

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

# Z MAGAZINE

Summer 2011



## Painted dogs...

amongst the world's most endangered animals!  
new exhibit opens to the public

# Z MAGAZINE

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# news

from the zoo

with...  
**Dr. Mark Pilgrim**

*Director General*

**Please can you update us with news from the zoo?**

Firstly, I am delighted that the painted dogs' exhibit is open. The exhibit is symbolic of what we are going to achieve with future exhibits in that the experience begins as soon as you enter the exhibit and doesn't end until you leave. It presents a flavour of what it is like being in Africa and is a change in that we are not relying solely on the animals to bring the exhibit to life. That said, the dogs themselves are far more beautiful than even I had expected and I couldn't be more pleased with how this has turned out. The visitor feedback has also been excellent. The next stage is for us to complete work on the Hyrax exhibit. This will be in-keeping with the rest of the exhibit. However, our Hyrax are proving to be the shy and retiring type and a little wary of people. We hope their new surroundings will bring them out of themselves!

June's Pavilion has opened to rave reviews and what a difference! Again, I am delighted with the look and feel of the restaurant and the choice and quality of the food is outstanding. Café Tsavo – soon to be renamed Café Bembe – is in the process of being revamped. Eventually, Café Bembe's coffee shop will be accessible to people who don't want to visit the zoo as well. The main restaurant will be available to zoo visitors. We want to make the Chester Zoo experience a quality experience and this is another step towards this.

This is our first year without the helium balloons and part of our commitment to walking the talk. I had strong feelings about the helium balloons and the harm they could do not only to our animals but also to the environment far beyond our boundaries. That being the case, in their place we have the Magic Memories photo opportunity at the main entrance which is a new added-value experience for visitors.

The aquarium has had a lick of paint inside and it looks great! Not only does it look better internally but we have taken down some of the excessive signage – it is definitely a case of less is more.

Plans are full steam ahead for the Dinosaurs Go Large! exhibit in July. With the tallest dinosaur being some 30 feet, this is a high quality exhibit with outstanding theming and landscaping and a relevant message. The refurbishment of Spirit of the Jaguar and the underwater viewing era for the giant otters are still penciled in for the end of the year.

The first of the animal experience packages took place recently. People want a more personal experience rather than just walking and looking. The new giraffe feeding platform will, I'm sure, be hugely popular, with those visitors wanting more from their day out. It will give our visitors a memorable experience and get them in touch with nature.

**Please can you update us on animal news?**

One of our hidden gems is the Tuatara. It is a very special reptile and so different to the lizards which it resembles, it is a real relic from a bygone age. Tuataras are very rare in zoos with only a handful in Europe. Ours are now young adults and have just produced a full clutch of eggs laid in a properly dug nest which is promising. We will need to keep our fingers crossed for over a year however as these are slow developers.

There is also a dwarf mongoose litter – they are very cute and growing nicely. The penguins have also started to have chicks and you can read more of our new additions on the coming pages. As ever, thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you here soon.

**Forthcoming Members' Days**

1st July 2011 – Friday  
6th November 2011 – Sunday

**Forthcoming Adopter Days**

2nd October 2011 – Sunday  
10th March 2012 – Saturday

# Zoo additions

Humboldt penguin

## New additions AT THE ZOO

Ten **Humboldt penguins** have hatched at Chester Zoo. The penguins are an endangered South American species, which naturally live on the coastal areas of Peru and Chile. Each pair of penguins lays two eggs and will incubate them for 40 days up to hatching. Both parents are involved in incubation and rearing the young.

Keeper Karen Neech said:

**"It will be around eight weeks before the juveniles leave the nests, so we are keeping a close eye on their development. So far we have had 10 chicks hatch so things are incredibly busy for us and the adult penguins. There is so much more food required with all these extra mouths to feed. We provide the fish and the parents turn this into a high-protein soup to feed to the chicks, so it really is a combined effort."**

The chicks will be named with a British tree theme, in recognition of the Year of the Forest campaign set up by the United Nations to raise awareness of conservation issues.

The first to hatch was given the name Acorn and the last to hatch will be given the name Oak.

The new arrivals mean then zoo now has a colony of more than 50 Humboldt penguins.

Chester Zoo also funds conservation initiatives in the penguins' homeland to help them in their natural habitat where they are faced with many pressures including over fishing of their food and habitat loss.

Other new species to the zoo include porcupine babies, a litter of meerkats, and a white-naped pheasant pigeon.

Beaded lizard



## Curator praises 'great achievement' as Reptile Team engineer breeding success

**A venomous species known as the beaded lizard has bred for the first time.**

Three of the rare reptiles, which sport yellow and black markings, have hatched over the past week, proving a welcome addition to the zoo's collection.

The beaded lizard, one of only two truly venomous lizard species, found fame in 2007 when it was discovered that it could help in the treatment of diabetes.

Scientists uncovered a new protein, called exendin-3, in the saliva of the giant lizard which shares similarities with a human hormone that helps regulate blood sugar. Although exendin-3 proved to be vasoactive, meaning it constricts blood vessels, subsequent tests on the beaded lizard's close relative, the Gila monster, unearthed another new protein on which the basis for a new drug was formed.

**"To breed beaded lizards is a great achievement for our Reptile Team, especially as they are an uncommon species threatened by deforestation and human persecution, they are seldom seen in the wild,"**

said Richard Gibson,

Curator of Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates.

The babies are currently just 22cm long but may reach almost one metre when fully grown. Their scientific name *Heloderma horridum* means 'studded-skinned horror' and they have small pieces of bone in the scales of their skin that act like chainmail armour.

The lizards, which are threatened by habit loss and illegal hunting for the pet trade in their native Mexico and Guatemala, will now form part of an international zoo programme, aimed at raising awareness of their unique characteristics and the need to conserve them in the wild.

Porcupine baby



San Francisco gartersnake by W.Stanislawski



Parson's chameleon



White-naped pheasant pigeon

### An endangered snake has gone on display for the first time ...

The rare San Francisco garter snake – named due to its resemblance to the item of clothing – will take up residence in the zoo's Tropical Realm.

Known for its extraordinary colouration, the finger-thin snake has sky-blue, blood-red and black stripes and can grow to about half a metre in length.

Curator of Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates, Richard Gibson said:

**"The San Francisco garter snake is another new arrival for the zoo and is a gorgeous and fascinating species for visitors to learn about.**

**"It is one of North America's most beautiful, but threatened, snakes"**

The species lives only on the San Francisco peninsula and is found in wetlands that support large numbers of frogs - their main food source.

But it is estimated that as few as 1,000 may now remain, due to the destruction of their habitat, illegal collection and decreased availability of their prey.

Mr. Gibson added:

**"A San Francisco without a Golden Gate Bridge is almost unimaginable. If only the same were true of these stunning snakes.**

**"But sadly, a combination of factors have reduced both their numbers and the habitat available to them to such an extent that they rank among the world's most threatened reptiles."**

In addition to the San Francisco garter snake, Chester Zoo will soon be home to the world's largest species of chameleon – the Parson's chameleon – from Madagascar.

# New endangered African painted dog exhibit opens to the public

## An anticipated boom in the world's population will squeeze wildlife to its limits.

Chester Zoo's Director General Dr Mark Pilgrim warned that an anticipated doubling in human population numbers over the next 40 years could prove catastrophic for wildlife.

His comments came as the zoo unveiled its new exhibit for a pack of endangered Painted dogs – also known as African Hunting dogs.

Dr Pilgrim said threats facing species such as Painted dogs in the wild would increase as space would be at a premium for both man and animals.

**"Over the next four decades, the world's population will double. That is an alarming prospect and leaves even less space for wildlife, exposing species such as the Painted dog to greater threats in their home ranges.**

The more we encroach into animal territory – intentionally or otherwise – the greater and more devastating the effects on the world's biodiversity will be", said Dr Pilgrim.

Describing the situation as 'sad', Dr Pilgrim said zoos had a vital role to play in protecting wildlife.

**"Potentially there are big problems ahead and this is where organisations such as ours come into their own. We enable species to thrive but can also make investments in the wild to do all we can to aid the wildlife that is such an important part of our environment. In doing so, we can safeguard it for future generations,"** he added.

**"It is wonderful that Chester Zoo is now able to educate such a large part of the English population in the role that these animals play in the wild, as well as their complexities, their characters and their fascinating social structures"**

Tony Fitzjohn OBE

Dr Pilgrim was joined at the opening by conservationist Tony Fitzjohn OBE, Field Director of the George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust who has worked with the Government of Tanzania on the rehabilitation of Mkomazi National Park. Mkomazi National Park is home to wild populations of the dogs and has been supported by the zoo in its role as a conservation charity for 11 years.

Tony, whose work with the Government of Tanzania over the past 21 years has resulted in Mkomazi being upgraded from a game reserve to a national park, echoed Dr Pilgrim's warning.

He said: "Throughout their range, Painted dogs are amongst the most endangered animals in the world. Their addition to the various ecosystems in which they live

needs no lengthy description because if we lose yet another species, the human race loses a large part of itself as well.

"Like so much else in the world these days, their lives are in our hands and we cannot afford to let them down."

Mr Fitzjohn said he hoped seeing Painted dogs at Chester Zoo would give people an "understanding of, and sympathy for," the natural world.



Children from a primary school have plenty to 'bark' about after helping the zoo name one of the new arrivals.

The youngsters from Ysgol Melyd primary school, Meliden, near Prestatyn, helped find a name for one of the painted dogs.

The five males arrived from Sweden without names. Facebook visitors chose four of the new names *Azizi*, *Badrani*, *Diallo* and *Gamba* – whilst the school chose the fifth, picking *Ochi*. The females are called *Kumi* and *Subira*.

Georgina Newnham, assistant headteacher of Ysgol Melyd, said:

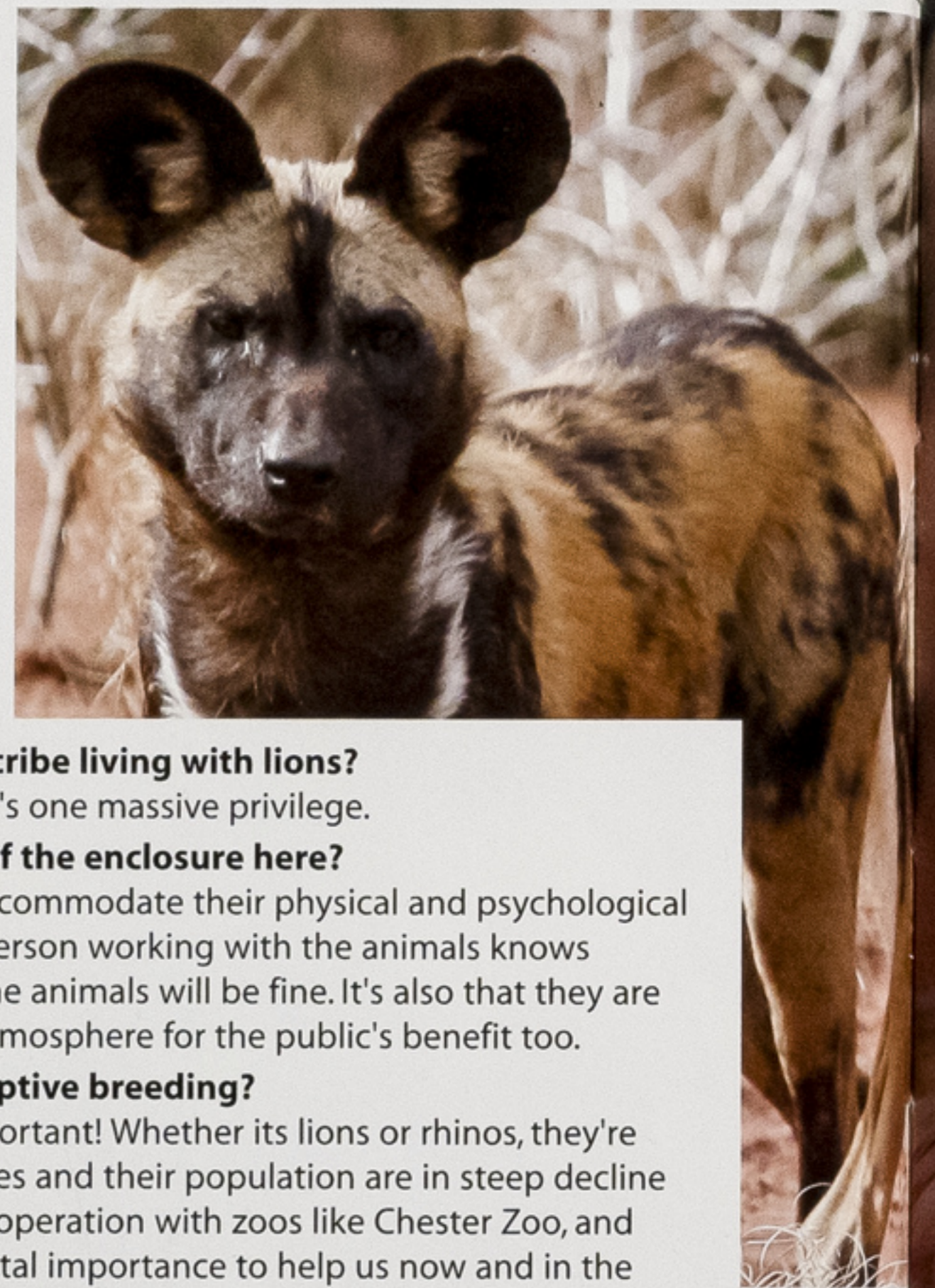
**"As *Ochi* means laughter, it somehow seems appropriate that the children chose this name! They were delighted to be asked and look forward to getting updates on the new arrivals."**

## Did you know...

- Work first started on building the exhibit's rocks in September.
- The team had to work through one of the coldest winters on record.
- More than 10 kilometres of steel rod, 200,000 welding joints, 2,000 bags of render and 700 tons of red sand were laid across the paddock.
- More than 1200 grasses and 400 shrubs and trees have been used.
- There were once approximately 500,000 African Painted Dogs in 39 countries. Now there are only about 3,000-5,500 in fewer than 25 countries.
- Human encroachment has drastically reduced their range and their numbers. Because of land clearance, urbanization, and other factors, Africa's once-great herds of grazing animals are now restricted to scattered populations in parks and reserves.
- The African Painted Dog hunts in packs. Nearly 80% of all hunts end in a kill; for comparison, the success rate of lions is only 30%.
- Members of a pack vocalize to help coordinate their movements. Its voice is characterized by an unusual chirping or squeaking sound, similar to a bird.
- The first captive breeding and translocation programme for the endangered African Painted Dog in East Africa began in 1995. NEZS has worked since 2002 with Tony Fitzjohn and Mkomazi Game Reserve (now designated as a National Park).
- In that time NEZS has supported the Rhino Sanctuary and assisted in the development and funding of a school environmental education programme (Rafiki Wa Faru) with the support of staff from our Discovery & Learning Division. Rafiki Wa Faru is hugely successful with communities adjoining the National Park and Tony's enthusiasm for this programme has been boundless.
- During his visit to the zoo, Tony Fitzjohn was awarded the North of England Zoological Society's gold medal for services to conservation.



**Young journalists Krisztian Nemeth and Lloyd Antrobus met up with Tony Fitzjohn OBE who came to open the new endangered African painted dog exhibit to the public.**



**Krisztian is 12 and lives in Newton, Chester.** Here is his report.

Chester Zoo was proud to welcome Tony Fitzjohn, a conservationist from England who worked with George Adamson to create Kora national park in Kenya. Kora was built as a reintroduction project for lions, it slowly grew and is now a flourishing park that has an abundance of wildlife from impressive elephants to tiny Kirk's Dik-dik.

Since the age of seven Tony had a love of animals and had dreamt of living in Africa and working with its wildlife. When Tony arrived in South Africa he hitchhiked all the way up to Kenya where he was hired by George Adamson to replace his last assistant who was killed by a lion. He was a natural with the lions at Kora and was able to gain control over a wild male lion.

As the project grew so did the park and Tony's knowledge of Africa; over time he became more experienced with the lions. The reintroduction of animals to the park was very successful and there is now a thriving population of animals including the African painted dogs which are now found throughout Kenya. Tony thinks that the skills required to be a conservationist are to be able to understand the job and be able to cope with the hard work of running the reserve and protecting the wildlife.

Tony now lives in Tanzania with his wife and children and says that raising his family is his greatest achievement in life. In 1975 Tony was attacked by *Shyman* the lion and saved by *Freddie*, his own lion, who he had known since he was a cub. The attack almost killed him and he had to spend a considerable time in hospital. On his return Tony was understandably nervous but continued his work never the less. Tony says that humans are the world's greatest threats today as we hunt animals to the brink of extinction for our demand for ivory, fur and more.

Chester Zoo's enclosure for the painted dog has a large area of land including two sections for the dogs to roam. It also has plenty of viewing points for the visitors to see the dogs, including a cave and a bridge that is perfect for seeing the wild dogs playing and frolicking in the savannah exhibit. Even though, as Tony says, it is impossible to perfectly recreate an animal's natural environment Chester Zoo has done a good job of recreating it.

**Lloyd Antrobus is 15 and lives in Hawarden, North Wales.**

He also interviewed Tony.

**What has been your hardest conservation task?**

Well, I'm a short-tempered person, who doesn't have much patience and I'm quick to get angry, so forming disciplines is a hard task when dealing with conservation. It's also hard to get people to cooperate and understand my frame of mind. When dealing with conservation, you have to remember the situation and be able to handle politics, as you have to be everything from a politician to a plumber in conservation! Working with animals is always dirty, dangerous and upsetting so handling the task can have its distractions, especially when you have 1000 square miles of animal habitat to protect.

**How would you describe living with lions?**

Incredibly fantastic! It's one massive privilege.

**What do you think of the enclosure here?**

As long as you can accommodate their physical and psychological needs, and that the person working with the animals knows what they're doing, the animals will be fine. It's also that they are presented in a nice atmosphere for the public's benefit too.

**How important is captive breeding?**

Oh, it's incredibly important! Whether its lions or rhinos, they're losing their wild homes and their population are in steep decline in some areas, and cooperation with zoos like Chester Zoo, and other breeders is of vital importance to help us now and in the future to re-stock Africa's magnificent animals. Zoos play an important role in captive breeding, as we are more demanding for our partnerships with captive breeding.

**How important do you think it is to represent the dogs' habitat along with the dogs' themselves?**

I was very impressed with the movie theatre the exhibit has, that tells the story of the dogs' plight in Africa, narrated by Martin Clunes. These little elements are important to tell one or two people what goes on, and to inform them of their plight. I've learnt a lot, coming to the exhibit and speaking to the keepers that are so passionate about their animals.

**You have worked with a phenomenal amount of animals in your time, what has been your favourite animal to work with and why?**

Ha, that's an unfair question! I've lived and worked with a lot of animals and they have let me into their lives. But I'm going to have to say lions. I don't know if it is because I've spent more time with them or it is because their more gregarious, I don't know. When it comes to dogs they just think "oh, it's him. He just comes and goes." Working with lions was my first love in a way.

**You also, amazingly, set up a secondary school, would you like to elaborate?**

I built a school because they didn't have one and I could do it. I've also helped over 50 schools. One thing Chester Zoo helps me with is our bus. Our bus takes children out into the bush to see the animals, as most of them have never seen the animals they share their country with. The bus is terrific and takes around 28 pupils and 2 teachers, and as long as they learn and say 'I want to be like him some day', that's enough.

**What advice could you give someone with an interest in wild animals and conservation?**

I've been very lucky in finding a 'place' for myself, but whether it's though zoo-work or working for organizations, you need to remember to 'just do it' if you want to do it, and just hope for the best. You need to be prepared to take risks and also be prepared to suffer.



# 100 flamingos have health check

A flock of flamingos have had their annual health check at Chester Zoo

OVER 100 flamingos were each weighed, ringed, measured and microchipped by the zoo's expert bird keepers and veterinary team.

The birds have been resident in the zoo since the 1960s and keepers were keen to assess the condition of every individual flamingo prior to the breeding season, which will begin in late spring.

The checks will enable the team to learn about the demographics of the group to then enable them to carry out detailed research projects in the future.

Keepers plan to study nesting behaviour and look at how different pairs bond, as it is not yet known whether the flamingos choose different mates over the course of their lives or for how long they breed for.

The health-checks are vital to establishing all of the information needed to allow this important research to happen.





# Plants

## why they are so important in a zoo

**Mark Sparrow**, Curator of Horticulture and Botany

If you ask most people what is the first word that comes into their mind when you say the word zoo, they will probably say animals. But what does that image they have of an animal in a zoo look like? Hopefully they will say an animal in a natural looking environment, which is in the prime of health and looks happy and contented. That is where the plants come in. Plants serve many functions in zoos. Some are grown for their colourful flowers, others for their attractive bark, fruits, or leaf shapes. They can also act as windbreaks, disguise buildings and structures and provide welcome shade in the heat of summer. Plants make us feel good. That's why gardening is such a popular pastime in the UK.





Modern zoos are now using plants to create landscapes that reflect the animal's natural habitat. The plants around the enclosures help to set the scene of where they come from, whether it is tropical rainforest, savannah grassland, wetlands or deserts. Of course in many cases it is not possible to grow the actual plants that come from the plains of Africa or the Amazon jungle so we use those that are similar in appearance. You can see examples of grasslands at the black rhino and painted dog enclosures, and of rainforest around *Realm of the Red Ape* and the elephant house. The plants inside animal enclosures should continue to set the scene, but they also serve other functions. They can provide shelter and shade, privacy, nesting material and occasionally food. I had a lovely experience earlier this year watching a group of chimpanzees picking the young tasty leaves off a *Pyracantha* shrub in their enclosure. Equally we have to be careful not to put in any poisonous plants that could harm them. The Horticulture and Botany team work closely with the keepers to ensure we get the right plant in the right place.

Plants are also used in the zoo to inform our visitors about their importance in our daily lives. The *Glorious Grasses* shows how much we rely on grasses for food, shelter, building materials and in many other ways. The *Very Important Plant (VIP)* border displays plants that are used in cooking, medicines, drinks, cosmetics. *The Roman Garden* shows some of the plants that were used in Roman Britain for cooking, medicines and ornamental purposes. Pop into the *Grow Zone* and see coffee, tea, sugar cane, cocoa and lots of tropical food plants that we now take for granted. In the *Grow Zone* you will also find some of our specialist collections of orchids, cacti and carnivorous plants. These plants are becoming increasingly threatened in the wild and the zoo is looking to support projects around the world to safeguard their future. As well as conserving exotic species the zoo supports a number of native species projects in the UK. So the next time you visit the zoo I trust you will leave with a positive image of the animals and their environment and also have a greater understanding and appreciation of the importance of plants and how our lives would be so much poorer without them.





# Native plant conservation

Chester Zoo's rare plant collections continue to grow and we are increasingly becoming involved in plant conservation around the world, including some exciting work in our 'own backyard'.

Almost 20% of Britain's wild flowers are struggling to survive; a report in 2009 showed that each UK county loses, on average, one wild plant species every two years.



# at Chester Zoo...



Chester Zoo has a really useful role to play in UK native plant conservation projects, and today works with partners in North Wales and the north west of England. We support nine threatened plant projects with species including: Black Poplar, Wild Cotoneaster, Common Juniper, Isle of Man Cabbage, and Floating Water Plantain. We grow all of these species in the zoo as 'insurance populations', and help with reintroduction work with many of them, with the ultimate aim of safeguarding them in the wild.

Chester Zoo is a key member of the Cheshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Black Poplar. Action includes recording and monitoring trees, propagation, and awareness raising. Through this work over 1,000 trees grown from cuttings of Cheshire poplars have been planted in the county since 1995. In 2010 Chester Zoo funded genetic finger printing of 56 Cheshire Black Poplars and the results have had a significant impact on future propagation plans.

Rare Limestone Woundwort is only found in two locations in the UK, in Denbighshire and Gloucestershire. Chester Zoo grows plants raised from seed from the Welsh site, and returned over 100 plants to the wild in North Wales in 2008.

Threatened sand dune species Mackay's Horsetail and Isle of Man Cabbage can be seen growing in the Sand Lizard enclosure.

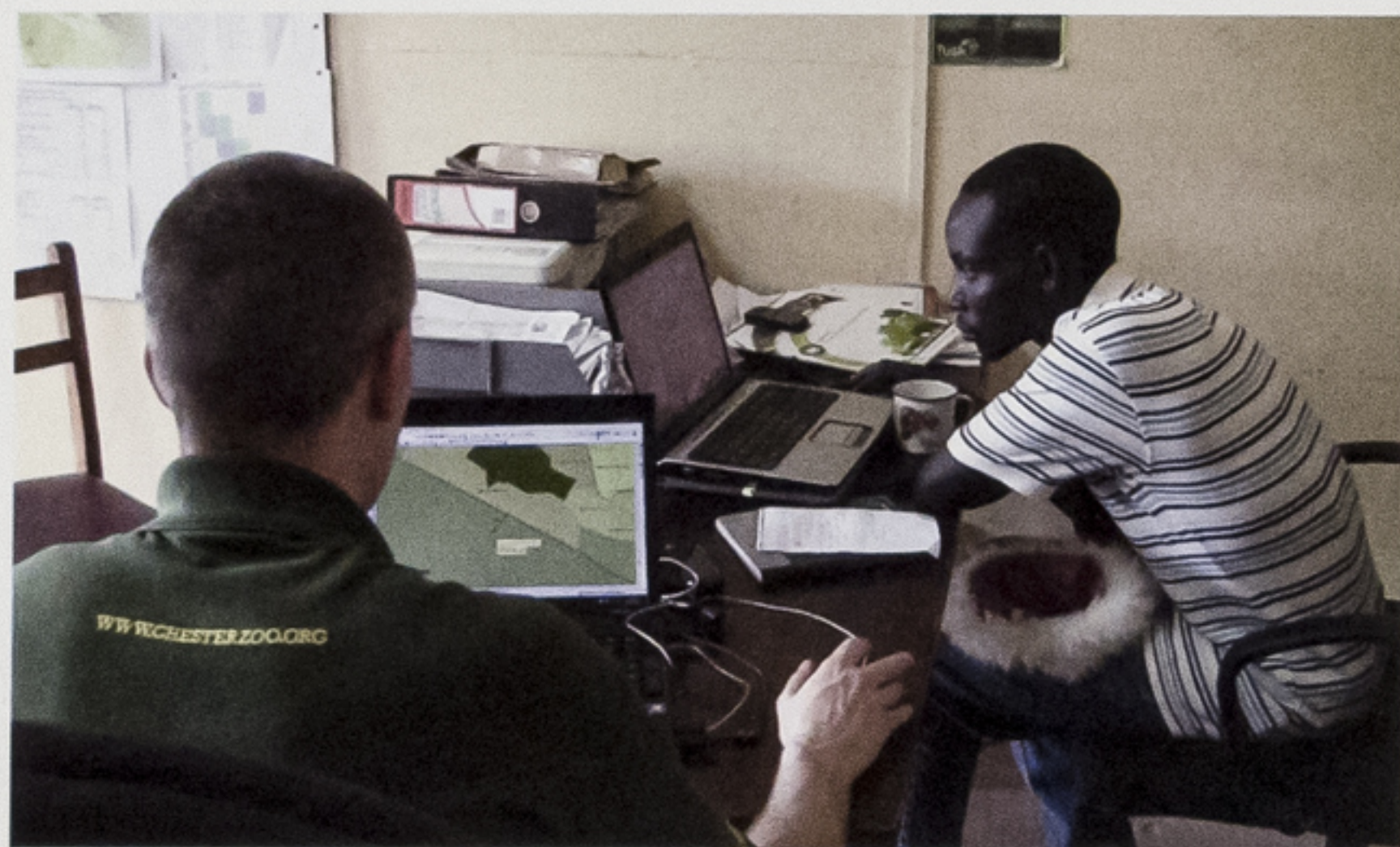
Mackay's Horsetail occurs at three sites on the Wirral peninsular and around 25 locations in Ireland and Scotland but nowhere else in England.

In 2010 the zoo reintroduced 45 Isle of Man Cabbage plants to dunes near Leasowe Lighthouse on the Wirral. This British endemic species only occurs in around 22 places in the Isle of Man and Western Britain.

We know that it is vitally important to conserve the UK's plants, so future generations can enjoy and benefit from the wild plants that are such an important part of the habitats and landscapes we recognise and love.

# Staff go Wild!

KARIBU



Maggie Esson



## Kenya

Conservation Officer, **Scott Wilson**, travelled out to Chyulu Hills in Kenya to build on the important work in the area which is helping to protect the Black Rhino population. Black Rhinos are Critically Endangered, and the population in Chyulu Hills is one of the last remaining free-range populations left in Kenya. Scott is working with staff at the Maasailand Preservation Trust, training staff in the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to ensure that the extensive daily records collected by the rangers when out on patrol can be used to have greater conservation impact for the Black Rhino population.

Education Manager, **Maggie Esson**, also travelled to Kenya to visit the Ol Pejeta Conservancy (OPC), a member of the Laikipia Wildlife Forum which Chester Zoo have supported since 2003. Chester Zoo's education bus which allows rural school children to visit wildlife areas and learn about conservation issues. Maggie's work in Kenya involved working with rangers on a bush walk trail and helping to plan the site and the content of the field station which is open to visitors as an education facility. Maggie and the education staff at Chester Zoo will help design an exhibition at the field station and train the ranger team in managing the learning experience of the children who visit.



Scott Wilson

Summer 2011

**Animal Fun!**

# Kidz

See Inside...  
KIDS' PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

# ZOO!

PRIZE TO  
BE WON  
NAME THE  
**PLANTS**



Junior Members



# NAME THE PLANTS



Can you work out the jumbled names of the plants above using the pictures to help you? There is a mixture of exotic and native names to find.

ENLADNODI  
LUBLELEB  
REYMCASO  
UESCNTTH  
OLWLIW  
SCUACT  
DHRCIO  
OBABMO

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

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

Congratulations to our previous winner, James Spur of Huddersfield.

# kidz ZOO!



## HELP THE CATERPILLAR

Can you help the caterpillar find his way through the tree to find the last leaf, while avoiding the thorns?



# Junior Members

## JUNIOR MEMBERS' PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2011

### THE GREENWOOD CENTRE SATURDAY 25 JUNE 2011

Back by popular demand! This proves to be one of the Juniors' favourite summer trips and so we've added it to the list to visit again! This park, situated in the foothills of Snowdonia, is an amazing mix of environmental park offering fun and games as well as good education – including den-building and various self-propelled 'rides'. Definitely not to be missed.

Eights and over should be ready to leave the staff car park at 9.30am and we will return for 5.00pm. Bring a picnic.

### HOW TO BE A GOOD ZOOKEEPER! WEDNESDAY 20 JULY 2011

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 aged 12 or over. We try to match Juniors to their favourite section, but places are limited so this cannot be guaranteed. Please arrive prepared to work hard, with clean wellies and an additional completely clean set of clothes to work in.

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

We will meet outside the Oakfield at 10.30am, and the day will finish for Juniors at 4.00pm. Please bring a packed lunch. Also please note that bookings for this event are by telephone only and will not be taken before 9.00am on Wednesday 6 July 2011, and will be strictly on a first-come, first-served basis.

### SUMMER BARBEQUE THURSDAY 4 AUGUST 2011

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

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

### THE JUNIOR MEMBERS SUMMER SCHOOL FROM 8 - 12 AUGUST 2011

Please note that the two week booking rule does NOT apply to this event and EARLY BOOKING IS ADVISED (anytime from January 2011 onwards). A full programme of events for this action-packed week will be issued in this magazine, but this 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 £180 for the week.

### HILBRE ISLAND

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 17/18 SEPTEMBER 2011 (Tide times dependent)

This will be a real treat for those who have not previously visited Hilbre Island in the Dee Estuary – and also for those who have! We will follow the tide out from West Kirby and plan to spend some time exploring the rock pools around Little Eye and Middle Eye on our way across to Hilbre, the biggest of the three islands. We hope to see a wide array of sea birds and other coastal life.

Over eights are invited to join us, bringing a picnic and suitable clothes for the seaside! Leaving at c.9.30am – returning at 5.00pm. Exact details to be confirmed.

### TATTON PARK & HOME FARM

SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER 2011

We have not visited Tatton Park and the Home Farm for a couple of years, and we felt it was well worth returning to this year. We'll start the day with a visit to the Home Farm where we'll find out how the farm used to work many years ago when Tatton Hall was a family residence. Then out into the park to identify some of the different deer species that reside there.

Eights and over should be ready to leave the staff car park at 10.00am and we will return for 4.30pm, please bring a picnic with you.

### THE WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST, MARTIN MERE SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2011

November is a brilliant time to visit Martin Mere as we should see the migratory geese and swans as they pass through this lovely haven. It can be quite chilly at that time of year so dress warmly to see this fantastic sight.

We'll be leaving the staff car park at 10.30am and will return at 4.00pm. Eights and over welcome.

### THE JUNIORS' CHRISTMAS PARTY FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER 2011

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

The venue will be the zoo's Ark Restaurant and access can be gained through the Cedar House Staff Entrance on Caughall Road, which is the second staff entrance on the left going from the Upton lights. You should arrive at 7.00pm, with a cushion and a torch, and parents should arrange to collect you from Arara Lodge at 9.45pm.

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



# Staff go Wild!

## Philippines

Head of Field Conservation and Research, **Roger Wilkinson**, visited our partners in the Philippines to see the progress of the programme so far and discuss plans for the future. The Philippines is a biodiversity hotspot, and Chester Zoo's support ranges from the breeding of threatened mammals such as the Visayan Warty Pig and Philippine Spotted Deer to the protection of the many bird species including Philippine hornbills and Philippine Cockatoos. Our support has enabled wardens to patrol and protect important areas of habitat and the species within them. Roger visited the Katala Foundation, where important work is being carried out to protect the Critically Endangered Philippine Cockatoo. He also visited the Bacolod Breeding Centre on Negros and the Mari-it Conservation Park on Panay, one of the wildlife conservation parks where the deer, warty pigs and hornbills are being bred for future release back in the wild.



## UK

Assistant Conservation Officer, **Cat Barton** and members of the Herpetological Team at Chester Zoo have been surveying the fields around the zoo for signs of native amphibians. This survey is hoping to map amphibian breeding ponds on the wider zoo site so that these areas can be protected in the future. This work is hugely important following the recent report that native amphibians in the UK are in decline.



# Making a difference

© NASA



**Native Species Programme**  
Chester Zoo is part of the North West Dormouse Partnership which has been collecting data from a dormouse reintroduction site in Cheshire since 2005. A dormouse researcher has been recruited for 7 months to work alongside the partnership to help analyse the vast amount of data that has been collected in this period. This information will be used to not only protect the dormice at this Cheshire site but to contribute to the conservation of other reintroduced populations around the country.

**FAST FACT:** Dormice aren't just found in the UK – there is a species of dormouse found as far away as Japan!



Photo © Mabula

## Hornbill NEWS

New radio-tracking receivers provided by Chester Zoo arrived at the Mabula Hornbill Project in South Africa, allowing the team to track the birds in the wild. The project team went straight out into the field to learn to use the receivers and track the birds. The Southern Ground Hornbill is a threatened species and is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN red list. The projects aim is to re-establish the hornbills back into its historical range by 2020.

## News on Conservation from around the World

### Bad

Back home in the UK, a new survey has reported that many of our amphibians and reptiles are in decline. A nationwide survey has found that the adder, slow worms, common lizards, grass snakes and the common toads and frog are all in decline. To find out what Chester Zoo is doing for our native amphibians, see page 15 (Staff Go Wild).



### Good

The Saola, only discovered in 1992, is an elusive mammal which is under threat from illegal hunting for its horns. It is a bovid meaning that it is in the same family as bison, gazelle and domestic cattle. Following the establishment of a new protected reserve it is hoped that this Critically Endangered animal will increase in numbers. The Saola Natural Reserve is to be set up in the Annamite Mountains along the borders of Vietnam and Laos.

## Black Rhino Programme

Following successful fundraising efforts in 2010 by the Rhino Maniacs team who climbed Mount Kilimanjaro and the Rhino Mania art project in Chester, we have been able to further support the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary in Tanzania with an essential water bowser. The bowser will supply all of the main troughs and watering holes across the 3,270km<sup>2</sup> sanctuary, providing much needed water to the black rhino population. With the dry season approaching and with no other means of distributing water around the national park, it was vital a solution was found quickly. Mkomazi is home to 14 Black Rhinos, and the hope is that this number will increase to between 20 and 25 to establish a sustainable population.

**FAST FACT:** A total of 333 rhinos were poached in South Africa in 2010 – an increase on the 218 poached between 2007 and 2009

## Black Rhino NEWS

Chester Zoo is embarking on a project which aims to help tackle the current upsurge in rhino poaching. Rhino poaching has increased, particularly in South Africa, driven by a growing demand for rhino horn products, particularly for use in traditional Asian medicines. Chester Zoo's Director General, Dr Mark Pilgrim, and Conservation Researcher, Dr Evie Astbury, have begun working with the household of HRH Prince William of Wales and HRH Prince Harry of Wales on this project. The Princes are passionate about species conservation and have taken a close interest in the project, which will see a team including Chester Zoo and Tusk Trust working up plans to reduce demand for rhino horn and bolster protection in the field.

Black Rhino Programme © SRI



Blue-crowned Laughing Thrush © Fen-qi

## China Programme

Chester Zoo has been supporting Blue-crowned Laughingthrush for many years. In this time several new breeding sites of this Critically Endangered species have been found in Wuyan, China. Due to the importance of this species and success of the project so far, we have continued our support for this important bird as part of the China Programme which will continue to monitor wild populations, survey for new breeding sites and promote protection.

**FAST FACT:** Chester Zoo is one of only a few European zoos now regularly breeding this Critically Endangered bird.

## Brazilian Pantanal support

The Brazilian Pantanal is the world's largest area of wetland, and thought to be the world's most dense biodiversity ecosystem. Our support for the Pantanal has focussed so far on the Lowland Tapir. Research is being carried out to assess the conservation status of the tapir in this area. Chester Zoo has stepped up support for this important area of the world by also assisting a project looking into the ecology and conservation of the Giant Armadillo, a species listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. The Pantanal has had historic floods this year and this photo shows cattle trapped by the floods in the Pantanal.



Photo © Daniel Marinho



## Studentships

Every year, Chester Zoo runs the Studentship scheme to support university students undertaking research projects. This year, the following student projects were supported:

- Survey of Galaxiid fish species diversity within the Cascades Kauri Park, New Zealand
- Assessing Frugivore Guilds in a Disturbed Peat-Swamp Forest, Central Kalimantan, Indonesian Borneo
- Another way to die: Using novel genetic markers to examine inbreeding in the Mauritius Pink Pigeon
- Cost effectiveness of mitigation strategies in Assam, India
- Breeding Season Habitat Use of Philippine Hawk Owl in Cebu Island, Philippines
- Survey on Community perspectives on Tourism in Rekawa Sanctuary in Southern Sri Lanka
- Investigating the role of columbiforms in the molecular epidemiology of trichomonosis in UK birds
- The Effects of Ecotourism on the Behaviour of a Group of Habituated Gibbons in Ratanakiri Province, Cambodia: Implications for Management of Ecotourism Schemes
- Impact of logging on Paleotropical bat assemblages in Sabah, Borneo: What value do twice logged forests hold for biodiversity conservation?
- Gorilla tracking rules and data collection on a habituated group of Gorilla gorilla by local guides at Bai Hokou, Central African Republic: Pre- and post-analysis of refresher training

## EAZA APE CAMPAIGN

### Realm of the Red Ape Programme

The Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Project (KOCP) is the main component of our Realm of the Red Ape Programme. The floodplain of the Kinabatangan River is home to the largest population of orangutan in Malaysian Borneo. KOCP is working to protect this habitat and all the species in it, including the endangered Bornean Orangutan. Chester Zoo provides core support to ensure the project has the essentials it needs to run a vast range of activities, including research, protection, education and training. Chester Zoo support also ensures that the Honorary Wildlife Wardens who protect the habitat and stop illegal activities such as logging, can continue to do their important job.



Photo © KOCP

As part of our support for the EAZA Ape Campaign this year, Isabelle Ancrenaz from the KOCP project will be speaking at an extra FFI evening on Thursday July 28th.

**FAST FACT:** In the last century, around 80% of the forests which Bornean Orangutans once lived in have been lost.

## Grant Support

Other projects which we've supported during the last quarter include:

- Conserving a hornbill haven: long-term monitoring and protection of hornbills with the Nyishi community in Pakke Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh, north-east India
- Research and Actions for the Community-based Management of the Tanoé forest, Côte d'Ivoire: primate conservation and poverty alleviation
- Emergency support for the Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquaria (JAZA) – post earthquake and tsunami appeal

# Dinosaurs to invade Chester Zoo

**Dinosaurs will come to life at Chester Zoo in July in what promises to be one of the most exciting and groundbreaking exhibits ever seen in a UK zoo.**

The new exhibition will feature 13 life-sized mechanical replicas of the creatures that roamed the earth 200 million years ago.

Featuring realistic movements and sounds, the dinosaurs will include the giant apatosaurus, with its distinctive long neck and whip-like tail; the evil-looking dilophosaurus, with its long, sharp claws and the infamous tyrannosaurus rex, the most feared land predator of all time.

The animated robots will be part of an outdoor trail called Dinosaurs at Large and will show visitors exactly what it would have been like to get close to such huge beasts.

The event, which also aims to spread the message that once a creature is gone, it is gone forever, will run from 1st July until 8th October and will be open everyday from 10am to 6pm.



## Chester Zoo brings water relief to rhinos

A two-tonne bowser, purchased with funds provided by the zoo, will be used in The Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary – a flagship conservation project in Tanzania – and will provide relief to 14 critically endangered black rhinos.

It was partly funded by the zoo's 'Rhino Maniacs' – a team of nine members of staff who successfully conquered Mount Kilimanjaro and raised money for rhino conservation in 2010 – and the auction of the fibreglass rhinos that featured in last year's Rhino Mania city-wide art project in Chester.

The bowser is described by Save the Rhino International as being 'an exceptionally important piece of equipment' – particularly given that it will supply all of the main troughs and watering holes across the 3,270km<sup>2</sup> sanctuary.

And with the dry season approaching and with no other means of distributing water around the sanctuary, it was vital a solution was

**Chester Zoo has helped provide a group of rhinos in Tanzania with vital access to water.**

found quickly, which is why Chester Zoo was so keen to step in and help. Dr Roger Wilkinson, Chester Zoo's Head of Field Conservation and Research, said:

**"Chester Zoo's conservation efforts extend beyond the zoo's boundaries and assistance from organisations such as ours can make a real difference to species everywhere.**

**"There are now just 67 Eastern black rhinos left in Tanzania and so the work that Chester Zoo does, both here in the UK and out in the wild, is vital in ensuring the survival of the species. "We were only too happy to offer our support and make sure these magnificent animals have plentiful access to water."**

It is hoped the population of rhinos in Mkomazi will eventually increase to between 20 and 25 in order to establish a viable population.



# ACT NOW OR THE FUTURE'S BLACK FOR ORANGUTANS

TV Vet Steve Leonard has warned that 'unless we act now, our closest relatives will soon be extinct' in his speech at an important conference on the conservation of apes at Chester Zoo.

The star of BBC1's *Orangutan Diaries*, which looked at the plight of orangutans in Borneo in the face of deforestation, was joined by world experts in ape conservation in speaking at a crucial symposium at the zoo.

The symposium highlighted the main issues being faced by those working in front-line ape conservation around the globe.

With species such as the Hainan gibbon now right on the brink of extinction - with fewer than 20 remaining in the wild - Leonard believes that if mankind cannot ensure the long-term, continued survival of our closest cousins, then the future of the wider natural world is a bleak one.

**"Apes are iconic. They're charming, they're comical, they're intelligent, they're charismatic and they're so, so like us. We can relate to them and empathise with them. They are our closest relatives. So if we can't save the apes then how can we save the rest of the natural world?"**

As the UN environment programme report, *The Last Stand of the Orangutan: State of Emergency*, says, the rainforests of Borneo and Sumatra are being cleared so rapidly that by the early 2020s they are likely to have vanished.

This means that unless urgent action is taken, their most charismatic inhabitant, the orangutan, will be extinct within ten years.

However, Leonard insists that thanks to the research that is being conducted into how their long-term survival can be ensured, hope is not lost.

**"The most crucial thing is that this is not a lost battle.**

**"Organisations like Chester Zoo are putting in huge amounts of time, money and effort to help. They do the research for us; they identify the problems; they work out how those problems can best be tackled and what needs to be done to safeguard the futures of these species.**

**"So if we act on this information now, we can save more and more habitat and prevent further deforestation. Doing it now is far better than letting it worsen. If left for much longer, then it might well become irreversible.**

**"Of course, financially, these are tough times for a lot of people. But I think what most don't realise is that simply giving a couple of coppers is enough to have a real impact. A bit of loose change here and there would make a massive difference.**

**"If enough people gave just the smallest amount of money, then in places like Borneo - when exchange rates are factored in - it really can go a long, long way. That's what we need people to see and that's what we need people to do."**



## Green Tourism Week

Leading environmental campaigner **Tony Juniper** launched the UK's first **Green Tourism Week**, of which he is patron, at Chester Zoo.

The week's organiser, the Green Tourism Business Scheme eco-label, has sponsored a parrot at the zoo's Rare Breed Parrot Centre as a mark of appreciation of his support. Tony is a keen ornithologist

and has been involved in many parrot conservation initiatives. [www.tonyjuniper.com](http://www.tonyjuniper.com)

He also presented Chester Zoo with its new grading from the GTBS.

An environmental campaigner and writer for more than 25 years, Juniper is currently a Special Adviser to the Prince of Wales Charities' International Sustainability Unit and a Senior Associate with the Cambridge University Programme for Sustainability Leadership.

The Green Tourism Week highlighted the bottom-line benefits to tourism businesses of 'going green', and emphasised the potential for cost savings as well as attracting and retaining leisure and business travellers. The zoo was given green business accreditation during the event.





**An exciting and ambitious development that will transform the zoo was recently unveiled.**

The 110-acre zoo, which attracts 1.3 million visitors a year, the zoo is to create a world-class animal and visitor experience given the working title Islands. Islands will be the largest zoo development of its kind in Britain.

Connected by a boat ride, Islands will pull together some of the zoo's key animal species: Sumatran Orang-utans, Sumatran tigers, Sun Bears, Malayan tapir, various lemurs, Sumatran and Philippine crocodiles, Hornbills, Visayan Warty Pigs, Spotted Deer, Komodo Dragons, Babirusa pigs and other birds, reptiles and invertebrates – to create an exciting, themed and educational experience.

Dr Mark Pilgrim, Director General, said:

**Being isolated means that islands often contain wonderfully unique yet highly threatened wildlife. The diversity and individual character of islands makes them exciting places to explore. Islands will be a world-class development of the south west side of the zoo that will create an unparalleled visitor experience. "This will be an all-year round adventure which will be exciting and enjoyable. Islands will also gives us a great opportunity to showcase our conservation programmes and activities in Sumatra, Madagascar, Mascarenes, Philippines and Indonesia where we have a real impact on conserving nature. This is a very exciting day for the zoo and I am delighted to unveil this major next step for us."**

The £30 million Islands experience will include educational exhibits, play areas, restaurants and village-style food stands.

The project is the first phase of the Natural Vision development to be rolled out and the Islands plans are currently being designed.

The Heart of Africa biodome, which was due to be the first phase, has been postponed for now due to Government funding cuts.

Work on the Islands experience, which will connect various parts of the zoo, is expected to start in 2012 and take 18 months to complete.

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## Chester Zoo joins bid to double number of native trees

Chester Zoo has rolled up its sleeves as part of a tree planting movement aiming to double native trees and woods in the UK.

Staff from the zoo teamed up with children from Acresfield Primary School in Upton to help pupils plant 100 tree saplings – marking the launch of this year's RHS Britain in Bloom campaign.

The campaign aims to make a significant contribution to increasing the number of trees in Britain.

The move comes as a recent United Nations (UN) report highlighted the UK as the second-least wooded country in Europe with just 12% forest cover. Finland topped the league of forest-clad countries with 73% cover and Sweden, Slovenia, Latvia and Estonia all exceed 50%. France and Germany were also shown as having close to three times the UK's forest cover.

In an attempt to change this, RHS Britain in Bloom and the Woodland Trust are donating 200,000 free tree saplings to be planted by communities across the UK. The giveaway is in support of the UN's 2011 International Year of Forests, designed to raise awareness of conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and recognise the benefits trees bring to our wildlife and communities.

Chester Zoo will be planting 400 of these trees – around its ponds, hedgerows and visitor car parks as well as in parts of the local community.

Mark Sparrow, Curator of Botany and Horticulture, said:

**"The idea of the tree-planting movement is to bring people together to help improve their local communities through long-term, sustainable projects, which are also beneficial for wildlife."**

The zoo also hopes the project will help create awareness about the decline of some of the UK's native tree species.

Mark added:

**"When people hear that a species is threatened they usually instantly think about animals. But in fact, there are some native plant species that are now rarer than the giant panda."**

**"But hopefully, if we can get more and more people caring about the trees and woodlands around them, then not only will threatened species start to thrive, we will also all live in greener, more pleasant surroundings."**

## Chester Zoo reveals mammoth list of animal moves

Chester Zoo has revealed the enormous list of animal transfers it was involved with in 2010.

Keepers and staff at the conservation charity were kept busy with 1,514 individual animals being either imported or exported in 267 different transfers, in moves designed to maximise breeding opportunities.

Of the moves, 66 involved mammals, 100 involved birds, and 101 involved reptiles and fish. They ranged from the great, such as *Tunga* the elephant who moved to Bellewaerde in Belgium, to the small, such as two pouched rats – *Gambi* and *Tomy* – who transferred to Rome.

Eighty-three transfers were with international zoos and animal parks, including Brookfield Zoo in Chicago and Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, with 184 involving other UK collections.

Registrar Penny Rudd, who organises the transfers, said:

**"Transferring animals is an extremely important part of managing zoo breeding programmes which are vital to the ongoing effort to preserve rare and endangered species."**

**"Transfers are carefully prepared and supervised by our veterinary team and our expert keepers, who do everything in their power to minimise any stress for the animals."**

**"Keepers and visitors are always sad to see animals go, especially when they have seen them grow up, but we always wish them all the best in their new lives and of course we're delighted to work with all of the new arrivals."**

Over the course of last year, Chester Zoo saw *Baabuu* an Indian rhino arrive from Edinburgh, while *Batschii* another Indian rhino went to Madrid. However, large animals are not always the most problematic to move, Penny added:

**"Although moving a large animal is sometimes logistically difficult, it's definitely not the most complicated."**

**"Smaller creatures, such as the red birds of paradise from Qatar and the USA, presented great problems because they originated from outside the EU."**

**"Not only did we need to obtain the appropriate import licensing for the birds themselves, we also had to obtain licences for the pre-import health screening samples (dung, blood and urine) ahead of the transfer."**

**"This needed to be done within very short time scales to ensure the test results were valid, which was challenging to say the least."**

Chester Zoo works with the conservation of exotic species both in zoos and their habitats abroad as well as with species native to the UK. Successful breeding programmes in the zoo have allowed for the reintroduction of harvest mice, sand lizards and mud snails back into protected areas of their natural habitat in Great Britain in recent years.



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## William and Kate receive a penguin as royal wedding gift from Chester Zoo

Prince William and Kate Middleton have received an unusual wedding present from Chester Zoo – a baby penguin called Acorn.

But little Acorn won't be moving in with The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge any time soon. He has been adopted by the royal pair and will remain at the zoo, where he and 49 other Humbolt penguins are looked after.

The zoo unveiled its unique gift to the happy couple after asking followers on social networking sites to choose which of its 400 different species the royal pair should sponsor.

And the winner was emphatic as fans p-p-p-picked the popular penguins, who received over 20% of the votes.

Rothschild giraffes and African painted dogs were a distant second and third, with other notable suggestions including royal starlings Billy and Nate, a grey crowned crane and a black rhinoceros.

A spokesperson for the zoo said: "It's a real honour to be able to boast Prince William and Kate as penguin adopters.

"And hopefully the happy couple will come and see little Acorn playing in his pool very soon".

Humbolt penguins are an endangered South American species, which naturally live on the coastal areas of Peru and Chile.

Chester Zoo funds conservation initiatives in the penguins' homeland, where they are faced with many pressures including over fishing of their food and habitat loss.

The spokesperson added: "By adopting an animal at Chester Zoo you are not only contributing towards our massive animal food bill but you are also playing a direct part in conservation by helping to save species from extinction."

Chester Zoo was the first zoo in the world to offer animal adoption packages.

# What zoos can do

by Anthony Sheridan

## The Leading Zoological Gardens of Europe 2010-2020

Never before have good zoological gardens been so important, in a world of damage to and destruction of biodiversity both as a visitor attraction and as education and conservation centres.

This book contains unique information and analyses 80 leading zoological gardens in 21 European countries. This is a must-have book for all those interested in zoos – enthusiasts, sceptics, visitors, sponsors, zoo owners, politicians, wildlife conservationists and all those working in and for zoos.

All profits from this book are being donated to Stiftung Artenschutz, a German in-situ conservation charity.

*The book is available from Chester Zoo's shops priced £24.95.*



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# ACT FOR WILDLIFE

## INTRODUCING...

Act for Wildlife launches on 14th June 2011. A brand new campaign to bring to life some of the conservation work that we're doing in the wild and giving you an opportunity to see just how you can help save endangered animals and plants for future generations to enjoy.

As a member or adopter at Chester Zoo, you'll already know our mission is to be a major force in conserving biodiversity worldwide. You'll also know how involved we are with the worldwide conservation of animals and plants and how important that work is.

You don't have to be a Game Ranger in Africa to help protect black rhinos. You don't have to be a community outreach worker in Assam to help communities cope with elephants raiding crops. You don't even have to be a member of a community group to help with local monitoring of hazel dormice.

Act for Wildlife and you can help us to give people the skills and resources to protect their animals and plants, and make sure they can continue our conservation work in the long term.

By donating to Act for Wildlife you are making a valued contribution. We hope that as one of Chester Zoo's most valued supporters you will help us and Act for Wildlife.

ACT FOR WILDLIFE. JOIN US.  
ACT NOW.

[www.actforwildlife.org.uk](http://www.actforwildlife.org.uk)

led by  CHESTER  
ZOO

# fundRAISING

## Run for the Wild 2011

Put your best foot forward and run for a good cause at Chester Zoo's annual run. *Run for the Wild* is open to runners of all ages and abilities, as well as families looking to enjoy some exercise together.

Covering a distance of approximately 5k, *Run for the Wild* will see runners fly past all creatures great and small. All funds raised from the event will go towards our Nigeria Conservation Programme. In Nigeria's Gashaka Gumti National Park Chester Zoo provides core support for the Gashaka Primate Project (GPP). All the money that you raise will be used directly in the wild to help fund this vital conservation work, including supporting work with the Nigerian chimpanzee.

This event will take place on Sunday 25th September 2011 at 8.30am. The event entry fee is £10 for adults and £5 for children. Adult participants who raise a minimum of £20 in sponsorship will each receive a complimentary ticket to visit Chester Zoo; children who raise a minimum of £10 in sponsorship will receive a cuddly animal toy.

Sponsorship money will be accepted on the day of the run and can be sent to Chester Zoo up until the end of October 2011.

To enter the run please visit [www.chesterzoo.org/events](http://www.chesterzoo.org/events) or call the zoo's Guest Services Team on 01244 650240.



## Take a leaf out of our book and become part of Chester Zoo's Donor Tree!

A Donor Tree is a unique way of recognising new donations within Chester Zoo's grounds. These beautifully-designed trees are a great way to get your name, or that of a loved one, displayed in the zoo in a semi-permanent way. You will be able to enjoy your leaf on display for years, whilst knowing that your donation has supported the zoo's vital work as a charity.

In exchange for a donation, you get a leaf which we will engrave and then affix to the tree. Our olive tree will be placed in the zoo's Roman Garden this summer. Above is a sample of an existing tree.

For further information on this exciting new initiative, and to be among the first to get your name up on the tree, simply contact Lynsey Jones on 01244 650292 or via [l.jones@chesterzoo.org](mailto:l.jones@chesterzoo.org)

### CHESTER ZOO

## 100 Club

The winners of the prize draws held recently were:

#### January 2011

Mr. John Birch, Wirral	£100
Mrs. Olive Murtagh, Wilmslow	£100
Mr. K J Sims, Norfolk	£50
Mrs. Penny Rudd, Cheshire	£50
Mr. M Shepherd, Wirral	£50
Mr. Steve Ryder, Chester	£50

#### February 2011

Mrs. Millie Minnis, Wirral	£100
Ms. Fiona Matthews, Wirral	£100
Ms. Lynne Norton, Northwich	£50
Mr. Andrew Palmer, Chester	£50
Mrs. Kathleen Kitchen, Wirral	£50

#### March 2011

Mr. Peter Warren, East Yorkshire	£100
Miss Victoria Hughes, Staffs.	£100
Mr. I D Ogden, Lancashire	£50
Mr. R Lidgard, Wigan	£50
Miss Susan Tissyman, Liverpool	£50
Miss Molly Bryceson, Chester	£50

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

# Talking Conservation!

## Members' Talks for the Summer

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

Why not join us and find out more about the work your membership supports?



Wednesday 15th June at 7:30pm  
**Africa – highlights, birds and more**  
**Dr Roger Wilkinson**



Roger is an avid bird-watcher and naturalist. His journeys have taken him across Africa to some special places. He will talk about his travels, the amazing animals he has seen and his adventures along the way.

*Dr Roger Wilkinson is Head of Field Conservation and Research at Chester Zoo. His interests are in Conservation Biology, Animal Behaviour, Ecology and Ornithology. Roger joined Chester Zoo in 1983 as Curator of Birds and later became Curator of Higher Vertebrates and Research.*

Tuesday 19 July at 7:30pm  
**Kool Komodos**  
**Richard Gibson**



Keeping, breeding and conserving the world's largest lizard.  
Plus news from the Lower Vertebrate and Invertebrate Department.

Richard has been working with Komodo dragons for several years and has designed and built the dedicated facility at ZSL London Zoo, has undertaken field work in Indonesia, co-developed and implemented the EAZA-supported field conservation project in Flores, and is co-discoverer of parthenogenesis in this iconic species.. He currently manages the EAZA zoo population.

*Richard Gibson is Curator Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates at Chester Zoo*

Members' Talks are held in the Geraldine Russell Lecture Theatre (near the zoo's main entrance off the A41) and are free to members (please bring your membership card and welcome letter). Members of the public and guests are welcome (£3.50 for non-members). Our Lecture Theatre seats up to 170.

Post-talk refreshments give you the opportunity to have an informal chat with speakers, Zoo staff and fellow members at selected talks, items from our projects overseas may be available.

The Lecture Theatre has its own car park and a bike rack for cyclists.

To assist us with our catering arrangements, we request that all members advise us of their attendance.

**Interested in attending?**

**Please call Kate in Education**

**on 01244 389 444 or e-mail [k.branksin@chesterzoo.org](mailto:k.branksin@chesterzoo.org) to book.**



**FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL**  
(NORTH WEST GROUP)



**Thursday 28th July 2011**

**SPECIAL EVENT**

**Living with the orang-utans in Sabah, Malaysia: problems and solutions**

**Dr. Isabelle Lackman**

In support of the 2011 EAZA Ape Campaign, Dr. Isabelle Lackman, Director of Hutan - Kinabatangan Orang-Utan Conservation Project will be speaking on 'Living with the orang-utans in Sabah, Malaysia: problems and solutions'. The Malaysian state of Sabah, located in the northern part of Borneo, is home to a remarkable wildlife diversity and abundance, including about a fifth of the Bornean orang-utan population and the almost entire Bornean elephant population, making it one of the major strongholds for the conservation of these highly endangered species. Sabah's pristine ecosystems have come under pressure from human activities during the last few decades. Heavy commercial timber extraction and ensuing land conversion to first cocoa then oil palm has resulted in a substantial loss of natural habitat. Forest degradation and fragmentation has critically impaired the integrity of the ecosystems, deteriorating conditions for wildlife populations as well as for the indigenous communities, and resulting in the emergence of increasing conflicts between humans and wildlife.

Over the past thirteen years, Hutan - a community-based wildlife conservation programme in Sabah - has developed a practical conservation approach combining scientific research, community engagement, policy work, education and capacity building. Hutan is working together with the Sabah Wildlife Department, the local community and a wide range of project partners to integrate the sustainable use of natural resources and durable socio-economic development with the long-term conservation of wildlife species and their habitat.

During her talk, Isabelle will give an overview of the evolution of the relationships between people and wildlife in Sabah's Kinabatangan region and of the current extent of human - wildlife conflicts. She will highlight the efforts of Hutan to implement innovative solutions to mitigate these conflicts and restore more harmonious relationships between the people and wildlife.

Chester Zoo supports the Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Project as part of the Realm of the Red Ape Programme.

**Tickets:** A huge 'thank-you' to the many Zoo Members who have supported FFI (NW) over the years, and for those of you who have not yet 'tasted' one of our evenings, please come along and share a bit of the hope and magic that is hearing about conservation in action!

Tickets may be available on the door, but advanced booking helps us to keep costs down and guarantees a seat so please ring Penny Rudd on 01244 650215 to reserve tickets. Lectures are held in the Russell Allen Lecture Hall, and doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Members and non-Members of FFI are welcome to attend. A buffet and wine are served, and tickets cost £8.50 for FFI Members and £9.50 for non-Members of FFI, with a concession of £5 for students.



**Tuesday 13 September at 7:30pm**

**Chester Zoo - Man and Boy**

**Tim Rowlands**

Tim is an Upton boy, born and bred, and his earliest relationship with the zoo was climbing over the fence at night after the zoo was closed. He was an enthusiastic Junior Member and first came to the zoo on YTS (the government sponsored Youth Training Scheme). Tim has seen many changes over the years and as Curator of Mammals is now responsible for the mammal collection at the zoo and is heavily involved in the design of new enclosures. Tim will talk fondly about the 'old' days' and bring us right up to date with what's happening now and in the near future with the mammal collection in the zoo.

**Tim Rowlands is Curator of Mammals at Chester Zoo**

# Events at Chester Zoo

**Friday 24th June**

## **Tropical Treat**

A refreshing glass of summer Pimms served on Oakfield Terrace.

Isolde McGeorge, our specialist Herpetology keeper, will then give an informative and guided tour of the Komodo Dragons and Tropical Realm.

After the tour a BBQ will be served at Oakfield Manor.

£32.50 £22.95 (under 11 years)

**Thursday 14th July**

## **Pudding Night and Garden Tour**

6.00pm. The evening commences with a glass of Bucks Fizz served on Oakfield Terrace, then enjoy an informative tour of our grounds and Grow Zone in the company of our gardeners.

After the tour enjoy a light main course and taster of seven delicious puddings.

£30.50

**Saturday 6th August**

## **Elephants and Dinosaurs**

After enjoying drinks on Oakfield Terrace take a guided tour through Chester Zoo's stunning grounds. A visit to our amazing herd of elephants and our new baby elephant, *Jamilah*, is included.

After the tour a BBQ can be enjoyed at Oakfield Manor.

£34.95 per adult £24.95 per child

**Sunday 18th September**

## **Roaring Event and Tour of Carnivores**

Back by popular demand

Admission into the zoo from 2.00pm (non-members)

Afternoon tea served in Oakfield Manor at 5.00pm.

6.00pm: Tour of selected carnivores in the company of our keepers.

7.00pm: Talk given by Alan Woodward.

£25.95 non members £23.50 members

Pre-booking and pre-payment essential

For further details please contact the Events Office on 01244 650209 or email: [events@chesterzoo.org](mailto:events@chesterzoo.org)



Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH  
Tel. 01244 380280 Fax. 01244 371273 Email: [info@chesterzoo.co.uk](mailto:info@chesterzoo.co.uk)  
Web: [www.chesterzoo.org](http://www.chesterzoo.org)

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

Registered charity No. 306077

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Telephone **01244 650209**  
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