

# Z

CHESTER ZOO

magazine

for members and adopters

AUTUMN 2018



# Z MAGAZINE FEATURES



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# News from the zoo

with Dr Mark Pilgrim  
Chief Executive Officer



After we enjoyed seeing the zoo greening up nicely at the start of the summer, it has since been browning up after an extended dry period! It just goes to show how quickly things can change: one moment we're worrying about muddy car parks and the next we're concerning ourselves with the lack of water and the threat of a drought.

But the weather has perhaps contributed to us reaching record numbers of visitors in May and June. We also reached 1 million visitors to the zoo at the earliest ever point in the year on 12 July – two days ahead of the previous record for reaching this milestone set in 2016. It's wonderful to see so many people enjoying the zoo; not least because we've had some really significant animal births recently.

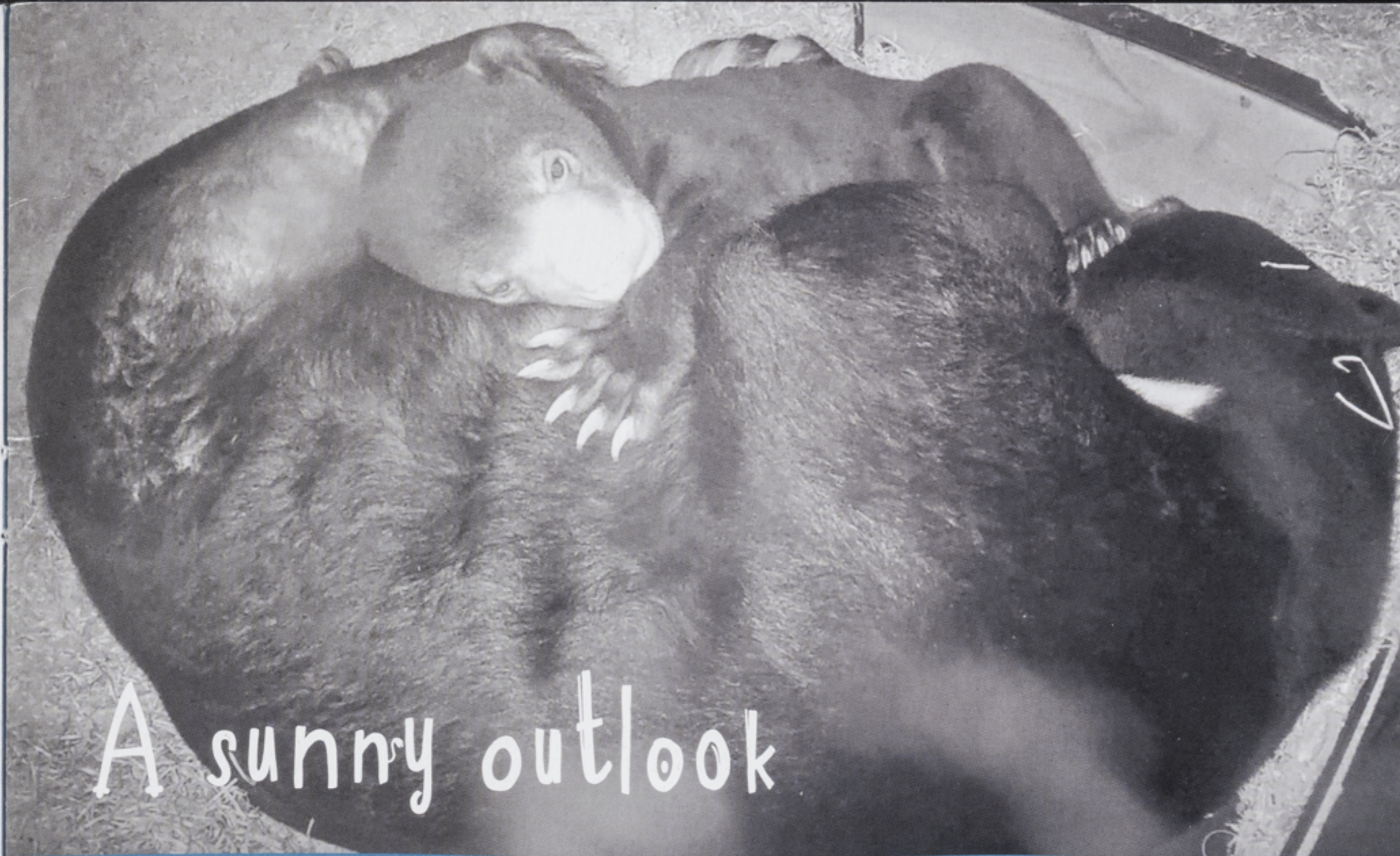
It was absolutely lovely to have Stevie the Western chimpanzee born after a long period of purposefully not breeding them. The reason for that was that chimpanzees across Europe, including those here at Chester, are a mix of subspecies of origin. The decision was made by the European Association of Zoos and Aquariums' (EAZA) Great Ape TAG (that's the Taxon Advisory Group) to identify the pure Western chimpanzee species, *Pan troglodytes verus*. After several years of DNA testing, we now know where we are with our chimpanzees, and you can read more about that on page 4. After such a long period though, it's not always easy to get them breeding again, so Stevie is an incredibly important animal, not only from a conservation perspective but for the social system of the group as they get used to having a youngster among them and help to rear her successfully.

Our new sun bear cub is another breeding success story. It's fantastic that the sun bears have settled in so well since their move to their *Islands* habitat last year and the pair has rewarded our efforts with a cub – the first sun bear ever to be born in the UK. It's a really nice story. We will never know their full history, but they came to us after a presumably very traumatic start to their lives as mistreated pets. It's another important breeding programme for a very threatened species, and you can read more about them on page 3.

A lot of our conservation work goes on out of view of our visitors – so it's lovely when our staff are rewarded for their hard work. I'd like to congratulate Gerardo Garcia, our Curator of Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates, who was presented with the Sabin Amphibian Conservation Prize in New York. It was for his exceptional efforts in endangered species recovery, including his work with salamanders, which we featured in the summer issue of Z.

I would like to mention Lord Wade, one of our Vice Presidents who sadly passed away in June after a long period of illness. He was a staunch supporter of the zoo and was always pleased to hear of us developing and doing well. He did an awful lot in organising House of Lord's events and introducing us to key people of influence. We are thankful for all his support over so many years and send our condolences to his family and loved ones.

Our new strategic objective of being a "voice for change" is influencing the way we act and a recent event at Westminster gave us an opportunity to speak with big players in the palm oil industry – thanks to our MP Chris Matheson for supporting us with that. Work also continues with our 'Sing for Songbirds' campaign. It's really great to see the number of schools that have taken up the conservation messages and integrated the campaign into all parts of the curriculum. Being a voice for change has really started to shape the way we do things.



# A sunny outlook

**The arrival of a very special sun bear cub at the zoo - the first ever to be born in the UK - is even more remarkable given that both its parents were rescued from the illegal wildlife trade in Cambodia.**

These, the world's smallest bears, are a highly threatened species which inhabit the tropical forests of South East Asia. New parents Milli and Toni were taken from the wild as young bears by poachers and kept as mistreated pets. They were found in very poor condition by conservationists from the international charity Free the Bears, who nursed the duo back to health before they were moved to the UK. We were specially selected to help them complete their recovery in 2015.

**Our Collections Director Mike Jordan said:**

"Because of their history, we couldn't be sure that Milli and Toni would ever successfully breed. Lots of bears that have fallen victim to the illegal wildlife trade are too traumatised to reproduce. It means this cub has great significance for the European breeding programme for a species which, globally, has become vulnerable to extinction. This wonderful outcome gives us hope that other animals who have suffered similar fates can be successfully rehabilitated."

Sun bear cubs are born blind and hairless and, at about 350g, are the same weight as a can of soup! They are entirely dependent on their mothers and keepers at the zoo have been keenly watching the development of Milli's cub on CCTV cameras hidden in the den.

**Dave Hall, Canivores Team Manager, said:**

"We have been excited since the first moment the cub was born! It's fantastic that we've been able to help Milli and Toni come this far and have a cub together. It's been suckling well from day one and Milli is looking after her new charge really well. The beauty of the den cameras is that we are able to keep a close eye on all their activity and monitor their progress.

"It's a learning curve for Milli and for us, but she's doing everything right. She's positioning the cub so it can feed properly and using the characteristically long tongue which sun bears have to scoop up honey and insects to keep her infant clean. There's no shortage of cuddles and attention and it has been incredible to see the cub develop and grow.

"They have been tucked away in the den for two months and the cub is much more aware of its surroundings now and beginning to find its feet. We can't be sure of exactly when they will be ready to emerge from the den but we suspect it won't be long before we see them begin to venture out."

We have joined forces with the international wildlife trade monitor TRAFFIC - as well as Taronga Zoo in Australia and San Diego Zoo in the USA - to tackle the illegal wildlife trade. It's one of the greatest threats to the future of species such as the sun bear, and the new worldwide campaign aims to inspire the public to report offences when they see or suspect them via Wildlife Witness, a free smartphone app.

**Find out more about the illegal wildlife trade and download the app here: [actforwildlife.org.uk/illegalwildlifetrade](http://actforwildlife.org.uk/illegalwildlifetrade)**

# Meet Stevie

After the wonderful news this summer of the arrival of Stevie, the first Western chimpanzee to be born in nearly a decade at Chester Zoo, the infant has become a firm favourite in her newly extended family.

Stevie is a valuable addition to this vitally important conservation breeding group. Her birth follows a comprehensive genetic study, spanning several years, to identify which subspecies all the chimpanzees in European zoos belong to. It confirmed that most of the group at Chester are the highly threatened West African chimpanzees – one of the rarest in the world.

While the four known subspecies of chimps found in Africa are very similar in appearance, they are not genetically identical and there are behavioural variations too, but all are threatened with extinction.

The Western chimpanzee is patchily distributed from Senegal down to Ghana and is already thought to be extinct in Benin, Burkina Faso and Togo. Current populations face a number of threats. West Africa has been exploited for her ivory, diamonds, rubber, cocoa, coffee, and now palm oil, bauxite, and iron ore too.

**Mike Jordan, Collections Director, said:**

"In the wild, the Western chimpanzee is under huge threat from bush-meat hunting as well as extensive and increasing habitat loss and fragmentation from human activity, so much so that it is the first ever chimpanzee subspecies to join the list of critically endangered great apes. It makes the group at Chester an important conservation insurance population and the new baby is hugely significant. She is contributing to better genetic diversity in the Western chimpanzee population across European zoos."

In Chester, the new arrival has increased the number in the group to 20 and our keepers have been keeping a close eye on her progress.

**Primates Keeper Kate Brice said:**

"ZeeZee is a wonderful mum and is taking great care of Stevie. She has some enthusiastic help from other group members, especially Pattie and Chrissie who are always willing babysitters, while Stevie's grandma, Mandy, is also on hand to lend her support. ZeeZee has learnt a lot about parenting skills from that older generation and, of course, Stevie's sister, Tina, was the last chimpanzee to be born here in 2009.

"While she's taking some interest in her new sibling, ZeeZee doesn't quite trust Tina yet as she's a bit like the chimp equivalent of a naughty teenager. She's been quite spoilt by the group because she's been the youngest for so long!

"Stevie has brought an exciting new dynamic to the group and their interactions are fascinating to watch."

## Tuesday's child

A handful of visitors were treated to a very special, once-in-a-lifetime event this July when a rhino calf was born right in front of their eyes!

While most rhino births typically happen at night or in the early hours of the morning, Malindi, our 12-year-old Eastern black rhino, shocked onlookers when she went into labour in the middle of a busy summer's day. She safely delivered the healthy male calf less than half an hour later and he was up on his feet soon afterwards to the delight of the lucky audience.

The youngster has since been named Jumaane, which translates from the Swahili as 'born on Tuesday'.

**Tim Rowlands, Curator of Mammals, said:**

"With just 650 Eastern black rhino left in the wild, seeing the birth of a new calf and it's very first steps is a very rare and special event indeed.

"Malindi is an experienced mum and has bonded really quickly with Jumaane. While the saying goes that 'Tuesday's child is full of grace', I'm not sure Jumaane could quite be described in those terms, but he's a real character with bundles of energy and has been having a great time rolling around in the sand and exploring his surroundings.

"His arrival increases the number of Eastern black rhino at Chester to 11 and is another success story in the Europe-wide breeding programme. A thriving, healthy population in good zoos is vitally important to the future of this critically endangered species and a key component of our mission to prevent their extinction."

In tandem with our acclaimed breeding programme, we have long supported conservation efforts in the wild to help protect Eastern black rhinos, which includes providing expertise and funding to sanctuaries in Africa.

# BABY



# BOOM

## Pretty in pink

Our group of Caribbean flamingos has become fluffier and even more flamboyant thanks to the arrival of 21 chicks.

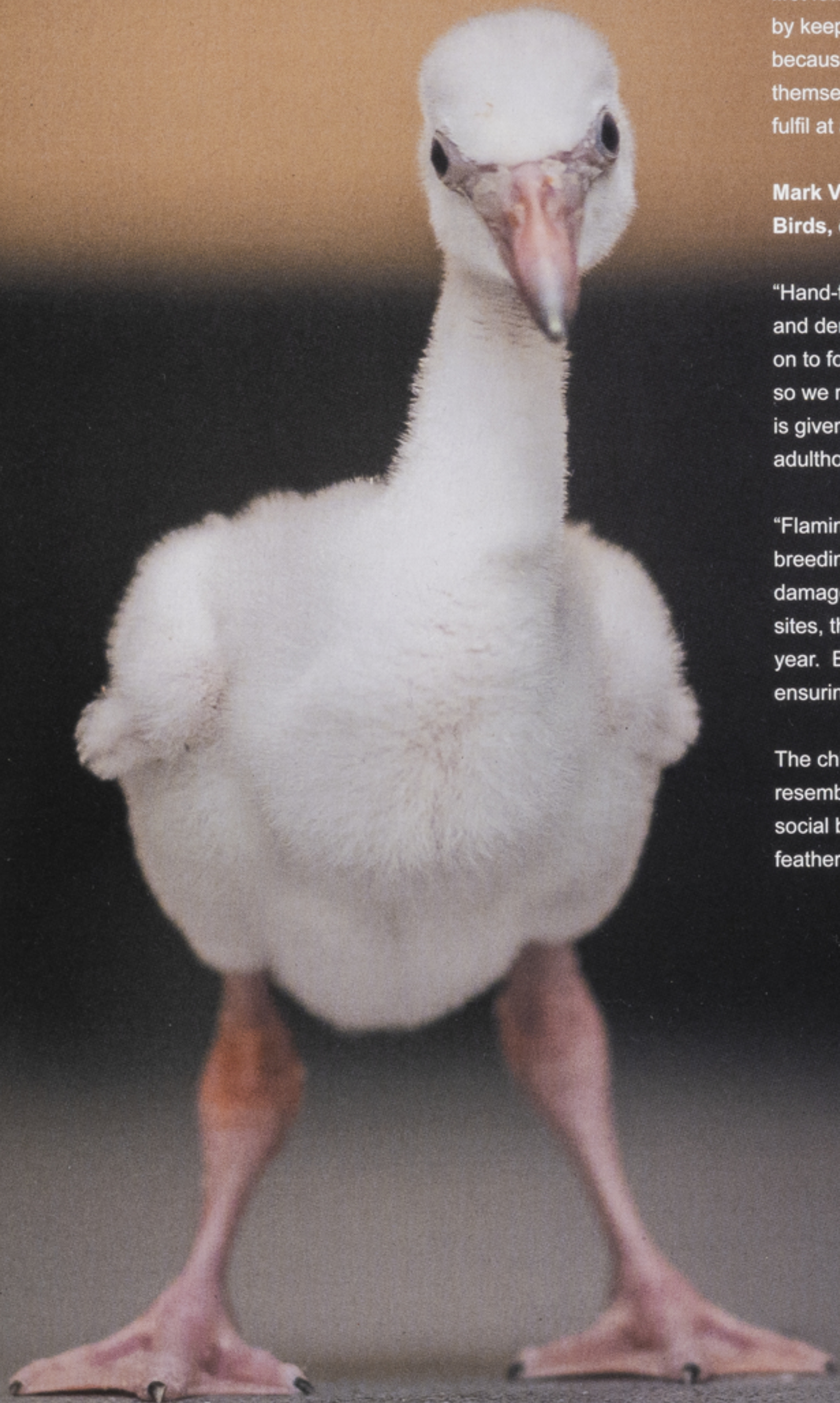
Following their successful hatching, these youngsters are being treated to some special attention in their first few weeks of life. They are being hand fed by keepers at regular intervals, four times a day, because once they are developed enough to feed themselves, they will have a very important role to fulfil at a conservation breeding facility in Indonesia.

**Mark Vercoe, Assistant Curator of Birds, explained:**

“Hand-feeding young flamingos is a really intricate and demanding challenge, but these chicks will go on to form part of another important breeding colony, so we need to make sure that each and every one is given the best opportunity to make it through to adulthood.

“Flamingo pairs typically lay just one egg per breeding season and if that egg fails or becomes damaged, which can happen in tightly packed nest sites, then they won't lay again for at least another year. By giving these chicks a helping hand, we are ensuring the new flock has the best possible start.”

The chicks begin life white or grey in colour and resemble little balls of cotton wool, but these highly social birds will go on to develop their iconic pink feathers at around six months old.



## An aristocratic avian

The Victoria crowned pigeon is the largest pigeon on earth and a new member of the family has successfully hatched at the zoo.

Native to Indonesia and New Guinea, these turkey-sized birds are adorned with a beautiful blue crest of soft feathers and may well be named after Queen Victoria who had a penchant for wearing elaborate, feathered headwear.

A descendant of the dodo – a bird that was famously wiped out by the actions of humans – the species is vulnerable to extinction. That's partly due to its spectacular plumage, which means the birds are prized by hunters and popular in the illegal pet trade.

Victoria crowned pigeons pair for life and will share the incubation duties of their single eggs. Unlike most other bird species, both parents produce special milk to feed the chick in the first few weeks of life – treating it like royalty, you might say!

# BABY BOOM

## Monkey business

Another special birth at Chester Zoo is that of a rare Sulawesi crested macaque.

Fathered by dominant male Momassa, this is mum Rumble's second baby. She's a calm, caring mum and she, along with extended members of the family can be seen grooming, cleaning and generally pampering the infant.

The Sulawesi crested macaque is one of the world's most endangered primates with fewer than 5,000 estimated to remain on the island of Sulawesi in Indonesia – the only place on the planet where they are naturally found. Hunting has severely impacted on the species, which is considered a local delicacy, served up on special occasions such as weddings.

Through the Tangkoko Conservation Education project, we're supporting vital efforts to change attitudes so future generations will protect this, and other, species in Sulawesi.

## Puppy love

We've had our biggest ever bush dog litter born at Chester Zoo this summer!

The six pups were born to 7-year-old mum Mana and dad Franco, who is 5. They have had their paws full ever since the sextuplets emerged from their underground burrows, where they were tucked away for their first few weeks of life.

The litter is made up of two males and four females, and Mana is doing a wonderful job of caring for her pups, with other pack members helping out too. It's been an exciting time for the keepers, as well as our pack of bush dogs which is now 16 strong.

These diminutive characters with their short legs, short snout and relatively little ears are the smallest wild pack hunting dogs on the planet. They have evolved over thousands of years to have webbed toes, which makes them excellent swimmers and gives them an advantage in forests which seasonally flood and

when hunting some of their water-loving rodent prey. In spite of their widespread range, bush dogs are only found in small isolated populations in the wet forests and grasslands of Central and South America. They face a huge number of threats, including the destruction of forests where they live to make way for farming developments, human-wildlife conflict, poaching for their meat and the introduction of diseases in their habitat from domesticated dogs. With their wild numbers dropping by more than 25% in just 12 years, sightings of bush dogs in the wild are becoming increasingly rare with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) listing the species as near threatened with extinction.

With such a multitude of threats putting their existence at risk, our six new arrivals are very special. They have been health checked and microchipped to provide data which will help conservationists monitor their progress and coordinate the endangered species breeding programme to boost their numbers in zoos worldwide.

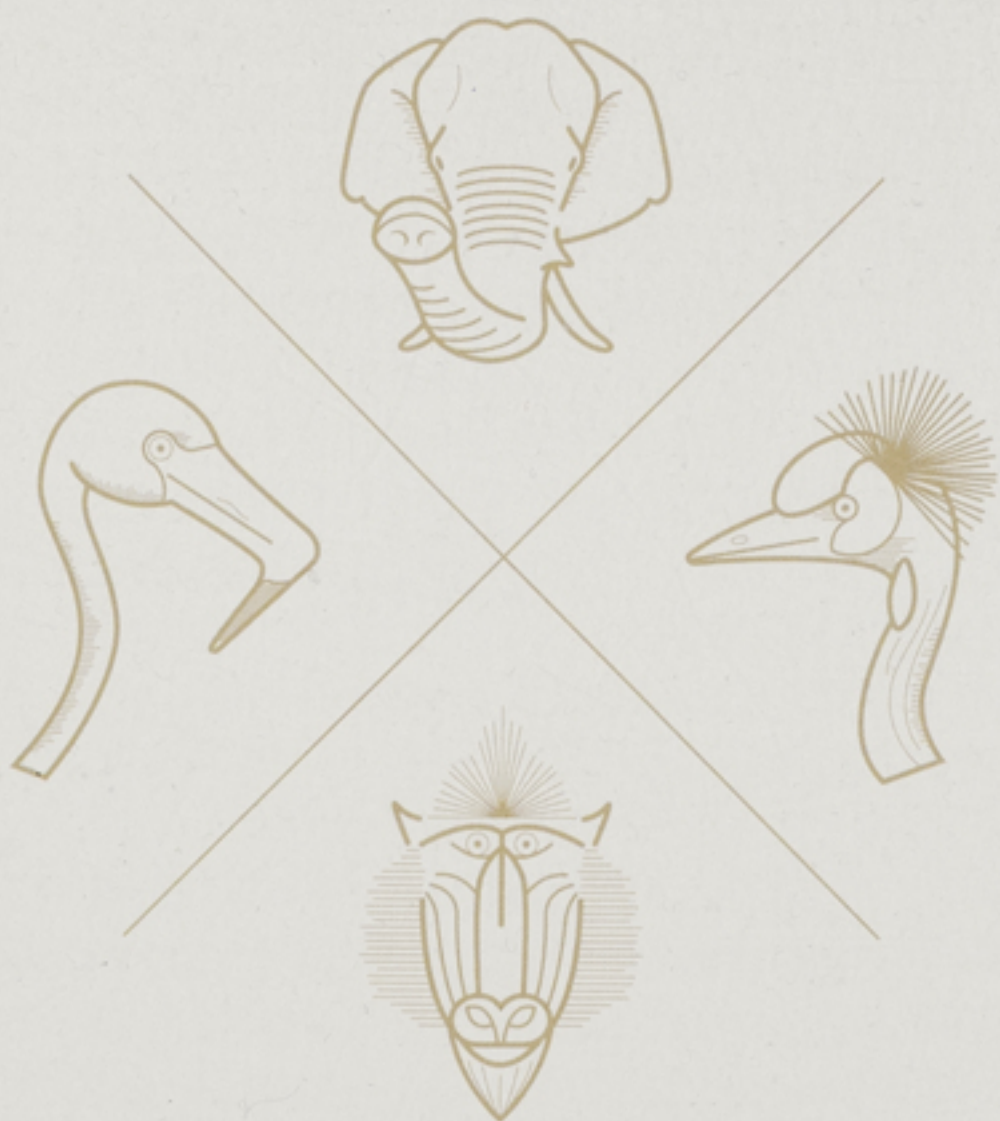


## THE OAKFIELD - AT THE HEART OF CHESTER ZOO!

The Oakfield is set in a stunning property at the heart of Chester Zoo, making this a truly unique contemporary British pub.

In July we opened the doors to this beautiful building following a £3m refurbishment, restoration and expansion of the historic family home of our founder, George Mottershead.

With pride and passion we're serving freshly prepared locally sourced food and hand-picked beers, wines and spirits. The building has been lovingly restored and our new garden room offers incredible views of our award winning gardens.





## A CONSTANTLY EVOLVING MENU

The Oakfield's Executive Head Chef, Ben Finchett, brings a tasty selection of seasonal courses to The Oakfield, each made using locally sourced ingredients.

Ben has worked as the Head Chef at the Marco Pierre White Steakhouse and played a vital role in opening a number of Marco's restaurants in Birmingham, Liverpool and Norfolk. On top of that he's worked as a Chef at a variety of different places including The Grosvenor in Chester and even cooked for the Duke of Westminster at his estate. But it is the first time he's ever worked at a zoo. He tells us:

"I feel the zoo really wants to create a good experience for guests, and I'm really pleased to be a part of that at The Oakfield. For me, it's so much more than cooking the food, it's thinking about all the other things that go alongside it to give

that quality experience for our visitors. I have sourced some local suppliers and local produce to keep it as local as possible. For example we've got asparagus on the menu from Formby and the meat is from a farm in Mickle Trafford. Championing local produce and suppliers is the main inspiration behind the menu, as well as seasonality.

"Our visitors can expect fresh food, seasonal food, something a little different to anywhere else you would go. It's a menu that's unique to Chester Zoo! It's good quality food at a good price; and will also constantly change and evolve over time. I'm hoping Sundays will be a good day for families to come to the zoo and have a nice roast dinner and then go for a walk around the zoo afterwards.

"I hope visitors will go away and say they've tried something new. There aren't many places you can go and have some food and then go for a beautiful walk afterwards and look at tigers, orangutans or bears! So hopefully, the experience of being at the zoo will be something a bit different."





### TAKING A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE...

The Oakfield is where the Chester Zoo story really began - when founder, George Mottershead and his family took up residence in the early 1930s. The house is full to the brim with history, and if the walls could talk they would tell you some wonderful and unique tales.

The Oakfield is open to guests for them to enjoy a warm, welcoming pub – a unique dining experience within a Victorian country house located right at the heart of the zoo. The building has been many things in its time, even before the Mottershead family moved in.

This magnificent house was built (c.1885) by a wealthy tea merchant for the former Lord Mayor of Chester Benjamin Chafers Roberts. In 1930 George Mottershead bought Oakfield and seven acres of land for £3,500 – and the following year Chester Zoo opened its gates to the public.

The Mottershead family kept the zoo open through the Second World War. They decided that the aquarium, which was located in the basement of Oakfield, would be used as an air raid shelter. If an air raid was about to happen, the zoo would get a warning phone call so they had enough time to make sure the animals were hidden away safely. During blackout every window had to be covered when night came to avoid enemy planes from bombing the area, as the port of Liverpool was a target.

You can enjoy your meal within the house and imagine the many animals that may have stayed under the same roof as the family, like Rob-Rob the blue and red macaw who spent most of his time on a stand in the family kitchen; and Christy the lion who was hand-reared by the Mottersheads after her mother died.



## RESTORING A HIDDEN GEM

Donald Insall Associates have acted as architects for the refurbishment and extensions to the building since 2011, when they conducted in-depth research into the evolution of the building, which enabled them to identify where the latest adaptations would be most appropriate. **Dorian Proudfoot from Donald Insall Associates explains:**

"Our philosophy when working with a historic building is to retain as much of the original fabric of the building as possible. During the works we discovered additional significant features such as some original wallpaper and the old, cast iron, family safe. We took the opportunity to incorporate these aesthetically and historically significant features into the project and use them as points of interest for this most recent reinterpretation of the house.

"When designing the garden room we carefully considered the scale and architectural language that would look 'right' next to the existing building. The room needed to look lightweight, expressing itself as a garden structure; we therefore chose timber and glass as the predominant features, and designed large roof lanterns so it is filled with natural light."

We've also worked with interior designers, Spatialized, to carefully restore and transform The Oakfield into a contemporary British pub. **Adam Clayton from Spatialized explains:**

"We wanted to be as true to the original building as we could be - and as such we have tried to retain the structure and nature of each room, preserving any original features we could along the way. The soft colour palette which drifts and guides you through the house

forms the backdrop to a wonderful array of original and reproduction imagery, some of which is from the zoo's wonderful historical archives. The reclaimed furniture throughout punctuates a grand and comfortable scheme which we hope will be enjoyed for many years to come!

"We hope the feel of The Oakfield stays true to its origins. We want you to feel at home, to feel comfortable and relaxed. This is conveyed using many of the elements mentioned above, whilst retaining the wonderful air of grandeur that the house naturally conveys."

We look forward to seeing you relax in what was George Mottershead's library, where the fireplace and wood panelled walls have been carefully restored. Or enjoy a meal in the rooms which were once both a family home and the offices for zoo staff.

The Oakfield is in keeping with the successful freehouses that Cheshire has to offer, and we have sought to combine the best of them all to create a satisfyingly good pub with a delicious menu! The pub is as much a testament to the past as it is a vision for the future of the zoo, and the building team has been extremely careful to retain the original qualities of the house so it has a real home-from-home feeling.

As you enjoy your food and drink you can imagine the many different animals it's had within it, including lions, bears, chimps and birds as the family took care of the grounds and wonderful wildlife within it.

**Discover more about The Oakfield and book your table today at: [theoakfield.org](http://theoakfield.org)**



THE  
LANTERNS  
AT CHESTER ZOO



There's something **MAGICAL**  
happening at Chester Zoo this Christmas!

BOOK NOW

23 November  
to 23 December

Seeing is believing

# Seeing is believing

As the days grow cold and the nights draw near, in the heart of Chester Zoo, something magical will appear. So before you turn and think of leaving, take a second look because seeing is believing.

This Christmas, something magical is happening at Chester Zoo. The zoo is turning into a magical festive wonderland, full of sparkle, illumination and a sprinkling of snow!

Kick-start your Christmas countdown at Chester Zoo and give your family precious memories they'll never forget. Explore spectacular scenes and experience the zoo in a different (and much more twinkly) light.

There will be new fantastical and colourful worlds, full of animal-inspired illuminations and traditional festive scenes that will leave you with a warm, fuzzy feeling inside. A colourful oversized Butterfly Garden, Nordic markets, stunning Christmas trees and a magical ice kingdom all come together with our favourite animal lanterns from Christmases gone by.

Fill up on tasty festive food and see our brand new pub The Oakfield, finishing off the Christmas-card perfect scene. And remember.....keep an eye out for Father Christmas on his sleigh. He could be just around the corner!

For more information and to see what delicious delights we'll be serving up, go to [CHESTERZOO.ORG/LANTERNS](http://CHESTERZOO.ORG/LANTERNS)

## DATES

November: 23, 24, 25, 30  
December: 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20,  
21, 22, 23

## TICKETS

Children tickets from £10 - £15  
Adult tickets from £12 - 17.50  
Children aged 2 and under enter free of charge

Book your tickets today at  
[chesterzoo.org/lanterns](http://chesterzoo.org/lanterns)

Wildlife

CONNECTIONS

# FESTIVAL

Friday 14 and Saturday 15  
September, FREE entry



## JOIN US FOR OUR WILDLIFE CONNECTIONS FESTIVAL!

Roll up, roll up and join us for a jam-packed festival that's buzzing to the brim with exciting activities to celebrate the incredible wildlife found right on our doorstep!

Get closer to nature at our 2018 Wildlife Connections Festival! We've organised a whole host of exciting activities that will leave you feeling connected to the amazing wildlife found all around us.

Be inspired by adventurer, zoologist and presenter Dr Jess French from CBeebies\* as she shares creative ways you can protect the planet, based on her new book *How to Help a Hedgehog and Protect a Polar Bear*. Pick up some simple hints and tips from our experts on how to become a mini conservationist by making your own garden or green space more wildlife friendly.

Let your creative side go wild by making simple but

incredible foraging artwork using only natural fallen materials. You can also test your pedal power on the brilliant Bewilderment Machine, a people powered merry-go-round, as well as explore our UK animal-inspired obstacle course!

And if that's not enough, you can also join our zoo experts for bug hunting and bird watching plus loads more! Don't worry, there's also a chance to recharge your batteries by taking a moment to just sit back, relax and listen to some live music.

The festival will take place in the field next to our Nature Reserve on **Friday 14 and Saturday 15 September**. Join us as we celebrate our amazing UK wildlife!

Head over to our website [chesterzoo.org/festival](http://chesterzoo.org/festival) for a full programme of activities taking place over the two days.



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER, 10AM - 3PM

SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER, 12PM - 5PM

FREE ENTRY-NATURE RESERVE

Glorious  
GRASS LANDS

# THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW AT CHESTER ZOO

There's been a baby BOOM at Chester Zoo over the past few months! We've welcomed some amazing new arrivals, including bush dog pups, a baby black rhino, babirusa piglets, a trio of rock hyrax plus loads more.

We're really proud to be leading the way in helping to prevent extinction through our science work and conservation breeding. To celebrate our new arrivals we wanted to share a few of our breeding success stories from over the summer – read carefully as we've got a quiz for you to enter at the end too!

Our most recent arrival was another Eastern black rhino calf, which brought the total number of black rhinos at the zoo up to 11. This is also the 11th Eastern black rhino to be born at the zoo in the last 20 years, which is fantastic news for the conservation of this critically endangered species.

Stevie is the FIRST critically endangered West African chimpanzee to be born at the zoo in the last decade, so her arrival was very exciting for the keepers. Stevie's mum, ZeeZee can be seen taking great care of her baby girl, and often has help from other females in the group who are willing babysitters.

Three red river hogs were born at the zoo back in May, covered in stripes which help them camouflage in their natural, Sub-Saharan African habitat. After around six months the stripes will fade and their fur will change to the distinctive rustic red colour.

Another three little pigs were also born in May; three critically endangered babirusa. Only around 4% of babirusa births are triplets, so this rare pig birth was even rarer than usual! There are only around 5,000 of these charismatic pigs left in their natural Indonesian habitat.

The Victoria crowned pigeon is the largest member of the pigeon family and boasts a crown of lacy feathers on its head, resembling a crown. We were delighted when a chick hatched at the zoo this summer after being incubated by both parents. These birds are the closest living relatives to the extinct bird, the dodo.

Six adorable bush dog pups joined the pack this summer – our largest litter on record! The group of pups is made up of two males and four females and has increased the pack size to sixteen dogs altogether.

## Baby Quiz

1. How many Eastern black rhinos have been born at the zoo in the last 20 years?
2. What species of chimpanzee was born at the zoo this summer?
3. Why do red river hogs have stripes when they are born?
4. How many babirusa remain in the wild?
5. Which extinct bird is the Victoria crowned pigeon very closely related to?
6. How many bush dogs were born this summer?

If you'd like to be in with a chance of winning a 'Guess Who at Chester Zoo' game, send your answers together with your name and contact details to:

Z magazine, PR department, Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH by Monday 5 November 2018

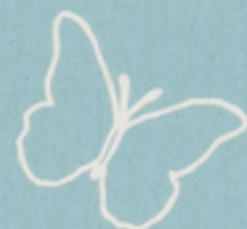


CHESTER ZOO



# AUTUMN EVENTS 2018

## Zoo events



### WILD WORLDS

**UNTIL SUNDAY 30 SEPTEMBER**

Join us for the final month of our one-of-a-kind summer celebration: Wild Worlds! Discover new spaces within the zoo's favourite places – all inspired by the amazing worlds of the zoo's 21,000 incredible animals and brilliant gardens.

Head over to [CHESTERZOO.ORG/WILDWORLDS](http://CHESTERZOO.ORG/WILDWORLDS) for more information!

### MOUNTAIN CHICKEN FROG DAY

**THURSDAY 13 SEPTEMBER**

Join our Zoo Rangers to celebrate these amazing, but critically endangered amphibians. Discover how we're working hard at the zoo and in the field to save these amazing frogs and ask our team any questions you have.

### WILDLIFE CONNECTIONS FESTIVAL

**FRIDAY 14 & SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER**

Get closer to nature at our 2018 Wildlife Connections Festival! There'll be a whole host of exciting activities that will leave you feeling connected to the amazing UK wildlife found all around us (see page 16 for more information). The festival will take place in the field next to our Nature Reserve.

### INTERNATIONAL RED PANDA DAY

**SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER**

Join our Zoo Rangers to celebrate these incredible animals with a special talk at the Red Panda habitat.

### WORLD RHINO DAY

**SATURDAY 22 SEPTEMBER**

Join our Zoo Rangers as we celebrate all things rhino and the conservation work we're doing to save these animals from extinction. We'll have fascinating rhino artefacts and activities – plus you might even spot our new baby black rhino Jumaane!

### WORLD CASSOWARY DAY

**MONDAY 24 SEPTEMBER**

Come along and celebrate all things cassowary! We'll have some fascinating artefacts and activities and you'll also get the opportunity to ask any questions you might have about these amazingly strange birds.

### LITTLE MONKEY MORNINGS

**WEDNESDAY 12, 19 & 26 SEPTEMBER  
AND 3, 10 & 17 OCTOBER**

Got a Little Monkey in the family (aged 1-3 years old)? Calling mums, dads, grannies, grandads, families and little tot minders - bring your little monkeys to the zoo to play games, explore and have messy fun! For a full list of dates check out our 'What's Happening' page on our website.

### WORLD OKAPI DAY

**THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER**

Join us to celebrate World Okapi Day! Our Zoo Rangers will be at the okapi habitat with a selection of amazing artefacts and you'll also get the opportunity to ask your okapi related questions!

Find a full list of events at  
[CHESTERZOO.ORG/EVENTS](http://CHESTERZOO.ORG/EVENTS)

# JUNIOR MEMBERS' PROGRAMME



## SHUGBOROUGH HOME FARM

**SATURDAY 22 SEPTEMBER**

Enjoy an autumnal visit to a beautiful stately home in Staffordshire - visit their home farm to see the rare animals and shire horses. There will also be wonderful displays of cheese making and old-time bakery skills. We'll leave Cedar House (second staff entrance on the left as you are coming up Caughall Road from the Upton traffic lights) at 9.30am and return at 5pm. Bring a packed lunch.

## BLACKPOOL ZOO

**SATURDAY 20 OCTOBER**

It's always great to visit our colleagues at other zoos and to see how they do things. We plan to have a guided walk so that we do not miss any of the highlights. We'll leave Cedar House (second staff entrance on the left as you are coming up Caughall Road from the Upton traffic lights) at 9.30am and return at 5.15pm. Bring a packed lunch and wrap up warm.

## RSPB BURTON MERE WETLANDS

**SATURDAY 24 NOVEMBER**

Burton Mere Wetlands is a unique landscape of wetlands and beautiful woodlands. It's a perfect haven for birdwatchers, whether you're new to it or an avid Twitcher, the entire reserve has been designed to get you closer to nature. Some of the birds you may spot here include little stints, curlew, wood sandpipers and little egrets. Also, small numbers of wild geese begin to arrive. We will have a guided walk which should be excellent! We'll leave Cedar House (second staff entrance on the left as you are coming up Caughall Road from the Upton traffic lights) at 11am and return at 4pm. Bring a packed lunch and wrap up warm. If you have binoculars bring them along, but we'll have some you can borrow. Cost: £15 on the day.

Please note: bookings must be made for all of our Junior Members events. Please ring Penny Rudd at the zoo on **01244 650215**, or email on **PennyR@chesterzoo.org**, no more than two weeks before the event you would like to attend.





## Searching for a cure to 'plant blindness'!

As you walk around the zoo, you'll easily spot the incredible number of animals (21,314 to be exact) at Chester Zoo! But while you explore the zoo, do you notice how many plants you've seen?

We have a staggering 25,000 plants at the zoo and over 2000 different species. Be reassured though, you're not the only one that doesn't notice the plants surrounding you; this phenomenon is so widespread that it's actually been recorded scientifically and even has a name: 'plant blindness'!

A couple of researchers from America defined 'plant blindness' in 1999 in *The American Biology Teacher*. They said that plant blindness is:

"the inability to see or notice the plants in one's environment"

They also explained it as the 'inability to recognise the importance of plants', being unable to appreciate the 'aesthetic and unique biological features of the life forms that belong to the Plant Kingdom' and 'ranking of plants as inferior to animals' and therefore seen as 'unworthy of consideration'.

Symptoms of plant blindness according to their study includes believing that plants are just a backdrop for animal life and failing to notice plants in one's daily life among many other symptoms. Researchers have hypothesised that one of the explanations of this bizarre phenomenon is linked to the fact that

people usually know less about plants than animals making it harder to recognise them and value them.

The fact that plants don't move is also partly responsible for plant blindness, as our brains literally filter out objects that aren't different enough from their background; making plants easily disappear from our consciousness.

The implications of plant blindness are massive in the conservation world and trigger a global disinterest for the endangered botanical world. Australian researchers from the University of Melbourne even reported in *Conservation Biology* that plant conservation initiatives 'lag behind and receive considerably less funding than animal conservation projects'.

At Chester Zoo, conservation is at the heart of everything we do! We want to bring the incredible but often unnoticed green world to the fore. The Australian study showed that immersing people in the world of plants enhances their capacity to detect, recall and value plants, reducing plant blindness.

With that idea in mind, we decided to bring you Wild Worlds! A festival like no other that aimed to put the spotlight on the secret lives of plants within the zoo. If you've not had chance to explore the different installations as part of our festival, there's still time - Wild Worlds is running until Sunday 30 September. Dive into the wonders of the plant world and take a step towards curing your 'plant blindness'!



# Welcome to Koda

**The newest adorable addition to Chester Zoo is male red panda, Koda.**

The one-year-old arrived from a zoo in Devon after being chosen as the perfect companion for the zoo's resident female, Nima. The duo were found to be genetically compatible as part of a conservation breeding programme to boost numbers of this endangered species.

The pair have been slowly introduced to one another by the zoo's expert team and, although slightly shy at first, Koda soon built up enough confidence to introduce himself to Nima, which is an encouraging sign. Since then, he has spent time doing what red pandas do best - climbing trees and chewing his way through lots of bamboo! The hope is that the pair will successfully produce cubs in the future.

Red pandas are native to the forests in the mountainous regions of Nepal, India, Bhutan and Myanmar as well as southern China, where they are known as 'firefoxes'. Numbers in the wild have

been pushed to a new low as a direct result of human actions, which includes the loss of nesting trees and bamboo across much of their range due to forest clearances.

Trapping for the illegal pet trade and poaching for their iconic red fur also remains a huge problem, particularly in south-west China where the panda's tails are used to make hats for ceremonies and newly-weds wear their fur as a symbol of a happy marriage.

That's why we are fighting for the future of red pandas through habitat-focused conservation projects in the Sichuan Mountains of China, where they can be found among the bamboo forests.

If the red pandas aren't immediately obvious when you come to visit them, it's worth spending some time looking up into the tree canopies, where these skilful, acrobatic climbers use their long, bushy tails for balance. They mainly forage in trees and sleep on branches or in tree hollows during the day, so it's where these arboreal animals are most at home.



Catherine Barton (Chester Zoo Field Programmes Manager), Andrew Rosindell M.P., Chairman of the Zoos & Aquariums All-Party Parliamentary Group, Chris Matheson (Chester MP) and Jamie Christon (Chester Zoo Chief Operating Officer) at Westminster

# Taking Sustainable Palm Oil to Westminster!

Together with Chester MP Chris Matheson and various partners, we organised the **FIRST EVER Westminster summit** to unite major players from the food industry, the conservation community and British politics, to tackle the agricultural deforestation that is driving wildlife towards extinction.

It was the first major gathering ever held at the Houses of Parliament to bring together wide ranging experts on the issue. Chester Zoo conservationists discussed the damage to rainforests caused by unsustainable palm oil production and the benefits that sustainable production can bring.

**Cat Barton, Chester Zoo's Field Programmes Manager, explains:**

"Unsustainable palm oil is causing terrible damage to the rainforest homes of orangutans and many other species. But to

boycott palm oil and increase the demand for other, less efficient oils, could have a negative impact on wildlife in other areas of the world.

"Oil palms are highly productive and the yield per square kilometre is higher than for any other edible oil. Growing oil palms is the most efficient use of land, producing more yield per hectare than oils such as rapeseed and coconut. This means that palm oil has the potential to be very environmentally friendly if it is grown sustainably.

"Bringing together key players from across the food industry and conservation community is vital if we are to work together to solve this crisis and be part of the solution. Action is critical and urgent. There is no more relevant place to tackle this issue than the home of British politics – the Houses of Parliament – supported primarily by our own City of Chester MP Chris Matheson."

We're supported by Chris Matheson Chester MP and a whole host of partners in our project to make Chester the world's first sustainable palm oil city. Chris Matheson added:

"I will always champion Chester and the people here. When the zoo told me about this idea, I knew it would be another opportunity for our city to shine. This project is not just about Chester though, it is about the planet and that's why I will do

everything I can to support the zoo to lead the world and change it for the better!"

The event was created by the zoo in association with partners Efeca – experts in sustainable forest and agriculture advice – and was also supported by the WWF-UK, The Orangutan Land Trust, The British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO).

## Getting closer to becoming the world's first sustainable palm oil city

The hospitality industry can make a big difference to demand for sustainable palm oil. To achieve sustainable palm oil city status we need representation from key organisations across Chester, including restaurants, workplaces, schools, visitor attractions and manufacturers.

We're taking steps in the right direction as more organisations and businesses make it to Sustainable Palm Oil Champion status! One of the latest organisations to get involved is the University of Chester.

**ACT NOW** to protect some of the amazing species at risk from deforestation. What you do **RIGHT NOW** in the UK can have a positive impact on the situation on the other side of the world. Buy, and create a demand for, sustainably produced palm oil which doesn't harm wildlife. Take a pledge today, as an individual or a business, to show your support in making Chester the first sustainable palm oil city in the **WORLD!** Or download our sustainable palm oil shopping list to see what products contain 100% RSPO certified sustainable palm oil.

Find out more [actforwildlife.org.uk/palmoil](http://actforwildlife.org.uk/palmoil)



# A Stickler for Detail

With forms that resemble the leaves or twigs which they live among providing the most efficient, natural camouflage on earth, six-legged stick insect wonders are fascinating on many levels.

This order of insects is known as 'Phasmatodea' - or 'phasmids' for short. They are found predominantly in the forests and grasslands of Asia, South America, and Australia where they like the warm, humid environment.

Here are just a few of the amazing varieties of stick and leaf insects we have at the zoo, where conservation breeding and research is important to their management and survival in the wild. Look out for them in the Butterfly House, Realm of the Red Ape and in Monsoon Forest.

## A record breaker

The Jungle Nymph, common in South East Asia, is a real heavyweight among stick insects.

The female of the species is the largest and heaviest insect known to science, weighing in at 70g. That's more than three times the weight of an adult house mouse! In contrast, the much smaller, long, skinny males are mottled brown in colour, resembling twigs. Jungle nymphs are fine examples of the often exaggerated differences between the look of female and male stick insects, known as 'sexual dimorphism'.

The female's broad, bright green, leaf-like appearance, spiky upper body and hind legs armored with large, sharp spines, are a great survival tool. If predators are brave enough to approach, she lifts up into a hand stand position, with her two back legs held out to the sides. A rustle of her tiny wings provides a warning before she snaps together her spiky legs around them!

Many other phasmids will feign death to thwart predators; others may shed a limb to escape their grasp; while some species emit a putrid-smelling fluid as a defense.

## Masters of mimicry

The camouflage of the giant Malaysian leaf insect - or great walking leaf - is one of the best in nature.

They are the largest known leaf insect species and one of the most unique. Not only do their flared bodies include leaf 'veins', some individuals will have smooth, green edges to look like new foliage, while others develop brown spots and tattered brown edges that mimic a weathered leaf. Those living in very sunny, bright environments may even be bright yellow in colour. Their body postures also help them blend into their backgrounds. They are true masters of mimicry!

Leaf insects, like most other phasmids, are of great interest to scientists because they are 'parthenogenic', meaning that the female is able to produce offspring without ever meeting a male. The unfertilised eggs they lay will produce new females, which are exact copies of their sole parent. Some rare, 'fake' males have been seen but genetically they are still females.



## Flamingo Wings

Many stick insects have wings but it is often only the males that are able to fly.

While some wings are little more than a stump, others are spectacularly beautiful. Take the four spotted flying stick insect from Borneo, for example. This extremely rare, vivid green species comes into its own when it reveals its bright, flamingo pink wings. These striking additions are not only readily used for flight, they are also used as flash warning signs to frighten off predators.

The life cycle of the stick insect begins when the female deposits her eggs through a method known as 'oviposition'. The four spotted flying stick insect glues batches of bright yellow eggs to food plant stems or leaves, which hatch at around the same time, so the juveniles live close together for a while. Others species will flick their eggs to the ground, stab them into the moss, bury them in small pits in the soil or carefully place the eggs between the stem and stalk of a host plant.



## Blue, blue, electric blue

One stick insect, found only in Madagascar, is the exception which breaks all the rules!

With their stunning hues of electric blue, combined with bright orange spines on their legs and crimson red wings underneath their yellowy-brown forewings, the males are the noticeable ones. With wild populations of blue stick insects found only rarely, the purpose of these bright colours is not yet understood. The females, which are much larger and brown with pink spines, also have the red, flightless wings.

This species has a complex life history, too. Females can reproduce asexually if there are no males around, but rather than being strictly parthenogenic like most other phasmids, they do mate with males to reproduce. The female flings her eggs to the forest floor with a sway of her abdomen. Like other species, their eggs have evolved to resemble seeds as a means of protection. The small brown nymphs which hatch after four to six months could develop into either males or females.





# LET'S TALK ABOUT PLASTICS

**Approximately 8 million metric tons of plastic enters the oceans from land based sources every year! The worrying thing is this is expected to increase by 2025.**

Our mission, preventing extinction, is at the heart of everything we do! All staff at Chester Zoo are dedicated to protecting wildlife and save endangered species from extinction; we're also committed to fight plastic waste too!

Together, we can all make a BIG difference! Plastic is a topic at the front of everyone's mind, and the actions people can take to reverse the devastating impact it's having on the planet and wildlife – including humans.

We've been working hard behind the scenes to make positive changes across the zoo when it comes to plastics. Throughout this ongoing process it's been surprising to discover just how much plastic is used in different products – including wet wipes and even teabags.

We're working hard across the zoo to minimise single use plastics and have already removed lines of confectionery and

introduced products that use new home-compostable packaging instead. We've swapped our face paint glitter to biodegradable eco-glitter, we've replaced fizzy drink straws with biodegradable straws and are in the process of removing disposable crockery from our restaurants.

We're working with our manufacturers and suppliers to improve things, but it's a long and complex process. We've made good developments so far and are heading in the right direction, there's always more to do which is why we've set up a Working Group to specifically look at finding other alternatives across the zoo.

We're also joining forces with British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquaria (BIAZA) and other zoos across the UK to see how we can make an even bigger impact in reducing single-use plastics.

On top of changing the products for better alternatives with our suppliers, we also sell some beautiful items in our shop at the main entrance that are made using recycled plastic, including pens, bags and rugs. Have a look the next time you visit the zoo!

# No charges for EV charging!

Our visitors with electric cars now have access to eight electric vehicle (EV) charging points in our main car park.

There has been a remarkable surge for demand in electric vehicles in the UK recently, with more than 166,000 plug-in vehicles on UK roads today, compared with just 3,500 in 2013. The EV charging points at the zoo are operated under the POD Point Open Charge network. They are free to our visitors, providing you with the opportunity to plug-in your car while enjoying a day out with us, and reflecting our commitment to environmental conservation and the reduction in vehicle produced CO2.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The first electric car was invented over 180 years ago in 1832.
- Electric cars produce no tail pipe emissions and have no engine oil either.
- Electric cars are faster off the mark than diesel or petrol engines as they have instant drive and acceleration and there are no gears to change.
- Most electric cars have their top speed limited, however one of the fastest is the Tesla with a top speed of 125mph.
- Electric cars at low speed are so quiet manufactures are required to add engine noise so you can hear them coming!





# Celebration of service

More than 100 members of our zoo team were recognised at a wonderful event this June, celebrating their long and valued commitment to preventing extinction.

The Celebration of Service event was for our colleagues who have reached a decade of service or more, and this loyal group has totted up more than 2000 years of service between them!

The evening, held at Manado Town on Islands, was organised by our HR team. **Jane Hubbard, Director of HR, said:**

"We believe our people are at the heart of everything we do and we wanted to create a really special evening for our wonderful, long-serving staff who have given so much to the zoo. Establishing the new Celebration of Service Award Scheme has been a truly collaborative effort."

Of those being recognised at the event were **Niall Ormerod, Lead Keeper on the Primates team**, who has 46 years' service with the zoo and **Isolde McGeorge, Specialist Keeper on the**

**Lower Vertebrates & Invertebrates section**, who has been with us for 41 years.

Niall has worked with the chimpanzees since he was a teenager and fondly remembers the first chimpanzee birth he ever saw. "It was an early career highlight", he said. "The mum was ChiChi. She went into labour at 9am and she'd had the baby by half past. Once she'd cleaned it all up, she held out the baby's hand to me and let me touch it. It was a real privilege."

Isolde has seen a lot of changes since she first started at the zoo, but one thing that has remained constant is her passion for reptiles. She said: "My most memorable moment is successfully coordinating the arrival of the Komodo dragons. It took a lot of negotiating with zoos in Cincinnati and Miami, where our first dragons came from, but it was well worth the effort. Then, in 2006, we made the world's first discovery of parthenogenesis in the dragons (that's a form of reproduction in which an egg develops into an embryo without being fertilised by a male). It was inspirational!"



# IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR

**Our Conservation Scholar and PhD student from the University of Liverpool, Rutendo Wazara has been observing the relationships between the elephant herd at the zoo. Below she shares some of her findings with us on the relationships between them...**

The strong family bonds of elephants is a characteristic that many people resonate with and love about these incredible animals. In the wild, both Asian and African elephants live in distinct social groups, where female elephants stay together in family groups for their whole life.

Family groups are made of mothers, calves, sisters, aunts and grandmothers; and because of this the females develop strong bonds with one another. Elephants are actually one of the few species that learn life skills from watching each other, meaning strong bonds with family members is really important. In these family groups, females help each other care for and protect their calves, learn how to become good mothers, develop good social skills and share food and water resources.

Rutendo has been studying our herd of Asian elephants for the past two years. Her project initially started as a Masters research project but it quickly became clear that understanding the social bonds of our elephants would take more than a three-month project! **Rutendo tells us more below:**

"Elephants are such a complex species and that complexity deserves to be studied in great detail if we are to continue to improve their wellbeing in the field and in zoos. Thankfully, I was able to pursue my research further as a PhD project. I

really admire Chester Zoo's desire to marry conservation science and animal husbandry, and learning from experts in both fields has been a great experience so far."

Aiming to develop a tool able to measure the strength of the bonds between elephants in zoos, Rutendo has been collecting behaviour data on our elephant herd for the past two years. Within that time she was able to quantify the bonds each female has with her herd mates and was also able to observe how major life events, such as births, affected the strength of these bonds.

She noticed that having new calves has not only created new bonds in the herd, but it has also increased cooperation and strengthened relationships between the females as they work together to care and protect their infants.

"My best memory of working with Chester Zoo's elephant herd so far has been watching the calves grow. Did you know that elephant calves throw tantrums? I didn't until I started watching this herd! The calves usually throw a tantrum when their mother has decided they have had enough milk and walk away. But once one calf starts crying, all of them quickly join in until their mothers come and touch them with their trunks. It's amusing and fascinating to watch!"

Head over to [CHESTERZOO.ORG/CONSERVATION](https://www.chesterzoo.org/conservation) to learn more about our Conservation Scholars and the research they've been working on to help us with our mission of preventing extinction.

# FUNDRAISING NEWS

## Remembering Harry Frederick Hamilton



With more and more of you so generously thinking about what the future holds for wildlife, we thank everyone who has included a gift in their will to prevent extinction. Here we remember Mr Harry Frederick Hamilton for the lasting impact he has made on his loved ones and the future of wildlife. In the words of his dear friends:

"Harry was the most delightful person to know, with a sparkling wit and fascinating life. During the war, he trained as a navigator in South Africa where he encountered some of the world's most incredible wildlife. He married a fellow navigator so between them they should never have got lost anywhere!

"Harry was a man of many hobbies which he pursued with great skill and passion: rally driving, steam trains, photography, woodturning, gardening and of course wildlife. He was a member of Chester Zoo for decades. We were great friends for many years and I miss his wonderful company a great deal."

With the kind support of his dear friend and executor, we are truly honoured to fulfil Harry's wishes and prevent extinction in his name. Harry's friends and neighbours recently visited the zoo in his memory to learn more about the impact of his gift and see a dedication to Harry on Chester Zoo's Giving Tree.

A special note of thanks to Harry's dear friends, Mrs Brenda Altham and Mr and Mrs Parry, for all their support. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to acknowledge Harry's incredible generosity.

Our Fundraising team are ready to help you with any questions you might have about including a gift in your will to Chester Zoo.

Telephone 01244 650229

Find out more at [chesterzoo.org/rememberus](http://chesterzoo.org/rememberus)

## PREVENTING EXTINCTION

This summer, new donation boxes featuring our charitable mission have been introduced around the zoo. The aim is to champion wildlife conservation and raise vital funds that will go directly to preventing extinction. All the donation boxes look exactly the same. The identical boxes will be a baseline for a new study led by Chester Zoo's Conservation Scientists and Fundraising Team. Keep an eye out for the boxes at the zoo and please share any feedback that could be a valuable addition to our research. You can get in touch by email [fundraising@chesterzoo.org](mailto:fundraising@chesterzoo.org) or phone 01244 650229.

## WE'LL CHEERS TO THAT!

Our amazing friends at The Alchemist in Chester have created a special cocktail to support our conservation



work with jaguars in Brazil! £1 from every 'Pink Panther' will go straight towards helping prevent the extinction of this iconic species.



## THANK YOU

A great big THANK YOU to everyone who came along to our Summer

Stampede! The day was jam-packed full of fun and games, with plenty of smiley faces as the herd made their way round the zoo! So far, we have raised over £4,000 for our Never Forget campaign, which will go towards finding a vaccine for the deadly virus EEHV. Find out more at [chesterzoo.org/neverforget](http://chesterzoo.org/neverforget)



# TREETOP CHALLENGE FOR YOUR MINI MONKEYS

**This October half term, we're opening an exciting new rope obstacle course –  
a mini adventure your little ones will enjoy.**

The treetop challenge is a thrilling high ropes course created by Sky Tykes, and is the biggest course of this type in the UK and the only one to have two mini zip lines! Join your little monkey, who will be harnessed up, as they explore the different obstacles they come across!

The course will replace our Conservation Golf course, is suitable for children aged two to seven, and will cost £5 per child which, from mid-October, you can either book online or at the kiosk on the day of your visit.

**Keep an eye on our website for more information.**

# Talking Conservation

Autumn/Winter  
2018 Programme

If you'd like to find out more about the vital work your membership supports both at the zoo and out in the field, then why not join us at one of our membership talks.



Wednesday 12 September

## WILDLIFE CONNECTIONS: ENGAGING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES FOR UK WILDLIFE

Join Chester Zoo's Community Engagement Manager, Hannah Brooks, as she tells us more about our Wildlife Connections project, which launched in 2016. The project is working to create safe spaces for the most precious local wildlife that we love. This year we're celebrating with our third Wildlife Connections festival on Friday 14 and Saturday 15 September. At this talk, we'll tell you all about the festival and bring you up to date on how many people, groups and communities we've reached out to with this project.

Thursday 4 October

## ENGAGING WITH COMMUNITIES: NEWS FROM THE FIELD

In October, the zoo is hosting a training week for ten educators from our field projects, from as far afield as Indonesia, Mauritius, Bolivia and East Africa. Our Discovery and Learning team will be sharing a wide variety of our work with them to help them plan their own educational activities. This will include learning about our education strategy, the learning opportunities at Chester Zoo, behaviour change, evaluation, presentations skills, designing education programmes, leadership training and training others. At this talk, the overseas educators will each give you an overview of their projects in the field and how their work with communities is helping to raise awareness and save endangered species.



Tuesday 13 November

## BIPS AND BIB-LIOGRAPHIES: POST-RELEASE MONITORING OF TRANSLOCATED PINE MARTENS

Since 2015, the Vincent Wildlife Trust has been carrying out conservation translocations of European pine marten from Scotland to Wales. Considerable time, money and effort go into planning and conducting translocations, along with ethical and wellbeing considerations for the released animals themselves.

Since autumn 2015, a total of 51 pine martens have been translocated. Following release, all of the animals have been tracked until they have established home ranges, after which they are located daily and then weekly. Then there is a further period of intensive radio-tracking to locate denning sites of breeding females. Hair tubes and camera traps are also used to monitor breeding success. Identification of individuals on camera has been made possible by a detailed catalogue of bib photos, called our 'bib-liography'. Join Dr Jenny MacPherson and David Bavin from the Vincent Wildlife Trust as they share what we've discovered from the translocation as a result of these combined techniques.



Thursday 6 December

**LIVING WITH TIGERS PROJECT, NEPAL - VEGETABLES, ELECTRIC FENCES, GOATS AND MORE!**

Earlier this year, Chester Zoo Conservation Scholar Amy Fitzmaurice, gave a members' talk introducing you to our Living with Tigers project in Nepal, which is working to alleviate human wildlife conflict around Bardia and Chitwan National Parks. Nearly half of Nepal's human population lives in poverty and depends on the forests and natural resources for survival, resulting in human-wildlife conflict which is having a devastating impact on communities and wildlife.



## MEMBERS' TALKS

All of our Members' Talks are held in the Lecture Theatre, near the zoo's main entrance off the A41, and they start at 7.30pm.

- Our talks are often fully booked so booking is essential
- They're free to members (please bring your membership card and welcome letter)
- We offer a special rate of £2 to adopters
- Members of the public and guests are welcome (£3.50 for non-members)
- Post-talk refreshments give you the opportunity to have an informal chat with speakers, zoo staff and fellow members

## Interested in attending?

Please call **Kate Brankin** in the Discovery and Learning team on **01244 389831** or email [k.brankin@chesterzoo.org](mailto:k.brankin@chesterzoo.org).

## DON'T MISS OUT ON UPDATES

Due to a change in the law on 25 May 2018 - we've recently updated how we look after your data. It's important you decide what you want to receive in your email inbox, so unless you registered your preferences with us before this date then you'll no longer be receiving our newsletters.

You can update your email preferences by going to [chesterzoo.org/preferences](http://chesterzoo.org/preferences) and select what you'd like to receive from us. It only takes a minute to confirm, and you can change your mind at any time.

We will still contact you about any important information relating to your membership.

## RECEIVE Z MAGAZINE STRAIGHT TO YOUR INBOX

If you'd like to receive a digital version of Z magazine instead, please email us at [membership@chesterzoo.org](mailto:membership@chesterzoo.org) with your membership number letting us know you'd like to receive your magazine electronically in future.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### MEMBERS' DAYS

Sunday 18 November 2018  
Saturday 16 March 2019

### ADOPTER DAYS

Sunday 7 October 2018  
Saturday 9 March 2019

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