

April 2023 



Newsletter

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Welcome to our first newsletter of the year and thank you for your continuing support.

Looking back, between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023. Hedgehog Welfare took in 159 hedgehogs of which 83 were released back into the wild. We also gave help, advice, and support to 57 people from outside our area, where local carers were full and were not answering the telephone. So, hopefully, we helped save other hogs as well. None of this could have been achieved without the dedication of our team and your backing.

Our annual September fundraiser is a key part of Hedgehog Welfare - not only important for raising money but also informing people about hedgehogs and the fight to protect this much-loved mammal.

We are already planning for this September's Annual Fund Raiser.

Last time our top raffle prize - two tickets to the award-winning Eden Hall spa - was won by Janet Tinsdale. Janet passed on the tickets to her god-daughter Samantha, and she went with her mum Nicky for a relaxing, swim, steam, and slumber - not to mention complimentary wine and supper. We hear they went for the Spaghetti Carbonara. Good choice. An excellent way for Samantha to celebrate her 19th birthday.



Another competition winner - we've got more prizes than the National Lottery - was Brian and Janet Dammes. The couple won a hedgehog box, made by Mens Shed in Grantham, after coming up with the catchy name of "Snuffles Shed". They also took home a large bag of Brambles hedgehog food. The Dammes have been Hedgehog Welfare supporters for many years and regularly feed and water hogs in their garden.

If you weren't a lucky winner **Mens Shed** have hedgehog houses for sale. Unfortunately, they have had to increase price because of the cost of materials to £25.00 but this is still a lot cheaper than other wooden hedgehog houses. To order a house contact Steve Featherstone on 07973 446614. The boxes are collected from Mens Shed in Grantham. Apart from getting a lovely hedgehog house, you are helping a worthwhile cause. We have also just had it confirmed that Men's Shed will be at our Annual Fundraiser on the 17-09-2023.

We mentioned earlier how Hedgehog Welfare helped other people around the country. A couple of noteworthy cases were a lovely lady in Plymouth who now helps her local vet, taking in a few hedgehogs to ease his load. And a gentleman in Edinburgh, desperate for information on how to raise a baby hedgehog. The hoglet was about 10 days old. We gave him help and advice - including a couple of Zoom meetings - and the hog was returned to the gentleman's garden in late September 2022. He said it made his retirement, which he had just started, so interesting and he is now volunteering at a Wildlife Centre nearby.

Although hedgehogs are out of hibernation now, they are trying to build themselves up after the long winter where there was little to eat or drink. All the hedgehogs we had in over the winter to hibernate have been released now except, we lost one, Gemma. It is sad but understandable. She was an older hedgehog and had been ill from ringworm and mange, and came in with a chest infection, which we presumed had weakened her chest. She had been in care since September 2022 and was one of our first hedgehogs to hibernate. Our carer Linda Brooks was and still is heartbroken as she has been looking after Gemma for most of the time she has been in care. She has been bathing her, spraying her, giving her medication and general care. Gemma had been to the vets several times, but ringworm and mange are not easy to treat, it can take months, especially over the winter.



The only hedgehog we still have is Gretel, who like Gemma had bad ringworm, mange, and a chest infection. Gretel's spines are better than they were, but they are still a little sparse. We hope that she will be able to be released soon, she is having a few bubble baths where carer Vicky is brushing the special medicated shampoo into



her skin, in the hope it will stimulate new spine growth. Gretel is having a multi vitamin with zinc powder on her food, as zinc deficiency can cause poor spine growth. She is also booked into the vets for next Tuesday, 25th April 2023. We will update you in our next newsletter on her progress.



We've had a few hedgehogs in since our last newsletter, some for only a week, who just needed to be built up for a few days after the winter hibernation. Others had a slight chest infection, but with antibiotics that cleared quickly and they have been released. Sadly, we also took in a few that we were unable to save.

Snowdrop Released after hibernating



One was John. He was found on the 14th April 2023 in a garden in Grantham. He was extremely cold with shallow breathing and very thin. John was an old hog shown by the ginger tone to his spines and hair - hogs turn ginger not grey. We warmed him up slowly over 24 hours, with a heat pad and fluids, he was given an antibiotic for a gut infection. But he was still losing weight. He has had his first dropping tested, but as usual with the first test, there is often nothing to be found. He died a few days later without really eating or drinking by himself.



Our volunteer Vicky is running our **Facebook** page - follow what is happening at Hedgehog Welfare, as Vicky regularly updates it. Vicky is doing a great job keeping up with all the hogs' comings and goings, plus looking after Gretel. We have 70 followers and most posts are seen by 124 people. <https://www.facebook.com/Hedgehog-Welfare-102664205902433/>

Ghost Hedgehog signs - Some of you might have noticed that



"ghost" hedgehog signs are appearing by village roadsides. The wooden signs alert road users that hedgehogs also use the road as they cross from one site to another. Our editor Philip Braund hand cuts the signs which are then painted by Sally Key and her brother Will. Sally adds the smiling faces. So far the signs have been put up in Flintham, Elston and Balderton. If you'd like a sign for your busy road,



then drop a line to Janet. (admin@hedgehogwelfare.org.uk).

We have a limited number for sale a £6.00 each. They come ready painted in white or fluorescent yellow and with a tie for a lamppost.

Hedgehog Talks

Janet and Essy, the seven-year-old old daughter of one of our carers, gave a talk at Bottesford CE Primary School on Wednesday the 19th April 2023. Actually, it was two talks - one to cover the 78 youngest children and another to 157 older children. Essy gave a wonderful talk on why hoglets (baby hedgehogs) are brought in and how you care for them, including a particularly important



point that you must always wear gloves when handling hedgehogs.

Janet was proud, and so was Essy's mum. Janet gave the school more information on hedgehogs and she loaned some books and handed out educational material.



Jack Perks Podcast



On the 13th January 2023, Janet and Sally did a Podcast (our first) with Jack Perks of Countryfile and Autumn, Summer, Spring Watch fame. Janet has known Jack for many years, so much so when he first visited to take photographs of the hedgehogs, Jack was not old enough to drive so his Mum brought him over. Jack often uses the hedgehogs of Hedgehog Welfare for his hedgehog pictures. Of course, Jack's passion is fish, but he has a great love of all Wildlife. Sally and Janet enjoyed the chat with Jack, and if you would

like to listen to it you can, on

<https://www.jackperksphotography.com/podcast/episode/83a41caf/jack-does-hedgehog-rescue-ft-janet-peto-and-sally-key-118>. Sorry about the photo but Janet forgot to take off her Apron.

Here's a question...how much money do you think John and Pat Kitchen have raised for Hedgehog Welfare with their devilishly hard quizzes? Pass... Well, it's an amazing £4256.50 - and still counting. Over the last five years the couple has put together 14 quizzes for us with 775 brain-teasing clues. And it all came about after John found a small hedgehog on his driveway in trouble. He and Pat tried their best to help the hog with water before calling Janet. Sally then picked up the poorly animal at Elston. But, despite everyone's best efforts nothing could be done to save the hog. John said: "Having seen the dedication of Janet and Sally I offered to compile a cryptic quiz to raise funds. "This offer was accepted, and we sold it at various events and shows. "In the three months we ran the quiz it raised £449. "So, we



did another - and we are still doing them. "We get satisfaction knowing we are helping an endangered species which needs all the help it can get." John and Pat later took in one of Sally's successes and it was released in their garden. John said: "We have always tried to keep the quizzes interesting, light hearted and with a touch of humour. "The quizzes can be put down and picked up again when you run out of ideas. "We do get entries from people who have not answered all the questions but want to know the answers. "

So, here's a chance to crack another John and Pat quiz.

This teaser is about "You and five a day, 60 of your five a day recommended, fruits, vegetables and nuts". If you would like to enter, please contact John on letsgetquizzical25@yahoo.com. Or if you prefer, they are available from Hedgehog Welfare at admin@hedgehogwelfare.org.uk or by post from Hedgehog Welfare, PO Box 8686, Grantham, NG31 0AG. If you are applying by post, please send £1.00 entry fee per sheet with a SAE. Make cheques out to Hedgehog Welfare. The closing date for the latest quiz is **29th April 2023**, so you will need to be fairly quick.

The "Nursery Rhymes" Quiz closed on 28th January 2023. There were 163 entries received. However, 51 were all correct. The quiz raised £337.50 for Hedgehog Welfare, including donations. Thank you to everyone who entered. The winners of the "Nursery Rhymes" Quiz were:

First prize: £15 - L. Payne of Kettering

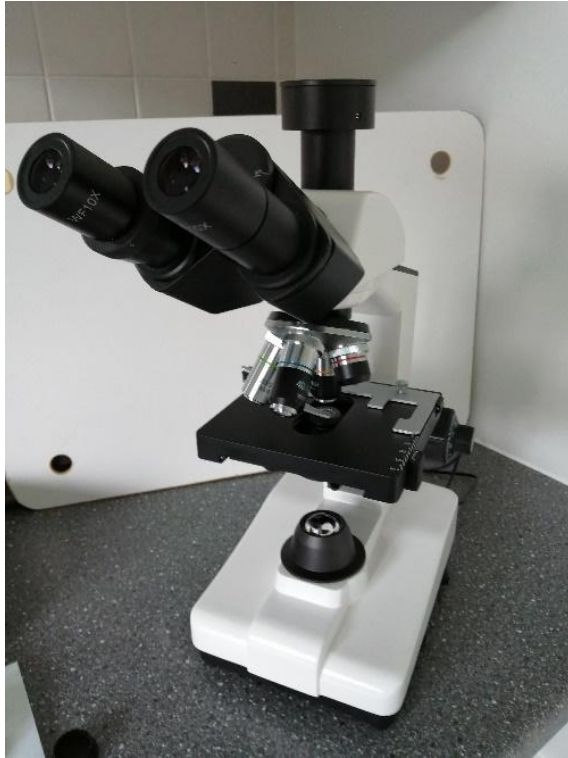
Second prize £5 - J. Tomlinson of Solihull

Consolation prize: £5 C. Duxbury of Carlton on Trent, Congratulations to you all, and thank you for entering the John's Quizzes which helps Hedgehog Welfare help so many hedgehogs back to the wild every year.

How we have been spending money we have raised

Over the years we had received money from the Lincolnshire Co-Operative, Waitrose, Grantham Roundtable and from donations left in the Memory of Pat White and of course donations from our Friends of Hedgehog Welfare and everyone who has donated or brought something from us.

For too long we have been struggling with two old microscopes, one donated to us by our vet, so it was decided that Sally, Vicky, and Janet should have new microscopes as they take in the hedgehog and do the intensive care. The microscopes are Professional Standard and we have



also purchased cameras, so we can test the hedgehog droppings, do skin scraps, and look, once we have had some training from our Vet Christoff, at bacteria so that we can help the hedgehogs more quicker, we can then send what we discover to Christoff, using What's App so that we can prescribe correct medication.

We are all excited, and have only had them for just over a week. We are now all up for when we start getting



busy. For those who are technical the Microscope are Brunel SP 52 Trinocular with lens x 40, x 20, x 10, x 04. They come with a cover and travelling box so we can use them when we start running courses again. The camera is a TouPCam SPCMOS03000KPA which is a 3 MP. Not sure this is relevant - but up to you.



Our new microscopes are a far cry from one donated to Hedgehog Welfare some time ago.

It is a good fifty years old and difficult to use, and it did not have a built in light making it difficult to identify the different parasites. However, someone somewhere must want it - so we stuck it up for sale on eBay. It made us a handsome £36.00.

We have also commissioned a website, under the education part of our constitution. It will be a valuable tool in educating people on hedgehogs and how to help them in their garden. We are also having a new logo and our Facebook will be updated to match in with the website. We will have some of our sales items on the website for sale.

Also, because we now have more than 500 people wanting to read our newsletter it's being delivered through a third party. The file has become too large to handle on a home pc. Our web designers will send them out. It is a secure, easy, and cheap way to manage our mailings.

Note for your diaries - 17th September 2023 Hedgehog Welfare Annual Fundraiser in Foston Village Hall, doors open 13.30 until 16.00 when the raffle will be called. Refreshments with all homemade cakes, plant and craft stall, Book Stall, Daisy Dog Craft Stall, Men Shed selling and taking orders for Bird Boxes and Hedgehog Houses, a Puppet Show about Hedgehogs for the children and young at heart adults, Tombola and Raffle. It is an enjoyable afternoon, so please come along and support us.

Janet received this, and thought some of you may be interested in taking part.

To whom it may concern,

*I am a PhD student at the University of Kent, and I am exploring wildlife value orientations and attitudes towards a Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) reintroduction across the United Kingdom (UK). Wildlife value orientations are a list of statements used to understand how a person judges wildlife. I am looking for participants who are living in the UK (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) to complete a questionnaire. As someone who is living in the UK, I would like to invite you to take part in this study. This questionnaire should take approximately 10 minutes to complete. You do not need any knowledge of the subject area to complete this questionnaire.*

*This research is **not** involved with any organisation pursuing a lynx reintroduction. This data is collected for research purposes only. Participation in this study is **voluntary**. Your answers are **anonymous**. We do not ask for your name, address or other identifying information.*

To access the questionnaire, please click the link below:

https://kentpsych.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eDURgK464Bx4awe

This questionnaire will be distributed over a 6-month period. I would be grateful if you could forward this email to friends and/or family. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the study.

IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THESE NEWSLETTERS, PLEASE EMAIL BACK (OR FOR THOSE WHO RECEIVE IT BY POST CAN YOU EITHER PHONE, TEXT OR DROP HEDGEHOG WELFARE A NOTE) AND WE WILL REMOVE YOU FROM OUR DATABASE.



If you have any stories for the newsletter then please contact our editor, Philip Braund. Philip is a former Fleet Street journalist and an award-winning television producer for ITV. He can be contacted on DaisyDogMedia@gmail.com