

Hedgehog Welfare Newsletter

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We have done it – our website is about to go live, before the 15th September 2024. Check it out at www.hedgehogwelfare.org.uk and let us know what you think. There will still be work to be done with tweaks here and there, but this has been a huge effort by everyone. Well done team.



There have also been some changes within Hedgehog Welfare. Our staunch supporter **Jayne Porter** has stood down as a Trustee and Minute Secretary. Jayne has been with us for the last 12 years. She said: “I thought it was time for a break, especially now that my husband has retired”. But all is not lost. Jayne will still be helping us as a volunteer and giving her entertaining talks about hedgehogs.

To fill Jayne’s trustee role, we needed a new person to join the team.

Step forward **Alison Fyson**, a recently retired solicitor and one of our hedgehog carers. Alison also agreed to take on the job of Minute Secretary. Alison said: I became interested in Hedgehog Welfare when I stumbled across my first poorly hedgehog in the garden a few years ago.

Liaising with Hedgehog Welfare to help the hedgehog – named Milk Thistle - made me realize wildlife on my own doorstep needed help. It inspired me to become a Friend of Hedgehog Welfare and to take more interest in wildlife - with the result that I also joined the RSPB and The Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. I became a Hedgehog Welfare Trustee in August 2024, after acting as a volunteer for a short while.



I was a solicitor in probate, wills and trusts, so this hedgehog role is a complete change for me. As a Trustee, I work with a dedicated team of volunteers and my co-Trustees. My role is both practical and administrative.

On the one hand caring for poorly hedgehogs personally, or arranging care by the team of volunteers, sorting out medical treatment, transporting the hedgehogs and re-homing/releasing the hedgehogs back to the wild.

On the other hand, carrying out duties of an administrative nature including fundraising, marketing activities for events, raising awareness by talks, liaising within the community to encourage hedgehog holes in fences/hedgehog road signs-and taking all steps possible to improve the hedgehogs' environment.

Growing up in rural Lincolnshire, I was surrounded by wildlife. I am concerned by its recent decline in our country and so I am excited to be part of a charitable organization whose aim is to reverse that decline. It is my view that, with the support of Friends of Hedgehog Welfare and the public, we can make a real difference. I hope you will join us in achieving this."

Beware: Hedgehogs crossing

The first Government hedgehog crossing signs have been put up in England. Four of the red-triangle warning signs were installed at Old Malden in London. Conservationists discovered a thriving hedgehog population near the London site. It's hoped the signs will spread across the country. More than 150,000 hogs are estimated to be killed each year by vehicles. The hedgehog loves to roam at night across a large area in the search for food. Concerned by the death rate the Department of Transport approved the designs in December 2023. It is now up to local authorities to roll out them out. For the last four years Hedgehog Welfare has been making hedgehog warning signs and putting them up at road "hot spots". The signs are painted white and called "ghost" warnings. Janet said: "We recognized the areas where hedgehogs are likely to cross roads to forage. "Our signs are up in four or five villages. Sadly, it's impossible to say if they have worked or is it the fact is there are just fewer hogs. But we hope they have made a difference. It is estimated there are fewer than one million hedgehogs in the wild. Sixty years ago, their numbers were around fifty million. If you are interested in purchasing a Ghost Sign to put up in your street or village, you will need permission of the local council first, but our signs are £6.00 and can be ordered through admin@hedgehogwelfare.org.uk. We are hoping to have some ready for sale at our Annual Fund Raiser on the 15-09-2024. This is our sign in Flintham.



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Our volunteer Vicky updates our **Facebook** page – follow us as it happens (almost). Vicky is doing a wonderful job keeping up with all the hogs' comings and goings. Facebook is now linked to our new website. We have 170 followers and it is quickly growing.

<https://www.facebook.com/Hedgehog-Welfare-102664205902433/>

Hedgehog News

Our first hoglets of the season, which arrived just as the last newsletter was going out 03-06-2024, were George, Percy, Edwin and Arthur. George, Percy and Edwin thrived and were all returned to the wild. George was released in Sudbrook on the 02-07-2024, Percy at Whatton on the 04-07-2024, Edwin at Little Carlton on the 06-07-2024. Sadly, Arthur did not make it. He suddenly started to lose weight, then stopped eating. He was rushed back to our wonderful Sally, who did everything she could, including starting to bottle feed again but he died on the 28-06-2024.



Our first hoglets of 2024



George on release



Percy on release

Buttercup and Daisy came in on the 21-06-2024. They were found on a lawn in Aslockton, in



full sun light. They had no injuries, but lots of fleas which we dealt with as soon as they came in. They were also dehydrated and thin. Buttercup weighed 162g and Daisy was slightly smaller at 156g. Sally bottle fed them, although they should have been able to feed themselves as they were about four weeks old, but they were too weak to do so. Sally was back on night feeds, but within five days they were eating by themselves and putting on weight. They were then moved to our lovely carer Linda Brooks, who loves all

her little (and big) charges) and spoils them rotten. They were soon fattened up and were released back to the finder in Aslockton on the 17-07-2024. Daisy was 540g and Buttercup was 575g.

Henry was found in the garden in Dry Doddington on 03-08-



2024. He was not looking too well. He was taken to Sally, who discovered this big male (667g) hog had a nasty wound on his head which was full of pus, probably caused by a strimmer. He was also



dehydrated and had plenty of ticks. With Sally's dedication the injury was cleaned out daily and antibiotics and pain relief given. He was soon looking much brighter and was eating so well he had to go on a diet! He went out to our carer Sheena where his treatment was continued until he was ready to be released back into the garden where he was found.

Rocco came in to us from Grantham on 04-08-2024 weighing a mere 78g. He was also found half curled up in a garden bathed in full sunlight. He was about three



weeks old and very thin, dehydrated and fly blown with lots of small maggots. This extremely cute fellow bottle fed well until he found the delight of kitten biscuits. He is now in an outside cage, still loving his biscuits, but of course he is off the first stage biscuit. He is now 219g and



we will update you on his progress in our next newsletter.

Rex – was found in the middle of the road on the 25-08-2024 about midday. How he got there



we do not know as he was just 58g and not big enough or strong enough to have walked more than a few steps. His eyes were just opening so he was between 12-15 days old. Both Sally and his present carer Linda have said he is a little poppet. Rex is now feeding himself and is much



stronger. We did not find any claw or tooth marks on him, so it is still a mystery how he ended up on the road. We will update you on his progress in the next newsletter.

Hedgehogs need our Help – Hot and Dry Weather

During the recent hot and dry weather, we received a lot of calls. We managed to cope but resources were stretched with the Retford Carer, Sue Smith of 7th Heaven giving up this year. And Wild Things Rescue – which covers most of Lincolnshire - was intermittently closed because they were full. Also Prickleback Urchin Hedgehog Rescue in Oakham is closed temporary duo to ill health. However, **you** can make a difference to the hedgehog in your garden. Every night put out at least two large plant-pot saucers, or cat or dog bowls, of fresh water. Top them up in the morning and again every night. You must clean them out every three to four days to help stop cross-contamination. It would also really help if you can save the water you wash your salad and vegetables in and put it in the garden in the same place each time. The slugs, snails and worms will like the dampness in the area, so it means the hedgehogs will have an easier time to find their food. Another way to help the hedgehogs is to put out some chicken-based kitten biscuit, about a tablespoon if you can, not in a bowl but scattered. This stops one piggy hedgehog – and they can be greedy - eating the lot. Also, it is a more natural way for hedgehogs to eat.

Thank you all for caring about hedgehog and please share this request with your family and friends.

Jackie Cameron of Ropsley: It is with much sadness, that Jackie passed away on the 4th of



June 2024. Jackie was a good friend to Hedgehog Welfare and came to our Annual Fund Raiser for many years. Janet recalls many a visit with her about a hedgehog that was injured or sick or needed collecting for release in her garden. It was a time when Jackie and Janet would laugh together. Jackie was always happy. Her family, knowing her love of hedgehogs and her association with Hedgehog Welfare, asked that gifts in Jackie's memory should be in aid of Hedgehog Welfare. A wonderful sum of £503.00 was raised, and we would like to thank all Jackie's family and friends for this kind and generous gift in this fun-loving lady's memory.

Training Event – We have run several basic hedgehog care training courses, which have resulted in four new “fattening-up” carers. Hopefully, some may want to learn more and will



learn how to inject or even help Sally. We did have an add-on to a basic training with some people learning how to feed hoglets, but as yet no volunteers on help looking after hoglets.

So, if you're up for helping please contact Janet on 07940 714830 or email on admin@hedgehogwelfare.org.uk.

If anyone feels like they would like to help by answering our telephone while Janet is at hospital visits or on holiday, of course lots of training would be given. It is a big commitment, as it can be extremely busy and you have to be hard sometime when we are full, of course we give advise which where the training comes in and the line is open 24/7 but not that many calls after 21.30. So, if you fancy helping out in that direction can you give Janet a call on 07940 714830. You also have to have a good mobile reception in your area (Vodafone)

Annual Fund Raiser – 15th September 2024

It's our big day of the year that's taken months of planning and preparation. We have a bumper raffle with some top-notch prizes. The only thing we don't have are two tickets for the Oasis re-union. But we've come close. The day starts at 1.15pm and runs until 4.30, in Foston Village Hall NG32 2LG. The raffle will be drawn at 4.15. There are cakes galore – all baked by Janet. Our Annual Fund Raiser is our only fund-raising event in the year, and so important to us. Hopefully, it will help finance us through the long winter months, which can be extremely busy with underweight Autumn Juveniles. This year we are expecting numbers to be the highest we have known. We'll keep you updated. We have attached a Hedgehog Welfare Fund Raiser poster which gives all the details.

Janet would like to thank John Goodyear (well his employers) as they donated 6 dozen eggs to help her with all the baking for the Annual Fund Raiser. Her freezer is getting very full of Cake.

If you could pass this to work colleagues, friends, and family to give as much publicity as possible it would be appreciated. Thank you.

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.



And, after years of asking here's a new photograph of our editor Philip Braund. Philip is a former Fleet Street journalist and an award-winning television producer. If you have any stories for the newsletter then please contact him on DaisyDogMedia@gmail.com