

The official magazine for
Chester Zoo Members and Adopters

Z MAGAZINE

Winter 2010



Meet the herd
**marching
to their
own beat!**



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Mark Pilgrim



Barbara Smith



new appointments

Chester Zoo has announced the appointment of its new Director General and Managing Director.

Dr Mark Pilgrim, previously the zoo's Director of Conservation and Education, took up the role of Director General on October 1.

He took over from Prof. Gordon McGregor Reid, who has stepped down after 18 years in the zoo and 15 years at the helm.

Mark has been joined by **Barbara Smith** who takes on the newly created position of Managing Director. Barbara was Executive Manager at Edinburgh Castle.

Prof Peter Wheeler, chairman of the Trustees of NEZS, the charitable body that runs Chester Zoo, said: "We are extremely pleased to have appointed a team with the expertise and experience to continue the development of the zoo as a world-class visitor attraction and increase the impact of our internationally important conservation work. We wish Mark and Barbara every success in their new posts and know that they have the skills and vision to drive the zoo forward."

Mark, 46, a father-of-three from Leeswood, near Mold, joined the zoo in 1988 as a bird keeper and has subsequently held curatorial and managerial roles. He is well known and respected in the international zoo community and is a Council Member of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA). Mark is also the European studbook holder for Black rhinos, Equadorian Amazon parrots and Jaguars.

Mark said: "I have a passion for Chester Zoo and for wildlife conservation and am absolutely delighted to become Director General. I am as much a people person as I am an animal person and value the zoo's dedicated and talented staff. With them and alongside Barbara, I am very much

looking forward to entering this new chapter that will take the zoo and its conservation work into a new era."

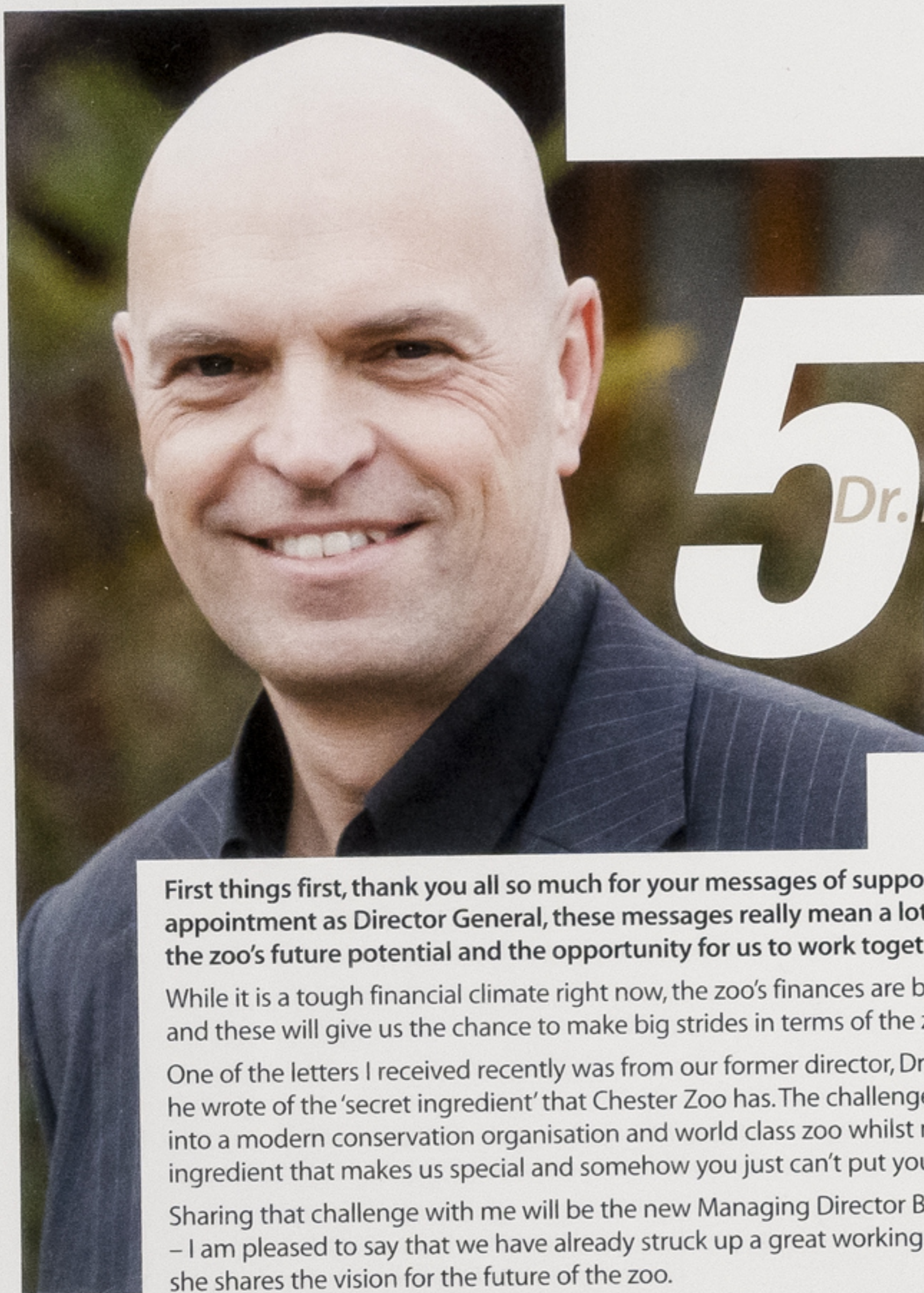
Barbara, a mother of three, joined Edinburgh Castle, Scotland's premier visitor attraction, in 2000 and has overseen a 10 year development plan which included a series of high-profile projects designed to enhance the experience for visitors to the castle.

She also chaired Edinburgh Tourism Action Group between 2007 and 2009, fostering strong links between the private and public sectors. Previously Barbara was manager of Edinburgh's Meadowbank Stadium.

Prof Reid welcomed both appointments and said he had left the zoo in good hands.

I have had the pleasure of working with Mark for 18 years and in that time, I have seen him develop into the person he is today: someone with the strength, vision, character and talent to lead Chester Zoo into the next very exciting phase of its development.

In Barbara, the zoo will have a strong, capable and experienced Managing Director and together Mark and Barbara will continue to build on the zoo's success. I wish them both well.



5 minutes with... Dr. Mark Pilgrim Director General

First things first, thank you all so much for your messages of support and good wishes following my appointment as Director General, these messages really mean a lot to me. I am of course hugely excited about the zoo's future potential and the opportunity for us to work together to achieve great things is incredible.

While it is a tough financial climate right now, the zoo's finances are built on solid foundations and these will give us the chance to make big strides in terms of the zoo's further development.

One of the letters I received recently was from our former director, Dr Michael Brambell. Movingly, he wrote of the 'secret ingredient' that Chester Zoo has. The challenge ahead is for us to develop into a modern conservation organisation and world class zoo whilst maintaining that secret ingredient that makes us special and somehow you just can't put your finger on.

Sharing that challenge with me will be the new Managing Director Barbara Smith – I am pleased to say that we have already struck up a great working relationship and, importantly, she shares the vision for the future of the zoo.

Please can you update us on Natural Vision?

Getting the green light from Cheshire West and Chester's Council's strategic planning board was a huge step forward for us. The application was automatically referred the Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government, and we are delighted that he has also rubber-stamped the plans. We will now take stock of the project before agreeing the plan of action. This planning approval has huge significance for our future.

What is on the horizon for next year?

Work on the Painted Dogs exhibit is now underway – this is an exciting new venture for us and a completely different style of exhibit design. African-themed and immersive, it will be unlike anything we have done before.

The exhibit will be ready for Easter with the opening itself pencilled in for April 6. The opening will be carried out by conservationist Tony Fitzjohn, the inspirational founder of Mkomazi National Park in Tanzania where some of our conservation projects are based. Tony is a powerful and charismatic figure and we are delighted he and his family will be able to join us. Before that though we obviously have to bring the dogs over and I am pleased to say we have a pack of eight in a Swedish zoo earmarked for us.

What other projects will be developed next year?

There are a number of smaller projects to be worked on but there's some good news for our Giant Otters! We will be building an underwater winter viewing area for the otters – and the visitors! During the winter months this will have a heated pool for the otters and the visitors will be able to shelter inside a canopied building to watch their antics. In the summer, we will drain the underwater pool and it will transform into a dry river bed for the otters.

What else is happening on the animal front?

We are waiting with bated breath for *Thi* to give birth and are anticipating the patter of elephant feet anytime from mid-November. Giraffe *Aoife* has also become a mum and her adorable daughter was born during the early hours of November 1. The Red Panda cub has now been named *Lily* and Sumatran orang-utan *Padang* has left us for Prague Zoo – *Padang* is a lovely young adult orangutan and experienced around youngsters so I am confident he will go on to make a good father in Prague! The Giant Anteaters will remain where they are for the next 12 months as we have reprioritised our capital programme for the year. We have welcomed Giant Anteater *Bliss* to the collection though and she is much more active than *Pedro* and is out and about during the day. We had hoped *Bliss* would give *Pedro* a nudge but, even with an attractive female around, he's still a bit reluctant to get out of bed ...

Please can you update us on our conservation activities?

I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to travel to Sichuan in China with Roger Wilkinson, and Trustee Simon Dowell this summer. We are supporting three very beautiful reserves in Sichuan with steep mountains covered in wonderful broadleaf forest. Further up the mountains is the bamboo forest which is Giant Panda habitat. This lower altitude broadleaf forest is rather overlooked by conservation organisations and so our work there has significant impact. These diverse forests contain vast numbers of birds and other wildlife. Importantly, this broadleaf forest is where most of the people are and this is where we are focusing our attention on projects that encourage people and wildlife to co-exist.

Zoo additions



BABY LEMUR CLINGS TO MOTHER

A baby Ring-tailed Lemur, one of two born this year at Chester Zoo, clings to its mother during an afternoon feed of fruit from their keepers. The baby is yet to be named. Chester Zoo is home to 17 Lemurs, including the two babies.

Lemurs are from Madagascar and can be seen on Lemur Island.

Two spiky babies born at Chester Zoo

Two baby Porcupines have been born. The group are taken care of by the zoo's Rhino team and as well as having logs to chew on, have a diet including cabbage, carrots and pears.

Porcupines are very protective of their youngsters. To protect her young a mother reverses towards a threat with her spikes raised up.



HALLOWEEN HIGH JINKS FOR HUMBOLDT PENGUINS

Keepers at Chester Zoo came up with a novel idea to provide the colony of endangered Humboldt Penguins with some special enrichment.

Penguins can be very inquisitive, and have a tendency to be attracted to shiny objects in the water, which remind them of their favourite food – fish.

As a result keepers are providing old CDs for them to play with.

To keep the CD's floating, the ingenious keeping team used apples – and now the Penguins can have a go at “upside down” bob apple!

“In the past shiny objects in the water have caused us some serious health problems” said Andrew Woolham, Parrots and Penguins Team Leader.

“Occasionally visitors have thrown silver coins into the water, which the Penguins will eat. The coins cannot pass through their digestive system, which can be very serious for the penguin.

“This is a structured and thought through procedure of environmental enrichment, which cannot cause any harm to our birds, but will go a long way to provide them with something different to do in-between meal times”

Once finished, the apples are washed down, and are then fed to other animals on section, so there's no waste.

Zoo additions



Chester Zoo's Red Panda cub

The cub is the sixth cub for nine year old mother *Lushui*, the father is *Pali*, eight. She has been named *Lily*, meaning beautiful.



New additions are four Black-necked Weavers (a new African species that will be housed in the Tropical Realm) and additional Red and Yellow Barbets and Brazilian Tanagers which all arrived from Copenhagen Zoo.

Currently in Quarantine are a male Collared Grosbeak (pictured) to make up a pair with our lone female and a new species of Owl – Brown Wood Owls arrived recently from Cotswold Wildlife Park. These stunning owls come from the forests of South East Asia and will move to the Owl aviaries once they have completed their quarantine period.

Baby Mandrill explores Monkey Island

A baby Mandrill, just two and a half months old and one of four baby Mandrills born at Chester Zoo, explores Monkey Island.

The Mandrill group were led by the dominant male, JC, out into the sunshine to enjoy snacks such as celery and oranges.

Mandrills live in deep forest in Southern Cameroon, Gabon and the Congo.



Zoo welcomes the small, slippery and slimy

Keepers in the Aquarium have managed to breed Caecilians for the first time in the zoo's history. The aquatic species in question are dark grey creatures and are the 'forgotten amphibians' – as most people do not even know they exist.

Nine of the tiny worm-like babies are now in the zoo's Aquarium and will go on show as soon as they are large enough.

This species of caecilian originates from South America and lives in fresh water. They grow to be 45 to 55 cm in length as adults.

Mike Crumpler, Aquarium Team Leader at Chester Zoo, said: "If asked what an amphibian is, most people would answer frogs or toads or maybe newts and salamanders. Caecilians, of which there are about 170 species, are very much the forgotten amphibians."

Zoo additions



A hand puppet is being used to raise some very special birds here at Chester Zoo.

The West Africa Crowned Cranes – endangered in the wild – are being given a helping hand by innovative keepers.

Cranes are a species which will imprint on the first images they see after hatching and could end up seeing keeping staff as their parents.

To help the three chicks grow up thinking they are cranes, keepers are using a puppet, designed to look exactly like an adult crane, to feed the chicks. This will ensure the chicks grow up to breed themselves.

Native to the grasslands of Africa, specifically the Senegal to Chad region, the cranes are in danger due to habitat loss. The capture and trade of this species is having a dramatic effect on wild numbers.

Chester Zoo supports in situ conservation initiatives and has provided £7925 to assist in the conservation of Black Crowned Cranes coastal area of West Africa.

Pictures courtesy of Phil Noble/Reuters



Two Dwarf Mongoose Pups, each the size of a chocolate bar, have made their debut.

Squeaks were heard by the keepers but the pups were not seen until they ventured outside in the Mongoose Mania enclosure.

With a diet of mice, locusts and meal worms, this species normally live to about 10 years old and can grow up to 12 inches long.

Dwarf Mongoose are the smallest of all African carnivores and normally deliver one to six pups.

The adult pair has been in the zoo since 2009. They were moved to the Mongoose Mania enclosure in March this year.

Photo: Stuart Robinson



Antelope classed as 'Extinct in the Wild' born at Chester Zoo

A 3 day old Scimitar-horned Oryx is looked over by zoo keepers.

The antelope, which was discovered to be a male, was micro-chipped and fitted with an ear tag.

This is the 2nd baby this year for the group at Chester Zoo. A typical gestation period is approximately eight months and the horns can grow up to 150cm in length.

Scimitar-horned Oryx, which is classed as Extinct in The Wild, was originally found in Saharan fringe, Tunisia, Morocco and Senegal.



Moving forwards in Assam

Evie Astbury

Assam is one of the last remaining strongholds for the Asian elephant but the conservation of this iconic species is becoming increasingly difficult as conflict between people and elephants increases. Such conflict is growing as forests are destroyed to be replaced with villages and crops. Problems include elephants raiding crops and damaging property, resulting in retaliation by people, sometimes leading to loss of human and elephant lives.

Chester Zoo's Assam Haathi Project (AHP) is working with local communities to reduce the impact of conflict between people and elephants. This involves developing humane techniques to stop elephants from eating crops and damaging houses (e.g. chilli ropes, chilli smoke and look out towers). The project is measuring the effectiveness of such techniques as well as monitoring elephant movements to help with plans to protect their habitat. The success of *Living with Elephants*, a self help handbook, has helped to share information about these techniques with more than 40 villages in Assam.

Communities help to collect information on elephant movements and organise trials of new deterrents. Local people have increased their ability to defend their communities and the extent of crop damage by elephants has been reduced by up to 78% in some areas. There have also been no human deaths or injuries in the project sites and people are also developing new ways of making a living, reducing the risk of income loss due to elephant crop raiding.

The project is now moving forwards into an exciting new phase. Not only is current work being expanded, but there are new plans to carry out surveys across the whole of Assam. Information from these surveys will help identify human-elephant conflict hotspots across Assam and help the Assam Haathi Project select the communities most in need of support.

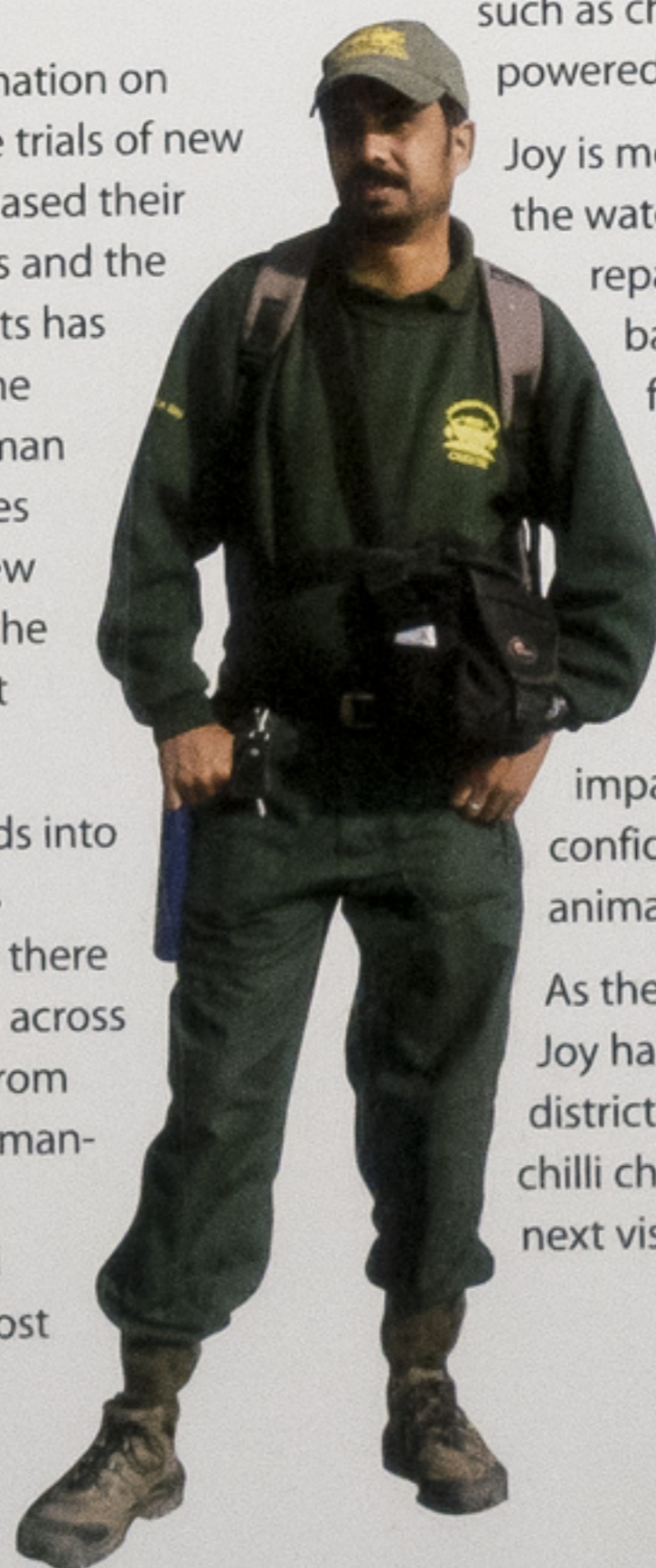
The success of the AHP is made possible by the dedicated field staff on the ground in Assam. For the last five years, Joydeep Chakrabarty (aka Joy) has been working relentlessly with local communities in the Goalpara District of Assam to reduce human-elephant conflict.

It has not been easy for Joy to persuade the villagers to become willing partners, as past efforts to ease conflicts had not improved the situation. However, his persistence and good humour have paid off. Now Joy works with the people to introduce interventions such as chilli smoke, chilli fencing, and solar powered electric-fencing.

Joy is most happy helping people, be it mending the watch tower, greasing the chilli fence or repairing the solar fencing, assisted by his band of merry men Anjan and Ripunjoy from Nichinta (the first village the project began working with).

Now, when paddy harvest season approaches, the farmers of Nichinta village no longer dread the sight of the elephant herd. Joy has had a positive impact among the people as they are now confident in coping with the crop raiding animals.

As the AHP expands its outreach across Assam, Joy has already volunteered to work in the new districts, and looks forward to sharing plates of chilli chicken with Chester Zoo staff when they next visit Assam!



CHESTER ZOO'S

Elephants

Chester Zoo has eight Asian elephants, the youngest just six months old. Here Elephants Team Leader **Eveline DeWolf** introduces the herd and explains their different characteristics.



Sheba

Sheba

At 55, *Sheba* is our oldest elephant and has a will all of her own. We affectionately call her *Madam Sheba*. She is a very good elephant but not always the most compliant – sometimes she won't agree with the time of day that we want to do something with her or she feels it's just generally not her day. *Sheba* loves bran mash though and, frankly, as long as she's got that she's happy. She has been with the zoo since 1965 and as she is a bit older she has privileges of her own – hence the mash! To *Sheba* her mash is like chocolate and she's not entirely happy until she's got it.

Sheba's got a subtle manner about her when it comes to the other elephants and she has a gentle way of correcting them. That said, she makes it clear that there's no leeway and things have to be done her way. She thinks the entire elephant section belongs to her.



Maya and Nayan

Maya

What can I say about *Maya*? *Maya* is quite a character with a very strong personality. *Maya* has been at the zoo for 20 years. Food is the most important thing in *Maya's* life and comes before everything else. *Maya* is a very intelligent elephant but she is a little bit scared of *Sheba*. At five tonnes, *Maya* is physically more than a match for *Sheba* at three and a half tonnes but *Maya* will give way to her. When it comes to the other female elephants however, *Maya* is dominant, particularly when it comes to food – she'll make sure she gets it first. *Maya* will also waste no time disciplining elephant calves, who have great respect for her. *Maya* loves *Upali* though and does try to seduce him.



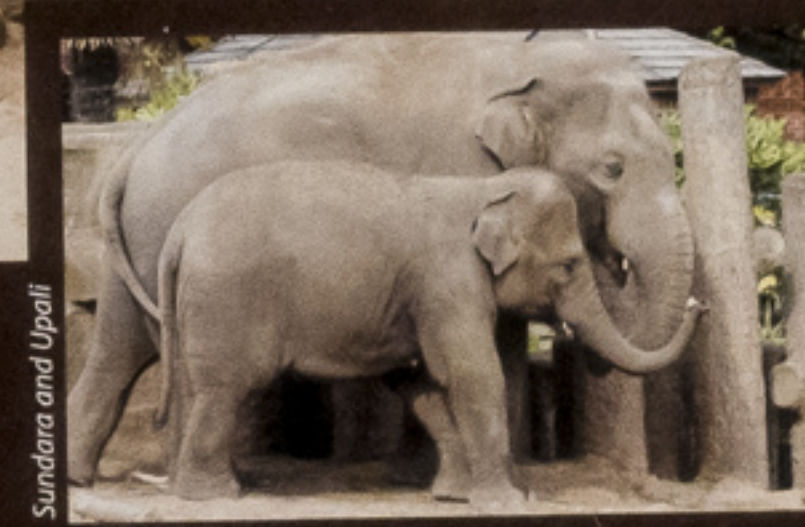
Sundara and Jangoli



Thi Hi Way

Thi

Thi Hi Way is a very important breeding female but she does like to keep a low profile. She doesn't always interact with the other adult elephants but she does enjoy the protected contact training that we do with her. When it comes to the other elephants, *Thi* is very much *Upali's* girl – *Thi* has always been a favourite of the bulls and she knows it. *Thi* is 28 and has had a number of calves. The founder of the *Hi Way* family, *Thi's* daughter is *Sithami* and her granddaughter is *Sundara*. *Thi* does have a close bond with *Maya* but sometimes is not very fond of *Sundara*.



Sundara and Upali

Upali

Upali is a great man; he's handsome and he knows it. He loves *Thi* and is extremely fond of her, *Maya* is besotted with him but he's not that interested! *Upali* does like playing with the calves, especially *Sundara*, but he is very much the king of the elephant house. He does, though, have respect for *Sheba*. He was raised by her so, although he's a big macho man, he has complete respect for her. As much as *Upali* likes to be with the girls, he does sometimes like to be left to his own devices. He's a bull elephant for sure – but he's a good bull elephant.

Sundara

Six year old *Sundara* is a lovely, smart little girl and has the potential to be the future matriarch of the family. She is the negotiator in the herd and is very diplomatic, *Sundara* likes everyone but is not so fond of her mother *Sithami* and grandmother *Thi*. *Jangoli* is her big playmate and she learns a lot from *Sheba*. *Sundara* will put herself between elephants as a buffer if they are getting a bit tetchy. She flirts terribly with *Upali* – she's good at it and she knows it and she'll quite often take him to one side away from the other elephants. *Sundara* is obviously the smallest of our females so easy to pick out.

Jangoli

Jangoli is a sweetheart and there is no bad in her at all – she loves attention. She is the tallest of our elephants but not necessarily the brightest. Some days she is in her own little world and other days she turns into an oversized, playful calf, particularly if she is playing with *Sundara*. *Jangoli* is a great mother; she would protect her calves with her life. *Jangoli* is 43 and has been with us for 16 years – she is easily identifiable by her long legs and the fact the tip of her tail is missing! *Jangoli* has also been seen to help other elephants in the herd when needed.

Nayan



Sithami and Nayan

Sithami

Sithami is mum to new calf *Nayan* and, as elephants go, she keeps a very low profile. She is a good elephant but likes to take it easy and will quite often drop *Nayan* off with his grandmother so she can go and do her own thing. She likes all of the elephants but has a real soft spot for *Maya*. *Sithami* is 13 and is also mum to *Sundara*. *Sheba* keeps *Sithami* in line and has helped reinforce the relationship between *Sithami* and *Sundara*.

Nayan

Nayan may be the baby but he is already very confident and you can see that he is very much part of the family. He is even confident with dad *Upali* around and is starting to eat, picking things up with his trunk. If he carries on like this, then he will have a good future ahead of him.



Behavioural Development of Elephant Calves in relation to Captive Welfare

Lizzie Webber, recipient of Chester Zoo's Richard Hughes Scholarship Award 2010

After completing a one-year internship with the Elephant Team at Chester Zoo in 2007, during which time I studied the behavioural development of a newborn Asian elephant calf, I am now embarking on an exciting PhD project, involving data collected at Chester Zoo. With the recent addition to Chester Zoo's Asian elephant herd, I will be observing dame *Sithami* and bull elephant *Upali's* new calf, *Nayan*, as part of the project.

Based at the University of Stirling under the supervision of Professor Phyllis Lee and Chester Zoo's Dr. Sonya Hill, I will use behavioural observations of *Nayan* to further my research investigating the *Behavioural Development of Elephant Calves in Relation to Captive Welfare*.

My study aims to quantify calf physical and social development and mother-calf interactions in captive and wild elephants. Behavioural data will be collected by Lizzie Webber from Asian and African captive calves at a number of zoos, and from wild Asian calves in Sri Lanka's Uda Walawe National Park. Additional data will be used from existing records on wild African calves from Amboseli National Park, Kenya. Morphometric growth data, including weight, shoulder height and foot circumference, will also be collected both from study calves and records from other institutes and studies as physical development may have an impact on behavioural development.

By comparing captive calf behaviour to a baseline derived from wild calves, I hope to establish welfare indicators for captive breeding facilities. Understanding the complex processes involved in the successful rearing of elephant calves is of major importance for the in situ and ex situ conservation of African and Asian elephants. A greater understanding of the fundamentals for calf survival and physical and social development may also increase our understanding of the needs of elephant calves in captivity and thus help improve successful breeding in the future.

I am very grateful that Chester Zoo is supporting my project by awarding me the Richard Hughes Scholarship, an award set up in memory of a senior keeper on Chester Zoo's Elephant Team. I hope my project will make an impact on the conservation and welfare of the animals Richard was so passionate about.

Staff go Wild!



China

Marissa Edwards from the Discovery & Learning Division visited Chengdu Research Base for Giant Panda Breeding this year. The purpose of the visit was to strengthen links between education at the research base and back here at Chester Zoo. Marissa assisted the team in Chengdu to design and implement an evaluation scheme to assess the impact of conservation education in the schools' curriculum. While she was there, Marissa visited both Mamize and Heizugou Nature Reserves where Chester Zoo works as part of the Sichuan Forest Biodiversity Project.

In addition, Director General **Mark Pilgrim** and Head of Field Conservation and Research **Roger Wilkinson** both visited the Sichuan Forest Biodiversity Project earlier this year to meet with our partners in China to discuss the progress of the project. While out in China, Roger Wilkinson also met with our partners working on Blue-crowned Laughingthrush conservation, a Critically Endangered species endemic to China.



Winter 2010

Animal Fun!

Kids Zoo!

See inside...
**KIDS PROGRAMME
OF EVENTS**

**Prize to
be won
HELP NAYAN
FIND HIS
WAY BACK**

**AND...
HOW MANY
POINTS IS
UPALI'S LUNCH
WORTH?**



Junior Members

JUNIOR MEMBERS' PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2011

DISCOVERY SESSION

Saturday 22 January 2011

This is a regular day in the Junior's calendar when you have the opportunity to discover more about your own zoo – with guided walks and the opportunity to catch-up with any new developments – maybe even the chance to have a go at designing an enclosure yourselves.

Over eights are asked to meet outside the Oakfield at 1.45pm and be collected from there again at 4.00pm.

LIVERPOOL 'BUGWORLD'

Saturday 19 February 2011

We'll be heading to Bugworld in Liverpool, a new destination for our Juniors this year. Split into the seven zones of the world, they'll have the chance to see the world through a bug's eyes and see how insects have an impact on our environment, as well as getting 'up close and personal' with some of the creatures.

Over eights are asked to meet at the staff car park for 11.30am and returning for 4.00pm.

TRACKS & SIGNS

Saturday 26 March 2011

This is undoubtedly one of our most popular events in the Juniors' calendar. This is your chance to experience the animals' view of zoo visitors, as you will be going inside some of the enclosures in search of footprints from which to make plaster casts. March is the best time of year for this as it is normally wet and muddy (!) but please bear this in mind when you dress in the morning. Hopefully you will have a souvenir of your day to take home with you.

Eights and over can come along and enjoy the mess, when we meet outside Oakfield House at 11.00am, returning there at 4.00pm. You will need a picnic lunch, and it is important that you wear clean, very old clothes and squeaky clean wellies please.

BLACKBROOK

Saturday 16 April 2011

Blackbrook Zoological Park near Leek in Staffordshire has a wide array of species but specialises in birds. This is a new venue for the Junior Members and will be a good opportunity to visit another zoo and this will be an interesting day.

The bus will leave the staff car park at 9.30am – returning to Chester Zoo for 5.00pm. Eights and over (with picnics) are welcome to join us.

HAWKSTONE FOLLIES

Saturday 21 May 2011

Apart from being a lovely walk through woods and around cliffs, the follies themselves nestling in the hillside are well worth seeing. You might like to bring a torch for this one as you may need to go through a tunnel in the cliff and it is very dark!

We will leave the staff car park at 9.30am and return at 5.00pm. Over eights are invited to attend and you should bring a picnic with you.

THE GREENWOOD CENTRE

Saturday 25 June 2011

Back by popular demand! This proves to be one of the Juniors' favourite summer trips and so we've added it to the list to visit again! This park, situated in the foothills of Snowdonia, is an amazing mix of environmental park offering fun and games as well as good education – including den-building, and various self-propelled 'rides'. Definitely not to be missed.

Eights and over should be ready to leave the staff car park at 9.30am and we will return for 5.00pm. Bring a picnic.

HOW TO BE A GOOD ZOOKEEPER!

Wednesday 20 July 2011

This is a unique opportunity offered to Junior Members to spend a day working alongside a zoo keeper. The work can be tough and demanding so we strictly limit this event to those Juniors of aged 12 or over. We try to match Juniors to their favourite section, but places are limited so this cannot be guaranteed. Please arrive prepared to work hard, with clean wellies and an additional completely clean set of clothes to work in.

Owing to the zoo's biosecurity measures, it is important that the clothes you wear to work on the sections have not been in contact with any farm animals, or even your pets at home, since they were last washed.

We will meet outside the Oakfield at 10.30am, and the day will finish for Juniors at 4.00pm. Please bring a packed lunch. Also please note that bookings for this event are by telephone only and will not be taken before 9.00am on Wednesday 6 July 2011, and will be strictly on a first-come, first-served basis.



kidz ZOO!

SUMMER BARBEQUE

Thursday 4 August 2011

Our summer barbeque has become a regular feature for the Juniors' diary as it has proved immensely popular. Perhaps this because it is our chance to be in the zoo when there are no other visitor noises to distract you and the animals, so it is a different zoo experience. We usually aim to have a speaker to chat to you or to engage in craft activities during the evening, but you can be sure to finding it relaxing.

We would like to invite eights and over to join us for a 7.00pm start, when you should arrive at the Ark Restaurant (near the Tigers) via the zoo's staff entrance on Caughall Road. Parents are asked to collect Juniors from the Ark Restaurant at 9.45pm please.

THE JUNIOR MEMBERS SUMMER SCHOOL

From 8 – 12 August 2011

Please note that the two week booking rule does NOT apply to this event and EARLY BOOKING IS ADVISED (anytime from January 2011 onwards). A full programme of events for this action-packed week will be issued in the March edition of this magazine, but this is open to Juniors aged 12 and above (although preference will be given to those aged 13 and above). Participants must be able to attend all five (full) days and the cost will be £180 for the week.

HILBRE ISLAND

Saturday/Sunday 17/18 September 2011
(Tide times dependent)

This will be a real treat for those who have not previously visited Hilbre Island in the Dee Estuary – and also for those who have! We will follow the tide out from West Kirby and plan to spend some time exploring the rock pools around Little Eye and Middle Eye on our way across to Hilbre, the biggest of the three islands. We hope to see a wide array of sea birds and other coastal life.

Over eights are invited to join us, bringing a picnic and suitable clothes for the seaside! Leaving at 9.30am – returning at 5.00pm. Exact details to be confirmed.

Please Note: Bookings must be made for all of the regular monthly Junior events. Please ring Penny Rudd at the Zoo on 01244 650215, not more than two weeks before the event you would like to attend. Places are offered on a first-come, first-served basis and may be limited. This list is provisional and in exceptional circumstances we may have to alter dates and venues. You will be informed of any such changes in Z magazine and not by individual letter, so please keep up-to-date by reading the Junior pages in each issue. A charge will be made to cover the cost of those events which involve transport, entry fees, materials or the provision of food, and you will be advised of this at the time of booking.

TATTON PARK & HOME FARM

Saturday 15 October 2011

We have not visited Tatton Park and the Home Farm for a couple of years, and we felt it was well worth returning to this year. We'll start the day with a visit to the Home Farm where we'll find out how the farm used to work many years ago when Tatton Hall was a family residence. Then out into the park to identify some of the different deer species that reside there.

Eights and over should be ready to leave the staff car park at 10.00am and we will return for 4.30pm, please bring a picnic with you.

THE WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST, MARTIN MERE

Saturday 19 November 2011

November is a brilliant time to visit Martin Mere as we should see the migratory geese and swans as they pass through this lovely haven. It can be quite chilly at that time of year so dress warmly to see this fantastic sight.

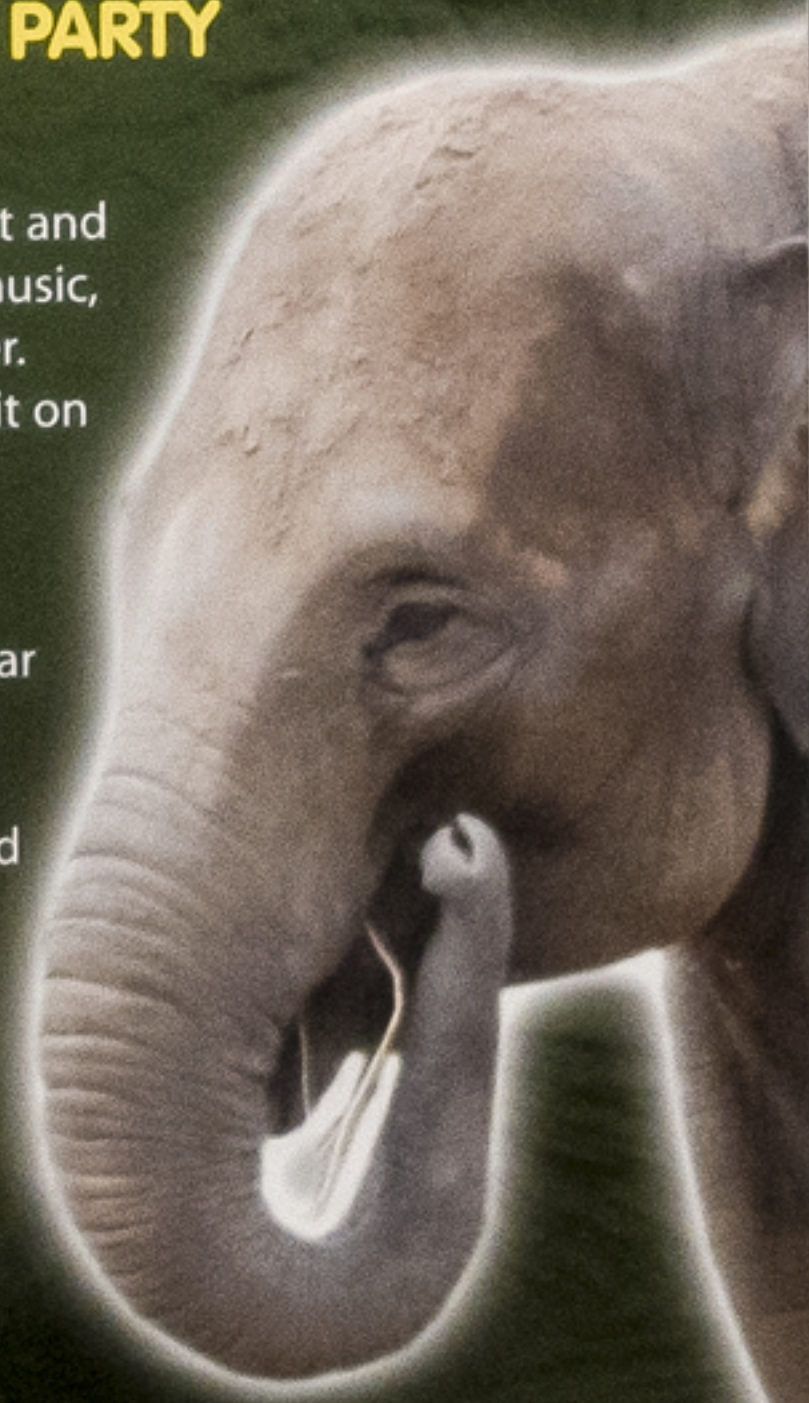
We'll be leaving the staff car park at 10.30am and will return at 4.00pm. Eights and over welcome.

THE JUNIORS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday 9 December 2011

Our annual 'bash' welcomes Juniors of eight and over to enjoy an evening of games, disco music, and a great hot-dog and beefburger supper. You will need to bring along a cushion to sit on – and a torch to find us!

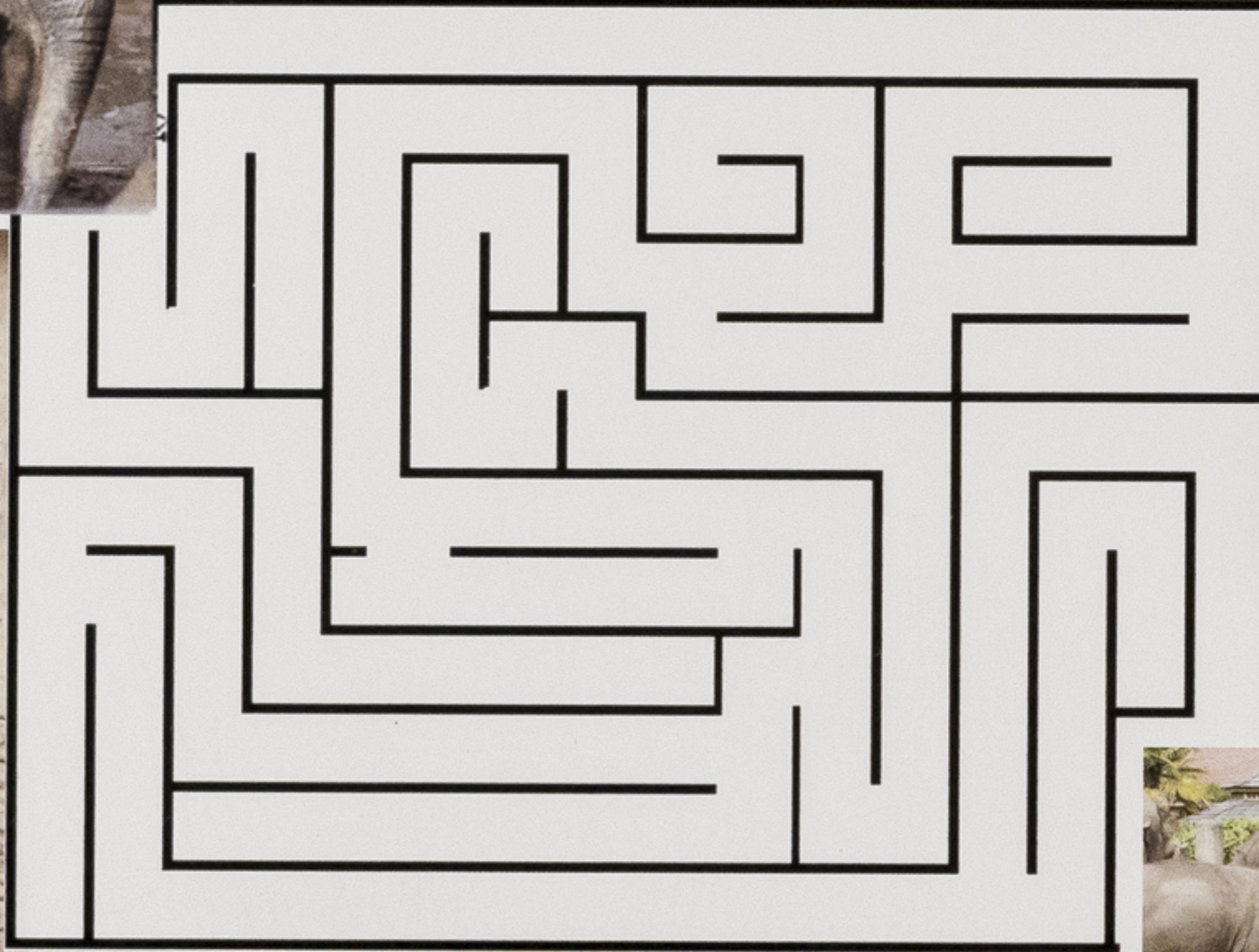
The venue will be the zoo's Ark Restaurant and access can be gained through the Cedar House staff entrance on Caughall Road, which is the second staff entrance on the left going from the Upton lights. You should arrive at 7.00pm, with a cushion and a torch, and parents should arrange to collect you from Arara Lodge at 9.45pm.



Junior Members



Can you help Nayan find his way back to the rest of the elephants?



We also have another £10 voucher up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning complete the puzzle and send your entry together with contact details to:
**Z magazine,
 Marketing Department,
 Chester Zoo,
 Upton-by-Chester,
 Chester, CH2 1LH
 by January 10 2011.**

Can you work out how many points each type of food (banana, hay, carrot and leaves) is worth?
 How many points is Upali's lunch worth?

$$\text{Banana} + \text{Banana} = \text{Hay block}$$

$$\text{Carrot} \times \text{Banana} = \text{Hay block}$$

$$\text{Carrot} - \text{Leaves} = \text{Leaves}$$

$$\text{Upali's Lunch} = \square$$

$$\text{Hay block} - \text{Carrot} = 8$$

$$\text{Carrot} + \text{Banana} = 7$$

Congratulations to our previous winners **Maisie & Thomas Day** of Windsor.
 The answers were:
 Frog **c** is the exact mirror image.
a has a shorter bottom, **b** has a lighter tummy without the crease and in **d** the right knee is missing.

Staff go Wild!



Steve with the SOCP vets, Dr Yenny and Dr Rachmad

Sumatra

Veterinary Officer Steve Unwin travelled to Sumatra to organise the Orangutan Conservancy Veterinary Workshop. Steve was lecturing and facilitating discussions on veterinary aspects of orangutan reintroduction programs. Read more about Steve's trip on page 21.



Borneo

Education Programmes Manager Maggie Esson visited our Realm of the Red Ape partners, Hutan, who are working on the Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Programme (KOCP) in Sabah. Maggie stayed with a local family in the village as part of the 'Home-stay' scheme, where the local community benefits from outside interest in the conservation of the area.

The purpose of Maggie's trip was help set up and run a programme to teach local children about their environment and wildlife. Maggie ran a staff workshop on future planning for the education programme and provided training in monitoring and evaluation of education activities. Maggie also managed to find time for some forest trekking to see wild orangutans and elephants while she was there.



Maggie Esson



Black Rhino Programme update

October's Rhino Mania auction gave people the last chance to see Chester's painted fibreglass rhinos, which have been found decorating the streets of the City throughout the summer. The Rhino Mania public art charity exhibition occurs at a time when rhino poaching is rapidly on the rise globally – mainly to fuel the demand for rhino horn for use in traditional medicine, where it is misleadingly believed to have various medicinal properties.

Funds raised at the Rhino Mania auction are being split between two charities: Chester Zoo's Black Rhino Conservation Programme and the Hospice of the Good Shepherd. Chester's Black Rhino Conservation Programme works in East Africa where Black Rhino numbers have been steadily rising over recent decades due to the work of Chester Zoo and other conservationists and charities. Poaching saw around 95% of Black Rhino killed for their horn in the 70's and 80's and it is likely that without strong conservation support poaching could see the end of Black Rhinos in the wild in East Africa. The generous proceeds raised from the auction will be making a very real difference to this species.

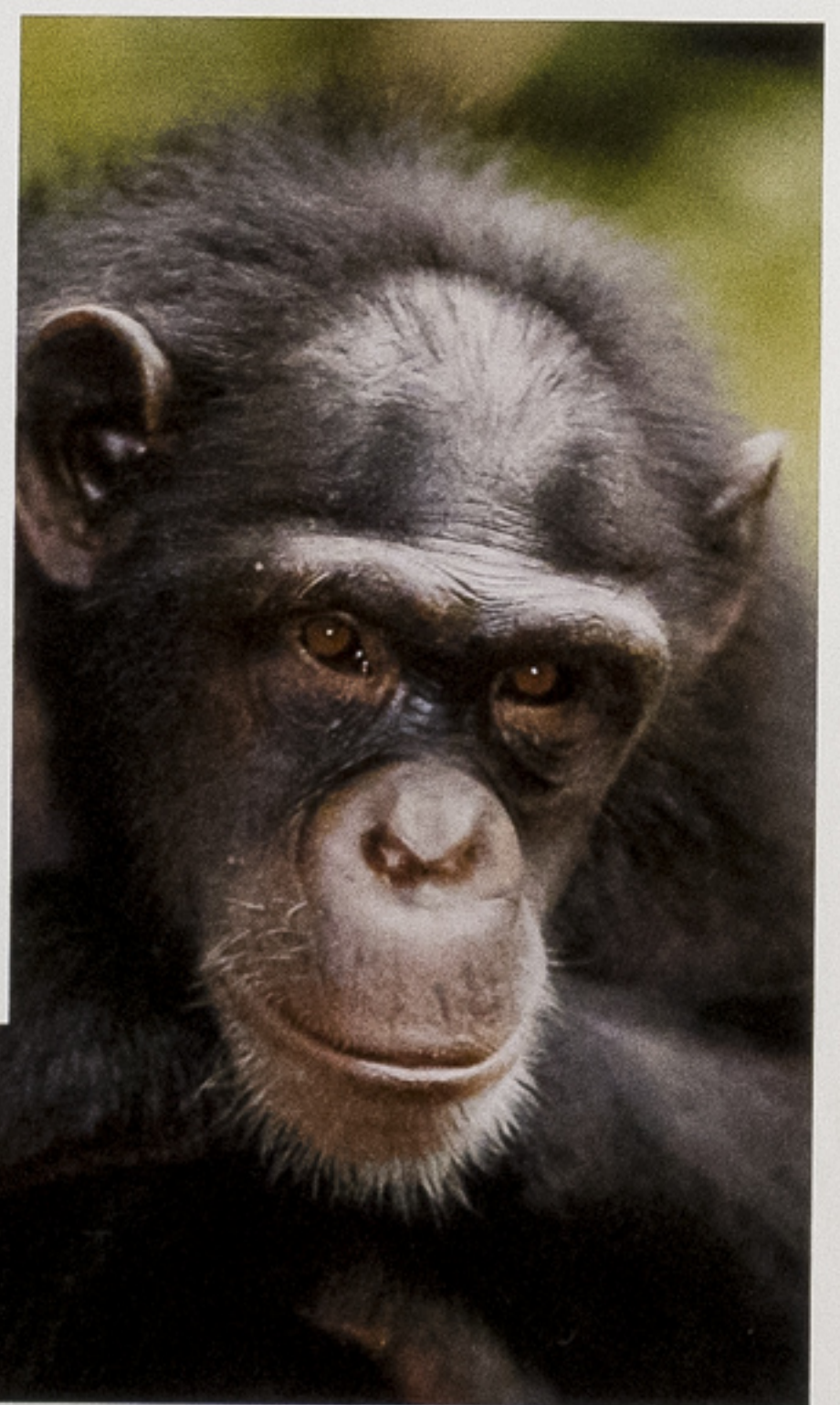
Visit the Conservation field news section of the Chester Zoo website to view a video on our Black Rhino Conservation Programme which was shown at the auction.



Philippine Cockatoo Project update

Rasa Island is a small coral Island off Palawan in the Philippines and is home to around 75% of the world's population of Philippine Cockatoo. Chester Zoo has been supporting the Katala Foundation's Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Programme in Palawan for many years, helping to save this Critically Endangered bird.

A food shortage and severe drought this season meant that only five of 15 hatchlings on the island survived. Earlier this year, these five hatchlings were rescued from starvation from Rasa Island. The wardens had a huge job on their hands; refining methods in hand-raising birds with reduced exposure to humans to avoid imprinting and then releasing them back into the wild. Following all their hard work, the process of re-releasing the fledglings went smoothly; the released birds integrated with the wild flock on Rasa and all but one survived, making the wardens' work a huge success, while improving their skills in hand-rearing and re-releasing.



Nigeria Programme

A recent research project we have supported is being carried out at the Gashaka Primate Project (GPP) research centre, working on the conservation genetics of the Nigerian Chimpanzees. We provide annual core support for GPP and this project links well with our Nigeria Programme.

In addition, we have continued to support the Nigerian Montane Forest Project at Ngel Nyake. This botanical project is focusing on the restoration and reforestation of the park, benefiting the biodiversity of the area which includes the Nigerian Chimpanzee.

FAST FACT: Populations of wild chimpanzees have declined by more than 66% in the last 30 years.

Grant Support

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

- Otter Research and Conservation Project in Nepal
- Hornbill Nest Adoption, Thailand
- Shielding from extinction the Pygmy Three-toed Sloth of Escudo de Veraguas Island, Panama
- EAZA Komodo Dragon EEP field programme: Wae Wuul Reserve Protection Programme, Indonesia
- Integrating conservation education, research and population management of Black Lion Tamarins, Brazil
- The socio-economics of human-tiger conflict: patterns, perceptions and impacts, Bangladesh
- European Zoos Supporting In-Situ Conservation of the Philippine Crocodile
- Reproductive success and mate choice in reintroduced orangutans: what we can learn from rehabilitant populations



Amphibian Programme

Have you ever heard of an amphibian called a caecilian? These strange animals are found in South America, Africa, Asia and Sumatra, and live mostly underground. Very little is known about them, and Chester Zoo have supported a project recently in Sumatra which will be gathering more information on the distribution of these species.

We also continue our support for the Darwin's Frog project in Chile, surveying the status, reproduction biology, population ecology, and diseases in the species. In addition, we joined forces with The University of Manchester on a new project to assess the current conservation status of the Black-eyed Tree Frog, in situ populations.

FAST FACT: Caecilians are legless amphibians!



Realm of the Red Ape Programme

Sumatran Orangutans are classified as Critically Endangered, with only around 7000 left in the wild. Chester Zoo has previously supported the work of the Sumatran Orangutan Society, and we have continued to do so through the Ketambe Reforestation and Ecotourism Development Initiative. This project will support the rehabilitation and conservation of the Gunung Leuser National Park through community development, environmental education, reforestation and ecotourism education.

FAST FACT: One of the biggest threats to orangutans is the deforestation of their habitat for palm oil plantations – did you know that this palm oil is used in everyday products found in local supermarkets?

Mascarenes Programme

Chester Zoo has partnered the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF) for many years and continues to have significant staff involvement in the several projects working to conserve the endemic flora and fauna of the Mascarenes. In addition to the technical support we provide to the projects, we have continued to financially support the six project components on; the Mauritius Fody, Mauritius Olive-White-eye, Rodrigues Fruit Bat (pictured), Mauritius Echo Parakeet, Grande Montagne Nature Reserve and Critically Endangered plant species.

News on Conservation from around the World

Bad

Unfortunately another charismatic species has been declared as 'Endangered' by the IUCN Red List. Following research by conservationists, the status of the Rothschild Giraffe was upgraded to Endangered recently – the Rothschild is now the second most threatened subspecies of giraffe.

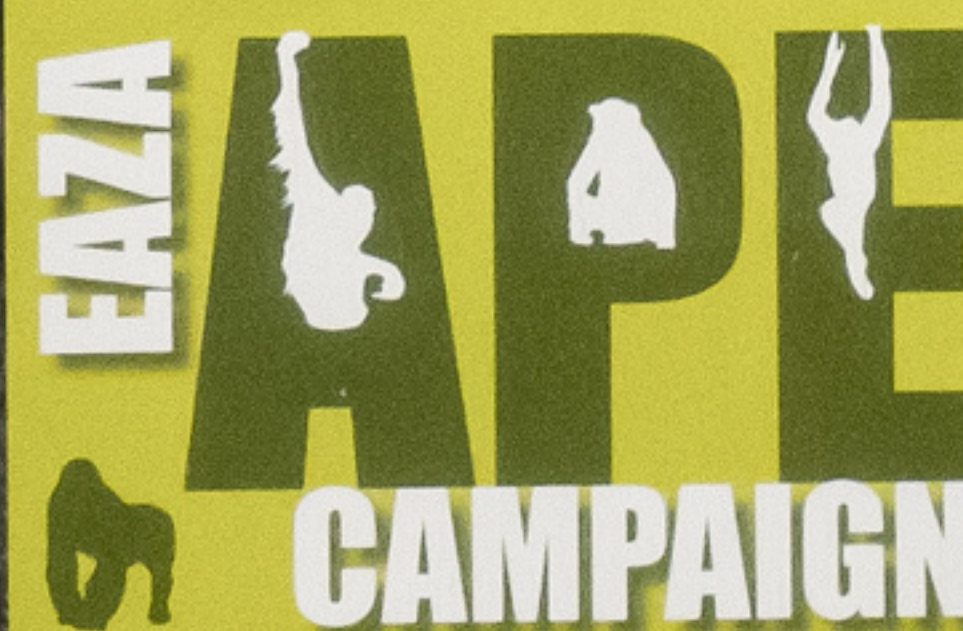
Good

You may think that our own European Otter is elusive enough, but compare this to an otter species found in Borneo. At the end of summer, a hairy-nosed otter was seen in Sabah, Borneo, for the first time in 100 years! The otter was caught on a camera trap photo by conservation scientists and is fantastic proof that the endangered species can still be found in Sabah.

Native Species Programme

Chester Zoo has joined forces with the Red Squirrel Survival Trust on the Llangefni Red Squirrel reintroduction project. This project is reintroducing native Red Squirrels on Anglesey. The Red Squirrels being released are from collections which are part of the UK red squirrel captive breeding group; it's hoped a self sustaining population will be established. Since 2007, our horticulture team have been propagating Black Poplar trees – a local Biodiversity Action Plan species – in the Zoo, and have been part of a group replanting over 1000 trees in Cheshire. Support has recently been provided for a DNA fingerprinting project which will identify genetically distinct individuals from the Cheshire region which would benefit from propagation.

FAST FACT: The Red Squirrel population in the UK has decreased due to the introduction of the Grey Squirrel from America which competes with our native red for resources.



EAZA campaign

The EAZA European Carnivore Campaign came to an end in September and Chester Zoo raised a total of €20,000 for the campaign over its two year course; we received a Platinum Certificate from EAZA. The 2011 EAZA Ape Campaign was launched in October - watch this space for more information on 2011 EAZA Ape Campaign activities at Chester Zoo!



Conference Disney Style!

Maggie Esson Education Programmes Manager

This year's International Zoo Educators' conference was hosted by Disney's Animal Kingdom in Orlando, Florida. It was very different from the usual zoo-based conference. We all had to meet Mickey Mouse for a start and the conference opened with Pocahontas singing on a stage that looked like a forest such was the extravagance of the planting scheme.

130 delegates from 28 countries attended and participated in a packed programme of presentations and workshops. Mamatha Sathyanarayana from India was a recipient of our Richard Hughes Scholarship and she gave a presentation on human/elephant conflict and the use of bee sounds to repel raiding elephants. Stephen McKeown attended a number of business meetings and handed over the Presidency of IZE as he has come to the end of his four-year term of office. He remains active on the IZE committee as Immediate Past-President. I presented our education work in Mauritius as this fitted well with the theme of the conference which was 'Connecting Children to Nature'. I also facilitated a lively session on the ethics of animal contact in zoo education activities.



Ray Morrison

ZOO'S GREEN CHAMPION

He is already Chester Zoo's green hero but Maintenance Manager Ray Morrison has won an award to prove just that.

Ray was up against some stiff competition when he vied for the Environmental Leadership title at the Northwest Business Environment Awards.

Ray's nomination is recognition of the work he does to help the zoo develop its environmental projects.

Chester Zoo's Head of Estates Steve O'Brien said:

Ray was a founder member of Chester Zoo's original 'green initiatives' team, a staff and management group dedicated to developing sound environmental practices onsite and worldwide. Ray's enthusiasm and championing of environmental management has gone beyond compliance into active improvement programmes and advocacy both within and outside of the zoo. If you asked him, Ray would say that he was "only doing his job" and that others should rightly take their share of the credit. However, without his enthusiasm and buy-in, the ideas we have would not turn into reality.

Amongst Ray's successes include environmental projects at the elephant, penguin and jaguar exhibits which have been particularly successful in reducing CO₂ emissions and saving electricity.

Ray, who has been at the zoo for 21 years, said improving environmental performance was a continual process but the rewards were worth the effort.

He added: "I am delighted to have won this award. It's a credit to the entire team at Chester Zoo – ethical business practice is increasingly important and the responsible management of environmental demands is essential to this. A huge effort has been put in by colleagues throughout the zoo for a number of years to improve environmental performance, working in areas such as energy, water, waste, transport and on local biodiversity initiatives."

Hope for RARE mussels rescued from River Dee

Hope has returned to a project to save rare elderly Freshwater Pearl Mussels from the River Dee.

Mussels collected over five years ago have at last bred in Environment Agency Wales' fish hatcheries in North Wales.

Around 60 mussels, some estimated to be 80 years old, were rescued from the river Dee by a team from Chester Zoo, Environment Agency Wales, Denbighshire County Council, Countryside Council for Wales and North East Wales Wildlife.

With only 21 of the original 60 alive today, hopes among the experts were fading until tiny mussel larvae were spotted in Environment Agency Wales' fish hatcheries this summer.

Huw Jones, from Environment Agency Wales said:

"We think the wild mussels were under a lot of stress in the Dee due to changes in the river and water quality. It seems that the few years they have had in the hatcheries may have enabled them to recover enough to breed and it is a credit to the dedicated work of the teams at our hatcheries that we now have baby mussels. This means that in conjunction with river improvement actions delivered under the Water Framework Directive, we should eventually be able to return mussels to the places their parents came from to boost the populations of this rare and fascinating creature."

It is estimated that the Dee once held a population of hundreds of thousands of pearl mussels.

Jones continues:

"Only the very last remnant of the original population is left now and the remaining mussels seem to be dying of old age without successfully producing

any offspring. In the long term the project plans to release young mussels back into safe areas of the river Dee, giving hope to this vulnerable species."

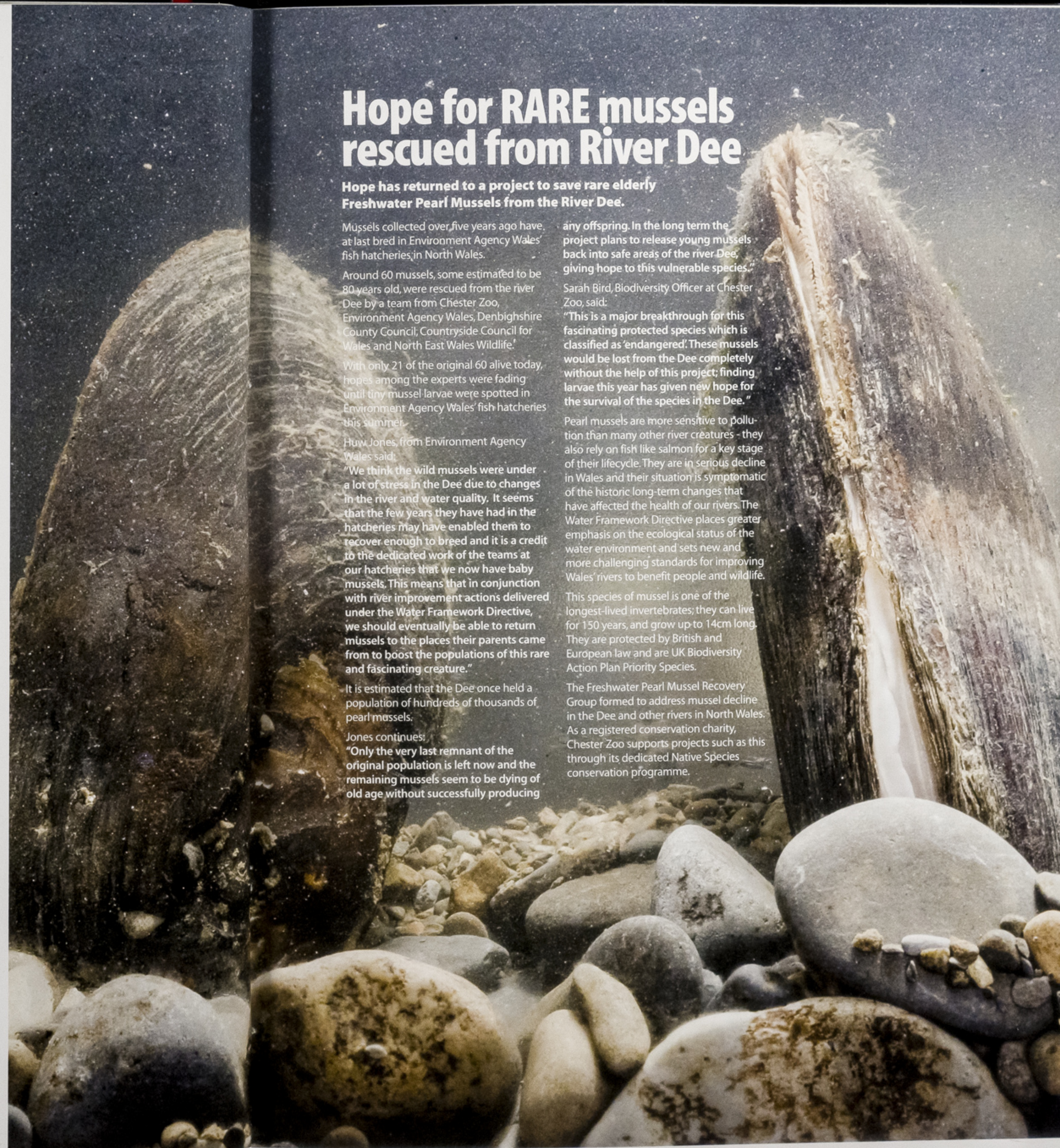
Sarah Bird, Biodiversity Officer at Chester Zoo, said:

"This is a major breakthrough for this fascinating protected species which is classified as 'endangered'. These mussels would be lost from the Dee completely without the help of this project; finding larvae this year has given new hope for the survival of the species in the Dee."

Pearl mussels are more sensitive to pollution than many other river creatures – they also rely on fish like salmon for a key stage of their lifecycle. They are in serious decline in Wales and their situation is symptomatic of the historic long-term changes that have affected the health of our rivers. The Water Framework Directive places greater emphasis on the ecological status of the water environment and sets new and more challenging standards for improving Wales' rivers to benefit people and wildlife.

This species of mussel is one of the longest-lived invertebrates; they can live for 150 years, and grow up to 14cm long. They are protected by British and European law and are UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species.

The Freshwater Pearl Mussel Recovery Group formed to address mussel decline in the Dee and other rivers in North Wales. As a registered conservation charity, Chester Zoo supports projects such as this through its dedicated Native Species conservation programme.



Maniacs walk above the clouds for rhinos

Dave Brunger, Quarantine & Veterinary Records Officer



Dave Brunger above the clouds

Maniacs enjoy a rest at 4000 metres

I am a member of the Rhino Maniacs, a team of nine self-funded Chester Zoo staff who climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, to raise awareness and funds of Black Rhino conservation.

Was I a maniac to do it? In one word no. To climb almost 6000m to the summit of the world's highest free standing mountain was a challenge that required team support, mental and physical endurance and sheer determination. The elation of reaching the summit did not hit home immediately, for at the time the effects of lack of oxygen and sheer exhaustion numbed my senses, too much so to be overjoyed.

Throughout the journey support from guides and porters helped brought a degree of comfort to the Maniac team, from the inch of water in a bowl for washing, to the setting up of the tents and feeding us huge platefuls of food on our arrival at camp each day.

To walk through four ecosystems in as many days was mind blowing, from forests with lichen draped trees and colobus monkeys leaping through their boughs, to moorland with plants called giant senecios dominating the landscape, to alpine vistas and finally crossing what appeared to be a lunar desert to get to Kibo Hut, the final post before climbing to the summit, will be ingrained in my mind forever.

Some parts of the journey were almost spiritual; to be standing above the clouds felt like you were sitting with God looking at the world below. Although it may sound cheesy, this was a life changing journey that has made me look differently at everyday life and my capabilities. Would I encourage others to do it? Simple answer, yes; it is a gamble as to whether the dreaded altitude sickness may hit you, but whether you make the summit or not it will be a journey that you will never forget.

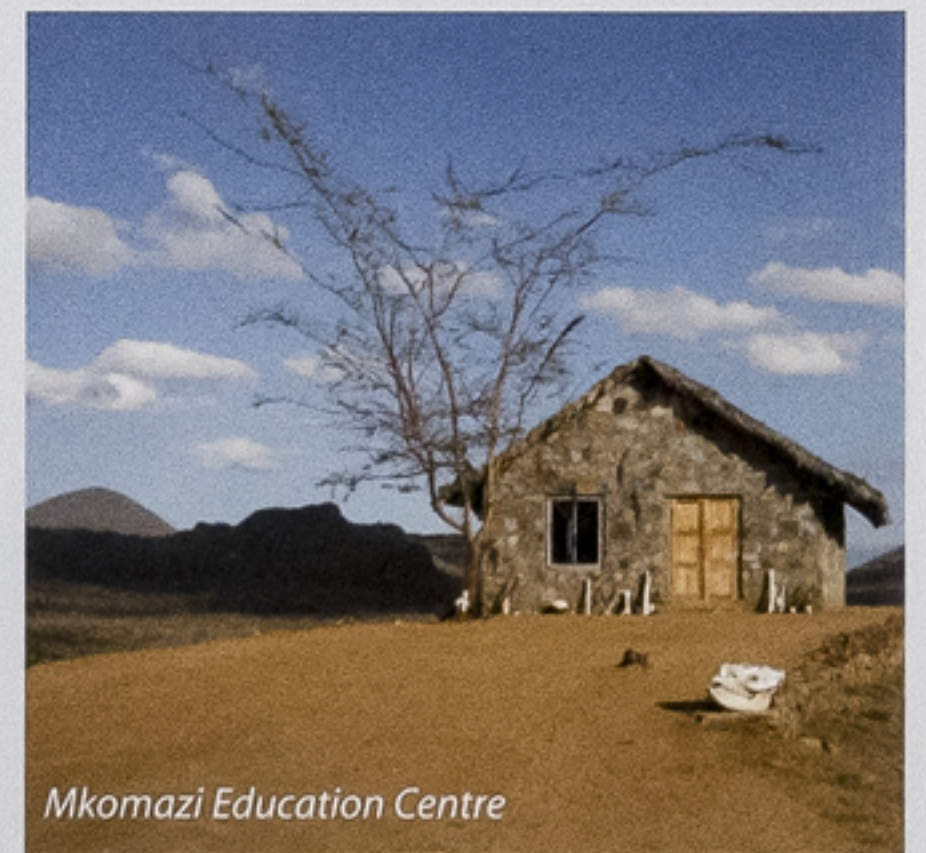
The group, Rhino Maniacs, has pledged to raise £10,000 for Black Rhino conservation. The Rhino Maniacs team includes Andrea Fidgett, Julie Thompson, Meg Pugh, Kim Halliday, Michelle Duma, Mark Fallon, Nick Davis, Sarah Bazley and Dave Brunger.

It is not too late to show your support and make a donation to the Rhino Maniacs... visit www.rhinomaniacs.org.uk and click on the Virgin Money Giving page link.

All proceeds will go towards Black Rhino conservation, both at Chester Zoo and abroad.



Sarah Bazley



Mkomazi Education Centre

Sarah Bazley, Presenter Team Leader, was one of the nine Rhino Maniacs who climbed Kilimanjaro. During the same visit, the group visited Mkomazi National Park in Tanzania, a project Chester Zoo supports through its Black Rhino Conservation Programme. One aspect of support is providing an education bus which takes school children and local communities into the park.

The Education bus was a very welcome sight – I have seen many pictures of it and heard of all the trials and tribulations involved in getting it up and running. It looked absolutely fantastic – especially with the paintings on the side. It drove us through the very beautiful Mkomazi National Park to the rhino sanctuary. This was the first time that I had ever seen African savannah – my first 'big' wild animal spot was an ostrich – the whole experience certainly had the wow factor. I can barely imagine the impact this experience must have on the school children who visit.

The bus dropped us at our camp and it was there that we met the wonderful Lucy Fitzjohn. She gave us a tour of the rhino sanctuary where we met the rhinos who had been moved from the Czech Republic to Tanzania the previous year. We were blown away. We were just as moved by the effort required in maintaining the sanctuary – to see the miles and miles of fences and discover that all of this had been done by hand by the staff was unbelievable. Another highlight was a trip to the purpose built Education Centre, located on top of a small hill within the park – we got to sit in the classroom and they ran through the lesson that they do for the school groups. That evening ended with a walk round the Painted Dog breeding compounds including the chance to watch them being fed – an amazing end to a truly amazing trip.



Pictured above (from left to right):

Steve with the SOCP vets, Dr Yenny

Group discussion – disease risk analysis of orang-utan reintroduction programmes

Orangutan and people – biohazard. Case study. Discussions will park wardens at Bukit Lawang (Gunung Leuser National Park). Health issues associated with ecotourism. This photo highlights the problem of human wildlife interaction in Sumatra, in direct conflict with IUCN ecotourism guidelines

Below: OVAG group – representatives from across Indonesia and Malaysia. Veterinarians based in rehabilitation centres, release programmes, universities and wildlife parks



Chester Zoo staff organise and run the 2nd Annual OC/OVAG (Orangutan Conservancy/Orangutan Veterinary Advisory Group) workshop in Medan, Sumatra

Following the success of the annual Pan African Sanctuary Alliance veterinary workshops co-organised by Chester Zoo Conservation Medicine staff, we were asked by the Orangutan Conservancy (www.orangutan.com) to design, facilitate and teach at similar workshops in Indonesia for orang-utan reintroduction and conservation programmes. Veterinary Officer Steve Unwin took lead on this, assisted by Dr Rafaella Commitante of OC.

Habitat protection, wildlife law enforcement and conservation efforts in general within Indonesia are very fragmented. Project managers do not share information with each other and Government involvement is minimal. Although animal health based, these workshops are the first attempt to bring participants in orang-utan reintroduction projects together with the specific aim of building inter-project communication. 2010 saw the second workshop held at the Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme (SOCP), Medan, Sumatra. The SOCP is a past recipient of Chester Zoo's conservation grant programme (2008 and 2010). The KOCP in Sabah (the main recipient of the RORA programme) is also supportive, and will be sending delegates to the 2011 meeting.

Delegates included national veterinary staff at orangutan rehabilitation centres, veterinary associations and universities in Indonesia and Malaysia. Over 30 delegates from Borneo and Sumatra took part in the workshop, which focused on not only developing vet skills – vital to the survival of the orangutans they treat – but also on building relationships, which will help them become key decision-makers in the future.



The aims of these workshops are:

- Promote partnerships and team work by providing an effective discussion and learning forum for Indonesian and Malaysian vets working with orangutans.**
- Allow ongoing and expanding networking possibilities beyond the group.**
- Provide audited recommendations to projects and Governments on conservation medicine issues relating to orang-utan rehabilitation and conservation.**

The 2010 Workshop focused on methodology for disease risk analysis of orangutan reintroduction programmes, with a special emphasis on tuberculosis (TB) testing. Chester Zoo, in partnership with the OC, PASA, Murdoch University and Chembio Diagnostics Inc., has embarked upon a major TB screening programme, whereby all 1000 of the captive orangutans in rehabilitation centres will be tested for the disease. Workshop delegates were trained in advanced TB testing techniques, data collections, and reporting. The format included presentations, seminars and practical sessions on topics such as disease risk analysis, veterinary aspects of eco-tourism, advances in field diagnostics, fundamentals of environmental enrichment, disease case studies, and veterinary parasitology, among others.

In addition to Chester Zoo, the Workshop was sponsored by the Birmingham (Alabama) chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK), in association with an Asian Seed Grant from the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo / Cleveland Zoological Society, the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Murdoch University, Chembio Diagnostics Inc., Abaxis Germany, the Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme (SOCP), and OC.

Se have been asked to facilitate the 2011 workshop, to be held at Gadjra Mada University Vet School in Jogjakarta, where the focus will remain on veterinary aspects of reintroduction, highlighting malnutrition and nutrition, emergency medicine and anaesthesia and telemetry.

In addition to the workshop, Steve also had the opportunity to assist SOCP in illegal wildlife trade situations in Medan (bird and reptile species), and visit some of the project work the SOCP is involved in beyond orangutans including organic farming, their cecelian project, and conservation education plans for a local botanical gardens.

Talking Conservation!

Our Members' Talks Programme brings you up close and personal with what goes on behind the scenes at the Zoo, our plans for the future and, of course, our conservation work in the UK and overseas.

In 2010, we told you about the Zoo's work in the Philippines and Tanzania; we introduced you to our Vet and Education Teams; we brought you up to date with our environmental management and had fun evenings with a Christmas Quiz, Zoo history and our Rhinomaniacs!

Our talks in 2011 promise to be just as diverse, exciting and informative. Why not join us and find out more about the work your membership supports? Our Spring Programme is detailed below and booking information can be found at the foot of the page.

Saturday 29th January at 2.30pm Bird Conservation in Mauritius and Beyond Andrew Owen

Andrew updates you on some of the hands on field conservation work he has been involved with to help save some critically endangered bird species: rescuing the Montserrat Oriole in an attempt to save them from the threat of volcanic activity; Gurney's Pitta – helping RSPB survey in Thailand for what was thought to be the rarest bird on earth at the time; and Mauritius Fody – carrying the first ever captive breeding of this species and the attempts to translocate it to a predator free island.

Andrew also brings you up to date on the zoo's own bird species including the Sumatran Laughingthrush and the Montserrat Oriole.

Andrew Owen has been Curator of Birds at Chester Zoo for almost two years. He has worked in bird conservation for over 25 years at various organizations including the World Pheasant Association, the National Avian Research Centre in Abu Dhabi and for 8 years worked at the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust in Jersey.

Tuesday 22nd February at 7:30pm Orangutan Evening Stephen McKeown, Cat Sharples, Steve Unwin, Scott Wilson

As part of our support for the 2011 EAZA Ape Campaign we are screening French film director Patrick's most recent environmental documentary – 'Green'. Chester Zoo staff will also talk about our involvement in orangutan conservation in Borneo and Sumatra. Winner of more than 20 awards worldwide, this film exposes the grim reality of a world where demand for timber and palm oil is destroying ecosystems and the species living in them.

'Her name is Green, she is alone in a world that doesn't belong to her. She is a female orangutan, victim of deforestation and resource exploitation. This film is an emotional journey with Green's final days. It is a visual ride presenting the treasures of rainforest biodiversity and the devastating impacts of logging and land clearing for palm oil plantations.'

The film is introduced by Stephen McKeown with Steve Unwin talking about his role on the Orangutan Veterinary Advisory Group. Scott Wilson and Cat Sharples from the Zoo's Conservation team will be talking in more detail about the threats to orangutans in Indonesia and Malaysia, and Chester Zoo's Realm of the Red Ape Conservation Programme, supporting orangutans in the wild.

Stephen McKeown is Chester Zoo's Head of Discovery and Learning. Steve Unwin has worked as Veterinary Officer since 2003 and has been a veterinary advisor to Orangutan Veterinary Advisor Group for 3 years. Scott Wilson, Conservation Officer has been a member of the conservation team for 9 years and Cat Sharples, Assistant Conservation Officer, joined the team in 2008. The Realm of the Red Ape Programme is one of 10 Conservation Programmes at Chester Zoo.



Wednesday 30th March at 7:30pm The Chinese Connection – Saving Species and Habitat Simon Dowell, Marisa Edwards, Roger Wilkinson

China contains some of the world's most exciting animals but they are also under some of the most severe threats as the country rapidly develops. A recent search for the Yangtze River Dolphin failed to find a single individual and this enigmatic species, once widespread in the Yangtze river and its tributaries, is now believed to be extinct. This has provided a stark warning that time is running out for China's charismatic wildlife, including that most iconic of endangered species, the Giant Panda.

In the face of this it would be easy to despair, but Chester Zoo has been at the forefront of efforts to save a number of exciting Chinese birds from the brink of extinction, such as the beautiful Sichuan Hill-partridge and the spectacular Blue-crowned Laughingthrush. In doing so, we have also been instrumental in protecting broadleaf forests for important populations of many other species including China's Red Pandas. The talk will explain how this has been achieved by helping nature reserve managers and staff and actively working with people who live alongside the wildlife.

From local agreements to protect laughingthrushes in Eastern China to harnessing the inherent wonder in their environment shown by schoolchildren in the Giant Panda's mountain home in Sichuan, we will show how work with local conservation reserves and their communities can help to secure a brighter future for the great diversity of Chinese wildlife.

Dr. Simon Dowell is a Conservation Fellow and Trustee of the zoo and has been involved in conservation work in China since 1995. His early research on the Sichuan Hill-partridge and other endemic birds in collaboration with the Sichuan Forest Department, led to the establishment of Chester Zoo's Sichuan Forest Biodiversity Project which now supports the protection of over 900 km² of forest habitat. He has been a lecturer in Conservation Ecology at Liverpool John Moores University since 1992 where he also promotes their Science Faculty to encourage closer collaboration on higher education projects in Asia.

Marisa Edwards has been a Presenter at Chester Zoo since 2005. Before this she completed a Zoology Degree, gained a PGCE and taught primary school children for seven years. Marisa visited China for the first time in September 2010.

This visit provided an amazing opportunity to visit schools around the reserve and see the work completed by the education team at the Research Base for Giant Panda Breeding.

Dr Roger Wilkinson is Head of Field Conservation and Research at Chester Zoo. His interests are in Conservation Biology, Animal Behaviour, Ecology and Ornithology. Roger joined Chester Zoo in 1983 as Curator of Birds and later became Curator of Higher Vertebrates and Research. He has visited China on many occasions and as well as working with Simon in Sichuan he actively manages and promotes the Blue-crowned Laughingthrush conservation project in partnership with Chinese scientists and international conservation organisations.

Coming up... a date for your diary

In April, we will be delighted to welcome **Tony Fitzjohn**. Tony is Field Director for the George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust and spent 18 years rehabilitating lions and leopards with George Adamson in Kora National Reserve, Kenya. In 1989, he was invited by the Government of Tanzania to rehabilitate the Mkomazi Game Reserve and in 2008 this was upgraded to National Park status. As well as being heavily involved with community outreach and education programmes, he established the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary, Tanzania's first, and has established and managed the African Hunting Dog programme. In 2006, he was awarded the OBE for Services to Wildlife in East Africa.

Tony Fitzjohn will give a members' talk on Tuesday 5th April. This will be a ticketed event and booking will be essential. Further information in the next edition of Z.

Members' Talks are held in the Geraldine Russell Lecture Theatre (near the zoo's main entrance off the A41) and are free to members (please bring your membership card and welcome letter). Members of the public and guests are welcome (£3.50 for non-members).

Our Lecture Theatre seats up to 170. Post-talk refreshments give you the opportunity to have an informal chat with speakers and fellow members. At selected talks, items from our projects overseas may be available. Please support our Members' Talks which are provided to keep you abreast of the zoo and its conservation work which your membership supports.

Interested in attending?
Please call Kate in Education
on 01244 389 444 or e-mail
k.branks@chesterzoo.org to book.

fundRAISING



CHESTER ZOO

100 Club

The winners of the prize draws held recently were:

July 2010

Andrew Stevens, East Yorkshire	£100
Evelyn Jones, Cheshire	£100
Andrea Evans, Chester	£50
James Seddon, Flintshire	£50
Alan Matear, Cumbria	£50
Valerie Daniels, Lancashire	£50

August 2010

Andrea Evans, Chester	£100
Jason Spencer, Cheshire	£100
John Birch, Cheshire	£100
Michael Johnson, Bolton	£50
Alan Matear, Cumbria	£50
Ann Walmsley, Merseyside	£50

September 2010

Ste Rogers, Merseyside	£100
Sarah Curtis, Chester	£100
Janet Thompson, Connahs Quay	£50
Nicholas Morgan, Cheshire	£50
S. Hamlet, Wirral	£50
Richard Watson, Powys	£50

Membership of the 100 Club is still invited. All prize winners will be notified by post and will be listed in the next edition of Z. Please inform us as soon as possible if you change address. If you wish to participate, please contact the Development Office on 01244 650 292.

RUN FOR THE WILD

On Sunday 26th September, Chester Zoo held its first Run for the Wild event.

There were around 130 participants taking part on the day (mixture of adults and children). The whole event was a great success raising over £2,800 towards our Eastern Black Rhino conservation work.

The first, second and third places were:

- 1st Place **Aiden Chavasse**
- 2nd Place **Mark Finch**
- 3rd Place **Owen Chamberlain**

We would like to thank all participants and a special thank you to all staff and volunteers who helped make the event such a success.



Going, going, gone rhinos sell at auction

The city's Rhino Mania has come to an end with Chester Zoo's rhinos *Ecko* and *Splodge* being sold at auction alongside 51 other rhinos – all of which were displayed across the city this summer.

Ecko, designed by American entrepreneur Marc Ecko and painted by Mike Snowdon, went for £2100, closely followed by *Splodge* who was painted by artist Janet Fishwick, at £2000.

The star of the night was the baby rhino *Rehema* who was painted by the children of Mugie Primary School, Laikipia, Kenya. With a guide price of £500, *Rehema* was sold for an impressive £1800.

Overall the auction raised approximately £100,000 with some of the proceeds coming directly to the zoo's Black Rhino Conservation Programme. This money will help support the charity's projects in Tanzania and Kenya.

RECYCLING REMINDER

Want to give Chester Zoo a Christmas gift to remember?

It is estimated that close to 90 million phones are hiding in drawers and cupboards across the UK - this weigh almost six times as much as the London Eye (11250 tonnes)!. This total is bound to double as the Christmas season is upon us with millions of new phones being bought.

In order to raise vital funds for the work that Chester Zoo does simply hand in any old mobile phones (including PDA's and Blackberry's) and printer cartridges to the Development Department at Chester Zoo.

For more information on any of the recycling schemes please contact us on **01244 650229** or email **development@chesterzoo.org**



CELEBRATING BIODIVERSITY!

It all started with humble beginnings when Chester Zoo partnered with a number of organisations and created a project with one aim to “create Wildlife Recorders of the Future” – open to all ages, abilities and completely free thanks to generous funding from Heritage Lottery Fund and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

- Pictured above:*
 Top left to right:
 1 – Mark Ambrose, Conservation Officer with Cheshire Wildlife Trust, emptying a small mammal trap in the first half of the day.
 2 – Wood Mouse found in small mammal trap in the morning at Celebration event.
 3 – Wildlife expert Jeff Clarke with Robinson Moth Trap at Celebration Event. It was a very cold night prior to the event so hopes weren't high but 3 moths were found!
 4 – CMI! Participants spotting birds over the canal and across the River Mersey (outside the National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port).
 5 – Jeff Clarke (left), fall foliage and participants at Celebration event 24.10.10, National Waterways Museum (Ellesmere Port). Guided walk about surveying and recording techniques, with focus on ladybirds and moths.

Nearly two years on and this project, in partnership with rECOrd, has delivered 26 wildlife events, including a Celebration Day which took place on the 24th October at the National Waterways Museum in Ellesmere Port. The wind was brisk but the sun was shining brightly and the nip in the air was no match for everyone's enthusiasm on the day!

The event was a great success with over 100 people in attendance. Workshops, expert talks and guided walks were held throughout the day. There were also canal boat trips, a themed quiz and an awards ceremony for junior achievers encouraging them to make wildlife recording a lifelong hobby.

Jeff Clarke has been involved as a wildlife expert and volunteer throughout the project. “It was wonderful to see so many people so obviously enthused and captivated by the idea of biological recording and learning new identification skills. This is a genuine cross-generational project which will clearly benefit biological recording in Cheshire for many years to come. More importantly it gave a huge number of people a real interest in their natural world. Seeing the excitement on the faces of young and old alike, as they gazed at their first Hen Harrier, Adonis Ladybird, Palmate Newt, Elephant Hawkmoth and much, much more was a joy to behold,” he said.

Tears of joy were flowing by the end of the awards and speeches at the Celebration event. The past two years have seen the Count Me In! project team work hard to achieve its outcomes, filling regional gaps in recording and holding workshops to spark and increase peoples interests in biodiversity. But it's the unintentional outcomes and relationship that have formed which have been the biggest surprise.

We now see the wildlife around us in a completely different way. It's as if our eyes have been opened and we cannot now go for a walk without noticing the variety of nature all around us. Possibly the greatest achievement of [Count Me In!] is the lifelong legacy to my grand-daughter, [just 5 years old when she first joined the project], she has absorbed so much insight into her world that she and others like her will become the ambassadors for conservation in the future.

Sue, Count Me In participant

Count Me In! events have provided a starting point for friendships to blossom, families to connect, and different generations of people to find common ground. The doors have been pushed wide open and offshoots of interested people now get together outside scheduled workshops for social and wildlife recording fun.

As the International Year of Biodiversity comes to an end, we are confident that the project will continue to benefit the region for years to come and are greatly encouraged by the initiative shown

by participants to record wildlife on their own. However, enthusiasts have told us that without expert guidance and some of the more expensive equipment and identification tools provided through Count Me In! events, they have found they are unable to record wildlife as effectively as they were when supported by Count Me In!

We are working hard to find external funding, develop the project further and secure the future for a full Count Me In! programme. In the meantime a mini version of Count Me In! will be supported by the zoo, until summer 2011. This will provide continued encouragement and maintain momentum for wildlife recording activities to all those who have been touched by the project. It will also give new participants a small taste of what the Count Me In! experience is all about.

For more information contact **Karen Lawson**, project coordinator at CountMeIn@RECORD-LRC.co.uk or on **01244 383749**.



Gordon McGregor Reid receives the coveted U.S. Seal Award

Former Director General Prof Gordon McGregor Reid has received the coveted U.S. Seal Award for his outstanding achievements in the field of in situ and ex situ conservation, together with his contributions to the conservation achievements of the global zoo community.



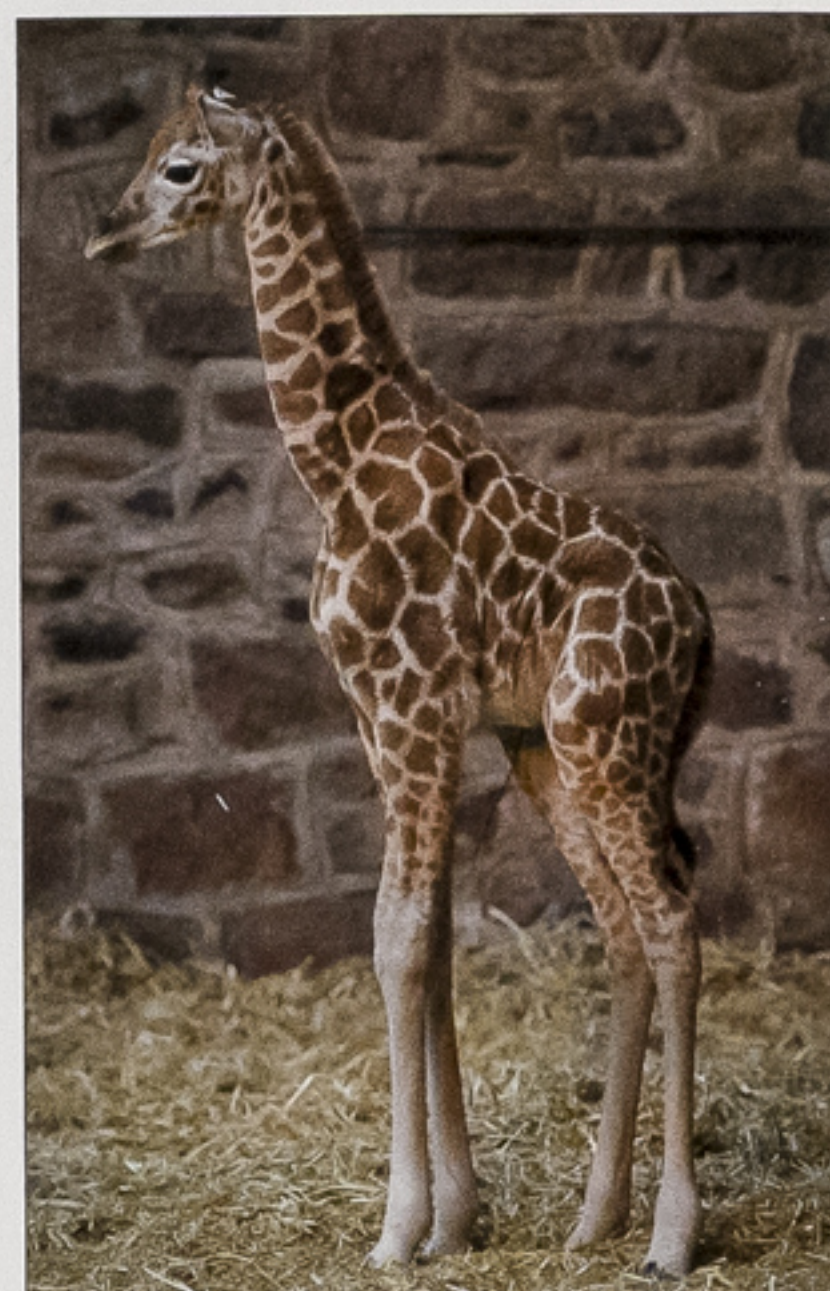
PRETTY as a picture ...

This five foot beauty has made her debut at Chester Zoo, marking a milestone for the zoo. Born at the zoo in the early hours of November 1 to 12 year old mum *Aoife*, the unnamed female is the first pure Rothschild giraffe to be born at the zoo. At five and a half feet tall she has a way to go before she reaches her mum's height – an impressive 15 feet.

Belinda Porter, Team Leader for the giraffe section, said:

"Both mum and baby are doing very well and it is delightful to see the pair of them making the most of the winter sunshine."

The calf is the fifth for dad *Thorn*, nine.



Short Term Offers for Members

Show your Chester Zoo membership card to receive all of these great benefits.

25% off at Alexander's Live

2 Rufus Court, Chester, Cheshire CH1 2JW
Receive 25% off the Christmas menu between 12 – 6pm from 1st – 31st December.

Also receive 2 for 1 comedy club entry from 1st – 31st January 2011.
Tel: 01244 340 005

Half Price entry at Funky Town

5 Grange Rd, Chester, CH2 2AN
Receive half price entry after 3.30pm any day. (One offer per party).

*Adult or junior membership card must be shown. Phone for opening times and availability.
Tel: 01244 377 229

Free bottle of wine or 15% off at City Spice

27 City Road, Chester, CH1 3AE
Receive a complimentary bottle of wine when four of more people dine at City Spice (must have a starter and main course each) OR 15% off your food bill for individuals.

*Note: This promotion excludes Sundays special banquet and set meal deals.
Tel: 01244 326596

£5 off when you spend £25 or more at Fresh of Chester

86 Weston Grove, Upton, CH2 1QL
Fresh of Chester Supply traditional, contemporary and exotic fresh flowers for all occasions.

*Offer does not include teleflorist orders and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.
Tel: 01244 370 800

TECHNIQUEST SCIENCE DISCOVERY CENTRE

FREE entry to Techniquet Glyndwr

Mold Road, Wrexham, LL11 2AW

All Chester zoo members can now receive one free entry on production of their Chester Zoo membership card.

*Offer valid until 31st May 2011.

Experience over 65 hands-on interactive exhibits, live science demos and fun family workshops, Techniquet Glyndwr (TQG) is the hands-on day out you've been looking for!

TQG Discovery Centre is designed to engage people of all ages in science through interactive exhibits and live demonstrations. As well as hands-on exhibits, we host a unique programme of special events.

There are daily shows and science demos, family workshops in the discovery room and impromptu 'daring' demonstrations around the centre, all designed to engage and inspire visitors about our amazing world of science!

Families enjoy the friendly environment with staff on hand to explain the exhibits and puzzles, guide you through the 5 zones of interactive fun and help make the day fun. Our Science Shop is full of fun and quirky gifts to take home – science in a bag! Grab a snack in our café and take a well-earned break from all the excitement.

For more information, including opening times from the website: www.tqg.org.uk or phone 01978 293400

2011 Membership Prices

The membership prices at Chester Zoo have remained static since February 2009, however recent market forces have determined the need for a small price increase which will be implemented from 1st January 2011.

Single Adult (under 65 yrs)...£66
Single Adult (over 65 yrs)...£56
Joint Adult (both under 65 yrs)...£110
Joint Adult (one over 65 yrs)...£102
Joint Adult (both over 65 yrs)...£92
Full Time Student...£46
Junior (3-17 years)...£36
Platinum...£620

New Quarterly Direct Debit Scheme 2011*

We are delighted to announce that as from 1st January 2011 you will be able to spread the cost of your membership renewal throughout the year! The new quarterly direct debit scheme* is ideal in this economic climate as it allows you to split the annual renewal cost into four payments. There will be a small administration charge of £1.50 per quarterly transaction and the new scheme will run in conjunction with the existing annual in advance direct debit scheme which offers a £5.00 discount per adult household.

*Available to consecutive membership renewals only

Membership Card Re-prints

Just a reminder to please look after your membership cards as the £1.00 replacement charge has now been implemented.

Adopters' Days

The next two Adopters' Day dates are:
Saturday 12th March 2011
Sunday 2nd October 2011

Members' Days

The dates of the next Members' Days are:
Saturday 9th April 2011
Friday 1st July 2011
Sunday 6th November 2011
Please let the membership team know how many guests you will be bringing with you.



Two rhinos flown to Tanzania

A fibre glass mother and baby rhino have been transported from the UK to Tanzania, courtesy of Chester Zoo's education and conservation teams.

Mkomazi National Park, the new home for the rhinos, boasts the only Rhino Sanctuary in Tanzania which houses 14 Black Rhinos, 20% of the Tanzanian rhino population.

As part of the Rafiki wa Faru programme (meaning 'friend of rhino' in Swahili) at Mkomazi, which Chester Zoo supports, an education bus takes schools and community groups into the park's Rhino Sanctuary where they hope to catch a glimpse of the rhinos.

Maggie Esson, Education Programmes Manager at Chester Zoo, said:

"Naturally sightings of the rhinos cannot be guaranteed so these rhinos have been painted to look like real life ones. The idea, however, is not to deceive visitors from the local community but to provide them with a rhino experience that will show the size and scale of these animals, even when they are not lucky enough to see a real rhino."

Chester Zoo's team of rhino keepers has named the cow Bashira after the zoo's very own rhino and the calf was named *Adhimu* by the charity's Education division.

As part of its commitment to conserving biodiversity worldwide, Chester Zoo runs a Black Rhino Conservation Programme, which actively supports projects in Tanzania and Kenya.

The rhinos were purchased from Rhino Mania, the public art event which took place in the city of Chester.

FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL
(NORTH WEST GROUP)



Please note that FFI evenings are a unique mix of 'entertainment' and learning focussed on conservation. They are informal, informative and fun, and are open to everyone, so please do feel free to come along.

Friday 28 January 2011

Doug Cress

Executive Director of the Pan African Sanctuaries Alliance
Doug will be making a flying visit to the UK in January to talk to FFI about the current critical situation and threats to Primates across Africa. As the head of PASA he is uniquely involved in co-ordinating the various projects and people involved in mitigating the affect that political crises and instability, poverty, wars, the bush meat trade etc are having on many endangered species of primates. Come along and hear about how he manages the various project and reserves across this vast Continent.

Friday 18 February 2011

ECUADOR'S AMAZON

Santiago Bejarano

A very welcome return to Santiago Bejarano whose stunning photography and passion for his native Galapagos islands left us uplifted after his last talk to FFI some years ago.

Santiago and his wife Rachel are now closely involved in a project with Kichwa Anangu Community whose territory is in Yasuni National Park – one of the most biodiverse areas on earth in Ecuador's Amazon region. This community 100% own and operate the Napo Wildlife Centre, one of the most successful indigenous sustainable living eco-tourism projects in Ecuador and have received a number of awards. All the profits earned by the Napo Wildlife Centre and Amazanga Expeditions, the tour operator arm of the community, are immediately reinvested in conservation, environmental education, and academic education for the children of the community. The Ecuadorean government has recognised their model of sustainable community development as leading the way and they are now advising them on how to replicate their success and share their knowledge with other communities in Ecuador. It is an inspirational story, which FFI and Zoo Members will enjoy hearing about.

Friday 18 March 2011

COLD PLACES with **Sue Flood**

Extreme photography in extreme environments!
Award-winning wildlife photographer and filmmaker Sue Flood talks about her experiences working in some of the most inhospitable places on the planet. Sue will give an illustrated talk of her adventures from her eleven years as a Producer, researcher and photographer with the BBC Natural History Unit, working on such series as *The Blue Planet* and *Planet Earth*, and her experiences as a photographer in the polar regions since leaving the BBC to go freelance in 2005. This talk coincides with the publication of Sue's book "Cold Places", featuring the best of her polar photography, and her month-long solo exhibition at the prestigious Getty Gallery in central London. Sue was one of the award winners in Travel Photographer of the Year in 2009 and 2008, and in 2009 was one of eight finalists in the International Photographer of the Year contest. This is another welcome return by Sue to FFI North West – by popular demand.

Tickets: May be available on the door but advanced booking helps to keep costs down. Please call Penny Rudd on 01244 650215 to reserve tickets. Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start at the Zoo's Russell Allen Lecture Hall, off the A41, just before the Park & Ride. Members and non-Members of FFI are welcome to attend and tickets cost £8.00 for FFI Members and £9.00 for non-Members of FFI, with a ticket concession of £5 for students. All ticket prices include a buffet and wine.

10% off

for Chester Zoo Members
and Adopters on selected
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To find out more call
01244 650 281

the perfect Christmas gift



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Animal Adoption ★ Zoo Keeper Experience ★ Keeper for a Day**

Chester Zoo has launched a unique range of exciting Gifts and Experiences. Treat family and friends to a close encounter they'll never forget this Christmas.

All proceeds from Gifts and Experiences help fund Chester Zoo's conservation work. So it's not just a gift for someone special, animals all over the world will benefit too.

For more information and to purchase, visit
www.chesterzoo.org/giftsandexperiences
or call **01244 650 281**



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Web: www.chesterzoo.org

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