



The official magazine for  
**Chester Zoo Members and Adopters**

Spring 2009

£2.50



All things bright  
and beautiful

Butterfly Journey opens • Natural Vision plans announced



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## director's pen



Welcome to the first **Z** of 2009 and I hope the year is treating you well so far.

As you will see from the pages of **Z**, we have plenty to talk about with new animals arriving and the opening of Butterfly Journey.

A positive welcome relief from the cold during the winter

months, the new house has brought a colourful slice of tropical life to this corner of Cheshire and is proving to be a big hit with our visitors.

You may also have read in the press and on our website recently ([www.chesterzoo.org](http://www.chesterzoo.org)) of our exciting future expansion plans.

The Natural Vision project, the first phase of which we recently announced, will include the largest biodome in the UK and transform the zoo into a world-class conservation and visitor attraction.

We hope to begin the first phase next year for completion in 2012 but in the meantime we will continue to work with the appropriate agencies and the local communities throughout this process.

This year is the zoo's 75th anniversary and, during that time, there have been many changes. As ever, our dedication will remain to maintaining the highest standards of animal welfare and providing a fun-filled, educational and value for money attraction.

You can read more about our developments within the pages of the magazine and we will, of course, keep you updated through the pages of **Z**.

In the meantime, I wish you all the best for the year ahead.

**Gordon McGregor Reid**  
Director General

### Membership Cards

To help reduce printing costs Membership Cards will no longer include an expiry date. The scanners we use at the main entrance check to see if your membership is valid so there is no longer a need to print an expiry date on the card. If your membership card contains an expiry date you do not need to have it reprinted as the barcode will tell us all the information we need.

### Visiting Other Zoos and Attractions

**Important:** When you visit other zoos/attractions where we have an arrangement for free entry with your Chester Zoo membership card you will now need to take your welcome letter with you as proof of your expiry date.

If you have questions or are worried about any of the changes please contact the membership office on **01244 650208**.

### Keep in touch

Help us contact you more often with the latest news and offers from Chester Zoo. Electronic mail is the simplest and most cost effective way for us to keep you up dated. Supply your email address to make sure you don't miss out!

If you let us know your details by the end of March you will be entered into a free prize draw to win one of three Beastie-in-Box prizes.

You can register your email address online at [www.chesterzoo.org](http://www.chesterzoo.org)

### Members' Discount

Please be aware that, due to decreased profit margins, we are unable to offer members discount on Book or DVD purchases.

Discount is still applicable on all other items with a minimum transaction value of £5.00.

### Beatrice Jones

Chester Zoo has lost, far far too soon, one of its ablest and most loved former Chairmen of Council. Bea died just five days before Christmas after a year bravely suffering the ravages of motor neurone disease. With her passing, somebody has gone from us who was truly unique.

Bea joined the Council in 1986 after many years as an enthusiastic supporter of the Zoo. Petite in stature, grande in intellect, she soon showed herself well capable of the analysis and forward thinking that is needed, making her the obvious choice to succeed Andrew Thomson when he felt it was time to hand over to a younger successor.

Bea became Chairman in 1991 and under her guidance the Zoo continued its ongoing surge forward. Both I and my successor Gordon Reid have much to be deeply grateful to her for.

She played her part with natural dignity, great care and much good humour; and now, far too soon, she has passed away from us.

Dr. Michael Brambell  
Director 1978-1995

# Zoo additions



Big (eventually)  
black (eventually)  
and beautiful

Last September, Chester Zoo joined the ranks of a very privileged few – it became one of only two zoos in Europe to hold the **Boelen's python, *Morelia boeleni***.

This mysterious and extraordinary snake is barely known in the wild and has been bred but a handful of times. Originating from the highlands of New Guinea the black python, as it is also known, thrives in a rather cool and moist environment compared to other pythons. Replicating the correct climate in captivity has proven problematic in the past and may account for the poor reproductive success.

Our two snakes are still very young and small but will one day reach 3m or more. As they grow, their neonatal livery of brick-red turns an incredible iridescent inky-black, starting on the head and spreading gradually down the length of the body. Since their arrival they have been held off-show in quarantine under the strictest of hygiene and close observation. By the time they are 3 years old and 2m long or more, we hope to be displaying them in a purpose built indoor-outdoor enclosure alongside some of New Guinea's other bizarre and spectacular animals, the Birds of Paradise.





White-bellied Go Away Bird



Hamerkop



Rufous-bellied Niltava



Collared Grosbeak



Black and white Laughingthrush

Several new bird species have arrived at the Zoo in recent months including the unusually named **White-bellied Go Away Bird**, a member of the Turaco family and the **Hamerkop**, a strange Heron like bird famous for building a huge nest. Visitors will be able to see both of these birds along with a multitude of other exotic African species in the new Tsavo Bird Safari Walk-through Aviary that is due to be opened later in the year.

Other exciting species are the beautiful **Rufous-bellied Niltava** and **Collared Grosbeak** from South East Asia and the **Black and white Laughingthrush**, a very rare species from the mountain forests of Sumatra in Indonesia and one that Chester Zoo bird staff will hold the Studbook for in order to manage the captive population.

# Zoo additions

Speed dating  
may well be the  
perfect way to find  
the love of your life

... but it's not just humans who are finding that a short time spent getting to know each other can lead to a blossoming romance.

It would seem that speed dating is also paying dividends for some feathered friends at Chester Zoo.

The zoo has been running its own dating agency for Ecuadorian Amazon Parrots to help them in the mating game.

The birds were not reproducing well until the zoo decided to play cupid. Amazon parrots from throughout the UK and Europe are now brought into the Zoo's Rare Parrot Breeding Centre where they set up home together.

Andrew Woolham, Team Leader for Parrots and Penguins, explains:

Being a thoroughly modern zoo, we put the parrots together and give them time to get to know each other and then select their own partner.

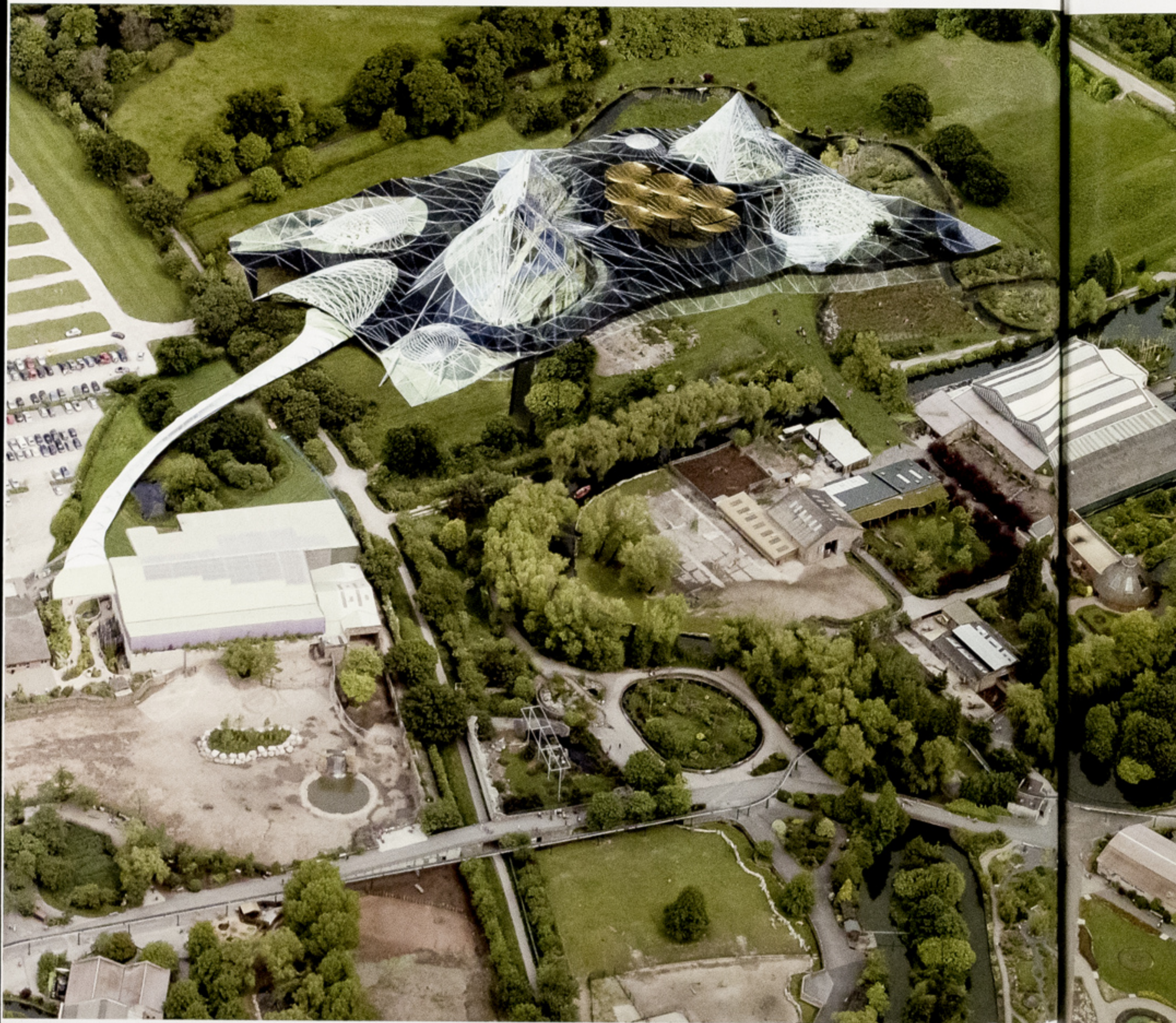
"The pair will eventually bond by preening and spending all their time together. Once they are officially an item, we can send them on to other collections to start their new life together and hopefully they will breed."

So far, the parrots have been sent to zoos and wildlife parks in France, Germany and Portugal.



A baby Sitatunga and two Gemsboks have also been born.  
The Gemsboks were both sired by Casper who was born at Whipsnade in 2003.

It's a natural vision...



An ambitious £225 million plan that will transform the Zoo into the largest conservation, animal and leisure attraction of its kind in Europe has been unveiled.

The project – given the working title Natural Vision – will involve a £90 million first phase which will include the only domed ecosystem in the UK.

Called *Heart of Africa*, the bio-dome will be an African rainforest-themed sanctuary for a band of Gorillas, a large troop of chimpanzees, Okapi (rare giraffe-like creatures), and a wide variety of tropical birds, amphibians, reptiles, fishes and invertebrates, moving freely among lush vegetation.

The first phase – planning permission for which will be sought later this year – will also include a 90-bed hotel, a Conservation College, a key element of which is the *Futures* education centre, and a revamped main entrance linking to a marina development on zoo land beside the Shropshire Union Canal.

The rest of the Natural Vision project will be completed by 2018, thus creating one of the largest wildlife attractions in the world and providing a major boost to the Northwest economy. This will showcase and financially support the Zoo's national and international conservation work, which already spans 50 countries.

Chester Zoo – which celebrates its 75th anniversary in May – already welcomes 1.3 million visitors a year, more than any other zoo in the UK. It is expected that number will increase to 1.6 million on completion of the first phase and 2 million visitors per year on completion of the full project.

Building on an already large regional economic impact, hundreds of jobs will be created both during the construction of the project and on completion.

Prof Gordon McGregor Reid, Director General, said:

*Natural Vision will offer a fun, family-friendly, adventurous, yet educational window on the world of conservation.*

*"We already actively support and run conservation, science and veterinary projects in all corners of the globe but the increased visitor footfall from this new project will dramatically increase what we are able to do and fund out in the field.*

*"New and exciting animal species will be introduced. This project is unlike anything that has been in the UK and will offer a spectacular visitor experience and the highest standards of animal welfare.*

*"Our intention now is to move forward to the planning stage and we will be working closely with Government agencies and our neighbouring communities during this process."*

The *Heart of Africa* bio-dome will include a series of connected domes which can be explored through a jungle canopy. An interactive water ride will provide unrivalled views of the animal enclosures and themed retail and dining facilities will be incorporated.

The Zoo currently occupies 50 hectares of land but owns a further 200. The completed Natural Vision project will cover 80 hectares including new access roads and parking.

The project is the culmination of years of planning and design and is being carried out in conjunction with a number of agencies, notably including the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) which has provided funding to enable the project to progress to the planning stage.

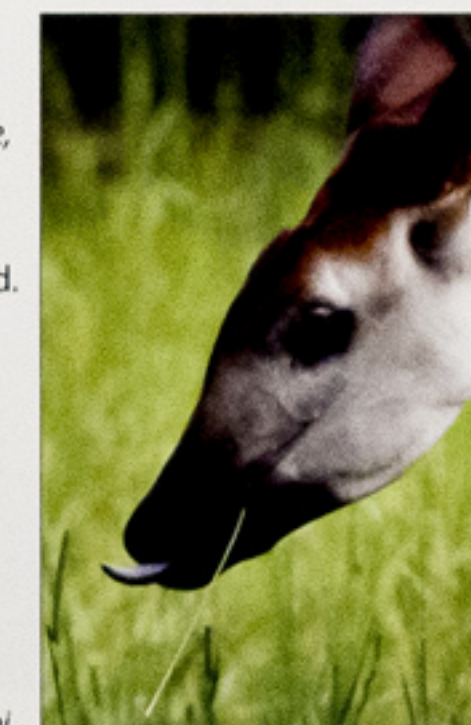
James Berresford, Director of Tourism at the NWDA, said:

*"Chester Zoo is already a highly successful regional attraction and the ambitious Natural Vision project will transform it into a visitor experience of national and international importance.*

*"The Zoo has the potential to become a flagship visitor attraction for the Northwest, improving perceptions of the region and boosting inbound tourism. The NWDA is pleased to have been able to assist in the development of these plans, which provide a robust starting point for this exciting development."* Prof Reid added that the ultimate aim was to transform Chester Zoo into the wildlife attraction of choice in the UK and Europe.

*"As well as the overall impact on conservation worldwide, here in the North West, there will be a major increase in job creation and security and a positive impact on the regional economy.*

*"Our visitors will be immersed in the world of wildlife where we will engage, inform educate and amaze them in a truly thrilling and unique environment,"* he said.



Okapi



# Butterfly Journey



Three years after its original conception, Chester Zoo is delighted to have finally opened the doors to **Butterfly Journey**, the Zoo's new walkthrough butterfly exhibit.

By Adam Prince and Heather Richardson

This latest attraction is the largest zoo-based butterfly house in the UK and is home to several hundred butterflies of more than 30 of the world's most impressive and colourful species. From a keeper's perspective, we can certainly think of worse places to spend the day but it was no easy task achieving and now maintaining this slice of tropical paradise.

The final few months prior to the opening day were spent ensuring that all the needs of the butterflies were going to be met. First and foremost this meant planting the hundreds of exotic plants, all of which were carefully chosen for specific reasons. For example Lantana, a tropical evergreen shrub which produces many flowers over the majority of the year, was chosen as an essential nectar source to feed the butterflies. Other plants were chosen due to them being the host-plant (larval food) of a particular species or family of butterflies, for example the banana, citrus and passionflower plants serve as a host to the eggs and larvae of the giant owl (*Caligo memnon*), swallowtails (*Papilio spp*) and the longwings (*Heliconius spp*) respectively. Those plant species not serving as a nectar source or a host-plant, were chosen for their aesthetic value – to better the visitor experience of being immersed in tropical vegetation.

In amongst the plants, artificial flowers can be found with tubes in the centre that hold a sugar and water solution. These act as a substitute for nectar during times of the year when there are fewer natural flowers for the butterflies. We have chosen to trial the use of these modified artificial flowers, rather than using the normal plastic discs with painted-on flowers that most other butterfly houses use, as we hope they will fit in better with the natural theming of the exhibit.

Along with all the plants, a seemingly endless amount of rocks and pebbles had to be carried into the house. These were then individually placed to make up the bed of the stream which meanders from the waterfall down the length of the house to the entrance. It was a long

and tiring task but an important one as the watercourse helps to achieve that vital environmental condition – humidity.

Another of the essential conditions is heat. It's not always comfortable for us keepers working in temperatures in the high twenties (80's Fahrenheit) but without the heat there would be little if any flight activity for our visitors to enjoy. Visitors often tell us we have the best job on a cold winter's day but sweeping, digging and other necessary manual work in the Butterfly Journey 'tropics' can be an uncomfortable labour of love at times.

Now that the exhibit is up and running the challenge is to keep the butterfly population healthy and prosperous. We have strict daily duties that we carry out in order to achieve this. The mornings, before we open the doors to the public, are always the busiest time for us. The waterfall does help maintain humidity but spraying over the foliage and watering the paths and soil raises it to around the necessary 70%, so that's generally the first of the day's tasks.

Inevitably, with any animal population where the adult stage only lives for two to three weeks, there are always going to be deceased butterflies to collect but this is offset by the next job – releasing the newly emerged butterflies from the emerging case. Unfortunately for our visitors, the vast majority of the butterflies emerge during the early hours. This means you are more likely to see the adults finishing drying off their wings whilst hanging from the tree adjacent to the case, rather than the marvel of a butterfly pulling its swollen abdomen out of its pupa and pumping-up its wings. Of course, not every butterfly emerges successfully from its pupa. Each morning and afternoon we check through the, sometimes hundreds of, pupae looking for the early signs of parasitism or disease whether it be viral, fungal or bacterial. It is extremely important for us to remove any bad pupa as disease can spread quickly in the warm humid conditions of the house.



One of the most common questions we are asked is in reference to the breeding of the butterflies. Even though we are successfully rearing larvae of a few chosen species, we cannot possibly be completely self-sufficient when it comes to stocking the exhibit. The majority of the pupae that can be seen in the emerging case are those which we have obtained from sustainable butterfly farms in the tropics. When it comes to choosing which species to order, out of several hundred possibilities, it's a carefully-calculated decision. Our choices are based on factors including differing times of activity, specific behaviour or educational benefits, and we'd be lying if we said some of it wasn't down to personal preference.

We receive our pupae delivery once a week. The pupae are sent to us carefully laid among layers of cotton wool in a polystyrene box, the presentation somewhat resembling a box of chocolates! We then have to pick them out and either carefully pin them by their silk (naturally spun by the larvae in order to attach themselves to a leaf or other object before pupating) or glue them to a doweling stick if the silk is absent. These sticks are then placed in the emerging case where they are kept at a constant temperature and humidity. Our mid-week visitors may see us preparing the pupae if they look through the windows into the butterfly breeding room near the exit. This is also the room where you are more likely to see the larvae which have been bred here at the zoo. Within this room the delicate caterpillars have more protection from over-eager fingers until they pupate, after which we move them into the emerging case.

You may also see our silk moths in this room, or on one of the plants by the window, or at rest in the emerging case. Despite popular belief, it is actually only the silkmoths which emerge from a cocoon. These protective cases can be seen hanging with the rest of the pupae.

The rest of our days are taken up tending to the plants, ensuring that rotting fruit is available to those species which desire it, keeping strict records on emergence and disease, and just staying hydrated in the tropical conditions! At least one of us is always available within the house to field any questions that our visitors may have, so don't hesitate to ask.

Chester Zoo has received external funding towards the Butterfly Journey from Biffaward and the Grosvenor Garden Centre.

**We hope to see you soon!**

## Your Zoo needs you!

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP CHESTER ZOO ACHIEVE ITS CONSERVATION MISSION?

COULD YOU SPARE A FEW HOURS ON A REGULAR BASIS?

Then what about Joining our **'Butterfly Brigade'**?

Chester Zoo is one of the leading zoological collections in Europe with an international reputation for achieving our mission in conservation breeding programmes, research and education.

We are seeking a team of volunteers to work alongside our regular Keepers to enhance the visitor experience. You would be based in the Butterfly house answering questions and helping guests to understand more about butterflies and how we keep them whilst at the same time protecting these fragile creatures should the need arise.

Excellent inter-personal skills, and a keen interest in promoting the zoological aims of this exhibit and the Zoo will be key requirements for successful members of our **'Butterfly Brigade'**.

Anyone interested in volunteering will be given appropriate training and will be expected to commit to a regular period of involvement. This is likely to be for weekends throughout the year, extending into the week to coincide with our busiest times during school holiday periods.

Volunteering will offer Zoo enthusiasts this unique opportunity to become involved in 'zoo life' in return for a small amount of time. Fully trained keepers will be on-hand at all times to monitor this exhibit, and volunteers will work closely with them.

Please apply in writing to:

**Mark Sparrow, Curator of Horticulture and Botany,  
The North of England Zoological Society,  
Caughall Road, Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH**

or by email to [m.sparrow@chesterzoo.org](mailto:m.sparrow@chesterzoo.org) explaining why you would like to volunteer.



# Making a difference

## Jaguar Programme

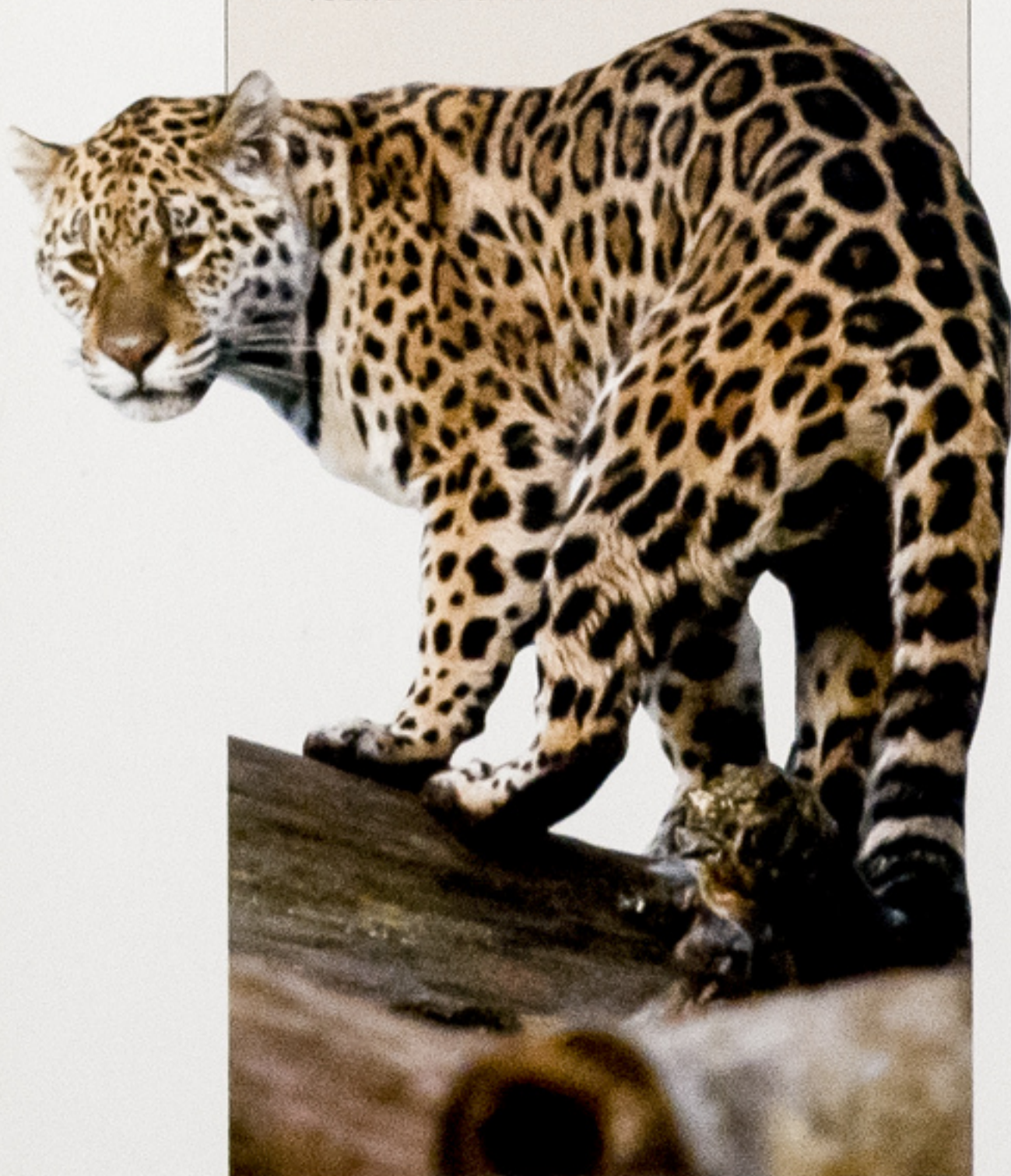
Jaguars are threatened due to conflicts with people, which result in the killing of cats as well as economic losses for farmers. Chester Zoo has recently supported two projects which aim to overcome these conflicts.

'Human-Jaguar co-existence in the ranches and villages of La Selva Maya' is a project in Guatemala which addresses two issues: Conflicts at ranches with livestock and conflicts at villages with domestic animals.

'Biodiversity Conservation Within a Human-dominated Landscape: The Runaway Creek Nature Reserve' needed funding to carry out its ranger patrols and environmental outreach work.

### FAST FACT

*Jaguars are the largest cat in the Americas, found in Central and South America.*



## Philippines Programme

Due to its attractive colour and plumage, the Philippine cockatoo has historically been illegally caught for use in the pet trade and is now critically endangered. Since 2003, Chester Zoo have supported Katala's Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Project with funding required for warden schemes, translocation of birds and education.

We have also continued to provide funding for the Visayan writhed-billed hornbill population on Panay. The Philippine Endemic Species Conservation Programme has been working to minimize poaching and strengthen conservation measures for this critically endangered bird.

### FAST FACT

*There are over 7000 islands that make up the Philippines.*



## Emergency funds

The largest of the living apes, the mountain gorilla, has been under pressure in Virunga National Park due to political instability in the Democratic Republic of Congo. One of only two subpopulations of this critically endangered species, the gorillas in the Virunga Volcanoes region are threatened due to poaching, civil unrest, illegal charcoal trade and transmission of human diseases amongst habituated wild gorillas. During the recent troubles in DRC, park authorities were prevented from monitoring the gorillas. Following this, Chester Zoo provided emergency funds to help support the mountain gorilla rangers in Virunga National Park, who are vital to the continued protection of this important population.

### FAST FACT

*There are only around 300 mature mountain gorillas remaining in the wild.*



### Native Species Programme

Conserving species in our own backyard is a major component of Chester Zoo's conservation work and recently we have supported 3 local projects focusing on our native species. **Bluebells** are a local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) species. Chester Zoo has contributed to local targets for this species by providing funding to Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council to establish an area of bluebells on the banks of the river Weaver as part of Nantwich Riverside project. **Barn owls** are one of the UK's most recognisable native owls. In 2004, Chester Zoo supported a project providing nest boxes in north-east Wales. The project was very successful, and interest spread to other farmers and landowners. Funding was therefore needed this year to provide more nest boxes for these new sites. **Sand martin** numbers have declined significantly at Marbury Country Park, near Northwich, because a breeding site has been damaged by footpath erosion. We are supporting the construction of an artificial nesting bank to encourage the birds to return to the area to breed.

### Realm Of the Red Ape Programme

Did you know that we as humans can pass on diseases such as the common cold to other primates? Due to our close genetic relationship with many primates, the threat of human-wildlife disease transmission is high and has become more apparent in recent years with the increase in ecotourism. Gunung Leuser National Park in Sumatra has a large wildlife tourism industry, giving the opportunity to view orang-utans on daily excursions into Bukit Lawang eco-tourism site. However, groups of tourists are brought within close proximity to, and often actual physical contact with, the orang-utans.

Chester Zoo has provided support for the Sumatran Orang-utan Society's 'Ecotourism Development Programme' which aims to educate the guides and visitors on ethical ecotourism practices.

#### FAST FACT

*The word orang-utan means 'person of the forest'*



#### Grant Support

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

- Otter Research and Conservation Project in Nepal
- The Ground Hornbill research and conservation project
- Yellow breasted capuchin conservation project.
- Strengthening protection of translocated Greater One-horned Rhinos in Manas National Park and building stronger community interface.
- Diversity and conservation status of freshwater fishes in Anatolia
- Partula Field Programme Consortium
- National Species Planning Workshops for Anoa, Babirusa and Banteng in Indonesia 2009
- Status and distribution of bats in Palpa District of western Nepal
- Red-billed Curassow Action Plan Officer to aid the conservation of key areas of Atlantic
- Systematic conservation assessment of Freshwater Fishes of Mexico
- Population viability of the Critically Endangered St Helena plover



Copyright: Gorilla.cd

## News on Conservation from around the World

2009 saw the beginning of the official UN Year of the Gorilla, but just how are gorillas faring at the start of the year?

#### Bad

The recent troubles in DRC have led to the sad death of another gorilla ranger. The ranger was attacked while on patrol in Virunga National Park. Many rangers have been forced to flee the park in recent years due to violence in the region, and more than 120 rangers have been killed over the past decade defending the mountain gorillas of Virunga.

#### Good

At the end of 2008, Wildlife Conservation Society researchers discovered massive numbers of critically endangered western lowland gorillas in the northern Republic of Congo. It is estimated that there are over 125,000 individuals in these two adjacent areas in the Republic of Congo. With previous estimates of less than 100,000 individuals left in the wild, this news has been well received amongst gorilla conservationists worldwide.

# Staff go Wild!

## India and Kenya

Scott Wilson, Conservation Officer, (pictured), visited the Assam Haathi project in October to provide further data collection and recording training and visit some of the key sites in the region to help plan future activities for the project. Scott is involved in analysing this field data using GIS software back at the Chester Zoo offices.

In November, Scott also visited the Chyulu Hills Rhino project in Kenya which is a component of our Black Rhino Programme. The aim of the visit was to provide GIS training and assess how GIS can be best utilised to assist in the monitoring and protection of the Chyulu Hills rhino population.

*Our picture right shows Scott and the Assam team*



## What is GIS?

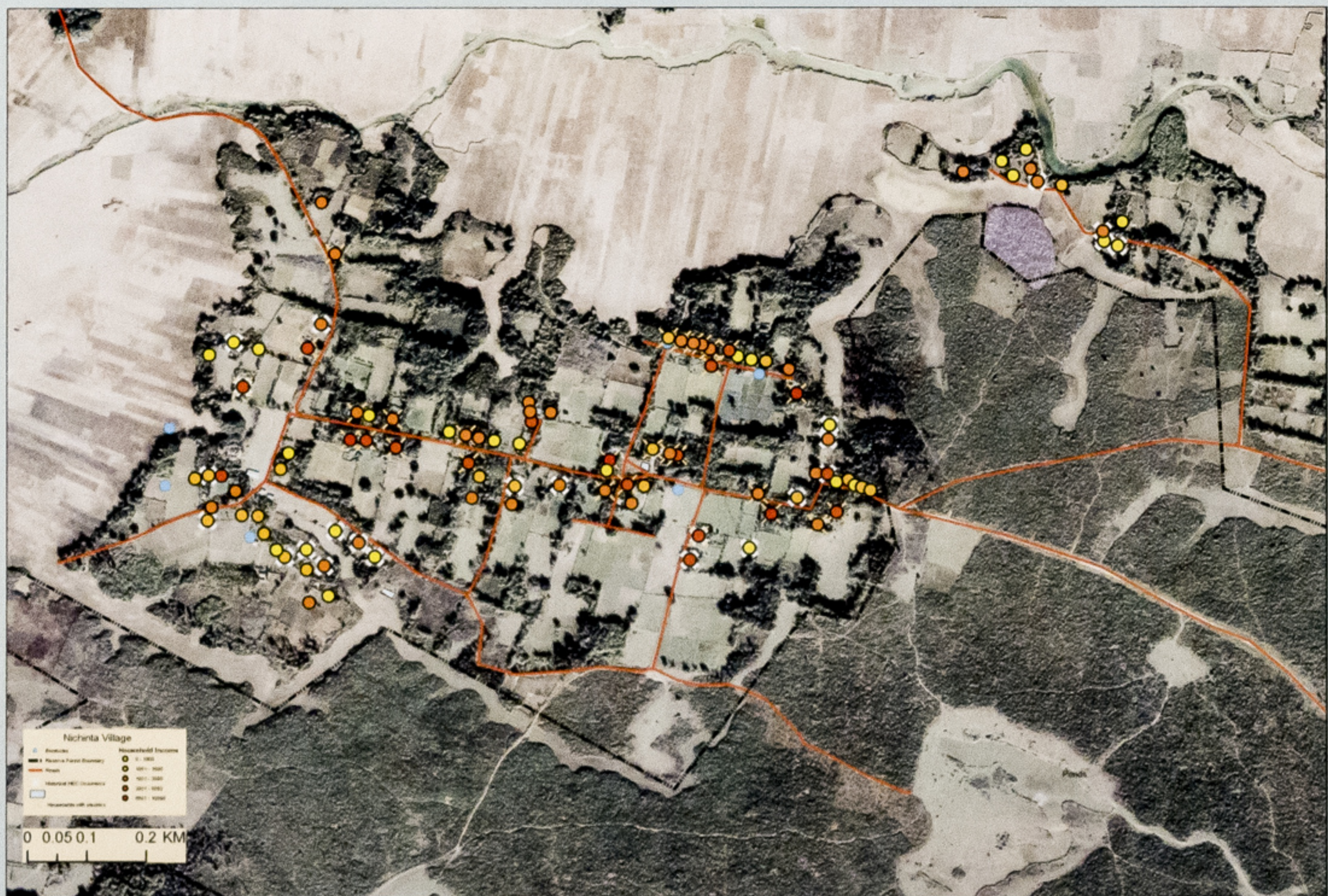
Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is a tool used widely in the conservation field to help save threatened species and habitats. It is an information system that stores, edits, analyses and displays geographic information.

## Chester Zoo and GIS

The Assam Haathi Project in Assam, NE India, is one of Chester Zoo's flagship conservation programmes. GIS is a major component of the Assam Haathi Project. The project works alongside rural communities to help them protect their crops and homes from elephants and, in turn, save the elephants from retaliation by angry villagers. Villagers are also employed in collecting data for the project on elephant movements and behaviours in the region which is then analysed using GIS software.

Results have allowed us to map forested and farmed areas in the region, and to identify where the elephants enter and leave study areas. We are able to collect and analyse data on where and when elephants have come into conflict with people. This helps us to predict the movement of elephants more accurately. For more information on this project visit [www.assamhaathiproject.org](http://www.assamhaathiproject.org).

GIS is also used in our Jaguar Programme in a similar way to analyse, explain and predict jaguar-human conflicts in Central and South America and develop a model for their management.



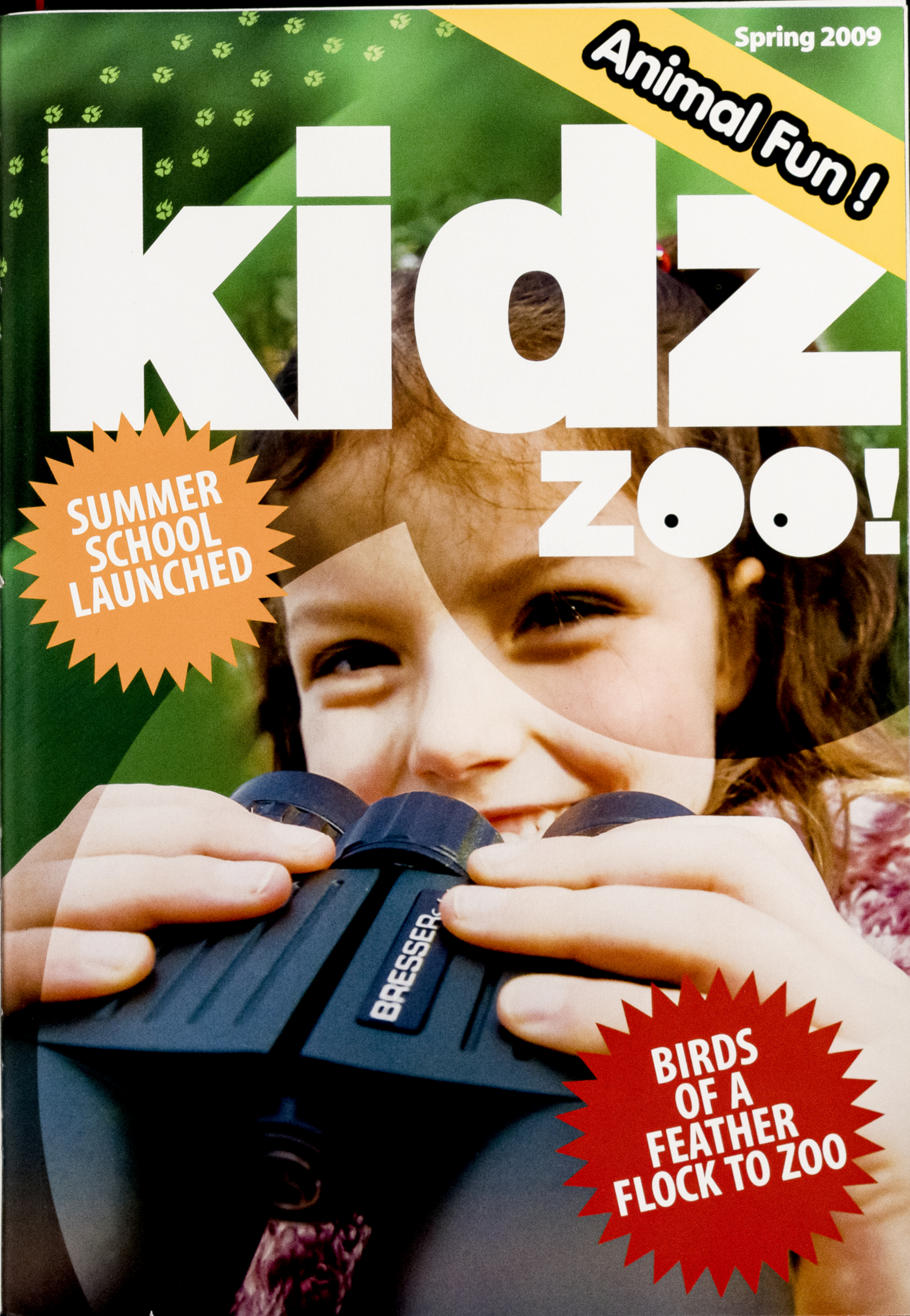
Spring 2009

**Animal Fun!**

# Kidz Zoo!

**SUMMER  
SCHOOL  
LAUNCHED**

**BIRDS  
OF A  
FEATHER  
FLOCK TO ZOO**



# Junior Members

## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2009

### TRACKS & SIGNS

**SATURDAY 21 MARCH 2009**

This is probably one of our most popular events which includes the wide age-range we cater for. This is your chance to see the Zoo from the animals' view of the visitors, as you will be going inside some of the enclosures to search for footprints from which to make plaster casts.

March is the best time of year for this as it is normally muddy – but please bear this in mind when you dress in the morning. Hopefully, you will have a souvenir of your day to take home with you.

**Eights and over can come along and join-in with the messiness, when we meet outside Oakfield House in the Zoo at 11.00am, returning there for collection at 4.00pm. You will need a picnic lunch, and it is important that you wear clean, very old clothes and clean wellies please.**

### WEPRE PARK

**SATURDAY 18 APRIL 2009**

Please note: This is a change of date from that issued in the last magazine

Wepre Park in Flintshire, actually not too far from the Zoo, is an ancient woodland rich in wildlife and history. Set in 160 acres, cared-for daily by the Flintshire Countryside Service, we hope to be shown through this large ancient woodland there by one of the Rangers and to explore the ruins of Ewloe castle which is within the park's boundaries. It is a beautiful and fascinating spot, with a stream running through it and plenty to see and do.

Eights upwards are invited to join us and we will leave the Zoo's Staff Car Park at 10.30am and return at 4.30pm. Bring a picnic and be prepared to be outdoors all day!

### HAWKSTONE FOLLIES

**SATURDAY 16 MAY 2008**

We have not visited the Follies in Hawkstone Park near Whitchurch for a couple of years, and we felt it was well worth returning to this year. Apart from being a lovely walk through woods and around cliffs, the follies themselves are well worth seeing. You might like to bring a torch as there is a point on the walk when you need to go through a tunnel through the cliff and it is very dark!

**Eights and over should bring along a picnic and we will leave the Staff Car Park at 9.30am and return at 5.00pm.**

### THE GREENWOOD CENTRE

**SATURDAY 20 JUNE 2009**

Back by popular demand! This is one of the Juniors favourite summer haunts and every so often we give-in and visit again! This park, situated in the foothills of Snowdonia, is an amazing mix of environmental park and exciting things to do there – including den-building, and various self-propelled 'rides'. Definitely not-to-be-missed.

**Eights and over should be ready to leave the staff car park at 9.30am and we will return for 5.00pm. Bring a picnic.**

### HOW TO BE A GOOD ZOOKEEPER!

**WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2009**

This is a unique opportunity offered to Junior Members to spend a day working alongside a Zoo Keeper. The work can be tough and demanding so we strictly limit this event to those Juniors of 12 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 4.00pm. Please bring a packed lunch.

**Also please note that bookings for this event will not be taken before 9.00am on Wednesday 8 July 2009 and will be strictly on a first-come, first-served basis.**





# kidz ZOO!

## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2009

### **SUMMER BARBEQUE THURSDAY 6 AUGUST 2009**

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

We would like to invite eights and over to join us for a 7.00pm start, when you should arrive at the Ark Restaurant (near the Tigers) via the Zoo's Staff Entrance on Caughall Road. Parents are asked to collect Juniors from the Ark restaurant at 9.45pm please.

### **THE FORMBY RED SQUIRRELS SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2009**

The National Trust reserve at Freshfield, Formby is one of the best places in Great Britain to see and to get really close to Red Squirrels. The reserve offers visitors an opportunity to explore the beach, sand dunes and coastal pine woodlands as well. The Squirrels will frequently approach within a few feet of visitors. However, there have been a series of devastating disease outbreaks amongst the squirrel populations both here and

elsewhere in the UK so numbers are rapidly decreasing. Take this chance to see them while you still can.

Eights and over are invited to attend and we will leave the Staff car Park at 9.30am and return at 4.30pm. Bring a picnic.

### **THE RED DEER RUT AT TATTON PARK SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER 2009**

Once again, it is several years since we visited Tatton Park near Knutsford at the time of the Red Deer 'rut'. This is a fascinating time to watch the behaviour of these animals and we hope to have a Ranger with us to explain what is going on. We will also visit the Home Farm at Tatton to see what is happening there.

We will leave the Zoo's Staff Car Park at 10.30am and return for 4.30pm. Juniors of eight and over should bring a picnic with them.

### **LIVERPOOL MUSEUM SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2009**

Liverpool Museum is now called the World Museum and we will look forward to noting the recent changes made in the major refurbishment which has been undertaken over the past few years there. There will be so much to see and do that we will have an action-packed November day.

The bus will leave the Staff Entrance at 10.30am and return at 4.00pm. Eights and over are welcome to come. Bring a picnic.

### **THE JUNIORS' CHRISTMAS PARTY FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER 2009**

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

The venue will be the Zoo's Ark Cafe 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 the Ark Cafe 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.



# Junior Members



## JUNIOR MEMBERS' SUMMER SCHOOL/WORKSHOP AUGUST 2009

**MONDAY 10 to FRIDAY 14 AUGUST 2009, inclusive**  
**9.00am to 5.00pm daily**  
**(Drop off at 8.30am and collection at 5.30pm**  
**can be arranged)**

The aim is to enhance the 'service' offered to Junior Members and fulfil the needs of the 'older' Juniors (12 - 17) at a time when they tend to have been joining in with events for a few years, have a real interest in Zoos, but the regular monthly events cannot provide the more detailed zoo and animal knowledge that youngsters need to make informed decisions about careers, school GCSE subject choices and such like. Above all, it should be great fun and a rare opportunity to become much better acquainted with the real work involved in zoos - you will be surprised what you find out! We will provide 'full days' so that this is accessible to as many children as possible, including those with working parents, ie. 8.30 - 5.30pm. Juniors will be required to join-in for the full week, rather than dipping in and out on different days. A maximum of 30 places have been offered, on a first come first served basis. Minimum age to attend is 12 years but priority will be given to those of 13+ and those who have not attended before. The Summer School is not designed to fulfil school syllabus criteria but is entirely tailor-made for Juniors who want to know more about the purpose of zoos, our conservation objectives, animal welfare, nutrition, veterinary work, enrichment, plant displays etc. We will use the Education Classrooms as our base, but will spend much of our time out and about in the Zoo and the Zoo's wider estate.

A charge will be made to cover the cost of all provisions and materials used. The full cost will be £150 for the week, and while we will provide drinks and snacks during the day, the Juniors should bring their own picnic lunch.

**Penny Rudd**  
Junior Members' Club Leader

**Early booking  
essential for the  
Summer  
School!**

## PROGRAMME

### INDOOR EVENTS TO TAKE PLACE IN COLUMBUS CLASSROOM

#### MONDAY 10 August 2009

**AM:** Introduction - to explain the Programme of Events, behavioural expectations, housekeeping etc. Powerpoint and Discussion Session - Why Zoos? Zoo Library visit. Zoo Tour, Behind the Scenes, and Picnic Lunch

**PM:** Botany in Zoos - Indoor Greenhouse session 2.00pm - 4.00pm.

Starting the Summer School 'Craft Project' - to be continued through the week

#### TUESDAY 11 August 2009

**AM:** Animal Records - The Dating Game and Personal Passports. 11.00am - 1.00pm Zoo Nutrition (The Balloon Game).

**PM:** Zoo Tours (Aquarium, Parrots, Giraffes). Zoo Enclosure Design. 4.00pm - 5.00pm 'Outreach Conservation' Projects overseas.

#### WEDNESDAY 12 August 2009 (Day Out)

**Full Day Away** - Visiting Meadow Bank Farm, Broxton, Cheshire, to discuss organic farming practises and see how this works to benefit local wildlife. Our particular 'mission' will be to walk the farm boundaries looking for signs of the benefits gained on this beautiful farm which specialises in rearing Hereford cattle. This visit is subject to animal health restrictions in the area at the time.

#### THURSDAY 13 August 2009

##### (Native Species Day)

**AM:** Live Mammal Trapping  
Harvest Mouse Project - Brief Powerpoint.  
Visit to Sand Lizards

**PM:** Powerpoint presentation on Native Species Black Poplars, Pearl Mussels, Water Voles, Sand Lizards etc.  
Making Bird Boxes, Bat Boxes, Dormouse Boxes, Barn Owl Boxes.

#### FRIDAY 14 August 2009

**AM:** Environmental Enrichment - Why? (Research Team)  
Animal Behaviour and Observations.

**PM:** Where being a Zoo Junior Member can help your career?  
Careers in Zoos.

Tour of Veterinary Hospital.  
Being a Zoo Vet or Veterinary Nurse, Endocrinology in Zoos.  
Close - Workshop Scrapbooks, craft project display, photos, etc.

# Count Me In!

## gets off to a flying start!



The Count Me In! project was launched at Chester Zoo with a very successful a bird watching event linked to the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. Over 60 guests attended a very animated talk titled 'How to be a Birdwatcher', and were then taken for a walk around the zoo to look for wild birds. An amazing 42 species were seen in the zoo with highlights being a goldcrest spotted in conifers, a treecreeper in the Sunken Garden and a shoveler duck sharing the flamingo's lake. Black headed gulls were the most abundant species with over 50 birds seen sitting on the roof of the Islands in Danger building – probably keeping their feet warm! Guests were also given a live demonstration of how

to submit wildlife records to the rECOrd database using the online recording system (RODIS). We hope they will be online again in the near future submitting bird records of their own – training new wildlife recorders for Cheshire is what Count Me In! is all about. A large team of volunteers from Cheshire Wildlife Trust, RSPB Chester and Macclesfield groups, Liverpool Museum, and others made the day memorable for all those involved. A big thank you to all those who helped out!



Here is the programme of Count Me In! events for 2009.

### March 28th WET YOUR APPETITE

Find out about amphibians.

- Amphibian identification.
- Where to find amphibians.
- How to participate in 'National Amphibian and Reptiles Recording Scheme 2009'.

### April 18th DOWN TO EARTH

Find out about soil and creatures that live in it.

- Habitats and soils in Cheshire.
- Animals that live in soil, and how to identify them
- How to participate in the Open Air Laboratories (OPAL) 'National Soils and Earthworms Survey'.

### April 25th SPRING IN THE STEP AND A STING IN THE TALE

Find out about spring wild flowers.

- Visit a local nature reserve to find and identify spring wild flowers.
- Explore the wildlife on a nettle patch.
- How to participate in 'Be Nice to Nettles Week - Garden Nettle Patch Survey' in May 2009.

### May 9th FRIEND OR FOE?

Find out about invasive alien species.

- Learn to recognise some of the worst alien species found in the UK today.
- Why are these species a problem?
- What can we do about it?

### May (date tbc) SCHOOL GROUNDS

Workshop aimed at Cheshire schools to help them transform their grounds into wildlife havens.

### June 13th MAMMALS OF CHESHIRE

An introduction to the wild mammals found in Cheshire. Find out about Cheshire Mammal Group.

### July 4th BIG BUG DAY

A family event looking at insects, what they do, and where to find them.

### August 2nd ON THE WING

Enter the exquisite world of dragonflies, ladybirds, butterflies and others. Find out why these insects are important, and how you can help to record them.

### August (date tbc) RETURN OF THE LICHENS

Learn what lichens are, and how to find and identify them. Find out how you can take part in the OPAL 'Air Survey'.

### August 22nd MOTH NIGHT

An evening event using light traps to attract moths. Get involved in Moth Night and the 'Moths Count Project.'

### October (date tbc) CHARLES DARWIN DAY

Family event celebrating amateur naturalists and wildlife recording. 2009 is the 200th anniversary of the birth of evolutionary biologist Charles Darwin and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his book 'The Origin of Species'.

### October 17th FUNGALPUNK FORAY

Meet legendary 'Fungalpunk Dave' Discover the fascinating world of fungi Not to be missed!



Pictures: Steve McWilliam

Pictures: Andrew Forgrave

All events are free of charge. Places are limited so booking is essential. Some events will carry an age restriction. Some events may be unsuitable for those with disabilities. Events will be located at Chester Zoo or suitable wildlife sites in the Cheshire region. For further information or to make a booking please contact: 'Count Me In!' Project Coordinator Karen Lawson Tel: 01244 383749 countmein@record-lrc.co.uk or visit www.rECOrd-LRC.co.uk

# Detroit Zoo

## Giraffe training programme

Lizzie Bowen – Giraffe section

In December I visited Detroit Zoo in America to observe their giraffe training programme so the information could be used to help us set up a similar programme for our giraffes in Chester. Detroit was recommended to visit as they spend a lot of time training their animals; everything from the otters to the polar bears. The main reasons for the training is to allow medical procedures to be done such as blood sampling, administering eye drops and doing ultrasounds, foot care, if the animal needs to be moved to another zoo and for general husbandry. Like us, Detroit Zoo do not have any animal shows so none of the behaviours taught are for public entertainment, they are all for the benefit of the animal.

I spent the majority of my time watching the giraffe training. Detroit has four giraffes; three male and one female whose ages range from 26 (the second oldest in the world!) to just one year old. Their main aims for training the giraffes are so that the keepers are able to perform foot care on a regular basis, occasionally take blood samples and also to have a general check over of the animal. Due to the giraffe's temperaments and for safety reasons the training and procedures all take place with the keepers standing outside of the enclosure. A very long target (a stick with a ball on the end) is used by the trainer that the giraffe must touch with the tip of its nose in exchange for a food reward. This allows the keepers to manipulate them into a position to move onto the next step of training the giraffe to place its foot on a box to allow keepers access to their feet for trimming. Finally the long process is started of getting the giraffes to accept the foot care. In Detroit they are able to perform daily foot care on their giraffes which includes sanding and clipping the nails. Without this training the giraffes would have to be anaesthetised to carry out such a procedure. This is not only very risky but also very costly.

In Chester we are currently setting up a giraffe training programme. This involves not just the actual training of the animal but also a lot of paper work so the progress can be recorded. It is useful to have a record so that the information can be used for future training and can be passed to other collections. Initially we will be concentrating on our male, *Thorn*, to train him so that foot trims can be performed without the need for sedation. It is a long process and involves a lot of time and patience but hopefully given time we will achieve our training goals.





### 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress

Barcelona, 5th – 14th October 2008

The Zoo's Gordon McGregor Reid, Scott Wilson, Alexandra Zimmermann and Claudine Gibson were among 7,000+ delegates from governments, NGOs, businesses, the UN and academic institutions, who attended the world's largest sustainability summit, held once every four years.

The Congress was intense, involving workshops, meetings, debates, exhibits, and launches of new agreements and strategies – all focused on providing ideas, actions and solutions for a diverse and sustainable world.

Gordon attended the Congress not only as Director General of Chester Zoo, but also as Co-Chair of the Amphibian Ark, President of WAZA and Chair of the IUCN Freshwater Fish Specialist Group.

Gordon and Claudine attended a number of workshops and debates regarding linkages between biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods, why species are important to people and the role of species in human development. They also attended a number of IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) events, including the launch and review of the 2008 Red List and results of the Sampled Red List Index.

Gordon was on the panel of experts for two workshops and put across a strong position on the value of zoos for raising awareness of the importance of species. Alex was also on an expert panel that brought together people from a variety of backgrounds (including socio-economics, land use planning and agricultural development) to discuss centralised approaches for addressing human wildlife conflicts.

The Congress exhibition hall housed stands for over 110 organisations. Scott show-cased and promoted the work of Chester Zoo to congress delegates in the only zoo exhibit of the Congress.



### The Library

The Library contains more than 5,000 volumes and a wide range of journal titles. It also houses conference proceedings, research papers, several hundred student projects and an archive of historical documents including annual reports, newspaper cuttings, zoo magazines and photographs from the early 1930's to the present day.

Our specialist collection of books covers natural history, biology, horticulture, animal behaviour, zoology, fish, birds, reptiles, mammals, veterinary medicine and science, conservation, biographies, travel, animal art, education and general reference books. All of these are available for reference purposes to members of the Zoo.

opening times are:  
10am-noon and 1pm – 4pm Monday to Friday

The Library also provides photocopying, binding, printing, scanning and DVD/CD/slide copying facilities. These are subject to copyright law. We have four computers with Internet access available, plus accommodation for laptop use.

Our Library catalogue is now available online under the Discovery and Learning pages of the Zoo website.

We are also looking for memorabilia and archive material which could be donated to the library for the 75th Anniversary celebrations of the North of England Zoological Society. Photos and film will be returned to the owners with a copy of film provided on DVD.

To contact the Library telephone 01244 389453  
or e-mail any enquiries to Librarian/Archivist Gill Kelsall  
g.kelsall@chesterzoo.org



## Charming and playful by nature but rebellious by name...

It may seem this Eastern Black Rhinoceros calf is a little young to be rebellious.

However, if his new name is to be believed, that's just what is expected of him.

After long deliberations, the black rhino calf – the first to be born at the zoo for 10 years – has been given the name **Asani**, Swahili for rebellious.

Son of **Kitani**, **Asani** continues to do well and has been charming zoo visitors with his playful antics.

Kevin Buley, Head of Zoo programmes, said: "At the moment, **Asani** is probably a bit young to be rebelling but, judging from the way he is now barrelling his way around the Tsavo Rhino house for hours at a time, it is probably a very apt prediction of the type of character he is likely to become.

"Choosing a name that will last a rhino – and particularly one with such character – a lifetime is no mean feat. We have been through literally hundreds of names but we think **Asani** is the perfect fit."

A special T-shirt – created by legendary American artist, fashion designer and philanthropist Marc Ecko – has been produced to mark **Asani's** arrival.

Marc is a supporter of the Chester Zoo rhinos and was the first official adopter of the Greater One-Horned Rhinoceroses. His company **ecko unltd** designed the limited edition T-shirt to be sold exclusively at the zoo.

Michelle Duma, Development Department, said: "Marc is a great supporter of the work that goes on at Chester with both our rhino species. Money raised from the sale of the T-shirt will go directly back into the zoo and help continue our good work with rhinos which is all the more evident with the arrival of **Asani**."

The T-shirts are available to buy in the zoo shops and will shortly be available online at [www.chesterzoo.org](http://www.chesterzoo.org).

## ZOO TOILETS TAKE GOLD AWARD

**CHESTER Zoo is flushed with success after scooping a top award for its toilets.**

The award-winning zoo has been named best leisure attraction in England for its main entrance toilets in the Loo of the Year awards.

This is the second year running that the main entrance facilities have been given an award. Last year, the main entrance toilets received a five-star gold award.

The main entrance toilets were given an overhaul as part of the New Beginnings project which saw a revamp of the main entrance at the start of last year.

Liz Thwaite, Head of Visitor Services, said:

**"We do all that we can to ensure the zoo experience is a great day out from beginning to end.**

**"The attention to detail extends to every service that we offer our visitors from the animal enclosures they visit, to the restaurants they dine in and, as the awards prove, all the other facilities our guests use. We are delighted to have been given this award."**

The Loo of the Year awards were set up in 1987 with the aim of highlighting the best possible standards in all types of 'away from home' toilets.

400 species prove that zoo is a great day out and excellent value for money



WITH 7,432 animals at the UK's largest zoo, it's no mean feat keeping track of them.

But if Chester Zoo's visitors were to keep a watchful eye on all of the animals, from the magnificent Asian elephants to the smallest of Partula snails, then it would take a full five days just to see each one.

After completing its end of year stock take, the zoo accounted for all of its 400 species. But it would seem that seeing them as a visitor might just take an extra chunk of time.

Kevin Buley, Head of Zoo Programmes, said:

*"Obviously we know just how many animals we have; it would be difficult for argument's sake not to be able to be able to keep track on the elephants. But what we didn't know was just how long it would take our visitors to view every animal."*

*"If our visitors spent just one minute looking at each individual animal then it would take them five solid days to see each one. If you also included the plants – some of which are also rare and of which there are a similar number – then it would take 10 full days in total to view everything we have here."*

*"It goes to show that the zoo is quite literally a full day out and, in that respect, value for money. There's no reason for the children to get bored or to run out of things to do and see given how long it would take to see everything."*

The number of animals the zoo has means it would cost a family of four less than 1p for the group to see all that is on offer.

*"It's relatively easy to turn on the television these days and choose from a plethora of animal programmes but for far less than the price of a television licence it's possible to see all these magnificent animals up close. Nothing quite beats seeing an elephant for the first time or craning your neck to look up at a giraffe,"* added Kevin.



# Living with Elephants

"Living with Elephants", a self help handbook has been launched by the Assam Haathi Project; one of Chester Zoo's in-situ conservation programmes and recipient of a prestigious Darwin Initiative grant. The handbook has been distributed to 41 villages in Assam, NE India with the aim of providing information to people negatively affected by elephants. The handbook, available in English and Assamese, presents step-by-step guides on making low-cost mitigation methods from locally sourced materials that can be used to deter elephants from causing damage to property and crops.

The conflict between elephants and people is a complex and pervasive problem in Africa and Asia and is widely recognized as a major threat to the long-term survival of the species. Elephants are known as "flagship species" as due to their large habitat requirements their protection resultantly protects many other smaller species dependent on the same habitat. Assam harbors one of the last remaining strongholds for the endangered Asian elephant. However, with an increasing human population, expanding agriculture demands and resultant wide scale destruction of natural forest habitat; more people are coming into conflict with elephants. As elephants search for food they pose a serious threat to people's livelihoods through crop raiding and personal damage and in turn people retaliate by persecuting the elephants. Whilst the elephant is traditionally revered by the people of Asia escalating conflict is eroding this traditional respect. Developing strategies to reduce the impact of the conflict and increase people's tolerance towards the animals involved is an essential short-term measure. This

then paves the way for long-term conservation solutions, such as habitat restoration and/or protection, to be determined and implemented.

The Assam Haathi Project works closely with local communities to develop practical and innovative ways to reduce the impact of the elephants, whilst also monitoring and studying elephant movements to develop long-term conservation solutions. The handbook includes information on basic elephant biology, alternative crops and various strategies for protecting villagers' crops and property. These include deterrents, early warning systems and barriers that have been developed, tried and tested through the AHP. All methods use locally available, low cost materials, and following the step-by-step, illustrated guides are easy to implement. Deterrents included in the handbook include chilli, a local cash crop that can be used in various ways to deter elephants. Mixed with grease and smeared onto ropes it makes an effective barrier, whilst burnt chilli produces a smoke that also deters elephants. Easy to follow methodology has also been included on establishing early warning systems such as trip wires and watch towers. Barriers include electric fences and whilst these are more expensive they provide effective protection for smaller areas.

"Living with elephants" has enabled a wider audience to be made aware of the practical mitigation methods available. It is hoped that a wider adoption of these methods will greatly reduce the number of lethal mitigation methods and retaliatory killings often resorted to by local communities and ultimately help to create a sustainable co-existence between elephants and people.



*Pictured above: (top) damage caused by elephants (below) Community members installing an electric fence and right: the process of making Chilli smoke.*

Household surveys are being completed either side of the distribution of the handbook in order to determine the effectiveness of the material as an outreach method. If deemed successful, there are potentially huge benefits to community conservation programmes around the world. It will show that a wider audience can be reached in a less time intensive manner than traditional outreach meetings and there would be the potential to distribute the handbook to an even wider audience across Assam, India and other countries where Human-Elephant-Conflict is a serious problem. It is anticipated that the results from the surveys will be ready to report by June 2009, so watch this space!

For further information on our work, please visit: [www.assamhaathiproject.org](http://www.assamhaathiproject.org) or contact [AHP@chesterzoo.org](mailto:AHP@chesterzoo.org)



## Chester Zoo runs HellRunner!

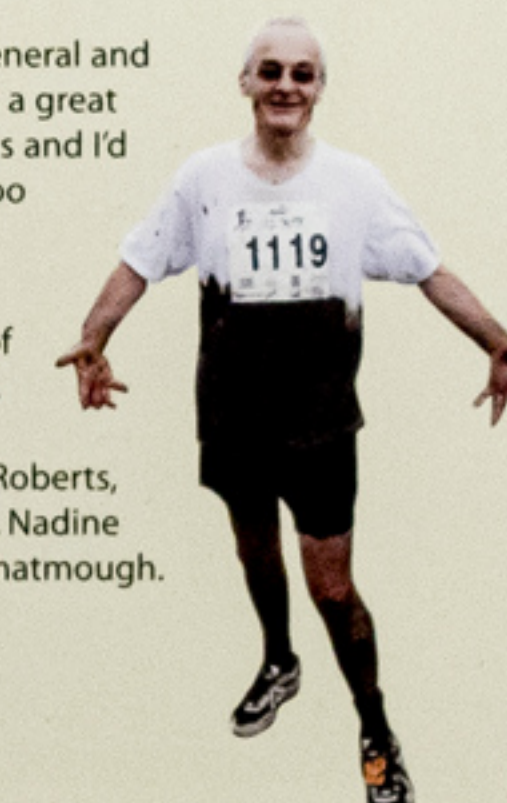
**A Zoo team ran in 'HellRunner' – a tough multi-terrain event held in Delamere Forest – to raise funds for the 'Year of the Frog' campaign.**

The event was between 10-12 miles (the actual distance was never disclosed to runners) and involved running on tracks and trails, through waist deep water running up the 'Hills of Hell' and through the 'Bogs of Doom'! Luckily, the team displayed tremendous athleticism and light-hearted spirits to get them around the course. The mud was so thick in places that some runners lost trainers and everyone finished plastered in dirt!

With the generous support from staff at the Zoo, the team has raised approximately £750 for the YOTF Campaign.

Gordon McGregor Reid, Director General and Chair of Amphibian Ark, said "this is a great team effort on behalf of amphibians and I'd warmly like to thank the Chester Zoo Hellrunners and everyone who sponsored them."

Team members included Director of Corporate Services Alasdair McNee, Head of Finance Alan Sykes, Kim Halliday, Andrew Wolfenden, Mark Roberts, Claudine Gibson, Karen King-Sharp, Nadine Wohl, Karen Entwistle and Marie Whatmough.



## fundRAISING



### Airbus Sign Up

We are pleased to announce that Airbus has signed up as our latest corporate partner.

The leading aircraft manufacturer, whose wing-making plant is located in Broughton, has come on board in a three-year sponsorship deal as the principal corporate supporter of the African Walkthrough Aviary, opening at the Zoo later this year. In addition to this onsite support, Airbus will also be donating £3000 a year to the conservation of African bird species out in Mkomazi, Tanzania, as part of Chester Zoo's ongoing commitment to field conservation.

The African Aviary, which will be situated close to the Tsavo Rhino Experience, will feature a number of different birds including Lilac Breasted Rollers and Von der Decken's Hornbill and allows visitors to walk through the exhibit and get just that little bit closer.

Through its support of Chester Zoo, Airbus hopes to strengthen its links with the local community and reinforce its position as an organisation that takes a keen interest in social and environmental issues. Katherine Bennett, Director of Communications and Government Affairs said: "This is a great opportunity for us to support a local charity with an international reach. We are delighted that we can help Chester Zoo in their mission to protect biodiversity worldwide". The Aviary will be open to the public in late Spring.

### Recycling & Conservation!

Chester Zoo is currently running a successful recycling scheme.

As a registered charity Chester Zoo relies on income from schemes such as this to help fund our numerous conservation projects all over the world.

All we need you to do is dig out those old, unwanted mobile phones, remove the SIM card and send them off to our recycler in one of our FREEPOST envelopes.

We are also able to recycle used computer printer cartridges, however we cannot accept Epson or the large toner cartridges.

If you would like an envelope or more information about our recycling scheme, please contact the Development Team on 01244 650229 or email [development@chesterzoo.org](mailto:development@chesterzoo.org).



### Chester Zoo's Winter Raffle 2008

The raffle, which was ongoing throughout the winter period, raised a whopping £4,394 for Chester Zoo.

The money will be paid into our general fund which goes towards our conservation work, feeding the animals we look after, the maintenance and upkeep of their enclosures as well as funding our dedicated staff.

We are so grateful for the kind support that we received from the people who contributed to this year's raffle by purchasing tickets and donating prizes.

The winning tickets were drawn on 9th January by Chester Zoo's Commercial Director David Titmuss.

Prizes and winners were:

- 1st prize: Mrs. A. Spink won a Eurocamp family holiday
- 2nd prize: Mrs. P. Nathaniel won a Keeper For a Day experience.
- 3rd prize: Mrs. A. Haskins won a Land Rover driving experience.
- 4th prize: Mr. N. Jones won a Special Guided Tour of Chester Zoo
- 5th prize: Ms. M. Packer won a Marks and Spencer Luxury Hamper.
- 6th prize: V. Taylor won an animal photography book.
- 7th prize: E.J. Rees won a "What am I? asked Butterfly" book.
- 8th prize: Mrs. J. Hewitt won a "What am I? asked Butterfly" book
- 9th prize: Mr. R. Done won a "What am I? asked Butterfly" book

Thank you, once again, for your support!

### Silver Celebration for Aaron & Partners

To celebrate the 25th Anniversary of its formation, leading Chester-based solicitors Aaron & Partners LLP has linked up with Chester Zoo by planting a silver birch tree at the entrance to the Zoo's new butterfly garden.

The sponsorship coincides with the firm's official launch of its Carbon Footprint Project Team, which has been set up to take wide-ranging action in reducing its carbon emissions.

Chief Executive Officer of Aaron & Partners, Andy Duxbury, visited the zoo to lend a hand to Mark Sparrow, Curator of Botany and Horticulture, in planting the silver birch tree. Commenting on the initiative with Chester Zoo, Andy said: "We wanted to mark our 25th year in business – our Silver Anniversary – in a special way, with something that has a long-lasting impact. Thanks to our clients and staff past and present, the firm has developed into the leading commercial practice in the region and we look forward to solid growth in the next 25 years.

"The planting of the tree also has great synergy with our commitment to developing a "green agenda" at the firm and we are delighted to be able to support the amazing work that takes place all year round here at Chester Zoo."

Mark said: "We are delighted that Aaron & Partners have chosen to support the Zoo in this way. The Silver Birch is a fantastic addition to the garden that surrounds the front entrance of Butterfly Journey and we look forward to seeing it flourish."



Help the memories live on...



Chester Zoo wouldn't be the wonderful family attraction and international conservation charity it is today without the foresight of generous people who have left a gift in their Wills to Chester Zoo. In her book *Zoo Without Bars* by June Johns (1969) which tells of the Zoo's early days, it is very clear that a Miss Tompkins-Grafton was one of these special people. The book tells of how her modest legacy lifted the Zoo out of debt and set the course for future expansion. Miss Tompkins-Grafton's gift even helped buy forty acres of land which is part of the zoo grounds you visit today.

As Chester Zoo celebrates its 75th anniversary of becoming a charity, we need your help, however small, to ensure our work continues for another 75 years. If you are considering leaving a gift in your Will to Chester Zoo and are interested in finding out more information, then simply contact Lynsey Jones on 01244 650292 or [ljones@chesterzoo.org](mailto:ljones@chesterzoo.org) in complete confidence.

If you have already mentioned Chester Zoo in your Will and would like to let us know, please get in touch as above so we are aware of your wishes.

The picture above shows Oakfield House circa 1934 when Chester Zoo became a registered charity.



### Learning together – a year in

We're now a year into the Big Lottery funded project – **Learning Together** and we've had some great results so far. Working closely with Gingerbread (the charity for one parent families) we have engaged with local communities all over Merseyside and have run workshops at the Zoo on a variety of conservation themes including 'Tropical Rainforests' and 'Waterlife'.

The project involves learning how to use digital cameras, how to manipulate the photos with the PC and how to get the best results. As well as using photography the project uses arts and crafts to get parents and children working together with an environmental theme. Groups host their own 'arts' exhibition after the event showing the results of their hard work in their local community.

**Learning together** continues into late 2009. If you are interested in the project and would like to know more please contact Melanie Cowieson on 01244 650289.



### CHESTER ZOO

## 100 Club

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

#### October 2008

Ray Morrison, Great Sutton	£100
Suzanne Cheetham, Birkenhead	£100
Julie Haines-Adams, Shawbury	£50
Elanor Fern, Hoole	£50
Elizabeth King, Chester	£50

#### November 2008

Paul McCann, Liverpool	£100
Meryl Finch, Shrewsbury	£100
Ann Walmsley, Prenton	£50
Kathleen Peaker, Chester	£50
Nicholas Morgan, Winsford	£50
Ann Buglass, Lancashire	£50

#### December 2008

Kate Evans, Anglesey	£100
Susan. A. Hall, Mold	£100
Sharon Dodd, Chester	£50
Jenny Saxty, Sale	£50
L. A. Parsons, Woolton	£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 650 292.

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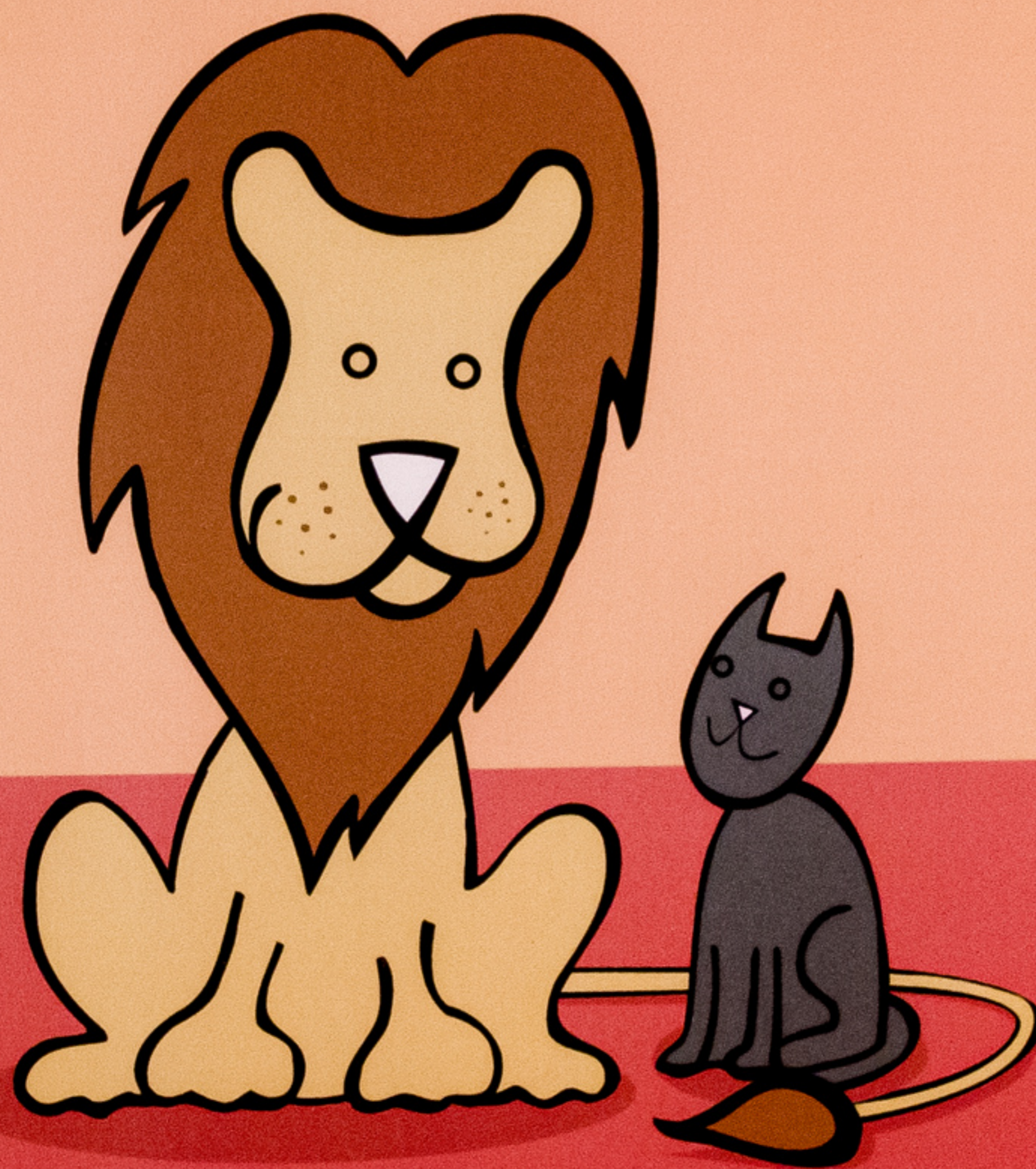
Save 25% off the base price of all holidays departing up to and including 15th July 2009 or started on or after 1st September 2009.

Save up to 10% off the base price of holidays at selected parcs in Austria, Corsica, Croatia, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Sardinia, Sicily, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland departing 16th July to 31st August 2009. Discounts will be 5% or 10%. For full details of the parcs included in the offer contact Eurocamp.

The discount does not apply to parcs in VN015, PG013, IA015, IN020, IA020, MC011, IL016, WM020, GA011, IL019, GA014, RV014 between 24th May and 30th May 2009.

The offer is applicable to all parcs and accommodation types excluding Premier mobile homes, apartments, bungalows, villa's, RV Pick Up's and holidays in the USA and Canada.

The offer is subject to a minimum of 3 nights in and is subject to availability and the terms and conditions as stated in the 2009 Eurocamp brochure. The percentage discount is against the base holiday price and cannot be combined with any other Eurocamp offer or discount. This offer is only valid for bookings made before 30th September 2009.



## Save big cats when you save with the Cheshire.

Open a Big Cat Junior Saver Account today and we'll make a 1% donation to Chester Zoo.

Pick up a leaflet from **Guest Services** or call 0800 195 1514

Chester Zoo will receive an amount equal to 1% of the average total balance in the account over the year from Cheshire Building Society.

\*Big Cat Junior Saver Account must be opened with a minimum investment of £100 to receive free child place. Additional terms and conditions apply. The account is available up to the age of 18. Instant access subject to withdrawal limits. Lines open 8am-8pm weekdays, 9am-4pm Saturdays. For security and training purposes, telephone calls may be monitored or recorded. Cheshire Building Society is a trading division of Nationwide Building Society, Head Office, Pipers Way, Swindon, SN38 1NW. Nationwide subscribes to the Banking Code, copies of which are available on request. Chester Zoo is operated by the North of England Zoological Society (Registered Charity Number 306077).



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# Talking Conservation!

April to September 2009

Our 2009 Talking Conservation season continues with an exciting range of talks from Chester Zoo staff and guest speakers. We cover elephants, Andean bears and cheetahs with real life stories from their habitats and are also very privileged to welcome Richard Fortey, a Fellow of the Royal Society, who will give a talk on Charles Darwin in this the bicentenary of Darwin's birth.

Talking Conservation is one of your benefits as a member of Chester Zoo and brings you up to date with the work of the Zoo and its conservation efforts at home and internationally and you also have the opportunity to chat informally to our speakers afterwards. There is no admission charge to talks for members\* and you are welcome to bring a friend for the small charge of £3.50, which includes refreshments.

Please see the end of the talks' schedule for booking details.

Tuesday 7th April 2009 at 7.30pm

## The Assam Haathi Project

Scott Wilson

Asian elephants are having to exist in an increasingly human dominated landscape. In Assam, human elephant conflict leads each year to loss of crops, damage to buildings and injury and death to rural villagers and elephants alike. The Assam Haathi Project is working closely with affected communities to reduce this conflict, help improve livelihoods and promote the conservation of elephants.

**Scott Wilson:** Scott joined the Chester Zoo Conservation Division in 2002. As Conservation Officer he has a very diverse role including helping to develop and manage Chester's growing portfolio of conservation outreach activities worldwide and managing the GIS components of Chester's conservation programmes.

Scott originally studied Marine Biology & Zoology at Bangor University, and went on to complete an MSc in Conservation Biology at Manchester Metropolitan University. Between studying Scott's previous jobs have included working for the Zoology Department of the Ulster Museum, Belfast; as a Team Leader for the Sea Turtle Protection Society in Greece; and as a teacher in Zimbabwe for VSO.

Wednesday 13th May at 7.30pm

## Andean Bear Conservation in Venezuela: a team-work approach

Shaenandhoa García-Rangel

The Andean bear is the only remnant species of the Tremactinae subfamily, and the only ursid across South America. Its distribution extends from Venezuela to Bolivia, across deciduous and evergreen forests, moors, páramos and puna prairies. In Venezuela, the species is Endangered and is constantly threatened by poaching and habitat destruction. In the 1980s, conservation efforts were initiated and by 1994, 12 National Parks had been declared across the species range. Interest and commitment declined considerably during the following years, until the beginning of the XXI century, when a second wave of concern in the Andean bear brought together a small group of scientists, vets, NGOs and students. The first task of this team was to update the existing Action Plan to re-assess the species conservation status and priorities. In 2007, the new Action Plan was published and put into practice as it was integrated with on-going efforts, such as the Andean bear - Sierra de Portuguesa project, partially funded by the Chester Zoological Gardens.

Shaenandhoa (Shena) will bring us up to the date with the work of the project, its success and its future direction.

**Shaenandhoa García Rangel** is a Biologist from the Universidad Simón Bolívar in Venezuela. She is a PhD candidate at the Wildlife Research Group, with a project focused on generating a habitat and landscape-use model for the Andean bear in Sierra de Portuguesa, North-East end of the Venezuelan Andes. Her research interests are focused on carnivores, neotropical and landscape ecology, conservation and management, and the Andean ecosystem. She has been involved in Andean bear conservation since 2002, promoting the update of the species Action Plan for Venezuela, the consolidation of the Andean bear Venezuelan Team, and actively participating as a member of the Bear Specialist Group and the International Association for Bear research and Management.



Thursday 4th June at 7.30pm

## What Darwin didn't know

Richard Fortey

Charles Darwin was puzzled by the lack of fossils providing 'missing links' between major animal groups. Richard will show just how many of these 'links' have now been found - from feathered dinosaurs to early humans. Since Darwin's death, our knowledge of the history of life has been transformed by many new discoveries. Richard will describe how life can be understood as a series of evolutionary breakthroughs. But some ecologies - like those of coral reefs - seem to emerge spontaneously many times over hundreds of millions of years.

**Richard Fortey** was a senior palaeontologist at the Natural History Museum until his retirement in 2006. He is the author of several books, including *Fossils, A Key to the Past* and *The Hidden Landscape* which won *The Natural World Book of the Year* in 1993; *Life: An Unauthorised Biography, Trilobite!*, which was short-listed for the Samuel Johnson Prize; and *The Earth: An Intimate History*. He has won the Lewis Thomas and Michael Faraday medals for his science writing. He was president of the Geological Society of London during its bicentennial year in 2007, and is a Fellow of the Royal Society. His most recent book, a look behind the scenes at the Natural History Museum, was published this year by HarperCollins and is called *Dry Storeroom No. 1*. He lives in Oxfordshire.

Thursday 10th September at 7.30 pm

## Cheetahs for Chester:

### The De Wildt Ambassador Project

Nicky Bolton

The Cheetah is on the endangered list. This international project, run by the De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Trust, is designed to raise local and ultimately global awareness of the Cheetah's plight, contributing to safeguarding its environment in the future. De Wildt works with scientists and communities to produce a mix of solutions to the challenge of saving the Cheetah. A key aspect of its work is with schools and communities, raising awareness and making conservation possible through educational outreach work. The Ambassador scheme is an essential element of their educational work. Nicky Bolton will describe how the project is run in local communities in South Africa, using live Ambassador Cheetahs in the classroom. She will also share some of the new resources that are being developed as a consequence of the educational links between Chester schools, Chester University and the De Wildt Trust.

Ann van Dyck, who founded the De Wildt Trust 30 years ago, still works tirelessly for wild life. She is extremely enthusiastic about the Chester link: "... responsibility for supporting the Cheetah in its race for survival must pass from old people like me to the next generation of children and young people - not just in South Africa but across the world."

**Nicky Bolton** is a teacher at Overleigh St. Mary's Primary School, Chester. She is an ardent conservationist and has recently had the privilege of working as part of a teaching exchange with the De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Trust near Pretoria, South Africa.

After each talk, you are invited to join us for light refreshments where you will have an informal opportunity to ask questions and to chat to staff and guest speakers.

Our Lecture Theatre seats up to 170, so why not encourage your fellow members to join us and learn more about the important conservation work Chester Zoo is involved in, which your membership supports? Friends are welcome too at the small charge of £3.50, payable in cash on the night of the talk.

At selected talks, there will be items for sale from our projects overseas - perfect gifts, supporting vital work.

All of our Members' Talks are held in the Geraldine Russell Lecture Theatre (near the Zoo's Main Entrance off the A41) at the times stated above. The talks are free of charge and are provided to keep you abreast of Chester Zoo's 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](mailto:k.brarkin@chesterzoo.org) to book.

Members are required to bring along their membership card and welcome letter for access.

Coming up ... In December, Stephen McKeown (Head of Discovery and Learning) will be giving a North of England Zoological Society history talk to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of George Mottershead's achievement - Chester Zoo. The talk will include old film footage of people and animals from the Zoo's past right up to the present day. It's a fabulous trip down Memory Lane!

For this, and details of other talks in the Autumn Programme, look out for Talking Conservation in the next issue of Z mag

# Events at Chester Zoo

**Sunday 15th March**

**Adopter Day - Two course Sunday Roast**

£13.50 per adult £8.95 per child  
Pre-booking and pre-payment essential.

**Sunday 22nd March**

**Mother's Day**

Enjoy a delicious three course lunch in Oakfield Manor at either 12.00pm or 3.00pm.  
£24.95 per adult £17.50 per child  
Price includes admission into zoo

**Sunday 21st June**

**Father's Day**

Treat dad for a change with a visit to the zoo and a three course lunch.  
Bookings taken for 12.00pm and 3.00pm  
£24.95 per adult £17.50 per child

**Thursday 25th June**

**Elephant and Primate Evening**

A fascinating evening incorporating our ever popular elephants and primates.  
To round off the evening a BBQ is served on the terrace, Oakfield Manor.  
£34.50

**Thursday 23rd July**

**Gardens, Birds, Butterflies (and possibly Bees)**

Enjoy an evening stroll through our award winning gardens to the recently opened Butterfly house. The evening concludes with a buffet served within Oakfield Manor.  
£30.95

**Thursday 20th August**

**Afternoon Tea and Garden Tour**

Admission into the zoo is from 4.00pm with afternoon tea served on the terrace at Oakfield Manor at 5.00pm. A garden tour follows with the evening concluding at 7.30pm.  
£16.95

**Thursday 3rd September**

**Carnivore Evening and Buffet**

In the company of our keepers learn more about the red pandas, sealions and some of our big cats. A delicious buffet is included in the price.  
£34.95

**Friday 30th October**

**Ghost Talks in Oakfield Manor**

Enjoy a supper and ghostly tales within Oakfield Manor.  
£14.95

**Sunday 8th November**

**Members' Day Two Course Lunch**

A delicious two course lunch served in Oakfield Manor.  
£15.95 per adult £11.95 per child

**Saturday 14th November**

**Bats by Torchlight**

Admission into the zoo from 2.30pm.  
Hot pot supper served in the manor followed by an on-foot tour to the Twilight Zone to meet and chat to one of our keepers.  
£15.95 per adult or child

**December**

**Christmas lunches**

A delicious three course Christmas lunch enjoyed within the manor.

Price includes admission into Chester Zoo.

£25.95 per adult £17.25 per child (under 11 years)

**Friday 18th December**

**Christmas dinner and disco**

Dining & Dancing until midnight.  
£36.50 pp

Pre-booking and pre-payment essential

For further details please contact

the Events Office, Chester Zoo, Caughall Road, Upton, Chester CH2 1LH

01244 650209 [events@chesterzoo.org](mailto:events@chesterzoo.org)

**FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL**

(NORTH WEST GROUP)

**CELEBRATING 25 YEARS ASSOCIATION WITH CHESTER ZOO**

**SPRING PROGRAMME 2009**

Please note that FFI evenings are a unique mix of 'entertainment' and learning focussed on conservation. They are informal, informative and fun, and are open to everyone, so please do feel free to come along.

**Friday 20 March 2009**

**"It Started by Me Studying Zoology" with Alastair Fothergill**

Alastair Fothergill joined the BBC Natural History Unit in 1983 after studying zoology at the universities of St Andrews and Durham, and since then he has become famous for producing the BAFTA award-winning Really Wild Show, the Trials of Life series working with David Attenborough, Wildlife on One, and the innovative Reefwatch. He first started working on his idea for Life in the Freezer in 1989 and has subsequently made many trips to Antarctica giving him the rare opportunity to see the diversity of life of this remarkable region. In 1992 he was appointed Head of the BBC Natural History Unit, which he stood down from in 1998 in order to concentrate on his role as Series Producer of The Blue Planet.

Truly an amazing individual with some remarkable stories to tell – so do come along for what will certainly be a very special evening.

**Friday 24 April 2009**

**"The Lizard Wizard" with John Bendon**

FFI is not all about the cuddly stuff – although John Bendon may view his beloved Iguanas differently to some others.

John is a Member of the International Union of Conservation and Nature's (IUCN) Iguana Specialist Group. In fact he is an amazing artist whose main work with these creatures has involved him travelling the world to meticulously record on paper the scale patterns of individuals to determine individual, regional and sub-specific variations. During the 30 or so years he has spent doing this, John has had the unique opportunity to study in detail the behaviour of several species of Iguana in many locations around the world. This is your chance to hear more about his important work, and to view some of his drawings.

Tickets for these events may be available on the door, but advance booking helps keep costs down. Please call Penny Rudd on 01244 650215 to reserve tickets. Doors open at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start at Chester Zoo's Russell Allen Lecture Hall, off the A41, just before the Park & Ride. Easy parking! Members and non-Members of FFI are welcome to attend; tickets cost £8.00 for FFI Members and £8.50 for non-FFI Members, with a concession of £5 for students. All ticket prices include a buffet and wine.



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

Tel. 01244 380280 Fax. 01244 371273 Email: [info@chesterzoo.co.uk](mailto:info@chesterzoo.co.uk) Web: [www.chesterzoo.org](http://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