



BEARS MATTER

Issue 10, Jul/Aug 2015

'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 tenth edition of Bears Matter during a very special year that sees us celebrating our 5th Birthday. We have some very exciting updates for you in this connection, but firstly, here's what we have been up to this year so far and what your invaluable support has helped us achieve since the last newsletter.

This time for our mid-year donations, we are making slightly fewer donations but donating larger amounts to four different organisations - two current beneficiaries and two new each receiving £200.



The first organisation to receive £200 is a Winton Bear Foundation favourite and is the Idaho Black Bear Rehabilitation Center. Run by the devoted Sally Maughan she has rescued hundreds of orphaned bear cubs and injured adult bears. She lovingly and painstakingly cares for the bears until they are well enough and big enough to be returned to the wild.

The funds we send Sally will be used to help with the ongoing costs of food, medicine and enrichment for bears in her care.

Photo courtesy of IBBR

The second organisation receiving £200 is Forest Animal Rescue, formerly known as Peace River Refuge. Based in Florida, USA they provide lifetime care for non-releasable wild animals. FAR have recently begun rehabilitating black bear cubs and at the beginning of the year received their first little cub Avonaco, shortly followed by Beau. They have incurred substantial costs in building a suitable habitat for the cubs that mimics their natural environment. Our donation will help cover the cost of some of the materials as they ready themselves for more cubs. You can see Avonaco and Beau's release to the wild by following this link

<http://forestanimalrescue.org/bear-freedom-project-2015-is-a-success/>

Photo courtesy of Forest Animal Rescue





The 187th bear rescued by Free the Bears - a young female sun bear cub just a few months old

Photo courtesy of Free the Bears

The third organisation receiving £200 is a brand-new beneficiary of the Winton Bear Foundation and is called Free the Bears. Based in Perth, Western Australia Free the Bears is dedicated to protecting, preserving and enriching the lives of bears around the world. They currently work in six countries throughout Asia where bears are illegally captured to be butchered for their body parts, turned into medicine or bear paw soup or incarcerated in bile farms. Free the Bears employ a range of strategies including environmental education, conservation research and strengthened law enforcement to ensure that they achieve their mission to protect, preserve and enrich the lives of bears throughout the world.

We are proud to make them a beneficiary of WBF and look forward to supporting them on an ongoing basis.

To learn more about their work, please visit their website <http://www.freethebears.org/> and their facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/freethebearsfund?fref=ts>

The next new beneficiary who will be receiving a donation from us is the Bioresource Research Center (BRC) in Pakistan. BRC is a non-profit, non-political, multidisciplinary organisation based in Islamabad. It works for the conservation of bear species in Pakistan and confiscates bears used in bear baiting. The rescued bears are weak, seriously injured and traumatised so are nursed back to health and cared for at BRC's large sanctuary in Balkasar, north of Islamabad. The centre is involved in monitoring and controlling the menace of bearbaiting in Pakistan and arranges visits to schools and mosques to create awareness against bearbaiting.

We will be making a donation to them of £200 and are currently discussing with them the best way to do this - either a cash donation or a donation of materials and supplies so we will keep you updated on this as we hope to continue to support them in the future.



Photo courtesy of Bioresource Research Center

Advancing Bear Care Conference 2015 Sponsorship

You may recall, in 2013, the Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears sponsored a delegate's registration fee enabling them to attend the Advancing Bear Care Conference held that year, in the United States. The conference is held every two years and brings together some of the greatest 'bear' minds in the world. This year the conference is being held in Vietnam at the end of October. WBF will again be providing sponsorship but this year we are doing it slightly differently to be most effective. The Bear Care Group who organise the conference want to offer less expensive registration fees for delegates from 3rd world countries, which mean for the same amount of sponsorship from us as made in 2013, more delegates can attend from countries where the bears' needs are greatest. Therefore we are providing sponsorship of \$300 (£200). In addition to this, Else Poulsen, president of the Bear Care Group has set up a new bear rehabilitation site listed under www.bearrehabilitation.org on which WBF is listed as a support organisation.



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.

BEARS MATTER MONTH 2015



Bears Matter Month
'Life through their eyes'
Feb 14th - Mar 15th 2015

We held another incredibly successful Bears Matter Month at the beginning of the year and huge thanks for this must go to Julia Attwood. Julia, came on board as our Facebook Co-ordinator at our busiest time of year and put together an incredible BMM. We had 17 beneficiary showcases as well as posts on gift certificates & charity flowers, sharing and liking, signing up to the newsletter, taking collecting cans, merchandise, ABC conferences, George Hay Winton and the History of WBF, Fostering Compassion, and the launch of 'Give it Five' and much much more. Our raffle on International Save Bears Day raised £301 with prizes being won by Philip Jackson, Josy Fleetwood and Andrea Stewart. Julia continues to do an awesome job in her new role with our 'likes' and social media presence steadily increasing. Great job Julia!

We were delighted to have an information stall, free of charge, at the 'Why Not?' shop in North Berwick, East Lothian, from March 23-29. This lovely venue brings together all kinds of unique, creative and locally-sourced products under one roof, giving us a great opportunity to highlight our work and tell people how they can help.

Our very first unmanned information stall proved extremely popular, attracting a lot of attention from visitors to the area. We had 18 new supporters sign up for our newsletter, one new direct debit and our can raised £46.64. Then Adam, the owner of Why Not? gave us a huge donation of loose change which amounted to £68.80!

We are very grateful to Adam and everyone at Why Not? for their support and generosity.



Our information stand at Why Not? North Berwick, East Lothian



Thank 'Q!' A beautiful donation

There are so many ways our supporters can raise funds to help WBF's work and in April a group of generous hair stylists and beauty therapists gave us a very welcome boost. The team at Q Hair and Beauty in Chichester, West Sussex, offer all regular clients complimentary fringe trims between appointments for cuts. The clients then give a donation and that money is collected until the end of each month and given to a charity voted for by the staff. WBF were the lucky recipients in April receiving £90.

It Can be done!

Huge thanks also to everyone who has taken a collecting can or is saving loose change for us. It's a great way to raise funds and you'd be amazed how it mounts up. You are all wonderful!



Give us a ring if you'd like to take a collecting can



Angela Gourlay pictured with Jill Robinson

Hopetoun House Teddy Bears Picnic

Massive thanks go again to Angela and James Gourlay who for the third year in a row, made the Winton Bear Foundation one of their two nominated charities to benefit from their Teddy Bears Picnic and Children's Activities at the event at Hopetoun House, in June.

Angela and James are two incredibly hard working people who are devoted to bears. We were honoured to have a stall again at their event and be chosen, along with Animals Asia, to share the funds raised. A total of £496.29 was raised and Angela and James kindly rounded up our half to £250.



The Winton Bear Foundation's information stand at Hopetoun House



A big bear hug....

.....goes to Littleover Apiaries Ltd who have come up trumps once again with a massive supply of honey for our Scottish bears and for the Fostering Compassion children to take as a gift to the bears.

Based in Derby, England, Littleover Apiaries have been so supportive of our work and provide us with bucket loads of honey for three of our favourite bears, Carmen, Suzy and Peggy. This year they sent us six enormous buckets of honey for three very happy bears!

Lesley giving the honey to Shirley Curran at the Five Sisters Zoo



Snoozy Suzy with a tummy full of honey!

Littleover Apiaries Ltd
the home of honey™



Speaking of Bears

In June, we had the great honour of welcoming Jill Robinson CEO and Founder of Animals Asia to Edinburgh, Scotland as part of her UK Tour. Jill gave an incredibly thought provoking and inspiring talk on the work of Animals Asia to a gathering of like-minded people. Jill captivated the audience with a clear message that Animals Asia is succeeding: the word is spreading; people are listening and a voice for the animals is being heard! The Edinburgh event raised £4,300 for Animals Asia.



2015 is a very exciting year for the Winton Bear Foundation!

Having launched on 10.10.10 we celebrate our 5th birthday on 10.10.15

To mark this special milestone we have two very exciting and ambitious fundraising events.

Please read on to learn more about...

Give it Five and LOTS of Love

Give it Five

Will you Give it Five to help us celebrate our fifth anniversary and to raise more funds to support our invaluable work across the globe to save bears from suffering? Five is a very special number this year for WBF as it's our fifth birthday in October 2015 so we've issued a 'Give it Five' challenge to our supporters - and it's looking like being a big hit with people already joining our 'Team High Five'. The challenge was launched during Bears Matter Month but Give it Five continues all the way through our fifth anniversary year so you have months ahead to reach your target.



Join in and you become part of our Team High Five and can take your pick of a whole host of easy ways to help out, depending on how you would like to help us reach that magic number. It could be anything from simply donating £5, saving £5 of loose change, getting five friends to 'like' our Facebook page or giving £5 a month throughout the year, to holding five coffee mornings or doing a sponsored five-mile walk, run, swim, cycle or row. You could come up with an innovative fundraising idea of your own centred on the figure five, or you might want to go for multiples or combinations that add up to five such as a sponsored weight loss to shed 10lbs (2x5), donate £20 (4x5) or cycle three miles, walk two to make up the five.

The permutations around the figure five are endless and every single contribution, large or small, will be welcomed to help us continue to help bears in distress all over the world.

If you would like to join in the challenge, let us know and we will add you to Team High Five and send you a sponsor form if required. Check out what other members of Team High Five are doing here <http://www.wintonbearfoundation.org/how-you-can-help/will-you-give-it-five>

'Bears Matter' Newsletter

If you have not already signed up for our newsletter and our regular updates please let us have your email address and we will add you to our mailing list. Thanks go to Jo Rothery for her invaluable assistance with the production of ***Bears Matter*** and her help and guidance with press releases to ensure a mainstream media presence.

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
www.fosteringcompassion.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.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please just let us know, thank you.

On Yer bike!

Two, sorry, that should be three of our Team High Five members, Clare Ellis, James Oxley and Albert the Bear undertook an amazing 25 mile bike ride around Northampton to raise funds for our "Give it Five" challenge. Clare, James and Albert set out on July 11th sporting their smart new WBF t-shirts to raise funds and awareness for our work. They provided us with lovely regular updates en route and raised a wonderful £167.50. Clare, James and Albert 'tweeted' updates en route and raised a fantastic amount of awareness on their mammoth cycle. We have a MyDonate page for donations towards this amazing "Give it Five" challenge which is still open if you would like to contribute <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/wintonbearcycle>

Thank you so much Clare, James and Albert for being such awesome members of Team High Five. We hope you can sit down now! Enjoy this great selection of photos!



James, Clare and Albert all good to go!



Albert checking for punctures and enjoying a snack

Despite sore hands and posteriors, James and Clare still manage to Give it Five!



Twitter

Thanks must also go to James for setting up and running our brand-new Twitter page.

Please follow us and retweet @WintonBears

<https://twitter.com/WintonBears>



“LOTS” of Love

The second of our big fundraising ventures is our “LOTS” of Love auction and raffle - our biggest fundraiser to date.

LOTS of Love will be launched on October 9th – the day before our 5th birthday - and will run until October 25th. It will be a two-tier online fundraiser, where bear-lovers can bid for or win lots of fabulous prizes while helping a cause which is close to their hearts.

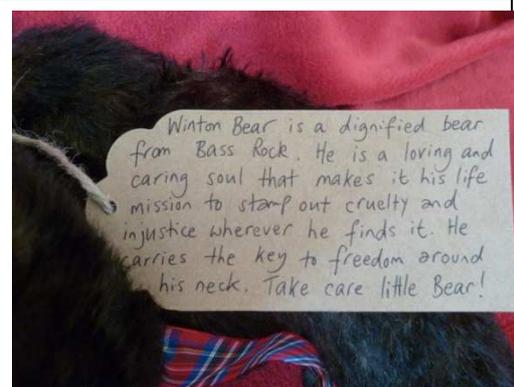
It will consist of a number of high-value items that will be auctioned to the highest bidder and smaller items that will be raffled. This will take place via Facebook but people not on Facebook can still take part, so please keep an eye on our website for further details.

We already have pledges of some fantastic prizes and auction lots but we would like to make this a truly tremendous and exciting fundraising effort therefore we’re appealing for donations for even more prizes for “LOTS” of Love. If you feel you can contribute and would like to discuss this further, please email: lesley@wintonbearfoundation.org. Donors will be asked to provide a photo for our prize album, and to be able to mail their prize directly to the winner. Please help us make this our most successful event to date.

To whet your appetite, here is a sneak preview of a beautiful bear that has been made especially for us by Isabel Prickett of Bass Rock Bears and is unique to the Winton Bear Foundation. ‘Winton Bear’ will be one of our star auction items and is already attracting great interest. He has been lovingly designed with a key around his neck - the key to freedom for all the other bears whose cages still need opened.



*‘Winton Bear’
and the very moving words on
his label*



To see more of Isabel’s beautiful bears, visit her website at
<http://www.bassrockbears.co.uk/>

And there's more!

As well as 'Give it Five' and 'LOTS' of Love we have a couple more events we'd like to bring to your attention for you to put the dates in your diary.

Save the date



On Saturday November 28th we will be joining forces with our bear buddies in the Animals Asia Scotland Support Group to hold a cruelty-free Christmas Fair. The fair will be held at St Augustine's Church on George IV Bridge in Edinburgh.

If you would like to be kept informed about this event or are a trader or charity interested in having a stall please email lesley@wintonbearfoundation.org or Silke at animalsasiascotland@gmail.com

Photo courtesy of Animals Asia

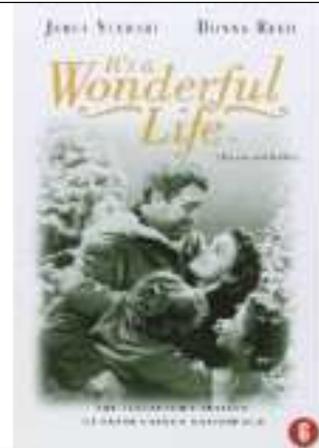
Save the date

It's a Wonderful Life

On Wednesday 9th December 2015 we will have a private film showing of the Christmas classic 'It's a Wonderful Life'. Wine and mince pies will be served.

The film will be shown at the Fraser Centre in Tranent, East Lothian, times and price to be confirmed.

We anticipate this will be a very popular event so if you would like to reserve tickets or be kept informed, please email lesley@wintonbearfoundation.org



And on the subject of Christmas...

We now have a special page on our website dedicated to WBF merchandise - perfect if you are looking for Christmas gifts <http://www.wintonbearfoundation.org/how-you-can-help/merchandise>

Romanian Bear Sanctuary Appeal

Victor Watkins, Wildlife Adviser at World Animal Protection and the Founder of the Liberty Campaign is helping the Romanian bear sanctuary to set up a teddy bear museum, to attract more paying visitors. If there are any teddy bear makers or collectors reading this who may be able to help please get in touch either through us or through their facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BearSanctuaryTeddyBearMuseum/timeline>



© Winton Bear Foundation

Our remarkable Fostering Compassion project continues to go from strength to strength, gaining great respect and praise from participants and professionals alike.

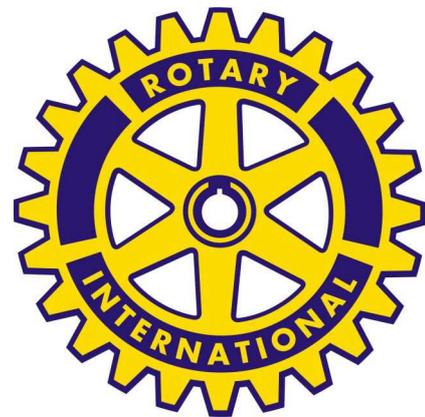
We are half way through all our activities and workshops for the children this year and they have been a great success.

Through our animal and nature themed events, the children learn to appreciate bears and other animals as sentient beings who can share similar emotions to them. The animals provide a connection that words can't, creating a unique experience for these special children.

By the end of this year, we will have had 110 children through the programme. Considering we started with 13 children 18 months ago, we've come a long way.

We are now having children referred to us from Edinburgh District Council, East Lothian Council, Glasgow Council, Falkirk and Grangemouth Council, Falkirk Women's Aid, Mentor and Children 1st.

We are also delighted to say that after a series of talks to Rotary Clubs in Edinburgh and the Lothians, Tranent Rotary are funding this year's Christmas party for the children and Musselburgh Rotary have made a very generous donation of £200.



To read more about Fostering Compassion please visit our dedicated website and Facebook page

www.fosteringcompassion.org

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Fostering-Compassion/403973553141205?ref=hl>

And finally.....

Our promise to our supporters:

After an incredibly busy six months and before throwing ourselves into the remaining months of the year, we would like to take a moment again to thank you all for your incredible support. We couldn't do half of what we do without your help. Sadly, some charities have recently received a lot of bad press about their fundraising practices. Our promise to you is, that we will never bombard you with mailings or pressure you for donations. Whatever you can do to help us, whenever you can, will be greatly appreciated and warmly welcomed.

Our promise to the bears:

As we approach the 5th anniversary of our launch, we will never forget the mission we set out with. We will continue to work with like-minded people and organisations to create a world where no bear suffers at the hands of people.

We will continue to work to help create a world where no bear will ever again be hurt, exploited or tortured for human gain, profit or entertainment. A world where bears can live free from fear and peril inflicted by humankind and can be their majestic selves, living full and natural lives.

As we close Issue 10 of Bears Matter and look forward to our 5th birthday, please take a moment to watch this very moving video from our friends at Animals Asia. This poem was written for an Animals Asia poetry competition in 2013. After the prizegiving, Jill Robinson CEO blogged "Finally, one poem that didn't win, but which we fell in love with, deserves a special mention - Caroline Herd's "My name is Dick". I struggled to read it on the night as it encapsulates the current lives and previous suffering of all our beloved bears – through the eyes of one very special bear called Dick, who used to live in House 10 and has now been moved (still with his original group), to House 6. If you can get through this without sobbing you're stronger than me...."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3GyOoZbqf0&feature=youtu.be>

www.animalsasia.org



For Dick, and all the other bears around the world who are suffering immeasurable pain, torture and misery, this is why we at the Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears do what we do, and why we look forward to continuing our journey through the next 5 years with more enthusiasm, commitment and determination than ever.

We hope you will join us.

Thank you all