



Otter News April 2024

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Obituary – Laurence Broderick



© Willie Urquhart – WHFP

We were very sorry to hear that Laurence Broderick, our Joint President, passed away on 18 April 2024 aged 88 years.

Laurence was born in Bristol and from an early age he enjoyed drawing and had little interest in any other subjects. He studied painting, illustration and sculpture at the Regent Street Polytechnic, London, from 1952 to 1957, and then later at the Hammersmith School of Art from 1964 to 1965. He began his artistic career as an historical and educational illustrator and painter with the BBC and later taught art and continued working as a freelance artist and sculptor.

Laurence had a long connection with Skye; indeed his maternal family were from Braes near Portree. In 1978 he met Richard and Coralie Fowler at one of his exhibitions in Hatfield - they owned the island off Isleornsay, Sleat, and invited him to visit. That island had previously been



owned by Gavin Maxwell who wrote "Ring of Bright Water and so Laurence researched otters for a few weeks before the trip. He had just carved his first otter after a lot of research as at that time he had never seen a wild otter. This sculpture was bought for £200 by Sir Iain Noble who owned the Isleornsay hotel and estate. This led to regular exhibitions at An Talla Dearg on Skye for the next 25 years and Skye became the family's second home.

That otter sculpture was the first of a series that would take his work all round the globe. Now there are over 3000 Broderick sculptures scattered across the world and otters continue to emerge from stone.

When IOSF was founded in 1993 it was natural that Laurence would want to be involved and he became Joint President.

A quote from Laurence sums him up "*My inspiration comes from wildlife, in particular the otter, a creature which radiates playfulness, joy and freedom.*"

Laurence is survived by his wife, Ingrid, their two sons and four grandchildren and IOSF would like to send our deepest sympathies to them.

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MACCOLL – Marine and Coastal Conservation of Loch Linnhe

On Friday 12 April Paul and Grace visited the Kentallen and Duror area near Glencoe to meet with Jennifer Bodde and Rob and Becky Coope. They have been largely instrumental in setting up MACCOLL (Marine and Coastal Conservation of Loch Linnhe). They were only formed in July 2023 but already have 109 full members and 72 Associated Members, which is very impressive.

Paul had been invited to give a presentation to the Group at the local Community Centre in the evening but before that they went for a walk along the local coastline looking for signs of otters. The weather was a bit dreich but they found spraint and an active otter holt. (photo right)

Paul's presentation was about the Eurasian otter and IOSF's work and it was very well received by an audience of over 50 people. They were all so enthusiastic about the talk and also about getting more involved in the work of MACCOLL.

MACCOLL is dedicated to preserving and protecting the marine and coastal environment of Loch Linnhe and the name reflects their deep connection to local history and culture. Their vision is to have a community-led conservation



organisation, and they aim to work closely alongside all stakeholders to develop a sustainable marine and coastal management plan for the Duror and Kentallen area.

At present they have four projects planned: flapper skate project, wild salmon project, marine habitat survey and, of course, their Otter Project. As a part of the otter project they want to develop a sightings recording database and look at how they can conserve and improve their habitats and reduce traffic collisions particularly on the A828.

If anyone is interested in joining the group go their Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/share/eAzgfAGyFAhn4RHZ/?mibextid> or contact them at maccoll@gmail.com

We look forward to having more contact with MACCOLL and hopefully visiting the area again soon.

News from The Sanctuary

River and Linnhe (below) have moved into a new enclosure on the croft where they are enjoying more space and a better pool. They are next door to Maggie and Louis who were not amused to see they had new neighbours!! There was a lot of yelling through the fence but it only lasted a short time and then they settled back to what they were doing before all the commotion.



Maggie and Louis (below) are the two clowns of the group and spend ages playing in the pool and chasing each other in and out of the water. We can spy on them from a window so that they don't know they are being watched! And we have put in a camera trap to get some video footage of the pair playing – you can see the results by following this link <https://youtu.be/CiIt8RGxhgY>




Their old place has been taken over by two new otters which have arrived at the Sanctuary – Queenie from the Isle of Bute and Dori from St Andrews (left). They had been at the SSPCA



centre in Fishcross and transferred here about three weeks ago. At first they were not impressed with the move and refused to eat the trout sent over with them. But after a day they relented and tucked in. Now, they are content in their sleeping box together and only come out to feed when there is no-one around.

Bealltainn is enjoying the nice weather we have been having. It has gone really quite warm and sunny and we always know she will be in her sunbathing spot, hoping that no-one has seen her!

If you would like to support our cubs in the Sanctuary you can send a cheque marked "Hospital" on the back or make a donation online at <https://ottershop.co.uk/products/donate-to-iosf?variant=32787580616842>



Please support IOSF and help to ensure that important conservation and awareness work continues.

UK taxpayers...

Increase the value of your gift to IOSF: giftaid it



Team Otter Broadford has been busy over the last few months with a number of campaigns and practical projects.

The 'sauce sachet campaign' has been met with feedback from a few of the eateries that around our area – as well as feedback from the local and national government. The government replied, saying that they are working on reducing plastic issues across the country, and this includes sauce sachets. The feedback from restaurants gave us a couple of ideas that we are going to take further, such as:

- One restaurant said that they would use their current stock and then replace these with large sauce containers.
- Another suggested contacting sauce distributors and companies to see if they can provide sauce in a more sustainable and environmentally friendly ways.



Furthermore, we have been working on litter picking around the village. With the area becoming busier there has been an increase in litter. The primary group removed an alarming amount of litter from a small patch of Broadford, removing **8** black bags of litter in just an hour and a half walk – which is disappointing. The High School group removed litter from the local supermarket, including the sauce sachets (pictured) that we are trying to stop.



Finally, the High School group have replaced all the posters around Broadford to hopefully encourage less litter in the area!

We are also excited to hear that there are plans for more Team Otter clubs to appear soon!

Don't forget your entries for the art competition... You have until 22nd May. Send them to ben@otter.org



For more information about Team Otter, visit our website (<https://www.otter.org/our-work-team-otter>) and Facebook. If you are interested in forming your own Team Otter Club contact Ben@otter.org.



IOSF #WorldOtterDay 2024 – less than four weeks to go!

Webinar
We have great presentations for you in our World Otter Day Webinar. To find out more information and to sign up for the Webinar, just follow this link:



<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSciYLPYHZnzWbgg1dJhNpCPB6ExiLQloh1u2PvQgolRokcjiA/viewform>

Our webinar is FREE, but if you would like to support this World Otter Day event, you can **DONATE** here: <https://ottershop.co.uk/products/donate-to-iosf-world-otter-day-webinar>

World Otter Day tees – you still have time to order your tee shirts from our Teespring store <https://iosf-otter-shop-shirts.creator-spring.com/> As these are printed to order, don't leave it too late – avoid disappointment and order today.





Raffle

Thank you to those who have so far taken part in our **World Otter Day** raffle via our JustGiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/world-otter-day-affle-2024> Please take time to read the information and remember **DO NOT** gift aid if you are entering the raffle. We have to issue ticket numbers manually, so please bear with us.



World Event Map

Don't forget to tell us what you will be up to on **#WorldOtterDay** so we can add it to the World Otter Day 2024 events map! Email ben@otter.org with your event information.

Click this link or the image, to see all the events so far on the World Otter Day map:
<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1OzFrVdZsqTGJftvjr3Q1rdUCiNwJU&usp=sharing>



It is your support that keeps us going, whether you are raising awareness, donating or



sponsoring an otter.

Special thanks to:

Fondation Le Pal Nature
Miss KM Harbinson Charitable Trust
Alpkit Foundation
Neil and Pauline Pettefar Charitable Trust
Bequest of the late Gillian Sincock,

Corporate Sponsors:
Andrew Poplett Enterprises Ltd
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Thank you to all who donated to our recent **Big Give Green Match Fund** campaign, getting your donations doubled with match-funding and supporting otters confiscated from the pet trade. You helped us raise over £5000.



CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP - WHETHER YOU OWN A BUSINESS OR ARE EMPLOYED, does the company have a green policy/ support conservation? Then perhaps the company would like to consider becoming a Corporate Member with IOSF and supporting our work with otters.

You can find out more information on our website <https://www.otter.org/take-action-corporate?rq=corporate>

Otter Shop Product of the Month

www.ottershop.co.uk – click through to the Home page

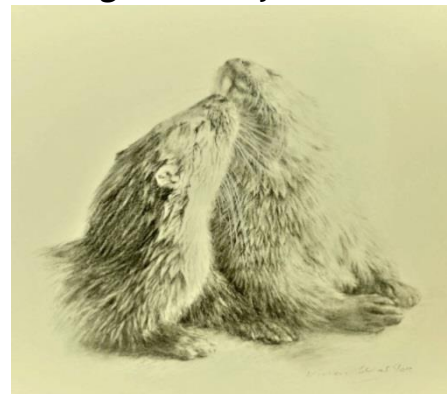
Otter Art – looking for a special gift, or want to treat yourself. You will find some wonderful artwork at the Otter Shop.

‘Synchronicity’ by Lyn Wells



<https://tinyurl.com/bdem5f7h>

‘Making Friends’ by Vivien Walters



<https://tinyurl.com/ycy7xweb>



News in Brief

Otter in India

For the first time ever, a Eurasian otter has been tagged in India, in Madhya Pradesh. The species is extremely rare in India, particularly in the central regions of the country, and it is hoped that this study will gain further understanding of its distribution and behaviours in the area.



Eurasian otter ©Emil Barbelette

It is believed that by radio tracking this individual they can further “fill the gap” on a number of aspects in relation to the species, such as home ranges, movements, distribution and other behaviours.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/elusive-eurasian-otter-radio-tagged-in-satpura/articleshow/109229844.cms>

Otters in Texas

There has been some positive news for otters in Texas, with the North American River Otter being spotted in the San Marcos River for the first time in over 70 years! Between the 1950s and 2021, there had been no sightings of otters on the river but since then four more sightings have been documented.

The return of the otters to the area means that the overall health of the river has likely improved, and is a good indication that the ecosystem is in a relatively healthy state.

<https://www.chron.com/life/wildlife/article/river-otters-texas-19417798.php>

Purple otters?

They often say, “you are what you eat” and in the case of some Sea otters this is being proven correct. Our friends at Elakha Alliance recently posted about the fact that eating lots of urchins is turning some otters purple!

Okay, so we can’t actually see purple otters, but when the otters are eating lots of purple urchins it has been found to turn the otter’s bones purple, as shown in the picture in the link below.

We have heard of similar stories, as with Flamingos being “pink” due to what they eat, but never with otters – a truly fascinating find!

<https://www.facebook.com/elakhaalliance/posts/pfbido2tQEjMRWNGwm4D78EKa4roQjPSdXEesaREvHyiURoRVgbpMespwBW1ZnAmGqM6mgdl>

Image of The Month

African clawless otter by Cliff Dorse

Cliff captured this super image of an African clawless otter enjoying a meal in the sun.



Just look at those fingers!



Become an IOSF Life Supporter

Our supporters are always valued by us as a crucial source of support for the work that we are doing, and those of you that become life supporters are highly appreciated.

For a one-off payment of £350 you can become a Life Supporter and give your long-term commitment to help secure a better future for otters in the UK and around the world.

We will send you a certificate showing your life supporter status and you will continue to receive full updates in our newsletters, on all of the work that we are doing.

<https://www.ottershop.co.uk/become-a-life-supporter-c2x9466694>

A LEGACY IS A GREAT WAY OF GIVING TO SOMETHING CLOSE TO YOUR HEART and every gift makes a difference. After your family, have you ever thought of leaving something in your will to charity? Please consider remembering the International Otter Survival Fund in your will and help our work, protecting otters, to continue.

Including a legacy in your will ensures that your wishes are carried out, so it is important to discuss this with your solicitor. You can stipulate a specific restriction for its use, but remember that without restriction your legacy can be directed to where it is required most urgently.

Should you choose to provide a legacy for the International Otter Survival Fund in your will, we thank you and appreciate your support in this way.

This link <https://www.otter.org/take-action-legacy> will take you to our dedicated web page concerning making a Legacy.

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It's simple and costs no more than what you spend:

Donate – one-off or regular



<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/iosf>



<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/iosfund/>



<https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/international-otter-survival-fund/>





OR, scan and add our charity code 62575





<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/donate?cid=630>



<https://donate.justgiving.com/donation-amount?uri=aHR0cHM6Ly9kb25hdGUtYXBpLmP1c3RnaXZpbmcuY29tL2FwaS9kb25hdGlvbnMvZiZiMjIxODIyYzE5NGZkZjhlMGM4YyYwYzMDQzOjYyYzU=>



<https://giveacar.co.uk/charities/international-otter-survival-fund/>





<https://www.charitycar.co.uk/international-otter-survival-fund>

Vehicle Disposal – yes, even your old vehicle can earn great donations whether it's scrap or auction (fees apply)

Annual Adoption Renewal Rates	
UK and EEC Countries:	
Adult:	£24.00 per year
Child:	£13.00 per year
Family:	£34.00 per year
Life Membership (all countries): £350.00	
All other countries:	
Adult:	£30.00 per year
Child:	£15.00 per year
Family:	£40.00 per year

Have you enjoyed reading this? Then please SHARE and spread the word.

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Discover Ways You Can Help

There are many ways in which you can raise money and awareness to help the otters in our [Fundraising Pack](#) or find out what some of our supporters have done over the years in the online [newsletters](#).

International Otter Survival Fund
7 Black Park
Broadford
Isle of Skye IV49 9DE
Scotland

Email: enquiries@otter.org
Tel: ++(0)1471 822487



Charity Number SC003875

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<http://tinyurl.com/p3lrsxm>

www.otter.org

The International Otter Survival Fund
Working to Save the World's Otters