

Z

CHESTER ZOO

magazine

for members and adopters

SPRING 2019



Z MAGAZINE FEATURES



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News from the zoo with Dr Mark Pilgrim Chief Executive Officer



Welcome to the first Z magazine of 2019. We've got a remarkable year planned for visitors and members to experience here at the zoo, and it's been an equally momentous past few months for our conservation teams around the world, with lots of stories to share with you in this magazine. But I'd like to start by paying tribute to every one of you who have supported the zoo in the wake of the tragic fire in Monsoon Forest last December.

On the day of the fire, I was in Madagascar on the last day of a staff expedition, and I have never felt so helpless. I was deeply saddened to hear news that we had lost some of our fish, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles and birds, but thanks to the bravery of the firefighters and the dedication of our staff, I was thankful that we managed to save the majority of the animals. I know we have a great team of people here and I couldn't have been prouder of the way everyone came together on that dark day. We were truly overwhelmed by the public support, the kind words, the offers of help and the hundreds of donations made to our Monsoon Forest Conservation Fund, which has now raised a remarkable £250,000. We're working with our insurers with regards to the damage to the building but thanks to this huge generosity from the general public, we'll be able to deliver even more vital conservation work. Meanwhile, if you have visited the zoo this year you will know that *Islands* is now open but Monsoon Forest will remain closed until next year whilst we re-build.

The days are starting to get longer - a sure sign that spring is well on its way - and I'm really enjoying seeing the beautiful plants and flowers starting to pop up around the zoo. One place which is really starting to take shape is our new habitat, Madagascar. It's going to be really exciting to see our visitors enjoying the lemur walk-through and meeting a new species, the fossa. The beautiful fossa is Madagascar's largest predator, but it will need conservation help if

it is to survive.

We didn't manage to see the elusive fossa on our expedition to Madagascar but we did see lots of beautiful wildlife. Madagascar is a real biodiversity hotspot. Sadly though, 90% of the rainforest there has been lost meaning many animals are critically endangered. Our team of 13 worked closely with our partner Madagasikara Voakajy to help survey many animals and see how they use the forest.

Our Madagascar team are not the only ones to have been out in the field. Heather Prince, one of our invertebrate keepers, has recently returned from Bermuda where she helped to successfully reintroduce almost four thousand rare snails into the wild. These species were bred and reared here and this reintroduction is of great significance, showing that by utilising the many and varied skills that our teams possess, we really are preventing extinction.

We've also just started a pioneering study on the giant pangolin in Uganda - a species facing huge adversity as they are poached for the illegal wildlife trade. We've already captured the first colour camera trap footage of this mysterious animal, as our study aims to uncover new information about these rare nocturnal animals, which will help conserve this species in the future.

Our strategic development plan, (the plan which shows the way the zoo will look over the next 15 years), is moving forward. For nearly all of the zoo's history, lions have lived near The Oakfield, but we now feel it's time to relocate them to a new, state-of-the-art habitat in a part of the zoo that will eventually become our Foothills and Floodplains zone. The new space will feature a water hole, heated rocks and hilltop viewing points for the lions to survey their surroundings. Currently, it's situated just outside our perimeter fence near the elephants, but will be incorporated into the zoo in the autumn when you'll then be able to see the lions in their new home.



Chester is officially the world's FIRST Sustainable Palm Oil City!

In September 2017, the zoo launched an ambitious, major new conservation campaign to attempt to make Chester the first city in the world to source its palm oil from entirely sustainable sources. We wanted to do something innovative; something game-changing; something that could have a significant impact on shaping the future of our planet. We wanted Chester to lead the way on an issue that's vitally important to the long-term survival of many iconic species. We wanted to make a real change for good.

Now, 18 months later, we have achieved our goal. Chester is officially the world's first Sustainable Palm Oil City.

Orangutans are among the many species being pushed to the brink of extinction by oil palm plantations, which are wiping out huge areas of rainforest. There is intense demand for the oil, which features in thousands of products in the UK, from food to cleaning materials and cosmetics.

Palm oil is found in around 50% of everything sold in supermarkets. But because alternative oils – such as coconuts, olives, sunflowers and maize – require even more land to produce, boycotting palm oil entirely could be disastrous.

The zoo has therefore been working hard to promote sustainable palm oil production and a whole host of organisations in the city – including restaurants, cafes, retailers, schools, the university, manufacturers, visitor attractions and other workplaces - have

come on board, signed up to our initiative, audited their supply chains and adopted a palm oil policy. It all means that Chester is now officially recognised as a Sustainable Palm Oil City – the first on the planet to be given this title.

Cat Barton, the zoo's Field Conservation Manager, said:

"Rainforests are rapidly disappearing due to unsustainable oil palm plantations and this is pushing magnificent animals, such as the orangutan and the Sumatran tiger, to the brink of extinction. Something has to change or we'll lose these and many other species forever, and that's why we're campaigning tirelessly.

"I am so proud that we have helped Chester to achieve Sustainable Palm Oil City status. This is a massive step forward towards increasing the demand for sustainable palm oil, but we will not stop here and the next stage for us is to roll this model out across the whole of the UK, and then internationally.

"We've shown it can be done and we're ready and willing to help other cities to do their bit too. It's not too late for the majestic species affected by the palm oil industry, but it's vitally important that we act now."

Join us for celebrations at The Storyhouse. Find out more at actforwildlife.org.uk/palmoil.



A RARE INSIGHT INTO THE WORLD'S MOST TRAFFICKED MAMMAL

We have just started a pioneering study into giant pangolins and it's already revealing new insights into the previously secret lives of the little-known species.

Working in collaboration with the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and the Rhino Fund Uganda (RFU), we are aiming to uncover new information about the rare nocturnal animals in the first ever study of the species in Uganda. We aim to help with the long-term conservation of giant pangolins in Uganda, and elsewhere in Africa.

Pangolins, sometimes called scaly anteaters, are the only mammals in the world to be covered in hard overlapping and protective scales made of keratin - the same substance as human finger nails and rhino horn. They live on a diet consisting entirely of ants and termites, which they lap up with their long sticky tongues, and are able to quickly roll themselves up into a tight ball when threatened.

The giant pangolin, measuring up to 5.9ft (1.8m) long and weighing up to 5st (75lbs), is by far the largest of the world's eight pangolin sub-species and is found only in the rainforests and grasslands of equatorial Africa.

Pangolins are protected by international wildlife laws that ban their trade, but they remain the most illegally trafficked group of mammals in the world. Their meat is considered a delicacy in many countries and their scales are widely used in traditional medicines, particularly in Vietnam and China, despite there being no medical benefit from their use.

In Uganda, hunting or possession of protected wildlife species such as pangolins carries a punishment of five years imprisonment, while trafficking of pangolins or any other wildlife species carries a minimum prison sentence of seven years. However, despite full legal protection in Uganda and elsewhere in Africa, international customs agents have in recent years intercepted large shipments of African pangolin scales. In February, customs officials in Hong Kong seized the world's largest ever haul of pangolin scales, weighing a staggering 8.5 tonnes and representing thousands of African pangolins. Meanwhile, officials in Uganda recently seized 423.7 kilograms of pangolin scales believed to have originated in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Such seizures have set alarm bells ringing for conservationists, but very little is known about giant pangolin behaviour, ecology and habitat requirements - crucial information which is urgently



required in order to develop strategies to monitor populations and protect them.

Now, our researchers have surveyed for the presence of giant pangolins within three protected areas in Uganda. Working alongside the RFU, they have carried out an intensive survey of the country's Ziwa Sanctuary using camera traps and tracking techniques such as looking for footprints, burrows and other signs of the species.

So far, the 70 motion-sensor trail cameras installed by the zoo in Ziwa have captured hundreds of images and video clips of giant pangolins, including the first colour footage of the species ever recorded in Uganda. From these images and films, the researchers are now able to identify a number of individual pangolins by the unique marks and patterns on their scales and are recording previously unknown behaviours.

Stuart Nixon, our Africa Field Programme and Research Lead, said:

"The giant pangolin is a beautiful, mysterious and utterly fascinating species, but studying them is extremely challenging. Being nocturnal, rare and very shy, it's only with new

technologies, such as high sensitivity trail cameras, that we are able to learn more about how they live and interact with each other and their environment.

"Tragically, we do know the giant pangolin faces a huge risk of going extinct across Central Africa. With no giant pangolins in zoos or safari parks anywhere in the world, all our conservation efforts must focus on saving them in the wild. The race is on against criminal networks that only value dead pangolins, to save this species and protect them well into the future.

"The momentous images and video we are capturing at Ziwa prove that when sites are well protected against poaching giant pangolins and other species can flourish."

By collecting pangolin dung samples, we are also gathering crucial information on the animals' diet and hope to learn more about the genetics of giant pangolins. The team is also planning to fit satellite and radio tracking devices on the scales of giant pangolins to learn more about their ranging behaviour, feeding ecology and to help develop methods that allow conservationists to count and monitor them.

THE TALE OF MADAGASCAR

THIS is the tale of Madagascar,
The island that broke free from the mighty GONDWANA.
And for 88 million years it evolved all alone,
Creating a world, creating life, all of its own.
Becoming a place so SPECIAL, so biodiverse
That its animals and plants can be found NOWHERE ELSE on Earth.
But you won't have to travel across oceans far
To visit the truly unique MADAGASCAR
The enchanting island is coming to you
This spring, only at CHESTER ZOO.



This Easter we're bringing the incredible island of Madagascar to you! Join us as we celebrate this amazing habitat, the wildlife found there and just what makes this part of the world so unique! We'll be celebrating with a playful programme of activities including storytelling, dance, music and art – sharing the unique characteristics and culture of Madagascar. Discover amazing animals in our new immersive space, including a walkthrough habitat which will bring you face-to-face with our group of ring-tailed lemurs!

Madagascar opens SATURDAY 30 MARCH 2019. Find out more at CHESTERZOO.ORG/MADAGASCAR

Discover more about what you will see...

Ring-tailed lemur

You'll instantly recognise these lemurs by their black and white striped tails which they use to communicate and for balance. The thinner fur on their chest helps them to warm up in the sun, so you'll probably find them sunbathing on a nice day!

IUCN Red List status: Endangered



Fossa

Fossa are Madagascar's top predator and are often mistaken for a species of cat, when they are actually more closely related to a mongoose. They are perfectly adapted for hunting, with powerful jaws, large eyes for better sight in the dark and hunting, and a long, muscular tail for balance.

IUCN Red List status: Vulnerable

Red ruffed lemur

These lemurs, which are only found in a small area in the north west of the island, are covered in a long woolly fur which keeps them warm in their wet, and sometimes chilly rainforest habitat. They are arboreal, meaning they spend most of their time in the trees!

IUCN Red List status: Critically Endangered



Black lemur

The name 'black lemur' may throw you off, as not all of these lemurs are actually black! The males are, but the females have much lighter white and brown fur. A good way to spot a black lemur is to look for big ear tufts, which they use for visual communication.

IUCN Red List status: Vulnerable

Pyka - Lemur Lever near Awekids and Madagascar PLAY! Basecamp

Have you ever wondered what it's like to hear what the world sounds like to other animals? Well now you can! Come to the zoo and try out the Lemur Lever where you will be able to slow down and speed up sounds to experience the sonic worlds of lemurs. Using contemporary audio visual technology, pyka are bringing you closer to wildlife by allowing you to see and hear sounds of different species of lemurs and their natural environments in ways you've never seen or heard before!

ACTING FOR WILDLIFE IN MADAGASCAR

Madagascar is a beautiful, biodiverse country, and the fourth largest island in the world, situated off the south east coast of Africa. This iconic island is home to a vast array of unique and wonderful wildlife in its rich rainforests - from the brightly coloured golden mantella frog, to the cat-like fossa, many of which cannot be found anywhere else in the world. Sadly it's been estimated that Madagascar has lost up to 90% of its rainforests - which means that many species living in these habitats are now on the brink of extinction.

We have been working with NGO, Madagasikara Voakajy, in Mangabe New Protected Area for five years in a bid to protect this paradise and the amazing range of animals that live in it for future generations.

MADAGASCAR EXPEDITION

Last December we sent an expedition team made up of 15 Chester Zoo staff and a representative from our corporate sponsors, Craghoppers, to Madagascar to spend two weeks in Mangabe New Protected Area working with Madagasikara Voakajy. The team spent time surveying the biodiversity in the region and also working with local schools and youth teams encouraging them to protect the forest and species that they live alongside.

Surveying the biodiversity

Habitat loss is still a huge threat to wildlife in Madagascar and just two years ago in 2017 the highest deforestation was recorded on the island. Many species here are endemic to the island, so the protection of their habitats is imperative to the survival of the species.

The expedition team worked with Madagasikara Voakajy to carry out biodiversity surveys concentrating on four main groups of species; lemurs; amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates; birds; and small mammals.

Amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates

We've been working with Madagasikara Voakajy for years surveying the critically endangered golden mantella frog in Mangabe. Now that we have a good idea of the size of the population and of the microclimatic conditions at the locations occupied by the frogs, we wanted to get a better idea of the other species found in this ecosystem. The team installed pitfall traps, and in collaboration with local guides they collected the animals trapped and then identified them at the camp before releasing them.

Lemurs

Symbolic of Madagascar, lemurs are undergoing severe declines due to habitat degradation and hunting for bushmeat. Just as the country as a whole is a global concern, the lemur fauna of Madagascar is the single highest primate conservation priority in the world.

We supported Madagasikara Voakajy in conducting surveys in Mangabe to monitor the trends in diurnal (active during the day) lemur distribution, habitat quality and threats. If the team found a lemur during their daily survey walks, they would record the GPS location of the encounter and then conduct an hour-long observation of the individual by following it through the forest. At night, the team headed back to a different trail with torches to record any nocturnal lemurs they could see.

Small mammals

Very little is known about the small mammals present in Mangabe New Protected Area, so we conducted an initial survey to gather some information. The process included setting up regularly checked small mammal traps (Sherman traps), so the team could record any animals found in the location and then release them. Camera traps were also installed near some of those traps so that we could also record bigger species that might walk by.

Birds

Many bird species found in Madagascar are endemic to the island, which should be a huge appeal to birdwatchers; however ecotourism to Mangabe New Protected Area is currently very low. To help Madagasikara Voakajy develop ecotourism in the region, we conducted an inventory of the birds present in the areas that Madagasikara Voakajy hope to run tours for visitors.

On each walk, the team noted down all the species they encountered and also recorded their GPS coordinates to keep track of any birdwatching 'hotspots'. The survey showed that there's a huge diversity of birds in Mangabe, making it an attractive location for ecotourism and birdwatching.

Working with communities

Whilst in Madagascar, two members of our education team spent time with youth groups and school children in the community.

A youth lemur project started in 2016 was created to get the young people in Mangabe to protect the forest they live in and also get them to practice sustainable farming techniques, thus protecting the forest for the future.

LEMUR FESTIVAL

Our Digital Learning Officer, Lauren Walker, spent time in Madagascar with our field partners, focussing on digital interventions within education using her skills as a multimedia creative to help engage with our audiences. As we knew we had plans to open a new lemur walkthrough in the zoo in 2019, Lauren's trip to Madagascar meant that she could capture footage, photos and sounds from all around the island to share with staff and visitors back at the zoo.

As part of this trip, Lauren was also lucky enough to attend the annual World Lemur Festival in the capital city of Madagascar, Antananarivo. Each year the festival brings together NGOs, conservationists, educators and the Malagasy people to celebrate the biodiversity of Madagascar, but specifically lemurs. Madagascar is the only place in the world where lemurs exist in the wild and the Malagasy people are so proud of this. The festival is an array of colour, traditional dance and music, face painting, stalls, parades through the city and interesting talks about lemur conservation. From seeing this first hand - of course we wanted to bring some of this excitement and activity to the zoo to celebrate all things Madagascar!

Head to pages 16 & 17 to see what Madagascan celebrations our Discovery & Learning team have planned for Easter!

CRAGHOPPERS JOIN THE EXPEDITION

Craghoppers is a travel clothing brand and one of our fantastic corporate partners. They joined us on the Madagascar expedition as part of their 'Honesty Project' programme which aims to support ethical and environmental work which helps protect the planet for the future. Craghoppers donated technical clothing for the expedition team which ensured they were shielded from the elements.

Craghoppers representative, Jennifer Carew, joined the zoo team in the field to support the conservation work and see how Craghoppers are helping make a difference. Jennifer says:

"Education and equipment are two areas Craghoppers is most interested in funding. Educating the guides will help them to earn a living wage and equipment will provide the researchers with vital technology needed to survey the lemurs. But more than that – it's to safeguard our planet for the future and that is why our partnership with Chester Zoo and in turn, Madagasikara Voakajy, is invaluable."



THOUSANDS OF RARE SNAILS RETURN TO THE WILD

Nearly four thousand rare snails, bred and reared by conservationists here at the zoo, are being released back into the wild in Bermuda.

The greater Bermuda land snail (*Poecilozonites bermudensis*) - which measure around 2cm and live only on the remote, oceanic islands of Bermuda - were driven almost to extinction by predation from introduced species of carnivorous snails and flatworms.

Fearing to have vanished completely until a small number were rediscovered in 2014, the snails are listed as Critically Endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Fewer than 200 are currently estimated to remain in the wild.

But, at the request of the Bermudian government, a team of conservationists, scientists and invertebrate experts from Chester Zoo have come to their rescue after stepping in to join a recovery plan to save the species.

Over the past three years, they have built up a population of the snails in a breeding programme at the zoo.

Now, zookeeper, Heather Prince, joined by snail specialist, Dr Kristina Ovaska, and the Bermudian government's, Dr Mark Outerbridge, have taken the snails home.

The snails have been released on Nonsuch Island in Bermuda - an island nature reserve which has been chosen as an ideal location for the reintroduction following extensive field research. The island can only be accessed under strict quarantine protocols to prevent the unwanted introduction of alien species.

In order to track the snails and chart their progress, a select number have been fitted with individual fluorescent tags - a unique observation technique trialled by Dr Ovaska and our team. The tags will enable conservationists to monitor their dispersal, growth rates, activity patterns, population size and, ultimately, the overall success of the reintroduction.

Dr Gerardo Garcia, Curator of Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates, said:

"It's incredible to be involved in a project that has prevented the extinction of a species.



The Bermuda snail is one of Bermuda's oldest endemic animal inhabitants. It has survived radical changes to the landscape and ecology on the remote oceanic islands of Bermuda over a million years but, since the 1950s and 60s, it has declined rapidly. Its demise is mainly due to changes to their habitat and the introduction of several predatory snails. Indeed, in the early 1990s, it was actually believed to be extinct until it was discovered again in one remote location in 2014.

"It was really that rediscovery that sparked an urgent recovery mission into action and a population of the few remaining snails was flown to the UK. A collaborative project between the Zoological Society of London and Chester Zoo was then kick-started in order to breed the snails in high numbers and develop a blueprint for how to breed them in ex-situ.

"This is an animal that has been on this planet for a very long time and we simply weren't prepared to sit back and watch them become lost forever when we knew we might be able to provide a lifeline. Now, following three years of intensive work, we're thrilled and proud to say that we've reached a point in the project where snails are heading home. We're a team of delighted conservationists and scientists today. This is what we

strive to do - prevent extinction.

Dr Mark Outerbridge, Wildlife Ecologist for the Bermudian Government and the zoo's partner in Bermuda, added:

"It wasn't too long ago that we considered this species extinct, but because of the serendipitous rediscovery of a relict population on Bermuda and the dedicated care that our UK partners have shown in propagating them, now 4,000 snails have been released.

"It has been tremendously gratifying for me to see them return to Bermuda for reintroduction. We have identified a number of isolated places that are free of their main predators and I am looking forward to watching them proliferate at these release sites."

Several further releases of the greater Bermuda snail and a second species of land snail being bred at the zoo, the lesser Bermuda snail, are expected to take place in the coming months. It follows extensive work to restore important habitat on many of Bermuda's offshore islands.



Extinct birds hatch!

Two chicks belonging to a species that was declared extinct in the wild 47 years ago have hatched here at the zoo.

The Socorro dove, which originates from Socorro Island located 400 miles off the west coast of Mexico, vanished from the wild completely in 1972.

The introduction of sheep that ate plants the doves depended on for food and shelter, and invasive species such as cats that preyed upon the birds, are believed to be the main factors behind their demise.

Now, there are less than 200 Socorro doves existing entirely in zoos around the world, with just 23 in the UK – including our latest arrivals.

The chicks, which hatched on 7 November and fledged 20 days later, were raised by 'foster parents' – a pair of barbary doves – as adult Socorro doves have a poor track record of incubating eggs and raising their own chicks.

Our bird experts also helped to ensure the chicks had a smooth ride to adulthood, weighing them regularly to make sure they developed correctly.

The species is part of a European Endangered Species Programme (EEP), which is working to maintain a genetically viable population of the Socorro dove with the ultimate aim of returning the birds to their native habitat.

Currently, work is being carried out on Socorro Island to try and create safe areas for a future reintroduction of the doves.

Andrew Owen, Curator of Birds, said:

"Zoos in Europe, the USA and Mexico have, for some time, been breeding Socorro doves as part of a globally managed programme which is working to return them to their ancestral home.

"These chicks are significant additions to the recovery programme for the Socorro dove. It's rather humbling to think that they could play an important role in one day seeing the species fly around the island of Socorro once again."

You can find our Socorro Doves in the Tropical Realm.



SURVEYING CARNIVOROUS PLANTS IN INDONESIA

We supported the survey of nepenthes, a group of carnivorous plants, in West Kalimantan, Indonesia. The pitcher plants are facing various threats in this region such as habitat destruction due to forest fires, oil palm plantation and mining, and also their over exploitation for commercial purposes.

Nepenthes, also known as pitcher plants, are carnivorous plants that trap and digest insects in their pitcher-like leaf. Almost half of the 139 species of nepenthes that have been identified across the globe are found in Indonesian islands such as Sumatra, Java, Papua, Maluku, Sulawesi and Kalimantan, making the country a stronghold for these quirky plants.

Our field partner, Muhammad Mansur from the Indonesian Institute of Sciences, has a passion for the botanical world and more specifically pitcher plants. He has been collecting herbarium specimen for years and carefully stored them inside the Herbarium Bogoriense, a botanical museum in Bogor which currently holds 2,135 sheets of 72 species of nepenthes collected from Indonesia and abroad. Mr Mansur also keeps a living collection of 15 species of nepenthes in a small greenhouse, which he opens to students to learn about the plants.

One of the Indonesian provinces, West Kalimantan, is especially known to be rich in nepenthes diversity with various species having been recorded nowhere else in the world. However, conservationists are worried that threats such as land conversion for agriculture and mining, as well as the overexploitation of those rare pitcher plants might have taken a significant toll on those endemics.

Mr Mansur believes that conducting an inventory and a distribution survey of these species in West Kalimantan is crucial to ensure that adapted conservation programmes are put in place. One of the critically endangered species of nepenthes is known to only grow on Mount Kelam, a large granite outcrop, and another species threatened by illegal gold and coal mining

is classified as endangered and is known to be present in the Mandor Nature Reserve.

Supported by Chester Zoo, Mr Mansur and his team were able to conduct a 12-day inventory of nepenthes species in both those sites. The main objectives of this study were to record all the species found on those sites to get a population estimate, alongside a habitat description for each of them. On Mount Kelam, Dr Mansur and his team recorded a total of ten nepenthes species, and a total of ten species were also found in the Mandor Nature Reserve.

Mr Mansur's team also conducted a study around Mandor and interviewed a range of local people to assess their traditional knowledge and use of nepenthes. 90% of the villagers surveyed stated that the nepenthes population around their village had decreased compared to 10 years ago. They also informed the team that they had used nepenthes plants to cook rice in the past and as traditional medicine.

Dr Johanna Rode-Margono, Field Programme Coordinator for South East Asia at Chester Zoo adds:

"We hope that we can repeat the survey in West Kalimantan to investigate changes over time, and to add similar surveys in other places in Indonesia to provide assessments for other highly threatened species.

"In the future, it is our dream to build a small nepenthes conservation centre at Mr Mansur's institution that would allow for a combination of cultivation of threatened species, training and research opportunities for students and researchers, as well as serve as a base for a variety of field conservation studies. With this holistic approach we hope to secure the future of as many of these fascinating plants as possible!"

Don't forget to check out our collection of nepenthes in the Plant Project.



KIDS' ZOO

Go MAD for Madagascar!

We're leaping like a lemur into magnificent Madagascar this spring, and we want you to join in!

Where's Madagascar?

Madagascar is a large island off the east coast of Africa, which is more than double the size of the UK and has a huge variety of different habitats, including beaches and rainforests. It's home to thousands of species of plants and animals, which are threatened by humans overrunning their habitat.



Lemurific facts!

Lemurs are **ONLY** found on the island of Madagascar.

The name lemur actually means "spirits of the night" in Latin.

Lemurs have fingernails!

The pygmy mouse lemur is the smallest lemur species, at 6cm in height. The largest is the indri lemur, which can grow to 750cm.

What's a fossa?

Fossa are carnivorous mammals which can grow up to 80cm in length. They are Madagascar's top predator and are perfectly adapted for hunting lemurs. They have a cat-like appearance due to their claws and tails, but are actually more closely related to a mongoose!

Come and see them for yourself!



Photo competition!

Lemurs are **FULL** of character and will pull some funny faces if you watch them! Send us a photo of your best lemur impression and you could be in with a chance of winning a fantastic lemur-themed prize!

Get creative - paint your face, put on some ears and a stripy tail, or just pull a funny face like a lemur and send us a snap by post or email to be in with a chance to win a prize! Send your entries to: Z Magazine, Marketing Department, Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH or marketing@chesterzoo.org by 30 April 2019.

MADAGASCAR EVENTS

Find our Zoo Rangers for fun games, terrific talks, awesome activities and loads more!

Check our zoo boards for details for our PLAY! activities.



HAJAMADAGASCAR... *at Madagascar PLAY! Basecamp 30 and 31 March*

Join this amazing musician from the island of Madagascar who will be bringing melodies and beats from his fascinating culture using his traditional Malagasy instruments and music!

Get into the festival feel as HAJAmadagascar takes you to the vibrant and colourful Madagascar through his original Malagasy music. He'll take you on a tour of his traditional homemade instruments such as the kabosy, faray and valiha, and you can

even have a go at playing them!

And of course, you'll get to dance along to the music! Learn how to leap like a lemur, hop like a golden mantella frog and curl like a chameleon as HAJAmadagascar will also be running Animal Dance workshops that will show you how animals communicate through movement.

DISCOVER MADAGASCAR THROUGH STORIES, MUSIC AND DANCE...

Yan Tan Tethra will take you on a magical journey to discover the myths and legends of Madagascar through interactive storytelling and theatre.

Get into the festival spirit with our Global Grooves traditional dance workshop and discover East African and Madagascan culture through movement and dance. Or join Street Style Surgery to make your own musical instrument and celebrate Madagascar!

Visit chesterzoo.org/madagascar for more information, dates and times.

3.15PM DAILY FOSSA CHAT... *at the fossa habitat*

Did you know that fossa are Madagascar's biggest carnivore? These elusive animals lead secretive lives in the forests of Madagascar. Join us at the Fossa chat to find out more about them!

DROP-IN 3.30PM – 4.30PM DAILY DISCOVER... AYE-AYES... *outside the exit to Tropical Realm on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays.*

Did you know... that an aye-aye's incisor teeth carry on growing for its whole life? Join us to discover more about the amazing adaptations of this intriguing lemur.

DROP-IN 10.30AM – 11.30AM DAILY PLANTING FOR LEMURS... *at Madagascar.*

Youth for Lemurs is a project that protects lemurs by helping young people develop farming skills like growing crops. Have a go at potting your own plant to take home.

12PM DAILY LEMUR TALK... *at Madagascar walkthrough*

Did you know that ring-tailed lemurs possess both a 'toilet-claw' and a 'tooth comb'? They also regularly engage in stink fights! Come along to find out more about these amazing and unusual animals.

DROP-IN 3.30PM – 4.30PM DAILY DISCOVER... LEMURS... *at Madagascar on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays.*

Did you know... that there are over 100 types of lemur? Drop-in to celebrate these unique and threatened primates and learn the skills you'd need to be a field conservationist in Madagascar.

WEEKDAYS ONLY

LEMUR DRESS-UP... *at Madagascar PLAY! Basecamp*

Join us at Madagascar PLAY! Basecamp to create your very own lemur dress-up items to take away. You can show everyone that you're part of our Madagascar celebrations by wearing them around the zoo and to our marvellous Mission Madagascar Show and Parade later in the day!

LEMUR-LYMPICS... *at Madagascar PLAY! Basecamp*

Can you leap like a lemur? Or tap like an aye-aye? Test your skills in our lemur-lympic challenges taking place at Madagascar PLAY! Basecamp.

MISSION MADAGASCAR... *at Madagascar PLAY! Basecamp*

Madagascar is home to lots of amazing wildlife but it's under threat! Join us on a Madagascan adventure, meeting many incredible animals along the way before finishing off with our Madagascar Parade!



JUNIOR MEMBERS' PROGRAMME

BUILDING HABITATS

Saturday 16 March

Want to discover more about what goes into designing the different habitats for the many species at the zoo - like our new lemur habitat which is currently being built next to Madagascar basecamp? Join us for our hands on workshop which will have you creating 3D models of the spaces. (Suitable for ages 8 - 17). Head over to our website to find out more and book your session.

ACT FOR WILDLIFE

Saturday 13 April

We want you to join us as we lead the way in preventing the extinction of some of the world's most incredible wildlife! Get involved in our ACT FOR WILDLIFE campaign work and join our conservationists. (Suitable for ages 8 - 17). Head over to our website to find out more and book your session.

HOW TO BE A ZOO KEEPER

Thursday 30 May

This is a unique opportunity offered to Junior Members to spend a day working alongside a Zoo Keeper. Come prepared for a hard day's work. These activities can be tough and demanding so we strictly limit this event to those Junior Members aged 12 - 17. Head over to our website to find out more and book your session.

WORLD OCEANS DAY

Saturday 8 June

Each year Chester Zoo leads expeditions to support conservation activities. In 2019 our team is in Wales for World Oceans Day. This is your chance to join us there. You'll be investigating the sea shore and carrying out conservation activities on the beach to record and protect our oceans. (Suitable for ages 14-17) Head over to our website to find out more and book your session.



CHESTER ZOO

BIG CATS

Here at the zoo we care for some of the biggest felines on the planet. From the fierce and magnificent Asiatic lion to the stealthy and speedy cheetah, these carnivorous cats are spellbinding to watch. To coincide with our Big Cats exhibition (on until Tuesday 30 April), here's a look at the biggest cat species we care for.

ASIATIC LIONS

We care for a pride of three Asiatic lions: Iblis, our male, and two females named Kiburi and Kumari. Lions enjoy relaxing and lazing around, they spend between 16 and 20 hours each day resting and sleeping. They have few sweat glands so they wisely tend to conserve their energy by resting during the day.

Asiatic lions are listed as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. There are just 600 individuals left in the wild. Their population is confined to one place - India's Gir Forest. Because of this, the pride is vulnerable - an outbreak of a contagious disease or a

natural disaster could have drastic consequences. Therefore, maintaining an insurance population for this magnificent species is essential.

In autumn 2019, Iblis, Kiburi and Kumari will all be moving to an expansive new habitat on the edge of the current zoo boundary, behind the Tropical Realm. Inspired by the Gir National Park region of India, the state-of-the-art new habitat will feature raised earth hilltop viewing points for the lions to survey their savannah, as well as heated rocks, a water hole and sandy beach area.





JAGUARS

We have two beautiful jaguars here at the zoo, Napo, who is patterned and Goshi our female, who has a more unusual black coat with visible spots underneath. The jaguar is the largest cat species in the Americas and the third largest in the world. Unlike some of the big cats, jaguars are good swimmers and often find their prey in water.

Our habitat for the jaguars includes poles to climb on, outside dens, sun spots, and outside pools for the cats to practice their swimming skills in.

These stunning creatures are native to central and South America where, sadly, human-jaguar conflict is a serious problem. The jaguar is listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List, with other threats including habitat loss and poaching.

NORTH AFRICAN CHEETAHS

With large nostrils, lungs and heart this big cat is built to be the world's fastest land animal. This slender cat is a brilliant hunter, creeping up on its prey before going in for the kill with a sprint finish. Reaching speeds of 75mph this feline's long tail helps it balance whilst running, acting as a rudder to help it turn. However a cheetah's speed is only short-lived; it can only maintain its speed over 300 metres before becoming out of breath.

We care for four cheetahs here at the zoo; two sets of siblings. Burba and Singa are brothers, and male Matrah and female Adaeze are siblings too. All of our cheetahs are part of the European-wide breeding programme, providing an important safety-net in the event that wild populations become extinct.





SUMATRAN TIGERS

This critically endangered tiger subspecies is sadly the last of Indonesia's tigers, with only a few hundred animals left in the wild. The zoo is home to two tigers; mother Kirana and daughter Kasarna. They spend their time in their habitat on Islands, which includes luscious plants and trees, hot rocks to sunbathe on and a pool. Sumatran tigers have slightly webbed paws, making them faster and stronger than their prey in water. The stripes on a tiger are like a human's fingerprint – no two are the same – which is a good way for conservationists to identify them in the wild.

This beautiful species of cat is hanging on to survival by a thread, they are still being hunted and killed purposefully by poachers. The tiger's habitat is shrinking by the day as the forests are being destroyed for agriculture and unsustainable palm oil plantations, not only does this make it easier for poachers to capture them, it also means they're losing their food too.

Big Cats is an exhibition which reveals the world's biggest felines – from lions to tigers, cheetahs and leopards, all made from toy bricks, we also have a Brick Trail around the zoo where you'll discover never-seen-before re-creations of other zoo species. Made from thousands of toy bricks, the models include animals specially constructed by master builders! Big Cats is on until Tuesday 30 April in the Dragons in Danger Garden.

MONSOON FOREST

Saturday 15 December was one of the toughest days in Chester Zoo's long history when a fire broke out in our Monsoon Forest habitat. The remarkable efforts from the zoo team and the emergency services meant the fire was extinguished as quickly as possible and all visitors safely evacuated.

All of our mammal species - such as critically endangered Sumatran orangutans, Sulawesi macaques, endangered silvery gibbons and birds such as rhinoceros hornbills were led to safety by our conservationists in partnership with the emergency services.

As a world class visitor attraction, we are fully insured and we will be working with our insurers as we rebuild the UK's largest zoological building, Monsoon Forest.

The whole Chester Zoo team has been humbled by the incredible amount of support and kindness from the local community, our members, visitors and the general public. We have been overwhelmed by the amount of spontaneous donations made to the Just Giving page, which came in at over £250,000.

All money donated will be directly allocated to conservation projects, which support the South East Asian species housed in Monsoon Forest. Read more in the next issue.

LITTLE MIRACLE

A tiny chick defied all odds during the recent fire in Monsoon Forest. The healthy chestnut-backed thrush remarkably emerged from its egg at the exact same time that firefighters were tackling the blaze.

The chick's committed mother astonished our bird experts as she sat unperturbed on the nest during the fire, first hatching the chick and then attending to its needs as it took its first breaths.

The pair were safely moved by dedicated members of our bird team and, within hours, they had been re-homed in another area of the 125 acre zoo. A huge range of other animals were also swiftly given new homes, including critically endangered Sumatran orangutans, silvery gibbons and Asian forest tortoises.

Now, the bird has successfully fledged, and has aptly been nicknamed 'Phoenix' by its carers.

Andrew Owen, our Curator of Birds, said:

"This little chick hatching through the fire has astonished us

all - it really has defied the odds. It's a true little 'Phoenix' rising from the flames and a real shining light through what was a difficult time for us all.

"For mum to sit tight on her nest and incubate the egg, despite the fire nearby, is really quite remarkable. It's our little miracle, that's for sure."

Chestnut-backed thrushes, native to Indonesia, are a species which is rapidly declining in the wild and is already extinct on the island of Lombok in Indonesia where it was previously found. The species is listed as Near Threatened with extinction on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List. Our conservationists are working in Indonesia to tackle the issues that an array of songbirds, including this species, face.

THANK YOU!

We've said it many times but it never stops being true - we are humbled and overwhelmed at the extent of the support shown to us.

The kind donations helped us at a very difficult time. Not only has it ensured that we can carry on with our charitable mission of preventing extinction, it also provided comfort to our staff and volunteers when they were in greatest need of it. The biggest message we have taken away from this whole experience has been the knowledge that we are supported by so many caring people and organisations who, without being asked, stepped up to support us. This is extraordinary, and we do not take this for granted.

In turn, we want you to know that you can rely on us; you can place your trust in us as a charity to put your donations to the best possible use to achieve maximum conservation impact.

Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity, and for joining us in preventing extinction.

THE SECRET LIFE OF THE ZOO

Spring has sprung and along with the influx of new plants and flowers, we've also welcomed a new film production team into the zoo. The new crew started filming the eighth series of *The Secret Life of the Zoo* a few weeks ago and they've already captured some remarkable footage. As usual, the animals are the stars of this popular programme, but it also features some of our brilliant keeping staff narrating the trials and tribulations of some of our most



weird and wonderful species. One of those human stars, Deputy Curator of Birds, Mark Vercoe, is often seen on screen talking about many of our more feathered friends. We caught up with Mark to find out what it's like to work at the zoo...

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO WORK WITH BIRDS?

I always knew that I wanted to work with animals, but my interest in birds specifically wasn't sparked until I was 15. I did some work experience at my nearest animal organisation at the time, Rode Tropical Bird Gardens near Bath, and I never looked back. I loved all the different species of birds and found working with them really rewarding. Breeding birds is not just a case of putting a pair together and waiting for nature to take its course. There are so many variables that can affect if birds successfully hatch chicks, from creating the right pair to giving them the right nesting material - there's a myriad of things which may have to be changed in order to see a success. Those puzzles really interested me then, and they still do.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO CHESTER ZOO?

Working for Chester Zoo was a long-time ambition of mine. I really wanted to work in conservation and make a difference to the natural living world, and working at one of the best zoo's in the world, which does brilliant conservation work around the globe, was the perfect match for me.

I started here as Assistant Team Manager on the incredibly dedicated bird team and loved being hands-on with the many different bird species at the zoo. In three years in the role, our team celebrated lots of success which included the breeding of one of the world's most endangered species of bird, the Javan

green maggie. It took us a little under a year to encourage the birds, which were flown over from Indonesia, to successfully breed and we started a European insurance population for a species which is hanging on to survival by a thread.

WHAT DOES YOUR CURRENT ROLE ENTAIL?

I moved into the new role of Deputy Curator of Birds 18 months ago and a large part of the job involves developing the collection and exhibits. There is so much that goes into a new habitat, such as researching the planting going into the exhibit, ensuring we have the right combination of birds and making sure that all animals settle in quickly. I'm currently working on initial plans for the next zone we are developing, Grasslands, and it's really exciting planning new habitats which will end up being part of the long-term fabric of the zoo.

WHAT'S BEEN YOUR WORST DAY AT THE ZOO?

It has to be the day of the fire in Monsoon Forest. When I entered the building, soon after firefighters had brought the flames under control, I really didn't know what to expect. But the first thing I saw was our pair of rhinoceros hornbill safe and well, which filled me with hope. The way the whole zoo pulled together that day was amazing, people from across all departments came in to help and I'm so proud to be part of that team. Sadly, not all of our birds were as lucky as the hornbills but we managed to save the vast majority of them - and even had a chick hatch. A chestnut-backed thrush emerged from his egg during the fire and, amazingly, the chicks' mother sat on the nest and stayed there until we found them both and took them to a new home within the zoo. The chick has now fledged and we have nicknamed it 'Phoenix' - apt as it provided a real ray of light on what was a very upsetting day.

WHAT'S BEEN YOUR BEST DAY AT THE ZOO?

My favourite bird is the rhinoceros hornbill and I was lucky enough to see this beautiful creature in the wild when I travelled to Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary in Malaysia in 2017. A lot of the natural habitat for the eight species of hornbill that live in the forest was logged up until as recently as the 1980s and, as a result, many of the large trees that might have suitable cavities for nesting have now gone. We work with our partners, HUTAN, to create artificial nest boxes at the zoo which were then refined and taken over to the sanctuary. During my time there we successfully installed two new artificial nest boxes. Seeing the beautiful rhinoceros hornbill in the wild using a Chester Zoo nest box, was a truly wonderful sight.

I'm also a member of the IUCN hornbill specialist group, which means I am part of an international team that is working to safeguard the future of the hornbill. I feel privileged to be part of this dynamic, global team.



WHY DO YOU LOVE YOUR JOB?

We are in the privileged position of having nearly two million visitors each year and I feel our role as a zoo is to ensure that every person that comes here has a memorable day out, whilst also hopefully sparking an interest in conservation. I love that challenge. I work long hours and I often take work home with me, but if our natural world isn't worth it, then what is?

Series 8 of *The Secret Life of the Zoo* will air later in the year.





© Sue Flood

CAPTURE THE MOMENT

Develop your photography skills under the expert guidance of three acclaimed photographers in the wonderful setting of the zoo.

This two day photography course is designed for intermediate up to more advanced photographers. You will be led through the course by our three fantastic tutors who all come with a wealth of skill and experience.

The two-day course is split into four half-day sessions, with a maximum of 15 people in each class and is held at The Oakfield in the heart of Chester Zoo. Breakfast and lunch will also be provided, and there will be plenty of time spent in the zoo photographing our collection of animals and wildlife. These workshops also include an additional free ticket that can be used up to one month after the course, which means that you'll be able to come back to Chester Zoo and put the skills you have learned into practice!

Choose from two date options:

- **Weekday 2 Day Photography Workshop:**
16th - 17th September 2019
- **Weekend 2 Day Photography Workshop:**
21st - 22nd September 2019

Sue Flood will share practical tips and hints in the classroom - from technique, to clothing, to kit and field craft, followed by a practical session shooting around the zoo!

Cindy Miller Hopkins will be leading a session on downloading, processing, good editing practices and working with metadata and image files, as well as sharing invaluable tips on good business practice and marketing.

Stephen Johnson will be guiding you through the processes of image processing and effective workflows. You will look at shot selection, colour management, retouching and much more.

There will also be a choice of additional seminars from our tutors, including a session on how to take great quality holiday photos; a session on composition and finally a portfolio review where the tutors will review your own work and talk you through some ideas to take away and develop your skills even further.

HOW TO BOOK

The price is £340 per person for the two day course. Places are limited, so we advise to book as soon as possible.

For more information, advice on accommodation, or to book over the phone, please call us on **01244 650209**. Full terms and conditions can be found on our website.

Our photography workshop voucher is the perfect gift for budding photographers and animal lovers alike. Our gift vouchers come in a smart gift wallet, containing the gift voucher and everything you need to know about your day. If you would like to order a gift voucher please contact **01244 650209**.

A UNIQUE VENUE FOR YOUR EVENT

Chester Zoo is the perfect location for your special event with amazing animals, award winning gardens, a stunning Grade II listed building and an excellent events team! Get in touch with us today to start planning your event.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Make memories that will last a life time by organising your child's birthday party at Chester Zoo!

There's nothing quite like a zoo birthday party! It's a fun adventure that your kids and their friends will be talking about for a long time afterwards.

Lead your party on a Zoofari to explore the zoo! Then celebrate in style with party food and drink in our party animal area at June's Food Court. With over 21,000 animals and 500 species to discover – kids of all ages will go wild!

Your zoopa-doo-pa day includes:

- Admission to the zoo
- Food
- Bunting and table toppers
- Party hats
- Plush toy for birthday child (30cm)
- Plush toy for all party guests (20cm)
- Birthday card from Chester Zoo
- Party invitations to send out before your party



MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

Inspire your team or networks by arranging a meeting or conference in the stunning surroundings of The Oakfield – our Grade II listed building located in the heart of the zoo.

With views out onto our beautiful award winning gardens, it's a perfect location to keep your delegates both focused and motivated.

EVENING EVENTS

Planning a big event? Imagine your nearest and dearest within the stunning surroundings of a Grade II listed building, eating delicious food and sipping fizz – all within the unique setting of the UK's number one zoo!

Celebrate your evening event in a unique way! We can create the perfect celebration for your birthday party, help you connect with your clients and colleagues in amazing surroundings or you can even host your wedding reception, immersed in the sights and sounds of our wonderful wildlife!

GET IN TOUCH

Email us on events@chesterzoo.org or give us a call on 01244 650209



COULD YOU BE OUR NEXT TRUSTEE?

Created by our founder, George Mottershead, the North of England Zoological Society (NEZS) is the organization that runs Chester Zoo. As a wildlife conservation and education charity, we're overseen by a Board of Trustees.

There will be a vacancy for two new Trustees to be elected at the next NEZS Annual General Meeting. Existing members of Chester Zoo can be considered for this vacancy.

What does being a Trustee mean?

- Being responsible for Chester Zoo, a complex organisation involving nearly 1,000 people welcoming nearly 2 million visitors per year and combining a successful commercial operation with worldwide conservation reach.
- Being fully supportive of the zoo's values and mission.
- Being willing to give up at least one complete day every two months plus a two day strategy away day for meetings of the Board. Most trustees have a greater involvement than this, in order to better to acquaint themselves with many aspects of the zoo, take responsibility for certain areas and to represent the Trustees within and outside the zoo.
- Being willing to accept the responsibility that goes with any Trusteeship.
- Bringing a particular skillset to the Board meetings whether by virtue of education or experience.
- Being prepared to take on the responsibility unpaid (normal travel expenses can be reimbursed) for a period of 6 years

What are we looking for at this time?

- Any Chester Zoo member who thinks they would make a useful contribution as a member of the Board, with a particular focus on areas of expertise that would augment the experience around the Board table; namely legal, wildlife health and disease, marketing and fundraising.
- We would welcome applications from those who are on any future leader programme with their employer or anyone with previous experience on a high level Board in the public or private sector.
- For context we currently have university professors and conservationists, a teacher and finance and business specialists among the current trustees.

Any interested member should send an application for the attention of our Chairman, Mr Bruce Ursell via b.ursell@chesterzoo.org copying in Emma Powell, Executive Assistant e.powell@chesterzoo.org

Please include your current CV and a statement in support of your application.

Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by the Nominations Committee, following which the Trustee Board will recommend candidates to the AGM in June for election.

Closing date for applications is Sunday 31 March.

MY MAMMOTH YEAR

One of our amazing Elephant Keepers has taken on a year of challenges to raise money for our Never Forget campaign.

After the zoo lost two of our much-loved elephant calves to EEHV last year, Katie decided to dedicate 2019 to fundraising to raise as much money as she could to help find a vaccine. She is completing one challenge every month, including a half Ironman, a month of going vegan, learning to ballroom dance, and cycling around the entire Welsh coast!

We caught up with Katie to find out a bit more ...

So, Katie! How long have you been an Elephant Keeper?

I've been an Elephant Keeper for 7 years. I was an intern at Chester Zoo originally, and then I worked at Noah's Ark and Twycross Zoo before coming back to Chester Zoo two years ago.

What has been your favourite moment as an elephant keeper?

I wanted to come back to Chester Zoo because of the family group, and within my first year we had two elephant babies born. That was amazing! Definitely a career highlight. It's so sad to think about Nandita and Aayu passing, but that's why I'm doing this.

Which challenge are you most looking forward to?

I think the half Ironman is the challenge I'm most looking forward to, but also the one I'm most nervous about. I've wanted to do it for a while so it'll be great to be able to tick it off the list.

Which challenge will be the scariest for you?

They're all supposed to push me out of my comfort zone! But I'm a bit scared about the dancing

challenge. I haven't been to a dance class since I was little, and I've never done ballroom dancing. It's more difficult to train for than the challenge, because it's not just a question of strength or endurance. And I'll be doing it in front of people I know, so I know that nearer the time I'll be having nightmares about falling on my face!

And how can people get involved?

Loads of ways! My challenge in February is to crochet an elephant, and I've never even knitted before. We've found a great crochet pattern, and what we'd love is for people to crochet their own elephant (or as many as they'd like), and send them in to the Fundraising Department. We'll turn them into keyrings and sell them on ebay with all proceeds going to the Never Forget campaign! My challenge runs in February, but everyone else can send in their elephants any time throughout the year.

You can follow me on Instagram or Facebook @mymammothyear or find my blog mymammothyear.home.blog to follow my progress.

You can even participate if you like! We'll be looking for cyclists to take part alongside me in the Prudential RideLondon race in July, and we'd also love as many people as possible to run next to me in the Tatton Park 10K in November. I'll be dressed as an elephant but you can wear whatever you like!

Thanks so much to Katie for her amazing fundraising! To donate and to find out more about the challenge, please go to justgiving.com/fundraising/mymammothyear

SUMMER STAMPEDE

Join us on Sunday 11 August for our annual Summer Stampede, where you and your family can stomp around the zoo on a sponsored walk to raise funds for our Never Forget campaign. We'll have a route for older herds and one for little legs, Zoo Rangers with special elephant-themed activities, and of course there'll be an array of prizes to win!

We need to develop a vaccine for EEHV, a deadly virus that affects Asian elephants all over the world. Time is ticking and every elephant lost to this disease is one too many. We are working hard to protect our own herd and elephants in the wild, but we need your help if we are to ensure that this disease will become a thing of the past.

What's new in the shop?

If you're out and about around the zoo, you may notice some fantastic additions to our retail range, including books, cuddly creatures and brick-building fun!

Pop-up Brick Stop!

Make sure you don't miss our new pop-up store and activity area, the Brick Stop. You'll find us every day until 30 April at the exit of our Big Cats exhibition, where you'll discover something for brick and big cat fans of all ages.

Inside, there's toy brick sets, Duplo for the little ones, compatible animal light-up brick kits, and even 'make and take home' activities to create your very own brick creatures.

Last but not least, is a brick pit full of shapes to have fun and get creative with alongside some new cuddly cats which feature in the exhibition. And your 10% members discount applies on all brick kits and toys too!



New furry friends

For members who love to collect all our cuddly toys, we've got some very special new additions this spring. By popular demand we've introduced some very cute tree kangaroo and capybara toys, both of which are exclusive to Chester Zoo gift shops. And for bird fans, we've introduced a gorgeous new hornbill. All our new styles can be found in both the Islands gift shop and the main entrance gift shop.



- Duplo My First Animal Brick Box £26.99
- Stax giraffe £14.99
- Cuddly capybara £9.99
- Cuddly tree kangaroo £9.99

SUSTAINABILITY AT THE ZOO

We're always looking for ways to increase our sustainability as an organisation, and recently we've taken another huge step to protect the environment by reducing our volume of single-use plastic. We've entirely removed the majority of single-use plastics through a huge overhaul of our supply chain, reducing the volume by two million pieces!

'Bags for life' and pens made from recycled plastic bottles in our retail range are just two of many examples of the steps we are taking to be even more environmentally friendly. Visit our 'What's Happening' page on our website to find out more about our sustainability actions.

WE WANT YOUR RECYCLING!

We've recently teamed up with TerraCycle®, who are an organisation committed to recycling hard-to-recycle materials. With TerraCycle's help, we've now installed recycling bins around the zoo, where visitors can drop off any brand of crisp packets and Ella's Kitchen food pouches.

The bins are located inside the zoo and also in Café Bembé (before you enter the zoo).

Not only is this scheme increasing our sustainability efforts by recycling, but it's also helping fund conservation at the zoo. Every crisp packet or food pouch donated to this recycling scheme helps us to earn TerraCycle points, and each point earned contributes 1p to our Never Forget campaign which funds vital research into EEHV.

Head to actforwildlife.org.uk to find out more about #NeverForget



THE CRISP PACKET RECYCLING SCHEME

Waste that is
ACCEPTED:
Any brand of
crisp packets



Waste that is
NOT ACCEPTED:

- Popcorn bags
- Crisp tubes
- Pretzel bags
- Meat snack bags

Every crisp packet donated to this recycling scheme helps us to earn TerraCycle® points, each point earned contributes 1p to our **Never forget campaign**. This campaign funds vital research into EEHV, a deadly virus found in elephants in zoos and in the wild. Head over to actforwildlife.org.uk to find out more about #NeverForget



Talking Conservation

Summer 2019
Programme

If you'd like to find out more about how your membership helps fund vital conservation work, then pop along to one of our brilliant membership talks.

Wednesday 17 April

CHESTER ZOO AND MADAGASIKARA VOAKAJY EXPEDITION 2018

After the success of the first Chester Zoo expedition to Madagascar in 2016, a team of 15 staff from a variety of departments across the zoo returned in December 2018 to run a second expedition, supporting the work of Madagasikara Voakajy.

During the expedition, they joined with Madagasikara Voakajy's lemur survey project, in the protected Managbe forest and also trialled new survey methodologies for reptiles, amphibians and birds to help identify which species were present in this highly biodiverse forest. Find out more in this talk!



Tuesday 7 May

SAVING SOUTH AMERICA GIANTS: GIANT ARMADILLO AND GIANT ANTEATER - ARNAUD DESBIEZ

Two formidable giants from another era still roam the lands of South America: the giant armadillo and the giant anteater. Very little was known about giant armadillos until the Giant Armadillo Conservation Program (GACP) started in 2010. Arnaud (who's work has been featured in National Geographic, BBC Nature and PBS) started working alone searching for the species, but today the programme spans three biomes with a team of eight dedicated Brazilian biologists and veterinarians. The team also works with giant anteaters, which are the third most common road kill in Mato Grosso do Sul. The species could become locally extinct in some areas due to these vehicle collisions.



Come and join Arnaud as he explains his journey and learn more about how you can help to save these two incredible giants.

Thursday 20 June

NATURE RESERVE WALK AND TALK - HELEN BRADSHAW

Join us for an evening walk and talk around the zoo's Nature Reserve with our site ecologist. Helen will talk about the creation process of the site, how it has established in the last couple of years, results from the species monitoring there and other sightings. You can also join Helen in the amphitheatre where you will hopefully watch the swifts and swallows feeding above.

In the event of poor weather, our talk will take place in the Lecture Theatre and Helen will talk about the wider zoo estate, its species and habitats and how we're managing the developments on site. Please leave your contact details when booking for this talk, so we can contact you in the event of changing weather conditions.





Thursday 4 July

**PANGZILLA 2: SEARCHING FOR PANGOTOPIA
STUART NIXON AND NAOMI MATTHEWS**

In this talk Stuart Nixon, Africa Field Programme Coordinator, and Naomi Matthews, Chester Zoo's giant pangolin Project Researcher, will provide a "sequel" to Stuart's 2018 "Pangzilla" talk, updating us on their pioneering study of one of the rarest and most threatened of all Africa's mammals - the giant ground pangolin.

Using hi-tech, remote sensor trail cameras the project is now documenting the secret life of giant pangolins for the very first time, providing ground breaking insights which are urgently needed to help conserve this incredible and mysterious species.

Come along and learn more about and what Chester Zoo is doing to save Pangzilla.

Thursday 19 September

**FEEDING CHESTER ZOO'S 21,000 ANIMALS: HOW
HARD CAN IT BE? - CHRIS GEE, ANIMAL SUPPLIES
DEPARTMENT MANAGER**

The zoo's Animal Supplies Department source, grow and deliver everything that the diverse species at the zoo need every day. Why do we source the products we do? What are the challenges of trying to match the species' natural diets? How are we planting our future food?

In this talk, Chris will discuss everything from fruit for the primates to the meat for the carnivores, as well as everything else in between, giving you an insight into how we source and store the feed for over 21,000 animals across the zoo site.



MEMBERS' TALKS

All of our Members' Talks are held in the Lecture Theatre, near the zoo's main entrance off the A41, and they start at 7.30pm.

- Our talks are often fully booked so booking is essential
- They're free to members (please bring your membership card and welcome letter)

- We offer a special rate of £2 to adopters
- Members of the public and guests are welcome (£3.50 for non-members)
- Post-talk refreshments give you the opportunity to have an informal chat with speakers, zoo staff and fellow members.

Interested in attending?

Please call **Kate Brankin** in the Discovery and Learning team on **01244 389831** or email k.brankin@chesterzoo.org

MAKING VOTING EASIER

We hope that you love the benefits that membership brings. As a member you have the right to vote on a number of issues that might affect the way that the zoo is run. You can also vote for who you would like to appoint to our board of trustees.

We want to ensure that this process is as easy for you as possible and to ensure that we are moving our communications online wherever possible.

For this reason when the Annual Report and AGM notices go

out this year we'll do this by email and give you the opportunity to vote online.

The online voting will be overseen by an independent organisation to ensure that the process is fair and transparent. If you have not already let us know your email address now would be a good time to contact the membership team and sign up for emails.

If you don't have access to email then please don't worry. We can make special arrangements for anyone who can't receive the AGM notices and voting forms online.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY MEMBER'S DAYS: SAT 16 MARCH. FRI 5 JULY. ADOPTER DAYS: SAT 9 MARCH, SUN 6 OCTOBER

PREDATORS



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