

Hogwatch

from The Lancashire Hedgehog Care Trust

Registered Charity No. 1092285

Patron: Nick Park CBE



Providing specialist care, treatment and rehabilitation for sick, injured and orphaned hedgehogs, with the aim to release when fit and healthy back into the wild.



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Another rescued APH.....

Where have all our hedgehogs gone?

I have had two very similar enquiries from people concerned that after years of having hedgehogs in their gardens, now there are none. One theory put forward was whether 'fracking' was anything to do with it. This is the controversial gas drilling process being carried out in the NW Lancs area. We have already had earth tremors earlier this year and as hedgehogs would be very sensitive to noise and vibration, this would seem entirely possible. I would be interested to hear if anyone else in this area has noticed the same thing.



Our online shop is fully stocked with gift ideas for you this Xmas. We have Xmas cards, jewellery, wildlife ornamental plates, bookmarks, a wide assortment of keyrings and fridge magnets, memo pads, notepad holders, notelets, pencil holders, wildlife prints and much more. Postage is free, and of course every purchase will help the rescued animals in our care.

Primrose is the latest African Pygmy Hedgehog to be rescued. She was brought to us on 17th November following severe neglect and then abandonment by her owner who knowingly left her for six days without food or water. She is literally just skin and bone, the smell of urine on her was overpowering. I don't think this poor hedgehog had been given a clean bed for months. She's still extremely frightened and gets very stressed when handled. Primrose is totally different to the other APHs we have had in the past. She is slightly larger with pink eyes and feet with pure white spines tinged with yellow. We were not given any information as to how old she is.

Following three baths to get her clean and a good feed, Primrose put on a staggering 57gms overnight. I sat and watched her via HogCam from my office for most of that evening and into the early hours. The poor thing never stopped eating. She only had very little to start with as I didn't want to overload her, as goodness only knows when she had eaten last.

With careful nursing she should make a full recovery. She does appear to have a few coordination problems, but we hope this is just a by-product of being mistreated and that it will improve with time. Once well, she will be re-homed with someone who has experience of caring for APH's and can offer her the very best of care.

If you or anyone you know is thinking of getting one of these for Xmas, please think again. I can only emphasize that these do not make good pets, however cute they look. Even though they will have been bred in this country for the pet trade, it's not fair on the animals to subject them to a life of captivity. At the end of the day, in my view they are still wild animals and I can't begin to imagine the constant stress they must feel in their short lives kept in cages, with a hamster wheel as their only activity.

Unfortunately we do not have a photo of Primrose yet as it is just impossible to do, and we don't want to subject her to any more stress just at the moment.

Well done the guys at Wymott Prison

We were very grateful to receive boxes of fleece sleeping bags, hot water bottle covers and fleece blankets made by the inmates at Wymott Prison in Leyland. The guys there have done a fantastic job making these items for us, which will keep our hoggies nice and warm.

Silly me..... I wrote to the Prison acknowledging receipt of the items and to say how pleased we were to receive them. Without thinking, I stuck one of my stickers on the envelope which said 'Prickly Post—handle with care' as I do on most of the mail I send out. Unfortunately, when they received the letter it was treated as suspicious mail and they almost called in the bomb squad—but then all had a good laugh when they found out who it was from. Ooops, sorry about that!



Sleeping bag and blanket—tested and approved by 'Jack'.

Sponsors needed please

We are looking for either an individual or a company who would be interested in kindly sponsoring our two Hog Cams. Each Hog Cam costs £10 per month to run and is viewed by people from all over the world.

If anyone can help us to be able to continue to keep these cameras running in return perhaps for your advert on our website, we would be ever so grateful.

More Rainbow bridge items....



Thanks once again to the very talented Sue, we now stock a new Rainbow Bridge item. A beautifully made silver plated memory wire bracelet with rainbow coloured crystal beads in varying shapes and sizes. A silver coloured spacer bead separates each rainbow colour. Complete with two charms - rainbow bridge and cat / dog paw. The bracelet comes with an organza gift bag and with a card containing the beautiful Rainbow Bridge words. These can now be purchased from the Wildlife World shop on the website, or please send a cheque for £5.50 made payable to Lancs Hedgehog Care together with your name and address.

We have a new Trustee



We would like to introduce you all to our newest Trustee, Janet Bowman. With her boundless enthusiasm, energy and obvious love of all wildlife she is proving to be a valuable part of the team. Welcome on board Janet!

Morrisons collection

A big thank you to Melissa for organising a bag pack and collection at her workplace in Morrisons, Kirkham. Thank you also to all the volunteers that gave up their free time to help, and to Janet and Melissa for bravely manning the fundraising stall for the day. The total raised was £313.60p which was a fantastic effort. Well done everyone!

Welcome to our new member Mrs M. Butler.

Xmas draw

This year's draw took place on Nov 27th.

- 1st Prize—Food Hamper—Mr J. Bell.
- 2nd Prize—Bottle Grants Whiskey—H. Owen.
- 3rd Prize—Bottle Harveys Sherry—Mrs P. Trowbridge.
- 4th Prize—Tin Roses chocolates—Ms N. Gregory.



Congratulations to you all!

Our next week in the Charity Shop is from **February 4th—10th 2011**. As always, we would be very grateful for any donations of the following: ladies, gents and children's clothing, books, unwanted Xmas presents, bric a brac, toys, Dvd's and very small items of furniture. Thank you.

Booths collection

A big thank you to the Manager and staff at Booths Supermarket in Poulton for kindly allowing a collection to be held in aid of our charity. We were so pleased to hear that we were chosen as their local charity to support.

The monies raised purchased tins of cat food and cat biscuits for the hedgehogs which was kindly delivered to the Rescue Centre by a member of staff.

Items needed please..... If anyone can help with any of these items we would be very grateful.

Used / unused jiffy bags, empty jewellery gift boxes (earring, bracelet, necklace etc), envelopes (any size), unwanted jewellery (broken or otherwise), stationery items.

We don't say this often enough, but we are very grateful to everyone who continues to support our charity especially throughout these difficult times. To those who make regular donations by Standing Order, or those who renew their yearly membership fee with us, you are the life blood of the charity ensuring our work can continue. We hope you will continue to support us throughout 2012.

THE LANCASHIRE HEDGEHOG CARE TRUST

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TRUSTEES Sandra Duckworth, Bill Hamer, Terry Bates, Janet Bowman.

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Xmas gift idea.....

If you are looking for a long lasting gift with a difference this Xmas, why not treat someone to a year's membership with us. It only costs £10.



Finally, as we near the end of 2011 we would like to wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hope to see you all in 2012.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If your copy of "Hogwatch" has a cross below, it means that your membership subscription is due for renewal before the next issue. Your support is vital, enabling us to continue to provide care and treatment for the many hedgehogs that will need our help in the future. Thank you.

