



Issue 25 July 2016

Latest news

We have been releasing lots of hedgehogs now the weather is better. We are also now starting to see the first babies being born. Christine from our Frinton centre currently has a mum and babies with her. She took mum out to weigh her and check her over one day (not knowing she was pregnant) and saw a baby so quickly scooped them up and put them back in the cage, somewhere nice and quiet as they must not be disturbed.

Last month there was a scheme running called 30 days wild. It's a scheme created by the wildlife trusts to challenge people to do something for nature, every day for 30 days. This can include really easy things, like, identifying a wildflower, spotting a wild mammal or putting food and fresh water in your garden for the wildlife. You can get the kids interested by making some art using leaves and flowers. Even though the 30 days has finished it doesn't mean you can't take part for the rest of the year. If you are on Facebook or Twitter why not post pictures of what you've done to encourage others to follow suit and be more interested in nature.

Patients

Christine recently received an email from a couple in Epping, which had a video attached, of a hedgehog collecting nesting material, taking it under a shed and then coughing.

Christine replied the hog needed to be treated and they should try to find a rescue centre nearer than us. Unfortunately they couldn't find

anyone else to take the hog, so they asked if she would take it and obviously as our policy is never to turn a hog away that needs help, she said yes.

They then had the task to raise the shed with a couple of car jacks in order to locate the hog and check there was only one. Christine received a call on a Sunday morning to say they were on their way from Epping, with the hedgehog.

The hog was treated and placed with a fosterer to overwinter. The couple asked if they could have him back and although we usually like to check gardens, they emailed us several pictures of their garden and answered the usual questions. They collected their hog, along with a companion, back in April.

It was lovely that they were willing to drive the 1.5 hour journey to make sure he was well looked after.

Netty



Meet Netty, who came into the Colchester branch last month. Poor Netty was found hanging by her leg which was caught in fruit netting. Her foot was hanging off & bone was showing through. She has since had her leg amputated & after recovery will

require a secure garden.

We've had a lot of leg injuries coming in recently. So can we ask you all to recheck that any garden netting is secured well off the ground. Mention the dangers of netting to friends & neighbours too. Let's get the message out there!

Lucky Escape

A few months ago we received a call at our Frinton centre about a hog found in a garage. The lady was rather concerned that she believed he had been in the garage since before Christmas, when it had been broken into during the night and the door left open. She did not believe there was anyway the hog could have got into the garage before or after.

They were not aware of his presence until they spotted a calling card and when they were having a sort out and found the hog asleep amongst rags etc.

She gently picked him up and brought him to Frinton, he was a good weight so he was placed into a hedgehog house and put in the soft release garden, with a feeding station. It was thought he may be in hibernation to have been able to last so long in the garage. Anyway he came out and cleared his dish every night and remained in the soft release pen until it was better weather and time for release.

Dangers to be aware of

It can be a dangerous world out there for a hedgehog. We were recently called to a business premises where a hedgehog had been spotted down a drain, they only noticed it because they had a leak and someone spotted something down there. It was initially believed to be a rat, but when they realised it was a hog they gave us a call. When we arrived, we had to peer over a very large waterbutt. It didn't look promising but we decided we couldn't leave it without checking and after squeezing through a very small gap, (no mean feat as neither of us particularly thin) with

hand plunged down in the drain, low and behold a very cold, wet, bedraggled hog was rescued. We couldn't believe it had survived with just his nose above water.

When he arrived back the centre and was located in a nice warm cage, he then proceeded to eat a dish of meat and a further dish with biscuits in the evening. Not bad seeing he must have been down that drain for a minimum of 18 hours! Hasten to add he had worn his front feet nails down to the skin. He has made a full recovery and has been relocated to a nice garden, minus drains.

This just reminds us how important it is to make sure drains are kept covered, to prevent not only hedgehogs, but other animals falling in them.

As a second reminder, please be careful if you are doing any major work in your gardens, removing shrubs, dismantling sheds etc as there may be mummy hogs with babies. If you do find one please don't touch them and call us straight away.

Fundraising

Upcoming Events

- Sunday 10th July, Long Melford Street Fair
- Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st July
West Bergholt Show
- Sunday 7th August, Five Parishes Show, Langenhoe

How you can help

We recently had a fundraising box in Asda in Harwich and out of the three charities we won! Each charity get a donation but the winner gets a bigger donation so we were thrilled to have won. Liz and Christine will be going over there soon to collect the cheque. Thank you to anyone who put their token in our box.

We now have a green token collection box in Asda in Colchester. If you shop there, make sure you ask for a token at the checkout if it's not given to you automatically and please consider putting it into our collection box to help us raise funds.