OUR

# ZOO

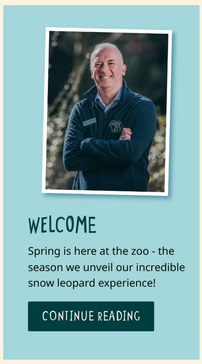
CHESTER ZOO

Bringing together exclusive videos, great new games and sneak peeks from our global conservation work.

START EXPLORING >

# Highlights

Join us for a spring of firsts here at the zoo as we unveil our **incredible snow leopard experience**, with a chance for you as members to be the first visitors! We also celebrate the **women reforesting Borneo** and take a trip to the dentist with our **sloth, Rico.**



## WELCOME

Spring is here at the zoo - the season we unveil our incredible snow leopard experience!

CONTINUE READING

CHESTER ZOO
PRESENTS

## ZOO TALES

PODCAST

LISTEN TO EPISODE 4 NOW

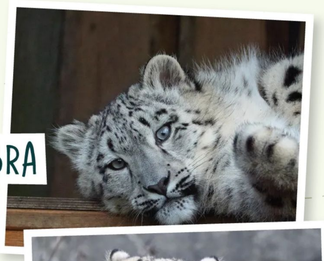
## Welcome to SPRING, the season of the SNOW LEOPARD here AT THE ZOO!

We are very excited to be welcoming snow leopards, Yashin and Nubra, this spring – another highly threatened species coming under our expert care. This will be the first time in the zoo's history that **snow leopards will be coming to Chester** and we can't wait to welcome you into the spectacular new Himalayan habitat where you can immerse yourself in the life of these majestic big cats.

## FOREFRONT of GLOBAL CONSERVATION

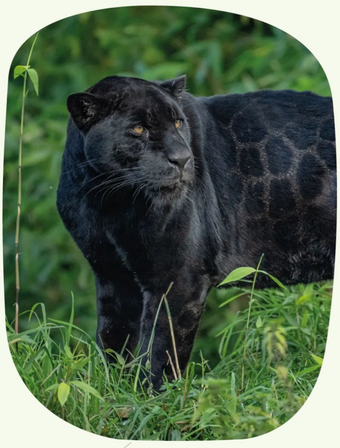
After years of planning and development across our teams we have recreated the steep, rocky expanses of the Himalayan mountains where it's now so rare to spot a **snow leopard** that they're nicknamed the 'ghost of the Himalayas'. Another key part of the project has been joining forces with the Snow Leopard Trust to support vital conservation efforts to help the species and communities that live alongside them as human-wildlife conflict remains one of their main survival threats.

As always, in this issue there's plenty of other news to share from the zoo and beyond. We're celebrating this March's International Women's Day by sharing the work of the **amazing women reforesting Borneo**. Closer to home, we take a trip to the dentist with our **two-toed sloth, Rico, and rare black jaguar, Inka**.



NUBRA

YASHIN



## EXCLUSIVE STORIES

We also reveal the secrets from behind the scenes when it comes to **feeding 37,000 animals** and making mealtimes as dynamic as possible by replicating the natural environment.

We do hope to see you at the exclusive member preview of the **snow leopard habitat** this spring. Every membership and visit plays a huge part in supporting our beloved zoo and contributes to the conservation efforts and animal and plant care initiatives that are at the heart of it. We really couldn't do it without you. **Look out for an email to find out when this will be!**

"Our aim is to create unforgettable experiences for our members. The challenge lies in constantly innovating and adapting to meet the evolving tastes and expectations of our guests. New experiences like the snow leopard habitat allow us to grow, keep moving forward and deliver more conservation projects here, and around the world. This is the reason that developments like the new snow leopard habitat are so important."

Jamie Christon DL, CEO

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CHESTER ZOO

# OPEN WIDE

Take a trip to the dentist where no two mouths are the same

Our experts are used to tackling all kinds of challenges in the name of conservation, but solving a two-toed sloth's toothache was a first for the veterinary team, which required help from human dentist colleagues to get to the root of the problem. Rico the sloth is believed to be the first of his kind to undergo dental surgery of this nature.

Soon after, our veterinary team was also called in to help treat Inka, a 50kg black jaguar, who had fractured one of her large canines. No two mouths are the same when it comes to dentistry at the zoo!

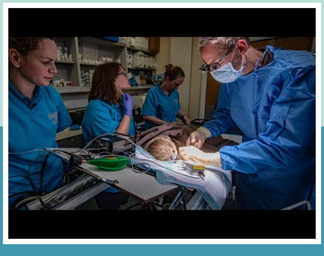
## THE TROUBLE with RICO'S TEETH

24-year-old Rico is a two-toed sloth, a species known for their slow, leisurely lifestyle. They spend a lot of the day resting to save energy, which is mainly because the food they love, like leaves, is of low nutritional value and can take up to three weeks for them to digest! To skilfully chew through tough plants and veg, sloths use special caniniform teeth, which are large and triangular in shape.

That's why our conservationists were especially worried when they spotted small swellings on either side of Rico's face, right where these important teeth are located. Our vets were called to give him a check-up. A check up and a CT scan revealed that Rico had not one, but two root abscesses at the base of his caniniform teeth. The team wanted to avoid any discomfort that might put Rico off his food, so it was time to make an appointment with the dentist.

"WITHOUT TREATMENT, we were worried the **INFECTION** could spread. So, to save his **TEETH** we teamed up with dental specialists from the UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE."

**Charlotte Bentley** – Resident Vet



## CALLING in the EXPERTS

We collaborate with experts all over the world to support our conservation efforts and offer the animals the best care possible. That's why we bring in whoever we need to solve health problems, working across disciplines to put the animals first. Just like us, sometimes it's their teeth that can leave them in need of an emergency dental appointment.

Our vets teamed up with human dentists from the University of Newcastle to perform a special procedure which is more commonly performed on human patients than animals. The three hour endodontic procedure (similar to root canal) took place inside Chester Zoo's on-site Animal Health Centre, and involved accessing the tooth cavities via the open roots at their base, through the bones, and removing the infected material within. The teeth were then cleaned from the inside and the roots were sealed to make sure the problem doesn't return.

## A TALE of TWO TEETH

### TWO-TOED SLOTHS

Did you know that the two-toed sloth's teeth never stop growing? Unlike us, they have no incisors or true canines. Their first tooth looks like a typical canine but it's actually referred to as a caniniform.

### THE JAGUAR

Jaguars have a heavy bite that beats all the other big cats. With a powerful bite force of about 1,500 pounds per square inch, their bite beats the lion at 650 pounds per square inch and even a tiger, ranked at 1,050 pounds per square inch.

## NEXT PATIENT, PLEASE...

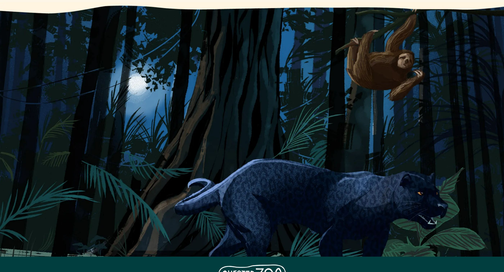
Rico is healing nicely, after returning to his habitat and to his companion, Tina, who'll keep him company during his recovery. We will continue to monitor his feeding activity, but so far, so good. Rico's dental procedure is a perfect example of why co-operation is so key to conservation. The new practices we pioneer can help to protect other animals in the future, such as Inka, the black jaguar, who is undergoing her own dental work with a very different set of canines.

Inka is a rare black jaguar, who joined us here at the zoo last year. Unfortunately, we noticed she had fractured her lower left canine tooth, exposing the sensitive blood vessels and nerve tissue. As with Rico, and in order to prevent the tooth becoming infected and painful, our vets determined that Inka needed another type of endodontic procedure known as a root canal treatment.

Inka's treatment is being done in two stages and has involved co-operation between the zoo's own vets and a veterinary dentist who has carried out several similar procedures in other large carnivores around the country. Part one involved cleaning the tooth cavity before placing a temporary filling to stop the bleeding. Given that Inka's teeth and roots are many times larger than a domestic dog or cat's, this is no mean feat! While the dentist did his job, it was up to the zoo's own vets to ensure Inka didn't wake up unexpectedly from the anaesthetic... with the dentist's fingers in her mouth!

Inka is currently back in her habitat whilst she waits for the second part of her treatment, which will involve the placement of a permanent cap on the tooth to prevent further issues.

Both Rico and Inka are expected to make full recoveries and are already back to enjoying their very different favourite foods!

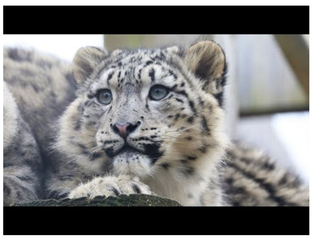


CHESTER ZOO

EXCLUSIVE MEMBERS' UPDATE

# THE SPRING of the SNOW LEOPARDS

Spring is here and we're so excited to be counting down the days to the arrival of Nubra and Yashin, the **first ever snow leopards** at Chester Zoo. Creating and building this conservation-focussed space has been years in the planning, and is an important contribution towards **protecting this precious species from extinction**.

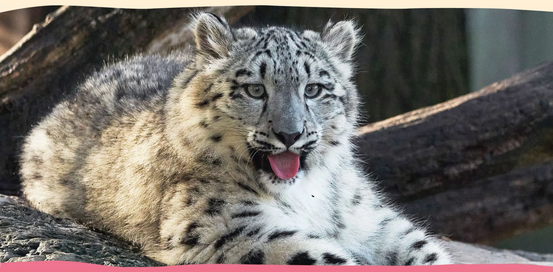


Welcoming these iconic big cats has been a massive collaboration, bringing together various teams at the zoo, as well as looking at the bigger picture of supporting the remaining snow leopard population in the wild. Looking to the future, the new habitat will hopefully welcome not only Nubra and Yashin, but through the global conservation breeding programme, we hope that cubs will also join us in years to come.

For the arrival of the snow leopards, an in-house project team was created to deliver a natural and stimulating environment for the new inhabitants, and for visitors too, who can finally get up close to this majestic species right here in Chester. Using expertise from various backgrounds including project management, construction, design, animal husbandry and horticulture, the team worked with both internal and external colleagues to deliver this exciting new space. This included Wienerberger UK, who have kindly donated over 600 tonnes of scree and rocks to build this unique habitat.

"MY ROLE is to ensure that we are CREATING THE BEST possible **HABITAT** for the **animals** that meets all of their **psychological and physiological needs**, as well as ENSURING that the **ANIMALS** and facilities can be **SAFELY** cared for by our KEEPERS AND OTHER STAFF."

**Ian Hickey**, Project Liaison, Chester Zoo



## A NEW HOPE

Creating a habitat that fulfils the needs of the snow leopards throughout all of their life stages, from **young cubs** to their **senior years** and **everything in between**, has been carefully **planned into the design**.

The whole habitat can be split into two distinct areas. This is particularly important to give the keepers the flexibility to care for the animals and gives plenty of opportunity for any potential future cubs to learn and explore different areas.

Behind the scenes, a secluded area with an outdoor space has been incorporated into the design. This means that should the snow leopards go on to have cubs, they have the option of taking themselves to a more private area, before being ready to explore the wider habitat. This can also become a safe space if any closer monitoring needs to happen.

Rocky areas, bespoke planting and temperature-controlled caves have all been carefully crafted to replicate a Himalayan habitat.

## NOSE to NOSE

Coming face to face with a big cat as incredible as a snow leopard is an experience we can't wait to see our members enjoy!

You'll find one central walkway with viewing windows of the outdoor habitat, designed with the highest points at the back to mimic wild mountainous regions and to give you the best chance of spotting a snow leopard. If you can't spot **Nubra** or **Yashin** outdoors, they may be resting in the temperature-controlled caves, with large viewing windows to catch a glimpse of them there.

## OUT IN THE FIELD

The opening of the new snow leopard habitat is just one piece of the picture when it comes to the global conservation effort to protect the species from extinction. Wildlife experts from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) estimate that fewer than 3,500 now remain in the wild.

This is where our upcoming partnership with the Snow Leopard Trust (SLT) comes in. Throughout 2024 we will be working on their 'Equal One' initiative, collaborating with local communities on different project sites across Central Asia in the Kyrgyzstan-Kazakhstan region.

The Equal One framework's main aim is to promote local businesses to help build a sustainable economy and protect the biodiversity present across several snow leopard habitats.

### EQUAL ONE PROJECTS

- Snow leopard friendly honey – a beekeeping project that allows local communities to build income from wildlife-friendly honey that can help build resilience.
- Sustainable wildlife tourism – exploring local wildlife through sustainable tourism is being met with great enthusiasm by local and indigenous communities in the area.
- Snow Leopard Enterprises (SLE) handicraft training – providing the right equipment and training to help empower communities to create handicrafts from the products of their livestock, such as clothing, fabric and cheese.

## ADOPT A SNOW LEOPARD

Whether it's for you or as a gift with a difference, your snow leopard adoption will make a vital contribution to supporting these majestic big cats! You'll also receive a welcome pack with a certificate, car sticker, animal photo and your name on the animal plaque at the zoo.

ADOPT TODAY >

## PAW PRINT FUNDRAISER

Could you join the paw print fundraiser and do your bit to help the snow leopards' future? Find out more.

For more information please contact Tanya Simpson, Individual Giving Fundraiser.

CHESTER ZOO

CHESTER ZOO

PRESENTS

# ZOO TALES

Discover the science and the stories behind the scenes and meet the incredible people that make Chester Zoo the leading conservation and wildlife charity it is today.

## EPISODE 4

Our Assistant Team Manager on the Bird Team, Jonathan Beilby, joins us for the fourth episode of our Zoo Tales podcast.

"I spend my days working with the array of wonderful bird species at Chester Zoo, trying to maintain naturalistic environments for these amazing animals and achieve breeding success. I have been fortunate to work for the zoo out in the field in Indonesia, to see some of the conservation we are doing first hand for some of the most threatened birds on the planet"

## OUR HOSTS

### FRASER

Fraser Montgomerie is a Zoo Ranger at Chester, spending his days talking to visitors about all things animals and plants! From delivering animal talks and touch-table sessions, and running the bat and lemur walkthroughs, to running educational clubs for toddlers to teenagers. He has an immense love for dinosaurs, and in his spare time he enjoys walking his dog, watching films/TV, and playing video games.

### ASH

Ashleigh Marshall is our Assistant Team Manager for Visitor Engagement, managing the Zoo Ranger team and ensuring there is a range of talks, activities and games for our visitors to get involved in. Ashleigh was previously a Zoo Ranger herself and has worked in conservation education in different UK zoos since 2014. She is passionate about science conservation and loves sharing the zoos amazing science stories with the world.

## EPISODE 3

Our UK Field Programme Manager, Helen Bradshaw, joins us for the third episode of our Zoo Tales podcast. Helen oversees our zoo estate biodiversity delivery as well as our native species projects with partner organisations.

Combining her experience as a local authority planning ecologist and conservation volunteering work with bats and badgers Helen has been working in the Cheshire region for 20 years. She's a champion for biological recording and showing how monitoring data informs habitat management.

Read more about HELEN >

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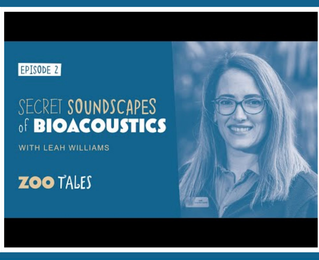
### JANE

Jane is a Community Engagement Officer for our Networks for Nature project. Jane is often out chatting to the local community about how to make our outdoor spaces better for wildlife. Prior to this role, Jane was a zoo ranger delivering informal education in the zoo. Jane has a MSc Animal Behaviour degree and a BSc Psychology degree, so working in zoo education suits all of Jane's interests - chatting to people about animals!




## EPISODE 2

Lead Conservation Scientist, Dr Leah Williams, joins us for the second episode of the Zoo Tales podcast. We dive behind the scenes at the zoo as we discover all about the fascinating world of **population biology** and the secret soundscapes of bioacoustics.

Leah shares just how closely linked the work of zoos is to wild populations around the world, which we are working to protect for the future. So grab a brew and brush up your knowledge before your next trip to the zoo!

Read more about LEAH >

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### EMMA

Emma Myers is one of our Zoo Rangers, engaging our visitors with the zoo's animal and plant collection through a range of talks and activities. Emma previously worked as a lecturer in animal management at Reaseheath College and also worked in Blackpool Zoo's education department before this. She has recently completed her MSc in Conservation Biology, and particularly enjoys talking to visitors about Chester Zoo's science and conservation work around the world.

## EPISODE 1

Regional Field Programme Manager, Paul Bamford, will be taking us across the world to Latin America and introducing us to the incredible wildlife that calls this region home for our first episode! At just seven years old, Paul's family relocated to Chile and his fascination with wildlife and the impact we have on the natural world was sparked.

Out in the field, our conservation work is a huge part of the work we do and Paul shares with us some of the incredible projects we've been working on to protect the Andean bears and shines a spotlight on our amazing partner organisations that help to make it all happen on the ground.

Read more about PAUL >

## OUR HOSTS

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### CHRIS

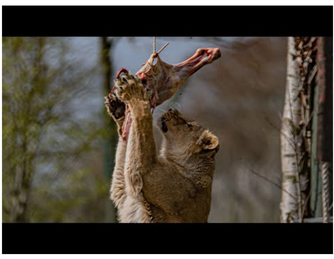
Chris Deputy is the Internal Communications Manager here at Chester Zoo, ensuring staff around the zoo are informed, engaged, and entertained. He was previously a science communicator and lecturer at the University of Liverpool, a stand-up comedian, an events co-ordinator and PR officer at the BBC, and now a podcast host! He loves everything about the natural world and is the biggest supporter of Chester Zoo's mission of preventing extinction.

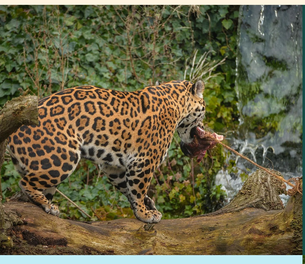
CHESTER ZOO

# GRUB'S UP

Join us for mealtimes at the zoo and learn how we keep feeding time fun for our animals.

Out in the wild, finding food can require a lot of skill, strength and a lengthy search. Here at the zoo, we know how healthy and stimulating solving a puzzle for supper can be, which is why we invest a lot of time in keeping feeds dynamic and fun for a whole range of species, big and small.





## THE CARNIVORES

Big cats live for the hunt and we use a wide variety of tricks and tools to keep things interesting and engaging when it comes to mealtimes.

A game of hide and seek is one way our keepers will keep the carnivores on their toes by hiding meat under a pile of logs or burying it. They also use tether points, where the food will be fastened to something solid, so there's some work and problem solving need to pull it off. Jaguars love a swing ball, but instead of a ball we attach meat to the rope!

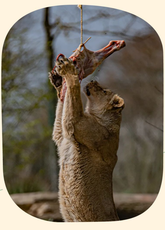
Another trick is to add some spring and weight to meals. Using springs can add some resistance when pulling food and gives a similar feeling to an animal fighting back in the wild. Tethering food to big logs can also add some extra weight so the big cats feel like they're dragging the weight of a whole animal!

## CARIBBEAN FLAMINGOS

Flamingos are filter feeders which means they feed with their beak upside down. They tip their head into the water and filter the tasty algae, crustaceans, and other small organisms before pushing the water back out of their beaks. Their signature pink colour actually comes from the food they eat!

As well as having constant access to dry pellet food, our team offer the flamingos filter feed twice a day in our Latin American Wetland Aviary. To mirror their natural habitat of saline lagoons, salt pans, mangroves, and coastal areas of the Caribbean, Galapagos, and Central and South America.

To keep things interesting, we mix up the filter feeding time, but if you're lucky you might see them filter feeding on your next visit to the zoo.



## LION EXPERIENCE

From April to October, our Lion Experience is open. Watch our lions in action as they take down their prey from the best view in the zoo! For the mane event you'll deliver lunch fit for a king (and his queens) using a zip line, from an exclusive platform.

BOOK NOW! >

## JEWEL WASPS

Jewel wasps might not have their own interesting feeding tale, but how they feed and nurture their offspring is definitely a unique way of growing a family!

Jewel wasps are a parasitoid, which means they use a host (in this case a cockroach) to rear their young. They will sting the cockroach with a powerful venom which then paralyses the cockroach. The cockroach is twice the size of a jewel wasp, so it's crucial for the jewel wasp that the cockroach is paralysed. The jewel wasp will then lay an egg on the cockroach, and the jewel wasp larva (baby jewel wasp) will eat the cockroach (and its organs) as it transforms into a wasp before it hatches from the dead cockroach.

## BERTIA SNAIL

The Vietnamese giant magnolia snail, also known as the Bertia snail, is a critically endangered snail species native to Vietnam. The only living population of this extremely rare snail is right here at Chester Zoo, acting as an 'insurance' population.

Finding the right thing to feed this incredibly rare snail species is a challenge, and they can be very fussy eaters!

We like to change up their food options regularly and have a feeding schedule to mirror the variety of food options they would have in the wild. They'll eat mushrooms, papaya, melon, courgette, and apple to name a few. The Bertia snail also loves to eat leaves - and a lot of them! We feed them leaves such as oak, willow and beech. The Bertia snails also eat up lots of calcium, and they can't get enough of it. Just like the calcium we need for strong bones, the calcium they eat helps to keep their signature shell strong and healthy!

## EXPERIENCE FEEDING TIME FIRST hand

There are so many opportunities to join in the feeding fun. From feeding the colony of Humboldt penguins to hand-feeding fruit bats, there's something for everyone in our Experiences here at the zoo!

FIND A FEEDING EXPERIENCE! >

CHESTER ZOO

Take a sneak peek at some incredible wild animals spotted by our camera traps from across Borneo. This unique footage offers a glimpse into the wild, with orangutans, pig-tailed macaques and even a leopard cat spotted!

## Orangutan

This is an INCREDIBLY rare sight. As one of our closest relatives in the animal kingdom, the orangutan holds a special place in our hearts. But despite their iconic status, all three species are critically endangered. They also rarely venture to the forest floor, spending most of their time high up in the treetops. As their forest homes are often destroyed by unsustainable palm oil production, the fate of these magnificent creatures hangs in the balance. But to see a young orangutan like this gives us hope. You can help protect them by supporting our work and only buying products that have sustainable palm oil in them, when palm oil is an ingredient.

## Pig-tailed macaque

These cheeky monkeys are pig-tailed macaques. They form tight-knit, hierarchical communities that rely on cooperation and mutual grooming, and have very expressive faces. This one gave a cheeky pout while investigating the camera trap, pursing its lips and furrowing its brow. It's these expressions that allow them to communicate effectively with other members of the troop, which can number up to 20 individuals.

## Banded palm civet

The banded palm civet, with its distinctive stripes and masked face, is a true symbol of the Southeast Asian tropics. Despite its arboreal lifestyle, this nimble creature is facing increasing threats from habitat destruction and illegal wildlife trade. With its keen sense of smell and agile movements, the banded palm civet plays a vital role in dispersing seeds and maintaining the diversity of its forest home. Yet, without conservation action, the forests may lose the rustling presence of this captivating civet.

## Bornean crested fireback

Meet the elusive Bornean crested fireback, a striking sight to behold in the dense jungles of Borneo. With its metallic green, blue, and purple feathers and elegant crest, this female navigates the forest floor with grace and poise. However, hunting and habitat loss have led this captivating creature to be classified as Vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and scientists don't know how many individuals remain in the wild.

## Common palm civet

This common palm civet is leaving its mark on the world. With glands near its rear secreting a pungent musk, this arboreal mammal is letting its presence be known to rivals and potential mates. Through this unique form of communication, the common palm civet maintains its territory and navigates the complex social dynamics of its community.

## Leopard cat

Much like its larger namesake, the leopard cat's coat is adorned with rosettes that help it blend seamlessly into its surroundings. Though small in stature, this cat is a formidable hunter, preying on small mammals and birds under the cover of darkness. Despite their forest home shrinking, leopard cats are found in abundance across a huge area of Southeast Asia.

## Malay badger

The Malay badger, with its distinctive black and white coat, is a master of the forest floor. Though rarely seen by people, this elusive animal plays a crucial role in controlling insect populations and aerating the forest floor. They're found across a large range in Southeast Asia, including Borneo, Java, Sumatra, and the Natuna Islands, and are incredibly adaptable; conservationists even think they may benefit from some types of human disturbance.

## Malay civet

Among the shadows of this rainforest lurks the enigmatic and solitary Malay civet. With its sleek, dark fur and piercing eyes, this nocturnal predator roams the undergrowth in search of prey. While surveys across its range in Sumatra have failed to find this species at all, it's commonly recorded on camera traps like this in Borneo and is able to thrive in even degraded areas.

## Camera trap fact

Despite the name, there's no trapping involved! The cameras are simply left in a secret spot and sense when there's some movement or animal action in the surrounding area, helping us capture magic little moments like these.

# BORNEO A GROWING Movement

Meet the women bringing Borneo's forests back to life

## All FEMALE REFORESTATION team

What better way to celebrate this year's International Women's Day on 8 March than shining a light on the inspiring all-female reforestation team working to restore one of the most biodiverse regions in Malaysia.

These women are paving the way for future female generations in Borneo to find permanent employment while reforesting their native land!

The Kinabatangan river in the North of the island of Borneo is home to a huge range of wildlife including the much-loved Bornean orangutan. This incredible community of women are working to support some of the island's most unique wildlife living among an area used for palm oil production.

## INSPIRING INCLUSION

International Women's Day 2024 is themed around inspiring inclusion. When we inspire others to understand and value women's inclusion, we forge a better world.

## The WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

Working with our conservation partner, NGO (non-governmental organisation) HUTAN, and the women on the ground, we've been bringing to life the ecological concept of the wildlife corridor.

Wildlife corridors connect different areas of land to help wildlife safely move between them.

In this project, passionate and knowledgeable local women are reforesting areas to create these corridors for the animals that live in the region, which is also a key part of achieving sustainable palm oil production for the future.

## THE WOMEN of BORNEO

The all-female reforestation team have expert knowledge of the area and its wildlife. They will be responsible for tending the land, and will witness the positive change to their homeland in years to come.

## WOMEN & WORK

Hutan have pioneered the development of the Genting Wildlife Corridor (GWC), led uniquely by a team of local women who are blazing a trail and creating a whole new vision for the women of Borneo. It's rare for women to have a permanent job in the Kinabatangan and yet, since 2008 the entirely female team has carried out huge scale landscape restoration projects, inspiring both the local community and the wider world.

Collaborating with the local community is an important part of reforestation as protecting and restoring the area they live in means more to them than it could to anyone else.

## PROTECTING PRECIOUS SPECIES

**Bornean orangutan**

Orangutans are our closest living relatives on the planet, sharing 97% of our DNA. They are among the many species being pushed to the brink of extinction in South East Asia by hunting, forest clearance and unsustainable palm oil production.

**Pygmy elephant**

The smallest Asian elephant subspecies, the pygmy elephants are distinctly smaller than their cousins on the mainland. While pygmy elephants are smaller in size at 8.2 - 9.8 feet tall, they are still the largest mammal on the island.

**Proboscis monkey**

The endangered proboscis monkey is only found on the island of Borneo, living along forest edges and waterways, feeding off and sleeping in the trees along riverbanks. The male monkeys use their iconic large noses to attract mates.

## SEEDS OF SUCCESS

The 11 women that make up the Nursery and Monitoring Team are hard at work reviewing the reforested areas and developing new research protocols so we can learn more about the impact the wildlife corridors are having on the ecosystem and the wider community.

**OVER 16,000**

seedlings planted in 2022

**ALL-FEMALE TEAM**

planting the seeds of change for women across the region!

**OVER 71,000**

seedlings planted in total since 2019

Five years on from the beginning of work on the GWC, there are some significant signs of success. The women are witnessing a rapid wildlife recolonisation of the area by a host of species. There's an interesting twist to the story as the increasing animal presence does result in higher losses of newly planted seedlings by species such as macaques, pigs and deer. But this loss is actually a really promising sign of the natural process of any healthy ecosystem. The native species fertilise seeds in their digestive tracts and spread them further afield in this process. We can see that "wild" seedlings growing throughout Genting are on the rise, giving the team great hope that the region's biodiversity can be preserved.

## SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL

There's huge worldwide demand for palm oil, which features in all sorts of every day products, from food to cleaning materials and cosmetics. Its popularity comes from its versatility – it can either be a liquid or a solid, has natural preservative effects, and has no smell or taste. It is the most widely used vegetable oil in the world due to its low cost and efficiency. Palm oil produces up to nine times more oil per unit area than other major oil crops, so a switch to another type of edible vegetable oil (such as [illegible] oil) would require up to nine times as much land to [illegible] the same yield. This would greatly increase [illegible]ion and the effect on habitats.

[illegible]estation is a major environmental crisis, and is now the [illegible] leading cause of climate change globally, after burning [illegible] fuels. Agricultural expansion is thought to account for [illegible]% of deforestation which is the issue we see in [illegible].

[illegible] palm oil is a way of producing palm oil that ensures [illegible]pact on the environment of the regions it's grown in, [illegible]as shown that the average carbon footprint of [illegible]Sustainable Palm Oil is 36% lower than for non-certified [illegible].

## THE WORLD'S FIRST Sustainable PALM OIL City

Did you know we made Chester the world's first 'Sustainable Palm Oil City'? Our experts worked with restaurants, cafes, hotels, fast food outlets, schools and workplaces in the city to introduce sustainable palm oil policies into their supply chain.

Find out how you can get involved and join the sustainable palm oil community movement!

GET INVOLVED! >

**Download our free app to check your favourite barcodes and products to discover more sustainable palm oil options and do your bit to make a difference!**

DOWNLOAD OUR APP! >

CHESTER ZOO

# FUN & GAMES

BIG OUR ZOO QUIZ >

SCREENSAVERS >

If you enjoyed the quizzes and games in our previous issues, we're sure you'll love the new ones we've created for the kids among you and the big kids too!

Start by testing your general knowledge from this issue with The Big Our Zoo Quiz, then download one of the wallpapers for your desktop or mobile.

## PLAY MORE GAMES

PLAY GAME >

PLAY GAME >

PLAY GAME >

## Download Wallpapers for desktop & mobile

SNOW LEOPARD

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SUNDA GHARIALS

DESKTOP

MOBILE

RHINO

DESKTOP

MOBILE

BORNEO

DESKTOP

MOBILE

SUNDA GHARIAL

DESKTOP

MOBILE

SLOTH & JAGUAR

DESKTOP

MOBILE

GIANT ANTEATER

DESKTOP

MOBILE

# MEMBERS HIDDEN GEMS

We know that, as members, you all have traditions, must-sees and special memories. In this feature, we follow members as they explore the zoo and let us in on their hidden gems and recommendations. This time, we spoke to Jess who told us why she loves using her membership to bring her family to the zoo and what her family enjoys most when they visit.

**How long have you been visiting the zoo?**

I have visited the zoo since I was a little girl. As a family though, we have visited for nine years and have been members for about four years.

We love **LEARNING** new things *ABOUT THE ANIMALS* and watching **THEM GROW.**

**What do you love about visiting the zoo?**

The things we love about the zoo are obviously coming to see the animals, spending time together as a family, being in the outdoors and getting some fresh air. We also love learning new things about the animals and watching them grow.

The **ZOO** holds such a big place in **MY HEART** and I will *FOREVER* **LOVE** coming to visit. We have *SO MANY MEMORIES* from our visits and I **CAN'T WAIT** to make more as the **YEARS GO ON.**

**Which area of the zoo is your favourite to visit?**

We love the elephants and monkeys which are when you first enter the zoo, so this is our favourite area. Our children enjoy having their faces painted at the face painting station near the monkeys as well. We normally have our lunch in this area too and in the summer we stop for an ice cream and watch the rhinos.

**Do you have a special memory that took place at the zoo?**

My most special memory at the zoo would definitely be when my family came to watch me feed the giraffes. They bought me the *Giraffe Experience* as a gift last year, as I hadn't been very well. It was such a memorable day. I learnt all about the giraffes and even fed them! We were also given some goodies to take home. I would recommend the experiences to anyone. It was definitely worth the price.

**Find out more about our Chester Zoo experiences and plan to create your own extra special memories.**

**What does your typical day at the zoo look like?**

We often arrive at the zoo around lunchtime, so will stop to have lunch nearby after looking at the elephants and monkeys near the main entrance. Each time we visit and stop for lunch, a robin sits next to us. After we have eaters, we tend to pop over the bridge past the elephants to go and see the giraffes, then the lions, and after that, we walk toward the Spirit of the Jaguar. From there, we wander over to Realm of the Red Ape to spot the orangutans and then continue on to see the chimps and then the penguins and flamingos. We also enjoy a look around the aquarium. Finally, if we have time, we would visit Islands.

"The things we **LOVE** about the **ZOO** is obviously coming to see the *ANIMALS*, spending *TIME TOGETHER* as a **FAMILY,** being in the **OUTDOORS** and getting some *FRESH AIR*."

Hidden Gems

**What's your favourite benefit of your membership?**

Our favourite benefit of having a Chester Zoo membership is the ability to just visit whenever we like and for however long. It doesn't matter if we arrive and it's raining or if the children change their mind about being at the zoo, because we can come again the next day if we so wished. My aim for this year is to take more time for myself which means lots of trips to the zoo on my own to take nice photos on my camera and really enjoy just sitting and watching the animals.

**Why do you and your family love the zoo?**

There are so many reasons. It's been such a big part of our lives. Everyone who knows us, knows that we love coming to the zoo. We visit if it's one of our birthdays, we come to all the special events, such as Lanterns and Light at the zoo. We really enjoy attending at Halloween and Christmas; the zoo is always decorated lovely and there are often trails for the children to complete on our way round. My husband and I have spent many wedding anniversaries at the zoo as well. It is one of my happy places.

It is one of my **HAPPY** PLACES...

**Do you have a hidden gem you enjoy at the zoo, somewhere that might be missed by first time visitors?**

There are a couple of hidden gems at the zoo. For us, one of them would be by the entrance. When you first walk through the gates, on the right is a cafe. There are some benches by the cafe and you can sit there and eat your lunch while watching the rhinos. There doesn't seem to be many people there whenever we have sat there. Another would be where the painted dogs are (where the cheetahs used to live). There is a hut where you can sit on a bench and watch the animals through the glass. This seems to be a quiet area when we've been there.

*If you would* like to take part *in the next* **HIDDEN GEMS** *feature* CLICK HERE >

CHESTER ZOO

# Junior Programme

## Discover, explore, share and learn

We've got a huge programme of events for 2024. With activities for ages 0-17, there's something for every future conservationist.

BOOK YOUR PLACE >

Places are limited and often get snapped up fast, so make sure you book soon to avoid disappointment!

As a holiday childcare provider, **Chester Zoo is registered with Ofsted**, so adults can use **tax-free childcare to pay for holiday** activities with us. Check out our event pages for more information.

### 3-DAY HOLIDAY CLUB

Perfect for young animal lovers and conservationists of the future.

- Age 5 - 8 (Year 1 -3)
- Age 8 - 11 (Year 4 - 6)
- Age 11 - 14 (Year 7 -9)

### WEEKEND CLUB

Join our Zoo Rangers for a jam packed 90 minutes every Sunday morning over 3 weeks.

- Age 5 - 8 (Year 1 -3)
- Age 8 - 11 (Year 4 - 6)

### CAREER DAYS

Thinking of a career in conservation?

- Age 11 - 14 (Year 7 -9)

Check out our different career days - more to be added for 2024!

- Age 14 - 17

Become a Zoo Keeper for the Day!

### Conservation Tots Mornings – under 5's

Join us on Wednesday mornings for sessions designed to encourage the development of your child and encourage the bond between you and your little one.

- Tiny Tots (up to 1 year old) >
- Toddler Tots (1-5 years old) >

Conservation Tots

CHESTER ZOO

# MEMBERS UPDATES

We're delighted to announce 2024 dates for our popular Members' Days. Each date will have its own theme coinciding with wildlife awareness days, and there will be some extra surprises waiting for you and your guests! The 2024 dates for Members' Days are:

**Frog theme**

**Snake theme**

**Rhino theme**

**Anteater theme**

**FREE** FOR MEMBERS and bring
up to FOUR NON MEMBERS for **50% OFF**

Keep an eye on your inbox for a sign up link soon.

## ZOO RANGER TALKS

Have you met our knowledgeable team of Zoo Rangers?

These free talks happen every day, so come and join our Rangers for some fun facts! Please check the website as times may vary throughout year and for information on other activities happening.

### ELEPHANT TALK

**11:20am at the Elephant Habitat**

Meet our elephant family and find out more about how we keep them healthy through **ground breaking research** that happens right here at the zoo.

### TROPICAL REALM BIRD FEED

**1:20pm at Tropical Realm**

Join us as we meet some of our smaller, feathered residents as we feed a mixture of food to our **birds from around the world.**

### PENGUIN TALK

**1:40pm at Penguin Habitat**

How do these amazing birds fly so well... in the water? Find out how these flightless birds are so well adapted to living in the seas off the **coast of Chile and Peru.**

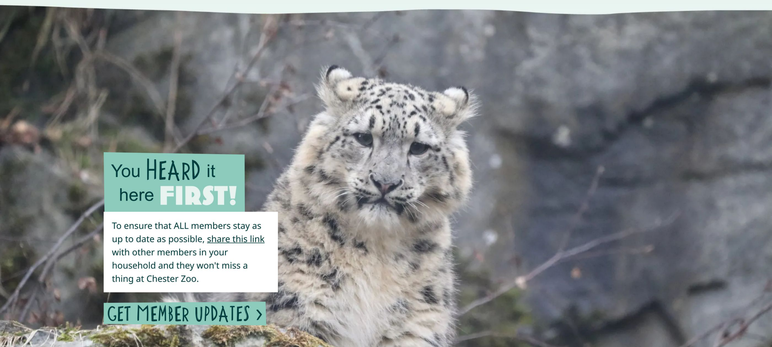
Make this MOTHER'S DAY one to remember and join us for our afternoon tea experience! **CELEBRATE** this SPECIAL DAY in the truly unique setting of The Square, located right in the HEART OF THE ZOO.

Book now >

## CHESTER ZOO MEMORY CAFÉ

The Chester Zoo Memory Café is a place for people with dementia, their families, friends and carers to come together and enjoy a cuppa in the unique setting of the zoo

**Where:** Bembe Coffee Shop at our main entrance
**When:** Second and fourth Monday of each month, 10:30am – 12pm



You HEARD it here **FIRST!**

To ensure that ALL members stay as up to date as possible, share this link with other members in your household and they won't miss a thing at Chester Zoo.

GET MEMBER UPDATES >

CHESTER ZOO

Discover five **GIANT EGGS** on our egg-citing **EASTER TRAIL!** Complete the challenge and collect your sweet treat as a reward from the gift shop! PLUS spot the **NEW SNOW LEOPARD** arrivals at the end of the trail.

**LOOK OUT** for our giant chicken friend joining us over Easter weekend around June's Food Court as well as **SPECIAL ONSITE ACTIVITIES,** from storytelling to a show at Basecamp. You'll find more than just the Easter bunny on our trail!

**PLUS from 29 March to 14 April** we'll be hiding a golden egg each day with a surprise prize inside. Find the egg to win!

**Keep an eye on our social media and website** for hints on where to find each egg each day.

CHESTER ZOO

# A PARTNERSHIP FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION

At Chester Zoo, we thrive on collaborating with partners, driven by a shared vision to address the survival challenges facing endangered species.

That's why we're thrilled to partner with Mowgli Street Food, the UK's biggest Indian restaurant chain, to protect precious habitats and boost the conservation of elephants in India and orangutans in Borneo.

Drawing on inspiration from experiences working alongside our conservationists in Assam, northern India in 2022, where we're actively involved in safeguarding Asian elephants, Mowgli Street Food has joined us in an exciting partnership.

MOWGLI STREET FOOD

**United by our shared vision to address the survival challenges facing endangered species, Mowgli has committed to helping us prevent extinction in India and Borneo.**

The restaurant was founded with philanthropy at its core, aiming to empower its teams and give back to the communities it serves.

## THE MOWGLI TRUST

The Mowgli Trust was set up in 2018 by Mowgli's founder, Nisha Katona MBE, to raise funds for local charities through voluntary donations from guests. Totalling over £1.8 million since its inception, the trust has now supported numerous local and international charities.

As wildlife experts warn of a global extinction crisis, with the UN estimating that more than one million species could become extinct in a generation, urgent action is vital.

In the case of the Asian elephant, recent estimates suggest fewer than 40,000 now remain. The species is listed as Endangered on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List, threatened by habitat loss, poaching, disease and direct conflict with humans.

To commemorate our EXCITING partnership, MOWGLI STREET FOOD has given us a **RECIPE** from the Mowgli Cookbook, to SHARE WITH OUR MEMBERS!

## CRUNCY-NUT CHICKEN BURGERS WITH SPICY MAYO

**by Nisha Katona (from Bold)**

This intriguing mash-up takes the humble chicken burger to Indonesia by way of everyone's favourite peanutty breakfast cereal. Weird maybe, wonderful definitely. The first time I made this I was still trying to decide whether it worked when I finished the whole thing in about three minutes flat, so I guess it did.

I took the inspiration from gado gado salad and made a kecap manis (Indonesian sweet soy sauce) mayo to go with it, along with chillies and ginger to stop it getting overly sweet. This is also balanced out with a salad of sharp radish and pickles, and fresh cucumber. It is everything you want in a meal – sweet, salty, sour, spicy, nutty, crunchy, soft, crisp, juicy – utterly compelling.

### INGREDIENTS

4 skinless boneless chicken breasts
300ml/½fl oz/1¼ cups buttermilk
100g/3½oz/generous ¾ cup plain/all-purpose flour
2 tsp garlic granules
2 tsp mild chilli powder
2 eggs, beaten
200g/7oz honey nut cornflakes
(such as Kellogg's Crunchy Nut)
neutral oil, for frying
sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

**For the pickles:**
4–6 radishes, finely sliced
2 tbsp rice vinegar
1 tsp honey
a pinch of salt

**For the kecap mayo:**
4 tbsp mayo
2 tbsp kecap manis
1 tbsp peanut butter
1–2 tbsp fresh lemon juice
¼ red chilli, deseeded and finely diced
5mm/¼in piece of fresh root ginger, peeled and grated
sea salt

**To serve:**
4 brioche burger buns
lettuce leaves
cucumber

Slice each chicken breast into three or four thick strips – we are going for maximum crispy coverage here, which will be better achieved with more pieces than a whole breast. Put them in a bowl and add the buttermilk along with a pinch of salt and pepper. Leave to marinate for a few hours in the refrigerator to tenderise the chicken, but let it come to room temperature for 20 minutes before coating and cooking.

To make the pickles, put the radishes in a small bowl with the rice vinegar and 1 tablespoon water. Add the honey and salt, stir together, then leave to pickle for at least 30 minutes – or a few hours (in the refrigerator) if you want them to go completely pink, which looks great.

For the kecap mayo, combine all the ingredients in a small bowl, adding more lemon juice and salt to taste.

Once the chicken has marinated, set up a production line. Put the flour on a plate, mix in the garlic and chilli powder, and season well with salt and pepper. Put the beaten eggs in a shallow bowl. Crush the cornflakes into smaller pieces, but not completely to crumbs, and put them on another plate. Remove a piece of chicken from the buttermilk and shake it to remove any excess liquid.

Dip it first in the flour, then in the egg, and finally in the cornflake crumbs, making sure it is completely covered at every step. Repeat to coat all of the chicken pieces.

Heat a 1.5cm/2/3in depth of oil in a sauté pan or deep frying pan over a medium heat. Once hot, fry the chicken pieces for a couple of minutes on each ide until golden and crispy and cooked through. You will probably need to cook them in batches. Drain the pieces on paper towels while you cook the next batch.

To assemble your burgers, halve the brioche buns and lightly toast the cut sides on a hot dry griddle pan or frying pan. Spread the base of the buns with a little of the kecap mayo, then layer up with lettuce leaves, cucumber slices, pickles and chicken pieces. Drizzle a little more mayo over the chicken, then pop the lids on the buns and enjoy.

## PUT YOUR VERY OWN 'PAW PRINT' ON OUR NEW SNOW LEOPARD HABITAT!

As we prepare to welcome two snow leopards to the zoo next month, we have an exciting way for you to get involved and help support their new habitat...

Become a part of our Snow Leopard Legacy by purchasing a beautifully crafted 'paw print' and placing your or your loved one's name, in the heart of our new snow leopard habitat.

Back in December, we told you about a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to leave your mark on Chester Zoo's conservation efforts and make a lasting contribution to Nubra and Yashin's Himalayan home here at the zoo!

With only a few 'paw prints' still available, these plaques will not only be a unique symbol of your support but also a permanent reminder of the positive change that you've helped us to create. Whether you're planning a tribute for a loved one, a gift for a special occasion, or just celebrating your passion for the zoo itself, by leaving your paw print at our new habitat, you will be helping to preserve the future of this beautiful and majestic species.

Snow leopards are threatened with extinction, with their population rapidly declining. Right now, the IUCN estimates there are only between 2,710 and 3,386 snow leopards left in the wild.

**Buy a PAW print from £500 and ENJOY.**

**Your name and paw print at our snow leopard habitat**

**A certificate to commemorate your support**

**A cuddly toy snow leopard as a thank you for your support**

For more information please contact Tanya Simpson, Individual Giving Fundraiser:

T.Simpson@chesterzoo.org

Thank you to all our corporate and philanthropic partners, including

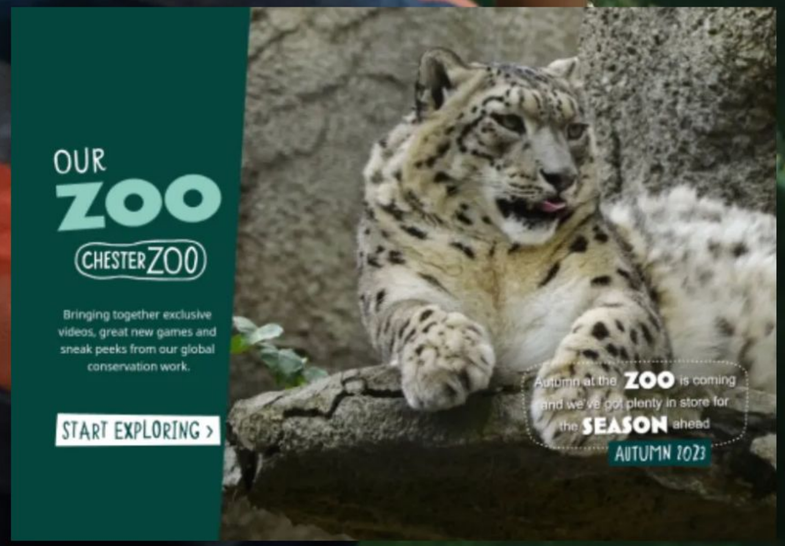
ASDA · Chester Bluecoat Charity · Chester Racecourse · co-op · darwin escapes · Ferrero · M&S Bank · mbna · Mowgli Street Food · Heritage Fund · proximo · Sapito Dairy UK · Sykes Holiday Software · Toyota Manufacturing UK · Urenco · Westminster Foundation

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 prevent extinction all over the world.

CHESTER ZOO

GET READY TO DISCOVER ILLUMINATED
WORLDS ONCE AGAIN...
Lanterns
and Light
CHESTER
AT ZOO
TICKETS ON SALE IN APRIL
New for 2024 – exclusive member discount on selected dates!
Sign up to our emails to be the first to know when tickets go on sale
SIGN UP TODAY

## PREVIOUS ISSUES




# THANKS TO YOU

It's thanks to your support that we're able to work ALL over the world to protect endangered wildlife and we're delighted to share more of the great work we do through Our Zoo. We're always looking for ways to improve how we deliver you exciting behind the scenes content and stories. If there is anything you would like to see featured in Our Zoo or for general membership and adoption enquiries we'd love to hear from you.

GET IN TOUCH