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CHESTER ZOO NEWS



Zoological Gardens
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1981 No. 3

Orang-utan: Press Release

On 5th October, a female Bornean Orang-utan was born at Chester Zoo. We estimated the baby weighed 3 lb. at birth and now weighs 6 lb. She has been named "Bella", after Miss Bella Neate, who was the Orang-utan Keeper and is now our Education Officer.

Mother "Lola" is 14 years old and has been at the Zoo since November 1971. This is her third baby. Father "Dennis" is 15 years old and has been at the Zoo since April, 1968.

Due to the shy nature of these animals and their susceptibility to human infections such as colds, we have not previously allowed "Lola" and "Bella" to be filmed or photographed, except by K. W. Green, A.R.P.S., our honorary photographer. However, now that she is six months old, we have decided to officially introduce her to the Press and public.

"Lola" and "Bella" will be available for Press photography and TV filming at the Ape House on **Tuesday, 24th March**, at 10.30 a.m.

If the weather is suitable, we will allow them outside on the island but, if conditions are inclement, they will be behind glass in their indoor quarters.

Orang-utans are in grave danger of extinction in their natural habitat of Borneo and Sumatra for a variety of reasons, but mainly due to habitat destruction. Zoos are playing a most important role in ensuring the survival of this species by breeding them in captivity, and this latest baby—especially as it is a female—is of major importance in our future breeding programme.

Orang-utan means "Man of the Woods", and these animals are truly arboreal in their habits, inhabiting the



"LOLA" AND "BELLA"—SIX WEEKS OLD
By courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

thick equatorial forests of Borneo and Sumatra. An adult male can weigh approximately 350 lb. and has a life-span of about 35 years. A single youngster is born after a gestation period of 8½ months; Orang-utans can breed when they are eight years old.

At Chester Zoo we now have four male and three female Bornean and one male and one female Sumatran Orang-utan. We have already successfully bred five Orang-utans at the Zoo.

Michael F. Coupe,
Public Relations Officer.

Gardening Notes

The winter has passed without any severe weather. The only snowfall we have had was on Sunday, 22nd February, when about four inches fell. The most severe frost has been -5°C ., and, unlike some winters, there has been only the occasional day when the temperature has stayed below zero for the whole day. This mild winter means the spring bedding plants have not taken any harm and the prospects are that we should have a much earlier display of colour.

The best time to come and see this display would be during the last week of April and the first two weeks of May. By that time, the Tulips will be coming into flower and the Daffodils will already be at their best. The main plants which will be flowering will be Aubretia, Pansy, Polyanthus, Wallflowers, Double Daisy and Forget-Me-Not, which altogether number approximately 80,000 plants.

During the winter, several areas where the shrubs were getting old were cleared, and younger shrubs planted to replace them. It has always been our practice to propagate some young shrubs and conifers each year, so as to keep a supply of young plants coming in for replacement.

NEW ROSE BED PLANTED

The large flower-bed on the opposite side of the road from the Beaver Pool, Guide No. 32, has been planted with 50 Shrub Roses. This is a new feature in the Gardens and it is hoped will be of interest and enjoyment to our visitors.

The varieties include:—

Hybrid Musk: Ballerina and Conelia.

Modern Shrub: Fountain, Fred Loads, Golden Wings, Joseph's Coat and Marguerite Hilling.

Rosa canarybird has arching stems of bronze fern-like leaves and canary-yellow flowers.

Rosa moyesii with rich blood-crimson flowers and, in the autumn, large flagon-shaped crimson hips.

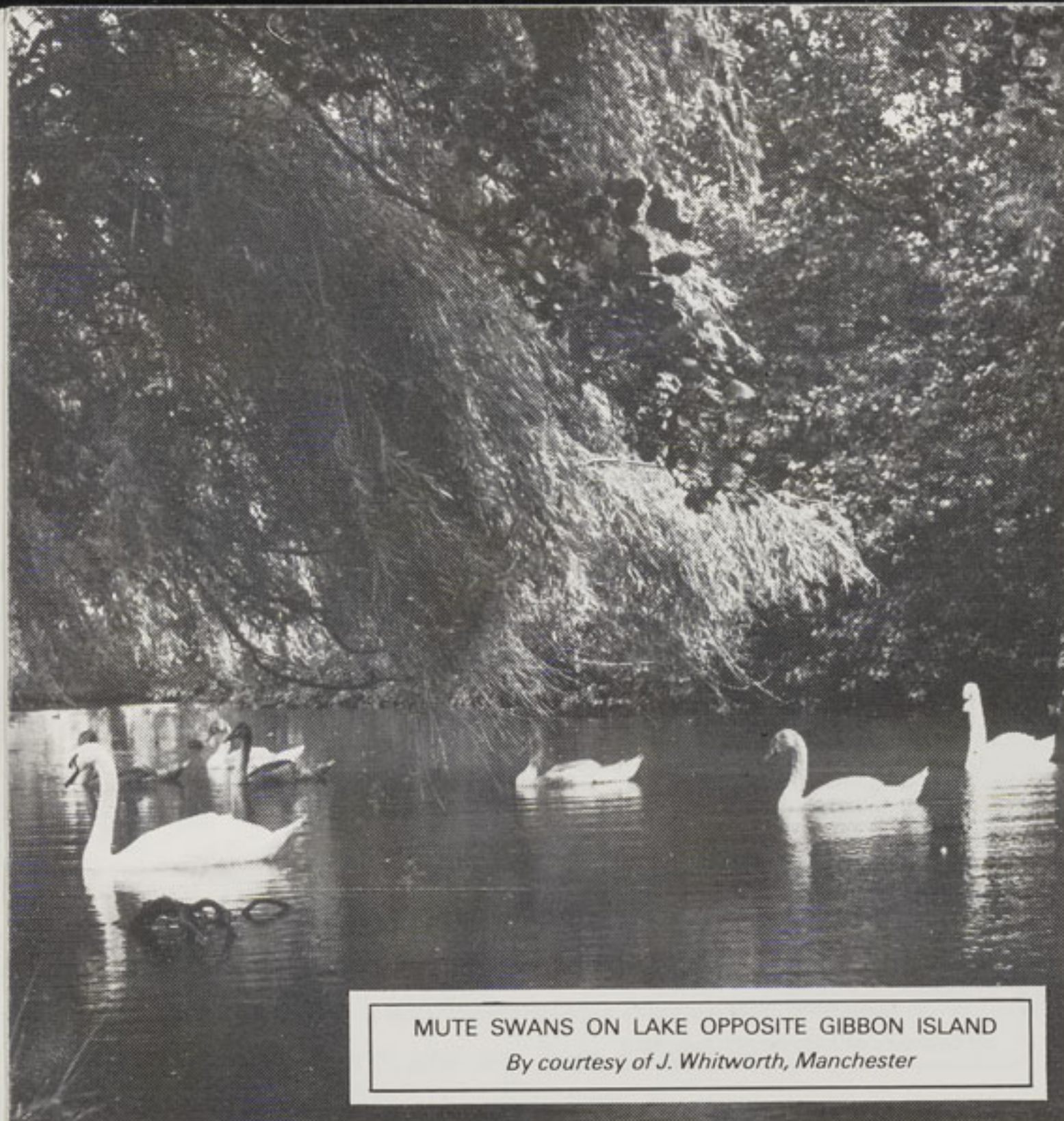
Rosa rubiginosa (The Sweet Briar) which has clear pink flowers and red oval hips in the autumn.

Mme. Isaac Periere, a Bourbon Rose, with large purplish-crimson flowers and an intense fragrance.

SPRING BEDDING

By courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.





MUTE SWANS ON LAKE OPPOSITE GIBBON ISLAND
By courtesy of J. Whitworth, Manchester

Also included is *Rosa rugosa* variety *Roseraie de l'Hay*, with flowers of rich crimson purple and cream stamens. This one is also suitable for use as a hedge. One of the oldest known roses is the common Moss. This has delicate rose-pink flowers and is fragrant.

A new variety of Floribunda Rose has been planted in one of the Fountain Restaurant garden beds. This is *Korresia*, which is yellow and very fragrant.

Pruning of the Roses started at the beginning of March, which was followed by forking in the mulch which had been on the beds since last November.

Walter Worth,
Head Gardener.

New Arrivals

MAMMALS

1 Hamadryas Baboon (<i>Papio hamadryas</i>)	Birth
1 De Brazza Monkey (<i>Cercopithecus neglectus</i>)	Loan
1 Black-faced Spider Monkey (<i>Ateles paniscus</i>)	Bridgemere Exchange Chessington
2 Binturongs (<i>Arctictis binturong</i>)	On deposit Calderpark Ravensden
1 Striped Skunk (<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>)	
1 Spotted Skunk (<i>Spilogale putorius</i>)	Ravensden
1 Bobcat (<i>Felis rufa</i>)	Presented J. Wilson, Kinross

BIRDS

10 Australian White Ibis (<i>Threskiornis molucca</i>)	Purchased Sydney Q
4 Kookaburra (<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>)	Purchased Sydney Q
4 Tawny Frogmouth (<i>Podargus strigoides</i>)	Purchased Sydney Q
2 Scaly-breasted Lorikeet (<i>Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus</i>)	Purchased Sydney Q
1 Kea (<i>Nestor notabilis</i>)	Exchange Rotterdam Q
2 Blue and Gold Macaws (<i>Ara ararauna</i>)	Presented
3 Yellow-faced Parrotlets (<i>Forpus xanthops</i>)	Exchange
1 Yellow-faced Parrotlet (<i>Forpus xanthops</i>)	Purchased
1 Blue-fronted Amazon Parrot (<i>Amazona aestiva</i>)	Presented
4 Mute Swans (<i>Cygnus olor</i>)	Presented (oiled)

REPTILES

2 Matamata Turtles (<i>Chelus fimbriatus</i>)	Purchased
1 Red-eared Terrapin (<i>Pseudemys scripta elegans</i>)	Presented

FISH

Congo Tetras (<i>Micralestes interruptus</i>)	Bred
Half-beaks (<i>Dermogenys pusillus</i>)	Bred
8 Variety of Marine Fish	Purchased

Q indicates Quarantine

Members' News

Dr. J. R. Baker gave a talk to Members on 21st February entitled "Grey Seals on North Rona". This was very well-attended and has proved to be a popular subject with Members.

With the emphasis on the Gardens at Chester, the Members' Meeting on 14th March included a talk on "Orchids" and a tour of the greenhouses.

Will Members please note that the Annual General Meeting will be at 3.30 p.m. on Saturday, 23rd May, 1981.

The April Meeting, to be held on 25th April, will be preceded by the annual Buffet Luncheon. This will be in the Oakfield Restaurant (12.30 p.m. for 1.00 p.m.), at a cost of £3.00 per head, including a glass of sherry. The Buffet Luncheon is always very popular and tickets will be limited. Members are asked to make their reservations as early as possible and definitely before the closing date for application, Tuesday, 21st April.

After lunch, Mr. R. Went will give a talk in the Lecture Hall entitled "Come Birdwatching in Staffordshire".

Each Member may bring one guest (using concessionary tickets or paying at the Entrance Gate). Would Members please note that, due to the increase in admission charges, concessionary tickets will be priced at 80p. each from 22nd March, 1981. The Zoo Minibus will be operating from the North Entrance and the Oakfield Restaurant to the Lecture Hall.

Please use the form below when applying for tickets, and enclose your remittance. If you should have any further queries, please contact Miss Howard.

Member's Name

Member's No.

Address

I enclose my cheque/cash/postal order for £..... in

respect of Buffet Tickets.

Minibus—Yes/No.

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope for return of tickets.



SIBERIAN TIGER

By courtesy of J. Dorricott, Daily Mail

WINTER SCENE AT THE ZOO

The North-West of England has been enjoying a very mild winter, with no snow and very little frost. However, a recent heavy snowfall gave John Dorricott, of the *Daily Mail* the opportunity to take this lovely picture of our young male Siberian Tiger, "Misha".

SUBSCRIPTIONS

CHESTER ZOO NEWS is at present being produced every month and readers who would like to receive the magazine regularly can obtain subscription forms at the Souvenir Shops or the Office. The current charge for 12 issues, including postage, is £3.00 per year.

Completed forms can be handed in to the Souvenir Shops or posted to Mrs. Sandra J. Elliott, Chester Zoo News, Chester Zoo, Chester CH2 1LH.

"TOWNLYNX" COACH WITH ELEPHANTS AT CHESTER
 By courtesy of Barry Preen, P.R.O., Crosville Motors

"TOWNLYNX"

The national bus company Crosville have introduced a fast luxury coach link, which connects Manchester to Chester. This service has been called "Townlynx", and runs from Manchester via the Airport, Runcorn and Ellesmere Port to Chester, and to the gates of Chester Zoo. The coaches are easily recognisable with their striking green and yellow paintwork, set off by the black "leaping lynx" logo.

We are hoping that this service will help our visitors to get to the Zoo with as little inconvenience as possible, as there are no bus or train changes involved—you just board the coach, pay your fare (day-returns are available) and enjoy the journey.

Contact your local Crosville offices for timetable details.



ADMISSION CHARGES FROM 22nd MARCH, 1981

On 22nd March, 1981, admission charges to the Zoo will be increased to:—

Adults	£1.60
Children (3—16) and OAP's	£0.80
No charge for children under three years	

Party rates for parties of 20 and over:—

Adults	£1.30
Children (3—16) and OAP's	£0.65

PENGUIN APPEAL PROGRESS

The Chester Zoo Penguin Appeal stands at approximately £20,000. Funds were recently swelled by £105.00, which were the proceeds from a cello concert presented at the Zoo's Russell Allen Lecture Hall on 8th March. The four cellists were:—

Jeremy Fletcher;
 Clare Morgan;
 Catherine Bunting; and
 Irene Thomas;

who gave a most enjoyable performance, including pieces by Bach, Scott Joplin, Elgar and Debussy. We would like to thank the performers for donating their time and skill to the Penguin Fund.