

Keith Freeburn, Mel Grundy Photographic Agency

CHEZ NOUS



CHESTER ZOO NEWS

SPRING 1985



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Editorial

Points I would like to highlight since our last issue are that we have recently had a successful birth of a Rodrigues Fruit Bat in the collection. Since the Bats' arrival from Jersey Zoo in January 1983, we have only had one youngster reared to independence owing to the existence of a 'rogue' animal in the group who has killed all youngsters within hours of birth. As this process had never been observed, it was difficult to identify the animal concerned so experiments of elimination have been in progress which has necessitated the splitting the group into two. We believe we have finally isolated the guilty animal and hope that our group of this highly endearing yet tragically endangered animal may now successfully breed and rear their young.

Frequent visitors may have noticed the almost total absence of Arabian Gazelles from the collection in the past few months. This is because our breeding group has been moved to our quarantine headquarters in Birkenhead for a period of 'close management'. These beautiful but rather nervous animals are now seriously on the decline in captive collections and in order to increase their breeding potential they have been moved to the peace and quiet of the quarantine centre. In the past our group has been moved to Birkenhead to spend their winters in the warmth and comfort afforded there and as they have always done well under this management we have decided that they should remain there for the rest of this year at least. So far they have shown their

approval of this situation by producing a lovely healthy and thriving fawn, with two more females expected to produce in the immediate future. In the meantime, the species is represented in the Zoo just by males which can be seen in the enclosure behind the Monkey House.

So many visitors have asked how we fared over the winter with the recent prolonged periods of snow. The answer is that on the whole both staff and animals coped very well! Fortunately over the past few years we have been very conscious of the need to insulate animal houses and aviaries where possible and provide inside heating so that animals can be over-wintered in their regular quarters rather than translocated. We still have a way to go with these projects and one obvious result of the cold spell was the large rise in our heating bill. One design 'problem' we have to face in the extremely cold weather is that of the moats freezing over and thus animals normally restrained by moats such as the Chimps, Orangs, Gorillas and Lemurs, have to be kept in their inside quarters to stop them walking straight over the moats and out of their accommodation! Similarly with the native fox whose access to our animals over frozen moats could be a problem if we were not prepared for it, for example, the Flamingoes have to be locked in their house at night in case a sudden frost freezes the water surrounding their islands. All in all, the Zoo has been a beautiful place to visit during the snow but we are now busy preparing for Spring.



Mark Boyle

Waterfowl in Winter

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Mel Grundy Photographic Agency

Boas and Pythons at Chester

The large Boas and Pythons are very popular exhibits in our collection. We have 12 species of Boids (Boas and Pythons) on display and they range in size from the large Anacondas (*Eunectes murinus*) and Indian Pythons (*Python molurus bivittatus*), which are both 15 feet long, to the Calabar Python (*Calabaria reinhardtii*) which is about two feet long.

As the majority of Boids like to climb, and are usually heavy-bodied snakes, it can be quite difficult to set up an attractive cage interior by using plants, and in the case of the very large Indian Pythons and Anacondas we have to rely on interesting rock-work.

Most of the cages are furnished with plants, not only to enhance the look, but also to provide security for the occupants. By using logs cemented into rock-work with plants growing around them, a 'tree effect' is given and the snakes can crawl along the branches of the log without damaging the plants. This system works quite well most of the time, but where it does not work, a different approach has to be looked at. The very large snakes have quite deep pools which offer them the security lacking from vegetation cover.

Although they are classed in the one family 'Boidae', all have their own requirements to be maintained successfully in captivity and we will deal with the species on display, starting with the Pythons.

There are five Indian Pythons on display, two males and three females, the largest and smallest being both males. These are generally good-natured snakes except at feeding time, when like most snakes, they become

very excitable. During the winter months they tend to stop feeding although no noticeable weight is lost and sloughing (the casting of their skin indicating growth) occurs regularly. Like all Python species, Indian Pythons lay eggs and at the moment one of our females has a clutch of eggs which she is coiled around to incubate them. Unfortunately she laid them in a trap off-show and is unable to be seen by the public. The eggs take between 12 and 15 weeks to hatch and the female regulates the temperature by twitching her muscles. Tests have shown that by using this method, a female snake can increase her body temperature more than 5°C above the ambient temperature.



Calabar Pythons

Mark Boyle

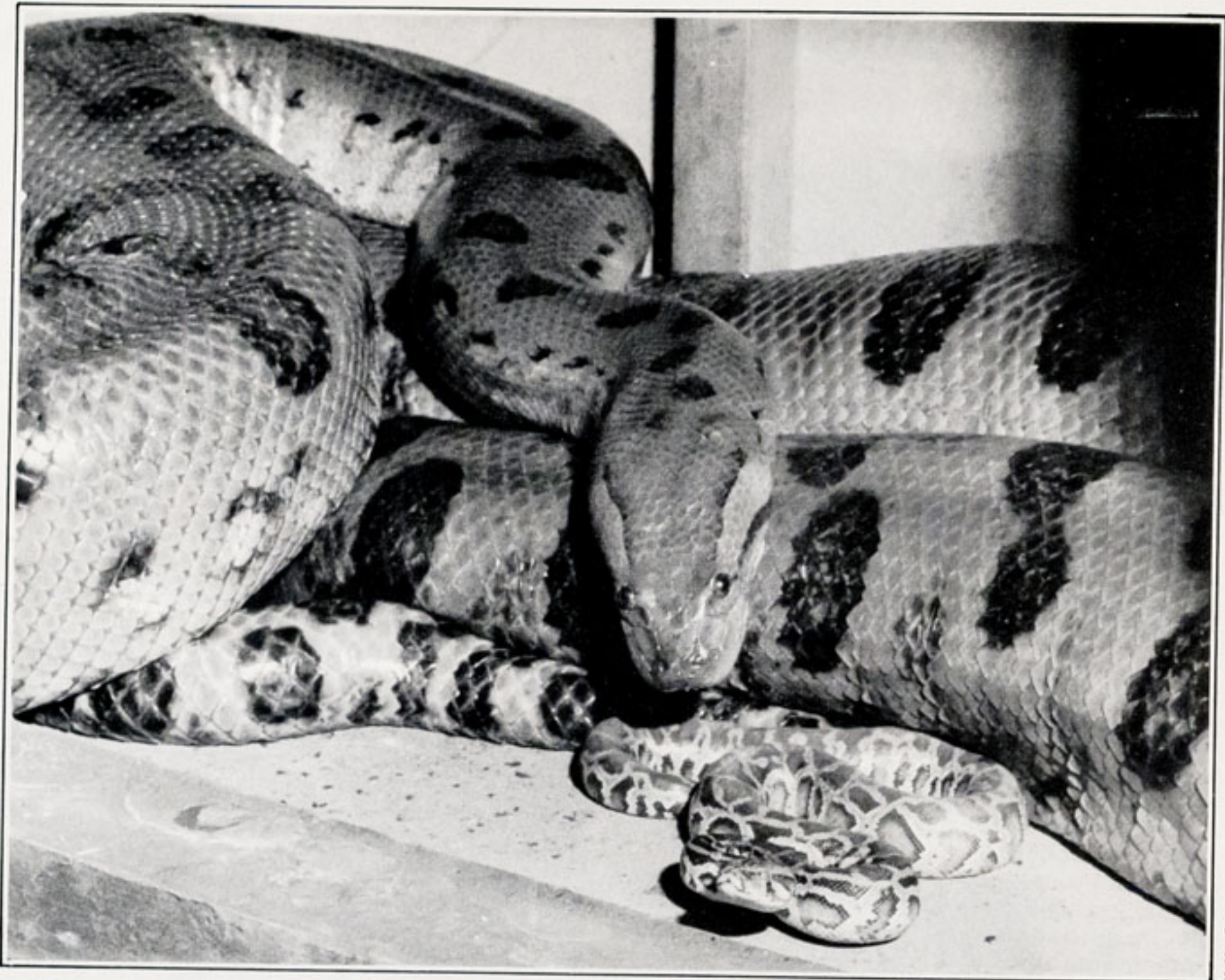


Indian Python

The Calabar Pythons look nothing like a typical Python. They are a small burrowing species from West Africa and it is very difficult to tell the head from the tail. When disturbed, these snakes bury their head in the coils of their body and the tail sticks out waving as if it were the head. This Python species requires a higher level of humidity, otherwise they drink large amounts of water. We introduced this species last year and they have settled down well. Their food consists of small dead mice which are eaten at night. It is hoped to breed this interesting species, but very little is known of their breeding habits as yet.

The largest species of Boa that we have is the Anaconda. Both species are kept at Chester, *Eunectes murinus* and the smaller Yellow Anaconda, *Eunectes notaeus*. The two large Anacondas are *E murinus* and these can be seen in the same cage as the two juvenile *E notaeus*. Both species are very unpredictable and when excited can be very aggressive. Most of their time is spent in the water as this is a semi-aquatic species. The large female has been in the collection for over 20 years and is now showing signs of her age. No mating has been observed among our specimens. In their natural habitat Anacondas take prey which comes down to the rivers to drink and our specimens take their

J. Whitworth



K. W. Green

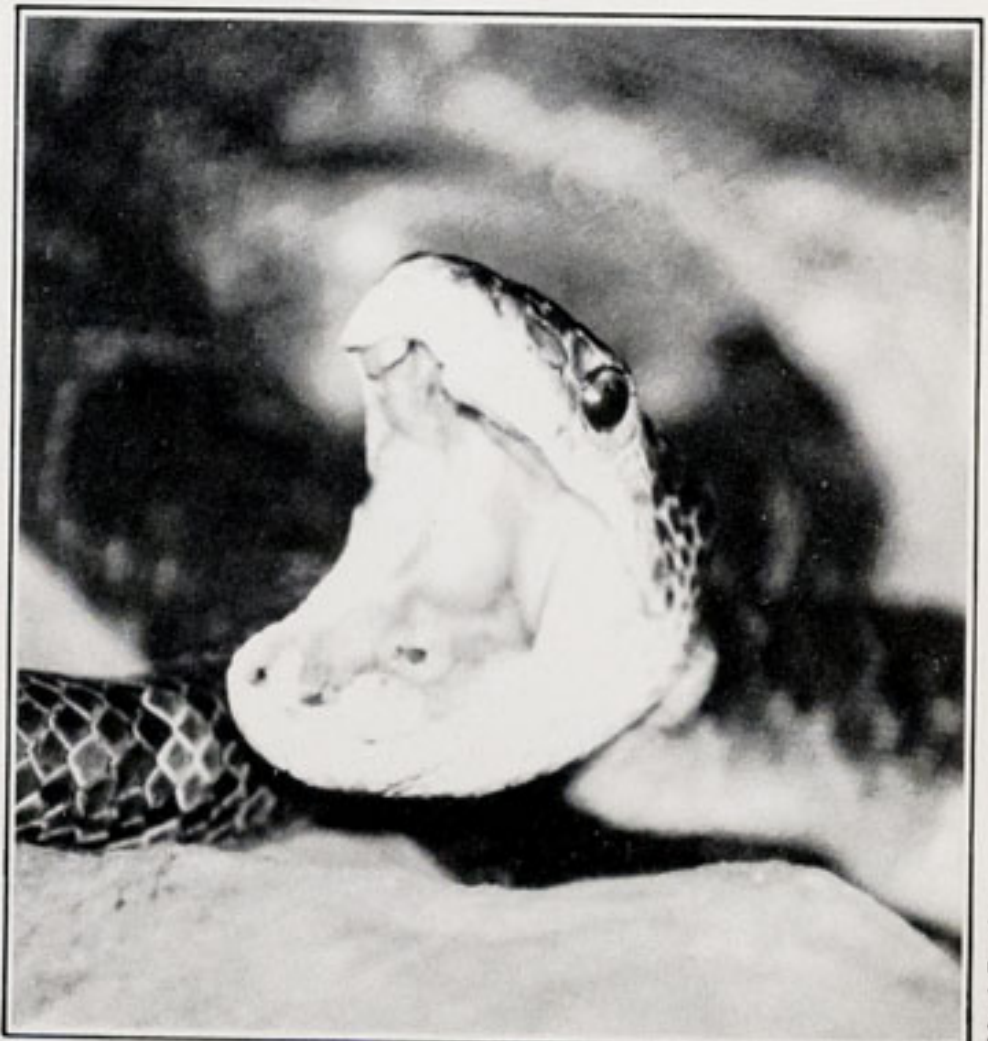
Anaconda with Indian Python

food from the side of the pool and eat it in the water in a similar way. Dead rabbits or rats are left on the pool side and the snakes pull them into the water to eat.

The Cuban Boa (*Epicrates anglifer*) and Jamaican Boa (*Epicrates subflavus*) are medium sized snakes, very similar in appearance and habits. Both species are housed together and the smaller Jamaican Boas spend most of their time on the branches. The Cuban Boas produced young two years ago although none survived. Several matings have been observed but no young have been born. These are quite aggressive snakes which become excited very easily. In their natural habitat, bats provide a large part of the Cuban Boa's prey. In the collection at present we have one pair of each of these two species.

The most beautiful of all the boas must be the Emerald Tree Boa (*Corallus canina*). This is a very difficult snake to keep in captivity owing to its highly specialised aboreal habitat. It is an inhabitant of the rain forests of Panama and Brazil where it lives a completely aboreal existence. We are fortunate in having two pairs of *C canina* in the collection. The four snakes are housed together in a well planted cage and all except one have settled down well. The humidity is varied between 65% and 90% rh, and the temperature is also varied between 75°F and 85°F. *C canina* has extremely long teeth which enable them to catch and hold on to prey, and it has even been recorded that they catch birds in flight. This is a very aggressive species which will strike at the least

provocation but the sheer beauty of this species more than compensates for its contempt of human intrusion.



Mark Boyle

Striking Cuban Boa

New-born Emerald Tree Boas are red in colour and as they mature change to yellow and then to the adult colouration of green. We are about to convert a larger cage and to plant it out with foliage plants and logs to create a suitable potential breeding environment for our Emerald Tree Boas.

Another very attractive species is the Pacific Boa (*Candioa carinata*). These are very shy snakes and become upset at the least disturbance, causing them to stop feeding. The sex of our specimens is still undetermined. Even though we have probed them, we have been unable to obtain good indications of sex. Although they are basically shy, retiring snakes, one can often be seen lying along a branch in the cage quite openly and not bothered at all by the people passing the cage. At first glance these Boas look very similar to a heavy-bodied Viper, they even have a pointed head similar to a Viper!

The group of Boa Constrictors (*Constrictor constrictor*) is quite impressive and with the exception of the largest male, all have been captive bred. On display there are two males and three females and all the captive bred snakes were born in 1983. There has been mating behaviour but they are probably too young to produce youngsters as yet, although it will be interesting to see if any are born this year. We are able to use plants in their cage because of the careful positioning of branches for the snakes to crawl on. Food consists of dead rats which are given once a week. This is one of our main future breeding groups of snakes.



Indian Python eating dead rat

J. Whitworth

Finally we have two odd male snakes housed together, a D'Alberty Python (*Liasis fuscus albertii*) and a Madagascan Tree Boa (*Sanzinia madagascarensis*). Both of these are excellent specimens which we are hoping to obtain females for to pair them up.

The Boas and Pythons are an important part of the reptile collection and as we improve our husbandry and interior cage design, perhaps we also improve our breeding potential and our future stock.

Keith W Brown
Zoo Herpetologist



Boa Constrictor

J. Whitworth

Elephant House Alterations

Recent visitors to the gardens will have noticed extensive alterations at the Pachyderm House. These have been made to give housing, both inside and out, for a mature bull Elephant and give us more control in handling the cows.

Although we have had reasonable success in the past, experience has shown something was not quite right and we think it is due to keeping the bulls and cows together all the time. Female, or cow Elephants gather

in natural colours will not make these too obtrusive and detract from the exhibit. However, if this allows us to safely keep a bull in acceptable conditions and again breed Elephants, it will have all been worthwhile.

There has been a dramatic decline in the number of wild Elephants in recent years, the Asian population now probably not exceeding 25,000 and the African population down to 1,000,000. It is becoming more important for zoos to breed their own replacements.



Outside enclosure from top of bridge



Enclosure from bottom of bridge



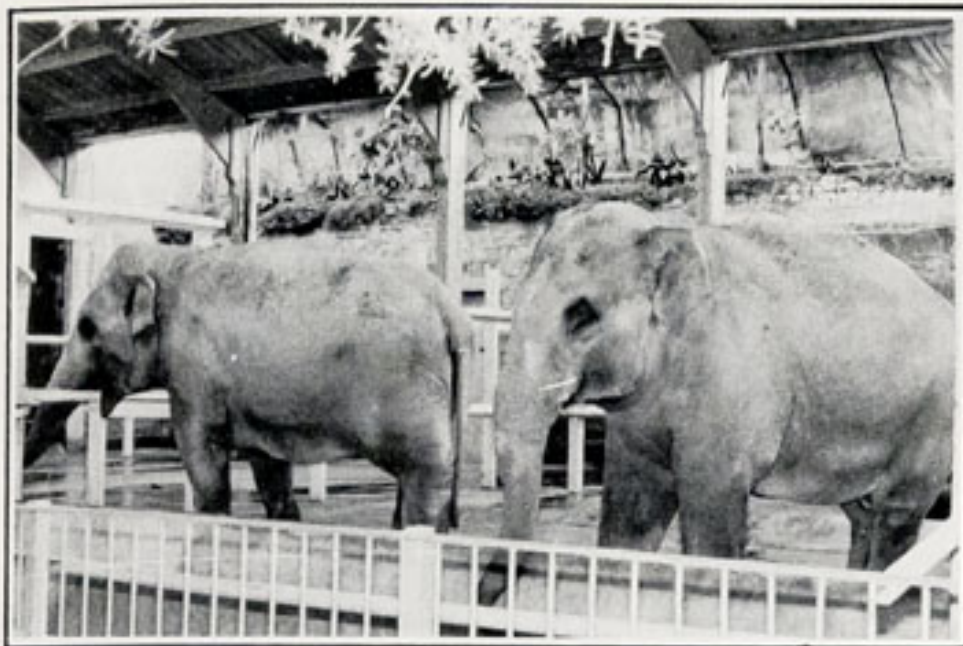
View from Capybara side

together under the leadership of a dominant or matriarch cow for much of the year and exclude the mature bulls during these periods. In all probability this instinct was the reason we lost our two bulls in the 1970's. 'Nobby' the father of 'Jubilee' unfortunately had to be shot outside the zoo grounds after escaping from the compound, and 'Jumbelina' or 'Bubbles' as he was affectionately known, had to be humanely destroyed after being pushed into a dry moat and sustaining injury to his back. We hope our alterations make certain this type of thing can never happen again and results in a natural harmony amongst the Elephants.

All the work has been carried out by our own Maintenance Staff and we are grateful to them for the extra heavy work this has entailed. Apart from all the holes hacked through concrete and laying new concrete, about 30 tons of redundant railway rails have been bolted together to form the new fences and we hope the painting

There are a little under 500 Elephants kept in zoos throughout the world and a similar number in private collections and circuses. However, from all of these, only four or five calves are bred annually and almost certainly these low numbers are because of the reluctance to keep mature bulls owing to their recalcitrant nature and consequent dangers to keepers. The alterations to the Elephant House should minimise this risk and make zero handling of the bull a possibility should it become necessary.

Our regular visitors will have noticed that our young male 'Jubilee' born in 1977, is quickly growing up. He has been regularly mating with Sheba, our oldest cow, during the last few months and whilst test have shown he is not yet fertile, it is definitely on the cards that he could become a very young father. He will be the first tenant of the new quarters, the question at the moment is 'when'? Ideally it will be just before he becomes



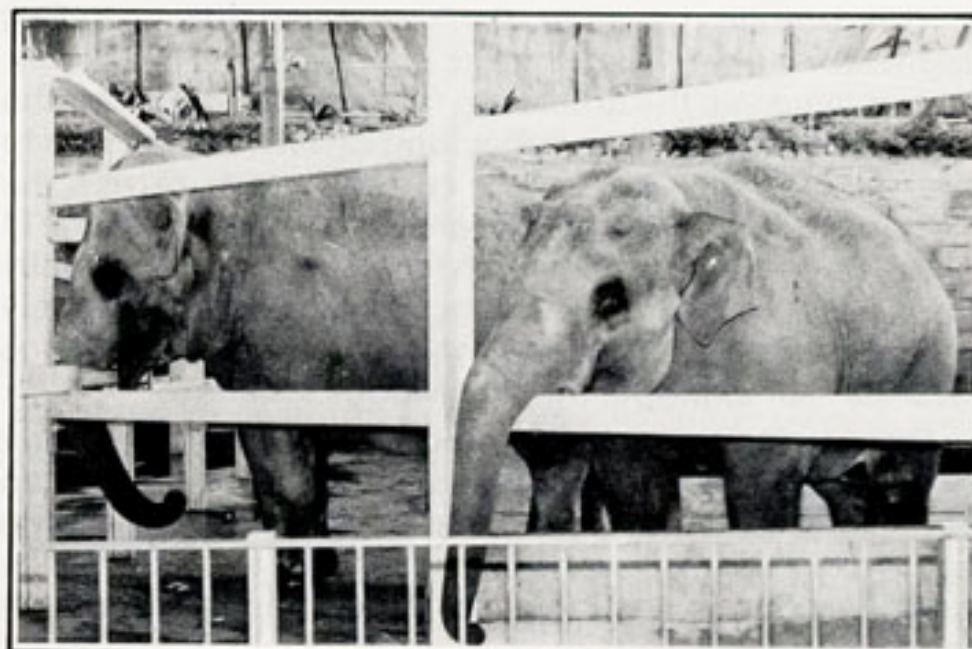
New quarters inside

unmanageable, but in practice, probably the first time he reacts against authority. As he has had access to the new quarters for some time with both cows and is familiar with the layout, the move should not prove too traumatic for him and I suspect that neither of the cows, 'Sheba' or mother 'Judy' will be sorry to be parted from him. The design still allows contact by touch between the Elephants which is most important.

Judy, the more dominant of the two cows, came to Chester in 1961 and is now 28 years old, and Sheba who arrived in 1965 is two years older. Between the three

Elephants, they can consume up to ½ a ton of food a day which costs approximately £14,000 per year, and as heating the House (shared with the Hippos and Tapir) cost a further £9,000 per year, in actual terms we need 8,000 adult visitors through our gate just to pay to keep our Elephants in food and heat. Another interesting statistic is that the present adaptations to the House have cost approximately three times as much as the original cost of the whole building in 1960.

Peter Wait
Senior Curator



Elephants inspecting inside coral

Help needed to run Zoo Trails

In August 1984, Zoo Member Jon Clarkson enabled Zoo publicity to be presented through promotional displays at the Sale Water Park. Also 'Zoo Trails' were devised, the idea being that as part of a conventional nature trail, questions are asked and information offered at each stop relating to animals found in similar habitats in other parts of the world, these animals being on view at the Zoo. This stimulates many lively discussions, for example, on Hippos and Crocodiles beside stream habitats.

We could stage zoo trails and promotions at Country Parks in Liverpool, Wirral, Widnes, Warrington and Runcorn but we do need Members prepared to help with such a scheme by preparing material and especially by guiding small groups of children and visitors. Members could also encourage local libraries to exhibit such promotional material.

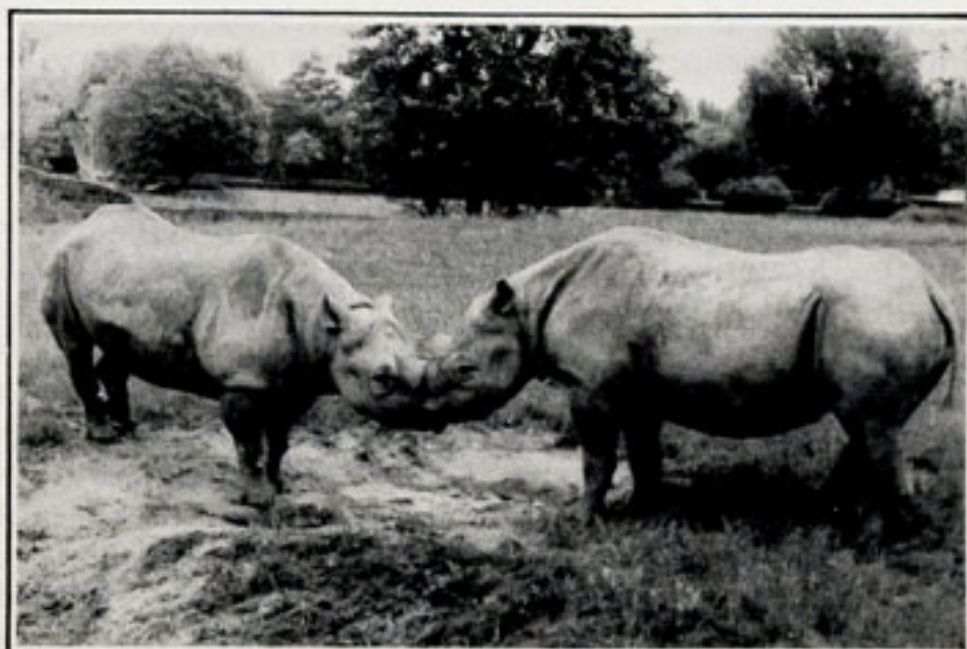
Offers to help please to the Zoo, marked 'ZOO TRAILS' for the attention of Mr B D'Arcy.

'Zoo Call' moves to Sunday at 8.15 am

Members can keep in touch with all that is happening at the Zoo by listening in to 'Zoo Call' on Marcher Sound (238m Medium Wave, 95.4 MHz VHF) now at its new time of 8.15 am every Sunday morning.

African Wildlife Pictures

Members may have calendars or cards of African Wildlife left-over and going spare at this time of the year. If you do have any of these spare, we can send them as much needed educational resources to East African Wildlife Clubs. Please drop in any pictures to the Zoo, Clearly marked 'African Wildlife Clubs' for the attention of Mr Ray Heaton (please do not include personal notes in the same envelope)



Black Rhinos at Chester

Wild Humboldt's Penguins in even more Danger

There are estimated to be only about 6,000 breeding pairs of Humboldt's Penguins along the Pacific shores of South America.

This breeding season, freak cold weather including snowstorms has killed a large percentage of the chicks. This is because the adults are not available to brood the chicks as they have to fish a long distance away due to the shift of the Humboldt's current which carries the Penguin's food. Warmer waters from another current 'El Nino' have suppressed the rich food chain in the normally cool Pacific waters of the region and have adversely affected populations of animals even in the Galapagos Islands - for example the rare Marine Iguana.

Previous large scale ecological disasters have already greatly reduced the population of the South American Humboldt's Penguins whilst at the same time the large scale extraction of guano from the coast and islands has greatly reduced nesting sites. In addition, the Peruvian



K. W. Green

Humboldt's Penguin

Anchovy Fisheries have virtually destroyed the Penguin's food supply by vastly over-fishing the anchovy schools.

This situation makes our special breeding colony of Humboldt's Penguins an even more important tool of conservation and we hope for more chicks this year. So far we have at least six pairs currently showing interest in our burrows on the Penguin Pool Island and we expect these to breed this Spring.

A Review of our Golden Jubilee Celebration 1984

Congratulations to all staff and Members of the Zoo who helped with and joined in to make the Golden Jubilee Celebrations a success.

Between January and November last year, a whole series of events and productions were conceived and organised, especially in order to celebrate our anniversary, by a group of Zoo staff, Members and Council.

In January we ran a Zoo essay competition throughout Cheshire libraries and schools. In February a Members Meeting was held jointly with the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society, when John Knowles, Director of Marwell Zoo, talked on the endangered Oryx Family and Desert Antilopes.

In March we staged a Photographic Display from the Zoo's Photographic collection. On Easter Saturday in April we held an Easter Egg Hunt as a fun educational event for visiting children within the Zoo. A group of our Junior Members did sterling work in assisting with this event. Also in April a sponsored birdwatch was held involving local ornithological groups in raising sponsorship for the Zoo. 'Animal Antics' the first Zoo Animal Joke Book was published and was fully sponsored from advertising.

A Fellowship Day was held in May to encourage disabled people to visit the Zoo free of charge. Special facilities for 'guiding' these visitors around were made available and the day was a tremendous success. On May 9th, a special Birthday cake was shared between visitors and Jubilee the Elephant, celebrating his seventh Birthday. On May 18th the Society's Jubilee Celebration Dinner was held at the Grosvenor Hotel in Chester and was attended by Members and distinguished guests, the Guest of Honour being Dr. Janet Kear of the Wildfowl Trust. On 23rd May, the new Lion House was opened by the Right Honourable Viscount Leverhulme, whose father had laid the original foundation stone in 1937.

Between July and October a special Carnivorous Plant Exhibiton was mounted. Representatives of all the major species of carnivorous plants were displayed, including a BBC model of a Triffid. Nursery grown plants were on sale. A good deal of press, radio and TV coverage was attracted by this exhibit.

In June the Liverpool University Singers performed an excellent fund raising concert of 'Animal Music' and June also hosted a summer barbeque with live music which was a pleasant highlight for staff and Members. Local Primary schools staged three performances of animal plays centred around the musical 'Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo' in a marquee set up in the Zoo's grounds, which proved popular.

The local Radio Station 'Marcher Sound' had a regular spot named 'Zoo Call' which gave publicity to the Jubilee Events throughout the year and in September a special live outside broadcast was presented from the Zoo. Also in September sixty volunteers organised a sponsored walk for 700 walkers which raised over £3,800 for the Zoo and the World Wildlife Fund.

In October, Chester's new Library staged a Special Exhibition on the history and development of Chester Zoo. This exhibition is touring the Cheshire Libraries. The Zoo's own History booklet, lavishly illustrated with photographs from the last 50 years was produced for sale.

In November a Scientific Symposium on the Biology of the River Dee was staged at the Zoo and was well attended.

Throughout the year all Zoo publicity plus tea cups and carrier bags carried the Golden Jubilee Logo - Jubilee the Elephant. Many special Jubilee Souvenirs were on sale such as commemorative medallions, mugs, tee-shirts, frisbees, toy Landrovers and even a special wine called 'Jubilation'.

We learned a great deal about organising special events in 1984 and hopefully in future years many of the events we introduced for the Golden Jubilee will be staged again for Members, staff and visitors. This year on April 8th and in September we can look forward to two outside broadcasts.

A full report on the Golden Jubilee events is available in the Zoo's Library. Over 250 column inches of publicity were generated by Jubilee events and we now have a regular local radio slot and a regular feature in the local

press. We have retained a collection of the carnivorous plants (including the BBC's Triffid) which will be displayed from mid-summer when the plants are at their best. We hope to have another sponsored walk in the Autumn and to hold future joint meetings with other societies and to host future symposiums.

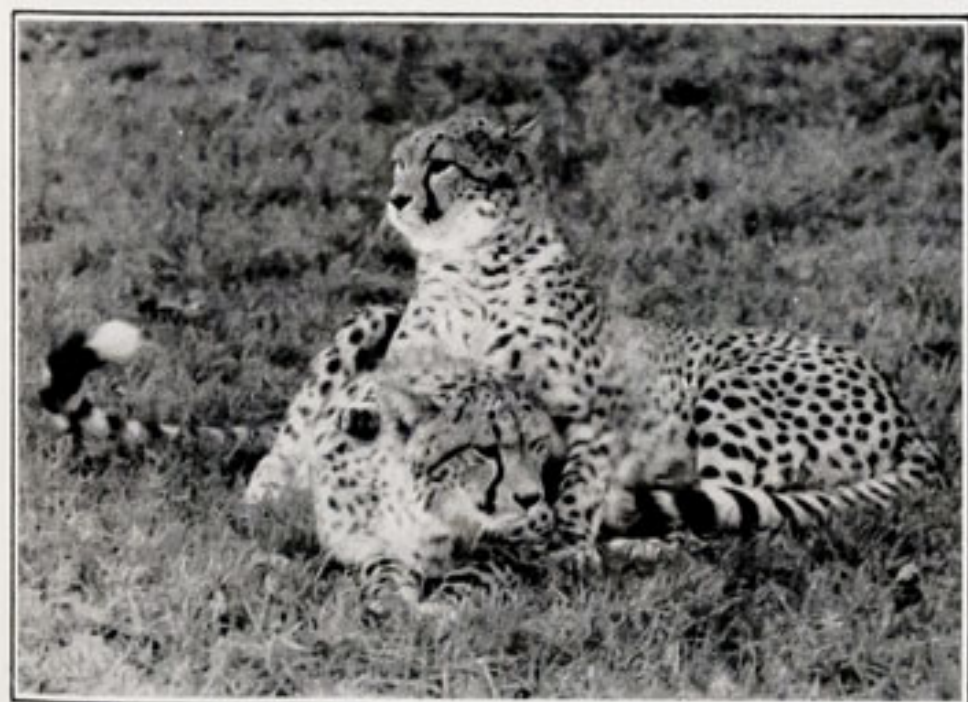
Here's to the past fifty years and hoping the next fifty will be as successful for the Zoo's animals, plants, staff, Members and public alike.

Senior Members Meeting Reports

Members at the first Members Meeting of the New Year were pleased to welcome Mr. Victor Manton, Curator of Whipsnade Zoo on Saturday, 12th January, to talk about 'Breeding Cheetahs in Captivity'. Whipsnade now have the distinction of being the leading collection in the world, outside South Africa, in breeding this exceedingly attractive species, having bred over 100 in the past 15 years.

Mr. Manton detailed the present structure of the collection at Whipsnade, describing the history of the animals presently resident there and their breeding records. With the help of slides, this fascinating talk described the methods used to breed Cheetahs at Whipsnade, their housing and the movement of stock to encourage and motivate breeding activity. Mr. Manton highlighted the highly individual nature of the personalities in his care mentioning their likes and dislikes, pointing out that knowledge of this kind is important to breeding success.

Mr. Manton was very informative in the question and answer session which followed his talk and everyone went away feeling they knew a lot more about Cheetahs and hoping that in due course Chester may be successful in breeding this species.



Cheetahs

The second Meeting was held on Saturday 16th February when Mr. Wait, the Zoo's Senior Curator spoke to Members about the 'Animals in the Zoo'. Peter Wait's interesting and often humorous talk was accompanied by some beautiful slides taken over the years in the Zoo and included some unusual photographs taken at the

top of a hugely tall crane on an occasion when television cameras were in the Zoo. These certainly gave a view not seen by many of our visitors! This was an opportunity for Members to hear some of the 'behind the scenes' anecdotes about some of our residents with ample time after the talk to ask questions about favourite residents and zoo policy. A relaxed and enjoyable afternoon.

Members

Members' Buffet Lunch, Saturday 27 April, 1985

Tickets will be on sale, from the Membership Secretary, in the middle of March, priced £4.95 (only 100 available).

Annual General Meeting

The date for the Annual General Meeting has now been finalised and will take place on *Saturday, 1 June and Not 18 May* as previously stated.

Members Concessionary Tickets

From 31 March, 1985 these tickets will cost £1.35 each to Annual Members and £2.30 each to Associate Members.

NOTICE

It has been drawn to my attention that there are an increasing number of Associate Members who seem to be unaware of the fact that they do **not** have the right of free admission to the Zoo grounds. May I please draw your attention to the following (printed on the inside of all Associate Membership cards):

Associate Members **do not have free admission to the Gardens and Collection** but they do have the privilege of being able to purchase tickets at a discounted price in blocks of five, ten or 20 (maximum 20 tickets annually) for themselves, immediate family and friends (but not for resale). **Associate Members must surrender a concessionary ticket when they visit the Zoo (or pay the full rate at the gate).**

The **only** exception to this ruling applies when an Associate Member is visiting the Zoo with the express purpose of attending a Member's meeting.

Maureen Allsopp *Membership Secretary*

Please address any queries about Senior Members' Meetings to Mrs Maureen Allsopp, and Junior Members' Meeting to Mrs. Penny Rudd, Chester Zoo, Caughall Road, Upton-by-Chester, CH2 1LH. Tel: (0244) 380280.

Junior Members' Field Trips and Meetings, 1985

Fossil Hunting Expedition, Saturday, 20th April

We will be setting off to a quarry near Ludlow in Shropshire, in search of fossils. Ray Heaton and Nick Ellerton will be on hand to identify your findings and answer questions.

The bus will leave the Staff Car Park at 10 a.m., returning around 5.00 pm.

Cleaning Out the Sealion Pool and Other Enclosures, Saturday, 25th May, 1985.

Peter Wait, the Curator of Mammals, will be in charge of any over 12s who would like to be involved with the hard work of a Keeper's job. The Sealion Pool will be one

Risley Moss Nature Reserve, Saturday, 20th July, 1985

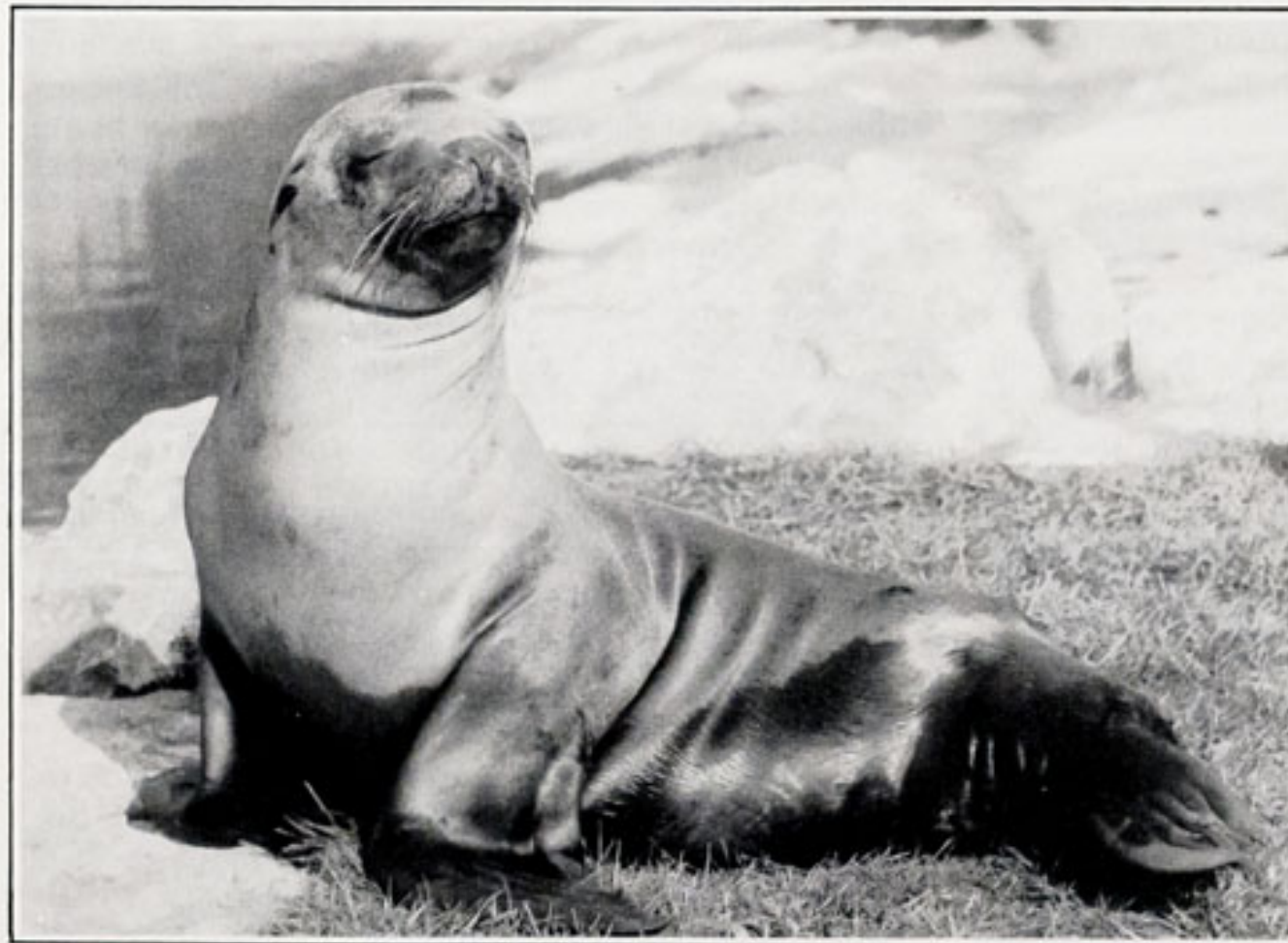
This visit to the extensive Nature Reserve near Runcorn should be popular with keen amateur naturalists. The Warden of the Reserve will show us around. Brian D'Arcy and Lorna Jenner will lead this trip.

The bus will leave the Staff Car Park at 10.00 am, returning around 5 pm.

IMPORTANT NOTE

For those trips which involve the use of a bus, a charge will be made in order for us to cover the basic costs. This will be collected on the day of the trip, and will vary according to the distance travelled. There will be a small charge for events when food is arranged for you.

Juniors are asked to ring me (Penny Rudd) not more than two weeks before a meeting they would like to attend. Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis.



K. W. Green

Californian Sealion

of the areas cleaned and groups will also be sent to other sections in the Zoo to 'help out' for the afternoon. Old clothes and 'wellies' will be essential.

Please meet at the Oakfield at 2.00 p.m.

Junior Members' Bazaar, Saturday, 29th June, 1985.

Full details of this important event will be circulated later (look out in the 'Chez Nous'), but the main aim will be as a fund-raising event.

Meeting Reports

December once again heralded the Christmas party, the enthusiasm for which was almost overwhelming with eighty youngsters keeping the party going with such a swing in the Oakfield that the Lions next door probably wondered what on earth was going on!

Whilst Elizabeth Livingstone, Daphne Witter and Jill Lunsford were churning out Hamburgers and Hot Dogs at a rate of knots in the kitchen, Nick Ellerton, Allan Guy and myself were attempting to stop the 'organised' games turning into a "free-for-all". An incredibly enjoyable evening to kick-off the festive season.

Once again in January we held the Contact Session which proved as popular as ever with both animals and Juniors behaving remarkably well. Owing to the 'non-handling' policy followed by the Zoo with the majority of the animals at Chester, we are limited by the number of animals we can use for sessions such as this but as in the previous year, the snakes and tarantulas were much in demand as was the Monitor Lizard, Bagot Goat, rats, mice, rabbits, Reindeer, Giant Land Snails, day-old chicks and locusts. Also available for inspection were several articles, such as skulls and skins, nests and eggs, from the Education Department.

As the Junior Club has grown so rapidly in recent years, it has become apparent that many of the enthusiastic Juniors have some really good ideas about the Zoo and the Club, many of which warranted an airing. Hence the ideas of a Junior Members Conference in February this year. We started the day with a highly successful tree planting session under the supervision of our Head Gardener, Mr Walter Worth who carefully selected the trees for planting and marked out the sites prior to the children's arrival. A list of these trees can be seen below. Excellent response to this event necessitated the group being split into two with Allan Guy and Walter Worth looking after half each. Such was the keenness, that when we ran out of trees to plant, Mr Worth found us some more and the whole group met up on the banks of the canal for the planting of three evergreen oak trees.

The afternoon session was the 'Conference' part of the day, when those who had not had too large a picnic were still full of energy. We started with an extremely

informative and enjoyable talk by Junior John Benton illustrated with some beautiful slides he had taken during visits to other zoos and bird gardens. Ross Meredith followed John's talk with some slides taken at Chester, once again accompanied by a super commentary. Both Juniors were courageous enough to answer questions on their talks, very successfully. We then went on to a long discussion about what events the Juniors would like to see on their calendar next year, suggestions not being in short supply! The Junior Members Bazaar in June was next on the Agenda and once again, several bright ideas were forthcoming. We ended the afternoon with a question and answer session about the Zoo with Nick Ellerton, Allan Guy and myself somewhat in the 'hot-seat'. The success of the day suggested that perhaps we should try to make the Junior Members Conference an annual event, the knowledge of the Juniors about their Zoo, being something which very much came to the forefront.



TREES PLANTED BY JUNIOR MEMBERS

1. Mount Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica glauca*) from North America. Planted in the lawn in front of the Oakfield (6 feet).
2. Common Oak (*Quercus pedunculata*). One planted near to the Red Crowned Crane pen, and two in the lawn near the Jubilee Garden (6 feet each).
3. Spanish Chestnuts (*Castanea sativa*). One planted near the Cheetah pen and two in the lawn near the Jubilee Garden.
4. Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) were both planted in the lawn near the Jubilee Garden.
5. Holm Oak, Holly Oak or Evergreen Oak (*Quercus ilex*) were planted on the bank beside the canal or boatway, opposite the Lion enclosure.

All photos on this page - Mark Boyle



Arrivals and Births

2.2.7	Coypu (<i>Myocaster coypus</i>)	Births
0.0.4	Capybara (<i>Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris</i>)	Births
0.0.2	Brown Bear (<i>Ursus arctos</i>)	Births
0.1	Celebes Macaque (<i>Macaca niger</i>)	Birth
1.0	Fire-tufted Barbet (<i>Eubucco bourcierii</i>)	Purchased
1.1	Purple Glossy Starlings (<i>Lamprotonia purpureus</i>)	Purchased
1.0	Hautlaub's Touraco (<i>Tauraco hautlaubi</i>)	From Padstow Bird Gardens
0.0.1	Arabian Gazelle (<i>Gazella arabica</i>)	Birth
0.0.6	Jungle Cats (<i>Felis chaus</i>)	Births
0.0.3	Blue-ringed Octopi (<i>Hapalochaena maculosa</i>)	Purchased
1.0	Grey Peacock Pheasant (<i>Polyplectron bicalcaratum</i>)	Exchange
0.1	Vasa Parrot (<i>Coracopsis nigra</i>)	Exchange
1.1	Madagascan Partridge (<i>Margaropedica madagarensis</i>)	Exchange
0.0.4	Spoonbills (<i>Platalea leucordia</i>)	On deposit from Birdworld, Farnham
0.1	Ankole (<i>Bos taurus</i>)	Birth
1.2.1	White-fronted Capuchin (<i>Cebus albifrons</i>)	Purchased
3.2	Slow Loris (<i>Nycticebus coucang</i>)	Purchased
1.1	Ypecaha Rails (<i>Aramides ypecaha</i>)	From Harewood
1.0	White-lipped Tamarin (<i>Sanguinus labiatus</i>)	Exchange
0.0.1	Guanaco (<i>Lama guanicoe</i>)	Birth



K. W. Green

Rodrigues Island Fruit Bat with infant



Mark Boyle

Ankole Calf

1.0	Blackbuck (<i>Antelope cervicapra</i>)	Birth
0.3	American Bison (<i>Bison bison</i>)	From Whipnade
0.2	Red Shoveller (<i>Anas platylea</i>)	From Slimbridge
0.0.1	Rodrigues Fruit bat (<i>Pteropus rodricensis</i>)	Birth
0.0.1	Coletto Mynah (<i>Sarcops calvus</i>)	Purchased
2.2	European Polecats (<i>Mustela putorius</i>)	From Cotswold Wildlife Park
1.1	Vietnamese Pot-bellied Pigs (<i>Sus scrofa</i>)	From Bridgemere
1.1	Greater Vasa Parrot (<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>)	Exchange
1.1	Puff Adder (<i>Bitis arietans</i>)	
0.0.4	Gaboon Viper (<i>Bitis gabonica</i>)	
0.0.5	Rhinoceros Viper (<i>Bitis nasicornis</i>)	
0.0.3	Spitting Cobra (<i>Naja nasicornis</i>)	
0.0.31	Sand Snakes (<i>Phamnophis sibilans</i>)	
0.0.2	Rock Pythons (<i>Python sebae</i>)	
0.0.16	Agamids (<i>Agama sankaranica</i>)	
0.0.12	Maybuya Skinks (<i>Maybuya perrotetii</i>)	

All these reptile species have been placed at Chester Zoo by the Department of the Environment, on deposit pending legal decisions, having been confiscated by HM Customs.

0.0.46	Puff Adders (<i>Bitis arietans</i>)	Births
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Key: 1.0 = One Male
 0.1 = One Female
 0.0.1 = One of undetermined sex