

Nature recovery project - my efforts

I moved into Turners Croft 3 yrs ago, soon after moving in I opened my door one evening and was delighted to find a hedgehog on my doorstep. I bought food and started feeding it and before long others came. I invested in a wildlife camera to film their activities each night. This has helped me to identify if any are injured and to see their interactions. I have linked in with Urchins Hedgehog rescue for any injured hogs, once seen they have an injury they are quickly caught and taken for treatment or to be euthanised, so hopefully not many hedgehogs on my patch are in pain for too long. I bought a hedgehog house and have had 3 babies sleeping through the winter in it as well as adult hogs using it to sleep in or simply have a rest for an hour or two. I regularly have 2 or 3 hogs visiting every night, in winter sometimes it is more as food is more scarce, not all hogs hibernate, some come all through the winter. My camera also picks up visiting frogs, foxes, mice and the occasional rat! I have had to put a grill on my gate to stop visiting cats and foxes getting in to steal the food., this has been very successful and now means the hedgehogs are safe from predators while eating. When daylight comes and the hogs go to sleep the magpies and blackbirds come for the leftovers. I would love to see some hedgehog signs on the estate to make drivers aware as, even with the road humps, many still drive fast between the humps. It might also prompt people to put food and water out for the hogs and to care for them.

Hope this helps build the picture of what is happening in Heslington.

Here are details of a poorly hedgehog which arrived at my door a few months ago, he had a badly infected leg. After 3 weeks with Urchins hedgehog rescue I brought him home and released him. He still visits sometimes.

