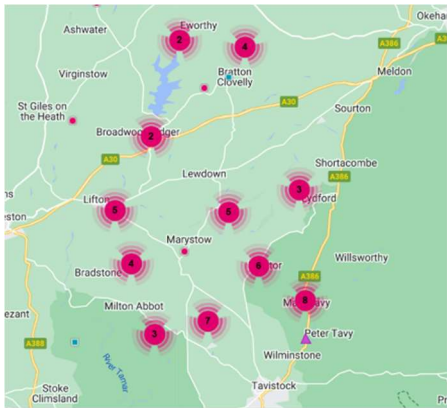


Lewtrenchard WI April Report

We met on April 08 at Lewdown Victory Hall. Margaret welcomed 19 members Mary (a potential new member), Naomi and our speaker Genevieve. Jerusalem was sung.

Our speaker Genevieve from the Hog Hospital: a trained veterinary nurse, the vet's Genevieve worked for received many ill and injured hedgehogs, as no one had much time she took them under her wing, this spiralled out of control and grew into a hedgehog hospital at her home in Cheriton Bishop. Our hedgehogs are the European type, they come in lots of colours: silver, brown, blond. They have a 6-year lifespan and can weigh up to 1kg. Their closest relatives are moles and shrews, they are unique having no fight or flight instinct, have been around for more than 15 million years, current UK count is ~250,000. They can travel 5 miles in a night, a map of hedgehogs fitted with trackers was

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



Map shows hedgehogs in EX20 area

shown demonstrating what they get up to which was very interesting and entertaining. Contrary to belief slugs & snails and milk & bread are bad for hedgehogs, they cannot digest fruit or vegetables. Instead feed them cat or hedgehog food. Their main predators are badgers and humans. How do you spot a troubled hedgehog? If they are out in the daylight, shaped into an odd ball, not protecting their faces with their spikes, then something is wrong, 'The ball says it all'. Wear gloves when picking them up, put them in a towel lined box, take them to a vet or a Hog Hospital. To encourage hedgehogs into your garden, make an insect Hotel near a compost bin, make sure you check before forking it over, create hedgehog tunnels, piles

of bonfire wood are great for hibernating but check for habitation before lighting. For more info see: <https://bighedgehogmap.org>. Genevieve nurses about 200 hedgehogs a year with an amazing 80% success rate. The Hog Hospital self-funds, it receives many food donations from members of the public. Spread the word: one saved hedgehog could multiply by 400 a year. Helping them to survive helps us with climate change. Genevieve is clearly very passionate about these cute animals; her talk was interesting, informative and inspiring.



Date and venue for next meeting: Monday May 13, 2024 at 7.30pm, Lewdown Victory Hall Annual Meeting Members Only

May dates for your diary:

16 - Coffee morning at Roadford Lake

27 - Monday Walk to Meldon - bring sturdy boots and a walking stick