



The official magazine for
Chester Zoo Members and Adopters

Summer 2010

£2.50



Enter the
dragons



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director's pen



Welcome to the Summer issue of **Z** and I hope the year is being kind to you.

To begin with, I can tell you there are some big changes ahead in the Chester Zoo camp. As you will read on page four, I will be stepping down from my role as Director General in October so this will be the first of my last two letters to you.

At 62 I guess this news will come as no shock and I will be leaving the Zoo in a strong position and in good hands.

Asides from our magnificent animals I shall, of course miss the staff, but I will also miss the feedback from you, our many valued Members and Adopters. I have appreciated your continued support for the Zoo and for your wise words and support.

You will also read on page four that we have a new chairman, Professor Peter Wheeler, who has taken over from Tony Williams after he stood down. Tony has served two consecutive three year terms as chairman – this is the maximum that a chairman can serve. I would like to thank Tony for his sterling work and support and wish Peter all the very best for his tenure.

All of this news, however, does not detract from the main business and I can tell you there has been plenty of activity on the animal front. We have had many arrivals and some departures and you can read more about these in the pages of the magazine.

We were also pleased to hear your feedback on **Z** and were glad to hear that you welcomed the introduction of the Five Minutes feature with Mark Pilgrim, Director of Conservation and Education. I can tell you this will be a regular column and is part of our commitment to keeping you informed about zoo activities.

I hope you continue to enjoy reading **Z** and wish you a happy and warm Summer!

Gordon McGregor Reid Director General

Adopters' Days

The next two Adopters Day dates are:
Sunday 3rd October 2010
Saturday 12th March 2011

Members' Days

The dates of the next Members' Days are;
Friday 2nd July 2010
Sunday 7th November 2010
Saturday 9th April 2011

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

Visiting Other Zoos

If you are planning to visit one of the zoos included in the reciprocal admission arrangements please don't forget to take you membership card **PLUS** your welcome letter/direct debit letter confirming your expiry date. All zoos operate independently of each other and without the letter it is not possible for them to determine if your Chester Zoo membership is valid.

Membership Cards

When you renew your Chester Zoo membership you only need to have a new card printed if your old card has an expiry date printed on it.

Short Term Offers for Members

Total Fitness
Special reduced price
Total Fitness Memberships
are still available until 31 August 2010.

To take advantage of the offer of £295 per year or £35 per month visit the total fitness website & quote CZMAG in the promocode.

10% off at
La Vita Bella Ristorante

Warrington Road, Little Leigh, Cheshire, CW8 4QT.

La Vita Bella is proud to offer Chester Zoo Members a special summer offer, inviting them to dine with them at their very own little corner of Italy, right here in Cheshire!

*Show your Membership card at La Vita Bella to receive 10% off your food bill during June, July & August 2010.

Visit www.lavitabellarestaurant.co.uk
Tel: 01606 854880

Chester Zoo's Director General, Professor Gordon McGregor Reid has announced his intention to leave his position later this year.



Gordon, who has been with the award-winning zoo for 18 years and at its helm for 15 years, plans to step aside on October 1 this year.

Gordon joined the Zoo as Chief Curator and – with his background in zoological research, conservation and education – aims to return to his roots and will work on a number of different external projects in association with the Zoo.

Tony Williams, Chairman of the Trustees, said:

"Gordon feels it is the right time for him to make this move and I know that, as a professional biologist, he is very keen to fulfil his passion for zoological research, field conservation and university teaching.

"Gordon has done a sterling job for the Society. He has seen us through some very challenging times and has transformed the Zoo into the UK's Number 1 wildlife attraction of choice.

"Through his national and international work, he has given NEZS and Chester Zoo a very creditable profile throughout the world, in conservation, research and education. His election as President of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums is evidence of the high esteem in which he is held by the zoological community.

"Quite rightly, Gordon should feel proud of what he has achieved. On behalf of the Trustees, our Members and staff, I would like to thank him for his dedication and professionalism and wish him and his family every success for the future."

During Gordon's tenure as Director General, the Zoo has gained more than 200 international, national and regional awards across a wide range of disciplines notably the prestigious Darwin Award (which the Zoo has won three times for conservation work) and the Queen's Award for Enterprise in Sustainable Development which the Zoo has won twice and which is the UK's highest business accolade.

Gordon has gained numerous personal awards including three honorary degrees from universities in the northwest and has had two newly discovered species of fish scientifically named in his honour.

Gordon said the Zoo had clearly set out its stall in the field of conservation and was now a recognised brand and major player in

"As well as the thousands of animals that have been under my care, I will miss all of the people in and outside the Zoo who have helped make it such a runaway success.

My intention to step down as CEO is something that I have given a great deal of thought to and it has not been an easy decision to make. The Zoo is all about conservation, education and science and, given that I started out as an academic biologist in these areas, that's what I would now like to return to.

This said, I will greatly miss the day-to-day contact with the staff and Trustees. They are an outstanding professional team and I have hugely enjoyed working with them over the last 18 years.

I am delighted to be leaving the Zoo on a solid business footing with an excellent physical infrastructure for animals, visitors and staff, a strong organisational framework, good finances and a clearly established mission, vision and strategy. The Zoo is now in a wonderful position to move forward with its plans, including the exciting large-scale Natural Vision development.

For the last 12 years the Zoo has consistently attracted well over one million visitors a year. It is now the most visited wildlife attraction and second most visited leisure attraction in the UK after the Tower of London. I am sure it will continue to go from strength to strength and I wish everyone involved all the very best for the future."

conservation, education and sustainability, both at home and abroad and was pleased to leave this as his legacy.

As well as holding the title of Director General, Gordon is a Visiting Professor in the Veterinary Faculty, University of Liverpool and chairs or sits on the boards of a number of external bodies related to the Zoo's mission in conservation, animal welfare, education and science. With extensive field experience in Africa, Central America, India, the Middle and Far East, he is Global Chair of the Freshwater Fish Specialist Group of the World Conservation Union and Wetlands International.

He is Immediate Past President of WAZA (World Association of Zoos and Aquariums) and, in that capacity, still serves on their Council. He remains as Champion of the recently-formed Climate Change Task Force of WAZA and IUCN-CBSG (World Conservation Union). Gordon is a Chair and founding member of the Frozen Ark (a university-led biotechnology initiative in support of conservation) and was, until recently, Global Chair of the Amphibian Ark - another highly successful WAZA/IUCN conservation initiative.

Gordon, who started out as a researcher at the British Museum of Natural History, is a past President of the Linnean Society of London, former Trustee of the National Museums, Liverpool and was a UK Government-appointed Zoo Inspector from 1984-2008. He has acted as a consultant for the World Wide Fund for Nature, Conservation International, Fauna and Flora International and many other bodies including conducting major conservation and research reviews for national governments overseas.

As well as fulfilling his passion for zoological research, Gordon, who lives in Malpas, plans to spend more time with wife Sally, son Alex and his tropical fish tank.

The Trustees of the North of England Zoological Society, the charitable trust that runs Chester Zoo, will shortly begin the recruitment process for his replacement. Gordon, 62, will assist with the handover to the new Director General, up to and beyond October 1 as required.

After six memorable years as Chairman of the Trustees of the North of England Zoological Society, the time has come for me to hand over the reins.

I have had the honour of being Chairman since 2004 and have now served two terms, the maximum length of time permitted for a Chairman of the Society.

I was first elected to Council in 1994 and since then I have seen the zoo develop and go from strength to strength to become a world-class conservation organisation and the UK's number 1 wildlife visitor attraction.

Although I have stood down as Chairman, I remain as a trustee for the next year or so.

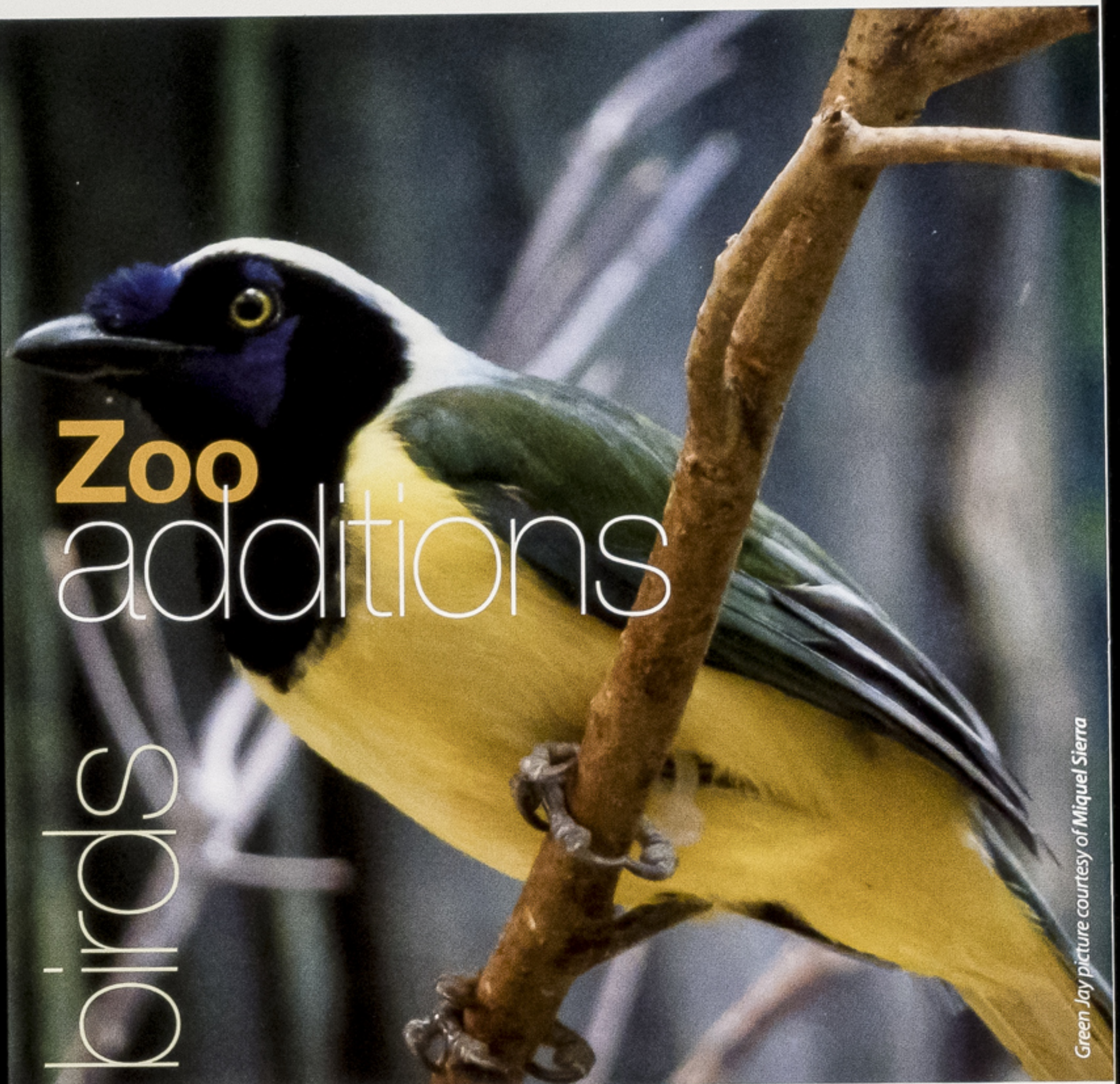
I would like to pay tribute to the management and staff of the Zoo for their dedication and commitment to creating a truly remarkable conservation organisation. I feel honoured to have worked so closely with such an enthusiastic group of people. I wish them continued success and hope they reach their Vision of a diverse and sustainable natural world.

I would also like to pay tribute to my fellow Trustees for their dedication and the support they have given to me during the past six years. The time and energy, that they give voluntarily, contribute significantly to the Society's wellbeing.

Friday 30th April was my last day in post and I then handed over to Prof Peter Wheeler, Dean of the Faculty of Science at Liverpool John Moores University. Peter was elected a Trustee in 2000, becoming Vice Chairman in 2004 and is currently chairman of our Conservation and Education Committee. I leave the Society in good hands and wish Peter well in his new post.

Tony Williams

Chairman • North of England Zoological Society



Green Jay picture courtesy of Miquel Sierra

Zoo additions

birds

A pair of Green Jays arrived from Barcelona Zoo in Spain and are currently in Quarantine.

Green Jays come from much of South and Central America and are also found in the extreme south of Texas.

Over the next few years we plan to increase the numbers of some of our South American species and these beautiful, active and noisy Jays will be housed in an aviary along with our Red-billed Curassows, extremely rare Turkey-sized birds in an aviary between the *Tropical Realm* and the *Spirit of the Jaguar*.

The Jays live in noisy family flocks and are found in all sorts of habitats, from semi-desert, lowland rainforest to high mountain Pine forests. They are real omnivores and eat a wide variety of different foods including fruit, seeds and small animals such as insects, rodents and lizards.

We have recently moved our Bali Starlings from their rainforest type home in *Islands in Danger* and placed them in with our Komodo Dragons, still in that building. Although Bali Starlings don't actually come from Komodo, the habitat they live in in Bali is very similar to that of the Dragons, being very dry, hot and rather barren with mostly thorny scrubby trees.

Bali Starlings are one of the rarest species we keep in the Zoo and although there is a very successful breeding programme for the species of which our birds play an important part, they are extremely threatened in the wild in Indonesia. Loss of habitat and capture for the cage bird trade has pushed these birds to the edge of extinction and there may be

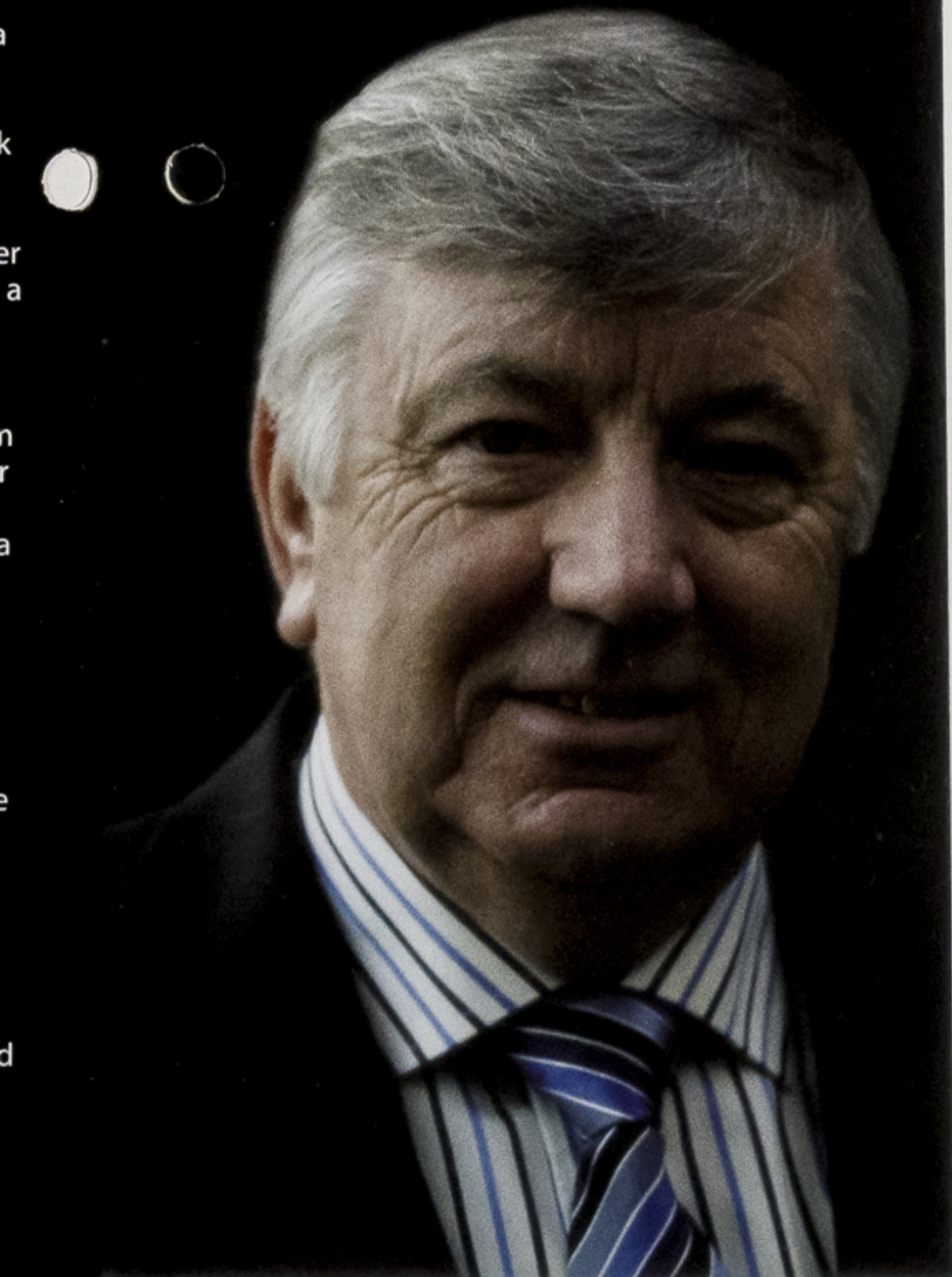
fewer than 10 birds remaining in their original wild habitat.

Two new dove species arrived at the Zoo recently, both are members of the Fruit Dove family. They are Superb Fruit Doves *Ptilinopus superbis* and Black-naped Fruit Doves *Ptilinopus melanospila*

Fruit Doves come from various parts of South East Asia, Australasia and the Pacific Islands. Several species, particularly those from the Pacific are extremely endangered in the wild. Although the species we have brought into the Zoo are currently not endangered, our Bird Keepers will be able use them as "analogue" or model species to perfect their husbandry skills with these birds and potentially then apply these skills to much rarer species in the future.

Fruit Doves, as their name suggests, feed almost exclusively on fruits and berries, which they pluck from the rainforest trees, they are particularly fond of figs. They are extremely important to the rainforest as seed dispersers. They eat the fruits, digesting the pulp and then the seeds pass through the birds undigested and are deposited on the forest floor and with luck the seed may go on to become a huge rainforest tree.

Despite their often bright colours, Fruit Doves can be tricky to see as their mainly green plumage blends in really well with the surrounding vegetation as they sit quietly for long periods digesting their fruit.



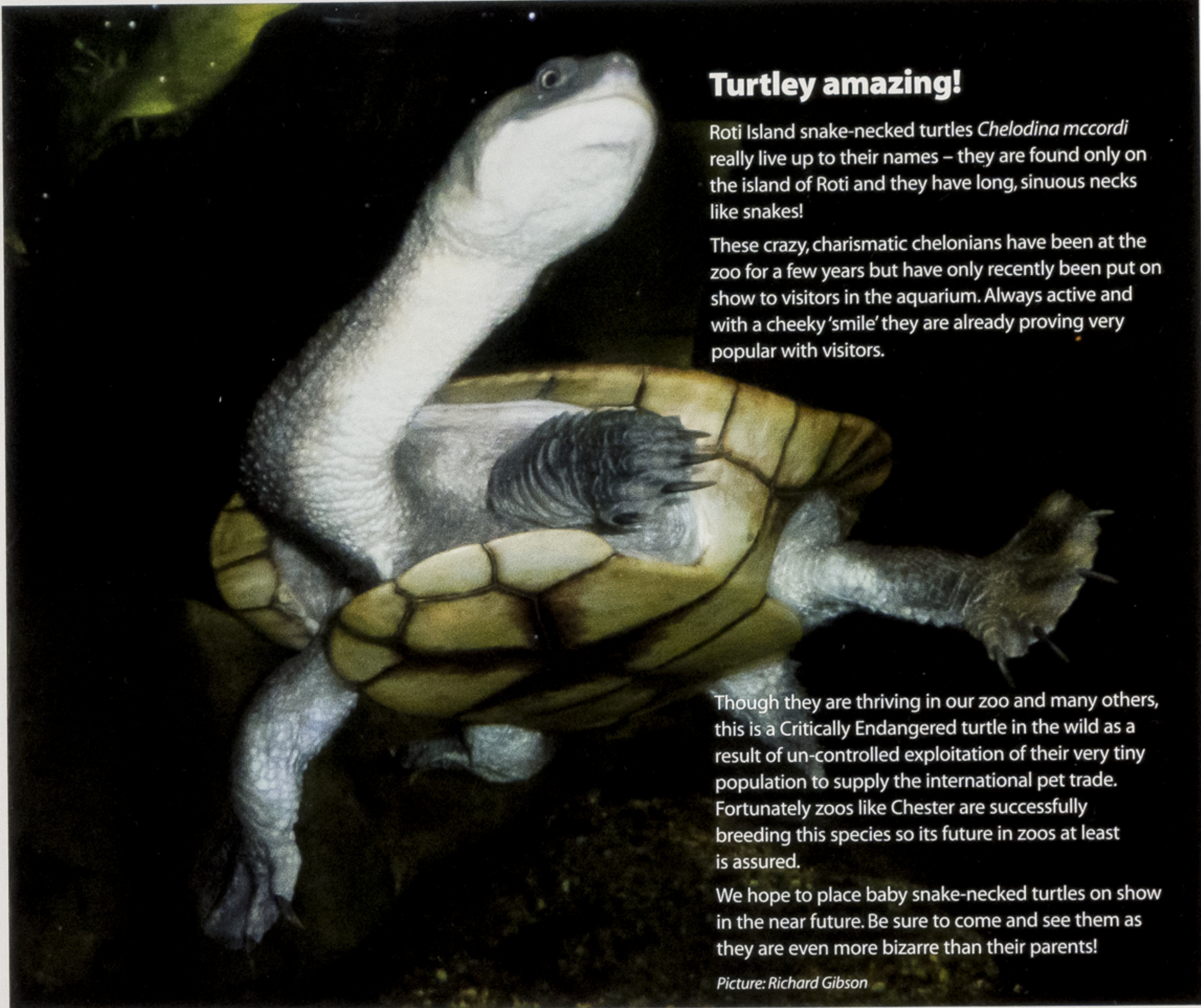
Zoo additions

This has been a busy time with moves in the mammal department. We have been working hard to make ready a newly refurbished enclosure for a Chester first Giant otters, and were lucky enough to receive a pair in the spring. Both *Xingu* and *Icana* have settled in well and are incredibly active and proved very popular with the public and staff alike. Continuing on our giant theme we received our first Giant Anteater for 31 years *Pedro* who has taken up temporary residence in the pens at the back of the giraffe house. We also brought in Iblis a new male Asiatic lion, to form a new breeding pair and moved our old male *Asoka* to Rome. We received a new male Greater one horned rhino, *Baabuu*, from Edinburgh and moved our female *Batchi* to Madrid. We will be working hard to bring in a new young female from San Diego Wild Animal Park later in the year. Finally on the opposite end of the scale we have brought in two male Eastern Pygmy Marmosets who we hope will make a new mixed species exhibit at our Callitrichid enclosures. Three baby meerkats also made their debut, as did the Tawny Frog mouth chicks (pictured below).

(Pictures: Phil Noble, Reuters)



mammals



Turtley amazing!

Roti Island snake-necked turtles *Chelodina mccordi* really live up to their names – they are found only on the island of Roti and they have long, sinuous necks like snakes!

These crazy, charismatic chelonians have been at the zoo for a few years but have only recently been put on show to visitors in the aquarium. Always active and with a cheeky 'smile' they are already proving very popular with visitors.

Though they are thriving in our zoo and many others, this is a Critically Endangered turtle in the wild as a result of un-controlled exploitation of their very tiny population to supply the international pet trade. Fortunately zoos like Chester are successfully breeding this species so its future in zoos at least is assured.

We hope to place baby snake-necked turtles on show in the near future. Be sure to come and see them as they are even more bizarre than their parents!

Picture: Richard Gibson



Why the long face?

Coming soon to the Tropical Realm is the beautiful and enigmatic Rhinoceros Rat Snake *Rhynchophis boulengeri*.

Hailing from the cool, humid montane forests of northern Vietnam and southern China, no one knows the purpose of the elongate 'horn' that gives this delicate arboreal snake its heavy-weight common name. Could it be something to do with its rather unusual habit of eating fish as a juvenile?

We have two young snakes bred at London Zoo and two adults bred by a private German specialist. Hopefully we will be able to mix the two bloodlines successfully and contribute to the long-term sustainability of this extraordinary snake in UK zoos.

Photo: Douglas Sherriff



Also new to the collection is Visayan Warty Pig, *Mr. Pig*. Four year old *Mr Pig* comes from Leipzig.

Zoo additions



Experts gather together to save our native seahorse

Seahorse experts gathered together at Chester Zoo as part of the Native Seahorse Focus Group, organised by Anglesey Sea Zoo.

Unbeknown to many of the UK public, the native short-snouted seahorse *Hippocampus hippocampus* (short-snouted seahorse), is mainly found around the south coast of the UK, with a large population in Studland Bay.

The majority of the native seahorses in aquaria today were caught accidentally by fisherman off the coast of Hastings in 2007 – before both species were given protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act in 2008. Aquarium experts currently study the native seahorses for education and husbandry research.

Aquarists from The Deep and ZSL London Zoo were among the other experts that attended the meeting.

Photo: Sarah Meakin/Anglesey Sea Zoo

The Zoo's Komodo Dragons

Chester Zoo is home to three Komodo Dragons, the most famous of which is *Flora*. *Flora* made headlines around the world when she laid fertile eggs without ever having been near a mate. The dragons can be found in the *Islands in Danger* exhibit which was opened by then Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott.

Here, Herpetology Team Leader **Isolde McGeorge** introduces the three dragons.

Flora

Flora has been at Chester Zoo since 1998 and will be 12 years old in October. She came to us from Miami Metro Zoo along with her sister *Nessie* who moved to Sweden in November 2009 where she settled well and has been paired up with a new suitor. *Flora*, meanwhile, is content here at Chester. At 34 kilos and two metres long she is an impressive dragon but also very amenable. She isn't placid but doesn't dislike anybody. She accepts us all completely and is very good with the vets and the keepers and responds well to clicker and target training which enable us to manage her safely. She is a great digger and likes to dig endless tunnels and uproot all the new plants. She has two basking rocks with special ultraviolet lamps and likes to spend a lot of time on them. In the past *Flora* has been dominated by the much larger males we have introduced her too but, with our new male she's showing her true colours – giving the slightly smaller and barely mature 'new-dragon on the block' a good telling off when they first met over a deer carcass.

Flora, though, will always be famous for her virginity! In 2006, with the help of colleagues at Liverpool University and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), we were able to prove that Komodo

Dragons, the world's largest lizard, can reproduce by parthenogenesis – meaning without the need for a male.

The key to this discovery lay with *Flora* when she laid a clutch of 11 eggs in May that year. Three of the eggs collapsed but were found on examination to contain embryos – showing that they were fertile. Fertile dragon's eggs are not in themselves unusual of course, but what made this news surprising was that *Flora* had at that time never been introduced to, or mated by, a male dragon – she was a virgin.

Dr Phill Watts at Liverpool University carried out genetic fingerprinting on the three eggs, on the other adult Komodo Dragons at the zoo and some on young dragons hatched at ZSL under similar circumstances. This 'paternity' testing proved that *Flora* was indeed both the 'mother' and the 'father' of the fertile eggs, and the seven baby dragons that hatched from the rest of the clutch several months later. This was the first time this has ever been reported in Komodo Dragons and once *Flora's* story was published in *Nature* magazine, at Christmas, she made headline news around the world.

Flora, meanwhile, has remained unfazed by the attention!





Ogrid

Flora not only managed to lay one clutch of fertile eggs without ever having been near a male but, remarkably, she managed the feat twice. One of those from the second clutch of eggs resulted in young *Ogrid*, named after a mythical dragon.

At two years old, he is about a metre long and weighs around 6kg. Genetically he might be 100% *Flora* but his personality couldn't be more different. He is shy and nervous, likes to steer clear of people and clearly believes that offence is the best form of defence! This is all quite normal though and his skittish behaviour is down to his young age and small size – in the wild he'd be in danger of becoming dinner for larger dragons after all. We expect him to settle down eventually and will one day benefit from social interaction with other dragons.

Ogrid will probably be with us for another 12 months before he moves to another zoo in the European Breeding Programme (EEP).



Mr Dragon

Born in Gran Canaria, our new male dragon has come to us on a breeding loan from Rotterdam Zoo. He is nearly six years old and was one of the first ever hatchlings of Komodo Dragons in the EEP. He has only been with us for a short time but is very easy to work with having had lots of keeper contact and training at Rotterdam. Unfortunately he doesn't have a name yet but at the end of this article you will see how you can help us with that decision!

Dragons are by their very nature food-orientated animals and when hungry will spend large parts of their day foraging. We lay scent trails for them to encourage this behaviour, sometimes with a small reward at the end and sometimes not. The main diet for the adult dragons though isn't small food but whole carcasses, usually deer, which they must tear apart with their razor-sharp, tiger shark-like teeth. This is essential for building strong neck and shoulder muscles and a full belly stimulates basking behaviour. Basking is very important for dragons to raise their body temperatures high enough to digest and metabolise their food and also to allow the body to manufacture vitamin D3, a hormone essential to a multitude of body processes.

Dragons are intelligent and curious animals who love to explore. We often move things around in their enclosure to encourage this and we place sacks of leaves, branches and other novel objects in the enclosure for them to examine.

All in all Komodo Dragons are fascinating and extraordinary animals – it is well worth spending some time observing them next time you visit.

Chester Zoo is trying to decide on a new name for their male Komodo Dragon. To help choose visit the Kidz Zoo pages.



Wae Wuul reserve – savannah habitat



The new ranger station built with EAZA zoo funds

Photos courtesy of Claudio Ciofi



Informal village meetings as part of dragon awareness programme



Proclaiming the reserve with local villagers



Training local wardens



Setting live-traps for dragon surveying

Where be dragons?

Richard Gibson Curator of Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates

In 2005 while surveying for Komodo dragons in north-eastern Flores, dragon expert Claudio Ciofi and I spent the long, dark evenings discussing the serious threats to dragon populations on this island, the only part of the dragon's natural range that lies outside of the protection afforded by Komodo National Park. After two frustrating weeks we hadn't sighted, let alone captured, a single dragon and were forced to conclude that dragons in this area no longer existed – a local extinction had taken place in recent years and the Flores dragon situation was clearly worse than we had feared. This only served to increase our resolve to come up with a plan to try and initiate some conservation activity for the largely unprotected dragons remaining in western Flores.

Claudio and I returned to our respective day-jobs and spent the next months emailing, planning, persuading and plotting until we successfully established the first European Zoo & Aquarium Association (EAZA) Komodo dragon field project – the 'Wae Wuul Protection Plan – community awareness, habitat protection and wildlife monitoring'. Funded by contributions from all EAZA zoos keeping Komodo dragons, the project aimed to breathe new life into Wae Wuul, a Forestry Department reserve in the northwest corner of Flores and thought to still be a stronghold for the world's largest lizard on Flores – but no one had surveyed this reserve for ten years!

In 2007, thanks to Claudio's tireless work and political savvy, a new NGO

'Komodo Survival Programme', was approved by the Indonesian authorities which gave the project a local identity and the autonomy it needed. Things then really started to take off. Plans were quickly drawn-up to re-build a sentry post and re-establish a warden presence with regular patrols and a widespread dragon awareness programme was initiated throughout all the villages bordering the reserve. Bringing together village elders, forestry staff and dragon experts the local villagers were persuaded not to burn the savannas or poach deer, the dragon's most important food source, and were invited instead, to become part of the programme to protect the reserve and its dragons.

Last year saw the first wildlife surveys undertaken using newly trained local wardens and the most exciting discovery was confirmation for the first time in a decade that dragons do still exist in Wae Wuul. Ten adult individuals have been accounted for to date and we hope that with time and continued protection of the reserve, more dragons will return ...



Supporting Conservation — in — Indonesia



Each year Chester Zoo supports various conservation activities in Indonesia:

Elephants in Sumatra

A part of Chester Zoo's Asian Elephant Programme, this project mirrors many of the techniques that are being successfully utilised in Assam through the Assam Haathi Project (www.assamaathiproject.org). The project has identified the key populations of Asian elephant in Sumatra and is working towards their protection.

Sumatran Rhino

The Critically Endangered Sumatran rhino is the most threatened of the five rhino species due to its rapid rate of decline. Its continued survival is dependent upon dedicated breeding programmes and the protection of the remaining wild animals and their forest habitat. Chester Zoo supports the protection of Way Kambas National Park, home to an important population of the remaining wild Sumatran rhino.

Sun Bears

Each year Chester Zoo supports several dozen projects through Conservation & Research Grants. In 2009 a grant was awarded to a project focussed on the Malayan Sun Bear. The project is investigating the distribution and population trends of sun bears in Kercini Seblat National Park, Sumatra – one of the last remaining strongholds for this species. This project uses camera traps to survey the bears – this method also gives researcher, Wai-Ming, a great view of what other wildlife is in the region.

Clouded Leopard

A rare sighting of several species (pictured above) including a Clouded Leopard, which spends most of its time in trees, was captured on camera by researchers in Indonesia. The photo was taken in a forest area called Sipurak, part of Kercini Seblat National Park, Sumatra, Indonesia. Chester Zoo funds the researchers, allowing them to set up 21 camera-traps along a 100km² study site.

Clouded Leopards are classed as vulnerable. Kercini Seblat National Park is classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Photo: Wai-Ming Wong

Studentships

Indonesia was also the destination for two of the students supported through the Chester Zoo Studentships in 2009.

Kate Moise's, Oxford Brookes University, project will study the play behaviour and social interactions of white-bearded gibbons in Sebangau National Park, Borneo.

Leah Williams, University of Leeds, will investigate the impacts of logging on forest bird diversity and community composition in the Danum Valley, Borneo.

Staff goWild!

Brazil

Roger Wilkinson, Head of Field Conservation and Research travelled to Brazil with Phil McGowan, director of World Pheasant Association. This was to plan future support for the ongoing field conservation of the threatened Red-billed Curassow in the Atlantic Rainforests of Brazil.

Mark Sparrow, Curator of Horticulture and Botany, (pictured) also travelled to the Atlantic Rainforest in Brazil to meet with REGUA (Reserva Ecologica de GuapiAssu), an NGO that buys up large areas of forest to create reserves free from hunting and logging. REGUA are also engaged in habitat restoration, education, research and sustainable tourism. Mark went out to discuss potential projects linking the zoo's orchid collection with threatened orchid conservation in the wild.



Red-billed Curassow seen by Roger Wilkinson in Brazil



Nandita from EcoSystems India

South Africa

Conservation Manager, Alexandra Zimmermann, Conservation Officer, Scott Wilson, Asian Elephant Project Research Assistant, Tammy Davies and the Assam Haathi Project co-ordinator in Assam, Nandita Hazarika travelled to South Africa earlier this year to attend the International Elephant Conference on Elephant Conservation and Research. The work of Chester Zoo's Asian Elephant project was presented at this conference, which covered a range of in- and ex-situ issues.

Pictured above is Nandita from EcoSystems India.

Summer 2010

Animal Fun!

Kidz

● See Inside...
KIDS PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

ZOO!



**Name the
Dragon!**

Junior Members



Odd one out:

Can you spot which of these photos of a lizard is different from the others?

Chester Zoo staff are looking for help to name its new Komodo dragon. The six year old male is currently known as 'boy' - so staff have come up with a list of five alternative names and want you to help choose.

The names are:

- Bima** (brave)
- Kali** (river)
- Joko** (young man)
- Trooper** (the 'father' of western zoo dragon keeping)
- Deni** (the field coordinator for the EEP programme in Flores)

To enter, send your chosen name to Komodo Dragon Naming Competition c/o Marketing Department, Chester Zoo, Chester, CH2 1LH by Friday July 26. The first entry out of the hat will also receive a £10 voucher as thank you to spend in the zoo shops.

Congratulations to the previous winner, Emma Waring, 10, from Chester.



kidz zoo!



Reptile word fit:

Can you fit these names of different types of reptile into the grid? Some letters have been given to help you. Which word does not fit? It is a group that contains the longest reptile!

- Iguana
- Skink
- Tuatara
- Constrictor
- Turtle

- Tortoise
- Crocodile
- Chameleon
- Viper

We also have another £10 voucher up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning - complete the puzzle and send your entry together with contact details to:

Z magazine, Marketing Department, Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH by Friday July 26



JUNIOR MEMBERS' PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2010

ZOO TOURS

Saturday 26 June 2010

NOTE THAT THIS IS A CHANGE OF DATE AND VENUE
Juniors should come along to this event to find out a bit more about what is happening in the Zoo and you will be offered guided tours for the afternoon.
Meeting at Oakfield House at 2.00pm and return to there for 4.30pm. Over 8's are invited to attend.

ANGLESEY SEA ZOO AND BUTTERFLY PALACE

Saturday 10 July 2010

NOTE THAT THIS IS A CHANGE OF DATE
This will be a busy but enjoyable day split between two very interesting venues on the Isle of Anglesey. We will visit the Sea Zoo in the morning and then travel on to the Pili Palace to see their great collection of butterflies in the afternoon.
We will leave the Staff Entrance at 9.30am and return at 5.30pm. Eights and over should bring a picnic and sunscreen.

HOW TO BE A GOOD ZOOKEEPER!

Wednesday 21 July 2010

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 9.00 am on Wednesday 7 July 2010, and will be strictly on a first-come, first-served basis.

SUMMER BARBECUE

Thursday 5 August 2010

Our summer barbecue 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 find it 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 JUNIOR MEMBERS SUMMER SCHOOL

From 9 - 13 August 2010

This is a full-time, 9.00am - 5.00pm, five day event aimed at Juniors aged 13+, offering a mix of classroom and outdoor learning, and having lots of fun! Subjects covered include Botany, Animal Records, Enclosure Design, Outreach Conservation, Native Species with Live Mammal Trapping, Animal Behaviour, Environmental Enrichment and Careers in Zoos and much more.

The cost for the week is £175 per student.

For further details, contact Penny Rudd on 01244 650215

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.

Staff go Wild!

Kenya

Safari Ranger, Becca Biddle travelled to Laikipia, Kenya in April, home to the Critically Endangered Black Rhino. Becca was hosted by the Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF) a conservation partner, who are a driving force for community conservation and environmental education within the Laikipia District. Becca visited villages to learn about bio-enterprise, sustainable living, and human-wildlife conflict reduction projects being developed.

A Rhino Mania workshop for schools will be developed by Becca following this trip focusing on rhino and community conservation, the way of life of Maasai villagers and the struggles for families and children growing up in Laikipia.

Whilst in Kenya, Becca also visited the school in Mugie Ranch to deliver paints bought by the Zoo for the baby rhino model we have sent over in conjunction with Rhino Mania.

Rhino arrives safely in Kenya

A group of Kenyan school children welcomed an unusual new member to the classroom, in the form of a baby rhino. The fibre glass rhino arrived safely at Mugie Ranch, Laikipia, Kenya after being shipped out by Chester Zoo as part of the public art project, Rhino Mania. The whole process has been facilitated by the Laikipia Wildlife Forum – a community conservation and environmental association.

The rhino will soon be transformed into a beautiful painted model, specially designed and uniquely decorated by school children, before it returns to the UK. As the only rhino being designed outside of Cheshire and the only 'baby' one being auctioned, the painted rhino will become a special addition to a Rhino Mania auction later in the year. The money raised will go straight back to support rhino conservation at Mugie Ranch, through the zoo's rhino conservation programme.

From July 5, the Rhino Mania event will showcase up to 70 5ft high rhinos along the streets of Chester for ten weeks from July, highlighting the artistic talents and cultural gems of the area. Each rhino will be painted by local and regional professional artists and community groups, with many of them being auctioned off to raise funds for Chester Zoo's Black Rhino Field Project in Africa and Ellesmere Port's Hospice of the Good Shepherd at the end of the event.

Maggie Esson, Education Programme Manager at Chester Zoo, comments:

"Rhino Mania will be an incredibly imaginative event linking to the Zoo and our conservation work, both here in the UK and overseas. Each adult rhino will be auctioned off with 50% of the net proceeds going to the Chester Zoo Rhino Appeal. All money raised from this particular 'baby' rhino will return back to Mugie Ranch."

Phillipa Bengough, Tourism Development Officer for Laikipia Wildlife Forum in Kenya, comments:

"LWF is delighted to be part of the Rhino Mania initiative. In early March, the baby rhino model arrived safely in Laikipia's Mugie Ranch which has a 22,000 acre rhino sanctuary. Together with Mugie Primary School children, Mugie Ranch has taken on the challenge to decorate the rhino."



Becca, with some friends, at Laikipia in Kenya

"We believe that this kind of initiative will help create awareness about the importance of rhino conservation to neighbouring communities and school children. We are grateful to have the opportunity to be involved with a UK based project that highlights the vital work that is needed."

Laikipia Wildlife Forum is a membership organisation which conserves wildlife outside protected national park areas. Chester Zoo education staff have played a pivotal role in this project.

The Rhino Mania event is being made possible by Chester Renaissance in partnership with Wild in Art and in association with Bank of America and Cheshire West and Chester Council. The trail will go through the city, from the river to the business park, out to the Zoo and through Chester's neighbourhoods.

For more information and sponsorship opportunities, please visit www.rhinomania.co.uk

Pictured below: Mugie Ranch, Kenya: fibre glass rhino surrounded by wildlife rangers and school children from Mugie Primary School.





Grant Support

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



- Kibale Fuel Wood project, Uganda
- Facilitating management of an African savannah landscape: aerial surveys of wildlife and livestock across the greater Ewaso landscape, Kenya
- Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative, Brazil
- Nurturing Taxon and Thematic Networks/Associations for Conservation and Welfare of South Asian Wildlife and Biodiversity – ZOO and WILD
- To study the population status and distribution of Sarus Crane in Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, Nepal
- Undertaking awareness and policy measures to safeguard African vultures from impacts of chemicals, Kenya
- Energetics and life history of olive baboons at Gashaka Gumti National Park, Nigeria
- Okapi Conservation Project 2010, DRC
- Evolutionary diversification in an endangered biodiversity hotspot: the Sumatran peat swamp forest fish fauna
- Research and Actions for the Community-based Management of the Tanoé forest, Côte d'Ivoire: primate conservation and poverty alleviation
- Gorilla Rehabilitation and Conservation Education (GRACE) Center Veterinary Support, DRC

Studentships

Every year, Chester Zoo runs the Studentship scheme to provide financial support to university students undertaking research projects. This year, the following students projects were supported:

David Norfolk, University of East Anglia:

Population status and habitat preference of the vulnerable endemic Rodrigues Fody

Lois Baker, University of East Anglia:

Conservation of an endangered endemic island plant *Myoporum mauritianum*: distribution, conditions for growth and threats to the population, Rodrigues

Hannah Andrews, The Royal Veterinary College:

Non-invasive assessment of cortisol levels in the evaluation of stress in wild Black Rhinoceros in Kenya

Elizabeth Maciag, The Royal Veterinary College:

Gastrointestinal parasite shedding of three species of lemur (*Eulemur flavifrons*, *Mirza zaza* and *Lepilemur sahamalazensis*) in differently degraded forest fragments on the Sahamalaza Peninsula, Madagascar

Toby Nowlan, The University of Edinburgh:

Expedition Vaquita 2010, Mexico

Helen Talyor, Manchester Metropolitan University:

A genetic assessment of the critically endangered species, Morelet's Treefrog in the Chiquibul National Park of Belize

Chantelle Kerr, Durham University:

Climate change impacts on UK butterflies

Joanne Kingsbury, University of Glasgow:

Glasgow University Exploration Society Bolivia Expedition 2010

Arun Kanagavel, University of Kent:

Identifying potential, community and conservation reserves in Anamalai Hills, Western Ghats

Harry Earle-Mundil, Imperial College London:

Establishing Permanent Monitoring Plots for the Turks and Caicos Islands Pine Recovery Project

News on Conservation from around the World

We take a look at the conservation news in the marine world ...

Bad

The marine life in the Gulf of Mexico is under threat following an explosion in April on a drilling platform which resulted in an oil rig sinking. Around 160,000 litres of oil are being lost into the sea, and concerns are growing for a pod of Sperm Whales which feed in the area, as well as other marine life including rich oyster grounds around the wetlands of the Mississippi River.



Reef fish (c) Tom Hooper

Good

Following a worldwide campaign, the UK Government has created the world's largest marine reserve around the Chagos Islands, in the Indian Ocean. The area, thought to be one of the richest marine ecosystems, has been designated a Marine Protected Area (MPA). Harmful activities such as industrial fishing and deep sea mining are now banned. The Great Chagos Bank is the biggest living coral structure in the world, with more than 220 coral species and over 1000 species of reef fish found there.



Lowland Tapir Update

Chester Zoo has been supporting the Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative in Brazil since 2002. The Tapir Initiative team, led by Patricia Medici, are carrying out tapir research in the Pantanal, the world's largest area of wetland and thought to be the world's most dense biodiversity ecosystem.

The Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative has just launched a new website. Log on to www.tapirconservation.org.br to get all the latest news from Patricia and her team..

China Programme

We continued our support for the Critically Endangered Blue-Crowned Laughingthrush this year, alongside three other European partners. In addition, we have supported a new component of the project which aims to carry out field surveys in Western Yunnan to find a species of laughingthrush caught on camera, which is thought to be new to science.

Chester Zoo have links with the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding and we agreed to support their project researching the management of health and disease prevention in giant panda cubs.

FAST FACT: Adult Giant Pandas spend 14 hours a day feeding as bamboo has such a poor nutritional value



Native Species Programme

Liverpool Bay is one of only three sandy-muddy basins in the UK, these are biodiversity priority habitats. They support a huge diversity of life, ranging from invertebrate and plant life, to overwintering birds and Bottlenose Dolphins. Despite this rich diversity, official records of species for the area are very low. Chester Zoo has joined forces with the 'Liverpool Bay recording partnership' – a group of organisations encouraging people to learn more about the local marine life and become interested in the survival and protection of the marine life of Liverpool Bay. The project includes beach walks and various other events, and will help to boost the local records for the area.

In other native species news, the Sand Martin information board and artificial nest bank, funded by Chester zoo in 2009, were officially opened in April and we hope to bring you pictures of sand martins at the site very soon!

FAST FACT

Did you know that you have a Local Biological Record Centre? rECOrd, serving the Cheshire region, is based at Oakfield House in Chester Zoo. Visit www.record-lrc.co.uk to find out how you can get involved

Realm of the Red Ape Programme

Chester Zoo received fantastic news recently from our partners in Borneo working on the Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Project (KOCP). This photo shows a Bornean Orangutan in the Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary using a rope bridge which was constructed in 2003. It was hoped that these bridges would help to reconnect orangutan populations who have been isolated from other populations due to habitat destruction. This is the first time an orangutan using a rope bridge has been caught on camera!

We continued our ongoing partnership with the KOCP this year, which contributes towards orangutan ecology and conservation research, habitat restoration, support of operating costs, education and ecotourism. In addition to these core activities, our support extends to the KOCP Honorary Wildlife Wardens. The wardens carry out activities such as patrolling, wildlife monitoring, conflict mitigation and community awareness.

The population of Sumatran, or 'Hairy', Rhinos has declined by over 50% in the last 15 years due to poaching. The rhinos are now found only in protected areas which are under constant surveillance by wardens. Chester Zoo began providing support for this Critically Endangered species last year and continued to help efforts to protect the species again this year. By supporting the Rhino Protection Units in Bukit Barisan Selatan and Way Kambas National Park, we are helping to prevent poaching and habitat destruction.

FAST FACT: Only around 200 Sumatran Rhinos remain in south-east Asia – these are mainly in Indonesia, with only around 15 individuals left in Sabah Malaysia



Our Flamingos were on the receiving end of some tender, loving care when they had a health check.

The Flamingos were chivvied into their winter indoor accommodation a few days earlier and this allowed them some time to settle. The Bird Team led by Wayne McLeod then built a smaller run-off area where we were able to separate off the birds into smaller groups to be processed. This meant that they were kept calm and that we were able to catch and process the birds more quickly and efficiently.

During this process a keeper would catch up the Flamingo and hold it facing backwards, this prevents the birds from biting any noses or protruding ear-lobes, which can be surprisingly painful!

Handling time was kept to a minimum and all of the relevant members of the Bird and Vet Teams were ready to carry out their required tasks.

First the birds were given a thorough health check and a photograph was taken of their feet (as they can occasionally get foot problems), they were then scanned to see if they had been fitted with a micro-chip, if so the number was recorded, if not the bird had one implanted. This gives the birds a unique number and allows us to identify it should it lose its leg ring.

The next thing was to check for a leg ring, if the bird had one, the number was recorded, if it didn't it was fitted with a new one. This is the easiest way to identify the individual birds and helps the keepers see which bird is paired to which during

the breeding season and will allow us to carry out research projects on their breeding behaviour in the future.

Biometric measurements were then taken of the birds' head length and Tarsus leg bone length. This will help give us a good idea of the sex ratio of our birds, males usually having bigger heads (no comments please ladies!) and longer Tarsus bones than females.

Then the birds' weight was taken, with the keeper still holding the bird they stood on a set of bathroom scales and then the birds weight was deducted from that of the keepers.

All of this information was relayed back to Records Keeper Dave Brunger, who kept fastidious records of everything.

After that the birds were gently released back onto the pond. By the end of the day the team were working like a fairly well oiled machine and we managed to process each bird in around 4 minutes.

As well as being a really useful training exercise for our Bird Keepers and Students working on the Bird Section, all of this information will be really useful for the future management of our Flamingo flocks, by being able to easily identify our birds, know their sex and who they are paired to, we will hopefully be able to carry out some meaningful long term studies and improve the breeding success of our birds.



National Exhibition Wildlife Art
July 16th to August 1st 2010
 Gordale, Chester High Road (A540),
 Wirral, CH64 8TF.

The 16th annual National Exhibition of Wildlife Art (NEWA) opens its doors to the public on Friday, July 16th this summer. Up to 400 drawings, paintings and sculptures will go on display at the Gordale garden centre at Burton, just 9 miles from the zoo on the Wirral peninsula.

This will be NEWA's 7th year at Gordale; the large, bright, tranquil space of the specially constructed gallery engenders a refreshingly informal style of exhibition, with the artworks displayed in natural light. This year NEWA will also be hosting a Wildlife Awareness Day on Friday July 16th, when charities such as RSPB, Raptor Rescue and Cheshire Wildlife Trust will be available to answer your queries.

All the work selected for the show will also be available to view, and to buy, online at www.newa-uk.com, where artists and collectors can register their interest in this year's exhibition. Both professional and amateur artists are encouraged to enter work in any medium on a wildlife theme. NEWA has gained a remarkable reputation for the excellence and sheer variety of work on display and collectors have come to trust NEWA to provide a consistency of quality at prices to suit every pocket.

The National Exhibition of Wildlife Art continues at Gordale until Sunday, August 1st. Admission is free.



RECORD

RECORD, the Local Biodiversity Information (LRC) system for Cheshire, Halton, Warrington and Wirral, is based in Oakfield House. RECORD serves the 'Cheshire Region' including some parts of Trafford, Tameside and Stockport. We provide a local facility for the storage, validation and usage of wildlife records under the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) project.

The history of RECORD goes back to the time when members of the Lancashire and Cheshire Entomological Society (LCES), made moves to try to develop a centre for the deposition of records, with the World Museum, Liverpool. This was an attempt to produce a computerised records system. Steve McWilliam, then Hon. Secretary for the LCES tried to collate as many entomological records from other naturalists as he could in his spare time.

At around this time the National Wildlife Trusts, were also beginning to look at the possibility of developing a country-wide network of LRCs to prevent the loss of people's data. Also to ensure that decisions over the environment and planning issues were based upon accurate ecological information. Steve McWilliam applied to the NBN and won the right to create RECORD the pilot Local Record Centre for England.

In October 2000 Steve McWilliam became our first Manager and RECORD moved into permanent accommodation at Chester Zoo in October 2001. RECORD was launched on the 12th July 2002 at the Chester Zoo Lecture Theatre and opened by Sir Martin Doughty of English Nature.

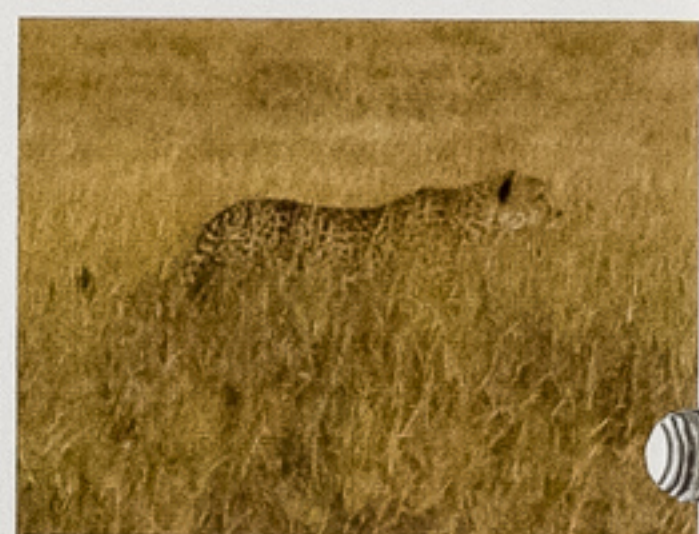
RECORD has been fully operational for ten years, and has five members of staff. We also rely heavily on the help of our volunteers, who key in species data and help develop our IT systems.

Take a look at our website www.record-lrc.co.uk for more information, and start entering your wildlife records onto our online data inputting software (RODIS) now!

Pictures: Chester Zoo staff, Phil Noble/Reuters

Talking Conservation!

2010



Dr. Amy Dickman

Our Members' Talks Programme brings you up close and personal with what goes on behind the scenes at the Zoo, our plans for the future and, of course, our conservation work in the UK and overseas.

Our Summer Programme takes you close to home and far away to Tanzania to the Ruaha National Park. Members' talks are more than just talks; they are your opportunity to ask questions from the experts. So, why not join us and bring along your friends too (see below for further information and booking details).

Wednesday 23rd June 2010 at 7.30pm
**Environmental Management:
the good, the bad and the ugly**
Ray Morrison

Environmental management is a hot topic and lots of NEZS members showed an interest into how the Zoo was addressing the issue at the recent Climate Change Question Time. Ray will give an overview of the Zoo's response to sustainable development and environmental management – reducing risk and improving performance: the good, the bad and the ugly!

Ray Morrison is the Chester Zoo Maintenance/Site Services Manager. Ray is a member of the British Institute of Facilities Management and is responsible for maintaining the built environment on the Zoo site. Ray is from a Mechanical Services background and commenced work at Chester Zoo in 1989, initially as a Plumber; in 1995 he became the Maintenance Foreman before being promoted to his current position in 1999.

In addition to his primary role of looking after the Zoo's Buildings and Engineering Systems Ray has become a champion for sustainable development on site, in particular with regards to energy efficiency and conservation. He was short listed for the ESTA/Energy Institute Energy Manager of year award on 2009.

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

Our Lecture Theatre seats up to 170. Post-talk refreshments give you the opportunity to have an informal chat with speakers and fellow members. At selected talks, items from our projects overseas may be available.

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

Interested in attending? Please call Kate in Education on 01244 389 444 or e-mail k.branks@chesterzoo.org to book.

Tuesday 20th July 2010 at 7.30pm
**Money, myths and man-eaters: Investigating
human-carnivore conflict around Ruaha
National Park in Tanzania**
Dr Amy Dickman

Human-wildlife conflict is an issue of pressing conservation concern, particularly when it involves threatened species and accurately identifying the causes of conflict is fundamental to developing effective resolution strategies. This study investigated pastoralists' attitudes towards wildlife, particularly large carnivores, in the area around Ruaha National Park in Tanzania, which is a globally important area for biodiversity. Pastoralists reported intense conflict with wildlife, especially carnivores, and were largely hostile towards the nearby Park, as wild animals cross the boundary and cause problems on village land. Although the level of retaliatory wildlife killing was low, this was mainly due to circumstantial constraints rather than innate tolerance, highlighting a likely conservation concern for the future. A range of factors affected the severity of respondents' conflict with carnivores, including ethnic group, personal interactions with large carnivores, and hostility towards other groups of people. Successful conflict mitigation will depend upon reducing depredation through better husbandry, improving the cost-benefit ratio of wildlife presence to ensure that local people receive direct, relevant benefits from conservation, and gaining a better understanding of local human-human conflict. Identifying the main factors influencing conflict, and therefore developing the most appropriate mitigation schemes, should have significant benefits both for people and predators in this globally important area.

Amy Dickman is Kaplan Senior Research Fellow in Felid Conservation, Pembroke College and WildCRU. She has been interested in wild cats for as long as she can remember, and has been lucky enough to work with them in Africa for over 12 years. She joined Oxford University's Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU) in 1997 and worked for 5 years with Laurie Marker at the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia, investigating cheetah and leopard ecology, as well as methods of mitigating human-cheetah conflict. She then completed an MSc. at the University of Oxford, investigating the determinants of human-carnivore conflict in Tanzania; work that she developed further for her Ph.D. She rejoined WildCRU as a Senior Research Fellow in 2009 and is now developing a joint carnivore-ecology/human-carnivore conflict study around Ruaha National Park in Tanzania. This project examines which social and ecological factors are most significant in driving human-wildlife conflict in the Ruaha landscape, and therefore how it can best be resolved, as well as examining felid ecology and the impact of anthropogenic pressure on cats across different land use types. She is also involved in using detection dogs for wildlife research, and hope to develop that work further during her current Fellowship.

A heavy-weight new arrival charged into Chester – a gift from the world-class zoo on the city's doorstep.

Chester Zoo has donated a bronze elephant calf – similar to that at its own main entrance.

From its new home on St Werburgh's Street/Northgate Street, the female calf, named *Janya*, will be symbolic of the links between the UK's largest Zoo and the city.

It is also hoped that the 1m tall statue, sculpted by Hampshire-based sculptress **Annette Yarrow**, will encourage city tourists to venture to the Zoo.

Alasdair McNee, Corporate Director for Chester Zoo, said: "We are delighted to unveil the latest addition to the city centre.

"Chester city has a world-class attraction – the UK's largest and most successful zoo – on its doorstep and we hope this magnificent sculpture will be a permanent reminder of that fact.

"Our own bronze elephant is a huge draw for young and old alike and we hope to recreate this impact in the city.

"Chester Zoo however is far more than a visitor attraction and has conservation at the core of all its activities. The city's new calf reflects what the Zoo is all about."

The Zoo has been working closely with Chester Renaissance, which has looked after the installation and interpretation for the city's new attraction.

Rita Waters, Chief Executive of Chester Renaissance, said: "We were thrilled when the Zoo approached us to assist in this installation. It is a wonderful gift to the city and will remind visitors and residents for generations to come of the close links between the city and its world class zoo."

Leader of the Cheshire West and Chester Council, Cllr. Mike Jones is delighted that the bronze elephant is being placed in such a prominent position, he said:

"The bronze elephant has a great position in the city. It is accessible for everyone and will make a great photo-opportunity for residents and visitors. I hope that people really enjoy seeing this fantastic sculpture up close.

"As well as being a great addition to the city, the bronze elephant also sends a strong message about the excellent working relationship the city and the Zoo has."

Renowned sculptress Annette, who also crafted the Zoo's bronze elephant, has drawn on her experience of growing up in India to create the calf, which took her six months to complete.

The elephant installation will be followed shortly by interpretation panels to tell both members of the public and visitors the story of the elephant and the city's links with the Zoo.



Elephants and people to live side by side thanks to more funding

Hundreds more villagers in northeast India will be able to live peacefully alongside elephants thanks to a successful conservation project.

Conservationists from Chester Zoo and EcoSystems-India, who are working together to mitigate human-elephant conflict have been awarded a second prestigious Darwin Initiative grant to assist the expansion of their elephant conservation project in Assam in northeast India.

The Assam Haathi Project was established in 2004 and has already helped six project villages and more than 800 households, and not one elephant or human death has occurred in these villages since it began.

The team uses simple, low-tech measures, such as solar power fencing, spotlights and chilli to keep elephants away from crops and homes. The project scientists and community members work together to collect information about the habits of elephant herds to produce geographic models which can predict their future movements. In addition, the conservationists help communities pursue alternative livelihoods such as handicrafts and cash crop cultivation, to diversify their income sources and off-set the risk of loss to elephants.

Alexandra Zimmermann, Chester Zoo Conservation Manager and Founder of the Assam



Ben Fogle was at Chester Zoo as part of Kenco's mission to find the 'Young Eco Designer 2010'.

The Kenco team were in the Zoo during Easter weekend looking for children age 6-12 years old to be the new generation of upcyclers – making new things from old products and packaging! While at the zoo, children were given the chance to create something new out of old Kenco Eco Refill packs.

Haathi Project, said:

"Crop-raiding by elephants is not a new phenomenon, but with increasing rates of deforestation, elephants are forced to search for food and come into contact with farmers. The result is not only loss of crops, but also destruction of property and loss of human lives, and in turn, the killing of elephants. Our project combines community outreach with good science to bring the conflict under control and protect the lives of people and elephants."

Nandita Hazarika, Project Manager Assam Haathi Project, EcoSystems-India said: "We have succeeded in improving the livelihoods of people and safety of elephants in six villages and trained over 130 community members, however, there are many more villages in Assam which require help to cope with conflict incidents, and there is much more work to be done."

The new two-year grant will allow the project to expand its work into new villages across 14 new districts in Assam, and together with the communities, its local partners will become a model for the resolution of human-elephant conflict.

For more information about the project, please visit www.assamhaathiproject.org

fundRAISING

CHESTER ZOO

100 Club

The winners of the prize draws held recently were:

January 2010

Ruth Fitzpatrick, Wirral	£100
Janice Davies, Manchester	£100
John Roe, Chester	£50
Mrs Elaine Glover, Liverpool	£50
Elanor Fern, Chester	£50

February 2010

Alan Matear, Cumbria	£100
Mrs Meryl Finch, Shropshire	£100
Dr Philip Robinson, Chester	£50
Mrs Lynda Anne Birch, Helsby	£50
Mrs Debra Stott, Bebington	£50

March 2010

Mrs Florence Bland, Nth Yorkshire	£100
Mrs Olwen Griffiths, Crewe	£100
Mrs Diane Griffith, Lincolnshire	£50
Jean Clark, Wirral	£50
Jean Raynor, Lancashire	£50
Mrs S Wakefield, Ellesmere Port	£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.

Chester Zoo's Summer Raffle 2010

It's Summer Raffle time!

This is your chance to win an amazing prize and help conservation at the same time. All money raised from our raffles helps to fund our vital conservation work, both here in the UK and all around the world. Thanks to local businesses and our colleagues at the Zoo we have some fantastic prizes such as:

Lemur Island Experience plus animal adoption

2x Total Fitness Adult Memberships

Guided Tour of Chester Zoo plus animal adoption

Eurocamp Holiday

Penguin Feed plus animal adoption

Tickets are £1 each. For a full list of the many fantastic prizes and all terms and conditions please visit our website www.chesterzoo.org

Tickets are now available from Guest Services near the main entrance or from the Development Office by calling **01244 650229** or via e-mail on development@chesterzoo.org

The draw will take place on Friday 3rd September and all winners will be informed by a member of the Development team and announced in a future edition of Z.



Chester Zoo gets 'green' funding

As a conservation organisation Chester Zoo is committed to sustainability. We have long term plans to save as much energy as possible and one way we are doing this is making our buildings and equipment more energy efficient. We were recently awarded a grant via the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) which is a Government grant scheme open to public organisations and charities like the zoo, to allocate resources for renewable energy.

With the help of this funding we have been able to place solar photovoltaic panels on top of the new toilet block at the main entrance. This is generating 992 kilowatt hours of electricity which is power we don't have to pay for because it's generated by sunlight. The even better news is that we are saving 563 kilogrammes of CO₂ so we are doing our bit for the planet too. This is just one element of a whole range of projects that we are doing to reduce carbon emissions across the zoo's site.

Pictured above:

Solar panels by the main entrance, overlooking Elephants of the Asian Forest.

Corporate Komodo

Starting at just £250 per year, Corporate Adoptions are a great way for a company to show they care about conservation, donate to charity or simply support their favourite animal!

As a Corporate Adopter you will receive four complimentary tickets to the Zoo; a 'ready-to-frame' certificate of adoption; your company name listed on the Adopter's 'thank you' board; information about special corporate events, plus a copy of our quarterly Z magazine.

Any company adopting an animal before the 31st July 2010 will receive one extra adopter ticket, and since this issue is dedicated to the amazing Komodo Dragons, any company that adopts them before the 31st July 2010 will receive an extra two adopter tickets – that's a total of SIX adopter tickets!

To make the most of these special offers please contact the Development Office on **01244 650229** or **development@chesterzoo.org**

Free Wills and Probate advice for Members

We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting special free advice sessions as part of our next Members' Day at Chester Zoo on Friday 2nd July.

The sessions are provided in partnership with leading national law firm Hill Dickinson LLP and we would encourage you to take this opportunity to come along and ask any questions you may have regarding :

Wills
Probate
Powers of Attorney
The Court of Protection
Tax Planning
Trusts

All queries will be dealt with in the strictest of confidence by a solicitor and will be completely free-of-charge, so please take full advantage of this great opportunity to have all your questions answered.

Representatives from Chester Zoo's Development Department will also be on hand to answer any zoo-related questions you may have. Our display stand will be near the entrance to Café Tsavo all day (or at Guest Services if it's raining!) and there is no need to book, simply turn up on the day. We look forward to seeing you there!

For further information about this event or about will-making and legacies in general, please contact **development@chesterzoo.org** or call **01244 650292**.

HILL DICKINSON
 LAWYERS

Volunteer Week

To celebrate Volunteer week (2nd June – 7th June), Chester Zoo are calling on all our supporters to register as a volunteer in order to help with events and fundraising activities coming up in the future. If you wish to become one of our dedicated volunteers please e-mail your name and address to **development@chesterzoo.org** and we will send you out a volunteer application form. (Please note that all our volunteers must be over the age of 16)

Chester Zoo's Maintenance Manager, **Ray Morrison** was shortlisted for ESTA Energy Manager of the Year award, as part of the prestigious national Sustainabilitylive! awards.

The nomination came after Ray successfully led the zoo's Energy Conservation Programme which massively reduced the energy used in buildings around the Zoo. Ray was shortlisted alongside four other UK companies, after a competitive selection process.

Projects at the elephant, penguin and jaguar enclosures have been particularly admired and led to the Zoo reducing its carbon footprint by around 200 metric tonnes. Electricity consumption associated with heating and cooling the elephant house has been reduced by 82% and energy used to clean the penguin pool has been reduced by around 60%.

Ray said:

"This project has unarguably been a success. We have addressed

energy consumption at several areas of the site and have completed our first solar power scheme, meaning we now have both solar electric and solar thermal schemes here on site.

"Being up against huge names such as McDonald's and Heathrow Airport is a real achievement. Our team has work tirelessly on these projects and we are honoured to be shortlisted for the award."

Not all efforts made by Ray and his team have been hi tech. Every door on the rhino enclosure was fitted with thermal curtains which act as draft excluders. These still allow the rhinos to access the outside areas while also minimising heat loss from the inside.

The award ceremony took place on Tuesday 20th April at Sustainabilitylive!. The awards included 11 categories in environment, land, energy and sustainability and highlighted the latest innovations in sustainable business practice.

Chester Zoo's Green Travel Plan



A considerable amount has happened since the last Z Magazine update on the Green Travel Plan in winter 2009. The Zoo now has a well-established car share scheme for staff, with approximately 30 participants, and has greatly increased the range of benefits for colleagues who cycle to the Zoo. Staff have also taken advantage of discounts negotiated with public transport operators and further plans are afoot to promote walking and other sustainable modes of transport throughout the summer months. A brand new logo, devised by Zoo Nutritionist Andrea Fidgett as her entry in a staff competition to create a distinctive badge, also adorns all mailings and other output relating to green travel; see above.

Visitors have not been overlooked, and the Zoo has taken delivery of three additional cycle racks for cyclists arriving at the Main Entrance. We have also been in dialogue with Cheshire West & Chester Council about featuring on its forthcoming 'pink' cycle route. This new route will provide access for visiting cyclists and walkers to the Zoo's main entrance via a gate off the bridle path that bisects the Zoo.

Public Transport options have also been enhanced, with the First Bus Number 1 Chester-Birkenhead service now stopping at the main entrance every 15 minutes (from each direction) Monday to Saturday (Visitors can establish exact times by phoning Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or by calling into the Zoo's Library where up-to-date travel information is now prominently displayed). Our 'How to Get Here' page on the Chester Zoo website has also been reworked to give priority to sustainable modes of travel, including a carbon calculator and cycle route planner, plus links to useful sites such as liftshare.com.

We are looking forward to sharing more about the Green Travel Plan on 22 May 2010, International Year of Biodiversity Day, when members of the GTP working group will be on hand to talk to visitors about the Zoo's conservation aims and the future plans for sustainable transport.

As a way of helping Zoo Members to enjoy the benefits of cycling and the many green routes to and from the Zoo, we have agreed with local Bike Shops, Big Bill's Bikes and The Bike Factory that they will offer discounts as indicated below on selected bikes, parts & accessories on production of a valid Zoo membership card.



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0151 355 1100

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CHESTER ZOO MEMBERS OFFER:

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5% off bikes
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5 minutes with... Mark Pilgrim

Director of Conservation and Education

What is new in the collection at the moment?

First up and making a big splash are Giant otters *Xingu* and *Icana*. They are magnificent, settling in very well and I have to say the old enclosure is looking amazing – a fitting new home for such a charismatic species. The enclosure has been transformed to resemble a Brazilian riverbank and I'd like to thank everyone involved in making this happen. I am sure you will be as delighted and amazed as I was when you see *Xingu* and *Icana* for the first time. I am also told that our sea lions are settling in at their new homes in Whipsnade and Amsterdam Zoos. All sea lions have moved into homes with saltwater pools which will ultimately be much better for them. One of the giant Anteaters has arrived with another due to come in shortly. Work on the African Painted Dogs has been delayed for a time but we will continue to keep you posted through the pages of the magazine.

The Dwarf Mongoose have their home in Mongoose Mania. Currently they are proving to be a little bit shy and reluctant to venture out on cold days. We have a heat lamp between the viewing bubbles which should help visitors to see them up close. A kiosk for food and ice cream has opened in the old children's farm area, aptly called Mongoose Kiosk!

It's a huge relief to be putting the winter behind us. Now that the weather has changed, the visitors are returning in significant numbers and the animals are spending more and more time outside making the most of the sunshine.

What is happening with visitor-related projects?

Plans for the tree ropes canopy adventure have been put on hold until next year. We had talked about this being near the Sunken Garden but we feel we need to find a more suitable location. The Sunken Garden area is also teeming with local wildlife including a bat roost. The work around Oakfield House is coming along which will tidy up the area and create a new play area.

What else is happening with the animal collection?

One of the biggest changes for me has been the departure of Head of Zoo Programmes Kevin Buley to Auckland Zoo. I was very sad to see him go because he was a huge support and friend to me and helped the zoo make great leaps forward in the years he was here. I know that his staff will miss him too. In the short term Stephanie Sanderson and myself will be doing all we can to fill his large shoes. We wish Kevin all the best with his new venture.

There's plenty going on though to keep us going – Asiatic lion *Iblis* has settled down well with *Asha*. After a couple of normal spats as they sorted themselves out, they're now looking like a good pair, which is good news.

Great Indian Rhino female *Batschii* left for the sunshine in central Spain and *Babu* is settling in nicely in her place. He is awesome, very large and yet a very friendly. There's now a lot of work going on behind the scenes to bring in his new mate *Tanya* from San Diego later this year.

Our pregnant elephants *Sithami* and *Thi* are doing well and we believe they are due to give birth around July/August. Pygmy Marmosets have joined us from Belfast and are in the Pied Tamarin area and finally a male Visayan Warty Pig has moved into the paddock near the Bats' Bridge. He's currently separated from the female as she has piglets. He's definitely worth a look though – he has a great haircut which, frankly, I'm very jealous of!

Natural Vision

Chester Zoo has submitted planning revisions for its Natural Vision project.

The amendments to the planning application have been sent to Cheshire West and Chester Council and follow a continued period of consultation with local councillors and residents.

The proposals for a garden centre and second hotel on land near to the park and ride at the Zoo entrance have been removed from the application. The application for a first 150-bed themed hotel on land near the A41 will remain. Natural Vision will see the Zoo become more than a one-day visitor experience and the hotel will help cater for the extra visitors the proposal would generate.

The Natural Vision application, which was originally submitted in December last year, includes plans for the *Heart of Africa* biodome together with expansion of the main entrance and car park.

The *Heart of Africa* building is a 34m high tropical biodome that will house an African rainforest-themed sanctuary for a band of Gorillas, a large troop of chimpanzees, Okapi and other species.

Simon Mann, the Zoo's Development Director, said: "We have listened carefully to the comments and considerations of the local community and respective councillors and on that basis have removed the proposal for a second hotel.

The plan for the first hotel is a fundamental part of the Natural Vision project. The expansion of the Zoo will raise its profile as a long-stay tourism destination, encouraging visitors to stay for a weekend rather than visit for a day.

The hotel would also link with the proposed Futures education centre, which will establish the zoo as a centre of academic and scientific excellence. However, we appreciate the proposals for a second hotel did cause some concern locally and, following extensive negotiations, we were happy to remove that and the proposed garden centre from the plan.

Throughout this process we have been fully engaged with the community and its elected representatives and would hope this move allays their concerns. We would also like to thank all parties concerned for their support during this process."

Residents in the Upton area have received a letter from the zoo informing them of the proposed changes. The Zoo has also been working closely with Upton councillors Jill Houlbrook and Pat Lott over the proposals.

A date for Cheshire West and Chester Council to discuss the application has not yet been set.

Events at Chester Zoo

Friday 18th June, 2010

Mid Summer Cycle

To celebrate Team Green Britain's Bike Week and for a visit with a difference, bring your bike and enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of the evening zoo whilst cycling around the grounds. The gates open at 6.30pm and knowing you've already cycled off the calories you can tuck into a fish and chips or burger & fries supper.

Admission is £12.99 per person (including supper choice)

Receive a 10% discount if tickets are bought online at www.chesterzoo.org
The evening concludes at 9pm

Sunday 20th June, 2010

Father's Day Lunch

Treat Dad to a fun day in the zoo with a three course lunch served in Oakfield Manor at either 12.00pm or 3.00pm

Pre lunch drinks can be enjoyed in the Acorn Bar.
£24.95 per adult £17.50 (3 - 11 years)
Price includes admission from 10.00am

Thursday 22nd July, 2010

Afternoon Tea, Garden Tour with a visit to the Butterfly Journey

Admission into Chester Zoo from 4.00pm with afternoon tea served from 5.00pm on Oakfield Manor terrace. Enjoy a stroll through our award winning gardens in the company of our knowledgeable gardeners and a visit to our beautiful *Butterfly Journey*. The evening concludes at 7.30pm approximately.

£19.50 per person

Saturday 16th October

A Roaring Success

One of our keepers featured in Zoo Days, Alan Woodward Team Leader of Carnivores, will give an interesting and informative talk on the various animals in his care.

£19.50 per person

Price includes admission into Chester Zoo from 2.30pm (non-members).

Tea or coffee served at 5.00pm in Oakfield Manor.

Alan's talk is followed by a hot supper.

Evening concludes at approximately 7.30pm.

Saturday 13th November, 2010

Bats by Torchlight

Back by popular demand. Admission into zoo from 2.30pm with a hot pot supper served in Oakfield Manor at 5.00pm. Guests are escorted (torches essential) to the *Twilight Zone* where our keeper is on hand to explain about our many fascinating three species of bats including the Livingstone Bats with their wings extending over one metre!

£16.95 per person

December, 2010

Festive three course lunch

Served in Oakfield Manor from Wednesday 1st December up to and including Friday 24th December.

£25.95 per adult £17.25 (3 - 11 years)

Admission into Chester Zoo is also included

Friday 17th December, 2010

Christmas Dinner and Disco

Enjoy a festive three course dinner with dancing until midnight.

Please note that private evenings can be arranged with a minimum number of 60 guests required.

£36.50 per person

Friday 31st December, 2010

Saturday 1st January, 2011

Sunday 2nd January, 2011

*New Year Lunch Special

Why not enjoy a winter walk round Chester Zoo with admission from 10.00am included.

A warming two course lunch is served at either 12.00pm or 3.00pm within Oakfield Manor.

£22.25 per adult £14.95 (3 - 11 years)

Pre-booking and pre-payment essential

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

FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL
(NORTH WEST GROUP)



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 1 October 2010

LAST CHANCE TO SEE with Mark Carwardine

Following on from his recent vastly popular BBC series with Stephen Fry, when they re-visited some of the places Mark Carwardine originally visited with Douglas Adams at the time his first book was written, come and see the highlights of those trips from his own perspective. Always an absorbing and fascinating speaker with a great sense of humour, we are thrilled that Mark Carwardine has found time in his very busy schedule to visit FFI. Absolutely not-to-be-missed!

Friday 22 October 2010

PHENOLOGY - WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

with **Dr Tim Sparks**

Is Spring coming earlier? Is climate change affecting our wildlife? Will the food chain break down as different species react in different ways to temperature change? The study of Phenology concentrates on the timing of natural events, and Tim Sparks, a fabulous speaker, from the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology will entertainingly explain this for us.

Friday 26 November 2010

SAVING RHINOS with Cathy Dean

Cathy Dean is the Executive Director of Save the Rhino International, a partner with Chester Zoo on several of our outreach conservation projects with Rhino. Cathy will be detailing the many projects across the globe which Save the Rhino International are directly involved with and how that critically important work is carried out and funded. This promises to be an excellent evening.

Tickets: May be available on the door but advanced booking helps to keep costs down. Please call Penny Rudd on 01244 650215 to reserves tickets. Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start at the Zoo's Russell Allen Lecture Hall, off the A41, just before the Park & Ride. Members and non-Members of FFI are welcome to attend and tickets cost £8.00 for FFI Members and £9.00 for non-Members of FFI, with a ticket concession of £5 for students. All ticket prices include a buffet and wine.



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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.

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