



The Winton Foundation
for the Welfare of Bears

NEWSLETTER

BEARS MATTER

Issue 21, March 2022

'Adopt an animal, become its voice, learn everything you can about it and work with people that want to better its existence, too.' Anon

Welcome to Issue 21 of Bears Matter! We are delighted to bring you news of our winter distribution of funds in early 2022 and the amazing projects around the world we continue to support. Of course, we couldn't do any of it without you and we are so grateful for your ongoing support of and commitment to the Winton Bear Foundation.

Like everyone, we are devastated by the news from Ukraine, and we have beneficiaries there, so our work is more important than ever to ensure that bears around the world enjoy a life free of fear and pain. We hope you enjoy reading about the projects we have been supporting.

Our Founder and CEO

We start this newsletter with some exciting news! We are over the moon and very proud to announce that our founder and CEO, Lesley Winton, has been awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's New Year's Honours list for her services to Animal Welfare. Lesley has worked tirelessly in the field for decades, setting up the Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears in 2010, which you will be very familiar with. Lesley devised and created a second charity, Fostering Compassion - working with vulnerable children, who as a result of their own difficult starts in life, may have started to show worrying behaviour towards animals. By sharing the stories of rescued animals, the children are encouraged to see animals as sentient beings who can share similar emotions to them, helping turn worrying behaviour into caring and compassionate behaviour. Fostering Compassion supports children and families through trauma, helping break the cycle of animal abuse which can often exist where there is child neglect and domestic abuse. In 2013 Lesley established 'Holly's Hugs' in memory of her beloved rescue dog Holly, which works to raise funds for elderly and special needs dogs providing support and comfort to those animals often overlooked. The British Empire Medal is awarded for meritorious civil or military service worthy of recognition by the Crown. We are proud and excited that Lesley's work has been recognised in this way.



British Empire
Medal Award



New Year's Honours
2022

Winter distribution of funds

Wildwood Trust

Our first beneficiary this winter is a regular part of our adopted bear "orphanage".

As Milcho & Goscho, these two bears travelled from Bulgaria - where they were living in an abandoned bear-breeding station - to Kent, in November 2014. Keepers gave them the nicknames "Fluffy" and Scruffy". These names have stuck, and it seems appropriate as they have been transformed under the tender loving care of their keepers at Wildwood.

£80 donated



Photos by Dave Butcher

At the end of March 2022, our founder and CEO Lesley Winton will be braving the Wildwood Bear Bridge in Kent to raise much needed funds for bears in need around the world. She promised to do this pre-pandemic but then Covid (and an intense fear of bridges that wobble!) delayed this sponsored event.

Lesley says: **"Please do not underestimate my utter terror of going over bridges that wobble - doubly daft with an unstable knee! But I aim to keep my promise, strap up my knee and get over that bridge once and for all. Anything for the bears after all!"**

Please sponsor Lesley, if you can, and share this appeal widely. Thank you.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/braving-the-bear-bridge-for-the-bears>

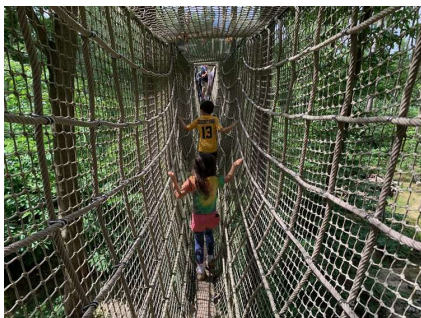


Photo – Kent Online

Idaho Black Bear Rehab

We made another donation this winter to a regular beneficiary - Idaho Black Bear Rehab IBBR. We dedicated our donation to the memory of their founder, Sally Maughan, who died on Sunday, October 10, 2021 at the age of 75.



In 2021 IBBR released 4 bears to Nevada (Lou, Hazel, Ninzi, and Cash - June 2021), and one to Wyoming (Sage, released June 2021). They imported 2 from Nevada, both older, already yearlings when they received them - so just about to turn 2 years old.

The first new arrival was picked up the day The Fearsome Foursome was released. He (Whiskey) was severely malnourished, covered in ringworm and mites. It was nerve wracking at first but he is doing well and will be released this spring.

In September, IBBR picked up the second Nevada bear, a female (Sargent Lady) - she was underweight for hibernating but otherwise in good health.

They also had a brief visit from a fire-injured bear (Rye) from Washington. He was a 2-year-old, who only needed to stay about 8 weeks to heal (August to October.). He was released in time to find a den for the winter.

Then in November they took in two cubs of the year - sisters who were given the names Skip, in honour of Sally, their founder, and Georgie, after Sally's beloved horse and protector, George. They came to spend the winter and will be released in late May or early June 2022.

£523.88 donated.

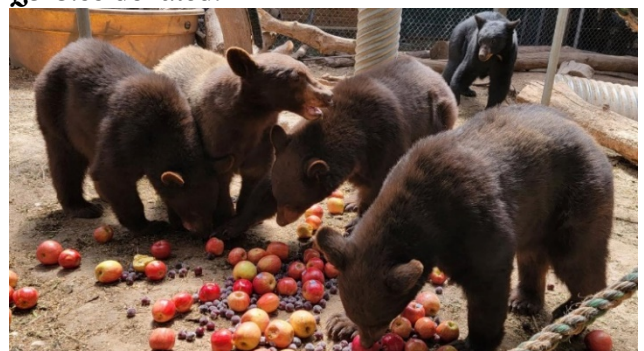


Photo - IBBR

Romania Bear Sanctuary

Three years ago, we heard of the sad loss of Max at Libearty Bear Sanctuary, in Romania, who was one of our first adopted bears. We decided to continue to support the sanctuary by adopting another bear, and chose Monica. This winter, we renewed her adoption for a fourth year.

Monica had spent more than 15 years behind bars in a zoo in Ploiești. In 2009 she finally said good-bye to this suffering - the steel bars and concrete floor of the cage.

Monica has retired from public life at the sanctuary - she is 28 years old, now.

She has a much bigger, vegetation filled home with a natural pool away from the daily hustle. She has the peace to live a relaxed bear life that too many haven't even dared to dream of. Her new home is so much more spacious and gives her the peace she really needs.

£52.33 donated



Photo – Romania Bear Sanctuary

Orphan Bear Rescue Centre – Bubonitsy

It has been a pleasure to make another donation this year to the Orphan Bear Rescue Centre - operated by the Pazhetnov family in Bubonitsy Village of Tver Region, 450km northwest of Moscow.

The Pazhetnov family rescue and rehabilitate orphaned bear cubs from around Russia, with the goal of mimicking the bears' natural upbringing in the wild as closely as possible.

Our donation this year is in memory of the family patriarch, Valentin Sergeevich Pazhetnov, who passed away on June 8, 2021.

The Orphan Bear Rescue Centre aims to rehabilitate orphaned bear cubs so that they can survive alone in the wild: "The main characteristic of our work is

that we work with animals that must learn to survive in the wild. The base condition of this skill is a sense of fear for a human. If the animal is not afraid of people, it will not survive in the wild and is doomed to death or life imprisonment in a cage. We do not raise bears in any way – we provide them conditions close to their natural habitat, and semi-free keeping, thanks to which they form all the behaviors necessary for life in the wild: food, defensive, nesting, fear response to humans."

They take in bears in the early winter, with release - following rehabilitation - at the end of the same autumn.



Photo – Orphan Bear Rescue

£250 donated

Animals Asia

It has become a bit of a Christmas tradition at The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears to buy coconuts for each of the bears at Animals Asia's Vietnam sanctuary.

Here is sun bear Sassy tackling her delicious coconut.



Photo – Animals Asia

£201.50 donated

Sumatran Sun Bear Team

A new beneficiary this winter is The Sumatran Sun Bear Team (SSBT) - founded in 2017 and the only NGO singularly focused on preventing and relieving the suffering of Sun Bears in Sumatra, Indonesia. Their aim is to improve the chances of survival for Sun Bears in the wild by working with local authorities and communities.

SSBT has partnered with Orangutan Information Centre (OIC) to build an enclosure for two rescued female sun bear cubs, Uca and Jessy. They were both confiscated as pets, most likely their mothers will have been killed and the cubs taken from the wild.

Jessy has been at the centre for several months, and recently they had the surprising news that the little bear Uca that had been in Government care was being transferred to the newly completed enclosure. But, not only was Uca on her way, but also another bear called Rosa. Both were being kept in government care after being confiscated from the illegal pet trade. Uca was just a young cub in 2020 - Rosa is older and was kept as a pet for possibly 10 years before being confiscated.

The new bears will be going through quarantine protocols. Jessy who has been at the centre for about 6 months has been road-testing the new enclosure and it's so good to see her in a rich green environment. We all can't wait to see Uca and Rosa amongst the vegetation, the climbing structure and the pool!!

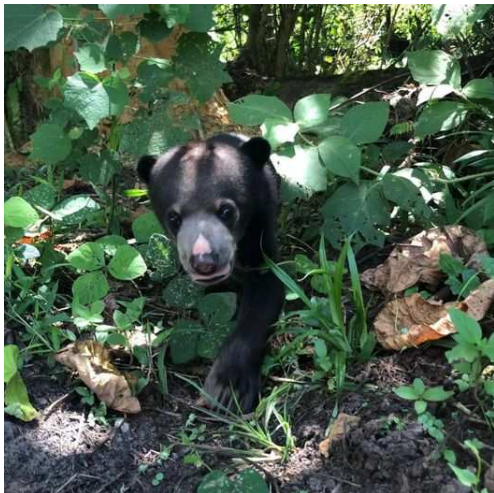


Photo – Sumatran Sun Bear Team

The new enclosure has 3 dens and now they have 3 bears, so they'll have to start planning for a 2nd enclosure already. The next one will be bigger and have more dens, because as unfortunate as it is...there'll be more exploited Sun Bears that need help. They also need to ensure that we will always have room for any snared or injured bear that needs a place to heal and rehabilitate. Our donation will allow the centre to get a necessary

equipment/transport box constructed. Previously, local Government authority boxes were used, which are not ideal. The new box will be designed so that there is good air flow for the bear, but also allowing privacy for a scared or nervous bear. It will also allow for food to be able to be fed to a bear in transit if it's a long period of time being in the cage. It will also allow for safer Veterinary treatment on an anaesthetised bear in the field and safer for bear and staff.

£ 345.79 donated

White Rock Bear Shelter – Ukraine

As we take in the news from Ukraine and the devastation happening there, we are acutely aware of the people and bears in sanctuaries in the region. We wanted to help them at this time of crisis.

We were able to send emergency funds of 14,000 UHA (about £350 or US\$450) to the WHITE ROCK Bear Shelter in Ukraine.

They currently have seven bears in their shelter, east of Kyiv. When bombing started the bears were disturbed from their hibernation, so need nutritious food much earlier than expected.

This is the shelter's oldest bear - Chada. She was found by activists in the industrial zone of the village of Belogorodka. She lived there for 7 years, and before that she "worked" in Ukrtsirk all her life. For another two years, Chada waited her turn in a private menagerie then came to the White Rock in 2019 as a very old, 21-year-old. And only at such a respectable age did she finally begin to live a real bear life. Chada belongs to a rare subspecies— Tien Shan or Himalayan brown bear (*Ursus arctos isabellinus*).



Photo – White Rock Bear Shelter



TOPPING UP 'THE HONEY POT'



Due to making urgent donations to the White Rock Bear Shelter in Ukraine we need your support more than ever to top up our funds. We want to be able to react to these emergencies as they arise, so we really appreciate whatever you can donate to the cause.



<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/wintonbearfoundation>

Coffee for Bears

This is the free and easy way to raise funds for the foundation, simply by shopping online.

Join for free and raise funds when you shop at over 4,400 stores. Your purchase will automatically generate free funds!

How Give as you Live works:

- Sign up free and choose from The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears as your charity.
- Search for a store you want to shop with on Give as you Live - there are over 4,000!
- Click on the store logo - you will be directed to the store website, and your visit tracked by Give As You Live.
- Make your purchase as normal.
- The retailer then pays Give as you Live commission for your purchase, which is converted into a donation to us!

If you already use Give As You Live - why not consider switching to us for a month? Every little helps.

So far supporters have helped us raise over £180, at no extra cost to them.



Thank you also to everyone who continues to donate to us and contribute regularly by direct debit.



How to contact us or for further information:

By Post - The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears (SCIO), 54 West Windygoul Gardens, Tranent, East Lothian, EH33 2LA, U.K. **By e-mail:** info@wintonbearfoundation.org **Website:** www.wintonbearfoundation.org

We also have an active Facebook Page

Telephone: +44-(0) 1875 614 899 or +44-(0)7904 733 137. **Please make any cheques payable to 'The Winton Foundation'**



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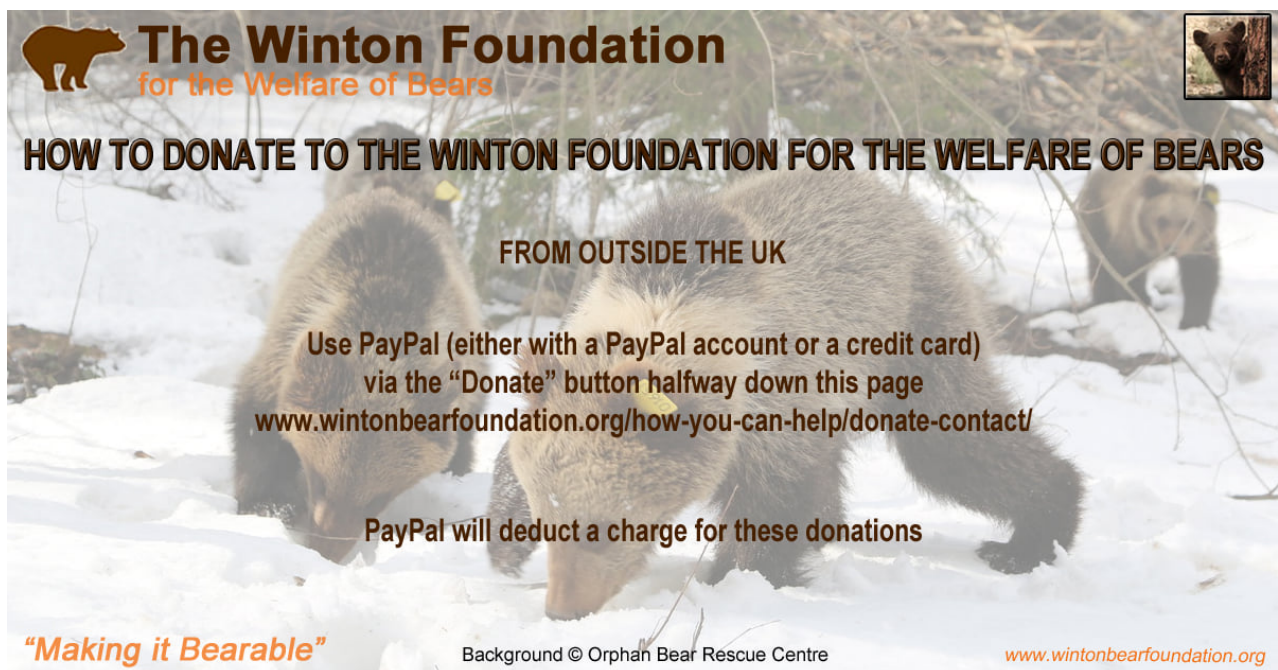
HOW TO DONATE TO THE WINTON FOUNDATION FOR THE WELFARE OF BEARS


FROM THE UK - Please preserve the full value of your donation, by using one of these two methods:

Pay directly into our UK bank account:
Account Name: The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears
Account Number: 65526639 Sort Code: 08-92-99

Or login to your PayPal account www.paypal.com/signin/
and send to lesley@wintonbearfoundation.org
Be sure to select "Send Money to Friends and Family"

"Making it Bearable" Background © Orphan Bear Rescue Centre www.wintonbearfoundation.org



 **The Winton Foundation**
for the Welfare of Bears

HOW TO DONATE TO THE WINTON FOUNDATION FOR THE WELFARE OF BEARS

FROM OUTSIDE THE UK

Use PayPal (either with a PayPal account or a credit card)
via the "Donate" button halfway down this page
www.wintonbearfoundation.org/how-you-can-help/donate-contact/

PayPal will deduct a charge for these donations

"Making it Bearable" Background © Orphan Bear Rescue Centre www.wintonbearfoundation.org

Together, we will make the world a better place for bears.