

LBB Hedgehog Report 2021

Hedgehogs were recorded from 51 locations in the borough in 2021- a total of 53 (4 dead) adults and 17 young/juveniles (5 died). 2 adults were killed on the roads, one at Grasmere Gardens near Tugmutton Recreation Ground and one near Perry Hall School where hedgehogs have been regularly recorded. At 2 other sites adult hedgehogs were found dead, one of these had been predated. At another site a juvenile had been predated. The Citizen Science records reported that Willow Wildlife rescued adult hedgehogs from 2 areas, Mavis Righini rescued 1, another was successfully treated for lungworm by Folly Farm and released where found (Biggin Hill). A mother and 4 babies went to a hedgehog hospital in Essex after the mother became unwell. She was later released where found but nothing further was learned regarding the babies, so they were presumed dead.

There was evidence of breeding at 7 sites. The majority of records were concentrated in the Bromley, Petts Wood, Poverest, Chislehurst and Orpington areas, as before, but it was good to have a record from Biggin Hill this year, one from Anerley and one from the Crays. Most of the Citizen Science records were from gardens with security or wildlife cameras. The low numbers of records from rural areas may be due to a variety of factors one of which is no doubt the lower numbers of households. However, the lack of records from Beckenham, Langley Park, Elmers End, the Bethlem Hospital area, Sundridge, Downham, Penge and the Crays once again is likely to be due in part to less good publicity in these areas. A hedgehog talk was given autumn 2021 to the Friends of Alexander Recreation Ground and Cator Park who have been promoting the survey and an article was published in the Friends of Kelsey Park Newsletter. Sue Holland of idverde has been working with allotment holders throughout the borough to promote biodiversity and deliver hedgehog ecology courses as well as advice and instruction on how to conduct hedgehog tunnel surveys on their sites - 13 surveys were carried out this summer by the Allotment Biodiversity Champions with three allotments having positive results: Maberly Road Anerley, Belmont Lane, near Edgebury School and Millwood Road Allotments (between St Mary and St. Paul's Cray). Sue also carried out a Hedgehog Ecology webinar for St James' School (adjacent to Jubilee Country Park) and sent them a video of how to make and conduct the tunnel surveys. They conducted surveys on their grounds using 2 tunnels and Sue went through the results with the children. They had shrews and quite a few hedgehog tracks.

Numbers of records received has been steadily increasing: from 10 (2017), 21(2018), 33 (2019), 36 (2020) to 51 (2021). Some records have been generated following articles in local newsletters, but more needs to be done.

All Bromley's records have been submitted to Greenspace for Greater London (GiGL) and will be sent to Hedgehog Street. We have mapped the records we have been sent (attached) and are looking at the maps to see how it may be possible to link greenspaces.