

# Hoggie News

from The Fylde Hedgehog Rescue Trust  
Registered Charity No 1092285

Providing care and rehabilitation for sick, injured and orphaned hedgehogs



## ISSUE 6

March 2004

Winter brought it's usual flood of underweight hedgehogs that were rescued after being found in various circumstances struggling against the odds to survive. Without the help of foster carers who take in many of these hoggies for me, keeping them warm and well fed until Spring, my job would be all the more difficult. For every hedgehog fostered out, it releases a cage for the next casualty that needs it. One such case was "Louie".....

I received a frantic phone call from a gentleman who to put it mildly was in a bit of a panic. "Can you help" he said, "I've found a hedgehog that's been accidentally locked in our outside loo. I've no idea how long he has been there. He must have found his way in when the door had been left open—I remember shutting it about a week ago". Not only had "Louie" been locked in, but he had been there so long he needed a drink and of course in true hedgehog fashion, he had climbed up an empty box in his search for water and had fallen into the toilet!

We had just had a spell of very cold weather so it was suprising that "Louie" had survived at all. When he arrived at the Rescue Centre he had completely collapsed and was hardly breathing. Not only had he worn away his claws trying to get out, but he had worn away several of his toes as well.

"Louie" has made a remarkable recovery and has recently been transferred into an enclosed garden for a spot of convalescence and to be assessed as to whether or not he can be released back to the wild.

## FOSTER HOMES NEEDED

We are currently looking for permanent foster homes for two of our residents.

"Bonnie" is a front leg amputee and although she copes quite well with her disability, she would not survive back in the wild. She needs a fairly large, fully enclosed escape-proof garden which is on one level and with no pond.

"Dottie" came in as an RTA having suffered a head injury and consequently she lost both her eyes. She needs a smaller, secure, quiet garden. As she cannot tell night from day she is sometimes active during the daytime. She would be more suited to someone that is at home most of the time with no children or pets, and who could keep a close eye on her. "Dottie" is unable to manage on her own and would be completely dependant.

## Dangers to Hedgehogs

It is at this time of the year when gardening activities increase. Make your garden hedgehog friendly now: ramps in ponds, holes covered, nets raised off the ground and secured.

Take care when using a garden fork especially in compost heaps or piles of leaves.

Take care when using a garden strimmer as these kill and injure hedgehogs more than anything else

Use beer traps or other environmentally friendly methods instead of slug pellets.

The sun brings out the blue bottle fly and hedgehogs out during the day are in great danger of fly strike.

If you need urgent help or advice on hedgehogs please contact me or visit the website.

## Update on the Uist Hedgehogs

The latest update I have on the situation is as follows:



Scottish Natural Heritage plan to once again start killing hedgehogs on the islands of North Uist and Benbecula in April 2004 and continue until late May. Uist Hedgehog Rescue (which consists of Advocates for Animals, British Hedgehog Preservation Society, Hesselhead Wildlife Rescue and International Animal Rescue) will continue to rescue again and be on the islands as long as Scottish Natural Heritage is.

If anyone has offered homes / release sites for relocated hedgehogs please don't think we have forgotten you. This operation will take many years to complete. Last year 150 hedgehogs were saved and 66 were culled out of an estimated population of 5000. All rescued hedgehogs were relocated on to mainland Scotland, and this year the same approach is being made. As long as there are suitable release sites in Scotland they will be used, as a shorter journey for the hedgehogs is preferable and less stressful, as well as being logistically easier to organise. All offers of homes / release sites that have been made through Fylde Hedgehog Rescue will be kept on file in case sites in Scotland run out. If this happens then UHR will begin working it's way south. Geographically speaking, we should be taking rescued hedgehogs at some point, but doubt if it will be this year.

## OUR NEW HOGMOBILE!!

A huge thank you goes to Bill and Mandy Hamer from Palmer Ave Garage in Blackpool for their generosity in donating our latest "hogmobile".

Bill and Mandy have always been there to make sure that I have the transport so that hedgehog casualties can be collected, or if needing veterinary care they can be taken to and collected from the Vets. Rehabilitated hoggies can be taken to and from foster carers, or taken to be released at various safe sites. Potential release sites and enclosed gardens can be checked out, and we are able to attend various fundraising and educational events throughout the year.

None of this would be possible without transport.

I remember only too well how difficult it was in the early days when I didn't have transport to do a simple task like getting a sick hedgehog to the Vet or to collect vital medications for them. Those were hard times, but it has been made so much easier now thanks to Bill's generosity. I think about those early days and what a struggle it was every time I look at our "Hogmobile" - and really appreciate just how lucky I am now.



So to Bill and Mandy from myself, everyone at FHR, from all the past casualties you have helped and from all the future hedgehog casualties that will benefit from your kindness...THANK YOU BOTH!

**I am always being asked "do we do car stickers or tax disc holders?" so I am currently working on a design that we could use, but can someone point me in the right direction please as to how to get these into production?**

Thank you to Mark Hetherington for the excellent illustrations he has done to go with our poem "How it all began" written by Sandra Duckworth, telling how Fylde Hedgehog Rescue came to be, but telling it in a rather humorous form. We hope to get this printed as a booklet soon and this will then hopefully raise funds for the Rescue Centre.

## SPRING IS HERE!!



When hedgehogs awaken, they will be desperately hungry. Feeding hedgehogs in our gardens is a sure way of helping them to survive.

Try putting out cat food for them, crushed bird nuts, cat biscuits or crushed digestives. Also provide a shallow dish of rain water. At this time of the year it could literally be a lifeline to a passing hedgehog.

## **Forthcoming Fundraising Events**

We have the use again of the Methodist Church Charity Shop in Poulton from

**8th—14th May 2004.**

Please get in touch if you have anything you would like to donate such as clothing, books or good quality bric-a-brac.

"Zoe" our permanent stay resident with severe co-ordination problems, has got through the winter months nicely - hibernating for all of one week! Her care and treatment is now being sponsored for the next twelve months by Korapin Jolliffe from Thailand. She and her husband came to see "Zoe" twice in February while here in the UK and were totally besotted with her. Many photographs were taken and lots of cuddles given before they left to return to Thailand. Korapin hopes to visit "Zoe" again when she is next in the UK which should be in the summer. In the meantime, she will be sent regular updated reports on Zoe's care and progress. Thank you Korapin for sponsoring this special little hoggie.

### **Caption Winner**

The winner of the funniest caption to go with the cartoon printed in Issue 5 was sent in by Mrs Clare Leeming from Huddersfield in West Yorkshire who wins a bottle of wine. Don't worry Clare, we WILL get this to you eventually! The winning caption was.....

**"Bad patch to have a scratch mate — you're in an ants nest!"**

## Thank you.....

To Wynn Farnworth from Bamber Bridge near Preston, for kindly coming to our aid with a tumble drier when she heard about our plea in the last newsletter. No more problems now trying to get the "hoggie washing" dried in wet weather. Thank you Wynn!

To Sandra for giving freely of her time and helping in the Charity Shop.

To John Langtree for his very generous donation at Christmas for the hedgehogs and for his continuing support.

To the Manager of Croston Corn Mill, for kindly donating tins of cat food and bags of cat biscuits for the hedgehogs at Christmas and to Maureen for kindly bringing them over to us.

To Anton Goodreid for his continuing support.

To Gaynor and Dennis Prince for donating lots of bags of clothing and bric-a-brac for the Charity Shop, and to Pietro for emptying his wardrobe for us - yet again!

To everyone that has renewed their membership. Your support is much appreciated.

**If anyone has any amusing or interesting stories about the hedgehogs in your garden and would like to share them with us, please send them in and I will publish them in Hoggie News.**

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

If your copy of "Hoggie News" has a cross below, it means that your membership is due for renewal. If you have already paid, then please ignore and blame the computer—not me!



Your continuing support will enable us to provide care and treatment for the many future hedgehog casualties.

**HOGGIE NEWS** is published by The Fylde Hedgehog Rescue Trust

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*The next issue of "Hoggie News" will be out in June!*