

ZooLife

WINTER 2004 - ISSUE 20

CHESTER ZOO'S MAGAZINE FOR MEMBERS AND ADOPTERS

'SHELLSHOCK'
LAUNCHED

EDUCATION
SUCCESS

WELCOME TO
NEW ADDITIONS

70th Anniversary
1934 - 2004





Director's Pen

By Zoo Director Gordon McGregor Reid

It's hard to believe that another year is coming to an end – time really does fly.

Our 70th year has been a remarkable one at Chester Zoo. In spite of the bad weather during the summer months, particularly during August – when we would expect to welcome the bulk of our visitors – our numbers have held up really well, unlike many other outdoor UK attractions. We are delighted to have, once again, topped the million mark and I hope that you have enjoyed your times at the Zoo during the year.

Christmas, as ever, is a special time for us and our new daytime *Santa Magic* experience has proved a huge hit with children and adults alike! Santa's grotto, our lights, winter gardens and

decorations are truly magical and it is a delight to see so many smiling faces around the Zoo. If you haven't already, do come in and see them!

All credit to our hard-working staff who also did us proud in the summer with the spectacularly colourful garden displays and scooped not only the *Chester in Bloom* award for the *Best Tourist Attraction*, but the *North West in Bloom* award too. We also gained second place in the national final of the *Landscape Skills Competition 2004*.

These are exciting times at Chester Zoo. It has been another incredibly busy year for us and there is much more to come in 2005.

2004 has been a real 'baby boom' year with a large number of new arrivals across the Zoo, too many to mention!

To have two elephant calves born in the same year is really exceptional and I am pleased to say they are both doing well. It is essential that we continue to work to develop a Europe-wide sustainable herd as, sadly these magnificent animals face extinction in the next 25 to 50 years. In line with our commitment, zoo conservationists have been working in Assam in North East India as part of a long-term programme for elephant conservation and conflict mitigation.

Life has a natural cycle and we were saddened to lose jaguars *Carlo* and *Ebony* at the advanced ages of 24 and 22 respectively. They had both made Chester Zoo



Picture: Bruce Adams Daily Mail

their 'retirement home' after moving together from Rome Zoo for the opening of *Spirit of the Jaguar* and they led a fulfilled and happy life here. The two are survived by our relative youngsters *Sofia* and *Salvador*, who are expected to form a breeding pair in the near future.

They have also been joined by three jaguars from Marwell Zoo, a male and a mother and son.

This coming year will see some significant changes as part of one of the largest investments the Zoo has ever made. A £5 million project will see major works at the main entrance to re-model the Black Rhino area and develop a brand new *Tsavo Café* to improve the facilities we are offering to visitors in that area. Work has started on the *Elephants of the Asian Forest* development and is scheduled to be finished by the Autumn and, as ever, our grateful thanks go to all our donors, friends and supporters who have helped to make this possible.

The *Realm of the Red Ape* project to transform the Orang-utan enclosure will hopefully be starting in the spring and run through to 2006. We will of course endeavour to keep the effect on our visitors to a minimum and apologise for any inconvenience it may cause you. Within 18 months the Zoo will be noticeably changed for the better and we are all looking forward with great anticipation to the exciting new look.

Chester Zoo continues to play a major role in supporting the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) in its fundraising and conservation campaigns and we were delighted to receive a top platinum award followed by an extra bronze and silver for our efforts in raising over £15,000 for the European Tiger Conservation Campaign which has now come to

an end. Our thanks go to everyone who supported our 'Tiger Days' or contributed to the appeal in any way.

In the year ahead our focus will be on 'Shellshock', a campaign launched at the EAZA conference in Sweden in September and co-ordinated by Kevin Buley, our Curator of Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates. Its focus is on fighting the threat of extinction facing turtles and tortoises across the world largely due to illegal trading. It is very much to Kevin's credit that he organised the campaign at relatively short notice and has successfully galvanised the European zoo community into action. It is very likely that zoo associations in other parts of the world will take it up too. It is tragic to think that turtles and tortoises have been on our planet for almost 250 million years, yet without some direct and urgent action now, many will be wiped out within 30 years. We will do our best to support Kevin and the campaign!

On the international front, it is an honour for Stephen McKeown to have been chosen as President Elect of the International Zoo Educators Association. Not only is education a vital part of the work we do within the Zoo, we are also active supporters of conservation education in a wide range of countries.

All that remains is for me, on behalf of everyone at Chester Zoo, to wish you and yours a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. We look forward to seeing you in 2005.



TOP AWARD FOR FRANCES

Congratulations to Frances Jaques, PA to the Zoo Director who has scooped the regional Office Angels 'Executory of the Year' award for her professional skills.

Frances was selected from more than 1,000 entries in the region and wasn't even aware she'd been put forward for the award as it was the Director, Gordon McGregor Reid who entered her in the competition!

Well done Frances!



Front page picture: Eye Imagery

Shellshock

Shellshock Campaign launched

Turtles and tortoises are in terrible trouble. They have become one of Earth's most imperilled groups of vertebrates.

Nearly half of the world's 300 plus species are threatened with extinction. Several have already become extinct at the hand of modern man – many more could vanish in the next few decades. They have been on our planet for almost 250 million years.

This means that they have witnessed the rise and fall of dinosaurs, they watched the first birds fly, and they have observed our own rapid evolution from the most harmless of primates. Now, in the space of less than 30 years they are being wiped from the face of the planet.

Man has exploited turtles and tortoises for centuries. Throughout the world, turtle and tortoise habitats are being degraded, fragmented, destroyed, and developed. Millions of turtles and tortoises are being harvested and traded for food and for use in traditional medicines. They are victims of predators, egg collecting, pollution, shell use, and the bushmeat trade. Many of the species also face varying pressures from the international pet trade.

This has pushed many species to the brink of extinction. Turtle hunters have quite literally swept entire regions clean of turtle populations. The loss of these

natural resources may have profound impacts on our global ecosystems as well as leaving us all the poorer for their passing.

Turtle and tortoise conservationists and scientists around the globe have come together to address this survival crisis. Individuals and organisations alike have risen to the challenge of finding solutions and turning the tide. Among the most urgently needed solutions are the establishment of successful management programs (*Assurance Colonies or Turtle Arks*) in zoos and aquariums for those species most threatened with imminent extinction, where continued survival in the wild appears most uncertain.

As part of this commitment The European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA), which comprises 290 member zoos, has launched the **Shellshock Turtle & Tortoise Campaign 2004/5** which is being co-ordinated by Chester Zoo's Curator of Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates Kevin Buley.

Kevin said: "Tortoises can live to be well over 100 years. Within the last few years man has killed literally tens of millions of animals and driven many species to the point of extinction. Without urgent action now, we will lose many

species for ever. Shellshock will fight to save as many species as possible, but we need help to fight this urgent conservation cause."

Shellshock merchandise will soon be available to buy in the Zoo shops and a Shellshock display will be launched in the Discovery Centre in time for Easter. Watch this space for details of activities during 2005.

To find out more about Shellshock see www.eaza.net

Shellshock Campaign Missions

The EAZA Shellshock Campaign has three missions:

Mission 1 is to raise awareness of the conservation and welfare crisis that the world's turtles and tortoises currently face. EAZA zoos and aquaria will highlight the problems and try and generate support to help.



Shellshock

EAZA Turtle & Tortoise Campaign 2004/5

Shellshock has enlisted the assistance of Oscar the Turtle one of the stars of Creature, Comforts®, to help promote the crisis. Oscar will appear on a range of exclusive Shellshock merchandise which will be on sale within the Zoo.

Mission 2 is to encourage zoos and aquaria to work with more specimens and species of turtle and tortoise - to bring them into the safety of the Turtle Ark which for many will be their only hope of survival.

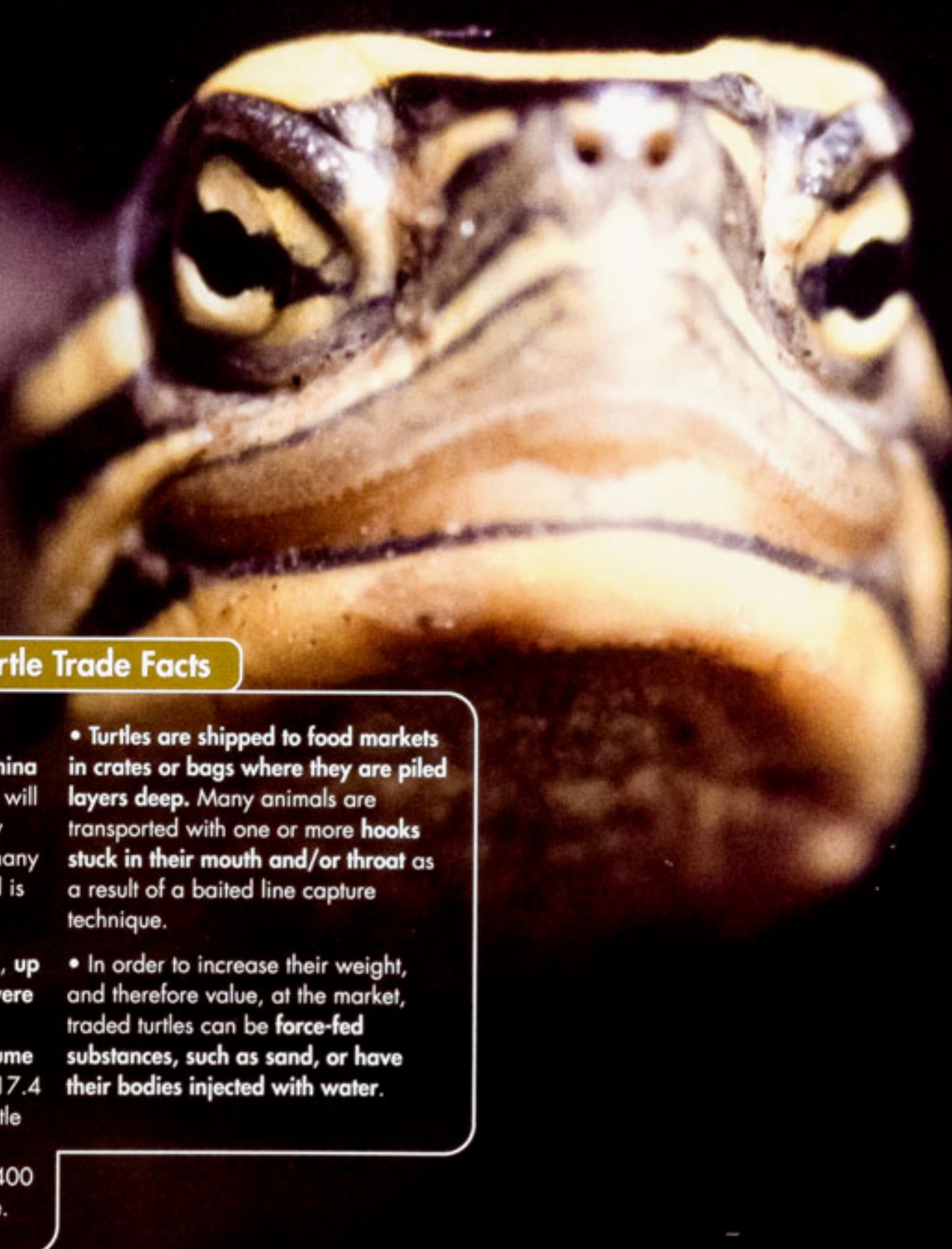
Mission 3 is to raise funds that will directly support the conservation of turtle and tortoise species in their countries of origin. Turtle and tortoise conservation is not expensive. A project that can literally save a species from extinction can be completed for £3,000 to £8,000 - less than the price of a reasonable second-hand car!

Fast Turtle Trade Facts

- Estimates suggest that over **12 million turtles are being sold in China each year**. Many of these animals will be wild caught, and given the low reproductive and growth rate of many species, their extinction in the wild is inevitable.
- During an investigation in 1998, **up to 29 tonnes of wildlife per day were being exported from Vietnam to China**. More than **60% of this volume was turtles**. This represents up to 17.4 tonnes of turtles per day. If one turtle weighs, on average, 1 kg, this is equivalent to a trade of up to 17,400 turtles per day from Vietnam alone.
- **Turtles are shipped to food markets in crates or bags where they are piled layers deep**. Many animals are transported with one or more **hooks stuck in their mouth and/or throat** as a result of a baited line capture technique.
- In order to increase their weight, and therefore value, at the market, traded turtles can be **force-fed substances, such as sand, or have their bodies injected with water**.

WELL DONE

to Vet Nurse Karen Homer, pictured with Kevin Buley, who has collected £375.20 for Shellshock by selling cuddly toys and Shellshock merchandise.



Zoo life

General News

All the latest news from around the Zoo

Assam and Po Chin move • Spectacled Bears' Surgery • 100 Club • Visit by Hester Mundis to Boris • Winter Talks • King and I • Asda • Mobile Phone Recycling • RAF donation • Elephant Appeal Update

Assam and Po Chin on the Move

Assam and *Po Chin*, two of Chester Zoo's male elephants have gone on loan to Bellewaerde Zoo in Belgium as part of the EAZA (European Association of Zoos and Aquaria) breeding programme for elephants.

Both *Assam* and *Po Chin* were born at Chester Zoo within three months of each other in 2000 and are sons of our bull elephant *Chang*. *Assam's* mother is *Thi Hi Way* and *Po Chin's* is *Jangoli* who gave birth to her third calf in October.

They were accompanied on their journey by senior elephant keeper Don Plant, who stayed with them during the settling in period, working alongside Bellewaerde's elephant keepers. Staff at Chester Zoo will continue to maintain contact in the future.

The move is an important one as it is vital we keep the right social mix to ensure the ongoing success of Chester Zoo's Asian Elephant herd.

As with other animals in Chester's care, elephants are moved from time to time to other quality facilities to maximise their social interaction, breeding potential and genetic mix of the European population.

Our elephants are all doing really well and we are replicating what would normally happen in the wild. *Assam* and *Po Chin* get on very well together and they have adapted well to their new home.

They both have a special place in the hearts of staff at Chester Zoo and we know they are special elephants to many of our zoo members.

We can assure everyone who continues to follow their progress that the move is in their best interests and in the best interests of Chester's elephants in general and that we will continue to monitor their progress very closely.





Bears are smiles better

Ten year old *Valentin* and 11 year old *Stroltch*, our two Spectacled Bears, are both feeling smiles better after each having some teeth removed.

The teeth had been causing them discomfort and staff did well to spot the problem as soon as they did as it is difficult to get a good view of bears' teeth day to day due to their big jowls!

Zoo vets along with a leading European dental surgeon performed the delicate procedures and it wasn't long before both bears were up and about and eating well again.

Charismatic *Valentin* and *Stroltch* moved to Chester Zoo from Poland in March, for the opening of the new Bears of the Cloud Forest enclosure.

Golden Celebration

Special thanks to Mr and Mrs Metcalfe of Cheltenham who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in August. Instead of



Mr & Mrs Metcalfe with elephant team leader Mick Jones

asking for presents they asked for donations for the Elephant Appeal and collected a magnificent £673. Mr and Mrs Metcalfe travelled to Chester to present the elephant team with the cheque and to see the elephants. They are regular visitors to the Zoo and follow the progress of all the elephants. Congratulations to them from everyone at the Zoo.

Asian Elephant Appeal Update

Since the early stages of the Asian Elephant Survival Appeal, Chester Zoo has been very lucky to have the whole-hearted support of best selling science fiction author Dr Stephen Baxter. Stephen became a patron of the campaign as he could see similarities

between the population decline of Asian Elephants and that of the Mammoth, as featured in his famous trilogy. Stephen's latest offering, *Mayflower II*, includes an author's note on our Asian Elephant project and all proceeds of this limited-edition novella will be donated to the Appeal. Hardback copies are £25 and paperbacks are £10.

Our thanks go as always to everyone who has supported the *Asian Elephant Appeal* in whatever way over the past months. The Appeal is continuing on apace towards the target of £1.5 million and our supporters continue to come up with good ideas to help.

Chester Zoo "100 Club"

The winners of the prize draws were:

July 2004

Miss Susan Wilks, Prescot	£100
Ms Sharon Dodd, Chester	£100
Mrs Mary Doogan, Chester	£50
Miss Victoria Hughes, Congleton	£50

August 2004

Dr K Duffy, Hawarden	£100
Mrs Avril Swan, Ormskirk	£100
Mrs Lynda Anne Birch, Little Sutton	£50
Mrs Pamela Cate, Mobberley	£50
Miss Susan Tissyman, Liverpool	£50

September 2004

Miss Justine Brewer, Frodsham	£100
Mr George F Hooke, Upton by Chester	£50
Mr David Gellvear, Bebington	£50
Miss S.C. Gladwin, Chester	£50

All prize winners will be notified by post and will be listed in the next edition of *Zoo Life*.

Membership of the 100 Club is still invited. If you wish to participate, please contact Lynsey Jones, Assistant Development Manager on 01244 650292

What's Happening

More from around the Zoo

Don't I know you?

For the first time in seven years, Chester Zoo chimpanzee Boris has been reunited with a special lady in his life – his American 'mum' Hester Mundis who hand reared him in her New York Apartment before handing him over to the Zoo in 1969.



Boris as a youngster in New York

Boris' story is an incredible one and a familiar one to many Zoo Life readers. Hester spotted him as a

frightened orphaned tiny baby in a New York pet shop and immediately took pity on him.

"Common sense didn't come into it," says Hester. "He looked so helpless and needed a 'mum'. I was already a working mother with an eight year old son and couldn't see what difference a chimp would make in our lives.

"Needless to say it was an eye opening difference; Boris changed our lives completely and forever. We raised him in our Manhattan apartment for nearly three years learning the hard, and often hilarious, way that what is normal behaviour in the jungle can be a disaster in an apartment!

"When I discovered I was expecting another baby we realised Boris needed, and deserved a permanent home in a more appropriate environment.

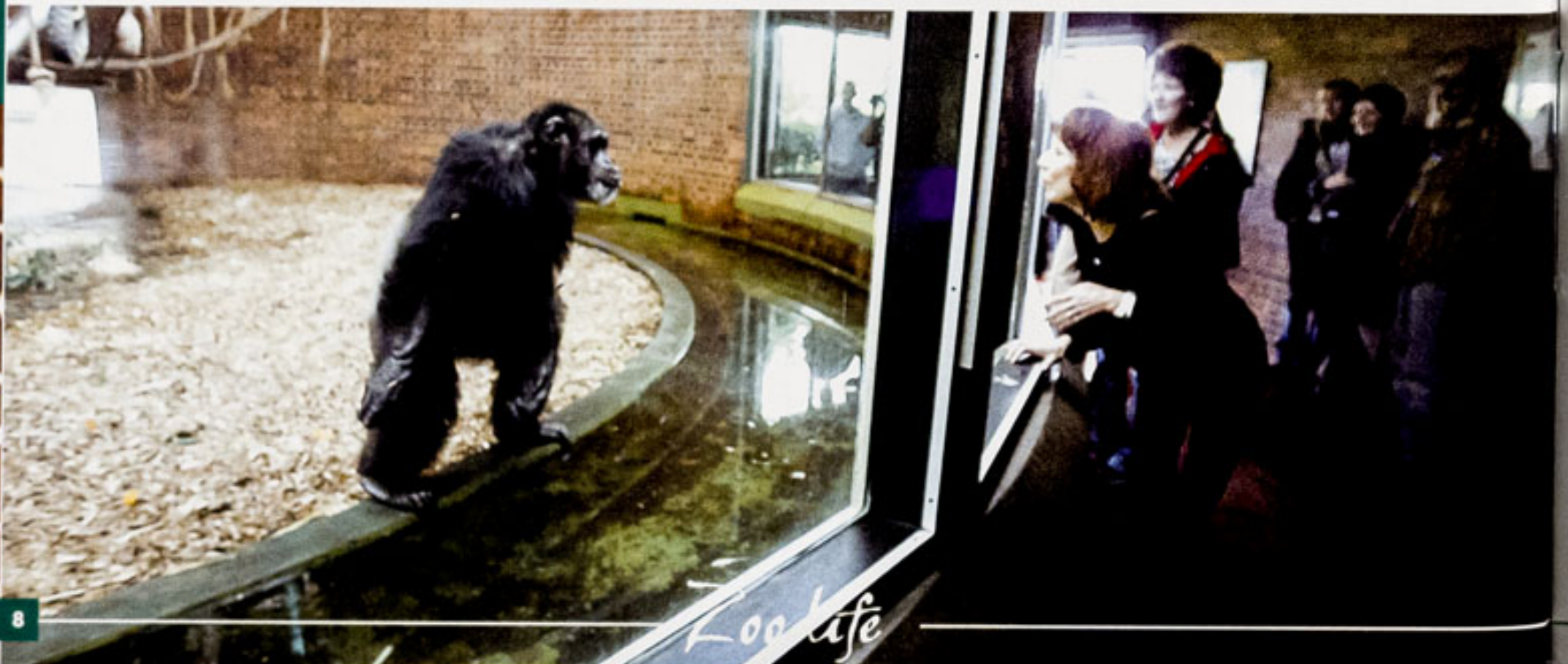
"I researched literally all the zoos

in the world and Chester Zoo was an answer to our prayers. The facilities were second to none and its reputation for caring for chimpanzees was excellent. Not only that, the Zoo founder George Mottershead, assured us that Boris would have a home at Chester for life."

The visit was Hester's fourth to see Boris, now 38, since he first arrived in the UK. Her last visit was back in 1997 and before that in 1982 and 1978. She visited the Zoo along with her husband Ron, her sister in law and a friend.

Mark Pilgrim, Chester Zoo's Chief Curator said: "It seems as if Boris recognised Hester and he was certainly very animated during her visit.

"Boris is very well known to regular zoo visitors who have followed his progress over the



Zoo Life

years with interest. He is a colourful character and was the dominant male in the group for many years. He is instantly recognisable and one of our most visited and most popular animals."

After her visit Hester said: "I could not have wished for more for Boris. He has a wonderful life at Chester Zoo and is cared for by such a dedicated team. It was lovely to see him again. He was looking over to me in a puzzled way and taking a definite interest. I'd like to think he remembers me but who knows."

Winter Talks

by Liz Marrs, Presenter

The new programme of winter talks started on November 1 and runs through to Easter 2005.

As the weather at this time of the year is unpredictable, most of the talks will take place under cover. However, it also gives the presenters the opportunity to highlight animals that it would be difficult to give a talk on at busier times of the year.

The talks this year will be a mixture of some old favourites (elephants, penguins, sea lions and chimps) and some exciting new talks. Why not come along and let us know what you think?

The talks start at 11.00 inside 'Monkey Islands' with a talk on the Sulewasi Crested Macaques. It must be about three years since presenters last did a talk inside 'Monkey Islands'. It follows on from the successful summer talk about Spider Monkeys called 'Life in the Trees'. The winter talk will be a general introduction to these fascinating monkeys, their threats in the wild and what the zoo is doing to conserve them.

The elephant talk at 11.30 will keep you abreast of any changes to the herd and the progress of individual elephants. We will keep you up to date on elephant house improvements too.

After the very successful talk last year,

it is a welcome return to 'Islands in Danger'. The talk will centre on the Komodo Dragons, but will also keep you posted on any exciting developments concerning the birds.

Over the last two years the 'Spirit of the Jaguar' talk has focussed on highlighting the intricate life of the rainforest. This winter, the presenters thought it was time to go back and give a talk centred on the jaguars, themselves. This is an opportune time for this talk as Sophia and Salvador have been recently introduced to one another!

The morning programme of talks finishes in the Grow Zone, concentrating on the cacti. As Mark Sparrow wrote in the last edition of Zoo Life, this area has had an overhaul in the last few years. So come along and have a look. The talk is called 'Prickly Characters' and looks at how cacti are adapted to living in areas with a low rainfall, not always deserts! Are you sure you can recognise a cactus? Did you know that cacti are endangered?

The afternoon talks start at 2.15 with the Sea Lions. The talks may have a familiar look but come along you may get a surprise.

Winter Talks

- 11.00 **Monkey Islands**
- 11.30 **Elephants**
- 12.00 **Islands in Danger**
- 1.30 **Spirit of the Jaguar**
- 1.50 **Grow Zone**
- 2.15 **Sea Lions**
- 2.45 **Chimps**
- 3.15 **Penguins**

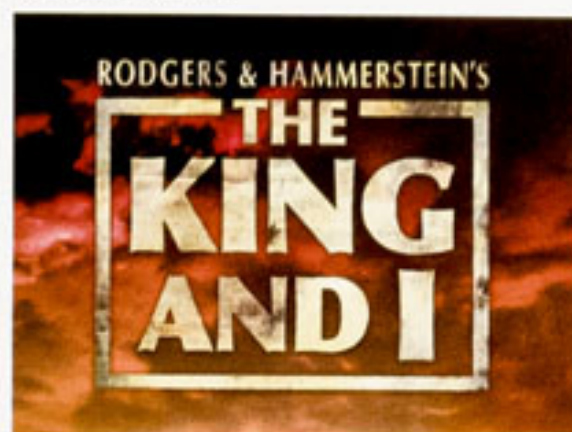
Wildlife Activity Centre Food and Feeding

In the very near future an exciting new exhibit called 'Food and Feeding' will open in the Wildlife Activity Centre. The 'Birds and Bees' exhibit has been very popular with visitors, but it is time for a change as its title appeared to confuse some of our younger visitors!

A new 'Food and Feeding' exhibit will do just as it says on the tin – it will explain all about food, how it gets into the body, what happens as it passes through the body and what you can find out from 'poo'. It may surprise you what you can find out!

A Christmas Gift from The Palace!

Chester Zoo has joined up with The Palace Theatre, Manchester to bring members and adopters a fantastic exclusive offer.



The time-honoured classic, THE KING AND I has delighted millions of theatre-goers over the years and this brand-new production and UK tour is poised to do so all over again.

Featuring stunning sets and lavish costumes, THE KING AND I is a heart-warming and poignant story set to one of the most unforgettable scores ever written, which includes Shall We Dance?, I Whistle a Happy Tune, Hello Young Lovers, Getting To Know You and Something Wonderful.

Now you can enjoy this fantastic production with our exclusive ticket offer. The King and I will be at the Palace Theatre between February 1-12, with performances every evening at 7.30pm and a Wednesday and Saturday matinee at 2.30pm. Tickets are priced £7.50 to £26.00. **Members and adopters will receive £10 off the top three priced tickets on Tuesday February 1 only. Thereafter, £5 off the top three priced tickets (excludes Friday and Saturday Evening performances).** Only one concession applicable at any one time and this can not be used in conjunction with any other offer.

To book, please call
0870 401 3000*

and quote Palace Theatre / Chester Zoo King and I offer. *Subject to Booking Transaction Fee

Fundraising

From the Development Team



Members of RAF Stafford's NO.2 MT Squadron, along with their families, make the presentation to Chester Zoo.

RAF Ele-fund boosts Appeal

Kind-hearted servicemen and women from RAF Stafford have handed over a cheque for £500 to the Asian Elephant Appeal and have become elephant adopters – in recognition of their squadron's crest – the elephant. NO.2 MT (Mechanical Transport) Squadron at the military base have been busy raising money through a range of different activities including a charity haircut, a car wash and collection boxes.

Members of the Squadron had a day out at Chester Zoo with their families and Squadron Leader Stuart Beeby and colleagues presented the cheque to the Zoo's Elephant Team Leader Mick Jones. Senior Aircraftsman Robbie Little who chairs the 'Elefund', the squadron's appeal fund set up to support the Chester Zoo elephants said: "As a squadron we are always keen to support good causes and the Chester Zoo Asian Elephant Appeal is a perfect fit with us as it is a good cause and we are very proud of our elephant crest, which we all wear on our uniform."

"As servicemen and women, we very much see ourselves as part of the community and take our responsibility very seriously. We are always keen to give to worthwhile causes and fundraising is positively encouraged."

"We had a fantastic day out at the Zoo. Chester Zoo is beautiful and it was great to meet the team and to learn more about the remarkable work the team does with the elephants."



ASDA

part of the **WAL*MART** family

Really love those tiger feet

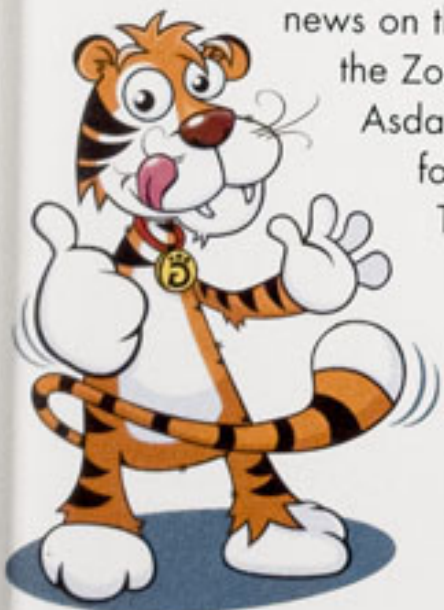
Next time you're shopping you might want to check out the bread aisle in Asda and look for some Tiger Paws or Tiger Tails! As part of a nationwide campaign over the next 12 months, Asda will be working with us to raise money for the Zoo's Tiger fund through the sale of a new range of Tiger Bread.



For every Tiger Loaf, Tiger Paw or Tiger Tail sold, Asda will be donating 1p to Chester Zoo to support our work with Tigers. This is fantastic news for us and is the first time we've been part of a nationwide campaign of this sort. Money raised by Asda will be used to improve the Tiger enclosure at the Zoo and to support conservation of Tigers in the wild.

To go with the campaign, Asda has sponsored our Tigers too! To launch the campaign Asda came to the Zoo to film a piece for their in-store TV with our very own Tigers taking starring roles!

Watch out for more exciting news on this partnership at the Zoo or in your local Asda store! And don't forget for every Tiger Tail, Paw or Bloomer you buy Asda will add another penny to the Tiger fund at Chester Zoo!



Wanted!

Your old mobile phone

Reward!

More funds for care and conservation

You know what it's like – you fancy a change. You're getting the latest model for Christmas, and your old mobile phone, the one you used to love and take everywhere with you, will be left at home, unwanted.

Well, why not give it to us?

We can turn your unwanted mobile phones into money. The funds will go towards the care and conservation of our animals and endangered species, giving your old mobile a new purpose in life.

There are an estimated 60 million redundant mobile phones in the UK, which are potentially



hazardous to the environment. But they can be recycled, or reused in developing countries. Why stop

there? We can also recycle old inkjet cartridges.

By choosing to recycle your inkjet cartridges and mobile phones for Chester Zoo you will be helping us to make a difference. What's more it couldn't be easier. All you need to do is put your phones or cartridges in one of our freepost envelopes and send them to our recycler, Office Green Technologies.



Alternatively, you can drop them into our collection boxes at Barclays Bank, St. Werburgh Street, Chester or Hoole Road, Hoole.

If you would like more information on the recycling scheme or require envelopes, please contact Sarah McDonnell in the Development Office either by email at

s.mcdonnell@chesterzoo.org or call direct on 01244 650265.



Tiger Campaign

European fundraising awards



In September we were presented with a special award in recognition of our efforts to raise almost £15,000 for the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Tiger Conservation Campaign.

The Zoo's Head of Conservation and Science, Roger Wilkinson, was presented with the highest platinum award followed by a further bronze and silver award at the Association's annual conference in Kolmarden, Sweden. Chester Zoo, with the help of many supporters, spent two years raising money for the EAZA Tiger Campaign which is aimed at protecting the future of tigers.

A hundred years ago, 100,000 tigers roamed the earth. The biggest of all the cats, tigers are facing very real threats from trade, habitat loss, human and wildlife conflict and demand from the traditional medicine

market, and today their numbers are as few as 6,000. Scientists have warned that they face extinction by 2010.

By raising money, it is hoped new forest corridors will be built and protected areas developed. Anti poaching measures will be introduced in areas affected and surveys and research carried out to understand more about the species.

Tigers are currently found in 14 countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, North Korea, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam.

Chester Zoo's campaign included the sale of tiger-themed merchandise, fundraising activities on Tiger Days and was also supported by a donation from Asda.

Roger said: "We would like to thank everyone who helped us to raise the money, including a large number of our zoo visitors.

"If we allow this threat to tigers to carry on there is a very real danger that they will disappear from the wild."

Tiger fast facts

- Chester Zoo has two Amur Tigers – Korda and Strelka
- A tiger's top speed is 40mph
- The average life span in the wild is approximately 15 years
- Males are on average 3m long and 200kg – females are generally smaller
- A group of tigers is called a 'streak', however they are usually solitary animals!



Veterinary Assistance

...for African Primate Vets. Steve Unwin, Veterinary Officer, Chester Zoo

As a previous veterinarian for Limbe Wildlife Centre, a primate rehabilitation centre in Cameroon, I was asked by PASA (*Pan African Sanctuaries Alliance*), of which Limbe is a member, to take part in a series of veterinary workshops. These workshops aimed to bring veterinarians and project managers from PASA's 19 primate sanctuaries across Africa together to share knowledge and improve skills and communication. Most of the funding for these workshops is provided via IFAW (*International Fund for Animal Welfare*). As well as Chester, veterinary staff from London Zoo (ZSL) and various zoos across the USA have lent their time, knowledge and experience to make these workshops a success.

The first workshop in 2003, based at Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary in Uganda, concentrated on improving basic veterinary practical skills in anaesthesia, quarantine and nutrition, plus providing generalised discussions on topics as varied as staff health, contraception and worming.

This year, in the Republic of Congo, we provided more specialised practical training in surgery plus discussions including malaria, management of malnourishment in orphaned primates and the Ebola situation in Congo and Gabon.



We were very proud that we were able to get the first edition of the PASA veterinary healthcare manual out to delegates in printed form and CD. This manual, compiled by veterinary staff from London Zoo and from the PASA sanctuaries, as well as myself, is designed as an easy practical reference for veterinarians working with primates in Africa.

The Republic of Congo is a prime example of the 'bushmeat crisis'. Congo is home to 3.9 million people, mostly in the south, in an area twice that of the UK. There is little or no livestock farming so people rely on fishing and hunting for protein, so therefore the bushmeat situation across species is chronic, with vast areas almost hunted out.



Our host, at Pointe Noire, was the Jane Goodall Institute Sanctuary in Tchimpounga. This centre has been running for ten years and they have recently employed a new vet manager from Cincinnati Zoo. Tchimpounga is a largely unspoiled coastal area of 14,000 hectares of previous chimpanzee habitat, and is still home to putty nosed guenon, mandrill, sitatunga, crocodiles, civets, genets and pangolins.

One of the core aims of PASA is the eventual successful re-introduction of some of the orphaned primates its sanctuaries

care for. With this in mind, the 2005 workshop, being planned for April in Cameroon, aims to provide a risk analysis structure for potential reintroduction of orphaned primates, from a veterinarian perspective. This idea is controversial and politically charged, but the ground work needs to be laid so that if it is attempted (*and the situation is that many of these sanctuaries are overflowing with the orphans of the bushmeat trade*), it is done correctly. This includes following IUCN guidelines, gaining individual African Government support, and the support of the local people, as there are no areas where any animals released would not be coming into human contact.

These workshops have allowed for capacity building for in situ staff, as well as providing an easily accessible forum for discussion as these wildlife welfare centres become more conservation orientated. Long term it is hoped PASA will be able to permanently employ African veterinary staff for the centres.

To find out more, visit:

www.panafricanprimates.org

Note that the Fauna and Flora International presentation at the zoo lecture theatre on Jan 15th 2005 is with HELP-Congo, a PASA member. They will be discussing the process they have gone through to successfully release orphaned chimpanzees back into the wild, including a continuing post release monitoring programme. I hope you can come along to what will be an inspirational evening.

What's on the menu?

By Dr. Andrea Fidgett, Zoo Nutritionist

With such a large and diverse collection at Chester Zoo, representing all kinds of animal appetites, how do you start to provide a nutrition advisory service? This was the challenge facing me as the Zoo's Nutritionist, complementing the work of the vet team based in the Animal Health Centre.

Food is clearly important in the day-to-day running of Chester Zoo and its acquisition, storage, preparation and distribution has long been well managed by the Animal Supplies team. But the combination of nutrients those food ingredients provide, plays a crucial role in maintaining the health and welfare of all the animals, so it's important we get it right. I was brought in to review diet composition and was initially occupied resolving specific health and husbandry problems that may be potentially diet-related. At the most basic level this entails working out the energy requirement for each animal per day, taking into account factors like growth,

pregnancy and lactation, and comparing that with what they are actually eating.

All animals get energy from their food but, just like us, they also need the correct balance of protein, fat, vitamins and minerals. So are our animals getting the right nutrients? Determining this across all species is a much more difficult job than calculating energy requirements, particularly since very little detail is known



about most wild diets. Generally speaking though, it's a good sign if animals are healthy and producing young – yet another reason to be proud of all our breeding successes this year! But where this is not the case, our feeding programmes need to be documented to establish where we might be going wrong.

For example, we discovered our Rodrigues fruitbats prefer fruit (*naturally!*) over the dry pelleted



food also on offer. Fruit alone can satisfy energy but wasn't providing the correct nutrient balance for healthy bone growth. The solution was to prepare a mix of chopped fruit and ground-up pellets. This chopped fruit 'mash' is fed out first thing in lots of dishes around the *Twilight Zone*. Whole fruits, to encourage natural feeding behaviours are still used, but later in the day. The fruitbats are also a good example of how many animals are kept in large, natural social groups. Scattering food, or providing multiple food stations and bowls, is a technique used in enclosures and paddocks throughout the Zoo which allows



all individuals the means of getting their fair share.

Diet Manual

Within the UK, the Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice is a document detailing principles with respect to the management of zoos and the



Student Anna weighing foodstuffs

animals in their care. This states: "Both food and water are basic needs. The method of food presentation, the frequency of feeds and the nutritional balance must be taken into account. Food should be presented in a manner and frequency commensurate with the natural behaviour of the species, as well as its nutritional requirements, which may vary according to season."

It goes on to specify that a written record of all diets must be maintained. To fulfil that standard for Chester Zoo and provide a means of sharing information more widely, my longer term goal was to assemble the first edition of our own Diet Manual, a task completed earlier in the year with input from all the Animal Team Leaders, Curators, Animal Supplies Team and considerable assistance from nutrition placement students Claire Maclean and Anna Riach. Essentially the manual is in two parts. The first is all to do with food, comprising an inventory which includes descriptions of

onsite food production (e.g. forage and browse plants). There's also composition analyses of most feedstuffs used and full contact details of the suppliers, together forming an important reference source for all staff. The second part and bulk of the manual is devoted to detailed descriptions of the current feeding practices for every species maintained within the collection.

We used an extensive questionnaire to compile the manual, recording what diets are fed but also considering how the ingredients and quantities change during the year to provide nutritional support for all stages of life; egg development in birds and reptiles, pregnancy and lactation in mammals, growth and development of all animals.

Despite increasing progress in the proper feeding of wild animals in zoos, simply listing the ingredients of any given diet does not ensure adequate nourishment nor tell you how 'good' the diet is. Once the ingredient list was prepared, Claire and Anna actually measured the scoops, bales, cups and bowls described. This gives us an estimate of what is offered and the next stage then asks what do the animals actually eat? Done properly this will entail yet more weighing, but there's a lot that can be learnt from simply observing the animals and taking note of the leftovers. As mentioned earlier, in the absence of suitable scientific data, gauging the 'success' of the diet is achieved by reviewing records of the general health and reproductive history for each species.

All zoo diets are in the process of being stored

electronically using **Zootrition™** diet management software. This programme was developed by zoos and contains a database of more than 3000 feedstuffs with published nutrient values (many unique to zoo and wildlife species), making it possible to compare nutritional content of specific food items, calculate overall nutritional composition of diets and compare that to known requirements for certain species. Meantime, the manual provides a current, written record of existing feeding practice. It is a dynamic document, with diets subject to continued review and updated in line with the best and most current knowledge available.



Measuring willow leaves



Out & About

By Stephen McKeown, Head of Education

Every two years zoo educators from around the world get together to share the latest thinking on zoo education at the International Zoo Educators (IZE) Association Conference.



We rotate this event around the world, so that each region has an opportunity to host it and educators in that region will have smaller travel expenses!

This year, the 17th IZE Conference was hosted by Ocean Park in Hong Kong, from September 4-9. No fewer than 68 presentations and workshops made for a busy conference but our hosts made sure there were ample opportunities to get out and look at a variety of local nature reserves, museums and, of course, Ocean Park itself where a pair of Giant Pandas are the star attractions. It would be unfair to single out any particular presentations here but members who are interested in finding out more about the conference are welcome to consult the proceedings in the new Zoo Library.

I flew out to Hong Kong a few days in advance of the conference to take part in a series of IZE board meetings at

which we discussed a wide range of issues such as the Journal, fundraising, our sponsorship programme, and changes to our Statutes. These meetings are also a time of change where new board members join us, old ones leave and some change their positions within the group. I felt very privileged to be able to take up my new position of President-Elect, supporting the new President, Chris Peters of Rotterdam Zoo, over the next two years before becoming President myself. It is immensely flattering to be accorded the trust of the IZE membership in a role that really does provide multiple opportunities to advance our discipline and provide support, encouragement and practical assistance to zoo educators worldwide. Chris Peters and I joined the WAZA (World Association of Zoos and Aquariums) Conference in Taiwan last month and found it useful networking with Zoo Directors and

promoting the IZE cause!

Finally, I am delighted to announce that the Zoo has been given a much coveted Sandford Award in recognition of excellence in provision of education services. More usually awarded to museums, historic houses and other keepers of our built heritage, this accolade has never been given to a zoo before. I am, naturally, very proud of the whole Education team who have worked so hard to achieve such high standards.

More information

www.izea.net
the official IZE Website

www.heritageeducationtrust.org.uk
Sandford Awards

www.oceanpark.com
Ocean Park

www.waza.org
World Association of Zoos and Aquariums



Cedar House Library

The New Chester Zoo Library at Cedar House by Jane Woodward, Librarian

At the end of August, after several weeks of manic packing and unpacking, the long awaited new library opened. This comfortably houses our unique collection of books, journals, dissertations, the Chester Zoo historical archive and much more. Importantly it also has room for the growth and expansion that is necessary to keep abreast of zoological, veterinary and botanical knowledge.

We now have a lovely light and airy room providing study space, with laptop connections, for 12 people. There is also a comfortable seating area where people can

peruse the latest journals or perhaps check their facts in the quick reference section.

There are now four computers for the sole use of the library. From these you can check the library catalogue, word process, print, surf the web and zoo staff are able to access their files on the zoo intranet.

For those of you who remember the old library this is a major step forward and will allow us to maximise the use of what is a wonderful collection, unrivalled in the north of England.

Chester Zoo Library opening hours:

Monday – Friday,
11am – 3pm

Telephone number:
01244 389453

Email:
J.Woodward@chesterzoo.org



Did you know about



By Sarah Bird, Biodiversity Officer

rECOrd, the Local Record Centre for the Cheshire region is based here at Chester Zoo and has been up and running for four years.

The Background

In the late 1990s, the Wildlife Trusts began to look at the possibility of developing a country-wide network of Local Record Centres. The purpose of these centres was to prevent loss of wildlife information, and also to ensure that decisions over the environment and planning issues were based upon accurate ecological information - rather than having to rely on 'snap-shot' surveys often undertaken at the worst possible times of the year. This initiative became the National



Biodiversity Network (NBN).

The NBN asked for applications from areas wishing to develop Local Record Centres; the aim being to trial/pilot one centre in England, one in Wales and one in Scotland. Cheshire applied to the NBN and won the right to be the pilot Local Record Centre for England.

What does rECOrd do?

rECOrd collects, manages and makes available all types of wildlife information (*terrestrial, freshwater and marine*), from Cheshire, Halton, Warrington, the Wirral, and the old "vice-county"

which includes most of Trafford, Stockport and Tameside. It is a community-



based project in which everyone can be involved. Wildlife organisations provide some of the biological information, but the





majority is supplied by individual members of the public, particularly naturalists and wildlife recorders. **rECOrd** holds data for species, habitats and sites and can combine the different data to give a more accurate picture of wildlife in Cheshire.

The organisation aims to provide as wide access as is possible to species and habitat information without jeopardizing the safety of wildlife. Most data is supplied in the form of 'aggregated' data (e.g. species counts) as many biological records are sensitive/confidential (e.g. the location of badger setts). This helps environmentalists, ecologists, planners and other individuals and organisations to make informed decisions on issues that affect wildlife.

rECOrd also provides support for biological recording and wildlife recorders within the Cheshire region through training and networking. The vital task of recording wildlife has declined sharply in the last decades, and **rECOrd** aims to ensure these skills are maintained in Cheshire.

How can you help?

rECOrd currently holds almost one million records and expects this number to expand dramatically over the next 12 months. However, they urgently need your help to increase the knowledge of Cheshire's wildlife. If you see any wild animals or plants in your area



please do get in touch. Records of common species are just as valuable as those of rare species – in fact there is very little data for many common species as many people don't bother to report seeing things like rabbits or squirrels. There are several ways to pass on your sightings to **rECOrd**; have a look at the Records section of the website below for more details, or send in your records on a form similar to that shown below.

More information

rECOrd website:
www.consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk
 Email: info@rECOrd-lrc.co.uk
 Telephone: 01244 383749
 National Biodiversity Network website: www.nbn.org.uk

Name: Sarah Bird

Address: Chester Zoo, Caughall Road, Upton, Chester, CH2 1LH

Tel: 01244 380 280 Email: s.bird@chesterzoo.org

Species No.	Site name	Grid. ref.	Date	Comments	
GREAT CRESTED NEWT	2	POND BY ARK RESTAURANT	SJ411 705	22/06/04	MALE AND FEMALE
HEBGE HOB	1	CAUGHALL ROAD	SJ414 701	01/07/04	DEAD BY ROAD SIDE
GARDEN SPIDER	1	ROMAN GARDEN	SJ412 702	14/10/04	HUGE SPIDER 10MM ACROSS BODY
R.	1	ZOO CAR PARK	SJ413 706	20/10/04	MALE SINGING



A New Species for Cheshire Recorded at Chester Zoo

The Ramshorn Gall is caused by a small wasp (*Andricus aries*) which was first found in Britain in Berkshire in 1997. In 2001 it was common around London and in other parts of south-east England and was felt to

be rapidly extending its range. Galls have now been found at Chester Zoo showing that the species is spreading northwards. The galls are on oak twigs (*Quercus robur*) and were found in July 2004.

Conservation Corner

A Sand Dune site in Merseyside has welcomed some new residents with the help of Chester Zoo.

Once found all along the Merseyside coast, only one tenth of the original population of the rare and beautiful sand lizard now exists and this is under further threat from fragmentation of its habitat. Ten animals were released to Merseyside in a partnership project between English Nature and the Herpetological Conservation Trust (HCT).

Isolde McGeorge, Herpetologist at Chester Zoo said: "Chester Zoo is delighted to contribute to this release in Merseyside. In total 62 of our sand lizard hatchlings and sub-adults have been released at a number of different locations across the country. This is as a result of the success of our

breeding programme at Chester Zoo and our on-going work with English Nature and the Herpetological Conservation Trust.

"Chester Zoo was the first Zoo in the UK to become involved in the Sand Lizard Recovery Programme back in 1996 and since that time we have had five successful releases."

Alice Kimpton, English Nature said: "Over the last century, development and pine plantations have resulted in the loss of 90% of the unique Merseyside sand lizard population. We trialled a release a few years ago and they made it through the winter so we know our management for this threatened native species has been successful. One of the most rewarding aspects of working here is to see this threatened wildlife making a return to ground lost in the past."

Tortoises rescued as clock ticked

For the second time in recent months Chester Zoo has come to the rescue.

Two Egyptian tortoises, smuggled into Australia in a suitcase and facing death if a suitable home couldn't be found for them in 48



Safe haven: one of the rescued Egyptian Tortoises at Chester Zoo.

hours, have been saved in a dramatic race against the clock and are now safe at the Zoo.

An Egyptian woman was caught with the Critically Endangered tortoises in her suitcase by customs officers at Sydney Airport and as it is illegal to take any reptiles into Australia, the animals would have had to be destroyed had a home not been found for them outside of the country.

Penny Rudd, Zoo Registrar who deals with all the zoo's international transfers, says: "The pressure really was on to sort out clearance our end in record time to save these animals. This was a real team effort and the speed of the operation is virtually unheard of."

Chester Zoo is already home to seven Egyptian Tortoises which are on the brink of extinction.



Zoo Life

Growing Concerns

By Mark Sparrow, Curator of Botany and Horticulture

Zoo's horticultural efforts rewarded

The Zoo's horticultural staff have excelled themselves in the last twelve months, and those efforts have been reflected by the



Tatton Flower Show garden

number of prestigious awards they have received. In July a team of four staff from the Horticulture and Botany Department; Mark Hargreaves, Kevin McGinty, John Fletcher and Dave Burrows built a 'Back to Back' garden at the RHS Tatton Flower Show. The nursery staff did an excellent job in growing the plants for the display. The garden called 'Tomorrow's Garden for Wildlife' was designed and constructed to attract wildlife, and was based on a typical back garden. The garden received a Bronze Medal from the judges and received many complimentary comments from the visiting public.

The Zoo was also entered into the *North West in Bloom* and *Chester*

in Bloom competitions and we won the 'Best Tourist Attraction' category in both. The judges were particularly impressed with the ongoing development of the gardens, and the general upkeep of the horticultural displays. Congratulations go to both the Horticulture and Botany and Amenity and Gardens teams.

Finally two Horticulture and Botany staff, Mark Hargreaves and Dave Burrows, were part of a team of four representing Reaseheath College in the finals of the National Landscaping skills competition. They got through to the finals after winning the North West of England heats, and finished in a very commendable second place.



Durham, Dynamite & Coral Reefs

by William Vincent, Zoology Undergraduate, University of Durham

Durham University Coral Awareness and Research Expedition to the Philippines – supported by Chester Zoo with a £1,000 studentship.

In between the South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean, just east of Indonesia, lies the Republic of the Philippines. This strange and beautiful land, made up of 7000 islands where the staple diet is rice and fish three times a day, is home to the world's richest store of marine life and contains Asia's only double barrier reef system, the Danajon Bank.

However the Philippines' coral reef habitats are extremely endangered and are ranked as the number one global hotspot by the United Nations. The main threat is over-exploitation of the natural habitat. An increasing population has led to diminishing fish stocks and local fishermen, who are becoming more and more desperate to feed their families and feel they have no other option, are resorting to 'blast fishing' – literally throwing bottles filled with dynamite on to fewer and smaller fish.

Not only are important juvenile fish removed but blast fishing also destroys large areas of coral reef and their constituent ecosystems. Coral reef that takes hundreds, sometimes thousands of years to grow is gone in the blink of an eye. After a year of planning and with funding from Chester Zoo, the Royal



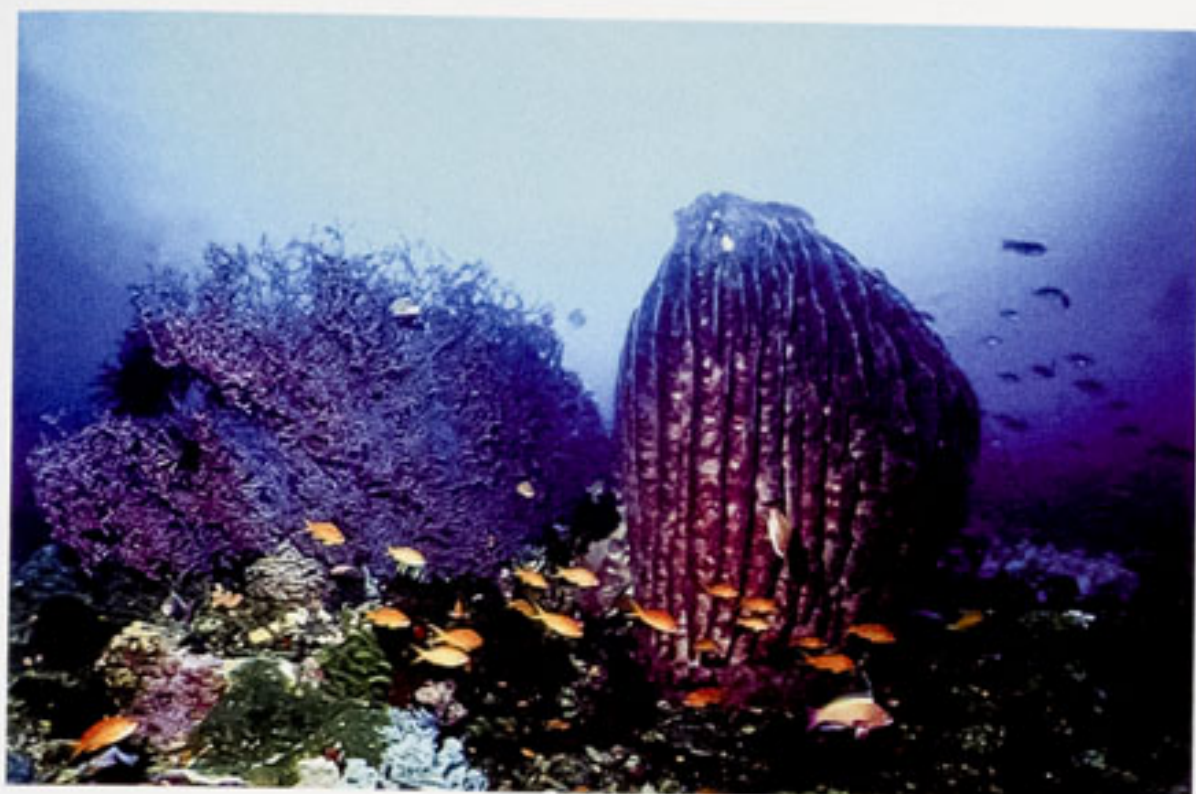
Geographical Society, the University of Durham and diving specialists PADI, myself, six other students and a GP left the UK in June 2004 and headed to the Island of Cebu, in the central Visayan region of the Philippines, close to the Danajon Bank.

Our aim was to spend two months collecting data from these reefs to help local government make decisions on the implementation of Marine Protected Areas (MPA).



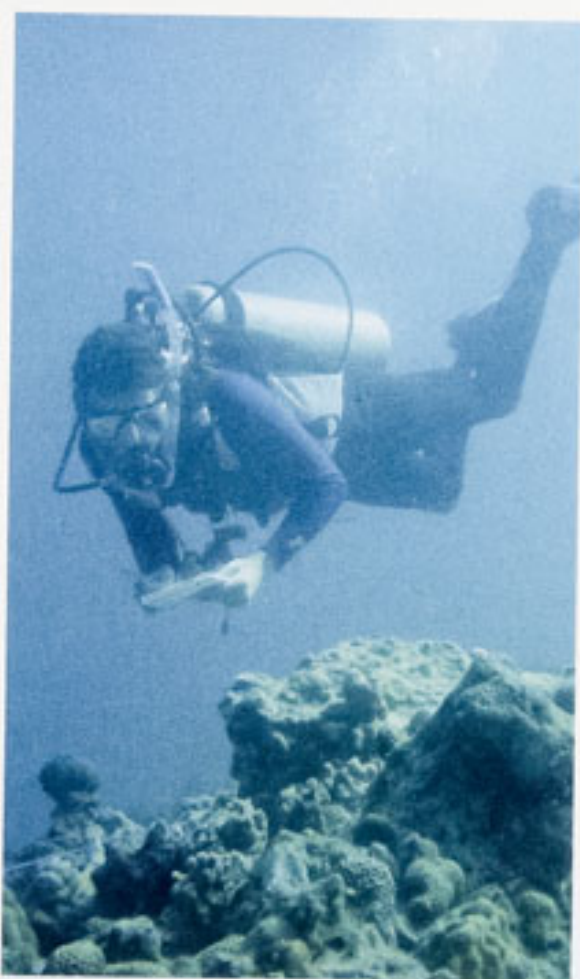
An MPA is an area of coral reef that is marked off, guarded and no fishing of any kind is allowed there.

After meeting members of the 'Coastal Dynamics Foundation' (CDF); an organisation established in 2000 to help improve reef conservation; the first two weeks were used for diving buoyancy



practice, orientation and initial courtesy meetings with the local council of Lapulapu city, the Philippines Navy and the Philippines Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. After that, the eight team members underwent their 'reef check' training. Our method for collecting data on the reefs followed the methods found at www.reefcheck.org.

While in the field, the team conducted a total of 54 'reef check' surveys over five weeks on key sites around Cebu, 12 of which were on the Danajon Bank. The data collected by these surveys, once analysed will help the staff at CDF to select the most appropriate area to establish a MPA in partnership with the local government.



The surveys were the main focus of the team; however we did perform other activities. During our eight weeks in the field, the team took part in Giant Clam cleaning. To allow Giant Clams to breed and repopulate the sea, they are kept in cages underwater to protect them from predators and local fishermen. We designed and funded educational posters for local schools to teach children that coral is not rock and must be looked after. We funded and helped with the building of a raft for an established MPA that would allow it to be guarded more effectively. The team also undertook coral 'planting' and MPA marker buoy rescue and resurfacing.

The last week was spent preparing presentations for the Mayor and councillors of Lapulapu City Council about the work that we had done in their municipality, as well as consolidating the 'reef check' data collected and then submitting it to 'reef check' for analysing.

The team would like to thank Chester Zoo for their support. All participants both here in the UK and in the Philippines believe that the expedition was highly successful. The data collected and the activities performed will be vitally important to the continued protection and sustaining of these highly valuable but endangered coral reefs.



Baby It's You!

There have been lots of new arrivals at the Zoo since the last edition of 'Zoo Life'.

To have two elephants born at the Zoo within the space of seven months is quite exceptional and we are delighted that both continue to do really well. *Sundara* has taken to her new playmate well, especially as *Tunga*, born to mum *Jangoli* and father *Chang* on October 10 was almost the size of *Sundara*, at birth!



Lyta, a female South American Tapir calf, was the fourth calf born to proud parents *Jennifer* and *Cuzco* and can be seen on the west side of the Zoo in the enclosure shared with the Capybara next to the *Twilight Zone*.

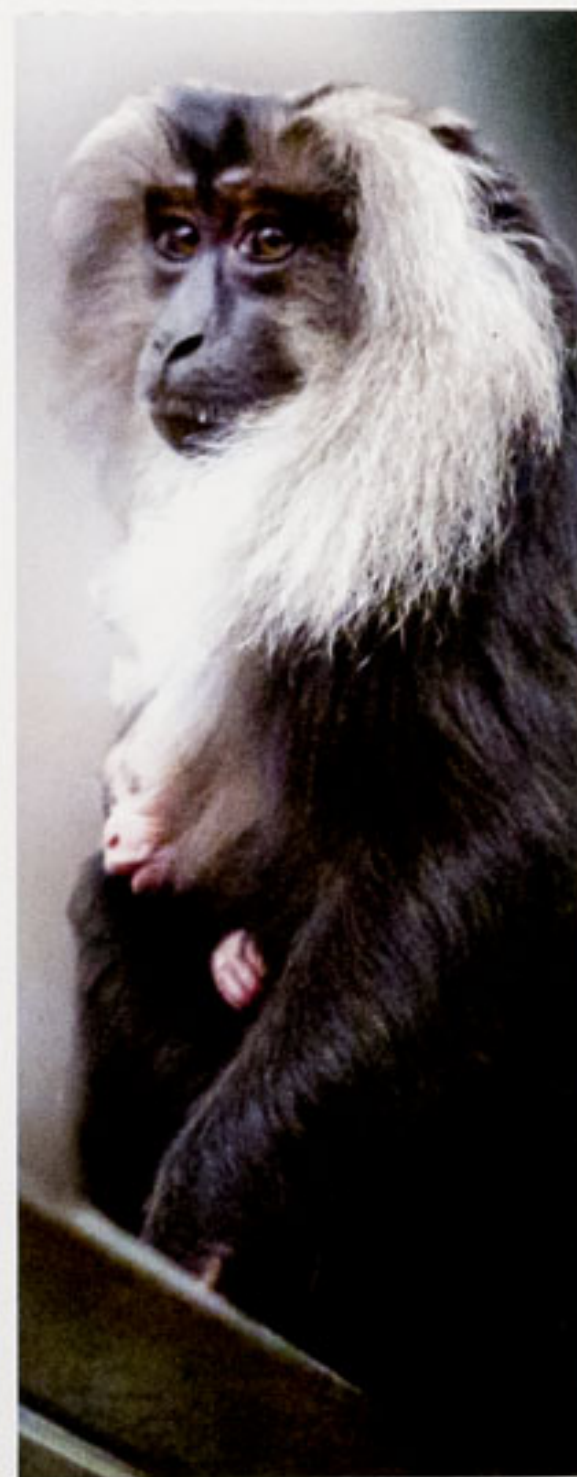


Also new on the scene is the first Geoffroy's Marmoset born to father *Danny* and mother *Ewok* who moved to Chester from Bristol Zoo and Cotswold Wildlife Park respectively for the opening of the new miniature monkey exhibit in April. At just two and a half inches long at birth, visitors need to keep their eyes peeled to spot the new offspring.

Much easier to see is the new addition to the troop of Lion-tailed Macaques.

Grandmother *Reme* welcomed Lion-tailed Macaque *Henry*, who was born to father *Jamal* and mother *Hubli* in October. Five infant Sulawesi Macaque's are also a welcome addition to the primates section as is Chimp, *Rhiannan*, born to mum *Heidi*.

We are also delighted to see the first Onager born at Chester Zoo in seven years and the 21st since Onagers first arrived at the Zoo in 1964. Amongst the many other new arrivals are additions to the Red River Hogs, Anoa's, Doves and Philippine Spotted Deer.





Events Programme 2005

Forthcoming Events and JMU Graduation

Mothering Sunday Lunch

Sunday 6th March - £18.50 per adult
£14.95 per child (under 11 years)

Price includes admission into the Zoo and a delicious three course lunch served in the Oakfield Restaurant.

Chester Zoo's Gardens

Friday 22nd April - £27.50

The gardens of the Zoo are justly famous, winning many awards over the years.

Enjoy a tour in the company of our Botanist followed by a delicious three course dinner.



Primate Safari & Dinner Premier Evening of the year

Sunday 15th May

Visit our three Primate Houses and meet the keepers, enjoy cocktails in Monkey Island, before returning to our elaborate marquee on the Oakfield Lawn for a sumptuous three course dinner.



Spirit of The Jaguar & Giraffe Safari

Thursday 9th June - £24.95

After cocktails in the Jaguar House with our keepers, take a stroll to meet our Giraffes before returning to the Oakfield Manor for a BBQ on the terrace.



Tropical House & Islands in Danger Tour

Thursday 23rd June - £27.50



Learn about the Zoo's Tropical Realm, stroll to *Islands in Danger* to meet the Komodo Dragon, then enjoy a delicious tropical dinner in the Oakfield Manor.

Family Picnic Evening

Thursday 14th July - £17.95

Enter the Zoo from 4.30pm. Picnic baskets may be collected from the Oakfield Restaurant at 6.30pm.

Spectacled Bears & Twilight Zone Safari

Thursday 28th July - £29.95

Visit our Spectacled Bears, meet the keepers, before moving onto our Bat Cave. Our Presenters will

help you appreciate the finer points of the *Twilight Zone* before returning you to the Oakfield for a BBQ, champagne and strawberries on the Oakfield Terrace.



Evening Bat Walk and Traditional Buffet

Thursday 11th August - £17.25

Admission into the Zoo from 4.30pm. Buffet served in the Oakfield Restaurant at 7.30pm. At the *Twilight Zone* and in the company of our keepers, go in search of wild Pipistelle, Noctule and Daubenton's bats.

Carnivore Evening with Mexican Buffet

Thursday 1st September - £21.50

An evening with a difference. Enjoy an informative tour visiting red pandas, sealions and big cats. Return to the Oakfield Manor and enjoy a Mexican Buffet.



Jules Verne Evening

Friday 14th October - £23.50

Our Head Chef invites you to sample different courses from around the world. A culinary experience in 80 minutes (*perhaps a little longer!*)

Contact the Events Team in September for details of our Christmas activities. For further information and to book any of the above please contact: The Events Office, Chester Zoo, Caughall Road, Upton, Chester. CH2 1LH
Tel: **01244 650209**

JMU Graduation

Chester Zoo maintains various collaborations on studies of biodiversity with Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU). We not only support major in situ work such as the Sichuan Forest Conservation Project, but every year several students from LJMU carry out their research projects at the Zoo. In recognition of this joint working, it was a great pleasure for Zoo Director Gordon McGregor Reid and Research Officer Stephanie Wehnelt to be invited to join the 2004 graduation ceremony of the School of Biological and Earth

Sciences at Liverpool Cathedral as the honorary guests of the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Michael Brown.

The impressive ceremony took place in Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral and was broadcasted live in the Students' Union as well as on the internet. The ceremony included a rich and colourful procession marked by academic robes, processional maces, banners, fanfares and ceremonial music.

Congratulations!



The Zoo Director and Stephanie are pictured centre. Standing next to our Director is Prof. Peter Wheeler, Dean of the Faculty of Biological & Earth Sciences at UMU and also Council Member and Chair of the Scientific Committee at the Zoo. On the very right is Dr. Filippo Aureli who co-ordinates the zoo projects at UMU and supervises various undergraduate and postgraduate research. Behind him is Dr. Simon Dawell, Director of the School of Biological and Earth Sciences and leader of the Sichuan conservation project. To the very left, are two BSc students who graduated on the day.

Junior Members

Programme of Events 2004 - 2005



DISCOVERY SESSION

Saturday 22 January 2005

A few years ago we added this activity to our list and it has fast become an extremely popular event. This is your chance to discover more about your own Zoo! We will split into three groups to do three different activities in rotation. This will involve a tour of the Zoo, a discovery session in our special *Discovery Centre*, and finally a chance to design a zoo enclosure using all your imagination to create the best living accommodation for a selected species. Over eights are invited to join us, meeting outside Oakfield House at 1.45pm and parents can collect their children from there again at 4.15pm.

LOWER MOSS WOOD

Saturday 26 February 2005

We have tried to avoid over-lapping with half-term on this one, so as many Juniors as possible can join us on this very special trip to Lower Moss Wood and Wildlife Sanctuary near Knutsford in Cheshire. Not only will we have a guided tour of this beautiful wood in winter, we will get a rare opportunity to see behind the scenes at the wildlife hospital where animals are prepared for rehabilitation back into the wild. Over eights are invited to join us, but you are warned to wrap up really warmly as we will be outside for part of the day. The bus will leave the staff car park at 10.30am and return at 4pm. Please bring a picnic.

TRACKS & SIGNS

Saturday 19 March 2005

Returning again by popular demand, we hope that the ground will be damp and soft enough for this event, Juniors will enter animal enclosures to find footprints from their residents in order to make plaster casts. This has the potential to be a very messy day but hopefully you will all have a souvenir to take home with you! Over eights can come along when we meet outside Oakfield House at 11am, returning there for collection at 4pm. You will need a picnic lunch and it is essential that you wear squeaky-clean wellies and clean old clothes please.

SHUGBOROUGH HOUSE AND HOME FARM

Saturday 16 April 2005

We love our visits to this beautiful stately home in Staffordshire and find that Spring is the perfect time to visit the Home Farm to see the wide range of rare breeds of cattle, goats, chickens and pigs, and occasionally shire horses. The Home Farm also has wonderful demonstration days and we will be visiting at a time when traditional cheese making and bakery skills will be shown. A day not to be missed! Over eights are invited and we will leave the staff car park at 10am, returning at 5pm. Bring a picnic!

THE LONG MYND AND FOSSIL HUNTING

Saturday 14 May 2005

We have had some lovely days around the Long Mynd in Shropshire when we go in search of fossils along this rather extraordinary geological feature. The walk alone is worth coming along for, so do not hesitate to join us, and we hope to find some fossils while we are there. The bus will leave the staff car park at 9.30am and return at 5pm and over eights are invited to join us. You will need to bring a picnic and appropriate clothes for a day in the countryside.

FOEL FARM PARK ON THE ISLE OF ANGLESEY

Saturday 18 June 2005

Our programme would hardly be the same without a summer visit to Anglesey and we thought this new event for us may prove attractive to Juniors. The Foel Farm Park (which dare I say it has a Chocolate Farm attached!) should prove a fun-packed day out in a beautiful setting and we may even manage a paddle on the beach! The bus will leave the staff car park at 9.30am, returning there for 5.30pm. Over eights are invited to bring a picnic along and join in.

HOW TO BE A GOOD ZOOKEEPER!

Wednesday 27 July 2005

This is a unique opportunity given 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 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. **Please Note** that bookings for this event will not be taken before 8.30 am on Wednesday 13 July 2005, and will be strictly on a first-come, first-served basis.

SUMMER BARBEQUE Thursday 11 August 2005

We thought we would try a Thursday evening for our Barbeque this year to avoid disappointment for those of you going on holiday the following weekend! So please do come and see the Zoo at night (when you are never sure exactly who is watching who!) and to listen to the evening sounds without other visitor noises to

distract you. We usually aim to have a speaker to chat to you for this event as well, but you can be sure of having a relaxing evening. We would like to invite the over eights to join us for 7pm, when you should arrive at the Ark Restaurant via the Zoo's Staff Entrance on Caughall Road. Parents are asked to collect Juniors from the Ark Restaurant at 9.45 pm please.

HILBRE ISLAND Saturday 17 September 2005

This will be a real treat for those of you who have not previously visited Hilbre Island in the Dee Estuary and also for those of you who have. We will follow the tide out from West Kirby and plan to spend some time exploring the rock pools around 'Little Eye' and 'Middle Eye' on our way across to Hilbre, the biggest of the three islands from where we hope to see seals and a wide array of sea birds. The timings for this event will be issued in a later magazine as we need to carefully check the tide times before we set out. Over eights will be invited to join us, with a picnic.

SNOWDONIA Saturday 15 October 2005

Following our recent hugely successful visits to Snowdonia National Park, we have decided that

Snowdonia in Autumn will be a great place to be. We will make it a full day out and Juniors of eight and over are asked to come along and join the fun. There is always lots to see and do in this lovely area so watch this space for further details as we get closer to the time of our visit.

Please Note: Bookings must be made for all events. Please ring Penny Rudd at the Zoo on 01244 650215, 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 'Zoo Life' - not by individual letter - so please keep up-to-date by reading the Junior page in each issue. A small 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.



We need your
support to raise
funds for the Care
and Conservation of
our rare animals and
other Endangered Species
across the World.



Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester CH2 1LH.

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