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CHESTER ZOO

AUTUMN 2014



Z  
MAGAZINE

# Features

In your Z Magazine...

The official magazine for Chester Zoo Members & Adopters


 **OUR ZOO**  
Welcome to your **NEW-LOOK** members magazine.  
**BBC Drama**  
Page 4-8 **Tune in BRAND NEW**  
on your TV screens this autumn

## Me you & the zoo

We want to hear all about your zoo memories  Page 9

**ISLANDS**  Page 22-23  
at **CHESTER ZOO** EIGHT MONTHS before we officially open the gateway to a new world

### Making a Difference **ACT FOR WILDLIFE**

Page 24-25  
Catch up with our Act for Wildlife fieldwork at home and overseas 

## GO Orange

Page 28-29 For Orangutans  
Learn how you can help our fundraising appeal

**Don't Miss!**

**ADOPTER DAYS**

Sunday October 5, 2014  
Saturday March 7, 2015



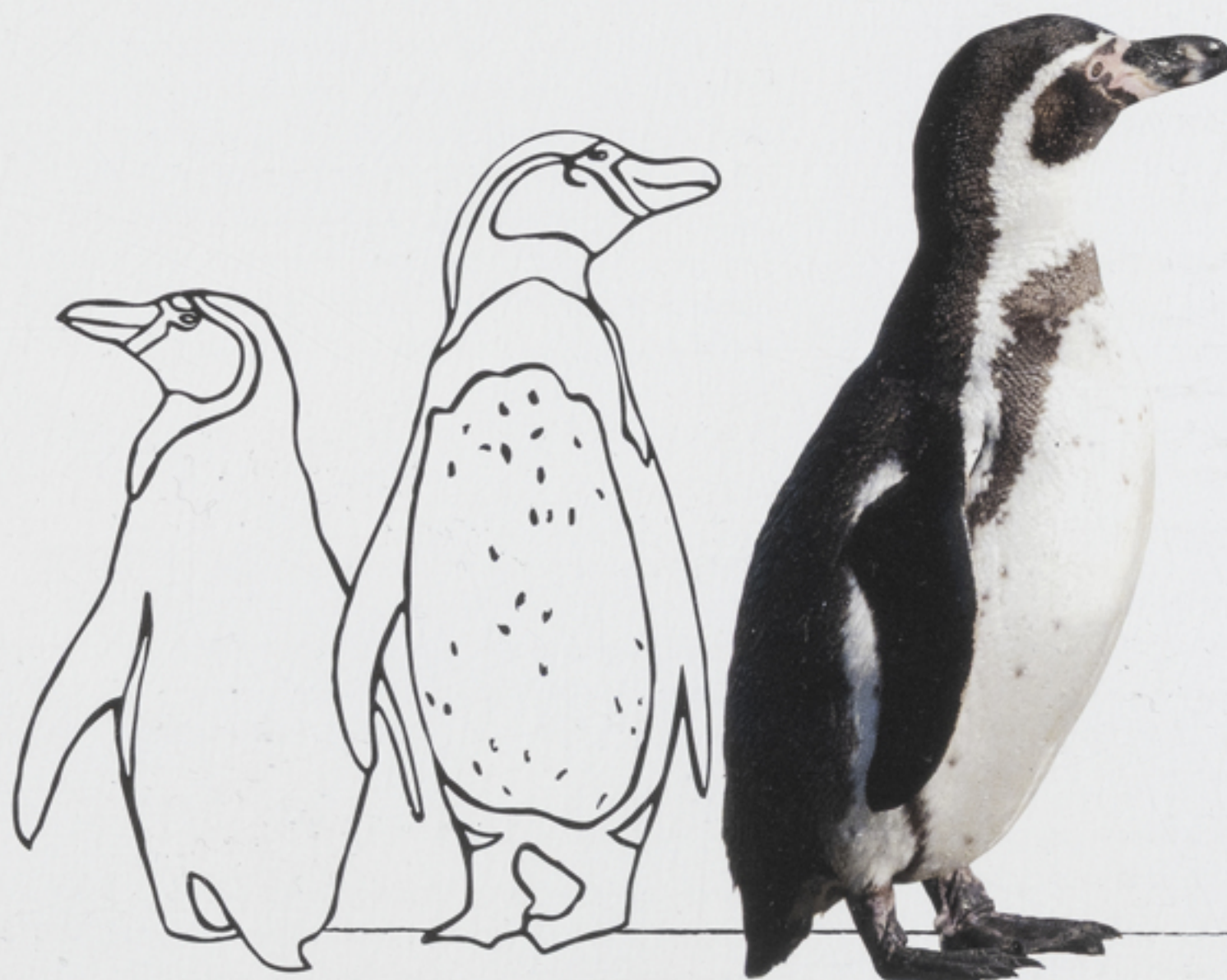
**MEMBERS DAYS**

Sunday November 2, 2014  
Saturday March 21, 2015  
Friday July 4, 2015



**CHESTER ZOO**

AUTUMN 2014



# News from the Zoo

with Dr. Mark Pilgrim  
director general



We are officially the UK's top zoo! Millions of people voted on Trip Advisor and we were also named the second best in Europe and sixth in the world. This award means so much as it's the people that really matter to us, the people who

actually come and vote for their experience and it's testament to all who work in the zoo for us to get these awards.

One person who would have been very proud of our recent award is our founder George Mottershead and I am very excited to announce that the drama depicting George's inspiring journey starting the zoo is being aired on BBC One. Featuring a host of famous faces, it will run across six episodes and a few staff members who have been lucky enough to see the first tell me it's well worth a watch. We are planning a variety of events to mark the occasion so please keep an eye on the website for the latest news.

To mark the fact that *Our Zoo* is coming to our screens and also to celebrate our 80th year as a conservation charity we are creating an online archive library and we need your help. We want to hear about your treasured memories of the zoo so that we can log them and keep a permanent archive.

I've been here for more than 25 years now so, as you can imagine, I have lots of memories. My favourite recollections involve the times I have spent with some really special people who show such passion, whether it be about their day to day work here or projects in the field.

## What's happening in conservation?

Last September Scottish Natural Heritage released an action plan for the conservation of the Scottish wildcat, with conservation breeding identified as one of the actions. I'm really pleased to say we were one of the zoos to offer our cat-breeding knowledge and support.

The Scottish wildcat is Britain's only wild feline species so its conservation is extremely important. With money raised by Big Christmas Challenge last year we have installed CCTV into the new off-show exhibit to monitor the cat, with minimum human contact.

We plan to get a male for our female soon in the hope of successfully breeding them and in the long term, re-introducing the off-spring to the wilds of Scotland. The CCTV camera can be seen in the front entrance so keep your eyes peeled for this elusive creature and we will update you when a mate arrives.

## Hellos and farewells...

As some of you may know Jangoli, the Asian elephant which had been here for 20 years, has moved to Madrid Zoo. I am glad to say that she has settled in well at Madrid and has adopted a young male there.

We also said goodbye to the four Bornean orangutans which had been with us for 18 months from Blackpool Zoo, while their new enclosure was being built. Following the work, Vicky, her daughters, Cherie and Summer, and male Ramon have now returned to Blackpool.

Amongst our new arrivals is the young male spectacled bear Bernardo, who came to us from Tulsa Zoo. Spectacled bears are a vulnerable species and I hope that he will sire cubs in the future.

Also new to our collection is a Philippine mouse deer, a very pretty deer, of which there are only 15 in Europe. He's on show in the aviaries within Islands in Danger although he is quite shy and not much bigger than a rabbit, so you may not see him on your first visit.

I'm also really pleased about the birth of a lowland tapir, and the first male to be born at the zoo for eight years. This South American species is threatened because of habitat destruction and hunting and so we hope our new youngster will be a real ambassador for his cousins in the wild. For many years now we have supported a conservation initiative which has been finding out valuable information about behaviour patterns and movements of tapirs in key areas of Brazil. It is hoped this research will help safeguard their future.

## What are you looking forward to in the next few months?

I know we have only just entered autumn but I have to mention our Lantern Magic event at Christmas. Last year it was a huge success and in 2014 we hope it will be even bigger and better. Tickets are already selling fast, so if you want to book your place check out our website for details.

## And finally what's the latest with Islands?

Islands is really taking shape at the moment. A number of bridges have been built and within the last month the rafters have gone up which means the transparent roof over the Monsoon Forest building will be completed soon.

The full scale of this momentous project is now clear to all who visit the site. It really will be a fantastic addition to our zoo. With less than a year to go until the next landmark moment when Islands opens to the public, I am sure our founder George Mottershead would be very proud of how his 'zoo without bars' has developed.

## ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY?

As part of our commitment to the environment, we're giving you the chance to receive 'Z' electronically. Swapping over is really easy. Simply contact the membership office on **01244 650208** or email **membership@chesterzoo.org** with the email address you would like the link sending to – BUT DON'T FORGET to include your membership number or postcode so we can find you. You'll still receive the magazine by post if you don't wish to receive it electronically.

More than 100 years  
ago one little boy cared  
deeply about animals

George's amazing  
story will be told  
in *Our Zoo* - a brand  
new BBC One drama

**OUR**

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Back at the turn of the 20th century, a boy named George Mottershead was taken to a zoo in Manchester. What George saw that day inspired him to do something different.

"WHEN I HAVE A



George Mottershead, the zoo founder



George Mottershead later in life pictured in front of his elephants



June Mottershead with a chimp on Oakfield steps



IT WON'T HAVE ANY BARS"



June Mottershead, daughter of George the zoo founder



In 1930, now grown up and with a family, he bought Oakfield Manor and seven acres of land for £3,500. And with him, he brought a group of animals from a zoo at Shavington, near Crewe. These became the first animals of Chester Zoo.

The zoo opened in 1931, and in 1934, the North of England Zoological Society was born. Keeping the young zoo open through the Second World War was no mean feat. But George did it.

With the war over, the zoo began to grow – fast. By the time he died in 1978, aged 84, George's dream of a 'zoo without bars' was well and truly flourishing at Chester.



Muriel Mottershead, eldest daughter of George

From left, *Our Zoo* actors Amelia Clarkson and Liz White, programme director Andy de Emmony, centre, and actors Honor Kneafsey and Lee Ingleby



PAGE 8  
Exclusive drama news for zoo in September

Lee Ingleby who plays George Mottershead



OUR



THE REAL June Williams formerly June Mottershead, daughter of the zoo founder, George Mottershead

# Behind the scenes...



Actor Ralf Little with Lee who plays George

Today, we're not only the UK's most popular zoo, and one of the top six in the world; we're also a highly respected centre for global conservation and research, and passionate campaigners for wildlife.



Sidney plays himself

That is all because one little boy cared deeply about animals, more than 100 years ago. George's amazing story will be told in *Our Zoo*, a brand new BBC One drama.



Action as Penguins join the cast

Lee Ingleby plays George Mottershead with Liz White playing his loyal wife Lizzie Mottershead. BAFTA® nominated actress Anne Reid plays George's mother Lucy Mottershead and Peter Wight is also in the cast as George's believing father, Albert.

The series also stars Ralf Little as Lizzie's mischievous brother Billy Atkinson and young actresses Amelia Clarkson and Honor Kneafsey play George and Lizzie's children, Mew (Clarkson) and June (Kneafsey).



Liz White who plays Lizzy Mottershead

Honor Kneafsey who plays June Mottershead



LOOK OUT for the drama this September on BBC One

# Me

Do you have treasured memories of visiting our zoo? If so we're urging you to share those reminiscences with us. We'd love to hear all about your favourite times here, no matter how long ago they were – or how old you were!

# You & the zoo

We're keen for people of all ages to join us on a nostalgia trip, share photographs and anecdotes and help us to build up a vivid picture of how our zoo was seen through the eyes of visitors in the past. We're inviting all of you to join us on this enchanting stroll back through the years to coincide with some landmark events. They include the fact that 2014 marks our 80th anniversary as a wildlife charity, a real cause for celebration.

This month also sees the television debut of *Our Zoo*, a new BBC drama series charting the amazing story of our founder, George Mottershead.

Were you around when George opened Chester Zoo in 1931? Perhaps you have fond memories, photographs or even cine film clips of those early days which you would be willing to share with us and your fellow zoo members.

You might have been here for some key occasions – such as when our first waterbus was launched in 1959, Princess Diana's visit in 1988, the opening of our Tropical Realm in 1964 or the birth of our Asiatic elephant calf, Jubilee, in 1977. Whatever your memories, we want to hear all about them, and we'd love to see any photographs you have too, colour or black and white.

We are dedicating a new area on our website to what we hope will be a truly unforgettable exhibition of your memories and accompanying pictures. Upload your recollections, photographs and digital clips directly onto the site at [www.chesterzoo.org/memories](http://www.chesterzoo.org/memories)

Or email your stories and photographs to us at [memories@chesterzoo.org](mailto:memories@chesterzoo.org) If your photographs and films are in a format which can't be emailed please call us on 01244 380280



We've already heard from some of our close neighbours who recollect the excitement of royal visits, the days when there were donkey rides in our grounds, the development of our award-winning botanic gardens, and the opening of our first refreshments kiosk where cooling ice creams went on sale.



We want to hear about your personal memories here too, not just of the 1930s and 40s, but right up to more recent times. Do you have fun photographs – even polaroids – taken of zoo visits in the 1970s and 80s? Perhaps your family has supported our zoo over several generations.

We'd be delighted to hear from you

Share your recollections of a 'must see' animal you always sought out when you were a child, or fond memories of a wonderful event you attended here. It could be a funny incident during a family trip, tales of a school visit, or the story of how and why you first became a zoo member.



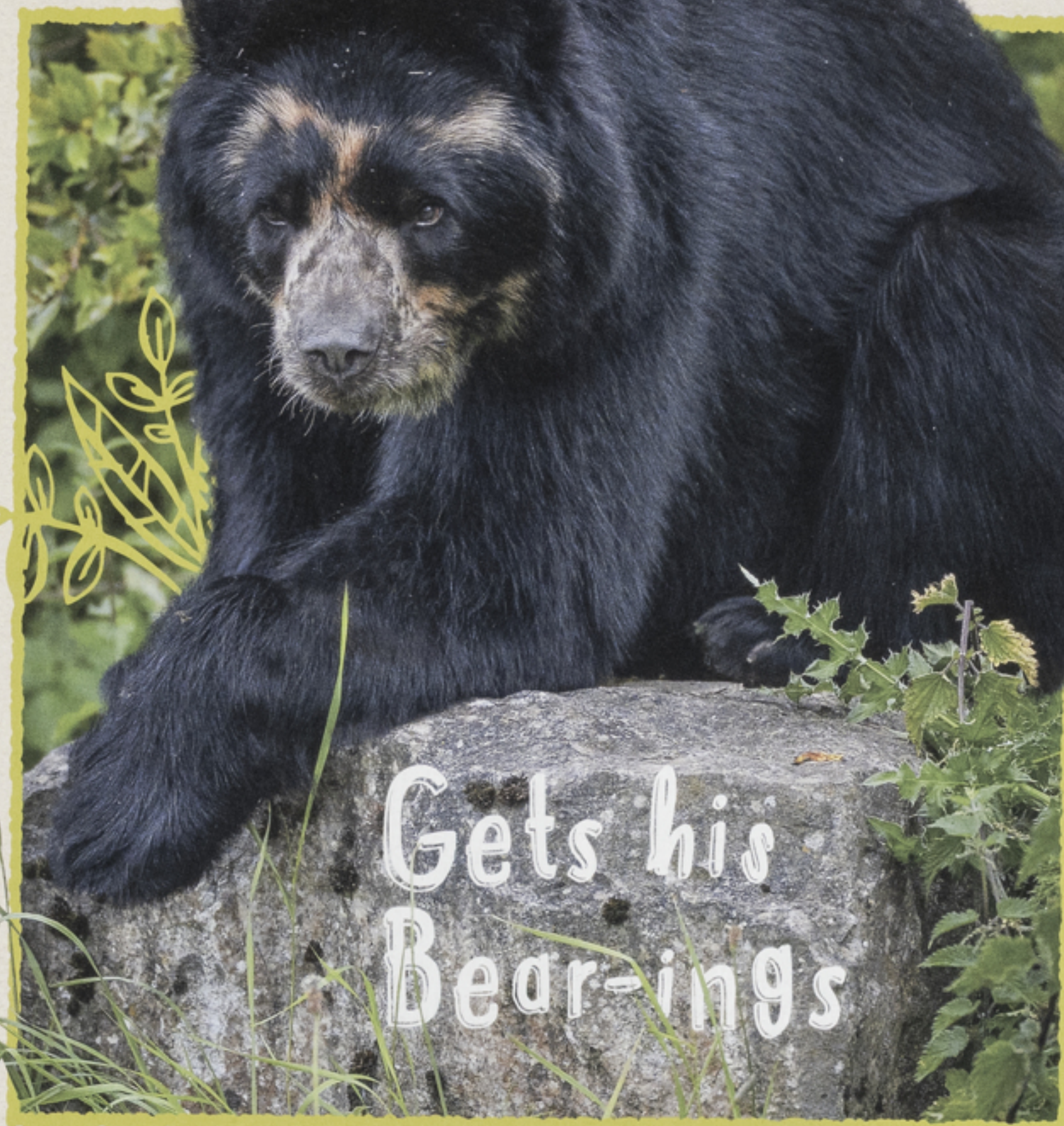
Photos of our zoo from times past



# the spectacular BERNARDO

A young male bear who arrived at the zoo from the USA is making himself at home

Four-year-old Bernardo – a spectacled bear – travelled from Tulsa Zoo in Oklahoma to be introduced to his new companion, our resident female Franka. It is rare that any zoo animals move between Europe and the USA. However, Bernardo's arrival brings important new blood to the European population of spectacled bears – a species classed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as being vulnerable to extinction in the wild.



Gets his  
Bear-ings

Tim Rowlands, curator of mammals, said:

"An exchange of animals between the USA and Europe doesn't happen very often at all. That makes the arrival of Bernardo even more special."

"We also have one of the largest spectacled bear enclosures in the world and so we were top of the list when it came to choosing Bernardo's new home."

Last year we funded a project in Peru investigating the foraging behaviour of spectacled bears. The project ultimately aims to ensure the conservation of the species in the dry forest habitat of northern Peru through scientific research and education, while working collaboratively with private land owners and rural communities to improve their social and economic wellbeing.

"The co-ordinator of this breeding programme chose him as an ideal genetic pairing for our female Franka and so that has been the driver for bringing him across the Atlantic. Spectacled bears are a species that is vulnerable to extinction and so we hope this pair will produce cubs in the future.

"Bringing an animal over from the USA is logistically very difficult and it's vitally important that the animal has a suitable temperament. I went over to Tulsa last year to see Bernardo and spend some time with him and he's a very nice, calm young male.

# NEW ARRIVAL

**A Philippine mouse deer** – one of the smallest hoofed animals in the world – is among our new arrivals and is described by keepers as being “**not much bigger than a rabbit**”. He is one of just 15 to be found in zoos across Europe. Contrary to its name the Philippine mouse deer does not belong to the deer family but is a member of the ungulates.



We hope the young male – housed in our Islands in Danger exhibit – will eventually be joined by a female as part of plans to join the endangered species breeding programme for the threatened animals.

**Curator of mammals  
Tim Rowlands said:**

“ We’re now one of only six zoos in the whole of Europe to hold this charming species and the first in the UK. Our long-term aim is to learn more about what makes these animals tick and make a real impact in terms of the conservation breeding programme.

“ On top of that, we do a lot of extremely valuable conservation work in the areas of south east Asia where these animals come from, helping to protect habitats and ultimately the animals themselves.

“ This Philippine mouse deer is a fine ambassador for his cousins in the wild and we hope that when people see him, they’ll understand why it’s so important that we don’t let incredible species like these disappear.”

In the wild, the species, which is also known as the Java or Balabac mouse deer, is threatened by huge deforestation in south east Asia with its habitat being converted to coconut plantations and other agricultural uses. They are also captured for the wild animal trade, and poached for food, as their meat is considered a delicacy.

**He might stand just 18cm tall and weigh only a kilo,  
but what he lacks in size he more than makes up for  
in his importance**

# REAL BEAUTIES

to us...



Meet one of our recently hatched northern bald ibis chicks. The species is critically endangered, meaning it faces an extremely high risk of becoming extinct in the wild.

The northern bald ibis – sometimes referred to as a 'waldrapp' ibis – was once common throughout Europe, northern Africa and the Middle East. However due to habitat loss and hunting of their eggs and chicks, it has vanished from Europe, leaving diminished populations in Morocco and just a handful of these distinctive birds in Syria.

Keepers check on the development of their new arrivals by weighing them on a daily basis.

Lead Keeper Steve Williams said:

"Some consider them to be one of the zoo's uglier species but given that they're so rare, we think they're real beauties."



# Bigger

and STRONGER

Day-by-Day



A rare, tiny, hyacinth macaw chick

is being **hand-reared** by zookeepers after it hatched in an incubator. At birth the chick – pictured here at just a month old – was so small it was kept in a Tupperware tub which doubled up as a crib. Keepers named it Jesse and gave it around-the-clock care.

Keeper Karen Neech said:

"It's hard to believe that our chick will eventually start to spring some beautiful deep blue feathers – at the moment it looks more like a dinosaur crossed with a plucked chicken! But with all of the care and attention we're giving, it's growing bigger and stronger by the day."

Hyacinth macaws are the world's largest parrot and can reach 100cm tall. They are found in Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay. They are an endangered species as wild populations have diminished due to the illegal pet trade and habitat loss caused by land clearance for cattle ranching.

# Another release...

We are looking forward to another release of sand lizard youngsters this September and preparations are underway in our reptile department. Keeper Ruth Smith describes the events so far:



The breeding and release of our young sand lizards has been one of our longest running and most successful conservation projects. We are very proud that this will be our 14th year and feedback from the field has confirmed that our previous releases have established populations and numbers have significantly improved.

Our 10 males and five females emerged from hibernation in late March thanks to a spell of warm weather. The males wasted no time in seeking the females out to mate with and within a few weeks the females showed signs of being gravid (holding eggs).

As the enclosure is so large, to ensure we were able to find the eggs once laid, we put the gravid females in 'nesting boxes'. This also prevented females from being harassed by the males wanting to mate.

Females are usually gravid for six weeks before laying eggs, after which the adult females were returned to the dunes to hopefully be mated again by the males and eventually produce another clutch of eggs.

The eggs were laid in loose sand. We removed them very carefully and put them in our incubator.

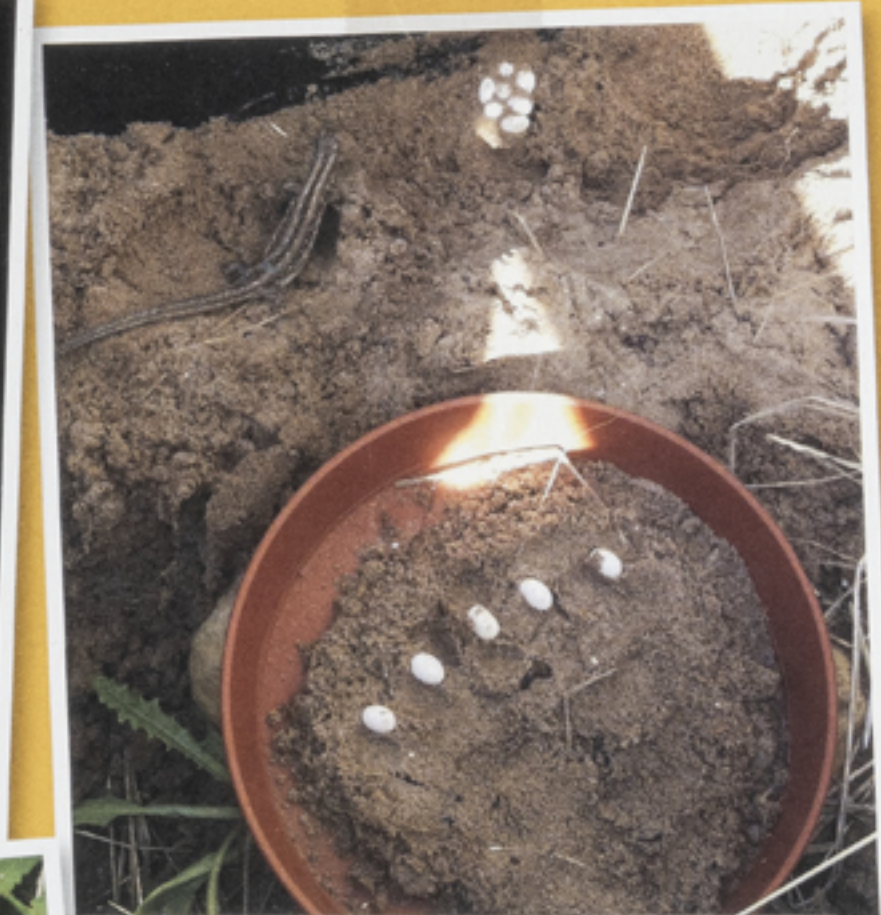
The eggs showed the first sign of fertility after a week, with very small blood vessels, and it wasn't long until we could start seeing the developing embryo.

With the eggs then due to hatch in late July to early August we prepared sand lizard crèches ready for them. These were set up to replicate their natural habitat with sand, grasses and stones for them to burrow under.

We had six weeks to fatten them up as much as possible so their diet consisted of daily feeds of crickets, fruit fly and pea aphids.

A number of organisations contribute to this long-term conservation project to make it the success it is; from managing and protecting the natural habitat to monitoring and recording the re-introduced sand lizards ensuring we have established populations. This year's release will be onto the sandy dunes of Talacre beach in North Wales and the excitement, to watch our youngsters released, is already building.

From spending a lot of time in the sand lizard enclosure I get to speak to a lot of visitors who tell me how they have been coming to the zoo for years and never spotted a sand lizard!



## Handy hints for spotting sand lizards:

- Sand lizards are most active in April, May, June, July and August
- They tend to hibernate from September, but some have been spotted, out and about, on very mild days in November

Just like people, sand lizards love sun and hate rain. So your best chance of seeing them is on a lovely sunny day when they will come out to bask

Their favourite places to bask in are sandy spots dotted about the enclosure surrounded by the marram grass

We feed them black crickets, brown crickets and hoppers, and they also feast on naturally occurring insects such as woodlice in the enclosure



# Superb

This superb fruit dove is just that – superb!  
We caught our male helping to do  
his bit rearing a new arrival.

Male and female superb fruit doves share incubation  
and parenting duties. The single egg hatches after  
14 days and the tiny squab leaves the nest at only  
eight or nine days of age. At this stage it is not  
much bigger than a Brussels sprout,  
which it rather closely resembles!

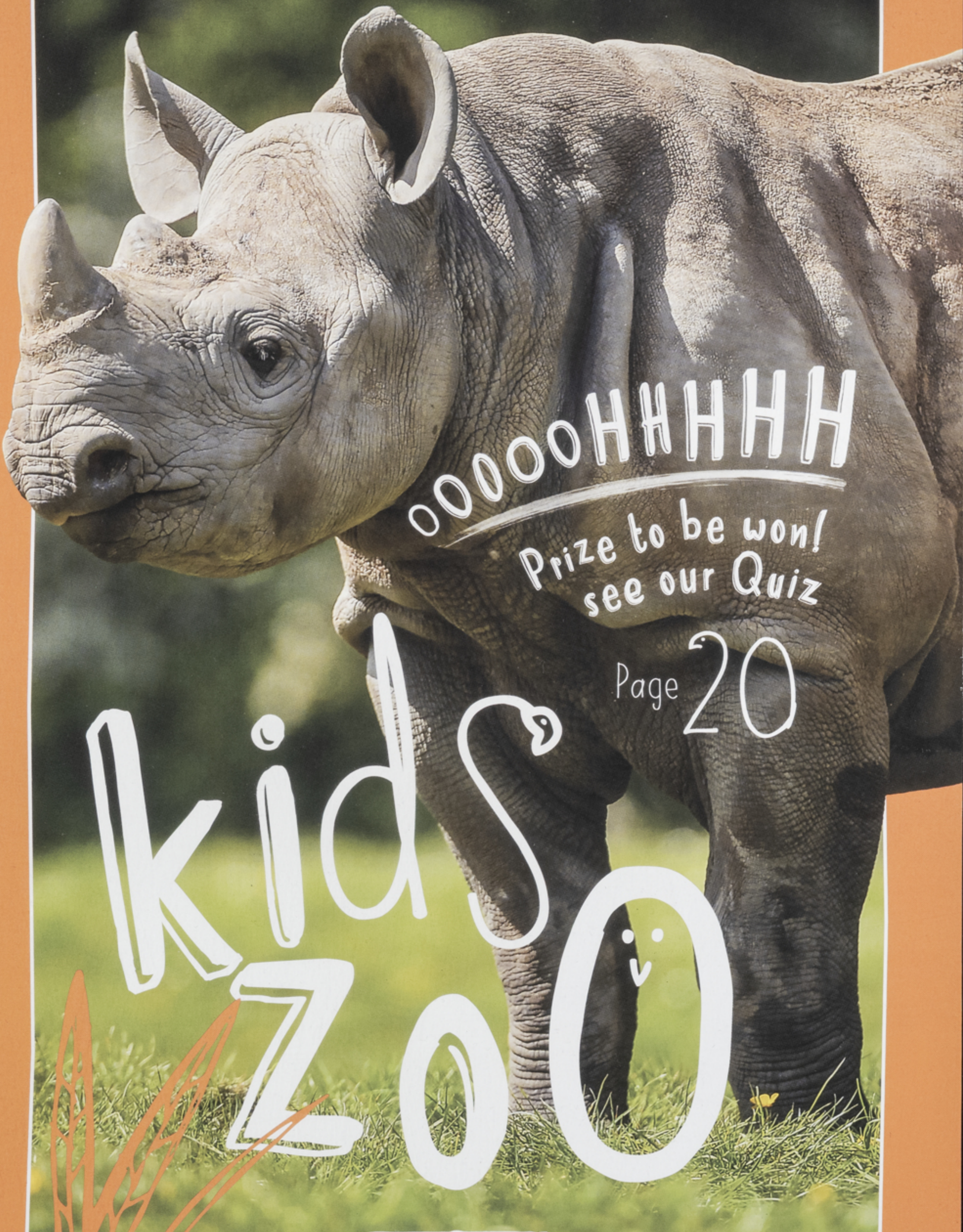
The species originates from the rainforests of  
New Guinea and will be one of many beautiful  
bird species that will be seen in our new  
*Islands* development next year.



Our Asian elephant,  
Jangoli, who moved  
to Madrid Zoo in  
Spain is settling  
in well.

Jangoli, 46, was  
accompanied on  
her journey by one  
of our keepers.

# Jangoli



OOOOHHHHH

Prize to be won!  
see our Quiz

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# kidS zoo

# Events 2014

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20**

**HILBRE ISLAND**

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

The bus departure time will depend on tide times for the day. Children aged eight and above are invited to join us for a relaxing day. Bring a picnic.

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 18**

**TATTON PARK, HOME FARM**

**AND DEER RUT**

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

Children aged 8-plus are invited to join us. We will leave the staff car park at 10am and return there for 4.30pm. You will need a picnic lunch.

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22**

**MARTIN MERE, THE WILDFOWL**

**AND WETLANDS TRUST**

Martin Mere is the place to see the vast flocks of pink-footed geese that stop here on the autumn migration. There will also be hundreds of swans and many other wild waterfowl species to see at this stunning reserve near Ormskirk, Lancashire, where there are many 'hides' spread around the area from which you can get really superb views of the birds without disturbing them. This is a very easy going day and we will start by visiting Martin Mere's exotic species collection before heading out to the wetlands to look at the wild birds.

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

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 5**

**THE JUNIORS' CHRISTMAS PARTY**

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

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



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

# Wordsearch

S	E	M	M	A	L	B	U	T	C	G	C
Y	C	G	D	W	E	M	Y	S	L	E	T
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BORNEO

RED APE

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TREES

RAINFOREST

EMMA

SUMATRA

PULUH

BRIDGES

SUBIS

ORANGUTAN

TROPICAL


To be in with a chance of winning a £10 voucher to spend in the zoo shops, send your entry together with contact details to:

Z magazine, Media Department, Chester Zoo,  
Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH  
by Monday October 6.

OOOOHHHHH

Congratulations to  
our previous winner

Jessie Edwards  
of Tarporley



# Quiz

## Questions

1. Name the two islands where orangutans are found in the wild.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

2. Orangutans need long arms to swing from tree to tree, but just how far can a male orangutan stretch?

1 metre       2 metres       5 metres

3. Where do orangutans sleep at night?

- In a cave
- They dig a shallow hole in the ground
- In a homemade nest in the trees

4. In the wild, orangutans love to eat Durian fruit, but what does this fruit smell like to humans?

- Sweaty socks
- Vomit
- Raw sewage
- All of the above

5. The noise made by a male orangutan is called:

- A scream
- Cry
- Roar
- Short call
- Long call

And the tie break question...

Name something that rhymes with orange?

Only joking! Why don't you write and tell us how you are going Orange for Orangutans?

Pages 28-29 to find out more about our fundraising appeal.



# Five it is...

A second litter of **warthogs** have made their debut. The latest tiny trio stand just 30cm tall and were born to mum Kizzy. They came hot on the heels of two more who are the offspring of mum Tamzin.



Curator of mammals,  
**Tim Rowlands**, said:

"We waited quite some time for our first warthog family and then wouldn't you know it, both of our females gave birth within a short time of each other!

We are part of a European breeding programme for the species, which arrived in Cheshire 10 years ago. Warthogs are wild pigs native to Africa and known for their large upward curving tusks and wart-like growths on the sides of their heads. They live up to 15 years and can grow as large as 113kg."

"We're delighted with our quintet. When five playful warthog piglets get together they can create a lot of mischief – so I'm sure they'll soon hog lots of attention over the coming months."



# months to go... then Islands emerges



warty pig



Sumatran tiger

Surveying the changing zoo landscape, a gibbon.



A banteng calf



Warty pigs will be among the animals to be found in Islands

As autumn approaches and with about eight months to go before we open *Islands*, work is progressing very rapidly on site. The main contractor, Laing O'Rourke is working on completing the Monsoon Forest building which includes installing the transparent roof.

This comprises a series of 23 curved steel beams to which all the mechanical and electrical components have been attached before they are lifted into place. Once in position they will arch to a maximum height of 15m, with a series of specialist polymer 'pillows' between each beam.

Beneath them will be a light-filled space 90m long and up to 45m wide, totalling 30,000 cubic metres in volume. To give a better idea of the size – the current on-show area within the Tropical Realm is 15,000 cubic metres.

This will be the inside space for Sumatran orangutans, Sulawesi macaques, Sunda Gharial crocodiles and a wide range of south east Asian birds, reptiles, fish, insects and amphibians.

The rest of the site has been transformed, with building slabs and bridges appearing as the various elements of the design are progressed. Several features are complete, including the warty pig boardwalk, and rock, waterfall and entrance bridges. The massive civil engineering exercise – creating retaining walls, dry moats and the water ride channel – has continued apace, with the natural clay of the site helping efforts.

The Society recently appointed Reads Construction, who delivered the Diamond Jubilee Quarter successfully in 2012, for the second package of works that will include construction of the stables, shop and restaurant and the public spaces within *Islands*.

Zoo teams are also working together to plan the animal moves that will occur early next year; to source artefacts; develop the app and digital elements and to deliver the operational side of the project, including visitor parking, access, and the catering and retail offer within *Islands*.



An artists impression of how *Islands* will look, above: construction work underway, top; and some of the animal species you will be able to see there.

Places we have acted for wildlife within the last three months:

- Scotland
- Sierra Leone
- Malaysia
- Indonesia
- Costa Rica
- Benin
- Nigeria
- Mauritius
- Sri Lanka
- Namibia
- China
- Kenya
- Tanzania
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Brazil

**ACT FOR WILDLIFE**



## Making a Difference

around the world

### Meet... Scott, our new head of field programmes!

**Scott Wilson** joined the field conservation and research division in 2001. Since starting, Scott has been involved in all aspects of the division and has visited a number of our field projects. Most recently Scott travelled to Nigeria to facilitate our coordination of the Gashaka Biodiversity Project. In July Scott took over the role of head of field programmes. He is also chair for the BIAZA field programmes committee.

### NEZS's Gold Medal Award

Each year the North of England Zoological Society's (NEZS) Gold Medal is awarded to an individual for their outstanding achievements and services to wildlife conservation and research. This year's recipient was Roland Wirth.

Roland is internationally recognised for his work in conservation. In 1982 he co-founded the Munich based Zoologische Gesellschaft für Arten und Populationsschutz (ZGAP).

Over the years ZGAP has raised and facilitated major support for numerous field conservation projects worldwide. Roland's main goal and that of ZGAP has been to discover and champion poorly known endangered species.

Roland has also worked at Birdlife International as well as chaired and contributed to numerous and varied IUCN/SSC specialist groups for more than two decades.

Roland has been instrumental in helping to conserve many of our own focal species such as the blue-crowned laughing thrush, the Philippine spotted deer and the many threatened birds in Indonesia.

### News on conservation from around the world

#### Good:

A new population of banteng has been discovered in Cambodia, where camera traps were placed in a community forest where the species was thought to have gone extinct. The images captured revealed a minimum of six banteng adding to the global population of between 5,000 and 8,000.

#### Bad:

The illegal trade of pangolins, a small scaly mammal found in Africa and Asia continues to soar. Throughout Asia pangolin meat is considered a delicacy and their scales, made from Keratin with no known medicinal properties, are thought to cure a variety of diseases. Over 4,000 tonnes of pangolin scales have been seized so far in 2014, as well as thousands of carcasses. The biggest ever seizure in China was recorded in May when 956 carcasses were discovered in a van.



© Save the Rhino International

## RHINO PROGRAMME UPDATE

Over the summer, we received the terrible news from our partners at the Big Life Foundation that another rhino had been poached from the Chyulu Hills, Kenya. After hearing gunshots, 26 rangers responded to the incident but unfortunately the poachers were not caught. A female rhino was found dead with both of her horns removed.

We've provided funding for the protection and increased security of black rhino populations in both Chyulu Hills National Park in Kenya and Mkomazi National Park in Tanzania. But our work with rhinos extends further afield than Africa. In Sumatra, Indonesia, we are helping to support the development of a strategic plan for Sumatran rhino conservation which will help ensure the survival of this Critically Endangered species.

This news is a harsh reminder of the threats facing rhino populations around the world and the need to help conserve these animals.

Over the last few months we have continued our support for a number of projects within Africa.

## CAUGHT ON CAMERA

This year our annual symposium focussed on native species conservation. 'British wildlife conservation in action' was our most popular event yet. Delegates were inspired throughout the day by a range of speakers from various organisations and of course our celebrity host and the patron of Act for Wildlife, Steve Leonard. There were talks on barberry carpet moths, badgers, Scottish wildcats, owls, our UK wildlife programme and our new nature reserve. The best bit is the event raised over £1,400 for Act for Wildlife. Keep an eye out for future conservation symposiums.



Staff and speakers at the symposium

## GRANT SUPPORT

### PRIMATES

We have recently supported a project in Costa Rica focussing on the effect of humans on three species of primate, the mantled howler, ornate spider monkey and white-faced capuchin. The project aims to determine the effect of ecotourism on the health of these primates.

Over in Benin, we are supporting a project surveying primates in the Lama forest, where poaching pressure has severely increased in recent years.

Also in Africa we have supported a project looking at disease in chimpanzees living in a sanctuary in Sierra Leone.

### CARNIVORES

We have supported one of our long running partners, N/a'an ku sê, to hold a workshop on a new method for tracking cheetahs which identifies their footprints.

In South America we have supported a project which aims to reintroduce jaguars to an important area of wetlands in Argentina.

Closer to home, we have signed a memorandum of understanding to support the Scottish Wildcat Action Plan which aims to halt the decline of our last native feline predator.

### ELEPHANTS

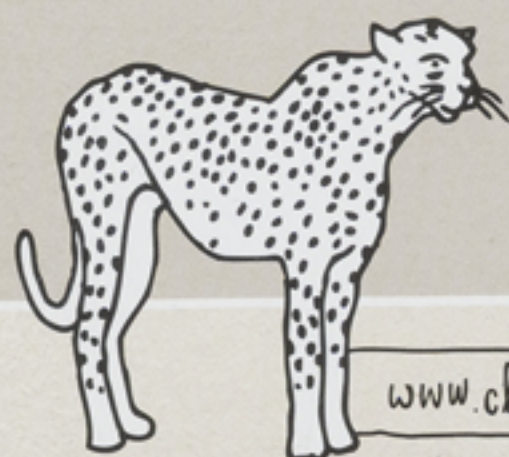
Online ivory trade is becoming a lucrative business and it can be difficult to ascertain the legality of ivory when sold online. We recently supported a project to develop monitoring software allowing ivory being sold online to be screened. In Sri Lanka, we have supported a project dealing with the other major threat to elephants, conflict with humans. This project aims to use beehives to deter elephants away from farms and houses.

### REPTILES

In Sumatra, Indonesia, we have supported a project working with the painted terrapin. The aim is to rear and release turtles back into the wild. In Malaysian Borneo we have supported a study on estuarine crocodiles. This study aims to find out what impact habitat fragmentation and expanding human population have on the behaviour of these crocodiles.

### BIRDS

We have continued our support for the olive white-eye project on Mauritius which aims to help increase wild populations through reintroductions and monitoring. We've also continued our support for the black crowned crane in Africa. This project focusses on improving the conservation status and awareness of the species in West Africa.



# Staff

Conservation starts at home and our staff have been busy around the country helping to conserve and protect a number of species in their natural habitats



## Large heath butterfly release

To help conserve the large heath butterfly a captive breeding programme was established at the zoo in 2013. Our invertebrate team collected adult female butterflies from a donor site at Winmarleigh, Lancashire, which still supports a healthy population of the species.

Under the watchful eye of our invertebrate keepers the butterflies laid eggs and the caterpillars were reared overwinter in specially designed enclosures. When the new butterflies began to emerge from their pupae in June our dedicated keepers were joined by our conservation team and staff from the Lancashire Wildlife Trust to release the butterflies at Heysham Moss, where the species had not been seen for more than 100 years.

The release was extremely successful and butterflies were seen mating the same day. This is a great start to establishing a new population in the area.

Just three weeks later it was time to start the whole process again which meant returning to the donor site in Winmarleigh, equipped with butterfly nets. Another small group of adult females were caught by our zoo team and brought back to their new home here so we could care for the butterflies through their life cycle for a second year.



## Monitoring native plants

In June members of our conservation and horticulture and botany teams visited some of our UK plant conservation projects to check up on them and monitor progress.

It started in Cheshire with staff travelling to the Wirral Country Park to record the wild population of the rare endemic southern horsetail.

This was followed by a field visit, to Leasowe to monitor success of the reintroduced Isle of Man cabbage, and determine the abundance of wild specimens on sand dunes there.

The next field work was at Prestatyn Hillside, one of two sites where we have reintroduced common juniper plants propagated here at the zoo. The team located and measured the height and diameter of the junipers and checked their general health, particularly looking out for grazing damage and noting if flowers or berries were present.

Finally the group visited two Welsh sites where zoo-grown limestone woundwort plants have been re-introduced. Large woundwort plants were found at both sites and some had flowers, so it is likely that seed will be produced later this year – a very successful outcome.



around the UK!

## Protecting our badger population

We have been acting for wildlife by initiating our five year badger vaccination programme on the land we own and lots of our staff have been involved to help make this happen.

Bovine tuberculosis is an infectious disease which is having a serious impact on the UK cattle industry. Localised spread and the gradual increase of the disease northwards has been attributed to badgers. Badger vaccination has proven to reduce the severity and progression of bTB and is more humane and more effective than badger culling.

To implement the vaccination programme we first needed to find out how badgers utilise our land.

They cannot access the zoo itself, but our estate does support badger populations. We carried out a number of site surveys to quantify the level of badger activity and determine the best places to position traps to enable vaccination. Twenty five staff from all corners of the zoo volunteered to take part, led by experienced surveyors from the Wirral and Cheshire badger group (WCBG) who trained everybody in what to look out for.

The vaccination process took two weeks, coordinated by our conservation and veterinary teams and working closely with licenced staff from Cheshire Wildlife Trust. In all, 15 traps were deployed in areas of high activity and were baited with an irresistible mix of golden syrup and peanuts. To desensitise badgers the traps were baited each day, but not set for two weeks. The traps were then set for two consecutive nights.

Each badger was vaccinated against bovine tuberculosis and microchipped, which will allow us to monitor any badgers we recapture over the course of our five year vaccination campaign. Over the two nights, six badgers were caught, with three recaptures on the second night. This is a brilliant start to the vaccination programme and as well as helping to conserve our native wildlife it will also contribute to our continued efforts to minimise the risk of TB to animals in the zoo collection.



# GO Orange

For Orangutans 2014



Spectacular images of a wild orangutan with a baby clinging to her body as they swing through the tree tops of Borneo have been captured on a high-tech camera which was bought with money raised from our 2013 *Go Orange for Orangutans* fundraising appeal.



Orangutan moving through the trees captured on a high-tech camera. © Hutan-Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Programme.

The photographs were taken with one of the motion censored remote cameras, that were financed by the £15,000 proceeds of our *Go Orange for Orangutans* campaign which hundreds of you, our dedicated members, so generously supported.

As these fascinating images show, the cameras are now proving a vital tool for conservationists in the field. The photographs were taken at sunset at Hutan-Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Programme (KOCP) in Sabah, Borneo, of which we are a key supporter.

People all over Cheshire, the north west, the UK and even as far afield as Australia supported the appeal to raise the money for the cameras. Several months on, they are an invaluable aid for the Hutan-KOCP team as it closely monitors wild orangutan behaviour in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo.

More than 80 per cent of the natural habitat once used by Borneo's native orangutans has been destroyed as forests have been cut down by man.

Since most wild orangutans in Borneo now live in increasingly mixed-use, human transformed landscapes, understanding how they try to adapt to their changing environment is key to being able to support their on-going viability in the wild.



"Thanks to the generous support of Chester Zoo's *Go Orange for Orangutans* appeal, we on the orangutan research team at KOCP are very happy to share these recent photos from camera traps purchased with these funds."

"Particularly in the border area between forest and farms or villages wild orangutans are especially vigilant. This makes it more difficult to study them in the same ways the Hutan-KOCP is able to do in the more continuous forest areas. So we are very excited by the insights these camera traps are already providing about the time of day, ages, sex and behaviour of wild orangutans especially in these border regions."

A letter of thanks sent from Hutan-KOCP expresses its gratitude to everyone who supported *Go Orange*.



We're looking for schools and businesses to support our *Go Orange for Orangutans 2014* appeal as we continue the fight to help save this most threatened species from extinction.

Our development manager, Melanie Cowieson, said: "While the campaign has a very serious conservation goal, raising money to help it can be so much fun. Last year we found the orange theme really captured people's imaginations and inspired some great activities. People can register and tell us their idea now or simply sign up to pledge their support and let us know nearer the time how they hope to raise funds."

The goal is to raise enough money to replant a key area of degraded woodland which will enable orangutans to move greater distances around the forest and give them more space to build their tree-top homes. It costs £10 to buy the seed, plant out and nurture each sapling so it stands a chance of developing into a mature tree. We aim to finance the cost of 1,500 trees, costing a total of £15,000.

Our Act for Wildlife conservation project needs volunteers to organise orange-themed fundraising activities throughout October 2014. Anyone from schools to individuals, groups of friends, sports teams, social organisations or commercial businesses can take part. All they need to do is think of a zesty way to raise funds, then pledge their support by registering to *Go Orange for Orangutans* at [www.actforwildlife.org.uk/orange](http://www.actforwildlife.org.uk/orange)

The campaign follows on from the bumper success of last year's appeal which netted £15,000. For October 2014 we have set a goal of raising as much again, but this time the money will be used to help the local community conservation team replant an area where the tree cover has been removed. This replanting is vital to the future survival of orangutans and other wildlife. Replanting open areas also helps prevent erosion and silting of this floodplain river system which the local indigenous community depends on as well.

**"Alternatively, anyone who doesn't have time to undertake an activity can simply make a donation."**

Fundraising ideas can include everything from running a marathon in an amber-coloured jumpsuit, to pressing a batch of fresh oranges to sell at a village fair! Possibilities for school pupils include getting permission from teacher's to go to lessons dressed in bright orange and paying £1 in return.

All the proceeds will help Chester Zoo's work with Hutan-Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Programme (KOCP).



Fundraising ideas and free information packs are available to anyone who registers on the website [www.actforwildlife.org.uk/orange](http://www.actforwildlife.org.uk/orange) or by calling 01244 650229.

# Fundraising News

## HELP THE MEMORIES LIVE ON...

Chester Zoo wouldn't be the wonderful family attraction and international conservation charity it is today without the foresight of generous people who have left a gift in their wills towards our work.

Our archives particularly mention Miss Tompkyns-Grafton, who was one of these special people. She supported the zoo during her lifetime but wanted to do more. Her legacy saved the zoo when it was struggling financially after the second world war and set the course for future expansion.

Miss Tompkyns-Grafton's gift helped buy 40 acres of land which is part of our grounds which you visit today and where the Islands site is currently being built.

As we celebrate our 80th anniversary of becoming a charity, we need your help, no matter how small the gift, to ensure our work continues for another 80 years.



Miss Jane Tompkyns-Grafton, benefactress of Chester Zoo

"TO THE MEMORY OF MISS CATHERINE JANE TOMPKYNS-GRAFTON OF FELLBOROUGH, WINDERMERE AS A TOKEN OF GRATITUDE FOR HER INTEREST IN THE POLAR BEARS AND FOR HER GENEROUS LEGACY WHICH HAS ENABLED THE SOCIETY TO MAKE SO MANY IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE WELL BEING OF THE ANIMALS AND BIRDS AT CHESTER ZOO".

Excerpt from Chester Zoo News, 1964

If you are interested in attending an information event in November to find out more about leaving a gift in your will to us, then simply contact **Lynsey Whitley** on **01244 650292** or email **[l.whitley@chesterzoo.org](mailto:l.whitley@chesterzoo.org)**

If you have already mentioned us in your will and would like to let us know, please get in touch so we are aware of your wishes and can thank you properly now for making wildlife conservation part of your legacy to the world.

# Balls to Extinction

We have teamed up with Everton FC's official charity, Everton in the Community to raise funds for Act for Wildlife and the Gashaka Biodiversity Project in Nigeria.

Over the summer a team from Everton in the Community were in the zoo selling Balls to Extinction scratch cards to raise money for the project.

Proceeds will go directly towards fighting to save the Gashaka Gumti National Park and its wildlife from threats such as encroachment and poaching.

We'll also be organising two football tournaments in Nigeria, a great opportunity to engage with local communities and raise awareness of conservation, health and wellbeing.

At each event we will provide short films about the importance of looking after Gashaka Gumti National Park, and give local people more information on how they can stay safe and look after their health. A mobile vaccination unit will be there too, providing free vaccinations against disease and a health care handbook written for African communities will be presented to the village elders.



Everton legend Ian Snodin with GBP project manager, Dr Umar Buba.

# 1 FREE PLATE



WHEN YOU SHOW YOUR  
**CHESTER ZOO**  
**MEMBERSHIP**  
CARD

T&Cs: Valid at YO! Sushi Cheshire Oaks and YO! Sushi Chester only until Oct 31st 2014 when you show this voucher and your Chester Zoo Membership Card. Not valid on yellow or grey plates. One plate per person. YO! Sushi manager's decision is final.



yosushi.com

# Waddle down...

We are happy to announce we have some new fishy friends supporting our colony of 42 Humboldt penguins – iconic Japanese restaurant group YO! Sushi.

To coincide with the opening of their new restaurant at Cheshire Oaks, YO! Sushi decided to show their support for the wider local community by adopting the penguins here at the zoo.

Whilst sushi isn't on the menu for our penguins, 10 kilos of sustainably sourced fish is. And it's the sustainable fish that we and YO! Sushi have in common and why this makes a perfect partnership.

The penguins won't be the only ones benefiting from YO! Sushi's support either – special offers for our members and adopters will be available throughout the year.

**A big thanks to YO! Sushi for their support.**



## SAFARI RANGERS head to the schools

As our Safari Rangers prepare for the new academic year, there's one thing they don't need to worry about – how they'll be physically getting to the schools and it's all thanks to Halliwell Jones in Chester.

For the third year in a row, Halliwell Jones has kindly supplied the zoo's free education outreach service with its very own BMW X1.

For more information about the Safari Ranger visit  
[www.chesterzoo.org/education/outreach](http://www.chesterzoo.org/education/outreach)  
[www.halliwelljones.co.uk](http://www.halliwelljones.co.uk)

## CHESTER ZOO "100 CLUB"

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

### APRIL 2014

- £100 Miss GM Webster, Nottingham
- £100 Mrs Anne Buglass, Todmorden
- £50 Miss Joan Goodall, Carlisle
- £50 Miss Elizabeth Scott, Chester
- £50 Miss Susan Rowlands, Wirral

### MAY 2014

- £100 Mrs Tracey Jones, Deeside
- £100 Mrs Sandra Soul, Northwich
- £50 Miss Penny Hudson, Dumfries
- £50 Mr Gary Wynne, Norley
- £50 Mr Peter Hobson, Sheffield
- £50 Mrs D Duffy, Liverpool

### JUNE 2014

- £100 Mr Michael Clark, Connah's Quay
- £100 Mr Richard Watson, Welshpool
- £50 Mrs Joanne Thomas, South Wirral
- £50 Miss Irene Rigold, Nova Scotia, Canada
- £50 Mrs Joyce Harrison, South Wirral
- £1,000 Mrs Pamela Cate, Mobberley

Membership of the 100 Club is still invited. All prize winners will be notified by post and will be listed in the next edition of Z. Please inform us as soon as possible if you change address. If you wish to participate, please contact the Development Office on 01244 650 229.

# LET'S TALK...

Welcome to the autumn members' talks, which begin with our first butterfly talk since Butterfly Journey opened in 2009. As usual, we're looking forward to our annual Act for Wildlife talk and then, in November, Penny Rudd and Liz Ball will join us to talk all about the intricacies and fun involved in moving animals! We'll end the year with an update on *Islands* from Simon, with the excitement and anticipation growing ever stronger as the opening date comes closer. These will be busy talks, so book early to reserve your seat.

Our talks are planned to bring you up to date with the work your membership supports so we hope you can join us. Don't forget, if there's something you want to hear about, let us know. We try to schedule in talks which we know complement your interests and we are always looking for new topics. Just drop Kate Brankin a line with your ideas and take a look at the programme below to see if you're interested in joining us this autumn. Call Kate Brankin to book your place.

## Wednesday October 15

### ACTING FOR WILDLIFE: GLOBAL CONSERVATION ISSUES

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

## Tuesday September 9

### BUTTERFLIES WITH HEATHER PRINCE

Butterfly Journey opened in 2009 and we're pleased to welcome Heather to give the first talk by our butterfly team. She'll be telling you all about the husbandry of the animals and updating you on the Large Heath butterfly Project. Heather, our butterfly keeper, is hoping they will pupate and emerge successfully so she can report good news.

## November 19

### MOVING ANIMALS!

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



## Tuesday December 2

### ISLANDS! – SIMON MANN

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

## Interested in attending?

Please call Kate in education on 01244 389444 or email [k.brankin@chesterzoo.org](mailto:k.brankin@chesterzoo.org) to book.



**Members' Talks**, held in the Geraldine Russell Lecture Theatre (near our main entrance off the A41), start at 7:30pm. **They are free to members (please bring your membership card and welcome letter). We offer a special rate of £2 to adopters.** Members of the public and guests are welcome (£3.50 for non-members). Our lecture theatre seats up to 170. Post-talk refreshments give you the opportunity to have an informal chat with speakers, zoo staff and fellow members.

## The Oakfield will be serving up delicious Christmas lunches on December 6 and 7 from 12 noon-3pm.

They're a great chance to wrap up warm, visit the animals and explore our 110 acres of gardens before your choice of a two or three course festive menu in the cosy surroundings of our Victorian manor house. Look out for more information on our website, including about discounts for members. To book contact our events team on 01244 650209 or email: [events@chesterzoo.org](mailto:events@chesterzoo.org)



# Make this Christmas even more **MAGICAL**

December 4 - 7  
December 11 - 14  
December 18 - 23

This Christmas sees the return of our popular Lantern Magic experience, which is now in its third year and we'll be making it even more magical than before!



"The look on my daughter's face as she saw the animal lanterns, the people dressed up, the lit-up walk ways and hearing the lions roaring – it was unforgettable. You gave us the most memorable family celebration ever."



Write your letter to Santa and get creative with our **Lantern workshop** before experiencing the nocturnal sounds of the zoo after dark.

Journey through our enchanted illuminated trail leading to our **spectacular display of animal lanterns.**



And this year you will find some beautiful 'new arrivals'. Here you can make your Christmas wish and hang it on our **Giant Wishing Tree** and say 'hello' to Santa. Visit the **Fruit Bat Forest** and the **Elephant House** and soak up the festive atmosphere around the zoo with our friendly festive characters.

They'll be plenty of **deliciously tasty treats** plus enjoy a **FREE winter warming drink**. You can even pre-order one of our hearty festive suppers too!

**BOOK YOUR TICKETS** & pre-order your supper online at [www.chesterzoo.org/christmas](http://www.chesterzoo.org/christmas)

Begin your family tradition and fall in love with our unique Lantern Magic event. Together, with our magnificent animals, we'll help Santa to light the way to Christmas.

# Gentle Touch...

An endangered species of lemur has become the first of its kind to be born here. The new youngster – an Alaotran gentle lemur – arrived to mum Molly and dad Fady.

Keepers have kept a close eye on the new family during the baby's important first few weeks. **Curator of mammals, Tim Rowlands, said:**

"Both mum and dad are doing a great job of bringing up their new charge. Mum is super protective and dad is also pulling his weight – he occasionally helps to do some of the carrying. This is a critically endangered species. They face a very real threat of extinction in the wild and this is the first time we have ever bred the species."

In the wild the Alaotran gentle lemur is only found around Lake Alaotra in Madagascar, where its survival is threatened by habitat destruction as the reed beds where it lives are being burned and the lake drained for rice irrigation.

They are also caught for food, captured and sold as pets which rarely survive. It is believed just 2,500 remain in the wild.

## My other cousin's an Elephant

### Meet one of our four new baby rock hyraxes.

They may look like Guinea pigs but they are one of the closest living relatives of the elephant. The tiny youngsters weighed just a few ounces when born. But despite their slight appearance, the species has a remarkable genetic link to the elephant. **Curator of mammals, Tim Rowlands, said:**

"Rock hyraxes and elephants share several common features. They have similar toes, teeth and skull structures and rock hyraxes also have two large continually growing incisors, which correspond to an elephant's tusks."

Rock hyraxes are native to Africa but can also be found along the coast of the Arabian Peninsula and in Israel where they are protected by law. As their name suggests, they live in rocky terrain, seeking shelter and protection in rugged outcrops or cliffs.



We have **42 Montserrat tarantulas** (*Cyrtopholis femoralis*), which have been brought into our collection to begin a captive assurance population and to open up new opportunities to research this fascinating species.

In its native Montserrat, much of the tarantula's natural range has been destroyed by volcanic activity. Lead keeper James Dale says this is one reason why we hope to breed this species here at the zoo.



**Before we can breed these tarantulas we need to determine their sex, an easy task when you know how!**

# Montserrat Tarantulas

Adult males are easy to tell apart from females by looking for their club-like palps, concealing palpal emboli - a highly modified appendage used like a pipette to carry sperm and inseminate females.

They are also equipped with an impressive set of tibial apophyses. These are massive hooks on the front legs which they use for holding the larger females by the fangs at a safe distance while they inseminate them. This can be a dangerous affair! If a male tarantula is not adult size however, it can be rather difficult to tell apart from the other females. This is where you need a microscope!

Using the shed skin of a tarantula it is possible to tell whether you have a male or a female by examining the shed lining of their highly specialised genitalia. A female tarantula has paired appendages known as spermathecae, which are two receptacles used for storing sperm from the male.

These appear down the microscope as either a pair of 'humps' or a larger fused mound. We are in the process of sexing our Montserrat tarantulas using this technique. It is not as straightforward as it sounds because we have to wait for them to shed their skins before we can examine them.

This species has never been bred in captivity in a zoo so it is an enormous challenge for our team.

As a species, the Montserrat tarantula has so far only been officially described from one male specimen, which means our females are probably the first to be examined under a microscope.

In the wild Montserrat tarantulas are preyed upon by mountain chicken frogs. Our Montserrat tarantulas can currently be seen in the Islands in Danger exhibition.





# LOOK OUT

for your  
NEXT ISSUE

CAN'T WAIT - visit our website or just POP in!

Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH  
Tel: 01244 390280  
Fax: 01244 371273  
Email: [info@chesterzoo.org](mailto:info@chesterzoo.org)  
[www.chesterzoo.org](http://www.chesterzoo.org)

Founded in 1934, the North of England Zoological Society is a registered charity. We need your help and support to raise funds for the care and conservation of rare and endangered animals both in the zoo and across the world.

Registered charity No. 306077