

SPRING 2012

Z MAGAZINE

CHESTER ZOO



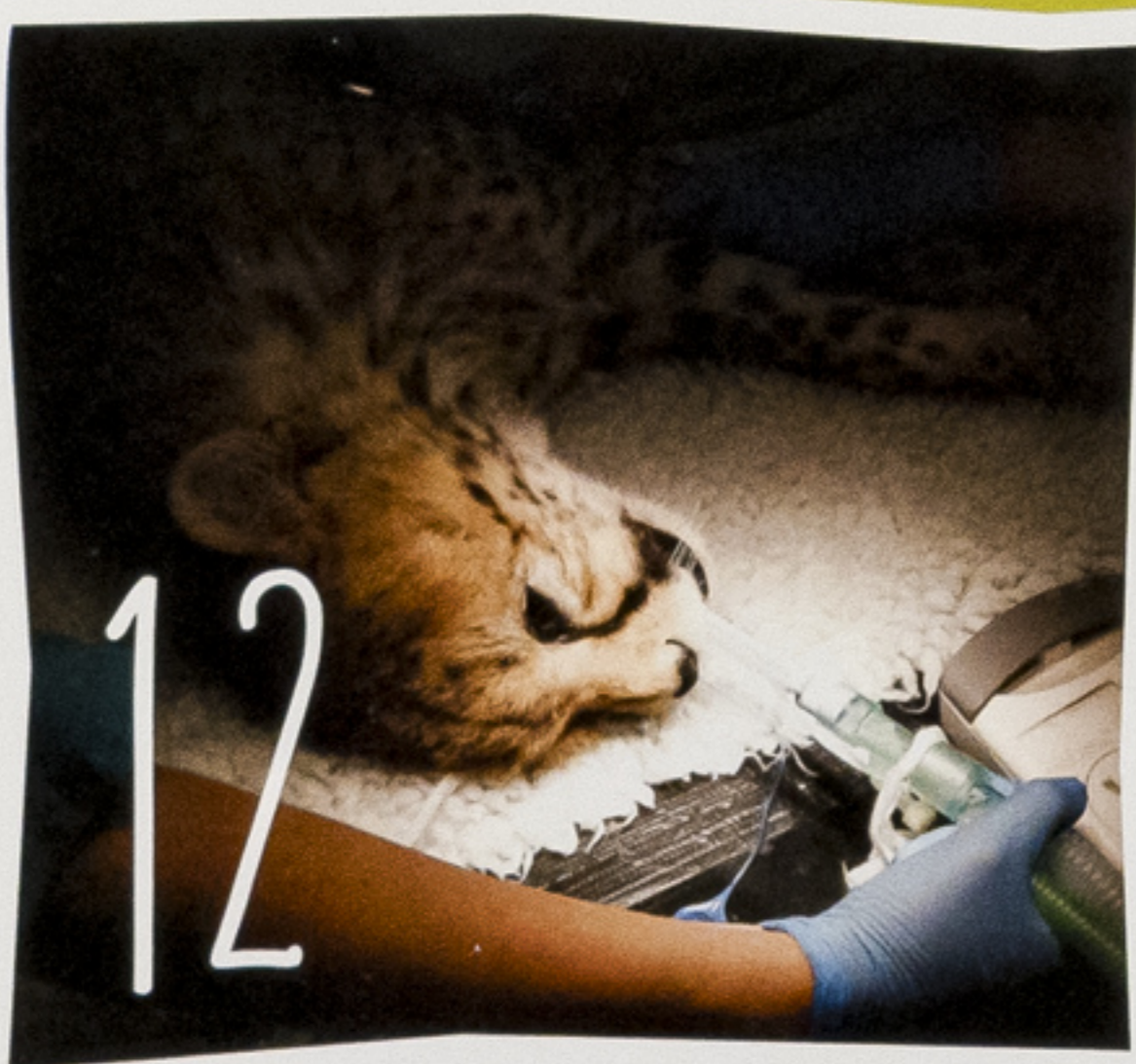
*The official magazine for
Chester Zoo MEMBERS
and ADOPTERS*

BACK ON THE PROWL!

red charity
ort to raise
both in the

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CHESTER ZOO

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Please can you update us with animal news from the zoo?

I am pleased to be able to open with some great news regarding the proposed *Islands* development. As you know the exciting *Islands* project has been under development for some time.

The full proposals have been outlined to our trustees and I'm delighted to say they have given them their full support and backing. This means we're now able to go full steam ahead with our plans for the new and exciting adventure.

Our in house team has been developing plans. We'll be looking at creating a conservation expedition bringing to life, right here in Cheshire, the islands of the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Bali, Sumatra, Sumba and Sulawesi.

The animals will be organised according to their geographical habitat and the planting style will be distinct for each area. What we will offer visitors is a new style of personal journey where they participate in the visit rather than just observe. The theme allows us to incorporate our key messages and showcase our fantastic field work on these South East Asian Islands.

I know you'll all be keen to hear what species are included in *Islands* and I can tell you we have earmarked Anoa, Banteng, Babirusa, Bali Starling, Cassowary, Indonesian Rhinoceros Hornbill, Indonesian Wrinkled Hornbill, Lorikeet, Sumatran Orangutan, Saltwater Crocodile, Sulawesi Macaque, Sumatran Tiger and the Visayan Warty Pig.

These species will also link into our conservation programmes overseas such as the Realm of the Red Ape Conservation Programme. The landscaping and vegetation of the *Islands* project will also be pivotal, featuring mangroves, swamps and bamboo and tropical forests. Before setting out on their journey, our visitors will also be invited to pick up their expedition kit before the discovery tour takes in shelters, animal observation points, rafts, boats and much more.

Our wildlife expedition will be based on real life, real people and real stories and will be unlike anything seen in a UK zoo before.

We now need to look at working up a full and detailed planning application for this amazing project and will be sure to keep you updated as we head out on this journey together.

Please can you update us on plans for 2012?

Work is continuing at a pace on the main entrance, which will be open in time for Easter, and we were delighted to unveil the Giant Otters underwater viewing pool in February.

They have been thrilled by the new experience, as have our visitors, who have marvelled at their ducking and diving!

Spirit of the Jaguar has also been completely revamped and is looking great. Our two new sloths have settled in well and the shoals of fish in the main tank look breathtaking! The Leafcutter Ants are back where they belong and it is great to see the jaguars out on the prowl!

Planning is well underway for *Dinosaurs Bite Back!* as this year's exhibit will be known. The response to last year's exhibition was phenomenal and we are coming back with a bigger and bolder exhibit this year, opening on April 1.

There will be up to 19 dinosaurs this year and we're looking at varying the route to give a different visitor experience. We're also looking at themed events to tie in with the opening. We can't wait to roll out this exhibition and its associated education messages.

We have welcomed new faces to the zoo too recently. Greater One-horned rhino, *Asha*, arrived from Whipsnade and three Howler Monkeys – two females and a male – also joined the collection. You'll certainly get used to hearing these this year!

The rare Babirusa piglets I mentioned last time are doing well, they're thought to be the first to be born in Europe in over a year.

The duo were born to mum *Majene* and dad *Sausu* in late October last year and are a welcome addition to the collection.

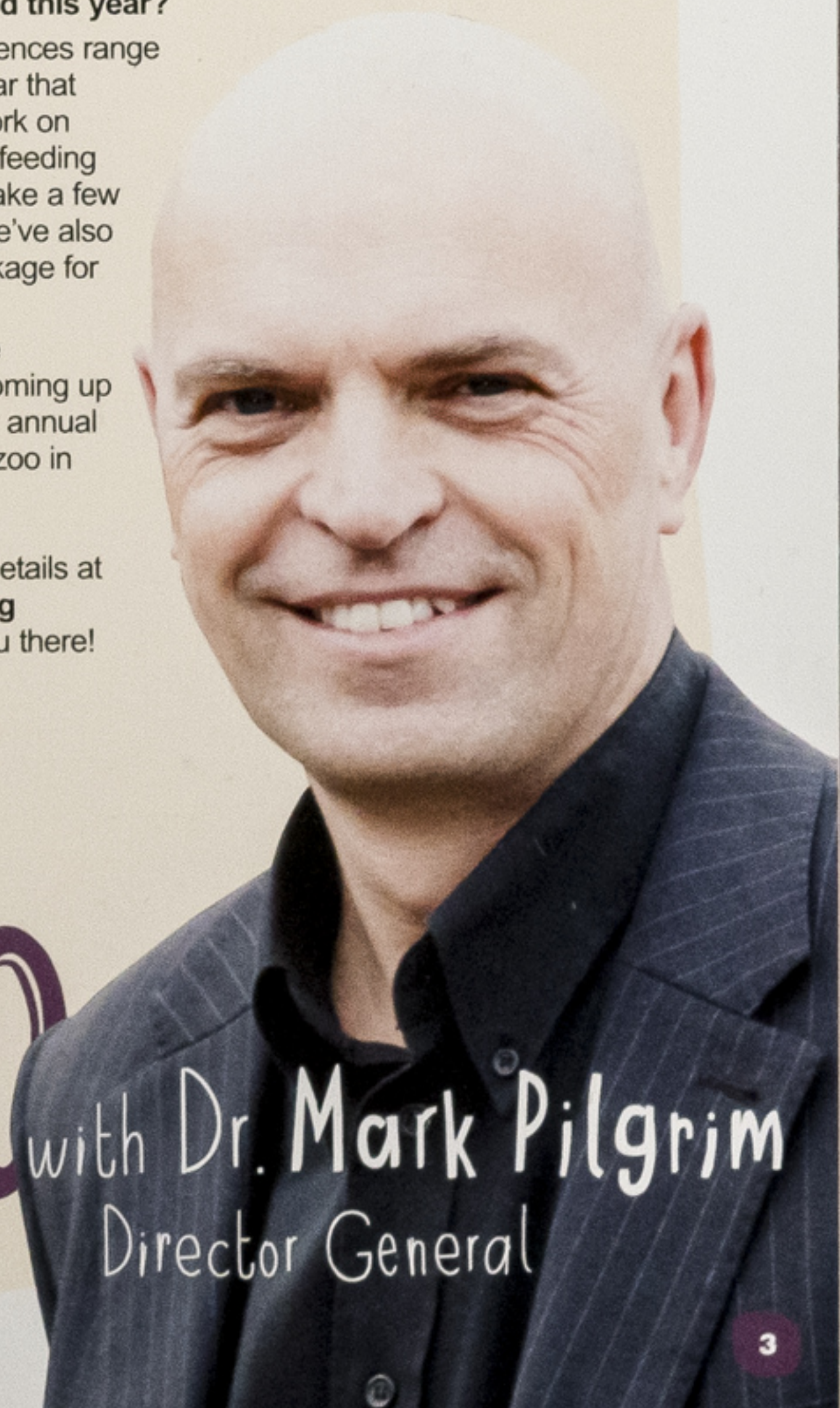
What else is planned this year?

The Gifts and Experiences range has proved so popular that we've done some work on extending the giraffe feeding platform so we can take a few more participants. We've also launched a new package for lemurs and rhinos.

We've also got some fundraising events coming up this year, there is our annual 5km run around the zoo in Run for the Wild on September 29.

You can find all the details at www.chesterzoo.org

– we hope to see you there!



NEWS FROM THE ZOO

with Dr. Mark Pilgrim
Director General

Zoo ADDITIONS

UK's first
underwater viewing zone
for Giant Otters
and new-look Spirit of the Jaguar
unveiled to public



The UK's first ever
underwater viewing zone
for Giant Otters and a new-look jaguar
enclosure have opened at the zoo.

The £1/2m developments promise to "breathe fresh life into the zoo" and also sees a new species added to the zoo's collection – a pair of sloths.

At a cost of £1/4m, the Giant Otter centre is one of the only places in Europe where people can see the otters diving for food, through large underwater viewing windows.

The new exhibit also features an undercover seating area, a crawl-in viewing dome and state-of-the-art off-show cubbing dens.

Chester Zoo's Development Director, Simon Mann, said:

"This new enclosure is at the absolute cutting-edge of design in terms of both animal welfare and the exciting viewing opportunities it offers the public.

"Giant Otters are charming animals and it's fascinating to see them swimming underwater. We think people, and the otters, are going to love it."

Jaguar house opens

Meanwhile, the zoo has also unveiled its new-look Spirit of the Jaguar exhibit following a £1/4m makeover.

The refreshed enclosure now features a pair of sloths, which have just arrived from Germany, agoutis and a colony leaf-cutter ants, as well as four South American jaguars.

It also includes an aquarium containing large shoals of fish and Amazonian turtles.

A number of trees and plants native to South America have been brought in from a special nursery in Holland and a cinema, set inside a cattle ranch, highlights the zoo's field conservation work in Brazil.

Simon Mann added:

"This second exciting development will breathe yet more fresh life into the zoo.

"We've created a naturalistic environment, added new species and given it an authentic South American theme, all of which will really enhance the visitor experience. It aims to make people feel like they're seeing these fantastic animals and plants from the Pantanal itself."



RARE SUMATRAN TIGER CUBS

make their debut



Two rare tiger cubs born at Chester Zoo have made their first public appearance.

The two girls were born in October and are the offspring of mother *Kirana* and father *Fabi*.

The births are a big success for the zoo and good news for the future of the species, as it is thought that only 400 Sumatran Tigers are now left in the wild, where they are poached for traditional medicine.

Tim Rowlands, Curator of Mammals at Chester Zoo, said:

"Sumatran Tigers can only be found on the Indonesian island of Sumatra are one of the rarest big cat species in the world.

"It's estimated that there are just a few hundred left in the wild and only around seven per cent of their original habitat remains, which is why this pair are so, so important.

"To think they're now part of a safety-net in case wild populations go extinct is pretty remarkable and quite humbling.

"We are thrilled, *Kirana* is very happy and we are sure our visitors will be equally delighted."

Mr Rowlands said the cubs are "doing fine" and complemented mum *Kirana* on her parenting skills.

"*Kirana* is so far doing a great job."

RARE PIGS BORN AT ZOO

Two of the rarest pigs in the world have been born at Chester Zoo.

The birth of a pair of Babirusa piglets is being hailed as "positive news for the future of the species" – with wild populations in serious decline in their native Indonesia.

Their arrivals are also an important achievement for the zoo as they are thought to be the only babirusa born in Europe in over a year.

Curator of Mammals at the zoo, Tim Rowlands, said:

"Babirusa pigs are highly threatened and are said to be the rarest pig species in the world. That's why these births are so important and are such a great achievement."

"Zoos provide the last insurance policy against extinction and we hope the duo will grow up to become a vital part of the international breeding programme to safeguard the species."

"This is certainly exciting and positive news for the future of the species."



NEW TAPIR

Talia was born to mum Jennifer and dad Cuzco. Talia is named after a character in Babylon 5. We also welcomed twin Eastern Pygmy Marmosets *Callithrix pygmaea niveiventris*.

THE CRAZY FROG STORY...

The Green-eyed Frog is amongst the rarest amphibians in the world, with conservationists fearing that only ONE population – in a tiny pocket of forest in Costa Rica – is now left in the wild. But now, keepers at Chester Zoo – the only other place on earth where the species can be found – are hoping their bizarre new mobile phone ringtone will raise awareness of their sorry plight, before it really is too late.

Keepers at Chester Zoo are hoping that a mobile phone ringtone will help raise awareness of a highly threatened species of frog and save it from extinction.

They have recorded the mating calls of the Green-eyed Frog – one of the world's most endangered species – and made it available to download from the zoo's website.

The species is so rare that the zoo is maintaining the world's only population of Green-eyed Frogs, outside of its native Costa Rica.

Twenty-three of the frogs are being kept in a purpose-built amphibian laboratory, which keepers call an 'APod' (Amphibian Pod) and is where they carry out important research and conservation breeding.

In the wild, the zoo also works with the Monteverde Conservation League in Costa Rica to monitor the rare species, also known as the Rancho Redondo frog.

But following a prolonged dry period across the Central American country, recent surveys have only turned up very few frogs.

Ben Baker, Lead Keeper of Herpetology, said:

"We're very much hoping that when the rainy seasons come in June, that we'll see more frogs come out of hiding. However, at this moment in time, we're bracing ourselves for bad news. Only one small population – found in a tiny area of forest in all of Costa Rica – now exists. Sadly, in another area where they did once thrive, only one solitary male frog has been recorded in nearly six months."

The species was thought to be completely "extinct" until as recently as 2002 when the population now being monitored at Chester Zoo was discovered.

"The frogs we have in the APod provide an invaluable safety net population in the event that our worst fears are realised and the species does once again vanish from the wild," added Ben.

"We've been working with them daily for the last four years and have been constantly developing husbandry and reproductive techniques in that time.

"As yet they've only produced infertile spawn but we think we're getting closer to generating the right environment for them to successfully breed now. With a bit of luck, that could be this year.

"We're desperate to give this stunning frog a helping-hand with its recovery from near-extinction and ultimately, return eggs and tadpoles to suitable habitat in Costa Rica. That's the dream."

And the zoo hopes to inspire an interest in the plight of the at risk amphibians by giving people the chance to hear their unusual calls every time their mobile phone rings.

"The noises that the frogs make when calling to one another are probably not quite what you'd expect. They almost sound like purring cats," said Ben.

"Unfortunately, given their incredible rarity, 99.9% of the world's population will never get to hear their calls for real. That's why we wanted to give people the chance to do so with our ringtone and champion their perilous plight in the process."

To download your free Green-eyed Frog ringtone, please visit www.chesterzoo.org/ringtone

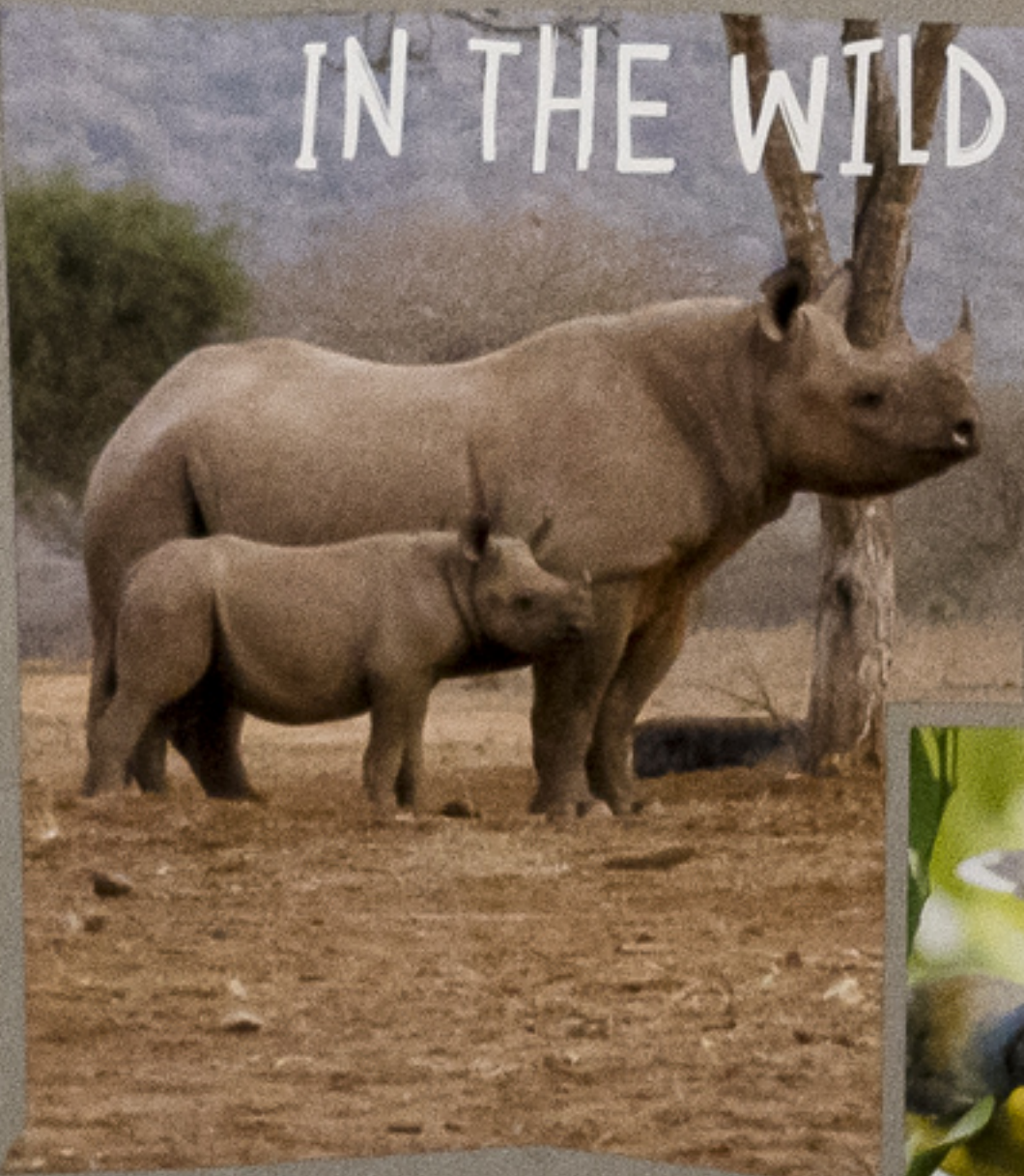
To support the zoo's conservation work with amphibians in both the UK and overseas, and to find out more about how Chester Zoo is Acting for Wildlife to protect endangered species, please visit www.actforwildlife.org.uk

ACT FOR
WILDLIFE



© Andrea Fidg

HERE AT CHESTER ZOO WE
ACT FOR WILDLIFE AND SUPPORT
CONSERVATION PROJECTS
ALL OVER THE WORLD



© He Shu-hu



Staff play a massive role in the fight against extinction too. They share the skills and knowledge they've developed at the zoo to help other people – like Maggie, who helps teams around the globe to write and deliver education strategies and teach the next generation about the importance of conservation. Or Scott, who helps our Elephant Project to map the movements of elephants and where there is most human-elephant conflicts in Assam.

We know everyone can't be as hands on as we are, so we've created Act for Wildlife. It's our field conservation brand and through it you'll get to hear from some of the amazing people that are working at the projects, as well as general updates on the really important work that we are involved with in the wild.

Of course, you can also turn to pages 16 & 17 of this magazine to get a bit of an update too, but visit us online and you'll be able to read even more!

Act for Wildlife is also your chance to get involved and help support conservation in the wild via the website www.actforwildlife.org.uk

You can sponsor a specific project or make a general donation. And what's more 100% of your donation will be spent in the wild, as Chester Zoo is funding all the administration costs.

Act for Wildlife is what we do to ensure the conservation of species in the wild.

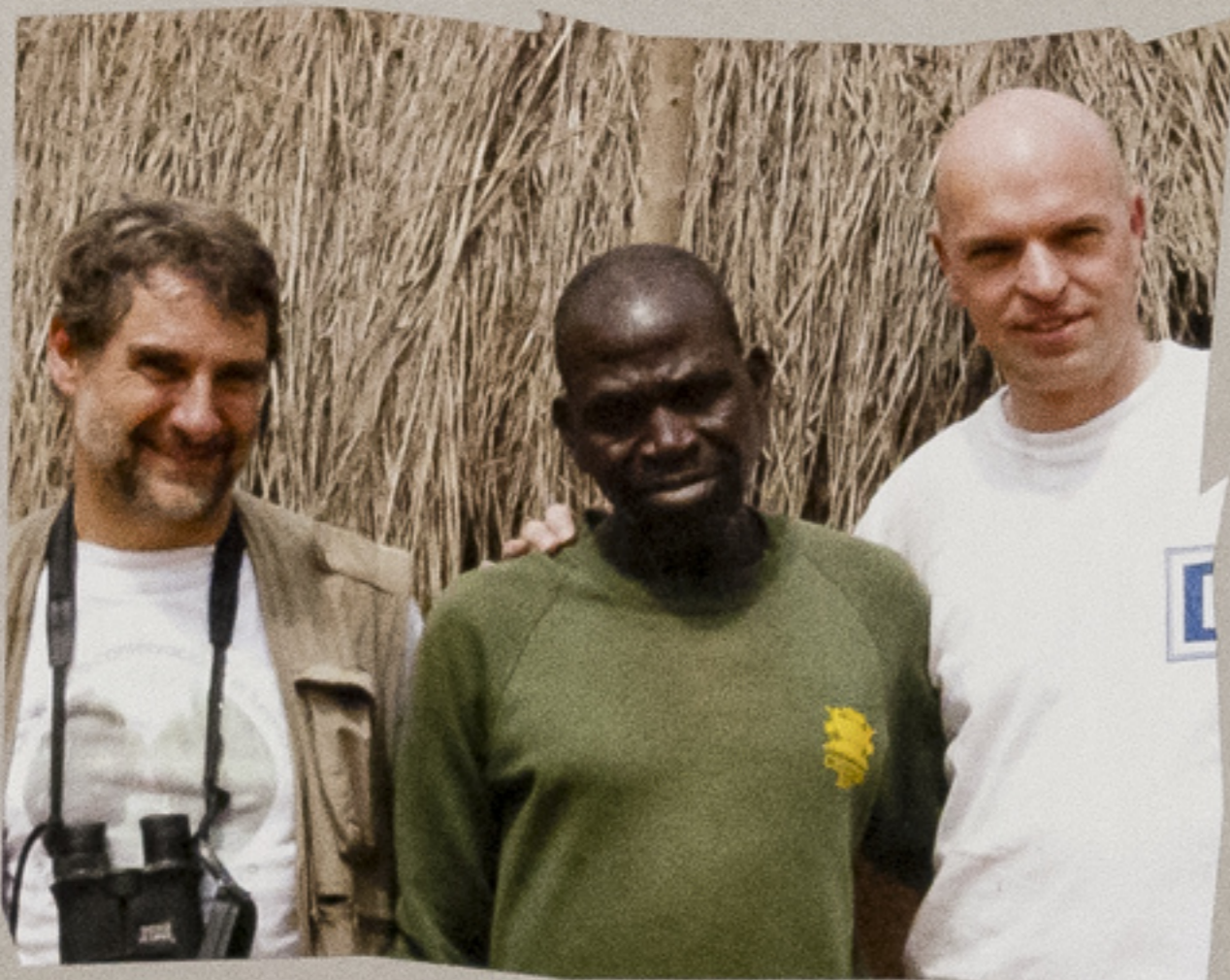
We're Chester Zoo and we Act for Wildlife, will you?

WE ARE
CHESTER ZOO
AND WE **ACT FOR WILDLIFE**

**JOIN US TO ACT FOR WILDLIFE
AND VISIT www.actforwildlife.org.uk**

ACT FOR WILDLIFE PROJECTS

Discover more about our projects
and visit us at
www.actforwildlife.org.uk



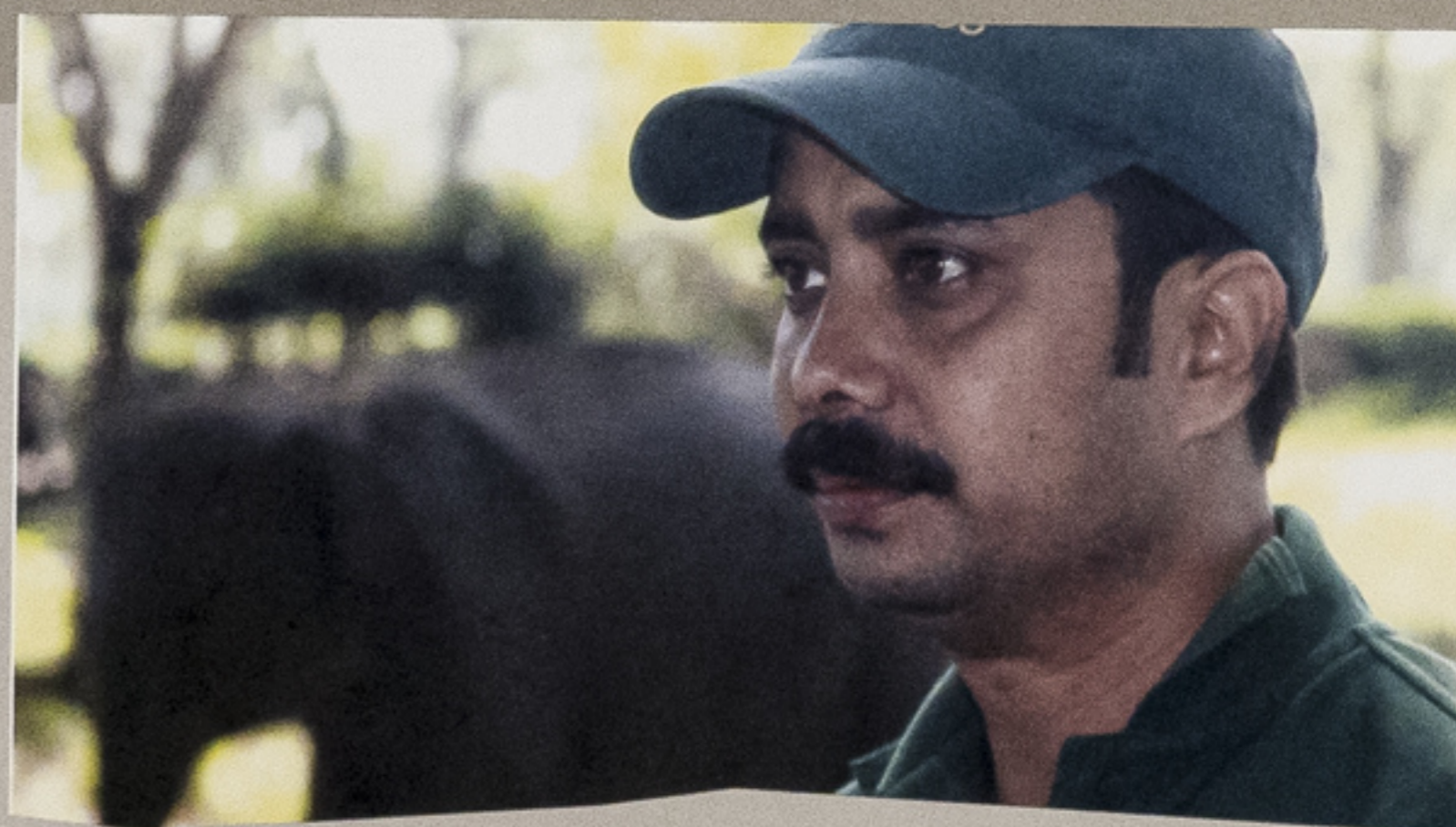
NIGERIA

Conservation is often driven by research and the Nigeria project is a successful example of this. In Gashaka Gumti National Park, home to the only remaining viable population of Nigerian Chimpanzees, our project supports a research centre which has become a major study site for species found in the area, plus support for rangers who prevent illegal activities in the park.



AMPHIBIANS

Amphibians are accepted to be the most endangered vertebrates in the world, and addressing this crisis is one of the greatest conservation challenges we have faced. We work with amphibians both in the wild and in the zoo, helping to secure their habitat whilst safeguarding species in specially designed A-pods until it's safe to return them to the wild.



ASIAN ELEPHANTS

The Asian elephants of Assam face some of the most extreme human-elephant conflict in the world. This project engages communities in elephant conservation through community education and alternative livelihood schemes, and by helping them to protect their crops and buildings.



BLACK RHINO

Black Rhino are fighting for survival due to illegal poaching for their highly valuable horn. Protection of the eastern black rhino from poaching and habitat loss in Kenya and Tanzania is the focus of the Black Rhino Project. We provide support to ensure that security is increased when needed and that the rangers have the capacity to respond to emergency situations. Community education also plays a huge role in this project.



MAURITIUS

Only a small fraction of the original native forest in Mauritius survives today and many species have already disappeared from the Island. The Mauritius project focuses on protecting and restoring the ecosystem of Mauritius, working primarily with the threatened birds which are unique to the Island.

UK WILDLIFE

In the last 200 years, England has lost around 12% of its mammal species and a quarter of our native butterflies. The UK wildlife project works alongside local partners to secure habitats and species on our doorstep.



CHINA

China is home to a huge amount of endemic species such as the Giant Panda and Blue-crowned Laughingthrush. To protect these species, we need to protect their habitats. The China project focuses on protection, management and development of forest reserves in the Sichuan Province.

BORNEAN ORANGUTAN

In the last century half of the forests in which Bornean Orangutans once lived in have been lost, pushing the species towards extinction. This project, based in the floodplain of the Kinabatangan River in Sabah, combines scientific research with the protection and management of the orangutan habitat.



PHILIPPINES

The 7000 plus islands of the Philippines have a high number of endemic species and the region is a globally recognised 'Biodiversity Hotspot'. The project is helping to save a wide range of different critically endangered species through habitat protection and community-based conservation activities.



JAGUAR

Human-wildlife conflict affects many species around the world, and the problem will only get worse as the human population increases. Conflict with humans is the biggest threat to jaguars and this research-based project is looking into the factors which shape this conservation challenge and addresses ways to overcome the issue.

ACT FOR WILDLIFE
TEXT WILD34£2 TO 70070 TO DONATE £2

T&C's apply please visit www.actforwildlife.org.uk for information

JUBA has surgery *on* fractured LEG



Cheetah cub Juba recently underwent surgery at the zoo's animal health centre to mend a fracture on his leg.

The hour-long operation was carried out by consultant orthopaedic surgeon Rob Pettitt from the University of Liverpool, together with our own vets and nurses.

The team inserted a metal plate into Juba's right ankle, which will help his mobility in the long term.

Vet Steve Unwin said:

"We believe the fracture was caused by a weakness in Juba's leg, which was aggravated by the rough and tumble antics of young cubs."

"Cats are adept at hiding any discomfort but we are fortunate that we are able to keep a very close eye on our animals and so quickly picked up that something wasn't quite right."

"Juba was a model patient and we are pleased that the operation went well."

The young cub is recovering well and after some rest in his den, Juba will hopefully soon be back to his lightning-quick best.

Staff

ACT FOR WILDLIFE

INDONESIAN ISLANDS

In 2011 we hosted a meeting to discuss the management of threatened Asian bird species, which highlighted the Javan Green Magpie as a species of significant concern. Following this meeting **Roger Wilkinson**, Head of Field Conservation and Research and **Andrew Owen**, Curator of Birds headed out to Indonesia to help develop a project for this species. Whilst in Java, Roger and Andrew visited Pramuka Bird Market, the biggest in South East Asia which highlighted to them the scale of bird trade in Indonesia. They were also able to carry out a short search for wild Javan Green Magpie, but unfortunately no birds were found, which is not surprising given that this species is extremely endangered. Now with our support Javan based Cikananga Conservation Breeding Center are developing a breeding programme for the Javan Green Magpie using birds they have recovered from the bird trade. The project also aims to carry out more searches in hope of finding birds in the wild.

Roger and Andrew then travelled to Bali to see the work that is being done to conserve the Critically Endangered Bali Starling and to discuss how Chester Zoo could help. This included visiting the Begawan Foundation Bali Starling Release Programme and taking part in the projects bi-annual bird census on Nusa Penida.



UGANDA

Dave Brunger, Quarantine & Veterinary Records Officer and **Steve Unwin**, Veterinary Officer, travelled to East Africa to assist with a workshop hosted by the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA). PASA are an organisation which supports ape sanctuaries across Africa. Dave and Steve gave workshops and presentations relating to veterinary and animal welfare and also assisted with inspections of the Ngamba Chimpanzee Sanctuary in Uganda and Sweetwaters Chimpanzee Sanctuary in Kenya. Whilst at the two sanctuaries Dave gave follow up talks to promote the importance of quarantine procedures and record keeping for improving animal management.

JOIN US TO ACT FOR WILDLIFE
AND VISIT www.actforwildlife.org.uk

Spring 2012

Animal Fun!

KIDZ

See Inside...
KIDS' PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

ZOO!



**PRIZE TO
BE WON
WHERE
DO THE
ANIMALS
LIVE?**



inside...

junior member Lloyd Antrobus
tells us about his visit to Malawi

Junior Members

Can you solve the anagrams to find the names of animals that Chester Zoo help to conserve in the wild?

Next, see if you can match each animal to where it lives.

DER NDAAP

GATRONNUA

ECZEHPIMNA

ALCKB NIHRSOOESR

OEHC KAAEPTER

VHER TSA OSEUM

SAIAN TEENLAHP



To be in with a chance of winning a £10 voucher to spend in the zoo shops, send your entry together with contact details to:

Z magazine,
Marketing Department, Chester Zoo,
Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH
by Monday 9 April 2012.



Spotlight on...

Our junior members are up to all sorts of interesting things in and around the zoo. If you have a story to tell contact Penny Rudd via p.rudd@chesterzoo.org

Malawi by Lloyd Antrobus

During September 2011, I had the amazing opportunity to visit Malawi, in Southern Africa for a volunteer expedition with the S4C television company, 'Telesgop'.

I am an avid Chester Zoo Junior Member and attend as many FFI meetings and zoo lectures as I can. I also research into conservation – be it through books, events at the zoo or on the internet as often as possible. I heard of the opportunity to visit Malawi when I saw a poster at my school asking for young adults to apply for the expedition that will be broadcast on television. As such a keen zoo member, desperate to go to Africa, I sent an application form. I was shortlisted for the programme and went to a selection day. I had an interview and some tasks to complete – which was all very nervewrecking as there was a large camera in front of me for most of the time! I explained my obsession for wild animals and conservation, and that I try to study the behaviour of the elephant herd at Chester and that I am a Junior Member. Soon after I received a letter stating that I would be going to Malawi!

I would be working with three projects. Firstly, 'The Chesney Trust' – whose aim is to help build a girls high school and generally promote education for girls in the country. The Liwonde National Park was our second project, where we searched for African Elephant and Black Rhino. Our third project was 'The Lilongwe Wildlife Centre' – which is Malawi's only rescue and rehabilitation centre for wild animals. All this in just under a month! There was a lot of physical work to be done and all inbetween filming for the documentary.

It was far too interesting watching Malawian life going by from the minibus to sleep – even though my bodyclock didn't know what planet it was on! After reaching the little rural village of Engoncogolweni in which the Edinburgh Girls High School is being built, and of course meeting the other local volunteers, I felt much better – the people were absolutely fantastic! I don't think I have ever met kinder and more generous people than the Malawians, yet they have none of the luxuries we have. Most young people were sleeping in very small rooms with their families, shared with a goat and four or five chickens perhaps! Work at the School was very demanding in that we were moving 5000 bricks in 34°C heat with one or two wheelbarrows and a lot of muscle power! Living with the the local people was a huge privilege and will remain with me for the rest of my life, especially their values, respect and generosity.

The second project was the Liwonde National Park – and I don't think there is a word other than 'breathtaking' to describe the place. Elephant and hippo are abundant, with hippo every 20 metres! The park was so beautiful, diverse and full of life. We were camping at the park within close proximity to the lodge, but I have never been so close to elephants and hippo than I was during night-time at the park. Owing to the heat during the day the Rangers advised us to camp under trees, so we did. What I didn't understand was during 'dry season' elephants search for heavily leafed trees, and on two occasions a herd of elephants were crowded around my tent eating the tree I was underneath! As an elephant obsessed zoo-member you can imagine I didn't get much sleep at all during night-time in Liwonde, it was far too exciting peeking through the tent! The ranger reassured me the next morning and said 'oh its okay, the elephants know there are humans about' but somehow that didn't reassure me as much as I'd have liked it to!

As I went to brush my teeth the following morning I realised there was a male hippo asleep about twelve meters away from my tent! I reported to the Ranger immediately and he said that the hippo was an old, very weak and ill hippo and was no extreme threat but I was told to be VERY careful. It was at this time it hit home that the park really was not a zoo at all, and I found it strange at some points to wholly believe that there really were no fences between the animals and myself. Although this may seem like common sense in an African National Park, as a regular visitor to zoos it took a while to get used to free-ranging wild animals!

I was also shocked to discover how similar the feeling of an African

National Park is to National Parks we have at home, although the inhabitants are different, the feeling I had of a wilderness and natural beauty was still very similar.

Liwonde offered animals everywhere. On safari we saw more elephants and hippos (not that I needed to leave my tent to see and experience those!), but also various antelope including impala, kudu, and bushbuck plus zebra and a variety of snakes and other reptiles whilst on the walking safari. Living with the rangers was fantastic! Their knowledge was unbelievable and they easily answered my many questions about the elephants' routes and behaviours. Whilst studying a herd of elephant in my free time at the park, I watched many little cheeky Sundaras, playful Jangolis and a few grumpy Mayas of course! I also took many pictures of Chester Zoo to show to the rangers, who were very intrigued at the thought of elephants with small ears!

I also must note that although Liwonde itself was a very idyllic and natural place, outside the National Park it was a completely different story. Land was very barren, dry and farmed, and there was barely any sign of African Plain and Savannah Wildlife anywhere. Whilst on the minibus to Liwonde we saw a dried leopard skin which really made it hit home how critical conservation and National Parks are for the future of species. I am obviously aware of poaching and hunting, but when I saw the skin on the ground for myself, I felt so much worse. Yet I can wholly sympathise. After living with the poor communities I realised how desperate the people can be to sustain their lives and families, and realised completely that in order for animal conservation to succeed, the communities need to be on board with different means of earning livelihoods.

The third and final project I volunteered at was 'The Lilongwe Wildlife Centre' based in the capital, Lilongwe. We were involved in many tasks, be it designing enrichment items for *Bella* (a lioness), feeding *Kambuku* the leopard, hosing a baboon cage or hand-rearing a serval cub and duiker calf! Work was very varied and very hands-on and I loved every second of it! We worked on any aspect that needed us. It was very on the spot, and sometimes was even quite tense. An example of this was when we were a part of managing a re-introduction of a young male yellow baboon to a troop, and I can say first-hand that baboons are not animals where things tend to run smoothly! I was also part of a release programme of a monitor lizard which was a very exhilarating experience! I learned so much about caring for wild animals and at close proximity too.

I can honestly say my experience in Malawi has changed my outlook on life. I had to make independent decisions, become much more mature to deal with sensitive situations, and learned so much more to respect what we have at home and especially what we have in terms of education. It was a mind-blowing experience that I'll never forget, and I only have one piece of advice to anyone wanting to do something similar, and that is to just go for it!



JUNIOR MEMBERS' PROGRAMME OF EVENTS



TRACKS & SIGNS

SATURDAY 24 MARCH 2012

This is probably one of our most popular events which entertains the wide age range we cater for. This is your chance to see the zoo from the 'animal's view' of the visitors, as you will be going inside some of the enclosures to search for footprints from which to make plaster casts. March is the best time of year for this as it is normally 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 join the messiness, when we meet outside Oakfield House at 11.00am, returning there for collection at 4.00pm. You will need a picnic lunch, and it is important that you wear clean, very old clothes and clean wellies please.

TWYXCROSS ZOO VISIT

SATURDAY 21 APRIL 2012

It is a while since the Juniors visited Twycross in Warwickshire - an exceptional collection of primates. It is always nice to see how other zoos do things. Be prepared for a fairly long bus journey but it will be well worth it!

Eights and over are asked to join us, meeting at the Staff Entrance at 9.30am, and we will return there for 5.30pm. Bring a picnic with you.

LOWER MOSS WOOD NATURE RESERVE AND WILDLIFE HOSPITAL

SATURDAY 19 MAY 2012

This is a very special opportunity to experience a much-loved and cared-for woodland near Knutsford in Cheshire, and to hear about the life that lives within it when we have a guided tour with Ray Jackson. We also hope to meet some owls and other birds of prey there, as well as have a quick peek at the active Wildlife Hospital on site which is a vital resource, rescuing and re-habilitating many of our native species. We may also get the chance to do some pond-dipping while we are there.

The bus will leave the Cedar House staff car park (second staff entrance on the left as you are coming up Caughall Road from the Upton traffic lights) at 10.00am and return for 4.30pm. Over eights are invited to come along, and you should bring a picnic and wellies.

FOEL FARM AND CHOCOLATE FACTORY ON THE ISLE OF ANGLESEY

SATURDAY 23 JUNE 2012

Experience the sights, sounds and smells of a real working farm. Foel Farm is situated in a beautiful beachside location on Anglesey. Come along to meet and feed the animals and to enjoy the wonderful setting. We may even have a tractor & trailer ride - or a pony ride if anyone fancies that. There is even a chocolate workshop where you can see the chocolates being made.

We will leave the staff car park at 9.00am and return at 5.30pm. Bring a picnic lunch and all eights and over are invited to come along for a lovely day out.

HOW TO BE A GOOD ZOOKEEPER!

WEDNESDAY 25 JULY 2012

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 12 years old 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 will not be taken before 9.00am on Wednesday 11 July 2012, (01244 650215) and will be strictly on a first-come, first-served basis.

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.



JUNIORS' SUMMER BARBEQUE

THURSDAY 2 AUGUST 2012

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 or zoo tours during the evening, but you can be sure to find it relaxing.

We would like to invite eights and over to join us for a 7.00pm start, when you should arrive at the Main Entrance. Parents are asked to collect Juniors from the Ark restaurant at 9.45pm please.

THE JUNIOR MEMBERS' SUMMER SCHOOL

FROM 6 - 10 AUGUST 2012 INCLUSIVE

Please note that the two week booking rule does NOT apply to this event and EARLY BOOKING IS ADVISED (anytime from December 2011 onwards).

The Summer School 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.

A full programme of events for this action-packed, but informal week, will be issued in the March issue of this magazine, but essentially the Summer School will encompass a wide variety of theoretical and practical training including a mid-week field trip, live mammal trapping, tours of the zoo, and talks from a variety of zoo staff about all aspects of the zoo's work. It is ideally suited to those hoping to follow a career in zoos, conservation or veterinary science but is also a lot of fun!

SHUGBOROUGH HOME FARM

SATURDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2012

You will love this visit to a beautiful stately home in Staffordshire and will find that the Autumn is a perfect time to visit their Home Farm to see the rare breeds and shire horses.

Home Farm also has wonderful displays of cheese making, flour grinding and bakery skills.

Eights and over are invited to join us for a relaxing day.

We will leave the Staff Entrance at 9.30am and return home for 5.00pm. Bring a picnic.

THE WELSH MOUNTAIN ZOO

SATURDAY 20 OCTOBER 2012

Our Juniors love to visit other zoos, and the Welsh Mountain Zoo in Colwyn Bay is one of our neighbours. You will need to dress very warmly for this one, as the zoo is also on the top of a hill.

Over eights are invited to come along and enjoy the day, and we will leave the staff car park at 10.30am and return there for 4.00pm.

You will need a picnic lunch.

WIRRAL COUNTRY PARK - THURSTASTON

SATURDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2012

We will start our walk at Thurstaston and will amble along the Wirral Way from there, back to the dungeons and then on as far as we want to go!

We will leave the Staff Car Park at 11.00am and return at 4.00pm. Over eights are invited to attend and you should bring a picnic with you.

THE JUNIORS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER 2012

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

The venue will either be the zoo's undercover picnic area or June's Pavilion. 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 your cushion and a torch, and we will guide you to the venue. Parents should arrange to collect you from the Cedar House Car Park at 9.45pm.



Staff ACT FOR WILDLIFE

SPECIAL

In Mauritius
with Bird keepers
Victoria
Kaldis
and Karen Neech

Last year we had the exciting opportunity of working with the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF) on their endangered bird monitoring project in Mauritius. This was the first survey to be conducted since 2003 and the focus for 2011 was to monitor the Mauritius Fody and Olive White-eye, both species which are supported by Chester Zoo. The surveys took place in the south of the island in and around Black River Gorges National Park. The park has four field stations, but our team spent most of time at three of these – Pigeon Wood, Combo and Bel Ombre.

Pigeon Wood was the most modernised field station, having both hot water and electricity, which we liked to think of as our chalet up in the mountains. However it was not like the holiday brochures, as it was really chilly at night and rained for days. But it did have its perks as we found the most Mauritius Fody in this area.

Combo on the other hand felt like a proper field station and was definitely Victoria's favourite. This consisted of two converted containers which formed the kitchen and the sleeping quarters. Electricity was not always reliable here and the outdoor bathroom facilities were certainly interesting, but we did have a nice view of the forest. Time spent here was really enjoyable and the great news was that we found 12 new pairs of Olive White-eyes which is encouraging news for the wild population.

The third site at Bel Ombre had the most difficult conditions and is where Karen spent most of her time. Nights at Bel Ombre consisted of romantic dinner by candlelight and

frequent water trips to the nearest tap (about 5 miles away). But, with remoteness came the most endemic birds, from Pink Pigeons to Echo Parakeets and Mauritian Kestrels.

Our typical survey day started at 5.30am and involved a lot of walking. Throughout the day we used GPS to record where the birds were seen or heard and made notes of other information, including pairing status and habitat type. The work was very physically demanding having to fight your way through dense forest, up and down volcano craters (inactive, thankfully), balancing on slippery rocks while attempting to cross rivers, getting lost and stuck, all while trying to survey birds. Nevertheless it was definitely a unique and highly satisfying experience.

As a reward for our hard work we also got to spend a week on Round Island which gave us the chance to work with numerous seabirds such as petrels, tropic birds and shearwaters and carry out night searches for Round Island Boa.

All in all we both had a brilliant time on Mauritius and were so grateful to be given the opportunity to work on such an important project.



JOIN US TO ACT FOR WILDLIFE
AND VISIT www.actforwildlife.org.uk

MAKING A DIFFERENCE AROUND THE WORLD

All the places we have ACTED FOR WILDLIFE in the last three months.

NATIVE SPECIES PROGRAMME

The decline of many native species is mainly due to the loss of suitable breeding habitat. Habitat is lost as a result of changes in land use and agricultural practices. To tackle this issue the Brockholes Nature Reserve in Lancashire have set up 'Feathered Friends Welcome', a project that will restore and create suitable habitat for many bird species. This will include reedbed creation and reformation of lake edges to create low lying mud flats, where breeding wading birds can nest and forage. This project hopes to secure a future for species such as the Reed Warbler and Reed Bunting.

Fast Fact Did you know that reedbeds provide a perfect home for many species ranging from dragonflies to water voles?



Nigeria research © Volker Sommer



Confiscated weapons © SRI



NIGERIA PROGRAMME

Over the past 10 years our support for the Gashaka Primate Project in Nigeria, has seen it become an internationally recognised research site. Research topics have ranged from Olive Baboon and chimpanzee ecology to forest biodiversity and conservation. We have now extended our work in Nigeria by supporting the construction of the first visitor and interpretation centre in Gashaka Gumti National Park. Building works will begin later this year and our Discovery and Learning staff will provide technical support in the production of educational materials for the centre.

Fast Fact Gashaka Gumti National Park was first created to act as a watershed to protect water resources for the local community.

focus on THE BLACK RHINO PROGRAMME

In recent years the poaching threat to rhinos has continued to grow due to the ever increasing trade in rhino horn. For many years in partnership with Save the Rhino International we have been working with a number of organisations to help protect the rhinos of Africa and Asia. In Kenya our work with the Maasailand Preservation Trust at Chyulu Hills National Park continues to grow each year. All year round local rangers work in difficult and often dangerous conditions to protect the parks genetically important Black Rhinos. With our support, camera traps have now been installed to help with anti-poaching efforts. Our conservation staff also provides invaluable technical assistance to the rangers, supporting their rhino monitoring and research.

Across the globe in Sumatra, Way Kambas National Park and Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park are home to the critically endangered Sumatran Rhino. We help support the local Rhino Protection Units who protect the remaining rhino populations and other threatened wildlife of Sumatra.

Fast Fact In Vietnam, Javan Rhino are now estimated to be extinct in the wild.



WE ARE
CHESTER ZOO

AND WE **ACT FOR WILDLIFE**



PHILIPPINES PROGRAMME

Following the best breeding season on record last year, the Katala Foundation is hoping for another successful year for the Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Programme. Our ongoing partnership enables this project on the island of Palawan to continue monitoring and protecting this highly threatened bird on the island of Palawan. Also this year we have provided assistance for Katala to update their facilities at their Environmental Education Centre, enabling them to continue their local community awareness work.

A successful education initiative was run by Katala in 2009 which aimed to increase local awareness of the threats facing the Philippine Forest Turtle. Following this, Katala began research to investigate the ecology of this endemic reptile. This project has had great success and we have extended our support to allow for further study into the behaviour and conservation of this highly threatened species.

Fast Fact The Philippines are part of this year's EAZA Southeast Asia Campaign; check out page 20 to find out more.

REALM OF THE RED APE PROGRAMME NEWS

We are pleased to be supporting a new collaboration between two of our project partners; HUTAN-KOCP in Sabah, Borneo and the Thailand based Hornbill Research Foundation. Experts from Thailand will be travelling to Borneo to train and assist HUTAN-KOCP staff in assessing the distribution and status of the eight species of hornbill that occur along the Lower Kinabatangan River in Sabah. This assessment will be used to develop a new set of conservation actions for this area.

JOIN US TO ACT FOR WILDLIFE AND VISIT
www.actforwildlife.org.uk



MASCARENES PROGRAMME

Grande Montagne Nature Reserve is found on the island of Rodrigues and is of international importance due to its large number of critically endangered endemic plant species. With our support and technical input the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation work to protect and restore the threatened plants and forests of the island. This work is vital to provide habitat for numerous threatened birds. In September, last year, the project was awarded a 'Commendation' in the BIAZA Best Conservation Project Award for their work to restore the reserve to its former glory.

Fast Fact The Mascarenes are part of the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot.

GRANT SUPPORT

AFRICA

Our projects range from protecting the habitat of Golden Mantella Frogs in Madagascar to radio tracking Southern Ground Hornbills in South Africa. We are also helping to provide veterinary care for Painted Dogs in Mkomazi National Park, Tanzania and monitoring wildlife using ariel surveys in Kenya.

ASIA

In Indonesia, we've supported projects ranging from the conservation of Komodo Dragons to projects working with two highly threatened birds; the Javan Short-tailed Magpie and the Black-winged Starling. We also sponsor research on Green Turtles in India and a hornbill awareness programme in Thailand.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

We've helped to provide nest boxes for the Brazilian Grey-breasted Parakeet and are supporting the reintroduction of orchids into REGUA Nature Reserve. We are also working with scientists who are researching species ranging from the Chilean Darwin's Frog to critically endangered fish in Mexico and Spider Monkeys in Costa Rica.

SOUTH PACIFIC

Our small islands projects include the conservation of coastal rainforests in the Solomon Islands and research and protection of the endemic Partula Tree Snails of French Polynesia.

NEWS ON CONSERVATION

from around the World

We're taking a look at who's acting for and against wildlife right now...

GOOD Scientists in the remote forests of Borneo have captured footage of one of the world's most endangered primates, Millers' Grizzled Langur. The researchers were so excited by their findings that they had to return to the site to confirm that the monkeys had been identified correctly. This discovery is great news for conservationists who were concerned that this species was extinct within this area.

BAD Demands for trade in wildlife products have continued grow; in particular a record number of rhino poaching incidents were reported in 2011. It is estimated that over 400 rhinos were poached for their horn in South Africa alone last year which is 22% more than in 2010.

ZOO NEWS

A MAN who laid the very foundations of Chester Zoo has died after a short illness.

Fred Williams, of Upton, near Chester, was the husband of June Williams, George Mottershead's youngest daughter. George set up the zoo in 1931.

Fred started work at the zoo in 1947, aged 22, and remained there for almost 40 years.

Dr Mark Pilgrim, Director General of Chester Zoo, said: *"During Fred's time with us and through hard work and ingenuity, Fred transformed the very fabric of the zoo."*

"During the austere post-war years, he used whatever materials he could find and salvage to build innovative enclosures that were the first of their kind, always putting animal welfare first. These included the lions, polar bears and the aquarium, which was a collaboration between Fred and June."

In June last year, Fred and June celebrated June's 85th birthday with their family at the opening of the restaurant June's Pavilion, named in her honour.

Fred and June were also the guests of honour at a dinner to celebrate the zoo's 75th anniversary in 2009.

Dr Pilgrim added: *"Fred was always very modest about his achievements but we owe him a great debt of gratitude for laying the foundations for us, both in terms of the setting up of the zoo but also in the physical building of it. Both he and June remain great friends of the zoo and everyone here is saddened at the loss of such an extraordinary gentleman. Fred will be greatly missed."*

Fred and June married in February 1949 and have lived in Upton all their lives. They have three children, George, Joy and Linda, and two grandchildren, Adam and Emma.



Chester Zoo has appointed two new directors as it gears up for one of the biggest developments in its history.

NEW Directors...

Director General Dr Mark Pilgrim has appointed **Stephanie Sanderson** as Living Collections' Director and **John Iles** as Finance Director.

The move comes as the zoo gets ready to start work on the ambitious £30 million *Islands* project which will transform the 110-acre zoo.

Miss Sanderson, who has been at the zoo for 12 years, and Mr Iles complete the team of directors with Managing Director Barbara Smith and Development Director Simon Mann also on board.

Dr Pilgrim said:

"Chester Zoo is entering one of the most exciting periods in its 80 year history. Islands will provide an unrivalled visitor experience, whilst maintaining the highest standards of animal welfare with a conservation theme, the likes of which have not been seen before in a European zoo. For the zoo to continue to grow and develop we need the very best leadership and vision and in our new team of directors we have just that."



Miss Sanderson has held a number of veterinary roles at the zoo, most recently the post of Head of Conservation Medicine. She will take on responsibility for animal health, in-zoo science, developing the animal and plant collection, exhibit development and education.

Mr Iles spent 14 years with Ernst and Young and has worked with a wide range of companies throughout the UK and Europe. He will look after the zoo's Finance, IT, Membership and Adoptions and Development activities.

The zoo will be looking to build on the success of 2011 which saw 1.4 million visitors pass through its gates – a record in the zoo's history.

Dr Pilgrim added:

"We are the most successful zoo in the UK and regularly voted one of the top zoos in the world. With this experienced and dedicated team of directors on board we will be able to enter the zoo's new era with all its associated developments with confidence. I'm delighted to welcome both Stephanie and John on board."

SPLITTING THE COSTS

There are now even more ways to pay for your membership renewal...

As nobody is immune to this harsh economic climate we have been encouraged to look for ways to enable members to spread the cost of their annual membership subscription over the year.

As well as continuing to operate the existing quarterly direct debit payment scheme for membership renewals, we have now obtained a Consumer Credit License. This will enable us to offer a monthly direct debit payment option for membership renewals. As with all direct debit options it will only be available for renewals and memberships must be continuous.

If you choose to renew using the new monthly direct debit payment option you will be required to sign a consumer credit agreement and a £1 admin fee will be charged per monthly transaction that's a total of £12 over the year. All relevant paperwork must be completed 10 working days before your existing membership expires.

An example of how it works:

Joint Adult membership is £110, plus one child (£36) = £146

Add £12 annual admin fee to £146 = £158

Divide £158 by 12 equal monthly payments = £13.17 per month

Total payable for memberships = £158

Members who are already on an existing direct debit scheme are welcome to transfer over to the new monthly direct debit payment option on renewal.

If you require any further details about the new monthly direct debit payment scheme please contact 01244 650208 or call in and see us.

Rhino keeper Mark scoops zoo's Green Traveller award



Meet the zookeeper that has pedalled a third of the way to the moon to look after his rhinos

A Senior Rhino Keeper has been named as Chester Zoo's Green Traveller of the Year.

Mark Cleave has cycled to work from his home in Broughton in Flintshire, every day for the last 17 years, pedalling 72,726 miles in the process – that's equivalent to almost three times around the world, or nearly a third of the way to the moon.

Mark said: "I've ridden into work every single day for the last 17 years. Come rain, sleet, wind, snow, hail, fog or shine, I haven't missed a day, nor used any other means of transport."

But whereas the mere thought of getting the bike out of the shed and hitting the road at 6:25am every morning may be daunting to most, the rewards are well worth it for the committed keeper.

"I cycle 93 miles a week but it's no problem at all. In truth, I'd cycle a heck of a lot further to work with Black Rhinos. They're just incredible animals and it's an absolute privilege to work with them day in, day out," said Mark.

"We run a hugely successful breeding programme at Chester Zoo, which I'm delighted to be involved with. And with the species now massively threatened from poaching in the wild, I'm proud to be able to say that we've had several baby Black Rhinos born in my time here – providing a vital safety-net should wild populations become extinct."

Chester Zoo's EAZA Campaign 2012

Southeast Asia is one of the most biodiverse regions in the world, home to much loved animals such as the Sumatran Tiger, Asian Elephant, Bornean and Sumatran Orangutan and Sumatran Rhino. But the biodiversity of Southeast Asia is at risk. Due to threats such as illegal wildlife trade and habitat loss large species in particular have been identified as being in rapid decline. Without immediate action they could disappear forever.

This year EAZA (European Association of Zoos and Aquaria) has joined forces with the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and SSC (Species Survival Commission) to launch the Southeast Asia Campaign. There are many threatened species in this region which are still relatively unknown.

Have you ever heard of the Saola?

Probably not. Only described in 1993, the Saola was one of the most spectacular discoveries of the 20th Century. And without our help could quite possibly go extinct in the 21st! It's no wonder then that this year, EAZA has announced that their campaign will focus on the large threatened animals of Southeast Asia.

Of the six pre-selected projects which the campaign will initially be raising funds for, two are already supported as part of our field conservation work; protecting Sumatran Rhinos in Way Kambas National Park, Indonesia and conservation of the critically endangered Rufous-headed Hornbill in the Philippines.

We have pledged to raise €10,000 to support this campaign and we need your help!

Check out the range of activities and events at the zoo this year and show your support for Chester Zoo's EAZA Campaign 2012.

Southeast Asia Trail

Want to know which Southeast Asian species we have in the zoo? Come and find them yourself, and you'll have the chance of winning a very special prize.

Download our Southeast Asia trail from the conservation pages of our website.

Chester Zoo's Bridge Building Team Wednesday 21st March • 19:30

Do you want to know more about how our staff have been acting for wildlife in Southeast Asia?

For more detailed information on this members talk, see page 26.

Southeast Asia Week Monday 9th to Friday 13th April

Join us for a fun filled week. All this week at our usual tiger talks hear about the 2012 campaign and the threatened species of Southeast Asia. You'll get to find out why animals like our Sumatran Tigers are threatened in the wild and what the campaign is doing to help conserve species in Southeast Asia. Plus every afternoon this week from 14:30 to 16:00, join us at the Cheetah Yurt for an afternoon of 'Southeast Asia' fun. There's a whole range of activities so come along and support the campaign.

BUPA Great Manchester Run: Support our runners! Sunday 20th May

That's right – we're at it again. A team of Chester Zoo staff along with some of our family and friends will be running the BUPA Great Manchester Run as part of Chester Zoo's EAZA Campaign 2012. Our team are once again donning outfits to make this run even more challenging...and this year the Chester Zoo keepers hope to be accompanied by rhinos, tigers, orangutans, gibbons and turtles.

Please support us by visiting www.everydayhero.co.uk/chester_zoos_eaza_runners



Are you supporting the events above and want an unusual souvenir from the campaign? Look out for the Southeast Asia penny press in our Realm of the Red Ape exhibit next time you're in the zoo.

Southeast Asia: Threats, challenges and successes Saturday 28th April • 10:30 – 16:45

Chester Zoo's Geraldine Russell Lecture Theatre

A day of talks, films and discussions about the threatened species of Southeast Asia. Chester Zoo is holding a Southeast Asia Symposium in aid of the campaign. This will bring together an exciting array of speakers, each with diverse interests and expertise relating to Southeast Asian conservation, including:

- Celebrity guest host wildlife TV presenter and veterinary surgeon **Steve Leonard** • **Cathy Dean**, Director of Save the Rhino International speaking about Sumatran Rhino conservation
- Nick Garbutt**, professional photographer, author and expedition leader • Chester Zoo's animal teams working with Southeast Asian species' • **Vincent Nijman**, expert on illegal wildlife trade, and **Simon Hedges**, from the Wildlife Conservation Society, talking about Sumatran Elephant conservation.

Talks will be aimed at a general audience and this event is a real 'must' for anyone interested in wildlife conservation!

BOOK NOW by calling 01244 650240

This fundraising event is open to members and non-members.

Tickets are £24 for members and £30** for non-members.

Due to the popularity of this event, advanced booking is required.

Please check the Chester Zoo website for any updates.

If you have any questions about this event, please email conservation@chesterzoo.org

* Please note: the programme may change due to unforeseen circumstances, ** Ticket price also includes tea/coffee/biscuits at refreshment breaks in the Lecture Theatre.

Free entry into the zoo at lunch time is included – lunch is not provided but please do visit the zoo's cafes and restaurants, where you'll find a great selection of food and drinks available for purchase. There are also picnic facilities available in the zoo.


Carnivore Evening Wednesday 20th June • 19:30

Interested in Chester Zoo's carnivores?

Join our Team Manager Alan Woodward to discover more about our carnivores and learn how Chester Zoo's EAZA Campaign 2012 is helping them in wild.

For more detailed information on this members talk, see page 27.

DINOSAURS BITE BACK!



Dinosaurs will come to life at Chester Zoo this year in what promises to be one of the most exciting and most interactive exhibits ever seen in a UK zoo...

The new exhibition, featuring 19 life-like mechanical replicas of the creatures that roamed the earth 200 million years ago, will open on 1st April.

Boasting realistic movements and sounds, the dinosaurs will include the giant Brachiosaurus, the iconic Stegosaurus and the infamous Tyrannosaurus Rex, the most feared land predator of all time.

The animated robots from America will be part of an atmospheric outdoor trail showing visitors exactly what it would have been like to get close to such huge beasts.

With 'Dinosaur Keepers' on-hand to teach families all about the inhabitants and a series of special effects in place, the exhibition promises to be a highly interactive experience for visitors.

Bigger, better and bolder than ever before, this year, Dinosaurs Bite Back!

What

See 19 life-like and incredibly realistic animatronic dinosaurs in the biggest, most interactive exhibition ever staged at Chester Zoo.

When

1st April 2012 to 4th November 2012

Cost

The dinosaur trail is free of charge with normal zoo admission.

CHESTER ZOO

gifts & experiences

Two new animal encounters –
Lemur Island Encounter
and **Rhino Encounter**.

Both are available to purchase NOW
ready for April 2012.

Members & Adopters
can receive
10% OFF selected
Gifts & Experiences.
Find out more by calling
01244 650 281

LEMUR ISLAND ENCOUNTER

We now offer you an amazing chance
to get up close and personal with these gentle
and inquisitive creatures.

Wade over to Lemur Island where you'll
feed our Ring Tailed Lemurs and
learn all about these wonderful animals.

Admission to the zoo is also included.

RHINO ENCOUNTER

Get closer than you have ever
been before to a Black or
Greater One-horned Rhino.
Feed our rhinos from a keeper
feeding station and learn all
about them as you come
face-to-face with one of the
world's most iconic species.

Admission to the zoo is also included.



To find out more or to make your
special purchase visit

www.chesterzoo.org/giftsandexperiences

Proceeds from Gifts and Experiences help fund our Conservation work in the UK
and around the globe, which is good news for animals everywhere!

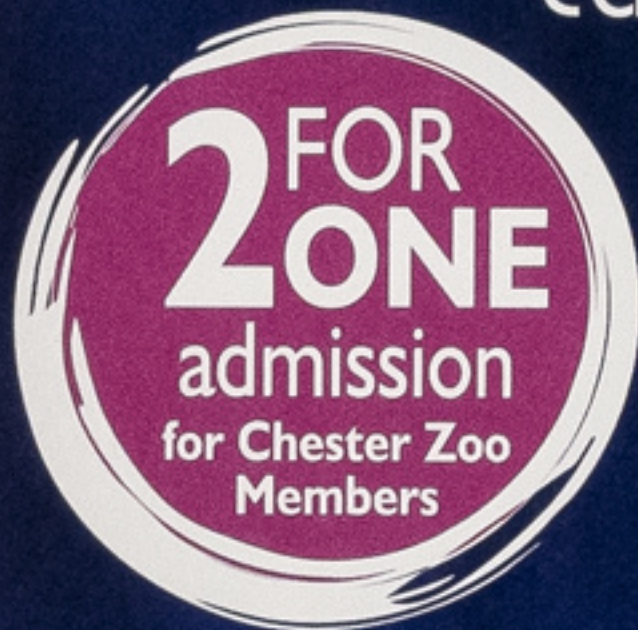
Restrictions apply

ZOO OFFERS

Science has never been so much fun!



catalyst science discovery centre



Simply show your Chester Zoo membership card at Reception and one person will be admitted free.

Catalyst Science Discovery Centre

Mersey Road, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 0DF

Tel 0151 420 1121

email info@catalyst.org.uk www.catalyst.org.uk

Valid until 30.06.12. Cheapest ticket free.

One offer per party. Not valid for schools or groups.



Funky Town is an amazing Indoor Adventure Play & Party Centre based right in the heart of Chester. Funky Town is the place where children can run, play, and slide on a huge climbing frame filled with ball pits, slides, roller squeezes, rope bridges, and toddler, disco and sensory zones, plus so much more!

ONE 50p DISCOUNT ON CHILD'S ADMISSION INTO FUNKY TOWN

(Chester Zoo Membership card must be shown & one discount applies per card shown).

Excludes school holidays & weekends, does not apply to babies under 1 year. Expiry date 30th September 2012.

MEMBERS' & ADOPTERS' DAYS

Don't forget members can bring in up to 12 guests each at half price on Members' Days.

The forthcoming dates are:

Saturday 21st April 2012

Friday 6th July 2012

Sunday 4th November 2012

Please let the membership team know how many guests you will be bringing with you.

ADOPTERS DAYS

Adopters can meet the keepers and ask questions about their adopted species on the next Adopters' Days:

Sunday 10th March 2012

Sunday 7th October 2012



Rhyl Sun Centre is one of North Wales' top destinations featuring Buzz & Black Thunder high thrill water slides plus Tropical Storm and Wave Alert pool experiences. There's something for the whole family to enjoy from toddlers to grown ups.

4 ADMISSIONS FOR THE PRICE OF 3 THROUGHOUT 2012 SEASON

(Easter until end of October).

Chester Zoo Membership card must be shown. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

Please check opening times – 01745 344433

www.rhylsuncentre.co.uk

East Parade, Rhyl, LL183AQ

ARE YOU a friend of our ENVIRONMENT?

As part of our commitment to the environment, we're giving you the chance to receive Z electronically.

Swapping over is easy, simply contact the membership office on 01244 650208

or email membership@chesterzoo.org with an email address you would like us to send the link to – but don't forget to include your membership number or postcode so we can find you on our system!

It will still be possible to receive Z by post should you not wish to receive it electronically.

Fundraising NEWS



Chester Zoo's GIVING TREE

It's new, it's different and
it looks amazing!

Chester Zoo's Giving Tree is an attractive way to recognise donations within the zoo's beautiful grounds.

We work hard to save endangered wildlife here in the UK and across the world. As a registered charity we need your help so we can do even more.

By being part of the zoo's Giving Tree, you will get your name, or that of a loved one, engraved on one of the tree leaves. Chester Zoo's Giving Tree is a great way to make a special donation to the zoo and can be used to mark an occasion such as a birth, marriage or to remember a loved one. For more information contact the Development Team on 01244 650229 or email development@chesterzoo.org

ALMA & BRIAN ECKERSLEY

CHESTER ZOO 100 CLUB

The winners of the prize draws held recently were:

October 2011

Mr A M Jones, Ellesmere Port	£100
Mr Barry Dingle, Lancashire	£100
Mrs Ivy Bentley, Chester	£100
Mr A F Chiverton, West Sussex	£50
Mrs Kim Metcalf, Chester	£50
Mrs Julie Scanlan, Ellesmere Port	£50

November 2011

Mr Robert Jewitt, Cheshire	£100
Mrs Elaine Glover, Liverpool	£100
Mrs Stephanie Douglas, Cheshire	£50
Mrs Celia Watson, Powys	£50
Mrs Julie Scanlan, Ellesmere Port	£50
Mr David Bronson, Manchester	£50

December 2011

Mr Andrew Stevens, East Yorkshire	£1000
Mr Bill Morrison, Liverpool	£100
Ms Fiona Matthews, Wirral	£50
Mrs Gillian Edwards, Crewe	£50
Ms Elizabeth Trent, Merseyside	£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 650229.

ASDA Tiger Platform



Bakery colleagues from Asda's Ellesmere Port store rose to the occasion to help the zoo's tigers.

The team were on hand to celebrate the opening of the new Tiger platform at the zoo, which had been built with funds provided by Asda to mark the 10th Anniversary of their popular Tiger Bread.

James Burrows, Asda Bakery Manager, said: "The new viewing platform looks fantastic and is a great way to cement our support for Chester Zoo. We have a long history with the tiger enclosure and

our tiger bread continues to be one of our most popular bakery products selling over 12 million loaves a year!"

Running alongside the official opening, Asda wanted to involve their customers and so offered them the chance to name one of the tiger cubs. The competition proved very popular and although it was a close run thing 'Nila' – meaning 'to inspire' – was chosen.

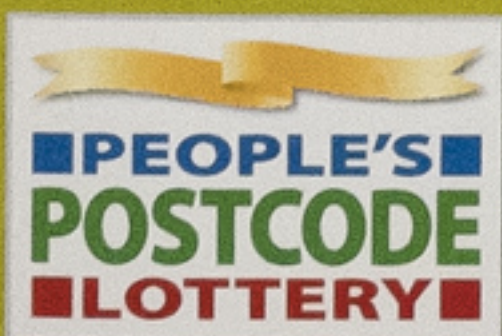
L-R Asda colleagues Anne Pryor, Phil Hughes, Alan Woodward and Simon Mann from Chester Zoo and Asda's Margaret Rhodes officially open the tiger viewing platform.

ROARING GREAT PRIZES!

Have you got your **SCRATCH ME** card yet? With it you can instantly win roaring great prizes from Chester Zoo and People's Postcode Lottery.

People's Postcode Lottery players support hundreds of great causes – including Chester Zoo's new Education project, where Merseyside schoolchildren learn how important a healthy, sustainable diet is for everybody – including zoo animals!

If you would like to win big and support great causes like this one, sign up to play at chesterzoo.org/lottery today!



gambleaware.co.uk

Chester Zoo is a Registered Charity (No. 306077). People's Postcode Lottery is regulated by the Gambling Commission under certificate nr 829-N-102511-003 and 829-R-102513-003 dated, 1st January 2009. www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk

ZOO TALK

2012 Programme

We have a great series of talks lined up for you in 2012 with some old favourites, including more information from the archives to coincide with the zoo's 78th anniversary. You'll also have the chance to hear from and meet staff who've visited our outreach projects, doing fantastic work in the field, and who will also be able to bring you up to date with our own animals in the zoo.

Wednesday 21st March at 19:30

Bridge Builders!

Chester Zoo's Bridge Building Team!

In October 2011, seven Chester Zoo staff swapped the cold autumn British weather for the hot, humid (and sweaty) weather of Borneo. The Team travelled to Sabah, Malaysian Borneo to meet with HUTAN, which the zoo supports through the Realm of the Red Ape Programme. HUTAN's Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Programme (KOCP) is also part of Chester Zoo's Act For Wildlife Campaign.

The Team spent two weeks with the HUTAN team helping to build orangutan rope bridges. Deforestation and palm oil expansion has led to many forest patches and orangutan populations becoming separated; the bridges help connect these patches over impassable areas such as large rivers. The team got stuck in to the task at hand and really got their hands dirty!

Cat Barton, Conservation
Nick Davis, Projects Team
Anna Furse, Horticulture
Andrew Greenhaigh, Horticulture
Andrew Lenihan, Primates Team Manager
Mark Wylie, Primates Team
Andy Adderton, Maintenance Team

FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL

Friday 23rd March

Otters

Paul Yoxon

Paul Yoxon is Head of Operations at the International Otter Survival Fund and he will be giving us a fascinating presentation on the work of this charity in their attempts to highlight the issues with Otters in the UK.

Tickets: These may be available on the door, but advanced booking helps us to keep costs down and guarantees a seat. Please telephone Penny Rudd at the Zoo on 01244 650215, to reserve your tickets.

Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start, in the Zoo's Russell Allen Lecture Hall. Both Members and non-Members of FFI are welcome to attend.

Tickets cost £9.00 for FFI Members and £10.00 for non-Members of FFI, and this includes a light buffet and wine. We offer a special concession for students of just £5 per ticket.

Thursday 19th April at 19:30

¿Dónde está el oso?^

James Andrewes, Marisa Edwards and Craig Williams

Our Bats' Team has responsibility for the zoo's Spectacled Bears and in 2011 James attended a Bear Care workshop in Banff in the Canadian Rockies – real bear country. Craig spent time in Ecuador in 2011 working with the Andean Bear Foundation, radio tracking wild Andean (or Spectacled) Bears to gain a greater insight into their ecology in the wild. They are one of the least known about bear species and this work is being carried out to enable the Foundation to get greater protection for the bears' habitat in the wilds of Ecuador. In 2007 Marisa, from our Discovery and Learning Division, spent time assisting in the education of local children in Merida, Venezuela where Spectacled Bears were once commonly found. Hear all about their bear travels as well as hearing the latest news on our own Spectacled Bears.

James Andrewes, Senior Keeper, Bats' Team
Marisa Edwards, Presenter *Craig Williams, Keeper, Bats' Team*

^Where is the bear?

Wednesday 9th May at 19:30

My Dear Mottershead - how Chester Zoo influenced zoo development worldwide in the 60s and 70s

Stephen McKeown

One of the joys of managing the zoo's archives is that just when you think you're on top of it all, someone finds a box in the attic and a whole new batch of material comes to light. Since we last had a zoo history talk we've been busy ploughing through some twelve archive boxes of George Mottershead's correspondence with other zoos, have discovered maps and papers relating to the zoo's post-war land acquisitions and, courtesy of George Mottershead's daughter June, a magazine from 1930 with a two page spread on the Oakfield Zoological Gardens. This was the collection started by George Mottershead in Shavington, the success of which led to the creation of Chester Zoo a year later. So, lots of new information to share with a particular emphasis on Chester Zoo's role in the wider zoo world and a rare chance to look at some of our recently restored original documentation in an archive display.

Stephen McKeown is Chester Zoo's Head of Discovery & Learning

Wednesday 6th June at 19:30

Apes like us: confessions of a primatologist & Saving a Wilderness: report from the front line

Volker Sommer and Dr George of the Gashaka Primate Project, Nigeria

Two talks. An evening not to be missed! Further details to come on the website.

Wednesday 20th June

Carnivore Evening

Alan Woodward

Team Manager Alan Woodward will provide all the latest news on the zoo's carnivores, including a look at the 2011 big cat births and will bring you up to date with all the animals on his section. But what about the big cats in the wild? You'll get to hear about how the Sumatran Tigers are faring in the wild, the threats they face and how this year's Southeast Asia Campaign is helping them and other species from this region. Plus, our Sumatran Tiger cubs have been busy roaming around their enclosure and leaving behind their footprints... Would you like to be the proud owner of a limited edition tiger cub footprint? All proceeds from the auction and tonight's event will go towards Chester Zoo's EAZA Campaign 2012.

Tuesday 17th July at 19:30

Elephant Evening

Emma Evison, Alan Littlehales, Andrew MacKenzie, Eveline de Wolf

2011 was another busy year for our Elephant Team. Emma was involved in an attitudinal survey in Assam; Alan went to the Elephant Management School at Hagenbecks, Germany and Andrew attended the Elephant Care Workshop in Phoenix, USA. They'll tell you all about their trips, what they learned and what's happening in the field with Eveline bringing you up to date with what's new with our own herd. More details in the next edition of Z.

Emma Evison, Alan Littlehales, Andrew MacKenzie, Elephant Team
Eveline de Wolf, Elephant Team Manager

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). We offer a special rate of £2.00 to Adopters. 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, zoo staff and fellow members. The Lecture Theatre has its own car park and a bike rack for cyclists. Please support our Members' Talks which are provided to keep you abreast of developments in 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.brarkin@chesterzoo.org to book.

WHICH ONE WILL YOU CHOOSE?

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48 months	£199.00	£20,065.00	£852.79	£3,799.00	£4,651.79	£15,413.21
Credit arrangement fee	Option to purchase fee^^	Optional final payment	Total amount payable	Excess mileage charge	Rate of interest	Representative APR
£0.00	£10.00	£8,344.00	£22,348.79	5.4 pence	4.9% Fixed	4.9%

BMW Select example for a BMW 318i Performance Edition

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Front Armrest • Bluetooth • Front Fog Lights

Term of agreement	47 monthly payments of	On the road cash price*	Dealer deposit contribution	Customer deposit	Total deposit	Total amount of credit
48 months	£279.00	£23,195.00	£4,205.22	£1,479.00	£5,684.22	£17,510.78
Credit arrangement fee	Option to purchase fee^^	Optional final payment	Total amount payable	Excess mileage charge	Rate of interest	Representative APR
£0.00	£10.00	£8,161.00	£26,958.22	5.7 pence	7.5% Fixed	7.5%

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Saturday 29th September 2012

RUN for the **WILD**
CHESTER ZOO'S  FAMILY FUN RUN

RUN FOR THE WILD and help raise vital funds
for Chester Zoo's Black Rhino Conservation Programme.

Our **FAMILY FUN RUN**

will take you past some of the
rarest and most endangered
species in the world!

Entry costs
£10 for adults and
£5 for children.

– it's open to runners and walkers of all abilities.

To get involved visit our Guest Services Pavilion,
call 01244 650 240 or visit www.chesterzoo.org/run



Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH

Tel. 01244 380280 Fax. 01244 371273 Email: info@chesterzoo.org Web: www.chesterzoo.org

Founded in 1934, the North of England Zoological Society is a registered charity. We need your help and support to raise funds for the care and conservation of rare and endangered animals both in the zoo and across the world.

Registered charity No. 306077