

The official magazine for Chester Zoo MEMBERS and ADOPTERS

SUMMER 2014

Z MAGAZINE

CHESTER ZOO

What a winner!

This stunning photograph clinched Rachael Simcock first prize in our #chesterzoosnaps animal portrait competition. More amazing entries in our competition focus, pages 5-9.

Z MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2014

IN YOUR Z...

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DON'T MISS!

Adopter Days
Sunday October 5
Saturday March 7 2015

Members' Days
Friday June 27
Sunday November 2



WHAT MEMBERSHIP MEANS

Every day we're reminded by our members how much they enjoy their visits to the zoo, and how much they care about the work we do, both here and in the field. We're privileged to have the support of so many.

Membership of Chester Zoo is much more than a great way to enjoy access to the zoo. As well as giving members a great deal on our entry prices, members also receive benefits including Z magazine and entry to other zoos.

When you purchase your membership you are becoming a member of the North of England Zoological Society, which owns and manages the zoo. The society is a registered charity, and membership comes with voting rights and other responsibilities. This means that you are encouraged to attend our annual general meeting, where you can vote on matters brought to the meeting.

Other obligations of membership include being committed to the aims and objectives of the society, and acting in the interests of the society. We would encourage all members to read the rules of the society, which can be found on our website at: www.chesterzoo.org/support-us/membership/rules-of-nezs

If you'd like to receive a copy by post or email please contact our membership and adoptions team on 01244 380 280.



CHESTER ZOO

Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH
Tel. 01244 380 280 Fax. 01244 371 273
Email: info@chesterzoo.org Web: www.chesterzoo.org
Director General: Dr. Mark Pilgrim
Editor: Rachael A. Wheatley
Z is published by: North of England Zoological Society,
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ARE YOU A FRIEND OF THE 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 650 208 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.

NEWS FROM THE ZOO

with Dr. Mark Pilgrim director general



Please can you update us with news from the zoo?

Spring has definitely sprung. We have enjoyed some beautiful days here at the zoo over the last couple of months. The sun has been out and the fine weather certainly helped boost visitor numbers but many families have also been drawn by the variety of interactive, fun and educational opportunities offered during our recent Bloom festival. From butterfly origami to poetry sessions, willow sculpture to lessons in garden photography, and a chance to enjoy the early morning dawn chorus from within the zoo grounds, Bloom offered something for all ages and tastes. Its workshops, talks and behind-the-scenes tours gave people a glimpse of parts of the zoo they might not have previously seen.

Bloom ran successfully from February through to May and has now been taken over by the equally energetic Animazing which will take us through the summer.

It, too, is designed to encourage lots of you to visit the zoo and learn more about the diverse species which live here – and even enjoy a ready-made picnic in our grounds. We are now offering the chance to order picnics in advance ready for visitors to collect on arrival. You can find the full details, including three temptingly different menus, on our website.

What better way is there to celebrate the 80th anniversary of our zoo's charity work than to come along with the family, enjoy a day out learning about our animals and take a break for refreshments in our stunning botanic gardens?

Chester Zoo first opened in 1931 and a few short years after that – 1934 – saw the birth of the North of England Zoological Society, formed as a charity. Who would have thought at the time that 80 years later, by 2014, it would have gone on to fund and inspire such significant advances in animal welfare and conservation all around the globe?

How is the zoo helping conservation locally?

It is not just in remote parts of the planet that we are making achievements through our field work. Here at home, too, your membership contributions have helped us undertake pioneering research and initiate projects to protect Britain's native wildlife. A prime example of this work came only last month when we unveiled a two-acre dedicated wildlife haven.

At our newly opened nature reserve, visitors can delight in the variety of birds, plants, aquatic life and bugs which commonly reside in UK wildflower meadows.

Like many conservationists and zoologists I first became fascinated by wildlife as a young boy, going pond dipping, climbing trees and discovering the array of insects which live in our countryside. So I am thrilled that, alongside our more exotic mammals, reptiles and birds, through our new reserve we now offer people a chance to also enjoy British wildlife. I hope many youngsters who visit this environmental attraction will be as fascinated as I was by our native species and be inspired to learn more about them. Who knows, perhaps they will one day go on to enter careers in conservation themselves?

What summer talks can we look forward to?

At the start of my own career in zoology I was galvanized to further my research into the Ecuador Amazon parrot – which

some of you may have read about in the previous edition of Z magazine – and this work was initiated by Roland Wirth. Roland is an incredibly knowledgeable zoologist and great zoo supporter who has brought many little known species to the attention of the zoo world. I am delighted therefore, that he will be the recipient of our annual Gold Medal.

As the 2014 Gold Medal recipient, Roland will be giving our members' talk in the lecture theatre on June 9. You will find more details on page 26. I urge as many of you as possible to attend as it is sure to be intriguing, motivating and enthralling.

Another of our members' talks will be on Moving Animals, something that can take many months of preparation. One animal which was moved to Chester last year is Vicky, an orangutan, who came here from Blackpool Zoo along with three other orangutans. They have been temporarily homed at Chester while a new orangutan exhibit is being built at Blackpool. It is important that we are able to help our fellow zoos in this way, and happily in this case the orangutans had only a short journey to make to reach us.

While here Vicky has been through a life-changing experience that made national headlines. She has had a long-standing sinus problem and we were able to arrange for an operation to correct it to be performed at our on-site Animal Health Centre, with additional help from a specialist surgeon from Nuffield Health The Grosvenor Hospital in Chester. Turn to page 20 to read more about her successful surgery.

How is work progressing on Islands?

Co-operation between groups with similar interests and goals is important and is something which has proved invaluable as the development of our new *Islands* exhibit has progressed. We are now beginning to get a real sense of how *Islands* will look when completed in time for its opening in spring next year. All the contractors, design specialists and zoo representatives have been working well together, so much so that I get a buzz of excitement every time I visit the site as there is always something new to see, another boardwalk laid, plans for a bridge to be built, mature trees planted. With each day that passes it is becoming easier to visualize how this important new exhibit will look and how it will truly benefit our zoo.

And finally...

It is, of course, important for us to grow and evolve in order to continue the invaluable conservation work we do overseas and at home; but I am also aware that the corner pin of Chester Zoo's and the North of England Zoological Society's success over the last 80 years has been its sense of family. We consider all our members to be part of a close-knit community. Your regular feedback and your unstinting support for our conservation work are always appreciated.

As director general one of my constant dilemmas is how to maintain that family unit while still encouraging growth and development. With *Islands*, as with all new build projects, our aim is to achieve a happy compromise where our zoo will extend its educational and conservation reach, and secure its place as one of the UK's top tourist attractions, while always retaining its much cherished family ethos.

EXOTIC RARE PIGEON *scrubs up well!*

Tiny chick given 24 hour a day care



Staff hope their round-the-clock care will see the rare bird grow to become a striking adult – like those seen in the zoo's *Islands in Danger* exhibit.

This tiny chick might have looked more like a Brillo Pad than exotic bird when it was born – but it's scrubbed up well.

Kola, pictured at just 21 days old, is a rare white-naped pheasant pigeon which hatched at Chester Zoo this spring.

After being rejected by his parents, the chick was hand-reared by keepers who devised a special diet to help him go from strength-to-strength.

Ironically, given his startling resemblance to Brillo Pads, keepers actually used scouring pads to help look after their new charge.

Keeper Gareth Evans said:

"Hand-feeding him was a tricky business but we used a scouring pad to make things a little easier. It gave Kola something to grip on to make sure he didn't slip and slide around, helping their feet and legs to develop properly. Normally he'd be on a nest on the ground made up of lots of little sticks and twigs so a scouring pad created the grip he'd normally get from the nest.

"Adult pheasant pigeons produce a unique crop milk which they regurgitate to feed to their young. So when we have to hand-rear we have to try and replicate that using a set of special ingredients, featuring egg, water and vitamin pellets. I gave Kola his first feed of the day at 6am and his last is at 10pm. So I really did play the full-time parent."

In the wild white-naped pheasant pigeons only inhabit the Aru Islands, close to Papua in Indonesia and are vulnerable to extinction.

Curator of birds Andrew Owen, said:

"Very few institutions in the world keep the species, so every new hatching is vital to the safety-net population held in zoos. We are one of the most successful zoos in Europe when it comes to breeding this species and we're absolutely thrilled with our latest arrival."

HAPPY FEET!

Tiny penguins help kick off World Cup fever

Our latest arrival is a real striker – and has a name to match!

Weighing just 87g, baby chick *Rooney* (named after England forward Wayne) is one of the first Humboldt penguins to hatch at the zoo this year.

Last year's clutch were named after characters from the hit TV show *Dr Who* but this year they are named after past and present soccer superstars.

Rooney has already been joined by *Gerrard* (after current England captain, Steven), *Banks* (after 1966 World Cup winning goalkeeper, Gordon) and *Moore* (after 1966 World Cup winning captain, Bobby).

Lead penguin keeper Karen Neech said:

"Choosing names for the chicks is always a poser but with one eye on the World Cup we decided to kick off this year's football campaign with some stars of our own.

"Footballers have very strict diets and things are just the same for our new arrivals. But whereas footballers can look forward to a protein shake ours grow strong on a diet of regurgitated 'fish smoothie' provided by their parents."

The penguins are an endangered South American species, which come from the coastal areas of Peru and Chile. The new arrivals mean the zoo now has a colony of 35.

Our zoo funds conservation initiatives in the penguins' homeland to help them in their natural habitat, where they are faced with many pressures including over fishing of their food and habitat loss.



Two-day-old *Rooney*, one of our new baby Humboldt penguins, is weighed to check on his development.



#chesterzoosnaps

We had a mammoth response to our #chesterzoosnaps animal portrait competition run through our website and social media pages.

Thousands of zoo visitors have posted stunning images they have taken with cameras, mobile phones and i-pads. All are of animals they have seen here at the zoo and they make for a breathtaking visual feast.

We urge Z magazine readers who have not glimpsed the entries yet, to browse the remarkable selection posted on our main social media pages – Facebook, Google+, Twitter or Instagram. There are so many that we do not have enough space to print them all in Z but we have selected some the best shots to appear over the next three pages, along with the names of the entrants.

The contest was open to all ages and all levels. It was extremely tough picking out the eventual winners, but our judging panel eventually decided on the first, second and third prize winners. Huge congratulations to all three of you:

1ST: RACHAEL SIMCOCK

Rachael's stunning photograph of a critically endangered Sulawesi crested macaque makes a fantastic front cover of this edition of Z magazine. As well as the prestigious cover slot Rachael will receive a complimentary Chester Zoo Animal Adoption Pack. Details of adoption packages can be found on our website.

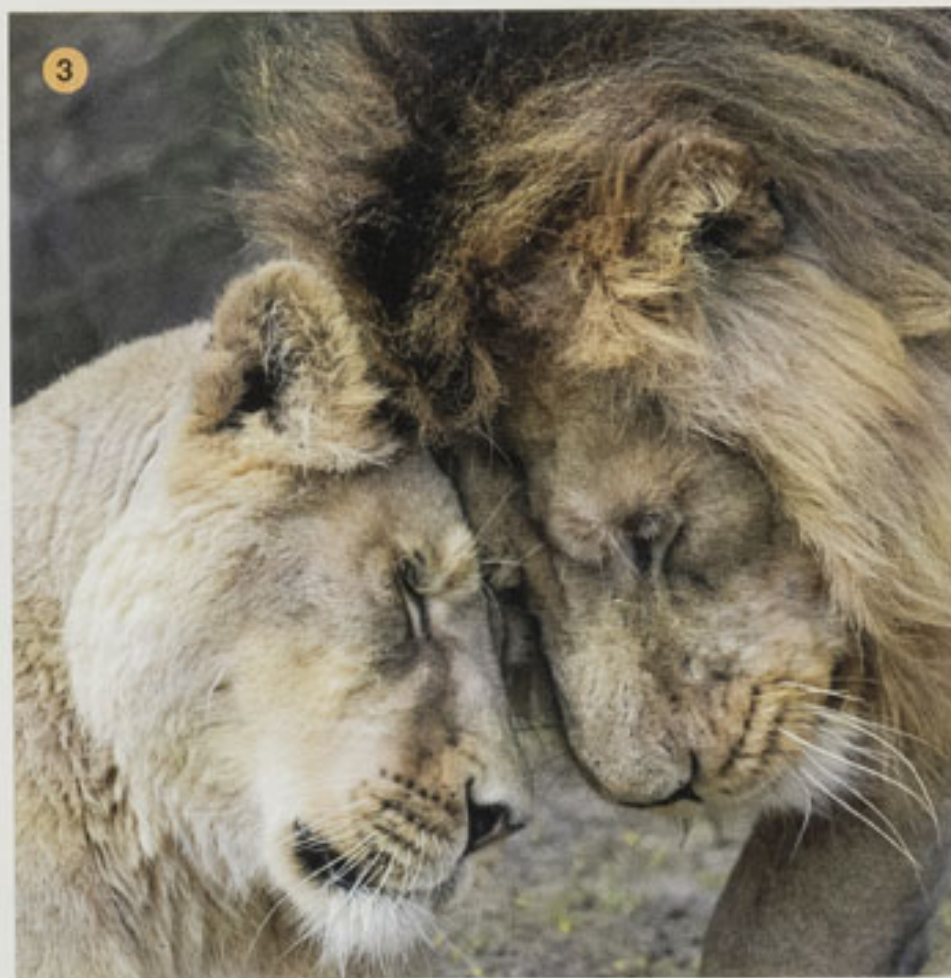
2ND: STEPHEN BRIDSON

Stephen's eye-catching owl picture can be seen on our back cover.

3RD: EVA KULHANKOVA

Eva's image of two of our elephants, baby *Hari Hi Way*, 18 months, and his mum, *Thi Hi Way*, 33, can be seen here.

Even though this spring's competition has now officially closed we have been so impressed by the response to our appeal for entries that we plan to hold more photographic competitions over coming months. So we urge you to keep visiting our zoo, taking pictures and posting the amazing results on our social media pages – the more you post, the more chance you have of becoming one of our future winners and having a photograph you have taken published right here in Z magazine.



- 1 David McKeegan – White-faced saki
- 2 Karen Pendlebury – Water dragon
- 3 Samantha Weaver – Asiatic Lions
- 4 Mike Shaw – Sulawesi crested macaques



5 Rob Fay – Asiatic lion

6 Lewis Pope – Asian short-clawed otter

7 Cedric Quillet – Southern cassowary





- 8 Amanda Barber – Meerkats
- 9 Darren Wilkes – Jaguar
- 10 Ralph Dickinson – Cheetahs
- 11 Steven Ward – Caribbean flamingos



LIFE'S A BEACH

for world's rarest equid

Sophie and *Apple*, two fun-loving onagers - a rare species of wild ass - certainly weren't kicking up a fuss about sand as they sprinted across their newly revamped paddock for the first time. Along with our other onagers and three Bactrian camels, they made the most of the 1,400 tons of freshly laid sand. Keepers hit on the idea of transforming the area, with work taking six weeks to complete, so that the endangered species can enjoy it all year round.

Curator of mammals, Tim Rowlands, said:

"Our onagers and camels have had a ball since we installed the sand. There are real benefits too. *Sophie* and the gang can use the paddock all year round and it's fantastic to see them haring about enjoying themselves."



Sophie and *Apple*, two of our onagers play on the sand, while, inset, one of our Bactrian camels is also happy to have the chance to make use of the revamped paddock.





They may be small now but this trio of little ladies will grow up to become some of the largest lizards in the world.

The three Komodo dragons, who are six months old, have moved into their new home at Chester Zoo after arriving from Colchester.

The youngsters can now be seen in the zoo's *Islands in Danger* exhibit, which is also home to two larger dragons *Jantan* and *Ora*.

Curator of lower vertebrates and invertebrates Dr Gerardo Garcia said:

"They are fed every four days, unlike our older dragons who only need to feed every month. It's really important our keepers work closely with dragons of different ages. The intensive care they give to these animals and all the skills they learn working with them here can be transferred to the field and could be crucial in terms of protecting them in the wild."

Chester Zoo supports conservation work with Komodo dragons on Flores, one of the Indonesian isles where the species lives in the wild. The project helps educate people about the importance of dragons, monitors dragon numbers, sets up warden patrols and protects the local environment.

Here come THE GIRLS...



Giants of the future, these three tiny dragons have just moved here from Colchester Zoo.

ELECTRIFYING and nosy!

Elephant nose fish (*mormyrids*) are an ancient group of freshwater fish. Found only in Africa, they inhabit freshwater environments over most of the continent except the Sahara, northern Mahgred and southern Cape provinces.



They often hide away but we managed to catch this elephant nose fish on camera.

Adults range from 4cm to 1.5 meters in length. Some are long and thin, others cylindrical. Some have protruding mouth parts, used to locate food in deep silt beds, others have blunt rounded snouts. All have electro receptors (*mormyromasts*) in their head, eyes, dorsum and belly as well as a narrow part of the body at the base of the caudal fin, within which lies the electric organ. They generate a weak electrical field that surrounds their body and is used to determine the position and size of nearby objects in the water.

Two other electro receptors are used to communicate and to detect prey. To process the demands of electro reception, the cerebellum is enlarged and gives them a brain mass to body mass similar to that of humans. This species has been in our collection more than 15 years and has now been moved to the Okapi House. Their natural disposition is to hide away, only coming out for food, but in their new exhibit they have greater room to move and as the aquatic plants mature this will further enhance the enrichment for this species. Eventually we aim to mix them with fish species from the Congo River.

Zoo branches out to boost wildlife

Supported by several other local organisations we have now officially opened a two-acre wildlife haven which is home to a wide variety of birds, plants and bugs.

The reserve has been developed with wildflower meadows, 150 native trees, a dipping pond and a grass amphitheatre which will be used for environmentally-themed events and as an outside classroom for schools.

Sarah Bird, our biodiversity officer, said:

"Chester Zoo's conservation activities extend far beyond the big animals we know and love. Alongside the largest elephants we're also about looking after some of the smaller species right here on our doorstep and the nature reserve is already home to some incredible species such as the sparrowhawk which our experts spotted.

"By opening up this beautiful and tranquil area to the public we can hopefully inspire people to take a longer look at the nature around them and to discover how they can play their part in looking after it."

The new wildlife haven was officially opened on May 13 by Chester Zoo trustee and horticulture expert Dr Stefan Buczacki (right), who spent 12 years as a panel member and chairman of BBC Radio 4's Gardeners' Question Time.



Youngsters from Acresfield Primary School, Upton and Upton-by-Chester High School were among the first to try it out, as they helped to identify bugs and insects.

The reserve will be open during normal zoo hours – visit www.chesterzoo.org/naturereserve for details. It will be free to enter and accessible to the public without them having to enter the zoo.

A number of other organisations, including **Bank of America Merrill Lynch MBNA** have helped to fund the nature reserve. These include:

- Lord Leverhulme's Charitable Trust
- Mrs T A Briggs Deceased Will Trust
- The Ronald and Kathleen Pryor Charity
- The Hamamelis Trust
- People's Postcode Trust
- The William Dean Trust
- National Association of Wildlife Artists
- The Business Network Chester

Launching Careers for Nature

A huge welcome to our newest biodiversity trainee recruits Audrey Duckworth, Alasdair Fagan, Clare Gower and Andrew Jennings-Giles.

Funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, the trainees join us for just over a year as part of our project to train future conservationists in skills required to protect British wildlife.

The trainees will gain valuable work-based experience in biodiversity recording techniques, conservation and public engagement to help prepare them for a job in the UK wildlife sector. They will spend some of their time training here at the zoo and will also be based with our project partners RECORD and Cheshire Wildlife Trust.

To find out more and read about the experiences of previous trainees visit the project's webpage www.chesterzoo.org/skills

Supported by
The National Lottery
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Our new trainees at the Chester Zoo nature reserve

MAKING A DIFFERENCE AROUND THE WORLD

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



A focus on the... CHINA PROGRAMME



We recently renewed our support for the blue-crowned laughingthrush project, with which we have been involved for many years. The blue-crowned laughingthrush is known to survive in one county in China, Wuyuan, and due to its tiny population and range, is listed as critically endangered. Working in partnership with the Forestry Bureau of Wuyuan County (FBWC) and a collection of other organisations, our support helps ensure the protection of colonies from bird trappers and from any other attempt to kill or capture the birds or disturb their nests. With our support, the FBWC protect the breeding habitat of the blue-crowned laughingthrush at all known breeding sites; through the protection of vegetation that is known to provide nest sites and maintenance of habitats that provide feeding opportunities.

Fast Fact

There are thought to be as few as 250 blue-crowned laughing thrushes left in the wild.

News from ASSAM HAATHI PROJECT

Our team in Assam working on our Asian elephant programme analysed a three year data set from an ongoing data collection study looking at patterns of elephant behaviour in two districts experiencing human-elephant conflict, Sonitpur and Goalpara.

The team used technology including remote sensing and geographical information systems to track the elephants as they move across the region, and to better understand their behaviour.

They found that human-elephant conflict usually occurs between dusk and dawn in Sonitpur, and late afternoon in the Goalpara district. The team also noticed that crop-raiding by the elephants is seasonal.



In total, during the three year period analysed, the team recorded 1,561 incidents of human-elephant conflict, the most common causes were crop damage and property damage caused by the elephants.

The team were interested to see how the elephants use refuge areas as they move, and they found that the elephants use these refuge areas to avoid contact and conflict with people, not necessarily to find food. For example, although tea gardens provide an important refuge area, no elephants were found to be enjoying the tea!

To reverse this increase in human-elephant conflict, it is vital we provide local communities with a greater understanding of the elephants and how they live.

Our team has also been able to show local farmers how they can reduce their dependence on rice crops which are prone to damage by elephants, and instead grow more crops that elephants do not enjoy, such as chilli, turmeric and ginger – enabling elephants and their local communities to live peacefully once again.

CAUGHT ON CAMERA *Special*

As part of our 'Bloom' campaign we've been using camera traps to see what species are living in and around Chester Zoo. Here are just some of the fantastic things we've seen so far...



Pheasant



Fox



Hedgehog



Robin



Badger and cubs

News from *NIGERIA*

We've been supporting the Gashaka Primate Project since it was founded in 2000. We are now in the process of taking over its coordination under its new title the Gashaka Biodiversity Project (GBP). Based in Nigeria's largest National Park, Gashaka Gumti, the GBP aims to increase our current understanding of the diverse fauna and flora living within the forest whilst increasing its protection.



Like many forested landscapes, Gashaka Gumti is under threat from illegal poaching, deforestation and encroachment. As well as continuing on-going research, the GBP aims to increase the presence of wardens in the park which will help minimise the opportunity for illegal activities.

Fast Fact Gashaka Gumti National Park is home to one of the last remaining populations of the Nigerian subspecies of Chimpanzee.

NEWS ON CONSERVATION *FROM THE WORLD*

GOOD Leading confectionary manufacturers Mars Inc. have committed to developing a fully sustainable and traceable palm oil supply chain. This is the latest of many large manufacturers, such as Proctor & Gamble and Kellogg's, who have improved their palm oil policies to minimise the destructive effects of the unsustainable palm oil trade.

BAD Tests have confirmed that the deadly chytrid fungus which is devastating amphibian populations across the globe has been found in Madagascar. Madagascar is one of the world's amphibian hotspots so the establishment of the pathogen could have terrible implications for the biodiversity of the country.

© Mike Griffiths



Meet...*THE BADGER TEAM.*

Throughout March, we conducted a survey into the activity levels of badgers around the zoo. This involved surveying the zoo estate for field signs including footprints, pathways, dung pits and setts. In all, 24 staff, along with experienced surveyors from the Wirral and Cheshire Badger Group, were involved in the survey. It provided baseline information required to implement a badger vaccination programme later in the year.

GRANT SUPPORT

Studentships and Scholarships

Each year Chester Zoo awards a number of grants providing financial support towards undergraduate and master's projects that promote the conservation of biodiversity. The grants are designed to provide an opportunity for promising student scientists to gain valuable experience of conservation research. This year we have supported seven student projects. These include studies into:

- Burning regimes in Lac Tele Community Reserve, Republic of Congo
- The sleeping site ecology and habitat use of lemurs in Madagascar
- The effects of elephant induced habitat change on the critically endangered mountain bongo, Kenya
- The status, ecology and conservation of the Asian small clawed otter, Nepal
- The direct and indirect impacts of logging on mammals in Sabah, Borneo
- Amphibian chytrid lineages in traded amphibians, zoo collections and wild populations
- The University of Glasgow Bolivia Expedition

We also run an annual Richard Hughes scholarship which provides financial support to an individual carrying out a project concerning elephant management, welfare or conservation. This year the scholarship was awarded to a study into land-use change in the Transmara District, Kenya, and how this contributes to human-elephant conflict and elephant movement.

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



Almost ready for the ROOF to be RAISED

Work on our exciting new *Islands* project is continuing successfully, so much so that some eagle-eyed visitors may have noticed the *Monsoon Forest* walls are nearing their full height, ready for the installation of the roof this month.

Now that it is almost fully enclosed, the full scale of this flagship building is becoming evident. The photograph here shows just how impressive a sight the new development already is.

However, there is a long way to go and a great deal of excavation continues within the site to form the deepest foundations for retaining structures.

There is also more to do to install the mechanical, electrical and other components, as well as finishing the structural elements, before fit-out and planting can occur later in the year.

Also emerging are the footprints of other buildings and the foundations for the bridges which will link each of the different islands within the scheme.

The first boardwalk has been constructed on Panay Island, giving views into the dry river bed to be used by our warty pigs.

Last month work began on the visitors' paths linking the *Islands* site to the core zoo, and a number of large trees were also delivered for planting before summer. The early delivery will give them a head start in establishing themselves before *Islands* opens in spring 2015.

The package of works to deliver the smaller buildings and public areas was tendered earlier this year and works on them are due to start in July.


A skilled team are also busy creating natural-looking rockwork around the site – including the walls of dried-out rivers and rocky outcrops to form visually interesting, natural looking boundaries to the various enclosures.

The main contractor, Laing O'Rourke, is also engaging with local schools and offering work placements for students as part of their stakeholder engagement programme, in liaison with our own marketing team.

An aerial view of the *Islands* site and, insert, delivery of one of the mature trees which has now been planted, giving it chance to get well established in time for the opening of *Islands* in spring 2015.



Kidz ZOO

A young girl with dark hair, wearing goggles and a red life vest, is holding a small turtle in her hands. She is looking down at the turtle. The background is a dark, underwater scene with some light rays. The text 'Kidz ZOO' is written in a stylized font, with 'ZOO' having a cat face design below it.

Summer 2014

**PRIZE
TO BE WON!**
*Enter our Amazonian
quiz and wordsearch
competitions*

Inside... TURTLE TANK PLUNGE • KIDS' EVENTS DIARY

Junior Members' PROGRAMME of EVENTS 2014



GREENWOOD FOREST PARK – SNOWDONIA!

SATURDAY JUNE 21

Don't worry, we will not be traipsing the juniors up Mount Snowdon, but we will have this famous mountain in our sights at times when we are approaching this fascinating park, based on sustainable living and having fun without using up masses of natural resources. We will enjoy the wet toboggan ride, propel your own boats through the jungle stream, as well as den building and the big dipper ride – you will even get the chance to try archery.

This event is definitely back by popular request.

We will leave the staff car park at 9.30am and return at 5.30pm. Bring a picnic lunch. All eights and over are invited to come along for a lovely day out.

HOW TO BE A GOOD ZOO KEEPER!

WEDNESDAY JULY 23

This is a unique opportunity offered to junior members to spend a day working alongside a zoo keeper. The work can be tough and demanding so we strictly limit this event to those juniors of **12 years old or over**. We try to match juniors to their favourite section, but places are limited so this cannot be guaranteed.

Please arrive prepared to work hard, with clean wellies and an additional completely clean set of clothes to work in.

Owing to the zoo's biosecurity measures, it is important that the clothes you wear to work on the sections have not been in contact with any farm animals, or even your pets at home, since they were last washed.

We will meet outside the Oakfield at 10.30am, and the day will finish for juniors at 4pm. Please bring a packed lunch. **Also please note** that bookings for this event will not be taken before 9am on Wednesday July 9 and will be on a strictly first-come first-served basis. To book call **01244 650 215**.

JUNIORS' SUMMER BARBECUE!

THURSDAY JULY 31

Our summer barbecue has become a regular feature for the juniors' diary as it has proved immensely popular. Perhaps this is because it is our chance to be in the zoo when there are no other visitor noises to distract you and the animals, so it is a different zoo experience. We usually aim to have a speaker to chat to you or to engage in craft activities or zoo tours during the evening, but you can be sure to find it relaxing.

We invite eights and over to join us for a 7pm start, when you should arrive at the main entrance. Parents are asked to collect juniors from the main entrance at 9.45pm please.

THE JUNIOR MEMBERS' SUMMER SCHOOL

FROM AUGUST 4 – 8 INCLUSIVE

Please note that the two week booking rule does NOT apply to this event and EARLY BOOKING IS ADVISED.

The summer school is open to juniors aged 12 and above, although preference will be given to those aged 13 and above. Participants must be able to attend all five (full) days and the cost will be £185 for the week.

A full programme of events for this action-packed, informal week will be issued nearer the time, but essentially the summer school will encompass a wide variety of theoretical and practical training including a mid-week field trip, live mammal trapping, tours of the zoo, and talks from a variety of zoo staff about all aspects of the zoo's work. It is ideally suited to those hoping to follow a career in zoos, conservation or veterinary science but is also a lot of fun for those just interested in finding out more about how our wonderful zoo works.



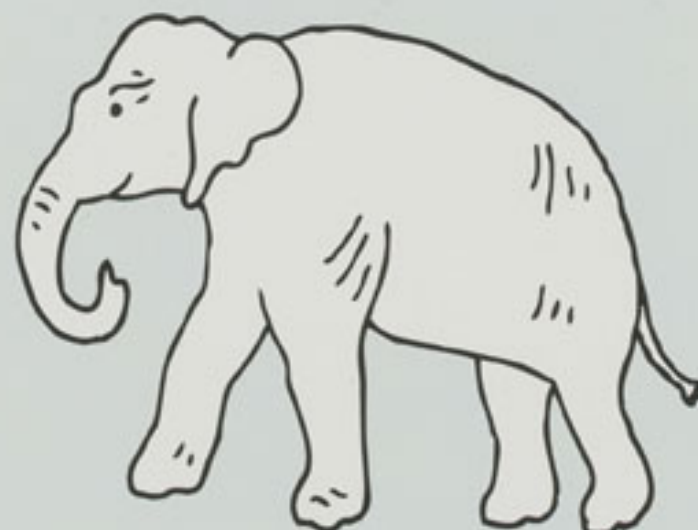
HILBRE ISLAND



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20

Back to the seaside for September. We will be walking over to Hilbre Island in the Dee Estuary to see seabirds and seals and to investigate rockpools on our way. You will love this visit which offers the chance to walk across the sand as the tide goes out, climb on the Little Eye and Middle Eye islands on our way over to Hilbre itself, where we will spend the day watching wildlife and visiting the lighthouse. We will leave in good time to be back to the coach before the tide comes in.

The bus departure time will depend on the tide times for the day and so keep an eye on the magazine to check when we will be leaving nearer the date. Eights and over are invited to join us for a relaxing day. Bring a picnic.



TATTON PARK, HOME FARM AND DEER RUT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 18

It is a few years since the juniors last visited Tatton Park, home to big herds of fallow deer and red deer. October is the time of the rut for the red deer and we will be able to watch the big males competing to attract females. This is usually a fantastic autumn visit. We will visit Home Farm at Tatton in the morning before heading across the main parkland to watch the deer. Wrap up warmly and come along!

Over eights are invited to join us, and we will leave the staff car park at 10am and return there for 4.30pm. You will need a picnic lunch.

MARTIN MERE, THE WILDFOWL AND WETLANDS TRUST

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22

Martin Mere is the place around here to see the vast flocks of pink-footed geese that stop here on the autumn migration. There will also be hundreds of swans and many other wild waterfowl species to see at this stunning reserve near Ormskirk, Lancashire, where there are many hides spread around the area from which you can get really superb views of the birds without disturbing them.

This is a very easy going day and we will start by visiting Martin Mere's exotic species collection before heading out to the wetlands to look at the wild birds.

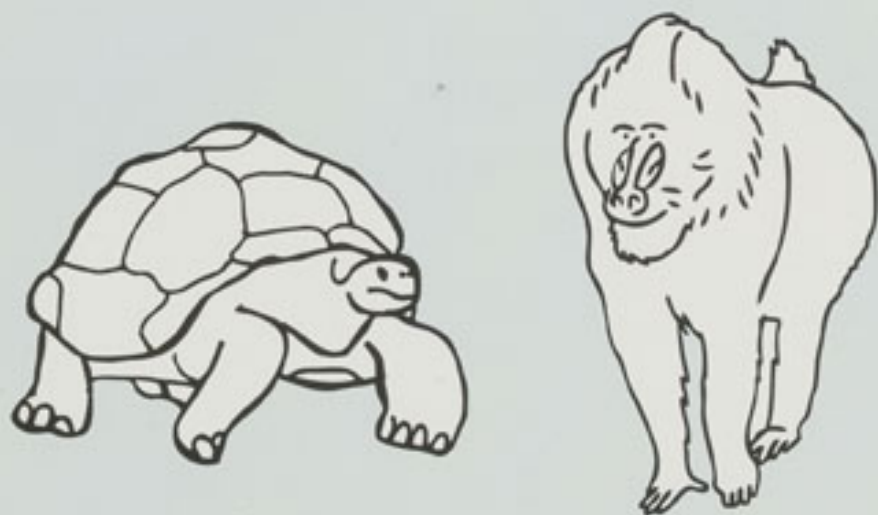
The bus will leave the staff car park at 10.30am and return for 4pm. You will need to dress warmly and bring a picnic lunch. If you have binoculars bring them along, but we will have some you can borrow too. Juniors of eight and over are more than welcome to join us.

THE JUNIORS' CHRISTMAS PARTY!

FRIDAY DECEMBER 5

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

The venue will be Café Bembe. Access can be gained through the main entrance. You should arrive at 7pm, with your cushion and a torch and we will guide you to the venue. Parents should arrange to collect you from the main entrance at 9.45pm.



Please Note:

Bookings must be made for all events. Please ring Penny Rudd on 01244 650 215 not more than two weeks before the event you would like to attend. Places are offered on a first-come, first-served basis and may be limited. This list is provisional and in exceptional circumstances we may have to alter dates and venues. You will be informed of any such changes in Z Magazine and not by individual letter, so please keep up to date by reading the Kidz Zoo pages in each issue. A charge will be made to cover the cost of those events which involve transport, entry fees, materials or the provision of food and you will be advised of this at the time of booking.

COMPETITION

TRY OUR RAINFOREST QUIZ:

The Amazon rainforest is in South America, but where does it get its name from?

- The online shopping emporium
- From having the most amazing trees
- The Amazon River that flows through the forest

It rains a lot in the rainforest! How much does it rain in the Amazon rainforest?

- About 2cm a year
- About 20cm a year
- About 200cm a year

There are more than 400 species of amphibians in the Amazon rainforest, including the fabulous poison dart frogs. But, why are they so brightly coloured?

- To warn potential predators that they are poisonous.
- To camouflage them in their habitat
- To look pretty

Jaguars are found in different habitats across South America, including the Amazon rainforest. They are top predators and can be described as:

- Herbivores
- Omnivores
- Carnivores

Sloths are among our favourite animals. They live high in the trees, but come to the ground about once a week. Why?

- To dig for food
- To go to the toilet/urinate and defecate
- To meet other sloths



AMAZONIAN adventure

Aquarist Rebecca Goodwin is pictured on the front page of this month's Kidz Zoo as she dives into the Amazon tank which is a part of our Spirit of the Jaguar exhibit.

She took the plunge in pursuit of 10 yellow-spotted Amazon river turtles.

Rebecca caught the turtles, which get their name from the yellow markings on their heads, so they could undergo a routine health check.

Each was examined by our vets before being weighed, measured and returned to the tank.

To tie in with Rebecca's underwater quest we have given this issue's Kidz Zoo wordsearch and quiz competitions an Amazonian theme. Did you manage to answer the questions about the Amazon rainforest on the previous page? Now we have some more puzzling fun for you – see if you can seek out and ring the words listed here in our wordsearch grid. You will find the words vertically, horizontally or diagonally... and as you can see they are all linked to the terrain of the Amazon.



WORDSEARCH

C	O	D	D	X	I	J	F	T	X	N	F	L	W	V
C	Q	K	I	I	Z	K	I	N	B	I	Y	R	F	B
C	S	L	O	T	H	Q	N	A	B	H	P	A	A	L
G	Q	T	Y	L	R	T	S	O	F	K	O	U	P	G
Y	P	S	R	O	E	I	S	C	J	U	N	G	L	E
M	P	B	O	E	M	D	B	Y	N	A	A	A	P	W
N	S	A	T	Q	E	M	S	E	M	N	C	J	E	Q
C	J	T	S	B	L	F	B	K	S	I	M	M	A	X
Z	X	O	R	M	V	O	R	N	P	A	E	K	M	K
F	O	R	E	S	T	F	L	O	O	R	G	C	K	L
W	K	R	D	R	R	Q	R	M	G	Z	G	A	O	C
G	I	A	N	T	O	T	T	E	R	H	A	I	U	R
U	J	P	U	D	D	G	N	Q	E	X	N	M	F	T
T	P	O	D	J	Q	T	U	O	E	F	Y	A	A	K
H	F	J	C	O	S	L	S	W	N	U	K	N	P	C

AMAZON
BAT
CAIMAN
CANOPY
EMERGENT
FORESTFLOOR
GIANTOTTER
GREEN
JAGUAR
JUNGLE
MONKEY
PARROT
RAIN
SLOTH
TREEFROG
TRIBES
TROPICAL
UNDERSTORY

For your chance to win a £10 voucher to spend in the zoo shops, send your quiz answers and/or wordsearch entries, together with your name, address and phone number, by Friday, July 25 to:
Z Magazine, Marketing Department, Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester CH2 1LH

Congratulations to our previous winner Iris Walker, of Hoole, Chester.

Tatton Park show garden will feature exotic flora soon to take root right here at our zoo

Exotic plants will spectacularly clothe a replica of a south east Asian temple as part of a stunning Chester Zoo show garden at this summer's Royal Horticultural Society Flower Show at Tatton Park.

Our curator of horticulture and botany, Mark Sparrow, and horticulturist team manager, Mark Hargreaves, have designed the display garden which is sure to turn heads at the annual flower show from July 23-27.

Chester Zoo has a history of success at the prestigious event, having secured a gold medal in 2011, a silver gilt award in 2008's show, a silver in 2000 and a bronze in 2004.

This year we are hoping to clinch gold once more with the creative design which – as well as impressing hundreds of thousands of show visitors – will also provide a taster to the exciting new *Islands* project being built here at the zoo.

Islands is due to open in 2015 and the show garden design has been inspired by some of the themes from it. When building the garden we will use plants supplied by Lanes Landscapes (Brentwood Moss Nurseries), the company from which we are sourcing much of the fabulous flora which will be installed at our 12 acre *Islands* exhibit.

Mark Sparrow explained: "The show garden's focal point will be an abandoned south east Asian Buddhist temple which has been taken over by exotic looking plants. A small boat can be seen emerging from the dense vegetation on the river that flows to the temple.

"This symbolises the voyage of discovery that visitors to the £30m *Islands* at Chester Zoo will experience when it opens in 2015. They will learn about the threatened animals and plants of the Indonesian islands and how they can make a positive contribution to their long term survival."

The planting for both the Tatton exhibition garden and our own *Islands* will be colourful and exuberant, featuring trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants.

For the show garden design the team has incorporated two dead trees at the front of the exhibit which will be festooned with epiphytic *Nepenthes*, ferns and orchids native to south east Asia. The theme for the garden is also inspired by our zoo's support for the battle to overcome threats facing plants and animals in this part of the world. We support a number of projects which help to conserve endangered animals and their habitat.

Mark said: "The garden will reflect the fragile nature of the animals and plants that exist in the forests of south east Asia. Many of these are threatened in the wild as a result of over collection, habitat destruction and modern farming practices. One of the biggest threats to the orangutan is the commercial production of palm oil which has led to the destruction of large parts of the natural habitat of this species. Forests are being cleared for palm oil plantations and orangutans cannot survive in this monoculture.

"Many other animal and plant species are equally threatened by these practices and our show garden will tell of the very real dangers facing wildlife in this part of the world."

All of the plants used in the show garden will be saved and eventually re-used on the *Islands* project site.

A TASTE OF WHAT'S TO COME...



An artist's illustration of how Chester Zoo's showgarden at RHS Flower Show Tatton Park will look.

Madagascar is renowned for its incredible biodiversity, a unique part of the world where evolution has generated amazing creatures. But its uniqueness is no protection against the threats facing our planet's animal and plant life. Indeed the island's very singularity can make it even more vulnerable to disease and climate change. That's why urgent action is needed now to ensure we conserve Madagascar's increasingly fragile eco-system.

Earlier this year our curator of lower vertebrates and invertebrates, Gerardo Garcia, visited this, the world's fourth largest island, off the coast of Africa in the Indian Ocean. This is his report...



The golden mantella frog.

FIGHTING TO SAVE A FRAGILE WORLD

THE KEYS TO SURVIVAL

When you work in conservation, the statistics relating to percentages of threatened species within the areas you focus on are important. In many cases they reinforce arguments justifying the need for certain actions to be taken. They can also provide the evidence needed to secure funding for key conservation projects. But at times statistics can be heart-breaking, and highlight the enormous scale of threats facing endangered species.

The case of Madagascar is a prime example: it is home to at least 400 frog species, but to safeguard their survival good planning and focus is essential. Otherwise it's possible to become overwhelmed by the difficulties facing these species and the question of where to start helping them?

Last January I went to Madagascar for several weeks to further our work building the foundations of an amphibian conservation programme in partnership with the local NGO, Magasikara Voakajy.



Gerardo is pictured with two species of edible frogs in Madagascar.

Our first focus was the golden mantella frog (*Mantella aurantiaca*) which is under serious threat, making it one of the key species we have concentrated our conservation efforts on in this region. As you can see by our photographs, its habitat is home to a remarkable diversity of other animals and plants, but this shared habitat is at serious risk of destruction and degradation, much of it as a result of man-made local development schemes.

The golden mantella frog has also suffered through the international pet trade market, being heavily collected due to its striking bright orange colour.

A workshop with all stakeholders on this species was held in Mantadia Andasibe National Park to discuss how to reintroduce captive-bred frogs into the wild. The process is complex; it involves studies of suitability of habitat, health screenings, estimation of population sizes in ponds, and a complete ecological study of wild populations to provide us with the information needed to arrange good management of the breeding colonies.

Such studies are essential and often lead to trial releases and further pilot studies before any full release of frogs can be undertaken in the wild.

At the same time it is necessary to manage specially bred colonies to ensure they do not lose genetic diversity over generations.

Support for the programme from local communities is vital for the success of future releases to ensure any human exploitation of the environment's natural resources does not conflict with the long term conservation strategy.

As a result such projects inevitably take a great deal of time.

Nevertheless our workshop was very productive and good guidelines have been

Some of the variety of animals found in Madagascar. Right: Parson's chameleon (main pic)
 Below right (from top): The indri lemur which makes a loud territorial call at sunrise; Gerardo at work with the conservation team; a harlequin frog.



drafted for the long term survival plan for the species.

Madagascar hasn't started any reintroduction programme of amphibians yet. But with the recent detection of chytrid fungus in the country, a strategy involving an emergency response to prepare for the lethal impacts of the disease is now required.

Of utmost importance is a strategy to house species in assurance colonies and that is one of the reasons why our zoo is constantly developing its breeding skills for amphibians and husbandry techniques.

The planet has just over 7,000 known species of amphibians with 40 different breeding strategies, so there is a lot to learn.

We also need to more effectively protect and manage critical regions and build up healthy in-country frog populations. This can only be done via the co-operation, commitment and dedication of alliance partners and passionate individuals around the world.

To help us get nearer to our goal, during my visit we ran a practical workshop on identification and marking techniques of amphibians, which some of you may have read about in the spring edition of Z Magazine. This and various other techniques for photo identification and individual tagging were presented to 20 Malagasy amphibian workers at the facilities of Mitsinjo.

We also met Molly Bletz, one of the frontline researchers for finding alternative strategies to protect amphibians. Her work is supported by Chester Zoo.

In addition we visited the area of Mangabe, where our conservation efforts for the golden mantella frog species have long been concentrated and where, last year, we had to respond to an urgent call to protect some of the frog's breeding areas from the effects of illegal mining. The impact has been catastrophic and it will take many years before the frogs will return there to breed, but it is not too late. The work with the communities has been reinforced and there are already signs of restoration helped by the eradication of invasive plants which had been colonizing affected ponds.

Visiting this site afforded us an exclusive opportunity to further discover the region's rich diversity of wildlife. There are as many species active during the night as there are in the day and I found myself not wanting to

go to bed for fear of missing them. We saw everything from the smallest chameleon to the endangered large tree-dwelling lemur, the indri, whose call is so special that I count it as one of my best wildlife experiences ever. It is a mix of loud meows and laments which echo eerily early in the morning even as the mists of the night still enshroud the entire forest; impossible to forget.

Whilst in Mangabe, we also explored the possibility of starting a project with another species of frog living in the same habitat as the golden mantella; the Grandidier's Madagascar frog, locally named radaka, about which we have very little knowledge. Its forest habitat is diminishing due to human activities including illegal gold mining. It is also commonly eaten by local communities and could easily become extinct in many areas.

The third objective we focused on was the highly endangered harlequin mantella. The need to establish captive-bred populations was highlighted as in some locations, such as Antoetra, the species is in a very fragile status in the wild.

These little frogs, of not more than 3cm long, are characterized by black skin with red or orange bands on limbs, and black undersides with dark blue spots. The beautiful combination of colours makes each frog unique, allowing easy identification for ecological studies. They hide out of human sight most of the day, probably to avoid direct sun exposure. We left the site with the satisfaction of having seen one of the rarest frogs in Madagascar but also full of concern about its future survival.

Importantly a new Amphibian Conservation Strategy for the Amphibians of Madagascar (ACSAM II) will be developed this year. The model we've used - working with local communities, partnering with strong local NGOs and developing exciting research projects to set up a strategy to house species in captive assurance - will provide a great reference for this.

Now back at Chester, as part of our wonderful amphibian area in the Tropical Realm, a large terrarium will feature a colony of golden mantella frogs later this summer. Each time I hear their clicking call between the leaves I close my eyes and remember the magnificent call of the indri in the canopy. I hope to return to Madagascar soon.



Staff go wild in...

MEXICO

Helping save
threatened fish species
from extinction

Goodeids are among the most
threatened fish species on earth.

Report by **Gerardo Garcia**, curator
of lower vertebrates and invertebrates

It was eight years ago when I first
visited Mexico to further work on an
action plan for the axolotl (*Ambystoma*).

Recently I returned for an important
workshop in Mexico City during which we
reviewed past achievements, revitalised
the Txochimilco Axolotl Action Plan and
considered expanding it to cover 17 more
species in Mexico.

I was deeply impressed by how much work
has been done to help a single amphibian
species yet, even with the high level of
commitment our conservation teams put
in, there is no guarantee against extinction.
Continued collaboration and communication
between stakeholders is therefore vital to
maximise its chances of survival.



The team members at work, helping
safeguard the future of native fish species.

However, the results the action plan has
been achieving so far are overall very
optimistic and it is now clear that several
other species could benefit from all these
years of work. It is important to explore
ways of extending the plan.

Following the workshop I journeyed by bus
to Morelia, in the north, to meet the leader
of the Mexico Fish Ark Project, Omar
Dominguez, from The Aquatic Laboratory
of Michoacan University.

We visited a project Chester Zoo has been
supporting for eight years, which holds the
largest diversity of endemic fresh water
fish in Mexico. Almost 40 species from
the family, goodeids, are kept at the Fish
Ark project and there is an intensive care
building under the same roof.

Goodeids are endemic to shallow
freshwater habitats, such as ponds and
creeks. They are quick and small – most
not more than a few centimeters long.
This family has modest coloration, except
for males during the breeding season.

They are viviparous, which
means females give birth to living
offspring that develop within the mother's
body.

Due to habitat alteration, destruction and
introduction of invasive fish, goodeids are
now among the most threatened species
on earth.

The Fish Ark has more than a hundred
aquariums and four outdoor ponds
managed daily by Omar, aquarist Diego
Montejo and their dedicated colleagues.

Thanks to Chester Zoo's support,
Omar has been able to keep selective
breeding groups and maintain a healthy
representation of the entire population of
goodeids for research and conservation.

In the short term, the goal has been to
prevent species extinction through captive
maintenance and breeding. The longer-
term goal is to solve the environmental
problems in the habitats these species
occupy thus allowing them to persist in the
wild, or be re-introduced if necessary.

Checking the progress of fish in one
of the semi-natural ponds.



Recent years have seen the construction
of large outside experimental semi-natural
ponds, into which 15 fish species and two
species of *Ambystoma* have been released.
These ponds are an excellent opportunity
to test if, after several generations of
captive breeding, these species would be
able to adapt to the natural conditions of
the wild.

The combination of fish species in each
pond are from different genus to avoid the
risk of interbreeding between species when
they are living together. The first results
from their monitoring are giving positive
results.

The project is now at a point where we
should start considering the actions to
achieve the long-term goal; tackling issues
in their habitat and the need to preserve
wild populations.

During my short visit we discussed the plan
of designing and conducting strategies for
the reintroduction of populations that are
maintained in captivity but now extinct in
the wild and the amount of research which
needs to be done to achieve that goal.

Since my return to Chester we have
been drawing up plans to strengthen the
collaboration between our teams here and
in Mexico.

I have to confess that until my visit I'd
considered our own aquarium's selection
of Mexican goodeids – four species of
which two are extinct in the wild – as a
pretty static species in our collection plan.
However now I see them in a different light
and can't wait to share the latest news from
the field programmes with all our visitors.

That is the magic of experiencing both
aspects of conservation first-hand: in the
field and in our zoo.



Through the Keeper for A Day fund, Sonya Hill, applied ethologist, and John Fletcher, horticulturist team manager, took part in a two-week exploration of montane forests and river headwaters in the southern sector of the Gashaka Gumti National Park in Nigeria.

Our zoo has been taking over the management of the Gashaka Biodiversity Project in 2014, as part of its field conservation programme in Nigeria.

A dozen botanists and horticulturists, wildlife experts and engineers combined their expertise for this February 2014 expedition. They represented our zoo, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (Wet Tropics of Africa Section), the Ape Alliance (an international coalition of 90-plus NGOs), Julius-Berger-International (one of sub-Saharan Africa's largest construction firms) and the Nigeria National Parks Service.

Staff go wild in... **NIGERIA**

Two dozen porters were required to move provisions and equipment up and down rugged heavily forested terrain, including up to the top of Mount Gangirwal, West Africa's highest peak.

The project team's presence in these remote areas also resulted in the destruction of snares and the camps of poachers and illegal cattle grazers, and highlighted the need for increased security in the area.

This trip gave John and Sonya the opportunity to participate in the vital conservation work in Gashaka Gumti National Park, and to see our zoo's work in this region.



EXPEDITION AIMS

- To initiate a long-term plant collection programme with Kew Gardens herbarium that will lead to a comprehensive flora of the region.
- To survey the forests for remnant populations of critically endangered Cross-River gorillas and distribution of the world's rarest chimpanzee, the Nigeria-Cameroon subspecies.
- To assess further potential conservation measures to ensure that crucial watershed forests are preserved into the future.



Top: The team pictured at their campsite on the first night.
Centre: Sonya and John, who joined the two week expedition as part of the Gashaka Biodiversity Project.
Bottom: Nearly at the top of Mount Gangirwal.

Orangutan facts

- Vicki was born on June 17, 1984
- She was born at Blackpool Zoo
- She moved to Chester Zoo in 2013 from Blackpool Zoo while their new house is being built
- We currently have 10 Sumatran and 10 Bornean orangutans here at Chester, including the four which are from Blackpool Zoo who are being looked after whilst their home is being refurbished
- Bornean and Sumatran orangutans are at crisis point with their numbers dwindling in the wild
- Bornean orangutans are classed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as endangered meaning they face a very high risk of extinction in the wild. Sumatrans are critically endangered
- Chester Zoo is home to the oldest orangutan in the UK, Martha, who arrived in 1965
- Orangutans are the only non-African great ape
- The orangutan is the world's largest tree climbing mammal
- Bornean orangutans have darker hair and are slightly larger in build than Sumatran orangutans.
- Mature males sometimes produce loud, booming, long calls that can be heard up to two kilometres away in the forest
- An orangutan has the same number of teeth as a human, 32
- The arm span of an orangutan can reach up to two meters

AND BREATHE!

Vicky the 29-year-old orangutan rests up after sinus operation

Vets, keepers and doctors swung into action here at Chester Zoo as 49kg orangutan Vicky successfully underwent a sinus operation – the first time the procedure has ever been carried out in the UK.

Performed at our on-site Animal Health Centre, the two-hour surgery was conducted by our own vets, colleagues from Blackpool Zoo and a human sinus expert from Nuffield Health The Grosvenor Hospital in Chester.

Vicky, a Bornean orangutan, usually lives at Blackpool Zoo but, along with three other orangutans, is currently staying in Chester until her new exhibit in Blackpool is completed.

Chester Zoo vet, Steve Unwin, said:

"It's fantastic that we've been able to do this for Vicky. Her chronic sinusitis may have made her feel thick headed and made her more susceptible to picking up infections. This operation will dramatically improve things for her, make her much more comfortable.

"As with humans, it is important to minimise the length of time a patient is anaesthetised so there were quite a few people involved to perform the various tasks as swiftly as possible. That's why we collaborated with the team from Blackpool Zoo, Nuffield Health and an orangutan specialist from Switzerland.

"The operation went very well indeed, as smoothly as we could have hoped, and it's great news for Vicky given her key role in the European Bornean orangutan breeding programme."

Vicky has already made a significant contribution to the zoo population of her species having produced two girls – *Summer* and *Cherie* – at Blackpool Zoo. They, too, are staying in Chester before they move back to their new exhibit ahead of its opening this summer.

Jawed Tahery, consultant from Nuffield Health The Grosvenor Hospital in Chester, added:

"I carry out sinus procedures on humans on a weekly basis but this is the first time I've ever performed one on an orangutan.

"However, the principles are actually exactly the same as, anatomically speaking, humans and orangutans are no different when it comes to the make-up of the skull."

Orangutans – or old man of the forest as they are also known – are one of human's closest relatives. But in the wild the demand for timber, palm oil, roads, agricultural land and space for mining means huge areas of forest have now been lost, taking with it the homes of both Bornean and Sumatran orangutans

and pushing them perilously close to extinction.

In October, we are launching a campaign to help protect orangutans in the wild. *Go Orange for Orangutans* will urge schools, families, businesses and individuals to help do their bit to save the critically endangered animals. All funds raised through the campaign will help conservationists continue their work to protect orangutans in the forests of Borneo and Sumatra.

Visit our conservation website www.actforwildlife.org.uk/orange to sign up and find out more.



It's going to be **ANIMAZING** at Chester Zoo this summer!

This summer we're celebrating **80 years** of being a charity. We're so proud that we're able to look after such amazing animals and every member of staff is really passionate about being able to give you, our members and adopters, a special experience every time you visit us.

So, this summer we are celebrating all that's good about a visit to the zoo, an experience that can be summed up in one simple equation:

Animals + Amazing = an Animazing day out!

We're looking forward to giving you the opportunity to find out much more about all of your favourite animals and we'll be planning lots of family activities. Make sure you are signed up to receive our e-mails so that you are the first to get the details.

Just contact the membership team on **01244 650 208** or call in to the office when you are passing to sign up if you haven't already.

Discover more **ANIMAZING** stories with our zoo presenters



You may have noticed our team of zoo presenters, out and about doing animal talks and story-telling but have you ever stopped to think about all of the **amazing animal** knowledge they have?

They're bonkers about biology and insane about insects. They love our lions and are passionate about our planet. If you love wildlife too then you don't want to miss them.

They'll be out and about all summer so come along and meet them and they'll share lots of intriguing facts about our animals. They will also have some interesting artefacts to show you - like skulls, teeth, fur and poo - all fascinating stuff!

The presenters will also lead some great activities looking at our conservation work - visitors will be able to test out their field skills by using the microchip scanner to identify replica mountain chicken frogs, measuring the length of their legs and weighing them. They will relate the story of rare golden mantella frogs, and tell how our experts have been implanting them with silicone to help identify them in the zoo and also in the wild in Madagascar.

There will be a great game for younger visitors to take part in where they pretend to be an elephant in Assam, trying to make it from the forest to the river. Players will have to roll a dice to move to different parts of the elephant habitat.



ANIMAZING SUMMER!



SOME ANIMAZING FACTS

A lion's roar can be heard more than four miles away.

A penguin can swim at a rate of up to 15 miles an hour.

A rhino does 20 kilos of poo in just one day.

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS AS A CHARITY

Our founder George Mottershead opened the doors to Chester Zoo in 1931 and in 1934 the North of England Zoological Society was formed as a charity. This was one of the first major milestones in our history and as a conservation and education charity it shapes the way we work today.

Since then the zoo has developed so much and we're now working in the UK and all over the world to protect animals.



PERFECT PICNICS for summer days

Our new **Fountains Picnic and Ice Cream Parlours** are proving really popular already so we're hoping that the summer sunshine will enable more of you to enjoy our lovely, locally sourced, freshly made picnics. You can just turn up on the day and we'll make a picnic for you or book ahead by calling **01244 380280** and we'll have it ready for you to collect.

If you haven't already tried our **Gold Picnic** we'd recommend that you come along, grab a deck chair* settle down with our deluxe picnic and a bottle of fizz and watch the world go by. It's the perfect summer celebration. Check out our website for more information about our picnics range.



We'd like to thank you

Without the support you give us through your membership we wouldn't be able to continue to operate as a charity, and act for wildlife both here in Chester and around the world.



WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED?

We are so grateful for your support over the years but if you want to know how you can do more to help us then here are some ideas.

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES

Before we open the doors to *Islands* we are looking back at the last 80 years and all of the wonderful memories that we have created with you in that time. Whether you've been a member for 30 years or are new to Chester Zoo we want to hear all your favourite memories about your visits and connections with the zoo.

E-mail memories@chesterzoo.org or by post to Your Zoo, Marketing Team, Cedar House, Caughall Road, Chester, CH2 1LH.

ACT FOR WILDLIFE

We act for wildlife all over the world, and through our Act for Wildlife campaign and website we share with you all the work that we are doing to protect animals and habitats in the wild. We work with many organisations to share knowledge and protect wildlife and need the support of all our visitors and friends to do this.

You can learn more about our conservation projects, and how your donation will make a difference, at www.actforwildlife.org.uk or by texting **WILD34** and the amount you'd like to donate to **70070**.



*We charge £2 per day for the deckchairs and will need to take a deposit but once it's yours you can sit back and relax all day.

ADORABLE new arrivals

Meerkat fans will just love these fantastic pictures of the two latest additions to our meerkat family. These photos were taken not long after their happy arrival into the world when keepers caught up with them to give them a health check. They were also weighed and micro-chipped. The two pups weighed a healthy 150g and 145g respectively, though they are significantly bigger now. Don't forget to see if you can spot which ones they are when you next visit our meerkat enclosure.



WELCOME TO OUR LATEST CORPORATE PARTNERS...

Recycle Technology, who are adopting our jaguars.

Also welcome to **Stagecoach** and **Hillyer McKeown**, who are now official corporate supporters.

If you're interested in becoming a corporate partner of the zoo, please contact the development team at development@chesterzoo.org

CHESTER ZOO 100 CLUB

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

January 2014

£100..... Mr Alan Andrews, Northwich
 £100..... Mr K Hodgkiss, Crewe
 £50 Mr John F Knott, Stockport
 £50 Mrs Olive D Murtagh, Wilmslow
 £50 Ms Jenny Saxty, Sale

February 2014

£100..... Mrs Catherine Piercy, Chester
 £100..... Dr Phillip Robinson, Chester
 £50 Mr David L Lloyd, Leamington Spa
 £50 Mr Stephen Pettitt, Crewe
 £50 Mrs Joyce Harrison, South Wirral

March 2014

£100 Mrs Sakina Wakefield, Ellesmere Port
 £100 Mrs Julie Simpson, Moreton
 £50 Mrs Evelyn Jones, Ness
 £50 Mrs L A Parsons, Liverpool
 £50 Ms Barbara Lee, Crosby
 £50 Mrs Olive D Murtagh, Wilmslow

Membership of the 100 Club is still invited. All prize winners will be notified by post and will be listed in the next edition of Z. Please inform us as soon as possible if you change address.

If you wish to participate, please contact the development office on 01244 650 229.

GO ORANGE FOR RANGUTANS

Fundraising NEWS

Last year thousands of supporters joined our *Go Orange for Orangutans* campaign to fund the work of our conservation partners Hutan in saving the forest homes of the Bornean orangutan.

We raised more than £15,000 to buy new camera traps to research how they adapt to life on the ground. These are now in place and we look forward to hearing the results of the research soon.

But our work is not done yet so this year we're asking you to *Go Orange for Orangutans* again. Protecting the woodland is key to their survival but the forest is being lost at an alarming rate. As part of a reforestation programme our conservation partners Hutan want to plant more trees, create new forests and ultimately new space for orangutans to build their tree-top homes.

Planting and caring for each new tree costs £10. We want to help Hutan plant 1,500 trees and create our own small forest where orangutans can live happily. So, can you help?

Children from Little Sutton Primary School who supported *Go Orange for Orangutans* last year and, inset, an orangutan photographed in the wild by Sam Raffell.

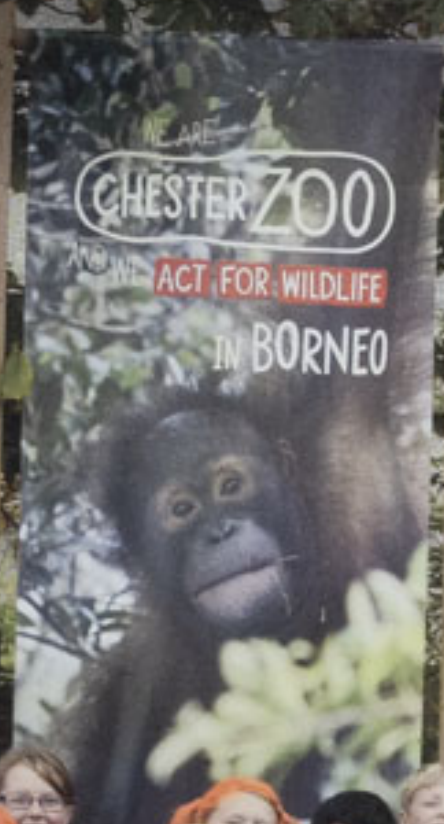
We're looking for schools, companies, groups and individuals to *Go Orange for Orangutans* this October and help us raise £15,000 towards rebuilding the forest.

It's really simple to take part, register online for your free fundraising pack at www.actforwildlife.org.uk/orange or call 01244 650 229 and speak to the development team.

For inspiration and ideas check out what supporters did last year at www.actforwildlife.org.uk/get-involved/go-orange-2013 and you can check out our work with orangutans on the project pages and blogs at www.actforwildlife.org.uk



If you just can't wait until October text WILD34 £3 to 70070 to donate* £3 NOW!



*Our Text to Donate service is delivered through Just Giving. Texts are charged at your mobile phone operator's standard rate. We will receive 100% of your donation. You MUST be 16 or over and must have the bill payer's permission. For full terms of service please visit www.justgiving.com/info/terms-of-service

Zoo TALK

TALKING CONSERVATION 2014 Programme

Welcome to the summer 2014 members' talks, which begin with the wonderful opportunity for you to meet our 2014 Gold Medal recipient, Roland Wirth. We are in for a treat with his talk which will span a host of different conservation and wildlife topics to give us all plenty of food for thought.

Following the June event there will be a break over July and August but then we'll be back with our first ever butterflies members' talk. Simon Mann, our development director, will give us an update on *Islands* in December and this will be a busy talk so book early as it's already getting booked.

Our talks are planned to bring you up to date with the work your membership supports so we hope you can join us. Take a look at our programme and, if you're interested, just give Kate a ring a ring to book your place.

Monday, June 9

Gold Medal Recipient – Roland Wirth

Each year the zoo awards a Gold Medal to someone who has had a huge impact in the fields of zoology, conservation and the natural world. This year's recipient is Roland Wirth and he will be giving a special talk especially for members.

According to his mother, Roland has been interested in wildlife ever since he could talk and from a very early age wanted to be a zoo director or a field biologist. As long as he can remember, animals and plants have been his main interest and they still are.

For a long time, he worked in his parents' furniture business but didn't let the grass grow under his feet where his wildlife passion was concerned. He volunteered wherever and whenever he could and in 1982 co-founded ZGAP, Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations.

He has worked for ZGAP since then, as well as chairing a number of International Union for the Conservation of Nature species survival commission committees, working for BirdLife International, being a board member of the Loro Parque Fundacion and in 2001, he co-founded the Species Conservation Foundation.

He is a member of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria Conservation Committee and of the Asian Species Action Partnership.

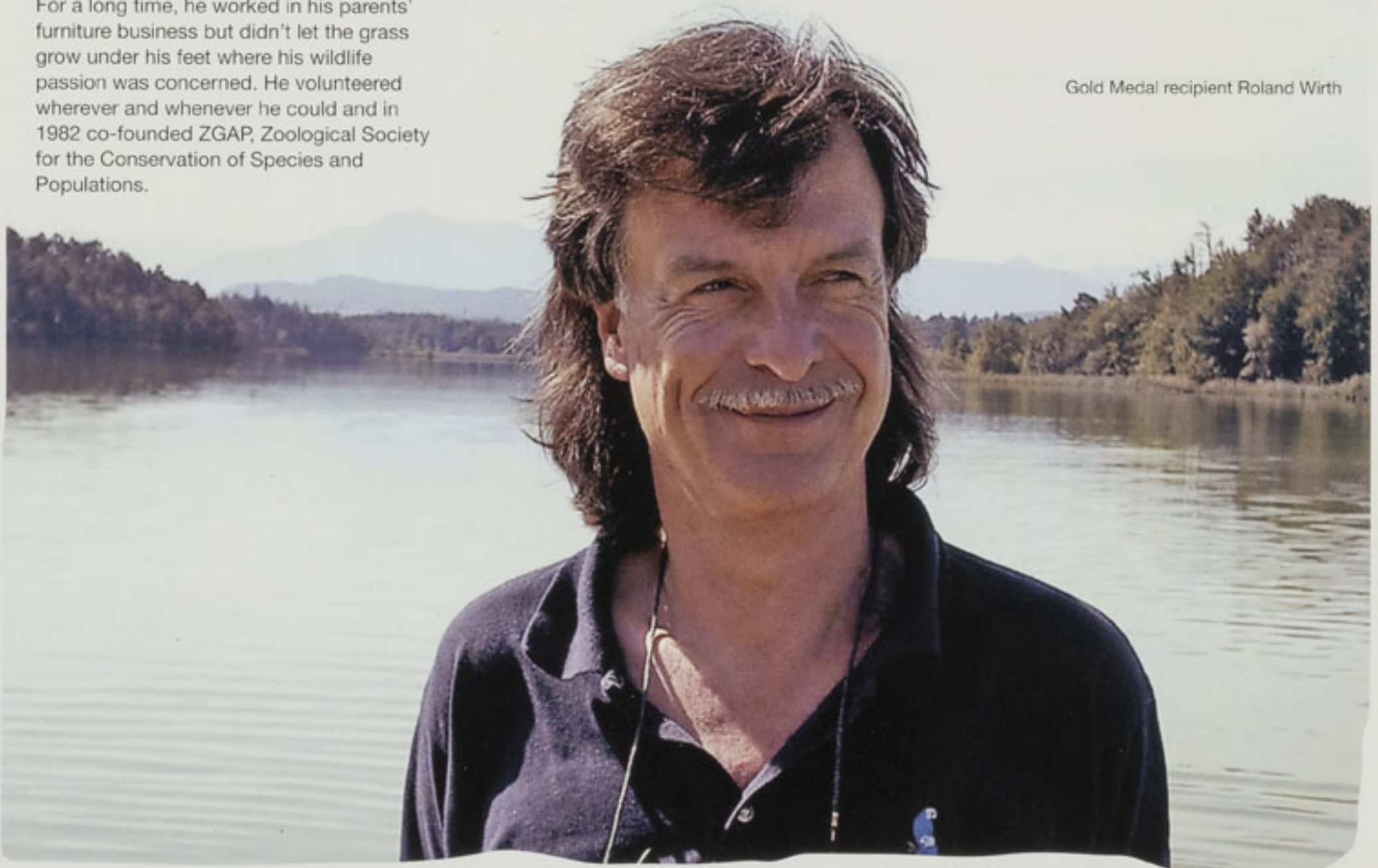
Roland will talk about some of the many species conservation projects which he has helped set up and run, providing some background information about conservation issues and facts you might find surprising

and which may inspire us to look at things from a different angle. Did you know that all the world's national parks and protected areas have a combined annual budget that is less than what dog owners in Western Europe spend on dog food per year?

Roland believes that wildlife is important to us, not only because there are such unusual benefits – like the way in which giant pouched rats have saved people in Africa from being blown up by landmines – but because animals inspire our culture and mental wellbeing in more ways than most people realize.

Join Roland for his fascinating and inspiring talk.

Gold Medal recipient Roland Wirth



Tuesday, September 9

Butterflies with Heather Prince

Our Butterfly Journey opened in 2009 and this is the first talk by our butterfly team. Find out all about the husbandry of the animals from our keepers and Heather will update you on the Large Heath Butterfly Project. Butterfly keeper, Heather, is hoping they will pupate and emerge successfully so she can report good news.

Wednesday, October 15

Acting for Wildlife: Global Conservation Issues

Our field conservation team takes a look at some of the current global conservation issues impacting species and habitats around the world. Hear how our field conservation programmes, with dedicated technical support and funding, are working to combat these issues.

November (date to be confirmed)*

Moving Animals!

Join Penny Rudd and Liz Ball for an evening of tales and anecdotes and find out more about the interesting and complicated world of moving animals.

Tuesday, December 2

Islands! - Simon Mann

Ahead of the opening of our major new exhibit in 2015, Simon, the zoo's development director, will update you on the progress of *Islands*, the trials and tribulations, the excitement and buzz.

*We'll announce this date at upcoming evenings, on our website and in future editions of Z or call Kate (see below).

Members' talks are held in the Geraldine Russell-Allen Lecture Hall (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 to animal adopters
- The public and guests are welcome (£3.50 for non-members)
- Our lecture hall seats up to 170.
- Post-talk refreshments give you the opportunity to have an informal chat with speakers, staff and fellow members
- **Booking essential**
- All talks start at 7.30pm

Interested in attending? Please call **Kate Brankin** in education on 01244 389 444 or email k.brankin@chesterzoo.org to book.

Upping the ante

A tiny leaf-cutter ant has a lot on its shoulders as it transports a tasty treat back to its colony in our new exhibit. A leaf-cutter ant can lift more than 50 times its own body weight - equivalent to a human carrying a family-sized car. Leaf-cutters live in colonies that consist of millions of ants, which work in teams to carry leaves back to their nests.



CHESHIRE FARM
The Ice Cream Farm

Open 7 Days a Week
10am to 5.30



Free Ice Cream & Free Entry
Free entry to Play Barn or the Loft Games Room and one Free children's ice cream cone!

One free entry and ice cream per receipt - original receipts only.

Valid Chester Zoo membership card must be shown upon redeeming this voucher.

This voucher expires 30th September, 2014.

The Loft - 7yrs & over (1 hour max)
Pre-booking essential

Play Barn age guide
7 yrs & under

Drumlan Hall - Newton Lane
Tattenhall - Cheshire CH3 9NE

Tel: 01829 770 995



www.cheshirefarmicecream.co.uk



Truly eye-catching!

This stunning photograph of an owl was the second prize winner in our #chesterzoosnaps animal portrait competition. It was taken by **Stephen Bridson**. See a selection of other beautiful photographs inside on pages 5-9. And don't forget, though this spring's competition is now closed, we will be running more photographic contests in the coming months so keep on posting your images on our main social media pages – Facebook, Google+, Twitter or Instagram. You could be our next winner!



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.