

Z

MAGAZINE FEATURES



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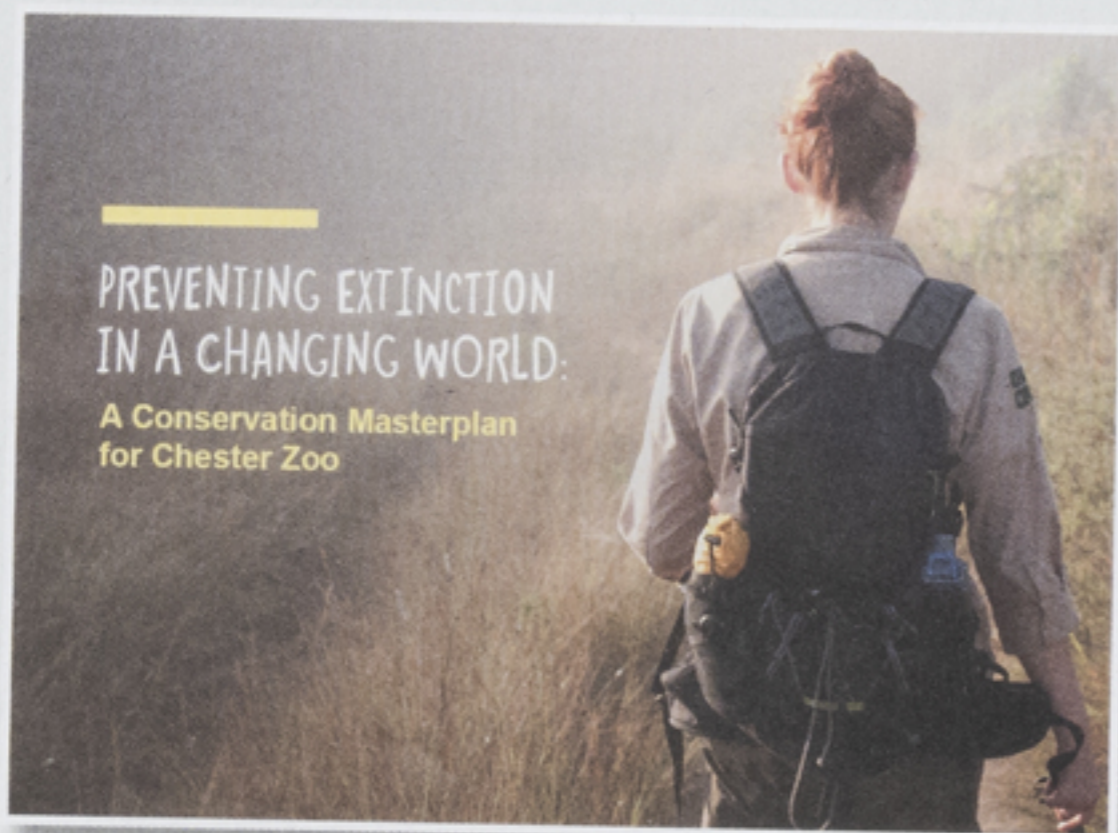
For all of the zoo's latest news,
go to chesterzoo.org/news



June 10 is a date that's *etched* in the zoo's history. And this year it's an *especially* **MOMENTOUS** date as it's when our **WONDERFUL** zoo, first opened by George Mottershead and his family back in 1931, turns **90**.

Chester Zoo has always been progressive. From the first to become a charity, with the inception of The North of England Zoological Society in 1934, to opening the first zoo-based endocrinology lab in the UK in 2007, we've often led the way in terms of creativity and innovation. Conservation has long been at the heart of everything we do. We've been first to breed so many rare species, from the Javan green magpie to the tuatara, establishing vital insurance populations. We've reintroduced species from barn owls to eastern black rhinos.

And 30 years ago we took another large step and started our first conservation field project. Within 10 years, five further projects in different parts of the world were up and running and I'm very proud to say we currently have 50 vital schemes in 21 different countries. Progressive zoos like ours are powerhouses in conservation. Zoos globally contribute more than \$350 million annually to species conservation programmes in the wild, making them the world's third-largest funder of species conservation after World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and The Nature Conservancy. Our unique combination of thriving animal populations, millions of visitors, scientific research and wide ranging skills is simply invaluable.



Our history puts us on solid foundations but, as we are quickly heading into a global extinction crisis, we need to do more. That's why we launched a Conservation Masterplan earlier in the year to ensure we make a significant contribution to tackling this crisis by the time we turn 100. Part of our plan is to be a zero waste operation in 2030, which means that in 10 years' time we want to reuse and recycle all materials that we use on site without discharging to land, air or water. It's an ambitious target but I know we can do it. In support of this, the day after our 90th birthday, a new, world-first exhibition of giant interactive art installations and sculptures, all made from different forms of rubbish and waste, will open. Love it for Longer will highlight the fact that if we work together we can make the world a waste free zone. The time to act for our planet is right now and so, ahead of the exhibition opening, sales of plastic bottles on-site will be no more. Bold actions like this do, of course, have a financial impact and lots of things have to be weighed up when making a decision like this. However, we have to find ways to adapt and change. There are bigger things at stake. This is the first of many brave and ambitious moves we'll be making on our zero waste journey.



We've seen quite a few large mammal births in recent months but I wanted to highlight another significant success. Our reptile team has a global reputation for successfully breeding some of the world's rarest species and then reintroducing them to the wild. Last year, before the pandemic struck, they successfully reintroduced thousands of greater and lesser Bermuda snails to Bermuda. Now, they are celebrating yet again as some of the critically endangered Montseny brook newts have recently spawned eggs. This is just one of the 200 species we have vowed, via our Conservation Masterplan, to halt or reverse the decline of over the next 10 years and so it's a great start. The plan now is to build up this population over the next few years, with a view to reintroducing them to Catalonia.

And finally, a reminder that our new Latin America Wetland Aviary is now open and I thoroughly recommend you have a look. Our dedicated zoo teams worked through the pandemic to get it near completion and it really is looking superb. With 120 flamingos, 20 scarlet ibises and lots of other charming waterfowl, it really is a visual treat as the birds provide a fantastic feast of colour for your eyes. I hope you all enjoy spending time immersed within it.

Jamie Christon, CEO

at Zoo night



Incredible ILLUMINATION in the ANIMAL WORLD



Some animals glow bright and brilliant colours under a UV light, but the question remains – why? After heading into the zoo at night to find out which critters and creatures glow, Dr Gerardo Garcia, our Curator of Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates, shares some current theories on why this may be:

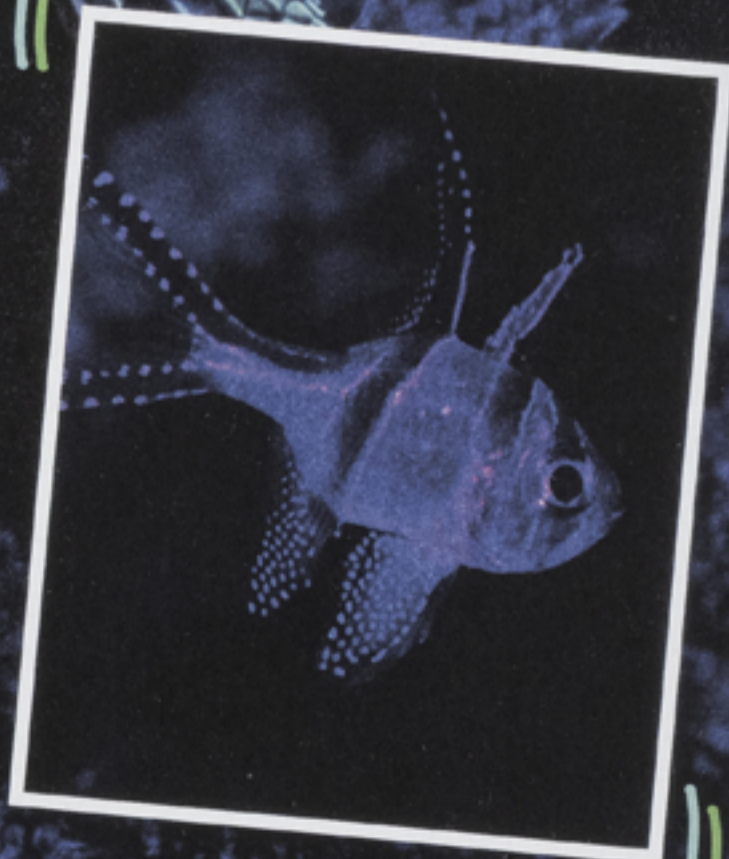
"Studying animals after dark is always an interesting experience, but shining a UV light onto a variety of species and seeing them glow brilliant fluorescent colours opens up a whole new world of fascination! Biofluorescence, the technical term for 'glowing in the dark,' occurs when higher energy wavelengths of light, like ultra-violet or blue light, is absorbed and sent out at a lower energy wavelength, making the area glow with fluorescent blues, greens and reds. This phenomenon is widespread among animals and can be caused by several different proteins, pigments and chemical reactions. Watching these different animals glow spectacular colours is pretty incredible, but the question remains – why do they glow? Why do some parts of their body glow, but not others? What does it mean? I've a few theories on why..."

"Communication is everything in the animal world, and how a species presents itself visually is a big part of how they speak to friends and foes. There are hundreds of frequencies of light and how animals see light, and therefore colours, is different to us humans. We actually only see a small portion of the sunlight, so although we may see an animal glowing brilliantly, their own, and even other species, may see this completely differently, as they read a wavelength that our eyes can't perceive.

"One likely reason for the fluorescent glow is to attract a mate. They could be catching the attention of a potential partner or seducing them by highlighting their impressive assets. You'll see from the photos that only some parts of the animal are glowing, like a claw or an eye, and there may be a good reason for this. For the chameleon, for example, fluorescent patterns potentially give them a secondary signalling system that is different to their better-known method of communication - colour change. Males tend to have more tubercles in the head than females, which makes them very attractive to the opposite sex. So with parts of their head glowing, this emphasises their striking head size to females, drawing them in for a closer look.

"Some fish are smart enough to go as far as to pose as a particular species' mate, showing all the right signs, when actually, they're its predator. The colour change could also be used to hide from predators, as their spectrum of colour may be different, so instead of them standing out to potential mates, they could be camouflaging from predators at the same time.

"Another theory is that an animal's ability to glow is to mark its territory to others. This is mainly used to communicate their social status and ownership, which can help attract a partner and warn off competitors.



"And a fourth explanation could be that it's just not functional at all and is simply a reaction when exposed to UV light. Fluorescence in terrestrial (land-dwelling) vertebrates has been underestimated until now, and its evolutionary role requires more research. Our understanding of the role of fluorescence in animal vision is in its early stages, but it does open an exciting door to understand the complex world of animal and plant communication.

"Whatever the reason for these magnificent sights, they're fantastic to document and share with the world. We hope it will continue to engage people on the importance of protecting the unique environment we share with fascinating species of plants and animals."

Our progressive zoo

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS

As we **CELEBRATE 90 YEARS** of memories, **MILESTONES** and meaningful moments, we're looking ahead at all the **INCREDIBLE** plans for the future of our zoo.

We've come a long way since George Mottershead and his family first opened Chester Zoo's gates in 1931, but that same **PASSION** and **DEDICATION** that our zoo was built upon decades ago, lives on.

The release of our Conservation Masterplan earlier this year set out **AMBITIOUS** targets for the zoo to meet in the next decade. By directing our focus and **ENERGY** on these targets, we continue to seek **DYNAMIC** and collaborative ways of working to achieve our mission of **PREVENTING EXTINCTION**.

Here are just some of the zoo's many advocates for innovation who are working behind the scenes with their teams to progress our conservation mission around the world, while ensuring the experiences that all of our visitors have are always **MEMORABLE!**



Our CEO Jamie tells us about his goals and ambitions for the zoo as well as what he hopes to achieve in the world of conservation.

"My role as CEO is to maintain a balance of leading an organisation which strives to be environmentally sustainable, as well as a thriving business that generates income to grow our conservation impact in the UK and globally.

"I want to raise our head well above the parapet as an external voice. I want us to be bolder in lobbying for conservation progress and develop our thousands of advocates as champions of our mission to prevent extinction.

"At the same time, I also want to ensure the zoo is an engine in both educating our visitors on our conservation mission, but also as an attraction which delivers funds that support our global mission.

"By our 100th birthday in 2031 we hope to have achieved all six key targets in our Conservation Masterplan, developed Grasslands and overnight accommodation as the next phase of our strategic development plan, be regarded as the UK 'go to place' for conservation education by the Government, maintained our position as the leading visitor attraction outside of London and delivered focused impact in six key conservation programmes worldwide".



Director of Science Dr Simon Dowell talks about the launch of our Conservation Training Academy and how 'one plan thinking' is the key to advancing our conservation mission.

"Since I started working as Director of Science at the zoo in 2016, we have managed to really grow the science, education and field programmes. This growth has allowed us to develop an ambitious Conservation Masterplan for the future, which has been really exciting.

"Most recently, we've launched our fantastic Conservation Training Academy which offers a number of training courses, and we're continuing to develop new programmes for future conservationists. To have the Conservation Training Academy at centre stage is amazing. By bringing all our expertise together and committing ourselves to expanding it, we're directly supporting our Conservation Masterplan target of 'training 5,000 conservationists', feeding into our overall mission to prevent extinction. I think this is an exciting opportunity for the future of the zoo, as we're not just training traditional conservationists, we're prompting a much broader range of 'conservation thinking', from marketing to education. We'll be asking questions like how do we get conservation embedded into the school curriculum? How can we train educators?"

"We're also developing our 'one plan' approach to conservation. We're bringing all the work we carry out with species in the wild along with the work we do here at the zoo, into one plan. For example, our flagship project working with eastern black rhinos combines conservation breeding and work in our ground-breaking endocrinology lab in the zoo together with our work on this species in the field in Kenya. We've learnt about the factors that affect the reproductive cycles of the females and when they become receptive to the male which has improved our pregnancy rates, as well as how and why they might become stressed and how we can reduce that. This has all been painstaking scientific work through analysing their poo and urine. A lot of other zoos send samples to our lab here at Chester, because we have some of the best expertise in this field for the whole of Europe. In an exciting new development we are now helping to establish a lab in one of the game reserves in Kenya so that this work can be used to help wild rhinos too."



With the launch of our Conservation Training Academy, we speak to Liz Webb, Manager of the Academy, about her training progress and why the academy is a crucial part of our mission.

"The Academy was launched as part of our ambitious Conservation Masterplan in April 2021 and over the next 10 years, we are boldly aiming to train 5,000 conservationists to deliver positive change for wildlife. On a typical day I'll be supporting the amazing science team in training keepers and scientists in monitoring hormones in endangered species, and another day I might be running a course on how to deliver training to wider global audiences!

"The innovative staff make the zoo progressive. We are very lucky in that we have staff who are at the top of their fields who have, and still do, make huge contributions to conservation. The Academy is supported by some unique roles which you don't find replicated across many zoos, particularly areas such as our social science team and endocrinology lab, and you will find that many of our courses are built around these areas so we can share our best practice with the wider zoo and conservation communities.

"Since joining in 2019, having visited many times before, I think one of the strengths of the organisation is how passionate the staff are about conservation. The zoo is always a hive of activity with staff developing, planning and designing projects which will have real world impacts on conservation for generations.

"I'm always astounded at the level of creativity at the zoo, which can be from our animal teams developing novel ways of monitoring species translocations, our marketing teams creating amazing thought provoking campaigns or our conservation education staff developing empowering education programmes. Chester Zoo cannot prevent extinction on its own, and I think the awareness of our role in the bigger picture of conservation globally is really important.

"The Conservation Training Academy has already started on some exciting projects; we recently added four researchers to our Scholars and Fellows Programme working alongside the University of Chester, University of Kent, University of East Anglia and Durham University. The projects we support will be looking at critical conservation themes such as conservation genetics, wildlife tourism and population biology, which will help us with our Conservation Masterplan targets and ultimately with our aim of preventing extinction. The scholars and fellows we support will be sharing some interesting research in the years to come!"



Connor and Chelsie, members of our first ever Youth Board, tell us about the work they're doing as part of the wider board, to enhance and innovate the zoo.

"As part of the Youth Board we're really keen to showcase that not only can young people play an important role in the decision-making of conservation charities, but that they should – and that inviting young people into the running of conservation charities can be really valuable, helping to keep them relevant, whilst engaging young people and increasing the perspectives represented in the organisation.

"We have helped to evaluate their current offering of programmes for young people, ensure they are being communicated effectively, whilst making sure that they're as inclusive and as accessible as possible for staff and visitors. We are also trying to achieve greater representation in conservation governance and are encouraging other zoos to invite young people into their decision making. I think we have a really important role to play, and the potential to influence zoos on a worldwide scale to involve young people in their operations."



"We have been working hard to become established as a board and involving ourselves with the zoo's future planning, campaigns, events, workshops, marketing and much more to ensure that young people are a key contributor in Chester Zoo's objectives and success.

"It's been amazing to watch the zoo develop beautifully over the years and commit to its mission of preventing extinction. Its habitats have flourished and reading up on how its field programmes have expanded and created change is incredible. In my opinion, the zoo has always had this unique way of making those who visit feel like part of its community and a contributor to all its achievements. It's a place that is so close to my heart and I am positive there are many others that feel exactly the same way."

For the latest news and updates about our 90th birthday celebrations, visit chesterzoo.org/news

LOVE IT

for

LONGER

A SUSTAINABILITY SPECTACULAR

Opens Friday 11 June

As you might have heard, we're hosting an unmissable summer sustainability **SPECTACULAR** that is 100% total UTTER TRASH!

From June onwards you can see a great big **LOAD OF RUBBISH** like you've **NEVER SEEN BEFORE**, as we learn how to transform our **TRASH** and **REDUCE WASTE**.

Explore our incredible interactive exhibits at the zoo and join us on our journey of turning the world of waste on its HEAD!



EXPLORE THE WORLD OF WASTE



WASTELAND

It's thought each year a third of all food produced globally goes to waste. That's around 1.6 BILLION tonnes of food wasted! Wasteland will be a geodome made from wind damaged trees with GIANT food sculptures – you won't miss it! We'll be asking people (including our own chefs) to share their top tips and creative ideas for reducing food waste.

PLASTICS GARDEN

Visit this unique garden made from leftover plastics and see nature in a new light! From plastic crocheted creatures to handmade flowers – who knew rubbish could look so enchanting?

JUNK YARD

Where junk goes to be reborn! Find all kinds of ways to turn your junk into jewels, things that you'll treasure for years to come. Upcycling, re-imagining but most of all having FUN at our Junk Yard!

HAND-ME-DOWN-MAZE

Giving scraps of fabric a new lease of life, this puzzling maze has been created out of mixed materials. Get lost in this labyrinth of re-purposed clothing that would have otherwise been thrown away - and we wish you luck on getting to the end!

POOTOPIA

Poo glorious poo! Did you know that we re-purpose our herbivore dung to be used as fertilizer on local farmlands? Join us and explore all the weird and wonderful ways we can repurpose poo, at Pootopia!

POWER PLANT

Explore this exhibit of sound, light and movement as we discover all the ways in which technology can be re-used and repaired. Take a look inside our inflatable forest (made from re-purposed tents) and you'll be able to hop on to our exercise bikes and power up some of the old technology we've found!

SYMPHONIC RAIN

Be awe-inspired by this three metre tall sculpture that harnesses the power of rainwater to create beautiful symphonic sounds. Learn more about how to reuse waste water and reduce the amount of water we use, at this magical exhibit.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Here's a sneak peek of our Wasteland exhibit being built by the creators of the exhibition at Wild Rumpus HQ!





Event Line up



THE MAKERS' SHACK

Make and Take

We hate to see things going to waste, so join our Zoo Rangers in our Makers' Shack and get creative turning pieces of junk into something amazing! Learn to Love it for Longer by transforming small old household pieces into something new and take your project home with you. Watch as we demonstrate useful tips for living more sustainability at home and get hands on with one of our planet-friendly make and take activities.

Story telling

Join our Zoo Rangers for an interactive story time adventure. We'll follow the stories of some interesting characters as they go on a journey of discovery and learn more about the actions we can all take to live more sustainably. Perfect for younger explorers, with audience participation not necessary but greatly encouraged!

Discover

Whether we are looking at the technology we use, investigating our food waste at home, or looking deeper into how environmentally friendly our clothing is, discover what sustainability actual means, and how we can create a more sustainable way of living to enable our mission; prevent extinction.

Love your food for Longer

Making small changes in the way we shop, store, and cook food can lead to big changes. Join our expert team of chefs for a series of live demonstrations looking at how we can all get creative with our food waste.

BASECAMP

Science Show

Join us at Basecamp and help us explore the natural world and challenges it faces. From reducing waste and climate change to upcycling and everything in between – our action packed science show will take you on an incredible sustainability journey across the world. Discover our interactive family science show and explore how we can take action for our amazing planet!

ONLINE

Trash Talks

This summer we will be hosting a fantastic series of online talks to delve into the world of waste and the impact it has on the environment. We'll be joined by artists, advisors, bloggers and scientists who will discuss their work and how we can contribute towards reducing waste.

*Show us how you
Love it for Longer!*

Whether you've created a blog, art display in school, a piece of music, a sustainable fashion range or have founded a new eco group, our Community Hub is a great opportunity to showcase your work and become a part of our online gallery of stories to inspire our conservation community.





Our Sustainable zoo

Working with our partners, visitors and other organisations, we've set out some ambitious targets to become more sustainable:



Carbon net zero by 2030



Zero waste operation by 2030



Deforestation-free commodities in all major supply chains by 2030

We speak to our Director of Operations, Dominic Strange, to find out more about the steps we're taking to become a more sustainable organisation and how our Love it for Longer exhibit plays an important role in that mission.

What are you looking to achieve?

"We're working towards becoming a zero waste zoo by 2030, which means that we want to reduce the amount of material we use in our operation as much as possible, collect what is left using innovative recovery methods and then repurpose all of it into something new. All of this without discharging any part of it to land, air or water that threatens the environment.

How do you plan on doing this?

"We're looking at all of the waste we produce and we're thinking differently about it. We're removing single use items from our supply chain, being smarter about what we buy and trying to figure out how we can love everything for longer.

What part does our 'Love it for Longer' exhibition play in this?

"Our new exhibition will show you some inspiring ideas and will start a conversation about how we can work together to make Chester Zoo a zero waste zone. We have started the journey but we have a long way to go, but with your help we can achieve something amazing.

"We have the potential to make a huge difference. Sustainability is at the core of our Conservation Masterplan and a major part of this is our work to empower 10 million people to live more sustainably for wildlife. Modelling sustainability in zoo operations are a key element of this, but these are also translated into effective interpretation and education designed to engage our visitors in fun and interactive ways, that encourages them to think about changing to more sustainable behaviours in their own lives.

"Campaigns like Sustainable Palm Oil communities and Love it for Longer are an important part of this strategy. We are developing a framework that will measure the effectiveness of our different approaches and help us refine and improve our approaches so that they have lasting impacts on people's sustainability behaviours."



What are you most looking forward to seeing during the Love it for Longer exhibit?

"We can't achieve our zero waste commitment alone so the most exciting thing about Love it for Longer, will be the amazing, inspirational, thought provoking ideas that our visitors will share with us. Whilst of course there will be an amazing exhibition to see and participate in, the real star of the show will be YOU!"



Counting the **LARGEST** steps on EARTH



It's no *easy life* for the elephants living among the patchwork of forest, plains and farmed lands across south Asia. Family groups and bachelor males must roam *vast* distances daily, in search of the food and water they need to survive. For the Hi-Way herd at the zoo, things are a little different...

We provide every member of the herd with all of the resources and shelter they need, but curious people ask us "How far do they walk compared to elephants in the wild?" The basic physical needs of the Hi-Way herd are taken care of, but we very much need the elephants to be replicating natural behaviour and keeping physically active if they are to be a truly healthy family unit. Our keeper teams work very hard at this – replicating wild foraging opportunities for the elephants throughout their habitat space. We encourage plenty of movement through exploration, and get the Hi-Way family using their thinking skills and large trunk muscles to feed from a puzzle wall, reach up high for browse atop poles as they would from trees, or find food buried like treasure below the habitat's sand.

The question for us then, is are we successful? Are we keeping the elephants fit and active, and how are they using the habitat space we've designed for them? Our Behaviour & Welfare Scientists have been working in partnership with Goethe University Frankfurt to explore exactly this. The team is trialling a new behaviour and location monitoring app, designed by the university to log the movements of the individuals within our herd and build profiles for how far each is travelling as they go about their activities.

But that's not all. The new tech helps us to answer so many more questions about our elephants. How is the habitat being used by different individuals? How does their movement change following adaptations to the habitat, or the arrival of a new elephant calf, and what does this tell us about animal behaviour? Taking a look at who's spending the most time with who gives us another opportunity to explore the social dynamics and relationships within the constantly evolving elephant social clique.

Projects like these bring together scientist and keeper expertise to maximise the wellbeing of the animals within our care – we're constantly innovating to find out more. This app has huge potential not just for elephants, but other species too, and we hope to see it used by other zoos across Britain and around the world!

You can find out more about our work on long-term monitoring and breeding of Asian elephants by visiting chesterzoo.org/conserving-asian-elephants



Humboldt penguin

experiences

at **CHESTER ZOO**

NEW for 2021!

We're excited to share our **INCREDIBLE** new experience days! Discover some of the **AMAZING** wildlife at the zoo and get **CLOSER** than ever before.

Our unique packages make for an unforgettable day where you can meet our experts, dine in surprising locations and even take a peek behind the scenes.



Discover and learn all about the **INCREDIBLE** wildlife found at the zoo, and gain behind the scenes knowledge from our **AMAZING** experts! This exclusive access will give you an **UNFORGETTABLE** day, and insight into the daily lives of our staff and the animals they care for.

The animal lover in your life will **LOVE** our new experiences. From Komodo dragons and rhinos to butterflies and bugs, there's something for everyone!

From £120



Our **BRAND NEW** dining experiences will give you the chance to start your day in a truly **INCREDIBLE** and **UNIQUE** way!

Breakfast with the lions

Take pride of place in front of our newly-built Asiatic lion habitat and enjoy your breakfast outside before the zoo opens. While the lions roam in front of you, feast on a selection of pastries and fresh fruit as well as breakfast hash with pancakes and waffles for your cubs!

Plus, one of our **ROARsome** Zoo Rangers will be on hand to share more knowledge about this **AMAZING** species and answer any questions you may have in a 30 minute Q&A. Kick start your day the puuuuuuurfert way then prowl the zoo before it opens to the public.

Breakfast at The Oakfield

Enjoy a delicious breakfast in the stunning surroundings of The Oakfield and get early access to the zoo before anyone else! Our contemporary gastro pub is steeped in Chester Zoo history and offers incredible views of our award-winning gardens.

Why not start your day at the heart of the zoo then go explore and discover some of our amazing animals?

£14.95 adult and £9.50 child



EXPLORE the zoo like never before! Our **BRAND NEW** experience will give you the chance to start your day in a truly **MEMORABLE** way, before we open to the public!

Hop aboard our special tour bus and embark on an exclusive tour of our spectacular 128 acre zoo! Feel like a VIP as our experienced zoo expert takes you on a fun-filled adventure around the zoo and introduces you to some of our incredible animals along the way.

Discover what it takes to get the zoo ready for a busy day and take a peek behind the scenes – you'll even spot some of The Secret Life of the Zoo animal stars (and keepers!).

After experiencing the sights and sounds of the zoo you'll return to Adventure HQ, just in time for zoo opening where you will continue your adventure!

£300 per tour. Private tour for up to six people



RESTORING
BORNEO'S
RAINFORESTS



A tough year of COVID-19 lockdowns hasn't halted conservation efforts led by the all-female reforestation team of our partner NGO on Malaysian Borneo, Hutan.

The Kinabatangan floodplain located in the north of the island is one of the most biodiverse regions in Malaysia, and worldwide. This haven for threatened species such as the Bornean orangutan and Bornean elephant, are under a great deal of pressure as a result of rapid agricultural expansion, habitat degradation and fragmentation. The global demand of commodities is insatiable, and oil palm plantations now cover about 90% of the Kinabatangan landscape.

Pocket fragments of forest have survived along the expanse of the Kinabatangan river, but we know from extensive research that these scattered fragments are incapable of sustaining populations of the region's wildlife in the long run. If resources become scarce, then wildlife must roam into human-developed areas for sustenance, bringing species such as elephants in conflict with humanity, when they inevitably turn to crop raiding for food.

To help counteract this potentially devastating problem, Hutan has been championing the ecological concept of the wildlife corridor – a compromise between the needs of wildlife and the human population of an economically developing nation. Wildlife corridors exist by connecting fragments of habitat to ensure safe passageway for wildlife through a region, connecting biodiversity that are otherwise marooned in forest chunks.

For the last two years, Hutan has worked fiercely on the development of this concept, in particular, the Genting wildlife corridor. For women to have a permanent job is rare in Kinabatangan, and yet since 2008 an entirely female team has carried out huge scale landscape restoration projects, now turning their attention to the Genting area.

Native trees purchased from community nurseries by Hutan are transported first to their own nursery, before journeying on, when the time is right, to the wildlife corridor. For three and a half months, the team was locked down as the pandemic took hold, a frustrating loss of time. However, during 2020 they were successful in planting an incredible 14,160 tree seedlings from 21 different native tree species, despite the restrictions.

Two years on from the beginning of their work at Genting, monitoring efforts are now showing signs of success. The team is witnessing a rapid wildlife recolonisation of the area by a variety of wildlife species. Increasing animal presence has meant that newly planted seedlings are being consumed more, by species such as macaques, pigs and deer - the sign of a healthy ecosystem. As a result of this, native fauna fertilises its seeds in the animals' digestive tracts, spreading them across the forest. From this, we've seen an increase of wild seedlings throughout Genting, giving us hope that the region's biodiversity can be preserved.



We're *incredibly* proud to be one of **HUTAN**'s partners in conservation, which includes this **IMPORTANT** reforestation and monitoring project. **HUGE** thank you to our friends at the Co-op for *supporting* this work.

Find out more about this work at chesterzoo.org/saving-rainforests-and-orangutans



RACE FOR THE RAINFOREST

UPDATE

While you're reading this,
we will lose the equivalent of
25 FOOTBALL PITCHES
OF RAINFOREST

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You've read about what WE do for conservation in Borneo, now here's how YOU can make a difference.

Every tree that falls results in the destruction of precious biodiversity that supports wildlife ranging from tiny frogs and unique plants to pygmy elephants, sun bears and our own relative, the orangutan. Amazing species are losing their homes right now, pushed to the brink of extinction.

This is why we're working to support projects in Borneo aimed at the reforestation of these critical areas, providing wildlife corridors enabling the animals to move between habitats safely. Through collaboration with partners, communities and landowners, we're working towards a sustainable future for the rainforests of Borneo.

In 2021-22 you can be part of our Race for the Rainforest campaign; to raise vital funds to keep on track with our reforestation work.

PREVENT EXTINCTION your way by taking on a fundraising challenge and spreading the word about why our rainforests are so crucial to the planet.

Are you up to the challenge?

Download our Race for the Rainforest fundraising guide at chesterzoo.org/racefortherainforest



WHAT YOUR FUNDRAISING CAN ACHIEVE

Your fundraising will enable us to plant trees in a former oil palm plantation, but that's not all – we will also be protecting and monitoring these reforested areas. Most importantly, these trees will form a wildlife corridor along the Kinabatangan river between two fragments of protected rainforest, where isolated groups of orangutans currently live, so expanding their rainforest habitat and allowing them to thrive once more.

We are so excited to be able to offer you the chance to have a concrete impact on an issue that can seem overwhelming.

Any funds you raise for us will be converted into trees which will be nurtured, protected, planted, and monitored. They will form a home for wildlife, fight climate degeneration, and ensure that this corner of the world is safe for the future.

FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Need some inspiration?
You've come to the right place!
This section will help you set
up your fundraiser and find
the right activity for you...

KEY



Suitable for indoors



Suitable for outdoors



Family-friendly activity



Adult supervision required



Physical activity



Virtual activity



Suitable for schools & learning

CHOOSE YOUR FUNDRAISER

1. Be inspired by our handy guide at chesterzoo.org/racefortherainforest or think of your own challenge!
2. Head to the Race for the Rainforest Just Giving campaign page and start fundraising
3. Keep your page up to date with your incredible journey and share until you reach your goal!



ORGANISED FUN...

Always Aim High Events...

Do you enjoy taking part in physical challenges?
Check out Always Aim High Events - they have lots
of lovely outdoor events set against awe inspiring
backdrops... and some virtual events too!

www.alwaysaimhighevents.com



© Always Aim High Events

Just keep swimming...

Now we're back in the pools and can maybe even brave the waves, why not set yourself a swim challenge? The Kinabatangan river in Borneo is 347 miles in length - how about challenging yourself to swim 347 metres or lengths of a pool?



Create a new species...

We love rhinoceros hornbills - they have this name because of the horn-like casque above their bill. How many crazy animal combinations can you invent? Get your friends and relatives to sponsor you for every one you can draw or paint! Why not sell them for an extra donation?



Quiz time again!

We have all grown to love quizzes over the past year, so why not hold a rainforest themed quiz and see how much your friends and relatives know? Our website has lots of fun facts and figures to help you set the questions.



Sponsored silence..shhhh!

Imagine you are deep in the depths of Borneo listening to the sounds of the rainforest. Shhhhhh....what can you hear? See how long you can be quiet for. You could even find a rainforest soundtrack to listen to while you do it!



On your bike...!

Nothing beats a family cycle ride on a nice sunny day. Make it a challenge, set yourself a target, pack the butties and off you go. But how about doing it all dressed in red - just like a Bornean orangutan?



Crafty creatures...

Use wood, material, paint, wool, paper - whatever you can get your hands on to create some amazing rainforest animals. Why not go super sustainable and use your unwanted old things to give them a new life?



Set your sights high...

Make like a sun bear and get climbing. The UK has some great indoor climbing centres...as well as the real thing (and our own stairs at home!). Mount Kinabalu is the highest point in Borneo at 4095m - let that inspire you!





INVESTING in VOLUNTEERS

In celebration of National Volunteers Week (1-7 June), we felt it was the perfect time to share this exciting news with you, our members!

Last month we were awarded the 'Investing in Volunteers' certification standard - a huge achievement for the zoo. We caught up with our Volunteer Manager, Lindsay Marston, to find out more about what this standard means for us, our journey to achieving this and our plans for the future.

Tell us a bit about why we decided to apply for the 'Investing in Volunteers' standard...

"Our volunteer programme has come an incredibly long way in a relatively short time. We've had volunteers working for the zoo since the 1980s, but only in 2015 did we decide that it was the time to formalise the process and take a look at building an exciting and evolving programme. Over these last five years, despite the challenges that the world has brought, our programme has blossomed into an incredible community of up to 250 volunteers a year - supporting our mission to prevent extinction.

"But it's one thing to grow fast, it's another to grow well. We wanted to seek proper accreditation, benchmarking the programme to nationally recognised standards to ensure our volunteer management processes were effective and volunteers felt valued and recognised fully for their contribution. The 'Investing in Volunteers' standard recognises organisations with some of the best volunteer management in the UK - so what better target to reach?"

What was the journey like to get here?

"For the standard itself, it's taken us a whopping year and half! The process was delayed massively by the Covid-19 pandemic, but that's not stopped us. Assessments and interviews have

evaluated the work we do to develop our volunteers, keep them safe in their role, and invest in their needs.

"But for us, the journey represents the exciting steps we've taken over the last few years to get here. 'Investing in Volunteers' recognises volunteer programmes that offer diverse opportunities with absolutely no barriers to access. Spurred on by the pandemic, we've been completely re-evaluating the ways our volunteers can contribute to the zoo's work and achieve their personal motivations for volunteering.

"As well as visitor engagement roles, we now have volunteers supporting our learning programmes and participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award, as well as volunteer youth champions that support the needs of our younger volunteers. Recently, we also began offering micro-volunteering opportunities, ranging from helping distribute adoption packages, to participation in our new citizen science project that's exploring the status of Chester's hedgehog population.

"Throughout the process, it's been absolutely wonderful to hear how valued volunteers feel as part of our staff and volunteer community. To be evaluated to such a high standard by a respected body is a huge achievement for everyone involved, I'm so proud of our whole team."

What's next?

"We've already got a thriving group of volunteers that do so much to support our conservation goals, but we still want to do more to make sure our community is fully representative of the broader Cheshire community around us - a diverse community of different ages, ethnicities and backgrounds. We're working to better understand the barriers to volunteer participation and are taking steps to reduce them, with some approaches already well underway. Our close relationship with Ancora House, a local mental health unit for young people, as well as the introduction of enhanced training for volunteers in support roles are helping us to be more accessible for people with disabilities, and we'll continue with research to understand how we can do more."

How can people get involved?

"We're currently streamlining our volunteer recruitment process so stay tuned for that, but at the moment we'd love people to get involved with some of the opportunities on our website! Send us your stories and get involved with Chester Zoo conservation through our new Community Hub".

'When I talk about the zoo to my friends and family, I always end up talking about how the zoo treats PEOPLE. It's something I wasn't expecting really when I joined. I expected them to be good at looking after the ANIMALS but they are good at looking after PEOPLE too!'

If you're someone that works with volunteers yourself, or would just like to know more, visit chesterzoo.org/volunteerwithus



COMMUNITY HUB

Our Community Hub is the perfect place to share your stories from the fun and artistic to the incredibly inspirational. We love to hear your **INSPIRING** stories and how you're helping us to prevent extinction by acting for wildlife.

Take a look at some of the amazing stories we've received so far...

FUNDRAISING SNAPS! Danielle Hough

"I am a keen hobby photographer and member of the zoo. I started training as a volunteer at the zoo just before lockdown and completed my challenge via Zoom during lockdown; I have raised over £450 for the zoo by selling prints of my photography and raffling off animal adoptions"

A IS FOR AQUARIUM Sharon

"When I turned 50 in 2015, I opted to do 50 challenges in a year...some of which are still to be completed! But, one that I did finish was finding animals at Chester Zoo matching the alphabet over the course of a year's membership. I took a lot of photos, wrote limericks and did some drawings which I am compiling into a PDF to raise money for Chester Zoo."

T-SHIRTS FOR ADOPTIONS! Mum's Merch

"I printed "Save Our Zoo" t-shirts and sold them through Facebook. With the proceeds I adopted two animals (ringtailed lemur & red panda) on behalf of my company and our customers."

ELEPHANT BRACELET GOES VIRAL GLOBALLY Sharon Rogers

"After seeing the news last year when the zoo was in trouble, I desperately wanted to help, being a member, previously a worker during my school years, and being our favourite place to visit. I put a Facebook post on my business page which pledged to give 50% of profits of the sales of my handmade silver elephant charm bracelets. To my utter disbelief the post reached nearly two million people globally within 48hrs. I had 1000's of messages off people wanting the "Famous Elephant Bracelet". It took three months of eight hours a day, in which I was working until the early hours every day. I had a one year old toddler to look after too. Every single bracelet was handmade by my one pair of hands, but there was so much more that went into getting the bracelets out. I managed to raise an amazing £2,150, and the final bracelets went out at the start of September after starting in June! My customers still praise my efforts to this day and I'm so happy I could be a part in helping and when I visit I will feel so proud I helped keep the zoo open."

We'd love to hear how you've been inspired by Chester Zoo to Act for Wildlife. Share your conservation story on our website at chesterzoo.org/communityhub



Your EXPERIENCES of visiting the ZOO with a DISABILITY

We are *continually* **REVIEWING** the ways that we make people feel **WELCOME**. From staff training to the design of our physical spaces and now we want to **HEAR FROM YOU**.

If you are someone living with a disability or long term condition, then we want to know....

- What are the very best things about visiting the zoo?
- What are the things that would make your experience of visiting the zoo better?
- What have you experienced in other attractions that have made your visit extra special?



To have your say, please go to www.chesterzoo.org/accessibility and take part in our consultation on accessibility.

We'll use any information we gather to make changes to the way we work and to give the best advice to visitors coming to us for the first time. Thank you.

An
otter-ly adorable
NEW
ARRIVAL



A brand new arrival is already making quite the splash! Meet giant otter Tibiri, a five-year-old female who's travelled all the way from Singapore as part of the international breeding programme that's working to help protect this endangered species.

Tibiri has recently been paired up with 10-year-old male giant otter, Tarubu, and so far they've been inseparable! The pair can often be seen sunbathing, swimming and playing together in their outdoor habitat.

Our carnivore experts are hopeful that the duo will continue to get along swimmingly and, in the near future, will go on to have pups. Crucially, with Tibiri having come from a zoo so far away and outside of Europe, this would mean fresh genetic representation in the breeding programme - vitally important to the global effort to prevent the giant otter from becoming extinct.

Dr Nick Davis, Deputy Curator of Mammals, said:

"We're delighted that we've been able to welcome Tibiri to the zoo. An ambitious animal move like this, involving zoos so geographically far apart, is rather special and not at all common. So it's wonderful to see her settling in so quickly - we're keeping everything crossed that she'll soon go on to have pups! Chester Zoo has been home to giant otters for more than 10 years in an effort to protect the species, and we hope that this incredibly important duo will further inspire visitors to help support our vital conservation work."

"Sadly, giant otters are endangered in the wild and it's estimated that as few as 5,000 now remain across South America. Their populations face a large number of threats including habitat destruction, water pollution and illegal poaching. This makes the international breeding programme in progressive zoos like ours increasingly more important to their long-term survival."

Our keepers report that it didn't take long for the newly introduced pair to form a close bond. But, despite showing all

the positive signs, giant otters can be notoriously difficult to breed, says keeper Kieran Cieslinski:

"Giant otters are a particularly tricky species to breed. It's therefore really important that our team of experts here at the zoo recreate a very specific set of conditions to help them feel comfortable enough to have young together - and we're confident we can do it."

"We've had breeding successes in the past and the new pair is showing all the right signs so far, which includes lots of grooming and chasing each other around their habitat. They also spend lots of time swimming, eating and curling up in the sleeping holts together. It's become quite clear that they've got a strong companionship, which is just brilliant to see so early on."

The team has already noted some mating between the pair, but female otters can delay implantation - holding their fertilised egg inside for some time before they begin to grow into pups - so it could be a little while before any babies arrive.

Kieran continued:

"Tibiri is quite clearly an independent female and Tarubu is her first mate, so she's definitely not making it straightforward for him. But Tarubu is an experienced male and so, when the time is right, he'll settle things down and help to show her the route to family life."

"Regardless of whether or not the pair go on to have pups though, they truly are remarkable, intelligent animals and it's a real privilege for the team and I to care for them. We'll be sure to let you know of any exciting developments."

Tibiri is much larger than Tarabu, so keep an eye out next time you visit the zoo and see if you can spot this otter-ly fabulous pair!

Junior Programme 2021

Discover. explore. share & learn

Places are limited & often get snapped up fast, so make sure you **BOOK SOON!**
chesterzoo.org/events

Junior Ranger Training Camps 2021



Are you aged 8 - 11? Do you love wildlife? Are you a member of the zoo? If so, Junior Rangers is perfect for you!

The Training Camps run every Sunday for FIVE weeks. Each week we explore different parts of the zoo and learn about our amazing animals and incredible conservation work.

Dates: 26 September- 24 October, 7 November - 5 December

TODDLER SESSION



We're hosting coffee mornings with a difference! Join us for our terrific tots sessions full of animal fun. All our activities are suitable for children under 5 and are best suited to 1 to 3 year olds. Themes for each session are listed on the website and sessions may involve messy play and craft.

Dates: 7, 14, 21 July in Bembe Coffee Shop
Head to our events page for more information.

SKILLS COURSES

Throughout the year, we will be running a series of exciting courses for young people between the ages of 12-15. You'll get practical experience, learn loads of new skills and you don't need to be a wildlife expert - anybody can get involved!

Keep your eyes peeled on chesterzoo.org/events for new courses and events.



CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGY (12-16 YEARS)

From camera traps to satellites to drones, conservation technology is increasingly critical to ensuring that people and nature thrive. Join us over three days for an exciting introduction into some of this technology and how it's being used as a powerful tool for conservation and ecological research. Our conservation team will be on hand to demonstrate these amazing tools used across the globe in our field programme sites. This is perfect for those wanting an insight into conservation and research.

Dates: Every Saturday for 3 weeks, between Saturday 25 September - Saturday 9 October.

Available to book from July

YOUNG CONSERVATIONISTS SUMMER SCHOOL

Our summer school has been developed for those aged 12-17 years who are interested in a career working with animals, in conservation, research or veterinary fields. During the week, young people will be immersed into the world of Chester Zoo with sessions and activities led by our experts. The week will involve a combination of practical activities and theory sessions, both indoors and outdoors.

Date: 2 August - 6 August

The summer school runs from 9.00am - 4.30pm, with free early drop off available from 8.45am.



THE LANTERNS

AT **CHESTER ZOO**

There's something **MAGICAL** happening this Christmas! Our festive event returns for 2021.

Sign up to our newsletter to get more detail about tickets or visit chesterzoo.org/lanterns



christmas party nights

at **CHESTER ZOO**

Want to plan an unforgettable corporate Christmas party?

Plan an extraordinary evening at The Oakfield, at the heart of the zoo. A relaxed, yet grand and elegant pub style setting with great food, entertainment, music and all of the sparkle that you'd expect!

Visit chesterzoo.org/christmasparty to find out more



Wildlife

CONNECTIONS

FESTIVAL

Sat 18 and Sun 19 September

JOIN US THIS YEAR FOR OUR FREE
WILDLIFE CONNECTIONS FESTIVAL!

Discover the extraordinary world of UK plants and animals that are right on your door step in this weekend full of nature-ific fun!

Our Wildlife Connections Festival is an annual celebration of UK native species, which also features live music, our community partners and lots of hands-on activities for families that all take place at our Nature Reserve.

Sign up to our zoo newsletter to hear all the latest Wildlife Connections updates.





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