

Z

CHESTER ZOO

official magazine
for members and adopters

AUTUMN 2017



News from the zoo

with Dr Mark Pilgrim - Chief Executive Officer



Now settled in and enjoying their stunning South East Asian habitats in our *Islands* area, our sun bears, Malayan tapirs and Asian songbirds have been the talk of the zoo for the past few months. This *Islands* area (read more on pages 24-27) is the latest phase in our strategic development plan which sets out how the zoo will evolve over the next 15 years and beyond. With this in mind I am delighted to welcome three new trustees to the society - Penny Coates, Edwin Christmas and Paula Spence – who each bring a set of skills and experience that I am sure will be a great benefit to us as we move forward with this masterplan for the zoo. This is a wonderfully exciting time in Chester Zoo's history.

At this year's Annual General Meeting we also said goodbye to three extraordinary trustees who had each come to the end of their terms. Tony Williams, Peter Wheeler and Rebecca Burke-Sharples have almost 50 years' experience with us between them and have been vital in making the zoo a roaring success in that time. This wealth of expertise and experience will be greatly missed by all of us involved with NEZS, Chester Zoo and we owe them a huge vote of thanks.

We are absolutely delighted to have two Eastern black rhino calves at the zoo, after they were born in the space of just one week. They're a real boost to the European breeding programme for these wonderful animals. Another additional bonus to us and the breeding programme was news that one of our previous calves Bashira had given birth to her second calf in Ree Safari Park in Denmark. With less than 650 Eastern black rhinos estimated to remain in the wild, an effective breeding

programme has never been more important, and so this current run of success is a real achievement for every institution involved.

Of course, as a centre of excellence for the breeding of endangered species, it's not just large mammals that we're interested in. Our reptile team have hatched two clutches of the critically endangered Bermuda skink – the very first time this has been done in a managed breeding programme outside their homeland. Read more about this exciting news on pages 10-13.

We've also had important feathered new arrivals, with the hatching of nine Baer's pochard ducklings, one of the world's rarest bird species. It's feared that just a few hundred remain in the wild as a result of hunting and the destruction of habitats surrounding lakes and rich aquatic meadows across Siberia and eastern Asia. Research has shown that, where the ducks were once found in large numbers, they have now completely disappeared. We are working hard as part of a coordinated effort in the UK and across Europe, as part of a breeding programme, to ensure that we have a viable zoo population as their wild numbers continue to decline.

And finally. I can't quite believe that I'm mentioning our winter event; it only seems like five minutes has passed since last festive season! This year however our spectacular and much loved wintertime event, The Lanterns, will return with more live performance characters and more sparkle, and promises to be an even more enthralling event than ever before. I hope to see you all there.

Z MAGAZINE FEATURES



Learn at Chester Zoo Page 6-7



A day in the life Page 10-13



Flying high for hornbills Page 22-23



SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

FILMS AT THE ZOO

We welcomed a very special visitor to the zoo during the summer, Sir David Attenborough. Sir David came to the zoo to film a scene for a forthcoming BBC documentary, *Attenborough and the Giant Sea Dragon*.

The hour long film will look at a newly discovered ichthyosaur - a kind of dinosaur-dolphin thought to be a unique species. The fossil of this super predator that ruled the ocean at the time of the dinosaurs was recently found on the Jurassic Coast in southern England.

During the documentary the fossil will be excavated and a perfect replica of its skeleton will be constructed. Then its physical attributes will be scientifically tested revealing the secrets of these animals and the Jurassic world in which they lived.

Looking at evidence from animals across the world, Attenborough will piece together how the sea dragon behaved and lived. One of the species the film will look at is the Sunda gharial crocodile which is believed to have similar features.

The Sunda gharial has a very distinctive long narrow snout and around eight needle like teeth which are great

for catching prey. It is believed that the gharials capture and eat prey in a similar way to the sea dragon.

Our resident expert and Curator of Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates at the zoo, Gerardo Garcia, was on hand to facilitate the filming:

"It was a real pleasure to spend the day with Sir David Attenborough and it was an inspiration to spend time with such an iconic figure of the natural history world.

"It's astounding to think that the Sunda gharial has similar features to a predator that lived in the ocean over 200 million years ago. Sadly Sunda gharials are becoming harder and harder to find in the wild as human populations increase and destroy the local habitats in order to make way for new villages, farms and palm oil plantations. I hope the documentary helps to put a spotlight on this mysterious creature which is vulnerable to extinction in the wild and that it does not have to face the same fate of the sea dragon."

'Attenborough and the Giant Sea Dragon' is expected to air in 2018. When we know an exact date, we will let you know.



DELIGHTFUL DUO!

Meet our new Eastern black rhinos born within days of each other

We've been seeing double! Two rare Eastern black rhinos were born just one week apart at the zoo. The new arrivals are a great boost to the conservation efforts to save this critically endangered species from extinction.

The first of the precious pair was born to mum Kitani and is female. Keepers have named her Hazina, which means treasure in Swahili. The second calf, a male, arrived exactly a week later to 10-year-old Zuri and was named Ike, meaning powerful.

Our new arrivals take the number of Eastern black rhino at the zoo to 10 and mark important success stories in an acclaimed conservation breeding programme for the highly threatened species.

It's believed that less than 650 individuals now remain across Africa and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists the animals as critically endangered, which means there's a very high chance that this species could become extinct in the wild.

We're acting for rhinos in Africa

We're one of the main organisations fighting for the survival of Eastern black rhino and have supported conservation efforts in the field to try and protect the species. We will continue to do all we can through funding and providing expertise to numerous projects and sanctuaries in Africa.

As a result of a global increase in demand for rhino horn to supply the traditional Asian medicine market, there has been a huge rise in illegal poaching of rhino. This has led to around 95% of rhinos being wiped out since the turn of the 20th century!

The issue is being driven by the street value of rhino horn, which is currently changing hands for more per gram than both gold and cocaine, although modern science has already proven it to be completely useless for medicinal purposes as it's made from keratin – the same material as human hair and nails.

The herd of black rhinos at Chester Zoo plays a crucial role in saving the species from extinction. The scientific research and conservation breeding programmes that we manage at the zoo not only create a protected population



of black rhino, but can also inform the ways that rhino habitats and breeding programmes are managed in the wild. We're proud to be working with our partners and the rhino rangers and game scouts who are on the frontline of the war against illegal wildlife trade – these conservation heroes risk their lives daily to save this incredible animal.

We won't give up! We will continue to do all we can to stop the Eastern black rhino from becoming extinct. Together we can make a BIG difference. If you have any information on illegal wildlife trade or wildlife crime go to actforwildlife.org.uk/report-it and we'll pass on to the relevant authorities.



In 2016, there were ZERO rhino poaching incidents: which was achieved through patrolling over 300,000KM.



There have been ZERO rhino poaching incidents since the project started in 1997 – one of the only sites in Africa to achieve this.

LEARN AT CHESTER ZOO

We passionately believe that inspiring the current and future generations through education is vital if conservation efforts are going to be worthwhile. This is why we have a dedicated Discovery and Learning team, who deliver loads of amazing education initiatives every day!

Our work is divided into a number of different areas including formal learning (that's schools, colleges, etc.), informal engagement (all our visitors), interpretation, outreach, volunteering, digital learning and administration.

MEET THE TEAM

ZOO RANGERS

Many of you will have spotted our fab team of Zoo Rangers carrying out animal talks and a whole host of other engaging and exciting activities within the zoo. You can quiz them on any animal questions you have, they deliver our daily animal talks where they also provide more information about the work our conservationists are carrying out in the field, as well as share how you can Act for Wildlife too.

The team offer something extra and special for our zoo visitors – no matter what their age, including Bug Club for 5-8 year olds, Junior Rangers Training camp for 8-12 year olds and our Nature Reserve Club for adults interested in surveying wildlife. You can also help feed some of the bird species at the zoo, feed our butterflies and get up close to some spikey stick insects with the Zoo Rangers. The team also organise a variety of special events throughout the year to celebrate World Animal Days, Members Days and enrichment days which involves looking at the methods we use to keep the animals fit and healthy (both physically and mentally).

Zoo Rangers can also be spotted at different locations around the zoo on their tricycle which is filled with incredible animal artefacts for you to get your hands on and discover more about the conservation and science work. The team also support the zoo's campaigns - like The Enchantment of Chester Zoo, Bloom, PLAY! - getting our visitors involved in engaging activities across the site. The programme changes regularly so be sure to keep up to date with what's on by heading over to our website.



OUTREACH

Our Safari Ranger team work with local schools and communities within the region on a daily basis, delivering free workshops on a number of different topics and themes linked to the curriculum to educate and inspire the next generation to protect nature. The team visit primary, secondary and special schools, further education and community groups for either one off workshops or repeat engagement project workshops. The team is always on the go in our Chester Zoo cars which you may have spotted out and about!

Our Wildlife Connections project works with the public to encourage them to create safe spaces for local wildlife through improving and developing habitats. The project trains up individuals in how to identify and record wildlife, and simple actions they can take to help. These Wildlife Champions then encourage their local communities to engage with wildlife too. The outreach work of Chester Zoo doesn't stop in the UK, we also support our partners around the world to deliver effective community engagement activities.

EDUCATION OFFICERS

Our Education Officers and Learning Assistants deliver workshops on a wide range of topics to a wide range of ages and abilities; from reception to university groups. They teach around 25,000 of the zoo's 100,000 educational visitors each year. They specialise in conservation and the biological sciences, but also geography and psychology. When the team aren't teaching, they can be found in the office developing new workshops for the discovery programme and working with the Digital Learning Officer to help develop fun and engaging learning resources. Our team run workshops from KS4 to KS5 and above, and provide help and fantastic conservation education wherever it's needed. The whole zoo can be a classroom, and some of our workshops take place out and about around the zoo.



INTERPRETATION AND DIGITAL LEARNING

This team is responsible for creating all of the animal and plant signage you see across the zoo. They also look after the theming of areas such as *Islands* and painted dogs – designing inspiring environments for you. You might see them in the zoo with a screwdriver in hand! We also produce a lot of digital assets – including photography, film, illustrations and audio – to develop an extensive bank of online learning resources that can assist schools with their visit to the zoo or lessons in the classroom. They're available on our website for anyone that's interested in learning more about wildlife and the regions we work in around the world.

VOLUNTEERS

As a charity, volunteers provide vital support to the life of the zoo. Our award-winning volunteers complement the work of our paid staff and contribute to our success by supporting the zoo's education, scientific and conservation mission. Our volunteers provide thousands of hours between them to support the work of Chester Zoo and we have just over 200 volunteers who support us and play a crucial role in providing an all-round excellent visitor experience. Our volunteers are passionate people who are dedicated to engaging visitors in amazing educational experiences and helping us raise funds for our vital conservation work. Our volunteers are not only based across the zoo but also support our Safari Rangers, Zoo Rangers, Fundraising team, as well as our Education team helping to help support schools when they visit the zoo. We are proud to say that our volunteers have already given 10,000 hours of their time this year and we look forward to seeing what the rest of the year will bring!





SINGING FOR SONGBIRDS ALL AROUND THE WORLD

Our learning teams don't just work here at the zoo and across the UK, we also support our conservation partners around the world to develop education or community engagement initiatives.

Hannah Brooks, our Community Engagement Manager, works both nationally and internationally to encourage people to engage in conservation. A big focus for our outreach work this year has been our Sing for Songbirds campaign. Hannah spent some time explaining what we've been doing within the communities in the UK and Indonesia:

WORKING IN THE FIELD...

"In December I visited the Cikananga Conservation Breeding Centre (CCBC) in Java, Indonesia to learn about the beautiful songbirds which are declining from the forests at a rapid rate. Sadly, Indonesian songbirds are threatened with extinction as a result of high demand for the pet trade. They're captured from their forest homes to be kept in a tiny cage outside people's homes or to compete in singing competitions. As soon as I got to Java this was really apparent, as the majority of households had a caged bird on display.

"If reintroduced birds are ever going to be safe in this environment, it's really important that the people living in the villages surrounding the forests want to protect the birds and understand their importance as part of the ecosystem. This is where education comes in and during my visit I met with CCBC's Education Officer, Ade Imansyah, so we could work on a strategy for getting local people engaged. Working closely with Ade, we'll be delivering an education programme in the local schools as well as providing engaging activities in the communities to ensure that everyone in the village - from the elders to farmers in the fields - are involved.



WHAT WE'RE DOING IN THE UK...

"A large part of our Sing for Songbirds campaign is getting people here in the UK to understand the problem the birds are facing and then getting them to take action. Our Safari Ranger team have developed a programme of activities to engage local schools. We've found that spending time with a group repeatedly over a focussed period of time is more effective than a one off visit. With this in mind our Sing for Songbirds schools programme is based around four visits to the school and one visit to the zoo. The activities included both classroom based activities and outside activities, encouraging the schoolchildren to explore their school grounds to find out how their local songbirds were doing and what they could do to help them.

"During the zoo visit the students got to see first-hand some of the beautiful Indonesian songbirds that they've been learning about. We transformed the Sumba School room on Islands into a bird market, showed them how we do conservation research in the field, and even invited the singer-songwriter of our Singing for Songbirds song to come and perform with the students. Each school took up a fundraising challenge as one of its actions, through which they were also able to raise awareness telling everyone they spoke to about what they'd learnt and why they were fundraising.

"We hope that by expanding our education outside the boundary of the zoo we can inspire more people to connect with nature and to find their own way, little or big, to be a conservationist in their day to day life."

Head over to our Act for Wildlife website to discover more, meet our incredible learning team and find out more about the work they do right here at the zoo and around the world.

ACTFORWILDLIFE.ORG.UK

Follow us on Twitter: @ActforWildlife and @LearnatCZ

Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/ActforWildlife

Join us on Instagram: @ActforWildlife

ACT FOR WILDLIFE

LED BY CHESTER ZOO

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A LOWER VERTEBRATES & INVERTEBRATES KEEPER...



Ben Baker, Team Manager of the Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates keepers, has been working at Chester Zoo for five years and each day at the zoo is completely different to the next. Ben and the team work with more than 50 unique species of reptiles, amphibians and creepy crawlies!

Ben provides us with a behind the scenes insight into what the team get up to and what it is about his job that he enjoys the most.

"No two days are the same at the zoo. I could go from planning a field trip to Madagascar to preparing lizards for a move to another zoo as part of a conservation breeding programme, or having to solve a problem with a habitat in the zoo. The best part of my job is knowing the skills and techniques we're developing at the zoo are helping to save threatened species in the field. "My love for animals started when I was around



Reticulated python health check

seven years old; my parents took me to the local zoo at Easter, during the summer holidays and for my birthday, which basically makes it all their fault! I quickly realised my strongest interests were in the reptiles and amphibians and this led me to begin keeping lizards at home, then I began volunteering at my local

zoo. As my interests and skills grew it became clear it was something I wanted to develop. I dreamt of being involved in the conservation of species, travelling to tropical paradises but mostly just getting to spend even more time learning about the animals I loved.

"I have a greater affinity to amphibians than anything else. I guess I've always been fascinated by the more unusual species, like Darwin frogs who brood their young in a chamber inside their throat and then vomit up their babies! I also like giant Japanese salamanders, an aquatic salamander that can reach five feet long.



GROUND BREAKING RESEARCH TECHNIQUES

"Over the last four years we've trialled marking techniques for tiny frog species which we have then trained our colleagues in Madagascar to use. A clever technique that was developed at the zoo is the elastomer marking which uses a special silicone rubber to give an individual a small coloured implant under its skin. They're now used in the wild to carry out vital monitoring and research projects to help save critically endangered frogs.

"Carrying out regular monitoring is a really important part of protecting a species, as it enables conservationists to keep a close eye on any changes and helps us understand more about a species and the best way to help them. We're just about to start a similar project with two different types of aquatic salamander, the first is a large species from Mexico and the second is a very small species from northern Spain. In both cases we require a method of identifying them in the wild to assist the conservation efforts.

"Our work in the conservation of reptiles and amphibians is probably the best bit of our jobs (although giving a giant tortoise a neck rub is quite fun too!). Over the years we've been able to get involved with all aspects of conservation research, but the most rewarding is where we are involved in developing husbandry techniques that allow us to breed an endangered species then reintroduce them back into the wild.



RARE 'ROCK LIZARDS' HATCH AT CHESTER ZOO IN WORLD FIRST



"We've just started a conservation breed and release project for Bermuda skinks - a small brown, critically endangered lizard found only on the island of Bermuda. Its distribution is now restricted to a handful of off-shore islands as habitat destruction and introduced predators have almost wiped them out.

"Bermuda skinks are an important part of the ecosystem, and have been living on Bermuda for over 400,000 years! They've never been kept outside Bermuda before; but the Bermudian government have asked keepers at Chester Zoo to use our experience with reptiles to develop a set of breeding

guidelines which would allow us to establish a breeding programme. The hatchlings from the breeding project could then be released on further off-shore islands that are deemed safe for the skinks.

"We've recently celebrated two clutches of skinks hatching at the zoo - which is the first time the species has been bred outside of their homeland. After years of work by conservationists, both out in Bermuda and in our zoo breeding facilities, and a 43 day incubation, we've had seven individuals hatch.

"This project runs alongside an intensive ecological study we're working on in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of Bermuda, to follow the last remaining populations of the skinks.



JUMPING TO SAVE FROGS IN THE FIELD

"The most memorable moment in my career so far has to be when I visited Madagascar to see the golden mantella and harlequin mantella frogs, putting the skills I'd developed working with these species through my career at the zoo into practice in the wild. These two frog species are on the very brink of extinction and I was lucky to visit two projects supported by Chester Zoo that are working to save them before they're lost forever."

Learn more about our conservation work by heading over to our Act for Wildlife website.

ACTFORWILDLIFE.ORG.UK

This Christmas, as twilight falls across Chester Zoo a magical Christmas sorting office comes to life. The zoo will be transformed into a world full of illumination and theatrical adventure.

The Lanterns at Chester Zoo will be unlike anything you've experienced before. With incredible lighting, performances and a sprinkle of Chester Zoo magic, it's a perfect, heart-warming and memorable festive event for all generations.

You can post your own letters to Father Christmas and imagine what our precious animals might wish for too. Along the route you'll see magnificent animal-inspired fairy tale scenes that will whisk you away to another world.

This year's event has been lovingly created by our friends at Wild Rumpus, specialists in creating extraordinary worlds, telling incredible stories and bringing to life moments of wonder for all ages.

DATES

November – 24, 25, 26

December – 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30

Tickets are £5 - £15 for children and £12 - £17.50 for adults. Infants aged 2 and under are free.

To book tickets head over to www.chesterzoo.org/lanterns

THE LANTERNS AT CHESTER ZOO



Rowan Hoban, director of Wild Rumpus, lets us in on a sneaky preview of what you can expect from our festive event...

"This year, we're inviting visitors into an astonishing Christmas fairy tale, with the animals from the zoo at its heart. Dramatic sets and performers will ask you to imagine what the animals might wish for, and visitors will follow a sparkling illuminated route to the Christmas sorting office. Music, characters, acrobats and lanterns will combine to transport you into an extraordinary world.

CREATIVE PROCESS

"At Wild Rumpus, telling stories is central to everything we do. We believe that immersing an audience in an imaginary world can create incredible family memories. We produce large scale, high quality arts events, almost always outdoors in incredible environments, and what a phenomenal environment the zoo offers! Our creative process always begins with the story, with the imaginary world and narrative that we're trying to create. With The Lanterns, our starting point was the huge diversity of animals at the zoo, and what stories they might tell at Christmas. Ideas about magical sorting offices, Narnia-style wonderlands and roller-skating flamingos began to swirl around, and this year's The Lanterns began to take shape.



BUILDING AND DESIGNING

"We work with an incredible team of artists, makers and creators all year round, from our woodland base in Cheshire, the Whirligig. We love being outdoors, and think that the most creative adventures often begin in wild natural places. So we do lots of our creating and imagining around the campfire, or in our treehouse meeting room. We held auditions for performers in our wildflower meadow, which felt pretty unusual with harpists playing Christmas carols in the July sunshine. Our set designers and builders are busy in our workshop (we're trying not to call them elves!) creating the sets and signage to bring an incredible Christmas world to life. Acrobats are getting into their animal roles, new lanterns are being created, parcels being wrapped, and the insect orchestra is stringing its bows."





MEET OUR THREE BABY ROCK HYRAXES

This summer our three baby rock hyraxes made their public debut.

The pocket-sized pups arrived to mum Daissie and dad Nungu in July weighing just 250g – no heavier than a bar of soap!

They may be short in stature but these tiny animals have a surprising genetic link - they are more closely related to the elephant than any other species on Earth, after evolving from a single common ancestor.

Rock hyraxes' two large incisor teeth constantly grow like tiny tusks, just like an elephant, while the two species also have similar shaped feet and skull structure.

Small mammals often experience a short pregnancy period, but rock hyraxes are different, with their pregnancy lasting more than seven months. The species' young are well developed when born, just like miniature adults.

One of the mammal Team Managers at the zoo, David White said:

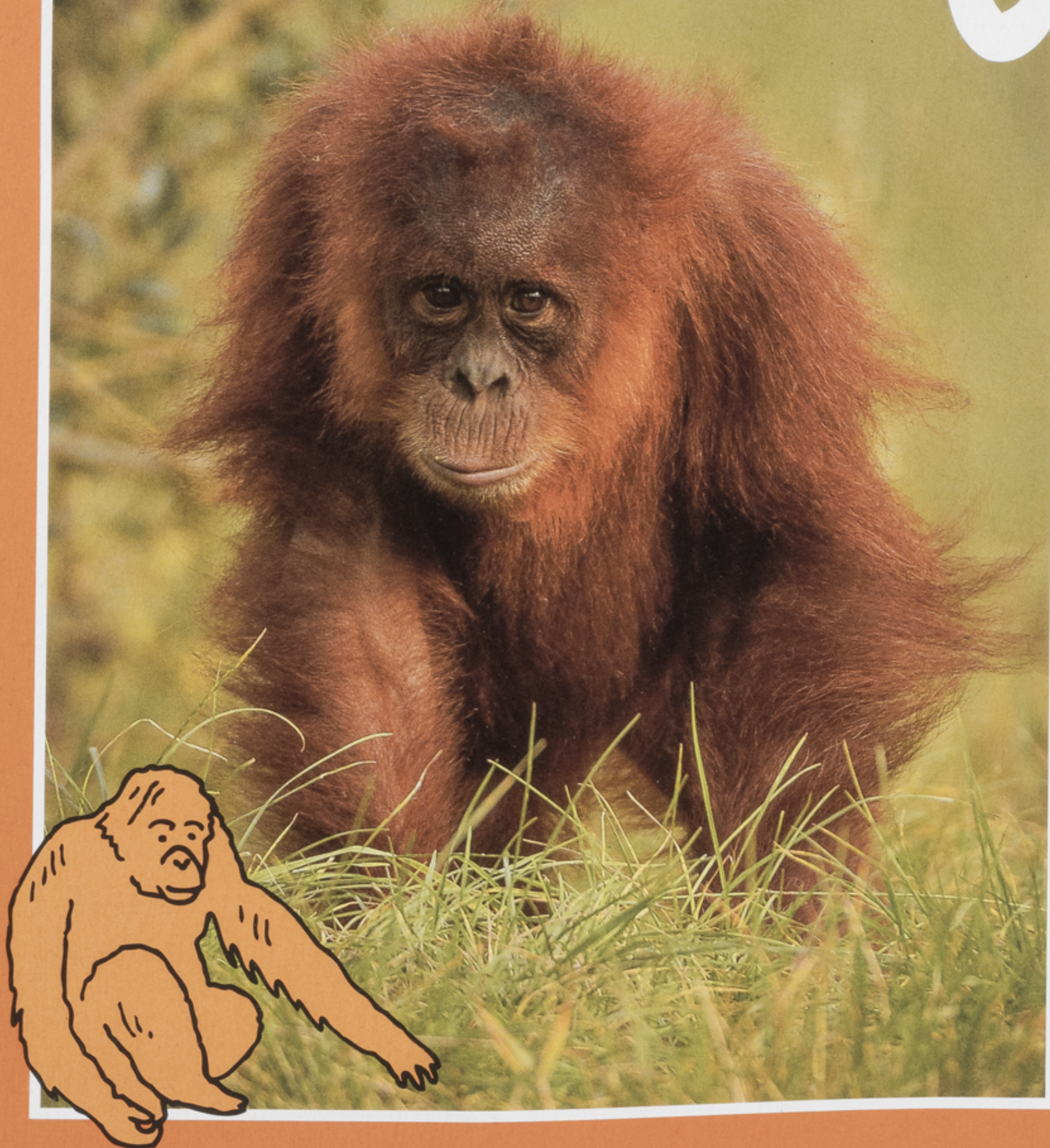
"Rock hyraxes have helped conservationists learn so much about the evolution of different animals, and how animals can evolve and adapt to the environments where they live – they really are special little creatures.

"Hyraxes are known for spending a large majority of their time lying out and basking in the sun, so mum Daissie and dad Nungu have certainly been run off their feet keeping up with these three little ones."

In the wild rock hyraxes are known as 'rock rabbits' or 'Dassies' and can be found in large colonies across Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. Scientists believe they even have their own form of language, using vocalisations in a particular tone and order to convey meaning.

As their name suggests, they are known to live among rocky terrain, where they use their moist and rubber-like soles, which act like suction cups, to grip and clamber down steep slopes.

kid's ZOO



TURN OVER FOR YOUR PULL OUT AND KEEP POSTER!



CHESTER ZOO

THE ENCHANTMENT

of Chester Zoo

21 - 31 October 2017

The Enchantment of Chester Zoo is returning this October half term!



The evil sorcerer is back and has cast a spell on the zoo to send the animals to sleep... We need your help to break the spell!

During this spectacular event you'll get the chance to seek out moths, sloths, giraffes and orangutans to gather clues from these incredible animals!

To celebrate this bewitching event we're putting the spotlight on one of the slowest mammals in the world, the sloth!

Sloths live in tropical rainforests in Central and South America. There are two different types of sloths, two-toed - like the pair we have at Chester Zoo - and three-toed.

All sloths have three toes on their hind feet. The two-toed sloth only has two on their front feet, which are a bit like fingers to us humans!

FUN FACTS

DID YOU KNOW?

- Sloths are related to anteaters and armadillos!
- These long-armed creatures are brilliant swimmers. They can swim up to three times faster than they move on land!
- A sloth's stomach has multiple compartments. It can take them a whole month to digest a meal!
- Their claws are very long and strong, giving them a brilliant grip for hanging from branches!
- Sloths prefer to be upside down. They eat, sleep and even give birth upside down!
- Because they spend so much time upside down, their fur grows in the opposite direction to most mammals, which means they have a parting on their tummy.
- Ancient sloths were ground dwellers, they were around six metres tall and some were a similar weight to an African elephant!
- Sloths only poo once a week and it's one of the only reasons they leave their tree!

QUIZ

- 1 What do sloths eat?
- 2 What species of sloth do we have here at the zoo?
- 3 What are the names of our sloths?
- 4 What other animal has a stomach with multiple compartments?
- 5 How many toes does a sloth have on its hind feet?

To win a 'World Poster Puzzle' send your entry with contact details to:

Z magazine, PR department,
Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester,
Chester, CH2 1LH
By Monday 2 October

Congratulations to our previous winner
Tamie Tilston from Chester.



Autumn events 2017

Here are some highlights of events coming up for your enjoyment.

Junior Members

Trentham Monkey Forest Saturday 23 September

Enjoy a day walking among 140 monkeys and watch them interact within their family groups. The forest is set in natural woodland and the macaques are free to roam with visitors. **The coach leaves Cedar House car park on Caughall Road at 10.00am and returns at 4.30pm. Bring a picnic with you. Tickets cost £15**

Welsh Mountain Zoo Saturday 21 October

We work closely with other zoos all over the country to breed endangered animals, so why not take this chance to explore with our friends at Welsh Mountain Zoo. **The coach leaves Cedar House car park at 10.30am and returns at 4.30pm. Bring a picnic with you. Tickets cost £15**

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust - Martin Mere Saturday 18 November

There will be flocks of beautiful birds to see here including pink-footed geese, a variety of swans and many other migratory birds that visit annually on their journeys south. **The coach leaves Cedar House car park at 10am and returns at 4.30pm. As this is outdoor please dress warmly and if you have binoculars please bring them with you. Tickets costs £15.**

Christmas Party Friday 8 December

Enjoy an evening of games, disco music and a great hot dog and beef burger supper. You will need to bring along a cushion to sit on - and a torch to find us! The venue is June's Food Court. **Please meet at the main entrance at 7pm. Parents should collect from the main entrance at 9.45pm. Tickets cost £10**

Bookings must be made for all events. Please call **01244 650215**, no 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.

Zoo Events

Wildlife Connections Festival Friday 15, Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 September

Our free Wildlife Connections Festival is back for another year of fabulous fun to celebrate our incredible local wildlife. This year's festival will be BIGGER, buzzier and bolder than last year with plenty of amazing activities for you to get involved including opportunities to make clay hedgehogs, bird feeders and bug homes that you can take home to help wildlife in your own garden. You can take part in our Bee Bonanza game or see if you can make it round our Hedgehog Maze before taking a well-deserved rest in our chill-out zone.

PLAY! Dates

We've got lots of fun, free activities happening every weekend and during October half term. Go to our website for more details.

Junior Rangers Training Camps

Join us for two brand new series of Junior Rangers training camps starting in September and November. Junior Rangers is run every Sunday for six weeks. You can choose from Sunday morning sessions (10.30am-12 noon) or Sunday afternoon sessions (2pm-3.30pm). Each week we will explore different parts of our zoo, and learn about our animals and our conservation work. Book your place online - places are limited and we expect them to be snapped up fast. £45 per Junior Member (price includes all 6 sessions, a t-shirt, badge and certificate). These events are for our members aged 8-11 only.



FLYING HIGH FOR HORNBILLS

For over ten years we've been working with HUTAN to protect the forests and wildlife found in the Kinabatangan region of Sabah, Malaysian Borneo. These forests are home to some of the most threatened species on the planet – including the iconic Bornean orangutan, pygmy elephants and eight species of hornbill.

Deputy Curator of Birds, Mark Vercoe, has worked with hornbills for 15 years and has recently returned from a trip to Malaysia where he and Lead Keeper, Leanne Lowton, spent time with the HUTAN team.

Here he tells us more:

"It was hot, very humid and I planted a small tree – but not just any tree! That tree and the many others around it are special...they were planted in Sarawak, 'The Land of the Hornbills'. The main reason for mine and Leanne's visit to Sarawak was to attend the International Hornbill Conference, the first to take place on Malaysian soil.

"Delegates from 14 different countries (mostly those home to hornbill species!) all contributed to a room swelling with passion for the conservation of hornbill species and the research that informs what we all do. Ideas were shared, threats and problems realised and most importantly, solutions were explored. It was a hugely educational and inspirational few days and to have spent it with so many experts in this field has been a privilege.

"One lady however, Emeritus Prof. Dr. Pilai Poonswad needs a special mention; someone who for almost all of us working with these beautiful, intriguing birds, is regarded as the 'grandmother of hornbills'. The person who inspired me to do what I do today has inspired me to do even more!

"The commitment to long term research and long term effort for these long lived birds has never been so important.



There is a lot that is still to be understood about hornbill ecology and with so many pressures facing them the more we understand the more hope we have of implementing effective conservation efforts.

“The conference was just one part of our trip to Malaysia though. Leanne and I then travelled on to Kinabatangan, Sabah to work with our partners, HUTAN, and continue with the artificial nest box creation and studies we’ve supported for a number of years.

“After a two hour drive through the seemingly endless sea of palm oil plantations, we came to the start of the forest that forms the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary. This region of secondary forest that covers the floodplain of the Kinabatangan River is home to all eight of the hornbill species found in Sabah. The helmeted hornbill, rhinoceros hornbill, black hornbill, white-crowned hornbill, wrinkled hornbill, oriental pied hornbill, bushy-crested hornbill and wreathed hornbill. Many of these species are classified as endangered but the helmeted hornbill has recently been reclassified as critically endangered.

“Unfortunately much of this forest was logged until as recently as the 1980’s and as a result many of the large trees that might have suitable cavities for nesting have now gone. This habitat loss or ‘cavity crisis’, as well as hunting, are the two biggest threats facing the larger species of hornbill (helmeted and rhinoceros in particular).

“We’ve been working with HUTAN on this project since 2013 to help develop a successful prototype to use in the field. Since the boxes went up four years ago, the team on the ground in Borneo have been monitoring them closely.

“Accompanying us from the Hornbill Conference were project partners Ravinder, a Malaysian graduate now conducting a PhD on the ecology of Bornean hornbills, and Mahathir a HUTAN team member. Chester Zoo and HUTAN have been supporting Ravinder’s research which involves locating new natural nest trees of hornbills, monitoring the number of hornbills through surveys, and evaluating and restoring natural cavities to make them suitable for hornbills. Complementing these studies, Chester Zoo, Beauval Zoo and HUTAN have been working to increase the number of suitable cavities available for hornbills in the area.



“For many years, the bird team at the zoo have been creating artificial habitats for hornbills to encourage conservation breeding, resulting in our teams having excellent knowledge and experience of trialling and testing these boxes to end up with a positive result for hornbill breeding.

“Prototyping nest box designs at the zoo and monitoring the temperature and humidity levels inside the nest cavity that are vital to the successful incubation of the eggs has enabled much more refinement of the final design. Weight, materials, environmental parameters and monitoring technology all have to be considered and the design process is constantly evolving, especially as we learn more from Ravinder’s observations. During our time in Sukau we successfully installed two new artificial nest boxes and made two more for the HUTAN team to install later this year. It was hot and heavy work but Chester, Beauval, Phoenix Zoo (who are new to the project) and HUTAN all worked together in a truly international effort.

“And to top it all off we’ve recently received the news from HUTAN that a pair of breeding rhinoceros hornbills have been spotted in one of the artificial boxes we helped set up four years ago – which is FANTASTIC news! Time will tell if they are successful – watch this space!”. *Look out for rhinoceros hornbills in the zoo in our Islands habitat.*

To keep up to date with the latest conservation and science work of our team and partners around the world head over to our Act for Wildlife website.

ACTFORWILDLIFE.ORG.UK

Follow us on Twitter: **@ActforWildlife**

Like us on Facebook: **facebook.com/ActforWildlife**

Join us on Instagram: **@ActforWildlife**



ISLANDS at CHESTER ZOO

Our new state-of-the-art *Islands* habitats for sun bears, Malayan tapirs and Asian songbirds has been unveiled.

In 2015 we opened the largest zoological development in the UK, bringing you closer to some of the incredible wildlife that can be found in South East Asia and highlighting the conservation work our experts are doing to protect it.

The developments continue the 'always building' philosophy of our founder, George Mottershead, who created the UK's first zoo without bars focused on animal wellbeing and conservation. Now, two years on, we have invested more than £3m into spectacular new habitats. Here are some of the new arrivals on *Islands*:



SUN BEARS

Our two sun bears, Milli and Toni, who were rescued from Cambodia after their mothers were killed by poachers and they were found as mistreated pets, are enjoying their new South East Asian habitat.

Their new home features a stream and a large area filled with trees for them to climb. Our keepers hope that our bears will breed so, as part of the design, we've included a behind-the-scenes state-of-the-art cubbing area.

You'll get the opportunity to get up close to the bears with a number of viewing points providing you with many opportunities to see the magnificent pair.



SONGBIRDS

You'll be able to get closer to some of the world's most endangered songbird species as you walk through the new stunning aviary. Take in the beautiful bird song, learn more about why these birds are on the edge of extinction and the conservation work we're doing right here and in Indonesia to save them!

The aviary brings together a whole host of Asian songbirds such as Asian fairy-bluebirds, Sumatran laughingthrush and the critically endangered Javan green magpie - all being pushed closer to extinction as a result of the illegal wildlife trade.

It is the first time the Javan green magpie – one of the world's most endangered species – has gone on display to the public anywhere in the world outside Indonesia. We initially brought six pairs into a breeding programme in 2015 in a last gasp attempt to save the species from extinction in the wild. As a result of the early success of the breeding programme, this young pair bred at the zoo have now taken up residence in the new aviary.



TAPIRS

Our Malayan tapir family Betong, Margery and Solo are enjoying their impressive new home, which is lined with trees and lush green grass; designed to replicate the species' preferred natural habitat. The area features both outdoor and indoor pools, with a number of viewing points for visitors on an *Islands* expedition. You can spend time enjoying a completely unique perspective on this wonderful species. Tapirs are threatened by hunting from humans, among other things, so zoo conservationists are hoping their prominence in *Islands* will help to raise much needed awareness of the plight of this little known species.

THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

Both songbirds and sun bears are sadly effected by the illegal wildlife trade. Illegal wildlife trade is the sale or exchange of wild animal and plant resources that are protected by international trade law, and is the greatest direct threat to the future of many of the world's most iconic species. Between 1970 and 2012 global wildlife populations declined on average by almost 60% and the illegal wildlife trade was one of the main drivers of this decline.

The illegal wildlife trade impacts thousands of species and is the fourth most lucrative international crime after drugs, arms and human trafficking, worth \$19 billion annually!

To find out how you can help and Act for Wildlife go here:
ACTFORWILDLIFE.ORG.UK/ILLEGALWILDLIFETRADE



NEW SPECIES BRINGS MADAGASCAN MISCHIEF TO THE ZOO

We have welcomed a new species to the zoo, in a bid to help save them from extinction. Meet the critically endangered white-belted ruffed lemur.

The playful pair, named **Andry and Loky**, arrived at Chester after they were carefully matched up by conservationists.

The lemurs, which can only be found on the island of Madagascar, are one of the world's rarest primates and their numbers have seen a sharp decline in recent years.

Habitat destruction in the form of agriculture, logging, mining and hunting pressures have seen the population of lemurs fall by more than 80% in the last 21 years.

As a result, the lemurs are now critically endangered.

Dr Nick Davis, Assistant Curator of Mammals and primatology expert, said:

"Andry and Loky have settled in really well with their playful neighbours, a group of ring-tailed lemurs. They

both have bold personalities and are getting along famously; they can often be seen leaping through trees and vocalising to one another.

"We've taken the decision to play a vital role in ensuring the species survival, in case the worst should happen – extinction in the wild.

"All is not lost though, we have been working with project partners Madagasikara Voakajy in Madagascar, helping to engage with local communities, persuading them that the forests and the animals that live there are worth protecting. It's certainly a long process, but looking ahead, it will shape the future of the island for generations."

Our new lemurs can be spotted on Lemur Island.

The rare mammals, a species of marsupial, arrived from Plzen Zoo in the Czech Republic in July. Our mammal keepers hope to eventually introduce the two brothers to a female as part of a European-wide breeding programme for threatened animals.

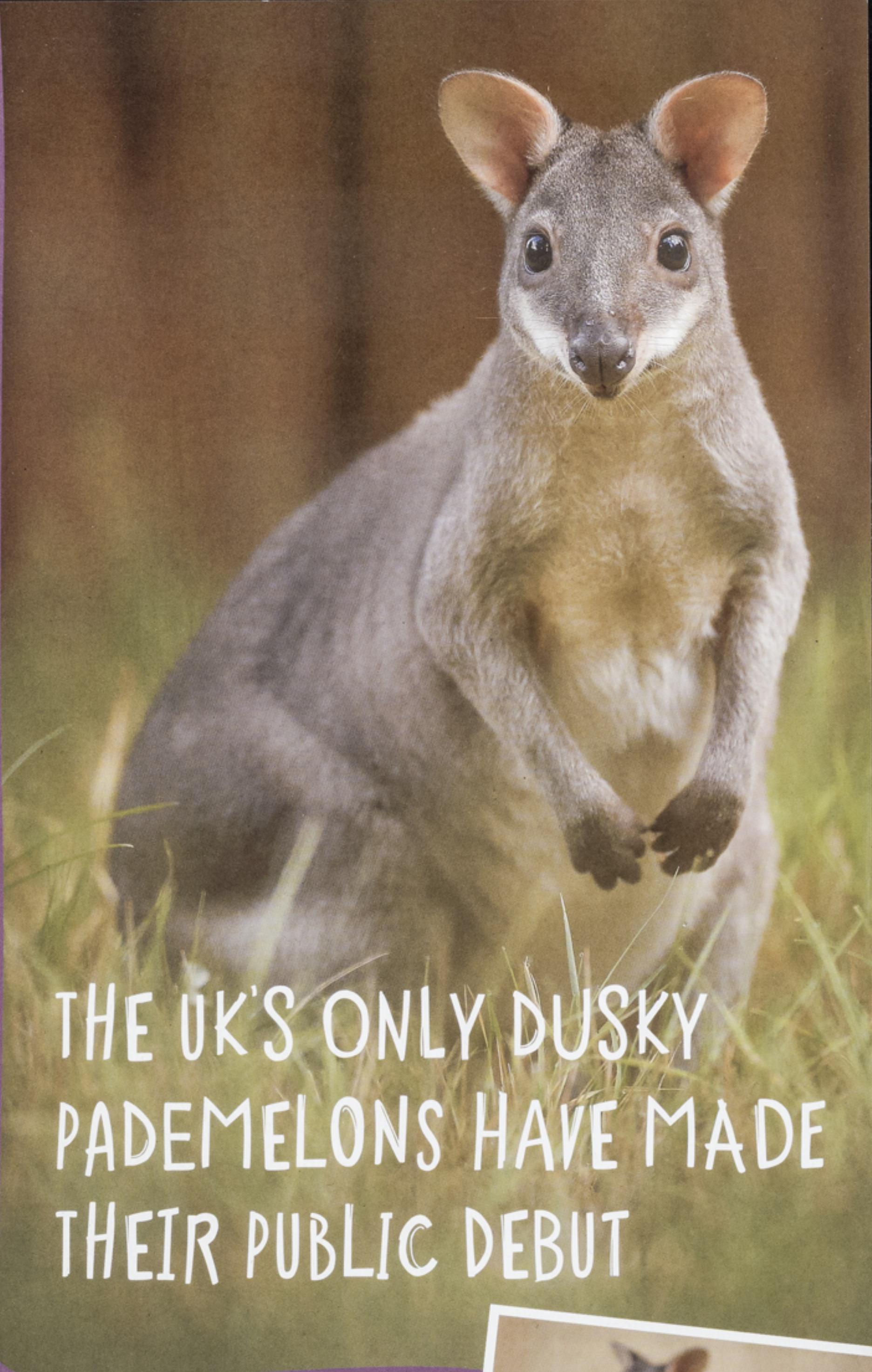
Dusky pademelons are also known as dusky wallabies and, in the wild, are found in forests on the island of New Guinea.

They are listed as vulnerable to extinction by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), with their population estimated to have declined by 30% in the last 15-20 years. The demise of the species is largely due to hunting for its meat.

Tim Rowlands, Curator of Mammals said:

"Little is known about these little Indonesian kangaroos. Indeed, many people may not have even heard of a dusky pademelon before.

"However, we are committed to the conservation of threatened species and we are always looking to break new ground by working with unusual, unheralded, often unknown animals and so we're



THE UK'S ONLY DUSKY PADEMELONS HAVE MADE THEIR PUBLIC DEBUT

particularly pleased with the arrivals of Kai & Aru. We hope they put the fascinating species on the map and bring some needed attention to them."

Chester's dusky pademelons are two of only 33 cared for by zoos in Europe and they can be found near Oakfield House.



FUNDRAISING NEWS

MEET OUR CORPORATE ADOPTERS!

These wonderful companies are supporting our conservation work right here at the zoo and all over the world.

Adlington Hall
Charlie Bears
DTM Legal
Henry Williams & Sons
Investec
Macdonald Hotels
Safer Surfacing
Store First
Thew Arnott
Tower Supplies
Zebra Finance

CHARITY BALL

The lovely people at EMS International are fundraising to support our work protecting jaguars in Brazil. The project, which is still in its early stages, will work with local communities to protect this iconic species before it's too late.

To help fundraise they are holding a charity ball on Thursday 9 November at the Victoria & Albert Hotel in Manchester. Starting from 6.45pm, tickets cost £90 and include a 3 course meal and some great auction prizes up for grabs.

For more information, or to book your ticket, email clare@emrsg.com or call 01928 791447

CHESTER ZOO "100 CLUB"

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

April 2017

£100 – Mrs Christine Julie Birtwistle, Northwich
£100 – Mr I D Ogden, Ashton-under-Lyme
£100 – Mrs Alison Jo Beech, Wirral
£50 – Mrs Annie Blake, Northwich
£50 – Mrs Fiona Bailiff, Chester
£50 – Mr Geoffrey Hodges, Chester
£50 – Mrs Caroline Ridley, Chester

May 2017

£100 – Miss Audrey Tillman, Worcester
£100 – Mrs Evelyn Jones, Ness
£50 – Mrs Andrea Warner, Wrexham
£50 – Mrs Lorna Harrison, Tarporley
£50 – Mrs Tanith Allwood, Nantwich
£50 – Mr M A Shepherd, Wirral

June 2017

£100 – Mrs Mary Doogan, Chester
£100 – Mrs Lilian Abrathat, St Helens
£50 – Mr Phil Harding, Liverpool
£50 – Miss Jayne Louise Copple, Wirral
£50 – Mrs Deborah Ridgeley, Ellesmere Port
£50 – Mr Robert Callaghan, Stoke-on-Trent
£1000 – Mr Colin Abrathat, St Helens

All prize winners are notified by post, in addition to appearing in Z magazine. Please inform us as soon as possible if you change address.

If you have any questions as a member of the 100 Club, please contact the Fundraising Office on 01244 650229.

CYCLING FOR ELEPHANTS



Chester Zoo member and volunteer, Stephen Hatton, cycled for wildlife to raise funds to research a deadly virus that affects young elephants globally. Here he tells us why.

What made you sign up to cycle for wildlife?

Hari the Asian elephant calf was my main inspiration. Since Hari was taken from us by the disease EEHV, I have been looking for a way to support the zoo's Never Forget campaign to fight the virus.

I had always enjoyed cycling in the past and I knew it would be a challenge to get back on my bike again. Training for an event for the zoo gave me the focus and motivation to do it.

How did it feel crossing the finish line?

I was so relieved to have not fallen off my bike! It was pretty windy and by the end I'd cycled even further than planned. People think of Cheshire as flat, but there are definitely hills out there. In fact there was about 1400ft of climbing overall!

What did you enjoy the most about the event?

The sense of achievement was fantastic...and the fact that all the planning was taken care of! I didn't have to check a map or a GPS; I could just focus on the cycling.

What's next?

I am looking forward to learning more about the illegal wildlife trade at 'Trade Off', the annual conservation symposium. Like the elephant virus EEHV, the illegal wildlife trade is a global issue where we can all do something to make a difference.

Thank you Stephen! If you would like to do what you love for wildlife like Stephen, please contact the fundraising team on **01244 650229** or email development@chesterzoo.org

SUMMER STAMPEDE SUCCESS!

On World Elephant Day, Saturday 12 August, our first ever herd of Summer Stampedeers did us proud! There was a wonderful atmosphere as more than 50 families joined forces to raise money for our Never Forget campaign. The day raised more than £6,000, with every penny going straight towards finding a solution for EEHV.

We want to say a BIG thank you to everyone who came along; your energy and enthusiasm made the day a huge success. We'll be doing it all again next year on World Elephant Day, Sunday 12 August 2018, so keep an eye out for all the info to find out how you can get involved.



HAVE WE GOT NEWTS FOR YOU?

Our conservationists have brought one of the world's rarest amphibian species to the UK for the first time in a bid to save it from extinction.

Twenty-four Montseny newts, one of the most endangered species in Europe, have arrived at the zoo after our experts answered a call from Catalonian conservationists to help save the species. Our team now plan to breed the animals in a special facility at the zoo, making it the first time the critically endangered newt has ever been kept outside its native home of Catalonia.

Ultimately, hatchlings will be released into the Montseny mountain range in north-eastern Catalonia to help boost population numbers. The mountains are the only wild habitat for the newts and efforts are being made to improve conditions there in preparation for their reintroduction.



New shop



Elephant Bazaar is our new shop and catering outlet situated opposite the elephants and next to the greater one-horned rhino habitat serving hot and cold drinks, ice creams, handmade fudge and an array of lovely gifts.

Our new range of authentic elephant items and unique gifts have been sourced from India, helping support sustainable communities in the Asian elephant's native habitat, including a range of recycled products made from bike chains, crayons, fabric and tyres, including these beautiful products:

Crayon necklace £8.99

Bike chain heart hook £ 7.99



New Chester Zoo clothing

We have just launched our own range of Chester Zoo clothing for adults, children and babies. This exclusive range of vibrant clothing includes t-shirts featuring many of the animals that can be seen here at the zoo including a sloth and elephant. The children's t-shirts are £12.99 and start at sizes 3/4years and go up to 9/11years.



Talking Conservation...

**AUTUMN
PROGRAMME
2017**

If you would like to find out more about the work your membership supports both here and out in the field, then why not come to one of our membership talks. You can find out about the future of the zoo, learn some amazing animal facts from our Zoo Rangers and get the opportunity to meet our rhino team!

Tuesday 24 October

THE WEIRDLY WONDERFUL

Who needs fiction when the facts are far more startling? This Halloween, we thought we'd celebrate by looking at some of the weirdly wonderful traits found in the animal kingdom.

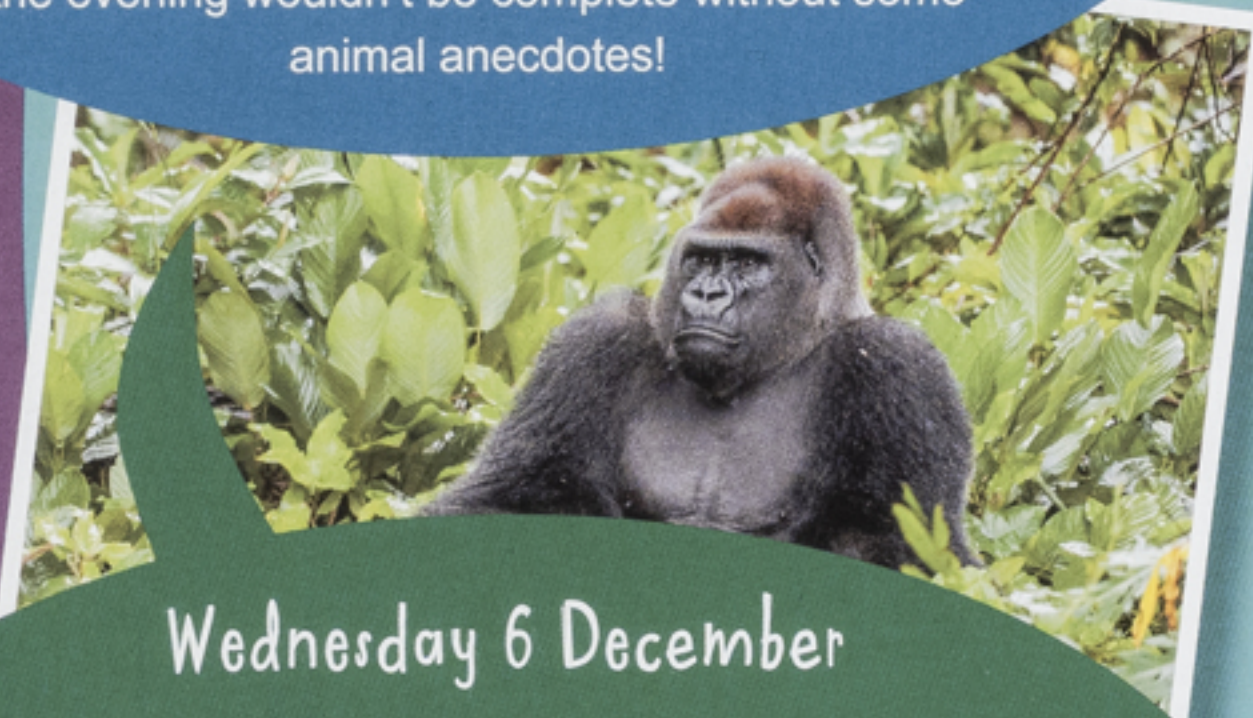
From blood-sucking leeches to vampire bats, our Zoo Rangers will share amazing tales from the natural world.



Monday 20 November

AN EVENING WITH OUR RHINO TEAM

Find out about the working life of our rhino team as they update you on the species on their section, among which are the black rhino and the greater one horned rhino. The team will tell you about the training and enrichment they provide to the animals, our conservation field work for endangered species and the evening wouldn't be complete without some animal anecdotes!



Wednesday 6 December

TOWARDS GORILLAS AND BEYOND

Join Mark Pilgrim, our Chief Executive Officer, as he explains how we are planning to develop the zoo over the next 15 years. Find out about the new zones we are creating including a grasslands area and forests zone, which will include a treetop walkway. Mark will discuss new habitats we hope to create for species including the Western lowland gorilla and pygmy hippo.



MEMBERS' TALKS, held in the Lecture Theatre (near the zoo's main entrance off the A41), start at 7:30pm and:

- booking is essential
- are free to members (please bring your membership card and welcome letter)
- we offer a special rate of £2 to adopters
- members of the public and guests are welcome (£3.50 for non-members)
- post-talk refreshments give you the opportunity to have an informal chat with speakers, zoo staff and fellow members

AMAZING ADOPTERS & MARVELLOUS MEMBERS' PRIZE DRAW!

To say THANK YOU for your valued support during 2017 all current members and adopters will automatically be entered into a quarterly prize draw to win an adoption! Our two previous winners are Helen Evans (member) and Denice Platt (Adopter).

MOVING ON...

In June we said a fond farewell to two of our animals as they moved to zoos around Europe to play their part in the European breeding programme.

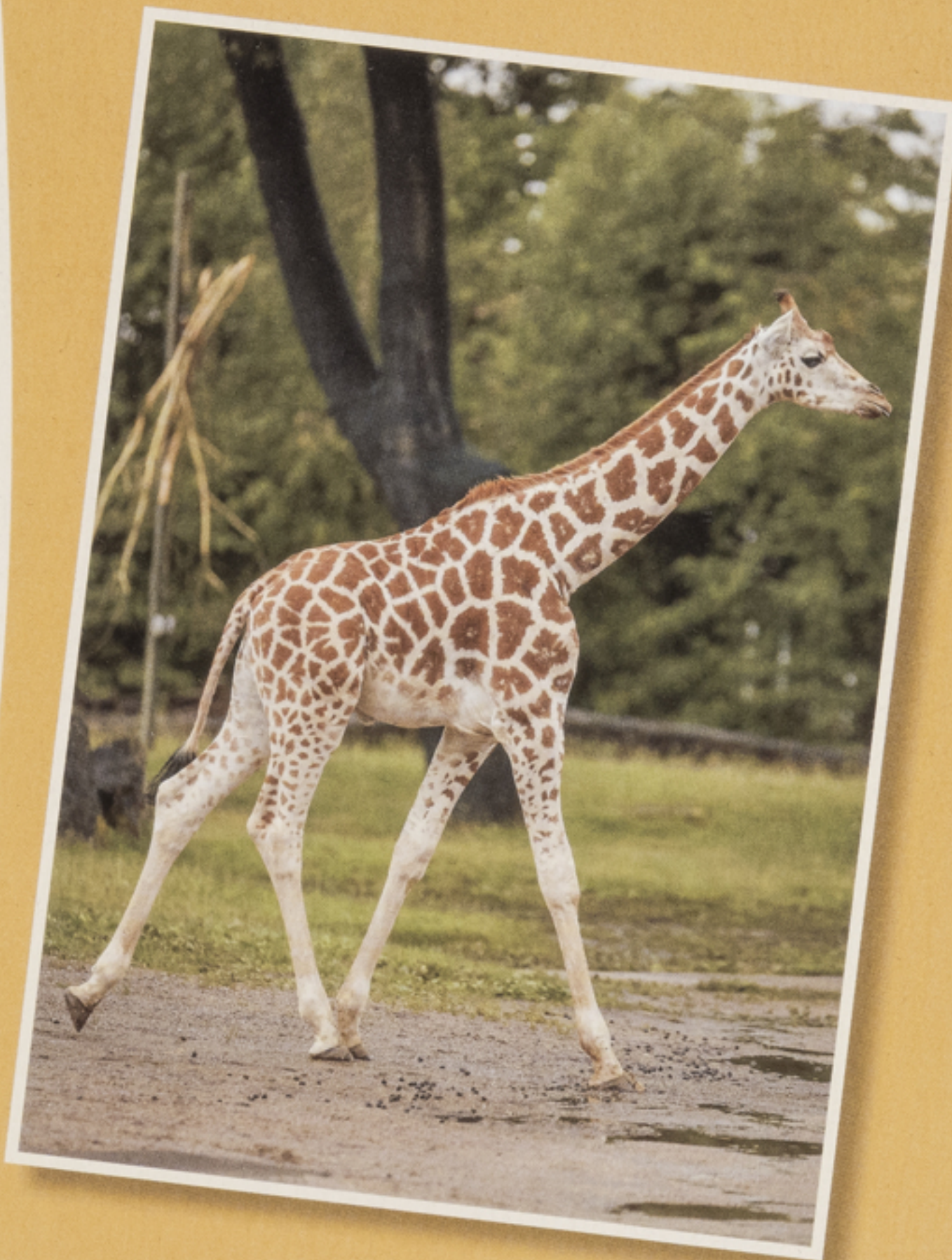
Kidepo

Kidepo, one of our Rothschild's giraffes, moved to Zoo La Boissiere du Dore in France in mid-June. Kidepo, named after the National Park in north eastern Uganda (home to a small population of Rothschild's giraffes), was born here in July 2015 to mum Orla and dad Meru and will now play a vital role in the endangered species breeding programme.

We are happy to report that Kidepo has settled into his new home and we hope that in time he will father calves of his own and add to the safety-net population in zoos. It's estimated that only 1,600 Rothschild's giraffes are left across Africa - making them one of the world's rarest and most at risk species.

Indah

At the end of June we said goodbye to nine-year-old female Sumatran orangutan Indah who has moved to Frankfurt Zoo in Germany as part of the breeding programme for this critically endangered species. Indah was accompanied on her travels by three members of keeping staff to help her to settle into her new home.



Wildlife
CONNECTIONS

FESTIVAL

Friday 15, Saturday 16 &
Sunday 17 September



CELEBRATING OUR WONDERFUL LOCAL WILDLIFE

After another amazing twelve months of activities, events and wonderful wildlife projects, our **FREE Wildlife Connections Festival** is returning for another year of fabulous fun to celebrate our incredible local wildlife.

Wildlife Connections is all about helping UK wildlife by creating new areas of good habitat in gardens and community spaces that will help the wildlife around us thrive.

This year's Wildlife Connections Festival is **BIGGER**, buzzier and bolder than last year with plenty of amazing activities for visitors to get involved in. There'll be opportunities to make clay hedgehogs, bird feeders and bug homes that you can take home to help wildlife in your own garden. Take part in our Bee Bonanza game or see if you can make it round our Hedgehog Maze before taking a well-deserved rest in our chill-out zone.

Manon Keir, Wildlife Connections Project Officer, tells us more about last year's festival to give you a taste of what to expect:

"Last year's festival was fantastic! We had a whole range of activities taking place, including safari walks in the nature reserve, drone demos, storytelling, art workshops and a variety of 'make and take' activities. It was great to have many of our UK conservation partners there too, sharing the fantastic work they do and how people can get involved.

"The festival is a real celebration of how wonderful the species around us are, but it also aims to highlight the threats facing them that could mean future generations don't get the chance to enjoy seeing them. The key things that we want to make sure we achieve is that everyone can find out at least one thing they could do to help local wildlife, learn why they need to help and that everyone has loads of fun!"



GET CLOSER TO NATURE AND CAMP OUT AT CHESTER ZOO

We're excited to be hosting our first sleepover at the zoo! Bring your family, pitch up your tent and take part in an evening of wildlife activities that'll bring you closer to the incredible local wildlife.

FIND ALL THE DETAILS AND T&CS AT CHESTERZOO.ORG/FESTIVAL





THE
LANTERNS
AT **CHESTER ZOO**

24 November
to 30 December

JOIN US ON A...
**Spellbinding
theatrical adventure**
through the **MAGICAL
CHRISTMAS** sorting office



Brought to you by Wild Rumpus

chesterzoo.org/lanterns