

# ZooLife

**AUTUMN 2004 - ISSUE 19**

CHESTER ZOO'S MAGAZINE FOR MEMBERS AND ADOPTERS

**RESCUE MISSION  
FOR TORTOISES**

**SEALION PHOEBE  
BECOMES MUM**

**JUNIOR MEMBERS**



70th Anniversary  
1934 - 2004



# Director's Pen

By Zoo Director Gordon McGregor Reid

It's not every day we have the chance to make dreams come true, so it was a special privilege for us to hold our first ever *Dreamnight at the Zoo* for children with life-limiting illnesses.

Up to 70 children, who all have links with local hospices, had the opportunity to see the Zoo at night after it had closed to visitors. They had a magical evening with tours of many of the animal areas and also received food and gifts.

Our staff were touched by the people they met that night and while it took months of planning it was worth every minute to see the smiles on the children's faces.

Other European zoos have held *Dreamnight at the Zoo* events but this was a first for Chester and I would like to thank all those individuals and companies who made it a success.

The *Asian Elephant Survival Appeal* has reached a significant milestone, topping the £1 million

mark, which is a wonderful achievement. We are now well on our way to our target and, with your help, we are looking forward to raising the final £500,000 we need! We have been staggered by the efforts of so many people, too numerous to mention, who have come up with ideas to help. As ever a big thank you goes to you, our members, for all the support you continue to give.



Helping us on our way to the £1 million mark was the *Elephantasia Ball* at Eaton Hall in May, which was a great success in a superb location and a fantastic evening. Thank you to everyone who either attended or donated prizes and to our President, His Grace the Duke of Westminster, for letting us use his magnificent home.

Our recent raffle for the elephant appeal also did well and raised £5,000. I was pleased to meet Anne Coleman from Wrexham who scooped the top prize of a Jaguar car for the weekend and a stay at Bodysgallen Hall. Needless to say she was delighted!

The Rhino weekend, held in conjunction with *Save The Rhino International*, was also a success and raised hundreds of pounds for conservation projects. Visitors were able to buy 'paintings' by our rhinos, *Rosie* and *Baringo*, and enjoyed a live broadcast by Dee 106.3.

On the animal front, our baby boom continues and on the *Zoo Life* pages you can find out more about the baby Coatis, Orangutan, Buffalo and Sealion. Our Harvest Mouse project started again in the summer with reintroductions further afield. We have taken in Star Tortoises confiscated by customs in Hong Kong, more of which you can read about on pages 10 and 11.

On the 'campaigning' front we continue to make great strides with VAT. Following a change in European Law the Customs & Excise finally conceded in 2003 that the Zoo visitors' admissions should be exempt from VAT.

We no longer have to pay over £1.2 million of VAT from the admission monies paid by our visitors. However, a consequence of the change is that we can no



longer recover some of the VAT input tax.

Despite having accepted that admissions income is exempt from VAT from January last year, C&E are still disputing to what extent it should have been levied previously. Last month they accepted part of our claim for arrears from 1990 and we received a substantial payment in July.

However we are continuing to argue strongly for our claim to be paid in its entirety; probably to double the amount recovered.

Many of you will be familiar with the Gift Aid scheme. This has had a major impact on the Zoo's finances since 2001 and enables us to claim Gift Aid on admissions paid by UK tax payers who sign Gift Aid forms as they enter the Zoo. This generates about £1 million per year, making a very welcome contribution to our charitable objectives.

Unfortunately, in the same year that we won VAT exemption on admissions, we heard that the Government is planning to remove the right for us to claim Gift Aid on our admission fees next year. Their argument is that we are exploiting a loophole; four years

after it was introduced they are saying it is not what was originally intended!

We believe that when you pay to enter a museum or historic building, or to enter a zoo, you are seeking to contribute to the core purpose of a place, to help the people that run it to conserve and protect the contents. We have found that it helps our visitors to recognise the Zoo as a charity, with a purpose far greater than just entertainment. Stopping Gift Aid would be the end of a scheme that contributes enormously towards getting the public involved in supporting charity, which is supposed to be the primary purpose of Gift Aid.

We - together with many other zoos, museums and heritage property charities - have been petitioning Government, arguing that to stop this form of Gift Aid would be both unfair and unwise. We will continue to keep you posted as this develops and hope you will support us in our cause!

*Gordon M.J. Reid*

# Baby Boom...

The Zoo's new additions in pictures

The Zoo is enjoying a baby boom to kick off the summer.

The *Coati Island* has been taken over by up to 20 babies after a male was moved on to the island last year during the breeding season.

The litter is going from strength to strength and can be seen out and about playing every day.

The Coatis, which come from South America, were five weeks old when they left the nest and now happily tuck into insects, eggs and fruit with the rest of the family.

A baby orang-utan - *Budi*, meaning the wise one - has been born to mum *Subis* bringing the total number of Sumatran Orang-utans to seven.

The latest Orang-utan birth comes just weeks after *Orang Emma* gave birth to *Utara*.



However not to be outdone, a new buffalo is also on the scene, born to parents father *Kinta* and mother *Opala*. The as yet unnamed male is the second for *Kinta*, who also sired *Lukuni* - the 21st buffalo born at the Zoo - earlier in the year.



A baby kangaroo - a joey - has also made his debut.

*Phoebe* - the Sealion who hit the headlines after having surgery due to her fondness for eating willow leaves - has also given birth to a female pup.





# General News

All the latest news from around the Zoo

Daredevil Zoo keeper Simon Marsh took a leap of faith when it came to raising money for charity.



Simon, who works on the carnivores section, raised money for the Predator Conservation Trust by taking part in a tandem skydive.

The event took place at Tilstock airfield near Whitchurch and it was the fifth attempt - four were cancelled because of low cloud and one because the plane broke down!

Simon, who thanked people who sponsored him and helped him to raise £800, said: "Once we were two miles up it was time to jump and I was surprisingly calm by then, I moved to the door and with the instructor firmly strapped to me I just fell out. It didn't seem real, the first few seconds were just a blur but after that it was amazing. It has to be one of the most insane things I have experienced and I will have to do it again!"

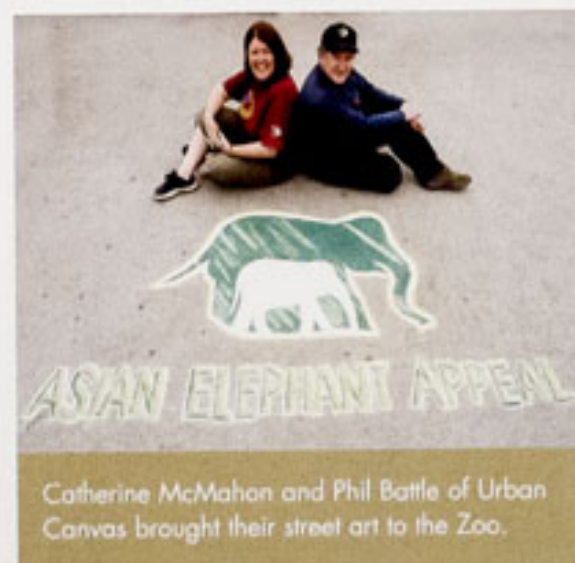
For further information visit [www.predatorconservation.com](http://www.predatorconservation.com)

Street artists Catherine McMahon and Philip Battle were quick on the draw when it came to raising money for Chester Zoo's Asian Elephant Appeal.

Catherine and Philip - who work under the name Urban Canvas - chalked up a first when they

helped to raise money for Chester Zoo's Asian Elephant Appeal.

The Liverpool-based duo - both zoo members - asked zoo visitors to join them and create works of art on the ground surrounding the elephant enclosure.



Catherine McMahon and Phil Battle of Urban Canvas brought their street art to the Zoo.

### Water voles back in the wild after winter break

A GROUP of Britain's most threatened mammal species has been re-released into the wild after a successful 'winter break' at the Zoo.

Up to 35 Water Voles (*Arvicola terrestris*) have been cared for at the Zoo since they were collected from the flooded part of a de-commissioned industrial site in South Essex which was to be redeveloped.

Environmental Contractor Tamdown Regeneration, based in Essex, asked us to help out when it came to finding temporary shelter for the Water Voles.

Mike Jordan, curator of birds and mammals, said: "In the seven-year period between the two national surveys of 1989-90 and 1996-98, the British Water Vole population is estimated to have declined by 88%.

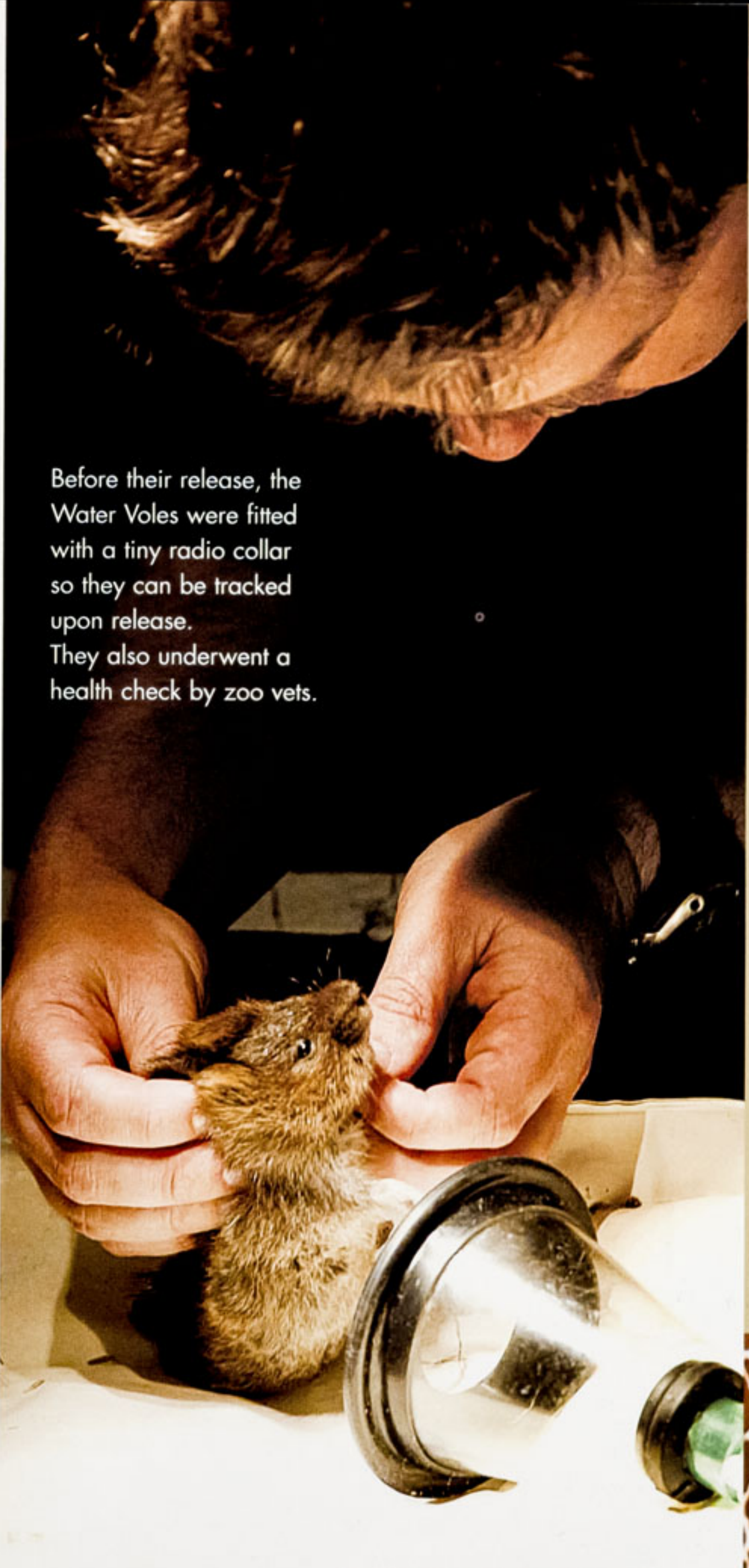
"Water Vole reintroduction and translocation are important parts of the National Species Action Plan to save the species from extinction in Britain and Chester Zoo is responsible for overseeing and coordinating reintroduction work nationally. Therefore it made perfect sense for us to help out with this project by actually keeping the voles temporarily at Chester."

The Water Vole is just one of a number of professionally managed release projects that Chester Zoo is involved in to help restore threatened species back to the wild when conditions become suitable.

Before their release, the Water Voles were fitted with a tiny radio collar so they can be tracked. They also underwent a health check by zoo vets.

A release site within an existing country park has been approved by the Environment Agency and English Nature, just 10 miles from the original site.

The Water Voles' activity will now be monitored by Tamdown Regeneration and the owners of the Essex site.



Before their release, the Water Voles were fitted with a tiny radio collar so they can be tracked upon release. They also underwent a health check by zoo vets.

Vet Steve Urwin checks over one of the Water Voles

# General News

Latest news



From left are: Abigail's parents David Jackson, Julie Jackson, Abigail, Paul and his parents Maureen and Dennis Davis.

When Paul Davis popped the question there was only one place to do it - the monkey house!

Paul, 31, popped the question to girlfriend Abigail Jackson - who collects monkey teddies and memorabilia - inside the house.

The couple's parents were also on hand to help them celebrate with a champagne picnic after Abigail, 23, said 'yes' to Paul's proposal.



## Spirit Dancer

Tuesday 5th October 2004,  
7.30pm until 10.00pm  
Chester Zoo Lecture Theatre

As featured in the last *Zoo Life* magazine, Chester Zoo is proud to welcome the return of Native American champion Navajo dancer Dennis Lee Rogers. Back by popular demand, Chester Zoo is giving you the rare opportunity to experience a spectacular performance of Native American Indian traditional tribal dance and music.

There are still a number of tickets left so if you haven't managed to get yours yet then there is still time. All proceeds from this world-wide acclaimed show will go towards the Zoo's Jaguar project in Belize.

Tickets for this unique event are priced at £8 each. The price includes tea/coffee at the interval. Tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Please send a cheque for the correct remittance, an SAE for ticket return along with your daytime telephone number, to: Development Office, Chester Zoo, Chester, CH2 1LH.

Alternatively, if you would like to pay by either debit or credit card, please call 01244 650229.

PUPILS put their best foot forward to raise money for Chester Zoo's Asian Elephant Appeal.

The youngsters (pictured below) from Abbey Gate College, Saughton, took steps to raise funds for the Zoo's £1.5 million appeal.

Up to 150 pupils took part in a walk around the college fields and on land belonging to His Grace the Duke of Westminster - President of Chester Zoo.

## CHESTER ZOO 100 CLUB

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

### April 2004

Mrs Mary Doogan	£100
Mrs Elizabeth Roberts	£100
Mrs S. Welsh	£50
Miss Justine Brewer	£50
Mrs Joan Shallcross	£50

### June 2004

Mr M.K Batchelo	£1000
Mrs Barbara Piercy	£100
Miss Susan Wilks	£50
Mrs Ann Buglass	£50
Miss Joan Goodall	£50

### May 2004

Mrs Lorna Harrison	£100
Miss Angela Nolan	£50
Mrs Susan Ann Hall	£50
Lynda Anne Birch	£50

All prize winners will be notified by post and will be listed in the next edition of *Zoo Life*.

Membership of the 100 Club is still invited. If you wish to participate, please contact Lynsey Jones, Assistant Development Manager on 01244 650292.



**A VIRTUAL ZOO AT YOUR FINGERTIPS**  
For the latest zoo news visit [www.chesterzoo.org](http://www.chesterzoo.org)

**Chester Zoo**

The Poo Problem



*Zoolife*

# General News

Elephant Appeal update

ASIAN ELEPHANT  
APPEAL BENEFITS  
BY £40,000

## Elephantasia Ball

A great time was had by all of the 302 guests at the Elephantasia Ball, held on the Eaton Estate.

Our sincere thanks to His Grace the Duke of Westminster for allowing us the use of such a wonderful facility; it certainly created the 'wow' factor.

Our thanks also to Paul of Feathers who catered and managed the evening so well. The object of the Ball was to raise as much money as possible for our *Asian Elephant Appeal* and we are delighted to report that the evening was a major success, raising just over £40,000.

Just as importantly everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We do therefore want to take this opportunity to thank all those involved, our sponsors, donors, supporters and especially our volunteers for ensuring that we exceeded all expectations.



## THE Zoo is appealing for help in tracing three Ecuadorian Amazon Parrots missing since a break-in.

The parrots went missing from a building in the Zoo between 10pm on Tuesday and 6am on Wednesday June 30.

A large cage and feeding bowl were

found abandoned on the Bridle Way near to the Zoo and police have been informed. It is not clear whether the birds have been stolen or escaped when the building was broken into.

The Zoo's Chief Curator Mark Pilgrim, the Ecuadorian Amazon Parrot EEP Coordinator, said: "These birds are very important to us and we would appeal to anyone who may know of the

whereabouts of the parrots or have information on the incident to contact the police.

"We would like to ensure the parrots are returned so us safely where they can be cared for properly."



THE Zoo has come to the rescue of tortoises confiscated in Hong Kong by customs.

The tortoises - native to Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka - had been homed in a Hong Kong

nucleus of a conservation breeding programme.

Initially the tortoises will be kept in quarantine in the Zoo's animal health centre and will eventually be exhibited in the new *Elephants of the Asian Forest Exhibit* at the end of 2005.

Kevin said: "The continued and organised smuggling of protected tortoises' such as the Indian Star tortoise - has driven many species to the point of extinction.

"We are only scratching the surface by helping these 350 tortoises but it is far better that they are in experienced hands than in the hands of smugglers.

"At Chester Zoo, the six will eventually form part of a managed breeding program with other zoos around Europe. They will literally ensure the survival of the species, should they be driven to extinction in the wild."



Around 350 juvenile Indian Star Tortoises were discovered by customs after a Malaysian courier attempted to smuggle the tortoises into the country in a suitcase.

A highly unsuitable but sought-after pet species, the tortoises have now been found new homes thanks to the work of TSA Europe (*Turtle Survival Alliance*) and EAZA (*European Association of Zoos and Aquaria*).

rescue centre following their discovery but will now have a new home at Chester Zoo.

Kevin Buley, the Zoo's curator of Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates and co-chair of the EAZA Amphibian and Reptile Group, drove to Rotterdam to pick up six of the tortoises.

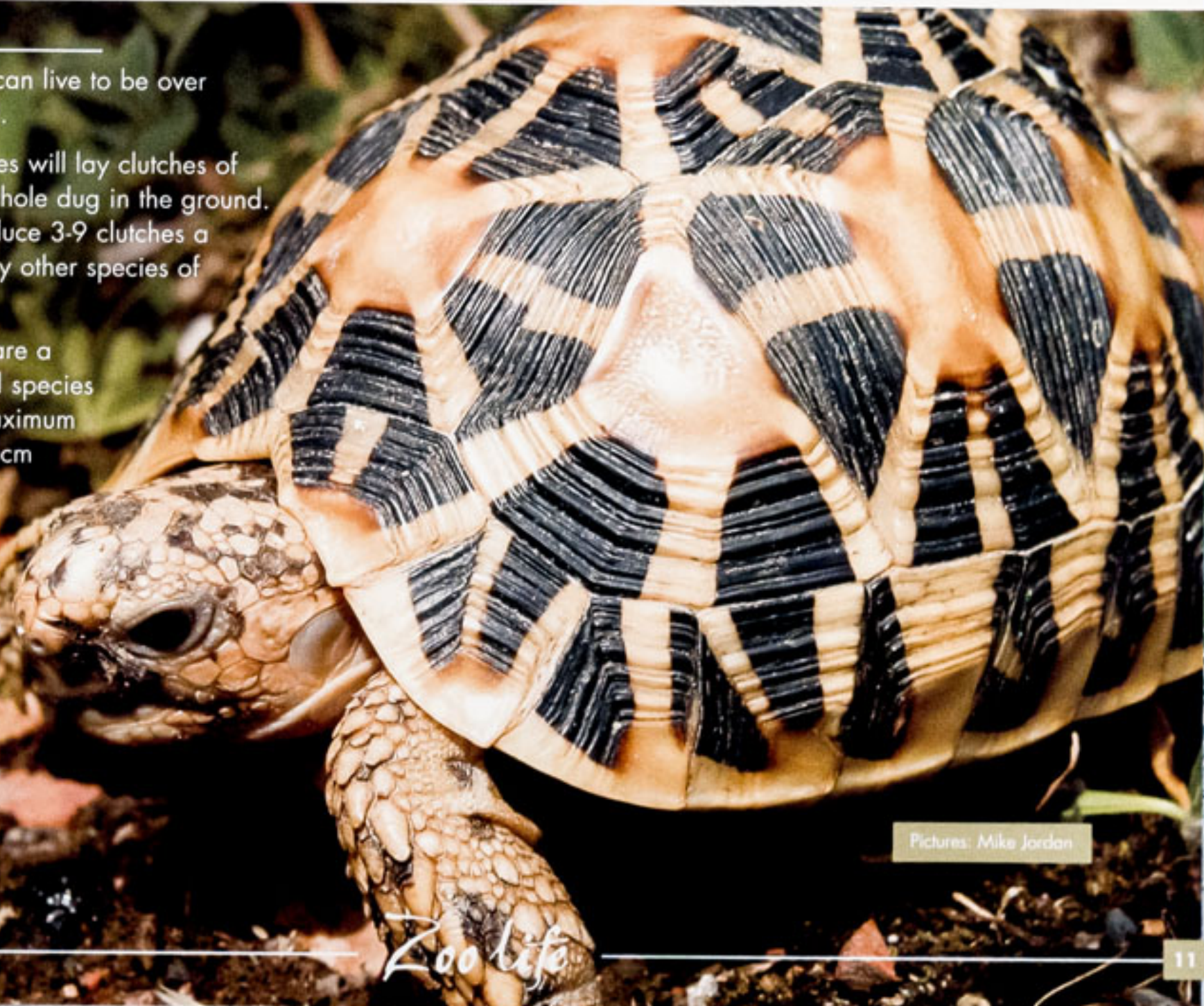
The remainder have gone to other experienced tortoise breeders in Europe where they will form the

#### FACTS:

Star tortoises can live to be over 100 years old.

Female tortoises will lay clutches of 5-7 eggs in a hole dug in the ground. They can produce 3-9 clutches a year, like many other species of tortoises.

Star tortoises are a relatively small species reaching a maximum of only 25-30 cm in length.



Pictures: Mike Jordan

# Building Chester Zoo

Zoo librarian Jane Woodward chats to June Williams in our anniversary year

June Williams is the daughter of Chester Zoo's founder, George Mottershead. She was only four years old when her family moved into Oakfield House in 1931. She grew up in the Zoo, became the Curator of the Aquarium (one of her many jobs), married the Zoo Clerk of Works, Fred Williams, and raised her children whilst living on the premises. Her playmate was Mary the chimp and her pet dog, Peter, was the famous Mongrel that befriended Mowgli the Lion in the 1940s.

June remembers the early years at the Zoo being very hard work but very rewarding. She, along with her parents, sister and Grandfather, tended the animals, the gardens, the gate and the café with the minimum of external

help. It was only as the visitor base grew that funds allowed more staff to be employed. The Zoo expanded rapidly in the post-war years but this was entirely due to the resourceful nature of Mr Mottershead and his team. Money, labour and building supplies were in short supply but the Zoo had a few generous benefactors and some very devoted staff who put hours of their own time into ingenious building projects.

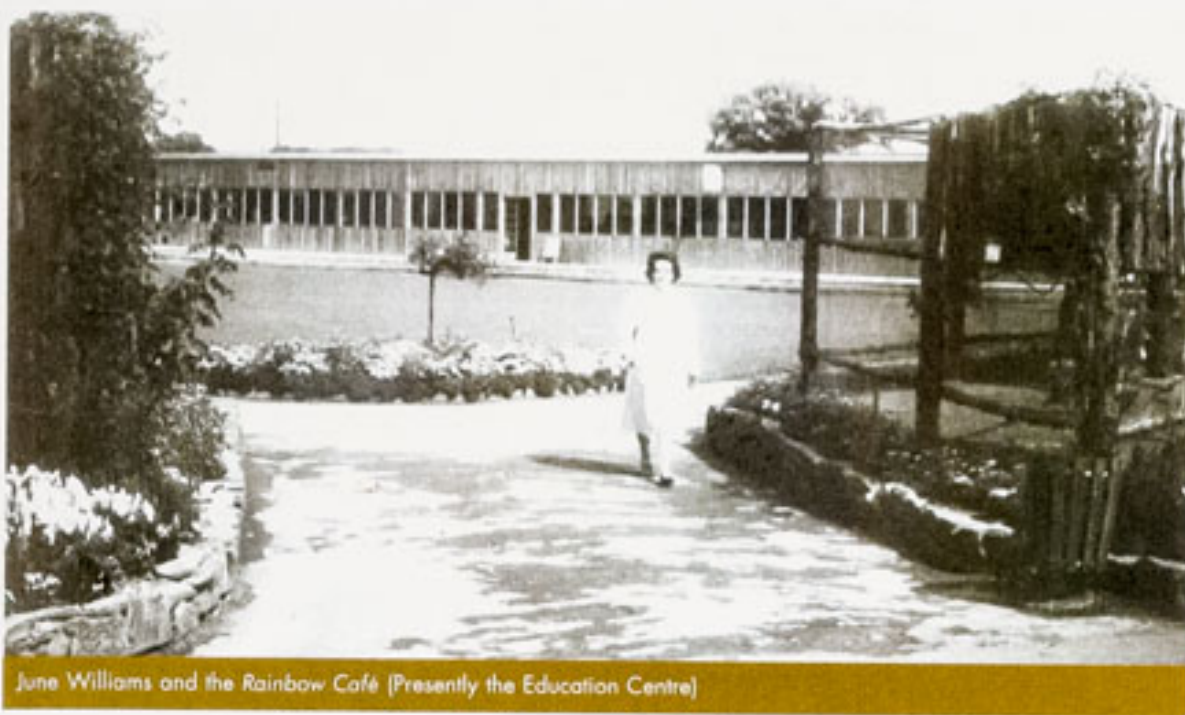
Mr Mottershead became adept at procuring free building materials. After the war he snapped up road blocks in their 1000s. Removing these was a public service and they made adequate building blocks. These can still be seen in the Zoo today if you look closely.

He discovered that the Pilkington's factory was producing armour plated glass that could not be re-worked and he persuaded them to donate any unwanted glass to the Zoo. Buildings such as the *Orang-utan House*, the *Tropical House* and many others were then constructed to accommodate the left-over glass. At one point the Zoo inherited some panes of multi-coloured glass that were incorporated into the aptly named *Rainbow Café*, which was on the site of the present *Arara Café* and shop, hence the name *Rainbow Lawn*.

The first aquarium was situated in the wine cellars at *Oakfield House*, but lack of space and damp caused problems. The present building, opened to



Use of road blocks in the Polar Bear enclosure (Now Europe on the Edge)



June Williams and the Rainbow Café (Presently the Education Centre)

the public in 1952, was one of many projects designed and constructed by June and Fred themselves in their spare time. One of the outstanding features of the new aquarium was a roof tank that encircled the building. Glass panels were set into the bottom of the tank so visitors could view the fish from underneath. This had to be abandoned eventually, but was an innovation at the time.

Another resourceful building project masterminded by Fred Williams was the building of the *Lecture Hall*, opened in 1972.

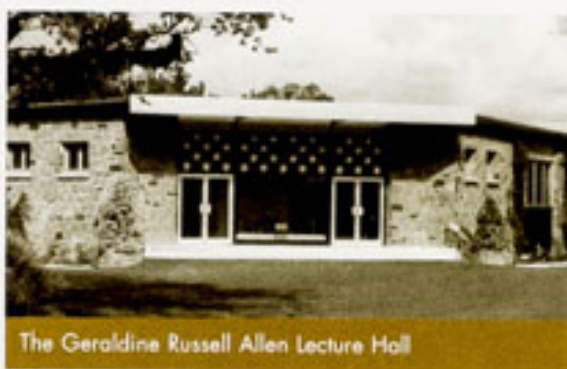


June underneath the roof tank in the aquarium

The doors were donated by Hayward and Williams, having been shipped to Libya and back after being turned away by the Gaddafi regime. Then reflectors from gas fires were used to decorate the frontage.

The *Lecture Hall* was named after Geraldine Russell Allen. She was a founder member of the NEZS and a long-standing Council member who often helped the Zoo financially. Amongst other things she purchased the first six coldwater tanks for the aquarium and our first penguins.

June has many such anecdotes and is a wonderful source of information about the history of Chester Zoo. We hope that one day she will write it all down!



The Geraldine Russell Allen Lecture Hall

## A Gift that costs you nothing now!

Surely there is no such thing as a gift that costs you nothing? Not true!

By pledging a gift to Chester Zoo in your Will now, it actually costs you nothing during your lifetime. Yet you will have the peace of mind knowing that the Zoo, which is a registered charity (number 306077), will be able to continue its crucial conservation work long into the future.

We have a special group of people who have already pledged a gift in this way, called The Legacy Pledge Club. We are really lucky to have received three new members to the club in the last two months and hope that the group will continue to grow.

If you would like more information or would like to become a member of our Legacy Pledge Club then contact Lynsey Jones on:  
**01244 650292**  
 or via e-mail on:  
[l.jones@chesterzoo.org](mailto:l.jones@chesterzoo.org)



# Zoo News

News from around the Zoo

Chester Zoo will become a modern day ark, saving species from extinction.

That was the message from Amanda Lumley, the Zoo's Head of Marketing and Development, to members of the North Staffordshire branch of the Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM).

Explaining the Zoo's vision for the future, Amanda told how the Zoo - currently celebrating its 70th anniversary - had developed since the days of its founder, George Mottershead.

The Zoo has a bank of 6,000 adopters, a turnover of more than £16 million and in 2001 won the acclaimed Queen's Award for Enterprise for Sustainable Development.

However the key functions of the Zoo are - and would remain - the protection of species and conservation, she said.

Amanda was addressing members of the CIM at a special meeting held at the Zoo which was followed by a Safari-style tour.

The CIM had invited Amanda to talk about the development of the Zoo's marketing since her appointment in 2002. Her talk was entitled *Are you going to change the logo? We need to order new flags!*

"The Zoo is really just the tip of the iceberg and the tip is the part that is visible to the public. What they don't see are the activities that happen off-show.

"As an organisation we need to make sure that what we do is modern, relevant and real in both conservation and consumer terms," said Amanda.



The changes in the Zoo's marketing tactics over the past two years also came into focus with guests told of the introduction of customer-based research, a new website and printed materials including the zoo guide books.

Amanda added: "Chester is one of the leading European zoos and one of the top 10 visitor attractions in the UK. Animal welfare and the enrichment of their lives will always be our prime concern and indeed we fund conservation projects in native habitats around the world."

## International Zoo News

Chester Zoo recently took over as sponsors and publishers of *International Zoo News*. Founded in 1951, IZN is one of the longest-running zoo publications in the world. It is read by professional zoo people in more than 40 countries, providing them with a regular forum for the exchange of news, information and ideas. Many amateur zoo enthusiasts also subscribe, finding the magazine provides them with a valuable insider's view of what's going on in the international zoo community.

IZN is published eight times a year, and is available only by subscription (£45 p.a.) from the editorial office. A free sample copy is available on request from: International Zoo News, 80 Cleveland Road, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 7AF (Phone: 01243 782803; E-mail: [ngouldizn@aol.com](mailto:ngouldizn@aol.com)).

## REMARKABLE STATIONERY

The Zoo shops are now selling a range of stationery, made from re-cycled materials by a company called Remarkable. This young British company specialises in turning highly recyclable materials like plastic vending cups, computer printers, car tyres, paper and board, into design-led stationery, at very competitive prices.

Their award winning 'Remarkable Recycled Pencil,' is made from one recycled plastic vending cup. It looks and acts like a normal pencil but contains no wood, thus saving trees, and less waste going to landfill. Britain throws away four billion plastic cups every year!

As well as the pencil, there is a ruler made from a plastic cup and a pen made from computer printers. Notebooks are made from recycled paper, with covers made from car tyres and recycled board, and mouse mats and coasters also made from car tyres.

Chester Zoo is committed not only to conserving endangered species but also to conserving the environment and for the past few years a number of staff have been working towards achieving ISO 14001. This is an international standard for environmental management, and supporting recycling is one of the aims.

REMARKABLE



**FAUNA & FLORA  
International**

*Conserving wildlife  
since 1903*

## **FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL**

### **Autumn 2005 Programme**

#### **Friday 24 September 2004**

#### **Lise Hanssen and Flip Stander - from The Predator Conservation Trust in Namibia**

Many of our regular FFI meeting attenders will know Lise. She spent eleven years as Director of the Africat Foundation in Namibia, during which time she instigated many practical and useful solutions to assist both the people and animals in Namibia to live together in relative harmony. However, during 2003, she decided to develop her terrific work further when, together with Dr Philip (Flip) Stander, a key player with 24 years experience in wildlife management, they founded The Predator Conservation Trust, based in Windhoek.

The aim of the PCT is to make a significant contribution towards the long-term conservation of large carnivores, focussing on applied research, training, capacity building and developing species management plans to achieve this aim. Please come along and find out more about the PCT's current projects and achievements.

#### **Friday 15 October 2004**

#### **Jo Lynch - Wildlife Art**

Anyone who is interested in knowing just what it is that wildlife artists need to know before they start and as they develop their creations needs to come to this evening to find out. How much does the artist need to know about their subject? What about behaviour and appropriate expressions? How much is technique and how much is talent? Could you learn to draw? Jo Lynch is based in France, but she will be visiting us in October and we hope you will join us with an open-mind and a willingness to participate!

#### **Friday 12 November 2004**

#### **Susan Flood - Polar Bear Encounters**

Those who were lucky enough to hear Sue Flood speak to FFI last year will be queuing up to hear about her remarkable filming exploits during 2004. Sue is a Producer with the BBC Natural History Unit in Bristol and spent almost five years travelling the world for their award-winning series the Blue Planet. Married to wildlife cameraman Doug Allan, who specialises in working in the Arctic and Antarctic, particularly underwater, Sue has some memorable moments to share. Sue and Doug have spent several months this year working on a new programme due out this Christmas, and we will be lucky enough to share several of their moments over the past few years filming Polar Bears and other Arctic residents. Really not an evening to miss.

#### **Friday 14 January 2005**

#### **Chimpanzee Re-introduction in the Republic of Congo with Carmen Vidal and Benoit Gossens**

A fantastic opportunity to hear first hand the experiences of two experienced conservation biologists who have been directly involved with the release and post-release monitoring of 37 captive (but wild-born) chimpanzees into the Conkouati-Douli National Park in the Republic of Congo over the past seven years.

The talk will detail the many 'highs' and thankfully fewer 'lows', together with the lessons learned.

Carmen Vidal is a wildlife veterinarian, based in Spain, who has spent half of every year for the past seven years in the Congo taking part in the chimpanzee release programme and she is responsible for the post-release monitoring of the chimpanzees. Benoit Gossens is a zoologist, with research interests in conservation biology. Benoit is also President of Habitata Ecologique et Liberte des Primates (HELP) International, a French NGO, initially set up to rescue and offer a better life to chimpanzees that had been orphaned as a result of the bush-meat trade.

Tickets: These may be available on the door, but advanced booking helps us to keep costs down. Please ring Penny Rudd at the Zoo, on 01244 650215, to reserve your tickets. Doors open at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start, in the Zoo Lecture Hall. Members and non-Members of FFI are welcome to attend. Tickets cost £6.50 for FFI Members and £7 for non-Members, and this includes a light buffet and wine.

# Christmas at the Zoo

News from the Zoo

## Christmas at Chester Zoo

This year, as always, we shall be celebrating Christmas in style and offering special festive events that are suitable for everyone, including families, friends and businesses.

DAYTIME  
**Santa  
Magic!**  
2004



Following the huge success of the previous years' *Magical Santa Trail* event, this Christmas we shall be continuing to run a unique pre-booked Santa experience at the Zoo.

This year, in response to customer and staff feedback, we have decided to re-launch the event, and instead of running this special event during the evening, this year it will be held during daytime hours and early evening only.

As always, the event will be pre-bookable via the Events Office, and included in the ticket price will be admission to the Zoo and all its attractions, a visit to Santa's enchanting grotto, a Zoo themed present for the children, and

Christmas festivities and animation throughout. Pretty Christmas lights will be displayed around the Zoo and, to enable visitors to enjoy these at their best, the Zoo will remain open later on each event date.

We are confident that the *Daytime Santa Magic* event will be a huge hit with all the family, and we hope that our Zoo Members will be able to support and enjoy it as much as they have in previous years.

In order to maximise enjoyment and value for money for our Members, we have decided to run two exclusive 'Members Only' days on 4th and 6th December. Please see the enclosed leaflet for further details.

We do hope you will continue to support our Christmas events this year, and will enjoy them as much as you have in the past. As always we welcome your feedback and questions regarding our events, and our friendly Events staff are always on hand to help with your enquiry.

Information on all Zoo events, can be obtained from the Events Office on **01244 650209**.

## Christmas Lunches and Dinners in the Oakfield

Our beautiful *Oakfield House* is the perfect place to enjoy a delicious three course Christmas lunch with family and friends. And for those of you who really like to celebrate in style, we also take bookings for evening Christmas dinners followed by a disco until the early hours!

The appetising food and welcoming atmosphere we offer our guests really do help to make Christmas a memorable and happy occasion. We firmly believe you could not find a better venue for your Christmas celebrations. For details please call **01244 650209/281**.



## REPLACEMENT MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Please note that with effect from 1 July 2004 the Society has implemented a charge for replacing lost membership cards to cover administration costs.

Should you lose your card, please forward to the Membership Office a listing of members whose cards are missing, giving

names and dates of birth, plus payment of £5.00 per card. Payment should be made by credit card or cheques only - cheques should be made payable to Chester Zoo.

We will replace stolen cards free of charge on condition that a Police Crime Number is provided.

## Christmas Lunch

Why not enjoy a delicious three course Christmas Lunch in the Oakfield Manor. Lunch will be served on various dates throughout December, excluding Christmas Day.

The price for lunch up to the 23rd December is £19.25 adult & £12.95 child (under 11 years), which includes admission to the Zoo.

## Boxing Day

£32.95 per adult & £18.25 per child (under 11 years) includes admission to the Zoo.

## Christmas Dinner & Disco

£31.50 per person

Saturday 11th, Thursday 16th,

Friday 17th, Saturday 18th,  
Thursday 23rd December

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

## The Boxing Day Menu includes an additional course.

A non-refundable deposit of £10 per person will secure your booking. The balance, which is also non-refundable, will be required no later than two weeks prior to your reservation.

Should evening bookings fail to reach the required number Chester Zoo reserves the right to cancel. In this case the Company will make every effort to offer an alternative date.

If this is not possible a full refund will be given.

## Endangered Wildlife Travels

### Can you 'bear' it?

Endangered Wildlife Travels are planning a two-centre bear safari to Canada next October, to watch magnificent polar bears on their native tundra and view mountain grizzly bears. This new trip will also visit a conservation centre that is home to orphaned cubs. There will be time to see other native wildlife, moose, elk caribou, as well as time for sightseeing - including the Niagara Falls. If you are interested, contact Simon Lacey on: **01825 740262** or [enquiries@diplomatic.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@diplomatic.co.uk).



## Christmas Menu

Homemade Smoked Mackerel & Coriander Paté, accompanied with a gooseberry preserve & crusty French bread

or

Roasted Tomato & Green Pesto Soup, topped with herbed croutons

or

Blue Cheese, Watercress & Walnut Salad, drizzled with a basil vinaigrette, served on toasted ciabatta

or

Pork Fillet stuffed with dried apricots & sage, placed on crisp salad leaves & laced with an apple dressing



Roast Cheshire Turkey served with chipolata & bacon roll & seasonal trimmings

or

Sirloin of Beef roasted with mustard & tarragon, placed on a case of puff pastry, accompanied with caramelised red onions & rich red wine gravy

or

Pieces of Poached Smoked Haddock, Plaice & Prawns, bound in a creamy mushroom sauce, served on a bed of vermicelli

or

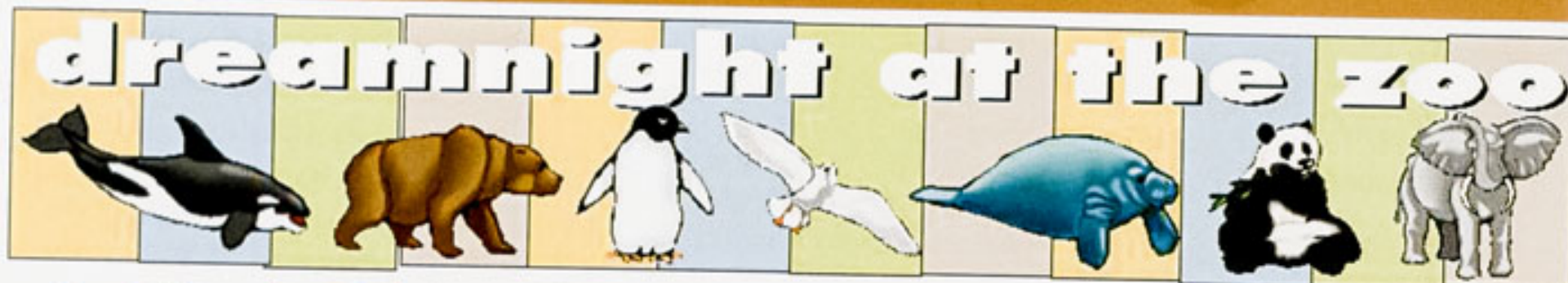
A large Field Mushroom, filled with a mixed vegetable ratatouille, finished with a garlic, cheese & mixed herb crumble



Selection of Desserts & Freshly Ground Coffee

# Dreamnight

at Chester Zoo



On Friday the 25th June Chester Zoo opened its doors to 370 special guests.

The evening was the first of its kind to be held at Chester Zoo and the event was a massive success not only for the children but also for parents and staff. The doors opened at 6pm when all the daytime visitors had gone home. All the invitations for the evening were given out by local hospices to families with children with serious illnesses. They were treated to personal guided tours of the Zoo where keepers were waiting to answer questions and share stories about the animals.

As guests arrived they received a welcome pack that included a disposable camera and guidebook - everyone also received a free tiger balloon. Free food and drinks were available in the Ark Restaurant. Young Movers, the fire brigade, police and army turned



out and brought vehicles and display material.

The Zoofari Overhead Railway also ran through-out the evening.

A huge commitment was made by all involved and 170 staff volunteered on the evening. On the way out of the Zoo every child was given a goodie bag packed full of fantastic gifts.

Overall it's hard to decide who had most fun on the evening so we will just let you decide.

*"Dreamnight 2004 was without doubt one of the best, most enjoyable and most fulfilling experiences of my life,"* Gareth Redstone, Presenter.

*"When I was asked if I would like to take part in the Dreamnight experience I said yes immediately. To see the Staff all joining in with huge amounts of enthusiasm, all working together for one purpose - the children - it was obvious to me how much hard work had been put into the night; this could be seen in the faces of the families who attended the night,"* John Green Amenities & Garden.

*"Katie enjoyed everything.*



*She was thrilled to see so many animals so close up. I can't thank everyone enough for such a wonderful night."* The Gerrard family.



*"I had the pleasure of meeting and giving a guided tour to Kristan who was extremely excited and although unable to speak was very capable of expressing his delight at experiencing the animals close up.*

Those of us that work closely with wild animals each day shouldn't forget just what a privilege this is and Kristan was a great reminder of that to me." Mark Pilgrim, Chief Curator.

"I am writing to say a big THANK YOU to you all. It was a magical evening. Charlotte enjoyed every minute of the evening. She says the best bit was playing 'Finding Nemo' in the aquarium." The Wharton family.

"The sense of belonging to the Zoo and the feeling of camaraderie between all the staff was amazing." Angela Powell, Accounts Co-ordinator.

Christopher Pratt, Sales Director of Rollover, The Best Hot Dog in the World,

comments: "Rollover has a strong relationship with Chester Zoo and welcomes the opportunity to help our



customers support charities and other good causes."

Kathleen Edwards, sales development manager for De Vere Carden Park hotel, said: "As a local business, we are always pleased to lend our support to

good causes in our area and the Dreamnight was a wonderful opportunity for these children to enjoy all the excitement of Chester Zoo."

This is just a small selection of the comments and letters received with nearly a half of the visitors sending a thank you letter.

Dreamnight will be repeated next year on July 1st 2005, the night was captured on DVD and each family that came will receive a copy.

We'd like to extend our warmest thanks to the following for making Chester Zoo's first Dreamnight at the Zoo a truly special occasion:

Abbot Health  
Air Products Plc  
Agfa  
A J Promotions  
Amscan International Limited  
Arrowe Park Hospital  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Business Services  
Brite Glancing/CC Tapes  
British Fossils  
British Nuclear Group  
LtdCalypso  
Chester Zoo Staff  
Chrisis Books  
Claire House  
C L Edwards & Sons Limited  
Cleopatra Trading Limited  
Countess of Cheshire Paediatric Dept  
Design Group Partnership  
Deluxebase Limited  
De Vere Hotel Carden Park  
Dorin Park School  
Dowman Imports  
Falcon Games Limited  
Fire Brigade - Cheshire  
Francis House  
Global Journey Limited  
Goodyear Packaging  
Hanlin  
Hayden  
Higgi Ltd  
Hippyck  
History & Heraldry Limited  
Hope House  
House of Dorchester Limited  
John Hinde (UK) Limited

Ibtt UK  
Knapdale Designs  
Lite Bite Sandwiches  
Lewis's  
Millars Ark Toys Limited  
Mulberry Studios  
Nestle UK  
NW Produce  
Occasions  
Octo Ltd  
Otter House Limited  
Police - Chester and Ellesmere Port  
Traffic Management  
Polkadot Designs (UK) Limited  
Ravensden PLC  
Richmond Ice Cream Limited  
Rollover Hot Dogs  
Selnews Bargain Books  
Stanley Staff Bureau  
Shell UK Limited  
The British Army  
The Muffin man  
Vanderland Industries  
Vendabadge  
Walter Scott Limited  
Warwick International Limited  
Walker Smith Way  
Willow foods  
Woodwards Foods Limited  
W W Group  
Young Mover  
[www.dreamnightatthezoo.nl](http://www.dreamnightatthezoo.nl)

We would also like to thank all those who have sent in donations since the Zoo Life deadline.



# Riparian Mammal Training Weekend

by Katherine Walsh (Cheshire Wildlife Trust)

On the weekend of the 24-25th April a riparian (*meaning river*) mammal training course was run jointly by Chester Zoo and Cheshire Wildlife Trust.

The aim of the course was to train 30 people in basic ecology, behaviour, identification and legislation relating to Otters and Water Voles. Both these mammals are now rare in Cheshire, and it is important to record their presence accurately.

The first day focused on water voles and was led by Rob Strachan (mammal expert - Wildlife Conservation Research Unit at Oxford University). The second day looked at otters and was led by Andrew Crawford (Biodiversity Technical Specialist - Environment Agency). Morning teaching sessions, held in the education building at the Zoo, gave a general understanding of the species, backed up by some stunning slides of the animals.

After lunch on the first day the group drove to Ince Marshes. This site is classified an SBI Grade 1 site - the ditch system holds many unusual plant species in habitats from bare

mud to agricultural land. Braver 'trainees' (and more importantly those with waders!) paddled along the brook looking for holes, latrines and footprints. Less adventurous (and probably more sensible) 'trainees' searched along the banks for the same signs. Several holes and latrines were found but no footprints were spotted. However, to our great surprise and excitement, a water vole poked its nose out of one hole - though, understandably, it did not take a dip in the brook whilst 30 or so people watched it.

On the afternoon of the second day the intrepid group drove into North Wales to Loggerheads Country Park, a reserve owned by North Wales Wildlife Trust. Loggerheads Country Park contains species rich limestone grassland and broadleaved woodland on the river Alyn near Mold.

The team searched for signs of otter activity and, almost immediately, identified a couple of otter prints

amongst many dog footprints under a bridge. Excited by this early discovery the team pressed on. Many more members of the team took to the river to look for spraints and feeding remains on boulders. Several spraints were found and one stone had obvious meal remains including blood and a fish fin.

The group walked on to see an artificial otter holt before returning to the car park and a couple of people got rather wetter than intended!

Everybody involved thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and learned lots. Hopefully, all those who took part will now be able to carry out surveys along watercourses in Cheshire and recognise and record the signs of water voles and otters.

For further information on how you can help Otters and Water Voles in Cheshire contact Cheshire Wildlife Trust. Tel: **01270 610180** or email: [cheshirewt.cix.co.uk](mailto:cheshirewt.cix.co.uk)

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Water voles have to eat 80% of their body weight in vegetation each day to survive. Their diet is known to include at least 227 different plant species.

- Otter spraint smells like jasmine tea.

Water vole picture by Mike Jordan

# Growing Concerns

Mark Sparrow, General Curator of Botany and Horticulture on Chester Zoo Cacti

Cacti are probably the most common houseplants in the UK. Most cacti grown at home come from the semi-desert regions of America. The reason they are so popular is that they will tolerate a lot of neglect and still survive, but if you would like strong healthy plants, which flower every year, then you need to follow a few simple rules.

- Cacti need a very sunny position throughout the year, a south facing windowsill is ideal.



- They can be kept cool in winter, 10C - 12C is fine. In summer the more heat the better, although good air circulation is important.



- Watering is critical to the health of your plant. From Autumn until Spring, water sparingly, giving them just enough to prevent shrivelling.

From Spring through to late Summer water as you would any other houseplant wetting the compost thoroughly when it starts to dry out.



- Repot young plants annually in Spring, but after that only when essential. Don't over pot though, use a pot only slightly larger than the previous one. The potting compost should be open and free draining. We use a John Innes based compost mixed 50/50 with sharp grit.

- Feed the plants during the summer months as you would with your other houseplants.



In the last two years the cacti collection at the Zoo has gone through a transformation. We have undertaken a complete review of our growing techniques, and have increased the number of species grown. We are particularly keen to increase the number of conservationally important species in our collection, and have started to collect cacti from the *Strombocactus* group. We are indebted to Richard Harbour, of the Chester and District branch of the British Cactus and Succulent Society, for his help in acquiring many new plants, and for his advice on cultivation techniques.



# Life After The Spill

Lorraine and Steve Groves, Adopters at Chester Zoo.

In June 2000 a shipwreck off the coast of South Africa spilled oil off the Cape Town coast adjacent to Robben and Dassen Islands, breeding grounds for almost 50% of all South African penguins (*Speniscus demersus*). Chester Zoo stepped in to help.



A love of all penguins such as those seen here with keeper Karen Davies - inspired adopters Lorraine and Steve Groves to act.

A massive, international rescue effort managed to rehabilitate many of the 19,000 affected adult penguins. This was one of the largest ever animal rescue missions, involving catching, cleaning and then transporting the birds to Port Elisabeth, 500 miles away, for release. The gamble was that by the time the penguins swam home the oil would have dispersed - it paid off.

We read about this drama in Chester Zoo's magazine and were pleased to learn that some of the Zoo's staff had assisted. That was four years' ago and we never knew what had since happened to the rescued birds. We did learn that

during the 20th century this species declined by 90% and is now classed as vulnerable. We really hoped that the rescue had paid off longer term and wanted to find out first hand if it had.

Earlier this year we set off to South Africa to spend two weeks on Robben Island as paying volunteers for the environmental charity Earthwatch.

Initially we were marking study nests to compare the breeding success of 3 groups of birds: those unbanded, those banded with steel bands after the spill and those banded with new high-tech rubber bands. We monitored the assigned nests,

observed penguin behaviour and made records of band numbers which identify where and when a bird was tagged. This enables scientists to monitor population movements. An interesting job was to check bird's stomach contents, which provides information to assist with South African fisheries policy. We also helped with a moult count which is one way of helping to determine how many birds are nesting in a given place.

A major highlight came when we found Peter the penguin - one of only three birds who had been fitted with a radio transmitter after the 2000 oil spill. His pals Percy and Pamela had been seen several times since 2000 but this was the first sighting of Peter in four years - looking really healthy and still wearing his band which enabled him to be identified. The story was covered by BBC World news and reported extensively in South Africa which was fun.

Although we were only on Robben Island for a short time we felt privileged to have been involved in a project with such a dedicated group of scientists. The African penguin population on Robben Island has done well to recover from the disaster in 2000. The total population is showing signs of recovery too but it is still too early to say whether numbers are increasing.

# Human Elephant Conflict in Sri Lanka

By Sharon Brooks, Richard Hughes Scholarship Award winner

For most of us the Asian Elephant is a magnificent graceful animal that deserves our protection, but for many it is a common pest that threatens livelihoods and lives. Chester Zoo is supporting field conservation.

In Sri Lanka the elephant is highly regarded by many as a sacred animal, and with a dwindling population of less than three thousand its protection is largely supported. However for those who must share their garden with these animals and bear the burden of



(HEC) is particularly prominent; The Himbilyakade Forest in the Matale District. This area is one of outstanding natural beauty.

The Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society (SLWCS) has been working in this area for several years building electric fences around villages to prevent elephants raiding. However without knowledge of the elephant population that exists in the area it is near impossible to recommend further ways to help resolve this problem. Fences are not entirely effective and without alternative

livelihoods the villages and farmland will continue to expand and further aggravate the conflict.

I went to work with SLWCS to set up a training program for local people to involve them in the conservation and management of the elephant and its habitat. This Field Scouts Program

(FSP) is designed to train villagers in how to carry out research, rather than employing non-local professionals, and providing much needed training and employment in the process.

We carried out short research projects incorporating lessons in how to use field equipment and



computers, collect and interpret scientific information and identify local animals and recognise individual elephants.

This project has now moved onto the second phase that focuses on elephant research. The field scouts all now have employment with SLWCS to collect data on the elephant population in the area, of which virtually nothing is known.

Living and working within this community was a once in a lifetime experience and has taught me many things about the realities of wildlife protection for the people who live amongst it. The success of this integrated project has shown the benefits of working with local people to conserve the Earth's natural heritage.

For more information on this project see [www.slwcs.org](http://www.slwcs.org)



their presence the situation is quite different, and as a result around 200 elephants are killed each year in conflict with people.

Sponsored by Chester Zoo's Richard Hughes Scholarship Award, I went to an area in Central Sri Lanka where Human-Elephant Conflict



# Sundara: The delicate progression

by Tracy Sutton

*Sundara* was born on March 7 weighing 94kg to *Sithami*, she gave birth after a normal one and a half hours of labour. This is the story of her early development in Chester Zoo.

Grandmother *Thi* immediately tended to her and there was great excitement from the females gathering round to check out the new addition.

The young boys in the herd, *Po Chin* and *Assam*, were kept at bay until the females were confident they would not play too roughly.



*Sithami* as a new mother took a back seat and learnt from her mother how to care for her.

To help her to stand during the first few minutes after the birth, shavings were placed on to the floor, although most of it was thrown on to the females backs! *Sundara* first stood after 25 minutes with *Thi* and *Sheba* in close attendance. The herd displayed more excitement when *Sundara* took her first steps; twenty minutes after her first attempt to stand she could walk. In fact *Sundara* caused *Thi*, *Sheba* and *Sithami* to panic greatly when she walked under the enclosure barrier

out of their reach, but the team helped her get back to a very grateful family.

*Sundara* first suckled from her Grandmother in the early hour of her first morning. The survival of an elephant at this stage is unpredictable, it was an extremely tense night for the team, a baby elephant's fate can change at anytime.

Young mothers and mothers-to-be learn through close interactions and relationships the skills they will need to become a successful mother. *Sithami* is now a very patient, attentive Mother and readily suckles *Sundara*.

Even though they are not fully weaned by their mother until they are around four years of age, they will actually start weaning during their first year.

During important social interactions within the herd *Sundara* will develop survival and social knowledge. Her environment over years of complex learning will shape her behaviour and social development. They depend less on instinct through

development and more on socially learned behaviour.

The family members will have a strong influence on shaping her behaviour. So far, for example, *Sundara* can use her trunk to pick things up and feed. She recently developed the trunk co-ordination to bring water to her mouth and dust herself. With time she will also learn how to manipulate tools for scratching and fly swishing.

When observing the elephants here you witness the close relationships between *Sundara* and the herd females that share time looking after her. It is these important interactions that will teach her about what it is to be a female elephant. If you watch closely and even though there is four years age difference, you can see how differently the



females treat *Sundara* compared with *Po Chin* and *Assam* - interactions between individual elephants are sex-dependant. This is because males and females have different social life-styles and so, *Po chin* and *Assam* are developing different social behaviour to *Sundara*.

From watching *Sundara*, the time she will spend on activities compared with the adult females is obvious. *Sundara* will cover more distance and spend more time playing, suckling and resting.

As she matures the proportion of her time spent feeding will increase compared with her other activities. Female mature elephants spend as much as 20 hours foraging in a day.

*Chang*, our adult bull, had a very successful introduction to *Sundara*. A couple of knocks from him taught her his boundaries; he was more interested in eating than being pestered by an infant.

*Upali*, our juvenile bull, had more or less the same reaction; he has laid down the rules to *Sundara* and now tolerates her presence.

*Assam* and *Po Chin* have taken some time to adjust to the new arrival and received a telling off from the females for being too

boisterous with *Sundara* at times. They now understand what levels of interaction their new family member can receive, especially *Assam* who spends time with her.

Elephants have a disciplined society; they learn the behaviours that are undesired by the herd by receiving a swift knock, either with the trunk or feet. This is enough for the infant/juvenile to know that it has done wrong.

The females at Chester Zoo are a great demonstration of female cohesion during and after a birthing event. This is demonstrated by the way *Thi*, *Sheba*, and *Maya* all allow *Sundara* to suckle; this is an example of 'allomothering'. Allomothering is important to elephants to increase status within



the herd hierarchy. A low-ranking female allomothering a calf of a high-ranking female will increase her status in this way. *Sheba* has played an important matriarchal role, supporting and guiding the herd throughout these events but as you can see the whole herd has a role to play in the social and behavioural development of a young calf.



# Lion Tails

By Lindsay Skyner, Chester Zoo PhD research student

Lion-tailed macaques are endangered primates from India. There are less than 2500 remaining in the wild and habitat destruction continues to be the main threat to the species. Chester Zoo is working to conserve them.

Lion-tailed macaques in both the wild and in zoos breed slowly because they become sexually mature quite late in life and have long intervals between giving birth. This large primate is a challenge to zoos since so little is known about its social structure and species requirements.

Not many zoos in the United Kingdom have Lion-tailed macaques and Chester Zoo has one of the largest groups. It is therefore important that research is carried out in order to highlight areas important for species welfare and breeding.


There are eight Lion-tailed macaques at Chester, they can be found near the main entrance in the *Monkey House*. The group consists of two males, one adult (*Jamal*) and one juvenile (*Spoc*). The rest are females, two adults (*Reme and Tina*), two juveniles (*Hubli and Tia*)

and two babies born late last year (*Nadu and Kitty*).

Chester Zoo is collaborating with University College Chester in many areas of zoo research and when this exciting study opportunity came up I decided to focus on the macaques for my PhD in Biology. There are many aspects about this species that need investigating to assist its breeding programme. Studies elsewhere currently focus on the females' reproductive rate and hormonal cycling.

In my study, I observe the behaviour of the macaques and study characteristics of their social system. The main focus of my research is validation of an immunoassay to measure cortisol in urine and faeces.

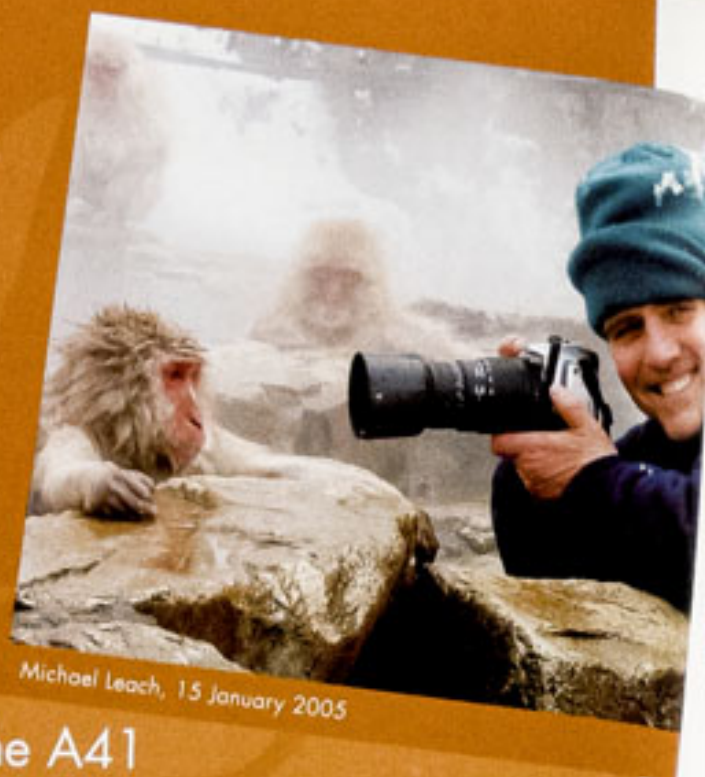
In other words, I am developing a method in the laboratory to extract and measure stress hormones from urine and faecal samples that I collect on a regular basis. Investigating slight changes of stress hormone levels in individuals helps us to understand their social status in the group and how their relationships to group members change. This can then be related to the behavioural observations and breeding records of the females, which will provide an important insight into the physiology of the species. As well as studying the group at Chester I will be visiting other zoos that have Lion-tailed macaques to compare results. My studies will enable researchers in both zoos and the field to carry out similar investigations on this species in a non-invasive way and hopefully provide useful information to increase the safety net population of Lion-tailed macaques in zoos.



There are eight Lion-tailed macaques at Chester, they can be found near the main entrance in the Monkey House.

# Members and Adopters Talks

Talks for 2004/2005, in the Zoo Lecture Theatre, off the A41



Michael Leach, 15 January 2005

We anticipate that these talks will attract a wide audience so, as we cannot guarantee availability at the door, we advise you to send for your ticket in advance. Most of the talks are free but should the talk be held in support of a specific fundraising appeal then there will be a charge and a booking form/price details will be enclosed with the magazine. We ask those attending to make a donation of £1 each towards refreshments, payable at the door. This donation will be waived at chargeable meetings.

**Saturday 11 September '04**  
2.30pm

**Daniel Hahn**  
**'The Tower Menagerie'**

Author Daniel Hahn will look at the establishment of the first English zoo, the royal menagerie at the Tower of London, and how it grew to become the country's most popular public visitor attraction.

**Saturday 25 September '04**  
2.30pm

**Lise Hanssen and Philip Stander**  
**'Leopards and Bush men'**

Lise Hanssen was formerly the director of the Africat Foundation, and has gained a reputation as an expert in conservation of Namibia's large carnivores, having carried out research on the Lion, Leopard and Cheetah, and set up training and education programmes to help people and large carnivores co-exist.

Philip Stander is a well respected expert in the field of conservation, and works as carnivore coordinator for the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) as well as being the Southern Africa coordinator for CITES MIKE (CITES group Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants).



**Friday 8 October '04**  
7.30pm

**Jo Thompson**  
**'Conservation in War-torn Central Africa: Update on the Bonobo'**

Studying bonobos has been Dr Thompson's lifelong quest and since 1992 she has worked within the Lukuru Wildlife Research Project area, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC, formerly Zaire) studying the wild bonobo. When not in the field she lectures internationally about bonobos and the ecology of the central Congo basin. £7.50 per ticket to include light buffet and a glass of wine.

**Saturday 23 October '04**  
2.30pm

**Julian Partridge**  
**'Light and Life in the Deep Sea'**

To most of us the deep sea and its inhabitants are 'out of sight, out of mind' and yet the living sea provides the largest living space for life on earth. The talk will introduce some of the bizarre animals of the deep sea, and discuss where and how they live. Julian Partridge has a degree in zoology and has worked with the BBC Natural History Unit on productions including 'Animal Camera' and the award winning 'Blue Planet' series.

**Saturday 13 November '04**  
2.30pm

**Janet Kear**  
**'St Werburgh of Chester and her Geese'**

St Werburgh's most famous miracle was to remove geese from farmers' fields. That is why geese are depicted so frequently in the stained glass of Chester Cathedral. Two other saints, who also lived in the late 7th and early 8th centuries, demonstrated this same miraculous ability to prevent geese from eating crops. Why did it happen then, and why were there no further saintly interventions. Janet Kear (former Curator of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Martin Mere) with her own experience of wild geese and agricultural conflict, will suggest an explanation.

**Friday 26 November '04 7.30pm**

**Talk by Chester Zoo Keepers**  
**'Keepers in the Field'**

Simon Marsh, Belinda Porter, Clare Daniel and Nick Davies will talk about projects they have carried out abroad in Namibia, China, Philippines, Mexico and Mauritius.

**Saturday 11 December '04 2.30pm**

**Errol Fuller**  
**'Dodo'**

Errol Fuller has an international reputation as an author of scrupulously researched yet beautiful and lively natural history books. Author of 'Dodo' published in October 2002, his talk will give us a fascinating insight into the behaviour and myths surrounding this unusual and iconic bird. Errol last talked to us two years ago and we welcome him back. The Members' Christmas lunch will be immediately

before the 11 December meeting at 12 noon in the Oakfield Restaurant. Pre-booking is essential. Members are, of course, welcome to come to the meeting without taking lunch first.

**Saturday 15 January '05**  
2.30pm

**Michael Leach**  
**'It's a Funny Way to Make a Living'**

A full-time wildlife author and photographer since 1977, Michael has worked with many of the world's most charismatic animals in their natural environments. Michael Leach has been described as a 'unique wildlife humorist'. His talks are illustrated with some truly breathtaking slides but humour is by far his most effective aid.

**Saturday 12 February '05**  
2.30pm

**Brian Hallworth**  
**'Urban Wildlife'**

A look at the wildlife that exists around us in our towns and villages that we sometimes overlook. A personal look at their lifestyles and habitats and their association with man.

**Saturday 12 March '05**  
2.30pm

**Gregory Rasmussen**  
**'The Hunted Hunters'**

This talk will discuss the birth and development of a conservation project that targets the highly endangered and wide ranging African canid, the African wild dog, also known as the painted hunting dog. The presentation will demonstrate how hands on conservation using the dogs as a flagship species coupled with community involvement can serve to enrich the situation for both wildlife and people alike.

**Saturday 23 April '05 2.30pm**

**Simon Bearder**  
**'Discovering new species in the Rainforest'**

**Saturday 21 May '05 2.30pm**  
**Annual General Meeting + 'Zoo Review'**



# Junior Puzzle Page



Can you spot the difference between these two pictures and win £10 to spend in the Zoo shops?



There are 15 to find. Mark the changes on the photo on the left and send it to Chester Zoo, Zoo Life competition Marketing Department, Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH by Monday November 1. If you don't want to cut up your magazine, a photocopy will be accepted.

## Last Month's Puzzle

The answers to the last puzzle are:

Blue and Yellow Macaw	Starfish	Monkey Puzzle Tree	Down Poker (a species of fish)
Kea	Giant Redwood	Bactrian Camel	Red-knee Tarantula
Bongo	Sand Lizard	Otter	Green Anaconda

# Junior Members

Programme of Events 2004 - 2005



## KNOWSLEY SAFARI PARK

**Saturday 18 September 2004**

We will be spending the day at Knowsley, seeing a different concept of keeping wild animals. We will have a guided tour of the Park's residents with Knowsley's Curator who will jump onto our bus to highlight the special happenings in the Park for this year.

Our bus will leave the staff car park at 10am, returning at 4.30pm.

Over eights are invited to join us and should bring a picnic.

## WILDLIFE ART - WITH JO LYNCH

**Saturday 16 October 2004**

Please note that this is a change of date and event to the one previously advertised, but we have a great opportunity to spend sometime learning the techniques involved in drawing live animals with the well known wildlife artist Jo Lynch during one of her visits to the UK. She has agreed to attempt to make budding artists of us all and hopefully you will have a true work of art to take home with you at the end of the day.

The event will be open to eight year olds upwards and we will meet outside Oakfield House at 11am and you can be collected from there at 4pm. Bring a picnic and lots of enthusiasm and we will supply the materials you will need.

## MANCHESTER MUSEUM

**Saturday 20 November 2004**

What better way to spend what

might be a cold and wet day in November than visiting this fascinating museum! The Zoo Juniors are always given a tremendous welcome when we visit and hopefully we will be able to meet some of the Natural History Unit's live animals as well as having a general tour of the Museum. Any over eights who would like to join us are invited along. We will leave the Staff Entrance at 10.30 am and return there for 4.30pm. Bring a picnic.

## THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Friday 10 December 2004**

Any Junior who has not joined us before needs to consider coming along to this great evening of games, disco and out hot-dog and hamburger supper. You will need to bring a torch and a cushion to sit on.

The venue will be the Zoo's Arara Lodge (*the indoor picnic area*) and access can be gained through the Cedar House Staff Entrance on Caughall Road which is the second staff entrance on the left going from the Upton lights. You should arrive at 7pm and parents should arrange collection from Arara Lodge at 9.45 pm.

## DISCOVERY SESSION

**Saturday 22 January 2005**

A few years ago we added this activity to our list and it has fast become an extremely popular event. This is your chance to discover more about your own Zoo! We will split into three groups to do three different activities in rotation. This will involve a tour of the Zoo, a discovery session

in our special *Discovery Centre*, and finally a chance to design a zoo enclosure using all your imagination to create the best living accommodation for a selected species. Over eights are asked to join us, meeting outside Oakfield House at 1.45pm and parents can collect their children from there again at 4.15pm.

## LOWER MOSS WOOD


**Saturday 26 February 2005**

We have tried to avoid over-lapping with half-term on this one, so as many Juniors as possible can join us on this very special trip to Lower Moss Wood and Wildlife Sanctuary near Knutsford in Cheshire. Not only will we have a guided tour of this beautiful wood in winter, we will get a rare opportunity to see behind the scenes at the wildlife hospital there where animals are prepared for rehabilitation back into the wild. Over eights are invited to join us, but you are warned to wrap up really warmly as we will be outside for part of the day. The bus will leave the staff car park at 10.30am and return at 4pm. Bring a picnic.

## TRACKS & SIGNS

**Saturday 19 March 2005**

Returning again by popular demand, we hope that the ground will be damp and soft enough for this event, Juniors will enter animal enclosures to find footprints from their residents in order to make plaster casts. This has the potential to be a very messy day but hopefully you will all have a souvenir to take home with you!



Over eights can come along when we meet outside Oakfield House at 11am, returning there for collection at 4pm. You will need a picnic lunch and it is essential that you wear squeaky-clean wellies and clean old clothes please.

## SHUGBOROUGH HOUSE AND HOME FARM

Saturday 16 April 2005

We love our visits to this beautiful stately home in Staffordshire and find that Spring is the perfect time to visit the Home Farm to see the wide range of rare breeds of cattle, goats, chickens and pigs, and occasionally shire horses. The Home Farm also has wonderful demonstration-days and we will be visiting at a time when traditional cheese making and bakery skills will be shown. A day not to be missed! Over eights are invited and we will leave the staff car park at 10am, returning at 5pm. Bring a picnic!

## THE LONG MYND AND FOSSIL HUNTING

Saturday 14 May 2005

We have had some lovely days around the Long Mynd in Shropshire when we go in search of fossils along this rather extraordinary geological feature. The walk alone is worth coming along for, so do not hesitate to join us, and we hope to find some fossils while we are there. The bus will leave the staff car park at 9.30am and return at 5pm and over eights are invited to join us. You will need to bring a picnic and appropriate clothes for a day in the countryside.

## FOEL FARM PARK ON THE ISLE OF ANGLESEY

Saturday 18 June 2005

Our programme would hardly be the same without a summer visit to Anglesey and we thought this new event for us may prove attractive to Juniors. The Foel Farm Park (which dare I say it has a Chocolate Farm

attached!) should prove a fun-packed day out in a beautiful setting and we may even manage a paddle on the beach! The bus will leave the staff car park at 9.30am, returning there for 5.30pm. Over eights are invited to bring a picnic along and join in.

## HOW TO BE A GOOD ZOOKEEPER!

Wednesday 27 July 2005

This is a unique opportunity given 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 4pm. Please bring a packed lunch. **Please Note** that bookings for this event will not be taken before 8.30 am on Wednesday 13 July 2005, and will be strictly on a first-come, first-served basis.

## SUMMER BARBEQUE

Thursday 11 August 2005

We thought we would try a Thursday evening for our Barbeque this year to avoid disappointment for those of you going on holiday the following weekend! So please do come and see the Zoo at night (when you are never sure exactly who is watching who!) and to listen to the evening sounds without other visitor noises to distract you. We usually aim to have a speaker to chat to you for this event as well, but you can be sure of having a relaxing evening. We would like to invite the over eights to join us for 7pm, when you should arrive at the Ark Restaurant

via the Zoo's Staff Entrance on Caughall Road. Parents are asked to collect Juniors from the Ark Restaurant at 9.45 pm please.

## HILBRE ISLAND

Saturday 17 September 2005

This will be a real treat for those of you who have not previously visited Hilbre Island in the Dee Estuary and also for those of you who have. We will follow the tide out from West Kirby and plan to spend some time exploring the rock pools around 'Little Eye' and 'Middle Eye' on our way across to Hilbre, the biggest of the three Islands from where we hope to see seals and a wide array of sea birds. The timings for this event will be issued in a later magazine as we need to carefully check the tide times before we set out. Over eights will be invited to join us, with a picnic.

## SNOWDONIA

Saturday 15 October 2005

Following our recent hugely successful visits to Snowdonia National Park, we have decided that Snowdonia in Autumn will be a great place to be. We will make it a full day out and Juniors of eight and over are asked to come along and join the fun. There is always lots to see and do in this lovely area so watch this space for further details as we get closer to the time of our visit.

**Please Note:** Bookings must be made for all 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 'Zoo Life' - not by individual letter - so please keep up-to-date but reading the Junior page in each issue. A small 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.

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