



NEWSLETTER

BEARS MATTER

Issue 11, Dec 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 eleventh edition of Bears Matter during a very special year that has seen us celebrating our 5th Birthday and what a year it's been! We have had some incredibly successful fundraisers, allowing us to help even more bears around the world and we were so honoured that our first ever promotional film, had its Premier at the 2015 Advancing Bear Care Conference, held in Vietnam. So without further ado, it gives us great pleasure to share with you all our fantastic news from the last six months.

We start with news of our year end donations, we have had such a successful few months, that we are able to distribute £1850 to seven organisations around the world including two brand new beneficiaries.

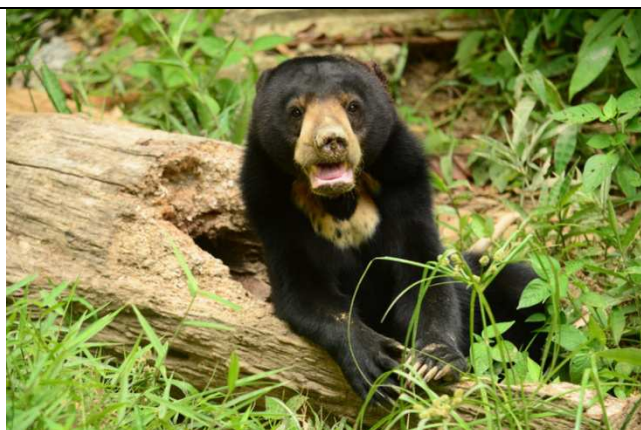


Photo courtesy of BSBCC

The first of the new beneficiaries to receive funds is the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre (BSBCC) based in Malaysia. Their mission is to promote sun bear conservation in Borneo through animal welfare, conservation, rehabilitation, education and research. They work to rescue sun bears and return them to the forest. There are currently 37 rescued bears living at the BSBCC - with a monthly food bill of \$3000! We are making an initial donation of £300 towards these costs.

To learn more about their work visit
<http://www.bsbcc.org.my/>

The next beneficiary receiving £300 is The BEAR League, based in Lake Tahoe, California. They are committed to keeping bears safe and wild in their natural habitat. They do a lot of excellent work in Bear Awareness Education - both on-line and within the local community. They will use our donation to purchase new capture equipment.

Ann Bryant (Executive Director) told us:

"When we get calls on orphan bear cubs we must rescue them quickly and safely. For that we need various different types of capture equipment - nets, kennels, catch poles etc. (Unless they are still extremely small they don't tend to willingly climb straight into our loving arms!) We are extremely grateful for all you do to help the bears, here at Tahoe and around the entire Planet."

Learn more about their work by visiting their website

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

Photo courtesy of the BEAR League



© Traelyn Ramsey-Neal/BEAR League



Photo courtesy of IBBR

The next organisation to receive £300 is the Idaho Black Bear Rehabilitation Center.

Run by Sally Maughan she works tirelessly to care for cubs orphaned after their mothers have been killed as a result of hunting, injury or accident. Sally takes on the role of bear 'mom' nurturing and caring for these helpless cubs until they are well enough and big enough to be returned to the wild.

The funds we send Sally will be used to buy bear pellets and grain free dog food to keep the hungry tummies full! To read more about the work of IBBR visit <http://www.bearrehab.org/>

The fourth organisation to receive a donation of £300 from the Winton Bear Foundation are our Scottish friends at the Five Sisters Zoo based in West Calder, West Lothian. Since the zoo rescued three female bears Carmen, Suzy and Peggy from life in a travelling circus we have helped fund medicine, food and enrichment for the bears. Carmen, Suzy and Peggy spent over 25 years as part of the circus spending much of their lives in horrifically cramped cages measuring just 10m square before they were rescued from this miserable life and brought to a safe, happy and loving new home.



'Carmen'

Photo courtesy of Lesley Winton

The zoo has also been great supporters of our Humane Education project Fostering Compassion for children in foster care and kinship care, welcoming the children to meet the bears. Through learning about the bears' stories, the children gain a greater understanding of their own circumstances and the bears are a great hit with the children.

We are so pleased to be able to help again with the care of the bears. Our donation will fund replacement boomer balls, glucosamine and special buckets to store their food in daily over the winter just in case the bears get up for a snack.

Learn more about their work by visiting their website

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

The next beneficiary to receive £300 is the Northern Lights Wildlife Society (NLWS) based in Smithers, BC NLWS work to give a second chance to wildlife in need. As well as caring for black bears, it is the only government permitted organisation allowed to work on grizzly cub rehabilitation. NLWS works to help young bears in need and care for them until they can be returned to the wild.

We are really excited to be able to send then sufficient funds to help with the cost of materials for the construction of a climbing platform and of a hammock - some fabulous enrichment for the grizzlies to enjoy. We will share photos of them as soon as they are completed. <http://www.wildlifeshelter.com/>

Photo courtesy of NLWS



Sun Bear Outreach

The second of our new beneficiaries this month is Sun Bear Outreach. Founded in 2014 by Patrick Rouxel, the mission of Sun Bear Outreach is to raise local and international awareness on the sun bears, help improve the life of captive sun bears in Indonesia, reintroduce cubs to the wild and help put an end to the use of sun bears in Indonesian circuses. Sun Bear Outreach's new project for 2016 is to help improve the living conditions of all the bears in the care of Borneo Orangutan Survival (BOS). There are presently 48 bears in the BOS refuge of Samboja Lestari in East Kalimantan, Borneo, Indonesia and 13 bears in the BOS refuge at Nyaru Menteng in Central Kalimantan. These 61 sun bears are all adults who will never go back to the wild. They deserve the best possible captive life we can give them and that is what Sun Bear Outreach intends to do.

The group of 19 female sun bears - that stay permanently in the two outdoor enclosures called Middle Yard and Bottom Yard - have a pool which serves both for bathing and drinking. But in the dry season, the pool water quickly gets murky and dirty. The girls urgently need a water basin they can drink from without being able to bathe in it. Our donation of £300 will fund the cost of building two long drinking water basins, one for Middle Yard and one for Bottom Yard. These will be placed close to the fence so that the staff can easily fill them up daily with a hose from the outside.



HELPING THE SUN BEARS AT BOSF SAMBOJA LESTARI IN BORNEO

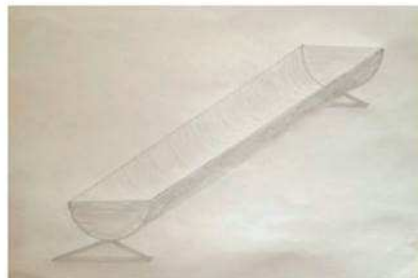
MAKING 2 BASINS FOR DRINKING WATER
thanks to The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears



Middle Yard



Pool in Middle Yard



Drawing of Water Basin

We are delighted to be able to support both the work of Sun Bear Outreach and the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre in their efforts to protect this small but feisty little bear. We look forward to supporting your work on an ongoing basis.

Advancing Bear Care Conference 2015 Vietnam

One of the highlights of the last six months was the Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears being represented at the Advancing Bear Care Conference in Hanoi, Vietnam. A gathering of some of the biggest names in bear welfare around the world, the conference took place between October 29th - November 1st. With presentations, workshops and lectures covering behaviour-based husbandry, enrichment, operant conditioning, veterinary care and problem solving the schedule was packed and a wonderful learning and networking opportunity. Practicums at Hanoi Zoo allowed the delegates to build some enrichment for their Sun and Asiatic Black Bears.

The highlight of the conference had to be the field trip to Animals Asia's award winning Vietnam Bear Rescue Centre in Tam Dao. If you have access to Facebook, please do take a look at the wonderful updates on every aspect of the conference and visit to the sanctuary, but in the meantime enjoy a little snapshot....



Attendance at the conference was made all the more special when keynote speaker Dr Jill Robinson MBE, CEO of Animals Asia gave the Bear Foundation and Fostering Compassion a mention in her opening address to the delegates!



In addition to this we were so delighted and proud that our brand new anniversary film, produced to mark our 5th birthday received its Premier at the conference. This really was a very moving moment, with the film being released to the public shortly after the conference on November 5th, 2015

	Moderator Người dẫn dắt: Jay Pratte	
17:00 - 19:30 (5:00 - 7:30 PM)	Free Time: Delegates go for dinner in Hanoi Thời gian tự do: Đại biểu ăn tối ở Hà Nội	
FILM NIGHT ĐÊM CHIẾU PHIM		
19:30 - 19:40 (7:30 - 7:40 PM)	Welcome Chào mừng	Jay Pratte Thăng Lợi 1
19:40 - 19:50 (7:40 - 7:50 PM)	Premiere: The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears Anniversary Film [5 min] Mở màn: Phim kỉ niệm tổ chức Winton Phúc lợi loài gấu [5 phút] Hosted by Founder Chủ trì bởi nhà sáng lập: Lesley Winton	

Advancing Bear Care 2015 - Vietnam

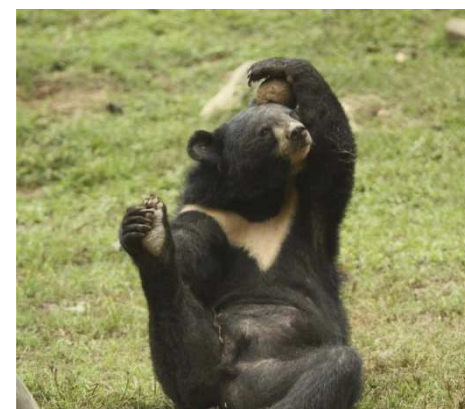


Launch of our YouTube TV Channel

To coincide with the release of our anniversary film we launched our YouTube channel where you can view all videos in relation to our work and activities. If you haven't already watched our Anniversary film, you can do so by following the undernoted link. You can also watch all videos from the Vietnam Sanctuary. Be sure to watch Boiing!!!

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=the+winton+foundation+for+the+welfare+of+bears

To mark our visit to Vietnam, on return home as part of our December distribution of funds we donated £50 to Animals Asia to buy all their most recently rescued bears a coconut each as a 'house warming' present and a tiny taste of the wonderful life they will now have in the sanctuary.
(more photos to follow)





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.



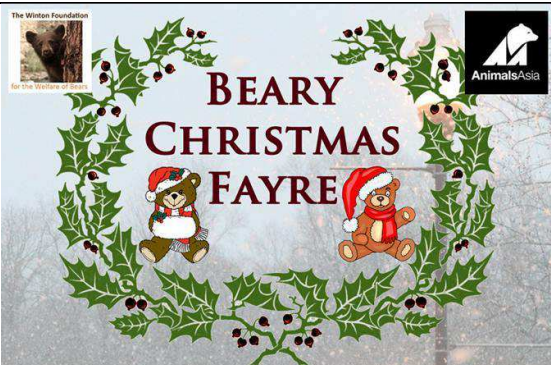
LOTS of Love

Our "LOTS" of Love auction and raffle was our biggest and most ambitious fundraiser to date. Running from October 9th to 25th via our Facebook page, we raffled 17 items and auctioned 21.

We had a massive response from supporters and contributors which meant we raised just under £1000!

Thank you to everyone who donated items to the auction and raffle and to everyone who supported it. This highly successful fundraiser has enabled us to help many more bears with our December distribution of funds.

Beary Christmas Fayre



November 28th saw us hold a joint fundraising event with the Animals Asia Scotland Support Group.

Our Beary Christmas Fayre took place in St. Augustine's Church in Edinburgh with some lovely craft and charity stalls.

We each had our own stalls raising money for our individual charities....

...We then held a number of joint fundraisers including a tombola, guess the duck's birthday, a giant polar bear raffle and a hamper raffle. These funds were then split between the two charities. After costs The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears raised £234, and Animals Asia £285.

Huge thanks again go to everyone who took part and helped and a big bear hug to photographer Sepp Hausl who gave us permission to use this beautiful photo, adding our logo to the candle for the fayre.





© Winton Bear Foundation

2015 saw another highly successful year for our unique and groundbreaking humane education project, Fostering Compassion.

The year of activities was brought to a close early December with our two Christmas parties. Each party was jam packed and it is almost hard to believe that we started just two years ago with ten children.

This year has seen 120 children from more than 60 families come through the programme.



Huge thanks go to the veterinary students from the Dick Vet school in Edinburgh for hosting one of our most popular workshops in October. The children got to pretend they were vets for the day and had great fun bandaging all their teddies!

We are very excited to announce that next year we will be partnering with the Big Hearts Community Trust as we develop the project further.



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>

***'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.

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.

Please follow us and retweet @WintonBears

<https://twitter.com/WintonBears>

And finally

As another year draws to a close, all that is left to say is thank you again.... to everyone who has supported us in the past and continues to do so. To our incredible team of volunteers who work so hard to continue to grow the Bear Foundation and enable us to help as many bears as possible around the world.

May we take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas and may all your dreams come true in 2016.



Thank you all