

# "Our Zoo News & Guide"

A MONTHLY CHRONICLE OF NEWS AND GUIDE TO  
CHESTER ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

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August, 1939.



A LIONESS AT THE ZOO.

# GUIDE.

## HOW TO SEE THE ZOO.

On entering the Zoo visitors who desire to see all the exhibits should follow the arrows in rotation of their numbers. It is of course possible to take other routes and many walks are not arrowed at all, but the visitors who have limited time at their disposal are advised to follow the arrows if they wish to see all the main exhibits.

One of the first exhibits to be met are the Malayan Bears, these come from the Malay Peninsular. They are most playful, but unfortunately cannot be trusted and visitors must on no account touch them. Their enclosure is one of the first permanent structures the Society undertook. It was originally intended for Racoons but was later adopted for the bears on account of the very fine Oak Tree which grew in the centre. To-day it is hard to believe that not only was the tree a wonderful specimen in perfect health when the bears were first put in but the enclosure was also covered with grass, but bears love burrowing in the ground and at times turn their enclosure into a regular mud heap.

After the bears we come to various animals and birds till we arrive at the next permanent establishment, The Aquarium. This is constructed in the basement of the house and consists of both Tropical and Cold Water Fish. The varieties of which are labelled on each tank.

Leaving the Aquarium we pass on our left the site for the Open Air Lion enclosure which is under construction. When completed it will be one of, if not the largest in the country.

We next pass into what was in the old days when the Zoo was a private residence, the Court Yard, on our right are some old bear pens which will be scrapped as soon as other accommodation is found for the bears which are there at present.

Next we enter the Monkey House, and in here we have a very fine collection, particularly of Chimpanzees. They are great favourites on account of their intelligence and amusing antics. Chimpanzees are considered to be the nearest animal to man. Our collection includes a specimen of the rare Checko variety.

Moving onwards we arrive at the first new house the Society built, The Lion House. It was opened

on the 19th of October, 1938, by the Right Hon. Viscount Leverhume. This house is part of the larger scheme of the Lion enclosure and the animals will be able to go out at will when the enclosure is finished. The cages in this house are perhaps the largest of any in this country and the animals not only have plenty of room but ample light which is arranged over them.

We leave the Lions and pass the Quarantine House, which visitors are usually permitted to enter. Leaving the Court Yard we proceed through the Conservatory where Botanical interests vie with Zoological claims.

Still following the arrows we pass many aviaries and come to the Polar Bear, etc. Here we can either go over the Terrace to the Birds of Prey and other Avaries or take the Avenue straight ahead to the Waterfowl. If we do the latter and take the path to the right it will take us through the Bird Sanctuary till we emerge once again by the lawns and the large enclosure containing Peafowl and Crowned Cranes.

This description is of necessity very brief, actually while following the arrows the visitors will have passed several hundred specimens of Mammals, Birds and Reptiles. Should you as our patrons agree that the many improvements are required please help us by recommending your friends to patronize the Zoo or become a member, thus helping the Society in its objects.

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## The Month goes by.

July has gone and with it a shocking record of rain, at the Zoo we seem to have had more than our share for during the last fortnight alone, it rained every afternoon except one.

Despite the weather, we show an increase on last year but nothing like the number we require to carry us through the winter. We are however hoping that August and September will be kinder to us and enable us to make up for July's disappointing show.

Many of the improvements which have been undertaken have been held up by the weather. In the case of the Hyena Enclosure we received word from Africa that the Cheetahs which were going to be quarantined at the Zoo had died before leaving the coast of Africa, so the urgency of completing this enclosure was not so great and other more important jobs were undertaken.

The new office at the entrance will be a very great asset for administration purposes, particularly during the peak months of August and September.

Extra lion accommodation has had to be made to provide a quiet home for "Faith" the lioness who is expecting a family this month. This is at the rear of the Lion House and will not be available for the public, but it is so connected that as soon as the cubs are able to walk about they will be allowed to come into the large cage of the Lion House itself.

In the Aquarium much work has been done behind, in readiness for opening a new section, also several structural improvements have been carried out, giving the public more room.

The new compressor pump has been installed in readiness for the extra tanks which are being added, and a Lizard case has been built facing the Angel fish tank.

The fish still continue to be very prolific, many tanks containing large numbers of young fish which have been bred in the Aquarium.

We are sorry to say that the young Griffin Vulture fell out of its nest during one of July's bad storms, and died from the effects. It was a great pity, as a few more days would have seen it strong enough to fly.

The Zoo received during July two very nice Marmosets from Mrs. Welsh, of Dee Banks, Chester. These little animals can be seen in the Chimpanzee house, contrasting in size to Kiki.

A site has not yet been decided upon for the huge jaw bones of the Blue Whale, these continue to draw a lot of attention and amazement from the public, many of whom realise for the first time what monsters Whales are.

The Zoo has also received a collection of birds from R. Franklin Hindle, Esq., and these have been placed in the large Aviary in front of the Conservatory.

We have pleasure in announcing that Mr. W. Aspden is going to give another talk on "Chester Zoo," on Friday, 11th August, at 5 p.m., in the North Regional Programme.

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As we have said before, life at the Zoo is never dull and one can never say with certainty at what time they will have to rise when they go to bed, for so many things might occur, that quite frequently we have to get up again before we have gone to sleep.

One night recently the Zoo was suddenly disturbed by the loud calling of the Cranes, so persistent was their call that it was deemed necessary to go out and investigate the cause.

No sooner had we got outside than we heard the heavy flight of a bird overhead, followed some minutes later by the distant call of a Crane.

Investigating the reason, we discovered that a man was in the Zoo for some unknown purpose, but despite our efforts to cut off his retreat he got away, and the Crane which had flown away was caught next day in the village.

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Last November an appeal was made on behalf of the Zoo to raise funds to wipe out the losses of previous years and give the Society a fair chance to establish itself as a useful public institution. Unfortunately at that time the International situation affected the response to this. We would draw the attention of readers to the fact that this fund is still open, and it would be a very great help if our object could be achieved.

For the benefit of those who did not see this appeal we once again print it and trust that those who have not already sent a donation will do so, and help to give the Zoo a sporting chance.

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#### ZOO APPEAL.

	£	s.	d.
Previously acknowledged ...	335	17	7½
Mrs. Braddon ... ..	5	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£340	17	7½
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COPY OF THE ORIGINAL  
APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC.

*For the past four years the North of England Zoological Society has been established in the Zoological Gardens at Upton-By-Chester.*

*This Society is a learned Society whose objects are to promote an interest in Zoology and related subjects, and to keep a collection of representative Zoological specimens.*

*It must be realised that as a learned Society the Zoological Society is not a profit making institution. To house and feed a collection of animals in a fitting manner is not a cheap undertaking, and to embark on more modern schemes for the display and housing of the animals needs more money than the Society can afford.*

*We are of opinion that a Zoological Society housing, displaying and feeding its exhibits in a suitable manner, is a very valuable asset in the cultural life of the district, and we feel strongly that the lapse of the Society would be a distinct loss.*

*The Society has made steady progress from year to year, and the losses on each succeeding year are becoming less, thus next year the annual loss should be negligible but the Society feels that the accumulated losses of the four years are such that financial help and more practical support for the Zoo are essential for the continuance of this project.*

*When it is known that over 110,000 visitors have seen the Gardens during the past four years, the Society realises that a public need is being fulfilled, but it is vitally necessary that a substantial sum is subscribed in order to ensure the continuance of the Society.*

*A Fund has been inaugurated, and in the event of this appeal meeting with a generous response an amount of Five Hundred Pounds has been promised.*

*Signed, LEVERHULME.  
GEOFFREY CESTR.  
GEO. BARLOW.  
L. PHYLIS BROWN.  
E. PETER JONES.  
CHARLES CAYZER.  
W. BROMLEY DAVENPORT.*

*12th November, 1938.*