



YPC

The Young People's Committee.

July 2026

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter!

Reported by Roger Tinker.

Ee by gum, who'd a thowt it, Polar bears in South Yorkshire

And that is how our adventure started. Our mascot, TLC, had told Gary that some of his northern relatives had migrated to South Yorkshire. Further enquiries revealed that they were now living in The Yorkshire Wildlife Park. How could we smuggle a small brown bear from Holcombe Brook into the Wildlife Park and help him visit his cousins.

The solution was to gather a large group of friends; it is easier to put a small bear into a bag to pass through a crowded entrance evading the searching eyes of the security guards.

Karen was in charge of contacting all TLC's friends and asking if they would help him get inside the Wildlife Park. Debbie created the coded invitation sent to TLC's friends telling them of our mission. The response was a resounding "Yes". Debbie booked our transport and on the 30th July our group was collected at two locations, Hewlett Court and Middleton Masonic Hall and we were soon on our way to The Yorkshire Wildlife Park. Luckily Stuart had asked to join the group, and we planned to use him to confuse the guards at the gate by creating a diversion asking silly questions at the gate whilst we all slipped past. Stuart is a great guy, both in size and personality. Unfortunately, he was unable

to read the time and kept telling everyone that the journey would take four hours despite the protests of our gallant volunteers.

One and half hours after leaving Middleton we arrived at the Yorkshire Wildlife Park. After we alighted from the bus everybody gathered near the entrance, whilst Karen collected our entrance wristbands. When all had put on the bands, we created a huddle around TLC's bag and went to the entrance. Stuart's diversionary tactics had worked like a dream; the guards, except for one, had all gathered around him trying to answer his persistent questioning of security and safety inside the park. We easily slipped past the solitary guard with our ursine package.

The first area inside the park is Pangea, the home of the dinosaurs. TLC distracted the Tyrannosaurus Rex whilst we all got passed.



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The next predator to threaten us was the Velociraptor, the creature was soon disabled when TLC bit his toe.



Are those lions considering having lunch?



Little did we know that TLC had procured a map. A treasure map? No, a map showing the location of his cousins' home.



After our escape from Pangea, and a short break in the Kukulu Play Area to build our stamina and muscles we entered Ethiopia, the land of Spotted Hyenas and Gelada Monkeys. Hyenas might be laughing but they are dangerous and wily, and Gelada Monkeys are annoying, always trying to steal any food or drinks. Luckily our intrepid leader TLC was able to guide the group along a safe route avoiding any threats of attack.

Beyond Ethiopia greater dangers lay ahead, the Land of the Tigers, Leopard Heights, Lion Country, Rhinoceros, Giraffes and Camels.



Using his amazing map reading skills, TLC found us a safe watering hole, where we could take some welcome refreshment and food, whilst he plotted a *safe route* to his cousins'. Our new route took us through the relative safety of Wallaby Walkabout and the Lemur Woods.



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TLC told us we needed to turn right when we reached the Woodland Trail to avoid the Painted Dogs and Baboons. A short walk along the Woodland Walk brought us to the home of the Polar Bears, Project Polar. His cousins were very pleased to see TLC. Although one of them was so pleased with his new surfboard he did not come out of the water.



TLC spoke at length to his cousins about his adventures since he had adopted Hewlett Court as his new home, tales of visits to Harry Potter World where he had escaped great danger from fire a breathing dragon and learnt magic spells, visiting Cadbury's World indulging on chocolate treats, Chester and Blackpool Zoos, Blackpool Pleasure Beach, the Tower of London, United Grand Lodge and many other missions entertaining and guarding the Young People. They told him how they had been held captive in small pens and cages before being rescued by the kind people at The Yorkshire Wildlife Park. Happy Days.

After his meeting with his cousins and helping the Young People avoid great dangers TLC said he needed a rest before finding a safe route for us to exit the Wildlife Park. It's amazing how a power nap can reinvigorate small brown bears.



When he awoke from his short nap. TLC, now full of energy, consulted his map and gave his directions for our exit.

Our route was to skirt past the Land of the Tigers then into Cheetah Territory. Cheetahs are fast runners and like smaller prey than Tigers and Lions. We had to form a circle around TLC whilst passing through their territory, although the young cubs we saw were very cute.

We were now into a safer country and had time at Point Lobos to watch the noisy Sea Lions at play, and barking at each other.

Almost there. Fortunately, there weren't any guards at the exit gate, and the Young People could carry TLC through the gate congratulating each other and TLC on the completion of a very successful mission. Well done everyone.

Time for a celebration.

Back to the coach and on our way to the Toby Carvery in Edenthorpe, a short twenty-minute drive from the Wildlife Park.

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TLC had certainly earned that first drink, now time for our celebratory meal, the carvery buffet.

After everybody had eaten, we boarded the coach for the drive back to Middleton and Hewlett Court. Tired from the day's exertions the Young People were hoping for forty winks before reaching their destination. It wasn't going to happen. Stuart is on board. His constant stream of old, and some new, jokes brought howls of laughter and some groans from TLC and the Young People.

The time passed quickly and we soon arrived at Middleton Masonic Hall. Those departing here said their goodbyes and hope to see you soon to TLC and the Young People continuing onwards to Hewlett Court.

Breaking news. Tracy has bought Stuart a new clock so that he can brush up on his time telling skills and hopefully on our next adventure he will be able to give a more accurate arrival time. Stuart it is twenty-four minutes to one, not three minutes past seven.



A big thank you to those who supported TLC on this escapade, Karen for making the bookings, contacting the Young People and handling the response, Debbie for booking the transport and creating the invitation. Thanks also go to Yorkshire Wildlife Park. It is a great place to visit.

We allowed ourselves six hours for the walk around the park, we could have stayed another two hours and found further animal enclosures.

Thank you Toby Carvery Edenthorpe for the warm welcome, service, refreshments and food and to Holmeswood Coaches for the coach and a great driver.

