

Zoo life

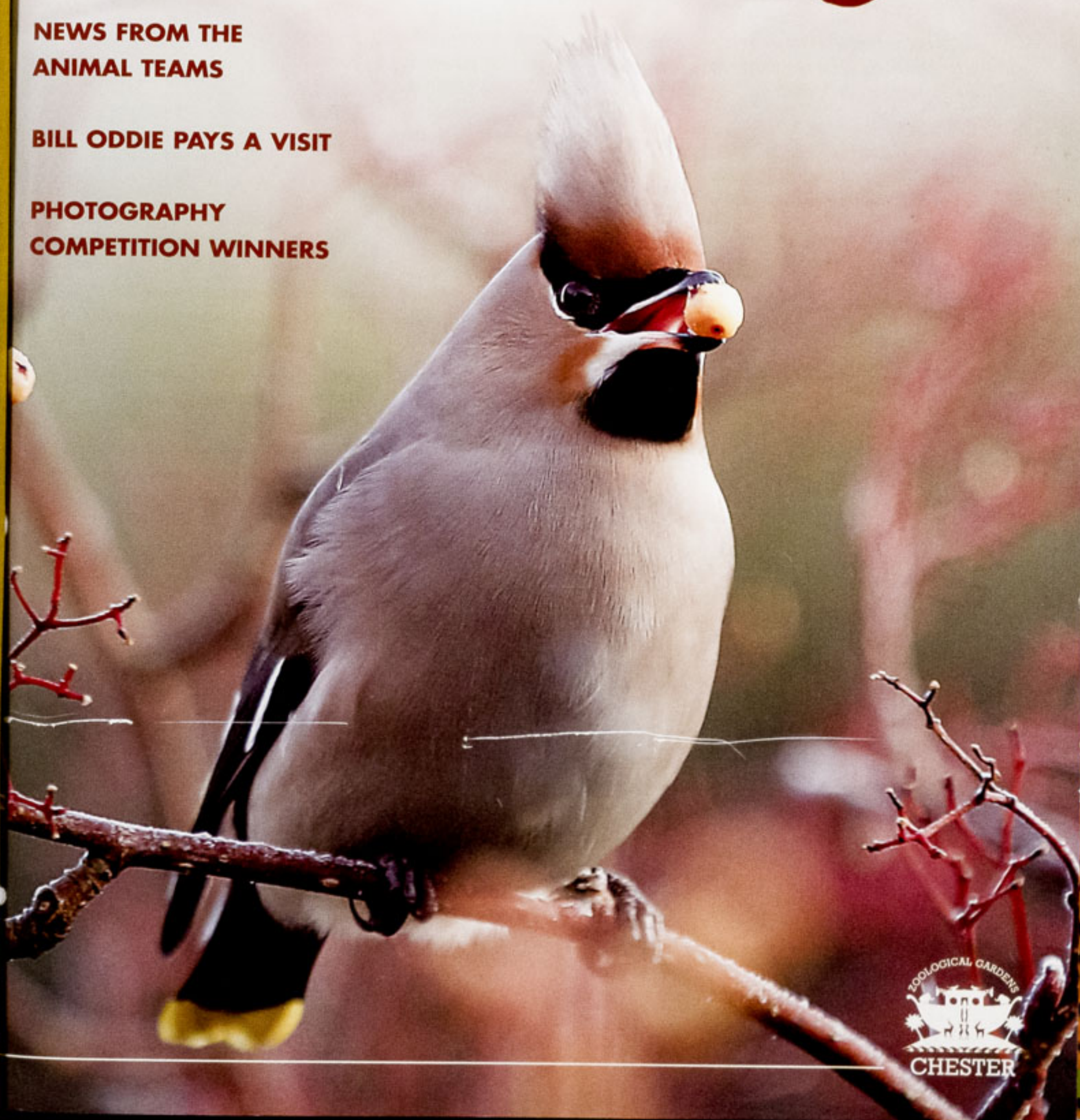
SUMMER 2005 - ISSUE 22

CHESTER ZOO'S MAGAZINE FOR MEMBERS AND ADOPTERS

**NEWS FROM THE
ANIMAL TEAMS**

BILL ODDIE PAYS A VISIT

**PHOTOGRAPHY
COMPETITION WINNERS**



ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS
CHESTER



Director's Pen

By Zoo Director Gordon McGregor Reid

Welcome to the summer issue of *Zoo Life*.

The year is flying by already and a lot has happened since I wrote the *Director's Pen* for spring!

By the time you read this, the summer season will be almost upon us and we are keeping our fingers crossed for warm weather.

We have had a very successful start to the year so far and a highlight for me has been winning the best family visitor attraction award from *Tommy's*, the baby charity.

Our Head of Visitor Services, Liz Child and Assistant Development Manager Lynsey Jones picked up the award on

behalf of the Zoo at a star-studded ceremony at London's Claridges Hotel. What makes this award so special is that it is voted for by parents and parents-to-be, so if you are among the voters then I would like to say a really big thank you on behalf of us all here (for more on this story see page 23).

Those of you who are regular visitors to the Zoo or are coming for the first time will have noticed a lot of building activity at the main entrance.

Building work moves at a pace with the plans for the new elephant breeding facility and we are on target to finish this year.

Many of you will have given your support to our *Asian Elephant Appeal*, the funds from which are making this project possible and I am sure, like me, you are looking forward to the day later this year when the new-look development opens its doors.

We are also forging ahead with our plans for the new Orang-utan build, the *Realm of the Red Ape*, which will be the biggest project in the Zoo's history.

We are very fortunate that support for this project has reached Parliament with Chester MP Christine Russell and Alyn and Deeside MP Mark Tami bringing it to the attention of their colleagues in Westminster back in March.

We are grateful to them for their help in raising awareness of the Zoo at such a high level.

We have also been busy publicising the Zoo and were glad to play host to TV personality Bill Oddie who spent two days



Hosting the annual Mayoral visit in April

filming here for his BBC *Springwatch* programme. He was filming our Harvest Mouse Project and also kindly opened our new wildlife garden. You can read more about Bill's visit on pages 8 and 9.

Our Rhino weekend, held once again together with



The opening of the Wildlife Garden

Chester's radio station *Dee 106.3*, was also a success with a live broadcast. Hopefully this will drum up support for Rhino team leader Chas Mackenzie and Rhino keeper Rosie Scott who will be trekking in Namibia later this month to raise funds for *Save the Rhino International*. We wish them well with their venture as it will be a tough journey!

If you are visiting the Zoo for the first time you may like

to take advantage of our new wristbands for children. These enable you to write your mobile number on them and then, should you unfortunately become separated from your child, a member of staff can ring you and let you know they are safe and well.

It's all part and parcel of ensuring you have a safe and stress-free day the next time you come to visit - we look forward to seeing you and wish you all a happy summertime!

Gordon McGregor Reid



Penny Rudd assists Bill Oddie with the Harvest Mouse filming



Cover image: David Tolldoy

Prickly problem is great for Rhinos!

Holiday haven and park rangers find solution

Besides its glorious sandy beaches and beautiful scenery, the North Wales coastline is famous for its wide range of wildlife - from Seals and Puffins to Natterjack Toads, Buzzards in the mountains and Wales's only nesting colony of Little Terns.

Some say they have even seen the odd dragon if the myths are to be believed. But few have associated the area with Rhinos before.

At least not until now. Because countryside managers and holidaymakers at Haven Holidays' Presthaven Sands Park at Prestatyn are doing their best to supply regular Rhino treats and at the same time solve a prickly problem!



The conservationists are collecting a type of thorn that grows on the sand dunes at Gronant near the estuary of the Dee and have arranged for it to be sent to the Zoo where it provides a much-appreciated 'titbit' for the Zoo's seven endangered Black Rhinos.

The idea was the brainchild of Alex Lister, a Flintshire Countryside Service ranger at Gronant Dunes. He got in contact with the Zoo as he pondered how to tackle the problem of Sea Buckthorn at the Gronant Dunes.

The plant was introduced in the 1950s from the east coast of Britain as a way of holding the sand dunes together. Since then it has flourished but to the point that it is threatening to stop the natural process of sand dune movement.

Mr Lister said: "I had heard that the Flintshire Countryside Service had done things like this in the past with other types of foliage so I wondered if the sea buckthorn would be of use to the Zoo."

Zoo Nutritionist, Dr. Andrea Fidgett said: "Rhinos have a tough upper lip designed to cope with foraging on thorny bushes. Sea Buckthorn is ideal for them as an addition to their normal diet. The young ones also like to play with it and sometimes hide behind it as they can be quite shy."

The Zoo's Animal Supplies team enjoyed some television coverage when they went along to collect the latest supply of Sea Buckthorn and they are now making regular trips to collect supplies which are going down a treat with the Rhinos!



Zoo life

A burst of breeding activity

These are exciting times!

News from the Bird Team by Team Leader Wayne McLeod

With spring here it's full steam ahead for the Bird Team. The first eggs of the year have arrived at our newly equipped Incubation and Rearing Centre. These include Red Billed Curassow, White-headed Duck, White-naped Pheasant Pigeon and European Black Vulture all of which are species under threat from various regions of the world.

We also have four lovely Hawaiian Goose goslings with their parents, the first time this species of waterfowl has bred here since 1996.

Moving inside, there has been a sudden burst of breeding activity

with Pekin Robins, White-collared Kingfishers, Malay Crestless Fireback Pheasant (*a vulnerable species which currently numbers less than 100 in captivity*), and Roul-roul Partridge, all of which are either incubating eggs or rearing chicks.

Our Tropic Hornbills are also incubating eggs at the time of writing; these can be viewed in their nest box on a monitor next to the Great Indian Hornbill Statue in the *Tropical Realm*. This gives visitors a new perspective of our animals that would not normally be on view. Four other Hornbill species are also shown on the same monitor, so it is a case of 'watch this space!'

Outside again, and the recent, heavy rain may have meant bad news for our visitors, but our Flamingo colonies have taken full advantage of the damp conditions and are busy constructing nests from the available mud. Flamingo species tend to lay only one egg each year, so because of this we give them a little help. Their egg is removed to our Incubation Centre and is replaced by a

wooden 'dummy' egg. This gives us the opportunity to keep an eye on the developing embryo and, when it is close to hatching, we put the real egg back with its parents to be reared.

Of course, all of this would not be possible without the continuing support of our visitors, members and adopters, helping us to make a real difference through our conservation work.



Third Calf for Bongo, Ndara

Round up from one of our most diverse sections

News from the Carnivore Team by Team Leader Alan Woodward

In terms of the range of species, the Carnivore Team must be one of the most diverse sections in the Zoo, containing many other species that are not carnivores!

The area is made up of the Sealions, Bongo, Asiatic Lions, Amur Tiger, Small-clawed Otters, Double-wattled Cassowary, Pudu, Kangaroos, Bush Dogs and the domestic animal area.

Our male Bongo calf *Mokindu* is now over a year old and his mother *Ndara* gave birth to her third calf in May. The Bongo now are up to six individuals *Narok* the Bull, *Ndara* and *Kisumu*, the adult cows, were both born here and *Nibbles* the youngest female came from London, with *Mokindu* being our youngest male.



The Otter group has expanded again – we are now up to 12 animals. Hopefully in the not too distant future we will have a larger enclosure to accommodate these animals. This group is extremely popular as there is now so much interaction going on.

Our female Red Panda, *Lushan*, departed to be with a male at Colchester Zoo and we welcomed a new male from Dortmund called *Pali*. *Pali* and *Lushui* hit it off straight away so we hope to have youngsters this summer.

The Red Pandas are in quarantine until September due to the importation of the male.

The Bush Dogs have changed enclosures recently and the group has settled in well.

The new area provides a lot more stimulation for them. Each of the dens can be monitored by C.C.T.V so future births can be recorded no matter which dens are used.

The Kangaroos have two new joeys in their pouches, these usually breed every year. We have nine animals

in this area and because of their uniqueness they are extremely popular.

The Lion on-show den will be started this autumn, making our Lions more visible to the public when they are inside. This house should be finished for early 2006.

Korda, our male Tiger, still enjoys the added vista from the top of his viewing platform. Despite his age he still frequently climbs to the top. A generous donation from Asda has helped us enhance his enclosure and will eventually also fund a viewing window.

Another part of the donation will fund Tiger a project in the wild where it is desperately needed.

The Sealions are still undergoing their daily medical training routines, *Fergie* who was born here 19 years ago is still learning the basics but with perseverance I'm sure she can make it up to the same stage as the others eventually. This training enables closer contact with the Sealions and gives them stimulus in their daily routine.

The latest new arrival is a male Cassowary from Poland. He will stay next to the female before we try and introduce them in the next few weeks. Hopefully this species will breed in the not too distant future.

Bats 'n' Cats

Some new arrivals here too!

News from the Twilight Team by Team Leader Paul Howse

At the time of writing a Rodrigues Fruit Bat has just been born. We don't know whether to think pink or blue at this stage, it's just a small furry lump in mum's wingpit. They have a long gestation and are well developed at birth. They must be able to hang on tight as mum can't hold baby and fly at the same time. That makes a total of 29 males, 28 females and one 'don't know', (58 in all).

All the bats are doing well in the *Twilight Zone*, (10.68 tonnes of fruit was put out for them in 2004!). The Sebas Bat colony is not far short of 300. How do you count them I hear you cry!

The *Twilight Zone* is on a reversed light regime. This means that

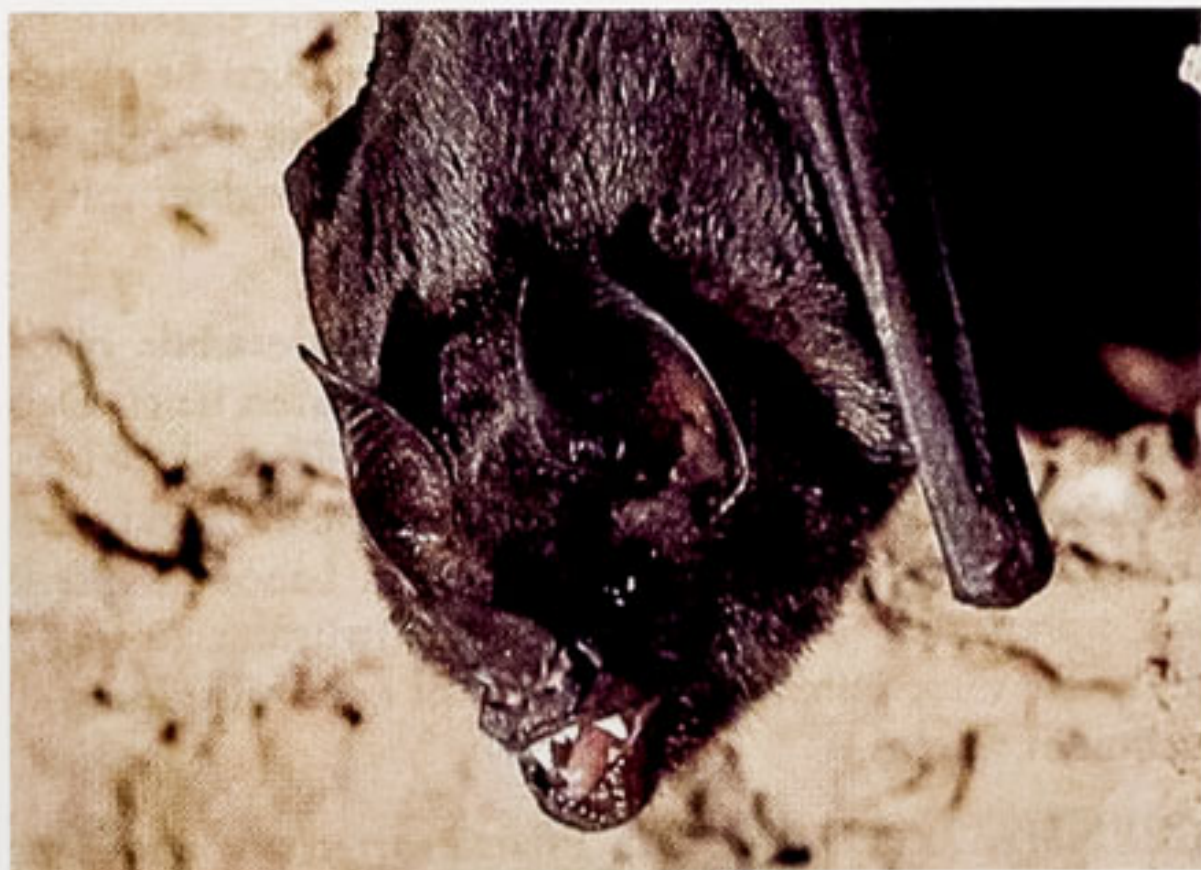


during our night time it's bright sunshine in there. The Sebas Bats shy away from the light, so when the lights start to change, which takes about half an hour; they all retire to an area kept dark for them. The Zone is still in the

sunlight stage when we keepers start work in the morning and it's easy enough to go into this dark area with a shielded red torch and count them hanging there. The Rodrigues Fruit Bats on the other hand hang out in the sunshine.

Over at *Spirit of the Jaguar* the three cats that arrived at the end of last year from Marwell Zoo in Hampshire are settling in well. The other two Jaguars, *Sofia*, a young female and the male *Salvador* are now sharing the same space with free access to inside and outside.

The leaf cutter ant colony unfortunately went into decline. This has now been replaced with a different species and as the colony grows in size they will be fascinating to watch.



Bill Oddie films with Harvest Mice

Two special visits in one

TV personality and celebrity birdwatcher Bill Oddie spent two days in the Zoo in April.

He was filming harvest mice for BBC's *Springwatch* programme on the Zoo's farmland and at the Animal Health Centre. The programme is due to go out sometime in June but we haven't been given a definite date.

While he was here we managed to persuade him to visit and inspect our new wildlife garden, have his picture taken with the Botany Team and record a wildlife gardeners' question time for use as part of the interpretation in the garden. Biodiversity Officer Sarah Bird said: "Bill made several constructive comments and very much liked the fox and badger models. He thinks the garden is sure to prove a success with wildlife as it settles and grows."



The opening of the new Wildlife Garden



Penny Rudd and Vet Steph Sanderson work with Bill Oddie to film Harvest Mice for BBC's *Springwatch* programme.

First Visitors to the Wildlife Garden

By Sarah Bird, Biodiversity Officer

Waxwings were among the first wild birds to visit and use the new *Wildlife Garden* in the Zoo in the early part of this year. This is the first ever record we have for Waxwings actually in the Zoo which makes the sighting all the more significant.



Waxwing in flight showing red tips to wing feathers

These charismatic and very attractive winter migrants have a reputation for being quite tame and approachable – hence their presence in one of the trees in the garden, even when the gardeners were busy working just beneath them!

I and several members of zoo staff were very excited to see them and even non-birders had to admit these are stunning birds! They get their name from the bright red tips to their wing feathers which are just visible here.

This species, *Bombycilla garrulus*, the Bohemian Waxwing, breeds in coniferous woodland in northern

Scandinavia, but spends the winter further south in woods, gardens and parks across much of Europe. There are some individuals recorded in the UK most years but numbers are very variable – sometimes hardly any come here and other years, like last winter, thousands turn up!

I heard that there were over 300 in a car park in Ruthin, North Wales on Boxing Day but there was only one when I visited the day after!

In winter, Waxwings feed on berries and insects and they were observed doing both in the Zoo. Berries of *Sorbus* and *Cotoneaster* species seemed to be preferred, and birds were spotted fly-catching from ash and birch trees at the Flamingos by several staff in early March.

Large numbers of these birds in the UK this winter probably indicate a good berry crop and a mild winter in Scandinavia last year, followed by a successful breeding season. This resulted in large numbers of birds that have had to spread out widely across Europe for food. Berry-bearing trees tend to have a good year followed by a poor one so it is likely that regions

that had plenty of food last year were not so good this year. As we had a bumper crop of berries in Cheshire and North Wales, the birds came here in large numbers. It is unlikely that we will see as many waxwings here next year, but we have certainly enjoyed them this time.



Waxwing feeding on *Sorbus* berries. All three photographs on this page are courtesy of David Tolliday

Waxwing records at Chester Zoo spring 2005

Date	Number	Notes
13 Jan	26	Wildlife Garden. Eating berries in <i>Sorbus</i> tree. Gardeners working beneath the tree did not seem to bother the birds at all.
14 Jan	26	Wildlife Garden. Very noisy. Moved to trees by the Cassowary later.
26 Jan	21	-
22 Feb	21	By Ark Restaurant and Tigers feeding on <i>Cotoneaster</i> berries
23 Feb	22	By Ark Restaurant on <i>Cotoneaster</i>
27 Feb	40	-
28 Feb	21	-
1 Mar	9	Behind Nursery feeding on <i>Cotoneaster</i>
2 Mar	46	By Ark Restaurant on <i>Cotoneaster</i>
3 Mar	38	By Ark Restaurant, then old Parrot Centre on <i>Cotoneaster</i>
4 Mar	26	Catching flies near flamingo enclosure, and near old Parrot Centre on <i>Cotoneaster</i>
5 Mar	30	-
8 Mar	15	-
9 Mar	7	By Ark Restaurant
12 Mar	19	By Ark Restaurant on <i>Cotoneaster</i>



A new arrival

A two-inch long miracle hatchling

Yellow-footed Tortoise

Meet our latest miracle - a two inch long Yellow-footed Tortoise, the first ever to hatch at the Zoo.

We have been home to a pair of Yellow-footed tortoises for a number of years but until now there had been no sign of the patter of very tiny feet.

The arrival is all the more significant as we are currently co-ordinating ShellShock a Europe-wide conservation programme aimed at helping to save tortoises and turtles from extinction.

Kevin Buley, the Zoo's Curator of Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates, who is heading up the campaign, said: "The Yellow-footed Tortoise is considered vulnerable in the wild and if over-hunting and habitat loss continue, its extinction in the wild is increasingly likely."

"The sad reality is that turtles and tortoises have become one of Earth's most imperilled groups of vertebrates. They can live to be

well over 100 years old but nearly half of the world's 300 plus species are now threatened with extinction. Several are already extinct at the hand of modern man and many more could vanish in the next few decades".

"They have been on our planet for almost 250 million years and seen the rise and fall of dinosaurs, yet in the space of less than 30 years they are being wiped from the face of the planet.

"Man has exploited turtles and tortoises for centuries. Throughout the world their habitats are being destroyed and millions of turtles and tortoises are being harvested and traded for food and for use in traditional medicines. They are victims of predators, egg collecting, pollution, shell use, and the bushmeat trade and many of the species also face varying pressures from the international pet trade, all of which has pushed

many species to the brink of extinction."

To help address this survival crisis, the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA), which comprises 290 member zoos, launched the ShellShock Turtle & Tortoise Campaign 2005 to rise to the challenge of finding solutions and turn the tide. Among the most urgently needed solutions are the establishment of successful management programs (Assurance Colonies or Turtle Arks) in zoos and aquariums for those species most threatened with imminent extinction, where continued survival in the wild appears most uncertain.

Chester Zoo will be holding a number of ShellShock awareness-raising and fundraising activities over the coming months. To find out more, you can contact the Zoo on **01244 380280** or visit **www.chesterzoo.org**

To find out more about ShellShock see **www.eaza.net**



Cracking news for Chester Zoo - the arrival of our first ever Yellow-footed Tortoise hatchling.

...and a Sad Farewell

Saying farewell to Chang

Our magnificent bull elephant, Chang, left the Zoo on Sunday May 8 to move to his new home at France's Le Pal Animal Park.

Chang is one of one of the foremost breeding bulls in Europe and has fathered a number of calves here including *Sithami*, *Tunga*, *Sundara*, *Po Chin* and *Assam* and two female



calves at Twycross Zoo. *Tunga* and *Sundara* were born at the Zoo last year.

In line with European guidelines, bull elephants as opposed to females are moved around Europe - this is natural in terms of the social systems for elephants and we have spent a considerable period of time looking for the best home for Chang.

Chief Curator Mark Pilgrim said: "We are confident that Chang will settle well at Le Pal, which is three hours south of Paris, as they have some of the best elephant facilities in Europe. To help him settle,

elephant team leader Mick Jones travelled with Chang and will spend time with him at Le Pal."

"Chang, who is with four females at his new home, has been with us for 12 years and will be missed, not only by the animal division, but by visitors and members and adopters. We are sorry to see him go but this move will enable us to continue to strengthen the herd and allow our young bull *Upali* to become our next breeding bull."



arrival of
atching.

Chang (left) says farewell to Upali

Making a difference

Focussing on conservation

The conservation projects supported by the Zoo so far in 2005 include:

- Funding of the production of an 'Elephant Health' handbook
- Funding and hosting of the inaugural meeting, and associated workshops, of the IUCN/Wetlands International Global Freshwater Fishes Specialist Group
- Following a fieldtrip by Roger Wilkinson, Head of Conservation & Science, and Kevin Buley, Curator of Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates, we are continuing to support fish conservation projects in Mexico

- Support for Goliath Frog, Cane Toad and Patagonian Frog projects through the Declining Amphibian Task Force
- Support for Chester Zoo Research Associate, Dr Filippo Aureli's, continued research of Spider Monkeys in Costa Rica
- Continued support for the Zoo Outreach Organisation in India who are involved in, and often the catalyst for, a wide range of conservation activities in India and SE Asia
- Support for the Third Annual Pan African Sanctuaries Alliance Veterinary Healthcare workshop in Cameroon. Zoo vet Steve Unwin was actively involved in, and attended, this event

Name changes reflect strong partnerships:

Chester Zoo has been providing outreach support for some projects for over 15 years! Some of these 'older' projects have now evolved into major Conservation Programmes. In response to this long term significant support, two major components of our Conservation Programmes will change their names this year to reflect the strength of their partnership with Chester Zoo.

The Gashaka Gumti Primate Project in Nigeria is to be called the *Chester Zoo Nigeria Biodiversity Programme*.

Chester Zoo has been involved in the conservation of this immensely important forest area since 1990 and several keepers, curators and a director have been involved in fieldwork in this area. Gashaka



Gashaka Gumti National Park, Nigeria

Gumti National Park is the largest remaining forest fragment in Nigeria and home to the last viable population of the Nigerian sub species of Chimpanzee.

The Sichuan Forest Biodiversity Project, the major component of the NEZS China Biodiversity Conservation Programme, is to be renamed the *Chester Zoo Sichuan Forests Biodiversity Project* in recognition of Chester's major support for this project in the past and commitment to its future success. The project works with Liverpool John Moores University and the Sichuan Forestry Department, and through a multidisciplinary approach is working towards the sustainable future conservation of Sichuan's forest reserves.

Growing Concerns

By Mark Sparrow, Curator of Botany and Horticulture

The Chester Zoo Rock Garden

The *Rock Garden* near to Oakfield House was constructed in the early 1970s and was dedicated to the memory of Elizabeth Mottershead (1887-1969), wife of George Mottershead, the founder of the Zoo.

It has for many years been an attractive garden feature which has been the backdrop for many a family and wedding photograph. Two years ago it was decided the garden was in need of a make over. Very little development had taken place over the 30 years since its creation and many of the plants had become overgrown and past their best.

As part of the Zoo's long term plans, the *Rock Garden* comes within an area that has been designated as a geographic zone, highlighting animals and plants from China. The Red Panda enclosure was the first piece of this jigsaw to be put in place. Because of this zoning it was

decided to re-develop the rock garden to reflect the enormous plant diversity of China and the Himalayan range. The first section was re-landscaped and planted last year and further work will be carried out over the next few years to gradually give the whole garden a facelift.

Many of the plants that will go in the garden are now being grown in our greenhouses from seeds collected in the wild. A new feature is two ornamental bridges which replace the rusting metal structures that had been in the garden from the beginning. These new authentic Chinese style bridges have been built by Craig Murray, a carpenter apprentice in the Zoo's Maintenance Department, as part of his NVQ 2 qualification. We hope that the garden will continue to provide an area of relaxation and contemplation for our visitors for many years to come.



High hopes for success in Puerto Rico

Karen Entwistle reports on her recent toad re-introduction work in Puerto Rico

The Puerto Rican Crested Toad (pictured), is the only native species of toad found in Puerto Rico. Known as the Sapo Concho to the locals, it is listed as threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and was the first amphibian to be given an SSP (*Species Survival Plan*) programme which is currently headed by Bob Johnson of Toronto Zoo.

Over the past 20 years Bob has been working in conjunction with the Puerto Rican Department of Natural Resources (PRDNR) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to release tadpoles as well as to develop new

release sites and protect the last remaining natural breeding site.



Chester Zoo became a part of the SSP in 2000. As part of the programme, tadpoles are sent back to Puerto Rico for release into their natural habitat. I recently visited Puerto Rico to take part in a tadpole release and to survey some possible future release sites on the northern side of the island.

I was in Puerto Rico for 10 days and the tadpole release was on day eight. In the first few days I was to find that a successful



reintroduction programme was dependant on educating local people about the animal and the reasons for its decline. We visited the Juan Rivero Zoo in Mayaguez



on the West of the Island, the first Puerto Rican Zoo to display the toads to the public.

With the help of members of the Programme, educational posters are now in the reptile section of the Zoo explaining the toads' plight. They also display the Marine Toad (*Bufo marinus*) as this is an alien species to the island and has been a major contributor to the crested toads' decline. Many locals don't know the difference between the two species so this display is a vital tool in educating the public and ensuring future successes for the SSP.



The tadpoles arrive

An important part of the trip was surveying northern sites for future release. In recent years all releases have been southern tadpoles in the Guanica forest on the south coast but surveys are being carried out so the programme can start breeding the genetically distinct northern toad for release. They are now thought to be in more danger of extinction than the southern toad, so captive breeding is due to begin in the collections where the northern strain is held and it is hoped that reintroduction will begin this year.

The first area we surveyed is a large piece of land in the northern town Aricibo, owned by a man called Abel Vale. Abel has kept the area as natural as possible and on the day of our visit a Puerto Rican boa was released on his land. He is very keen to have tadpoles released on his land because he sees the survival of

native flora and fauna as very important and is willing to do anything he can to assist the project.

He has agreed to allow the construction of release ponds as long as they look natural and has taken advice on water measurements to assess the suitability of the site.



The release

This was a very promising site as it had all the features of Quiberdillas, the location of the last wild sighting of a Northern toad and had the added benefit of Abel's protection and willingness to work alongside the fish and wildlife service.

In surveying other sites, Cambalache Forest is a local reserve park and the habitat is perfect for tadpole release but further surveys and discussions are needed as it is also a popular place for hiking and mountain biking so it is possible that the toads would be regularly disturbed. The last two possibilities are Coamo and Quiberdillas. Both areas are known to be part of the historical range as a toad was found 10 metres away from Coamo highway in the 1960s and the last northern sightings were in Quiberdillas. As in Abel's area both possible sites are privately owned so permission would be needed to construct a pond and release tadpoles.

On the day of the tadpole release, 10,000 came from Toronto Zoo, 3,000 from Fort Worth Zoo, Texas and 50 from Buffalo Zoo. This makes a grand

total of 112,000 tadpoles released in the Guanica pond over the past 11 years. The tadpoles were collected from San Juan airport by a forest ranger from PRDNR. He delivered them to the release site which is in Guanica Bay, on the opposite side to the last natural breeding site at Tamarindo where the most recent breeding was recorded in September 2004.

The tadpoles were carefully unpacked and the bags they had travelled in were floated in the water for a while so they could acclimatize to the temperature. Then over a period of about 10 minutes, water from the pond was slowly added to the bags allowing the tadpoles to get used to the water chemistry. Finally the tadpoles were given their freedom. They were fed that evening and left to settle into their new surroundings. Two days later we went back to the pond to check how they had fared in their new environment. We were pleased to see large healthy looking tadpoles. We had to leave the next day but everyone who had been present at the release received photos from USFWS of the toadlets leaving the pond and finding crevices in the limestone to hide away in. We can only hope that in a few years they will return to their release site to produce offspring of their own.

There have been Puerto Rican Toads at Chester Zoo since 2000. Initially the Zoo was a holding facility but now it is hoped they will breed. If breeding is successful, our tadpoles could form part of a future Puerto Rican release.



Keepers' special visit to Munda Wanga

Chester Zoo keepers roll up their sleeves to help

Munda Wanga, which means 'My Garden' in local dialect, is Zambia's premier centre for environmental education and interpretation. It hasn't always been so.

What is now a Wildlife Park and Sanctuary, Botanical Garden and Educational Centre, was established as a botanical garden by a Belgian called Ralph Sander in 1950. After he died in 1978, the estate was sold to the Government who developed a zoological garden in the grounds, based on tigers and bears gifted to the Government by Chipperfield's circus. Over time, however the whole facility fell into disrepair and was eventually taken over by a private trust in 1998. It has operated as a charity since 2000.

Munda Wanga acts as an animal sanctuary to rescued animals including pangolins, owls, baboons, Meyer's Parrots and an orphaned elephant called Phoenix. The Wildlife Park is being completely rebuilt with large and modern new enclosures and the Sanctuary currently looks after 32 species of mammal, bird and reptile and overall 175 individuals.

Conservation through education, research and captive breeding programmes for endangered Zambian animals has already begun.

Here Sarah Goodchild (Giraffe section) and Mark Jermy (Carnivore section) report on their recent visit when they spent three weeks supporting the Munda Wanga team.

We arrived at Lusaka airport, Zambia after a long and exhausting journey. We passed through customs and collected our bags in somewhat of a daze where Emma, another volunteer at Munda Wanga, met us.

Munda Wanga is a sanctuary in the village of Chilanga just outside Lusaka. There have been strong links between Chester Zoo and Munda Wanga for quite a few years now with some of their keepers coming over to be trained with us and Chester staff visiting them to offer support and help.

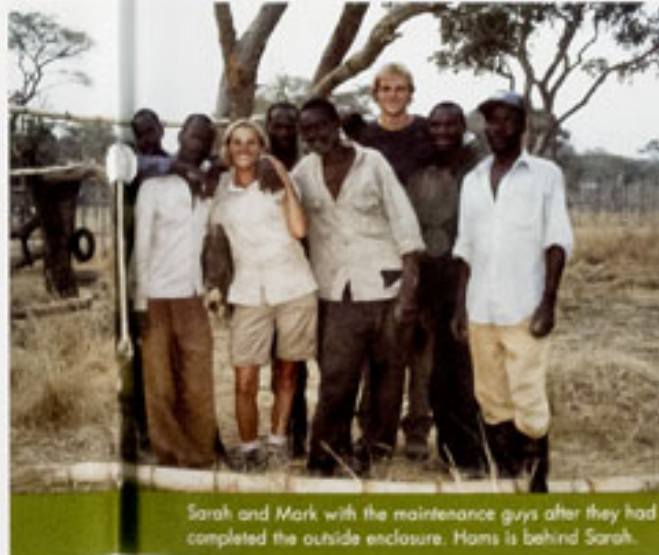
For our three weeks we were given a few small projects as well as a main project to work on. Our main project was to design and build a new enclosure for Western Vervet Monkeys using an empty pump house as the inside building.



Sarah and Mark with the Greenforce volunteers. You can see the trees in the background that they had to move by sheer manpower!



Sarah and Mark 'branching out' one of the inside enclosures.



Sarah and Mark with the maintenance guys after they had completed the outside enclosure. Hams is behind Sarah.

When we first looked inside, the task ahead seemed almost impossible as there was so much to do! We took measurements and that night started to draw up plans while relaxing at our campsite chalet.

For the first few days we worked alongside the keepers and it was good to see Chris and Raphael, the two keepers who had been to Chester, again. There was a noticeable difference in their way of doing things and their ideas to the other keepers there. They are both very proud of their time spent in England and Chris's office is full of pictures from Chester.

Munda Wanga has seven keepers in total. Chris, Raphael, Robert, Geoff and Mutato who work with the different species around the park and two others who only work with Phoenix, the three year old African elephant.



are not brilliant!

To hammer in nails we had a hammer with no claw or hammer piece just the metal piece in the middle! Materials are also hard to get hold of so it's a case of searching about and claiming anything you see lying around!

In our time there we also started a training routine for small mammals with one of the keepers and spoke to all the keepers about enrichment ideas. We showed them how to make bamboo feeders and used branches to provide a more stimulating environment within the enclosure for a blind Vervet monkey, which also allowed him to interact with a female Vervet.

The days were hard, officially working from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday, but usually starting earlier and finishing later. The hardest thing to get used to was the heat. It was hot when we arrived and it got hotter with each day and on our last night there it was 25°C at midnight!

Building the new enclosure seemed to be going slowly, which was frustrating at times but something we had to get used to. We had a team of maintenance guys at our disposal but the language barrier caused confusion all round on more than one occasion!

Our main contact, who we had a lot of respect for was 'Hams' - Mr Hams. He helped us a great deal and interpreted what we wanted to the rest of the team. He also had a brilliant sense of humour.

In the outside part of the enclosure there were several large trees that had been felled prior to our arrival which were to be used for enrichment. We had about 18 Greenforce volunteers coming in for one day to help us transform the outside enclosure from a barren piece of land into a



Mark and Joseph measuring and welding the steel bars that would eventually separate the enclosure into two.

playground for Vervet monkeys. We had to move all the trees by hand and they were big as well as being very heavy. It was hard and quite hazardous at times but as a team we succeeded. The volunteers were shattered by the end of the day but they felt a huge sense of achievement with the final result, as did we.

On our last day we 'branched out' one of the inside pens. This involved using branches to create a climbing platform for the monkeys. Once we had done that, three of the monkeys were able to be introduced to the enclosure which was really satisfying.

The three weeks had passed so quickly and we had just started getting used to the laid back Zambian way of life as well as the heat when we had to leave!

After a long journey home we arrived at Manchester Airport to a wet, gloomy and cold England. Zambia seemed a distant memory but one which will live with both of us for ever.

We'd like to thank everyone who made our trip possible including the Keeper for a Day funding and our team leaders, Tim Rowlands and Alan Woodward, who allowed us the time away from our normal duties.

You can change your life, and the world!

Together we will make a difference!

The United Nations World Environment Day has just been held at the beginning of June and to mark the day, people all over the UK have made changes to their lifestyles and become involved in environmental projects.

As Zoo Members we know you care about the environment so this is an ideal opportunity to pledge to make a small lifestyle change and make a real difference. Here are some suggestions:

- I will boil only the water I need, rather than filling the kettle every time.
- I will replace two light bulbs in my house with energy saving versions.
- I will turn my bio-degradable waste into compost for my garden
- I will insulate my loft and hot water tank.
- I will reuse plastic bags for my shopping.
- I will share my car journeys to work with a colleague, or use public transport.
- I will switch off my television, rather than leave it on stand-by.
- I will take showers instead of baths.

- I will turn the tap off when I brush my teeth.
- I will switch my household to energy generated from renewable sources.
- I will volunteer for a green project in my local community.

Here at the Zoo we are looking at ways to reduce water use, to increase the amount of waste we recycle and encourage staff to share cars.

The Environment Agency has a great website where you can register your pledge and see the difference you and everyone else in Britain is making. The address is: www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wed/

Together we **will** make a difference!

Have you seen an Orange Tip butterfly this year?

By Sarah Bird, Biodiversity Officer and Steve McWilliam, rECOrd Manager

The Orange Tip butterfly (*Anthocharis cardamines*) is one of our earliest butterflies to emerge in spring and early summer, having spent the winter as a pupa.

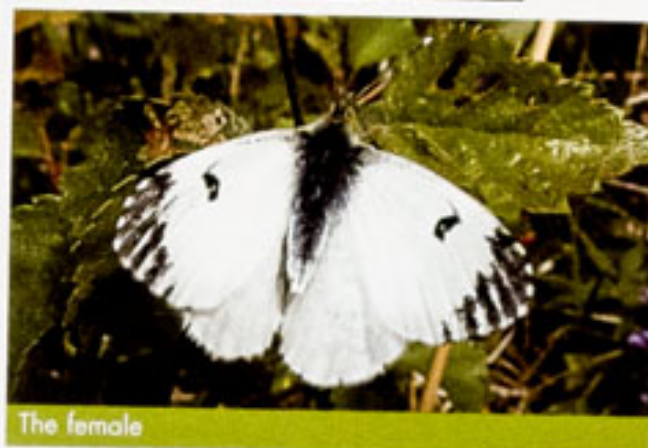
RECORD

You may see butterflies such as the Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock earlier in the year since they hibernate through the winter as adults. At rECOrd the records show that the earliest date adult Orange Tip butterflies have been seen in Cheshire is March 15, and the latest observation date is June 29. If you see this butterfly please let rECOrd know about it so we can expand our knowledge of its distribution and population levels. We will certainly be looking out for them in the Zoo as some were seen here in June last year. The information required is listed below.

Orange Tips are common throughout much of Britain except northern Scotland, but numbers declined in northern England from the mid 1960s. However, it seems the decline has now reversed and the butterfly is expanding beyond its previous range. Male Orange Tips are very easy to recognise as they have orange tips to the forewings; in the female the corresponding area is a dark greenish-grey as shown in the pictures. In both sexes the undersides of the hind-wings look greenish in colour but closer inspection shows them to be a mosaic of black and



The male



The female

yellow scales.

This butterfly likes damp meadows and woodland fringes where eggs are laid on crucifers (*wild members of the cabbage family*). Favourite food plants are Garlic Mustard, Cuckoo-flower, Honesty, Hedge Mustard and Charlock. The bright orange eggs are usually laid on the flower-stalk just below the flower head. The caterpillar feeds on these plants throughout the summer, eating the seed-pods rather than the leaves. (*These caterpillars often eat each other too!*) Eventually the caterpillars pupate and spend the winter as a triangular shaped pupa/chrysalis attached to a stem by silk threads with a 'girdle' round the middle to hold it in position.

Occasionally, in southern England, some adults emerge in late summer and go through a second life cycle before the winter sets in. This has never been recorded in Cheshire but it is possible that it might happen as our climate gets warmer - your records might help us to see this.

Please send information on:

- Species and sex of the butterfly if possible (*records of other butterflies are also gratefully received*)
- Whether it was an adult butterfly, caterpillar, pupa, eggs etc.
- Where the butterfly was seen (*e.g. on Cuckoo Flower in long grass at 4 Zoo Close, Chester, CH2 8LH*)
- Your name and contact details (*telephone number or email*)
- Date you spotted it
- Number of individuals seen

to rECOrd, Chester Zoological Gardens, Upton, Chester, CH2 1LH
Tel: 01244 383749
E-mail: info@rECOrd-LRC.co.uk
Web: www.rECOrd-LRC.co.uk

A big 'thank you' goes to all those who responded to the article about frogs in the last issue. Your records have helped our understanding of the distribution of frogs across the Cheshire region. Also don't forget that Steve McWilliam from rECOrd is giving a member's talk at the Zoo in December.



Dates for your Diaries

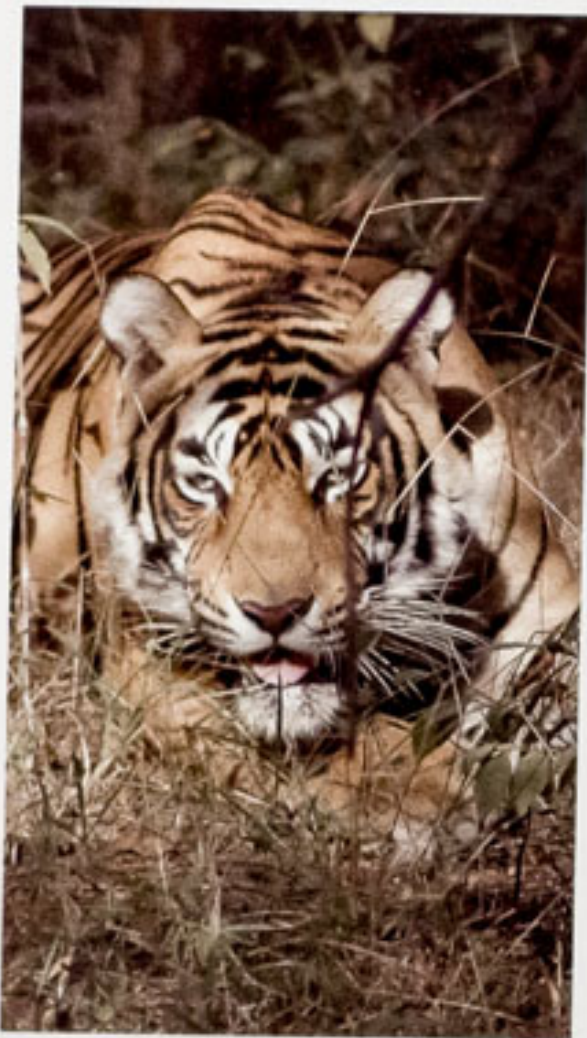
Holidays for Wildlife Lovers

Following the success of last November's Tiger, Tiger safari, Endangered Wildlife Travels are pleased to announce the details for this year's trip:

Tigers and the Golden Triangle (19 November – 3 December 2005)

Experience game-viewing like never before from the back of an elephant and see what inspired Rudyard Kipling on our exclusive 14 night escorted trip. This trip focuses on the wildlife, culture & architecture of the northern provinces of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Ranthambore Tiger Reserve was once the private hunting grounds of the Maharajas of Jaipur and still contains the ruins of their 10th Century Fort that the tigers frequent. Corbett



National Park, in the foothills of the Himalayas, also has a rich diversity of wildlife and birds, including elephant, leopard and sloth. Both reserves attract professional photographers from all over the world to enjoy their wildlife - and you can't go to India without visiting its historical wonders including Delhi, the Pink City of Jaipur and one of the seven wonders of the world, the Taj Mahal.

The cost starts at £1,975 per person.

Anyone interested should contact Simon Lacey on **01825 740262**.

Details can also be found on www.diplomatic.co.uk

Where there's a will

You may remember that included with the spring issue of *Zoo Life* was a leaflet which gave details on how you can become a lifetime supporter of Chester Zoo. This is a special club which is helping to secure the future for the next generation, simply by supporters mentioning Chester Zoo in their Will. Doing this doesn't cost you a penny now and by contributing in this way, you will ensure our crucial conservation work continues long into the future. Your support can really make a difference to many of our projects, for example our Asian Elephant project in Assam, India. This project aims to conserve this gentle, intelligent animal by reducing conflict between elephants and humans, the main reason for the decline of elephant populations.

Before making such a commitment you may want to have a confidential



chat about it first. This is why on Thursday August 11, you will be able to come and get some advice. Staff from Chester Zoo's Development Office will be available for consultation, along with a Solicitor from one of

the region's leading law firms, Walker Smith Way.

You can find us in the Oakfield Restaurant foyer between 11am and 3pm so please feel free to pop in and we will try and answer any queries you may have.

For more information on this day, or how you go about mentioning Chester Zoo in your Will, contact Lynsey Jones on **01244 650292** or via l.jones@chesterzoo.org for a chat in complete confidence.



Congratulations to Peter Thompson and Peter Powell both from Amenities and Gardens who have each completed 25 years' service. The Zoo Director presented them with a gift as a token of appreciation for all their hard work over the years.

The Turtles' Tale

Find out about Shelley's incredible journey

As you know, this year EAZA (*European Association of Zoos and Aquaria*) has made a commitment to increasing awareness of the plight of turtles and tortoises worldwide, via the launch of the *ShellShock* Turtle and Tortoise Campaign 2005. The campaign aims to raise funds to support the conservation of turtle and tortoise species in their countries of origin and is being co-ordinated by our very own Kevin Buley, Curator of Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates.

Easter saw the opening of our new *ShellShock* display – called *The Turtles' Tale*. The aim of the display is to educate Zoo visitors to the crisis situation currently facing turtles and tortoises.

The showcase has a live freshwater turtle display, a Custom's checkpoint, a Chinese market stall, interactive games for children and a money spinner collection box for donations.

Also in the showcase is the story of Shelley, the world's only known surviving Yunnan Box Turtle. Shelley is the star of a cartoon that tells the story of her life from an egg, her traumatic early years as a young hatchling, her long and unsuccessful

search for the perfect mate (well, any mate), through to her cruel capture, near-death experience in a Chinese food market, and finally her discovery and rescue by two very excited turtle biologists.

Why not visit the display next time you are at the Zoo? It is open every day with a member of our Education Department on hand to answer any questions.

If you want to support the campaign further, there is a range of *ShellShock* merchandise available from our shops. Chester Zoo is also organising a raffle to help the campaign with some fantastic prizes including a Eurocamp holiday for up to five people, £100 Cheshire Oaks vouchers and a meal for two at Bella Italia, Cheshire Oaks. Tickets are in books of 10 and are priced at £1 each with 100% of the ticket price going towards the campaign. Anybody can help by entering or selling tickets!

Please contact Sarah in the Development Office on **01244 650265** or via email at s.mcdonnell@chesterzoo.org for tickets.



Heading this way is the Leatherback Turtle Tour! A giant inflatable turtle is making its way around the UK, spending a week in each participating zoo or aquarium. It will arrive in Chester over August Bank Holiday week 24-31 to tie in with a week of promotional activities so if you can come to the Zoo that week you will be in for a special treat!

1 Hello! My name is Shelley, and I am a Yunnan Box Turtle. Until I was found last year, people thought turtles like me were extinct! Let me tell you my story...



Shelley is proving a big hit with visitors!



The Turtles' Tale in the Discovery Centre

Conferencing at Oakfield House

Corporate hospitality is a roaring success – by Jane Lawson, Events Manager

IF your staff conference could do with some animal magic or your annual general meeting could benefit from a walk on the wild side, then we could have the venue for you.

The Zoo is a unique option for companies looking for a venue for conferences and meetings.

Oakfield House, the Victorian mansion on the east side of the Zoo can cater for up to 45 people for a conference. Those who need a bigger venue can use the lecture hall which seats 174 people. Conveniently, the lecture hall also has free parking for a 100 cars and those choosing to use Oakfield House can also benefit from free reserved parking for up to 50 cars.

Holding an event, such as a team-building exercise or product launch, in such unusual surroundings can prove to be a real ice breaker.

It gives people something to talk about ahead of the conference and can help settle any nerves about the big day.

The lecture hall can cater for bigger events and the acoustics are superb, whereas the Oakfield Manor boardroom is an exceptional location and more intimate, seating 45 theatre style or 22 boardroom style.

The Safari Suite inside Oakfield House, complete with syndicate room, is ideal for smaller gatherings. Companies looking to make the most of the venue can also tailor their event to their requirements with private summer evening safaris, barbecues, dinners or a buffet.

The events team can guide you through the process of pulling the conference day together and catering staff can organise menus to suit most tastes. Electronic equipment needed to make the event run smoothly is also available.

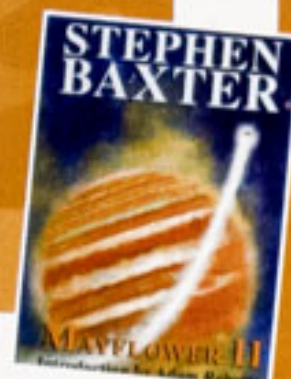
For further details on Chester Zoo as a conference and meeting venue call the events office on **01244 650209**.



Zoo life

News round up

What's happening out and about



Barnardo's Toddle 2005

Hundreds of toddling tots will be walking on the wild side when they descend on Chester Zoo for the annual Big Toddle for Barnardo's this year.

It is expected that up to 2,000 under 5s will take part in the Toddle which is being held at the Zoo over five days – June 14th, 16th, 21st, 23rd, and July 6th.

Accompanied by parents and carers, the teeny tots will walk a half mile 'toddle track', and afterwards will be treated to free admission to the Zoo. During their walk they will be entertained by a variety of circus performers.

Fundraiser Nancy Hart said: "The Toddle is a great day out for both little and big people and it's a great way of raising money for a brilliant cause. Thousands of toddlers have responded to the 'call of the wild' over the years we have been holding the toddle at the Zoo, and we're hoping the response to this year's event will be just as good and we can raise a record amount of money for disadvantaged children and families."

For more information contact Nancy Hart on 01704 214372 or nancy.hart@barnados.org.uk



Olympic hero Lisford Christie was just one of the celebrities backing last year's Forester's Big Toddle for Barnardo's.

tommy's
THE BABY CHARITY
parent friendly awards
winner 2005

Zoo picks up two top awards

Chester Zoo is tops when it comes to visitor family attractions in the UK – and that's official! Tommy's, the baby charity, presented the Zoo with a top award for 'Best Parent Friendly Visitor Attraction in the UK'.

Around half a million votes were cast by parents and parents-to-be across the UK in 25 categories of the 'Parent Friendly Awards' with Chester Zoo fending off competition from Alton Towers, Chessington World of Adventures and Legoland!

Head of Visitor Services Liz Child and Assistant Development Manager Lynsey Jones travelled to London to pick up the coveted award.

A delighted Liz said: "To be nominated for this award was a pleasure but to win it is absolutely fantastic."

Elsewhere, the Education team have been re-presented with their Sandford Award from the Heritage Education Trust for excellence in education. A joint presentation with Chester Cathedral, who have also achieved the award, was held at Oakfield House.

A novel way to support Appeal

Since the early stages of the Asian Elephant Survival appeal, Chester Zoo has been very lucky to have the whole-hearted support of best selling science fiction author Dr Stephen Baxter. Stephen became a patron of the campaign as he could see similarities between the population decline of Asian Elephants and that of the Mammoth, as featured in his famous trilogy. Stephen's latest offering, *Mayflower II*, includes an author's note on our Asian Elephant project and all proceeds of this limited-edition novella will be donated to the appeal. Hardback copies are £25 and

paperbacks are £10. Andy Sawyer of Liverpool University and librarian of the Science Fiction Foundation has kindly written this review:

"Stephen Baxter's fiction is based upon a visionary and accurate view of the big questions of science: time, space, evolution. One of Britain's most popular science fiction writers, he's often compared with the great names of an earlier generation like Arthur C. Clarke, with whom he has collaborated. An earlier series features the last days of the mammoths, and it is no coincidence that he's a patron of the Zoo's Asian Elephant Survival Appeal, to which all his proceeds from Mayflower II will be donated.

This novella returns to an earlier sequence, but we can read it without reference to others: all we need to know is that Rusel is on a starship fleeing from Earth's solar system to escape an ideologically pure and militarily vicious army of liberators. The journey to safety will last fifty thousand years. Some of the crew, including Rusel, have been given virtual immortality through alien technology, but generations will rise and fall governed by only one idea: survival!"

One of sci-fi's most potent sub-themes is the "generation starship", in which people may lose the very concept that they are in a spaceship and we get weirdly distorted views of "Spaceship Earth". Stephen Baxter brings the concept of cultural and evolutionary processes to bear. It's the human genes that are important, not individuals. Yet an individual tragedy is at the story's heart. Rusel, haunted by deserting his lover, killing others desperate to escape, and watching his world destroyed, is forced to make appalling moral choices in the name of the survival of the human genetic pool. Is what survives human? If your idea of science fiction is light-sabre duels or "Beam me up, Scotty", you might find the ideas here bleak, but Baxter stretches the imagination like few other writers even attempt to do, and in *Mayflower II* he offers challenging questions."

Special Zoo experiences

Forthcoming events programme

Spirit of The Jaguar & Giraffe Safari

Thursday 9th June -
£24.95

After cocktails in the Jaguar House with our keepers, take a stroll to meet our giraffes before returning to the Oakfield Manor for a BBQ on the terrace.



Tropical Realm & Islands in Danger Tour

Thursday 23rd June - £27.50



Learn about the Zoo's Tropical Realm, stroll to Islands in Danger to meet the Komodo Dragon, then enjoy a delicious tropical dinner in the Oakfield Manor.

Family Picnic Evening

Thursday 14th July - £17.95

Enter the Zoo 4.30pm. Picnic baskets may be collected from the Oakfield Restaurant at 6.30pm.

Chester Zoo Spectacled Bears & Twilight Zone Safari

Thursday 28th July - £29.95

Visit our Spectacled Bears and meet the keepers before moving onto our Bat Cave. Our Presenters

will help you appreciate the finer points of the Twilight Zone before returning you to the Oakfield for a BBQ, champagne and strawberries on the Oakfield Terrace.



Evening Bat Walk and Traditional Buffet

Thursday 11th August - £17.25

Admission into the Zoo from 4.30pm. Buffet served in the Oakfield Restaurant at 7.30pm. At twilight and in the company of our keepers, go in search of wild Pipistelle, Noctule and Daubenton's bats.

Carnivore Evening with Mexican Buffet

Thursday 1st September - £21.50

An evening with a difference. Enjoy an informative tour visiting Red Pandas, Sealions and big cats. Return to the Oakfield Manor and enjoy a Mexican Buffet.

Jules Verne Evening

Friday 14th October - £23.50

Our Head Chef invites you to

sample different courses from around the world. A culinary experience in 80 minutes (perhaps a little longer)!

Contact the Events Team in September for details of our Christmas activities.

For further information and to book any of the above please contact: **The Events Office, Chester Zoo, Caughall Road, Upton, Chester. CH2 1LH**
Tel: 01244 650209.



Life through a lens

Zoo photographic competition winners

Awards have been presented to the winners of the 2004 Chester Zoo photographic competition at a special reception at Oakfield House. Hundreds of entries were received throughout the year from amateur adult and junior photographers, many of them truly stunning. Our thanks go to everyone who took the time to take part.

Congratulations go to all the monthly winners and to the overall winners in the four categories – digital, print, garden and junior. The Photographer of the Year prize was presented to digital category winner Emma Harvey from Shavington near Crewe.

Entries are welcome for the 2005 competition. All photographs must be taken at Chester Zoo. For information please visit our website www.chesterzoo.org or call 01244 380280.



Digital winner & Photographer of the Year: Emma Harvey



Print winner: Mike Travers



Junior winner Kelly Ann Crompton



Gardens winner: Anthony Wilcox

'Talking shop'

Members and adopters' talks for 2005. Zoo Lecture Theatre, off the A41.

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

Saturday 24 September 2005

2.30pm

Simon Chapman

'Deepest Borneo'

What is it like in the Borneo rainforest? What animals will you find? Who are the Dyaks and how do you shoot a sumpit? Learn how to call like a gibbon and to remove a leech – or a semi tame Orang-utan which won't let go!

Simon Chapman will be showing some of his slides and artefacts from his travels in Borneo and answering these questions – and many more.



Saturday 22 October 2005

2.30pm

John Lawton Roberts

'Life and Wildlife on the Fringe of Europe'

Bulgaria's wealth of wildlife is the result of its varied landscape, fertile soils and position, mid-way between Europe and Asia. The talk starts as a leisurely journey through farmland rich in the very birds and butterflies that survive only as a memory in much of the west. The journey becomes an expedition, Bulgarian style, into the country's central mountains, coastal steppes and sub-mediterranean south. Here the focus is on species of the south-eastern fringes of our continent.

Friday 11 November 2005

7.30pm

Eric Peake

'A Brush with Birds'

Welsh artist, Eric Peake has dedicated most of his life to the birds he loves. An active aviculturist since the age of seven, he has combined his God-given talent to draw and paint, with lecturing, fundraising and problem solving in the area of bird keeping today. To date he has painted over 1200 watercolour paintings of birds. In 1984 Eric realised the plight of parrots and has concentrated his work in that area ever since. Studying from the collection of birds here at the Zoo and Loro Pargue, Tenerife, Eric became more aware of the importance of conservation and research.

Eric's popularity and reputation as an artist, author and lecturer reflect his outstanding artistic talent and dedication to the birds he paints and loves; so much so he was commissioned by the Zoo in 1989 to paint a pair of Princess of Wales parrots for Diana, Princess of Wales.

In 'A Brush with Birds' Eric will talk about his art work in relation to parrots and show examples of his artwork.

ERIC
PEAKE



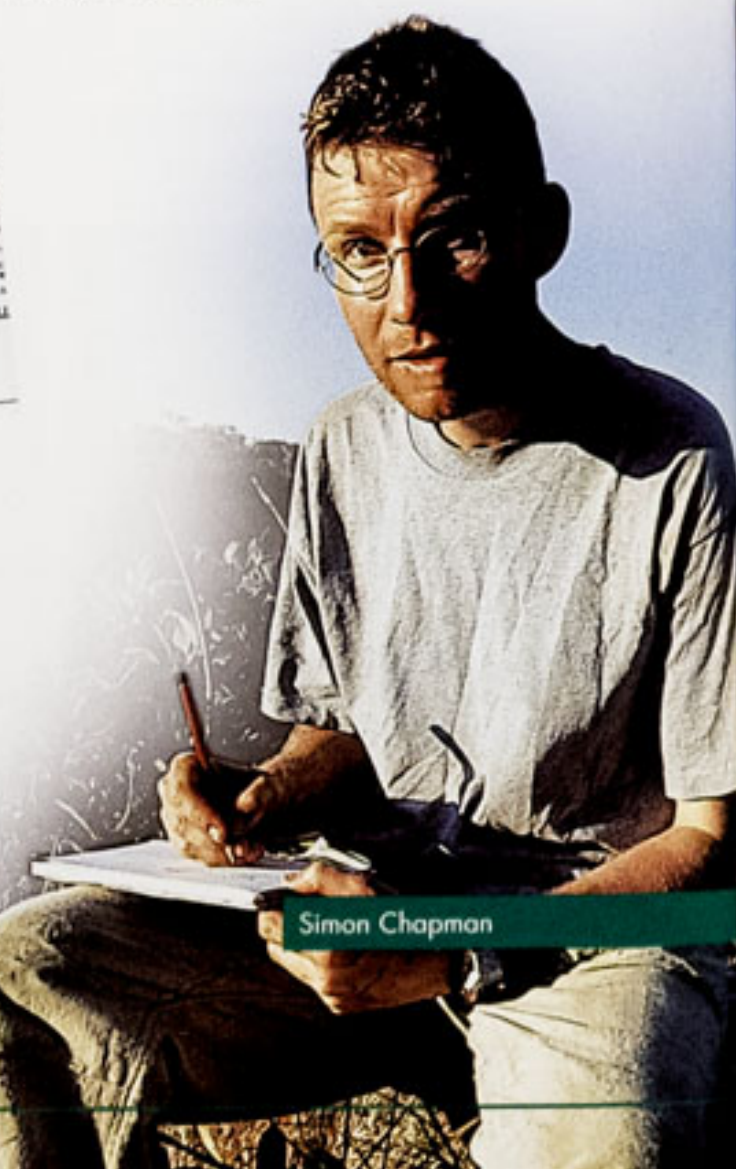
Saturday 10 December 2005

2.30pm

Steve McWilliam

Did you know about rECOrd?

Find out about rECOrd and how you can get involved. rECOrd is the Local Record Centre for Cheshire which collects, manages and makes available all types of wildlife information (terrestrial, freshwater and marine) from Cheshire, Halton, Warrington, the Wirral, and the old 'vice-county' which includes most of Trafford, Stockport and Tameside. rECOrd urgently needs your help to increase knowledge of Cheshire's wildlife and Steve will be able to give you some simple pointers to tell you how you can do it.



Simon Chapman

Adopter Days

Mark your diaries! This year's special days of appreciation for our adopters will be on Sunday October 2 and Saturday October 8. Your invitation together with the 'Meet the Keeper' timetable will be sent out in September.

Price increases 2005

The price of membership to the North of England Zoological Society is due to rise on July 1. The new pricing structure reflects rises in inflation and admission prices since 2003.

The new prices still represent excellent value for money and we hope we can count on your continued support as we carry out vital conservation projects aimed at saving endangered species worldwide.

The new prices will be:

Annual - under 65	Annual - 65 & over	Joint - both under 65	Joint - one under 65	Joint - both 65 & over	Junior - age 3-17
£55	£46	£90	£81	£72	£24

Chester Zoo "100 CLUB"

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

January 2005

Mr Gwyn Griffiths, CREWE	£100
Mrs L. A. Parsons, LIVERPOOL	£100
Mr Jason Spencer, SALTNEY	£50
Judith Irving, PRENTON	£50

February 2005

Mr Andrew Stevens, BRIDLINGTON	£100
Mr & Mrs Mosiewicz, FRODSHAM	£100
Mr John H Birch, RUNCORN	£50
Mrs Karen Waring, CHESTER	£50
Mr M. K. Batchelor, WILMSLOW	£50

March 2005

Miss Marcella Milan, RHYL	£100
Miss Anne Plimpton, HESWALL	£50
Miss Julie Haines-Adams, SHAWBURY	£50

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

Membership of the 100 Club is still invited. If you wish to participate, please contact Sarah McDonnell, Development Co-ordinator, on **01244 650265**.



Junior Puzzle Page

Summer puzzles



Spot the Difference

There are 15 differences between these two pictures, can you spot them?



Animal Wordsearch

All the animals in this wordsearch are threatened in some way in the wild and are being or have been cared for at Chester Zoo. The words may read forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonally. When you have found them all, the remaining letters will spell out an important message.

S	S	N	I	U	G	N	E	P	T	D	L	O	B	M	U	H
A	U	S	E	A	H	O	R	S	E	V	I	N	G	M	S	Y
B	P	M	N	G	R	E	V	Y	S	Z	E	B	R	A	E	A
R	T	N	A	H	P	E	L	E	N	A	I	S	A	R	E	C
A	I	P	R	T	E	C	G	O	D	H	S	U	B	A	Z	I
B	L	A	C	K	R	H	I	N	O	C	E	R	O	S	N	N
Y	L	R	D	K	E	A	I	C	O	N	D	O	R	J	A	T
R	I	T	E	A	D	E	N	S	U	C	A	T	A	H	P	H
R	G	U	N	M	R	A	E	O	O	D	N	G	O	R	M	I
E	E	L	W	U	I	T	E	R	R	H	U	O	E	F	I	N
H	R	A	O	R	V	E	A	H	N	A	G	P	L	R	H	E
C	S	S	R	T	E	L	L	I	R	D	N	A	M	A	C	M
N	M	N	C	I	R	D	Z	O	O	L	O	G	N	O	B	A
O	A	A	D	G	H	S	E	A	L	I	O	N	U	G	I	C
C	C	I	E	E	O	B	A	B	I	R	U	S	A	T	A	A
L	A	L	R	R	G	S	O	C	P	P	A	R	D	L	A	W
I	W	E	T	Y	K	O	M	O	D	O	D	R	A	G	O	N

- AMUR TIGER
- ASIAN ELEPHANT
- BABIRUSA
- BLACK RHINOCEROS
- BONGO
- BUSH DOG
- CHERRY BARB
- CHIMPANZEE
- CONDOR
- CORAL
- GREVY'S ZEBRA
- HUMBOLDT PENGUIN
- HYACINTHINE MACAW
- ILLIGER'S MACAW
- JAGUAR
- KEA
- KOMODO DRAGON
- MANDRILL
- MARA
- ONAGER
- PARTULA SNAIL
- PUDU
- RED RIVER HOG
- RED-CROWNED CRANE
- RHEA
- SEAHORSE
- SEALION
- SUMATRAN ORANG-UTAN
- WALDRAPP

Win £10 to spend in the Zoo Shops!

Last Month's answers were:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Hyacinthine Macaw | F |
| 2. Blue Throated Macaw | H |
| 3. West African Crowned Crane | E |
| 4. Red Crowned Crane | C |
| 5. Dalmation Pelican | A |
| 6. Caribbean Flamingo | B |
| 7. Rhea | G |
| 8. Humbolt's Penguin | D |

The winner is:
Ellen Jackson age 8
from Tarporley

Your Trash is Worth Cash!

Waste not want not and help our animals

Your waste can be worth thousands of pounds to Chester Zoo! Items that normally end up in the bin, such as toner and printer cartridges and old mobile phones, can be recycled to raise valuable cash for us. So if you are guilty of throwing away old inkjet cartridges and other recyclable materials, read on!

Chester Zoo has teamed up with leading recyclers, the *Recycling Appeal*, in a programme that will help boost our fundraising efforts. Every time you give a cartridge or old mobile phone to us, we will receive a cash donation.

Rob Morton from the Recycling Appeal says: "Throwing an old mobile phone away is not a good idea. Mobiles contain cadmium, a dangerous and highly toxic substance. Once dumped in landfill sites, the phone casing corrodes and the cadmium leaks out into the soil. We recycle old mobile phones and through our programmes, including our printer cartridge recycling initiative, we have been able to donate over £1.5 million to charity.

Another reason for recycling your phone is that it can help developing countries. Many developing nations do not have a comprehensive landline infrastructure. As a result, mobile phones may be the only way of communicating over a distance. We send old mobiles to these countries, helping to improve communication."

All you need to do is put your old mobile phones, chargers and batteries or printer inkjet cartridges in one of our FREEPOST envelopes and send them directly to the *Recycling Appeal*. If you have a large amount of items or printer toner cartridges, a free collection can be arranged from anywhere in the UK.

To find out how to get a **FREE** collection, call the Recycling Appeal direct on **08712 50 50 50**, quoting Chester Zoo – account 718100.

You'll be helping the environment and helping our fundraising. What's more, it won't cost you a penny!

If you would like more information on the recycling programme or require envelopes, please contact Sarah McDonnell in the Development Office either by email at

s.mcdonnell@chesterzoo.org or call direct on **01244 650265**

* Please note – we cannot accept any Epson products. SIM cards must be removed. We no longer recycle silver foil, stamps or foreign currency.



Tiger Bread

Asda Tiger Bread is a Roaring Success!

A big thank you to all of you who have been buying Asda's Tiger chests, tails and paws over the last few months. 1p from the sale of each product is being donated by Asda to Chester Zoo to support our work with Tigers. At the end of March a massive 7,500,000 chests, paws and tails had been sold raising an amazing £75,600 for Chester Zoo. When you're next in an Asda store watch out for the new Chester Zoo stickers on all Tiger bread products.

As a result of the partnership with Asda we will be creating a new viewing window into the Tiger enclosure with a covered roof and seating area. We hope that this will make spending time with our Tiger more fun. In addition the covered roof area will provide shelter for visitors should the weather take a turn for the worst.

The Asda Tiger bread promotion will be running until September so you've got plenty of time to take part and help to support Tiger conservation.

Junior Adventures

Junior Members' Programme of Events 2005



FOEL FARM PARK ON THE ISLE OF ANGLESEY Saturday 18 June 2005

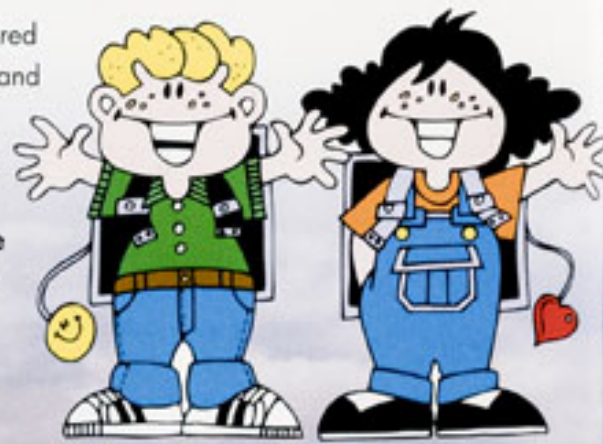
Our programme would hardly be the same without a summer visit to Anglesey and we thought this new event for us may prove attractive to Juniors. The Foel Farm Park (which, dare I say it, has a Chocolate Farm attached!) should prove a fun-packed day out in a beautiful setting and we may even manage a paddle on the beach! The bus will leave the staff car park at 9.30am, returning there for 5.30pm. Over eights are invited to bring a picnic along and join in.

HOW TO BE A GOOD ZOOKEEPER! Wednesday 27 July 2005

This is a unique opportunity given to Junior Members to spend a day working alongside a Zoo Keeper. The work can be tough and demanding so we strictly limit this event to those Juniors of 12 or over. We try to match Juniors to their favourite section, but places are limited so this cannot be guaranteed. Please arrive prepared to work hard with clean wellies and an additional completely clean set of clothes to work in. **Owing to the Zoo's biosecurity measures, it is important that the clothes you wear to work on the**

sections have not been in contact with any farm animals, or even your pets at home, since they were last washed.

We will meet outside the Oakfield at 10.30am, and the day will finish for Juniors at 4pm. Please bring a packed lunch. **Please Note** that bookings for this event will not be taken before 8.30 am on Wednesday 13 July 2005, and will be strictly on a first-come, first-served basis.



HILBRE ISLAND

Saturday 17 September 2005

This will be a real treat for those of you who have not previously visited Hilbre Island in the Dee Estuary and also for those of you who have. We will follow the tide out from West Kirby and plan to spend some time exploring the rock pools around 'Little Eye' and 'Middle Eye' on our way across to Hilbre, the biggest of the three islands from where we hope to see seals and a wide array of sea birds.



The timings for this event will be issued at the time of booking as we need to carefully check the tide times before we set out. Over eights will be invited to join us. Bring a picnic.



SUMMER BARBEQUE Thursday 11 August 2005

We thought we would try a Thursday evening for our barbecue this year to avoid disappointment for those of you going on holiday the following weekend! So please do come and see the Zoo at night (when you are never sure exactly who is watching who!) and to listen to the evening sounds without other visitor noises to distract you. We usually aim to have a speaker to chat to you for this event as well, but you can be sure of having a relaxing evening. We would like to invite the over eights to join us for 7pm, when you should arrive at the Ark Restaurant via the Zoo's Staff Entrance on Caughall Road. Parents are asked to collect Juniors from the Ark Restaurant at 9.45 pm please.

SNOWDONIA

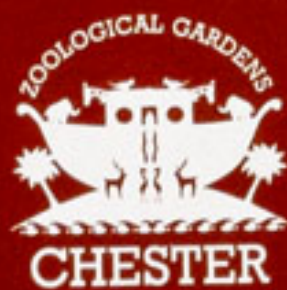
Saturday 15 October 2005

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

Please Note: Bookings must be made for all events. Please ring Penny Rudd at the Zoo on 01244 650215, not more than two weeks before the event you would like to attend. Places are offered on a first-come, first-served basis and may be limited. This list is provisional and in exceptional circumstances we may have to alter dates and venues. You will be informed of any such changes in Zoo Life - not by individual letter - so please keep up-to-date by reading the Junior page in each issue. A small charge will be made to cover the cost of those events which involve transport, entry fees, materials or the provision of food, and you will be advised of this at the time of booking.

**Founded in 1934 the
North of England Zoological Society
is a registered charity
and receives no government funding.**

We need your help and support to raise
funds for the care and conservation of our
rare animals and endangered species
across the world.



Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester CH2 1LH.

Tel: 01244 380280 Fax: 01244 371273

or visit www.chesterzoo.org

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DIRECTOR: GORDON MCGREGOR REID EDITOR: RACHAEL ASHTON

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