

Bright Eyes

At home with a Hospital

An owl flies into a barbed wire fence, a sparrow makes a hasty snack of a few slug pellets, a hedgehog's nest gets chewed up in the lawn-mower, toads get massacred following their ancestral migratory paths: who do you call? call us! The Wildlife Hospitals Trust has evolved to offer help in such instances; no wildlife matter is ignored and as we grow larger we shall be able to overcome any problem large or small. Over the past five years Sue and I have been taking in and treating wild birds and animals. In that time we have obviously learnt a great deal about the care of sick and injured wildlife but, just as important, in that time we have learnt that there are hundreds of wonderful people who really do care about the fate of this Country's animals and birds.

These good people have urged us to grow and when, in February, we were accepted as a Registered Charity we at last saw the way clear to take up the challenge and offer more and more assistance to our beleaguered wildlife.

"Bright Eyes" is our first new project and hopefully puts over the enthusiasm and dedication so often seen at meetings of the Production Team. In particular Roger has put in so many hours work that Marilyn was overtaken with his energy and has joined in by typing all the copy.

"Bright Eyes" is our shop window to show the despondents that there is hope for the future. We are not sitting dejected and hopeless, the Trust is winning with its positive attitude to wildlife matters and hopefully you will join us in our quest.

So far we have had success with our projects; we have treated and released a large percentage of our bird and animal casualties and with our recently donated X-ray and anaesthetic equipment we shall be successful with even more. We intend to instigate out of doors projects, for example, monitoring owl and fox releases, erecting bird and bat boxes, captive breeding and releasing butterflies plus any causes that may come to light. We need active members to propel these schemes into existence, our scientific experts are only too willing to assist wherever possible.

Now do not get me wrong, we are not only seeking active members who have time enough to physically get involved in out of doors projects; the majority of our members already have commitments that take all their time. These members are just as welcome and can be active by joining more members, after all without members we should not be able to flourish and succeed. We welcome your support and perhaps one day you will have the spare moment when you can come along to one of our projects to see for yourselves the fruition of your efforts.

No 1 Pemberton Close is, as most of you know, doubling as a home and a Hospital. We are still searching for larger premises to make the patients more comfortable but until that time we shall continue our policy of never turning any wild creatures away because of lack of space, even if our excuse for a lawn does degenerate into total mud (mind you, the Buckinghamshire Puma had me worried for a while).

Many of us have had great fun and satisfaction running charity stalls. Wind and weather could not daunt our spirit and with many dates already fixed this year we would welcome any offers of help. I can assure you that holding down our stall in the teeth of a gale is an experience not to be missed. The fun-raising group are discussing various ways of increasing our potential, many of which will

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