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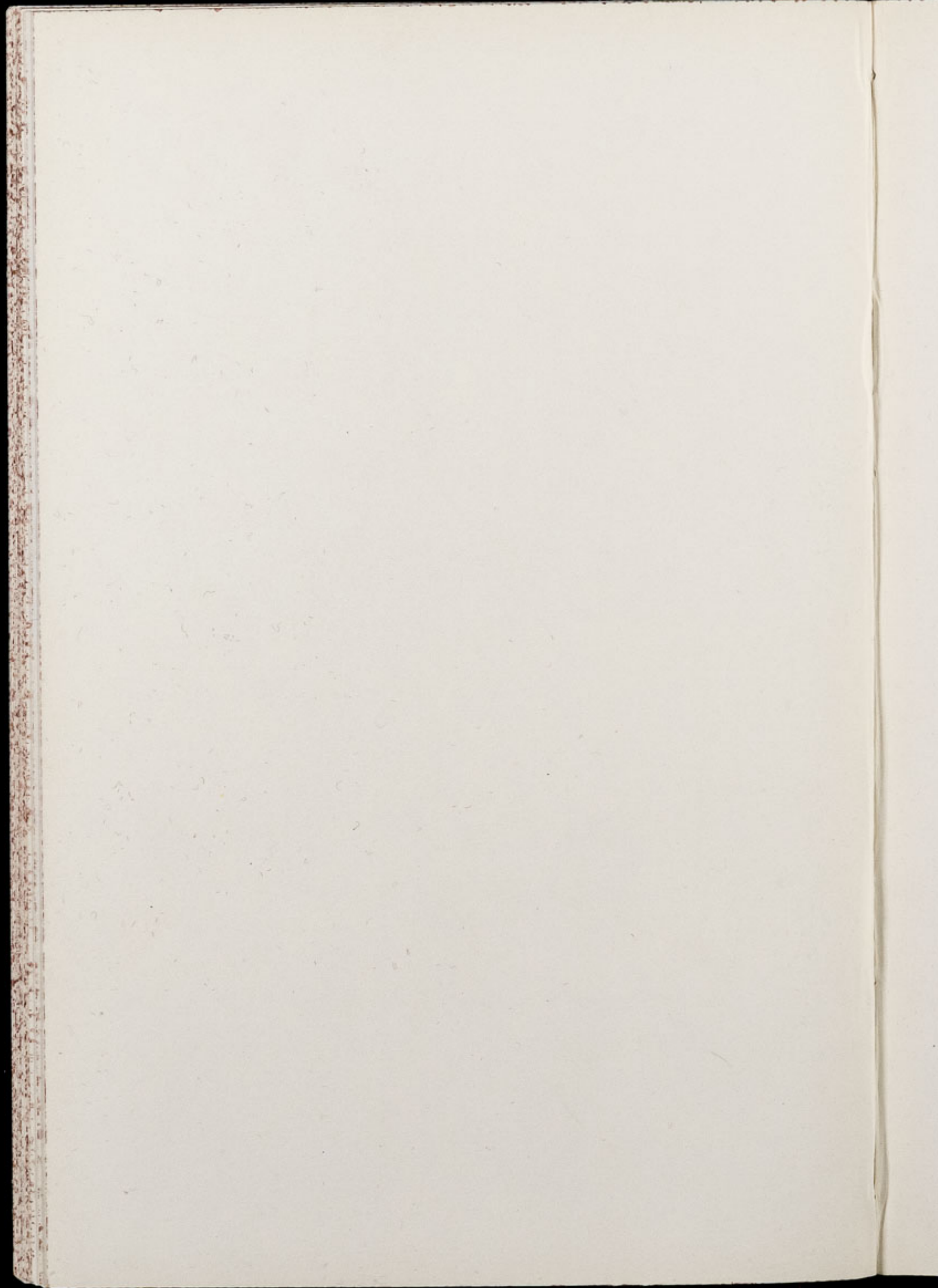
# **Chester Zoo News**

## **AND GUIDE**

**THE NORTH OF ENGLAND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON - BY - CHESTER**

May 1968

Price 1/-



# The North of England Zoological Society

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

## Editorial

### EASTER HOLIDAY

This Easter was the busiest in the history of Chester Zoo, with record crowds for each day of the holiday. The attendance figures were as follows — Friday 22,875, Saturday 5,373, Sunday 33,574 and Monday 42,210. The main contributing factor was the weather which was fine and sunny but not too warm. The new car parking area was most useful and on Monday over 5,000 cars were parked at the Zoo at one time. Even with such large crowds, visitors were able to walk around the grounds quite freely. The bridge over the public right of way which runs through the Zoo proved rather a bottle-neck but another bridge is planned for erection in the future and should alleviate this problem.

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**COVER:** This month's cover photograph shows a view of our new Alpine gardens. For further details see page 10.

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"Tammy" the Chimpanzee born to "Meg" twelve months ago and hand-reared by the Curator, Mr. W. Timmis, and his wife in their home, has finally been brought to the Zoo. He has settled down very well despite obviously missing the attention received in the Timmis' household.

The Chimpanzee baby female born to "Julie" is now on show to the public with her mother. They can be seen in the inside exercise enclosures of the Ape House, but up to the time of writing, have not ventured onto the outdoor moated islands.

"Jackie" the baby Giraffe pictured in the April edition of "*Chester Zoo News*" recently went around the outside Giraffe enclosure for the first time. At one stage he walked into the moat which surrounds this enclosure but was helped out by keepers. Of course this was the first time he had seen the water but when he is next out he will be far more wary!

The pair of Agile Gibbons which were housed temporarily in one of the Baboon enclosures between the Monkey and Cat Houses have been transferred to their permanent home on Gibbon Island. The bushes and trees on the island have been pruned severely so that a better view can be obtained of the animals.

The Bennett's Wallabies as mentioned in last month's Zoo News, have youngsters. These young Marsupials are at the stage where they are starting to leave the pouch but quickly dive back in again at the least sign of danger. During a recent warm day a young Wallaby wandered from the pouch and was enjoying the sunshine, but lost its mother. One Wallaby looks very much like another and with 18 to choose from the baby went to the nearest female and tried to climb into her pouch, but was chased away. It was



*S. W. Jacobsen, 'Liverpool Daily Post'*

BENNETT'S WALLABY

several hours later and with intervention from keepers before mother and baby were re-united.

Maintenance staff were faced with quite an operation when it came to the removal and replacement of the Rhino House roof. The original roof of translucent sheeting had discoloured and the lack of light was preventing the plants from growing; the discoloured roof also marred the appearance of the building. The Rhinos were not at all happy at the men being on the roof or the banging noises; in fact, they were all extremely excited and nervous. It is difficult to imagine an excited and nervous 2-3 ton Rhino, but their size and weight belies their natural timidity.

Keepers A. Whitfield and B. Amundson who look after the Lions, Tigers and Bears are busy spring cleaning the Lions' indoor quarters. This area is not on show to the public but still has to be kept clean and tidy. The interior dens are being painted white to give more light and the bars are being painted black. The Lions are moved from den to den as the painting progresses.

The Fallow Deer have been moved to the grass paddock next to that which previously they shared with the Zebras. The eight Fallow Deer were herded into the new paddock but one decided it did not want to go, reared on its hind legs and knocked keeper Peter Lee to the ground. Fortunately the keeper was not badly hurt and the Deer went straight into the new enclosure afterwards.

For some time now the Arabian Gazelle which was hand-reared by keeper Pam Logan has been the "Number One" animal in rank in enclosure No. 65 also occupied by Sika and Chinese Water Deer. A Bagot Goat also hand-reared by Pam was transferred to the same enclosure, but has taken over from the Gazelle as "boss" of the group.

### ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

A Llama was born during the past month and brings our total of these animals to four. The Llamas occupy enclosure No. 92a at the rear of the Crane and Wallaby pens and have a cedar wood shelter and an extensive grass paddock.

Llamas are indigenous to South America and are classified as members of the Camel Family — *Camelidae*. They have been domesticated since the Inca civilization in Peru and are no longer found as a wild animal. Their main use is as a pack animal as they are able to cover extremely rough country if fed and rested frequently. The females are kept on pasture and are not used for carrying loads but supply wool, meat and hide for the Peruvian Indians, who live high up in the mountains.

The recent birth of a Père David's Deer brings our total of these animals to ten. Last year three fawns were born and we are expecting other babies this year. The Père David's fawns are far more attractive than the adults having reddish brown fur with white spots, in contrast to the fully grown animal which has rather coarse grey-brown fur.

In the Paddock next to that occupied by the Père David's Deer can be seen our herd of American Bison. A youngster was born during the past month and is doing very well. Bison calves are a pale brown colour in contrast to the dark brown colouration of the adults.

Two youngsters have been seen clinging to the back of one of our Sugar Gliders exhibited in the Nocturnal House. These animals are Marsupials, or pouched animals, but the young do not spend very long in the pouch and emerge and cling to the fur of the mother's body.

Sugar Gliders are found in Australia and New Guinea, are nocturnal in their habits and rarely descend from the trees. They have a membrane which stretches between the fore and hind limbs, which enables them to glide through the air from tree to tree.

The most noteworthy new arrivals during the past month were three young Orang-utans which have been accommodated in the Monkey House. These animals, which are all males, range from one to two years old and are already proving a great attraction. Eventually all our eight Orang-Utans will be housed in the new Orang-utan House which is under construction close to the North Entrance. At the time of writing the new Orangs are undergoing medical checks to ensure they are not carrying any disease. Due to this, only keepers are allowed inside their enclosure, so photographs have not been taken. We hope to include photographs and further information regarding these interesting exhibits in the June issue.

Also new to the Monkey House is a Squirrel Monkey, a small species from South America, which has joined our group of this species.

Two pairs of Chinchillas have been accommodated in the Small Mammal House and have settled down well. An Asiatic Ground Squirrel is also a new arrival in the Mammal House.

Since the death of our Golden Eagle, the aviary (No. 24 on the Plan) has remained empty. This has now been used to house a Tawny Eagle, a species which looks rather like a smaller Golden Eagle. The Tawny Eagle, a female, has settled quite happily in this aviary.

Tawny Eagles are found in Africa, India and Burma; our specimen is the Oriental sub-species (*Aquila rapax vindhiana*). These Eagles are generally found in drier areas, feed on mammals and to a lesser extent birds, but eat a great deal of carrion.



TAWNY EAGLE

K. W. Green, A.K.P.S.

# GUIDE TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

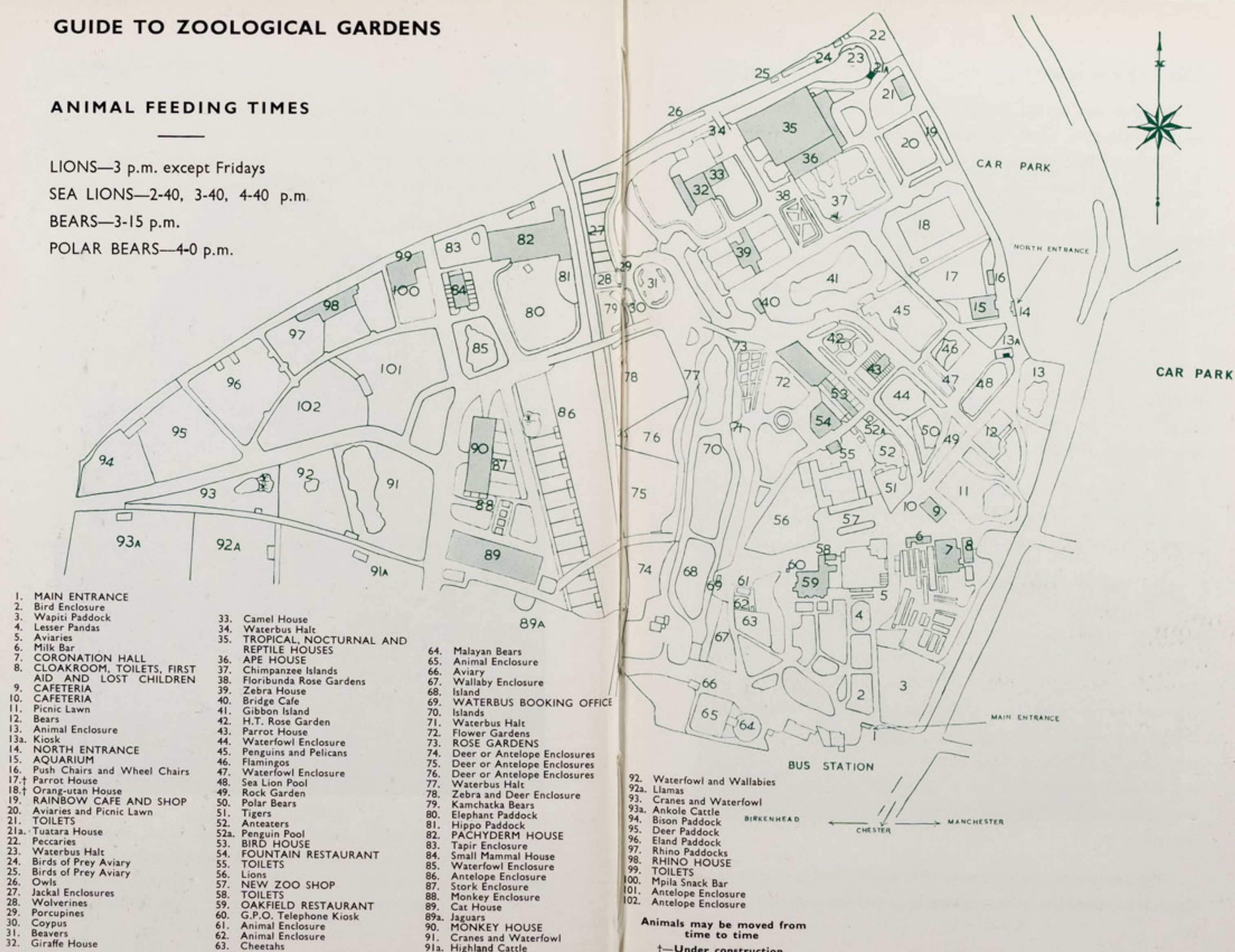
## ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES

LIONS—3 p.m. except Fridays

SEA LIONS—2-40, 3-40, 4-40 p.m.

BEARS—3-15 p.m.

POLAR BEARS—4-0 p.m.



1. MAIN ENTRANCE
2. Bird Enclosure
3. Wapiti Paddock
4. Lesser Pandas
5. Aviaries
6. Milk Bar
7. CORONATION HALL
8. CLOAKROOM, TOILETS, FIRST AID AND LOST CHILDREN
9. CAFETERIA
10. CAFETERIA
11. Picnic Lawn
12. Bears
13. Animal Enclosure
- 13a. Kiosk
14. NORTH ENTRANCE
15. AQUARIUM
16. Push Chairs and Wheel Chairs
17. Parrot House
18. Orang-utan House
19. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP
20. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn
21. TOILETS
- 21a. Tuatara House
22. Peccaries
23. Waterbus Halt
24. Birds of Prey Aviary
25. Birds of Prey Aviary
26. Owls
27. Jackal Enclosures
28. Wolverines
29. Porcupines
30. Coypus
31. Beavers
32. Giraffe House

33. Camel House
34. Waterbus Halt
35. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND REPTILE HOUSES
36. APE HOUSE
37. Chimpanzee Islands
38. Floribunda Rose Gardens
39. Zebra House
40. Bridge Cafe
41. Gibbon Island
42. H.T. Rose Garden
43. Parrot House
44. Waterfowl Enclosure
45. Penguins and Pelicans
46. Flamingos
47. Waterfowl Enclosure
48. Sea Lion Pool
49. Rock Garden
50. Polar Bears
51. Tigers
52. Anteaters
- 52a. Penguin Pool
53. BIRD HOUSE
54. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT
55. TOILETS
56. Lions
57. NEW ZOO SHOP
58. TOILETS
59. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT
60. G.P.O. Telephone Kiosk
61. Animal Enclosure
62. Animal Enclosure
63. Cheetahs

64. Malayan Bears
65. Animal Enclosure
66. Aviary
67. Wallaby Enclosure
68. Island
69. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE
70. Islands
71. Waterbus Halt
72. Flower Gardens
73. ROSE GARDENS
74. Deer or Antelope Enclosures
75. Deer or Antelope Enclosures
76. Deer or Antelope Enclosures
77. Waterbus Halt
78. Zebra and Deer Enclosure
79. Kamchatka Bears
80. Elephant Paddock
81. Hippo Paddock
82. PACHYDERM HOUSE
83. Tapir Enclosure
84. Small Mammal House
85. Waterfowl Enclosure
86. Antelope Enclosure
87. Stork Enclosure
88. Monkey Enclosure
89. Cat House
- 89a. Jaguars
90. MONKEY HOUSE
91. Cranes and Waterfowl
- 91a. Highland Cattle

92. Waterfowl and Wallabies
- 92a. Llamas
93. Cranes and Waterfowl
- 93a. Ankole Cattle
94. Bison Paddock
95. Deer Paddock
96. Eland Paddock
97. Rhino Paddocks
98. RHINO HOUSE
99. TOILETS
100. Mpila Snack Bar
101. Antelope Enclosure
102. Antelope Enclosure

Animals may be moved from time to time

†—Under construction.

Another new arrival in the Bird Section is a Chough, (pronounced "Chuff"), which has been accommodated in an aviary in the Temperate Bird House. The Chough has purple-black plumage and a long curved red beak with bright red feet. It is found wild in this country, mainly on the West Coast in the vicinity of cliffs, but also inland in parts of Wales. The food consists of various insects and crustacea and even Lizards have been recorded as being eaten.

### NEW ALPINE GARDEN

A new rock garden has been constructed during the winter months in the area immediately inside the Main Entrance of the Zoo. The old pit was planted previously with willow trees and an assortment of trees and shrubs.

For some years it had been our intention to re-landscape this area, but the work could not be carried out until we had the necessary soil to construct the rock garden.

The opportunity arose this year when it was decided to moat the Zebra enclosure and to hardcore a section as a winter paddock, some soil being removed before the hardcore was added. Well over 1,000 tons of soil was transported to the site but for part of December and the whole of January this movement of soil was at a standstill because of heavy rain; the tractor and trailer could not get on to the site due to mud and water. Firstly, the site was cleared of all the trees, shrubs, etc., with the exception of one Turkish Oak Tree, which stands at one end of the site. This is a very fine tree and its appearance has been enhanced by the removal of the willows, etc., which were growing around it.

The area covers approximately 1500 sq. yds., and is of irregular shape. It was three feet below the road level and has been built up at



DAFFODILS IN BLOOM CLOSE TO WATERBUS HALT

*K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.*

the highest point to six feet above road level, and the whole area is now undulating. This gives some idea of the amount of soil required to make this new garden.

After the clearance of the site, two waterfalls were constructed; the water falls from the back at one corner and separates to the two falls which flow to the front of the garden into two connecting pools, the water being circulated by pump. Footpaths thread through the garden and small bridges span the two falls.

At the back of the waterfall three *Prunus pisardii* have been planted together with a variety of shrubs, including Camellias. Along the back retaining wall are *Cupressus cypris leylandii*; these are small now but in time will make a background screen. 900 Heathers in 25 varieties have been planted in one area of the garden with groups of *Lilium* species interplanted.

Some 50 Dwarf Conifers in variety have been planted over the whole garden and 1,000 Alpine Plants were planted in early April; these will be added to over the next few years.

A large number of *Gazania*s, *Mesembryanthemums*, *Violas* and *Verbenas* have now been added to the plantings: These are from cuttings off our own stock, taken last September. Some 500 more plants will be required to complete the planting and for this year *Mesembryanthemum criniflorum* will be used.

We are hoping that there will be quite a show of colour this year, but as in the case of all new gardens and especially a rock garden, it will take a year or two to mature.

It is intended to plant a variety of suitable spring bulbs this Autumn for flowering next Spring.

### GARDEN NOTES

Our Daffodils ( $9\frac{1}{2}$  tons) which have been naturalized over the past few years made a wonderful show this year. The earlier plantings are now well established resulting in more flowers each year. We have also been pleased with the Camellias planted at the back of our other rock garden; these have been laden with flowers for several weeks and greatly admired by our visitors.

The spring bedding plants have wintered very well and although rather backward at one time, due to the long cold spell which lasted well into April, are now coming into flower very fast with the advent of more spring-like weather.

### AQUARIUM NEWS

A number of interesting new arrivals have been exhibited in the Aquarium during the past month.

Blue-eyed Rice Fish which have enormous blue coloured eyes are extremely attractive exhibits. They have been accommodated with the Glass Fish and both species live in complete harmony. Several of the Rice Fish have eggs; these are attached to the female's body by a thread and look rather like a miniature bunch of grapes.

The Clown Fish are rather interesting. In the wild state they hide among the anemone's tentacles; they can do so without being stung and come out for food, which consists of shrimps and other small aquatic animals.

The Monodactyls or Finger Fish can live equally well in brackish or sea-water but cannot survive for long in fresh water. They are found mainly in estuaries along the coasts of Africa, India, South East Asia and Australia. In the wild state, Monodactyls can reach a length of 7-8 inches but this size is rarely attained when in captivity. To accommodate these new arrivals, the Moray Eel has been transferred with the Tiger Scats and so far the two species are agreeing with each other.

The newly arrived Blue-heckled Discus Fish have been accommodated in a 6ft. by 2ft. tank. Unfortunately they are rather shy and hide in the rockwork, only coming out during the evening. This species is less frequently exhibited than the common Brown Discus and is marked with horizontal wavy blue streaks covering most of the body. At present these fish are about 3 inches in diameter but will grow much larger.

A new Knife Fish has proved very aggressive — so much so that it killed three of our original African Knife Fishes. It has now been transferred to a tank containing our larger Cichlids where it can do no more harm.

The Sea Horses again have young, for the second time this year. Some new specimens have arrived but the original pair ignore the newcomers and still continue courting each other.

### BIRD NOTES

A number of birds are building nests or sitting on eggs. At the time of writing the Kookaburras have eggs which we hope will hatch; last year their eggs proved infertile. The Great Eagle Owls have also laid eggs and we hope for the same success with this species as we have had in previous years. The Sclater's Crested Curassows laid one egg on the rockwork surrounding the waterfall in the Temperate Bird House. This egg was in such a vulnerable position that it was removed and put into the incubator. The platform where these Curassows nested previously was taken over by the Snowy Egret and Variegated Bittern who unfortunately keep the Curassows away.

The Mute Swans have again built a large nest of reeds at the side of the Chimpanzee Islands and the female, or pen, has laid. Both sexes take part in the nest construction and the incubation of the eggs.

The long Oakfield Flight aviary was re-constructed as a Wader aviary some time ago but this has not proved successful. The Waders have now been transferred to a smaller aviary in the vicinity where they can avoid the public a little more. Due to the fact that Waders spend their time at ground level they do not feel secure in an aviary where they cannot get away from people.



MUTE SWAN — NEST BUILDING

*K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.*

David Percival, keeper in charge of the Bird Section has been constructing a new pool in the open Macaw Flight aviary. The pool has a natural sandstone rockwork edging, constantly flowing water and looks most attractive.

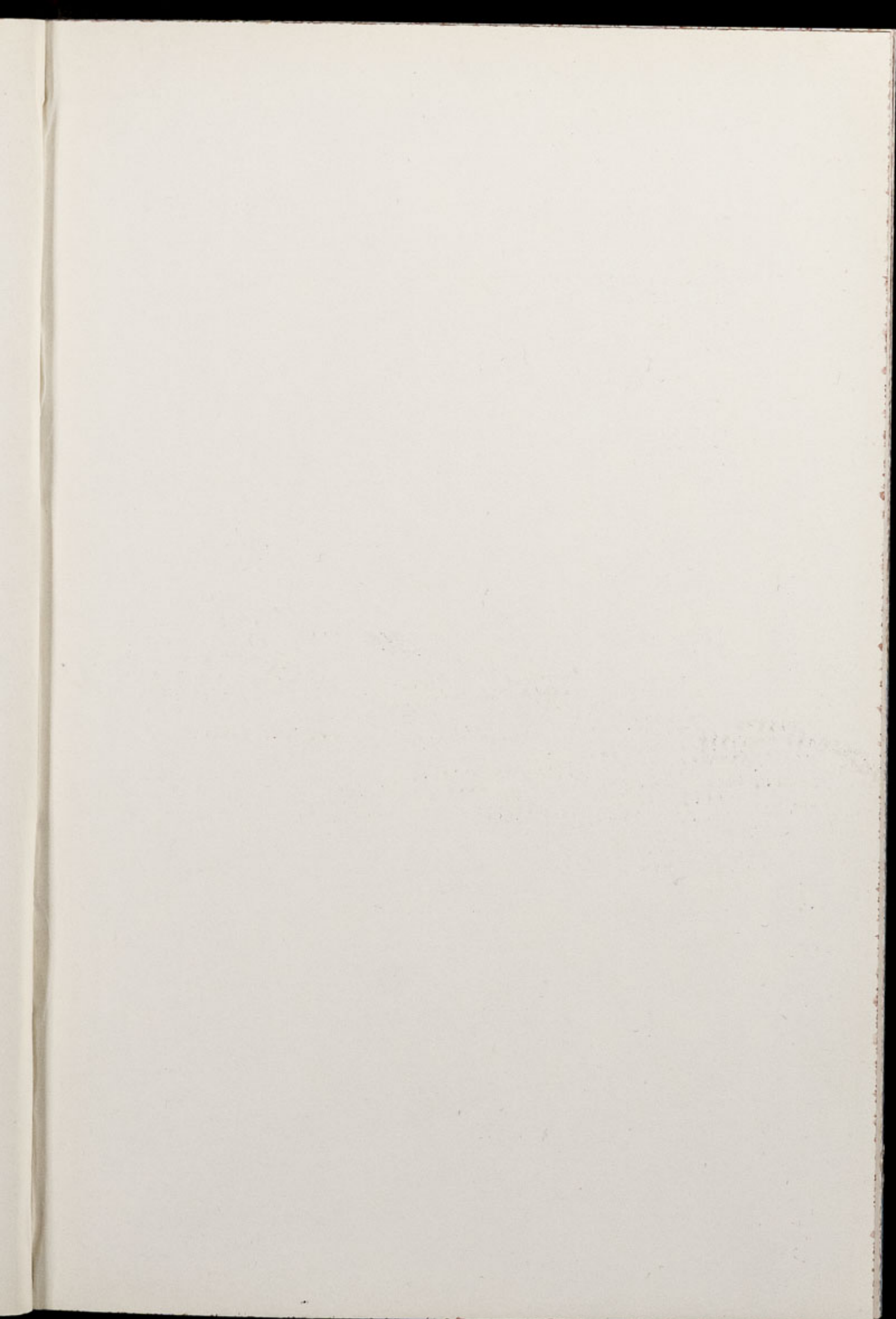
### OTTER AND PENGUIN ENCLOSURE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

A new enclosure is under construction for Otters and Penguins and should be completed by Whitsun. The site of the old Reptile House is being used for this new venture and the overall measurements are 79ft. by 37ft. 6in. An important feature is that there are two glass-fronted tanks where the Otters and Penguins can be seen whilst swimming under water. The Otters will occupy the side to the left of the entrance and the Penguins the right hand side. The whole area will be decorated with natural rockwork and waterfalls; fountains and rockwork caves will also be included. A rather unusual innovation for the Otters is a wet slide; this consists of a steeply sloping sheet of glass attached to the rocks which will be covered with running water. The Otters will be able to slide down from close to the tank into their pool; in addition a pathway is being built at the side of the slide for the less energetic specimens.

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Printed in England by  
G. R. Griffith Ltd.  
Castle Printing Works  
Chester

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