There are many ways in which you can help us to rescue and rehabilitate more primates. All donations go into a 100% fund – NO ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS ARE REMOVED. Monkey World is not a registered charity, but we have established the Jim Cronin Memorial Fund for Primate Conservation and Welfare (UK Registered Charity, No.1126939) and the Endangered Asian Species Trust (UK Registered Charity No.1115350) which supports endangered primate rescue and rehabilitation in Asia.

Without your help, our rescue and rehabilitation work would not be possible. If you are on holiday and see a monkey or ape being used, abused, or neglected, please let us know. Take down all the details and try to get a photo – we follow up on as many reports as possible.

In addition to the list on the left, there are many other items we need to care for our rescued primates. Please see our NEW UPDATED Amazon Wish List that has all kinds of different goods that the monkeys and apes need. And remember our Bedding Appeal for any unused bedding, blankets, or towels. The On-line Shop has loads of new items for presents and stocking stuffers (http://www.monkeyworld.org/Monkey-World-Online-Gift-Shop) & Gift Catalogue is full of monkey memorabilia and ape accessories for anyone who loves primates as much as we do!

As a supporter, part of the Monkey World family, and adoptive parent, please tell colleagues, friends, and family about the Primate Adoption Scheme. All adoption monies go into a 100% fund for the rescue of more monkeys and apes and their on-going care – every penny. Let them know that as an adoptive parent, they will receive a year’s pass to the park, a photo of the monkey or ape, a certificate, and the Ape Rescue Chronicle three times per year. Establish a legacy for the long-term welfare of the primates and be remembered in the park. Help us to rescue more monkeys and apes in need.

Your donations have been a big help during this difficult time, thank you!

www.monkeyworld.org/support-us/donations-and-appeals/
Over the summer of 2019 we were contacted and asked if we could give a home to a 35+ year old chimpanzee that had been kept as a pet all of her life.

Kalu is the oldest chimpanzee that we have ever rescued and we were concerned about how she would make the long journey and if she would adapt to a new life with other chimpanzees. It took months to complete the paperwork to transport an endangered species internationally, but at the start of February, Alison, Jeremy, and vet John Lewis headed off to Cape Town to what was going to be a very dramatic rescue.
DALUMIE MEETS NINI AND HOUSE SWAPS FOR OTHERS

By Cat Talbot

Our Mueller’s gibbons, Adidas and Dalumie, both arrived at the park in 2001. Adidas did not cope well with our visitors, especially younger children, so they were moved to a private part of the park where they shared many happy years together.

Sadly Adidas died after a brief illness leaving Dalumie and Primate Care Staff (PCS) shocked and devastated with his sudden loss. The best plan for Dalumie was to get her another mate as soon as possible and Nini was the obvious choice. Nini is also a Mueller’s gibbon who has largely lived a bachelor life. He lived with Fox for some years but the bachelor relationship didn’t work out long term.

The best building for Dalumie & Nini to meet was our gibbon complex where both would have an outdoor enclosure until they were finally together as a pair.

At the same time we were moving golden-cheeked gibbons Jake & Zoey down to the gibbon complex and, in order to spread out all of our golden-cheeked pairs, we chose to move Tito & Vietta to Dalumie’s old house in our private area. The final piece of the puzzle was moving Fox & Ella, our Mueller’s/Lar pair, down to the stump-tailed macaque house with their own enclosure.

With a little bit of training all seven gibbons went willingly into a travel box making for a smooth transition. Tito & Vietta, Fox & Ella, and Jake & Zoey all settled quickly into their new home and seem to enjoy their new neighbours & surroundings.

Dalumie also took the move in her stride and was curious about the handsome man next to her.

The feeling was mutual and Nini couldn’t take his eyes off her. First they had mesh contact, where they both showed interest in each other so we opened the slide. Dalumie is no shrinking violet, defended herself well, and sent him off to rethink. Nini then became very curious but timid, running away every time she moved towards him.

After three weeks of daily introduction, Nini sat still when Dalumie touched him. She started trying to instigate play and after several attempts, Nini finally understood and they had a full on wrestle, both laughing and really enjoying it. PCS were moved to tears to see Dalumie happy again and Nini finally having someone to share his life and pair bond.

JIN MOVES HOME AND FINDS LOVE

By Cara Buckley

Jin was born at Monkey World in 2009 and spent the last few years living happily with the other youngsters in our orang-utan nursery.

In 2019 Jin started to develop rapidly and the wild play sessions between him and Silvestre became more aggressive. It was decided that Jin would move to Wingham Wildlife Park to live with a female orang-utan named Molly.

Our maintenance team installed a large crate at the end of the external tunnel system and the PCS began daily training sessions to desensitise Jin to his transport crate. Jin responded well and was happy to take some time out from the nursery antics to engage in daily training sessions. Before long he was willingly entering the crate and allowing staff to shut the slide.

On the morning of November 13th, Jin happily walked into his travel box as planned. It was an emotional day for everyone, many of whom had worked with Jin since he was an infant. He was given a light sedative to keep him calm on the journey and the crate was fork-lifted into the back of a transport van. The owner and curator from Wingham had travelled down two days before to see Jin at Monkey World prior to the move. Myself and Nic Dunn, head of Primate Welfare & Conservation, drove the Monkey World van in convoy with the guys from Wildlife & Conservation, drove the Monkey World van in convoy with the guys from Welfare & Conservation, drove the Monkey World van in convoy with the guys from Welfare & Conservation.

Deciding that Jin would move to Wingham with his brand new orang-utan facility.

It was an emotional day for everyone, many of whom had worked with Jin since he was an infant. He was given a light sedative to keep him calm on the journey and the crate was fork-lifted into the back of a transport van. The owner and curator from Wingham had travelled down two days before to see Jin at Monkey World prior to the move. Myself and Nic Dunn, head of Primate Welfare & Conservation, drove the Monkey World van in convoy with the guys from Wingham and set off on the three hour drive to his new home in Kent. We stopped at a service station on route to check on Jin and give him some fluids.

On arrival at Wingham, Jin was keen to leave the crate and was transferred into the bedroom area of their brand new orang-utan facility. Jin was calm, keen to explore his new surroundings and happily took food and fluids from the orang-utan staff. He quickly became aware that there was another orang-utan in the house so we let him have access to one of the large play-areas. He immediately spotted Molly in the adjacent room. Not wanting Jin to get too frustrated, we let him through to say hello to his new lady. He was smitten but Molly initially played hard to get! We left them together for a while but decided to separate overnight to give Molly a break from Jin’s amorous behaviour!

The next morning we reunited the pair over breakfast and as the day progressed they became closer – sitting together and even sharing food. Nic and I spoke to the keepers about Jin’s routine at Monkey World, his likes and dislikes and showed them some of his operative conditioning behaviours. We continue to receive regular updates from Wingham and we are so happy to hear that the pair are inseparable and enjoying their large outside enclosure.

With a little bit of training all seven gibbons went willingly into a travel box making for a smooth transition. Tito & Vietta, Fox & Ella, and Jake & Zoey all settled quickly into their new home and seem to enjoy their new neighbours & surroundings.

Dalumie also took the move in her stride and was curious about the handsome man next to her.

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WOOLLY ARRIVALS & A NEW BACHELOR GROUP

By Sharon Perry & Alison Cronin

Over the past few months a lot has changed in our three woolly groups. It was time to move a few people around, make space for a new arrival, and create a fourth group! Don’t worry, all is well in Chippy’s and Enzo’s troops and you will hear more about them later in the year.

Levar’s Woolly Group:

Woolly monkey Pichihua is 11 years old and came to us at the end of last year when her partner sadly passed away at Gaia Zoo in the Netherlands. When she first arrived, we were starting to move individuals between groups so Pichihua had to wait a while until we were able to introduce her to Levar’s group. When the day came, she fell in love with Levar and the feeling was mutual. Pichihua also made friends very quickly with Olivia.

The only other adult female in the group is Xingu, and she had just given birth to a little boy we have named Leroy, so we wanted to wait a few days before introducing the two ladies together. Xingu is a placid lady, and within minutes of the door opening she greeted Pichihua and allowed her to say hello to the tiny baby! Layla, Xingu’s younger daughter, soon joined in with Olivia and three-year-old Cosmo playing games with the new arrival. Everyone was smitten.

Bueno Junior was the biggest challenge as he is not always socially aware. He is almost as big as Levar, but at six years is still adolescent, and unaware how intimidating he can be especially when he plays a little rough with the girls. He is a big softie however, and we are sure with a little time and patience he will soon win her over!

Bueno Junior

With several births in woolly groups over the past few years, it was inevitable that some individuals would outgrow their natal groups so we made the decision to create a fourth bachelor group. In the wild, male woolly monkeys tend to remain in their natal groups living in large mixed sex groups. They are generally more sociable than the females and by eliminating the competition and resulting aggression over the ladies, the boys can get along peacefully.

The first two boys to be moved to the newly renovated house were Paulo, a 12-year-old from our “Pond” group, and Carlos, a five-year-old from Levar’s group. Paulo was hand reared when his mother didn’t feed him, and despite his fantastic physical appearance, he didn’t have the behaviour of a dominant male. Carlos is also a very impressive looking male and is already bigger than some of our adult males, but at such a young age he is an adolescent and it shows in his behaviour. The boys were wary of each other at first, giving a few displays to test the water, but then gave in to a mutual “hand snuffle”, a greeting to reassure each other that there is no threat. Within the first couple of days they grew increasingly comfortable around each other.

The third boy to join the group was three and a half year old Claud, also from the Pond group. Paulo and Claud had become close friends over the past year and were happy to be reunited. Claud was nervous of Carlos, and stuck close to Paulo initially but soon gained confidence. Within a couple of days Claud was playing with Carlos. The final male to be introduced was Mani from Levar’s house. He had been living with Carlos for the past few months, so didn’t come in a complete stranger. He is a very serious boy, so we had thought that he might take charge of this newly formed troop of boys but so far that has not been the case.

We have been surprised by how the dynamics have worked out so far. Mani was a little overwhelmed at first as the other three boys had formed friendships, but he was keen to make friends with Paulo, who initially stepped into the top spot of the hierarchy. Things are changing however, and it appears that Carlos may make a bid for the leader of the group with Paulo disinterested in politics and Mani humbled by moving house. What is great is that Claud’s youth has brought the fun side in everyone and we frequently see him engaging in play with the big boys. Maybe another young lad would complete this bachelor troop?! We hope the four continue to come together as a group and enjoy some time free from the drama of the ladies!
DAO TIEN UPDATE

Dao Tien’s Mission

Dao Tien’s mission is to provide a high standard of welfare for each individual rescued and where possible get the primates back where they belong, in the wild. This is not always possible, but with 12 years of data from over 100 individuals, we now know how to rehabilitate and enable pygmy loris to return to the forests they were stolen from. For gibbons and douc we are still learning and collecting data to better understand the steps needed for their eventual release back into the wild. Developing protocols for rehabilitation and release is critical for saving our rescued primates but also for others at different centres or in different countries.

Bien Has Returned to Dao Tien!

After 11 months living in the forests of Cat Tien National Park, we made the difficult decision to bring Bien back to Dao Tien.

She was in fantastic condition and slowly developing and expanding her home range. She was not singing and still had not found a transient male to pair with, although one had been heard in the area. With careful monitoring, it became clear that the number of people in the forest was increasing. Many people have legal rights to enter protected forests, first the forest protectors of Kiem Lam who are familiar faces to Bien and also locals who are collecting chay oj fruits which are believed to be a cure for cancer. It is crucial that reintroduced gibbons ignore what is occurring on the ground and quietly move away. Sadly, for Bien the numbers of people in the forest, eating and sleeping, encouraged her to revert to her old familiarity with people. She started following them, coming down close, and eventually taking food. The local people were reminded about our project and the wildlife laws protecting wild gibbons, but the risks became too high with photos of the “friendly” gibbon appearing on Facebook. It would only take one person in financial difficulty to take the risk and hunt her down.

If confronted could we take her?

An Expanding Illegal Trade as More Baby Doucs Arrive at Dao Tien

You will all remember the young douc we recued named Anthony, he is doing well but was lonely. Then in April the call arrived about another infant douc that had been spotted on Facebook. It needed each other long-term but had developed very different coping mechanisms to deal with the trauma they had experienced. Anthony had a busy daily routine which Anna had to tag along with. In the mornings and afternoons they spend time in the area of forest where we released our black-shanked doucs in 2010, Thanh’s family! The group is now 10 strong with several infants. It was all new to Anna and as expected she would scream from time to time. The effect on Thanh’s troop was amazing, they were frantic hearing an infant distress calls and the link was made between our youngsters and the new wild troop of doucs. Anna and Anthony continued to bond and spend time out in the forest.

Just as we thought things were getting settled with Anna and Anthony, in a relatively short period of time we received three more baby boys. Anna arrived in April, at the start of May we rescued Vu who was sold for the equivalent of £100, on 15 June we received Luom who weighed 900g and was very bloated, and then the following day we got the call to take Red who is a red-shanked douc, a species from Northern Vietnam even though he was confiscated in Saigon. It is clear that the trade in baby doucs is out of control. It is very upsetting to see their scared faces, bullet wounds, and bloated bellies knowing that their mothers are dead and that we will be lucky to keep them alive alone let alone find that bridge to get them back to the wild. We don’t want to tempt fate but so far so good and all five babies are doing ok well. There is a long road ahead but with the companionship of other doucs, us documenting and working on their digestion 24 hours a day, and the wild group overhead we are hopeful that Anthony, Anna, Vu, Luom, and Red will make it back to the forest...where they belong.

With the recent release of our Doucs, we need your help to build a release tower back where they belong.

We need to build a secure baby unit and a release tower in Thanh’s Troop home range. Please help us to get them back where they belong!

Vu, Anna, & Anthony

EAST
Endangered Asian Species Trust

www.go-east.org Email: enquiries@go-east.org

By Marina Kenyon

ENDANGERED ASIAN SPECIES TRUST

ENDANGERED ASIAN SPECIES TRUST
MONKEY LIFE

Sky have launched a new channel dedicated to nature and wildlife, for those of you that subscribe to a Sky package you will be able to watch Monkey Life on their new Nature channel as well as Freeview channel Pick.

Don’t Forget 

MONKEY LIFE SERIES

1-11 & Jim’s Dream are available on DVD

DVDs can be purchased from the Monkey World gift shop and online at Amazon, priced at £20 + P&P. The giftshop will be taking pre-orders from mid-July so you can reserve your copy in advance of the release date.

MONKEY LIFE TO BE SHOWN ON SKY’S NEW NATURE CHANNEL

MONKEY LIFE series 12 DVD

Monkey Life series 12 will be available to buy on DVD from the end of July via the Monkey World gift shop and on Amazon, priced £20 + P&P. The giftshop will be taking pre-orders from mid-July so you can reserve your copy in advance of the release date.

MONKEY LIFE TO BE SHOWN ON SKY’S NEW NATURE CHANNEL

MONKEY LIFE series 13 is in production!

Monkey Life series 13 is in production; despite awful weather over the winter, and lockdown we have been filming all the goings on at the park! We also followed Alison, Jeremy and John Lewis on their trip to South Africa to rescue chimpanzee Kalu and have been following her introduction into Bryan’s group. With several arrivals already filmed and lots to catch up on with the arrivals from the last couple of years the series is progressing nicely.

We will be delivering the series to Pick towards the end of the year, as soon as we know when it will be shown we will let you know!

MONKEY LIFE TO BE SHOWN ON SKY’S NEW NATURE CHANNEL

If we were going to get another cotton-top tamarin for Uncas we wanted to find an individual that was a similar age. As it happened Longleat’s male cotton-top had died leaving his mate Mo on her own and it was agreed that she would come to Monkey World to be with Uncas. On November 18th Mo arrived at the park and was released in the bedroom next to Uncas. Both tamarins were interested in each other and there was no aggression. PCS then let them together for a full introduction and it is clear that the two were very pleased to find one another, sitting cuddled up together on the nest box.

Mo is 10 years old and about 100g heavier than 16-year-old Uncas but they both have gentle personalities and clearly missed the company of their own kind. Fingers crossed this will be a mature couple that spend many a happy year together in their retirement.

For a number of years, it looked like Uncas would be the last of the Mohicans at the park following the loss of his mate, Alice who died in 2012 and then his companion Hawkeye in 2018.

Primate Care Staff tried introducing a number of different marmosets to Uncas so that he would have a companion, but his behaviour can be obsessive compulsive and with his larger size, he intimidated or frightened the smaller common marmosets. Prospective partners all lost patience with him and introductions were not successful. Cotton-top tamarins are critically endangered in their native Colombia and yet in UK today there is a legal trade in these beautiful primates as pets. Sadly for Uncas, he was a victim of the pet trade and had been sold from home to home in a bird cage before he and Alice were finally confiscated by Kent police in 2009. It is no wonder Uncas’ behaviour is not normal.

For information or questions related to the Monkey Life TV series, please contact info@primateplanet.tv.
LIFE IN THE UK PET TRADE

different backgrounds even though they
if this would work as they had all had such
MEET OUR THREE NEW LADIES

QUEENIE, JENNY & MILLY

By Karen McGilchrist & Alison Cronin

Milly, Queenie and Jenny are common marmosets that arrived at the park within a week of each other so our aim was to see if they would all live together. We didn’t know if this would work as they had all had such different backgrounds even though they were all from the British pet trade.

Jenny had lived with a male marmoset for 12 years until he recently passed away. Queenie had lived alone for at least eight years but with a very caring family and Milly had suffered some of the worst abuse, from one of her former owners, that we had ever seen. A crucial case is pending.

When they arrived, they were all nervous, which is to be expected. A lot had changed for them. Milly and Jenny were both overweight and Jenny had a large mass in her mouth. Queenie was actually a little overweight and seemed a little more confident than the other two. Jenny started on a course of antibiotics and pain relief straight away to help what we initially thought was a dental abscess. Milly would not diappear whenever she saw us, flattening herself behind branches. This was really upsetting for us to see as we knew it was due to her traumatic past. We would have to spend a lot of time with Milly to gain her trust. Jenny finished her course of antibiotics but the mass was still very large so the vet came in to take a look. Unfortunately, what we thought was an abscess turned out to be a growth in her gum and jawbone growing around her teeth. The vet removed as much as he could and a sample was sent off. Jenny was able to eat much better even with just some of the lump removed. An anxious wait for results followed but luckily for Jenny the lump is benign. It may still grow back

QUEENIE & MOJO BEDDING DOWN

Social introductions started after Jenny recovered from her visit to the vet. However, at the same time as starting the girls’ introductions we had some group breakdowns with other marmosets, so we now had Albert, Mojo and Comet to consider in any new groups we tried to make. Many combinations were tried, almost everyone met everyone at some point. Fairly quickly we found we had one setting that the ladies Mojo & Queenie and not long after it became clear that Albert & Jenny made a good stable pairing. These two pairs are getting along really well. Long may it continue!

We were worried that Milly’s abusive past may affect her behaviour. 11-year-old male Jock was just the boisterous and unforgiving so we decided that we needed to try a more mature and stable male to continue to support this, by writing to tell DEFRA your opinions on the primates pet-trade. If you see monkeys in the pet trade must wait a little longer!

We included the story of Betty Boo whose skeleton (pictured) was deformed due to her life as a domestic pet in a cruel sipulation, with incorrect food and no company of her own kind.

What now?

We still need your help and support to gather evidence against the trade, which is ongoing still. It was clear when we compiled our evidence that public sentiment is important, as was the need to show the breadth and spread of the problem. If you see monkeys being kept or sold as pets in the UK please continue to report them to us, preferably with a link to the page or a screenshot, so we can continue to make our case. Sites such as Facebook and UKClassifieds.co.uk continue to post primates for sale. We’d urge everyone to report the Facebook sites. For a while they were enforcing their ban on the sale of animals online but this seems to have petered off and selling posts have crept back in. Please continue to report to Facebook all selling posts you see, as well as sending them to us.

While we remain hopeful, the deal isn’t done yet to protect monkeys in the UK, so we continue to need your support.
MEMORIAL Supper Club & Party Night

SATURDAY MARCH 20 2021

Arrival from 7pm
Party starts at 7.30pm

Tickets £20.00 includes food & arrival drink.
Overnight accommodation available for a supplement.

To book your tickets, please contact us on 01929 462487 or email fundraising@jimcroninmemorialfund.org www.jimcroninmemorialfund.org

LIVE MUSIC
CAMPING
RENT A TENT

How you can help the Jim Cronin Memorial Fund?
The Jim Cronin Memorial Fund specialise in offering assistance to relevant organisations in need. The charity offers funding, travel grants, educational grants and specialist assistance to organisations, and has funded a number of projects across the globe.

GET INVOLVED IN OUR FANTASTIC EVENTS....
...and help us to raise funds for primate welfare and conservation around the world.

SPONSOR A TREE, ROSE OR BENCH AT THE CHARITY’S EDUCATION CENTRE

Remember a loved one by sponsoring a rose bush, a tree or a memorial bench at the Jim Cronin Memorial Fund’s Education Centre. Nestled within 151 acres of beautiful woodland, parkland and formal gardens, and providing the perfect location to remember those loved ones, who are sadly no longer with us.

For more information call 01929 462487 or email fundraising@jimcroninmemorialfund.org

With prices starting at just £85, all items include a beautifully engraved plaque with your choice of wording.

Don’t miss The Jim Cronin Memorial Summer Party
GREAT BIG WEEKENDER 2021!

Tickets include arrival drink & dinner

Family Sleepover Event
Adult Sleepover Event
Memorial Supper Club
Seminars
Team Building
Enrichment Making Workshops
Photography Tours
Primate Drawing Classes
Talks
Memorial Supper Club

Sponsor a Rose Bush

In Memory of Jim Cronin MBE, Your legacy lives on.
SUPPORTER’S ACCOMMODATION
A LITTLE SLICE OF MONKEY HEAVEN!

If you are planning a visit to Monkey World, why not check out our fantastic range of accommodation exclusively for our charity members and Monkey World adoptive parents.

Our new supporters flats, The Retreat & The Hideaway are nestled amongst the trees and are beautifully decorated throughout. They can be rented out individually or together, for a large group and are in the perfect location to get away from it all. Alternatively you may prefer our 1 or 2 bedroomed flats in the nearby village of Wool, just a stones throw away from the train station and within walking distance of local shops and amenities.

As an added extra, all stays in our supporters flats include early entrance to Monkey World and the chance to have the park to yourselves before it opens to the general public.

Prices start at £95 per night with a minimum 2 night stay - check out our website for further information

Supporter’s accommodation is exclusively for charity members and Monkey World adoptive parents only.

For more information please visit www.jimcroninmemorialfund.org/local-accommodation/ or call 01929 462487

PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR DATES
20/21

Fri 23/10/20
Thu 29/10/20
Fri 19/03/21
Tue 06/04/21
Mon 26/04/21
Fri 14/05/21
Tue 01/06/21
Thu 17/06/21
Mon 05/07/21
Fri 23/07/21
Fri 03/09/21
Fri 17/09/21
Thu 14/10/21
Mon 25/10/21

Price £110.00

8:00am - 12:00pm
Open to charity members & Monkey World adoptive parents.
Includes welcome briefing, breakfast, refreshments & three hours of guided tower access

To book please call 01929 462487 or email fundraising@jimcroninmemorialfund.org
www.jimcroninmemorialfund.org

JIM CRONIN MEMORIAL FUND
Summer in the Gift Shop!
See our full range in the Monkey World Gift Shop, online at www.monkeyworld.org or by calling 01929 401004

Handmade Goat’s Milk Soaps £3.99
- Orange & Cinnamon
- Lemongrass & Chamomile
- Rose & Geranium
- Lavender

Fluffy Chimp £28.99
- 45cm
- 30cm £17.99
- 20cm £9.99

Monkey World Straw Hat £9.99

Monkey World Compact Umbrella £11.99

Male Orang-utan £12.99

Bulu, Rieke, Rodders, Peanut & Pung-Yo
- Female Orang-utan £19.99
- Orang-utan Infant £11.99
- Orang-utan Keyring £3.99

China Charlie Mug £6.99

Monkey World Compact Umbrella £11.99

Tea Towel £4.99

The Chimpanzee

Orang-utan Keyring £3.99

Handmade Goat’s Milk Soaps £3.99
- Orange & Cinnamon
- Lemongrass & Chamomile
- Rose & Geranium
- Lavender

Fluffy Chimp £28.99
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- Orang-utan Keyring £3.99

China Charlie Mug £6.99

Monkey World Compact Umbrella £11.99

Tea Towel £4.99

The Chimpanzee
LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

No-one could have predicted last December that we would be all about to face some of the toughest times in our 33 year Monkey World history – a pandemic sweeping the globe.

Covid-19 was an unknown and potentially deadly virus that had already jumped species and was a particular concern for us and our team as other coronaviruses have been documented in wild chimpanzees in West Africa. Our first thoughts turned to protecting our rescued monkeys and apes but more importantly our Primate Care Staff who are essential carers for our vulnerable primates. The virus took hold in UK by the end of February and it was clear to me by March 17th that we needed to shield our PCS and non-human primates as best we could and close the park. It was the anniversary of Jim’s death and a very sad day…

I have had to deal with some very difficult situations in my life, but this was uncharted territory and we were trying to predict and prepare for all eventualities. We identified our essential staff – namely PCS and our Maintenance & Grounds team which meant that 49 staff members were put on furlough. Those that were still at work needed to be extra cautious in their personal lives outside of the park but also we needed to bolster extra cautious in their personal lives outside of the park but also we needed to bolster territory and we were trying to predict and prepare for all eventualities. We identified our essential staff – namely PCS and our Maintenance & Grounds team which meant that 49 staff members were put on furlough. Those that were still at work needed to be extra cautious in their personal lives outside of the park but also we needed to bolster

All aspects of our lives at the park had to be considered from where, what, & how everyone was eating, what shoes were worn around the park, how locks and keys are used, to how the radios are used and stored overnight. We could only do our best to prevent the spread of any infection and anyone did get “normal” colds, runny noses, and eventually hayfever. We found that as some people had to isolate at home for a headache or other symptom, others were returning to work. We have had periods of staff shortages but everyone has pulled together to make sure the monkeys and apes get everything they need and are used to – with two exceptions. We immediately limited the amount of contact we/PCS have with our primates to reduce infection risk and the lack of visitors in the park is clearly a big change. The monkeys and apes clearly miss seeing all of you. The upside is that our rehabilitated monkeys and apes need to look to each other for interest and companionship rather than spending time looking at people.

Our other concern was to ensure that we had several weeks supply of dry or frozen food stuffs and essential medications such as insulin, birth control pills, antibiotics etc. Regardless of finances we created a stockpile of primate pellets, dried pulses and seeds, peanuts, baby rice, cereal, Arabic and lump gum, dried milk, and frozen vegetables. With the addition of fresh cut browse and leaves we would be able to feed our monkey and apes if food supply chains broke down. We also stored extra supply of woolwood for nest making, especially as we stopped all of your donations of bedding and linen. It is only in the last couple of weeks that we have started taking donations of bedding again – they are put in trays, dated, and set aside for several days which is long enough to prevent C19 spreading.

Financially this has been a very difficult time and worrying time at the park. I cannot thank you all enough for all your support both financially, with our Amazon wish list, and supermarket deliveries. You have made a big difference to helping us stay afloat. As part of Monkey World’s licensing, we are REQUIRED to have a “disaster relief fund” and so we have a catio and wildlife park in the country that is open to the public. I am shocked and stunned to hear of so many institutions threatening to put the animals they care for down unless they get financial assistance after only three months. As far as I am concerned it is irresponsible to not have arrangements/moneys in place for worst case scenarios at least in the short term.

So many of us have lost loved ones over the past few months. I was very sad to hear that Albert Hamblin (aka Big Al) passed away recently. When the park first opened Big Al came to set up fun activities for children when there were very few monkeys or apes at the park. There was a go-cart track, small boats, and video games – not exactly the primate experience that Jim had in mind but a source of extra income and also something different for kids to do when the monkeys and apes could not be seen. We will miss Big Al and our thoughts are with his wife Barbara and sons Martin and Steve.

Many of our supporters have also lost loved ones. Our thoughts and condolences go out to the family and friends of Joyce Arnell, Carol Barker, Keith Barker, Len Bartlett, Thelma Barry, Brenda Batchelor, Richard Bateman, Fred Bell, Joan Bowers, Eric Bowyer, Patricia Burn, Julie Campbell, Esther Clements, Catherine Connelly, Trevor Coombs, Ian Carson, Bryan Cridland-Winter, Pamela Davies, Ann Edwards, Pauline Edwards, Pauline Fahy, Joyce Fawcett, Luan Fenn, Patricia Field, Nigel Ford, Emma-Jayne Godwin, Dorothy Grace, Ann Grogan, Josephine Hancock, Marilyn Hart, Joyce Hayman, Vicky Heathcote, Elizabeth Hicks, Adrienne Hollick, Roy Hudd OBE, Brian Jeanes, Alan Jackson, Derek Kenny, Joy Maldman, Sylvia Matthews, Evelyn Messenger, Miss & Mrs Mines, Elizabeth Munns, Andrew Nigh, Heather North, Mary Parkes, Winifred Parsons, Susan Ray, Ruth Reed, Pamela Seymour, Keith Shepherd, Robert Smallwood, Christiana Smith, Linda Stredwick, Brenda Suits, Dorothy Temple, Russell Thornhill, Barbara Turner, Kath Webb, Stephen Williams, Amy Wilk, and Elizabeth Woodcock. They will be greatly missed.

Finally, please accept our apologies for this Spring edition arriving so late. We have been busy staying focused on ensuring the health and welfare of the monkeys and apes and making a plan for a gradual reopening. We hope that you have been able to keep in touch with the extra Facebook and Instagram postings, the Zoom tours, and the new online Monkey World Educational course. All great ideas from our Communications and Education teams that we hope to continue.

From all of us in the Monkey World Family, THANK YOU SO MUCH and hope to see you soon!

We are planning to open the park to our adoptive parents ONLY starting Monday July 13th - the anniversary of the first group of chimps arriving at the park in 1987! If you want to bring a partner, family member or friend, they too will have to be an adoptive parent. We will be limiting the number of people we allow in on any one day so you will need to book ahead either online through our website or by calling the office. During this initial opening we will REQUIRE all adoptive parents to wear face masks. After three weeks we are hopeful we will be in a position to open to the general public in early August. We wanted to thank you for all your support and give adoptive parents a chance to visit the park before everyone else!

We are asking for a small donation of £3 per adoptive parent on entry, to help us cover the costs of reopening whilst receiving no income from the general public. Your help and support is so appreciated at this time.

Some facilities and services will be restricted to ensure the welfare of our primates and staff. Please visit the website to see what you can expect during your visit.

Welcome back!