



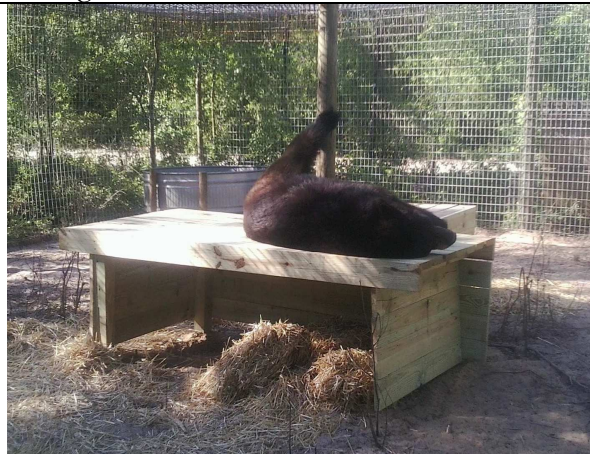
# BEARS MATTER

Issue 7, Dec 2013/Jan 2014

**'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 seventh edition of Bears Matter. Another incredibly successful six months under our belt as the Winton Bear Foundation continues to expand and thrive. Here's what your invaluable support has helped us achieve since the last newsletter.

In July 2013 The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears made its first donation to a brand new beneficiary – Forest Animal Rescue, formerly known as Peace River Refuge. Based in Florida, USA they provide lifetime care for non-releasable wild animals. Our initial donation of £135 (\$200) was used to build a lovely double platform/den combination for the bears, filled with loads of lovely bedding for them.



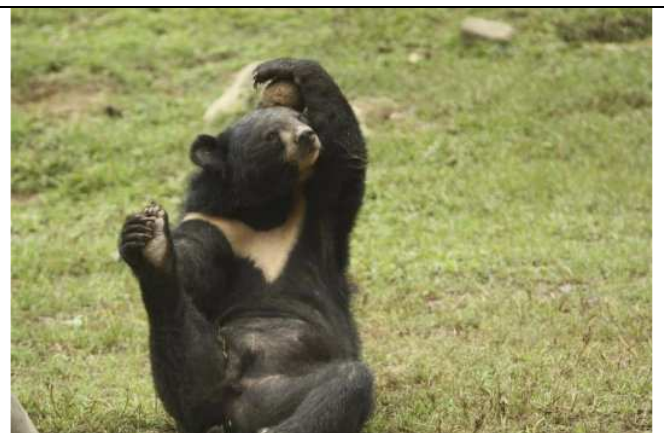
The funds were also used to run the final stages of plumbing to the bears' pool and electrics with emergency lighting to their habitat. Here's their big male, B-Bear, lounging around on top of his new den while he awaits the completion of his and his pals new 4-acre enclosure.

*photos courtesy of Peace River Refuge*



In July 2013 we bought £60's worth of bricks to support Animals Asia's appeal to secure their sanctuary walls following the horrendous floods in China and the resulting damage to their Chengdu sanctuary. The sanctuary will be strengthened against future flood risks, keeping their bears safe and sound.

*photo courtesy of Animals Asia*



## 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](mailto:info@wintonbearfoundation.org) **Website:** [www.wintonbearfoundation.org](http://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**



The Winton Bear Foundation is working with Sarah M. Bexell, PhD the Director of Conservation Education at the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding. We are delighted to report that we have now funded the cost of 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 that means we can help play a part in educating around a quarter of a million children about the threats facing the Giant Panda. I think you will agree, this is money well spent.

### The poster reads...

“To protect wild animals and plants and their habitat!  
Do not hunt and eat wild animals! Do not pick bamboo shoots and wild herbs!”

保护野生动植物和它们的家园  
不要捕食野生动物·不要采摘野菜和竹笋  
图片摄影: 张志和

成都大熊猫繁育研究基地  
The Winton Foundation  
Making it bearable  
www.wintonbearfoundation.org

2014  
甲午马年

1月 January	2月 February	3月 March	4月 April	5月 May	6月 June
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

7月 July	8月 August	9月 September	10月 October	11月 November	12月 December
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

In October 2013, for the very first time, The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears was represented at the Advancing Bear Care Conference in New Jersey, USA. This was a very exciting milestone for us and allowed us the wonderful opportunity to network with some of the greatest bear people in the world. At the same time it enabled us to raise the profile of the Bear Foundation and let these hard working dedicated groups, individuals and organisations know we are there to help support them. Every day was jam packed with informative talks, presentations and workshops along with a variety of field trips. Many wonderful relationships and friendships were forged and we look forward to helping support the work of as many of the represented organisations as possible in the future. The presentation given on behalf of the Winton Bear Foundation can be viewed on YouTube here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkeIbuL79RA>



**The Advancing Bear Care 2013 Delegates**

One of the field trips during the conference involved a visit to The Woodlands Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey. While renovating one of their bear enclosures, all delegates were allowed to leave their International mark!



**Woodlands Wildlife Refuge was one of our beneficiaries early in 2013 but we now have an extra special reason to support them and she's called Grace....**



## Grace's Appeal

The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears has pledged to help raise funds for a very special little bear called Grace who is currently a Special Care Permanent Resident at Woodlands Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey, USA. Grace suffers from a condition called Osteodystrophy which means her bones have developed abnormally, resulting in little stumpy legs. Sadly it is also thought that Grace is blind.

As Grace has aged her physical and visual capabilities have begun to decline and she is troubled with osteoarthritis. As she moves into her senior years, we would like to help contribute to the costs of her medication and daily care costs and any enclosure enrichment that would benefit an elderly lady with her special needs, to help keep her as comfortable as possible.

Grace arrived at Woodlands as a 4 pound orphaned black bear cub in 2001. The reasoning for her being abandoned was unknown. This tiny cub did well in care and shortly after her arrival had another cub to grow with. At 11 months it was apparent that Grace was different. There was a marked difference between the progresses of the two bears being raised together. As her cage mate continued to grow, Grace did not. It became obvious that Grace's genetics were not that of a normal bear. Because of her small stature and other anomalies, it was determined that release into the wild would not be in her best interests.



Grace's enclosure offers her opportunities to climb, den and wander. During hot weather she enjoys sinking her whole body into her water tub. She is often seen putting her face in the water and blowing bubbles. When there are other bears in the enclosure near her she often "sits" and watches them. From time to time bluff charges are exchanged as Grace asserts herself as the "matriarch". She is a mild mannered bear that prefers to keep her distance but doesn't mind daily visits from her care givers. She is always eager to get her daily serving of dry dog food and a wide assortment of fruits, vegetables, greens, nuts and special treats. She is known affectionately as Sweet Grace due to her mellow and content manner.

**To donate to Grace's appeal fund simply follow the link below which takes you to our website and lists the various ways you can give. Please mark any donation 'For Grace'.**

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



## How we've been making it bearable for Grace and other bears...



*photo courtesy of Woodlands Wildlife Refuge*

We made our first donation of £300.00 (US\$485) to Grace in October 2013 and our second of £350 (US\$560) in November and £140 (US\$230) in December.

When visiting Grace the ABC delegates helped to expand and enrich her enclosure. After Tracy, Grace's carer told us that Grace loves Christmas trees and behaves like a 2 year old around them, we made a special request that Grace be gifted a Christmas tree from the Winton Bear Foundation.

Here's the lovely lady modelling her new winter snow coat and waiting for her tree to be decorated!



*photo courtesy of Woodlands Wildlife Refuge*



*'Adelaide' photo courtesy of Wildlife SOS*

In December 2013 we made our first donation of £200 (\$330) to a brand new beneficiary - Wildlife SOS and their incredible work to rescue Sloth bears from a life as Dancing Bears.

Wildlife SOS also do wonderful work to educate Kalandar children to ensure when they grow up, they have an education and therefore better prospects for a life that doesn't involve the exploitation of an animal for their livelihood.



*Photo courtesy of NLWS*

In December 2013 we made our second donation of £100 (\$175) to the Northern Lights Wildlife Shelter.

The Northern Lights Wildlife Shelter works to give a second chance to wildlife in need including Black, Grizzly and Kermode bears.

It is the only government permitted organisation allowed to work on grizzly cub rehabilitation. Like IBBR in the US, NLWS works to help young bears in need and care for them until they can be returned to the wild.

We are delighted to be able to support them.

# Fostering Compassion

The Winton Bear Foundation



© Winton Bear Foundation

Our unique and ground breaking Fostering Compassion programme continues to receive great acclaim and positive feedback. So much so that we have secured a grant of £12,230 from The Sweetpea Charitable Trust to expand the project to other areas of Scotland in 2014. To secure a grant of this size, in the current economic climate for a project in its infancy speaks volumes about the immense potential of Fostering Compassion. We can't express our gratitude enough to The Sweetpea Charitable Trust for their backing and support. Through Fostering Compassion we hope to help children in Foster and Kinship care find ways to express difficult emotions through learning about and caring for animals. To learn more about this innovative project visit our website at <http://wintonbearfoundation.org/foundation/fostering-compassion/>

Our first full year of Fostering Compassion saw the children visiting Carmen, Suzy and Peggy the three bears rescued from a life in the circus and now settled and happy in their new home at the Five Sisters Zoo. They then had a wonderful trip to the Links Vets and Canine Rehabilitation Centre in East Lothian where they learned all about caring for companion animals and met two Therapets. The third project was a wonderful Magic of Nature workshop run by Emotional Intelligence Therapist, Fiona Ogg. At the workshop, the children had fun making Dream Catchers, adding their thoughts to the Gratitude Tree and trying their hand at gardening by planting and caring for bulbs. Then they had a little outdoor playtime learning about the benefits of exercise and fresh air.



And to round up the year, the children enjoyed a showing of 'Kung Fu Panda' at their Christmas party.

Fostering Compassion is a fast growing and evolving project which we will report on more next year. However, we would like to share some of the remarkable feedback we have received from carers, children and professionals involved in this years project. I think you will agree the comments are very moving and show how much the children are benefitting from the project. The names have been changed to protect the identity of the children.

**"I hung my Dreamcatcher up in my bedroom and my nightmares stopped!" Child in Kinship care**

**"I want to be an environmentalist!" Announced by one of the little girls after visiting the bears.**

**"When the children came to me they showed a mixture of fear and disregard towards animals, yesterday they were snuggling up to the Therapets." Foster mum**

*"They were a great bunch and so funny at times. After exhausting the list of things we shouldn't feed dogs one of the lads suggested a final thing to avoid feeding was 'poison'. Hard to argue with that. And when I asked why we shouldn't let our dogs drink Irn Bru he answered in a weary voice 'because it's full of sugar and gives a caffeine rush – that's why kids love it. Absolutely priceless." Vet at Links Vets*

**"A lovely thing just happened...the kids were watching Madagascar 3 and they came running to tell me that a racoon was going to rescue a bear from the circus because the bear was sad and being made to ride a bicycle. They then announced - bears don't like being made to do tricks!" Text received from a Carer**

**Comment from one family's feedback form...**

**Q. Were there any memorable comments/feedback the children made or gave to you after each activity?**

**A. There was nothing after the activities. But Jack had a hamster which sadly died recently. To my amazement he was very very upset. Before taking part in this project I do not think that there would have been the same response. He is very guarded about his feelings but these activities must have had an impact. He has put his 'Santa stop here' sign beside where we have buried his hamster. So 'Hammy knows Santa is coming'.**

**To read more about this unique project or to make a donation visit <http://wintonbearfoundation.org/foundation/fostering-compassion/>**



## 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.

A huge Teddy Bears Picnic was kindly organised by June McCubbin and Angela Gourlay at Hopetoun House in South Queensferry in August. We had a stall there selling lots of merchandise and providing information on the work of the Bear Foundation. Our lovely friend 'Bob the Bear' offered 'Animal Rune Life Path Readings' and donated all his takings to the Bear Foundation. Thank you Bob and everyone else who helped at the stall.



Our stall made £255.10 and on top of that the proceeds from the overall event were divided between three organisations – ourselves, the Five Sisters Zoo and Animals Asia so we received an additional £400 bringing our total to £655.10. Thank you to the organisers for all their hard work, to all our helpers and to everyone who attended our stall.



Also in August lovely Veterinary Nurses and Bear Foundation supporters from Links Vets Group, Emily and Alex did the gruelling Tough Mudder event in Scotland. This is an endurance event of military style obstacles covering 10-12 miles. The girls did absolutely brilliantly and thankfully the worst injuries were a cut finger and skinned knees! They raised a wonderful £169.23. Well done ladies!!

*Emily and Alex (left) bravely tackling the Tough Mudder*

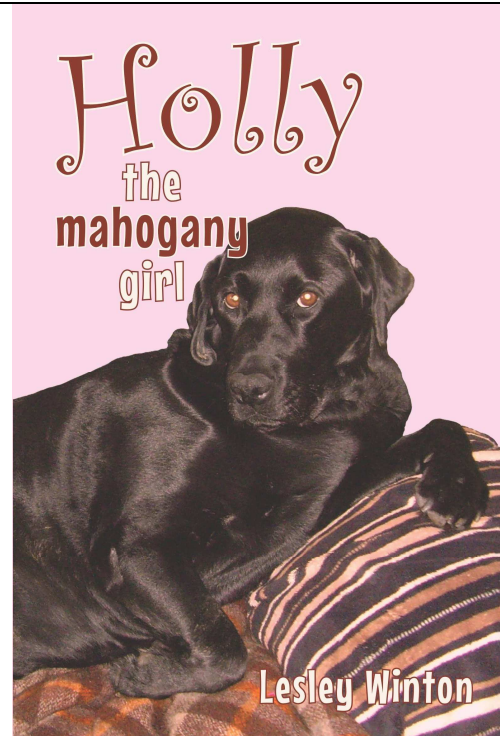
In November we held an online raffle to raise funds for Grace's Appeal. We raffled gorgeous Huggie (right) and thanks to your incredible generosity raised £220!



Thank you also to Val Green who campaigns tirelessly for Wildlife and has recently set up Fundraising for Wildlife through which she wants to raise enough to donate £100 to each of 10 causes in 12 months. This month saw the Winton Bear Foundation's turn and we pass on our sincere thanks to Val for her donation of £100.

*Val (left) with her friend Alison, fundraising for the Winton Bear Foundation*

In the last edition of Bears Matter we brought you the sad news of the passing of Holly, our beloved 'Head of Sponsored Walkies'. Her Human, Lesley has written 'Holly the Mahogany Girl' in her memory and as a tribute to her. The book tells Holly's story and of her recovery from a victim of neglect to a much loved and pampered pooch. It also talks about the wonder of the human-canine bond and how devastating it can be when pet loss is belittled and not taken seriously. 'Holly, the Mahogany Girl' is proving very popular and flying off the shelves. To read reviews in to date, an extract from the book and to order your copy, follow this link <http://www.hollyshugs.org/book/>



A third of the profits of sale go to the Winton Bear Foundation, Fostering Compassion and Holly's Hugs



In December we had our first stall at Tranent Christmas Market in East Lothian. The event was held over the weekend of the 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> December and despite horrendous weather – wind, rain and bitter cold, we braved the storm and raised just under £200 for the Bear Foundation. This was a joint stall with 'Holly's Hugs' and both causes were greatly supported by the public and publicised on East Coast FM Radio. Thank you to all our volunteers and helpers for 'grinning and bearing' a very cold weekend and tough conditions!



In 2014 we will be holding our second 'Bears Matter Month'. This will run from Valentine's Day to Mother's Day which for 2014 in the UK is February 14<sup>th</sup> – March 30<sup>th</sup>. This will be a month of fund and awareness raising for the work of the Bear Foundation, the projects and organisations we support and the threats faced by the eight species of bear around the world. We are hoping to hold a weekend of events during this month which will include a silent auction, craft stalls, information stands and short films showcasing the organisations we support. We are looking for helpers during this weekend so if you are interested, please email us at [info@wintonbearfoundation.org](mailto:info@wintonbearfoundation.org)

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



**Bears Matter Month**  
**'Life through their eyes'**  
Feb 14<sup>th</sup> – Mar 30<sup>th</sup> 2014



**One of the IBBR cubs working very hard keeping his enclosure clean and tidy!**

***"I love the Winton Bear Foundation as it helps so many bear organisations by pulling together individual donors - I could never afford to support them all, so I support WBF. It is my favourite bear charity - it's like a special offer - help more than one bear charity for just one donation."***

***The words of Julia Attwood, Winton Bear Foundation Supporter.***

And with that, we bring another year to a close and all that remains to be done is to pass on our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to you all – our supporters, our volunteers, our fundraisers and our beneficiaries. Without you, we would never be able to achieve as much as we do. We are a small charity but despite that, now support over 25 projects and organisations throughout the world helping bears rescued from some of the most traumatic circumstances you could imagine. In addition to that, our unique and groundbreaking 'Fostering Compassion' project is going from strength to strength helping vulnerable children connect with animals to help them unlock difficult emotions and feelings. We can't even begin to thank you all enough for your support.



**Sasha our newest recruit in her extremely important role as 'Santa Paws'!**

So we close 2013, reflecting on the wonderful achievements of this year and looking forward to all the excitement and growth that 2014 will bring and with great big bear hugs, we wish you all a very

**Merry**   
**Christmas** 

**and may all your dreams come true in 2014**

**Mailing List** - If you are receiving this by 'snail mail' and now have an email address, please could you let us know as this helps us cut down on costs. If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, just get in touch. Also if you have any friends, family or colleagues that you think would like to be added to our mailing list, simply send us their email address – but please ensure you get their permission first. Thank you for your continued support.

(Scottish Registered Charity SC042614)