

# Prickly Times

Issue 3 - Jan 2020

Welcome to issue three of *Prickly Times* the newsletter especially for members and volunteers of the Pickering Hedgehog Rescue.

## Message from the Chair - Deryn Hagemann

2019 has been a very busy second year for Pickering Hedgehog Rescue. We have had a lot of hedgehogs brought to us which is fantastic. Word seems to be getting out there and people are realising when a hog needs to go to rescue.



*Help us help them*

We have successfully hand reared several hoglets, the youngest two being only 4 days old when they came in injured from a dog attack. Hoglets are extremely difficult to hand rear needing feeding with specialised milk every two hours and kept at 30°C. Our incubator which was bought during the year certainly played a large part in saving a lot of hogs including the hoglets.



We ended the year with a lovely group of volunteers. Some have their set days, some just come to the rescue as and when they can. We couldn't look after so many hedgehogs without the volunteers, so thank you to you all. We have many different jobs that can be done, preparation, cleaning out the hog boxes, as well as handling and recording weights.

We have over 40 hedgehogs out on foster for the winter. Foster carers come to the rescue to learn what to do, what signs to look for in case the animal suddenly becomes ill. Volunteering to become a foster carer is

an excellent way to help our endangered hogs. If in 2020 our prickly patients can go to foster homes once they have been treated, this will free up space at the rescue for more hedgehogs in need of medical help. We have had to close our doors several times in 2019 as we can only house so many at once.

I am very excited for 2020. The new hedgehog building is nearing completion. So many people have given so generously for this to happen and I will be forever grateful.

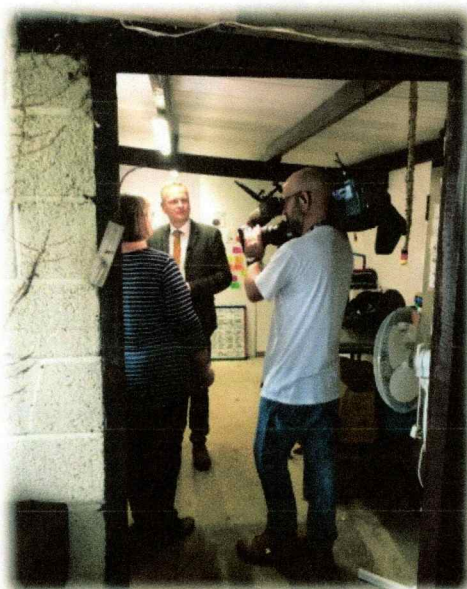




## New Hospital Wing

The Pickering Hedgehog Rescue has seen the need for its services steadily increasing since it began life back in September 2017. The original old building was becoming overcrowded and there were occasions when we had to refer people to nearby rescues. There was simply no more room for any new arrivals. So it was agreed that to continue to offer the service the Rescue had been created for, we needed an extension.

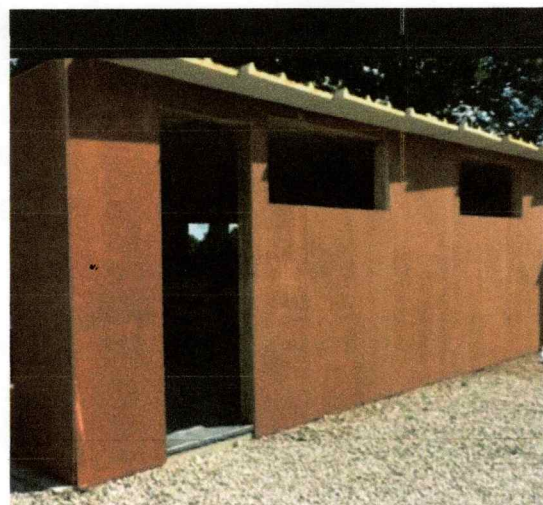
**Phase One :** A concrete pad was poured back in September 2018, and in July 2019 the framework and internal walls began to appear. A GoFundMe appeal and a great TV interview with Look North resulted in an amazing response and donations of both money and items allowed us to quickly complete the roofing, insulation, electrics and install the double-glazed windows. The basic shell was ready.



**Phase Two :** As donations continued, we were also fortunate to attract offers from volunteers who were willing to install the plumbing, wiring, joinery which allowed us to fit out the extension and install shelving, a dedicated washing area complete with washing machine and tumble dryer, as well as fix the external cladding to the whole building. The flooring is due to arrive in the next few weeks.

**Phase Three :** Once the building is complete we can install the new equipment including a wonderful gift of two further desperately needed incubators, alongside the new scales, suction machine, nebuliser, fly screening and other equipment in a dedicated space for our

volunteers to work safely and in comfort. Storage cupboards and stainless steel tables have been arriving, ready for the new improved facilities. Our aim is to then upgrade the existing building with new insulation and cladding. We also hope to have an official opening in the summer, so we can show people just how much their generosity has achieved. We have received over £2,300 as a result of the GoFundMe appeal, another £3,000 in significant donations and a further £1,800 from our wonderful fundraising teams, individual donations and events. Thank you all so much and watch this space for more details soon.





## Wildlife Cameras, Reviewed by Janet Burdon

### What is a wildlife camera?

Wildlife cameras, also known as trail cameras are weatherproof, battery-operated digital cameras that can record video or photos, night or day onto removable memory cards. They can be strapped to a tree or post or mounted on a tripod or spike in the ground and record every action around the clock. This is useful for people wanting to watch wildlife without disturbing it.



### What do they cost?

There are a wide variety of prices for cameras. Good quality cameras start at around £100 and are great for domestic use and will give good results. Cameras at £150 and above generally come with extra features like higher resolution image capture, built-in screens and better build quality. Specialist cameras with wireless image transmission via the mobile phone network are available starting at around £290.

### What do they look like?

Wildlife cameras consist of a small, waterproof impact resistant casing with a lens, movement sensors and Infra-Red LEDs. They work in the same way as any other compact digital camera, but with added features like motion detection, night-vision and timer recording.

The controls are hidden inside the waterproof box and securely closed with clips. They are powered by AA batteries, but they can also be powered by DC power supplies, solar panels and rechargeable batteries. The photos and videos captured are written onto a removable SD memory card.

### How do they work?

The main advantage of a wildlife camera is that they can be placed in a remote location and set to record when there is motion. To set up, open the camera, set the controls with the buttons inside (most cameras also have a built-in screen to help and to review images), close the casing and strap it to a tree. Most cameras are easy to install and once done, leave it and pop back when you want to. The cameras work night and day, constantly sensing any movement. During night-time the cameras use infra-red to see in the dark and so do not disturb the subject. Whenever there is movement, the camera records the action.





The two different types of camera I have are a Trail Camera for outdoors and a bird box camera, which is set up inside the hedgehog feeding station.



The Trail Camera uses 8 rechargeable batteries (You need at least 2900 mAh rechargeables) - depending on what settings you have on the camera it can be quite heavy on batteries. Mine is set to record 30 second videos at night only and a set of batteries lasts about a week (a little bit less in winter)

The bird box camera needs a power supply although you can get a battery pack which would need recharging regularly. My camera is connected to a recording device and also to my internet, so I can view the action on my internet browser and on my phone wherever I am. They don't have to be this complicated though, there is a wireless version

that sends images direct to your TV. The images and video from both cameras will give you colour in the daytime and black and white at night.

Whatever camera you decided to get you will have hours of fun watching the antics of these adorable creatures. A good source of info about wildlife cameras try websites such

as <https://www.wildviewcameras.co.uk/>. Don't forget to watch out for special offers, or join a Facebook group such as Wildlife Watching and Trail Cameras

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/1395197310700858/?epa=SEARCH\\_BOX](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1395197310700858/?epa=SEARCH_BOX)



*Rambo currently in foster care*

The Pickering Hedgehog Rescue is happy to come out and speak to community and voluntary groups about our work, so get in touch via e-mail for further details. We have a busy schedule of talks booked already for 2020. The £10 from your annual subscription supports our little patients at the centre - each hedgehog costs up to £5 a week to feed.

For any further enquiries, contact our membership secretary Brenda Taylor via our e-mail or download an application form from the website.