

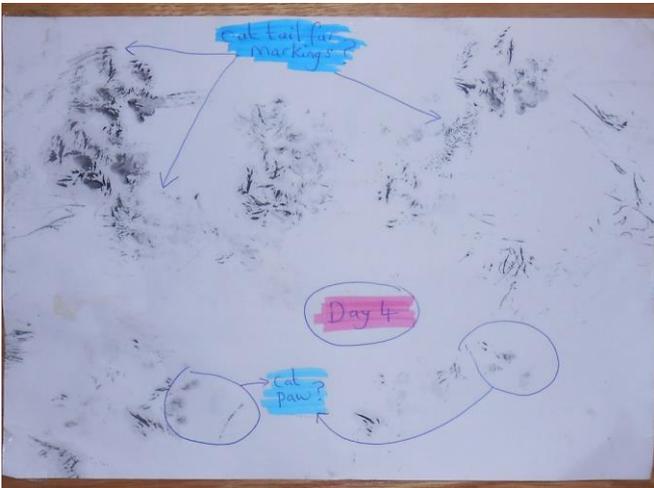
I love hedgehogs, so, when I heard that our University had begun the ongoing campaign...



HEDGEHOG FRIENDLY CAMPUS

...I knew I would like to become involved and help in some way - especially since very sadly this adorable nocturnal mammal is now seriously endangered 🥲 and may become extinct by 2030(!!) unless we act now.

As part of the campaign, last Summer a group of us University staff attended an online presentation, then conducted a 5-day (ok, night!) hedgehog survey in our gardens – we set up a tunnel or box, containing food and plotting paper with ink strips, to capture evidence of any hedgehog (or other visitor's!) footprints.....



It was quite fun to do and I am sure we all definitely added to our knowledge base on the hedgehog and its habits and behaviours through a calendar year.

I now know how to successfully spot the various signs if hedgehogs **are** visiting my area and how best to safely leave out food and water for them, to optimise their survival.

In the process, I also learnt that my garden wasn't *just* as hedgehog-friendly as it could have been, so I pledged to make a couple of adaptations for the future.....creating a definite 'hedgehog highway' with neighbouring gardens, via a couple of small holes in the fencing and I also intend to purchase a hedgehog house for my garden this year.

Simple ways you could help hedgehogs!

- March to October: **leave out a safely-located food supply** (meaty cat or dog food is best) & unless your garden has eg a pond, a dish of **water for hydration** (never milk! – they are lactose-intolerant).
- It is crucial that for their survival and their access to food, water and a safe haven to dwell, that hedgehogs can move freely from garden to garden within a neighbourhood. So, if your garden is enclosed, create a **“hedgehog highway”** underneath or through any fencing.



- Consider placing a predator-proof **‘hedgehog house’ in your garden**



to provide a safe area for a hedgehog/hedgehog family to sleep during the daytime of their ‘active’ months (March to October) & hibernate in over the winter months.

- **If you know of, or spot a hedgehog in your area**, please record it on the <https://bighedgehogmap.org/> (located on the “Hedgehog Street” website), to assist with national data stats.
- **Join our University’s Hedgehog Friendly Campus campaign!** (via an email to Elsie Hargate, Environmental Co-ordinator: e.hargate@hud.ac.uk to register your interest).

Did you know? ...there is now a local hedgehog rescue & rehabilitation centre here in Huddersfield ! ...

“Shelley Hedgehogs” https://www.facebook.com/pg/ShelleyHedgehogs/about/?ref=page_internal

Therefore, should you sadly find an injured or distressed hedgehog, Mel & her team at Shelley Hedgehogs could hopefully nurse the hedgehog back to health, before release back into the wild.

Shelley Hedgehogs relies on donations, support of their regular fundraising activities, or via purchasing any of the items on their Amazon ‘wish-list’ to continue their brilliant work.

In 2021 I am looking forward to encouraging hedgehogs into my garden and assisting our University’s H.F.C working group to help champion hedgehogs on site and becoming involved with our surveying and other initiatives. 😊

Daniella, Receptionist in the School of Art Design and Architecture, and new Member of HudsHogs!