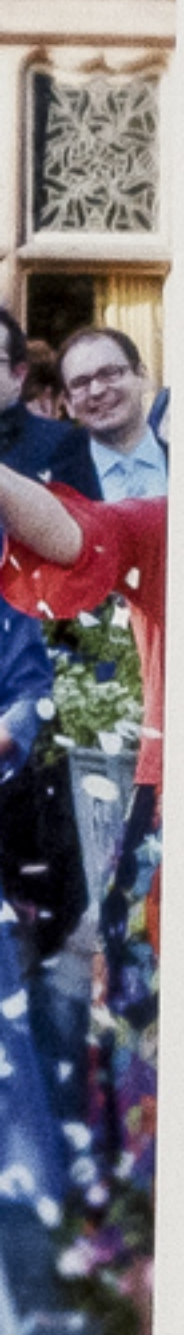


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The official magazine for  
**Chester Zoo Members and Adopters**

# MAGAZINE

Winter 2011



# Reflections...

## 2011 through a lens



# Z MAGAZINE

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Front page picture courtesy of Richard Deane

### Memberships on the move

The main entrance is being given a great new makeover over the next few months and will be up and running for Easter.

The memberships and adoptions building will temporarily shut its doors during the works and will reopen in a new, permanent home at the main entrance in 2012.

In the meantime, members and adopters can come and see us at the Guest Services Pavilion inside the main entrance and you can still reach us by phone and via the internet as usual.



Photo courtesy of Chester Cycling Campaign

**As a conservation organisation we are aware of the impact travel can have on the environment. Our green travel plan team is constantly engaged in finding ways to get staff and visitors to the zoo as sustainably and conveniently as possible.**

To help us better understand our visitors' travel habits we need feedback. We would therefore love to hear members' views on this subject and have developed a brief survey which will provide valuable data and help us progress our travel planning ahead of delivery of Islands, the zoo's exciting new Indo-Pacific zone, which is scheduled to open in 2014.

The survey can be completed online by December 30 via the following link:  
[www.surveymonkey.com/s/ChesterZooVisitors](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ChesterZooVisitors)

Paper copies can be collected from the guest services pavilion. (We are very grateful to JMP Consulting Ltd for the free assistance they provided to develop this survey.)

If Members wish to complete the survey anonymously they are welcome to do so, but all those supplying their name and contact details will be eligible for a draw, with a Chester Zoo Animal Encounter as the prize.

### Z magazine

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 650208 or email [membership@chesterzoo.org](mailto: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!

It will still be possible to receive Z by post should you not wish to receive it electronically.

### Members' Days

Don't forget members can bring in up to 12 guests each at half price on Members' Days.

The forthcoming dates are:

**Saturday 21st April 2012**

**Friday 6th July 2012**

**Sunday 4th November 2012**

Please let the membership team know how many guests you will be bringing with you.

### Adopters' Days

Adopters can meet the keepers and ask questions about their adopted species on the next Adopters' Days:

**Saturday 10th March 2012**

**Sunday 7th October 2012**



# news

from the zoo

with...

**Dr. Mark Pilgrim**

Director General

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

We have some great news to open with following the arrival of three Sumatran Tiger cubs, born to mum *Kirana*. We are really heartened by this news, particularly after the sad death of *Kirana's* last cub. Although it is very early days, the indications are good; *Kirana* is keeping the cubs indoors, which is preferable at this time of year, but they should start to emerge in the next few weeks. What a treat it will be to see the cubs on the paddock for Christmas.

We have had some new arrivals, including a female Pied Tamarin who has arrived from France. We lost our previous female through a combination of old age and ill health but our new girl seems to have been accepted well by our male. This bodes well for a breeding success for this Critically Endangered primate.

The Giant Anteaters have made their long-awaited move to their new enclosure where the kangaroos once were. The sight of the baby being carried around on mum's back is one to behold but you may find some patience is required when trying to see them out and about.

Aardvarks *Scorch* and *Tatsu* have settled in well and, once we have completed some works at the Meerkats, they will be moving in there. The Aardvarks will eventually form part of the Meerkat experience. The animal experiences have gone down extremely well with visitors this year. In other news, we have two Asian Short-clawed Otter pups, we're hand-rearing an orphaned Pudu and have two tiny Babirusa piglets were born recently, these are very delicate at this age so we are keeping our fingers crossed that all goes well.

Some of you may recall that we have had problems with regulating the temperature in the *Tropical Realm* for the Philippine Crocodiles. As a result our pair have gone on a prolonged holiday to Paignton and will return as part of the Islands project. In their place have come two Spectacled Caiman (crocodiles). Unlike our previous crocodiles, they are happy to live together and more tolerant of cooler temperatures. The Caimans will take over one side of the enclosure; on the other side will go the Critically Endangered White-winged Wood Duck. As ducks go, they might not be the most attractive to look at but, native to Sumatra and Assam, they are critically endangered in their native habitat.

## **Please can you update us on plans for 2012?**

The big project, which must be finished for Easter, is the main entrance. Work on revamping the entrance has already started. Soon we will start pulling back the turnstiles, giving public access to the main plaza area. People will be able to

grab a coffee or a bite to eat before they go into the zoo or just come along without coming in! The elephant house will be included in this public access section but we're going to see how this goes before we make a final decision on keeping it that way.

There's other things in the pipeline for the year ahead too – the turtle centre at the rear of the aquarium, additional elephant PC fences and canopy, generators for the Amphibian pods, off-show bird facilities and toilets at the painted dogs enclosure.

Dinosaurs will be making a welcome return in 2012, we've had a great year and are delighted with our visitor figures. The dinosaurs will be with us for a longer period next year – March through to October – and there will be some new additions amongst them!

## **What's happening in the field?**

We've got some great work going on in the field and leading the charge have been the Act for Wildlife bridge building team. Seven intrepid members of staff – Andy Adderton (Maintenance), Andy Lenihan (Primate team), Andy Greenhalgh (Horticulture and Botany), Cat Barton (Conservation), Mark Wylie (Primate team), Nick Davis (Animal division) and Anna Furse (Horticulture and Botany) – spent two weeks building bridges to help orangutans move around in their native areas. They have done some great work and this has been a fabulous opportunity for them to use their skills in the wild.

Our Botany and Horticulture staff also deserve a pat on the back for cultivating an extremely rare plant – believed to be one of the first times ever that the species has been germinated outside of its native Mauritius. The scarcely seen species – *Zanthoxylum heterophyllum* – is classed by conservation organisations as Critically Endangered, so this is a great achievement.

## **And finally...**

Congratulations must go to former Director General Prof Gordon McGregor Reid who was awarded the prestigious Heini Hediger Award at the recent WAZA conference. The award was instituted by the World Association of Zoos and Aquaria in 1995 to recognise individuals who have rendered outstanding service to the zoo and aquarium community.

In his citation, Gordon was described as both a zooman's zoo man and an academic's academic and this award – WAZA's highest – is very much deserved.

# BIG BOLD and PASSIONATE!

## Zoo unveils its NEW LOOK

We're delighted to give you a sneak preview of our new brand – which is as exciting, passionate and fun as the zoo itself!

Our new identity – including our logo, typefaces and colours – already feature throughout the zoo and we'll continue to roll it out over the next 12 months.

The colours for our new look have been inspired by our passion for nature and our specially hand-drawn font captures the spirit of the zoo. It's varying styles means it is flexible enough for it to be used by all our different departments too.

Our Managing Director Barbara Smith said:

“We wanted an identity with a look that encapsulates what is special about us.

“The new logo is modern, honest and personal and will stand out from other organisations.

“Our unique illustrated font gives us an energetic and natural look and will mean our communications get noticed and connect with people.

“This reinvigorated image is great news for Chester Zoo and will really help us to increase engagement between ourselves and our many audiences. It will give our communications consistency and make them instantly recognisable as having come from us.”

We believe our new look will breathe a breath of fresh air into the zoo's look.

Your thoughts and questions on the brand can be sent to [marketing@chesterzoo.org](mailto:marketing@chesterzoo.org)

CHESTER ZOO

CHESTER ZOO



Adventurous aardvarks, slinky spiders and more ...

# All creatures great and small



## Adventurous aardvark blazes a trail

Keeper Lucy Bunfield gives a welcome to one of the zoo's newest additions – Tatsu the Aardvark.

Tatsu, along with his brother Scorch, has arrived from Colchester Zoo.



## Anteater hitches a ride

A baby giant anteater peeks out from under its mum's tail.

The 11-week-old youngster, whose gender is not yet known, is the first of the species to be born.

The baby will be named once keepers can get close enough to tell whether it is a boy or a girl.

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

All three have just moved into a new enclosure and will be visible in the coming weeks.



## Meet our tiny Kirk's Dik-dik

Native to eastern and southwestern Africa, the Dik-dik gets its name from the noise it makes when it is alarmed and is one of the world's smallest antelope species.

### 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 until they are nine months old
- The species is classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.



## Flocking to help

Keepers at Chester Zoo are providing around the clock care for a baby flamingo.

The Caribbean flamingo chick is being hand-reared by staff after it was rejected by its parents.

The chick is fed via a syringe at regular timed intervals, four times a day and will require such special attention for around another four months.

Trainee Keeper Alex Gray said:

"It's an intricately planned and time consuming job but we just want to make sure he becomes strong enough to be able re-join the others."

When it is time, the chick will join back up with the rest of the flock – including 14 others that have also recently hatched – in the zoo's Flamingo Lagoon.

### FLAMINGO Facts

- The Caribbean flamingo is also known as *Phoenicopterus ruber*.
- *Phoenicopterus* is from the Greek word for flamingo, and means "red-feathered".
- Caribbean Flamingos are the brightest coloured pink of all flamingo species.
- A young flamingo's feathers do not tend to turn pink until after 12 months.

### Species Information:

**Where they live:** The Caribbean and Galapagos, Central and South America.

**Habitat:** Saline lagoons, salt pans, mangroves and coastal areas.

**Diet:** Aquatic invertebrates, such as crustaceans, molluscs, worms and insects and aquatic plants such as algae.

**Weight:** 2.1 – 4.1kg

**Threats:** Drainage of suitable habitat and the creation of salt pans have had an impact on the population of this species. Habitat loss due to land reclamation for development and holiday resorts in some areas.

## Britain's largest and rarest spiders released back into the wild

The endangered Fen raft spider has almost disappeared from Britain due to the erosion of its habitat. But a team, including staff from Chester Zoo, has returned them to a Suffolk nature reserve in a bid to boost their numbers.

Hundreds of endangered spiders have been released into the wild as part of a conservation programme aimed at stemming their decline in the UK.

The Fen raft spider was once commonly found in the wetlands of the Suffolk Broads, but the gradual destruction of its habitat led to it almost becoming extinct.

However, 400 of the rare arachnids, reared in a special bio-secure pod at Chester Zoo, have been reintroduced on Carlton and Pevensey Marshes in Suffolk. A number of other zoos and private breeders working with Natural England also released hundreds more.

Karen Entwistle, Lead Keeper at Chester Zoo, said:

"Fen raft spiders have become isolated to just a few pockets of habitat in England and their numbers have declined to preciously low levels. It would be difficult for the remaining populations to ever recover on their own.

"But, by rearing them and helping them through to adulthood just prior to their release, we've hopefully given them a much better chance of survival."

For four months, the dedicated keeper spent four hours a day; four days a week, alone with the spiders in the special breeding facility at the zoo.

"I kept the spiders in separate test tubes so that they could not attack each other and I individually hand fed each of them, one at a time, with fruit flies. It's a very, very time consuming job for that number of spiders but it's vital for the future of the species."

Fen raft spiders are one of only two British spiders that are fully protected by law and are named after their ability to float on water in the fens and wetlands where they live – thanks to their hairy legs.

Chester Zoo worked with the government body Natural England, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, the BBC Wildlife Fund and several fellow BIAZA affiliates in its attempt to boost their numbers in the wild.



## Lionesses roar into action

Two lionesses – named *Kumari* and *Kiburi* – have roared into the zoo.

The four-year-old Asiatic lions arrived from Rotterdam Zoo in Holland, as part of a European breeding programme designed to safeguard the future of the species.

The youngsters have been genetically matched with the zoo's male incumbent, Iblis, meaning keepers are hopeful that a patter of tiny paws will soon follow.

Chester Zoo's Curator of Mammals, Tim Rowlands, said:

**"Asiatic lions are critically endangered. It is therefore great news to be able to bring in two new lionesses to introduce to our male and we are hoping for cubs in the not-too-distant future.**

**"With a bit of luck, it will ensure our continued success as part of the European Breeding Programme and play a vital role in conserving this magnificent species."**

The sisters arrived as the zoo's previous lioness retired to sunnier climes.

Having been in Chester for over five years, thirteen-year-old Asha has moved to Santillana Zoo in northern Spain.

Asiatic lions are listed as critically endangered by conservation organisations and only a few hundred now remain in the wild.

### Did you know? Asiatic Lions

**Scientific name:** *Panthera leo persica*

**Habitat:** Grasslands to desert

**Country of Origin:** Northern Greece, Southwest Asia, Central India (now only found in the Gir Forest in India)

These lions are not from Africa. They are the rare Asiatic lion from India. Only a few hundred Asiatic lions remain in the wild and they are found only in one small game reserve, smaller in area than the New Forest.

The Asiatic lion was once found in Eastern Europe, Turkey, the Middle East and most of India. It became extinct in Europe around 100 A.D. and in Palestine around the time of the Crusades. It remained widespread until the time of the advent of firearms in the mid 1800s, which led to widespread extinction through hunting as a sport.



## Gentle giants are snap happy

Chester Zoo cameras have captured rare images of a giant armadillo – helping conservationists learn more about the mysterious species of which little is known.

The scarcely seen and highly threatened species was pictured as it emerged from a burrow in the wetlands of central Brazil.

Field researchers, supported by Chester Zoo, managed to track down the remarkable animal after spending ten weeks intensively searching the Nhecolândia sub-region of the Brazilian Pantanal.

Biologist Arnaud Desbiez, from the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, who runs the Giant Armadillo Project, said:

**"We simply know nothing about giant armadillos and may lose the species before we can understand its basic natural history and ecological role."**

However the new camera-traps are now being used to help discover more about the species – allowing conservationists to estimate population density; investigate patterns of activity; monitor the use of giant armadillo burrows by other species and learn more about their social and reproductive behaviour.

Dr Desbiez added:

**"The cameras will offer critical pieces of information for the assessment of the status of giant armadillo populations in Brazil."**

**"They will help us to acquire a better understanding of the natural history of the species and perhaps understand the ecological reasons why giant armadillos are so rare."**

**"They will also provide us with exciting data and help us to formulate a baseline of information on giant armadillo ecology and ecosystem function in the Brazilian Pantanal."**

The Pantanal is the world's largest continuous freshwater wetland, spanning Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay.



Although giant armadillos range over much of South America almost nothing is known about them and, due to their secretive behavior and low population densities, are very rarely seen.

Dr Desbiez said:

**"Laying my eyes upon this incredible species, I am overcome by a feeling of responsibility to protect and conserve this living fossil. I look forward to using results from our work to introduce Brazilians and the rest of the world to this unknown species which I think symbolizes biodiversity at its very best."**

### ARMADILLO Facts

- Little is known about giant armadillos, which can reach 1.5m in length.
- Unlike their smaller relatives, these large animals are unable to fully roll into a protective ball and so burrow to escape predators.
- Their armour-like shell is made of 11 to 13 hinged bands of bony plates covered in scales.
- Having few natural predators, humans pose the largest threat to these creatures through hunting and deforestation.
- Weighing up to 50 kilograms, the remarkable animals use their enormous front claws to dig into termite and ant nests.

# Flexing their mussels

How Giraffe Keepers **Fiona Howe** and **Hannah Sievwright**, are training the otters

We look after a diverse range of species on the giraffe section. Two of the characters that stand out are the breeding pair of Asian Short-clawed Otters. *Robbie*, the male, is 4 years old – he is reasonably quiet as otters go, nevertheless he is incredibly inquisitive and playful; *Daisy* the female, six, makes up for Robbie's quiet manner and is also very curious and full of energy. The more desirable of these traits, along with being very intelligent have actually helped the team in reaching their goal – to train the otters.

Asian Short-clawed Otters naturally vary in size and weight and are prone to weight fluctuations. Body condition can be influenced by a variety of factors such as seasonal variations, activity levels and breeding cycle. As with all our animals we keep a close eye on the condition of animals in our care with daily visual checks; however we felt as a team that it would be valuable to get regular weights from the otters in our care.

After conducting research and drawing up numerous drafts a final training plan was devised. We decided upon a clicker training method using positive reinforcement. This training technique relies on marking a desirable behaviour with an audible click and subsequently give a reward to the animal – in this case we wanted the otters to touch a target (a homemade affair made from a garden cane) with their nose to receive a reward of mussels – the otters love mussels! The otters soon learnt that the 'clicker' meant that they had done well and the mussels were coming.

The Asian Short-clawed Otters are very intelligent and responded well to training, each week we conducted at least 3 training sessions lasting 10 minutes for each otter. The otters were initially targeted in their bed area; this helped us to manage them better, separate them and enclose the otters securely off the paddock when needed. The training then progressed to moving them in and around the paddock using the target, when the trainer moves the target, the otter moves to a new position and is rewarded for touching the end with their nose. Targeting the otters at a safe 1.5 metre distance enables us to carry out a visual health check without using unnecessary physical restraint.

After a few weeks we were able to introduce a weigh board into the enclosure, due to the otters inquisitive nature it didn't take us to long encourage them to approach the scales using the target and in turn, to target the otters onto the scales to be weighed. Once on the board the otters are kept steady with a regular reward of mussels – the otters are usually very good at staying in position!

This training process has enabled us to regularly collect *Robbie* and *Daisy's* weights and has in turn enabled us to provide further mental stimulation to the otters. This has had a positive impact on their husbandry.

In July 2011 *Robbie* and *Daisy* became the proud parents to two gorgeous little female otter pups. *Daisy* chose to give birth



in a secluded holt at the back of the enclosure, off show to the public, to avoid disturbance. *Robbie* has been a fantastically attentive dad, playing a very active role in the rearing of the pups, bringing them food and looking after them. Both of the pups are growing fast. They are now eating fish and their parents are bringing them out and about to explore the enclosure and for swimming lessons. We hope in the future to also to be able to train the otter pups, like their parents!

## Fun facts

*Daisy* born at Chester Zoo – 21/11/2004

*Robbie* born at Longleat Safari park – 28/06/07

Otters pups born 16th July 2011 – last otter pups born Nov 2004!

*Robbie* is a good father, he is very attentive to the pups, taking food back to the holts for them to eat

*Daisy* loves her food, she often jumps up and down, being very vocal in anticipation of food

The otters favourite food is mussels

They get fed crayfish, and fish daily (either trout or roach)

The otters eat 20% of their body weight daily

*Robbie* loves to play with pebbles, he balances pebbles on his forepaws

# RARE LIZARDS

## slink back into the wild

**The endangered sand lizard has almost disappeared from Britain due to loss of its sandy habitats from agriculture, forest and building developments. But a team, including staff from Chester Zoo, has helped return them to the wild.**

Dozens of sand lizards have been released back into their native habitat in Wales in an attempt to bring back the UK's rarest lizard to areas where it has disappeared.

The sand lizard was once commonly found on dunes and heathland in Britain, but the gradual destruction of its habitats has led to its extinction in many places.

However, 46 of the rare reptiles, reared in special hatcheries at Chester Zoo, have been released in Ynyslas, near Aberystwyth in Wales. The hatcheries were designed to closely mimic the lizard's natural environment. A private breeder from Blackpool also released a further 14.

According to the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation group (ARC), the lizard was lost altogether from a number of counties, including Cheshire, Cornwall, Kent, Sussex and north and west Wales.

More than 90% of suitable habitat has also vanished from Merseyside, Surrey and Dorset.

Frogs, toads, lizards, snakes and newts have all been affected by the loss of their habitats, often because of building developments, changes to agricultural practice and the planting of forests.

But sand lizards and their habitats, are now protected by law. Isolde McGeorge, Specialist Keeper at Chester Zoo, said:

"It's great to be involved with projects like the Sand Lizard Recovery Programme and to be able to help release

these animals back into their natural habitat. It's the culmination of a lot of hard work and some serious commitment from an awful lot of people.

"As far as we are aware, they became extinct in Wales around 60 years ago."

Miss McGeorge said there were a number of factors in their decline.

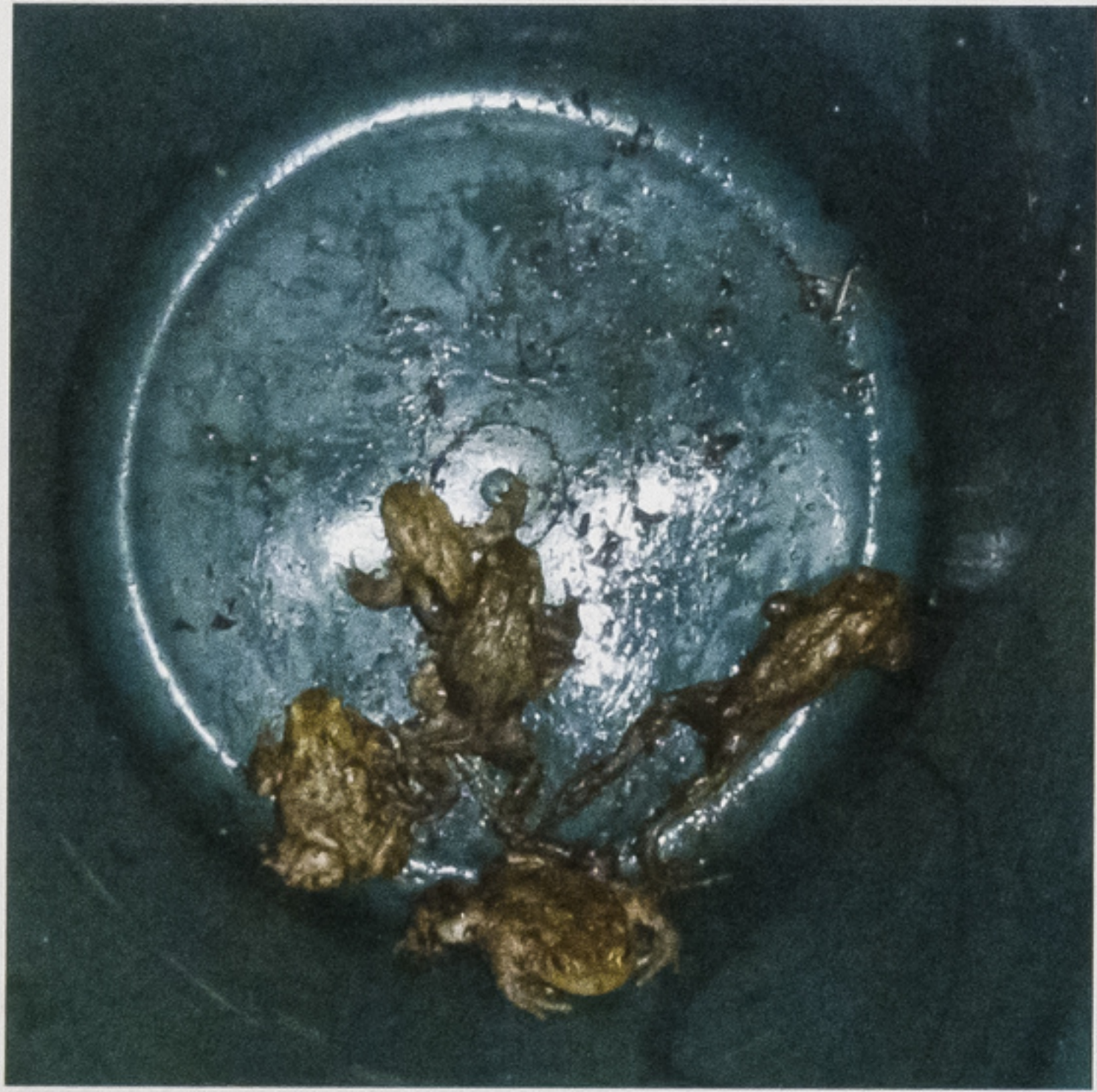
She added: "Many reptiles and amphibians have come under pressure from all sorts of factors including habitat degradation, predation of both offspring and adults by cats and magpies and the continued sprawl of conurbation.

"But, through important breeding and reintroduction programmes like this, we are slowly and surely getting them back into the areas where historically they used to live.

"It's just one example of the action that must be taken to reverse the decline in Britain's biodiversity and to conserve the habitats that our unique wildlife relies upon."

The zoo worked on the release with a number of volunteers, as well as Natural England, the Herpetological Conservation Trust, the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation charity (ARC) and the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW).

CCW Senior Reserve Manager for Dyfi National Nature Reserve, Mike Bailey added: "Ynyslas dunes are still actively growing with lots of marram grass and patches of bare sand, making them ideal habitat for sand lizards. With luck visitors will be able to see a basking sand lizard here in the future, but common lizards also occur in the dunes so careful observation will be called for."





# Acting for Wildlife **LOCALLY**

By **Cat Barton**, Assistant Conservation Officer

Have you ever really delved into nature to find out what's going on in your gardens and ponds? You may just be surprised...

Working in the conservation department, my role can be very varied, from communicating with overseas partners to taking part in conservation campaigns. But what I really like doing is getting outside into the field, away from the computer for a few days. Back in 2009 I started a research project to survey the zoo grounds for native amphibians; Common Frogs, Common Toads, Smooth Newts and Great Crested Newts. Amphibians are thought to be the most threatened taxon in the world and I wanted to find out how our local amphibians are fairing. My focus was the ponds on the wider zoo site – the zoo takes up more than 96 acres but the land owned by us covers over 300 acres.

I didn't do this on my own though; to survey the 24 (quite large) ponds on the wider zoo site I recruited some volunteers including our amphibian keepers, rECOrd (Cheshire's local records centre) staff and a number of volunteers from local surveying groups. To get a good data set, the surveys took place over three springs from 2009-2011. This has meant that we can look at changes over the three seasons and the effect that weather has on our native amphibians (which includes frosts in April!).

Unfortunately though, it's not as easy as turning up and looking at a pond, though it would be great if it was! Great Crested Newts are a protected species in the UK, and to conduct any kind of survey, you need to be licensed and professionally trained. You also have to bear in mind the time of year. Amphibians breed in the spring and this is the best time to survey for them. However each species is different. In the North West, the best time to search for frog

spawn is the beginning of March to April. A visual survey of the pond is all that is required, so you don't even have to get your feet wet. Around the end of March the toads make their return to their breeding ponds, once the evenings have become milder, and you'll start to see the long strings of toad spawn wrapped around pond vegetation. From April to June, surveying for newts can take place through netting, egg searches, bottle trapping and torchlight surveys, all of which require a Great Crested Newt license.

So what was found? Well, we can confirm that Common Frogs were the most plentiful around our site, with twelve breeding ponds found. The toads were not quite as common, however the three breeding ponds which were found had a healthy number of toads and toad spawn each year. As for the newts – the more common Smooth Newt was found to be present at seven of our ponds, and the protected Great Crested Newt present at five ponds. These are fantastic results and this data can now be used to ensure we manage these ponds as best we can for our native species.

There are many organisations who can train you in amphibian survey techniques and who always need extra help with national surveys – contact your local biodiversity records centre to find out more. For Cheshire, this is rECOrd [www.record-lrc.co.uk](http://www.record-lrc.co.uk). So go on, do your bit for nature and Act For Wildlife.

**ACT FOR  
WILDLIFE**



# Making a difference

© NASA

## ACTING FOR WILDLIFE AROUND THE WORLD

### A FOCUS ON

#### the Mascarenes Programme

One of our longest running field conservation programmes works alongside the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF) helping to save the endemic island species of the Mascarenes. There have been many huge successes over the years, with the downgrading of the Mauritius Fody and the Echo Parakeet from Critically Endangered to Endangered; all down to the fantastic work of the MWF.

We support a number of projects on the Mascarene Islands. On Rodrigues, this includes surveying and monitoring of the Rodrigues fruit bat and propagation of critically endangered plants. In Mauritius, we support projects for three different bird species – the Echo Parakeet, Mauritius Olive White-eye and Mauritius Fody. As you read this, two of our bird keepers are Acting For Wildlife out in Mauritius. Our keepers are carrying out field work, looking at the distribution of the endemic birds on the islands.

#### Fast Fact

The Mauritius Project is one of our Act For Wildlife projects – visit [www.actforwildlife.org.uk](http://www.actforwildlife.org.uk)



### Native Species Programme

Water voles are a UK Biodiversity Action Plan species and were once widespread throughout the UK. The Cheshire Water Vole project will help protect the species in our county, via a number of activities such as surveys, mapping and education for land owners and local communities. The project hopes to secure the future of the Water Vole populations in Cheshire.

**FAST FACT:** The American Mink has been one of the main threats to Water Vole populations since its introduction to the UK.

### Nigeria Programme

Ngel Nyaki Forest Reserve is one of the most floristically rich regions in Nigeria and also home to one of our project partners. We have supported the Nigeria Montane Forest Project since 2005 and, since then, the reforestation and restoration work in the reserve has gone from strength to strength. Our support this year allowed local research assistants to be employed to work on the project and allowed training to take place to ensure the project can carry on into the future.

**FAST FACT:** The name Nigeria is taken from the Niger River which runs through the country.





### Asian Elephant Programme

Now half-way through its second Darwin Initiative grant, the Assam Haathi Project is progressing very well. The project focuses on combating human-elephant conflict in Assam, India. Previous working in two districts, this second phase is now replicating the approaches to crop protection, alternative livelihoods schemes and community outreach into four more areas of Assam. Our work is continuing to generate new income sources for communities and drastically reduce damage by elephants.

**FAST FACT:** Eight Chester Zoo staff have visited the Assam Haathi Project over recent years providing expertise in areas such as education, nutrition and spatial mapping.



Snare removal Chyulu (c) Save the Rhino

### Black Rhino Programme

Due to the increase in the amount of rhino poaching for their horns, security is being stepped up at every reserve throughout Africa. With our support the game scouts of the Maasailand Preservation Trust have been working to protect the Black Rhinos of Chyulu Hills National Park in Kenya for many years. Now with the current rise in poaching our support is enabling an increase in anti-poaching activities and deterrents within the park.

**FAST FACT:** Black Rhinos can live to 35 years old in the wild.



Roger helping to band cockatoos



Banding cockatoos



### NEWS from the Philippines

We were delighted by news this month from our project partners Katala who run the Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Programme. Not only have they had one of the best breeding seasons on record, Katala also won the Governor's Award this year for their 'loyal dedication and unwavering commitment to wildlife conservation in the Province of Palawan'. The successful breeding season has meant that Katala banded 75 hatchlings on Rasa Island, and 19 of the 22 hatchlings on Pandanan Island. Roger Wilkinson, Head of Field Conservation and Research, visited the site on Pandanan in April this year and took part in the field work and banding of the chicks.

These fantastic results, both here and in the field, will have a significant impact on the future survival of this rare parrot.

Photo: VUL PRO



### Grant Support

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

- A study into methods for conserving and protecting Eurasian Taimen, the largest salmon in the world.
- A new project in Madagascar which is working to conserve the critically endangered Pinstripe Damba and the Madagascar Big-headed Turtle.
- A training and capacity building workshop in Namibia facilitating the management of captive Painted Dogs in Africa.
- Building capacity for studbook keeping and ex situ population management for key Indonesian species.
- A study to determine the susceptibility of the Cape and African White-backed vultures to Avian Influenza
- Support for the Thailand Hornbill Nest adoptions, providing artificial nests for the birds in the wild.

## News on Conservation from around the World

We're taking a look at conservation news a bit closer to home...

### Good

It looks like the conservation efforts are paying off for some species. Dedicated conservationists around the UK have been working for a number of years to help protect some of our most endangered species. And their efforts haven't gone unnoticed. A recent report showed that both water voles and otters numbers have increased dramatically bringing these species back from the brink of extinction.



Photo: S. Rowlands

### Bad

Unfortunately the news was not all good for our native species. The same report showed that hedgehog and red squirrel numbers are still in decline around the UK. Red squirrels have dropped by 50% in 50 years and hedgehogs numbers have dropped from 30 million to 1.3 million during this time.

# Staff go Wild!

We're acting for wildlife all the time.  
See who has been where.

## China

In August, **Roger Wilkinson**, Head of Field Conservation and Research travelled to China with **Simon Dowell**, our project partner from Liverpool John Moore University. Roger and Simon visited China to negotiate a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Sichuan Forestry Division, insuring continued close collaboration in the protection of key nature reserves.

Roger and Simon visited Ma'anshan and Heizugou Reserves and joined the first meeting of the newly established Reserves Committee at Leshan. Whilst they were there, they attended the Sichuan Reserves Education Workshop held in Chengdu where they were able to join **Ruth Pearson** (Chester Zoo Presenter) who was assisting with education workshops. To find out more about Ruth's trip, go to page 15.



## Kenya

**Maggie Esson**, Education Programmes Manager, travelled out to Mkomazi in Kenya in October. We have supported the Black Rhino work of the Mkomazi Rhino Reserve for a number of years and most recently funded a new water bowser which will provide much needed water for the Critically Endangered Black Rhinos. Maggie has been working closely with the Mkomazi staff, using her skills and knowledge to support their education programme 'Rafiki wa faru' which means 'Friend of rhino'. Last year, mother and baby rhino models were sent out to help as part of the education programme there, and whilst she was there, Maggie and the sanctuary manager Semu Pallangyo tidied them up with a splash of paint following the rhinos year out 'in the wild'!

Check out page 16 for our Staff Go Wild Special in Borneo.



Winter 2011

**Animal Fun!**

# Kidz

See Inside...  
KIDS' PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

# ZOO!

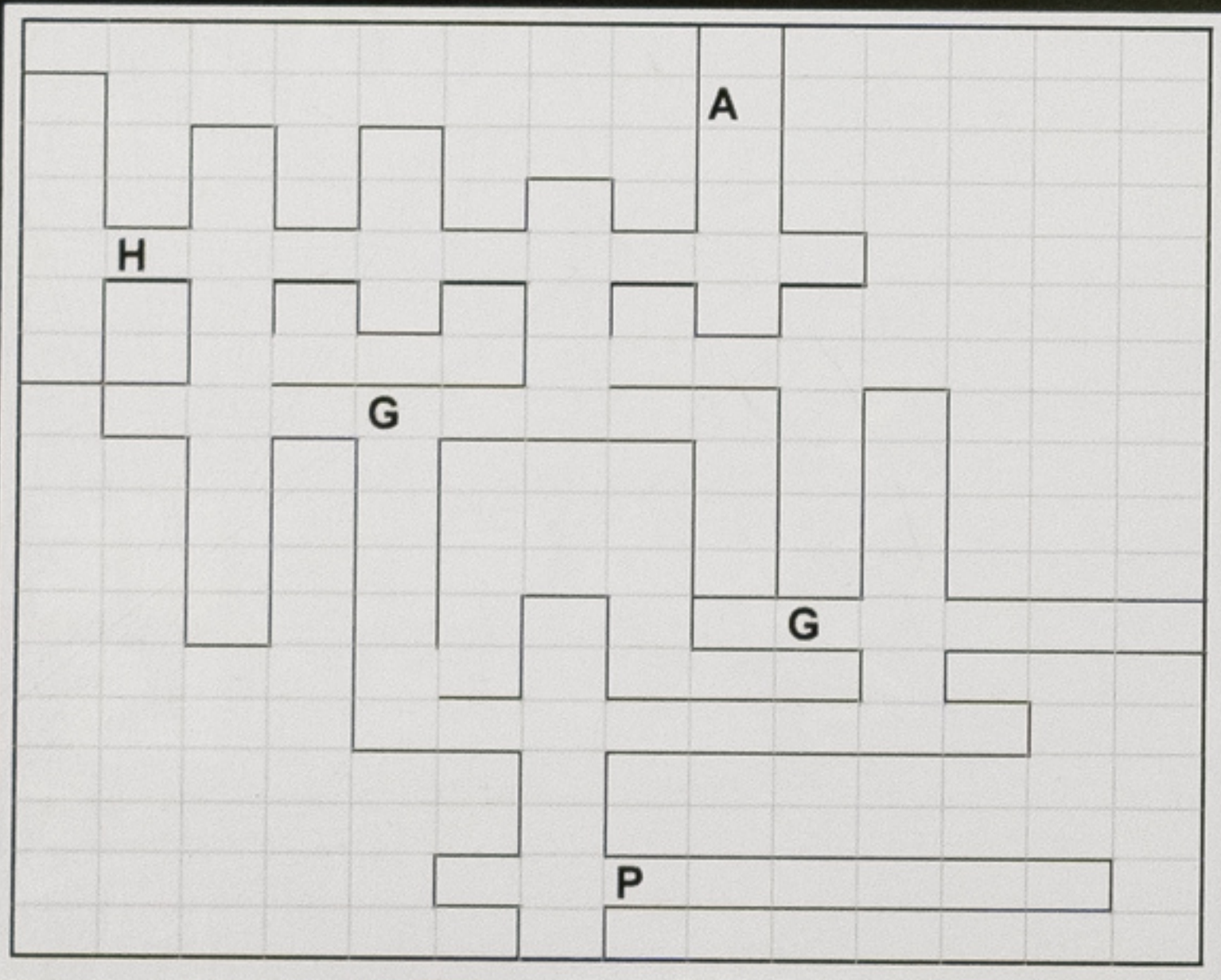
**PRIZE TO  
BE WON  
NAME THE  
ANIMALS**



# Junior Members

## NAME THE ANIMALS

Identify the animals in the pictures and fit the names into the grid. Some letters have been given to help you out.



## JUNIOR MEMBERS' PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

### 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 June's Pavilion 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 Cedar House car park at 9.45pm.

### DISCOVERY SESSION SATURDAY 21 JANUARY 2012

This is your opportunity to get to know your own zoo much better. We will split into groups and do different activities such as imaginative enclosure design which will be your chance to create the best living accommodation for a species we choose, and also to have zoo tours. Store-up some questions about the animals and the way we look after them to ask your guides.

Eights and over are asked to join us, meeting outside Oakfield House (near the Lions) at 2.00pm, and parents can collect the youngsters from there at 4.00pm.

### MANCHESTER NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2012

Manchester Museum is huge and it has a wonderful Natural History Section 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 have an action-packed cold February day warm indoors.

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

### TRACKS & SIGNS SATURDAY 24 MARCH 2012

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 11.00am, returning there for collection at 4.00pm. You will need a picnic lunch, and it is important that you wear clean, very old clothes and clean wellies please.

### TWYXCROSS ZOO VISIT SATURDAY 21 APRIL 2012

It is a while since the Juniors visited Twycross in Warwickshire – an exceptional collection of primates. It is always nice to see how other zoos do things. Be prepared for a fairly long bus journey but it will be well worth it!

Eights and over are asked to join us, meeting at the Staff Entrance at 9.30am, and we will return there for 5.30pm. Bring a picnic with you.

### LOWER MOSS WOOD NATURE RESERVE AND WILDLIFE HOSPITAL SATURDAY 19 MAY 2012

This is a very special opportunity to experience a much-loved and cared-for woodland near Knutsford in Cheshire, and to hear about the life that lives within it when we have a guided tour with Ray Jackson. We also hope to meet some owls and other birds of prey there, as well as have a quick peek at the active Wildlife Hospital on site which is a vital resource, rescuing and re-habilitating many of our native species. We may also get the chance to do some pond-dipping while we are there.

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 10.00am and return for 4.30pm. Over eights are invited to come along, and you should bring a picnic and wellies.

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 20 January 2012.

Congratulations to our previous winner,  
Sam Brooks of Manchester.





## **FOEL FARM AND CHOCOLATE FACTORY ON THE ISLE OF ANGLESEY**

**SATURDAY 23 JUNE 2012**

Experience the sights, sounds and smells of a real working farm. Foel Farm is situated in a beautiful beachside location on Anglesey. Come along to meet and feed the animals and to enjoy the wonderful setting. We may even have a tractor & trailer ride – or a pony ride if anyone fancies that. There is even a chocolate workshop where you can see the chocolates being made.

We will leave the staff car park at 9.00am and return at 5.30pm. 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 25 JULY 2012**

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 10.30am, and the day will finish for Juniors at 4.00pm. Please bring a packed lunch. Also please note that bookings for this event will not be taken before 9.00am on Wednesday 11 July 2012, (01244 650215) and will be strictly on a first-come, first-served basis.

## **JUNIORS' SUMMER BARBEQUE**

**THURSDAY 2 AUGUST 2012**

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 7.00pm start, when you should arrive at the Main Entrance. Parents are asked to collect Juniors from the Ark restaurant at 9.45pm please.

### **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.

## **THE JUNIOR MEMBERS' SUMMER SCHOOL FROM 6 – 10 AUGUST 2012 INCLUSIVE**

Please note that the two week booking rule does NOT apply to this event and EARLY BOOKING IS ADVISED (anytime from December 2011 onwards).

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 £180 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!

## **SHUGBOROUGH HOME FARM**

**SATURDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2012**

You will love this visit to a beautiful stately home in Staffordshire and will find that the Autumn is a perfect time to visit their Home Farm to see the rare breeds and shire horses.

Home Farm also has wonderful displays of cheese making, flour grinding and bakery skills.

Eights and over are invited to join us for a relaxing day.

We will leave the Staff Entrance at 9.30am and return home for 5.00pm. Bring a picnic.

## **THE WELSH MOUNTAIN ZOOM**

**SATURDAY 20 OCTOBER 2012**

Our Juniors love to visit other zoos, and the Welsh Mountain Zoo in Colwyn Bay is one of our neighbours. You will need to dress very warmly for this one, as the zoo is also on the top of a hill.

Over eights are invited to come along and enjoy the day, and we will leave the staff car park at 10.30am and return there for 4.00pm. You will need a picnic lunch.

## **WIRRAL COUNTRY PARK – THURSTASTON**

**SATURDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2012**

We will start our walk at Thurstaston and will amble along the Wirral Way from there, back to the dungeons and then on as far as we want to go!

We will leave the Staff Car Park at 11.00am and return at 4.00pm.

Over eights are invited to attend and you should bring a picnic with you.

## **THE JUNIORS' CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER 2012**

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!

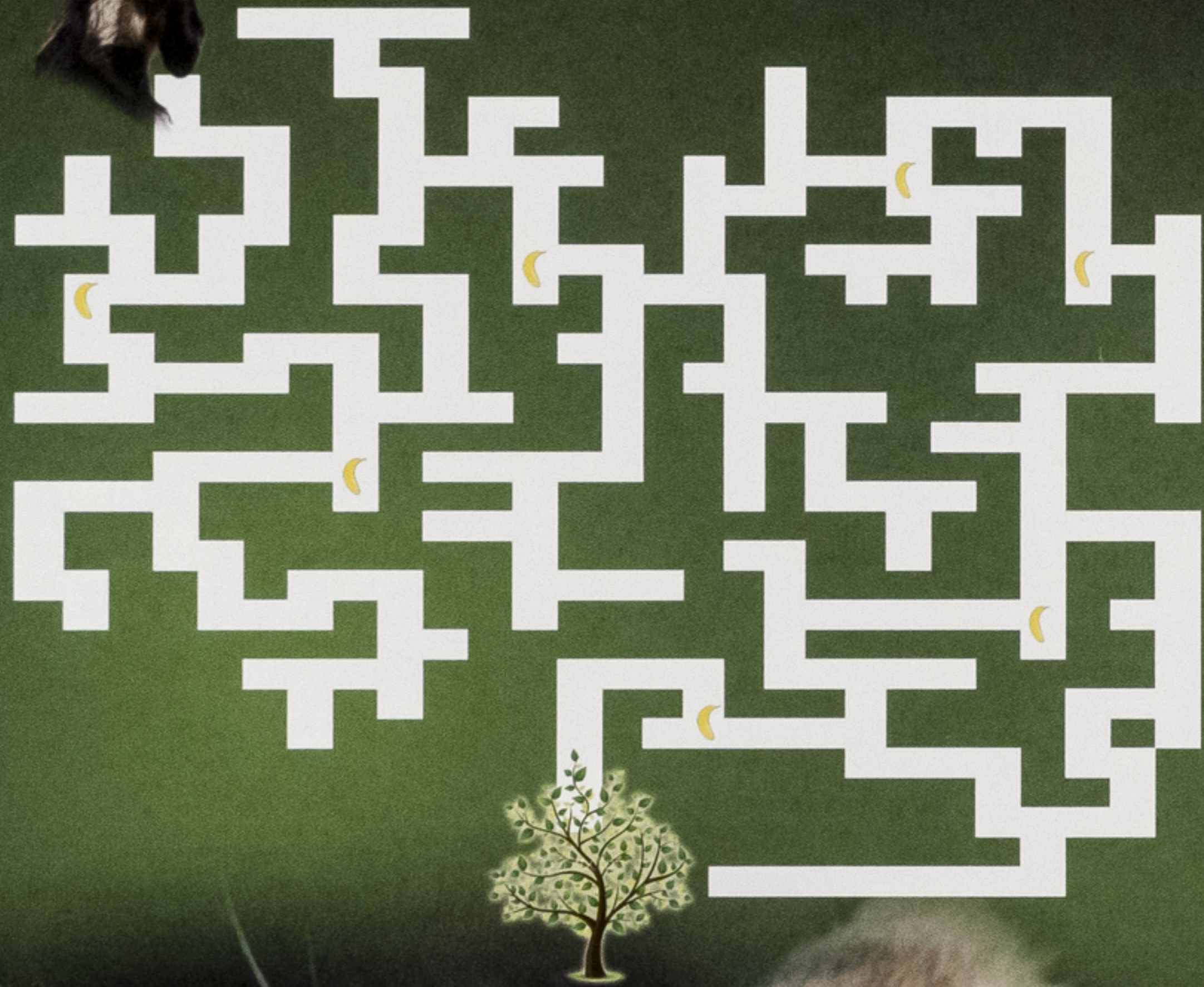
The venue will either be the zoo's undercover picnic area or June's Pavilion. Access can be gained through the Cedar House Staff Entrance on Coughall Road, which is the second staff entrance on the left going from the Upton lights. You should arrive at 7.00pm, with your cushion and a torch, and we will guide you to the venue. Parents should arrange to collect you from the Cedar House Car Park at 9.45pm.



# Junior Members



Which route should the monkey take to get to the safety of the tree, while collecting the most bananas...



# In a class of their own

Ruth Pearson from the Discovery and Learning Department visited Chengdu Research Base for Giant Panda Breeding in August as part of our ongoing support of the China Conservation Programme.



In August I was lucky enough to be granted a Keeper for the Day fund to travel to Chengdu, China to continue our support of the Zoo's China Conservation Programme.

A training conference dedicated to Conservation Education was jointly run by Panda Base education staff and Chester Zoo and to support this I ran three training workshops for the delegates.

This training conference was a vital part of our education programme in China, as it gave teachers and nature reserve staff the opportunity to gain knowledge about educational techniques and communication skills to be able to deliver important conservation messages in schools and local communities.

I had great fun with the delegates showing them effective ways to use games and story-telling in conservation education, which involved getting the delegates to play conservation based games to show them how different and exciting

learning can be. We also got a little more serious looking at the importance of planning and developing education programmes and of course as part of this we looked at the importance of evaluation and how this can drive and focus future education programmes.

In addition to the conference I also had the opportunity to join the Summer School at the Panda Base. This ran for five days and gave the children a chance to camp at the Panda Base at night and get involved in lessons and activities during the day, teaching them all about conservation, biodiversity and the work of the Panda Base. I joined them for two days and ran an afternoon of games focused on conservation. This was a fantastic experience, as the children got really involved with all of the activities and thought that it was amazing to have someone from the UK to come and teach them.





# Bridge Building in Borneo

Special report by **Assistant Conservation Officer Cat Barton**

**In October, I was one of seven Chester Zoo staff rushing around buying insect repellent, leech socks and general 'jungle trekking' kit. It's not one of the more usual aspects of my job, but it's certainly one of the most exciting!**

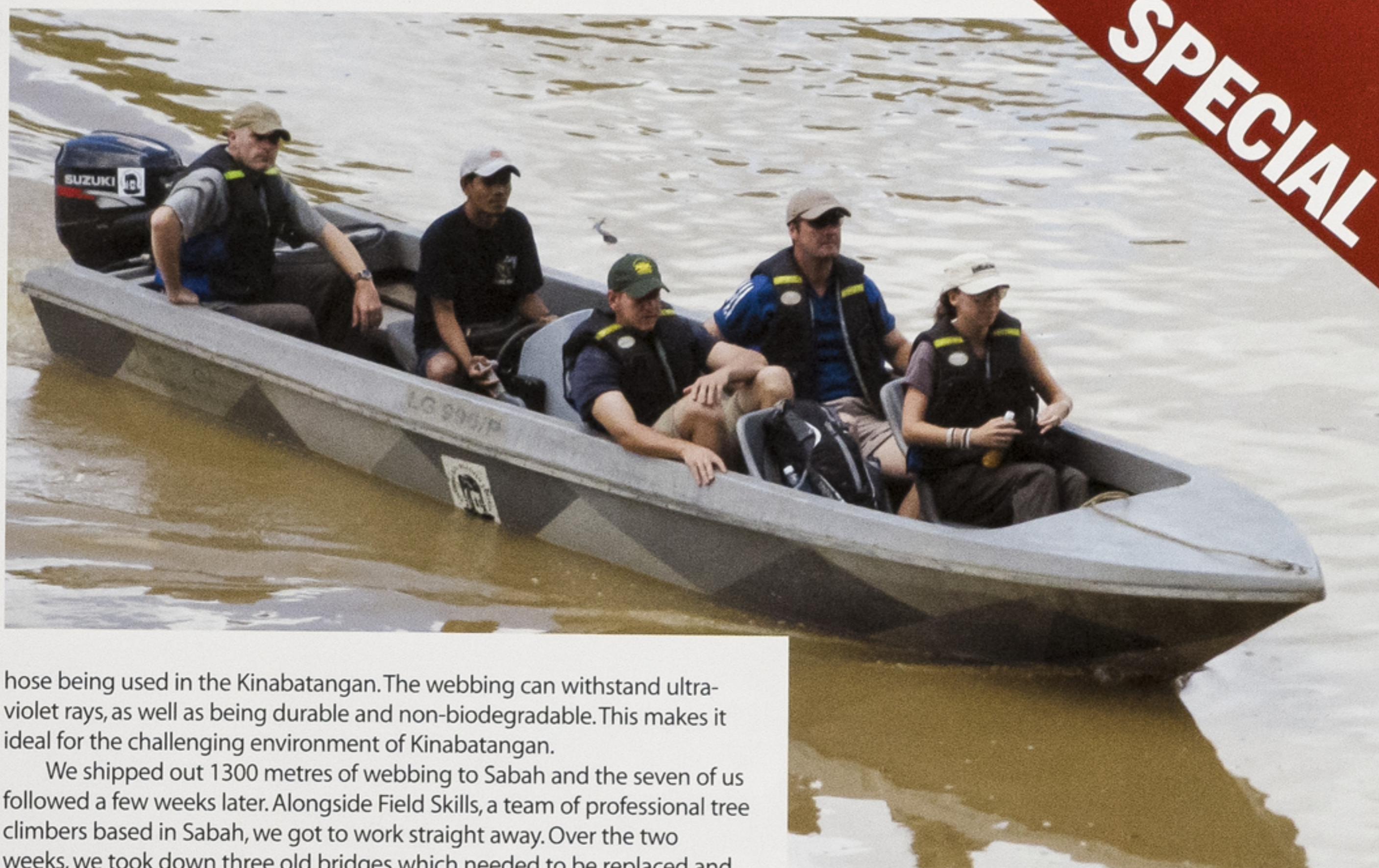
My team mates and I – Nick Davis (Animal Division), Andrew Lenihan (Primate Team), Mark Wylie (Primate Team), Andrew Adderton (Maintenance Team), Andrew Greenhalgh (Horticulture Team) and Anna Furse (Horticulture Team), swapped the cold autumn British weather for the hot and humid weather of Borneo. We travelled to Sabah, Malaysian Borneo, which is where the organisation HUTAN are based. Chester Zoo have supported HUTAN's Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Programme (KOCP) for many years, and being part of the conservation team I get to hear all about the fantastic work being done out in Sabah. But this year, it was my turn to get stuck in and get my hands dirty!

Over the last few decades, orangutans throughout the Lower Kinabatangan area of Sabah have been trapped in isolated populations. Their forest habitat has been split up by agriculture, such as palm oil plantations. Plantations cover vast areas and often reach all the way down to the river where most of the remaining forest is. This dissects the forest running along the river, trapping orangutans and other wildlife in isolated pockets of forest. In 2003, HUTAN and their partners, the Borneo Conservation Trust and Danau Girang Field Centre, began building rope bridges to link different populations of orangutans so that they can mate and gain access to enough food sources. Since 2003, six bridges were built, with photographic evidence in 2009 showing orangutans using the bridges.

Our trip came about following a visit to Chester Zoo by Marc Ancrenaz, co-director of HUTAN. Marc noticed that the webbing used to make rope bridges in the Realm of the Red Ape exhibit was a much lighter material than the old fire



Photo HUTAN Eddie Ahmad



hose being used in the Kinabatangan. The webbing can withstand ultra-violet rays, as well as being durable and non-biodegradable. This makes it ideal for the challenging environment of Kinabatangan.

We shipped out 1300 metres of webbing to Sabah and the seven of us followed a few weeks later. Alongside Field Skills, a team of professional tree climbers based in Sabah, we got to work straight away. Over the two weeks, we took down three old bridges which needed to be replaced and put up SEVEN bridges in total – a fantastic achievement for the whole team. It wasn't easy work – we were up and out at 6:30am to get started on the bridges and it was already hot and humid at this time. The cruise down the river to the field site was a welcome escape from the heat! It got up to 35°C and around 90% humidity – meaning no matter what you did, you just couldn't stay dry! By early afternoon, the heavy rains would start. If you weren't already wet from the sweat, you were soaked after 10 seconds in that rain! And we were only working there for two weeks... the HUTAN team work in these conditions throughout the year, dealing with mosquitoes, leeches, the midday burning sun and wading through crocodile infested rivers which have burst their banks – all to monitor and protect the wildlife of the Kinabatangan.

Our eyes were certainly opened to the fantastic work carried out by HUTAN and the amazing wildlife of Sabah. It was a journey which we were all so privileged to be a part of.

For me, the overriding memory of the trip was completing the final days work where two bridges were completed. The bridges connected an area where three or four orangutans are known to be trapped between the plantations and the river. When we arrived, we spotted an orangutan nest straight away, so completing those was a huge achievement.



Read what the rest of my teammates say about their best and worst memories of the trip...

**My most memorable moment was watching the wild orangutans from our boat, which highlighted all the reasons why we were there. And the hardest part....dealing with those horrid mosquito bites!**

Anna Furse

**The best thing about the trip has to be getting muddy. And the worst thing... getting clean!**

Andy Lenihan

**The best part of the trip was seeing the orangutans in the wild and knowing we had just put bridges up to help them. The most difficult part was putting up with all the rice!**

Andy Greenhalgh

**The most memorable moment would be finally getting to the top of the first tree, after some effort, and looking out at the top of the rain forest canopy (all safely roped up of course!). Hardest part was putting up with that pesky cockerel which had a habit of crowing at 3 in the morning....**

Nick Davis

**The highlight for me was travelling to work in the sunshine via boat and surrounded by wildlife every morning**

Andy Adderton

**Putting up with the huge amounts of ants in our rooms which were all over our beds wasn't a great experience! I can't choose a best moment as the whole trip was fantastic however a special moment was standing on a beach and watching baby green turtles hatch in front of me!**

Mark Wylie



# From aardvarks to zebras a year in the making

We've had plenty to shout about over the last 12 months, welcoming some new faces, bidding farewell to some old friends and spending the summer in the company of some rather large beasts. Here is our year, through the eye of the lens.

## FEBRUARY

Missing parrot *Jack* ruffled a few feathers when he disappeared from his home on the Wirral, only to turn up at the zoo.

Frantic owners Jerry and Irene Williams, from Prenton, put up posters, rang radio stations, contacted local vets and placed adverts on numerous websites before he was found – ironically by our parrots and penguins team leader Andy Woolham.

Love was also in the air for Rothschild giraffe *Thorn* after a long search on a computerized matchmaking service found him a mate who turned up in time for Valentine's Day



## MARCH

A venomous species known as the Beaded Lizard bred for the first time at Chester Zoo. Hailed a great achievement, three of the rare reptiles, which sport yellow and black markings, proved a welcome addition to our collection.



## JANUARY

The year started on a note of sadness as we said farewell to our Asian Elephant matriarch *Sheba*, who died aged 56. Director General Dr Mark Pilgrim said it was a 'sad day' for all concerned.



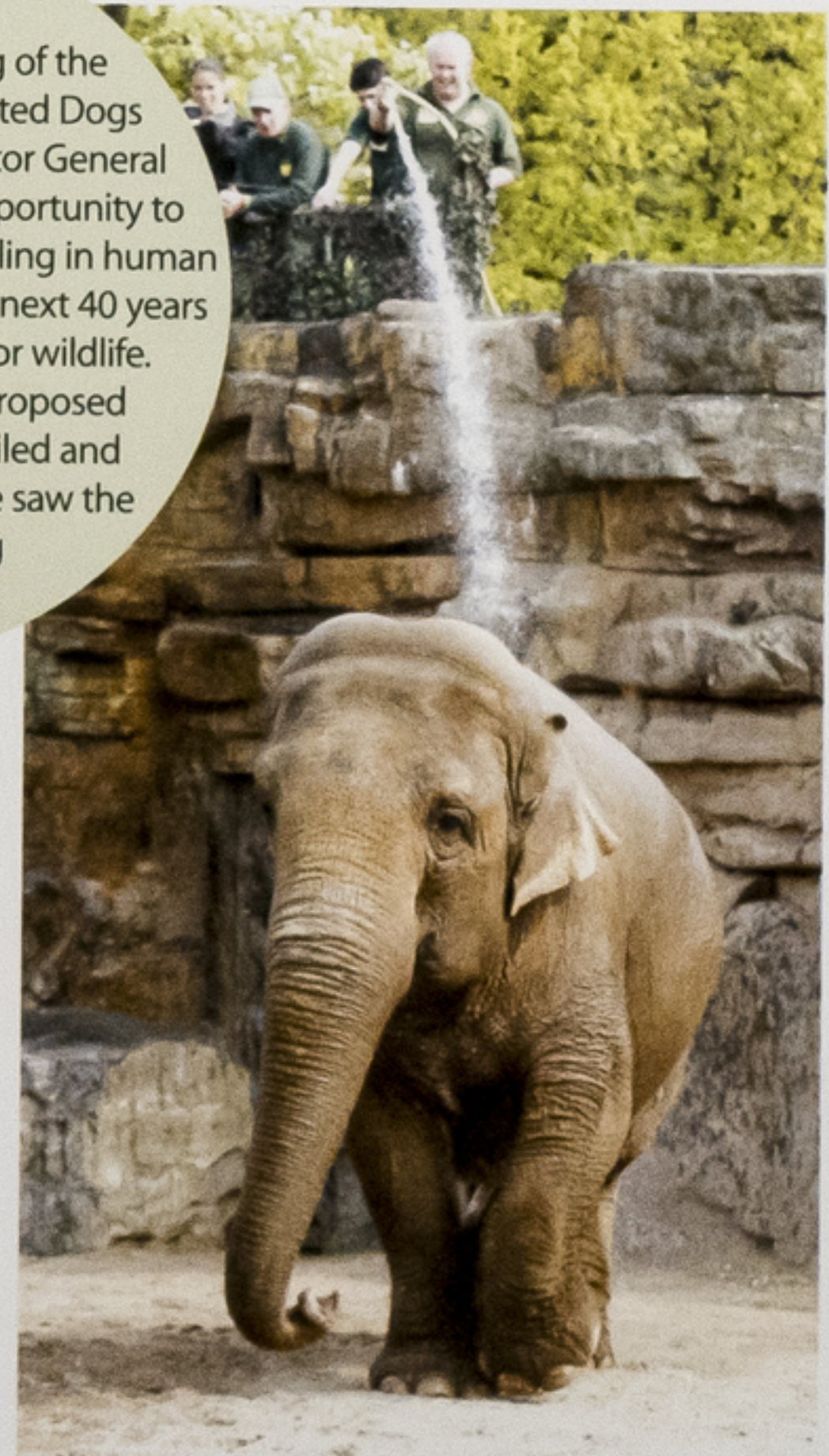
## MAY

Our Humboldt penguins got their own TV show when their webcams went live. Family and friends of soldiers from our neighbours, The Royal Welsh, were given free zoo tickets as a thank you for their dedication and bravery.



## APRIL

Spring saw the opening of the long-awaited African Painted Dogs exhibit. Chester Zoo's Director General Dr Mark Pilgrim used the opportunity to warn that an anticipated doubling in human population numbers over the next 40 years could prove catastrophic for wildlife. The first glimpse of the proposed Islands project was unveiled and an unexpected heat wave saw the elephants getting a hose down.



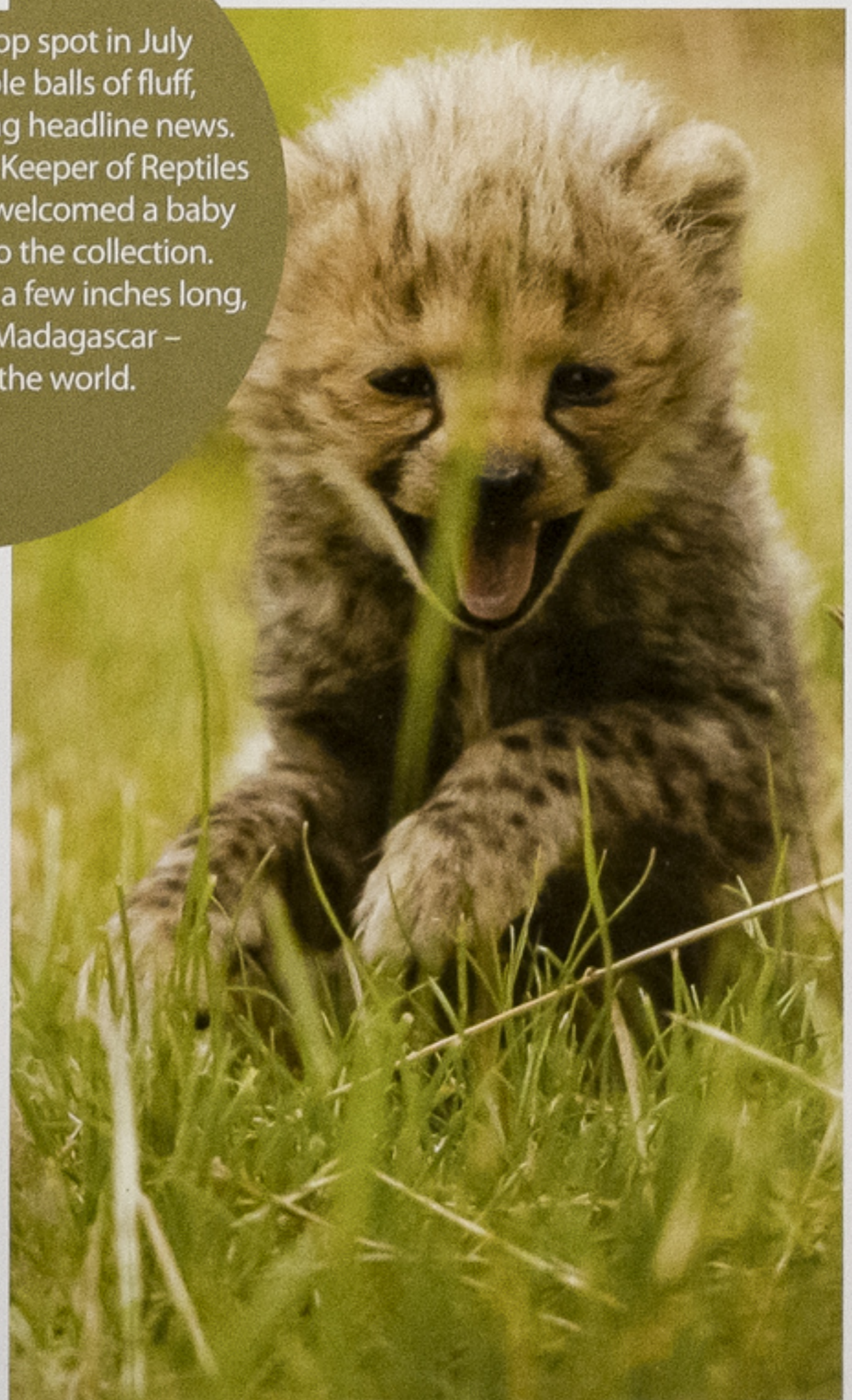
## JUNE

The aptly-named June's Pavilion opened its doors after a £1 million refurbishment and June Williams, daughter of the zoo's founder, was on hand to mark the occasion. Some very big creatures – 13 in total – stomped into the zoo in June. The amazing dinosaurs kept the visitors flocking to the zoo right through to October. Black rhino *Zuri* arrived too.



## JULY

Cheetahs took the top spot in July with the four adorable balls of fluff, born to mum *KT*, making headline news. It was all smiles for Lead Keeper of Reptiles Karen Entwistle as she welcomed a baby Parson's Chameleon to the collection. Although currently only a few inches long, the species – from Madagascar – is the largest in the world.





## AUGUST

We welcomed our millionth visitor in August – a full six weeks ahead of last year and putting the zoo on track for a bumper year for visitors. A big thank you from all of us!



## SEPTEMBER

A tiny Dik-Dik made his debut this month, charming staff and visitors alike and the Philippine Crocodiles left for pastures new. They were replaced by Cayman Crocodiles. The tiger viewing platform, generously funded to the tune of £40,000 by Asda, opened to the public and two aardvarks arrived with *Tatsu* and *Scorch* blazing a trail into the zoo.

## OCTOBER

A late burst of summer saw record numbers flocking to the zoo and it was a final farewell for the dinosaurs as they made their way back home to America. *The Tropical Realm* was also spruced up and the amphibian exhibit from *Spirit of the Jaguar* was moved in. A great month for all concerned with the arrival of three tiger cubs. This is breaking news as we go to press but there will be more in the next issue.



## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

We're busy firming up our plans for 2012, making improvements to the *Spirit of the Jaguar* house and looking forward to opening our Giant Otter breeding centre and underwater viewing pool, which will be unveiled before the end of December.

# The perfect Christmas gift



Meerkat Encounter \* Penguin Island Encounter \* Giraffe Encounter \* Gift Vouchers  
Gift Tickets \* Private Tours \* Beastie in a Box \* Gardener for a Day \* Membership  
Keeper for a Day \* Junior Zoo Keeper Experience \* Zoo Keeper Experience \* Adoptions

Treat someone you love (or yourself!) to a Chester Zoo gift or experience this Christmas.

There's an exciting range of ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS and EXPERIENCE DAYS to choose from. As well as gift ideas for family and friends including Membership and Adoptions.

Proceeds from Gifts & Experiences help fund our conservation work in the UK and around the world - which is good news for animals everywhere!

For more information and to purchase, visit  
[www.chesterzoo.org/giftsandexperiences](http://www.chesterzoo.org/giftsandexperiences)  
or call 01244 650 281

**10% off**  
For Chester Zoo Members  
& Adopters on selected  
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To find out more call  
01244 650 281

**CHESTER ZOO**  
gifts & experiences

# fundRAISING



**ASDA**

## Tiger Platform

Thanks to the Bakery team at Asda visitors to Chester Zoo can see Sumatran tigers *Fabi* and *Kirana* from a new angle! Asda have generously donated £40,000 to Chester Zoo to build a high level viewing platform at the Tigers' enclosure. The platform was finished just in time for October half term and looks great.

Clair Hufton, Asda PR Manager said, "This viewing platform will help bring our customers closer to the tigers when they visit Chester Zoo. All our colleagues in the region are excited about the development and our bakery colleagues are proud that their Tiger Bread is supporting the fantastic work at the zoo."

Asda first supported the zoo to create the large viewing window which allows visitors a clear view of the tigers enjoying their enclosure. Asda told us they are delighted to continue their relationship supporting Chester Zoo and the tiger enclosure in 2011. The supermarket was the first to sell Tiger Bread products over 15 years ago including baguettes, rolls, bloomers and tin loaves and has sold over 12.5 million tiger loaves in the past year. It first supported the enclosure when the bread was introduced, which is why the local stores decided to ask Asda's bakery team to once again help the zoo out.



## Recycling News

Chester Zoo's recycling appeal has now extended to include ipods, CDs and DVDs as well as inkjets and toner cartridges. Also if you've asked Santa for a new phone this Christmas, remember to recycle your old phone with us and help raise money.

Why not have a CD amnesty at work or amongst your friends to generate some extra cash for Chester Zoo? That Milli Vanilli CD or Touch of Frost boxset that never gets a play could be put to better use by enabling Chester Zoo to continue their great work.

CD and DVD recycling is becoming increasingly popular; for every CD returned to us 50p will be donated to us (subject to the simple terms and conditions). CDs and DVDs cannot be returned in freepost envelopes therefore we require that all CDs are handed in to our guest services pavilion or into the Cedar House administration office.

We cannot accept the following:

- CD singles or EPs
- Promotional CDs (ones given away free in newspapers or magazines)
- Copies or fakes
- Items without a barcode
- Items marked not for resale
- Items with missing artwork, cases or discs
- Discs which are badly damaged

If you require more information please contact the Development Office on [development@chesterzoo.org](mailto:development@chesterzoo.org)

## Team Chester Zoo

With more and more people challenging themselves each year and taking part in events such as running, cycling and trekking we thought it was about time that we launched Team Chester Zoo. And what better timing than in the year the Olympics come to the UK.

Join Team Chester Zoo and take part in any event – it's your challenge after all – and we'll support you to help raise funds for Chester Zoo and our conservation work both here in the UK and abroad.

Plus – we're also looking for 10 people to take part in a midnight cycle around Manchester in April. If you're interested in taking part in this event or would simply like more information please contact the Development Team on 01244 650229 or email [development@chesterzoo.org](mailto:development@chesterzoo.org)

### Chester Zoo Raffle 2011

Here are the results from the raffle draw recently held.

- 1st Prize: Meerkat Encounter at Chester Zoo – **Mrs C Wilson**
- 2nd Prize: 2 weeks family membership to Hoole Club and Spa – **Robyn Hollings**
- 3rd Prize: Penguin Encounter at Chester Zoo – **Ms Alexis Baty**
- 4th Prize: Round of golf for 4 people on any Carden Park course – **E Soper**



## Zoo supporters put their best foot forward!

Our second annual Run for the Wild event took place in September and the rainy start didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the 136 participants who took part. All enjoyed this unique 5k family event with children and adults running, walking or even being pushed in a pram around the zoo grounds! Special thanks go to all who entered the event and helped to fundraise over £2,700 towards our Nigeria Conservation Programme.



# fundRAISING

## Online shoppers to raise money

Shoppers are being urged to log on to the internet to help raise funds for a local good cause.

We have signed up with [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) an innovative website where thousands of people are raising money for charities every time they shop.

By using easyfundraising to access over 2000 well known retailers, savvy shoppers generate a free donation for the good cause of their choice. And as donations can be as much as 15% of the purchase price, the zoo is really hoping local people will log on and support them.

To support North of England Zoological Society (Chester Zoo), visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/northofenglandzoologicalsocietychesterzoo](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/northofenglandzoologicalsocietychesterzoo) and follow the instructions.

### CHESTER ZOO

## 100 Club

The winners of the prize draws held recently were:

#### July 2011

Mrs Joan Atherton, Manchester	£100
Ms Andrea Warner, Wrexham	£100
Mrs Julie Cowell, Bolton	£50
Mr Robert Jewitt, Cheshire	£50
Mr Barry Dingle, Burnley	£50
Mr Stephen Hardy, Berkhamsted	£50

#### August 2011

Miss Alice Wakefield, Chester	£100
Mrs Vanessa Hewitt, Frodsham	£100
Miss G M Webster, Nottingham	£100
Mr K Hodgkiss, Crewe	£50
Ms Pauline Huxley, Chester	£50
Mrs L A Parsons, Liverpool	£50

#### September 2011

Mrs Ruby Dryland, Chester	£100
Mr Mark Cleave, Chester	£100
Mr I D Ogden, Lancashire	£50
Mrs Amanda Jones, Denbighshire	£50
Mr Jason Spencer, Saltney	£50
Mr Nigel Jones, Wrexham	£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 650229.

## Members' offers

Tatton Park offers a huge welcome to Chester Zoo members with

**FREE CHILD ENTRY TO ITS FARM, MANSION AND GARDENS**

for all members visiting before 23 March 2012.



**TATTON**  
park

*Everything you love to do*

Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 6QN • [www.tattonpark.org.uk](http://www.tattonpark.org.uk)  
Tel. enquiries: 01625 374400 • email enquiries: [tatton@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:tatton@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

**Terms and conditions:** Valid membership card must be shown to take advantage of this offer. One free child for every full paying adult. Child age 5 to 15. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Applies to single entry tickets and Totally Tatton ticket (entry to the farm, gardens and mansion\*). Car entry fee applies. \*Please note that the Mansion is closed until March 24th 2012 except for Christmas events. However any Totally Tatton ticket purchased as part of this offer can be used to visit the Mansion after this date. Offer excludes Special events and Christmas. See website for opening times and prices or telephone.

Deeside Leisure Centre, Chester Road West, Deeside, Flintshire CH5 1SA, Tel: 01244 845440

2 for 1 Ice Skating  
Offer valid until 31st December 2011  
**DEESIDE ICE RINK**

[www.siruffyflint.gov.uk/hamdden](http://www.siruffyflint.gov.uk/hamdden)

[www.flintshire.gov.uk/leisure](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/leisure)

**LLAWR SGLEFRIO  
GLANNAU DYFRDWY**  
Cynnig i 2 Sglefrio am bris 1

Please call or visit the website for current prices and opening times. Offer valid on entrance and skate hire. All children under 8 years must be accompanied by a skating adult.

Galwch heibio neu ewch i'r wefan i weld y prisiau a'r amseroedd agor cyfredol. Cynnig yn cynnwys mynediad a phris llwgl esgidiau sglefrio. Rhaid i bob plentyn dan 8 oed ddod yng nghwmni oedolyn sy'n sglefrio.

Canolfan Hamdden Glannau Dyfrdwy, Gorllewin Ffordd Caer, Glannau Dyfrdwy, Sir y Fflint CH5 1SA, Ffôn: 01244 845440

"THIS HEN COULD HELP  
CHANGE MY LIFE  
THIS CHRISTMAS.  
IT COULD ALSO HELP  
SAVE ELEPHANTS  
AND THE FORESTS.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
THIS CHRISTMAS

FIND OUT HOW AT:

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



WE'RE **CHESTER ZOO** AND WE

**ACT FOR  
WILDLIFE**

# Talking Conservation!

## 2012 Programme

We have a great series of talks lined up for you in 2012 with some old favourites, including more information from the archives to coincide with the Zoo's 78th anniversary. You'll also have the chance to hear from and meet staff who've visited our outreach projects, doing fantastic work in the field, and who will also be able to bring you up to date with our own animals in the Zoo. There will also be tips on how to improve your wildlife photography as well as a whirlwind tour around Europe's leading zoos.

It's a series of interesting and diverse talks to meet all tastes and it is arranged especially for you, our members, to keep you abreast of the work your membership supports.

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). We offer a special rate of £2.00 to Adopters. 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.

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

Please support our Members' Talks which are provided to keep you abreast of developments in the zoo and its conservation work which your membership supports.

### Interested in attending?

Please call Kate in Education

on 01244 389 444

or e-mail [k.branksin@chesterzoo.org](mailto:k.branksin@chesterzoo.org) to book.

Tuesday 24th January at 19:30

### What Zoos Can Do: Europe's Leading Zoological Gardens 2010-2020

**Anthony Sheridan**

Based on his book of the same title, Anthony will look at visitor factors, education, conservation, commercial and marketing of 80 zoos in 20 European countries. Anthony spent three years extensively researching for his book, meeting and interviewing zoo personnel and analysing many aspects of zoos. In addition, he will look at Chester Zoo and UK zoos in more detail.

Anthony will also include a look at his In situ Conservation Project, Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbons in Nam Nung Reserve, Vietnam, to which all profits from the book are being donated.

*Anthony Sheridan is a life long wildlife enthusiast and a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London since 1976. A graduate of LSE, he spent his early post-university years in politics and education before commencing his long and successful career in the electronics industry until his retirement in 2007. He has travelled widely and is a Freeman of the City of London.*

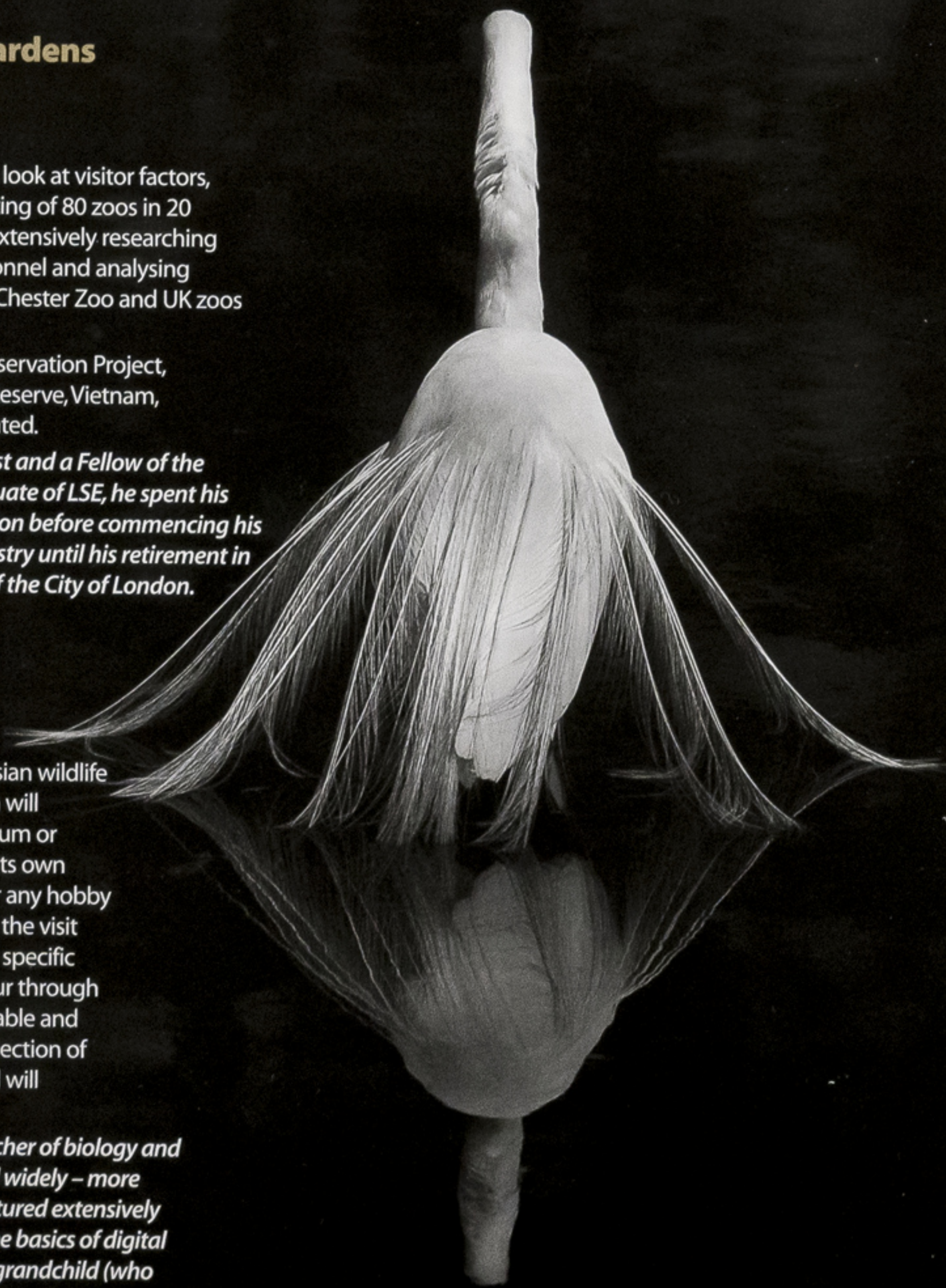
Wednesday 15th February at 19:30

### Photosafari

**Ron Pickering**

For many people, an African, South American or Asian wildlife safari is simply out of the question. In this talk, Ron will demonstrate how a family day out to a zoo, aquarium or wildlife park can become a photographic safari in its own right. There will be indispensable hints and tips for any hobby wildlife photographer; from the basics of planning the visit and selecting the right equipment to guidance on specific groups of animals. Ron will guide the keen amateur through the steps which can make every zoo visit an enjoyable and memorable one. The talk will be illustrated by a selection of Ron's own images, now available in book form, and will include a summary of the publishing process

*Ron Pickering has many years' experience as a teacher of biology and as an enthusiastic photographer. He has published widely – more than twenty titles in seven languages – and has lectured extensively on topics ranging from conservation in Britain to the basics of digital imaging. He is married, with two children and one grandchild (who will soon be introduced to a zoo!) and lives in Sale, Manchester.*



Pictures courtesy of Ron Pickering

Wednesday 21st March at 19:30

### **Bridge Builders!**

#### **Chester Zoo's Bridge Building Team!**

In October 2011, seven Chester Zoo staff swapped the cold autumn British weather for the hot, humid (and sweaty) weather of Borneo. The Team travelled to Sabah, Malaysian Borneo to meet with HUTAN, which the zoo supports through the Realm of the Red Ape Programme. HUTAN's Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Programme (KOCP) is also part of Chester Zoo's Act For Wildlife Campaign.

The Team spent two weeks with the HUTAN team helping to build orangutan rope bridges. Deforestation and palm oil expansion has led to many forest patches and orangutan populations becoming separated; the bridges help connect these patches over impassable areas such as large rivers. The team got stuck in to the task at hand and really got their hands dirty!

**Cat Barton**, Conservation

**Nick Davis**, Projects Team

**Anna Furse**, Horticulture

**Andrew Greenhaigh**, Horticulture

**Andrew Lenihan**, Primates Team Manager

**Mark Wylie**, Primates Team

**Andy Adderton**, Maintenance

Thursday 19th April at 19:30

### **Dónde está le oso?^**

#### **James Andrewes, Marisa Edwards and Craig Williams**

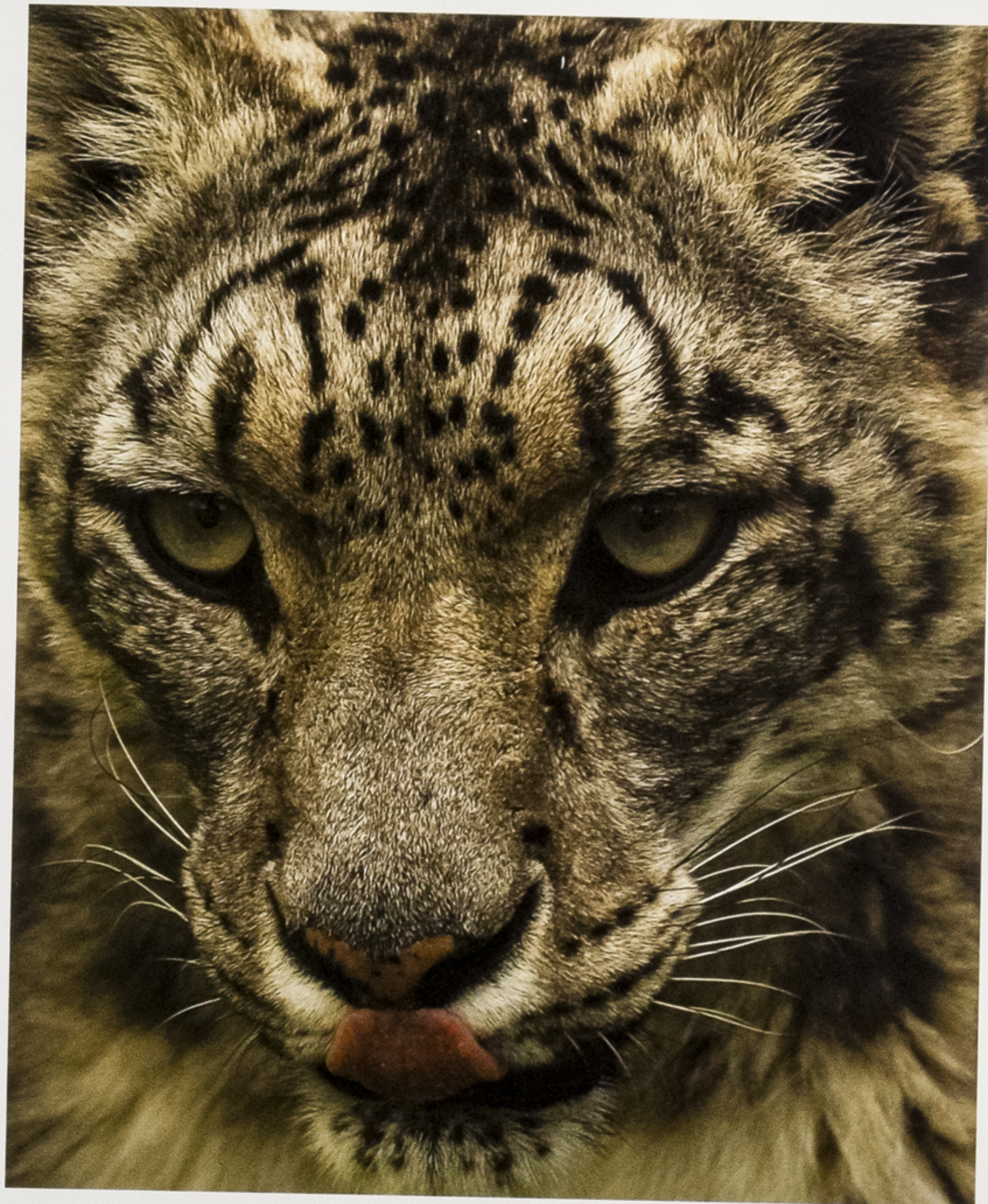
Our Bats' Team has responsibility for the Zoo's Spectacled Bears and in 2011 James attended a Bear Care workshop in Banff in the Canadian Rockies – real bear country. Craig spent time in Ecuador in 2011 working with the Andean Bear Foundation, radio tracking wild Andean (or Spectacled) Bears to gain a greater insight into their ecology in the wild. They are one of the least known about bear species and this work is being carried out to enable the Foundation to get greater protection for the bears' habitat in the wilds of Ecuador. In 2007 Marisa, from our Discovery and Learning Division, spent time assisting in the education of local children in Merida, Venezuela where Spectacled Bears were once commonly found. Hear all about their bear travels as well as hearing the latest news on our own Spectacled Bears.

**James Andrewes**, Senior Keeper, Bats' Team

**Marisa Edwards**, Presenter

**Craig Williams**, Keeper, Bats' Team

^Where is the bear?



Wednesday 9th May at 19:30

### **My Dear Mottershead ...**

#### **how Chester Zoo influenced zoo development worldwide in the 60s and 70s**

##### **Stephen McKeown**

One of the joys of managing the Zoo's archives is that just when you think you're on top of it all, someone finds a box in the attic and a whole new batch of material comes to light. Since we last had a Zoo history talk we've been busy ploughing through some twelve archive boxes of George Mottershead's correspondence with other zoos, have discovered maps and papers relating to the Zoo's post-war land acquisitions and, courtesy of George Mottershead's daughter June, a magazine from 1930 with a two page spread on the Oakfield Zoological Gardens. This was the collection started by George Mottershead in Shavington, the success of which led to the creation of Chester Zoo a year later. So, lots of new information to share with a particular emphasis on Chester Zoo's role in the wider zoo world and a rare chance to look at some of our recently restored original documentation in an archive display.

**Stephen McKeown** is Chester Zoo's Head of Discovery and Learning

Wednesday 20th June at 19:30

### **Carnivore Evening**

#### **Alan Woodward**

The latest news on the Zoo's carnivores, including a look at the 2011 big cat births. More details in the next edition of Z.

Tuesday 17th July at 19:30

### **Elephant Evening**

#### **Emma Evison, Alan Littlehales, Andrew MacKenzie, Eveline de Wolf**

2011 was another busy year for our Elephant Team. Emma was involved in an attitudinal survey in Assam; Alan went to the Elephant Management School at Hagenbecks, Germany and Andrew attended the Elephant Care Workshop in Phoenix, USA. They'll tell you all about their trips, what they learned and what's happening in the field with Eveline bringing you up to date with what's new with our own herd.

More details in the next edition of Z.

**Emma Evison, Alan Littlehales, Andrew MacKenzie**, Elephant Team

**Eveline de Wolf**, Elephant Team Manager

# Events at Chester Zoo

## Christmas Lunch at Oakfield Manor

Join us this December for a fantastic three course Christmas lunch in Oakfield Manor, and receive free all - day admission to the zoo from 10am.

£28.50 per adult £18.75 per child (under 11 years of age)

£26.95 members

Christmas lunches are available on selected dates throughout December up to, and including, Christmas Eve, Saturday 24th December 2011.

## Throughout December

### Christmas Dinner and Disco

Host your evening Christmas party in the most unique venue in the North West - Oakfield House, set in the grounds of Chester Zoo.

Join us from 7.30pm and take a short stroll through the zoo to Oakfield Manor, our Victorian manor house situated in our award winning gardens. Enjoy a delicious three course festive menu, followed by coffee and mince pies, and then dance the night away with a bar and disco that runs until midnight.

Our team will be on hand to help co-ordinate your event with you, whether it is a staff or office party, or a private event.

A minimum of 60 guests required.

£38.75 per person

## Saturday 3rd December

### Members' Christmas Lunch

Join us this December for a very special Members' Christmas Lunch at Oakfield Manor.

This is a fantastic opportunity to enjoy a festive treat at the zoo, along with your fellow Chester Zoo members.

Lunch will be served in Oakfield Manor at 12pm and followed by a special talk in the Lecture Theatre at 2pm by our Director General, Dr Mark Pilgrim.

The talk will be a review of the zoo's activity and achievements in 2011, and a look forward to the new year ahead. Refreshments will also be served in the Lecture Theatre during the talk.

Adults £25.00 Children £18.75 (under 11 years of age)

## Every day from 11am on Tuesday 27th December until Monday 2nd January 2012

### Christmas Brunch

Enjoy a delicious mid-morning festive brunch at Oakfield Manor this December.

The price includes free all-day admission to the zoo from 10am

Adults £22.50 Children £16.50 (under 11 years of age)

Members £15.75

## Every day from Tuesday 27th December until Monday 2nd January, 2012

### Festive Afternoon Tea

Enjoy a classic afternoon tea treat in our Victorian manor house, set in the zoo's award winning grounds.

Enjoy a trip to the zoo in style and join us for a very special treat this festive period in the beautiful Oakfield Manor.

Our delicious afternoon tea menu includes a selection of freshly cut sandwiches, followed by a warm scone, clotted cream and Cheshire jams. All served with tempting tea pastries and a selection of leaf teas and infusions.

Adult £18.95 Child £15.95 (under 11 years of age) Members £10.00

The price includes free all-day admission to the zoo from 10am

A combination price available on request should you wish to come along and enjoy your day with brunch and afternoon tea.

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)

FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL  
(NORTH WEST GROUP)



FRIDAY 27 JANUARY 2012

### RE-BUILDING THE ATLANTIC RAINFOREST with RICHARD LOCKE

REGUA (Reserva Ecológica de Guapiaçu) protects one of the last stands of tropical rainforest left in the severely depleted Atlantic Rainforest, or Mata Atlântica, in Brazil. Once covering an estimated 1,477,500 km<sup>2</sup>, centuries of deforestation has seen the Atlantic Forest become the second most threatened biome in the world after Madagascar. Today only 7% of the original forest area remains, an area of 100,000 km<sup>2</sup>, and only an estimated 2% is still primary forest. Despite the loss and habitat fragmentation, this ecoregion is still ranked in the top five of the world's biodiversity hotspots.

REGUA's objective is to protect the remaining forest and biodiversity from deforestation, hunting and over-extraction of natural resources. To be effective, we need to understand what species are present and their status, so REGUA is developing a comprehensive monitoring programme. Alongside an active Environmental Education Programme, working closely with local communities, REGUA also aims to improve biodiversity by restoring lost and damaged habitats and reintroducing lost species where practical.

This is Richard and Raquel Locke's passion and they are making it happen. Come along to hear how.

[www.regua.co.uk](http://www.regua.co.uk)

FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2012

### BEARS - WORTH SAVING? with NEIL DCRUZE

WSPA is working towards a world where animal welfare matters and animal cruelty ends.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals exists to tackle animal cruelty across the globe. They work directly with animals and with the people and organisations that can ensure animals are treated with respect and compassion.

WSPA campaigns effectively to combat the world's most intense and large-scale animal welfare issues aiming to bring about lasting change.

Neil dCruze is WSPA's Campaign Leader and widely travelled especially regarding bear welfare in Eastern Europe and the Far East. He is also an accomplished herpetologist with a lot of field work experience in Madagascar.

Come along and listen to this charismatic and articulate campaigner telling us about his work with Bears.

FRIDAY 23 MARCH 2012

### OTTERS

#### with PAUL YOXON

Paul Yoxon is Head of Operations at the International Otter Survival Fund and he will be giving us a fascinating presentation on the work of this charity in their attempts to highlight the issues with Otters in the UK.

**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 7.00pm for a 7.30pm 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, 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