



Issue 21 June 2015

Latest news

The baby season has well and truly started with lots of calls of nests being disturbed whilst gardening. Or babies seen out in the daytime. Another reminder to please be careful when gardening, especially at this time of year, as you may stumble across a nest.

The weather has been so hot the past couple of weeks. Whilst this is good news for the humans it does mean our wildlife can suffer. Please help by providing a clean bowl of water in your garden. This will help many species, not just hedgehogs.



We are still getting hedgehogs brought into us that have been caught in netting (football nets, etc), if you have a net in the garden please just tie or peg it up at night to keep the hedgehogs safe. Sadly, we are also seeing a rise in the number of hedgehogs brought to us with dog bites. We love our dogs so don't want to

demonise them, but please be careful if your dog is inquisitive and perhaps pop them on a lead if you let them in the garden when it's dark.

Patients

Billy

If you've been reading our newsletters for a while you would have heard about Billy. Billy has been in secure garden since 2010. He came in as a tiny baby by a member of the public who had found him. We asked him to check the area where he found Billy as there may have been more babies (up to 6 in a nest).

He assured us there were no more. He then admitted the following- he saw a plastic bag in his greenhouse moving and he believed it was rats, he then proceeded to kill them, only to find when he opened the bag he had killed a mother and 3 baby hoglets. Which, of course the man felt awful about.

'Billy' was the only survivor, but we believed he had been so traumatised by this, that he did not react like a normal hedgehog, even after being put in one of our soft release pens. We had our worries that he would not survive in the wild, so, it was decided he should be given a chance in a secure garden.

He went to live with William and Stella in Frinton and he has been a thoroughly spoilt hog. He comes to the feeding station every night then proceeds to their back step which activates a security light. He then sits on their step waiting for his fresh piece of banana, which he consumes with zest.

Unfortunately Billy is now coming out in daylight, although this is not a problem as he is perfectly safe in their garden, but we believe he has now gone blind. On checking him, he is sustaining a good weight and still goes through his normal ritual of eating his banana.

This isn't a usual existence for a hedgehog, as they would usually be released back into the wild but he is safe and well looked after. After what he went through we felt we had to give him a second chance.

All in a twist!

One morning Liz had a call from one of the receptionists at Stanway School, advising her their caretaker had found a hedgehog in the middle of the school field. Liz rushed over straight away to retrieve the hedgehog.

When she got there and tried to pick it up, it was stuck. Somehow its leg had got very tightly wrapped around the blades of grass. The hedgehog was cut from its predicament with a pair of scissors and taken back to the hospital for checking over. The photo below shows the large piece of grass that was caught on its leg.



Fundraising Upcoming Events

- Saturday and Sunday 25th and 26th July- West Bergholt show.
- Sunday 26th July- Heybridge Fayre.
- Sunday 2nd August- Five Parishes show.
- Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th August, Beth Chatto Gardens (Raffle, Name the Hedgehog and Merchandise stall).

- Saturday 5th September, 1.30pm- Hedgehog Haven Tombola, Great Bentley Show, Great Bentley Green.

Previous Events

Thank you to everyone who came to our quiz night earlier on in June. A fantastic £317 was raised. As always our supporters were very generous donating cakes, merchandise and raffle prizes, including a fantastic Mrs Tiggywinkle cake (see bottom photo). Thank you also to Benton Hall Golf and Country Club, such a lovely venue!



Believe it or not we are starting to think about our Christmas Raffle! If you have any prizes you would like to donate or work for a business that could provide gift vouchers or tickets please get in touch, we would be very grateful.

Do you have any old towels you could donate to us? We use them for the baby hedgehogs and are starting to run low! Please contact one of us if you are able to help. Contact details can be found on our website. Many thanks.