



An absolutely fabulous day was had at Dartmoor Zoo, on Sunday 17th December, when well over 100 foster carers and their families descended upon the Zoo, to look around the animals, including some 'up close and personal' experiences! There were animals large and small, from Dragan and Alisha the Amur Tigers to Chicha the Jaguar and Tibo and Baro the super-fast Cheetahs! Jasmine and Jonsi the otters and Fonzo the Coati, all entertained us while Tim the Zebra and 'Giant haystacks' the Deer wondered what and who had invaded their peace and quiet!

After a good couple of hours of looking around in the relatively good weather, whilst the rain held off, there was opportunity to get together, for face painting and balloon models to be enjoyed, before a fantastic buffet for adults and children alike was served. Lastly, a visit from 'the man in red' himself and each child left with a small gift, having first placed their larger orders for delivery to their homes!

Some of our teens were captured particularly enjoying the experience - many will still go to great lengths to gain a cuddly bear or tiger but Santa was very pleased to welcome all ages! Our organizer of the day, Katherine, was also welcomed by Santa and thoroughly enjoyed her visit!

Our very many thanks indeed go to Katherine Page without whom the day could not have happened - and also to Luke Chapman, our County Manager for finding the funds to provide such a fantastic day out for all. The day was wholly appreciated by all who attended - giving chance for carers to meet old friends and make some new ones. It was lovely to see people introducing themselves to each other and making good efforts to get to those outside of their immediate fostering circle.

Anyone who has ideas for any future holiday time events, please do contact Katherine Page direct or via Fran and Sharon in the fostering team. We would very much like to provide activities and events of carer's and children's choices - just let us know and we will do our utmost to include ideas over the coming year.

For now, thanks to those who worked so hard to make the day such a success - and "a very Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year to you all", from all of the fostering team in South and West Devon.