



Hedgehog Highway/Street



As part of Sustainable Bishop, Bishopsteignton is taking part in the National Hedgehog Street initiative, which is a partnership between the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS).



Hedgehogs are declining severely in Britain and our aim is to increase the population of these lovely animals within the village. Several of us have signed up to be Hedgehog Champions and we are looking at making some simple changes in the village that will make a difference for hedgehogs.

One of the best ways for hedgehogs to survive is to link up gardens within our neighbourhood enabling them to move around safely and also provide an environment which is safe and secure for breeding and hibernating. But in practice how can we help and increase the population of hedgehogs?

A few of us held our first informal meeting last week up at the Vineyard to discuss the following:

- What we can do as Hedgehog Champions to increase hedgehog awareness within the village.
- Recognising the current situation on how many hedgehogs are already within the area and how we can increase numbers.
- Understand their living environment and how we can also enhance it.

After discussions it was really interesting to find out what is going on in our individual gardens to help the hedgehogs, for example:

- There is a family of hedgehogs in one courtyard.
- Feeding stations have been placed in gardens and courtyards to provide necessary food.
- Night filming has taken place showing their activities.
- Movement of hedgehogs are enhanced with garden boundaries mainly being made up from hedges.

With the above in mind we hence set our first aims to help our furry little friends:

- Each of us have pledged to insure that a hedgehog hole is available in our garden fences/walls so they can travel to and from our neighbours gardens.
- Each of us will be building a hedgehog home within our gardens.
- A page on the Sustainable Bishop web site will be set up and dedicated to Hedgehog Highway/Street.
- A Questionnaire will be produced for villagers to feedback to us about their concerns and wishes about hedgehogs.
- Start plotting where hedgehogs have been seen around the village.

WATCH THIS SPACE AND SEE HOW WE ARE GETTING ON.

If you would like more information on how you can help please read the attached top 10 tips to encourage hedgehogs and also visit the following websites

<https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/helpful-garden-features/>

<https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/>

Also if you would like to be involved with our group, or you have any information you think would be useful, then please contact me on email: dawn_arogers@hotmail.com.