

Helmsley's Traditional Sweet Shop goes bananas to help Orangutan Orphanage

A Helmsley business owner is calling out for sweet-toothed Ryedale residents to go bananas ahead of a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre in Ketapang, Borneo.

Lynn Hemsall, co-owner of Helmsley's Traditional Sweet Shop, is leaving on a self-funded month-long trip to Borneo on 4th June, to offer a helping hand at the sanctuary.

To help raise desperately needed funds for the charity, the Traditional Sweet Shop, which is based in Helmsley's Barker's Yard, is now selling bags of 'Bananas for Budi', full of the much-loved yellow foam sweets. Costing just £1.50 each, the whole amount will be donated to the orphanage. There will also be a 'Guess the number of sweets in the jar' competition on 28th and 29th May, with the nearest guess winning the whole jar of goodies.

The sanctuary teaches orphaned baby orangutans how to be adults and is run by International Animal Rescue. Budi was just one baby that arrived at the centre at the beginning of the year critically ill after losing his mother. With the intensive care and dedication of the sanctuary team he is now able to walk, has a friend and is ready to go to baby school to start the first stages of learning how to be an adult. Ultimately the hope is to release him back into a safe area.

Wild orangutans are depleting in numbers and along with the Sumatran elephants, Sumatran tigers and other species will become extinct in the next 20 years due to the logging and deforestation of their habitat for the production of cheap palm oil. Palm oil is found in many of our daily food items, make up and cleaning products, but much of it is not produced ethically.

Lynn, who is 55 and lives in Helmsley, explains: "When we set the sweet shop up we were careful in the selection of suppliers we worked with, as it is important to us that the majority of sweets we sell are produced in the traditional manner so they both taste as they should taste and don't rely on the use of palm oil. Wherever possible we use long standing manufacturers along with up and coming artisan businesses that use local ingredients that are ethically produced.

“I have always loved primates and one of my dreams was to go on a holiday to see orangutans in the wild. But it’s just devastating to think that in 20 years there may be nowhere left to see them. This trip is a dream come true, although I am also terrified. This is a big challenge for me as I don’t like flying, and I haven’t travelled outside Europe before, or travelled alone. Holidays are usually nice hotels and a bit of luxury! This is going to be very basic, but what an experience. It would be great to be able to raise some funds before I go to help buy some equipment. It costs £100 for a climbing frame and £25 for a wheelbarrow to take the little guys to Orang school. I am also taking some veterinary supplies over with me and some text books they need. So come along to the Sweet Shop over the next week and join in all the monkey business!”

For more information, log on www.visithelmsley.co.uk or follow Helmsley on Facebook www.facebook.com/visithelmsley or @visithelmsley on Twitter. Lynn hopes to tweet about her travels @Lynn_Sweeties

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For further media information or images please contact: Shona Nutter on 07714 953919 or shonanutter@googlemail.com

Notes to editors:

Helmsley in Business is a group of 51 businesses working together to ensure the continuing success of the North Yorkshire town of Helmsley. Members include: Agnus & Co; Auntie Anne’s Bakery; Bay Clinic; Black Swan Hotel; Bridge Antiques; Browns of Helmsley; Castle Stores; Carters Country Wear; Celebrate Country Cake; Claridges; Crema Coffee Shop; Cut Price Bookshop; Duncombe Sawmill; Duncombe Park Gift Shop; Duncombe Park Partnership; Elijah Todd; English Heritage; Feversham Arms Hotel and Verbena Spa; Helmsley Art Centre; Helmsley Brewery; Helmsley Galleries; Helmsley Post Office; Helmsley Town Hall; Helmsley Traditional Sweet Shop; Helmsley Walled Garden; Helmsley Wines; Honeysuckle Cottage; Hunters of Helmsley; International Centre for Birds of Prey; JEB Taxis; KVA Planning; Libby Butler Jewellers; Look Gallery; Marleys Butchers; Millers Knitwear; No. 54 B&B; North York Moors National Park; Pennita Fashions; Porters Coffee Shop; Retals; Saltbox Gallery; Scotts of Helmsley Fish and Chip Shop; Spear Travels; The Beauty Room; The Feathers; The Stickman; Think Fresh; Thomas of York; Thundercliffes; Viva Hair; and Yorkshire Deals.

Helmsley is a market town in the Ryedale District of North Yorkshire, often referred to as the ‘Gateway to the North York Moors’. It is popular with tourists for its characterful Market Place, historic architecture, the wide range of quality independent shops, and the excellent selection of accommodation, pubs, cafes and restaurants, many of which are award-winning. There are also plenty of interesting activities and attractions available on the doorstep including The International Centre for Birds of Prey, Helmsley Castle, Rievaulx Abbey and The Walled Gardens. Helmsley also marks the start of the Cleveland

Way, which is popular with walkers and loops round the National Park to end up at the coast near Filey.

For more information log on to www.visithelmsley.co.uk