

WINTER 2013

# Z MAGAZINE

CHESTER ZOO

*The official  
magazine for  
Chester Zoo  
MEMBERS and  
ADOPTERS*



# Z MAGAZINE

WINTER 2013

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Saturday March 29, 2014



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**Front cover:** It's hard to believe it's almost the end of the year, so much has happened here at the zoo over the last 12 months. We've seen lots of new developments and new arrivals so we're sure you'll agree there is more here to see than ever. That includes a great selection of baby animals, including this little diva, Indian rhino, *Komala*. She's a bundle of fun with a real spring in her step and an adventurous nature, though so far she doesn't stray too far from her mum, with whom she's also pictured on the back page.

We hope you enjoy this latest edition of Z magazine, and that you, like *Komala*, get to happily skip into the forthcoming festive holidays and the new year with a smile on your faces.

**CHESTERZOO**

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Simply contact the membership office on **01244 650 208** or email [membership@chesterzoo.org](mailto:membership@chesterzoo.org) with an email address you would like us to send the link to – but don't forget to include your membership number or postcode so we can find you on our system. You'll still receive Z by post should you not wish to receive it electronically.

# NEWS FROM THE ZOO

with Dr. Mark Pilgrim director general



## Please can you update us with news from the zoo?

The end of the year has come around quickly following a busy summer season and brings with it the welcome opportunity to reflect on some great progress the zoo has made over the last few months.

We were delighted to see construction work finally getting underway on *Islands* – more of which later – and we have been equally thrilled by so many breeding successes within the animal collection. It is hugely rewarding to see many of our babies continuing to delight us and our visitors as they grow into charming, boisterous youngsters.

More recently, some of our smaller but equally important species have been doing their bit for our breeding programmes. One of the rarest parrot species in the world, the grey-breasted parakeet, is critically endangered in the wild – with just 250 remaining – so the arrival of three chicks here links nicely to our field support for this little bird. We support artificial nest boxes which have helped to increase breeding success.

Parrots have always been very special to me and it is great to see how our parrot collection is becoming more focused on key species.

It is a similar story for the golden coin box turtles – amongst one of the rarest and prettiest turtle species in the world. Over-collection for food markets is putting this lovely species in danger. The hatching of two of these turtles is a UK breeding first for us and gives a little bit of hope for the future.

Another UK zoo first has been the hatching of a Bell's anglehead lizard, of which little is known. Much of their biology is a complete mystery so it is great to be learning more about them as time goes by.

Zoos, by their very nature, are about the circle of life which is not without its darker moments. You may recall our devastation earlier this year when we lost our two young elephant calves, Nayan and Jamilah. Postmortems show that both calves died as a result of elephant endotheliotropic herpes virus (EEHV), otherwise known as elephant herpes. Over the past 15 years, our focus has been on developing an elephant herd just as you would find in nature. Building such a natural herd means having a group of related females and we are making advances in this respect. However, elephant herpes – which also affects wild elephants – is one of the biggest obstacles we face. We felt Jamilah's death particularly acutely given that she was such a charismatic elephant and would have had an important role to play in the future of the herd. There is currently no solution or cure for elephant herpes, a brutal illness. Research into the underlying causes and into finding a cure is vitally important for the future of all elephants. For our part, we are looking at funding to support research programmes into the illness in the hope that we can help make a real difference.

For the first time in a good few years, we have been fortunate to have enjoyed a summer full of sunshine. Our giant BUGS!

exhibition swarmed in and was a big hit with visitors. Feedback on this year's exhibition has been tremendous and I am very proud of all the teams who were involved in getting BUGS! off the ground. When it comes to exhibitions of this kind, we are undoubtedly world leaders. I see other zoos throughout the UK and in America following suit with their own bugs exhibits and their forerunners, the dinosaurs.

With BUGS! behind us, Christmas will soon be upon us and with it comes Lantern Magic – this year our event is bigger and better. What I personally enjoy about this is that it is a real family experience, bringing everyone together – just what Christmas should be about. I really hope you will be able to join us and experience some festive magic.

## Please can you update us on *Islands*?

As I mentioned at the beginning, after a number of years of hard work, *Islands* has finally got off the ground. We are delighted with the progress that has been made so far and will be keeping the momentum going so that this amazing new attraction will open as planned in 2015. *Islands* sets the tone for our future zoo in that we are striving for one-pathway, immersive exhibits that bring conservation to life. *Islands* will undoubtedly put us on the world stage and is the most innovative development in the zoo's history. Our founder, George Mottershead, was a leader, not a follower, and the zoo is following in his example by continuing in that vein today.

We consistently fly the flag for conservation at home and abroad and have lately been involved in the local release of sand lizards and fen raft spiders, along with the breeding of another species – the large heath butterfly. All are really important UK species that we can't afford to take for granted.

Coming back to my love of parrots, in January I will be leading an expedition to Ecuador. The Ecuador Amazon parrot has been part of my life for a very long time and last year I visited Ecuador to visit what is probably the last stronghold of this threatened bird. I'll be taking a team of intrepid explorers, from across all walks of zoo life, back to the dry forests and mangroves of western Ecuador to further explore their behaviours during the breeding season. As so little is known about them we hope to discover useful information that will enable us to put together a conservation action plan to protect these parrots in the future.

## And finally...

I was fortunate to recently mark 25 years of working at the zoo – I don't know where the time has gone and certainly didn't expect to stay that long when I started back in 1988 as a zoo keeper! This remains a truly amazing place to be and, with *Islands*, we are now entering one of the most exciting times in the zoo's history. Your support, which has enabled us to get where we are today, is always appreciated and on behalf of us all I'd like to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and prosperous new year.

# SAND LIZARDS

take a walk back to the  
*wild side*



**A group of sand lizards – one of Britain's rarest reptiles – have been released back into the wild.**

Once commonly found on dunes and heathland, the reptiles became endangered after the gradual destruction of their habitats.

But 27 lizards, reared at the zoo, have been returned to their native habitat in Talacre, north Wales.

It is part of a special series of releases which took place at seven sites across England and Wales, involving around 400 lizards which have been bred at a host of different breeding centres. The long-term aim of the conservation project is to restore the species to its historic range.

Our specialist keeper, Isolde McGeorge, said:

*"It's great to be able to play our part and help release these animals back into their natural habitat. It is habitat loss that has led to dwindling numbers of these important species and to see them back where they belong is very rewarding."*

*"The release of the lizards is the culmination of a lot of hard work and very successful breeding and reintroduction programmes and we hope eventually they will begin to colonise new areas themselves. It's a big step forward for this great native species."*

In the UK sand lizards only live on sand-dunes and lowland dry heath. But due to vast losses and fragmentation of these habitats via development and land use change, the species has been lost from north and west Wales, Cheshire, Kent, Sussex, Berkshire, Hampshire, Devon and Cornwall.

However, sand lizards and their habitats are now protected by law and the reintroduction programme is slowly boosting their numbers.

The zoo worked on the release with a number of volunteers, as well as Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Natural Resources Wales, Natural England and nine other breeding centres around the UK.



Our intrepid conservation team on Talacre Beach



Releasing the lizards into their natural habitat

# Standing TALL

**A baby South East Asian mantis – standing just 1cm tall – walks on the tip of a pair of tweezers as it is caught on camera for the first time.**

The tiny dead leaf mantis (scientific name *Deroplatys desiccata*) was one of 13 to hatch on Halloween in what is a first ever breeding of the species at the zoo.

Despite their current stature, the mantids could eventually grow up to 15 times larger in size.

Invertebrate keeper Heather Prince said:

*“Our new youngsters are incredibly small – about the size of drawing pins. We use tweezers to deliver them their food in the form of live fruit flies which they have to hunt down. It’s a rather delicate task, made especially tricky given that it’s the first time we’ve ever bred these mantids here. However, it’s a challenge we’re relishing and to have achieved a first for the zoo with this wonderful species is fantastic.”*

The dead leaf mantis takes its name from its close resemblance to dead, leafy vegetation. It can be found in forests in Borneo, Indonesia, Malaysia and Sumatra and has an unusual way of hatching its young.

Heather added:

*“Once our adult female had successfully mated, she laid her eggs in a frothy liquid that hardened into a protective capsule as it made contact with air – something called an ootheca.”*

*“After around seven weeks of incubation, 13 tiny pronymphs, which is the first maggot-like stage of a mantis, then hatched out of the ootheca – the first time we have ever seen this at the zoo.”*

*“The pronymphs then moulted almost immediately afterwards; shedding their skin to appear like miniature adults.”*

The species will eventually go on display in our new *Islands* exhibit, which is set to open in spring 2015.



## Shell SHOCK

**We've hatched two of the rarest turtles in the world.**

They are the first golden coin turtles to be bred in the UK this year. Golden coin turtles, which are native to China and Vietnam, are critically endangered in the wild with their numbers in huge decline due largely to their over-collection for the southern Asian food markets.

Herpetology keeper Ruth Smith said:

*“Asian turtle species have undergone massive declines in recent years. They are over exploited and hundreds of thousands of them are traded annually for human consumption. The golden coin turtle has suffered particularly badly and the species is now right on the very edge of extinction.”*

Also known as Chinese three-striped box turtles, the species is also hunted for its use in traditional medicines and is highly sought-after by the pet trade due to its striking colours.





# Perfect PARROTS

## Three of the rarest parrots in the world have hatched.

It's only the second time grey-breasted parakeets have ever been bred in a UK zoo – and both of those successes were achieved here by our expert bird team.

As few as 250 grey-breasted parakeets, which are native to Ceará in north east Brazil, are believed to remain in the wild. Habitat loss and the illegal pet trade are blamed for their devastating decline.

However the new arrivals have given conservationists fresh hope in the fight to bring the species back from the brink.

*"These little additions are very significant indeed," said Andy Woolham, team manager of parrots and penguins. "We are the only zoo that works with grey-breasted parakeets in the whole of the UK and we're absolutely thrilled that we've been able to breed them, not least because there is real concern about the long-term future of the species in the wild.*

*"Just 13% of their original habitat now remains, as it has been cut down to make way for coffee plantations. That, coupled with what is thought to be their main threat, the illegal trade in captured individuals, has led to a dramatic reduction in their numbers. Sadly, they really are being pushed towards the very edge of extinction.*

*"However these hatchlings give us hope and the challenge now for us is to replicate our breeding successes, try to establish a safety*

*net population of these birds and help make sure that the future of this wonderful species is safeguarded."*

The diminutive grey-breasted parakeet, which is listed by Birdlife International as being critically endangered, grows to around 22cm tall and reaches just 50g in weight.

Andy added:

*"When our chicks first hatched they were the size of 50 pence pieces.*

*"For the first 11 weeks they remained in their nest box where they were well looked after by their parents until they started feeding themselves, just as they would in the wild. But now we've finally been able to get a closer look at them.*

*"We've also been able to take a tail feather from each of the chicks, which will now be sent off for DNA sexing. It's vitally important that we know their genders so that we can work out who to pair with who in the future. These birds are extremely important and hopefully both will one day go on to have chicks of their own."*

The chicks hatched just six weeks after a new purpose-built breeding facility for rare parrots was opened at the zoo.

We also support a project which is working to protect the species in the wild and have achieved breeding successes with several other threatened parrot species, including Mount Apo lorikeet, Ecuador Amazon, hyacinth macaw and Philippine cockatoo.

—TINY BABY—  
**LIZARD**  
*is hugely*  
**MYSTERIOUS**

THE MOST CURIOUS FACT IS THAT  
WE KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT HIM



**A rare baby lizard has hatched – the first Bell's anglehead lizard to ever be bred in the UK.**

The species is native to south east Asia and Indonesia but keepers say little else is known about the mysterious creatures. Herpetology keeper Ruth Smith, pictured above, said:

*"In many ways the Bell's anglehead lizard is a real underdog. Very little is known about them and to reptile experts they are a complete mystery. Run an internet search on them and you'll find that hardly any reliable information comes up – they're that data deficient."*

*"What we can be sure about, though, is that this is the very first time the species has hatched in a zoo in the UK and possibly even Europe. So we're absolutely thrilled with our new arrival."*

*"Breeding these rare lizards gives us the opportunity to study the complex ways they reproduce, learn all about the hatching process and monitor their development. For example we now know that their incubation period is between 151 and 155 days and that they double in size in the month after they hatch. Creating a log of information like this can ultimately be vital for the conservation of this, and similar species, in the wild."*

The youngster will be cared for in a behind-the-scenes rearing facility until it is old enough to join the conservation breeding programme for the species. Its parents can be seen in the Realm of the Red Ape exhibit.

We have also achieved breeding successes with several other threatened lizard species, including sand lizards and the utilia spiny-tailed iguana.

**A study spanning 15 years has unearthed one of the rarest parrots in South America.**

Dr Mark Pilgrim, our director general, is one of the world's leading experts on Amazon parrots, and he has made an 11<sup>th</sup> hour discovery which could now save a species - known as the Ecuador Amazon parrot - from extinction.

"The rate at which animals are becoming extinct is higher today than at any other time in history," said Mark. "In the face of this crisis, and a lack of adequate resources with which to properly address it, it's not really surprising that subspecies are seen as being of lesser conservation importance to full species.

"This places great significance on taxonomic evaluation studies of threatened animals, as misclassifying a species as a subspecies will mean it's likely to be overlooked as a conservation priority.

"Whilst working as a bird keeper here in the late 1980s, I was fascinated by a little green parrot called the Ecuador Amazon (Latin name *Amazona autumnalis lilacina*). At that time we only had a pair of these parrots which came to the zoo after being confiscated by customs officials in the UK. They were part of a haul of 150 birds that had been illegally trapped and exported to Europe where they were destined to be sold illegally into the pet trade.

"Little did I know then that those birds would go on to play such an important part in my life, as I soon started to believe them to be different to three other much more common *Amazona autumnalis* subspecies that, historically, the Ecuador Amazon was grouped with. After talking to other Amazon parrot conservationists, I thought that this parrot might actually be something very special and perhaps a species in its own right."

Mark, pictured far right, therefore set out to determine whether or not *A. a lilacina* is sufficiently different from the other three *A. autumnalis* subspecies to be considered as a separate species.

Between 1992 and 2013, he visited museums, bird parks and zoos across Europe to discover more.

"The first step was to look for any morphological differences - basically body shapes and colour patterns," added Mark. "So I travelled to museums in different parts of Europe to analyse more than 60 preserved specimens, taking measurements such as wing-length, tail-length and beak shape. Not only were the specimens few and far between, some were in very poor condition which only added to the challenge. I also looked at 17 live parrots, kept here at the zoo, and took opportunities to analyse them only when they were anaesthetised for any pressing veterinary reasons.

"Next I looked at their genetics. Using labs at Liverpool John Moores University, I extracted DNA from feathers and looked at small differences in specific genes that were selected for sequencing. Freshly moulted, primary, secondary and tail feathers of captive *Amazona* parrots were used as the DNA source, as opposed to taking blood or tissue samples, to avoid causing them any stress.

Fifteen year quest proves little green parrot is very different from its cousins

These feathers came from birds kept by zoos and private aviculturists from all over Europe and were collected by a strict protocol to ensure their reliability.

"Finally, I devised an ethogram - a way of cataloguing the birds' behavioural repertoire, looking at possible differences in their courtship behaviour."

These investigations have uncovered strong evidence that the Ecuador Amazon parrot (*A. a lilacina*) is indeed morphologically, behaviourally and genetically distinctive, providing justification for it to be recognised as a full species.

But the findings, and the parrots' impending re-classification, have far-reaching consequences. With full species recognition, the Ecuador Amazon parrot is now likely to be considered as 'endangered' by

the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Birdlife International, meaning it faces a very high risk of extinction in the near future. It has a greater than 50% chance of disappearing altogether in the next 20 years.

"The Ecuador Amazon parrot was previously included within a group of subspecies of which there may be as many as five million. The main implication of this work is that they are so distinct they are now considered as a full species, of which there are only 600 left. This makes a huge difference to their conservation priority.

"So having shown that it's a species in its own right, we now need to make sure we don't lose it.

"With 80 Ecuador Amazon parrots in European zoos as part of a conservation breeding programme, now almost a fifth of the world's population, we realise how precious they are.

"My fear was always that the results of my work would come too late, however there is still time to save it and that's exactly what we are trying to achieve."

To add to the work the zoo is sending an expedition to carry out more vital research on the parrots in the wild in January.

A team of 11 will study the birds during their



nesting season in the Cerro Blanco Forest in South West Ecuador. They are tasked with collecting important data and setting camera traps to learn more about them.

"Despite my 15 years of research there are still so many questions that need to be answered," added Mark. "We need to know what trees the parrots feed on, what else may compete for that food in the forest, where they nest and what their behaviour is whilst they nest. This basic biological information is vital to produce a conservation action plan. Additionally we need to do an accurate head count - we want to find out as precisely as we can just how many of these wonderful birds are left so that we can judge if and how fast the population is declining. This will help us to understand what we need to do to raise the level of protection for the Cerro Blanco Forest and for the parrots.

"Ultimately, the expedition and the work and research the team will do in Ecuador is essential for the survival of this species in the wild."

Follow the team's progress through blogs, updates and photos at [www.actforwildlife.org.uk](http://www.actforwildlife.org.uk)

Who's a problematic boy then?

The large heath is an internationally endangered butterfly which has suffered a 50% decline in the UK during the last 30 years. Lancashire was historically the stronghold for this butterfly, indeed one of its earlier vernacular names was the Manchester argus, but it was formerly much more widespread, inhabiting the lowland raised bogs in North West England.

A loss of 98% of its peatland habitat has resulted in the loss of this species from Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside. Today, in Lancashire, it is only found at two sites miles apart from each other: Bowland Fells and Winmarleigh Moss site of special scientific interest (SSSI).

Reintroduction seems the only credible means available for any conservation work that seeks to expand the population to other isolated mosses. One such possible reintroduction site is Heysham Moss SSSI, where the large heath became extinct in the early 20th century due to drainage. Since the Lancashire Wildlife Trust purchased Heysham Moss in 2004, extensive habitat management work has been undertaken to prepare the site for the reintroduction. Now, a collaborative project between ourselves and The Wildlife Trust plans to have a self-sustaining population of large heath butterflies at Heysham Moss by 2015.

In July 2013, under licence from Natural England and calling on expertise from Butterfly Conservation and the RSPB, a small number of gravid females were collected from Winmarleigh Moss and brought here to the zoo. They were placed inside specially made enclosures by members of our invertebrates team, Heather Prince and Adam Richardson. These butterflies subsequently laid their eggs on the hare's-tail cottongrass which had been previously collected, planted inside the enclosures and nurtured by our horticulture staff. Two weeks later the first of many larvae hatched out and are now being carefully looked after to ensure the highest number of large, healthy caterpillars survive hibernation through winter. They will then pupate next spring before being carefully transported to Heysham Moss where the adult butterflies can emerge and breed for the first time in 100 years.

The process is to be repeated next year with more butterflies being taken from Winmarleigh and a second release of zoo raised butterflies in the summer of 2015.



Strangely beautiful: a caterpillar of a large heath butterfly



Our expert team gathers at Winmarleigh Moss

Two of the captured healthy butterflies



# REVERSING *the decline*

SAVE OUR BUTTERFLIES  
PROJECT GOES LARGE

Launch of the

# Fen Raft Spider

**For three years we've played a key part in helping an unusual species, the fen raft spider. Keeper Karen Lambert reports on the project's progress:**

More than 12 months ago, 186 fen raft spiders were taken from a bio secure unit at the zoo to the RSPB's mid-Yare reserve to help establish a new wild population of fen raft spiders. In all 2,437 spiders were released and we kept everything crossed to see what the outcome would be.

Fast forward a year and we were delighted to see a pregnant female at the same release site; spiders were not expected to breed until 2014 so this was a particularly welcome discovery. This good news was mirrored at the original release site, at the Suffolk Wildlife Trust nature reserve, where more than 90 nursery webs were observed.

Once again this year, we took part in the fen raft spider translocation programme. For the first three months of the spiders' lives they are hand reared in individual test tubes. This reduces cannibalism between siblings as well as any threat from predators, ultimately allowing more spiders to be released back into the wild. We have had fantastic results this year with 98% of the spiderlings released in October. The future of this project is looking bright at the moment, with three new populations being established in just four years. With this success in mind it is hoped that the project will go from strength to strength and reach its target of releasing 12 populations by 2020.



PRIZE  
TO BE WON!

See our  
QUIZ

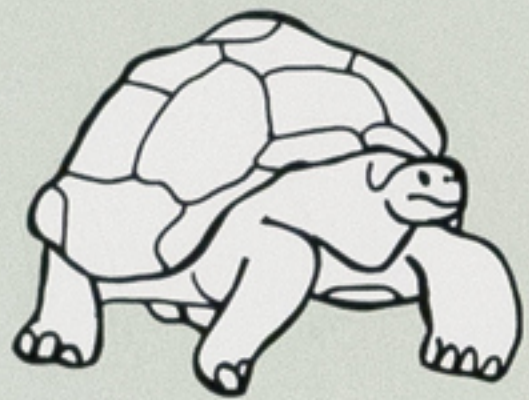
# Kidz zoo

Winter 2013



Inside...KIDS' PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

# Junior Members' PROGRAMME of EVENTS 2014



## DISCOVERY SESSION

SATURDAY JANUARY 18

This is your opportunity to get to know your own zoo much better. We will split into groups and do different activities such as imaginative enclosure design which will be your chance to create the best living accommodation for a species we choose, and also to have zoo tours. Store up some questions about the animals and the way we look after them to ask your guides.

Eights and over are asked to join us, meeting outside Oakfield House (near the lions) at 2pm, and parents can collect the youngsters from there at 4pm.

## HOO FARM - TELFORD

SATURDAY APRIL 26

This will be a new trip for the junior members. We will visit the wide variety of animals at Hoo Farm near Telford where they have all the regular farm animals as well as a lot of exotic animals such as alpacas, bats, foxes, racoons, meerkats, snakes, frogs, lizards, parrots - in fact, all sorts! There will be a lot to do whatever the weather. It will be a lovely day out.

Eights and over are asked to join us, meeting at the staff entrance at 10am, and we will return there for 4.30pm. Bring a picnic with you.



## MANCHESTER MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22

Manchester science museum is huge and fascinating! There is so much to do with loads of interactive sections and the themes range from old fashioned living conditions and vintage transport to modern and up-to-date science exhibitions. There will be so much to see and do that we will spend an action-packed cold February day, warm indoors.

The bus will leave the staff entrance at 10.30am and return at 4pm. Eights and over are welcome to come. Bring a picnic.

## ANGELSEY SEA ZOO AND PILI PALACE

SATURDAY MAY 17

This is always a very enjoyable day when we head over to the Anglesey Sea Zoo for the morning and then go on to the amazing Pili Palace to see their stunning butterflies and so much more before returning home. Helpful staff will offer us a guided tour and the opportunity to meet some of the animals that we can handle there. May is a wonderful time of year to blow off the cobwebs and head for Wales.

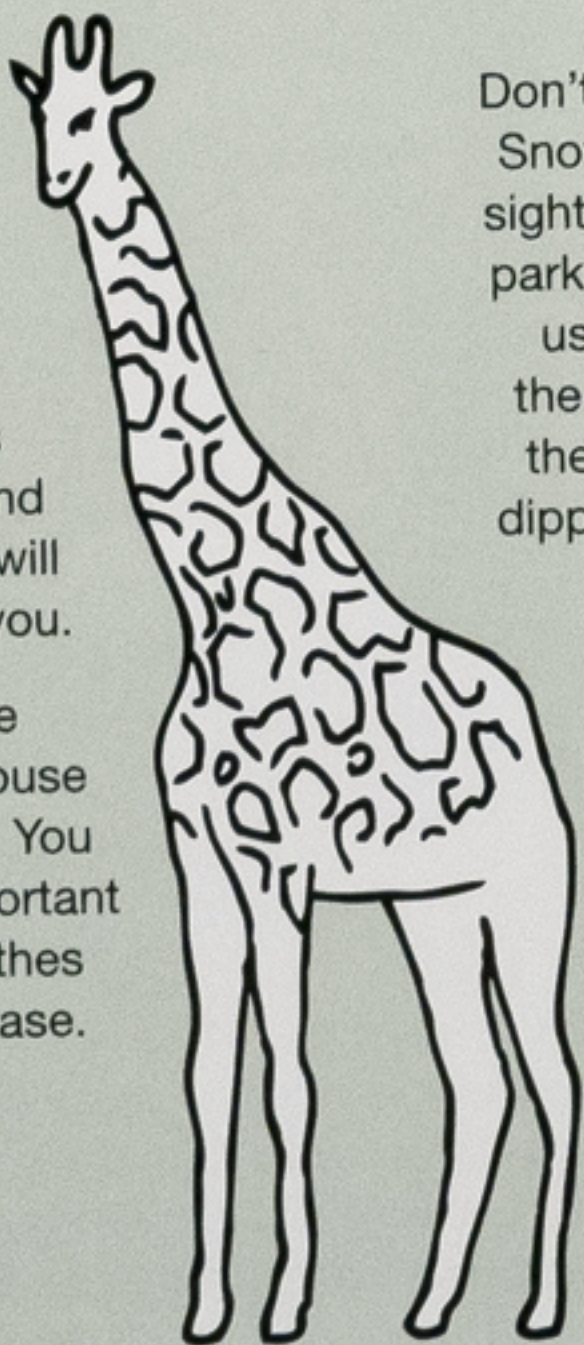
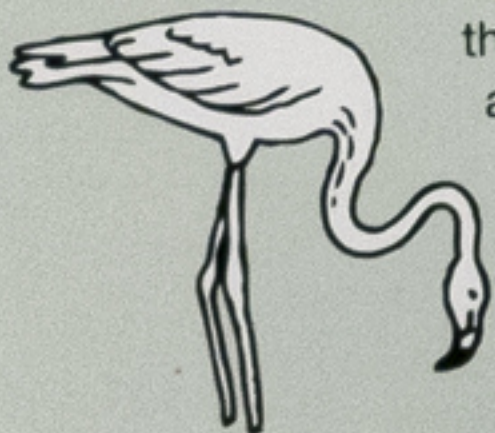
The bus will leave the staff entrance at 9.30am and return for 5pm. Over eights are invited to come along and you should bring a picnic.

## TRACKS AND SIGNS

SATURDAY MARCH 22

This is probably one of our most popular events which entertains the wide age range we cater for. This is your chance to see the zoo from the animal's view of the visitors, as you will be going inside some of the enclosures to search for footprints from which to make plaster casts. March is the best time of year for this as it is normally muddy - but please bear this in mind when you dress in the morning. Hopefully, you will have a souvenir of your day to take home with you.

Eights and over can come along and join the messiness, when we meet outside Oakfield House at 11am, returning there for collection at 4pm. You will need a picnic lunch, and it is important that you wear clean, very old clothes and absolutely clean wellies please.



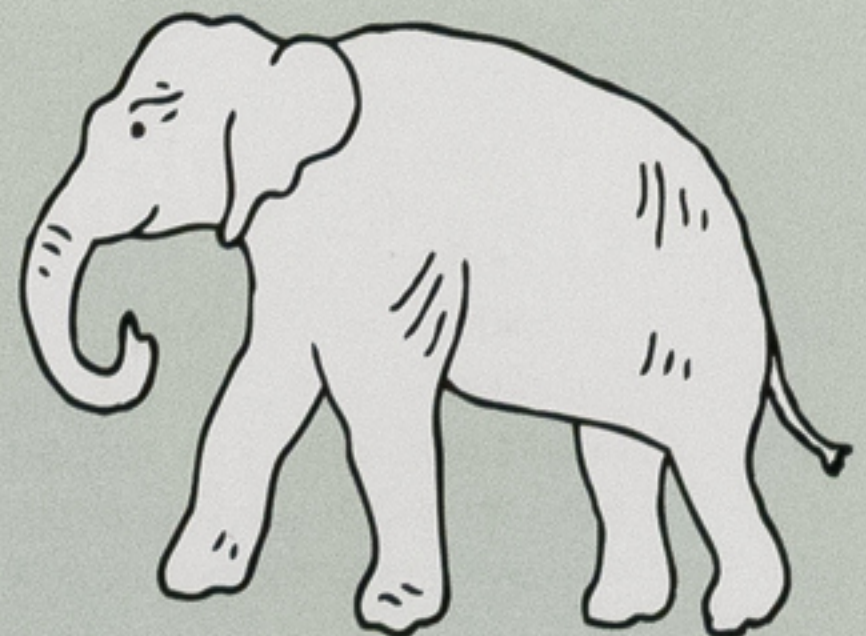
## GREENWOOD FOREST PARK - SNOWDONIA!

SATURDAY JUNE 21

Don't worry, we will not be traipsing the juniors up Mount Snowdon, but we will have this famous mountain in our sights at times when we are approaching this fascinating park, based on sustainable living and having fun without using up masses of natural resources. We will enjoy the wet toboggan ride, propel your own boats through the jungle stream, as well as den building and the big dipper ride - you will even get the chance to try archery.

This event is definitely back by popular request.

We will leave the staff car park at 9.30am and return at 5.30pm. Bring a picnic lunch. All eights and over are invited to come along for a lovely day out.



## HOW TO BE A GOOD ZOO KEEPER!

WEDNESDAY JULY 23

This is a unique opportunity offered to junior members to spend a day working alongside a zoo keeper. The work can be tough and demanding so we strictly limit this event to those juniors of **12 years old or over**. We try to match juniors to their favourite section, but places are limited so this cannot be guaranteed. Please arrive prepared to work hard, with clean wellies and an additional completely clean set of clothes to work in.

**Owing to the zoo's biosecurity measures, it is important that the clothes you wear to work on the sections have not been in contact with any farm animals, or even your pets at home, since they were last washed.**

We will meet outside the Oakfield at 10.30am, and the day will finish for juniors at 4pm. Please bring a packed lunch. **Also please note** that bookings for this event **will not** be taken before 9am on Wednesday July 9, 2014, (01244 650215) and will be strictly on a first-come, first-served basis.

## JUNIORS' SUMMER BARBECUE!

THURSDAY JULY 31

Our summer barbecue has become a regular feature for the juniors' diary as it has proved immensely popular. Perhaps this is because it is our chance to be in the zoo when there are no other visitor noises to distract you and the animals, so it is a different zoo experience. We usually aim to have a speaker to chat to you or to engage in craft activities or zoo tours during the evening, but you can be sure to find it relaxing.

We invite eights and over to join us for a 7pm start, when you should arrive at the main entrance. Parents are asked to collect juniors from the main entrance at 9.45pm please.

## THE JUNIOR MEMBERS' SUMMER SCHOOL

FROM AUGUST 4 - 8 INCLUSIVE

**Please note that the two week booking rule does NOT apply to this event and EARLY BOOKING IS ADVISED (anytime from December 2013 onwards).**

The summer school is open to juniors aged 12 and above (although preference will be given to those aged 13 and above). Participants must be able to attend all five (full) days and the cost will be £185 for the week.

A full programme of events for this action-packed, but informal week, will be issued in the March edition of this magazine, but essentially the summer school will encompass a wide variety of theoretical and practical training including a mid-week field trip, live mammal trapping, tours of the zoo, and talks from a variety of zoo staff about all aspects of the zoo's work. It is ideally suited to those hoping to follow a career in zoos, conservation or veterinary science but is also a lot of fun for those just interested in finding out more about how our wonderful zoo works.



### Please Note:

Bookings must be made for all events. Please ring **Penny Rudd** on **01244 650 215**, not more than two weeks before the event you would like to attend. Places are offered on a first-come, first-served basis and may be limited. This list is provisional and in exceptional circumstances we may have to alter dates and venues. You will be informed of any such changes in Z Magazine and not by individual letter, so please keep up to date by reading the Kidz Zoo pages in each issue. A charge will be made to cover the cost of those events which involve transport, entry fees, materials or the provision of food and you will be advised of this at the time of booking.

## HILBRE ISLAND

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20

Back to the seaside for September. We will be walking over to Hilbre Island in the Dee Estuary to see the seabirds and seals and to investigate the rockpools on our way. You will love this visit which offers the chance to walk across the sand as the tide goes out, climb on the Little Eye and Middle Eye islands on our way over to Hilbre itself, where we will spend the day watching the wildlife and visiting the lighthouse. Don't worry, we will leave in good time to be back to the coach before the tide comes in!

The bus departure time will depend on the tide times for the day and so keep an eye on the magazine to check when we will be leaving nearer the date. Eights and over are invited to join us for a relaxing day. Bring a picnic.

## TATTON PARK, HOME FARM AND DEER RUT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 18

It is a few years since the juniors last visited Tatton Park, home to big herds of fallow deer and red deer. October is the time of the rut for the red deer and we will be able to watch the big males competing to attract the females. This is usually a fantastic autumn visit and we will visit the Home farm at Tatton in the morning before heading across the main parkland to watch the deer. Wrap up warmly and come along!

Over eights are invited to join us, and we will leave the staff car park at 10am and return there for 4.30pm. You will need a picnic lunch.



## MARTIN MERE, THE WILDFOWL AND WETLANDS TRUST

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22

Martin Mere is the place around here to see the vast flocks of pink-footed geese that stop here on the autumn migration. There will also be hundreds of swans and many other wild waterfowl species to see at this stunning reserve near Ormskirk, Lancashire, where there are many hides spread around the area from which you can get really superb views of the birds without disturbing them.

This is a very easy going day and we will start by visiting Martin mere's exotic species collection before heading out to the wetlands to look at the wild birds.

The bus will leave the staff car park at 10.30am and return for 4pm. You will need to dress warmly and bring a picnic lunch. If you have binoculars bring them along, but we will have some you can borrow too. Juniors of eight and over are more than welcome to join us.

## THE JUNIORS' CHRISTMAS PARTY!

FRIDAY DECEMBER 5

Our annual bash welcomes juniors of eight and over to enjoy an evening of games, disco music, and a great hot-dog and beef-burger supper. You will need to bring along a cushion to sit on - and a torch to find us!

The venue will be Café Bembe. Access can be gained through the main entrance. You should arrive at 7pm, with your cushion and a torch and we will guide you to the venue. Parents should arrange to collect you from the main entrance at 9.45pm.

# MY BORNEO EXPERIENCE

by Danny Smith, of Halifax, West Yorkshire



Hello readers,

My name is Danny and I am 17 years old. This summer I went on an expedition to Malaysian Borneo with Camps International. The trip entailed participating in community and environmental project work, aiming to improve the lives of the inhabitants of the island, both human and animal.

Our efforts were focused in Sabah, the western region of the island owned by Malaysia. At our first camp, located near the Rungus village of Tinangol, my team and I – consisting of 18 students from my school in West Yorkshire – helped to build a kindergarten for the ever growing local community. Jobs included making cement, levelling-out the surrounding landscape, plastering and building walls. Four days outside in the blazing heat definitely set the tone for what was to come, but everyone enjoyed themselves and we pulled together to get the job done.

After Tinangol we moved to a camp on the outskirts of the rainforest. This was so that we could learn simple bushcraft and how to put up hammocks for the upcoming jungle trek. The two days there helped to mentally prepare us, though the heat was more intense and coupled with an array of insects to deal with!

However, nothing could fully prepare us for the trek. As our expedition leader put it, it was a mountain trek that happened to be in a jungle. We walked about five miles a day with roughly 20kg in our rucksacks. It's safe to say it was the toughest five days of my life and only now can I fully appreciate what I achieved.

Leaving the spiders, leeches and wasps behind, and after two days of rest and relaxation we moved to camp Bonkhud, a Dusun

camp. At this camp, we learned traditional Dusun song and dance which helped to solidify friendships amongst team members. For the community work, we helped paint an almost finished community centre that had been built by Camps volunteers, as well as teaching the local children English. This was a great chance for us to learn basic Malay too!

Our last camp, Batu Puteh, was an hour's river boat ride away from anywhere, this was Borneo at its purest! Everyone in the group was disappointed that, apart from the aforementioned critters, we did not see any wildlife on the trek. Well, Batu Puteh made up for that. We literally could not sleep for the gibbons and macaques swinging around in the trees. Wild orangutans were also heard but, unfortunately, not seen. At this camp, we planted 300 trees to help replenish an area of the forest which was ravaged by deforestation and wildfires in the late 1990s.

On the way back to the airport at Kota Kinabalu, we stopped off at the Sepilok orangutan rehabilitation centre. This is a large sanctuary where injured or young orangutans are kept before being released into the wild. It really is a remarkable facility and it was breath-taking to see such an endangered animal in the flesh. Seeing these great apes was definitely the highlight of the entire trip.

This month away will stay with me for the rest of my life. The feeling of helping people who are in need is indescribable, and I have learned a lot about myself in the process. My amazing experience may not have come about if not for the generous donation Chester Zoo made towards my fundraising. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity I was given, in particular by director general Mark Pilgrim.

*Terima kasih* to you and your team Mark!

## PRIZE QUIZ

Take the first letter of each answer, and you will find the surname of the man who first set up and opened Chester Zoo in 1931.

1. Which large island off the east coast of Africa has such a rich variety of wildlife that 85% is unique to the island?
2. Which of the five great apes, mankind's closest relatives, is the only one not found in Africa?
3. Which occupant of the zoo's Tropical Realm is a small, plump dark brown songbird, named after an island in south east Asia?
4. Which small carnivorous mammal is named for the island state of Australia?
5. Which word do we use to describe the surroundings and conditions that an animal or plant lives in?
6. Which snake, from Asia, is the longest in the world, reaching as long as six metres, and one can be seen in Realm of the Red Ape?
7. Which of the UK's native reptiles can be found at Chester Zoo and is part of a breeding and reintroduction project?
8. What is the smallest rodent found in the UK, that was reintroduced to Cheshire by a Chester Zoo project?
9. Which word describes a species at risk of becoming extinct?
10. Which animal is sometimes called the Mexican walking fish although it is an amphibian growing up to 45cm?
11. What is the name of a wild dog in Australia?

1.
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11.

To be in with a chance to win a £10 voucher to spend in the zoo shops, send your entry together with your name, address and phone number by **Monday January 6** to: **Z Magazine, Marketing Department, Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester CH2 1LH**. Congratulations to our previous winner **Francesa Eaton** of Chester.



# Lizard TALES

**We are beginning to see the results of our breeding preparations for *Islands*!**

One of the first species brought to our collection earlier this year, the Asian grass lizard, has started to produce fertile clutches and consequently new hatchlings are emerging more regularly.

The adult's body length is approximately 25cm and it has a tail almost four times as long as the body. The tail is also prehensile which means it is adapted for grasping or holding.

Both genders are brownish shades in colour and males have small circular spots on the sides of the bodies.

Similar to our sand lizards, they hibernate in their natural habitat from December to February. At temperatures below 14°C they fall asleep completely, while above 20°C they awake in succession. Sexually mature females lay multiple clutches of pliable-shelled eggs, in clutch sizes of two to four, with a weight of less than 0.2g.

This species will be part of a complex mixed exhibit of reptiles and amphibians at the Monsoon Forest of *Islands*. In the meantime our lower vertebrates and invertebrates teams are working on perfecting their husbandry in captivity and maintaining sustainable colonies for the future opening in 2015.



A 3D artistic impression of *Islands*

# ISLANDS

Exciting start to an incredible journey



The Lazy Boat Journey

In August, the *Islands* project reached the stage where, after much design and planning work, construction on site could finally commence. Any members passing the zoo will have doubtless seen the site from the A41 as they go by.

Laing O'Rourke, the main contractor, has made good progress and is currently well into the civil engineering stage of the works. The structure of the monsoon forest is beginning to emerge out of the ground and also taking shape are the boat channel and attenuation pond, which our ecologist expects to provide excellent habitat for great crested newts at the end of the scheme.

Over the coming months, the various islands and water bodies will become more obvious, and the Monsoon Forest will develop further. Most of this huge structure is destined to be nestled into the surrounding landscape. This means large parts of the building – including the huge ducts that will circulate air around it – will only be on view during this early construction phase before the rest of the building, earth and planting cover them over.

The main orders for plants, metalwork, the boat ride and other key elements of the design are being placed and our managers are developing plans for staffing *Islands*, moving animals in and telling the story of this threatened south east Asian habitat to our visitors when *Islands* opens in spring 2015.

For more information on *Islands*, including photographs and the *Islands* blog, please see our website [www.chesterzoo.org/islands](http://www.chesterzoo.org/islands).

# TAKING shape

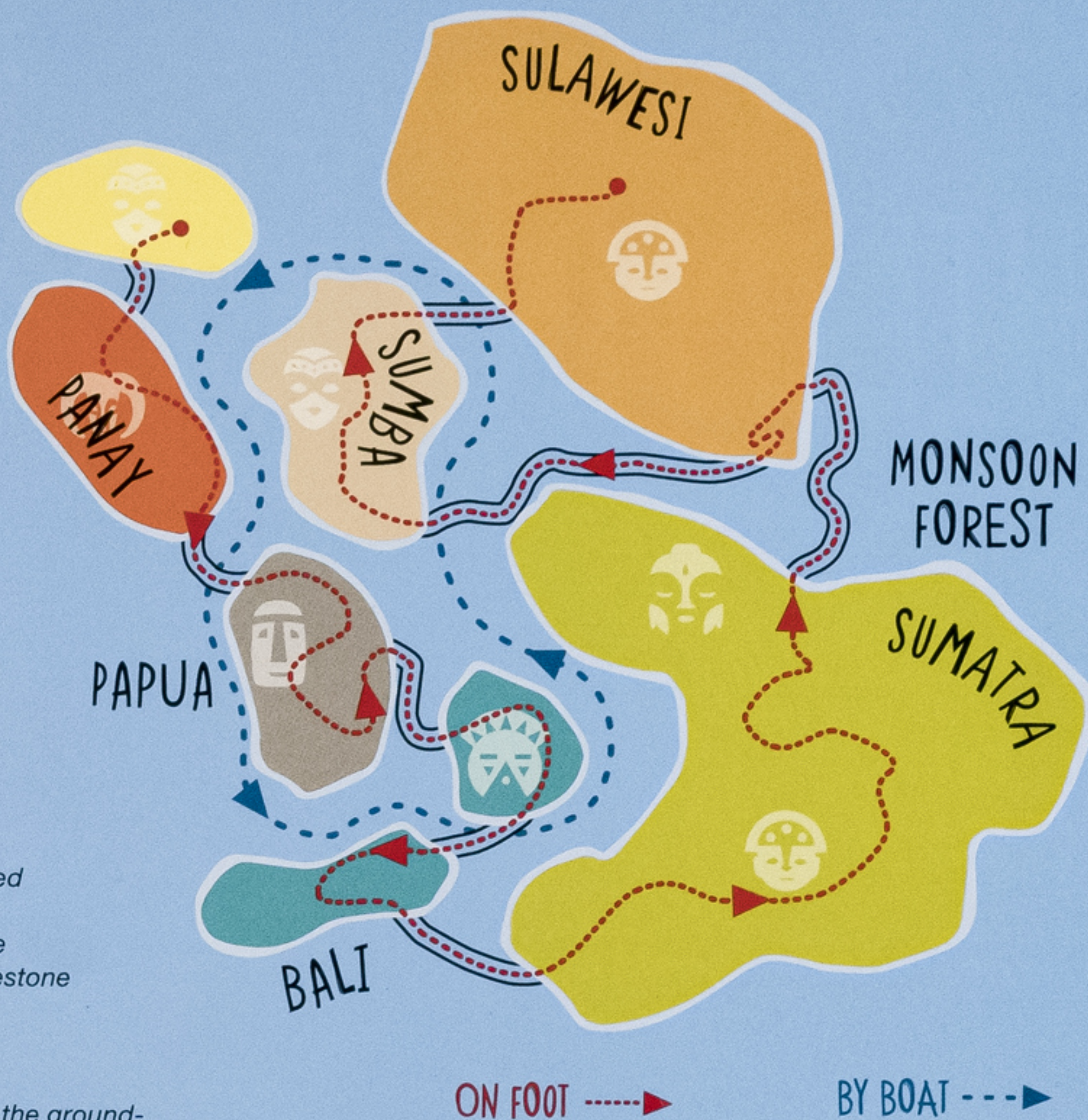
Ground-breaking for Monsoon Forest was carried out by His Grace the Duke of Westminster who is president of the zoo.

Mark Pilgrim, our director general, said:

*"Monsoon Forest will be one of the showpieces of Islands and home to a wide array of animals including Sumatran orangutans, Sulawesi macaques and a new species for the zoo, the sunda gharial crocodile. This particular building will be the largest of its kind in a UK zoo and indeed Islands itself will transform the zoo so it becomes one of the biggest in Europe. The ground-breaking event is an important milestone in the construction of Islands."*

The Duke of Westminster said:

*"I was delighted to be invited to take part in the ground-breaking ceremony at the start of this wonderful project. It brings me such pleasure to see the zoo continue to flourish and maintain its position as one of the leading conservation institutions in Europe and I look forward to visiting the completed Monsoon Forest in 2015."*



The Duke of Westminster, third right, with Dr Mark Pilgrim, second right, with zoo trustees and representatives from construction partners Laing O'Rourke



# Protecting the rare PHILIPPINE COCKATOO

Through our Philippine conservation programme, we work alongside partners to help restore and protect vital habitats in the Philippines, a major global biodiversity hotspot. These habitats are often the last remaining refuge for many endangered species. We work with, amongst others, the Philippine spotted deer, visayan tarictic hornbill and the Philippine cockatoo. The Philippine cockatoo is critically endangered after suffering rapid population declines owing to extensive habitat loss.

The Katala Foundation set up the Philippine cockatoo conservation project in 1998 on Rasa island. It aims to protect remaining cockatoo populations from the illegal pet trade and reduce habitat destruction through warden schemes as well as habitat protection and rehabilitation. With 25% of the global population of Philippine cockatoo found on Rasa island wildlife sanctuary and nearby Panacan, it is considered a globally important habitat for this species. During the World Travel Market 2008, Rasa island wildlife sanctuary was represented as a bird-watching destination by Hon. Lucena Demaala.



The Katala Foundation team with Roger Wilkinson, our head of field conservation and research

In 2012 there was a proposal to develop a site in Panacan for the construction of a coal-fired power plant. The Katala Foundation opposed this decision on the grounds that it would have a major impact on the Philippine cockatoo population and the local fishing community. The proposed power plant site was directly in the flight path of the Philippine cockatoo. They collected signatures on two petitions, supported by us, opposing the development. They organised rallies and launched a media campaign.

On August 30 Hon. Lucena Demaala, the Mayor of Narra, made a pronouncement during a meeting of the Palawan council for sustainable development. She announced that the proposed coal plant will never get an endorsement from

Narra. She advised the proponent, DMCI, to look for another local governmental unit that could host their power plant and she issued this statement:

*"We can't gamble the health of our community over the revenues to be generated for the operation on DMCI coal fired power plant. This may generate degradation in our coastal areas and greatly affects the wildlife that we are protecting for so many years especially in the protected wildlife reserve island of Rasa."*

This decision has not only safeguarded Rasa island's population of Philippine cockatoos, but also the region as a whole. We are certain that the future of endangered species in Palawan is safer thanks to the strong commitment of Mayor Lucena Demaala.

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE AROUND THE WORLD

All the places we have ACTED FOR WILDLIFE in the last three months



## A focus on... UK WILDLIFE

**DORMICE** We have been monitoring and surveying hazel dormice since 2005, working together with a number of partners as part of the North West Dormouse Partnership. Hazel dormice, which are native to the UK, are a protected species in the UK as populations are dwindling across the country. The project monitors two sites, a natural population in north Wales and a reintroduced population in Cheshire. During each visit the weight, gender and location of each dormouse is recorded. This data helps develop an understanding of life expectancy,

population size, breeding behaviour and habitat use. One of our vets is on hand during each visit to provide health checks and ensure all of the mice found are micro-chipped to better monitor the population.

**PILWORT** In 2009 our staff rescued pilwort plants from Llyn Helyg lake in north Wales, where they were being smothered by non-native invasive plants. The pilwort, a tiny fern only reaching 3cm tall, was grown in the zoo's nursery. In September this year, staff from the horticulture department replanted the pilwort into new ponds which have been created at a site near to the original lake. As these ponds are free from invasive species the replanting should help ensure the plant continues to survive in the region.



Picture: Claire Hill

## Nigeria Programme UPDATE

We have been supporting the Nigerian Montane Forest Project for many years. The project which is based in the Ngel Nyaki forest combines research with education to develop long-term sustainable management of Nigeria's montane forests. A multitude of research projects are carried out in the region focussing on plant and animal interactions, reforestation and ecology. An important aspect of the project is the protection of the forest from encroachment and illegal activities. Project teams have fenced off areas of grassland next to the forest edge to allow natural regeneration. A team of 30 wardens, managed by the project, also protect the forest from practices such as hunting, grazing and burning. The project's work is vital in protecting the biodiversity of Nigeria's montane forests and its extensive research is used to help with conservation management practices.

### Fast Fact

The Ngel Nyaki forest is home to the most diverse montane plant species in Nigeria with at least 24 endangered plants.



Picture: Robyn Appleton

## CAUGHT ON CAMERA

This little bear family, found in the dry forests of north western Peru, will be monitored to see how the female copes rearing twins in such an extreme environment. It is part of a new project we are supporting.

## China Programme Update

The blue-crowned laughingthrush is one of the rarest species we have at the zoo with the total number of wild birds thought to be as low as 250 individuals. The species, which is categorised as critically endangered on the IUCN red list, is endemic to China. As well as being actively involved in the zoo breeding programme, we have been supporting field research and protection in China for many years.



Picture: Lin Jian-sheng

We recently held the first blue-crowned laughingthrush Global Species Management Plan (GSMP) meeting at the zoo, bringing together partners from around the world to help conserve this rare species. We welcomed participants from other parts of the UK, France and the USA. By combining regional captive populations with collective knowledge and resources, the GSMP will ensure the species is managed on a global level. There are only six other GSMPs worldwide, all of which focus on mammals, illustrating the significance of this important meeting as the first GSMP for a bird species.



Through the combination of our in-situ and ex-situ conservation work, we hope to help secure a brighter future for the blue-crowned laughingthrush.

### Fast Fact

The blue-crowned laughingthrush lives in family groups and young birds often help their parents rear later broods of chicks.

## NEWS ON CONSERVATION

### FROM AROUND THE WORLD

**GOOD** A major new study has revealed an impressive number of species have made a successful recovery in Europe over the last 50 years. Numbers of beaver, bison and seals have all experienced an increase, as have a variety of bird species.

**BAD** Vultures are scavengers which feed on decaying dead animals; a recent incident in Namibia where an elephant carcass had been poisoned led to the death of 600 vultures. Large flocks of vultures which feed on these carcasses can give away the location of poaching activity, prompting poachers to try to eradicate the species to help avoid detection by law enforcement. This is not the first time that carcasses have been poisoned by poachers.

JOIN US TO ACT FOR WILDLIFE AND VISIT  
[www.actforwildlife.org.uk](http://www.actforwildlife.org.uk)

## GRANT SUPPORT

During the last quarter we've also supported a number of other projects around the world. These include:

### AFRICA

In Africa, we are supporting a variety of projects ranging from the ecology and behaviour of African wild dogs to the resilience and recovery of a bleached coral reef. We've also continued our support for the N/a'an ku sê Carnivore Conservation Research Project which aims to alleviate human-wildlife conflict in Namibia.

### SOUTH AMERICA

We have recently funded research investigating the foraging behaviour of spectacled bears in Peru. By estimating the supply of sapote fruit which is an important food source for spectacled bears, the study will be able to determine how many bears can exist within the study site.

### ASIA

This quarter we've supported research into the habitat suitability of riparian ecosystems for otters in Nepal. We've also supported a conservation education programme in north Sulawesi, Indonesia, which will raise awareness of the region's biodiversity including Sulawesi macaques, and encourage positive behaviours.

### UK

We are supporting a number of studies based on invertebrates found here in Cheshire. We've funded the production of an atlas for water beetles found within Cheshire and Wirral as well as an assessment of the bees, wasps and ants that live in the region.

## MEET UMARU

Umaru Babu has been the project manager at the Gashaka Primate Project in Nigeria for the last seven years. We've been supporting the project since it began in 2000. We are taking over its co-ordination under its new title: Gashaka Biodiversity Project. Umaru recently visited Chester to discuss plans for the project as we will be working even more closely with him and his team in the future.



# STAFF GO WILD

...around  
the world!

Many of our staff visit our conservation programmes and projects to provide technical support and share their skills. Here you can find out more about where we've been sending our people recently.

## BRAZIL

Helen Massey, rhino assistant team manager, recently visited Brazil where she spent time working with the lowland tapir conservation initiative, a project we've been supporting for more than a decade. Due to their low reproduction rate and low population densities, tapirs are highly susceptible to threats such as habitat fragmentation and hunting. The project aims to utilise data on tapir ecology, demography and genetics to assess the conservation status and viability of lowland tapir populations and develop recommendations for the conservation of this species in the region.

Helen was involved in a field expedition which was very productive, with a total of 11 tapir captures over 14 days. Out of these 11 captures, two had not been caught previously. The tapirs were caught in box traps which provided a chance for vets to carry out health checks, remove/fit radio collars and take tissue samples for genetic testing. Helen was given the opportunity to name one of the newly caught tapirs and chose Cassandra, after her sister.



Helen and Cassandra

## BORNEO

A zoo team recently travelled out to Sabah, Malaysian Borneo, to assist our project partners at the Hutan-Kinabatangan orangutan conservation project. Although focussing on orangutans, the project also helps conserve other species living in the forest. One aspect of their work that we've been heavily involved with is the construction of bridges across river tributaries which reconnect fragmented landscapes. The design of the bridges was inspired by our own *Realm of the Red Ape* exhibit and uses the same materials. Whilst in Borneo, Nick Davies, assistant mammal curator, and Debi Williams, primate keeper, helped construct two bridges and positioned camera traps to monitor their use. Wayne McLeod, birds team manager, and Paul Morris, bird keeper, were involved in the design and construction of artificial hornbill nest boxes. The boxes should provide nesting opportunities for large hornbills, in particular the helmeted hornbill, whose numbers have declined due to habitat destruction reducing the availability of natural tree cavities.



Nick and Debi prepare to build bridges





Dr Sonya Hill, centre, with workshop delegates

# ACTING *for animals*

**This summer, we were delighted to lead a special five-day training workshop for representatives from Chinese zoos.**

The delegates were selected by the Chinese Association of Zoological Gardens as being influential in their zoos and motivated to improve husbandry and welfare standards for their animals.

The workshop was led by our applied ethologist, Dr Sonya Hill, and included discussion sessions, guided tours and talks by our own curators, vets, science team, discovery and learning, field programmes and animal teams, providing an overview of our own practices in these areas. We also talked to the delegates about exciting new developments in the zoo such as *Islands*, and the importance of excellent enclosure design that takes into account the needs of both the animals and the people – staff and visitors.

The delegates' trip was sponsored and supported by the Animals Asia Foundation, with whom we have been working for several years on matters relating to animal husbandry, welfare, and zoo education in China. Since the workshop, the delegates have submitted a report to Animals Asia and to the zoo, highlighting the key take home messages they got from the workshop, and their plans for implementing change in their zoos as a result. Several zoos have already begun this process of change since the delegates returned to China, such as increasing their environmental enrichment activities.

Animals Asia is continuing to support the delegates in making any changes to their own zoo's practices, and we are pleased to help with this. We're very proud to have been asked to host this workshop, and indeed of all the work we have done with Animals Asia to support our colleagues in the Chinese Association of Zoological Gardens.

# Fundraising NEWS



## Prudential RideLondon - Surrey 100

Sunday August 10 2014

Get on your bike in 2014 and Act for Wildlife at the Prudential RideLondon - Surrey 100.

With the ballot now closed for general entries to the 2014 event, the only way cyclists have a chance of taking part is via a charity place... and we have two up for grabs!

Anyone interested in being awarded one of our places will need to complete a brief application form and commit to raising a minimum of £500 in sponsorship money for Act for Wildlife. We'll be announcing who we have awarded the places to in early 2014 to ensure you have plenty of time to train for the event and to raise the funds.

This year zoo member Stephen Counce and his work colleague Rob Sidwell were awarded the places and took on the 100 mile cycling challenge, completing it in 6hrs 3mins and raising more than £2,000 between them.

Stephen said:

*"The race was absolutely brilliant; the atmosphere was amazing and emotions were certainly running high. We had so much support along the route, not just from our families but from general supporters too. It was hard work though. I was beginning to think the end would never arrive during the last 10 miles, but we did it! It was a great feeling to finish in a brilliant time and to know we'd raised such a lot of money for Act for Wildlife."*

If you would like to follow in Stephen and Rob's tyre tracks and take part in the 2014 event visit [www.actforwildlife.org.uk/love-a-challenge](http://www.actforwildlife.org.uk/love-a-challenge) or email the development team at [development@chesterzoo.org](mailto:development@chesterzoo.org)

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS

An e-card has been designed that can help save endangered wildlife.

This Christmas buy your loved ones a charity gift that will help change the lives of both people and wildlife.

From as little as £3 you'll receive one of our special e-cards, which you can choose to have sent to you first or directly to the person you're buying it for.

From helping restore UK countryside to protecting rhinos in Kenya, your gift will be loved by the person you are buying it for and cherished by the project it helps support.

Make someone you care about smile this Christmas and Act for Wildlife.

[www.actforwildlife.org.uk/christmas](http://www.actforwildlife.org.uk/christmas)



## BE MORE GREEN

*for your New Year's Resolution*

The start of a new year is a great time to make a promise to yourself and do a bit more to help the environment. The zoo's recycling scheme is an easy and free way you can do this whilst supporting a good cause at the same time.

We can recycle old mobile phones, ipods, CDs, DVDs, used inkjet and toner cartridges as well as jewellery, so it's a great excuse to have a clear out.

Funds raised through this scheme support our primate conservation project in Nigeria as well as other zoo projects.

To take part, simply request a **freepost** recycling envelope by calling **01244 650 229** or email [development@chesterzoo.org](mailto:development@chesterzoo.org) or hand your items in at the Guest Services Pavilion or Cedar House reception next time you visit the zoo. Please note that CDs and DVDs should not be sent through the post but must be dropped off at the zoo.

*Did you know... 177 million tonnes of waste is generated each year in England alone (source: DEFRA) so it's never been more important to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle*

## CHESTER ZOO 100 CLUB

The winners of the prize draws, held recently, were:

July 2013

£100 ..... Miss Celia Watson, Welshpool  
£100..... Mrs Rose Tonkinson, Ellesmere Port  
£50 ..... Mrs Sakina Wakefield, Ellesmere Port  
£50 ..... Dr Philip Robinson, Chester  
£50 ..... Ms Mary Doogan, Chester

August 2013

£100 ..... Mrs Helen Tankard, Wirral  
£100..... Mrs Ann Walmsley, Prenton  
£50 ..... Miss Jane Ithell, Wirral  
£50 ..... Mr Neville Jones, Chester  
£50 ..... Mrs L A Parsons, Liverpool

September 2013

£100..... Mr Neville Jones, Chester  
£100..... Mrs D Duffy, Liverpool  
£50 ..... Ms Lorraine Marie Byrne, Frodsham  
£50 ..... Mrs P A Mason, Frodsham  
£50 ..... Miss Jane Ithell, Wirral

Membership of the 100 Club is still invited. All prize winners will be notified by post and will be listed in the next edition of Z. Please inform us as soon as possible if you change address.

If you wish to participate, please contact the development office on 01244 650 229.



# GO ORANGE FOR RANGUTANS

*a swinging success!*



**Thanks to the overwhelming dedication and generosity of our supporters, we have successfully smashed our target to raise £10,000 for orangutan conservation.**

Our fundraising campaign throughout October brought 170 schools, businesses, groups and individuals together with one aim: to *Go Orange for Orangutans* and raise enough money to buy 15 specialist cameras that will be vital in studying and protecting orangutans in the wild.

As featured on the Act for Wildlife website, we have been working with partners in Borneo for many years now as part of one of our key conservation programmes. *Go Orange for Orangutans* was a great way to involve everyone in this work at a time when we are embarking on new research to see how orangutans are adapting to living on the ground in areas where their forest homes have been destroyed.

In a matter of weeks the orange glow spread to all corners of the UK. From Acresfield Primary School based near the zoo to across the world in Australia, *Go Orange* went global when international supporter Deanne Hall from New South Wales joined the campaign.

Our volunteers were quick to join *Go Orange*. They included a member of the Butterfly Brigade who dressed in orange in the Butterfly Journey exhibit every week, and our fundraising volunteers who held a competition for visitors to win an orangutan cuddly toy.

From tai chi groups to solicitors, motorsport clubs to theatres, everyone did their bit to Act for Wildlife. Chronicle newspapers supported the campaign and shared important features that explored how choosing sustainable palm oil can make all the difference to orangutan survival.

Creativity was at the centre of many of the campaign's highlights...

- Tattoo artist Jenny Hall dressed in orange every day in October and designed original artwork inspired by *Go Orange*.
- Reggae jazz band Skamel composed a piece entitled *The Old Man of the Forest* and released it online to download in exchange for donations.
- The great Chester Zoo staff bake-off included four rounds of tasty orange treats judged by panellists and enjoyed by zoo staff, raising just under £350.
- The Blackhouse Grill, Chester, whipped up delicious orange dishes to delight customers including double orange syllabub topped with orange and honey syrup.

A massive thank you to everyone who supported *Go Orange for Orangutans!* For the latest fundraising total and updates from the frontline of orangutan conservation, visit the Act for Wildlife website [www.actforwildlife.org.uk/orange](http://www.actforwildlife.org.uk/orange)



## THIS IS THE ONE.

THE FINANCE DEAL YOU HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR. DRIVE A BMW 1 SERIES FOR ONLY **£250 DEPOSIT** AND **£250 PER MONTH**.

BMW Select finance representative example: BMW 116i ES 3-DOOR

Term of agreement	47 Monthly payments	On the road cash price*	Customer deposit	Dealer deposit contribution	Total deposit	Total amount of credit	Option to purchase fee <sup>^</sup>	Optional final payment	Total amount payable	Rate of interest	Representative 5.9% APR
48 months	<b>£250.00</b>	£19,060.00	<b>£250.00</b>	£2,711.76	£2,961.76	£16,098.24	£10.00	£7,030.00	£21,741.76	5.9% fixed	

To find out more or to book a test drive<sup>†</sup>, contact us on 0845 470 4130.

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December 12-23

# This Christmas is even more MAGICAL

*"The look on my daughter's face when she saw the animal lanterns, the people dressed up, the lit up walkways and hearing the lions roar – it was unforgettable."*

Visitor to Lantern Magic 2012

Last year families began a Christmas tradition by visiting Lantern Magic and this year we'll be making this unique event even more magical.

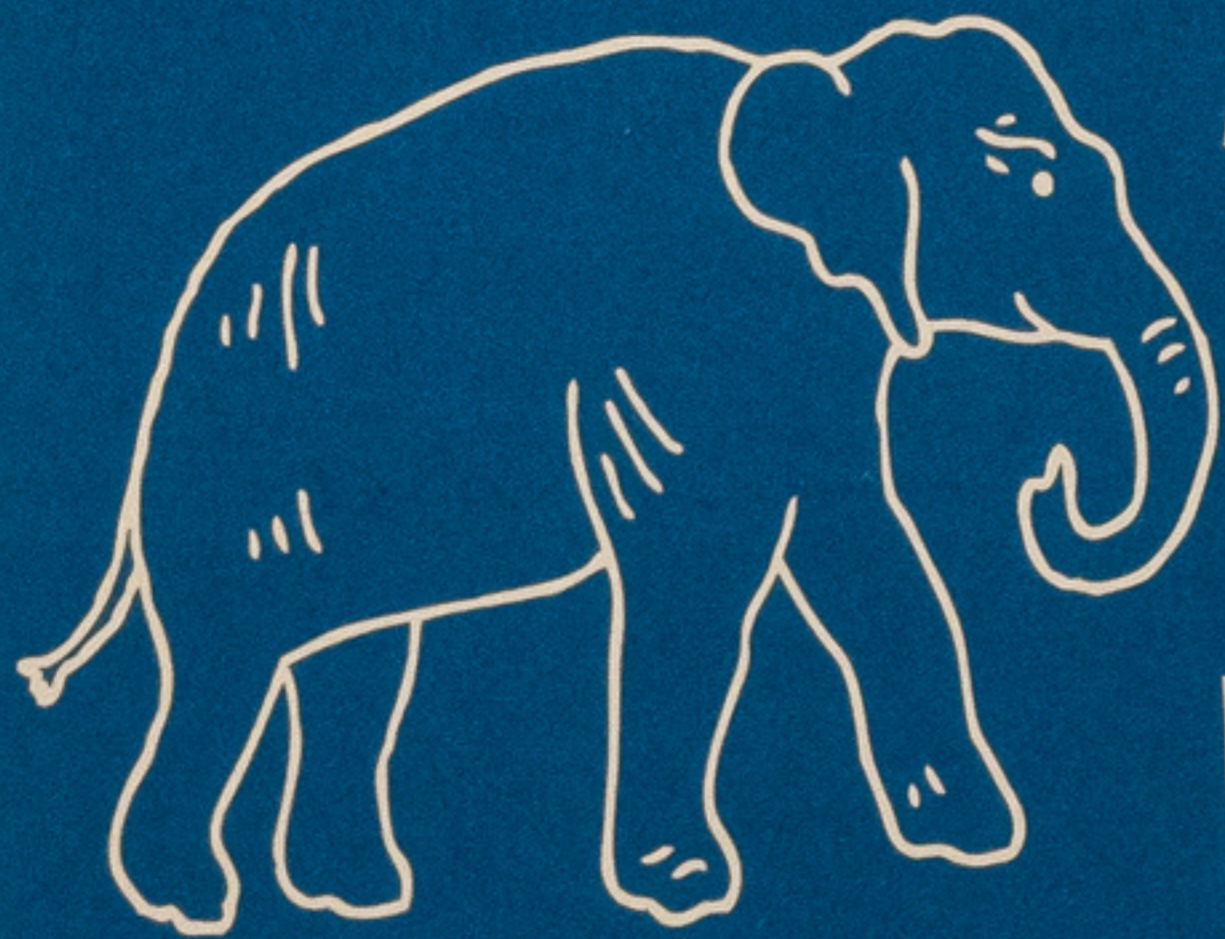
Try out your lantern making skills, visit the elephant house and fruit bat forest, meet our friendly festive characters and sample some of our deliciously tasty treats.

Then add your Christmas wish to our giant wishing tree at Oakfield Manor before turning the corner to see our beautiful animal lanterns – with some 'new arrivals' created especially for this year's event.

The nocturnal sounds of the zoo, a little bit of festive cheer and a visit from Santa will ensure your family enjoy a Christmas treat they won't forget.

Go to [www.chesterzoo.org/christmas](http://www.chesterzoo.org/christmas) for more information and book early as tickets are limited.

Tickets are priced from £9.99 for adults and £8.99 for children (there are two special discounted preview nights too).



## ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS WITH A DIFFERENCE?



Ever wondered what it would be like to get up close to the tallest land animals or the chance to have a close encounter of the bat kind?

Choose a gift with a difference this Christmas. Our gifts and experiences offer a fantastic range of exciting opportunities from animal encounters to combination packages including zoo admission and meal vouchers.

### NEW FOR 2014 – FRUIT BAT ENCOUNTER AND ELEPHANTS BEHIND THE SCENES!

Keep an eye out on our website for further information and how to book your chance to step into the dark and feed our free flying bats or for the opportunity to step behind the scenes and observe the largest land animals currently living on our planet.

Members and adopters receive **10% off** selected gifts and experiences. Please contact **01244 650281** for further information.

For more information on our exciting range of gifts and experiences please visit our website [www.chesterzoo.org/giftsandexperiences](http://www.chesterzoo.org/giftsandexperiences) or contact our team on **01244 650281**

(Terms and conditions do apply)

# TALKING CONSERVATION

## 2014 Programme

# ZOO TALK

Welcome to the 2014 series of members' talks. We were delighted so many of you attended the talks in 2013 and we hope you'll join us again this year for more insights into the zoo. We have something for everyone, with more fascinating stories from diverse speakers. For example, who hasn't wondered how we move a giraffe from one zoo to another? Find out the nitty-gritty of moving animals with Penny and Liz in November. And of course, with the clock ticking down to *Islands*, we'll be bringing you the latest on that development. Simon will be here in December when the grand opening scheduled for 2015 will be just around the corner.

Our talks are planned to bring you up to date with the work your membership supports so we hope you can join us. Take a look at the programme below and if you are interested just call Kate to book your place.

### Tuesday February 11

#### Planting seeds for children

Dr Maggie Esson

Maggie talks about her recent visits to the zoo's outreach projects in Sumatra and Assam and looks at the work being undertaken to encourage villagers' better understanding of human/wildlife conflict. In Assam, for example, we're explaining elephant behaviour and trying to mitigate against the elephants with fences, spotlights and chilli. These first steps are planting seeds for a safer future for village children and improved relationships between villagers and wildlife.

### Wednesday March 12

#### An evening with our rhinos team

Enjoy an evening of behind the scenes chat as our keepers tell you all about the various species on their section. Hear about their working day and the latest news on our rhinos, tapirs capybara and deer, to name but a few of the species on their section.

### April (date to be confirmed)\*

#### Sustainability and climate change ...

... is the 2014 focus for the EAZA Campaign. In this event we'll talk about sustainability in the zoo and our input into the campaign.

### Wednesday May 14

#### Expedition Ecuador!

Dr Mark Pilgrim and the Ecuador explorers

In January 2014, 11 members of staff from divisions across the zoo will embark on an expedition to Ecuador to the Cerro Blanco Protected Forest. This fragment of dry forest

is home to the endangered Ecuador Amazon parrot, a species found only in four locations down the west coast of Ecuador. Acting as a safe haven for the species, the Cerro Blanco is home to a group of up to 200 parrots, and protects them and co-existing biodiversity against major threats of deforestation and poaching.

Despite their endangered status, not a huge amount is known about this group of shy parrots. The expedition team will be running an intensive two week field study during the parrot's breeding season, targeting questions about their biology and behaviour that will aid the future conservation of the species.

### June (date to be confirmed)\*

#### Gold medal recipient

Each year the zoo awards a gold medal to someone who has had a huge impact in the fields of zoology, conservation and the natural world. This year we will be making our award in June and we hope that our prominent recipient will be giving the members' talk in June. Keep an eye on Z for more details.

### September (date to be confirmed)\*

#### Butterflies

Heather Prince

Our Butterfly Journey opened in 2009 and this is the first talk from our butterfly team. Find out all about the husbandry of the animals from our keepers and Heather will update you on the large heath butterfly project. She is hoping they will pupate and emerge successfully so she can report good news.

### Wednesday October 15

#### Act for wildlife and field conservation

An evening to bring you the latest news on our vital work with communities and endangered species worldwide.

### November (date to be confirmed)\*

#### Moving animals!

Join Penny Rudd and Liz Ball for an evening of tales and anecdotes and find out more about the interesting and complicated world of moving animals.

### December (date to be confirmed)\*

#### Islands!

Simon Mann

Ahead of the opening of our major new exhibit in 2015, Simon, the zoo's development director, will update you on the progress of *Islands* as we start the countdown to the opening.

\*We'll announce these dates at upcoming evenings, on our website and in future editions of Z or call Kate (see below).

Members' talks are held in the Geraldine Russell-Allen Lecture Hall (near the zoo's Diamond Jubilee Quarter, off the A41).

- They are FREE to members (please bring your membership card and welcome letter)
- We offer a special rate of £2 to animal adopters
- The public and guests are welcome (£3.50 for non-members)
- Our lecture hall seats up to 170.
- Post-talk refreshments give you the opportunity to have an informal chat with speakers, staff and fellow members
- **Booking essential**
- All talks start at 7.30pm

Interested in attending? Please call **Kate Brankin** in education on **01244 389 444** or email **k.brankin@chesterzoo.org** to book.

## 20% OFF DEBENHAMS FLOWERS

Debenhams have a stunning selection of beautiful flowers that are of the highest quality and each bouquet is hand arranged individually with care by our floral team. We pride ourselves on our extensive range of flowers and gifts suitable for any occasion including birthdays, romance, sympathy or simply to say thank you.

Chester Zoo members can receive **20% off Debenhams flowers** online at **www.debenhamsflowers.com**. Just enter the code **CHZOO** at the checkout.

Offer expires on March 31, 2014. Discount cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Discount is not valid on delivery charges. Email: support@debenhamsflowers.com Tel: 0843 523 6121.



**ACT FOR  
WILDLIFE**

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Founded in 1934, the North of England Zoological Society is a registered charity. We need your help and support to raise funds for the care and conservation of rare and endangered animals both in the zoo and across the world. Registered charity No. 306077.