

Z

CHESTER ZOO

magazine

AUTUMN 2021



Z

MAGAZINE FEATURES



Orangutan born
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Look out for these
binoculars in Z to find
out what you can do to
ACT FOR WILDLIFE!

For all of the zoo's latest news,
go to chesterzoo.org/news



In 2010 the government commissioned a 10-year review looking in detail at the care of elephants in zoos and safari parks in the UK. **OUR ZOO**, as a world-leader in elephant care and animal welfare, has always been fully supportive of this. We've also provided much of the funding for it and have been heavily involved from the outset.

With the final report now due in spring 2022, some speculation that the government is planning a ban on the keeping of elephants in zoos has emerged, fuelled by an inaccurate report in the Daily Mail. I'm pleased to say that the Defra Minister, Lord Goldsmith, quickly issued a denial that this is currently part of their thinking.

However, there are undoubtedly some individuals and organisations that will continue to call for this to become new legislation, and media reports, which, unfortunately, will always look to err on the sensational side of the story.

I have no doubt that caring for elephants in modern zoos like ours is vital to better understanding the species and to finding solutions to the challenges they face – solutions which will allow their wild counterparts to thrive. I am proud of the world class levels of care our dedicated teams provide to the Asian elephant herd here at the zoo and all of the fantastic science and conservation work we carry out with this highly endangered species.

We're always striving to advance standards of care for all of the species we work hard to protect – the Asian elephant is no different. We are continuously exploring ways to develop habitats and provide the very best conditions for the animals that we care so deeply about. Our keepers, scientists and conservationists have been able to glean vast amounts of valuable knowledge from caring for Asian elephants at Chester – knowledge which has been successfully applied to the benefit of wild elephants.

In Assam, India, our elephant keepers use their skills and husbandry knowledge to help local communities live side-by-side with Asian elephants. For more than 20 years, we have worked closely with local communities to empower them and develop a sustainable living model that is proven to eliminate deaths of both people and elephants, enabling them to live in harmony, and prevent human-wildlife conflict in the region.



Meanwhile, we're spearheading vital scientific research into EEHV at the zoo, a deadly virus that affects Asian elephants in the wild and in zoos, on behalf of the global conservation community. EEHV is a major threat to the long-term survival of endangered Asian elephants, with reports of wild elephant fatalities in India, Nepal, Myanmar and Thailand on the rise. It is known to have caused deaths in nine countries across their native range, as well as in zoo breeding programmes worldwide. We, together with our key scientific partners, are committed to researching EEHV and finding ways of improving outcomes for



elephants which develop the virus. Already, our research has led to the development of a preventative vaccine that we hope will enhance the lives of endangered elephants, everywhere. I'm excited to say that vaccine trials are now underway.

In addition to all of this, the proven educational benefits that make good zoos like ours such unique institutions can improve the future for species all over the world. We strive to change behaviour on key issues that instill compassion for animals and lead to more understanding of how everyone can help to protect species and, vitally, inspire the conservationists of the future.

Our work is guided by science and experience. We offer solutions to complex conservation challenges. The value of a modern conservation zoo is clear to see and, with more than one million species at risk of extinction, has never been more relevant. I know that each and every one of you, our 129,000 members, fully understand that and are hugely supportive of the vital role we play in conservation. Those lobbying for a ban, however, clearly don't understand the value of a modern zoo like ours and so we may yet need you to stand with us, help us to change minds and ensure that any future changes in policy follow a due and proper process, based on evidence.

Jamie Christon, CEO

SATURDAY NIGHT LEMUR!



Saving Madagascar's LOST SPECIES

We're working with partners in Madagascar and here at the zoo to help protect some of the island's most precious species. By adopting an animal at Chester Zoo, you're helping to support vital conservation efforts in Madagascar and around the world, whilst also receiving an exclusive adoption pack, a personalised 'thank you' plaque at your chosen animal's habitat PLUS lots more!

Adopt today and make a difference tomorrow. Visit www.chesterzoo.org/adoptananimal to find out more.



The zoo recently became home to one of the world's most endangered primates - the Coquerel's sifaka, a critically endangered species of lemur famed for its elegant 'dance' moves. Primate expert Jessamine Smith tells Z Magazine why the arrival of Beatrice and Elliot to Europe is so momentous for the species and gives us the low down on the unique eating habits of these remarkable animals...

"A few months ago we were absolutely thrilled to welcome a very special duo to the zoo - Coquerel's sifakas Beatrice and Elliot. We're very happy to report that the pair have settled in really well to their new surroundings and can often be found dancing from tree to tree in our Madagascar zone. Beatrice and Elliot both travelled together, as a breeding pair, from the Duke Lemur Centre in North Carolina, USA and have been living alongside one another for some years now. Their arrival here at Chester means that this couple are now founders of a new breeding programme that's working to protect the species in European zoos. We are just one of three in the whole of Europe to care for this species, and the only UK zoo - which is very exciting!

"Something that makes Coquerel's sifakas so unique is their incredibly complex and elongated gut tract, which is around 15 times the length of their bodies! While their diet pattern is similar to that of our other lemurs at the zoo, eating around three meals spread out over the course of the day, their food can take between 24-36 hours to fully digest given how far it has to travel. Their breakfast often consists of a special primate pellet (similar to a vitamin tablet providing many of the nutrients they need) and vegetables - sweet potato and cucumber being their favourites! Their second meal is lots of leafy greens such as lettuce or chicory, as well as sprouting legumes such as chickpeas, red kidney beans and other pulses.

"On occasion, we'll also provide them with unsalted, roasted peanuts, almonds and cashews to keep things varied - they absolutely love those. Their very last feed of the day is a selection of browse, such as willow or buddleia, which is harvested for them daily to ensure it's as fresh as possible. Their favourite browse is pyracantha, which is a large, thorny evergreen shrub. In the wild in Madagascar, sifakas eat a lot of thorny browse like this and have even evolved to have thickened pads on their hands and feet that allow them to handle the prickly plants with ease. Coquerel's sifakas spend much of their day foraging for leafy plants or trees, and at this time of year, they're finding a lot of variety outside in their habitat. As a team of keepers, we've been closely monitoring their health, weight and their favourite foods as they get used to their new home.

"Beatrice and Elliot are both very calm animals with inquisitive personalities, so they're a lot of fun to care for. Beatrice is definitely the shyer of the two and can often be seen sunbathing and catching rays at the very top of the trees while Elliot, who is much more confident, spends his time sitting and people watching.

"One of the highlights of working with these animals is watching them 'dance' as they leap across their habitat. Known as the 'dancing lemur' sifaka stand tall on their hind legs, using their large tail to help keep them balanced, and bounce across the ground before jumping and clinging onto the tree branches. That's definitely something to lookout for on your next visit. They also have a loud alarm call that's used to communicate to one another in the wild, which has been described as sounding like a low bubbling noise followed by a clicking sound: "shif-auk" - this noise is what inspired the species name, sifaka! While we are still yet to hear them calling, we have heard them making contented little chirping or purring noises to one another, which tells us they're relaxed, happy and comfortable - which is exactly what we like to see. The pair have settled in really well at the zoo and we are thrilled to be helping in preventing the extinction of this incredible species."

Critically endangered
**ORANGUTAN
BORN**



One of the world's most endangered primates has been born at the zoo.

The precious youngster - a critically endangered Sumatran orangutan - arrived to mum Emma (34), following an eight and a half month pregnancy.

Our primate experts say they are yet to determine the sex of the tiny newcomer, who has been clinging tightly to mum ever since entering the world.

The birth is being celebrated by conservationists around the world, including in the species' native South East Asia, where fewer than 14,000 of the great apes remain in the wild. Sumatran orangutans are listed as critically endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and face an extremely high risk of extinction.

Claire Parry, one of our specialist Primate Keepers, said:

"Sumatran orangutans are one of the world's most threatened large mammals and so the safe arrival of a new baby is an incredibly special moment. Emma is an experienced mum and already she's formed a really close bond with the little one - it's wonderful to see her cradling it so gently.

"The youngster is a vital boost to the international conservation breeding programme, which is working to ensure a safety-net population for these critically endangered animals within modern zoos around the world. Crucially, we also hope the baby will help us to raise more awareness about the destruction of rainforests in South East Asia that is driving this magnificent species, and many others, towards extinction."

The Sumatran orangutan is one of the world's most endangered great apes; threatened by hunting, illegal logging and habitat loss as its rainforest home is cleared to make way for palm oil plantations.



Palm oil is a highly efficient oil that is found in more than 50% of supermarket products globally. As the demand for unsustainable palm oil intensifies, orangutans are increasingly being edged towards extinction.

A team of conservationists at the zoo are working in Indonesia, alongside sustainable palm oil farms and NGOs, to help prevent further deforestation.



Nick Davis, Deputy Curator of Mammals, added:

“For many years now our teams at the zoo have been working with palm oil suppliers in the UK, and with partners and NGOs in Indonesia, to encourage the growing of sustainable palm oil. We want there to be no further deforestation and, where palm oil plantations do already exist, we want them to include wildlife safe corridors to allow animals to move through them freely. With the help of our partners, we have also started to reconnect areas of rainforest by replanting native trees back into the ground where they once stood.

“With palm oil being such a widely used product, people power is key in turning the tide if we’re to save these charismatic animals. Like most of the products we buy, if consumers demand certified sustainable alternatives, then suppliers will quickly change their ways and practices – bringing an end to the destruction of some of the most treasured ecosystems on the planet.”

The city of Chester became the world’s first Sustainable Palm Oil City after conservationists at the zoo completely revamped the supply chains of businesses in the area to only include palm oil from sustainable, deforestation-free suppliers. This included local restaurants, cafes, hotels, fast food outlets, schools and workplaces. The project is now being used as a blueprint in other communities in the UK in a bid to save South East Asia’s most precious wildlife.

We're acting for wildlife by championing change in the unsustainable palm oil industry. Deforestation and logging is destroying habitats, pushing precious species to the brink of extinction. Join our mission to help protect wildlife and visit chesterzoo.org/what-you-can-do



A zoo FIRST!

Our bird experts
breed and hand-rear
PRECIOUS chick

Bird conservationists here at the zoo recently hand-reared a black-naped oriole chick. The baby bird is the first to ever hatch here and is all the more special as its parents were rescued from illegal wildlife traders in 2018 and given sanctuary at the zoo.

Our dedicated team of zookeepers helped rear the chick to ensure the important new youngster had the best possible chance of making it through to adulthood. This included hand-feeding the chick every two hours, every day, for more than three weeks, all while providing around-the-clock care for the little one.

The chick's parents, mum Lier and dad Darma, were just two of hundreds of threatened tropical birds that were rescued from the illegal wildlife trade by customs officials in Europe. The birds were originally destined to be sold as pets but nearly 100 birds, from 14 different species, were given a new home here at the zoo.

Hannah Fox, Lead Bird Keeper, said:

"It's an incredible moment for the team to see the very first black-naped oriole chick hatch at the zoo.

"With that in mind, we gave our new arrival lots of special care and attention. This included using tiny tweezers to delicately hand-feed the chick every two hours between 7am and 10pm, every day, which we did for more than three weeks, all while keeping it warm and cosy in a brooder. Now that the chick is fully feathered, we'll send some off for a DNA analysis in order to sex the youngster – as adult males and females look very similar.

"What makes this chick even more special though is the incredible story of its parents. Thankfully, they were saved from the illegal wildlife trade by customs officials in Holland in 2018. They had a really traumatic journey, so to now see them happy, healthy and having young together is absolutely fantastic."

The illegal wildlife trade is currently worth around £19 billion annually, and is the world's fourth largest international crime, closely following drugs, weapons and human trafficking. The trading of illegal wildlife items often includes rhino horn, ivory, animal skins and bones, and songbirds. Each year thousands of bird species appear in parts of Europe after being taken from the wild in Africa, South America and South East Asia.



Hannah added:

"In South East Asia alone, it's estimated that more than 1.3 million birds are taken from the wild each year. The black-naped oriole often falls victim to the songbird crisis in the region – they're snatched from the wild, shipped all across the globe to be illegally sold as pets. It's incredibly sad to think that forests that were once bursting with birdsong have now fallen completely silent, with some species having been wiped out altogether.

"This is why breeding successes like this one are really important for preventing their extinction. There are only a handful of these birds being cared for in modern zoos across Europe and, looking at records, this is only the second time the species has ever been hand-reared anywhere in the world – so it's provided us with lots of new data. This new chick will go on to help shape the conservation breeding programme for the species and, importantly, help us contribute this new information about these beautiful birds."

Chester Zoo continues to work together with its conservation partners in Java, the Cikananga Conservation Breeding Centre, to help save Indonesia's most threatened songbirds, which are being pushed to the brink of extinction because of the illegal wildlife trade. A vital new songbird breeding aviary block, funded by the zoo, was completed last year despite the global Covid-19 pandemic. However, a recent tropical storm ripped through the region, causing trees to fall and severely damage one of the aviaries. Funds for repairs are urgently needed.

Find out more about the illegal wildlife trade and what you can do to help at chesterzoo.org/what-you-can-do/illegal-wildlife-trade



There's a fluffy

NEW

pair at the zoo!



Two cotton-top tamarins have found a new home right here in Chester. Four-year-old male, Leo, and two-year-old female, Treat, arrived together as part of the European breeding programme that's working to save the species from extinction.

Listed as critically endangered by the International Union of Conservation and Nature's (IUCN) Red List, it's estimated that around 7,500 cotton-top tamarins remain in the wild, making them one of most endangered primate species on the planet.

These remarkable monkeys come from a small area in north Columbia but, sadly, only 5% of their original geographic range remains intact – as deforestation and the illegal wildlife trade has pushed them closer to extinction.

Dr Nick Davis, Deputy Curator of Mammals, explains more:



“Cotton-top tamarins are a really exquisite species. They're a tiny, squirrel-sized monkey that weighs just 500g and measures 50cm long, but what they lack in size, they certainly make up for in personality!

“These tiny animals have huge characters and use more than 38 different calls to communicate to one another, defend their territory, call their young and warn the group of predators – listen out for them on your next visit.

“They get their iconic name from the poufy ball of hair that sits on top of their head, and when they get excited, this voluminous plume of white fur becomes raised in an effort to make themselves look bigger and more impressive.

“Sadly though, one of the main reasons they're so highly threatened is because their habitat in the wild has been destroyed from logging for agriculture, paper and timber.

“They've also been found in the illegal wildlife trade where they're sold as pets because of their tiny size and distinctive looks. Cotton-top tamarins live for around 25 years in the wild and in zoos, but they don't live anywhere near as long when kept as domestic pets. Poachers will often kill the whole group in order to capture just one tamarin, which is another reason their numbers are now so low.

“This is the first time in a few years that our zoo has been home to cotton-top tamarins, so we're very happy to see them return. Leo and Treat have both settled in really well to their new surroundings and are bonding nicely. We often see them bounce around together, curl up in the nest boxes and feed at the same time – all signs that they're enjoying each other's company.

“As the pair are getting along so well, it might not be long before we see mating behaviour, and hopefully some new babies. These primates are pregnant for around five months, so we could even see some youngsters as early as next year!”

Impressssssive sssssnakes



The adder is the UK's only native snake species with a venomous bite. Known for its distinctive red eyes and zigzag patterning along its back, it slithers stealthily around gorse, heathland, woodlands and sand dunes in various parts of UK – but this impressive snake is sadly in decline in the wild.

Areas that were once home to adders are being burned or cleared for houses, giving them less space to tuck themselves away from predators, like birds or pheasants, and little opportunity to hunt for food.

Now, for the first time, adders can be seen at the zoo and are helping us to throw a spotlight on these incredible animals.

Our Deputy Curator of Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates, Iri Gill, tells us more:



"It's fantastic that we're now able to give visitors a glimpse of this incredible species. People don't often know about the amazing wildlife that's right on their doorstep and it's really important that we highlight the plight of these snakes, while also trying to dispel the negative reputation that they can have.

"Research shows that there is a rapid decline in adder numbers in the UK, to the point where they are believed to be extinct in certain counties from habitat loss, habitat fragmentation and climate change. Also, because of fear and misguided perceptions, snakes are still disturbed and

killed by people. The occasional bite to people does occur, but it's mainly dogs that get bit, usually by accident or when being deliberately disturbed.

"They have an interesting hunting technique, they'll actively go searching for prey such as mice and small lizards, and have even been known to climb trees to seek out chicks.

"We currently have five adders here at the zoo ranging between 16cm - 50cm long. The warmer months are the best time of year to see them, especially in the morning when they're most likely to be out basking in the sun. Adders tend to hibernate during the winter, as they'll naturally stop feeding towards the end of autumn because they'd struggle to digest food during the colder months.

"In the spring, male adders perform a 'dance' where they'll duel to fend off other males from the females, wrestling and intertwining to win the right to breed – it's fascinating to see!"

Our reptile experts and field programmes team are now exploring what future conservation action we can take to protect this wonderful species and prevent its extinction, and have already been involved with plans to reintroduce adders back to the wild in Nottinghamshire.

Make sure you check out these amazing snakes in their brand new habitat outside Tropical Realm next time you're at the zoo!



Conserving UK Wildlife

2021 has been a **BIG** year for us in UK conservation so far, with lots of **EXCITING** updates to share with you! Our local conservation projects have *expanded* and we're **DELIGHTED** to be making **POSITIVE** steps in the field working alongside our partners.



Here are just a few UK conservation project updates, with *plenty* of **SUCCESSES** to **CELEBRATE** and **AMBITIOUS** plans to help **PROTECT** the UK's most *vulnerable* species.



Wirral Wildlife Conservation

Local conservation efforts see us translocating plants onto the Red Rocks Nature Reserve.

Projects like these have the power to safeguard entire British ecosystems, and so we're incredibly proud to be in a partnership aiming to safeguard precious biodiversity right here in the North West.

For the last two years, our Nursery Team have been hard at work recreating the sand dune conditions of the Wirral coastline here in the zoo's plant collection. The purpose - to grow a population of sea holly plants fit for reintroduction. Sea holly is a crucial nectar plant for the grayling butterfly, a species that's seen a 70% decline in numbers over the recent years, and is classified as 'Vulnerable' nationally.

Grayling Butterfly - photo credit: Margaret Holland



The Red Rocks Nature Reserve at the Wirral's northern tip is home to a small population of the grayling butterfly, but one that needs support to be sustained for the years ahead. Back in May, we joined Cheshire Wildlife Trust and Butterfly Conservation in planting 200 zoo grown sea holly plants onto the site, forming a trial conservation project over these summer months in which butterfly numbers will be carefully monitored. We're hoping that with increased food resources the adult butterflies will be able to thrive and reproduce well.



Find out more about this story at www.chesterzoo.org/news/wirral-wildlife-conservation





The Plant Champion

As 2021 unfolds, Josh Styles' various quests to protect plant species across the North West are only picking up speed.

Under the umbrella of the North West Rare Plant Initiative, Josh Styles has been partnered with us since 2018, and has spent the last four years embarking on countless projects across the region. He seeks to save some of Britain's rarest plant species and establish new populations in areas where they can be guaranteed a long-term future.



Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, 2020 saw a series of wins. The most promising was on the Manchester Mosslands where back in 2018, Josh reintroduced 60 lesser bladderwort plants into a water body on the site. Bladderworts are aquatic carnivorous plants that use air-filled bladders to float near the surface and capture prey by opening rapidly, and sucking them in as they pass by. These 60 plants in 2018 have become an astounding 200,000 plants (as counted in last year's surveying work) with further counts to come later this year.

Among a multitude of other plant projects, Josh's attention has been on marsh lousewort, a "hemiparasite" that latches onto other plant species to steal resources, as well as creating its own through photosynthesis. Unlike many other plants in Josh's repertoire, marsh lousewort isn't close to extinction, but is an incredibly useful tool in conservation. Its parasitic behaviour makes it excellent at controlling dominant grasses and sedges that would otherwise overgrow threatened landscapes, such as Wynbury Moss' precious 'lag fen'. In an ideal world we wouldn't have to intervene in nature's succession to keep rare species in existence, but that's a discussion for a future issue of Z mag.

Watch this space!

Find out more about this story at www.chesterzoo.org/news/the-plant-champion



Wildlife on the RECORD

Our local wildlife recording centre captures the extraordinary biodiversity around the zoo and beyond.

The Chester Zoo Nature Reserve exists to be a model ecosystem of what spaces might look like across Cheshire, if we allow wildlife to thrive. But how do we measure the success of our nature reserve? RECORD, our local conservation partner and local environment records centre, are busy with a constant programme of wildlife surveying across our site, as well as working across the entire Cheshire & Wirral region.

Over these last few months, spring and summer have been in full bloom. With that, we've seen an explosion in activity amongst insects and plants! There are lots of different species native to the British Isles and each one has an important role to play in keeping our native ecosystems healthy.

WHAT THEY FOUND



A whopping 103 species of moth, including the giant water-veener and the little emerald. Both species have only been recorded a couple of times before in the region.

Nine species of dragonfly and damselfly around the reserve's pond habitats, busy defending their territories, engaging in courtship behaviour and laying plenty of eggs into the surrounding water. Spots this year include emperor dragonflies, black-tailed skimmers, broad-bodies chasers, 4-spotted chasers and azure damselflies.



29 species of butterfly and day-flying moth, many of which will spend the coming winter period amongst the long grass that we deliberately leave uncut for shelter or hibernation.



A variety of bee and wasp species have been enjoying the reserve's deadwood which provides valuable habitat in the form of holes to build nests. Amongst the recorded species is a tiny spider-hunting black wasp of the Trypoxylon genus, and a black bee that looks remarkably similar, though much prefers flower pollen to spiders.



180 species of fly have been recorded by visiting dipterist (fly expert) Phil Brighton, with 122 of these recorded in just three visits to the Nature Reserve back in April.

There's been a huge increase in "positive indicator plant species" across the restored meadow for the fifth year in a row. Indicator species signal just how healthy an ecosystem is, and more of them tells us we're succeeding in creating a species rich habitat that can support many more invertebrates, birds, small mammals and amphibians.



Whether you've been to our Nature Reserve to look for wildlife, or have seen a particular species in the Chester area, both we and the team at RECORD, would love to hear from you! There's no species too common, or species too illusive - tell us about anything you've seen by visiting www.record-lrc.co.uk



Chester Zoo Nature Recovery Corridor

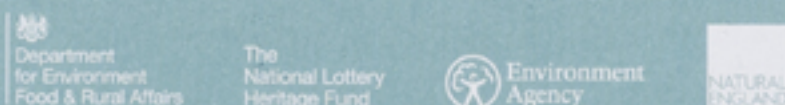


Over the last decade we've been hard at work with wildlife on our Nature Reserve and across our estate, and with communities & partners across the UK. It's all been about boosting our knowledge to make large-scale UK landscape conservation in the UK a reality. We're ready for the next big project.

Funded by the Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund, developed by Defra and its Arm's-Length Bodies (delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England, the Environment Agency and Forestry Commission), we're going to develop an entire 'Nature Recovery Corridor' side by side with YOU. Our home community.

The purpose of a wildlife corridor is to connect patches of fragmented habitat to form a functioning ecosystem over a large area, and we're dreaming big with the concept. At completion, our Nature Recovery Corridor will cover a massive 10-mile stretch, connecting habitats reaching south of Chester through to Ellesmere Port in the north and turning the area into a thriving example of what British nature can be.

Green Recovery Challenge Fund



We'll be working with:

- Cheshire West & Chester Council on the creation of swathes of new grassland and meadow
- The Land Trust on revolutionising reedbed, meadow, woodland and wetland habitats on the Countess and Chester Country Park
- The Canal & River Trust on improving the potential of our canal network as a home for UK wildlife
- Sustrans on improving spaces for people and wildlife along the Millennium Greenway



All of this will only be possible through close partnerships with the many groups in Cheshire striving for change alongside us.



A good portion of the corridor will be found on our own land, the Chester Zoo Estate, an entire landscape that we've been developing to be a mosaic of UK habitat. This funding will see the creation of a new pond as well as renovation for a further five that already exist on site. We're working on restoring our orchard, enhancing hedgerow habitat, and improving wildlife connectivity. Then comes the really huge area projects: enhancement of 5.5 hectares of reedbed, 4.5 hectares of lowland wet grassland, and 15 hectares of grassland. Each habitat type harbours its own unique combination of life, and by preserving as many habitat types as possible we offer the best chance of restoring a flourishing ecosystem.



On top of all of this, the corridor's creation will allow us to carry out research on a large area of peat deposit identified by Natural England in the North West of Cheshire, and plan for best possible management that will maintain the habitat in the long run. Not just a rich ecosystem for biodiversity, peatland is essential in the fight against climate change, storing vast amounts of carbon in deep soils and plant communities.

Of course the restoration of our natural heritage is only one part of the story, the other is in the people who live as part of it. That's you, reader! While it's easy to forget these days in our world of concrete and metal, we humans are and always have been a part of the natural world. We want this Nature Recovery Corridor to be something for everyone, a chance to reconnect with the wildlife around us, and build a community that together can champion its protection.



What does this mean? It means Community Conservation Action Days, bringing people together to help the Nature Recovery Corridor be fully realised. It means working with six schools and six community groups within the Recovery Corridor zone, providing them with a year of support to establish conservation and community involvement among an entire community of young people. It means new training courses in the skills of habitat management, and opportunities to become a Wildlife Champion - a programme we're growing to help people connect with nature within their own communities. Alongside all of this will be an accessible events programme and an entire range of digital engagement, real-world interpretation features, activity packs and resources, ensuring there's something for everyone to get involved with.



It's an incredible ambition and from now until Spring 2023, we'll be focusing this first phase of the project on the Chester area, covering just over six miles of the eventual ten mile stretch.

To learn how to get involved, keep a close eye on our website and upcoming issues of Z mag! We'll be looking for as many people as possible to join us in making the Chester Nature Recovery Corridor a reality!





Andean bear

THE LANTERNS

AT CHESTER ZOO



The Lanterns returns for another MAGICAL year!

Our iconic annual Christmas event is **BACK**, and we cannot wait to open our gates to reveal our **NEW** fantastical worlds!

From wintry woods where the wolves howl at night, to the Nordic forests of the northern lights, **PLUS** creatures of all shapes and sizes in-between.

To get the inside scoop on this year's event, Z caught up with Gemma Bamford, Senior Admissions & Retail Manager, and Rowan Cannon, Director at Wild Rumpus, to find out more about the magic of The Lanterns 2021...



The Lanterns is a **HUGE** event for the zoo, how much goes into setting it up?

"Our fantastic operations team at the zoo are dedicated to installing the lanterns every year, which is shared with teams from Wild Rumpus - the production company who create the Lanterns. Wild Rumpus will take responsibility for setting up specific areas, and the zoo team will then link up each area throughout the zoo - there is **A LOT** of manual work that goes into setting up Lanterns! The event actually begins in March for us, when we start planning for the year's event."



How many people does it take to host The Lanterns?

"There are around 100 to 150 zoo staff per night, involved in running The Lanterns, and that doesn't even include all of the performers from Wild Rumpus! There are also a lot of other teams who play a part in The Lanterns too, from retail to food and beverage to the marketing team - it's a **HUGE** event!

What can visitors expect to see at this year's event?

"A lot of the firm favourites will be returning! Santa will be there with his reindeers and our funky zebras will be back too. But as always, we're really excited to introduce some newness. There will be **BRAND NEW** areas! We're going to have a section dedicated to our 90th Birthday at The Lanterns this year, which will be centered around The Oakfield. We want to bring some of the history and life of our zoo into The Lanterns which will be lovely. We've got a Christmas wintry forest scene with glaciers and wolves - an animal we've not had before at The Lanterns. There are a lot of new and exciting elements to experience!"



What do you love about The Lanterns?

"My favourite part of The Lanterns is always seeing that initial concept of ideas for the event from Wild Rumpus, in its rawest form, to then walking round on the first night of The Lanterns when it's all set up and everyone is enjoying themselves – it's an amazing feeling to see it come to life. I get a real sense of achievement and always have a quiet moment to think 'it's done, and it looks magical!'"

Have there ever been any memorable moments for you at The Lanterns over the years?

"There is one particular story that really stands out to me. A family who visited one year had a son who suffered from severe autism. They had contacted us in advance to find out when the best time was to come, and we had advised earlier on in the event when it tends to be quieter. Our performers are also trained to spot people wearing sunflower lanyards and know not to approach them. The young boy really struggled with sensory, so an event like The Lanterns can be quite overwhelming. But despite this, the young boy who attended with his family ended up having an incredible interaction with one of our zebras, which was so lovely to witness. His family were delighted and said that this type of event is normally something they might avoid, but the fact that they were able to come and really enjoy the event whilst creating lovely memories, is amazing."



What inspires The Lanterns designs?

"We love creating new immersive worlds that take The Lanterns audience into incredible sensory wonderlands! We want audiences to step out of their

real lives into a beautiful story, whether it's the Starlit Adventure of 2020 or the Call of

the Wild in 2021! This year, more than ever, we're inspired by all the amazing stories of the habitats and landscapes that the zoo works to conserve, all with a playful and fantastical twist of course!

"Whether we're inviting the audience to meet colourful caterpillars amidst the giant flowers of metamorphosis, or step into an incredible immersive coral reef, we want them to look at their world anew, in beautiful technicolour. We take inspiration from artists working with light, with set design, with architecture and immersive environments. We're constantly collecting snippets of inspiration from stories we read in the news, images we spy on the internet, and most of all, from the work of the teams at the zoo."

How many hours has gone into creating The Lanterns figures?

"We've been working on The Lanterns 2021 since February. Once we've dreamt up the designs, an amazing team of makers spring into action, putting in hundreds of hours to create the incredible worlds."

What do you love most about creating The Lanterns?

"Everything! It's the best job in the world to spend time with the humans and animals at the zoo, and think up beautiful and spectacular ways to tell their stories. Many of The Lanterns audiences come back year on year, and we love the challenge of surprising them, making them gasp with wonder, and turning their special Christmas trip into a wonderful memory."



What's different at this year's event, compared to last year?

"Lots of new areas and lots of new illuminated animals for audiences to meet. They'll be travelling into a spectacular glacier, through a coral reef and into an incredible deep sea adventure. Along the way they'll meet old friends; zebras, elephants, lions and of course, Father Christmas! But also expect some new and incredible puppets to bring the areas to life, from wolves to caterpillars and orangutans to butterflies. It's going to be a beautiful 'Call of the Wild', inviting The Lanterns audiences into new and spectacular places, all inspired by the conservation work of the zoo."



How many people are involved in creating and delivering The Lanterns?

"There are 20 people in the Wild Rumpus team, who all get stuck in from day one. Then our team of freelance makers, production staff, lighting and power team add up to about 20 more. There are 50 performers bringing The Lanterns to life each night, with 60 involved altogether. So about 100 people in total, with all the incredible zoo staff on top of that!"

Journey to **DISTANT LANDS** and **IMMERSE YOURSELF** in the **MAGIC** of The Lanterns!
Get your tickets at www.chesterzoo.org/lanterns

A UNIQUE venue with MEMORIES to last a lifetime!:-

Whether you're looking for a unique venue for your wedding or something a little different for this year's team day, we've got you covered!



Z spoke to our Venue Sales Manager, Dan Hodson-Wright, to discuss events at Chester Zoo and how his team can help you create the perfect day whilst also helping to prevent extinction.

Tell us a bit about yourself...

"I have been in the events industry for over 10 years in two major North West venues. I started my career at Haydock Park and Aintree Racecourse and then moved over to The Lowry theatre in Salford, Manchester. I was at The Lowry for 6 years and there's a lot of synergy between them and Chester Zoo - they're both charities and as a commercially run department, everything I did there was to help fund it's charitable projects, the same at the zoo.

"With this background, I bring a wealth of experience to the zoo - there aren't many event types I haven't worked on! Whether that be outdoor or indoor events - I've worked on family fun days, large conferences and events such as The Grand National. I've also co-ordinated royal visits for lots of special events."

What makes Chester Zoo so unique as a venue?

"It's the inspiring surroundings that makes the zoo so unique - not many venues in the North West of the UK can offer what we do and that really does bring an edge to any type of event, whether it be a wedding or conference event.

"It's not just about turning up for a conference either, it's about educating guests too. The special thing about Chester Zoo is that we're not a typical hotel or venue, we can educate people on what we're doing as an organisation and hopefully inspire them. There's a layering to our venue, and we also have a vast amount of outside space too. Only a handful of venues in the North West can offer the 128 acres that we've got.

"We also have unique backdrops across the zoo as well as the Lions Habitat and new Latin American Wetland Aviary, which are perfect drinks reception spaces. Getting to us is also easy too, we're right in the middle of the transport networks between Chester, Liverpool and Manchester."

"It's the INSPIRING surroundings that makes Chester Zoo so UNIQUE"



Why should people use the zoo to host their special event?

"We have an expert team of co-ordinators ready to assist with the planning of the event itself and we've also got award-winning catering in The Oakfield - the quality of the food is just amazing and it's all sustainably sourced. We also have a stunning, grade II listed building, so there's also a lot of history and nostalgia at Chester Zoo - we've been here for 90 years! The majority of people know the zoo and have even been brought up visiting us, so to come back as an adult and experience a lovely wedding or event is such a nice experience to have.

"If you look at our recent Me, You and the Zoo campaign you will see photos of people as children who now come for wedding showarounds and they all have stories of how they grew up coming here which is just lovely."

What do you love about Chester Zoo?

"I love that no day is the same and that's not just in my role, it's about what you see and experience across the zoo too! Working here is so unique that I always walk past the flamingos, penguins and orangutans every morning, just for my own personal wellbeing and to start my day off right! Seeing some of those incredible animals - that's what I love. I'm also proud to be helping fund vital conservation projects around the world, and I love that!

Do you have any 'stand-out' stories that you can share with us?

"We had lovely feedback from a recent wedding where the couple were so happy with their day, that it resulted in them taking out lifetime memberships as part of their wedding package. Their wedding had to be moved two or three times throughout the pandemic and they ended up having their wedding before the restrictions were lifted.

"The feedback from them, was that the co-ordination and delivery was just lovely and as a result of that, rather than taking any money back for the larger wedding they had originally planned, they had a smaller wedding and used the money to fund their lifetime memberships. They didn't want to take the money out of the zoo and I think that was so nice of them. People are passionate about conservation and want to help - this is just another special way you can have a memorable day whilst also supporting our mission to prevent extinction."

If you would like to discuss your event with our team or want to find out more, please contact events@chesterzoo.org | 01244 380280



A WORLD

without

waste

Who knew that WASTE could TASTE so good?!



We all love a delicious dish! But globally, we're wasting massive amounts of food and the resources required to make it. It's thought each year a third of all food produced globally, goes to waste. That's around 1.6 BILLION tonnes of food wasted, and this is increasing as populations and disposable incomes increase.

We're exploring lots of waste reduction HACKS and learning to love it for longer, to help tackle this growing issue. Z caught up with Head Chef at the Oakfield, Ben Finchett, to get some hints and tips on how we can reduce our food waste, as well as learn NEW delicious recipes ideas that will revolutionise your leftovers!

As our Executive Head Chef at the Oakfield, what steps do you take in the workplace, and at home, to reduce food waste?

"Reducing food waste is imperative in a working kitchen as there are huge cost implications in the first instance if you are wasteful, not to mention the impact on our environment. Despite a perception that fantastic food means having lots of leftovers that go to waste, most chefs will find two or even three menu items using all the ingredients we have left. So knowledge and experience are really important in a kitchen.

"Our menus are built around fresh ingredients, so we can control the quality and portion sizes, as well as sourcing locally wherever possible. My team are well trained so our bins aren't too full at the end of the day – there is a weekly waste target in each kitchen which we monitor to ensure we're hitting our targets. At home it's like any other household fridge really, the difference is I know how to create options that ensure we're not contributing to food waste, as well as spending additional money needlessly."

Could you share some handy tips on how people can be more food waste conscious in their kitchens?

"If I had one tip it would actually be to make sure you have the ingredients in your cupboard to allow you to be versatile with

leftovers. Salt and pepper is a given, but garlic and ginger purees in jars, herbs, spices – even Worcestershire sauce will give you loads more options. Also, please don't be overawed by what you see on the telly. Celebrity chefs will usually use a fresh bulb of garlic and then chop it fine, easily. I have a family and due to work commitments, I don't always have time to cook so this is when purees come in handy.

"Another tip if you really want to cut your costs, don't just tick the same boxes in your shopping cart from your last delivery – take the same time to quickly jot down a daily meal planner and you'll make savings as well as reduce excess waste. You can then spend your leftover budget on a nice bottle of wine! Interestingly that's one item that never goes to waste in my household!"

What are your 'go to' recipes when you have leftovers to use?

"Easy wins are making breadsticks or croutons out of stale bread or salsa out of tomatoes and cucumbers, that most people think needs throwing away. The biggest waste item I hear about the most is mixed vegetable bags, the three for two offers. Put them in a pan with a chopped onion a few potatoes and seasoning and you have a great soup that can be frozen if you have too much."

Why is it important to reduce our food waste?

"What is now evident is that through the entire food chain, up to a third of it is eventually classed as waste. Not only that, it is a completely unnecessary contributor to impacting our environment. However, the main factor is that the majority of families in the UK have a lack of realisation at just how much it's costing their household, and it's based on lack of simple skills and tricks on preserving food. With a bit more knowledge being shared, I believe that we can help each other in preventing food waste which will help our environment, but also ensure households can save a bit of money for themselves as well, particularly as we come out of this difficult period."

For the latest hints, tips and resources on how you can love it for longer, visit chesterzoo.org/loveitforlonger or pop by our exhibit at the zoo!

The Love it for Longer Exhibit is located on the picnic lawn outside The Oakfield.



The Look Out

Look out for something **NEW** happening here at the zoo!

Inspired by our own conservation masterplan, our shops are changing to create playful adventures and safe spaces where you can hatch ideas to help **PREVENT EXTINCTION.**

We're looking out into the world to search for new ideas, collaborations and innovations to help us all transform the way we think about shopping.

Care, Save, Grow, Share, Learn and Buy – our new look shops will be full of inspiration for anyone with a LOVE of wildlife.

The launch of our 'Look Out' is the start of an incredible journey – a brand new way of thinking about what we sell and how we buy.

Visit chesterzoo.org/whats-here/the-look-out to find out more



Grab your ZOO CALENDAR!

Share 2022 with some of your favourite zoo animals!

Our exclusively designed 2022 calendar features stunning photographs of some of our many endangered species that we care for. Perfect for adding a touch of the wild side to your home.

As part of our continued commitment to reduce waste, our calendar comes without any plastic packaging or cardboard envelope, our calendar is printed on FSC certified paper.

Pick up your very own calendar at chesterzoo.org/online-shop

Celebrating our
RACE FOR THE
RAINFOREST
fundraisers

With so many of you accepting our challenge of 'RACING FOR THE RAINFOREST' we're going to share regular updates and celebrate the fundraising **SUCCESS** stories of our members and supporters.

For your chance to appear **HERE**, drop us an email at fundraising@chesterzoo.org and let us know what you're doing to help Chester Zoo to protect rainforests in Borneo. We have certificates and stickers for everyone who takes part!



WULF RUNS FOR BORNEO

Seasoned runner and adventurer Wulf Blackwell is going to be running the Virgin Money London Marathon this October to raise funds for Race for the Rainforest. Wulf lives in Hampshire but has family in Cheshire so is a HUGE supporter of the zoo and our conservation work around the world.

A keen runner for years, Wulf only ran his first marathon last year, closely followed by his second, so he's clearly caught the bug! He is super excited about being lucky enough to get a place in the draw for the London Marathon this year as it's been a long-held ambition of his, and doing it to help us in our mission to prevent extinction makes it just that extra bit more special.



"I am thrilled to be running the London Marathon to raise funds for Race for the Rainforest this summer. I am, and always have been, a huge lover of woodlands and rainforests and was very lucky to visit the Columbian rainforest last year which was truly amazing. I have some experience with sustainable palm oil too as a relative

of mine has worked with the RSPO (Roundtable of Sustainable Palm Oil). It is awesome to know there are organisations out there pushing for a greener healthier world for our neighbours and other earthly inhabitants."

We are backing him all the way and will be cheering him on from Chester on the 3 October. **GOOD LUCK WULF!**

If you would like to sponsor Wulf or send him a message of support, please visit his fundraising page uk.virginmoneygiving.com/WulfLondon2021



MAGNIFICENT SEVEN GO WILD!



Gareth Simpson
Head of Operations

Closer to home, seven members of staff from Chester Zoo's Operations and Facilities teams are running in the Essar Chester Half Marathon for Race for the Rainforest. When you read this magazine, they may already have completed it!

They are all keen runners and are glad to have a cause to inspire their training efforts - especially through the hot summer months. Running the race as a team effort is adding a bit of magic and fun to those long hard training regimes. Some are even managing to train together during their lunch breaks!

Deputy Facilities Manager Nick Farrell says 'We all love the zoo and care passionately about preventing extinction, so it's great to have this chance to do what we love doing and raise some much needed money for our amazing team of partners out in Borneo at the same time'.

Two other members of the team Gareth Simpson and Helen Bradshaw added that they hope wearing a zoo themed outfit may give them a bit of an excuse if their time is a bit slower than expected!!!

Thanks for your efforts guys, and if you would like to support them visit their fundraising page justgiving.com/fundraising/The-Magnificent-Seven1

An aerial photograph of a residential street with red brick houses and parked cars. In the center, there is a circular logo with a green leaf-like border. Inside the logo, the text reads "SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL COMMUNITIES".

SUSTAINABLE
PALM OIL
COMMUNITIES

Join our Sustainable Palm Oil Communities!

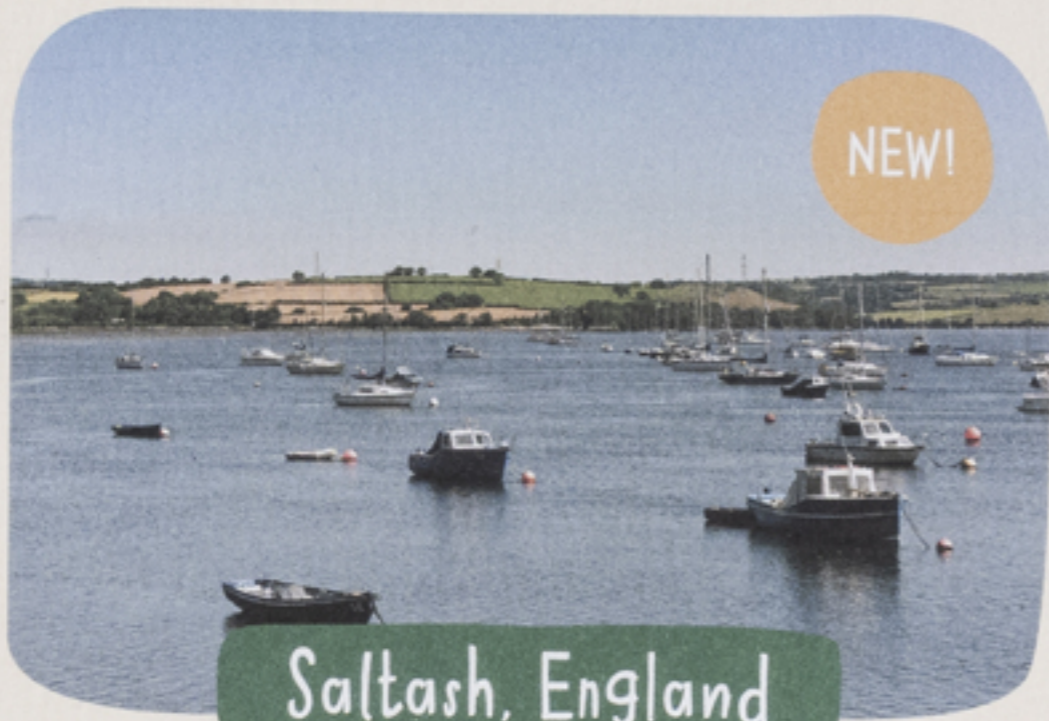
We're thrilled to announce **FOUR** new communities are joining us in demanding sustainable palm oil. Saltash, Mochdre, Plymouth and Dorset are the latest to launch our Sustainable Palm Oil Communities project, joining Chester, Oxford and Newquay, with businesses in their areas leading the way in demanding sustainable palm oil in their supply chains.

This campaign has helped businesses to influence their suppliers to switch to sustainable ingredients, which have then been passed along the chain to other customers. This snowball effect that we hope to achieve is key to tackling the demand for unsustainable palm oil in the consumer industry.

Conservationists have long advocated that embracing sustainable palm oil and halting deforestation is the best solution to the palm oil crisis. If consumers and organisations were to stop using palm oil entirely, an alternative supply would need to be found for the global demand for edible vegetable oils. Because other oil crops – such as coconuts, soya, olives, sunflowers and maize – are less productive per square kilometre, even more land would need to be converted to agriculture.

More than 50 organisations in Chester signed the sustainable palm oil pledge earlier in 2019. Restaurants and food outlets throughout the city now display the campaign logo in their shop windows – to help raise awareness among consumers and to enable sustainable choices.





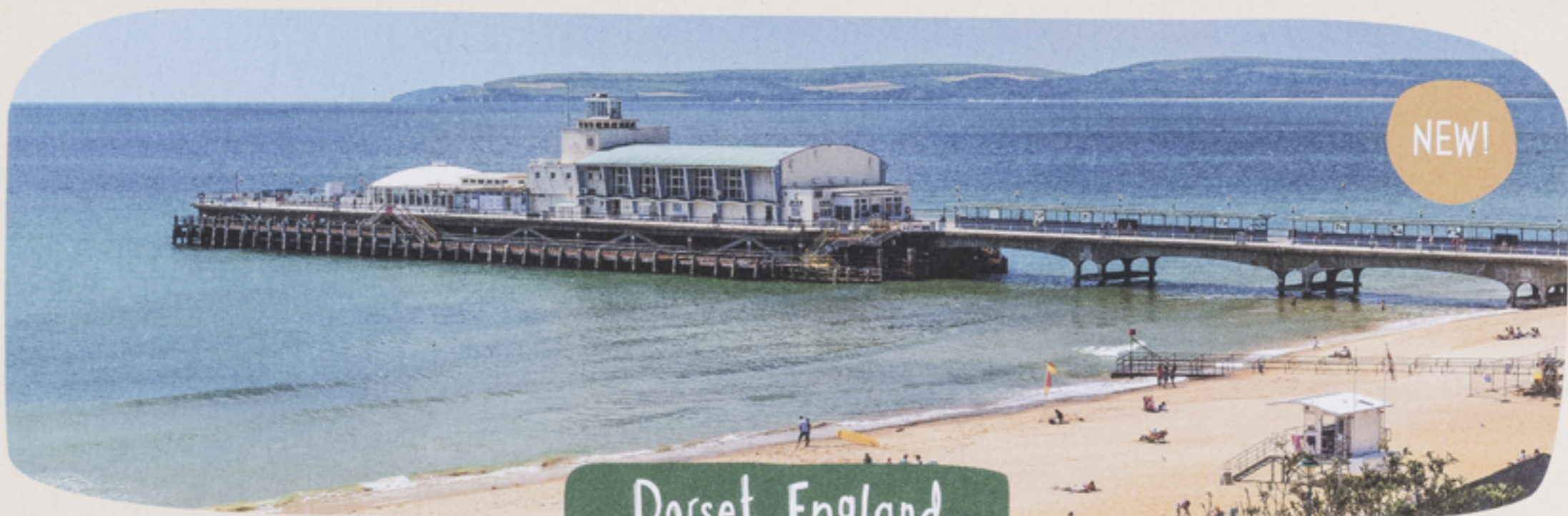
NEW!

Saltash, England



NEW!

Plymouth, England



NEW!


Dorset, England

Our project partners are looking for businesses in the following categories to join them in demanding sustainable palm oil!

- ★ Restaurants, cafes, hotels, fast food outlets
- ★★ Workplaces that have a minimum of 20 staff
- ★★★ Schools, colleges, universities, council food outlets, hospitals
- ★★★★ Visitor attractions, leisure facilities
- ★★★★★ Manufacturers, retailers



If you would like to get involved with one of these communities please get in touch, and email the team on SPOCity@chesterzoo.org

Are you interested in this initiative for your own **COMMUNITY?** 

≧ Together we can change the world ≦

We are calling for villages, towns, cities, islands and nations around the world to join us and create a network of Sustainable Palm Oil Communities.

Will you be next to take up the challenge with your community?

Get in touch to receive our project guidelines, as well as lots more information and guidance at SPOCity@chesterzoo.org



Junior Programme 2021

Discover, explore, share & learn

Places are limited
& often get snapped
up fast, so make sure
you **BOOK SOON!**
chesterzoo.org/entries

We have loads of EXCITING ACTIVITIES available to Junior Members.



Join us for our very special Christmas celebration camp this December!

Are you aged between 6 & 11? Do you LOVE wildlife and Christmas? If so, Junior Christmas Camp will be perfect for you! Join us for festive fun and games, all with an animal twist of course! From lantern making to animal spotting - it's going to be magic!







This year's Christmas camps will run on Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 December 2021. You can opt for a morning session (10.30am - 12.30pm) or afternoon session (1.30pm - 3.30pm).

Saturday 11 December - Junior Members age 6 - 8 years

Sunday 12 December - Junior Members age 9 - 11 years

Booking available from October.

TODDLER MORNINGS

Theme	Benbe Coffee Shop
Colourful Creatures 	22nd September 29th September
Habitots - Autumn 	6th October 13th October
Native Neighbours 	20th October 3rd November
Tiddlers and Tots 	10th November 17th November
Habitots Winter 	24th November 1st December
Christmas Party 	8th December 15th December

Got a little animal fan in the family? We're hosting coffee mornings with a difference. Join us for our terrific tots sessions full of animal fun, play, storytelling and much more. All our activities are suitable for children under 5 and are best suited to 1 to 3 year olds.

Our Little toddler mornings run in term time every Wednesday 10.30 - 11.30 from 22 September - 15 December. Head to our events page for more information.

Coming soon...2022!

We've been busy working on an exciting new Junior Programme launching in 2022! Throughout the year there will be exciting opportunities to delve into the world of Chester Zoo and use our unique setting to support young conservationists to learn through exploration, skill development and play.





BIAZA Awards 2021

After the success of this year's Olympics in Tokyo, here in Britain the British & Irish Association of Zoos & Aquariums handed out gold, silver and bronze to some of the very best projects among zoo conservation in their annual awards. It's another great year for Chester Zoo with 8 awards under our belt in 2021! Check out these amazing achievements...

Breeding the Omani blind cave fish using assisted reproduction

GOLD AWARD



The Omani blind cave fish inhabits the waters of Oman in the middle east, with an unassuming looking surface-dwelling morph, and a far more unusual blind and depigmented morph adapted by the fish for lives deep in aquatic caves far away from sunlight's reach.

72 individuals were brought from the wild to Chester Zoo in 2003, with the hope of establishing a breeding population should they become extinct in the wild.

Following research advancements in breeding techniques at Vienna Zoo, our veterinary team and aquatics keepers trialled a new hormone treatment on our elderly fish, to great success! Within days the treated population were engaging in courtship behaviour, and together produced an incredible 751 tiny cavefish fry.

Madagascar Forest at Chester Zoo

GOLD AWARD



BIAZA recognises zoo exhibits that combine the highest standards of husbandry and welfare while offering an educational experience to visitors. Our Madagascar area, home to 5 different species of lemur, houses some of the most threatened mammals on Earth.

This area draws inspiration from typical Malagasy rural architecture and landscapes, helping to immerse every visitor in the ecosystem and allow the lemur residents to engage in natural behaviours. With the conservation status for lemurs being so dangerous at the present day, it's crucial we lead successful breeding programmes whilst inspiring visitors to support wildlife conservation in a number of accessible ways, and it's through top level habitat design that we can make this a reality.

Saving West Visayan endangered species: Conservation breeding and reintroductions

BRONZE AWARD



Over in the Philippines, we've been working to restore rich and diverse ecosystems focussed around the "Visayan Big 5": Visayan warty pig, Visayan spotted deer, Rufous-headed hornbill, Visayan hornbill, and Negros bleeding heart dove.

Last year saw the reintroduction of the two mammal species for the first time, to the Danapa Nature Reserve protected area on Negros, and we've been pleased to see in the months since a stream of camera trap imagery showing Visayan warty pig and Philippine spotted deer adapting to their new home. Work is led on the ground by the Talarak Foundation.

The value of longitudinal behavioural monitoring programmes

SILVER AWARD



Working side by side, our keepers, mammal curators and behaviour & welfare scientists have been investigating how management changes in the zoo affect key markers in our Asiatic lion's behaviour. We've designed an accessible toolkit for carrying out evidence-based lion management for anyone involved in lion conservation to use, as we continue research on how best to care for this endangered and charismatic animal.

The North West Rare Plant Initiative

GOLD
AWARD



Plant Prodigy Joshua Styles is continuously busy on his quest to save plant species and restore rich ecosystems across the North West. This Gold Award is testament to the extraordinary achievements of 2020 despite disruption and challenges brought about by the pandemic. We covered Josh's 2020 adventures earlier this year – take a peak at his story of growing a carnivorous plant population from just 60 plants to 200,000 on our website.

Reptile and Amphibian Management Workshop for Indonesian Rescue Centres

SILVER
AWARD



Back in 2018, the government of Indonesia added many new species of reptile and amphibian to their list of species prohibited from being owned as pets. It was a great step for conservation, but brought the challenge of an influx of species arriving in the care of the nation's wildlife rescue centres, which have struggled under limited capacity to meet the husbandry needs.

In response, we journeyed out to Indonesia to work with the Cikananga Wildlife Centre and the Indonesia Herpetofauna Foundation in delivering the first ever amphibian and reptile management workshop, designed for those working with newly confiscated species. 28 participants from 14 different wildlife institutions received training in skills of identifying, handling, restraining, transporting, maintaining, and providing medical treatment for an assortment of reptiles and amphibian species, ultimately helping to improve welfare and survival rates of protected species following confiscation or rescue.

Understanding demand for songbirds within Indonesia's captive bird trade

BRONZE
AWARD



36 million homes on the most populous Indonesian island, Java, are home to an estimated 70 million cage birds. The trade is deeply culturally linked and hugely complex, and yet the enormous pressure it places on wild songbirds must be addressed.

CZ Conservation Scholar and Manchester Metropolitan University Graduate Dr Harry Marshall has spent the last four years on a PhD journey supervised by Dr Stuart Marsden and Dr Andrew Moss (pictured) to uncover the root of the songbird trade and how we might begin to increase it's sustainability.

Find out more about Harry's journey at chesterzoo.org/news

A 'One Plan' research approach to inform the recovery of the Critically Endangered Bermuda skink (*Plestiodon longirostris*)

SILVER
AWARD



The Bermuda skink – found only on the west-atlantic island for which it's named – has been a focus of CZ conservation for over five years. The rush has been on to understand everything we can about the skink since its dangerous conservation status was realised, and so we've been working with the

Bermudan government and the University of Kent to build a conservation strategy for the years ahead.

Using the 'One Plan' approach, combining research both in zoos and in the field, we've made huge strides. We've captured never-before seen images of Bermuda skink interactions and surveys in the wild have identified the remaining populations, found almost entirely on tiny islets surrounding Bermuda, where the reptiles are safe from introduced mammal predators.

Find out more about our award winning projects at chesterzoo.org/news/biaza-awards-2021

Members' Talks



Our members' talks have always been really popular and are the perfect way to find out more about how we **PREVENT EXTINCTION!** With a programme of monthly talks, you'll hear from our **INCREDIBLE** animal and plant teams to get the latest behind the scenes zoo news, as well as insight into our incredible science and education work.

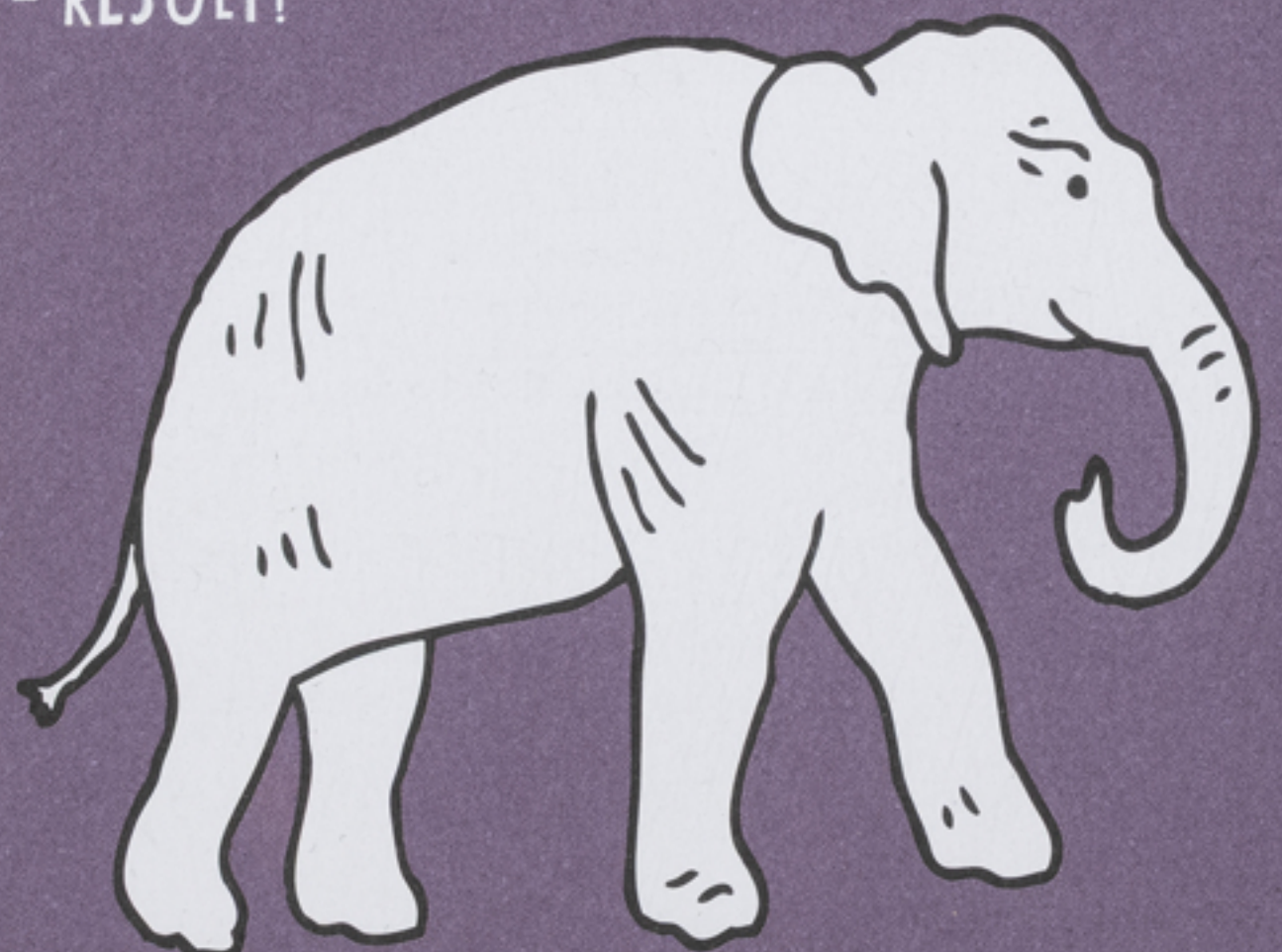
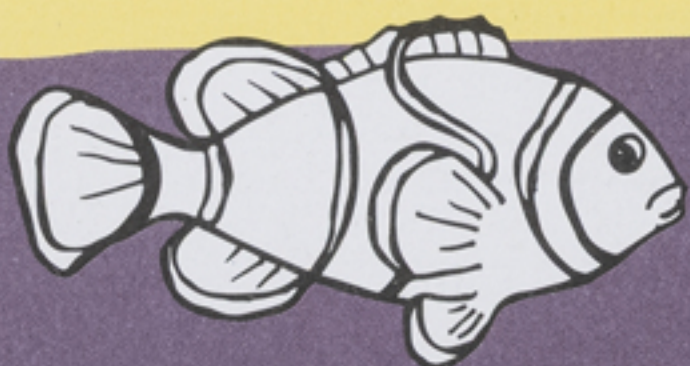
We can't wait to welcome you back to our in-person members talks from spring 2022 and we'll be letting you know all the details of next year's programme, in the next edition of Z mag - watch this space!



Sign up to Z digitally and
help **PREVENT EXTINCTION!**

You can sign up to receive Z Magazine digitally, which will help **REDUCE** our carbon footprint and paper waste. By being a member, you're **SUPPORTING** vital conservation efforts across the world, and by taking that extra step to have a digital Z Mag, you're also making an **IMPACT** on the environment - **RESULT!**

Get in touch with our Memberships team via memberships@chesterzoo.org to receive your copy of Z digitally.





PREVENT EXTINCTION

every time you shop online

No, we're not joking, it really is that easy. Your regular shopping can help towards our mission of preventing extinction, supporting the animals in our care here at the zoo and our conservation projects around the world, simply by using easyfundraising when you spend with over 5,100 leading online retailers.

easyfundraising is a digital platform that allows good causes, like us, to earn free donations on your online purchases. When you shop online through the easyfundraising website or mobile app, a percentage of what you spend with the retailer is donated back to the charity you choose. By selecting Chester Zoo as your chosen cause, you will enable us to fund new and existing conservation and science projects across the globe.

It's an easy way of supporting us without even having to think about it!

So, whether you're updating your wardrobe, buying your weekly groceries, doing your Christmas shopping, planning your summer 2022 getaway (fingers crossed!) or epic staycation, making home improvements or even managing your household bills and renewals, do it through easyfundraising to make your shopping count!

Doing your online grocery shopping spending £100 per week could earn the zoo £130 per year!

The average easyfundraising user earns £25 for their chosen charity by doing most of their Christmas shopping through the app.

Scan the QR code and register with easyfundraising to start supporting us from the comfort of your home.

Great news - for every newly registered supporter who reaches their first £5 donation milestone, we will receive a £5 bonus!



Happy shopping!





Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

Chester Zoo
Upton-by-Chester
Chester CH2 1LH

Email: info@chesterzoo.org www.chesterzoo.org

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