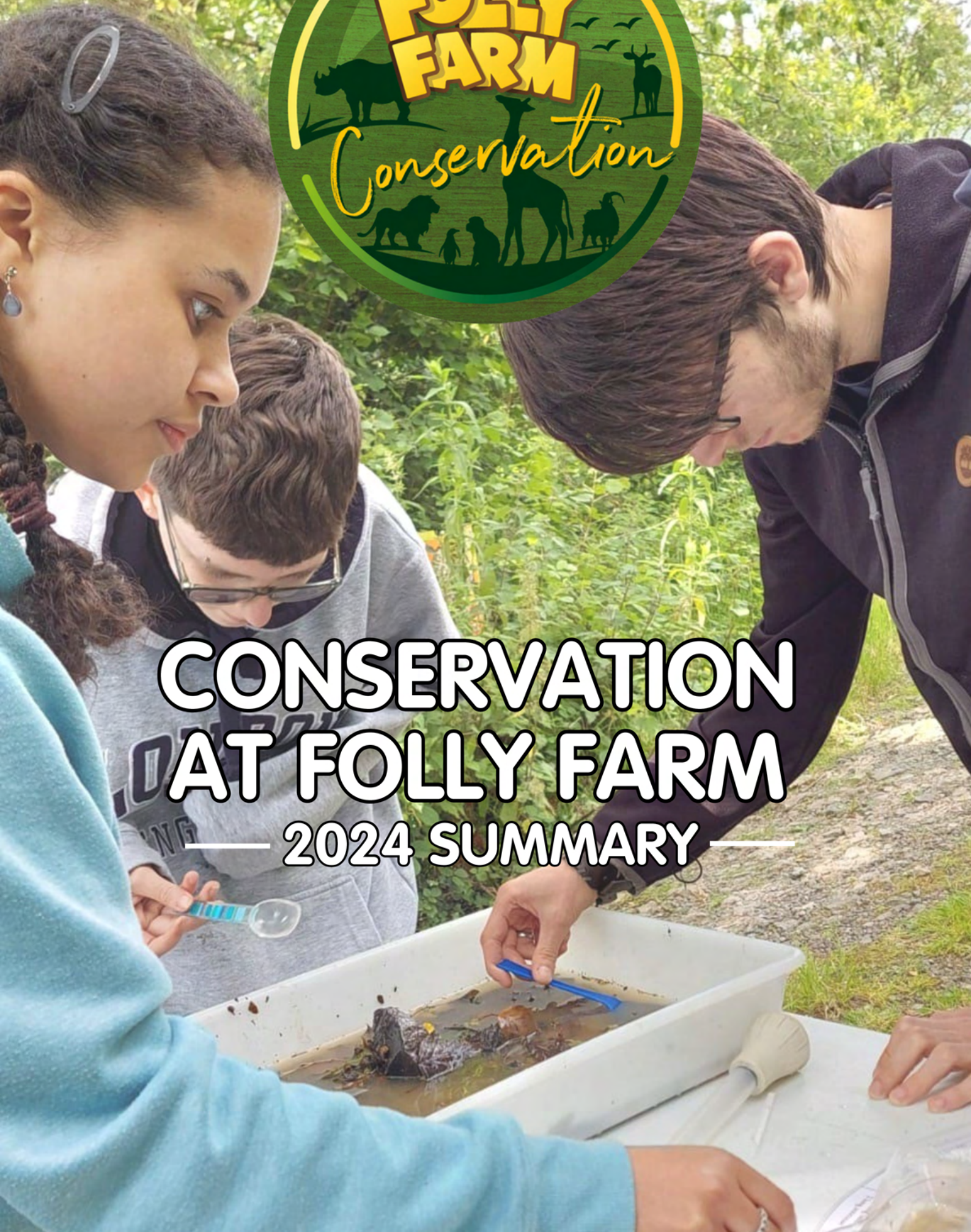




CONSERVATION AT FOLLY FARM

— 2024 SUMMARY —



CONSERVATION AT FOLLY FARM

In 2024, we focused on connecting with the communities and individuals that are making a difference in conservation. From helping rangers in Kenya to engaging with students in Pembrokeshire, it is important we come together to share knowledge and celebrate our achievements.

In our annual summary we provide a round up of projects, partnerships and achievements in conservation this year. It is our mission to exceed expectations to our guests and each year we hope to build and develop the conservation aspect of our business, to benefit biodiversity and our community.

It has been a very enjoyable year getting to know so many passionate people. I would like to thank all the individuals and organisations that I have connected with this year and I hope to work with you again in this new year!

JACK GRADIDGE

Conservation Officer



EX-SITU BREEDING PROGRAMMES

We work closely with other zoos across Europe to take part in breeding programmes. This year we have welcomed new species to the zoo, as well as births from existing species.



We have celebrated the hatching of grey crowned crane chicks for the third year in a row. Five Humboldt penguins hatched, and excitingly, our first successful macaroni penguin chick.

The patas monkeys have once again bred, with two new additions this year following the transfer to a new enclosure.



EX-SITU BREEDING PROGRAMMES

Our pink-backed pelican flock have once again produced a chick, named Forrest. We also welcomed two additional female pelicans from Zoo Duisburg, Germany.



An adult male Humboldt penguin, Blenny, joined us from Twycross Zoo. It is hoped that he will pair up with female, Marmalade, who is currently without a mate.



We joined a new European breeding programme for the critically endangered cotton-topped tamarin. A new breeding pair was formed with a male arriving from Shaldon Wildlife Trust and a female from Cotswold Wildlife Park.



An additional male two-toed sloth, Nova, joined us from Hamerton Park Zoo. He is now happily settled with new potential mate, Button, a female that joined us in 2023. We now house 4 sloths including an elderly pair and a breeding pair.



DOMESTIC RARE BREED PROGRAMMES



In March we were joined by a Suffolk Punch mare, named Lily, from Easton Farm Park. As one of the oldest breeds of working horse, they are now classed as a priority breed with the RBST. We are very fortunate to have this magnificent mare under our care.

All our sheep breeds have produced lambs this year, including five UK native breeds and three At Risk breeds: Balwen, Greyface Dartmoor and Torwen Badgerface.



In August our Middle White sow had a litter. These were particularly important as they are a Priority breed with the RBST. We also welcomed two British Saddleback litters, a breed which is At Risk of extinction.



We hatched success with Scots Grey and Buff Orpington chickens, as well as Bourbon Red turkeys.

The Golden Guernsey and Bagot goats bred again this year, both of which are At Risk breeds.



FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO CONSERVATION

We have provided financial assistance to 8 conservation partners. This vital funding is raised through fundraising days at the visitor attraction, guest donations from donation points around the zoo, Easyfundraising.com platform, and 10% of the profit from our animal adoption scheme.



8
Conservation
Partners



£6361.08
Financial Support



FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS



£1100 to Barbary Macaque Conservation to purchase firefighting equipment. Bushfires in 2022 meant many endangered macaques perished.



£550 has been sent to Red Panda Network for their community engagement initiatives. The funds will purchase a traditional herders tent.



£1157 was donated to Mount Kenya Wildlife to help their bongo reintroduction project. The funds will be used to purchase radio communication and Rugged smartphones which are used for research on the released bongo.



£1000 was sent to Wildlife Vets to aid their vet training programmes. Training vets to save species.



FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS



£500 was donated to Sphenisco who are working in Chile to promote the protection of the humboldt penguin and their feeding grounds.



£949.10 was donated to Safina Lion to go towards the purchase of a GPS tracking collar for a lion. This aids research and protects lions from hunting.



£500 was provided to the Rare Breed Survival Trust to assist with general activities of the charity, such as the creation of the 'Watch List' of rare native livestock.



£604.98 was raised for the hedgehog rescue hospital known as the Pembrokeshire Hogspital. These funds will go towards essential food and veterinary costs.





PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: MOUNT KENYA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

After visiting the conservancy in 2023, we developed a new partnership with the Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy (MKWC). We are pleased to support this project as it creates an important link with our Mountain Bongo antelope in our zoo. With fewer than 100 individuals in the wild they are now critically endangered.

This non-profit trust is dedicated to preserving the environment and wildlife at the foot of the scenic Mount Kenya Forest ecosystem - a UNESCO World Heritage site and a region of significant biodiversity. The conservancy has three main programmes which include a breeding and reintroduction project for the Mountain Bongo, an animal orphanage and a conservation education programme.



Initially, we aim to provide financial contributions from our fundraising activities which can assist the Mountain Bongo reintroduction programme. We have provided £1157 to this project to purchase radio communication and Rugged smartphones which are used for research on the released bongo.



EDUCATION

We have enjoyed sharing knowledge with thousands of guests this year, highlighting important conservation activities across the globe. For four years we have also welcomed the students of Pembrokeshire College to learn at Folly Farm at their designated classroom. Animal Care students, of various levels, are able to access the zoo for skill development such as data collection. They are also given the unique opportunity to gain hands-on practical experience when working directly with our keepers.



This year, the college incorporated a new wildlife conservation unit to the Animal Care courses. As a result, the students have worked closely with Jack to develop wildlife recording skills which also helps to build up a dataset of wildlife sightings on our site. Records have helped to influence management decisions with wildlife in mind.

Students took part in a number of national surveys such as the Big Meadow Search and the National Harvest Mouse Survey, both of which feed into national conservation decisions.



STUDENTS SURVEYING FOR HARVEST MICE



RIVERFLY MONITORING EXERCISE



RECORDING PLANTS FOR THE BIG MEADOW SEARCH



EDUCATION

MINI VETS WEEK

May half term saw over 500 children don their veterinary scrubs and stethoscopes, and take part in a simulated wild animal health check. The activity raised nearly £1000 which has been donated to Wildlife Vets International to assist them in training vets. It was enjoyed by all and we would like to thank Rosie Griffin who kindly volunteered to assist in running the event.



LION DAY

We were kindly joined by James and Maddie from Safina Lion Conservation for an education and fundraising day. Some lovely raffle prizes were donated by the gift shop and combined with general donations we raised an impressive £450. The funds went towards a GPS tracking collar for lion researchers in Tanzania.

HEDGEHOG DAY

In October, we partnered up with the Pembrokeshire Hogspital to educate guests about the countries declining hedgehog population. Three workshops saw 75 guests meet a rescued hedgehog and learn how they can help them at home.



BIODIVERSITY AT FOLLY FARM

The Folly Farm estate encompasses around 200 acres of land and we have been working hard to increase the biodiversity on-site.

MEADOW CREATION

Traditional wildflower meadows are becoming increasingly rare. Since the 1930's, over 97% of wildflower meadows have been lost. With this in mind, we have adapted the management of some of our banks, verges and meadows to revert them back to flower-rich pasture. This year we opened Big Broom Meadow to our guests to learn and enjoy a quieter area of the park.



PONDS

Waterways make up an important wildlife network on our land. We have been working to improve the existing ponds by clearing overhanging tree cover and introducing plug plants to increase diversity.

A new pond was dug in the zoo with the help of the Pembrokeshire College students, and we look forward to planting this in the spring.



SUPPORTING LOCAL CONSERVATION

PEMBROKESHIRE YELLOWHAMMER PROJECT

We have continued to support the yellowhammer supplementary feeding project. A pallet of feed was donated to the cause, which is being distributed to landowners across the county. The project has also received significant support from the Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA).



HARVEST MICE IN WEST WALES

Harvest mice are very under-recorded in Wales and therefore their range and the stability of the population is unknown. Last year we joined dedicated volunteers to carry out surveys in Pembrokeshire as part of the Mammal Society's five year National Survey. We are continuing to support this project and the group has now identified harvest mice presence in nearly all hectads (10kmx10km squares). We are appreciative of the support from the Wildlife Trust, PCNPA, National Trust, Ministry of Defence and Bluestone Resort.



We have also started to survey some areas of neighbouring Carmarthenshire and Jack recently ran two training sessions for the Carmarthenshire County Council and WWT Llanelli to enable them to participate.

We'd like to pay our respects and gratitude to the late John Steer who we sadly lost this year. John was an integral part of the harvest mouse group and is sorely missed by all of us.





Folly farm acknowledges with gratitude the support received this year from local experts, partnering organisations, volunteers & guests.



Ymddiriedolaeth Natur
De a Gorllewin Cymru
Wildlife Trust of
South & West Wales



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH
ARFORDIR PENFRO



PEMBROKESHIRE COAST
CHARITABLE TRUST



LARC



Parc Cenedlaethol
Arfordir Penfro
Pembrokeshire Coast
National Park



PEMBROKESHIRE
NATURE
PARTNERSHIP
PARTNERIAETH
NATUR
SIR BENFRO



COLEG Sir Benfro
Pembrokeshire COLLEGE



DURRELL



RED PANDA
NETWORK



THANK YOU!

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