Cleveland Hedgehog Preservation Society
Annual Report for 2020



Welcome to our annual report and summary of hedgehog figures for 2020.

This was by far the busiest year we've had since the society was formed in 1992 with a total of **734** hedgehogs passing through our hands, that's a rise of over a hundred on last year's figures.

I had numbers submitted by 9 people, there were some others but they had taken hedgehogs to feed up from our front line carers so I haven't counted them twice. Briony took in the most with 410 followed by Susan with 232. Thank you to everyone that sent me your numbers.

Of the 734 admitted we released 474 (65%) this is 15% higher than last year, Susan commented that it had been a particularly bad year for injuries with 230 (31%) either dying or having to be put to sleep by a vet, the same percentage as last year.

There were 47 (6%) that were considered babies required hand feeding (a very time consuming part of hedgehog care). There were approximately 343 (47%) males and 243 (33%) females which just goes to prove that the boys get into trouble more than the girls, but we all knew that! Not every hedgehog is sexed on admission hence the figures not quite adding up.

We overwintered 29 (4%) this year which is lower than usual as recent scientific studies have found that hedgehogs don't suffer any adverse effects from being released during the winter, especially if their diet is being subsidised. This frees up space and resources to care for the poorly hedgehogs as well as giving our poor carers more of a breather.

We received hedgehogs every month of the year with July being the busiest (137) and February & March being the quietest with just 9 each month. Autumn was busy again with 103 in September and 87 in October.

We are now down to 2 front line carers, Briony and Susan, but we do have quite a few 2nd line carers (I hope they don't mind me calling them that) doing a wonderful job and taking on more hedgehogs and more responsibility. A big thank you goes out to all involved, as always without you we would not be able to exist.

Now for the rest of the report. Covid has had a big impact on delivering our awareness message with many talks and appearances cancelled. We did manage a couple before lockdown and we have more planned for later this year, fingers crossed they get to go ahead.



Fundraising was of course cancelled but we have done rather well with donations of cash, goods and services. We had a donation from Anne Heath who made and sold hedgehog themed facemasks. Sem Bielicki Leach did a sponsored coast to coast bike ride in August 2020. There were cash donations from Climate Action North East via Sharon Lashley, from Asda green token scheme, from PD Ports thanks to Alison Smiles and from Sandra Winterbotham's husband after the winding up of the badger group.

We had food and kitchen rolls from both Asda and Sainsburys, Mary Scott knitted hedgehogs for us to sell, we got more stamped envelopes from Stuart Barfoot and Andrea and Paramount Global has done all of our printing.

Thank you to those that donate through the PayPal giving fund, I still have no idea how that works other than we get a cheque every now and again. Thanks also to those that use Amazon Smile, it's exactly the same as normal Amazon but we get a donation from them as part of their charity scheme. Incidentally we have a 'Wish list' with Amazon if you feel like buying us anything, message me for details.

Last but by no means least, a massive thank you to everyone that adds a donation to their membership and those that send us a little something at Christmas, this probably makes up the bulk of donations and we are very grateful.

We currently have 111 members which is the highest it's been for a long time and we have 2046 Facebook followers which is about 1000 more than this time last year, and they are from all over the world!

As online banking continues to be popular you can pay your membership in this way if you wish, our 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. If you do pay online please send me an email (chps98@yahoo.com) to let me know as it takes quite a while for them to show up on bank statements. Memberships are always due on 1st March each year.

We said goodbye to Andy and Yvonne this year, after serving on the committee for 10 years they have moved on and we wish them all the very best for the future.

All that remains is for me to thank everyone involved in all the parts of the organisation for everything they've done for us, we couldn't manage without you.

Chris Firth
Chairman
Cleveland Hedgehog Preservation Society.