



BEARS MATTER

Issue 5, Dec 2012/Jan 2013

'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 the fifth edition of Bears Matter. We have had such an exciting and busy few months since the last newsletter. We have been developing plans for new ventures for next year and of course, it goes without saying, we have been continuing to work hard supporting bear projects locally and around the world. So we are delighted to share with you all our latest news as 2012 draws to a close and we look forward to 2013.



We are delighted to begin this issue of Bears Matter with some really exciting news. We are now able to share with you that we are embarking on a wonderful project to help protect the Giant Panda and its habitat.

The Winton Bear Foundation will be working with Sarah M. Bexell, PhD the Director of Conservation Education at the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding. We will be funding the cost of around 2000 posters giving information on how best people can work to help save this beautiful bear and look after its natural surroundings.

The posters will be distributed to schools in the area and will help educate the next generation on how they can help ensure the survival of the Giant Panda. Through working with Sarah, we hope to be able to reach around 400 schools and as each school has around 600 or more students per school that means we can help play a part in educating around 240,000 children about the threats facing the Giant Panda.



This is one of our biggest projects to date but we also feel one of the most important. The cost of this project will be around £400 but we hope you will agree that considering we have the opportunity to reach almost a quarter of a million children who will form the next generation working to help save the panda, it is money well spent. As soon as we have an image of the final poster, we will share it with you.

How to contact us or for further information:

By Post - The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears, 54 West Windygoul Gardens, Tranent, East Lothian, EH33 2LA

By e mail: info@wintonbearfoundation.org **Website:** www.wintonbearfoundation.org

Telephone: +44-(0) 1875 614 899 or +44-(0)7904 733 137

And don't forget – Facebook too!

Please make any cheques payable to 'The Winton Foundation'
You can also now donate online too

Here's what else we've been able to do for the bears over the last six months with your help and support. Don't forget to visit the wonderful new page on our website 'How we're making it bearable' which gives you a more detailed description of all the projects we're supporting as we continue our work – here's the link,

<http://wintonbearfoundation.org/bear-zone/making-it-bearable/>



Oliver enjoying his specially adapted toy, reduced in size to allow for his little stunted legs

Photos courtesy of Animals Asia

At the end of the last edition of Bears Matter we told you that we had started to help Oliver, the incredible bear rescued by Animals Asia after spending over 30 years incarcerated on a bear farm. Oliver is a much loved bear in the 'bear world' and he has defied the odds after surviving, not only years of brutality but a dramatic rescue too and he is now thriving as a result of the love and care he is receiving in his new home. The Winton Bear Foundation have pledged to help fund specially adapted enrichment toys for Oliver, that he can enjoy, despite his disabilities.

The Bear Foundation is a staunch supporter of Animals Asia work and has recently joined their coalition of Animal Welfare organisations to stop the proposed eviction of 104 bears from their Vietnam sanctuary. See below for further details.



Oliver caged and abused for 30 years

Some of you may recall that we have adopted two bears - 'Bodo' also rescued by Animals Asia from a Bear Farm in China and Max the blind bear, rescued by WSPA from life chained to railings as a tourist attraction in Romania. We have pledged to help fund the care of both these bears for the rest of their lives.

Photos courtesy of Asociatia Milioane de Prieteni



Frustratingly, earlier this year, there was a bank error in connection with the remittance of funds to the Liberty Bear Sanctuary in Romania for Max. We rectified the matter as soon as it was brought to our attention. We were so upset when we heard this, so to make sure Max didn't think we'd forgotten about him, we sent a little extra money so the staff could buy him some extra special treats from us!

We thought you might like to see these photos of Max tucking into his special treats of cakes, biscuits and wafers. Apparently he loved them and didn't stop until he'd finished off the whole lot!

Max enjoying his treats

We are also continuing to work closely with our friends at the Five Sisters Zoo in Scotland. The highly dedicated team at FSZ have worked incredibly hard to rescue and rehabilitate the three ex circus bears Carmen, Suzy and Peggy. At the end of our last newsletter we were in the process of helping fund the cost of some special vitamins to help play a part in restoring the bears to full health and also the purchase of some special enrichment toys. We are happy to announce that we have now done this and we wanted to share these pictures with you of one of the bears playing with their brand new 'Boomer Balls'. The balls are filled with peanuts and give the bears hours of pleasure trying to fish them out! During our last visit, we took a jar of honey for each of the bears as an extra special treat for them. We hope to be able to buy the bears lots more goodies next year!



'I know the peanuts are in there, just give me time and I'll work it out...'



It is also wonderful to be able to share with you, the latest news on the bears. Thanks to the commitment and dedication of the team at FSZ and the wonderful guidance and advice they received from renowned bear behaviourist and rehabilitator Else Poulsen, Carmen, Suzy and Peggy's natural instincts are beginning to kick in again and they are showing signs of denning and going into hibernation.

Reflecting on Oliver, Max, Carmen, Suzy and Peggy's stories, it just goes to show, that when given the right care, attention and respect, often for the first time in their lives, even the most traumatised of bears can go back to simply being a bear, if they are only given the chance.

We are very proud to be able to play a small part in the care of these special bears.

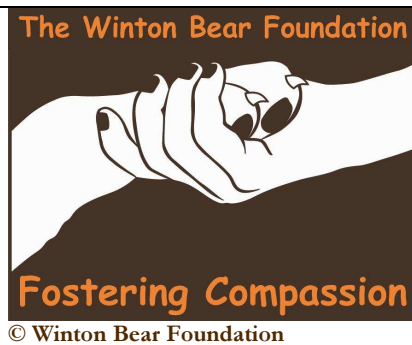
Animals Asia – Stop the Bear Eviction

The Winton Bear Foundation has recently joined a coalition of 140 animal welfare organisations from 24 different countries in signing a letter to the Vietnamese Prime Minister. Members of the coalition have joined forces to help prevent the proposed closure of the Animals Asia Vietnam Bear Rescue Centre and the subsequent eviction of 104 bears rescued from bear farms so that the ground can be used for commercial development.



The eviction is in direct violation of the government's 2005 agreement with Animals Asia to develop a facility that would house 200 endangered bears rescued from the illegal bear bile industry. The eviction of these bears would have a major negative impact on their mental and physical well-being. There is growing condemnation from around the world against this proposed eviction but Animals Asia still desperately need help to reverse this injustice. We urge all bear lovers to support their efforts to stop the eviction. Please visit their website to find out how you can help at <http://www.animalsasia.org/StopTheEviction>

Fostering Compassion



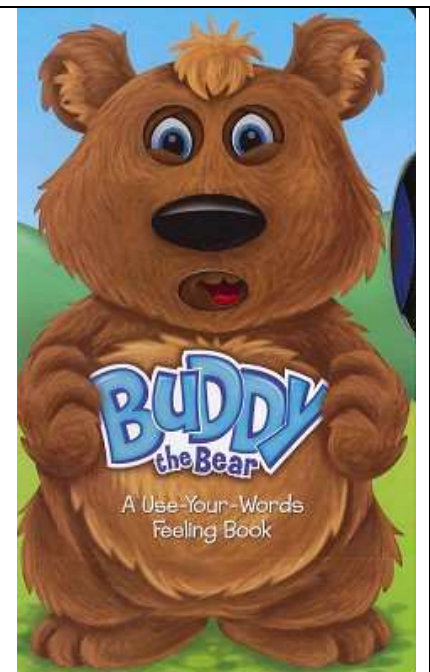
In our last edition of Bears Matter we brought you the exciting news about the launch of our unique **Fostering Compassion** programme. We will be working with local foster children and their foster families to take them on visits to the FSZ to meet the bears and help them learn about these wonderful animals. We will be working with these special, vulnerable children to help bring a little enjoyment to their lives and at the same time teach them compassion and empathy towards animals, something that can often be so hard for children who have themselves been neglected.

We are still developing this wonderful new project and will be bringing it into play in earnest next year when the bears come out of hibernation. In the meantime, we would like to thank the following individuals and organisations, that are helping us to develop this programme. Sandra Ovens, Miles Kelly Children's Books Publishers, Links Veterinary Group and Fiona Newton. To read more about **Fostering Compassion** please visit our special dedicated website page at <http://wintonbearfoundation.org/foundation/fostering-compassion/>

One of WBF's wonderful volunteers discovered this 'Buddy the Bear' – a use your words, feelings book in her local £1 shop. It is an incredible little book. It tells the story of Buddy the Bear and all his little adventures. There is a special dial at the side of the book that the child reading turns and it then changes the expression in the bear's eyes to show happiness, sadness, anger, sleepiness etc. It is a wonderful book that helps children express their emotions. We would love to be able to give one of these books to each of the children that we help through **Fostering Compassion** as for obvious reasons, they often have difficulty expressing their emotions. Sadly, this book seems to be going out of print so if any of you find any copies while doing your Christmas shopping, please grab them and we will reimburse you.

Can you help support our Fostering Compassion project?

We have estimated the cost of a trip for one family of two foster children and their foster parents and including little special gift bags for the children with educational materials about bears at approx £50 per family. If you would like to help sponsor the cost or part cost of a trip, please get in touch.



BEARS MATTER MONTH

February 14th – March 14th 2013

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



Bears Matter Month
'Life through their eyes'
Feb 14th – Mar 14th 2013

We are delighted to announce the forthcoming launch of our first 'Bears Matter Month' in 2013. This will be a month of fund and awareness raising which will run from Valentine's Day to Mother's Day each year and will incorporate International Save Bears Day on February 21st. We have got lots of exciting plans in the pipeline for this month including talks, film showings, awareness stalls, sponsored events and asking honey manufacturers to donate a percentage of their sales of honey on International Save Bears Day. We will also be launching our wonderful new gift vouchers for Valentines Day and Mothers Day (see below). We also hope to round off this special month of fundraising on Mothers Day by sharing some wonderful stories about 'Bear Mamma's'.

If you'd like to plan an event for this month, please let us know and we'll give you as much support as possible. Thank you so much to everyone who has shown such enthusiasm for this event already and a big bear hug to Sylvia Dolson of Get Bear Smart Society in Canada for providing us with some beautiful pictures of bears eyes to help promote our 'Life through their eyes' theme. For more information on 'Bears Matter Month' or to take part, please get in touch.

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



Bears Matter Month
'Life through their eyes'
Feb 14th – Mar 14th 2013

OUR NEW GIFT VOUCHERS

Here's a little sneak preview of our Valentine's and Mothers Day Gift Vouchers which will be available from next year. We also have a Christmas voucher available now if any of you are looking for gift ideas. The vouchers are available for any donation from £5 upwards and will be sent with a car sticker and a WBF information leaflet.

*A donation has been made on your behalf
as a Valentine's Day gift to*

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

Thank you for your support!



'Pucker up for a kiss and a bear hug!'

*The Foundation is working to help end the abuse
and exploitation of bears throughout the world
and is working through fund and awareness
raising to assist with new and established projects
around the world to help bears*

www.wintonbearfoundation.org

To: _____
From: _____

Scottish Registered Charity (SCIO) SC042614

Valentine's Day voucher
'Pucker up for a kiss and a bear hug!'

*A donation has been made on your behalf
as a Mother's Day gift to*

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

Thank you for your support!



'Mama bears give the best hugs!'

*The Foundation is working to help end the abuse
and exploitation of bears throughout the world
and is working through fund and awareness
raising to assist with new and established projects
around the world to help bears*

www.wintonbearfoundation.org

To: _____
From: _____

Scottish Registered Charity (SCIO) SC042614

Mother's Day voucher
'Mama bears give the best hugs!'

*A donation has been made on your behalf
as a Christmas gift to*

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

Thank you for your support!



© R. Robert & Carolyn Buchanan-Pollock onlinemagazine.org

*'Bottoms up for a great Christmas and
New Year!'*

*The Foundation is working to help end the abuse
and exploitation of bears throughout the world
and is working through fund and awareness
raising to assist with new and established projects
around the world to help bears*

www.wintonbearfoundation.org

To: _____
From: _____

Scottish Registered Charity (SCIO) SC042614

If you would like to see a bigger version – just get in touch and we'll email you one

AVAILABLE NOW...

Christmas Voucher

**'Bottoms up for a great Christmas
and New Year!'**

Additional postage added for overseas



TOPPING UP 'THE HONEY POT'



Because the Bear Foundation is progressing so well, so quickly, we've decided to have a dedicated fundraising section in the newsletter. This will cover events that have happened, that are coming up and ways you can help. Funds raised are put into a pot of funds affectionately known as 'The Honey Pot.' These funds are then distributed at regular intervals to projects around the world, working to help bears and protect them from abuse and cruelty.



On September 1st & 2nd we attended one of our biggest events to date. WBF had a stand at the Love Pets show at the Royal Highland Centre, Edinburgh. The show had around 5000 visitors and our stand was in a great location and we had lots of visitors to our stall. We were able to showcase our first batch of branded merchandise and our helpers looked so smart in their brand new WBF T-shirts and the team and stand all looked so professional.

We raised £155.95, signed up 35 new supporters, two more Business Buddies (more details to follow) and Links Veterinary Surgery in Haddington, kindly offered to help work with us on our **Fostering Compassion** program. Also 'Rescue Scottish Pets' have added a wonderful section to their website promoting the Bear Foundation - have a look and learn more about their work here

<http://www.rescuescottishpets.co.uk/>

On November 29th we had a stall at the Scottish Legal Aid Board's Christmas Fair. We made around £30 raffling our teddy and handed out lots of information. The Scottish Legal Aid Board Charity Group has made the Winton Bear Foundation one of their nominated charities to receive money from their staff fundraising events. Thank you to Debbie Scott and Nick Macdonald and everyone at the SLAB for making us feel so welcome and for helping support our work.



Big bear hugs go to WBF supporter Karen Scott who has helped raise over £380 through a fundraising event at her work, the Royal Bank of Scotland. Each year they hold their 'Apprentice Challenge' which aims to raise as much money as possible in one month to support worthwhile causes. The staff undertake a number of activities such as bake sales, guess the teddy's weight, dress down days, book sales and karaoke and waxing nights to name a few. There were four charities nominated and Karen nominated the Winton Bear Foundation and the total raised to be split four ways was £1527, so WBF is in line to receive £380 – a massive amount! A huge thank you goes to Karen and her colleagues at the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Karen Scott pictured with her daughter Ruby, visiting Suzy, Carmen and Peggy at the Five Sisters Zoo.

12.12.12

As many of the Winton Bear Foundation's loyal supporters will know, we launched on 10.10.10, then held a special fundraising event on 11.11.11. We wanted to mark the last of these special dates of 12.12.12 with a showing of the classic film 'It's a wonderful life' at the Dominion Cinema, Edinburgh. Sadly this film is unavailable this year for single night release, so we are going to postpone this event until next year as we very much still want to screen it. So, to stick with our theme of events on the memorable dates of 10.10.10, 11.11.11. and 12.12.12, we will hold a sponsored 12 mile walk, with an alternative 12 km option in East Lothian on 12.12.12. If you would like to take part, please get in touch and Lesley is looking for sponsors, so if you can sponsor her, even a little, please drop her an email at lesley@wintonbearfoundation.org

If you have been saving any loose change or £1 coins as part of our 12.12.12 Challenge started earlier this year, then please do send them in. Cheques or loose change are all fine or you can, of course, donate now via our website at:-

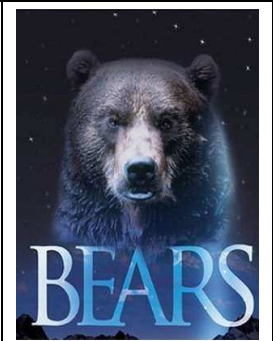
<http://wintonbearfoundation.org/how-you-can-help/donate-contact/>



We were recently contacted by the Fraser Centre Community Trust which is based in Tranent, East Lothian, the same town as the Bear Foundation. The Trust aims to provide a Learning, Development, Arts and Entertainment Centre in the heart of the Community. The Fraser Centre is a 700 seater 1900's style cinema which believe it or not, used to be called the Winton Cinema! We are hoping to team up with the Fraser Centre Community Trust to hold some fundraising events in the months to come and hopefully some film showings too, during Bears Matter Month. To learn more about the old Winton Cinema, visit their website at <http://www.thefrasercentre.com/>

The old Winton Cinema in Tranent, East Lothian

Bear Films – a huge thank you must go to both David Lickley and Savas Karakas for giving us their permission to show their films 'Bears – Rulers of the wild Frontier' and 'Bear Dreams' to help with our fund raising and to help people learn more about bears. We very much hope to hold screenings of both these films in the near future.



2012 has seen the Winton Bear Foundation team working hard at establishing some unique new ventures that will help raise the charity's profile. We are looking forward to developing both our **Fostering Compassion** programme and our Bears Matter Month and we hope you will join us in helping make both these special projects a success.

Merry Christmas

And a happy new year from all at



The Winton Foundation
for the Welfare of Bears

Last but not least...

...And hot off the press, we are also pleased to announce that we have two wonderful new business connections that we are currently in the process of completing our arrangements with, but wanted to tell you about in the run up to Christmas...



We are just finalising our 'Business Buddy' deal with the wonderful Blu's Barkery so keep an eye out for further information on our website. In the meantime, we wanted to tell you a little about it in case you're looking for Christmas gifts for your four legged friends. Blu's Barkery produces special all-natural dog biscuits and bones for your furry friends. For every £7.50 order received from a WBF supporter, Blu's Barkery will donate 50p to the Bear Foundation. For further information contact Shellene at blusbarkery@live.co.uk or on 07720908572.

Learn more about WBF's other Business Buddies at <http://wintonbearfoundation.org/how-you-can-help/business-buddies/>

We are also in the process of linking up with Charity Flowers. For every sale they receive using our source code, they will donate 15% of these sales to the Winton Bear Foundation. They have a wonderful selection of bouquets and Christmas arrangements so please visit their website at www.charityflowers.co.uk and order using our source code which is WFWB – please quote this any time you order.

As we reach the end of another year which saw the Winton Bear Foundation celebrate its second birthday since its launch and saw it completing its first year as a registered charity, we have seen our supporter base triple since we started and we would like to pass on our heartfelt thanks to all our wonderful supporters, volunteers, fundraisers, Business Buddies, sponsors, advisors, beneficiaries and everyone else who has worked so hard to help the Bear Foundation grow into its current format. Thank you to you all, we couldn't have done it without you and we look forward to having many more successful years doing all we can, to help ease the suffering of so many bears around the world. We would like to bring this newsletter to a close by sharing with you the recent plaque we got put up at the Five Sisters Zoo. Funds raised from the plaques go towards the care of the rescued circus bears featured earlier in this newsletter. We hope you like the words and we feel they are a fitting way to bring 2012 to a close with a big thank you to all of you from all of us at the Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears.

