



# Hedgehog Rescue NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2021



## MESSAGE FROM YVONNE

The hospital is back to running as it was pre-pandemic, and all our wonderful volunteers are continuing to give up their time to come in and tend to the health needs of our little hedgehogs.

This time of year is always extra busy, so please be patient when phoning us, or any other rescue centre, because we are all under immense strain answering phones, vet trips, cleaning out and medicating the hedgehogs in our care.

If you find a young or underweight hedgehog (under 600g) in mid-late autumn, before you bring it to us, please refer to our website for tips on what you can do to help hedgehogs at home, particularly if it's earlier in autumn.

<http://hedgehogrescue.info/helpful-information/>

However, if you are concerned about a hedgehog, put it in a deep sided box lined with newspaper, a hot water bottle wrapped in a towel and something for the hedgehog to snuggle under (such as an old towel or t-shirt). Then keep the hedgehog warm, quiet and in the dark until you can get further advice.

### Radio Bristol

I've recently been on Radio Bristol, talking about the issues that hedgehogs are facing. The public is more aware and concerned when they see a hedgehog during the day, so more are coming in than ever before. As a result, Hedgehog Rescue is often full and we are sadly having to turn more and more away.

For example, by mid September this year we had taken in over 350 hedgehogs compared to 250 in 2019 and 2020. Whilst it's great that people are more aware, this is also a very worrying increase.



### Lots of thanks...

Many thanks to Co-op Winterbourne who have very kindly donated £400 to HR from their community fund.

Many thanks also go to Gina who won the Bradley Stoke Scarecrow Trail competition with her wonderful Mrs Tiggywinkle scarecrow... and kindly donated it to Hedgehog Rescue.



More thanks.. this time to all the anonymous people who kindly send gifts via Amazon to Hedgehog Rescue... we are so grateful for everything and it really does help to keep the centre running. If you would like to donate anything else, our wishlist is: [www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1667YMU5IYO5P/ref=cm\\_go\\_nav\\_hz](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1667YMU5IYO5P/ref=cm_go_nav_hz)

### And lastly...

Huge congratulations to Yate resident Bradley Ford, who has been nominated as an Environmental Superhero, and is a finalist at this year's Bristol Young Hero Awards.

I was very pleased to meet Bradley and chat with him about his volunteer work with Avon Wildlife Trust. He also wrote to Luke Hall highlighting the plight of hedgehogs. Bradley has contacted his local councillor and as result got 250 trees to be planted in the area. His own garden has been transformed to include two wildlife ponds, woodpecker poles, a hedgehog home and slow worm cover. He is truly an inspirational young man!

*Yvonne*





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## WHO'S IN, WHO'S OUT?

It's a busy year all right! We have a new record of over 360 intakes to date this year... with lots of hoglets and juveniles arriving well into September.

At the moment, the three main reasons for hedgehogs coming into us are:

### 1) Underweight Juveniles

Due to warming weather, hedgehogs often have a late second litter, so putting food out really helps. At this time of year they must be 600g+ to survive hibernation, and many we see are too small and often alone.

### 2) Netting

An ongoing problem at HR is hedgehogs who have been found tangled up in sports or garden netting and have nasty injuries. Please either pack your sports netting away at night, or remove the net from the frame and have a netless goal. For gardeners, please lift your netting up off the ground.

### 3) Dog bites

Sadly, a lot of dogs are very interested in hedgehogs and can administer a nasty bite. Please keep an eye on your dog when it's out in your garden, and have lots of safe shelter for vulnerable hogs to get out of danger.

Of course, in a few weeks time, it's likely to be bonfires... see page 4.



### Franky

This little hog arrived in a very cold, wobbly and thin state (280g). He was found in a nearby field by some people walking their dog. A local goshawk had recently taken their chickens so they decided Franky was at high risk and brought him over from Chepstow. He immediately received fluids and ringworm treatment and we are pleased to say that he is currently 447g, so he's well on the way to recovery and re-release.



### Stubby

Stubby had collapsed under a hedge and appeared nearly dead; she was like a rag doll. She immediately received a large dose of steroids for shock, and fluids, and no one thought she was going to survive. But the next day she was up and eating and looking like a hog again! She didn't need any more meds but had to have a few baths as she was filthy and had oil on her; we think she was possibly knocked by a car. Despite everything, Stubby recovered well and was released after a couple of weeks.



### Wombat

Wombat is an unusual looking hedgehog, with a beautiful long snout, who came in to Hedgehog Rescue at the start of August, weighing a tiny 171g. He had green faeces and was immediately put on worming medication and antibiotics. Hedgehog Rescue volunteer Ria took him home to foster but recently he has become dehydrated again and is losing weight, so he is back into the hospital for further fluids and medications. The battle is certainly not over for little Wombat!



### Acorn

Acorn came in at the same time as Ivor (*overleaf*). She had lungworm, which is an infection caused by a parasite often found in slugs and snails, and is quite a common complaint with hedgehogs. Possible symptoms include snuffles, nasal discharge, heavy breathing, cough and weight-loss, and can be fatal if left untreated. Acorn was given the usual two week treatment of medications and sessions with the nebuliser. Her chest cleared up and she was able to go home.





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## HOG OF THE MONTH

Little Ivor was brought into Hedgehog Rescue on 25th August 2021, weighing just 204g; quite a young hedgehog. He came in with another hedgehog, Acorn, who had lungworm.

Ivor was found entwined in netting in someone's garden - sadly a common occurrence. We aren't sure how long he had been there but he had lots of maggots in his mouth. Helen picked him up and brought him in for treatment. Initially Yvonne thought his neck was broken as he was all twisted up and she feared that he may have to be put to sleep.

However, Ivor turned out to be a fighter, and when Karen arrived at the hospital an hour later, she saw that he was making attempts to eat, so there was hope! He was given fluids for four days and Metacam (a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug for animals) for five days. Happily, his neck seemed to be fine and he made a good recovery.



On 17th September we were able to release him, along with Acorn, into Helen's garden, close to where he was found, and where he can access the wild if he chooses.

From top:

1. Ivor was tiny when he arrived.
2. Ivor and Acorn
3. Release day
4. A photogenic Ivor

## FEED A HEDGEHOG THIS CHRISTMAS!

Do you know someone who loves Hedgehogs? Then adopting one of our current hedgehogs could be a great idea for a Christmas gift! Our Adoption Pack includes a personalised adoption certificate, facts about hedgehogs and how to care for them in the wild, a hedgehog toy, pin badge, pen and keyring, and email newsletter updates.

Many hedgehogs have a second litter during autumn, particularly if it's mild weather. These second broods often don't have enough time to put on sufficient weight to survive hibernation, and have to forage around well into winter for food. The lucky ones are brought into Hedgehog Rescue who care for them throughout the winter until they are strong enough to be released in Spring. But this takes a LOT of food, warmth and bedding.

By buying one of our Adoption Packs for your loved ones this Christmas, you will help us to care for hedgehogs throughout the winter.







## PLEASE CHECK BONFIRES CAREFULLY FOR SLEEPING HEDGEHOGS BEFORE LIGHTING

#rememberhedgehogs



Photo Jonathan Booty

If possible the entire pile should be re-sited before being lit, if not possible, use broom handles to lift from the base of the pile, and shine torches, looking and listening carefully for any signs of life.

British Hedgehog  
Preservation Society  
Hedgehog House,  
Dhustone, Ludlow,  
Shropshire, SY8 3PL  
Tel: 01584 890801  
[www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk](http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk)







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## OUT AND ABOUT WITH HR

It seems like a long time since Hedgehog Rescue could take our stand to community events; and of course we were unable to attend many of the usual summer happenings. The good news is that we have recently fitted in a few late summer / early autumn outings!

Lynne and John did well at the East Bristol Allotments Show, in **St George** over the August Bank Holiday. Luckily the rain kept away until just at the end. There were stalls, refreshments and their annual fruit and veg competitions. The stall was very well attended for a small event, despite competing with a live band.



Ria also had a successful day with the stall at the **Kingswood Showday** at the beginning of September, and on September 18th, Steph, Lynne and John took the stand along to the Climate Action Fair at **Chipping Sodbury Town Hall**, which was organised by Climate Action Yate & Chipping Sodbury. ([www.facebook.com/groups/434042914180675](https://www.facebook.com/groups/434042914180675)).

The event was about sustainability and what was going on in the local area to address the climate and ecological emergency. It was very well attended; there was a free tree giveaway and talks on climate, water and waste. Our stall had lots of visitors, with many local people reporting hedgehog sightings in their gardens.



On September 25th Yvonne, Lynne and John attended the **Three Greens Festival in Emersons Green**.



During the day, Emersons Green and Lyde Green celebrated their relationship with the Earth by running wildlife trails, wildflower walks and apple pressing, as well as yoga workshops and music all day.



In the meantime, Yvonne has been busy doing education and awareness talks at **Kingswood Preparatory School**, **Horfield Brownies**, **Ladden Garden Village**. Ladden Garden Village is a new housing development which currently has many large, impenetrable fences, so it's a good opportunity to remind everyone about the benefits of creating hedgehog highways. This is relatively easy to do, and has a huge impact on the local wildlife.

These events are always a great way to do a bit of awareness-raising, advice-giving and fundraising, so it's great to be back. If anyone would like to volunteer with the stand, do let us know, as it would enable us to attend more events.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook to find out any upcoming events.



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## HEDGEHOG FRIENDLY CAMPUSES:

### Bristol's universities achieve Silver Accreditation from BHPS

As our local universities start a new academic year, it's the perfect time to highlight the great news that the University of the West of England (UWE), Bristol and the University of Bristol have worked very hard and have both recently achieved Silver Accreditation for their hedgehog friendly campuses. Well done!

In this award the BHPS recognises universities for their efforts in providing a sanctuary for wild hedgehogs, and aims to encourage both students and staff to participate.

UWE's Grounds Team worked on biodiversity techniques - creating hedgehog highways, and generally raising awareness of ground management techniques that benefit hedgehogs and other wildlife. Their website highlights the fact that they have:

- Further reduced the use of sprays to increase the number of chemical-free areas,
- Engaged with the local community to promote and expand the area covered by hedgehog-friendly procedures,
- Installed 'hedgehog ramps' to help creatures get in and out of ponds,
- Expanded the number of log piles, potential habitat areas, and hedgehog-friendly plant /wildflower species.



The University of Bristol state that their measures include:

- Gardens and Grounds staff being more vigilant when using trimmers and clearing areas of debris,
- Regular student litter picks to keep our landscape clean for wildlife,
- Trained members of staff who can help rescue sick or injured hedgehogs, and
- Surveying and monitoring areas for more evidence of hog populations to develop the campaign further.

If you are a student at the University of Bristol and want to help, here's their facebook group: [www.facebook.com/groups/502521267197310/about/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/502521267197310/about/)

And for those at UWE:

[www.thestudentsunion.co.uk/news/article/thesuatuwe/UWE-Bristol-is-a-Silver-Hedgehog-Friendly-Campus](http://www.thestudentsunion.co.uk/news/article/thesuatuwe/UWE-Bristol-is-a-Silver-Hedgehog-Friendly-Campus)

Here's an interesting blog from a UWE student who was involved in the Hedgehog Friendly Campus scheme (note: they have received the silver status since the blog was written).

<https://studentecologistbristol.home.blog/2021/02/10/hedgehog-friendly-campus-at-uwe-frenchay/>

This is brilliant news for both universities and, of course, for hedgehogs, as the two universities cover a huge geographical area. We are excited to see if they both reach the Gold Standard soon!

## BHPS' "HEDGEHOG HEROES ROLL OF HONOR"

After successful campaigning from BHPS, South Gloucestershire and Bristol City Council have agreed to display trimmer warning stickers on their machinery (see sticker below). Look out for them on any of your purchases!

If you know of other local councils or tool hire companies who are happy to do the same, let them know that they can contact

[info@britishhedgehogs.org.uk](mailto:info@britishhedgehogs.org.uk) for free stickers.

A full list of the groups already taking part is here: [www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/hedgehog-heroes-roll-honour](http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/hedgehog-heroes-roll-honour)

British Hedgehog  
Preservation Society  
Tel: 01584 890801  
[www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk](http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk)

**PLEASE CHECK AREA FOR  
HEDGEHOGS BEFORE  
USING THIS EQUIPMENT**





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## YOUR KIND SUPPORT

Well.. what a year it's been... can't believe we are approaching the end of the year already. Looking back at this year, thanks to a lot of fundraising and grant applications, we have seen stage two of the hedgehog hospital completed... something that has made a massive difference to the daily workings of our team of volunteers.

As we've mentioned it's been a bumper year for hedgehog intakes, and with that has come a lot of increased costs and efforts. We are extremely grateful for any help people can give us, or already have given, whether in a hands-on capacity as a volunteer, or as a fundraiser or donator.

In particular, it would be fantastic to be able to sell more high quality hedgehog-related items on our stall or on our Etsy page, so if we have any creative people out there who may be able to make items to sell throughout the year, please do get in touch with Yvonne with your offer.

If you are thinking of donating money, it may help to know that every hedgehog costs around £5 per week to feed and look after. Medication and vets bills are extra. For example,

- 50p will buy food for 2 hedgehogs for a day
- £10 will buy a box of 100 syringes (we go through a box per week in our busiest times)

Thank you so much!

### Ways to donate:

#### WEBSITE:

[www.hedgehogrescue.info/support-us](http://www.hedgehogrescue.info/support-us)

#### PAYPAL:

[www.paypal.com/paypalme/HedgehogRescueYate](http://www.paypal.com/paypalme/HedgehogRescueYate)

#### AMAZON:

[www.amazon.co.uk/registry/wishlist/1667YMU5IY05P](http://www.amazon.co.uk/registry/wishlist/1667YMU5IY05P)

## WHAT DO WE NEED?

We are always in need of the following items, and appreciate all donations - whether via somewhere like Amazon, or dropped off directly to Hedgehog Rescue

If anyone can help, we are in particular need of the following at the moment:

**Wet or dry dog/cat food (not fish) | Newspapers (not magazines) | Straw bedding | 1ml syringes | fabric softener | washing pods | rubber gloves | latex gloves (M/L) | washing up liquid | blue paper towel rolls**

If there is anything you would like to give, please call us for more information. Thank you!

HELP!!

A huge thank you to the **51 PEOPLE** who have supported us through **easyfundraising**. At the end of September you had raised over **£840!**

That's fantastic, and if anyone would like to take part and raise money for us whilst you shop, here's the link

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hedgehogrescue](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hedgehogrescue)

easyfundraising  
feel good shopping

# Raise FREE donations for HEDGEHOG RESCUE

every time you shop online

Find us on [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk)

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hedgehogrescue](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hedgehogrescue)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Check out the latest updates about all our rescued hedgehogs and the Hedgehog Rescue team on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter



[www.hedgehogrescue.info](http://www.hedgehogrescue.info)



[hedgehog rescue](https://www.facebook.com/hedgehogrescue)



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