

WINTER 2023

# NEWS



## A New Face In The Arctic Fox Enclosure

In January we welcomed a new companion for Miska, our arctic fox. The new fox, a female, is currently awaiting a name chosen by the public from a shortlist. The choices are Lumi, Aurora, Sigyn, Luna, Opal and Inari. She is currently settling in well after a short period of separation from Miska where the two got to know each other through a fence. Despite some caution on both sides, we believe that the pair will soon become firm friends.

Wildwood is not just a wildlife park but also a unique conservation project which aims to protect native British wildlife and bring back the original wild wood. Every visit and membership helps preserve some of the UK's most endangered animals. Find out more about our conservation, education and rewilding initiatives at [wildwoodtrust.org](http://wildwoodtrust.org)

## Grand Designs: Red Squirrel Breeding Facility

Our red squirrel breeding facility is nearing completion and - all going to plan - should be open in time for spring. The facility has been designed by leading experts with wellbeing and unique squirrel behaviour in mind. Once up and running, Bonzai and a new female will relocate to the facility and, perhaps if we're lucky, we will be celebrating the arrival of some kits in the next newsletter...



## Choughed By Our New Arrivals

Two red-billed choughs - a species once extinct in Devon - have joined the list of new arrivals here at Wildwood. The charismatic couple arrived in December from their former home at Jersey Zoo. Chicks reared here will hopefully join the Chough Restoration Project, intended to return choughs to Kent after a 200-year absence.

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### Adoptions

Wildwood animal adoptions last for one year and are the perfect gift for any animal lover.

### Experiences

We currently offer Arctic fox, red squirrel and wolf feeding encounters, as well as junior keeper days and foraging days on our website. Keep an eye out for more great animal experiences coming soon.

### Gifts

This is where you can buy vouchers unique to Wildwood, including animal experience vouchers and annual memberships.

### Clothing

Look good and help protect British wildlife with Wildwood's selection of certified organic cotton clothing. Our partners at Teemill use print on demand technology powered by renewable energy.

## Greetings From James Our New Zookeeper

We are delighted to welcome a new zookeeper into the family. James Burrell joins us from Jersey Zoo, where he worked for six years specialising in mammals. James said: "I'm delighted to join the team here at wildwood. Everyone has made me feel very welcome and I am excited to be working with such fantastic animals and keepers!"

## Turtles Soon To Make A Splash

Our busy team has finished building a pond in the squirrel enclosure, which will soon house some European pond turtles. The pond was completed in autumn and allowed to fully bed in with a variety of vegetation. The Turtles will arrive in spring which is when they would emerge from their hibernation and bask before exploring their environment in search of nesting sites

## Bears In Torpor

At this time of the year, our bears are noticeably more snoozy. They are currently in torpor - a lethargic state of physical or mental inactivity - though if you've checked out our social media lately, you'll have noticed Lucy and Mish make an exception to roll in shavings. Torpor is used to survive during the cold winter months in the wild, when food is scarce.

## Glow Worm Breeding Programme

In October, we kicked off our glow worm breeding programme. we are excited to be working in partnership with Derek Gow Consultancy with the aim of reintroducing this species into a suitable habitat. Fun fact - although these critters are called glow worms they are actually beetles!

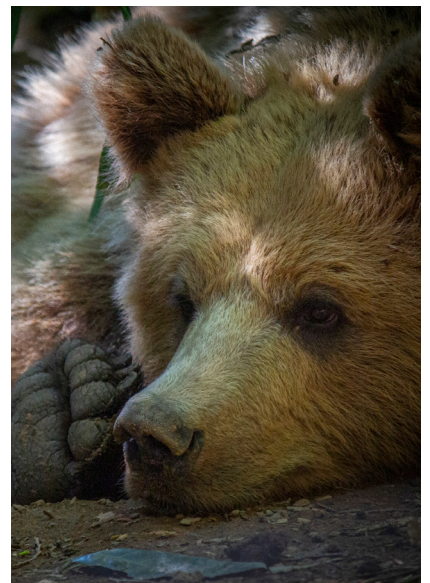
## Playwild To Kick Off For A New Term

It's been a busy term for our toddler group who have spent this term bread making, rock painting and doing animal walks among other things. These kinds of activities encourage children to work on their motor skills and boosts their confidence as they develop. Our new term is kicking off in February so if you have an adventurous child under the age of five, now is a good time to book in.

## Wolf Experience

Our Wolf Feeding Encounter will take you behind the scenes to meet our pack of wolves for an unforgettable up-close experience. Under close supervision you'll hand feed the wolves, getting as close to these magnificent animals as do our keepers – close enough to feel their breath!

[wildwoodtrust.org/shop/devon-experiences/](https://wildwoodtrust.org/shop/devon-experiences/)



### Find Out More At

[wildwoodtrust.org](https://wildwoodtrust.org) ☎ 01404 822188

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