

## Cleveland Hedgehog Preservation Society Annual Report for 2016

Welcome to this year's annual report and the collation of hedgehog figures for 2016.

First of all the numbers, I've collected figures from everyone that will send me them. I know that some hogs are passed between carers and I've tried not to count these twice. I also know that a lot of people have cared for hedgehogs and not passed me their data, so I've tried to be as accurate as I can be with what I've got.

During 2016 we cared for around 434 hedgehogs, this is quite an increase on 2015 when we had 347, especially as my figures are collected from only 10 people. For the first time since I started keeping records we had more females (55%) than males (45%). There were 44 (10%) classed as babies and we overwintered 33 (8%) which were released during the spring of 2017. The busiest month was July when we took in 86 (20%) hedgehogs, and the quietest was February with just 4. It's interesting to note that we received hedgehogs every month of the year and this is becoming more of a trend as we seem to have milder winters. Briony took in the most, admitting 219 hogs to the care home in her garage, that's a lot of work! We lost 124 hedgehogs that either died or were put to sleep by a vet, sadly we can't save them all and so many are brought in too late to save or are too poorly by the time we get them.

I would like to say a big **thank you** to all of our carers, this is what we do and why the society was formed in the first place, I know there are only a few of you but you do a brilliant job.

...and now the rest of the news.

We currently have 87 members, 46 of whom receive their newsletter by email. We have 299 Facebook members which is an increase on the 255 we had this time last year. Facebook is becoming very popular and people from other hedgehog groups seem happy to give information and advice on our page which tends to take the strain off us a little bit. It's also a great way to share your hedgehog stories, pictures and videos, which we love to see. The downside is that some people tell us of poorly hedgehogs via Facebook which is a bad idea as there can be some delay before anyone reads about it, the same goes for email, where it might be 24 hours or more before it gets checked.

Although we encouraged the paying of subscriptions by Paypal a while ago, we are now hoping to migrate to paying by bank transfer as PayPal take a chunk of your money and we would

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rather have that in our bank than theirs. It is also possible to set up a standing order if you wish but please use your surname and membership number as the reference, so that we can see who has paid. The bank account details are: account name: Clev Hedgehog Pres Soc, account number: 14592348, sort code 05-09-34 and subscriptions look at sticking at £10 for the foreseeable future.

As usual we have done several talks to interested groups who really appreciate us going along to educate and entertain them with a hedgehog.

8 of us took part in World Environment Day at Washington Wetlands Centre having our stall out for the first time in ages taking just less than £100 over the weekend.

As a group we joined Tees Valley Nature Partnership and 4 of us attended their annual conference at Preston Park.

We also collaborated with The Tees Valley Wildlife Trust to produce quite a lengthy article for their 'Wild Tees' magazine.

I would like to sum up as usual by thanking everyone for their kind donations, both with membership renewals and on their own; we couldn't manage without you and we really do appreciate every penny you send us.

Chris Firth  
Chairman  
Cleveland Hedgehog Preservation Society.