



BEARS MATTER

Issue 16, Winter 2018/2019

'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 Issue 16 of Bears Matter! We are delighted to bring you news of our summer and winter distribution of funds during 2018 and the amazing projects around the world we continue to support. Of course, we couldn't do any of it without you and we are so grateful for your ongoing support of and commitment to the Winton Bear Foundation. Since the last newsletter we've been working really hard to continue to be as effective as possible and help as many bears and bear projects around the world as we can including existing beneficiaries and new ones. So without further ado, we would like to tell you more about what we have been doing, with your help, during last year. Enjoy!

Summer distribution of funds



Photo: 2017, USN - Institutt for natur, helse og miljø, Bø

MongoliAid

Once again, in the Summer of 2018 we helped MongoliAid International, a small charity founded in 2009, by providing £274 for the provision of supplemental feed drops to the very rare Gobi Bear. The Gobi bear is the rarest bear in the world today. In 2013, there were only 22 left in the wild and there are no Gobi bears in captivity. Scientists continue to study the shy and elusive bears whenever they can. Some have been briefly captured and fitted with GPS radio collars, which has helped to map the animals' habitat use. As part of our Summer 2018 Distribution of Funds, we helped MongoliAid International to fund the provision of supplemental feed drops to the Gobi Bear for that Summer.

Advancing Bear Care Conference

Once again in 2018, we provided £203 sponsorship to the Advancing Bear Care annual workshop & conference held in Agra, India in December. The Bear Care Group creates and enhances communication, cooperation and education among international bear care professionals



Our sponsorship contributed to the costs of enrichment for the sloth bears at the workshop during a field visit to the Agra Bear Rescue Facility .

A new beneficiary!

The Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center

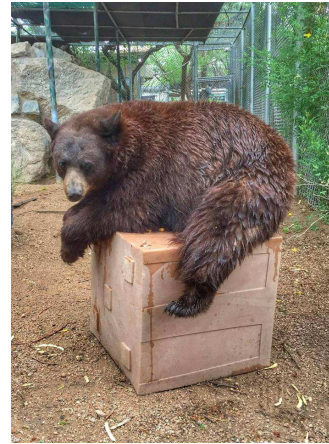
During the Summer of 2018 our Founder and CEO Lesley Winton visited the Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center based in Arizona, USA. The center rescues and rehabilitates wildlife that has been injured, displaced, and orphaned and once rehabilitated, they are returned to the wild. In May 2018 they had five black bears in their care - these are permanent residents that are non-rehabitable. Given the scorching hot Arizona summers, we decided to send £65 to buy them all their favourite watermelons to keep them cool. The bears are called Tahoe, Griz, Igasho, Cinnamon and Heavenly. We are delighted to support SWCC and even happier to provide these gorgeous bears with their favourite watermelons! And here they are.....

Griz



Griz was orphaned when he was only a few months old. His mother was considered a “nuisance” bear and was shot, leaving Griz alone. He weighed around 10 pounds when he was found – just a tiny cub. These days, Griz remains a gregarious and happy bear. He loves tucking into a fish ice lolly!

Cinnamon



Cinnamon is a shy bear who doesn't like to be too near people but she does love meal time! Sadly humans began to feed Cinnamon's mom when Cinnamon was just a baby and the bears became habituated. Cinnamon kept finding herself in trouble until SWCC took her in and have cared for her ever since.

Heavenly



Photos courtesy of Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center

Heavenly the bear had a hard start in life. Alone, with no mother to care for him, feed him and teach him to hibernate, the yearling bear tried his best to survive through a long, cold winter, up by the Heavenly Ski Resort in Lake Tahoe, California. It wasn't easy, and, when he was found injured in March 2014, he was so thin he probably wouldn't have lived much longer. Captured and cared for by a terrific wildlife rehabilitator in Lake Tahoe, he recovered and was released back to the wild. Unfortunately, within a few weeks he was back near the ski resort, the only place he'd known as home, looking for food from people. He was recaptured and would not be released again.

Heavenly needed a permanent home where he wouldn't be alone or afraid again. Southwest Wildlife is that home.

*We are delighted to support the work of SWCC - do visit their website to learn more about their work
<https://www.southwestwildlife.org/>*

Igasho



Photo courtesy of Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center

Iggy (Igasho) tucks into one of the stash of watermelons we sent, as part of our Summer Distribution of Funds.

Igasho was born a wild bear in California in 2009. His name means “wanderer” in Navajo.

It is not known what happened to his mother, but hikers noticed the young cub hanging around a trailhead and began feeding him. He was labeled a “nuisance” bear by the California Game and Fish Department because he had become habituated to people, and associated them with food – a formula for disaster. He was a baby trying to survive without his mother, and the only way he knew to stay alive was to seek out humans for food. If California couldn’t find a facility to take him, he would be destroyed. SWCC just couldn’t let that happen.

He was just a small, thin cub when he arrived from California in 2010. After a lot of food and great care, he’s grown from a shy, frightened baby to a healthy, happy young bear. He lives with two of the other young black bears, Griz and Tahoe.

Black bear Tahoe was born a wild bear in Northwestern Montana and orphaned when she was only a few months old. SWCC can’t know for certain what happened to her mother, but she was a tiny cub when she was found – only about 10 pounds. She was taken to a wildlife rehabilitation center, where she met another black bear cub named Griz. Tahoe was very shy, but Griz took her “under his wing” from the moment she arrived at the center. That wildlife rehabilitation center couldn’t care for the baby bears long term and began to search for a sanctuary home for the pair.

They found their forever home at Southwest Wildlife and made the long journey from Montana to their new home in Arizona together. It was quite a trip! When their caregivers stopped for the night in Lehi, Utah, and employees at the Albertson’s discovered there were bear cubs waiting in the parking lot for their breakfast, they donated fruit for their meal. Lots of people had to stop on their way into the grocery store to marvel at the tiny bears.

These days, Tahoe has come out of her shell. She’s grown into a beautiful dark bear who knows what she wants. Sometimes, what she wants is to be away from the two rambunctious male bears (Griz and Igasho) she lives with. They can be a real trial, but she’s not shy about letting them know when she’s had enough!

Tahoe



Photos courtesy of Southwest Wildlife Conservation Centre

Another new beneficiary!

In the Company of Wolves

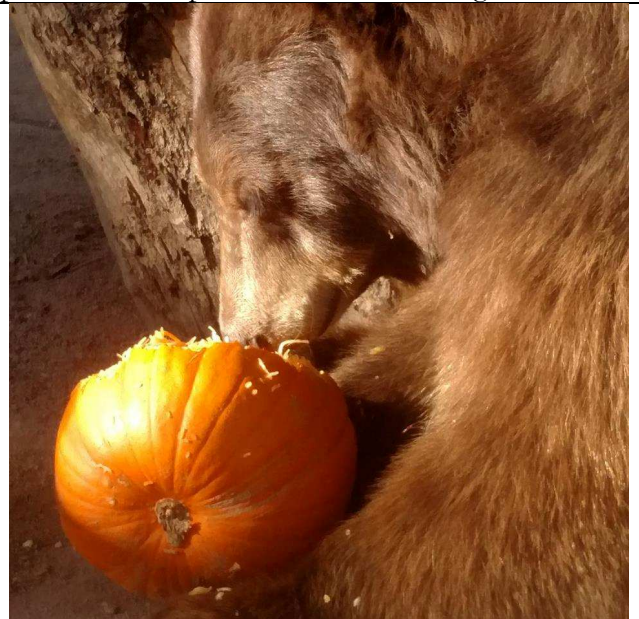
In the summer of 2018 we became aware of the story of Sammy - a resident at In The Company Of Wolves based in Hesperia, CA, USA. Sammy was originally known as Azusa before she arrived at ITCOW. The little cub was found all alone and very underweight, by a hiker (she was only around 5 lbs at the time). She basically just went right up to him and into his arms, so we are told.



One of her ears was partially missing and it was thought she could have been hit by a car that killed her mother and swiped her as well leaving her, a wee little cub all alone and defenceless in this big world. Little Azuza was taken to a local wildlife rehab center initially and then transferred to Lake Tahoe Wildlife Center.

After visits with the vet and careful observation, they knew she had some head trauma and was sight impaired too. She became a "special needs" cub and due to her permanent impairments would not be able to survive on her own and therefore could not be returned to the wild.

She was eventually transferred to ITCOW who had an unoccupied enclosure that was designed especially for a black bear. Little Azuza, now recognised as non-releasable, was welcomed into their sanctuary. Touched by Sammy's story, we sent £122 to buy Sammy her favourite hard ball toys and her special treats of peanut butter and oranges.



All photos courtesy of In the Company of Wolves

*We are delighted to support the work of ITCOW - do visit their website to learn more about their work
<http://www.inthecompanyofwolves.org/>*

Winter distribution of funds

As part of our Winter distribution of funds, we revisited some of the beneficiaries we haven't supported for a while and made another contribution to their ongoing work. These organisations were the BEAR League, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, Lions, Tigers and Bears and the Valhalla Wilderness Society.

The BEAR League

The BEAR League's mission is to teach the public about the true gentle nature of the black bear. The black bear is quite docile, with a natural instinct to flee rather than fight. With teams of trained aversion specialists all around Lake Tahoe, the BEAR League works with local Law Enforcement, Animal Control and Fish and Game Officers to keep bears out of places they do not belong and educates them as to where they do belong. The BEAR League teaches humans how to live in harmony with bears. As part of our Winter distribution we donated £104.



Photo courtesy of the BEAR League



Photo courtesy of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge

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 also rescue and care for bears. As part of our Winter distribution we donated £208 and these funds will assist with their care.

Lions, Tigers and Bears

The Lions Tigers & Bears rescue team travels tens of thousands of miles to save abused, neglected and abandoned exotic animals from around the country. They not only help save animals bound for their sanctuary, but also provide critical rescue, medical care and safe transport for hundreds of big cats, bears and other four-legged animals to new forever homes at reputable sanctuaries across the United States. Animals rescued by LT & B have been through unimaginable hardships, often left in small cages without proper nutrition or fresh air, and traveled thousands of miles for a second chance. There are currently 10 bears in their sanctuary - 6 black, 2 grizzlies and 2 himalayan black bears. and our donation went towards buying them their favourite nuts, dates and food and any enrichment items they felt the bears would like. As part of our Winter distribution we donated £212.



Photo courtesy of Lions, Tigers and Bears

Valhalla Wilderness Society



Photo courtesy of Wayne McCrory

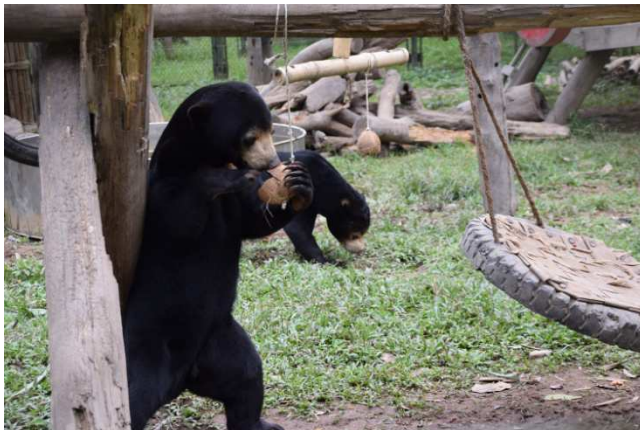
In the Winter of 2018 we were delighted to make another donation of £103 to the Valhalla Wilderness Society.

In 1987, the Valhalla Wilderness Society started working with First Nations on a science-based program to establish a large wildlife sanctuary where the rare spirit bear roams in British Columbia's coastal temperate rainforest. They also created an anti-poaching fund for illegal hunting of grizzly bears and white-phase Kermodes.

They have recently hired a new Bear Smart coordinator for the Slocan Valley, BC where they live and they will be using our funding towards her work in 2019.

Also as part of our Winter distribution of funds we couldn't possibly forget our traditional Christmas gift of a coconut to each Moon bear rescued from the horrific bear bile industry by Animals Asia and now safe and happy in their sanctuary at Tam Dao, Vietnam. We sent them £200 to buy a Christmas coconut for each of the bears and any extra treats they'd like! Here are some lovely photos from Animals Asia of the bears enjoying their presents.

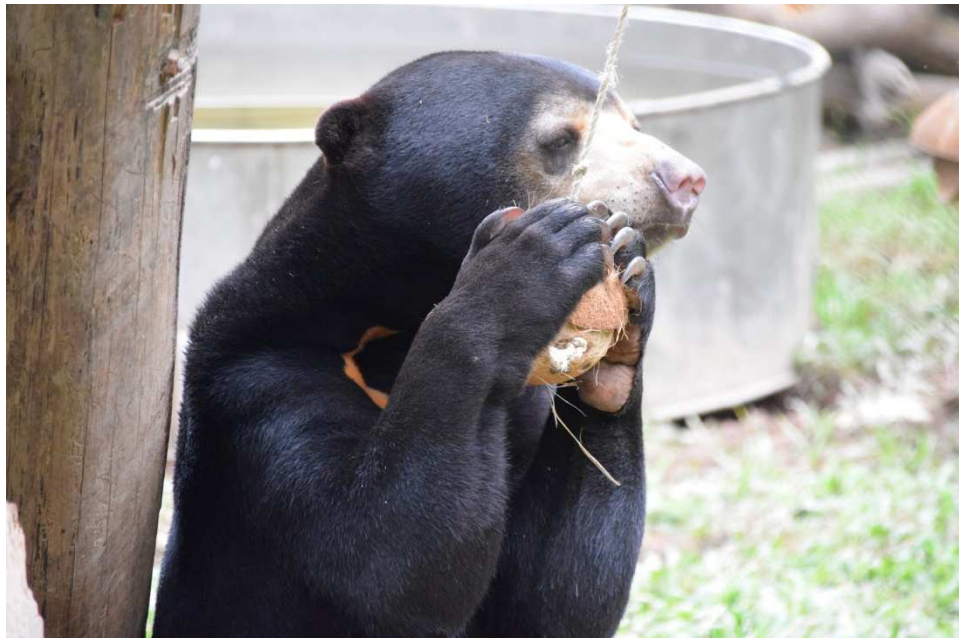
Goldie



Sassy



Goldie



As part of our ongoing educational work WBF sponsored the bear themed work of Fostering Compassion. Fostering Compassion began as part of WBF and is a humane education project for children in foster care and kinship care who may be struggling with compassion and empathy. Their workshops bring the children together with rescued animals helping them to see animals as sentient beings who can share similar emotions and feelings as them.

WBF sponsored Fostering Compassion's visit with the children to the Five Sisters Zoo in West Lothian, Scotland to meet the four bears - Carmen and Suzy their seniors at around 30 years old and the new youngsters Henk and Eso. The children learned how Carmen and Suzy (and Peggy the third bear who sadly passed away) were all held captive in a circus after being taken from their mothers as cubs. They learned how they were made to perform tricks to please an audience and were never allowed to hibernate. They heard how when the older bears came to their new home and were in a safe and secure environment where they were loved and cared for, they could be bears again, exhibiting natural bear behaviour including hibernating.



The children also got to meet siblings Henk and Eso who are approximately 3 years old and were recently rescued by the zoo. They were probably the victims of illegal poaching, and are thought to have been taken from the wild as cubs after their mother was shot. They were sold to the tourist trade, and ended up living in a small cramped cage at a roadside hotel & restaurant in Albania. They were being used to lure tourists into the restaurant. They were fed very little – only scraps from the restaurants kitchen and bits and pieces from passing tourists. Their food was not enough, and not suitable to their natural diets. Their only water came from rain puddles that collected in their cage.

Both bears were malnourished and extremely thin, weighing approximately 70kg when they arrived at the zoo. They are now fit and healthy and huge bears!



The children brought the bears lots of their favourite foods and of course - honey! Each child received a bear themed goody bag and a certificate.

Thank You!







Suzy Henk and Eso Carmen

*For helping look after us
We love you*

We want to give a big bear hug to
JOHN
For helping us feel happy again in our new home



This workshop is kindly sponsored by



To read more about the Winton Research Centre for the Welfare of Bears or Fostering Compassion visit...
www.wintonbearfoundation.org and www.fosteringcompassion.org



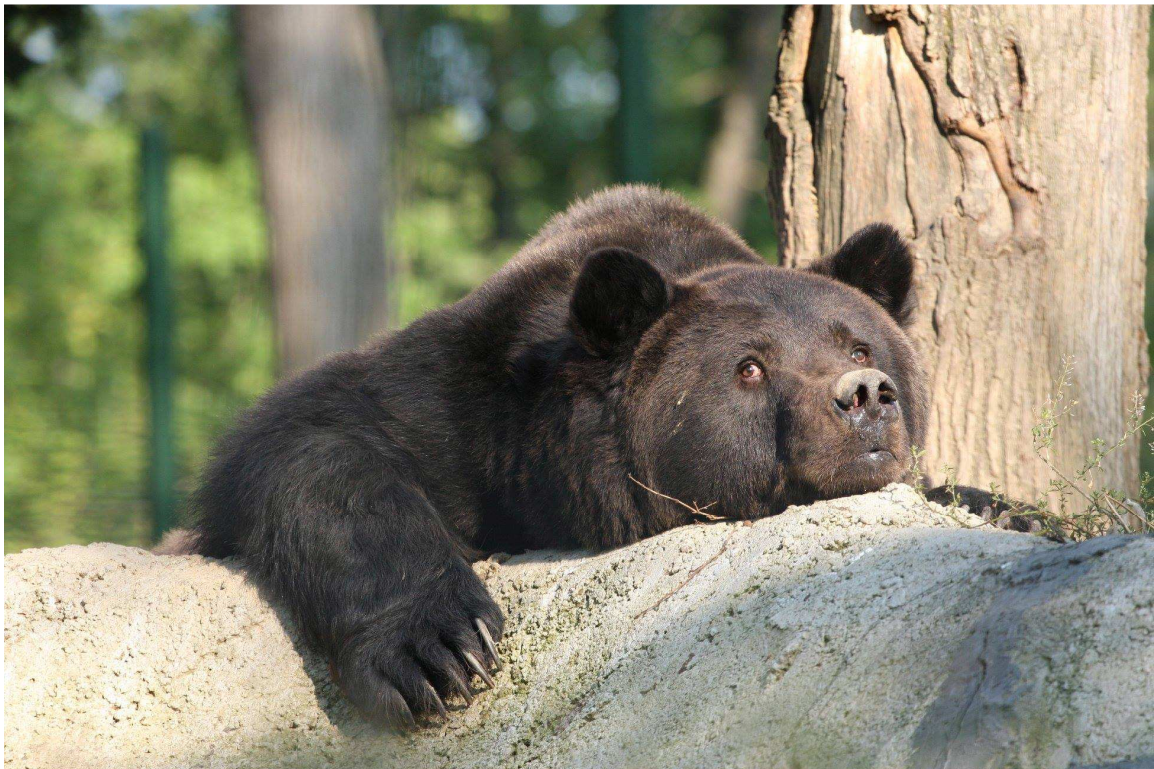


Our Little Orphanage!

Our little orphanage saw a few changes in 2018. We decided to 'adopt' a different species of bear from organisations that are currently beneficiaries. This way, this allows us to support their work and also raise awareness of each species of bear and the threats they face. To date we have six adoptees, Fluffy and Scruffy (Wildwood Trust), Bodo (Animals Asia), Monica (Liberty Sanctuary) Chitra (International Animal Rescue and Wildlife SOS at the Bannerghatta Bear Rescue Centre in India) and Montom (Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre). We will renew each of our adoptions on an annual basis, helping to raise awareness of the dreadful conditions many bears are enduring. The total donated to our adopted bears during the period of this newsletter was £397.

Unfortunately we had to say "Goodbye" to Kudat in 2018 as she is now only available for exclusive adoption, which, sadly, is way outside our financial resources. So instead, we are adopting Montom at Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre.

Very sadly we learned in July 2018 that the beautiful Max, at the Liberty Sanctuary in Romania, who we adopted in 2011, was starting to show the affects of the 10 years of maltreatment while in captivity, before his rescue suffering with severe osteoarthritis and possible spine problems. We sent funds to help pay for his treatment, but unfortunately despite all the effort, love and almost permanent medical care in the sanctuary he lost his battle for life shortly thereafter. He was a very special bear and he will be greatly missed.

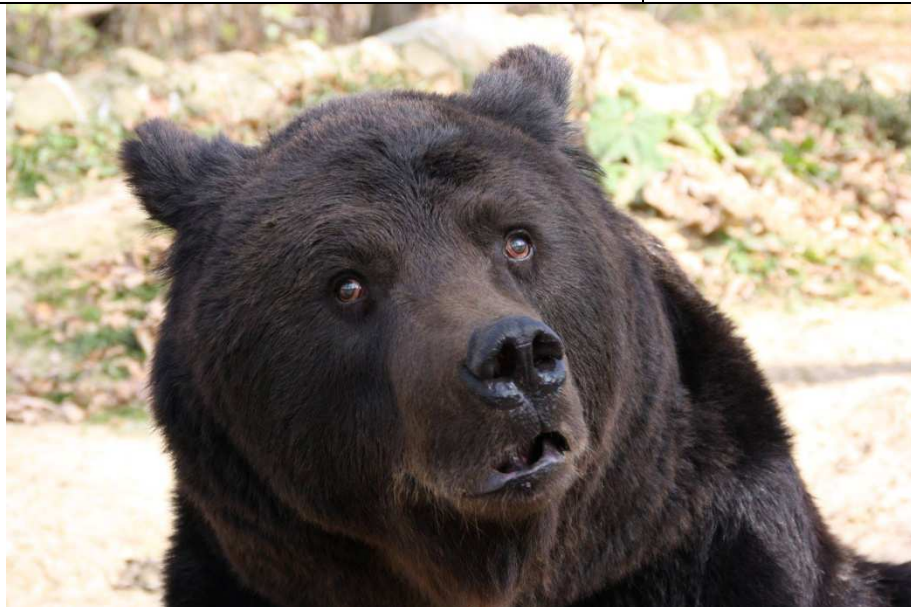


R.I.P Max

Tribute to Max

Max was taken from the forest as a cub in 1997. He was used as a tourist attraction in the town of Sinaia, just South of Brasov in central Transylvania. By night, he lived in a 4 metre square cage next to a small restaurant, and each day he was dragged by a rope around his neck to railings 10 metres away, where his owner would chain him to railings leading to the famous Peles Castle so tourists passing by would pay for a photograph next to the bear. This was his life, day after day – chained to the railings – all for souvenir snapshots.

Poor Max endured this miserable existence without sight, having been blinded - most probably from a blow to his head while he was a cub, which detached his retinas. During his “detention”, his canine teeth and claws were cut off, pepper spray was sprayed into his nose and he was drugged every day with tranquilizers dissolved in beer.



Thankfully, Max was rescued in 2006 and taken to the Liberty Sanctuary in Romania. A gentle giant of a bear, Max was released into a small area of the forest sanctuary in 2008. He used his other senses of smell and hearing to get around the enclosure. He lived a contented life in his own patch of forest, which had a water pool and a den and over an acre of trees and shrubs.

The Winton Bear Foundation adopted Max to help care for him for the rest of his life and help the amazingly hard working staff at the Liberty sanctuary in Romania and their efforts to rescue abused and exploited bears in their country.

All photos of Max courtesy of ampbeards

We will be continuing to support the amazing work this organisation does for bears and have transferred our adoption to now support Monica, Max's friend. Max was the only one Monica accepted as a friend and neighbour and he taught her about peace, friendship and selflessness.

All photos courtesy of ampbeards



From those who knew Max best and looked after him so well, we'll close this tribute with their words

“Farewell Max, we shall never forget your beautiful eyes that even though they could never see, they knew how to show us the most beautiful soul and sincere love!”



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.

Firstly - since Bears Matter Month is now officially underway, if you're not already aware of it, our raffle has begun and will run to 13th March 2019. This year we are raffling two great prizes to help raise funds in Bears Matter Month. The draw prize winners will be announced on 14th March, 2019, the last day of Bears Matter Month.

First prize will be a fabulous Teddy Bear - an 11" plush "Panda" bear by Charlie Bears. As a second prize, we have put together a Wildwood Trust gift pack - including a family entry ticket to the park.

Bears Matter Month Raffle
27th Feb to 13th March 2019

Anniversary Mia **Wildwood Trust Gift Pack**

Anniversary Mia

CHARLIE BEARS
"Bears With Personalities"
10th Anniversary Collection

Anniversary Mia
CB 151590
Exclusively Designed By:
Isabelle Lee
Copyright © 2018 Winton Foundation
Plush Toy
Product of China

To be included in the prize draw, please make a donation before the event closes at midnight on Wednesday 13th March. To make sure that costs are covered, we ask for a minimum donation of £5, which will give you 3 tickets...extra tickets are £2 each, or 3 for £5. Each ticket gives you one chance in the draw.

THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO BUY TICKETS:

If you are in the UK, please pay directly into our UK bank account otherwise via PayPal (for further details contact us at info@wintonbearfoundation.org or visit our website)

Thank you to Lesley Stevenson for donating beautiful Mia!

Whichever method you use, please use the reference 'Raffle' on your payment, or as a comment, then send an email to info@wintonbearfoundation.org with your name, address, telephone number and amount paid.

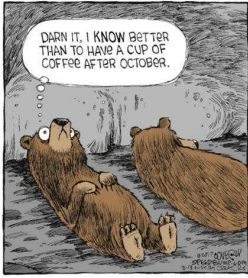
Thank you also to everyone who continues to donate to us and contribute regularly by direct debit. For other ways to help during Bears Matter Month and afterwards - keep an eye on our Facebook page or get in touch and we'll give you lots of ideas!

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

Telephone: +44-(0) 1875 614 899 or +44-(0)7904 733 137. **Please make any cheques payable to 'The Winton Foundation'**

We would like to thank Damian Walker a new WBF Supporter for raising funds for us. Despite being over 65 and having lost part of one lung to cancer, he flies, sails and cycles. He recently organised a number of group cycle rides to raise funds for WBF



RHYME TIME
IN THE COMPANY OF BEARS

BY DAMIAN WALKER

Not only does he cycle to raise funds for us, but he has also written a book of bear poetry, which he is selling for our benefit.

Rhyme Time - In the Company of Bears

Rhyme Time - In the Company of Bears by Damian Walker is available via e-Bay, and is being sold to raise funds for The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears:

eBook - online digital version at £4.68
www.ebay.co.uk/itm/113580666266

Paperback at £9.99 (+ £2.50 Standard UK Delivery or FREE Click and collect)
www.ebay.co.uk/itm/Poetry-Book/113580599549



We would also like to thank one of our supporters and keen bear lover who very kindly donated gorgeous Paddington Bear buttons which we are selling in batches of 10 for £5 (incl P & P). If you would like to buy any of the buttons please email lesley@wintonbearfoundation.org with your name and address and the quantity and design(s) you would like. This offer is only available within the UK. Anyone enquiring from the US can express their interest to us and we will refer you back to the donor who can deal with your order.

'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.

We hope you have enjoyed this update and we'd like to thank you very much for your ongoing support for our work.

Together, we will make the world a better place for bears.