like to find out more about volunteering with our charity check out the roles on our website www.wildlifeambulance.org



Val & Murrae helping with a major swan rescue at Hove Lagoon.



Tony embarking on another rescue



Elaine hard at work

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



Deer rescues have really improved

By Trevor Weeks MBE

Scan to donate



My adventures into deer rescues commenced with a call from Les Stocker MBE, the founder of St Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital. Under his expert guidance, we responded to various deer-related incidents. One of our first rescues involved a Roe deer caught in a gate back in January 2003. With support from the Fire Service, we were able to free the deer and later return it to the wild. Due to a lack of facilities for adult deer casualties in the South East of England, we transported cases to St Tiggywinkles until travel restrictions were put in place.

In 2004, we encountered the challenging task of rescuing a pair of deer that were tied together, marking just one of many complicated and muddy rescues to come. Initially, we worked in pairs to manage these powerful creatures, and there were several close calls as we attempted to secure and save them.

At that time, our understanding of the effects of rescue efforts on these animals was limited, but it soon became apparent that acting quickly was essential; these sensitive creatures were at risk of fatal heart attacks if not rescued in a timely manner. Thankfully, WRAS now boasts a dedicated team trained in handling deer entanglements, with the average time from approach to release now hovering around five minutes.

We are grateful to have Keith Ring and Daryl Farmer, who help lead these rescues, often joined by volunteer deer rescuers Thea Taylor, Abbie Marsden, Brian Downing, and Ollie Long, along with other staff members.



WRAS IT: Members of the British Home Insurances Service rescue the deer after it was trapped back to back with the moment the hand back off for animal care who started a back to back. The adult animal had been tied to a metal animal out of the back of the car for several hours up to the incident. Residents in the Fox Hill area of Weymouth Beach called out the East Sussex Wildlife Rescue and the British Home Insurances Service (BRAS). A team from WRAS was called to cut the animal out of the back of the car. Firefighters to help with the rescue. The fire crew managed to cut one of the bars away from the deer, which had injuries to its back foot. The deer was taken to the National Sea Rescue Centre in Hastings. Trevor Weeks, rescue officer with WRAS, said it was the first time he had successfully rescued and treated an adult deer and been able to release it into the wild.



If you would like to join or team of volunteer rescuers checking our volunteering opportunities on our website.



“One of the most unusual rescues I attended was in 2009. That of a true albino fallow buck at Mayfield with its antlers entangled in rope high up an embankment above a stream. Trevor and I were able to secure the deer and release it.” Tony Neads

Watch the video at: <https://youtu.be/rRntFpQwqmU>

“The rescue which stands out for me took place in 2011. Three orphaned fox cubs needed rescuing after their dead mum was found outside. It took over 4 hours to rescue them from deep inside their den off a lane near Dallington” Kathy Martyn.

Watch the video at:
<https://youtu.be/-9VwUNRe-us>



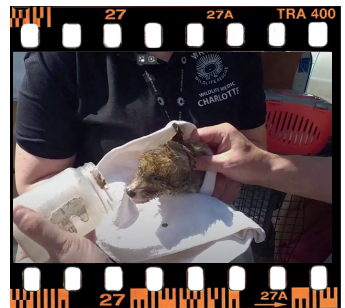
“One of the most unusual rescues I witnessed was in 2012. That of a young rabbit stuck in a wellington boot after being caught by a cat. We successfully treated and eventually released him” Kate Cudis.

Watch the video at:
<https://youtu.be/-9VwUNRe-us>



“The most heart warming moment for me was the rescue of a fox cub in Brighton in 2020. The cub had a plastic tub over it’s head. It took two days to catch the cub. We were all relieved when he was caught and eventually released back to his family” Charlotte Loftus

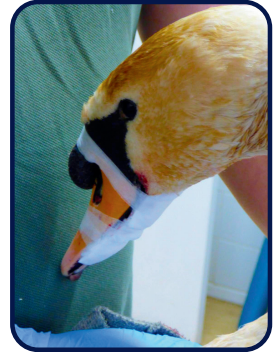
Watch the video at: <https://youtu.be/WOxyLiHYI3w>





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.



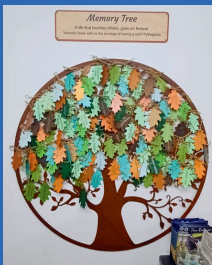
Help us make the switch!

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 quicker and more 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 your bank.**



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 our reception for every person remembered.



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

Teamwork from across the years!



WRAS has continually worked in partnership with other charities, combining resources to offer assistance whenever possible. This collaboration has allowed WRAS to engage in some extraordinary rescues. In addition to the previously mentioned deer rescues, WRAS has also been involved in the following initiatives:



- In 2002, WRAS reached out to British Divers Marine Life Rescue for help when a dolphin stranded at Newhaven West Beach.
- In a peaceful protest against a cull license granted for badgers in Saltdean, Trevor camped out for over 72 hours on a residential street. With support from the National Federation of Badger Groups, the cull was ultimately stopped.
- In 2003, Trevor dedicated two weeks living in his ambulance at Monkton Marshes to aid the Swan Sanctuary with a flock of swans that repeatedly collided with overhead cables. Remarkably, no additional swans were lost during his presence, until the electricity company installed bird diverter disks.
- In 2006, while serving as the National Coordinator for British Divers Marine Life Rescue, WRAS provided resources for the safe rescue of a dolphin trapped in a harbor in Cumbria and a large grey seal from Dungeness Nuclear Power Station.



If you think your team at work could help raise funds for WRAS why not do some fundraising or nominate our charity for a donation from your business.

Continuously improving care



Casualty Care has always played a crucial role in our mission. From the outset, veterinary surgeons were engaged in advising on treatment options. It was far from ideal with the cost, transportation and stress of waiting rooms. WRAS's first independent Casualty Centre, registered with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, welcomed veterinary surgeon Simon Harris as early as 2007, in exchange for a modest expense fee. He was later joined by veterinary surgeons Chris Halls from Henley House Vets, Sophie Common, and Mike Symons, who visited periodically over various timeframes. WRAS sought grants and utilized legacy donations to develop a Veterinary Theatre, X-ray facilities, and acquire essential anaesthesia equipment, aiming to minimize the need for transporting wild animals to veterinary practices and reducing their stress and trauma while in care. As WRAS's workload continued to grow each year, the organisation decided to hire its first employed veterinary surgeon in late 2021. Lourdes Cortes Saez joined the team and played a vital role in enhancing the treatment and triage processes for casualties. After two years, she returned to Spain but still visits and assists when possible. In 2023, Clarissa Wu took over the role. WRAS plans to expand the team further in response to tightening industry regulations and increasing workload.

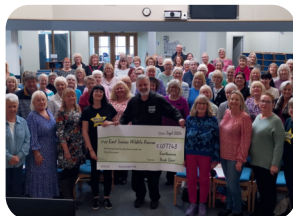


Our veterinary surgeons are heavily supported by an amazingly dedicated and experienced Care Team. A vital part of our team.

Fundraising looks-back



Undoubtedly, many individuals have significantly contributed to the success of WRAS through their generous donations and fundraising initiatives that support our mission. While we can't recognize everyone individually, we sincerely appreciate every contribution. Below, you'll find a selection of photos from our archives that highlight various fundraising events. If this inspires you to start your own fundraising journey, we wholeheartedly encourage you! Your efforts will be greatly valued by us, as well as by the people and animals we serve.



Let your legacy live on by leaving a gift to WRAS in your Will.
www.wildlifeambulance.org or call 01825-873003

Award winning charity.



Throughout the years, Trevor and East Sussex WRAS have received recognition for their dedication to the local community and their efforts in wildlife conservation.

Although no one at WRAS pursues awards for their work, these accolades help raise awareness and encourage donations, allowing our charity to continue offering essential services.

The awards received include:

- Eastbourne Herald Award
- Sovereign FM Award
- Wellbeing Community Hero
- IFAW Animal Action Award
- ITV1 British Animal Honours Local Animal Charity of the Year
- BBC Radio Sussex & Surrey Community Heroes Award
- Uckfield FM Volunteer Award
- Seaford Town Council Mayor's Award
- Wealden MP Hero Award
- Hailsham Mayor's Hero Award

Additionally, Trevor was honored with an MBE in 2012 for his contributions to animal welfare.

Our supporters and volunteers are the true heroes for supporting WRAS!



Thank you to the emergency services!



Throughout the years, WRAS has both called out and been called out by numerous organisations, including Sussex Police, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, the RNLI, Coastguard, Environment Agency, RSPCA, Network Rail, and many others.



WRAS takes pride in collaborating with these agencies for the past 30 to 40 years to ensure the safety of the public, our emergency service partners, and wildlife.



Trevor would especially like to thank those who have assisted when he has been injured, attacked or needed urgent or emergency treatment and care.



Why not join our rescue volunteers and help us attend more rescues across East Sussex. Check the details on our website at wildlifeambulance.org



In memory

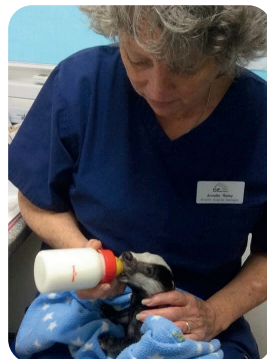


We would also like to take a moment to remember some of the important people who are no longer with us who had an influence on Trevor and WRAS over the years.

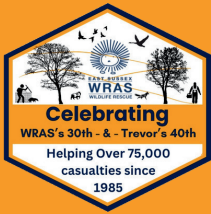
Especially

Monica Russell, Nicky Lambert, Meta Mann, Dave Fox-Dossett, Les Stocker, Annette & Dave Risley, Dot Beeson, John Pots, Mike Skinner, Simon Cowell, Graham Cornick, David Breden, Michael Lamb and Tim Bain.

We would also like to thank everyone who has donated in memory of a loved one, friend or colleague who is listed on our Memory Tree.



If you would like a leaf placed on our memory tree for someone you have lost head to our website to find out more at <https://wildlifeambulance.org/giving-in-memory/>



Benefiting the community for 40 years!

We are not just an animal charity! We are a vital community service helping people who find sick, injured, orphaned or trapped wildlife.



Providing transport to those without.



Keeping people safe from dangerous animals and risky situations.



Helping those with phobias and disabilities



Providing relief in stressful and anxious situations



Providing free access to veterinary care



Aiding local conservation and biodiversity



Providing valuable volunteering opportunities

Throughout 2025 there will be various events and activities taking place, including a founders raffle, a quiz night, Trevor's 80 mile Trek for WRAS and we even have the Lord Lieutenant visiting WRAS too!

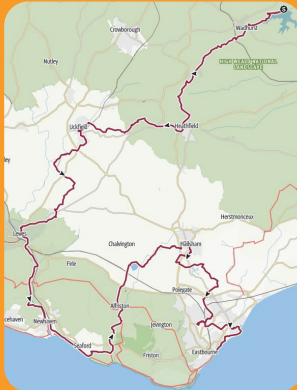
Please keep an eye on our website and social media platforms for more information!



For further information and to support WRAS's anniversary year go to <https://wildlifeambulance.org/anniversary-appeal-2025/>

Please support Trevor's 80 mile Anniversary Trek for WRAS!

To help celebrate our anniversary, Trevor will be walking 80 miles over 11 days in March 2025. Starting at the Kent border at Bewl Water, Trevor will walk across the county visiting various past rescue locations. He aims to document the walk and post regular updates on social media. The walk will finish on Eastbourne Seafront on **Friday 28th March at a celebration event to be held at the Cumberland Hotel**. You can sponsor him either via Donor Box or Just Giving, or to read more about the event and celebration event on our website www.wildlifeambulance.org



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.

www.facebook.com/wildlifeambulance

www.instagram.com/eastsussexwras

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www.twitter.com/eastsussexwras

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

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