



MAGAZINE

The official magazine for
Chester Zoo Members and Adopters

Summer 2009

£2.50



Small calf makes
big impact see page 7

Step back in time

see inside ... **the history of Chester Zoo**

A N N I V E R S A R Y E D I T I O N



contents

S U M M E R 2 0 0 9

- 3 **Director's Pen**
- 4 **Zoo Additions**
- 8 **Minister Opens New Exhibit**
- 10 **Zoo News**
- 12 **Making a Difference**
- 14 **Staff Go Wild**
- Kidz Zoo**
- 15 **Honorary Fellows**
- 16 **Step Back in Time**
- 20 **NEWA**
- 21 **Iznee Lovely**
- 22 **Fundraising**
- 24 **Members' Talks**
- 25 **Photographic Competition**
- 26 **Night Life**



Members' News

Members' Days

Don't forget to let us know if you are coming on Members' Days;

- 3rd July 2009
- 8th November 2009

Visiting Other Zoos

Important: If you are visiting another zoo where there are reciprocal entry arrangements in place please make sure you take your **'welcome letter'** and **membership card** or you may not be granted entry.

Members 20% Discount

- Terms & Conditions

Upon listening to the views of our members, we are delighted to say the £5.00 minimum spend has now been waived. This was originally introduced to prevent some retail items being sold at a loss. As an alternative the particular items (books & DVDs) have now been removed from the discount scheme to enable the 20% discount to apply without the £5.00 minimum spend.

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director's pen

Gordon McGregor Reid Director General

Welcome to the Summer issue of **Z** and already we are half way through the year.

2009 is one of the most important years in the zoo's history. During May, we celebrated a special 75th anniversary.

In 1934, three years after the Zoo opened its doors for the first time, the North of England Zoological Society was formed to run the Zoo under a governance of a Council of elected members.

George Mottershead was a pioneering figure, credited with helping to change the face of zoos worldwide.

Realising his dream of a zoo without bars George, with the support of his family – wife Elizabeth and daughters Muriel and June – laid the foundations for what is now the most popular and successful charity zoo in the UK.

With his drive and ambition and in the face of stiff local opposition, George opened the Zoo in 1931.

The achievements of the Zoo over the past seven decades have also been recognised with the launch of a new exhibition, chronicling the history from those first few days through to present time.

The exhibition, which is close to the aquarium, was unveiled by June and her husband Fred. The couple, who both devoted a lifetime to the Zoo, still live nearby.

I hope you will take the time to find out more about our history but for those of you who don't recall the very early days, you can read more about them in the magazine and reminisce with some pictures from our archives.

We had another reason to celebrate too with the official opening of our latest exhibit, the *Butterfly Journey*. The Minister for Culture, Media and Sport, The Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP, took time out from his busy schedule to do the honours and we were delighted to show him and his family around the butterfly house and, later, around the wider zoo.

These are exciting times for the Zoo with the development of *Natural Vision* and it was heartening to have Mr Burnham's support. As much as we have recently looked to the past, now is the time to focus on the future and I hope you will share that sentiment with us.

Gordon M.G. Reid

DEDICATION OF CHESTER ZOO'S 'BUTTERFLY JOURNEY' IN FOND MEMORY OF BEATRICE JOSEPHINE JONES BSc 1943 - 2008

I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the life of Beatrice Jones, popularly known as 'Bea'. Sadly, Bea died on 18th December 2008 after suffering from motor neurone disease and will be missed by all who knew her. She was a strikingly beautiful, sunny, humorous person with a kindly nature and tremendous work ethic.

Bea Jones was elected to the NEZS Council in 1986 and, taking over from Andrew Thompson, served as elected Chairman from 1991 until 1998. She was always hugely supportive of my predecessor, Director Dr Michael Brambell, acting resolutely on his behalf on many occasions as, indeed, she did for me. Bea developed a key governing role in improving Chester Zoo for both the animals and the public and in setting the strategic direction of the NEZS charitable trust. In 1986, when Bea began her formal association with the NEZS, its total annual incoming resource was £1.5m. There were only 131 established staff and 40 seasonal staff, Zoo Membership at 1,532 was small and annual visitation was 733,000. By 1998, when Bea retired as Chairman the turnover was at £7.82m, there were 163 established staff, 71 seasonal staff, membership was 13,598 and visits stood at over 1 million. The steep upward trend that she established for the Zoo continues. The turnover in 2008 was £22.4 million, with at least 500 staff in the high season. Membership now stands at 30,000 and visits have hit an all-time record of nearly 1.4 million.

One reason for success from the early 1990's onwards was an increased investment in the infrastructure to maintain the public services and to support the recreational aspects of the Zoo. In 1991 a £1.4m 'Zoofari' monorail system was opened by HRH the Duchess of Kent, although to Bea's horror it broke down on the first outing with the Duchess inside! Another key factor in the unfolding success was renewed investment in the animal facilities. In 1992, Bea appointed me as Curator-in-Chief under Michael Brambell and we created *Asian Plains* the first, large, themed paddock exhibit for hoofstock including axis deer, nilgai and blackbuck. By 1993 we had completed *Europe on the Edge* a large, new-concept, aviary for rare and endangered European birds, involving for the first-time detailed educational interpretation concerning conservation.

On Michael's retirement in late 1995, Bea appointed me as Director. Happily, the development momentum was maintained. His Grace the Duke of Westminster opened the *Condor Cliffs* exhibit in 1996 and the same year saw Phase I of a major re-development of the old Monkey House into a naturalistic *Islands* exhibit. A nursery area was created for *Karha*, the first cow Asiatic elephant to be born in the UK, and safe-handling facilities were installed for bull elephants. Moving into local wildlife conservation, we established a new Sand Lizards exhibit as a breeding centre for reintroducing the lizards back to the wild. There was also an official opening of the new gate and shop complex by the Lord Mayor of Chester, Richard Short. In Bea's time there rapidly followed: *Monkey Islands* Phase II (1997) opened by the Duke of York for endangered species of primates and among the largest and most advanced centres anywhere; the *Rare Penguin Breeding Centre* (1998) was opened in a torrential rain storm by the Speaker of the House of Commons, Betty Boothroyd MP. *Twilight Zone* (1998/99) was the last major project completed before Bea stood down as Chairman. This is the largest themed 'bat cave' facility anywhere and the Zoo's first 'immersion' exhibit, attracting record crowds to walk among hundreds of free-flying tropical bats! Just one example among many of the increasingly high public profile enjoyed by the Zoo, was the event over which Bea presided for Sir David Attenborough in 1998 when he received the Society's Gold Medal from our President His Grace the Duke of Westminster.

Early in her reign, Bea organised a Chairman's 'Think Tank' to re-evaluate the role of the Zoo in all areas. From this came the Zoo's first vision and mission statements and a new, business-like organisational structure focusing on performing even better as a business to support our growing conservation activities at home and abroad. This encouraged a major expansion of our role in conservation outreach, leading us to the position today where we have in excess of 150 projects operating in 50 countries. Some of these are large, such as our collaborative Darwin Award project in Assam – where 44 Assamese staff who work with the UK Zoo team for elephant conservation in the wild. A Fundraising and Development Office was set-up as an outcome of a special taskforce of Council and staff set up by Bea. There was notable success in sponsorship, including eventually gaining some £2 million pounds worth of sponsorship from the Jaguar car company to build our world class *Spirit of the Jaguar* exhibit and support field conservation work in Brazil. Under the influence of chimpanzee expert Dr Jane Goodall (who was awarded the Gold Medal of the Society in 1994) we began working with chimpanzees in the wild, establishing a substantial field conservation project in Gashaka Gumti in Nigeria. At Bea's instigation, work started in 1995 on *2020 Vision*, the new Corporate Strategy to the year 2020. The final version of the Strategy (published in 1998) included plans for expanding the Zoo beyond its existing perimeter. In 1998/99 there was a significant restructuring within the Zoo divisions and departments designed to prepare the Society for significant expansion as the *SuperZoo*, now re-launched in 2008/09 as *Natural Vision*.

The Zoo received its first ever external award in 1960 and the cumulative tally grew to 13 by the end of 1986. During Bea's time there were numerous regional, national and international awards in animal management, welfare, conservation, education, science, sustainability, tourism, marketing, business excellence and many other areas of endeavour, bringing the total to eighty-nine. Again, the pattern of high achievement established by Bea continues, with the total awards gained by the Zoo to date being a remarkable two hundred and six. Bea's selfless contribution to the Society has, therefore, been visionary, productive, substantial, lasting and widely-recognised.

I believe that *Butterfly Journey* or 'Bea's Butterflies' will prove to be a fitting and lasting tribute to Bea. It was created by an industrious cross-divisional team, working with external contractors. It is all about species conservation, environmental education, sustainability, the cycle of life and its renewal.

Zoo additions

Of note are two pairs of *Lesser-sulphur crested Cockatoos*. This species is familiar to most people as a popular cage bird, unfortunately for this reason, trapping of wild caught birds in its native Indonesia had led to a massive decline of the species in the wild and it is now critically endangered. The last stronghold for this charming cockatoo is on the Island of Komodo, home of the Komodo Dragon and is an area where Chester Zoo focuses some of its conservation efforts. It is hoped that with the arrival of these birds, we can help the species in captivity and with our conservation efforts in the field we can aid its survival in the wild.

Another new arrival is a female *Red Bird of Paradise* which was bred at Brookfield Zoo in America. Once she attains breeding age, she will be an important addition to the breeding programme for this beautiful and enigmatic species.



Chester Zoo sheds some light on the name of one of its newest arrivals.

22-year-old Subis gave birth to a female orang-utan earlier this year. More than 3,000 people chose from six names, picking **Kirana**, which coincidentally is also the name of our new female Sumatran tiger. Meaning beautiful ray of light, **Kirana** took more than 800 of the votes with **Tuti** running a close second.

Kevin Buley, Head of Zoo Programmes, said: "We had lots of great ideas for the name but **Kirana** has proved so popular that we were pleased to give our visitors the opportunity to name her and we'd like to thank them for their help.

"**Kirana** is a fitting name; her arrival has been well received and put a smile on our faces.

"I am personally quite relieved that **Tuti** wasn't the chosen name as I would have had that Little Richard song Tutti Frutti going round in my head for the next 12 months!"

Orang-utans give birth every six to eight years and **Kirana** is the second orang-utan

to be born at the zoo in less than a year with orang-utan Emma giving birth to Indah first.

"Both **Subis** and **Kirana** are doing well. **Subis** is so proud of her baby that she delights in showing **Kirana** to our visitors," added Kevin.

Baby orang-utans are naturally small – tipping the scales at between 1.5 and 2 kilogrammes.

The birth brings the number of Sumatran orang-utans at Chester to eight. The Zoo also has four Bornean orang-utans.

All aboard

These Black-necked swans take to the water for the first time just days after they hatched.

From the safety of mum's back, the pair took a shy peak at their new surroundings.

Native to South America, the Black-necked Swans form a bond for life and mum was certainly happy to take her new charges under her wing.



A new arrival is simply the best

with a rock 'n' roll name to match



Chimpanzee picture courtesy of Clare Caws

Little chimpanzee Tina has been welcomed with 'open arms' - and has been named after musical icon Tina Turner.

Tina is the latest in a long line of zoo chimps named after singers and indeed her proud mum is Zee Zee, named after ZZ Top.

The names are the inspiration of primate keeper Niall Ormerod who runs the gauntlet of the charts to find inspiration for new arrivals to the 30-strong group of chimpanzees.

Niall, who had secretly hoped Tina would turn out to be a boy so he could name it after Pink Floyd, said: "Tina is the Queen of old rock and after her recent comeback concerts I thought it time to give her name a whirl. I hope Tina won't mind as she's a particular favourite of mine."

Other chimpanzees in the group who are named after chart toppers include Dido, Whitney (Houston), Dylan (Bob), Alice (Cooper), Eric (Clapton), Frankie (Goes to Hollywood), Donna (Summer), Carlos (Santana), Chrissie (Hynde) and Jethro (Tull).

The exception is Layla, who is named after a Derek and the Dominos song as opposed to a group on the grounds that it is one of Niall's favourite songs.

Little Tina meanwhile, is not so much of a private dancer as she can be seen out and about with her mum in the zoo's chimpanzee enclosure. Chester Zoo has one of the largest chimpanzee groups in Europe.

Zoo additions

Chester Zoo's latest arrival is **real hot stuff**

Weighing just 85g the baby chick is the first **Humboldt Penguin** (*Spheniscus humoldti*) to arrive this year.

Arriving after a 40 day incubation period, the little chick will remain in the nest for the next eight weeks. The baby is already doing well so the only real poser for the keepers was what to call their new charge – and the other penguin chicks that hatched after him.

Chester Zoo's penguins are named after a chosen theme. Last year's clutch got their monikers from the keepers' favourite chocolate bars. But this year, staff have gone one step further, naming the penguins after their much-loved hot and spicy dishes.

First up was **Aloo**. Just days after his arrival however, **Aloo** was joined by some more new friends. They include **Chapatti**, **Bhaji**, **Keema**, **Bhuna**, **Tikka**, **Rogan**, **Josh**, and **Masala**.

Andy Woolham, team leader for Parrots and Penguins, said:

“The keepers are quite fond of Indian cuisine so it seemed an ideal choice for this year's clutch and frankly we've got a whole menu of names to choose from.

We are a little amused at the fact that this year we may end up with chicks with the names Masala with Pilau. If you go back a generation you will probably also find their Nan!”

Aloo is being looked after by proud parents **Rud** and **Spike** and is the younger sibling to **Galaxy**, one of last year's chicks.

Even though little **Aloo** cannot be viewed by visitors to the Zoo just yet, **Galaxy** is currently in the Penguin enclosure and can be seen swimming under water with the other penguins at feeding time.

Humboldt Penguins live along the coast of Peru and Chile in the wild and are an endangered species, so this latest arrival to the 47 strong penguin colony is an important development in the conservation of the species.

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

Penguins Aloo, right, and Bhaji, left, make their debut.



Small calf makes big impact

This little rhino calf may be grey and small but it has made a big impact at Chester Zoo.

The Eastern Black Rhinoceros calf is the second to be born at the 110-acre zoo in eight months.

Like **Asani**, the black rhino calf which arrived in October, the calf will eventually make big strides in helping to boost the dwindling population of Black rhinos in the wild.

Born to six year old mum **Ema** at 2.45am on Friday May 15 following a 15 month pregnancy, the calf is female and will be given an African name. The calf's father is 10-year-old **Magadi**.

Tim Rowlands, Assistant Curator of Mammals, said:

“**Asani** was the first black rhino calf born at the zoo in 10 years so to welcome yet another in such a short space of time is a cause for celebration.

“Sadly, Eastern Black rhinos are teetering on the edge of extinction with just 700 animals left in the wild. Co-ordinated breeding programmes like ours can have huge benefits for the species as a whole. As much as the arrival of the new calf is a cause of great joy for us, it also offers some extra hope for the species in general.”

Mum **Ema** and her new calf are bonding well under the watchful eyes of the zoo's keeping and veterinary staff.

Government minister opens zoo's new exhibit

The Right Hon Andy Burnham MP, the Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport, officially opened Chester Zoo's new exhibit, the *Butterfly Journey*.

THE key role that zoos play in providing educational opportunities for children were outlined to the leading Government minister.

The largest zoo-based butterfly house in the UK, *Butterfly Journey* is home to 500 colourful butterflies, more than 30 different species, and provides an educational experience in its own right.

Mark Pilgrim, Director of Conservation and Education at Chester Zoo, said learning outside of the classroom was a really important issue for the Zoo and for the Government and shared the Zoo's experiences with Mr Burnham. The Zoo taught some 28,000 youngsters last year alone.

Mark said: **"Zoos are a living, breathing classroom. The sheer wonder for a child seeing an elephant – or in this case an exotic butterfly – for the first time when previously they may have only seen one on the television is a personal experience that is hard to beat.**

"The old days of zoos solely as sources of entertainment are long gone. Today good zoos offer a window to the world and are a fantastic educational resource that enables us to teach and inspire today's youngsters about the world they live in, the species that inhabit it and the role that they can play in conserving nature for future generations."

The *Butterfly Journey* exhibit has been designed and themed with young children in mind. The interpretation is based on a children's book especially written for the zoo by author Stuart Trotter called *What Am I? asked Butterfly*. The exhibit also includes a stream, footbridge, butterfly-friendly planting and an emerging case where visitors will be able to watch the butterflies hatch from their pupae.

Mark added: **"We were delighted that Mr Burnham agreed to open our latest exhibit and we hope to be able to discuss with him ways of developing the role zoos can play in education at all levels."**

Mr Burnham, who has been the MP for Leigh in Greater Manchester since 2001, took time out to meet some of the Zoo staff members who helped to complete the butterfly house.

As well as the butterflies, exotic and native plants respectively have been used inside and outside of the

new house including the unusual Cannonball tree and more well-known species such as lavender, hebes, sedum and daisies. Artificial plants with nectar tubes, which allow the butterflies to feed, can also be seen dotted throughout the exhibit.

Chester Zoo has received external funding towards *Butterfly Journey* from a number of sources. Biffaward, who distribute funding via the Landfill Communities Fund, is the main donor contributing towards the public pathways and some of the tropical plants in the exhibit. Grosvenor Garden Centre has also contributed some of the native plants that will attract the butterflies.



Physically demanding, yet visually breathtaking

My journey to the home of the
Critically Endangered Costa Rican, Green-Eyed Frog

by Douglas Sherriff



In early September 2008, I was fortunate enough to visit the only known breeding site for the Critically Endangered Costa Rican, green-eyed frog, *Lithobates vibicarius*, on a remote mountain ridge near the Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve. Thought to have become extinct throughout its range by 1995, a single individual was seen in 2003 and the breeding pond discovered in 2004. Historically, this beautiful but poorly-known species favoured suitable habitat along the mountainous spine of Costa Rica. However, it is thought that the combination of local climate change and the devastating chytrid fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* is largely responsible for the decline of this and a further 23 species within the Monteverde region. Chester Zoo has the only conservation-breeding population of this frog and maintains them in one of its dedicated bio-secure units, known as Amphibian PODs.

The route to the breeding site is an arduous 11 hour hike (if attempted in one day) from the Monteverde visitor centre, which takes you along a series of high, steep-sided ridges. The remoteness of the location, within the Children's Eternal Rainforest Preserve, and the discomfort of the habitat, restricts any visit to a maximum of just two or three nights. At the pond itself the ground is soft and boggy, this is cloud forest after all, and even when it is not shrouded in cloud or in the middle of a torrential thunderstorm, water constantly drips onto you from the moss laden trees above. The undergrowth is thick, lush and constantly wet so everything you wear or carry with you gets wet and stays damp. Physically the environment is demanding, however visually it is breathtaking; not only for the pristine forest habitat but also for

some of the views you get from the vantage point at 1600m elevation. On the way back, if you travel at night as we did, there are some points on the ridge where you get stunning views of the glow from the nearby active volcano, Arenal.

For now we know very little about this rare and secretive frog, however Chester Zoo has been providing funds to facilitate monitoring of the breeding site by a local guide and the park guards. Quarterly treks to the pond confirm the continued presence of the frogs and give us snap-shot insights into their ecology and behaviour. Furthermore, swabbing of several frogs' skins has revealed the presence of the chytrid fungus at the site, though apparently without significant mortality.

To aid us in our breeding trials back in Chester we have been placing temperature and humidity data loggers in locations around the pond. These are collected and replaced at each trip and when downloaded back in Chester provide us with very accurate and much-needed seasonal micro-climate data which we can replicate in our climate-controlled APOD.

In coming years we hope to significantly increase the intensity of field work on this species and the other frogs of the immediate area – some of which may be equally threatened. Utilising new, state-of-the-art tiny microchips to identify frogs we hope to assess the size and age structure of the green-eyed frog population and with the assistance of university colleagues, investigate the genetic diversity of the remaining frogs. This data will help us assess the vulnerability of the remaining frogs and plan a longer-term conservation strategy.



Chester Zoo receives another prestigious Darwin Initiative Grant!



Chester Zoo has received a new Darwin Initiative Grant, this time for an elephant conservation project in Sumatra. The project, "**Securing Human-Elephant Coexistence in Sumatra**" follows on from the success of the Assam Haathi Project, which was also awarded a three year Darwin Initiative Grant in 2007.

This project is a collaboration between Chester Zoo and the Wildlife Conservation Society's Indonesia Program. The aim of the project is to identify key elephant populations in Sumatra through recognized survey methods. We then aim to protect these populations from poaching, habitat loss/degradation and human-elephant conflict, while also improving local farmers' livelihoods. As with the Assam Haathi Project there will be a strong focus on local capacity building, with Indonesian nationals learning the most up-to-date scientific survey methodologies to assist the Indonesian Government in meeting its commitments to the global Convention on Biological Diversity.

There will be extensive skills transfer between Assam and Sumatra with exchange visits between the two Darwin

projects. WCS Indonesia has been involved in elephant conservation work on Sumatra since 1999 and this project will draw on their local expertise and skills in population survey and monitoring techniques. The Assam Haathi Project will share knowledge of crop protection methods used for reducing the impact of human-elephant conflict. The production of a handbook similar to the one recently released by the Assam Haathi Project is also planned.

This second Darwin Initiative grant is a further great step in Chester Zoo's flourishing development as a major force in biodiversity conservation worldwide; leading professional scientific research and applying hands-on expertise in elephant conservation and human-wildlife conflict mitigation.



Making a difference

© NASA

Black Rhino Programme

With only around 577 eastern black rhino remaining in Kenya, the Chyulu Hills population of around 13 individuals is vital to black rhino conservation. This native population is one of the few unfenced populations left in Kenya and is important to maintain the genetic diversity in the species. Chester Zoo have supported the 'Black Rhino Anti-Poaching & Monitoring Programme' in Chyulu Hills for several years. This project provides security for the rhinos and their habitat by employing rangers to track and monitor rhinos and prevent illegal poaching activities.

FAST FACT

Although critically endangered, the black rhino is not the most threatened of the five rhino species – the Javan rhino has fewer than 50 individuals remaining in the wild, and the Sumatran rhino only around 200.



Realm of the Red Ape Programme

The Kinabatangan Orang-utan Conservation Project (KOCP) in Borneo is the major focus of support for Chester Zoo's *Realm of the Red Ape Programme*. Funded through the *Keeper for a Day* scheme, the vital work carried out by the project is helping to save these endangered primates. Activities include orang-utan ecology and conservation research, habitat restoration, support of operating costs, education and home stay ecotourism.

Wildlife wardens play an important part in conservation projects, particularly where illegal activities are taking place which threaten the wildlife. The KOCP Honorary Wildlife Wardens are involved in activities such as patrolling, wildlife monitoring, conflict mitigation and community awareness activities. In addition to the core funding for KOCP, Chester Zoo awarded a grant for the wardens to continue their essential work.

FAST FACT You can tell a Bornean orang-utan from a Sumatran orang-utan by their larger size and much darker, reddish-brown, coloured coat.



China Programme

Home to red and giant pandas and many species of bird found only in these areas, the broadleaf forests of Sichuan are recognised areas of high biodiversity. Chester Zoo has provided ongoing support for the Sichuan Forest Biodiversity Project for many years which, through close collaboration with the Forest department, is succeeding in gazetting new protected areas in the Province. Since the project began, three new nature reserves have been established. Research is being carried out on the key species found in the area and the project hopes to encourage local people to help preserve the forest by using and collecting its resources, such as firewood, in a more sustainable way.

After seven years of searching, researchers in China rediscovered the critically endangered blue-crowned laughing thrush in Wuyuan in 2000. Since 2005, four European partners including Chester Zoo have provided financial aid annually to the Forestry Bureau of Wuyuan County to support field research and conservation management of this species in Wuyuan.

FAST FACT

Just over two hundred Blue-crowned laughing thrush are known to remain in the wild – all in Wuyuan, eastern China. The presence of a second population of blue-crowned laughing thrush in SW China is still unconfirmed and searches are ongoing...



Studentships

Every year, Chester Zoo runs the Zoological/Veterinary Studentships scheme to provide financial support to University students undertaking research projects as part of their degree. This year, we have chosen to support the following students with their projects:

Kate Moise, Oxford Brookes University:

Play behaviour and social interactions of infant, juvenile and sub-adult wild white-bearded gibbons (*Hylobates albibarbis*), in the Sebangau National Park, in the Natural Laboratory Research Area (LAHG).

Leah Williams, University of Leeds:

The impacts of twice-logged forest on forest bird diversity and community composition in Danum Valley, Borneo.

Danica Stark, Oxford Brookes University:

Proboscis monkey (*Nasalis larvatus*) population viability analysis: Reassessment and management for wild populations threatened by habitat loss in Borneo.

Jessica Trotter, Manchester Metropolitan University:

What factors of captive management are increasing adrenal activity in female Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) to a level where reproductive output is affected?

Ellie Milnes, Cambridge University:

Capture-associated morbidity and mortality in black and white rhinoceroses (*Ceratotherium simum* and *Diceros bicornis*) in southern Africa.

Diana Marsilio, Oxford Brookes University:

The Impact of Browse and Fruit Consumption on Regurgitation and Reingestion in Captive Western Lowland Gorillas.

Tess Walker, Cambridge University:

Genetic diversity in captive chimpanzees: the influence of subspecies identity on behaviour and reproduction.

Gina Harrison, Cambridge University:

Measurement of blood parameters packed cell volume, plasma proteins, differential white blood cell count and blood calcium as indicators of the health and immunological status of the endangered Mauritius echo parakeet (*Psittacula equees*).

Grant Support

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

- Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative: Expanding from the Atlantic Forest to the Pantanal.
- Identification of key habitats for arthropod diversity and conservation in a West African Guinean Forest.
- Status survey, reproduction biology, population ecology, and diseases in *Rhinoderma darwini* – Chile.
- Facilitating management of an African savannah landscape: aerial surveys of wildlife and livestock across the Greater Ewaso landscape.
- Frog Nutrition Research Studentship–Amphibian PhD.
- Production of communication materials and Web Page for the Freshwater Fish Specialist Group.
- Alternative-materials headdress creation as a tool for the conservation of the Blue-throated Macaw (*Ara glaucogularis*), Bolivia.
- Is Ruspoli's Turaco (*Tauraco ruspolii*) threatened by hybridization with White-cheeked Turaco (*Tauraco leucotis*) Ethiopia.
- Promoting Conservation and Education at all levels in South Asia – ZOO and WILD.

News on

Conservation from around the World

Following the recent Sumatran and Bornean orang-utan births at the Zoo, we take a closer look at how wild orang-utans are fairing at the start of the year?



Bad

Trading in wild animals isn't something you normally come across every day. But in Sumatra, the numbers of orang-utans being traded in the illegal pet trade has shown no sign of slowing down. A report by TRAFFIC, the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network, has found that the critically endangered Sumatran orang-utan is at more risk than ever from the pet trade, due to a lack of prosecution against the traders. The Sumatran orang-utan population is now estimated to be around 7,000 individuals.

Good

Scientists have recently discovered a previously unknown population of endangered orang-utans in an isolated location of Borneo. Over 200 orang-utan nests were found, and scientists believe there may be several hundred individuals in this population. This discovery is excellent news for the dwindling Bornean orang-utan population, which is currently estimated at below 50,000 individuals.



Nigeria Programme

One of Chester Zoo's major conservation programmes, the Nigerian Programme focuses on Gashaka Gumti National Park (GGNP). Home to a variety of species, including the Nigerian chimpanzee, giant hog and African wild dog, GGNP is now one of the primary conservation areas in West Africa. Since 1999, Chester Zoo has been involved with the Gashaka Primate Project, and this year we have provided core funding again to the project to ensure it can continue to protect the diversity of the park. This core support allows continuing capacity building, research and conservation efforts.

FAST FACT

The Nigerian chimpanzee is the most threatened of the four chimpanzee subspecies, and GGNP is home to probably the last remaining viable population.

Orang-utan pictures courtesy of © KOCP Chimpanzee picture courtesy of © Yvonne Pohlner.

Staff go Wild!

India

The Assam Haathi project is one of Chester Zoo's flagship conservation programmes, working with rural communities in Assam to prevent human-elephant conflict. Our Elephant Research Assistant, **Tammy Davies**, travelled to Assam in February to visit the project site and develop new research activities.

Did you know that Chester Zoo has its own nutritionist? The job of a nutritionist is to provide a nutrition advisory service for all the animal species within the zoo including diet review and formulation and feed quality assessment.

Andrea Fidgett, Chester Zoo's Nutritionist, also travelled to Assam to start a nutritional study to assess if there is any nutritional reason why elephants leave the forest to raid agricultural crops. This project will be conducted by an Assamese student as part of his Masters degree.



Kenya and Tanzania

Chester Zoo's Black Rhino Programme has grown over the years, and now supports several projects throughout East Africa. **Roger Wilkinson**, Head of Field Programmes and Research, travelled to Kenya and Tanzania in February to visit three of the projects which we support in collaboration with Save the Rhino International. We have funded the Chyulu Hills and Laikipia projects for several years, and Roger was able to meet with partners in the field to discuss the future developments of these projects. Roger also visited the Selous Rhino Trust project for the first time which we began to support in 2008, to meet the staff and discuss their activities.

Costa Rica

Jaguars held in zoos worldwide are managed via breeding programmes to maintain genetic diversity within the ex-situ population. **Mark Pilgrim**, Chester Zoo's Conservation and Education Director, is the Jaguar European Studbook co-ordinator. Mark travelled to Costa Rica to participate in a Jaguar workshop. Mark gave a presentation on zoo jaguar populations as a component of jaguar conservation.

Summer 2009

Animal Fun!

Kidz Zoo!

Can you help
the Prairie
Marmot
to reach
the
food?



see inside...

2009

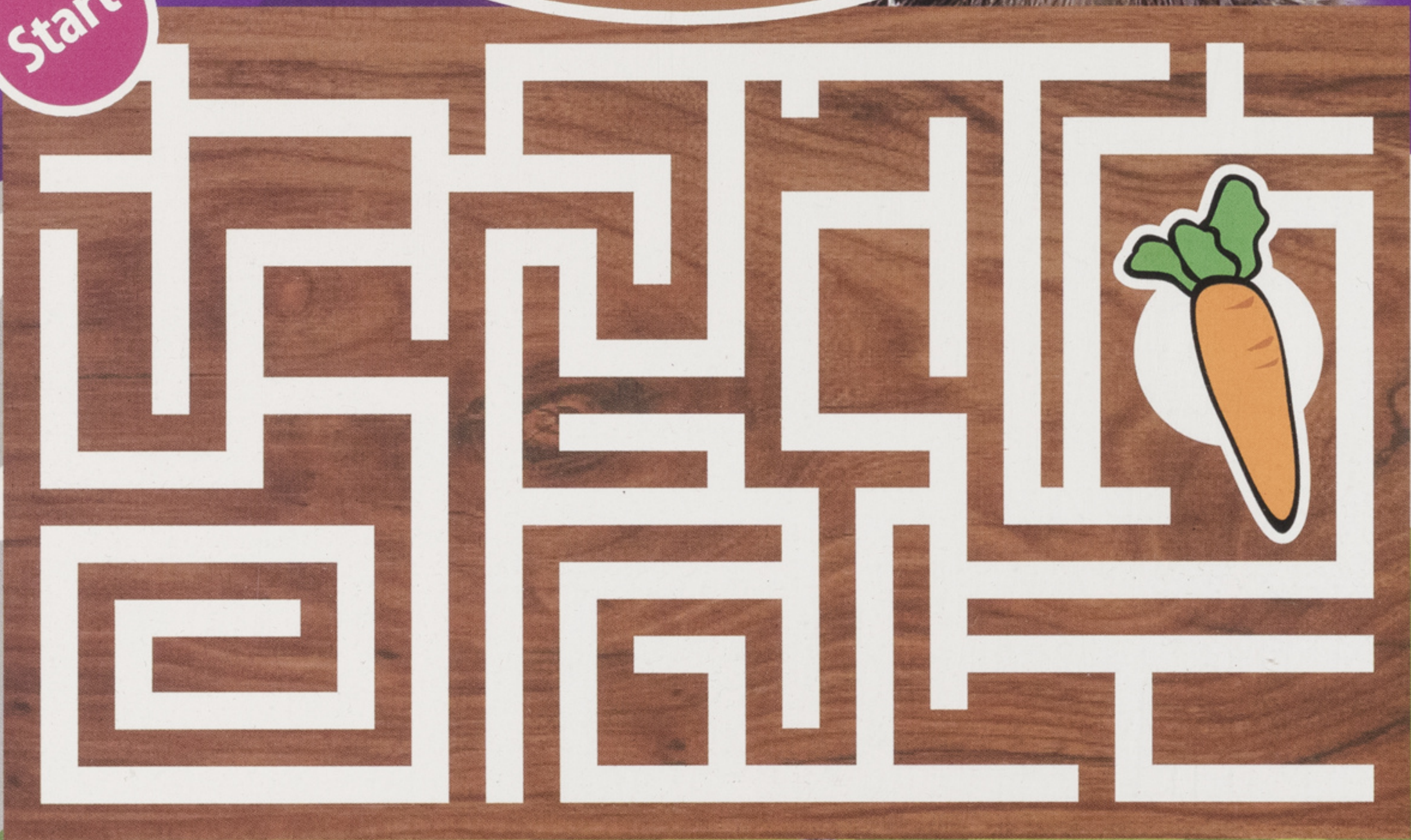
**Kids Programme
of Events**

Junior Members



Can you help this
Prairie Marmot through the
tunnel to reach the food?

Start





kidz ZOO!

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2009

THE GREENWOOD CENTRE

SUNDAY 21 JUNE 2009

(please note date change)

Back by popular demand! This is one of the Juniors favourite summer haunts and every so often we give-in and visit again! This park, situated in the foothills of Snowdonia, is an amazing mix of environmental park and exciting things to do there – including den-building, and various self-propelled 'rides'. Definitely not-to-be-missed.

Eights and over should be ready to leave the staff car park at 9.30am and we will return for 5.00pm. Bring a picnic.

HOW TO BE A GOOD ZOOKEEPER!

WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2009

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 or over. We try to match Juniors to their favourite section, but places are limited so this cannot be guaranteed. Please arrive prepared to work hard, with clean wellies and an additional completely clean set of clothes to work in.

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

We will meet outside the Oakfield at 10.30am, and the day will finish for Juniors at 4.00pm. Please bring a packed lunch.

Also please note that bookings for this event will not be taken before 9.00am on Wednesday 8 July 2009 and will be strictly on a first-come, first-served basis.

SUMMER BARBEQUE

THURSDAY 6 AUGUST 2009

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

We would like to invite eights and over to join us for a 7.00pm start, when you should arrive at the Ark Restaurant (near the Tigers) via the Zoo's Staff Entrance on Caughall Road. Parents are asked to collect Juniors from the Ark restaurant at 9.45pm please.

THE FORMBY RED SQUIRRELS

SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2009

The National Trust reserve at Freshfield, Formby is one of the best places in Great Britain to see and to get really close to Red Squirrels. The reserve offers visitors an opportunity to explore the beach, sand dunes and coastal pine woodlands as well. The squirrels will frequently approach within a few feet of visitors. However, there have been a series of devastating disease outbreaks amongst the squirrel populations both here and elsewhere in the UK so numbers are rapidly decreasing. Take this chance to see them while you still can.

Eights and over are invited to attend and we will leave the Staff car Park at 9.30am and return at 4.30pm. Bring a picnic.

THE RED DEER RUT AT TATTON PARK

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER 2009

Once again, it is several years since we visited Tatton Park near Knutsford at the time of the Red Deer 'rut'. This is a fascinating time to watch the behaviour

of these animals and we hope to have a Ranger with us to explain what is going on. We will also visit the Home Farm at Tatton to see what is happening there.

We will leave the Zoo's Staff Car Park at 10.30am and return for 4.30pm. Juniors of eight and over should bring a picnic with them.

LIVERPOOL MUSEUM

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2009

Liverpool Museum is now called the World Museum and we will look forward to noting the changes made in the major refurbishment which has been undertaken over the past few years there. There will be so much to see and do that we will have an action-packed day.

The bus will leave the Staff Entrance at 10.30am and return at 4.00pm. Eights and over are welcome to come. Bring a picnic.

THE JUNIORS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER 2009

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

The venue will be the Zoo's Ark Cafe and access can be gained through the Cedar House Staff Entrance on Caughall Road, which is the second staff entrance on the left going from the Upton lights. You should arrive at 7.00pm, with a cushion and a torch and parents should arrange to collect you from the Ark Cafe at 9.45pm.

Please Note: Bookings must be made for all of the regular monthly Junior events. Please ring Penny Rudd at the Zoo on 01244 650215, not more than two weeks before the event you would like to attend. Places are offered on a first-come, first-served basis and may be limited. This list is provisional and in exceptional circumstances we may have to alter dates and venues. You will be informed of any such changes in Z Magazine and not by individual letter, so please keep up-to-date by reading the Junior Pages in each issue. A charge will be made to cover the cost of those events which involve transport, entry fees, materials or the provision of food, and you will be advised of this at the time of booking.

Junior Members



JUNIOR MEMBERS' SUMMER SCHOOL/WORKSHOP AUGUST 2009

MONDAY 10 to FRIDAY 14 AUGUST 2009, inclusive
9.00am to 5.00pm daily
(Drop off at 8.30am and collection at 5.30pm
can be arranged)

The aim is to enhance the 'service' offered to Junior Members and fulfil the needs of the 'older' Juniors (12 – 17) at a time when they tend to have been joining in with events for a few years, have a real interest in Zoos, but the regular monthly events cannot provide the more detailed zoo and animal knowledge that youngsters need to make informed decisions about careers, school GCSE subject choices and such like. Above all, it should be great fun and a rare opportunity to become much better acquainted with the real work involved in zoos – you will be surprised what you find out! We will provide 'full days' so that this is accessible to as many children as possible, including those with working parents, ie. 8.30 – 5.30pm. Juniors will be required to join-in for the full week, rather than dipping in and out on different days. A maximum of 30 places have been offered, on a first come, first served basis. Minimum age to attend is 12 years but priority will be given to those of 13+ and those who have not attended before.

The Summer School is not designed to fulfil school syllabus criteria but is entirely tailor-made for Juniors who want to know more about the purpose of zoos, our conservation objectives, animal welfare, nutrition, veterinary work, enrichment, plant displays etc. We will use the Education Classrooms as our base, but will spend much of our time out and about in the Zoo and the Zoo's wider estate.

A charge will be made to cover the cost of all provisions and materials used. The full cost will be £150 for the week, and while we will provide drinks and snacks during the day, the Juniors should bring their own picnic lunch.

Penny Rudd
Junior Members' Club Leader

**Early booking
essential for the
Summer
School!**

PROGRAMME

INDOOR EVENTS TO TAKE PLACE IN COLUMBUS CLASSROOM

MONDAY 10 August 2009

AM: Introduction – to explain the Programme of Events, behavioural expectations, housekeeping etc. Powerpoint and Discussion Session – Why Zoos? Zoo Library visit. Zoo Tour, Behind the Scenes, and Picnic Lunch

PM: Botany in Zoos – Indoor Greenhouse session 2.00pm – 4.00pm.

Starting the Summer School 'Craft Project' – to be continued through the week

TUESDAY 11 August 2009

AM: Animal Records – The Dating Game and Personal Passports. 11.00am – 1.00pm Zoo Nutrition (The Balloon Game).

PM: Zoo Tours (Aquarium, Parrots, Giraffes). Zoo Enclosure Design. 4.00pm – 5.00pm 'Outreach Conservation' Projects overseas.

WEDNESDAY 12 August 2009 (Day Out)

Full Day Away – Visiting Meadow Bank Farm, Broxton, Cheshire, to discuss organic farming practises and see how this works to benefit local wildlife. Our particular 'mission' will be to walk the farm boundaries looking for signs of the benefits gained on this beautiful farm which specialises in rearing Hereford cattle. This visit is subject to animal health restrictions in the area at the time.

THURSDAY 13 August 2009

(Native Species Day)

AM: Live Mammal Trapping
Harvest Mouse Project – Brief Powerpoint.
Visit to Sand Lizards

PM: Powerpoint presentation on Native Species Black Poplars, Pearl Mussels, Water Voles, Sand Lizards etc.
Making Bird Boxes, Bat Boxes, Dormouse Boxes, Barn Owl Boxes.

FRIDAY 14 August 2009

AM: Environmental Enrichment – Why? (Research Team)
Animal Behaviour and Observations.

PM: Where being a Zoo Junior Member can help your Career?
Careers in Zoos.

Tour of Veterinary Hospital.
Being a Zoo Vet or Veterinary Nurse, Endocrinology in Zoos.
Close – Workshop Scrapbooks, craft project display, photos, etc.

HONORARY fellows

The scientific and conservation achievements of a group of people across the globe who have been working in close partnership with Chester Zoo have now been formally recognised.



Made Honorary Fellows of the North of England Zoological Society, the charitable trust that runs Chester Zoo, the fellowships recognise outstanding scientific contributions to conservation, animal welfare and education-related research in collaboration with NEZS.

Two people – Prof. **Filippo Aureli** of Liverpool John Moores University and Prof. **Colleen Schaffner** of the University of Chester – have been made Honorary Scientific Fellows.

Dr **Simon Dowell** also of Liverpool JMU, **William Oliver** of the Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc., Dr **Marc Ancrenaz** of the Kinabatangan Orang-utan Conservation Project, Malaysia and Prof. **Volker Sommer** of the Gashaka Primate Project/University College London have all been made Honorary Conservation Fellows. The titles will be held for three years.

Roger Wilkinson, Chester Zoo's Head of Field Programmes and Research, said: "These fellowships recognise outstanding research, scientific and conservation work by six dedicated individuals who have helped us in our mission to conserve biodiversity worldwide."

"We are involved in supporting and funding conservation projects across the globe and this would not be made possible without the support of so many people."

"There is extraordinary work being done in the name of conservation and the geographic spread of our fellows – from Liverpool to the Philippines – is testimony to that fact."

Simon Dowell said he was delighted with his award. His association with the Zoo began in 2002 when interest in his research on endangered birds in Sichuan led to the establishment of the Sichuan Forest Biodiversity Project – a key element of Chester Zoo's Outreach Programme for China.

The project has supported the development of three exciting new nature reserves which protect, amongst other things, both Giant and Red pandas, Black bears, rare pheasants, endemic frogs and many beautiful plants including the rare Dove Tree.

Simon added: "We are now working with the local Yi people in the area to encourage more sustainable forest management practices that will also improve their living standards. None of this would have been possible without the active support of Chester Zoo. I look forward to further strengthening my relationship with the Zoo and communicating the success of the Sichuan project to members, visitors and supporters."

Volker Sommer founded the Gashaka Primate Project 10 years ago and it has now grown into one of the largest research and conservation initiatives in West Africa with its flagship species being the Nigerian chimpanzee.

Funding from the Zoo provides planning security for field stations in the vast Gashaka Gumti National Park as well as for a bursary program for African students and infrastructural support for the reserve, including the recently completed demarcation of its national border.

Volker said: "The title honour is not only delightful for me on a personal level, but also gives me strength to continue with my quest to secure a future for the precious wildlife and unique lifestyles of local people in one of the last remaining wildernesses of Western Africa."

China

The broadleaf forests of Sichuan are important areas of biodiversity. Working closely with the Sichuan Forestry Department, the work of Chester Zoo and **Simon Dowell** is helping to establish a network of protected areas in the region. This involves a variety of project components from conducting research surveys to employing local wardens to protecting sites from illegal activities. Community involvement is also core to this programme's success with a strong focus on education, awareness and sustainable development initiatives.

Philippines

The Philippines is internationally recognised as one of the hottest biodiversity hotspots. Many of the species found in the Philippines in small numbers, are under severe threat and are endemic, meaning they are found nowhere else. **William Oliver**, with Chester Zoo's support, has been fighting to save Philippine species from extinction for many years. The Philippine Programme has evolved to become incredibly diverse, containing many project components which focus on activities such as breeding centres, wardens, education and awareness, training and various research activities.

Realm of the Red Ape

The *Realm of the Red Ape* programme is focussed in the Kinabatangan floodplain region, a key area for large numbers of orang-utans and many other species. The region faces many threats, probably the worst of which is large scale habitat destruction due to commercial palm oil plantations.

Marc Ancrenaz leads the activities of the NGO Hutan who are involved in many different projects to try and preserve the biodiversity of Kinabatangan. The research activities of Hutan have been key in understanding the distribution and behaviours of species in the region, and have informed several national and regional conservation strategies activities. Hutan also support various warden activities, education & awareness schemes and has developed a very successful eco tourism project which is sustaining local communities and conservation work alike.

Nigeria

The focus of Chester Zoo's Nigeria Biodiversity Programme support is Gashaka Gumti National Park. This reserve contains one of Nigeria's few remaining substantial forested areas and is home to numerous species no longer found elsewhere in the nation. Conservation activities supported by Chester Zoo are coordinated through the Gashaka Primate Project. Its director, **Volker Sommer**, has been instrumental in developing research facilities, which annually benefit dozens of students from Africa and around

the world. This has led to increased local employment and ecotourism opportunities. The project's scope has greatly expanded over time by having a significant positive impact on the protection of this important area and improving the livelihoods of surrounding communities.

Prof. Filippo Aureli

Italian born, **Filippo Aureli** received his PhD in Biological Sciences from the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands and held a post-doctoral research position at Emory University, Atlanta, USA before moving to UK in 1999. He is currently a Professor of Animal Behaviour and co-director of the Research Centre in Evolutionary Anthropology and Palaeoecology at Liverpool John Moores University. His research interests range from conflict management to fission-fusion dynamics. He has published over 100 publications and edited the book *Natural Conflict Resolution*. He started to collaborate with the North of England Zoological Society in 2000 as a Research Associate and has published several articles on the Chester Zoo animals, such as chimpanzees, spider monkeys and coatis. He has also been served as a member of the scientific committee of the North of England Zoological Society since 2005. With the support of the North of England Zoological Society, he has successfully conducted field work on spider monkeys in Mexico and Costa Rica. Over the years they have become the longest continuous projects on this little known species.

Prof. Colleen Schaffner

Colleen Schaffner received her Master's degree in animal behaviour from Bucknell University in Pennsylvania USA, before travelling to Omaha Nebraska to work on her PhD. For both degrees she studied how tamarins and marmosets regulate their social relationships. Colleen relocated to the UK in 1999 where she has been watching the behaviour of Chester Zoo's spider monkeys and miniature monkeys ever since. Colleen is currently a Professor of Behavioural Biology and Director of the Graduate School at the University of Chester. Colleen has more than 30 publications on topics that range from aspects of monkey welfare to how monkeys cope with conflict. Colleen has been a Research Associate with Chester Zoo since 2000. Colleen also collaborates with Filippo Aureli, her husband, and together they manage a project, supported by Chester Zoo, that investigates all things spider monkey in the wild and in zoo settings.

Pictured above, from left to right: **Filippo Aureli**, **Colleen Schaffner**, **William Oliver**, **Marc Ancrenaz**, **Volker Sommer** and **Simon Dowell**.

Step back in time

The history of Chester Zoo



George Mottershead and brothers and sister outside their house in Sale.



George Mottershead in uniform with invalid armband on overcoat



The Oakfield Zoo at Shavington

The family that founded the Zoo

George Saul Mottershead, the visionary founder of Chester Zoo was born in Sale, Cheshire in 1894.

His father, Albert a well known horticulturalist and orchid grower, often took George, his three brothers Albert, Stanley and Charlie and sister Norah to the (now closed) Belle Vue Zoo in Manchester. Although they always enjoyed these visits, George didn't like the way many of the animals were exhibited behind bars and vowed that, when he grew up, he would create a "zoo without bars".

As a keen athlete and gymnast much of his spare time was taken up with physical training and his high level of fitness was later to change his life.

The First World War

1914 brought the First World War. 20 year old George enlisted in the South Lancashire Regiment and was soon on his way to fight in France. On home leave during 1916 George married Elizabeth Atkinson, a girl from Westmoreland that he had been courting. Not long after his return to the

war, Elizabeth received the devastating news that George had been seriously wounded in the Battle of the Somme and had been told by doctors that he would be paralysed for life. The following year brought happiness with the birth of George's first daughter Muriel, but grief on learning that his brothers Stanley and Albert had died in battle.

For someone so used to hard physical exercise, the experience of being paralysed was almost unbearable. Every day, drawing on all his strength and his knowledge of physical training, he worked on teaching his muscles to obey his brain. Within three years he could walk unaided, to the astonishment of his doctors.

Shavington

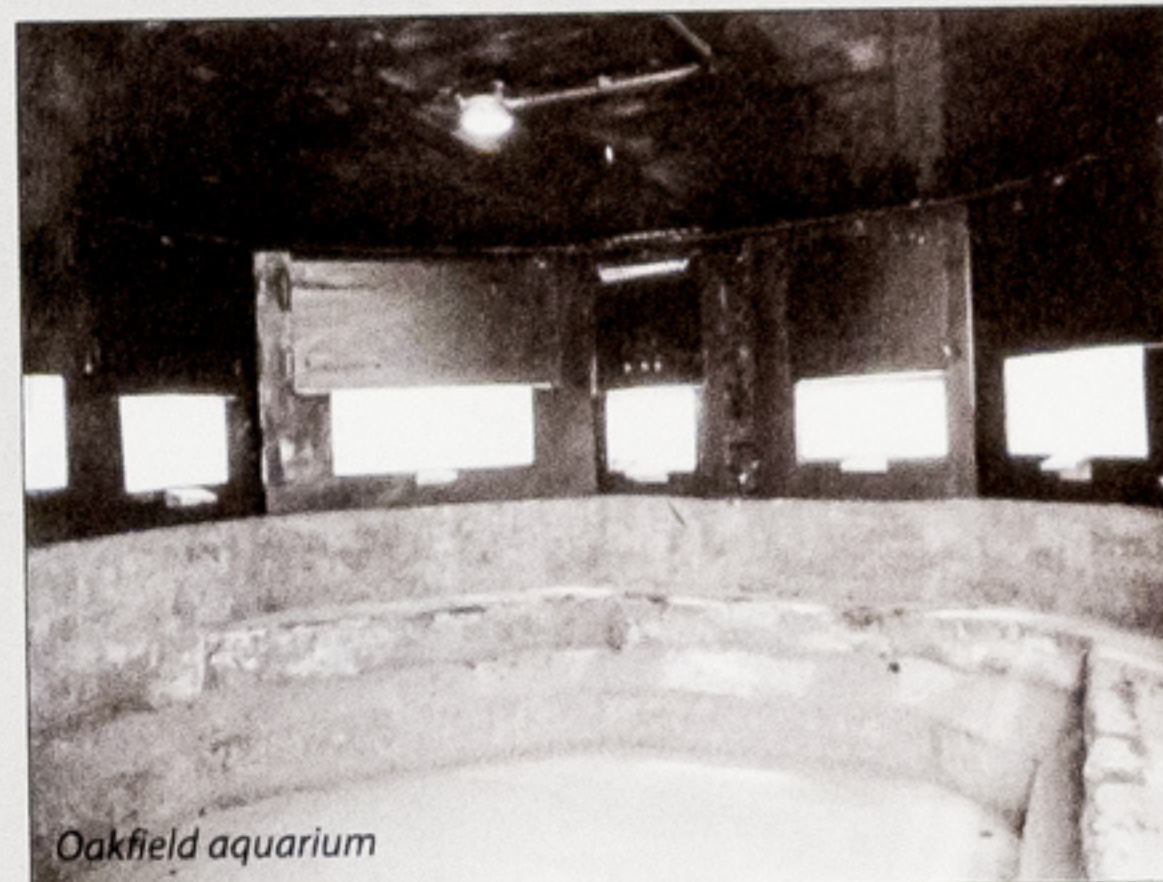
In 1919, on the advice of his doctor, George, Elizabeth and baby daughter Muriel moved to Shavington near Crewe. Here they started a market garden and bought a shop which, as well as having produce from the market garden, sold pet birds. It was an instant success and allowed him to indulge his hobby of collecting rare birds. This was the beginning of the Oakfield Zoo in Shavington.



Granny Mottershead at pay booth



Muriel in her WREN uniform



Oakfield aquarium

He soon added a chimp and some rare monkeys and the Mottersheads found themselves swamped at the weekends by crowds of people who were happy to pay to view his animals.

A local doctor, Willy English, who had a common interest in animals, went into partnership with George. However, all was not well with the relationship between Dr. English and George and at the end of 1930 the two parted company. George realized that his collection had outgrown its home and started looking for a larger site to start a new zoo. After searching all over Cheshire, George eventually found what was to become the permanent home for his animals and one day one of the most famous zoos in the world.

The original Oakfield Estate was built in the 1850s. It was later acquired by Benjamin Chaffers Roberts, who was mayor of Chester from 1895/96 and also a wealthy tea merchant. He built the current familiar Oakfield building and the new lodge across the drive. In 1913 it was bought by Mr. Beresford Jones and then let during the First World War to Belgian refugees and to Lady Arthur Grosvenor for her hospital.

George Mottershead bought the Oakfield house and nine acres of land in 1930 for £3,500.

There was a huge amount of opposition from local residents to the Zoo being opened and George hired a barrister at great cost to present the Zoo's case. The Ministry of Health finally gave the Zoo permission to open. Its gates opened to the Chester public on June 10th 1931.

Small Beginnings – the 1930s

After the Zoo closed at Shavington, the animal collection which included a polar bear and a chimp all moved to their new home in Chester.

When the Zoo first opened the Mottersheads didn't expect huge numbers of people. The authorities wouldn't let them put signs up and the locals were still not best pleased at having a zoo full of potentially dangerous animals on their doorstep.

The first entrance was a modest affair – a hut basically with a bell which visitors would ring to bring George's mother, Lucy, out to take the one shilling admission charge (children, sixpence).

Those first years were very difficult financially and the Zoo was running at an annual loss. The Zoo governed by a Council of elected volunteers and the Mottershead family ran the Zoo operation itself. George was Director-Secretary, Elizabeth ran the catering, grandfather Albert was Head Gardener and Muriel Assistant Curator. George's younger daughter June, born in 1926, was still at school but helped out where she could.

The animal collection was growing rapidly. Enclosures were built in what is now the Zoo's maintenance yard between the lions and tigers.

The Holt family who ran a shipping company in Merseyside donated many animals including mandrills and chimpanzees which the Zoo picked up from the Liverpool docks. Esther Holt had a fine collection of tropical birds which she not only presented to the Zoo, but paid for their upkeep.

Because there was very little money for building materials, the Zoo had to make do with what it could get hold of and adapt existing buildings where possible. So it was that the cellars of Oakfield House (toilets now!) were converted into the Zoo's first aquarium, opened by Lady Daresbury in 1935.

In 1935 George bought another six hectares (14 acres) of land. He continued to buy land throughout his life. At his death in 1978 he had expanded

the Zoo's land holdings from the original 4 hectares (9 acres) to the current 173 hectares (429 acres).

The same year, the Zoo remodelled the Monkey House, added parrot aviaries and a penguin pool and recorded the first successful hatching of a Black-footed Penguin.

In an effort to improve the finances of the Zoo, a membership scheme was introduced in 1934, having just eight members. By the end of 1935 the Zoo had 147 members. They paid an entrance fee of one guinea and an annual subscription fee of one guinea and had personal admission to the Zoo. They also received 20 free tickets each year for friends providing that they remained members.

The very first Zoo magazine *Our Zoo News* was published for members in November 1937. We continue to publish a members' magazine to this day.

A lion house was completed and a foundation stone for an outside lion enclosure laid by Lord Leverhulme. George proposed, in keeping with his "zoo without bars" philosophy that the lion enclosure be made from 4m (12 feet) high chain link fencing – an innovative idea then. The Zoo's Council firmly opposed the idea and around half of its members resigned in protest. The enclosure plans were put on hold until 1947.

As the Zoo grew, so did the visitor numbers. The Zoo established a well-deserved reputation for its animal collection.

In September 1939, however, Britain declared war on Germany and the Zoo was plunged into what was to prove the most difficult episode in its history.

The 1940s – The War Years

With the war came food and fuel shortages – and rationing. George started an animal adoption scheme, in which members of the public could pay to have a card with their name displayed next to their adopted animal.

The adoption scheme was critically important for the survival of the Zoo and was copied by other zoos almost immediately. Most zoos around the world now have some kind of animal adoption scheme and our own continues to be successful to this day. If you'd like to adopt an animal you can visit our web site or call into our Guest Services Centre near the main entrance.

Despite the adoption scheme, and donations of food from local shops, food was very hard to find and many animals died including all the chimpanzees and many tropical birds. The keepers tried feeding the penguins on strips of horsemeat as no fish could be bought but they eventually died too.

In 1940, Muriel, George's eldest daughter joined the WRENS (Women's Royal Naval Service).

All the staff were called up to the armed forces and the Zoo decided it would have to employ female staff to look after the animals – a not entirely successful experiment according to reports in *Our Zoo News*!

Because German bombers were often in the area, the Oakfield House cellar was used as an air raid shelter. Luckily the only casualty was a coypu that died after being hit by shrapnel from nearby anti aircraft guns. The green house was the only building to suffer damage and was demolished.

A significant event in 1940 was the first UK breeding of the Griffon Vulture. There was great excitement in 1941 when two Asian Elephants arrived with their handler or mahout Khanandas Karunadasa, who soon became known to everyone as *Kay*. The two animals, *Molly* and *Mannekin*, had been part of Doorlay's Tropical Express Revue – a sort of traveling menagerie – but

(continued over)

Step back in time

The history of Chester Zoo



Motty – the hybrid elephant



New aquarium

because of the war, had found themselves stranded and out of work. They were offered to the Government for forest work, but turned down. If accommodation for them hadn't been found, the animals would have been destroyed. Newspaper articles on their plight brought several letters to the Zoo and offers of financial support. Accommodation was hastily prepared and the animals quickly settled in. An elephant fund was set up and contributions went towards their upkeep. *Mannekin* died soon after but *Molly* became a great favourite with the visitors as a provider of elephant rides for the next 14 years. She died on 24th April 1955.

During the war, a strange friendship developed between *Peter*, a little terrier belonging to June Mottershead, and *Victor*, a six month old lion cub (later named *Mowgli*). *Peter* would visit *Victor* and play with him all day in his enclosure. The pair were inseparable and they became a very popular attraction at the Zoo, many visitors coming especially to see them.

In 1942 the Zoo made its first ever profit partly because of the continuing success of the animal adoption scheme.

Anyone who worked in the armed forces and was in uniform was admitted half price to the Zoo during the war and the grounds became a popular venue for off duty soldiers, sailors and airmen. On the 25th September 1939 over 1,000 evacuees visited the Zoo free.

It was also during the war that Chester City Education Committee agreed to fund the free admission of schoolchildren for educational purposes. This was really the first official recognition of the great educational opportunity offered by the Zoo.

An unexpected problem with the war was that soldiers returning from far flung places brought back pet animals they had picked up along the way and donated them to the Zoo. Eventually George had to request that soldiers didn't bring any more as the Zoo couldn't cope!

When at last the war ended, building materials remained in very short supply and anti tank road blocks and pill boxes were used to build the Polar Bear enclosure and other exhibits around the Zoo. (You can still see them in our *Europe on the Edge* aviary which used to be the Polar Bear enclosure). Miss Catherine Jane Tomkyns-Grafton who had originally adopted Chester's first Polar Bear *Punch* and provided funding for his pool, later left £18000 to the Zoo – a very large sum of money at the time.

Post war development continued with the building of a sealion pool, reptile house, beaver enclosure and a flamingo pool.

In 1946, the Zoo area increased from 40 acres (16 hectares) to 63 acres (25 hectares). Fred Williams, who had started at the Zoo as a keeper was promoted to Clerk of Works. Fred's ingenuity for using scrap materials and his flair for designing new buildings transformed the Zoo. Fred worked closely with Charlie Collins who was responsible for all the sandstone buildings built around the Zoo, including the new reptile house.

1947 finally brought the opportunity to complete the postponed lion enclosure.

As the years passed, building materials became easier to find and the Zoo prepared itself for a period of post war expansion that was to take it closer to being the success story it is today.

The new elephant house continued the tradition of using concrete anti tank road blocks and sandstone as materials.

In 1947, the canal system and boat tour was developed. The boats were named after female members of the Mottershead family.

June Mottershead and Fred Williams were married on 26th February 1949. By 1949 the Zoo grounds had expanded to cover 65 acres (26 hectares) and visitor figures reached 320,000.

The 1950s - Always Building

1950 – Certificate issued by Board of Trade with "limited" dropped from the title and the Society recognised as an educational and charitable institution exempt from tax.

Second annual general meeting of Zoo Federation hosted by Chester.

1952 – The new Aquarium opened by Miss Geraldine Russell-Allen. It was built by June and Fred Williams in their spare time. It took two years to complete, often working by lamplight to cast 130 concrete pillars. The pillars needed to support it. It had 80 tanks in it. Putting the fish on the roof was not a good idea as the seagulls ate them.

The Giraffe House, Zebra House and aviary for Macaws and Cockatoos opened.

1953 – The Coronation Restaurant was opened. It could seat 500 people in one sitting.

Dinah Sheridan, the famous actress, made a movie called *Where Vultures Fly*. She visited the Zoo in 1953.

Phillip Gallup was appointed Head Gardener and gardens developed as a feature. Around 250,000 seasonal plants were used in some displays.

1956 – New Ape House developed and Chimp Island completed. This was the first moated enclosure of its kind in the world.

1957 – First bridge to strategically connect east and west areas of the Zoo. Animal quarantine facilities opened in Birkenhead.

1958 – Canal system laid out.

1959 – Waterbus service with five boats launched.

First Polar bear *Mottie* was born.

Eric Kirkland started photographing zoo animals.

In 1952, the Zoo gardens became a feature, filled with flower beds, borders, rose and rock gardens and shrubbery.

1960s – International Recognition

The growth of the motorway network and the increase in car ownership in the 60s brought larger audiences to the Zoo than ever before. By now the Zoo had a bigger variety of animals than any other UK zoo (with the exception of London Zoo) and was achieving great success in breeding many of them. This was important as in the coming decades zoos would come to rely almost entirely on animals bred outside of the wild.

In those days, however, many species were still relatively plentiful in the wild and bringing back small numbers to boost zoo populations was still considered acceptable.

So it was that a pair of White Rhinos were caught in the Umfolozi Game Reserve in Zululand and collected by Fred and June Williams, were then shipped back to England to start a breeding programme intended to help save the species from extinction.

Chester Zoo's reputation for breeding lions was such that a zoo in Ghana in West Africa asked if Chester Zoo could send lions to them as they didn't have any! In that part of Ghana lions were rare and it was easier to send out two from Chester than capture them in the wild. *Elpha* and *Jasper*, two seven month old cubs, went out in October 1961 to start a new population in Ghana.

In this zoo without bars there was a lot of experimentation with enclosure design so that visitors would feel closer to the animals. The small mammal house was opened in 1960 and tropical vegetation was grown on top of the exhibits and down the centre of the house so that visitors were given the experience of walking through the jungle. This 'immersion' experience was to become a theme in the development of Chester Zoo in the decades to come.

In the early sixties *George*, the Giraffe was featured in the Guinness Book of Records for being the worlds tallest giraffe. He was just under 20 foot high and had to duck his head to get in and out of the giraffe house!

Keeping the exhibits and the gardens stocked with plants was an ongoing challenge. Chester Zoo News in December 1962 featured an article on the Zoo's greenhouses.

In 1961 George was elected President of the International Union of Directors of Zoological Gardens (IUDZG) and in 1963 the IUDZG Conference was held at Chester Zoo. 39 Zoo Directors from 19 countries

Step back in time

The history of Chester Zoo

talked about how they could co-operate as a zoo community to further the welfare and conservation of their animals.

Zoo Directors met as far back as 1854 at animal markets in Europe. After which twice yearly meetings were organized until the eve of the First World War 1913. After the war it was decided that dialogue between zoos would benefit the welfare of animal collections. Annual meetings were organized till 1935, the outbreak of the Second World War. After the most European zoos suffered great damage and a new association was set up from neutral countries or allies. George Mottershead became President from 1961-1964 and annual conferences continue to this day.

The following year a major symposium at London Zoo featured a presentation by George Mottershead on 'Conservation Education in Zoos' showing that Chester Zoo was once again taking the lead in developing the modern role of zoos.

One of the most exciting exhibits to open was the *Tropical Realm* in 1964. In its day it was the biggest of its kind in the UK with tropical vegetation everywhere, reptiles and free flying birds creating a unique rainforest atmosphere.

In 1964 George received the Honorary Degree of Master of Science from Manchester University for services to Zoology and later that same year was made an honorary citizen of the city of Dallas, Texas, in recognition of his work in conservation.

But 1964 brought serious problems for the Zoo when one morning in March the keepers arrived at the elephant house to find that an elephant had died, apparently of a heart attack, during the night. It was only when a second elephant died soon afterwards that anthrax was diagnosed. The police and the Ministry of Health were soon on the scene to supervise the proper disposal of the carcasses. The Zoo lost all four elephants to anthrax along with a variety of other animals.

Just three years later the Zoo had to close on 26th November 1967 for 10 weeks because of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease across the country with forty cases in Cheshire alone. Once again the future of the Zoo was under threat but newspapers rallied to the Zoos cause running stories about how lonely the animals were without visitors.

When the Zoo re-opened for Easter, the public mood was one of sympathy and concern and on Easter Sunday the Zoo welcomed a record 400000 visitors. By the end of 1968 1136750 visitors had passed through the gates, the busiest year in its history so far.

In 1969 Elizabeth, George's wife died. A memorial to her is situated in the Zoo gardens.

By 1969 the Zoo supported about 550 mammals, 906 birds, 102 reptiles, 2,500 fishes and 400 staff. Zoo land holdings were now more than 470 acres (189 hectares).

The 1970s – A Change in Direction

In 1972 HRH the Duke of Edinburgh opened the new 170 seat Lecture Hall. This was funded by outgoing Chair of Zoo Council Miss Geraldine Russell-Allen, and named after her in gratitude.

1974 saw the remarkable and unexpected birth of a hybrid elephant to an African father and Asian mother. It remains the only recorded instance of such a cross. The bull calf was named *Motty* but only lived for eleven days before succumbing to intestinal problems.

After his death he was immortalized by a taxidermist and exhibited in the Natural History Museum in London.

George's contributions to conservation were recognized at a national level by his being awarded an OBE in the New Years Honours List of 1973.

In 1976 Head Gardener Philip Gallup who had done so much to create the now famous gardens retired and was awarded the Medal of Honour of the Royal Horticultural Society. He was replaced by Mr Walter Worth.

In the early hours of Sunday 8th May 1977 *Jubilee*, the first Asian Elephant to be successfully born in the UK, arrived. Jubilee achieved instant celebrity status and remained one of Europe's best-known zoo elephants until his death in 2003.

The sunken garden, constructed on the site of the original *Donkey's Nest* was named *The Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Garden*. *Noah and the Four Winds* a bronze sculpture by Sean Rice was accepted by the Society for location in the garden which was officially opened by Dinah Lady Tollemache on 11th June 1977.

Growing numbers of school groups were now coming to the zoo and it was decided in 1977 to establish a Zoo Education Department. A portable classroom was brought into the Zoo and our very first Head of Education, Charles Leach appointed.

On 5th May 1978 George Mottershead the founder of the Zoo passed away at the age of 83. A memorial service was held for him in Chester Cathedral. His ashes were scattered in what is now the Chinese garden with his wife Elizabeth's ashes.

Fred and June Williams also retired in 1978.

In 1979, Dr. Michael Brambell was appointed as the new Zoo Director. Dr. Brambell came from London Zoo where he had been Curator of Mammals and his arrival marked the start of a new era in the Zoo's development.

The 1980s – A New Era

Inevitably, many parts of the Zoo were by now beginning to look tired and the 500 seater *Coronation Hall* restaurant, along with several other old catering facilities were demolished and the *Jubilee Café* (now called *Ark Restaurant*) was built.

The penguin pool, opened by astronomer Patrick Moore in 1981, was considered the best in the United Kingdom at the time, because it incorporated underwater viewing and sophisticated saltwater treatment.

The TV series *Zoo Stories* featuring Chester Zoo proved the power of television in spreading the message about the Zoo's work and in 1982 the Zoo commissioned its very first television advert. The country was by now in the grip of recession however and visitor numbers fell by 10%.

1982 saw staff member Penny Rudd founding the junior membership scheme. Many thousands of youngsters were to be junior members in the following years, a good number returning as members of staff when grown up!

In 1983 the small mammal house was redesigned to include a nocturnal house to accommodate a new colony of critically endangered Rodrigues Fruit Bats from Jersey Zoo.

For the first time in its history the Zoo started engaging in overseas conservation work with support being offered to Northern White Rhino Conservation in the Republic of the Congo and to Spotted Deer in the Philippines as well as a number of initiatives in India. This outreach work as we call it was to become one of the Zoo's strongest conservation tools in the future.

Père David Deer which had been extinct in the wild since the 1920s were breeding successfully at Chester Zoo and in 1986 eleven Chester animals were returned to a game reserve in China as part of a reintroduction programme.

Six hundred pieces of art work were commissioned for a new animal information labelling scheme around the Zoo.

A new tiger enclosure opened in 1985 and proved popular with both animals and visitors but the financial situation of the Zoo continued to decline as visitor numbers reached a modern low of 700000.

In 1987 His Grace the Duke of Westminster became the Society's first president with Dinah Lady Tollemache as our first Vice President.

In the same year the education volunteer programme called the FEDS (Friends of Education Division Services) celebrated its first birthday.

Gerald and Lee Durrell from Jersey Zoo visited the Zoo to give a lecture on conservation and Zoo field programmes.

In 1989 Diana, Princess of Wales (and Countess of Chester), opened a new chimpanzee house with an innovative 'Dutch Oven' design.

Visitor numbers increased to 900,000 in 1989 but it would be another few years before the million mark was passed again.

The 1990s – Building a New Future

The Zoo was by now setting new standards in animal welfare, husbandry and exhibition and it was decided that, in the absence of major funding for new exhibits, that we would no longer keep bears or gorillas. Even now we are often asked 'Where are the gorillas?' and the good news is that we intend bringing them back in the near future.

In 1991 Chester Zoo Studentships were started to help support zoology and veterinary undergraduates in conservation projects. These continue to this day.

(continued over)

Step back in time

The history of Chester Zoo

During 1992 Zoo outreach work was undertaken in Senegal, Congo, Kenya, Madagascar, Tanzania and India.

In 1993 the former Polar Bear enclosure became *Europe on the Edge*, an aviary with a floor area of roughly 10,000 square feet (930 square meters) and reaching up to about 40 feet (12m) in height. It houses an unusual community of birds, including vultures, storks, ducks, and choughs.

In 1994, in keeping with zoo conservation efforts, endangered Asiatic Lions replaced the African Lions and started producing cubs as part of an internationally co-ordinated breeding programme for the species.

1994 saw eight Tuataras brought over from their New Zealand home accompanied by a Maori chief. Even now Chester is one of only a few zoos in the world to keep these unusual reptiles.

A new car park and entrance complex/shop opened in spring 1995 on the north-west side of the Zoo next to the Park and Ride. This helped reduce queues on busy days and meant we could park more cars on tarmac instead of grass.

Gordon McGregor Reid, the Zoo's curator-in-chief, took over as Director when Michael Brambell retired in September 1995.

In 1997 the Duke of York opened *Monkey Islands*, which included extensive island areas for Sulawesi Macaques, Lion-tailed Macaques, Mandrills and Spider Monkeys.

An audit of animals in the Zoo's collection at the end of 1997 showed more than 6,500 individuals representing some 500 species. Almost half of these species were listed as threatened, and the zoo participated in 145 associated breeding programmes.

Perhaps the most notable of the Zoo's developments in the late 1990s was the walk-through *Twilight Zone* bat experience. Once this had been completed the fruit bats were moved from the *Small Mammal House* and that building demolished.

One of the biggest projects ever undertaken by the Zoo was the construc-

tion of *Spirit of the Jaguar*. Funded by Jaguar Cars who generously donated £2m, it houses not only Jaguars but a range of other South American species and is one of the biggest exhibits of its kind in the world.

The old bird house was showing its age and the decision was made to demolish it and build a new *Islands in Danger* exhibit showcasing endangered island species of animals and plants with Komodo Dragons as its most celebrated inhabitants. This was officially opened by actress Elizabeth Hurley in 2000.

Despite its age and modest size, the Zoo's aquarium has gained recognition as a centre for the breeding of rare and endangered fish, especially seahorses and Lake Victoria cichlids. Additionally, the zoo has acted as a centre for banking fish semen.

With 70 years of history behind it, armed with big ambitions and a committed and experienced workforce, in 1999 the Zoo was poised on the edge of a new Millennium with all the challenges and opportunities that would bring for it.

The Millennium and the 21st Century

In 2000 actress Liz Hurley was invited to open *Islands in Danger*, home of the Komodo dragon. The Duke of Westminster was also present at the opening ceremony.

In 2002, the Zoo became the first zoo ever to receive the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise in recognition of its many achievements.

The Zoo currently occupies 50 hectares of land (123 acres), but owns a further 300 hectares (741 acres). The completed *Natural Vision* project will cover 80 hectares (197 acres), including new access roads and parking.

Visionary though he was, the Zoo's founder George Mottershead could never have imagined that the Zoo he started on nine acres of land and a shoestring budget would one day develop into what it is now.

National Exhibition Wildlife Art

17th July - 2nd August

Open 9.30am - 6pm every day

Free Admission

GORDALE

Chester High Road (A540), Burton, S. Wirral, CH64 8TF

07748 533448

www.newa-uk.com

View and buy online





Iznee lovely?

Meet Chester Zoo's new arrival – a tiny Bornean orang-utan, the first born at the zoo for 10 years.

Clinging on to mum **Sarikei**, who was also born at Chester, **Iznee** takes a wide-eyed peek at his surroundings.

Mum and baby currently live with fellow orang-utans **Leia** and **Martha**, who is the mother of **Sarikei** and **Leia**. The Zoo has also welcomed two Sumatran orang-utans in the last 12 months year – **Indah** and **Kirana**. Including **Iznee**, there are six Bornean orang-utans at Chester Zoo.

Iznee's dad, **Tuan**, is taking a back seat as **Sarikei** bonds with her youngster.

Kevin Buley, Head of Zoo Programmes, said:

“Looking at **Iznee** now, a fuzzy ball of hair and eyes, it's hard to believe that he will one day grow up to be far bigger and stronger than his mum. It has been 10 years since we last had a baby Bornean orang-utan at the Zoo but **Iznee** has been well worth the wait – he is a real cracker.”

Committed to conservation in the wild, Chester Zoo also funds and runs the Realm of the Red Ape Field Programme – aimed at protecting orang-utans' habitat areas in Sabah, Borneo.

The state of Sabah is home to some 11,000 Bornean orang-utans – about a fifth of the entire Bornean Orang-utan population. Sadly, the number of orang-utans in the region has declined by almost 50% in the last 20 years.

Support for the Zoo's project comes from the Zoo's Keeper for a Day fund. Keeper for a Day enables visitors to pay to work alongside the animal teams and in turn raises funds for the zoo's conservation projects.

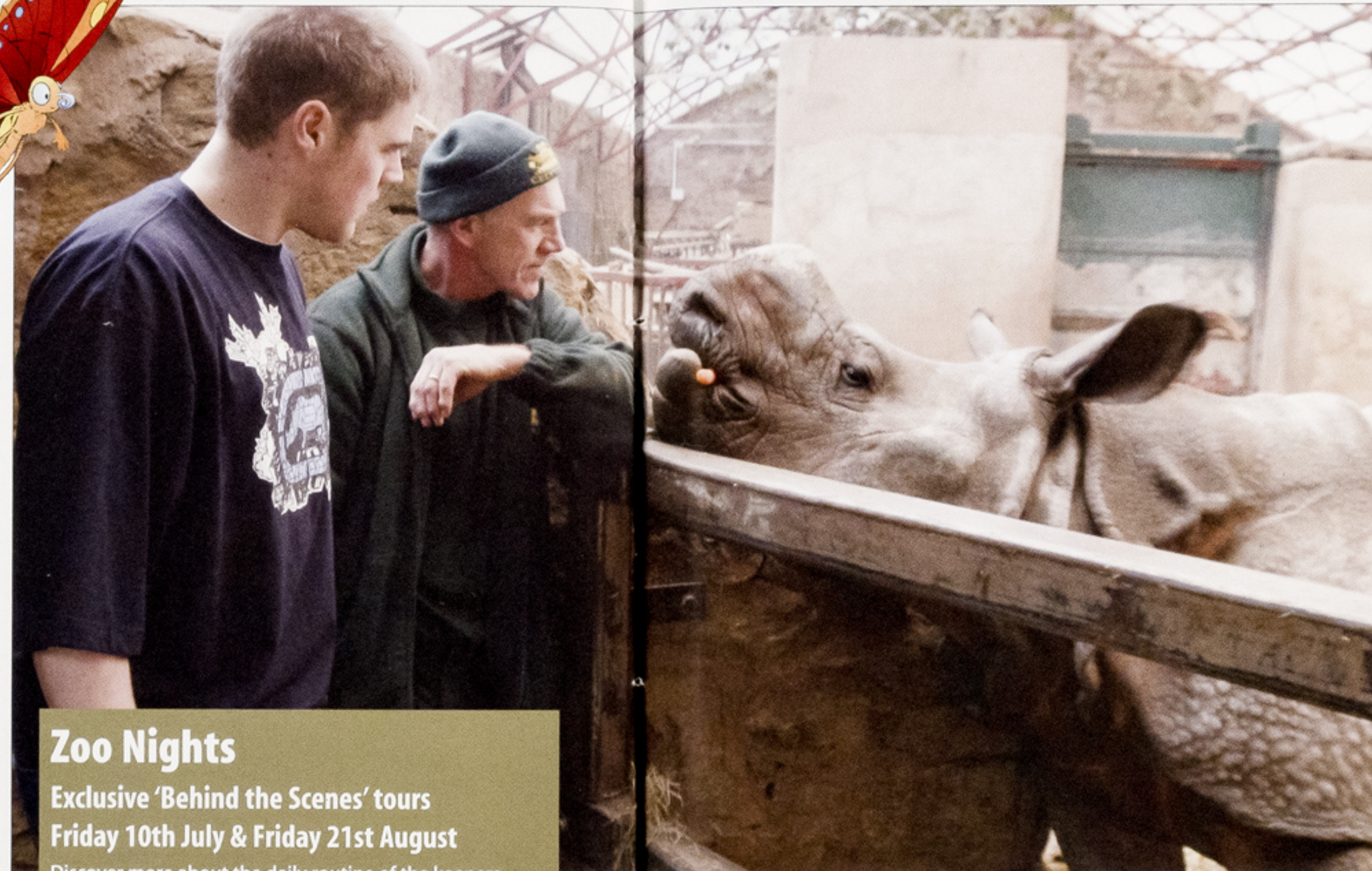
fundRAISING



Butterfly Pin-badges now available!

Chester Zoo has recently brought out a butterfly pin-badge. The badge has been produced in conjunction with the opening of our new walkthrough butterfly exhibit *Butterfly Journey*. The design is based on the character 'Butterfly' in Stuart Trotter's new children's book *What Am I? asked Butterfly*, which appears as a theme throughout our butterfly exhibit at the Zoo.

These bright and colourful pin-badges are now available on-site at Chester Zoo for a suggested donation of £1.



Zoo Nights

Exclusive 'Behind the Scenes' tours
Friday 10th July & Friday 21st August

Discover more about the daily routine of the keepers, including how they care for our 7,000 animals.

Visit animal houses and areas not accessible to our general visitors and get one step closer to some of the exotic animals within the Zoo. Enjoy a sumptuous Gala Buffet with some of the keepers in our Grade II listed Oakfield Manor.

Each tour is for a maximum of six people* and costs £750.00. Included in the price is a behind the scenes experience for six people at Chester Zoo, allocated parking at the Zoo gatehouse, dinner with the keepers and guests from other tours plus a goody bag to take home with you.

"I felt very privileged and excited to do a behind the scenes Zoo Nights tour. Even as a member and frequent visitor, I had an amazing time getting a bit closer to the bats, tigers, rhinos and sealions to name but a few. It was a very special experience that I would love my kids to have in their life time! The keepers are so passionate about their responsibilities, and their personal relationships and experience with their animals was great to see" Jo, M&S Money

To book one of these amazing tours, please contact Development on 01244 650265 or email development@chesterzoo.org

*Due to the nature of the experience, a minimum age of 16 years applies.

An elephant-sized thank you!!

Chester Zoo would like to give huge thanks to all of the Elephant Adopters that responded to the recent 75th Birthday appeal for support to fund some much needed outdoor feeders for the Elephants here at the Zoo. As a result of their generosity we are now able to install the feeders which will allow feeds to take place at different times of the day and in different areas and will also prevent the more dominant Elephants monopolizing feeding times – allowing even the little ones to get their fair share.

CHESTER ZOO

100 Club

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

January 2009

Kim Metcalf, Chester	£100
Ann Buglass, Todmorden	£100
Gerard Milan, Rhyl	£50
Joan Goodall, Carlisle	£50
Andrew Stevens, Bridlington	£50

February 2009

Irene Rigold, Canada	£100
Christopher O'Rourke, Widnes	£100
Susan Tissyman, Liverpool	£50
Joan Atherton, Whitefield	£50
Gareth Petty, Wrexham	£50

March 2009

Gillian Edwards, Crewe	£100
Neville Jones, Chester	£100
C. J. Reynolds, Malpas	£50
Una Watson, Edinburgh	£50
Jason Chandler, Ruthin	£50
Graeme Errington, Malvern	£50

Membership of the 100 Club is still invited. All prize winners will be notified by post and will be listed in the next edition of Z. Please inform us as soon as possible if you change address. If you wish to participate, please contact the Development Office on 01244 650 292.

Enrichment Technology Company adopt the Meerkats

One of Chester Zoo's latest Corporate Animal Adopters is Enrichment Technology Company (ETC), who has chosen to adopt the Meerkats. The company, which designs and supplies world-leading gas centrifuge technology for civil uranium enrichment, decided to adopt the Meerkats after undertaking a Health & Safety Awareness seminar which featured the species.

ETC's Managing Director said "Using behavioural examples from the animal kingdom makes training more fun. In the session 'All For One - The Meerkat Way' ETC employees explored the Meerkats behaviours to discuss the most successful approach towards safety at work. Following the seminar we introduced the 'Meerkats award' for the teams and individuals who demonstrate their commitment to an interdependent safety culture.

"Adopting the Meerkats is a great way for us to show our commitment to this kind of exercise and at the same time support a charity local to our Capenhurst site."

Corporate Animal Adoptions start at just £250 per year. If your company would like to get involved and support Chester Zoo in this way, please contact the Development Department on 01244 650265.



Chester Zoo is pleased to announce the launch of a partnership with Tetrosyl's CarPlan brand. CarPlan has introduced a new addition to its successful collection of Air Fresheners:

The Endangered Animals Air Freshener.

The *Endangered Animals Air Freshener* exclusively supports Chester Zoo with a 10p donation, made by CarPlan, from the sale of each air freshener.

The *Rainforest Fresh* fragranced air fresheners are available in four different animal characters Otter, Tiger, Chimpanzee and Giant Panda and are available to purchase in Halfords stores across the country and in the Chester Zoo shops.



Fundraising Pack

Chester Zoo has recently developed a BRAND NEW FUNDRAISING PACK for all our present and future supporters!

The pack contains; information about Chester Zoo as a charity, why we need your support, inspiring fundraising ideas and many other ways in which you can support Chester Zoo.

If you think you can take part in some fundraising yourself, or if you can raise awareness of Chester Zoo as a charity amongst friends, family, work colleagues etc, please contact us to order a FREE Fundraising Pack 01244 650229 or email development@chesterzoo.org



Talking Conservation!

September 2009

A taster of what's to come in our Autumn Programme of Members' Talks, the season starts with a wonderful talk on cheetahs by Nicky Bolton.

The full Autumn Programme will be published in the next issue of **Z** but we can already tell you that Stephen McKeown will be back with another Zoo history presentation – always popular with members.

Don't forget, you can now bring along a friend to the talks.

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

Our Lecture Theatre seats up to 170, so why not encourage your fellow members to join us and learn more about the important conservation work Chester Zoo is involved in, which your membership supports? Friends are welcome too at the small charge of £3.50, payable in cash on the night of the talk.

All of our Members' Talks are held in the Geraldine Russell Lecture Theatre (near the Zoo's Main Entrance off the A41) at the times stated above and are provided to keep you abreast of Chester Zoo's conservation work which your membership supports.

Interested in attending?

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

Members are required to bring along their membership card and welcome letter for access.

Thursday 10th September 2009 at 7.30pm

Cheetahs for Chester: The De Wildt Ambassador Project

Nicky Bolton

The Cheetah is on the endangered list. This international project, run by the De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Trust, is designed to raise local and ultimately global awareness of the Cheetah's plight, contributing to safeguarding its environment in the future. De Wildt works with scientists and communities to produce a mix of solutions to the challenge of saving the Cheetah. A key aspect of its work is with schools and communities, raising awareness and making conservation possible through educational outreach work. The Ambassador scheme is an essential element of their educational work. Nicky Bolton will describe how the project is run in local communities in South Africa, using live Ambassador Cheetahs in the classroom. She will also share some of the new resources that are being developed as a consequence of the educational links between Chester schools, Chester University and the De Wildt Trust.

Ann van Dyck who founded the De Wildt Trust 30 years ago, still works tirelessly for wild life. She is extremely enthusiastic about the Chester link: "... responsibility for supporting the Cheetah in its race for survival must pass from old people like me to the next generation of children and young people – not just in South Africa but across the world."

Nicky Bolton is a teacher at Overleigh St. Mary's Primary School, Chester. She is an ardent conservationist and has recently had the privilege of working as part of a teaching exchange with the De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Trust near Pretoria, South Africa.



From left to right Marian Wade, Sam Whitfield, John Hepworth, Ray Fisher (Camera Solutions), Amy Feather and Kevin Birchall.

Photographic Competition 2008

The presentation lunch for the 2008 Photographic Competition was held in Oakfield Manor.

The 2008 competition came to a close in December and the overall judging was done by Phil Noble, an award-winning photographer with the Reuters news agency. The winners fought off hundreds of applications for the Digital, Print, Garden and Junior sections.

The winner of the Digital section and overall 'Photographer of the Year' was John Hepworth from Altrincham, Cheshire, with his image of two Cheetahs. John was awarded with an Olympus E-520 Double Lens Digital SLR outfit, Crumpler Pretty Boy XL4000 Gadget bag and Lowepro Primus Backpack. He was also awarded a canvas print of the winning picture and trophy.

Other winners were Clare Smith from Manchester who was runner-up in the Digital section with a picture of Lioness Asha and cub Chakra, Francis Topping from Bootle who came first place in the

Print section with his print of a Marmoset and Becki Scott from Manchester who was runner up with her Caiman Lizard image.

Marian Wade from Whitchurch grabbed first place in the Garden section with her frosty shot and Kevin Birchall from Neston was runner-up with his autumn leaves. Finally the junior section saw Sam Whitfield from Wrexham take first place with his Ostrich image and Amy Feather from West Yorkshire was runner-up with her snake portrait. Some of the fantastic prizes included a Jobo 7" Digital Photo Frame, Olympus Mju Tough 6000 Compact Digital Camera and a Manfrotto Tripod.

Prizes were kindly donated by Camera Solutions Limited in Chester and canvas prints by Paul Anthony Studios in Tarvin.

www.camerasolutions.co.uk

www.pastudio.co.uk



John Hepworth, Photographer of the Year.

Night Life at Chester Zoo



September thorn



Beautiful hooktip



Elephant hawk moth



Yellow tailed tussock

Karen Entwistle and colleagues have been investigating the night life at Chester Zoo but it's not quite what you might think... They have actually been using a light trap to find out about the moths found here. These traps use a bright light to attract insects that are active at night, especially moths. In 2008 the trap was run weekly from June to August, then monthly for the rest of the year; a weekly schedule started again in May 2009.

Moths are an important part of the UK's biodiversity; there are more than 2500 species recorded in Britain, a domestic garden may support several hundred different species. In just a few months Karen has seen 750 moths from 80 species, and the Zoo list is growing fast!

Some of the larger British moths are very beautiful and we have been lucky to catch some real gems including three dramatic hawk moths: the Elephant hawk moth, Poplar hawk moth and Eyed hawk moth.

Particularly exciting was the Beautiful hooktip captured in July 2008. This species is scarce in Cheshire so identification had to be confirmed by a local expert.

Some British moths have great names ...

One of our pictures is a Yellow tailed tussock – can you see why? And we were confused by the September thorn caught in early August!

All our data is being passed onto RECORD as it gives valuable information about local biodiversity, how populations are changing, and when different species are active. Moths play a very important role in nature. They act as pollinators for many plants and are important prey items for a wide range of animals: lots of birds and all bats feed on moths, as do many other mammals, insects and spiders.

Recording moths is also important to help us monitor environmental change caused by factors such as global warming and pesticide use. Moths respond rapidly to changes and are therefore good 'early warning' systems. Considerable differences in moth numbers have been found on organic and conventional farms, and many species are declining across Britain today. However, there are some moths that are increasing, particularly species that feed on non-native trees commonly planted in gardens.

Trapping and recording moths is becoming a popular hobby for a growing number of people, and it is a really fascinating and useful activity. If you would like to see how it's done and get involved yourself please come along to our *Count Me In! Creatures of the Night* event on 22nd August 2009. More information and booking form is available from the RECORD website: www.RECORD-LRC.co.uk

Events at Chester Zoo

Sunday 21st June

Father's Day

Treat dad for a change with a visit to the zoo and a three course lunch.

Bookings taken for 12.00pm and 3.00pm

£24.95 per adult £17.50 per child

Thursday 25th June

Elephant and Primate Evening

A fascinating evening incorporating our ever popular elephants and primates.

To round off the evening a BBQ is served on the Oakfield Manor terrace.

£34.50

Thursday 23rd July

Gardens, Birds, Butterflies (and possibly Bees)

Enjoy an evening stroll through our award-winning gardens to the recently opened Butterfly Journey.

The evening concludes with a buffet served within Oakfield Manor.

£30.95

Thursday 20th August

Afternoon Tea and Garden Tour

Admission into the zoo is from 4.00pm with afternoon tea served on the terrace at Oakfield Manor at 5.00pm.

A garden tour follows with the evening concluding at 7.30pm.

£16.95

Thursday 3rd September

Carnivore Evening and Buffet

In the company of our keepers learn more about the red pandas, sealions and some of our big cats.

A delicious buffet is included in the price.

£34.95

Friday 30th October

Ghost Talks in Oakfield Manor

Enjoy a supper and ghostly tales within Oakfield Manor.

£14.95

Sunday 8th November

Members' Day Two Course Lunch

A delicious two course lunch served in Oakfield Manor.

£15.95 per adult £11.95 per child

Saturday 14th November

Bats by Torchlight

Admission into the zoo from 2.30pm.

Hot pot supper served in the manor followed by an on-foot tour to the *Twilight Zone* to meet and chat to one of our keepers.

£15.95 per adult or child

December

Christmas lunches

A delicious three course Christmas lunch enjoyed within Oakfield Manor.

Price includes admission into Chester Zoo.

£25.95 per adult £17.25 per child (under 11 years)

Friday 18th December

Christmas dinner and disco

Dining & Dancing until midnight.

£36.50 pp

Friday 1st January, Saturday 2nd January

and Sunday 3rd January, 2010

New Year Special

A tasty two course lunch served in Oakfield Manor either 12.00 pm or 3.00 pm.

£21.25 per adult and £14.95 per child (3 -11 years)

Price includes admission

Pre-booking and pre-payment essential

For further details please contact

the Events Office, Chester Zoo, Caughall Road, Upton, Chester CH2 1LH

01244 650209

events@chesterzoo.org

FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL (NORTH WEST GROUP)

**CELEBRATING 25 YEARS ASSOCIATION
WITH CHESTER ZOO**



AUTUMN PROGRAMME 2009

Please note that FFI evenings are a unique mix of 'entertainment' and learning focussed on conservation. They are informal, informative and fun, and are open to everyone, so please do feel free to come along.

Friday 25 September 2009

'Free-living Wild Boar in the UK' with Dr Martin Goulding

Martin Goulding describes himself as 'a chap who has been following the resurgent free-living Wild Boar population in Britain for several years now'. With no natural predators, the British Wild Boar are expanding in range and numbers. Most of them originated as escapees from Wild Boar farms and the Forest of Dean provides an interesting example of the conflicts that arise between people and these animals.

What issues might arise for Cheshire if this happens here?

Why not come to discuss this with Martin.

Friday 23 October 2009

'Tales of the Red Queen' with Professor Greg Hurst

The Red Queen in Lewis Carroll's *Alice through the Looking Glass*, noted, 'In this place it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place'. Greg Hurst, who is the Professor of Zoology at Liverpool University, is an absolutely fantastic communicator whose research on butterflies is world class. This talk will detail how and why parasites can be particularly important drivers of evolution, mainly centred on the rather lovely Pacific Butterfly called *Hypolimnys bolina*. Intrigued? Come along to find out more!

Friday 27 October 2009

'Wildlife Conservation in a Former War Zone' with Lise Hanssen

This is a welcome return to FFI by Lise Hanssen, who co-founded the Africat Foundation in Namibia, although she is now working with the Large Carnivore Management Association of Namibia. Lise's current research on the Spotted Hyena involves working in the Caprivi Strip, an area where wildlife was decimated by the war with Angola and her talk will centre on the process of setting up a research/conservation project from scratch. This promises to be an excellent evening as Lise is a terrific speaker with such a passion for the conservation work she has dedicated her life to.

Tickets: A huge 'thank-you' to the many Zoo Members who have supported FFI (NW) over the years, and for those of you who have not yet 'tasted' one of our evenings, please come along and share a bit of the hope and magic that is hearing about conservation in action!

Tickets may be available on the door, but advanced booking helps us to keep costs down and guarantees a seat so please ring **Penny Rudd on 01244 650215** to reserve tickets. Lectures are held in the Russell Allen Lecture Hall, and doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Members and non-Members of FFI are welcome to attend. A buffet and wine are served, and tickets cost £8.50 for FFI Members and £9.50 for non-Members of FFI, with a concession of £5 for students.



Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH

Tel. 01244 380280 Fax. 01244 371273 Email: info@chesterzoo.co.uk Web: www.chesterzoo.org

Founded in 1934, the North of England Zoological Society is a registered charity and receives no Government funding. 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