



*Orangutan
Appeal UK*

Orangutan Appeal UK



News

Issue 34 - February 2018

Man of the Forest DVD Version 2

Finally, after two months of filming earlier this year, our new DVD is now available for you to own. Along with exclusive behind-the-scenes footage you will get to meet the vets and staff who care for our orangutans and get a true insight into the work carried out at Sepilok. It was certainly over-due as the previous version was filmed 10 years ago!

We will be showing the new film at the Centre so visitors to Sepilok from all over the world will be able to learn about the important work being done there by Sabah Wildlife Department and Orangutan Appeal UK. We hope it will be a key educational tool for audiences of all ages, showing the plight of the critically endangered orangutan. With over 80,000 visitors a year to the centre we can be sure to reach a very large audience.

Special thanks to our producer Phil Stebbing, editor Brian Mead, assistant producer Cede Prudente and the team at Media Plant for the DVD production. Not forgetting our Ambassador and TV star Nicholas Daines for his wonderful presenting and narration.

We are also extremely grateful to the famous composer Tim Janis, who has generously allowed us to use his bewitching composition and recording of 'The Enchanted Forest' as our soundtrack.

We are very proud of the final result and think you will be too!

Man of the Forest is available to purchase from our website or by calling our office on +44 (0)1590 623443 for just £9.99 (+p&p).



Nicholas Daines in the recording studio

Paul O'Grady's Book Launch

On November 15th OAUk's Patron and well known celebrity Paul O'Grady invited our Chairperson Sue Sheward to attend the launch of his latest book, "Country Life", which was being held in London.

The launch took place at the beautiful House of St Barnabas, in Soho and was very well attended by Paul's friends and colleagues, from both the entertainment industry and the different organisations such as Battersea Dogs Home that he works with and supports.

Paul was his usual warm and witty self and made time to hear all about his favourite orangutan, Archie. Sue was delighted to be introduced to Paul's husband, ballet dancer Andre Portasio, who he married in August last year.

Titled "Country Life", the book provides a fascinating – and brilliantly funny – insight into Paul's move to the country and adaption to a rural lifestyle. It is packed with

stories about his menagerie of animals, recipes and beautiful photography. Sue enjoyed it immensely and highly recommends it!

Here Sue is pictured chatting with Paul's manager, Joan Marshrons, who she worked with whilst filming with Paul on his "Animal Orphans" series at the renowned Sepilok Rehabilitation Centre in Borneo.

Sue said "I am very proud that Paul is our Patron! He is such a sincere man and never misses a chance to promote our Charity and truly cares".



Sue & Joan Marshrons

Exciting News - Adopt Paul O'Grady's Archie Today



Paul with baby Archie

When famous actor and comedian Paul O'Grady visited Sepilok in 2016, he never expected to develop such a close bond with one very special little orangutan, Archie. With his smiley face and tufty orange hair, Paul found it impossible not to fall in love with him.

But it was a two way love-affair. Every time Archie saw Paul he would screech and reach out to him! It didn't

matter if he was climbing or drinking his milk – Archie wanted Paul! When Paul finished his filming at Sepilok the Appeal gave him an exclusive Adoption of Archie!

NOW PAUL WANTS TO SHARE ARCHIE WITH OUR SUPPORTERS!! SO YOU CAN ADOPT HIM TODAY!

Born in the wild in the reserve surrounding Sepilok, at a very young age Archie developed a life-threatening illness and was brought into the veterinary clinic at Sepilok in order to save his life. Following intensive treatment and round the clock care, Archie made a full recovery and is now a happy and healthy little orangutan living at the Centre's Indoor Nursery, where he is being taught the skills to help him return to the wild in the future.

The opportunity to adopt Archie is now yours! Receive exclusive photographs and never before seen video footage. A chance not to be missed!

Why not join Paul in making a difference to critically endangered orangutans? Here's your chance – adopt Archie today!

Sepilok News

Mariko

Mariko and Peba were on the main platform when Jack one of the orangutans tried to grab Peba's head but Mariko was quick to protect her baby and hit him away.



Mariko & Peba

Yokmal

In November, Yokmal (the flanged wild male) recently came to the outdoor nursery and the babies were all quite scared of him. Mimi was very interested in Yokmal and he's been following her around a lot and kept getting close to her but Peanut was the only baby brave enough to sit near him and steal some of his food!

There were also a few mating during this week, Yokmal and Mimi, and Malim and Mariko. Yokmal and Mimi were together all week but he has disappeared again now into the forest. Who knows, maybe we will have some more babies in the not too distant future!



Yokmal on the boardwalk

Ceria

Bad boy Ceria has been hanging around the outdoor nursery again throwing rocks this time and now Kala has started to copy him! The Rangers moved Ceria over to the platform 4 area further into the Kabili forest but he made his way straight back.

He has now been hanging around the outdoor nursery building and stole one of the volunteer's boots. He tried to put it on his foot but it was grabbed back before he managed to do so. He then went to the Sun Bear Centre where he apparently spent several minutes perusing the crisp packets in the cabinet before making his selection and then returning to the Outdoor Nursery looking very pleased with himself. Having opened the bag of crisps he offered one to Cinta who wisely declined as she was obviously thinking of her figure!!

The final straw was when one of the rangers was in the small wooden boat on the lake cleaning debris away, when Ceria came up to the shoreline, untied the rope and then tried to haul the boat in whilst the ranger was

frantically trying to keep himself afloat. Luckily Boney spotted what was going on and came to the ranger's rescue.

All these stories are very amusing but for Ceria's future it is proving to be a worry. He is copying everything that he sees the volunteers or tourists doing. It is hoped that Ceria will be able to be transferred to the new Pre-Release Project and eventually make his home in Tabin!



Ceria

Cinta and the infant macaque

An orphaned infant macaque has been looked after in the clinic for quite some time. The rangers have now started bringing him to the outdoor nursery so it can learn to climb on the jungle gym.

Orangutan Cinta had a better idea and has decided to adopt the baby macaque and is with him constantly, grooming and holding him. They have named the baby Oi Oi and Cinta is very maternal and protective of him when the older macaques are around and the baby macaque has obviously accepted her as his substitute mum and desperately clings to her.



Cinta & baby macaque

Clenan & Awangtang

Both Clenan and Awangtang and Bellaluna and her unnamed baby have been seen on the feeding platform at the outdoor nursery. Clenan is now happy to wander away from Awangtang for a short period of time, leaving her alone but Bellaluna keeps her baby very close.

Archie

Archie has been suffering from diarrhoea again at the onset of the wet season and so OAUK were delighted to be of assistance by purchasing the special goat's milk that helps settle his digestion for him, and for a couple of the other youngsters in the nursery. All of the youngsters who were suffering from the debilitating condition have subsequently improved since changing over to the goat's milk and it has virtually cleared up.

Post Release Monitoring Project

It has been ten years since we embarked on our pioneering post-release monitoring project in partnership with Sabah Wildlife Department. Our primary aim was to reintroduce rehabilitated orangutans from Sepilok into the wild so they could live completely independently and hopefully go onto breed. We also recognised the need to better document the post-release outcomes of rehabilitated orangutans so improvements could be made to the rehabilitation process.



Ganang & Baby Sue - latest additions

Our team of research assistants spent every waking hour tracking and observing the orangutans, recording vital data and reporting on their progress. We were the first project in the world to use implanted telemetry

transponders as a tracking device which proved invaluable in locating the orangutans which had previously been exceedingly difficult. This breakthrough gave our work recognition across the world.

The PRM Project has been a great success and proved that many orangutans who have been through the rehabilitation programme at Sepilok can go on to live truly wild lives once again. We have presented to hundreds of school children and local villagers impressing on them the importance of the orangutan and its habitat, helping to create conservationists of the future. Our researchers also trained to become Honorary Wildlife Wardens helping Sabah Wildlife Department to protect the Tabin reserve from illegal activities.

One of our greatest achievements has been the births of the 'Tabin babies'. One of the best ways to judge the success of a reintroduction program is to see if the females are able to reproduce while living freely in the wild. All of the females on the program have given birth to healthy babies over the last 5 years and are proving to be incredible mothers.

These orangutans no longer need the support of our research assistants and to continue this level of tracking them would impact on their ability to live wild and free. Our team have been concentrating on recording the thousands of hours of data and observations, maintaining the camp for future use and protecting the reserve from poachers.

It's thanks to our supporters who have helped to make this project such a success and we and Sabah Wildlife Department are incredibly proud of the difference we have made to the lives of these orangutans and their future generations.

New - Pre Release Programme (PRP)

Following the success of the Post-Release Monitoring Programme we are in the process of launching a project to identify orangutans living free in the Kabil Reserve, which surrounds Sepilok and involves tracking, monitoring and observing the behaviour of chosen orangutans living in the reserve to determine if they could be relocated to Tabin, which provides a truly wild environment.

10 orangutans have been identified as being potentially suitable for relocation but are in need of further monitoring to confirm their suitability. The orangutans that are being considered include former adoptive babies Sen and Ceria. These orangutans often split their time between the forest surrounding the centre, and the feeding platform where they return to show off to the visitors. They have developed a reliance on the centre's amenities and it is felt now it would be beneficial for both the orangutans and the centre for them live in an area further away from humans, if they are able to do so.

It is important that we frequently release orangutans away from the Kabil Reserve, not only to reduce the orangutans' reliance on humans, but to also widen the gene pool.

Furthermore, in the reserve there are four known dominant wild males, which may have a territory size of up to 6 square kilometres. Having too many orangutans

in the reserve could lead it to become over populated and bring about conflict between the males.

We have initially set up a monitoring team of four members, lead by Lineker our Research Supervisor who also worked on the PRMP, and is featured with Arnold on our front cover, working alongside the Sepilok Rangers.

We hope this new Project will prove to be as much of a success as the Post-Release Monitoring was and we are able to identify orangutans which can be returned to be truly wild.



PRP feeding

Borneo Nature Foundation (BNF)

OAUK have been providing support to BNF's fire-fighting team for over 5 years. The team works to protect large forested landscapes in the Sabangau Forest, Indonesian Borneo. They do this through habitat conservation and forest restoration.

Here is BNF Director, Dr Mark Harrison's latest report.

Two recent publications, both co-authored by Borneo Nature Foundation (BNF) Directors, highlight the importance of Sabangau for Bornean orangutan conservation. The Orangutan Population and Habitat Viability Assessment is the most authoritative account of orangutan population distribution and sizes currently available. With an estimated 5,683-5,826 animals living in its western catchment, the report confirms Sabangau as home to the largest protected population of this species

The International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN) recently updated its Bornean orangutan threat assessment from "Endangered" to "Critically Endangered". This highlights the importance of Sabangau orangutan conservation and, given that fire is the number one threat to this population, it is clear that fire-fighting efforts here are a top priority.

Earlier predictions suggested a possible El Niño event for 2017, but this did not materialise and the 2017 dry season was neither exceptionally long nor intense. Our Community Patrol Team conducted a total 159 river and foot patrols from June-December 2017, during which two incidences of bird hunting and one fire were

encountered. This fire occurred along the edge of the river and was swiftly tackled and no forest was burned.

While 2017 was not a particularly dry year with high fire risk and long-range weather predictions are uncertain, it is certain that another El Niño event will occur (some predict in 2018...). It is imperative that we invest now to prepare for the next major fire period, whenever that occurs. We have therefore been working to establish two new fire-fighting teams in the local villages.



Peatland Patrol

Following an initial period of recruitment and preparation, we have now purchased their fire-fighting pumps and other necessary fire-fighting equipment. An official ceremony is planned for early January to hand over the uniforms and equipment.

As always, we thank OAUK and its supporters for their continued support for our efforts to conserve orangutan populations in situ.

Dr Mark Harrison

Centre for Orangutan Protection (COP)

Orangutan Appeal UK has played an essential role supporting COP in the rescue and rehabilitation of orangutans in the East Kalimantan region of Indonesian Borneo since 2007. The Appeal is currently helping to support COP's rehabilitation centre.



Forest School

Here is the latest update from Hardi Baktiantoro, Founder of COP:-

The good news is that all the babies have now graduated to forest school. Here the young orangutans are being taught the skills they need to prepare them for life in the wild, just like the orphaned babies at Sepilok.

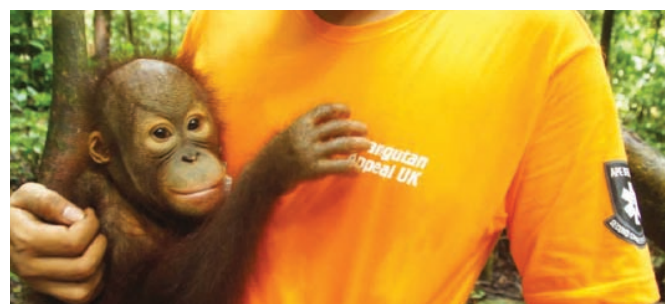
COP was able to purchase an island in the Kelay River which serves as a pre-release facility. The island allows those orangutans who have progressed through forest school to live a semi-wild life before being released into a protected reserve. The six orangutans on the island are now demonstrating wild behaviours and have been

assessed as being ready for release, which is fantastic news.

Nigel, who was due to be released in 2017 unfortunately contracted a virus and cannot be released until he is fully recovered, it is hoped this will be in the next few months. Oki was the first orangutan from the centre to be released last year and is being tracked by a team of local field staff reporting on how he is adapting to his new life, which is evidently very well.

There are four other orangutans at the centre who are too old or ill to ever be released, including 27 year old Ambon who spent his life in a cage before he was rescued by COP and OAUK from a zoo. The plan is to translocate them to the island to live out the rest of their lives under the watchful eyes of the COP team.

We thank our supporters for helping these orangutans to live happier lives with the hope for many of them to live freely in the forest once again.



Baby Owi

Sepilok's Latest Rescue

Matt Bowen, one of the volunteers working at the Centre, has sent us the following report:-

"I've just returned from 2 months volunteering at Sepilok where I was fortunate enough to be able to assist in a rescue!

The rescue happened on December 12th. There had been a call out a few weeks earlier about the same male (later to be named Kopel after the area where he was found) after reports came in that he had some sort of wire caught round his leg. Unfortunately, by the time the team arrived he was nowhere to be seen. Thankfully on this occasion there was better communication as a boat with two vets in had also seen the big male and stayed nearby to keep an eye on him.



Volunteer Matt helps the rescue team

When the call came in, Ranger Ellis asked us to quickly load everything we might need into the OAU rescue vehicle and we set off as fast as possible to the village on the Kinabatangan river and reached it within a couple of hours. A 20 minute boat ride later we met up with the vets who had been monitoring him, who confirmed that he wasn't able to use his left leg.

Ranger Ellis prepared his tranquiliser dart gun and took a careful and successful shot. Thankfully the male wasn't too high in the tree so there was no need to try to cushion his fall. We jumped out of the boat and gave him

a quick once over before getting him on board and heading back to the truck. We put some leaves in the travel cage as well as on top to give him some shelter from the sun and sprinkled water over him to keep him cool on the way back.



Rescued male Kopel

By the time we returned to the centre he was awake and in a bad mood. On arrival the resident vets had a better look at his injury and decided he would need to be sedated again in order to treat it properly. Blood was taken and the wound cleaned and antibiotics given. The vets confirmed that he had an abscess, probably caused by the wire that had previously been seen. It was decided that he would need to remain at the centre for quite a few

weeks to allow the leg to heal and also to feed him up, before releasing him back to the forest where he was found. It is expected that this will be in early 2018."

A huge thank you to Matt for sharing his experience with us and helping us save yet another orangutan life!



OAU's rescue vehicle

Wildlife Rescue Unit (WRU)

Elephant with Gun Shot Wounds Rescued In Telupid

On 16th November, the WRU team rescued a sub-adult pygmy elephant after receiving a report from Sabah Wildlife Department in Sandakan. The injured young male was reported to be wandering around Telupid area. On thorough examination a total of 7 gunshot wounds were found scattered on his body including one on his tongue which made it difficult for him to eat. When the ground team found the young elephant they immediately set about cleaning his wounds and treating them to help to prevent infection and ensure the elephant had the best chance of survival.

A second elephant incident was reported by a guide in the Kinabatangan area. This time it was a young calf who had a snare on its front leg which had severely cut into the flesh. Although the WRU searched the area

thoroughly they did not locate the herd and so they are still on the look-out for this youngster.



Injured young pygmy elephant

Our Ambassadors and Donors

Big Give Christmas Challenge

The Christmas Challenge, hosted by the Big Give, ran for 7 days in December and this year OAUK were successful in obtaining a place.

Being part of this challenge meant that, during this 7 day period, any donations made by our supporters would be matched by funds pledged to us by 'Challenge Champions'. We are pleased to announce that, with your help, we beat our donation target!

BIG GIVE CHALLENGE - TOTAL RAISED:
£4713!

This fantastic amount includes matching from our generous Champions Jacha Potgieter for £1000 and the Reed Foundation for £1000

Business Partners

As well as his kind input for the Big Give, Jacha has had a busy few months at his **Alpine Coffee Shop and Galeri** in Betws-y-Coed, raising vital funds and awareness for the orangutans. Assistant Director of Sabah Wildlife Department and Chief Wildlife Vet, **Dr Sen Nathan** who is the UK studying at Cardiff University for a year, recently accompanied Sue to visit Jacha so that he could see all the hard work being carried out for the orangutans.



Dr Sen, Sue and Jacha

Dr Sen and Jacha first met in Sabah in Borneo and have a shared passion for saving the orangutans. To celebrate Dr Sen's visit, artist Jacha created an orangutan sculpture made entirely of litter collected from nearby beaches. The orangutan was affectionately named 'Dr Sen', which the real Dr Sen was thrilled about.

As if that wasn't enough, recently Jacha also teamed up with small craft chocolate producer **Mayan Monkey Mijas**. Jacha will be selling a special 'orangutan chocolate' at his café to raise funds for the orangutans.



Orangutan litter sculpture

Also Jacha shared his passion for conservation not long ago when he gave a talk at **Chester Zoo** hosted by **Flora and Fauna International**, about his experiences in conservation and particularly, his passion for orangutans and raised further funds. **Brilliant work Jacha! Thank you!**



We are also incredibly grateful to Indochina Restaurant **Banana Tree** and its owners, **William and Anne Chow**, for their continued and generous support. In the last 6 months,

Banana Tree have raised an incredible £6000 for the orangutans

Donations and Grants

We have had some amazing grants this year and would like to thank **Colchester Zoo** for their very generous grant of £5000 to support our current projects.

We are incredibly grateful for the vital grants we have received. **Persula Foundation** and the **Alice Noakes Memorial Trust** both gave us a fantastic £1000 grant and the **William Haddon Charitable Trust** gave a grant of £250. The **Walker 597 Trust** and the **Marjorie Coote Animal Charity Trust** gave grants of £200 and £500 respectively to help fund essential veterinary care at Sepilok for injured orangutans

Catherine Gray has been supporting the orangutans for many years with adoptions and donations. We would like to express our special thanks for her donation and support.

Herb UK, based in Hampshire, decided to donate instead of sending Christmas cards and **Ross Robertson, Waleed Rauf, Beth Cumming** and **Emma Wells** all sent contributions to the orangutans.

Tracy Matthews' husband Steve dreamed about going to Sepilok to see the orangutans but very sadly passed away in 2017. Tracy and her friends and family wanted to contribute to the orangutans in Steve's memory so very kindly made a donation to purchase vitally needed x-ray aprons for Sepilok's veterinary clinic. We pass on our sympathies for Tracy's loss and our sincere appreciation for her kindness.

THANK YOU to all our supporters, it really does help!

Supporter News

Fundraisers

In September our team of 11 runners finished the **Great North Run** and raised a combined total of nearly £3000! **Philippa Rainer** also ran the Severn Bridge 10k and raised £161 for the orangutans



Glen Lewis at the Great North Run

Jane Snee held a three course fundraising dinner and charged her friends to attend. She raised a brilliant £230

Ali Miller rose to the fundraising challenge for a second year running and held a craft stall to raise £120

Following spinal surgery, orangutan-fan **Sarah Farmer** completed a triathlon and raised over £300 for OAUK

Schools and Colleges

Bristol University Veterinary and Zoological Society held quiz nights and cake sales to fundraise and raised £150

Year 4 children at **Werrington Primary School** in Peterborough made Christmas tree ornaments at their school fair and raised £100

STOP PRESS – HELP URGENTLY NEEDED **WE NEED A LASER PRINTER**

The Appeal is urgently seeking a laser printer for the office. Please get in touch if you or your company have one to donate

Legacies

Leaving a gift to charity in your will is a wonderful way to make a lasting impact. Our vision is simple, we want:-

- To protect the orangutans and other endangered species from extinction &
- preserve THEIR rainforest habitat.

If you would like to include OAUK in your will please remember –“EVERY DONATION COUNTS”!

In this issue we pay tribute to Joan Smith from Hampshire, Bronwyn Hutchinson from Australia and Valerie Middleton from Aberdeen, all of whom remembered our critically endangered orangutans in their wills.

More information about leaving a gift in your will then please call us on 01590 623443 for a confidential chat or email info@orangutan-appeal.org.uk.

Milo and Dante, pupils at **Woodheys Primary School** raised over £300 with their ‘Wild Art’ competition

All over the country children have been baking for their friends, family and schools. Together these **bake sales** have raised nearly **£400!**

Join these fantastic fundraisers! Why not hold a bake sale for the orangutans!

ROTARY GETS INVOLVED



The **Rotarian Action Group for Endangered Species (RAGES)** has been set up to enable Rotarians globally to be involved in supporting the work being done worldwide to save many endangered species.

Our Founder and Chairlady, **Susan Sheward MBE**, who is also a Rotarian, has been invited to join the board of RAGES as the **Director for Orangutans & Primates** which she has happily accepted.

As a result of this collaboration, Orangutan Appeal UK was invited to attend the Rotary District 1145 Conference at the Bournemouth International Centre. The event was attended by 500 Rotarians from the Surrey area who were delighted to hear about the work that we have been doing in Borneo and our partnership with RAGES. Our stand at the Conference attracted a good deal of attention and we were able to increase awareness of the new Rotary Action Group for Endangered Species (RAGES) amongst the influential delegates and received £280 in donations towards our work.

During the past 9 months we have been giving presentations to Rotary clubs and other interest groups in Hampshire and Surrey which have been very successful. To date we have presented to Cranleigh, Croydon Jubilee, Fleet, Lymington, Shepperton & Sunbury Rotary Clubs along with the Rotary District 1145 Council meeting and received donations amounting to £757 towards our work.

If your Rotary or if you know of any interested group who would like to arrange a talk please email us on admin10@orangutan-appeal.org.uk or telephone us on 01590 623443. We will be delighted to assist.