

Winter 2009

£2.50



The official magazine for
Chester Zoo Members and **Adopters**

BIRTHDAY BOY

all smiles as Asani
celebrates his
1st birthday

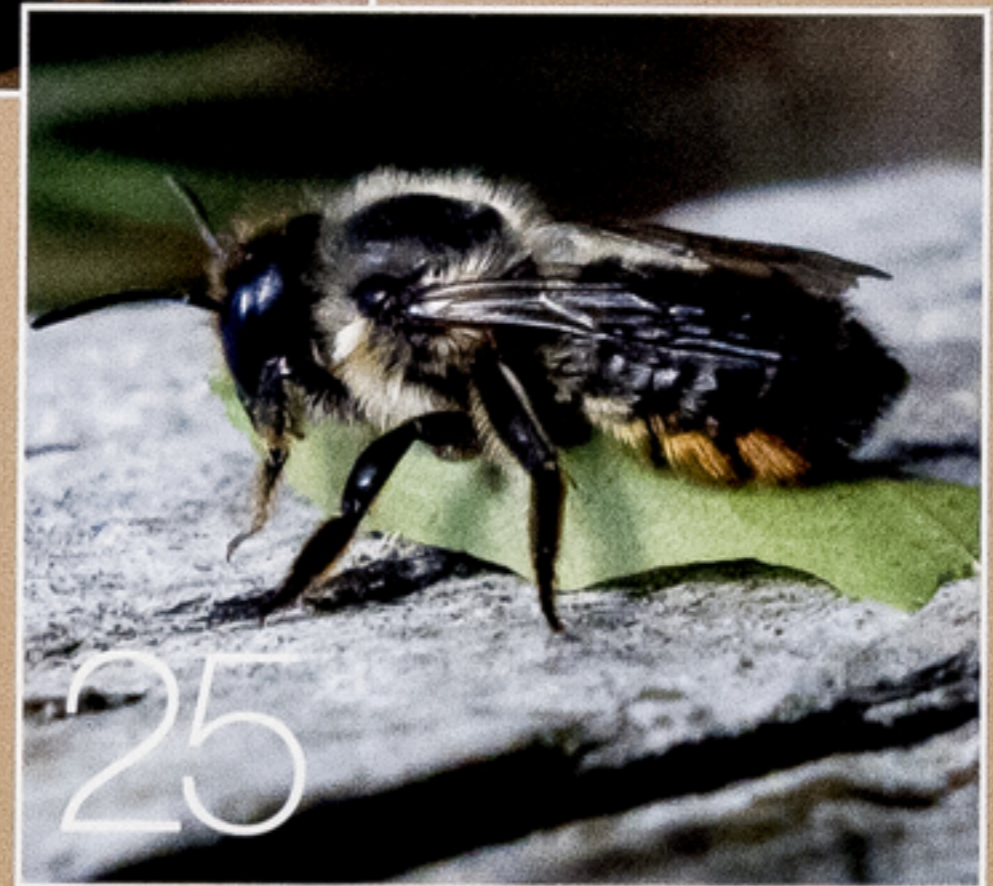




contents

W I N T E R 2 0 0 9

- 3 **Director's Pen**
- 4 **Zoo Additions**
- 8 **Black Rhino Conservation**
- 10 **Zoo News**
- 14 **Staff Go Wild**
- Kidz Zoo**
- 15 **Orang-utan Veterinary Workshop**
- 16 **Making a Difference**
- 18 **Festive Fun at Chester Zoo**
- 20 **All Things Fishy**
- 21 **Wild Winter/Chimpanzee Forest**
- 22 **Fundraising**
- 24 **Talking Conservation**
- 25 **Count Me In!**



Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester
 Chester, CH2 1LH
 Tel. 01244 380280
 Fax. 01244 371273
 Email: info@chesterzoo.co.uk
 Web: www.chesterzoo.org
 Director General: Gordon McGregor Reid
 Editor: Rachael Ashton
 Z is published by:
 North of England Zoological Society
 Upton-by-Chester, Chester CH2 1LH
 Registered charity No. 306077

Designed & produced by Jennings Campbell Bibby • 01704 534653



director's pen



Gordon McGregor Reid Director General

AS you read this, we will be just days away from switching on the lights to the zoo's spectacular Christmas event.

The Festive Fun will see a return to traditional family-focused Christmas activities with lots for visitors of all ages to see and do. As well as our 7,000 animals, Santa will be spreading some Christmas cheer for the young and the young-at-heart. A carousel and a special train ride for the youngsters will be laid on.

Costume characters *Frosty* and *Waddle* will be joined by a new gang of friends including two rabbits, a Christmas tree and Christmas pudding. There will be a snowball shy and stalls, and visitors will be able to say hello to *Sabrina*, the snow dragon.

There is also the opportunity to have breakfast or lunch in the Ark restaurant with our Christmas characters and these can be booked on line at www.chesterzoo.org

More details can be found in the magazine and also on the website.

On a rather sad note, I have to tell you of the death of Greater One-horned rhino *Patna*. Five-year-old *Patna* had been at the zoo for two years, arriving from Berlin Tierpark where he was born. As a calf, *Patna* suffered a break to his front left leg and, despite the best efforts of both zoos, *Patna* continued to experience difficulties as a result of the injury. Following advice from veterinary specialists, the sad decision was taken to put *Patna* to sleep. As you can imagine, it has been an upsetting time for all concerned and I am sure you will share in our sadness.

However, on a more positive note, if you visit us during the winter months, you may come face-to-face with some of our new arrivals including Spectacled Bear *Franka* and Rothschild giraffe *Orla*.

You can also find out more about our Black Rhinos and their very different personalities in a special feature by team leader Chas Mackenzie. I hope you will enjoy reading all about them.

In closing, can I thank you for all the support you have given us over the last 12 months and we look forward to seeing you in the zoo in 2010 for what I am sure will be another successful year.

Gordon M.G. Reid

Zoo additions



Long-awaited appearance of Mangrove Snakes

September saw the long-awaited emergence from their leathery eggs, of four perfect, miniature Mangrove Snakes *Boiga dendrophila*.

Laid in mid-June, the eggs had been quietly 'cooking' in the herpetology section's incubator at a steamy 27-28°C and 80% humidity, with regular spot-checks by anxious staff. After 105 days of incubation the first shiny-black nose appeared in a froth of sticky egg fluid, followed by three equally shiny brothers and sisters the following day. Weighing just a few grams each, these delicate snakes have comically bulbous eyes, accentuated by their disconcertingly skinny bodies, and a livery of inky-black scales dissected by vertical slashes of canary yellow and orange.

Whilst the Mangrove Snake is not a threatened species in the wild, and is therefore part of Chester Zoo's collection owing to its extraordinary appearance and educational potential,

breeding them in captivity is not straight forward. The herpetology staff are therefore over-the-moon with this success and eager to conquer the next challenge – rearing them. Mangrove Snakes live in dense tropical forests of south east Asia and as babies prey mostly on frogs and lizards. We don't have these food items available and therefore must trick the snakes into eating small mice bred especially for snake food. We do this by washing the defrosted mice and them anointing them with the scent of a preferred prey-item, such as a tree frog. Wish us luck ...

You can see an adult female Mangrove Snake on display in Realm of the Red Ape.



'Punk rockers' move into their new home

They have Mohican-style 'haircuts' more suited to punk rockers and names to match but it is hoped these critically endangered pigs will not live up to their namesakes.

Visayan Warty Pigs *Toyah, Malcolm and Nancy* have moved into a new purpose-built home at Chester Zoo. But keeping staff anticipate the threesome will be a little more conservative than their rock star counterparts and leave their new abode in one piece. The other three pigs who also share punk names – *Sid, Viv and Ramone* – will remain in their current enclosure.

Tim Rowlands, Curator of Mammals at Chester Zoo, said:

"Our three have been named after some of most outlandish punk rockers and singers in history. Pigs can be a little destructive but we are hoping ours will be better behaved. The last thing we want is for them to adopt a 'rock star' lifestyle by trashing their new home!"

The pigs' new enclosure, close to the Twilight Zone, has been planted to deter any 'outlandish' behaviour from the new inhabitants. Trees including birch, beech and oak and spiky-stemmed and unpalatable shrubs including *Berberis thunbergii* (Red Chief) and *Pyracantha* (Orange Glow) should be enough to make the pigs think twice about causing any damage to their new surroundings.

The pigs, however, do carry a lot of clout when it comes to conservation. A critically endangered species, the zoo was the first in the UK to have the species and only the third in Europe to provide a home for them.

"With their unusual mane of hair, the Visayan Warty Pigs may not be easy on the eye, but what matters is that they find each other attractive," added Tim.

"Given the fragile status of the pigs in the wild, successful zoo breeding programmes are vital for the species. We have already had some breeding success with the pigs and hope for more in the future."

The Visayan Warty Pigs, which enjoy a diet of fruit, vegetables and browse, originate from the Philippines and the few surviving populations can be found on the islands of Negros and Panay.

Habitat loss and deforestation are the main causes of the pigs' decline. However Chester Zoo supports many conservation programmes throughout the Philippines and works closely with the Biodiversity Conservation Centre on Negros Island where the pigs originate from.

Zoo additions



The long and the short of it have found a new home at Chester Zoo

19-month-old Rothschild giraffe *Orla* arrived at the 110-acre zoo on the same day as 10-year-old Spectacled Bear *Franka* (pictured).

Orla joined the giraffe herd as two others – *Margaret* and *Molly* – left for London zoo. *Margaret* became an overnight sensation when her fight for survival was screened on Five's *Zoo Days* series.

Spectacled Bear *Franka* will be a mate for 18-year-old *Sangay*. Both *Orla* and *Franka* came from zoos in Holland.

Significant arrivals and departures for the Bird Teams



Births

West African Crowned Crane

Endangered crane species from east Africa. Due to the difficulties involved in breeding this species, to ensure better results we decided to remove their eggs, artificially incubate them and return hatching eggs back to the adult birds, so chicks can be reared naturally by their parents.

A single egg hatched in September and is doing very well with mum and dad. This is a difficult species to rear as they tend to lay eggs very late in the year, and there is always a risk of chicks becoming wet and chilled. To prevent this we have moved them to our crane rearing pens where we can provide all the heat they need to assist in rearing the youngster.

Golden (Queen of Bavaria's) Conure

Critically endangered parrot species from Brazil. A difficult species to persuade to breed naturally in captivity. Reared by parents for the first time in the zoo's history this stunning parrot made its first appearance in September having spent up to 12 weeks being looked after by mum and dad in their nesting box at the Rare Parrot Breeding Centre.

Village Weavers

Following their introduction to the new Tsavo National Park Bird Safari, these active little African birds obviously found things to their liking!

Weavers are unusual as males build hanging nests and

then put a lot of effort into attracting a female by hanging upside down under the newly constructed nest. The single female had the pick of the nine displaying males before deciding the best prospective partner, and setting up home. Two chicks have fledged so far, another first for the bird teams!

Caribbean and Chilean Flamingo

An excellent breeding season for the leggy birds of Flamingo Lake. A total of seven Caribbean and ten Chilean Flamingos have been reared this year by their parents, following some assistance from the bird team.

Flamingos build very simple nests constructed of mud and like to nest close together, not such a good idea when considering the argumentative nature of these birds. In the past things have got so bad that eggs have been knocked off nests by squabbling birds, so Team Leader Wayne McLeod came up with a "cunning plan", removing eggs as they were laid and replacing them with wooden dummy eggs. To prevent the dummy eggs from being knocked off by arguing flamingos, use a spike to secure the egg to the muddy mound, then placed the real eggs in incubators and returned hatching eggs to the parents for rearing. Using this technique over the last few years has resulted in fantastic breeding results and an increase of the flock sizes of both species of Flamingo.

Arrivals

Female Sumatran Laughingthrushes

We received two further birds to improve our breeding prospects for this endangered species and hope to bring more of these fascinating birds into the zoo with the hope of creating a breeding programme to ensure their long term survival.

Departures

It has been a very busy few weeks with many birds bred in 2009 being sent all over Europe, these include; **Yellow backed chattering Lory, Pekin Robins, Orange headed ground Thrush, Eider Duck, Marbled Teal, Black billed whistling Duck, Ferruginous Duck and Falcated Teal** all leaving the zoo for climates new.



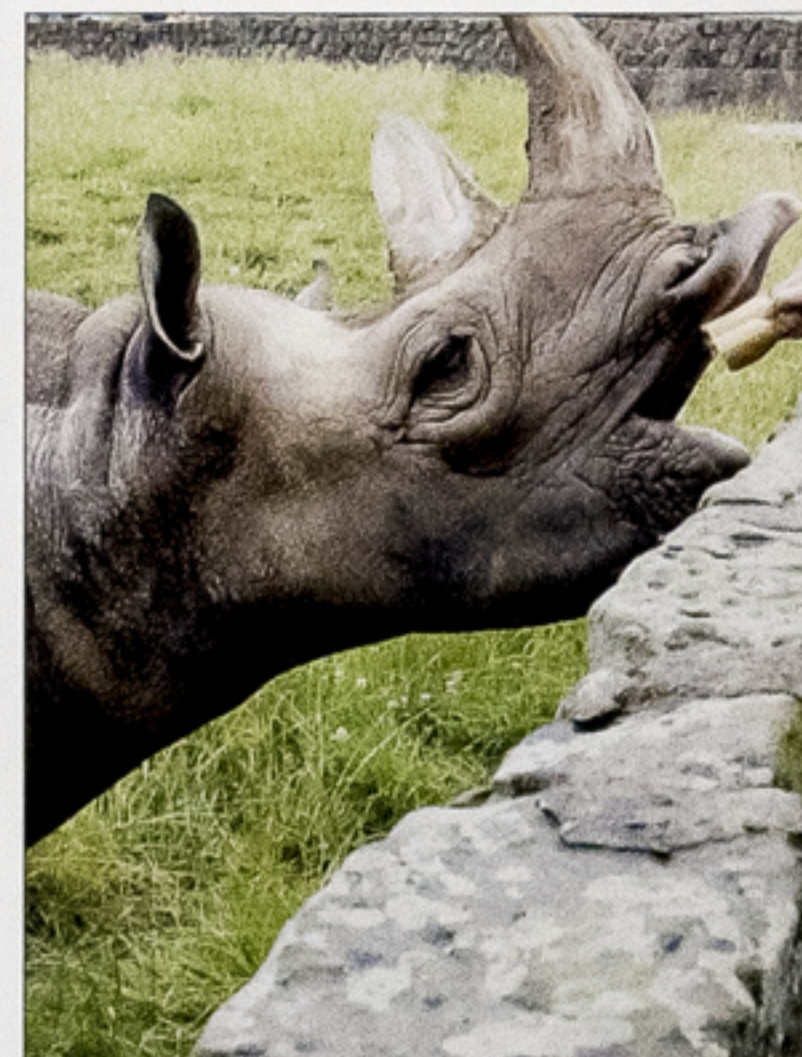
Chester Zoo and Black Rhino Conservation

The Black Rhinos at Chester Zoo play a major conservation role

They are part of the European breeding programme, which is now providing rhinos to be put back into the wild. They are great ambassadors, helping to raise awareness of the threats they face in the wild. They provide opportunities for non-invasive research, helping support advances in the welfare and husbandry of zoo rhino, and also often linking with rhino conservation research in the wild. Black rhino are also one of the many attractions that bring visitors to the zoo each year, and in doing so visitors are helping to fund all of this great conservation work Chester Zoo is involved in, plus our work with Black Rhino in the wild.

The Black Rhino sub-species held at Chester is from east Africa, and it is here, in Kenya and Tanzania, that Chester have been supporting Black Rhino conservation in the wild for many years. A major threat to Black Rhino is still poaching, and working with local partners, Chester has provided support for essentials such as vehicles, fuel, equipment, and training for the rhino rangers who risk their lives protecting these important animals. Rangers also gather information on black rhino numbers, behaviour and home ranges allowing better conservation management.

Chester Zoo's Black Rhino Conservation Programme also supports a range of education and community initiatives. Chester Zoo's Education Manager has been instrumental in setting up schemes based around education buses which take local children into national parks and teach them about their environment and conservation. Chester Zoo conservation staff are also working with the local Maasai who work as rhino rangers, providing training in computer mapping skills which assist in planning conservation strategies.



Chester Zoo has 10 rhinos – one Greater One-horned rhino and 9 Black Rhinos. The Black Rhinos 'clan' includes two calves, Asani, born in October last year and Bashira, born in May.

The rhino team also looks after other species of animal including warthogs, banded mongoose, vicuna, Burmese Brow-antlered Deer, Gemsbok, Scimitar-horned Oryx, Grevy's Zebra and Roan Antelope.

Both species of rhino are the 'flagship' animals for the section and Chas Mackenzie, who has been at Chester Zoo for nearly 40 years and team leader at the rhinos for 10 years, explains their very different characters.

Batschii

Batschii, 5, is our female Indian or Greater One-horned rhino. She arrived at the zoo in 2008, weighing a whopping 1.6 tonnes and is one of the most amenable rhinos we have. She will quite happily lie down for you which helps us give her a once over and check her feet. Like all animals, she enjoys a mad half hour and will quite often chase the Blackbuck and the Brow-antlered deer around her paddock. It's her way of entertaining herself and she means no harm. Fortunately the Blackbuck and the deer know where to hide now.

Black rhinos

Bashira

Bashira is just seven months old, he is *Ema Elsa's* baby and she is an absolute sweetie. *Bashira's* too young for us to be able to tell if she's going to be like her mum – and to her mum she is superb. *Bashira* gets on well with all the keepers, she has no favourites and she likes to interact with us. Very occasionally she can be in a funny mood and can be a little bit naughty but 95 per cent of the time she's a good girl.

Ema Elsa

Ema Elsa is a brilliant rhino – she'd be the one I'd take home if I could. I spend a lot of time with her and she's another rhino that will lie down quite happily for you. We are target training her, using a brush pole with a tennis ball on the end. *Ema Elsa*, seven, is rewarded for coming to the target and it helps us give her the once over. She's mum to *Bashira* and has been fantastic from the word go.

Magadi

He's the boy! Dad of *Bashira*, *Magadi* looks exactly what a rhino should look like! He is an A+ rhino in terms of his looks. He can be a handful, a little bit tetchy and he is highly-strung. *Magadi* can be very sensitive to change and is a creature of habit. We moved him to a different enclosure over the summer and he's been a lot calmer since. *Magadi* is 10 and we are also doing target training with him. He's very good at it and we've made great inroads. Most male rhinos are really as soft as you like but not *Magadi*!

Asani

Asani is our young boy and has just turned one. His name is Swahili for rebellious and we are yet to see if he lives up to his name. He can be a bit of a handful. He is still young so still very playful and he does rely on guidance from his mum. He enjoys a bit of time on his own and is becoming independent. If he is ever on his own, we make sure he has a keeper with him at the moment. At the very least it keeps him entertained!



Malindi

Malindi is a really nice rhino but definitely our 'wrinkliest'. She's just four but she's got this really grooved body. I hope as she grows, she will grow into her wrinkles! She's another amenable rhino but she's still finding her feet as she's quite young. We are hoping to breed from her in the future.

Kitani

12 year old *Kitani* is a great mum and is everything a mum is supposed to be. *Asani* is her calf and she has been superb from the word go. Once she had *Asani*, she wasn't at all agitated about us being around and we were able to open the house to the public quite quickly. *Kitani's* really middle-aged now but she knows the zoo, she knows how it all works and she doesn't get into too many mishaps.

Sammy

Sammy is the 10-year-old that came from Japan and is *Asani's* dad. He's a really important chap from a breeding and genetics perspective. Most male rhinos love attention and he is no exception. That said, when he was in with *Manyara* and *Kitani*, he was a little bit henpecked until it came to breeding time and then he suddenly became the boss. He is a big rhino – massive – and is another one that occasionally gets a bit worked up and has a mad, playful half hour.

Rosie

At 21 *Rosie* is our old girl now. I call her Jekyll and Hyde. On one hand, she can be one of the sweetest rhinos you could ever meet. On the other hand, she can be a really aggressive rhino. She's not a great fan of me or the male keepers, she's better with the female keepers. She's also not that interested in our male rhinos either so she can be a bit strange – but then she can also be great.

Manyara

Manyara is 11 and she is the rhino that will test things to the limit. If things work for *Manyara* then they will work for all our rhinos. *Manyara's* actually a really nice rhino but a little bit of a wild child. *Manyara* was the instigator of our tree protectors as she would use her horn to take huge strips out of our trees. She is a bit of a ring leader so if we are in any doubt about whether new things will work for the rhinos then we give it to *Manyara* first.



Eastern Black Rhinoceros calf *Asani* tucked into his first birthday treat – but gave the candles a miss.

Asani, who was born to mum *Kitani* on October 29th last year, celebrated this special occasion with a delicious carrot cake made by his keepers.

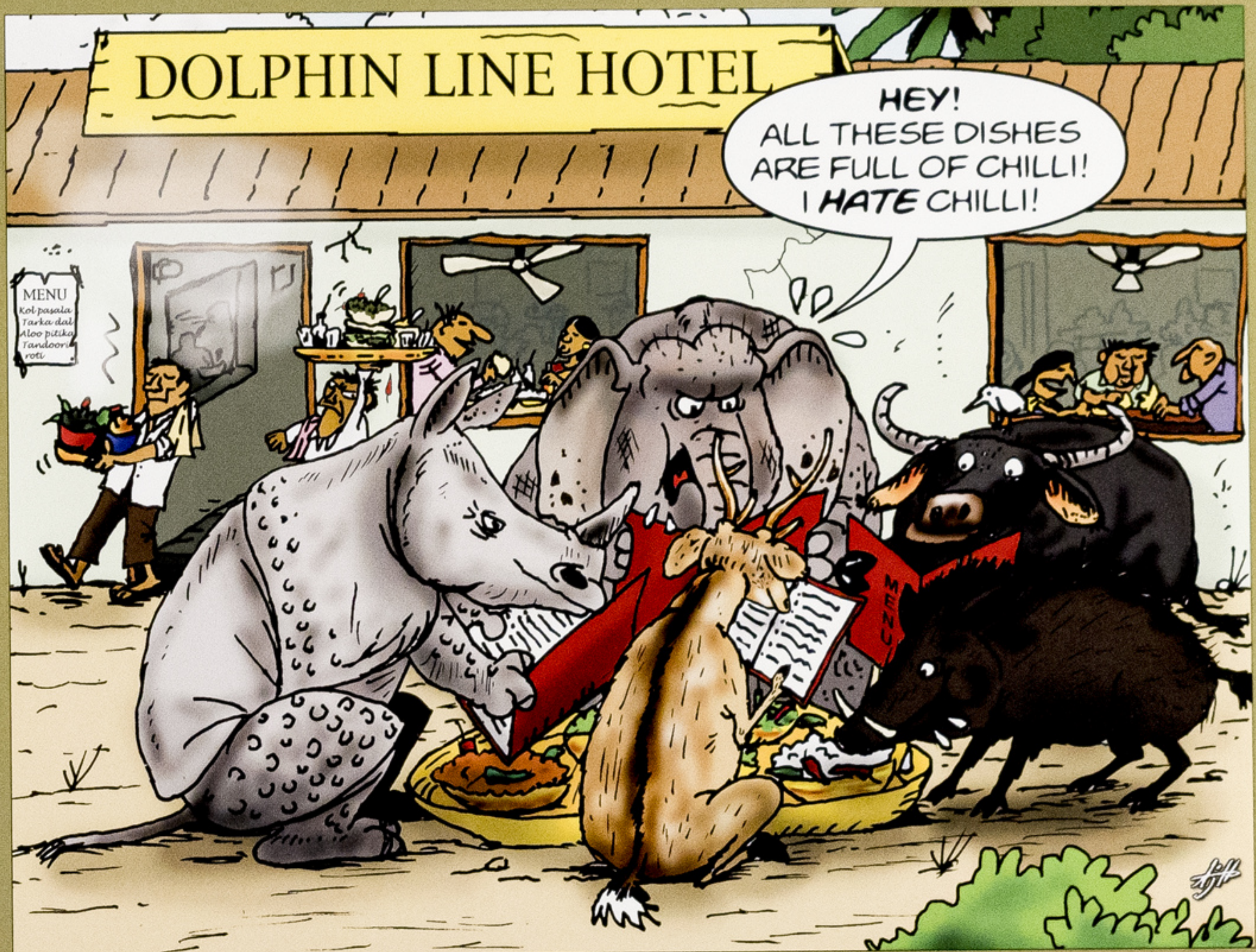
The calf, which has doubled in size over the last 12 months, made light work of his tasty treat.

Chas Mackenzie, team leader for the rhino section, said:

“All ‘toddlers’ enjoy their first birthday and, although *Asani* is definitely bigger than your average one year old, he’s no exception when it comes to enjoying his birthday.

“*Asani*’s name is Swahili for rebellious and he is certainly a proper handful but he behaved like the perfect birthday boy and enjoyed his treat without any tantrums”

Asani was the first Black Rhino to be born at the zoo in 10 years and the first newborn for *Kitani*. His arrival was even more significant as the Eastern Black Rhinos remains perilously close to extinction in the wild with only 700 animals left. *Asani* was joined by another black rhino calf in May this year with the arrival of *Bashira*, born to mum *Ema Elsa*.



LIVING WITH ELEPHANTS

How do you manage when your next door neighbour weighs five tonnes?

And how do you stop your over-sized neighbour 'rampaging' through what is effectively your back garden?

Chester Zoo has come up with the answers to help people who live side by side with Asian Elephants.

Living with Elephants is a practical handbook for the people of Assam, India, and has been launched in an effort to help both humans and elephants co-exist peacefully.

The aim of the guide – which includes top tips on how to elephant-proof your home – will help villagers stop elephants causing damage to their property and crops.

The guide includes advice on how to use super-hot chillis to make home-made 'chilli smoke' or create chilli fences as deterrents. The book also explains how to build early warning systems such as watchtowers. It also describes how to set up a solar-powered electric fence. There is also advice on what not to do with elephants such as not throwing objects, or using weapons or dogs to scare them.

Chester Zoo's conservation department has produced the handbook together with project partner EcoSystems-India.

Five years ago, the zoo – a conservation charity – set up the Assam Haathi Project with the aim of reducing conflict between elephants and people. The project is funded by the Defra's Darwin Initiative.

Alexandra Zimmermann, Chester Zoo's Conservation Manager, said:

"While living with elephants may sound adventurous, for the villagers in Assam, and indeed many parts of Asia it causes many sleepless nights at best, and loss of livelihoods and life at worst.

"Assam, famous for its tea production, harbours one of the last remaining strongholds for the endangered Asian elephant.

However, even here elephants are under threat; agriculture is encroaching into forest habitat and elephants searching for food – they need to eat up to 150 kg per day – end up 'stealing' crops from fields and raiding grain stores in villages.

"This creates a dangerous conflict in which both people and elephants are sometimes injured or even killed which is unsustainable for the survival of elephants and the livelihoods of local communities."

The handbook is being distributed to over 50 villages throughout Assam and expands the work of the Assam Haathi Project which already works with over 5000 conflict-affected households.

Nandita Hazarika, Director of EcoSystems-India, added:

"Man shares a unique relationship with the elephant, particularly in Asian countries where elephants have been working and living alongside people for thousands of years.

"Many Asian cultures have special legends and stories about elephants and it is sad that such a majestic and culturally important animal could become extinct in the wild because of conflict with people. We hope this handbook will go some way in allowing both parties to co-exist safely."

A survey is being carried out to evaluate the handbook and determine which form of outreach is most effective in increasing communities' understanding of elephants and their ability to deal with this situation.

Did you know:

Asian elephants are endangered in the wild.

An adult male elephant can weigh more than five tonnes.

30,000 Asian elephants remain in the wild; Assam is home to around 5,000 elephants.

Chester Zoo's latest arrival is a long-legged beauty – and now she has a name to match.

The five and a half foot giraffe calf is just three weeks old but has already drawn plenty of admirers. So much so that more than 4,000 people voted through the zoo's website to help keepers pick a name for her.

Of all that voted, more than 1,600 people plumped for **Bella**, which is Italian for beautiful.

Taking 38.3 per cent of the vote, *Bella*, who was born to mum *Kelly* and dad *Thorn*, fended off stiff competition from *Flo*, *Alyssa*, *Edie* and *Betty*.

Tim Rowlands, Curator of Mammals, said:

“Our new arrival is certainly beautiful and she has been out and about enthralling and captivating our visitors. I am sure they will agree that *Bella* now has a name to match her looks and we would like to thank everyone who took the time out to vote.”



The End of the Line director Rupert Murray in Chester Zoo's aquarium shortly before the film aired.

MSC accreditation

Chester Zoo's diners can enjoy their meals with a clear conscience after the attraction achieved a new food standard.

Chester has become just the second zoo in the UK to gain accreditation from the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC).

The standard enables the zoo to fly the flag for sustainability and falls in line with its conservation and welfare ethos.

The Chain of Custody standard proves that the fish sold in the zoo's Ark, Tsavo, and Oakfield restaurants and staff canteen come from certified sustainable fisheries.

The zoo's menus will now be able to display the MSC logo.

The accreditation came as the zoo became one of the first locations in the north west to show the hard-hitting film *The End of the Line*.

Filmed over two years, *The End of the Line* follows investigative reporter and author Charles Clover as he tackles politicians and celebrity restaurateurs over the issue of overfishing.

With scientists predicting that most seafood will be wiped out by 2048, the film aims to identify and tackle the issue by offering simple solutions to the devastating problem.

Two screenings were held in the zoo's lecture hall, one of which was attended by film director Rupert Murray.

“The zoo went through a rigorous process to demonstrate our credentials for MSC accreditation. A training package was put together for our entire catering function to bring everyone in line with what MSC stands for. We also needed to prove how our MSC goods would be supplied, stocked and logged.

To be MSC certified is in line with the zoo's mission and vision, particularly given that we are a conservation charity. We are delighted to be able to fly the MSC flag.”

Martin Davies, Head of Retail, Catering and Events

Getting to the Zoo – the Green Way

In association with the Natural Vision Project, Chester Zoo is developing a comprehensive Green Travel Plan for staff and visitors, promoting walking, cycling, car sharing and better public transport links.

This travel plan will build on efforts made in recent years to help staff in particular find healthier, affordable and more sustainable means of travelling to and from the zoo. Measures already in place include a cycle purchase scheme and bespoke journey planning with information provided on public transport options.

Expanding this offer, and including the ever growing number of visitors in the plan, is critical to the zoo's future growth and to its credibility as a conservation charity. Despite the leap in visitation anticipated in coming years, the zoo is committed to minimising the number of additional cars coming on site.

In a bid to practice what we are preaching, new schemes and initiatives are being rolled out to staff members offering incentives to car share with others travelling to work along the same route. The zoo executive is also in dialogue with local bus and train operators with a view to negotiating better deals for staff and visitors and improved bus services to and from the zoo. Many members will already be familiar with 'Tiger' the zoo's free shuttle bus to and from Chester Station, which was a tremendous success during the summer months and which has also been plying a brisk trade during the October half term. The service has now been expanded to include pick-ups from hotels along the route, and there are plans to develop this further.

Anyone familiar with Upton will be aware of the many greenways and cycle routes that the area enjoys. These include a traffic-free towpath along the Shropshire Union Canal running from Ellesmere Port to Chester and beyond, plus the newly opened addition to the Chester Millennium Greenway which connects Guilden Sutton and Mickle Trafford with the city centre and, via the canal or Cycle Route 56, the zoo.

2010 will see a great deal of activity to promote sustainable travel and make a beneficial impact on our carbon footprint. Zoo staff will be participating in national Bike Week (12-20 June 2010) and International Car Free day (22 September 2010). In addition, fun events planned to promote cycling and walking to visitors include a walking weekend, a number of 'lazy summer evenings', the Midsummer cycle event and, not forgetting our younger visitors, the Barnado's Toddle!

Staff goWild!

EAZA Conference

Chester Zoo, along with over 300 other institutions is a member of EAZA, the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria. EAZA's mission is to facilitate cooperation within the European zoo and aquarium community towards the goals of education, research and conservation.

Each year, EAZA runs an annual conference to bring together people from the European zoo community. This year, the conference was held in Copenhagen, and a number of staff from Chester Zoo attended this conference to discuss and report on issues with other experts in the field.

European Carnivore Campaign

How would you like to share your back garden with a lynx? Or how about a bear? This may sound exciting, but for some people living in Europe, this can be a huge problem.

EAZA runs a campaign each year which focuses on a specific species, group of animals or region. Zoos all across Europe get involved in these campaigns and raise money for the chosen topic. In 2009, the campaign topic was European Carnivores with a focus on the theme 'Living Together'. 12 key species were chosen to represent the European Carnivores, including the European Mink, Grey Wolf and Brown Bear. The aim was to educate people around Europe on the issues which occur with carnivores living on our doorstep.

Chester Zoo has been involved in fundraising for this campaign, and you may have seen our Penny Press in the Jaguar House which is raising money for European Carnivores.

At the EAZA Annual Conference, it was announced that the European Carnivore campaign will continue to run for another year, with the addition of the Fantastic Four: the Harbour Porpoise, the Egyptian Vulture, the Black Vulture and the Imperial Eagle. These species have been added to the original 12 carnivores covered by the campaign, with a new theme to 'Stop poison in Europe'.

For more information on the European Carnivore Campaign, please visit www.carnivorecampaign.eu

CARNIVORE
EAZA EUROPEAN CARNIVORE CAMPAIGN

Logos at the bottom of the poster include: EAZA (European Association of Zoos and Aquaria), KORA (Karni Ormanlari Koruyucu Dernegi), ECNC (European Centre for Nature Conservation), the European Union flag, and the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE) logo.

Borneo

Veterinary Officer Steve Unwin travelled to Borneo for the Orangutan Conservancy Veterinary Workshop 2009 which he co-organised. This workshop brought together vets from Indonesia and Malaysia for training and practical sessions. For more information on this workshop, see page 15.



Kenya

Conservation Officer Scott Wilson visited the Chyulu Hills Rhino project in Kenya, which is a component of our Black Rhino Programme, to continue work with the Maasai Preservation Trust (MPT) on the development of GIS skills. It was also decided that an improved data collection system was required and Scott is now also assisting with the development of a MPT database.

For more information on the latest news from the Maasai Preservation Trust, visit their blog: www.maasailand.wildlifedirect.org

Winter 2009

Animal Fun!

Kidz

includes...

KIDS PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

ZOO!

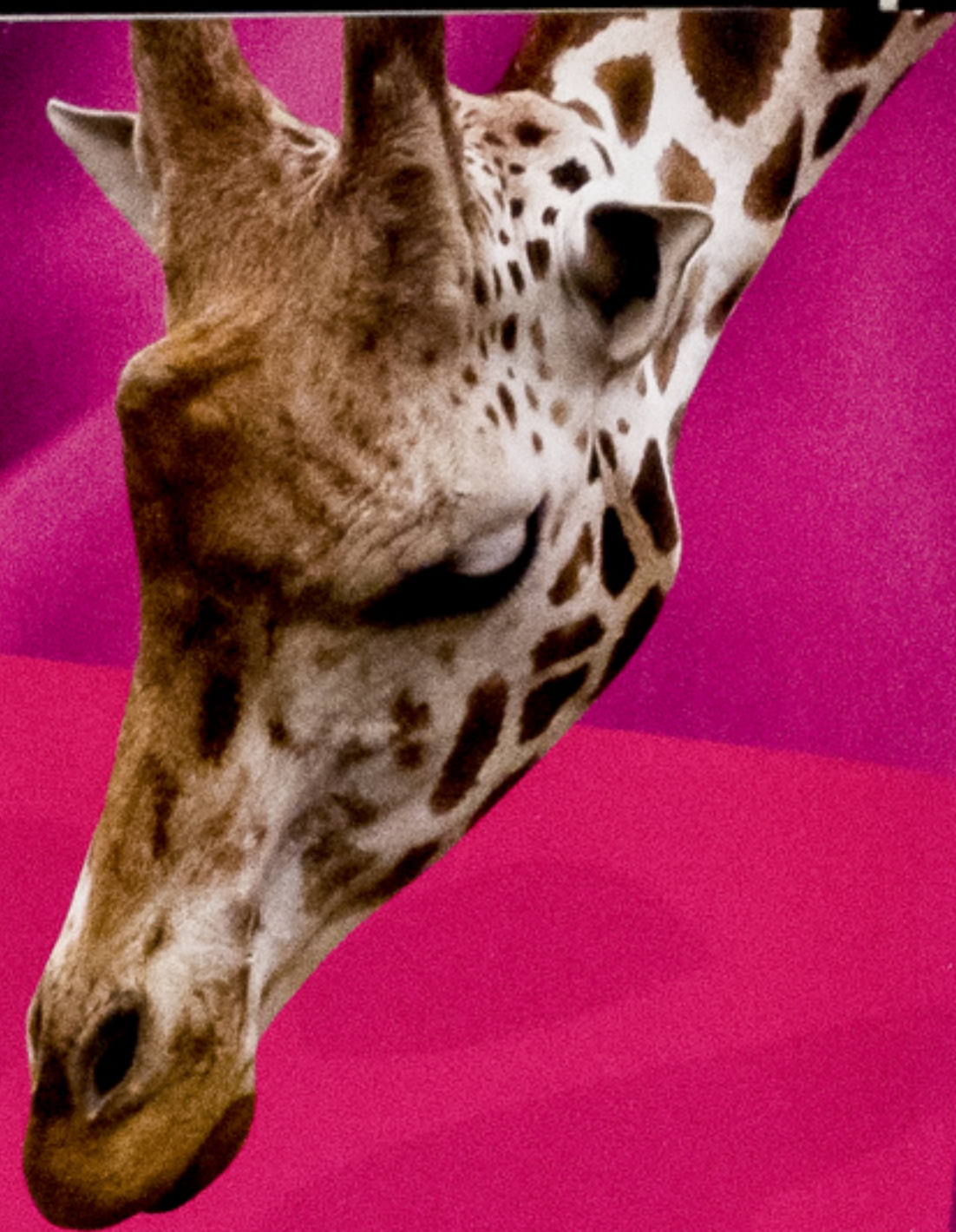


**Quizzes
to enjoy**

Junior Members

Spot the difference

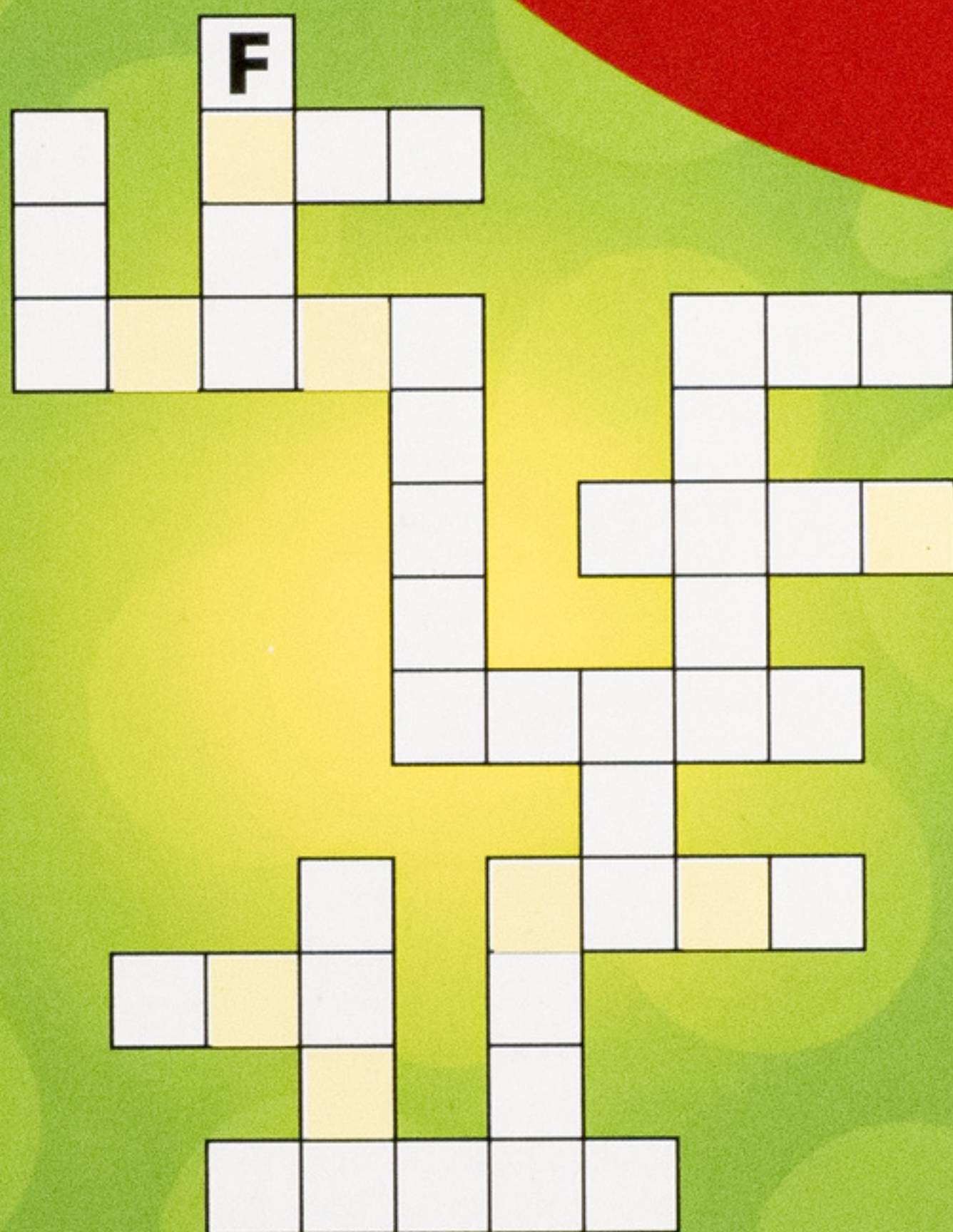
Can you spot the six differences between the two pictures of our group of chimps?



kidz

ZOO!

Word Puzzle



Can you fit the animal names into the grid?
The highlighted letters will give you an animal that is very important
at this time of year! One letter has been given to start you off.

3 letters. Ant, Cat, Ape, Rat, Bee

4 letters. Frog, Lion, Deer, Duck, Tern

5 letters. Okapi, Snake, Chimp, Rhino, Tiger

To be in with a chance of winning a £10 voucher to spend in the zoo shops,
send your entry together with contact details to:

**Z magazine, Marketing Department, Chester Zoo,
Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH
by Friday January 29.**

Congratulations to our previous winner, James Rigby of Bromborough.



JUNIOR MEMBERS' PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2010

DISCOVERY SESSION

Saturday 23 January 2010

This is a regular day in the Junior's calendar when you have the opportunity to discover more about your own zoo – with guided walks and the opportunity to catch-up with any new developments – maybe even the chance to have a go at designing an enclosure. *Over eights are asked to meet outside the Oakfield at 1.30pm and be collected from there again at 4.00pm.*

THE WELSH MOUNTAIN ZOO

Saturday 27 February 2010

Our Juniors love to visit other zoos, and the Welsh Mountain Zoo in Colwyn Bay is one of our neighbours. You will need to dress very warmly for this one, as the Zoo is also on the top of a hill! *Over eights are invited to come along and enjoy the day, and we will leave the staff car park at 10.30am and return there for 4.00pm. You will need a picnic lunch.*

TRACKS & SIGNS

Saturday 20 March 2010

This is undoubtedly one of our most popular events in the Juniors' calendar. This is your chance to experience the animals' view of Zoo visitors, as you will be going inside some of the enclosures in search of footprints from which to make plaster casts. March is the best time of year for this as it is normally wet and muddy(!) but please bear this in mind when you dress in the morning. Hopefully you will have a souvenir of your day to take home with you.

Eights and over can come along and enjoy the mess, when we meet outside Oakfield House at 11.00am, returning there at 4.00pm. You will need a picnic lunch, and it is important that you wear clean, very old clothes and squeaky clean wellies please.

SHUGBOROUGH HOME FARM

Saturday 17 April 2010

You will love this visit to a beautiful stately home in Staffordshire and will find that the Spring is a perfect time to visit their Home Farm to see the rare breeds and shire horses. Home Farm also has wonderful displays of cheese making and old-times bakery skills.

Eights and over are invited to join us for a relaxing day. We will leave the Staff Entrance at 9.30am and return home for 5.00pm. Bring a picnic.

KNOWSLEY SAFARI PARK

Saturday 15 May 2010

This a great favourite with our Junior Members! There should be lots of young animals to see if we visit Knowsley at this time of year, and hopefully we will have a guided tour around the park with a member of Knowsley's staff. It is a good opportunity for Juniors to compare the safari park style of managing animals to that of keeping them in a Zoo like Chester.

Eights and over are welcome to join us, and we will leave the Zoo's Staff car Park at 10.00am and return at 5.00pm.

ANGLESEY SEA ZOO AND BUTTERFLY PALACE

Saturday 19 June 2010

This will be a busy but enjoyable day split between two very interesting venues on the Isle of Anglesey. We will visit the Sea Zoo in the morning and then travel on to the Pili Palace to see their great collection of butterflies in the afternoon.

We will leave the Staff Entrance at 9.30am and return at 5.30pm. Eights and over should bring a picnic and sunscreen.

HOW TO BE A GOOD ZOOKEEPER!

Wednesday 21 July 2010

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

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

We will meet outside the Oakfield at 10.30am, and the day will finish for Juniors at 4.00pm. Please bring a packed lunch. Also please note that bookings for this event will not be taken before 9.00 am on Wednesday 7 July 2010, and will be strictly on a first-come, first-served basis.

SUMMER BARBEQUE

Thursday 5 August 2010

Our summer barbeque has become a regular feature for the Juniors' diary as it has proved immensely popular. Perhaps this because it is our chance to be in the Zoo when there are no other visitor noises to distract you and the animals, so it is a different zoo experience. We usually aim to have a speaker to chat to you or to engage in craft activities during the evening, but you can be sure to find it relaxing.

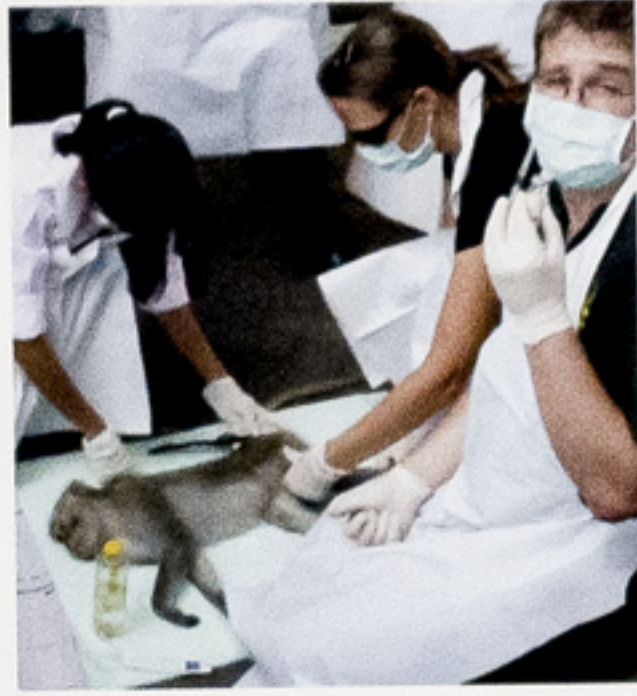
We would like to invite eights and over to join us for a 7.00pm start, when you should arrive at the Ark Restaurant (near the Tigers) via the Zoo's Staff Entrance on Caughall Road. Parents are asked to collect Juniors from the Ark restaurant at 9.45pm please.

THE JUNIOR MEMBERS SUMMER SCHOOL

From 9 – 13 August 2010

Please note that the two week booking rule does NOT apply to this event and EARLY BOOKING IS ADVISED.

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



My Orang-utan veterinary workshop

Steve Unwin Veterinary Officer – Chester Zoo

Late last year I was asked by the Orang-utan Conservancy to organise a veterinary workshop for vets working with Orang-utans in Indonesia and Malaysia. The Orang-utan Conservancy is an orang-utan charity based in the USA. My co-organisers were Dr. Raffaella Commitante (University of California – Fullerton), Dr Siswiyani (BOS-Samboja) and Dr Rachmad Wahyudi of the Sumatran Orang-utan Conservation Project (SOCP).

There are many areas of orang-utan conservation and habitat protection that are in urgent need of addressing. Veterinarians working in this field seem to be able to ride below the radar of this politically charged situation and discuss orang-utan issues more freely than many others. It was also recognised that there was a lot of apocryphal information surrounding orang-utan disease, reintroduction and habitat protection. Having a consolidated local veterinary opinion would be useful for future conservation efforts. The workshop took place in August 2009 at the BOS Foundation's Samboja site near Balikpapan in Borneo.

The workshop was a big success. Every orang-utan

sanctuary and rehabilitation centre in Indonesia was represented (something never before achieved), and the KOCP in Malaysia was involved in the preparatory work. Next year, the workshop will be held at the SOCP in Sumatra, and will include vets working in the field.

Gadja Mada University, in Jogjakarta, Java, is home to the largest veterinary school in Indonesia. Following the Samboja workshop, I was invited by the Dean of the vet school, Dr Bambang Sumiarto, to be involved in a workshop for university staff and students on orang-utan conservation. Following this workshop the Dean made a commitment to host an Orang-utan Conservancy veterinary workshop at Gadja Mada University in 2011. This will expand the remit of future workshops to promote collaboration between researchers and clinicians in the field, in sanctuaries and in academia.

The major output from this years workshop was the formation and report of the Orang-utan Veterinary Advisory Group, a collaboration of Indonesian and International vets with links to the Indonesian Government, academia and the conservation organisations.





Making a difference

News on Conservation from around the World

We take a look at the conservation news from the Asia-Pacific region ...



Bad
Coral Reefs are constantly in the press due to the effect of global warming on many of the world's reefs. In September, a tsunami hit the South Pacific causing devastation on many islands. More than a hundred lives were lost and villages were wiped out. But it wasn't just the human populations that suffered. Marine biologists have found that the tsunami had a huge impact on the coral reefs. In some areas the damage to already degraded reefs was so severe that some corals may not return, and those that do could take decades. Several areas lost 20-30% of their coral, which is important habitat for many marine species including fish and sea slugs.

Good
Up to 40 new species have been discovered on an expedition to Papua New Guinea. A team from the BBC and scientists from Papua New Guinea, the UK, and the USA travelled out to Papua New Guinea to film the programme Lost Land of the Volcano. The expedition into the remote crater of Mount Bosavi on the island resulted in new species being found and named. These ranged from frogs and fish to a giant rat.



Black Rhino Programme
Workshops are an important part of conservation science, bringing specialists on particular topics together to discuss recent findings and future projects. Earlier this year, Chester Zoo supported a workshop in Kenya, which focuses on research carried out in Chyulu Hills – one of our main Black Rhino Programme projects.

The workshop, titled 'Molecular Tracking: a non-invasive survey of Black Rhino' produced some exciting results which allowed an action plan for the rhinos of Chyulu to be produced. It was found that the population has a minimum of 14 rhinos and is not genetically isolated as was previously thought, but rhinos from neighbouring populations have bred with the Chyulu rhinos in the past. This means that the Chyulu rhinos will be managed as a free ranging population. However, as a minimum of 20 rhinos is recommended for a viable population, rhinos will be translocated from other parts of Kenya to bolster the Chyulu population. It is hoped that these additional rhinos will be moved in once issues such as security and water sources have been resolved.



- Grant Support**
Other projects which we've supported during the last quarter have included:
- Komodo Dragon Project - Community awareness, habitat and wildlife protection plan for the Wae Wuul nature reserve, West Flores
 - Partula Field Programme Consortium, Polynesia
 - Comparing Breeding Success of White-rumped Vultures in the Nawalparasi Forests and Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forests in Western Nepal.
 - Assessing the conservation status of cacti in their most important hotspot, the Chihuahuan desert, Mexico
 - Conservation genetics of the Asian box turtles using microsatellite markers – ex situ project in Germany using samples from European Zoos
 - Community Outreach Program around the Lesio-Louna Natural Reserve of Gorillas, Congo



Photo: © KOCIP

Realm of the Red Ape Programme

Hornbills are one of the most easily recognisable birds, with their distinctive large, wide curved bills. As unique as they are however many people, including those sharing habitats with hornbills, are unable to identify between different species of hornbill. This can mean that conservationists are unable to collect meaningful data from local communities, who could otherwise be a valuable information resource for studies, as species identification is a problem. Chester Zoo has joined forces with Hutan in Sabah, Borneo to overcome this issue. The 'Hutan Hornbill Conservation Project' will educate people living in the Kinabatangan River area in the identification of the eight species of hornbill found there. Locals will be encouraged to participate in the identification of hornbills through education programmes, and the project will result in an updated assessment of the status of each hornbill species. This in turn will allow the production of local conservation plans for species of concern.

FAST FACT: Hornbills have a characteristic ornamental casque on top of their bill (as seen above in our photographs)

Native Species Programme

Next time you go on a nature walk, take a closer look around you...should everything you see really be living in the UK? Non-native species are one of the greatest threats to biodiversity worldwide, and the problem is evident in the UK. Invasive non-native species such as Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed can be found all around the country. The Cheshire region Biodiversity Partnership is conducting a project across the whole of Cheshire to raise awareness of invasive non-native species within the Cheshire region. This project will inform people about non-native species through interpretation at a number of events and venues. Chester Zoo has assisted with the production of interpretation, which will provide advice on identification of non-native species, awareness of the effects of these species and guidance on how to manage them.



Photo: © S.Rowlands

Eurasian Otter numbers are now starting to increase in the wild, following dramatic declines in recent years. Chester Zoo has joined forces with the Cheshire Wildlife Trust, on the project **Otter training for land managers**. This project is aiming to educate local land managers on otter ecology and encourage them to actively record the presence of otters and to manage their land to benefit otters. Two holts will also be installed along the River Gowy as part of the training day which will help otters to disperse and establish territories along the river.

The Great Crested Newt is a part of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) due to a decline in numbers in the UK due to habitat loss. **Positive action for Great Crested Newts in Connah's Quay** is a project run by North East Wales Wildlife. The project focuses on the Deeside and Buckley Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which is one of three SACs designated for the Great Crested Newt population in north east Wales. The project aims to increase the number of suitable, managed breeding ponds for the newts and improve pond connectivity. The project will also allow local people to get involved with hands-on conservation work.

FAST FACT

Native species in the UK identified as needing greater protection are part of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). Most councils have their own Local BAP – why not find out which species need help in your area?



Cheetahs in Namibia

Despite being the fastest land mammal in the world, there's one predator which cheetahs have been unable to escape from – humans. Conflict with farmers and ranchers is a major threat to cheetahs. Research has shown that cheetahs are responsible for less than 5% of predator related livestock losses, however despite this, they are still perceived to be a major threat to livestock.

A few months back, Chester Zoo supported the N/a'an ku se Carnivore Research Project in Namibia which is working to reduce livestock-carnivore conflicts. By studying the cheetahs on Namibian farmland, data will be gathered to determine the cheetah densities and home ranges, and determine where the conflicts occur. Chester Zoo provided support for 2 GPS tracking collars, the first of which was recently fitted to a wild cheetah

FAST FACT: Cheetahs are able to reach speeds of 60mph in less than 3 seconds – that's faster than your average Ferrari!

Photos: © N/a'an ku se Carnivore Research Project

from 5th December 2009 - 3rd January 2010 until



Festive Fun at Chester Zoo

Explore 110 acres
with 7,000 animals
and 400 species

Meet Santa and friends in his
winter wonderland grotto*

Enjoy breakfast or lunch
with Frosty the polar bear or
Waddle the penguin

Take a ride on
the traditional carousel*

Over 10 indoor animal
exhibits to explore



Supported by

heart
more music variety

Visit chesterzoo.org to book

or call 01244 650240

* Extra charge applies

Early Christmas treat for Sangay

Spectacled Bear *Sangay* got his teeth, and his paws, into a Christmas treat at Chester Zoo.

Christmas came early for the 18-year-old bear as he opened a present of welcome food treats.

Sangay was given the gift as the 110-acre zoo unveiled its own package of surprises for December and a video of his antics can be viewed at www.chesterzoo.org



“Sangay enjoyed getting his teeth into his own Christmas cracker and we hope our visitors will be able to enjoy tucking in to their own festivities at the zoo. There is a whole package of day-long treats for all ages to enjoy and we are looking forward to sharing our traditional family Christmas celebrations.”

Lynne Walker Head of Visitor Services

Pictures courtesy of Reuters

Festive Fun will see a return to a traditional family Christmas day out with Santa in his grotto taking centre stage. A carousel and a children's train ride will provide entertainment for those young at heart and Santa's grotto will add a touch of sparkle for youngsters. Costume characters Frosty and Waddle will be joined by a new gang of friends including two rabbits, a Christmas tree and Christmas pudding.

A real Christmas tree will be planted as a focal piece at the entrance to the zoo. Visitors will also be able to enjoy a special breakfast with the Christmas characters and the zoo's monorail will be given a festive makeover.

Together with trips to Santa in his grotto, there will also be a snowball shy and stalls and visitors will be able to say hello to Sabrina, the snow dragon.

The zoo's education department will also be joining in the activities when the Wild Winter exhibition opens in the zoo's Joseph Banks Room.

Aimed at young children, visitors will be able to enjoy a torch-lit walk through a winter woodland and meet some furry friends with the help of the zoo's presenters.

The festivities get underway on December 5 and run until January 3.

For further details or to book visit www.chesterzoo.org

Supported by **heart**
more music variety



Turning the Tide

At its Annual Congress (St Louis, 4 – 8 October 2009), the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) launched a new strategy document entitled 'Turning the Tide: A Global Aquarium Strategy for Conservation and Sustainability'. This document includes key contributions from eminent aquatic biologists and conservationists. As well as being keenly anticipated in the zoo and aquarium world, this publication is being welcomed by leading global conservation NGOs including the IUCN Species Survival Commission, Conservation International, World Wildlife Fund – US, Wetlands International and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, who have all officially endorsed the document. The production of this important new publication was supported by NEZS and Gordon and Claudine are among the compilers and editors

All things FISHY

International Workshop on the Restoration of Fish Populations

Gordon McGregor Reid was appointed as a member of the Scientific Committee for the International Workshop on the Restoration of Fish Populations (Duesseldorf, 31 August – 2 September 2009) and was involved in the review process for selecting scientific papers to be presented at the Workshop. Gordon also gave a plenary lecture on the role of the IUCN / Wetlands International Freshwater Fish Specialist Group in global conservation. The workshop was hosted by the EU's 'European Life Project' for the restoration of the Allis shad (*Alosa alosa*) to the River Rhine. This anadromous fish died out in the Rhine in the first half of the 20th century. However a project to restore the species to the Rhine was started in 2003. In 2008 the first shad were re-introduced to the river. Research data communicated during the course of this workshop will be used to optimise the goals of this project and several others.



Coral reef crisis

On 6th July 2009, the Royal Society, ZSL and the International Programme on the State of the Ocean facilitated a meeting entitled The Coral Reef Crisis: Addressing the threats of climate change and ocean acidification. The output of the technical working group as to how to drive the climate change challenge forward has now been published, with Gordon in his capacity as WAZA President, one of its several supporting signatories. This study demonstrates that 350ppm is the critical level for CO₂ below which coral reefs have a chance of survival. Current levels (387ppm) or proposed levels (450ppm) will lead to the complete loss of coral reefs within the next few decades. Further action continues on this front related to the forthcoming international Climate Change Meeting in Copenhagen.



Sturgeon Red List Workshop

More than 30 international sturgeon experts including 14 members of the IUCN SSC Sturgeon Specialist Group met at the 6th International Sturgeon Symposium in Wuhan, China to discuss and evaluate the risk of extinction to the 18 European and Asian sturgeon species. These species were re-assessed according to the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria and their distributions were mapped. Preliminary results indicate that the conservation status of these species has not improved, and in some cases has worsened since their 1996 assessment. In other cases more information has been made available allowing for more accurate assessments. Threats such as river damming, poaching, over harvesting and pollution are driving many species to the edge of extinction. Urgent action is needed for the conservation and sustainable management of many species. Other species desperately require research and surveys to confirm their status. The detailed species assessments will be published on the IUCN Red List in 2010. Claudine and Kevin Smith (IUCN SSC Freshwater Biodiversity Unit) facilitated the workshop, which was supported by Chester Zoo and the European Commission.



Wild Winter

If you go down to the woods today,
you're in for a big surprise...



This December, the Joseph Banks Room exhibition centre will be transformed into a moonlit winter woodland. Every weekend, and every day of the Christmas school holiday, you can come in and explore!

As you step through the doors, you will experience all the sights, sounds and maybe even the smells of a British woodland in winter! You can take a torch, and wander freely through the trees, to see what you can find. Lots of animals will be hiding amongst the trees, but don't worry; they're all models or soft toys.

At least, we think they are...

To track down some of the more shy and retiring animals, you might have to follow the clues. Look for pinecones chewed by squirrels, or nuts nibbled by wood mice. Keep an ear out as well, for the hoot of an owl, the caw of a crow and other sounds.

There may even be some animals out and about who shouldn't be out in the cold... can you recognise which animals should be out in winter, and who should be hibernating, or sunning themselves on foreign shores?

If you're feeling really adventurous, you can venture deep into the woodland. If you're lucky, you might find our badger sett, and you can hunker down with our cuddly family of badgers in the warmth and comfort of their underground den.

Since cold winter nights are drawing on, lots of animals will be looking for warm, dry homes. There are lots of different animal homes hidden throughout our forest, and a trail you can follow to try and find them all!

The trail leaflet is yours to keep, and if you take it home with you, it will give you lots more ideas of things to do this winter! You can even play wildlife bingo!

And, once you've checked out all of our animal shelters, if you are feeling creative, you can even have a go at making them for yourself! Just download all the details from our website, and maybe you'll have birds, bats, bees, ladybirds and lots and lots of others setting up home in your garden before long!

Finally, our team of Presenters will always be on hand, bundled up in winter clothing and lurking in the undergrowth. Our Presenters can answer all your questions, and perhaps point out some of the shyer animals. If there's anything you'd like to know, just ask!

Wild Winter in the Joseph Banks Room is on every weekend from the 5th of December to the 31st of January, and open daily from Saturday 19th December to Sunday 3rd January. Admission is free to all zoo visitors.

Chimpanzee forest and living willow tunnels

We have recently created a new experience for visitors by re-designing the planting in front of the Chimpanzee House. For many years this area has been home to a formal rose display. However, due to rose sickness in the soil the health of the roses has been gradually deteriorating. In 2009 we replanted two of the beds with new rose varieties but these just curled up their toes (roots) and refused to grow and blossom. We decided therefore that it was time to bite the bullet and remove the roses and replace them with something that gave a better representation of the animal's natural habitat. The theme of the planting is dense forest and we have used a mix of broad leaved deciduous trees, evergreen shrubs, ferns and herbaceous plants. In addition we wanted to make the area a fun place for our younger visitors. Amongst the plants we have incorporated living willow tunnels and a dome for them to explore and become fully immersed in the forest. The tunnels and dome are created by cutting long lengths of willow stems. The cut ends are pushed into the ground and the tops are bent over and tied together to create the tunnel shape. The willow has to be cut during the dormant growing season which is December – February. The cut stems will then produce leaves in spring and start to put down roots into the soil. We hope that by the middle of summer the effect should be complete and this new feature will provide a stimulating and exciting space for our young visitors to explore.

fund RAISING

Recycle for Chester Zoo this Christmas!

It is estimated that there are 90 million unused mobile phones hiding in drawers and cupboards across the UK, weighing 11250 tonnes (that's the same as nearly 2000 fully grown male Asian elephants!).

So if you are getting a new phone this Christmas and don't know what to do with your old one; don't just leave it lying around, recycle it for Chester Zoo!!

All you need to do is contact us on 01244 650229 or email development@chesterzoo.org to ask us to send you a FREEPOST recycling envelope. (Or, when you next visit the Zoo, pop in to our Guest Services hut and drop it off there!)



Wildest Wishes virtual gifts

If you are stuck for gift ideas this Christmas, or if you want to support Chester Zoo in a new unique way, then take a look at the fantastic virtual gifts in our Wildest Wishes range!

From an 'Elephant Pedicure' to 'A Purrfect Gift for Cat Lovers' you can buy a virtual gift for your friends, family and even yourself. Of course we can't actually send you an elephant; you'll get a gift card with information on how you have supported us, and a warm glow from the knowledge that your gift is helping to save animals and plants from extinction.

The money raised from Wildest Wishes goes towards supporting the conservation, education and outreach work of the North of England Zoological Society, at home and abroad.

From £15 - £50 these original gifts are perfect for people who care about wildlife, and they are an ideal Christmas present for those who seem to have everything.

For full details of our Wildest Wishes virtual gift range please visit www.chesterzoo.org/shop - or contact us to request a Wildest Wishes information leaflet on 01244 650229 or email development@chesterzoo.org

The Ideal Virtual Gift
this Christmas! **Wildest
Wishes**

CHESTER ZOO

100 Club

The winners of the prize draws held recently were:

July 2009

Kathleen Holding, Ormskirk	£100
Tony Williams, Winsford	£100
Krystyna Bradshaw, Lancaster	£50
Jenny Saxty, Sale	£50
Louise Webb, Manchester	£50
Sara Harris, Great Sutton	£50

August 2009

Julie Colwell, Bolton	£100
Nicola Jones, Goostrey	£100
Christopher O'Rourke, Widnes	£50
Sharon Dodd, Chester	£50
Philip Robinson, Upton	£50

September 2009

Ivy Bentley, Chester	£100
Ruby Dryland, Chester	£100
Oliver Murtagh, Wilmslow	£50
Andrew Davies, Wem	£50
M. Ramsbottom, Bolton	£50
W. Beavan, Buckley	£50

Membership of the 100 Club is still invited. All prize winners will be notified by post and will be listed in the next edition of Z. Please inform us as soon as possible if you change address. If you wish to participate, please contact the Development Office on 01244 650 292.



Get on your bike!



You can now cycle to Chester Zoo and leave your bike parked in the car park thanks to a new bicycle rack donated by Cycle Chester. The Zoo is proud to be working with Cycle Chester to promote Chester being one of the chosen cities for the Cycling Demonstration Towns Project. There are a number of cycle routes in the area which you can use to get to the zoo. See www.cyclechester.com for more information about cycling and routes. Cycling links well with the Zoo's commitment to conservation and the environment. It also forms part of the Chester Zoo green travel plan, which is our long term strategy to encourage and promote sustainable ways of travelling to the zoo for visitors and staff.

World of Zoo

Chester Zoo has been working with THQ as they prepare to launch their new videogame – *World of Zoo*.



World of Zoo hands players the keys to their very own zoo. With more than 90 different species to care for, players will be able to build incredible relationships with some of the world's most amazing animals.

Released on 6th November, World of Zoo is available on Wii, PC CD ROM and Nintendo DS. PEGI 3 plus rating.

To help get an insight into what a real Zoo Keeper does, Chester Zoo invited World of Zoo to come and take a look. Players can also see for themselves by visiting the World of Zoo website at www.worldofzoo.com/?t=uk where they can view five short videos of the Keepers and their animals at Chester Zoo.

"Chester Zoo is very excited to be partnering with THQ for the release of World of Zoo. 1.3 million visitors a year visit Chester Zoo to discover more about our animals and conservation work. Now many millions more will be able to experience zoo life for themselves through World of Zoo."

Martin Clancy Head of Marketing at Chester Zoo

Will-making and leaving a gift to Chester Zoo



HILL DICKINSON

Hill Dickinson solicitors have supported Chester Zoo's Lifetime Supporters programme this year. Ian Sydenham from the Chester office answers your questions about Will-making and leaving a gift to Chester Zoo.

I already have a Will, can I change it to make a gift to the Zoo without having to rewrite the whole thing?

I have already included a gift in my Will but would like to increase it, can I do so?

Yes you can. If the only change that you want to make is to include a new gift then you can complete a Codicil rather than rewriting your Will. A Codicil can add an additional clause to your Will without the need to rewrite the Will.

If you want to make other changes to your Will besides a charitable gift then it is probably best to prepare a new Will as changing several things by Codicil can be complicated.

I would like my gift to be used for a particular purpose. How can I ensure that this will happen?

You can include conditions on any gift which you make but it is better to allow some flexibility. Usually it would be best to include a statement of your wishes rather than an outright requirement that a gift be used for a certain purpose.

Ordinarily any such wishes would be followed but there might be a good reason why they could not be. For example the Zoo might not be carrying out conservation work with a particular animal at the time of receiving your legacy. In such a case the Zoo would still be able to use your legacy as long as you had not made your gift subject to strict conditions.

Is there any tax advantage in making a gift to the Zoo?

There can be yes. As the Zoo is a registered charity, any gifts which you make in your Will are exempt from Inheritance Tax.

Ordinarily, Inheritance Tax is payable at 40% on any property in excess of £325,000 in the current tax year. Some exemptions do apply, the most significant being that no tax is payable on assets left to your spouse. Beyond that however, making gifts to charity is an excellent way to reduce Inheritance Tax payable on death.

I have read about cases where families have had disputes with charities about gifts in their relatives' Wills. I would like to leave a gift but not at the expense of causing problems for my family. What can I do?

The most important thing is to make sure that you have a good idea of what your assets or estate is worth.

If you make a gift of a fixed amount then you will know how much the charity will receive and also have a good idea of what will be left to divide between your friends and family.

Disputes can occur in any family situation. The best way to avoid disputes is to be open with your family about what you intend to do or to prepare a letter, to be kept with your Will, explaining the reasons behind your legacy decisions. It is also important to review your Will so that the amount of gifts can be adjusted if personal circumstances change.

For further information about making a charitable gift in your Will or any other aspect of Will drafting or estate planning please contact Ian Sydenham on 01244 896600 or ian.sydenham@hilldickinson.com

Talking Conservation! 2010

Our Members' Talks Programme brings you up close and personal with what goes on behind the scenes at the Zoo, our plans for the future and, of course, our conservation work in the UK and overseas.

In the first quarter of 2010 we have some interesting talks lined up for you including, in March, a look at *Natural Vision*, the Zoo's exciting expansion project with a detailed preview of the Heart of Africa biodome. We know, as members, you'll be keen to keep up to date with the latest plans.

Members' talks are more than just talks; they are your opportunity to ask questions from the experts. So, why not join us and bring along your friends too (see below for further information and booking details).

Thursday 14th January 2010 at 7.30pm **Chester Zoo's Conservation Programme in the Philippines** Dr Roger Wilkinson – Head of Field Programmes & Research

Chester Zoo has been supporting conservation in the Philippines for over 15 years. Alcoy Forest and Wildlife Protection in Cebu, Polillo Islands Biodiversity Protection and monitoring, West Visayan threatened endemic species – including Philippine Spotted Deer and Visayan Warty Pigs; Philippine hornbills, Philippine Cockatoo; Los Banos Fish Ark; Monitor lizards on Polillo and Philippine Crocodile; are just some of the projects Chester Zoo has been involved in.

Roger brings us up to date with the current projects we are supporting and working with.

Roger Wilkinson is Head of Field Programmes and Research at Chester Zoo. His main interests are in Conservation Biology, Animal Behaviour, Ecology and Ornithology. Roger joined Chester Zoo in 1983 as Curator of Birds and later became Curator of Higher Vertebrates and Research. Roger manages Chester Zoo's Philippines, Chinese, Mascarenes, and Nigerian Bio-diversity Field Conservation Programmes and the Black Rhino and Orang-utan Field Programmes. He is a trustee of the Polillo Bio-diversity Conservation Foundation (Philippines) and a Council Member of the Mauritius Wildlife Foundation.

Thursday 18th February 2010 at 7.30pm **The Changing Role of Plants at Chester Zoo: the first ten years** Mark Sparrow – Curator of Horticulture and Botany



Mark Sparrow has been in charge of the Horticulture and Botany Dept. for just over 10 years. This talk will illustrate how the use of plants in the zoo has developed during that period. This includes the creation of more naturalistic animal enclosures and the changing face of the gardens. It will also look at the increasing development of plant conservation projects both at home and abroad.

Wednesday 10th March 2010 at 7.30pm **Natural Vision – Chester Zoo's Future Development** Simon Mann – Development Director

In the last few years, the Society has worked with a variety of agencies to develop a new Masterplan for the Zoo, entitled *Natural Vision*.

Chester Zoo is internationally recognised as a leading centre for animal conservation, education and science. It is already the UK's premier wildlife attraction, welcoming well over 1 million visitors a year. *Natural Vision* aims to evolve the Zoo from a national success story into a truly world class showcase for the abundant yet often threatened wildlife and fantastic, but fragile, habitats of earth.

It will be a beacon of excellence here in the north west of England – creating an internationally renowned centre of the highest quality, providing top class employment, education and economic benefits. At the same time, the *Natural Vision* development will inspire millions to appreciate and treasure the rich and remarkable biodiversity of our planet.

This talk will include an outline of the plans for new visitor and education facilities, plus give a detailed preview of the 'Heart of Africa' biodome – the centrepiece of Phase 1 of the project, scheduled for completion in 2014.

Simon Mann initially studied as an architect before completing a degree in construction management. After qualifying he worked for a number of regional and national building contractors as a design and build manager on projects across the UK.

In 1997 Simon moved to project management consultancy, initially working for a specialist London-based practice on a series of high profile projects including the BBC Broadcasting House re-development in Central London.

In 2003 he joined the largest UK PM consultancy and as a Director helped to develop the regional business within the north west. Simon first worked for the Society as Interim Development Director for Natural Vision in 2008 before taking up the permanent role in March 2009.

Members' Talks are held in the Geraldine Russell Lecture Theatre (near the Zoo's Main Entrance off the A41) and are free to members (please bring your membership card and welcome letter). Members of the public and guests are welcome (£3.50 for non-members). Our Lecture Theatre seats up to 170. Post-talk refreshments give you the opportunity to have an informal chat with speakers and fellow members. At selected talks, items from our projects overseas may be available. Please support our Members' Talks which are provided to keep you abreast of the Zoo and its conservation work which your membership supports.

Interested in attending? Please call Kate in Education on 01244 389 444 or e-mail k.branks@chesterzoo.org to book.

2009 and Counting...



Count Me In! completed its first year with a flourish in October at the stunning Nunsmere Hall hotel where we spent a happy day finding fungi in the grounds.

How quickly this first year has passed, and what an amazing year it has been! So many things to see... We have encountered alien invaders, worms, bats, the cute and furry, green and slimy, bugs and beasts of all shapes and sizes!

CMI! is all about creating the 'Wildlife Recorders of the Future'; so are we achieving what we set out to do?

Current figures show the project is exceeding expectations with more than 400 people attending workshop events, and approximately 250 more taking part in the Bird watch and Bug Day here at Chester Zoo. In addition, CMI! stands at events including Cheshire Show, and CWT One Earth Day, have raised awareness of the project with many more people through simple species identification games and activities. Importantly, over 1000 wildlife records have been added to the RECORD database as a result of the project. We have been particularly successfully with one family where grandparents and parents are now submitting records, and 4 year old Lauren hot on their heels!

Among the species highlights was the Alder tongue gall (*Taphrina alni*), seen on our Return of the Lichens event, with its red tongues showing on alder catkins. We were also really lucky to find two unusual leaf cutter bees on our Big Bug Day; Willoughby's leafcutter bee (*Megachile willughbiella*) and a Patchwork leafcutter bee (*Megachile centuncularis*) – both of these are new species records for the zoo.

Probably the most memorable **Count Me In!** event in 2009 was the **Creatures of the Night** event, in August, for the sheer quantity and diversity of wildlife we saw. The moth traps we used attracted so much more than moths; we were joined by hordes of ladybirds, ants, ground beetles, wasps, mosquitoes, midges, crane flies and quite a lot of moths too. The harmless ichneumon wasps were amazing; it was a real treat to see these monsters of the night! We were lucky enough to glimpse and listen to four different bat species too: Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) and Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*) and Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*) were all present. It was fantastic to find out about the animals that inhabit Chester Zoo after dark

What's in store for 2010?

The 2010 calendar is shown on the following pages...

As you can see from the 2010 calendar we have some real treats in store. Workshops on wading birds and pond life will be run by familiar local experts Jeff Clarke and Andy Harmer, new faces this year will include Richard Gallon showing us how to find and identify spiders. Trevor Dines is coming to tell us how important it is to record common plants, not just rarities, and get us involved in the Plantlife Common Plants Survey. During National Insect Week in June we are planning two days of activities starting at a basic level and progressing to more challenging insect groups, with contributions from four county experts. Ness gardens will be a superb venue to look at bees in August, and we are hoping for a bumper crop of hedgerow fruits in our autumn session on hedgerows. Big family events will be in July, when we are going to the seaside for a fantastic day of beach combing, rock pooling and sand dune searches. In September we are having a 'recordathon' where everyone can try out the skills they have gained from CMI! with all our kit and a range of experts on hand to help, and a great finale in October with CMI! awards and lots more ...

What people think of CMI!

"another wonderful session, informative and great fun"
"wonderful day – wish it lasted longer" "brilliant"

"Really enjoyable and informative, loads of ideas to take away. I will definitely take it further"

"Fantastic day, thank you ever so much"

"Brilliant" "a zoo visit with a difference"
"birdwatching was brilliant – 30 species!"

"Great atmosphere, fun but very informative, great day"
"wonderful – great my daughter could get so involved"

Patchwork Leafcutter Bee
(*Megachile centuncularis*)
courtesy of Jeff Clarke

COUNT ME IN!



1st February
The Tide is High...
Wildfowl, waders & small mammals rush for the shore!



10th April
How does your garden grow?
A tribute to 'common' plants, vital to our ecosystems.



18th April
Snakes in the Grass
Here be... common lizards, great crested newts & adders!



9th May
Pond-life
A dip into the lives of Cheshire's pond dwellers.



Count Me In!

All Events are FREE!
For more Information & Booking:
Karen Lawson: 01244 383749
CountMeIn@RECORD-LRC.CO.UK

RECORD



CALENDAR 2010

20th June

Insects: Level 1 Beginners.

23rd June

Insects: Level 2 Improvers.



11th September

Life on the Hedge!

Natural highways providing vital shelter & food.

11th July

CMI! Beach Party

Beach combing & more, promises to be really wild!



19th September

'Incey Wincey' Workshop

Face your fears with Richard 'Spider Man' Gallon.

8th August

There's a Buzz in the air

Popular with both people and bees!



10th October

Mammals of Cheshire

'Cute & furry' creatures of field and hedgerow.

15th August

Anyone for crickets... ladybirds or grasshoppers?



24th October

Celebrate...

Two years of CMI! and the International Year of Biodiversity.



5th September

CMI! Recordathon

Practise your recording skills & maybe pick up new ones.



Heritage Lottery Fund



Esmée Fairbairn FOUNDATION

Events at Chester Zoo

Sunday 14th February, 2010

Valentine Lunch

For something different this Valentine's Day enjoy a stroll around our award-winning grounds followed by a warming lunch served in Oakfield Manor.

£23.95 per adult (price includes admission)

Sunday 14th March, 2010

Mother's Day

A delicious three course lunch can be enjoyed within Oakfield Manor at either 12.00 pm or 3.00pm.

£24.95 per adult £17.50 per child (3 - 11 years)

Price includes admission

Pre-booking and pre-payment essential

For further details please contact the Events Office on 01244 650209 or email: events@chesterzoo.org

R



Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH
Tel. 01244 380280 Fax. 01244 371273 Email:
info@chesterzoo.co.uk Web: www.chesterzoo.org

Founded in 1934, the North of England Zoological Society is a registered charity and receives no Government funding. We need your help and support to raise funds for the care and conservation of rare and endangered animals both in the Zoo and across the world.

Registered charity No. 306077



OAKFIELD MANOR

Celebrate the festive season with a difference

Oakfield Manor House at Chester Zoo is set within award winning grounds and is a perfect setting for your festive celebrations. Enjoy delicious Christmas fare and visit Chester Zoo all on the same day!

Christmas Lunch & Dinner Menu 2009

1st December to 24th December

Smoked chicken, celery & apple bound in lemon mayonnaise, placed on mixed salad leaves and served with crusty granary bread

Tomato, basil & roasted bell pepper soup finished with fresh cream & topped with parmesan crisps

An assortment of fresh winter fruits served with a citrus sorbet & mixed berry coulis

Local roast turkey served with chipolata, bacon roll, bread sauce & cranberry stuffing

Salmon fillet coated in a lemon & tarragon butter, encased in puff pastry, placed on wilted spinach & laced with a mushroom cream sauce

Slow roasted Rib eye of beef sprinkled with mustard seeds, crushed garlic, & fresh herbs finished with a rich red wine jus

A creamy vegetable risotto with green beans, asparagus, peas & spinach, flavored with tarragon, finished with parmesan & fresh parsley (v) (This dish must be pre-ordered)

(All main courses are served with seasonal vegetables)

Selection of desserts

£25.95 per adult £17.25 per child (3-11 years) Price includes admission into Chester Zoo.

Christmas Dinner and Disco (dancing until midnight) £36.50 per person.
(Private evenings can be held with a minimum number of 80 guests).



OAKFIELD MANOR

Welcome the New Year at Chester Zoo.

Enjoy our New Year Menu and spend a day in the zoo.

Two course New Year menu

Friday 1st, Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd January, 2010

Carrot, orange & thyme soup finished with fresh cream

Pressed ham hock & peppercorn terrine served on a bed of mustard greens, accompanied with a pea puree

Roast loin of pork with a leek & apple stuffing, laced with a creamy cider sauce

Grilled fillet of haddock served on a bed of roasted vegetable penne & finished with chive butter sauce

(A vegetarian choice will be available but must be pre-booked)

Desserts will be available (at an additional cost of £4.95)

£21.25 per adult & £14.95 per child (under 11 years) Price includes admission.

How to Book

To make a booking or for further information please contact our Events office on 01244 650209 or email events@chesterzoo.org

www.chesterzoo.org