

CHESTER ZOO

SUMMER 2016



Z Magazine...

Features

The official magazine for Chester Zoo
Members & Adopters

Z goes behind-the-scenes at the
INCREDIBLE ISLANDS!



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MEMBERS DAYS 2016
Friday 1 July
Sunday 6 November

Don't
Miss!

ADOPTERS DAYS 2016
Sunday 2 October

Design : viewcreative.co.uk

News from the Zoo

with Dr Mark Pilgrim
director general



Over the past few months we've had lots of animal arrivals, some great conservation news and record visitor figures, but before I tell you about that I'd like to start off with some very exciting news about *The Secret Life of the Zoo*. The television series, which aired in the winter, was a huge success and gave our visitors an added insight into the lives of our animals and the work we do. We are happy to announce that Channel 4 has commissioned a second series and we already have a crew from *Blast!* films gathering footage. I hope to provide you with more information about the series later in the year.

Islands

Many of our visitors have been coming to see *Islands*, which will have been open for a year in the summer. In the year, the plants have bedded in and flourished and if you've been recently you'll have noticed that the whole area looks fantastic. But it's not just the plants that have been blooming; we've been very lucky to have a flurry of animal births too. In the past few months we've seen the arrival of two banteng calves, two Visayan warty pigs and a Sulawesi crested macaque! This is an indicator that our animals have settled in their new homes and are thriving in their new environment.

Part of the *Islands* business plan was to expand our field programmes and in-zoo conservation team, putting conservation firmly at the centre of *Islands* as it is with everything we do here at the zoo. I'm very pleased to say that we are now starting to see that part of the plan coming to fruition as our field programmes team has recently grown. We've got lots of new, highly skilled conservation experts who've joined the team and are working up plans for even more projects to help endangered species in the wild.

Conservation

Staying in South East Asia we had some fantastic news earlier in the year when our Living with Tigers project received Darwin initiative funding. The project, which is led by our head of conservation science, Dr Alex Zimmermann, aims to reduce human-wildlife conflict by working with local communities to help people and tigers live safely alongside each other in Nepal. This funding means we can really get moving on this fantastic conservation project.

At the end of March, six members of staff were selected to become part of the 2017 Ecuador Expedition. They join a team of staff already in place meaning 13 staff members in total will make the expedition, including myself, who will be heading up the team. We will be surveying an area in western Ecuador which has the largest remaining population of the Ecuador Amazon parrot. This species is very close to my heart and I hope we see an increase in population of this beautiful species. You may be aware that there were major earthquakes in that part of the world recently and we've sent out some emergency funding to assist the rangers and their families so that they can start to rebuild their homes.

Strategic development plan

I'm very pleased to say that our trustees are happy with the direction of the strategic development plan which sets out the zoning and layout of the zoo over the next 20 years. The plan is currently in the early stages of development but the idea is to create large areas in the zoo themed around our conservation projects to create a synergy between the work we do here and out in the field. The next stage for us to start work on is the Malayan tapir and sun bear in *Islands* and we'll be sure to let you know when the work starts.

And finally...

Our exhibit *Dinosaurs! The Next Adventure* is now open. This is the third time we've had the dinosaurs visit the zoo, it's always very popular and I would highly recommend you come and see these magnificent beasts for yourself.



EGGCELLENT NEWS!

NEW ARRIVALS

Penguin chicks hatch

Fuzzy penguin chicks became the first of their kind to hatch at the zoo this year.

Keepers were delighted when penguin chicks hatched at the zoo in April. The tiny youngsters – threatened Humboldt penguins from South America – have been named after their keepers' favourite crisps.

Our staff use a different naming theme each year to help them to keep track of the new chicks, with popular potato snacks getting the nod this time around. Previous topics have included British Olympic athletes, chocolate bars and even the keepers' favourite curries.

Both penguin parents are involved in the rearing of the chicks until the juveniles leave the nest when they are around eight weeks old. Until then, keepers will be carefully carrying out daily checks on their weight gain and development.



Keeper Anne Morris, said:

"With more mouths to feed, more food is required and so we're providing the parents with extra fish so that they can keep the little ones well fed. It's quite a messy business as the adults churn the fish into a high-protein soup which they then regurgitate up for their chicks.

"It's vital that chicks take on-board enough nourishment each and every day in these early stages and so, in order to keep a close eye on their development, we weigh them on our tiny set of scales. So far, our new arrivals are doing very well and so they won't stay small for long. In the next few weeks we expect them to more than triple in size and weight!"

"Humboldt penguins are becoming increasingly rare. Of the world's 17 penguin species, they are now among the most at risk, so it's very important to us that our tiny arrivals create more awareness for these amazing birds. We've been very successful with this colony over the years and will yet again be making vital contribution to the European breeding programme for the vulnerable species."

Humboldt penguins live on the coastal areas of Peru and Chile, and are listed as vulnerable to extinction on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. We fund conservation initiatives in South America, where the species is threatened by climate change, rising acidity levels in the ocean and over-fishing – all of which is forcing them to search further from their nests for fish.



ISLANDS CHESTER ZOO
at ZOO
Extraordinary discoveries, every day

INCREDIBLE ISLANDS!

It's almost a year since we began lifting the curtain on the biggest development project in UK zoo history – *Islands*. As big as seven football pitches, the unique habitat has recreated the amazing tropical environments of six South East Asian islands in the heart of Cheshire. Z goes behind-the-scenes to see how the animals are settling in...



COOL CASSOWARIES

One species that's flourishing in its new home is the elusive and dangerous cassowary. Our two birds Timika and Asmat moved from within the zoo last June and have been showing fantastic signs that they are not only enjoying their habitat but also getting friendlier with one another, as keeper Zoe Sweetman explains:



What's so cool about our cassowaries?

"The first thing you notice about the cassowary is their dinosaur-like features, they started to evolve over 60 million years ago during the Cretaceous period and they are still a very big intimidating bird. Cassowaries use a series of low frequency booms and calls to communicate. These

signal their territories and breeding susceptibility, as well as many other things which we simply do not understand. I find the subtle way in which they communicate with one another through body language very interesting indeed. The gentle head bobs and body brushes observed between our male and female are almost romantic and watching such a large and powerful bird behave in this elegant manner is absolutely fascinating.

Can you tell us more about the enclosure and why it has been designed the way it has?

"Although cassowaries are a shy and secretive bird, they can become very aggressive if they feel threatened. They have a long claw on the inside toe which they use to kick out and injure any potential threat including humans. This means that they are classified as a 'category red' species, so we can't go in with them but our new enclosure has been fitted with lots of cameras giving us a brilliant insight into the cassowaries behaviour.

"Cassowaries are primarily a solitary species so it was vital that the enclosure was split into two separate sides so the birds could live in peace apart from one another for most of the year. However, as it has always been our aim to try and introduce our pair and with this in mind, there are several areas within the enclosure that can be opened so the birds can be brought together during the breeding season.

"As cassowaries are notoriously difficult to mix, we needed to be able to watch their behaviour and body language towards one another for several weeks before we risked putting them together. If you get this wrong, the female, being larger than the male, could cause him severe injury if she is not ready. This means that both the house and the outside areas have CCTV fitted so we can monitor the birds without altering their natural behaviour. We are now hoping that after a successful mix, this footage can be used to help other zoos figure out when they should be mixing their birds and hopefully increase the number of chicks being hatched."



Have you noticed any behaviour changes over the past 12 months, since their move?

"Our cassowaries have been through an enormous amount of change over the past year. The male has always been a nice and relaxed bird but he lacked a little confidence and was often nervous of new people. The female on the other hand was a very nervous bird, to the point of being aggressive to almost all her keepers and to any outsider who came into her territory. Since the move the change in both our birds has been astronomical. The male's confidence and ability to deal with change has improved amazingly and he is becoming an impressive and assertive bird who will hopefully be able to win over our female. The female herself is like a different bird altogether. She is relaxed and calm around all the keepers who work with her and she is a joy to be around. I have no doubt that their new enclosure has played a significant part in this. Their environment provides them with lots of stimulus, not only in the form of the public but also the boats, other animals and new situations every day. This has desensitised them and as a result of this our birds are on display much more frequently than they have ever been before and are making a fantastic display for our visitors.

"The move has been well worth it and our cassowaries are now an integral part of the *Islands* experience. As the public see them more and learn about these amazing birds they are becoming the stars of the show, a status I think they are well deserving of."

NEW ARRIVALS

It didn't take long for the animals to settle in to their new *Islands* homes and already we've witnessed something of a baby boom! We throw a spotlight on just a few of our newest arrivals...



SULAWESI CRESTED MACAQUE

Last year our primate team carefully introduced a new male Sulawesi crested macaque, Momassa, to our group of females and in no time he had worked his magic! Just eight months later the team were celebrating with the arrival of the first Sulawesi crested macaque to be born on *Islands*. They are extremely intelligent and social animals, so a new face always creates excitement in the group!

Sulawesi crested macaques are one of the world's most endangered primates and it's estimated that fewer than 5,000 are left on their native island of Sulawesi in Indonesia.

The species is listed as critically endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), largely because their habitat is disappearing due to illegal logging. They are also targets for poachers and are over-hunted for food as, in their homeland, macaques are considered a local delicacy and are served up on special occasions such as weddings. As a result, their wild numbers are believed to have plummeted by around 80% in the last 30 years. We are working with the local people living in Sulawesi and providing support to help save the forests and the diverse animal species living there.



WARTY PIGLETS

Back in December our twilight team were celebrating as twin Visayan warty pigs were born. With recent estimates suggesting that there are just 200 warty pigs left in their native habitat, these pig are very special indeed. The latest youngsters - born to mum Viv and first time dad Tre - currently boast yellow and brown stripes, a camouflage which will eventually fade at around 9-12 months.

Visayan warty pigs once thrived on at least six islands in the Philippines but, today, wild populations can only be found in the little forest that's left on the islands of Panay and Negros. Sadly they've been driven to the very edge of extinction in the wild, due in the main to habitat loss and hunting.

Our newest piglets are vitally important to a breeding programme which is looking to maintain a genetically viable population of the species in zoos around Europe.



BANTENG

A female banteng calf, which our keepers named Jasmine, was born in March.

The banteng is one of the few remaining species of totally wild cattle in the world and they are hardly ever seen in the wild. They are listed as endangered by the IUCN and their numbers have declined dramatically in the last 50 years due in the main to habitat loss and hunting throughout its native range. Banteng are now rarely sighted in Borneo where their remaining forest home is fragmented and populations isolated. They're facing a real battle for their survival as forests across South East Asia are being turned into palm oil plantations and hunting for their horns and meat, although illegal, is rife.



SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE



Successful breeding is just one sign that an animal has settled into a new home but there are many more that we look for. A team of scientists, headed by our animal behaviour and welfare scientist Dr Lisa Holmes, started monitoring the animals long before they moved to their new environments. Lisa spent some time explaining how and why we do this...

"If you've ever seen a member of staff with a clipboard outside an enclosure then they are probably observing our animal's behaviour. We study animal behaviour to understand what animals do and why they might do it. This can include the way animals find essential resources such as food or shelter, how they choose a suitable mate or how they might avoid danger such as poisonous food or predators. By researching animal behaviour we can discover so much about how an animal is and whether it's healthy. We can also learn about an animal's needs and personality traits, and for species that live within groups we can see how they interact with others and if they feel settled in their enclosure.

"We've been monitoring the behaviour of the animals that moved to *Islands* since 2014, long before they moved. This meant we got to know their personalities and how they behaved day-to-day so we could more accurately describe how the animals were settling in and what changes, if any, we were seeing when they moved. The behavioural data we've been collecting have been on six key species - banteng, rhinoceros hornbills, Southern cassowaries, Sulawesi macaques, Sumatran tigers and Sumatran orangutans.

"So how do you know when an animal is settled? This can vary depending on the species and we might use different measures to assess how settled an individual or group of animals are. The more you know your animals the more accurate you can be in your assessment of how they've settled. Animal moves can be a little difficult for some individuals, much like when we move house or start a new job or school. Some animals may settle more quickly than others so it's important to regularly monitor individuals and not just during that initial period.

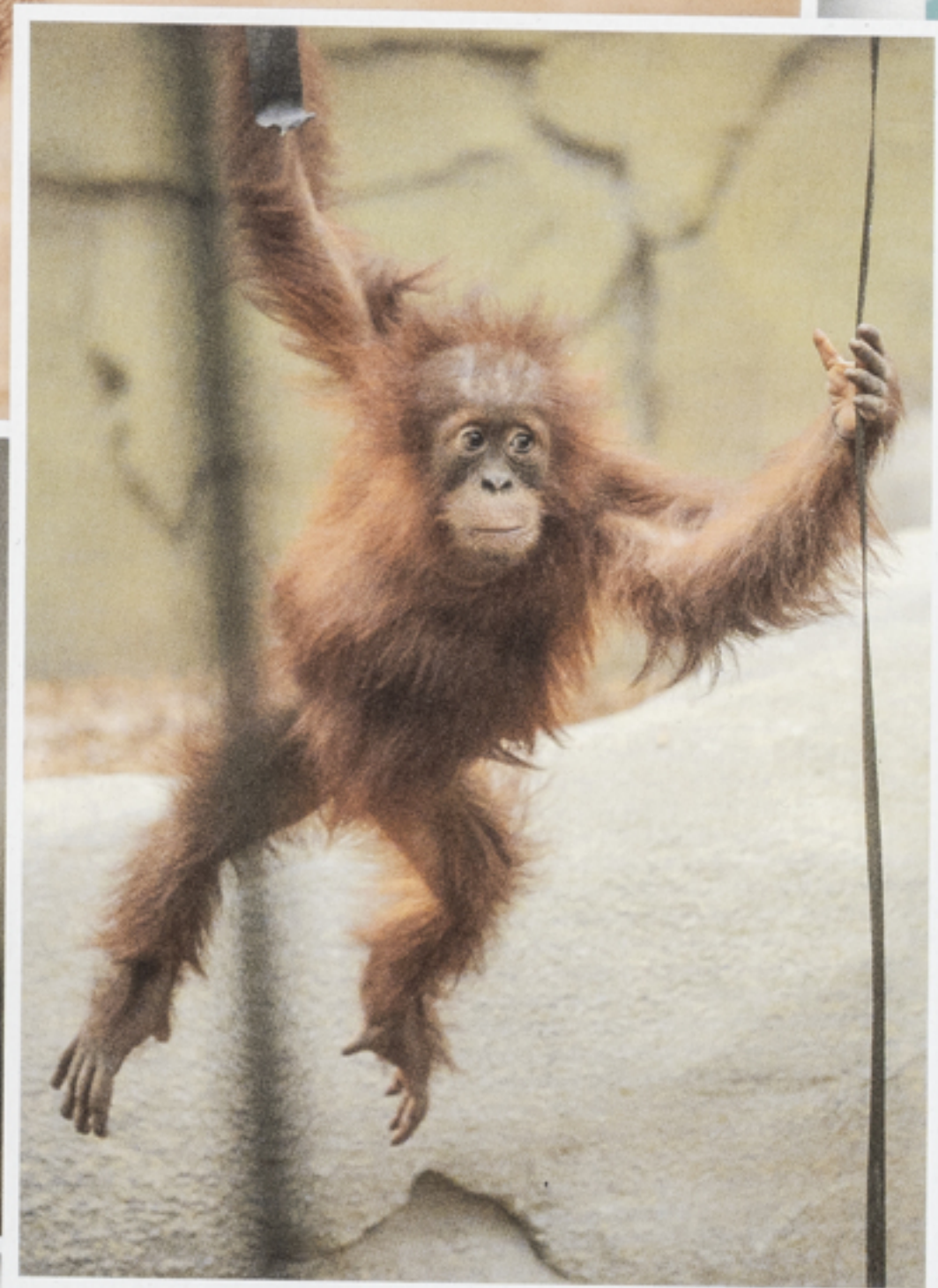
"We use the expertise and knowledge of our animal teams as they know their animals better than anyone so they will see subtle changes in behaviour. They will be looking for the animal's response to the new enclosure space and the way they interact with other group members, as well as to the keeping staff. We can help by collecting additional data throughout the day when the keepers are needed elsewhere and we frequently have staff doing this.



By working closely with the animal teams we can report any behaviour changes we see and make small changes when necessary. All of our staff work tirelessly to ensure that our animals feel happy, safe and secure in their homes, whether they've lived there for years or have just moved into a brand new habitat like *Islands*.

"When the enclosure is new we'll also be looking to see how they explore the space and if there are particular areas that individual animals prefer, or even avoid. For example, with the Sumatran orangutans we looked to see how often they used the new sway poles that promote natural locomotion behaviour and where they decided to build their nests for the night. Once you see an animal exploring a space and happily foraging away and building their bed you know they are comfortable!

"As we are still collecting data, we haven't yet analysed all of it, but we can say with a great deal of confidence that all of the animals appear to have settled in well and spent a huge amount of time exploring their new homes. We've had some new babies born and seen lots of positive social behaviour between the animals so we hope that this continues over the summer as the weather improves!"



HELPING ANIMALS IN THE WILD

We help many animals that are on the very edge of extinction in South East Asia and work closely with conservation partners in this region, one of them being the Satucita Foundation. The foundation works with the critically endangered painted batagur.

The painted batagur is a species that has seen its numbers plummet in recent times, due to excessive hunting for its eggs and the deterioration of its environment around the rivers where it nests.

The team at the Satucita foundation monitor the beaches and rivers where the batagurs live during breeding season. They find nests with eggs then incubate and protect them. The results from the last breeding season were brilliant with the nesting patrols successfully saving & incubating 898 eggs from 55 nests. So far, 576 of these eggs have hatched from a number of nests, giving a hatch rate of 88.4% per nest which is a real boost to the species. Once the turtles are reintroduced back to the wild some of them will have trackers placed on them so the team can continue to monitor their progress.



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THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

The world is dealing with an unprecedented spike in illegal wildlife trade. It is the greatest direct threat to the future of many of the world's most iconic species. It is vital that we work around the world to try and stop trade in its tracks.



What is illegal wildlife trade?

Illegal wildlife trade is the sale or exchange of wild animal and plant resources more often than not, the species in question are threatened by extinction and are protected by international trade law, making it highly illegal to remove them from their natural habitats and to use them in trade.

It can include live animals and plants or a range of products sought after by humans – including animal skins, medicines, horns and other animal parts, luxury food, fashion items or pets.

The trade, or sale, can happen in physical markets, in covert exchanges and on the internet in virtual markets. These virtual markets on social media now appear to facilitate the live animal trade in similar ways to open physical markets.

It's a huge, lucrative industry - worth \$19 billion annually - which is threatening the future of many species around the world.

The international trade of species that are of conservation concern is monitored by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

From 2005 - 2009, CITES recorded an annual average of more than 317,000 live birds, just over 2 million live reptiles, 2.5 million crocodylian skins, 1.5 million lizard skins, 2.1 million snake skins, 73 tonnes of caviar, 1.1 million coral pieces and nearly 20,000 hunting trophies being traded illegally.

We work with several conservation projects that focus on wildlife impacted by the illegal wildlife trade, trying to stop trade in its tracks.



COMBATING RHINO HORN POACHING

Rhino poaching has increased drastically in recent years; since 2008 poachers have killed at least 5,940 African rhinos. That's devastating news. The rhino population in Chyulu Hills National Park, Kenya is particularly difficult to protect as it's one of the only remaining free-ranging black rhino populations left in the world!

Protecting the seven remaining black rhinos in Chyulu Hills is a huge challenge; especially with the highly organised nature of the poaching business. We are working with the Big Life Foundation to help monitor the vast park area. We fund the vital ranger salaries, guard and tracker dogs as well as other essential field equipment and fuel for their patrol vehicles among other things.

Go to the Act for Wildlife blog to read an interview with one of the heroic rangers who is working on the frontline of the war against the illegal wildlife trade.

THE SOUTH EAST ASIAN SONGBIRD CRISIS

In South East Asia, the trade of song birds has reached crisis point. Wild populations are disappearing from the forests to be sold on markets as part of the pet trade. Our partners, the Cikananga Conservation Breeding Centre (CCBC) in Java are working to help save bird species impacted by trade, including the black-winged starling and Javan green magpie, by breeding these critically endangered birds to then release them back into safe habitats in the wild.

In 2014, the centre was victim to a theft of over 100 critically endangered birds and it's believed the birds were stolen to be sold in illegal wildlife markets. Since the break-in we have provided funding to protect the centre from further thefts, a larger, more secure perimeter fence has been erected around the centre and guard dogs are now used for increased protection.

With bird trade in Indonesia being so ferocious at the moment, the security of release sites is of paramount importance, so we've conducted exploratory work to identify new, secure release sites for the birds. Chester Zoo staff have also visited the centre to microchip the birds and train field staff in this technique, with the hope that this will act as a deterrent to thieves.



WILDLIFE WITNESS...

Help fight the illegal wildlife trade

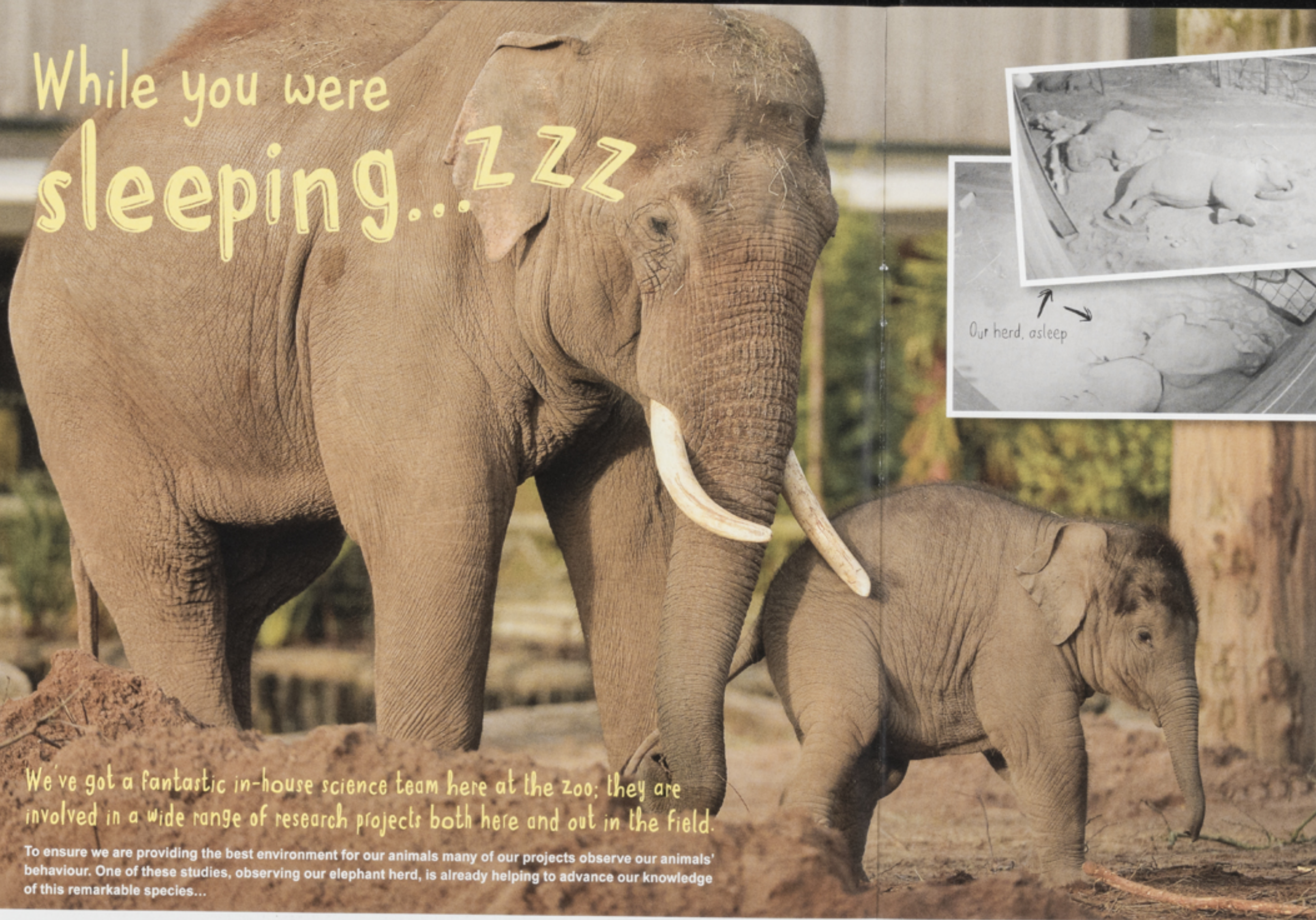
We've recently embarked on a new partnership with TRAFFIC (the wildlife trade monitoring network), Taronga Zoo and San Diego Zoo to launch **Wildlife Witness**; a global community action tool to help put a stop to the ruthless illegal wildlife trade.

Wildlife Witness is a mobile phone app which was developed by Taronga Zoo and TRAFFIC, it allows members of the public travelling in South East Asia (one of the world's wildlife trade hotspots) to safely and discreetly report instances of illegal wildlife trade. So, if you are travelling to South East Asia and want to do your bit to combat illegal wildlife trade, download the app and become a Wildlife Witness!

Join us in the fight against illegal wildlife trade.
Find out more at www.actforwildlife.org.uk/illegalwildlifetrade

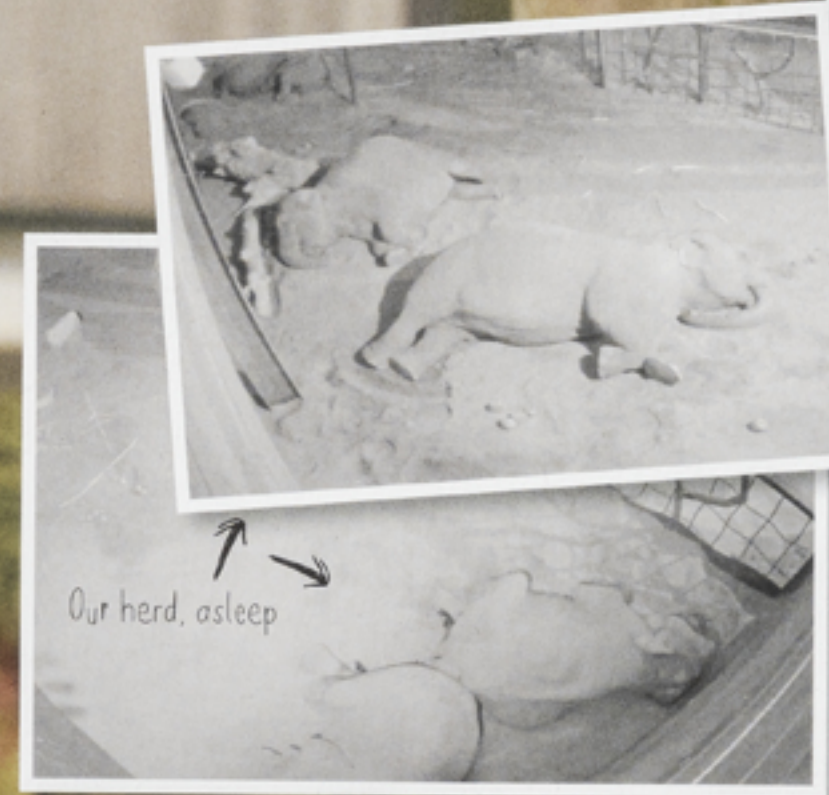


While you were sleeping... zzz



We've got a fantastic in-house science team here at the zoo; they are involved in a wide range of research projects both here and out in the field.

To ensure we are providing the best environment for our animals many of our projects observe our animals' behaviour. One of these studies, observing our elephant herd, is already helping to advance our knowledge of this remarkable species...



EMMA



How long have you worked at the zoo?

Six years.

Why did you become a zoo keeper?

Ever since I was little I always liked animals. I grew up on a farm, surrounded by animals, and love being outdoors, but I wanted to experience something a bit different to domestic animals so working as a zoo keeper was an obvious career path for me.

What is your favourite animal?

I love working with the elephants, they are very clever, social and have such characters. They are definitely my favourite.

What's been your most memorable moment whilst working here?

It has to be the birth of Nandita. Although I have seen five calves born in my career, watching a birth live was very special. Seeing the family coming together and being able to watch such an occasion for our Hi Way family of elephants was such a privilege.

Emma Evison is one of our dedicated elephant keepers. As well as doing her day-to-day job she works in conjunction with our in-house science team to keep an eye on the behaviour of our elephants, looking at the psychological wellbeing of our herd. She's been doing this for two years now, and spent some time to explain how and why we conduct these studies...

"Over the past few decades scientific advancements have enabled us to have a greater understanding of many animals in our collection, one of them being the elephant. We've learnt a lot about this beautiful creature. We now know that elephants have a highly developed sense of communication, which means they use all five of their senses to communicate with one another and we've also learnt that they are very sociable animals. The strength of social bonds between individual elephants has a big influence on cohesion in

the whole group and consequently the health and wellbeing of the herd. I've been observing the social affiliations of our herd for two years now to give us an insight into our elephant's psychology.

"So how do you monitor the social affiliations of an elephant herd? We decided the best way of doing this was observing the herd during the night, as this is the time of the day when they have no human interaction, giving us a unique insight into how they react without us around. Using cameras that are already installed around the house, I watch the sleeping patterns of the herd over a 12 hour period from 7pm to 7am, twice a week. I record when they sleep, when they get up, what time they sleep, who they sleep with, how they sleep, what side they sleep on, where they sleep within the house, and note down if they are touching too.

"One of our main ways to ensure our elephant herd is mentally healthy is to maintain a stable social herd. We have built up a unique herd here, with most of our elephants related to one another, as they would be in the wild. Science has shown us that if elephants are happy in their environment they tend to lie down to sleep and my observations have shown that our current herd do sleep together which is a sign of their physical health and that they are socially compatible.

"I also observe the relationships between the elephants in the herd and it's great to see bonds develop and grow, as I've recently seen with Nandita. Since her birth last year, the herd have become even closer and I've been amazed to see the relationship develop between Nandita and her sister Sithami, they are extremely close so much so that Nandita not only suckles from her Mum, Thi, but also from Sithami too.

"This is what happens in the wild and is remarkable to see; it shows we have a happy healthy family unit that are comfortable in their environment.

"I really enjoy observing our herd and hope our work monitoring their social affiliations will develop and grow. At the moment I produce a quarterly report for our team, our curator and the science team and I hope to get my work published for the wider zoo community in the near future. We are at the forefront of elephant wellbeing in zoos and the work we are doing here will enable us to gain a deeper understanding of this truly fascinating species."

NEW

OUR NEW EXHIBIT...

The aye-aye enclosure

At the end of April we opened a very special enclosure for two of our newest residents Raz and Mamy, the aye-ayes. This is the first time aye-ayes have gone on display at the zoo and we've transformed the back of the Tropical Realm into their new home. Aye-ayes are the world's largest nocturnal primates and keepers hope that Raz and Mamy will help raise the profile of this highly threatened animal.

ANIMAL FACT FILE



AYE-AYES

Aye-ayes are the world's largest nocturnal primate – measuring from 74-90cm in length which includes their large, bushy tails.

This weird and wonderful creature has large yellow eyes, which help it see in colour, even in the dark, which is uncommon for a nocturnal animal. They have many more interesting attributes including ears that rotate independently and a long, bony middle finger which they use to extract grubs from trees. They sleep in nests high up in trees which they make by weaving lots of twigs together.

Aye-ayes are listed as an endangered species by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and experts believe there may be as few as 1,000 to 10,000 left in the wild. They are found on the African island of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean, and are under threat because of deforestation destroying their natural habitat, poaching and persecution from farmers who take umbrage with their night raids on sweet crops like coconuts and sugarcane. Some local Malagasy communities also believe they bring bad luck and as a result, they are often killed.



THE ENCLOSURE

The first thing you'll notice when you go into our aye-aye enclosure is that it's very dark! This is because we've switched the clock lighting around in their enclosure so it's night time for them in the day, and daytime between 10.00pm until 10.00am.

This allows you to see these fascinating nocturnal creatures when they are active, while also enabling the keepers to service the enclosure when the lights are still up in the morning. So how do you make an enclosure for a nocturnal animal? Nick Davis assistant curator of mammals explains:

"Designing a habitat for our aye-ayes was a difficult task taking months of preparation and collaboration between many teams. Working closely with the capital development team, primate team and our project liaison officer we have transformed the former capuchin enclosure. Aye-ayes are often solitary animals so we had to design a habitat which had separate areas for the animals, as well with an area where we could mix them, so they can potentially breed in the future.

"Aye-ayes are very sensitive to white light so we can only use low level floor lighting in the viewing area. However, they don't see red light very well, so we decided to install a selection of red lighting in the animal area which would give visitors a better chance to see these fascinating animals."

"The next step was for the keepers to move Raz and Mamy in and get them settled in their new environment. A wide range of enrichment was used for the animals, in particular encouraging their unique natural foraging behaviours. At this point our science team also spent time observing the aye-ayes on a daily basis and recording their activity levels. Only once we were satisfied that both animals had settled in their habitat did we then open the doors to the visitors."

HOW WE'RE HELPING AYE-AYES IN THE WILD

We are working out in Madagascar to help protect the forests where aye-ayes live. A big part of this is focused on engaging local communities to try and change their attitudes towards the wildlife that live there.

Working with our conservation partner Madagasikara Voakajy, we're also helping locals to develop more eco-tourism, teaching new techniques for growing crops that don't involve expanding into the forest and maintaining a permanent research presence in the area. If you would like more information about the conservation work we are doing in Madagascar please go to our [ACT FOR WILDLIFE](http://actforwildlife.org.uk) website

actforwildlife.org.uk



The Secret Life of the Zoo

We're thrilled to announce that Channel 4 have commissioned a second series of The Secret Life of The Zoo. Series one of the documentary gave viewers a behind the scenes look at some of our wonderful animals and dedicated keepers. It was a huge hit bringing in over two million viewers each week.

Mark Pilgrim, director general said:

" Series one gave viewers a unique insight into the lives of our animals and threw a spotlight on the incredible passion and dedication of the keepers that care for them. It was thrilling to see the births of a Rothschild's giraffe and an Asian elephant calf in such intimate detail. Importantly though, it helped us to drum up some appreciation for lesser known, critically endangered species such as mountain chicken frogs and Philippine cockatoos - and the work we are doing to try and conserve them. Modern, forward-thinking zoos can play a significant role in wildlife conservation and we're pleased that, by taking viewers behind-the-scenes with us, we've helped to change a few perceptions. As we care for more than 20,000 animals there are plenty more remarkable species for viewers to know in series two."

Crews from Blast! Films are now in the zoo filming potential stories for the new series. As yet we do not know a broadcast date for the episodes but as soon as we do, we will let you know.



kids ZOO

SUMMER 2016



JUNIOR
MEMBERS'
PROGRAMME

Events 2016

Most events on our programme are open to all our junior members aged between 8-18 (with the exception only of the Day-with-a-Keeper and the Summer School which are for older children). So if you fancy coming along, please book yourself onto an activity.



THE GREENWOOD CENTRE SATURDAY 25 JUNE

Back by popular demand! This park, situated in the foothills of Snowdonia, is an amazing mix of an environmental park offering fun and games as well as good education – including den-building, and various self-propelled 'rides'. Definitely not to be missed.

Eights and over should be ready to leave the Cedar House staff car park at 9.30am and we will return for 5.00pm. **Bring a picnic.**

DAY WITH A KEEPER THURSDAY 28 JULY

This is a unique opportunity offered to junior members to spend a day working alongside a zoo keeper. The work can be tough and demanding so we strictly limit this event to those juniors of **12 years old or over**. We try to match juniors to their favourite section, but places are limited so this cannot be guaranteed. Please arrive prepared to work hard, with squeaky-clean wellies and an additional completely clean set of clothes to work in.

Owing to the zoo's biosecurity measures, it is important that the clothes you wear to work on the sections have not been in contact with any farm animals, or even your pets at home, since they were last washed.

We will meet outside Oakfield House at 10.30am, and the day will finish at 4.00pm. **Please bring a packed lunch. Please note: bookings for this event will not be taken before 9.00am on Thursday July 14 2016, (01244 650215) and will be strictly on a first-come, first-served basis.**



JUNIORS' SUMMER BBQ THURSDAY 4 AUGUST

This is your opportunity to be in the zoo when there are no other visitor noises to distract you and the animals. We usually aim to have a speaker to chat to you or to engage in craft activities or to do zoo tours during the evening, but you can be sure to find it relaxing.

We would like to invite children **aged eight and over** to join us for a 7.00pm start, when you should arrive at the main entrance. **Parents are asked to collect juniors from the main entrance at 9.45pm please.**

JUNIOR MEMBERS' SUMMER SCHOOL FROM 8-12 AUGUST INCLUSIVE

Please note that the two week booking rule does **NOT** apply to this event and **EARLY BOOKING IS ADVISED** (anytime from December 2015 onwards).

The summer school is open to juniors aged 12 and over. Participants must be able to attend for the full duration. The cost will be £190.

A full day of action-packed, but relaxed training, is provided closer to the time to those who cannot attend. The Summer School will encompass a wide variety of theoretical and practical training including a mid-week field trip, live mammal trapping, tours of the zoo, and talks from a variety of zoo staff. It is a fantastic opportunity to get to know about the real workings of a modern zoo and will appeal especially (but not exclusively) to anyone wanting to follow an animal based career.

FULLY BOOKED



TWYXCROSS ZOO

SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

It is always nice to see how other zoos do things. Be prepared for a fairly long bus journey but it will be well worth it!

Eights and over are asked to join us, meeting at the Cedar House staff entrance at 9.00am, and we will return there for 5.30pm. **Bring a picnic with you.**

TATTON PARK HOME FARM AND THE DEER RUT

SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER

We will start the day with a visit to Home Farm where we'll find out how the farm used to work many years ago when Tatton Hall was a family residence. Then head out into the park to identify some of the different deer species that reside there which is especially interesting in October when the red deer will be in their rut.

Eights and over should be ready to leave the Cedar House staff car park at 10.00am and we will return for 4.30pm. **Please bring a picnic with you.**

WIRRAL COUNTRY PARK – THURSTASTON

SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER

We will start our walk at Thurstaston and will amble along the Wirral Way from there, back to the dungeons and then on as far as we want to go!

We will leave the Cedar House staff car park at 11.00am and return at 4.00pm. **Over eights are invited to attend and you should bring a picnic with you.**



CHRISTMAS PARTY

FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER

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

The venue will be June's Pavilion. Access can be gained through the main entrance. You should arrive at 7.00pm, with your cushion and a torch, and we will guide you to the venue. **Parents should arrange to collect you from the main entrance at 9.45pm.**

Please Note: Bookings must be made for all events. Please ring Penny Rudd at the zoo on 01244 650215, not more than two weeks before the event you would like to attend (except the junior members' summer school for which bookings are taken from December 2015 onwards). Places are offered on a first-come, first-served basis and may be limited. This list is provisional and in exceptional circumstances we may have to alter dates and venues. You will be informed of any such changes in Z magazine and not by individual letter, so please keep up-to-date by reading the junior pages in each issue. A charge will be made to cover the cost of those events which involve transport, entry fees, materials or the provision of food, and you will be advised of this at the time of booking.

Dinosaurs are a group of reptiles that roamed the Earth from the Triassic period, around 230 million years ago, through the Jurassic period until the end of the Cretaceous period, around 65 million years ago. During this time, the planet changed dramatically and the land gradually split up from one huge continent into smaller ones. The changes in the climate and vegetation due to the land splitting affected how dinosaurs evolved. There was a wide range of diverse species of dinosaurs, they came in all shapes and sizes and one thing that they all had in common were their legs. All dinosaurs had straight legs underneath their bodies, this allowed them to move much faster than other reptiles whose legs were sprawled to the side and this is one of the reasons they were so successful as a species.

Dinosaurs

Cool stuff you never knew about dinosaurs

The Largest Dinosaur...

Was an Argentinosaurus. It was 40m long and weighed 100 tonnes-which is a similar weight to a 747 aircraft.

The Smallest Dinosaur...

Was the Compsognathus and was about the size of a chicken.

The word dinosaur comes from...

The ancient Greek words deinos ("fearfully great") and sauros (a lizard). The word was coined by English palaeontologist Richard Owen in 1842 and was meant to refer to dinosaurs impressive size rather than their scary appearance.

Many plant eaters had natural weapons at their disposal to help fight meat eaters such as the Allosaurus. Examples of this include the spikes on the tail of the Stegosaurus and the three horns attached to the front of the Triceratops's head shield.

Pterodactyls are not dinosaurs, they were flying reptiles that lived during the age of dinosaurs but by definition they do not fall into the same category. The same goes for water based reptiles such as Plesiosaurs.



DESIGN-A-SAURUS

We would like you to design your own dinosaur, here are some tips

- Try and draw your dinosaur in its habitat (where it lives)
- You could include the special parts of the body to help it survive.





Dinosaur Quiz

- 1 What came first the Jurassic or Triassic Period?
 Jurassic Triassic
- 2 True or false? Birds evolved from dinosaurs.
 True False
- 3 What evidence exists to prove dinosaurs existed?
 Fossilised dung Tooth marks on bones
 Fossilised nests and eggs All of the above
- 4 Dinosaurs had how many limbs
 Three Four
 Two All of the above
- 5 A person who studies dinosaurs is known as a what?

To be in with a chance of winning a £10 voucher to spend in the zoo shops, send your entry by Friday 1 July, send your entry together with contact details to:

Z magazine, Media Department, Chester Zoo,
 Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH
 by Friday 1 July

Here are a few of the dinosaurs you can see in our

DINOSAURS! THE NEXT ADVENTURE

exhibition, which runs until 4 September in the Dragons in Danger garden.

GIGANOTOSAURUS

Means
 "giant southern lizard"

How to say it:
 gig-an-OH-toe-SORE-us

Meat eater (carnivore)

Length: 12.5m

Weight: 8000kg

Lived: 112-90 million years ago

Dino Fact:
 They had an enormous jaw filled with 20cm long serrated teeth.



STEGOCERAS

Means
 "horned roof"

Pronounce:
 ste-GOS-er-as

Plant eater (herbivore)

Length: 2.4m

Weight: 77kg

Lived: 76-74 million years ago

Dino Fact:
 They used their domed heads to head-butt each other when fighting.



DILOPHOSAURUS

Means
 "two ridged lizard"

How to say it:
 die-LOAF-oh-sore-us

Meat eater (carnivore)

Length: 6m

Weight: 500kg

Lived: 190 million years ago

Dino Fact:
 The two large crests on its head are thought to help attract a mate.



ACT FOR WILDLIFE

CELEBRATES 5 YEARS

Its five years since we launched ACT FOR WILDLIFE - our conservation campaign that is helping to save precious wildlife from going extinct around the world. Thanks to your support we've been able to achieve some truly amazing things!

To mark the anniversary, we've taken a look back over the past five years and picked five of our proudest moments...



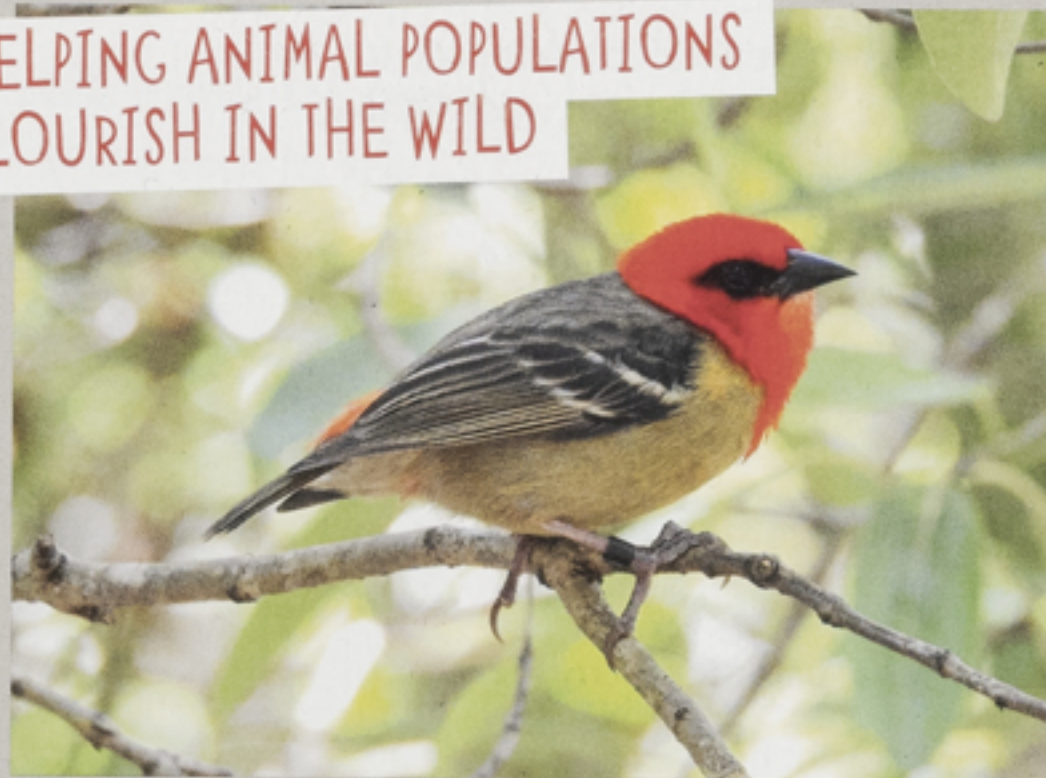
REDUCING HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Over the last few decades Asian elephant populations have decreased dramatically as a result of human activity.

Assam, a region in India, is home to a large population of Asian elephants but their forest habitat is shrinking as it's being cut down to be replaced by villages and crops. Elephants often venture into these agricultural areas looking for food. In their search they often damage the villager's crops and homes – destroying their livelihoods and lives. People then retaliate by harming the elephants.

We decided to Act for Wildlife and we set up our Assam Haathi Project to reduce human-elephant conflict and over the past five years the project has expanded and grown dramatically – we've gone from working with 22 villages in the region to 115! As part of the work we've been doing in Assam, we've helped these villages to install electric fences around crops and homes to protect them from the damage caused by passing elephants. With the electric fences in place, there has been no loss of crops, housing or lives – both elephant and human.

HELPING ANIMAL POPULATIONS FLOURISH IN THE WILD



The Mauritius fody is a beautiful small forest-dwelling songbird which was on the brink of extinction just seven years ago but thanks to your help and support the population of this beautiful bird is increasing.

We work in partnership with the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation sharing expertise and knowledge with our colleagues working out in the field. Our bird keepers regularly visit the project, spending time training the team in techniques developed here at the zoo. The results of the work done to protect the Mauritius fody have been amazing with the bird being reclassified by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (ICUN) from critically endangered to endangered.

CHANGING PEOPLE'S PERCEPTIONS

SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL CHALLENGE

We launched our Palm Oil Challenge campaign last year to raise awareness around the impact unsustainable palm oil is having on wildlife and what we can do here in the UK to help.

Palm oil is an edible vegetable oil that comes from the fruit of oil palm trees. As it's so cheap and efficient it is now the most widely used vegetable oil in the world and global consumption is rising - over 50% of the products found on supermarket shelves contain palm oil.

The demand for this type of oil has resulted in the rapid expansion of oil palm plantations, mainly in Malaysia and Indonesia, where around 85% of the world's palm oil is now produced. Large areas of rainforest are cleared to make way for oil palm trees, destroying the homes of orangutans, tigers, elephants and rhinos.




There's an urgent need for all palm oil to be grown and managed sustainably to stop forests from being destroyed. The Palm Oil Challenge is leading the way to make sustainable palm oil the norm. We're celebrating the companies who are already committed to 100% certified sustainable palm oil, supporting those that want to be sustainable and making it easier for everyone to choose sustainable palm oil products when doing their weekly shop.



© Hutan

STARTING NEW PROJECTS

Thanks to your support we've been able to launch a brand new project: Living with Tigers. Using the expertise and knowledge gained in human-wildlife conflict mitigation in our Assam project, our Living with Tigers project will be working with local communities in Nepal to help people and tigers live safely alongside each other. **Keep up to date with the work we're doing around the world to protect precious wildlife by going to Act for Wildlife website or follow us on social media.**

 @ActforWildlife
  facebook.com/ActforWildlife
  @actforwildlife
 www.actforwildlife.org.uk

HELP US TO CONTINUE THE VITAL WORK WE'RE DOING AROUND THE WORLD BY MAKING A DONATION.

Go to www.actforwildlife.org.uk/donate to make a donation now. Alternatively you can text **WILD34 £5** to **70070** and donate **£5***

*Our Text to Donate service is delivered through Just Giving. T&Cs apply, for full terms of service please visit Just Giving

© Bill-Cuthbert



LEADING THE WAY IN UK WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Last year we helped start Britain's first carnivore recovery scheme. We're major partners in the pine marten recovery project which is run by Vincent Wildlife Trust.

Pine martens are thriving in Scotland, but in England and Wales the population is in danger of extinction. The overall aim of the project is to restore self-sustaining populations of pine martens to England and Wales where habitat and other conditions are suitable. Last year the project completed its first cycle and the results were fantastic; we saw the successful movement of 20 pine martens from Scotland to specially selected sites in Wales. We also supplied funding for camera traps to monitor their progress – which of course, we'll keep you up to date with!

HELPING IN EMERGENCIES

Last year we launched an emergency appeal when over 4,000 critically endangered Palawan forest turtles were seized by authorities on their way to the illegal wildlife trade market.



© Sabine Schoppe

Thanks to your generosity we managed to raise over £1,000 to support the rehabilitation of the turtles. All of the money raised went to our partners, The Katala Foundation, who did an incredible job rehabilitating the turtles, getting them back to fitness and ready to be released back into the wild.

Wildlife
CONNECTIONS



Join the other 350 people who have signed up to get involved in WILDLIFE CONNECTIONS and become a WILDLIFE CHAMPION!



Since we launched WILDLIFE CONNECTIONS at the start of the year we've had over 350 people sign up to do their bit to help local wildlife. By all working together we can join one wildlife friendly space to the next and help protect the precious animals and plants that we all love. Not only have you been sharing the fantastic photos you've captured of the wildlife you've spotted around you, you've also been keeping us updated with what actions you've taken to make your garden or local space more wildlife friendly.

You've been a BUSY BUNCH!



WILDLIFE CHAMPIONS

As part of the campaign we've been working closely with a number of different community groups across Chester, Flintshire, Cheshire and the Wirral; inviting them to attend a series of free workshops led by experts from the zoo and our conservation partners.

The workshops aim to help them develop their skills and provide them with the know-how in a number of different areas, including: planting for wildlife, what they can do to help birds, toads and hedgehogs, wildlife recording and activities they can do with their group to help wildlife.

Judith Hancock volunteers for Girlguiding UK. She told us why she wanted to take part in Wildlife Connections:



"I love the great outdoors and the wonderful wildlife that lives in it and as a retired teacher I also love inspiring and teaching the younger generations. I now spend my time inspiring the guiding community as a Guide leader and activities coordinator for the brownie and guide site at Girlguiding campsite at Pettypool in Cheshire.

"I'm always on the look-out for ways to get the girls engaged with local wildlife so when I saw that Chester Zoo could provide me with skills and expertise to enable me to do this, I jumped at the chance.

"As a Wildlife Champion I get the opportunity to attend eight workshops which will give me a whole host of skills and activities that I can pass on to the guiding community. I attended the first four workshops in April and learnt a lot including how to build a mammal survey tunnel and how to encourage birds in our open spaces.

"The workshops were brilliant, I came away with a whole host of activities I could do with my guiding groups and I got to share ideas with other community leaders. I've already passed on the skills I learnt at the workshops as I hosted a range of wildlife days at Pettypool throughout May where Beavers, Brownies and Guides made some of the items that I learnt to make in the workshops.

"By becoming a Wildlife Champion and inspiring people to care about it, I feel that I'm doing my bit to preserve the wildlife in this beautiful country for future generations. I would encourage any community group leader to sign up to become a Wildlife Champion!"

You don't have to be part of a community group to take part in Wildlife Connections; just sign up to our campaign by heading over to our website www.chesterzoo.org/connections and start making changes to your local space.

We've plenty of guides and resources online to help inspire and get you started. We can all make a difference to UK wildlife by creating spaces that are perfect for our local wildlife to thrive. So, what are you waiting for?

Don't forget to share what actions you've completed with us too.
www.chesterzoo.org/connections

WE LOVE BEES



Now summer is almost upon us, you've probably spotted some bees buzzing around. These brightly coloured, instantly recognisable insects are really important to us. They're great pollinators and are vital in helping produce the food we eat. In fact, did you know, bees pollinate around a third of everything we eat?

There are 24 species of bumblebee in the UK but there are only eight common species that can be found in most places across the country; these include the white tailed, red tailed, buff tailed, garden bee, heath bee, common carder, tree bee and early bee.

Sadly, our beautiful bumblebees are disappearing at a worrying rate as a result of pesticides, habitat loss and disease. Seven species have already declined by more than 50% in the last 25 years and three UK bumblebee species have become extinct!

That's why it's important we do all we can to help them.

There are some really simple things we can do to our garden that will make a BIG difference to bees.





HOW TO GET YOUR GARDEN BUZZING WITH BEES...



Bees rely on flowers for food and like us they need a varied diet. So, one of the easiest ways to help bees is to grow a variety of flowers and plants in your garden. You can search online to find a list of 'bee friendly flowers' to give you an idea of different plants for different seasons – for example, grow English lavender and poppies in the summer and tree ivy in the winter.

- Avoid plants with double or multi-petalled flowers
- Never use pesticides on plants in flower
- Grow a range of plants for year-round flowering
- Wildflowers can also attract a wider range of pollinating insects.



TIPS: Another thing you can do is buy or make a bee house to help provide shelter for queen bees in the winter or a home during spring and summer when the bees will be extremely busy.



Use our step-by-step guide below to make your own bee box:

Step 1 - Materials

- 4x4 inch block of untreated wood (or a large log)
- 5/16 inch or 7/16 inch drill bits
- 6x6 inch plank for a roof (or a log for a roof) (optional)
- Screws for mounting

Step 2

- Drill holes of varying sizes into a block of wood, leaving about 3/4 inch between the holes.
- Do not drill through the block as bees will not use it if open at both ends.

Step 3

- Choose the east or southeast side of a building, fence or tree, with some shelter if possible.
- Angle down slightly to prevent water from entering the holes if not adding a roof.

Step 4

- Mount the house with the bottom 3 to 5½ feet about the ground.

Step 5

- Observe the bees to check if they are using the house.
- Notice what plants the bees like and add more to your garden.

Step 6

- Check the house a few times a year to make sure it is in order.

For more guides and resources on how to make your garden or green space more wildlife friendly, head over to our website:

www.chesterzoo.org/connections

A DATE WITH THE BAT MAN

Nestled between the greater one horned rhinos and the South American tapirs is a large building filled with over 400 flying creatures. These fascinating animals spend their time flying, eating, mating and generally conducting their daily lives all under the cloak of darkness. They are our colony of 400 bats that live in Fruit Bat Forest.



Dave White, team manager, gets to see our bats on a daily basis. He's one of the team that lead our Fruit Bat Forest encounter. The encounter gives you the opportunity to go behind the scenes at the zoo, feed our sebas bats and spend some time with one of our very knowledgeable keepers. So what's so special about bats? Dave spent some time explaining what fascinates him about these flying mammals...



"Bats to me are really intriguing creatures; they've got lots of attributes that most people don't know about. Apart from rodents, bats are the biggest group of mammals in existence, with over 1,100 species living everywhere in the world apart from Antarctica. Sadly they often get a bad press - fiction writers like to link them to vampires - but, in truth, of 1,100 bat species there are only three vampire bats that feed on the blood of large mammals. They are the only mammals to have developed the ability of true flight, as they can actively gain height with wing beats. They've got a fantastic anatomy and have made adaptations for both living upside down and in darkness. They are also really important for the environment as some species kill pests and spread seeds, so they play a pivotal role in the ecosystem.

"Our colony of bats are made up of two species - Rodrigues fruit bats and seba's bats - that live together in Fruit Bat Forest. When you enter Fruit Bat Forest you are plunged into darkness; we've switched the lighting around so it's night-time for the bats in the day, and daytime between 10.00pm until 10.00am. Some visitors are apprehensive as they are worried about the bats flying into them but bats are brilliant navigators; their ears are more important than their eyes and they use a special sonar system called 'echolocation,' meaning they find things using echoes. I'm a real advocate of bats and the more I see and learn about these creatures the more I admire them. I would encourage anybody to come and meet them too."

If you would like to book for our **Fruit Bat Forest Encounter** please call 01244 650281 or go to www.chesterzoo.org/batencounter

HELPING IN THE WILD

We have been working with our field partners at the Mauritius Wildlife Foundation on their Rodrigues fruit bat population surveying and monitoring project on the island of Rodrigues for 13 years.

ANIMAL FACT FILE



RODRIGUES FRUIT BATS

Head and body length: 22-25 cm

Wingspan: 75cm

A large bat, they belong to the genus Pteropus which are generally known as the flying foxes. Critically endangered in the wild, they come from a tiny Rodrigues island, part of the country of Mauritius, in the Indian Ocean. Back in the 1970s, they had almost vanished and numbers dropped to around 70. Gerald Durrell, world famous pioneer of conservation breeding in zoos, acquired a small group to start a breeding programme, which we have been part of since 1983. We have around 180 Rodrigues fruit bats here at the zoo.

SEBA'S BAT

Head and body length: 48-65 mm

Wing span: 34-45 mm

Found in Central and South America where they occur primarily in humid tropical evergreen forests. Their reported roosting sites are caves, hollow trees, logs and buildings, Seba's bats eat fruit and tend to remove individual fruits, or mouthfuls of fruit then head to a preferred feeding roost. They feed with their heads down and hold the fruit to their mouth with their thumbs.



BAT FACTS

The world's largest bat is the Kalong (also known as the Javanese flying fox). It lives in South East Asia and feeds on fruit. It has a wing span of almost 2 metres making it the biggest bat in the world!

Bats help control insect populations, reseed deforested land, and pollinate plants, including many that we eat, (famously they pollinate agave, essential in the production of tequila). Researchers and scientists also learn from bats to improve medicine and technology

BAT MYTHS

Bats are blind

All bats can see. Many types of bats like the ones we have here at the zoo have small eyes and can use echolocation to navigate, but they are not blind. Some big bats can see three times better than humans.

Bats are flying rodents

Bats are not rodents. Bats are classified in their own order of mammals called Chiroptera, which translates as "hand-wing".

FUNDRAISING NEWS

NEVER FORGET ART EXHIBITION in collaboration with Funky Aardvark

The lovely people at Chester's community run gallery, Funky Aardvark, have joined forces with Chester Zoo to run a Never Forget art exhibition – and we are calling for your contributions!

The exhibition is being held in memory of Bala and Hari Hi-Way, our two young elephants who sadly passed away last year after contracting the deadly elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus (EEHV). It is open to entries from the public and will feature sculptures, painting, photography or anything you can think of! Any memories of elephants are welcomed; we want the exhibition to be a celebration of these magnificent animals.

If you would like to enter a piece into the exhibition, you can take it into Funky Aardvark between 10am and 5pm on 10, 11 and 12 July. There will be a £5 entry fee, which will include a donation to our Never Forget campaign, raising money for vital research into EEHV. We will try to include as many entries in the exhibition as possible, but we may need to be selective if we have a high demand. If this happens, the entries will be judged by a panel of representatives from Funky Aardvark and Chester Zoo.



If you'd like any more information, contact **Funky Aardvark** on **01244 630202**, email info@funkyaardvark.co.uk or visit www.funkyaardvark.co.uk.

WE WILL
NEVER
FORGET

The exhibition will be held between 15 July-12 August at Funky Aardvark's gallery on Bridge Street Row East, Chester.

CHESTER ZOO "100 CLUB"

WINNERS OF THE RECENT PRIZE DRAWS WERE:

JANUARY 2016

- £100 Mrs D Duffy, Liverpool
- £100 Mrs Cynthia R Graham, Chester
- £50 Mrs Rosemary Anne Larcombe, Telford
- £50 Mr Antony Sykes, Huddersfield
- £50 Mr Alan Varty, Wirral
- £50 Mr Gerard Milan, Rhyl

FEBRUARY 2016

- £100 Mrs June Colclough, Stoke-on-Trent
- £100 Mrs Susan Swan, Hawarden
- £50 Mr Alan Andrews, Northwich
- £50 Mrs LA Parsons, Woolton
- £50 Miss Christine Parker, Wallasey

MARCH 2016

- £100 Mr Robert Jewitt, Dukinfield
- £100 Mr Ray Morrison, Great Sutton
- £100 Mr Brian Piercy, Chester
- £50 Mr Alan Varty, Wirral
- £50 Mrs Deborah Ridgeley, Ellesmere Port
- £50 Mr John Frederick Knott, Stockport
- £50 Mrs Pauline Ann Dutton, Ellesmere Port

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

FLYING HIGH FOR CONSERVATION



We are delighted to announce that Airbus will continue to support Chester Zoo's conservation work as part of a new three year sponsorship partnership.

Leading aircraft manufacturer Airbus, whose Broughton site is located in North Wales where wings for the entire family of Airbus commercial aircraft are manufactured, has supported conservation at Chester Zoo for eight years.

Airbus support numerous projects related to flight right here in the zoo, including our Tsavo National Park Bird Safari exhibit, having been involved since it was built.

More recently Airbus has been helping to support our conservation work in the Mkomazi Game Reserve and National Park in Tanzania. The reserve covers a vast area, some 36,000 square km. In order to protect the critically endangered rhinos from poachers, the reserve's pilot Tony Fitzjohn uses an aircraft to monitor and alert the rangers to any issues. Airbus' support has been fundamental in supporting the running costs of the aircraft for the last three years. On a recent visit to the UK, Tony Fitzjohn visited the Airbus plant at Broughton to thank them for their support, meeting employees to explain why their support so important.

Chester Zoo and Airbus recognise that education is key to conservation, whether it's working on the ground in Mkomazi or with the next generation of conservationists in the schools of Cheshire and North Wales. This is why our Safari Ranger outreach programme works collaboratively with Airbus on a number of activities with young people in the region focusing on science related activities and how they can impact conservation.

Melanie Cowieson, development manager at Chester Zoo said: "We're delighted to be able to continue our long standing partnership with Airbus and are very grateful for their support of our conservation work."

Kath Hayes, community relations manager at Airbus Broughton Plant said: "Airbus is proud to be a responsible business and support many environmental activities in our community, which is why we are pleased to continue our partnership with Chester Zoo and the essential conservation work they do, both locally and overseas."



AIRBUS

**REMEMBER A CHARITY
IN YOUR WILL**
Help the work live on...



This year we have joined the national REMEMBER A CHARITY campaign – an initiative that makes it easier for people to leave a charitable gift in their will, once family and friends have been looked after. We are a global conservation charity so individual donations such as this could leave a lasting impact on the living world.

In support of this initiative, we are working in partnership with Chester based law firm **Hillyer McKeown** www.hillyermckeown.co.uk.

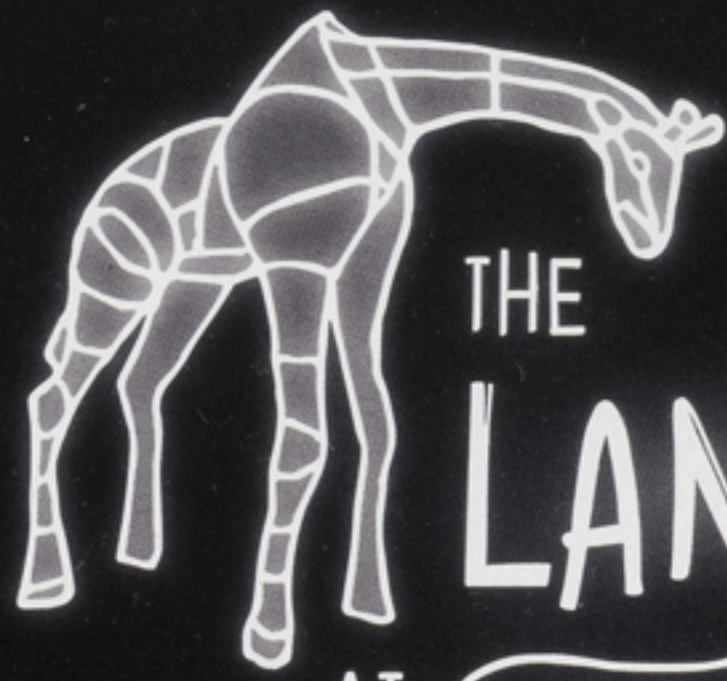
Richard Burnett, Partner at Hillyer McKeown said, "We have worked with Chester Zoo for a number of years and are excited to be partnering together to promote charitable legacies and will-making for such a great cause."

Want to find out more or have a question you'd like answered?

Please contact **Lynsey Whitley** in the zoo's fundraising team on **01244 650292** or by emailing l.whitley@chesterzoo.org

Also, if you'd prefer to chat face-to-face, then please drop in and see Lynsey on the Member's day event on Friday 1st July. Lynsey will be in Bembe Coffee Shop between 10am and 2pm... do come and say hello!

MEMBERS PRIORITY
BOOKING



THE LANTERNS

AT **CHESTER ZOO**

WATCH YOUR
CHILDREN'S
EYES LIGHT
UP...AND THEIR
IMAGINATION
RUN WILD.

The Lanterns at Chester Zoo is a magical night time journey through the zoo.

Stroll through the enchanted forest and then on to see your favourite lantern animals – the perfect start to the festive season.

Tickets for The Lanterns at Chester Zoo are strictly limited and go on sale later in June. As a member we want to give you priority booking so if you don't already receive emails from us contact M&A@chesterzoo.org and we'll add you to our mailing list.

To book or for more information go to:

chesterzoo.org/lanterns



limited dates available

25th-27th November

2nd-23rd December

2016



NEW IN THE SHOP...



CRAFTWERK BRITISH WOOL NEEDLE FELTING KITS

Craftwerk produce remarkably realistic animal needle felting kits, made out of British wool and designed by sculptor, Heather O'Leary.

Sculpture needle felting is a relatively new craft form which is growing in popularity and these felting kits give you everything you need to make your very own felt animal. We offer a range of animals in our shop including penguins and polar bears.



'DEAR ZOO' WOODEN TOYS

We've got a gorgeous new range of 'Dear Zoo' wooden toys for children to enjoy and treasure.

The range is based on the popular children's book 'Dear Zoo' and includes a skittles set, puzzle tray and shape sorter.

2016 SPRING
PROGRAMME

Talking Conservation...

JUNE - SEPTEMBER

We're a major global conservation charity, as well as being one of the UK's top visitor attractions.

Want to know more about the work your membership supports, both here in the zoo and around the world? Join us for one of these special talks:



Islands and Beyond THURSDAY 16 JUNE

Now that *Islands* is completed, Simon Mann (development director) will be bringing an evaluation of the project to you, looking at what worked and what didn't from the perspectives of visitors, project teams and Chester Zoo. He'll also be updating you with what's happening next in *Islands*.

The Return of the Native: The pine marten recovery project TUESDAY 12 JULY



© Bill-Cuthbert

Dr Jenny MacPherson and David Bavin of the Vincent Wildlife Trust
The Vincent Wildlife Trust is currently carrying out a two year pilot to bring pine martens back to Wales and we are a major partner in this initiative.

This talk describes the progress to date and discusses some of the challenges faced by the project, the first large scale carnivore restoration in the UK. *Dr Jenny MacPherson is a zoologist for the Vincent Wildlife Trust, and is project manager for the Pine Marten Recovery Project, while David Bavin is the project officer.*



An Evening with our Carnivore Team

WEDNESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

Join our carnivore team for a fun evening and an update on the various species on their section, including the sun bears, spectacled bears and jaguars. Come armed with the questions you've always wanted to ask.

Interested in attending?

Please call Kate in Education on 01244 389831 or email k.branksin@chesterzoo.org to book.

Members' Talks

held in the Geraldine Russell Lecture Theatre (near main entrance off the A41), start at 7:30pm (doors open at 7:00pm) and:

- Free to members (please bring your membership card & welcome letter)
- We offer a special rate of £2.00 to adoptors
- Members of the public & guests are welcome (£3.50 for non-members)
- Our Lecture Theatre seats up to 160
- Post-talk refreshments give you the opportunity to have an informal chat with speakers, zoo staff and fellow members

AMAZING ADOPTERS & MARVELLOUS MEMBERS' PRIZE DRAW!

To say **THANK YOU** for your valued support during 2016 all current members and adoptors will automatically be entered into a quarterly prize draw to win an adoption! Keep a look out in future Z magazines as one lucky member and one lucky adopter will be chosen at random and notified in the magazine so keep your eyes peeled in Z.

PRIZE
DRAW

chesterzoo.org

Andean Condor

leaves the collection.



↖ Paul in 1990 hand rearing condor chicks

Earlier in the year our last remaining Andean condor who had been at the zoo for over 45 years retired to a zoo in the Netherlands. The departure of our female condor was a sad day for many of the bird team, as she had been at the zoo for over four decades. Bird keeper Paul Morris had known her for many years and he described what it was like working with such magnificent bird...

"There are few bird families that are as highly intelligent as new world vultures; the bird family that includes Andean condors. Up until recently we had a pair of condors and their intelligence made working with them sometimes a little challenging but for me, that was all the more interesting. Our female Andean condor was a very smart bird; she studied my characteristics which meant she would use her sharp eyes at all times and recognise me even if I walked past on my day off, out of uniform, which often gave me a fright.

"Andean condors have the largest wing area of any bird. Like many vultures they have a distinctive bald head and have often been described as ugly but I found them fascinating to look at. They don't need to hunt for their prey which means they have blunt talons but that doesn't mean that when you got caught by one it didn't hurt, our female made it her life's mission to get me, luckily I never got caught but many keepers were not as lucky and have the scars to prove it!

"Over the years our condors bred really well, which was a real testament to our team as it's difficult to breed this challenging species. Our pair reared a few chicks but when our male started to break eggs we intervened and started removing the eggs to incubate them and then rear them ourselves. Hand-rearing the chicks was a slow delicate process (just preparing their food took over an hour, three times a day) but this species' moderately small global population is thought to be declining in the wild so it was an important process. I've got many fond memories of rearing the chicks, using hand puppets and hiding behind a curtain, which I hasten to add the intelligent chicks quickly saw through!

"Our male condor passed away nearly two years ago and it was then that we decided to look for a new home for our female. It was a sad day when our female left but I am very happy she's been paired with a new male and we've already heard from the other zoo that she is settling in well."



WE'RE BACK! DINOSAURS! THE NEXT ADVENTURE

Twenty-three life-like robotic dinosaurs stomped their way into the zoo after being shipped to Chester from Texas in the USA. The hi-tech scaly creatures were met by a fleet of forklift trucks and a team of 20 who manoeuvred the mechanical giants into position, ahead of the launch of **Dinosaurs! The Next Adventure**.

The dinosaurs, which feature realistic movements and sounds, completely disappeared from the planet millions of years ago and highlight the threat of extinction faced by many of the species here at the zoo, such as the Eastern black rhino, Sumatran orangutan and Sumatran tiger.



Charlotte Smith, our head of discovery and learning, explains:

"Dinosaurs have always fascinated both young and old alike because of their sheer size and the wonderment that surrounds them. Despite the fact that they roamed the earth for more than 160 million years, they are almost the stuff of imagination.

"This exhibition is the biggest we've ever staged and our new arrivals include the *giganotosaurus*, one of the largest carnivores to ever walk the planet, the *utahraptor* with its curved claws and feathery limbs, and the *brachiosaurus*, a plant eating gentle giant!



"Although the dinosaurs are a lot fun, we hope that they help us to raise awareness of a very real threat that many of the species here at the zoo face in the wild - extinction. The very last thing we want is for future generations to have to see animatronic rhinos, elephants, orangutans and lions because they too have disappeared - so it's absolutely vital that we help save them now whilst we can."

Dinosaurs! The Next Adventure will run every day until Friday 2 September 2016.



**DARWIN
ESCAPES**

We're pleased to announce **Darwin Escapes** as our headline sponsor of **Dinosaurs! The Next Adventure**.

Darwin Escapes specialise in creating unique family breaks and holiday homes to own. With four holiday parks in beautiful North Wales, they have a keen interest in protecting the environment and connecting their guests with the natural world.

To find out more, visit www.darwinescapes.co.uk



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www.chesterzoo.org

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

Registered charity no. 306077

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY?

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