

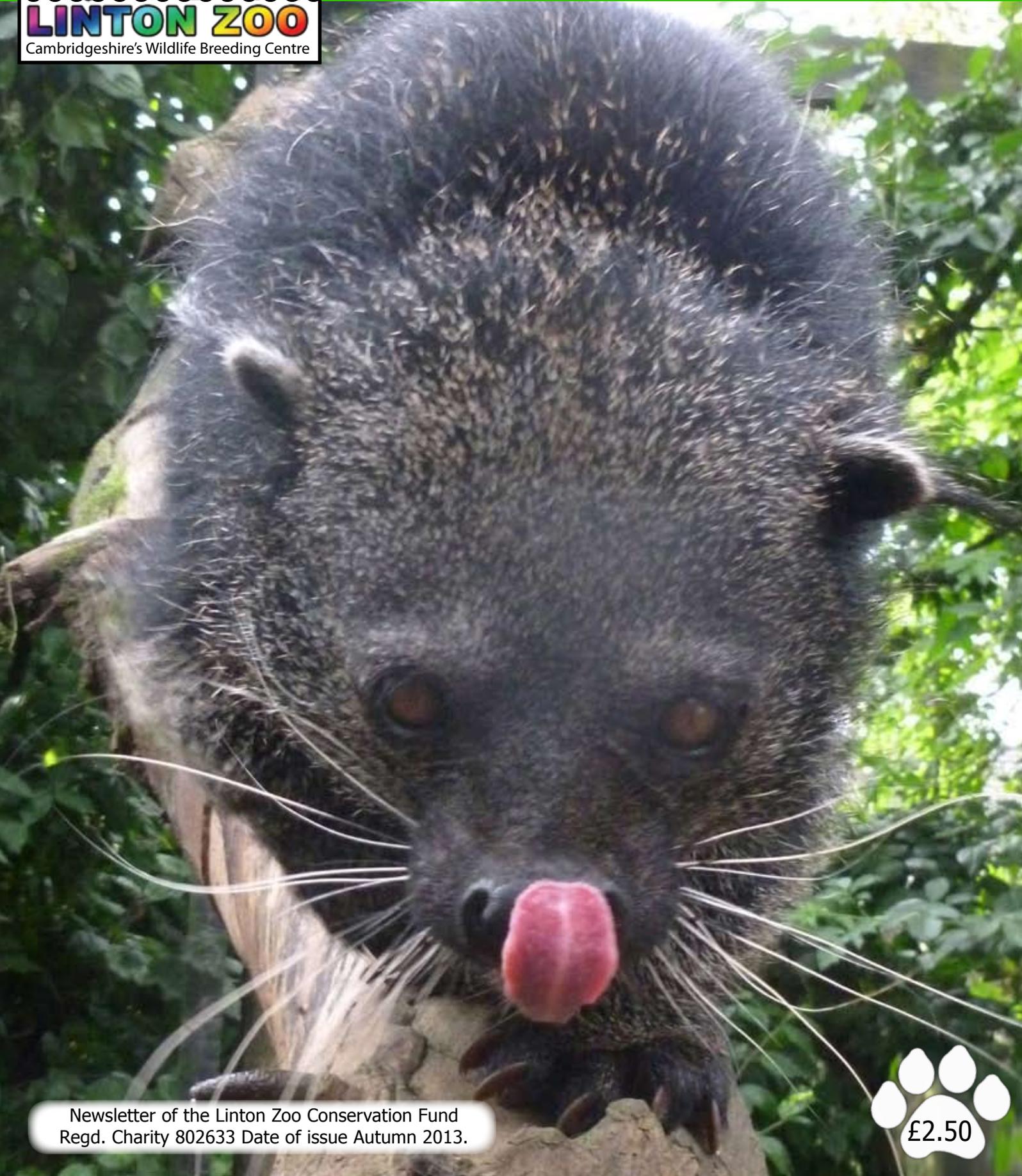


# ZOO

Issue 23

# NEWS

Linton Zoo, Hadstock Road, Linton, Cambridgeshire, England, CB21 4NT



Newsletter of the Linton Zoo Conservation Fund  
Regd. Charity 802633 Date of issue Autumn 2013.



# Linton Zoological Gardens

## Cambridgeshire's Wildlife Breeding Centre

**Linton Zoo has evolved out of our family's love, interest and concern for the wildlife of the world.**

IN JANUARY 1972 we moved from Bishop's Stortford, Herts, (where we had a thriving pet shop and zoo suppliers business) to Linton, where we could establish a centre for breeding wildlife. Our large private collection of exotic species and the stock left unsold at our shops when we moved formed the nucleus of our present day collection.

The ignorance and greed of our own human race has driven many species of wildlife to extinction, mainly through over-hunting and the destruction and alteration of natural habitats. We have always believed that the destruction of natural habitats will continue and the rate of extinction will increase until Man realises his error. Man is destroying the tropical forests at an alarming rate - an area the size of Costa Rica is lost every year. During the 'great dying' of the dinosaurs, the extinction rate was a possible one species per thousand years; today it is estimated at being one species per day, a shameful increase brought about by our own human race.

Unfortunately very few people realise or care what extinction really means - but we do!



*COLOURFUL GARDENS. Beautiful blossoms provide a stunning display. Summer bedding plants now replace the Spring blooms providing a riot of colour and scent for all to enjoy.*

It is obvious that our wonderful wildlife needs all the help it can get if it is to survive into the future. Captive breeding programmes for as many species as possible, including those not directly under threat at the present time, will ensure a safeguard against extinction. It has always been our aim to create a place where these threatened creatures could be brought to live safely and peacefully and where they could be happy and contented to breed. The site at Linton seemed to be the ideal place.

When we first moved here we were faced with a basic open field, ten and a half acres in size without the trees, shrubs, gardens and enclosures which you see today. We estimated that at least ten years' hard work was needed to transform the site into a successful breeding centre, so we began our endless project of landscaping, planting and building.

We now have a large collection of wildlife ranging from Mexican Red-Kneed Tarantulas and Snakes through to Giant Tortoises, Hornbills, Kookaburras, Parrots, Owls and Turacos, Binturong, beautiful Snow Leopards, magnificent Amur Tigers, African Lions, Hartmann's Mountain Zebra and Brazilian Tapir. Each year new species are brought in, many of them being part of an international captive breeding programme, so the collection is constantly on the increase.

From the very early stages we have achieved a good breeding record with some 'firsts' to our credit. The gardens now cover 18 acres and are maturing into a wonderful sight which many people now come especially to see. Thousands of bedding plants are put in every year and we have some interesting trees and shrubs which catch the eyes of even the non-botanically minded visitors!

The gardens are important to the animals who live here, helping to create a more natural environment; they also provide a home for many different native species who have discovered our zoo to be a safe place to live and breed.

During the summer, thousands of butterflies also visit the gardens, breeding on the wild plants which we leave especially for them. We expect that most of this probably goes unnoticed by the average visitor, but it is an added bonus for us, as it is wonderful and very rewarding to see so many different creatures moving in, to live and breed in the safety of the zoo.

*The Hartmann mountain zebra enjoy their beautiful Spring paddock*



*Don't miss out on all the latest news, stories and of course cute pictures. Just follow the links from our homepage at [www.lintonzoo.com](http://www.lintonzoo.com) and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.*

While at the zoo please remember it is our garden which we have devoted to the preservation of wildlife. It is the home of many creatures, some of which probably have young. Please respect it as such. We wish you a pleasant and enjoyable visit.

**The Simmons family**

**Cover picture of 'Billy' the Binturong, *Arctictis binturong* from S.E. Asia. Currently ranked as 'Vulnerable' in the wild.**

## INTRODUCING MARVINE...

Marvine (originally Marvin, but has since been feather sexed as female) is a white-cheeked turaco hatched here last year and hand-reared by keepers when she was abandoned by her parents. Turacos are an amazing group of birds from equatorial Africa. Marvine is housed in an aviary near the Sulcata giant tortoises. Next time you visit, please do stop by and give her some time, she is very inquisitive and gentle and is definitely a favourite for both keepers and visitors.



## OBOE GETS HER GUY(S!?)

Oboe is without a doubt one of the most popular animals at the zoo. In 1996 she was the first ever successfully bred southern ground hornbill in Europe and was hand-reared here by keepers.

Being hand-reared she is very used to being around people and often delights visitors by running round her aviary gathering up leaves and twigs to offer as presents. Southern ground hornbills live in groups of up to 8 individuals, although some females prefer a solitary life and will move away from the group to live on their own. Until recently, Oboe appeared to be one of these females, refusing any potential mate that was offered.

Then came Red and Beaky, two males from Colchester Zoo and Oboe took to the pair immediately, Red in particular. Now the grounds are filled with their synchronised calls, which sound like African drums, as the three birds flirt outrageously with each other.



*Male southern ground hornbills have a completely red throat, females like Oboe have a navy patch under the beak.*

## WELCOMING THIAGO

Earlier this year we welcomed Thiago, a three year old male Brazilian tapir born at Paradise Wildlife Park, to join our three year old female Tiana. Tiana was the last female born to our old pair Tanya and Shannon who successfully raised 12 calves in their years with us.



*Tiana and Thiago, our three year old Brazilian tapirs.*

The decline of tapir populations in the wild is indicative of the general health of their ecosystem and their disappearance from their home ranges often marks a point of no return for the natural environment. International Zoo captive breeding programmes provide a safety net for this wonderful species ensuring that, should it be necessary, there are healthy populations for release to safe and managed areas. Zoos also provide an excellent opportunity to get close to and learn much more about these extraordinary, prehistoric looking creatures.

## THE REAL LIFE GRUFFALOWS

In August we were joined by a young female binturong from the zoological gardens in Paris. This large mammal from the forests of south-east Asia just has to be the original Gruffalow! Binturong are rarely seen in captivity but have had a long association with Linton as they have been kept here since the early 1970's. Not much is known about their lives in the wild.



# THERE ONCE WAS AN UGLY JOEY.....

Due to the initial very strange appearance of this rare and unusual albino red-necked joey, keepers affectionately nicknamed it ALF (alien life form). However we are sure you will agree that it must be the wallaby version of the ugly duckling story, as the once quite unappealing joey has grown into the most beautiful young wallaby!

This is the first time an albino wallaby has been born at Linton Zoo and the exciting new arrival was a total surprise for keepers when the little one popped its head out of the pouch for the first time on Friday 8th February 2013.

Albino animals (including humans) lack pigment for colouring, which means our little joey has pink eyes and white fur. Red-necked wallabies are usually grey-brown in colour, just like her parents Kylie and Jason but, on rare occasions, a white or albino is born, even after generations of 'normal' coloured individuals. In the wild, being albino would make you more susceptible to predation and also hypersensitive to the sun, lucky this little one lives with us at Linton so none of these are issues for her!



## LOOK WHO'S OUT OF THE POUCH!

Although the red-necked wallabies have been taking the spotlight in the kangaroo and wallaby paddock over the last few months with their rare albino joey, our adult female red kangaroo certainly hasn't been taking it easy. Matilda's been raising this gorgeous little joey, who's now fully out of the pouch, pictured here with mum 'Tilly' and big brother Sean (right), who was born last year.



## WHAT'S A BABY PORCUPINE CALLED?

On 20th May 2013 our porcupines doubled their numbers! It seems like only yesterday we were announcing the birth of an African crested porcupine, but with the newly named baby Hasa not even 6 months old, mum Halla gave birth to a trio of prickly little porcupettes. Dad Henry, mum Halla and even older sibling Hasa have all been fantastic with the bristly little babies, who were making their own way outside before they were even one month old!

Visit our YouTube channel  
(via our website)  
to see cute video clips of  
our youngsters!

## EXCITING LEMUR BIRTH

It's a boy! Our latest white-collared lemur was born on Tuesday 12th March 2013 to mum Harriet and dad Jeepster.

There are only 14 white-collared lemurs in Europe and Linton Zoo is the only place they can be seen in the U.K. The white-collared lemur has recently been upgraded to **Critically Endangered**, so every single birth is incredibly important to help safeguard the future of this very special lemur.

At Linton we manage the European breeding programmes for two Critically Endangered species of lemur, the white-collared lemur and the mongoose lemur.



## SULCATA HATCHLINGS

Our giant sulcata tortoises have done us proud again this year, Kali laid 26 eggs on the 5th March and Zina laid 21 eggs on the 6th March.

As the ground is too cold for natural incubation we have to dig up the eggs and place them in containers labelled with the lay date, before placing them in an incubator set at 30 degrees centigrade. Just 3 months later both clutches of eggs started to hatch. This hatchling's (right) first few steps were caught on camera on 6th July 2013. We wonder what's in store for this little fellow over the next 150 years!



## OUR LITTLE STARS

We're delighted with our 6 little Indian star tortoises which hatched earlier this year. The Indian star tortoise is a species highly prized by collectors and the parents themselves were Customs Seizures and came to us as babies. They first bred successfully in 2009 and it's great that the two youngsters which hatched then, now have 6 little brothers and sisters.



## OWLETS

Hedwig and Oscar our snowy owl pair have raised yet another brood of youngsters. Snowy owls (left) are very terrestrial, due to the lack of trees in the Arctic tundra and so nest on the ground. The youngsters, which sleep face down, often cause concern when visitors think they have fallen out of the nest.

Our younger pair of great grey owls have really had their wings full this breeding season successfully hatching 4 youngsters. Out of the nest box within a couple of weeks the 4 little bundles of fluff gave even the most professional photographers an impossible challenge, trying to get a photo of all four sitting together!



## STRIATED CARACARA aka Johnny Rook



Dodger, our charismatic striated caracara, was banned from our free flying bird sessions after helping himself to one too many things from ladies handbags! He has now moved into one of our on show aviaries and been introduced to a gorgeous young female named Eris.

## SACRED IBIS

The two pairs of sacred ibis have successfully raised more chicks this year. Not the prettiest of babies, these youngsters will quickly grow into beautiful adults. It's easy to see from the adults why the ancient Egyptians thought them worthy of worship!





# LION GUARDIANS CONSERVATION PROJECTS

The Lion Guardians approach involves recruiting young non-literate Maasai warriors to become actively engaged in protecting lions, rather than killing them. The Lion Guardians programme becomes a life-changing experience for these young Maasai, who have had no formal education. Taught to read, write and communicate in Swahili they are then trained in wildlife management and conflict mitigation techniques. The Lion Guardians monitor lion movements, warn pastoralists when lions are in the area, recover lost livestock, reinforce protective fencing and intervene to stop lion hunting parties in progress.

**Linton Zoo proudly sponsors "Mingati Makarot" from the Mbirikani Group Ranch, paying his salary for an entire year. Mingati is a past lion killer, but has completely converted to being one of their ardent protectors.**



*ABOVE: Young male lion, Lormeut, lies dead after being killed by spear in an area outside of the LG project's jurisdiction. Over 30 spear wounds riddle his body. He managed to injure 3 warriors in his last moments before dying. The Maasai warriors retaliated after Lormeut had killed livestock in a boma (homestead). A non-Maasai tribe took parts of his body to eat, like the heart, kidney and fat which lay on the forehead and neck. They also took his tail, claws and teeth.*

**Lion numbers are crashing at an alarming rate, some experts believe they could become extinct in the wild within 10 years.**

We are able to support the Lion Guardians thanks to donations from you, our visitors, during our keeper talks, animal encounters, big cat meet and feed sessions and other fund raising activities.

*RIGHT: Guardian Sitonik mourns the poisoning of lioness Nosioki. She was the favourite lion of Sitonik and to many of the Guardians who monitored her. On this day, Nosioki and her two cubs had stumbled across seven dead sheep which had been killed by hyenas. They scavenged the carcasses which had been laced with poison by the angry livestock owners. Moments later they were dying, along with other scavengers including eagles. Miraculously, one of the two cubs managed to avoid eating any of the poison and escaped the incident unharmed.*



**We will soon begin sponsorship of a second lion guardian, more information on our website [www.lintonzoo.com](http://www.lintonzoo.com)**

## YUPUKARI RIVER TURTLE CONSERVATION PROJECT

Together with Exmoor Zoo we have adopted our own special turtle conservation and education project in Guyana. To celebrate World Turtle Day on 23rd May 2013 we announced a new conservation partnership and pledged long term financial support to fund the "Yupukari River Turtle Conservation Project".



*School children explain to retired British school teacher Jan Blossom all about the yellow spotted river turtles, currently being reared in a nursery pool in Yupukari, November 2012.*

This is an exciting programme which was initiated by the local people themselves and involves the entire village. We know our support and expertise will have a positive impact on not just the turtles, but many of the regions other native species too.

With so many turtles and tortoises being driven to extinction worldwide, this is a fantastic venture which aims to increase the numbers of river turtles in their natural habitat.



*A total of 13 local men, women, and children participated in the first day of this season's turtle nesting surveys.*

Through egg harvesting and the construction of ponds and artificial nesting areas, this programme will provide a safe environment for the hatchlings to grow in for the 12 month period the "Head-Start turtles" need before being released back into the wild.

*RIGHT: Two of the projects baby yellow-spotted river turtles *Podocnemis unifilis*.*



# WE SUPPORT

# OUR WORK IN MADAGASCAR

Our 'Mad for Madagascar' evening on 9th March 2013 was a great success and we would like to thank everyone for the support given. Our very special guests from Madagascar; Josia Razafindramanana, Coordinator of the conservation project for Crowned Sifaka, GERP (translates as the Madagascar Primate Research Group) and Eric Robsomanitrondrasana from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, were joined by about 30 zoo supporters and lemur fanatics, including our local MEP Vicky Ford.



Local MEP Vicky Ford and zoo fanatics meeting the red ruffed lemurs

Our guests enjoyed an evening full on with our lemurs and had the opportunity to hear more about conservation work being done in Madagascar, which is helped by funding from money raised here. It was also a chance for us to show Eric and Josia how important their country and the wildlife in it are to everyone and how we believe it is worth saving.

As part of our commitment to saving Madagascar we are producing an educational comic book for Malagasy school children featuring native Malagasy wildlife in trouble. It is written in English, French and Malagasy to ensure that not only all children benefit, but it can also be used as a language tool too.

We are also supplying field research equipment including camera traps and weather stations for teams working out in Madagascar. The information collected from this equipment will be fed back to the European zoos breeding lemurs to help them manage their lemur environments and captive programmes more effectively.

**There are many other projects we also support, please visit the conservation page on our website for more information.**

**Much of our work at the zoo is to support field conservation projects to help keep wildlife where it so rightfully belongs in the wild!**

## HOW WE RAISE THE MONEY?



**NEW FOR 2013**

### VIP TORTOISE TOURS\*

Get up close and personal with our awesome giants and then go behind the scenes, learn how we care for our tortoise groups, including how we incubate the eggs, then meet some of the latest hatchlings!

Pre-booking VIP tours is recommended, please contact the zoo office on 01223 891308 or email [lintonzoo@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lintonzoo@hotmail.co.uk)

\*Additional charges apply

### VIP BEHIND THE SCENES LEMUR TOURS\*

Come face to face with these charismatic creatures whilst learning about the important education and conservation work we are doing both here and in Madagascar.

### SPONSORING YOUR FAVOURITE ANIMAL IS EASY!

Collect a sponsorship form from the gate or visit the website [www.lintonzoo.com](http://www.lintonzoo.com) (Prices start at just £25 per year). Sponsorships make excellent eco-gifts and our gift packs can often be prepared at quite short notice too. Unlimited admission for one year can be purchased at a discount price, when taken in conjunction with a sponsorship.

### JUST SOME GOOD OLD FASHIONED TIN RATTLING!

You will find our keepers and volunteers passionately rattling charity boxes collecting your odd coins for good causes. The keepers even have a competition going as to who can raise the most money for their favourite conservation cause!



# VISITOR PHOTOGRAPHS AND ANIMAL INFORMATION

Martyn Garvey



## AMUR TIGRESS

### *Panthera tigris altaica*

The Amur, or Siberian tiger is the largest of the five remaining sub-species of tiger. It's thick coat is perfect for living in the cold forests of the Russian far-east. It is generally a solitary cat and each individual will have its own territory.

Julie Rivers



## TURKMENIAN EAGLE OWL

### *Bubo bubo turcomanus*

Now believed to be extinct in the wild. As of August 2013 there are only 23 individuals in zoos across Europe, 7 of these have hatched at Linton since 2011!

Helen Rivers



## RED RUFFED LEMUR

### *Varecia rubra*

In 2013 the red ruffed lemur was listed as one of the top 25 rarest primates in the world!

Ruffed lemurs are the only primates with litters of young, the female may give birth to up to six babies, which are deposited in a nest, not carried around like other species!

Amy Hewstone



## LEOPARD GECKO

### *Eublepharis macularius*

The leopard gecko (*Eublepharis macularius*) is a nocturnal ground-dwelling lizard naturally found in the deserts of Asia and throughout Pakistan, to the northwestern parts of India. Unlike most geckos, leopard geckos possess movable eyelids.

## HARTMANN'S MOUNTAIN ZEBRA

### *Equus zebra hartmannae*

Listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List, the total population is currently estimated at around 8,300 mature individuals. It is thought the species will be subject to a decline exceeding 10% over the course of the coming 27 years, largely driven by annual harvesting of the wild population.

Darren Plested



Robert Smith



## SOUTHERN GROUND HORNBILL

### *Bucorvus leadbeateri*

Hornbills are known for 'walling up their mate' when incubating eggs, leaving just a small hole for food to be dropped through to the female. Ground hornbills are the only hornbill species not to do this. They are also thought to be the only adult bird that plays.

**Darren  
Plested**



**RUPPELL'S GRIFFON VULTURE**  
*Gyps rueppellii*

Using thermal currents, Ruppell's can reach great heights, 20,000ft (6,000m) is not uncommon, and on one exceptional occasion, a commercial aircraft collided with a Ruppell's vulture at the astonishing altitude of 37,000ft (11,300m) - the current record for avian height.

**AFRICAN LION**  
*Panthera leo*

The lion is the tallest (at the shoulder) of all the felines but even a fully grown male, which can weigh over 250kg, doesn't weigh as much as an adult male tiger, which can weigh up to 300kg!

Lions are the only members of the cat family to display obvious sexual dimorphism - that is, males and females look distinctly different.

**Stephen  
Flack**



**Lucy  
Rivers**



**BARN OWL**  
*Tyto alba*

The barn owls' ability to locate prey by sound alone is thought to be the best of any animal that has ever been tested. It can catch mice in complete darkness, even when they are hidden by vegetation or heavy snow.

**GREAT GREY OWL**  
*Strix nebulosa*

Great grey owls have the largest "facial disc" of any raptor. However, much of its main body size is deceptive, since this species' fluffy feathers, long tail and large head obscure a body lighter than that of most other large owls.

**BLUE TONGUED SKINK**  
*Tiliqua nigrolutea*

As suggested by its name it has a large blue tongue, that can be bared as a bluff-warning to potential enemies. Despite trying to give predators that impression, the lizard is not venomous at all.



**Ellis Hall**

**AMUR TIGRESS**  
*Panthera tigris altaica*

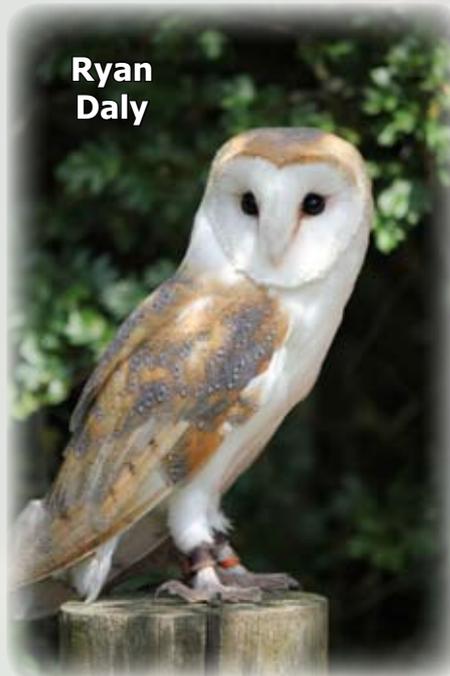
Like all tigers, the Amur tiger is endangered. The dual threats of illegal poaching and habitat destruction have brought this species to the brink of extinction, by the 1930's there were less than 30 of this sub-species left in the wild.

Today there are no more than 400 individuals in the wild, and fewer than 250 successfully breeding adults - still a dangerously low number!

**Stephen  
Flack**



Visit our website to find out what we are doing to help protect tigers in the wild.  
[www.lintonzoo.com](http://www.lintonzoo.com)



**Ryan  
Daly**

# FOR THOSE WHO WANT SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST A ZOO VISIT

## ZOO KEEPERS' LITTLE HELPER

For ages 5-8

You can book in advance a Keeper Experience package.

A unique way of getting much closer to some of your favourite zoo animals.

## ZOO KEEPER EXPERIENCE

For Adults & Children age 8+

### ALL EXPERIENCES INCLUDE:

- All day entry to the zoo,
- Certificate of participation,
- Animal sponsorship for 1 year,
- Donation to wild animal conservation projects.

An ideal gift for Birthdays, Christmas & other special occasions.

## MEET, FEED AND SPONSOR A BIG CAT

age 18+

## CORPORATE EXPERIENCES

## BIG CAT & LARGE MAMMAL EXPERIENCE

age 18+

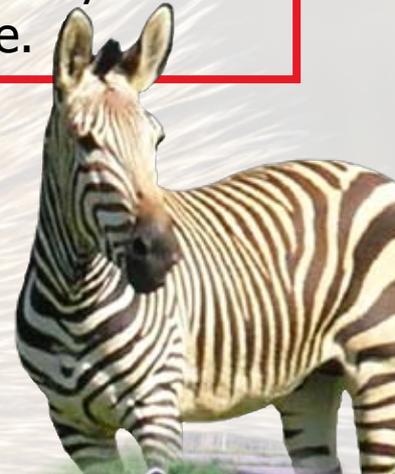
# KEEPER TALKS AND ACTIVITIES

A selection of some of these exciting keeper talks and activities are planned for the weekends and school holidays. The daily programme is displayed near the entrance.

## Zebra morning snack and keeper talk

See our Hartmann's mountain zebra enjoy their morning feed and hear all about our herd.

**At the Zebra paddock \***



## Kangaroo/wallaby feed and keeper talk

Find out all about the kangaroos, wallabies and other marsupials as the red kangaroo and red necked wallabies have their lunch.

**At the kangaroo/wallaby paddock\***



## Tapir feed and keeper talk

A chance to find out more about these large rainforest creatures when our Brazilian tapir family have their lunch.

**At the Tapir paddock\***



## Animal encounters

Meet the keepers with some of the little zoo animals which may include geckos, blue-tongued skink, bearded dragons, owls, giant snails, guinea pigs, snakes and stick insects.

Venue varies, check the information board at the entrance. \*



## Lion Talk

Hear all about our lions here at the zoo and learn what we are doing to help save these magnificent creatures in the wild.

**At the top lion enclosure near the tiger viewing area\***



## Owl encounter

Come face to face with some of our owls, a fantastic opportunity to get really close and find out about the folk laws surrounding these magical creatures.

**At the owl aviaries\***



\* We reserve the right to cancel or alter any of the advertised programme. If you are visiting to specifically attend any of our scheduled talks please check before you visit to confirm that the activity you wish to attend will still be taking place. Many of the talks are weather-permitting and times may vary.

**Telephone: 01223 891308 [www.lintonzoo.com](http://www.lintonzoo.com)**

# DIFFERENT WAYS YOU CAN HELP US...

## WE NEED YOUR STAMPS

Over £800 has been raised by the sale of stamps visitors have collected and donated, so please persuade your friends and colleagues to collect stamps for our wildlife appeal. Any stamps can be dropped at the main zoo gate next time you visit.



Our **RECYCLING ENVELOPES** for ink cartridges, mobile phone etc, are flying out of the zoo. In just the first 6 months we raised £237.75 from items returned in our recycling envelopes by you. Collect your envelopes from the gatehouse.

*Left: A small selection of the items that can be recycled.*

**easyfundraising**  
.org.uk

## RAISE MONEY BY SHOPPING

and it doesn't cost you a penny! Register with Easyfundraising when doing your shopping online - it's completely free and we'll receive a donation of up to 15% from every purchase you make! Plus you get loads of fantastic discounts from hundreds of High Street stores - everyone wins!

## RAISE MONEY EVERY TIME YOU SEARCH ONLINE

**easysearch**  
.org.uk

powered by  
bing  
YAHOO!

Just by simply changing your search engine to [easysearch.org.uk](http://easysearch.org.uk) and registering for Linton Zoo Conservation Fund, you can raise money by us every time you search the web!

## CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING DAYS



On Wednesday July 17th the HR department of the Red Gate Software company in Cambridge came to us for a corporate volunteering day. Looking like the land army girls there was just time for a quick group photo before we put them to work! Despite being one of the hottest days of the year, the girls worked away like troopers, throwing themselves in to even the muckiest of tasks - a world away from their usual daily routine!

Sweeping the zebra yard is not always a job much sought after, but with a broom in their hands and smiles on their faces, the group attacked the yard with relish and soon had the zebra manure bagged up and ready to be put out for visitors who wish to use it for their gardens. For a small donation these bags can be found near the gatehouse, money raised goes towards the various conservation projects we support.



It's not just the animals here that need continuous attention. Play areas, picnic tables, benches, hand rails and even the dinosaurs need regular cleaning and maintaining to keep everything in order for the day to day running of the zoo.

For more information on how your company can hold a volunteering day at the zoo please contact the zoo office on 01223 891308 or email [lintonzoo@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lintonzoo@hotmail.co.uk)

# How to get the best out of your visit to us!

This zoo is primarily a breeding centre for endangered species, not an entertainment centre. A lot of time and expense goes into designing and building the animals enclosures in the most effective way to give the animals what they need. Gone are the days when zoo animals were kept in sterile conditions, without foliage, enrichment tools or hiding places.

It is a lot of work and sometimes quite difficult to achieve a balance which enables a quick, easy and clear view of the animals, yet still allows for the privacy which we all agree captive animals should have. A quick first glance at some of our enclosures may give you the impression that they are overgrown, especially in Spring and Summer. Habitats are landscaped and planted to best accommodate the specific needs of each species.

Some animals are quite shy and so need lots of plant life to give them enough cover to make them feel secure, like the Critically Endangered cotton-top tamarins. Others, like the owls, need plenty of branches and trees to perch in. Flying uses up a lot of energy and is only done out of necessity, not enjoyment.



*Our top lion enclosure has won two BIAZA awards, most recently for best landscaped enclosure in a small zoo.*

Another problem we have to consider, and this is not something that is generally appreciated by our visitors, is that in some cases gardening cannot be done because animals have babies or are nesting and cannot be disturbed in any way what so ever.

This does mean that you may have to spend a bit of time looking for the animals, but when you do see them you will see much more relaxed and natural behaviour than if the enclosures were empty and bare.

**We do not shut any animal in or out, so we recommend you to go round at least a couple of times, as you will see something different each time as the animals move around within their enclosure.**



*The cotton-top tamarin is one of the top 25 rarest primates in the world and lives in dense rainforest.*

The gardens are also a continuous project, young seedlings are dug up and given to local schools to encourage them to plant their own native wildlife retreat. Watering in the summer, cutting down dangerous branches and controlling new growth:- keeping the careful balance between a haven for native species and a nicely groomed garden environment is hard work for a horticulturist.



**So, to get the best from your visit here, walk quietly and slowly around at least a couple of times. Take your time at each enclosure and your patience will be rewarded! You'll be surprised how much our animals enjoy watching you too and you never know what you may miss if you rush past with just a quick glance!**

# WISE UP!!! EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL VISITS

**No one can deny the enormous value of practical sessions or hands-on teaching and that learning is generally much more fun outside of the classroom!** Knowledge is more easily retained when taught in this way and where better to have lessons than the stimulating, yet tranquil, environment of the zoo. Children have the opportunity of seeing, smelling, hearing and even touching real live animals, bringing to life various National Curriculum lessons.



*Katie, Sam and Ben examine a customs seizure elephant tusk with class teacher Sandra Bottomley from Thurlow C of E VCP School.*

*"The children all had a fantastic time, asking lots of questions and sharing their existing knowledge with the keepers."  
Sandra Bottomley, class teacher.*



*Miku and Finn from Babraham Primary School meet Ronnie and Reggie the Turkmenian eagle owl twins with keeper Jack Williams.*

School children have been thrilled to see and touch some exciting creatures from around the world such as Percy the royal python, Boris the bearded dragon, Turkmenian eagle owls, Mr Dot the blue tongued skink and a couple of more familiar guinea pigs. The children were also able to inspect and examine some customs seizure endangered animal skins and other animal derivatives.

## TRIBUTE TO OUR DEAR OLD ARNIE CAT

On the morning of Wednesday 9th January, after completing his staff greetings and doing his usual morning rounds to see his zoo friends, purring all the way, Arnie our Ginger Tom returned home for a spot of breakfast and then snuggled up on his bed and went to sleep. There he passed away peacefully.

Arnie came to live with us in 2000 as a stray who made an immediate impression on all of us. Arnie had the most wonderful character, he quickly settled in with our two other zoo cats and was definitely here to stay. We believed he was a young adult at the time of his arrival. Over the last year or so, Arnie had developed arthritis in his back legs along with other age related problems, for which he was receiving appropriate medical support.

He became very well known as the baby sitter of abandoned new born animals brought into the house for hand rearing (he would occasionally find his own baby rabbit or moorhen chick and bring it home for us too), his favourite was of



*Arnie teaching a 10 week old African lion cub 'Safina' some very bad habits indeed!*

course lion cubs! Arnie made international news as he had baby sat all four of our adult lions when they were cubs and some of their offspring too. The last cub he helped out with was Zara, first born of Zuri and Safina, spanning across three generations of our lion family. Zara now live in a Ugandan wildlife reserve.

*A cat with an outstanding personality, Arnie was without a doubt a most extraordinary cat who had an extraordinary life, he will be missed by not only the people who knew and loved him, but by his many animal friends around the zoo too.*

*Thank you for choosing to come and visit Linton Zoo, we hope you've enjoyed your time with us and we are very grateful for your support.*

Despite popular belief, we don't receive any government funding or local authority assistance and the entire place and all the work we do is financed by the admission fees you pay to come in. So we are extremely grateful to our volunteers, companies and organisations that have recently donated goods or services to help us. These include:

**KH CONSTRUCTION**

KH Construction, Local Builders



Homebase of Saffron Walden



B&Q of Haverhill



Our lovely village pub the Dog and Duck



Dalehead Foods

**Waitrose**

Waitrose of Trumpington

**Sainsbury's**

Sainsbury's of Haverhill and Cambridge



Countrywide Ground Maintenance of Saffron Walden

**beaphar**

Beaphar of Haverhill

**We do hope that we've not missed anybody out, please do not take offence!!!**

**LOCATION:**

Easy to find and well sign-posted! 10 miles south-east of Cambridge on B1052 just off A1307 (M11 junction 9 northbound or junction 10 southbound). Ample free parking for cars and coaches. Nearest rail station is Cambridge, take Stagecoach 13 to Linton police station stop - the zoo is a 5 to 10 minute walk.

**PARTIES**

Reduced rates available for groups of 20 or more. Parties must be pre-booked at least one week in advance. Please telephone or visit website for an information pack.

**CONTACT**

For bookings and further information:  
Linton Zoo, Cambridgeshire's Wildlife Breeding Centre,  
Hadstock Road, Linton, Cambridgeshire, CB21 4NT

**Telephone/Fax:(01223) 891308**

**www.lintonzoo.com**

**OPENING TIMES**

Last admission 1 hour before closing time.

From	To	Open	Close
09/09/13	26/10/13	10.30am	5pm
27/10/13	10/11/13	10.30am	4pm
11/11/13	02/02/14	Winter Weekends*	
03/02/14	30/03/14	10.30am	4pm

\*Open: 27th Dec 2013 to 7th Jan 2014

Check website for exact times and dates

**ADMISSION**

Prices correct on 01/07/13 (incl. 20% VAT) are:

	Adults	OAP	Child (2-13 years)
Individuals	£9.00	£8.00	£6.50

**PLEASE OBSERVE THE PARK RULES:**



- All animals and birds can and may bite or peck! Do not put your hands near anything.
- Please walk quietly around the Zoo, do not run or shout.
- Feeding of animals by visitors is not allowed, not even with grass or leaves. It is unnecessary, unkind and may lead to injury or death.
- Children under 14 are not allowed to wander unattended. Parents and guardians must not let children out of sight at any time.
- It is an Environmental Health requirement for everyone to wash their hands** properly before eating and after attending any animal contact session. Facilities can be found at the toilet block and warm water for soiled hands at the reptile house.
- Dogs and pets are not allowed around the Zoo. There is a lane nearby suitable for walking dogs.
- Ball games are restricted to the car park and playing field only.
- Do not cross any of the safety barriers or garden borders.
- Children must be supervised when using any play equipment.

THESE PARK RULES ARE FOR THE BENEFIT OF VISITORS AND ANIMALS ALIKE - THANK YOU

First Aid is available from the entrance gate.

**SEASON TICKETS 2013**

Unlimited Admission for one year

1 Adult £35

2 Adults £ 65

(Purchased together)

1 Child £25

1 OAP £ 30

2 OAPs £55

(Purchased together)

FAMILY £100

1 Adult & 3 Children or

2 Adults & 2 Children



Application Forms available from the Zoo Office

Winter Weekend dates apply!

# LINTON ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS



Saffron Walden B1051

Cambridge A1307 (A604) & M11

## MAP REFERENCES

- |                               |                           |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| A. Parrots, Macaws, Cockatoos | C. Reptiles               | 1. Terrapins  |
| B. Hornbills                  | D. Animal House & Spiders | 2. Porcupines |

### SOUTHERN GROUND HORNBILL

*Bucorvus leadbeateri*



**VULNERABLE**  
 ♀ Oboe  
 Wild numbers are still dropping in Southern and central Africa.

### WHITE COLLARED LEMUR

*Eulemur cinereiceps*



**CRITICALLY ENDANGERED**  
 10 of only 14 individuals in Europe were born here at Linton Zoo.

### BLUE THROATED MACAW

*Ara glaucogularis*



**CRITICALLY ENDANGERED**  
 ♂ Diego  
 ♀ Julieta  
 Less than 115 birds are left in the wild.

### TURKMENIAN EAGLE OWL

*Bubo bubo turcomanus*



**EXTINCT IN THE WILD**  
 ♂ Pip    ♂ Hüwi  
 ♀ Rohan  
 Pip and Rohan here are currently the only breeding pair in the UK.

### HARTMANN'S MOUNTAIN ZEBRA

*Equus hartmannae*



Status in the wild: **VULNERABLE**  
 ♂ Harkim  
 ♀ Goya  
 ♀ Heidi  
 The largest of the Mountain Zebra, the Hartmann's live in the dry, stoney mountain and hill habitats of South-West Africa.  
 Goya, pictured age 17

## CONSERVATION STATUS

The conservation status of a species is an indicator of the likelihood of that species remaining extant (still existing) either in the present day or the near future.

EXTINCT	Extinct	No individuals remaining
	Extinct in the Wild	Known only to survive in captivity
THREATENED	Critically Endangered	Extremely high risk of extinction in the wild
	Endangered	Very high risk of extinction in the wild
	Vulnerable	High risk of extinction in the wild
AT LOWER RISK	Near Threatened	Likely to become endangered in the near future
	Least Concern	Does not qualify for a more at risk category

LEAST CONCERN    NEAR THREATENED    VULNERABLE    ENDANGERED    CRITICALLY ENDANGERED    EXTINCT IN THE WILD    EXTINCT

### AMUR TIGER

*Panthera tigris altaica*



Status in the wild: **ENDANGERED**  
 ♂ Mirko  
 ♀ Katinka  
 The largest of all big cats has fewer than 250 successfully breeding adult Amur Tigers left in the wilds of Eastern Russia.  
 Katinka, born at Linton Zoo April 2006

### AFRICAN LIONS

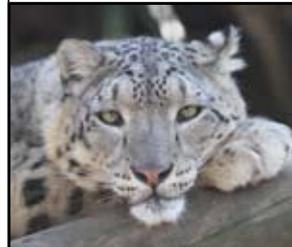
*Panthera leo*



Status in the wild: **VULNERABLE**  
 ♂ Zuri  
 ♀ Safina  
 ♂ Riziki  
 ♀ Karla  
 Approximately 30% of the wild lion population has been wiped out from its native Sub-Saharan Africa in the last 20 years.  
 Zuri and Safina, our younger pair

### SNOW LEOPARDS

*Panthera uncia*



Status in the wild: **ENDANGERED**  
 ♂ Centurio  
 ♀ Lhamo  
 Their stocky bodies, thick fur and large paws help them survive in the cold, snowy climates of the Mountain ranges of Central Asia.  
 Lhamo, pictured 2 years old

### RED KANGAROO

*Macropus rufus*



Status in the wild: **LEAST CONCERN**  
 ♂ Walter & Bruce  
 ♀ Matilda (Tilly)  
 The only large animal to hop rather than walk or run, a male Kangaroo can leap over 9 metres (30 foot) in one jump!  
 Our Red Kangaroo mob

### ALDABRA GIANT TORTOISE

*Geochelone gigantea*



Status in the wild: **VULNERABLE**  
 ♂ Teddy    and  
 ♀ Jude    many  
 ♀ Norma    more!  
 Living over 150 years and growing to 150kg these Tortoises live in the Aldabra Atoll, a group of islands in the Indian Ocean.  
 The circle of life!!!