

ZooLife

SUMMER 2004 - ISSUE 18

CHESTER ZOO'S MAGAZINE FOR MEMBERS AND ADOPTERS

**BABY
ELEPHANT JOY**

**SPECTACLED
BEARS WELCOMED**

**RED RIVER HOGS
SETTLE INTO
NEW HOME**





Director's Pen

By Zoo Director Gordon McGregor Reid

The Zoo is in the midst of its 70th anniversary year – and what a year it has proved to be so far!



We have come a long way since those early days under George Mottershead's reign but we hope we remain true to his ideals.

The anniversary celebrations kicked off in earnest in May and some of you may have been involved in the activities on site.

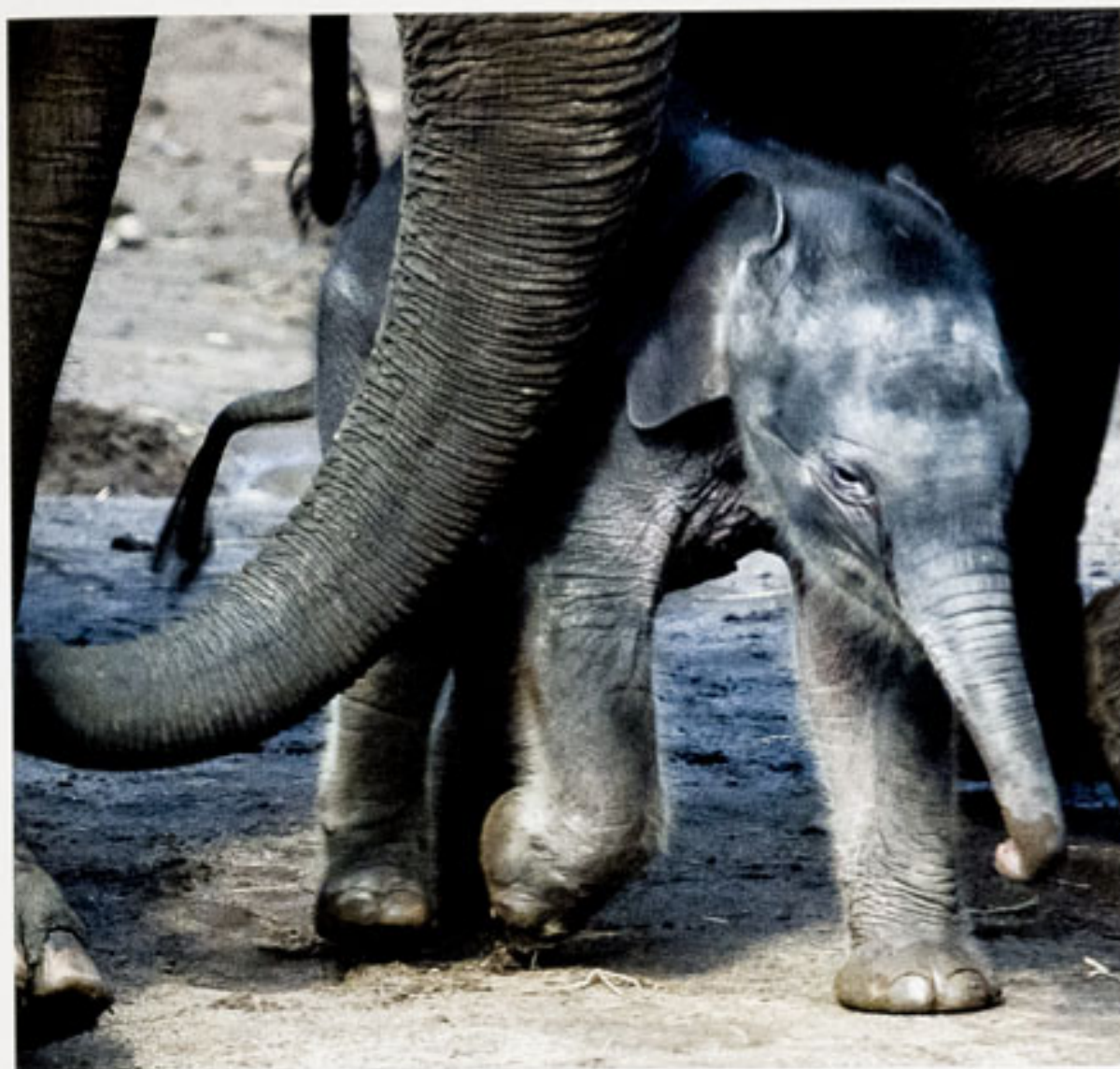
It is wonderful to be able to go into the summer with so many good things achieved – and more to come. We have had several births, most notably our elephant calf

Sundara who made her debut on the evening of March 7. She is the first calf for *Sithami*, who is being ably assisted by her own mother *Thi-hi-way*. Sadly *Thi* lost her own calf the week before *Sundara's* birth but this has not deterred her from helping out with her own 'granddaughter.'

We have also welcomed a baby Bongo and Congo Buffalo – read more about them inside – and a male Bactrian Camel, *Bacster*, (pictured right) born to

Olga. We finally opened the new 'nursery' area in the aquarium. This is home to baby Seahorses, Cichlids and Axolotls and gives a 'behind the scenes' glimpse of breeding success in the aquarium.





One of the most exciting arrivals has been our two Spectacled Bears - *Valentine* and *Estrolch* - who made the journey here from Poland. They have a new purpose-built enclosure situated past the *Twilight Zone* and have settled in well to their new home. You can read more about them in senior keeper Alan Reid's report on pages 12 and 13.

The *Miniature Monkeys* exhibit - with the Black Lion Tamarins, Pied Tamarins and Geoffroy's Marmosets - was officially opened in May by the television celebrity Lord Robert Winston, the television celebrity and distinguished scientist. The opening was tremendously successful and Lord Winston gave a special lecture to mark both that occasion and our 70th anniversary.

Our new 'pocket sized' guide book has also been launched and planning for our Rhino weekend on July 10 and 11 also got under way.

Save the Rhino has been working with Chester Zoo for many years and co-funded conservation projects across Africa that help to save rhinos. On Friday 9 July, *Save the Rhino* will be giving a lecture on their work in conservation and talking in particular about four Black Rhino projects co-supported by Chester Zoo. On Saturday 10 July, there will be special talks given by the keepers plus activities for children. Chester's local radio station Dee 106.3 will be broadcasting live from the Zoo.

We hope you will be able to join us for another weekend of celebrations and look forward to seeing you then if not before!

Gordon M.J. Reid

Miss A.L. Howard

Tributes have been paid to a dedicated and respected former zoo employee.

Miss Anne Louise Howard, known as Nancy, worked at the Zoo between 1958 and 1982 and originally served as Secretary to the founder George Mottershead.

She was a tower of strength to Mr Mottershead following the death of his wife and worked as Director/Secretary and accompanied him on tours.

When Mr Mottershead was not well enough to tour the zoo gardens, Miss Howard kept him abreast of developments and between his death and the appointment of Dr Michael Brambell, she was responsible for the general management of the Zoo.

Miss Howard also wrote the *First Half Century* booklet which looks at the Zoo's early history.

Zoo Director, Prof Gordon McGregor Reid, said: "Miss Howard provided much additional strength and direction for Chester Zoo during George Mottershead's directorship and she remained a vigorous supporter after her retirement. I had a most pleasant chat about the 'old days' with Nancy at a zoo members' talk held only a few weeks before her death."

George Hilton

The Zoo has also lost one of its long-standing members.

Mr George Hilton, who lived in Preston, has been a member of the Society since 1968 and was made a Life Member on 1 January 2003 having completed 25 years of uninterrupted annual membership.

Mr Hilton had adopted the Przewalski's Horses since November 1989 and was a member of the Zoo's 100 Club.

Membership Secretary Maureen Allsopp said: "George was well known and respected by zoo staff and considered a friend."

"He was a generous benefactor to the Zoo, always enclosing money with each letter he wrote. In his latter years George suffered dreadfully from painful hip joints which meant he could not get to the Zoo as often as he would wish."

Sundara...

A Picture Special

Chester Zoo's latest addition is pictured taking her first steps out in the sunshine.

The elephant team has chosen *Sundara* as the name for the Asian Elephant calf born at the Zoo on March 7.

Her Asian name means 'beautiful' or 'pretty' and is fitting for the female who has proved to be a big hit with visitors.

Sundara is also enjoying her first taste of life outside the elephant house since her birth and has been out and about on the paddock with mum *Sithami*.

Chief Curator Mark Pilgrim said: "Visitors and well-wishers very kindly sent in suggestions for the calf's name. We are grateful to them for taking the time to come

up with suggestions but in the end the elephant team decided to go with their first choice. *Sundara* has been out and about in the paddock and is really thriving."

Sundara was born just before 9pm on Sunday March 7 bringing the number of Asian Elephants at the Zoo to 10.

She is the first calf for mum *Sithami*, who had a normal labour. In turn *Sithami* is being greatly assisted by her own mum *Thi-hi-way* – the new calf's

grandmother - who has taken charge of the calf, supporting it and suckling it.

Mark added: "Every elephant birth is a cause for celebration and this is particularly special as *Sundara* is the first second generation elephant born here at Chester.

"She is incredibly important as females remain in their birth group for life and therefore she is an important part of the future of elephants at Chester Zoo."





Zoo life

General News

Interview with a Zoo Supporter

As the Asian Elephant Survival appeal goes from strength to strength, it is a good time to talk to one of the special volunteers who contribute. Kath Holding is one such volunteer and gave an interview with Lynsey Jones in the Development Office on how she got involved with Chester Zoo.

When and how did your passion for animals start?

I've loved animals as long as I can remember, we always had pets at home and I loved visits to the Zoo.

What is your favourite animal and why?

Elephants definitely, for their size, intelligence and complex social interaction between the herd. I could watch them for hours.

You went on a Zoo member's trip to Africa. Tell me a little about that. What was the highlight for you?

I've been to Africa twice – to South Africa seeing the work of the rangers at the Kruger Park and to Kenya, visiting my dream destinations of Amboseli and Masai Mara but the highlight was tracking (and seeing) black rhino on foot in Tsavo East with the anti-poaching rangers – such a thrill. Sadly, the rhino we saw has since been killed by poachers which highlights how vital conservation and zoo breeding is.

How do you support Chester Zoo?

I'm a member, I'm in the 100 Club and also a volunteer for the Asian Elephant appeal. I also give talks to women's groups about my safaris to raise money for Save the Rhino and I always mention the Zoo and its outreach work, breeding programmes etc. and encourage people to visit our wonderful new exhibits.

As a volunteer for the Elephant Appeal, what things have you helped with so far?

I helped at the Wirral and Nantwich shows with my friend Peter, where we sold a lot of fluffy elephants, badges and bookmarks! I held an Out of Africa dinner for my girlfriends and washed coins that were donated to the Zoo from the Cheshire Oaks wishing well.

I read to the children from the specially written book *The Asian Elephant* at the Zoo's Magical Santa Trail evenings and helped with the race day collection at the Chester Racecourse in May.

What is the favourite thing you've done whilst working as a volunteer?

It was reading the story to the children in the elephant house at Christmas, they were enchanting, I did it for twelve hours (not all at once though!) and can honestly say that I loved every minute.

I notice you are also a member of the Zoo's lottery scheme, the 100 Club. Why did you decide to join?

It was another way to help the Zoo and there was a chance of a lucky win too, and I have won once. I think I'm due another win now though! It was easy to join, just ring the development office.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET MORE INVOLVED WITH CHESTER ZOO?

Would you like to ensure that our vital conservation work continues long into the future?

You can help by becoming a volunteer for the Asian Elephant Appeal, by giving a regular donation by standing order, joining the *100 Club* or by leaving a gift to the Zoo in your Will.

For more information then please contact the Development Office on **01244 650229** or via e-mail on developmentoffice@chesterzoo.co.uk

REPLACEMENT MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Please note that with effect from 1 July 2004 the Society will be implementing a charge for replacing lost membership cards to cover administration costs.

Should you lose your card, please forward to the Membership Office a listing of members whose cards are missing, giving names and dates of birth, plus payment of £5.00 per card. Cheques should be made payable to Chester Zoo.

We will replace stolen cards free of charge, on condition that a Police Crime Number is provided.

ASIAN ELEPHANT SURVIVAL APPEAL

Fundraising efforts during the first quarter have included the Chester Festival of Romance; an Asian Evening at Oakfield House (pictured) and an Asian Evening



at the Casa, Liverpool.

We would like to thank all our donators, sponsors and volunteers during this period who have been a big influence in swelling our appeal from £300,000 to £400,000.

CHESTER ZOO 100 CLUB

The winners of the prize draws, held recently, were:

January 2004

269	Christen Herberg	£100
101	Ms C. J. Reynolds	£100
68	Mr K. J. Sims	£100
244	Mr David L. Lloyd	£50
293	Mrs Elaine M. Ireland	£50

February 2004

295	Dr Philip Robinson	£100
185	Mrs E. J. Norman	£100
38	Mrs Molly E. Bryceson	£50
259	Mrs Debra Stott	£50
316	Mr P.G. Wilson & Mrs E.J. Wilson	£50

March 2004

126	Mrs Sue Tonelli	£100
306	Mrs Joan Shallcross	£50
58	Pamela Cate	£50
150	Mrs Colclough	£50

All prize winners will be notified by post and will be listed in the next edition of *Zoo Life*.

Membership of the *100 Club* is still invited. If you wish to participate, please contact Lynsey Jones Development Officer on **01244 650292**.

The raffle for the Asian Elephant Appeal has now been drawn and an impressive £5,000 has been raised.

The winners were:

1st Prize

Anne Coleman - Wrexham
Prize - Jag for the weekend and over night stay at Bodysgallen Hall

2nd Prize

H. Roberts - Liverpool
Prize - Walk in the woods with Ray Mears

3rd Prize

S. L Patchell - Halifax
Prize - Anthony Wyatt Chang and the Gang print

4th Prize

Jane Barnes - Connah's Quay
Prize - Simba the Lion

5th Prize

Griffiths - Llandudno
Prize - Camera

6th Prize

Gill Smith - Moreton
Prize - Elephant picture

7th Prize

C. Peak - Middlewich
Prize - Elephant picture

8th Prize

Mrs S. Coward-Griffiths - Tarporley
Prize - Crockery set

9th Prize

Mrs P.J. Woodhead - Chester
Prize - Ted Hughes collection of books

ARABIAN GAZELLES ON THE MOVE!

As part of the continual process of developing the animal collection through regional and local collection plans, our group of Arabian Gazelles is moving to a collection called Zoo Parc Overloon in the Netherlands (www.overloonzoo.nl). We hope to be replacing the Arabian Gazelles with a gazelle species which is in greater need of zoo assistance in the future.

Thanks for your support!

Red River Hogs

By Tim Rowlands, Team Leader, Giraffe section

Our adorable hogs arrived at Chester Zoo in 2002. The female, *Pumbaa*, arrived from Colchester Zoo in the February having been born in Duisberg, Germany. She was obviously used to human company and her party trick of rolling over to have her belly tickled was a big hit with all the staff. When the male arrived in September from Salzburg, he was a bit more of an unknown commodity! Although he too would lie down to be tickled he would also remind you that one day he was going to be a large boar with a hard shove of his snout.

We allowed them to destroy the paddock with their rooting (not that we had a lot of choice), and also provided them with wood bark to toss around and a mud wallow to take advantage of when the weather was hot. We fed them four times a day which included scattering their food around the paddock. With plenty of branches to chew and logs to roll around they seemed to be "happy as pigs in muck!"

We housed the hogs in temporary accommodation by the onagers. They were given the small Lechwe paddock, with the inside split up into three pens in order to separate the hogs at night. This allowed the animals to meet every morning as they were let outside, and meant that they would greet each other with mutual rubbing and sniffing. It was hoped that this would build the bond between them enough for them to mate, whilst distancing them enough so as they would not to become complacent with each other.

Within six months we had our first signs that *Pumbaa* was maturing, when she came into season. Unfortunately *Pablo* didn't have a clue, but our plan seemed to be working so we continued with the night time separation. By the time she came into season again four weeks later we were pleased to discover that *Pablo* had also begun to mature!

This pattern continued for the next couple of months until it was noted that *Pumbaa* had not come into season. We waited for her next season with bated breath, and when nothing came we had to assume that she was pregnant! Her due date was worked out and the pens were altered to accommodate piglets. As she was still so friendly, (including rolling on her back when ever we entered the enclosure), we decided that it would be possible to use the ultra sound machine on her. Sure enough, over she went and on the screen two tiny piglets could clearly be seen.

It was therefore no surprise to come in one September morning to find *Pumbaa* with two piglets. We were a little unsure on how well they were feeding, so *Pumbaa's* party trick came in useful again. By leaning over her pen and scratching her back we were able to get her to lie down and allow the piglets to feed. Once the youngsters got the hang of this we left them well alone.



Within days the piglets were enjoying the outside enclosure and after a couple of weeks *Pablo* was allowed access to all three and proceeded to play with the youngsters at every opportunity.



While this was happening, plans were being put into action to build our new family their own enclosure. This entailed turning the old capuchin islands at the front of the *Tropical Realm* into a purpose built hog paddock that incorporated everything that we had learned from them in their temporary accommodation. A house was designed that could accommodate several adult hogs and have the facility to separate a farrowing sow from the boar. We also designed an on-show pen to look like a burrow, which would hopefully give people the opportunity to see the hogs even if they were sleeping. The outside enclosure was split into two, with one area filled with wood bark to allow them to root around and the second was grassed, with live trees and a deep pool to allow them to swim and wallow.

After training them to walk into a horse box, we were able to move the hogs at the end of February this year, with no stress, allowing them to settle in straight away.

With the Red River Hogs' destructive nature we expect the new enclosure to take a few knocks, whilst providing a home for our hogs where they can act naturally and hopefully breed again in the near future.

Zoo Visitors Notice

We are asking for your help in solving an increasing problem that we have with zoo visitors arriving on site after the last admission times.

On a normal day it takes the Zoo staff at least an hour after last admission times to check the whole site and ensure that it is clear before we can secure the site for the evening. During summer this becomes increasingly delayed as more and more people try to gain late access to the Zoo.

As a result our gate staff will tell any member of the public arriving after last admission times not to enter. This includes our members and adopters.

Please do not confuse last admission times with zoo closing times.

Copies of these times can be sent to you on receipt of an SAE, via, e-mail OR alternatively please pin the printed list below on your notice board for future reference.

We do hope that you will understand the need to keep our animals and facilities safe and secure over night and that you will help us to ensure that last admission times are met in the future.

Last admission times:

7 June – 16 July	4.30pm
17 July – 05 Sept	
Summer Holidays	5.30pm
6 – 26 September	4.30pm
27 Sept – 22 October	4.00pm
23 – 31 October	
Half-term	4.00pm
Summertime Ends	31 Oct
1 Nov – 23 Dec	3.30pm
Christmas Eve	2.00pm
26 Dec – 31 Dec	3.30pm

REALM OF THE RED APE

The future is looking rosy for new-born *Sumatran* Orang-utan *Utara* and her companions as Chester Zoo rubber-stamps plans for its biggest development to date.

Utara, who was born at the end of March to mum *Emma*, will be joining 10 other *Sumatran* and *Bornean* Orang-utans in a purpose-built multi-million pound enclosure in just 18 months time.

Plans for the new facility have already

been drawn up and work on the house is expected to get under way later this year. At £3 million, the new exhibit – *the Realm of the Red Ape* – will be the most expensive project in the Zoo's 70 year history.

The new house will be built onto the existing house, which will be retained as an 'off-show' area. The existing facilities will also be modernised and the new house promises to give the Orang-utans enhanced space and facilities.

Mike Jordan, the Zoo's Curator of Birds and Mammals, said: "The new house will provide us with double the capacity and will double the space internally from three separate enclosures to six.

Outside, the Orang-utans will have six to seven times the space that they have currently. This is a great plan with many key benefits for the Orang-utans".

It is hoped the new facility will enable the number of Orang-utans to be increased and a wide variety of Indonesian Forest species including reptiles, birds and mammals, will also be introduced to the exhibit.

"This is a fantastic development. Orang-utans spend time together but can fall out and be moody. When they are together they are terrific but when they fall out then they need their own space and this exhibit will provide just that," added Mike.

This is the first phase of the development and it is hoped that a second phase will see the existing house demolished and another house built at a date to be decided.

Plans for the new development can be seen at the existing Orang-utan enclosure.



Alien Invasion Imminent!

Liz Marrs, Presenter, Education Department

Have aliens arrived at Chester Zoo? Thankfully no!

Alien Invasion is the title of one of our *Talking Plants* series for 2004. *Talking Plants* is returning with exciting new talks and, of course, the return of old favourites. The *Alien Invasion* talk will be a light-hearted, but factual, way to explain the problems of *invasive aliens* (e.g. introduced plants and animals).

If you thought Athens was the venue for the Olympics, then think again. *Plant Olympics* is also coming to Chester Zoo. Come along and see how the competitors overcome the obstacles to win the race and, maybe, become a record breaker.

Got it Licked will answer the thorny question of why a giraffe has a long tongue and if you've ever wondered what *Life in the Trees* would be like then, make a bee-line for *Monkey Islands*.

Some old favourites, from last year are returning. The *Alternative Medicine* talk will be treating new ailments with a range of different plants. Unfortunately, some of the plants

have fallen foul of the law this year, again. Their lawyer will be putting in a plea of self-defence. However, one plant is claiming "mistaken identity" as its defence. If you would like to serve on the "jury", turn up at the Roman Garden at 2.30 daily.

At 4.00 head for *Glorious Grasses*. Here, you will be able to listen to some *Story Telling*. The talks start at 11.15 on Monday 5th July and run to 5th September.

Spirit Dancer

Tuesday 5th October 2004,
7.30pm until 10.00pm

Chester Zoo Lecture Theatre

Chester Zoo is proud to welcome the return of Native American champion Navajo dancer Dennis Lee Rogers. Back by popular demand, we are giving you the opportunity to

experience a spectacular performance of Native American Indian traditional tribal dance and music.

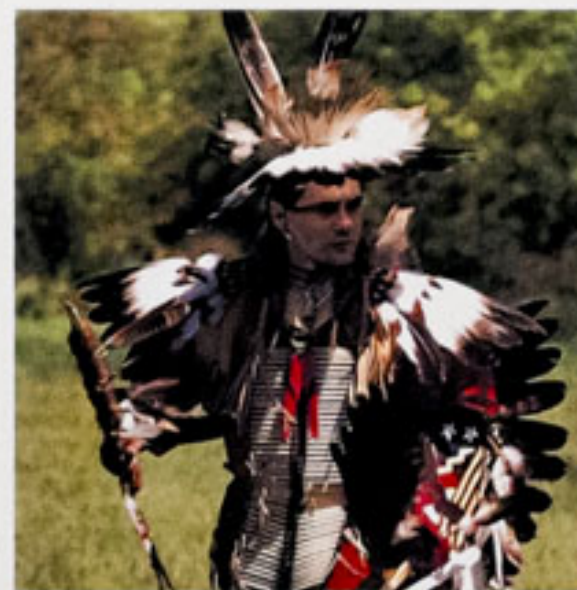
Dennis will be making a tour of the UK in October and will give a performance at the Zoo, for the benefit of the Zoo's Jaguar project in Belize.

His show has received world-wide acclaim, and we expect it to sell out very quickly. For the first part of the evening, there will be a brief slide presentation followed by Native American hand drum and song, flute and narrative on Native American culture. There will be a short interval so Dennis can dress in the full regalia of the Navajo, and the second half of the evening will depict the spirituality and the majestic dances of the tribes.

Tickets are £8 and the price includes tea/coffee at the interval. They will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Please send a cheque for the correct amount, an SAE for ticket return along with your daytime telephone number to: Development Office, Chester Zoo, Chester, CH2 1LH. Alternatively, if you would like to pay by either debit or credit card, please call:

01244 650229.



EAZA Tiger Campaign 2003/4 Update

Chester Zoo visitors and supporters helped raised over £5000 for the EAZA Tiger Campaign in 2002/3, earning a gold fundraising award from EAZA (*European Association of Zoo's and Aquariums*). Thank you to everybody who supported the campaign.

After such a successful year the campaign will also be running in 2003/4. The total fundraising

aim is now £500 000, all of which will go to nine projects working hard to protect tigers in the wild.

Like last year Chester will have a display by the tiger enclosure in the Zoo providing information on tiger conservation and the projects we are supporting. To raise funds there will be tiger merchandise for sale, including badges, keyrings and casts of paw prints from our very own tigers. There will also be a tiger raffle with prizes including a

chance to be a keeper for a day, a cuddly toy and tiger artwork, and a chance to win prizes on the 'Tiger Grid'.

Our aim is to raise a further £5000. For more information on the campaign and to find out how you can help please contact the Chester Zoo Conservation Department, Tel. **01244 389443** or conservation@chesterzoo.co.uk.

LATEST ADDITION



This young heavyweight is the latest addition to the animals at the Zoo.

Lukuni is the 21st buffalo to be born here and is already going from strength to strength.

Tipping the scales at 40kg at birth, Lukuni – named after a place in central Africa – can already be seen out and about on fine days with proud mum Ippy and dad Kinta and is proving to be a big hit with the visitors.

Spectacled Bears

By Alan Reid, Senior Keeper, Giraffe section

For those of you who haven't already met them I'd like introduce two arrivals to the giraffe section: *Valentine* and *Estrolch*.

Spectacled Bears are controlled by a central studbook. Our ultimate aim would be to have a breeding pair, but as new holders the Studbook keeper requested that we take on two

bears from Wroclaw (*Vrots-wahf*) Zoo in Poland.

The enclosure that they were in failed to meet all of their needs and although more than willing, the people looking after them

were unable to raise the necessary funds to re-house them.

Both bears are 10 years old and

have lived together since they were two. I was fortunate enough to go to Wroclaw and spend a weekend observing their behaviour before travelling back with them. Once ready to move the bears were tranquillised and loaded into their crates and once sure that they had fully recovered, we set off. Journeying by road across Germany and by ferry from the Hook of Holland, I was told that we should see Chester by midnight. However some quick paperwork at the Polish border along with some judicious queue jumping meant that we were able to get an earlier ferry, arriving here late one afternoon.



The Bears start their journey to Chester



Ready for the off...

The bear house is designed to be flexible. There are four "normal" dens, each furnished with a wooden platform and nesting basket and each connecting to the paddock via a mesh race. The bears' entry into the house is by a doorway built into the end den. The transport crates are placed against this, chained down and then it is simply a matter of opening two doors and walking the bears out. *Valentine* ran out, *Estrolch*, after a bit of sniffing, strolled out a bit more sedately.

The bears were kept inside for a week to ensure that they had fully recovered from their trip. They settled down well and seemed to accept us fairly readily, though a pot of honey is a useful weapon to have in the battle to win a bears' trust. Both seemed nervous of doors opening and closing, something I'd noticed in Poland, but have got better with their time here.

Bears are quite shy, retiring creatures. *Valentine* and *Estrolch*'s first days outside reflected this. *Estrolch* took about four days to venture to the far side of the paddock, the noise and movement from the large waterfall daunting him. *Valentine* was a bit more adventurous but we didn't force the issue, always allowing them safe retreat to the house. They soon found the two purpose built caves that we put in and were soon squabbling over possession of them.

For now they have access to the whole enclosure but in the future we have the option of splitting the enclosure, to separate off a female with cubs for example! There is also a fifth inside den reserved exclusively for this situation.

Now we have the paddock and the bears we have to learn to live with them, but that's the fun part!



General News

Catalysing Conservation – A Symposium for Zoos of the 21st Century

Chester Zoo's Alexandra Zimmermann, co-organiser of the symposium "*Catalysts for Conservation*" reports...

What do zoos really do for the conservation of endangered species and wild places? Are they adequately fulfilling their missions or could they be doing more? Are zoos truly conservation organisations?

These were some of the questions in mind when we began to design a conference about the role of zoos in conservation. A conference that would not just contain a series of self-praising presentations in which zoos give examples of the variety of field projects they support, but a conference that would ask critical, searching questions, trying to take an objective look at what zoos really contribute to conservation and where they fit into the global community of conservation organisations.

The two-day symposium *Catalysts for Conservation: A Direction for Zoos in the 21st Century* was held in London on 19-20 February 2004 and hosted by the Zoological Society of London and the Wildlife Conservation Society with the North of England Zoological Society/Chester Zoo. In order to try to achieve an objective and productive, review of the subject, symposium organisers Alexandra Zimmermann, Matthew Hatchwell (WCS), Chris West (ZSL) and Richard Lattis (WCS) selected their

speakers carefully. We wanted a combination of experts both from within the "zoo world" as well as from outside it. Thus we invited visionary speakers such as William Conway, former chief executive of WCS; experts with insider knowledge of the workings of zoos such as Anne Baker from Rosamund Gifford Zoo and Bengt Holst from Copenhagen Zoo; speakers experienced with the science behind zoos, including Mark Stanley-Price from Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust and Michael Hutchins from the American Zoos Association; innovative experts such as Beth Stevens from Disney Animal Kingdom and John Gwynne from WCS; academicians who have studied the work of zoos - Nigel Leader-Williams of DICE, Andrew Balmford of Cambridge University and Georgina Mace of the Institute of Zoology; and many more. A total of 24 speakers (including Alex Zimmermann) and 6 session chairs (including Director Gordon Reid) gave their views and recommendations on where zoos stand today, how they coordinate their conservation efforts, how much true impact their work has, what their opportunities and limitations are, and where they should be heading in the future.

The event received not only a great deal of interest (attracting 230

participants from five continents) but stirred some controversy too. Some of the scientific evaluations of the impacts of zoos, in particular those delivered by the academicians, were quite critical, suggesting that zoos were not succeeding in their efforts to educate their visitors about conservation, and that zoos were now mostly prioritizing endangered species for breeding programmes yet still not according to likelihood that the species could be reintroduced into the wild. However, these talks were balanced with several inspiring examples from zoos working at the forefront of conservation, such as the Madagascar Fauna Group, Zurich's Masoala exhibit, and the Lion Tamarin project in Brazil.

The debates stimulated during this symposium will be continued. Coordinated with the launch of the new World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy, a set of follow-up activities including workshops on specific sub-topics, are being planned. A proceedings volume with all the papers presented at the symposium is being compiled for publication and in the meantime a summary document of the main conclusions can be found in the conservation pages of Chester Zoo's website www.chesterzoo.org.

Cormac - A Very Gentle Giant

Tim Rowlands, Team Leader, Giraffe section

In 20 years of working with the giraffes at Chester Zoo I have never met another to compare with *Cormac*. He was not the tallest, nor the smartest, but he had a presence that touched all that met him. So it was tragic news to us all here at Chester Zoo to hear that he had been put to sleep after damaging his leg while at Twycross Zoo.

He was born in Ireland, at Fota on the 24/4/87, and moved to Belfast and then Dublin before being sent over on the 15/11/93 to become the new breeding bull here at Chester Zoo. We had not bred giraffes for over 12 years and were desperate for an injection of vigour into our herd. Cormac settled into his role with ease, and in just over two years our first giraffe sired by Cormac was born. This was followed by eight more youngsters over the next seven years. His offspring were moved out to other collections; Dublin, Colchester, South Lakes and Knowsley. Meanwhile *Sebastian* is still at Chester Zoo.

Cormac took everything in his stride, from having JCB diggers on the paddock to rebuild the canal bank, to the complete replacement of the old roof; Cormac could always be found leaning over the fence watching. We still to this day don't know quite how he managed to remove the windscreen wipers from a moving JCB!

He was also a hit with the stars, being introduced to the likes of Liz Hurley and David and Victoria Beckham.

He could be a handful, from testing out new keepers by standing exactly where they needed to brush, to dropping wads of lucerne onto your head from the hay racks you were in the process of filling. Despite being such a good breeder he was not keen on his own offspring, seeing them as no more than an irritant that should move out of his way whenever he passed.

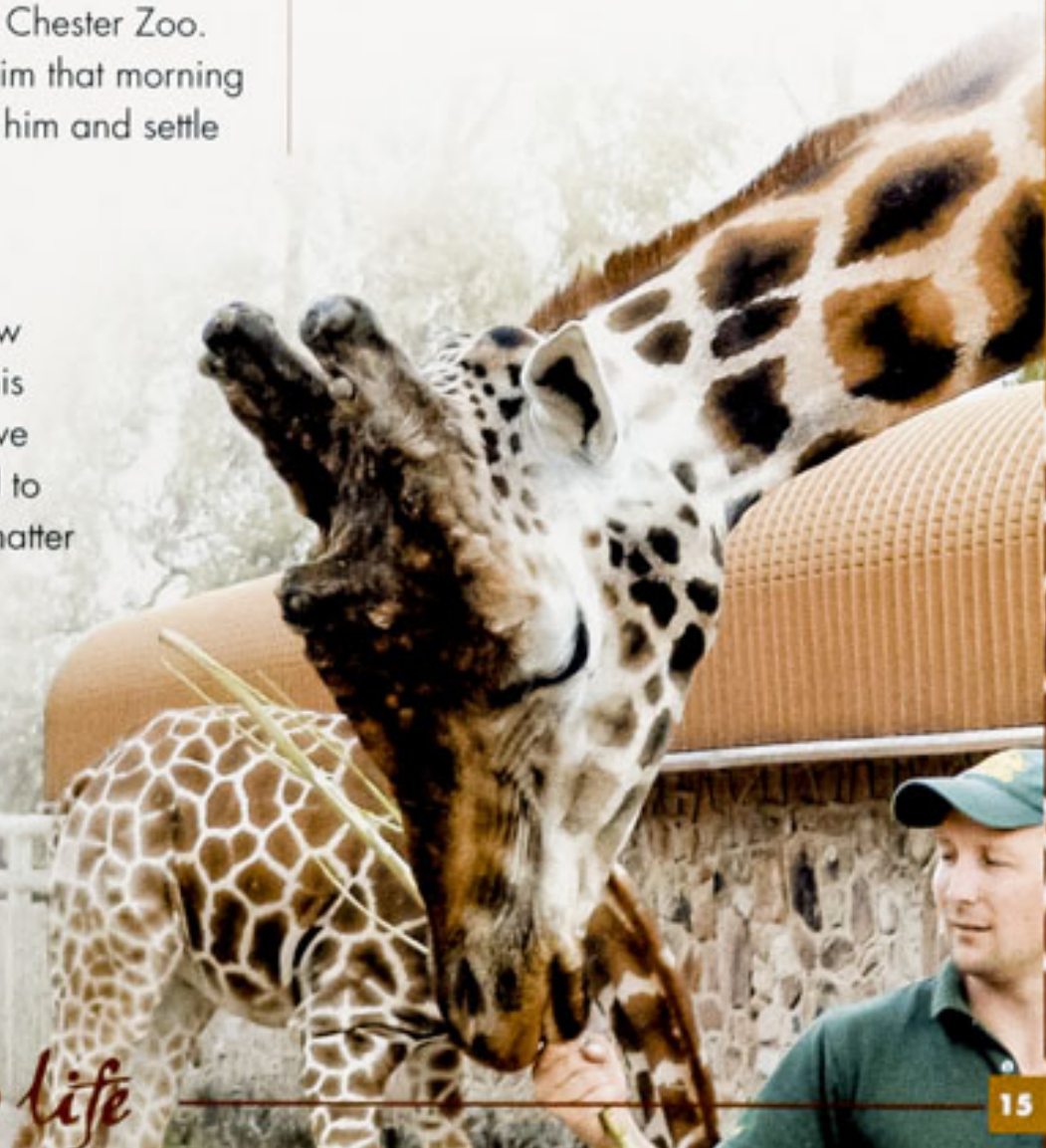
Cormac moved to Twycross Zoo in August, to become their new breeding bull, and this was a very sad day for every one that had worked with him at Chester Zoo.

We travelled with him that morning and helped unload him and settle him into his new surroundings.

Within no time he was out with his new females exploring his new territory, and we were really pleased to hear that within a matter of days that he had mated one of the females - we expected nothing less.

It was a real shock to hear that *Cormac* had damaged his leg while trying to mate another female, and we wasted no time in driving down to see him. Despite the best efforts of all at Twycross, *Cormac* was put to sleep a couple of days later.

So if you are around Twycross in November, pop in and see their young giraffe and see if it has the same twinkle in its eye as its father had.



General News

Hollyoaks, hospitals and more...

HOLLYOAKS

Stars from Channel Four teenage soap *Hollyoaks* paid a visit to Chester Zoo for a photographic spread for *IntoSoap* magazine.

Actress Tiffany Mulheron was joined by Sarah Lawrence, Alex Carter and Darren Jefferies for the day.

Thanks go to the giraffe section who kindly spent time introducing the foursome to the animals.



FUN & GAMES in Chester.

The Children's Hospitals Appeal Trust have recently teamed up with Chester Zoo to bring you a unique fundraising opportunity which you can really get your claws stuck into! They are offering you the chance to work with some of the most endangered animals in the world by spending a day as a zookeeper!

Money raised will contribute to providing a playground for all patients and their families who use the very busy Children's Unit at the Countess of Chester Hospital.

This new facility has been designed with the needs of all patients in mind. Children may be on the unit from just a few hours to many months. Being able to go outside whilst waiting for an operation or other medical procedure can help when a child is nervous.

The Children's Hospitals Appeal Trust has pledged £28,000 to provide a large climbing frame specially designed for children in wheelchairs, a soft play surface and other landscaping work and they need your help!

If you are interested in being a 'Keeper for the Day' and raising money for the Children's Hospitals Appeal Trust please call Alison at the Children's Hospitals Appeal Trust on **0161 798 1600** for further details.

Enjoy a Fantastic Safari Holiday and support Endangered Wildlife.

Would you like to join an escorted safari to Southern Africa or India? You'll be in good company because you will be travelling with like-minded people on a trip organised by a company that specialises in arranging safari holidays for groups wishing to watch and enjoy wildlife.

There are a number of safaris to choose from: Magical Kenya in October taking in community and wildlife conservation projects in

the north of the country; a safari and cultural tour of India that includes an elephant ride to search for the elusive tiger in November; a trip to Namibia in November that will highlight the work of *AfriCat*, the big carnivore conservancy charity. Next February a safari to Tanzania will visit the Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti, while in June there is a flying safari to Botswana that will highlight the Okavango Delta in flood.



All the trips have a specific project or theme that is associated with the hosting organisation and a donation is made on behalf of each participant.

If you would like to find out more about any of these holidays, please contact Simon Lacey at Endangered Wildlife Travels on **01825 740262**, enquiries@diplomatic.co.uk or visit: www.diplomatic.co.uk

**Endangered
Wildlife
Travels**

Miniature Monkeys

Professor Robert Winston and the Miniature Monkeys

Television celebrity and fertility expert Professor Robert Winston kick-started Chester Zoo's 70th anniversary celebrations when he opened a new exhibit aimed at protecting two of the world's most threatened species.

Home to the critically endangered Black Lion Tamarin and Pied Tamarin and to the 'vulnerable' Geoffroy's Marmosets, the *Miniature Monkeys* exhibit is one of the new attractions for 2004.

Miniature Monkeys opened in May in the Zoo's 70th anniversary month and Lord Winston, the man behind the award-winning series, **The Human Body**, and the other BBC programmes **Superhuman**, and the **Secret Life of Twins**, will officially open the new exhibit.

He was also presented with a gold medal by the North of England Zoological Society to

mark his pioneering work in the field of medicine and fertility.

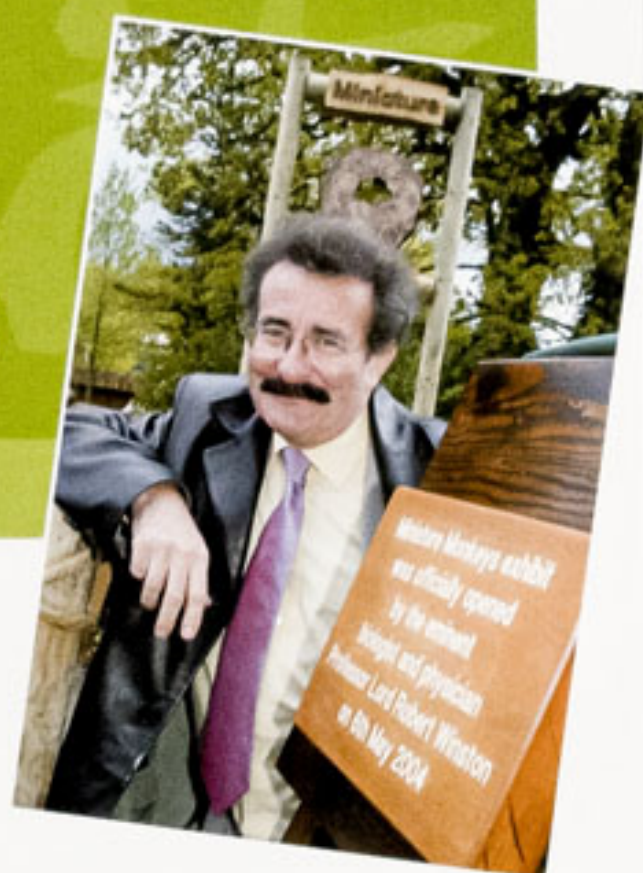
Zoo director Professor Gordon McGregor Reid said: "We were delighted that Lord Winston was able to join us to celebrate the Zoo's 70th anniversary, to open our new exhibit and, equally as importantly, to receive our gold medal.

"This award recognises his life-long and selfless commitment to beneficial studies in biology and medicine and the communication of natural science to the public. We are therefore pleased to recognise Lord Winston's achievements and to welcome him on his first visit to the Zoo."

Lord Winston was joined at the opening of the Miniature Monkeys enclosure by Zoo Council chairman John Makinson and met the primate team who look after the tamarins and marmosets.

Lord Winston said: "I feel honoured to be part of Chester Zoo's 70th anniversary celebrations and especially to be opening an exhibit which will help species on the very brink of extinction."

The Zoo would like thank Scan Lock (UK) for supplying heaters to the Miniature Monkeys exhibit at short notice.



Adopter Days

Mark your diaries! This year's special days of appreciation for our adopters will be on Sunday 24 October and Saturday 30th October. Your invitation together with the 'Meet the Keeper' timetable will be sent out in September.



The Bush dogs

Speothos venaticus

By Alan Woodward, Team Leader, Carnivores

The Bush Dog is found in Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Eastern Peru, the Guianas, Brazil, Paraguay, eastern Bolivia and North East Argentina.

They are found in forested areas usually near water courses. This species is regarded as diurnal in nature and is semi aquatic. Bush Dogs nativly use a high pitch chirp or squeak to communicate with others. Their social structure can consist of around 15 animals of both sexes usually with a dominant male and female.

Prey is usually small rodents and birds but they can take rodents the size of Agoutis.

Gestation is 84 days and the pups eyes open around 10

days. The pups are weaned around two months of age but will still suckle occasionally and the average litter is four pups.

In the wild the Bush dog is classified as vulnerable mainly due to habitat loss.

As you enter the Zoo through the gatehouse the first enclosure you arrive at are the Bush Dogs. This enclosure has housed a number of species from Sun and Brown Bears, Arabian Gazelles, Agoutis and now Bush Dogs. There are dens situated inside

and outside, the inside dens are heated and two can be monitored with CCTV.

The female was born here eight years ago and the male arrived from France a few years ago. After a few initial skirmishes they both got on very well, not too long later it was evident that the female was pregnant. Over the weeks she increased in size and became a lot slower.

One day the pair did not appear for their morning feed - this was most unusual. Over the monitor it



was obvious that the female had given birth and four pups could be easily seen.

The second day the male was seen near the den retrieving food to take back to the female. Because the female was not leaving the den the diet was changed from dried dog diet to



more whole prey. We continued with smaller amounts of the dog diet and by increasing the whole prey the female was receiving enough food from the male to sustain her during lactation. This also ensured she was getting her daily vitamins which were supplementing the whole prey. One pup was obviously smaller and weaker - this pup disappeared after a few weeks. The remaining three developed well and were monitored on a daily basis. At around 10 days their eyes were obviously opening and by two weeks were seeing their surroundings. When the female left the den the male usually took her

place until she returned. If the weather was exceptionally cold the pups were carried to the heated den inside. They were usually carried back to the birth den a day or two later by both parents.

It was several weeks before the pups were to venture out, usually spending time in the connecting pipe to the den. If one did venture too close to the entrance it was retrieved quickly and taken back in. Gradually as they grew and became stronger they

would follow their parents outside but would soon run back if frightened.

The pups were sexed as two males and one female and they were micro chipped.



The diet is dried dog food, which is used as a scatter feed with chicken, mice and chicks given at other feeds throughout the day

Today the pups are still noticeably pups by their darker pelage; they are a lot more confident and can be seen with their parents on most days.

One of the Bush Dogs favourite pastimes is seeing how many branches they can accumulate in their dens. The pups have picked this up from their parents very quickly leaving us with an almost branch free environment outside!



Tomorrow's Garden for Wildlife

Mark Sparrow, General Curator of Botany & Horticulture, Sarah Bird, Biodiversity Officer

Have you ever thought about making your garden more attractive for wildlife and then been put off by the thought of nettles and that neglected, untidy look?

This summer Chester Zoo are linking up with English Nature and the Cheshire Gardens and Allotments Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) group to prove that wildlife gardens don't have to be this way. We are creating a *Back to Back* display garden at the RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park in July that will show how modern gardens can be good for wildlife too.

The garden will contain some important features:

A pond – this will be a formal water feature but designed to allow birds, amphibians and other wildlife to use it.

Hedging – this will provide nesting and feeding opportunities for birds, particularly the song thrush which is in serious decline in this country. It is



Song Thrush foraging for worms

planned to have a life-like model of a song thrush in the garden.

Lawn – an area of lawn, containing some wild flowers, some people call them weeds! Daisies and clover provide a food source for insects, and Song Thrushes can find worms in the turf.

Plant borders – chosen plants are particularly attractive to butterflies.

Vegetables – vegetables will be grown with companion plants which provide a natural defence against pests.

Compost bin – to demonstrate making and using compost in the garden

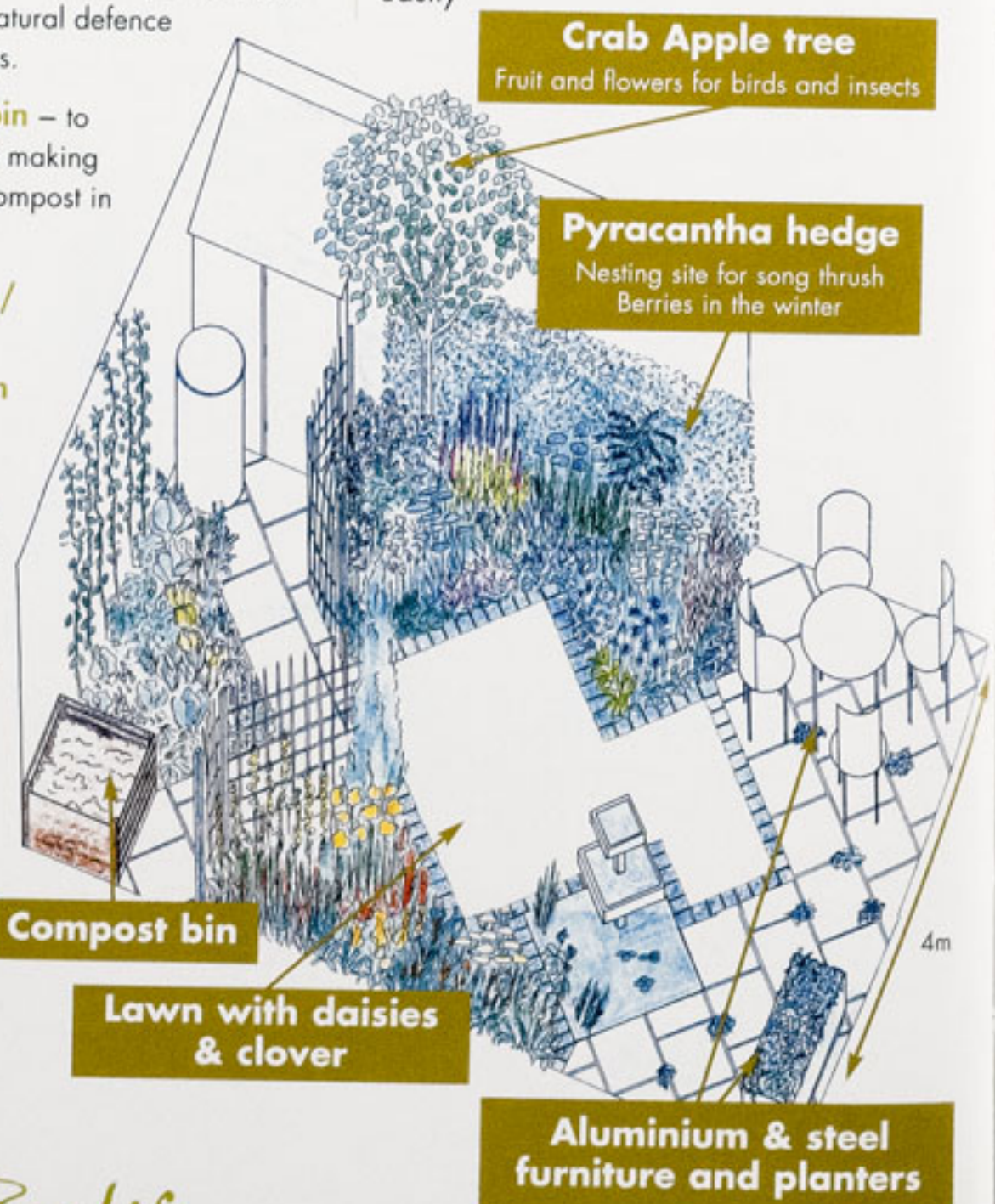
Bird boxes/ feeders/ hibernation boxes – a range of products will demonstrate the importance of providing these in the garden

Patio area – a paved area, interplanted with herbs, with a table and chairs

providing an opportunity to relax and enjoy Tomorrow's Garden.

This is what the garden will look like:

Back to Back gardens are only 6.0m x 4.0m in area and will hopefully inspire those people with small gardens to have a go themselves. We aim to use sustainable materials where ever possible so furniture and planters will be made from metals that are easily



recycled – aluminium and steel, and the paving and edging to the lawn will use reclaimed slate and stone.

The garden highlights the 3 topics discussed in the new *Tomorrow's Garden for Wildlife* leaflet produced by the Cheshire Gardens and Allotments BAP



Coma Butterfly on *Verbena bonariensis*

which will be launched at the show. If you are able to visit Tatton you will see how to provide habitat for Song Thrushes, some good plants to grow for butterflies, and what to do with compost in the garden. For your copy of the leaflet please contact Sarah Bird at the Zoo.

...And don't worry if you are not able to get to the RHS show at Tatton in July – we hope to reconstruct the garden here in the Zoo later this year. There is also a great opportunity to learn more about gardens and wildlife at the *Tomorrow's Garden for Local Wildlife* Conference taking place in Chester in October.

Tomorrow's Garden for Local Wildlife 2004 Conference

This year the Cheshire region Biodiversity Partnership, will be hosting the 3rd biennial Countdown conference for wildlife conservation in the region. The title of this year's Conference is *Tomorrow's Garden for Local Wildlife 2004* and it will take place on Saturday the 9th October at Chester Racecourse between 9.30am and 4pm.

The event will focus on biodiversity in gardens, meaning increasing the variety of different plant and animal species that occur in all types of gardens. Topics for discussion during the day will include planting schemes to encourage butterflies and insects into your garden, wildlife recording in the garden, building garden ponds and refuges for wildlife and green roofs for wildlife.

public, gardening clubs and societies, secondary schools and colleges, as well as biodiversity conservation practitioners.

For more information, please contact the Countdown Biodiversity Coordinator, Fiona Mahon, at Cheshire Wildlife Trust, on 01270 610180 or email fmahon@cheshirewt.cix.co.uk



Frog, pictured in Widnes 2001

We are hoping to provide gardening related trade stands and displays at the conference plus guest speakers renowned for their wildlife-friendly gardening expertise.

The *Tomorrow's Garden for Local Wildlife 2004* Conference will be open to members of the



Large White butterfly, August 2002

Pictures: Mike Roberts

The return of the Bongo

By Alan Woodward, Team Leader, Carnivores

In January this year an important first step was taken with the aim of an eventual re-introduction of Bongo back to Mount Kenya.

18 Mountain Bongo *Tragelaphus euryceros isaaci* had been getting acclimatised and quarantined in Florida for several months. These Bongo were from zoos around North America and descendants of



the first Bongo taken to America from Mount Kenya not so long ago. The general consensus today is that the Eastern Bongo is now extinct in the wild; the last one was seen on Mount Kenya was now over 10 years ago. It is a tragic shame that such magnificent species as these have been allowed to decline to such a level.

Bongo bulls are solitary and females and young usually roam in groups of around 10-15 animals. They inhabit dense forested areas; their main decline has been human encroachment and habitat loss.

The Mountain Bongo is more striking in colour and pattern than the western race. The main areas of Bongo habitation in Kenya were the Moi forest, the Aberdares and Mount Kenya.

All 18 Bongo were crated and air lifted to Nairobi via Rome. There they continued their journey by road to the Mount Kenya game ranch. After such an arduous journey all animals arrived in good condition and were finally "home" again.

Their food in captivity had also been brought with them until they had adjusted to their wild diet - this was done over a period of weeks. These Bongos along with 20 in 2005 and another 20 in 2006 will form the nucleus of breeding groups, with the hope of the first re-introduction in 2006 back to Mount Kenya.

There are approximately 300 Eastern Bongo in captivity around the world, this project has taken the first steps of what has been full circle in captive breeding. It has also shown how important zoos and breeding are today and will be for other endangered species in the future.

Our Bongo at Chester Zoo have bred extremely well in the time that we have had them.

The original Bull Kunde the sire of the two adult cows is now at Paignton Zoo with females down there. The new bull Marti has sired two calves so far, the latest was born in January a young bull to the female Ndara he has been named Mokindu, he is our seventh calf to be born here. Our Bongo are now integrated together during the day and stalled separately at night. The enclosure is designed with sight barriers for the females to go behind whenever the male gets too attentive. This area has been further enhanced with fruit trees which the Bongo help themselves to in the summer months!



Events Programme 2004

Forthcoming events at Chester Zoo

Midsummer Cycle

£12.50 adult £9.00 child

Friday 18th June

Admission from 6.30pm;

last entry 7.15pm.

Zoo closed 9.15pm

The Spirit of the Jaguar, Tsavo and Elephant houses will remain open. Price includes a fish and chip supper in the Ark Restaurant. Don't forget your bike.

Elephant & Tsavo Safari Evening with Barbecue

£23.95

Thursday 24th June

Enjoy cocktails with the Elephants, then meet the Rhino, before taking a stroll across the Zoo to enjoy a fabulous barbecue on the Oakfield Terrace.

Family Picnic Evening

£15.95 adult £10.95 child

Thursday 8th July

Enter the Zoo from 4.30pm
Picnic baskets to be collected from the Oakfield restaurant at 6.30pm before selecting your favourite picnic spot within the grounds.

Evening Bat Walk & Buffet

£16.95

Thursday 19th August

Admission into the Zoo from 4.30pm.

Buffet served in the Oakfield Restaurant at 7.30pm.

At twilight and in the company of our keepers, go in search of wild Pipistelle, Noctule and Daubenton's bats.

Evening Spectacled Bears Tour & Dinner

£25.50

Thursday 2nd September

Enjoy an evening tour of our newest exhibit followed by a great three course dinner in the Oakfield Restaurant

Halloween Ghosts & Ghouls

£14.50 adult £9.50 child

Friday 29th October

6.30pm– 11.00pm

Creepy Manor welcomes Halloween family revellers. Bring the family along for a disco, supper and other creepy happenings.

Magical Santa Trail

Dinner and discos throughout December.

For further information and to book any of the above please contact: **The Events Office, Chester Zoo, Caughall Road, Upton, Chester, CH2 1LH**
Tel: 01244 650209



Chester Zoo's World Wide Conservation Work

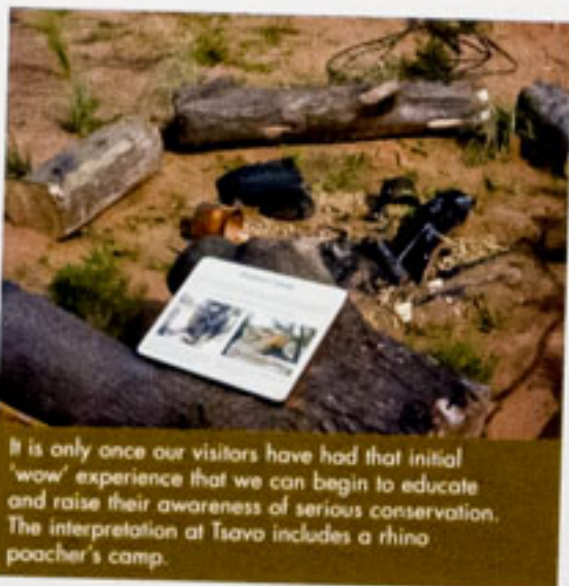
Mark Pilgrim, Chief Curator



Mark Pilgrim

As Head of the Animal and Plant Conservation Division, a crucial part of my role is to ensure that the substantial resources of the North of England Zoological Society - Chester Zoo - which includes the land and facilities, the expertise and skills of the staff, our partnerships with other organisations and of course the animal and plant collections are focused towards achieving our mission of saving animals and plants from extinction.

Today it is generally accepted that good zoos have a real conservation role. However, this role is sometimes quoted and often misinterpreted as us simply holding and breeding rare animals to release their offspring back to the wild. Zoos are ideally placed to do this and while for some species this may be a crucial last chance conservation strategy it is only a tiny fraction of the conservation work at Chester Zoo.



It is only once our visitors have had that initial 'wow' experience that we can begin to educate and raise their awareness of serious conservation. The interpretation at Tsavo includes a rhino poacher's camp.

For the vast majority of threatened animal and plant species then, what is required is support in their natural environment. This support

encompasses a whole variety of activities such as direct protection from poaching, capture or disease, to protection of their habitat and the network of other species on which they depend. Fundamentally, all of these projects involve influencing human attitudes towards wildlife both at home and abroad.

The Zoo is an excellent way to engage people with the natural world. Only by displaying animals in stunning and natural settings within the context of an enjoyable and fun day out can we hope to achieve that all important emotional connection between the animals, their environments and our visiting public. It is only once our visitors have had that initial 'wow' experience that we can begin to educate and raise their awareness of serious conservation issues and explain what we are doing to help and how they can give their support.

Here at Chester we are involved in many important conservation



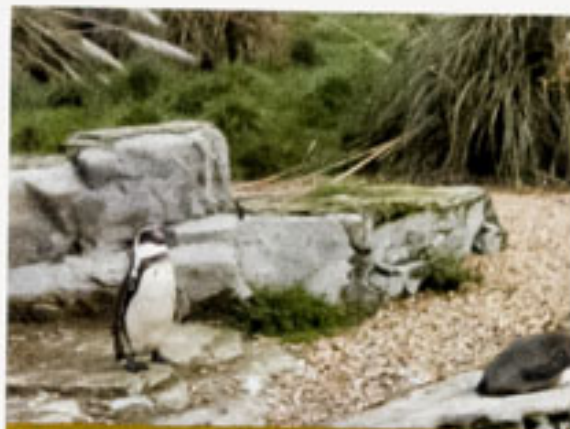
When designing exhibits it is vital that environment allows the animals to behave naturally, animals doing as they would in nature is as much of a 'wow' for the public as a beautiful setting. (Picture M.Jordan)

projects around the world, and also within the UK. The support that we are able to give is both financial and increasingly technical, where we are able to utilise the expertise gained in the zoo world to the benefit of conservation programmes in the field.

The most successful conservation programmes are those that are based on strong partnerships. Chester works very successfully in this way with a number of conservation professionals and organisations, including *Save the Rhino International*, *Flora and Fauna International* and the

Wildlife Conservation Society.
An exciting development is that we are not only linking zoo-based conservation activities with those in the wild, but also now coordinating, financing and staffing conservation outreach projects directly.

Breeding threatened animals at the Zoo as part of well coordinated conservation breeding programmes is important, but only the tip of the iceberg of our worldwide conservation work.



Displaying animals in natural settings is vital if we are to engage people with the natural world. (Picture M.Jordan)



Looking Back

Sara Ruks on education, 20 years on

Education's Sara Ruks retired from the Zoo in February. Here she looks back at 20 years in a temporary portakabin.



Sara Ruks and Jean Van Suchtelan teaching Classification at the Chimpanzees

On March 5th 1984, a very nervous, new, part-time Education Officer on a temporary contract signed in at the Gate House and walked timidly through the Zoo to the education office, located at one end of an old portakabin next to the Rainbow Lawn.

1984 not only marked the beginning of my Zoo career, it also marked a change in direction and the rapid expansion of the education division. Previously school groups had been given a slide

presentation, but we decided to use the animals as our main resource and most of the new style teaching sessions were 'out and about' around the Zoo.

During that first summer term, it was obvious that we couldn't teach all the school children that came to the Zoo and so we started producing resource material to help teachers maximise the educational potential of their visit.

Should the education department just concentrate on the formal education sector was the next question to be raised. 'No' was the answer and ways of 'educating' the general public were discussed and the Volunteer Scheme was born. At first the Volunteers just did guided tours but as these attracted very few customers, the Reptile and Bird Touch Carts were developed which had a much wider appeal.

During these early years, teaching groups from reception to undergraduates, writing resource material for teachers and

helping to develop the Volunteer Scheme were the main aspects of my job. However, I also helped to produce a few pieces of interpretation.



Carol leading a 'Touch Session'

Brenda Norgain retired in 1984 and Stephen McKeown was appointed and the modern education division was born, excelling in developing and implementing exciting innovative ways of engaging our visitors in life-long learning.

From my first day, I was impressed by the friendliness of everybody I met and their willingness to share their knowledge and expertise. Twenty years later this hasn't altered. It is wonderful to see how the Zoo has changed and I feel proud that I have been able to contribute in a small way to the development of the education area of the Zoo's mission.



The original education department portakabin housing a classroom and small office. The end of the 'new' office can be seen to the right.

General News

Beach Clean, adoptions and Biodiversity evening

Chester Zoo's Second Annual Beach Clean Saturday 12th June 2004

June 8th 2004 is World Oceans Day and to celebrate the Zoo will be organising a beach cleaning activity on the Wirral Peninsula on Saturday 12 June 2004. Transport to the venue will be by coach from the Zoo and the beach clean will finish at the Thurstaston Visitor's Centre giving participants the chance to enjoy the breathtaking scenery of the Wirral Country Park before returning to the Zoo. Our party will be accompanied by members of the Wirral Ranger Service, who are experts in the flora and fauna of this beautiful area and will be on hand to give help and information. Last year's event was a great success and we hope this year will be even better. The area of beach to be covered is shorter this year making the event a little more suitable for younger

conservationists, but the event will still involve a fairly long walk and children under 16 will need to be accompanied by an adult. So if you are the type of person who likes a challenge or you like the idea of getting your hands dirty for a good cause call:

Kate Brankin on:
01244 389444 or E-mail:
g.redston@chesterzoo.co.uk

Attendance is free but you must reserve a seat on the coach.



A VIRTUAL ZOO AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

For the latest zoo news visit
www.chesterzoo.org

Animal Adoptions

Since 1994 the cost per share of an animal adoption has been £30. This money is put aside specifically for the feeding and welfare of the animals within the Zoo. Over the last 20 years the cost of feeding the animals has increased due to inflation and the sheer quantity of animals that the Zoo now cares for. As a result we have had to raise the price of each share to £40 from 1st April. We would like to thank all our existing adopters for their support, which is very important to the Zoo and ask that you continue to help us achieve our aims through your animal adoptions.

Amanda Wright
Head of Marketing



WALES BIODIVERSITY EVENING 22ND JUNE

Wales Biodiversity Evening on the 22nd of June. The event will include a bat walk, displays and informal talks about wildlife that occurs in North Wales and Cheshire. There will be a buffet supper, and tickets will allow

entry to the zoo from 4pm. Welsh and English speaking wildlife experts will be available throughout the evening. For more information on this event please contact at the zoo.

Bioamrywiaeth Cymru



Biodiversity Wales

Members and Adopters Talks

Talks for 2004, In the Zoo lecture theatre, off the A41

We anticipate that these speakers will attract a wide audience so as we cannot guarantee availability at the door, we advise you to send for your free tickets in advance. Applications to the Membership Office, Chester Zoo, Upton by Chester, CH2 1LH, stating which talks you would like to attend and number of tickets required for each. Please enclose an SAE for return of your tickets. We ask those attending to make a donation of £1 each to cover refreshments, payable at the door.

Friday 9 July '04
7pm for 7.30pm

Cathy Dean
'An Evening of Black Rhinos'

In support of Save the Rhino/Chester Zoo Black Rhino Conservation in Africa

Cathy has been Director of *Save the Rhino International*, a UK-registered charity, since October 2001 and Chair of the UK Rhino Group since December 2003. In this talk she will look at four East African projects supported jointly by *Save the Rhino* and Chester Zoo. These four projects, all with a rhino focus, illustrate many of the different issues facing conservationists working in the field. Entry to this Friday evening talk is by ticket only. Please complete the application form enclosed with this magazine and return to the membership office, together with payment and SAE for ticket return.



Saturday 11 September '04
2.30pm

Daniel Hahn
'The Tower Menagerie'

Author Daniel Hahn will look at the establishment of the first English zoo, the royal menagerie at the Tower of London, and how it grew to become the country's most popular public visitor attraction.



Saturday 25 September '04
2.30pm

Lise Hannsen & Philip Stander
'Leopards and Bush men'

Lise Hannsen was formerly the director of the *Africat Foundation*, and has gained a reputation as an expert in conservation of Namibia's large carnivores, having carried out research on the Lion, Leopard and Cheetah, and set up training and education

programmes to help people and large carnivores to co-exist. Philip Stander is a well respected expert in the field of conservation, and works as carnivore coordinator for the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) as well as being the Southern Africa coordinator for CITES MIKE (CITES group Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants).



Friday 8 October '04
7pm for 7.30pm

Jo Thompson
'Conservation in war-torn Africa: Update on the Bonobo.'

Studying Bonobos has been Dr Thompson's lifelong quest and since 1992 she has worked within the Lukuru Wildlife Research Project area, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC, formerly Zaire) studying the wild Bonobo. When not in the field she lectures internationally about Bonobos and the ecology of the central Congo basin.



Saturday 23 October '04 2.30pm

Julian Partridge
'Light & Life in the Deep Sea'

To most of us the deep sea and its inhabitants are 'out of sight, out of mind' and yet the living sea provides the largest living space for life on earth. The talk will introduce some of the bizarre animals of the deep sea, and discuss where and how they live. In addition, it will introduce some of the spectacular adaptations that allow deep sea animals to communicate with each other by vision and bioluminescence - light produced by animals themselves - in the darkness at depth. Julian Partridge has a degree in zoology and has worked with the BBC Natural History Unit on productions including *Animal Camera* and the award winning *Blue Planet* series.

Friday 13 November '04 2.30pm

Janet Kear
'St Werburgh of Chester and her Geese'

St Werburgh's most famous miracle was to remove geese from farmers' fields. That is why geese are depicted so frequently in the stained glass of Chester Cathedral. Two other saints, who also lived in the late 7th and early 8th centuries, demonstrated this same miraculous ability to prevent geese from eating crops. Why did it happen then, and why were there no further saintly interventions. Janet Kear (former Curator of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Martin Mere) with her own experience of wild geese and agricultural conflict, will suggest an explanation.

Friday 26 November '04
7pm for 7.30pm

Talk by Chester Zoo Keepers
'Keepers in the Field'

Simon Marsh, Belinda Porter, Clare Daniel and Nick Davis will talk about projects they have carried out abroad in Namibia, China, Philippines, Mexico and Mauritius.

Saturday 11 December '04 2.30pm

Errol Fuller
'Dodo'

Errol Fuller has an international reputation as an author of scrupulously researched yet beautiful and lively natural history books. Author of 'Dodo' published in October 2002, his talk will give us a fascinating insight into the behaviour and myths surrounding this unusual and iconic bird. Errol last talked to us two years ago and we welcome him back.

We are sad to announce the death of wildlife film maker Nick Gordon.

Nick - who gave a talk to zoo members in October last year - died in Venezuela where he was filming. His zoo talk was on *Jaguar: Eater of Souls* which took seven years to make and which won many international film awards. For 20 years Nick travelled the world filming, photographing and writing about wildlife, environmental and travel issues.

He lived for extended periods in the locations where he was filming. Nick will be sadly missed.

Junior Puzzle Page



Can you work out the names of the plants and animals?

<p>MACAW</p> <p>A</p>	<p>B</p>	<p>MONKEY</p> <p>C</p>	<p>POKER</p> <p>D</p>
<p>a</p> <p>E</p>	<p>WOOD</p> <p>F</p>	<p>LEMAC NAIRT</p> <p>G</p>	<p>KNEE TAR UTA</p> <p>H</p>
<p>B GO</p> <p>i</p>	<p>J</p>	<p>X TER</p> <p>K</p>	<p>ANACONDA</p> <p>L</p>

Congratulations

The answers to the last puzzle were

1. Horns - Bison
2. Hornbill (Great Indian) Casque
3. Penguin (Humboldt) Head/bill
4. Elephant (Asian) Tusks
5. Zebra (Grevy) Front legs
6. Poison Dart Frog (body)
7. Kangaroo (western Grey) Hind Legs
8. Tiger (Amur) Tail base
9. Ring tailed lemur (tail tip)
10. Spines (porcupines)

Congratulations to Kelly Gaskin from Chester who won Spring's competition.

This picture and letters give clues to the names of 12 different plants and animals. Can you work them out?

E.g. **HSHTIV** is the Upside-down Catfish and **PIGEON** is the Pink Pigeon.

Please send your answers on a postcard to **Chester Zoo, Marketing Department, Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH**, by **Friday July 30** and you could be in with a chance of winning a **£10** voucher to spend in the Zoo shops.

Junior Members

Programme of Events 2004



ANGLESEY - THE PILI PALACE AND FOSSIL MUSEUM

Saturday 26 June 2004

We plan to spend a full day on Anglesey, visiting the butterfly farm called the Pili Palace and also going to see the fossils at the big collection over there. We are likely to be outside for quite a lot of the time, so please bring sunscreen.

The bus will leave the staff car park at 9.30am and return at 5.30pm. Please bring a picnic and over eights are included.

HOW TO BE A GOOD ZOO KEEPER

Wednesday 21 July 2004

This is a slightly altered event from those we have run in previous years, but Juniors will still get the opportunity to work alongside a keeper for part of the day. The work can be tough so we have to strictly limit this event to over 12s. We try to match juniors to their favourite section, but places are very limited, so this cannot be guaranteed.

Please come prepared to work hard,

with clean wellies and an additional completely clean set of clothes to work in. Owing to the Zoo's bio-security 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 picnic.

Please note that bookings for this event will not be taken before

Wednesday 7 July 2004 from 8.30am, and will be strictly on a first come, first served basis.

SUMMER BARBEQUE

Friday 14 August 2004

The Zoo at night is a fascinating place. The animals watch you and their noises are much more obvious when there are not many people around as all the visitors will have left. Over eights are invited to join in, starting at 7.00pm when you should arrive at the Ark Restaurant via the Zoo's Staff Entrance on Caughall Road. Parents are asked to collect Juniors from the Ark Restaurant at 9.45pm.



KNOWSLEY SAFARI PARK

Saturday 18 September 2004

We will be spending the day at Knowsley, seeing a different concept about keeping wild animals. Hopefully we will have a guided tour of the exhibits with Knowsley's Curator who usually jumps onto the bus with us to highlight the special happenings in the park for that year.

Our bus will leave the staff car park at 10.00am, returning at 4.30pm. Over eights are invited and should bring a picnic.

HOME FARM AND THE DEER RUT AT TATTON PARK

Saturday 16 October 2004

The day will start with our visit to the Home Farm at Tatton Park where there is plenty of opportunity to learn about how the farm used to work many years ago when Tatton Hall was a family residence. We will then go out into the park and will identify the different deer.

The bus will leave the staff car park at 10.00am, returning at 4.30pm. Bring a picnic and warm clothes. Over eights are invited to join us.

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 *Zoo Life* - not by individual letter - so please keep up-to-date by reading the junior page in each issue.

A small 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 informed of this at the time of booking.



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