



Hedgehog Welfare

P.O. Box 8686
Grantham, Lincolnshire
NG31 0AG
Tel: 07940 714830

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These are challenging times for all but we want to reassure everyone we are here for the hedgehogs, although we have special measures in place to protect you and the Hedgehog Welfare carers (see instructions). At the time of writing, we can still take in hedgehogs. They are coming out of hibernation. When Janet's husband Steve cut the grass on Friday (March 27th) he said he had never seen so much hedgehog poo. Janet was delighted to hear the news; it means the wild hedgehogs in her garden are doing well.

Hedgehog Information

We hate to think how many hedgehogs were lost in the floods in February - certainly many hibernating would have drowned. So, a national population problem has been made worse. We promise to do our best.

We have received several calls over the last 15 days but the hedgehogs did not need to come in. With the change of clocks, we would like to remind people that they may see hedgehogs about in the early evening, that is OK (and for us a delight to see), so long as they are doing normal things, like searching for food, eating or drinking and not lying out in the sun. Hedgehogs should not sunbath. If the hedgehog is limping or has an injury or circling there is something wrong and you need to telephone our help line. 07940 714830.

Hedgehogs are very weak when they come out of hibernation and are looking for food and water. So, can you please check that your own pond has plenty of water in it so the hedgehog can reach the water without falling in. Hedgehogs can swim but when they are weak, they may not have the strength to get out. Make sure your pond has an escape route - a few stones at the edge so they can scramble out. Please leave food (dried, chicken based, kitten or cat biscuits) and plant pot saucers of water. This is especially important as the weather predicts a long, windy dry period and no rain.



We were grateful to Anne and Phil Presley for their donation in December 2019. For the second time Anne said she did not want any birthday presents and would like the money to go to Hedgehog Welfare. This year we have bought a special Incubator to help us look after small hoglets and dehydrated and sick adult hedgehogs.

As an extra, Anne reported that Midnight, the Hedgehog, whom we released in her garden last year, has re-appeared

and was looking fat and well. We're not surprised, knowing how well Anne feeds her hedgehogs.

It was with sadness that we learnt of the death of Ronald Thurley of Newark in January 2020 but we would like to thank his wife Sylvia-Ann and his family for their donation of £500.00 to Hedgehog Welfare. A large sum like this means an awful lot to Hedgehog Welfare. Once Covid-19 is over, the trustees will meet up and look to buy something in his name and will let the family know.

As we are now in the new Hedgehog Welfare financial year, I thought you would like to know a few numbers and other information, this information relates to the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020.

Overall, last year was terrible for hedgehogs, the weather really affected them. At the hedgehog conference at Hartpury in Gloucestershire in February 2020 all the hedgehog carers were saying the same thing.

We took in half the number of animals than usual; 145 hedgehogs, 88 were released, 56 died, one still in care (Bumble see below). That's a success rate of 60.69% our worst in 14 years.

Plus we supported 34 members of the general public and their vets, returned 48 hedgehogs back to the wild. This included three dedicated ladies who raised three litters of new-born hedgehogs, they all lived in different parts of the country, Cornwall, Southampton and Scotland. Hedgehog Welfare sent them milk, syringes and teats. Thanks to mobile telephones and emails we managed to get all the hoglets back into their gardens. One lady who we met at Hartpury has set up her own small hedgehog hospital as there was nothing in her area.

Thanks to all our wonderful supporters, we raised £3,280.52 plus another £44.30 from giving talks, plus profits on various sales. We have a couple of people who make regular standing orders direct into our bank, this we are really grateful for.

We had expenses of about £2,500.00 (not all the bills are in yet).

Again, thank you everyone for the support, we are extremely grateful to you all.

While Janet is in self isolation, she is making good use of her time preparing the papers to get our charity registration in place. Hopefully, we will be able to update you on our progress in our next newsletter.

Special Measures - Get prepared, in case a hedgehog needs to come in.

If you find a sick, injured or orphaned hedgehog always **TELEPHONE US FIRST ON 07940 714830, PLEASE DO NOT JUST TURN UP, HOWEVER WELL YOU KNOW US.** You will be instructed on what to do and where to bring the hedgehog. Bring the animal in a small cardboard box, with some gloves that can be washed or thrown away.

On arrival you will find one of our intensive care boxes with just a sheet of newspaper in the bottom. Transfer the hedgehog to the box with no bedding using your gloves, try not to touch our box or speak to the hedgehog. We will get all the information that we require from you, when you make the first call. If we need more information, we will telephone you after we have examined the hedgehog. We will keep in contact with you via email or text, so you know how your hedgehog is doing, that is if you want us too. After you have placed the hedgehog in the box, return to your car taking the cardboard box and gloves with you. Use a hand cleaner if possible. Please destroy the box at home, never reuse the box for another hedgehog. Once you are back in your car, we will collect the hedgehog. If you want to wait to ensure we do this, that is all right **but do not approach us please**. Of course, if you have or think you or anyone of your household have Covid-19 or even cold symptoms please do not come. I regret the hedgehog will have to take their chance in the wild if not too sick. We will give you as much help and advice as we can over the telephone, so you can help them in the wild. If the animal is extremely injured or sick, we will ask you to see if your support person can take it to a vet.

Meet the team behind Hedgehog Welfare:

We will continue with this section in the next letter.

Training of Volunteers



On Saturday 1st February 2020, there was a wonderful hedgehog conference at Hartpury University near Gloucester. Eight of us from Hedgehog Welfare (trustees and carers) attended the conference. Janet Peto, the Founder of Hedgehog Welfare gave a lecture on being a carer of hoglets. It was an enjoyable day and it great to meet other carers. We also learnt a lot.

Not sure where Mary escaped to in this photo.

The conference organiser thanked the Hedgehog Welfare Carers for running the raffle stall for them. We did work hard.

Hedgehog In Patient News

All the hedgehogs we had brought in over the winter for care, have been released back in to the wild, except Little Bumble and your can read her update below.

Bumble - Our real little poppet -

To remind you all, Bumble came in last September at just 62g and she was not heavy enough to be released before she tried to go into hibernation. She was checked over by the vet and he suggested we let her hibernate in a cage over winter which she has done in the garden of Lynda and Emily. Lynda has said that although there is no sign of movement at all from Bumble, she knows that she is alive as you can hear very shallow breathing. You should never disturb a hedgehog when they are hibernating unless they are in danger. So, little Bumble is still hibernating, Lynda added that she wishes she could sleep that well. More about Bumble in the next newsletter.



Our wants and needs

Because we have lots of events we're always on the look-out for raffle prizes which are new and balls of wool for knitting hogs.

For Sale



If you are short of hand soap or would like a nice useful present - we still have a few hand wash dispensers which are in EMPTY gin bottles, they are filled with different Hand Washes from Baylis and Harding. Some are 500ml and the others are 650ml. We have discounted them to £6.50 and £8.00.

All our Spring and Summer Fund Raising Talks and Events have been cancelled, in the light of Covid-19. And, we still do not know if we will be allowed to have our Annual Fund Raising Event on the 20th September 2020 - but please put it in your diary. We hope this event will take place, even if we have to make it later in the year, as funds will be low by then.

Quiz

John and Pat Kitchen ran our very successful Christmas/New Year quiz which raised £351.00 including donations. The prize winners for all correct answers were P. Glass from Collingham, Andrew Baumohl of Burton Joyce, A. Kennedy of Grantham, and Mrs A Rose of Stoney Middleton. Congratulations to you all. If anyone would like a copy of the answers to the quiz please email me and we will email them back. Thank you to all who took part, we hope you enjoyed it. we know, it was well received.

As John and Pat Kitchen are in Self Isolation like many of us, he has put together a free quiz, no prizes but you can obtain the quiz sheets from either Hedgehog Welfare or direct from John on his email address letsgetquizzical25@yahoo.com. You can email the completed sheet back to John by the 30th June 2020. All the instructions are on the quiz sheet. He just thought you may like to keep you brain active during this challenging time.

Hedgehog Welfare are really grateful for everything John and Pat do for us. The quizzes bring so much enjoyment - or frustration - to so many. Keep up the excellent work John and Pat and thank you to.

Spring Clean Time for your Hedgehog Garden Boxes

Now is a good time to clean out your hedgehog boxes but before you do "be prepared". You'll need a large cardboard box converted into a release box, (see attached instructions for this box) that has not had another hedgehog in it. Also, a pair of rubber gloves, a little hay or garden compost, some dried leaves and newspaper torn into one inch strips the full length or width of the newspaper.

Go to the nest box that needs cleaning out the most first and remove the lid (if it has one). If a hedgehog is in there put it in the release box with its bedding. Seal up box and place on the site of your wood box. Be silent when you this and try not to uncover the hedgehog too much. You are now free to clean out the box.

Give it a good scrub with any household cleaner that does not have too much smell to it and let it dry. Put in fresh newspaper sheets and the prepared bedding. Do not put too much bedding in because hedgehogs like to make it their own. Carry on until all boxes are cleaned out if you have more than one box, using the cleaned out box(es) to put the hedgehog in as you find them. An early April evenings - about 16.30-18.30 - is a good time as hedgehogs are just waking up and it is before the hedgehogs are looking for a safe nest to have hoglets in.

Hoping you are all keeping well and busy, remember to check your log piles and compost heaps before going in with tools there may still be a hedgehog hibernating in them.



A draft of the booklet has been completed and we are working on this to improve it, so hopefully we will have these booklets for sale at our next event. 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