



Z

CHESTER ZOO

magazine

for members and adopters

SPRING 2018

Z MAGAZINE FEATURES



A day in the life of an
aquarium keeper
Page 10-13



Play spring events
Page 20-21



What's new at the zoo?
Page 22-23

Member Days:
Saturday 17 March 2018

Adopter Days:
Sunday 7 October 2018

News from the zoo

with Dr Mark Pilgrim - Chief Executive Officer



There is always plenty going on around the zoo to lift your spirits during the long winter months, even when the weather has been as wet, cold and miserable as it has!

The news that the zoo is now home to more animals than at any other time since it opened in 1931 was a huge boost. With more than 21,000 animals to look after, we are kept very busy, no matter what the season.

If you've been for a visit already this year you may have noticed that, from mid-January, we took some protective measures to keep our birds safe from avian influenza which was detected in wild bird populations in the UK. The strict biosecurity requirements meant closing some of our aviaries and preventing any contact that birds such as our flamingos may have with wild birds. Avian influenza was something we saw perhaps once a decade in the past but has, unfortunately, become something of an annual event. Thank you for your patience as we work to keep the potential spread of this disease under tight control.

Now that the winter months are over and spring is on its way, there is so much to look forward to at the zoo:

Our African painted dog pups have been out and about from early in the year and are now growing fast and looking fantastic. This is the first time we have bred African painted dogs here and you can read more about their progress on page 4-5. Do come and see them while they're still young, it really is a wonderful sight.

The Sumatran orangutan baby, born in December, is an absolute delight. They are one of the flagship species we are working to protect and we are a stronghold for the breeding successes of both Sumatran and Bornean orangutans in Europe. Every orangutan birth is very special for this critically endangered species and our infant is one of only 11 Sumatran orangutan babies to be born in the last 12 months as part of the European breeding programme. Take a look at what we're doing to help protect this great ape on page 6.

Our collection of babirusa has been bolstered with two new additions from the USA. We are the only zoo in the UK which currently breeds these rare wild pigs from the island of Sulawesi and they are a real focus for us in *Islands*. The birth of twin piglets to our latest pair at the end of 2017 was great news for our team, which has worked extremely hard to establish and share best practices in the husbandry and well-being of these fascinating animals, including in Indonesia.

The new habitat for our Humboldt penguins opened in February. The new, much larger viewing windows give visitors a clear view of these characterful animals racing through the water, as our upgraded water filtration system keeps the pool clear for the colony. With a remodelled habitat and nesting area, too, it's a great space for the penguins.

Add to that the fabulous new play area, Wildlife Wood, which you can find out more about on page 23, and you will see there has been a great deal of preparation to get the zoo looking its best for the spring – all we need now are blue skies and sunshine!

As you're reading this, I shall be in Rwanda meeting with the African Rhino Specialist Group, to discuss the potential reintroduction of Eastern black rhinos from the European breeding programme into the wild. After a catastrophic decline in the black rhino population in the 70s, 80s and 90s, there have been intense anti-poaching efforts which have allowed this wonderful species to recover and numbers have slowly increased over the last 20 years. This could be a really exciting project that helps the black rhino population continue in the right direction – I'll keep you informed.



More animals at the zoo than EVER before

It's official. Chester Zoo is now home to more animals than ever before in our 85-year history!

The record-breaking tally of 21,314 animals from almost 500 different species was revealed in January, after keepers completed their annual head count of all the animals in our care, including some of the world's most endangered.

The figure is broken down to **1,268 mammals, 1,880 birds, 349 reptiles, 728 amphibians, 7,616 fish and 9,473 insects**, numbers of which have all increased thanks to a year of important conservation breeding successes and some rare new arrivals. For those of you who are wondering, some of our very smallest inhabitants, like the leaf cutter ants, are not counted individually – they're counted as colonies.

Liz Ball, from our Records team, is responsible for compiling information on every animal at the zoo. She explains:

"The animal teams send us daily reports so that we can detail each animal birth and death as well as track the many animals arriving at the zoo or leaving here to go to other zoos. Then, once a year, our keepers double-check our data by carrying out a full head count. It's a compulsory census, which is legally

required as part of the zoo's operating licence. It's a massive challenge, but with well over a thousand recent births and hatchings, this latest count was nothing short of monumental!"

Each animal has its own 'passport', detailing important information such as who it is, where it was born, its gender and its family history. All of these key components are vital when carefully pairing up highly endangered animals and co-ordinating worldwide conservation breeding programmes.

Mike Jordan, Collections Director at the zoo, added:

"With habitat loss, poaching, hunting, illegal trading, climate change and all manner of other factors affecting wildlife populations around the world, more and more animals are being added to the red list of endangered species.

"The work of Chester Zoo and other good zoos has never been more relevant and important as we fight - both here and in the field - to ensure a brighter future for so many threatened species. It's vital that we continue to prevent extinction by ground-breaking science and conservation breeding here at the zoo in tandem with developing and supporting new conservation projects in the wild; tackling the issues at the source."

"Who let the dogs out?"

Anytime is playtime for our boisterous African wild dog pups! Their rough and tumble antics give us a glimpse of just how tough and resilient these animals are.

Since they first emerged from their den in January at just six-weeks old, the inquisitive pups with their large, rounded ears have been a sensation. It's the first time these endangered animals have been bred at Chester Zoo and they're growing up fast.

The brown and white coats of the youngsters now have patches of yellow and black, forming the beautiful and unique patterns which give them their alternative name of African painted dogs. No two dogs have exactly the same markings, which is useful for conservationists trying to identify different pack members in the wild, and just as helpful to our keepers who have given the four sisters and three brothers their African-inspired names.

The females are Mosi, a Swahili word meaning first born; Eyasi, who is named after a lake in Tanzania – where our conservation efforts to protect painted dogs are focused; Nuru, which translates as light and Bahati which means lucky. The males are Bakuru, which is an elder in Swahili; Kendi which means loved one; and Hasani, who is indeed, handsome.

Carnivores Team Manager Dave Hall said:

"It's fascinating watching the pups play and to see the same natural behaviours as you would between family members in a wild pack. The adult dogs are very protective of them and dad, Ville, has been extremely attentive from the start. He took food into the den for K'mana when she was suckling the pups and he's now doing his bit to discipline them and police how much they're all eating.

"As they grow in size, they grow in confidence. The family dynamic is different every day and it's great to see some strong bonds forming between individuals."

African painted dogs are highly intelligent and social animals, with a large range of vocalisations and elaborate rituals. Keepers are looking forward to hearing the chattering noises the pups will make when they're a little older and they know food is

on its way – just as their wild counterparts do when preparing for a hunt.

One or more dogs start vocalising and circling among the other pack members, building up their excitement and bonding them for a common purpose. This isn't just bravado: they are supreme predators who work together to bring down prey many times their size.

The excitement generated by the pups' progress amongst keepers, conservationists, scientists and visitors alike is justifiable. These rare pups are incredibly important to the international conservation breeding programme, which is working to protect future generations of these impressive and beautiful animals.

African painted dogs are under threat and are listed as endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). While estimates suggest there are approximately 6,600 adult dogs in the wild, some packs are too small to remain viable and conservation experts fear there may be fewer than 1,500 breeding dogs left in isolated regions of eastern and southern Africa. The causes of the painted dogs' continuing decline are reasonably well understood and all are associated with human encroachment on their habitat.

For more than 10 years, Chester Zoo has been a vital part of the George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust African Wild Dog Programme in Tanzania, working to return healthy and genetically diverse populations of painted dogs back to the wild.

Mike Jordan, the zoo's Collections Director, explains:

"With human populations increasing in Africa and villages expanding, painted dog numbers have plummeted as their habitat is fragmented and converted to farmland. This puts them in direct conflict with local people, who hunt and poison the dogs for killing their livestock. They are also exposed to infectious diseases transferred from domestic dogs.

"Time is running out for them but, through our long-standing conservation support in Africa, we're fighting to change this."



Through our Act for Wildlife conservation campaign, we're also raising vital funds to protect painted dogs from extinction in Africa. Visit our website, ACTFORWILDLIFE.ORG.UK, for more information or to make a donation by text, text **AFRI03 £5** to **70070** to donate **£5** to support our ongoing conservation work in Africa.



Sumatran orangutan baby

Our special Christmas baby, a Sumatran orangutan, is a hugely important addition to a conservation breeding programme which may be critical to safeguarding orangutans in the future.

Her precious early moments were captured on film by the zoo, showing the tiny new arrival clinging on tightly to mum Emma; the perfect end to an eight-and-a-half month pregnancy. The youngster is doing really well under the fantastic care of her experienced mum and she will remain dependent on her throughout her early years.

This is Emma's fifth baby but she's one of just 11 born in the last 12 months as part of the European conservation breeding programme. She's a vital addition.

Sumatran orangutans are critically endangered, with viable populations of little more than 13,500 left in the wild and overall numbers continuing to decline dramatically. Their survival is seriously threatened as vast areas of forests are cleared for huge oil-palm plantations covering hundreds of square kilometres. This puts orangutans at risk of malnutrition as they are forced into small, isolated patches of forests where resources are limited. Hunting is an added threat, with poachers capturing and selling surviving infants into the illegal pet trade.

Dr Nick Davis, Chester Zoo's Deputy Curator of Mammals, said:

"The Sumatran orangutan is under enormous pressure in the wild and, without urgent conservation work, it could tragically become the first great ape lost forever. We can't allow that to happen. We must act now."

To help tackle the complex cultural and environmental issues affecting orangutans, we're supporting conservation programmes being run by our partners, the Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Project (SOCP). They are building partnerships with schools and local communities to protect the last remaining habitat of the orangutan, with education playing

a vital part. We're also supporting and training SOCP vets who rescue orangutans when their habitat has been destroyed and rehabilitate infants who have been kept illegally as pets, helping to successfully return them to the wild.

Mike Jordan, Chester Zoo's Collections Director, added:

"Conservation is critical and right now we are fighting for these amazing animals in South East Asia – helping field workers to restore depleted forests and supporting education work in schools and communities where the species live.

"Everyone can do their bit to help. When shopping in the supermarket, check labels to make sure products only contain sustainable palm oil. It sounds like a small thing but it can make a big, big difference."

Join the Sustainable Palm Oil Challenge

We want to make sustainable palm oil the norm. And to do this we need your help! There have been huge increases in the demand for certified sustainable palm oil but we could ALL be doing more to promote its use. We're celebrating those that want to become sustainable and making it easier for us all to pick sustainable products when we're doing our shopping.



Head over to our website ACTFORWILDLIFE.ORG.UK/PALMOIL to find out how you can get involved.



Have you spotted the deer?

Our beautiful Philippine spotted deer fawn has been venturing out with her proud parents, Tala and Bulan, following her birth in December.

She is the latest to be born to an acclaimed conservation breeding programme – set up at the request of the Philippine government – which is working to ensure a healthy and genetically viable population of the animals in Europe.

Also known as the Visayan spotted deer, they have already become extinct on several islands in the Philippines – largely due to intensive illegal hunting and huge deforestation. Conservationists fear that fewer than 2,500 may now remain in the wild, making them one of the world's most endangered deer species.

Zoo conservationists have been supporting efforts to protect and restore the deers' habitat in the Philippines for more than 10 years, where they have also helped to establish specialist conservation breeding centres. As well as breeding animals for future reintroductions, these centres are vital hubs for training, research and education and for increasing awareness of the species amongst local communities.



WE WILL NEVER FORGET

Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpesvirus (EEHV) is a deadly virus which affects young elephants globally. We're working to find a solution to this disease. Not enough is currently known about this virus so we need to carry out vital research to hopefully get closer to finding a way to stopping it killing more elephants.

EEHV doesn't discriminate – it doesn't matter whether it's a two-year-old elephant calf at Chester Zoo, at a zoo in the USA or in the wild in Asia. We're part of the global conservation community committed to the conservation of Asian elephants, so we will continue to carry out intensive research and work to discover more about this virus and how to treat it.

THANKS TO YOUR AMAZING SUPPORT SO FAR...

Your incredible donations have meant we've been able to move forwards with trying to find a solution to this deadly disease. Since the campaign launched in 2016, we've recruited Conservation Fellow, Dr Tanja Maehr in a post-doctoral position, run in collaboration with the University of Surrey and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).

Dr Tanja Maehr is working to tackle the threat this disease poses to young elephants and here she tells us more about working with Chester Zoo and the important research she's carrying out:

"My research involves identifying some of the key mechanisms and key elements of the Asian elephant immune system, as little is currently known about this. This is necessary to identify certain cells that are involved in the innate and adaptive immune responses, to find a treatment against EEHV and identify what components of the immune system are involved in the defence against this virus.

"We also want to answer the question 'why is it that only young elephants are susceptible to this disease'; we will therefore try to characterise the immune responses from young and older animals, too.

"I heard about the post-doctoral position through Chester Zoo's Never Forget campaign and I became interested in the position as it's quite a complex and curious disease, in the sense that it only affects young animals. From an immunological side, it's a very interesting research question. EEHV is very complex as there are different strains of the virus.

"I applied for this research as I'm a zoologist and an immunologist and for me this meant I would come full circle in a way. As a zoologist, that's why you start doing such a degree because you want to work with animals and then it becomes very scientific, but then you would like to apply that science directly to help animals.

"This research is vital in protecting elephants going forwards, they are an endangered species and other studies have shown

that EEHV also occurs in the wild. So, if you factor out this disease then the population has a greater chance of survival. Plus it will help vital conservation breeding projects in raising young elephants successfully.

"Working on this project has meant two of my research interests are coming together; plus I want to collaborate with a zoo that does great work on the conservation of so many other species. I think Chester Zoo is leading the campaign against EEHV and really trying to find a solution to this devastating disease. I feel the zoo will support me in my research, through collaboration with other zoos and organisations that also want to tackle this virus.

"Several groups are already investigating this virus, and there are already efforts to collaborate to find a solution together. This is a really big and complex problem therefore it's really necessary to collaborate and use joint efforts to find a solution."

Dr Maehr is working to understand more about the elephant immune cells. There are different types of immune cells that need to be characterised first, which can be done through a method called flow cytometry which isolates the cells using antibodies. Establishing an elephant's antibodies that react with these cells needs to be discovered first, as currently little is known about this.

As part of the research we're also going to use a real-time 'polymerase chain reactor' (PCR) method to characterise some immune responses and do some gene expression analysis and antibodies testing.

As a result of the incredible donations from the Never Forget campaign we've been able to bring a PCR machine in house.

John O'Hanlon, Chester Zoo's Laboratory Assistant, works in our endocrinology lab looking at the hormones of the different species at the zoo. He tells us why having this machine at the zoo is so important:

"We're able to test for EEHV using the PCR machine. It's a molecular biology tool which replicates the DNA by going through a number of cycles and helps to amplify segments of DNA you want to analyse.

"We currently look for EEHV using the PCR machine, as early detection of the virus is critical for treatment. Symptoms don't appear until later on when the virus is already quite high and the PCR enables us to see the viral loads very quickly and start treatment.

"With having the PCR machine on site at the zoo, it really helps us to have a quick turnaround testing. If a DNA sample gets here for 9am in the morning, either from blood, swabs or skin tissue, within hours we can have results! If an elephant is suspected of having EEHV we can carry out tests as soon as possible and pass the results on to the vets. We can do that day after day, sample after sample, until we're 100% sure about the course of the treatment for the animal.

"Using the PCR machine at the zoo we could also look at other viruses in other species, as well as genes of other animals to see if some species are genetically similar to other ones."

Dr Tanja Maehr concludes:

"For the elephant species it's really important that we find a solution because in the wild the populations are small, they're fragmented. It is therefore thought that there is a greater chance disease could impact these smaller populations. It's important to gain a sustainable population to preserve our elephants.

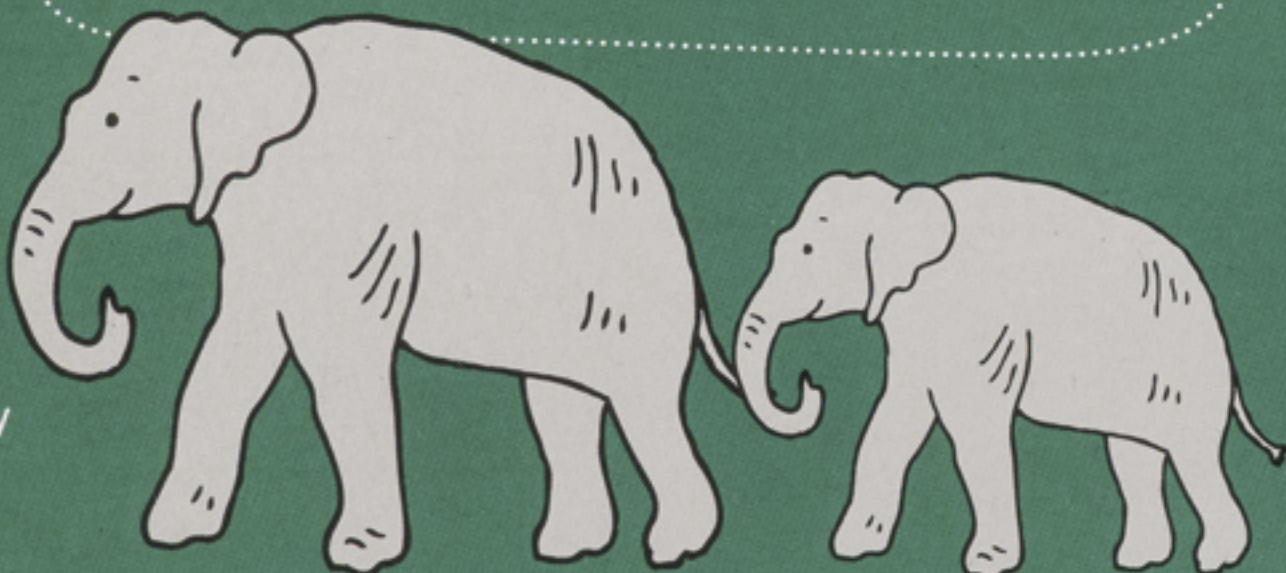
"It's an honour to be part of this project and to see the support that it has received so far, to see so many people wanting to help make a difference is amazing."



JOIN OUR STAMPEDE

After last year's success, we're holding our second Summer Stampede event at the zoo on World Elephant Day (Sunday 12 August). Together with your friends and family, you can give a big boost to our Never Forget campaign and help us continue our work to find a solution to EEHV, by taking part in our sponsored walk.

The day is a special opportunity for you and your herd to walk around the zoo before we're open to the public, with plenty of staff lining the route to answer any questions you may have on your way round. Find out more at CHESTERZOO.ORG/STAMPEDE



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN AQUARIUM KEEPER



Chester Zoo's Aquarium Team Manager, Andrea Swatman, has been working at Chester Zoo for five years. She is part of a team of five who look after 89 different species, 7616 individuals, 300,000 litres of water and 126 aquariums in total! And with 1,473 water checks every week – the team are extremely busy!

Andrea tells us more about what it's like working with a wide variety of aquatic species and managing the different environments each requires. There's a lot more going on behind the scenes and you might be surprised to discover just what it takes to work in this diverse and rewarding department at Chester Zoo...

What does a 'typical' day at the zoo look like for you?

"A typical day at the zoo for me involves display checks in the morning and cleaning lots of aquariums. We like to make sure that all of our tanks are represented to their best every single day, therefore everyone in the aquarium team helps with the opening up duties. There is a lot of organising. We have so many species and a lot of different plans for them, we have to manage the collection to suit the requirements of the zoo, as well as managing them in a way that suits the fishes. For example, we may have a new group of fish that requires quarantining, or a rare type of fish that we need to breed, or a population that are becoming territorial, all of these aspects need direction and a plan of action."

What's new at the zoo?

"The Amazonian fish species that can be found in the Spirit of the Jaguar aquarium are a new species to the zoo. We try and maintain our own populations through managed conservation breeding programmes, sometimes this is not always easy to do due to resource or the 'difficulty level' of the species. When we are dealing with a new species there is a big process we have to go through. This starts with an idea, and gets passed for approval through the curatorial team and on to directors. After this it becomes more organic, as we liaise with the vet team on prophylactic treatments, and we set up mature quarantine systems. When the fish arrive they spend 30 days in quarantine. During this time we worm them, check they're healthy and make sure they have good body condition. If they have an infection we can clear that up, just as you would with a mammal – the vet team works with us to administer antibiotics or other suitable medications should we ever need to."

What's your favourite species you work with and why?

"I don't really have a favourite. I love the diversity and I'm very proud that we predominantly focus on fresh water species. There are a lot of tropical marine collections up and down the country, but only three that really specialise in fresh water biotopes, and I'm immensely proud to be a part of that."

What's the best part of your job?

"Working with the team and the diverse species we have at the zoo. The team are great, there are five employees and two interns and we have a broad amount of experience between us. The team make me laugh every day. They work hard, they are passionate and they all contribute to the success of the aquarium. Working with such a diverse range of species is also very rewarding. We look after and maintain breeding populations of fish that are extinct in the wild, we breed specimens that have yet to be described, we look after animals from unique and obscure habitats, coral reefs and native coast lines."



What are the biggest challenges?

"The biggest challenge is to maintain a healthy viable collection. We need to be careful of a very well-known disease called Mycobacterium. This is prevalent in all aquarium collections and most fish species carry this bacterium. Fish usually deal with this quite well and they live a normal life. If an environmental factor changes dramatically, this can trigger the bacterium to cause issues. To prevent outbreaks we have to manage our environmental parameters extremely closely, we also provide the fish with a high quality diet consisting of dry foods, frozen foods and live foods; and we filter all of the water within the aquariums."

Tell us about one of the species you work with at the zoo that people will be surprised to hear.

"We work with a species of jellyfish that have evolved to live on the ocean floor cushioned on their bell with their tentacles up in the air – unusual considering most species live a pelagic life, drifting freely in the oceans currents. When they reproduce they expel larvae into the water that eventually settle on a hard substrate and grow into a polyp. This polyp can then split asexually into many clones. The top of the polyp can give rise to hundreds of jelly fish! They form many layers, like stacked up dinner plates, and the top one of that stack pops off and will pulse around the breeding tank until it settles out on its bell and begins the next phase of its life as a jelly fish."

Could you explain more about the role of zoos in protecting endangered aquatic species?

"At Chester Zoo we're dedicated to protecting endangered species right here at the zoo and in the wild. The conservation breeding programmes are designed to increase populations of endangered species and prevent extinction, this is done through various strategies, but most breeding programmes are managed through keeping a studbook for that particular species."

"That studbook will be managed by one individual at an approved facility and they will give guidance for maintaining genetic integrity of that breeding population by calculating the inbreeding coefficient of a potential mating. There are many other facets to protecting endangered species, for example, support through funding and expertise for in-situ field work and conservation, and scientific research. Outreach programmes are also important, providing local communities with a means to turn something that might be harmful to a species into something that could instead benefit a species; for example, a conservation programme that changes the behaviour and attitude to a previous poacher, to instead hold guardianship of that species within his community."



FAST FACTS

The aquarium team looks after:

- 89 different species
- 7616 individuals
- 300,000l of water
- There are 126 aquariums at the zoo (73 are behind the scenes, part of our breeding and quarantining facilities)
- 1,473 water checks every week



Exciting new discoveries made in Nigeria

We're acting right now to save wildlife in Africa from poaching and extinction; and as part of our ongoing research in the forests of Gashaka Gumti National Park we've made some exciting discoveries.

Working with the Nigeria National Park Service (NNPS) and local communities, we've been leading vital research in Gashaka, which has revealed the continued presence of incredibly rare and endangered mammals.

The research has highlighted the extraordinary diversity of species found within the forests, including chimpanzees, leopards, the elusive golden cat and the first discovery of giant pangolins in Nigeria.

Chester Zoo conservationists, together with our project partners, have surveyed over 1000 square kilometres of the under-explored forests using camera traps and reconnaissance surveys.



The camera trap photos revealed the presence of over 30 mammals – ranging in size from mice to buffalos – all found within the borders of the National Park. Some of the animals included three species of duiker, honey badgers, bushbuck, forest buffalo, red river hogs, giant forest hogs, mongoose, potto (a small nocturnal primate), a variety of monkeys and West African crocodiles. The list goes on!

Since 2016, the team has carried out approximately 500km of reconnaissance walks of the extremely rugged southern sector of the park and using camera traps they have captured over 50,000 images of the park's wildlife. Some of the species caught on camera had never been recorded in the national park or in Nigeria before.

Research leader and Chester Zoo's Africa Field Programme Coordinator, Stuart Nixon, tells us more about the discoveries:



"Gashaka Gumti National Park (GGNP) is staggeringly beautiful with an amazing diversity of habitats including mountain rainforests, savannah woodlands and rolling grasslands, but incredibly in 2018 it still remains little explored. The ongoing work we are carrying out is key to helping us develop a better understanding of the park, its wildlife and how to help conserve it. It's extremely exciting work to be involved with."

GGNP is home to the endangered Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee, the rarest of all chimpanzee subspecies. It's believed to support one of the largest remaining populations, making it a high priority for the species' survival, but there have been no population surveys for 20 years.

Stuart added:

"All of Africa's remaining great ape populations are in serious danger of extinction from hunting, habitat loss, disease and the negative effects of climate change. GGNP is a priority site for chimpanzees, not just in Nigeria but for the entire continent so we need to know more about how many still survive in the park, what threatens their survival and find the key areas where we need to focus our conservation efforts."



The surveys have revealed the first confirmed record of giant pangolins in Nigeria, the largest, least known and rarest of all the African pangolins. Pangolins are a group of scaled mammals, sometimes known as 'scaly anteaters'. Sadly, they're widely trafficked for their meat, which is considered a delicacy in some countries, and their scales, which are often used for ethno-medicinal and cultural purposes.



Another exciting discovery was capturing the first photographic evidence of leopards in the park, which are notoriously secretive! Their numbers are known to have drastically declined across Nigeria as a result of hunting and habitat loss and it's possible that Gashaka supports one of the most significant leopard populations remaining in West Africa.


The research has also captured many images of the African golden cat in the park, Africa's most elusive cat species. Data on this rainforest species is limited, so the results of this research are adding to existing global knowledge.


As part of ongoing training, a Chester Zoo led exploration team, ventured deep into the forests of GGNP in December, across the slopes of West Africa's highest mountain – Gangirwal. The team spent ten days documenting wildlife and identifying the threats to its survival. The trip confirmed that the park supports a high biodiversity but worryingly showed that threats from humans, including poaching and cattle herding, are occurring deep into remote areas of the forest.


Yohanna Saidu of the Nigerian Park service and Chief Warden of Gashaka Gumti National Park said:

"GGNP is an incredible part of Nigeria's natural heritage and there are few places in Africa that can rival its spectacular beauty, but it survives barely known by the international community and under increasing threat. This work is helping us learn more about the secrets of one of our last wilderness areas and we must continue to work together to ensure its survival for future generations. If all this beauty were lost it would be a terrible tragedy for all."

Discover more on our Act for Wildlife blog
[ACTFORWILDLIFE.ORG.UK/BLOG](https://actforwildlife.org.uk/blog)

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PLAY!

STORIES

at

CHESTER ZOO

There are **stories** in EVERYTHING!

Bring your favourite animal stories to life through

DANCE, MUSIC, DRAWING and PLAY!

By Emily
Aged 4

BOOK NOW
for Easter!

24 March -
15 April

chesterzoo.org/stories

This **EASTER** let your imagination run **wild** at Chester Zoo and help bring **ANIMAL STORIES** to life through **DANCE, MUSIC, ART** and **PERFORMANCE!**

Surrounded by over 21,000 incredible animals and thousands of beautiful plants the zoo is full of **INSPIRATION**. Inspired by some of our favourite animal tales, we've got a series of special playful events and activities to help get those creative minds wandering and inner storytellers exploring! Immerse yourself in the different sights, sounds, colours and shapes of Chester Zoo.

There are stories in **EVERYTHING!** How will you tell yours?

Short story competition

To celebrate Stories at Chester Zoo we're running a creative writing competition for our junior members. To be in with a chance of winning we want you to share your favourite Chester Zoo story in 500 words or less. Whether it's about a trip to the field, a story about one of your favourite animals at the zoo or it's from your last visit to the zoo – get creative and let your imagination run wild! For a full list of terms and conditions go to: chesterzoo.org/creativewriting

If you'd like to be in with a chance of winning a Playmobil...

please send your creative story entry, together with your contact details to: Z magazine, PR department, Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, CH2 1LH by Monday 16 April 2018. We might even share it on our website.

Congratulations to our previous winner Chloe Tilston from Chester.





CHESTER ZOO

PLAY! STORIES

at
CHESTER ZOO

"What the Ladybird Heard" illustration workshops SATURDAY 7 APRIL

Join bestselling, award-winning illustrator Lydia Monks and her clever little crime-busting ladybird friend on a holiday at Chester Zoo! In this very special interactive illustration workshop, Lydia Monks will introduce you to the ladybird's new animal friends. You'll also get an exclusive chance to meet Lydia after each workshop, and have your copy of "What the Ladybird Heard" on Holiday (available from the Chester Zoo Gift Shop) signed by Lydia.

As part of our collaboration with Lydia Monks, we're running a special competition throughout Easter for your chance to win Chester Zoo animal adoption pack and a collection of signed Lydia Monks books. Go to CHESTERZOO.ORG/LADYBIRD for more details.

'The Orangutan' – a search for survival through the trees TUESDAY 3 APRIL & MONDAY 9 APRIL

Join our Zoo Ranger for a mesmerising experience through a Bornean rainforest where you'll meet some friends of the forest: the orangutan, the elephant, the hornbill and turtle. Set in our 360 degree immersive space on Islands, you'll be transported to the rainforests of Borneo to experience a day in the life of an orangutan - searching for food, building nests and avoiding the threat from unsustainable palm oil production.

Accompanied by an ensemble from the famous Hallé orchestra, this performance brings together an original Chester Zoo story with beautiful string instruments and traditional Indonesian gamelan to create a musical adventure through the trees.

Please note this is a limited event, tickets must be booked before the event and cost £3.

Stories to Save the World WEDNESDAY 28 - THURSDAY 12 APRIL

A mysterious, yet monstrous villain is dastardly damaging the world's habitats, and we need your help to stop them! Join Professor Jigget and his colleague, Dr Methera as they tell the story of our hero, Artemis on her quest to save the world. We need you to help create the adventure and complete the quest with our storytellers. Come along and join the adventure – no two stories will be the same!

Giraffe Dance workshops SATURDAY 14 & SUNDAY 15 APRIL

Who says giraffes can't dance? Put on your dancing shoes and show us your moves as we tell a story through DANCE! Inspired by the bestselling children's book, "Giraffes Can't Dance", we'll be busting out some animal moves in the zoo as we tell the story of Gerald the giraffe. Learn how to dance the warthog waltz or the rhino 'rock and roll' with our professional dance team. Get ready to throw some shapes!

Strolling Stories TUESDAY 3, WEDNESDAY 4, THURSDAY 5, FRIDAY 6 & SUNDAY 8 APRIL

Join the storytelling explorer as he takes you on a journey around the world and tells tales of the weirdest and most wonderful creatures in the zoo. The explorer will be popping up in different locations around the zoo, so keep your eyes peeled as you explore!

Stories in unusual places MONDAY 26 MARCH - FRIDAY 13 APRIL

Join our Zoo Rangers for a special story in an out-of-the-ordinary zoo habitat. From the Tropical Realm to the Sunda gharial cave, our team will pop up in unusual places to tell you tale. Head over to our website to find out when and where these stories will take place.

Rhyme with the Rangers MONDAY 26 MARCH, SUNDAY 1 AND MONDAY 2 APRIL

Come along with us as we rhyme and play! And find out about animals along the way! Join our Zoo Rangers for special story and rhyme sessions. You can be a part of the story too with dress-up, movement and play! (suitable for children under 5 years).

Find a full list of events at
CHESTERZOO.ORG/STORIES

JUNIOR MEMBERS' PROGRAMME

Tracks & signs

SATURDAY 24 MARCH

One of our most popular events each year! See the zoo from the animal's point of view. We will give you the opportunity to go inside some of the habitats to search for footprints and then make them into plaster casts. Hopefully, you will have a souvenir of your day to take home with you. We'll meet outside Oakfield House at 11am, returning there for collection at 4pm. You'll need a picnic lunch, and it is important that you wear clean, very old clothes and absolutely clean wellies please. Cost £10, payable on the day.

Stockley farm - northwich

SATURDAY 21 APRIL

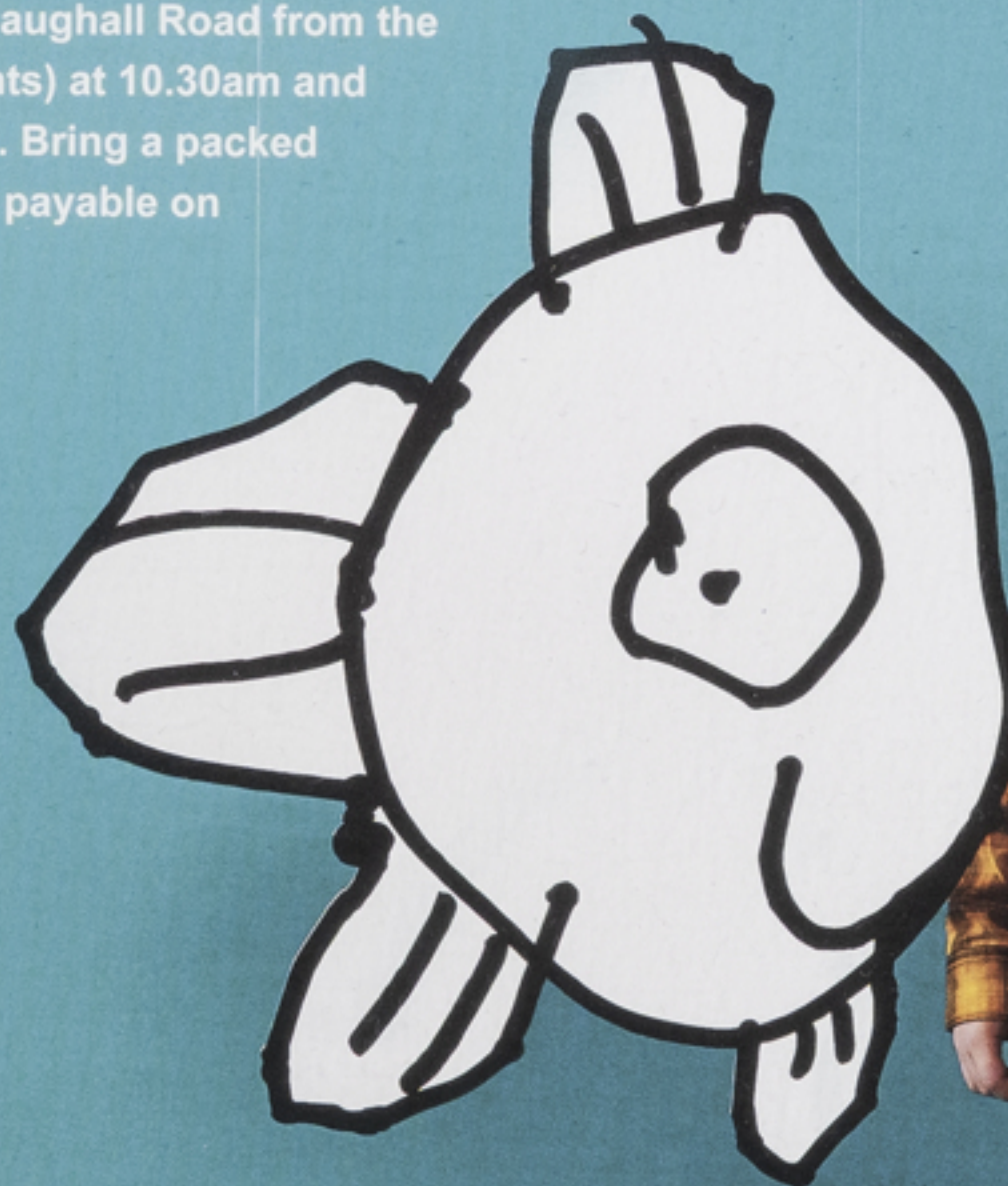
There's always lots to do at Stockley Farm, whatever the weather! Hop onto the tractor and trailer ride, meet the farm animals, help to bottle feed the baby goats, meet the ponies and Ivan the enormous Shire Horse, watch the birds of prey and visit the milking parlour for Stockley's 200 dairy cows. We'll meet at Cedar House (second staff entrance on the left as you are coming up Caughall Road from the Upton traffic lights) at 10.30am and return at 4.30pm. Bring a packed lunch. Cost £15, payable on the day.

Twycross zoo

SATURDAY 19 MAY

We'll be taking a summer visit to Twycross Zoo, in Warwickshire to see the many different species of wildlife there. It's always nice to see how our colleagues at other zoos do things. Be prepared for a fairly long bus journey but it will be well worth it! The bus will leave Cedar House (second staff entrance on the left as you are coming up Caughall Road from the Upton traffic lights) at 9am and return at 5.30pm. Bring a packed lunch. Cost £15, on the day.

Please Note: Bookings must be made for all Junior Member events. Please ring Penny Rudd at the zoo on 01244 650215, not more than two weeks before the event you would like to attend.



What's new at the zoo?

As part of our ongoing long-term plans for the future, we've been making exciting changes across the zoo. Here we share the latest updates of what's new at the zoo. Keep an eye on our website for the latest development news.

Penguin paradise

Last month we re-opened Penguin Island following work to improve the habitat. Updates include bigger viewing windows, state-of-the-art filtration systems in the pool and renewed nesting facilities.

If you haven't seen it yet, be sure to stop by and observe our colony of Humboldt penguins, which have settled in nicely to their new habitat, race through the water.





Wildlife Wood

Created on the site of our former PlayArk, we have built a brand new play area inspired by our incredible UK wildlife. Wildlife Wood features exciting and immersive zones that are all themed around species we can find right here on our doorstep. Discover dens, slides, climbing ropes as well as a wildlife wheel that plays animal sounds.

The new space focuses on our Wildlife Connections campaign, a project that is working with communities across Cheshire to create safe spaces for our most precious local wildlife.

Find out more and how you can get involved at [CHESTERZOO.ORG/CONNECTIONS](https://chesterzoo.org/connections)

GETTING HANDS ON IN BRAZIL



In December, Ian Ashpole, one of our Veterinary Officers, travelled to Brazil to spend time with two of our conservation partners - the Giant Armadillo Project and the Lowland Tapir Project.

The expedition to the Pantanal lasted 16 days; here he tells us about his trip...

"The Pantanal is the world's largest wetland and, at its peak, is thought to cover an area the size of Greece! The region is a haven for wildlife lovers and I was thrilled to wake up on my first morning to the sound of wild hyacinth macaws squabbling with each other outside.

"Our conservation partners of over 15 years, **The Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative (LTCI)**, are studying tapirs across different habitats within Brazil. Over 95% of the Pantanal is privately owned and mostly used as agricultural land for cattle-ranching, yet the study site is considered to be pristine tapir habitat. In contrast, the huge grassland expanse, known as the Cerrado, which covers most of southern Brazil, is being heavily targeted for human development. By comparing population trends and identifying threats to tapirs in different areas, the LTCI is able to work with stakeholders in order to help mitigate risks to them.

"During my time in the Pantanal, I helped the LTCI with its ongoing studies into the social and spatial ecology of lowland tapirs. Each morning, after a breakfast of milk and liver covered with breadcrumbs, we would head out and check each of the sixteen box-traps set throughout the 100km² study area. The tapirs that we caught were anaesthetised in order to perform a full health examination and collect biological samples such as blood, body tissues and parasites. Certain individuals were also fitted with a radio-collar and, alongside the use of camera traps, we were able to monitor the movements of several animals. The LTCI has been collecting information on wild tapirs for over 20 years and this huge amount of data is helping to determine biological parameters such as the time interval between births, infant mortality rates and fertility rates within the population. This information is needed in order to determine how sustainable a population is likely to be.

"Daytime temperatures were regularly above 40°C, making it hard and tiring work but, having worked with several lowland tapirs at the zoo, it was a wonderful and humbling experience to get hands on with those in the wild.

"My afternoons and evenings were then spent working alongside members of The Giant Armadillo Project. Very little information is known about these labrador-size, prehistoric-looking creatures but studies suggest that their wild population has reduced by 30-50% over the past 30 years. The Giant

Armadillo Project is helping to discover more information about the ecology of this rare and elusive species in order to help identify and reduce the threats to it.

"Each day, as the sun started to disappear over the horizon, the team and I would head out on the back of a 4x4 truck, using radio-telemetry to locate previously identified armadillos. If an unknown armadillo was found, we would carefully capture and anaesthetise it in order to perform a full health examination, collect biological samples and place a radio-transmitter and GPS device. Such information and observations have shown that male armadillos may have home ranges of up to 40km² and that the burrows they dig can be used by over fifty different species of mammals, birds and reptiles. The discovery that giant armadillos are such important 'ecological engineers' means that by preserving them in an area, several other species will also benefit and hopefully thrive.

"Having wanted to visit the Pantanal since I was a young boy, it was a huge privilege and a dream come true to see the amazing work being carried out by both projects and to appreciate how Chester Zoo is helping to Act for Wildlife around the world. As well as tapirs and armadillos, I was fortunate to have encounters with wild giant anteaters, caiman and capybara plus so much more! It was a truly wonderful experience which I will remember forever."



Discover more about our work in Latin America by heading over to our ACT FOR WILDLIFE blog. [ACTFORWILDLIFE.ORG.UK/BLOG](https://actforwildlife.org.uk/blog)

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WILD WORLDS at

TURN THE WORLD ON ITS HEAD

This summer we're excited to bring a festival like no other! We're inviting you to see things differently with Wild Worlds at Chester Zoo.

This one-of-a-kind celebration is inspired by the incredible and unique worlds of plants and animals. We want you to experience a whole new dimension to Chester Zoo; one we're creating in collaboration with talented artists, landscape designers, scientists and entertainers.

We're transforming some of our favourite spaces around the zoo into unique and individual worlds, all of which have been inspired by the incredible work of our conservationists, scientists and the amazing wildlife found right here at the zoo. There will be something new to discover at every turn - from play spaces, interactive installations, sounds, colours, structures and surprises! There will also be an exciting programme of events with some well-known names and faces; meaning there will be plenty to keep you busy over the summer months!

The idea for the festival came from Chester Zoo's Curator of Botany and Horticulture, Phil Esseen, who wanted to create a special event around the incredible spaces and gardens at the zoo. Phil was keen to highlight the secret life of plants and share just how important they are to the work we do, but he wanted to do this in a way that was uniquely Chester Zoo!

Below Phil tells us more about the festival and provides us with a peek of what's in store for you this summer:

"We've got some very rare and interesting plant species at Chester Zoo and some incredible spaces! Plants are extremely important at the zoo; for both the animals and for our visitors. For the animals, the plants create natural habitats and a structure for different species to use; whether that's climbing, nesting, feeding - leaves, shoots, roots and fruits, shelter and opportunities for social interaction.

"For our visitors, planting can evoke a lot of emotions; it can make people feel

calm, excited or joyful. It's a great way of engaging people too as people can appreciate the landscape that surrounds them.

"I've always liked the idea of festivals and thought it would be nice to develop the gardens and create spaces, using art, landscape design and activities to promote some of the zoo's work and to also interpret the important conservation messages in different ways to what we would normally do.

"We've already started working with several different collaborators and artists after telling them all about the zoo and our vital work to saving wildlife. They've then thought about new ideas of interpreting that work for our visitors in unique ways. Over the next couple of months you might even spot some of these spaces being created!

"I hope Wild Worlds will help prevent plant blindness - a concept where people just don't notice or see plants. People often walk past plants, despite there being these

fantastic 300-year-old oaks and stunning plants in flower; somehow they're just not noticed. But without them, the zoo would be a completely different place! Hopefully, Wild Worlds will counteract that and help people to understand more about the secret side to plants and just how incredible they are!

"There's so much I'm looking forward to it's hard to share just one highlight! We hope that people visiting the zoo over summer will find something that's meaningful for them - whether that's playing, exploring, learning, relaxing or discovering!"

We can't wait to share more with you as the plans for Wild Worlds develop, keep an eye on our website for more exciting updates!

www.chesterzoo.org/wildworlds



NEW ARRIVALS

We've added a few more animals to our number this year, which will help maintain populations of some of the world's most rare and precious animals and put the spotlight on their plight in the wild.



Barking up the wrong tree

We have also welcomed a new species to the zoo - two southern red muntjac, also known as the 'barking deer' due to the dog-like barking noises they make when they sense a predator is near.

While they are currently not at risk of becoming extinct in the wild, they're facing similar issues to the other species that share their Indonesian habitat on the islands of Borneo, Java, Bali and Sumatra as well as some other smaller islands.

The barking deer is extensively hunted for its meat and for use in traditional medicine. With a large market for this sought-after wild meat, there is a seemingly limitless demand, yet these are particularly resilient animals. Except in the case of islands such as Singapore where it is now extinct, their amazing ability to adapt to small areas of forest, as well as open woodland, grassland and scrub means the barking deer has been able to maintain healthy populations and keep ahead of other mammals in its fight for survival.



A giant of the anteater world

Oso, a new male giant anteater arrived at the zoo in February to help continue our efforts to protect this incredible and unique-looking species.

Giant anteaters are one of the most threatened mammals in Central America, where much of the grassland they depend on to survive has been destroyed. In some areas of Brazil where they once roamed freely, there are now none left.

To help put conservation strategies in place, we are carrying out vital research with our partners on the Anteaters and Highways project in Brazil, in particular to assess the impact of road deaths on giant anteaters. Such a high number of road kills have been recorded that it's now thought to be the second highest threat to the species after habitat loss. GPS collars fitted to giant anteaters are providing valuable information on when and how they cross roads and camera traps are helping to provide estimates of population sizes living close to and far from roads.

Our work with the giant anteaters at the zoo and our support for conservation projects in the wild are critical to understanding more about this wonderful animal and to protecting future generations.

LATEST NEWS FROM THE FUNDRAISING TEAM

Do what you love for the wildlife you love!

Bake sale, sing off, coast-to-coast walk, extreme knitting (yes, this is a thing!); there are so many ways you can turn your favourite pastime into an amazing fundraiser to prevent extinction. Take a look at these wonderful people for inspiration...



Nine-year-old Tiger Adopter, Elliott Masfield, swam FORTY lengths to protect his favourite animals.

Chester Zoo Keeper, Laura Davies dressed as a giraffe and took part in the 5K fun 'Colour Run' for conservation.



Liverpool John Moores University organised a variety of activities – including baking, games and a fun run – to protect endangered wildlife.

Get in touch with our friendly Fundraising Team to discover more challenge activities you can get involved in to help endangered wildlife. Call **01244 650229** or email the team fundraising@chesterzoo.org - share your ideas with us and let us know how we can support your fundraising activity. If you'd rather go it alone, there are plenty of guides available to download from ACTFORWILDLIFE.ORG.UK/GET-INVOLVED

Love cycling? Now's the time to grab a Chester Zoo charity place at the world-class cycling event RideLondon-Surrey 100! Find out more: actforwildlife.org.uk/ridelondon



Me, You and the Zoo Auction – coming soon!

This is a great chance to own your own piece of Chester Zoo history!

We're currently putting plans in place for our exciting auction of old signage and interpretation from around the site. And, as we're constantly growing and improving, we've got quite a collection!

Our wonderful volunteers are still hard at work scrubbing the pieces until they sparkle, as well as cataloguing and organising the items, ready for our launch later in the spring. We hope you're as excited as we are!

If you'd like a bit more info, you can visit chesterzoo.org/auction and take a look at our taster catalogue; just a small selection of the signage we'll be listing on eBay. As always, if you have any questions you can contact the team on fundraising@chesterzoo.org.

Join the fight against the illegal wildlife trade

Our Sing for Songbirds campaign has truly got into the hearts and minds of our supporters – including schools and community groups local to Chester and Ellesmere Port. But there's so much more we can do to help prevent the forests of Indonesia falling silent due to the illegal wildlife trade.



We've launched a brand new range of stunning pin badges featuring five different songbirds, currently threatened by extinction. You can find them in our retail outlets across the zoo. 100% of the profits will be going directly to our field work with songbirds in South East Asia. Wear your badge (or badges) with pride – and tell everyone why you're doing it!

LOOK AT WHAT WE'VE GOT IN STORE FOR YOU...

There are lots of new treats in store to discover this spring; take a peek below at the treats you can find.



Meet the Wild Ones

Our new and exclusive range of soft toys, which have been given the thumbs up by our very own zoo keepers, will be available in our shops at the end of March. Handmade in Indonesia, these collectable toys will only be available at Chester Zoo, and feature fun and interesting animal facts from 'Keeper Tim'. The soft toys come in two sizes:

Small - £6.99

Large - £14.99

Other ranges will follow throughout the year, so keep an eye out for those.

Sparkle this spring with Crystals from Swarovski®

This Easter don't miss our new jewellery range. Designed in collaboration with the Swarovski Group exclusively for Chester Zoo using Swarovski crystals.

The items make perfect gifts for friends and family - or why not treat yourself? Proceeds from the sales of our elephant range (pictured) will support our Never Forget fundraising campaign. The range will be in stock from Easter with more new items launching in Autumn.

Prices start at £15



Talking Conservation...

SPRING & SUMMER
PROGRAMME 2018

If you'd like to find out more about the vital work your membership supports both at the zoo and out in the field, then why not join us at one of our membership talks. You can find out about the future of the zoo and learn amazing animal facts from our Zoo Rangers and animal teams.



Friday 18 May

SAVING AFRICA'S GIRAFFE – A TALL STORY!

Giraffes are one of the most loved animals in the world, but the story of their decline is a silent one. In the last three decades their numbers have declined by approximately 40% across much of their range, and they are now extinct in at least seven African countries. But not all is lost, as steps are being made towards a 'One Plan Approach'. Dr Julian Fennessy and Steph Fennessy from the Giraffe Conservation Foundation will explain more about their ongoing conservation work to protect this forgotten giant and the combined efforts of governments, conservationists, zoos and other stakeholders in saving the species from extinction.

Wednesday 13 June

"PANGZILLA": SEARCHING FOR AFRICA'S ELUSIVE GIANT PANGOLIN

Pangolins are among the most threatened and most trafficked animals in the world. In his talk Stuart Nixon, Chester Zoo's Africa Field Programme Coordinator will tell us more about the plight of pangolins and pioneering Chester Zoo research into the largest and least known of all the scaly anteaters, the African giant ground pangolin. Measuring nearly 5ft long and weighing up to 75lbs we're only just starting to learn about this beautiful, bizarre and incredibly rare rainforest resident. Come and meet "Pangzilla" and find out how Chester Zoo is helping scale up what we know about this elusive species.

Wednesday 18 July

TOWARDS GORILLAS AND BEYOND

If you missed this talk in December, then this is another chance to hear how we're planning to develop the zoo over the next 15 years. Join our Chief Executive Officer, Mark Pilgrim, as he explains more about the new zones we're creating and the new habitats we hope to create for species including the pygmy hippo and the Western lowland gorilla.



Interested in attending?

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

AMAZING ADOPTERS & MARVELLOUS MEMBERS' PRIZE DRAW!

To say a **BIG thank you** for your incredible and continued support, all current members and adopters are automatically entered into a quarterly prize draw to win an adoption. Our two previous winners are **Amanda Flewitt** (member) and **Georgia Know** (adopter).

MEMBERS' TALKS

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

- Booking is essential
- They're free to members (please bring your membership card and welcome letter)
- We offer a special rate of £2 to adopters
- Members of the public and guests are welcome (£3.50 for non-members)
- Post-talk refreshments give you the opportunity to have an informal chat with speakers, zoo staff and fellow members



GALAPAGOS TORTOISES MOVE HOME

Galapagos tortoise siblings Zuzu, Charlie and Isabella are settling in well into their new home in Oxfordshire following their move in January.

The trio came to Chester Zoo in November 2005 from Zurich Zoo, after having hatched there 16 years ago in March 2001. These relative youngsters, who can live for more than 100 years, have left for pastures new as we're not planning to do further work with the species in the long term. The habitat they lived in inside the Tropical Realm will, in time, be developed into a habitat for a new species.

The move was a straightforward one. The keepers had already adopted a method of using different coloured targets, held at the end of sticks, which each of the tortoises would happily follow. This helped the team easily move the 80kg animals around their habitat. Using this well-practised method, as well as some tasty carrots, it didn't take long for each tortoise to navigate her way through the Tropical Realm. They were then lifted into the transport, waiting to take them to their new home at Crocodiles of the World, which is already home to the Sulcata tortoise – the third largest tortoise in the world.

We're thrilled to hear they're getting on well.



Big babirusa boost

Our resident Sulawesi babirusa male now has the support of a second breeding male, BammBamm, who came to us from the USA with female babirusa, Ashley. The new pair have produced twins, a male and a female piglet, so that numbers of this vulnerable wild pig have had a great boost at Chester.

As the only zoo in the UK to have babirusa, and one of only two zoos in Europe to have bred them in the last 12 months, we are a key player for this species within the European conservation breeding programme.

These rare wild pigs continue to be hunted for their meat, despite being protected under Indonesian law. This, combined with the ongoing destruction of their habitat by farmers and developers, has caused the Sulawesi babirusa population to rapidly decline. It's estimated there are fewer than 10,000 mature individuals left on the island.

By joining forces with zoos around the world, as well as with international conservationists and the Indonesian government, we are strengthening the connection between the work being done in zoos and in the wild.

We're extremely proud of our babirusa and we have worked hard to establish the highest standards of husbandry and wellbeing when handling and breeding this vulnerable animal. By sharing our expertise and resources, we can halt the decline of the babirusa population and give the species the best possible opportunities in the future.

Training in Indonesia

Successful conservation breeding programmes are increasingly important for the precious barbirusa and anoa, both of which are coming under increasing pressure in their forest habitats on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi.



Populations of the world's smallest species of wild cattle and the world's rarest pigs are suffering as forests are cut down in favour of agricultural land and development. Overhunting also threatens their numbers. With just 2,500 lowland anoa estimated to be left in the wild and fewer than 10,000 babirusa, sharing our knowledge of the conservation breeding programmes at the zoo is an important way of ensuring these species are not lost altogether, as Sarah Roffe, our Giraffe Team Manager found out on a recent trip to Indonesia.

Sarah was part of a global team representing the zoo and Global Species Management Programme (GSMP), training Indonesian zoo keepers and forest rangers on anoa and babirusa husbandry, welfare and transportation. As Sarah explains, delivering the workshops was an extremely rewarding experience. She tells us more:

"The presentation and practical sessions we ran with the keepers allowed them to practice new skills. The forest rangers are at the forefront of dealing with confiscated, injured species but had little experience of handling animals. Our teaching focused on how to safely collect and hold animals until they could be released or placed at a long term holding facility. It's wonderful that zoos from all over the world are able to get together in this way and support each other to improve the conservation work being done to protect endangered species from extinction."

Members of our Discovery and Learning Team also travelled to Indonesia to deliver a two-day education and engagement workshop in partnership with the IUCN Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group. They visited a number of education departments at zoos to gain an understanding of their learning programmes and methods. The workshop introduced methods for planning and developing projects and evaluation techniques to assess impacts.

The main aim was to provide Indonesian zoo educators with ongoing support but also to contribute to the Global Species Management Programme.

For more updates keep an eye on our [ACT FOR WILDLIFE](https://actforwildlife.org.uk/blog) blog.
[ACTFORWILDLIFE.ORG.UK/BLOG](https://actforwildlife.org.uk/blog)



Next series of The Secret Life of the Zoo announced

We're absolutely delighted to have agreed with Channel 4 and Blast! Films to produce another series of The Secret Life of The Zoo.

This will be the fifth series of the observational documentary, which first aired in 2015. Since then, the programme has broadcast in more than 80 countries, giving us an unrivalled platform to share the hard work, care and compassion that goes into running the zoo, as well as the education and conservation work we do.

From the strangest habits of the smallest insects and reptiles and the night-time activities of our nocturnal animals, to the characterful behaviours of our biggest mammals, sometimes playful, sometimes not; The Secret Life of the Zoo has thrown

the spotlight on a huge variety of our fascinating animals. Making each series takes a lot of time and support of many of our staff, including those who will appear on screen and all who help behind the camera, as well as everyone who responds to the many visitor enquiries that follow each episode. Their hard work and commitment to its production has helped to make The Secret Life of the Zoo one of the biggest factors motivating people to visit us – from all over the world.

The second run of episodes in the current series is due to be broadcast after Easter, date to be confirmed, followed by the fifth series which is likely to begin transmission in late 2018 and run for 16 episodes.

We hope you enjoy it!



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