

A cheetah and its cub in a savanna setting. The cheetah is in the background, and the cub is in the foreground, sitting on a small mound of earth. The background is a blurred savanna landscape with some trees and a fence.

The official magazine for
Chester Zoo Members and Adopters

Z MAGAZINE

Autumn 2011

**Spot the
arrivals...
birth of rare cheetahs**

Z MAGAZINE

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Z magazine

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Swapping over is easy, simply contact the membership office on **01244 650208** or email 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!

To see a sample of what an electronic version of Z magazine looks like please go to www.chesterzoo.org/zmag.

It will still be possible to 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 animal news from the zoo?

There has been lots of activity within the animal teams including some moves, arrivals and achievements for us all to celebrate.

On the bird front, we have had an outstanding result with the hatching of three Philippine cockatoos. We have a fabulous field programme as the species is in trouble in the wild. They are a very difficult species to breed in zoos as the males can be very aggressive to the females and so this great achievement is down in no small part to the great effort of the parrot team and all those involved. In a recent press story, team leader Andy Woolham said the hatching was up there with his wedding day and the birth of his children, which shows you what great news this is!

Although we had very sad news about the Sumatran tiger cub, we are delighted to say the four cheetah cubs are going from strength to strength. The tiger cub's death was very hard for the staff, particularly as *Kirana* was showing great motherly instinct in those first few days which raised all of our hopes that she would successfully rear it, but it is not uncommon for a first litter not to survive. The cheetah cubs, however, are doing well and have been delighting our visitors as they play out in the paddock.

The northern cheetah is endangered and exists only in a handful of zoos in Europe so this is a great achievement for *KT*, her cubs and for everyone here at the zoo.

Adding to this, much, much more has been happening within our mammals department and later in this issue, Tim Rowlands – the zoo's Curator of Mammals – will give a more in-depth summary.

Please can you update us on how dinosaurs is going?

We first talked about dinosaurs over a year ago and one of the things we were determined to ensure was that the dinosaurs were of the highest quality. I think it's fair to say we have all been bowled over by how they look and how they move. A lot of work has gone in to the design of the exhibit and all credit to everyone involved in pulling this together.

What other developments are happening around the zoo?

Work on refurbishing *Café Bembe* is complete and we are pleased with the results. *Café Bembe* will really come into its own when we remodel the main entrance in autumn time this year, introducing new turnstiles. The *Café Bembe* coffee shop will sit outside of the main zoo plaza. If the reaction to *June's Pavilion* is anything to go by, then *Café Bembe* should be equally successful. We have also nearly completed the indoor picnic area which is great news for visiting groups!

What does the rest of the year hold and can you shed any light on plans for 2012?

Autumn and winter will see the revamp of *Spirit of the Jaguar* and the building of the underwater viewing area for the giant otters.

Next year, we plan to build an amphitheatre on the fountain lawn, relocating the fountain to enable us to do so. This will be a multi-purpose, seated, undercover space that will allow us to host appropriate events that enhance our mission in new ways such as dance or theatre and animal encounters. There'll be no pop concerts though!

We also plan to build a breeding centre for our endangered turtles which are in need of new accommodation. This will give us the opportunity to talk about the important work we do with this group.

Members' Days

Don't forget members can bring in up to 12 guests each at half price on Members' Days.

The forthcoming dates are:

Sunday 6th November 2011

Saturday 21st April 2012

Friday 6th July 2012

Sunday 4th November 2012

Please let the membership team know how many guests you will be bringing with you.

Adopters' Days

Adopters can meet the keepers and ask questions about their adopted species on the next Adopters' Days:

Sunday 2nd October 2011

Saturday 10th March 2012

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The elephant-loving author has taken on the role having long supported the zoo and the conservation work it carries out both locally and internationally.

Lady Rendell, who has sold more than 20 million books worldwide, has named two of the zoo's elephants – the latest being *Jamilah* who was born in January this year.

Chester Zoo's Director General, Dr Mark Pilgrim, said:

"I am absolutely thrilled that Lady Rendell has agreed to become our third Vice President. The news makes this a very important day in the zoo's history."

Lady Rendell's involvement with Chester Zoo began in 2002, when she became a Patron of its Asian Elephant Appeal. She has since continued to lend her support to a number of its conservation initiatives.

Dr Pilgrim added:

"Lady Rendell has helped and supported us for many years now and has, in particular, made great contributions to our conservation work with elephants both at the zoo and in Assam in India, where we work to safeguard wild elephants."

"As Vice President we hope Lady Rendell will become further engaged in our work and continue to be an excellent ambassador for the zoo and for conservation."

Chester Zoo's two other Vice Presidents are Lord Wade of Chorlton and The Rt. Hon Jane Heber-Percy.

"I am simply delighted to become Vice President of the North of England Zoological Society. It marks the beginning of a wonderful new chapter in my life.

I've been coming to Chester Zoo for the last 12 years and have enjoyed each visit more than the last. But after naming two Asian elephants it has become even more of a joy. It's a wonderful place with good people doing some vital work for the conservation of a vast number of different species."

Lady Ruth Rendell

Zoo names top-selling crime novelist **Ruth Rendell** as its new Vice President

Birth of rare cheetahs is positive news for the future of the species



Pictures courtesy of Dave Thompson, Press Association.

First for Chester Zoo as four, rare northern cheetah cubs are born

A litter of cheetah cubs have been born for the very first time at Chester Zoo.

Keepers say the four, rare, northern cheetah cubs, along with first-time mum *KT*, are doing 'really well.'

The cubs are a cause for celebration not only for the zoo but also the European Endangered Species Breeding Programme (EEP), with recent ICUN estimates suggesting fewer than 250 northern cheetahs remain in the wild.

Chester Zoo supports the Carnivore Research Project which is based in Namibia, where the dwindling cheetah population is monitored and tagged.

Cheetahs are perceived to be a major threat to livestock by farmers in Namibia.

This is despite researchers saying they are responsible for less than five per cent of predator-related livestock deaths.

Indeed, after the zoo recently helped fit GPS tracking collars on a number of cheetahs, the evidence gathered proved that three male cheetahs were not involved in recent attacks on cattle.

This is a first for Chester Zoo and we are delighted to say all four youngsters and mum *KT* are doing really well.

"This subspecies is critically endangered in its native north-east Africa. That's largely because they have increasingly found themselves coming into conflict with larger predators and also farmers, as both their habitat and access to prey has reduced.

"They exist only in a handful of zoos in Europe and we are the only collection to have bred them in the last twelve months. So this is a great achievement for *KT*, her cubs and everyone here at the zoo.

"It's also really positive news for the future of the species."

Curator of Mammals, **Tim Rowlands**

Fast facts...

The four cubs were born on Tuesday 21st June.

Video footage from within the cubbing area shows that *KT* gave birth to the first cub off screen. She was seen fluffing the straw up at 17:56 before walking off camera and appearing with number one at 18:02, placing it onto the bed. The second was born on screen at 18:36 and the third followed almost exactly an hour later at 19:37. The final cub was born at 20:57. In between births she was observed lying down grooming them plus allowing the cubs to suckle. Cubs have been heard chirping/whistling and climbing all over her.

KT is over four years old, having been born on 26 Mar 2007.

Chester Zoo helped develop a new technique to identify cheetahs in the wild from their paw prints. The footprint identification technique (FIT) uses digital images of the footprints to build a databank allowing the cats to be identified in a non intrusive way.



Magnificent mammals



Cheetah mum and cub © Sue Flood



Tim Rowlands



Bush dog pups

The latest on the zoo's mammal collection

By Tim Rowlands, Curator of Mammals

There has been lots of activity within the mammal section in recent months, including some moves, some arrivals and some tremendous achievements.

Firstly, I must reiterate how delighted I am that our four, newborn cheetah cubs and mum, *KT*, are going from strength to strength. The northern cheetah exists in only a handful of zoos in Europe and, being the only collection to successfully breed them in over twelve months, coupled with it being first for Chester Zoo, gives us all a great sense of pride.

Cheetahs are particularly hard to breed in zoos as, unlike with lions and tigers for example, males do not stay with females all year round. They can only be put together when the female comes into season and that is something that is very difficult to predict. Happily we've got it right and it's great news for the future of the species in zoos.

Elsewhere, our nine kangaroos have left us for a new home at Exmoor Zoo as part of the ongoing development of our collection plan. In their place are the giant anteaters, *Pedro* and *Bliss*. This won't be their permanent home – that's still to be decided – but we hope this temporary arrangement will give visitors more of an opportunity to see these magnificent and rather unique-looking animals.

A new species to the collection is the first animal in the alphabet – the armadillo. *Tatsu*, a male, has come in from Colchester Zoo and has joined the meerkats and when he is out and about he is a splendid addition.

We have also welcomed some bush dog pups, a litter of meerkats, a scimitar-horned oryx, two bongo, a male Congo buffalo, a roan antelope and three vicunas to name but a few. The bush dogs in particular are a great result and this is all the more important as, again, we are one of the few zoos in Europe to have had such success.

We have also bred our Visayan warty pigs well – so well in fact that we have moved the pair that were near Fruit Bat Forest to another zoo and replaced them with the duo that were living near to our cattle house. Some African warthogs – one male from London Zoo and two females, *Kizzi* and *Tamzin*, both from Colchester Zoo – have taken their place.

Finally, I'm pleased to report that our pair of rock hyrax have moved into their fantastic new enclosure in the Mkomazi National Park area of the zoo, near to the African painted dogs. They've settled very well and the enclosure is another fine example of great design, working in close tandem with the needs of the animal.

All in all, it's fair to say, it's a very exciting time within the mammal section at Chester Zoo and I hope you all enjoy admiring each and every one of our species as much as myself and the very skilled and passionate teams enjoy working with them.

Zoo additions

He's only small now
but wait until he **grows up!**

Lead Keeper of Reptiles Karen Entwistle welcomes a baby Parson's chameleon to the collection at Chester Zoo.

Although currently only a few inches long, the species, from Madagascar, is the largest in the world.



Rare bird success story for keepers

After 19 years of trying – keepers have finally masterminded the breeding of an extremely rare parrot.

Three Philippine cockatoo chicks are currently being hand-reared by keepers after hatching in the zoo's incubators a week ago.



The rearing of these rare birds marks a first for the zoo and they are receiving round-the-clock care in their precious early days.

Also known as the red vented cockatoo, the species is critically endangered in the wild due to a combination of illegal trapping for the pet trade and habitat loss.

But Chester Zoo supports conservation programmes for the species in its natural home and works closely with organisations in the Philippines. These efforts have seen numbers increase over recent years but the species remains under threat.

I know I risk the wrath of my wife in saying this, but after 19 years of trying, breeding these birds is honestly just as exciting as my wedding day and the birth of my son.

“The species has a very aggressive nature and that makes successful breeding a very rare occurrence. That’s why this is incredibly significant for their conservation.

“We have been trying to persuade them to breed since the first birds arrived at the zoo in 1992. During this time there has been a programme of dietary and environmental review, which has helped us make changes to how we look after them, ultimately resulting in this success.

“It has been a long burning ambition of mine and I just can’t stop smiling.

“It is so important that a secure safety net population of this species is established in zoos.”

“The three hatchlings look little like tiny dinosaurs at the moment. But they are being hand reared at the moment and if things go well they will soon grow into replicas of their proud parents.”

Andy Woolham Team Manager of Parrots and Penguins

ACT FOR WILDLIFE

MEMBERS TALK

9th NOVEMBER, 7.30pm LECTURE THEATRE

Act for Wildlife, was launched in June this year to help showcase and raise funds for conservation projects in the wild. Led by Chester Zoo, Act for Wildlife features five flagship projects that all need our support but which one has your vote? This unique Members Talk will give you the chance to find out more about all five of the Act for Wildlife projects and at the end vote for which one you think should receive the proceeds from money raised on the evening.

Presenting the projects is the Act for Wildlife team:

UK Wildlife –

presented by Sarah Bird, Biodiversity Officer.

Sarah manages our Native Species Programme and works on a range of projects in the North West of England and North Wales.

Mauritius –

presented by Maggie Esson, Education Programmes Manager.

Our involvement with conservation in Mauritius has involved zoo staff from a number of departments including hand-rearing staff, horticulture and education. Maggie has led the development of education initiatives on Mauritius.

Bornean orangutans –

presented by Cat Barton, Assistant Conservation Officer.

Cat is involved in developing sustainable palm oil links between the zoo and our partners in Borneo, palm oil being the major current threat to orangutans.

Black rhinos – presented by Scott Wilson, Conservation Officer.

Scott works with rangers from the Maasailand Preservation Trust on the Chyulu Hills rhino project in Kenya, helping with data management and spatial mapping.

Asian elephants – presented by Alex Zimmermann, Senior Conservation Scientist. Alex is project leader on our Asian elephant programme and has developed the Assam Haathi Project, working to reduce human-elephant conflict in Assam, India.

But which one will convince you that their project is best? And which project will benefit from the proceeds of the evening? There's really only one way to find out ... Act Now and join us for this one-off event.

Plus, you'll get a chance to be amongst the first to see footage from the projects for our Christmas campaign.

100% of donations made through Act for Wildlife fund conservation projects in the wild, and this Members Talk will be no different. So make sure your favourite project is victorious and join us.

Members Talks are usually free to Members & zoo staff and £3.50 for guests. For this talk we would kindly ask that Members and staff also make a discretionary donation towards Act for Wildlife. We strongly recommend booking in advance by calling Kate Brankin on 01244 389444 or emailing k.brankin@chesterzoo.org

Visit the website now for more information and to sponsor a project

www.actforwildlife.org.uk

Zoo additions



Zoo welcomes critically endangered Annam leaf turtles

Keeper Matt Cook is pictured with two baby Annam leaf turtles.

The youngsters, two of five to hatch in recent weeks, weighed just seven grammes each when they were first born. The critically endangered species is now scarcely seen in its native Vietnam, largely due to its over-harvesting as a luxury food item and use in traditional Chinese medicines.

Staff go Wild

The last few months have been busy for the Assam Haathi Project team working on our Asian Elephant Programme.



Assam, India

Elephant Keeper **Emma Evison** travelled to the Assam Haathi Project (AHP) in India to carry out the field work element of her MSc study. Emma surveyed the villages which the AHP team monitor for human-elephant conflict. The survey investigated the thoughts and experiences of villagers on the methods used to reduce human-elephant conflict.



Sumatra

The **Assam Haathi Project team** in India carried out an exchange visit to the fellow Darwin Initiative funded project in Sumatra. Both projects are working on human-elephant conflict and the exchange has helped develop the partnership between the two projects, this being the second exchange. The first exchange took place in December 2010 with the Sumatra team visiting Assam and the two main field sites in Sonitpur and Goalpara. The teams were able to share ideas, mitigation techniques, discuss problems and share experiences which will benefit both the Assam and Sumatran project.

UK

Nandita Hazarika, from our partner organisation in Assam EcoSystems India visited Chester to meet up with the UK based team. Now half way through the second project phase, the team were discussing future expansion plans and developments including additional education components which are being developed by Chester Zoo staff.



Borneo

Earlier this year, **Steve Unwin (Veterinary Officer)**, **Andrea Fidgett (Nutritionist)** and **Alison Kelsall (Senior Vet Nurse)** visited HUTAN's KOCP project. Here Steve and Andrea speak of their experiences in Borneo.

Tell us about your trip – what was the purpose of your visit to Borneo?

Steve: On behalf of the Orangutan Conservancy, who funded the majority of our trip, I organised an orangutan veterinary workshop on Java, Indonesia, and we provided technical assistance to some orangutan rehabilitation centres on Borneo. This included disease risk analysis for release programmes (Steve), nutrition (Andrea) and practical skills like taking radiographs and anaesthetic darting (Alison).

What were your first impressions of Sabah?

Andrea: The overwhelming take home message for me was the extent of the palm oil situation. On the 2 hour drive from the airport to our homestay in Sukau, palm oil trees stretched as far as you could see. Every road sign we passed was for a plantation.

Steve: I was lucky enough to visit the project in 2007. The palm oil issue was bad then, but what shocked me this time was the speed at which the problem had progressed.

Andrea: You can be shown pictures of palm oil plantations and people can explain the problem to you, but I only comprehend the scale by seeing it myself.

Did you manage to see any wild orangutans while you were there?

Andrea: We took a river boat trip and thought we'd have to trek through rainforest for hours to find orangutans. To our amazement, when we arrived, our guide had been informed of a sighting and within 10 minutes of getting off the boat and walking through the rainforest we spotted a guide pointing up at an orangutan!

Steve: We didn't have to walk for long at all. This is one of the problems with the palm oil situation – in some areas the thickest area of rainforest from the Kinabatangan River until you reach a palm oil plantation can be less than 2km, although in other areas it can be more. We were informed that recent research had found the home range size of orangutans is actually reducing in size. The orangutans are changing their behaviour to fit in with the changing landscape.

What was the most memorable moment?

Andrea: Ahabam from the KOCP took us to where a reforestation project is taking place and we planted a sapling in the rainforest. It was a small gesture, but I have to believe these small gestures add up and contribute to something bigger. Slightly further along the river we passed trees which had been planted seven years ago that are now 8-10m high. HUTAN spends extra funds on maintenance and protection of saplings in the first three years after planting to ensure its survival. So hopefully in seven years time, our trees will have contributed to the ecosystem.

Steve: Ditto – but another great moment was a visit to the Gomantong Cave System, 10 minutes from Sukau. This was a fantastic experience. The caves are full of birds and bats and the floor in the centre of the cave was alive with a carpet of cockroaches. There were wooden walk ways and hand rails to guide you through the caves, but you daren't touch the hand rails – they were completely covered in cockroaches and guano (the excrement of birds and bats).

What impressed you the most?

Andrea: The HUTAN-KOCP team's dedication. The conditions they have to work in, particularly in the wet season are unbelievable. The team trek through the rainforest, often spending all day wading through water chest high after the river overflows its banks. And there's always the chance of encountering crocodiles in these rivers! Yet the team are so dedicated to their work they get on with it, camping over night in hammocks in trees and dealing with the leeches.

Steve: It was a privilege to be able to witness the dedication of the HUTAN-KOCP team and see what they do on a day to day basis. They're not just enthusiastic about conservation, but proud of their heritage and culture. Their dedication is testament to HUTAN and the directors Marc and Isabelle. Things will only change for the better by involving the local people, as HUTAN has. I'm incredibly proud that Chester Zoo supports people like this.

See page 15 for a Staff Go Wild Special featuring Sustainable Palm Oil ...

Steve, Alison and the team orangutan spotting

Autumn 2011

Animal Fun!

Kidz

See Inside...
KIDS' PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

ZOO!

PRIZE TO
BE WON
WHICH
**BIG
CATS?**

Steve, Alison and the team oranugtan spotting

Junior Members

JUNIOR MEMBERS' PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2011

HILBRE ISLAND

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 17/18 SEPTEMBER 2011

(Tide times dependent)

This will be a real treat for those who have not previously visited Hilbre Island in the Dee Estuary – and also for those 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. We hope to see a wide array of sea birds and other coastal life.

Over eights are invited to join us, bringing a picnic and suitable clothes for the seaside! Leaving at c.9.30am – returning at 5.00pm. Exact details to be confirmed.

TATTON PARK & HOME FARM

SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER 2011

We have not visited Tatton Park and the Home Farm for a couple of years, and we felt it was well worth returning to this year. We'll start the day with a visit to the Home Farm where we'll find out how the farm used to work many years ago when Tatton Hall was a family residence. Then out into the park to identify some of the different deer species that reside there.

Eights and over should be ready to leave the staff car park at 10.00am and we will return for 4.30pm, please bring a picnic with you.

THE WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST, MARTIN MERE

SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2011

November is a brilliant time to visit Martin Mere as we should see the migratory geese and swans as they pass through this lovely haven. It can be quite chilly at that time of year so dress warmly to see this fantastic sight.

We'll be leaving the staff car park at 10.30am and will return at 4.00pm. Eights and over welcome.

THE JUNIORS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER 2011

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

The venue will be the zoo's Ark Restaurant and access can be gained through the Cedar House Staff Entrance on Caughall Road, which is the second staff entrance on the left going from the Upton lights. You should arrive at 7.00pm, with a cushion and a torch, and parents should arrange to collect you from Arara Lodge at 9.45pm.

Please Note:

Bookings must be made for all of the regular monthly Junior 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 Z Magazine and not by individual letter, so please keep up-to-date by reading the Junior 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.



Sustainable Palm Oil

By **Cat Barton**, Assistant Conservation Officer

Many of you may have heard the words 'palm oil' muttered in conservation circles, on wildlife documentaries and even in supermarkets. But are people really aware of how it is used, the issues surrounding it and what is being done to tackle the problem?



Pictures courtesy of HUTAN-KOCP

Palm oil comes from the fruit of the oil palm plant. Native to West Africa it was introduced to Indonesia and Malaysia in the early 1900s. It is an edible oil used in the production of food products such as cake, chocolate and margarine, and also in many cosmetics and cleaning products.

Despite all the negative press which surrounds palm oil, it is the most productive type of all edible oil plants. But what do we really mean by this? Well oil palm plants produce 5-10 times more oil per acre than other edible oils. This means that palm oil has the potential to be a more environmentally friendly oil than others if grown in the right way. Indonesia and Malaysia produce the majority of the world's palm oil, and this industry forms an important part of the economy in these countries which struggle with poverty.

The problem with palm oil is this: **primary rainforests are being destroyed to accommodate oil palm plantations.**

In Borneo and Sumatra, deforestation has left patches of unconnected forest in a sea of oil palm plantations. For species such as orangutans and tigers, isolated forest patches means overcrowding, loss in genetic diversity, sensitivity to natural disasters and human-wildlife conflict. The whole ecosystem is also affected; these high profile species represent only a fraction of the huge range of species found in these highly biodiverse tropical regions. Indigenous communities who depend on the natural resources of the forests and rivers to survive are also affected, and the clearing of forested land and burning of peat soil causes an increase in greenhouse gases, contributing to global warming.

So after all this information is put in front of you... what is the answer?

As a consumer, this is your choice. We believe that a boycott of palm oil is not necessarily the answer. Although this is a choice that many take, demand for palm oil is growing as edible oils are essential for so many products. If palm oil is not used, another crop which is potentially more harmful to biodiversity will just take its place. The more responsible choice is sustainable palm oil.

The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) was set up in 2004 and members include non-government organisations (NGOs) and all sectors of the palm oil industry. The RSPO have strict guidelines and criteria to ensure that the Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO) produced is done so with minimal impact on wildlife, indigenous people and the environment. Guidelines ensure that primary forest of high conservation value is left intact (for more information on the full criteria, visit www.rspo.org). Although some believe the RSPO criteria is still too lenient, it's the best option we have at the moment; but it could be better.

Sustainable palm oil is gradually making its way on to our supermarket shelves. At the moment, there isn't enough sustainable palm oil being produced to cover the annual demand. But there also isn't enough demand for sustainable palm oil from consumers. Currently, there is more sustainable palm oil being produced than is being bought. This is because CSPO is more expensive to purchase – with no demand from consumers, companies are less likely to spend the extra money. If the demand isn't there, it will be left on the shelf.

If this is the more responsible choice, how do we create a demand for it?

There has been some recent success. Palm oil is currently not labelled on food products and the generic term 'vegetable oil' is often used. We joined with the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) to encourage a change in labelling laws. Due to be adopted by the end of the year, it will become mandatory in the EU for manufacturers to label palm oil on food products. This allows us to make a fully informed choice about whether or not we want to purchase products containing palm oil. This is the first step in creating a market for sustainable palm oil.

Creating the demand for CSPO is where you can help.

Write to your local supermarkets and tell them you would like to see more products on the shelves containing sustainable palm oil. If you don't buy a product because it contains palm oil, tell the company that makes it. Many companies have already made public commitments to ensure that all of their palm oil is sourced sustainably by 2015.

What WE do

Chester Zoo is committed to eradicating the use and sale of products from unsustainable sources on site and in particular palm oil. In the field, we support the HUTAN – Kinabatangan Orang-utan Conservation Programme (HUTAN-KOCP) through our Realm of the Red Ape Conservation Programme. HUTAN is a NGO working in Sabah and their work spans many species and conservation issues, from orangutans and elephants to reforestation and human-wildlife conflict. HUTAN works closely with communities, governments and other stake holders including palm oil companies (to a lesser extent), to ensure that we work together to create a market for sustainable palm oil and at the same time protect the ecosystem and the life within it.





Dormouse project NEWS

As part of the North West Dormouse Partnership, we carry out regular Hazel Dormouse monitoring sessions in North Wales and Cheshire. June's field trip found more than 50 dormice. Unusually for the time of year, there were some litters of babies found – this could be due to the warmer weather we saw in April. The research we carry out includes weighing and micro chipping to find out more about the dormice and continue to monitor them in the future. Our staff are heavily involved in these monitoring sessions, including our vets who microchip the mice and our conservation staff who carry out the field work and analyse data. We'll be back out in the field in September and October this year to find out how many young have been born at the two sites.

Richard Hughes

Every year, Chester Zoo runs the Richard Hughes Scholarship; an award to support individuals wishing to undertake activities or projects concerned with elephant management, welfare or conservation. This year, the award was given the Lauren Evans from the University of Cambridge for her PhD project on human-elephant conflict in the Laikipia region of Kenya. Her project is titled: Barriers for conservation? People, elephants and fenced landscapes in Kenya.



Kibale Fuel Wood Project NEWS

Home to the densest primate population in Africa, Kibale National Park in Uganda is sadly being cut down for firewood. Over 95% of the people living around Kibale rely exclusively on wood for cooking and heating – and this wood often came from the national park. We have continued our support for the Kibale Fuel Wood Project which is working to overcome this issue through educating the communities and teaching them to use and make fuel efficient stoves.

At the last survey, 50% of the families surveyed now use fuel efficient stoves which is an increase from 5% at the start of the project. On average, a family using a fuel efficient stove uses 3 kilograms less wood each day than those with traditional stoves.

On top of this, more and more families are also starting to plant their own firewood at home. These fantastic photos illustrate the work that the Kibale Fuel Wood Project is doing.

Native Species Programme

Conservation is as important here in Britain as it is elsewhere around the world. That's why our Native Species Programme is constantly evolving and developing new projects and partners. The North Wales Breeding Bird Atlas is the first full distribution atlas of the breeding birds of North Wales and will contribute to the conservation of birds in the region. We joined forces to support the production of the atlas, and specifically sponsored the Black Guillemot. The River Bollin in Cheshire is 30 miles long, and non-native invasive plants such as Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed are well established along its banks. We supported the 'Big Balsam Bash', an event to help raise awareness of the 'Bollin non-native invasive species project' which is looking to control these invasive species.

FAST FACT: UK Wildlife is one of our Act for Wildlife projects.

Visit www.actforwildlife.org.uk

China Programme

The Sichuan Forest Biodiversity project has been the major component of our China Programme since 2002. Since then, three nature reserves have been established and, following on from the successful management practices developed at these sites, a new fourth reserve was recently added to the project. We are continuing to enhance the network of Protected Areas for forest biodiversity and engage local people in their sustainable management and development.

FAST FACT: The Sichuan region is designated as a 'Biodiversity Hotspot'.

Focus on the Philippines Programme

The Philippines is a major global biodiversity hotspot and our Philippines Programme has grown considerably since it began in 1994. Our support continued this year with the addition of new projects on the islands of Calamian and Camiguin Sur. With over 7000 islands, the geography of the Philippines can be a bit confusing, – to give you a better idea of where we are working we have highlighted the key areas on a map.



- Cebu Biodiversity Conservation Program
- Polillo Islands Biodiversity Protection and Monitoring Project
- Smaller Islands Biodiversity Conservation Programme - Calamian Islands and Camiguin Sur Island
- Philippine Hornbills Conservation Programme – predominately Panay and Negros
- West Visayan Threatened Endemic Species Conservation Programme – Panay, Negros and Cebu



Asian Elephant Programme

Chester Zoo's Assam Haathi Project is a community based approach helping people in Assam, India to live safely alongside elephants. Wild elephants often wander into agricultural areas looking for food, coming into conflict with villagers. Crop-raiding by elephants is costly, particularly for small rural communities – their livelihoods can be destroyed, with both buildings and crops being damaged. Both elephants and people are at risk due to this conflict.

The Assam Haathi Project team have recently published a study highlighting the effectiveness of the methods used against crop raiding elephants. The study found that when using techniques to move elephants away from crops, methods which lack noise are more successful. These include using spotlights to safely direct elephants, to the use of chilli smoke, chilli fences and electric fences. You can read more about the study by Chester Zoo and EcoSystems India in : Davies.T.E, et al (2011) **Effectiveness of intervention methods against crop-raiding elephants**. Conservation Letters 00, 1-9.

FAST FACT: Asian Elephants are the focus of one of our Act for Wildlife projects. Visit www.actforwildlife.org.uk



News on Conservation from around the World

Good

The mandatory labelling of palm oil in food products has recently been adopted by the European Parliament. This success follows months of campaigning by conservation organisations to allow consumers to make the choice of whether or not to purchase a product containing palm oil. Currently a lot of palm oil is included under the generic term 'vegetable oil'.



Bad

A recent study has found that more than 40 species of fish in the Mediterranean could be extinct within a few years. The main threats to fish are overfishing, pollution and habitat degradation. IUCN state that the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna is particularly of concern. Sustainable consumption of fish is one way in which the situation for other species can be improved. The MSC certification on fish products recognise sustainable fishing.



Black Rhino Programme

The current biggest threat to Black Rhinos is the increase in poaching, driven by a growing demand for rhino horn products mainly for use in traditional Asian medicines. Chester Zoo's Black Rhino Programme has been supporting projects for many years in Kenya and Tanzania that are protecting rhinos from illegal poaching. Recently we have supported training in the Laikipia District of Kenya to improve the procedures and techniques used at the scene of rhino-related crimes, which will help lead to more successful prosecution of poachers.

FAST FACT: Black Rhinos are the focus of one of our Act for Wildlife projects. Visit www.actforwildlife.org.uk

Grant Support

Other projects which we've supported during the last quarter include:

- Understanding dispersal and ranging behaviour of male orang-utans in a large, unfragmented habitat, and implications for mating-system mechanics, Indonesia
- Identifying habitat corridors for landscape species such as bush dogs in the Atlantic forest, Argentina
- Protection of the critically endangered Blue-throated Macaw in the Barba Azul Nature Reserve, Bolivia
- A study on the Javan Short-tailed Magpie, looking into the trade of the bird and setting up a conservation breeding programme
- Contribution towards the IUCN Amphibian Survival Alliance which brings together existing projects and organisations to improve amphibian research

Black Rhino Programme © SRI

China Programme (c) Dai Bo - The Laojunshan Nature Reserve





Dinosaurs at Large!

The biggest exhibit in Chester Zoo's history, featuring 13 life-size, animatronic dinosaurs is proving to be a hit.



The exhibition starring the life-like mechanical replicas of the creatures that walked the earth 200 million years ago has a month left to run but it has already proved to be a big hit with visitors.

It is the first time the dinosaurs, from America, have been in the UK and the event features the giant apatosaurus, with its distinctive long neck and whip-like tail; the evil-looking dilophosaurus, with its long, sharp claws, and the infamous tyrannosaurus rex, the most feared land predator of all time.

The exhibition aims to highlight the threat of extinction – showing in no uncertain terms that if humans don't act and get involved in conservation, then many iconic species (like black rhino and orangutans) could follow the plight of the dinosaurs and die out within our children's lifetime.

The exhibition is at the zoo until October 8.

Over the next few pages you can see how the exhibit has come to life.

The cast of Hollyoaks have come face to face with yet another evil character – a 12ft tall dinosaur.



Chester Zoo's dinosaur leaves
Hollyoaks
cast ⁱⁿ raptors!

Alex Fletcher (who plays Diane O'Connor) and **Jessica Fox** (Nancy Hayton) got to grips with the giant raptor – just one of number of dinosaurs that are set to take over Chester Zoo this summer.

Ms Fletcher said:

"Hollyoaks Village has been home to all sorts of wicked characters over the years but I think this must be the scariest of the lot."

While the raptor was visiting the fictional village in Chester, the city will soon be invaded by pre-historic lizards for real – as 13 animatronic dinosaurs prepare to go on display at the zoo.

The new exhibition – **Dinosaurs at Large!** – shows visitors exactly what it would have been like to get up close and personal with such huge creatures.

It will be the first time ever that the robotic dinosaurs from America have appeared in a European zoo. Among them will be the giant apatosaurus – with its distinctive long neck - and the infamous tyrannosaurus rex, the most feared land predator of all time.

The event, which aims to spread the message of extinction, will run from 1st July until 8th October.

WORKING WITH **DINOSAURS**

Dinosaur Keepers start new roles



Chester Zoo's new dinosaur keepers: Jess Thomas (l), Lauren Lochrie (centre) and Rosie Barcas (r)



And the T-reX Factor winners are...

Jess Thomas, Lauren Lochrie and Rosie Barcas.

The trio have been named as the new 'dinosaur keepers' at the zoo.

They beat off competition from a host of other applicants to earn the task of looking after 13 life-size animatronic dinosaurs that feature in the zoo's Dinosaurs at Large! exhibition.

Miss Thomas, a 28-year-old qualified teacher, said: "As occupational hazards go, they don't get much worse than coming face to face with a Tyrannosaurus Rex every day. But, I've had scarier work colleagues and bosses in the past so I'm sure I'll be able to handle it!"

As well as being on-hand to teach visitors all about the pre-historic creatures, the dinosaur keepers are tasked with performing regular 'health' checks on them.

Miss Thomas added: "I suppose, in terms of caring for them, it's a little bit like being a keeper of most of the other animals here. The biggest difference is, we feed our dinosaurs compressed air rather than fruit, veg and meat!"

The job advert, placed on websites and in job centres last month, said the successful applicants 'must know their Stegosaurus from their Diplodocus' and 'must not be scared of big, sharp teeth'.

The positions attracted a 'significant number of applicants', including many from children.

Stephen McKeown, the zoo's Head of Discovery and Learning, was part of the recruitment team. He said: "We're pretty sure it's the first time anyone has advertised for Dinosaur Keepers and so the interest came from far and wide and from people of all ages. You could say these jobs have been 65 million years in the making, so the girls that have deservedly got them are unsurprisingly, very excited!"

Miss Lochrie, from Clydebank in Scotland, said she decided to try out for the job after suggestions from her friends that she would be perfect.

"When the job was first advertised I got home to lots of emails and messages from my friends who said that I should go for it. I think they thought of me because they all know that I love animals, love zoos and just love Jurassic Park.

"I applied straight away; got the job and now I feel like I'm actually in the film. It's amazing!"

Dinosaurs at Large! is open from now until 8th October and entry is free with normal zoo admission.

Olympic Gold medal-winning cyclist Chris Boardman is backing Chester Zoo's bid to get people in the saddle.

The zoo is rewarding all those who arrive by bicycle with 15% off the price of admission in its attempt to get its visitors to go green.

Boardman, who famously took Britain's opening Gold medal at the 1992 Barcelona games, said:

"The zoo is making a real effort to encourage people to get healthy, go green and cycle in to see the animals over the summer. So I hope as many people as possible start pedalling and take advantage of the offers."

Highlighting the financial, physical and environmental benefits of cycling, the winner of three stages of the Tour de France added:

"Cycling more often makes sense for so many reasons. It is good for your wallet. Bicycles require no road tax, no MOT, no insurance, no licensing, no breakdown recovery services and above all, no fuel bills. It's good for you physically – in fact, cyclists enjoy a fitness level equal to that of a person ten years younger. And it's good for your world, because making a bicycle requires only a fraction of the materials and energy needed to make a car and once they're up and running, they produce absolutely no pollution at all."

The zoo is now preparing for what it hopes will be an influx of cyclists.

Kim Halliday, Green Travel Officer at Chester Zoo said:

"We have cycle racks in place at our entrances and have colour-coded maps, to enable people to plan the best and safest cycle-route for them, available for download on our website. All this is designed to make it really easy for people to choose to cycle to us."

For more information or to download a voucher, visit: www.chester-zoo.org/plan-your-visit/how-to-get-here/bike



UK adults believe children are more interested in technology than the natural world!

A poll conducted for a new conservation campaign, **Act for Wildlife**, showed that 67% of UK adults believe the average 10-year-old has more interest in technology than wildlife.

But although the overwhelming majority of UK adults – 94% – feel conservation is important, only a small percentage help the cause (15%).

Dr Mark Pilgrim, Director General of Chester Zoo, the organisation behind Act for Wildlife, said the survey proved that there were many 'armchair conservationists.'

"The survey is a somewhat depressing summary of the world today – that the majority, although they believe conservation is important, are actually far more interested in gadgets."

"But while we are playing with games or chatting to our friends online, somewhere in the world at the same time, a rhino is being poached for its horn or a species is facing the battle for survival in its own territory."

"Act for Wildlife is unique in that we have married the best technological advances with positive action for conservation to create a ground-breaking online community that is taking positive action. Armchair conservationists can now actually make a real difference using the technology that so fascinates them and without having to sacrifice their interests."

Act for Wildlife, who has television wildlife presenter and veterinary surgeon Steve Leonard as a patron, will support five major projects for orangutans, Asian elephants, black rhinos, threatened birds and UK wildlife.

Act for Wildlife will be run entirely online and supporters who donate to the projects will be able to engage with them, getting updates from the projects and meeting the people working directly at the heart of conservation. Blogs from the field and videos will provide a behind-the-scenes look at what is being achieved.

Dr Pilgrim added: "We're passionate about protecting all wildlife, now and in to the future. For the first time, through this unique venture, we are able to connect the zoo's work and the people that support it through social networks. What's more, the funds that are raised through Act for Wildlife go straight to the projects. There are no hidden administrative costs – every penny raised is a penny for conservation."

"Funds that go into Act for Wildlife will give people the skills and resources to protect their animals and plants and make sure they can continue the zoo's conservation work in the long term. With updates from the field people will be able to see where their money is going and the real difference it is making."

Act for Wildlife will enable field workers to tell their story in their own words – but also enable the 'armchair conservationists' to do their bit. Every penny raised will go directly into the conservation work.

Michelle Duma, project manager for Act for Wildlife, said: "You don't have to be a game ranger in Africa to help protect black rhinos. You don't have to be a community outreach worker in Assam to help communities cope with elephants raiding crops. People can make a difference to conservation from wherever they are."

"Act for Wildlife and its supporters will bring together a community of people whose support will help us to provide these things and more to tackle the real needs of conservation."

Steve Leonard said Act for Wildlife was a great way for people to get involved with 'on the ground' conservation.

He added: "You can really see where your much needed money is going and monitor the progress of these interesting projects as they help animals and people in peril."

www.actforwildlife.org.uk

Chester Zoo attains top marks in prestigious 'Which?' survey

Ratings revealed for top 20 UK tourist attractions

Chester Zoo has attained top marks in a new survey compiled by consumer champion magazine, 'Which?'

Of the UK's most-visited sights that charge for admission, the zoo was rated as the public's favourite, receiving the highest customer score.

The Which? survey asked 3,001 members of the public for their views on the UK tourist attractions they visited between May 2009 and May 2011.

And the zoo achieved high marks with a score of 78%, based on overall satisfaction and the likelihood to recommend to friends and family.

The report rated the UK's largest zoo highly for its 'range and quality of facilities, along with the entertainment and engagement offered'.

Barbara Smith, Managing Director at Chester Zoo said:

"Families come to us for a great value day out, all year round and we're delighted the zoo has been recognised in this way.

"We've built lots of immersive exhibits, placing visitors really close to the animals and we regularly stage different events to create a highly entertaining, fun and educational experience for all of our visitors.

"Since the Which? survey has been concluded, we've also completely refurbished and re-themed our restaurants and food outlets to bring visitors a tastier food offering, in much more authentic and vibrant surroundings.

"And we've unveiled the biggest exhibition in the zoo's history – Dinosaurus at Large! – bringing over 13 animatronic dinosaurs from the States in another UK-zoo first!"

The survey said the average time spent at the zoo was five hours with the average cost per hour being £3.40 – less than any other paid for attraction in the top 20 of the UK's 20 most-visited.

Ms Smith added:

"With over 7,000 animals to see across 110 acres of beautiful, landscaped gardens, Chester Zoo will certainly keep you busy for the whole day.

"And we offer great value for money, providing free parking alongside our very competitive ticket prices."

Ms Smith also revealed the zoo plans to continue to improve its offering.

"Chester Zoo, like all forward-thinking organisations, is always evolving and offering new, bigger and better experiences for visitors.

"We're always striving to give our visitors more and more and we hope to share plans for other exciting developments in the not too distant future."

Chester Zoo is now home to two more rhinos – thanks to a local businessman



However the rhinos aren't real, living, breathing mammals; they are both made of fibreglass.

Andrew Donaldson, owner of the community-focused self-storage company BiG Storage, picked up the pair at the auction that followed last year's Rhino Mania city-wide art project.

But despite having plenty of room in which to keep them, he has decided the best place for them is at nearby Chester Zoo.

Mr Donaldson said: "I think this must be the first time a businessperson has given a rhino to a zoo! But it's great to see them back out in the public domain where everyone can enjoy them."

The pair can be seen on the first roundabout off the A41, on the approach in to the zoo's main entrance.



The history of Chester Zoo was on the menu as the daughter of the zoo's founder unveiled a new restaurant in her honour.

June Williams, from Upton, was joined by husband Fred as she marked her 85th birthday by opening June's Pavilion.

June and Fred are credited with the development of the zoo and have a long and rich history which saw the pair build many new developments over time, including the existing aquarium and original cafeterias. It was June's father George Mottershead who originally founded the zoo, which marks its 80th anniversary this year.

June's Pavilion has taken the place of the Ark Restaurant and has been redesigned and the menu refreshed to bring the restaurant into a new era. The zoo's rich history is reflected in the restaurant which features prints from over the years taken from June's own collection of photographs.

A delighted June, who was joined by her family and close friends to mark the occasion, said: "The zoo has had a number of milk bars and cafeterias over the years. I am thrilled that the zoo has celebrated its history in this way and this is a real honour for me."

The zoo joined forces with Heathcotes Outside, which was set up in 1997 by Michelin-starred chef Paul Heathcote MBE and Managing Director Gary Bates, on the June's Pavilion project. The existing Café Tsavo is also going through a

transformation and will be renamed Café Bembe, Swahili for Feast.

Barbara Smith, Managing Director, said "We are very proud of its heritage. We know that we need to continue to move with the times and that our visitors are looking for great, nutritious food. June's Pavilion blends the best of these worlds together. With an outstanding new menu and décor that reflects our long and proud history, June's is proving to be a big hit."

Paul Heathcote said Chester Zoo was going through exciting times.

He added: "There has been much work done already on the food concepts and restaurants and much more to be progressed. The Zoo's ambition is to be amongst the best in the world and we intend to help guide the food offering on the same track."

fundRAISING



Taking place on September 25 at 8.30am, Run for the Wild is our 5k family fun run event, taking runners and walkers through the grounds of the zoo and helping us to raise vital funds for field conservation around the globe.

In Nigeria's Gashaka Gumti National Park Chester Zoo provides core support for the Gashaka Primate Project (GPP).

All the money that you raise for Run for the Wild will be used directly in the wild to help fund this vital conservation work, including supporting work with the Nigerian chimpanzee.

More information about the project can be found on the zoo's website at www.chesterzoo.org/run

Event entry fee is £10 for adults and £5 for children. Participants pledge to raise a minimum sponsorship amount of £20 per adult and £10 per child. Bring your sponsorship money with you on the day or send it to us before the end of October 2011 and adults will receive a complimentary ticket to visit the zoo, whilst the children will get their very own cuddly animal toy.

Register online now at www.chesterzoo.org/run or call the zoo's Guest Services Team on 01244 650240. Places are limited so book yours now and help us FUNdraise for conservation.

CHESTER ZOO

100 Club

The winners of the prize draws held recently were:

April 2011

Mrs Catherine McGarva, Chester	£100
Mrs Vanessa Hewitt, Frodsham	£100
Mr Garry Wynne, Norley	£50
Miss Julie Warner, Chester	£50

May 2011

Ms Judith Irving, Wirral	£100
Mrs Millie Minnis, Wirral	£100
Mr Barrie Moreton, Cheadle	£50
Ms Elizabeth Trent, Merseyside	£50
Mr David Rockall, Chester	£50
Mrs Diana Armstrong, Cheshire	£50

June 2011

Mr Paul Sutherland, Northwich	£300
Mr John Birch, Runcorn	£100
Ms Lauren Davies, Flintshire	£50
Mrs L A Parsons, Liverpool	£50
Mr Robert Barnard, Liverpool	£50

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 650229.

ASDA bakers donate lots of dough to Chester Zoo

Members and Adopters may remember that Asda helped us create the big viewing window for our tiger enclosure some years ago to celebrate the launch of their new Tiger Bread products. This year they've decided to help out again!

Local Asda stores in Chester and Ellesmere Port have helped secure a massive donation after persuading the head office bakery team to pledge £40,000 to the Chester Zoo tiger enclosure to celebrate 10 years of the supermarket's famous *Tiger Bread*. The donation is being used to create a new viewing platform for our Sumatran tigers *Fabi*, four and *Kirana*, five which will enable visitors to see more of them.

Melanie Cowieson, Development Manager at Chester Zoo, said: "Asda have always been very supportive of the zoo's tigers,

providing funding for the viewing window at the enclosure, and we're delighted that they are marking their 10th anniversary in this way. *Fabi's* and *Kirana's* feeding times especially will be fabulous for our visitors who will be able to see our tigers from a whole new perspective."

James Burrows, Asda store bread buyer, added: "*Tiger Bread* has always been one of our most popular loafs and given our past relationship with Chester Zoo, we were delighted to be able to once again support the fantastic conservation work done by the zoo to help these magnificent creatures. Many of our customers in the region and beyond visit the zoo each year so we hope they will also reap the benefit of this work when it is completed."

Work will start on the new viewing platform late summer and it will be completed in the autumn.



Have you been putting off making a will?

Take part in Chester Zoo's Make a Will Week, 26th to 30th September 2011

Our Make a Will week is a great opportunity to do what you've been putting off but know needs to be done. It's uncomfortable that it's not something you may want to think about, but making or updating your will is the only way to protect your loved ones and the income you hold dear.

Our participating solicitors have kindly agreed to give their time to provide a free

standard will for Chester Zoo supporters. This now asks that the will maker intends to make a donation to Chester Zoo (registered charity 306077) when attending the appointment.

See list of participating solicitors online. To take part simply call a solicitor from the list, mention Chester Zoo's Make a Will week and make an appointment between 26th and 30th September 2011.

For more information visit www.chesterzoo.org/makeawill or contact Lynsey Jones on 01244 650229 or by emailing ljones@chesterzoo.org

Get your Will written for free with the zoo's Make a Will Week

Within this issue you should find a leaflet on Chester Zoo's Make a Will Week event, which gives our supporters a chance to make their Will. From 26th to 30th September, our participating solicitors have kindly agreed to give their time to provide a free standard Will for our supporters. The zoo asks that the will-maker intends to make a donation to Chester Zoo (registered charity 306077) when attending the appointment. For more information and a list of participating solicitors please visit www.chesterzoo.org/makeawill or contact Lynsey Jones on 01244 650292.



Your Legacy Their Future



Trainees
are the future



The zoo is hosting two Heritage Lottery Funded 'Skills for the Future' trainee posts, in partnership with Cheshire Wildlife Trust and Record. These Biodiversity Trainee positions provide an opportunity for graduates to gain that all-important first step into a career in conservation, through direct work experience.

The scheme gives participants a diverse taster of work in the environmental sector, and the multi-organisational placement covers known skills gaps within the industry. Trainees are also encouraged to guide their training towards their own personal interests and career goals. Skills, such as species identification, are covered by working with expert botanists and invertebrate specialists. Environmental education is undertaken with the zoo and Cheshire Wildlife Trust and work with Record enables trainees to get to grips with industry-standard survey methods and data handling. There are also opportunities to work with protected species such as dormice and to assist with practical habitat management activities and conservation projects.

Matt Allmark, who joined the scheme this summer on a twelve month placement is pleased with the variety of training provided. Matt said: "Environmental education and interpretation play a large role in the conservation efforts of many charities and the chance to work with such knowledgeable and high level organisations is an amazing and valuable experience to take from the placement."

The scheme will be inviting applications for the 2012 placements in autumn 2011. Please keep checking the websites of Chester Zoo (www.chesterzoo.org) and Cheshire Wildlife Trust (www.cheshirewildlifetrust.co.uk) for further details.

Pictured: left to right: Sara Hilton (HLF), Trainee Matt Allmark, Ellie Larkham (CWT), Trainee Aisa Irvine, Sarah Bird (Zoo) and Nick Herepath (HLF) on a visit to the Bontuchel dormouse site.

Chester Zoo Raffle 2011

We have a variety of exciting prizes up for grabs! Many of which have been kindly donated by local businesses.

Prizes include:

- 1st Prize:
Meerkat Encounter at Chester Zoo*
 - 2nd Prize:
2 weeks family membership to Hoole Club and Spa*
 - 3rd Prize:
Penguin Encounter at Chester Zoo*
 - 4th Prize:
Round of golf for 4 people on any Carden Park course*
- plus many more prizes on offer

A booklet of 5 raffle tickets has been inserted into this issue if you wish to purchase. Tickets are £1 each.

Please contact 01244 650229 if you would like more tickets to sell on to family and friends. To buy tickets please fill in the counterfoil and post along with the cash/cheque to:
**Development Office,
Chester Zoo, Caughall Road,
Chester, CH2 1LH**
Please return any unsold books to the address above or hand in at the membership/adoptions cabin next time you visit the zoo.

**Visit our website for full list of prizes plus terms and conditions (Please note that no tickets can be sold to or by anyone under 16 years of age)*

EAZA APE CAMPAIGN

Cat Barton, Assistant Conservation Officer

Every year, the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) run a campaign which focuses on a specific species, region or conservation issue. This year it was the turn of the apes. As the 2011 EAZA Ape Campaign draws to a close in September, we highlight the success of Chester Zoo's involvement in the campaign.

The year kicked off with a target of reaching €9999. This is no easy task and our staff had fun exercising their brains for innovative ideas to raise awareness and funds. Here are some of our highlights from the campaign:

Orangutan Evening showed the emotional rollercoaster film 'Green' and presentations around the issues of palm oil and orangutan conservation.

Our hugely popular **Ape Week** family event included orangutan talks, ape games, artefact touch tables, face-painting and stalls.

Several Chester Zoo staff ran the **BUPA Manchester 10km Run** as keepers and gorillas in May (who's in the gorilla suits? Turn to page 26 to find out!)



Staff dug out their costumes for the primate team's **70's fundraising disco**.

Our orangutans and chimpanzees even got involved, creating some incredible, and very popular, painted works of art – some selling for over £100!

Saving apes: frontline conservation brought together inspiring speakers for a day-long event. Topics ranged from ape ecology and behaviour to their protection and conservation.

Hutan's Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Programme, part of our Realm of the Red Ape Programme, was supported by the campaign. Isabelle Lackman from Hutan spoke at an extra FFI event.

Zoo departments battled it out in a **competitive game of bowling** to raise funds.

All in all, the ape campaign this year was a huge success, raising awareness about threatened apes and bringing together inspiring people to spread the word about ape conservation. We are pleased to announce that following this year's campaign activities, we reached (and exceeded!) our target of €9,999 so THANK YOU to all those of you who supported our events and roll on the next campaign!

Talking Conservation!

Autumn Programme 2011

We've had a great series of Members' Talks in 2011 covering a variety of topics including bird conservation in Mauritius, saving species and habitats in China, Tony Fitzjohn's wonderful overview of his forty years in the field in Kenya and Tanzania and Mark Norris looking at how zoos survived world war challenges.

Our Autumn Programme is set to be just as informative and diverse and we hope you can join us as we bring you up to date with what goes on behind the scenes at the Zoo, our plans for the future and, of course, our conservation work in the UK and overseas.

Members' Talks are organised especially for you as part of your members' package.

Tuesday 13th September at 7.30pm
Chester Zoo – Man and Boy
Tim Rowlands

Tim is an Upton boy, born and bred, and his earliest relationship with the zoo was climbing over the fence at night after the zoo was closed. He was an enthusiastic Junior Member and first came to the zoo on YTS (the government sponsored Youth Training Scheme). Tim has seen many changes over the years and as Curator of Mammals is now responsible for the mammal collection at the zoo and is heavily involved in the design of new enclosures. Tim will talk fondly about the 'old days' and bring us right up to date with what's happening now and in the near future with the mammal collection in the zoo.

Tim Rowlands is Curator of Mammals at Chester Zoo



Answer to EAZA Ape Campaign picture question – Who's in the gorilla suits? – Conservation Officer **Scott Wilson**, Conservation Assistant **Yvette Foulds**, Director General **Mark Pilgrim**



One of the principal strategic objectives of Chester Zoo is to link its animal and plant collections to in-situ conservation projects.

In 2009 an article appeared in the BIAZA Lifelines Magazine about the work of REGUA (Reserva Ecologica de Guapi Assu) in the Atlantic Rainforest of Brazil. REGUA receives the majority of its funding from The World Land Trust with the aim of establishing reserves in this region. This valuable ecosystem has suffered severe loss of forest habitat with less than 7% of the original area remaining. This has led to the Atlantic Forest, containing many endemic plants and animals, being considered one of the most endangered eco-regions in the world.

In 2008, BIAZA co-ordinated a campaign for zoos in the UK to raise money to purchase an area of the forest, through REGUA, which would be known as the BIAZA reserve. The REGUA reserve currently comprises of 8,000 hectares of forest while the BIAZA reserve conserves a further 1,800 hectares.

This area of the Mata Atlantica rainforest is renowned for its wealth of orchids which include a large number of Pterothallidinae species. Since 2001 the zoo has acquired a collection of these orchids and now holds over 90% of the UK National Collection, comprising over 2,500 plants. All of the species in this group originate from South America and many are found in the Atlantic Rainforests of Brazil. A large number of these orchid species are threatened in the wild and a number are Critically Endangered.

After reading about the work of REGUA and the WLT, Mark Sparrow was inspired to contact them to see if Chester Zoo could become involved in this work and in March 2010 he spent 10 days in Brazil, 7 of those in the rainforest. Mark was astounded by the wealth of plant and animal species in the area. Over 650 species of orchids from 110 genera have been recorded in the Atlantic Rainforest, a quarter of all species occurring in Brazil, in less than 1% of the area of the country's surface.

Chester Zoo has now committed money to a three year project to re-establish the wetland habitat in this area, which has been virtually eliminated due to cattle ranching. It is hoped that further staff can visit the project to assist with practical conservation activities.

A consequence of the contacts made with the WLT was that the Zoo supplied a number of rare orchids for their Show Garden exhibit at the 2010 Chelsea Flower Show. The garden won a Gold Medal and was the Best in Show in the Continuous Learning category. After the show the exhibit was dismantled and reconstructed in the Tropical Realm at Chester Zoo.

Mark Sparrow is Curator of Horticulture and Botany at Chester Zoo

Tuesday 13th December at 7.30pm
Zoo Christmas Quiz Evening
Maggie Esson and Stephen McKeown

Last year's Members' Christmas quiz night proved so popular that we're doing it again. The format will be similar with electronic voting handsets to register your answers to questions designed to test your knowledge of your zoo – past and present. This time, as a bonus, we're planning on having some 'mystery objects' to add to the excitement! We have lots of prizes for the lucky winners and there will be a Christmas buffet to get you into practice for the festive season.

Maggie Esson is Education Programmes Manager and Stephen McKeown is Head of Division, both in Discovery and Learning.

Members' Talks are held in the Geraldine Russell Lecture Theatre (near the zoo's main entrance off the A41) and are free to members (please bring your membership card and welcome letter). Members of the public and guests are welcome (£3.50 for non-members).

Our Lecture Theatre seats up to 170.

Post-talk refreshments give you the opportunity to have an informal chat with speakers, Zoo staff and fellow members at selected talks, items from our projects overseas may be available.

The Lecture Theatre has its own car park and a bike rack for cyclists.

Please support our Members' Talks which are provided to keep you abreast of developments in the Zoo and its conservation work which your membership supports.

Interested in attending?

Please call Kate in Education

on 01244 389 444

or e-mail k.brarkin@chesterzoo.org to book.



Events at Chester Zoo

Sunday 18th September

Roaring Event with a tour of carnivores

Back by popular demand

Admission into the zoo from 2.00pm (non-members)

5.00pm: Afternoon tea

6.00pm: Tour of selected carnivores

7.00pm: Talk given by Chester Zoo's carnivore team leader Alan Woodward

8.00pm: conclusion

£21.95 (10% discount for members)

Throughout December

Christmas Lunch

Celebrate the festive season in a unique way at Chester Zoo!

Enjoy Christmas lunch in the Oakfield Manor, set within award-winning grounds; this is the perfect setting for Christmas lunch.

Price includes admission into Chester Zoo from 10am.

£28.50 per adult £18.75 per child (under 11 years of age)

£26.95 members

Throughout December

Christmas Parties (private bookings for a minimum of 60 guests)

Christmas party with a difference!

A unique way of celebrating the festive season. Enjoy a delicious three course meal at the Oakfield Manor, set in award-winning grounds and then dance the night away.

Arrival from 7.30pm, disco and bar until midnight.

Minimum numbers – 60

Maximum numbers – 110

£38.75 per person

Sunday 3rd December

Members' Christmas Lunch

Lunch to be served in Oakfield Manor, followed by a talk in Chester Zoo's lecture theatre by Dr Mark Pilgrim, Director General – 'Review of 2011'

Tea/coffee and biscuits to be served in lecture theatre.

Adults £25.00 Children £18.75 (under 11 years of age)

Tuesday 27th December 2011 – Monday 2nd January, 2012

Christmas Afternoon Tea

from 2.30pm – 3.30pm

Adult £18.95 Child £15.95 (under 11 years of age) Members £9.00

Price includes admission into Chester Zoo

Tuesday 27th December 2011 – Monday 2nd January, 2012

Christmas Brunch

from 11am

Adults £22.50 Children £16.50 (under 11 years of age)

Members £20.25

Pre-booking and pre-payment essential

For further details please contact the Events Office on 01244 650209 or email: events@chesterzoo.org



Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH
Tel. 01244 380280 Fax. 01244 371273 Email: info@chesterzoo.co.uk
Web: www.chesterzoo.org

Founded in 1934, the North of England Zoological Society is a registered charity and receives no Government funding. 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

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- What's more, by holding your celebration with us, you will be contributing all profits to our conservation efforts, helping critically endangered animals and their habitats around the world.
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