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## Wildlife Zone Newsletter



### NEWSLETTER

Thank you to Jamie Austin who has re-shaped the Newsletter with a different design. Moreover he has changed the hard copy to an 8 page booklet which could be easier to read than the 4 page ezine. The cost of the ezine remains at 50p, whilst the hard copy is now 75p, although they are free for Wildlife Zone Club members.

### BEACH-CLEANING

The next date for beach-cleaning is Sunday 17th April. We will meet up at the White Horse Inn from 12.00, and begin the clean-up at 1.00pm. The other set date is Sunday 17th July; the last one this year is in September but is still to be confirmed. For those who wish to join in, please let us know if you haven't already done so.

### EBAY

One of our trustees, Liz Lawley has set up a FES-WZ account on ebay to sell our merchandise, where all of the profits go to FES. If anyone has any wildlife items to donate, such as Cuddly toys, jig-saws, books, dvd's etc, please let us know; and whether they are brand new or used items. Please also note that we are selling only wildlife related items here. Thank you.

### SHOP

Zaynab and Rohail are trying to set up a FES shop in the Eden Shopping Centre at High Wycombe, but it seems that our first shop will be in Newport, South Wales. We will be having many leaflets and brochures on our information board as well as photographs on display. The rest of the shop will be developed shortly, and will keep you informed about this.

# REFLECTIONS

ON THE EDMUND NILES HUYCK PRESERVE



ANDY

MYDELLTON

The purpose of the book is fundraising for the Foundation for Endangered Species, with no monies being paid for royalties, commissions or any other reasons.

The hardback limited edition book of only 50 numbered copies has been published by the Wildlife Zone (in the USA) with the ISBN 978-1-36-447578-9 and is on sale at £24.99 or \$38.33. The ebook is not a limited edition and is on sale at £4.99 or \$7.69

The book can be bought directly from the contact details below, or at <http://www.blurb.co.uk/b/6835927-reflections> There are still stocks available, despite some good initial sales.

## UNITED NATIONS DAYS

There are quite a few conservationist United Nations' Days which we can observe throughout 2016. The main ones are:-

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. International Mother Earth day.

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May. World Migratory Bird Day.

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. International day for Biodiversity.

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. World Oceans day.

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June. World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought.

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Sept. International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. World Habitat Day.

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October. United Nation's day.

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November. International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict.

# TANZANIAN MEMORIES

My first ever camping safari was to Tanzania in search of elephants, giraffes, leopards and eagles amongst a very long list of animals that first caught my imagination. The 1960s television programmes of Michaela and Armand Denis were inspirational, despite having to watch them in black and white. Even as a child, I was hurt when I saw film of magnificent animals being killed because of greedy criminal gangs. Since then, I have continued

***“More and more animals became my ‘first-timers’ such as cheetah, buffalo, impala and one of my particular favourites, the hippopotamus”***

to feel that wildlife crime is primarily for the benefit of wealthy non-Africans.

the 17 days of living under canvass, I experienced many red light moments. A major one will always remain with me - it was seeing my first lion. It happened after three days, near Lake Manyara where we saw a small pride a few hundred yards away. Whilst most lions were hidden in the undergrowth, a few remained partially visible with binoculars. However one of them was lying down on a low, straight bough of a tree. Lions are usually too heavy to climb trees and it seemed to be an unusual thing at first. However, as this bough was only 6 to 10 feet off the ground, it combined with the shallow angle of the tree trunk to make it an easy climb.

I savoured this precious moment just as much as when I experienced many other of my ambitions throughout the safari. More and more animals became my ‘first-timers’ such as cheetah, buffalo, impala and one of my particular favourites, the hippopotamus. Even though some of these animals are not rare, they still gripped me with fascination. All they need to do is to be alive, to posture, graze or relax as it is merely the creatures’ existence which gives me pleasure.

It is this simplicity which I would later convey in my photographic exhibitions that included some of these animals. Not for me are the heavily constructed photographs that seem unreal or the ‘best behavioural’ shots that often wins wildlife photographic competitions.

My photography is about capturing animals doing what they normally do in their daily lives. Then if people can share this love of wildlife, they will subsequently give animals an intrinsic value. When enough people in society do this, the groundswell of opinion will challenge the present

systems of wildlife crime.

Another great childhood favourite of mine was the zebra. I could never understand why it would have those amazing black and white stripes. Only recently have I begun to understand their purpose. The first reason is identification. Zebras’ stripes are as different for them as human faces are for us, so each individual is easy to recognise. The second reason is that the black stripes absorb enough from the sun for the animal, whilst white stripes reflect the excess heat. Therefore the zebra keeps itself at a stable and safe temperature.

The third reason is because the zebra is usually a herding animal, so that when the herd runs from its main predator, the lion, the carnivore becomes confused. As the lion sees in black and white, a single zebra merges with the rest of the zebras surrounding it, turning the image into a giant moving mass. Yet individuals away from the herd stand out far more and are vulnerable to attack. In this way, predator and prey seem to be tied into an evolutionary struggle, gradually changing over time to suit their environmental conditions.

Over the following days we saw plenty of wildlife in many different habitats. At night time it was different, and too dangerous to venture outside the camping sites.

Every morning at sunrise, I often rushed to



the toilet, which was no more than a boarded off open pit. I did so because the entire camping site also rose from their tents at the break of dawn to use it. Occasionally, when I was about an hour late I found the ground around the toilet pit completely

***“My photography is about capturing animals doing what they normally do in their daily lives”***

soaked. So when I was behind schedule I had learned to approach the toilet with care and attention - and never in bare feet!

Moreover, I never used the toilet throughout the dark hours of night time as it was usually situated in the bushes, about 100 yards away. There was wildlife aplenty, although even dedicated conservationists such as myself found it unwelcome.

It wasn't just the nighttime lions or hyenas that were scary as they lay in ambush waiting for prey; it was the small animals too. Scorpions were everywhere and stepping on one would more than ruin my safari, limiting my mobility, and inflicting days of stinging pain. Spiders, cockroaches, mosquitoes and other flying insects loved the accumulated smells of festering human waste - even if it was piled into a 15 foot drop - or spread around the pit's surface.

Towards the end of the safari, having travelled along much of the East African Rift Valley, we spent a few hours at Olduvai Gorge. This is where the famous Leakey family found the remains of early humans that lived about 4 million years ago. This evolutionary period was intriguing. How did humans evolve from this world of wild animals that I had been experiencing over the last two weeks?

It is believed that climate change had

***“Zebras’ stripes are as different for them as human faces are for us”***

reduced the forest in this area, creating savannah and grass lands. This allowed ape-like animals that lived in the trees and canopy to forage and scavenge for food at the newly formed forest edges.

This is similar to the way Olive baboons behave today. Over millions of years these early humans changed their physical characteristics to suit this



new lifestyle. As they ventured further and further into the open savannah, they became upright and bipedal; this freed up their hands so that they could use tools. Larger brains developed to cope with the burgeoning difficulties of these new lifestyles that included hunting and cooking. Developing language systems would further enhance the human race as they created new tribal hunting plans and tactics.

***All pictures are available to purchase in high quality prints from our website***

Further copies of the Wildlife Zone Newsletter can be bought at the DAY 1 convenience store, Oxford Road, New Denham, Buckinghamshire. Otherwise you can purchase them from the registered office directly, together with back numbers.

The Wildlife Zone Newsletter is also on display at Uxbridge Library, and at the Harris and Hoole coffee shop nearby. It is also deposited at the British Library Archive Department where they can be read freely.

The Wildlife Zone is the publishing arm of the Foundation for Endangered Species.



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