



*Orangutan
Appeal UK*

Orangutan Appeal UK



News

Issue 35 - August 2018

Our Patron Paul O'Grady



*Paul O'Grady inspired
new mousemat*

Our Patron, much loved comedian Paul O'Grady has continued to entertain us this year at Battersea Dogs Home and also on his latest adventures in India, where he met and fell in love with their street dogs.

However, Paul hasn't forgotten our orangutans, who he continues to support. So this year we decided to give Paul a special birthday present in June –

a mouse mat featuring his beloved Archie. Paul was delighted and suggested that our supporters may want one as well.

Paul said: "My Archie has proved to be such a popular little fellow that we have received several requests for a 'mouse mat' featuring him!"

Personally, I can't think of a nicer image to greet me in the morning when I start work than Archie with his

beautiful appealing eyes and quirky little smile.

I hope you like the new mouse mat as much as I do!"

Paul



Archie 'mousemat'

Wild Orangutan Kopel

In December 2017 a report came in to Sabah Wildlife Department about an injured male orangutan that had been spotted near the Kinabatangan River with wire caught around his leg. A rescue team was assembled including OAUK staff member Pamik, Sepilok's Officer in Charge Sylvia, Ranger Elis and Matt, one of the volunteers.

After a two hour drive in the OAUK rescue vehicle and a boat ride down the river, the team spotted a large male orangutan in a nearby tree. It was clear he was injured and needed urgent medical attention. Luckily, he was not too high up in the trees so Ranger Elis was able to sedate him using a tranquiliser dart. The rest of the team jumped out of the boat and were able to swiftly get the orangutan on board. He was then carefully transferred to

the OAUK rescue vehicle and taken to the clinic at Sepilok where he was met by the resident vet. The team named him Kopel after the area where he was rescued.

Kopel had a large abscess on his leg, most likely caused by the wire which had been wrapped around it. The vet decided that he would need to remain in the clinic to allow the leg to heal and to enable the vets and care staff to monitor his improvement.

Following a period of convalescence, we are pleased to report that Kopel has made a full recovery. His leg completely healed and he regained both body

strength and condition, and the vets confirmed he was ready to return to the wild.

Plans were made for Kopel's release back to the Kinabatangan River to the same place as where he was found and it was agreed that OAUK staff should accompany Sepilok's Rangers on the journey. They covered Kopel's travel cage with leaves to give him shelter from the sun and during the journey they sprinkled water over him to keep him cool.

When they reached his release site the team made one final health check and then carefully lowered his transportation cage onto the ground. It was then up to OAUK staff member, Pamik, to lift up the cage door and allow Kopel to return to his rainforest home. As soon as the door opened he dashed to the nearest tree and hurriedly climbed it, just pausing briefly to give his carers one last glance before he disappeared off into the forest.

Another good job done!!



Kopel's release



Back to the wild

Sepilok News

Itinban

As Itinban was becoming more and more independent earlier this year he was taken to platform 4, deep in the Kabili Sepilok Reserve, and released. He is proving to be very good at foraging for food such as kilas, bamboo and termites. He is also a very confident climber and makes nests in some of the tallest trees for his nights' sleep.

Gelison

Gelison was released at platform 4 along with Itinban and the two have become close friends. Gelison looks up to Itinban like a teacher. Gelison is a confident climber and often makes nests, which he sometimes shares with Itinban. He is also starting to search for his own food, not relying only on the food given to him. Hopefully he can perfect this skill by learning from Itinban.

Clenan and Awangtang

At the feeding platform Clenan is still very shy and wary of the tourists and often sends baby Awangtang in first to grab food. This does not seem to faze the youngster at all! Awangtang has progressed in leaps and bounds and is becoming a very confident climber and the rangers think she is advanced for her age. She has become more independent from Clenan in recent months and on one occasion went with Goman into the forest whilst mum was feeding. Clenan clearly enjoyed having Awangtang babysat for a while. Awangtang's favourite pastime however, is making leaf umbrellas, even if it isn't raining!



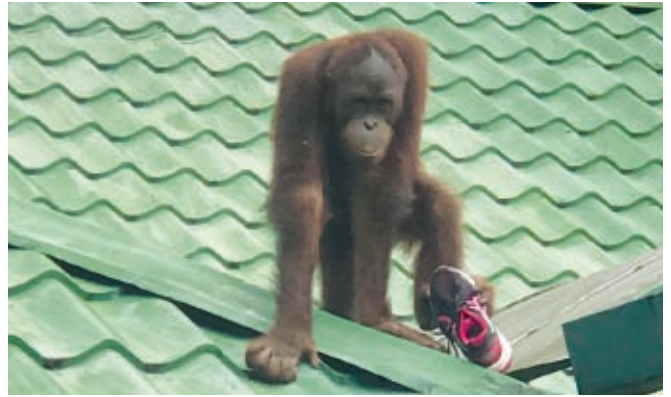
Clenan and Awangtang

Mimi

Pregnant Mimi seems to be ruling the roost on the feeding platform and is often seen chasing off larger males and the macaques. Mimi is usually one of the first to arrive on the platform at feeding time, so she can get first pickings from the basket. She must know that being pregnant means she needs to eat for two!

Kalabatu

Kalabatu has been up to his usual antics. One rainy day he stole and broke some of the visitors' umbrellas. He also stole a lady's poncho which he put on himself. But worst of all he stole our Liaison Officer's shoes whilst she was talking to the tourists! Naughty Kalabatu!



Caught in the act

Sepilok

Sepilok is now 4 ½ years old and has graduated to 'Big School' i.e. the outdoor nursery! He is doing very well and isn't at all fazed by the older, more experienced orangutans. Beryl has taken the big sister role and is quite literally 'showing him the ropes'.

Sarimo

It was very exciting to see wild orangutan Sarimo, who is blind in his left eye, for the first time at Sepilok in a while. A few years ago this orangutan had been found unwell, so he was brought to Sepilok in order to be treated. However, naughty Cinta opened the cage and allowed him to escape but he seems to have recovered well, which is great news!

Sepilok Rehabilitation Centre (SORC) has helped a variety of wildlife this year including a stunning leopard cat who had been hit by a car, a baby owl and an Eagle with a broken wing, which our staff member Bonny nursed back to health. Ranger Elis found time to relocate 3 pythons and an endangered pangolin into the Tabin Reserve.



Rescued eagle and pangolin

Pre-Release Programme (PRP)

The Pre-Release Programme (PRP) was established in October 2017 to identify which of Sepilok's rehabilitated orangutans could be transferred from the Kabili Reserve that surrounds the Centre, to the Tabin Wildlife Reserve, which is twice the size of Singapore and a truly wild reserve.

An OAU team supervised by our Senior Ranger Lineker has been tasked with observing the orangutans on a daily basis and recording various important skills. This will include how well and how high they can climb the trees in the forest and how easily they are able to traverse from one tree to another. Records are kept of all the wild food they are able to identify and collect for themselves, such as wild fig and bamboo leaves. Another crucial activity is for them to be able to make their own nests to sleep in at night and rest in during the day. All of these skills are essential before consideration can be given as to their suitability to be released into the wild.



Michelle – top of the class

Deep in the Kabili Reserve, far away from the Centre and the daily visitors, Platform 4 has been dedicated to this project as their base. Every day supplementary food such as long beans, cabbage, banana, sugar cane and papaya is laid out for those who still need a little help



Sen – got a lot to learn

with their diet. There are enclosures here which are used to gently familiarise the orangutans to their new surroundings and are for the less confident orangutans to spend the night in. These enclosures need to be cleaned by the team every day to prevent infections and the water to do this has to be carried by the team from the Centre, which is a difficult task.

Some of the orangutans are clearly thriving in their more independent surroundings. Michelle and Itinban are proving to be good climbers, regularly making nests high up in the trees and foraging for their own bamboo shoots, young leaves and termites.

Budiman, Ceria, Gelison and Sen are still finding their feet and need a little more time and encouragement. The team keep a close eye on all the orangutans and have noticed that Itinban is often seen teaching Sen how to forage and make nests.

The Pre-Release Programme has now come to an end but with the discreet help of the experienced team at Sepilok and by having the more confident orangutans as 24 hour role models, we hope that eventually all of the Programme's orangutans will someday be ready for release into truly wild environment.

Columbus Zoo & Aquarium Visit

In May 2018 the Vice President of Conservation, Michael Kreger, from Columbus Zoo and Aquarium USA visited Sepilok to see the work being carried out. Columbus Zoo have recently made a generous grant to OAU to help meet the cost of the Vet Nurse and 4 Training Coordinators who are employed by us at Sepilok Rehabilitation Centre.

After being introduced to the Centre Manager, Sylvia Alsisto, Michael was shown the latest public information film which was recently made for the Centre by OAU, showing the amazing work carried out. Michael was given a full tour of the Indoor and Outdoor Nurseries as well as the clinic before being invited to join the dedicated staff for lunch in the cafeteria.

After lunch a special treat awaited as Michael was taken to meet the Bornean Pygmy elephants and the Sun Bears who are also cared for at Sepilok.

Michael was very interested in the release programme run at the Centre and fully appreciated the importance of the support received from OAU to help make this

possible.

Our sincere thanks to Columbus Zoo & Aquarium for their much valued help in funding this exceedingly important work to save these critically endangered species.



Michael Kreger with our Liaison Officer

Borneo Nature Foundation (BNF) update

OAUk have been working with BNF for many years now and are pleased to provide support for their Fire Fighting Teams, which are so important to the forest and all the wildlife who live in Sebangau, Southern Borneo. BNF's Director Mark Harrison has sent us this report.

This year the conservation efforts in Sebangau were bolstered through the award of additional funding from OAUk and Zoos Victoria, Australia. This provided support for our long-term fire-fighting efforts, plus extra support for peat-swamp rewetting and reforestation activities.



Fire-fighters training

The construction of canals by past illegal loggers to float felled timber out of the forest drains the peat, making it vulnerable to fire during the annual dry season and posing a severe threat to Sebangau's important orangutan population. A combined approach of fire-fighting coupled with peat rewetting is therefore needed to fully address the conservation issues facing Sebangau's orangutans.

BNF reached its target to build 150 dams in northern Sebangau during 2017, which is more than double our normal number. Monitoring of water flow in canals indicated an average 51% decrease in water loss

following dam construction. This is helping reverse drainage of the swamp and therefore contributing to reducing fire risk in the region.

The last few months in Sebangau have been wet, with above-average rainfall in Indonesia. Thankfully, this has resulted in no fires occurring in the Sebangau Forest over the last six months and as a result the fire-fighting teams have not needed to be called into action. During this low-risk period, we have therefore been working to prepare for the next dry season, which typically coincides with summer in the UK and is when fire risk is highest.

BNF have also been conducting training on drone use for the Community Patrol Team. Our aim here is to be able to monitor rivers and forests over a large area, so that fire teams are quickly made aware of fire hotspots or other illegal activities. To increase our ability to tackle fires across the area, we have also formed and begun training two new community fire-fighting groups in the Sebangau forest area.

Our existing fire fighting units benefit greatly from the use of drones and we will be conducting further trials in the near future.

We remain grateful to OAUk and its supporters for their incredible long-term support for our orangutan conservation efforts.



Fire-fighters river patrol

Wildlife Rescue Unit (WRU)

The growing need for help by the WRU has prompted OAUk to place two of our Rangers on secondment to the Unit. Our Rangers have joined forces with the WRU Team helping with the elephant conflict which currently exists in the Telupid area, which has led to several elephant deaths. Our Rangers will enable WRU to deal with the essential work that is involved in saving Sabah's endangered species. These include the Bornean Pygmy elephant of which only 1,500 remain in the country, sunbears, pangolins, turtles and many other species that are also in need of our help if they are to survive.

WRU rescued a young male pilot whale who was showing signs of distress in April this year, who was thought to be approximately two months old. The whale was kept for 24 hour monitoring at a fish farm where WRU vets could be on hand to treat him. Sadly, the infant died and the post-mortem revealed the cause of death to be 7 plastic bags, Styrofoam and other small pieces of plastic materials which were found in his stomach.

If we didn't already know that plastic can be a killer it is becoming more and more evident by the day. Education on the disposal of plastic bottles, bags and other items must be of "Top Priority" if we are to save our dwindling wildlife. Please remember don't throw plastic away – TAKE IT HOME!



WRU vets and whale

Centre for Orangutan Protection (COP) update

Orangutan Appeal UK have been working with COP since 2007 supporting them in the rescue and rehabilitation of orangutans in the Kalimantan region of Indonesian Borneo. In 2013, COP opened an independent rescue centre with the backing of local government, which is home to 17 rescued orangutans. With assistance from OAUUK it is hoped many of these orangutans will eventually be released back into the wild. Here is the latest update from Hardi Baktiantoro, founder of COP:

Four of the male orangutans who were living on the pre-release island are now ready for release. All have undergone thorough medical tests and have been confirmed in good health. Three of these orangutans had been kept illegally as pets and lived in appalling conditions until they were rescued by COP's Ape Crusader Team. The other orangutan, Untung, was removed from a zoo, where he had spent the first years of his life separated from his mother. Once released, the field staff will then carry out post-release monitoring of the orangutans to ensure they are adapting and coping well with their new lives in the wild.

A group of female orangutans are ready to graduate from 'forest school' and will be moved to their final stage of rehabilitation on the pre-release island, once the four males have been released. Here they will live more independently; refining their foraging, climbing and nest



Untung ready for release



Novi rescued in 2015

building skills with the hope that they too will be released in the future.

Unfortunately, reports of orangutans being kept illegally as pets in Kalimantan (the Indonesian area in Southern Borneo) still occur despite COP's ongoing and tireless efforts to educate local communities against activities that threaten orangutans.

COP have recently been notified of two orangutans in need of rescue and at the time of writing the Ape Crusader team are preparing to remove them and bring them back to the safety of the centre. We hope to bring you some good news on this in our next newsletter.

Thank you to our supporters who have helped to change the lives of these orangutans.

Rotary Support

The Bookham and Horsley Rotary Club held a stand at the Bookham Village Day in Surrey on the 16th June. They ran a "Name the Orangutan" competition and raised £78.60. The funds were donated to Orangutan Appeal UK, who had supplied the cuddly toy as the prize and staff member Bethan was present to help out on the day.

Orangutan Appeal UK have also been continuing their partnership with Rotary's Action Group for Endangered Species (RAGES) and have been giving talks to Rotary clubs in the South, including Lymington and Godalming Woolsack Rotary Clubs. These clubs and their members have generously donated £585 to the orangutans.



Bethan at village day

Supporter News

Fundraisers

After visiting Sepilok **Dale Schultz** fell in love with orangutans and decided to run the **London Marathon** for OAUk and raised an incredible £2140. Also long-term supporter **Lisa Ellis** ran using her own place, raising £670!

This year's **Edinburgh Marathon** was cold and damp but that didn't stop **James**

Burrough, Jacqui Warren and Tyler Parks who raised a total of £766. **Paul Kennedy** also ran in memory of his and wife Stacey's beloved dog Toots who sadly passed away before the race. Paul and Stacey raised £570.

Felicity Edwards, from Lee-on-the-Solent, took on a huge challenge and did a wing-walk. She was strapped to the top of a plane and flown at speeds of up to 120mph raising a brilliant £210.



Dale Schultz at the London Marathon



Felicity's wing walk

Harry Whitehorn, aged 9, organised a litter pick in his village with his friends and raised a fantastic £270.

The **City of Edinburgh Council – Benefits Section** raised £165 with a work bake sale.

Schools and Colleges

Burgess Hill Girls School fundraised for a second year running with a tuck shop and raised £177. Both **Millbrook CE School** in Cornwall and **Okehampton School** in Devon held cake sales and also raised £120 and £150 respectively. Okehampton School went on to win a Regional Award at the Better Energy School



Burgess Hill School

Awards which was presented to them by OAUk Ambassador Nicholas Daines!

Celine McKeivitt from Ireland held a crazy sock day at her school in County Meath and raised £350 for orangutans.

Get Active For Apes

In March this year the first ever International Orangutan Run was held in Sabah, Borneo. To help raise funds, OAUk's office team asked supporters to join them in getting active for apes by running, walking, swimming or even paddle-boarding! On the day a massive 175km were covered by the team and £322 was raised.

Facebook Fundraising

Facebook's new Fundraising Page feature has been a great success. Our wonderful supporters have been setting up pages to ask for donations to the orangutans in lieu of birthday gifts and have raised a fantastic £1500 since March!

Simply visit www.facebook.com/pg/orangutanappealuk/fundraisers/ to set up your own page!

Legacies

Remember OAUk in your will

Since our Founder Susan Sheward MBE first pledged to help orangutans, over eighteen years ago, a large number of these close relatives of ours have been given a second chance at life. We rely on legacies to provide a large proportion of our income and ensure that this valuable work can continue. By adding a gift in your will to OAUk we can help to provide a sustainable future for the orangutans and help protect them for generations to come.

In this issue we would like to pay tribute to Kim Glovak from California who left a gift to Orangutan Appeal in her will. Kim loved to travel and had a fondness for nature.

We would also like to remember Rita Dowling from Australia who was a committed supporter for many years. It was her wish to make a final donation to protect the orangutans that she was so passionate about.

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

Our Ambassadors

Ambassador and business partner **Jacha Potgieter** who owns the **Alpine Coffee Shop and Galeri** in Betws-y-Coed has an unstoppable passion for wildlife conservation.

Jacha has now launched a fourth beer with a donation from the sale coming to Orangutan Appeal UK. The new beer joins the Gorilla Stout, Gibbon Golden Ale and Orangutan Lager which already benefit conservation.

As a wildlife artist and photographer, Jacha is keen to use his talents to raise awareness of the orangutans' plight. Jacha's beautiful photographic portrait of a mother orangutan and her baby has been chosen to be featured in a new book named 'Remembering Great Apes'. Jacha's image is one of only 10 winners to be selected to appear in the book, which is to be launched in October.

Jacha also gave a talk to Responsible Tourism students from Cheshire College about orangutans and the work of Orangutan Appeal UK.

Thank you Jacha for your fantastic efforts!



Jacha's new beer

Actor, presenter and OAUK Ambassador **Nicholas Daines** recently presented at the Better Energy School Awards held in London, which aim to engage children with environmental issues in an exciting way.

Okehampton School received a Regional Award for their project about orangutans and were thrilled to have it presented by Nicholas!

Despite his busy schedule Nicholas has also been taking the time to create some fantastic videos for OAUK about the wonderful work being done at Sepilok. We are so grateful for Nicholas' dedication and bringing attention to the critically endangered orangutans!



Nicholas presenting at Energy Awards



Banana Tree, an Indochina Restaurant chain, and its owners **Anne and William Chow** have been long-term supporters of the orangutans and have raised an incredible £3350.00 in the last 6 months by donating the proceeds of their signature dish to the orangutans. We are very grateful to Banana Tree for their continued support.

We also pass on our sincere thanks to wholesome snack bar company **N'eat Healthy**, for continuing their support as a Bronze level business partner.

Donors and Grants

We have received grants from the following organisations over the last six months; we had an amazing £10,000 from **The Woodspring Trust** to fund the essential firefighting work being carried out by Borneo Nature Foundation to protect orangutan habitat.

We are grateful to have received grants from **The Keith Ewert Charitable Trust** for £1,000 towards the firefighting project, £2250 from **Pittsburgh Zoo** and £2,000 from **The Edith Murray Foundation** for the Orangutan Pre-release Project.

The Care Staff and Veterinary Nurse Project has benefited from £5,000 from **The Rufford Foundation**, £3482 from **Columbus Zoo** and £2,500 from **The**

Beryl Evetts and Robert Luff Animal Welfare Trust.

The Panton Trust gave £2,000 and we have received a further donation from the **J Leon Group**, which contributes towards the Orangutan Care Staff and **RG Hills Charitable Trust** gave £3,000 towards our Veterinary Nurse.

The Crowle Wildlife Conservation Trust donated £153 towards essential camp equipment.

We would not be able to continue to support Sepilok Rehabilitation Centre or the Firefighters of Borneo without these very important grants

THANK YOU