

Isle of Wight Zoo

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Yaverland

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Isle of Wight

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# Press Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### Isle of Wight Zoo paint makeover in association with Johnstone's Paint and Isle of Wight College

Island residents passing the Isle of Wight Zoo may have recently noticed work being carried out on a series of black and white murals on the exterior arches facing Yaverland seafront.

The murals, originally painted by local artist Holly Maslen in early 2013, have faced the elements for just over 3 years, but signs of weathering have started to appear on the artwork.

Keen to ensure the murals remain looking their best, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year painting and decorating students from the Isle of Wight College were offered an opportunity to practise their practical skills by helping to spruce up the artwork.

Throughout their academic year the students have been on regular visits to the zoo under the guidance of the Isle of Wight college painting and decorating head tutor Stephen Delaney. They have been lending eager paws equipped with sandpaper, brushes and paint to work on numerous projects such as painting handrails and benches. The Isle of Wight Zoo strives to forge excellent working relationships and associations with local communities and Businesses Island wide.

Isle of Wight zoo's Director Charlotte Corney said *"We are so fortunate to have support from the IOW College, the students and their tutors are a joy to host at the zoo and the standard of their work is exceptional. Securing sponsorship from Johnstone's Paint means that we can now really go to town and give the zoo a complete facelift so we are wildly grateful to them for their generous help"*

With such an expanse of paintwork to be given a new coating a vast quantity of paint was required to complete the tasks.

Johnstone's Decorating Centre in Newport kindly stepped forward and have generously offered to sponsor both current and future projects at the zoo, ensuring that sufficient quality paint is in ready supply to help keep the zoo looking it best at all times. Store Operations Manager Ruth McHugh said *"it's a pleasure to be able to work with the zoo and the college on such an iconic building, providing it with long term protection against the weather"*.

The zoo is looking forward to welcoming the students back in spring 2017.

For further details please contact the IOW Zoo's Marketing Manager, Karen-Jane Dudley [marketing@isleofwightzoo.com](mailto:marketing@isleofwightzoo.com)  
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**Notes to editors:** The Isle of Wight Zoo aims to promote the survival of endangered species through first class educational and recreational experiences, exemplary animal management, conservation and research. The zoo is best known for its work



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with exotic cats and is currently home to 5 tigers, 3 lions and 1 jaguar. It acts as a centre for surplus and rescued animals that come to the zoo at different stages of their lives from a variety of backgrounds.



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