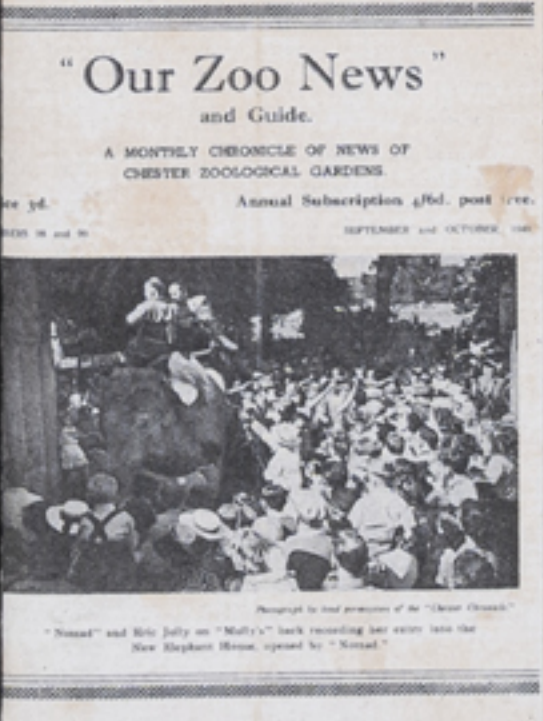


Z magazine

AUTUMN 2022
Final printed edition



Chester Zoo News
AND GUIDE



hat a winner!

BIRTHDAY BOY
all smiles as Asani celebrates his

Autumn 1988

A message from our CEO in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Earlier this month we heard the incredibly sad news that Her Majesty The Queen has passed away.

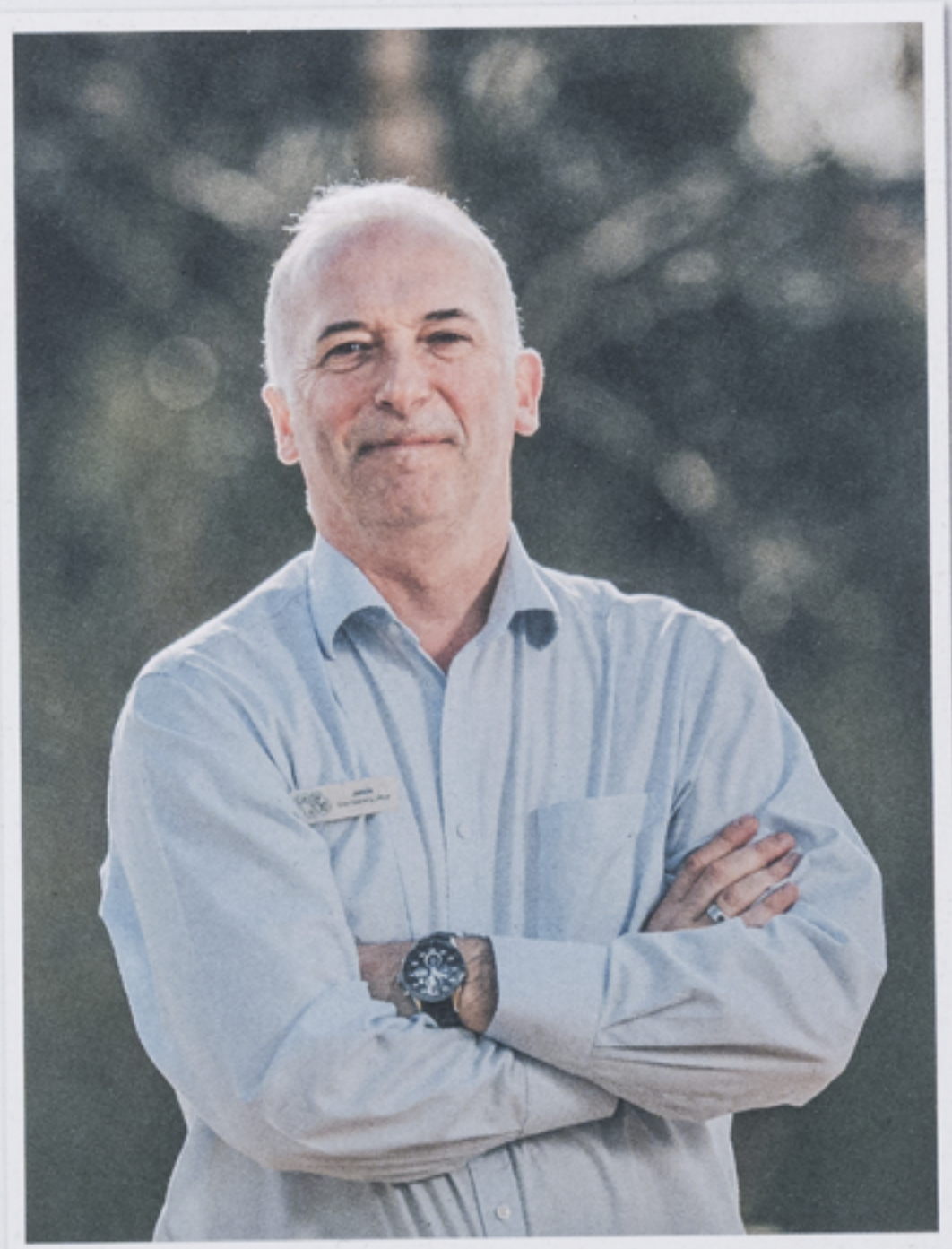
The Queen has been an inspirational figurehead and moral leader and has given great comfort to those in need throughout the years of her reign. She will be sorely missed by so many around the world.

I know many staff and visitors alike will continue to share wonderful memories of a very special day in our zoo's history when The Queen, along with The Duke of Edinburgh, kindly visited us in 2012 and officially opened our Jubilee Quarter, located at the main entrance area, giving it the royal seal of approval.

During the visit, The Queen showed great interest in our vital conservation work, particularly our efforts to prevent the extinction of critically endangered eastern black rhinos – both here at the zoo and with our partners at the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary in Tanzania, Africa.

Everyone at the zoo has the royal family in their thoughts at this time.

Jamie Christon
Chief Executive Officer



Ever since **George Mottershead** first opened the gates on **10 June 1931**, Chester Zoo has been a place that has continually looked to improve and innovate. A first major phase in construction took place not long after the end of the Second World War. That was when the zoo really began to grow – **and grow fast** – with new habitats for lions, monkeys, sea lions and elephants springing up by the end of the 1940s. An aquarium, a café, a car park and a polar bear pool were among the developments that followed in the 50s. The zoo's slogan back then was '**Always Building**' and to this day we still harness the same philosophy as the pioneering Mottershead family.

Our zoo now spans more than ten times the size of the first bit of land George purchased in the 1930s. Today there are 170 buildings, from the animal habitats to the shops, restaurants, toilet blocks and admin offices. Looking forward, we have big, bold ambitions and our latest plans are genuinely exciting.

Recently we submitted an application to create an incredible new habitat for what would be an inspiring new species for the zoo, and a key focus of a new Himalayan zone, the snow leopard.

Snow leopards are threatened with extinction. Their population is rapidly declining and the latest estimates suggest there may be as few as 3,500 left in the wild. By caring for snow leopards here in Chester, we'll be joining the vital conservation breeding programme for this magnificent species, while we'll also explore how we can contribute to projects that preserve snow leopard populations across the high alpine areas of Asia. We plan to highlight how these incredible animals are under threat from climate change as their snow-covered habitats in the Himalayas warm at three times the global average. Visitors will be inspired to love and care for these big cats and be empowered to reduce their personal impact on climate change.



Later this year, work is also set to begin on Heart of Africa - our incredible new African-themed zone.

African ecosystems are rich and diverse and filled with amazing species, but they're under threat. Our conservation zoo is out there, in the thick of it, working to protect grasslands, forests and wetlands in many parts of Africa through our work with giraffes, rhinos and many other species – and by empowering local people to protect the wildlife & habitats around them. When people visit our new zone, they'll encounter a wide range of these amazing species, learn about the threats they face, discover more about their personal impact on our changing climate, and participate in fieldwork activities to help protect them.

Visitors will better understand the different ways our zoo is working to protect and conserve species in Africa – keeping it forever flourishing and teeming with life.

Heart of Africa will evoke emotion, transport people to another place and leave visitors in no doubt that they're immersed in an African zone. It will be a place rich and diverse with species, and wild, vibrant and varied in its landscapes.



This is a colossal project – by far and away the biggest we've taken on since we unveiled Islands in 2015 – and it'll be another fantastic new area for you to explore.

As well as being a visionary, George Mottershead was also a skilled communicator and in November 1937 he introduced a newsletter, named Our Zoo News, to keep members informed of the latest goings on at the zoo. Starting out as a two-sided print out, it evolved to become a pamphlet, an eight-page magazine and eventually the 36-page publication – Z magazine - it is today. Now, we've reached the next stage in its evolution and we'll be taking it fully digital from the next issue this winter. Not only will this be an exciting step forward and a more engaging way to connect with our members, this will also be important for our ambitions to become a zero waste charity.

This innovation and future-thinking, is what sets our conservation zoo apart. We're always pushing the boundaries. We're always raising the bar. We're always building. Here's to exciting new beginnings...

Jamie Christon, CEO

Our members magazine through the years

A look back at you with the zoo

This issue marks the end of an era, as the final printed version of Z magazine. We're launching an exciting new digital alternative to Z magazine this winter, as part of our ambitious goal of reaching carbon net zero status by 2030. But before then, we're taking a look back at the zoo magazine through the decades. Join us on a deep dive into the archives, as we celebrate some of the wonderful moments our members have been a part of!

"OUR ZOO NEWS"

A monthly chronicle of news of The North of England Zoological Society.

Number One. November 1937

Each month a short summary of events at the Zoo will be issued to all members, and this will be headed "Our Zoo News". By this mean we hope to keep members especially those who live a long way off, informed of what is happening at the Zoo.

It is very appropriate that our first Zoo News should contain the announcement of a birth of some importance to the Zoological World.

The pair of Mandrills which were presented to the Society by E. Lyde Esq. in December 1935 gave birth to a daughter on the 26th October. As far as is known this is the first occasion that the Mandrill has bred in this country.

1937

Zoo magazine launches

The first issue of our magazine, then called 'Our Zoo News', was printed nearly 85 years ago in November 1937. Similar to the modern-day magazine, it was sent out to members, and covered animal births and new developments at the zoo.



Membership scheme introduced

After our founder George Mottershead opened the zoo in 1931 (pictured here with his family), the first membership scheme was launched in 1933. By 1934 we had 155 annual members, whose subscriptions totalled £216! Today, thanks to the amazing dedication of people like you, we have over 140,000 members who support our mission to prevent extinction.

World War II

The outbreak of World War II was a challenging time for the zoo. Attendances dropped as petrol rationing was introduced, and many members of staff were called up for military service. Thankfully a whole host of volunteers, including members, stepped forward to keep things running. This clipping from the November 1939 issue made potential volunteers aware of the hard work that goes into running a zoo!

1939

The Society is about to lose more of its staff for Military service, and the problem will be to replace it, we often hear of people who are anxious to get a post among animals but most of them have no idea what the duties of a keeper entail, quite a large number think that all they have to do is just walk round and feed the animals.

It might be of interest to readers to know what some of the duties are. First there is the cleaning of the cages which is of primary importance and this is done each day. Then the animals must have their meals attended to and in most cases this has to be prepared, care must be taken to give variety and prevent the animals from becoming food sick.

Very few of the animals need grooming but care has to be taken to see that they are given facilities to clean themselves.

Keeping the animals warm and protected from the weather is of vital importance and entails working in the wet and wind. There are very few animals or birds that like wind, all try to avoid it at all cost.

Utensils have to be well cleaned and when sickness comes, as it often does even in the best regulated zoo, the animal has to be nursed according to its special requirements; it is not uncommon to sit up all night tending it.

1948

Another new arrival is a Ring-tailed Lemur, a very attractive specimen which was kindly presented to us by a Captain Carter of Wallasey. The Ring-tailed Lemur is sometimes known as the Madagascar Cat as it is usually found in Central Madagascar. This little animal is about the size of a small fox. It is an ashy-grey colour, darker on the back, and white on the face, chest and underparts, and as its name suggests, it has a long bushy tail with alternate broad black and white rings.

Ring-tailed lemurs

The September 1948 issue announced the arrival of one of the very first ring-tailed lemurs at the zoo. This was an almost unheard of species at the time, and they stirred a lot of interest with their unusual walk and iconic stripy tail. Now these primates are a real centrepiece of our Madagascar walk-through area, which lets you experience the mysterious African island right here in Chester.





We made our membership target three years early. Marketing Division had targeted the millennium for the 10,000th member - it happened in December 1996. What a wonderful way to show the support we enjoy. Its almost an eight fold growth in ten years.

10,000 members!

A big milestone was hit in 1996 when we reached 10,000 members, which was announced in the spring 1997 issue. The magazine's cover proclaimed 'animals are our only shareholders', which is why as a charity zoo the support of members is so vital.

1996

2004

2019

2020

2022



Andean bears welcomed to the zoo

In the summer 2004 issue of Z magazine we introduced readers to Valentine and Estolch, a new pair of Andean bears who arrived from a zoo in Poland. Since then we have gone on to establish our Great Bear Landscape project in Bolivia, with the aim of researching, understanding and protecting this elusive species.



Save Our Zoo

The coronavirus crisis hit us hard and left us with a huge £5.5 million shortfall in our finances. The dedication of our members was extraordinary, and without your support we'd simply never have made it through the pandemic. The wider Save Our Zoo campaign received donations from 80 different countries, raising more than £2.8 million - THANK YOU!

One year on from the Monsoon Forest fire

The 2018 Monsoon Forest fire was one of the toughest days in the zoo's history. The rebuild costs were covered by insurance, but we were still humbled to receive more than £260,000 in spontaneous donations off the back of this tragic event. We put all of that money towards conservation work for South East Asian species, and spotlighted some of the key projects one year later in winter 2019.



A new era begins

Later this year we'll be launching our brand new digital content platform. You'll get the same Z magazine content you know and love in an exciting new format, with behind the scenes videos, educational games, interactive animal stories, and some more surprises we know you're going to love!



We don't want you to miss out on this innovative next step in the Z magazine journey. If we don't have your email address or if you're unsure, scan this QR code to let us know how to reach you so we can stay in touch.

BABY BOOM AT THE ZOO



We've celebrated lots of incredible births here at the zoo recently. Here's a roundup of the latest new arrivals to look out for on your next visit.



Vietnam pheasant chicks

We were delighted when two of the rarest birds on the planet hatched right here at the zoo in April.

The last confirmed record of the Vietnam pheasant in the wild was in 2000, a whopping 22 years ago. These birds are just a step away from extinction because of habitat destruction and being hunted for meat, which makes the hatchlings even more special. Experts here at the zoo are working with partners to help save this species from extinction and bring this magnificent bird back from the brink.

Humboldt penguin chicks

Nine fluffy penguin chicks hatched out of their eggs in April – and keepers named them after their favourite fruits!

The first chick, Plum, was followed by Satsuma, Lemon, Papaya, Iona-Berry, Peach, Cherry, Rhubarb and Banana. Iona-Berry is named in honour of a vet who saved dad Munch's eyesight last year.

Hatching at a weight of just 80g, these new arrivals have since ventured out of their nests and can now be seen swimming with the adults in the pool. Of the world's 18 species of penguins, Humboldt penguins are one of the most at risk of extinction, threatened by climate change, over-fishing of their food sources and rising sea temperatures.



Anoa calf

In June, six-year-old anoa Darcy gave birth to an adorable female calf.


The anoa is the world's smallest species of wild cattle and listed as endangered, with fewer than 2,500 surviving on the island of Sulawesi in Indonesia. They're under threat from hunting and habitat loss, as their favoured habitat of lowland forest is often cleared for rice paddies, a flooded field used for growing crops such as rice. This is Darcy's first calf and she's settled into parenthood brilliantly, keeping a cautious eye on her precious first born.



Rothschild's giraffe calf

Meet Stanley, a highly threatened Rothschild's giraffe calf who was born to mum Orla in August after a 15-month pregnancy.

Keepers named the new male calf after Mount Stanley, the tallest mountain in Uganda, Africa, where our conservationists are fighting to boost giraffe numbers. Rothschild's giraffes are one of Africa's most at risk mammals, with fewer than 2,500 now remaining in the wild. Stanley is already a towering 6ft tall, so you won't miss him in the giraffe habitat!



BEHIND THE SCENES:

Caring for a new
critically endangered
tiger

A new Sumatran tiger, three-year-old Dash, recently arrived at the zoo from Fota Wildlife Park in Ireland after he'd been genetically matched as a compatible partner for resident female, Kasarna - part of a coordinated, international breeding programme for this incredibly rare species.

But what goes into moving one of the biggest and boldest big cats on the planet? How do you prepare for the nail-biting moment when two fierce felines come face to face for the first time? What goes into picking the perfect match and how do you make them feel at home?

We caught up with Carnivore Keeper, Richard Tyson, who gave us a glimpse into caring for one of the world's rarest cats.

What goes into getting ready for the arrival of a new tiger at the zoo?

Introducing a new Sumatran tiger isn't as straight forward as welcoming some other species to the zoo. Firstly, we had to encourage Kasarna into a behind the scenes area, which enabled Dash to spend some time exploring his new surroundings before meeting his new mate.

How did it feel on the day when he finally met his new partner?

Any new arrival is always really exciting for the team, particularly when there's future potential for tiger cubs for the first time in seven years. I've been involved in other animal moves, such as fossa, painted dogs, polar bears and Asian elephants, and it can be a tense moment when these carnivorous predators come together for the first time.

Our team here at the zoo however is very experienced in pairing together large cats and we also have the ability to closely monitor their behaviour using a remote camera system. It can look a little dramatic when two tigers meet for the first time, showing their teeth and scoping each other out, but this is all to be expected when two of the most fierce animals on the planet encounter each other.

How is Dash settling in?

Dash has settled in quickly and he's already getting used to us, and we're learning more about his personality and character traits every day. He's fed each morning in his indoor habitat and then for the rest of the day, like most big cats, he'll spend his time resting outdoors, scent marking his new territory and exploring the scents of Kasarna. He has been spotted taking a dip in the pool on quite a few occasions and is getting very close to his new companion, which are both great signs of him feeling at home.



What does tiger courtship look like?

Dash is likely to be seen performing the flehmen response - curling back his upper lip, exposing his front teeth and inhaling. It's like smelling in high definition. A male tiger can actually tell if a female is ready to mate by smelling her urine. Kasarna will call out and there will be a lot of chuffing, which sounds like a mixture between heavy breathing and a growl, head rubbing and rolling around.

This is the first time Kasarna has been with a male since her dad and brothers moved on to other zoos as part of the endangered species breeding programme. Tiger families naturally move apart when cubs reach a certain age - and she's slowly warming up to her new match.

There are fewer than 400 Sumatran tigers in the wild, which makes them one of the rarest big cats in the world.



They're under threat from mass-scale habitat loss, poaching and human-tiger conflict, so having the privilege to help preserve this magnificent species is something we're all so passionate about here at Chester. With a gestation of just over three months, we're tremendously optimistic and hopeful that it won't be too long until they have cubs that will contribute to the international effort to save this species from extinction.

CHESTER ZOO

LUNA'S LOST SPELL

- HALLOWEEN TRAIL -

1 - 31 OCTOBER 2022

FREE WITH ZOO ENTRY



This October, visit Chester Zoo and experience our all-new interactive HALLOWEEN TRAIL.

Luna the witch needs YOUR help on a quest to find her lost spell, carefully crafted with the most powerful poisons and venoms from the world of nature. You'll spend one to two hours discovering six amazing animals, and use the magic of AUGMENTED REALITY on your phone to reveal their secrets!

PART OF **BIAZA VITAL VENOMS PRACTICAL POISONS**
25-31 OCT 2022

Once you've unlocked the spell-binding mysteries of these potentially poisonous species, you'll uncover the magic word and be rewarded with a treat sensation!

Visit chesterzoo.org/halloween to find out more



Fruit Bat Experience



experiences at CHESTER ZOO
DINE · EXPLORE · MEET

Enter our AMAZING Fruit Bat Forest with one of our expert keepers and see our bats in a totally different light!

This one of a kind experience gives you the chance to HAND-FEED our Seba's short-tailed fruit bats their favourite meal!



KIDS ZOO



Some of the most deadly poisons and venoms in the world can be found in nature! Many species use these to protect themselves from predators or to attack their prey. You can visit some of the world's most toxic animals on your visit to the zoo this October!

FUN FACTS



Golden poison dart frog

Scientific name: *Phyllotoxotes terribilis*
 Status: endangered
 Location: rainforests of Colombia



DID YOU KNOW?

- They're the most poisonous frog in the world! Their poison is 20 times stronger than any other dart frog.
- Dart frogs get their toxins from ants they eat.
- Their bright colours warn predators that they're dangerous to eat, which helps to keep them safe.
- They're 47-55mm long.

Brazilian salmon pink bird-eating tarantula

Scientific name: *Lasiadora parahybana*
 Status: not evaluated
 Location: north-eastern Brazil



DID YOU KNOW?

- They're covered in pinkish hair that they'll flick at predators to distract them.
- They're one of the biggest spiders in the world with a leg span of up to 28cm!
- These tarantulas live in burrows, and don't use webs to catch their prey like other spiders.
- They have long fangs and venom to paralyze and catch their prey.

Upside-down jellyfish

Scientific name: *Cassiopea sp.*
 Status: not evaluated
 Location: sheltered coastal areas in tropical locations worldwide



DID YOU KNOW?

- They're upside-down to help the algae inside them photosynthesise. The jellyfish then gets some of the energy from the sun for itself!
- Their bellies are flat to help them sit upside-down.
- They produce a goo that contains stinging cells, so you can get stung just by swimming near them.
- They're between 20 and 36cm long.

Gaboon viper

Scientific name: *Bitis gabonica*
 Status: vulnerable
 Location: rainforests in Central, East and West Africa



DID YOU KNOW?

- Gaboon vipers are excellent at camouflage! The pattern of their scales and triangular head helps them blend into the rainforest floor by mimicking a fallen leaf.
- They have 5cm long fangs – the longest of any venomous snake!
- Their jaws can almost stretch to 180° when striking prey!
- They're the largest vipers in Africa weighing more than 20kg and measuring more than 180cm.

Blue viper

Scientific name: *Trimrasurus intularis*
 Status: least concern
 Location: Komodo



DID YOU KNOW?

- This snake's real name is white-lipped island pit viper. Its nickname, blue viper comes from their bright blue-green scales, which they use as camouflage.
- They have hollowed fangs which they use to inject venom into their prey.
- Blue vipers are arboreal, which means they like to live in trees!

Komodo dragon

Scientific name: *Varanus komodoensis*
 Status: endangered
 Location: Komodo



DID YOU KNOW?

- Komodo dragons are the largest lizards on the planet, growing up to 3 metres long!
- Komodo dragons weaken their prey by forcing venom into the bloodstream using its serrated teeth.
- These lizards have long muscular tails, which make them excellent swimmers and help them in a fight!
- They live for around 30 years.

QUIZ

Test your knowledge of the poisonous and venomous animals at Chester Zoo!

1. Which viper has the longest fangs of any venomous snake?
2. Why is an upside-down jellyfish upside-down?
3. What does arboreal mean?
4. How much stronger is a golden poison dart frog's poison compared to other dart frogs?
5. What do Brazilian salmon pink bird-eating spiders do with their hairs?
6. What length can Komodo dragons grow to?

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

See if you can spot the 5 differences in the photos of a Komodo dragon in its habitat at the zoo...



PART OF **BIAZA & VITAL VENOMS**
 PRACTICAL POISONS
 25-31 OCT 2022

QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. GABOON VIPER 2. THEY CARRY ALGAE WHICH PHOTOSYNTHESISES, AND THEN TAKE ENERGY FROM THIS 3. LIVES IN TREES 4. 20 TIMES STRONGER 5. FLICK THEM AT PREDATORS TO DISTRACT THEM 6. 3 METRES



Blue poison dart frog

Always Building

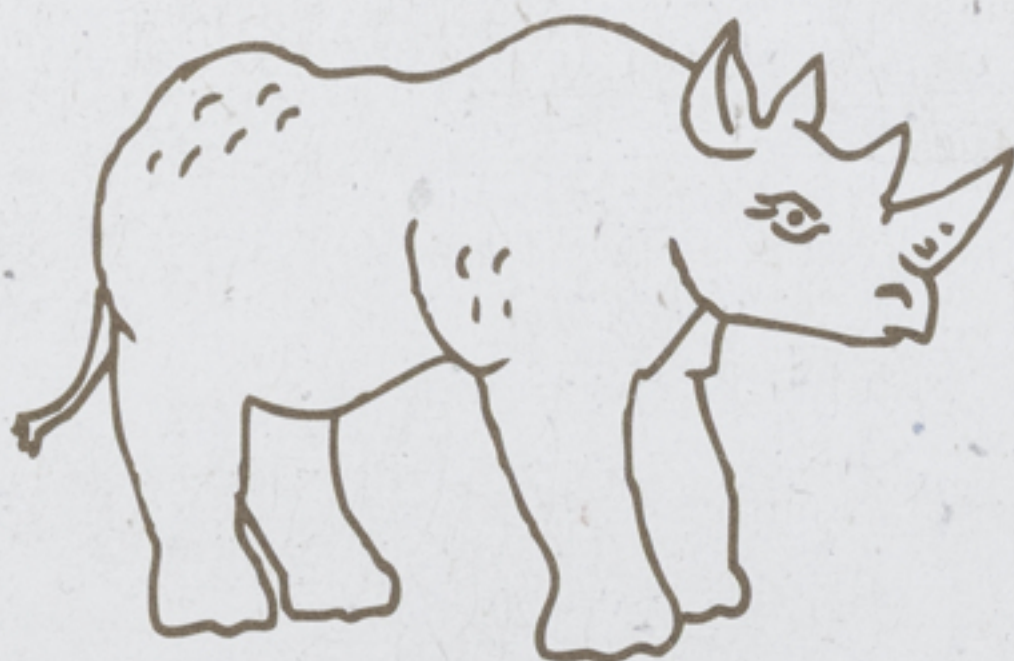
Our founder George Mottershead coined the motto 'Always Building' during the 1950s post-war period of development. We've carried on his philosophy of constantly exploring new ways to adapt, evolve and innovate in our mission to prevent extinction. We're delighted to share new updates on two major upcoming developments - Heart of Africa, and an exciting new habitat for a never-before-seen animal at the zoo.

Bringing an African savannah to Chester

Set to be completed in 2025, Heart of Africa is a brand new zone at the zoo which will showcase and celebrate the vast and varied ecosystems of Africa. Spanning a huge 27 acres, it's set to house innovative habitats for more than 55 animal species. These majestic animals will be spread across varied landscapes, with a sprawling savannah as the centrepiece.

This grassland area will be a mixed species habitat with freely roaming giraffes, zebras, antelopes, warthogs and ostriches. Other endangered species in Heart of Africa will include the black rhino, four species of African vulture, the electric blue gecko and the pancake tortoise.

Bordering this recreation of an African savannah will be the first ever accommodation at Chester Zoo. 56 luxury lodges will be available for overnight stays,



complete with a stunning vista of animals exploring their authentic African habitat. Alongside this will be a brand new restaurant, serving a mix of delicious African cuisine and offering panoramic views out to the savannah.

Heart of Africa will be key to our conservation mission, enabling us to progress our pioneering work to help prevent the extinction of endangered species.

Our innovative approach sees us develop the science and technology here at the zoo, before working on the front line with partners in Kenya and Uganda to augment local programmes.



Heart of Africa will be a phenomenal experience and will cement Chester Zoo's standing as one of the world's leading conservation-based zoos. Featuring state-of-the-art conservation breeding facilities for a range of threatened African species, Heart of Africa will yet again see us push the boundaries of world-class animal care.

Jamie Christon, CEO

Announcing snow leopards!

In a Z magazine exclusive, we're delighted to announce plans for a state-of-the-art snow leopard habitat which is set to open in 2024. This innovative new space for these elusive big cats will form part of a new Himalayan zone, which alongside Heart of Africa and the existing Islands zone is part of our plan to create the most authentic spaces possible at the zoo.

Snow leopards are beautiful animals, but they are facing a critical threat from climate change. We want to educate and inspire change through the new habitat, which will recreate the snow leopard's natural mountainous home. This will be a large space perfect for snow leopard exploration, with a Himalayan-style stone building serving as a viewing area where you can see the endangered big cats up close.



Of course ambitious developments like this will mean certain areas of the zoo may not be accessible over the next couple of years. As our valued members you'll be the first to know of any temporary closures. We've also got plenty of extra surprises in store in other areas of the zoo while building works take place, so keep your eyes peeled for future updates!

YOUTH SYMPOSIUM 2022

Be a voice for change

11-12 November 2022



Last November we hosted our very first Youth Symposium, with young people from across the world of conservation sharing their stories.

This year's Youth Symposium is returning Friday 11 - Saturday 12 November 2022 and we are inviting young people aged 16-30 from across the country to share their experiences, knowledge and passion for conservation!

We want to reach a wide range of contributors and participants from young researchers, activists, youth-led organisations, youth boards, policy makers and young leaders.

Our themes for this year's Youth Symposium are:

- Conservation action
- Strengthening participation
- Young conservation leaders
- Youth governance
- Inclusivity and diversity

For more information about speakers and to book your tickets please visit our website





EXPEDITION: SAVING SPECIES

A VERY IMPORTANT briefcase has been stolen and we need YOUR puzzle solving skills to return it!

Join us on an extra special adventure with our BRAND NEW interactive game that will take you on an expedition around the zoo...

Some mischievous lemurs have stolen nature documentarian, Elizabeth Terrin's briefcase full of crucial scientific research about animal extinction! Elizabeth needs your help to find her research that's now scattered around the zoo.

You'll need to work as a team to solve puzzles and crack clues, taking you on a fast-paced expedition spanning the globe. Be quick about it! You only have 45 minutes before Elizabeth is due to take centre stage at an international conference and deliver her research, showcasing these important findings to the world!

£20 per group, head to Adventure HQ on your next visit to purchase. Members receive 10% discount!



SCAN
TO FIND
OUT MORE





Tales of big cat Conflict



As we announce our joining of the Terai Tiger Project in India, in a Z magazine exclusive, Dr Mayukh Chatterjee, Chester Zoo's Field Programme Manager recalls one of his most memorable cases of responding to a conflict situation in the wild.

In 2021 we began supporting the Wildlife Trust of India on a conservation initiative in the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. Here, tigers and leopards roam between forests and cross through human villages, often coming into conflict with people as they do so.

In India, people have coexisted with big cats for many years, and so the project aims to stop that relationship deteriorating. In the long-run, education and community engagement hope to reduce the incidence of conflict by reducing the likelihood that big cats and people encounter each other at close range. Until then, teams have been acting in response to conflict when it arises.

Mayukh is now Chester Zoo's Field Programme Manager for Mainland Asia, but until 2021 was himself deeply involved with this project as a member of the Wildlife Trust of India. Read on to find out about Mayukh's experience dealing with a real-world big cat conflict.



The Dhanaura Leopardess

Let me take you back to 20 February 2016. We're in Mithanpur village, in North Uttar Pradesh. A leopard had been spotted roaming near the village and began being chased by a mob attempting to drive her away. Fleeing, she fell into a dry well, becoming trapped.

This caused quite a stir, and all too often in situations such as these, big cats draw a huge crowd of concerned observers which often makes the situation worse. Thankfully, local forest department staff had covered the well to prevent villagers from harassing the leopard and worsening the situation.

We were then called in - the Rapid Response Team (RRT). With me at its head, our job was to take stock of the situation and find a scenario that would lead to no injuries, either leopard or human. We arrived at around 11pm and immediately made an assessment of the leopard. This was a healthy adult female, not known to have injured any humans or livestock in the area, and judging from her excellent condition it was most likely she was surviving in nearby sugarcane fields and patches of vegetation, with ample supply of prey such as feral animals.

In addition, the late night setting meant that thankfully, most of the crowd from earlier in the day had returned home. Had the animal been injured or a large crowd still present, it may have been necessary to relocate the animal out of the area to a forest patch miles away, but this last resort was not needed this time.

The challenge was to help the leopard out of the well on its own. By midnight, we had assembled two bamboo ladders to be dropped into the well, while two camera traps were armed at the well's exit to capture the leopard as it left. All personnel were then removed from the site to a distance of 200m for safety.

By 3am however, there was still no sign that the leopard had left. Likely it had not associated the ladder as climbing support. We needed a more natural alternative. So an hour later we harvested two eucalyptus tree trunks from adjoining farmland and carefully lowered them into the well over the already present ladder.

Again, we waited. At 5:30am we were stirred by the loud alarm calls of two jackals in the near vicinity. We checked again, and this time we found the well empty, indicating the leopard had escaped using the tree trunks and subsequently startled the jackals in her path. The trunks themselves bore claw marks up until three quarters of the way up, suggesting at that point that the leopard had leapt the rest of distance at significant speed. So fast in fact, that unfortunately neither camera trap was able to photograph her exit.

These early successes at big cat rescue provided us with important lessons on how to act in future. We always prefer to provide the animal with safe passage to escape the conflict situation on its own, rather than intervening. It's important to understand that animals like leopards live alongside human habitations on a regular basis in countries like India and Nepal, without causing any harm to humans or their livestock.

We repeated this practice again in Badaun, April 2016, again waiting till nightfall to allow a leopard to escape from a well and slip into the forest under the cover of darkness. Success.

Now here in 2022, our efforts continue to find long-term answers that will allow coexistence to persist.

**CONSERVATION
AND SCIENCE**

AT **CHESTER ZOO**

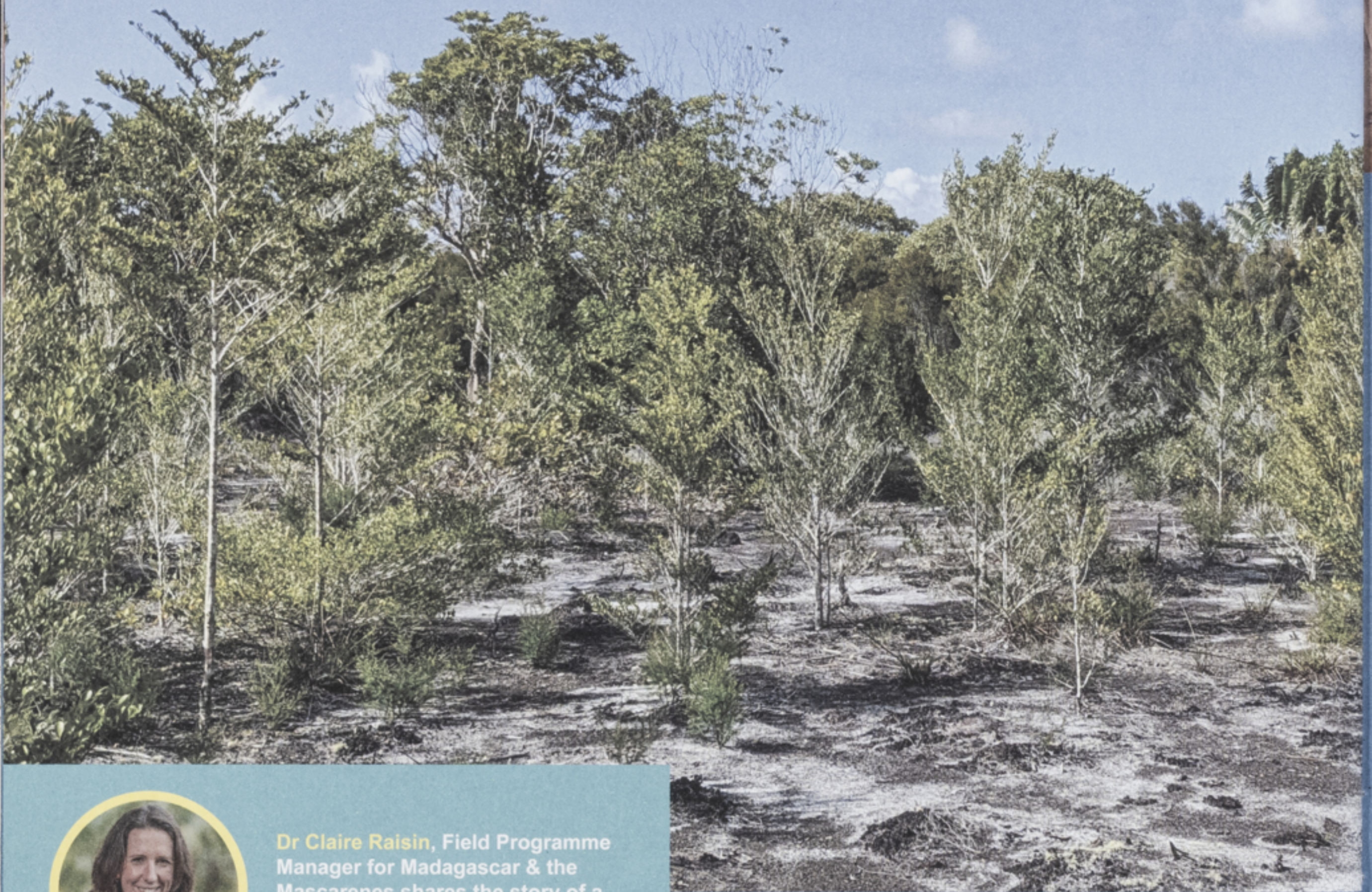
For more on the Terai Tiger
Project from Dr Chatterjee,
check out our latest video





In the Field: Agnalazaha, Madagascar

A challenge threatening Madagascar's rarest forest type could be solved with something that is a common sight for farmland in Britain, but unseen in most Malagasy landscapes – the hedge.



Dr Claire Raisin, Field Programme Manager for Madagascar & the Mascarenes shares the story of a visit to our latest international field project in July 2022

Once our luggage eventually caught up with us in Madagascar it was time to hit the road for the 700km journey down to our field site in the southeast of the country. Day one was a bumpy 12 hours down to Ranomafana and then day two was an even bumpier six hours to Farafagana on the east coast of Madagascar.

I was travelling with two Chester Zoo colleagues, Greg from the Science Team and Liz from Horticulture and Botany. This was a new experience for all of us – Greg and Liz had never been to Madagascar before and although I've been to the country a few times, I'd never travelled this far south.

We were in Madagascar to visit a new project that we are delivering with Missouri Botanic Gardens (MBG). Although MBG are primarily known for their botanic gardens in the US, they also have a thriving office in Madagascar with 90+ staff, working across 11+ sites.



CONSERVATION AND SCIENCE

AT CHESTER ZOO

The project that we are involved in aims to introduce the concept of laying hedges as an alternative to building fences.

Bringing hedges to Madagascar

Not far from Farafangana is the commune of Mahabo Mananivo and within Mahabo is a rather special forest. The Agnalazaha Forest is one of the largest remaining fragments of littoral forest in the whole of Madagascar. Littoral forests are found near the coast and exist on nutrient poor, sandy soil. Every year, local farmers are forced to chop down woody stems from the Agnalazaha forest so that they can build fences to protect their crops from free-ranging cattle and pigs. The extraction of these wooden stakes degrades the quality of the forest leaving it more vulnerable to fire and sea-winds. This makes it a less suitable habitat for the variety of wildlife that depend on it, including the critically endangered white-collared lemur.

MBG have been working with local farmers to introduce the concept of hedges as stock-proof barriers, beginning with barbed wire fences while the plants grow. To produce the plants needed, ten local women (all of whom are unmarried mothers with children under 5 years old) have been recruited to work in a nursery. Their effort and care will see plants grown to produce the backbone of the hedges themselves, alongside species to add to the hedge with other useful traits, such as medicinal properties or producing edible fruit. Progress at the nursery has been excellent (they're beginning to run out of room!), but they are having a few challenges and Liz was with us on this trip to share some suggestions and trial new methods.

This project is quite bold and we're well aware that we are asking people to accept a concept that is completely new to them. This was where Greg came in! Greg is a social scientist with expertise in understanding behaviour change, and he's working with the MBG evaluation team to make sure that we are asking all the right questions and are truly understanding people's attitudes, concerns and hopes.

We spent a few days at the MBG site getting to know the team and understanding the project, then we moved on to the community of Baboaka. A number of farmers in Baboaka have joined the project, and they were eager to show us their fences and tell us about the challenges they face. Some farmers have reported up to 100% loss of their crops to grazing cattle, so anything at all we can do to help protect this vital food source, will have a significant impact on their lives.

Later in the week we headed to Agnalazaha Forest itself. Agnalazaha is a protected area with two zones, the central strict protected area and the surrounding sustainable use area which allows local communities to legally use forest resources in a sustainable way. It was fascinating to walk through the rapidly changing habitats, from highly degraded land that had recently been burned, to areas that are in the process of being restored by MBG (some even had the holes dug from tree planting and were just waiting for the seedlings to arrive), to the complex and very tall forest in the central zone.

It was an absolute pleasure to meet the MBG team and the community members working with them. I can't wait to go back next year and see how everything is progressing.



DISCOVER tales from around the WORLD



THE LANTERNS

AT **CHESTER ZOO**

11 November - 23 December

around the WORLD

This winter, we're inviting you to join us for another incredible year of The Lanterns, as we bring you a magical experience that's uniquely Chester Zoo.

We'll take you on a journey around the world, where you'll set off from the zoo and travel to distant lands, each one different to the last.

From animal-inspired illuminations, traditional festive scenes and interactive puppets – discover an enchanted lantern lit trail like no other, and even a sprinkling of snow!



What to look out for in 2022

Delve into a Norwegian fairy-tale land as you encounter a multi-coloured, glowing castle towering high in the heart of the zoo and watched over by a huge white bear.

Wander through giant lotus flowers and flying dragonflies in a Japanese inspired garden, then earn your own stripes with our zebras in an African zone.

Come face-to-face with life-size orangutan puppets along your trail, as you immerse yourself in a spectacular UV Bornean jungle. Then meet the glowing wolves surrounded by the sun, moon and stars, and a giant snow leopard guarding a snowy mountain at the end of a light tunnel.

The Lanterns wouldn't be complete without Father Christmas, who along with his reindeer will be here to spread some Christmas cheer!

Our Christmas Market will also return, with so many delicious festive treats on offer, including Yorkshire pudding wraps, festive burgers, fresh pizza and, of course, bratwurst. Delicious plant-based options will be available too.



Don't miss out on the perfect way to kick-start your Christmas celebrations. Book now!

Child tickets start from £11

Adult tickets start from £13

Children aged 2 and under enter free of charge



CHRISTMAS



SHOPPING

at
CHESTER ZOO



We're delighted to reveal our magical range of Christmas decorations for 2022, which are available online now and in our zoo shop from 22 October! Demand for these products is always high, so act fast to avoid disappointment.

This year we're offering Christmas decorations based on three unique themes. Treat yourself to a full matching set, or why not mix and match to create your own unique festive display?

Jewels of the Jungle

This collection offers a mixture of typical zoo animals but some with a twist! These decorations are flamboyantly finished with lashings of glitter to jazz up your Christmas tree. The Jewels of the Jungle range also includes our faux fur animals that are always a huge hit with our guests.



Frosty Christmas

Taking more of a traditional Christmas approach, Frosty Christmas includes cold-weather animals in beautiful festive colours. With icy blues and frosty glitter accents, this is where you'll find the penguins, polar bears and reindeer that we all associate with colder climates and Christmas.



Enchanted Forest

Enchanted Forest is our final collection and celebrates British wintertime. This collection includes beautiful foxes, owls, squirrels and deer. With vibrant copper tones and beautiful shades of sage, pine and moss greens. Perfect for reminding us to look after the wildlife all around us this winter.



Other magical Christmas gifts



We have a HUGE range of other extra special gifts available to purchase at the zoo or online.

Gift a membership – Why not give the gift of unlimited zoo access to your friends and family this Christmas? Members also get 10% off in our shops and restaurants, free entry to other zoos and attractions, invitations to special member talks and much more!

Experiences – The perfect gift for animal lovers, our Experiences are a unique chance to get closer than ever before to some of our amazing animals and plants. From hand-feeding giraffes to being a gardener for the day, there's something for everyone!

Adopt an animal – Not only will your recipient get an exclusive adoption pack for their favourite animal, but their name will be displayed on a 'Thank You' plaque near the habitat, along with other exciting benefits.



Find all these and much more at chesterzoo.org/online-shop/

Don't forget that as a loyal member you always get 10% off in our gift shop at the zoo and online! Shop online to get incredible zoo-themed gifts delivered to your door, or click and collect from the zoo for FREE! Enter 02FFPMYFZ8G2 at checkout to get your online discount*.

For a limited time, all members can get 15% off our online gift shop using MEMBERS15AW until 30 September 2022!

DISCOVER OUR NEW SCHLEICH RANGE!

Schleich animal toys are perfectly designed to promote creativity and imaginative play. These beautifully designed figures and playsets feature high-quality craftsmanship to capture diverse playing worlds. Promoting creative play since 1935, Schleich has created hand-painted figurines designed to inspire kids. Available now at the zoo!



OUR ONLINE SHOP'S HAD A MAKEOVER!

We've completely overhauled our online shop with brand new products, and photography so you can see every single detail of our exciting product ranges. Finding that perfect gift (or treat for yourself!) is easier than ever before!

On top of this, you'll can support wildlife as you shop! Every penny you spend online contributes to our critical mission of preventing extinction. Your support is SO important to us - each cuddly toy, bottle of gin, gift or book you buy is helping to fund our vital work.



Scan to see our new shop!

*Code valid until 31 December 2022. Discount excludes Charlie bears, books and one-of-kind signage.



Junior Programme 2022

Discover, explore, share & learn

We have loads of exciting activities available to Junior Members aged 0-17.

You can find out more and book your place on our website at chesterzoo.org/events

Conservation Tots

Calling mums, dads, grannies, grandads, families and little tot minders!

Bring your little tot to the zoo to play games, explore and have messy fun! Join us for our Tots sessions for lots of EXCITING activities for just £2 per child.

The sessions run from 10:30am until 11:30am every Wednesday during term time.

Places are LIMITED so book your place as soon as possible to avoid disappointment! We'll be at **Bembe Coffee Shop** located at the main entrance of the zoo.



These activities are for you and your little ones to enjoy together. The sessions are ideal for 1-3 year olds, but other children up to the age of 5 are very welcome.



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

JUNIOR RANGER CAMPS 2022

≡Members Exclusive≡

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

The camps run every Sunday for FIVE weeks. Each week we explore different parts of the zoo and learn about our amazing animals and incredible conservation work. You can choose from morning sessions (10:30am – 12pm) or afternoon sessions (2pm – 3:30pm)



Book now for our block running from 13 November – 11 December

CHRISTMAS CAMP IS BACK! ☆☆☆

Are you aged between 6 & 11? Do you LOVE wildlife and Christmas? If so, Junior Christmas Camp will be perfect for you!

Join us for festive fun and games, all with an animal twist of course! From lantern making to animal spotting, it's going to be magic!

This year's Christmas camps will run on Saturday 17, Sunday 18, Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 December 2022. You can opt for a morning session (10:30am – 12:30pm) or afternoon session (1:30pm – 3:30pm).

- Saturday 17 December: Age 6-8 years
- Sunday 18 December: Age 9-11 years
- Monday 19 December: Age 6-8 years
- Tuesday 20 December: Age 9-11 years



Booking available from October 2022.
 Please note that this event does not include admission to the zoo.

Members Update



Members Days

Our Members Days are always some of the highlights of the year for everyone at the zoo. It's so rewarding to see dedicated members like you enjoying everything the zoo has to offer with your friends and family.

For those of you who haven't been to a Members Day, they give you the chance to bring up to four guests per member at a discounted rate. Half price guest tickets are available by pre-booking only.

Our next Members Day is coming up on **Sunday 20 November** so be sure to get the date in your diary! We'll be sending you all an email a couple of weeks before then with details on how to book your tickets.

Membership information and updates

In winter 2022 we will be launching our brand new digital magazine experience, with exciting dynamic features that are only possible on a digital platform. We appreciate that a small number of members will be unable to access this, and we don't want you to miss out on any updates. With that in mind, we've added a new Members Board in Membership HQ at the main entrance. This will contain all of the latest information on Members Talks, Members Days, Junior Rangers events and anything else you need to know.

If you haven't already provided your email address for the new digital magazine, scan this QR code to let us know how to reach you.



Members Talks - Autumn 2022 programme

Our Members Talks have always been really popular and are the perfect way to find out more about how we prevent extinction. With a programme of monthly talks you'll hear from our animal and plant teams to get the the latest news about zoo wildlife, find out more about our incredible science and education work and hear stories from our field partners.

October 2022

Giraffes can't dance

Lisa Holmes - Lead Conservation Scientist for Behaviour and Welfare

Join our Behaviour and Welfare Scientists as they tell you all about the work they do behind-the-scenes with the Curators and Animal Teams to monitor our animals. The team will provide updates on some of their latest research projects with species including Asian elephants, Rothschild giraffe, Komodo dragons and Southern cassowary among others.

November 2022

An evening with our Bird Team

Andrew Owen - Curator of Birds

Join our bird team for an amazing avian evening! Find out all about the work going on behind the scenes with updates from our different bird sections. With breeding successes, new habitats and new species arriving at the zoo, and the challenges faced by avian influenza it's been a busy couple of years. Andrew and the team will update you on all of these as well as the ways we're preventing extinction of bird species across the globe.

December 2022

Bugs, badgers, birds and botany of the Chester Zoo estate

Helen Bradshaw - Field Programme Manager - UK and Site Ecology

Counting, watching, measuring, creating and waiting! Things have moved on leaps and bounds on the Chester Zoo estate. We're monitoring more species across a wider area than we have before and through our Nature Recovery Corridor project we've created new aquatic habitats and planted an orchard. Our monitoring work with our partners at Record continues to identify species on site that are scarce in Cheshire and in some instances in England. We've lots to update you on so come along and join us for an evening exploring the secret life of the zoo estate.

Members Talks are held in the Lecture Theatre (near the zoo's main entrance off the A41) and start at 7pm.

Booking is essential so please visit chesterzoo.org/events for more information about future talks and book your space.

Together, we
CAN make a
DIFFERENCE!

AS A REGISTERED WILDLIFE CHARITY,

We rely on the generous support we receive from individuals, companies, and trusts and foundations, to deliver our mission of **PREVENTING EXTINCTION.**

≡ **THANK YOU!** ≡

We would also like to **THANK** our many regular donors, fundraisers and supporters who enable us to continue to make a real **difference** in all that we do.

We are **ENORMOUSLY** grateful to all of our corporate supporters, partners and donors.

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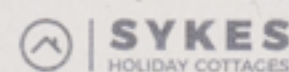
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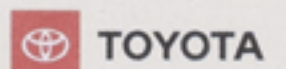
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There are a number of ways that you can support **CHESTER ZOO**. to find out more on how you can get involved please contact fundraising@chesterzoo.org

CHESTER ZOO

EXPEDITION BORNEO

WIN A ONCE IN
A LIFETIME TRIP TO

BORNEO

For the first time ever, we're giving one lucky competition winner the chance to experience our conservation work first hand in a trip like no other.

chesterzoo.org/expeditionborneo

Make a £3 DONATION to enter



Find out more



Making a difference



Bornean orangutan



Borneo eared tree frog



Orangutan bridge building



Borneo pygmy elephant



Palm fruit



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