

Hedgehog Welfare Newsletter

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March 2025

Firstly, we would like to apologize for the late newsletter. Janet has not been well but hopes to be back to her old self soon after yet another hospital visit. Meanwhile, we wish everyone a belated happy and healthy 2025.

Our new Trustee Alison has been a tremendous help to Janet and is going to be a great asset to the team. Also, Vicky, who has been looking after our Facebook, has now moved home and is settled in with her children. Vicky is helping Sally, our principal carer, by taking in hedgehogs. We have also asked Vicky to be a trustee of Hedgehog Welfare. We need more young people to inspire us and to take over when we are too old to carry on. We are delighted Vicky has accepted the challenge of working with us.

Annual Fund Raiser

Thank you all for your support at the annual fund raiser. The Trustees thank all the volunteers and carers who gave up so much time to help at this event. We would also like to thank the Foston Brownies and Guides for their help. The profit was a wonderful £2,147.44, which is remarkable considering that the doors were opened to the public at 13.15 and closed at 16.45. Thank you everyone for your contribution to this event. Here are a few photos taken before we opened.





Brief Encounter on Platform One

Sisters Katie and Jacqueline Burris had a great evening at Eden Hall Spa after a chance encounter at Newark Castle railway station. Katie had been to our annual fund raiser in Foston and was disappointed not to win our top prize – two Twilight tickets to the Eden Hall health spa. However, the man who did win didn't want to go. He happily swapped his tickets for a bird box. A couple of weeks after the fundraiser our chairman Philip Braund spotted Katie at Newark Castle. In conversation he mentioned the tickets had been returned. Katie instantly agreed to buy them. She wanted to treat her sister Jacqueline who was visiting from America. Katie said: "Two Eden Hall Twilight tickets are a great prize and, like many other people, I was disappointed not to win them. So, what a lucky coincidence to see Phil waiting to catch the train to Lincoln. He said the tickets were not wanted by the winner so I jumped in straight away to buy them. My sister and I had a lovely time at Eden Hall. Afterwards I slept like a baby – it was so relaxing. The staff looked after us and we had a great meal, cake for pudding and hot chocolate by the outdoor fire. The cakes were delicious, but not as good as Janet's! "



Our volunteer and trustee, Vicky updates our Facebook page. She is doing a wonderful job keeping up with all the hogs' comings and goings. Facebook is now linked to our new website. We have 231 followers.

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

Hedgehog News

This should have been our quiet season, with few or no hedgehogs, but the weather since Autumn has been mixed with lots of flooding. The bedraggled hedgehogs kept coming in, but we were able to keep up with the numbers thanks to our lovely carers.



Rocco - who we reported on in the last newsletter - came in on 04-08-2024 from Grantham, at 78 grammes. By the end of the newsletter, he was 219 grammes and enjoying eating his biscuits in an outside cage. We returned Rocco to his finder on 07-09-2024 at a very healthy, for that time of the year, 492 grammes.



Rex – to update from our last newsletter - came in on 25-08-2024 at just 58 grammes. He was



found in the middle of the road, but he was not big enough or strong enough to walk, so how he got there we do not know. We estimated he was just 10-12 days old as his eyes were not open. Sally initially cared for him and then he went to Linda B, who of course loved him to bits. In her care he was released at 557 grammes on 29-09-2024



The Story of Houdini - Good Samaritan Mark from Bingham on 06-11-2024 nearly ended up



with his Volvo car in bits after rescuing a hedgehog. Mark put the hog in a small box and drove to hand him over to carer our Sally. However, when it came to take the hog out of the cardboard box he'd escaped and couldn't be found. Sally and Mark quickly realized Houdini had buried himself deep in the frame of the car. Sally said: "He'd shot down a small

hole near the rear light cluster. The more I tried to prise him out the deeper he went. He'd wrapped himself into ball and just wouldn't budge. Luckily my small hands were able to grip the hog and pull him



free. Everyone was relieved, particularly Mark who thought his Volvo was going to end up in bits." Sally called the hedgehog Houdini – after Harry Houdini, the famous escapologist. Mark said: "Houdini was in the bodywork of the Volvo hiding from us. At one point I thought the car might have to come apart. We were lucky Sally's hand was small enough to retrieve him. I now know hedgehogs need a big secure box they can't escape from. I am so glad he is doing well, and grateful to Hedgehog Welfare for looking after him. Houdini was released on Friday 28th February 2025 at 609g back to his finder.

A conservation strategy to help Britain's rapidly dwindling hedgehog population has been published. The searching report comes from the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) and the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES). The much-needed strategy was in response to the "State of Britain's Hedgehogs" 2022 report. That study showed hedgehog numbers have fallen by as much as 75 per cent in some rural areas. To tackle the decline, the BHPS and PTES worked with 30 stakeholders to form a national strategy. The stakeholders included conservation NGOs, academics, educational institutes, hedgehog rehabilitators, and groups working in transport and farming.

The six key areas for action are:

1. Decrease in availability and distribution of natural food and associated habitat.
2. Increased vehicle collisions
3. Unintentional mortality and stress due to human intervention
4. Accidental death and misadventure
5. Toxin accumulation
6. Genetic isolation

The full report can be found here: www.hedgehogstreet.org/conservation-strategy

Also, online there is a You Tube film found by our lovely quiz man John, which he thought you might enjoy. https://youtu.be/F5lQ_u8iM_E. It's an animation hedgehog film, narrated by Chris Packham, but it covers a lot of useful information. So, we thought we'd share it with you.

A new fundraising Idea

Now for something completely different. Everyone loves the photos we take of their hedgehogs, and we have some amazing pictures, plus we have bought some great pictures taken by renowned wildlife photographer, Jack Perks from Autumn Watch. We have printed some into blank cards. The cards are all A6 Size (105mm x 148MM) and include envelopes.

We are selling Jack's photos in a pack of six for £8.00. These photos are included in the pack. The cards are **NOT** sold individually.



However, the following cards are the same size, are £2.00 each or 3 for £5.00, they include envelopes.

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



All photo or photo packs can be ordered from admin@hedgehogwelfare.org.uk or by telephoning 07940 714830 between 14.00 and 18.00. They can be collected from Foston or posted out at cost of postage.

Some dates for your diary – Events we hope see you at.

14-06-2025 – Barrowby All Saints Church – Hedgehog Welfare have been invited to this event and it will be open from 10.00 to 16.00, it is in support of Great Big Green Week 2025.

14-09-2025 – Hedgehog Welfare Annual Fund Raiser – Foston Village Hall, our one big fund raising event in the year, so that we can raise enough money to see us through winter and to ensure that we have the money to help this much loved animal.

More details on these two events in the next newsletter.

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