Cleveland Hedgehog Preservation Society
Annual Report for 2021

I'll start, as always, with our hedgehog figures for 2021. Our grand total was 829, almost 100 more than last year and our greatest number since 1999 when we started keeping records.

Most hedgehogs were taken in by Briony at 439, this is a massive amount of work for one person, and although she had help with some, they all went through Briony's hands and had their initial treatment from her. Susan took in a massive 255 with our other carers taking in the remainder. Despite the number of hedgehogs taken in I only received data from 7 people, I suspect there were more that I don't know about. A special thank you to Anne and Marie for your detailed reports.

Of the 829 received we released 454 (55%) back to the wild and over wintered 57 (7%). Science and research are telling us that it's OK to release hedgehogs all year round and, as long as they are big and healthy, they will survive being released in winter just as well as being released during warmer months.

We had an even 50/50 split between males and females this year, it's normally the boys that get into more trouble but this year the girls are catching up. There were 47 (6%) that we class as babies and sadly 318 (38%) died or were put to sleep by a vet. It's always sad to lose a hedgehog, especially if they've been with you for a while but we must remember that they wouldn't be with us in the first place if there was nothing wrong with them.

Once again we received hedgehogs every month of the year, the busiest being June and August and the quietest January and February.

Now for the rest of the report.

2021 was another year where we were restricted by the dreaded Covid 19. Although our hedgehog rescues continued without decline, the rest of our activities were limited. As far as I can remember we only did a couple of talks and very little fund raising.

Luckily our supporters have continued to send donations through Amazon Smile and PayPal Just Giving fund as well as sending us a little something at Christmas and including a donation with their membership. A massive thank you to everyone who's done any of these things, without your support we couldn't function.

We've also received help in other ways, Stuart Barfoot continues to keep us stocked up with stamped envelopes and Andrea from Paramount Global continues to do all of our printing for us, both of which mean more of your money goes towards medical care and the day to day upkeep of hedgehogs.

Our web site provider suddenly increased their fees by a massive amount This year so we had to move the web site which meant a new address. This is www.cleveland-hedgehogs.co.uk

We currently have 114 society members which is slightly up on last year and we have 2453 Facebook members. Our Facebook page continues to be very active with lots of good advice being given and help with transport of sick hedgehogs.

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.

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.