

The Alice McCosh Trust Newsletter

Autumn 2023

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2022 Grants

This year The Alice McCosh Trustees were able to award four grants:

Holywell Primary School, Esther Nandutu, Leo Clarke and Ben Yoxen.

Holywell Primary School has completed their project, and their report can be found [here](#). Esther has completed her fieldwork and is summarised [here](#), and Leo and Ben are still undertaking their projects.

Esther Nandutu – Giraffes in Uganda



The **Rothschild Giraffe**, named after the famous naturalist Lord Walter Rothschild, is considered as Near Threatened (2018) with an estimate of 1,500 animals in the wild.

In 2015 fifteen giraffes were translocated from Muchison Falls National Park (NP) to Lake Mburo NP to increase their home range and biologically control acacia trees.



Earlier this year Esther spent four months collecting data on this translocated population at Lake Mburo NP in southern Uganda.

She and her field team would be dropped off early in the morning where the giraffes were found and spend the next eleven hours following them on foot.

Back in Kampala Esther is analysing the vast amount of data, conducting nutritional analysis on the samples she collected.

Once she has completed the analysis, she hopes to draw some conclusions about the giraffes' use of the area in terms of preferred forage species.

We look forward to hearing more Esther!



Holywell Primary School - Paignton Zoo trip

Holywell Primary School took about 40 five- and six-year-olds to Paignton Zoo. From all accounts *“the children had an amazing day and all left inspired and keen to support the vital conservation work carried out by Wild Planet Trust”*. A full report can be found [here](#).

Let's hope some decide to support natural history and conservation in the future.

Still to come....



Leo Clarke from Bangor University in Wales is undertaking a project on turtles in Cape Verde. Alice worked closely on turtles during her time in Turkey, so it was easy for the Trustees to see how this project aligned so closely to The Alice McCosh Trust's objectives.

The project intends to develop a low-cost management tool to inform management decisions in global sea turtle conservation efforts.

Ben Yoxen from the International Otter Survival Fund (IOSF) was once again successful with his application to support a Student Research Grant to undertake otter field survey.

Having supported them last year, the Trustees felt it would be ideal to consolidate this with a second grant to the IOSF.

Facts & Figures

Since we set up the Trust in memory of Alice over 20 years ago:

£20,000 has been awarded,

20 grants have been given, and

the projects have been undertaken in over a **dozen countries** including Scotland, Turkey and Uganda – places close to Alice's heart.

None of this happens without the amazing support we continue to receive every year from very generous individuals. The Trust currently has a healthy bank balance and a well-managed investment portfolio.

In the new year we again hope to be able to award two or possibly three grants.

We continually receive dozens of high calibre applications every year and we hope this will continue.

Please spread the word with anyone you think may be interested in applying.

All details on how to apply can be found [here](#) on the website and the deadline for this year is the end of November.

Cards for Sale



And finally, we have four Christmas Card designs and blank notelets for [sale](#). This is likely to be the final opportunity to purchase them as we have just about sold out.

