

Z

CHESTER ZOO

magazine

WINTER 2021



Z

MAGAZINE FEATURES



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For me, the word of 2021 is **CHANGE**. In many ways it's been a year of change for us all. We've learnt to live with the pandemic and have had to alter our lives to adapt to all of the challenges it's presented.

It's also been the year that the world has finally woken up to the fact that our planet is not going to survive unless we change the way we connect with it. This was discussed at length at last month's COP26 summit at which world leaders met to form a desperately needed global strategy to tackle the climate change crisis.

As a leading wildlife charity with conservation partners spread right across the world, we frequently see first-hand the negative impact that climate change is having on our precious planet. Swift and radical action needs to happen, fast, and that must start at the very highest levels of government.

Do we though sit here and remain anxious about it, or do we do something ourselves? We all carry responsibility. And collectively, we can all do our bit to make a difference. We can all change for the better. That's why, here at the zoo, we're making some big commitments. To further our efforts to tackle the loss of global biodiversity, we're striving to become a zero waste organisation; we're on a journey to be carbon net zero in our operations and we're working towards using only deforestation-free commodities. Our plans are ambitious but, with your help, we can get there. The truth is, we must get there.

Zero waste

We've joined forces with leading experts on waste and recycling who are fully aligned with the United Nation's (UN's) goals for sustainability. We've conducted a forensic examination of our activities and have uncovered lots of new insights to help us take new strides forward, which you can find out more about on pages 32 & 33.

We're 100% serious about tackling waste and, for it to be successful, we really need you to come with us on this journey too. So, this time next year, we'll be producing our last ever printed version of Z magazine. We have to change and so, in its place, we'll be providing you with something even more exciting and engaging - a highly interactive, digital magazine. You'll find more on this on pages 30 and 31.

Carbon net zero

Armed with the advice of independent specialists on carbon, we're developing an honest, transparent and fully credible plan, which will track our progress in this area as we strive to reduce our emissions and improve our carbon capture. We know we have a lot of work to do. It's complex, it's challenging and it will be a long journey. However, with a real commitment to change, we now have a clear set of aims for what we'd like to achieve over the next decade as you may have seen in our Conservation Masterplan. There are some organisations out there that already make bold net zero claims but what we've learnt is, when you lift the bonnet on what many of them are doing, there's often little underneath. We are serious about tackling this properly and we'll be steering away from merely ploughing cash into carbon offsetting, which is now starting to catch out many large companies around the world as it's a tactic that's proving to be much less meaningful than is sometimes claimed. Already, we're making inroads. This year you may have noticed a further 18 electric vehicle charging points installed in our visitor car park and plans are in place to heat some of our larger animal habitats with biomass boilers. It's a start, but there will be many more changes to come.

Deforestation-free commodities

Behaviour change is a powerful conservation tool and when passionate people work together our voice is always louder and stronger. We've long been shouting loudly and proudly about the benefits of choosing sustainable palm oil, a vegetable oil that's used in an array of everyday products from soap to biscuits, which is grown in the tropics, especially in Indonesia and Malaysia. Oil palm plantations have replaced biodiversity-rich rainforests, putting species like the Bornean and Sumatran orangutan at risk. However, we know that palm oil can be

produced in socially responsible ways that are kinder to wildlife and people. That's why we're so vocal in supporting measures that increase the demand for sustainable palm oil. It's important that we encourage responsible producers, as well as challenging unscrupulous ones. Palm oil is, in fact, ahead of the game when it comes to developing deforestation-free supply chains. For many other commodities, like soya, we're only just starting to consider how our actions as consumers could reduce and ultimately eliminate their impact on some of the world's most biodiverse ecosystems. We've led the way and shown it can be done for palm oil. Now, we're going to focus on other commodities too and, if we can get it right, we can start to break the link between deforestation and production.



They say it's never too late to change. If we all head into the New Year with a commitment to make positive changes of our own, and if we keep the pressure on governments to do what's needed, then it isn't too late for us to reverse the destruction of global biodiversity and save our planet.

A very merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all of our wonderful members. Your support in 2021, as it is every year, has been nothing short of incredible.

Jamie Christon, CEO

When our primate experts noticed that 38-year-old Bornean orangutan Sarikei didn't seem to be quite herself, our vet team arranged for her to have a CT scan to get a detailed look at her health.

Sarikei, daughter of the oldest orangutan in Europe, Martha, was diagnosed with sinusitis, a common occurrence in older Bornean orangutans, which blocks the sinuses, causing congestion and some discomfort.

The CT scanner arrived on a huge lorry, which contained the scanner in an extendable diagnostic room. Specialists anaesthetised Sarikei until she was safely asleep and then carried her a short distance from her home in our Realm of the Red Ape habitat to the CT machine - a task that required the muscle power of four team members as she weighs 67kg!

The scan itself only took around 10 minutes and within just an hour she was up and alert once again.



Gabby Drake, our Veterinary Officer, said:

"Bornean orangutans have complicated respiratory systems. They have big air sacs in their lungs and huge sinuses, which means that this species is often susceptible to sinusitis.

"Signs that a Bornean orangutan might have sinusitis can include seeing them put their hands on their foreheads, fluids coming from their noses and a congested sound when they're breathing.

"By taking images in the scanner, we can see exactly where any congestion might be building. This will then help us to tailor the care that we provide to Sarikei. It's incredible that we're able to offer such specialist support for her here at the zoo.

"The images from the scan are currently with one of the world's leading specialist orangutan vets, Hanspeter Steinmetz, who'll advise us on the best course of treatment for her.

Our vet and primate teams are hopeful that once the full results of the scan give them the complete picture, the targeted treatment they'll be able to provide to Sarikei will be successful. It goes without saying that they'll be keeping an even closer eye on her over the coming weeks and months.

SARIKEI THE ORANGUTAN has a full-body scan



ZOO BABIES *of the year* 2021!

Our zookeepers, conservationists and scientists have CELEBRATED a vast array of BREEDING SUCCESSES this year – including some of the world's RAREST and most highly THREATENED species.

From critically endangered primates to precious little chicks, we look back at just some of the MANY incredibly important new arrivals at the zoo over the past 12 months!

Red-billed curassow chicks

Two highly endangered red-billed curassow chicks hatched in June and July this year after keepers incubated their eggs and then returned them to their parents for rearing.

With fewer than 200 of these birds on the planet, this plucky pair are some of the rarest birds you'll ever see, making these little hatchlings super, super special.

Red-billed curassows are endemic to the Atlantic Rainforest of Brazil and have been restricted to tiny areas in the rainforest. Adult red-billed curassows are mostly black with bright orange beaks, but their chicks are a speckled brown, which helps them stay well camouflaged from predators in the dappled leaves of the rainforest.



Precious female okapi calf, Nia Nia

Adorable female okapi calf Nia Nia was technically born last year, on 28 December, but how could we leave her out of this year's roundup!

Described by keepers as 'all ears and long spindly legs' Nia Nia's birth came after a long 14-month-long pregnancy for mum, K'tusha.

Our CCTV cameras captured her first wobbly steps and tens of thousands of people around the world were able to watch her first tender moments with mum as she was gently encouraged to her feet.

Keepers decided on the name 'Nia Nia' in homage to a small village in the centre of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve, a place where the zoo's field partners are based in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) – the only country in the world where okapis are found in the wild.



Rothschild's giraffe calf, Albert

Albert the giraffe's spectacular arrival into the world was caught on our CCTV cameras in March and has since become a viral sensation online, with millions of people around the globe watching his birth.

Falling more than two and a half metres onto soft straw, this dramatic entrance breaks the umbilical cord between mum and calf, while the impact on the ground encourages the new-born to take his very first breath. At birth, Albert stood 6ft tall and weighed 70kg, and our giraffe experts say he will grow to be 18ft and weigh over 1000kg!

The Rothschild's giraffe is highly threatened in the wild as their habitat continues to be destroyed. They're also hunted for meat, their patterned skin and even their tails, which are prized as good luck charms.

But, there is good news. We have a long history of protecting Rothschild's giraffes in the wild, working closely with the Giraffe Conservation Foundation and the Uganda Wildlife Authority in Uganda. Despite recent challenges created by the coronavirus pandemic, the team has reported a sixth consecutive yearly increase in giraffe numbers in the areas where we are working.

Beautiful baby babirusa

A tiny male babirusa piglet arrived to mum Ashley in March and he's been giving her quite the run around ever since.

These 'pig deers' are known for their distinctive curled tusks, which this little piglet will develop in a few years, so keep a lookout for those tiny tusks on your future zoo visits!

Babirusa are found only on the island of Sulawesi in Indonesia where their numbers have crashed to fewer than 5,000. They were once viewed as common but a huge increase in hunting for their meat and habitat loss has seen them disappear from many parts of the island altogether.

Our conservationists are working with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and zoos in Indonesia to share best husbandry practices and promote the importance of cooperative conservation breeding programmes to save the species; as well as helping to deliver education activities that will help promote protection efforts on the island of Sulawesi.



Baby red-bellied lemur

The first ever red-bellied lemur to be born at the zoo arrived in March this year, weighing just 70 grams – about the same as banana!

Lemurs are the most endangered group of mammals on the planet, making this first zoo breeding incredibly significant to the future of the global conservation breeding programme for the species. The red-bellied lemur is listed as vulnerable to extinction in its native homeland, the island of Madagascar – the only place where lemurs are found in the wild.

Our conservationists have been fighting to protect habitats and the unique species they are home to in Madagascar for over 10 years now. Our field partners Madagasikara Voakajy opened The Mangabe New Protected Area in 2015, providing a safe haven for nine species of lemur, as well as lots of other endangered species that live there.



Black-naped oriole chick

Our bird experts successfully bred, hatched and hand-reared a black-naped oriole chick - the first of its kind to ever hatch at the zoo! The baby bird's arrival was all the more joyous as its parents were saved from illegal wildlife traders in 2018 and given sanctuary here at Chester.

Our dedicated team of zookeepers hand-fed the precious chick every two hours, every day, for more than three weeks, providing around-the-clock care the youngster until it went on to fledge the nest.

The chick's parents, Lier and Darma, were just two of hundreds of threatened tropical birds that were rescued from the illegal wildlife trade by customs officials in Europe. The birds were originally destined to be sold as pets and they had a really traumatic journey, so to now see them happy, healthy and having young together is a wonderful turnaround in their story.

Cute and clingy! Sumatran orangutan Hilda is born

This beautiful, bright-eyed youngster - a critically endangered Sumatran orangutan – was born to mum Emma in June, following an eight and a half month pregnancy.

We're thrilled to reveal to readers of Z Mag that the little one is female, and our team of primate experts have named her Hilda, which means 'sister in arms' in Indonesian.

Hilda's birth was celebrated by conservationists around the world, including in South East Asia, where fewer than 14,000 now remain in the wild. Sumatran orangutans have largely disappeared as their rainforest home is cleared for unsustainable palm oil plantations – a crop that is heavily produced in South East Asia due to its warmer climate.

For many years our teams here at the zoo have been working with palm oil suppliers in the UK, and with partners and NGOs in Indonesia, to encourage the growing of sustainable palm oil. We want there to be no further deforestation and, where palm oil plantations do already exist, we want them to include wildlife-safe corridors to allow animals to move through them freely. With the help of our partners, we have also started to reconnect areas of rainforest by replanting native trees back into the ground where they once stood.



Pretty in pink! Caribbean flamingo chicks hatch

Keepers were tickled pink by the arrival of eight flamingo chicks in August.

When they first emerge from their eggs, flamingo chicks are white or grey in colour, resembling little balls of cotton wool. It's not until they are around six months old when they start to develop their famous pink plumage.

Of the world's five species of flamingo, it's the Caribbean birds that are known to have the brightest and pinkest plumage.



Super tiny snails! A world first

Our snail experts made a HUGE and highly significant breakthrough towards the end of the year – successfully breeding two species of snail (*Discula lyelliana*) for the first time ever in human care!

Collectively known as the Deserta Island snails, they were thought to have disappeared altogether having not been recorded living for more than 100 years.

However, we joined a rescue mission to save these snails from extinction after our partners rediscovered tiny populations on an isolated island in the Madeira Archipelago in the North Atlantic Ocean.

Now, the snails are part of a unique conservation recovery plan involving our zoo and our friends at Bristol Zoo - a last ditch attempt to boost numbers and save the species.

Look out for the full story on our **BIG** success with these tiny snails on our website!

Baby spider monkey

This super cute Colombian spider monkey was first spotted being carefully cradled in the arms of new mum, Kiara.

These precious primates are endangered in the wild as habitat destruction, hunting and illegal trafficking has wiped out more than a quarter of the world's population in the last 50 years.

Kiara's new arrival was therefore hailed by conservationists as a really important boost to the international breeding programme, which is working to protect the species.

Spider monkeys get their name from their appearance – their long, narrow limbs, long tails and black fur make them look almost spider-like! Their tails are often longer than their bodies and act as an extra limb, allowing them to move between tree branches while collecting food with their hands – making them fascinating to watch.



Challenging climate change



I am Simon Dowell, Conservation Science and Policy Director at Chester Zoo and my teams are responsible for our research programmes, our conservation programmes around the world, and our education and engagement of the public.

This year we launched our Conservation Masterplan, which sets out a road map for our mission of preventing extinction for the next 10 years. Central to this is our contribution to protecting and restoring nature, which has taken centre stage in November as the UK hosted the 'CoP26' climate conference in Glasgow.

So what was CoP26?

The 'twenty sixth Conference of the Parties' brought together over 25,000 delegates from 197 countries to spend two frenetic weeks discussing, debating and negotiating, concluding on 13 November with the publication of 'The Glasgow Climate Pact'.

Climate and the environment suddenly became daily news as world leaders, scientists and activists highlighted the extreme urgency of the situation we now face. Although there have been many global climate summits before, this one was particularly significant as scientists warn we may have less than a decade to avoid a global tipping point for climate change. Unlike previous climate CoPs, the link between nature and climate was given particular focus in the discussions and agreements.

The outcomes of CoP26

But what, if anything, did CoP26 actually achieve and what does it mean for our mission of preventing extinction at Chester Zoo? There is a sense of disappointment that the promises made in the final Pact fall short of what is required to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C.

One of the most significant agreements that came out of CoP26, however, was the 'Declaration on Forests and Land Use' which promises to 'halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030' and was signed by over 140 countries, including biodiverse nations like Brazil and Indonesia.

Forests act as major stores of carbon. Deforestation releases this carbon and is actually responsible for around a quarter of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. So reversing forest loss can reduce these emissions, increase carbon storage and prevent extinction of the wildlife they contain.

How is Chester Zoo helping?

Declarations are a start, but their value depends on effective implementation. We have an important part to play in this in two ways.

Firstly, many of the conservation projects we support in the field already involve reversing loss of forests and other habitats. By working with suitable partners to scale these up, we can contribute to achieving this goal. In Malaysian Borneo, we are helping our field partners to replant and restore tropical rainforest, home of orangutans, proboscis monkeys and hornbills. In Madagascar we are working with local communities on sustainable livelihoods projects designed to reduce pressure on native forest alive with lemurs, frogs and chameleons.

Secondly, a key element in achieving the forest declaration is breaking the link between deforestation in tropical countries and supply chains of crops commonly used in consumer products. This is something we are already influencing directly through our Sustainable Palm Oil campaign, demonstrating the link between the destruction of habitat for wildlife such as orangutans, and our weekly shop.

Empowering change

As well as news on deforestation, UK Education Secretary Nadhim Zahawi used his speech at CoP26 to announce a range of measures to put climate change at the heart of education and empower young people to take action on the environment.

We're already busy with this through our innovative education and engagement programmes that inspire people to make the transformative changes in lifestyles that are so desperately needed.

How can we all make a difference?

The need for change brings us back to the central theme of CoP26 and the dramatic steps needed to prevent global warming above 1.5°C. The simple fact remains that we all have to dramatically reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in order to prevent extinction.

We all have our part to play in this through changing the way we live and operate. Here at the zoo, we have set targets for carbon net zero and zero waste by 2030 and we are now working hard to achieve this across our operations.

In turn we can all play our part in our daily lives by, for example, walking, cycling and using public transport more and driving less, insulating our homes to reduce fuel use, reducing waste and eating more plant-based diets. Collectively these actions move us towards a net zero future that is vital for all life on our planet.



**PREVENTING
EXTINCTION**



LOVE IS BLIND



To ensure **BREEDING SUCCESS**, animals often need a set of specific conditions, which can be a difficult task for those trying to breed those species that aren't as understood, all in the name of **CONSERVATION**.

The Omani-blind cavefish can be found in the mountain waters of Oman, dwelling only in the dark waters of mountain cave networks. Here at Chester Zoo, they can be found in the Aquarium.

From what little we do know about the species' ecology, spawning most commonly takes place after a downpour of water from a storm, when eggs have the best chance of survival.

But how do you replicate a storm in an aquarium? As you can imagine, it's rather difficult. Over the years our keepers have tried mirroring a drought by allowing water to evaporate, followed by an influx of cold freshwater, simulating rain, and even timing these attempts with thunderstorms as other fish species are known to be sensitive to changes in atmospheric pressure. But success had eluded us, and by 2018 the 2003 population of 110 young fish had become just 21 geriatrics.

Our vets and keepers consulted with experts, and opted for a new approach - hormone treatment. Developed as a commercial venture for the breeding of numerous fish species, hormone treatments for fish work by injecting chemicals that stimulate the recipient to produce gonadotropin - the hormone that instructs the maturation of sperm and immature eggs.

...and wow, what a difference it makes. Trialling the procedure, the teams selected six of the ageing fish to receive the treatment. Following sedation and quick injection, the candidates were released into a spawning tank and rapidly occupied themselves with courtship behaviour, chasing each other about the tank and engaging in "synchronised shimmying".

The group were left to it, with the next morning yielding the results, around 1000 eggs awaiting in the tank, 751 of which would go onto hatch into young cavefish fry, guaranteeing the future of the Chester Zoo population for years to come. Some have even since gone on to join or form colonies in other zoos around Europe. Ever-developing tech and science continues to open up new exciting avenues for our conservation efforts.

experiences
at CHESTER ZOO
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Are you interested in discovering more about some of the world's most fascinating creatures that live beneath the water? Then our **BRAND NEW** aquarium animal experience is perfect for you! This immersive journey behind the scenes with our experts, will leave you in awe!

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Celebrating
≡ FANTASTIC ≡
FUNDRAISERS

Loads of our **SUPER** fundraisers are getting ready to **RACE FOR THE RAINFOREST** in 2022 – our campaign to help **PREVENT EXTINCTION** of wildlife in Borneo. We can't wait to see what our fundraisers get up to and all the unique ways they raise money!

A GOOEY CHALLENGE!

We can't wait to see what our SUPER fundraisers get up to in 2022 for our Race for the Rainforest campaign. In the meantime, Leo Walker has already kicked things off for us by going orange to help the orangutans!

Inspired by a school project all about the issues unsustainable palm oil production presents to the world's rainforests, and having read about our Race for the Rainforest in the last Z Mag, Leo decided to have a bath in orange Gelli Baff!

For 25 minutes, Leo sat in his bath to represent the number of orangutans the population decreases by EVERY day. His super proud mum, Michala said he really got into the "swing" of it and loved his time being an "oran-goo-tan"! From an initial target of £25, Leo has now raised an AMAZING £215, which we are so grateful for... and to Leo's mum who had to clear up all the mess afterwards!

It's wonderful to see a new generation of conservationists so passionate about the natural world. Well done Leo, you are an absolute superstar!



THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN



Our very own zoo team successfully completed the Chester Essar Half Marathon and raised a very impressive £1,370 for Race for the Rainforest.

Due to an injury sustained during training, The Magnificent 7 became 6, but we are so grateful to the team for all their hard work to raise money and awareness for our campaign.

Watch this space to see if any of our team will run the full marathon next year!

Chester Zoo Youth Board: *two years on.*

Since they were first recruited at the start of 2020, our Youth Board has been busy working with our Trustees and Directors to make sure that the voices of young people are heard across our zoo, and far beyond.

Alongside their regular meetings, committees and activities, here are just a few of the things they have been up to over the last few months:

- Presented to the International Conservation Education Conference about the role of young governance in conservation and sharing their learning from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Global Youth Summit they hosted earlier in the year.
- Met with other zoos interested in setting up their own Youth Boards to share their experiences and offer advice.
- Met with senior staff to find out about our work around equality, diversity and inclusion, and offered their input and recommendations, particularly helping us with completing an access audit of the whole site.
- Worked with our Conservation Education and Engagement team to deliver Chester Zoo's first ever Youth Symposium. From developing the initial concept to choosing the speakers, the Youth Board has been involved every step of the way, helping to make sure it was an event by young people for young people.
- Recruited four new Youth Board members to join them this month, getting involved in everything from creating the advert to running the final selection day.
- Went behind the scenes with our animal teams to find out more about our conservation breeding programmes.

With more projects in the pipeline and new members with new ideas coming on board, we're sure our work with young people

will continue to grow and become even more exciting, supported by our fantastic Youth Board.

Felix Rowan-Young said, "As Chair of the Chester Zoo Youth Board, seeing the projects that we have been working on come to fruition has given myself and fellow Youth Board members the drive to continue making young voices heard."

"We've hosted events such as the Chester Zoo Youth Symposium and IUCN Youth Summit, and have challenged the zoo's view on diversity and inclusion, all during a difficult period."

"Looking back at how much we have achieved, it makes me eager to see what the New Year brings. With new projects, such as helping to develop a new Chester Zoo podcast, it is an exciting time!"



Young conservationists gathered for our first YOUTH SYMPOSIUM

For one weekend in November we held our first EVER Youth Symposium at the zoo. The event brought together young people from across the UK who are passionate about conservation and to celebrate their work.

Over 100 young people from a broad range of careers and backgrounds had the opportunity to exchange experiences, knowledge and good practice in addressing the biodiversity crisis.

Four key themes ran throughout the symposium; strengthening participation, conservation action, youth led movement and youth governance.

The event emphasised the importance of increasing youth involvement, making conservation accessible and mobilising those empowered to take action. The symposium showcased an inspiring breadth of young conservationists from youth governing boards, campaigners, wildlife photographers, bloggers, scientists, volunteers and students.

Not only did the event highlight and celebrate these young people, it also recognised the valuable contribution they make in shaping the solutions to protect our planet.

Chair of the Youth Board, Felix Rowan said, "With the rise in youth-led movements, campaigns and integration into major organisations in recent years, we have an insight into the extensive possibilities and exciting prospects for young conservationists to shape the conservation sector in the near future."

"Through this event we can reflect and celebrate the innovative ways we have had a positive impact; whether it be in research, politics, decision-making or behaviour change. It also allows us to create stronger alliances and networks to build and amplify our messages and learn from each other."

"With the hopes of obtaining new inspiration from these shared stories, we can strive to break down even more barriers and be an even more prominent force in conservation."



Felix
Chair of the Youth Board



CHRISTMAS DAY AT THE ZOO



Christmas Day is one of the few days of the year that our gates stay closed, enabling as many of our dedicated staff as possible to take a well-earned break and spend time with their friends and family.

However, with more than 20,000 animals in our care and many hungry mouths to feed, not everyone is able to take the whole day off, no matter what day it is. After all, the animals don't know it's Christmas!



So, what's it like working in the zoo on Christmas Day? We caught up with Fiona Howe, one of our giraffe keepers, to find out...

"I've been at the zoo for 14 years and in that time I've worked lots of Christmas days. Most people usually groan on my behalf and assume I'd be a

touch perturbed when I tell them I'm working on Christmas

Day, but I don't see it as a chore at all – in fact, I love it! I get really excited when it's my turn to work at Christmas.

"At Christmas, I put my alarm on an hour earlier than usual so I'm at the zoo and ready to go at 7am. As soon as you walk in you feel the excitement of Christmas morning and the atmosphere is immediately different. With the zoo not preparing to welcome our wonderful members and visitors from 10am as it normally does, there are fewer people around and all is quiet and calm. It's a real privilege to essentially have a zoo to ourselves for the day.

"Although we have a big team of more than 90 keepers, most of us know each other well and have a great camaraderie, so it's really nice to see your colleagues on Christmas morning. Lots of us get into the festive spirit and wear Santa hats and there's always a director walking around the zoo wishing the staff Merry Christmas. I can't remember a Christmas Day that I've worked that has been rainy – just fresh, cold and sunny, which adds to the good mood!

"This is my dream job, so every day I work here is enjoyable. I love the animals I work with from the elegant Rothschild's giraffes to the cute red river hogs, but my favourites are the okapi. I've worked closely with this unusual species for a very long time and I'm ever so fond of them.

"They're the closest living relative to the giraffe and they only live in the rainforests of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) where, despite being a national symbol and protected under Congolese law, they face a battle for survival. Sadly, the okapi population has declined in the wild by nearly 50% over the past two decades and the species is now listed as endangered on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. However, we've worked hard to create a successful breeding programme, providing a vital insurance population for this wonderful species.

"Every okapi has a different personality but they're always calm and gentle. It feels pretty special to work with these

beautiful creatures on a normal working day, so I see it as an extra special privilege to spend time with them on Christmas Day.

"Although Christmas feels special and different for the Zoo Keepers, we try to make sure it's a normal day for the animals. We focus on feeding, cleaning and providing every animal with the best possible care. We work really hard for around four hours in the morning to make sure every animal is happy, before heading home for Christmas dinner – although some of the team then return to the zoo later in the day to check on the animals and complete further feeds.

"I feel very lucky to work at the zoo. I have a wonderful team and I'm fond of every animal I care for. I know it sounds a bit like a cliché, but I see them as my second family, so for me, working on Christmas Day is a bonus as I get to spend time with everyone and everything I love, which makes it a very special day indeed!"

Enjoy a zoo-inspired Christmas!

CHESTER ZOO PYJAMAS

Brand new and designed exclusively for us, we were excited to bring you Chester Zoo pyjamas!

Our pyjamas are available in both child and adult sizes, which means the **WHOLE FAMILY** can own some Chester Zoo magic.

Depicting a loving parent and baby giraffe, they're just perfect for the whole family to snuggle up and keep warm this winter.

As a member, we'd love to offer you a discount on selected online products.

Just use the code
53XZZ2NREGCT to get
10% OFF your purchase!

Last date to guarantee delivery before Christmas is fast approaching!

Don't miss out, place your order by Wednesday 16th December to make sure your gifts arrive in time.

Gift a little piece of Chester Zoo this Christmas. We have lots of incredible zoo-inspired festive bundles; bath time treats, sweet eats, book bundles and even our very own Chester Zoo gin set. There's a bundle for everyone!

FESTIVE CHEERS!



Give an extra special gift to the gin lover in your life this year with our handcrafted botanical gin and matching Chester Zoo balloon glass.

Infused with hand-picked ingredients grown here at the zoo, and used to feed our animals, Chester Zoo gin is truly special.

Beautifully packaged using recyclable materials and complete with a Chester Zoo bow this really is a delightful gift for the discerning gin lover.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

This is an age restricted product, you must be aged 18 or over to purchase. There is a limit of two per transaction, if you order more we will be unable to dispatch. Delivery is available for mainland UK only, we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

FEEL GOOD, DO GOOD TREATS



These treats will perfectly satisfy any sweet tooth this Christmas.

All 'do goodies' have been made using sustainable palm oil, and all packaging is either fully recyclable or home compostable so you can enjoy these treats and feel good whilst doing it.

Chosen with the same care and attention, but suitable for our vegan friends, our vegan treat bundle is just as delicious.

We've picked our favourites from Coco Pzazz and Montezuma's including a lovely selection of dark chocolate truffles!



Junior Programme 2022

Discover. explore. share & learn

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

We're launching our new-look Junior Programme in 2022! With activities for ages 1 – 17, there's something for every future conservationist.

You can book your place on our website chesterzoo.org/events.



CONSERVATION TOTS under 5's

Got a little tot in the family? We're hosting coffee mornings with a difference!

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 conservation tots sessions for lots of EXCITING activities for just £2 per child.

The sessions run from 10:30 am until 11:30 am every Wednesday during term time. Places are limited so head over to our events page on our website for more information and to book your place!

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.

Conservation Tots will be returning in 2022 from Wednesday 26 January - keep an eye on the website for when booking becomes available.

MINI RANGERS school years 1-3

Do you know a conservation enthusiast in primary school years 1-3? Our Mini Rangers activities are an opportunity to come and explore at the zoo!

Mini Ranger Holiday Clubs

Our three-day holiday activity club is perfect for young animal lovers and conservationists of the future. Discover the amazing animals, habitats and the remarkable conservation work taking place all around the world. All of this learning happens through a range of fun activities both in and out of our learning centre, including zoo trails, conservation actions, practical skills, games, arts and crafts, and much, much more!

Club topics will be announced soon. Keep an eye on our website for updates.



Club 1 22 February - 24 February

Club 2 5 April - 7 April

Club 3 26 July - 28 July

Club 4 16 August - 18 August

The holiday club runs from 9am - 4pm.

Book now for our half term holiday club!
Booking will be available for our summer holiday clubs in early 2022



Camp 1 16 January - 13 February
HOW OUR ZOO WORKS

Camp 2 6 March - 3 April
PREVENTING EXTINCTION

Camp 3 24 April - 22 May
REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Camp 4 19 June - 17 July
WILD HABITATS

Camp 5 25 September - 23 October
MAKE YOUR OWN ZOO

Camp 6 13 November - 11 December
CARNIVORES VERSUS HERBIVORES

JUNIOR RANGERS school years 4-6

Our Junior Ranger activities are perfect for children who are currently in primary school years 4-6.

JUNIOR RANGER CAMP

Member exclusive!

Do you love wildlife? If so, Junior Rangers will be perfect for you!

Junior Ranger 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. This year our topics will be advertised on our website so you can book the camp that is best for your Junior Ranger.

Book now for camps 1 and 2
Booking for camps 3 and 4
will be available in early 2022
Booking for camps 5 and 6
will be available in summer 2022

JUNIOR RANGERS school years 4-6

JUNIOR RANGER HOLIDAY CLUB

Our three day holiday activity club is perfect for young animal lovers and future conservationists. Discover the amazing animals, habitats and the remarkable conservation work taking place all around the world. All of this learning happens through a range of fun activities both in and out of our learning centre, including zoo trails, conservation action, practical skills, games, arts and crafts, and much, much more!

Club topics will be announced soon, keep an eye on our website for updates.

Club 1 12 April - 14 April

Club 2 31 May - 2 June

Club 3 2 August - 4 August

Club 4 23 August - 25 August

The holiday club runs from 9am - 4pm.

Booking will be available for our
holiday clubs in early 2022

Junior Conservationist Course

Join us this summer for a holiday event with a difference. During our three day Junior Conservationist Course, we'll be mixing games and activities with deeper exploration of conservation topics. Perfect for Junior Conservationists with an interest in learning more about how we prevent extinction around the world.

Junior Conservationist will receive a certificate upon completion of their course as a token of their achievement. Further details of our course will be release in spring so keep an eye on the website for updates.

Save the date!

Our Junior Conservationists Course will be running
9 August - 11 August

Booking will be available in early 2022

JUNIOR CONSERVATIONISTS school years 7-9

Is your trainee conservationist in secondary school years 7-9? Join us for our Junior Conservationist activities to learn how we prevent extinction!

Junior Conservationist Skills Courses

Our skills courses are the perfect opportunity to gain practical insight into different methods, tools and skills used in the field and in the zoo. From collecting data on animal behaviour to conducting an ecological survey on our nature reserve.

Animal Behaviour

Animal behaviour is incredibly important for everything we do at the zoo to make sure the animals are happy and healthy.

Our science team and keepers work closely together to make sure all the animals have everything they need. Join us over three days for an introduction to animal behaviour. Learn which behaviours to look out for and have a go at observing animal behaviour yourself.

Every Saturday for three weeks:
15 January - 29 January 10.30am - 12.30pm

Booking now available on our website

Conservation Technology

Technology is incredibly important to the work that we do.

Join us over three days for an exciting introduction into some of this technology and how we use it at the zoo. Our experts will be on hand to demonstrate some of the amazing tools used around the globe in our field programme sites and you can have a go at using conservation technology to monitor the wildlife that visits the zoo.

Every Saturday for three weeks:
12 March - 26 March 10.30am - 12.30pm

Booking now available on our website

YOUNG CONSERVATIONISTS

school years 10-12

Young Conservationist Course

Join us this Easter and summer for our Young Conservationist Course. Do you know a young person interested in pursuing a career in conservation? This week long course is the perfect opportunity to gain valuable insight into the world of conservation careers at the zoo.

Young Conservationists will receive a certificate upon completion of their course as a token of their achievement. Further details of our course will be released soon so keep an eye on the website for updates

Save the date!

Our Young Conservationist Course will be running 4 April - 8 April and repeated 8 August - 12 August.

Booking will be available
in early 2022



Save the date - CAREERS WEEK

5 - 13 March 2020

Keep an eye on our website for details on our upcoming events for careers week. Details will be announced soon.

Our Young Conservationist activities for secondary school years 10-12 are great for future conservationists that are interested in learning more about the work of the zoo and exploring conservation careers.

Young Conservationist Skills Courses

Our skills courses are the perfect opportunity to gain practical insight into different methods, tools and skills used in the field and in the zoo. From collecting data on animal behaviour to conducting an ecological survey on our nature reserve, these courses provide young conservationists with real conservation skills and the opportunity to practice conservation techniques.

Animal Behaviour

Here at the zoo, our keepers and science team monitor the animals' behaviour to ensure they are happy and healthy.

Join us over three days for an introduction to animal behaviour. Find out from our experts how enclosure design and breeding programmes impact animal behaviour, and carry out your own behavioural studies on the animals here at the zoo. Perfect for Young Conservationists considering a career in zoo keeping or conservation science.

Date: Every Saturday for three weeks:
15 January - 29 January 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Booking now available on our website

Conservation Technology

From camera traps to satellites to drones, conservation technology is increasingly critical to ensuring that people and nature thrive.

Join us over three days for an exciting introduction into some of this technology and how it's being used as a powerful tool for conservation and ecological research. Our experts will be on hand to demonstrate some of the amazing tools used around the globe in our field programme sites. This is the perfect course for those wanting an insight into conservation and research.

Date: Every Saturday for three weeks:
12 March - 26 March 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Booking now available on our website



discover
something



NEW

at

CHESTER ZOO

As a **MEMBER**, you'll
already know, there's
NEVER a dull moment
at the zoo!

Each time you visit,

there's always
something **NEW**
to discover,

no matter how many
times you visit.

With over **20,000**
animals, **500** species, **NEW**
habitats and a variety of
EVENTS and **ACTIVITIES**,
there's always something
to look out for.

To kick-start the New Year, we want to challenge you to **DISCOVER SOMETHING NEW**, and create more unforgettable zoo **MEMORIES**.

Throughout spring, we'll be shining a spotlight on the more unusual and lesser known species that you may be surprised to find we have here at the zoo. Join our Zoo Rangers during February half term for a programme of events that will uncover new and interesting facts about species, plus explore spaces that you may have missed on your last zoo visit with our **Discover Something New Trail**.



THE FUN DOESN'T STOP THERE!

Why not turn your zoo visit into an **ADVENTURE** and book one of our unique Experiences that gives you an incredible opportunity to get closer to animals and plants, as well as gain behind the scenes knowledge from our **AMAZING** experts.

Find out more at chesterzoo.org/experiences

experiences
at **CHESTERZOO**
DINE · EXPLORE · MEET

Members get
10% OFF
our Experiences
at Chester Zoo



Make sure you keep an eye on our website and social channels in the New Year for more details. Sign up to our newsletter via our website to receive Chester Zoo updates and news straight to your inbox.

We also want to hear for you! Share what new things you discover at Chester Zoo – get in touch and share your zoo photos with us on social media using **#SomethingNewatCZ**

chesterzoo.org | FB | Twitter | Insta | TikTok | YouTube

Members update

We're going DIGITAL!



We're on an ambitious journey to become a carbon net zero and zero waste organisation. In order to do this, we need to ensure all our products and services meet our sustainability aims – including our wonderful Z Mag!

Right now we, of course, use the most eco-friendly paper and print processes. But with a whopping 130,000 members, printing and posting out this magazine to households all around the country has a significant environmental impact, and we simply have to start doing things differently if we're to fulfil our environmental aspirations. That's why we're working towards a fully digital version of Z Mag.

Your new digital magazine will still be full of the news, stories and behind-the-scenes content you know and love – plus loads more!

Using a digital platform gives us the flexibility to deliver updates in new and exciting formats. There'll be video updates from our keepers and intimate, exclusive insights into the lives of the animals, as well as lots of written news and interactive features.

We want our digital Z Mag to be **WORLD CLASS** and will be busy planning it next year, so you'll still receive physical copies throughout 2022. We'll be sure to keep you up to date on progress!

In the meantime, you can get ahead of the game and switch to a digital version of Z Mag by getting in touch with our Membership team via membership@chesterzoo.org.uk.

Lanterns 2022

If you visited The Lanterns this year, we hope you had a magical evening exploring the zoo illuminated at night!

If you didn't manage to get tickets this time, we have exciting news... Tickets for The Lanterns 2022 are on sale NOW! We're giving you an exclusive opportunity to book early and get your 2022 tickets at 2021 prices.

Scan the QR code to find out more



A gift for Little Monkeys

We have an exciting offer for all Little Monkeys turning three!

To welcome them to their new child membership, we're offering one FREE admission to our Tree Top Challenge, so they can continue to monkey around!

Just pop into our Memberships office and speak to our team about changing to a child membership and they will provide you with a complimentary voucher for Tree Top Challenge.

Members Talks

Spring 2022 Programme



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

We can't wait to welcome you back to our in person members talks from the spring and are pleased to announce the first couple of talks.

February 2022



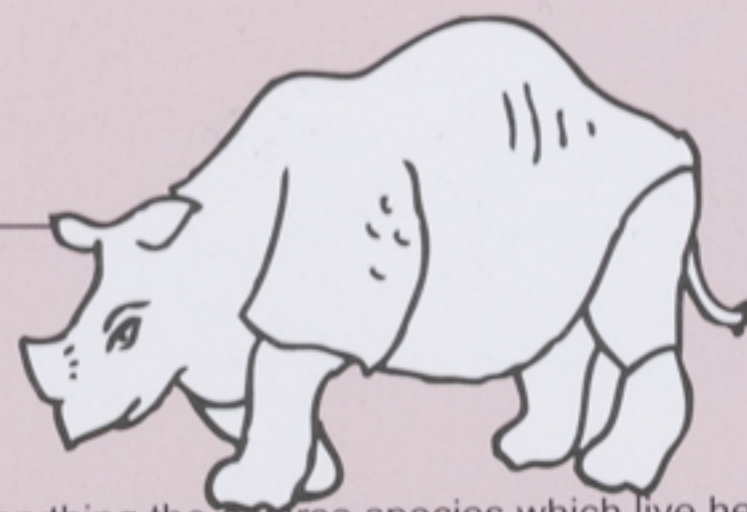
The Silent Kingdom: An overview of Chester Zoo species and programmes Gerardo Garcia and Members of our Lower Vertebrate and Invertebrate Team

Sometimes forgotten, sometimes thought of as dull, the lower vertebrate and invertebrate kingdom is one of the most fascinating and encompasses some of the most critically endangered species. Our team will tell you all about the dangers they face and show you that they really are superstars. Gerardo will provide an update the many projects we support around the world, as well as introducing you to the weird but wonderful species at the zoo.

Gerardo Garcia is the zoo's Curator of Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates

March 2022

Feeding the 21,000: How hard can it be? Chris Gee



The zoo's Animal & Plant Logistical Services team source, grow and deliver everything the diverse species which live here need on a daily basis. Why do we source the products we do? What are the challenges of trying to match the species' natural diets? How are we planting our future food? In this talk, Chris will discuss everything from fruit for the primates to the meat for the carnivores as well as everything else in between. The talk will give you an insight as to how we source and store the feed for over 21,000 animals across the zoo site.

Chris Gee is the zoo's Animal & Plant Logistical Services Manager

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.



In our Conservation Masterplan, we made a commitment to “reducing material consumption in our operations as much as possible, recovering what is left using innovative collection/take back schemes and then repurposing all of the material recovered without discharging to land, air or water that threatens the environment”. To help achieve this, we’re taking steps towards ZERO WASTE.

We’re already a zero to landfill organisation, but with over 800 tons of waste produced a year, we know there’s more we can do. That’s why we’re working with experts to review our current waste management processes.

Resource Recovery Team

Our Head of Operations, Gareth Simpson, is leading this exciting project and pulling together a Resource Recovery Team who will be dedicated to managing our waste.

Gareth said: “As a conservation charity, reducing our environmental impact is something that’s really important to us, which is why we’ve started taking steps towards becoming zero waste.

“It’s a long process, but we’re 100% committed to improving the way we manage our waste and our circular outcomes. We want to close the loop in our processes,

so all waste we produce at the zoo is repurposed without discharging to land, air or water.

“Instead, our waste will be used to generate energy, repurposed, recycled or even completely avoided.

“We’re really excited about this project and the positive impact this will have. We want to lead the way in waste management for zoos and tourist attractions in the UK and around the world. We’re the first zoo to make a commitment to zero waste, and we hope sharing our journey will inspire others to take the same steps.”



New partnership

We're working in partnership with environmental waste management experts, ACM. This partnership will help us to take an in-depth look at our "waste DNA" and support a review of the whole journey of waste at Chester Zoo.

Working with ACM, we've begun reviewing our procurement process to ensure we're avoiding products that will create waste where possible. If this isn't possible, we've been looking at how we can reduce, reuse or recycle waste we produce.

ACM have made some innovative suggestions on how we can create smarter outcomes from our waste, such as recycling plastic into uniforms and using animal waste to generate energy! Behind the scenes, we're setting up a new Resource Recovery Centre, which will be a dedicated waste segregation facility where we'll use the very latest waste processing technology to ensure we maximise our ability to reuse and recycle our waste.

Waste hubs

Our new plans include creating "waste hubs" onsite to replace our current single bins.

We'll be working on a brand new waste campaign with our Conservation Education & Engagement team which will encourage everyone who comes to the zoo to help us on our journey to zero waste. There will be information situated at the waste hubs which will provide some interesting facts and insight into waste and creating circular outcomes.

We aspire to completely remove the use of bin bags and to install reverse vending machines, which reward visitors for recycling plastic bottles!

Changes coming soon!

We hope to have things up and running in spring 2022, including our waste hubs and onsite Resource Recovery Centre. We'll be updating members throughout this exciting process, so look out for more information soon!



WORK for GOOD

Supporting us has never been
easier with Work for Good!

After such an overwhelming response from independent and global businesses to our Save Our Zoo campaign, we wanted to make it as easy as possible for our amazing supporters to enable their products and services to contribute towards preventing extinction.

We've partnered with Work for Good, who help charities raise funds from companies through commercial participation - where a business donates a set donation or percentage of profits from the sales of their products and services.

This isn't just **GREAT** for charities, but it also means businesses have a safe platform to achieve their own social responsibility objectives; raising funds for the charities they care passionately about and giving customers an extra feel-good factor knowing their purchase is also supporting good causes.

There are two ways you can get involved:

1. Become a commercial participator

If you have a business and would like to get involved, you can quickly and easily set up a profile at workforgood.co.uk by following the simple step-by-step guide to get up and running!

If you'd like to find out more or have a chat with our fundraising team, email us at fundraising@chesterzoo.org

2. Keep an eye out for participating businesses and support us, by supporting them!

We'll be shining the Z Mag spotlight on businesses that become a commercial participators of Chester Zoo; celebrating the people and stories behind why preventing extinction is so important to them.

Visit workforgood.co.uk to find out more...



PREVENTING EXTINCTION



thanks to our corporate supporters



This year has been one of recovery for us all and our corporate partners have been amazing, standing by us and continuing to support our mission. We want to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to each of them!

Only by working together as one big community can we make positive changes, and we're excited to see what the future brings as we work to protect wildlife all over the world.

The continuing levels of support we've seen from our long-term partners for our mission to prevent extinction, has been just INCREDIBLE. 2021 has been a year of stepping together into the new normal, and we have valued them being by our side more than ever.

We've also welcomed new companies into our family, joining us as we look to take positive steps forward. We're really looking forward to getting to know them and welcoming them to the world of Chester Zoo.



CONSERVATION PARTNERS

Airbus
Co-op
Chester Racecourse
Darwin Escapes
Ferrero UK
Saputo Dairy UK

CORPORATE CHAMPIONS

MBNA
Urenco UK

CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

M&S Bank
Stagecoach
Sykes Cottages
Toyota

We'd also like to extend a **HUGE THANK YOU** to all of our corporate adopters, including those companies who took out adoptions during lockdown to help Save Our Zoo.

If you and your company want to join us on our mission to prevent extinction, we'd love to hear from you! You can contact Rose, our Corporate Giving Specialist at r.gelder@chesterzoo.org





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Chester CH2 1LH

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