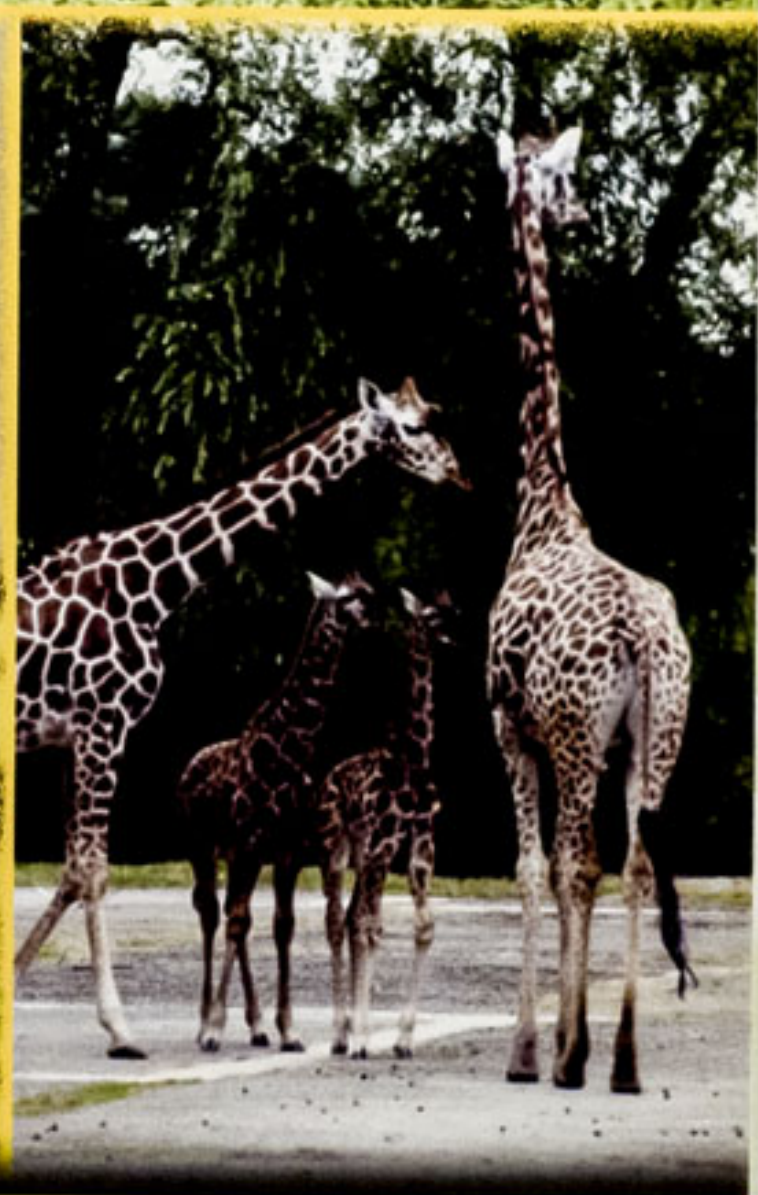


Zoo Life

Autumn 2000 - Issue 3

CHESTER ZOO'S MAGAZINE FOR MEMBERS AND ADOPTERS



Inside this Issue: Gold Medal for Lee Durrell • Elizabeth Hurley Visit • New Baby Elephant

From the Director's Desk

Professor Gordon McGregor Reid



IT'S been a very eventful three months since the last issue of Chester Zoo Life! We have presented the Society's fifth Gold Medal; welcomed a glamorous actress; hosted visits from a Chinese delegation; won a silver medal from the Royal Horticultural Society ... and celebrated the birth of a baby elephant!

DR LEE DURRELL

Lee Durrell's achievements in conservation, research and wildlife preservation have been internationally recognised and applauded. We were delighted when she agreed to accept the *Gold Medal of the North of England Zoological Society*, and took time out from her incredibly busy schedule to visit our Zoo.

Lee last visited Chester in 1988, with her husband, Gerald. I'm sure that many of our members will remember that Gerald did a number of large sketches to illustrate his talk during that visit. Some of these were auctioned for charity on the day, but three were given to the Zoo and have been displayed in Oakfield House. These brought back happy memories to Lee, who mentioned that she did not have any of her husband's large cartoons - only thumbnail sketches on matchboxes! As a final surprise for Lee after the gold medal presentation, I was very happy to put this right. We took one of the pictures from the wall, gave it a quick dusting down, and handed to a delighted and misty eyed recipient!

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Full coverage and pictures of the event, together with a copy of the citation, can be found on pages 6 and 7.

ELEPHANT CALF

It was a great joy to hear the news that *Jangoli* had given birth to a male calf in the early hours of 18 July. This is a major conservation success. A baby elephant is the highest profile zoo baby of all - and we are most grateful to *Jangoli* for producing this one right at the start of the school summer holidays! It was a stressful time for our very caring and dedicated elephant keeping team, led by Mick Jones. Most of them spent the night in the elephant house, together with veterinary staff. There are photographs of the new arrival on pages 8 and 9.

ELIZABETH HURLEY

I believe I have detected a slightly green tinge on the faces of fellow Zoo Directors since the July visit by Elizabeth Hurley to open *Islands in Danger* in the company of our President, the Duke of Westminster! She generously accepted our invitation because of her keen interest in wildlife conservation. This interest was very obvious during her special tour of the zoo before the formal ceremony. Elizabeth got close to some of her favourite animals and also chatted and joked with several members of our dedicated keeping staff. Making the very close acquaintance of a cute young ruffed lemur was undoubtedly one of her highest spots of the day! Unfortunately, *Regis*, our large male Komodo Dragon had the reptilian equivalent of a heavy cold on the grand day and so was not up to meeting the press - although Elizabeth

and the Duke did have the rare opportunity of meeting *Regis* briefly and quietly behind-the-scenes, where he is now recovering.

There was widespread national coverage of the occasion in the press and on television, and the event was attended by many enthusiastic supporters. These high profile events are helping to keep the Zoo's conservation mission very much in the public eye, and often result in very significant contacts and benefits. There are some stunning photographs of the visit on pages 12 and 13.

DONG MA?

Picture a group of Chester Zoo staff, sitting around a table, chanting *nihao ma?* (pronounced *knee how ma*) and *Wo heng hao!* (*wo hung how*)!

This was all part of the preparations for the visit of a Chinese delegation, linked to the Zoo's twinning with Chengdu Zoo and Chengdu Giant Panda Breeding Centre - an arrangement successfully brokered by Chief Curator Chris West and Council Member Brian Livingstone, Chair of our Scientific and Veterinary Committee.

It was considered polite that staff meeting the visitors should learn a few simple phrases, and a little about Chinese etiquette. *Dong Ma?* means 'Do you understand?' *Nihao ma?* is 'How are you?' and *Wo heng hao* is 'I'm very well!' Our Chinese liaison advisor, Shelley Zhu, also taught us such essential phrases as 'Bottoms Up' (*Ganbei*) and 'Take it easy and enjoy!' (*Suiyi*).

We learned that when exchanging business cards, it is polite to hand and receive cards with both hands; that banquets are an essential part of meetings with senior Chinese delegations; that Chinese people tend to eat early - dinner from 6pm - and that it is a friendly gesture to offer the clear, grain-based liquor, Bai Jiu. As this is a rather strong beverage it is something that British hosts need to treat with caution!

Front Cover : Photograph of Elizabeth Hurley, courtesy Stuart Hendrey, Forever Portraits. Baby elephant and giraffe pictures, courtesy Kevin Holt, Daily Mail

Notice Board

Update your diary with the following events

MEMBERS' MEETINGS

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2000

Saturday 28 October -

2.30 pm in the Lecture Hall.

Professor Volker Sommer

'Our Wild Kin: Research among monkeys and apes at Gashaka (Nigeria).'

Saturday 11 November -

2.30 pm in the Lecture Hall.

Ray Mears - Television's survival and wilderness expert.

'The World Through Native Eyes'

Please send sae for free tickets for this event, marking the envelope 'Ray Mears Talk' Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, CH2 1LH. We cannot guarantee that tickets will still be available on the day.

Saturday 25 November -

2.30 pm in the Lecture Hall

Stephen McKeown and Alan Woodward
'Mazungas among the Mopane - Education and Conservation Outreach in Zambia' (Please note this is a change of speaker from the previous announcement for this date)

Saturday 9 December -

2.30 pm in the Lecture Hall

Zoo Director Professor Gordon McGregor Reid
'African Biodiversity Hot Spots: Pangolins, Mandrills and Electric Fishes'

Saturday 20 January 2001

2.30 pm in the Lecture Hall

Michael Hitchcock, Professor of Tourism and Heritage, University of North London
'Here Be Dragons'

The Members' Christmas lunch will be immediately before the 9 December meeting at 12 noon in the Oakfield Restaurant.

Pre-booking essential. Please return the enclosed booking slip, payment and SAE for ticket return to Maureen in the Membership Office. Price is £15.95.

ART WOLFE VISIT

Celebrated wildlife photographer Art Wolfe will be coming to the Zoo's lecture theatre as part of the Chester Literature Festival. This superb photographer has been described by the President of the Wildlife Conservation Society as 'the most prolific and sensitive recorder of a rapidly vanishing natural world.' He has many times been named Outstanding Nature

Photographer of the Year. His talk is called *The Living Wild* - a vivid slide illustrated presentation of more 140 species photographed in over 40 countries. The date is Friday 20 October and the ticket price, including a glass of wine and nibbles, is £10.00. Tickets are available from the Festival Booking Office on 01244 320700 or 341200 (not from the Zoo).

SLIDE EXHIBITION

The Royal Photographic Society will be holding an exhibition in the Zoo Lecture Theatre on Sunday 19th November at 2.30pm. Admission is by ticket only, available from M. Reed, 40 Croft Close, Rowton, Chester CH3 7QQ. Tickets are £4.00, including tea and biscuits. Please enclose a sae for return of tickets.

WILDLIFE TRIP

AIR MAURITIUS

A Members' and Adopters' trip to the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues is planned to take place in May 2001. It will be focussing, amongst other things, on seeing some of the world's rarest birds as well as endangered Rodrigues fruit bats. For more detailed information please contact James Andrewes on 01244 650258. A booking form is enclosed with this mailing. Fill in the enclosed form for more details.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

At the Annual General Meeting in June, two new members of council were elected - Professor Peter Wheeler, who has served previously as a co-opted member, and Mr David Wall.

Under the Society's rules for length of time on Council, Miss Jean Dixon and Mr Tony Williams stood down. They were both thanked by the Director and Chairman for the many years of service they have given to the Zoo.



Professor Peter Wheeler



David Wall

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE VISCOUNT LEVERHULME KG, TD

It was with much sadness that we learnt of the death of our Vice President, Rt. Hon. The Viscount Leverhulme, Philip William Bryce Lever, on 4 July - just three days after his 85th birthday.

Lord Leverhulme was a strong supporter of Chester Zoo for very many years, and became Vice President in 1998. This Society will sadly miss a man we held in great affection and respect, both for his warm personal qualities and his distinguished record of public service. Two of his proudest achievements were being awarded the Order of the Garter by the Queen in 1988 and being the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire for 41 years.

The Viscount leaves three daughters and as he had no sons, his death marks the end of the hereditary title which was first bestowed 100 years ago on his Grandfather, William Hesketh Lever, founder of the Lever Brothers Company and the Port Sunlight Model Village.

There are longstanding historic connections between the NEZS and the Lever family. Lord Leverhulme's father, the second Viscount, opened the lion enclosure in October 1937. We are pleased that our Vice President was able to make two recent visits, to view the Bat and Elephant developments at the Zoo. He supported these most enthusiastically and generously.

Chester Zoo 100 Club

The winners of recent monthly prizes are:

April

£100 Mrs. A. Bostock, Great Sutton

£100 Mrs. B. M. Piercy, Chester

£50 Dr. P. Duggleby, Irby

£50 Ms. C. J. Reynolds, Malpas

£50 Mr. A. Stevens, Bridlington

May

£100 Mrs. S. Smith, Sale

£50 Mrs. M. Brocklebank, Lower Heswall

£50 Miss J. S. Goodall, Carlisle

£50 Dr. P. Duggleby, Irby

June

£1,000 Mrs. L. M. Hughes, Great Barrow

£100 Mrs. J. Jarvis, Chester

£50 Mr. K. Lambert, Wrexham

£50 Mrs. J. Jardine, Chester

£50 Mrs. S. Walsh, Halifax

July

£100 Mr. & Mrs. Milligan, Thornton Hough

£100 Mr. & Mrs. P. Mason, Helsby

£50 Mr. A. J. Carr, Thingwall

£50 Miss A. Plimpton, Heswall

£50 Mrs. L. Haddock, Ellesmere

Zoo Review

Jake Moves to France



Photo by Joe O'Hanlon - an entry in the photo competition

ASIATIC Lion, Jake, who has fathered four litters of cubs in Chester Zoo – plus another litter resulting from his trip to London Zoo! – has moved to France to found a new breeding group at La Boissière du Doré near to Nantes. He is joined by two females from Paignton Zoo. One of Jake's offspring from the

last litter has also moved – the two year old lioness has gone to Santillana Zoo in Spain. These moves are all part of the international breeding programme to save a subspecies Numbers in their one remaining home in India are estimated to be no more than 300. Once their range extended right across from India to the Middle East.

Ministerial Visit

THE Rt Hon Ian McCartney MP, Minister of State, visited Chester Zoo in July for talks with Mr Keith Maybury, Chairman of Council of the North of England Zoological Society and the Zoo Director, Professor Gordon McGregor Reid.

Mr McCartney is MP for Makerfield, and has a keen interest in the North West Region. His responsibilities include co-ordinating the Government's arrangements for the 2002 Commonwealth Games to be held in Manchester. He enjoyed a tour of the Zoo – particularly meeting the giraffes, as our picture shows!



STAFF NEWS

- Congratulations to:**
- Rob Duncan, on passing the Royal Horticultural Society General Examination, with a credit.
 - Mark Ormerod, on gaining NVQ2 Professional Chef qualification.
 - Ken Newey, on completing 25 years service with the Zoo.



Stephen's New Wildlife Post

A FORMER Chester Zoo keeper is putting the skills and knowledge he has picked up working with animals around the world to good use, as Cheshire Constabulary's new Wildlife and Environment Officer.

Steve Hogarth worked on the Primate Section in the Zoo for six years from 1990. In 1996 he spent 6 months working in the Gashaka Gumti National Park in Nigeria, where he gained first hand experience of combating poaching and other wildlife crimes – experience that will be invaluable in his new job. Steve had hoped for a career in the Police Force, but a hearing problem prevented that. However, when Mike Wellman, the country's first dedicated wildlife police officer retired, the job was civilianised – and it seemed tailor made for Steve! As he said – 'I spent a day with Mike early in my police career, and thought then what a great job it would be.'

Looking at Legacies

THE Zoo is very grateful to have received a legacy from the estate of Mr Alfred and Mrs Alice Upton. The couple were local residents, and had no children. They generously left their entire estate to charity. We must thank the Executor of the estate – another local resident and supporter of the Zoo – for remembering local causes as well as the high profile national ones, and directing some of the money to this Society.

Gifts such as this help us to continue the valuable work. We are fortunate to have a growing band of supporters in our Legacy Pledge Club who have let us know that they have left a legacy to the Zoo in their wills. All our pledgers were invited to the recent official opening of *Islands in Danger* with Elizabeth Hurley. Recent names to join

the Club are Miss Jean Coaley and from our own Management team, Mrs Jayne Quinn. A number of other pledgers have asked to remain anonymous. If you would like details of the Legacy Pledge Club, please contact Hazel Russell, Assistant Development Manager, on 01244 650229 or by e-mail : h.russell@chesterzoo.co.uk.

The Society was delighted to recently receive a donation from the estate of Mrs Ruth Smart. Mrs Smart was an American who lived exclusively in the UK for the last years of her life, during which she made several very generous donations to conservation and animal welfare causes. Her generosity will be associated with both the Spirit of the Jaguar project, and our outreach work in Latin America.

From Russia



▲ Chester Zoo Director, Gordon McGregor Reid, welcomes Dr Andrew Chichirov, Deputy Director of Moscow Zoo, on a recent visit.

An Honour for Dr Brambell

CHESTER Zoo's retired Director, Dr Michael Brambell, has received a top honour from London Zoo. He was presented with the *Silver Medal of the Zoological Society of London* in recognition of his service to the society as Curator of Mammals, Council Member, Chairman of the London Zoo Board and Assistant Secretary. Prior to the appointment of Dr Michael Dixon as Director-General of ZSL in January, Dr Brambell was spending two days a week in London as acting Director-General.

Roman Garden Book

WE are indebted to Mrs Joan Springett for the lengthy research she undertook to ensure our imposing Roman Garden is as authentic as possible. Now Joan has written a book, beautifully illustrated, about her research. There is a copy in the Zoo library and this 68 page volume goes into fascinating detail about the topiary, planting, ponds and statuary in the garden.

FAUNA AND FLORA INTERNATIONAL (NORTH WEST GROUP) AUTUMN PROGRAMME 2000

FRIDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2000 DHOLE CONSERVATION IN INDIA – TRACKING INDIA'S WHISTLING DOG

WITH DR LEON DURBIN

Leon Durbin is an ecologist with a fascination for endangered carnivores, and this has involved him working with Otters in Scotland and South Africa, the Kodkod cat in Chile and more recently the Dhole in central India. The Dhole, also known as the Asiatic wild dog, is one of the most fascinating social carnivores, yet until recently it has evaded serious scientific scrutiny. The need for a better understanding is urgent because the species is suffering widespread population decline. Leon Durbin set up The Dhole Conservation Project based in the Kanha Tiger Reserve in India in 1998, and with his wife Alison, established a study group – the Bagh Arra pack – to gather information about this elusive pack-hunter. This talk will be a great opportunity to discover more about life in the jungle with the enigmatic whistling dog.

FRIDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2000 `SAVE THE RHINO INTERNATIONAL` –

WITH DAVID STIRLING

As the co-founder of the charity *Save the Rhino International*, David Stirling has made a positive and real difference to the status of rhinos. The problems of the few

remaining rhinos in the world are legion, but David's talk will detail the practical help being carried out to secure the future of the various species of Rhino worldwide, and specifically what *Save the Rhino* are doing to help the black rhinos of Africa. Chester Zoo and *Save the Rhino* have worked together recently to re-locate 20 black rhinos from Nairobi National Park to Tsavo East in Kenya and David will give a follow-up to this.

FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2000 `TRIBES, TEETH AND TARANTULAS` –

WITH DAVE SHAW

A most welcome return to the FFI for Dave Shaw whose talk about rainforest conservation was so popular three years ago. Apart from telling us about the varying species he has encountered on his visits to the South American rainforests, Dave will detail new projects and focus on the Jaguar, and the plight of the Arara Tribe, also known as the 'Jaguar People'.

FFI evenings are open to everyone. They are held in the Zoo's Lecture Hall, starting at 7.30 pm. Tickets cost £6.00 for FFI Members and £6.50 to non-members, and this includes wine and a light buffet. Please telephone Penny Rudd at the Zoo, on 01244 650215 if you would like to attend.

A Golden Day

Bright sunny weather was a wonderful bonus for the presentation of our Society's Gold Medal Award in May

THE GOLD MEDAL of the North of England Zoological Society was awarded to Dr Lee Durrell, Honorary Director, Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust. This was in recognition of her outstanding achievements in wildlife preservation, zoological research, scientific and popular publication and natural history broadcasting.

Lee married the distinguished zoologist Gerald Durrell in 1979, and moved to Jersey to help develop his vision of a zoo committed to conserving animal species and their habitats.

Following his death in 1995, Lee succeeded her husband as Honorary Director of the renamed Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. Full details of their extensive travels making popular wildlife television programmes, and her own unique contributions to zoology, are included in the citation printed opposite.

Before the medal presentation in a marquee on the Oakfield lawn, Lee was given a tour of the Zoo by the Director, and also to formally opened the Wildlife Discovery Centre. Her very active helper in this task was Foster, the young Kangaroo who was being hand-reared by Alan Woodward! This provided some of the best photographs of the day, and made the front page of the *Liverpool Daily Post*.

The presentation was made by Council Chairman Keith Maybury, following the reading of the citation by the Director, Professor Gordon Reid. In her response, Lee modestly remarked that she found it hard to recognise her own inclusion in the distinguished list of previous Gold Medalists – Dr Jane

Goodall, Dr Michael Brambell, Sir David Attenborough and the Rt Hon John Prescott MP.

'I am delighted to accept this – not just on my own behalf, but on behalf of the legacy left by Gerald. He had a very clear and focussed mission, one of great purpose and conviction – to save species from extinction.

'At the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust we work through learning and teaching. We must acquire the knowledge we need to save an animal from extinction – and we must pass on our knowledge. Jersey's professional training programmes for developing countries have helped more than 1000 people over the 20 years they have been running.

'We also work through partnerships; with other zoos, with the business community and with village elders. I have seen some wonderful things today here at Chester and have discussed with Gordon further ways in which we can work together.

'Zoos and wildlife trusts are going to become more, not less, important to the world. There are fewer and fewer wild places, and more and more threats to wildlife. Gerald expressed pleasure that he could see conservation making progress in his lifetime. But he described it as riding on a donkey while extinction continues like an exocet.

'We need sanctuaries and we need zoos like Jersey and Chester, willing to go out into the wild to save animals in their natural habitats.'



▲ Foster enjoys a cuddle at the formal opening of the Wildlife Discovery Centre!



▲ Council Chairman Keith Maybury (left) with Dr Lee Durrell and Zoo Director Prof. Gordon McGregor Reid, at the award presentation.



Dr Durrell with her new Gold Medal. ▶

Dr LEE McGEORGE DURRELL BA, PhD
GOLD MEDALLIST OF THE NORTH OF ENGLAND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Let it be known that Dr Lee Durrell, Honorary Director of the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, has been awarded by the President and Council with the Gold Medal of the North of England Zoological Society. This is in recognition of her outstanding achievements in wildlife preservation, zoological research, scientific and popular publication and natural history broadcasting.

A graduate in philosophy from Bryn Mawr College, Philadelphia, Lee Durrell has a most impressive academic record. In 1979, she received a doctorate from Duke University, North Carolina, for biological field research on the social behaviour and complex vocal communications of animals endemic to the forests of Madagascar. In collaboration with other researchers, Lee has conducted research on subjects as diverse as maternal care in mammals; the geographical distribution of rare lemurs; reproduction in Angonoka (the endangered Ploughshare Tortoise); the breeding of 'insurance' populations of threatened animals in zoo conditions; the genetic viability of small animal populations in the wild; the political and educational aspects of reintroduction programmes; and the development of fully integrated approaches to species conservation.

Lee married the distinguished zoologist Gerald Durrell in 1979 and moved to Jersey to help develop the vision of a zoo committed to conserving animal species and their habitats. In 1981, they travelled to Mauritius and Madagascar and co-presented a very popular wildlife television series *Ark on the Move*. The high ability of Lee and Gerald to communicate to a mass audience, with great charm and enthusiasm, issues in conservation and natural history has led to several more television series, broadcast globally in more than 40 countries. These include: *The Amateur Naturalist*, *Durrell in Russia* and *Ourselves and Other Animals*. Lee and Gerald also co-authored many excellent books and articles in association with television programmes. Beyond this, Lee expanded her conservation activities and role in scientific coordination for the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust and worked on her own to produce *The State of the Ark* (1986) - which is now regarded as a classical reference work on conservation assessment and contemporary methods for tackling environmental problems.

Following Gerald Durrell's death in 1995, Lee succeeded her husband as Honorary Director of Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. In addition to continuing as a member of its Council and Scientific Advisory Committee, she maintains her role as Coordinator for the Trust's Madagascar Programme. She also serves in an honorary capacity on the governing boards of Jersey's North American sister Trusts: Wildlife Preservation Trust International and Wildlife Preservation Trust Canada. Dr Durrell gives her time freely in support of other organisations. Lee is Chair of the Durrell Trust for Conservation Biology, which is associated with the University of Kent's Durrell Institute for Conservation and Ecology. She sits on the Council of Fauna & Flora International and on the Zoological Society of London's Conservation and Science Advisory Committee. She is also a member of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) with an active involvement in its Re-introduction Specialist Group, Primate Specialist Group for Madagascar and the Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group.

We salute Lee Durrell's life-long and selfless commitment to the conservation of endangered species worldwide. It is the Society's pleasure to recognise her distinguished achievements and I, Gordon McGregor Reid, Director, request on behalf of Council, that you, Dr Lee Durrell now accept from our Chairman, Mr Keith Maybury, the Gold Medal of the North of England Zoological Society.

Presented this day Thursday 11th May 2000 by:
Mr Keith Maybury MA, DM, FRCS, FLS
Chairman of Council

His Grace the Duke of Westminster OBE, TD, DL
President of the North of England
Zoological Society



JUMBO JOY

CHESTER Zoo is celebrating the birth of the most appealing of all baby animals - a beautiful elephant calf! The baby, a male, was born to Jangoli on 18th July. His father is Chang, who is the most prolific bull elephant in the UK. Chang has a two year old daughter, Sithami, at Chester, two more young daughters in Twycross Zoo - and will become a father once again in the Autumn, when Sithami's mother, Thi-hi-way, is expected to give birth! The 100k baby has been named Po Chin. *Po* means *boy* and *Chin* means

warrior. It is also in recognition of the major support for the new elephant developments from Middlewich based Building Contractors, Pochin plc, whose logo is an elephant.

The baby was born at 1.30 am, with elephant keepers and veterinary staff close at hand. Jangoli is proving a caring mother, and the 'Mothers' Union' group of adult females are all enjoying the new baby too.

These photographs were taken by Daily Mail photographer Kevin Holt, when Po Chin was just one week old.



Sand Lizards Return Again to Wales

Re-introduction programmes are not confined to exotic species from far-away places. Herpetologist Isolde McGeorge writes on a very successful 'breed to return' programme for a native species very close to Chester.

JUST over four years ago, a Sand Lizard Vivarium was built at Chester Zoo. It was the UK's second breeding centre for this attractive animal, the most endangered of Britain's six native reptile species.

The Merseyside race of Sand Lizards once inhabited Cheshire, Merseyside and the whole of North and West Wales. Sadly, less than 3% of its former population now exists on the Merseyside coast frontal dunes. This 3% translates as less than 300 adult animals and 11% of those were from introductions.

Threats to the Sand Lizards resulting in their loss, include coastal development, which leaves the dune systems vulnerable; deterioration of habitat; alien plant encroachment; fires; disturbance by visitors; cat and magpie predation – and collection of the lizards for 'pets.'

The Sand Lizard Recovery Programme is a partnership between the Herpetological Conservation Trust, English Nature, the Countryside Council for Wales and the World Wide Fund for Nature. Help and co-operation is received from many outside organisations, including Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council. The aim of the programmes is to maintain existing populations of Sand Lizards and re-establish the species across its historical range.

At Chester, we began our conservation breeding programme with five animals collected by rangers – two males and three females. In the first year we successfully hatched six youngsters, and

over the next two years 21 more young were hatched.

Twice a year, representatives of all the groups involved meet to discuss current field work and long term conservation strategies for the preservation of this race. At the September 1999 meeting, after much discussion, it was decided that all of the young from Chester Zoo's vivarium would be re-introduced to a suitable site in North Wales. A population of introduced animals already existed in this particular area, where previously they had been extinct.

In May this year, 20 juvenile Sand Lizards were collected and taken to a secret location near Harlech, where they were released. A more beautiful site could not be imagined, with the rolling dune system running parallel with a white sandy beach and the crystal clear waters of the sea. The ranger has since returned to the area and was able to pinpoint some of the released youngsters.



With the recent addition of three more wild-caught adult females, we are now hoping for a double release over the period of one year. A new location for further releases has already been found, for use when the current dune system is filled to capacity.

The Sand Lizard breeding programme at Chester Zoo has been an outstanding success, and as a result other institutions may become involved with working with this race. A pair of our 1998 bred youngsters have been sent to Jersey Zoo, which has recently established its own vivarium.

▼ The tranquil release site near Harlech.



Monkey Matters

In recent issues of Zoo Life, keepers on various sections have described the ways they enrich the environment of the animals in their care. This time, we look at the Primate Team, Nick Davis writes on the devices the keeping staff have invented, to make life more challenging!

ALL zoos have a responsibility to keep their animals in the best possible conditions with their welfare being of paramount importance. This not only includes the physical health of the animals but also their mental health. Zoo animals need the opportunity to behave as they would in the wild, wherever this is possible. This is particularly important if we are to ever reintroduce our animals back into the wild. We can do this in a number of ways. By providing large, naturalistic enclosures; by keeping them in appropriate social groups, and by making their lives as interesting as is possible.

As any visitor to Monkey Islands will know, our monkeys enjoy spacious, naturalistic indoor enclosures and have access to large, heavily planted islands outside. They are also kept in appropriate social groups. However, we also have over one hundred varied methods of enriching the animals' lives in order to keep them active and stimulated!

In the wild, a monkey will spend most of its day foraging for food, and this is reflected in our environment enrichment methods. You may have noticed that we have no set feeding time for our animals, feeding them at random times throughout the day. This means they do not wait around expecting food at a certain time. The fruit and vegetables are usually chopped so that they can be scattered and hidden around their enclosure (whether inside or outside) so that the monkeys have to

spend a much greater time looking for it. We also have the option of scattering the food on the roof of their indoor enclosures with our keeper-designed trolley. This runs along the whole length of the monkey house. Placing food here means the monkeys have to climb to the roof to get it, which makes them work harder and mimics their natural foraging behaviour of collecting fruit from trees.

To provide an even greater challenge we have log puzzle feeders. These are the small logs that can be seen hanging inside their enclosures from different lengths of steel wire. They have been designed and made by the keepers, so that the monkeys have to spend a great deal of time extracting the food using their fingers, which in most monkeys are particularly manipulative. Most of the logs are covered with drilled holes covered by moveable discs or hinges, while others have more complicated moving parts. These puzzle feeders are periodically filled with treats such as mixed nuts, meal worms, honey, or sunflower seeds and can keep the animals interested for hours.

Other feeding enrichment techniques include food parcels; pine cones filled with honey and sultanas; fruit kebabs and iced fruit blocks. We even have our own recipes which include a special rice pudding mixture and frozen apple-bran balls!

Most days we will try out at least one such enrichment, but we have to keep coming up with new ideas which are both challenging and make the monkeys' lives more interesting.



▲ Nick strings up the fruit kebabs.



▲ Black Spider Monkey demonstrates the skills required.



▲ 'I can do that!'

'The Best Kept Zoo I've Ever Been To!'

The official opening of the Zoo's tropical *Islands in Danger* was guaranteed to be a high profile occasion, when film star and super model Elizabeth Hurley agreed to perform the opening ceremony.

There was a tour of the Zoo in the morning, when Elizabeth helped Tim Rowlands to feed the giraffes, and was enchanted by a young hand-reared gazelle. She has a particular interest in chimpanzees, and clearly enjoyed time spent at their island. At the Elephant Breeding Centre, Mick Jones introduced her to the herd and invited her to feed browse to the animals. This was followed by a tour of Monkey Islands, and the chance to stroke a baby lemur - clearly the highlight of the day!

After lunch with our President, His Grace The Duke of Westminster, Elizabeth Hurley returned to the Zoo, accompanied by the Duke, for the formal part of her visit. She was wearing a leopard-skin print dress by leading fashion house Dolce & Gabbana.

The ceremony began with a class of youngsters from Upton Heath Primary School, close to the Zoo. They recited a poem, and then sang a wonderful song, set to music by 11 year old Christopher Clarke, called the



Dragon in the Cellar! The Director warmly thanked all the people involved in the concept, design and building of *Islands in Danger*, before inviting Elizabeth to unveil a plaque to mark the formal opening. Having clearly had a great time on her morning visit, she said 'I have to say that this is far and away the best kept zoo I've ever been to.'

A bouquet was presented by eight year old Michael Harding, grandson of Membership Officer Maureen Allsopp. Accompanied by The Duke of Westminster, Elizabeth walked across to thank the schoolchildren for their 'absolutely fabulous' song. A tour of *Islands in Danger* followed by a marquee reception on the Oakfield lawn completed a perfect day.

Animal Magic!

Elizabeth Hurley meets the Elephants and Giraffes and is enchanted with a young Arabian Gazelle.



▲ The Duke of Westminster, Elizabeth Hurley, Gordon and Sally Reid.



◀ Outside *Islands in Danger* with the Komodo Dragon statue.

▼ The plaque is unveiled.



▲ That famous smile!



◀ The singing pupils from Upton Heath Primary School



Michael Harding proudly presents a bouquet ▶

The Bushmeat Crisis



▲ A Nile Monitor Lizard - with a price of just a couple of pounds on its head. Reptiles, fish and invertebrates form a large part of this trade.

▼ Cane Rat or 'cutting grass' - one of the most common items of bushmeat in West Africa.



BUSHMEAT' is officially defined as 'meat for human consumption derived from wild animals'. There has recently been a great deal of media coverage on the bushmeat trade as a threat to the survival of wild animals globally, and particularly in the forested regions of Africa. I first became acutely aware of the issue when serving on the Council of Fauna and Flora International with Professor Jonathan Kingdon. Jonathan has a very extensive experience of Africa and is author of the excellent *Kingdon field guide to African mammals*. He had become gravely concerned over the rapidly increasing number of animals being shot or trapped. This is both for local consumption and to supply a commercial trade, which extends well beyond the range states and the provision of local needs. Accordingly, FFI commissioned a major survey of the trade in Africa and published the rather shocking results, noting particularly the threat to primates such as monkeys, mandrills, chimpanzees, bonobos and gorillas - all of which are killed to be eaten. This has prompted a whole rash of articles by concerned individuals such as Fred Pearce (see 'Eating our relatives', *New Scientist*, 29 April, 2000)

First Hand Evidence

On a recent trip to Gabon on the fringes of the Congo basin, I saw at first hand the rather gruesome products of this trade. It seems that no animal is safe. I saw huge quantities of wild creatures - invertebrates, fishes, reptiles, birds, mammals that had been taken from unprotected and essentially pristine rainforest habitats. Every day I saw individual hunters in the rainforest with their freshly killed quarry; and roadside stalls and trucks heaped with Blue Duiker, Water Chevrotain, African Civet

**Zoo Director
Gordon Reid
writes on one of
the critical issues
affecting wildlife
survival**

Cat, Black Colobus Monkey, Pangolin, Giant Ground Hornbill, Python and many other species. I even recovered the leg ring of a vulture that had been killed and sent it on to a university in Finland that had been tracking this bird. I have included in my article some bushmeat photographs that I took for reference purposes. Although I realise that readers may find them upsetting, I believe that it is important to recognise what is happening in the wild.

Of course, whatever one's personal reaction, it is important to recognise cultural differences in diet and the subsistence needs of local people. For them, bagging a pangolin or monkey may have the same kind of aspect as someone in Britain shooting rabbits for the pot. Hunting has long been vitally important in many African communities for nutrition (bushmeat is a major source of protein which may otherwise be scarce) and to provide a means of exchange for the other requirements of life.

Managing the trade

Dr David Brown of the UK Overseas Development Institute, a colleague from my earlier days in Nigeria, is currently a strong advocate of managing the trade, rather than stigmatising it or criminalising it (as per the internationally binding CITES

regulations which render some of the trade illegal). Certainly, the problem comes with the gross commercialisation of the trade beyond sustainable limits. Timber logging companies will, for example, pay a premium for bushmeat to feed their workers and there is a large and growing demand from people in African towns and cities, such as Kinshasa and Libreville, where the population is booming. The annual human population growth rate in Guinea-Congo now stands at between ca 2.7% and 3.0% (data from Cincotta & Engleman, 2000). Alarming, this is more than double the world rate of 1.3% and ranks within the top six growth rates for global regions of particular importance in terms of general biodiversity.

Critically, the human population density is in excess of 100 people per km² in parts of Guinea-Congo (more than double the world average of 42) and many of these people eat bushmeat. One local market survey in

▼ *A Black Colobus Monkey, just minutes after being shot.*

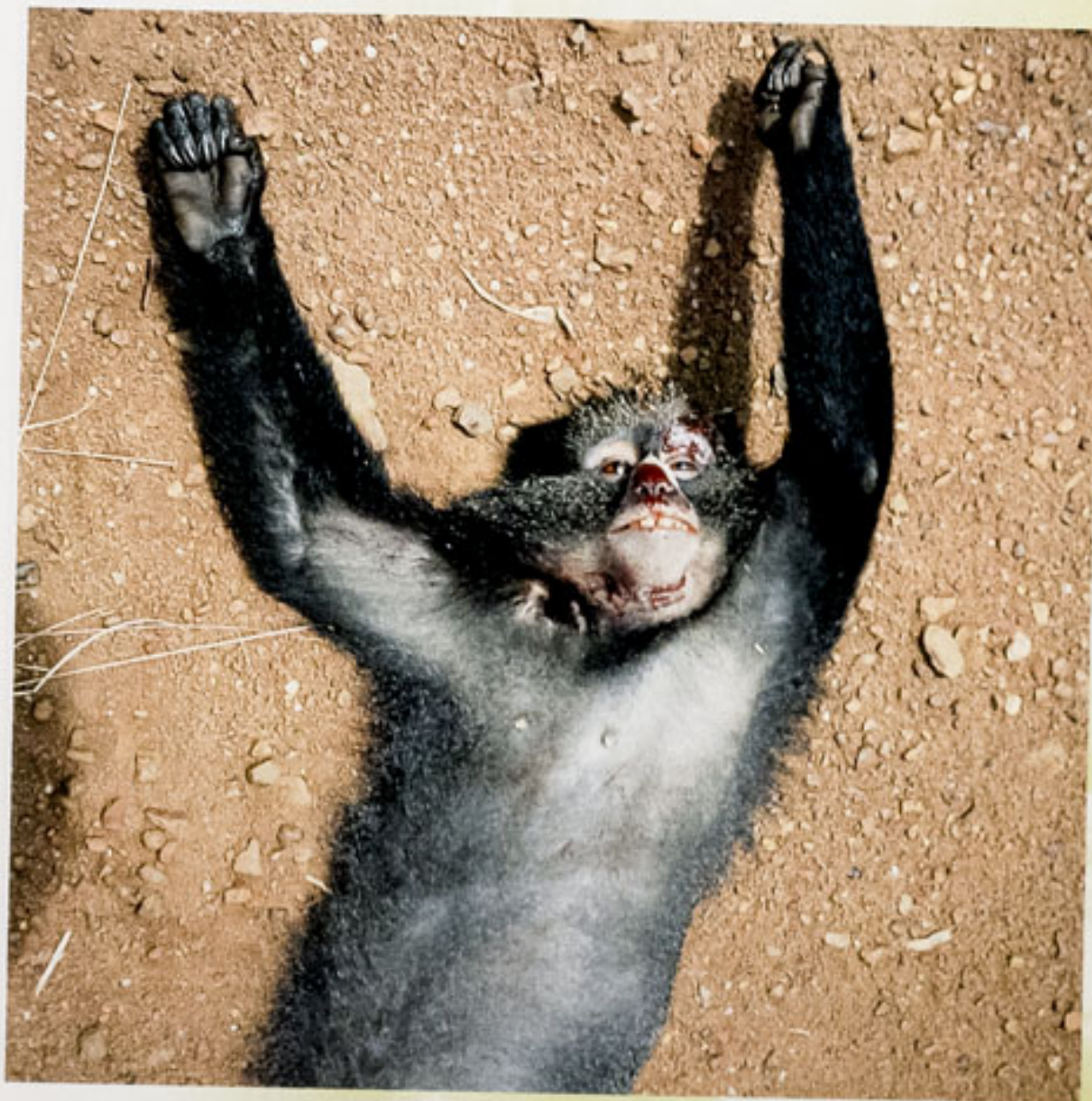
The same animal. ►



Equatorial Guinea (bordering the north of Gabon) records more than 18,000 carcasses representing at least 38 species of mammals, birds and reptiles. Overall, more than a million tonnes of bushmeat is used throughout equatorial Africa each year, according to Ian Redmond of the Ape Alliance, an organisation which works closely with FFI. Recent estimates for the trade in Gabon alone are that it exceeds US\$ 100 million. The pan African element of the trade is growing and perhaps surprisingly bushmeat is also now being traded in European countries.

There is an increasing emphasis within the zoo community on actions in the field to conserve animals and habitats. This has led to the formation of a Bushmeat Group within the European Association of Zoos and

Aquaria (EAZA) to determine what role zoos can play in conjunction with other active groups such as FFI, the Ape Alliance and the Bushmeat Crisis Taskforce. Dr Bryan Carroll of Bristol Zoo has been a strong leader in organising practical plans – and so Bristol kindly hosted a workshop for the Bushmeat Group on 28 April this year (EAZA News, April-June, 2000). Some particularly relevant issues that were identified in relation to possible zoo community inputs was the provision of sanctuaries in Africa for animals orphaned after their parents had been shot; and educational link-ups with these sanctuaries and the local communities. EAZA is now in the process of identifying specific in-country projects and soliciting funds and other resources to support these projects.





▲ Little Eleanor Morris met Father Christmas for the first time last year. Now she's a year older, she won't find the whiskered old gentleman quite so puzzling! Eleanor is the daughter of our IT specialist, Phil Morris.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE IN THE OAKFIELD RESTAURANT

Christmas lunch will be served daily from Saturday 2 December – Sunday 24 December. Traditional turkey and Christmas pudding will, of course, be on the menu. But if too much tradition leaves you all turkey-ed out, there are other choices too! Price is £15.95 adults and £9.95 for children under 11 years.

The Zoo is closed on Christmas Day, but lunch will be available on Boxing Day at £24.95 per person, £14.95 children under 11 years.

For more information, or to book your table, please ring Jane or Taj on 01244 650209. Some dates are already filling up – so book early!

Christmas Lunch Menu 2000

Saturday 2 December – Sunday 24 December, 2000
 £15.95 per person – £9.95 per child (under 11 years of age)

Creamed Parsnip Soup finished with Spiced Potato Crisps and Soured Cream
Smoked Chicken and Roast Apple Salad laced with a Cider and Honey Vinaigrette
Baked Field Mushroom stuffed with Roast Vegetables topped with a Stilton Cheese Crust and Fresh Mixed Herbs served on a Crisp Green Salad

*English Stilton, Apple and Walnut Bavarois served with Red Onion Salsa,
 Mixed Leaf Salad and Toasted French Bread*

*Local Roast Turkey served with Bread Sauce, Chipolata Sausage,
 Bacon Roll and Cranberry Sauce*

Coated Cod Fillets in a light Curried Batter placed on a Herb Crêpe and laced with Asparagus Cream
Escalope of Pork glazed with Dijon Mustard, pan fried and served with a Yellow Pepper Chutney

Roast Sirloin of Beef with a dried Apricot and Wild Mushroom Sauce

Vegetable Wellington

(Seasonal Vegetables marinated in Olive Oil, Tomato and Garlic Sauce, oven roasted with Mozzarella Cheese, topped with Mature Cheddar and encased in a Golden Puff Pastry)

All main courses served with seasonal vegetables and potatoes

Selection of Desserts

Freshly Ground Coffee served with Chocolate Mints

Dinner and Disco – £23.50. Available on 2, 8, 9, 14, 16, 21 and 22 December.

Christmas in the Zoo

Christmas may seem a long way off – but the next issue of *Zoo Life* will be December, so this is our last chance to tell you about Christmas in Zoo

FATHER CHRISTMAS

Father Christmas will be back at the Zoo early in December, choosing the strongest of the reindeer to borrow for Christmas Eve.

Christmas plans for visitors are not yet finalised, but exciting things are in the pipeline! Last year's evening openings with fairy lights attracted far more visitors than we expected and resulted in unacceptably long queues. This year, it will be advance timed ticket only. Full details of dates and prices are on the flyer with this magazine.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Throughout December the car park door into the Ark shop will be open, allowing shopping without having to pay zoo entry. The Ark shop gets better and better – the range and variety of gifts available is excellent! You will find something for every animal lover on your Christmas list here, from inexpensive stocking fillers to a £399.00 giant cuddly tiger! There are books, toys, puzzles, jewellery, ornaments, clothing, pictures and very much more.

As usual, we are pleased to offer all adopters the opportunity to shop at a 10% discount. Just cut out the coupon on this page and present it with your purchases. Members, of course, get the same discount on production of their membership card.

Present this voucher with your purchases in the Ark or Fountain gift shops in Chester Zoo for a 10% discount on all shopping.

Valid until 31 January 2001

BABY BIRDS: Why hand-rearing is important

**DR ROGER WILKINSON LOOKS AT THE
BEHIND-THE-SCENES WORK IN THE ZOO'S AVIARIES**

THE current trend for bird-keeping in many zoos is to replace smaller aviaries, holding one pair of birds, with educational, mixed species exhibits, often as walk-through enclosures. In such naturalistic areas some pairs breed very successfully, sometimes better than in the smaller enclosures. However, for a large number of birds, competition for preferred nest sites and live food, disturbance from other birds and, occasionally, the public, along with hazards such as deep water pools, all lead to low reduced breeding success.

Because of this, it is important that we use what means we have to increase the reproductive output to match the population management aims for each particular species we keep. Clearly there is little value in hand-rearing lots of youngsters from over-represented birds, if there is no demand for them. But it is useful and important for our keepers to gain hand-rearing experience in order to gain a most useful skill base, appropriate for rearing the more endangered birds.

Artificial incubation and hand-rearing are extremely valuable techniques to assist bird conservation programmes and they are currently being used, for example, in the Seychelles' Magpie Robin recovery programme. This species is critically endangered. Our experience

with hand-rearing White-rumped Shamas at Chester Zoo, and work with Magpie Robins at London Zoo, has been shared with workers on the Seychelles. They are applying this knowledge to the management of the critically endangered Seychelles' Magpie Robin.

Hand-rearing small birds requires skill and dedication and we are fortunate at Chester to have so many keepers who find this job personally rewarding and are prepared to put in time and effort. Amongst the birds hand-reared already this year by Wayne McLeod and Darren Langford are Bali Starlings, White-rumped Shamas and an Omei Shan Liocichla. Relatively new to this role, Carl Laven has successfully reared a batch of birds including Bali Starlings, Shamas, Azure-winged Magpies and a Red-billed Magpie. Leanne Lowton has recently taken the opportunity to join our core group of keepers hand-rearing small passerines.

Whilst reporting here on small passerine birds we must not forget to mention the commitment of Anne and Paul Morris who have previously reared many passerines and are currently rearing Blue-eyed Cockatoos. Andrew Bagnall and his staff in our bird incubation and rearing area are especially involved with rearing pheasants and waterfowl.



▲ Carl Laven hand-feeding a Bali Starling.



▲ A brooder full of birds. From top left clockwise: Azure-winged Magpies, White-rumped Shamas, Red-billed Magpie and Bali Starlings.



▲ Two Azure-winged Magpies, one asking for more.

Meet the Presenters

If you have wondered who that person in the white T-shirt in the *Twilight Zone* is, or where people with speakers are heading to, read on! In 1998 three presenters started in the new *Twilight Zone*, primarily to reassure and inform people. It has proved very popular with visitors who want to know a variety of things from 'Will they get stuck in my hair?' to 'What bats are in my garden?' We are always happy to talk about both species of our fruit bats and British bats, and have lots of information on how to build bat boxes etc. One of the presenters, Fiona Angwin, is a licensed British bat worker.

Following the success of the scheme in the *Twilight Zone*, more presenters were taken on, and their duties extended around the Zoo. In addition to the local press, advertisements were placed in *The Stage* entertainment magazine, to find people with a good mix of biological knowledge and a degree of exhibitionism! Our job is to give talks at the main animal feeds, to increase public awareness about the animals' biology, conservation, and specific history at Chester Zoo.

When preparing the talks, the presenters worked closely with

They started in just the Twilight Zone . . . and now they are all over the Zoo! Our team of presenters are making sure that visitors go home knowing a little more about our animals.

By Myfanwy Griffith



From left: Fiona Angwin, Gemma Thomson, Matt Lewis, Catherine McLaughlin, Myfanwy Griffith.

keepers, drawing on their extensive knowledge about the animals. For their time and insight we are extremely grateful. Talks usually start a few minutes before the keepers arrive, to alert passers-by that something is about to happen. In addition to the scheduled feeds, during the busy season we also do a Giraffe talk at 11:15; offer two chances to feed birds in the *Tropical Realm* at 11:00 and 2:30; a Rhino talk at 4:00 and an Elephant talk at 4:15. Currently we use a portable sound system, but we are planning permanent sound systems at some of the larger enclosures, to improve the quality and the range of the sound – so we can reach more people! The talks include general information about the species, and we keep up to date on individual animals by liaising with the keepers. For example, finding out who is expecting a baby and when (quite a task this year with so many expectant mothers).

We have moved from Animal Division

to Education, enabling us to use the new *Wildlife Discovery Centre*. In summer and at weekends we run three 45 minute animal contact sessions a day. During term-time, there is one at 3:30pm on weekdays. During sessions visitors get a chance to handle a range of animals, including Giant Cockroaches, Giant Land Snails and Kune Kune pigs. Although animals like cockroaches might not be everybody's favourite, (indeed some presenters needed persuading to hold these giant hissing wonders) they do enable us to convince people that even

'scary' animals are interesting and worth conserving. We have run bat workshops where people can meet and find out more about British bats. The *Wildlife Discovery Centre* also contains a variety of animal artefacts, many of which have been confiscated by HM Customs at Manchester Airport. Visitors enjoy touching things like rhino horn and leopard fur but, more importantly, this highlights the problems that trade causes to certain species' survival.

A few comments from the Visitors' Book show how well-received the sessions have been:

'Excellent and informative – great fun too'

'It was fun to see what animals are like close up', and

'Changed our minds about cockroaches!'

We are currently a team of six presenters from varying backgrounds, but all with a love of talking about animals. In April our new Lead Presenter Matt Lewis joined. You will have to ask him how he feels about being in charge of five women! We are always trying to provide new and interesting ways to increase the enjoyment offered by a day out at Chester Zoo. So, if you have ever wanted to cuddle a cockroach, find out how much a baby elephant weighs, or what is a fruit bat's favourite fruit, come along to a Discovery Session, the *Twilight Zone* or one of our talks. We look forward to meeting you!



◀ The sixth member of the team – Elisabeth Marris at the Giraffe paddock.

A SILVER FOR THE ZOO

Botany and Amenities and Gardens departments.

The entry in the show catalogue read : *Plants and animals that are isolated on islands often evolve into species that are found nowhere else on earth. Whilst they have adapted to these unique environments, and live in harmony as part of a balanced ecosystem, it is often a very fine balance – and external factors – climate, man's intervention or imported animal or plant life can have a devastating effect. Once an island has been 'discovered', disaster can loom. Native plants and animals are exploited.*

Predatory animals and invasive plant species are introduced and the native wild animals are hunted, and plants eaten or removed for firewood. Easter Island was once forested – now not a tree remains!

The twin themes in the design were Easter Island in the Mid Pacific

◀ *Garden designers Mark Hargreaves (left) and Mark Sparrow.*



▲ *A water's edge view of the show garden.*



▲ *Channel 4's gardening presenter Monty Don included the garden in his television coverage.*

and Komodo Island in Indonesia. Replica Easter Island 'heads' created by Andy Harper set the vertical scale in a barren landscape. Komodo Island, on the other side of the stream, featured a life size statue of a Komodo Dragon – the largest lizard on earth – about to emerge from the tropical jungle.



THE Royal Horticultural Society has very high standards and its medals are given sparingly. So it was a particular honour that Chester Zoo's first major entry at Tatton Park's RHS show in July earned a coveted Silver Medal.

The Show Garden entry was inspired by the Zoo's Islands in Danger, and was designed by Mark Sparrow, General Curator of Horticulture and Botany, and Mark Hargreaves, Supervisor of Horticulture and Botany, with specialist help from Andy Harper and Aquascape.

The building of the entry took seven full days with valuable input from the



WELCOME TO SARAH

ONE OF THE TEAM working on the RHS display was Sarah Bird, who joined the Zoo only a few weeks before the show. Sarah came to us from the Botany Department at Liverpool Museum, to the new position of Assistant Curator of Horticulture and Botany. Her tasks include cataloguing and labelling the Zoo's plant collection, providing new ideas for plant interpretation and planning planting schemes relevant to the habitats of particular animals. She is especially looking forward to being involved in the landscaping of the new Jaguar and Rhino exhibits. Sarah says that she suspects working with live animals will be rather more challenging than working with museum specimens that don't tend to move around much!

Sarah was at Liverpool Museum for almost ten years and prior to that worked as a nursery assistant for J & J Tod near Knutsford in Cheshire. She has a degree in Biology from Durham University and a post graduate diploma in Ecology.



ADVENTURES IN THE KIMBERLEY



Bird watching in Kimberley.

THIS three-month trip was an amazing experience! We were particularly interested in the Gouldian Finch and the Star Finch, both of which are threatened and have declined in numbers in recent years. The aim of the project was to compare the numbers of each finch species, both on irrigated land and the natural scrub of the area.

Our base was in the town of Kununurra, around which the Ord River Irrigation Scheme is centred. This land irrigation has enabled crops of sugar cane, cotton and many tropical fruits to be produced, and has greatly improved the economy of the area.

During the dry season, small rivers and billabongs dry up leaving very little water for the surrounding wildlife. Therefore, the majority of the finches in the locality surrounding the water hole will come in to drink at that one site. Finches need frequent drinks, due to their diet of grass seeds, so it was ideal to monitor the birds at the waterholes at dawn. On the irrigated land, numbers were estimated during walks.

KATIE NUGENT AND SARAH DIXON, TWO STUDENTS FROM NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY, WERE GRANTED ZOO SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDY GRASSFINCH POPULATIONS IN THE KIMBERLEY REGION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA LAST SUMMER. THIS IS THEIR REPORT.

As well as finches, we were lucky enough to encounter some of the incredible wildlife that can be found in this region, including wallabies, dingos, storks and parrots. We also discovered the huge ranges that dominate the Kimberley skyline and sampled life on the remote cattle stations of the region. We travelled in a four-wheel vehicle along dirt roads, camping close the waterholes and cooking on fires.

Generally we found that while the Star Finch is to be found in large numbers on the irrigated land around the Kimberley, the Gouldian Finch is absent from this area. However, the Gouldian was found in larger numbers than expected in other areas of the Kimberley – including the

discovery of a population of around 130 birds in the far north. The Star Finch is similarly absent from these regions as the Gouldian is from the irrigated land.

It may be seen from our results that the modification of the Grassfinches' habitat, through the irrigation of the area around the township of Kununurra, has had a profound effect on the finch populations. The Star Finch, appears to be thriving on this habitat, whereas the Gouldian, is absent.

Our results re-emphasise the effects the modification of habitats can have on wild populations. Australia is unique in that the species which inhabit this island have been evolving in isolation for many millennia. It is clear that the recent land modification will have a wide ranging effect on a vast number of other species. At this stage, the loss of habitat has displaced the Gouldian Finches, but as irrigation is so economically lucrative in this area, there are plans for further irrigation. Whether the remaining land will be enough to support a viable population remains to be seen.

Junior Members' COMPETITION TIME

GUESS THE ANIMALS!

This is an animal you won't find in the Zoo! But look closer – there are in fact parts of ten Chester Zoo animals here, all merged into one!

Can you identify the ten creatures? We think a lot of you will get this right – so as a tie breaker, can you give our creature a name? The prize will go to the all-correct entry with the name we like the best!

There's a £10 gift voucher to spend in the Zoo shops for the winner, and the closing date is 13 October.

*Entries on a postcard to :
Junior Competition,
Chester Zoo, CH2 1LH*

SUMMER ISSUE WINNER

The Summer competition was a hard one! It involved doing a bit of research in your books or on the internet. The answers are:

- Red Bird of Paradise – Island F Flag 1
- Philippine Spotted Deer – Island A Flag V
- Red-ruffed Lemur – Island D Flag 111
- Jamaican Boa – Island C Flag 1V
- Sand Lizard – Island E Flag 11.

The joint winners are Rowan and Billy Metcalfe of Hoole, and they win a selection of the 'Horrible History' books.





Zoo Life

JUNIOR MEMBERS



Meetings and Field Trips

Saturday 23 September 2000 – Hawkstone Park and the Follies

This amazing park in Shropshire has masses to see and the follies, some set right into the hillside, are great fun. Try to join us on this walk.

The bus will leave the staff car park at 10.30 am, returning at 4.30 pm. Over eights are invited to come along. Bring a picnic and a torch for the caves.

Saturday 14 October 2000 – Liverpool Museum

The Natural History section of this famous museum is well worth a visit and we will be taken 'behind the scenes' to give Juniors some idea of how exhibits are prepared for show.

The bus will leave the staff car park at 11.00 am, returning at 4.00 pm. Over eights are welcome, and a picnic will be needed.

Saturday 18 November 2000 – The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust – Martin Mere

November is a brilliant time to visit Martin Mere as we should see the migratory geese and swans as they pass through this haven. It can be chilly, so dress warmly to see the spectacular sight of thousands of birds.

The bus will leave the Staff Car Park at 11.00 am, returning at 4.00 pm. Over 8's welcome, and bring a picnic.

Friday 8 December 2000 – The Christmas Party

Fun, games and music from the live disco all evening, together with a beefburger and hot-dog supper should attract lots of Juniors as ever to this popular event. As usual, we will hold the party in the picnic area behind the Tropical Realm and you should bring a pillow or cushion along, together with a torch.

Juniors should arrive at the OLD main entrance on Caughall Road at 7.00 pm and walk through to the picnic area from there. Parents can collect Juniors from the picnic area at 10.00 pm.

Saturday 27 January 2001 – The Contact Session

One of our most popular events of the year, the Contact Session is your chance to meet, handle and talk to some of the Zoo's

friendlier residents. These are likely to include snakes, spiders, tortoises, lizards, rabbits, guinea pigs, ducks and a few more.

Over eights should meet outside the Oakfield for 2.15 pm and we will walk through the Zoo to the indoor picnic area to meet the animals. Juniors will be taken back to the Oakfield for 4.00 pm for collection by parents.

Saturday 24 February 2001 – The Sea Life Centre and Blackpool Zoo

An action-packed day is on offer when we travel to Blackpool to visit the well known Sea Life Centre there in the morning and then move on to Blackpool Zoo in the afternoon.

Juniors over the age of eight should be appropriately dressed for indoors and outdoors, and we will leave the staff car park at 9.00 am, returning at 5.30 pm. Bring lots to eat on this long day out.

Saturday 24 March 2001 – Tracks and Signs

Juniors love the opportunity to be on the 'other side of the fence' looking around inside the animal enclosures to find footprints from which to make your own plaster casts. March usually proves to be a muddy-enough month to make this a successful but messy event so make sure you wear really old clothes and wellies.

Over eights are invited to join us, starting at 11.00 am when we will meet outside the Oakfield.

Saturday 21 April 2001 – Knowsley Safari Park

It has been a few years since we last visited Knowsley Safari Park and things have changed a lot since then. We hope to have a guided tour around the park which will make this a special event.

Over eights are invited to join us and we will leave the staff entrance at 10.30 am, returning to the Zoo at 4.30 pm. You will need a picnic.

Saturday 19 May 2001 – The Middlewood Way

This is a new event for Juniors, when we will be travelling to Macclesfield and walking a few miles of the well known 'Middlewood Way' which was once a railway line and which is now a nature reserve. We will be accompanied by a Ranger who



will point out some of the special sights along the way.

Over eights are welcome to join us, bringing a picnic, when we leave the staff car park at 9.30 am. We should be back at the Zoo around 5.30 pm.

**Saturday 23 June 2001 –
The Chestnut Centre**

Always one of our most enjoyable events, we look forward to visiting the lovely Chestnut Centre, which is an Otter and Owl Conservation park in Derbyshire. We will have a tour around this beautiful location and admire the work being done there for Otters and Birds of Prey.

The bus will leave the staff car park at 9.30 am, returning at 5.00 pm. Over eights are invited to come along. Remember to bring a picnic.

**Wednesday 25 July 2001 –
Day With a Keeper**

Undoubtedly the most popular day in the Juniors' calendar, when you are given the opportunity to spend a day working alongside a Zoo Keeper. The work can be strenuous and we have to strictly limit this event to Juniors of twelve or over. We do try to accommodate Juniors' areas of special interest but obviously places are very limited so this cannot be guaranteed. Please come prepared to work hard, wearing wellies and with a good picnic.

We will meet outside the Oakfield at 10.30 am and the day will finish for Juniors at 4.00 pm. Please note that bookings will not be taken before Wednesday 11th July 2001 from 8.30 am.

**Friday 17 August 2001 –
Summer Barbeque**

A regular meeting point during the summer holidays when Juniors can get together for an evening in the Zoo after all the

▼ *Po Chin*



Photo courtesy Daily Mail

visitors have left. Apart from your barbequed supper, there will be a 'surprise' speaker to entertain Juniors.

Over eights are invited to come along for this relaxing evening which starts at 7.00 pm when you should arrive at the Staff Entrance and walk over to the Ark Restaurant. Parents are requested to collect Juniors from there at 9.45 pm.

**Saturday 22 September 2001 –
The Horseshoe Pass and Bunny Farm**

Another new event for this year will be our trip to the Horseshoe Pass near Llangollen and then on to the 'Bunny Farm' in North Wales. We will aim to walk up one of the tracks at the Horseshoe Pass and will all have to resist the temptation of returning with a rabbit from the Bunny Farm where there are many pure-bred types!

Over eights can join in when we leave the staff car park at 9.30 am, returning at 4.30 pm. Bring a picnic.

**Saturday 20 October 2001 – Lower Moss Wood
Reserve and Wildlife Hospital**

We will spend the day being guided around this small but very interesting reserve near Knutsford in Cheshire, which also serves as a rescue centre for injured British wildlife. This will be a chance to see hedgehogs, foxes, lots of birds and probably some surprises too.

The bus will leave the staff car park at 10.30 am and return at 4.00 pm. Over eights are invited along with a picnic.

**Saturday 17 November 2001 – Electric Mountain
and the Welsh Slate Museum**

Our third new venue this year will be a visit to the 'Electric Mountain' and 'Welsh Slate Museum' in Llanberis, Snowdonia. This will be a chance to find out more about how electricity is generated and about geology and should be a good day out.

The bus will leave the staff car park at 9.30 am and will return at 5.00 pm. Suitable for over eights. Remember to bring a picnic with you.

Bookings must be made for all events. Please ring Penny Rudd at the Zoo on 01244 650215, not more than two weeks before the event you would like to attend. Places are offered on a 'first-come-first served' basis and may be limited.

This list is provisional, and in exceptional circumstances we may have to alter dates and venues. You will be informed of any such changes in Zoo Life – not by individual letter – so please keep up-to-date by reading the Junior Page in each issue.

A small charge will be made to cover the cost of those events which involve transport, materials or the provision of food and you will be informed of this at the time of booking.

Arrivals, Births and Hatchings

May, June and July 2000

MAMMALS

Red-necked Wallaby	<i>Macropus rufogriseus</i>	5.4.0	Birth
*Rodrigues Fruit Bat	<i>Pteropus rodricensis</i>	0.0.5	Birth
Seba's Short-tailed Bat	<i>Carollia perspicillata</i>	0.8.0	Birth
*Capybara	<i>Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris</i>	0.1.0	Arrival
*Asiatic Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>	1.0.0	Birth
Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	2.0.0	Birth
*American Bison	<i>Bison bison</i>	1.0.0	Birth
*Blackbuck	<i>Antelope cervicapra</i>	0.1.0	Birth
*Blackbuck	<i>Antelope cervicapra</i>	1.0.0	Arrival
*Arabian Gazelle	<i>Gazella gazella arabica</i>	0.1.0	Birth

BIRDS

*Humboldt's Penguin	<i>Spheniscus humboldti</i>	0.0.2	Hatched
*Waldrapp Ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Caribbean Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber ruber</i>	0.0.2	Hatched
Black-necked Swan	<i>Cygnus melanocoryphus</i>	1.1.0	Hatched
Ross's Snow Goose	<i>Anser rossii</i>	0.0.2	Hatched
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	3.1.6	Hatched
Laysan Teal	<i>Anas laysanensis</i>	1.1.0	Hatched
Marbled Teal	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	1.3.0	Hatched
*Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	1.5.0	Hatched
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	0.0.6	Hatched
*Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	0.0.11	Hatched
*White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	0.0.6	Hatched
Rouloul Partridge	<i>Rollulus rouloul</i>	0.0.6	Hatched
*Satyr Tragopan	<i>Tragopan satyra</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Common Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	0.1.0	Arrival
*Green Peafowl	<i>Pavo muticus</i>	0.0.3	Hatched
*Congo Peafowl	<i>Afropavo congensis</i>	0.0.3	Hatched
*Mountain Witch Dove	<i>Geotrygon versicolor</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
*Yellow-backed Chattering Lory	<i>Lorius garrulus flavopalliatius</i>	0.0.1	Arrival
Stella's Lorikeet	<i>Chamosyna papou</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua sulphurea citrinocristata</i>	1.0.0	Arrival
Greater Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>	0.0.4	Hatched
*Derbyan Parakeet	<i>Psittacula derbiana</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Yellow-naped Macaw	<i>Ara auricollis</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
*Illiger's Macaw	<i>Ara maracana</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
*Slender-billed Parakeet	<i>Enicognathus leptorhynchus</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Schalow's Turaco	<i>Tauraco schalowi</i>	0.0.2	Hatched
Violet Plantain Eater	<i>Musophaga violacea</i>	0.0.2	Hatched
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudata</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	0.0.12	Hatched
*Yellow-throated Laughing Thrush	<i>Garrulax galbanus</i>	0.0.5	Hatched
*Omei Shan Liocichla	<i>Liocichla omeiensis</i>	0.0.2	Hatched

BIRDS-continued

Red-billed Leiothrix	<i>Leiothrix lutea</i>	0.0.2	Hatched
Asian Glossy Starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>	0.0.2	Hatched
Emerald Starling	<i>Lamprocolius iris</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
African Pied Starling	<i>Spreo bicolor</i>	0.0.6	Hatched
Superb Starling	<i>Spreo superbus</i>	0.0.2	Arrival
*Bali Starling	<i>Leucopsar rothschildi</i>	0.0.3	Hatched
Red-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa erythrorhyncha</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Azure-winged Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cyana</i>	0.0.4	Hatched

REPTILES

Malayan Box Turtle	<i>Cuora amboinensis</i>	0.0.3	Bred
Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>	0.2.0	Arrival
Flapneck Chameleon	<i>Chamaeleo dilepis</i>	1.0.0	Arrival
Sunbeam Snake	<i>Xenopeltis unicolor</i>	0.0.6	Bred
Boa Constrictor	<i>Constrictor constrictor</i>	0.0.23	Bred
East African Green Mamba	<i>Dendroaspis angusticeps</i>	2.2.0	Arrival
Red-tailed Ratsnake	<i>Gonyosoma oxycephala</i>	0.0.4	Arrival

AMPHIBIANS

Blue Poison Arrow Frog	<i>Dendrobates azureus</i>	0.0.4	Arrival
Smooth-sided Toad	<i>Bufo guttatus</i>	0.0.3	Arrival

FISH

Snake Pipefish	<i>Corythoichthys intestinalis</i>	0.0.5	Arrival
Orchid Dottyback	<i>Pseudochromis fridmani</i>	0.0.4	Arrival
Fumanchu Lionfish	<i>Dendrochirus biocellatus</i>	0.0.3	Arrival
Rainfords Goby	<i>Amblygobius rainfordi</i>	0.0.2	Arrival
Dwarf Lionfish	<i>Dendrochirus brachyopterus</i>	0.0.4	Arrival
Dragon Goby	<i>Amblygobius phalaena</i>	0.0.4	Arrival
Shrimpfish	<i>Acoliscus strigatus</i>	0.0.27	Arrival
White Fin Lionfish	<i>Pterois radiata</i>	0.0.1	Arrival
*Barombi Mbo Cichlid	<i>Konia eisentrauti</i>	0.0.12	Arrival
*Barombi Mbo Cichlid	<i>Pungu maclareni</i>	0.0.2	Arrival
Squirrel Fish	<i>Myripristis sp</i>	0.0.1	Arrival

INVERTEBRATES

Long-spined Sea Urchin	<i>Diadema antillarum</i>	0.0.1	Arrival
Star fish		0.0.1	Arrival
Coral		0.0.10	Arrival
Turbo Snail	<i>Turbo sp</i>	0.0.36	Arrival
Peppermint Shrimp	<i>Lysmata sp</i>	0.0.2	Arrival
Emerald Crab		0.0.5	Arrival
Blue Sponge		0.0.1	Arrival
Purple Gorgonian	<i>Eupalsaira sp</i>	0.0.1	Arrival

Key: Col. 1=Male. Col. 2=Female. Col. 3=Young or unknown. *Rare/Endangered.

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