



*Orangutan  
Appeal UK*

News  
Issue 30 February 2016

# Orangutan Appeal UK





# House of Commons Event 2015

We have been extremely busy at the Appeal this year with filming our recent documentaries which has meant a lot of extra work for our admin staff. However, we were still delighted when Bill Wiggin MP offered to host a second event for us at the House of Commons.

We gratefully accepted Bill's offer and started to make plans. We called this event '**Grasp the Significance of Climate Change – The Primates' Future**'.

The Event brought together over 100 MPs, conservationists, academics, TV personalities and corporate leaders who were all interested to hear about the plight of the orangutans and what we are doing to secure their future.

Conservationists Ian Redmond

and Bill Oddie were among the guests as well as wildlife presenter Nicholas Daines.

The Event highlighted our 2015 campaign to raise awareness of the undisputable links between climate change and the degradation of the planet's rainforests and subsequent wildlife loss. Over the last 15 years the number of orangutans in the wild has fallen dramatically from over 100,000 to an estimated 40,000. By far the greatest impact on orangutan numbers has been as a result of the rapid deforestation of its natural environment.

Our primatologist James Robins gave an informative presentation on the consequence the destruction of invaluable rainforests is having on not only the species which inhabit them, including the orangutan but also on

us; humans. He spoke of how ultimately our long term survival depends on the preservation of the rainforests which are responsible for filtering the air we breathe, the purity of our water and regulating our climate and are known as 'the lungs of the earth'.



*James Robins - Primatologist*

Our Chairwoman, Sue Sheward MBE then introduced a surprise guest who had agreed to support our work and to be the Appeal's Patron – the one and only Paul O'Grady!

Paul gave the enthralled audience an amazing account of his visit to Sepilok and how he fell in love with Archie, one of the very young babies in the nursery which had spurred him on to agree to be a Patron of Orangutan Appeal UK.

This was not the only highlight of the evening as Stanley Johnson – well known conservationist and of course, the Mayor of London's father, then gave a moving account of his visit to Sabah and the sights and sounds of the living rainforest.

For the second year running artist and ambassador Jacha Potgieter displayed his amazing pictures. Jacha also produced a very special picture especially for our event which in all raised a magnificent £1,010.

The evening ended by showing the new video taken by our OuTrop fire-fighting team in Sabangau, Kalimantan. The video was taken using the drone we recently purchased for them and showed the reality of the burning forest. OAUK were then very pleased to be able to round off the evening by making a further donation of £5,000 to the OuTrop fire-fighting team.



*Paul & Sue with Jacha's print*

## Paul O'Grady adopts baby Archie

*Paul & Archie*

Paul who is known by all as an animal lover, especially after his Battersea Dogs Home series and Animal Orphans, completely fell in love when he went filming with Sue at Sepilok for his new series on Animal Orphan's in Asia.

Paul said "It was love at first sight when I met young Archie".

Archie's mother Mimi was a rehabilitated orangutan that had been released into Sepilok's reserve. Everyone was delighted when she became pregnant but sadly after Archie was born the rangers noticed that he was becoming less and less active. On close examination of Mimi it was found that her milk had dried up and there was no alternative but to separate him from her and let the rangers rear him in the nursery.

Luckily for Archie, the rangers were very experienced in rearing babies, but if this had happened in a remote reserve, Archie would have surely died. Paul was so captivated by this beautiful young orangutan that a special adoption was made of Archie for him.

The Appeal also asked Paul if he would consider being our Patron and we were delighted when he accepted.



# Sepilok News

## Wulan

Sepilok's latest thief, 7 year old Wulan has been up to her old tricks again, hanging around on the boardwalk waiting for easy prey. Despite telling visitors not to get too close and definitely not to stop in front of her, one man didn't listen and



*Wulan*

lost his cap. If that was not enough, this naughty young orangutan even tried to steal our Liaison Officer's camera!

Wulan is experienced in making herself a nest high up in the trees which is a good sign she is nearly ready for release from the outdoor nursery. She is very good at climbing but if the big females are around she will come down to the ground to be ready to run and then will make her escape into the jungle, returning after about 20 minutes once the coast is clear.

## New Romance

Mimi who is one of the dominant mature females living on the reserve has recently been seen with a new wild male who has been named Yonkey. Unusually, Yonkey recently ventured outside the reserve, and was sitting in the trees near the centre's reception. Rangers encouraged him back into the reserve and suddenly



*Mimi enjoying the bamboo*

realised why he was acting in this unusual manner – it was because his latest friend Mimi was happily feasting on the bamboo nearby. So it is possible there is a new romance developing between them. If Mimi becomes pregnant in the near future it is likely that Yonkey will be the father.



*Yonkey – Mimi's new friend!*

## Clenan and Awantang

Clenan and her young son Awantang have been seen regularly at the feeding platform recently. The youngster is now two and a half years old and his mum is beginning to give him some independence to move away from her and develop his climbing skills out on the ropes and branches. Lately, she is allowing him to be as much as 3-4 metres away from her but she rarely takes her eyes off him.



*Awantang playing on the ropes*

## Mariko

We believe Mariko is approximately four months pregnant and she is looking very well. It appears that her appetite is growing as much as her tummy. Lately, she seems to prefer eating at Outdoor rather than the main feeding platform.

## Ceria

Ceria and Poogel have formed a new bond of late as can be seen by our beautiful picture on the front of this newsletter. They have been making numerous visits to the feeding platform and Ceria is keeping everyone on their toes, reminding the visitors who is really in charge there!

## Boogie Boy

Boogie Boy is a 5 year old male living at the outdoor nursery and is known to be very independent. He is progressing really well with his climbing and moving about in the forest. He was spotted at the main feeding platform several times this week and on his last visit he had an altercation on the rope with Mimi which ended with her throwing him into the bushes. Thankfully he was unharmed apart from having hurt pride and he made a quick exit back to the Clinic



*Boogie Boy*

and he's not been seen there again since. It is likely that it will take him a few weeks to regain his confidence before he attempts to visit the platform again.





*Aerial view of Sabangau Forest fires taken from our drone*

## Devastating fires threaten – December 2015

The forest and peat fires that raged throughout Indonesia from July-October 2015 were so severe and had such widespread impacts that they have been referred to as “the greatest environmental crime/disaster of the 21st century”. Staggeringly, nearly 125,000 hotspots burned ~20,900 km<sup>2</sup> of land – an area the size of Wales – 1.6 billion tonnes of carbon were released into the atmosphere, 43 million people were affected and half a million became sick, and around \$30 billion has been wiped off the Indonesian economy. The seriousness of the situation cannot be overstated.



*An orangutan engulfed in the haze*

Of course, with such large areas of land and forest burned, the forest-dependent orangutan will have suffered particularly badly. At this early stage, it remains unclear how many orangutans have died already and will die eventually as a result of this crisis, but given the size of the areas affected it is almost certain to be in the thousands.

Unfortunately, like so many other areas, Sabangau suffered forest loss during this fire season, including through two large fires that occurred close to OuTrop’s long-term research site. One of these large fires and many smaller ones were eventually tackled by the local fire-fighting team, with help from OuTrop’s research staff (who were all re-assigned to help with the fire-fighting effort) and local villagers. Our conservation drone – purchased earlier this

year with support from OAUk – became an incredibly useful tool, allowing fire hotspots to be located from the air and fire attack strategies to be planned before fire-fighters were sent in to tackle the flames. The other large fire was too remote for the already over-stretched fire-fighting team to access and bring equipment to, and so sadly burned a large area of forest before being extinguished by eventual rain showers.

The very welcome arrival of the rains in November has extinguished all of the fires for now. A strong El Niño weather system – which causes dry conditions in Indonesia – is however predicted to continue afflicting the region until spring 2016. The threat of recurring drought and fire in the New Year therefore remains high, making continued vigilance essential.

As conservationists committed to protecting forests and orangutans in the area, this year’s fire losses have been very difficult to accept, but have ultimately served to reinforce our mission to protect Kalimantan’s orangutans and other natural wonders. Moving forward, we will continue to equip, build capacity and mobilise local fire-fighting teams, including through continued development of the Drones for Conservation project; conduct community socialisation, education and outreach activities to enhance understanding of the impacts and causes of fire, and press for future change; and take advantage of the new burned areas to collect important research data on the impacts of fire on the forest and orangutans. Rain may have stopped the fire-fighting for now, but the fight against the fires is still very far from over...

We would like to thank OAUk for their continued contribution to the fire-fighting team and the purchase of the drone, which has been invaluable during this extremely disastrous time.

*Orangutan Appeal UK’s drone*



## Nicholas Daines – Zipline

As an international stuntman and TV presenter, what better way to raise funds for Orangutan Appeal UK than taking on the challenge of the fastest Zipline in the world and the longest in Europe.

It seemed only fitting that I should put myself on the line, as the future of the Orangutan is left hanging in the balance.

The OAUK team came up with the genius plan to help promote International Orangutan Day and raise awareness of the plight faced by these beautiful endangered creatures.

This once-in-a-lifetime thrill ride took place at Zipworld in the heart of Snowdonia, and even though I am used to adrenaline fuelled activities, I have to say that I certainly felt a fantastic rush plummeting 1100feet in less than a minute. It was the most amazing feeling to be flying through the air at speeds of up to 119mph at 500ft above the ground. Despite travelling at such great velocity, I still had time to take in the breathtaking scenery of this little piece of paradise in North Wales.

The fundraising event was a massive success and I managed to raise over £1,300 for Orangutan Appeal UK to help keep up their vital work caring for orphaned and displaced orangutans at Sepilok, and rehabilitating them back into the forests of Borneo.

The story scored some great PR and I appeared on BBC Worldwide News to help bring the world's attention to the fight to take the orangutan off the endangered list.

You can share in my epic aerial adventure on the zipline by going to [www.youtube.co.uk](http://www.youtube.co.uk), search Nicholas Daines zipline, then select the clip 'Stuntman speeds along world's fastest zipline'. The awesome Go-Pro footage really gives you a real sense of just what I experienced.



Nicholas Daines

## The Appeal joins forces with Roots and Shoots

In September 2015 Orangutan Appeal UK were invited to take part in the Wild About Arts project which was coordinated by Dr Jane Goodall's organisation for young people, Roots and Shoots Malaysia. This project is a campaign to raise awareness about endangered Malaysian wildlife focusing on the green sea turtle, Asian elephant and of course, the orangutan.



British International School

Our ambassador Jacha Potgieter, who is a renowned wildlife artist and photographer, kindly agreed to attend the event as a representative of Orangutan Appeal UK. Jacha was accompanied by his assistant Kate Vincent, who manages his gallery in north Wales called Platform Galeri. They visited eight different schools across Kuala Lumpur and met with nearly 3000 school children! Jacha gave presentations

about the plight of the orangutan and the work of Orangutan Appeal UK before putting his artistic talents to good use by staging a series of workshops for the students. They created orangutan artwork using



The Alice Smith School

recycled material, with the most outstanding pieces being selected to be shown at a public exhibition in early 2016.

The British International School of Kuala Lumpur have so far raised an impressive £1400 and the Alice Smith School raised £140!

**A BIG THANK YOU TO KUALA LUMPUR STUDENTS!**



Orangutan Appeal UK are delighted to announce we have been invited to join **GRASP**, a conservation organisation

dedicated to ensuring the long term survival of all the great apes. This will help us spread awareness of the plight of the orangutan on to a worldwide audience.



# Post Release Monitoring Project – Update

The last report I sent focused on our community outreach programme that the Research Assistants (RA) were working on. Over the last few months we've been travelling all over Sabah, delivering environmental education to schools, including two of our staff's home villages. For me it was excellent to see my staff going back to the schools where they were previously students many years ago, to speak about working with OAUK and the orangutans. Hopefully the children felt especially inspired, seeing what past students had been able to achieve, and knowing that they were making a valuable contribution to the conservation of these amazing apes, and who knows, maybe in a few years time we'll be giving jobs to some of them too!



*Anekara & Daniel*

The Post Release Monitoring Project has had a fantastic year in Tabin. Both Hope and Anekara joined Otan and Eyos in giving birth to babies – our third and fourth on the project! Considering that we have only released four females, this equates to 100% birth rate meaning that we are doing the right things for the orangs, and that is really important.



*Hope & Doris*

eating for two, but they did this because after giving birth all they wanted to do was groom and play with their new babies – so it was obviously important for them to stock up on food before the baby arrived! For several weeks

after giving birth they spent hours and hours each day just playing and inspecting their babies. It was really great to see, as they all needed to get their strength back, as well as bond with their infants!

For us watching this unfold, the most important moment was to see the baby feeding for the first time. Once this happens we can breathe a huge sigh of relief! Sometimes feeding can be troublesome – either the mother doesn't know what to do when the baby cries, or she may not produce enough milk, or she just doesn't like it when the baby is feeding, you can never be 100% sure that everything will be ok until you see it with your own eyes. I hope you have seen the photos and videos on our website of Doris and Daniel, and can see they are both doing well and following in the footsteps of Spike and Camelia, our first two babies.

We're still following Mico our male we released a while ago, who has made incredible progress and has adapted well to life in the forest. He's still swinging by camp every once in a while on his way through to some of his favourite trees. I suspect that he also comes by on occasion to see if he can raid anything from our supplies, but we're always there to guard it so he never has any luck!



*Eyos & Camelia*

We haven't been following either Eyos or Otan as much in the last few months as it is time to leave them to cope with everyday living in the forest. They've been doing so well with us for the past two years that we are now winding down their tracking, as both of them have little toddlers to look after. The last few times we have been looking for Eyos she was difficult to find, as both Eyos and her youngster Camelia move so fast through the forest. Camelia is amazing – she is growing fast and is learning well from her mum on what wild fruits she can eat which is excellent.

Well, I really don't envy Otan because Spike is two and half years old now and a massive ball of energy!!!! He is becoming more and more adventurous and doesn't hesitate to move away from mum to explore on his own! Of course we will still be keeping our eye on them and record sightings as we travel through the forest.

Stay tuned to our social media for extra updates and photos. On behalf of my team in Tabin, thanks for your support – *James Robins*, Primatologist.

# Our Ambassadors and Donors!

Whilst filming in Sepilok Sue met with a group of volunteers and spent an evening talking to the group about the Appeal. As a result one volunteer, **Sue Kurtbegovi**, and her partner **Grant Summers** who works for **Canon (Cameras) Australia**, arranged for two cameras to be donated to the Appeal for use by our Post-Release Monitoring Project. Thank you so much Sue and Grant, and of course Canon, whose reliable cameras are an essential piece of equipment for this Project.



*The Admin team*

Additionally, Our **Ambassador**, Malaysian wildlife photographer **Cede Prudente**, trained team member Lineker to use the cameras effectively in the tropical environment and also donated a dry cabinet for the cameras to be stored in and the shop manager, **Irene Chong** of **Sandakan Foto**, kindly donated a tripod to enable the team to take photos in the low-light of the rainforest.

Cede has also very generously offered to make a short film to publicise the success of the Post Release Monitoring Project which we have gratefully accepted.

**Ambassador Stanley Johnson** has been raising awareness of the plight of the orangutan on a national scale. In September he travelled to Sepilok with Sue and journalist **Jennifer Tippett**. After witnessing the work of the Appeal first-hand, Jennifer wrote a special two-page feature which was published in The Sun newspaper. Stanley was also the guest speaker at our House of Commons event.



*Stanley Johnson and Jennifer Tippett*

Our **Ambassador Jacha Potgieter** has been working closely with the Appeal over the past year. Jacha attended a fundraising event at London Zoo with Sue, hosted by **Andrew Rosindell MP**, where he auctioned two of his prints raising £1,000 for the Appeal. During the year Jacha and the staff from Alpine Coffee Shop ran several fundraisers including a pop-up shop selling OAUK merchandise for International Orangutan Awareness Week, and for Halloween they held a pumpkin carving weekend. Jacha and his staff raised an additional £2,442 through events and collection boxes.



*Paul O'Grady, Andrew Rosindell MP and Jacha Potgieter*

Artist **Emma Bowring** painted a stunning image of Beryl to raise funds for the Appeal after meeting Sue at the New Forest County Show. 'Beryl' has just been sold for £1,950 and Emma has donated all the money from the sale to the Appeal and agreed to support our work by becoming one of our Ambassadors. Prints and greeting cards of the painting are available on our website, with 100% of the profits coming to the Appeal – Thank you Emma.

Hotelier **Mr Ken Chong** of **Sepilok Nature Resort, Sandakan** donated the cost of the Appeal's accommodation for their latest filming trip and is now displaying Jacha's prints in their foyer for sale.

Our Business Partners, **Anne and William Chow** – owners of the **Banana Tree Indonesian Restaurant** chain have been sponsoring the Appeal for 3 years, and give us 25p for every signature dish they sell – last year they raised a fantastic £9,000.00!!

**A big thank you to you all for your help and we hope that it will inspire others to become involved with one of our Projects such as the "Fire-fighters" or the "Nursing staff at Sepilok" – there is so much we can do together.**



*Anne Chow with Nicholas Daines*

To help email [info@orangutan-appeal.org.uk](mailto:info@orangutan-appeal.org.uk) or call 01590 623443.



# Supporter News

## Runners



Janet Clark

### Great North Run

**Janet Clark** accompanied by her cuddly orangutan raised £250 and **Kerry Ryan, Kate Rowbotham** and **Paul Henson** raised £192, £210 and £360 respectively. That's an incredible £1,012 raised by our Great North Runners!



Kirsty and Alice Calnan

### Great South Run 2015

**Kirsty** and **Alice Calnan** are sisters from Kent who ran the Great South Run together and finished in an impressive 1 hour 43 minutes! Kirsty also ran the Hackney Half Marathon in May and they each raised £150.

### Joe Smith, Lorraine Wilson

and **Caroline French** completed the run, raising £160, £135 and £165 respectively.



Philip and Jo Carter

**Philip Carter** and his wife **Jo** completed the run with a large cuddly orangutan being inspired after visiting Sepilok Rehabilitation centre and raised a massive £571.

**Jo Bamford** broke her big toe 3 weeks before the Great South Run but amazingly still managed to complete the race. Thinking about her adopted baby BiduBidu spurred her to the finish line and raised £555 making a grand total of £1,886 raised by our GSR runners!

### Bournemouth 10k Marathon Festival

**Heike Heinzelmann** and her cuddly orangutan Peanut 2 raised a brilliant £267.29.

### 5k Big Fun Run Crystal Palace

This was run by **Daphne Skingle** and her 8 year-old great nephew **Jack** and raised a brilliant £174.15.

Our runners have all done brilliantly and raised an incredible amount of funds and awareness for us!



Heike Heinzelmann & Peanut 2

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!

If you would like to run for Orangutan Appeal UK we have spaces in runs nationwide so please email Robyn at [admin7@orangutan-appeal.org.uk](mailto:admin7@orangutan-appeal.org.uk) for more info.

## Fundraisers

**Ski Nazir** completed a cycle challenge and raised £200!

**Julie Jones** from Bath had donations for her 50th birthday and raised £300.

**Lynne Haddow** donated £1,110 to our firefighting appeal. Living in Brunei, Lynne understands how the fires are affecting our endangered species.

**Janet Morrell** kindly donated £117 in November and attended the Appeal's House of Commons event and was very happy to meet Sue Sheward and Paul O'Grady!

**St. Michael's School** in Malaysia raised £215 after attending our primatologist James' talk.

**Mano Meganck** raised 1,400 Ringgit (£230) and has adopted baby Peanut.

**Shasa and his classmates at De Hagenpoort Primary School** sold their old toys, made bracelets and sold artwork they had drawn and raised £310.

**Gooseberry Hill School** in Australia raised £182.

**Joanna Smart** from Jersey organised a quiz night and raised £150.

'Your Tea', an international organic tea company, donated £3,800 as part of their 'Charitea' Programme.

**Pat Dukes** from Fife donated £1,280 towards the Appeal's Bucket Project to help provide rubber buckets for the babies to make their nests in.

We are grateful to all of our fundraisers for all their effort and help they have given to the Appeal. Dedicated supporters really make a difference in raising much-needed funds. Thank you from us all.

## In Fond Memory

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of some of our valued supporters.

**Jean King** – Jean actively supported the Appeal for many years. At Jean's funeral her friends and family donated to the Appeal and to date they have made a contribution of £365. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all of her loved ones.

**Sonia Lodge** – Sonia passed away earlier this year. Before she died she provided us with a generous donation of £1,000 and let us know her wish that she wanted these funds to help the orangutans. We are very thankful to Sonia.

**Caroline Mary Payne** – Caroline kindly bequeathed £5,000 to us in her will for which we are truly grateful.

**Gillian Moran** – Gillian generously left £10,000 to the Appeal. Gillian supported the Appeal for many years and wanted to leave a lasting legacy to help the orangutans at Sepilok.

If you would like to receive our LEGACY BROCHURE please call 01590 623443 or email [Adrienne on manager@orangutan-appeal.org.uk](mailto:Adrienne.manager@orangutan-appeal.org.uk).

If you would like to be involved in fundraising for Orangutan Appeal UK and would like further information please contact Robyn at [admin7@orangutan-appeal.org.uk](mailto:admin7@orangutan-appeal.org.uk) for a fundraising pack.