



# Z

CHESTER ZOO

magazine

for members and adopters

AUTUMN 2019

# Z

MAGAZINE  
FEATURES



New arrivals... awwwww  
Pages 6-9



Wales expedition 2019  
Pages 12-15



Race for the rainforest  
Pages 26-27

For all of the zoo's latest news,  
go to [chesterzoo.org/news](http://chesterzoo.org/news)

# We're welcoming the Lions to their new home

This autumn, the lions are making the big move to their new habitat, which is specially designed to suit their every need and simulate their natural habitat.

Our lions are **ASIATIC** and are found only in a small area of India called the Gir Forest, which is an area smaller than Greater London. They once roamed across Africa, Turkey and Asia, but there are now only a few hundred left in the world. Asiatic lions are endangered and are facing threats in the wild, including conflicts with growing human populations and poaching. One disease or natural disaster could wipe out this localised population.

## SO WE'RE TAKING STEPS TO PREVENT THE EXTINCTION OF THIS MAJESTIC SPECIES

Our lions are part of the European Endangered Species Breeding Programme which aims to conserve a healthy population of Asiatic lions across Europe. This creates a wider gene pool and also creates an insurance population should the species become extinct in the wild.



[new habitat](http://chesterzoo.org/lions)  
[chesterzoo.org/lions](http://chesterzoo.org/lions)

# CARNIVORE KEEPER, KIERAN CIESLINSKI

tells us more about our lions and their brand

≡ new habitat ≡



"I've worked with our lions for just over two years now and I'm also part of the team responsible for caring for all the other cat, dog and bear species as well as a few other interesting animals like the giant otters and the fossa. No day is the same as a zoo keeper but it will usually be filled with a combination of tasks including spending time with the animals to check everyone is in good health, cleaning and maintaining their habitats, developing and implementing enrichment, and prepping food.

"People most commonly associate lions with Africa, however our lions are actually Asiatic lions and whereas they once ranged across Asia into eastern India, they can now only be found within a 20,000 km<sup>2</sup> protected area of the Gir Forest in India. There are roughly 20,000 African lions left in the wild, but only several hundred Asiatic lions remain. Both species of lion are visually similar so the confusion can be excused, however Asiatic lions are slightly smaller, they have a fold of skin that runs along their belly which African lions don't have, and males tend to have a shorter darker mane compared to the fuller mane of an African lion.

"Here at the zoo we have three lions: the male, Iblis, and two females, Kumari and her sister Kiburi, all three are 12 years old now and have lived together at the zoo since 2011. I am frequently asked why we only have three lions in our pride and that is because Asiatic lions live in smaller prides containing three to five members, and even then males are often



nomadic and may only be present for mating and feeding. The females have strong family bonds and usually enjoy each other's company, although they do occasionally need some alone time.

"The current lion habitat is one of the oldest in the zoo, and with the zoo's layout changing as part of the strategic development plan, it made sense to move their habitat to a totally new location. The new habitat will give them much more space and will provide myself and the team with the opportunity to implement some new innovative enrichment and husbandry techniques.

"I don't want to ruin the surprise, but this habitat is exciting!"

"The house is much more modern; one den is roughly as big as the entire old indoor area, and there are four of them! And not only that, but they now have an even bigger on show den. Outside the paddock is vast and filled with shrubbery and elements to replicate that of their natural habitat, with a few other features such as heated platforms just to keep things interesting. One of the things I'm most excited about though is the pond, as the lions have never had access to an open body of water hole. From time to time we have to shut the lions out of the paddock for maintenance work, but now we will have the option to give them access to an additional outside holding area that will be filled with more enrichment and vegetation.

"This habitat is designed to get our visitors as close to our lions as possible with an immersive feel which will allow visitors to gain a closer look into the lives of the lions. With fantastic new interpretation, hopefully visitors will pick up a few facts about why it is so important that we do everything possible to help save these incredible animals.

"Moving three adult lions to a new location is a challenge so preparation is paramount to a safe and stress-free journey. We have built a brand new crating area so we can leave the crate which will be used to transport the lions in place and allow the lions to become habituated to its presence and the routine of entering into it. For this though you need time and patience. So over the upcoming weeks we will be using positive reinforcement techniques to build the lions' trust in this new scenario, so come moving day, to them it will be just another day. We will separate them off and ask them individually to enter the crate, then transport them straight to the new habitat, where they will be released."

"I'm hoping with this new habitat visitors will be able to engage with the lions like never before and hopefully develop a love for them that will make them want to join the fight to help save the Asiatic lion from extinction."



## Join our Zoo Rangers

for a whole host of exciting activities to celebrate our

**Asiatic Lions** moving in to their **roarsome** new home!

Be prepared to find out some fabulous facts, look at some amazing artefacts, and listen to terrific talks.

Keep a look out on our website for the full timetable to be released soon.

[chesterzoo.org/lions](http://chesterzoo.org/lions)

# SEEING New Arrivals! DOUBLE



## Meet the new red panda cubs

The precious, two-month old twins have been revealed as a boy and a girl during their first ever health check-up. The red pandas, classed by conservationists as endangered in the wild, were born on 22 June to mum, Nima and dad, Koda.

Now, specialist vets and keepers have had their very first look at the adorable pair, examining them during the health check, where they were also weighed, sexed and vaccinated. Each of the fluffy youngsters was given a full, clean bill of health.

James Andrewes, Assistant Team Manager, said:

"These red panda twins are wonderful, important new additions to the carefully managed breeding programme for the species, which is working to increase the safety-net population in Europe as numbers in the wild continue to decline.

"Happily, both cubs are developing very well indeed and the health MOTs we've been able to perform confirmed that mum Nima is clearly doing a great job of caring for them.

"We also discovered the genders of each of the cubs - one male and one female - and returned them to their mum as soon as we'd finished giving them a quick



New  
Arrivals!

# SEEING DOUBLE

once over. Nima took them straight back to her nest and it'll be a few weeks now until the cubs start to develop the confidence to come out and explore by themselves. Before they're able to stand on their own feet, it is though possible that some lucky people will have the occasional glimpse of Nima carrying them from nest to nest by the scruffs of their necks."

Red pandas are found in the mountainous regions of Nepal, India, Bhutan, Myanmar and southern China where their wild number is estimated at fewer than 10,000 – a 40% decline over the past 50 years.

This decrease is a direct result of human actions, such as widespread habitat destruction, trapping for the illegal pet trade

and poaching for their iconic red fur – which in some countries is used to make hats for newly-weds as a symbol of happy marriage.

Conservationists at the zoo have called on the public to help to fight the illegal wildlife trade that is driving species to extinction around the world. People can report any suspicious activity they may spot, online or on holiday, via the zoo's online illegal wildlife trade reporting form: [chesterzoo.org/illegalwildlifetrade](http://chesterzoo.org/illegalwildlifetrade)

In recent years, we have been fighting for the future of the red panda, which is also known as the 'fire fox', through habitat-focused conservation projects in the Sichuan Mountains of China, where they can be found among the bamboo forests.

New  
Arrivals!

# ROCK HYRAX



**TRIPLETS BORN!!!**  
Keepers were delighted to welcome a tiny trio of rock hyrax pups in the summer.



The triplets – a male and two females, arrived to mum, Daissie, and dad, Nungu.

While the mini mammals may be small and furry in appearance, each weighing no more than a banana (250 grams), they are in fact the world's most closely related animal to the elephant – with the two species sharing a surprising genetic link.

Similar to an elephant, the rock hyrax has two large incisor teeth which constantly grow like tiny tusks, while its skull structure and shape of its feet is also just like its elephant ancestor.

While small mammals typically experience a short gestation period, rock hyrax pregnancies last for more than seven months. And when pups are born they look like miniature adults – born with their eyes and ears open and with the same furry coat.

Very aptly named, the rock hyrax lives in rocky terrain and can be found in colonies of between two and 26 individuals across Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.

They are sometimes referred to as 'rock rabbits' and conservation scientists believe they have their own language; communicating through 20 different sounds where specific tones convey different meanings.

The rock hyrax has long been the subject of scientific study, with the species helping researchers to learn more about how various animals can evolve and adapt to the environments where they live.



**SURPRISE!**

**New Arrivals!**

## Chimpanzee born in front of astonished visitors

The birth of a critically endangered West African chimpanzee caught visitors by surprise in the summer.

The new baby was safely delivered in front of a handful of astonished zoo guests at the end of a busy Saturday to doting mum, Alice. Keepers have named the new female chimpanzee Annie.

Primate experts have hailed the youngster as a 'vital boost' to the conservation breeding programme for the species. It follows several years of scientific research which has carefully assessed the genetics of all chimpanzees in European zoos, confirming the make-up of the group at Chester as hugely important to the future of the species.

It is estimated that as few as 18,000 West African chimpanzees remain in the wild and it is the first subspecies of chimpanzee to be added to the list of critically endangered apes.

**Mike Jordan, Collections Director, said:**

**"This new baby is a significant addition to this multi-generational chimpanzee group at the zoo - and a vital boost to the conservation breeding programme for the critically endangered species.**

**"Alice and Annie have bonded well and she's doing a wonderful job of caring for her so far. A new baby always creates lots of excitement and Alice has plenty of support from some of the other experienced mums in the group, who are all keen to lend a helping hand.**

**"The youngster provides particular cause for celebration given the plight of chimpanzees in Africa. More chimpanzees are hunted for the illegal bush meat trade than are born each year, causing populations to plummet in the wild. Couple that with the fact that humans are destroying their habitats and it's easy to see why these fantastic animals - one of our closest cousins - are being pushed towards extinction.**

**"This new arrival is a step towards changing the fortunes for the species."**

We have been working in Africa to protect some of the world's rarest chimpanzee species for more than 20 years. The expert teams have helped protect one of the last major strongholds of the Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee in Gashaka Gumti National park in Nigeria.



## CONSERVATION STARTS AT HOME

A word from our CEO, Dr Mark Pilgrim...

A United Kingdom without our native hedgehogs, butterflies and plants is unthinkable; you are helping us to protect them.

**I'm deeply proud of the work we do around the globe to prevent extinction, but what you might not know is that a significant portion of our conservation projects happen right here in the UK.**

Sadly, like so many species across the world, our UK wildlife is under threat, with a great number of species declining rapidly. In the last 50 years we have lost more than half of our biodiversity. We need to act now to help species that are hanging on the edge of survival.

Humans have had a devastating impact on nature as they destroy the ecosystems that support wildlife, but it is not too late to change this. Many of our UK projects are re-introducing species back into the wild, while we're also striving to raise awareness about ways we can all change our behaviour to make a better environment for wildlife. Our latest projects aim to do just that...

The fragile remains of the mosslands of Chester and Manchester provide a great example of the impact humans have had on the environment. Long before my time, draining of the peat bogs to make way for farming and development led to drastic deterioration of this habitat, once home to a bounty of British wildlife. But, 150 years on, it's not too late. We are working with partners to revitalise and reconnect the fragments of mossland that remain in the North West of England, and to restore these habitats to the wildlife havens that they were two centuries ago.

Over recent months, we have embarked on new projects to make these ambitions a reality.

The large heath butterfly, locally called the Manchester Argus, was one of the species that used to thrive in the peat lands of

the North West. In the UK today, these incredible insects can only be seen in the mosslands of Scotland, Northern Ireland and a few places in Lancashire. The Lancashire Wildlife Trust has been working on the restoration of the north's mosslands for 20 years, and we are pleased to say that we are working in partnership with them to contribute towards this crucial work.

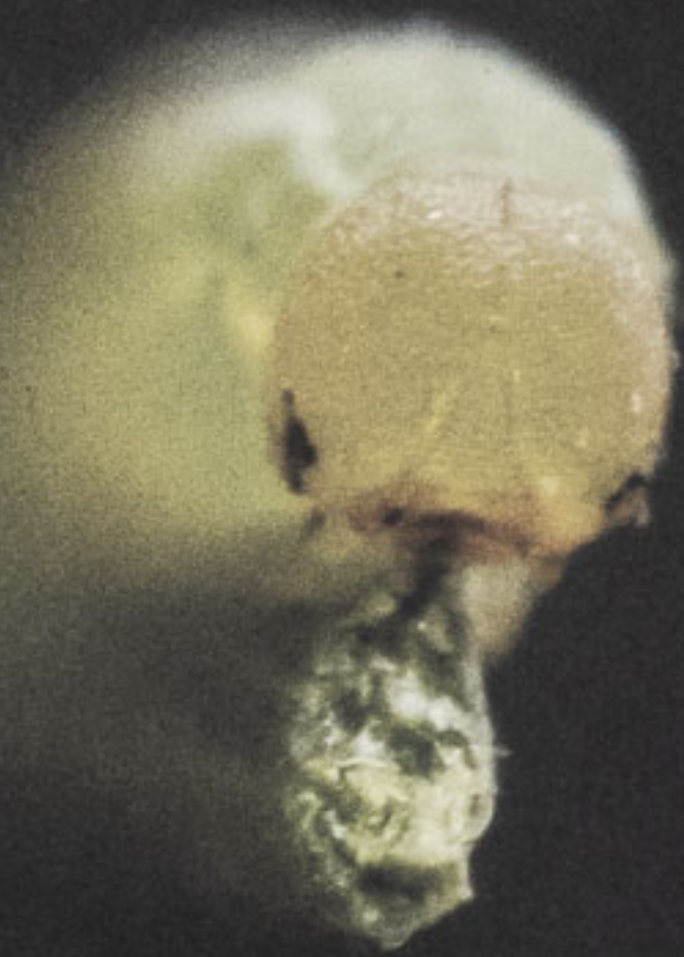
We've been busy building a breeding programme at the hands of our expert butterfly keepers to create a new large heath population in the North West. As you read this now, more than 150 tiny caterpillars are feeding and growing here on site. After a long winter sleep and pupation in the spring, next year these butterflies will be the first to fly over the mosslands of Manchester and Warrington for 150 years.

And it's not just butterflies. Much like the large heath, the great sundew was lost across the northern peat lands as the region modernised. This species is one of Britain's little known carnivorous plants. Tentacles coated in an irresistible and sticky liquid, line the leaves of the plant, trapping any curious passing insects.

Joshua Styles is a young conservationist leading an initiative to protect this endangered plant across the North West. Collecting seeds under license from an area that the sundew continues to thrive in, Joshua worked to raise adult plants in his garden at home. In June we helped Joshua return these plants to the Risley Moss for the first time in over a century.

These moments are major steps in rebuilding the natural world across Britain. We will continue to work towards our mission in the UK over the coming years, and each of us can do our bit in protecting British wildlife, from the most obvious species, to the smallest insects and plants that we often take for granted.

We will continue to work towards our mission in the UK over the coming years, and each of us can do our bit in protecting British wildlife, from the most obvious species, to the smallest insects and plants that we often take for granted.



Meat-eating plant



Large heath butterfly



Tiny, rare large heath caterpillars



Tosh Styles

# Wales Expedition <sup>2019</sup>

Each year, a group of staff from a variety of departments across the zoo are sent into the field to get hands on with conservation work. This not only gives staff the opportunity to get involved in activities that they would never normally get the chance to, but it also provides the opportunity to carry out conservation work that wouldn't be possible without the extra support.



This year's expedition saw the largest team yet head to a UK destination for the first time! 19 members of staff from various departments across the zoo, as well as three members of staff from rECOrd (a Cheshire wildlife recording organisation based at the zoo), travelled to two locations in the Cardigan Bay area in Wales for two weeks of conservation fieldwork. The main objective of the trip was to assist our field partners with conservation action through wildlife recording and habitat management, and to engage the public in the necessity of conserving UK wildlife.

The team worked with some of our partners, including two of the Wildlife Trusts in Wales, Rewilding Britain and The Woodland Trust to carry out essential surveys of wildlife on the Welsh coast, as well as removing invasive plant species, constructing roundwood buildings for educational use, beach cleaning, and ecotourism walking route planning.

During week one, the team woke up early every day and made their way down to Llanrhystud beach, New Quay beach and Aberystwyth beach to participate in ocean wildlife surveys,

shore searches and beach cleaning. The surveys for cetaceans (marine mammals), were fantastically successful, with the whole team spotting bottlenose dolphins in New Quay during the 20 hours they spent surveying. One of the days they were spotted up close from a boat, which was a definite highlight for many of the team! The shore search surveys were also a huge success, with a total of 54 quadrants undertaken, discovering 13 types of seaweed, 8 molluscs, 7 crustaceans and 5 polychaete worms. Not only did the team conduct all these surveys during week one, they also spent a total of 52 hours beach cleaning, collecting 2,314 pieces of rubbish (including over 600 pieces of plastic and over 900 cigarette butts)! All the data collected has been fed into The Wildlife Trusts' records which will help inform the management and creation of protected areas in the region.

Two members of staff from the Discovery and Learning team at the zoo joined the expedition to assist from a public engagement perspective. They worked incredibly hard to create a fantastic event on the Aberystwyth seafront for World Oceans Day. The whole expedition team got stuck in and engaged with around 950 people on the day. In celebration, the team ran a day of activities and public engagement alongside the Wildlife Trusts ranging from an interactive rockpool trough, to ocean themed craft activities, and stomach content matching. The activities, expert talks, face painting and even a parade aimed to inspire people to care about the amazing wildlife found around UK coasts. It was a fantastic end to the first week of the trip!



Shore search at Llanrhystud



Beadlet anemone



Common haircap moss



Pearl mollusk



Dolphin survey at New Quay

## Week 2

In week two the expedition group made their way up the coast to Machynlleth, where they spent the first day working with The Woodland Trust in an ancient woodland called Cefn Coch. The team were tasked with assisting with removing two invasive species which had been causing issues for the native species on this site; rhododendron and western hemlock trees. It was hard physical work, but the team managed to make great progress!

For the rest of the week, the team split into three sub-groups to thoroughly cover three areas; 'surveys', 'walking routes' and 'building', all contributing to the "Summit to Sea" project. The survey group examined the biodiversity across three inland sites conducting moth traps, bat transects, and small mammal traps, as well as collecting data on other flora and fauna species they encountered on the way. Despite the heavy rain, the team managed to collect 332 records of 269 species!

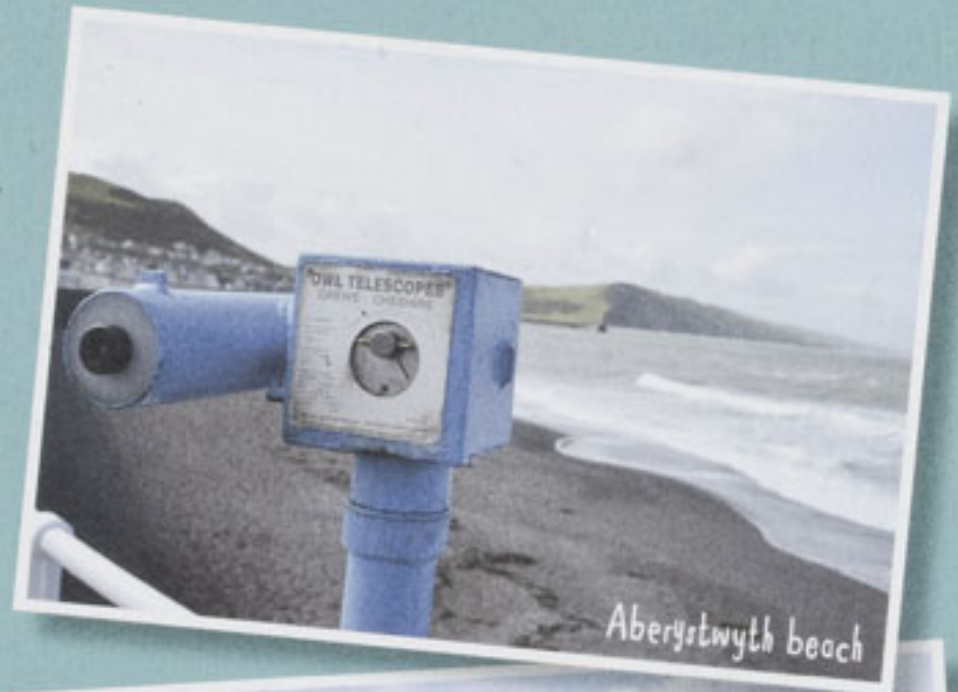
Another subgroup developed a walking route from the Cardigan Bay coast along a 50km route through some of the most scenic Welsh countryside and back to the coast. The main aim of this activity was to encourage visitors to reconnect with the areas of rich natural and cultural heritage, discovering beautiful landscapes and points of interest.

The third group spent the week working on building two traditional constructions with Cambrian Wildwood, to create an area that could be used for camping and education. One building was a composting toilet and the other an education building. Using traditional methods, the building group managed to build the majority of the composting toilet and make a fantastic start on the structure for the education building.



The partnerships built with the three organisations the team worked with during the expedition are invaluable to future UK conservation work we would like to get involved in, and the trip inspired staff and members of the public to take a proactive approach to protecting UK wildlife.

The established survey methods are hoped to be repeated in future, with the potential for extensive Chester Zoo involvement!



# Wales Expedition <sup>2019</sup>

We caught up with some of the expedition team members to get their feedback on the trip...



"The last two weeks have genuinely been a pleasure, building friendships and contributing to vital UK conservation work."

Eric Fletcher, rECOrd

"I work in an office, so for me it was just great to be outside everyday experiencing the fantastic Welsh wildlife. Joining the expedition has really given me the opportunity to learn more about what's right on our doorstep, and I was surprised by how many species you can find in the UK that I wasn't aware of!"

Heidi Budden, Marketing Officer



"The best part of the expedition for me was when the team really pulled together to help decorate, set up and deliver a brilliant World Oceans Day event – everyone was full of enthusiasm and passionate to share all the interesting stuff that we spent the previous week learning."

Naiara Dunn, Safari Ranger



"Staff expeditions are an amazing opportunity to learn and at the same time give something back to conservation. The satisfaction you will feel, the knowledge you will gain and the new friends you will make along the way all adds up to an unforgettable experience."

Ryan Keck, Lead Architectural Technician



"For me, engaging with public during our dolphin survey work was fantastic – the look on kids' faces when we pointed out the dolphins in the bay was brilliant – genuine excitement and passion from the next generation"

Chris Grindle, Keeper

# MEET NICOLA BUCKLEY Learning Manager



I graduated with a BSc in Animal Conservation Science in 2008 and I knew at this point my passion firmly sat in inspiring and educating people to be involved in conservation and wildlife. Shortly after graduating I joined the Discovery & Learning Team at Chester Zoo as part of a Lottery funded project encouraging young lone parent families to the zoo. After the project ended I joined Keele University as their Environmental Education Project Officer for 5 years, and also completed my MPhil in Earth Science and Communication during this time.

I returned to the Discovery & Learning team at the zoo in 2016 and spent the next 3 years managing and coordinating the volunteer programme, supporting and training over 150 fabulous volunteers.

In March 2019 I took on the role of Learning Manager and now support a brilliant team of Education Officers and Zoo Rangers who deliver engaging sessions to connect people with our conservation stories and our animals. My work involves developing and managing learning delivery across the zoo to ensure these meet our learning objectives. Every day is different at the zoo!

We have a talented team of people from all sorts of backgrounds and together our team is responsible for the learning opportunities that take place in the zoo, in surrounding communities and also where we work around the world in the field.

*"Our role is to give people the opportunities to learn about wildlife but most importantly how they can be a part of protecting it for the future. The more people we can inspire to act for wildlife the better the chance we have of saving species from extinction – possibly even inspire the next generation of conservationists."*



Nicola delivering education workshops in Madagascar

Within the D&L team we have specific teams for in-zoo learning, community engagement, online learning, volunteering and exhibits and interpretation and we work closely together to deliver our learning outcomes. To enable us to deliver the best possible learning opportunities we also work closely with other teams across the zoo.

The best part of my job is the creativity and magic that happens behind the scenes within the D&L team, from initial project ideas through to delivery and to finally seeing the impact we can have with our audiences. Every day the team has the potential to be a part of hundreds if not thousands of conservation learning journeys and I am a part of that. I also don't think many people can say that they are greeted with the sound of the Lar gibbons calling when you arrive at work!

During my time at Chester Zoo, I've been lucky enough to spend some time on section with the primate team and to see the orangutans up close was just incredible, it makes topics such as Sustainable Palm Oil even more emotive and real. Last year I was lucky to be able to trial our first bronze Duke of Edinburgh programme with a small group of students, it was a very proud moment at the celebration event seeing the students combat their nerves and present their amazing campaign videos and animations to an audience at The Oakfield. I also had the opportunity to join the Madagascar expedition team in 2018 which was such a privilege to be a part of.

In the future, I am looking forward to rolling out our brand new Junior Programme for 2020 which will give young people between the ages of 5 and 17 the opportunity to get involved in some incredibly exciting activities and projects. The programme will provide pathways for young people to be involved with Chester Zoo, the conservation work we do and how they can be a part of it.

## WILDLIFE CONNECTIONS MASTERCLASSES AT THE ZOO

Helping Hedgehogs Masterclass  
29 October 2019

Join zoo experts to find out more about these enigmatic omnivores and learn what you can do to protect these threatened animals.

Go to [chesterzoo.org/events](https://chesterzoo.org/events) to book and to keep a look out for more masterclasses coming soon.

# KIDS' ZOO

## THE MANE EVENT QUIZ!

Lions have been part of human culture for thousands of years, featuring in drawings, stories and sculptures all over the world! And they continue to fascinate and inspire us today...

1. Which English king was named "the Lionheart"?
2. The name for which world city can be translated to Lion Fortress?
3. Which cave in France were cave paintings of lions from 32,000 years ago found?
4. Which California film studios use a lion as their mascot?



**Scotland**  
850 years ago  
William I was known as **William the Lion**.  
Present day  
Lions feature on the **Scottish football team badge**.

**Northern Ireland** 70 years ago  
**Aslan the lion** features in C.S. Lewis' **Narnia** books.

**France** 32,000 years ago  
Cave paintings of lions drawn in the **Chauvet Cave**. They're some of the **best preserved anatomical cave paintings** in the world.

**England**  
800 years ago  
Richard I was nicknamed **Richard the Lionheart**. Lions were also first used on the royal coat of arms.  
Present day  
Lions feature on the **English football team badge**.

**United States of America**  
90 years ago  
In California **MGM Studios** first use a lion as their mascot.  
20 years ago  
Disney's film **The Lion King** features lions as the rulers of the **Pride Lands of Africa**.

**Rome** 2,000 years ago  
Lions were used in **Colosseums** for **gladiatorial fighting** and as a method of executing criminals.

**Ancient Egypt** 4,500 years ago  
The **Great Sphinx of Giza** is thought to have been built around the same time. Mystery still surrounds its **exact age and history**.

**China**  
1,800 years ago  
**Imperial guardian lions** were placed in front of imperial palaces for protection.  
Lion dance is also a **traditional dance** using a lion costume which mimics their movements.

**Competition** Answers the questions above and you could be in with a chance of winning a ROARsome prize!

Send your answers to: Z Magazine, Marketing Department, Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH or [marketing@chesterzoo.org](mailto:marketing@chesterzoo.org) by 31 October 2019.



CHESTER ZOO

THE  
LANTERNS  
AT CHESTER ZOO



There's something **MAGICAL**  
happening at Chester Zoo this Christmas!

**BOOK NOW**

22 November  
to 23 December

Seeing is believing

The Lanterns is returning to Chester Zoo  
this Christmas, and this year it's even  
**MORE** magical...

## Seeing is believing

This year, we'll take you on a mystical journey as you set off on The Great Christmas Expedition. Encounter nine fantastical worlds on The Lanterns route around the zoo, each one different to the last. You'll discover three **BRAND NEW** worlds, all guaranteed to give you that glowing festive feeling!

You'll be transported to the bottom of the sea in **Underwater** where you'll need to dodge the jellyfish and fish before coming face-to-face with a **HUGE** octopus!

Then make your way through **Tropical Dreams** which will be a dramatic centrepiece, complete with new beautiful lanterns. Then suspend disbelief as you take the **Night Sky Adventure** and travel through the clouds and stars, under the moonlight.

Our twinkling **light tunnel** will be even more sparkly and spectacular this year, so stop by for a fantastic photo opportunity! As you make your way around the illuminated route, you could find yourself meeting an elephant, parrots and even an octopus: just a few of our new incredible **Lanterns puppets**. You'll also spot a few familiar faces along the way, including penguins, giraffes, emus, and **Father Christmas** and his **reindeer!**

Our **Christmas Market** will be even bigger and better this year, with **LOADS** of delicious festive treats on offer, including churros, a hog roast, Christmas Yorkshire burritos, veggie delights, burgers and, of course, bratwurst! Our contemporary British pub, The Oakfield will be ready to welcome you in for a drink, so grab yourself a mulled wine and warm up together by the fire.

The Lanterns is sure to give you a magical and memorable Christmas experience that you'll find nowhere else. With performers, interactive puppets, stunning animal lanterns and **lots of snow**, you'll make memories with your friends and family that you'll never forget! Join us this winter for a Christmas celebration that is uniquely Chester Zoo...

### DATES

November: 22, 23, 24, 29, 30  
December: 1, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19,  
20, 21, 22, 23

### TICKETS

Child tickets from £5.50  
Adult tickets from £10.50  
Children aged 2 and under enter free of charge



# RARE FROGS COME TO EUROPE FOR THE FIRST TIME AS WE TRY TO SAVE THE SPECIES

A critically endangered species of frog from South America has arrived at the zoo in a bid to save it from extinction.

Lake Titicaca frogs are named after the lake they are naturally found in which straddles the border of Bolivia and Peru at around 12,500 feet above sea level.

They are the world's largest aquatic frogs and spend most of their lives on the bottom of the lake, absorbing oxygen from the water using their saggy folds of excessive skin.

Now 150 of the rare Lake Titicaca frogs are being cared for here at the zoo, and keepers are studying their behaviour to try to gather new insights in the latest conservation efforts for the species.

A combination of pollution, habitat loss and hunting has led to a number of mass deaths and devastated their numbers.

The frogs are listed as Critically Endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), with an estimated 80% having been lost from the lake in the last 20 years alone.



In response, nearby researchers began attempts to breed the frogs, before seeking assistance from conservationists at Denver Zoo in America and ourselves here at Chester.

Meanwhile, we have formed an alliance with the Cayetano Heredia University in Peru and the Natural History Museum's Alcide d'Orbigny in Bolivia in a ground-breaking union which is fighting to save the Lake Titicaca frog.

The two institutions are part of a binational action plan for the conservation of the species – the first time the two countries have come together to attempt to protect the frogs. The plan of the two organisations is focussed on securing the future of the lake by promoting sustainable activities for local communities, recovering the quality of the habitat and managing the wild frog population.



The planet is facing its biggest ever biodiversity extinction, with thousands of amphibian species at risk of being lost forever.



### Dr Gerardo Garcia.

Curator of Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates, said:

"To be the **first zoo in Europe** to work with these fascinating frogs is a real honour and we're very happy to report that they've already settled in and are breeding here. What we need to do now is to build on our knowledge of the species – learn what makes them tick and harness information which could be really valuable for conservation action in the wild.

"It's also important that the arrival of these frogs helps us to raise more awareness of their plight in the wild and they act as real ambassadors for their species. Lake Titicaca frogs are highly threatened with extinction. The one, high montane lake that they live in is an extremely fragile environment and they

have really suffered at the hands of pollution and introduced fish species. It's illegal to harvest these frogs but Peruvian and Bolivian fishing communities are still known to do so - they use them in smoothies, which they believe enhances virility and energy.

"The planet is facing its biggest ever biodiversity extinction, with thousands of amphibian species at risk of being lost forever. Humans are very much part of the problem but we won't sit back and let that happen because we're now key to the solution. We want to make sure the Lake Titicaca frog is around for generations to come."

# THE SECRET LIFE OF THE LONGEST SERVING KEEPER IN THE ZOO

This October, Niall Ormerod, our longest serving member of staff, will work his last shift at the zoo, 48 years to the day since he started. He's worked at the zoo for nearly half a century and most of that time he's been working with the chimpanzees. Niall spent some time telling us about his varied and wonderful career here at Chester Zoo.

"I feel so honoured. This is the only place I ever wanted to work, so to get the opportunity to work here all my life is truly amazing.

"Like so many people I visited the zoo as a child, from my nearby home in Lancashire. Back in the 60s the zoo was smaller so you would often see the founder, George Mottershead walking around the zoo and once I even got the opportunity to have lunch with him. I clearly remember sitting opposite George at The Oakfield and being slightly star struck while he chatted with my dad. After a few minutes I plucked up the courage and told him I wanted to be a zoo keeper at Chester Zoo. He was full of encouragement and from that day I made it my mission to work here. When I was 15 I wrote my first letter to George asking him for a job. He wrote back telling me I was too young, so I kept on writing! Finally, when I was 17, I landed a job, moved to Chester and have never looked back.

"When I started here I was lucky enough to work with my then favourite animals, the big cats. I loved my job looking after the lions, tigers, cheetahs – as well as bears and sea lions. Then, after just six months, I swapped departments to work with the gorillas and pygmy hippos, nocturnal animals, but mainly the chimpanzees.

"Working so closely with the chimps you get to know them, their characteristics and their moods too! The dynamics within a group of chimps are complex; they like continuity and normality and I feel like I have provided that for our group for nearly half a century.

"Our group here are West African chimpanzees. Sadly this species is hanging on to survival in the wild. In the time I've worked here the wild chimpanzee population has declined by



Niall with Sid, the first Sumatran orangutan born at Chester Zoo.

over 66% and I've spent the majority of my career helping build up an insurance population. Successfully breeding chimpanzees is not easy, and at one point we had the most successful breeding programme in Europe, which I'm immensely proud of.

"In my time at the zoo I've seen lots of baby chimps arrive and I never tire of it. I clearly remember the first chimpanzee birth I ever saw. The mum Chichi went into labour and in just half an hour she'd given birth to a beautiful baby. Once she'd cleaned it up, she held out the baby's hand to me and let me touch it through the mesh; it's a moment I will never forget. I've got a photo of all our chimps - past and present - on the wall in our keeper's mess room. I've always named them after singers or songs as I like a name that's easy to call out. I got to name my last ever baby just a few weeks ago, so went with Annie after Annie Lennox.

"One of the highlights of my career was going to Australia on behalf of the zoo. We are also one of the only zoos in the world to successfully introduce a male chimp into a multi-male group. After that success I was personally asked to go to Taronga Zoo in Sydney to help them with their chimp introduction programme. Their group was similar to ours but they hadn't had a new chimp come into the group for 20 years. I was there for a month and in that time we got four of their chimps in with the three new ones, which was brilliant for the wellbeing of the group.

"I can't talk about my time at the zoo without talking about the most famous chimp in the zoo, Boris. Boris spent the first few years of his life being cared for by a family in their home in New York so he's always been more akin to humans than the rest of our group. When I came to the zoo, he like me, was a young whippersnapper full of life and vigour. I've seen him grow up, take prime position in the chimp group as dominant male and then after Dylan took over, slow down, go grey and gracefully grow old, like me. Not every chimp has liked me but I've been lucky that Boris has, which has proved useful over the years. He's often helped me navigate the complicated world of chimp social politics! It's not just Boris I'll miss though; I've known Nicky and Wilson longer than I've known my wife so not seeing them every week will be strange.

"The zoo has been part of my life for 48 years so not coming to work and having a laugh with our brilliant primate team will be hard to get used to - but I've got a lifetime of memories and rest assured will be here as a visitor very soon!"



Hester Mendes during one of her visits to see her boy home.



Niall will feature in the next series of The Secret Life of The Zoo, which will air in the autumn.



# RACE FOR THE RAINFOREST

Rob McKay, Managing Director of Sherrington Associates in Chester, is trailblazing an incredible FUNDRAISER for our conservation work in Borneo. We caught up with him to find out more...



## What is Race for the Rainforest?

"In March 2021 we're taking a group of influential business leaders to Borneo to race in the

Borneo Ultra-Trail Marathon to raise much-needed funds for the zoo's reforestation work. We're aiming to raise £50,000 to buy a plot of land in the Sabah region of Borneo to help complete a wildlife corridor between two disconnected areas of rainforest."

## What made you want to fundraise?

"In 2015 I visited the beautiful island of Borneo for a family holiday. Many years later in 2018 I listened to a talk by the zoo's CEO, Dr Mark Pilgrim, about the devastating effects of deforestation caused by the palm oil industry over the last two decades. I was struck and deeply saddened by the huge loss of habitat and biodiversity in the time since I'd visited."

"Last year I began talks with the zoo to try to do something about it. Chester Zoo has been doing conservation work in Malaysia and Indonesia for many years and with their partners, HUTAN, they've been delivering some really innovative projects to reforest and maintain habitats in order to protect endangered species. Understanding their work a little more, I realised that to achieve their conservation ambitions, they need funds."

## Why this challenge in particular?

"Having looked into a variety of endurance challenges that might warrant suitable fundraising opportunities, we finally decided on probably the most ambitious of all of them. Each

year, around March time, over 1,500 athletes compete in the Borneo Ultra-Trail Marathon (BUTM), a merciless footrace through the Sabah jungle in Borneo, with 30k, 50k, 100k and 100 mile race options. It's not for the faint-hearted, but given the variety of race distances, making it more inclusive for competitors of varying abilities, we felt it was ideal."

"Not only that, I wanted to do what I could to promote the use of sustainable palm oil. In order to achieve meaningful and lasting change systems and economies to prevent the further growth of the unsustainable palm oil industry, consumer countries like the UK will need to take a completely different approach to the way its supply chains operate, an area the zoo has been leading on over recent years through the Sustainable Palm Oil City campaign."

"This challenge will be an important opportunity to allow business leaders to witness the biodiversity crisis first hand – the idea being they'll return to the UK with a burning passion to influence change in supply chains through their roles in business."

## How can people support Race for the Rainforest?

We're actively looking for sponsors and competitors right now. If you're interested in becoming a corporate supporter of the challenge, or even lacing up your trainers and joining the adventure to make a real difference, please contact the zoo team who will be happy to talk through the plans

[fundraising@chesterzoo.org](mailto:fundraising@chesterzoo.org)

Download our leaflet for full details of how you can get involved with Race for the Rainforest at [chesterzoo.org/racefortherainforest](http://chesterzoo.org/racefortherainforest)



If you'd like to donate to help us reach our goal, then please follow this link

[www.justgiving.com/campaign/Race-For-The-Rainforest-2021](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/Race-For-The-Rainforest-2021)

# Weddings at CHESTER ZOO

*After much anticipation, weddings have returned to Chester Zoo and our expert Sales & Events team is raring and ready to deliver an unforgettable experience for the happiest day of your life.*



**Our Sales Manager, Daisy Poole, has been working with the team to prepare tailor-made weddings here at the zoo. Find out what you can expect...**

"I've been Sales Manager here at Chester for over a year now, having previously worked for Imperial War Museums in London and Manchester. I'm originally from Chester so feel very at home here at the zoo, somewhere I spent many a happy weekend with my family as a child.

"Weddings at Chester Zoo were always hugely popular, but while we were refurbishing The Oakfield we had to put all weddings and events on hold. Now our beautiful gastro pub in the heart of the zoo has reopened we are able to plan weddings again...only now more special than ever!

"At Chester Zoo you can share your big day surrounded not only by your family and friends, but also by 125 acres of award-winning zoological gardens and over 27,000 incredible animals. It is a truly unique setting for any wedding - big or small.

"We can offer everything, from our beautiful bridal suite for getting ready, to the all-important wedding ceremony, followed by an intimate dinner in our garden room or a party into the evening!

"Our Grade II listed manor house, The Oakfield, was the home of our founder George Mottershead and his family. It's where the zoo's history began and you can really feel that in every part of the house. The refurbishment project was undertaken in such a way that all the beautiful original features of the house have been perfectly maintained, with the addition of some modern features.

"We know how important high-end, freshly prepared food is to any special event. Our Head Chef has created a range of sample menus to inspire you, so that whether you are looking for a full three course sit down meal, an evening buffet or selection of delicious luxury canapes, we will have a menu that works perfectly for you and your guests.

*"Our dedicated events team will work closely with you to plan a day which feels really personal to you. We are there from the beginning of the planning process right through to the big day. We can arrange show rounds and menu tastings; and advise you on flowers, photographers or entertainment.*

*We love collaborating with couples to create a truly unique wedding. We work closely with our colleagues around the zoo to ensure we deliver the wedding of your dreams, with a sprinkle of extra Chester Zoo magic!*

"We know that Chester Zoo holds a special place in many people's hearts – especially those who choose to get married here. We have had many couples tell us they had their first date or even got engaged here! With this in mind we work hard to ensure that every wedding we plan and deliver feels truly special and goes as smoothly as possible. You will never find another venue like Chester Zoo!"

# Wedding showcase event



We are hosting a wedding showcase at  
*The Oakfield*  
on Sunday 29 September.

Drop in any time from 3pm

Our sales and events team will be on hand to show you our spaces and chat to you about our exciting packages.

*There will also be complimentary nibbles and fizz available on the day.*

You will need to register in advance to attend via our website  
[www.chesterzoo.org/weddings](http://www.chesterzoo.org/weddings)



Meet...

## Ben Finchett

Executive Head Chef,  
The Oakfield

"I have worked in the catering and hospitality industry for the last 25 years. My first role was at The Alyn in Rossett where I started as a pot washer on the weekends, but managed to progress quickly to helping the starter chefs. It was at this point that I decided I wanted to hone my skills further, so I enrolled onto an NVQ course at Yale College. Since then, I have worked my way up over the years to where I am now.

"I began working at the zoo in March 2018, after I saw an advert online. Having been a member here for a couple of years, I was aware of the importance of The Oakfield to the zoo's history, and knew that Chester Zoo would be an amazing place to work. I wasn't wrong!

"The zoo really is a unique place to work - where else can you hear the lions roaring from your office? I enjoy having full autonomy of the menus; this allows me to source the best ingredients, and inspire my team to create great food. As we only open during zoo hours, except for special events, it is great to be able to get home at a normal time and spend evenings with my family - a rarity in this industry."



### What can visitors expect from Christmas at The Oakfield this year?

"Following some feedback from guests, our Christmas menu this year is more vegan & veggie friendly. As well as this, all of our ingredients are sourced from local suppliers; our turkey is from Cheshire, our potatoes are from a farm just 8 miles up the road, and our veg comes straight from the markets. Our aim is to always use local and seasonal products and let our food do the talking.

"I'm looking forward to launching our Christmas menu and I'm sure our guests will love it. Why wouldn't you want to come and enjoy a three-course lunch in front of a roaring fire in the heart of the zoo, cooked by a team of dedicated chefs?"

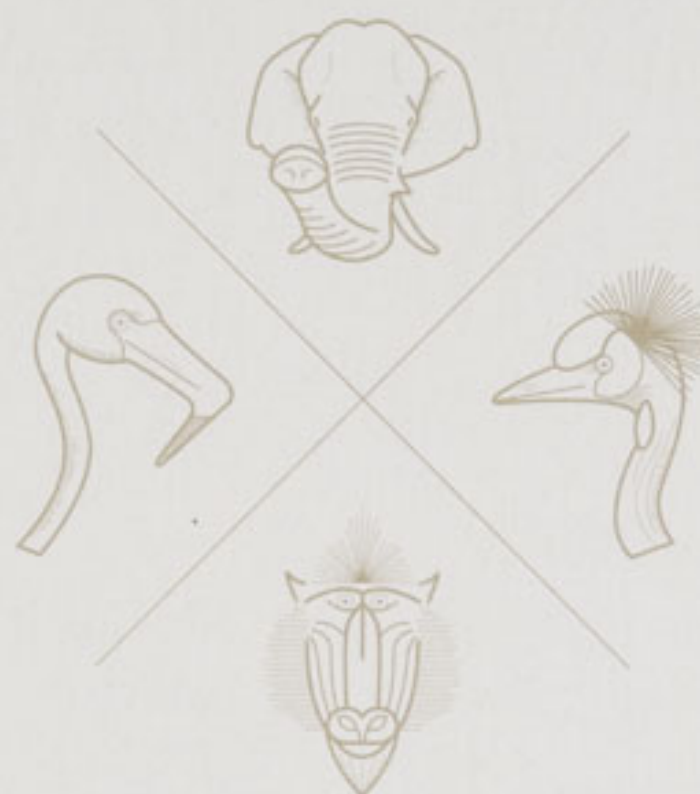


Don't forget members get  
**10% off** at  
The Oakfield

# Christmas at Chester Zoo

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START PLANNING!

Raise a toast to the festive season in our beautifully restored Grade II listed building at the heart of Chester Zoo. Join us for Christmas lunch, book your team onto one of our Christmas corporate packages, or get in touch to organise your bespoke private event. We've got a number of options available whether you're planning to dance the night away or enjoy an intimate meal. Make your event a celebration to remember!



THE OAKFIELD



Get in touch with our events team today on  
[events@chesterzoo.org](mailto:events@chesterzoo.org) or 01244 650209

Start planning your special festive event today  
Find out more at [chesterzoo.org/meetings-and-events](http://chesterzoo.org/meetings-and-events)



@theoakfieldatcz

# BRIGHT COLOURS COMING SOON!

This autumn we will start to transform our current flamingo habitat into a thriving, diverse Latin American walkthrough aviary.



The new habitat will create a special new experience for the zoo, allowing you to walk side-by-side with some of South and Central America's most colourful, spectacular bird species – and view them in full flight.

One of the species the Caribbean flamingos will share their new habitat with is the roseate spoonbill, another Latin American flock bird. Much like the flamingos, this species is known for its pink feathers; it is the planet's only spoonbill with bright colourful plumage. Its distinctive spoon-shaped bill will help you pick them out from the flamingos though!

Also new to this habitat will be a flock of scarlet ibis. As their name suggests, these are another stunningly distinctive, bright red bird. These highly sociable flock birds are often found grouped together with other wetland bird species in the fresh and salt water wetlands of South America, where they range through mangrove swamps, tidal mudflats, shallow lakes, marshes and rainforest.

In the wild, flocks are most often spotted in Venezuela and Eastern Colombia, but can also still be found in French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname, Venezuela and Brazil – and further north on the Caribbean island of Trinidad and Tobago, where it is one of the national birds.



Here in the zoo, an elevated timber boardwalk in the new habitat will guide explorers through the aviary, where you will be able to watch the

birds from both covered and uncovered viewing areas – once the aviary opens in spring 2020.

In years to come, the new wetland aviary will form part of a Latin American zone within the zoo; as we continue to develop world class new habitats that reflect our conservation programmes and the geographic regions of the species we care for.

The new habitat continues the work of our founder, George Mottershead, whose 'always building' philosophy has driven the zoo to world class standards of husbandry, animal wellbeing and conservation.

Work will start on this exciting new habitat soon, which will mean both the flamingo and penguin habitats will have limited access for visitors from October until early next year.

During the next few months we will also be redeveloping other areas of the zoo to enhance your zoo experience, which will mean that some additional areas will be closed.

The disassembling of the much-loved monorail track begins this autumn. As this runs through many habitats, various areas of the zoo will be closed while the track is taken down.

Parts of our Tropical Realm will be closed during autumn and winter while we carry out essential work, and we will also be re-designing our old lion habitat into a new picnic area, as soon as our lions move into their spectacular new home.

# WHAT'S COMING UP AT THE ZOO...



## WELCOME to the Zoo!

It's been more than seven years since the Diamond Jubilee Quarter (Chester Zoo's main entrance) officially opened to the public and was named in honour of the Queen's special anniversary. Only a few months later the Queen visited the zoo as part of her summer of celebrations.

Now we've decided that it's time to make some changes to the entrance area to ensure that it continues to look as welcoming as possible. Over the next few months you'll notice some changes to the car parks and the main entrance area in terms of signage and decoration.

'We hope that when people visit the zoo they feel a sense of excitement. We think with our bright and bold new signage we can help to make visitors feel really welcome and happy to be here. Plus we'll be upgrading some of the seating and information panels in this area for visitors who want to relax and learn more about what's going on at the zoo.' Jon Turley, Head of Guest Experience

Work will start in September and will continue throughout the winter period.

## We're 'APP-Y' to reveal something new.

Over the last 12 months we've been talking to many of you about how we can give our visitors and members even more help to have a great time at the zoo.

### The top three things that we heard were:

- New visitors were struggling to find their way around
- People wanted to find out when there were closures or changes to animal houses, shops and cafes
- People wanted to know what was new and what offers were available

We've used that information to develop a new app which will focus on giving people directions and getting the latest updates to visitors who are here at the zoo. We've removed the games and some of the detailed animal information from the app as we found that it was making the app too slow, but we've put in links to our new website which has lots of information and games to play.

But, our favourite development is the 'Plan your Day' feature which will enable you to let us know what you are looking for from your visit and we'll plan your day and your route around the zoo for you.

The app will launch in October 2019.

# Talking Conservation

Winter 2019  
Programme

Our members' talks have been really popular this year! Thank you for all your support; we love how interested you are to learn more about the zoo, its collection and outreach work. Unfortunately, because of that popularity, the September and October talks, previously advertised, are now fully booked. We're sorry if you were unable to get a place, but hope you can join us for the November and December talks.



Our first ever staff expedition in the UK took place in Wales in June 2019, aiming to strengthen UK conservation partnerships, inspire and engage staff in fieldwork and enhance the reputation of the zoo.

From day one we were overwhelmed by the recognition and positive reaction we received in Wales. The group, which included 19 zoo staff and three rECOrd staff, joined North Wales Wildlife Trust in the first week working on their Living Seas Project. We helped with wildlife surveys and cleaning beaches, and delivered a fantastic event in Aberystwyth for World Oceans Day. In week 2, we supported the Summit to Sea project, working with partners on wildlife surveys, removal of invasive non-native species, trialling walking routes and helping construct a traditional timber building. It was wet, but we had some amazing adventures and we saw dolphins!

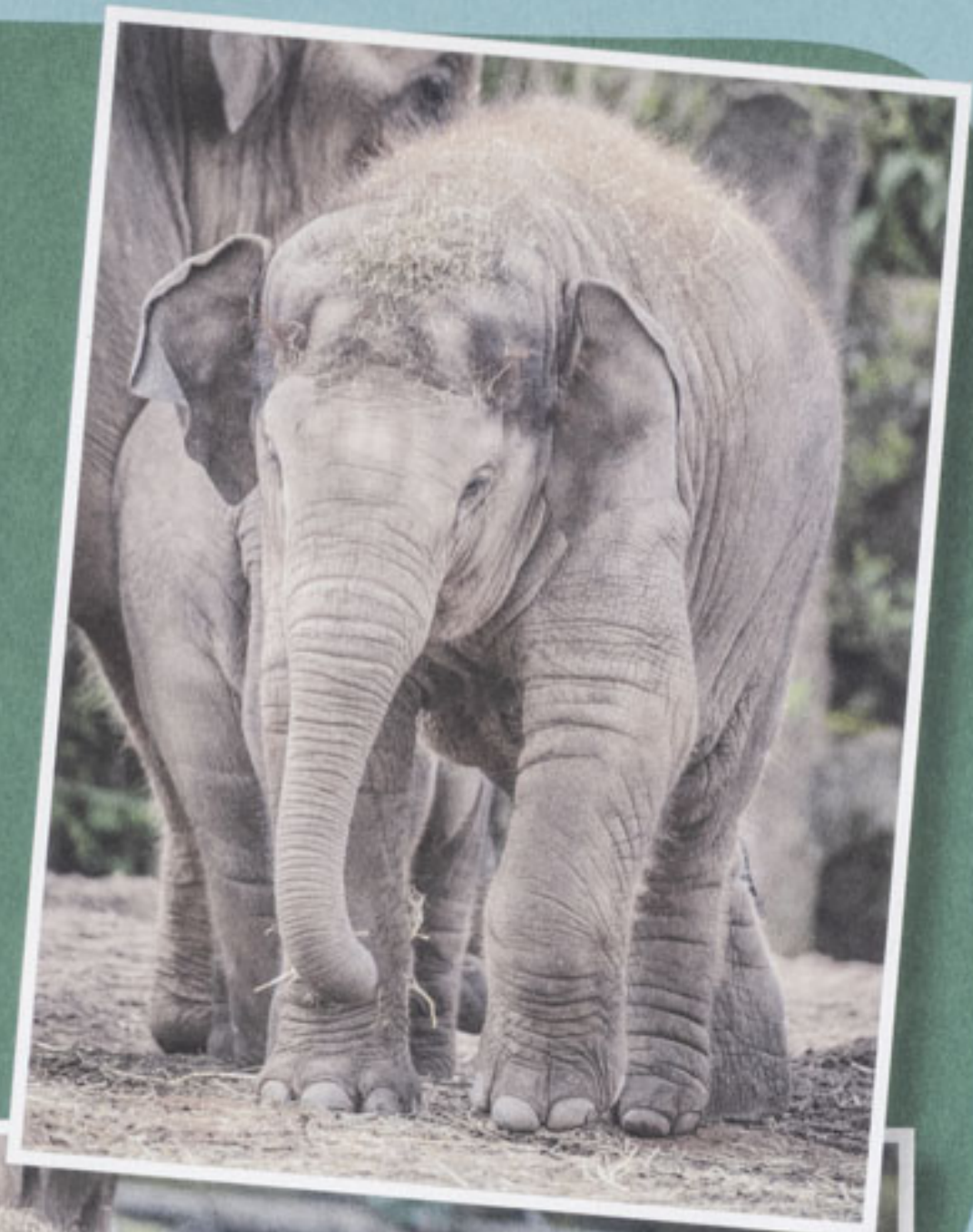


Come along and find out more!

Wednesday 4 December at 7:30pm  
**WORKING WITH EEHV – DEVELOPMENT  
OF AN EFFECTIVE EARLY DIAGNOSIS  
AND TREATMENT PROGRAMME**

Having experienced a number of EEHV positive cases over the past decade, the management of elephants at the zoo has needed to evolve in order to cope better with the threat posed. Each individual case has provided opportunity for staff to learn more about what is required to give each calf affected the best possible chance of survival. Now, after recent losses, we have come through a successful treatment programme with two-year-old Indali Hi Way and are looking at the effects that this will have on her in the future and what it means for treatment with other calves. How has research of EEHV progressed? How has the facility been altered to accommodate treatment? What does this mean for the future of elephants at the zoo and in the wild?

The elephant team will provide an update on the status of the programme at present as well as discuss the work carried out with Indali and how we are planning for the future.



**MEMBERS' TALKS** BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL


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

- FREE to members  
(please bring your membership card and welcome letter)
- We offer a special rate of £2 to Adopters

- Members of the public and guests are welcome (£3.50 for non-members)
- Our Lecture Theatre seats up to 158
- 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](mailto:k.brankin@chesterzoo.org) to book



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