

SPRING 2013

Z MAGAZINE

CHESTER ZOO

*The official magazine for
Chester Zoo MEMBERS
and ADOPTERS*

TRUNK CALL

Z MAGAZINE

SPRING 2013

IN YOUR Z...

Features

- 4 **Shades of grey**
Meet the new elephant calves
- 6 **Animal count**
Keepers get to grips with annual stock-take
- 12 **Nigeria expedition**
Zoo staff on conservation mission

Regulars

- 3 **Five minutes with...**
Dr Mark Pilgrim
- 18 **Making a difference**
How we have been acting for wildlife all around the world
- 20 **Staff go wild**
Birds under the spotlight
- 22 **100 Club**
- 24 **Members' offers**
- 26 **Zoo Talk**

DON'T MISS!

Adopter Days

9 March 2013 - Saturday
6 October 2013 - Sunday

Members' Days

20 April 2013 - Saturday
28 June 2013 - Friday
3 November 2013 - Sunday



CHESTERZOO

Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester Chester, CH2 1LH
Tel. 01244 380 280 Fax. 01244 371 273
Email: info@chesterzoo.org Web: www.chesterzoo.org
Director General: Dr. Mark Pilgrim
Editor: Rachael A. Wheatley
Z is published by: North of England Zoological Society,
Upton-by-Chester, Chester CH2 1LH
Registered charity No. 306077

ARE YOU A FRIEND OF THE ENVIRONMENT?

As part of our commitment to the environment, we're giving you the chance to receive **Z** electronically.

Swapping over is easy.

Simply contact the membership office on **01244 650 208** or email membership@chesterzoo.org with an email address you would like us to send the link to – but don't forget to include your membership number or postcode so we can find you on our system. You'll still receive **Z** by post should you not wish to receive it electronically.

Please can you update us with news from the zoo?

I'm delighted that the wonderful 'baby boom' which rounded off 2012 has continued into 2013 with the arrival of a female calf for the *Hi Way* family. Coming weeks after the birth of *Hari*, the latest addition to the herd is settling in well. We now have an amazing family group and, as this first picture of the two calves show, they are both getting on very well. Watching the dynamics of this herd and particularly the closeness we are seeing within the *Hi Way* family group and how they interact with each other is really wonderful. The arrival of our impressive male elephant *Aung Bo* also gives us real hope that the *Hi Way* family will continue to get bigger and I hope he proves to be as successful a breeding bull as his predecessors *Upali* and *Chang*. We have no name for the new arrival yet but we will let you know as soon as we do.

It's not just the elephants that have been doing their bit for conservation breeding though – we have also welcomed a giant anteater baby for *Pedro* and *Bliss*, two babirusa young, Sumatran orangutans *Tripa* and *Tuti* and a meerkat pup. All these new arrivals are testimony to a lot of work being done by the animal teams and animal support staff.

Looking ahead and in preparation for *Islands*, we have also brought in a new species, a Malayan tapir called *Marjorie* who will soon be on show in the cattle house. It's always great to see young animals grow up but sometimes that does mean they have to move on and we have said goodbye to our cheetahs, *Rufaa* and *Juba*, who have moved to Berlin.

Please can you update us on Islands?

Lots of work continues to go into the *Islands* development and we're delighted with how it is coming together. In spring, we will begin sourcing the main plants we need and construction work on *Islands* itself is penciled in to start in June. The nature reserve will also be going ahead later this year. Created on zoo land, this will showcase the Cheshire landscape and be a haven for wildlife and the zoo's British conservation work. The reserve will be free of charge and fully accessible to the general public.

What is happening in conservation?

Planning for our first conservation expedition to Nigeria is gathering pace and, armed with lots of equipment, the team will be heading out on March 26. We are looking forward to this first venture, to assessing the plants and animals and meeting the community out at Gashaka. You can read more about our upcoming trip in the magazine. With conservation in mind, later this year we will also be presenting our former Director General Prof Gordon McGregor Reid with the North of England Zoological Society's gold medal, an award which is much deserved and recognises his work in the field of conservation.

And finally...

We're currently recruiting for new trustees. Read on for more details.

NEWS FROM THE ZOO

North of England Zoological Society Recruitment of New Trustees

The North of England Zoological Society (the 'Society') is a charity managed and administered by a Board of Trustees ('Council') which has responsibility for directing the affairs of the charity and to ensure that it delivers its charitable objectives. Council selects individuals it believes to have expertise and experience to give it additional strength who it then recommends to the Members of the Society for election.

At the Annual General Meeting in June the members will be electing new trustees to replace three existing Trustees who will have completed their full terms of service.

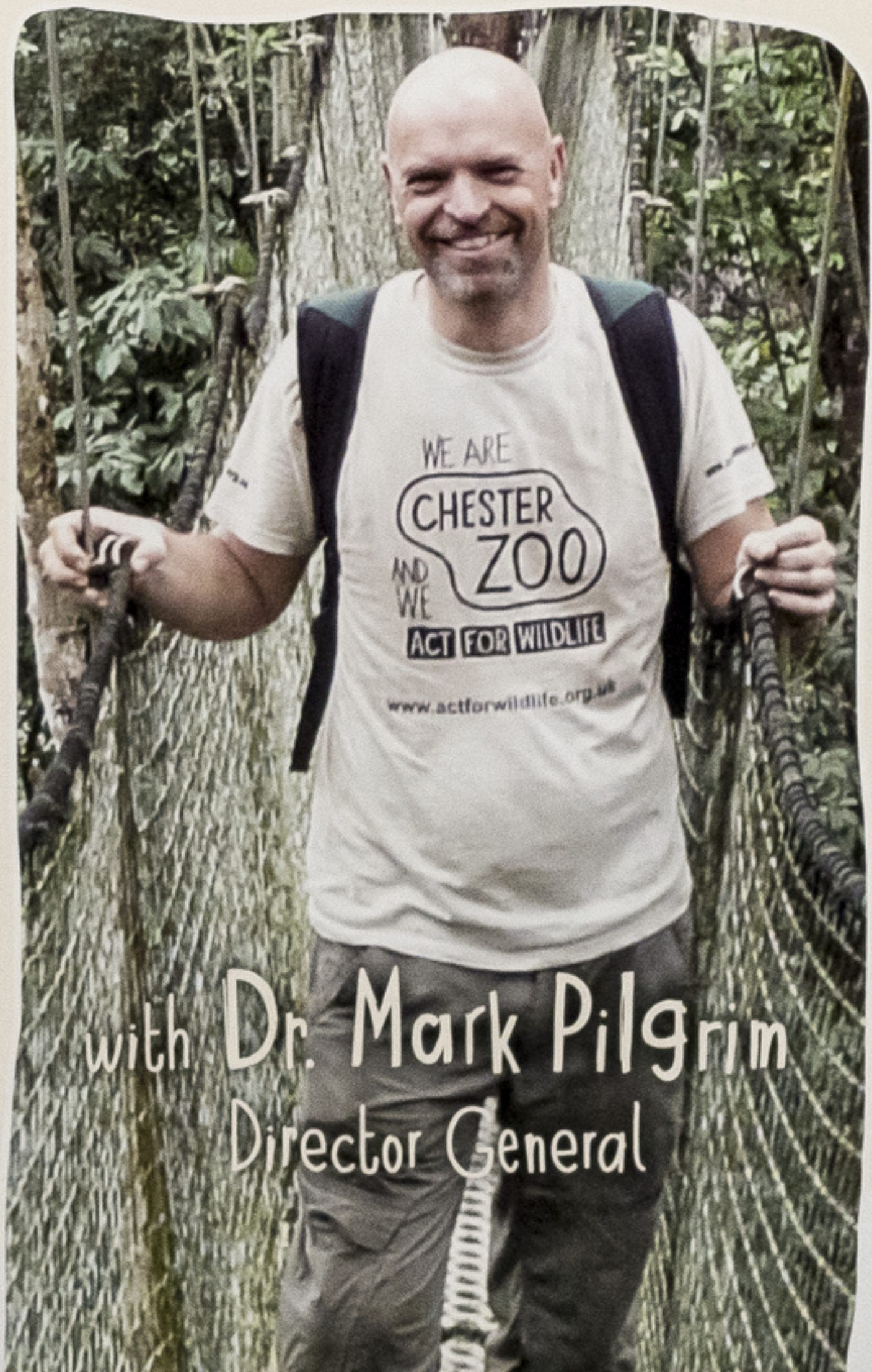
As part of the process of identifying candidates to be nominated by Council, we are inviting expressions of interest from current members with relevant experience who would be able to commit to the level of involvement required.

We would be particularly interested in hearing from existing members with experience in the following areas:

1. Primary and secondary education
2. Conservation at a regional, national or international level
3. Implementation of business strategies and systems

Initial expressions of interest, together with a brief C.V. covering relevant areas of expertise and experience, should be sent to Alan Sykes, Company Secretary, by 31 March 2013.

Information about the responsibilities of being a charity trustee can be found on the Charity Commission website: www.charity-commission.gov.uk/faqs/running_a_charity/id198.aspx





Our elephant herd has got a little larger with the arrival of two elephant calves.

Hari Hi Way was welcomed into the group by first time mum *Sundara* after being born just after 1:30am on November 25.

The second calf – a female – was born less than nine weeks later to mum *Sithami* on January 21 and was on its feet within three minutes of being born.

The new mums delivered the herd's latest offspring after a 22-month gestation. *Sithami* is also mum to female *Sundara*, born in 2004, and male calf *Nayan* born in 2010.

Tim Rowlands, Curator of Mammals, said:

"The arrival of an elephant calf is always a cause for celebration but to have two healthy calves in less than three months is absolutely fantastic. The new babies and their mum are doing very well and I am sure our visitors will share in our good news."



Shades of GREY



From the tiniest frog to the largest Asian elephant, staff have had the important task of counting every single animal in their care.

Keepers made their way through more than 500 different species as they carried out their annual stock-take.

Records at the zoo are regularly updated to allow for any births, deaths and departures - with every animal having a 'passport' detailing exactly who it is, where it was born and who its ancestors were - ensuring the best possible management of all the vital breeding programmes.

But, at the end of each year, it's all hands to the pump as keepers help double check the data with a final head-count - a process which zoos must go through by law in order to comply with the Zoo Licensing Act 1981.

Herpetology keeper Ruth Smith, said:

"Our annual stock-take involved all of our keepers tallying up every animal in our collection. It's a real team effort."

"But while totalling up the giant Galapagos tortoises doesn't cause us too much trouble, trying to count the hundreds of butterflies or thousands of snails in our collection is a completely different story."

Indeed the zoo's large population - there were 8,244 animals at the last count - makes the job quite the challenge.

And with a host of new additions to add to the tally, there were even more species to make note of this time around.

Liz Ball, Registrar's Assistant, said:

"Recently we've witnessed one of the biggest baby booms in our history. In just the last five or six months we've had two rare baby Sumatran orangutans, an Asian elephant, two giant otter pups, a Rothschild giraffe and a baby black rhino born. And what makes all of these new arrivals really important is that not only are they all threatened species in the wild but some of them have been firsts for us here at Chester Zoo."

COUNTING THE FACTS

The count is a process that zoos have to go through by law in order to comply with the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 and utilise the keeping staff to help in the process.

The 2011 count was:

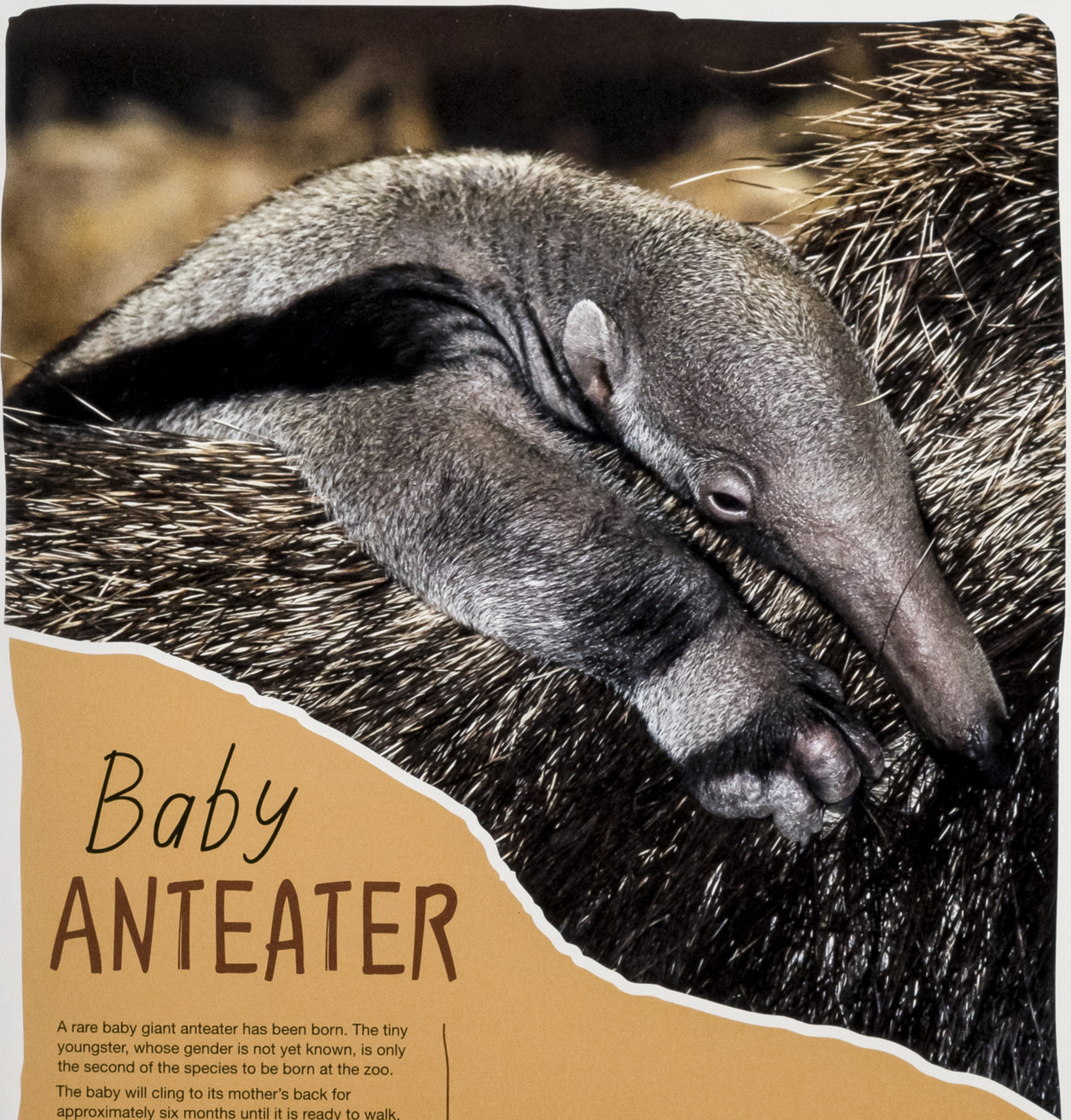
Reptiles	279 specimens	(47 species)
Amphibians	478 specimens	(18 species)
Birds	1200 specimens	(142 species)
Mammals	891 specimens	(76 species)
Fish	5396 specimens	(91 species)
Total	8,244 individual specimens (excluding invertebrates)	
374 species (excluding invertebrates) / 400+ (incl. invertebrates)		

The 2012 count was:

Total specimens:	11,352
Total species:	544
Mammals:	802
Birds:	1223
Reptiles:	318
Amphibians:	427
Fish:	4970
Insects:	1586

ANIMAL COUNT





Baby ANTEATER

A rare baby giant anteater has been born. The tiny youngster, whose gender is not yet known, is only the second of the species to be born at the zoo.

The baby will cling to its mother's back for approximately six months until it is ready to walk, explore and find food on its own.

Parents *Pedro* and *Bliss*, both aged three, arrived in 2010 as part of an international breeding programme.

Team Manager David White said:

"Bliss is a very good mum and is so far doing an excellent job of looking after her new arrival."

"She's obviously very proud of her newborn and has, every now and again, been parading around and showing off to our visitors."

"Seeing the youngster clinging on tightly to her tail is quite the sight!"

Giant anteaters are classed as 'vulnerable' to extinction by conservationists and so the birth is good news for the unusual looking species.

Native to Central and South America the animals do not have teeth but have tongues which can measure up to half a metre long.

ANTEATER facts

- The giant anteater is the world's largest species of anteater
- An individual may eat up to 30,000 ants in one day
- It is one of only two types of mammals without any teeth even in adulthood
- An anteater's tongue can reach two feet in length, and is covered in a sticky saliva, allowing it to trap ants. It can extend and withdraw it up to 150 times per minute
- Giant anteaters are predominantly solitary, except for mothers and their offspring. A single offspring is produced after a gestation period of 190 days. They are carried on their mother's back, aligned with the white stripe, so that they are very well camouflaged. Young are weaned after two months, although they may continue to be carried on their mother's back for approximately six months
- The species is classified as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature red list, which monitors endangered animals

Piglets debut

BABIRUSA PIG facts

- The piglets were born on 16/12/12
- The public will be able to see them in a few months' time when they have further developed
- Babirusa go through a five month pregnancy
- Babirusa feed on fruit, seeds, nuts, insects and fungi
- They are classed by conservationists as vulnerable
- The exact population numbers in the wild are unknown
- The species is endemic to the Sulawesi rainforests of Indonesia

Meet two-year-old

NAPO

our stunning
NEW JAGUAR
who has arrived
from France.



Two of the rarest pigs in the world have been born at Chester Zoo.

The birth of a pair of babirusa piglets is being hailed as "positive news for the future of the species" - with wild populations in serious decline in their native Indonesia.

Keeper Phil Molyneux said:

"Babirusa pigs are highly threatened and are one of the rarest pig species in the world. That's why these births are so important and are such a great achievement."

"Zoos provide the last insurance policy against extinction and we hope the duo will grow up to become a vital part of the international breeding programme to safeguard the species."

"These new-borns are really exciting for us and positive news for the future of the species."

The two piglets were born to mum Majene and dad Sausu.

Focus on...

OUR NIGERIA CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

by Assistant Conservation Officer, Cat Barton

NIGERIA Fast Facts

Region: West Africa
 States:36
 Capital city: Abuja
 Major rivers: Niger River and Benue River
 which flow into the Niger Delta
 Main economy: Oil
 Currency: Naira

GASHAKA PRIMATE PROJECT

Located in a mountainous region of eastern Nigeria, Gashaka Gumti National Park (GGNP) is Nigeria's largest national park in an area of outstanding natural beauty. It is comprised of an impressive variety of habitats from lush forests and grasslands to mountain habitats. These are home to a huge assemblage of flora and fauna and the area is renowned for its diversity of primates and an abundance of species otherwise extremely rare or absent elsewhere in the country. These rich, luscious highlands are also home to probably the last remaining viable populations of Nigerian chimpanzee.

Initiated over a decade ago by the University College London with a primary focus on primates, the Gashaka Primate Project (GPP) has been integral in working towards the long-term conservation of the national park. At the heart of conservation is great science and research and that's exactly what happens here. In fact over the last decade our support has helped develop Gashaka Gumti National Park into an internationally renowned site for primate research. Over the years our support has also enabled improved communication systems, ultimately leading to improved protection of the park. In the last year alone we supported solar power upgrades for radio communication systems and also invested in a new visitor centre project which will help generate awareness of conservation issues and foster local support, understanding and involvement for conservation. Students from several Nigerian and European universities conduct research at GGNP and a Chester Zoo bursary supports a number of Nigerian students each year. Today, research encompasses not only primates but botany, environmental dynamics, habitat changes and community conservation.

NIGERIA MONTANE FOREST PROJECT

The Nigeria Montane Forest Project based nearby to Gashaka in Ngel Nyaki Forest Reserve is one of the most floristically rich forests in the region and an area of high biodiversity. The project works closely with GPP, and has been a key partner in our Nigeria Programme since 2003. Historically, the work here focused on botanical research in the Mambilla Plateau, close to the Cameroon border, but has since expanded to include forest regeneration and community education. With our support, the project has been able to provide salaries and equipment for field staff and on-going running costs. Sponsored by us, a tree nursery was constructed to allow the project team to grow local montane forest tree species for use in forest restoration. This vital work is ensuring the long-term survival of Nigeria's unique montane forest ecosystem.

THE FUTURE

Over the next few years, our work in Nigeria will be increasing with the GPP being managed by Chester Zoo; our role in this important conservation programme is getting bigger. With our support, conservation breakthroughs are being made, vital scientific research undertaken and communities are being better educated to ensure the continuation of the forest and all that lives within it.

So you've heard about Nigeria and our conservation work – but how did it all begin? Head of Field Conservation and Research, Roger Wilkinson, tells us more....

CHESTER ZOO IN NIGERIA THE BEGINNINGS

"This year Chester Zoo will make Gashaka Gumti National Park and Ngel Nyake Montane Forest Project the sites for its first large staff expedition (see page 13). Chester Zoo's first association with Gashaka Gumti goes back twenty years but its first support for field conservation in Nigeria goes back even further and both relate to the way our field support initially developed through the personal interests and background of several staff at the zoo.

"My own background and interest developed from spending six years working as University lecturer in Kano, Nigeria before taking on the job of Curator of Birds here in 1983. Michael Brambell was then director of Chester Zoo and supported my time in planning and leading a four week Anglo-Nigerian conservation expedition to Kagoro Forest in 1987. That was published in an International Committee for Bird Preservation - now Birdlife International - report as a case study for forest conservation in Nigeria. Then came Gordon Reid as Chief Curator and he too had worked in Nigeria – for two years as a lecturer at Sokoto University. Gordon is and was fish mad and, working with Richard Barnwell of WWF UK, in 1994 our first links with Gashaka Gumti began. This was when WWF UK supported a research programme there and Gashaka was considered to be very important as the breeding ground and therefore source for economically valuable fish that were caught outside the park.

"Gordon's interest in conservation and fish led to him becoming the consultant for fish populations in the park and personally conducting a field survey of fish in Gashaka Gumti in 1994. That was later developed with Justin Bell, then one of our aquarists, continuing fish surveys there in 1998. Gashaka has always been seen as important for primates and especially for chimpanzees. As such Nick Ellerton, our then Curator of Mammals, with a background of previously living in Africa and enjoying trout fishing, and his partner primatologist Caroline Harcourt visited Gashaka in 1995 with the aim of both surveying chimpanzees and looking at the possibility of developing sport fishing tourism in the National Park. From 1995 to 1997 zoo keeper Steve Hogarth began a PhD field study in conjunction with Manchester Metropolitan University studying the behaviour of the chimpanzees at Gashaka. A visit of another of our keepers Adam Britt in 1997 gave further assistance to the chimpanzee field studies.

"From our first working with WWF we developed a relationship with Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) who were left managing the Gashaka project when WWF left Nigeria and for a period we supported the field conservation through NCF. Then came Volker Sommer, University College London, who really took this project on, developing the Gashaka Primate Project as the premier primate research project in Nigeria. We have worked closely with Volker since 2000 and over the last twelve years developed a strong rapport reinforced by Volker's annual visits to Chester and several visits to Gashaka Gumti by Director General Mark Pilgrim and myself and most recently by Mark and Conservation Officer Scott Wilson."



© Yvonne Polner



NIGERIA Expedition

For the first time in the zoo's history, an intrepid band of staff will be setting out to see for themselves one of our conservation projects in action.

With the zoo taking over the Nigeria-based Gashaka Primate Project, 13 members of staff from across all walks of zoo life will be heading out to Gashaka Gumti National Park - a globally recognised biodiversity hotspot region known as the Guinea Forests of West Africa - for the first expedition.

During the two week trip, the team will learn more about the local community and the important flora and fauna of the forest, information that will be of great use for the progression of the conservation programme.

Previously, research has focused on the primates of the forest, including what is probably the last viable population of the Nigerian Chimpanzee, *Pan troglodytes ellioti*, but little is known about the remaining taxa of the forest.

The expedition team will be tasked with discovering more about the local biodiversity through an array of trapping and surveying techniques focusing on mammals, reptiles and amphibians and invertebrates.

Curator of Botany and Horticulture Mark Sparrow will take a team to visit another of our partner projects at Ngel Nyaki Forest Reserve to assess the diversity of orchids.

The expedition also offers a chance to meet the local community and Ed Boyd, Education Officer, is on board to help engage school children as part of our visit.

Collaboration with these communities are paramount to the future success of the Nigeria Conservation Programme.

The Gashaka Primate Project was founded in 1999 by renowned primatologist Prof. Volker Sommer of University College London.

Prof. Volker Sommer recently received Chester Zoo's gold medal for recognition of his services to primatology and to conservation in Nigeria.

MEET THE EXPEDITION TEAM



Back row: Neil Rowlands (Animal Supplies Assistant) Mark Sparrow (Curator of Horticulture and Botany) Mark Pilgrim (Director General) Michael Lowe (Security Officer) Gareth Evans (Keeper) Scott Wilson (Conservation Officer)

Front row: Yvette Foulds (Conservation Assistant) Becca Biddle (Technical Assistant) Ed Boyd (Education Officer) Maile Belanger (Botanist) Adam Richardson (Keeper)

Missing Members: Ruth Pearson (Presenter) Gerardo Garcia (Curator of Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates)



Mark Pilgrim and Scott Wilson on a previous trip to Nigeria

EXPEDITION TEAM VOLUNTEERS

Five members of the expedition team were selected randomly from volunteering staff throughout all divisions of the zoo. The five selected were Ruth Pearson (Presenter), Maile Belanger (Botanist), Michael Lowe (Security Officer), Gareth Evans (Keeper) and Neil Rowlands (Animal Supplies Assistant). Here's what the volunteers had to say about being picked:

MAILE: "I couldn't believe it and felt so lucky - I even told my husband that we might as well give up playing the lottery because I had just used all of our luck. I'm really looking forward to seeing how Chester Zoo is helping other countries to protect their native species."

NEIL: "I was totally excited at finding out that I had been selected to go to Nigeria. Having dreamed of going to Africa since I was a small boy and now that dream has come true. I am looking forward to the travelling which will be an experience in itself, working with my colleagues in a totally new environment and hopefully fulfilling the zoo's quest in helping in the conservation of the areas we are helping to research."

GARETH: "I felt really excited about my name being picked out and I am looking forward to seeing a wide variety of animals in their natural settings."

RUTH: "When I realised I had been picked I was ecstatic, I couldn't really believe it. Since then the excitement is slowly building and building. I'm really looking forward to getting back to basics, being away from all the 'luxury' and materialistic things that we are used to and just appreciating the natural world. Also I'm looking forward to talking to different people (what do you expect, I'm a Presenter I like to talk), finding out as much information about them as possible."

MIKE: "I am looking forward to learning as much as I possibly can about the wildlife, environment and people of the area that we are visiting. I see it as an opportunity to see what the zoo does on a global scale and hopefully get an understanding of the work that our colleagues do whilst on such trips."





MEET MARJORIE

An exciting new species which will become part of our £30m development aiming to recreate the islands of southeast Asia in the heart of Cheshire, has arrived.

Marjorie, a one-year-old Malayan tapir, has moved from Belfast Zoo as we prepare for *Islands* - one of the largest zoo developments in Europe designed to transform a currently disused area into the exotic climes of the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Bali, Sumatra, Sumba and Sulawesi.

Curator of Mammals Tim Rowlands said:

"Bringing a new species in to a zoo involves an incredible amount of forward planning and isn't something that can just be done off the cuff."

"So even though Islands isn't due to open until 2015, we've had to really look ahead and think very carefully about the indigenous species of these amazing islands."

"Marjorie is the first of her kind to reside in Chester since the mid-1980s and we're absolutely thrilled to welcome such a fantastic animal in. Hopefully we'll eventually pair her up with a male and play a key role in the international breeding programme for the species."

Malayan tapirs, whose bodies are described as pig like, are native to Asia.

Tim added: "They are a beautiful but rather unusual looking species."

"Sadly they are listed as a vulnerable species, partly because their distinct black and white coats make them a target to hunters."

The species faces a high risk of extinction, with conservationists estimating that populations have declined by more than 50% in the last 30 years. This is mainly due to the destruction to their natural forest habitat as well as hunting for their meat and sport.

MALAYAN TAPIR *facts*

- Malayan tapirs, related to rhinos and horses, are native to the forests of Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Burma and Sumatra where they feed on shoots and leaves, but the species is endangered due to habitat loss and hunters who prize them for their meat
- They have unusual, long flexible noses that they use to forage for food, and are known for their unusual courtship ritual which involves an assortment of wheezing and whistling sounds. They will then sniff each other, walking around in circles before mating
- After a gestation period of 13 months the female gives birth to one calf
- They have poor eyesight, which makes them rely heavily on their excellent senses of smell and hearing
- Marjorie was born on March 3 2012

Spring 2013

PRIZE
TO BE WON!
with our
WORD SEARCH

Kidz zoo



Inside... KIDS' PROGRAMME OF EVENTS



Junior Members PROGRAMME of EVENTS



LIVERPOOL WORLD MUSEUM

SATURDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2013

Liverpool World Museum is large and varied and it has a lovely interactive natural history section and also has a big aquarium with live animals on display which we will visit (plus some other sections of the museum of course!). There will be so much to see and do that we will spend an action-packed cold February day, warm indoors!

The bus will leave the staff entrance at 10.30 am and return at 4.00 pm. Eights and over are welcome to come. Bring a picnic.

TRACKS & SIGNS

SATURDAY 23 MARCH 2013



This is probably one of our most popular events which entertains the wide age range we cater for. This is your chance to see the zoo from the 'animal's view' of the visitors, as you will be going inside some of the enclosures to search for footprints from which to make plaster casts. March is the best time of year for this as it is normally muddy - but please bear this in mind when you dress in the morning. Hopefully, you will have a souvenir of your day to take home with you.

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

STOCKLEY FARM - NORTHWICH

SATURDAY 20 APRIL 2013

There is always lots to do at Stockley Farm, whatever the weather! We will hop onto the tractor and trailer ride, meet the farm animals, help to bottle feed the baby goats, visit Pet's Corner, 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. It will be a lovely day out.

Eights and over are asked to join us, meeting at the staff entrance at 10.30 am, and we will return there for 4.30 pm. Bring a picnic with you.

CHESTNUT CENTRE - OTTER AND OWL SANCTUARY

SATURDAY 18 MAY 2013

This is always one of our most enjoyable days out and we look forward to visiting the much cared-for woodland and hillside which forms the Chestnut Centre in the Peak District. Hopefully we will have a guided tour and the opportunity to meet some otters, owls and other birds of prey there, because as well as a wide variety of otter species from Europe and beyond, this collection is also involved in rescuing and rehabilitating many of our native species. May is a wonderful time of year to visit as the bluebells are stunning in the woodland.

The bus will leave the Cedar House staff car park (second staff entrance on the left as you are coming up Caughall Road from the Upton traffic lights) at 9.30 am and return for 5.00 pm. Over eights are invited to come along, and you should bring a picnic.



LAKE PADARN - SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK

SATURDAY 22 JUNE 2013

Don't worry, we will not be traipsing the juniors up Mount Snowdon, but we will have this famous mountain in our sight at times while we are walking around the huge Lake Padarn, one of the water bodies at the base of the Electric Mountain. We will not be rushing - just enjoying the stroll and if we manage to be quiet enough we will see some of the wild mountain goats which live in this beautiful area.

We will leave the staff car park at 9.00 am and return at 5.30 pm. Bring a picnic lunch and all eights and over are invited to come along for a lovely day out.

HOW TO BE A GOOD ZOOKEEPER!

WEDNESDAY 24 JULY 2013

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

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

We will meet outside the Oakfield at 10.30 am, and the day will finish at 4.00 pm. Please bring a packed lunch. Also please note that bookings for this event will not be taken before 9.00 am on Wednesday 10 July 2013, (01244 650215) and will be strictly on a first-come, first-served basis.

JUNIORS' SUMMER BARBEQUE

THURSDAY 1 AUGUST 2013

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

We would like to invite eights and over to join us for a 7.00 pm start, when you should arrive at the main entrance. Parents are asked to collect juniors from the main entrance at 9.45 pm please.

THE JUNIOR MEMBERS SUMMER SCHOOL

FROM 5 - 9 AUGUST 2013 INCLUSIVE

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

The Summer School is open to juniors aged 12 and above (although preference will be given to those aged 13 and above). Participants must be able to attend all five (full) days and the cost will be £185 for the week.

A full programme of events for this action-packed, but informal week, will be issued in the March edition of this magazine, but essentially the Summer School will encompass a wide variety of theoretical and practical training including a mid-week field trip, live mammal trapping, tours of the zoo, and talks from a variety of zoo staff about all aspects of the zoo's work. It is ideally suited to those hoping to follow a career in zoos, conservation or veterinary science but is also a lot of fun for those just interested in finding out more about how our wonderful zoo works!

TRENTHAM MONKEY FOREST, STAFFORDSHIRE

SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2013

You will love this visit which offers the chance to walk amongst free-roaming barbary macaques at Trentham Gardens. There are around 150 macaques there and you will be able to watch their natural behaviour with no cage barriers. The forest offers a safe place for the monkeys to live and provides areas of space for them to develop and live in freedom.

The bus will leave the staff car park at 10.00 am and return at 5.00 pm. Eights and over are invited to join us for a relaxing day. Bring a picnic.

BLACKPOOL ZOO

SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER 2013

It is a few years since the juniors last visited Blackpool Zoo but it is always great to visit other zoos and to see how they do things. We plan to have a guided walk so that we do not miss any of the highlights and juniors should have an excellent day.

Over eights are invited to come along and enjoy the day, and we will leave the staff car park at 9.30 am and return there for 5.15 pm. You will need a picnic lunch and to dress up warmly.

BURTON MERE WETLANDS – THE RSPB RESERVE ON THE DEE ESTUARY

SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2013

Burton Mere Wetlands is a magnificent mosaic of wetlands and beautiful woodlands and is perfect if you are new to birdwatching, as the entire reserve has been designed to get you closer to nature. Vast panoramas and a fascinating history are just some of the highlights from Burton Mere Wetlands. Straddling the border between England and Wales, this is a unique landscape. Many years of hard work have restored reedbeds, fenland and farmland.

This is a relatively new reserve to the RSPB and we felt we would love to go along to take a closer look. Many scarce migrant birds have been seen in previous years including little stints, green, curlew and wood sandpipers. Little egret numbers are at their highest in October/November as the chicks have fledged and large roosts have built up. Also, small numbers of wild geese begin to arrive. We will have a guided walk which should be excellent!

The bus will leave the staff car park at 11.00 am and return for 4.00 pm. You will need to dress warmly and bring a picnic lunch. If you have binoculars bring them along, but we will have some you can borrow too. Juniors of eight and over are more than welcome to join us.

THE JUNIORS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER 2013

Our annual 'bash' welcomes juniors of eight and over to enjoy an evening of games, disco music, and a great hot-dog and beef-burger supper. You will need to bring along a cushion to sit on – and a torch to find us!

The venue will be Café Bembe. Access can be gained through the main entrance. You should arrive at 7.00 pm, with your cushion and a torch, and we will guide you to the venue. Parents should arrange to collect you from the main entrance at 9.45 pm.

Please Note:

Bookings must be made for all events. Please ring **Penny Rudd** at the zoo on **01244 650 215**, not more than two weeks before the event you would like to attend. Places are offered on a first-come, first-served basis and may be limited. This list is provisional and in exceptional circumstances we may have to alter dates and venues. You will be informed of any such changes in Z Magazine and not by individual letter, so please keep up-to-date by reading the Kidz Zoo pages in each issue. A charge will be made to cover the cost of those events which involve transport, entry fees, materials or the provision of food and you will be advised of this at the time of booking.

MEET PENNY

Penny Rudd is the zoo's Registrar and also runs our Junior Members' Club. Here she tells junior member **Freya Davis**, 10, about her typical day.



What did you want to do when you were 10?

To be a farmer's wife or a vet.

What's your typical day?

There really is no such thing as a typical day when you're working with animals, so you always need to be prepared for the unexpected! Also my job is varied and I cover a lot of roles, so one day I could be arranging a lot of animal moves which involves talking to vets, curators and the staff of other zoos, and the next I could be interviewing for our internship (work experience) scheme or running the Junior Members' Club events.

What's the favourite bit of your working day?

Arriving in the morning and seeing what needs to be done. I love to unravel challenges and to solve problems. Overall the highlights of my long career at the zoo have been really getting to know the zoo characters – (animals and people!), and I have been lucky enough to have close relationships with both- especially through some of the hand rearing I have done.

What do you like most about your job?

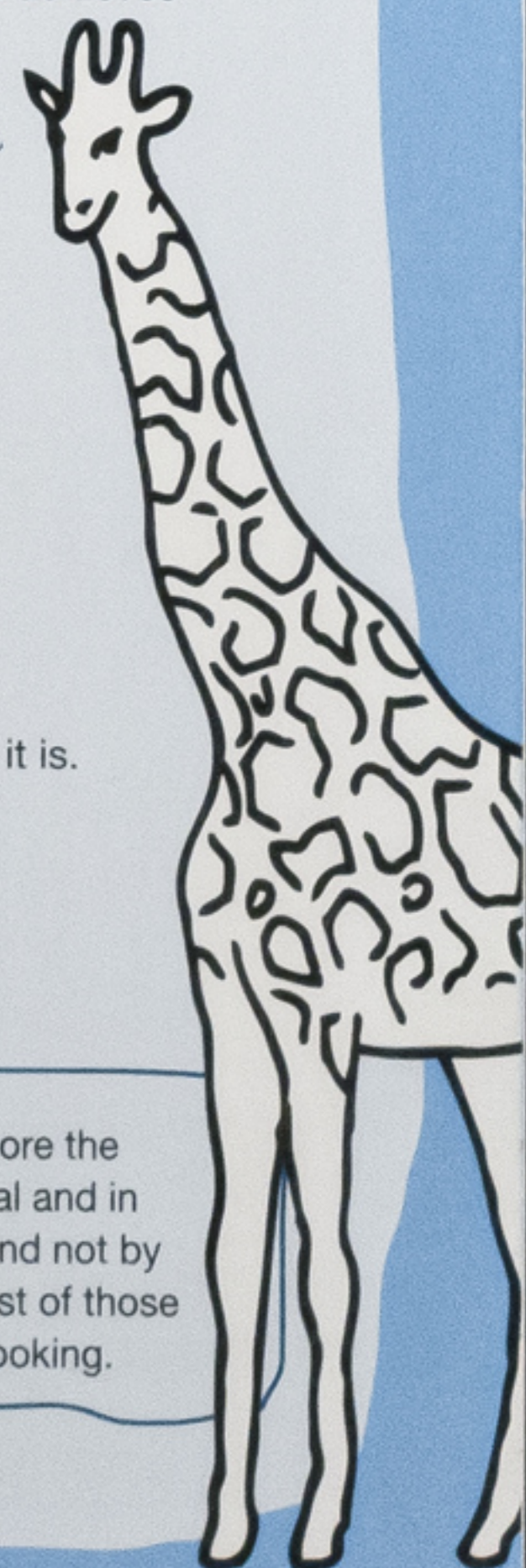
Everything! I love the variety, I love thinking I'm making a difference to animal conservation and welfare through my efforts. I really enjoy helping young people develop themselves, and achieve their aim to work in zoos through our internship program.

What is the best experience you've had here?

Lots! Too many to list, but it is always great when an animal which has come from a long way away to be at Chester zoo arrives safely, or we have a special birth amongst the animals, although all births are special in their own way, or a colleague achieves something wonderful in their lives.

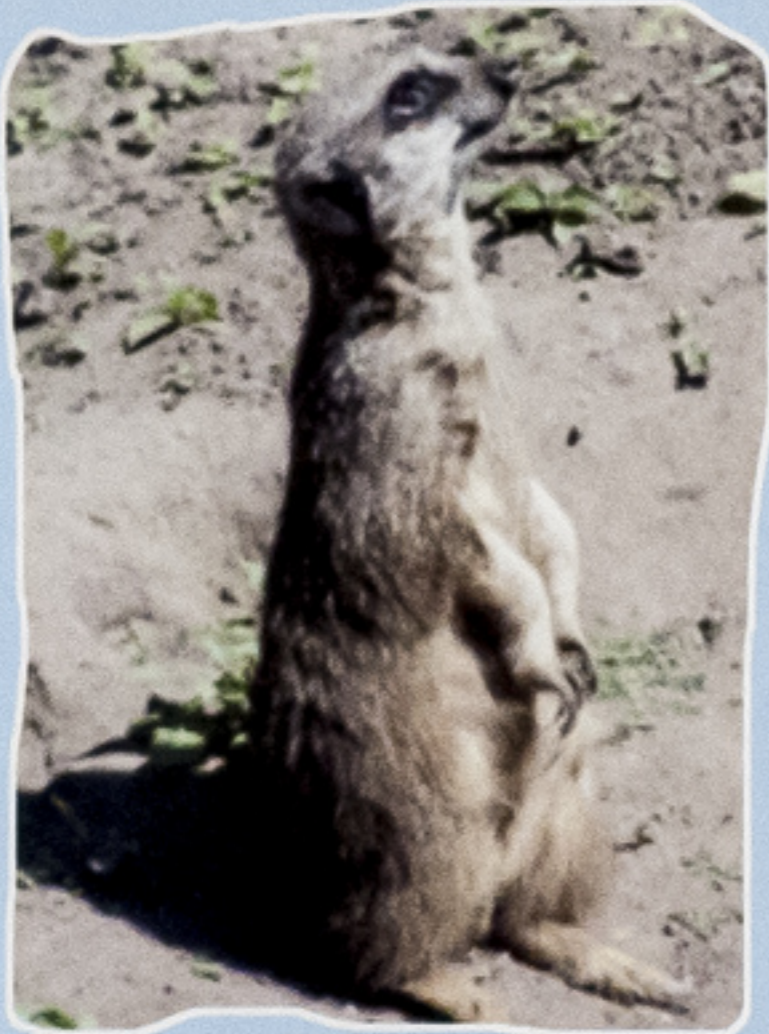
If someone aged 10 wanted to do your job, what should they do now?

- Work hard at school.
- Try to get lots of practise looking after animals (if your parents let you).
- Learn to like people and want to help them. Don't be selfish, but be smart and don't let people take advantage of you.
- Whatever career you go into, if you have a good helpful attitude, you will probably do well.
- Put 100% into everything you try to do, whatever it is.
- Persevere - don't give up on anything.
- Join the Junior Members Club and come on as many of our monthly events as possible.



Our **JUNIOR MEMBERS** are up to all sorts of *INTERESTING* things in and around the zoo.
If you have a story to tell, please contact Penny Rudd via p.rudd@chesterzoo.org

Can you work out these anagrams of animals found
in Nigeria, with the help of the pictures?



PIEZHACEMN
NOCORSHNIE
GROEHDRREIV
SLPLOIOBN
FREFIGA
NLOI
HEACTEH
EKTEMRA



For your chance to win a **£10 voucher** to spend in the zoo shops, send your
entry together with your name, address and phone number to:
Z Magazine, Marketing Department, Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester CH2 1LH
by **Friday March 29**

We are celebrating the arrival of our newest resident – a meerkat pup.

The tiny newcomer has made its first public appearance after being hidden away in burrows by its parents since being born several weeks ago.



COMPARE THE MEERKAT



SEEING Red

Sumatran orangutan *Subis* keeps a tight hold of newborn *Tuti* born in December. Both mum and baby can be seen in Realm of the Red Ape.

Tuti was born nearly two months after Sumatran orangutan *Emma* gave birth to her baby *Tripa*.



DISCOVERY OF 'EXTINCT' SNAIL LEAVES ZOOKEEPERS OVER THE (HONEY)MOON

It wasn't the usual beach holiday for newlyweds Jeff and Karen Lambert following their marriage. The happy couple flew off on their Honeymoon to the exotic climes of Tahiti but not for the sun, sea and sand. Instead they built reserves for a rare snail. And discovered a species that was previously thought to be extinct...

Chester Zoo keeper Karen Lambert and her husband Jeff are two of just a handful of people in the world working to save the tiny *Partula* snail.

Originally from the Society Islands in French Polynesia, there were once 72 species of *Partula* but over 50 of those are now extinct. Several of those remaining are being kept alive solely by zoos, having vanished completely from the wild.

Five of those species – 1,313 snails in total – are found at Chester Zoo where the precious cargo is kept in a special environmentally controlled breeding facility. Indeed around half the world's population of one species, *Partula mirabilis*, is kept in this one room.

It is there that herpetology keeper Karen has spent the last 11 years looking after them.

"All of the *Partula* snails are kept separate from other species in very sterile, bio-secure room," says Karen. "That's because not only are they extremely fragile populations but when we release them back into the wild, we don't want them passing on any kind of disease. And that's our ultimate goal, to breed them and be able to put them back into the wild.

"I know they are only snails, and I hate to say that, but because they are not fluffy or cute people do not seem to care.

"These animals are so, so rare and the fact I have half of the world's population here in one room says it all to me."

The snails are extinct in the wild after a botched farming experiment wiped out their number on their native Pacific Islands.

African land snails were introduced to the islands as a source of food for the local people but they were released when the meat proved unpopular. These snails bred quickly in the wild and started eating crops. So in 1974, in an effort to control land snail numbers, the predatory rosy wolfsnail, from Florida was introduced to the islands. But instead of feasting on the land snails they fed on the tree snails leading to the extinction of many *Partula* species.

On top of this, as Karen explains, there is a further problem:

"*Partula* snails are named after the Roman goddess of childbirth because, unlike most snails, they give live birth. So they produce one or two young every couple of months, whereas their predators release 20-40 eggs at a time, meaning they're completely outnumbered."

The snails are the unlikely cupids that brought Karen and her new husband Jeff, her counterpart at London Zoo, together. They met in Chester when Jeff joined as an intern and a shared passion for protecting the *Partula* has blossomed ever since, as did a romance which culminated in their recent wedding.

Even their honeymoon on the picturesque Polynesian island of Tahiti followed the

theme, with the happy couple jetting off not in search of sun, sea and sand but another 's', snails.

And it was on that honeymoon the couple made an incredible discovery - they found a species of snail which was once thought to have become extinct in the wild. *Partula affinis* had not been seen in the wild since 2007.

Karen said:

"I work with the species at the zoo and having for so long believed them to have vanished, to see them in the wild was an incredible moment. And to be the person to find them, well it's the ultimate dream come true for any conservationist.

"We found them in a remote area of Tahiti called the Te Pari district. The area is only accessible by boat as there is no road to that part of the island. We had trekked for hours along the coast and through some of the forested valleys and then suddenly Jeff spotted one tiny *partula* in a small ravine. On closer inspection we noted that the snail coiled to the left (known as sinistral). Only two species coiled that way in the area and one is much larger than *affinis* so we were sure we'd identified a *Partula affinis*. I thought I was emotional at the altar but this probably even topped that!"



FAST SNAIL facts

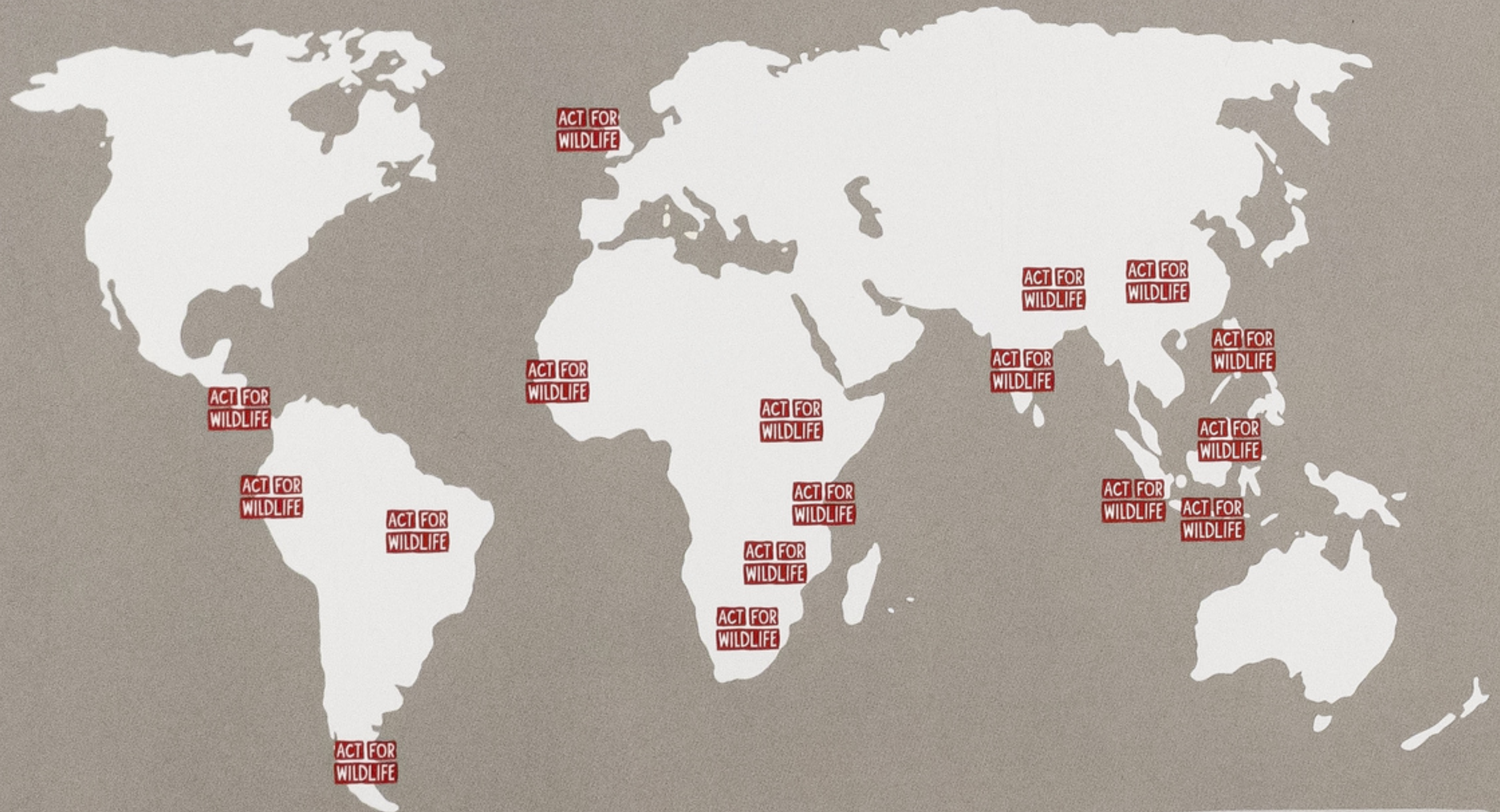
- Partula have both male and female sex organs and produce one baby snail every six to eight weeks. They reach sexual maturity aged one year and live for up to ten years
- They grow from the size of a pinhead to no more than half an inch long
- The Partula, or Polynesian tree snail as they are also known, spend their time grazing algae from the surface of leaves in forests on Pacific islands
- They are distantly related to the giant clam and octopus and are most active after rain



© DMC Photographic

MAKING A DIFFERENCE AROUND THE WORLD

All the places we have ACTED FOR WILDLIFE in the last three months.



A focus on THE NATIVE SPECIES PROGRAMME

Over the past 200 years the UK has lost around 500 native species. We have been working in partnership with local organisations across the Northwest and North Wales to help reduce the loss of our important wildlife heritage. Here's a little snapshot of what we have been doing in the last few months.

LEADING THE WAY FOR HARVEST MICE



In the early 2000s many zoo staff were involved in release studies of harvest mice on zoo land. We have continued to monitor the site and are happy to say that the mice have stayed around. We found nests in 2011 and 2012, and caught six individual harvest mice during the trapping session in October. As harvest mice are still found at the zoo site, we were chosen to take part in a trial for a new surveying method for these small mammals. The project placed a number of bait pots at several different areas across North Wales and at the zoo to collect faecal samples from animals that used them. DNA was extracted from the samples to identify small mammals present at each site. The zoo site was the only area that showed positive for harvest mice. This is good news for the project, proving that their methods work. This has also been a great opportunity for zoo staff to use their experiences with harvest mice, and to make use of the population now established on the zoo estate, to help others develop future conservation initiatives for native small mammals.

PLANTING OUT ISLE OF MAN CABBAGE

We have helped to plant 100 rare Isle of Man Cabbage on the Wirral coast using plants grown from seed in the zoo's nursery. The Isle of Man Cabbage is a rare native endemic species and occurs at only 22 coastal sites along the west coast of northern England, Scotland and the Isle of Man. The species is threatened in the wild due to excessive recreational pressure. The team collected seed from existing plants on the site; these seeds have been sent to Kew Gardens for their Millennium Seed Bank.

Fast Fact

In 2012 our native Juniper conservation project was awarded a commendation by the British and Irish Association for Zoos and Aquariums.



SOUTHEAST ASIA CAMPAIGN Update

The second year of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Southeast Asia Campaign is now underway and we hope to raise €10,000 again this year for the campaign. Here's a taster of some of this year's activities. For more information visit the conservation pages of our website www.chesterzoo.org:

- Our zoo running team will be talking part in the BUPA Manchester Run to raise funds on 26 May
- Join us on the 16 July for 'Southeast Asia's big four and more...' conservation talk (page 26)
- Download our EAZA Discovery Trail in preparation for your next visit to the zoo

CHINA PROGRAMME Update

We have teamed up with Chengdu Giant Panda Breeding Base to provide two education initiatives for local communities in China. The first is a summer camp program which takes place in three Nature reserves (Heizhugou, Mabian and Laojunshan) across the Liangshan region of Sichuan. These reserves form part of our Sichuan Forest Biodiversity Project and are important habitats for many endemic species. The second is the 'Red Panda Kindergarten and Primary Schools Program' which focuses on increasing environmental awareness in suburban schools of Chengdu.

GRANT SUPPORT

During the last quarter we've also supported a number of other projects around the world. These include:

AFRICA

In Zimbabwe and Tanzania our focus this quarter has been to support conservation breeding and veterinary care of African Painted Dogs. Further sponsorship has also been given for a conservation strategy workshop for Western Derby Eland held in Senegal and to purchase radio tracking equipment for the Southern Ground Hornbill project in South Africa.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

On the island of Escudo de Veraguas, Panama, we have supported the monitoring of Pigmy Three-toed Sloth whose numbers have reached a critical level. We are also sponsoring the reintroduction of the Jaguar back into the marshlands of Iberá, Argentina and restoration of wetland forest at the REGUA reserve in Brazil.

ASIA

With the issue of illegal trade being an on-going conservation problem, in Indonesia we have sponsored a preliminary investigation into the status of trade in Helmeted Hornbill heads in Western Kalimantan. In the Central Annamite Mountains of Vietnam, we have supported a research project using leeches to monitor the numbers of Saola, a critically endangered species. We are also helping to safeguard endangered White-winged Duck in Cambodia and supporting the search for the lost fishes of the Western Ghats, India.



Bushdog at The Pantanal Giant Armadillo Project, Brazil

JOIN US TO ACT FOR WILDLIFE AND VISIT
www.actforwildlife.org.uk

Meet... JENNY the Bornean Orangutan

Back in 1999, Jenny became the first wild Bornean Orangutan to be habituated by the HUTAN-Kinabatangan Orangutan Programme (KOCP). For the past 15 years the KOCP Orangutan Research Unit have followed Jenny's progress and have been lucky to see her raise two offspring. First came a son, Etin and then a daughter Malatus, who is now seven years old. Malatus has grown up fast and has recently begun to make her own nests, but mum is still watching her daughter closely. Unlike her brother who gradually left the area where he was born, Malatus will settle in an overlapping home range to her mother. Hopefully the project will be able to watch this family continue to grow in the future.



NEWS ON CONSERVATION

FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Some good and bad news from the past few months....

GOOD Since the early 1900s the Northern Pacific Elephant Seal has made an amazing comeback from the brink of extinction. Protective measures against commercial hunting have resulted in numbers increasing from as few as 20 seals to almost 200,000.

BAD It turns out that last year's wet weather has been almost catastrophic for many bees, bats and birds. Many UK garden and sea bird's nests were flooded during the breeding season and wildflowers were drowned in the deluge. Let's hope for a sunnier 2013.



Roger (second left) and Andrew (centre) in Bali support work with the Bali starling (above)



Seeking parrots...Mark and Becca

According to Birdlife International at least 12% of the world's bird species are currently threatened with extinction. Major threats to birds include habitat loss and fragmentation, poisoning and pollution and trafficking for the pet trade.

We are working with many conservation partners on the ground to help reduce these threats and increase the numbers of threatened bird species in the wild. Here's how our staff have been helping in the last few months:

INDONESIA

Across Indonesia the loss of forest habitat and increasing demand for birds as pets has resulted in the decimation of many populations of birds. But there may be hope for some species through the use of breeding and release projects.

In November, Andrew Owen (Curator of Birds) and Roger Wilkinson (Head of Field Conservation and Research) travelled to the islands of Bali and Java in Indonesia to provide technical support to two species recovery projects. On Bali Roger and Andrew visited a release site for the critically endangered Bali Starling where they were able to provide advice on future monitoring techniques for the project. Whilst on Java they saw how the breeding programme for the Black-winged Starling was progressing and gave advice on the husbandry of these birds within the breeding facility. To hear more about this trip at our Conservation Talks, see page 26.

ECUADOR

Mark Pilgrim (Director General) and Becca Biddle (Technical Assistant) spent two weeks travelling down the West coast of Ecuador in search of the endangered Ecuador Amazon Parrot, a species that Mark co-ordinates the European Breeding Programme for and that we also hold here in the zoo. These rare parrots are found in coastal mangroves and dry tropical forests, but in recent years the majority of this habitat has been lost, mostly due to the shrimp farming industry, but also from the conversion of forests to cocoa and banana plantations.

The aims of the trip were to identify parrots in the wild (the last report in 1996 claimed there were less than 600), to assess the levels of threat (habitat destruction and poaching for the pet trade) and to identify possible areas of support to safeguard the species.

Whilst in Ecuador, Mark and Becca were able to spot 178 birds, but the extent of the habitat loss was clearly visible and the need to protect the dry tropical forests where the parrots feed was highlighted. Mark and Becca also met with Fundacion Pro-Bosque, a local conservation foundation, who will, with help of Chester Zoo funding, be carrying out a monitoring and research programme on the Ecuador Amazon Parrot within their protected forest and will continue their existing park guard programme.

See the next edition of Z magazine for more information and a full trip report.

WE ARE
CHESTER
AND WE
ZOO
ACT FOR WILDLIFE

STAFF
GO WILD
....for Birds



Madagascar is one of the only places in the world where a killer fungus that has been found in amphibian populations does not exist. However, experts fear if the deadly chytrid fungus ever did strike, up to 500 species endemic only to those shores would be gone for good. That's why a duo from Chester Zoo joined a group of amphibian experts to help create an action plan to protect all of Madagascar's frogs...



STAFF GO WILD ...for frogs

Chester Zoo's Curator of Invertebrates and Lower Vertebrates Dr Gerardo Garcia (pictured above) and Head Vet Javier López, together with members of Amphibian Specialist Group and the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust travelled to Madagascar to implement part of the Conservation Strategy for the Amphibians of Madagascar (ACSAM) by training and developing in-country capacity and husbandry.

The pair led a course designed to equip local conservationists with the skills needed to establish safety-net populations of amphibians in captivity, out of the reach of the deadly chytrid fungus.

Amphibians all over the world are being affected by the fungal disease, which thickens their skin and prevents the movement of fluids, causing a chance of heart failure.

Dr García said:

"Amphibians already face lots of threats, most notably from habitat destruction and alteration, however the chytrid fungus could be the last nail in the coffin. It threatens most of the wild amphibian species around the globe with extinction and it's probably the first time ever that a disease has threatened to wipe out an entire class of animals.

"There's a very real chance of a new epidemic here and that's why it's vitally important that careful, professional ex situ programmes are in place to protect against chytrid - it's that big of a threat.

"On top of that, there are lots of unanswered questions about frogs in Madagascar full stop. Working with them in an ex-situ setting could reveal some vital information and help us understand how we can protect them in their own environment and how to restore wild populations, should it ever become necessary."

Although 290 species of amphibian have been described in Madagascar, many more have been discovered and are yet to be named. More than 90% of these are endemic to the country.

Javier López said:

"We already know that a number of the amphibians unique to Madagascar are sensitive to the fungal disease and so should chytrid fungus ever arrive, it could have a devastating effect.

"By working with local conservation organisations Chester Zoo hopes to exchange skills and increase the number of institutions within Madagascar with the capacity to establish captive populations that are most at risk from the disease."

Dr Garcia added:

"We determined how we could use locally-available materials, such as plastic bottles and sponges, to make cheap but effective alternatives to the equipment we have at home.

"The aim is to establish locally-run and effective captive breeding programmes that will make a significant contribution to the conservation of Madagascar's unique and diverse amphibian fauna."

The course was based at the Mitsinjo Amphibian Centre in a national park in central Madagascar - renown for being one of the world's most bio-diverse areas.

Dr Franco Andreone, co-chair of the Amphibian Specialist Group for Madagascar, concluded: "A great deal of ingenuity and imagination is being injected into conservation efforts in Madagascar by local organisations, in particular Mitsinjo who are a local community-based conservation group. This additional support from Chester Zoo will now really help us to push these efforts on." EAZA (European Association of Zoo's and Aquaria) have provided much of the funding.

After the course Gerardo travelled with members of the Madagasikara Voakatji organisation. The trip was a unique opportunity to understand the threats faced by amphibians such as the golden mantella, one of Madagascar's most iconic species. The fragility of the habitat is beyond what was expected with illegal gold exploitations in the same stream eliminating all suitable habitat for frog breeding. Madagasikara Voakatji is working directly with the community on the restoration of the habitats. The same forest maintains a rich biodiversity including the largest lemur, the Indri. Not far from there an illegal fire was threatening the forest making the zoo's work in this area all the more critical.

Fast facts

CHYTRID FUNGUS:

- The chytrid disease is caused by the fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*
- It penetrates the skin of many amphibian species causing lesions which prevent the animals from taking in oxygen, effectively suffocating them
- At the moment there is no known cure and the only solution is to remove amphibian populations from the wild, taking them into captivity until the habitat is restored and the zoospores (transmittable part of the fungus) are killed
- Chytrid fungus has yet to be discovered in Madagascar, and studies are conducting to monitor the health of wild frog populations. Because Madagascar's frogs have been isolated from infections such as chytridiomycosis, it is unlikely that they would have developed any form of resistance to the fungus. If there is no resistance then the accidental introduction of chytrid to Madagascar would have a devastating effect on such an important and unique group of animals

FROGS:

- Only 27 species (approximately 10% of all frogs in Madagascar) are currently kept in zoos globally
- 290 species of frogs have been described but experts consider there are up to 500

The project partners:

- 1) Amphibian Ark
- 2) Association Mitsinjo (Madagascar) - a local community-based conservation organisation
- 3) Amphibian Specialist Group, Madagascar
- 4) Chester Zoo
- 5) Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
- 6) European Association of Zoo and Aquaria (EAZA)
- 7) Madagascar Voakatji - a local community-based conservation organisation
- 8) Parc Ivoloina (Madagascar Fauna Group)

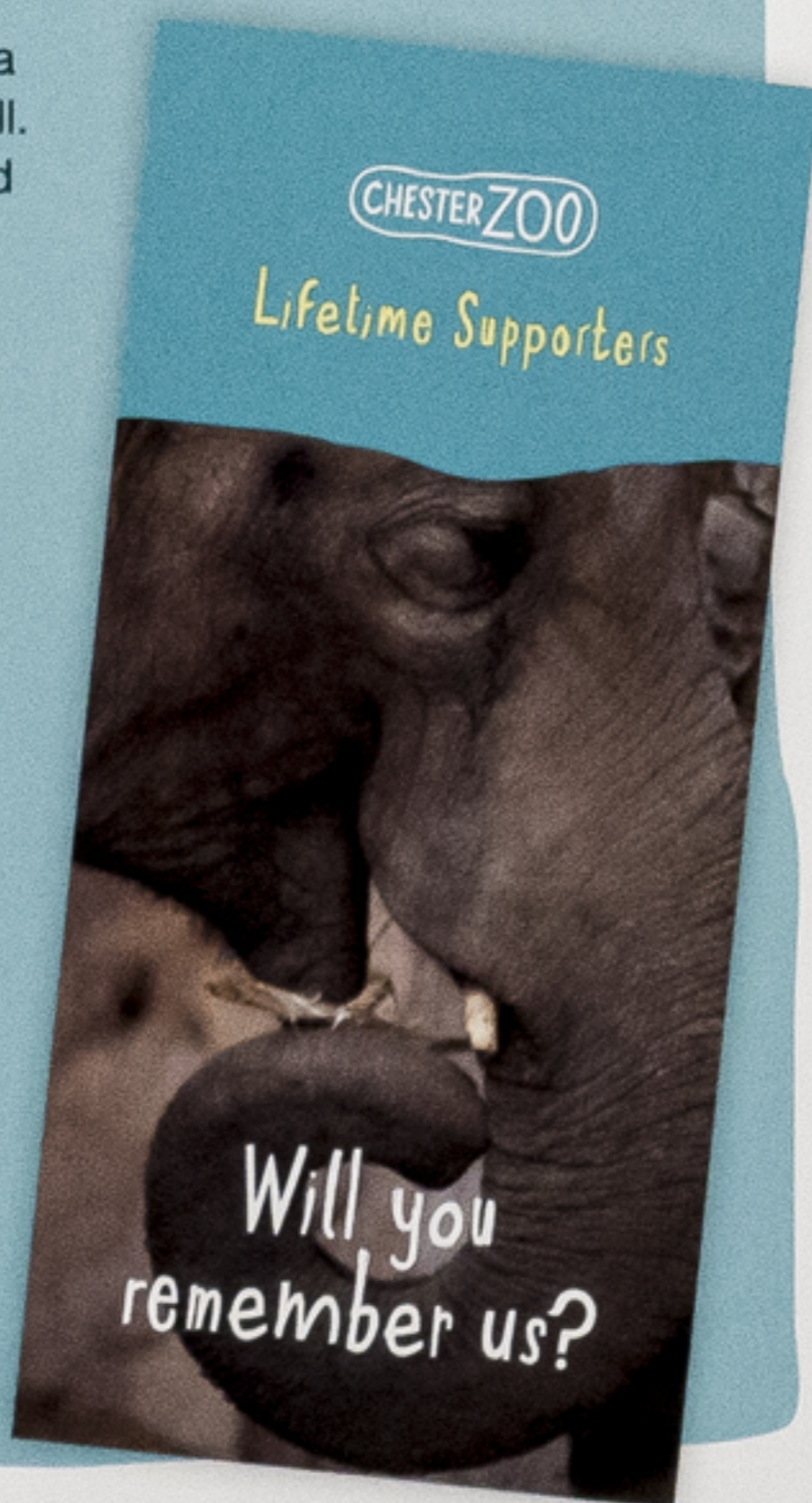


Will You Remember us?

Chester Zoo is a charity that relies on gifts in wills to help our important work, carried out by our amazing and talented staff.

One way you can boost our efforts is to consider leaving a gift to Chester Zoo in your will. That way today's children and grandchildren can have the same wonderful experiences and excitement that started your passion for the zoo and its animals and plants.

Included in this issue of Z should be our latest leaflet on how you can go about remembering the zoo in your will but if you would like to discuss your wishes further in complete confidence, please get in touch with **Lynsey Jones** on **01244 650 292**.



LOVE A CHALLENGE?

This year Chester Zoo's Act for Wildlife has been granted gold bond places in various events including the Great North Run and now we're looking for people to fill the places and help raise funds for our conservation work.

Great North Swim	14-16 June	Windermere	5 Gold Bond places
Great Manchester Swim	20 July	Salford Quays	5 Gold Bond places
RideLondon 100	4 August	London	2 Gold Bond places
BUPA Great North Run	14-15 September	Newcastle Gateshead	5 Gold Bond places

As bond places are limited we're taking applications now for anyone interested.

There is a minimum fundraising amount associated with each of the bond places, which each participant must achieve. All money raised from these bond places will be supporting Act for Wildlife - our conservation work in the field.

To apply please complete the application form online by visiting www.actforwildlife.org.uk/get-involved/love-a-challenge or give us a call on **01244 650229**

The winners of the prize draws, held recently, were:

CHESTER ZOO 100 CLUB

October 2012

£100..... Mr Peter Hobson, Sheffield
 £100 Mr Alan Favager, Wirral
 £100..... Mrs Jane M. Henshall, Chester
 £50 Mr Mark Lunt, Northwich
 £50 Mrs Julie Scanlan, Ellesmere Port
 £50 Mrs Ann Buglass, Todmorden, Lancashire

November 2012

£100..... Mr Tony Williams, Winsford, Cheshire
 £100 Miss Jean Raynor, St Annes, Lancashire
 £50 Mr John Roe, Chester
 £50 Mr Frank Griffies, Malpas, Cheshire
 £50 Mrs Brenda Jones, Buckley, Flintshire
 £50 Mr Mark Cleave, Chester

December 2012

£1000 Mrs Janice Davies, Manchester
 £100..... Mrs Pauline Dutton, Ellesmere Port
 £100..... Dr Peter Duggleby, Wirral
 £50..... Mr Chris Lavendar, Chester
 £50 Mrs Krystyna Bradshaw, Lancaster
 £50 Mr and Mrs D.L. Milligan, Wirral

Membership of the 100 Club is still invited. All prize winners will be notified by post and will be listed in the next edition of Z. Please inform us as soon as possible if you change address.

If you wish to participate, please contact the Development Office on 01244 650 229.

SAFARI Ranger

The staff at NatWest Bank in Cheshire & South Manchester were very busy raising funds for the Safari Ranger throughout 2012. They enjoyed a variety of activities including a 'Go Wild' day where staff went to work wearing animal themed fancy dress and so far have raised over £5500 for our Safari Ranger project. The team, led by Regional Director Clive Crayston, have nominated us as their charity once again and are already planning more fun events to bring in the cash to support the Safari Ranger project in 2013!



Does your company have a charity of the year? Nominate us and you too can help raise funds for projects like the Safari Ranger or even one of our Act for Wildlife conservation projects.

WILDLIFE SPELL



Children at Tanglin Trust School in Singapore raised £2000 for our Act for Wildlife Bornean Orangutan project by having a spellathon.

The funds that they raised will support the work being done by HUTAN, our partners in Borneo and more specifically to help continue the research work that they are doing there.

Without the support of the children we wouldn't have been able to provide the team with a new boat, making this part of the project almost impossible to do.

Don't just show your support, **WEAR IT!**

New for 2013, we're pleased announce the launch of our Act for Wildlife wristbands. Getting your hands on one or more of our wristbands is easy...

Simply make a donation online at www.actforwildlife.org.uk and then email us at actnow@actforwildlife.org.uk to let us know how many wristbands you would like us to send you.

We suggest a minimum donation of £1 per wristband, plus we ask that you bear in mind it will cost us around 50p per band to post to UK mainland addresses.

Get them in bulk

If you would like a box of wristbands* for your place of work, school or community group please contact us before making your donation.

Email us at actnow@actforwildlife.org.uk or call us on 01244 650229.

*includes 25+ bands and box as shown.



THE BMW 1 SERIES COUPÉ

ONLY **£249.99** P/M

Specification Includes:

- 17" Light Alloy Wheels • Boston Leather Upholstery • Chrome Exhaust Tailpipe

BMW 118d COUPÉ EXCLUSIVE EDITION

Term of agreement	48 months	Total deposit	£5,614.28	Total amount payable	£25,487.31
47 monthly payments	£249.99	Amount of credit	£17,860.72	Rate of interest	3.9% Fixed
On the road cash price*	£23,475.00	Credit arrangement fee	£0.00	Representative APR	3.9%
Customer deposit	£3,000.00	Option to purchase fee^	£10.00	Contract mileage	32,000 per annum
Dealer deposit contribution	£2,614.28	Optional final payment	£8,123.50	Excess mileage charge	5.10p

Halliwell Jones

Sealand Road, Chester, CH1 4LS.

Tel: 0845 230 8222 halliwelljoneschesterbmw.co.uk



BMW



Halliwell Jones

The Ultimate Driving Machine

BMW EfficientDynamics
Less emissions. More driving pleasure.

Fuel economy figures for the BMW 1 Series Coupé range: Extra Urban 40.4 - 70.6 mpg (7.0 - 4.0 l/100km) Urban 21.4 - 52.3 mpg (13.2 - 5.4 l/100km) Combined 30.7 - 62.8 mpg (9.2 - 4.5 l/100km) CO2 emissions 221 - 119 g/km.

Finance examples are based on BMW Select Agreements for the models stated: a 1 Series 118d Exclusive Edition Coupé with a contract mileage of 32,000 and excess mileage charge of 5.10 (per mile). ^Credit arrangement fee payable in two parts £0.00 with first monthly payment and £0.00 at the end of the agreement. ^^Option to purchase fee and optional final payment payable at the end of the agreement if you decide to purchase the vehicle. Excess mileage charges and vehicle condition charges maybe payable if you return the vehicle. *On the road cash prices are based on manufacturers recommended retail price and include 3 year BMW dealer warranty, BMW Emergency Service, 12 months road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. Retail customers only. All finance is subject to status and available to over 18's only (excluding The Channel Islands). Guarantees and indemnities may be required. We can arrange finance for you. Advertised finance is provided by BMW Financial Services (BMWFS) whilst we have close links with BMWFS and commonly introduce customers to BMWFS we do not work exclusively with BMWFS. BMW EfficientDynamics reduces emissions without compromising performance developments and is standard across the model range. Offer ends 31 March 2012. We introduce to a limited number of finance providers. We commonly introduce to BMW Financial Services, who may pay us for introducing you to them.



They're coming...

A swarm of the world's most incredible insects will be brought to life in the shape of huge, dramatic animatronic models at Chester Zoo this summer.

The zoo hopes the larger than life event - codenamed BUGS! - will put invertebrates in the spotlight and raise awareness of the need to conserve them.

It will be the first time that the giant creations will have ever been seen, anywhere in the world, as the robots are being custom built for the zoo by a top studio in the USA.

The exact details are being kept firmly cocooned but a zoo spokesperson revealed "the attention to detail in the creation of these huge bugs is simply incredible and we've no doubt this new, world-first display will leave people absolutely buzzing."



MORE DETAILS BEING
UNEARTHED SOON!
Sign up to find out more at
www.chesterzoo.org/newsletter



Special members' offer

ONE child free with every FULL paying adult. Valid membership card must be presented at time of purchase.

Valid until 3rd November 2013.

Enjoy a relaxing cruise, journeying up river beneath the suspension bridge, Grosvenor Park and the Earls Eye, following the long sweep of the 'meadows'. Delightful views are seen of beautiful and interesting riverside properties and gardens.

Call 01244 325 394 or visit www.chesterboat.co.uk



Cruise along the beautiful river Dee aboard our luxury showboats



Picture: www.flickr.com/photos/schrodingers_duck



We sponsor the *first ever* **MAASAI OLYMPICS!**

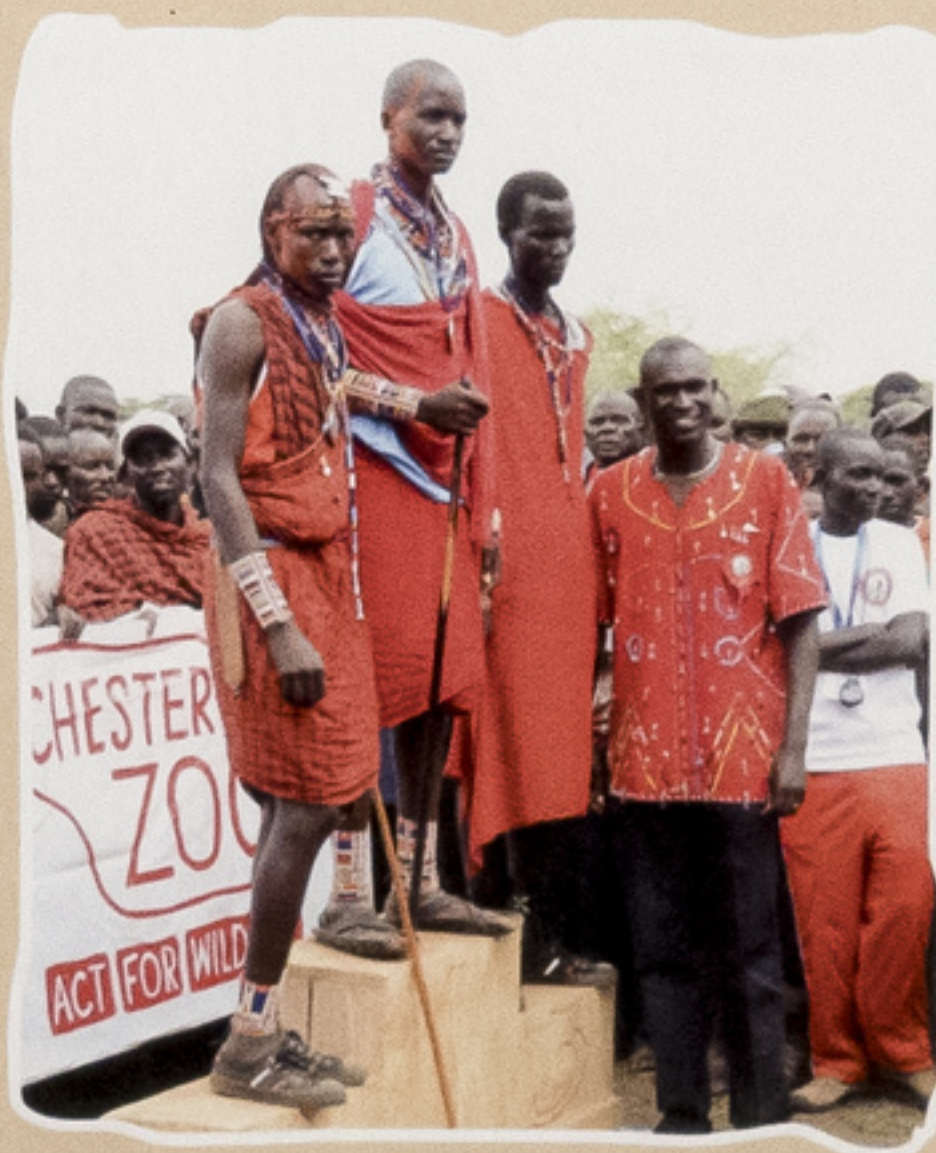
Killing animals as a show of 'manliness' has forever been part of Maasai culture. However, Chester Zoo's Act for Wildlife has been involved in a new, history-changing approach to stop the killing, protect wildlife and show Maasai warriors that there are other ways to display bravery.

The first-ever Maasai Olympics – where newly empowered young warriors competed among themselves not for how many lions they could each kill but for how many medals they could each win – has taken place in East Africa, thanks in part to sponsorship from Chester Zoo's Act for Wildlife.

The event brought about a history-changing approach to the killing of large animals, a tradition embedded in Maasai culture as a way to express bravery, attract a girlfriend and identify future leaders by instead focusing on competition through sport. Indeed it was the first time in 500 years of Maasai history that athletic contests had taken place in this way.

A crowd of Maasai estimated at more than 3,000 witnessed history being made at the event, held at the Kimana Sanctuary, at the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Kenya.

As well the huge numbers of spectators, the world's press and four of Kenya's greatest track stars also watched on, including 2012 London Olympics gold medalist and world 800-metre record holder, David Rudisha, himself a Maasai.



World 800-metre record holder David Rudisha (above) poses for photographs with medalists in the high jump event at the Maasai Olympics.

The individual athletic events - based on traditional warrior skills – included the high jump, testing power with warriors jumping up vertically as high as possible from a standing position and the javelin testing accuracy using a traditional spear.

The road to conservation is never a straight one but with supporting ground-breaking events like the Maasai Olympics we can indeed Act for Wildlife. To get the latest on our activities, visit our website or show your support now and help us do more great work to preserve endangered animals by making a donation to our work.



All pictures © Maasailand Preservation Trust

We've listened to what you want and have lined up a host of our keeping staff to tell you all about the animals they look after in the zoo, their species' conservation status and what we are doing to help in the wild.

Steve Unwin brings you the latest in veterinarian efforts looking after the health of orangutans and in June our primate team looks at orangutans a little closer to home and will tell you about the zoo's red apes and other species on their section. This year's EAZA campaign is featured in our July talk and you can find out what we can all do to help the plight of species in Southeast Asia.

As always, we've put together a series of interesting and diverse talks to suit all tastes, arranged especially for our members to keep you abreast of the work your membership supports.

Thursday 14 March at 19.30

Bats and Other Animals

Chester Zoo's Bat Team

Our Bat Team doesn't just look after our three species of bat! Also, in their care are the crested porcupines, giant anteaters, meerkats, red pandas, spectacled bears, two-toed sloth, to name but a few!

Spend an evening in the company of our bat team and learn more about the diverse group of animals on the section and why the zoo keeps them, our future plans for the species and hear a few anecdotes, finding out how all the animals are doing.

Keepers from Chester Zoo's Bat Team

Tuesday 16 April at 19.30

All Creatures Great and Small

Chester Zoo's Giraffe Team

Ever wondered how a giraffe is moved? Or an okapi? Come along to find out and enjoy an evening of behind the scenes chat with our keepers from the giraffe team. There will be lots of pictures and videos of the animals on their section including the onager, duiker, pudu, okapi and of course the giraffes.

Lizzie, Fiona, Hannah, Charley, Sarah and Phil from Chester Zoo's Giraffe Team.

Thursday 16 May at 19.30

Improving the health of wild orangutans

Steve Unwin

Veterinarians in both Indonesia and Malaysia work very hard with limited resources to help conserve orangutans. In response, in 2009, the Orangutan Conservancy, with the assistance of Steve, began the first of what would become annual week-long workshops for wildlife veterinarians and animal managers in Indonesia and Malaysia. These workshops focus on the need to share research and information between experienced staff both in situ and abroad. The group at that first meeting chose the name OVAG – Orangutan Veterinary Advisory group. OVAG provides a unique forum for experts in and outside of orangutan range countries together to increase and share their knowledge. These include formulating management protocols on disease diagnostics, rehabilitation, release and monitoring of both wild and captive orangutans. 2012 saw the first involvement of Hutan (part of the zoo's RORA programme) and the Sabah Wildlife Department. This presentation will be a mixture of video and discussion highlighting this year's workshop, as well as health challenges Chester Zoo is assisting at the Hutan site in the Lower Kinabatangan in Sabah.

Steve Unwin graduated with degrees in zoology and veterinary science in 1998 from Massey University in New Zealand. Worked in wildlife rehabilitation and conservation medicine in Australia, SE Asia and Africa before joining the Chester Zoo team in 2003. Steve is an honorary lecturer at Liverpool University and is veterinary co-ordinator for both the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance and Orangutan Veterinary Advisory Group.

Thursday 20 June at 19.30

Primates

Chester Zoo's Primate Team

Keepers from our primate team bring you the latest from their section with updates on Chester Zoo's orangutans, chimpanzees and monkeys. They'll share anecdotes about the particular animals in their care and keep you abreast of international efforts, in which the zoo is involved, conserving primates in the wild.

Tuesday 16 July at 19.30

Southeast Asia's big four and more

Cat Barton and Andrew Owen

2013 sees the launch of Chester Zoo's partnership with DEFRA in the **If They're Gone** campaign, addressing the plight of the orangutan, rhino, elephant and tiger. These 'Big Four' between them are found in a number of countries around the world – but the only place in the world they can all be found together is on the island of Sumatra in Southeast Asia. These big charismatic species are undergoing rapid declines due to deforestation and poaching and Chester Zoo is leading the orangutan season of the campaign, from August to October. So that's the big four...but what about the lesser known, smaller species who are struggling with a similar plight? Hear about Chester Zoo's **new** projects and how our bird team and conservation staff are working to conserve the critically endangered birds of Indonesia.

This members' evening will be supporting the second year of the EAZA Southeast Asia Campaign. All funds raised will help towards our target of raising €10,000 this year for the campaign.

Cat Barton is the zoo's Assistant Conservation Officer and **Andrew Owen** – Curator of Birds

October

Aquarium

Chester Zoo's Aquarium Team

An evening with our aquarium team bringing you up to date with the animals on their section.

Look out for confirmation of the date and further details in the next edition of Z.

November

Keeper for a Day Evening

Chester Zoo Staff

Each year, the zoo welcomes a number of guests as Keepers for a Day and we put the money they pay into a pot which is then used to fund staff to volunteer at certain projects. Our Keeper for a Day fund is open to all permanent employees and gives staff from non-animal sections fantastic opportunities to do conservation work in the field. This talk brings together a group of staff who undertook Keeper for a Day funded work in 2012 and 2013. We'll look at the outreach work they did and how this relates to our own zoo collection.

Look out for confirmation of the date and further details in the next edition of Z.

December

Nigeria Expedition

Mark Pilgrim, Becca Biddle and the Nigeria Expedition Team

In March 2013 we will be running the first annual 'Chester Zoo Expedition' - two weeks to Gashaka Gumpti National Park in Nigeria (GGNP).

Chester Zoo has been involved in conservation in GGNP for over a decade, primarily focusing on the chimpanzees of the forest. The aims of this expedition are to gain a better understanding of the different animals and plants there (through a biodiversity assessment) and to engage with the local community through visits and fun events. It will also be a great opportunity for us to highlight our involvement with conservation worldwide, specifically in Nigeria.

The expedition team will be made up of 10 Chester Zoo experts and staff volunteers to help with the biodiversity assessment by setting field traps, collecting data, recording data, general day to day cleaning and preparation of equipment, plus mucking in with all aspects of surviving in the field including domestic chores.

This will be a celebratory end to the year of members' talks and all the Nigeria Expedition Team will be there to give you feedback from the trip - the highs and the lows - and the biodiversity findings.

Look out for confirmation of the date in future editions of Z.

Members' talks are held in the Geraldine Russell Lecture Theatre (near the zoo's Diamond Jubilee Quarter, off the A41).

- They are FREE to members (please bring your membership card and welcome letter)
- We offer a special rate of £2.00 to animal adopters
- The public and guests are welcome (£3.50 for non-members)
- Our Lecture Theatre seats up to 170. We recommend booking in advance to secure your place
- Post-talk refreshments give you the opportunity to have an informal chat with speakers, staff and fellow members

Interested in attending?

Please call **Kate Brankin** on **01244 389444** or email k.brankin@chesterzoo.org to book.

Fauna & Flora International (North West Group)

Spring programme 2013

Friday 22 March

Walruses, Dingoes and other Natural Curiosities

with Stephen Dunleavy

Stephen Dunleavy has been a wildlife filmmaker for over 15 years having started his career at the BBC's Natural History Unit where he worked on a range of productions including Wildlife on One, The Natural World, Incredible Journeys, The Greatest Wildlife Show on Earth and Wild New World. Stephen also Produced two programmes in the award-winning David Attenborough series 'Life in the Undergrowth'.

Stephen now divides his time between wildlife film making and screenwriting, and this should be an absolutely fascinating evening.

Friday 12 April

African Highlights - Birds and More!

With Dr Roger Wilkinson

Roger Wilkinson is Head of Field Programmes and Research at Chester Zoo. After a first degree in Zoology, Roger gained his PhD and completed a Research Fellowship in Animal Behaviour at Southampton University before spending six years in Nigeria as Senior Lecturer at Bayero University, Kano. Roger joined the Society in 1983 as Curator of Birds, becoming Curator of Higher Vertebrates in 1999, and taking on the new role of Head of Field Conservation and Research in 2002. Roger chairs the EAZA Parrot Taxon Advisory Group and is a member of the EAZA and BIAZA Field Conservation Committees, a Council member of the Mauritius Wildlife Foundation, Vice President of the West African Ornithological Society and a Vice President of the Avicultural Society.

Roger is also a great photographer and this pictorial trip around Africa with him for the evening should be great fun.

Friday 10 May

Brown Hyena Research in the Sperrgebiet National Park in Namibia

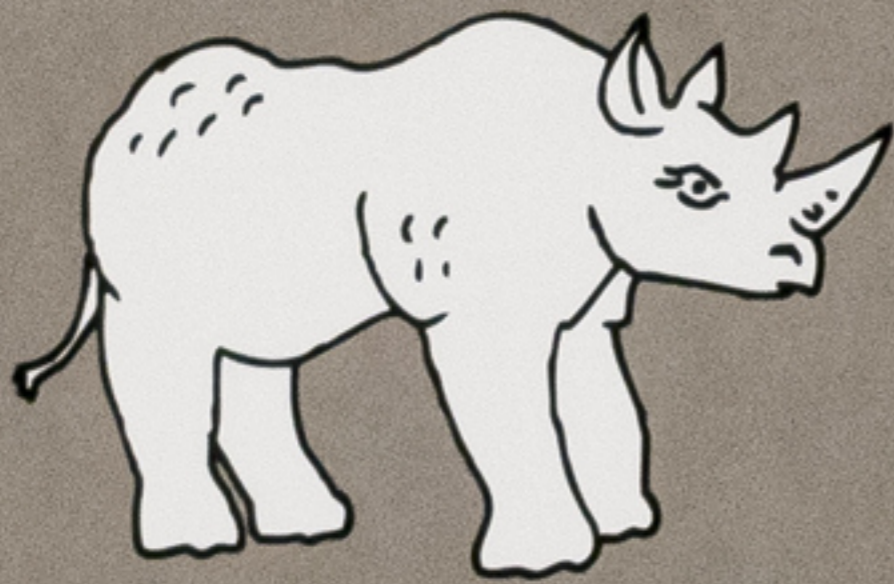
With Dr Ingrid Wiesel

Dr. Ingrid Wiesel started to study the behavioural ecology of Namib brown hyenas in 1995. She finished her Master's degree in 1997 and her doctoral degree in 2006, both about the unique feeding ecology of brown hyenas at Cape fur seal colonies in Namibia. She founded the Brown Hyena Research Project in 2002 and is since involved in brown and spotted hyena conservation, mainly in the southern portion of the Namib Naukluft Park and the newly proclaimed Sperrgebiet National Park.

Dr. Wiesel is an honorary research associate at the Animal Demography Unit at the University of Cape Town in South Africa and a member of the IUCN Hyena Specialist Group. She last visited FFI as a speaker several years ago and we very much look forward to welcoming her back to talk about her extraordinary work with this complicated species.

Tickets: These may be available on the door, but advanced booking helps us to keep costs down and guarantees a seat. Please telephone Penny Rudd at the zoo on 01244 650215, to reserve your tickets. Doors open at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start, in the zoo's Russell Allen Lecture Hall. Both Members and non-Members of FFI are welcome to attend. Tickets cost £9.00 for FFI Members and £10.00 for non-Members of FFI, and this includes a light buffet and wine. We offer a special concession for students of just £5 per ticket.

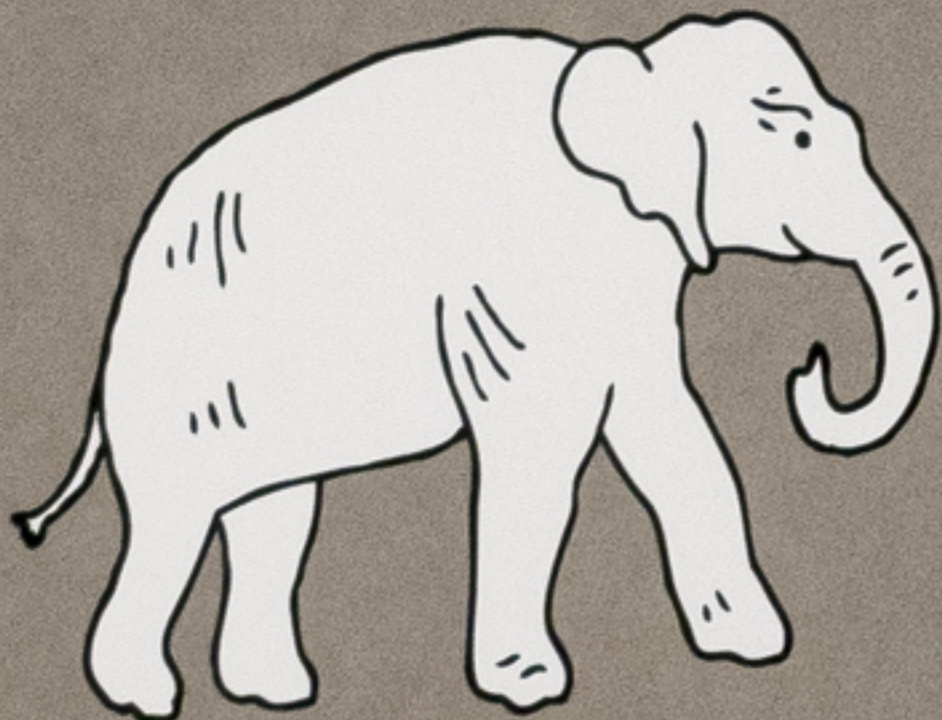
CHESTER
ZOO



BECOME A

PLATINUM MEMBER

TODAY



Every member is special to us because your contribution helps us to protect wildlife and habitats here in the UK and overseas.

But imagine if you knew you were a member **FOR LIFE**.

Now that would be *REALLY SPECIAL*.

If you are over 18 then you can get all of the benefits of membership...**FOR A LIFETIME!**

PLATINUM MEMBERSHIP costs **£650**

If you pay by direct debit that is just **£28** per month for 24 months.

For more information or to become a Platinum Member call **01244 650208** or drop in to the **Membership and Adoptions Office**.

Platinum membership is non-refundable and non-transferable. The benefits are the same as annual membership and may change from time to time.



CHESTER
ZOO

ACT FOR
WILDLIFE

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

Founded in 1934, the North of England Zoological Society is a registered charity. We need your help and support to raise funds for the care and conservation of rare and endangered animals both in the zoo and across the world.
Registered charity No. 306077.