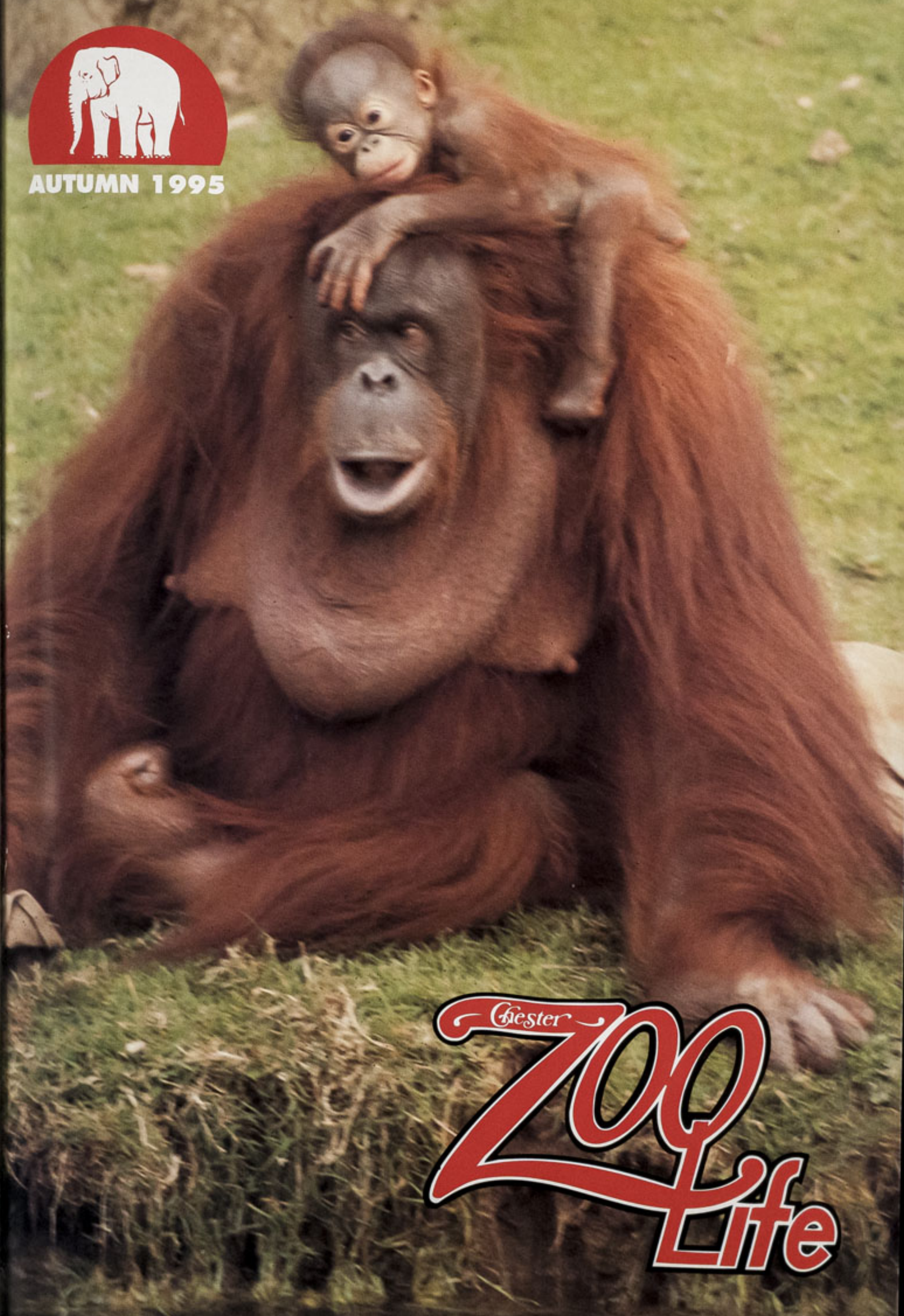




AUTUMN 1995



Chester
Zoo
Life

Chez Nous



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 Director: Dr. Gordon McGregor Reid
 Editor: Pat Cade

It is with some trepidation that I pen my first contribution to *Chez Nous* in my new role as Director of Chester Zoo. My distinguished predecessor Dr Michael Brambell has always filled this column with pithy zoological observations which I read with great interest. Now it is my turn to try!

Michael's departure from the zoo has been marked by several terrific retirement parties, both formal and informal. The first bash was held in a giant marquee erected on the Jubilee Lawn on the 6th of July. It was very heartening to see a huge turnout (some 400 people!) of Zoo Staff, Members and Directors invited from other zoos, all eager to pay their respects to a man who has attained the status of a Guru in the zoo world. The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Mr Peter Stevens, Director of Paignton Zoo. Peter is a former member of the Chester Zoo staff and is still a great favourite here.

The evening began with a warm introduction by Mrs Beatrice Jones, Chairman of the Council of Chester Zoo. There followed a session of happy recollections provided by Professor Roger Wheeler, Director of Edinburgh Zoo and President of the UK Federation of Zoos; Mr Colin Rawlins, Retired Director of London Zoo and Mr Peter Olney, Director of the Federation of Zoos. Michael was Curator of Mammals at London Zoo at a time when Peter Olney was Curator of Birds and the marquee was filled with laughter from stories of early escapades involving both of these curators, particularly stories of animal escapes and the ensuing chaos!

There followed extracts from *Captain Noah and his floating Zoo* (composed by Michael Flanders and Joseph Horowitz) performed by the Maelor Young Voice Choir, with pianist Mr John Gough and

Musical Director Mr Patrick Larley. The children, with their faces beautifully painted as zoo animals, sang their hearts out. At a later stage, Patrick Larley even persuaded Michael and Patricia Brambell and the audience to join with the choir in a spirited rendition of the 'Hippopotamus Song'.

Some entirely different, little known, and fascinating aspects of Michael's varied zoological career were covered by Mr John Knowles, Director of Marwell Zoo; Mr Nick Jackson, Director of the Welsh Mountain Zoo; Mr Ken Sims, Director of Thrigby Hall Wildlife Gardens and Dr Geoffrey Smith, retired Deputy Director, Institute of Zoology.

The speeches were rounded off by an extremely amusing contribution by the incomparable Jeremy Mallinson, Director of Jersey Zoo. It is good that among all of the plaudits for Michael, the crucial supporting role of his charming wife Patricia was not missed. Indeed, it was pointed out that when they visit the zoo as a couple, our dominant male Chimpanzee Boris – shrewdly recognising her importance in the partnership – aims his rivalry displays at Patricia, not Michael!

At the conclusion to the evening, I had – complete with trumpet fanfare – the honour of reading out a formal citation (see page opposite).

This concerned the award by Council to Dr Michael Brambell of the prestigious Gold Medal of the North of England Zoological Society.

The medal was presented to Michael by Bea Jones; also, my wife Sally presented a commemorative ceramic plate to both Michael and Patricia; and Jill Lunsford, the Director's Secretary, presented a glorious basket of flowers. It can be imagined that

an evening of this sort takes a lot of organising and Chris Vere our Head of Marketing, Pat Cade our Public Relations Officer and Jane Lawson our Party Office Manager had the key responsibility here. Many thanks are due to them and indeed to all of the many staff – including caterers, party office staff, secretaries, ground staff, zookeepers, face painters, gardeners, car park attendants, first aid attendants, time office receptionists and security guards – in all of the Divisions of Chester Zoo who helped to make this a most pleasant and memorable occasion. The centre pages of this issue show photographs of the evening.

The City of Chester, too, most kindly acknowledged Michael's major contributions to regional life including tourism when the Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor, Councillor Richard Short, hosted a grand banquet in his honour in the Lord Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall on the 19th of July. More than eighty local politicians, council officers, zoo staff and Chester citizens attended. The positive relationships between the Zoo and the City have become progressively stronger in recent years and much of the bridge-building has been engineered by Michael Brambell. Now that the bridge is built it is my happy task to use it.

There have, of course, been smaller in-house events where staff have had the opportunity to say their personal farewells to Michael, to share a joke or two, and to wish him and Patricia all the best for the future.

Gordon McGregor Reid



◆ From Left: Gordon McGregor Reid, Patricia Brambell, Sally Reid, Michael Brambell. Anticipating an emotional evening, Dr Brambell's carrier bag contains three boxes of tissues!

Dr MICHAEL R BRAMBELL MA, Vet.MB, PhD, MRCVS**GOLD MEDALLIST of the NORTH OF ENGLAND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

Let it be known that Dr Michael Rogers Brambell has been awarded by the Council with the Gold Medal of the North of England Zoological Society in recognition of his lifetime achievements in Zoology. Zoology is here interpreted in its broadest sense and includes academic achievements together with major accomplishments in the fields of veterinary science, zoological curation, management, education and conservation.

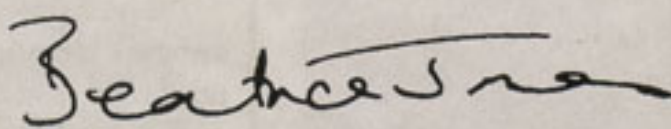
A graduate in veterinary medicine of the University of Cambridge, Michael Brambell's distinguished career in zoology began at the University of Edinburgh with the completion in 1964 of a doctoral thesis on parasitology. Numerous well-received publications on controlling parasitic infections, some in collaboration with other zoologists and veterinarians, resulted from his employment up to 1967 as a Senior Scientific Officer of the Animal Diseases Research Association. Many original contributions to the science and practise of animal management followed from his appointment from 1967-1978 as Curator of Mammals at the Zoological Society of London. This includes published advances in our knowledge of mammalian nutrition, dietetics, neonate biology, lactation, behaviour, physiological biochemistry and, of course, reproduction: as highlighted by valiant efforts, in collaboration with Russian zoologists and later with Chinese zoologists, to breed from the world famous Giant pandas An-An and Chi-Chi.

In 1978 Michael Brambell was appointed Director of the North of England Zoological Society where he has provided a necessary new focus for the organisation in terms of conservation, education and scientific study and given it an international standing. At the same time, he has maintained and developed Chester Zoo as a leading visitor attraction and viable commercial enterprise.

There has also been, over the years, a valuable and sustained input to the wider zoo and conservation community, mainly through voluntary duties on a host of senior advisory panels, boards and councils such as the Council of the Linnean Society of London, the Council of the Fauna & Flora Preservation Society, the Nature Conservancy Council, the Scientific Advisory Panel of the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, the Working Party on Animals & Ethics; and, most recently, the Council of the Zoological Society of London, for whom he has acted as a strong and effective Chairman of the London Zoo Board. As head of the Scientific Authority for Animals (1978-1981) he was responsible for refining important government legislation under the Convention to Control International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). As Chairman of the CITES international ad hoc Committee on Ranching, he established key principles in the utilisation of sustainable resources in a conservation framework.

A longstanding appointee on the Secretary of State's List of Zoo Inspectors, Michael Brambell has done much to raise the operating standards of British zoos; as Treasurer to the Federation of Zoos he has ensured that cooperative activities have operated on a sound financial basis; as a member of the international Conservation Breeding Specialist Group he has promoted zoo breeding and reintroduction programmes; and as a Member of the World Zoo Organisation (WUDZO) Advisory Board he helped to develop the *World Zoo Conservation Strategy*, a landmark document. Finally, Dr Michael Brambell has made lasting, original contributions to our knowledge of the history, organisation and development of zoos worldwide, well demonstrated in his inspiring vision of zoos as a *Time Bridge Across the Next Century*, recently published by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) in *Masterworks of Man & Nature, Preserving our World Heritage*.

Presented this day Thursday the 6th of July, 1995
by Beatrice Jones, Chairman of the Council of the
North of England Zoological Society.



MEMBER'S MEETINGS 1995/96

Saturday, 14 October 1995 – 2.30 pm in the Lecture Hall: Dr Gordon McGregor Reid – “Monster fish, Monster problem!” – Chester Zoo helps conserve Lake Victoria, East Africa”.

Saturday, 11 November 1995 – 2.30 pm in the Lecture Hall Dr Hugh McAllister Ness Botanical Gardens – “Plants as foods and poisons to animals”.

Saturday, 9 December 1995
Members' Christmas lunch in Oakfield Restaurant at 12 noon. Ring Maureen (01244 380280 ex 203) to reserve your place – £12.95 adults & £7.50 children (3-11 years).

2.30 pm in the Lecture Hall: Talk by Mr Keith Brown, Chester Zoo's Herpetologist, entitled “Preserving the Partula” – How Chester Zoo is supporting the conservation action plan for Pacific Island Land Snails.

Members are, of course, welcome to come to the meeting without taking lunch.

Saturday 13 January 1996 – 2.30 pm in the Lecture Hall: Mr Tony

Ord – “A Voyage to the Emperors” – A journey by icebreaker via the Falkland Islands and S. Georgia through the Weddel Sea to the Antarctic ice shelf in search of Emperor Penguin colonies.

FEBRUARY '96 – details not yet available.

Saturday 9 March 1996 – 2.30 pm in the Lecture Hall: Professor G M Hughes – “The Coelacanth a living fossil fish: its biology and conservation”.

Saturday 13 April 1996 – 2.30 pm in the Lecture Hall
Dr Gordon McGregor Reid, Chester Zoo's Director – “A Zoo Review”.

MAY '96 – A.G.M. – date not yet available.

Members are reminded that a charge will be made at the door to offset some of the expenses for bringing speakers. This charge has been 50p for the past fifteen years, and as costs have increased, this will now be £1.00.

Tea and biscuits will be available at meetings at no extra cost.

CHESTER ZOO ONE HUNDRED CLUB

The monthly winners since the last issue of “Zoo Life” were—

May 95:	£100	Mrs D. Cresswell
	£ 50	Mr D. Keay
	£ 50	Mrs K. Lewis
	£ 50	Ms A. L. Dayson
June 95:	£1,000	Mr J. Barnett
	£ 100	Mr P Mills
	£ 50	Mr H. Keeley
	£ 50	Mr J. Clegg
July 95	£100	Mrs K Huffinley
	£ 50	Mrs J. Bryne
	£ 50	Mr J. F. Vint
	£ 50	Mrs C. R. McGarva

ANNUAL RAFFLE

Our annual prize draw tickets are included with your magazine, and we hope our members and adopters will be as generous as always in supporting this draw, which raises funds for our annual scholarship grants to veterinarians and zoologists.

There are some great prizes, including a mini Hi-Fi and CD player, donated by G.T. Owen; a £100 shopping voucher for the Cheshire Oaks Retail Outlet Village; two nights bed and breakfast accommodation for two people at the Carlton Hotel, Hebden Bridge; a youth's mountain bike; a 14 inch colour television; and a set of four Kenwood kitchen appliances – kettle, steam iron, toaster and coffee maker.

The prize draw will be made at the members' meeting on 9 December, and all ticket stubs should be returned by 12 noon on that date. To cut our printing costs this year, instead of sending two books of 10 tickets at 50p a ticket, we are sending one book, at £1.00 a ticket. The odds, of course, are exactly the same for the same investment and you may purchase as few or as many tickets as you wish.



FAUNA & FLORA
International

10TH ANNIVERSARY LECTURES AUTUMN 95.

22 September: DRILLS OF NIGERIA AND THE CAMEROONS. Illustrated lecture by Liza Gadsby, Project Leader. Liza has worked in the field and at the Drill Rehabilitation Centre.

27 October: BONOBOB – THE FIFTH APES. Lecture by Jo Thompson, giving a rare insight into the life of this extraordinary species.

1st December: RETURN TO GOMBE. A particularly warm welcome to Jane Goodall, the North of England Zoological Society's first Gold Medallist. Dr Goodall will give an updated account of her work with chimpanzees of Gombe and around the world.

These three anniversary lectures will be held in the zoo's lecture theatre. Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30 pm start. A light buffet supper and wine is included in the ticket price of £5.50 for FFI members and £6.00 for non-members. Tickets available from Penny Rudd at the zoo – 01244 380280 ext. 215, or in the evenings from Alan Woodward, 01244 373312.

OAKFIELD RESTAURANT THEME EVENINGS

There is still time to book for the last two theme evenings this year. Our second **Italian Evening** is on **6 October**, and includes musical entertainment from the Graham Wade Trio. Price is £18.50. On **10 November**, the Oakfield staff are producing Thai cuisine for the first time! This should be a great gastronomic experience for just £17.00! Advance booking essential, on 01244 380280 Extension 209.



A JUMBO JET SPRAY

Everyone wanted cooling down in this year's Summer heat wave – and that included the zoo's Asian elephants!

This photograph shows Thi-Hi-Way enjoying the attention of Keeper Marc Boardman.

The elephants have their own pool – but it's one of life's little luxuries to have someone around to administer a bucket of water!

AWARD FOR STORYTIME

The innovative "Zoo Story Time" run by our FEDS (zoo volunteers) won a commended award from the Federation of Zoos of Great Britain and Ireland in the "Most Successful Education Project" section.

These simple stories for young children are told with a giant "fuzzy felt" type board and pictures. During 1994, over 5,000 listened to the stories.



COMFORT BLANKET

When four year Jason Craig visited the zoo, he was very interested in the way the orang utans enjoyed playing with sacks.

"They are just like me with my blanket" he told his Mum. The memory lingered, because when Jason, who lives in Southampton, was due to start school, he decided he was big enough to do without his life-long comforter - a multi-coloured blanket - and decided to send it to the orang utans! The young orangs spent some time

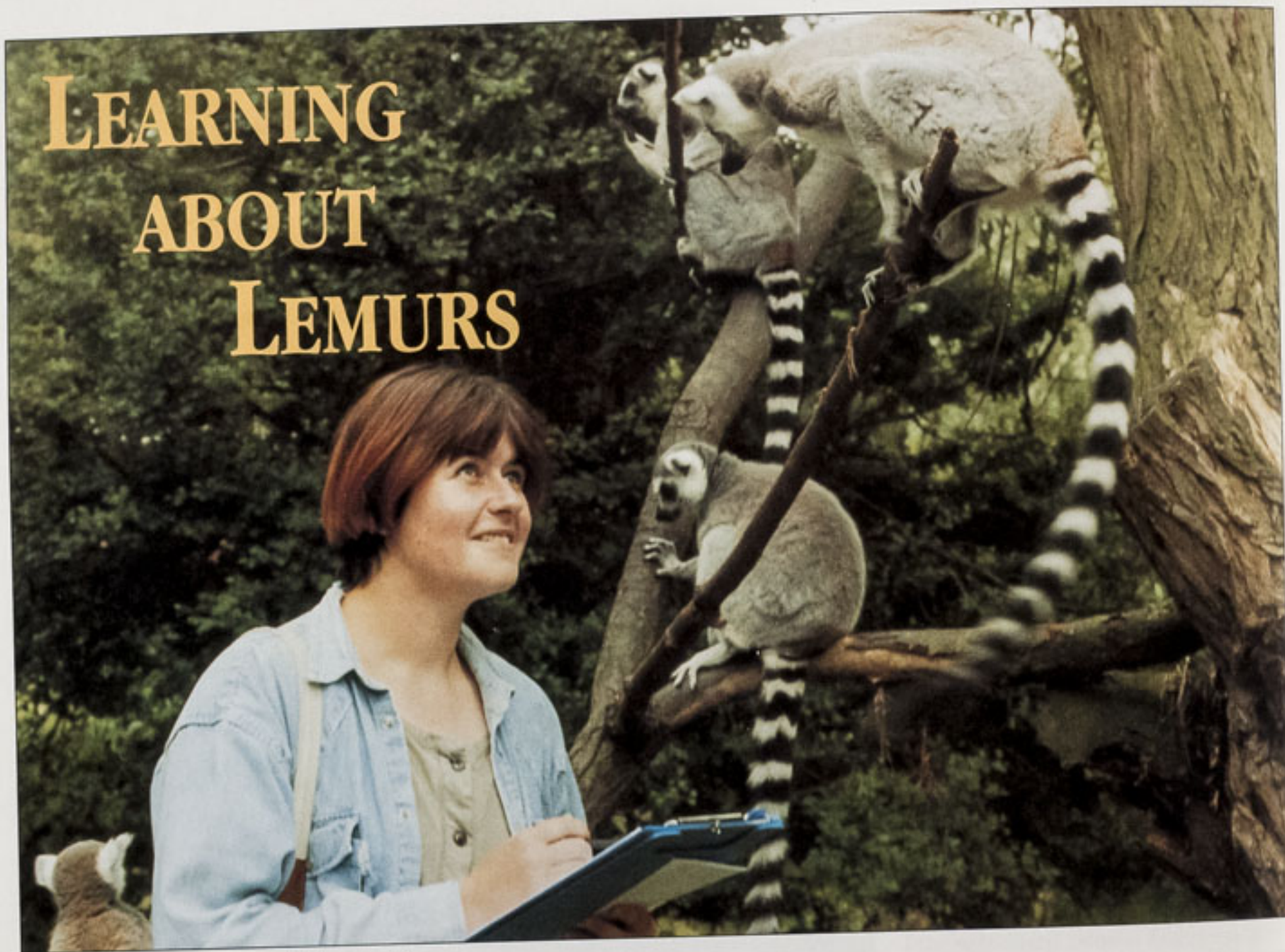
fighting over the gift – and decided to have half each!

JUBILEE'S FAN

Each year since Jubilee's third birthday, Mrs Hilda Flower from Sheffield has sent him a card and gift. In May, when the elephant reached 18 years, Mrs Flower sent a cheque, and a letter to Neil Spooner, Senior Elephant Keeper saying: "Please buy something he likes to share with his seven elephant friends - and maybe a drop of something for you and his keepers!"



LEARNING ABOUT LEMURS



◆ Gillian on Lemur Island, Chester Zoo.

The appearance of zoos has changed considerably over the last 50 years. Old-style cages have been replaced by larger, more naturalistic enclosures. Several zoos have animals that are able to roam freely within the zoo confines and are not restricted in an enclosure. Species such as peacocks and maras are often unconfined in England. In Northern Ireland, Eire and other European countries this practice has been extended to a wider range of animals, including many primate species. (For the purposes of this study, "free ranging" means that the public are able to have contact with the animals. Chester's spacious lemur island, therefore, was considered an enclosure.)

Unconfined animals may appear to be especially "happy" and they certainly attract much attention and interest from visitors. Hence, this method of animal management has great potential benefit for animals and for the visitors. The purpose of this study was to assess the value and the problems of this method of animal management.

Studies of animals in their natural habitats have increased awareness of the needs of zoo animals and have provided information that is useful in assessing the suitability of enclosures and different methods of animal management. "Natural" behaviour in a zoo animal is thought to

Gillian Shepherd was awarded one of the Society's studentship grants last year, to study the behaviour of Ring-tailed lemurs in zoos. Her particular interest was to see if there were significant changes in the behaviour of free-ranging lemurs and traditionally kept groups.

indicate emotional well-being as well as being important in terms of education and interest value to visitors.

Animals that behave naturally will also have more chance of survival if reintroduction to the wild is contemplated at some point in the future.

The study looked at two unconfined groups of Ring-tailed lemurs at Belfast Zoo and Cricket St Thomas Wildlife Park, and two additional groups in "enclosures" at Chester Zoo. A systematic behavioural analysis was conducted to collect data about behaviour activities, use of vertical space and diets. These data were then used to compare the groups with each other and with groups that had been observed in the wild.

It was found that each group had daily behavioural routines that were similar to

those reported for groups in the wild. Interestingly, the only real difference between the zoo groups was that unconfined animals, like wild ones, spend more time travelling than do those in enclosures.

This suggests that unconfined groups have better orienting skills and the ability to plot spatial routes, whereas animals in enclosures have less opportunity to practice these skills. Deficits in these areas could cause problems in reintroduction programmes when animals are released from zoo environments.

Unconfined animals made greater use of vertical space than did those in enclosures and spent more time in the higher levels of trees. Animals in enclosures spent much more time on the ground and on low branches. Unconfined animals were most like their wild counterparts in this aspect of the study. In the wild, animals are thought to ascend trees as a defence against predators. With this in mind, it is likely that Ring-tailed lemurs will spend more time off the ground if they perceive their environment to be potentially dangerous and if they are regularly disturbed by noisy crowds of people. It appears that the close proximity of visitors adds an element of unpredictability to the environment of unconfined animals which is beneficial in

stimulating natural behaviour. It also gives the animals more control over their level of interactions with the public.

Unconfined lemurs were observed to feed from a wide range of plant species and ate foliage, fruit, seeds, flowers and bark.

Consequently while perhaps nutritionally similar their diets were more physically varied than those of the groups in enclosures. At times, animals chose to forage from plants in the environment even when food provided by the keepers was in close proximity. This may indicate the preference for an even more varied diet than the already varied one which is provided.

However, one of the problems of keeping unconfined animals became apparent with the study of diet. At Cricket St. Thomas visitors frequently tried to feed the lemurs with items such as biscuits, ice cream and popcorn. These animals were also potentially able to obtain food from litter and rubbish that was discarded on the ground. This could cause serious health problems in the long term if it became an established feeding habit.

Overall the study showed that unconfined ring-tailed lemurs behaved similarly to their wild counterparts, indicating that this method of management was beneficial for the animals. However, in English zoos – except in special circumstances due to the Zoo Licenses Act it is often considered undesirable for health and safety and animal welfare reasons, for visitors to have close contact with animals other than domesticated species. From this study and elsewhere there appear to be few problems of this nature when species are carefully chosen, and zoos and their visitors demonstrate responsible attitudes. In view of the potential benefits for animals and visitors alike, it appears that it is time for the entire situation to be reviewed.

As we went to press, we heard that Gillian achieved a B.Sc. Degree with First Class Honours – congratulations! Ed.

HELP OTHER ZOOLOGISTS IN WORTHWHILE RESEARCH PROJECTS BY BUYING OUR RAFFLE TICKETS!



◆ Getting close to the subject!

BP CONSERVATION AWARDS

David Bowes-Lyon, former student keeper at Chester Zoo, is the leader of an award winning expeditionary project in the Kyabobo National Park, Ghana.

David, together with other students from Brasenose College, Oxford University, gained the prize for the best project in 1994 at a glittering awards ceremony in London, attended by Chester Zoo

Director, Gordon McGregor Reid.

The scheme is sponsored by British Petroleum and organised by Fauna and Flora International and Birdlife International.

The talented Oxford team are also in the short-list of winners for the 1995 Awards (to be presented in next year's ceremony). Established by the Ghanaian Wildlife Department,

Kyabobo is the only protected area in the forest savanna boundary and lies within the country's only large mountain range.

The Kayabobo Project is a community orientated conservation study which aims to work with the Wildlife Department and local people in the areas of long-term environmental monitoring and conservation education.



Happy Retirement Dr. B!

A distinguished group of a rare species of Zoo Directors gathered in the marquee on 6 July to join in the farewell party for Dr Michael Brambell, who retired on 31 August. Gordon McGregor Reid has written an account of the evening on page 2 and here we show a selection of photographs taken by Keith Freeburn.

Top left: Gordon and Sally McGregor Reid present Sally's hand-made ceramic plate to Patricia and Michael Brambell.

Centre: Michael and Patricia at their rostrum table in the marquee.

Below centre: The painted faces of the Maelor Young Voice Choir!

Below left: Zoo Council Chairman Mrs Bea Jones, with the zoo's new Director, Dr Gordon Mc Gregor Reid, and retiring Director, Dr Michael Brambell. Michael was presented with the Gold Medal of the Society.



Above right: The Great and the Good! Zoo Leaders from around the country. Top row, (from left): Roger Wheater, Edinburgh Zoo; Nick Jackson, Welsh Mountain Zoo; Ken Sims, Thrigby Hall Wildlife Gardens; Jeremy Mallinson, Jersey Zoo; Middle row: Peter Stevens, Paignton Zoo; John Knowles, Marwell Zoo; Michael Brambell; Gordon McGregor Reid; Geoffrey Smith, Retired Deputy Director, Institute of Zoology; Peter Olney, Federation of Zoos. Front row: Brian Bertram, who succeeded Dr Brambell as Curator of Mammals at London Zoo; Colin Rawlins, Retired Director of London Zoo; Natalie Evans and Molly Badham, Twycross Zoo; Geoffrey Greed, Bristol Zoo.

Below right: Jersey Zoo Director Jeremy Mallinson makes a presentation to Dr Brambell on behalf of all the guest directors.





WILD ABOUT BIRDS

Our zoo is not only about exotic tropical birds, but plays host to an important number of wild residents and visitors. Curator of Birds, Dr Roger Wilkinson has pictured a few that caught his attention this Summer.

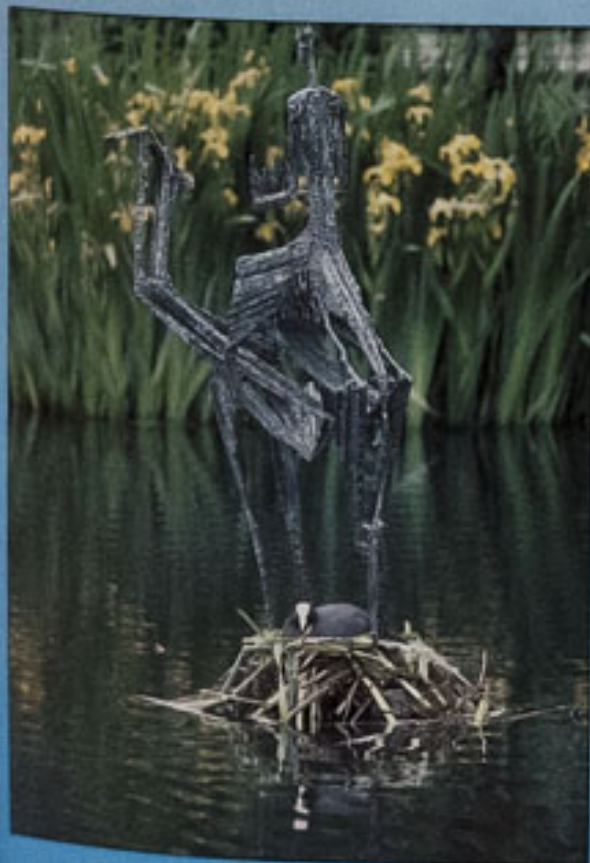
(Below left)
The moorhen's cousin, the coot, boldly chose to nest below the belly of a camel - this time the statue of Caspar on a camel, presented to the zoo from the estate of Sally, Duchess of Westminster.

APPRECIATING ART

RARE VISITOR

(Above)
The statue of Noah and the Four Winds stands proudly in the sunken garden watching out for visitors who find rest and reflection in this quiet refuge of the busy zoo. One pair of moorhens was not backward in finding an excellent place to build their nest, near the base of the statue. The photographs show the position of the nest under Noah's protection, and a closer view of the incubating moorhen.

(Below right)
This wild Garganey drake was spotted by the bird keepers when it joined the Caribbean Flamingos on the afternoon of 23 May. The next morning it was relocated on the water around the Lemur Island, where it caused much excitement and was featured as first item on the "Birdline Northwest" telephone hotline for rarity twitchers.



Peake PERFECTION



Spix's Macaw

Wildlife artist Eric Peake is closely associated with Chester Zoo, and uses many of the parrot species as models for his superb paintings. Eric is undoubtedly one of the country's leading avian artists – but he also considers himself a devoted aviculturist and conservationist. He is an active worldwide fund raiser for conservation and research, and often lectures on these subjects.

Donations of his original paintings and limited edition prints have raised over £130,000 to date, and his most recent original painting, "Spix's Macaw and Young" sold for \$23,500 US – about £17,000 – at the III International Loro Parque Parrot Convention in Tenerife. All the

proceeds were donated by the artist to the Loro Parque Foundation for conservation and research.

Eric's prints sell very well in the zoo shop, and he donates 50% of each sale to the zoo's conservation work. His work has supported many other organisations specialising in avian conservation across the world.

One of his favourite commissions came from Chester Zoo. In 1989, when the Princess of Wales visited the zoo to open the new chimpanzee house, the Society commissioned him to paint a picture of a pair of Princess of Wales parrots, to be presented to Her Royal Highness.

His book "A Monograph of Macaws and Conures" was released last year, and contains plates from 40 original

paintings. Eric devotes much time and attention to studying his subjects. He is presently working on the paintings for the next volume, "A Monograph of Amazons."

Although his work demands worldwide travel, the majority of his painting is done in his home country of North Wales, in Flint, close to Chester. He works mostly in watercolour. Study the prints in the zoo shop, and you will see that he has the rare ability to capture in fine detail the mood and stance of the living bird. His work hangs in corporate, public and private collections world-wide.

Eric Peake continues to lecture and exhibit with the essential message that extinction is for ever.

JUNIOR MEMBER'S PROGRAMME OF EVENTS AUTUMN 1995 TO AUTUMN 1996

PLEASE NOTE

Most Junior Members' events are arranged for eight year olds or older, but occasionally we have to target events at just over tens or over twelves. Bookings must be made for all events. Please ring Penny at the Zoo on 01244 380280, Extension 215, not more than two weeks before the event you would like to attend. Places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, and may be limited. For those trips which involve either a bus trip or the provision of food or materials, a charge will be made to cover costs - but we keep this as low as possible. This list is provisional and in exceptional circumstances we may have to alter the dates and times of some of the trips. You will not be informed of such changes individually - so please read the Junior pages in the magazine each quarter to keep up-to-date with Junior News.

THE FOLLIES

- HAWKSTONE PARK -

Saturday 23 September 1995

This will be a new trip for Juniors when we travel into the wilds of Shropshire to discover the surprises of the follies and caves on the nature ramble at Hawkstone Park. The bus will leave the staff car park at 11.00 am, returning at 4.30 pm. Over eight's are invited to bring a picnic, and be prepared for being outdoors.

RISLEY MOSS NATURE RESERVE

Saturday 21st October 1995

Previous visits to Risley have been a great success, and we hope to have a warden on hand to show Juniors some of the wonders of a real Cheshire 'Moss'. Birds, small mammals and plants abound and the 'trails' at the Moss are an exciting way to see them all.

The bus will leave the Staff Car Park at 11.00 am, and return at 4.00 pm. Over eights are invited to bring a picnic, not forgetting wellies, just in case.

RHYL SEA LIFE CENTRE

Saturday 25th November 1995

We were so overwhelmed with bookings last time we visited a Sea Life Centre, that we thought we would run a trip to one closer to home for most you. The fascination of the sea is strong and Juniors of eight and over are welcome to join us on this day out.

The bus will leave the Staff Car Park at 11.00 am, returning at 3.30 pm. Remember to bring a picnic.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday 8th December 1995

The ever-popular Juniors' Christmas Party will be held in the indoor picnic area behind the Tropical House. Everyone is welcome to come along, enjoy the music, games and hot-dog supper.

Juniors should arrive at the OLD (CAUGHALL ROAD) ENTRANCE for 7.00 pm and parents may collect from there or the party area (bring a torch!) at 10.00 pm.

THE CONTACT SESSION

Saturday 27th January 1996

Our programme would not be complete without including this event, so once again we

will be meeting outside the Oakfield, before going to meet some of the Zoo's friendlier residents. Over eights should meet at the Oakfield for 2.15 pm, and the older Juniors can drift away from the Tropical House, where the event will be held, after 3.15 pm. The remaining Juniors will be accompanied back to the Oakfield for 4.00 pm.

MANCHESTER MUSEUM

Saturday 24th February 1996

A new visit for the Junior Club, we will spend a cold winter's day in the warmth of the excellent Natural History Section of the Manchester Museum.

The bus will leave the Staff Car Park at 10.30 am, returning there at 3.30 pm. Over eights are invited to come along and bring a picnic.

TRACKS AND SIGNS

Saturday 23rd March 1996

This is a day for all those Juniors who love to get muddy! We choose March for this event as this is the time of year we can be sure to have damp enough weather to enable us to find some really good footprints in the enclosures, so that plaster casts can be taken from them. Over eights are invited to join the fun, which kicks off by meeting outside the Oakfield at 11.00 am, returning there to be collected at 4.00 pm. Bring a picnic and wear old clothes and wellies.

FOSSIL HUNTING

Saturday 27th April 1996

Although Juniors have been fossil hunting before, we have a new area to discover this year. We will head off once again into the Shropshire countryside to Wenlock Edge. Having found out about the local geology (ie. what we are to look for!) in the Much Wenlock Museum in the morning, we will picnic on the Wenlock escarpment and spend the afternoon fossil hunting in Comas Quarry.

Juniors should be ready to leave the Staff Car Park at 9.30 am, and we should be back there for 5.00 pm. Good shoes and warm clothing will be needed, as well as a picnic.

THE 'WIRRAL WAY' WILDLIFE WALK

Saturday 25th May 1996

Another new event for Juniors this year will be our Wildlife Walk along the old disused railway

route which is now called the 'Wirral Way'. We plan to be dropped off by the bus at Parkgate and walk along the estuary shore and cliffs to Thurstaston Country Park, (where the bus will meet us) observing the wildlife on the way. We may also have the opportunity to do some pond dipping. The walk is about four miles, but will not be too strenuous.

Over eights are welcome to join us on what is likely to be a most enjoyable day. Juniors should assemble at the staff car park at 10.00 am, and we will return at 4.30 pm. Bring a picnic.

ANGLESEY - SOUTH STACK AND PUFFIN ISLAND

Saturday 22nd June 1996

This should be a bird watching delight as we discover the wonders on view from the tower at the RSPB's Reserve at South Stack on Anglesey, before we take an afternoon boat trip around Puffin Island.

Juniors of ten years old and over are invited to join us on this exciting day in Wales, and you will need a picnic and good shoes. The boat could be chilly, so bring something warm to wear. We will leave the staff car park at 10.00 am, returning at 5.00 pm.

A 'DAY WITH A KEEPER'

Wednesday 24th July 1996

We have to limit this most popular event to Juniors who are a minimum of twelve years old as it can be very hard work. Juniors will have the opportunity to spend a day working alongside a Zoo Keeper learning about their job and some of the animals they look after.

The meeting point will be outside the Oakfield at 10.30 am, and the day will finish at 4.00 pm when Juniors will return to the Oakfield for collection. Bring along a picnic and wellies.

SUMMER BARBEQUE

Friday 16th August 1996

The summer barbeque hold lots of surprises for those who have not seen the Zoo at dusk. We try to vary our speaker from year to year, but the essence of the evening is to have fun and enjoy the flavour and aroma of cooking over the coals. Provisional timings are that Juniors should come through the Staff Entrance at 7.00 pm and walk through the Zoo to the Jubilee cafe, and be collected from the Jubilee at 9.45 am. Over eights.

MACHYNLETH

Saturday 21st September 1996

This will be the Junior Club's first visit to Machynlleth which is a centre for alternative power and conservation. We will travel to Powys in mid Wales to find out about water power, wind power and how to conserve power. Not one to be missed!

The coach will leave the staff car park at 9.30 am, returning at around 4.30 pm. Over eights are welcome to come along and learn more about the environment. Warm clothes and a picnic will be needed.

Junior Picture Gallery

◆ Our June trip was to Hilbre Island, where the favourite activity was rock-pooling.



▲ In May we had pony trap rides at Shugborough Home Farm.

◆ Erdigg Farm World – Juniors enjoyed feeding the lambs on our trip in April.



Arrivals ○ Births ● and 🐣 Hatchings 🐣

MAY, JUNE AND JULY 1995



◆ Snowy Owl

MAMMALS

Rodrigue's Bat	<i>Pteropus rodricensis</i>	0.0.3	Born
Short-tailed Bat	<i>Carollia perspicillata</i>	0.0.1	Born
Ring-tailed Lemur	<i>Lemur catta</i>	0.0.2	Born
Ruffed Lemur	<i>Lemur variegatus variegatus</i>	0.0.	Born
Black Ape	<i>Macaca nigra</i>	0.0.1	Born
Capybara	<i>Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris</i>	3.0	Received
Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>	4.0	Born
Guanaco	<i>Llama glama guanicoe</i>	0.1	Born
Arabian Gazelle	<i>Gazella gazella arabica</i>	0.3	Born
Scimitar-horned Oryx	<i>Oryx dammah</i>	2.0	Born
Red Lechwe	<i>Kobus leche</i>	0.1	Born
Nilgai	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	1.2	Born
Axis Deer	<i>Cervus axis</i>	2.0.1	Born
Blackbuck	<i>Antilop cervicapra</i>	2.1.1	Born
Bison	<i>Bison bison</i>	0.1.0	Born

BIRDS

Common Rhea	<i>Rhea americana</i>	0.0.5	Hatched
Humboldt's Penguin	<i>Spheniscus humboldti</i>	0.0.7	Hatched
Caribbean Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	0.0.4	Hatched
Chilean Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus chilensis</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Waldraap Ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>	0.0.4	Hatched
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	1.1	Received
Euravian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	3.1	Received
Dalmation Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crictus</i>	1.1	Received
White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus mocrotalus</i>	1.0	Received
Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericularia</i>	0.0.2	Hatched
Black-billed Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna arborea</i>	0.0.5	Hatched
White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	0.0.2	Hatched
Hooded Merganser	<i>Mergus cucullatus</i>	0.0.3	Hatched
Rosy-bill Pochard	<i>Netta peposaca</i>	0.0.3	Hatched
Carolina Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	0.0.8	Hatched
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	0.0.3	Hatched
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	0.0.6	Hatched
Northern Shoveller	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	0.0.4	Hatched
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	0.0.9	Hatched
Mauritius Kestrel	<i>Falco punctatus</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	0.0.2	Hatched
Bronzewing Pigeon	<i>Phaps chalcoptera</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Jambu Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus jambu</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Jambu Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus jambu</i>	0.1	Received

BIRDS continued

Superb Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus superbus</i>	0.0.2	Hatched
Diamond Dove	<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Chinese Painted Quail	<i>Excalfactoria chinensis</i>	0.1	Received
Edwards' Pheasant	<i>Lophura edwardsi</i>	0.0.4	Hatched
Himalayan Monal	<i>Lophoborus impeyanus</i>	1.0	Received
Grey-headed Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis cinereiceps</i>	1.1.4	Received
Bare-faced Curassow	<i>Crax fasciolata</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Satyr Tragopan	<i>Tragopan satyra</i>	0.0.6	Hatched
Temminck's Tragopan	<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>	0.0.4	Hatched
Congo Peafowl	<i>Afropavo congensis</i>	0.0.4	Hatched
Common Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	0.0.4	Hatched
Violet Plantain-eater	<i>Musopbaga violacea</i>	0.0.3	Hatched
Red-crested Touraco	<i>Tauraco erythrolophus</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Yellow-backed Chattering Lory	<i>Lorius garrulus flavopalliatu</i>	0.0.2	Hatched
Blue-eyed Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua ophthalmica</i>	0.0.2	Hatched
Blue & Yellow Macaw	<i>Ara ararauna</i>	0.0.2	Hatched
Greater Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>	0.0.4	Hatched
Golden Conure	<i>Aratinga guarouba</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Golden-capped Conure	<i>Aratinga auricapilla</i>	1.0.0	Received
Yellow-faced Parrotlet	<i>Forpus xanthops</i>	0.1.0	Received
Green-cheeked Amazon	<i>Amazona viridigenalis</i>	0.0.3	Hatched
Cuban Amazon	<i>Amazona leucocephala</i>	0.0.3	Hatched
Stella's Lory	<i>Charmosyna papou</i>	1.0.0	Hatched
White-faced Scops Owl	<i>Otus leucotis</i>	0.0.4	Hatched
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	0.0.2	Hatched
Snowy Owl	<i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>	0.0.2	Hatched
Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>	0.0.2	Hatched
Trumpeter Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes bucinator</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Wrinkled Hornbill	<i>Aceros corrugatus</i>	0.0.4	Hatched
Toco Toucan	<i>Ramphastos toco</i>	1.0	Received
Tawny Frogmouth	<i>Podargus strigoides</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Blue-crowned Motmot	<i>Momotus momota</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Red-cheeked Cordon Bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>	0.0.6	Hatched
Silver-eared Mesia	<i>Leiothrix argentauris</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Gouldian Finch	<i>Chloebia gouldiae</i>	0.0.3	Received
Bicheno Finch	<i>Poephila bichenovii</i>	0.0.1	Received
Superb Starling	<i>Spreo superbus</i>	0.0.4	Hatched
Bali Starling	<i>Leucopsar rothschildi</i>	0.0.4	Hatched
Azure winged Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cyana</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Red-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa erythrorhyncha</i>	0.0.4	Hatched
Plumbeous Redstart	<i>Rhyacornis fuliginosus</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	0.0.3	Hatched
Mexican House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	0.0.1	Hatched

REPTILES

Sunbeam Snake	<i>Xenopeltis unicolor</i>	0.1.0	Received
Tropical Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus durissus colineatus</i>	0.0.5	Hatched
San Louis Potosi King Snake	<i>Lampropeltis getulus mexicana</i>	1.1.0	Received
Leopard Gecko	<i>Eublepharis macularius</i>	0.0.58	Hatched
Plumed Basilisk	<i>Basiliscus plumifrons</i>	0.0.11	Hatched
Madagascar Giant Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma madagascariensis grandis</i>	3.3.0	Received
Ornate Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma ornata</i>	2.2.0	Received

AQUARIUM

Lake Victoria Cichlid	<i>Haplochromis nyereri</i>	2	Received
Crescent Zoe	<i>Nyereria</i>	4	Received
Butterfly Goodeid	<i>Ameoca splendens</i>	7	Received
Solo Goodeid	<i>Xenopoborus captivus</i>	10	Received

Key: Col. 1 = Male, Col. 2 = Female, Col. 3 = Young or unknown.

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