

Chair's Update no 27. 26th January 2026

Dear Supporters,

Firstly, may I wish you all a very Happy New Year! At STEF we hope for improved health and welfare for all elephants and for those involved in every aspect of their care during 2026 and beyond. We wish for you all, a year of good health and happiness also!

I would like to extend a **huge thank you** to everyone who supported our Christmas Big Give Campaign in December. With your generosity, we met our target and raised over £12,000! This money makes a significant contribution towards our regular bills for medicines and veterinary supplies, which are essential for the work that we do. Thank you all for donating, sharing, and reposting our message, - every post shared has increased awareness and helped widen our reach.

I am delighted to update you regarding progress of very needed renovation work on our accommodation and kitchen facilities for our visiting volunteers at our Veterinary Centre in Southern Thailand. This work began in October 2025, thanks to generous donations from the Anthony V. Martin Charitable Foundation and the Animal Defence Trust and has now been completed. These facilities now make volunteering at STEF a joy, and we are so grateful.



Stainless steel units will be easy to keep spotless



The new shower is greatly appreciated by volunteers

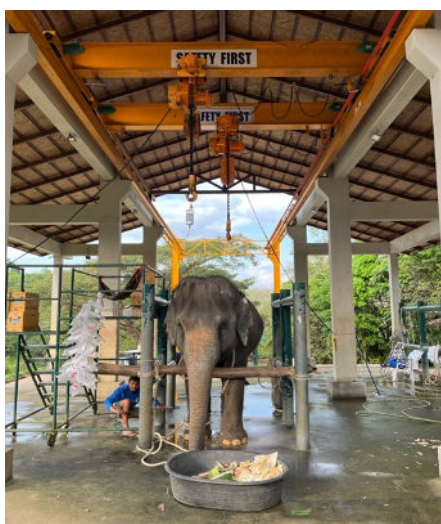


The bathroom is private and located next to bedrooms

Additional work that was completed at STEF during the last quarter was to extend a steel gantry out over our unloading ramp and to add an additional mechanical hand operatable



hoist. This addition allows us to assist the unloading of a sick and weak or recumbent elephant into the treatment area and to continue to support the elephant using a sling supported with the two hoists. We are so grateful to the Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust, The Michael and Shirley Hunt Charitable Trust and to the Animal Defence Trust for awarding STEF grants for this project.



STEF's mobile clinic truck is parked under the new gantry where a lorry could reverse into, to allow easy unloading of any very sick elephants directly into the treatment area

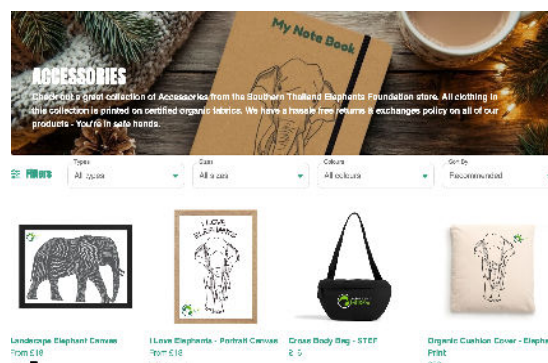
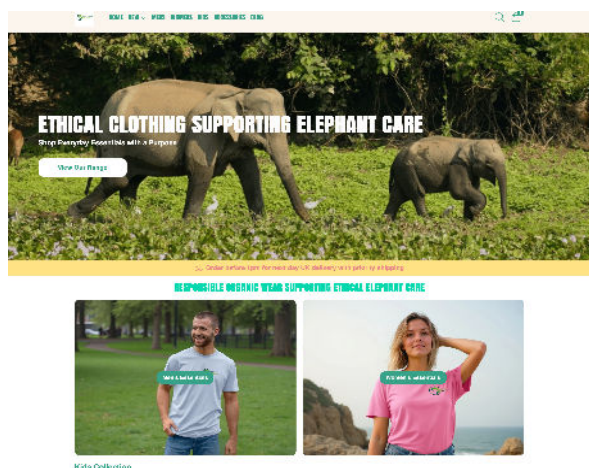
In December I was privileged to visit Blackpool Zoo for a behind the scenes peep at baby Zaiya, who is now 4 months old and thriving under the careful watch of the elephant team. Zaiya is being bottle fed in a carefully executed minimal contact means, to ensure healthy growth. It was wonderful to see all members of the elephant herd taking a keen interest in supporting her development, just as nature intends.



Other news from our UK team includes the launch of our Arts Ambassadors Scheme <https://southernthailandelegants.org/who-we-are/our-arts-ambassadors/>



This scheme is designed to recognize and thank supporters of STEF who have helped to raise awareness of our charity through their creative art. We have benefitted from generous donations of beautiful artwork to sell at fund raising events and are also supported by sales of literary works. In early 2026 we will also launch our online shop! Working in conjunction with TeeMill, we can offer a range of clothing and accessories which are responsibly made from organic cotton and other sustainable materials. Do keep an eye on our website for our February launch!



Water bottles, caps and tote bags also available!

As ever, our enormous thanks are extended to Vernon and Shirley Hill, The Two R's Charitable Trust, The Anthony V Martin Charitable Foundation, The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust, The Hawthorne Trust, The Marjorie Cote Animal Charity Trust, The Marchig Animal Welfare Trust, The Beryl Evetts and Robert Luff Animal Welfare Trust, The Graham Kirkham Foundation, The Alborada Trust, The Castanea Trust, The Ofenheim Trust, The Animal Defence Trust, The Martin Wills Wildlife Maintenance Trust, The Calypso Browning Trust, The Robert Clutterbuck Charitable Trust, The Michael and Shirley Hunt Charitable Trust, The Alice Noakes Memorial Trust, The Edith Murpy Trust and other Trusts and individuals.

Thank you once again, for your continued interest and support of our hard-working charity.

Dr Merry Smith MRCVS
Chair of Trustees
For and on behalf of The Trustees of Southern Thailand Elephant Foundation

Board of Trustees

Sir Richard Armstrong CBE, President
Dr. Merry Smith MA PhD MRCVS, Chair
Dr. Andrew Higgins FRCVS, Senior Vice Chair
Dr. Michael Seton MSc MRCVS, Junior Vice Chair
Mrs Lisa Philpott MSc Hon Secretary

Mr. Roger J. Clark FCA, Hon Treasurer
Mrs Ros Bird MCIof Adv Dip
Ms Lorraine Miller BSc
Dr. Fieke Molenaar MSc DZooMed MRCVS
Mr Jakrapob Thaotad BSc, PGDip