

WILD CAMEL PROTECTION FOUNDATION

Head Office, School Farm, Benenden, Kent, TN17 4EU England

Tel: 44 (0) 1580 241132

Email: harecamel@aol.com

www.wildcamels.com

Hon. Life Patron: Dr. Jane Goodall D.B.E.

Patrons:

The Marchioness of Bute, The Countess of Chichester, Lady Grant, Professor Yuan Guoying, Peter Hall, Jane McMorland Hunter of Hafton, Gerald Kidd, Damon de Laszlo, Lulu Lytle, Colin McIntosh, Professor David Munro, The Dowager Marchioness of Reading

APRIL 2013 - Newsletter Number 30

Dear Wild Camel Supporter,

FUND RAISING

GOLDEN JOURNEY – LEGENDS OF THE SILK ROAD

The January performance of *'Golden Journey, Legends of the Silk Road'* to raise funds for WCPF at the Linbury Theatre, part of the Royal Opera House, was a huge success. Lady Chichester brilliantly organised a consummate performance of her script about the history of the Silk Road, and in doing so raised substantial funds for the wild camels. She persuaded Nadia Fall, a director at the National Theatre to direct it with assistance from Danny Wyler, who has long been associated with productions at the Royal Opera House. Dame Harriet Walter, the well-known actress was the narrator and Derek Jacobi gave a recorded reading of Kublai Khan. However, it was Lady Chichester's two domestic Bactrian camels which stole the show when they appeared on stage towards the end of the performance. Groomed to perfection, Therese and Timujin gave a star performance. I was persuaded to ride Therese and she behaved impeccably. Provided with her own 'mopper-upper' for when Therese in her excitement produced an unscheduled performance on stage (literally) in addition to the one in the script.

The production was followed by a 5-course Chinese dinner in the Royal Opera House restaurant and I was able to explain to the diners just why the wild camel was so important and the work the WCPF has been doing for almost 20 years to save it from extinction. A huge THANK YOU from all our trustees and patrons to Lady Chichester. Many people and organizations made very generous donations for which WCPF is very grateful. I mention

RIO TINTO by name because they subsidised the staging of the performance itself.

CAMEL DAY 2013

We have just finalized the date for our Annual Camel Race Day. This year it will be at the home of Sir William and Lady MacAlpine at Fawley Hill near Henley-on-Thames on September 8th 2013. Joe and Rebecca Fossett have once again kindly agreed to bring their racing camels and I hope to entice the Mongolian wrestlers and musicians to come and give us another display of their prowess. More details later. Please put the DATE IN YOUR DIARIES and look at www.fawleyhill.co.uk to see more details about the site. Fawley Hill has the most amazing private collection of steam vehicles and also a large collection of common and endangered species, some of which after sustaining life-threatening injuries have been rescued by Sir William and Lady MacAlpine

JANE McMORLAND HUNTER

Yet again Patron Jane is running to raise money for the wild camels. This time it is the Edinburgh Coast Run on Sunday 26th of May. Quote from Jane, *T*

shall be wearing a Wild Camel running shirt and may run with a toy camel - it all depends how well the toy's training goes, so far, mine is going better!

Please support the wild camels by supporting her run. A BIG Thank you to those who have already donated. Here is still time to donate via the www.wildcamels.com website or post a cheque made out to the Wild Camel Protection Foundation to Jane McMorland Hunter, 19 Varna Road, London SW6 7LB. Jane raises over £1000 for us each year and maybe our Scottish supporters would like to gather at the event to cheer her on! Why not bring the pipes! Jane works for Slightly Foxed (www.foxedquarterly.com) the Real Readers Quarterly, a delightful literary quarterly magazine, and WCPF supporter, at their bookshop at 23 Gloucester Rd., London SW7 4TE. They have a collecting box for the wild camels in their bookshop.

CAMEL POTS AT THE RUBIN MUSEUM

Joan Digby, our tireless USA supporter and a tower of strength in New York, has found a potter who makes wonderful pots infilled with wild camel hair. These come in different sizes and shapes and are sold at the Rubin Museum. They have become a huge success. Joan has already raised \$1000 for the wild camels' cause through these pots and we are extremely grateful. If you want to see these amazing pots click on our website and search for the link for the Rubin Museum website. www.rmanyc.org

WEBSITE

Please continue to visit our website which is constantly being updated and contains a great deal of relevant information from both in China and Mongolia. Please see www.wildcamels.com if you have not already visited the site. A very BIG THANK YOU to Anna Jemmett. She has kindly agreed to help the WCPF with its facebook and twitter. Please do look at both www.facebook.com/WildCamels www.twitter.com/WildCamels

EDUCATIONAL AWARENESS-RAISING PROGRAMME

Two posters have been prepared to a highly professional standard thanks to the generosity of Alaska Zoo <www.alaskazoo.org> They permitted the use of excellent posters they had prepared for a publicity display at the Zoo, about the wild camels to be adapted for use in the Chinese and Mongolian environmental awareness programme.

Three educational booklets have also been prepared and will be turned into DVDs. All these materials are Phase One of a WCPF educational programme, which we hope to carry to the schools and villages which surround the two huge wild camel reserves and our breeding centre in both Mongolia and China. With Mongolia currently in the grip of rampant mining fever and

deposits of gold having been found in the Great Gobi Specially Protected Area 'A' attracting scores of illegal miners, the campaign is vital and extremely timely. The materials will be translated into Chinese, Mongolian, Kazakh and Uighur and quantities printed will depend on our budget. The Chinese Xinxiang Provincial Government has made a significant contribution to the Nature Reserve to be used towards the costs the project in China. And we are very grateful to the Mohammed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund for endangered species which has made a very generous contribution which enabled us to get the campaign underway. Any member who would like to donate funds specifically for this programme should let us know when their donation is sent.

VOLUNTEER FOR MONGOLIA

WCPF has had a huge success with the last two young female volunteers who went to stay at Breeding Centre in Mongolia. Our third volunteer, a young man, Ayden Percy has volunteered to spend six months or more this year at Zakhyn Us, the wild camel breeding centre in Mongolia. He will help the herdsmen with our work at the breeding centre and be there with me for the 'soft release' of a group of wild camels from the breeding centre into the desert in September.

Our success at the breeding centre has meant that we are now in a position to

organise this 'soft release' and with the approval of the Mongolian Ministry of Nature and the Environment, we are planning to release a small herd into the Gobi at a carefully chosen site within the Specially Protected Area 'A', the last stronghold of the wild camel in Mongolia. They will be subject to a 'slow release' which means they will be monitored for some weeks after their release and also fitted with collars so they can be tracked. This is the first time a 'soft release' of wild camels has been undertaken either in Mongolia or China and Ayden will be on hand to assist.

He is skilled in solar energy technology and is very mechanical so he should be of great help to the Mongolians in this very remote area. Anna Jemmett who worked at the breeding centre during the summer months two years ago will be meeting Ayden this month and briefing him before he travels to Zakhyn Us in May. The specialized Mongolian agency, *Panoramic Journeys* who have helped us over the years in many ways will help Ayden organize accommodation and transport. Please see <www.panoramicjourneys.com> or link through the WCPF website.

[JOSEPH AND HIS AMAZING CAMELS](#)

Joe and Rebecca Fossett who have raised funds for us for three years by loaning their camels for camel racing have secured a place this summer at the

Kent County Show as a major attraction. WCPF helped them to get this appointment at the prime Agricultural show in Kent and are delighted they have been successful. WCPF will use their two performances a day, over three days to publicise their efforts to save the wild camel.

LECTURES

I continue to give lecture to schools and other institutions, societies or clubs that wishes to listen. If any member knows of any suitable lecture audiences who might be interested in a talk please let me know. The wider the wild camel message gets out, the better.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

You're annual subscription is used entirely for funding the Mongolian Breeding Centre Budget. So please remember to renew your annual membership and if you haven't, please send £20.00 (or its equivalent in foreign currency). You can pay by going direct to the website www.wildcamels.com using Paypal. If you are paying in US dollars or Euros you can also transfer funds direct into the WCPF's Euro or US dollar accounts.

Please email us for the WCPF bank and transfer details. Thank you to the

many members who pay by **setting up a standing order** with their bank to pay direct to the WCPF account. This keep costs down.

SPONSORING A YOUNG WILD CAMEL

If you sponsoring a young wild camel at the breeding centre please remember to send your annual payment, which was due **1st March 2013**.

Very best wishes and renewed thanks for your great support for our on-going work – the protection and conservation of the critically endangered wild camel from extinction. It is with your help and generous support that we are able to achieve so much. **Just heard from Gotov our Manager at the Breeding Centre that TWO camel calves have been born and even after the very hard winter they are very healthy, thanks to all the winter Hay we bought last year for their mothers.**

John Hare

Wild Camel Protection Foundation Head Office,

School Farm, Benenden, Kent TN17 4EU

www.wildcamels.com

www.johnhare.org.uk

POSTSCRIPT: *Last Man In – End of Empire in Northern Nigeria*

I have just published a new book which is unrelated to the wild camel but indicative of why I dedicated myself to its survival. I was the last recruit into the Colonial Administrative Service in Northern Nigeria – hence the title of this book. My years 1957 to 1964 coincided with a time of momentous change in Nigeria, a colony when I arrived, it was an independent state when I left, just before a military coup and the onset of the Biafran war.

I was brought into contact with rapidly disappearing and now forgotten cultures and customs in one of the remotest parts of West Africa, the former German Cameroons. I was caught up, at a junior level, in unrecorded political events which merit, I believe, a footnote in Nigerian history. Northern Nigeria gave me my first introduction to the camel. The current enmity between tribal groups and ensuing religious conflict are explained from an historical perspective. This explanation puts the emergence of the current Muslim terrorist organisation *Boko Haram* and the present religious and political strife in Nigeria into a comprehensible context.

To order a copy of *Last Man In* - approximately 290 pages, 15 arresting black/white photos - at £20.00 (plus £3.00 postage), please write to me at:

School Farm. Benenden, Kent TN17 4EU or Email <harecamel@aol.com>

