



Otter News No. 123, June 2021

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Welcome To Astrid



In December Aodhan left us to move to Glasgow and we wish him well with his future. Due to Covid-19 restrictions we were not able to carry out interviews to take on someone else until May, but now we are delighted to welcome Astrid to the IOSF team to help us continue our otter work.

World Otter Day 2021

IOSF World Otter Day 2021 was another massive success thanks to everyone's amazing efforts. With the Covid-19 pandemic affecting events for a second year running we cannot thank YOU all enough for your ingenuity and versatility in making sure this year's was such a big event.



IOSF Webinar

As many of you will know, IOSF held a two-part "World of Otters" webinar to celebrate World Otter Day 2021.

The webinar was split into two parts, a morning session focused on Asian otters, and an afternoon session which focused on otters from the Americas and Africa. We decided to hold a two-part webinar to ensure that everyone across the world could join and to ensure that time zones didn't prevent people from being able to join us and celebrate together.

The two webinars offered the following presentations:

Morning Session

Paul Yoxon, International Otter Survival Fund - "Global status of otter and the work of IOSF"

Prof. Padma De Silva - "Otter conservation in Asia"

Woo Chee Yoong – Malaysia Nature Society - "Research on the Kuala Selangor Otters (including the rare hairy-nosed otter) and the work of the Malaysian Otter Network"

Save Vietnam's Wildlife - "Rehab of rescued pet otters, the illegal trade and the threat to wild otter populations"

Omar Al-Sheikhly - "The legendary Maxwell's otter, distribution, threats and conservation work in Iraq"

Afternoon Session

Megan Isadore, River Otter Ecology Project - "Supporting conservation, one otter sighting at a time"

Pablo Hernandez - "Conservation challenges for the Neotropical otter in Mexico"

Bridgette San Marco, Save The Giants - "Giant otters in Guyana and the work of Save the Giants"

Ben Yoxon, International Otter Survival Fund - "Team Otter and the importance of children's environmental education"

William Mgomo - "Otters, communities and reducing human-otter conflict in an important African wetland habitat"

We would like to say a massive thank you to all of our speakers for sharing their expertise on their respective otter species and also for taking the time to help make this webinar such a success, we can't thank you enough.

Should you have missed the webinars, or wish to watch them again, they are now available online

Morning session – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6wWGgZz_Tc

Afternoon session - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O86_OAzeNXI&t

If you attended the webinar or have watched the recordings online, we'd be very grateful for your feedback.

Please use the form here - <https://forms.gle/zN13fVRDVB2SKFut8>

Other Webinars

Throughout the last month, IOSF has been delighted to be involved in other webinars across the world. We have presented and taken part in other online meetings in Bangladesh, India, Malaysia and Zimbabwe – you will read about the latter two below.

Grants

Due to Covid-19 restrictions some of the events which had been offered support through our grants system have had to be altered or delayed for safety of both the grantees and the people that they plan to involve in respective outreach programmes. The grants offered to Benin, Nepal and India have been postponed due to restrictions within each country. All grantees will begin their projects when it is safe to do so.



Argentina

The event in Argentina, run by Adriana Belen Vallejos, has had some progress thus far.

Due to major drought issues, the river surveys have been put on hold until next month when water levels rise and otters reappear. Furthermore, heavy Covid-19 restrictions within Argentina have meant that the workshops involving children aged 5-10 have been postponed until it is safe to do so.

So, what has been achieved? Adriana has gathered all the materials that are necessary, so when time allows, the surveys can be covered.

Furthermore, there have been virtual meetings with otter and conservation experts from across Argentina. Adriana, and her team, were also contacted by two radio stations and asked to talk about the Neotropical otter project, the grant obtained by IOSF, ecology and behaviour and they invited people to participate in their citizen science project focused on the Neotropical otters. Furthermore, the citizen science project was posted online (mainly social media), to encourage people to send in their sightings. So far, they have received sightings from four other provinces (Chaco, Formosa, Cordoba and Sante Fe), both dead and alive, which has provided further information on the distribution of the species in Argentina for the first time since 2003.

Finally, any dead otter reports from within 100 miles of the Corrientes Biological Station will be collected and taken for a post-mortem to identify any factors, such as parasites, which may be affecting their conservation.

The picture of the otter, *right*, was taken on a camera trap set in San Cayetano Park.

So far, a great project has been conducted and we looked forward to further results and reports from Adriana and her team.



Other Events

Despite the ongoing pandemic, events did happen around the world, both virtual and live, and here is an overview of some:



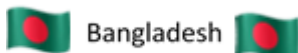
Australia

Adelaide Zoo held an event virtually for World Otter Day which included keeper talks, competitions for the best otter facts and raising awareness for otter conservation.

Rockhampton Zoo held a similar event.

MaryAnn, based in Sydney, held an online Twitch event, where she raised awareness for otters among her viewers. Through her event, she sang songs, stated facts etc. about otters and raised about \$400AUD. Thank you MaryAnn.

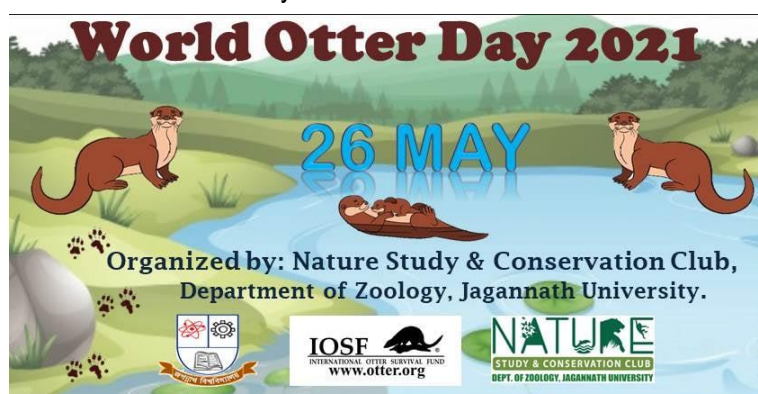
Although Australia has no native otters it is great to have organisations and people like this spreading the word about otters!



Bangladesh

On 26 May 2021, IOSF World Otter Day, the Dhaka University Nature Conservation Club (DUNCC), the voluntary student wing of the Department of Zoology, University of Dhaka, celebrated otters, the fascinating small carnivores, with an array of educational activities.

To shed a conservation spotlight on otters, DUNCC expressed solidarity with the motto of World Otter Day as the day was observed in every otter range country. Bangladesh is said to be home to three otter species: the Asian small-clawed otter, Eurasian otter, and smooth-coated otter. However, otters are among the least-studied carnivores in the country. The number of concerted research studies on otters is less than five in the whole



country. There has been no evidence of the Eurasian otter in the last twenty years, which could be the next extirpated carnivore of Bangladesh.

To plug the data gap, raise awareness, inspire people in otter research, the club arranged a three-day-long web-based programme from 24-26 May 2021. DUNCC called for different types of inter-university competitions: a fun quiz, poster design,

debate, 3-minute presentations, and essay writing. A total of 35 undergraduates from three universities participated in these activities, all of which kept otters as a thematic focus.

On the first two days of the programme, the club arranged hour-long lecture FACEBOOK LIVE sessions, one on each day. These sessions, 'Otters of Bangladesh' and 'Camera Trapping in Wildlife Biology', were facilitated by Muntasir Akash, lecturer at the Department of Zoology, University of Dhaka. These sessions were highly interactive and, so far, grossed a total of 2500 views. A popular article on otters was published on 26 May in a leading English daily (<https://www.tbsnews.net/environment/nature/saving-bangladeshs-otters-mission-not-too-late-launch-251095>)

On the final day of the programme, the club also premiered two short documentaries on otters, one of which featured the remarkable discovery of the Asian small-clawed otter from northeast Bangladesh, now available on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjmiNImiQEA&list=PLSlaj4yb6m3Uerwp1BRbYUt7G5-uUVogV>).

IOSF's Grace Yoxon gave a presentation on "Otters and the work of IOSF" including the Bangladesh workshop in 2015. This was followed by Dr M Niamul Naser, professor and chairman of the department of zoology, who announced the competition winners and stressed the role of otters as a keystone species of riparian forests. Muntasir Akash presented a short talk on the otters. Along with more than 100 university students, seven academicians from the Department of Zoology, University of Dhaka, also attended the closing event. The otter day activity of DUNCC was featured in media.

Belgium

Pairi Daiza took their event online due to restrictions, and raised awareness for the two species they have in their exhibit.

Canada

In Canada, Critter Care Wildlife Society, an organisation that looks after wildlife in British Columbia, including North American river otters, held an event to celebrate the day. They focused on one of their rescued otters, "Dame Judy Denture", who really emphasises the amazing survival instincts and resilience of otters.

Intrigued by her name? You can learn more here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDiJuC0St1o>

Critter Care Wildlife Society used the day to go online and help raise funds for the otters in their care.

In Alberta, Edmonton Valley Zoo also celebrated online due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Costa Rica

Long time World Otter Day celebrators, the Toucan Rescue Ranch, held an online event partnering with Exploring by the Seat of your Pants. They held a free, online virtual event focusing on their rescued Neotropical otter, Emma. This lasted for an hour and engaged with over a thousand children, mainly based in the USA.

Italy

Valle Della Lontra is an organisation looking at otters in their area in southern Italy. They have begun to monitor otters in the area and are planning spraint analysis and camera trap monitoring.



As part of World Otter Day, they decided to introduce the kids of the area, the school of Casaletto Spartano, to their wild neighbours, the otter. The day was split into two parts, a day learning about the otter in the classroom before going “in the tracks” of the otter and into their habitat.



Japan

World Otter Day was celebrated across the country by the Japan Association for Zoos and Aquariums (JAZA). Due to Covid-19 restrictions some establishments only used social media and online means to distribute information, which is very very worthwhile, but 34 managed to hold events up and down the nation.

For example, Yokohama Zoological Gardens held keeper talks and had an information board with the following titles "About the Extinct Japanese Otter" and "About the Serious Problem of Illegal Trade of the Small-clawed Otter".

Elsewhere, at Tokiwa Zoo, they used similar boards and talks to raise awareness of otter conservation and also conservation organisations such as IOSF. They created a video that was used online and has been viewed over 1000 times to date.

Others such as Noichi Zoological Park and Osaka Kaiyukan also held events.



Malaysia

There was a joint celebration of World Otter Day 2021, between Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) and Malaysia Otter Network (MON).

Activity 1: Annual public webinar

This event was opened with a welcome speech by Prof. Dr. Ahmad Ismail who officiated the World Otter Day 2021 celebration. The event continued with a short “Otter Ambassador” award ceremony. This is the very first award ceremony in Malaysia that recognises the important contributions by selected public personnel in otter conservation and they were proud to award recognition to five “Otter Ambassadors”.

The title of the first webinar session was “Local Conservation Efforts of the Wetland Ambassador”. The panellists of this session were three professional local researchers who have great experience in the ecology of otters and mammals. This session provided the updated current status of the four species of otter in all regions of Malaysia and drew public attention to the serious threats, notably otter-human conflict and the illegal otter pet trade. The recording of this webinar can be viewed through this link: <https://fb.watch/66ZsOg-jrv/>

The celebration was continued with the second webinar session entitled “International Conservation Efforts of the Wetland Ambassador”. The panellists of this webinar session were three international otter conservationists, including Dr Paul Yoxon of IOSF, who work in the field of otter conservation. This session showed the primary example of how World Otter Day brings global attention to otters and the efforts that are put into the protection of otters. There are lots of incredible projects around the world and it showed the potential of otters to be recognised as one of the focus species for conservation both of the species and wetlands in Malaysia. The recording of this webinar can be view through this link:



<https://fb.watch/66Zw2dbe6C/>

The very first webinar focusing solely on otter conservation in Malaysia has been a huge success with participants from 28 countries and they showcased how the public can contribute and/or join the efforts to save the otters in Malaysia.

Activity 2: Live telecast of otter in Zoo Taiping

The live telecast entitled “Otter, The Wetland Ambassador: How zoos can play an important role in conserving them” was open to the public through MNS Facebook Live event. Dr Muhammad Ridhwan Bin Affendi, Veterinary Officer Zoo at Taiping & Night Safari, spoke and the session was moderated by Habibun Najar Bin Zainal Abidin, Conservation Officer of MNS. The session started with a brief introduction about Zoo Taiping and the otters in the zoo. Then Dr. Ridhwan answered a few questions on the basic care of otters in captivity and conservation of otter through zoos. This was followed by a live feeding session with a group of smooth-coated otters to show the public how otters feed, hunt, move and behave in the enclosure. The recording of the webinar can be view through this link: <https://fb.watch/6gkygO8gMh/>

Activity 3: School activities

A series of online competitions were held to increase awareness of otters and their conservation among the Kelab Pencinta Alam Malaysia (KPA) members, MNS members, their immediate family members, and the public from 10 May – 5 June 2021.

The first was an “Infographic Poster Design Contest” with a theme of Malaysian otters and this was open only to KPA members aged 13 to 17. This was to encourage students to research more information and facts about the Malaysian otters and present them in the form of a poster. A total of 125 students participated in the contest.

The second competition was the “World Otter Day 2022 Poster Design Contest” and this was open to all Malaysian citizens aged 18 and above and residing in Malaysia. The contestants were required to design a banner poster for World Otter Day 2022, and the best poster would be used as a promotional poster for the World Otter Day 2022 celebration. To complete the poster, the contestants needed to know about general otter ecology, which encourages them to read more and understand about otters. A total of 18 people took part in the contest and the winner is in the picture below

The third activity was the Kelab Pencinta Alam Malaysia Webinar Series, which was initiated and adopted as an annual KPA activity, following the first announcement of the Movement Control Order in March 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The purpose was to act as an engagement tool for nature education among KPA members in MNS as physical activities are not allowed. The webinar was organised by KPA with the objective to raise otter awareness among KPA members. KPA invited the MNS Wildlife Conservation Officer, Mr Woo Chee Yoong, who is in charge of the MNS Otter Project in MNS, to be the speaker. Topics of the webinar were otter biology, otters of the world and Malaysia, otter habitat, its importance and threats, and how the public (including the students) can help to safeguard the otters.



Mexico

In Mexico, friend of IOSF, Dr Pablo Hernandez partnered with Animal Karma Fundacion for an online presentation of the Neotropical otter in Mexico.

There is a brief introduction to Mexican otters here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9vuJLvx-ng> – video in Spanish.



Montenegro

In Montenegro, NGO Living Green joined World Otter Day once again. In Skadar Lake, the largest freshwater wetland in the Balkan region, two workshops were held - one with children and the TV show “Bee”, and a second with students.

Awareness signs and leaflets were created and distributed and there are further plans to increase protection of otters in the area.

Republic of Ireland

Cork Nature Network held an awareness campaign online for their local Eurasian otters. This included encouraging people to use the new Cork Otter Trail and also an art competition for children, which IOSF gladly offered a prize for.

Scotland

Ross Lawford, together with Joanne Waldie, raised over £600 for IOSF by taking an otter walk along the Water of Leith over a 24 hr period. They started at 9am on Saturday 29th May and were supported by friends and fellow otter lovers along the way. They headed to the Water of Leith Conservation Trust and Saughton Park, with leaflets to hand out to passers-by so raising awareness about IOSF and otter conservation. Next was Figgate Park then up to Arthur's Seat and a strange encounter with a terrapin on the highest loch. Always looking for otters at any water, they saw lots of bird life including herons and ducks and roe deer. The first two otters appeared in the shape of a mother and cub which Ross has been watching for quite some time. They were able to observe the otters as they swirled in the river before heading rapidly downstream. This was on their way back down from the volcanic hill back towards the city centre.



Friends James (Joanne's husband), Matt and partner, Neil, Kerry and Grace joined them for the evening and as they walked encountered a fox. It was further down the river that another otter was spotted in the Water of Leith, as Ross and Joanne looked ahead to a long night in Scotland's capital. The intrepid pair experienced the city through the night, visiting the castle and seeking photo opportunities. They watched a low mist roll in over the Leith basin around 2-3am, enjoyed the dawn chorus echoing through the city's empty streets and the company of foxes and badgers.

As the end of their 24hrs approached, and grateful for the hot drinks brought to them by Neil, another otter made a brief appearance as though signalling the end of their otter walk. So a total of 7 otter encounters, 14 foxes, 3 badgers, a kingfisher, dippers with chicks, roe deer, blackcap along with many others.

A big "Thank you" to Ross and Joanne for putting in the effort to complete this challenge and supporting otter conservation.

South Africa

In South Africa, Hoerikwaggo Kids and Tree House Family, took the opportunity to go on an otter expedition to the southern peninsula of Western Cape near Cape Town.



They explored, looking for otters, and any other wildlife they could find for the day!



Spain

Acuaría de Zaragoza posted on social media to draw attention to the importance of otter conservation among their followers.



Uganda

World Otter Day was held at Chameleon Hill Lodge Bay around Lake Mutanda, Kisoro District. The participants for the event were school children, community members, lodge staff and some tourists visiting the lodge.

The event was organised by Mutanda Community Conservation Organization (MUCCO), headed by Turyagenda Bishubeho Louis. During the event, the children learned about otters, their challenges in Uganda, habitat issues, illegal trade and other factors leading to the otter's decline. Community members had seen otters as a threat and there was no need to protect them but this is beginning to change, and farmers and wetland users are beginning to see and understand the benefit of having otters. MUCCO pointed out that in future we need this beautiful species for the environmental health of the area. Furthermore, eco-tourism opportunities could bring support to various aspects, such as local children, women's and youths initiatives, in order to empower the community around the conservation areas.

MUCCO and Louis would like to thank the owner of the Chameleon Hill Lodge, Doris Mexiner for her positive response towards the conservation of otters in the area. We thank all stakeholders, Uganda Wildlife Authority representatives Mr Mwandha, Dr Adonis, Madam Vanice; Senior Warden Mugahinga National Park for allowing us to host this important event. Finally, we thank the Kisoro District leadership, especially District Environment Officer, Madam Judith, and Senior Fisheries Officer, Mr Danis, for technical support and advice.



Not only was this great event for children achieved but on this day, senior poacher James Birihanze surrendered his hunting materials and stated that he will no longer sell and kill otters. Instead, he has stated that he will help researchers monitor and conserve them within the lake. This is a great achievement.

MUCCO now have plans to continue their project and have been contacted by a number of schools to further the message.



United States of America

We are delighted that various events for World Otter Day happened across the US this year.

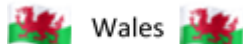
Riverbank Elementary, in California, held a great virtual celebration with their students. Using IOSF's presentation "Otters, Environment and their Role" they learned about the importance of otters. Furthermore, they went in to more detail on their own two species, the Sea and North American river otter using the Otter Activity Booklet from the Oceanographic Environmental Research Society. The children drew and labelled diagrams of otters and learned more about the animals.

At ZooMontana they held an event to raise awareness and support for otters and their conservation. They had

over 1,600 guests, who all learned more about otters and shopped to raise funds. They had a table with information on IOSF and a "Trash Talk" game (guests estimated how long it took for different trash items to break down in the environment). There was also a local call-to-action where guests signed up to take the pledge of "don't leave otters on the line" by promising to dispose of all of their extra/discarded fishing line in proper trash or recycling stations. Using their Quarters for Conservation programme they also raised a massive \$950 for IOSF after selecting us as their charity of the month. We are very grateful for their support and caring for otters.

Squams Lake Natural Science Center held a small event with some special talks and enrichment around their otter enclosure. They also posted online to raise awareness. Ochsner Park Zoo held a similar event.

Other events were held around the country in establishments such as NEW Zoo and Little Rock Zoo.



Cardiff University Otter Project (CUOP) is a national research and monitoring programme which has been running since 1994, using otters as sentinels for environmental health. They carry out post mortems on otters found dead in the UK and rely very much on the efforts made by environmental organisations and individuals who report, collect and deliver otters to them. For World Otter Day they held a seminar to tell people about what they do, and why.

**For World Otter Day 2021,
Cardiff University Otter Project
invites you to an online seminar:
Friday 28th May, 1-2pm**

Join us to find out more about what happens
to the otters you report and deliver.



On 21 May, the Save Our Environment Trust team went to Cecil John Rhodes primary school, to teach children all about otters. The pupils learned about otters, their conservation and also took part in poems, drama and quizzes for prizes. Each child also received a certificate of attendance.

The Save Our Environment Trust said "Although we have been responsible for most of the damage happening to our biodiversity, we also have the opportunity to restore, conserve and to protect, not for our sake but for generations to come. Children have a role to play in managing, conserving and preserving the environment. They should be encouraged and motivated to take part in different environmental awareness and initiatives."

This was a great event and the first time that a World Otter Day event has taken place in Zimbabwe.

The following week, IOSF's Education Officer, Ben Yoxon, took part in a Zoom



Meeting with various attendees to discuss the plans for Zimbabwe otters and what can be done. Currently, Save Our Environment Trust is creating questionnaires to go to local communities to gain a better understanding of otters and human perceptions across the country.

Other Events

There were a lot more events held across the world and we are so grateful to everyone who made this a success. Whether this be with an event or posting online, we would like to say thank you.



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

Team Otter Broadford has been incredibly busy over the last few weeks.

Last week the team continued their clean-up of Broadford and collected four bags (around 30kg) of litter including this crisp packet from 16 years ago! The crisp packet shows how slow these things are to degrade and really emphasises why we are doing what we are doing and why we have to stop unnecessary waste!



This week, we took to the Ard Nish peninsula to enjoy some of the wildlife. It was a beautiful, hot day and a perfect opportunity to investigate our local habitats. We watched the wildlife including seals (and pups), sea birds and investigated rock pools and fossils in the area.

For more information on Team Otter, check out our website (www.loveotters.org) or Facebook. If you are interested in forming your own Team Otter Club contact Ben@otter.org

News from The Sanctuary

It has not been an easy few weeks for us at the Sanctuary as we lost two of our otters. The first one was Effie. She didn't seem quite herself one day but nothing really to worry about. But the next day she was clearly seriously ill so we took her straight to the vet but she died later that day. A complete shock as we were starting to think about her release. The post mortem revealed that for some weird reason she had been eating grass and had eaten so much it had blocked her intestine. We couldn't understand why she would do that as we have had no problems with fish supplies so she couldn't have been hungry. But the PM vet told us that sometimes it is a behavioural thing and it could not have been diagnosed without exploratory surgery.

Then a few days later Buddy died. Another shock - he had been fine and active in the evening but was dead in the morning. This time the post mortem wasn't conclusive and it is possible that he had a fit. They are still carrying out some tests to see if they can find out more.



Effie and Buddy

It is always sad to lose an otter, but two is very hard, especially when they had both seemed to be doing so well. People often ask if we are sad when we release but that is always our aim and we love to see a healthy animal return to the wild where it belongs.

And so we were very happy to see Laurie swim off after his release at the beginning of June (photos below). We could tell that he was excited at the prospect of freedom as he became very animated as he could smell the sea. He wasn't a tiny cub when he arrived and just needed a bit of time and fattening up before a second chance of a truly wild life. He was with us for nearly four months and was always digging to try and get out so once the box was open there was no hesitation and he went straight into the water.



In the meantime the other otters are doing well. It doesn't seem to have upset either Reva or Holly that their pals have gone. Holly is now in one of the croft enclosures and enjoying the extra space. Ben even found her doing laps in her pool as you can see on Youtube at [https://youtu.be/LLj51_1iS4E!](https://youtu.be/LLj51_1iS4E) As the weather has been very warm she has been sleeping outside hiding in the long grass.



Bealltainn and Reva



Bealltinn has been taking vegetation into her sleeping box and yet she has been sleeping outside a lot in the nice weather.

DJ and Louis are their usual cheeky selves (see photos below). We always vary feeding times so that the otters don't come to expect it at a certain time but no matter when we go they hear us and are very keen and there is always a good squabble to get the first fish.



Last week we had a call from Caithness about an otter in someone's garden amongst the flower pots! It was collected by the SSPCA who then brought it over to us. Like Laurie, this is not a young cub and so again we hope it will only stay with us a short time before it can go back to the wild.

We also had a very busy few days with other animals - in fact on Saturday we had three call-outs. First thing in the morning we had a call from the vet as they had found a shopping bag on the doorstep and inside was a tawny owl! (photo right) There were no contact details but a note said where it had been found by the roadside. The vet had checked it over and there was no damage to the wings but there was a cut by the left eye. So we collected the owl and it is now in an indoor aviary. The cut is healing and initially it had to be bathed regularly to prevent it sticking. It has just started feeding itself and so will soon go to an outside aviary to give it more room to fly.

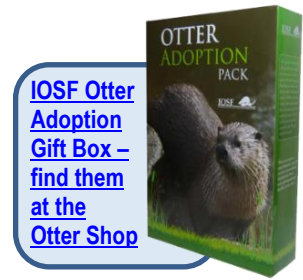


Later that morning we were driving down towards Torrin when a motorist stopped us as he had found a hedgehog in the middle of the road. It was an adult and very active – maybe it had just been trying to cross. So we put it in the undergrowth and when we checked on the way home it had gone.

And then in the afternoon we had several calls about a seal pup on a tidal island just near us. It is pupping season for common seals and we had been called about another one a few miles down the coast the previous week. The problem is that when people find a pup on its own their immediate instinct is that we need to do something. Sometimes the pup will try to follow a person and they sound pitiful as they cry out for mum. But usually the best thing to “do” is leave it alone. The mothers will leave them while they go and feed and will return later to collect them. So provided the pup isn't injured or in danger we should step back and let the mother look

after her youngster. In the case of the first pup a local person found it and he led it towards the water and watched as it swam off hopefully to meet up with mum. We went to check the second one and it was very young as it still had the umbilical cord attached. However it was perfectly healthy and as the tide was coming in we decided again that it was best to give mum the opportunity to return. Next morning it had gone.

It is always important to give young wild animals and birds a chance to reunite with the parent, and if we step in too early we can end up causing a problem. The intentions may be right but if a mother smells a human on her young she may well reject it.



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 www.ottershop.co.uk

Another way you help the otters is through the Wish List (https://otter.org/Public/HelpUs_WishList.aspx). These include items which we use regularly such as Hibiscrub, protective gloves, stationery, etc.

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 http://otter.org/Public/HelpUs_CorporateSponsorship.aspx

Otter Shop Product of the Month

www.ottershop.co.uk

Book yourself an exclusive day with IOSF to go looking for otters. Learn what signs to look for and enjoy our wonderful local scenery and other wildlife, along the way.
<https://ottershop.co.uk/products/iosf-otter-watching-day>



giftaid it



GIFT AID IS A SIMPLE WAY TO INCREASE THE VALUE OF YOUR GIFT TO IOSF - at no extra cost to you. If you pay tax in the UK, IOSF can reclaim the basic rate tax (25%) on your gift. So, if you donate £10, it is worth £12.50 to IOSF.

It is a simple process to sign up to Gift Aid - all you have to do is make a Gift Aid declaration. If you are donating online, just select the "Yes" option on the Gift Aid box on the donation form. Alternatively you can download and print out the Gift Aid Declaration on page 13 of our Fundraising Pack which can be found at:

http://www.otter.org/documents/IOSF_Fundraising_Pack.pdf

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 will make 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 http://otter.org/Public/HelpUs_Legacy.aspx will take you to our dedicated web page concerning making a Legacy.

IOSF and partners Pledjar went live on Instagram on Thursday, 18 February. For anyone who missed it, you can watch it here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKRaWqg1xXo>



Simply download the Pledjar app - use code OSF001 and select IOSF as your charity of choice. You can then choose to round up your card payments and donate those extra pennies to help otters.

- **Android:** https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.pledjar.app&hl=en_GB
- **iOS:** <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/pledjar/id1504894760>

Thank You...

We'd like to thank all of you for your continued support in these very difficult times. We are very much encouraged by your generosity.

Also, thanks to The Slater Foundation, The Beryl Evetts and Robert Luff Animal Welfare Trust Ltd, Nurtured by Nature and Climate Action North.

We can't do it without you.

All photos are © to the name/s as indicated, otherwise ©IOSF

You can follow us on:



Keep Us in Mind

Raise **FREE** Donations... when you shop online. It's simple and costs you no more than your shopping. Visit one of our charity pages to discover how easy it is for you to help otters even more:



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



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



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

Regular and secure giving to IOSF and otter conservation... at your fingertips.
Text **OTTER 10** to **70085** to donate £10 (or change the amount to however much you wish to give)



You can donate monthly via our partners at the DONR giving platform that allows an easy and safe way method to give. This can be as little or as much as you can afford. Visit <https://www.donr.com/iosf> to find out more.

Annual Supporters' 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 e-newsletter? Then please forward it to someone else and spread the word.

If you are reading this for the first time and would like to receive all IOSF mailings, click [here](#) to sign up. Please be assured that we will never pass on your details to any other party and you will only ever receive emails from us.

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**.

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Charity Number SC003875

Join our IOSF mailing list. Click on this link:
<http://tinyurl.com/p3lrsmx>

www.otter.org

The International Otter Survival Fund
Working to Save the Worlds Otters