

SUMMER 2012

Z MAGAZINE

CHESTER ZOO

*The official magazine for
Chester Zoo MEMBERS
and ADOPTERS*



Z MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2012

IN YOUR Z...

Features

- 4 Her Majesty The Queen**
The Queen unveils the zoo's new Diamond Jubilee Quarter and meets our Black Rhino
- 12 Best of British**
An Act for Wildlife special report on our work with native species
- 15 Testing panda pee!**
There will be no Giant Panda cubs up in Scotland this year, but find out how our team of scientists gave a successful mating the best possible chance
- 18 Chimp heart tests**
Zoo's vet team part of global project to learn about the heart condition of great apes
- 26 Islands**
New images of the most ambitious building project in UK history revealed

Regulars

- 3 Five minutes with...**
Dr Mark Pilgrim on meeting The Queen
- 14 Staff Act for Wildlife**
Overseas conservationists visit the zoo
- 16 Making a difference**
How we have been acting for wildlife to conserve species around the world
- 20 Zoo offers**
Benefits of being a zoo member
- 22 Fundraising news**
- 23 100 Club**
- 24 Zoo talk**
Your regular listing of upcoming members' talks and events at Chester Zoo

CHESTER ZOO

Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester Chester, CH2 1LH
Tel. 01244 380280 Fax. 01244 371273

Email: info@chesterzoo.co.uk Web: www.chesterzoo.org

Director General: Dr. Mark Pilgrim

Editor: Rachael A. Wheatley

Z is published by: North of England Zoological Society
Upton-by-Chester, Chester CH2 1LH

Registered charity No. 306077

Designed & produced by Jennings Campbell Bibby • 01704 534653



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.

You'll still receive Z by post should you not wish to receive it electronically.

The Queen

There really is only one place for me to start and that's with the spectacular visit of Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh. To have the Royal couple join us in The Queen's special year was simply fantastic and a wonderful testament to what we have achieved and continue to achieve through our passionate and dedicated staff. It was an incredible event and a celebration which united the zoo, our neighbours, local communities and indeed, the whole of Chester.

The fact that The Queen came here to the zoo – for the very first time – is a culmination of all of the hard work that our staff have put in over the years. There's something incredibly special about Chester Zoo, it gets in your blood and it's fantastic to see us achieve international coverage. It's been an incredibly special time, it's the ultimate recognition of all the tremendous things the zoo does and we are all very, very proud indeed.

Can you tell us about the Diamond Jubilee Quarter?

The very aptly named Diamond Jubilee Quarter marks the start of a new, exciting period which will see significant development and change at the zoo. It's the first phase of our Natural Vision project, which will be closely followed by our £30m Islands development and so we see it as the gateway to a new world in conservation.

We hope the quarter will generate a real sense of community as it is the zoo's first ever public space. The area has been designed so that groups, such as mums with toddlers or grandparents with grandchildren, can visit us time and again for coffee and cake in the quirkiest and most inspiring of surroundings. Where else can you sit and have a cup of tea while being able to see critically endangered Black Rhinos, Warthogs and Asian Elephants? We also hope business people will stop and make use of the free Wi-Fi and shoppers come to browse the new retail complex at any time.

For those going into the zoo itself, the new set-up is working really well. Visitors are now provided with a much brighter start to their zoo experience, with sculptures of an Asian Elephant, Rothschild Giraffe and Black Rhino by the very talented Cumbrian sculptor Chris Brammall offering a very impressive welcome. It has got a lovely relaxed feel to it and it has never been quicker and easier to access the zoo. I'd therefore really like to take this opportunity to urge members to make use of this great new area, where you can enter without any queuing through your very own 'fast track' gates.

Can you update us on any animal news?

In the spring edition of Z I talked about our simply stunning plans for Islands and a huge amount of work is now going into pulling the project together in fine detail. In the meantime we've already started to bring in some new species which will eventually populate Islands and a good example of that is our two female Javan Banteng. They are a beautiful species of cattle from Southeast Asia, which were once thought to be common but are now in serious decline in that region.

Other new species that have entered the collection include the very beautiful Lesser Kudu and Red Duiker, which we eventually hope to mix with our Okapi. I have recently returned from Nigeria where we are heavily involved in a field conservation project and I was delighted to see that the area was well populated with this species. Another nice addition is a pair of Narrow-striped Mongoose. These are a specialist animal from Madagascar which are currently in very small numbers in European zoos. In the immediate future, they'll be off show while we work with them to develop husbandry and breeding techniques.

Elsewhere the Snowy Owl aviaries have been converted into off-show breeding aviaries and plans are being developed for our Turtle Ark. Chester Zoo has a long history of raising the profile of endangered turtle, tortoise and terrapin species and it's something we're looking to develop even further. Our new Curator of Invertebrates and Lower Vertebrates, Gerardo Garcia, who we have been delighted to welcome from Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, brings with him a wealth of knowledge and expertise in this area. Indeed Gerardo has a PhD in studying turtles in Madagascar and so we're very excited about seeing him take this project forward.

What's the latest news from the field?

In recent months I've been fortunate to visit two field projects in Africa – one in Mkomazi in northern Tanzania and another in Nigeria.

In the former we were filming four special reports for ITV's Granada Reports. We want people in the North West to feel proud of what we do and to understand that Chester Zoo is so much more than a zoo and a great day out. And so, the special films we produced hopefully went a long way to highlighting some of the vital conservation work we're involved with, not just in Africa but all over the world and here in the UK too. Through the reports, this message certainly will have reached an awful lot of people and I very much hope you enjoyed seeing them. If you missed them, please take a look online at (www.youtube.com/officialchesterzoo).

I also travelled to Nigeria with our Conservation Officer, Scott Wilson. The country tends to be on the end of some bad press, but there's also another extremely beautiful side, which people rarely see.

Our destination was a place called Gashaka Gumti National Park but getting there was a simply horrendous journey – a 12 hour car drive, an overnight stay in uncomfortable surroundings and another two-hour Landrover ride in the pouring rain the next morning, in which we had to get out and push the vehicle as it got stuck in the mud every 100 or so yards. For that whole journey we saw no wildlife whatsoever.

But when we finally arrived at the forest of Gashaka Gumti it was without doubt one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen and because of its remoteness, teeming with wildlife.

This was my third visit and previously I'd only caught a slight glimpse of chimpanzees. On this occasion though, it was the rainy season meaning more fruit and chimps present in much bigger groups. It was simply breathtaking to see so many non-habituated chimps. If you turn to page 21 you can read about this in Scott's report.

We have supported work in Nigeria for more than 10 years and the main reason for our visit was to assess the possibilities for taking it on as a programme run by and not just supported by, Chester Zoo. This would give us the opportunity to really drive the direction of the project.

NEWS FROM THE ZOO

with Dr Mark Pilgrim
Director General



Nine year old Ruby Pilgrim, daughter of our Director General Dr Mark Pilgrim, presented The Queen with a posy of flowers on departure. Ruby said meeting Her Majesty was exciting and said The Queen had asked her if she liked ponies and seeing the birds and animals in the zoo.

An entrance FIT FOR A QUEEN

Royal opening of new main entrance and first ever public space mark first steps towards zoo's Natural Vision masterplan

Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh have opened our £2m gateway to conservation.

For the first time in its 80-year history, the zoo's main entrance – the Diamond Jubilee Quarter – is a public space where people can meet without going into the zoo.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were the first through the new, specially created gates that lead into the Diamond Jubilee Quarter on May 17.

They were escorted by Director General Dr Mark Pilgrim, who accompanied The Queen and Barbara Smith, Managing Director, who was with The Duke of Edinburgh.

The quarter includes a new retail complex and coffee shop. Sculptures of an Asian Elephant, Rothschild Giraffe and Black Rhino by Cumbrian sculptor Chris Bramall draw visitors into the zoo.

During their visit, the royal couple passed the iconic images before meeting with key zoo staff and representatives from the zoo's in-field conservation work.

The Queen also met some of the zoo's 12,000 junior members and education presenters during a tour of the Black Rhino exhibit.

"The opening of the quarter is the first phase of our Natural Vision project which will be closely followed by the development of Islands, a £30 million conservation expedition which will see us develop the islands of the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Bali, Sumatra, Sumba and Sulawesi right here in the heart of Cheshire," said Dr Mark Pilgrim.

"This is the first time The Queen has visited the zoo and the second time for The Duke – their visit makes it an incredibly special time for us."



The Royal couple are all smiles during their visit to the zoo

“

The Diamond Jubilee Quarter marks the start of a new, exciting period for Chester Zoo which will see significant development and change.

“To have Her Majesty The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh join us on this most special of days and in Her Majesty's special year is fantastic and a wonderful testament to what we are achieving through our passionate and dedicated staff.

“The Diamond Jubilee Quarter is aptly named and brings a sense of community as it is the first zoo public space. This event was a celebration of this as we unite the zoo, our neighbours and local communities to mark the occasion.”

Director General Dr Mark Pilgrim

”



The Queen met Semu Pallangyo from the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary



Managing Director Barbara Smith and Curator of Mammals Tim Rowlands escort The Duke



The Queen with the help of Dr Mark Pilgrim unveils the commemorative plaque



The Duke meets members of the elephant team

WHO THE ROYAL COUPLE MET...

Dr Mark Pilgrim, Director General

Mark has been Director General since 2010 and has been at Chester Zoo since 1988. He is the European Endangered Species Programme studbook coordinator for the Black Rhinoceros and is a Council member of the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Prof Peter Wheeler, Chairman of Trustees, NEZS

The North of England Zoological Society is the charitable organisation that manages Chester Zoo. Prof Wheeler is Dean, Faculty of Science at Liverpool John Moores University.

Mrs Barbara Smith, Managing Director

Barbara has been at Chester Zoo since 2010 and was previously at Edinburgh Castle. During her time at the Castle, Barbara oversaw a 10 year development plan which included a series of high-profile projects designed to enhance the experience for visitors to the castle.

Ms Eveline De Wolf

Eveline is team manager of the elephant section. Chester Zoo has eight Asian elephants.

Mr Joydeep Chakrabarty

Joydeep has been the Project Officer for Ecosystems India, Chester Zoo's partner on our Asian Elephant Project in Assam, since 2004. Joydeep coordinates and manages community-based initiatives, delivers alternative livelihood training to the local communities and is involved in environmental education.

Mrs Penny Rudd

Penny is the zoo Registrar responsible for all animal transfers in and out of the zoo. She also looks after the zoo's Junior Members' club which has over 12,000 members.

Mr Tim Rowlands, Curator of Mammals

Tim has been at Chester Zoo since 1985 and was previously Team Leader of giraffes. He is involved in EAZA (European Association of Zoos and Aquaria) committees on giraffes, pigs, African dogs and Spectacled Bears.

Mr Chas Mackenzie

Chas is Team Manger of the rhino section. His team look after Black Rhino, Greater One-horned Rhino and a number of other species.

Mr Semu Pallangyo

Semu started work in Mkomazi in 1989. He is responsible for the daily management of the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary, Tanzania. He runs the whole Rhino Sanctuary on a Suzuki trail bike.

Carmel Pearson and Mike Crumpler

Carmel and Mike were chosen to open the Diamond Jubilee gates as they are the zoo's two longest-serving male and female employees with a combined service of almost 85 years. Carmel is the Cash Office Manager and Mike is Team Manager of the aquarium.



Sanjhi Indian Association/ Asian Entertainment

The Sanjhi Indian Association, Chester was founded in May 2010. The association is made up of people of all ages who enjoy meeting and making new friends. The aims of the organisation are to integrate with the wider community; to improve the social and cultural life for Indian families and to provide a platform for the Indian community to engage with the Local Authority and express their creativity through the arts and performance. The melodious sounds of the Sitar and Tabla duo led into a colourful extravagant dance spectacular by the female Bollywood dancers of Asian Entertainments UK. Dancing to popular Bollywood songs using both traditional and western dance influences they showcased a performance to remember.

Upton Heath Primary School

Upton Heath C of E Primary School choir consists of a group of 30 children who sing for fun and enjoyment. They regularly perform within the community at special events and occasions. The children, who are aged between 6 and 10, enthusiastically practised in readiness to take part in the opening.

Krisztian (Kit) Nemeth, Lloyd Antrobus and Sara Lloyd

Junior members Kit, Lloyd and Sara demonstrated the making of a chilli fence – a technique used in our human/elephant conservation programme in Assam. Kit is 13, comes from Chester and is passionate about animals. Lloyd is 16, from Alltami, near Mold, North Wales, and his interests lie in the zoo and in wildlife conservation. Sara is 15, from Wallasey, and is studying Animal Management at Reaseheath College. She is a member of the zoo's volunteer Butterfly Brigade.

Ruby Anne Pilgrim (presented flowers)

Nine-year-old Ruby is the daughter of the zoo's Director General Dr Mark Pilgrim. A pupil at Ysgol Derwenfa, Leeswood, near Mold, North Wales, Ruby enjoys horse riding.



Critically endangered Black Rhinos, Asani and Bashira, sleep through the excitement of The Queen's visit. Her Majesty learnt about our successful breeding programme and vital conservation work with the species, with the zoo's Team Manager of the rhino section, Chas Mackenzie



A statue of a Rothschild Giraffe towers over The Queen as Her Majesty visited the zoo for the very first time



The crowd eagerly awaits the arrival of the Royal party



fe towers
y
st time



The Duke engages with Junior Members as they demonstrate how to build a chilli rope fence



A stilt walker entertains some excited schoolchildren



The Queen admires the new plaque which commemorates the opening of the Diamond Jubilee Quarter

BEST of BRITISH



In a year when Britain is celebrating all the things that make our nation GREAT, it's only right to celebrate our GREAT WILDLIFE too, writes Conservation Officer Sarah Bird...

We gave our fans on Facebook a list of 10 Great British species and asked them to vote for their favourite. Here are the results:

1. Red Squirrel
2. Common Dolphin
3. Red Kite
4. Harvest Mouse
5. Hazel Dormouse
6. Swallow
7. Sand Lizard
8. Great Crested Newt
9. Bluebell
10. Black Poplar

Our chart toppers are the **Red Squirrel** and **Common Dolphin**; but did you realise these two popular species are threatened in the UK today? Scientists warn that our favourite **Red Squirrel** could face extinction in the UK within 30 years - it's a good thing we have been supporting reintroduction work on Anglesey to help prevent this absolute catastrophe.

It's sad, but not unexpected, that the plants are bottom of our list. The **Black Poplar** is

the most endangered native timber tree in Britain. With so few people voting for it, it's lucky we're doing our bit growing and planting **Black Poplars** in Cheshire. The **Bluebell**, one of our best loved wildflowers, is in decline too. The UK has 50% of the world population, so we have a huge responsibility to look after them. Wouldn't it be dreadful to lose those carpets of spring **Bluebells** in our woodlands? They are surely one of the **GREATEST** British wildlife spectacles, and we're helping conserve them too.

The **Great Crested Newt**, at number 8, is another species we are working with. In the last 60 years the UK has lost **HALF** its ponds - as a result the **Great Crested Newt** has lost many breeding sites. However, Cheshire still has lots and lots of ponds, making it the 'pond capital of Europe'; and it has lots of these rare newts as well. We've sponsored pond creation and surveys across Cheshire and North Wales, to protect our newt stronghold.

Thankfully, in the last 60 years there has been a dramatic increase in action to conserve British wildlife as we have become more aware of the problems it faces. New conservation organisations, new national parks, improved habitat protection, pesticide bans, hunting controls and reintroduction projects have led to significant successes for Britain's threatened species.

Whilst we are constantly reminded about the plight of endangered animals like the orangutan, please remember that some British wildlife is threatened too. For example, hedgehogs have declined dramatically in the UK in the last 60 years, with numbers dropping from 30 million in 1950s to around 1.5 million today.

This year especially, let's all make a real effort to truly appreciate GREAT British wildlife, and Act for Wildlife to ensure it thrives for the next 60 years, and more!

Join us at www.actforwildlife.org.uk for more information and regular blogs from the team.

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

The UK has 50% of the world population of Bluebells, number nine in our survey.

Staff

ACT FOR WILDLIFE IN THE UK

One of the ways that Chester Zoo acts for wildlife is through working in partnership to reach wildlife conservation goals.

We work alongside many different organisations around the world, from those at grassroots to Government officials. This year we have been very busy hosting visits from many of our overseas partners.

PHILIPPINES

Palawan is one of over 7000 islands which make up the Philippines archipelago. These islands are famed for their rare and unique wildlife and Palawan is no exception. In particular it is an important home for the critically endangered Philippine Cockatoo. The Katala Foundation has been working with this rare bird for many years as part of the Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Programme. In March, Katala's Indira Lacerna-Widmann and Peter Widmann travelled to the UK to visit the zoo. Visits from overseas partners are extremely useful to allow zoo staff to discuss future development of the conservation programmes. During their week in the UK, Peter and Indira ran a workshop for zoo staff and university students from Manchester on methods for developing community education initiatives. Being keen bird enthusiasts, a visit to some of Cheshire's wildlife hotspots was also added to their itinerary.



SUMATRA

Since 2009 we have been collaborating on a project with the Wildlife Conservation Society working on human-elephant conflict in Indonesia. As part of this collaboration we hosted Donny Gunyardi who works on the elephant project in Sumatra. Donny had been awarded a scholarship from the Student Conference in Conservation Science in Cambridge, which included one month working at the zoo. Back in February, whilst at the zoo, Donny worked with the conservation department to plan a scientific paper comparing human-elephant conflict mitigation efforts in Assam in India and Sumatra. He was specifically aiming to identify the type of information needed to help set up a successful conflict mitigation project. This was Donny's first visit to the UK and he took the opportunity to experience the best of the northwest including watching a football match at Old Trafford and his first ever fish and chip supper (which did not have enough chilli for Donny's liking!).

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

Kidz ZOO

Summer 2012

See Inside...

KIDS' PROGRAMME OF EVENTS



PRIZE
TO BE WON
HELP THE
**HARVEST
MOUSE**
TO SAFETY



2012 - A VERY SPECIAL YEAR...



By Colin J K Baxter

It is the year of the 30TH OLYMPICS and also the PARALYMPICS, both being held in the UK. It is HER MAJESTY'S DIAMOND JUBILEE too, celebrating sixty years on the throne.



This is also the year the Junior Members' Club celebrates its 30th anniversary. From humble beginnings, membership is now approaching nearly 12,000.

But how many adult members stop and think what the junior members actually get up to? Why is there a 'Kidz Zoo' section in 'Z' magazine and what is it all about?

There are many people within the zoo fraternity who know Penny Rudd very well, or at least know her by reputation, owing to her various facets of involvement within the zoo over a career spanning three decades. Penny is the zoo's

Registrar and stalwart of the Junior Members' Club and has organised and run the events you can see advertised in every issue of Z over the past 30 years. I first met Penny 20 years ago and she persuaded me as a busy professional to bring all four of my children along to the junior members' events. Not only that, she also managed to persuade me to help at many of the various trips ever since. At an appointed place and time, usually at The Oakfield, we all meet up and Penny welcomes the children. Her small team of regular helpers, like me, are pointed out so that the youngsters can identify us throughout the day.

The trips within the zoo are different each time. They sometimes involve being guided around the zoo and shown various exhibits. The juniors are encouraged to listen to keepers and perhaps draw up a plan for the enclosure. On a future visit the youngsters might even see their ideas being implemented. Another favourite 'in-zoo' trip is titled 'Tracks and Signs.' We enter enclosures with, for example, the lions safely locked up and make plaster casts of their footprints. A muddy, plaster splashing day but immense fun for all and the chance to go home with a cast to keep.

Away days

We go on trips to other zoos and animal collections. Recently we had an excellent day out at Martin Mere and had guides show us some of the special birds there, before heading off ourselves to observe at leisure the thousands of ducks and swans in this special reserve. One of my favourite visits is to the Chestnut Centre in Derbyshire where our hosts take time to talk to us and explain what their conservation ideas are for the owls and otters in their care. We have visited the Follies at Hawkstone Park, where we went through the caves and over the bridges and have also been to the Conway RSPB Reserve, Shugborough Hall, Tatton Park and the Home Farm.

Penny also organises wet-weather visits to museums such as Liverpool Museum or the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester, but generally we stay outdoors. Anglesey Sea Zoo and the Pili Palace - to see the baby lobsters and beautiful butterflies - Dudley Zoo, Twycross Zoo, Knowsley Safari Park, the Monkey World at Trentham and the Welsh Mountain Zoo have all received visits to see how different animal collections are managed. We've also been on trips to 'electric mountain' and Lake Padarn in Snowdonia and every few years to Hilbre Island and to Thurstaston for the Wirral Country Park. Lower Moss Wood Nature Reserve in Knutsford is another worthy site with excellent talks on the wildlife present and an increased awareness of what may be there.



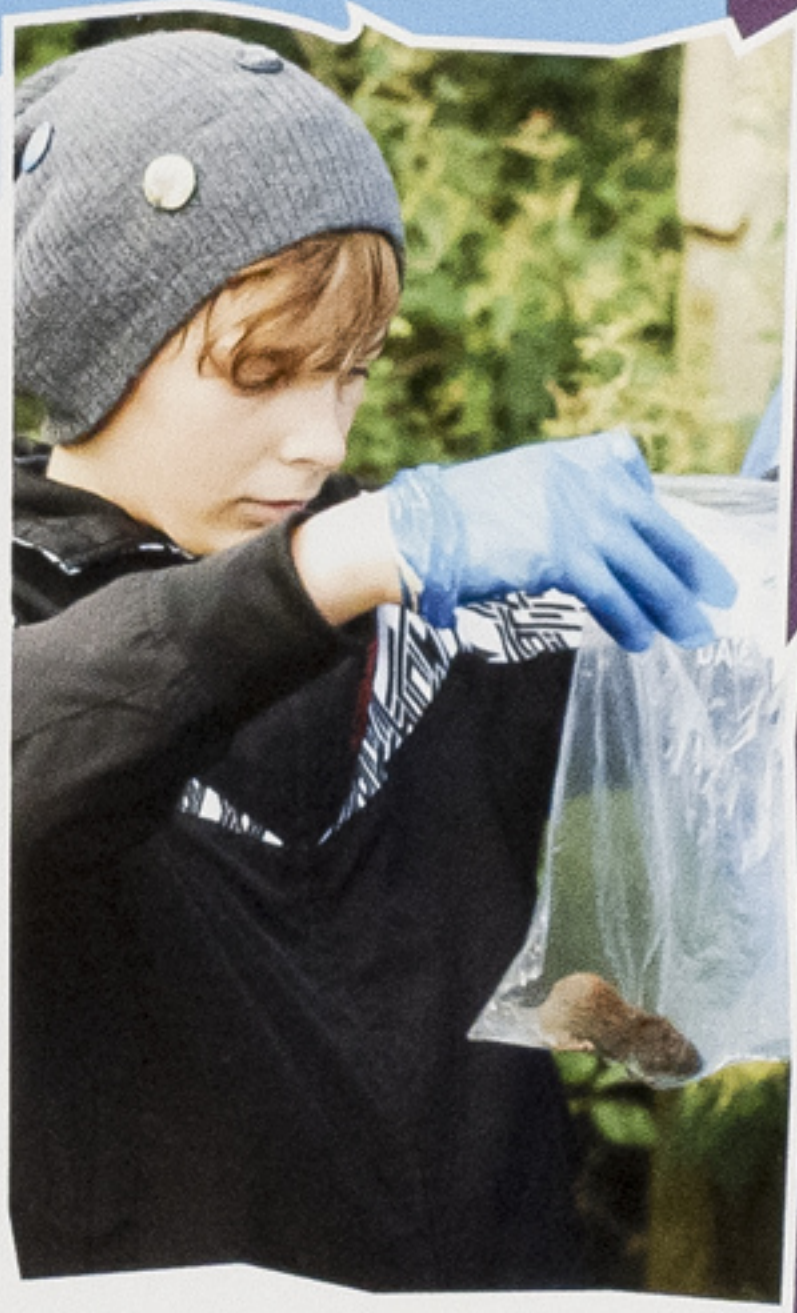
Everyone brings a packed lunch and snacks with them and suitable footwear and clothing is advised at the time of booking or mentioned in Z mag. From start to finish, the whole experience is well organised and implemented. There is usually a charge for these outings but Junior Members' Club is non-profit making and helpers are volunteers. The greater the attendance the cheaper potentially the trip will become.

Special events

For the slightly older juniors there are two special treats organised each year. A 'day with the keeper' is very popular with the over 12s and usually juniors who have a track record of regular attendance to the monthly trips get slight preference, owing to demand. The Junior Summer School is fantastic too. This is a fun, week long 'workshop' during which the juniors attend talks, interact with the tutors, visit areas of scientific interest, help monitor wildlife and create works of art.

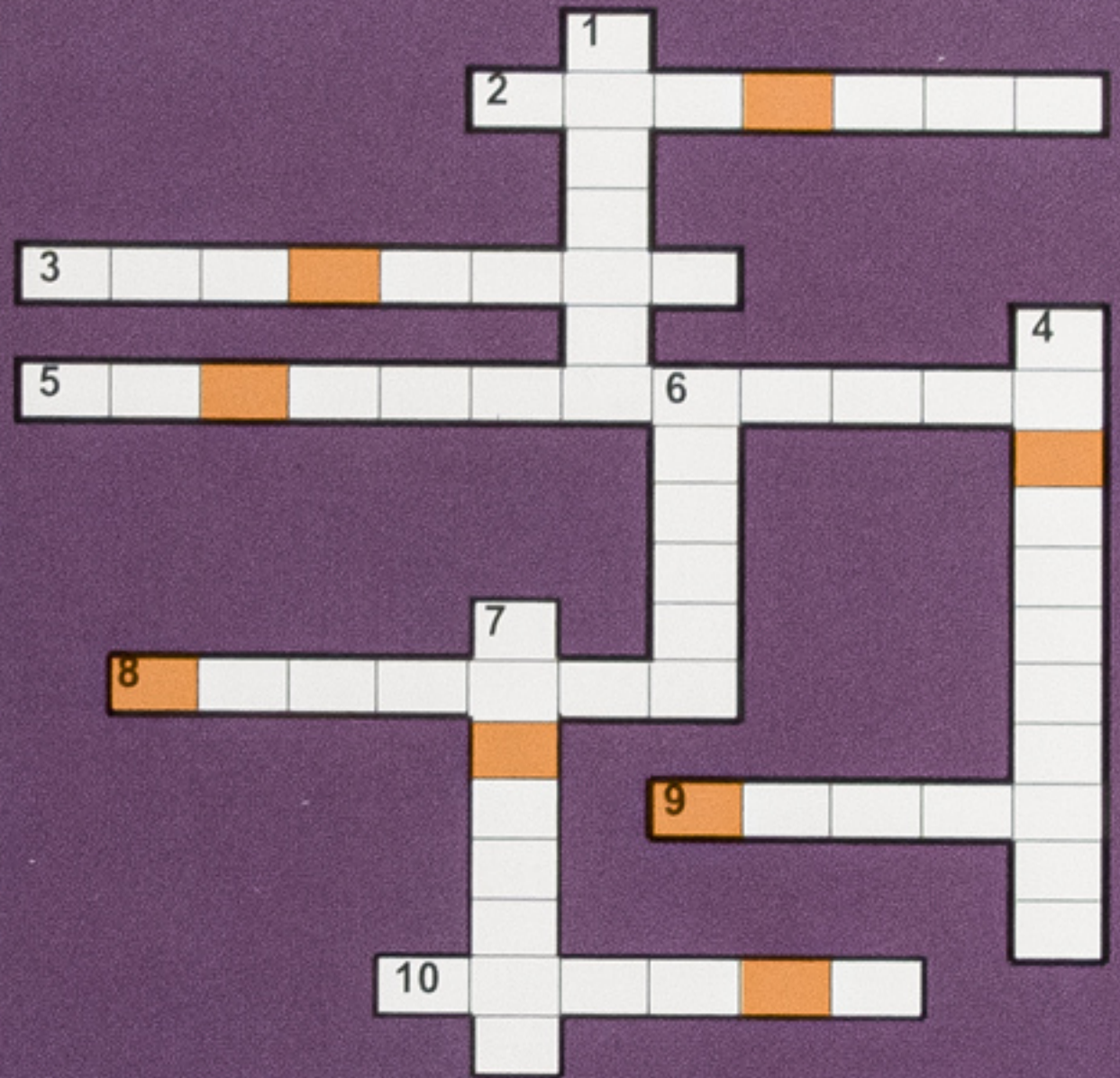
All in all, the Junior Members' Club and its trips are based on learning about animals, the environment and nature whilst having a great deal of fun. Perhaps you'll even get to see things the general public would not normally have the opportunity to do.

So, congratulations to Penny for steering the Junior Members' Club through 30 years of activity and here's to the next 30! Send your children along to be part of this wonderful membership. I wholeheartedly recommend it.



OUR JUNIOR MEMBERS ARE UP TO ALL SORTS OF INTERESTING THINGS IN AND AROUND THE ZOO.

If you have a story to tell, please contact Penny Rudd via p.rudd@chesterzoo.org



Can you answer these questions about UK wildlife and fit the answers into the grid?

The highlighted squares, when rearranged, will give the name of an invasive species that produces spiralling seeds.

(The answers are shown at the bottom of the next page).

1. What is the name given to a baby hare?
2. Which butterfly shares its name with a bird because of its bright markings?
3. Which beetle warns predators off with its brightly coloured, spotted shell?
4. Which woodland-living mammal is in trouble from its larger, grey cousin?
5. Which tiny rodent has been re-introduced into the Cheshire countryside?
6. Which small bird of prey shares its name with a famous wizard?
7. Which tree has two types, one producing edible seeds, the other with seeds used in a popular game?
8. Which small, nervous bird, similar to the coot, can be seen in the waters at Chester Zoo?
9. Which is the only venomous snake found in the UK?
10. Which bird lays its eggs in other bird's nests?



Can you help this Harvest Mouse find her way through the maze to the safety of the grass? Which way should she go to avoid the dangers and find the most food?

For your chance to win a £10 voucher to spend in the zoo shops, send your entry together with your name, address and phone number to:
Z, Marketing Department, Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH by Friday 3 August.



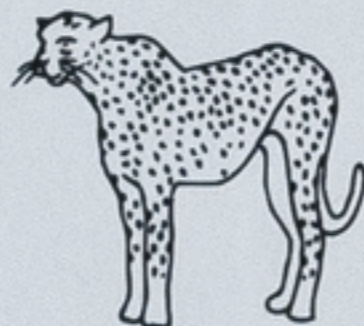


Junior Members' PROGRAMME of events



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 zookeeper. 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. 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.

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 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 Diamond Jubilee Quarter. Parents are asked to collect juniors from June's Pavillion at 9.45pm.

Please Note:

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 Magazine and not by individual letter, so please keep up-to-date by reading *Kidz Zoo* 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.

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 now onwards).

The Summer School is open to juniors aged 10 and above (although preference will be given to juniors aged 11 and above). Participants must be present for all (full) days and the cost will be £18.

This action-packed, but informal week, essentially encompasses 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 our staff about all aspects of our 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!

**FULLY BOOKED
DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND!**

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!

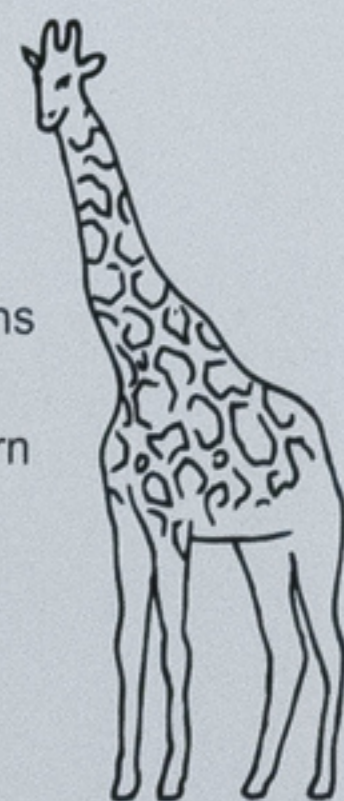
Over eights are invited to come along and enjoy the day, and we will leave the staff car park at 10.30am and return there for 4.00pm. Please bring a picnic lunch.

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 Pavillion. 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.



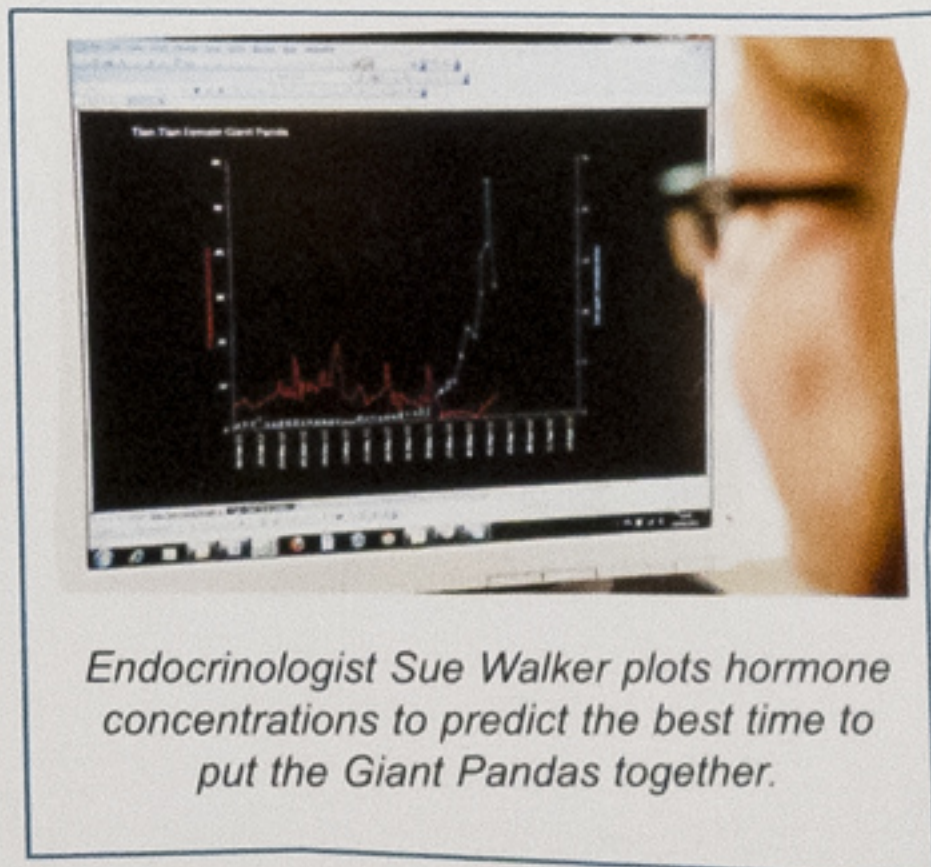
Endocrinology Technician Rebecca Purcell analyses urine samples from Giant Panda, Tian Tian

PREDICTING PANDA PASSION

It has been well documented that we won't be seeing any baby Giant Pandas up in Scotland this year. However, Endocrinology Technician **Rebecca Purcell** explains how we gave our counterparts at Edinburgh Zoo, the best possible chance of engineering a patter of tiny black and white feet...

Back in January, Edinburgh Zoo asked our endocrinology laboratory to analyse reproductive hormones from their new female panda Tian Tian, during her brief mating season. Giant Pandas only come into season for approximately 36 hours, once a year, and so this was going to be a very exciting contract.

A sample of Tian Tian's urine was collected every day from the floor of her enclosure as soon as she woke up. Initially the samples were couriered down to us weekly but as soon as keepers noted a change in her behaviour, this became more and more frequent. Indeed, as we neared the time she would ovulate and be fertile, we were testing samples every day to make sure we did not miss the change in the hormone concentrations we were looking for.



Endocrinologist Sue Walker plots hormone concentrations to predict the best time to put the Giant Pandas together.

Testing involved monitoring the concentration of two hormones – oestrogen and progesterone – present in Tian Tian's urine. These values were then plotted on a graph and an increase in oestrogen above normal values, coinciding with a

simultaneous drop in her progesterone, indicated she was approximately 10–14 days away from being in season (also known as being in oestrus). This helped predict when we thought she would ovulate and be the ideal time for her to be introduced to the male Giant Panda, Yang Guang.

Using hormone monitoring to predict oestrus is vital in Giant Pandas. Introductions can only be made when the female is fully receptive to the male, otherwise they may fight and injure each other or the male may waste valuable energy in failed mating attempts. The service that our endocrinology laboratory offers gave Edinburgh Zoo the best possible chance of a successful panda mating.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE AROUND THE WORLD

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

Focus on THE REALM OF THE RED APE PROGRAMME

Conflict between humans and wildlife is a huge conservation problem for many species around the world. In Borneo where animals such as orangutans and elephants are found, illegal activity is a big threat to their survival. The Hutan-Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Programme is based in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo and one of their aims is to reduce the level of conflict between the people and wildlife that live in the Kinabatangan region of Sabah. To achieve this, Hutan operates the Honorary Wildlife Wardens initiative. This scheme employs local people to patrol the forest fragments and tributaries along the Kinabatangan River.

The wardens carry out day and night patrols in often difficult working conditions. In 2011 Hutan wardens confiscated many illegal items including illegally felled trees, bushmeat, crocodile skins and birds that were destined for the pet trade. This year we are continuing to support this scheme by funding the salary of a local warden. This support enables additional patrols, providing a more secure habitat for the wildlife of Sabah.

Fast Fact

Last year the Hutan Wildlife Wardens carried out over 120 days of river patrols along the Kinabatangan River.



Bornean elephant © Hutan-KOCP

PHILIPPINES PROGRAMME

Home to the critically endangered Philippine Cockatoo, the island of Palawan is a focus for the Katala Foundation's fantastic conservation work for this species. We are pleased to report that work has now been completed to repair and upgrade the Katala Environmental Education Centre. With our sponsorship, repairs began last December by replacing the old and leaky roof. The Katala wardens also replaced the rotten flooring to make the centre safer for visitors. Finally a new solar panel has been installed to help promote environmental friendly practices and to provide a cheaper source of power. Now with their improved facilities, Katala can increase the amount of education outreach that it provides to local communities as part of its Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Programme

Fast Fact

The Philippines has 55 species of plant that are considered critically endangered on the IUCN Red List.



NEWS ON CONSERVATION FROM AROUND THE WORLD

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



Sumatran rhino © International Rhino Foundation

GOOD We have had exciting news from the International Rhino Foundation who has announced a rare Indonesian rhino pregnancy at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra. Ratu, a seven-year-old female Sumatran rhino is being monitored to make sure the pregnancy runs smoothly. This is great news for the future of this highly threatened species.

BAD A recent review by Birdlife International has revealed that seabirds are now more threatened with extinction than any other group of birds. Over the last few years there has been worrying declines in the numbers of many seabirds. The biggest threat to these birds is commercial fisheries and several species are now close to extinction.

WE ARE CHESTER ZOO AND WE ACT FOR WILDLIFE



© He Shu-hui

CHINA PROGRAMME

The Blue-crowned Laughingthrush is a small bird found in only a few areas in Wuyuan, a province in China. Once widespread, these birds were prized in the international pet trade and have been hunted to near extinction. There are now only 250 left in the wild, making them one of China's most threatened birds. For over 10 years we have partnered with other zoo and conservation organisations to support the protection of the few remaining breeding sites for these birds. This year we have continued our support for the monitoring of these breeding areas. In addition the project maintains its ongoing search to find any 'lost' populations of this extremely rare bird.

Fast Fact

China has over 50 endemic bird species - these are birds that are found nowhere else in the world.

CHESTER ZOO STUDENTSHIPS 2012

Each year we award a number of studentship grants to undergraduate and masters degree students, which support studies relating to wildlife conservation in the field. Competition is always extremely high for these prestigious awards and this year 10 projects were chosen for support.

Final projects include: Monitoring the survival of rare plants in Mauritius, an evaluation of the impact of palm oil plantations on disease in Bornean Elephants and an assessment of habitat requirements for the critically endangered Grenada Dove.

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

GRANT SUPPORT

During the last quarter we've also supported a number of projects around the world which include:

AFRICA

Our projects range from the evaluation of commercial hunting and bushmeat trade in Guinea to community conservation initiatives for Grevy's Zebra in Kenya. We are also sponsoring research to develop a long-term genetic management strategy for conservation of the Mauritius Pink Pigeon and research on the ecology of Rothschild's Giraffe in Kenya.

ASIA

In Indonesia we are helping to raise awareness of the threats to orangutans in Northern Sumatra through supporting local education initiatives. We've supported research into the conservation status of the Red Langur and sponsored an environmental enrichment programme for the rehabilitation of Bornean Orangutans. Also in Asia, many vultures are threatened with extinction and, with our help, work is being carried out to conserve the Red-headed Vulture in Nepal.

SOUTH AMERICA

We have been supporting the Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative for many years and have continued this work in the Brazilian Pantanal this year. The Pantanal is also home to the rare Giant Armadillo. We are assisting the important research into the ecology of this shy animal by providing camera traps for the second year, which we hope will provide more information on the ecology of the species.

GLOBAL

We support many projects which have a global focus and have recently sponsored the IUCN Shark Specialist Group who are working to secure the future of sawfish species worldwide.



Brazilian Tapir © Patricia Medeiros

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

The Lowland Tapir, found in South America's Pantanal, has been a focus of support for us for many years. However, around the world there are four species of tapir, all of which are in need of conservation action. Tapirs are found in South America and Asia and it is hugely important that tapir conservationists work together to share information on their research and conservation ideas. This is exactly what happened at the Fifth International Tapir Symposium, which was held in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. The meeting brought together tapir scientists and conservationists and enabled the IUCN Tapir Specialist Group to develop their conservation strategy for 2012-2014. Over the next three years, 53 conservation actions from this strategy will be put into practice. Our support back in 2011 helped this meeting to take place, which we hope will have positive outcomes for the future of tapirs.

HEART OF THE MATTER

Vets and keepers helped carry out a cardio ultrasound on a chimpanzee as part of a global project looking at the heart condition of great apes.

Dylan – our 25-year-old dominant male chimp – was assessed by leading sports physiologists Rob Shave and Eric Stohr from Cardiff Metropolitan University, alongside our own team – with the primate proving to have a very healthy heart for his age.

The team are part of a UK-wide group co-ordinating the project to find out exactly what normal, healthy heart activity in great apes is and how to best care for them in order to enable them to lead long heart-healthy lives.

Heart monitoring has already been taking place in US zoos for a decade, with evidence suggesting that – as with humans – cardiovascular disease is a problem in chimps.

POSITIVE NEWS

However, early assessments on a number of our primates have produced positive results – with all displaying healthy hearts for their ages.

“The hearts of our chimps would seem to be very good.

“This could be due, in part, to their lifestyle and diets. As much as possible, we try to simulate what they would do in the wild. That includes giving them sufficient space and cover in their enclosure and allowing them the room and privacy for the ‘fission/fusion’ dynamics of a wild chimpanzee society. Our nutritionist also makes sure they get fed properly, so part of this project is also about educating people about how these animals should best be kept.

“But it’s very early days and what we need to do is assess more chimpanzees here and lots more elsewhere. Much, much more data will need to be amassed and we’ll be looking at chimps in zoos all over the UK, Europe, as well as in the wild in Africa.

“This is a global effort to make sure we’re looking after our apes as well as we possibly can and is exploring how we can prevent health issues from taking hold, before they take hold.

“So, just as those working in the NHS do, we’re looking at prevention before cure – only our concern is with apes, not humans.

“The early signs would suggest the way we work with and look after the chimps here, could be a model for zoos all over the world to follow.”

Vet Steve Unwin

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:
Friday 6 July 2012

Sunday 4 November 2012 • Saturday 20 April 2013
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 7 October 2012 • Saturday 9 March 2013



The Saddler's Kitchen is an excellent self service coffee shop at Blakemere which offers snacks, cakes, teas and coffees.

Please present this voucher and your membership card at The Saddler's Kitchen for a

FREE CUP OF TEA OR COFFEE
when you spend more than £3

BLAKEMERE CRAFT CENTRE • SANDIWAY • CHESHIRE

TREAT YOURSELF... TO A SUNSET SPA

theclubandspa in partnership with Chester Zoo.

Exclusive promotion for all Chester Zoo Members*.

Offer includes full use of all spa facilities, robe, towel and slippers during your evening.

Choose two of the following treatments:

- 30 min Spa Facial
- Back, Neck & Shoulder Massage
- Pedicure
- Manicure

All for £69 per person.

Chance to upgrade to use the Private Duo Suite Jacuzzi, Sauna area.

Call our Spa Team now to book your place on **01244 408840** or email us on spa@theclubandspa.co.uk



*Please present your Chester Zoo membership card upon arrival to thespa. Claire House are our chosen charity for 2012

BLAKEMERE CRAFT CENTRE
SANDIWAY, CHESHIRE CW8 2EB

Enjoy: Aerial Runways; Slides; Ladders; Ball-pools; Labyrinths; Rickety Rope Bridges; and lots lots more.

Please present this voucher and your membership card at Barnaby's play barn to get
£1 off admission for any child

Up to a max of 4 children per adult.
Not to be used in conjunction with any other offers.

Tel: 01606 301321
www.barnabys-playbarn.com



theclubandspa in partnership with Chester Zoo.

Exclusive promotion for all Chester Zoo Members*. Save 15% off all membership rates.

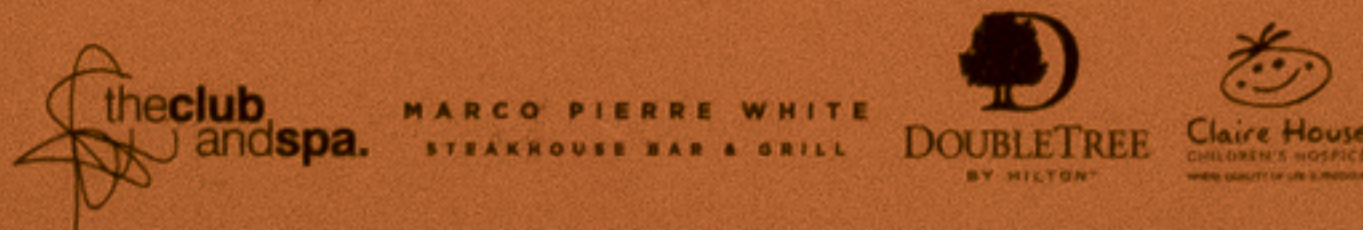
Facilities at theclubandspa.

- Membership
- Over 50 classes a week
- Personal Training
- Childrens Swimming Times
- Spa Packages
- Facials
- Manicures
- Rasul
- Couples Suite
- Hydrotherapy

The membership that gives you more...

- 25% off Marco Pierre White Steakhouse Bar & Grill
- 25% off in the Brassiere/Members Lounge
- 20% off all treatments in thespa (Monday – Thursday)

Call our Membership Team now to book your place on **01244 408840** or visit us at www.theclubandspachester.co.uk



*Please present your Chester Zoo membership card upon arrival to thespa. Claire House are our chosen charity for 2012

Staff **ACT FOR WILDLIFE**

A flick of the wrist, the machete slices through the branch with practised ease. Hammaunde continues along the trail; confident and stealthy in a forest he has known all his life. The baturi tourists stumble behind in the darkness.

Hammaunde suddenly stops. *'They are here,'* he whispers. We look up anxiously. *'How do you know?'* *'I can smell them.'*

We look incredulously at each other, not for the first time astounded by Hammaunde's skills.

Carefully, we settle down and wait. In slow motion, scared to make a sound, we wipe away sweat, catch our breath and recover from the long trek. We sit in silence absorbing the sounds of the forests – the chirp of crickets, the buzz of flies, the high pitched scream of the cicadas. This place teems with life.

As the forest music soothes, the sun slowly reaches the horizon and the first rays of light make their way to the thick carpet of leaves on the woodland floor. In the canopy dark silhouettes are outlined – one here, one there, more and more appearing as eyes adjust to the half-light. Then a rustle of leaves, a twig snapping, glimpses of movement high above.

Hammaunde points. They are beginning to wake.

A dark shadow emerges cautiously from a nest. Before I can focus the shape descends the tree and vanishes, quickly aware of the strangers in the forest. The alarm call goes out. Movement erupts all around us; the forest is filled with the ear splitting raucous calls of chimpanzees. They are all around us – noise everywhere at once. My heart hammers, the hairs on my neck jump up. My senses are alive, eyes scurrying to focus on the dark shapes darting through the branches.

Eventually the sounds fade as the group moves off into the next valley; the explosion of noise and movement once again replaced by the insect orchestra. We sit there grinning, committing the astounding experience to memory.

“Today, few are lucky enough to see chimpanzees in the wild”

8am, returning back to camp. The heat and humidity are already taking hold – sucking the energy from tired legs. But the view at the top of the next hill makes it all worthwhile.

Gashaka Gumti National Park is 7000km² and the largest remaining forest in Nigeria. The canvas below spreads out seemingly forever into the distant hills, mist rising as the sun burns off the night's rain. The chimps can still be heard – far off in the distance now. Chimps in the mist.

This wilderness, home to the last of the Nigerian chimpanzees, home to probably hundreds of species yet to be named, is being protected by the Gashaka Primate Project – the core component of Chester Zoo's Nigerian Conservation Programme. Dedicated people like Hammaunde, National Park staff and project founder Volker Sommer, ensure the future of this stunningly beautiful place and its hugely diverse wildlife.

Chester Zoo is a large part of this team, as are our visitors and members – the support network for our conservation work.

You can't put a price on the forests of Gashaka Gumti, on the wildlife, on the chimpanzees, on the majesty. But, I have not a single doubt that every pound, every ounce of energy, invested into protecting this place is worth it.

We should all be very proud.



THRILLING MEETINGS WITH WILD CREATURES

by Conservation Officer **Scott Wilson**

Mark Pilgrim (Director General) and Scott Wilson (Conservation Officer) search for chimpanzees with Hammaunde inside Gashaka Gumti National Park, Nigeria.

Fundraising NEWS

HALLIWELL JONES Chester supports our Safari Ranger

The relationship between Chester Zoo and Halliwell Jones Chester has gone from strength to strength. The new BMW X1 sport, in which our safari ranger travels to schools and community groups, has proved **A HUGE SUCCESS.**



So far in 2012, over 3000 students have participated in Safari Ranger educational workshops, from 35 different schools.

The car is vital for the Safari Ranger to transport artefacts to schools as part of the teaching session – including items as varied as elephant tusks, huge snake skins and giant cockroach heads! It is also the vehicle for safe transportation of our education animals – Giant Madagascan Hissing Cockroaches, Giant African Millipedes and Giant African Land Snails, that occasionally accompany the Safari Ranger to schools.

The car is distinctive, gets noticed everywhere it goes and it always picks up a wave. The warmest welcome it receives is when it arrives at school to an eager class of students peering through the window awaiting their Safari Ranger workshop. The colourful tiger and gibbon on the side plus the huge snake on the roof really make it stand out from the crowd!

Staff from Halliwell Jones Chester have also spent time onsite, promoting our relationship and giving visitors the chance to book in for a test drive in their new cars.

We are delighted to be working in partnership with Halliwell Jones Chester whose support keeps our Safari Ranger on the road.

Recycling...

Over the years you have donated hundreds of old mobile phones and thousands of printer cartridges which we have then recycled – raising much needed funds for the zoo in the process.

Now we can recycle your unwanted CDs & DVDs too. It's becoming a popular and vital form of recycling as to manufacture a pound of plastic (30 CDs per pound) requires 300 cubic feet of natural gas, two cups of crude oil and 24 gallons of water. Furthermore, it is estimated that it will take over one million years for a CD to completely decompose in a landfill. So why not go through those old (and sometimes embarrassing) CDs now and recycle them with us?

We've also teamed up the jewelleryrecycling.co.uk to provide a new way to recycle any odd earrings or broken watches. So send your clutter to us and help the environment at the same time.

To find out further information on our recycling campaigns please visit our website at www.chesterzoo.org/support-us/recycling

NEW VOLUNTEERING SCHEME

Volunteers play a vital role at the zoo from helping the Fundraising Team to raise money to marshalling VIP events. Now it's easier to volunteer your services than ever before thanks to our new volunteer scheme.

As part of the recruitment process we ask that you come to an information session where you'll get to find out everything they need to know about volunteering at Chester Zoo. You'll have a chance to discuss any queries that you may have and it's also a great opportunity to meet other volunteers and chat through their experiences.

Forthcoming information sessions are:

Friday 22 June, 10am-12pm

Thursday 28 June, 4pm-6pm

Wednesday 11 July, 4pm-6pm

Friday 20 July, 10am-12pm

If you would like to become a volunteer, please give us a call or send us an email to the contact details at the bottom of the following page.

LIFETIME SUPPORTERS' EVENT

In the 1940's, Chester Zoo was a very different place to the zoo we know and love today. The outbreak of war and rising financial demands meant that money was tight and the future very uncertain.

Thankfully the zoo was saved by a generous member – **Miss Tompkyns-Grafton**. A gift in her will of £18,000 secured the zoo's future and in turn, this remarkable action and her memory have lived on as part of our history.

This year we are holding a special event for current lifetime supporters, as well as anyone interested in becoming part of Chester Zoo's future by including the zoo in their will. Taking place on **Tuesday 21 August in our lecture theatre**, the event will consist of presentations from our curators on current developments and future plans for their departments. There will also be a chance to ask them any questions you may have about our animal collection.

Our current lifetime supporters will receive an invite to this event in due course and if you are interested in attending, or want to find out more about supporting the zoo in your will, please contact our Development Team.

RECIPES THAT ROCK!

Thanks to a grant from the postcode lottery 300 children from Merseyside and the Wirral are able to take part in a new education project with Chester Zoo.



Recipes that Rock! is a project working in partnership with the Academy of Culinary Arts to help young people understand how important a healthy diet is for everyone – including our animals.

The children will take part in a practical classroom session at their school, discovering different tastes and textures of a variety of foods before cooking a healthy dish for them to eat together. Then, the group visit the

zoo and discover how important good diets are for all our animals, what we do to ensure each and every species gets the right diet for them before making special treats for our parrots.

The project will run during the summer team and has been funded in Merseyside by the Postcode Lottery.



CHESTER ZOO 100 CLUB

The winners of the prize draws held recently were:

January 2012

Mrs Vanessa Williams, Frodsham	£100
Miss Angela Nolan, Liverpool	£100
Mrs Pauline Walker, Flintshire	£50
Mrs Ann Buglass, Lancashire	£50
Mrs L A Parsons, Liverpool	£50
Miss Michelle Ainscough, Wigan	£50

February 2012

Mrs Rachel Thompson, Chester	£100
Mrs Maureen Allsop, Wirral	£100
Mrs Sandra Gregg, Chester	£50
Mr Alan Matear, Cumbria	£50
Mr W Beavan, Buckley	£50

March 2012

Mrs June Colclough, Stoke on Trent	£100
Mrs Anne Rowlands, Mold	£100
Mrs Jane Hammond, Flintshire	£50
Mr Tony Williams, Winsford	£50
Ms Lynne Norton, Northwich	£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.

Contact the Development Team about any of the stories in this section by calling 01244 650229 or send an email to development@chesterzoo.org



ZOO TALK

Members' talks are held in the Geraldine Russell Lecture Theatre (near the zoo's Diamond Jubilee Quarter, off the A41).

- They are FREE to members (please bring your membership card and welcome letter)
- We offer a special rate of £2.00 to animal adopters
- The public and guests are welcome (£3.50 for non-members)
- Our Lecture Theatre seats up to 170
- We recommend booking in advance to secure your place
- Post-talk refreshments give you the opportunity to have an informal chat with speakers, staff and fellow members

Interested in attending?

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

2012 Programme

A great series of talks lined up for you in 2012 continues with some particular favourites, as our carnivore and elephant teams tell you all about the animals they work with. Later in the year, you'll have the chance to hear about our Director General Mark Pilgrim's recent visits to Tanzania and Nigeria and we end with our Development Director, Simon Mann, as he looks forward to the exciting developments planned for 2013.

Wednesday 20 June at 19:30 Carnivore Evening

Alan Woodward

Carnivore Team Manager Alan Woodward will provide all the latest news on our 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 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 the event itself will go towards Chester Zoo's EAZA Campaign 2012.

Tuesday 17 July at 19:30 Elephant Evening

With members of the Elephant Team **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 and Eveline will bring you up to date with what's new with our own herd.

Thursday 13 September at 19:30 Conserving the Black Rhino in Eastern Africa

Mark Pilgrim and Michelle Duma

We support a number of Black Rhino projects in Kenya and Tanzania. Mark and Michelle will bring you up to date with our work in the field, in particular looking at Mark's visit to Mkomazi, and will bring you the latest news on our rhinos at the zoo.

*Mark Pilgrim is our Director General
Michelle Duma is our Corporate and Events Fundraiser*

Wednesday 17 October at 19:30 Act for Wildlife 2012

With members of the Act for Wildlife Team **Cat Barton, Sarah Bird, Michelle Duma, Maggie Esson, Scott Wilson, Alex Zimmerman**

The Act for Wildlife talks are back! This unique members' talk will give you the chance to find out more about five of our Act for Wildlife projects and vote for which one you think should receive the proceeds from money raised on the evening.

Members' talks are usually free to members and zoo staff and £3.50 for guests but for this talk we would kindly ask that everyone attending makes a discretionary donation towards Act for Wildlife. Don't forget to contact Kate to book your place as Act for Wildlife talks are extremely popular.

Wednesday 7 November at 19:30 Gashaka Gumti National Park and Primate Project, Nigeria

Mark Pilgrim and Scott Wilson

Chester Zoo has supported a project which promotes research into the fauna and flora of Gashaka, continuously since 1999. This support helps to conserve the amazing biodiversity of the region. Mark and Scott will bring you up to date with our work in Nigeria and with the Primate Project. Further details in the next edition of Z.

Scott Wilson is our Conservation Officer

Wednesday 12 December at 19:30 The Road to Islands and Other Developments

Simon Mann

Simon will review some of the major achievements in 2012, including the new main entrance, the Giant Otter underwater viewing zone and the Spirit of the Jaguar remodelling. He'll also share our development plans for 2013, including the commencement of works to deliver the exciting Islands scheme, showcasing Southeast Asian biodiversity.

Simon Mann initially studied as an architect before completing a degree in construction management. He worked for a number of regional and national building contractors as a design and build manager on projects across the UK. In 1997 Simon moved to project management consultancy, initially working for a specialist London based practice on a series of high profile projects including the BBC Broadcasting House re-development in Central London.

In 2003 he joined the largest UK PM consultancy and, as a Director, helped to develop the regional business within the North West. Simon first worked for Chester Zoo as Interim Development Director for Natural Vision in 2008 before taking up the permanent role of Development Director in March 2009.

Members should also look out for this great event:
13 July - 29 July • National Exhibition Wildlife Art 2012
Held at Gordale garden centre, Burton, Wirral, CH64 8TF
See www.newa-uk.com for details



POST CARD

More images of the biggest development in the history of UK zoos have been unveiled.

Chester Zoo member
Z Magazine
Chester



ISLANDS

- our hugely ambitious £30 million project - will create a conservation expedition bringing the islands of the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Bali, Sumatra, Sumba and Sulawesi to the heart of Cheshire.



BANTENG ARRIVE

The first new species earmarked for the zoo's new ISLANDS development have arrived.

Javan Banteng sisters *Pari* and *Pankhuri* are a species of wild cattle from Indonesia and are classed as endangered by the IUCN.

The world population of Banteng is estimated at no more than 8,000 individuals due to a range of factors, which include the unrestrained bushmeat trade in southeast Asia, illegal hunting for their horns and habitat loss.

A male will eventually be joining the duo.

The Islands development will showcase the zoo's conservation fieldwork and bring together a range of animals including Anoa, Babirusa, Bali Starling, Cassowary, Indonesian Rhinoceros Hornbill, Indonesian Wrinkled Hornbill, Lorikeet, Sumatran Orangutan, Sulawesi Macaque, Sumatran Tiger and the Visayan Warty Pig.

Director General, Dr Mark Pilgrim, said: "Our wildlife expedition will be based on real life, real people and real stories. It's big, it's ambitious and there will be nothing else like it in the UK, or indeed on an international scale."

"These images give a flavour of what can be expected from our new development. Islands will not just showcase the areas where the zoo works but will be a platform for some of the most endangered animals on the planet."

New species will include the Saltwater Crocodile and Banteng. Visitors will travel around the Islands by boat or on foot and will navigate mangroves, swamps, bamboo and tropical forests.

Islands will also include a major new Indonesian tropical house which will be the largest indoor zoo exhibit in the UK and home to orangutans.


Designed by architects from the dan pearlman group in Germany, the whole project homes in on the different vegetation and architecture seen on the various islands - taking visitors on a highly themed, atmospheric and immersive journey which includes educational exhibits, play areas, restaurants and village-style food stands.

Kieran Stanley, CEO Experience Architecture at dan pearlman, said: "The Islands project is about immersion, it is about taking you there, to experience the wild animals in their natural habitats. The details along the way tell authentic stories of the amazing things that happen on islands, the Chester Zoo conservation team and its work in the field."

"The challenge for us as architects is to create an holistic seamless experience for the visitors, whilst integrating over 25 buildings and facilities along a one and a half kilometre long jungle path through 50,000m2 of landscape. Some people tell stories, we like to build them."

Work is expected to start in autumn this year with the entire zone planned to open to by Easter 2015.

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