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CHESTER ZOO

magazine

WINTER 2020



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MAGAZINE FEATURES



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For all of the zoo's latest news,
go to chesterzoo.org/news



As winter sets in we are just re-opening following a second lockdown. We had worked so hard to be COVID secure so the news of another lockdown wasn't what we wanted to hear however, our dedicated teams of zoo keepers, vets and scientists continued to provide the animals here at the zoo with the world class care that we pride ourselves on. The teams that look after our guests have also been busy readying the zoo for your return.

I want to take this *opportunity* to once again **THANK YOU** for your continued *support* during this very uncertain time, your *support* has been, and *continues* to be, a **LIFELINE** to us.

Although the pandemic has dominated the news for the past 12 months, conservation has, on occasion, taken centre stage. This was certainly the case when Sir David Attenborough launched his book and film 'A Life on Our Planet' in September. We played host to Louise Minchin, from BBC Breakfast, when she exclusively interviewed Sir David virtually in our Monsoon Forest habitat, ahead of the launch. Our newly rebuilt habitat provided a

stunning backdrop to the compelling interview, in which Sir David spoke about his hopes for the future of the planet and what we all can do to make a difference. It's quite evident that humanity has had a negative impact on nature and we're at a critical tipping point, but what I took away from the interview, is that there is hope. If we all work together, making small alterations to our lifestyles, we can change things for the better.



I'm happy to report our conservation work across the globe is continuing - just not in its usual way. The virus and the restrictions that it has put upon us, has meant that our teams here have been unable to travel. This, however, has not stopped our vital work. We have been successfully working with many of our partners virtually and, even though we can't be at our projects in person, things on the ground are progressing. For example, our partners at the Cikananga Conservation Breeding Centre in Java, Indonesia, have just finished building a brand new bird aviary, which is a huge achievement in this pandemic. This is great news for the conservation of songbirds, as it will enable the team to breed vital insurance populations of some of the most endangered bird species in Indonesia, including the Javan green magpie and the black winged myna. The team in Cikananga are now introducing the birds to their new habitat in time for the breeding season in the next few months, and we hope to share their progress on social media with you soon.



Closer to home, we have recently appointed our very own Sustainable City Palm Oil Officer to continue the amazing work we've already achieved with this project. As you may recall last year, Chester became the first Sustainable Palm Oil City in the world as more than 50 organisations in the city revolutionised their supply chains and committed to sourcing palm oil from entirely sustainable sources. Our aim is to get more cities and towns across the world to sign up to the sustainable palm oil pledge, and raise awareness of the harm unsustainable oil palm plantations are causing to South East Asian rainforests and the wildlife that live in them.

Even though we've had a very turbulent year, we're still very much working on our mission to prevent extinction and, to ensure we continue to do vital and valuable work, we're going to launch our brand new conservation masterplan in 2021. We've come a long way since George Mottershead opened the gates to his small zoo in Upton in 1931, and we've got so much to be proud of. However, I want to ensure we keep striving to be better. Recently the WWF released a shocking report stating that wildlife populations have fallen by more than two thirds in less than 50 years. As a leading conservation charity, we need to ensure we're doing our very best to try to stop further animal and plant species from becoming extinct. Our masterplan will allow us to do exactly that. We'll be setting ourselves targets around what we can achieve in the next 10 years and we'll be constantly measuring our progress over the next decade to ensure we're on track.

One of the targets we'll set ourselves in the masterplan, is to become more sustainable. This applies not just to the organisation itself, but also in terms of us using our position and our global profile to spread this message to our visitors, members and online followers. Next year, we'll be launching a new campaign - titled 'Love it for Longer'. This is all about encouraging our visitors to be more sustainable in their everyday lives.

2021 will be a big year for the zoo as the organisation reaches the grand old age of 90, and we'd like you to celebrate with us. We know that many of you hold special memories of the zoo, so we'll be asking you to share your own photos, stories and precious memories as we re-launch 'Me, You & the Zoo', while we'll also be unveiling our wonderful new Latin American bird aviary. So, after a very challenging year, there's no doubt that we've got lots to look forward to in 2021. In the meantime, may I wish each and every one of you the best of health, and a very Merry Christmas.

A young black rhino calf is the central focus of the image, standing in a natural, outdoor enclosure. The calf is dark grey with thick, wrinkled skin and is looking towards the left. The background consists of a textured, light-colored wall, possibly made of mud or stone, with some bare branches visible. The overall tone is natural and documentary.

IT'S A GIRL!

JOY

AS RARE BABY RHINO BORN!

Zookeepers are celebrating the birth of a rare baby rhino.

The female calf was safely delivered by new mum Ema Elsa following a 15-month-long pregnancy.

The birth was caught on the zoo's CCTV cameras and shows the little one up on her feet and suckling from mum just 10 minutes later. The team put the naming of the calf in the hands of the public, and after more than 70,000 votes had been cast, the calf was named Kasulu after a town in Tanzania.

Conservationists at the zoo say the arrival of Kasulu – an eastern black rhino – will be 'celebrated globally' as fewer than 1000 now remain on the planet.

The population of eastern black rhinos in zoos across Europe is vital to the long-term future of the species, with several rhinos born as a result of the carefully coordinated breeding

programme between European zoos. As a result, some rhinos have been introduced to Africa to help boost wild populations.

Most recently, in June 2019, we spearheaded the transportation of a group of eastern black rhinos from Europe to Akagera National Park, Rwanda.

Andrew McKenzie, Team Manager of rhinos, said:

"The birth of a critically endangered eastern black rhino is always very special. And to be able to watch on camera as a calf is born is an incredible privilege - with rhino numbers so, so low it, sadly, isn't something that's captured very often. Seeing the little one then get to her feet with a gentle nudge from mum; take her first tentative steps and suckle for the first time is then the icing on the cake. It really is heart-warming stuff.

"The whole team here is overjoyed. Mum and calf have bonded wonderfully and have been showing us all of the right signs. These rhinos have been pushed to the

New Arrival!



very edge of existence and every single addition to the European endangered species breeding programme is celebrated globally. It's sadly no exaggeration to say that it's entirely possible that we could lose them forever within our lifetime and the world's most progressive zoos are very much part of the fight to prevent their extinction."

The eastern black rhino is listed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as Critically Endangered. In the wild, they are now found only in Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda.

Experts say the multibillion pound illegal wildlife trade is driving the species towards extinction - the surge in demand of rhino horn stemming from the Asian medicine market.

Andrew added:

"In the short term, Ema Elsa and her new baby will help to highlight the perilous position that this species is in and we hope they encourage more people to join the fight to

prevent the extinction of these gentle giants. In the future, we hope Ema and her offspring, like others before them born into the European breeding programme, are one day able to make the journey back to Africa."

Conservation scientists at the zoo, working out of the UK's only zoo-based animal endocrine lab, have developed a technique to track black rhino oestrus cycles via hormone analysis of their dung – helping keepers to decide when best to introduce females to a mate to optimise chances of a successful mating outcome, and subsequently confirm and track a pregnancy. This method is now being used in Kenya where rangers and vets, using a field lab set up with the help of experts from Chester, are deploying the technique to monitor wild rhino populations.

In addition to rhino breeding, the zoo has, for many years, also supported conservation efforts to protect eastern black rhinos in Africa and continues to fund and provide expertise to numerous sanctuaries, partners and wildlife reserves and to train anti-poaching rangers.

CRITICALLY
ENDANGERED

BABY CHIMPANZEE BORN



The baby was safely delivered by 43-year-old mum, Mandy, overnight on Friday 21 August, following an eight-and-a-half-month pregnancy.

Our primate experts have declared the birth as 'hugely significant' for the species.

New estimates suggest that as few as 18,000 western chimpanzees remain in Africa and it's the first subspecies of chimpanzee to be added to the list of critically endangered apes.

Andy Lenihan, Team Manager of the Primates section, said: "Mandy is a wonderful mum. She's bonded instantly with her new baby and can be seen protectively cradling it in her left arm at all times.

"The new arrival will remain in the arms of mum for several months until they develop the confidence to start exploring independently. Most importantly though, it's bright eyed, alert and getting stronger by the day.

"A new baby in the group always created a lot of excitement – it's a real extended-family affair as many of the females in the group often want to help to take care of the newcomer while, for some of the juveniles, seeing a mum with a new baby is a completely new experience. It's great to see the other youngsters watching Mandy closely and learning from such a natural mother."

A scientific research project, carried out over a decade, has carefully assessed the genetics of all the chimpanzees living in European zoos. The study has confirmed that the genetic make-up of the group at the zoo is vital to the future of the western chimpanzee subspecies.

Mike Jordan, Animal & Plant Director, added:

"We're incredibly proud to see a precious new baby in the group – it's a hugely significant addition and a big boost for this species. The chimpanzees here at Chester are a key part of the international efforts working to ensure there's a viable safety-net population of these critically endangered animals.

"In the wild, the western chimpanzee is under huge threat from hunting, the illegal bush meat trade and extensive habitat loss – all a result of human activity. Western chimpanzee populations have declined extremely quickly and continue to do so - with little or no prospect of this decline halting. It makes the conservation populations in zoos extremely important for the future.

"In tandem with the endangered species breeding programme, involving many of the world's most progressive zoos, our conservation teams are working alongside our partners in Uganda, Nigeria and Gabon to help protect chimpanzees and their forest homes."

The western chimpanzee is found in West Africa - ranging from Senegal to Ghana - but is already believed to be extinct in Benin, Burkina Faso and Togo.

We are actively involved in the conservation of some of the world's rarest chimpanzees in Africa, including our vital 20-year-long support for the last stronghold of another species, the Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee, in Gashaka Gumti National park in Nigeria.





'EUROPEAN ZOO FIRST'

as our amphibian experts
breed *rare* MEXICAN FROGS

Unusual frogs found in the dry forests of Mexico have bred at the zoo – a European zoo first for the species.

The 100 Mexican leaf frogs are the only individuals of their kind ever to hatch in a European zoo.

Our amphibian experts say the successful breeding has unlocked secrets to the frogs' reproductive behaviour.

Little is known about what makes the frogs tick and, as they have a liking for scorching temperatures that far exceed what most other frog species can live in, our herpetologists had to carefully recreate the environment to successfully breed the species.

Adam Bland, Lead Amphibian Keeper, said:

"It's so exciting to have bred these stunning frogs, especially as we're the first zoo in Europe ever to do so.

"This is breaking new ground for us. The intensive levels of care we've put into achieving this successful breeding, coupled with the skills we've developed and the details we've uncovered about the reproductive behaviour of this species in the process, could be applied to help wild populations if it becomes necessary, as is sadly already the case with so many amphibian species. This information could be vitally important to any conservation action which may be required in the future."

To encourage the frogs to breed, keepers recreated conditions to closely mimic the hot and dry forests of Mexico, where the frogs come from.

Adam explains:

"These frogs are very, very special. They're found in parts of Mexico where it's generally dry for long periods and so they're adapted to tolerate extremely high temperatures of around 40°C. This would kill many other frogs, but these guys love the heat,"

"When it seasonally rains, the frogs spawn attach their eggs to sticks and plants that hang above ponds. They can lay over 200 eggs in one go. These eggs are transparent and the tadpoles can be seen developing inside before they break out and drop down into the water below.

"Due to the high temperatures in their environment, their ponds dry out rapidly and so they develop incredibly quickly - turning from tadpole to froglet in just five weeks. This is super speedy for a leaf frog, as other species usually take up to a couple of months.

"Their habitat at the zoo has been designed to mirror this as closely as possible and we're absolutely thrilled that it has resulted in 100 baby frogs."

World's
**SMALLEST
MONKEYS**
are born

Twin **PYGMY MARMOSETS**
join the **WORLD'S** *smallest*
species of monkey family
here at **CHESTER ZOO.**

Two tiny primates have been welcomed into the family fold at the zoo's miniature monkey habitat.

Born to three-year-old mum Zoe, and dad Baldrick, the babies join the family of four at the zoo. Keepers say it's too soon to know the sex of the duo, but they're bright, alert and doing really well.

Holly Webb, Primate Keeper at the zoo, said: "It's wonderful to see the new additions to the marmoset family and it's almost unbelievable just how small the babies are when they are first born. They measure around two inches long and weigh just 10grams!

"This is Zoe and Baldrick's second pair of twins and they've jumped straight into parenthood. Zoe is really nurturing and unlike other primates, dad is heavily involved in the upbringing. Incredibly, Baldrick sensed that Zoe was ready to give birth and put on a little extra weight to give him the energy to care for the twins. He's got really stuck into the parenting, we spotted him carrying the babies around on his back when they were just a day old.

"Babies always strengthen the family's bonds, and some of the younger primates in the group have been carrying them around too. It's great to see them learn parenting skills from Zoe and Baldrick, so they'll be experienced if they go on to have their own babies. The fact that the family is trusted to carefully carry around the delicate newborns, builds a lot of trust in the group.

"The babies are already very inquisitive and aware of their surroundings, I can't wait to see them develop their own little personalities."

Eastern pygmy marmosets are native to the rainforests of western Brazil, south-eastern Colombia, eastern Ecuador and eastern Peru. The population is in decline in the wild as these mini monkeys are often hunted for food or collected as pets.

Pygmy marmosets are social animals, have one mate for life and their tail is longer than their body which helps keep them balanced through the trees. They grow to around 8 inches long and weigh just 130grams.

The word marmoset originates from the French word "marmouset" which means shrimp, and their gestation period is around four and a half months. The species has a specialised diet which includes insects, fruit and tree sap.



The UK's **BIGGEST** zoological building *reopens* at THE ZOO nearly **TWO-YEARS** after tragic fire



Monsoon Forest, the largest zoological building in the UK, has re-opened its doors to visitors nearly two years after it was struck by a tragic fire.

Back in December 2018, our zookeepers rescued and led many of the animals to safety while firefighters tackled a huge blaze that engulfed part of our Monsoon Forest habitat.

At the time, conservationists worked round the clock to relocate animals, including Sumatran orangutans, Sulawesi macaques, lizards, tortoises and hornbills, to new areas within the zoo's 128 acres.

Now, almost two years on from the fire and with the animals settled back in, the 3,000m² building has reopened to visitors after being lovingly restored to its former glory.

Featuring its very own weather system enabling it to 'rain indoors' and reach temperatures as high as 27°C, Monsoon Forest closely replicates the climate of South East Asia.

The incredible building is home to 33 different animal species, many highly threatened in the wild, including silvery gibbons, rhinoceros hornbills, Sunda gharial crocodiles and tentacled snakes - a reptile that cannot be seen anywhere else in the UK.

Our team of botany experts spent eight weeks installing 2,600 tropical plants and trees including carnivorous nepenthes plants that catch and eat insects, fruit trees such as coconut, cocoa, mango and fig that provide a natural food source for dozens of birds, as well as giant palm trees reaching heights of 20ft.

Conservationists at the zoo hope the reopening of Monsoon Forest will put a renewed spotlight on some of the world's most endangered species and inspire visitors to help protect their future.

*During December we've been forced to close Monsoon Forest temporarily to protect our birds from the risk of avian flu, as cases have been reported in the UK. We'll reopen as soon as possible so keep checking our 'visiting safely' website for information.



Dr Mark Pilgrim, CEO at the zoo, said:

“Monsoon Forest is an incredible building – there’s nothing else quite like it in the UK. It’s a little piece of South East Asian rainforest in Cheshire. To see it once again brimming with life - tropical trees full of birds, gibbons singing their calls and crashing waterfalls - just two years after the awful fire, really does give me goosebumps.

“This place is a real showcase for the vital conservation work that Chester Zoo carries out to help prevent the extinction of so many wonderful species throughout South East Asia. It’s immersive, it exhilarates the senses and it connects people with the amazing animals it’s home to like no other zoological building. For all of those reasons it simply had to bounce back from the tragic events of 2018, and I’m so proud of the team that has restored it to its former glory.”

A conservation fundraising page, which was set up in response to a deluge of offers of support, raised more than £220,000 within just one week of the fire. The funds are being spent on the zoo’s charitable mission of preventing extinction, specifically to help further protect species in South East Asia.

Dr Pilgrim added:

“The fire was such a heart-breaking event and something we’ll never forget. However, the legacy of what happened in terms of the incredible outpouring of love and support directed at the zoo as the tragedy unfolded, will have a lasting impact.

“Already, the funds raised via the incredible spontaneous donations that came in have done a fantastic amount of good – to the benefit of vital conservation work both here at the zoo, and in South East Asia.



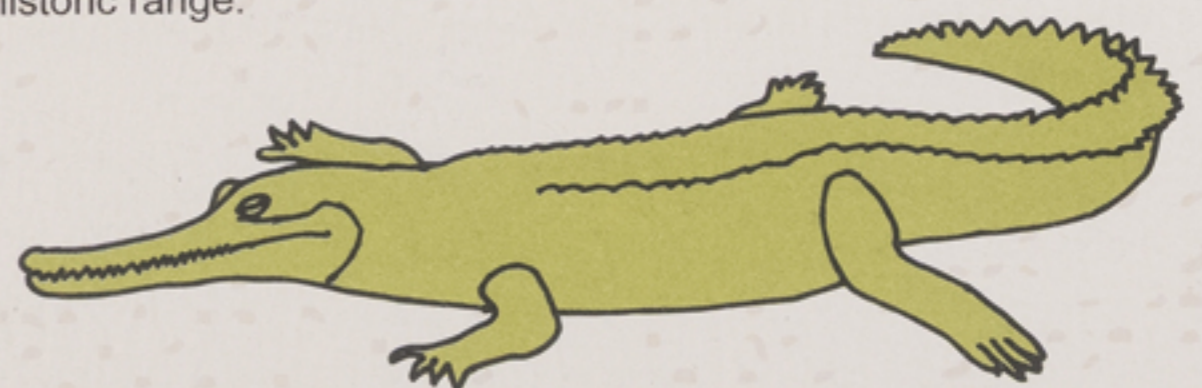
“One of these projects was the support of the Borneo Nature Foundation and their amazing efforts to extinguish the huge forest fires that engulfed parts of Borneo last year. The money raised helped protect vital rainforest habitat that thousands of species call home.”

Monsoon Forest is the centrepiece to the zoo's *Islands* zone, which throws a spotlight on a number of highly threatened species from across South East Asia. Within *Islands*, visitors can set off on their own expedition, walking over bridges, travelling in boats and see buildings that are architecturally identical to those found on the islands of Panay, Papua, Bali, Sumba and Sulawesi.

We're also supporting our partner, the Cikananga Conservation Breeding Centre (CCBC) in Java, Indonesia to construct a new aviary, providing space for conservation breeding of four threatened bird species that are only found in Indonesia.

The critically endangered Javan green magpie, critically endangered Rufous-fronted laughingthrush, critically endangered Black-winged myna, endangered Sumatran laughingthrush are threatened by habitat loss and poaching for the illegal wildlife trade. These beautiful birds are visually appealing and have a beautiful song – making them a valuable find for poachers.

Through financial support and exchanging knowledge on conservation breeding, the new aviary will provide a protected environment for these species to thrive while CCBC work to re-introduce populations at safe locations in the birds' historic range.



MONSOON FOREST FIRE: OUT OF THE ASHES

Two years ago, the outpouring of generosity following the devastating fire at Monsoon Forest allowed us to fund pioneering conservation efforts in South East Asia, and here's where we are today...

It's been a long two years since the fire happened, and the world we find ourselves in now, is a very different place. But despite various challenges ever since, we've been busy overcoming and moving forward, as have people around the world who have been touched by the outpouring of support following the tragedy.

The Monsoon Forest Fund – a £200,000 pot of money raised by our truly wonderful and generous donators – has been put to use across the islands of South East Asia and here at Chester, to help protect some of the world's most threatened species.

Here's what you helped to achieve in that time...



SAVING THE MAN OF THE FOREST

In the Sebangau forest of Indonesian Borneo, fire is an equally unnatural part of the ecosystem as it is here in Cheshire.

The digging of canals for logging activity decades ago has sapped away the soil moisture, degrading the peatland forest that is crucial habitat for orangutans and other key species. Today, the loggers are long gone, and yet the canals they forged remain. With the water table lowered and the region much drier than previous years, fires easily spread out of control during annual dry seasons.

Our partners, the Borneo Nature Foundation, have been fighting to end fire damage to the region through a community focused approach. £30,000 of the Monsoon Forest Fund has directly supported this work in 2018/19 – equipping community firefighters with the tools they need to safely fight the fires encountered on daily river patrols, and aiding the restoration of the water table by building dams throughout the illegal logging canal network.

Thanks to their efforts together with local partners, orangutan habitat in Sebangau is still standing today.



ADVANCING ORANGUTAN RESEARCH

While solutions are being found to problems in the wild, efforts here in the UK are also crucial for orangutan conservation. Amongst Chester Zoo's Monsoon Forest residents is a family of Sumatran orangutans, critical to the European breeding programme. With their habitat at the new Monsoon Forest restored and improved, some of the funds have purchased new tools and equipment to help our keeper teams better understand our important population.

Over the coming months and years, our primate keepers and behavioural researchers will continue to work side-by-side on increasing our understanding of orangutan behaviour, and to make evidence-based decisions towards maximising their breeding success and welfare at the zoo.

TOAD QUEST

For the critically endangered bleeding toad, the Monsoon Forest Fund provides the beginning of a conservation journey. Prior to the Monsoon Forest fire, we'd been working with partners in Indonesia to build a better understanding of the situation this colourful species faces. The bleeding toad is Indonesia's only protected amphibian; it's rare, with its population highly scattered in small pockets, but we must understand more to prevent its extinction.

Part of the Monsoon Forest Fund is being used to bring together experts from across Indonesia and around the world, across all sectors ranging from conservation experts to government officials, to draw out a conservation action plan. Through uniting stakeholders and expertise in one place, we hope to fully identify the threats to the bleeding toad, and find solutions to help reverse its decline. Capacity building in the areas of care, population management and health screening will be a key part of the path to success.

The first meetings, hosted together by Chester Zoo and the Conservation Planning Specialist group, will begin before the end of 2020.



Planning for the conservation of this species has implications for other amphibians in South East Asia, and we aim to reflect that at Chester Zoo. The Monsoon Forest Fund has allowed for the development of an amphibian focused habitat, showcasing fascinating species from the region and sharing stories of the challenges these animals face.



JAVAN CONSERVATION BREEDING

The Cikananga Conservation Breeding Centre has been one of Chester Zoo's closest partners in South East Asia, which we've been proud to support since 2011. The centre aims to establish viable breeding populations of critically endangered species found only on the Indonesian island of Java, and ultimately release them back into safe habitat within their geographic range.

Among Cikananga's aviaries are breeding populations of Javan green magpie, black-winged myna and Rufous-fronted

laughingthrush. These visually striking and critically endangered songbirds have all been driven to the brink of extinction as a result of their high value to poachers. Habitats for endangered Javan warty pigs are maintaining a pure population, while in the wild, hybridisation with the European wild boar threatens the species.

Monsoon Forest funding is helping to keep the populations in zoos thriving, whilst experts across the world collaborate to solve the challenges of threats to wildlife in Java.

A FUTURE FOR HORNIBILLS

Mass deforestation has been taking its toll on populations of hornbills, a unique family of birds with distinct, brightly coloured beaks. Suitable trees to nest in and forage nutritious fruits and insects from, are becoming rarer as habitats decline, pushing these wonderful birds to the brink of extinction.

Monsoon Forest funding has allowed us to develop new facilities during the rebuild. A new separation area allows us to closely study Rhinoceros hornbill breeding behaviour, and in the future it will be used to introduce new pairs and manage young birds as we mirror the natural processes through which hornbills establish their mate for life.

Chester Zoo has maintained a population of rhinoceros hornbills for a number of years, a South East Asian species now classified as Vulnerable by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Following years of research to improve breeding and management strategies by Chester Zoo keepers and scientists, in 2019, our hornbill pair successfully reared two chicks - a huge boost to the European breeding programme!

We've replicated the natural conditions needed for breeding, through specially designed artificial nest boxes, and hope soon to see the successes of 2019 repeated. With research ongoing to study habitat usage, activity and courtship behaviours, our understanding of this threatened species continues to evolve.

The knowledge gathered has great consequences for the wild. Monsoon Forest funding has added to a long-established partnership between Chester Zoo, the Hutan-Kinabatangan Conservation Programme, and Gaia – providing artificial nest boxes for hornbills whose habitat is running out. Just a few weeks ago, endangered wrinkled hornbills were recorded exploring these nest boxes for the first time, an exciting moment of hope that species such as this can be saved.



Over these two years, the generosity that you have shown Chester Zoo during one of the hardest events in its history has had significant positive impacts on the lives of both people and wildlife around the planet. Thank you so much for your support.



Scan the QR code to adopt an animal!

By adopting an animal you're making a **BIG DIFFERENCE** to save wild life from extinction! So, not only can you treat yourself and loved ones to unique gifts, you're also **PREVENTING EXTINCTION!**

The birds of Monsoon Forest

As guardians of Monsoon Forest, the spectacular and diverse bird species will open your eyes to the incredible biodiversity of the South East Asian islands. But sadly, these rare species are facing unprecedented threats in the wild.

From the black-naped oriole, rhinoceros hornbill to the grosbeak starling, these are only a few of the unique and rare species that reside in the native islands of South East Asia, and Monsoon Forest.

As a result of their beautiful and colourful appearance, they are heavily trafficked as part of the illegal wildlife trade, often kept

as pets in people's homes. Songbirds in particular, are taken from their habitat and kept, or used for songbird contests in Indonesia.

Monsoon Forest is not just an immersive and fun day out for all the family, it's also a vital journey we must take to better understand the threats these birds face and, what we can all do to help stop the world's rainforests falling silent.

We speak to Andrew Owen, Curator of Birds at the zoo, to find out what visitors can expect to see, why Monsoon Forest is unique and the threats these precious birds face in the wild...

Which species of birds can visitors expect to see in Monsoon Forest?

"You'll see a wide variety of species all from South East Asia, mostly from Indonesia. Lots of the birds are called songbirds, which are passerines. So species such as Asian fairy-blue bird, the Chestnut-backed thrush, a colony of grosbeak starlings which are quite noisy birds that sit up in the canopy of the rainforest.

"There are also a number of other species such as the white-rumped shawarma, which is one of the famous birds used for songbird competitions in Indonesia. They have a beautiful melodic song. There are a lot of different pigeons and doves, for example we have superb fruit doves which are really beautiful birds, with a multi-coloured plumage. We also have the Victoria crowned pigeon, which is the world's largest pigeon, and comes from the island of New Guinea. They are very impressive looking blue birds, with a great big crest on top of their heads.

"We also have the black-crowned barbet, which are beautiful bright green birds with red, yellow and blue markings on their head. This bird is fascinating, and was sadly confiscated from an illegal shipment of birds that came into Europe from Indonesia. If the Dutch authorities didn't intervene, then they would've been sold on the black market as part of the illegal pet trade.

"We've also welcomed an exciting new species, the blue-crowned hanging parrot, which are tiny and striking multi-coloured birds. They're also unique, as they get their name from the way that they roost upside down, similar to a bat."



Asian fairy blue bird



Superb fruit dove

What makes Monsoon Forest so special?

"The attention to detail that everyone has put in to make Monsoon Forest so natural, especially the work of the Botany and Horticulture department, has resulted in a habitat that really looks like a tropical Indonesian rainforest.

"We've brought in a lot of fantastic plants and trees, including a lot of ficus species, from the fig family, to try and tell the story of how important figs are to the ecosystem of the rainforest. Many of the birds feed on the fig fruits, then they disperse the seeds and regenerate which is a vital process."



What threats do these birds face in the wild?



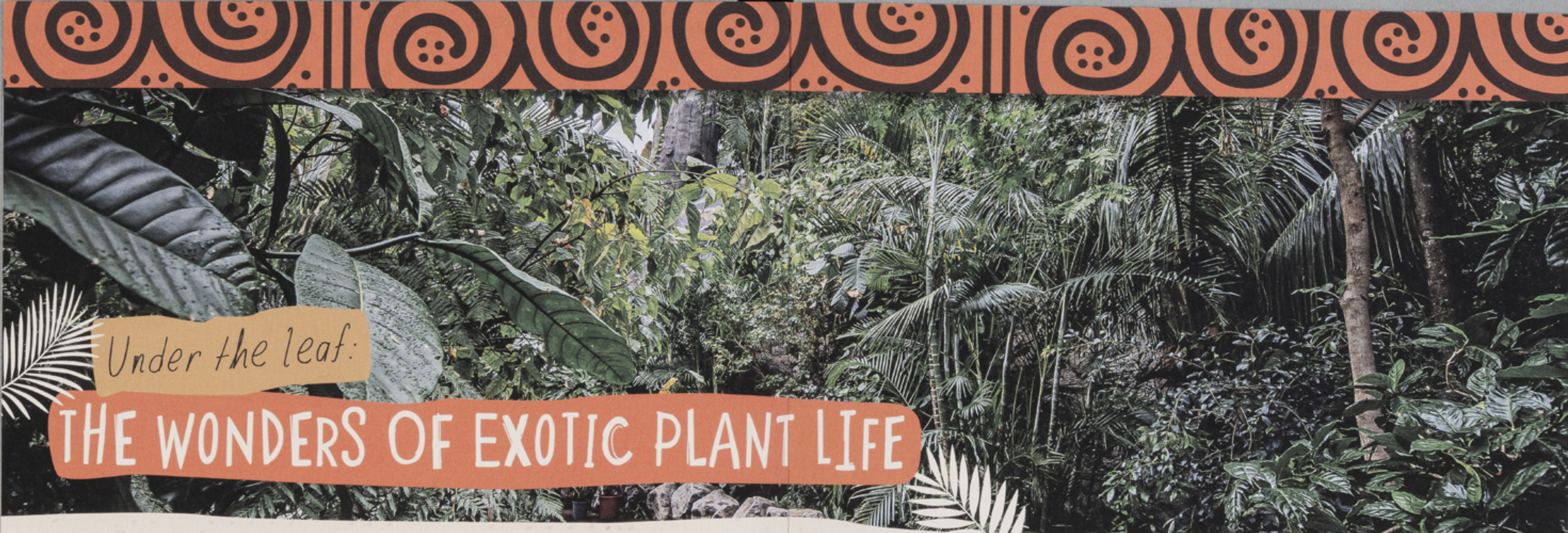
Chestnut-backed thrush



Fire tufted barbet

"One of the biggest threats for many rainforest species is deforestation and loss of habitat, integral parts of the ecosystems they live in. Many parts of South East Asian rainforests, where these birds come from, are cleared for agricultural reasons, to harvest timber, mahogany, teak and lots of other expensive woods. Some of those are also bi-products for clearing forests to make way for palm oil plantations, especially in the lowlands across South East Asia where the majority of rainforests have been cleared. It's become a major issue, and Chester Zoo is very passionate about trying to work to improve that situation.

"The other major threat is the illegal wildlife trade, which has impacted a lot of bird species across the world, but particularly in South East Asia. Songbirds especially, are trapped illegally, kept as pets and are also used in singing competitions, a trend which is popular in South East Asia. Generally the prizes are high for the best bird song, so there is a real 'mania' for keeping songbirds in cages. This also affects other species too, such as the blue crowned hanging parrots which we have here at Monsoon Forest."



Under the leaf:

THE WONDERS OF EXOTIC PLANT LIFE

We delve into the depths of the South East Asian jungle, to find out more about the rich biodiversity of Monsoon Forest's plant life.

With such diverse species living in Monsoon Forest, they all rely on a thriving natural environment to live a happy life. Plants play a huge role in this. Not only do they make you feel like you are exploring the jungles of South East Asia, but they are also vital to its wildlife.

We catch up with Phil Esseen, Curator of Botany and Horticulture at the zoo, about the incredible backstories to the tropical plants inside Monsoon Forest.

What makes Monsoon Forest special?

"Monsoon Forest is an incredible habitat, the planting, temperature, humidity and the birds which fly freely inside, make you feel like you're in the jungles of South East Asia. It's also a great place to educate visitors on the threats a number of species face in the wild. All the plants we have in Monsoon Forest have been brought in from specialist nurseries in Holland to create a dense jungle environment."

What plants can visitors expect to see?

"Some really interesting trees to look out for are coconut palms, mango trees, ylang ylang and starfruit, so lots of plants that people may have heard of. We even have cinnamon trees in Monsoon Forest, a lot of people don't realise that cinnamon sticks comes from the bark of a tree, which can be found in tropical climates. We've incorporated plants that people actually use lots of in everyday life, and probably don't realise they were originally sourced from South East Asian jungles.

"We also have vanilla, which is actually a type of orchid. It's a long vining climber, which can be seen in Monsoon Forest. There are dozens of species of vanilla, with some of them commercially grown for consumption.

"Some of the fruiting trees you'll spot are perfect for the birds too. For example, fig trees are ideal for birds to pick at and eat, when they're fruiting. Insects that also live on the plants, will be great for the birds when they're foraging for food."

Are there any rare plants that are unique to the zoo?

"Nepenthes are pitcher plants and one of our National Plant Collections, with more than 120 species of these at the zoo. As trailing plants, they scramble up rock faces in the wild, and several can be seen around Monsoon Forest. They are actually carnivorous plants, feeding on an array of insects, especially flies, wasps, beetles, and ants. There are also lots of different hybrids of nepthenes, which are fantastic with vibrant colours and really big pitchers.

"From a conservation perspective, nepenthes are super important, and we've been working hard behind the scenes growing and expanding our Nepenthes collections. As a result of deforestation, agricultural expansion and illegal collection in the wild, these plants are often lost, posing a major threat to these species."

Is there anything new in Monsoon Forest that wasn't there before the fire?

"We have added an African oil palm plant; these are found in large plantations across South East Asia. This plant is linked to deforestation and habitat loss as a result of them being planted in such large quantities. But a lot of people have never even seen an oil palm in real life, so we thought it would be valuable to show our visitors. We had some sustainable palm oil seeds imported a few years ago from our partners, so we are growing them from seed.

"The plants will be constantly managed, as Monsoon Forest evolves and outgrows. We will be adding in more orchids when we're able to, which is exciting. Most orchids are actually epiphytes, so they grow on trees rather than in soil, so when you walk around Monsoon Forest, be sure to look up into the trees to spot them."

Let's SAVE CHRISTMAS[!] with CHESTER ZOO

It's been a tricky old year - to say the least. But we're determined to make sure the end of 2020 is NOTHING like the rest!

We wanted to share some ideas to help bring as much fun, love and ways of connecting with friends, family and wildlife as possible this winter!

The GIFT that keeps on giving

We've lovingly handpicked gifts inspired by the zoo so you can spoil the people you care about most and help us prevent extinction at the same time!

Simply visit from our brand new Chester Zoo online gift shop, at chesterzoo.org/shop, and select the gift they'll like the best, whilst we do the rest.

From gifts for the future conservationist, to a Chester Zoo night in gift set, there is something for everyone. Why not buy one gift for you and another for your loved ones and share the very same Christmas experiences, as if you were together!

Operation 'Save Christmas!' starts here.

We'd love to connect with you too! Share your zoo inspired Christmas moments with us on social media using the hashtag #OurZooChristmas

YOUR EXCLUSIVE MEMBERS DISCOUNT

Enter this on line code at checkout,
and receive 10% off your
FESTIVE purchase!*

53XZ2ZNREGCT



Bringing the ZOO, to you

Not only can you spoil your loved ones with zoo inspired gifts this Christmas, but there are many other ways you can have a 'Chester Zoo Christmas'!

Sustainable palm oil Christmas shopping list



Whilst you're stocking up on lots of festive food and drink, use our handy sustainable palm oil Christmas shopping list. By shopping for products which contain sustainable palm oil, you're not only satisfying the tummies of your loved ones, but you're also supporting an important mission to prevent extinction. By shopping more sustainably, you're helping to save precious wildlife from the devastating impact of de-forestation and habitat loss in the wild. Small changes, can make a BIG difference.

Download our Christmas Sustainable Palm Oil Shopping List at chesterzoo.org/savechristmas

Get out in nature this Christmas



Whether you're a lone wanderer or an intrepid explorer, get out and about in nature this winter. The UK is brimming with unusual and fascinating wildlife, you'll be surprised at what you might find! We have LOADS of activities and games available to download from our website to help you with your wildlife spotting, as well as a whole host of other ways you can get the family, or yourself, out of out of the house and into the wild.

Head over to chesterzoo.org/savechristmas

Share the love



Whether you're enjoying a more sustainable Christmas, received one of our fantastic zoo gifts or simply want to share a Christmas message with us, share your zoo moment on social media with the hashtag **#OurZooChristmas**. Your post could even feature on our website! It's more important than ever to continue sharing the love and spread some zoo happiness in these difficult times.

Recycle, Reuse & Reduce



Wrapping your gifts is always a fun and exciting part of the Christmas festivities, but have you thought about swapping plastic wrapping for paper? Or even keeping old Christmas wrapping paper and reusing it? You can still achieve beautiful looking gifts, whilst reducing your waste!

Give the gift of PREVENTING EXTINCTION

If you're looking for something a little extra special, then why not adopt an animal at Chester Zoo or purchase a membership for someone else to join you on your zoo visits. By adopting an animal you'll receive a pack filled with goodies and a 'Thank You' plaque at the chosen animal's habitat! And by becoming a member you will be joining the zoo family which means you'll be able to visit the zoo throughout the year creating precious memories, on top of many other benefits.

Discover more about our membership and adoptions options at chesterzoo.org/shop



Sumatran orangutan



Virtual

How VIRTUAL zoo visits are HELPING us to continue our MISSION of PREVENTING EXTINCTION



Our virtual zoo visits are an amazing way for schools, teachers and pupils to stay connected with the zoo and the work that we do around the world. Rather than replicating our existing workshops, our Conservation Education & Engagement team have worked hard to develop unique learning experiences designed specifically for a digital setting.

Our sessions use a combination of traditional education techniques with a live educator who engages with the group through live Q&As, presentations and interactive activities as well as pre-recorded video content and exclusive learning resources. This enables teachers and learners to delve deeper into the subject and experience animals up close in a way that wouldn't be possible in a traditional classroom session!

The Covid-19 pandemic has driven many of us to use virtual tools in ways that we hadn't before. Digital literacy has never been higher and branching out to provide virtual sessions, especially in light of Covid-19, is allowing us to continue the zoo's important mission and our learning objectives to connect

people with nature, connect people to Chester Zoo and enable people to take action for wildlife. Harnessing the power of digital interactions, we're able to give access to the zoo to so many more people who may not have the chance to visit us in any other way. From Brownie groups, nursing homes, universities, even to international audiences, our virtual zoo visits allow us to bring learners closer to Chester Zoo than ever before, using this new mechanism to deliver conservation education in an engaging and innovative way.

As many of us know, online platforms like Zoom, Teams & Skype have been a huge help during lockdown, providing ways for families and friends to stay in touch. It has been a steep learning curve for many, but it has also shown how easy it is for us to all stay connected even through times when we can't physically meet. Teachers are among the people who have very much embraced this change, out of necessity but also valuing the importance of staying connected with their students. We know how important it is that teachers continue to provide their curriculums as closely as they can, but at a time when they would usually be taking their pupils out for school trips, virtual

and digital tools are proving to be a suitable alternative to allow for pupils to still obtain a rich learning experience. Being able to take their pupils to the zoo still, even virtually, will have huge benefits to their learning. As experts in conservation, our Conservation Education Officers are able to fill in the gaps and provide insight in to the world of the zoo and conservation in real time.

Digital tools really enable us to connect with more people near and far from the zoo. For the last five years we've been providing educators with free learning resources that have conservation messages at the heart of them. They aren't limited to science and geography subjects but cover an array of subjects including literacy, numeracy, music and art. This approach enables teachers to teach conservation in accessible and meaningful ways by finding suitable resources that will appeal to their own learners. We are always looking for new ways to engage with people wherever they are in the world; digital technologies are a great way for us to do this. They allow us to enhance our learning programmes in new ways and due to a lot of digital being accessible from online, like games,

resources and other interactive tools, it certainly does allow for more people to access the zoo and for our messages to reach more people.

One of the most recent interactive tools we've developed in collaboration with hi-impact has been our Interactive Zoo Map which allows people to view the zoo from some unique perspectives, listen to our keepers talking about animals, access our learning resources as well as find out more information about our amazing species and habitats. The interactive map came about through wanting to give access to the zoo whilst we were closed during lockdown. We want to always stay connected with our audiences and perhaps find some new 'visitors' to the zoo even on the other side of the world...even if that's just virtually!



Fundraising Stories

Pam's party to fight EEHV

We spoke to Chester Zoo supporter Pam Brooks at the start of 2020 about her pre-lockdown 50th birthday bash that raised over £2,000 for our vital research into EEHV...

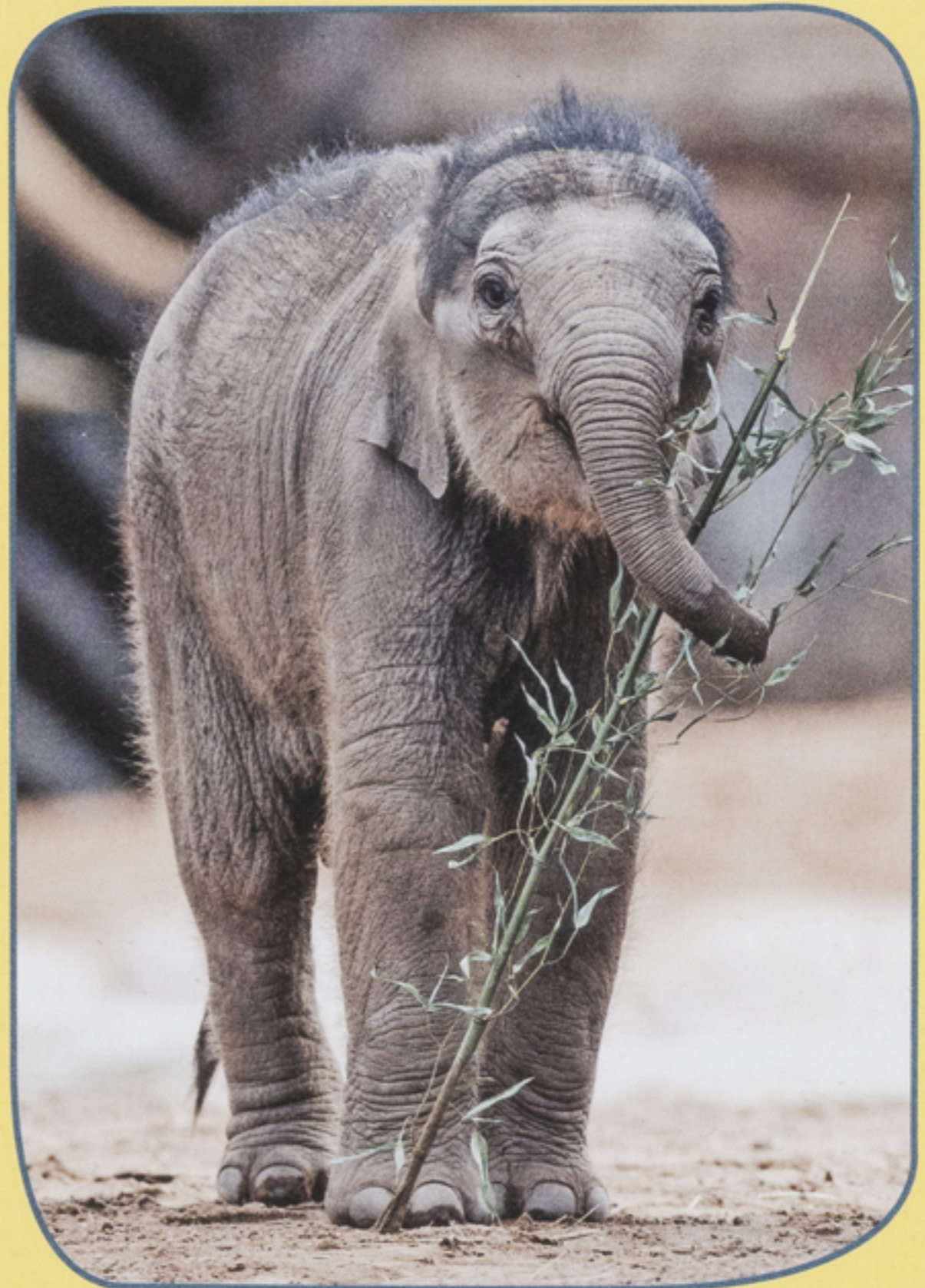
"I am the kind of person that plans to grow old as disgracefully as possible. Hence why, when I turned 50, I decided to do it with all my friends, family and clients. I have a huge passion for elephants, ever since I worked on cruise ships in my 20's and saw them in Thailand. After I returned to the UK and went on to have children, I became an annual member of Chester Zoo and kept a close eye on the beautiful elephants. It saddened me to see the babies contracting the EEHV virus, one after another, especially Hari and Bala. But my heart was truly broken at the loss of Nandita. So I decided to use my birthday to raise funds to help stop this terrible virus.

"I've been a hairdresser for 30+ years and in that time have gained a clientele that are like an extended family. I asked everyone invited to the party if they would like to offer a donation to the Never Forget fund at Chester Zoo, rather than bringing a gift.

"I put a letter in with my invitations to all the guests explaining my passion for elephants, and how much I wanted to help with the research to stop this virus.

"I had £400 pledged before the event, and I must have miscalculated the numbers. Unexpectedly, even clients that couldn't make it on the night still sent their donations in, and the best surprise of all was raising a total of £1,975 for the research – with more coming later in the year. I was absolutely overwhelmed by the generosity of the people in my life.

"My advice to anyone; if you're of an age in your life where you are content with all you need, then use these milestones



to give to your favourite charity or cause. The biggest gift in all of this for me was being able to donate to something that is so close to my heart and as a 50th present to myself I'm going to book myself in to be a zoo keeper for the day with the elephants!"

Despite everything that has happened this year, our crucial research remains vital in the fight to prevent extinction. With your continued support, we will change the future for Asian elephants across the globe.



PREVENTING EXTINCTION TOGETHER, AS ONE;

A massive thank you to our corporate supporters



This year, with our future at risk, our corporate partners have been more important than ever before, and we want to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to each of them! Only by working together as one big community can we make positive changes, and we're excited to see what the future brings as we work to protect wildlife all over the world.

The levels of support we've seen from our long-term partners, who've joined us on our mission to prevent extinction, has been overwhelming. With things a little up in the air, these trusted friends have remained by our side, going with the flow as we figured out how to navigate 2020.

We've also welcomed new companies into our family, stepping in to help us out when we most needed it, and reminding us that things will get better. We're really looking forward to getting cracking together as we head into the new year!

Conservation Partners

Airbus
Co-op
Chester Racecourse
Craghoppers
Darwin Escapes
Ferrero
Rhino Products
Saputo Dairy UK

Corporate Champions

Bank of America
MBNA
Urenco UK

Corporate Supporters

M&S Bank
Stagecoach
Sykes Cottages
Toyota

And to all of our corporate adopters, including those companies who took out adoptions during lockdown to help Save Our Zoo, thank you!

If you and your company want to join us on our mission to prevent extinction, we'd love to hear from you! You can contact Rose, our Corporate Giving Specialist at r.gelder@chesterzoo.org

A MASSIVE heart-felt 2020 thank you from the fundraising team!



We are Julie, Rose & (newly welcomed) Tanya - the small but devoted team that make up Chester Zoo's fundraising department. Like so many other charities, 2020 has certainly pushed us to our emotional and professional limits. But having you all right behind us all the way, brought us hope and renewed energy throughout this turbulent year.

One thing people often don't realise when they donate to their favourite charities, is that their support also provides great comfort. For us - keepers to office staff, front of house to back of house - knowing that people recognise the important role the zoo plays in global conservation gave everyone the much-needed boost to keep ploughing on.

Every email and every letter which accompanied a donation was lovingly read and, where appropriate, responded to personally. We're not afraid to say it, but there were many occasions when we shed tears over the kind words sent and the recounting of memories. Sharing snippets of letters in our internal newsletters, pinning drawings to the notice boards in keeper restrooms, and revealing the passionate stories of individual fundraisers – the restorative power of this cannot be underestimated.



We've been sending thousands of thank you letters and certificates, and if we haven't got to you yet please nudge us on fundraising@chesterzoo.org and we'll get right on it!

Any charity fundraiser's job is simply about providing the tools to enable and facilitate others to make an extraordinary difference to a cause that is close to their heart.

Our words are genuinely heartfelt – you are absolutely extraordinary. Thank you.

Julie, Rose & Tanya

Junior Programme 2021

Discover, explore, share & learn

Places are limited
& often get snapped
up fast, so make sure
you **BOOK SOON!**
chesterzoo.org/events

In 2021 we have lots of exciting activities planned for Junior Members with a huge variety of events that are available throughout the year. You can find out more and book on our website at chesterzoo.org/events. Places are limited and often get snapped up fast, so make sure you book soon to avoid disappointment!

Junior Rangers Camp

Are you aged between 8 & 11? Do you love wildlife? Are you a member of the zoo? If so, Junior Rangers will be perfect for you! The training camps run every Sunday for FIVE weeks.



Each week we will explore different parts of the zoo and learn about our amazing animals and incredible conservation work.



Booking is available now for our January and February block and booking for other blocks will be open soon. Keep checking our website for more information.

Places are limited and often get snapped up fast, so make sure you book soon to avoid disappointment.

Date: 28 Feb - 28 March and 25 April - 23 May.

You can find out more and book via our website
chesterzoo.org/events

HOLIDAY ACTIVITY CAMP

Primary School Years 1-6

Our Holiday Activity Clubs are perfect for animal lovers and future conservationists. Discover our amazing animals, habitats and the incredible conservation work we do all around the world. All of this learning happens through a range of fun activities both in and out of our learning centre, including zoo trails, conservation in action, practical activities, games, arts and crafts, and much, much more!

We have been busy ensuring that all our activities follow the latest government guidelines whilst making sure everyone has fun.

February Half Term

15 - 19 February (Years 4-6)

16 - 18 February (Years 1-3)

Easter Holidays

6 - 8 April (Years 1-3)

12 - 16 April (Years 4-6)

Summer Holidays

Week 1 26 - 30 July (Years 4-6)

Week 2 10 - 12 August (Years 1-3)

Week 3 16 - 20 August (Years 4-6)

Week 4 24 - 26 August (Years 1-3)

The holiday clubs run from 9.00am - 4.30pm, with free early drop off available from 8.45am.

Booking is available now for our February half term holiday camp and booking for other holidays will be available soon. Keep checking our website for more information.



SKILLS COURSES

Our skills courses for 12-15 year olds have been developed to nurture young people's interest and passion in conservation, meet like-minded people and have exciting experiences. These practical 3 day courses (over 3 weeks) help young people discover more about wildlife and the careers on offer whilst learning new skills in their local environment. We have a huge range of topics including technology in conservation, animal behaviour, field skills and ecology, wildlife photography, coding for conservation and genetics!

Booking is available now for our January and March courses and booking for other blocks will be available soon. Keep checking our website for more information.

23 January - 6 February Animal Behaviour

6 March - 20 March Field Skills and Ecology

8 May - 22 May Hormones and Genetics

26 June - 10 July Photography

25 September - 9 October Conservation Technology

13 November - 27 November Conservation Games and Gamification

You can find out more and book via our website
chesterzoo.org/events

YOUNG CONSERVATIONISTS SUMMER SCHOOL

Our summer school has been developed for those aged 12-17 years who are interested in a career working with animals, in conservation, research or veterinary fields. During the week, young people will be immersed into the world of Chester Zoo with sessions and activities led by our experts. The week will involve a combination of practical activities and theory sessions, both indoors and outdoors.

Date: 2 August - 6 August

The summer school runs from 9.00am - 4.30pm, with free early drop off available from 8.45am.

Booking will be available from February. Keep checking our website for more information

We're proud to have received 2020 BIAZA Awards for four exciting Chester Zoo conservation projects - a bright moment in this challenging year.



Award Winning Conservation – 2020

The British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA) bring together zoos across the UK and Ireland that have demonstrated their dedication to conserving the natural world through research, conservation and education.

Here are the four Chester Zoo projects that have been deemed to be among the best in their respective categories in the 2020 BIAZA Awards.

BIAZA Gold Award - Horticulture - The Plant Project

Chester Zoo's Plant Project was created with the purpose of helping to end plant blindness and raise awareness of the incredible species that make up our green world.

A team of expert horticulturists care for hundreds of species here at Chester, including "National Collections" of *Nepenthes* pitcher plants, orchids, and three genera of cactus.

Each has an astounding range of adaptations suited to life in varied and often extreme environments, though many are unfortunately threatened with extinction due to habitat loss, poaching, and climate change. The collection therefore is a key safety-net should these species disappear in the wild.

The combined skills of our Botany & Horticulture and Interpretation teams has produced an engaging exhibit, sharing stories of rich plant biodiversity, and the projects we're part of to save plant habitats around the world.

More than 42,000 people visited The Plant Project in 2019, and we can't wait to see this number grow further.

BIAZA Gold Award - Animal Husbandry, Care, and Breeding - A holistic approach to improving rhinoceros hornbill (*Buceros rhinoceros*) care & breeding at Chester Zoo

The rhinoceros hornbill, like so many other wonderful bird species found in the forests of South East Asia, is threatened with extinction due to hunting and habitat loss.

While conservation efforts aim to tackle the problem on the ground, breeding programmes in zoos maintain a safety-net population to keep the species alive should it disappear from the wild.

Breeding efforts for the rhinoceros hornbill here at Chester had stalled, with our last chicks hatching in 2006, so our expert keepers set out on a project to find solutions.

Their work to combine new approaches to care and husbandry, alongside behavioural research, has enriched the strategy to manage these birds. A change to their habitat and diet, the introduction of new training methods and an improved understanding of how behaviour varies between individuals, together hugely improved the situation.

In 2019, after 13 years Chester Zoo's rhinoceros hornbills once again hatched, raised and fledged two invaluable chicks.





GOLD
STAR

BIAZA Gold Award - Animal Husbandry, Care, and Breeding - Development of a novel anaesthesia technique in a critically endangered anuran: Mountain chicken frog (*Leptodactylus fallax*)

Despite its name, the mountain chicken is not a bird, but one of the largest and rarest frog species in the world, growing up to 22cm (8.7in) in length and 1kg (2lbs) in weight. It's found only in the Caribbean Islands where its cultural association as a delicacy provided its unique name. Populations have been declining since the 1900's due to overhunting, but in the 2000's, the arrival of the devastating chytrid fungus in the Caribbean brought these wonderful animals close to extinction.

In a partnership between several European zoos, some frogs were brought into zoos during the crisis to begin an *ex-situ* breeding programme, and in recent years have begun carrying out reintroductions to their natural home.

Ensuring any reintroduction programme is a success requires the ability to find and monitor the animals post release. A method was devised using an implanted radio tracking device. However, standard frog anaesthetic techniques proved ineffective in such unique and large frogs. This hampered the ability of our vets not only to plant the tracking devices, but also to provide the best veterinary care when surgery might be necessary.

After much work, the combined veterinary expertise of Chester Zoo and Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust were able to develop an entirely new method. So far this has allowed the safe implantation of transmitters into more than 100 frogs, for an ambitious reintroduction project on the Caribbean Island of Montserrat. This innovation also holds huge importance for veterinary treatment and study of both the mountain chicken and other threatened frog species as we attempt to prevent their extinction.

BIAZA Silver Award - Conservation - Nature Reserve at Chester Zoo

Species across the world are important to conserve, so too is the biodiversity surrounding us on our island home! The need for effective conservation across the UK has been urgently evidenced by recent State of Nature reports, so we've been taking action. Over the last decade we've created the Chester Zoo Nature Reserve, a 6 hectare site of diverse Cheshire wilderness. The site provides a bounty of protected priority habitat for British wildlife: ponds, hedgerows, natural meadow and reedbeds.

As we've diversified habitats and allowed them to develop, the resident animals and plants have diversified too. Opportunists such as annual plants and dragonflies appeared as new features arose, and now, stable species assemblages are establishing themselves. These assemblages include some of the most important species for UK protection: Great crested newt, harvest mouse, polecat, reed bunting, kingfisher, white letter hairstreak butterfly and black poplar trees.

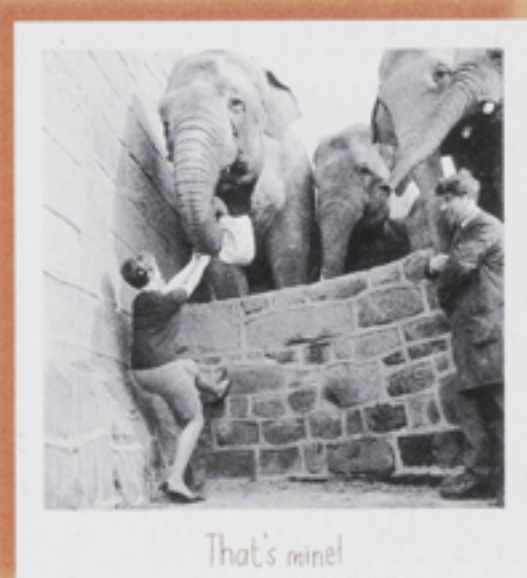
While a safe haven is provided for wildlife, this space also serves to allow people to connect with British nature. Our Interpretation Team has built a rich information source on the themes of the Cheshire landscape, its biodiversity, and the ways that we can protect it.

In the pre-covid era, tours, educational events and bioblitz sessions have engaged people with the wildlife on their doorstep, and young researchers have been able to use the site on the journey to begin their careers. We hope that soon we'll be able to once more carry out these sessions with passionate people.

Congratulations to each of our staff whose dedication has led to the success of these conservation projects. We're unbelievably proud of everything they do to prevent extinction.

Looking ahead

Next year is a **BIG** year for us! It marks our **90TH BIRTHDAY!** Nine decades of **INCREDIBLE** moments, *challenges* and *developments* since the zoo's founder **George Mottershead** first opened the gates to the public back in 1931.



ME, YOU & THE ZOO

We'll be kick starting the year celebrating what Chester Zoo means to you, our amazing members, and hearing zoo stories from you, our visitors and staff. We'll be taking a look back through time at some of our own precious memories and how the zoo has changed over the decades, on our journey to becoming the leading wildlife conservation and education charity we are today.

We'll pause for a moment to look back over all of the great personal photos, films and stories that make up our precious shared history of Chester Zoo. And we want YOUR memories to be part of these celebrations, as we wouldn't be the zoo we are today without the wonderful support of our members. If you have a story you'd like to tell, no matter how long or short, or have a film, or photos of your time at Chester Zoo, then we'd LOVE to hear from you!

Either go to chesterzoo.org/memories to submit your zoo memory or email it to us at memories@chesterzoo.org and we'll add it to our history timeline for you - we may even include your story as part of our campaign.

Planning for the FUTURE

As well as taking a journey back in time, we will also look to the future as part of our 90th anniversary. We'll launch our conservation and science plan of action for the next 10 years – taking us up to our next big birthday!

Conservation is critical, and it doesn't stop. The work we do is only possible thanks to the incredible, unwavering support we receive from our members, donors and visitors.

Keep an eye on our website for more information, as well as find out different ways you can join us in our mission to **PREVENT EXTINCTION**. Together we can make a **HUGE** difference to wildlife around the world.



LOVE IT

for

LONGER

A SUSTAINABILITY SPECTACULAR

Join us in summer for our sustainability spectacular! A completely utterly incredibly absolutely gobsmackingly amazing exhibit that is 100% TOTAL UTTER TRASH!

We will be turning the world of waste on its head, from plastic and technology to water and even POO! We'll be revolutionising our rubbish and learning to **LOVE IT FOR LONGER**.

It will be the **GREATEST** pile of garbage you will ever see!

We want you to join us as we continue on our journey towards a fully sustainable future, and making a positive change that will have a **HUGE** impact on our planet. Watch this space for more details.

MEMBERS' *folks*

We also want to let you know that we're currently working on an exciting programme of virtual events exclusive for our members, and hope to update you in the new year with more details. Watch this space for more information.

OPENING SPRING 2021

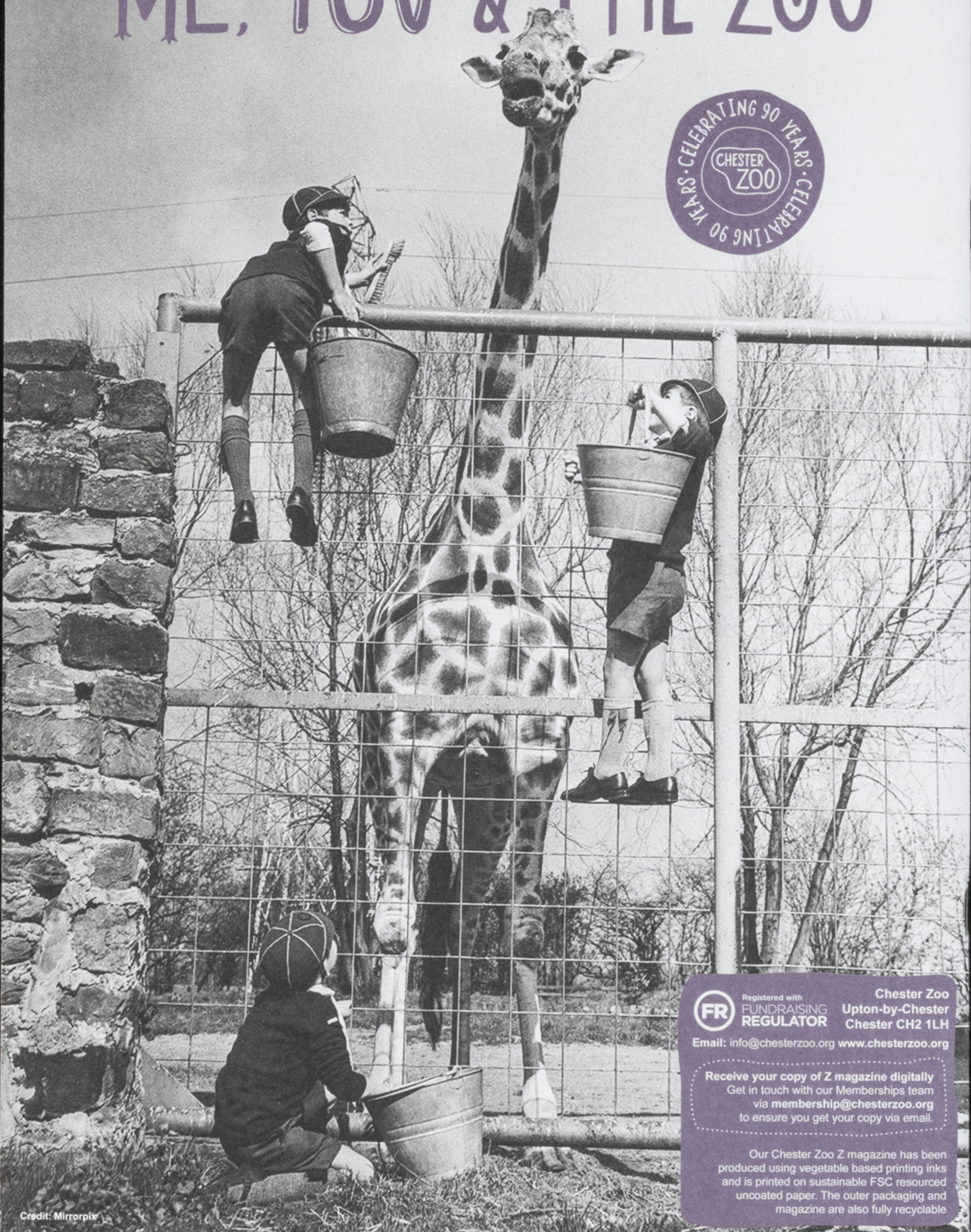


Our new Latin American Wetland Aviary will open to visitors from spring 2021, and we can't wait for you to explore this vibrant habitat that will bring you an immersive walkthrough experience. Witness some of Latin America's most precious bird species, including our flamboyance of flamingos, saffron finches and the stunning scarlet ibis. The new habitat will be truly unique, giving you the chance to get closer to some of the world's most beautiful bird species.

Plus there's loads more to come! Keep up to date with our exciting plans by signing up to receive our e-newsletters. You can update your preferences at: chesterzoo.org/preferences



ME, YOU & THE ZOO



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