

**WILD CAMEL PROTECTION FOUNDATION**  
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**Hon. Life Patron:** Dr. Jane Goodall D.B.E.

**Patrons:**

The Marchioness of Bute, Lady 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.

**July 2012 - Newsletter Number 28**

**Dear Wild Camel Supporter,**

## **FUND RAISING**

### **Camel Fund Raising Day in Kent**

The date for the fund raising camel day in Kent is **Sunday 23d September, 2012** and we hope as many members as possible will be able to attend. The setting is Hole Park, Rolvenden, Kent TN17 4JA. It is very close to Benenden where the WCPF headquarters is situated. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Barham have very kindly allowed us to use their parkland and WCPF are planning a bigger and better day in order to raise much-needed funds for the wild camels. Their fine gardens will be open at no extra charge and we have planned a great day of events as will be seen from the **attached flier**.

The Mongolian Ambassador and the Embassy have been very cooperative and we are hoping, as well as **camel racing and polo**, to have **Mongolian wrestlers and archers** competing. Maybe Mongolian singers can be persuaded to participate too!

We have organised an **Art Poster** competition for school children (**copy attached**) and the prize winning pupils from primary and secondary levels, as well as receiving prizes together with those coming second and third, will have their posters used in the educational campaigns in Mongolia and China.

Guest of Honour, **Matthew Parris**, well-known journalist and a great supporter of the WCPF, has very kindly agreed to judge the posters and will be assisted by three local Kent artists. If we can persuade Matthew to ride a camel – so much the better.

We are delighted that there has been so much interest in the day already, however, **WCPF NEEDS HELPERS ON THE DAY**. So if any members can help,

maybe to collect entrance fees on arrival or sell raffle tickets or help on WCPF stalls for limited periods of time during the afternoon, we should be most grateful.

**PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHAT HELP YOU CAN OFFER.** For the first time we will be having paying stands (mainly displaying and selling crafts) which will add interest to the day. Joe and Rebecca Fossett have generously agreed to bring their racing camels from Warwickshire, which is a huge commitment on their part. We are very grateful for their support for our work with the wild camels.

### **WCPF Raffle and Bottle Stalls.**

WCPF will be running raffles during the day and a bottle stall. So please come with a prize and/or a bottle of jam, conserve, or alcohol for the Raffle and/or Bottle stall. We will be selling raffle tickets to people all day and this and **the WCPF stalls are part of WCPF fund-raising. Any member who sadly cannot come, but would like to donate a prize or bottle, can make a donation or leave a donation at the wild camel headquarters at School Farm, Benenden or in London. Please Email me for details** <harecamel@aol.com>

## **PLEASE DO COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS**

### **DIRECTIONS:**

*Staplehurst is the nearest station from Charing Cross, London. Hole Park is situated between the villages of Benenden and Rolvenden in Kent and is only 55 miles south of London. The address is: Hole Park Estate, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent. TN17 4JA*  
<[www.holepark.com](http://www.holepark.com)> gives details of how to get there by road and for non-internet users the A21 out of London should be taken and a left-hand turn to Goudhurst on to the A262. Through the village of Goudhurst and follow the signs for Cranbrook turning right on the B2085 by the Peacock Pub. Then follow B2086 to Benenden . Through the village of Benenden and a mile outside Benenden on the Rolvenden road, Hole Park is on the left hand side of the road and still on the B2086.

### **Educational Awareness-raising Campaign in China and Mongolia**

Two funding applications have been submitted to Prince Albert of Monaco's Fund for Endangered Species for an educational awareness-raising programme in both north-west China and south-west Mongolia – the only habitat of the wild camel. If successful, the money will be put towards environmental awareness materials, publishing booklets, DVD's and posters for the communities – young and old, which surround the wild camel's desert habitat. Not only will the material focus on wild camel protection, but it will also include additional educational material on the urgency of protecting the fragile desert habitat where these incredible animals survive. The materials will be published in Chinese, Mongolian, Uighur, Kazakh and English.

Dr. Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots educational campaign which provides environmental conservation materials to children all over the world will be linked in

to the campaign and Jane, the WCPF Life Patron, expressed great enthusiasm for the project when I met her in London in May.

The Chinese and Mongolian authorities have expressed willingness to fully cooperate with the project in both countries and China has already edited and revised booklet and DVD drafts which we have prepared.

The Mohammed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, has provided part funding for the Chinese environmental educational project, in particular for the Taklamakan area public awareness programme.

We are continuing to look for funding for the environmental educational awareness-raising programme both in China and Mongolia and I would welcome suggestions from members,

### **MONGOLIA - Hunter Hall Wild Camel Conservation, Breeding and Research Centre**

I plan to visit Mongolia in October to see the three newly born wild camels at the breeding centre and check with the new Director of the Great Gobi Specially Protected Reserve "A" on how the project is developing. The Reserve Director, Gotov who replaced the previous director, Mijjidorj in February, manages the project which WCPF funds through an agreed monthly budget. The three young wild camels which were born this year are all well. Unfortunately two of them are males and as I have written before, surplus males present huge problems during the breeding centre in December and January. It is imperative that some of the surplus wild males are released back into the desert and Gotov is consulting with the Ministry of Nature and the Environment on the details and timings of this exercise.

Mijjidorj, the former Director had assisted us in many ways since the establishment of the breeding centre in 2004 and we are very sorry to see him go – primarily because of ill health.

### **The intrepid - Jane McMorland Hunter**

Another huge thank you to the intrepid Jane McMorland Hunter (WCPF Patron) who keeps on running marathons, to raise money for the wild camels. She has just completed a half marathon in Edinburgh which has raised a considerable sum, largely through the kind sponsorship from many WCPF members. Jane works for Slightly Foxed ([www.foxedquarterly.com](http://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.

### **USA Lectures**

On September 12<sup>th</sup> I have been invited to lecture in New York by the Explorer's Club on the subject of the Swedish explorer, Sven Hedin. I was fortunate while researching the wild camel to criss-cross routes he had first mapped and pioneered in the early years of the last century.

Incidentally, in 1902, Hedin shot two wild camels in the Taklamakan Desert in China

and when measuring the skulls noted the shape of the wild camels' skulls were markedly different from the skulls of the domestic Bactrian camel. It was no surprise to learn Mongolians have a separate word in their own language for the wild camel, – 'havtagai' - which means 'flat-head'. The Mongolians had discovered many centuries earlier the wild camel was quite distinct from the domestic Bactrian camel.

## **UK Lectures**

I have been invited to give a number of lectures to schools and other institutions in the autumn. In particular to three Scottish schools – Gordonstoun, Loretto and Glenalmond. If any Scottish members would like to attend, please write or email me for the dates and I will ask the relevant schools for permission.

## **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Your 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](http://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.** Many members pay by **setting up a standing order** with their bank to pay direct to the WCPF account. This keeps costs down.

## **SPONSORING A YOUNG WILD CAMEL**

If you are sponsoring a young wild camel at the breeding centre please remember to send your annual payment which was due 1st March 2012.

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.

John Hare  
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