

NEWSLETTER

BEARS MATTER

Issue 24, October/November 2023

'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 24 of Bears Matter! We are delighted to bring you news of our Summer/Autumn distribution of funds 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.

Our work is so important to ensure that bears around the world enjoy a life free of fear and pain. We hope you enjoy reading about the projects we have been supporting.

13 Years of WBF!

We recently celebrated our 13th birthday! The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears was founded on 10/10/10 and is now a teenager!

HAVE A BEARY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Scottish Bear Fair

On Sunday 5th November, Lesley, our founder and CEO, and Deirdre, one of our Trustees attended the Scottish Bear Fair in Troon, Ayrshire.

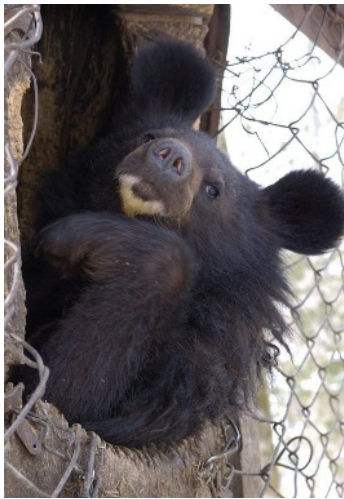
The organisers once again made us their chosen charity giving us space free of charge and the opportunity to raise our profile. It's a lovely annual event that we thoroughly enjoy doing and we meet lots of bear minded people!



Summer distribution of funds

Forgotten Animals - £250

Founded in 2011, they became the first international organisation to work in towns and regions of Russia. Forgotten Animals is a registered charity in both the UK and Russia and closely collaborates with other animal welfare organisations around the world in order to bring positive change and tackle the root causes of animal cruelty. In partnership with UTYOS, another of our beneficiaries, they are building a Bear Cub Rehabilitation and Reintroduction Programme to rescue, rehabilitate and release orphaned bear cubs back where they belong. Our donation will go towards this programme. (Photo: Forgotten Animals)

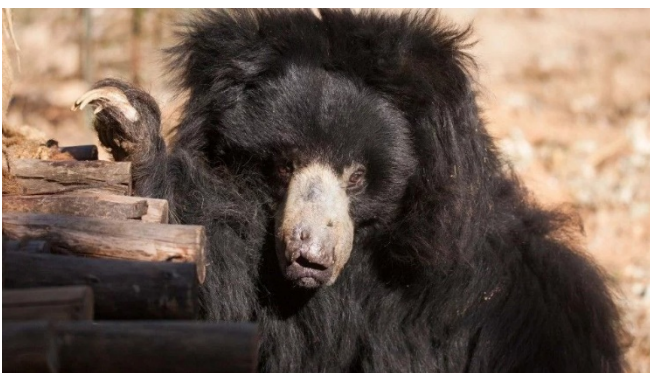


that this is true for the rescued sloth bears as well. Our adopted bear Chitra can often be stubborn, flatly refusing to cooperate. However, after her care team started positive reinforcement training with her - where the keeper rewards the bear with a favourite treat for a desirable action - Chitra has slowly become cooperative with her keeper. This intelligent girl now knows that if she chooses to listen to her keeper, she will get her favourite dates or honey! Chitra's transition from a scared, shy bear to a feisty, playful one has been a truly heart-warming journey to witness. This journey has been possible only because of the hard work of the team supporting her. We are delighted to renew our adoption of Chitra.

Adoption of Romolina – £60

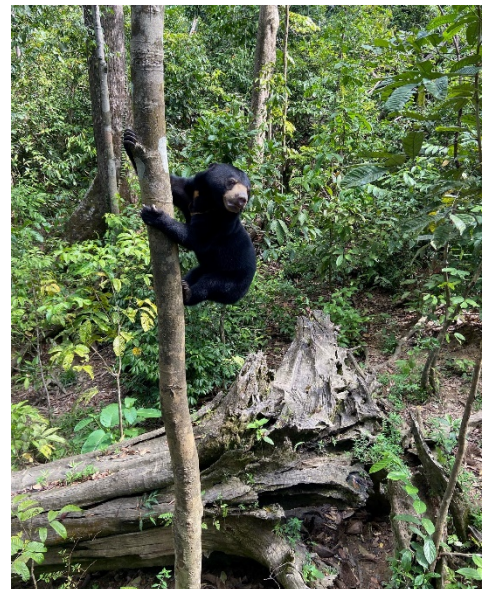
Romolina was rescued in July 2018, absolutely tiny, malnourished and very underweight. She had been confined to a small cage which had restricted her growth. Romolina is now safe, happy and free in the forest at BSBCC and is showing great enthusiasm for exploring! She currently lives with fellow bears Logan and Joe but prefers to be alone and leaves the male sun bears playing together. She is extremely active and a wonderful climber!

Adoption of Chitra – £60



(Photo: International Animal Rescue)

Chitra was forced into becoming a dancing bear by her Kalandar owners. She had been subjected to years of abuse and injustice. Neglected and made to starve for months at a stretch, she had lost all hope. She found hope again at the Bannerghatta Bear Rescue Sanctuary. It is a common saying that the way to a person's heart is through food, however, we believe



(Photo – Romolina - Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre)

MongoliAid - £250

The Gobi bear, known as the Mazaalai in Mongolian is a subspecies of the brown bear found in the Gobi Desert of Mongolia with a population of only around 30 - 40. MongoliAid commenced funding the Gobi bear supplemental feeding program within the eastern ranges of the Great Gobi Strictly Protected Area from April 2016 and in September 2017 completed a very successful expanded feeding program across the entire GGSPA, travelling from east to west. They have done annual food drops ever since and with your help, we have been delighted to be able to support them.

This year we are sending another donation of £250 (approx AU\$468) to help with this year's food drop.

We have just received some wonderful news from the GGSPA Park Administration via Barry Jiggins, President of MongoliAid that they have recent photos of two new cubs! Considering there are only 30-40 Gobi bears remaining, this is great news. We will bring you further updates as we receive them. Here are the photos of the cubs - one from the eastern range and one from the western range.



Cochrane Polar Bear Habitat - £350

We are very proud to be supporting the work of Cochrane Polar Bear Habitat one of our newest beneficiaries. They are based in Cochrane, Ontario and are the only facility in the world dedicated purely to the care of polar bears.



We first donated just over £200 to CPBH back in 2019 and we are very happy to be supporting them once again. The Cochrane Habitat was founded as an orphanage for polar bear cubs rescued from the wild and opened in 2004. It focuses exclusively on polar bears and has expert staff and state of the art facilities. It takes in bears which cannot be returned to the wild and it is the largest facility in the world dedicated to polar bears.



With your help we have donated £350 (CA\$605) in support of their education and welfare initiatives and have plans to provide further support later in the year.

CPBH is currently home to three male polar bears Ganuk, Henry and Inukshuk and with 24 acres of pristine, natural environment, they offer them a home as close to the wild as possible.

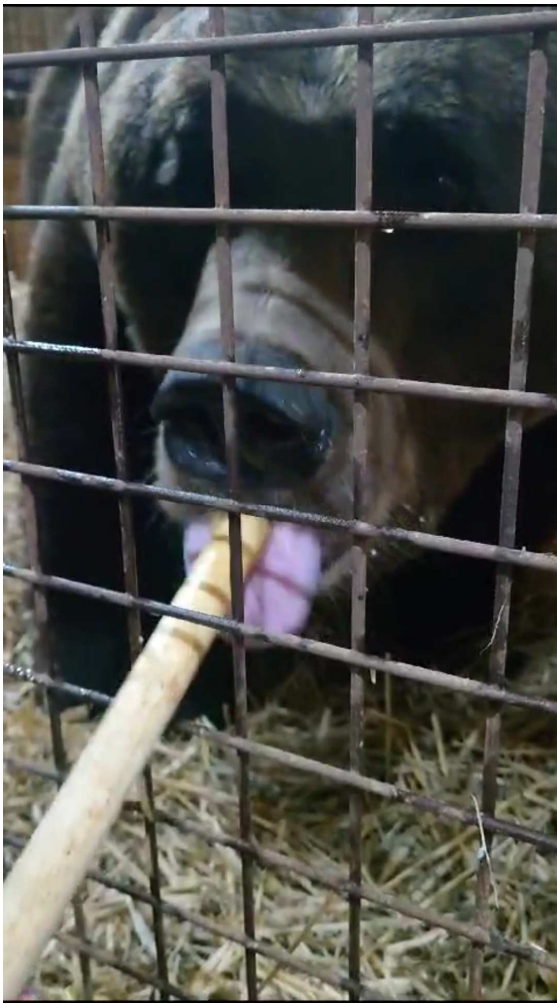
To read more about their work visit their website at <https://www.polarbearhabitat.ca/>



(photos courtesy of Cochrane Polar Bear Habitat.)

Hot off the Press!!

We have another bit of exciting news to share with you - hot off the press as we go to print! Littleover Apiaries Ltd is a longstanding supporter of the Winton Bear Foundation and at regular intervals donates very large bear size tubs of honey to us. They recently got in touch to let us know they had some more honey to fill some bear tummies and asked where we'd like the tubs to go. We asked if three could go to Fluff, Scruff and Boki in Wildwood Kent and if three could go to Mish, Lucy and new bear Diego at Wildwood in Devon. This they happily did and we look forward to bringing you some lovely photos of the bears enjoying their honey when they come out of torpor in the Spring.



We did however, get a gorgeous photo of new bear Diego enjoying his special treat as he is a new arrival at Wildwood in Devon and is just settling in.

Diego is a beautiful brown bear who would have been put to sleep if he hadn't been rescued by Wildwood and Jimmy's Farm & Wildlife Park. The imminent closure of Orsa Predator Park in Sweden recently hit the headlines. To make room for a leisure facility, the staff at Orsa were ordered to dispense of all animals & any that could not be removed were to be put to sleep. Diego was the last bear at the park and an urgent appeal was launched to save him. Diego has now found a new home at Wildwood in Kent and he was welcomed with big tub of honey from Littleover Apiaries.

Thank you Littleover Apiaries Ltd from some very happy bears with tummies full of honey!



TOPPING UP 'THE HONEY POT'



Each year the Foundation makes two distributions of funds to a selection of beneficiaries - one in Summer and one in Winter from what we affectionately call our 'Honey Pot'. We have donated thousands of pounds to date to over 40 organisations in 19 countries around the world. To read more about previous donations visit the 'Honey Pot' page of our website

https://www.wintonbearfoundation.org/foundation/honey-pot?fbclid=IwAR0A9ta_slA3FjIhg3eVwfXrU1pI72-BKfWDFyPipGYRXC9yIC3eu-ZWE6I



This is the free and easy way to raise funds for the foundation, simply by shopping online.

Join for free and raise funds when you shop at over 4,400 stores. Your purchase will automatically generate free funds!

How Give as you Live works:

- Sign up free and choose from 'The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears' as your charity.
 - Search for a store you want to shop with on Give as you Live - there are over 4,000!
- Click on the store logo - you will be directed to the store website, and your visit tracked by Give As You Live.
 - Make your purchase as normal.
- The retailer then pays Give as you Live commission for your purchase, which is converted into a donation to us!

If you already use Give As You Live - why not consider switching to us for a month? Every little helps.

So far supporters have helped us raise over £330, at no extra cost to them.

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/wintonbearfoundation>

Coffee for Bears

Could you spare us the cost of your cup of coffee? Each donation you make will make a big difference to bears around the world.



Thank you also to everyone who continues to donate to us and contribute regularly by direct debit.



The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears

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

We also have an active Facebook Page

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



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

HOW TO DONATE TO THE WINTON FOUNDATION FOR THE WELFARE OF BEARS

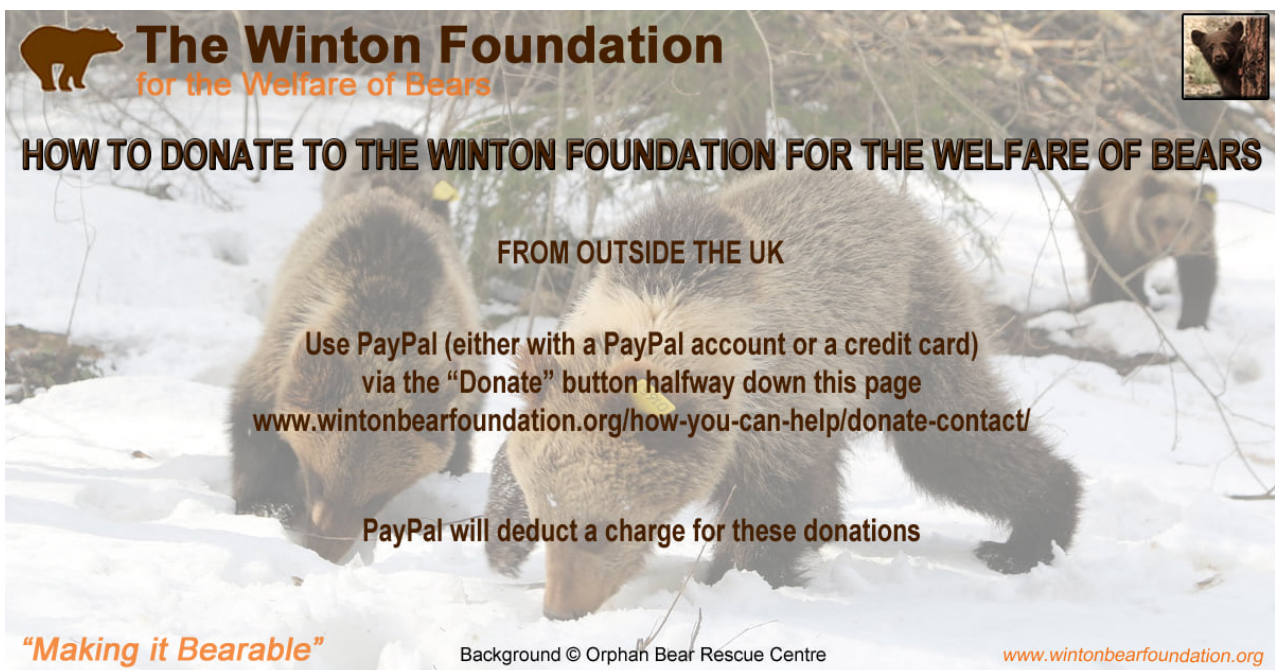
FROM THE UK - Please preserve the full value of your donation, by using one of these two methods:


Pay directly into our UK bank account:
Account Name: The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears
Account Number: 65526639 Sort Code: 08-92-99

Or login to your PayPal account www.paypal.com/signin/
and send to lesley@wintonbearfoundation.org
Be sure to select "Send Money to Friends and Family"

"Making it Bearable"

Background © Orphan Bear Rescue Centre www.wintonbearfoundation.org



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

HOW TO DONATE TO THE WINTON FOUNDATION FOR THE WELFARE OF BEARS

FROM OUTSIDE THE UK

Use PayPal (either with a PayPal account or a credit card)
via the "Donate" button halfway down this page
www.wintonbearfoundation.org/how-you-can-help/donate-contact/

PayPal will deduct a charge for these donations

"Making it Bearable"

Background © Orphan Bear Rescue Centre www.wintonbearfoundation.org

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