



Hedgehog Welfare Society Newsletter #78

November / December, 2015

To protect the well-being of pet hedgehogs through rescue, research and education of the people who care for them.



Happy Holidays

M. Myhre

British Hedgehog Rescuer Saves Thousands

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One day in 2000, Joan Lockley was walking in her garden in the West Midlands region of England, when she came upon an injured hedgehog. She immediately consulted a local hedgehog expert who helped her nurse the animal back to health. She named the hedgehog Spike and eventually returned him to the wild.

A short time later the hedgehog expert brought some orphaned baby hedgehogs to Lockley and asked if she could care for them. The babies thrived under Lockley's care and, by the time they were ready to be released into the wild, she was hooked on hedgehog rehabilitation.

She founded the *West Midlands Hedgehog Rescue* that same year and has been running it out of her home ever since. By now she estimates that she has saved more than 5,000 hedgehogs in her "Hedgehog Hosprickal."

This October, Lockley was presented with an award from the International Fund for Animal Welfare in recognition of the fact that, with the help of volunteers, she saves about 500 hedgehogs every year!

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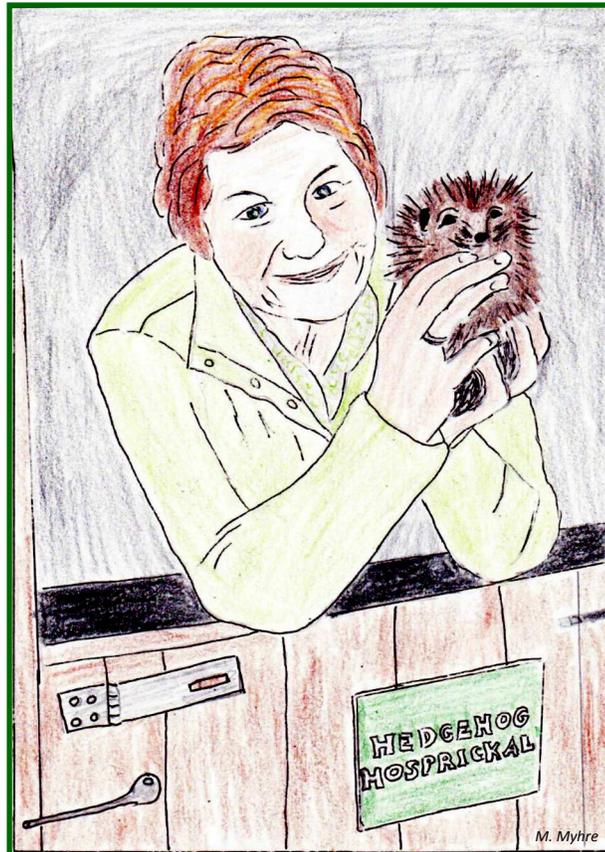
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*Joan Lockley of West Midlands Hedgehog Rescue,
Walsall, England*

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Lockley puts in an average of 19 hours of work per day and makes “almost daily” trips to nearby clinics where she pick up sick, injured and abandoned hedgehogs. Public donations help to support her hedgehog clinic.

In the early days of her hedgehog rescue, she funded the Hosprickal herself, but now she has a group to handle monetary donations and host fundraising events. Her Internet site includes a wish lists of items such as hedgehog sleeping bags which are always needed for rescues.

The site also instructs people who come across sick or injured hedgehogs to take them to a veterinarian before contacting the WMHR hotline which is in operation twenty-four hour per day, seven days per week.

Once a hedgehog has regained its health it is always released back into the area where it was originally found. Her website explains that the animals she treats are wild animals and cannot be adopted as pets.

For more information on the West Midlands Hedgehog Rescue please consult the WMHR website at <http://www.wmhr.org.uk/> or visit the West Midlands Hedgehog Rescue Facebook page.



<http://www.wildlife-animals.com/coloring-pages/hedgehog-2.gif>

Any information contained in this newsletter is for informational purposes only and is not intended as a replacement for veterinary care if your hedgehog is sick or injured. The HWS cannot be held liable for any information contained in this newsletter.



Hedgehogs Don't Make Good Gifts !

An Editorial

Laura C. Dunklee, HWS Co-Chair for Health, Research, & Education

With the holidays fast approaching, your thoughts may be turning to gifts. Perhaps someone in your life has expressed interest in having a hedgehog, or you think hedgehogs are wonderful and want to share the joys of hedgehog caretaking with a loved one, and you're thinking about giving them a hedgehog. I'd strongly encourage you to not give a hedgehog – or any animal – as a surprise gift.

Animals, hedgehogs or otherwise, are living beings, deserving of a stable, forever home. They deserve to live with someone who is emotionally, physically, and financially able to meet all of their caretaking needs, and is ready to make that commitment.

At a minimum, a hedgehog requires:

- A large habitat that needs daily neatening and sometimes daily full cleaning, depending on how tidy the hedgehog is
- Fresh food and water, with the dishes cleaned each morning
- A safe wheel that needs to be cleaned, thoroughly, every morning
- A consistent source of heat and a backup heat source in case of power failure
- Regular inspection, at least twice a day, to look for strings / threads / hairs wrapped around the limbs, along with checking belly temperature to make sure they're not attempting to hibernate
- Daily interaction and handling
- Regular foot baths and nail trims
- Access to an experienced vet and emergency vet
- A caretaker with the financial resources to cover sometimes extensive and expensive veterinary care.

If you really want someone to experience the joys of sharing their life with a hedgehog, then you need to have a serious conversation with the person. Of course you should talk about the good stuff: listening to the patter of happy feet on a wheel; a social hedgehog cuddling up with you, splatting out, and falling asleep; and their individual and unique personalities, to name just a few.

You also need to talk about the challenges and downsides of hedgehog caretaking: some hedgehogs just aren't interested in being social, making nail-trims a challenge, along with everything else; scrubbing a poopy and often stinky wheel every morning gets old; veterinary care can be expensive, and it can sometimes be difficult to find a hedgehog-experienced vet; and that hedgehogs tend toward certain health issues (mites, upper respiratory infections, tumors and cancers, neurological problems) and have fairly short lifespans.

After the conversation, if the person is interested in a hedgehog, encourage them to do their own research. Suggest they join the Hedgehog Welfare Society Yahoo! and Facebook discussion groups. Encourage them to ask questions, as well as read previous posts and comments. Explain that they need to find a local vet who sees and cares for hedgehogs, as well as at least one – and preferably two – emergency vet clinics that will treat hedgehogs. And ask them to set aside, at minimum, \$500 to cover health emergencies. (They should also look into CareCredit, which is a line of credit – much like a credit card – that is accepted by some veterinarians.)

An educated caretaker means the best life for the hedgehog, and every hedgehog deserves the best life we can provide. If after your friend has done their own research, wants a hedgehog, and is capable of meeting the animal's needs, then – and only then – consider giving them a hedgehog. But let them pick it out, or, better yet, have them apply to adopt a hedgehog through the HWS!



Quillbert out for his morning run. Photo courtesy of Larry Thomason and Carolina Storm Hedgehog Wheels

Wheel-A-Thon 2016

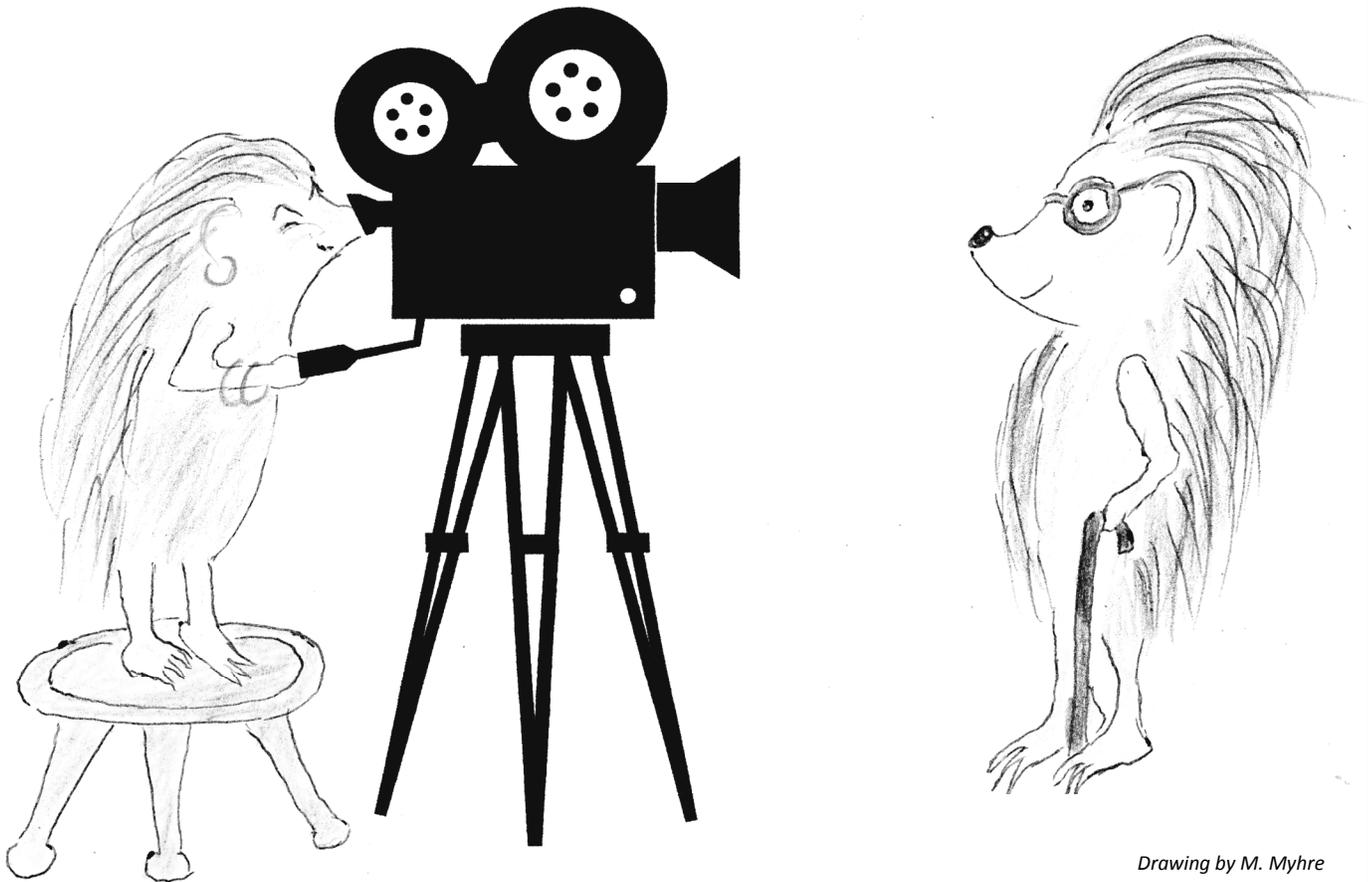
By Christina Hannigan

It's hard to believe that winter is almost upon us! Every year, the Hedgehog Welfare Society holds it's biggest fundraiser of the year, the Wheel-a-Thon, on Hedgehog Day (February 2nd). In 2016, we hope to have the biggest and best Wheel-a-Thon yet! You can help us accomplish that goal by signing up to have your hedgies run, as well as making a donation to one or more of the teams participating in the event.

It's easy to participate: you can sign up your hedgehog(s), give them a cool, fun team name, and ask your friends, relatives, co-workers and neighbors for pledges. You will collect a flat amount, so you don't have to keep track of hedgie mileage.

Sponsors can either write a check to the HWS or pay through *Paypal*

If you would like to participate, please send an email to Christina Hannigan at HWS.wheelathon@gmail.com and you will receive a pledge sheet and the Wheel-A-Thon rules.



Drawing by M. Myhre

Clipart camera from <https://openclipart.org/detail/29659/camera>

HWS 2016 Calendar Sales

Christina Hannigan has been collecting hedgehog pictures from HWS members and assembling them into an awesome 2016 calendar.

The calendars will be available for sale beginning on November 15th, 2015. The cost will be \$20.00 plus \$3.00 shipping. These make great gifts and show the world you love and support hedgehogs throughout the year.

To purchase a calendar, please send an email to Christina Hannigan at:

christina.m.hannigan@gmail.com

Include your name, mailing address, and the number of calendars you would like to purchase. You will be provided with a link to send money either via *Paypal* or snail mail.



Thoughts from the President

Deb Weaver

As I write this I'm four days away from turning 61. While my mind says "no", my knees certainly say "yes". This birthday has gotten me thinking of a few different things and, lucky you, I'm going to share a couple!

Aging. Last weekend I helped a friend's family move her in to an assisted living center. At 86 she can't be on her own anymore. The facility is very nice, clean, well-staffed and offers a plethora of activities to become involved in. I've known LJ for 46 years and can recall hundreds of memories about the experiences we've had together and the time we've spent laughing. Now that her mind is fading, it seems like I can remember more than ever. 46 years passed in the blink of an eye, if only I could roll the calendar back and we could have more time. I'm grateful for every minute we did have over 46 years - - and for those yet to come. I will say, except for it all passing too quickly, I have no regrets.

Social media. I vacillate between loving social media and hating it. Love, love, love my Twitter account. The upside is the ability to have an almost instant connection with people, news, facts, etc. The downside is the ability to have an almost instant connection with people, news, facts, etc. Do most of us "average Joes" really need to be that connected 24/7? Really?? When is there time for personal reflection and thought? When is the time for personal interaction between people? I think many folks could do with more unplugged and recharging time in their lives.

And then there's Facebook. The electronic bulletin board, if you will, for people's lives. I think many folks share way too many details here. I read posts on people's personal pages and think "hmmm, I didn't know SuzieQ was a left-handed, 12 toed, gun toting nudist - - that doesn't match the mission of the professional group I'm in with her!" I get it, people have both a professional life and a personal one, but in this day and age the two are easily connected, perhaps to the detriment of one or the other.

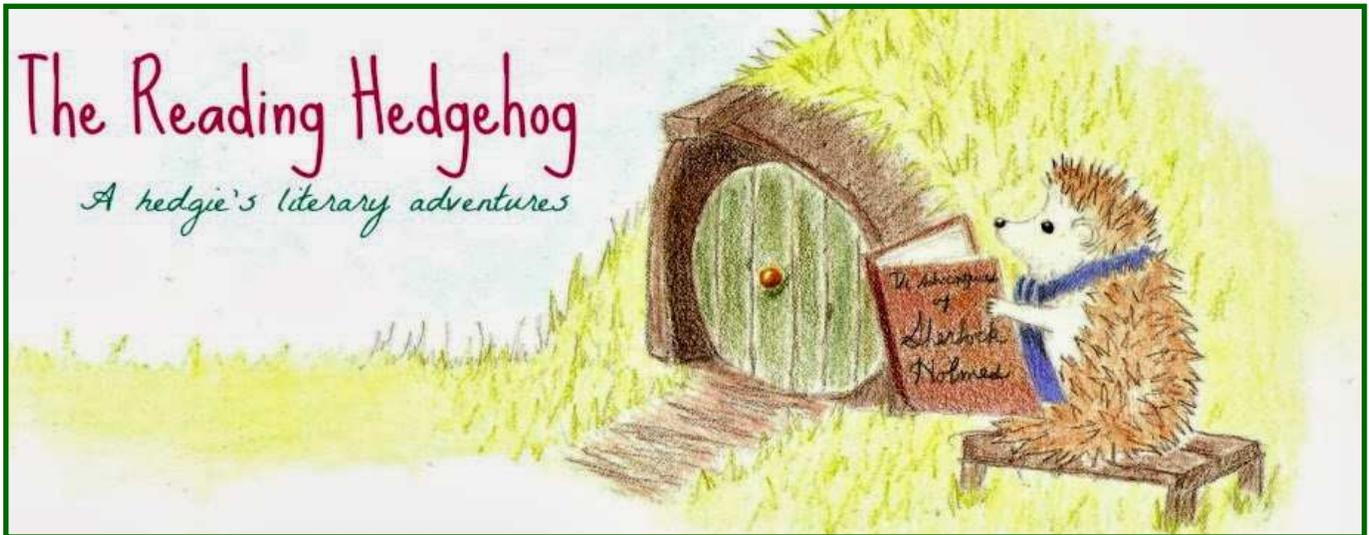


Illustration courtesy of *The Reading Hedgehog*

Meet *The Reading Hedgehog*

By Margaret Myhre

Twenty-three-year-old Mara A. has been a committed bookworm since the age of five. As she explains, books are the main passion in her life—she loves to read them, write them, discuss them, organize them, or just look at them. While she reads a wide variety of genres, her favorites are historical fiction, classics, mysteries, time travel, fairy tales and steampunk (a genre of science fiction that typically features steam-powered machinery rather than advanced technology).

In March of 2010 she began her own blog to share her enthusiasm for reading. The blog is designed as a place where bookworms can come to talk about books. It includes discussions of new releases and movies based on books. The emphasis tends to be on Young Adult and Middle Grade literature which focuses more on Mara's favorite genres

Initially the blog was known as **667B Baker Street** (a reference to Sherlock Holmes' neighborhood). Then one day Mara imagined "a little be-scarfed hedgehog reading a book outside of a house in a hill" and **6678 Beeker Street** evolved to ***The Reading Hedgehog: A Hedgie's Literary Adventures!***

Of course, the name change inspired a new addition to Mara's family. Bilbo, named after the protagonist in *The Hobbit*, is an African Pygmy Hedgehog. He was given the name Bilbo because Martin Freeman (who played Bilbo in the movie version of *The Hobbit*) has been described as resembling a hedgehog!

Bilbo the hedgehog loves to snooze in his sleeping bag while Mara reads to him and also enjoys playing on his little red wheel when he is awake. His favorite foods are scrambled eggs and bacon, he has far less enthusiasm for his veggies and fruit!

The Reading Hedgehog is available at <http://thereadinghedgehog.blogspot.com/>



Bilbo



M. Myhre

Cat Adopts Baby Hedgehogs

In September of this year Somya, a gentle ginger striped cat gave birth to one solitary kitten at her home in central Russia. She was content with her little kitten and happily settled in to the routine of raising him.

At about the same time, a wild hedgehog gave birth to a litter of four tiny babies. Their mother also settled into the routine of raising her family. Unfortunately, a days later the mother hedgehog was found dead with her four starving babies hovering around her. Luckily the person who found them knew that Somya, the new mother cat, had only one kitten and would have plenty of milk to share.

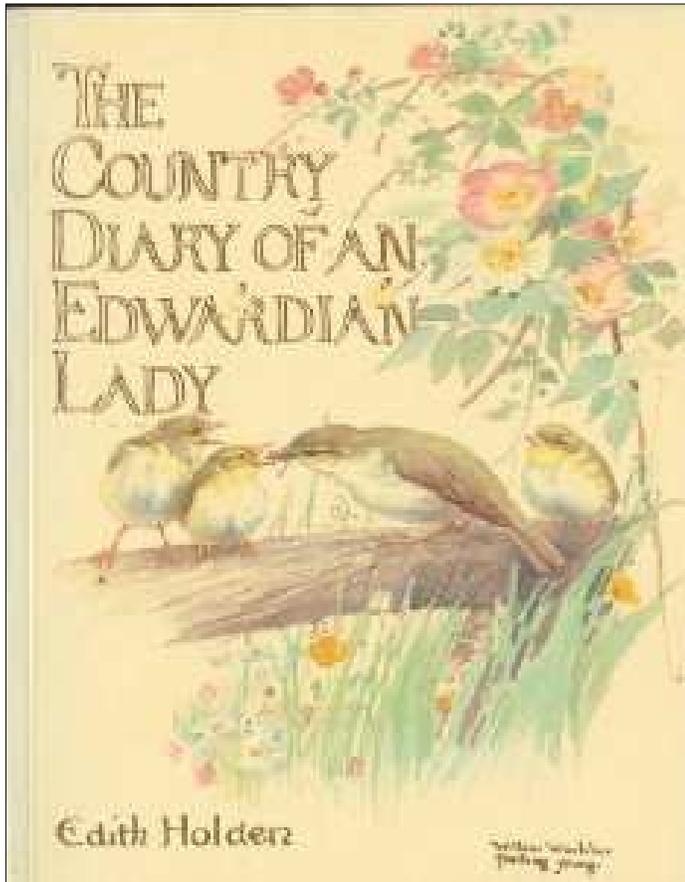
Many mother cats willingly take in orphaned kittens but no one in the area knew of a cat who had adopted an animal of a different species, let alone a quartet of prickly baby hedgehogs! Nevertheless, Somya's owner was willing to try to save them. Everyone held their breath while the babies were introduced to the mother cat.

Somya accepted the baby hedgehogs. She was unconcerned about their prickly quills and willingly offered them her milk and unconditional love!

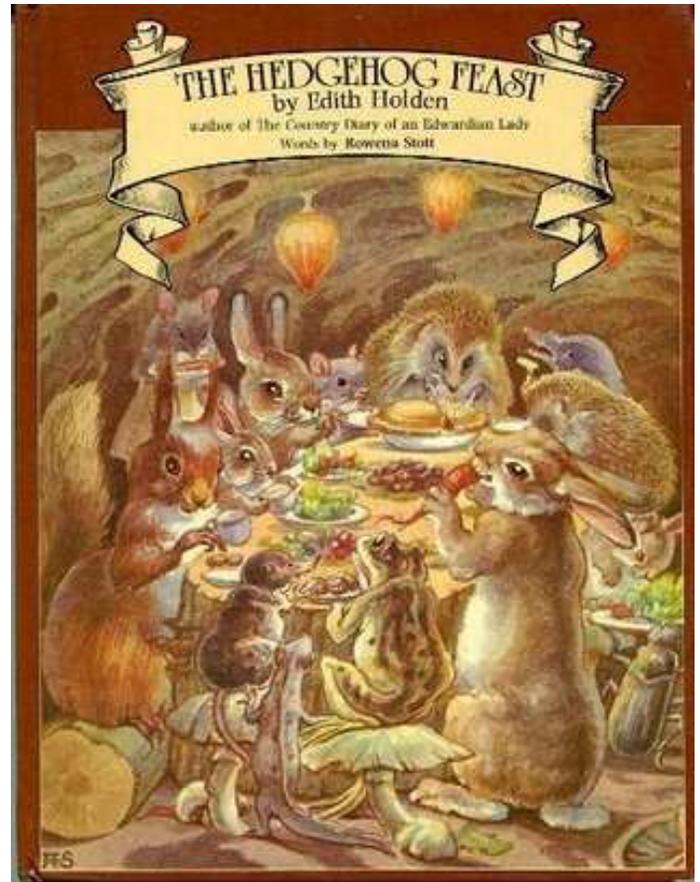
Sources:

"Meet the Hedgehogittens: Caring Cat Becomes Surrogate Mother to a Very Prickly Little Brood." Daily Mail. November 17, 2012. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2234399/Meet-Hedgehogittens-Caring-cat-surrogate-mother-prickly-brood.html>

Mother Cat Adopts Baby Hedgehogs (pictures). Amy Chudy. 8/20/2015. <http://hooplaha.com/2015/08/mother-cat-adopts-baby-hedgehogs-pictures/>



The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady by Edith Holden. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1977.



The Hedgehog Feast by Edith Holden and Rowena Stott. New York: Windmill Books, 1978.

The Literary Hedgehog : *The Hedgehog Feast*

Edith Blackwell Holden (September 26, 1871—April 6, 1920) was a British art teacher and artist who was best known during her lifetime as an illustrator of children's books. Her work was heavily influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement and she specialized in paintings of animals. She achieved posthumous fame in 1977 when her book, *Nature Notes for 1906*, was re-published under the title, *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady*. In its belated second printing this colorfully illustrated collection of poetry and observations about insects, birds, and plants became a best seller.

Although Edith Holden illustrated many children's books, this charming collection of hedgehog illustrations, created some time after 1911, was not published until 1978 when Holden's great-niece, Rowena Stott, used the hedgehog paintings and line drawings to create a children's story about a hedgehog family and their hibernation feast.

Edith Holden's pen and ink drawings and meticulous, watercolor paintings are beautiful and detailed. Unfortunately, the narrative that Rowena Stott created as she transformed the paintings into a book for children is a bit dull. In addition, all the creatures in the story have been assigned names beginning with the same letter that their species begins with. The hedgehogs, for example, are identified as Hugh and Hilda Hedgehog and their offspring Holly, Henry and Hazel. This practice is extended to the guests who attend the hibernation feast including Reuben Rat, William Weasel, and Sandy Squirrel. The story is supplemented with a page of facts about European Hedgehogs (*Erinaceus Europaeus*).

New and used copies of this book are available through [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Bookfinder.com](https://www.Bookfinder.com)



November 1

Iowa Hannigan

December 8

Ritz Becker

November 14

Nutella Dunham

December 10

Miwa Boa

November 29

Lilo Becker

December 15

Ghost Morrison



Emmy and Alice enjoy checking out the strange things that fall out of the trees in the autumn.