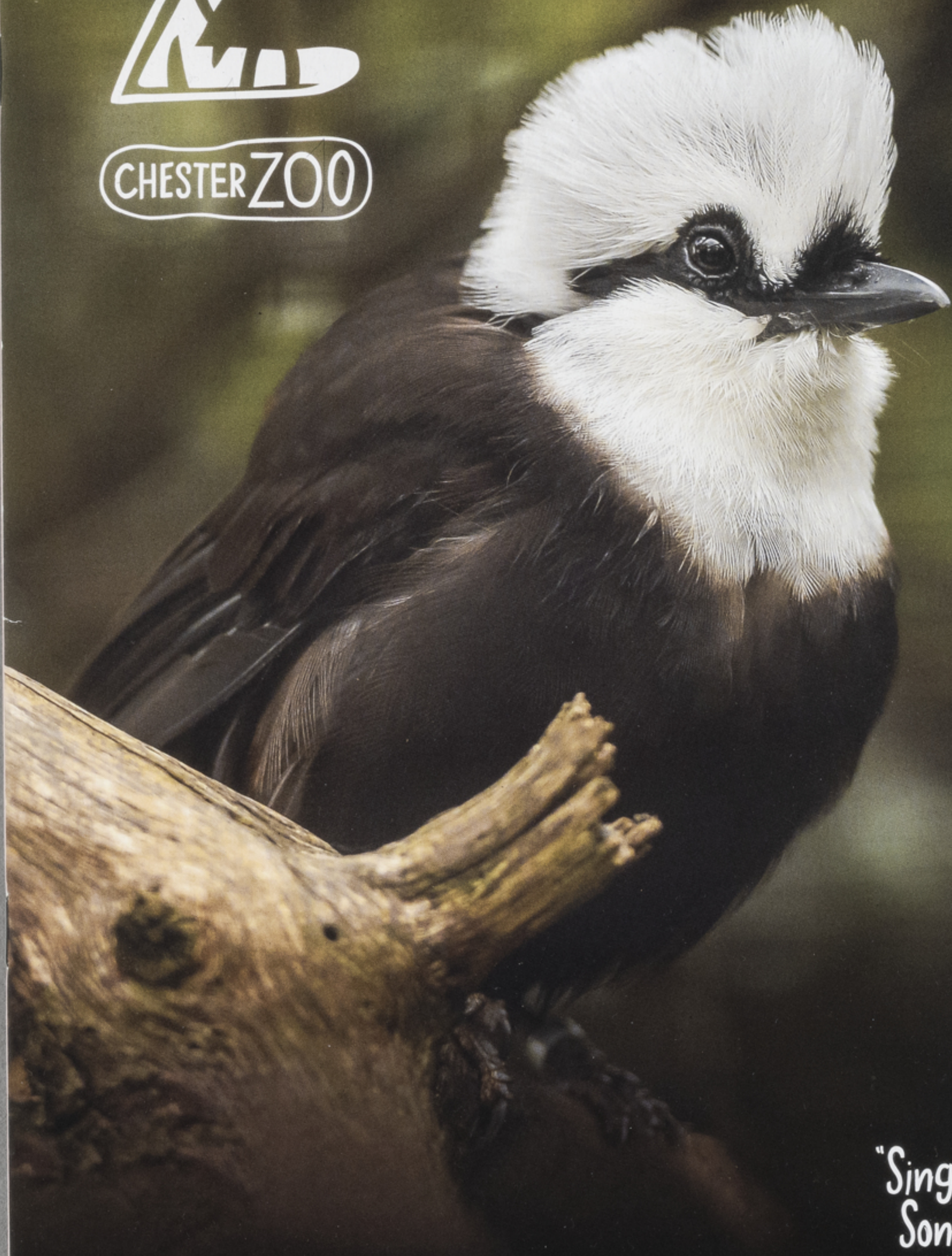




CHESTER ZOO

The official magazine for Chester  
Zoo members and adopters

SPRING 2017



"Sing for  
Songbirds!"

Z magazine...

# Features

The official magazine for Chester Zoo members and adopters

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Don't Miss!

MEMBERS' DAY 2017  
Saturday 18 March  
Friday 7 July  
Sunday 12 November

ADOPTERS' DAY 2017  
Saturday 4 March  
Sunday 1 October

# News from the zoo

with Dr Mark Pilgrim  
chief executive officer



Well 2017 has certainly started with a bang here at the zoo, with the news we had the busiest year ever recorded, lots of animal arrivals and some brilliant conservation news.

The 1.9 million people visiting us last year played a very important role in helping us fund our conservation work both here and abroad - something I know the zoo founder George Mottershead would have been extremely proud of.

It's also enabled us to carry on George's "always building" philosophy. Winter has always been the time for us to carry out essential work and as you visit this spring you may notice we have been improving many areas of the zoo. Ahead of our exciting summer project PLAY!, the lawn outside the Dragons in Danger habitat is being transformed into a Madagascan adventure. Meanwhile work continues on *Islands* to create world class new habitats for sun bears, binturong and Malayan tapir, as well as a walk through Sumatran bird aviary. This is all part of our strategic development plan to enhance our position as one of the world's best conservation, animal and leisure attractions. Our aim is to create habitat themed environmental zones by 2030 and you can read more about our fantastic vision for the future on page 25.

Spring is a wonderful time to visit the zoo to see some of our wonderful new animal arrivals. With less than 1600 Rothschild's giraffes left in the wild our calf, Murchison, will play a vital role in the European Endangered Species Breeding programme of this highly threatened species and provide a boost to this dwindling population. We've also welcomed two new members into our elephant herd, the Hi-way family, over the last few months. The calves are a very welcome addition to our elephant family and will be brilliant ambassadors for the endangered species. Now the weather is getting warmer it's nice to see our new arrivals out and about. I'm sure we'll be hearing the sound of more tiny feet in the not too distant future!

We've also had some brilliant conservation news. As I write this, I have just returned from our fourth staff expedition. I led this year's team of 12 staff to Ecuador to carry out population and habitat studies of the endangered Ecuador Amazon parrot. This species is very close to my heart. I spent years researching and helping to reclassify the threatened status of this incredible bird, putting into place a conservation action-plan to try to protect its future survival. Our 2017 expedition team battled torrential rainstorms, high humidity and some very hungry mosquitoes and ticks to collect information that is going to prove invaluable for this species. During the latest trip we found an additional sub population of the parrot. Previously we believed that this bird had to have both mangroves and dry forest to survive but we counted a population of over 300 in an area nowhere near a mangrove. This could mean that there are more birds in areas of the forest further from the coastal mangroves and therefore the population could be larger than current estimates. Work is now going on to survey local villages in the area to obtain more data on potential new populations. More on our expedition can be found on our Act for Wildlife website.

And finally... look out for the third series of Channel 4's *The Secret Life of the Zoo*. The show, which has returned to our TV screens in a prime time slot on Tuesday evenings at 8pm, is really helping to raise the profile of the zoo; taking us into millions of living rooms up and down the country each week. I have already seen all of the episodes in this latest run and there are some delightful animal stories ahead. The show has really highlighted the dedication, tenacity and commitment of the staff that work here and if you haven't seen the programme yet I'd highly recommend tuning in.

# MEET MURCHISON

## OUR NEW ROTHSCHILD'S GIRAFFE CALF!

A six foot tall Rothschild's giraffe calf arrived to first time mum Tula and dad Meru on Boxing Day and after a few days of bonding with mum he met the rest of his family. Keepers have named the lofty new arrival Murchison after Murchison Falls in Uganda, where the largest remaining population of Rothschild's giraffe live.

The Rothschild's giraffe is one of the most endangered subspecies of giraffe and one of the world's most at risk mammals. Recent estimates suggest that less than 1,600 individuals remain in the wild, primarily as a result of poaching and habitat loss.

**Sarah Roffe, team manager of giraffes, said:**

"This iconic species is often overlooked in Africa and, sadly, some populations like the Rothschild's giraffe are experiencing a silent extinction. They are very much under threat in the wild, so it's vital that our new calf helps us to throw a spotlight on this amazing species. Hopefully, our not-so-little arrival can generate more awareness of the huge pressures that giraffes face in the wild."

In the last 45 years the population of the Rothschild's giraffe in Kidepo Valley National Park (KVNP) in Uganda – where they were once found in large numbers - has reduced by over 90%. A huge part of its decline was due to poaching in the 1990's and since then the population has failed to bounce back as habitat loss continues to threaten their survival.

Last year our giraffe experts travelled to Uganda and South Africa to help conserve giraffes in the wild. Working with project partners in Uganda - The Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) – our team helped conduct the first ever census on the Rothschild's giraffe in an attempt to better understand why the population in the national park is not increasing.

**Tim Rowlands, curator of mammals, added:**

"Zoo staff have been out to Africa to lend their expertise and know-how to extremely important projects which are aiming to improve the outlook for the species. Initiatives like this really show the role that modern zoos play in animal conservation and it will give us a better understanding of how we can help protect the species and its future."



"Sing for  
Songbirds!"



All over Indonesia the forests are falling silent because the songbirds that once thrived there are threatened by extinction.

We're facing a crisis because these beautiful, remarkable and rare birds are being captured and trapped by local people to be used in singing competitions or kept in cages as status symbols. It is believed more than 1.3 million are caught every year.

# Help us BREAK THE SILENCE

## IT'S TIME TO ACT FOR SONGBIRDS

Once these stunning birds are captured they are taken from their forest homes to be sold in markets as part of the **illegal wildlife trade**.

As you enter the bird markets you are greeted by the deafening sound of **thousands of distressed birds** - with sometimes as many as 40 birds kept in tiny, dirty cages.



Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our partners in Java, the Cikananga Conservation Breeding Centre (CCBC), some endangered bird species have been saved from these terrible conditions.

These birds have a safe place where they can be rehabilitated back to health. We ultimately hope to be able to release them back into the wild.

However some species are disappearing from Indonesian forests at an alarming rate and further action is needed to save these precious birds from extinction. We're managing vital breed and release programmes for critically endangered species, like the stunning Javan green magpie and black-winged starling; building insurance populations to then one day return them back to the wild.

It will be incredibly hard to change the culture of people keeping songbirds in small cages but with more education, awareness raising and protection of suitable safe habitat, we are determined to protect these beautiful species for future generations. We're working hard in Indonesia to change the perilous future for these birds on the brink.

**WE WANT THE FORESTS TO SING AGAIN.**  
Help us to **#breakthesilence**



# STAFF GO WILD

Rose Gelder, corporate partnership coordinator, is part of the team that raises money to help fund our conservation work around the globe.

Last year she organised three Pokémon Go events at the zoo, opening up the zoo after hours to thousands of enthusiastic Pokémon players, with the proceeds from ticket sales directly funding our field work. The first event alone raised £17,500 and the money went towards our emergency appeal to rebuild an aviary block at the Cikananga Conservation Breeding Centre (CCBC).

In December she travelled to Indonesia to see how this income is making an impact on CCBC...

"We've been working with CCBC, in West Java for six years. The centre is run by a small dedicated team who are experts in breeding several species of endangered birds, including Javan green magpie and black-winged starling. The main purpose of my trip was to see the centre and meet the team but we also saw first-hand the severity of the songbird crisis.



Staff at Cikananga Conservation Breeding Centre



## BIRD MARKETS

"We spent the first day in Indonesia in the capital of Indonesia, Jakarta, visiting the largest bird market in the city, Pramuka. This is the place where lots of Indonesian birds are sold illegally.

"Walking through the market was a harrowing experience. There was a strong, putrid smell that made it hard to catch my breath, accompanied by the awful sight of rows and rows of tiny cages piled up high as far as the eye could see, while my ears were filled with the sound of thousands of birds calling out. It was heart-breaking to see so many familiar species living in these conditions, including the Java sparrow, Asian fairy-bluebirds and the critically endangered Bali starling.

"The next day, we were confronted with the scale of the problem, travelling to Cikananga. Almost every house we passed on the drive had at least one small cage hanging outside, the sound of birdsong audible every time we stopped. We passed a few smaller markets at the side of the road, again packed to the rafters with cages. We soon realised that you could hear birds singing beautifully in every village we passed, but the forests we travelled through were all silent.



## CIKANANGA CONSERVATION BREEDING CENTRE

"Visiting CCBC was the perfect antidote to visiting the markets. Faced with the realisation of how widespread the culture of keeping birds in cages is in Indonesia, it was lovely to meet the team who were doing everything they could to make sure the most critically endangered bird species don't become extinct in the wild.

"CCBC is based in the middle of the rainforest, next to the village of Cikananga. Surrounded by paddy fields and a few small villages, the forest is lush and dense. The aviaries are located behind a large steel fence, protected by two big guard dogs. The birds kept here are so valuable that CCBC has been the victim of repeated thefts, with people stealing the birds to sell for large sums of money. They no longer take any risks with their security.

"The money we raised last year from our Pokémon Go event will be spent on a new aviary, the second of four that urgently need rebuilding.

"When we arrived at the centre we went to see their first new aviary block which had just been completed. The old wooden aviaries are rotten from the humidity and termite infestation, but the new building has been made of concrete and metal mesh with deep foundations, meaning rats can't access the enclosures and attack the birds.



"They are safer, cleaner and a much more beneficial environment for the birds to live in. With one out of four aviaries replaced, and a second fully paid for, we are well on our way to providing every single bird at Cikananga with this wonderful, state-of-the-art enclosure.

"This will boost the breeding activities of these birds, so when reintroduction programmes are started there will be a healthy number of pairs to release into the wild, giving a greater chance of the species thriving in their new habitat.

"Hopefully our efforts won't be too late to save these beautiful birds from extinction. With prices on their heads so high, it's critical that we act now to protect these species so that they can remain in the wild. There are concerns that as the Javan green magpie is no longer showing up on markets, it may well be extinct in the wild. We don't want the other birds to suffer the same fate.

"Sing for Songbirds!"



**ACT FOR WILDLIFE**

We won't stand back and let the forests fall silent but we desperately need your help. Donate online at [actforwildlife.org.uk/singforsongbirds](http://actforwildlife.org.uk/singforsongbirds)

**DONATE NOW**





## THE FOREST

"After leaving Cikananga, we travelled to Pulau Dua, a reserve at the north east tip of Java. We spent the day trekking through fish ponds, hopping from rock to rock in the dense swamps, and finally made our way through the forests towards the sounds of hundreds of birds.

"With a reputation as one of the last remaining havens for birds, we were desperately hoping to see black-winged starling. We saw plenty of storks, egrets, swallows and a beautiful kingfisher, but we left disappointed. We were also worried, as Pulau Dua is meant to be one of the last viable habitats for the starlings in the wild; this wasn't a good sign for the species.

"Sitting at my desk in Chester, it's hard to get a grasp of how desperate the situation for the songbirds is. Coming face-to-face with the issues, I've gained a much clearer understanding of how the illegal trade of these species is decimating these populations. If we don't act soon these birds will no longer be found in the wild and future generations won't be able to enjoy their beautiful songs. We're launching our 'Sing for Songbirds' campaign to show people how urgently we need to act, and let them know that they can make a difference to these wonderful birds."



### ACT FOR WILDLIFE

For more information about the work we're doing to protect these birds or to download more information and our online resources go to:

[actforwildlife.org.uk/singforsongbirds](http://actforwildlife.org.uk/singforsongbirds)



A critically endangered injured rufous-fronted laughing thrush that was saved from a bird market. It had a broken beak after repeatedly flying into the bars of its cage due to stress.



To discover more about the work we're doing at the zoo and around the world to protect songbirds, head over to our Act for Wildlife website [actforwildlife.org.uk](http://actforwildlife.org.uk)



Imagine what we could do with your

## DONATIONS!

We are determined to protect these beautiful species for future generations. We want the forests to sing again. Help us to #breakthesilence.

Donate online at [actforwildlife.org.uk/singforsongbirds](http://actforwildlife.org.uk/singforsongbirds) and click 'Donate now'

Send a cheque payable to Chester Zoo to:

Sing for Songbirds, Development Office, Chester Zoo, Upton, Chester, CH2 1LH.

Call **01244 650229** to donate by credit card or debit card over the phone (weekdays only)

Cash donations: pop into guest services or memberships & adoptions when you're next in the zoo.

## GET CREATIVE

### ART COMPETITION



### Songbird Art Exhibition in collaboration with Funky Aardvark

The lovely people at Funky Aardvark are running a 'Songbird' art exhibition. The exhibition will be held between 8 July - 26 August at Funky Aardvark's gallery on Bridge Street Row East, Chester.

The exhibition is open to public entries and will feature sculptures, painting, photography or anything you can think of!

If you would like to enter a piece into the exhibition, you can submit your application online between 3 April and 29 June. There will be a £5 entry fee, which will include a donation to Sing for Songbirds, to help protect endangered songbirds in South East Asia. We aim to include as many entries as possible, but may need to be selective if they have a high demand. If this happens, the entries will be judged by a panel of representatives from Funky Aardvark and Chester Zoo.

If you'd like any more information, you can contact Funky Aardvark on **01244 630202** or email [info@funkyaardvark.co.uk](mailto:info@funkyaardvark.co.uk). You can also visit [funkyaardvark.co.uk](http://funkyaardvark.co.uk) to find out more.

# BLOOM



## A CELEBRATION OF GARDENS, BIRDS AND UK WILDLIFE



Nature comes alive in spring and here at the zoo there are lots of opportunities to drink it in. You can watch the fluttering butterflies, spot the beautiful birds as they fly all around you and explore our award winning gardens to find lots of surprising wildlife secrets.



The zoo will be buzzing with activity all through March and April as we give you the opportunity to learn how to make the most of the amazing wildlife here on our very own doorstep. We want to connect our visitors of all ages with animals and nature - not just those species in faraway places but also those living all around us in our own backyard.

We've got lots of special events taking place where you'll be able to make nature inspired art, ask our experts all your wildlife questions and even find out how to become a wildlife explorer in your own back garden. We'll be running guided tours around our tropical plants and flowers, laying on a watercolour class and giving you the opportunity to go behind the scenes in our national plant collection. There are some events you'll need book in advance so visit our website to find out more: [www.chesterzoo.org.uk/bloom](http://www.chesterzoo.org.uk/bloom)



## GIVING UK WILDLIFE A HELPING HAND

Beyond the zoo, here's how we're working with conservation partners to help species that have been declining in the UK...



© Clare Evelyn Hill

### DORMOUSE

**The hazel dormouse is a UK species that is rare and declining. Sadly there has been a long-term drop in its numbers and range.**

We've been monitoring a wild dormouse population for over a decade and after a number of slightly below average years between 2012 and 2015, dormouse surveys at our study site in North Wales in 2016 have recorded a bumper year with more animals seen in October than ever before! The data is still being analysed, but it seems likely that 2016 is a year in which some females may have had two litters, and the first litter may have also bred themselves. These years are hard to detect, but microchipping the dormice gives us a unique opportunity to identify these uncommon behaviours, which are rarely confirmed in UK dormouse populations. These bumper breeding years are thought to be critical for maintaining dormouse population levels, and it's reassuring that 2016 looked like it was a great year!



© Lain Leach

### PINE MARTENS

**Pine martens are thriving in Scotland, but in England and Wales the population is very fragile. Two years ago we joined forces with The Vincent Wildlife Trust (VWT) on their Pine Marten Recovery Project, to restore viable populations of pine marten to Wales.**

For the past two years the project has relocated pine martens from Scotland to mid-Wales. Once the animals are relocated they are given a 'soft release' to ensure that they are given as much of a chance as possible to adjust to their new surroundings. The translocation has been very successful with 20 pine martens being relocated in 2015 and a further 19 individuals in 2016. It's not just about moving the animals: our staff help monitor the success of the translocation and the progress of the animals using camera traps, radio tracking and field surveys. These tracking methods enable the project to obtain further information so, for example, we know that at least half of the females released in the first year successfully gave birth in Wales which is an excellent result. The next stage of the project is to continue following this year's released individuals, find out if they will also successfully raise young and to see which habitats are favoured for permanent territories.

# PICTURE PERFECT

SPRING IS IN THE AIR! With new plants and flowers starting to bloom it's the perfect time to step outside.

If you're a keen photographer the new season brings hundreds of opportunities to capture this emergence of life on film. Botanical photography is a perfect way to spend time outdoors enjoying the elements... but getting a good shot of a flower or plant isn't always easy!

One person who knows a lot about capturing the perfect picture is world renowned botanical photographer Clive Nichols. He's photographed many of the world's best gardens, including HRH The Prince of Wales's own private garden in Scotland. This spring, Clive will be capturing some of our beautiful award winning gardens on film and you can join him when he hosts a masterclass as part of Bloom.

## What is it about gardens and flowers that interests you?

"I love being outdoors and I'm very lucky that my job takes me outside most days. I love the tranquillity and the beauty of plants and flowers and I've been lucky to travel to some stunning places across the globe. The thing you quickly learn when shooting flowers and plants is that you are at the mercy of the elements. It means I spend a lot of time reading the weather, if it's windy or rainy then the whole shoot can be off. You have to accept that you can't control anything when shooting in gardens, you have to work with the sun and wind and shoot when the outdoor conditions are at a premium. This means I'm always outside when the weather is nice which is brilliant."

## What has been your best photography shoot and why?

"I've spent a lot of time shooting in Corfu as I've been lucky enough to take shots of Lord Rothschild's private garden on the island. This has to be one of my favourite places as the weather is pretty much guaranteed and the light is stunning - which makes every day a good day for photographs. Here in the UK my favourite garden is a small private formal garden near my home in Oxfordshire, called Pettifers Gardens. I know the owner so I can get into the gardens when I want. It's close to my home so in the height



## CLIVE NICHOLS

We caught up with Clive ahead of his visit to the zoo to talk about his passion for plants and to get some top tips on taking the perfect photograph.



of summer I just get up early and stroll down the road to get the best photographs at first light. In the zoo, I have fond memories of the tranquil Sunken Garden, just behind the giant otters!"

## What's the best time of year to take photographs?

"I actually love autumn winter and spring, it means you don't have to get up at 4am to get the best light and on a good sunny day the light can be very flattering. It's ironic but summer can be the hardest time of year as it means working incredibly long days as the best light is at beginning and end of the day and the harsh light in the middle of the day means that if you shoot anything it ends up looking blown out. Get out there this spring before the long days roll in!"

## What's your favourite flower to shoot?

"Tulips. Their elegant goblet shape makes them perfect for a beautiful photograph; they are very photogenic."



© Clive Nicholls

## Have you got any top tips for taking the perfect photograph of gardens and plants?

"Firstly, get a tripod. It will automatically slow you down which is always an advantage as you have more time to concentrate on the subject, you can compose the picture correctly and get a sharper photograph.

Secondly, take note of the weather - it's not all about sunshine, even on a sunny day the wind can have a large impact when taking pictures of static objects like plants and flowers so to maximize your chance of success, try and take photos when there is little or no wind speed.

Finally I would recommend you to work with the light. The best time of day to take a photograph of plants, flowers and gardens is either first thing or last thing. Try to avoid the middle of the day."

Clive's masterclass will take place on SATURDAY 22 APRIL at the zoo.  
For more information please see our website [www.chesterzoo.org/clivenicholls](http://www.chesterzoo.org/clivenicholls)



# MOVING DAY AT THE ZOO



## HOW WE MOVE ANIMALS

HOW DO YOU RELOCATE A RHINO FROM CHESTER TO TURKEY TO BREED? WHAT ARE THE HIDDEN CHALLENGES OF MOVING SEVEN LARGE BIRDS BACK TO THEIR NATIVE RANGE IN SPAIN?

From huge rhinos to the smallest of frogs, did you know that every single animal at the zoo has its own passport? This details exactly who it is, where it was born or hatched and what its family tree looks like. It's all carefully designed to ensure the best possible management of vital worldwide conservation-breeding programmes for the many endangered species we work with.

Lots of our animals are endangered in the wild so it's vitally important that zoos around the world create an insurance population. Most of the species here are part of European Endangered Species Programmes (EEP). These programmes help manage species between different zoos as self-sustaining populations, while maintaining genetic diversity. We have a very successful breeding record which means we have a lot of animals to not only register but also move in and out of the zoo.

Moving animals requires a lot of planning... and paperwork! This is all undertaken by our records and registrar team, which consists of two people, registrar Penny Rudd and her assistant Liz Ball.

"I LOVE BEING PART OF AN ANIMAL'S STORY - SEEING AN ANIMAL YOU'VE MOVED SETTLE INTO THEIR NEW HOME OR MEETING A NEW ANIMAL YOU'VE HELPED RELOCATE IS VERY REWARDING AND I WOULDN'T CHANGE IT FOR THE WORLD."

*Penny, who has worked at the zoo for 35 years, explains the complexities of moving animals:*

"Every day is different for me and juggling is my forté. One moment I could be liaising with customs about an animal that is coming into the zoo, the next I could be down at the maintenance yard looking at the dimensions of a crate to move an animal. You never know what each day holds, it's very unpredictable but that's why I love it.

"If you've ever tried to go abroad with your dog then you'll know that getting a pet passport is quite difficult, so when you want to move an animal to another zoo in a different country there's all sorts of legislation, paperwork and health checks to be done before it can happen. Moving an animal requires a lot of close liaison, consultation and research. We work with zoos both here in the UK and all around the world as part of a global scheme to achieve integrated conservation. There are a few ways we place animals, including studbook recommendations - a list of animals that are circulated through the British and European zoo associations - and also liaising with zoo curators.



"Each and every animal move is different, some more challenging than others and last year we moved 3,500 animals from large mammals to small frogs. The largest animal we moved in 2016 was Komala, a three-year-old greater one horned rhino bred here who went to a zoo in Turkey.

"This complex move was 18 months in the planning. Making a crate for a 1.5 tonne rhino is not easy and we had to get two made as the transportation plan changed from road to air transfer which required a smaller crate! The thing about moving animals is that for months it can move very slowly but then it's all over and done with very quickly.



"The day of Komala's move went smoothly. Animal welfare during the move is our top priority and Komala went into the crate easily thanks to months of crate training by keepers. We then got a 12ft crane to lift the crate over an 8ft fence and onto our transporter lorry to Luton and then on an aeroplane to Turkey. We also sent one of our rhino keepers to travel with Komala. He stayed with her for a week and reported that she had settled in really well into her new home, which makes the months of planning all worth it.

"We mainly move animals to and from zoos around the world but we occasionally have the very special task of moving animals back into the wild. Last year we had the wonderful job of sending seven Chester bred northern bald ibis chicks to Jerez in Spain to be reintroduced into the wild. This species has undergone a long-term decline and more than 98% of the world population has been lost. With only 115 breeding pairs remaining in the wild, we hope that these chicks will bring a vital boost to the population.

"The northern bald ibis move went smoothly but things don't always go to plan. In the 35 years I've been doing this job I've had quite a few hairy moments, including having to stop an okapi move to the USA at the very last minute at 3am in the morning because a plane had overshot the runway!

"One of our significant imports in recent years was when Bernardo the Andean bear arrived from Tulsa Zoo in the USA, which involved huge paperwork planning. We had a specially designed crate made here in a local car bodywork shop and this was then exported to Tulsa so they could crate train Bernardo for a month before his flight. This all ensured he had the most comfortable journey possible and that we could unload him without a hitch when he arrived here. The fantastic result is how well he has settled with Lima – watch this space for the patter of tiny feet!

"I am often asked how safe it is to move critically endangered animals to far flung places and whether we sedate them in transit. The answer is that so long as an animal is really healthy, is moved in a well-designed crate and that time in transport is kept to a minimum and within the correct temperature, then the animals cope very well. We do not sedate them in transit as it is important for them to know what is happening throughout their journey. In an average year we move between 3,000 – 4,000 animals in and out of the zoo so we have had lots of practise!"



# kids' ZOO

SPRING 2017



**JUNIOR  
MEMBERS'  
PROGRAMME**

# Events 2017

Here is your pull out and keep guide to all our junior member events in 2017! Most events on our programmes are open to all junior members aged 8-18, so if you fancy coming along please book onto an activity!



## **TRACKS & SIGNS SATURDAY 25 MARCH**

One of our most popular events each year! See the zoo from the animal's point of view. We will give you the opportunity to go inside some of the habitats to search for footprints and then make them into plaster casts. Hopefully, you will have a souvenir of your day to take home with you.

We will meet outside Oakfield House at 11.00am, returning there for collection at 4.00pm. You will need a picnic lunch, and it is important that you wear clean, very old clothes and absolutely clean wellies please.

## **GREENACRES ANIMAL PARK - DEESIDE SATURDAY 22 APRIL**

There's always a lot to do at Greenacres Animal Park, whatever the weather! Hop onto the tractor and trailer ride, meet the farm animals, help to bottle feed the baby goats, meet the ponies and get involved with as many activities as possible around the farm.

The bus will meet at Cedar House staff car park at 10.30am, and we will return there for 4.00pm. Bring a picnic with you.

## **CHESTNUT CENTRE - OTTER, OWL AND WILDLIFE PARK, DERBYSHIRE SATURDAY 20 MAY**

Meet otters, owls and other birds of prey - this is always one of our most enjoyable days out! The Chestnut Centre has a wide variety of otter species from Europe and beyond and is also involved in rescuing and re-habilitating many of our native species.

The bus will leave the Cedar House staff car park at 9.30am and return for 5.00pm. Bring a picnic with you.

## **LAKE PADARN - SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK! SATURDAY 24 JUNE**

We will have Mount Snowdon in our sight at times as we walk around the huge Lake Padarn, one of the water bodies at the base of Electric Mountain. We will not be rushing and if we manage to be quiet enough we may see some of the wild mountain goats which live in this beautiful area.

We will leave Cedar House car park on Caughall Road at 9.00am and return at 5.30pm. Bring a picnic with you.

## HOW TO BE A GOOD ZOOKEEPER THURSDAY 27 JULY

This is a unique opportunity offered to junior members to spend a day working alongside a zookeeper. Come prepared for a hard day's work. The activities can be tough and demanding so we strictly limit this event to those junior members of 12 years old or over. We try to match juniors to their favourite section, but places are limited so this cannot be guaranteed.

Owing to the zoo's biosecurity measures, it is important that the clothes and wellies you wear to work on the sections are completely clean and have not been in contact with any farm animals, or even your pets at home, since they were last washed.

**We will meet outside Oakfield House at 10.30am, and the day will finish at 4.00pm. Please bring a packed lunch. Please note: bookings for this event will not be taken before 9.00am on Thursday 13 July, (01244 650215) and will be strictly on a first-come, first-served basis.**



## THE JUNIOR MEMBERS' SUMMER SCHOOL FROM 7-11 AUGUST 2017 INCLUSIVE

Would you like to work with animals when you are older? Join us for a full programme of events during an informal, action-packed week, including a wide variety of theoretical and practical training - a mid-week field trip, live mammal trapping, tours of the zoo and talks from our experts.

This is a fantastic opportunity to get to know the real workings of a zoo!

**Please note that the two week booking rule does not apply to this event and early booking is advised. The Summer School is open to juniors aged 13 and above. Participants must be able to attend all five (full) days and the cost will be £190 for the week.**

**Please Note:** Bookings must be made for all events. Please ring Penny Rudd on 01244 650215, not more than two weeks before the event you would like to attend (with the exception of the Summer School which can be booked from December onwards). 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. A charge will be made to cover the cost of those events which involve transport, entry fees, materials or the provision of food, and you will be advised of this at the time of booking, but no event should cost more than £15 per child.

## TRENTHAM MONKEY FOREST SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

You can walk among 140 monkeys and see them within their family groups. The forest is set in natural woodland and the macaques are free to roam with the visitors.

**We will leave the Cedar House car park at 10.00am and return home for 4.30pm. Bring a picnic.**

## WELSH MOUNTAIN ZOO SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER 2017

We work closely with other zoos all over the country to breed endangered animals, so why not take this chance to explore with our friends at Welsh Mountain Zoo. We plan to have a guided walk so that we do not miss any of the highlights.

**We will leave Cedar House car park at 10.30am and return there for 4.30pm. You will need a picnic lunch.**

## THE WILDFOWL AND WETLANDS TRUST - MARTIN MERE SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER

We hope to see great flocks of pink-footed geese, a variety of swans and many other migratory bird species that visit Martin Mere annually on their journeys south. There are many bird hides to choose from and explore in this wonderful landscape.

**The bus will leave Cedar House car park at 10.00am and return for 4.30pm. You will need to dress warmly and bring a picnic lunch. If you have binoculars, please bring them along, but we will have a few we can share with you.**

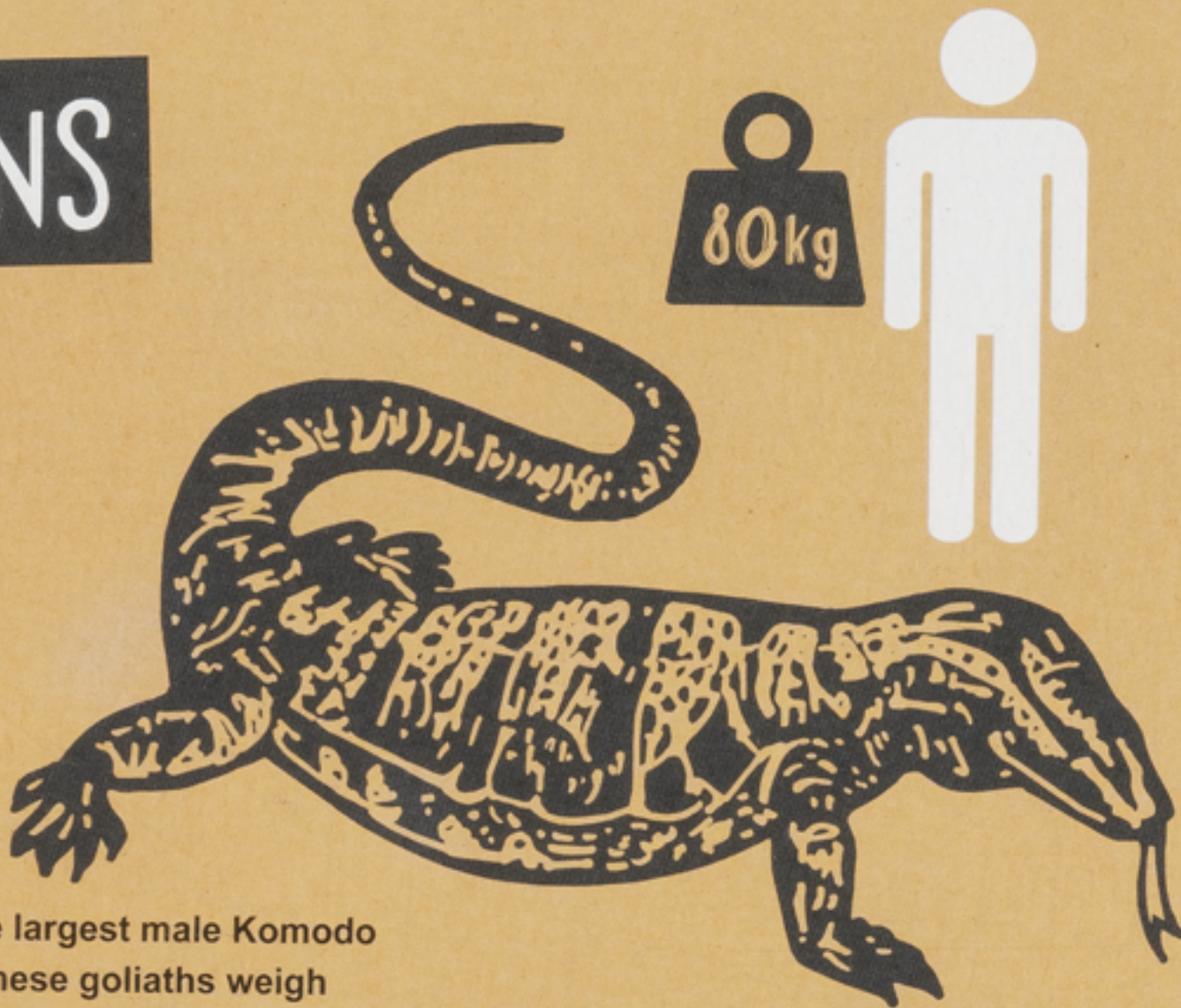
## CHRISTMAS PARTY FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER

Enjoy an evening of games, disco music, and a great hot dog and beef burger supper. You will need to bring along a cushion to sit on – and a torch to find us!

**The venue will be June's Food Court. Access can be gained through the main entrance. Parents should arrange to collect you from the main entrance at 9.45pm.**

# KOMODO DRAGONS

They are  
**HUGE!**



Male Komodo dragons can be very large. The largest male Komodo dragon was around three metres in length. These goliaths weigh around 80kg, which is about the same as an adult human!

They've got a  
great **APPETITE!**

Komodo dragons are without a doubt the top predators on the Indonesian islands where they live. They don't need to feed as often as us but, when they do, they certainly fill themselves up. A Komodo dragon can eat as much as 80% of its body weight in just half an hour. That's the equivalent of you putting away a plate of 580 quarter-pounder beef burgers in one sitting!



## Komodo Dragon Quiz

Guess Who? at Chester Zoo is the popular guessing game which has been given a twist.

If you'd like to be in with a chance of winning this game, send your entry together with contact details to:

Z magazine, PR Department, Chester Zoo,  
Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH by  
Monday 3 April.

Congratulations to our previous winner  
Veronica Collins from Chester

- WIN**
- 1 How many teeth does a Komodo dragon have?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 2 What gives a Komodo dragon their fantastic sense of smell?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 3 Where do Komodo dragons live here at the zoo?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 4 How many Komodo dragons do we have here at Chester Zoo and can you name them?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Answers to the Humboldt penguin quiz from the last issue. 1. 17. 2. The coast of Chile and Peru in South America. 3. Colony 4. Emperor 5. No

# KOMODO DRAGON FACTS

- Komodo dragons are the world's largest lizard!
- They use their forked tongues to smell and taste the air to search for food, meaning they can track their prey from up to 8km away!
- Komodo dragons have 60 very sharp serrated teeth inside their mouth. These teeth give the dragons an unenviable bite amongst reptiles, allowing them to slice off large chunks of meat to swallow.
- They have a lethal cocktail of bacteria and venom inside their mouths which give them a very deadly bite.

## So why are THEY called DRAGONS?

There have been many myths and legends surrounding these great lizards it's believed they got their name due to their yellow forked tongue, foul smelling breath and the belief that they could breathe fire - although nobody has ever seen this!



# SEEING DOUBLE!



Say aww to **AA YU**

Introducing **INDALI**



# Meet the marvellous new additions to our Hi Way family of Asian elephants, born within a month of each other.



In late 2016 a beautiful female elephant calf was born to mum Sundara after a 22-month gestation. The youngster, named Indali, was welcomed by the rest of the elephant herd, including one-year-old half-sister Nandita who witnessed a birth for the very first time.

Just four weeks later, the herd came together again to experience yet another birth, as 19-year-old Sithami delivered a healthy male calf, following a labour lasting just 20 minutes. The honour of naming the calf was handed over to our visitors and, after 7,000 votes were cast on social media, the name Aayu was chosen.

**Andy Mckenzie, elephant team manager, said:**

"To have two births in the space of just one month was fantastic news for the Hi Way family. Elephants are hugely sociable and family-orientated animals, so the arrivals are a huge boost to the group.

"It's great for Indali and Aayu to have each other as playmates, not to mention one-year-old Nandita who we're sure will enjoy pushing the youngsters around for a while!

"Equally, these two are a magnificent addition to the conservation breeding programme."

Asian elephants are listed on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN's) Red List as endangered in the wild. They are threatened by habitat loss, poaching, disease and human-wildlife conflict.

**Mike Jordan, collections director, added:**

"In India, Asian elephants are regularly injured and killed in conflicts with humans. They wander into villages, destroying crops and property as they go and this often results in forceful retaliation by villagers. Our conservation work in Assam in northern India is, however, successfully helping to mitigate these problems, finding effective ways for people and wild elephants to live side-by-side. We hope that our two tiny arrivals can help raise more awareness of Asian elephants and the threats they are facing in the wild."

# THE LITTLE ANTELOPE MAKING A BIG IMPRESSION!



Our keepers have stepped in to raise a young antelope. This special new arrival – a tiny Kirk's dik-dik – is being hand reared by zoo staff.

The little antelope is being fed five times a day following the sad death of his mum, who passed away not long after giving birth.

The 19-centimetre tall youngster will be given a helping hand until he is old enough to eat by himself.

Assistant team manager Kim Wood and keeper Barbara Dreyer have both been playing 'mum' to the new arrival.

Kim said:

"The youngster is beginning to find his feet now and is really starting to hold his own. He is doing ever so well and is getting stronger by the day. We're hopeful that, in a few months time, we'll be able to introduce him to some of the other members of our group of dik-diks.

"He may be tiny but he is certainly making a big impression on everyone at the zoo."

Kirk's dik-diks grow to a maximum size of just 40cm, making them one of the smallest species of antelope in the world.

The species takes its name from Sir John Kirk, a 19th century Scottish naturalist, as well as the sound it makes when fleeing from danger.

Kirk's dik-diks are native to Kenya, Tanzania and Namibia and conservationists say they mark their territory with fluid from a gland just under their eyes, not dissimilar to tears.



# GROWING YOUR ZOO

We would like to share with you our vision to enhance our position as one of the world's best conservation, animal and visitor attractions.

Building on the success of the ground-breaking *Islands* development, recreating the habitats of South East Asia, much of the rest of the zoo will be sensitively transformed as part of a 15 year strategic development plan to create habitat themed environmental zones.

From immersive forests to expansive grasslands, these zones will reflect our zoo's vital conservation work in the field worldwide.

The improvements will continue to allow us to develop the vision of our founder George Mottershead by embodying his "always building" philosophy.

The development will provide significant economic, social and environmental benefits not only for Chester but at a regional, national and global level.

By 2030, the zoo has the potential to attract 2.5 million visitors per year, allowing us to deliver even more in terms of global conservation, education and science as well as making an even greater contribution to the regional economy, employment and training.

We'll be sure to keep you informed on the new animal habitats over the coming months... watch this space!

Dr Mark Pilgrim, chief executive officer (CEO), said:

"Chester Zoo is internationally recognised as a leading centre for animal conservation, education and science. It is already the UK's premier wildlife attraction, welcoming almost 1.9 million visitors a year.

"Our vision is to evolve the zoo from a national success story into a truly world-class showcase for the wonderful, yet often threatened wildlife and fantastic, but fragile habitats on Earth.

"It will be a beacon of excellence – creating an internationally renowned centre of the highest quality, providing a wide range of employment, education and economic benefits. At the same time the development will inspire millions to appreciate and treasure the rich and remarkable biodiversity of our planet."

# PLAY!

at CHESTER ZOO



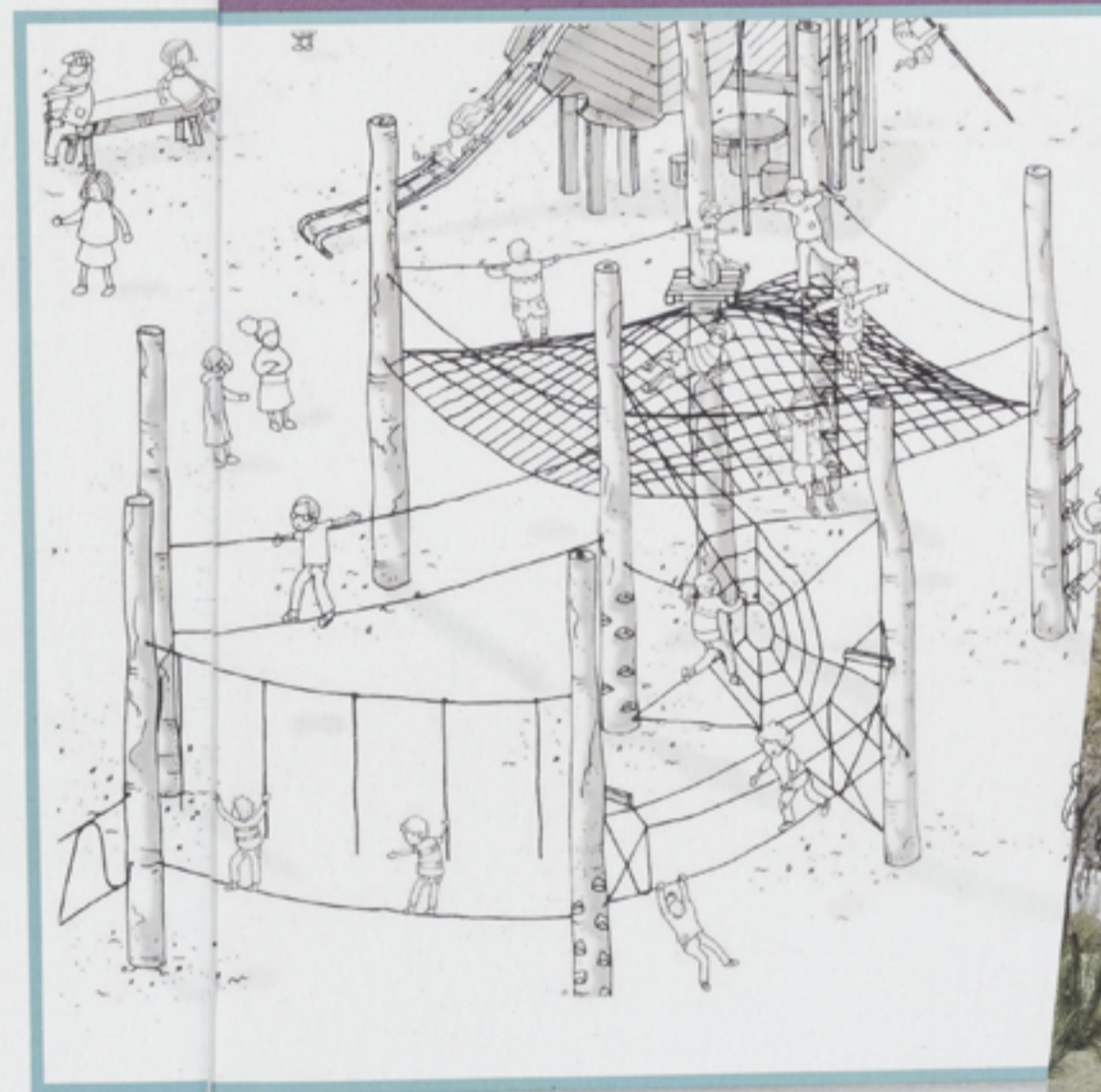
Where in the zoo will the PLAY! habitats be?

## Can you remember visiting Chester Zoo as a child?

Maybe you stomped around pretending to be a lion deep in the Indian jungle with your friends or played hide and seek in Oakfield gardens with your family. The zoo has always been the backdrop for many cherished lifetime memories. This is where the idea behind our new campaign PLAY! came from. Our head of discovery and learning, Charlotte Smith explains...

## What is PLAY?

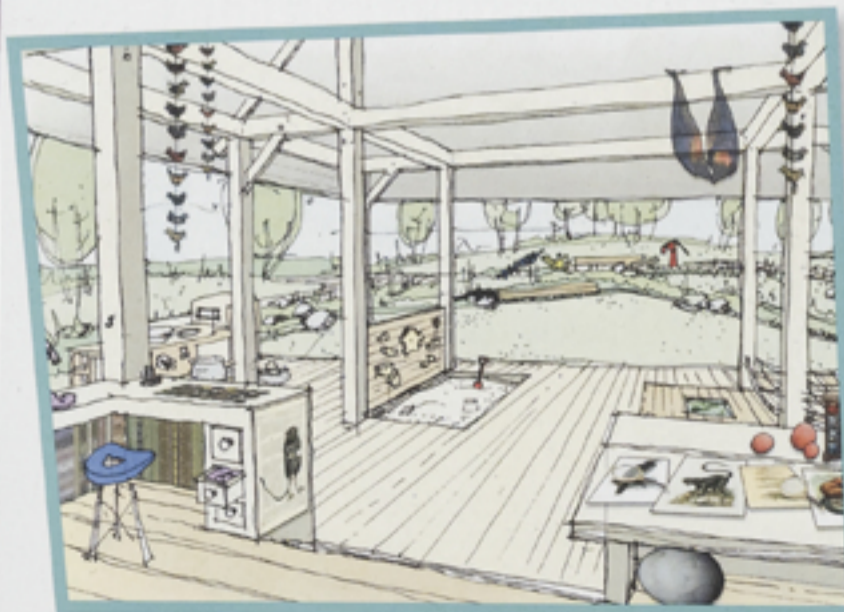
"Imagine a world where you can climb into tree top hideaways, crawl through your favourite animal habitats and let your imagination run wild. PLAY! is our new education campaign that's all about giving our visitors the opportunity to create special memories around the zoo. We've been working closely with a range of specialists, thinking about how people use Chester Zoo to play. They've devised a range of exciting, fun ideas that will enhance the play experience around the zoo for children and adults alike."



There will be lots fun things dotted around the zoo but the pinnacle of PLAY! will be an area outside Dragons in Danger inspired by one of our conservation hotspots, Madagascar. At the heart of this new habitat will be a tree native to Madagascar: the majestic and iconic baobab tree. Visitors will be encouraged to climb it, take in the view and then slide down the other side into a world of PLAY! Families will become explorers at base camp with opportunities to scramble on nets, climb up trees and find little wildlife surprises. The new PLAY! habitat will also incorporate grassed areas, picnic spots for visitors to enjoy and a storytelling and performance space – all reflecting our global efforts to protect habitats for endangered species.

## Where did the idea come from?

"We know that the zoo has been the backdrop of fun memories for generations and we wanted to build on this and encourage families to have fun together. We've created a range of activities that are not just aimed at children, it's all about families playing and having fun together. We hope these areas will inspire visitors to let their imagination wander and enjoy giggles, laughter and fun. The Zoo is a charity with both a conservation and an education remit – so we want to connect visitors of all ages in an engaging way with the habitats we work in around the world"



PLAY! will open in summer.  
Look out for more information in the next edition of Z

# THE SECRET LIFE OF THE ZOO

The new series of the popular Channel 4 series is back on our screens this spring. This series has more episodes than ever before and follows the lives of many of the wonderful species that live in the zoo. You'll see relationships blossoming, families changing and lots of new arrivals.



So how do you make a popular Channel 4 series based around animals? We caught up with Alistair Pegg, head of factual at Blast! Films, the production company behind the hit show, to explain.

"Making 13 programmes about the lives of the Chester Zoo residents has been delightful. It's taken a battalion of over 40 people from hard-working runners, directors and camerapeople in Chester to squadrons of editors in London. I've been at the helm trying to make sure that everything runs as smoothly as possible."

## Planning

"As soon as the last episode of series one had aired we knew that there was a possibility of a second series. We had not long left the zoo when we sent a small research team back up to Chester to start speaking to the knowledgeable animal teams about the many species in their care. Once we knew how many programmes we could make we took our proposal to Channel 4 and Chester Zoo and once everybody agreed the series was green-lit.



## Filming

"In May we brought in a crew of 12 staff to start capturing stories on camera. As we'd already filmed one series we knew the feel of the programme and how many stories we needed for each episode. We knew we needed at least 52 stories but we ended up filming more than 60! We had four research teams allocated to animal teams finding and filming the stories. We also had a director of photography, responsible for filming specialist wildlife footage. He was in charge of the visual style and feel of the series. He managed to film everything from tiny battling rhino beetles to the play behaviour of baby elephants. Other directors shot extraordinary moments ranging from an endoscopy on an anteater to the moment a baby silvery gibbon let go of mum, fifty feet up. We also had a story producer compiling the stories and a series producer on site who ran the team on the ground.

## The rig

"As well as the crew on the ground using hand-held cameras, we also used 'rig cameras'. These are very high-end versions of CCTV cameras which allow us to capture those 'secret life of the zoo moments' when no-one is looking! These cameras were placed inside specific habitats to capture intimate footage. The cameras were fitted by specialist riggers and then operated remotely from a rig van outside - this gave the crew lots of time to film animal behaviour.

## Post production

"In September the second series started to be cut in the edit. Filming continued in Chester while a separate team starting putting the programme together in London. The stories for each episode are compiled by our brilliant series producer and series editor. Story outlines and all the footage are given to an edit producer -



it's their job to build the programme, alongside an editor. For seven weeks the editor puts the programme together while the edit producer shapes the stories and writes the commentary. They work together in a cutting room in Soho, turning hundreds of hours of raw animal footage and interviews with keepers into four or five separate stories for each programme.

Once they have a programme they are happy with, lots of people then view it, including myself and the commissioning editor of Channel 4. During this period, changes are made to make the programme as entertaining and informative as possible.

### The voiceover

"Once the programme has been signed off and the script is finalised we get the wonderful, award-winning British actress, Olivia Coleman to record the voiceover. Olivia often records two programmes in one day; she sits in a sound booth watching the programme while reading the scripts. Once the voiceover has been laid on the programme there are just a few final tweaks made and then we deliver the programme to Channel 4 to be broadcast."



**SERIES THREE OF THE SECRET LIFE OF THE ZOO IS ON CHANNEL 4, EVERY TUESDAY UNTIL MID APRIL.**

# FUNDRAISING NEWS

## CELEBRATING YOUR SUPPORT



We believe that every single one of us can make a huge difference in protecting the incredible and precious wildlife around us. Here's an update on some of the recent projects you've helped us with.

### SAVING TURTLES WITH YOUR SUPPORT

At the end of 2015 we launched an urgent appeal when 3,500 live Palawan forest turtles had fallen victim to the illegal wildlife trade and were destined to be sold in China. Thanks to your support, we managed to raise over £1,000 to rescue the turtles. Our partners in the Philippines worked extremely hard and we are happy to report that 89% of the turtles were saved and have now been reintroduced into the wild. Thank you!

A photograph of a young elephant standing in a zoo enclosure. The elephant is facing forward, and its trunk is slightly curled. The background shows a wooden fence and some rocks.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET  
NOW'S THE TIME TO ACT FOR ELEPHANTS

ONLY  
1 IN 5  
ELEPHANTS WITH  
EEHV WILL SURVIVE

ACT FOR  
WILDLIFE

LED BY CHESTER ZOO

# HOW FAR WILL YOU GO TO HELP

## ENDANGERED WILDLIFE?

Last year more than fifty wonderful people joined Team Act for Wildlife and raised a fantastic £15,300 by taking on a challenge for conservation. This year join us at one of the following events or pick your own walk, run, cycle or swim for wildlife. Every penny you raise will go directly to wildlife conservation. Find the event for you and do something amazing for wildlife: [www.actforwildlife.org.uk/challenge](http://www.actforwildlife.org.uk/challenge)

21 May

### CHESTER HALF MARATHON

Zoo staff will be running for wildlife!

18 June

### WIRRAL COASTAL WALK

A dog friendly event!

30 July

### RIDELONDON-SURREY 100 MILE CYCLE

Experience the UK's largest cycling festival with a charity place!



## RAISING £100,000 FOR NEVER FORGET WITH YOUR SUPPORT

This time last year we launched our Never Forget campaign after we tragically lost two elephant calves to a deadly disease that currently has no vaccine or cure. Elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus (EEHV) is a terrible virus which kills young elephants in the wild and in zoos around the world. We've been overwhelmed by your support; to date you have helped us to raise £100,000! Your kind donations and fundraising activities have made a huge difference. **By making a donation or by fundraising, you can help us keep this vital research going and enable us to carry out more research in the wild.**

### FUNDRAISE

100% of the funds you raise for Never Forget will go towards the fight to protect young elephants from EEHV. To get involved, visit [www.chesterzoo.org/NeverForget](http://www.chesterzoo.org/NeverForget)



### DONATE

Every penny helps towards finding a cure for this deadly disease.

- Donate online [chesterzoo.org/NeverForget](http://chesterzoo.org/NeverForget)
- Text BALA93 £5 to 70070 to give £5
- Send a cheque made payable to Chester Zoo to: Never Forget, Development Office, Chester Zoo, Caughall Road, Chester CH2 1LH
- Call 01244 650229 to donate by credit or debit card over the phone (weekdays only)
- Cash donations: Pop into guest services or memberships & adoptions when you're next at the zoo

To see how your support is making a difference visit [www.actforwildlife.org.uk](http://www.actforwildlife.org.uk)

# Talking Conservation...

2017 SPRING PROGRAMME

Want to know more about the work your membership supports, both here in the zoo and around the world? Join us for one of these special talks!



©TRAFFIC



Thursday 20 April

## EXPEDITION ECUADOR 2017

In January we ran our fourth annual conservation expedition. A team of 12 members of staff, led by our chief executive officer, Dr Mark Pilgrim, travelled to Ecuador to assist with our ongoing project researching and monitoring the endangered Ecuador Amazon parrot. Threatened by habitat loss and poaching, this species is in great need of our support.

Join us to hear all about how the team got on.

Thursday 23 March

## THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

Every day 96 elephants are killed for their ivory tusks, three rhinos are murdered for their horns and 14,000 bears are kept in terrible conditions to be farmed for their bile. This year we're campaigning against the illegal wildlife trade. Join us to find out how you can help.



Tuesday 23 May

## BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE SECRET LIFE OF THE ZOO

We'll show you how the seed of an idea for a programme about the zoo became the popular hit Channel 4 documentary. With outtakes, live keeper interviews and a behind the scenes look at where the show was put together, we'll give you an insight into the world of television.

Interested in attending?

Please call Kate in education on 01244 389831 or email [k.brarkin@chesterzoo.org](mailto:k.brarkin@chesterzoo.org)  
Booking essential.

## MEMBERS' TALKS:

held in the Geraldine Russell Lecture Theatre (near the zoo's main entrance off the A41), start at 7.30pm and:

- Are free to members (please bring your membership card and welcome letter)
- We offer a special rate of £2 to adopters
- Members of the public and guests are welcome (£3.50 for non-members)
- Our Lecture Theatre seats up to 160
- Refreshments will be served which will give you the opportunity to have an informal chat with speakers, zoo staff and fellow members.

## AMAZING ADOPTERS & MARVELLOUS MEMBERS' PRIZE DRAW!

To say **THANK YOU** for your valued support during 2016 all current members and adopters will automatically be entered into a quarterly prize draw to win an adoption! Our two previous winners were adopter Mr John Lorriman and member Mrs Beryl Lyon.

PRIZE DRAW



# HOW TO TRAIN A DRAGON

We have five Komodo dragons here at the zoo. These are the world's largest lizards, can weigh up to 80kg and, with a venomous bite, can be deadly when fully grown. So what do you do when a Komodo dragon outgrows its zoo habitat?

**Well, as reptile keeper Isolde explains, you sometimes have to find very unusual and inventive means to get them from A to B...**

"I've been working with Komodo dragons since I was 18 (whisper it quietly I'm now in my 50s) and I love them. They are intelligent; they're able to recognise individuals and they're capable of doing tasks above and beyond the capacity of any other reptile. They really are a joy to work with.

"We have three sisters that live together, Sahti who is aloof and stand-offish and Lara and Mia who each have an incessant curiosity to know what is going on all the time.

"The sisters have always lived together but it was getting to the point where they had grown to a size where they needed a new habitat within the zoo. We had originally planned to move them to a new area in our Dragons in Danger building by carrying them but

I thought I'd try training them to wear a harness to make the short move as smooth and as stress-free as possible. Dragons are very clever indeed and the whole process of getting them used to a harness only took around three weeks. It was a case of spending time with each dragon, a few times each week, slowly getting them accustomed to wearing the gear before taking on them short walks, building up the distances covered ever so gradually.

"Come the day of the move, they each knew exactly what was going on and it worked perfectly. I must admit though, we did get some funny looks from other keepers on other sections as they watched us nonchalantly walk the dragons along the pathways in the building!

"Taking the time to build up to the move was very much worth it and it's great to now see the dragons happy and settled in their new home."

As well as working with the species in Chester, the zoo also supports conservation work with Komodo dragons on Flores, one of the Indonesian isles where the animals live.

The project helps educate people about the importance of dragons, monitors dragon numbers, sets up warden patrols and protects the local environment which is home to a wealth of animal and plant life.

We are also helping to collect data on the dragons which will be used to create a long-term conservation action plan for the species across the whole of Indonesia. So far, part of this work has already identified two new populations of Komodo dragons on a small island off Flores called Longos.



## NEW FOR 2017! WELCOME TO OUR LITTLE MONKEYS

Over the last few years those members who visit with young children have told us they'd love more information about how they can get their membership.

So, we've introduced our Little Monkey's scheme. Any Little Monkey aged under 3 that visits with a member will receive their very own admission card.

We'll then provide regular updates about special events, activities and offers designed specifically for pre-school families.



Membership for Little Monkeys is free. We'll simply scan your card at the admission lanes and you won't need to be issued with an under 3's ticket for your little one at the admission gates.

**Charlotte Smith, our head of discovery and learning, said:**

"The zoo is a really special place for parents and their little ones. As a parent I love getting inspiration about ways spend quality time with him and like the opportunity to meet up with other parents with children of a similar age.

"Our learning team are working on some really lovely activities designed specifically for pre-school children and the Little Monkey's scheme will enable us to get the right information to parents about how to get the most of out of their membership."

To sign your little one up to the Little Monkey's scheme just pop in to the membership office on your next visit. We'll take the name and age of your baby or toddler and you'll be issued with a card. We won't take a photo and we'll only ever contact you by email or the postal address you've added to your membership.

## NEW IN THE SHOP



### CHARLIE BEAR HARI

Charlie Bears join the fight to help us Never Forget. Over the last year our Never Forget campaign has raised £100,000 to fund research into a cure for a disease, EEHV, which is threatening Asian elephants in the wild and in zoos around the world.

The support we've seen for our Never Forget campaign has been overwhelming, and the latest company to sign up to support is Charlie Bears. Having seen the tragic effects EEHV has on young elephants, Charlie and Will Morris, the creators of the Charlie Bears range of luxury teddies, have launched a beautiful tribute to the much-missed Hari, who passed away here at Chester Zoo in 2015. Every penny of profit from sales of Hari will go straight towards our Never Forget campaign. We're so grateful to have this extra boost to fund our research! **Hari Hi Way is available from our Gift Shop for £50.**



### TOP TRUMPS

Top Trumps is the classic card game of play and discovery. Now we have our very own official Chester Zoo pack featuring your favourite animals!

Since its creation over 35 years ago Top Trumps has been a favourite of children and parents alike, bringing to life a world full of fun facts and amazing characters. Play against friends and find out who is the ultimate Chester Zoo Top Trump champion. Also make sure to look out for the free Super Top Trumps card that will be popping up on till points on the shops, kiosks and restaurants available inside the zoo to add even more animals to your pack. **Top Trumps is stocked in all the zoo gift shops and is priced at £5.99.**

# MEET DIEGO JUNIOR

## OUR NEW ENDANGERED GIANT OTTER



Three-year-old Diego Junior has moved from Bioparc Zoo de Doué-la-Fontaine in France after being chosen as the perfect genetic match for one of our residents, Icana.

Giant otters are endangered, with around 5,000 estimated to remain in their native South America. They are already feared the actual number could be as low as just 1,000 individuals and they are already extinct in Uruguay and Argentina.

Conservationists say the decline in numbers is a result of massive habitat destruction, water pollution and illegal poaching in their native South America, making the breeding programme vitally important to the future of the species. It is hoped Diego Junior will mate successfully with Icana.

**Tim Rowlands, curator of mammals, said signs were already looking positive:**

“Diego Junior has settled in very, very quickly and he and Icana have already hit it off. We hope they’ll produce pups in the future.

“Giant otters are sadly facing a huge struggle for survival. Not only do we hope they will breed here, helping boost the ever dwindling population of giant otters, we hope that by working closely with the species here we’ll learn new information about the animals. We can then relay that information to our conservation partners in the wild and that could be key in terms of us helping to ensure their long term survival.”

## CHESTER ZOO “100 CLUB”

### WINNERS OF THE RECENT PRIZE DRAWS WERE:

#### OCTOBER 2016

£100 Mrs Patricia Cade, Ellesmere Port  
£100 Mrs Pamela Cate, Mobberley  
£100 Mr Alan Matear, Workington  
£50 Mrs Ruth Gerrard, Chester  
£50 Mrs Krystyna Bradshaw, Lancaster  
£50 Mrs Barbara Jarvis-Watson, Welshpool  
£50 Mrs Nicola Flanagan, Wirral

#### NOVEMBER 2016

£100 Miss Jennifer Worrall, Warrington  
£100 Dr James Seddon, Denbigh  
£100 Mrs Olive D Murtagh, Wilmslow  
£50 Mr Tony Williams, Winsford  
£50 Mr Tom Evered, Birkenhead  
£50 Mr Antony Sykes, Huddersfield  
£50 Mrs Rosemary Anne Larcombe, Telford

#### DECEMBER 2016

£1000 Mrs Jane Spencer, Mollington  
£100 Mrs Elanor Jane Harris, Chester  
£50 Miss Jenny Saxty, Manchester  
£50 Miss Paula Fitzsimmons, Broughton  
£50 Miss Lynne Norton, Northwich  
£50 Mrs Annalisa Jackson, Macclesfield

Membership of the 100 Club is still invited. All prize winners will be notified by post and will be listed in the next edition of Z. Please inform us as soon as possible if you change address. If you wish to participate, please contact the development office on 01244 650 229 to request a standing order form.

OUR SUNBEAR AND  
BINTURONG HABITAT  
OPENS ON ISLANDS THIS SUMMER



FIND OUT MORE IN THE  
NEXT EDITION...

OUT IN JUNE

Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH  
Tel: 01244 380280  
Fax: 01244 371273  
Email: [info@chesterzoo.org](mailto:info@chesterzoo.org)  
[www.chesterzoo.org](http://www.chesterzoo.org)

Founded in 1934, the North of England Zoological Society is a registered charity. We need your help and support to raise funds for the care and conservation of rare and endangered animals both in the zoo and across the world.

Registered charity no. 306077

## ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY?

As part of our commitment to the environment, we're giving you the chance to receive Z electronically. Swapping over is really easy. Simply contact the membership office on 01244 650208 or email [membership@chesterzoo.org](mailto:membership@chesterzoo.org) with the email address you would like the link sending to – BUT DON'T FORGET to include your membership number or postcode so we can find you. *You'll still receive the magazine by post if you don't wish to receive it electronically.*