



Hogwatch

from

The Lancashire Hedgehog Care Trust

Registered Charity No. 1092285

Patron: Nick Park CBE



Providing hospital facilities with specialist care, treatment and rehabilitation for sick, injured and orphaned hedgehogs



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BABY HEDGEHOG SHOT IN LOCAL CEMETERY

My apologies to everyone who has been following Stanley's progress that you should now have to read this.

It was a calm evening on Thursday 9th September when we released a hand reared baby hedgehog named Stanley into a local cemetery. But in the days that followed, the weather suddenly deteriorated with gale force winds and driving heavy rain and we were getting more and more concerned about Stanley and if he was coping. So the following Tuesday night armed with flashlights we decided to go and take a look, even though we knew he could be anywhere by this time.

We took our two dogs with us - Mollie and Tia. Tia in particular could always lead us to a hedgehog that was out and about, so if anyone could find Stanley she could. We searched the whole cemetery until a flashing torch ahead of me told me Tia had indeed found a hedgehog. It wasn't Stanley though. This was a much bigger one which looked quite healthy and so we left it to go on its way. We decided reluctantly to call it a night, and was just making our way to the gates of the cemetery when Tia headed off towards some bushes where she found another hedgehog. Sadly, this one was dead. I wrapped him up in a plastic bag and took him home to take a closer look. It only looked to be a young hedgehog - I hoped it wasn't Stanley.

I estimated that the body had been there for about a week and so it couldn't possibly be Stanley. But something wasn't right. The time factor had me convinced it couldn't be him, but I was sure I was seeing the same unmistakable patch of spines on his back - the patch where I said I would know him again if I saw him. Amongst everything else on his body, I noticed a small round hole in the middle of his forehead. My suspicions were then aroused. I wondered if the injury could have been caused by an air rifle, so the following day I took the hedgehog to the local Vets who then did an x-ray on the body. Sure enough, this confirmed he had been shot and the Vet estimated he had only been dead since Sunday / Monday. I knew then this was definitely little Stanley. I was devastated.

I had hand reared this baby hedgehog from being newborn and weighing just 16gms. The countless feeds round the clock for weeks, and against all the odds finally getting him to the stage where he could be released into the wild where he belonged, into an area where we thought was safe and would provide the best possible chance of survival for him. I make decisions every day on the lives of these vulnerable animals – but this time I got it wrong. Even though I had no control over the events following Stanley's release, I still feel responsible. He enjoyed a maximum of just two days of freedom before being shot. He didn't deserve that. What sort of person could aim and fire at such a defenceless animal.

As hedgehogs are a protected species, the matter is in the hands of the police.



Stanley—just two days old



Stanley's X-ray



Taken just before we released him

A tribute to little Stanley by Sandra Duckworth

A helpless scrap of life, just one day old,
Found on a lane at Stanah, I was told.
You had lost your Mum and your siblings too,
And needed someone to take care of you.

So that's how you were brought to me,
What a cute little character you turned out to be.
You were fed round the clock and for quite some weeks
We certainly had us some 'troughs and peaks'!

How did I find time to meet all your needs,
What with the other hedgehogs constant feeds.
But slowly and steadily you began to thrive,
And in your fleece blanket you'd love to hide.

But there is one thing I really must confess,
I enjoyed every minute – well more or less!
Such an absolute pleasure to help you pull through,
And a special bond formed between me and you.

When the night finally came to let you go free,
I worried and fretted, quite naturally.
I watched you go off into the big wide world,
In a warm leafy nest you would soon be curled.

But just two days later you would be found,
Without any movement, not so much as a sound.
Shot for the hell of it, my heart it did tear,
Are there not enough dangers already out there?

Only two days of freedom – is that all you deserved?
Who could do this to you, it's just so absurd.
Such a harmless creature – such a wicked waste,
I hope you are now in a much better place.



Rest in peace little one....

Following the tragic episode with Stanley, we were approached by BBC North West Tonight who wanted to do a feature on the Rescue Centre and also to raise awareness on what had happened, in the hope that someone with a conscience would come forward. Dianne Oxberry was really nice and made me feel at ease. This was my TV debut, and I of course was a nervous wreck! I tend to shy away from publicity, but this was something I needed to do—a chance of finding who was responsible so at the very least it wouldn't happen again.



Diane and cameraman filming inside the Hospital Unit



Even Mollie was in on the action! - seen here with Diane.

Xmas Prize Draw

This year's draw took place on 22nd November.

1st Prize: Food Hamper—Mrs L. Lindley.

2nd Prize: Bottle Grants Whiskey—H. Evans.

3rd Prize: Tin Roses Chocolates—T. Doherty.

Congratulations to the winners!

We have been promised a Dvd of the recording to put on the website for viewing for those who missed the programme on TV. Hopefully we should have it soon.

LANCASHIRE HEDGEHOG CARE CALENDAR 2011



We have just launched our very first calendar and we are offering this to our readers at a special price of £5.50 including postage.

It contains 13 colour photographs of hedgehogs in our care past and present, and also information on how to help hedgehogs.

A perfect Xmas gift.



As well as the calendar, we also have our own uniquely designed deluxe notelets. Each pack contains six notelets of the same design complete with envelopes.

The price including postage to Hogwatch readers: £2.50 per pack of six, or purchase four packs for £10 and get the fifth pack free!

If you would like either our calendar or notelets, please either: send a cheque made payable to: 'Lancashire Hedgehog Care' - or you can now send payment securely online using Paypal—our email address for this is: info@hedgehogcare.co.uk

All proceeds from the sale of the calendar and notelets will help the rescued hedgehogs in our care.

A BIG THANK YOU AS ALWAYS TO BILL HAMER OF PALMER AVE GARAGE, BLACKPOOL FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND UP-KEEP OF OUR CHARITY VEHICLE.



If you are leaving food out in the evening for your visiting hedgehogs, please continue to do so as long as your hedgehogs are taking it. Don't think that by feeding them through the Autumn and Winter months you are in some way preventing them from going into hibernation. By feeding them, you are ensuring their survival as there will be very little of their natural food around. Most hedgehogs don't hibernate until after Xmas, and some don't bother at all! If you should spot a small hedgehog visiting your garden, please ring for advice. As long as there is a regular food supply left out for it, and it is not seen out in the daytime, it may not necessarily need rescuing.

Tales from a Stanah garden..... by one of our readers

In between the dreadful wet and windy days we have had some lovely ones, and today was one of them. Whilst I was once again, for the umpteenth time, collecting leaves in the garden, a robin followed me around enjoying what insects had been underneath and then occasionally flying onto a high branch to sing, to my mind, one of the sweetest bird songs. No one else seems to sing at this time of the year so he is heard loud and clear. He has also been busy staking out his territory and attacking any birds including collared doves that came near his patch, whilst the blackbirds and song thrushes have been competing with each other, taking flying leaps at the yew tree to grab at its berries. A large group of house sparrows have claimed a holly tree and each evening gather there to happily chirp away, probably discussing what they have all been up to for the day and then come daylight, chirp away again probably to discuss what they are going to do for that day. They are gregarious birds getting on well together, even when they come to feed on the scraps of food I have put out. Not like blackbirds who spend all their time chasing each other away and then not getting any as the sparrows have just got on with it and eaten it all. Fieldfares (large noisy thrushes) and Redwing (small thrushes) have arrived from Scandinavia and enjoying various berries and windfall apples from around the garden.

Nothing on the surface seems to be happening in the little pond, but I am sure underneath the vegetation damsel and dragonfly nymphs will be there waiting for the summer to emerge and take flight. In the big pond, the pair of moorhens after rearing six chicks are now on their own again after driving their youngsters out into the big wide world to fend for themselves

No signs of other creatures, hedgehogs, newts and bats etc - hopefully they are keeping warm and dry and are fast asleep, thereby missing the cold weather that awaits us!

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.



Thank you to Terry Bates and also John Langtree for their continuing support which is always very much appreciated.

Still urgently needed please for cleaning cages—kitchen rolls or anything similar.

If anyone has any interesting or unusual stories about the hedgehogs in their garden, our readers would love you to share them .

A big thank you to Sara Penwarden for her help and photographic expertise with the photos for the calendar.

Welcome to our newest Members:

J. Sherrington, E. Taylor, S. Watson, K. Riches, R. Leah and Mr E. Taylor.



This is 'Dennis' - a hedgehog who is quite old and battered by the years he has spent surviving in the wild. He is on hand feeds at the moment as he is quite weak. Although he is in one of our incubators, he also has a hot water bottle to lie on as he is unable to maintain his own body heat. It must feel like heaven being nice and warm as he is always sprawled out on it. I think he would find it

very difficult to survive back in the wild, and so if we can get him through the winter he will be found a secure garden in the Spring. There he can spend his 'retirement' being looked after—he deserves an easier life now.

THE LANCASHIRE HEDGEHOG CARE TRUST

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TRUSTEES Sandra Duckworth, Bill Hamer, Terry Bates.

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This is 'Hannah', brought to us for care after being found distressed and squealing outside a telephone box of all places. She weighed only 200gms, had breathing difficulties and also mites / ringworm. After three weeks of intensive treatment she is making excellent progress and has now doubled her weight. She will remain in our care over winter and will then be released in the Spring.

Is there a cartoonist out there who could draw me some cartoon pictures of hedgehogs please. If you can help I would be really grateful. Please get in touch, thank you.

Wildlife World online shop

Our online shop is now open and fully stocked with all sorts of gift ideas for Xmas. We have greetings cards, Xmas cards, a wide assortment of keyrings and fridge magnets, hand carved wooden animals, magnetic memo pads, notepad holders, notelets, perpetual calendars, wildlife prints and much more. Postage is free for UK buyers! To visit, simply go to the website and click on the Help Us drop down link.

Thank you to all our readers that either support our charity by making regular donations or by being a member. Your continuing support is vital, so thank you to everyone and especially so in these difficult economic times.

Our next week in the Charity Shop is from **February 12th 2011**. As always, we would be grateful for any of the following: ladies, gents and children's clothing, books, bric a brac, toys, cd's and very small items of furniture. Thank you.

We would like to wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

And finally, our thanks to everyone who has supported our work throughout 2010. There are too many people to name individually—we hope you know who you are and that you will continue to support us in 2011.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If your copy of "Hoggie News" has a cross below, it means that your membership subscription is due for renewal. Your continuing support is vital to enable us to provide care and treatment for many future hedgehog casualties that will need our help. Thank you.