



BEARS MATTER

Issue 8, Jul 2014/Aug 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 eighth edition of Bears Matter. Another incredibly successful six months under our belt as the Winton Bear Foundation nears its 4th Birthday. Here's what your invaluable support has helped us achieve since the beginning of 2014.

We continue to work hard raising funds for sweet, gorgeous Grace a lovely little bear that all Winton Bear Foundation supporters have taken to their hearts. After meeting Grace as part of the Advancing Bear Care Conference in New Jersey USA in 2013 while visiting Woodlands Wildlife Refuge who love and care for Grace on a permanent basis, we wanted to do all we could to help her. 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



*Photo courtesy of Woodlands Wildlife Refuge
Flyer designed by Fiona Newton*

As Grace has aged her physical and visual capabilities have declined 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, 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.



Thanks to your generosity during our Facebook raffles, we have managed to send another £880 towards the cost of Grace's care and made her our cover girl on our brand new leaflet!



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/>

Grace also has her own Facebook page so please 'like' it!

<https://www.facebook.com/GracesAppeal?fref=photo>

In June 2014 we made another donation of £100 to the Idaho Black Bear Rehabilitation Center to assist with their ongoing vital work rescuing and rehabilitating orphaned bear cubs.

Cubs that come to IBBR have, in most cases, been orphaned after their mothers have been shot by hunters. They are cared for by the wonderful Sally Maughan who acts as 'Bear Mom' until the cubs are old enough and healthy enough to be returned to the wild for a second chance at life.

Photo courtesy of IBBR



In June 2014 we made a second donation to Wildlife SOS in India for £100. Wildlife SOS are based in India and work tirelessly to end the spectacle of dancing bears and care for bears saved from this distressing practice. We will continue to assist them on an ongoing basis with funds to help with the care of bears in their rescue centres and their work to help create a more positive future for India's bears.

Photo courtesy of Wildlife SOS

In June 2014 we made a further donation of £200 to the BEAR League based in Lake Tahoe, California. They work tirelessly to educate people as to how to live in harmony with bears they share the land with, and help them understand the true, gentle nature of the black bear. They are committed to keeping bears safe and wild in their natural habitat. We are honoured to be able to help them with their work.

Photo courtesy of The BEAR League



Also receiving £100 was the Northern Lights Wildlife Shelter (NLWS). Based in Canada, NLWS works to give a second chance to wildlife in need and has helped hundreds of bears - Black Bears, Kermode Bears and Grizzly Bears. It is the only government permitted organisation allowed to work on grizzly cub rehabilitation.

Photo courtesy of NLWS



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, U.K. **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 now donate online too – visit our website for details.

In June 2014 the Winton Bear Foundation selected a brand new beneficiary to support. For the first time, we sent a donation of £100 to Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge based in Eureka Springs, Arkansas in the United States. TCWR's mission is to provide a lifetime refuge for all rescued animals, with the care, safety, and wellbeing of the animals being the number one priority, treating them with the dignity and compassion they deserve. Although much of their work is with big cats, they are also currently caring for six black bears and one Grizzly – the funds we have donated will assist with their care and we look forward to supporting them on an ongoing basis.

Photo courtesy of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge



In June 2014 the Winton Bear Foundation selected another new beneficiary to support. For the first time we sent a donation of £100 to Lions, Tigers and Bears based in Alpine, California in the United States. Lions, Tigers and Bears currently cares for four bears – Liberty, Delilah, Blossom and Sugar Bear – in their wonderful four acre 'Black Bear Habitat' which provides a more natural environment for its four furry occupants. We are delighted to support them for the first time and look forward to giving them ongoing support.

Photo courtesy of Lions, Tigers and Bears

Animals Asia – Peace by Piece

The Winton Bear Foundation is very proud to be working in conjunction with Animals Asia to help promote their Peace by Piece project in Scotland. Animals Asia's Peace by Piece initiative is a historic breakthrough in the ongoing campaign to end bear farming and will see the charity converting a bear bile farm in Nanning, China, into a sanctuary, ending the suffering of the 130 bears and their unborn cubs farmed there and releasing them from a lifetime of mental and physical torture. This ground-breaking turn of events has come about following a change of heart by the bear farm owner Mr Yan Shaohong who no longer wished to see his bears suffer and wanted to get out of the increasingly unpopular industry.

PEACE BY PIECE FROM FARM TO FREEDOM
PEACE BY PIECE



peacebypiece.animalsasia.org

Animals Asia are required to raise £3m to transform the farm into a sanctuary in the biggest rescue of its kind, which will eventually include taking 28 of the sickest bears on the farm to the safety of their sanctuary in Chengdu, China where they will be given the urgent veterinary care they need. The charity will then begin the two-year process to turn the farm in Nanning into a sanctuary and haven of peace for the remainder of the bears so that they can start to recover from the trauma of their ordeal on the bear farm, and so that their care and wellbeing will be guaranteed for the remainder of their lives.

The Winton Bear Foundation will provide support for this project, and Animals Asia's ongoing battle to end bear farming, through fund and awareness raising until bear farming is brought to an end once and for all.

SEE OUR FUNDRAISING SECTION FOR MORE UPDATES!



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, are coming up and ways in which 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.

The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears



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

February to March 2014 saw us holding our second Bears Matter Month (BMM) which runs from Valentine's Day to Mother's Day each year. This year's BMM was jam packed! We held two Facebook raffles that raised £618. Angela Kyle raised £70 by staying off Facebook for the whole of BMM. Helen Ashworth asked for donations instead of birthday gifts to be donated to two of her favourite causes – the Winton Bear Foundation and Holly's Hugs raising £30 for each. Through these activities and additional events BMM 2014 brought in a total of £805.20! The WBF Beneficiaries we showcased this year included the BEAR League, Bear Care Group, Woodlands Wildlife Refuge and Grace, IBBR, Five Sisters Zoo, Bears Matter Canada, Animals Asia, Valhalla Wilderness amongst others. During Bears Matter Month 2014, our Facebook page received 16 new likes and Grace's Appeal page 24 new likes, thus making a total of 40 new likes.



Birthday Girls



Elaine



Thank you Elaine for donating £225

Massive thanks go to birthday girls Elaine Edwards and Karen Gillespie who, very generously, asked for donations to go to their favourite charities rather than receive gifts when they reached the big '50'. These two lovely ladies are clearly very popular as each donated a third share to WBF giving us a staggering £458 in total!

Karen



Thank you Karen (in white dress) for donating £233

Big bear hugs go to Julia Attwood and Lisa Vail for raffling this wonderful Teddy Bear Rug made by Lisa, to raise funds for Animals Asia's Peace by Piece project. We all worked together running the raffle and raised a fabulous £310 which along with some accumulated donations meant a total of £340 was raised for Animals Asia.



Teddy Bear Rug raffle for Animals Asia Peace by Piece campaign



In June 2014 we had a weekend stall at the Hopetoun Horse Trials event at Hopetoun House, South Queensferry in Scotland. All the team worked very hard and apart from the stalls having to come in and out of the gazebo to beat the showers, we had a lovely time. We were lucky enough to be one of the two chosen charities, benefitting from funds raised from the children's activities. We raised £104.99 at our stall and thanks to the kindness and hard work of Angela and James Gourlay, we received a massive £460.65 from the children's zone.

In May we gave a talk on the work of the Winton Bear Foundation during 'An Evening with Bears' held at the Five Sisters Zoo, Polbeth, Scotland. A lovely evening was had by all, enjoying an exclusive behind the scenes look at their rescued ex-circus bears Carmen, Suzy and Peggy, a documentary film, a talk and buffet & drinks.

Photo courtesy of Five Sisters Zoo



Our Facebook raffles since the beginning of the year have proved a great hit.

Here are just some of the lovely bears we have raffled online in the last six months.

Huge thanks to Marion Wilson and Audrey Gibson for donating the bears.



They have helped us raise a massive £918!

Among the lucky winners were Josy Fleetwood, Stacey Watts and Alison Keenan.

Thank you to Julia Attwood for her help with all the event pages.





In June 2014 a much valued supporter of the Winton Bear Foundation, Sheila Dales, lost her very good friend Vera Kirkland after a long battle against illness. Vera was also a great follower of the Foundation's work.

It was both Sheila and Vera's wishes that donations be made in Vera's memory to the Winton Bear Foundation.

We were delighted and honoured to receive

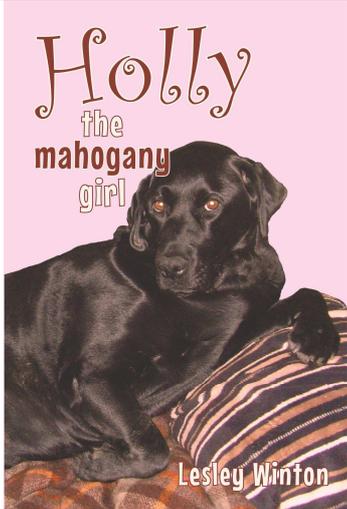
£185.89

WBF supporters Jacqui du Rocher and Sheila Dales have fallen in love with bears Carmen, Suzy and Peggy at Five Sisters Zoo. Knowing how important it is for the bears to have honey, especially to help them take their medicine, they have launched a special appeal for people to donate to fill their 'Honey Hamper'.



Please support them and follow their special Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-3-Bears-Honey-Hamper/1590947114464912?fref=photo>

If you are not on Facebook you can donate via our website www.wintonbearfoundation.org



Royalties are coming in thick and fast from the sales of the book 'Holly, the Mahogany Girl' written by our Founder and Director, Lesley Winton. Holly was the Bear Foundation's much loved 'Head of Sponsored Walkies' and is fondly remembered in this very popular book. Two thirds of the profits of sale go to the Bear Foundation and Fostering Compassion. It can be purchased on Amazon.

http://www.amazon.co.uk/Holly-Mahogany-Girl-Lesley-Winton/dp/1492234346/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1406231469&sr=1-1&keywords=holly+the+mahogany+girl

Currently sporting 22 Five Star reviews!



Thanks also go to Wildlife Calling who have made us one of their chosen causes and donated £50 in April.



July saw our Facebook page 'likes' reach 1000 and, at the time of sending out our newsletter, we are now at a fantastic 1030. Please like our page if you haven't already done so and encourage your friends and family to do so too.

For fear of missing anyone out can we please take this opportunity to thank everyone who has fundraised, donated, raised awareness, supported our raffles and helped spread the word – you are all wonderful – totally awesome! Keep up the great work, without you, we couldn't achieve nearly as much as we do and help so many bears and bear projects worldwide.

Fostering Compassion

The Winton Bear Foundation



Fostering Compassion

© Winton Bear Foundation

Our unique and ground breaking Fostering Compassion programme continues to receive great acclaim and positive feedback from participants and professionals. The grant we received at the end of last year from The Sweetpea Charitable Trust is allowing us to help vulnerable and at risk children in Edinburgh, East Lothian and Falkirk welcoming them to our animal and nature related projects, thus helping them to learn compassion and empathy towards animals and appreciate the world we live in.

For obvious reasons we are unable to show you any photos of the children taking part in the activities but there are lots of other things we can share with you...

As well as helping the children, the funding has allowed us to...

Set up a dedicated website. Please do visit by following this link

<http://www.fosteringcompassion.org/>

We also have a brand new and informative leaflet

(please contact us if you would like a copy)

Fostering
Compassion



This year the children are enjoying visits to see Carmen, Suzy and Peggy - the rescued ex-circus bears at Five Sisters Zoo, West Calder, Scotland.

They get a special certificate and goody bag and take a jar of honey each to the bears as a gift.

Massive thanks to Littlelover Apiaries for their ongoing support donating jars of honey for each child to give to the bears, and Miles Kelly Children's book publishers for donating a copy of 'Bears 100 Facts' for each child's goody bag.



The children take part in many animal and nature related workshops and activities that help them learn compassion and empathy towards animals. The project is going from strength to strength and there is too much to add to this newsletter, so please visit our dedicated Fostering Compassion website to read about all our activities to date.

www.fosteringcompassion.org



Wildwood Trust's Bear Rescue

We are delighted to tell you that as of July 2014, we are giving our backing and support to Wildwood Trust's Bear Rescue. Wildwood are based in Kent, U.K., and have recently launched a massive appeal to raise £50,000 to come to the rescue of two bears in desperate need.



The bears have been abandoned in a barren pit in a disused breeding centre in Bulgaria called Kormisosh.

Kormisosh was used to breed bears to be shot by hunters until 1993 when bear hunting was outlawed.



Since then, the bears that remain at Kormisosh have been living a life of misery and neglect.



One of the bears in the barren enclosure and the site in preparation for building their new home.

The bears receive only basic care and have never been outside of their concrete pens, never seen a tree or walked on grass. They have no mental stimulus and the poor creatures are in danger of losing their minds.

The Wildwood Team need to raise £50,000 to build a new 16,000 square foot bear enclosure to rescue and rehome these poor bears and provide the care and enrichment they so desperately need.



All photos courtesy of Wildwood Trust

Please join us in supporting the efforts of Wildwood Trust in raising the much needed funds. You can donate directly to Wildwood by text, online or by phone or via us. We are going to kick it off by donating £200.00. Please see below for more details.



You can donate online at <http://www.wildwoodtrust.org/bearappeal.html> by text: text BEAR21 £5 to 70070, by phone on 01227 712 111 or you can donate via the Winton Bear Foundation (please mark Wildwood) and we'll pass all the funds on

Please also watch their YouTube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wzJUqafcbMs>

THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT FOR THE WINTON FOUNDATION FOR THE WELFARE OF BEARS IN 2014

Mailing List - If you are receiving this by 'snail mail' and now have an e-mail 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 e-mail address – but please ensure you get their permission first. Thank you for your continued support. (Scottish Registered Charity SC042614)