

CHEZ NOUS



CHESTER ZOO NEWS

SUMMER 1986



K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

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Chester

Père David's Deer Returning to China

On 12th August 1986, a group of 11 Père David's Deer from Chester Zoo joined 29 from other zoos in Great Britain on a flight to Shanghai, from where they were taken to the Da Feng Reserve in Kiangsu Province, on the shores of the Yellow Sea in the Yangtze Delta.

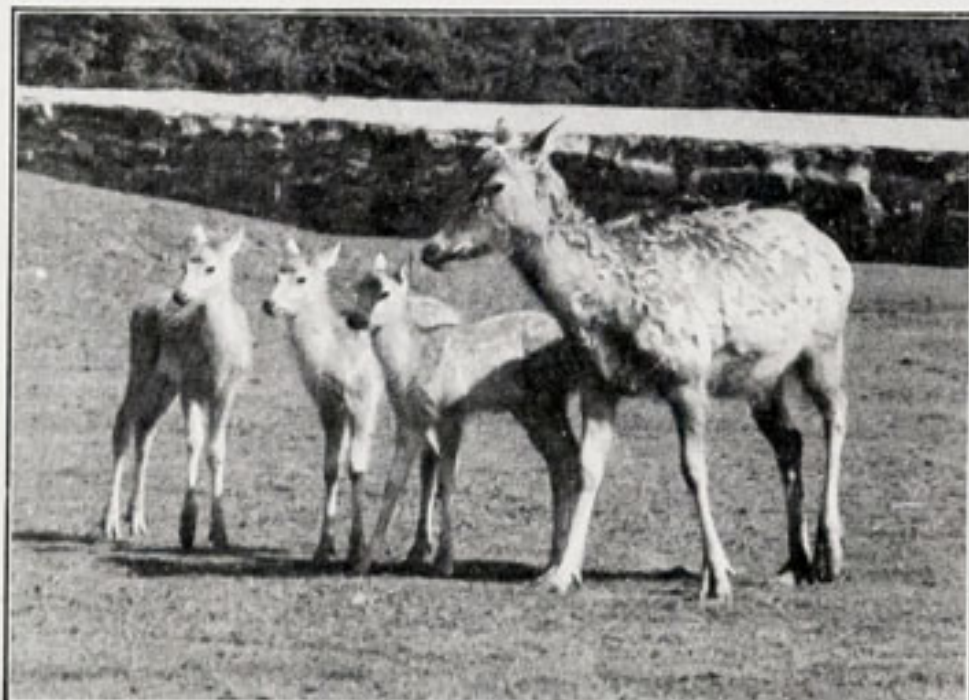
A hundred and twenty years ago, these deer were first brought to the attention of modern science when, in 1866, Père Dermand David, the French missionary naturalist, brought two skins from park keepers of the Imperial Hunting Park, near Peking. At about this time, Père David also got the first glimpse by a Westerner of the live animals (by standing on the shoulders of a park keeper and taking an illicit peek over the wall!).

By 1869, Père David's Deer were being sent from China to Zoos in Europe. A pair arrived at London Zoo in 1869. They were in Paris Zoo, Amsterdam Zoo and Cologne Zoo at the turn of the century. However, in 1894, the wall of the hunting park had been breached by the Han Ho River changing course, and the deer escaped into the surrounding countryside. This was a time of political instability in China and the deer were hunted and killed for food.

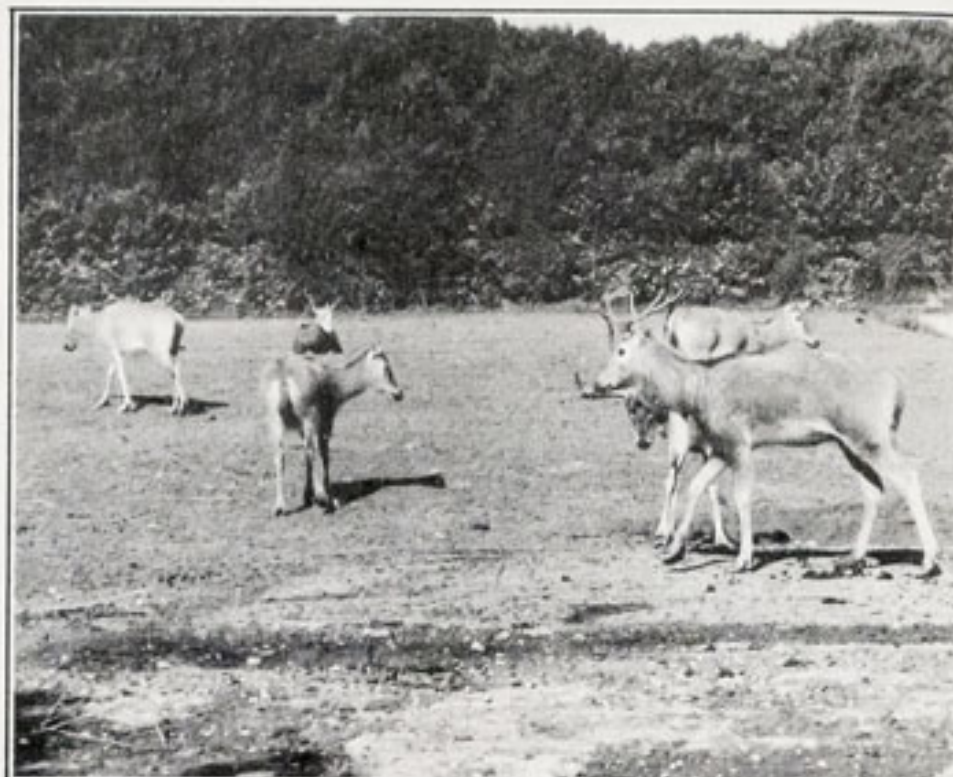
A few were rounded up and brought to a park, where they lingered on until the last one in China died in 1920. There are some reports that the deer lived in the wild until the mid-20th Century in the southern part of their range.

Fortunately, the 11th Duke of Bedford had seen that this was a species in great danger and, between 1900 and 1901, he managed to gather in all the available Père David's Deer in Europe and set up a herd at Woburn Park. This herd was large enough to be viable and, by the end of the Second World War, there was a surplus of stock. In 1944, a second herd was set up at Whipsnade Zoo and, subsequently, herds have been set up in zoos all over the world, including Peking Zoo, which received four animals from Whipsnade in 1956 and another six in 1973.

However, until now, there has been no attempt to re-introduce the animals into the wild. After being out of the "true wild" for an unknown period—one estimate being 3,000 years—it is hard to be certain exactly what their wild habitat should be and how much they have been modified by so many generations having been to a greater or lesser extent managed in the hunting park and at Woburn.



Père David's Deer and fawns



Père David's Deer

Courtesy of John King

In 1983, when I was in Delhi at the Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), I was able to have a discussion with the representative of the Chinese Ministry of Forestry which controls the wild habitat areas of China (Chinese zoos are under local control or under the Ministry of Culture) and suggested to him that there was a real possibility for a group of British Zoos to supply enough animals to make a true re-introduction to the wild possible.

Many individuals and agencies have been involved in the negotiations which led up to the flight on 12th August—not least the Zoological Society of London and the World Wildlife Fund in Switzerland, and we have been in consultation with Woburn Park. Also we are grateful to Knowsley Park and Mr. Tennant for their help in looking after some of our animals as we built up the group which were to be sent to China. In total, 13 males and 27 females left the U.K. on a specially-chartered plane.

Chester Zoo can be very proud to have been involved in such a dramatic re-introduction programme. It is not every day that animals can be put back in the wild after an absence of perhaps 3,000 years!

Michael Brambell
Director

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Dr. Michael BrambellDirector

Front Cover:
'Lena', courtesy of John King

Elephant Mania!

Asian Elephants are becoming rarer, both in the wild and in zoos, owing to several factors. In the wild, one of the reasons is poaching; another is the encroachment of human habitation and forest destruction. In zoos, it is because of the difficulties involved in maintaining bull elephants, which cause considerably more problems than keeping females. As a result, in the past, most zoos have only maintained females as a way of exhibiting this species. It is the view of the modern conservation-minded zoo that, if Elephants are to be kept, then every effort must be made to breed these magnificent beasts.

At Chester, we had the good fortune to breed an Asian Elephant in 1977—a bull calf called "Jubilee". As he has grown and matured, we have had to make certain alterations to the enclosure for *his* safety and for the safety of the females. Now that "Jubilee" is of breeding ability, we are hoping that he will sire a calf by "Sheba", an unrelated female.

Last year we were approached by Belfast Zoo to participate in a project to house two female Asian Elephants, which they had been given the opportunity to purchase from Aalborg Zoo in Denmark. At present, Belfast Zoo is in the middle of constructing their new Elephant House, and are not ready to take the Elephants. However, the opportunity offered was too good to be missed—but not to be taken lightly either. After long discussions and many international telephone calls, it was decided that we could accommodate the "girls", but only after our House has been modified.

Work started on altering our existing Elephant House. Everyone involved agreed that, for the safety of the animals, we should lose the dry ditches in the inside of the House and replace them with heavy fences made up of railway sleepers. These girders are very strong and, at the same time, have no sharp edges on which the Elephants can be harmed. (In due course, when the money is available, the outside ditches will also be altered, but this project will cost many thousands of pounds). It was agreed between Belfast and Chester that Belfast Zoo would pay for alterations in exchange for the part Chester will play in the operation, which will last for approximately two years: the work took some eight weeks and, during this time, I was sent over to Aalborg to familiarise myself with the "girls".

Day One

My flight from Manchester to Copenhagen took one hour and 40 minutes, and then there was a further journey of 30 minutes to Aalborg, where I was met on arrival by a zoologist, Mr. Ole Strom, the Assistant Director of the Zoo, who took me to the Zoo by car. Aalborg Zoo is smaller than Chester; pleasant and clean, with a good, well-cared-for collection of animals. After being introduced to the Zoo's Director, I was taken to meet Mr. Thorvald Eggers, the Head Elephant Keeper. Much to my relief, everyone I met spoke some English!

I walked with Thorvald to the Elephant House—which would fit into ours five times over! He asked me if I wanted to meet the "girls", as they were referred to—which met with enthusiastic response. When I walked in, there stood "Bierma", at moderate height for her 24 years, and "Lena", at 35 years old standing nine feet high. She was the tallest female Elephant I had ever seen. Thorvald said that she was very kind and had never hurt anyone in the 30 years she had been at the Zoo. I took his words at the time with a kilo of salt! When we both walked in on the Elephant, Thorvald suggested that I ask "Lena" to say "Thank you" in Danish. I fell for it (hook, line and sinker!)—on the command, "Lena" knelt on both knees with head bowed. On the command "Up!" she took me in her trunk, opened her mouth and kissed me. This happened so fast that I did not have time to think anything more than "Goodbye everyone!". When she released me, and, much to the amusement of the Elephant House staff, she turned suddenly and raised her back foot within an inch of my chest. "Don't worry," said Thorvald. "She's only playing—she likes you!". I thought "I hope so!".



"Lena" enjoying the open spaces of Chester

Courtesy of John King

We proceeded to meet "Bierma". She was a lady more of my type—gentle, slow and much smaller! She stood, eyes relaxed, feeling gently with her trunk—this tells the Elephant almost everything it needs to know within seconds of meeting unfamiliar people and objects.

Important introductions over. I met the four baby African Elephants, all between three and three-and-a-half years old. They had been at the Zoo since September 1985, and were great fun, with trunks exploring everywhere! The reason Aalborg decided to part with their Asian Elephants was that they did not want to purchase an adult bull Elephant for breeding purposes, as the House is not equipped to house a bull at the moment. Once "Lena" and "Bierma" were no longer there, they could start preparations to house their African bull, "Tembo", when he matures—they have a few years to achieve this because of his age and, in the meantime, he is with the three females "Tanya", "Mia" and "Be Be".

Day Two

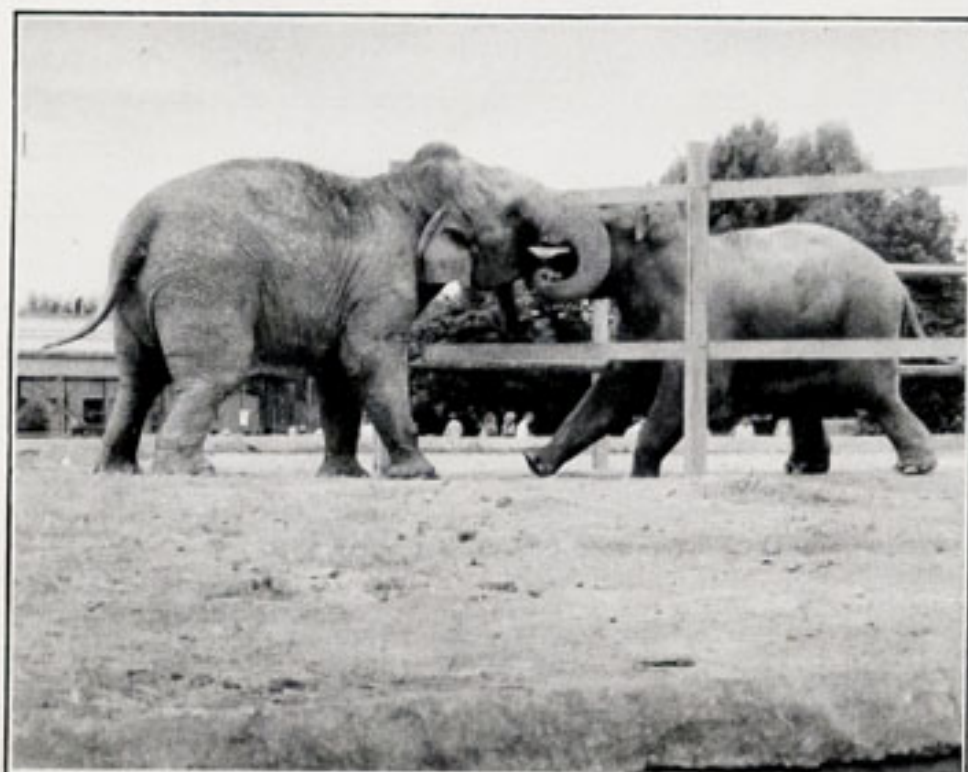
I spent the second day with Thorvald and the "girls", getting to know their likes and dislikes.

"Lena" has to be fed first. "Bierma" only likes oats. "Lena" likes pony nuts and oats. If only "Beirma" has oats, "Lena" throws a temper, mainly aimed at the person feeding them (guess who?!). Thorvald tried to teach me the Danish commands necessary to talk to the Elephants so that they understood what I wanted them to do. Getting an Elephant to lie down when you are asking her to say "Thank you" proves confusing to both parties!

Day Three

I had been practising my Danish. The Elephants were far more receptive to me—I had just about crossed the language barrier. I spent all day with them, and for the most part without Thorvald—but always in sight and within earshot in case of problems. It was obvious that "Lena" and Thorvald have a relationship that words simply cannot explain. He has cared for her for the past 20 years, and both knew what the other was thinking before either acted.

Thorvald asked me if I would like to ride "Bierma", and I accepted the invitation, thinking: "What am I letting myself in for?" True to form, she was a lady and did not seem to mind this foreign stranger on her back.



"Lena" and "Jubilee" making friends



'Sheba', 'Bierma' and 'Lena' on 'stage one of full introduction'

Courtesy of John King

Day 4

I was due to leave. Firstly, I went to say "Thank you" to all the people who had made me feel really welcome. Then I went to say goodbye to "Lena" and "Bierma", promising to see them in Chester in a few weeks.

Arrival

Two weeks later, the Elephants arrived in Chester with Thorvald. The Elephant House staff (myself, Paul Stead and Mervyn Spencer) had started work on that day, Wednesday, 25th June 1986, at 6.30 a.m., so the House was cleaned out and our three Elephants were settled in one of the sectioned-off enclosures inside the House.

"Bierma" and "Lena" arrived loaded on to a transporter, some 40 feet long, especially designed to transport Elephants. The extremely experienced and helpful driver managed to reverse the lorry up to the Hippo gate, through which the Elephants had to pass to reach the Elephant paddock. The area was cleared of most people, and all precautions taken to prevent the Elephants from going for a walk around the Zoo.

Firstly, the ramp was lowered; then the doors swung open. After some coaxing, "Bierma" was first down the ramp, with "Lena" following close behind with Thorvald. At one point "Lena" decided that she did not want to go into the new House. Fortunately, we had purchased a 200-foot chain, and this was fastened to her front leg by Thorvald, and the other end to a post inside the House. As soon as she realised the chain was on, she followed "Bierma" into the House.

We were all surprised at the reaction of our Elephants to the new arrivals, whom they could see as soon as they came through the door of the House. There was very little noise and all remained reasonably calm. We settled "Lena" and "Bierma" into their enclosure, keeping the centre enclosure between the new Elephants and our Elephants empty. This was just a precaution in case they showed any signs of aggression towards each other. There was some rumbling and trunk-slapping on the floor but, apart from that, very little reaction.

The next morning, after a good night's sleep and plenty of fruit and hay, "Lena" and "Bierma" looked more relaxed. We let "Jubilee", "Judy" and "Sheba" outside into "Jubilee's" corral, and "Lena" and "Bierma" on to the large grass paddock. When "Sheba" caught sight of the new ones, she roared and rumbled with pleasure and rushed to the fence to greet them. "Judy" was more reserved than usual. "Jubilee" approached them and, being a bull, insisted that they needed to be told who was the boss. "Jubilee" snatched at "Bierma's" trunk and, much to his surprise, was given a blow to his head by Bierma's trunk. All day, "Jubilee" showed signs of aggression towards "Bierma". She obliged him with

"Bierma". Although much smaller than "Judy", "Bierma" took up the challenge. There was lots of pushing and banging of trunks on the floor (to show displeasure). We let "Jubilee" out into his outside enclosure, and "Judy" went outside to meet him on her side of the fence. We then realised that "Judy" was merely trying to prevent a re-occurrence of what had happened the day before.

The next day, we decided to leave "Sheba" in with "Lena" and "Bierma". "Judy" was left in with "Jubilee", and this lessened the tension, both for the Elephants and for the humans! Within a few days, however, we were able to put the four females together, and whilst "Lena" tended to stay between "Judy" and "Bierma"



Elephants "Judy", "Sheba", "Bierma" and "Lena" together for the first time—"Jubilee" looks on

Courtesy of John King

retaliation. "Judy" ("Jubilee's" mother), who still considers him to be a baby and in need of her protection, tried her best to keep him away from "Bierma" by placing herself between them. This sometimes angered "Jubilee", who attacked his mother for interfering, whereupon she attacked "Bierma". No great damage was done to any of them, because Elephants normally do not engage in actual "combat", rather in displays of strength, by smashing things around them with lots of ear-flapping and trumpeting.

The following day, we decided to put all the females together. "Sheba" was in her seventh heaven. "Lena" and "Bierma" greeted her immediately. "Judy", being the matriarch or leader of her small herd, challenged

for the first few days, the four seemed to be sorting out their differences and getting along reasonably well. I think that "Judy" was quite glad to get away from her ever-loving, aggravating son, and glad for relative peace and quiet with the other females.

If "Jubilee" shows signs of interest towards the new Elephants (and he already appears to be falling for "Lena"), efforts will be made to introduce the female to him for mating. It may take some time to get to this stage, as it is important that the Elephants are amiable towards each other. With luck, the new Elephants may be pregnant by the time they reach Belfast Zoo.

Ray Packwood
Senior Elephant Keeper

Arrivals and Births

- 1.2 Père David's Deer (*Elaphurus davidianus*)
From Glasgow in transit to China
- 1.0 Père David's Deer (*Elaphurus davidianus*) Birth
- 0.0.1 Talapoin Monkey (*Miopithecus talapoin*) Birth
- 1.1 Talapoin Monkey (*Miopithecus talapoin*)
One returned and one on loan
- 3.1.5 Red Lechwe (*Kobus leche*) Births
- 0.2 Guanaco (*Lama guanicoe*) Births
- 0.0.4 Bison (*Bison bison*) Births
- 1.0 Giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*)
Arrival from Zoological Society of London
- 0.1 Giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*)
Arrival from Dublin Zoo
- 1.0 Lion-tailed Macaque (*Macaca silenus*)
Arrival from Dublin Zoo
- 0.1 Wildebeeste (*Connochaetes taurinus*) Birth
- 1.0 Kinkajou (*Potos flavus*)
Arrival from Zoological Society of London
- 1.0 Red-necked Wallaby (*Macropus rufogriseus*)
Arrival from Whipsnade Zoo
- 2.3 Meerkat (*Suricata suricata*)
Arrivals from Ravensden
- 0.0.5 Meerkat (*Suricata suricata*) Births
- 0.2 Asiatic Elephant (*Elephas maximus*)
Arrivals from Aalborg Zoo
- 0.0.2 White-lipped Tamarin (*Saguinus oedipus*) Births
- 0.1 Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*)
Arrival from Wakefield
- 0.0.1 Common Marmoset (*Callithrix jacchus*) Birth
- 0.0.1 Lesser Bushbaby (*Galago senegalensis*) Birth
- 0.0.1 Ruffed Lemur (*Lemur variegatus*)
Returned from Duisillan
- 0.0.7 Scottish Wildcat (*Felis sylvestris*) Births
- 0.0.7 Geoffroy's Cat (*Felis geoffroyi*) Births
- 0.0.1 Reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*) Birth
- 0.0.1 Spider Monkey (*Ateles paniscus*) Birth
- 0.0.1 African Crested Porcupine (*Hystrix cristata*) Birth
- 0.0.1 Sealion (*Zalophus californianus*) Birth
- 1.1.1 Eland (*Taurotragus oryx*) Birth
- 0.1 Orang Utan (*Pongo pygmaeus pygmaeus*)
Arrival from Zoological Society of London



Meerkats with youngsters

- 1.1 Tree Shrew (*Tupaia glis*)
Arrival from Zoological Society of London
- 1.0 Gaur (*Bos gauruss*) Arrival
- 1.0 Grey Kangaroo (*Macropus fuliginosus*) Arrival
- 0.0.7 Caracal (*Felis caracal*) Births
- 0.0.1 European Lynx (*Felis lynx*) Birth
- 0.2 Blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*) Births
- 0.0.8 Ring-tailed Lemur (*Lemur catta*) Births
- 2.0 Coati (*Nasua nasua*) Presented by B. Kiernam
- 0.2 Domestic Goat (*Capra aegagrus hircus*)
Presented by Mrs. Bond
- 0.1 Ankole (*Bos taurus*) Birth
- 0.0.4 Jungle Cat (*Felis chaus*) Births
- 1.0 Patas Monkey (*Erythrocebus patas*) Birth
- 0.0.7 Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) Birth(s)
- 0.0.7 Margay (*Felis wiedi*) Birth(s)
- 0.0.8 Mexican House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*)
Hatched
- 0.0.4 Chinese Bulbul (*Pycnonotus sinensis*) Arrivals
- 0.0.1 Crested Bronzewing Pigeon
(*Ochyphaps lophotes*) Arrival
- 0.0.1 Blue-eyed Cockatoo (*Cacatua ophthalmica*)
Hatched
- 0.0.1 Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopica*) Hatched
- 0.0.4 Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) Hatched
- 0.0.3 Chiloe Wigeon (*Anas sibilatrix*) Hatched
- 0.0.4 Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*) Hatched
- 0.0.1 Spectacled Owl (*Pulsatrix perspicillata*) Hatched
- 0.0.15 Humboldt's Penguin (*Spheniscus humboldti*)
Hatched
- 0.0.5 Crimson-rumped Toucanet
(*Aulacorhynchus haematopygus*) Hatched
- 0.0.9 Golden Pheasant (*Chrysolophus pictus*) Hatched
- 1.0 Golden Pheasant (*Chrysolophus pictus*)
Presented
- 0.0.6 Superb Spree Starling (*Spreo superbus*) Hatched
- 0.0.7 Carolina Duck (*Aix sponsa*) Hatched
- 0.0.2 Carolina Duck (*Aix sponsa*) Presented
- 0.0.5 Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*) Hatched
- 0.0.2 Orange-cheeked Waxbill (*Estrilda melpoda*)
Hatched



Having Mum to lean on is bliss! Our new baby Californian Sealion has now found its way out of the nursery pool and into the main exhibit, with a little help from Dad, who demolished the fence. Mum—"Trudy"—stays close

Courtesy of J. Hutchison, Daily Mail

- 0.0.6 Kookaburra (*Dacelo novaeguineae*) Hatched
- 0.0.11 Ostrich (*Struthio camelus*) Hatched
- 0.0.2 Purple Glossy Starling
(*Lamprotornis purpureus*) Hatched
- 0.0.1 Purple Glossy Starling
(*Lamprotornis purpureus*) Presented
- 2.2 Golden Heart Doves (*Gallicolumba rufigula*)
Arrivals
- 0.0.2 Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) Hatched
- 0.0.15 Chilean Tinamou (*Northoprocta pericaria*)
Hatched
- 0.0.9 Rosy-billed Pochard (*Netta peposaca*) Hatched
- 0.0.4 Zebra Finches (*Peophila guttata*) Fledged
- 0.0.2 Great Barbets (*Megalaima virens*) Presented
- 0.0.3 White-eared Pheasants
(*Crossoptilon crossoptilon*) Hatched
- 0.0.1 Fulvous Tree Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*)
Hatched
- 0.0.2 Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*) Hatched
- 0.0.1 Fairy Bluebird (*Irena puella*) Hatched
- 0.1 Fairy Bluebird (*Irena puella*) Arrival
- 0.0.30 Mandarin Ducks (*Aix galericulata*) Hatched
- 0.1 Andean Condor (*Vultur gryphus*) Hatched
- 0.0.6 Maroon-tailed Conure (*Pyrrhura melanura*)
Hatched
- 0.0.2 Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) Hatched
- 0.0.2 San Blas Jay (*Cissilopha sanblasiana*) Hatched
- 0.0.2 Pallas' Sandgrouse (*Syrrhaptes paradoxus*)
Hatched
- 0.0.2 Red-cowled Cardinal (*Paroria dominicans*)
Hatched
- 1.1 Red Avadavat (*Amandava amandava*) Presented
- 0.0.4 Laysan Teal (*Anas platyrhynchos laysanensis*)
Hatched



Snowy Owl chick

- 0.0.7 Patagonian Conures (*Cyanoliseus patagonus*)
Hatched
- 0.0.3 Yellow-billed Amazons (*Amazona collaria*)
Hatched
- 0.0.1 Coletto Mynah (*Sarcops calvus*) Hatched
- 0.1.2 Diamond Dove (*Geopelia cuneata*) Arrivals
- 2.2 Silver Blue Tanagers (*Thraupis episcopus*)
Arrivals
- 0.0.5 Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) Hatched
- 1.1.1 Goldie's Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus goldiei*)
Arrivals/Donated



Four of the 11 successfully-reared Humboldt's Penguins on show in the nursery area of the Penguin Pool

Courtesy of J. Hutchison, Daily Mail

- 0.0.6 Chinese Painted Quail (*Excalfactoria chinensis*)
Arrivals
- 0.1.0 Melba Finch (*Pytilia melba*) Arrival
- 0.0.4 Red-tailed Lavender Waxbills
(*Estrilda caerulescens*) Arrivals
- 0.0.10 Blacksmith's Plover (*Vanellus armatus*) Hatched
- 0.0.7 Black Swans (*Cygnus atratus*) Hatched
- 0.0.1 Long-tailed Glossy Starling
(*Lamprotornis caudatus*) Hatched
- 0.0.8 Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) Hatched
- 0.0.2 Red-backed Mousebird (*Colius castonotus*)
Hatched
- 1.1 Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*)
On deposit (H.M. Customs)
- 0.0.11 Crowned Plovers (*Vanellus coronatus*) Hatched
- 0.0.4 Cedar Waxwing (*Bombicilla cedorum*) Arrivals
- 0.0.4 Grey Peacock Pheasant
(*Polyplectron bicalcaratum*) Hatched
- 0.0.2 Emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*) Hatched
- 0.0.1 Cereopsis Goose (*Cereopsis novaehollandiae*)
Hatched
- 0.0.1 Fire-tufted Barbet (*Psilopogon pyrolophus*)
Hatched
- 0.0.2 European Eagle Owl (*Bubo bubo*) Hatched
- 1.0 White-crested Jaythrush
(*Garrulax leucolophus*) Arrival
- 1.0 Wagler's Oropendola (*Psarocolius wagleri*)
Exchange
- 0.1 Amethyst Starling (*Cinnyricinclus leucoganter*)
Arrival
- 1.0 Red-billed Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*)
Exchange
- 0.1 Brown-eared Pheasant
(*Crossoptilon mantchuricum*) From Chessington Zoo
- 0.2 Speckled Pigeon (*Columba guinea*)
From Zoological Society of London
- 0.0.3 Himalayan Monal (*Lophophorus impeyanus*)
Exchange
- 1.0 Crimson Rosella (*Platycercus elegans*) Exchange
- 1.1 Marbled Teal (*Anas angustirostris*)
From N. Manning
- 1.0 Crimson-winged Parrakeet
(*Aprosmictus erythropterus*)
On loan from Lotherton Hall
- 1.0 Demoiselle Crane (*Anthropoides virgo*) Arrival
- 0.0.2 Northern Green Gecko (*Naultinus elegans*) Births
- 0.0.3 Greek Tortoise (*Testudo graeca*) Presented

Key 1.0 = One male 0.1 = One female
0.0.1 = One of undetermined sex

Bellington Zoo? Where's That?!

Any member of the Zoo staff who nipped out to the Wheatsheaf during his lunch break on a hot Monday in July must have wondered if someone had laced his lemonade on his return. The familiar "Chester Zoo, Staff Entrance" had been replaced with one announcing that this was now Bellington Zoo!

It was, of course, all due to the B.B.C. Television Props Department. Several episodes of *One By One*, the drama series based on the David Taylor zoo vet stories, are being filmed at Chester Zoo this summer and autumn.

The series is set in 1971, and follows the career of vet Donald Turner, played by bearded actor Rob Heyland. Head Keeper of Bellington Zoo is James Ellis, who, despite the fact that he's had a very full and distinguished career since, is still best remembered for his role in *Z Cars*.



Courtesy of John King

James Ellis

During their first filming session, in addition to the Bellington Zoo sign on the North Entrance, a list of 1971 prices was also displayed. A dip into our archives gave them the right entrance fee—5/- per adult and 2/6d per child, with the new decimalised prices in brackets!

When it has been necessary to film Chester Zoo animals, our own keeping staff have joined the actors as "supporting artists". Evidently no one likes to be called an "extra" these days! Paul Stead did not mind being given a Bellington Zoo uniform to wear, while they filmed him grooming the Elephants. He was not quite so keen on the long-haired wig!



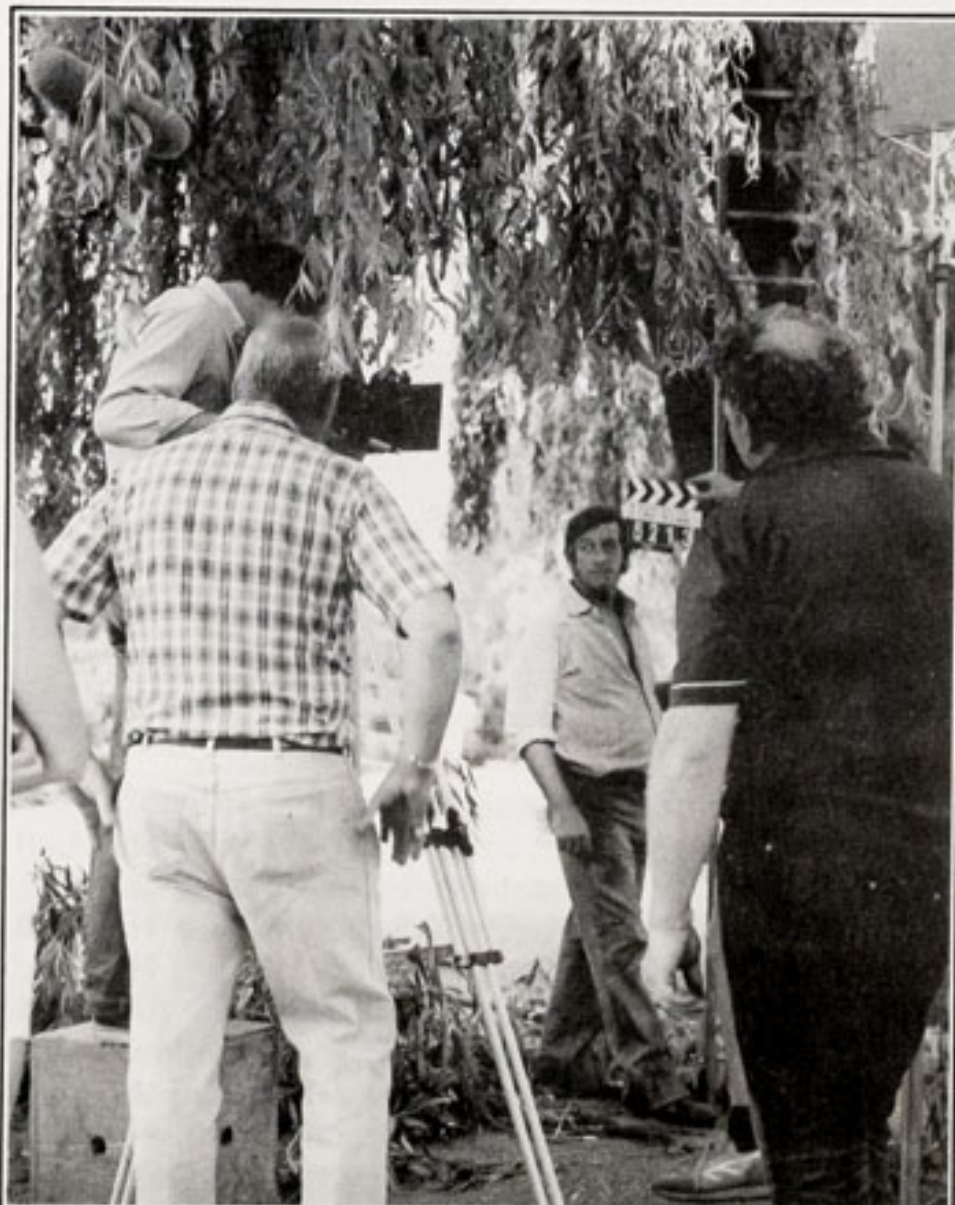
Head Keeper, played by James Ellis, strolls up to the sweet kiosk with a Squirrel Monkey

Courtesy of John King

Some of the real-life incidents that have happened at Chester Zoo have been written into the script. The story of the little boy who stole the Mynah Bird, and the tale of the young entrepreneur who put his own wishing-well sign on the waterfall in the Bird House have both been dramatised.

The visitors have enjoyed the excitement of seeing T.V. actors and cameras in action. The staff have been endlessly patient at the inevitable disruption to their routine. And the T.V. crew members say that it is the nicest location they have worked at for a very long time!

The series will be broadcast from January to March next year, on B.B.C.1. It should be compelling viewing for everyone who knows the zoo.



"One By One" in the making.

Courtesy of John King

Zoo Photographic and Craft Club

AUTUMN PROGRAMME 1986

July-Oct.: A Photographic Competition for Everyone

Between now and the end of October, photographs (prints and/or slides) taken in the Zoo can be entered in our competition. Prizes will be awarded for both prints and slides (up to three entries of each) in four classes, as follows:—

- i—Animals
- ii—Birds
- iii—Flowers
- iv—Candid Camera Shots.

Entries should be sent to the Oakfield please, before the end of October, with your name and address on the back. Prints should not be more than 10 ins. x 8 ins.

Thursday, 11th September: Easy-to-Make Toys

Mr. T. Ford, showing simple wooden toys and puzzles.

Monday, 22nd September: Photographing Birds

Mr. B. Coles, B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S. A talk about photographing birds and some of Mr. Coles's experiences in the use of photography.

Thursday, 16th October: Animal Sketching

Mrs. M. Meredith

Monday, 27th October: How to Make Your Own Colour Prints

Miss J. P. Dixon. A demonstration of the Cibachrome process.

Thursday, 20th November: Hand Painting on Plates and Porcelain

Mrs. A. Purslow.

Monday, 1st December: The Photographic Competition Results

These will be announced, and the judge, Miss K. I. Morton, F.R.P.S., will comment on the entries and the results. This will be followed by a social evening.

Thursday, 11th December: Make Your Own Nest Box

Mr. K. Needham. Christmas Fayre will be provided.

All meetings start at 8.00 p.m. in the Oakfield Building. Entry for the meetings will be via the Time Office from the Staff Car Park.

Meetings cost only 50p, including coffee. Why not come along and join us?

CHESTER ZOO SAMPLER

A great competition for everyone. Why not design and—even better—embroider a sampler with Chester Zoo as its theme?

Full details in the autumn; to appeal to both brush and pencil and needle workers.

Daffodil Day

The lucky prize-winners in the two competitions held on Daffodil Sunday, 4th May 1986, are:—

Children's Garden Fun Quiz

Winners:

Piers Taylor, Upton-by-Chester	7 years
Amanda Heatley, Wavertree	8 years
Timothy Harris, Bury	9 years

Snap the Daffodils Competition

Winner:

Mr. Peter Darlington, Stafford

Consolation Prize for being the youngest entrant:

Darren Elliott, Chorlton-cum-Hardy 11 years

Chester Zoo's Council

Members who were unable to attend either the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society on 3rd April 1986, or the Annual General Meeting on 31st May 1986 may not be aware of the outcome.

At the Extraordinary General Meeting, the Council failed, by a vote of 218 against to 74 for, their motion calling for endorsement of their actions which led the Director to resign. Consequently, all the Council resigned prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Four members of the retiring Council and 19 other candidates stood for election to the 15 vacant places on the Council.

Fourteen new members and one retiring member were elected. Mr. Andrew Thomson has been elected Chairman of the new Council, which is as follows:—

Mr. A. L. B. Thomson, F.R.I.C.S., F.C.I.Arb., M.A.,
Cost E. (*Chairman*)

Mr. T. G. Brightmore, M.S., M.F.C.S.

Mr. L. D. B. Bryceson, B.Sc.

Mr. B. H. Coles, B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S.

Dr. D. A. P. Cooke

Miss J. Dixon, C.Chem., F.R.S.C.

Mr. A. Guy

Mr. J. H. Howatt, F.C.A.

Dr. J. S. Madden, M.B., BCh., B.A.O., F.R.C.P.,
F.R.C.Psych.

Mr. M. A. R. Johnson, M.A., F.C.A., F.C.M.A.

Mrs. B. J. Jones, B.Sc.

Mr. B. Livingstone, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.

Mr. W. F. Padget, M.A., Dip.Cam.

Mrs. J. Straughan

Mr. N. J. Wilson

Subsequent to the Annual General Meeting, the Council has asked the Director to withdraw his resignation, and he has agreed.

Junior Members' Field Trips and Meetings 1985-1986

Following the Junior Members' Conference in February 1986, the following programme of events arranged for this year has been made with the requests of the present Juniors in mind:—

JUNIOR MEMBERS' BARBECUE AND MOTH-TRAPPING SESSION Saturday, 30th August 1986

We have to hope for a dry evening for this barbecue, which will be held on the Jubilee Lawn. We will be setting up the moth traps in preparation for its getting dark, to see what we can collect. There will be a small charge for this event and tickets can be obtained from me. All **over ten-year-olds** invited.

Please meet **outside the Oakfield at 7.30 p.m.**, collection at midnight.

LLYNBRENIG LAKE Saturday, 20th September 1986

This huge reservoir has an abundance of interesting areas to explore. We plan to walk around parts of the lake, which is situated near Denbigh in North Wales, keeping an eye open for unusual birds. Any **over ten-year-olds** are invited to join us.

The bus will **leave the Staff Car Park at 9.30 a.m.**, returning around 4.30 p.m.

THE RED DEER RUT AND VISIT TO THE FARM AT TATTON PARK Saturday, 18th October 1986

We will visit the Old Farm at Tatton in the morning and then go into the park with one of the Wardens, to observe the Red Deer at this interesting time in their annual life cycle. Wrap up warm—we have found this to be necessary in the past! **Over eight-year-olds** invited.

The bus will **leave the Staff Car Park at 10.00 a.m.**, returning around 4.00 p.m.

BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR OF THE LIVERPOOL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY Saturday, 22nd November 1986

This will be an unusual opportunity to see behind the scenes at this Museum. We are hoping to be shown around by one of the Museum's Curators who will describe how they prepare items for exhibit. This proved an extremely good trip last time we visited, a few years ago. **Over tens**.

The bus will **leave the Staff Car Park at 10.30 a.m.**, returning 4.30 p.m.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY Friday, 5th December 1986

Christmas would not be the same if we did not kick off the festive season with the Junior Members' Party. The V.I.P. raffle, hamburgers, games, disco and fun are all on the agenda, and we hope to see as many of you in animal **Fancy Dress** as possible, if you would like to participate. All **over eights** are invited to join-in.

Meet at the **Staff Car Park at 7.00 p.m.**, ending around 10.00 p.m.

CONTACT SESSION Saturday, 24th January 1987

All **over eight-year-olds** are invited to come along to meet some of the Zoo's residents. We do not have many animals at Chester Zoo which you can actually "handle", but those who are willing to say "Hello" will be available on this day, such as Tarantulas, Snakes, Chicks, Locusts and some others too.

Please assemble **outside the Oakfield at 2.30 p.m.**

CONDUCTED TOUR OF THE ZOO AND ANNUAL JUNIOR MEMBERS' CONFERENCE Saturday, 21st February 1987

This is an important day for Junior Members, when you have the opportunity to put forward your ideas and views about the Zoo and about what you would like to do within the Club. During the morning, we will be showing you around the Zoo, which will give you plenty of time to think up lots of questions to put to the Zoo's staff. Following a picnic lunch, we will continue the day in the Zoo's lecture hall, with some slides. More details about the conference will be available nearer the time. **Everyone** welcome.

Meet outside the **Oakfield at 10.00 a.m.**, will end around 4.00 p.m.

TRACKS AND SIGNS Saturday, 21st March 1987

Owing to popular demand, we have decided to repeat this trip again this year. We will be going around the Zoo looking for footprints of both exotic and native residents, and then will take plaster casts. We have to hope for rather muddy weather for this event! **Over eights** invited.

Meet outside the **Oakfield at 11.00 a.m.**, finishing around 4.00 p.m.

FOSSIL-HUNTING EXPEDITION Saturday, 18th April 1987

We will be visiting Moneyash Quarry in Derbyshire in search of fossils. This is a disused quarry set in the hills, and we were lucky to find many different kinds of fossils on our last trip. **Over tens** invited.

The bus will **leave the Staff Car Park at 9.30 a.m.**, returning around 5.00 p.m.

AINSDALE NATURE RESERVE Saturday, 23rd May 1987

This is an unusual chance to be shown around this important nature reserve by one of the Wardens. The Reserve is near Southport and has some species only found in this one area of the country. We will be keeping an eye open for toads and lizards, as well as the many rare plants which live among the sand-dunes in this area. It will be a strenuous day's walking. **Over tens** invited.

The bus will **leave the Staff Car Park at 9.30 a.m.**, returning around 5.00 p.m.

DAY HELPING A KEEPER Saturday, 20th June 1987

Groups will be sent to various sections in the Zoo to help Keepers and see what their jobs can involve. Unfortunately, we have to limit this event to **over 12-year-olds**. Old clothes and "wellies" essential.

Please meet **outside the Oakfield at 11.00 a.m.**; ends around 4.00 p.m.

We may try to arrange a tour of the Zoo for younger Juniors on this day—keep an eye on *Chez Nous* for further details.

SPONSORED WALK ALONG THE SANDSTONE TRAIL **Saturday, 25th July 1987**

Rather than a bazaar, this year we have decided to have an eight-mile sponsored walk along a very scenic part of the Sandstone Trail in Cheshire. All those **over eights** who think they can manage the hilly walk are welcome to join us. We will probably split into a few groups. Ideas about what to raise money for will be welcome at the Conference in February.

The bus will leave the **Staff Car Park at 9.30 a.m.**, returning around 4.00 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE

For those trips which involve either a bus or provision of food, a charge will have to be made in order for us to cover basic costs. This will be collected on the day, and will vary according to the distance to be travelled/food provided.

Bookings must be made for ALL events. Please ring me at the Zoo not more than two weeks before an event if you would like to attend. Places may be limited.

*This list is provisional and, in exceptional circumstances, we may have to alter the dates and times of some of the trips, so please keep an eye on the listing in *Chez Nous* to keep up-to-date.*

Penny Rudd (Mrs.)
Junior Members' Club



Junior Members' Trip to the Farne Islands

Many Juniors will have heard about our five-day field trip to the Northumberland Coast. Twelve Junior Members (six girls and six boys) and five adults—Brian and Elizabeth Livingstone, Jeni Straughan, Allan Guy and myself—all set off early on Sunday, 25th May. We piled into a minibus and two cars and headed up to Seahouses, which is a little fishing village from where you have a marvellous view of the Farne Islands. Once settled in our friendly guest house (the dormitories for the Juniors causing a great deal of hilarity—shaky bunk beds and all), we explored the town and discovered from where the boats to the islands departed, and booked to go to the Farnes the following day.

After a morning rock-pooling, owing to a delay in the departure of the ferry, due to rough weather, we all climbed on to a boat and set off on a brilliant tour around the islands, visiting the main Grey Seal colony on one of the farthest islands, on which we were not allowed to land. We passed by the Grace Darling Lighthouse (The Longstone) and Outer Farne, before landing on Inner Farne, a beautiful nature reserve maintained by the National Trust. This is a paradise for ornithologists. During the journey to the island, we were treated to Guillemots, Arctic Terns, Kittiwakes, Puffins and Fulmars (to name a few) and, once on the island, we were amazed

by the Eider Ducks' calm response to so many people tramping perilously close to their wayside nests. The Arctic and Common Terns were more worried by the invasion, every Junior Member having the experience of being dive-bombed at least once by these noisy birds. The Puffins were the favourites and, amidst the raucous sound of the sea, wind and thousands of birds, this endearing species were the focal point for many binoculars and cameras. Sunburnt, windswept and happy, we returned to our hotel and prepared for the next day.

The following three days were spent exploring the Northumberland coastline, the dunes, beaches and rock-pools providing endless hours of fascinating entertainment. With the various 'pocket guides', we managed to identify most of what was found. We visited Bamburgh Castle on an incredibly windy day and followed this on another day with a trip to Lindisfarne—the Holy Island—an event we had to time carefully, to ensure that we were not stranded by the tide.

It was a marvellous holiday, and we hope to be able to offer further field trips of this type again in the future. This one was by way of a "dummy run", with a few Juniors whom we knew would put up with almost anything! However, it worked, and hopefully will be repeated.

Note to Juniors and Seniors alike.—Jeni has written a super report on our trip, giving all the interesting details and amusing anecdotes, for which there is insufficient space to print in the magazine. If anyone would like a more detailed account of our trip, please let me know, and I will send the ready-printed leaflet to you.

Word Search

Thanks go to founder Junior Member Nicholas Joinson (now a Senior Member) for setting the quiz for this issue.
If you look hard enough you should be able to find the names of the animals listed.

IBIS
AGOUTI
ZEBRA
ALPACA
RACCOON
CHIMPANZEE
FROG
GNU

BUSHBABY
OSTRICH
PENGUIN
MARMOT
KANGAROO
LEMUR
HIPPO

OWL
DINGO
GOAT
RHEA
NILGAI
FLAMINGO
JAGUAR

ELEPHANT
EMU
PARROT
CAPYBARA
GORILLA
BEAR
WAPITI

