



2006 Annual Report of the North of England Zoological Society

A Shared Vision



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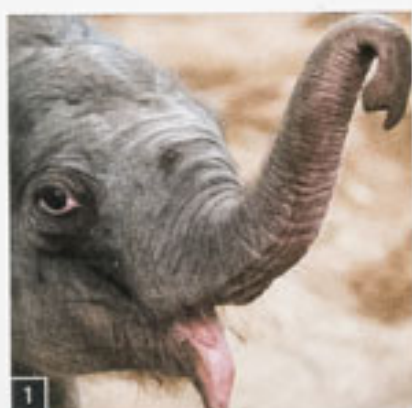
To save on paper, these appendices are provided electronically on a disc (see inside back cover).

If you prefer to receive a printed copy in normal or larger type please request this in writing from the Company Secretary.

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Our Vision:

A diverse, thriving and sustainable natural world



1. Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*).
Photography courtesy of Reuters
2. Peony (*Paeonia*)

3. Face Painting is popular with our younger visitors
4. Chester Zoo's award-winning gardens
5. Javan Rhinoceros Hornbill (female)
(*Buceros rhinoceros silvestris*)

6. Blue Poison Arrow Frog (*Dendrobates azureus*)
7. A 'Discovery' teaching session in the Education Centre
Front Cover. Mandrill (*Mandrillus sphinx*)

Chairman's Statement 2006

During 2006 the Society continued to expand its programme of conservation, research and education which underpins our mission 'to be a major force in conserving biodiversity worldwide'. With an increasing number of outreach projects at home and in 40 other countries, we endeavour to influence the protection of wildlife and, in particular, conserve the ever growing number of endangered species. Our work now extends across four continents, confirming our role in global conservation.

In recognition of Chester Zoo's expertise, our Director General, Professor Gordon McGregor Reid, has been playing a leading role in establishing the Amphibian Ark (AArk) - a collaboration between the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN Amphibian Specialist Group and Conservation Breeding Specialist Group). The AArk has been set up to address the current plight of amphibians, whose numbers could be severely reduced within 20 years as a result of a vigorously spreading fungus. This exercise illustrates the critical roles in which the Society's staff are engaged in the world arena and we are proud of their achievements. For more information on the Amphibian Ark, see page 23.



Our Mission:

To be a major force in conserving biodiversity worldwide

Our capital projects plan is aimed at investing both in visitor facilities and the welfare of our animals. Our new animal exhibits offer an unparalleled environment for conservation, breeding and welfare, while still achieving the maximum visitor experience. This is illustrated in the new 'Elephants of the Asian Forest' enclosure, which was officially opened in July 2006 by the Duke of Westminster and TV presenter Philippa Forrester. In October, we were delighted to welcome HRH the Duke of Kent, who opened our new enclosure, 'The Secret World of the Okapi'. During his visit, he also presented the Society with the Queen's Award for Enterprise and Sustainable Development, a prestigious achievement for which the Director General and his staff should be congratulated. In June 2006 our new restaurant, 'Café Tsavo' was officially opened by TV celebrity chef, the Michelin-starred Nick Nairn.

2007 will see the opening of 'Realm of the Red Ape' and the development of new entrance facilities, called 'Beginnings'. These plans are part of our ongoing 'Superzoo' development and I would once again like to thank all those external organisations, particularly the North West Development Agency, for their continued support in helping us to progress this exciting world class project.

Our financial position continues to be strong. We again achieved well over 1 million visitors during 2006, which enabled us to consolidate the substantial reserves generated last year. Although we are ever conscious of the competition for visitors, this does reflect our dominance as the UK's leading animal visitor attraction.

This year sees the retirement of Alan Watson from the Board of Trustees. Alan has been a long-standing supporter of the Society and for over 5 years he has been Chairman of the Finance and Personnel Committee. On behalf of Council and staff, I would like to thank Alan for his sound financial and commercial advice from which the Society has greatly benefited.

In addition I would like to pass on my gratitude to our President His Grace, the Duke of Westminster KG, OBE, TD, DL, and our Vice Presidents, the Right Honourable Lord Wade of Chorlton and the Honourable Mrs A Margaret Jane Heber-Percy, for their continued support.

Finally, I would like to thank all the staff for their continued dedication and enthusiasm which makes the North of England Zoological Society the beacon of excellence that it is today.

Tony Williams, Chairman, North of England Zoological Society.

Director General's Review

Gordon McGregor Reid

Chester Zoo (the North of England Zoological Society) is enthusiastically committed to its charitable purpose in conserving biodiversity worldwide. It pursues this aim by operating the Zoo and through conservation activities, at home and abroad. Our speciality is rare and endangered biodiversity - currently we care for more than 7000 animals and 4800 plant species here in Chester. With visitor numbers above 1.1 million and a correspondingly buoyant zoo economy, we are in an excellent position to meet and surpass our ambitious goals in conservation, education and science



Re-organising for Success

With a high level of Council and staff teamwork, we continue to develop our Strategic Plan following a re-organisation of the management structure in 2006.

A new framework for meetings reflects the changing needs of the Zoo and aims to make meetings more focused and effective. The framework is based on 3 types of meetings: strategy, operations, and communication.

A planning and tracking meeting now controls and monitors our increasingly large capital development programme including, for example, the £3.8 million state-of-the-art 'Realm of the Red Ape' project for Orang-utans.

Good internal communications are vital, so a structure is in place to keep staff updated with events and the remarkable achievements of the Zoo team.

Local and Regional Partnerships

In a complex modern economy, the Zoo can only make substantial progress by forging mutually beneficial strategic partnerships with external bodies. The Regional Economic Strategy (RES) was launched by the North West Development Agency (NWDA) in March 2006, and sets out how the North West can improve its prospects over the next 20 years. The visitor economy in the North West is valued at £10 billion, in a total North West economy of £100 billion per annum. The RES sets out the vision of: 'A dynamic, sustainable, international economy which competes on the basis of knowledge, advanced technology and an excellent quality of life for all'. Chester Zoo, via its 'Superzoo' aspirations, is identified as a 'Signature Project' - one which, through investment, can help transform the visitor

economy and make other educational and scientific contributions. The NWDA have ratified projects for the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP), which outlines expenditure for 2007-2010 and we are delighted that the Zoo is included. With support from the NWDA, we are now engaged in a £3.8 million planning exercise for 'Superzoo'. In supporting our ambition, we are grateful to the Parish, City and County Councils, the University of Chester, Cheshire and Warrington Tourist Board, Cheshire and Warrington Economic Alliance and the Northwest Business Leadership Team.

Liverpool Links

We have actively engaged with the City of Liverpool and its universities for many years. This relationship continues as Liverpool plans its year as 'Capital of Culture'. The Zoo will be involved in this and 'Cheshire's Year of the Gardens', designed to complement 'Liverpool '08'.

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I was a Trustee of the National Museums of Liverpool for 5 years and completed my term of office in March 2006. Other links with Liverpool have been reinforced by my appointment to the Board of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Liverpool and through an Honorary Fellowship of Liverpool John Moore's University.

National Engagement

The Zoo hosted the Annual Conference of the British & Irish Association of Zoos & Aquariums (BIAZA) in May 2006 at which James Berresford, Director of Tourism, NWDA, gave a keynote address on the role of development agencies in relation to wildlife and other attractions.

The Zoo enjoys a close relationship with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF, UK) and I continue to serve on their Conservation Programmes Committee.

I am also a Trustee of the 'Frozen Ark' - a collaboration between the British Museum of Natural History, the University of Nottingham, and the zoos of London and Chester. This initiative is to create a gene bank for rare species, using low temperature biotechnology.

Having completed a 3-year term of office and 9 years on Council, I stepped down as President of the Linnean Society of London in May 2006. I assisted in resolving issues concerning the Society's tenure in Burlington House, Piccadilly, and successful fundraising to secure the future of the biological collections, Linnean Library and other treasures. As Immediate Past President, I will be involved during 2007 in the Tercentenary celebrations of the life of Linnaeus.

International Activity

Chester Zoo maintains a high profile in Europe and beyond. A Chester team attended the 23rd Annual Conference of the European Association of Zoos and Aquariums (EAZA) in Madrid during October 2006. With over 500 delegates, this is a key event for the Zoo in terms of animal transactions and the promotion of collaboration in conservation, education and animal welfare. Our Zoo staff chair many committees and sub-groups and as Chair of the Research Committee, I presented a final draft of the European Zoo and Aquarium Research Strategy, due for publication in 2007.

The Third International Zoo Research Conference was held at Poznan Zoo, Poland in June. The conference theme was 'Animals, Zoos and Conservation' and I gave the opening address on 'Developing the Research Potential of Zoos and Aquariums'.

I was invited to serve on the International Zoo Yearbook Advisory Board for another 2 years alongside representatives from zoos, universities and conservation bodies.

As Chair of the IUCN/Wetlands International - Freshwater Fish Specialist Group (IUCN/WI FFSG), I hosted a meeting of Regional Co-ordinators in March to formalise global and regional strategies, and devise a plan for completing the Global Assessment of Freshwater Fish. In this connection, I attended the Fourth World Water Forum Conference in Mexico City in March to advocate conserving aquatic biodiversity. Four thousand delegates discussed depleted global water supplies, climate change and future water use.

World Association of Zoos and Aquariums

Zoo staff attended the WAZA Annual Conference in Leipzig and the annual meeting of the IUCN Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) in Halle, Germany, during August. As Chair of the WAZA Aquarium Committee I presented a draft Global Aquarium Strategy for Conservation, Welfare and Sustainability; plus draft Global Zoo Standards for Marine Mammals. The chairmanship of the WAZA Aquarium Committee was then passed to Dr Mark Penning, Director of the South African Association for Marine Biology and CEO of Durban Sea World. The first spectacular underwater film of the new Indonesian Coelacanth was presented to the Aquarium Committee by a Japanese delegate. As President-elect of WAZA, I gave the opening address at the Regional Conference of the South East Asia Association of Zoos and Aquariums in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, in September on 'Improving the global zoo and aquarium brand'.

1. Professor Gordon McGregor Reid was presented for admission to the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, of the University of Chester. Pictured L to R: Gordon McGregor Reid, Ian Botham, Alex McGregor Reid.
2. HRH The Duke of Kent presents the Queen's Award for Enterprise (in the category of Sustainable Development) to Director General of Chester Zoo, Gordon McGregor Reid.
3. Chester Zoo hosts a meeting of Regional Co-ordinators of the IUCN/Wetlands International Freshwater Fish Specialist Group (IUCN/WI FFSG), March 2006. The meeting was chaired by Gordon McGregor Reid.
4. The Director General welcomes the Rt Hon John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister to Chester Zoo, November 2006.



A Shared Vision from a Committed Team



Gordon McGregor Reid
Director General

"It is a great thrill to work with such a committed and professional team to deliver excellent results as a leisure attraction and for conservation, education and science."



Liz Child
Head of Visitor Services

"Working as Head of Visitor Services at Chester Zoo is a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding job as no two days are the same. My role involves an interesting blend of managing day-to-day operational issues as well as planning and delivering longer term projects and events. It is especially rewarding to know that my own team's work can make a real difference to the overall customer experience which is hugely important for the Zoo."



Roger Wilkinson
Head of Conservation and Science

"The Zoo's mission is animal and plant conservation backed by excellent welfare. This must be grounded in good science. I love wildlife and wild places and get great satisfaction from working with my team and colleagues both in the Zoo and in the field to ensure we focus our resources to really make a difference in saving endangered species and their habitats worldwide."



Jayne Quinn
Head of Personnel

"I love being around people, and especially people who work with respect for each other and enthusiasm and passion for what they do - whether this is achieving our mission, making a great day out for our visitors or working behind the scenes to make it all happen. I have the exciting opportunity to be involved in wide ranging issues - from employment and strategies for future growth, to staff training and development."



Mark Pilgrim
Director of Conservation and Education

"There is something very special about working with animals, it's a huge privilege and pleasure. Whenever I can find enough free time, I try to escape the office to spend some time with the animals. Not only does this time fill me with inspiration and energy, it also serves to remind me of what our work is fundamentally all about."



Steve O'Brien
Head of Estates

"I am fortunate to be a key player in the management of the Zoo Estate and physical redevelopment of Chester Zoo. My role in the team is both very satisfying and rewarding knowing that I contribute to our mission by taking advantage of new and exciting opportunities to ensure the Zoo has sustainable growth for the future."



Stephen McKeown
Head of Education

"I'm really lucky to be doing the job I dreamed of doing when I was 10 years old. To lead a team that is so passionate about communicating our conservation mission to the million plus people that are our audience is hugely rewarding. And the opportunity to go out and do conservation education in the field brings home the reality of the challenges facing us all and makes me feel proud that we're doing our bit to help."



Alan Sykes
Head of Finance

"It's great working at a place where the bottom line is not the most important thing. Certainly we have to be business-like in generating income from all our visitors, and make the most of every penny spent, but at the end of the day we're not here to make a profit - the surplus is ploughed back into expanding our conservation work, here and around the world."



Martin Davies
Head of Catering and Retail Events

"I love to see our new ideas come to life and study the public response, see how they enjoy it and what can be changed to make it more efficient and entertaining. For me it's about weighing up the public's need for quality and value for money but our challenge does not stop there. Finding the right supplier with the right approach (which matches our values) to deliver our sustainable food procurement initiative is also part of my role."



Sharon Leeson
Head of Marketing and Development

"I love my work at Chester Zoo because it involves communicating with people about what a great day out it is and how their visit to the Zoo helps us with our conservation purpose. I get satisfaction out of knowing that in my job, I can make a difference to how well the Zoo performs - and that means we can be more effective in our mission."

2006 A year of Highlights and Awards

January



- The Zoo likes to play its part in the community so the Director General took part in a 'Lock up your Boss' charity fundraising campaign for Crimestoppers, spending an uncomfortable night in jail. Staff and Trustees paid to free him and the money was divided between Crimestoppers and Chester Zoo
- Media attention is focused on the breeding of six Puerto Rican Crested Toads
- Busiest January in Zoo history with 30,127 visitors

February



- An episode of the series 'Hollyoaks' is filmed at Chester Zoo
- Rafter's - a male Giraffe is born and Dairy Crest agree to supply the Zoo with free gold top milk for 9 months to help feed the youngster
- Busy month - 60,000 visitors
- Orchid Festival attracts record number of visitors

March



- 'Café Tsavo' opens to the public in time for Easter
- Two female Bengal Tigers arrive at the Zoo
- Young plants of Limestone Woundwort, a very rare native species, are raised by the Zoo and planted back into the wild in North Wales

April



- Queen's Award for Enterprise (Sustainable Development) is awarded to NEZS for the second time
- The 'Joseph Banks Room' opens with a new exhibition - 'Bones to Bronzes'
- Bill Oddie visits the Zoo and some of our local conservation projects - all of which are featured on the BBC 'Springwatch' programme

May



- A White-naped Crane born at Chester Zoo after natural conception is reared by its parents
- Group Organiser Familiarisation visit attracts over 60 Group Organisers
- Bookings by Group Visitors for the year are up by 54%
- Rare Egyptian Tortoises hatch, attracting nationwide media interest

June



- 'Dreamnight', a charity event for children and their carers, takes place at the Zoo
- Official opening of 'Café Tsavo' by TV chef Nick Nairn
- Chester Zoo wins the title of 'Large Visitor Attraction of the Year 2006' from the Cheshire and Warrington Tourist Board
- Female Asiatic Lion, Asha, arrives from Rome, hopefully to mate with Asoka
- 30,000 summer bedding plants are planted in the Zoo
- Orang-utans pose with England World Cup flags, gaining worldwide media attention

July



- Official opening of 'Elephants of the Asian Forest' by His Grace The Duke of Westminster and TV presenter Philippa Forrester
- Californian Sealion Rio, produces a pup - her first offspring
- Chester Zoo is a venue for the Sport Relief 'Run a Mile' event with over 500 runners taking part

August



- Summer Theatre takes place everyday on the 'Arara Lawn'
- Summer School for Junior Members takes place for the first time and the juniors produce some spectacular artwork
- Pancake Tortoise hatches - a first for Chester Zoo

September



- Busiest September in Zoo history
- The Zoo wins both the 'North West in Bloom' and 'Chester in Bloom' trophies
- Lifetime Supporters special event
- Winner of Cheshire Business Awards Community Award
- Opening of the 'Joseph Banks Room' for educational exhibitions

October



- Busiest October in Zoo history
- A young Wollemi Pine, a plant only discovered in 1994 and previously known only from fossil records, is obtained by the Zoo for conservation purposes
- HRH The Duke of Kent visits the Zoo to present the Queen's Award and officially open 'The Secret World of the Okapi'
- Pumpkin Festival takes place during October half term

November



- Busiest November in Zoo history
- Birth of healthy male Asian Elephant calf - after record-breaking pregnancy
- Birth of Molly - first Rothschild's Giraffe to be bred at Chester Zoo
- Three groups from the Zoo's cacti collection are awarded National Collection Status in recognition of their scientific and conservational importance
- 'Frost Fair' VIP and Press launch

December



- Busiest December in Zoo history
- 'Frost Fair' starts and attracts record numbers of visitors
- Blue Peter viewers choose the name Raman for our baby Asian Elephant
- Top science journal 'Nature' published an article on Flora, Chester Zoo's Komodo Dragon that has laid fertile eggs without ever mating - a 'virgin birth'. The landmark story achieves worldwide publicity for the Zoo

Our Conservation and Education Mission -

Mark Pilgrim, Director of Conservation and Education

Each year more environmental issues arise that impact on people and wildlife, presenting ever greater threats to populations of animals and plants. Tackling these complex issues may appear daunting, but we believe the starting point is for people to appreciate their natural world. Every day at the Zoo we observe visitors enjoying a variety of animals and plants from around the world. When people really begin to appreciate nature, we will be a lot nearer to conserving it



Global Amphibian Crisis

Highlighting international threats to biodiversity is an increasingly important part of our work. One such issue is the catastrophic decline in the world's amphibians, largely due to a fungal infection (evidently linked to climate change) which is wiping out populations of frogs at an alarming rate.

Conservation efforts are now underway and our contribution to this global initiative is being led by our Director General, Gordon McGregor Reid and Curator of Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates, Kevin Buley.

Gordon has been appointed by WAZA as Co-Chair of the Amphibian Ark Project (AArk), working alongside Bob Lacy, Chair of the IUCN Conservation Breeding Specialist Group

and Joe Mendelson, CEO of the IUCN Amphibian Specialist Group. Recognising the gravity of this crisis, Sir David Attenborough has kindly agreed to be the Patron of the AArk. A 'Year of the Frog 2008' campaign is being planned.

An Amphibian Conservation Planning Workshop was held in Panama in February and a key stakeholder meeting in Washington in

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early June. The zoo community intends to take action in many ways. A fundraising campaign has already secured more than US \$400,000 to support full-time AARK posts, plus training and awareness initiatives and conservation in the field. Chester Zoo will play a leading role in this initiative and we are already planning how we can create facilities to maintain 'assurance populations' of these threatened species.

EAZA Rhino Campaign

The European Association of Zoos and Aquariums (EAZA) also highlights biodiversity issues and each year its 306 member zoos raise money to support a particular campaign. The 2006 campaign raised awareness of the problems facing the five remaining species of rhinoceros. Chester Zoo raised 20,000 euros for rhinoceros conservation and explained to visitors the issues facing rhinos through an interpretative display. Located next to our Black Rhinoceros, this display explained what NEZS (Chester Zoo) is doing to protect rhinos. One very popular part of the exhibit is a replica of Land Rovers used by anti-poaching patrols in Tsavo National Park. Thousands of children enjoyed this exhibit, and learned about being a rhino protector. During the school holidays, we welcomed Wilson Mancha to Chester to tell visitors about his work as a Rhino Ranger at the Chyulu Hills reserve in Tsavo.

2006 Highlights

Early in the year a breeding-age female Asian Elephant *Birma* came to Chester from Maubeuge Zoo in France. We hope she will become an important part of the herd and its development by producing calves of a completely new blood line.

Two other long awaited and important females that arrived in 2006 were *Asha* the Asian lioness to join our lone male *Asoka* and *Stuma* our first female Okapi who arrived from Stuttgart Zoo.

It was pleasing to see the keenly anticipated arrival of a pair of critically endangered Black Lion Tamarins to be a key species within our 'Miniature Monkeys' exhibit. They also highlight our support for a group of these critically endangered primates in Brazil.

2006 was also a good year for important breeding events. We can feature only a small number here, but among the most important would be the first breeding in the northern hemisphere of the Javan Rhinoceros Hornbill and the first breeding of the Hyacinthine Macaw at Chester. These were very pleasing successes and highlighted the tremendous skills and dedication of our bird staff. The mammal teams also produced excellent breeding results, including a Rothschild's Giraffe named *Molly* and a male Asian Elephant, who was named *Raman* by viewers of the BBC's

'Blue Peter', continuing their long-standing support and enthusiasm for our Asian Elephants.

Also in the spotlight were the tiny critically endangered Egyptian Tortoises, which hatched at about the size of a fifty pence piece. Media interest was stimulated when we imaginatively named them after England footballers just before the World Cup finals. This allowed us to highlight the plight of this species to a far wider audience.

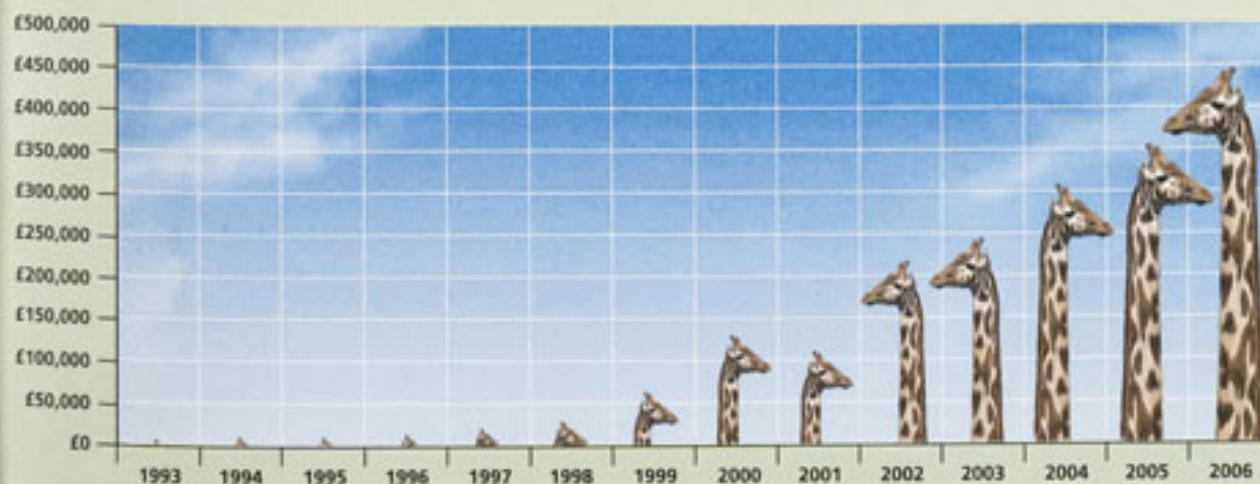
Capturing the imagination of our visitors is essential and the introduction of one of the world's largest and critically endangered bats, the Livingstone's Fruit Bat, has certainly caused a stir with visitors in the Twilight Zone.

The Wollemi Pine was an exciting addition to the botanical collection in 2006. This plant was thought to be extinct and was only known from fossil specimens until 1994 when it was rediscovered in a secluded location in its native Australia. Our botanical team are doing their bit to ensure that a population of this rare plant remains under cultivation.

Part of the 'Tropical Realm' was converted into off-show rooms for reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates. These rooms will be used to house our growing number of conservation sensitive species and allow us the flexibility to respond to *ex-situ* conservation and research priorities in a way that was not previously possible.

In 2006 the implementation of a new management structure brought together the animal and plant collections, conservation and research work and our education work. I was privileged to be invited to lead this Directorate and foster an attitude of inclusive team working within these vital areas of our mission.

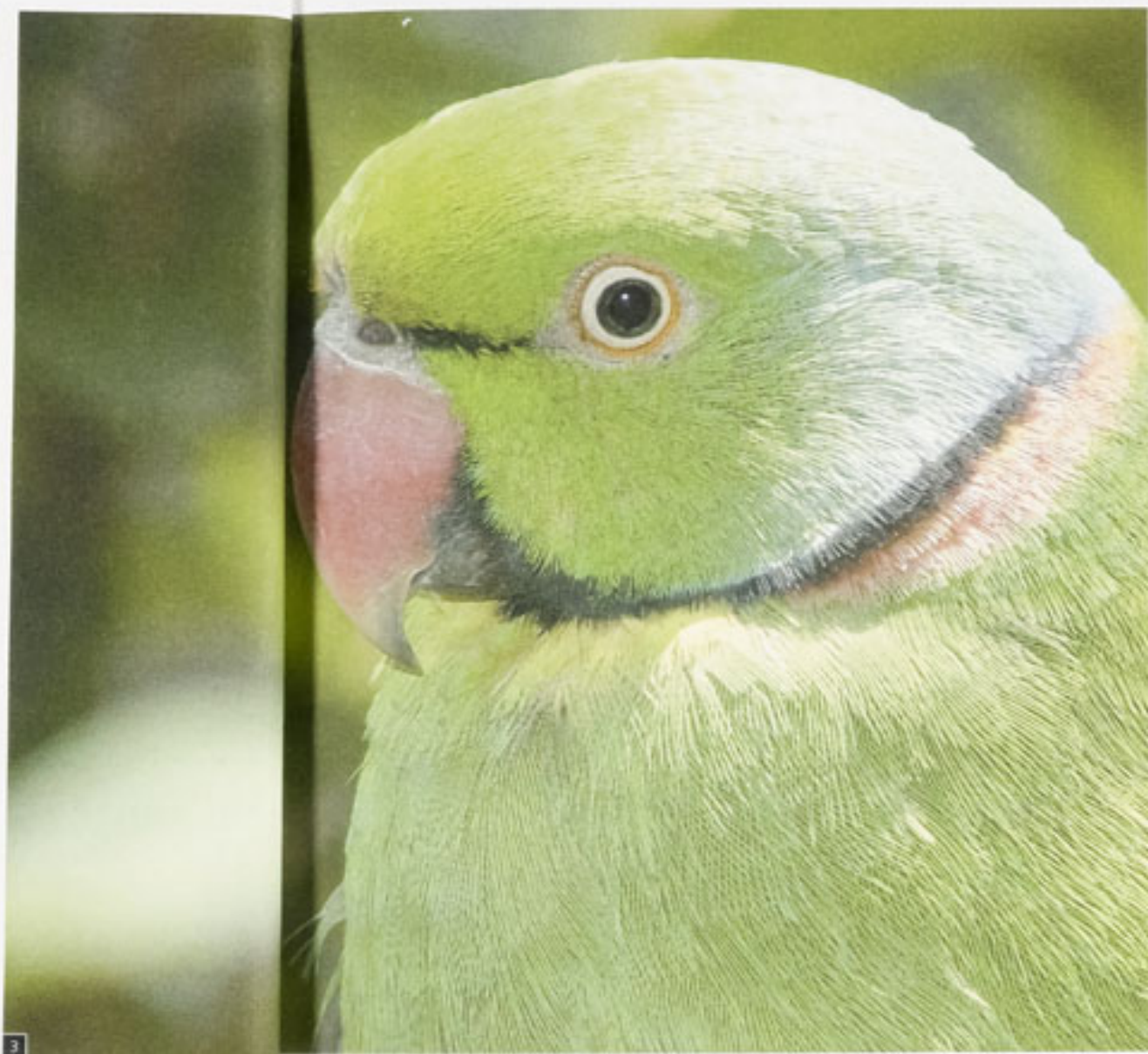
NEZS Expenditure on Field Conservation Activities



1. Golden Poison Dart Frog (*Phylllobates terribilis*)
2. National Collection status is granted to three of the Zoo's Plant Collections
3. Egyptian Tortoise (*Testudo kleinmanni*)

An Island Race

Our conservation projects in the Philippines and Mascarenes represent a race against time and human activity to conserve endemic island species



Polynesia

Many species of *Partula* snails are now extinct, mostly due to the introduction of large predatory snails to the Polynesian Islands. Chester have been successfully involved in breeding programmes here at the Zoo for several *Partula* species and also support the Polynesian Tree Snail (*Partula*) Project, a collaborative project involving many zoos. In 2006 this project won the BIAZA Meritorious Award for Best Field Conservation Project.

- 1. Philippine Spotted Deer (male) (*Rusa alfredi*)
- 2. Professor Lucia Lactimosa with Visayan Warty-billed Hornbill (*Aceros wardeni*)
- 3. Echo Parakeet (male) (*Ptilinopus echo*)
- 4. Partula Snail (*Partula gabi*)
- 5-7. Hand-rearing Mauritius Fody (*Foudia rubra*)

Philippines

In the Philippines, we support a number of conservation projects, working together with Fauna and Flora International, the Katala Foundation and the Philippine Endemic Species Conservation Project.

On the islands of Negros and Panay we assist with the rescue and rehabilitation of many species including Philippine Spotted Deer, Philippines Duck and Visayan Warty Pigs. The Conservation Breeding Centres we support are important focal points to promote conservation awareness within local communities and are also involved in field research, habitat protection and restoration activities.

It is intended that the species held at these breeding centres will be reintroduced back into the wild, and as well as supporting the breeding centres directly and helping with planned reintroductions, we play an important role in the conservation breeding of threatened Philippines species here at Chester Zoo. 2006 was a great year for our endangered Philippine Spotted Deer with 3 youngsters born, bringing our total to 11.

Linked to our breeding centre support in the Philippines we also invest in protecting the remaining forest fragments, and their important wildlife. Chester Zoo supports wildlife wardens on the islands of Cebu and Polillo. We fund salaries, equipment and training, allowing wardens to protect remaining forests and increase conservation awareness in the local communities. The wildlife warden schemes have been highly successful and illegal activity in the forests has dropped dramatically since they began. On Polillo, community conservation awareness has been particularly boosted through our continued support of the very popular Polillo Tarictic Hornbill Festival, and the funding of a Philippine Biodiversity Handbook. On Negros we have also continued to support the Negros Mobile Education Unit.

Exciting discoveries on the island Polillo were made during field work by the Zoo's Aquarium Projects Co-ordinator, Colin Grist. Extensive surveys of freshwater river fish revealed only a few species that were readily identifiable; and several may be new to science. Colin also discovered a new reef system to the delight of many marine conservationists working in the area. These surveys will be followed up in 2007.

During 2006, conservation of the threatened Philippine hornbills received significant support from Chester Zoo and a German partner, Stiftung Artenschutz. We continued support for the Mari-it Conservation Park on Panay, which successfully breeds Visayan Warty-billed and Tarictic Hornbills. Mari-it had the world's first successful breeding for the critically endangered Warty-billed Hornbills in 2005, and bred these again in 2006.

We also support a nest wardening scheme on Panay and several hornbill field projects on Polillo Island and Palawan. Also on Palawan, major support continued for the Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Programme (PCCP) with Zoo staff seconded to implement the reintroduction of hand-reared rescued cockatoos, boosting the numbers of this critically endangered species in the wild.

The Cebu Cinnamon is one of the world's rarest trees and grows only in the last remaining forests of Cebu. Chester Zoo supports wardens who have collected hundreds of young seedlings, which are grown on before replanting back into the forest. Complementing our field support, we are growing some threatened Philippines plant species in the Zoo, such as the Philippine Jade Vine which now grows in 'Islands in Danger' and 'Elephants of the Asian Forest'.



Mascarenes Islands

Our Mascarenes Conservation Programme works in partnership with the Mauritius Wildlife Foundation (MWF), providing support for several critically endangered species found nowhere else in the world.

We continued support for the increasingly successful Mauritius Fody Conservation Programme. Over the past 5 years Mauritius Fodies have been bred for release on to the predator-free island of Ile aux Aigrettes. The first releases occurred in 2003 and now, following several further releases and successful breeding upon the island, the Fody population on Ile aux Aigrettes numbers over

140 birds. Following this success MWF are now proposing the release of Mauritius Fodies onto further suitable islands in the Mascarenes.

Chester Zoo's bird team were also once again involved with important field work to save Mauritius Olive White-eyes from extinction on Mauritius. Following last year's first ever incubation and rearing of this species, the team assisted with incubation and hand-rearing prior to the first ever release on Ile aux Aigrettes.

In 2006 our support continued for the Echo

Parakeet and for a new project to develop a field gene bank on Ile aux Aigrettes for the conservation of critically endangered lowland and coastal plants of Mauritius.

A new education initiative was started on Ile aux Aigrettes where, in partnership with MWF, we embarked on a three year project to help the island realize its full educational potential. The project aims to open the island up for ecotourism and education by developing an education resource centre and a conservation-themed tour. Local schools will benefit not only from the resource centre but also curriculum resource materials for teachers.

Out of Africa



Africa is the world's second-largest and second most-populous continent, it covers 6.0% of the Earth's total surface area, and accounts for about 14% of the world's human population. There is significant encroachment by humans into habitats and this plus illegal hunting has led to a crisis for some of the world's rarest and most charismatic species. Chester Zoo has an active field conservation programme

Conservation in West and Central Africa

The Chester Zoo Nigeria Biodiversity Programme has several components, all of which are in or around Gashaka Gumti National Park (GGNP). This area is one of the last remaining forests in Nigeria and, due to its remoteness, still contains a wealth of fauna and flora including probably the last remaining viable population of the Nigerian Chimpanzee.

The Gashaka Primate Project (GPP) is the largest component of the programme and was established in 1999. Chester Zoo has provided core funding for the project since its inception. The GPP's mission is the sustainable conservation of GGNP and the protection of its flora and fauna. In 2006 we provided funding for the continued conservation, research and capacity building efforts of GPP. This project has also significantly improved the lives of the surrounding rural communities, providing employment and improvements to local infrastructure, which in turn have provided opportunities for further sustainable development such as ecotourism.

Over the past 3 years Chester Zoo has wholly funded a scheme co-ordinated by GPP to demarcate the borders of GGNP; this process will shortly be complete apart from a section bordering Cameroon. The demarcation scheme is an important element in the conservation of GGNP as it will allow issues such as encroachment and illegal harvesting to be addressed. Until now such activities have been contentious due to the park's undefined boundary.



2006 was a big year at Chester Zoo for one of Central Africa's most elusive animals with the opening of 'Secret World of the Okapi'. Our pair of Okapi have settled in well and a third animal will join them in spring 2007. In the wild we continued our support for the conservation of the unique Ituri Forest, home of the Okapi and designated a World Heritage Site in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. The 'Secret World of the Okapi' also showcases Gaboon Vipers, several African forest rodents and cichlid fish from Lake Barombi Mbo in Cameroon.

Chester Zoo continues its strong involvement with great ape conservation in West Africa. In addition to work in Nigeria we supported two projects investigating diseases in the Western Lowland Gorilla populations in Lope National Park, Gabon, and a project co-ordinated by the Gorilla Foundation to protect the Eastern Lowland Gorilla in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Zoo Veterinarian, Steve Unwin, continues to act as Veterinary Co-ordinator for the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA). This group facilitates projects to improve knowledge and treatment of disease in African primate populations.

In recognition of Chester Zoo's support of great ape conservation and staff expertise in this field we were also accepted as members of the Great Ape Survival Project Partnership (GRASP) in 2006. GRASP is an innovative and ambitious project launched by UNEP and UNESCO with an immediate challenge - to lift the threat of imminent extinction faced by primates worldwide.

2006 was a fantastic year for one particular species at Chester Zoo: the West African Crowned Crane. Five chicks were successfully reared from two clutches of eggs. Chester Zoo breeds more of this species than any other European Zoo and the production of two clutches of eggs and five chicks is an outstanding result for a single breeding season. The eggs were artificially incubated in our Incubation and Rearing Unit with some chicks being returned to the parents and others cross-fostered to be reared by chickens! The 'chicken-reared' birds are then placed back with cranes at two months old to imprint on the true parents.



1. People of the Maasai, Kenya
2. Nigerian staff of Gashaka Primate Project
3. Easter Desert Garden Dormouse (*Eliomys melanurus*)
4. West African Crowned Crane (4 days old) (*Balearica pavonina pavonina*)
5. Okapi (*Okapia johnstoni*)
6. Eye examination on a chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) by Vet at the Limbe Wildlife Sanctuary

Into Kenya and Tanzania

In partnership with Save the Rhino International, we fund several projects in Kenya and Tanzania dedicated to the conservation of the Black Rhinoceros. These projects are encompassed by the Chester Zoo Black Rhino Conservation Programme - one of our biggest conservation programmes, which continues to be highly effective



1 & 3. Black Rhinoceros (*Dicerus bicornis*)

2. Wilson Mancha, Rhino Ranger from the Chyulu Hills National Park attends the Chester Zoo 'Save the Rhino' Weekend

Kenya and Tanzania

In 2006 NEZS provided funding for three ongoing Black Rhino Programme components in Kenya. In the Tsavo East National Park, support continued for the Black Rhino with funding provided for salaries. Chester Zoo has supported this project since funding the translocation of 20 rhino to Tsavo East in 1999, and the Black Rhino population has been steadily increasing since then due to the dedication of the rhino rangers we support. Funding was also provided for ongoing anti-poaching and monitoring work in Chyulu Hills National Park and for the Community Conservation Programme in Laikipia.

Education Programmes Manager, Maggie Esson, made two trips to the Laikipia Wildlife Forum in Kenya in 2006 where she planned and facilitated a teachers' workshop with the aim of evaluating the popularity and effectiveness of the Environmental Education Programme funded by Chester Zoo. Further support and training was also provided for an Education Officer with the Laikipia Wildlife Forum.

Laikipia's mobile education unit is proving such a success that a similar project was launched at the Mkomazi Game Reserve in neighbouring Tanzania. Chester Zoo funded a mobile education unit and paid for education programme research and the development of an education strategy. An education officer should be in place in 2007.

Chester Zoo raised €20,000 for EAZA Rhino Campaign

Additionally, funding was provided for Wilson Mancha, a Chyulu Hills National Park ranger, to visit Chester Zoo. Wilson's visit coincided with our fundraising efforts for the EAZA Rhino Campaign. Wilson was popular with our Zoo visitors, showing off his bush skills and sharing his experiences as a Rhino Ranger. He also spent time with Chester Zoo staff, picking up skills and experience that he will now put to good use in Kenya. With generous support from

our visitors, and Wilson's help, Chester Zoo raised over €20,000 for the EAZA Rhino Campaign earning the Platinum Fundraising Award.

Our support for projects in East Africa is not limited to the Black Rhino Conservation Programme. Several other projects received funding in 2006. For example, funds were provided for an emergency response to the anthrax crisis in the Grevy's Zebra population of northern Kenya, and for a research project investigating the impact of capture, domestication and trade on the Grey Crowned Crane in Kenya.

North Africa

The Zoo has been heavily involved with conservation work with critically endangered Northern Bald or Waldrapp Ibis for many years. 2006 saw some very exciting developments with the satellite tagging and tracking of the last remaining Syrian birds to discover their unknown wintering grounds. The adult birds travelled more than 3000 km to spend a short stay in the Yemen before continuing on their journey to winter in the Ethiopian highlands. Four birds bred at Chester were sent to the United Arab Emirates where it is hoped they will help to raise awareness of their presence in the region. Our staff facilitated the important meeting of the International Advisory Group for the Northern Bald Ibis in Spain, designed to review the Species Action Plan and establish the future direction and role of current release projects and field research.

In early 2006 we facilitated an important Conservation Workshop for Arabian Small Mammals for the government of the United Arab Emirates. The workshop will play a major role in targeting conservation efforts for rodents, shrews and hedgehogs in Arabia. It brought together representatives from all of the seven countries comprising the Arabian Peninsula and conducted a red-listing exercise for all 35 small mammal species occurring there and set species and country specific actions for conservation and research.

Jaguars versus Ranchers in Latin America

Our Jaguar conservation work in Latin America continued in 2006, including an ongoing project in which Alex Zimmermann, the Conservation team and Oxford University have been working on a survey of jaguar-human conflicts throughout Latin America. This involves spatial (GIS) and predictive modelling of conflict hotspots in order to assess best practice in human-wildlife conflict management and develop a tool for more targeted conflict mitigation measures. We also provided seed funds to three jaguar conservation projects in Mexico, Brazil and Peru



1. Spectacled bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*)
2. Jaguar (*Panthera onca*)



Several other conservation initiatives in Latin America received funding in 2006. In Brazil ongoing support was provided for the 'Lowland Tapirs as landscape detectives' project and the Buffy-headed Capuchin Conservation Project. We also continued to sponsor a Black Lion Tamarin Group in the Brazilian Atlantic Forest; and funding was provided to enable Fernando Lima, from the Black Lion Tamarin project, to visit Chester Zoo. To consolidate our zoo and field conservation work Chester has joined the European Breeding Programme for the species and received its first pair of Black Lion Tamarin which are held in the 'Miniature Monkey' exhibit. In Venezuela we supported the work of the Andean Bear Defenders' Club and in Colombia we continued to fund the Spectacled Bear Conservation Programme at Barranquilla Zoo.

Chester Zoo provided continued funding for a project in Meso-America investigating the geographical variation in socio-ecology of Spider Monkeys. Further support for conservation in Meso-America, was provided when Colin Grist, our Aquarium Projects Co-ordinator, travelled to Mexico, to further develop our successful conservation partnership with the University of Morelia's 'Fish Ark' project. Chester Zoo has for many years financially supported the 'Fish Ark' - which breeds

many species of critically endangered endemic Mexican fish. We also plan to develop an integrated conservation programme for Lake Zacapu, its endemic fish and amphibian species and the neighbouring town.

A new arrival at Chester Zoo in 2006 was a recently described parrot, the Grey-breasted Conure. The species is endemic to North-East Brazil and survives only in very restricted populations. It may well prove to be critically endangered in the wild.

A further, but this time unexpected, addition to the Zoo early in 2006 was a Red-billed Curassow chick. A successful reintroduction programme is boosting numbers of this endangered species in the wild and we have provided funding for an Action Plan Officer to aid conservation of the Red-billed Curassow in key areas of Brazil's Atlantic Rainforest.

On the botanical side, the Zoo now holds over half of the National Collection of pleurothallid orchids and, in 2006, three genera of the Zoo's cacti collection, *Copiapoa*, *Matucana* and *Turbincarpus* were awarded National Collection Status by the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG). These plants all originate from South America and many are threatened in the wild.



1



2

Asia and Elephants - Conservation and Conflict Resolution

This has been an exciting year for Asian Elephants. 2006 saw the opening of the new 'Elephants of the Asian Forest' enclosure, the birth of an elephant calf, and the continued success of Chester Zoo's outreach programme for Asian Elephants, the Assam Haathi Project - now being proposed as a prestigious Darwin Award project

The Assam Haathi Project works together with EcoSystems-India to tackle the serious problem of human-elephant conflict (HEC) and enable the conservation of elephants while improving the safety and livelihoods of communities in Assam.

This project, managed by Alex Zimmermann, Scott Wilson and Nandita Hazarika (India) is now in its third year, employing 30 people and beginning to make a tangible difference to the lives of elephants and people in Assam. Several villages have been successfully protected from elephant raids using simple deterrents and early-warning systems, and the villagers have participated in training for supplementary livelihoods.

Alex Zimmermann also succeeded in creating an alliance in North East India, which will provide a forum and collaboration framework for all NGOs working on elephant conservation and HEC. Research on elephant monitoring and GIS mapping is ongoing and beginning to show patterns important for long-term planning. Our results so far were shown at conferences in the USA, Germany and Denmark, receiving much interest, including proposals for publications, enquiries from students from USA, UK and India wanting to work with us (one of whom we were able to recruit) and much interest from the BBC. Early in 2006 the project was also awarded a £10,000

Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation Grant and is under consideration for a large Darwin Award. A report detailing the project's findings and achievements, as well as an educational handbook for communities, is being prepared by the conservation team in Chester and India.

Conservation staff regularly travel to Assam to assist with field work, training and project management, but this year we introduced the next level of Chester Zoo staff involvement, with Dr Roger Wilkinson, Dr Andrea Fidgett and Elephant team staff all visiting Assam to contribute their knowledge and skills to this highly inter-disciplinary project.

To support our Asian Elephant conservation work the new 'Elephants of the Asian Forest' house opened at Easter. The £3 million Asian forest exhibit covers more than 2,900m² and is home to tree shrews, hornbills, squirrels, peafowl, Arowana and Pla Eesok fish, and our herd of Asian Elephants. The new exhibit immerses visitors into an Asian forest and focuses on a celebration of the forest community, and seeks to explain ecological niches and relationships and the work of the Assam Haathi Project. The plants inside are all of South East Asian origin and were chosen to represent the tropical rainforest vegetation. A number of them are of economic importance and educational interest, and include Paw-Paw, Mango, Starfruit,

Bread Fruit, Teak and Ginger. For our elephant herd the exhibit provides soft-flooring throughout and a large 'behind the scenes' facility for training and management of our elephants. Our herd grew by two this year with the arrival in January of a new female, *Birma*, from France and the birth of a new male calf, *Raman*, in November.



3

1. Asian Elephants bathing (*Elephas maximus*)
2. Asian Elephants in Tea Garden, Assam, India
3. Chester Zoo staff working on location in Assam, India
4. Sumatran Orang-utan (*Pongo abelii*)
5. Asian Lion (*Panthera leo persica*)



Orang-utans in Asia

In Malaysia we provided ongoing support for two orang-utan conservation projects. Our support for the Kinabatangan Orang-utan Conservation Project (KOCP) in Borneo has enabled the continuation of the wildlife warden scheme in the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary. In Sumatra we support the Sumatran Orang-utan Conservation Programme (SOCP) and in 2006 provided funding for the salaries of two education officers, educational materials and the running costs of the mobile Orang-utan Education Unit.

Further project support in Borneo included a research project aimed at seeking a balance between subsistence fishing and reef conservation, an expedition to Kulamba Wildlife Reserve to assess the status of the local Orang-utan population, and the KOCP Elephant Conservation Unit which received funding for their community-based project to mitigate conflict, in particular between elephants and people.

In Indonesia we provided support for the EAZA's Komodo Dragon Project. The project's mission is to raise community awareness, and create a habitat and wildlife protection plan for the Wae Wuul Nature Reserve, West Flores. Funding was also provided for the conservation of Sulawesi's endemic ungulates, with particular focus on the Babirusa pig.

At Chester Zoo the most prestigious bird breeding of the 2006 season was that of our Javan Rhinoceros Hornbills. The two chicks produced were a first for both Chester and the UK. Bird staff worked hard to get conditions just right for the birds to breed for the first time in the 11 years the pair has been together.

In India continued support was provided for the Greater Adjutant Stork Rescue and Rehabilitation Project. This project rehabilitates and releases stork chicks that fall from nests, often sustaining minor injuries from which they would otherwise die. We also continued our long-term support for the excellent work of the Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO) and Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society (WILD). These organisations work throughout India and South-East Asia and are involved in many capacity building initiatives to increase the ability of local conservation organisations and individuals to effectively conserve biodiversity. Also in India, Chester Zoo staff were asked to assist in the Asian Vulture Conservation Programme, aiming to breed and reintroduce three species of critically endangered Asian Vultures. We helped with the workshop held in India at the end of 2006 and now sit on the Indian technical committee for vulture conservation.

In Thailand we have supported the conservation work of the Hornbill Research Foundation for many years. In 2006 we provided support for scientific research and sponsored two hornbill nests in their highly successful nest sponsorship scheme. We also funded the continued running costs of the Tapoh Conservation Education Centre. Pilai Poonswad, Professor at Mahidol University and Director of the Hornbill Research Foundation, received a number of prestigious awards in 2006 including the Rolex Award for Enterprise and the Chevron Conservation Award.

An exciting addition to the Zoo in 2006 was a female Asiatic Lion. *Asha* arrived from Rome in June and joined our male *Asoka*. She is 8 years old and has proved a perfect match for *Asoka* and we hope for cubs in 2007. Asiatic Lions are critically endangered with fewer than 300 left in the wild in India.



China - Crossing Cultural Barriers towards Conservation

In 2006, funding was provided for the three main components of our China Conservation Programme. The largest of these is the Sichuan Forest Biodiversity Project. Initiated in 2001 in partnership with Liverpool John Moores University and the Chinese authorities, the project aims to establish and support broadleaf forest nature reserves in Sichuan. Chester Zoo holds a number of species from this region including Red Panda and, among the birds, the Omei Shan Liocichla and Lady Amherst's Pheasant



We support the development of three nature reserves in Sichuan, namely Laojunshan, Mamize and Heizhugou. In 2006, we funded many key activities including the training of reserve staff in land management and monitoring techniques. Community support at Mamize includes assistance for the local farming community to mitigate the loss of grazing due to reserve protection and support for the local school. Both Mamize and Laojunshan were the focus of bird surveys and the training of forest reserve staff and students from Sichuan University. Staff from Sichuan University form a link between our support for research at Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding (CRBGPB) and the forest reserves; in that academic staff work collaboratively with both projects.

Additionally in 2006 we provided funding for an education outreach project in China, again in partnership with the CRBGPB but also, for the first time, with financial support from the municipal government. The project provides primary school conservation programmes in Sichuan province.

Our field conservation support for the Blue-crowned Laughing Thrush links to our work with this species in the Zoo. The Blue-crowned Laughing Thrush has recently been elevated to a full species and is known to come only from Wuyuan in Jiangxi Province of South East China. Our field

support assists protection of these rare birds in Wuyuan and research to better understand this species. In 2006 we supported field surveys to search for further localities where these birds might survive in Jiangxi, Yunnan and Guangxi provinces. Chester Zoo also assisted Cardiff University, Wales, with genetic studies on these thrushes.

Chester Zoo is also involved with *ex-situ* conservation efforts for other species native to China. In early 2002, over seven thousand freshwater turtles were seized by Customs officials in Hong Kong. The animals were destined for the food markets of China, where most would have ended up in soup. As part of a global rescue effort, Chester Zoo provided homes for two of the confiscated species - the Spiny Turtle and the Black Marsh Turtle. Four years later, these rescued animals have now started to breed. In 2006, we hatched a total of four Black Marsh Turtles becoming only the second zoo in the UK to have bred this species.

Within the Zoo, 2006 saw the opening of the Elizabeth Mottershead Memorial Garden. This area, chosen for its proximity to the Red Panda exhibit, was re-landscaped and planted with species from China and Japan, complimenting both the exhibit and other significant plants in the area and focussing visitor awareness on the importance of our work in China.



1. Yi people welcome their guests in traditional costume
2. Blue-crowned Laughing Thrush (*Garrulax courtouisi courtouisi*)
3. Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*)
4. Black Marsh Turtle (*Siebenrockiella crassicolis*)
5. Sichuan Partridge (*Arborophila rufipectus*), photographed at Laojunshan by James Eaton



Acting Locally

Chester Zoo continues to play a major role in the conservation of biodiversity locally, providing financial support to various projects as well as significant practical and advisory involvement from our staff. Nationally, Chester Zoo has also taken a leading role in the Native Species Working Group, recently formed by the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA)



1. Harvest Mouse (*Micromys minutus*)
2. Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*), with Salmon parr in the foreground photographed by Andy Harmer.
3. Sarah Bird, Chester Zoo's Biodiversity Officer, searching for Freshwater Pearl Mussels
4. Horticulture staff collecting seeds from Limestone Woundwort (*Stachys alpina*)

Project support in 2006 included funding an 'Otters and Roads' seminar, a leaflet about the Lesser Silver Water Beetle, and contributions to Broxton Barn Owl Group and Cheshire and Wirral Ornithological Society.

The Freshwater Pearl Mussel project completed collection of wild mussels from the River Dee for conservation breeding. Our key partners, the Environment Agency, are keeping the animals at fish hatcheries and successful breeding has been recorded.

The partnership between Chester Zoo and rECOrd, the biodiversity recording unit, was strengthened in 2006 when Professor Gordon McGregor Reid became rECOrd's first President. The new rECOrd website was launched this year, and the database now holds over 1.4 million records.

Harvest Mice were found on both of the Zoo's experimental reintroduction sites in 2006 and the North West Dormouse Project surveys recovered reassuring numbers of previously micro-chipped animals, proving that tagged animals hibernated successfully and several also bred later in the year. Record numbers of dormice were recorded at both study sites in autumn, probably a reflection of the abundant food available in 2006. Research aspects of the project developed significantly with our zoo vets recording the condition of animals and collecting samples for DNA and parasite studies. GIS techniques showed movements and distributions of animals which will be related to habitat data in 2007.

2006 was also busy for our Water Vole Conservation Breeding and Release Programme. More than 150 voles were bred and the first releases back into the wild will take place within Chester Zoo grounds during 2007.

The Zoo also works with a number of native plant species. Nursery staff are propagating Limestone Woundwort, some of which have

already been re-introduced into the wild in North Wales. The Zoo leads work on Black Poplar in Cheshire, propagating and distributing plants for re-introduction. Cuttings of Common Juniper were taken with the intention of successfully raising young trees for planting out in North Wales.

The Society's native species conservation work is substantial and varied although few of the projects are currently represented by exhibits in the Zoo, Sand Lizards being the most high profile of the animal species. In order to showcase our native species conservation, the education exhibit 'Acting Locally' was designed. It provides a strong representation of Chester Zoo's commitment to native species conservation and has several interactive elements to appeal to visitors, including a model of Freshwater Pearl Mussels, a tiny radio collar from our Harvest Mouse project and an amusing 'dating book' for the Black Poplar.



Working Globally - building the Amphibian Ark



In 2004, the world's amphibian experts published the Global Amphibian Assessment. This document held frightening news and confirmed what many scientists had long believed; that the planet's frogs, toads, salamanders and caecilians - an entire vertebrate class - are experiencing an extinction crisis, the like of which has never been seen before.

Nearly a third of the world's 6,000 species of amphibian are currently threatened with extinction. At least 168 species are believed to have gone extinct since 1980, though this number is likely to just be the 'tip of the iceberg.'

Compounding existing pressures such as habitat loss and degradation, pollution, over-collection, climate change and alien invasive species, frog populations in North, Central and South America, Australia and Europe have been decimated by a new fungal disease - chytridiomycosis. The fungus invades the skin of amphibians and fatally disrupts their water balance. In many cases, the disease is wiping out amphibian populations in otherwise pristine habitat. Conventional conservation techniques in the wild, which focus on providing safe habitats, will not help save these species from extinction.

Therefore, for many hundreds of species of frog, toad and salamander, the only immediate hope of survival is in 'Assurance Populations' in the world's zoos, aquariums and botanical gardens. These populations will help keep species alive until scientists have found methods to prevent and treat the spread of chytridiomycosis in the wild.

As President-elect of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), Director General, Gordon McGregor Reid, is working with the IUCN's Conservation Breeding Specialist Group in leading the planning and co-ordination of the enormous global response required to set up Assurance Populations for up to 1,000 species. Called the Amphibian Ark (or AArk), this conservation response will require huge investment - both in the development of new amphibian conservation facilities in zoos and aquariums, and in the training of hundreds of staff in amphibian husbandry and breeding.

The response will also involve the deployment of rapid-response teams to collect disappearing species from the wild, staff training and capacity building for conservation programmes in range countries, research on breeding and reproductive science, disease management, education and outreach.

Here at Chester Zoo, we have already started constructing special new containerised, biosecure Amphibian Arks in readiness for the imminent arrival of threatened frog and toad species. They are being built in off-show areas, where dedicated herpetology staff will be able to monitor and care for the animals more closely. It is hoped that the first residents of these Arks will arrive during 2007.

Zoos and aquariums have never faced such an important and urgent conservation challenge. Chester Zoo is helping to publicise and lead the fight to save these species, but it will take an unprecedented, co-ordinated effort involving zoos and aquariums across the globe to halt the continuing mass extinction. Sir David Attenborough is Patron of the AArk.



1. Oriental Fire-bellied toad (*Bombina orientalis*)
2. Red-eyed Tree Frog (*Agalychnis callidryas*)
3. Blue Poison Arrow Frog (*Dendrobates azureus*)
4. Mission Golden-eyed Tree Frog (*Phrynohyas resinifictrix*)

Science and Research



1. Mandrill (*Mandrillus sphinx*)
 2. Jaguar (*Panthera onca*)
 3. Celestial Pearl Danio (*Celestichthys margaritatus*) – a newly discovered species of freshwater fish

Science and Research by Zoo staff

Several scientific studies were carried out in 2006 with Chester Zoo staff as principle investigators or active collaborators.

Research areas included changes in behaviour and stress-associated hormones in a female Asian Elephant relocated to Chester Zoo, the management of commonly occurring infections in zoo species, the role of wild birds as reservoirs or vectors of diseases, the cause and nature of cancerous viruses in bird and 'virgin birth' (parthenogenesis) in Komodo Dragons.

Conservation staff are involved in the research associated with the North West Dormouse Partnership project (see p22) and many Zoo staff are involved in maintaining studbooks, writing scientific reports, and participate in various scientific animal management and conservation committees, for internal and external bodies.

During 2006, Chester Zoo staff published or contributed to 57 scientific, biological and technical publications. A full list of these can be found in the list of appendices which is included with this report.

Research Grants

Our Conservation and Research grants also enable support for conservation field research and for scientific research aimed at improving zoo science and animal welfare and husbandry. In 2006, in addition to the research work of our own staff both in the Zoo and in the field, the Society supported a range of scientific activities including assisting in the completion of the European Zoo and Aquariums Research Strategy document by the EAZA Research Committee (of which the Director General is chair), support for the Berlin Summer School in Endocrinology, and support for studies in elephant welfare. Resulting from Chester Zoo funding was the discovery in Myanmar by Dr Tyson Roberts of a spectacular new species of freshwater fish - the Celestial Pearl Danio.

Visiting researchers

Over 150 visiting researchers, from 24 institutions, were approved by and registered with the Society's Research Department and carried out data collection for more than 130 research projects in 2006. Almost 80% of these researchers were based at Universities in the North West, the rest being based in other areas of the UK or overseas.

The majority of these projects gave students the opportunity for scientific training:

- 14% of projects were conducted towards postgraduate degrees
- Almost 80% were towards first degrees
- The remainder were working towards vocational qualifications or projects conducted by professional academic researchers.

Most of these projects studied interesting aspects of animal behaviour, for example:

- Quantifying the effects of zoo visitors on Mandrill behaviour and welfare (see page 27 for further information)
- Designing methods for obtaining hair samples from Jaguars non-invasively that can be repeated in field conservation work
- Monitoring the behaviour of Asiatic Lions, following the introduction of a new female to the male
- Preference testing of environmental enrichment of nectar feeding in Lories, using liquid food.

In addition, Research Department staff co-ordinated many requests from external researchers for questionnaire-based research and general enquiries about how Chester Zoo operates. Research Department and Veterinary Department staff also co-ordinate the requests from external researchers for biological material: 73 requests for opportunistic supply of biological material were received in 2006, 35% of which we were able to fulfil.



Working in Partnership

Increasingly NEZS engages with partners to help achieve its mission and to strengthen the impact of our work. Our reputation for excellence spreads further each year and we use our skills to assist other respected conservation organisations worldwide in saving species from extinction



The Society conducts breeding programmes in partnership with regional and global organisations. We participate fully within EAZA European Studbooks and European Endangered Species Programmes and WAZA International Studbooks. Furthermore our staff manage species programmes, chair advisory groups and support the work of partner zoo associations (see Appendices). We also support regional zoo associations further afield, such as the South East Asian Zoo Association (SEAZA) and the South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Co-operation (SAZARC). During 2006, we have been involved in the development of a new computerised global records keeping system, ZIMS.

Internationally we implement effective conservation by working with partners that may have specialist species or regional knowledge, for example, Save the Rhino International or Ecosystems India, our partner for the Assam Haathi Project. Other groups that we collaborate with include the Pan African Sanctuaries Alliance (PASA), the Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG), the Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA) and in 2006 we joined the Great Ape Survival Partnership (GRASP).

The Society has globally-acknowledged expertise in several areas, for example reintroduction,

fresh water fish conservation, human-wildlife conflict and incubation. We work extensively with the IUCN to Red-List threatened species, chair and participate actively within IUCN and assist specialists such as the Conservation Breeding, Freshwater Fish and Reintroduction Groups.

More formal partnerships with government organisations also lend strength to our work for example Kenya Wildlife Service, Sichuan Forestry Department and Philippines Government.

Local collaboration is essential too - and Chester Zoo has an input into strategies conserving biodiversity through bodies such as the Sustainable Cheshire Forum, and the Cheshire Regional Biodiversity Partnership. At a North West regional level, staff are involved in Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) - see page 22.

Disease is a risk to our animal collection and significant diseases, like Avian Influenza, Newcastle Disease and Bluetongue have been much in the news. Chester Zoo, working in partnership with BIAZA, the British Veterinary Association, British Veterinary Zoological Society and DEFRA's Surveillance, Zoonoses and Emerging Issues Division, is involved in shaping both UK and EU legislation and policy in managing these diseases. Through partnership with DEFRA and

BIAZA, Chester Zoo is involved in formulating quarantine guidelines and facilitated and chaired a DEFRA workshop to formulate their Wildlife Health and Welfare Strategy.

Research is strongly linked with academic institutions such as Liverpool John Moores University (China Programme) and University College London (Nigeria Programme). Links with local universities are enhanced through conducting staff lectures and student projects at the Zoo.

The Director General serves as a Trustee of a 'Frozen Ark,' an international partnership initiative in 'gene banking.' He also serves as a Zoo Inspector.

Within Education, key relationships include Manchester Metropolitan University for whom we delivered (for the eighth year) the MSc module 'Zoo Conservation Breeding and Animal Management'. We also produced a substantial module for the American Museum of Natural History in New York on conservation breeding programmes in zoos and aquariums.

1. Field work involving Oriental House Rat (*Rattus tanezumii*)
2. Rhino rangers and vehicle in Kenya, supported by Chester Zoo, in conjunction with Save the Rhino International



Animal Health and Welfare



Animal Health

Chester Zoo aims to be at the forefront of animal welfare and husbandry both within collections and our *in-situ* conservation activities. Maintaining these high standards is very much a team effort.

Keeping staff monitor the health and welfare of their charges several times a day and the Curatorial and Animal Health Care teams are alerted to any husbandry challenges or health problems that arise. All clinical cases are reviewed weekly and are audited quarterly by the Animal Welfare, Conservation and Scientific Committee - a Committee of the Zoo's Council.

The Animal Health Care team provides a round the clock service and comprises of three veterinarians, a vet nurse and a nutritionist. They are also supported by both veterinary and human medical specialists and the team has close collaborative links with Liverpool University Veterinary School - where the Director General sits on the Faculty Board.

Preventing disease is at the heart of the Zoo's animal health care programme and involves monitoring an animal's health from the moment it is born or arrives to the moment it leaves or dies.

122 consignments of animals (971 individuals) were moved in 2006. As well as the logistics of arranging safe transport, animal health reports and CITES documentation must be obtained and regulations met. This is managed by the Zoo's Registrar. On arrival the animals are quarantined and tested for relevant diseases before they join the collection.

Health monitoring continues regularly throughout the animal's life and includes screening for exposure to important diseases, routine faecal testing to check for parasites (over 600 samples were examined in 2006) and detailed examination of all animals that are sick or die. Collation and analysis of this data enables us to determine the disease status of the collection and target our control programmes more effectively.

However health monitoring does not stop at the Zoo's boundaries. We also keep an eye on national and international disease status. The biggest threat to the collection this year has

been the risk of acquiring diseases of international importance such as Avian Influenza, Newcastle Disease (both affecting birds) and Blue Tongue (affecting ruminants). These diseases pose a threat not only to individual animals but also to the whole Zoo as they are of such importance that closure and/or enforced culling might be required should our stock become infected. Zoo staff work closely with DEFRA, BIAZA, British Veterinary Zoological Society (BVZS) and British Veterinary Association (BVA) to help shape government policy on how potential disease outbreaks in UK zoos will be managed and formulate biosecurity and vaccination guidelines for the zoo community as a whole.

Husbandry

2006 has seen many husbandry advances, with two highlights that deserve particular mention:

- A revolutionary 'sand substrate' flooring in 'Elephants of the Asian Forest' proved a major welfare benefit in November when *Raman*, was born. The calf was able to stand within only 7 minutes and was dry within 15 minutes rather than hours, as is normal on concrete floors;
- A new design of incubator for hatching bird eggs has been trialled to investigate the effectiveness for hatching eggs fresh from laying. The bird incubation and rearing team have also pioneered prototype portable incubators for harvesting eggs and chicks from the wild, a process increasingly important for bird field conservation projects.

Targeted welfare research is also used to help us evaluate and improve animal husbandry and welfare. Projects undertaken this year included:

- Participation in DEFRA- and BIAZA-funded multi-zoo study on zoo elephant welfare conducted by scientists from the University of Bristol, the results of which may affect UK recommendations or legislation on elephant housing and husbandry.
- A study conducted the effects of relocation to Chester Zoo of *Birma*, a non-socialised female Asian elephant, using behaviour and faecal glucocorticoid concentrations as indicators of welfare.

- A study showing that close proximity of visitors to the viewing windows of the Mandrill enclosure had a negative effect on the animals' behaviour. Increasing the distance of visitors to the windows, using botanical planters as a barrier, has led to a significant improvement.

As well as providing optimal care for the animals in the collection, Zoo staff have a duty to disseminate information on best husbandry practice and health care. This is done in a variety of ways including publication of scientific papers, presentations at conferences and organisation and participation in work shops and training programmes. Zoo staff work on both a local, national and international levels, by engaging in dialogue with policy makers, co-ordinating breeding programmes, undertaking research and providing health and husbandry advice to both *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation projects.

Animal nutrition and daily food supply

Another important team involved in maintaining the highest standards of animal health and welfare is the Animal Supplies Department (ASD) who fulfil a wide variety of duties, all of which underpin the provision of optimal animal care.

A key function is the provision of foodstuffs, both home-produced and purchased. ASD also manage animal waste and bedding, which we compost on site.

We are the only Zoo in the UK to employ a full time Animal Nutritionist who works closely with ASD to develop and refine zoo diets.

Outsourced foodstuffs provide the bulk of our diets but ASD also breed rodents, crickets and locusts, which form an important part of reptile and bird diets. On our own Zoo land, we grow fresh grass and maize to feed our hoofstock.

Other services provided by this important department include pest control, co-ordination of the emergency response team and care of animals in quarantine. Animal operations would grind to a halt without this vital 'behind the scenes' work.



1. West African Sitatunga (*Tragelaphus speki gratus*)
2. Hazel Dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) under anaesthetic

3. Red-billed Curassow (*Crax blumenbachii*)
4. A Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) receives treatment

Learning at Chester Zoo

We strive to continually improve all our education activities, reviewing and evaluating them on an ongoing basis. This involved some significant changes and upgrades to our 'Discovery Programme' for schools and colleges. We anticipated the Government's Learning Outside the Classroom 'manifesto' by introducing activities based entirely out in the Zoo. These have been very well received with some excellent feedback from the first schools to take part



School Visits

Indoors we invested heavily in our 'Discovery' sessions to make them more interactive than before, again in keeping with the latest education thinking. During 2006, the number of Zoo visitors on an arranged educational visit was almost 87,000. It was pleasing to note that the number of pupils and students attending formal taught sessions increased by 6% with a demonstrable shift of visitation to November and December. This indicates that such visits are being planned by teachers to take place early in the school year and represent an integral part of the curriculum.

Our 'Quantum Leap' programme - whereby school children who would otherwise not be able to afford a zoo visit are given free education - won a Commendation at the annual BIAZA Awards ceremony, as did our 2005 conservation theatre production 'Turtles Can't Fly!'

Support for Higher Education

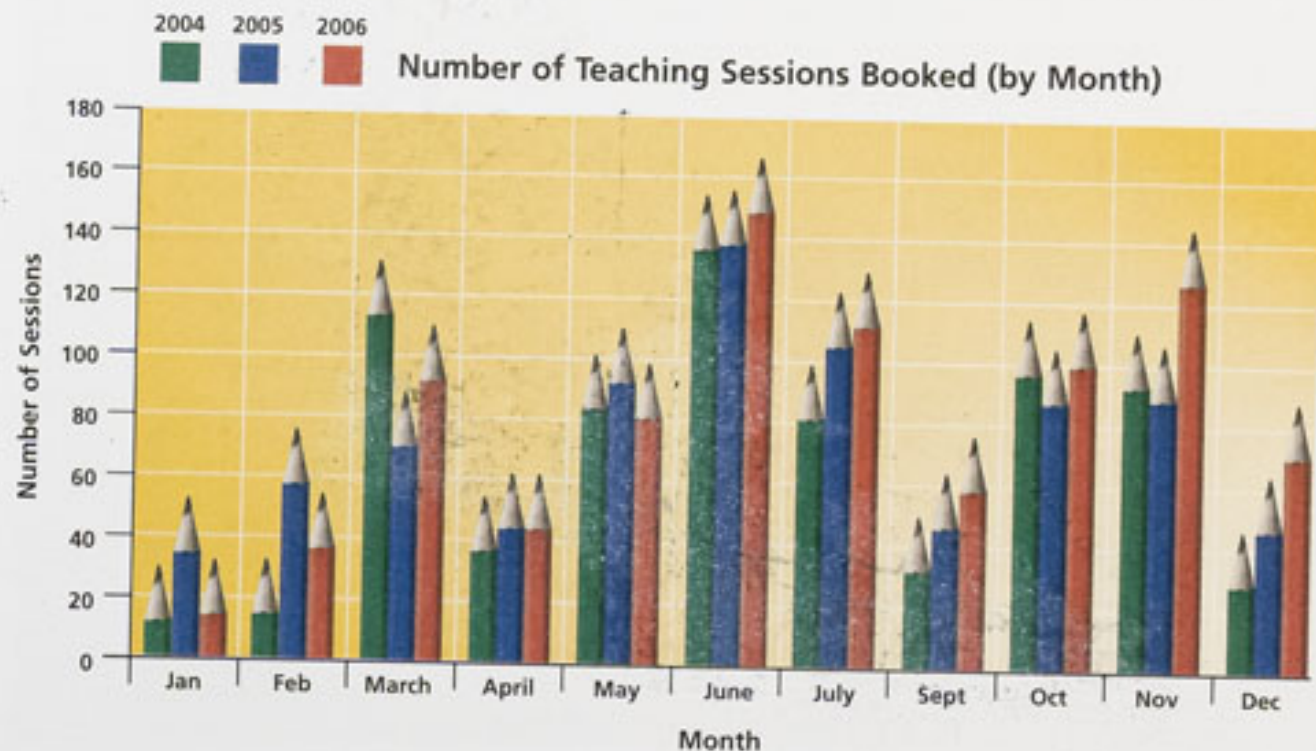
Chester Zoo has one of the UK zoos' largest intakes of long-term work-placement students. During 2006, we had 17 year-long internships and 42 students, ranging from one to six months placements, working with the animal

teams. 33 of these students were from overseas. Many of our students go on to follow conservation, zoology or veterinary careers, some returning here to work full time. Animal staff are also involved in delivering specialist training such as the elephant management workshop for other UK zoo professionals held in the Autumn.

Animal health care staff delivered 20 lectures or workshops as part of undergraduate and postgraduate training programmes and provided on-site instruction to 30 vet students. The team also support an annual nutrition intern and, together with Liverpool University Veterinary School, both an intercalated degree and clinical residency in Conservation Medicine.

Presenter Talks

Presenters developed new performance standards for themselves and continued to attract big audiences through the year - 482,321 visitors at 3,644 talks - an increase of 5% on 2005. The sealions proved most popular overall. Presenters





Talks for Members

Seven Members' talks were arranged during the year (see Appendices), the best attended being a celebration of the seven decades of the Zoo's history with a chance to have a look at some of our extensive archive material. Our Members' trip to Edinburgh Zoo and the Edinburgh Royal Botanic Garden in September was a sell-out



1. School children visiting Chester Zoo peer into the Flamingo pond
2. Guests ask questions at an Elephant Talk
3. School girl holds a Madagascar Hissing Cockroach (*Gramphadorrhina portentosa*)
4. Primary school children attend a 'Discovery' Teaching Session
5. Older students examine animal skulls
6. A boy studies interactive interpretation at 'Tsavo - the Black Rhino Experience'



also co-ordinated the summer conservation theatre on the 'Arara Lawn' which had rhinos as a theme, in keeping with the EAZA Rhino Campaign.

Horticulture Training

A number of professional horticultural groups were given guided tours of the Zoo and external talks were given to horticultural organisations and clubs. An Orchid Propagation Training Day was held in the Zoo and attracted 31 attendees from gardens throughout the UK and Ireland including Kew, Edinburgh and Dublin Botanic Gardens.

Interpretation and Themed Exhibits

A highlight of our contribution to the EAZA Campaign was a combination of awareness-raising and fundraising at the 'Tsavo' Black Rhino exhibit. The area outside the Rhino house itself was given a major makeover on a Maasai theme with life size Maasai figures, jewellery, clothing and other everyday items together with an anti-poaching unit Land Rover and a Rhino Ranger camp. The display really came to life during the school summer holidays when Wilson Mancha, a real life Game Ranger (and member of the

Maasai people) from an anti-poaching project we support in Kenya flew over and spent time with zoo visitors. His tales of what it was really like to live out in the African bush and protect Black Rhinos held visitors spellbound.

Another interpretation highlight was 'The Secret World of the Okapi'. This was themed in a particular way to give an organic look and reveal to the visitors elements of the Okapi's story as they progressed into and through this Congo rain forest exhibit.

Research into Visitor Behaviour

Visitor research in an educational context is an increasingly important part of our work with the aim of deploying education resources more efficiently and effectively. Many hours of observation and data collection yielded interesting information. The building of a new Orang-utan facility gave us an especially good opportunity to do some before and after studies. For instance, we established that the mean visitor dwell time in the old Orang-utan Breeding Centre was only 3 minutes and 8 seconds; and, on the basis of our study, predicted that its

replacement, the 'Realm of the Red Ape' will have a far longer dwell time. This sort of information is vital for all sorts of aspects of exhibit planning, not least the development and positioning of interpretation.

The 'Wildlife Discovery Centre' underwent a transformation into the 'Joseph Banks Room' thanks to generous support from M&S Money and from their employees who helped landscape the new frontage. Our main exhibition here in 2006 was 'The Birds, the Bats and the Islands,' showcasing our fieldwork in the Indian Ocean islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues - using magnificent life-size bronzes of extinct island species. During the year, about 42,000 visitors passed through the exhibition and were given an opportunity to talk to our presenters about our outreach work in the islands.

Global Influence

Reinforcing our role in zoo education globally, Stephen McKeown, Head of Education, took up his new position as President of the International Zoo Educators' Association at the IZE Conference in Pretoria, South Africa in October.

Chester Zoo, the award-winning Visitor Attraction

Chester Zoo was recognised as one of the North West's most successful and high quality attractions when in June 2006 we won the title of 'Large Visitor Attraction' at the Visit Chester and Cheshire Tourism Awards



1

New Commercial Outlets

A significant highlight of the year was the completion of the brand new 'Café Tsavo' facility in early March. This unique £2 million building replaced the old 'Oasis Café', its purpose being to provide excellent quality food in themed surroundings. In June, celebrity BBC chef, Nick Nairn, visited the Zoo to formally open 'Café Tsavo' and he was full of praise for the Zoo adopting the principle of providing healthy, well-sourced food for families.

'Café Tsavo' sells a range of fair trade, organic and healthy eating products, reflecting customer feedback and extensive market research. Since it opened, the Café has attracted positive feedback from customers, and the large, centre-piece recycling station has been particularly well received.

Another commercial venture for the 2006 season was the 'Pottery Painting Workshop', situated near to Jubilee monorail station. Here, Zoo guests can choose a piece of animal-shaped pottery and enjoy painting it with their children before taking it home. Pottery painting has proved to be very popular, particularly during wet weather days and provides a valuable opportunity for families to bond together in a creative activity.

In July, a further new commercial initiative, 'Pin Badge Trading' was launched, and a large range of Chester Zoo branded pin badges were launched in the Zoo retail outlets. As well as making novel gifts, the badges can be 'traded' with certain Zoo staff. 'Pin Badge Trading' has been popular with younger children, and in 2007 we plan to increase the number of staff that can engage in badge trading. We can utilise 'Pin Badge Trading' as an opportunity to highlight some of the species that we work with and some of our major conservation campaigns.

Memorable Events

As well as being a year for new commercial developments, 2006 also saw the launch of some significant new events that encouraged more visitors to the Zoo throughout the year.

In July, the Zoo linked up with the national BBC Sport Relief event, and welcomed over 500 runners to take part in a one mile run to raise money for both Comic Relief and the EAZA 'Save the Rhino' campaign.

In September, the Zoo worked closely with Chester Fashion Week and hosted two major fashion shows in 'Café Tsavo'. Over 400 people attended these evening events, and they received a great deal of positive feedback and some excellent PR coverage.

Undoubtedly the biggest new event of 2007 was the winter 'Frost Fair'. Commencing on 1 December 2006 and running through to February 2007, the 'Frost Fair' features a large ice rink, 'Santa's Lapland Journey', festive stalls, entertainment, twinkling lights and a daily snow ceremony. It is the biggest winter event that Chester Zoo has ever undertaken. In December over 10,500 children came to visit Santa in his Lapland home, and over 18,000 people enjoyed skating on the ice rink. This unique event has proved to be extremely popular and is something we will now continue to build on for future years.

Gardens of Distinction

As well as initiating new ventures, the maintenance and upkeep of the Zoo's grounds and gardens is a hugely important function of the Visitor



2



3



4

Services and commercial teams. We were delighted that, in September, our high standards of gardening were recognised once again when we gained the highly accredited 'Chester in Bloom' and 'Northwest in Bloom' awards.



1. The Oakfield Lawn leisure area
2. Pottery Painting Studio – a new activity for families in 2006
3. Catering spend per head increased with the opening of 'Café Tsavo'
4. Family Skating at the Frost Fair

Keeping our Guests happy

During 2006, the Zoo reviewed the programme of market research among our guests, to ensure that we continue to monitor standards within the Zoo and provide excellent customer service. To enable us to get immediate feedback from visitors, we purchased a software program to analyse daily visitor questionnaires conducted by our staff using handheld computers.

In addition, the Zoo made a significant investment in 'Mystery Shopper' research activity, conducted by an independent agency. This enables us to have an independent view of the Zoo experience from the perspective of our visitors. The value of this work cannot be over-estimated as it gives us honest feedback and enables us to look at how we will improve our service to visitors. This research will be ongoing through 2007.

Another method of monitoring our standard of service is through analysis of visitor feedback, particularly when this identifies areas that require improvement. During 2006, we received feedback from 281 visitors offering suggestions for improvement. This equates to just 0.02% of paying visitors through the year and we were pleased that this showed a 32% reduction from the previous year, indicating an improvement in customer satisfaction. These comments were received by telephone or in writing by letter and email and we ensure that all visitor feedback is recorded, followed up and passed on to the relevant Department for action.

In 2006, we also received praise for the service provided to our visitors and the quality of the day out we offer. This positive feedback focused on a number of highlights, such as the environment within our animal enclosures, the cleanliness of the Zoo and the quality of facilities (cafes, restaurants, shops and toilets). Visitors also commented on the spectacular gardens which greatly add to the pleasant environment and particular praise was received from visitors who had attended a wedding or function at the Oakfield (see Appendices).

A Busy Year for Visitors

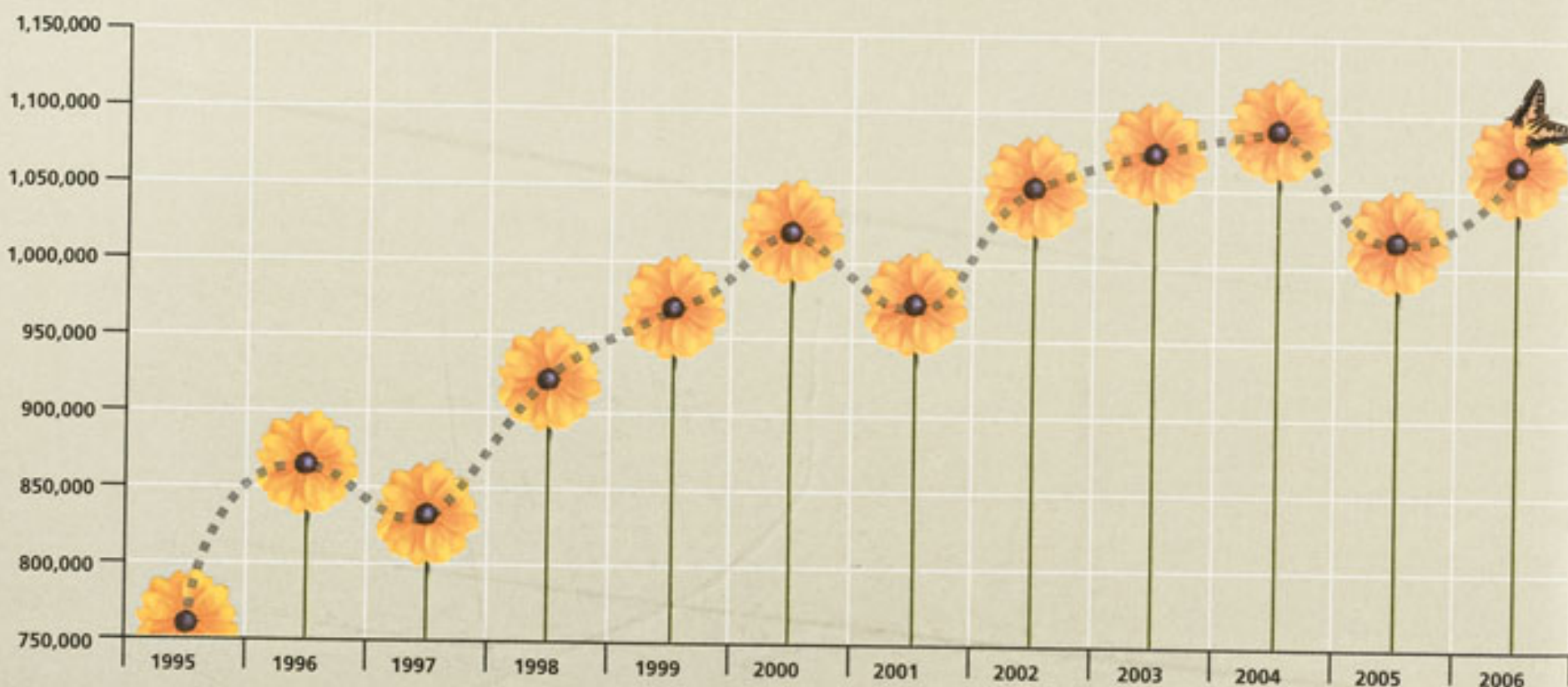
2006 was a very busy year in terms of visitor numbers: achieving over 1,068,000 guests, making it the third busiest year in the Zoo's recent history

Five months were record-breaking months - January, September, October, November and December. A new marketing campaign including TV advertising made an impact on general visitor numbers. The launch of a new Groups brochure early in the year led to a significant improvement in groups visiting the Zoo. In September, the Membership pack was re-launched and produced record numbers of new members in the final quarter of the year.

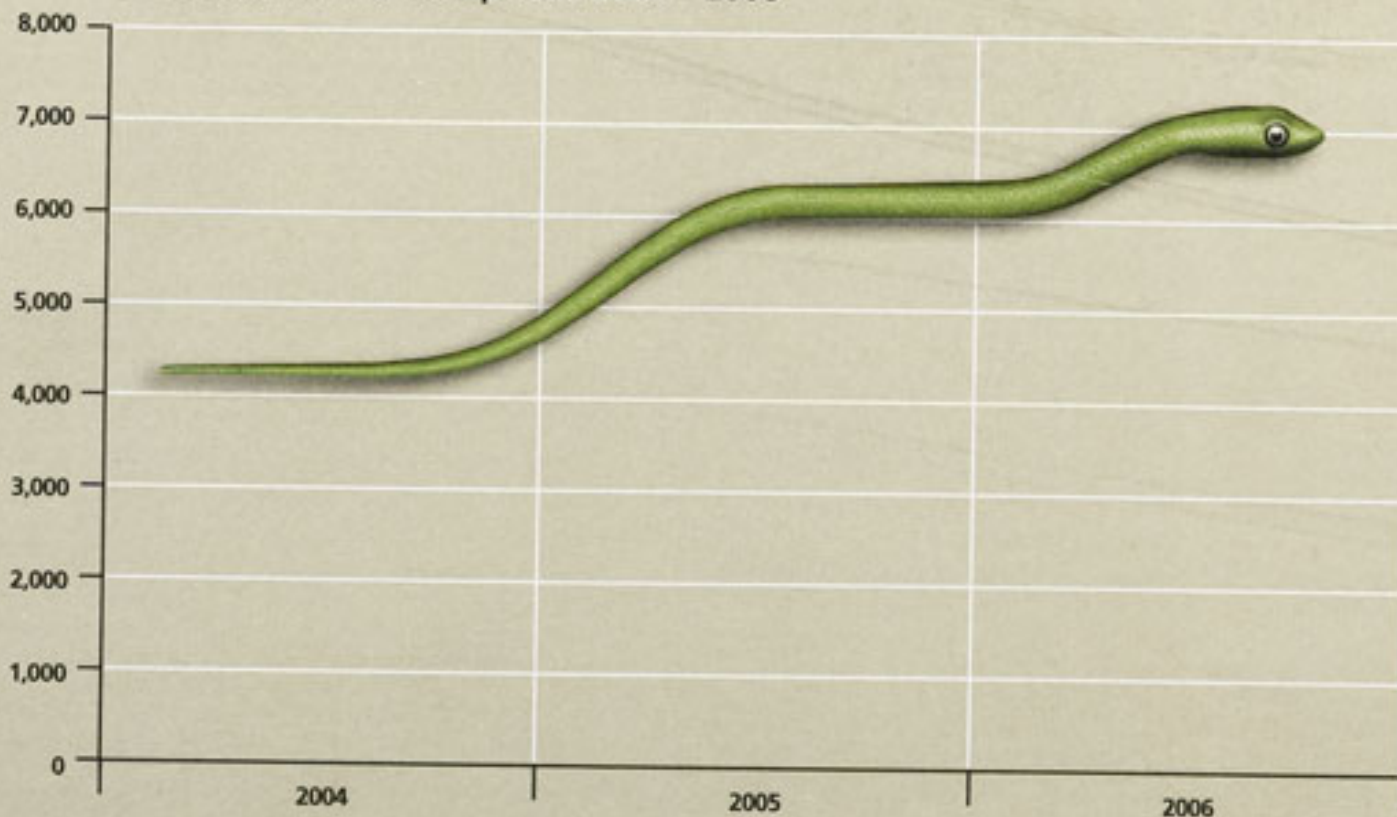
Zoo Visitors 1995 - 2006

2006 saw a further increase in annual visits to Chester Zoo, taking the total number to 1,068,000 (including children under 3, the total visitation was 1,161,710). This made it the third busiest year in the Zoo's recent history.

Many thousands of additional visitors attended events, functions and mission-related conferences at Chester Zoo, but traditionally these visits have not been included in the usual method of calculating attendance. However, such visits are worth noting for the contribution they make to the Society's income and to the advancement of its mission.



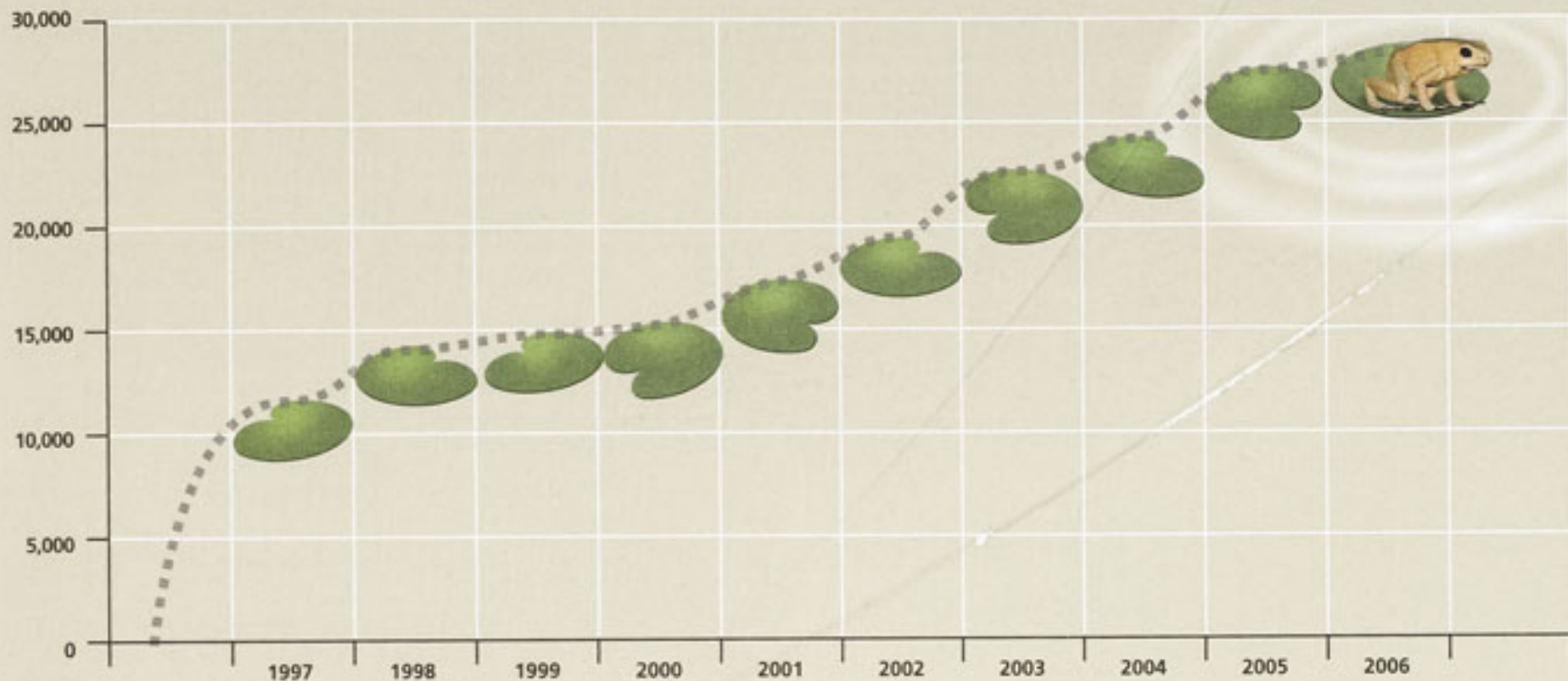
Growth in Animal Adoptions 2004 - 2006



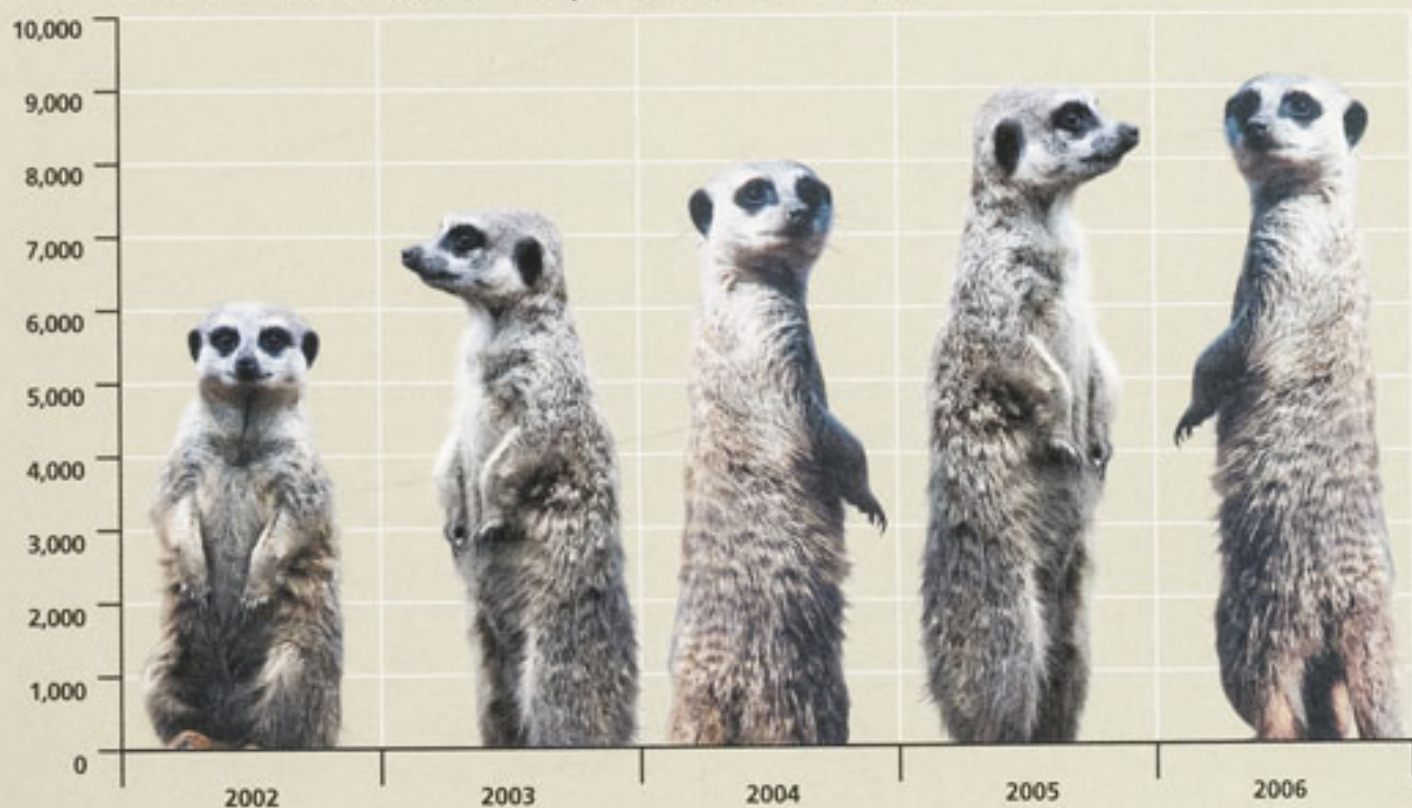
The animal adoption scheme remains very popular, growing by 883 shares in 2006, which enables us to invest more heavily in our conservation work at home and abroad.

Growth in Zoo Membership 1997 - 2006

The value of the Chester Zoo Membership scheme continues to be recognized by more and more visitors - and 2006 saw a further increase to 28,158. Our scheme is one of the largest among UK zoos, demonstrating the high-level loyal support we receive from our members. We thank them all for their ongoing generosity and support for our conservation and education activity.

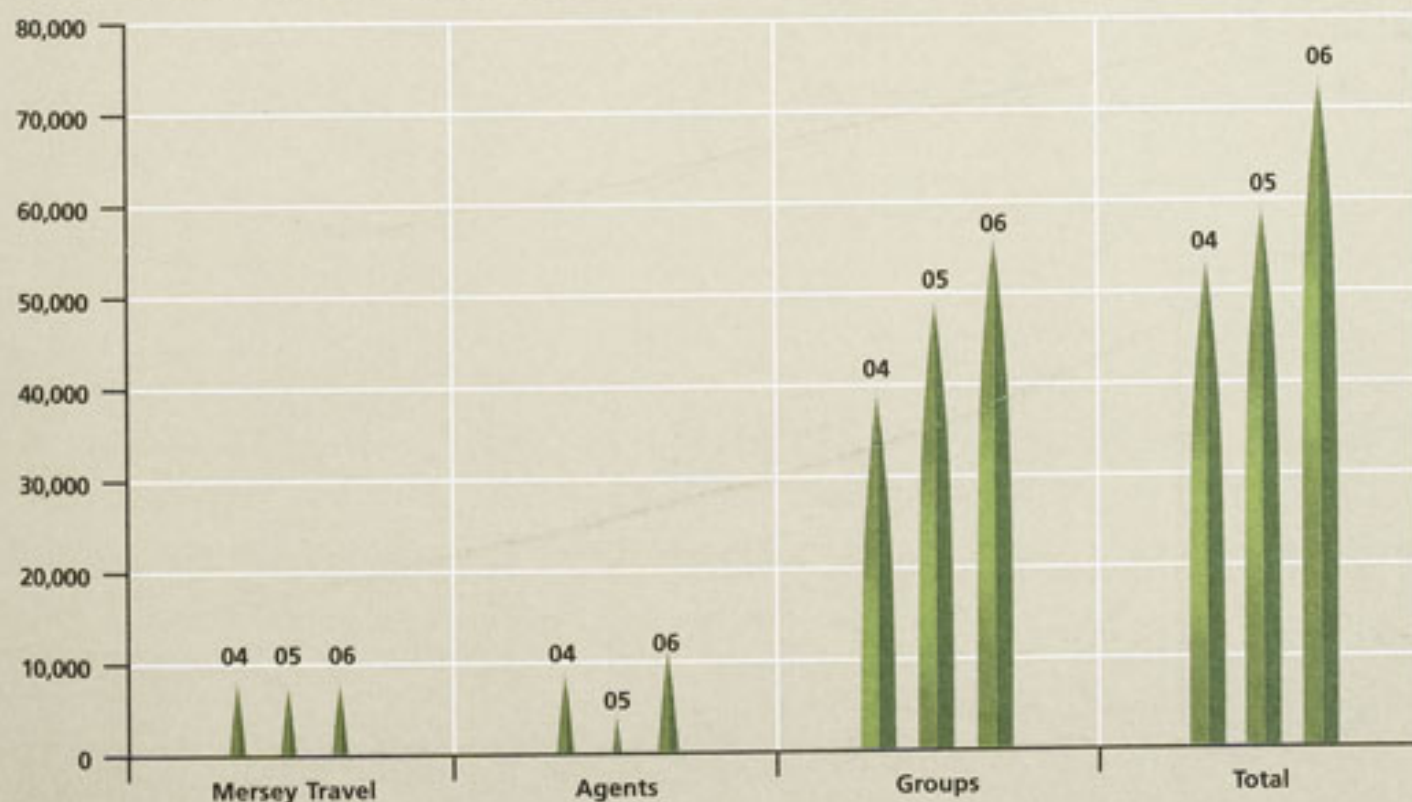


Growth in Junior Membership Scheme 2002 - 2006



The Junior Membership scheme is very important to the Zoo, allowing us to engage with potential future scientists (zoologists, vets and botanists) at an early age. An attractive package of benefits for Juniors now includes the chance to join a Summer School and learn more about the Zoo's work, from 'behind the scenes'. 2006 saw continued growth in this special category of Membership to 9,219.

Group Visits and Ticket Sales 2004 - 2006



Particular effort was made in 2006 to increase the number of groups visiting the Zoo (this means groups other than school/educational visits). We also aimed to increase the number of tickets sold for the Zoo by agents, such as Tourist Information Centres, Hotels, Sports and Social Clubs.

Both activities showed good growth in the year, with Groups in particular showing a pleasing increase to 54,661.

Media Matters

Komodo Dragon *Flora* was the unlikely heroine behind the Zoo's public relations coup of the year



The final story for the Zoo in 2006 was the news of *Flora's* so-called 'virgin birth.' Media organizations across the globe clamoured for the story, bringing a fitting end to 12 months of intense media activity. *Flora's* story - which coincided with the Christmas season - captured the imagination of newspapers, TV and radio stations from Australia, Canada, Germany, Switzerland - indeed from all four corners of the globe. As many as 300 plus websites carried the story; it was featured by the UK's major media outlets, including BBC and ITN; and every national newspaper also ran the dragon's tale.

Earlier in the year, tiny Egyptian Tortoises became an overnight success when they were named after England's World Cup players and - like many of the players - found themselves in most national newspapers.

Similarly, the birth of an Asian Elephant calf in November attracted national TV and newspaper coverage and a Blue Peter competition to name him attracted 6,000 entries.

This was quickly followed by extensive regional interest in the birth of *Molly*, a Rothschild's Giraffe.

'Blue Peter' - worth in the region of £168,000 in airtime and reaching more than 800,000 viewers - was just one of the TV highlights this year. Overall TV coverage increased significantly through the year with over eight hours of airtime. The Zoo also featured on programmes including 'Honey I Shrank the Kids,' 'Iolo's Welsh Safari,' 'Bargain Hunt,' BBC Wales, 'Grass Roots' and 'Inside Out'.

A half-hour programme based at the Zoo was made to tie in with ITV's animal fundraiser 'Extinct'.

Channel 4's 'Hollyoaks' filmed one of their programmes at the Zoo at the beginning of the year. The airtime for this show - broadcast in April - was worth the advertising equivalent of £300,000.

It wasn't just the Zoo as a location and the terrific stories behind the animals that worked wonders for PR. A spell of hot weather provided a fantastic opportunity to promote the Zoo as a visitor attraction. Sky News broadcast live from the Zoo one hot sunny afternoon and were soon followed by Granada. The local radio station - Dee 106.3 - carried a live interview every day for a week on how the animals coped in the hot weather.

EAV (Equivalent Advertising Value) of TV and radio coverage is estimated at £6 million!

Two official openings - of 'Café Tsavo' by celebrity chef Nick Nairn and 'Elephants of the Asian Forest' by the Duke of Westminster and TV presenter Phillipa Forrester also served up media opportunities in the summer.

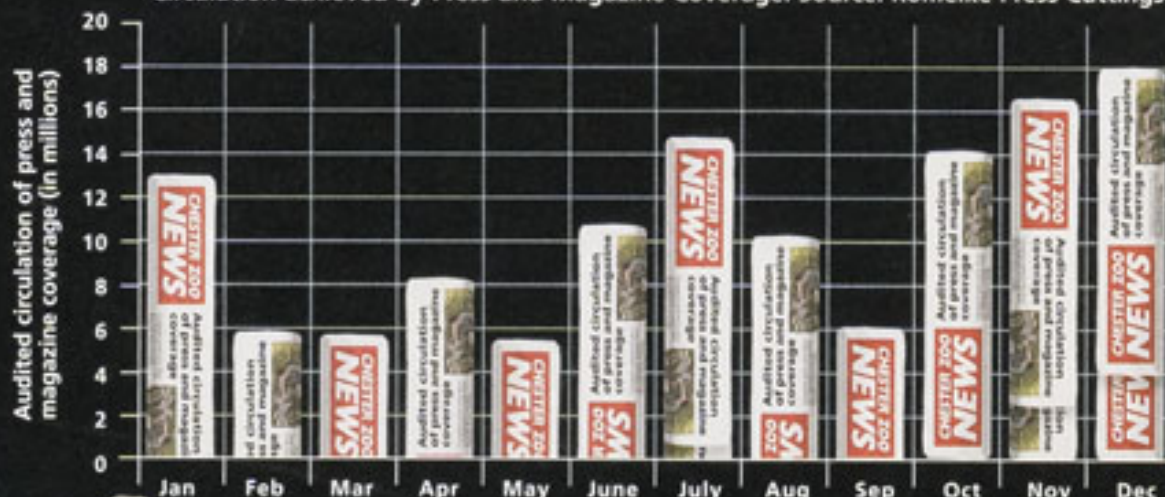
On the regional press front, coverage went from strength to strength. The Chester Chronicle - part of the Trinity Mirror group - became official media partner for 'Frost Fair', ensuring the Zoo achieved maximum coverage to publicise the event.

Newspapers and magazines within the Zoo's drive time area continued to carry stories, and more than 100 press releases were issued over the course of the year, both nationally and regionally.

However it was *Flora* who was firmly the media star for 2006 - and this demonstrates the effectiveness of PR activity for animals in communicating to a wider audience the mission and vision of the Zoo.

In addition to information carried in consumer publications, material produced by Chester Zoo staff and contributors was published widely in scientific and technical journals. A full list of publications, to which Chester Zoo staff contributed, is included in the appendices to this report.

Circulation achieved by Press and Magazine Coverage. Source: Romeike Press Cuttings





No sex please, we're lizards

Komodo dragons have laid fertile eggs without the help of males, reports Roger Highfield

A Komodo dragon (Varanus komodoensis) has laid a clutch of fertile eggs without the help of a male. The eggs were laid by Flora, Chester Zoo's Komodo dragon, in the only known case of parthenogenesis in the species.

Parthenogenesis, the production of offspring without fertilisation by a male, is rare in the animal kingdom. It has been reported in some insects, reptiles and plants, but is extremely rare in vertebrates.

Flora, Chester Zoo's Komodo dragon, laid a clutch of 11 eggs in the first year of her life. The eggs were laid in the first year of her life, but it was not until the second year that they were laid. The eggs were laid in the first year of her life, but it was not until the second year that they were laid.



One of the eggs laid by Flora

Flora, Chester Zoo's Komodo dragon, laid a clutch of 11 eggs in the first year of her life. The eggs were laid in the first year of her life, but it was not until the second year that they were laid. The eggs were laid in the first year of her life, but it was not until the second year that they were laid.



Dragon facts

- Komodo dragons are the largest lizards in the world, with adult males growing up to three metres in length and weighing up to 700kg.
- There are now believed to be fewer than 4,000 Komodo dragons left on the planet. They survive on three islands in Indonesia - Komodo, Flores and Solor - and are still under threat from poachers.
- Komodo dragons are known to be excellent swimmers and can swim across the sea from one island to another.
- Although they are not considered to be poisonous, the saliva from a Komodo dragon contains deadly bacteria. Their small antivenom kills the legs and sometimes the body and brain of a human.
- The first Komodo dragon was introduced to the UK in 1936. It was named Flora.

EAV (Equivalent Advertising Value) of Press and Magazine Coverage. Source: Romeike Press Cuttings



1. Flora, Chester Zoo's famous Komodo Dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*)
2. Egyptian Tortoises (*Testudo kleinmanni*) were named after the England World Cup Team
3. Hot weather in July attracted PR interest in how we keep our animals cool
4. The story of Flora gained world wide media attention
5. Bill Oddie visited the Zoo to film scenes for a further series of 'Springwatch' on BBC Television
6. Media interest was generated when Morrisons Supermarkets donated Dairy Crest gold top milk to feed Raffers, our male baby Rothschild's Giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*)



A Greener Zoo

Chester Zoo was proud to be again awarded a Queen's Award, in the category of Sustainable Development. As a conservation charity, environmental issues are at the forefront of our thinking, due to the impact on animals of climate change, pollution and habitat destruction



Within the Zoo - and increasingly in our conservation projects overseas - we are adopting best practice to ensure that our activities do not further damage the environment. Here are some examples of what we are doing to limit our environmental impact:

Energy Saving technology

At Chester Zoo, we use 150 cubic metres of water to service our animal enclosures and visitor facilities.

This water is pumped from an underground lake 30 meters below ground. The water pumps cannot adjust the energy they use, even if the demand for water is low.

We have now installed an 'Energy Saving controller' to match the supply of water to demand throughout the day. We will reduce our energy consumption by 70% and the Zoo will save around 8000 kilo watt hours per year.

Our electrical supply is now purchased from a renewable energy supplier and as such is carbon neutral. The new entrance toilets (that will open at Easter 2007) use a solar heating hot water scheme.

Using technology for sustainable conservation facilities

On one of our major overseas projects - The Gashaka Primate Project - we helped provide a 'power island' to supply electricity. This uses solar panels and a turbine driven by a waterfall to generate energy. This means human activity has less environmental impact with a highly sustainable source of power for the project. The 'Island' helps to provide energy for printing, food storage, refrigeration and communications equipment.

Recycling Zoo waste

Every year we recycle as much of our waste as possible, including:





A People Business

2006 was another busy year for recruitment, and 700 applications were received for seasonal and holiday work at the Zoo, our highest ever recorded number of applications.

Training highlights during the year included:

- About 30 Guest Services staff undertook tailor-made training on 'Confidence and Sales Techniques' to hone their skills in readiness for implementation of new Gift Aid rules. Their new-found confidence and abilities undoubtedly helped to achieve great success with the new Gift Aid scheme
- Visitor Services Managers and Team Leaders attended a 'Welcome to Excellence' course run by Cheshire and Warrington Tourist Board
- A training initiative for Manual Handling Risk Assessment was undertaken

Many individuals undertook personal development in their particular specialisms, including:

- Assistant Development Manager, Lynsey Jones, began a Fundraising Management course with the Institute of Fundraising
- Stephen McKeown, Head of Education, received his Plain English Diploma from the Plain English Campaign
- Head of Visitor Services, Liz Child, completed the first year of her three year MBA course
- Maggie Esson completed the first year of a PhD course involving educational research
- Alex Zimmermann commenced the second year of a PhD course in conservation research
- Marketing Assistant, Natalie Stokes, completed a specialist training course, 'Writing Skills for PR'.

The Staff Association continues to be well supported, and in 2006 formed themselves into a non-independent trade union, recognised by the Certification Officer under the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. This re-constitution gives the NEZSSA collective

bargaining and representation rights for the workforce, and is a welcome indication of the commitment of staff to effective working relationships.

NEZS employs almost 500 people during the summer season and is one of the larger employers in the area. The roles undertaken by our people are very diverse but they all share a common vision and contribute to our mission in interesting and challenging ways. Not all roles are customer facing, but all fulfil a vital function in our work.

Here we highlight two individuals but, in fact, there are many more who deserve a special mention.

Dave Brunger

Chester Zoo has been a member of ISIS (International Species Information System) since 1985 and uses their programmes to maintain our animal records. Dave Brunger is Chester Zoo's Records Manager whose work is vital in ensuring that the Zoo has accurate, up to date records of all animal stock.

He said, "Much of my work is detailed and painstaking with an element of investigation as well, and I have developed strong links with over 600 ISIS members worldwide. I have led training courses here at Chester Zoo, and assisted with data quality courses, both of which contribute to the wider Zoo community."

Chester Zoo is now acknowledged as a leading Zoo in this area and much of the credit should go to Dave for that. He said, "I am proud of my achievements in helping Chester Zoo to be one of the foremost Zoos in the world for developing animal record management practices, many of which are now being incorporated at other Zoos."

Peter Owens

Peter has worked for Chester Zoo for 12 years, coming from a background of site management in building and civil engineering. Peter has been involved in many of the major projects, ranging

from 'Monkey Islands', 'Twilight Zone' and 'Cedar House' through to 'Elephants of the Asian Forest' and 'Café Tsavo'.

"While working on 'Islands in Danger', I became interested in the theming work, which involved building rock faces or creating naturalistic copies of trees. After seeing how specialists produced themed effects, I began experimenting at home with small models of the Easter Island Statues at first. The footprints and African Rock Art in 'Tsavo' were another early experiment."

During 2006, Pete developed his skills further to create trees and strangler figs for the 'Realm of the Red Ape' project, working with the contractor in producing these design elements.

"I hope that this approach will save the Zoo significant amounts of money, and it makes my job much more interesting too."



1. Director General Gordon McGregor Reid received an Honorary Fellowship from John Moores University in recognition of his scientific work and contribution to the North West region
2. The Duke of Kent officially opened 'Secret World of the Okapi' and met the team of keeping staff who look after the Okapi
3. Peter Owens on the site of 'Realm of the Red Ape'

Trusts, Grants, Sponsorship and Donations

Our vital work in conservation, education, science and tourism would not be possible without the contributions of our partners, sponsors and donors. Our sincere thanks go to all who help support our work



Community Engagement

As part of our commitment to working with the local community, we have benefited from activities run and staffed by volunteers from local companies who wish to assist their chosen charities. One such company is M&S Money who have generously supported the Zoo for over five years.

In May, a team of 15 M&S Money staff helped the Horticulture Department plant the area around the 'Joseph Banks Room.' In September a second M&S team created and ran a conservation trail for Zoo visitors on the subject of 'island hopping.' Learning new skills and working together as a team was all part of the experience.

Volunteering is a vital part of the corporate social responsibility mix for so many companies and can provide the Zoo with new skills, knowledge and experiences. Our thanks go to all the volunteers who give their time and skills for the benefit of the Society.

Rural Enterprise, a Cheshire grant-giving body, part-funded the Zoo's investment in 'Frost Fair' and redevelopment of the 'Ark Shop.' They have previously contributed to the Asian Elephant and Orang-utan capital developments.

HSBC continues to support the Zoo by fully funding the development of a beautiful exhibition space, the 'Joseph Banks Room.' We are extremely grateful for their generosity.

During 2006, we continued to receive support from charitable trusts and foundations including The Ronald and Kathleen Pryor Charity, which has been helping the Society for over 20 years.

Individual members, adopters and donors have continued to show their support for our work, raising over £10,000 towards our Assam Haathi Elephant project in India and contributing towards the magnificent new home for the Orang-utans due to open in 2007.

Our thanks go to those who have become lifetime supporters, committing to make a gift to the Zoo in their will and we welcomed around 50 of these special donors to a lunch in the Autumn.

Our thanks go to those all those who have contributed to the Zoo during 2006 and, in particular, to the following major donors:

- Rural Enterprise Programme
- Biffaward
- The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation
- 1989 Willan Charitable Trust
- The Marjory Boddy Charitable Trust
- Ruth Smart Foundation
- The Alan Evans Memorial Trust
- The Rainford Trust
- The Ernest Cook Trust
- The Robert Clutterbuck Charitable Trust
- The Eric and Dorothy Leach Charitable Trust
- Philip Barker Charitable Trust
- Pennycress Trust
- The Ward Blenkinsop Trust
- Dorothy Harrison Rylance Charitable Trust
- Give a Child a Chance
- Waste Recycling Group Ltd
- HSBC Bank plc
- Gillian Handley
- Nick Pochin
- Dame Ruth Rendell
- Mark Hovell
- James Goodhart
- Stiftung Artenschutz
- Dorothy E Cumming Deceased (legacy)
- Edith O Holt Deceased (legacy)



1, 2, 3. M&S Money staff kindly volunteered to plant the garden outside the newly refurbished 'Joseph Banks Room'
4. VIP guests at the opening of the 'Joseph Banks Room'

Chester Zoo – Supporting the Local Economy



Every year since 2001, the North of England Zoological Society has commissioned an independent Economic Impact Assessment, to determine the contribution that the Society makes to the local economy, in terms of wealth, job creation and profile. This is an extensive piece of research that examines the number of jobs created, level of expenditure by NEZS, and the impact of visitor expenditure in the local economy

In September 2006, the report for 2005 was published and once again highlighted the contribution that we make to the local economy:

- **439.68 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs created in regional economy**
- **1,026,272 visitors**
- **Total visitor expenditure of £15,840,000 within Zoo – plus additional £781,821 within region**
- **Expenditure by NEZS amongst local suppliers in 2005 - £8,053,096 – sustaining 86.6 FTE jobs in sub-region**

Average Economic Impact over the 5 year period of the study:

- Every **3,316** leisure visitors to the Zoo each year will create one full-time-equivalent job within NEZS
- Every **£124,983** of expenditure by NEZS spent purchasing supplies and services, will create one full-time equivalent job among local suppliers
- Every **122,835** leisure visitors coming to the Zoo will create one full-time equivalent job in the regional economy through additional secondary expenditure

Products and Services

- Expenditure with local companies supplying products and services doubled between 2002 and 2005
- The economic impact of this local expenditure caused a significant increase in local employment creation over the four years - over £8m and 86.6 FTE in 2005

Visitors' Expenditure

- Overall expenditure by visitors increased
- Leisure visitors are each spending more - £15.61 compared to £15.43 per head

Employment Impact

- Direct employment by NEZS reached an all-time high in 2005 with 344.68 FTE (NEZS employs almost 500 people during the summer season)
- Employment impact within the CH postcodes (Chester and Ellesmere Port areas) is considerable
- The overall impact of NEZS's activities on local employment in the North West of England has grown by 46.5% between 2001 and 2005

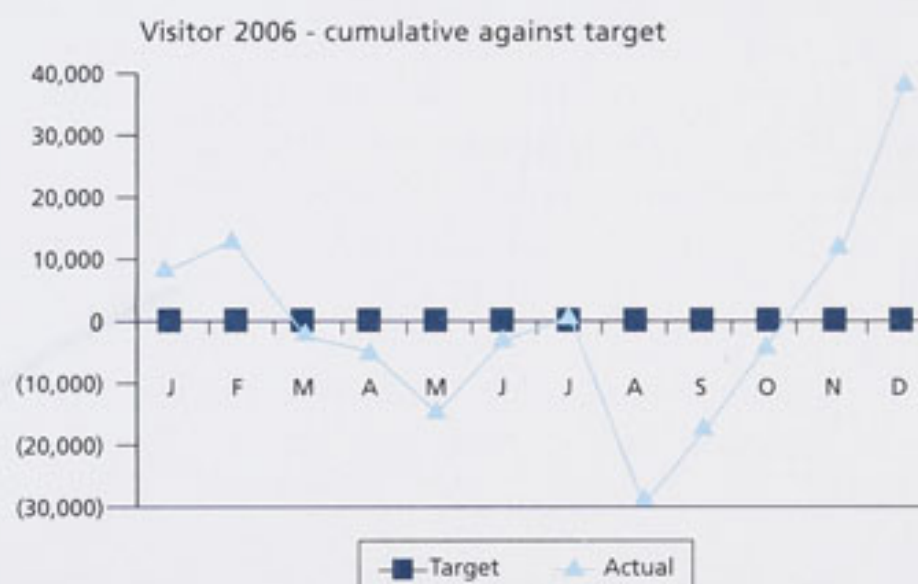


1. Eastgate clock in Chester
2. Fountains Gardens at Chester Zoo
3. Beeston Castle in Cheshire

Financial Report

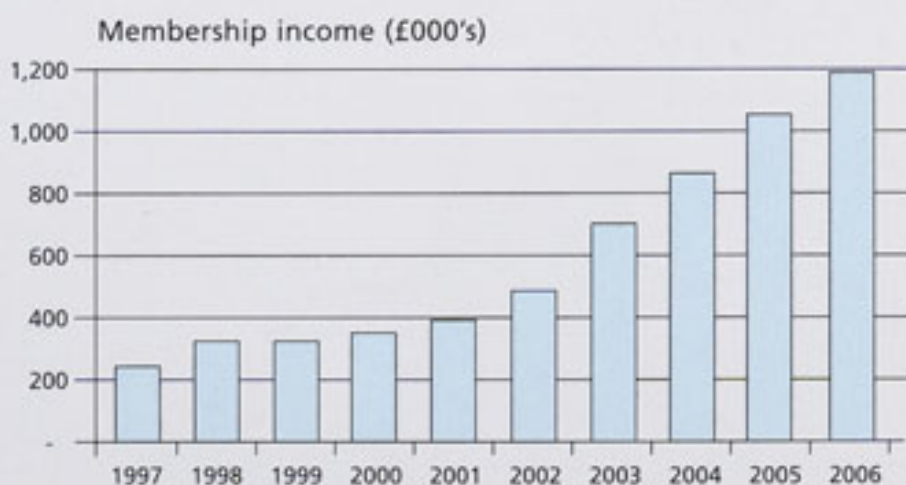
Income

The final four months of 2006 saw record visitor months, undoubtedly helped by good weather from September onwards, combined with several 'good news' stories and a popular new 'Frost Fair' event in December. The weather during the main summer season was mixed, with July being very hot, followed by a wet August, which had a detrimental effect on visitor numbers. Overall, visitor numbers in 2006 increased 5.2% over 2005, to 1,068,000 (excluding the under 3's).



Due to concern as to the impact of the change to the Gift Aid rules in April 2006, together with evidence of a tougher macro economic climate, no price increase was levied on admissions; indeed standard prices were reduced somewhat so that the price, inclusive of the elective donation, would remain unchanged. This, combined with a substantial and sustained effort by our Guest Services staff to persuade visitors to sign up for Gift Aid, enabled us to retain much of the Gift Aid tax recovered in previous years. Indeed, the increased generosity of our visitors in giving larger elective donations all but offset the loss of Gift Aid sustained due to the new legislation. However, due to the price reduction and changes in visitor mix, the overall impact was a 5.5% reduction in visitor admissions revenue for the year.

Membership income continued to grow and, at almost £1.2 million in 2006, has become an increasingly important element of our overall finances, thanks to our continuously expanding army of keen Chester Zoo supporters.



Chester Zoo Enterprises Limited, the Zoo's trading subsidiary company, increased its turnover by over 12%, helped by the popularity of the new 'Café Tsavo'.

Overall the Society's income increased by £300,000 to £19.3 million.

Expenditure

The Group summary financial statements have been prepared in accordance with a revised reporting standard this year which calls for different classifications of income and expense. Although the 2005 figures have been restated in accordance with the new standard, many direct comparisons with previous years' statutory accounts are no longer practicable.

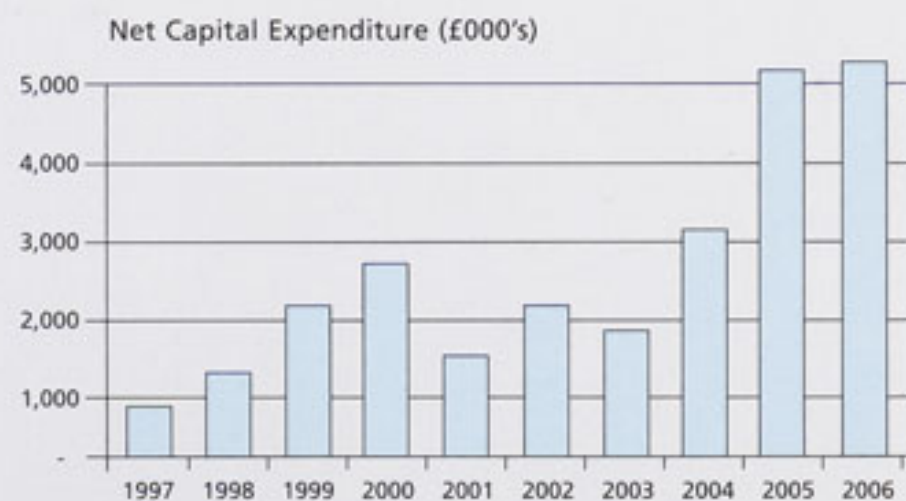
This is particularly true for the amount shown as spent on our charitable activities. Council agreed to permit the mission expenditure to expand in 2006, despite an expectation of flat income, continuing a sustained increase since 1998. However, the changed basis of reporting means that this cannot be displayed graphically. One element of the substantial increase relates to charging depreciation for the first time on the newly opened 'Elephants of the Asian Forest' exhibit.

Other resources expended of £632,000 relates to irrecoverable VAT, the unfortunate side effect of gaining VAT exempt status on the admissions income.

Surplus and reserves

To the resultant net surplus of £663,000 there was an actuarial gain on the defined benefit pension scheme of £458,000 due to favourable investment market conditions increasing the total funds to £24,378,000 (of which £16,898,000 are represented by fixed assets). £515,000 of these are restricted funds, where there is a legal restriction applied by the donor on the use to which the funds may be applied.

Capital expenditure was maintained for a second year at over £5 million. In addition to completing the 'Elephants of the Asian Forest' exhibit and 'Café Tsavo', substantial work on the 'Realm of the Red Ape' Orang-utan exhibit has been undertaken. All three of these buildings are in line with our 'Superzoo' standards.



Group Financial Statements

Council's Statement accompanying the Group Summary Financial Statements

These group summary financial statements are not the statutory accounts but a summary of information relating to the consolidated statement of financial activities, consolidated statement of recognised gains and losses, consolidated balance sheet and consolidated cash flow statement for the year ended 31 December 2006. They may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. For further information the Society's statutory annual report should be consulted which is included on the CD attached to the inside back cover of this document and is also available on the Society's website (www.chesterzoo.org). Printed copies can be obtained from the Company Secretary at The North of England Zoological Society, Cedar House, Zoological Gardens, Caughall Road, Upton by Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH.

The full Council (trustees) report and financial statements from which the group summary financial statements are derived have been externally examined by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP and their audit report on them is unqualified. The full Council report and financial statements were approved by the Council on 30 March 2007 and will be submitted to the Charity Commission and the Registrar of Companies.

Signed on behalf of Council on 30 March 2007

Alan Sykes,
Company Secretary

Independent auditors' statement to the members of the North of England Zoological Society

We have examined the group summary financial statements of The North of England Zoological Society for the year ended 31 December 2006.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

The trustees, who are also directors of the company for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the summarised annual report in accordance with applicable law. Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summary financial statement within the summarised annual report with the annual financial statements, the trustees' report and its compliance with the relevant requirements of Section 251 of the Companies Act 1985 and the regulations made there under.

We also read the other information contained in the summarised annual report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summary financial statement.

This statement, including the opinion, has been prepared for and only for the company's members as a body in accordance with Section 251 of the Companies Act 1985 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving this opinion, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this statement is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our work in accordance with bulletin 1999/6, 'The auditors' statement on the summary financial statement' issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the United Kingdom.

Opinion

In our opinion the group summary financial statements are consistent with the annual financial statements, Council's report of The North of England Zoological Society for the year ended 31 December 2006 and complies with the applicable requirements of Section 251 of the Companies Act 1985, and the regulations made there under.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
Manchester, 30 March 2007

Group summary financial statements (continued)

Summary consolidated statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2006

| | 2006 £'000 | 2005 £'000 as restated |
|--|---------------|------------------------------|
| Incoming resources | | |
| Incoming resources from charitable activities | | |
| Visitor-related incoming resources, animals and botanical collection | | |
| Visitor admission to Zoo and gardens | 8,440 | 8,838 |
| Monorail and boats | 468 | 454 |
| Membership of Zoo and Gift Aid thereon | 1,192 | 1,048 |
| Other visitor-related | 10 | 10 |
| Total visitor-related incoming resources, animals and botanical collection | 10,110 | 10,350 |
| Other incoming resources, animals and botanical collection | 185 | 144 |
| Total incoming resources, animals and botanical collection | 10,295 | 10,494 |
| Visitor-related incoming resources, education | 83 | 246 |
| Other incoming resources, education | 17 | 16 |
| Total incoming resources, education | 100 | 262 |
| Other incoming resources, research | 3 | 3 |
| Total incoming resources, research | 3 | 3 |
| Total incoming resources from charitable activities | 10,398 | 10,759 |
| Incoming resources from generated funds | | |
| Voluntary income | 2,680 | 2,372 |
| Activities for generating funds – Subsidiary's trading turnover | 5,758 | 5,119 |
| Activities for generating funds – Other | 34 | 15 |
| Investment income | 380 | 550 |
| | 8,852 | 8,056 |
| Other incoming resources | 49 | 166 |
| Total incoming resources | 19,299 | 18,981 |
| Resources expended | | |
| Resources expended on charitable activities | | |
| On visitor-related charitable activities | 3,649 | 3,403 |
| Other animal and botanical collection expenditure | 6,433 | 5,408 |
| Total on animal and botanical collection | 10,082 | 8,811 |
| On education | 957 | 880 |
| On research | 52 | 55 |
| On outreach | 685 | 467 |
| | 11,776 | 10,213 |
| Costs of generating funds | | |
| Costs of generating voluntary income | 295 | 301 |
| Fundraising costs – Subsidiary's cost of goods sold and other costs | 5,749 | 5,048 |
| Fundraising costs - Other | 23 | 16 |
| | 6,067 | 5,365 |
| Governance costs | 161 | 162 |
| Other resources expended | 632 | 809 |
| Total resources expended | 18,636 | 16,549 |
| Net incoming resources before other recognised gains and losses | 663 | 2,432 |
| Actuarial gain/(loss) on defined benefit pension scheme | 458 | (258) |
| Net movement in funds | 1,121 | 2,174 |
| Total funds brought forward | 23,257 | 21,083 |
| Total funds carried forward | 24,378 | 23,257 |

Group summary financial statements (continued)

Summary consolidated balance sheet as at 31 December 2006

| 2005 £'000 restated | | 2006 £'000 | 2005 £'000 |
|---------------------------|--|---------------|---------------|
| | Fixed assets | | |
| | Tangible assets | | |
| | Cost | 27,670 | 23,113 |
| | Depreciation | 10,772 | 8,896 |
| | Net Book Value | 16,898 | 14,217 |
| | Current assets | | |
| | Stocks | 395 | 384 |
| | Debtors | 1,241 | 1,072 |
| | Cash at bank and in hand | 7,761 | 10,011 |
| 10,494 | | 9,397 | 11,467 |
| | Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | (1,505) | (1,512) |
| | Net current assets | 7,892 | 9,955 |
| 262 | Total assets less current liabilities | 24,790 | 24,172 |
| | Net assets before pension liability | 24,790 | 24,172 |
| 3 | Net pension liability | (412) | (915) |
| 10,759 | Net assets | 24,378 | 23,257 |
| | Funds employed | | |
| | Income funds – restricted | 515 | 1,830 |
| | Income funds – unrestricted | | |
| | Designated funds | 4,579 | 4,888 |
| | Pension reserve | 412 | 915 |
| 8,056 | Other charitable funds | 18,872 | 15,624 |
| 166 | | 23,863 | 21,427 |
| 18,981 | Total funds employed | 24,378 | 23,257 |

Summary group cashflow statement for the year ended 31 December 2006

| | 2006 £'000 | 2005 £'000 |
|--|----------------|---------------|
| Net incoming resources | 663 | 2,432 |
| Depreciation charges | 2,519 | 1,939 |
| Payment into pension scheme | - | (1,500) |
| Changes in assets and liabilities | (330) | 3,384 |
| Other non-cash movements within net incoming resources | (426) | (512) |
| Net cash inflow from net incoming resources | 2,426 | 5,743 |
| Net interest received | 380 | 547 |
| Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets (net of disposals) | (5,199) | (5,101) |
| Increase in net cash in the year | (2,393) | 1,189 |

5,365

162

809

16,549

2,432

(258)

2,174

21,083

23,257

Trustees

The North of England Zoological Society

President

His Grace, the Duke of Westminster KG, OBE, TD, DL
The 6th Duke continues the long-standing tradition of Grosvenor family support for the society.

Vice President

The Right Honourable Lord Wade of Chorlton
A Life Peer and enthusiastic supporter of the Society. Former Cheshire County Councillor and Past Chairman of the Cheshire Heritage Trust and Rural Economy Group.

Vice President

The Honourable Mrs A Margaret Jane Heber-Percy
Wife of Algernon Heber-Percy JP, HM Lord Lieutenant for Shropshire and daughter of our former Vice President, the late Viscount Leverhulme, thus continuing the strong Lever family association with the Society.

NEZS Council Members (Trustees) throughout 2006

Chairman

Tony Williams
After a long career as a senior executive in financial services with a major Chester-based bank, Tony now runs a successful business consultancy with his wife, Diane.

Vice Chairman

Prof Peter Wheeler BSc, PhD
Dean of Faculty of Biological & Earth Sciences of Liverpool John Moores University. Research specialism in animal physiology.

Council Members

Malcolm Ardron
Malcolm is a chartered engineer with over 20 years experience managing substantial construction projects. He hopes to be able to use this experience to assist the Zoo in achieving its expansion and development plans.

Prof Malcolm Bennett BVSc, PhD, MRCVS, MRCPPath, DipECVPH
Head of the Department of Veterinary Pathology at Leahurst, the University of Liverpool's Veterinary School, Wirral.

Neville Chamberlain MSc, CBE
Past Chairman of Urenco Ltd, Chairman of the Manufacturing Institute, and of the Cheshire and Warrington Economic Alliance and also Environlink NW. Past Board Member Northwest Development Agency.

Brian Child

Recently retired after a long career with McCann-Erickson (Europe). Brian was also Chief Operations Officer of the UK's largest advertising agency group. Interests in international Zoo marketing.

Steve Docking

As a local Headteacher, Steve considers it a pleasure to serve on Council. This is a wonderful opportunity to utilise his skills in partnership with an organisation that is forward thinking, dynamic and focuses on education at all levels.

Dr Caroline Evans BSc, PhD

Lecturer in Pathology for 15 years at the University of Manchester. Special interests in cell biology and zoo breeding programmes. Committee member for six years of the Institute of Biology. Concerned to inform and educate the public about wildlife.

Iain Hall

Iain is an executive officer for a financial services company based in the North West and has over 20 years experience in technology, management consulting and outsourcing. He looks forward to using his governance, finance and IT experience to assist the Zoo achieve its expansion plans and pursue the vision.

Chris Mahon BSc, MSc

Director of the Cheshire Wildlife Trust. Vice Chairman of the Local Strategic Biodiversity Partnership, Chairman of the Sustainable Cheshire Forum and Chairman of Fauna & Flora International in the North West.

Robert Mee FCIB

Former Divisional Chief Executive for Bank of Scotland.

Dr Jeremy Playfer MD, FRCP

Consultant physician and Honorary Clinical Lecturer specialising in geriatric medicine. President, British Geriatrics Society.

Dr Judith Skeritt BSc, PhD

Former Head of Science Faculty and lecturer in mathematics and physics at Marionopolis College, Montreal, Canada. Currently a Principal Veterinary Practice Executive in the North West.

Alan Watson FCIB

Agent of Manchester Branch of the Bank of England until retirement.

Council Members who stood down during 2006

David Wall

Council Committees

Council has delegated aspects of its authority to committees, consisting of some of its members, relevant staff and other advisors. The committees report to the full Council on matters that require the knowledge or approval of full Council which also receives copies of the minutes of all committee meetings.

Animal Welfare, Conservation and Scientific Committee

Monitors animal husbandry, welfare and veterinary care. Advises on exhibition and conservation policy and on scientific and health and safety matters.

| Members of Council | Staff |
|---|---|
| Prof Peter Wheeler, Chairman Prof Malcolm Bennett, Deputy Chairman Dr Caroline Evans Chris Mahon Dr Jeremy Playfer Advisors Dr Filippo Aureli Dr Julian Chantrey Brian Coles Derek Lyon John Makinson | Prof Gordon McGregor Reid Mark Pilgrim Kevin Buley Dr Andrea Fidgett Dr Sonya Hill Anthony Hutchinson Mike Jordan Penny Rudd Stephanie Sanderson Mark Sparrow Steve Unwin Dr Roger Wilkinson John Winward Alexandra Zimmerman Karen King-Sharp, Secretary |

Remuneration Committee

Determines remuneration and conditions of service for Directors, Heads of Division and other key executives.

| Members of Council | Staff |
|---|---------------------------|
| Tony Williams, Chairman Prof Peter Wheeler, Vice Chairman Alan Watson, Chairman of Finance and Personnel Committee | Prof Gordon McGregor Reid |

Finance and Personnel Committee

Has prime responsibility for advising council on all financial and personnel matters in accordance with the Society's Mission. Informally acts as a 'sounding board' for the executive on all such issues.

| Members of Council | Staff |
|--|--|
| Alan Watson, Chairman Robert Mee, Deputy Chairman Neville Chamberlain Tony Williams Advisors Hamilton Howatt | Prof Gordon McGregor Reid Mark Pilgrim Jill Barnard-Blom Richard Barnett Liz Child Martin Davies Sharon Leeson Steve O'Brien Jayne Quinn Alan Sykes Emma Purdie, Secretary |

Education Committee

Acts as a forum for discussion and advancement of education policy in both the formal, academic sector and informal, visitor-related areas. Advises on membership policy and is responsible for talks and other events, chiefly for members and adopters within the general remit of enhancing the Society's status as a forum for communication and debate on conservational, biological and related scientific and educational topics.

| Members of Council | Staff |
|--|--|
| Dr Judith Skeritt, Chairman Dr Caroline Evans, Deputy Chairman Prof Malcolm Bennett Advisors Brian Coles Derek Lyon | Prof Gordon McGregor Reid Mark Pilgrim Sharon Leeson Stephen McKeown Kate Brankin, Secretary |

Pension Fund Trustees

Ensures the superannuation fund scheme is managed in accordance with its Trust Deed.

This is a committee independent of Council and with its own trustees.

| Trustees | Actuary |
|--|--|
| Michael Johnson, Chairman Robert Mee John Makinson Richard Barnett Jayne Quinn Alan Sykes | Bill Bowman Mercer Human Resource Consulting |

Looking Forward



2007 promises to be an exciting year for the Zoo with new exhibits and visitor facilities taking shape

New attractions in 2007

'Realm of the Red Ape', a new 'world-class' £3.8 million home for the Zoo's endangered Sumatran and Bornean Orang-utans is due to open in May.



This will provide our Orang-utans with a spectacular tree top and forest environment and we are introducing other species such as gibbons. Within the attraction, visitors will also be able to see a Reticulated Python, one of the longest snakes in the world.

A mixed 'Asian Plain' paddock will also be ready in time for Easter 2007. This will hold Brow-Antlered Deer and Black Buck, both species that we already hold at the Zoo. However, the most exciting introduction will be the Great One-horned Rhinoceros - a charismatic animal who will undoubtedly take full advantage of the wallow pool that is a feature in the paddock.



New Visitor Facilities

A new entrance area at the Zoo is being created to provide a new Guest Services Centre, primarily to deal with visitor enquiries, but also to handle Membership and Adoption applications. There will also be a new toilet block, the 'Ark Shop' is being refurbished and there will be a new facility for visitors wishing to hire wheelchairs and buggies. The whole area will be landscaped with an English Oak Tree as the centrepiece.

'Superzoo'

Work continues on our long-term project to transform Chester Zoo into a world-class visitor attraction. During 2007 we will be working closely with the North West Development Agency to develop the project, identify consultants and funding partners. This is an enormous undertaking for the Society, but one that will enable us to improve our ability to take forward the mission of conserving biodiversity worldwide and create economic regeneration for the North West.



1. Artist's impression of new entrance, 'Beginnings' at Chester Zoo
2. Chester Zoo's Bornean and Sumatran Orang-utans will soon be accommodated in state-of-the-art facilities. Photography courtesy of Reuters

3. The 'Realm of the Red Ape' takes shape
4. Great One-horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*)
5. Planting the English Oak tree that is the symbolic centerpiece at the new entrance



Appendices
To save on paper, the
on a disc.
If you prefer
please re

2006 Annual Report of the
North of England Zoological Society

Appendices

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Photographs - We extend our thanks to other
contributors for the use of photographs in this publication.



Chester Zoo Library

TM05242



Our Vision:

A diverse,
thriving and sustainable
natural world

North of England Zoological Society, Chester Zoo, Upton by Chester, Chester CH2 1LH
Tel: 01244 380280 Fax: 01244 371273 Email: info@chesterzoo.co.uk Web: www.chesterzoo.org

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