



Philippine Cockatoo
Conservation

Plant Conservation Day

The Wadi Fish Project

Fast cat is back

Autumn 2008 Issue 35
Z magazine for Chester Zoo
Members and Adopters
www.chesterzoo.org



'Welcome to the Autumn issue of Z magazine and with the summer only just behind us, we are all now gearing up for the winter months ahead.'

Many of you will have shared in our *Frost Fair* experience over the last two years and preparations are well underway for this year's extravaganza which promises to be even bigger and better!

2008's *Frost Fair* will launch on November 27 and there will be so much more for you to see, do, enjoy and experience this time.

More details of what we have planned can be found on our website, www.chesterzoo.org. You will also be able to book your skating and Santa slots, character breakfasts and disco nights the same way and I look forward to welcoming you all soon.

On a personal note, I was delighted to receive an honorary degree – Degree of Doctor of Science Honoris Causa – from Manchester Metropolitan University. There was a wonderful ceremony at the Bridgewater Hall and I feel very honoured to have received the degree.

Back at the Zoo, new developments continued over the summer months with the completion of our new cheetah exhibit and all four magnificent cheetahs can be seen out and about in all their glory!

Building work will also soon finish on the butterfly house and we hope you will enjoy immersing yourselves in the world of these fantastic tropical butterflies when it opens its doors shortly.

As part of our ongoing links with zoos around the world, we have welcomed numerous visitors over the last few months. They include colleagues from Baghdad and Beijing zoos who have visited us to pick up some key skills in animal welfare, care and enclosure design.

As one of the foremost zoos in Europe, we are delighted to offer a helping hand to others in this way and furthermore, these exchanges help strengthen our links further afield.

I am sure there will be many more visits of this nature in the future but for now it is time to get our skates on and get back to the preparations for *Frost Fair*!

I hope to see you there.



Gordon McGregor Reid
Director General



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Don't forget!

Visit our new website at
www.chesterzoo.org for more
info on all the latest Zoo news.

Zoo additions

Philippine Crocodiles

Several months ago, two members of one of the world's rarest animal species arrived quietly and inconspicuously at Chester Zoo. Initially housed off-show for quarantine purposes and to give them peace and security to settle in, we have been busily renovating the old alligator ponds in the *Tropical Realm* to receive these two Critically Endangered Philippine crocodiles (*Crocodylus mindorensis*). Happily, in June they were given a clean bill of health by our veterinary team, the enclosure was completed, and the crocodiles moved in.

Now before you go rushing down to the *Tropical Realm* to see these notorious, giant, predatory reptiles, a word or two of advice.

Word one is small.

You will need to look very carefully. Despite being more than 10 years old, our pair of crocodiles are still very small, perhaps a metre and a half from nose to tail. This, it seems, is quite normal for what is probably the world's slowest growing crocodile.

However despite their physical stature, these animals are likely to be sexually mature and could breed in the near future if conditions are right. Furthermore, if their reputation is accurate, what they lack in size they will more than make up for in attitude, being one of the most agile and aggressive (to one another) of crocodile species. Eventually the male should reach up to 3m in length, but that could take a further 15 – 20 years!

Word two is patience.

Not only are these crocodiles small but they are understandably shy. Their spacious new enclosure represents part of a river where the bank has eroded and collapsed. As such it provides them with plenty of deep, warm, water and a large area of densely planted riverbank in which to secrete themselves. There are bits and bobs of floating and submerged roots and logs which can look uncannily like a crocodile at a careless glance! You may therefore need to make more than one visit to their home to maximise your chances of a fleeting, but rewarding, glimpse.

Sadly this is perhaps the most threatened of the 14 species of crocodile, who with the eight species of alligator and caiman and the unique gharial make up the 23 species of Crocodylian worldwide. Loss of habitat through erosion of deforested hillsides and direct hunting have both had, and continue to have, a terrible impact on the numbers of these shy and secretive crocodiles in their native Philippine islands. It is thought that fewer than 100 adults survive in the wild.

The pair at Chester Zoo are two of 15 crocodiles brought to Europe in 2007 from a small conservation-breeding farm in the Philippines. Not only do these 15 crocodiles represent an important extension of the breeding programme for the species but the six European zoos between which they are distributed all co-fund an essential conservation initiative in the San Mariano region of Luzon, where a small population of crocodiles was re-discovered in 1999. With the support of these zoos it is hoped that the Mabuwaya Foundation will continue to be successful in its community-focussed conservation strategy for this enigmatic crocodile.

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Reticulated Poison-Dart Frog

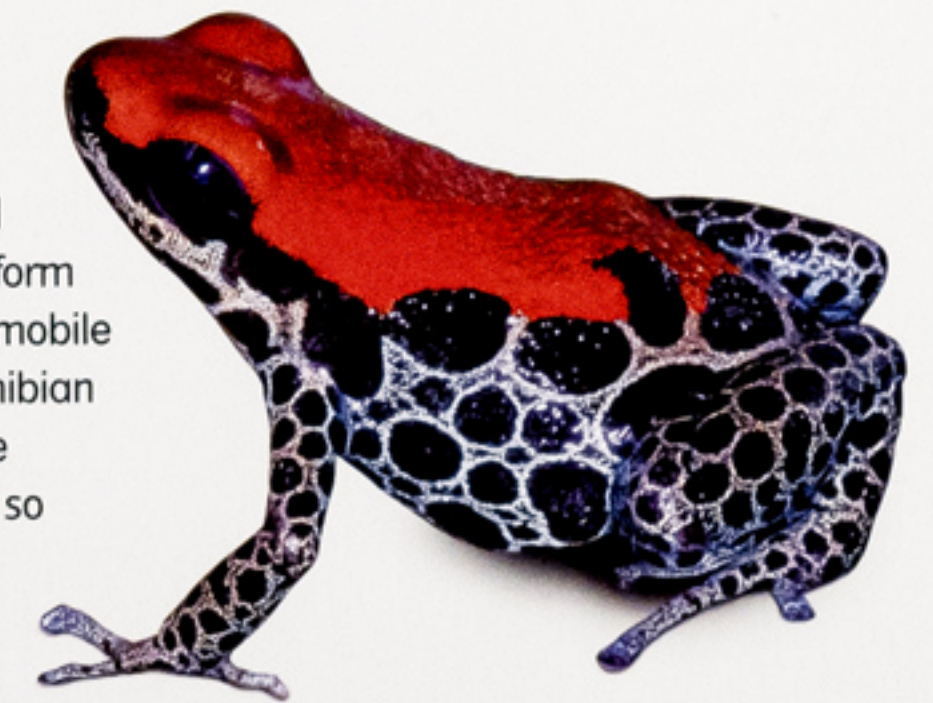
June saw the first successful breeding of Chester Zoo's smallest and arguably most beautiful, four-legged animal, the reticulated (or red-backed) poison-dart frog (*Dendrobates reticulatus*).

Measuring little over 1 cm as an adult, two or three of the newly metamorphosed babies can sit comfortably on your finger nail! Feeding these miniature marvels is the next challenge that faces the herpetology staff. Imagine how small the food needs to be to fit in the frog's tiny mouths. Fortunately we can collect tiny invertebrates called springtails (*Collembola spp.*) in the leaf litter around the Zoo grounds.

These almost microscopic, insect-like hexapods (six-legged arthropods) form the staple diet until the 'froglets' are large enough to eat little fruit flies and hatchling crickets, which we also culture in huge numbers specifically

to feed our burgeoning frog collection. Hailing from the Iquitos region of northern Peru, this jewel-like frog is thankfully not yet considered an endangered species. However, being so small and fragile it makes a great 'model species' for our herpetology staff to develop appropriate skills for working with similarly 'fiddly' frogs that are in urgent need of conservation breeding. For this reason, the reticulated poison-dart frogs are currently housed off-show in our state of the art *Amphibian Pod*. This is a converted refrigerated shipping container, modified with the technology to transform it into an independent, and mobile should the need arise, amphibian conservation laboratory. The *Amphibian Pod* has proven so successful that we hope to find funds to build a further five over coming years to

greatly expand our work with the world's rarest and most threatened amphibians. When the staff have learned all they can from the reticulated poison-dart frogs, perfected their husbandry and successfully reared sufficient young frogs, we hope to put a small group on display somewhere in the Zoo so that visitors too can enjoy these tiny living gems of the rainforest.



↘ new arrivals

Zoo additions

Cheetahs

In January of this year work began on the new Cheetah exhibit, it was to form part of the *Asian Steppe* area of the Zoo and would see the return of this unique animal after more than eight years.

The new enclosure consists of two large on-show areas and three off-show including tall grassed areas and lots of sand for the Cheetahs to bask on. Planting was carried out using plants from arid regions.

There are five dens in total, all of which are heated, lit and fitted with CCTV cameras that can be viewed from the main house.

Elevated areas were incorporated into the design and the roofs of the dens were grassed over to allow them to blend in and maintain a natural effect. Plants screen the dens to achieve private areas for the animals and "play trees" were constructed. "Play trees" are used in the wild by Cheetahs as areas to climb and leave calling cards for other Cheetahs, these tell them what animals have been in the vicinity and also make good look out posts. These trees always have a gradual slope as Cheetahs are not good climbers due to their semi-retractable claws.

Four male Cheetahs arrived in May, they came from two collections in the United Arab Emirates and settled in very well.

The sub-species of cheetah we now have at the Zoo is *Acionyx jubatus soemmeringii*, a northern African species ranging from Nigeria to Somalia and more endangered than the southern race. These animals are a lot lighter in colour and more lithe looking than their southern relatives. The sub-species is very similar in appearance to the extremely rare Iranian Cheetah (*Acionyx jubatus venaticus*) numbering only around 100 in isolated areas of Iran.

A viewing area has been built at one end of the enclosure, it is themed around a Mongolian nomadic yurt, it has glass viewing windows and contains interpretation about the animals.

The new visitor bridge overlooking the excellent Cheetah breeding facility has enhanced this area considerably. Hopefully in the future we will breed this species, which would be another first for Chester Zoo. Many thanks to Primate Team Leader Andrew Lenihan, the Estates, Botanic and Carnivore teams for all their hard work in making this exhibit what it is today.



Scimitar-Horned Oryx

Four very important Scimitar-horned Oryx calves have been born. They will play a vital part in the conservation of the species.

The Scimitar-horned Oryx is listed on the World Conservation Union (IUCN) list as Extinct in the Wild. Habitat loss and over hunting are the main threats to the species; they were hunted for their horns, almost to extinction. They once occupied the whole Sahara but are now considered to be extinct in the wild.

The new additions were all born between May and June, this is a new blood line and as they are all males they will eventually go on to form new breeding herds at other collections.

The youngster's coats are currently brown, their faces have white markings and they have small horns coming through. Eventually their coat will be white with a reddish-brown chest and black markings on their face. Their horns will grow to about a metre in length and will curve backwards.

All four calves were fathered by male Oryx *Ronnie*, who came to the Zoo last year. The birth of one of the calves will be followed by viewers of the new *Zoo Days* series.



Making a difference

NEZS conservation outreach global update

News from around the world

Bad

It is feared that the last remaining four Northern White Rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum cottoni*) in the wild have been killed by poachers for their horns. Population numbers fell dramatically in the 1970s from around 500 to just 15. 30 were recorded in 2003 but by 2006 only these four remained. There are only nine individuals in captivity in two zoological institutions in the Czech Republic and the U.S.A however only three of these are capable of breeding and Northern White Rhino have rarely reproduced in zoos.

Good

In contrast numbers of the African Black Rhinoceros, *Diceros bicornis* have risen from 3,730 in 2005 to 4,180 last year, most of which are found in Zimbabwe, South Africa, Namibia and Kenya though they are becoming more common in neighbouring countries. However they remain Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List and conservation efforts continue, including those of Chester Zoo, to ensure that the Black Rhino does not meet the same fate as the Northern White Rhino.

Realm of the Red Ape Programme

Core funding was awarded for the first year of our new Realm of the Red Ape Programme initiative primarily funded through the Keeper For A Day Scheme. The major component of this programme is the Kinabatangan Orang-utan Conservation Project (KOCP) which was initiated in 1998 by the French conservation organisation 'Hutan'. Our ongoing support for this project will contribute towards Orang-utan research and population management, help reduce levels of Human-Orang-utan conflict and enhance community involvement in local conservation activities. An additional component to this programme supports the KOCP Honorary Wildlife Wardens whose activities include patrolling the area to control human encroachments, wildlife monitoring, conflict mitigation and communities awareness activities.

China Programme

We have renewed our support for both of the main components of the China Programme. Chester Zoo has been supporting the Sichuan Forest Biodiversity Project since 2002. The project focuses on several species including the Endangered Giant Panda, Red Panda and Sichuan Partridge and successes include the establishment of three new nature reserves which protect over 1,000km² of forest. The project includes a number of community and education projects as well as training reserve staff and conducting surveys to identify key biodiversity areas. The project now aims to build on its successes to consolidate the protection provided for forests and their wildlife in the region.

We also provided ongoing funding for the field study and conservation management of the Blue-crowned Laughingthrush in partnership with Leeds Castle, CEPA and ZGAP.

Grant Support

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

- Assessment of freshwater fish diversity and ecology: Georgian-Azerbaijan-Russian joint expedition 2008
- Conservation of the Chinese Monal Pheasant
- Building capacity to conserve the otters of the Lower Mekong
- Promoting spatial cohesion in Water Voles through the provision of mink rafts and live capture traps to remove American Mink which prevent water vole recovery and expansion
- In situ conservation tools for South Asia
- Wildlife endocrinology workshop
- II International Symposium on the Andean Bear in Lima 08
- Building capacity for Mountain Chicken *Leptodactylus fallax*, ex situ maintenance and breeding in Dominica, West Indies
- International workshop on biocryobanks and wildlife conservation
- Translation of EAZA research strategy

Zoological & Veterinary Studentships

Each year Chester Zoo provides funding for a number of projects through our Studentship scheme. The projects supported are either final year undergraduate or Masters degree projects or University expeditions. The studentships awarded this year are:

- Assessing the impact of anthropogenic activities on the distribution of proboscis monkeys in Danau Sentarum NP, West Kalimantan, Indonesia: James Robins, Oxford Brookes University
- The interplay between nest site migration of army ants and insectivory in Nigerian chimpanzees: Oliver Allon, University College London
- Orang-utan '08: Graham Banes, University of Aberdeen
- Assessing the distribution and abundance of owl monkeys in Alto Chagres, Panama: Magdalena Svensson, Oxford Brookes University
- Expectations of local communities towards ecotourism and its potential for conservation of mountain gorillas and forest habitats of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda: Alex Tumukunde, Oxford Brookes University
- Correlates of stress in wild male olive baboons at Gashaka Gumti National Park, Nigeria: Jacklyn Ellis, Roehampton University

Richard Hughes Scholarship

The Richard Hughes Scholarship 2008 has been jointly awarded to Lizzie Webber for her project "Human-elephant conflict in Cambodia: an investigation in frequency, hotspots and crop choice" and Rebekah Karimi for her project "Crop damage by elephants in Tanzania: quantification, perception and prevention".

Chester Zoo is ensuring that the Black Rhino does not meet the same fate as the Northern White Rhino.



Galloway Wildlife Conservation Park has the potential to be a completely unique small zoo, incorporating both local and exotic species of conservation importance.

DIY SOS

Chester Zoo offered a helping hand to one of its smaller counterparts north of the border. A team of keeping and maintenance staff, under the watchful eye of Chester's Director of Conservation and Education, Mark Pilgrim, worked at Galloway Wildlife Conservation Park, Galloway.

Over the course of a week, the team of nine helped rebuild some of Galloway's animal enclosures, particularly those near the main entrance, including the caracals enclosure.

Through the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA), Mark is the mentor for the Galloway Wildlife Conservation Park and has been offering the park, run by husband and wife team John and Kathryn Denerley, advice and support.

Mark said: "There are differences between Chester and Galloway in terms of our acreage, the number of species we hold and the visitors we receive. That said, both of our organisations are passionate about conservation and education and it is at the heart of what we do. Galloway has great potential for development and is in a truly stunning location. We have a lot of expertise and experience at Chester and, as the largest zoo in the UK, we were happy to pass on and lend our support to the dedicated Galloway team. We hope their visitors, old and new, will reap the benefits of our labour."

The project is being funded through Chester's Keeper for a Day scheme, which provides the opportunity for people to work alongside the animal teams. Funds from Keeper for a Day are ploughed back into conservation projects.

John, who was born and bred in Chester, visited Chester Zoo throughout his childhood. He said: "I was really thrilled to have the Chester Zoo team help us to improve some buildings at our Park. It is important to show a good role model working together between a big zoo and small zoo in the zoo community. Galloway Wildlife Conservation Park has the potential to be a completely unique small zoo, incorporating both local and exotic species of conservation importance. We have the opportunity to educate the public about the importance of habitat and the environment, both locally and nationally. Our mission is to establish a conservation breeding centre for small animals, to conserve wildlife, wildlife habitats and sites of geological importance and to provide opportunities for the public to enjoy and learn about both endangered and native animals in the area they live in."



A team from Chester carried out its own DIY SOS project in the name of conservation at Galloway Wildlife Park.



By Roger Wilkinson
Head of Field Programmes & Research

Philippine Cockatoo Conservation

The Philippine Cockatoo occurs only in the Philippines and although formerly widespread and numerous is now restricted to very few sites and Critically Endangered with ca 1000 birds in the wild.

The reasons for this decline are a combination of forest destruction and severe hunting pressure for the cage bird trade. As indicated by their scientific name *Cacatua haematuropygia* these birds are distinguished by having blood-red feathers of the ventral area and they are also known as Red-vented Cockatoos.

Chester Zoo has a long history of working with parrots and has held Philippine Cockatoos for a number of years. We are a member of the European Zoos endangered species breeding programme (EEP) for this cockatoo. A field programme for wild cockatoos was initiated in the Philippines by the French biologist and EEP Co-ordinator Marc Boussekey, and Chester Zoo contributed financial support for this through the EEP.

The largest surviving population (of 180 cockatoos) is found on Rasa Island – a small coral island off the coast of Palawan. Poachers from the nearby town of Narra visited the island and harvested chicks from nests and its conservation there was of highest priority. The Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Programme (PCCP) was launched in 1998 by the German biologist Peter Widmann and his Filipino wife Indira Lacerna with Rasa Island as initial focus. "Katala" is the Filipino name for the cockatoo and the foundation set up to protect this parrot is called the Katala Foundation. This is now co-managed by Dr Sabine Schoppe.

The Loro Parque Fundação, Chester Zoo, and the French and German conservation bodies CEPA and ZGAP are the Principal donors and funding partners for the Katala Foundation. Currently Chester commits £15,000 per year to core support.

The breeding success on Rasa Island varies from year to year and this is greatly affected by the food available varying with El Niño years. In 2005 high chick mortality was related to low food abundance resulting from the effects of El Niño. Chicks were rescued from some of the nests and hand-reared by Katala staff. It was then decided that these could be translocated to Lagen Island off Palawan to begin a new colony. Chester Zoo financed two people – bird-keeper Paul Morris and our former Research Assistant Eleanor Keen (accompanied by Kelly Jacobs) – to assist the project.

Although the translocation encountered difficulties much was learned before the surviving birds were recaptured. These are now at a newly constructed breeding education and centre at Narra.

In contrast, 2008 has been an incredibly productive breeding year for the wild Cockatoos. I visited Rasa to learn that 49 cockatoos had been hatched. One nest held three chicks all of which were in tip top health. I was thrilled to be there when one of the wardens – most of whom as ex-poachers are skilled nest finders and tree climbers, ascended the tree to lower down a basket of three chicks to be checked, weighed and banded.

The project has expanded to include conservation sites on Dumaran Island, off the northern coast of Palawan, and at Rizal in southern Palawan. Chester also support a number of other important conservation projects in the Philippines and research on the few remaining cockatoos on Patanungan Island (one of the Polillo Islands) is also assisted by this project.

The work of the Katala project includes nest protection, research and most importantly education and "Pride" campaigns with Philippine Cockatoo mascots and costumed figures being used very effectively in education work and local festivals.

We can be proud at Chester to be a major supporter and partner for this important and successful cockatoo conservation project.



staff go wild



South America

Stephen McKeown
Head of Discovery & Learning

Stephen was invited to give two presentations on zoo education at the Brazilian Zoo Association Congress at Sorocaba University, not far from Sao Paulo. Afterwards he was taken into the Atlantic Rainforest where he ate with a chief of the Xingu tribe and had the opportunity to meet and dance with the people. Then Stephen went on to Colombia and Barranquilla Zoo where Chester Zoo support Spectacled Bear and Parrot conservation education projects respectively. As well as catching up with the latest developments he was able to chat to the Head of Education there who will be visiting Chester in the autumn.

Tenerife

Roger Wilkinson &
Rachael Pedley
*Head of Field Programmes &
Research and Conservation Assistant*

Roger chaired an EAZA Parrot TAG meeting hosted at Loro Parque in Tenerife which holds the largest and most diverse parrot collection in the world. Rachael was involved in coordinating and documenting the workshop which was set up in order to discuss and confirm management plans for EAZA collection parrot species. The meeting was very successful and recommendations for the TAG will be submitted to the EAZA office shortly.

Sumatra

Andrew Wolfenden
Keeper, Carnivore Section

Andy spent four weeks in Sumatra working with the Wildlife Conservation Society's Tiger Forever Programme. During this time Andy spent fourteen days hiking in the highland forest of Southern Aceh looking for and recording signs of tigers along with any tell tale marks of other forest species. Andy also spent two weeks working with the Wildlife Crime Unit who are currently working very hard to stem the current trade of tiger parts in North Sumatra.

update from around the world

Kidz ZOO

Autumn 2008 Issue 35



Competitions,
Puzzles & Events!

WIN!

We have two £10 gift vouchers to spend in the Zoo shops.
To be in with a chance of winning, complete the puzzles

and send your answers to:
Kidz Zoo competition c/o Marketing Department,
Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester CH2 1LH

by Monday October 27th 2008

Congratulations
to our last
winners:
Thomas Birdsey, eight,
from Stockport, and
India Cotgreave, nine,
from Upton

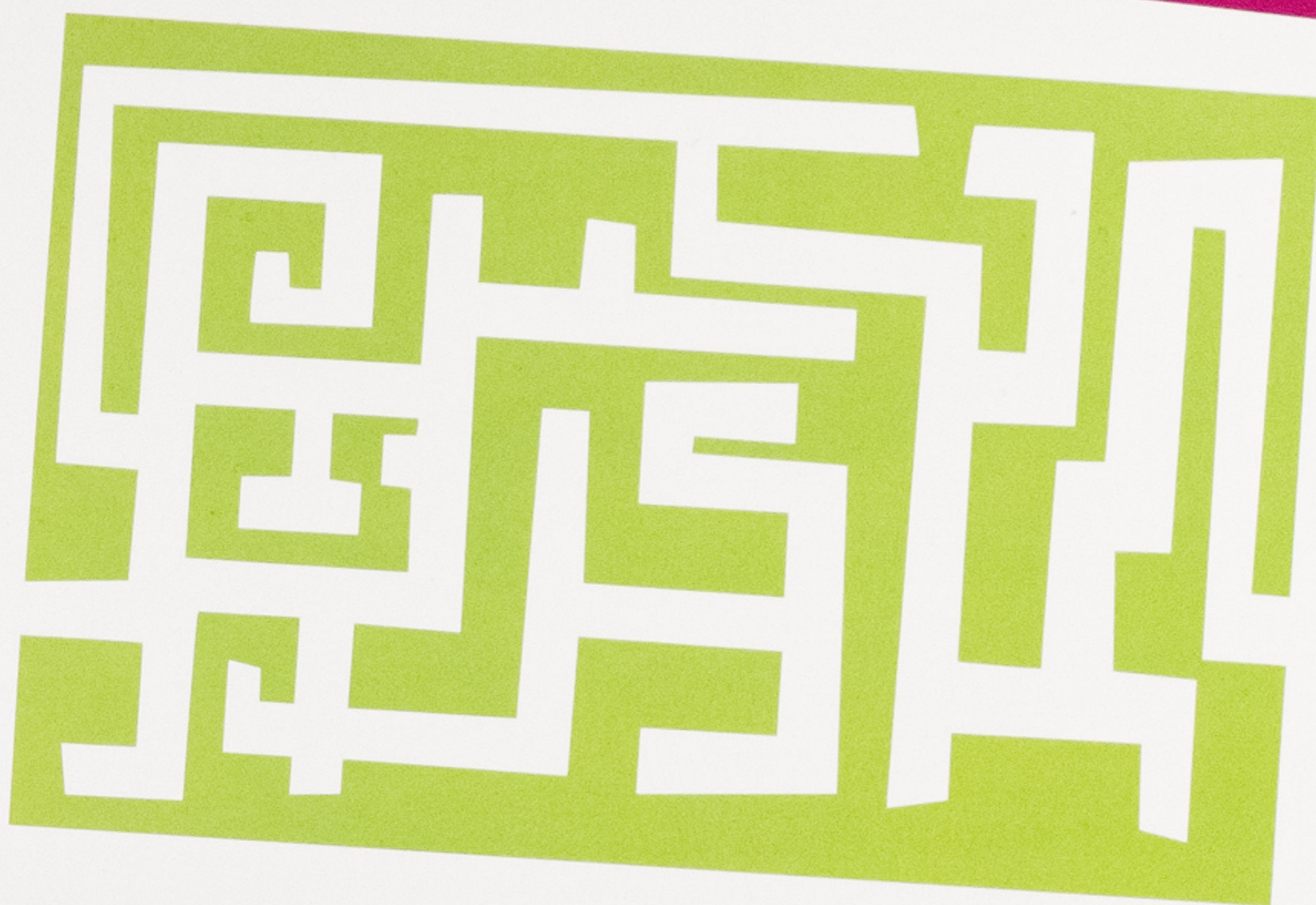
Word search

A N O B B I G S E N D
W A L L A B Y T O D B
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D R U Z M E P O N Y T
S O R E C O N I H R A

ELEPHANT
LION
TIGER
JAGUAR
IGUANA
OKAPI
RHINOCEROS
ORANGUTAN
GIBBON
WALLABY

Can you find your way
through the maze?

Start



Join the dots

See if you can
find out what our
feathered friend is!



Junior members

programme of events Autumn/Winter 2008

Knowsley Safari Park

Sat 20 Sept

Another very popular visit for the Juniors, when we head off to spend the day at Knowsley Safari Park. This is a chance to see a very different way in which to keep animals, and to hear a little about the different management techniques applied in Safari parks compared to those used in zoos. **The bus will leave the Cedar House staff car park at 10.30am and return at 4.30pm. Over eights are welcome to come along.**

The RSPB Reserve at Conway

Sat 18 Oct

We had such a wonderful day when we visited this large RSPB reserve a few years ago during the summertime, that we thought we would try it again during the Autumn this time. It is easy walking and offers a great chance to visit some lovely bird hides, all within the beautiful scenery alongside the Conwy River in North Wales. **Eights and over are encouraged to join us, leaving the Zoo's Cedar House car park at 10.00am and returning at 5.00pm. Please wear appropriate clothing for being outdoors for most of the day!**

Manchester Museum

Sat 22 November

We usually aim to head for an 'indoor venue' just to be on the safe side in November and Manchester Museum is a great place to visit as it has a large and very interesting Natural Science section for us to explore. **We will be leaving the Cedar House staff car park at 10.30am and arriving back there for 4.00pm. Over eights are invited to join us. Bring a picnic lunch.**

The Juniors' Christmas Party

Fri 5 December

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 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 up Caughall Road from the Upton lights. You should arrive at 7.00pm, with a cushion and a torch, and parents should arrange to collect you from the Ark Restaurant at 9.45pm.**

Bookings must be made for all events. Please ring Penny Rudd at the Zoo on 01244 650215, not more than two weeks before the event you would like to attend. Places are offered on a first-come, first-served basis and may be limited. This list is provisional and in exceptional circumstances we may have to alter dates and venues. You will be informed of any such changes in Z 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.



RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park

news

This year was the 10th anniversary of the RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park, it was a flagship event of Cheshire's Year of the Gardens 08 campaign and supported by the Northwest Regional Development Agency.

The Zoo presented one of the four back to back gardens included in the main show garden, along with Arley Hall and Gardens, Ness Botanic Gardens and Tatton Hall.

The Zoo's garden, entitled *Butterfly Journey*, was designed to inspire and educate visitors about butterfly-friendly plants and show them features they could incorporate into their own gardens to attract native butterflies, as well as promoting the new butterfly exhibit opening at the Zoo later this year.

The design and planning of the Garden started back in February and

continued up to the start of the build, with the garden taking a week to build. The hard work paid off and the garden was awarded a Silver Gilt medal by the Royal Horticultural Society.

Over 100,000 people visited the show over the five days; Zoo staff received fantastic feedback from the visitors with many saying they thought it deserved Gold.

A big well done to the Horticulture and Botany Team! Special thanks go to Mark Hargreaves who planned and supervised the project, Dixie Read who made the bronze butterfly water



feature and the decorative bench, Mark Roberts who made the lean-to greenhouse and Denis Kinsella who constructed the brick wall at the show.

plant conservation day



Chester Zoo has taken part in Plant Conservation Day for the first time. This is an event that was started in the USA by American Zoos about five years ago and this year a number of UK zoos spearheaded a campaign to get the day recognised in Europe.

A number of activities and displays were set up around the Zoo including:

- A display telling visitors about our native plants species conservation projects was set up at the 'Acting Locally' hut. At the same site we held a native plant identification test for visitors to test their knowledge of our native flora.
- In Islands in Danger a display and slide show highlighted the work the Zoo is carrying out in Mauritius on the conservation of Critically Endangered plants.
- At the Wildlife Garden staff explained how visitors could attract wildlife into their own garden and they were also able to pot up a plant to take home with them.
- In the Nursery there was a demonstration of how to put epiphytic orchids onto bark and a close encounter with a range of carnivorous plants could be enjoyed with the aid a magnifying glass.

At each of these displays Horticulture and Botany staff were on hand to talk to our visitors and tell them about the important work the Zoo is undertaking on plant conservation.

We were also fortunate to have a group from the Bluebell Discovery Project with a display showing the plight of our native bluebell and also a stand highlighting the work of the NCCPG (National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens).

Conservation CONVERSATION



We have something for everyone in our Autumn Season of Members' Talks. From the amphibian plight to big cat enrichment, the work of Chester Zoo is reflected in our series of talks to bring you up to date with our conservation programmes. Finally, to end the 2008 Members' Talks, we have a special treat for you – a look behind the scenes during the filming of the Channel Five series, *Zoo Days*.

We hope you can join us. **Talks are free of charge!**

Paramount or playtime?

Weds 17 Sept
7.30pm

Big cat enrichment at Chester Zoo
Andy Wolfenden



Environmental enrichment with Chester Zoo's big cats has always been important but with recent additions and changes to the Zoo, it is fast becoming one of the keystone roles in the day-to-day husbandry of Chester Zoo's big cat collection. The need to extend the physical stimulation and, even more importantly, the mental stimulation of our animals is ever more vital. From springs to scents, from bags to boxes, this presentation will take a look into Chester Zoo's big cat enrichment techniques from past and present. It will also include the ethics behind them and the problems that we have had with public perception of enrichment, as well as a look towards how the recent research into the behaviour of our cats is shaping the methods of husbandry and

enrichment we need to develop for the future to improve welfare.

This includes a look into how we are trying to provide different forms of enrichment for every day of the week, and the methods used to devise new enrichment techniques and their relation and relevance to provoking wild/instinctive behaviours, without focusing too heavily on nutritional based enrichment.

Andy Wolfenden worked at the Blue Planet Aquarium for two years before joining Chester Zoo's Aquarium four years ago. With a big interest in developing natural methods of environmental enrichment for big cats, he joined the Carnivore keeping team three years ago.

Amphibian Ark

Tues 18 Nov
7.30pm

2008 Year of the Frog
Richard Gibson

Amphibian Alarm – the EAZA Year of the Frog Campaign 2007/2008 was officially launched on 12th September 2007, during the EAZA Annual Conference in Warsaw. The Campaign supports the global initiative 2008 – Year of the Frog organised by the Amphibian Ark which is coordinated by IUCN and WAZA. This worldwide campaign focuses on raising awareness of the amphibian crisis and on raising funds to support the Amphibian Ark activities. This presentation will reflect on the year's campaign and bring you up to date with the amphibian crisis and the Amphibian Ark's work, including that carried out at Chester, as well as an update on the amphibian species we currently hold.

Richard Gibson is Chester Zoo's Curator of Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates. Richard joined the Zoo in February 2008 before which he had been Curator of Herpetology at ZSL: Fauna Conservation Manager for the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation and Head of Herpetology at the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. He is the Amphibian Ark's Taxon Officer.



Chester Zoo Calling

Weds 17 Dec
7.30pm

Video projects raising our international profile
Steve Unwin

Two video presentations, with brief introductions, followed by a question and answer session: *Bama's Journey* – This was filmed in Chester Zoo in 2007 and follows Bama, a gorilla keeper from Cameroon, on his trip to England, funded by our Keeper for a Day Fund. This programme was shown on Al Jazeera International TV throughout Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East, as a 'Witness' programme. It was not shown in the UK so this will be your only opportunity to see it.

Zoo Days – Behind the Scenes – A bit of fun from the filming of the second series of *Zoo Days* including interviews with our (long suffering) staff and what the film crew really got up to!

Steve Unwin has been one of our vets at Chester Zoo for five years. Before this he worked in Thailand, Africa and Australia. He is also Veterinary Co-ordinator for the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA). Bama's project, Limbe Wildlife Centre, is a member of PASA.



After each talk, you are invited to join us for light refreshments with an opportunity to ask questions and to chat to staff and guest speakers.

At selected talks, there will be items for sale from our projects overseas – perfect gifts, supporting vital work.

All of our Members' Talks are held in the Geraldine Russell Lecture Theatre (near the Zoo's Main Entrance off the A41) at the times stated above. The talks are free of charge and are provided to keep you abreast of Chester Zoo's 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.



news

Hard Rain

is an open-air exhibition of dramatic and moving photographs.



Located by the Aquarium, the exhibition is aimed at encouraging action on climate change, habitat loss, pollution and poverty. It features hard-hitting photographs taken by London-based photographer Mark Edwards.

Maggie Esson, Education Programmes Manager, said: "People fortunate to have already seen *Hard Rain* have found it terribly moving but also

inspirational. It certainly provides food for thought and, as a conservation charity, we share the environmental concerns that *Hard Rain* highlights."

The exhibition is accompanied by a *Hard Rain* book which has been sent to every world leader encouraging them to reveal the policies they are implementing to reduce CO² and other greenhouse gases.

The *Hard Rain* book, featuring the images displayed as part of the exhibition, plus many other images, can be found in Zoo Shops and is priced at £10. Proceeds from book sales help to fund this project.

East met West at Chester Zoo with the arrival of three keepers from a Chinese zoo.



Luan Yang, Chen Hong Zhen and George Li made the trip from China to Chester where they worked alongside the animal teams to learn new skills.

Luan and Chen both came from Beijing Zoo where Luan is a keeper from the nocturnal house and Chen is head of primates. George came from the Golden Bird Foundation and all three picked up tips on animal husbandry, enrichment and enclosure design.

During their three-week visit, the trio worked alongside lions and tigers on the carnivore section, met Chester's group of chimpanzees and orang-utans, spent two days with the giraffes and three days working alongside the bats and jaguars.

The trip was organised by Nick Davis, Chester Zoo's Project Liaison Co-ordinator, Dr Carin Harrington and John O'loughlen from the Golden Bird Foundation Hong Kong following a trip Nick made to Beijing Zoo in 2002.

Nick said: "We hope that by spending time here, Luan, Chen and George picked up valuable skills about animal care and welfare."

Part of the cost of the trip has been met through the Zoo's Keeper for a Day fund. Keeper for a Day enables visitors to pay to work alongside the animal teams and in turn raises funds for the Zoo's conservation projects. Other sponsors of the trip include Golden Bird Foundation, Canadian Embassy, SAS Airlines and private donors in UK and China.

Chester Zoo has teamed up with Cruise, Chester's new £2.6 million bars and clubs venue, bringing Zoo members and adopters a fantastic offer!

Special offer!

Offer includes:

- Free admission on Thursdays
- Discounted admission on Fridays and Saturdays
- Queue jump any night
- Priority booking for VIP areas

This offer is thanks to Cruise Operations Director and Chester Zoo member, Nick Harding.

Strictly only available for over 21 year olds. Other terms and conditions may apply, please contact Cruise for more details including opening times on **01244 408000** or visit **www.cruisechester.com**

Cruise features six very distinct themed areas, taking its guests on a voyage of discovery inspired by some of the world's greatest party destinations.

Zoo Days

Television viewers will again be taken behind the scenes at Chester Zoo with a third series of Zoo Days.

Zoo Days gives an insight into the highs and lows of life at Chester Zoo, with this series following the stories of young giraffe *Margaret* and her fight for survival, the arrival of cheetahs to the collection and the hatching of this year's penguin chicks.

Narrated by actress Sarah Lancashire, famous for playing Raquel Watts in the ITV1 soap *Coronation Street*, the series takes viewers to another side of life at the 110-acre zoo.

The series, which features 20, half-hour programmes, was filmed on location by Granada Wild and will be broadcast later in the year. Keep an eye on **www.chesterzoo.org** for broadcast dates.



Stunning rare species

By Sarah Bird
Biodiversity Officer

Spring 2008 has been very exciting for wildlife at the Zoo. Stunning rare species, occasionally seen here before, have reappeared and great new ones been found.

Excitement started in April when staff operating the water bus spotted kingfishers (*Alcedo atthis*) on the canal. Sightings increased and the birds were noticed going into a burrow in the canal banks. They were clearly trying to breed here! Swift action was taken to protect the nest site from disturbance by stopping nearby footpath work. However, water bus rides continued as the birds had tolerated the boats when choosing their nest site. Lucky water bus customers in May and June were treated to amazing views of these iridescent blue and orange birds fishing and perching on branches beside the canal. This has been a real treat; birdwatchers will know that all you usually see of a kingfisher is a shiny blue streak disappearing along a river. Apparently kingfishers have bred in the Zoo before, but probably not in the last 10 years. It has been fantastic to have them here this year, and I am sure their presence will have inspired some new young bird watchers among Zoo visitors.

In May and June the Zoo hosted a series of courses advising ecological consultants about the endangered lesser silver water beetle (*Hydrochara caraboides*) first found in ponds here in 2006. (A piece about this beetle appeared in Z in autumn 2006.) During the courses another rare but regular visitor, the great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*), was found to be breeding in the same ponds. This threatened species is protected across Europe, but is reasonably common in Cheshire, because we have so many ponds.

It is the largest British newt; the males are particularly striking in the breeding season when they develop bright orange and black markings on their undersides.

Then further survey work in more ponds turned up another rarity: the mud snail (*Lymnaea glabra*). This one is not as colourful as the other species mentioned, but is still a very important find for the Zoo. Originally widespread in the lowlands of England, Wales and southern Scotland, mud snail numbers are declining fast and it is now absent from many sites where it used to occur. A breeding programme to safeguard this species has been successfully established at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Martin Mere in Lancashire. Mud snails were recorded in the same ponds at the Zoo in 1996, and it is encouraging to know they are still here.

And finally, in mid June one of the UK's most beautiful wild flowers, the bee orchid (*Ophrys apifera*) was found growing on waste ground behind the *Spirit of the Jaguar* building. This species is one of the best loved of the British orchids. Its flowers look like fat bumblebees, and, though they are usually self-pollinated, bees sometimes do the job for them. Bee orchids often appear on waste land and disturbed industrial sites where weathering of concrete and mortar has made the soil alkaline. They are a real treat for photographers. These plants were spotted just in time by team leader Paul Howse while he was strimming long grass – thank goodness he spotted them in time.



Sweet dreams are made of this

Dreamnight is a special “one night only” annual event whereby Chester Zoo opens its gates free-of-charge, for children who are terminally ill and their families.

We run this event in conjunction with the Countess of Chester Hospital and hospices in the region.

This year's event was the fifth *Dreamnight* we have run. We had over 400 guests that came along on the evening from all around the north west of England, for a magical and emotional evening.

Over 100 Chester Zoo staff and Trustees volunteered their own time to organise the event and to take part on the evening.

Most of the animal houses were open and staff were also guides to the families, taking them on a special tour of the Zoo. Extra activities and demonstrations were also provided on the evening by the *Zoo Days* film crew, local Army, Police, Fire Brigade and Autolift Recovery.

We do have sponsors for the evening and this year's event was sponsored by Marks & Spencer Money, who provided the funds to pay for the evenings packed lunches and 'Bags for Life' for all the families. Other refreshments were also donated by the Zoo's suppliers: Delice de France, GlaxoSmithKline, Kraft Foods and Rollover.

We also provided each family with a goodie bag to take away with them as a memento of the evening, with many items for the gift bags being donated by suppliers.

Dreamnight continues to be a wonderful evening and we have received much positive feedback from our VIP guests on what a truly 'dream night' it was!



The Wadi Fish Project

By Colin Grist

Aquarium Projects Coordinator

For a number of years the North of England Zoological Society has supported the Wadi Fish Project in the United Arab Emirates. Emma Smart, an ex Chester Zoo employee, runs the project and has been there for five years. Her work there is forming part of her studies, which she hopes will help her gain a PhD.

The Wadi Fish Project is all about a single species, the Omani blind cave fish, (*Garra barreimiae*). Chester Zoo Aquarium has an exhibit dedicated to this fish and staff are working with a group being held behind the scenes. As the common name suggests this fish occurs in Oman where there is a subterranean population that have, over time, lost their eyes. However, the population in the UAE live in pools above ground and do have eyes.

The UAE population being studied are found in Wadi Wuraya near Fujairah on the east coast. Although the project is specifically dealing with the Garra it is part of an overall programme to protect the wadi and its fascinating wildlife, which includes leopard, Caracal lynx and the very rare Arabian tahr (wild goat). Wadis are valleys that provide unique ecosystems. One important feature of wadis is their regular exposure to flash floods. On the occasional periods of rainfall, it tends to rain with a vengeance and water gathers up in the desert mountains to eventually rush down hill and, over thousands of years, has cut deep grooves into the landscape. Wadi Wuraya is a typical deep and narrow gorge with lots of pools and streams left after the flood waters have subsided. It is here were the Garra live.

At the lowest point of one branch of Wadi Wuraya is a small, but larger than average, pool with a deep cauldron forged from a waterfall. This pool is the focal point for studies. The Garra population is the only fish species that live there and they appear to only survive by eating algae growing on the rocks. Nothing else appears to live in the pool, although there are insect, bird, reptile and amphibian visitors. Emma has been studying this wild population alongside the controlled captive population she maintains in her modern fish lab at the American University in Sharjah.

Although the studies at the wadi were intended to be related only to Garra, it has now become a multi fish species problem. In recent months it was discovered someone had intentionally introduced the African cichlid *Oreochromis mossambicus*. This cichlid, which is commonly referred to as Tilapia, has been introduced intentionally and accidentally to many parts of the world. It is farmed extensively as a food fish for humans, especially in third world countries. The problem is that native fishes never seem to compete favourably with Tilapia and the decline of populations is often attributed to such introductions. The removal of the Tilapia without harming the Garra has become a priority.

In June 2008, I was invited to the United Arab Emirates to help with troubleshooting the problem.

Upon arrival at Wadi Wuraya and a quick assessment of the main pool using snorkelling gear, it was discovered the problem had become worse than when previously visited. Not only were there Tilapia in the pool, but someone had now introduced ornamental koi carp.

It was important to find out the extent of this problem so two main branches of the wadi were investigated extensively, which resulted in only koi carp being found in a pool directly above the waterfall. Luckily no Tilapia, or further koi, were found in any other location. Solving the problem will be a little easier due to fact the problem is localised, at least at the moment.

Several methods of trying to catch the Tilapia were made, including hand nets, barrier nets and fish traps. Even hook and line! All methods were successful to some degree, but due to the irregular, rocky sides to the pool using a barrier net was ineffective as there were always gaps that fish could easily escape through. Laying the barrier net flat and baiting the middle was more successful, as when enough fish had gathered it could be slowly lifted to trap them and transfer them to containers. However, by far the most successful was using baited fish traps, which we fashioned out of large drinking water bottles. Plenty of Garra were caught along with the Tilapia, but they were easily separated and returned to the pool unharmed. These first attempts resulted in almost 200 Tilapia being removed.

Tilapia can be quite prolific so it is important a continuous process of trapping is put in place if there is going to be any chance of removing them all, including the koi. It was decided to instigate a plan of action to include a three month period of regular trapping. Local officials of WWF were keen to get involved and help Emma whenever possible. Much larger traps would be needed to be successful and, although various options will be looked at, it is likely that several large fish traps normally used in the sea will be adapted by covering them in a fine mesh.

By making regular visits to the wadi pool and using the traps over the three month period it is hoped the Tilapia and koi will be fully removed and the Garra's future might be just a little less risky. It is important that such unique fishes, that have adapted to harsh desert conditions, be protected and new regulations being put into place for Wadi Wuraya may just give them that protection for the future.





Marc Ecko, Founder and Chief Creative Officer of Marc Ecko Enterprises, made a special visit to Chester Zoo, to visit the *Asian Plains* exhibit and to learn more about the progress of the Zoo's conservation projects around the world.

As the first official adopter of the Greater One-horned Rhinoceros at Chester Zoo, Marc received an update on his 'charges', *Patna* and *Batschii*, and officially opened the *Asian Plains* exhibit at the Zoo.

With its iconic Rhino logo, *ecko unltd. is the Marc Ecko Enterprises strongest performer, generating approximately \$800 million a year in retail sales worldwide. Marc Ecko Enterprises global retail sales exceeded \$1.5 billion last year.

Marc said, "The rhino is the embodiment of the *ecko unltd brand and has been my best "employee" over the past 12 years. I'm delighted to have had the opportunity to visit Chester Zoo and meet some of the people who are dedicating their lives to bringing these animals back from the brink of extinction.

"Our partnership with Chester Zoo is a fantastic example of the supportive role that a successful private enterprise can play in protecting the future of our planet for our children and I urge more companies to get involved and start making a difference."

In celebration of the continued partnership between Ecko Enterprises and Chester Zoo, Ecko have designed an exclusive T-shirt from which net profits will support the Zoo's rhino conservation work. The t-shirts will be on sale from the end of October at Chester Zoo and at the Zoo's online shop at www.chesterzoo.org



100 club

The winners of the prize draws held recently were:

April 2008

Mrs Penny Rudd Churton	£100
Mr K. J. Sims Great Yarmouth	£100
Mrs P. A. Mason Helsby	£50
Mrs Molly E. Bryceson Mollington	£50
Ms Mair Green Ellesmere Port	£50

May 2008

Mrs Kath Holding Ormskirk	£100
Miss Penny Hudson Dumfries	£100
Mr Neville Jonathan Chester	£50
Mrs Barbara Piercy Chester	£50
Mrs Evelyn Jones Ness	£50
Dr Philip Robinson Chester	£50

June 2008

Mrs Olwen Griffiths Crewe	£100
Ms Angela Munroe Guilden Sutton	£100
Mr Stephen Pettitt Crewe	£50
Mrs Meryl Finch Shrewsbury	£50
Ms Lauren Evans Ewloe	£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 650 229.

In loving memory

Chester Zoo would like to thank Sheila McGivering for making a donation in loving memory of her friend Christine Long. Christine was a member and adopter of the Zoo and was hugely passionate about orang-utans, and even visited them in the Borneo. The £500 donation will be put towards the upkeep of Chester Zoo's orang-utans.

Zoo winter raffle

Tickets are on sale now for Chester Zoo's amazing Winter Raffle 2008. First prize is a Eurocamp family holiday and second prize a Keeper for a Day Experience at the Zoo. Tickets cost just £1 each. A book of five tickets is inserted with the Z Magazine mailing. Please return any monies and completed counterfoils or unsold tickets to the Development Department at Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester CH2 1LH before the 31st December. If you require any additional tickets, please contact Development on 01244 650229. People must be 16 years or over to purchase. Please see website for details at www.chesterzoo.org

The raffle will be drawn on Friday 9th January and winners will be notified in writing.

Biffa does butterflies

Chester Zoo has been lucky to receive some more landfill funding from Biffaward, the body that distributes credits on behalf of Biffa Waste Services. The £50,000 funding will be put towards the amazing interactive *Butterfly Journey* exhibit coming soon. Specifically, the funding will pay for public pathways and some of the native and tropical plants that will attract butterflies.

The landfill communities fund is a voluntary Government initiative which enables landfill site operators to donate some of the money they would have paid in landfill tax to local environmental projects. The scheme was designed to help mitigate the effects of landfill upon local communities.

It will be the second time that Chester Zoo has received funding from Biffaward, the first being for the *Realm of the Red Ape* project in 2006. Lynsey Jones, Assistant Development Manager said: "We are delighted to receive further

funding from Biffaward and look forward to working in partnership with them again.

"The project will appeal to our younger audience as well as giving important environmental messages which ties in well with Biffaward's aims."



Chokolit

Shropshire-based company Chokolit, set up and run by 16-year-old Louis Barnett, launched the *Biting Back* chocolate bar at Chester Zoo.

The *Biting Back* bar aims to highlight to consumers the threats faced by Orang-utans in the wild due to unsustainable palm oil production.

Louis (pictured right) who personally launched the bar at the Zoo – the first place in the UK to stock the chocolate – said: "Habitat loss and poaching are pushing Orang-utans towards extinction. Every minute, every day an area the size of six

Chester Zoo is biting back to help Orang-utans after joining forces with a teenage entrepreneur.

football fields of rainforest disappears due to unsustainable palm oil production."

Part of the funds from the sale of the *Biting Back* bar will help support Chester Zoo's *Realm of the Red Ape Field Programme*. The future for Bornean orang-utans – endangered in the wild – is bleak and their numbers continue to fall as they increasingly come into contact with many threats, including man. Pollution, forest fires and the devastation of forest areas for palm oil all pose a serious threat as does human/wildlife conflict.



The Biting Back Bar is available to buy on site at Chester Zoo.

➤ special offers

Do your bit for climate change!

Tatton Park is one of the UK's most impressive historic estates boasting a stunning Neo-classical Mansion that gives visitors a contrasting glimpse of the lavish lifestyle of the Egerton Family and the domestic life of their servants.

Tatton Park is set in 50 acres of award winning Gardens and includes a restored Kitchen Garden and Pinery, its famous Japanese Garden, Fernery and Arboretum among its many wonderfully varied features. The atmospheric and mysterious Tudor Old Hall (as featured on TV's *Most Haunted*) welcomes visitors on special open days. Tatton's Farm is perfect for the family, providing a picture of rural life in the 1930s and home to a variety of rare breed animals with Rare Breeds Survival Trust Accreditation. The 1,000 acre deer park is home to Red and Fallow Deer and every season brings its own rich variety of birds and wildlife.

The parkland, woodland and meres provide plenty of opportunity for exploration on bike or on foot and are the perfect place to enjoy a picnic.

Within the estate, Tatton's speciality shops sell a wide range of products reflecting the park's character from estate-reared meats in the recently expanded Housekeeper's Store to fresh produce from the Kitchen Garden in the Garden Shop and unique items reflecting Tatton's history in Tatton Gifts.

Together with the Stables Restaurant and a year-round events programme, a visit to Tatton has a unique mixture of history, culture and countryside which combine for a magical day visit.

Tatton Park offers a huge welcome to Chester Zoo members with FREE child entry to its Farm, Mansion and Gardens for all members visiting before the end of 2008.

Terms and conditions

One free child for every full paying adult. Child age 4 to 15. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Applies to single entry tickets and Totally Tatton ticket (entry to all 3 attractions). Car entry fee applies. Excludes special events and Christmas.

Tatton Park, Knutsford
Cheshire WA16 6QN
www.tattonpark.org.uk
tel enquiries: 01625 374400
email enquiries:
tatton@cheshire.gov.uk

Special offer!

TATTON
park

LYONS
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HOLIDAY PARK

Lyons Holiday Parks has been in the business of creating perfect holidays for more than 75 years and we are proud of the reputation we have earned. Over four generations, the Lyons/Mounds family have passed on their traditions of quality and service. Our holiday makers come back year after year and many purchase caravans of their own. Our formula has always been a simple one; to find the perfect location in a beautiful, natural setting, source the most comfortable and affordable accommodation and provide excellent amenities, entertainment and activities on site. A visit to Lyons Holiday Parks makes a fun and enjoyable family holiday, a relaxing break to unwind from the stresses of working life and a unique holiday experience tailor made by your own choice of activities and entertainments. There really is something for everyone.

We have the widest selection of New and Previously owned Caravan Holiday Homes along the North Wales Coast, with over 150 caravans to choose from. Prices start from only £9,995 and for the more discerning buyer we have a selection of Park Homes from only £69,995.

All prices include 1st Year's site fees FREE

If you have been thinking of buying your own caravan then we are offering a 3 night stay to try our fantastic park facilities for only £50 per family (max 8 people) - please call 01745 342265 and ask to speak to one of our helpful park advisors - quote Chester Zoo.



Amazing science!

TECHNIQUEST@NEWI

With over 60 hands-on interactive exhibits, daily live science demos and fun family workshops, TECHNIQUEST@NEWI is the hands-on day out you've been looking for.

The 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, from 'Spooky Science' at Halloween to 'Amazing Eggsperiments' over Easter. 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 the audience about the amazing world of science!

Everything within the centre is designed to be touched and experimented with. Bright colours and bold shapes captivate young minds and challenge visitors understand of every-day principles of science. The exhibits appeal to all ages from toddlers to grandparents.

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. Café Darganfod is available for hot snacks and refreshments so you can take a well-earned break during all the excitement.



Information

The centre is open all year Tuesday to Friday from 10am and weekends from 11am. Also open Bank Holidays and Mondays during school holidays. Last admission 3.30pm. More information, including opening times from the website: www.techniquest-newi.org

TECHNIQUEST@NEWI is located just off the A483/A541 junction at Plas Coch, Wrexham – follow the brown tourist signs from the A483.

Contact

Greg Pearn
01978 293470
email: g.pearn@techniquest-newi.org

Notes to editors

- TECHNIQUEST@NEWI is a permanent exhibition open all year, Tuesday to Friday from 10am and weekends from 11am. Also open Bank Holiday Mondays and Monday's during local school holidays. Last admission is 3.30pm
- Admission prices are as follows (from July 08): Adults, Children and Concession visitors pay only £4.50 admission. Children aged 3 years and under play for FREE. A family ticket for any 4 visitors is £16 and an Annual Pass – 365 days of unlimited admission – is only £9 per visitor.

Promotional terms and conditions

- Chester Zoo Promotion
- One free admission for a Chester Zoo Member on production of a valid membership card.
- Offer Valid until 31 March 2009. One visit per Membership card-holder, per offer period.

Last admission 3.30pm.
No other offers or discounts apply.

TECHNIQUEST@NEWI is a registered educational charity funded by admission charges and trading receipts as well as financial aid from the National Assembly for Wales.

Events 2008

Ghost Talks in Oakfield Manor

Saturday 18 October

Enjoy a hot pot supper in Oakfield Manor and hear tales from days gone by. Traditional lamb hot pot or vegetable hot pot served with pickled red cabbage, cajun potato wedges, crusty French bread
£12.95 adult or child

Bats by Torchlight

Saturday 1 November

Dare you join us for an evening with a difference starting at Oakfield Manor?
£14.95 adult or child
Supper is included

Christmas lunch in the Oakfield

**Monday 1 – Wednesday 24
December**

*£24.95 per adult £16.25 per child
(under 11 years of age)*
*Price includes admission into
the Zoo and Frost Fair*

Christmas Dinner & Disco

Friday 12 December

Enjoy a three course dinner with dancing until midnight
£34.95 pp

Booking and pre-payment required for the above events. For further details and to book please contact:

**The Events Office on
01244 650209
events@chesterzoo.org**

*The Oakfield Manor also caters
for weddings, conferences,
seminars, private safari/BBQs
and private events.*



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Ches

