



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

Press Release

CHARITY CELEBRATES CONSERVATION CENTRE

Sandown's Wildheart Animal Sanctuary welcomed local supporters to the official opening of the Crayfish Conservation Centre, with Sandown Mayor Alex Lightfoot cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

The Sanctuary, a registered Charity, aims to make a meaningful impact on the health of the natural world while actively improving the well-being of animals in human care, and the Trust currently provides funding and technical support to in-situ conservation programmes for tigers in India, lemurs in Madagascar and native species here in the UK; it is hoped Britain's only native crayfish species will thrive at the centre, and will contribute to the Trust's 'Southern Chalkstreams' project.

Sandown Mayor Alex Lightfoot said 'This new facility combines education and conservation, is welcoming to all generations, and reflects the hard work of the dedicated team at the Trust.'

The Crayfish Centre has been developed in partnership with the Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust and Bristol Zoological Society, with Dr Jen Nightingale, from the Society, 'I am delighted that Bristol Zoological Society has brought the endangered, white-clawed crayfish to the Island, and The team at Wildheart have worked tirelessly to create a fabulous crayfish centre and display for the animals, which will fascinate and inspire visitors to the Sanctuary.'

