

Winter 2007 Issue 32

The official magazine for Chester Zoo
Members and Adopters



A roaring success!

Tejas, the tiny lion cub,
offers a glimmer of hope
for his species



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Welcome to the Winter issue of Z

and I'm pleased to say, the Zoo
is seeing the year out on a high.

We have enjoyed record-breaking months for visitors through the year and welcomed our millionth visitor in early September, far earlier than we did last year.

We look to finish the year having welcomed in excess of 1.1 million visitors - an all time record year in Chester Zoo's history. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the members and adopters for their continued support.

Our *Frost Fair* event is in full swing and we are fortunate this year to have a helping hand from Olympic and European ice skating champion Robin Cousins and his company Cousins Entertainment. Robin and his company are providing valuable support, together with our impressive ice rink.

As you will see from the magazine cover, we have also had a welcome new addition to the Zoo. *Tejas*, the Asiatic lion cub, was born at the end of August and marks another milestone. His mum, *Asha*, was not too attentive with her new charge so *Tejas* has been hand-reared and given much needed tender, loving care by our carnivore team. *Tejas* also made the media headlines and I am delighted to say he is going from strength to strength.

We are working on our development plans for the next year and I hope to be able to update you

in future issues of Z. We have some very exciting things in store for the Zoo collection. Rest assured that we will be continuing to care for some of the most threatened and endangered species. The IUCN Red List, which was published recently, showed that increasing numbers of animal and plant species are facing extinction. This list now totals more than 41,000.

This is where organisations like ours come into play, helping create insurance populations for the future. We will continue in this important work organising conservation support in the wild and, as ever, your support will be essential.

On behalf us all here at the Zoo, I wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and a prosperous 2008!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Gordon M.G. Reid'.

Gordon McGregor Reid
Director General



Zoo Additions

New arrivals at the Zoo

Asiatic Lion Cub

He's just a few weeks old but *Tejas*, the tiny, lion cub, offers a glimmer of hope for his species. The male Asiatic Lion, who is being hand-reared by Chester Zoo's carnivore team, was born to mum *Asha* after a three and half month pregnancy.

Asiatic Lions can now only be found in India's Gir Forest and 17 lions have been killed there in the last five months. With the number of Asiatic Lions plummeting, Chester's new cub will eventually play a major part in a

breeding programme for his species, ensuring it continues.

Tejas – who was being fed a special formulated cat milk every three hours and whose name is Indian for sharpness – was one of two born to mum *Asha*. However, the other male cub was not strong enough to survive, weighing far less than his 1.2 kilo sibling.

Mike Jordan, the Zoo's Curator of Higher Vertebrates, said: "Asiatic Lions face some real threats in the

wild and the fact that 17 lions alone have died in the last few months – eight of those from poaching – shows just how critical the situation is for the Asiatic Lion.

"That's why this young cub's birth is so important. The fact that *Tejas* is a male means he has the potential to play a really important role in the breeding programme for his species."

Zoo Additions

Komodo Dragon

If animals could be said to be given star treatment, then *Norman* the Komodo Dragon got the sort of reception reserved for A-listers when he arrived at Chester Zoo from his former home in Holland.

The new 'king' of *Islands in Danger* is big news at Chester, having arrived just a few days before his 13th birthday. He has already been given a new name, better suited to his dignified demeanour.

His keeper has put time in learning a few key Dutch phrases to help him settle in. And there is the scent of even better things on the horizon.

He has been brought to Chester to be introduced to the Zoo's two female dragons in the hope that they will breed. And that's got to be good for a fella who hasn't been near a female dragon in the last decade! Zoo reptile staff made a special cross channel journey to Rotterdam Zoo to transport the dragon back to Chester.

Though *Norman* is strictly speaking an 'American' having hatched out in Washington Zoo on August 22, 1994, he was moved to Holland when he was a year old and has spent his life since then in Rotterdam.

Dutch keepers nicknamed him *Fat Boy*, but since his arrival in Chester he has enjoyed a name change. "We thought that name was a little unfair, as he is not really fat, just a bit chunky," said Isolde McGeorge, our Herpetology Team Leader who will be caring for the new Komodo.

Keepers decided to call him *Norman* after famous DJ and musician Fatboy Slim, who is also known as Norman Cook.

"It maintains a nice link with his original nickname but gives him a little more dignity," said Isolde, who is thrilled that *Norman* seems to be settling well. She said: "He is a little quiet, which is natural considering he has been through such a big move, but he has responded well when we have offered him some food treats, which is a good sign."

The dragon is in quarantine and will not be introduced to either of the females until he is cleared to do so by the vets. But it is likely he is already aware there are females around, due to their smell. Isolde said: "Our two females, *Nessie* and *Flora* will probably know there is a male nearby too, but at the moment he is cordoned off and so they cannot see him."



Isolde has learned a few words of Dutch to help *Norman* feel more at home, explaining: "Keepers in Holland would obviously have spoken Dutch while they were around him and I thought it would be useful to learn some phrases so he doesn't feel he is in a completely alien environment. We are lucky that his main keeper in Rotterdam was also a woman which is good because we both have similar voices and it is more the tone than language itself which they are sensitive to."

Komodo Dragons are the world's largest living lizard species and can grow up to three metres in length. Hatchlings can grow up to a metre long and about 15 kilos in weight in their first year.

They are only found naturally on a handful of small islands in Indonesia, one of which is Komodo, after which they are named. There they are known as the kings of native wildlife species, as they have no natural predators. But their numbers are declining with less than 5,000 now to be found in the wild. The international zoo breeding programme hopes to reverse that trend and help conserve the species for future generations.



Black-tailed Prairie Dogs

This summer a litter of 4 Black-tailed Prairie Dogs (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) have been delighting the visitors in *Marmot Mania*. Despite the very wet summer and several flooded burrows the litter were raised fine and have been very bold in the exhibit.



Mount Kulal Spiny Mouse

A species new to the collection and the first time ever kept in the UK is Mount Kulal Spiny Mouse (*Acomys sp.*). These distinctive black and white spiny mice were discovered recently by a Czech expedition to a high volcanic plateau in Kenya and may well be a species new to science and yet to be described! The animals were discovered on an isolated lava desert high on the mountain and may well be completely restricted to this unique habitat. The species is breeding well since its arrival at Chester and one small colony is currently on display in the *Secret World of the Okapi*.



Lar Gibbon

Certainly the noisiest new addition to the Zoo for a long time is the group of 4 Lar Gibbons (*Hylobates lar*) in the new *Realm of the Red Ape* exhibit. The group has settled in extremely well to their new home and following a period of settling in are now mixed in with the Sumatran Orang-utan. They have revelled in the wet summer as they absolutely love the rain!

Action for the Mexican axolotl

by Dr Richard A. Griffiths, Reader in Biological Conservation at DICE, University of Kent.

The Mexican axolotl is one of the most unusual amphibians in the world. Unlike many other salamanders, whose aquatic larval phase is followed by metamorphosis into a land-living adult, the axolotl stays in water for its entire life, leading a rather fish-like existence and keeping its feathery gills. In 1863 a group of wild-caught axolotls were sent to the Paris museum. They proved to be very easy to breed in captivity, and their remarkable ability to regrow toes – and even entire limbs – attracted a lot of interest from medical laboratories.

Like laboratory mice, a wide variety of colour forms have since been produced by selective breeding, and today, the axolotl is found in labs, aquaria and pet stores throughout the world with many of these animals thought to be direct descendants of those collected back in the 1800s. Sadly, although very common in zoos and aquariums the axolotl is now on the edge of extinction in its last remaining habitat – the remnant channels of Lakes Xochimilco and Chalco on the edge of Mexico City. Habitat loss, pollution, introduced fish and illegal collection have all taken

their toll on the last remaining populations.

With funding from the British Government's Darwin Initiative programme, the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology at the University of Kent has been working with Mexican and British partners on a conservation programme for the axolotl. Amongst other activities, the project has run a series of workshops to raise awareness among all the people who use the lake and its resources. In particular, the project has

promoted nature tourism at Lake Xochimilco through a training programme for the local boatmen who take visitors on trips along the canals in their gaily-coloured boats (or 'trajineras'). Chester Zoo has contributed to this programme by funding information panels that the boatmen fit to the inside of their boats, and supporting other educational initiatives at a field station belonging to the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana. In addition, the Zoo's Head of Field Programmes and Research Dr Roger Wilkinson and Head

of Zoo Programmes Kevin Buley contributed to the action plan workshop held in December 2005. This action plan has provided the blue-print for conservation action, and although there remains much work to do, there are signs that the tide may soon be turning for the axolotl. Visitors to Lake Xochimilco can now learn about the history and conservation of this unique wetland as they are punted along the canals, and although wild axolotls are difficult to see because of their scarcity, there are now several captive breeding facilities that provide further information

about this enigmatic amphibian and its conservation. As a result of scientific data that emerged from the project, the axolotl was upgraded from 'Vulnerable' to 'Critically Endangered' in the IUCN Red List, and the plight of the species and its habitat has been brought to the attention of the Mexican President. The distinctive appearance of the axolotl, coupled with its historical, cultural and economic importance, make it a charismatic animal instantly recognisable among local people. Consequently, the axolotl has become a 'flagship species' for the conservation of Lake Xochimilco.

Sadly, although very common in zoos, the axolotl is now on the edge of extinction in its last remaining habitat – the remnant channels of Lakes Xochimilco and Chalco on the edge of Mexico City.



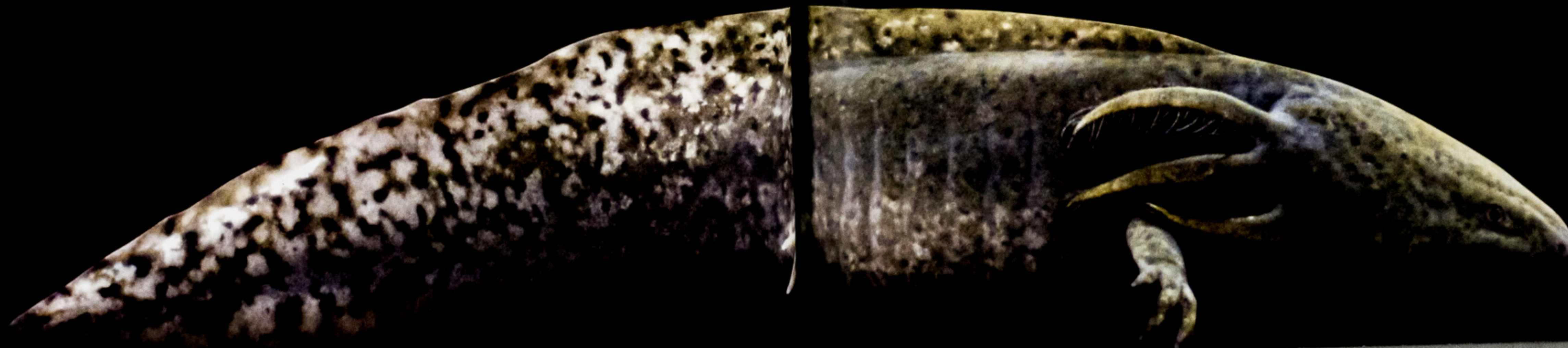
Lake Xochimilco, habitat of the Axolotl



The trajineras of the local boatmen



Participants of the Axolotl workshop



The Plight of the Mountain Chicken

by Matt Swatman, Herpetology Team

If I were to ask you what a Mountain Chicken looked like, I wonder what image you would conjure up? Whatever you come up with, it most likely wouldn't be one of the world's largest frog species.

The Mountain Chicken (*Leptodactylus fallax*), historically inhabited St Kitts, Martinique, Guadeloupe, St Lucia and perhaps Antigua. It is now restricted to the Caribbean Islands of Montserrat and Dominica. The population on Montserrat was devastated by the eruption of the Soufriere Hills Volcano in 1995 whilst the population on Dominica has been decimated by the sudden emergence of the fungal amphibian disease chytridiomycosis.

To understand just how great the disease threat to this species is, a collaborative project between Dominica Forestry and Wildlife, Fisheries and the Environment, the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), North of England Zoological Society (NEZS), Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (DWCT) and Fauna & Flora International has been set up.

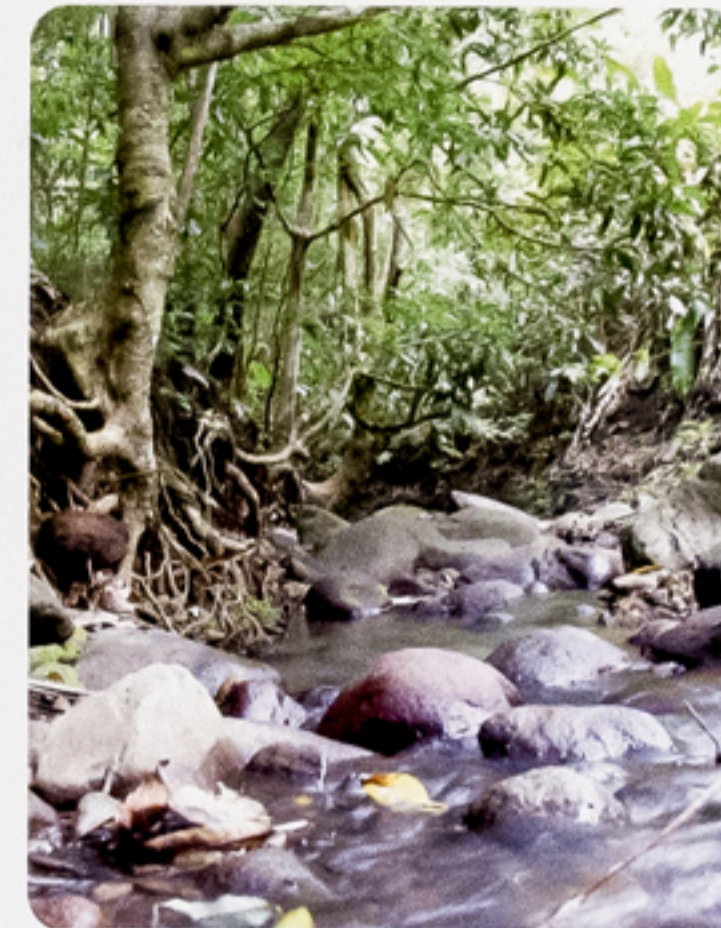
Our aim is to monitor amphibian disease across the island, establish an international breeding programme for the Mountain Chicken and include an in-country breeding facility on Dominica with the intention of ensuring the long-term recovery of their population in the wild. The project is funded by the UK Government Darwin Initiative, which supports conservation and capacity building overseas. The project is focusing on the following areas:

- Field monitoring of amphibian population, distribution and disease
- Analysis of amphibian diseases in a purpose-built genetics laboratory at the Roseau Botanical Gardens
- An education and awareness-raising campaign
- A zoo breeding and research programme

Having met with representatives of Dominica Forestry Commission it soon became apparent that collecting the intended 20 specimens for the UK breeding programme was not going to be easy. Residents



Matt Swatman



Mountain Chicken habitat in Dominica



Purpose built Mountain Chicken testing laboratory

reporting frog sightings were virtually non-existent, coupled with an excessively long dry season.

The first transect we visited was not fruitful, however the second seemed much better due to a sulphurous stream running through the hills and a vast abundance of native crickets which Mountain Chickens prey upon. Despite our optimism, however, no Chickens were found.

Our first frog came on the second night around 2 miles down a jeep track. The specimen was on the road and having been caught briefly in the torch beam, jumped into a nearby gully. After catching the specimen skin swabs were taken to test for chytrid fungus as well as photos for ID purposes.

Heavy rain set in for much of the next day, which was most welcome.

That evening we heard the call of several males. We were lucky enough to catch three. We separated into smaller groups with the hope of covering more ground. There was the opportunity to catch more males than the five we came away with, but with only one female, the collection of more males would be pointless.

A primary objective for Dominica Forestry and Wildlife Division is to achieve an in-country Mountain Chicken breeding facility. Incorporating a sustainable population of captive native cricket as a food source. Building on our existing expertise of cricket breeding at the Zoo, we were able to help establish this breeding colony at the Forestry Division during our visit.

The Mountain Chicken is in jeopardy, and requires help right now!

Locations teeming with frogs three years ago are now desolate and falling short of a minimum viable population.

On the positive side none of the amphibians screened tested positive for chytridiomycosis, which was surprising. The final number of animals collected on our expedition totalled seven; five males and two females, hopefully there will be opportunities in the near future for further collection, so that we can increase the number of females.

Right now the future of the Dominican Mountain Chicken is hanging in the balance and its survival may well depend on the UK zoo breeding programme and those animals we rescued from the forest.

Like many of the world's amphibian species, the Mountain Chicken is threatened with extinction.



Making a difference

NEZS Conservation Outreach Update

Realm of the Red Ape Programme

Chester Zoo has been supporting Orang-utan conservation for over 10 years, supporting projects both in Borneo and Sumatra. Earlier this year staff visited the "Hutan" Orang-utan project in Borneo to assess the potential for longer term programme support.

Orang-utans are a major flagship species for the Zoo and our support in Sabah, Borneo has grown over the years and now has several different components including habitat protection, research, training, capacity building, ecotourism and education projects.

With the growth of our orang-utan conservation support in the wild, and the opening of the major new *Realm of the Red Ape* Zoo exhibit it was felt that our orang-utan project support should become the focus of a major flagship conservation programme.

This will mean developing a larger, long term, commitment to these orang-utan projects, stronger links with project partners and involvement in the programmes development, and the development of stronger links between our in-zoo skills and the projects conserving this and other threatened species sharing their habitats in the wild. The projects which comprise the new *Realm of the Red Ape Conservation Programme* will have its focus in the Kinabatangan area of Sabah, Borneo and will include the ongoing support for conservation education linked to Orang-utan support in Sumatra.

The Kinabatangan area holds significant populations of Orang-utans and Bornean Elephants and "Hutan" have developed an important project on Human-Elephant conflict. Biodiversity is

high in this region and the projects supported through this programme will benefit a wide range of species as well as the orang-utans themselves.

EAZA campaign

This campaign has now come to a close – many thanks to all of the people who have helped out with the awareness and fundraising activities and given their support to this campaign. The trail and summer theatre were a great success, and we achieved a fundraising total of £10,000, the Gold award from EAZA, which will go directly to support conservation projects in Madagascar.

The next EAZA campaign will tie in with the global *Year of the Frog* campaign, raising funds and awareness for

amphibian conservation. Elephant Team Leader Mick Jones and wife Suzanne kindly agreed to donate the funds raised from their annual tombola to this campaign, raising £1,000. If anyone has any unwanted gifts or items that they would like to donate as prizes then please contact Mick on ext. 257 or M.Jones@chesterzoo.org

Other Grant Support:

- Single Nucleotide diversity in the Blue-Crowned/Yellow-Throated Laughing Thrush complex – Mike Bruford, Cardiff University
- Pilot Study to Assess Genetic Diversity of Sanctuary Great Apes across Africa – Boanna Owens, University of Cambridge
- Ecological and breeding behavioural study of *Tauraco ruspolii* – Jean Marc Lermould, collaborative support with Al Wabra & ZGAP



News on Conservation from Around the World

Bad

IUCN 2007 update has now been published with the press release heading "Extinction crisis escalates: Red List shows apes, coral, vultures, dolphins all in danger." 188 species have been placed on the threatened list since last year's report. Some of the many species which have been reassessed and found to be more threatened include Speke's Gazelle (from Vulnerable to Endangered), Yangtze River Dolphin (Critically Endangered to Critically Endangered [possibly extinct]), Gharial (Endangered to Critically Endangered), Woolly-stalked Begonia (Extinct), Egyptian Vulture (Least Concern to Endangered), Western Gorilla (Endangered to Critically Endangered) and the Red-Breasted Goose (Vulnerable to Endangered).

Good

It's not all bad though, the threatened status of the Echo Parakeet has been downgraded from Critically Endangered to Endangered. This comes as a result of intense recovery management, including captive breeding programmes, nest site enhancement and supplementary feeding. Chester Zoo has collaborated with the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation for many years to help protect the Echo Parakeet and it is rewarding to see the tangible results of this support. Chester Zoo staff, in particular, have been heavily involved with this project and over the years several staff have visited Mauritius and helped with, amongst other things, hand-rearing Echo Parakeets for release into the wild.

- Conservation activities for the Humboldt Penguin at schools in the San Andres Paracas area, Southern Peru – Julio Reyes, ACOREMA
- Geographical variation in socio-ecology of spider monkeys in Meso-America – Filippo Aureli, Liverpool John Moores University
- Conservation of the freshwater fishes of Central Mexico – Omar Dominguez Dominguez, Morelia University
- Renewed support for Annual Summer School 'Non-invasive monitoring of hormones' – Martin Dehnhard

Staff go wild!

Sabah, Borneo

Mark Pilgrim

Director of Conservation & Education

Roger Wilkinson

Head of Field Programmes & Research

Mark & Roger visited the "Hutan" Kinabatangan Orang-utan Conservation Project in Sabah, Borneo, to assess the potential for our longer term programme support.

We have been supporting Orang-utan field conservation in Sabah since 1996. With the new *Realm of the Red Ape* exhibit here at Chester Zoo this is a good time for getting more involved in both Orang-utan and other field conservation work in the Sunda region.

Hungary

Mike Jordan

Curator of Higher Vertebrates & Conservation Training

Mike attended the IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group annual meeting in Budapest in August. This is a working meeting where CBSG members work in small groups on various issues over four days. Amongst this year's topics were Guidelines for Prioritising Field Projects, planning an Indian Central Zoo Authority workshop for next year and zoos' response to climate change.

Dominica, West Indies

Matt Swatman

Herp Department Senior Keeper

Matt spent two weeks in July in Dominica as part of the collaborative Darwin Initiative for the Mountain Chicken Frog (*Leptodactylus fallax*), trying to find the remaining few individuals of this species (see page 8). The population has been decimated in recent years by the arrival of the chytrid fungus. These animals were collected for an ex-situ breeding programme that will be initiated at ZSL and will be picked up by Chester Zoo when the animals start to breed.



Business leaders go wild with enthusiasm about the innovative conference venue at Chester Zoo



The modern business arena is often likened to a jungle but few firms offer young executives the chance of a close up encounter with one of the world's magnificent big cats in their mid morning coffee break. That's the scenario at Chester Zoo, though.

From lions and jaguars to Asian elephants, elegant giraffes and mighty rhinos, the Zoo has long been known for its unique brand of animal magic. Now it is fast developing a reputation among national and international companies as a spellbinding venue for conferences and seminars.

"We offer an innovative and unusual venue," said Jane Lawson, responsible for overseeing the events.

The conference facility is one of a number of enterprising ventures being developed at the Zoo, which relies on its commercial fund-raising abilities to help finance valuable animal welfare and conservation work across the world.

With environmental issues increasingly impacting on industry, business leaders are waking up to its potential as a forum for everything from corporate hospitality days to team building workshops, strategic planning sessions, brain-storming and educational events.

Jane and the team can help create a programme tailored to each company's requirements. With the choice of a 170 seat lecture theatre, mahogany panelled boardroom in the historic Oakfield Manor House, garden terrace and smaller meeting rooms, it is winning favour with managers looking for a 'friendlier' option than some more anonymous business centres.

Firms can make as much use of their distinctive surroundings as they wish, interspersing demanding work schedules with animal themed refresher breaks around the Zoo and its gardens, for instance.

'Safari' tours, talks and lectures can be arranged, while refreshments can also be laid on from morning coffees, and afternoon tea breaks to restaurant quality lunches, dinners or hospitality catering for specially invited guests.

"Most people see the Zoo 'brown sign' and just think of the animals. We are not specifically signposted as a conference venue, but we are becoming increasingly known for such events," said Jane. "Our reputation has grown by word of mouth - personal recommendations - which has to be good. The modern facilities we offer are equal to many other business venues, plus ours has a singular twist."

Businesses interested in finding out more about Chester Zoo's conference facilities can contact Jane on **01244 650209** or visit the website www.chesterzoo.org.

'Tis the Season to Recycle



Thousands of people across the region will be receiving new phones for Christmas and will be wondering what to do with their old ones. Now you can donate unwanted phones to the Zoo who will recycle them, not only raising vital funds for our conservation work, but also reducing the impact on the environment.

And it's not just mobile phones the Zoo can recycle. Approximately 47 million inkjet cartridges go into UK landfills each year. The Zoo's

recycling scheme has been expanded so that old cartridges (other than Epson) can also be recycled. It really couldn't be easier to help and it will cost you nothing - not even the price of a stamp! All you need to do is put your phones or cartridges in one of Chester Zoo's freepost envelopes and send them directly to our recycler.

And if you bring your phone into the Zoo whilst visiting during the month of January, you will also get a

discount voucher in return. Simply bring your phone and hand it in at the Guest Services pavilion just inside the main entrance.

If you would like more information on Chester Zoo's recycling scheme or want to request recycling envelopes, please contact Charlotte Dobson in Development on development@chesterzoo.org or call **01244 650229**.

Come rain or shine, Chester Zoo has something for everyone this winter

Following one of the wettest summers on record, the Zoo has splashed out to make sure there is fun for all the family, even in a downpour.

A special rainy day route around the Zoo has been planned out and a Wet Walk leaflet will be given to visitors who brave the weather. The leaflet also has a special voucher which gives a paying adult a free child place on a return visit.

Sharon Leeson, the Zoo's Head of Marketing and Development, said:

"Despite sometimes atrocious conditions over the summer, we have been lucky in that spells of bad weather have not deterred our visitors.

"People who do feel like pulling on their anoraks and wellington boots will find there is as much to do at the Zoo indoors as there is outdoors if they follow the route on the Wet Walk leaflet."

The 15-step Zoo Wet Walk starts at the Elephants of the Asian Forest enclosure and takes visitors on a full



trip of all the indoor enclosures, using the monorail to avoid any sudden showers. The route includes Monkey Islands, the Tropical Realm, Islands in Danger, aquarium and new *Realm of the Red Ape* orang-utan enclosure.

Chester Zoo has expressed its concern at a report showing increasing numbers of plants and animals are facing extinction

The publication of the 2007 IUCN Red List showed more than 16,000 species are now facing extinction, and this is likely to be a gross underestimate as fewer than 3% of the world's 1.9 million described species have actually been assessed.

Many species, including the Sumatran Orang-utan which can be found at the zoo, remain Critically Endangered.

Scott Wilson, Chester Zoo's Conservation Officer, said: "As ever, the IUCN Red List makes for uncomfortable reading. There are more than 41,000 species on the list and a large number are facing extinction. There is much work still to be done to protect some very threatened species."

Chester Zoo, home to 7,000 animals, 400 different species, has welcomed some new species to the zoo. Some of

those also appear on the IUCN Red List. They include the Indian Rhinoceros (Endangered) Visayan Warty Pig (Critically Endangered), Gouldian Finch (Endangered) and Fiji Island Banded Iguana (Endangered).

Around half of the species kept in the zoo feature on the IUCN Red List, and over 100 species are listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable meaning they face a high to extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.

The zoo also works with a wide variety of projects in the wild helping to save many highly threatened species such as the Asian Elephant and Echo Parakeet from extinction.

This year the Zoo opened *Realm of the Red Ape*, a new £3 million home for orang-utans which aims to highlight the plight facing orang-utans

in the wild whilst ensuring the long-term future of the zoo's successful breeding programme.

Scott added: "We are ultimately a conservation charity and our work extends very much beyond the Zoo's boundaries. Breeding programmes within the Zoo are vital for many species but it's also vitally important to work in range countries where many of these species face the real threats.

"We hope that people will visit the Zoo to have a good day out but also to learn about the problems species face in the wild.

"The IUCN Red List may paint a grim picture but hopefully it will continue to spur on organisations such as ours to continue doing their bit to protect a great many different species before they are lost for good."

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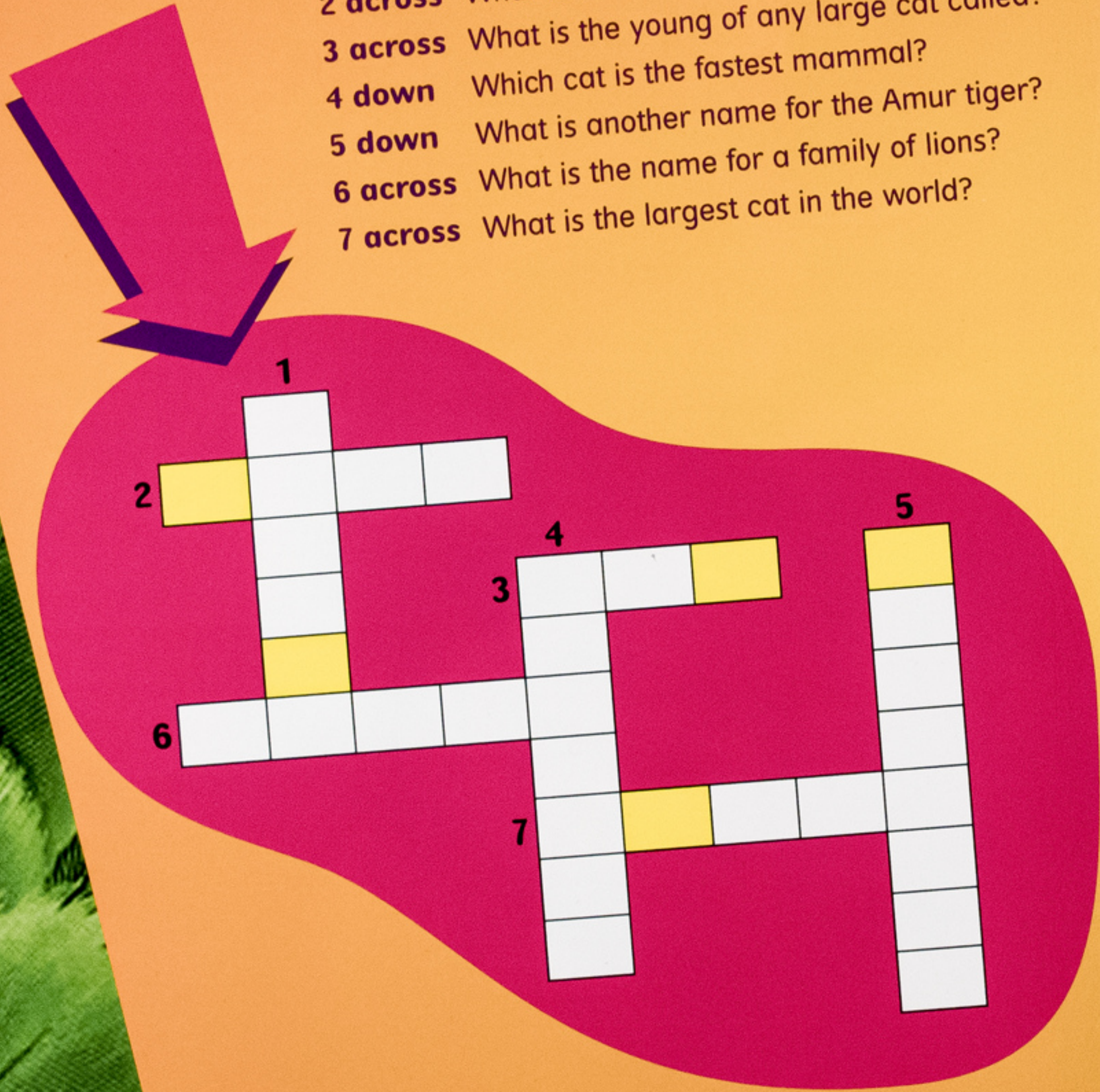
Grrreat!
quizzes
inside...

Zoo
prizes
to be
won!

NEW for 2008-junior trips unveiled

Animal search!

- 1 down Which large cat lives in the jungles of South America?
- 2 across What is the hair around a male lion's neck called?
- 3 across What is the young of any large cat called?
- 4 down Which cat is the fastest mammal?
- 5 down What is another name for the Amur tiger?
- 6 across What is the name for a family of lions?
- 7 across What is the largest cat in the world?



Rearrange the letters in the yellow squares to discover the Swahili name for lion and a character in a Disney film!

Unscramble the anagrams to find the names of seven animals. The initial letters spell the name of a large cat.

ONLI

TNALEHEP

TNRONUNAG

DUUP

TEPENAOL

HROCNIISOER

EKOYDN

We have two £10 gift vouchers to spend in the Zoo shops!

To be in with a chance of winning, complete the puzzles and send your answers to:

Kidz Zoo Competition,
 c/o Marketing Department,
 Chester Zoo, Upton by Chester, Chester,
 CH2 1LH

by Friday January 25, 2008.

Congratulations to Autumn's winners
 Megan Wynne from Wrexham and
 Grace Hollows from Buckley.



Programme of Events 2007-2008

The Juniors' Christmas Party

Friday 7 December

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

The venue will be the Zoo's Arara Lodge (the indoor picnic area) and access can be gained through the Cedar House Staff Entrance on Caughall Road, which is the second staff entrance on the left going from the Upton lights. You should arrive at 7.00pm, with a cushion and a torch, and parents should arrange to collect you from Arara Lodge at 9.45pm.

Discovery Session

Saturday 19 January 2008

This is your opportunity to get to know your own zoo much better. We will split into groups and do different activities such as imaginative enclosure design which will be your chance to create the best living accommodation for a species we choose, and also to have Zoo tours. Store-up some questions about the animals and the way we look after them to ask your guides.

Eights and over are asked to join us, meeting outside Oakfield House (near the Lions) at 2.00pm, and parents can collect the youngsters from there at 4.00pm.

Twycross Zoo Visit

Saturday 23 February 2008

It is a while since the Juniors visited Twycross in Warwickshire – an exceptional collection of primates. It is always nice to see how other zoos do things. Be prepared for a fairly long bus journey but it will be well worth it!

Eights and over are asked to join us, meeting at the Staff Entrance at 9.30am, and we will return there for 5.30pm. Bring a picnic with you.

Tracks & Signs

Saturday 29 March 2008

(Please note that this is a change of date from that issued in the last Z magazine so as to avoid 'clashing' with an early Easter weekend)

This is probably one of our most popular events that includes the wide age range we cater for. This is your chance to see the Zoo from the 'animals view' of the visitors, as

you will be going inside some of the enclosures to search for footprints from which to make plaster casts. March is the best time of year for this as it is normally muddy – but please bear this in mind when you dress in the morning. Hopefully, you will have a souvenir of your day to take home with you.

Eights and over can come along and join the messiness, when we meet outside Oakfield House at 11.00am, returning there for collection at 4.00pm. You will need a picnic lunch, and it is important that you wear clean, very old clothes and clean wellies please.

Monkey Forest at Trentham Gardens

Saturday 19 April 2008

This will be a new trip for Juniors, an opportunity to visit Monkey Forest in Staffordshire. You will be able to walk amongst 140 free-roaming Barbary Macaques. You will discover this amazing species as they exhibit their natural behaviour with no bars or cages to hinder your view. The Forest offers a safe place for the monkeys to live and provides acres of space for them to develop in freedom.

The bus will leave the staff car park at 10am and return at 4.30pm. Over eights are invited to join us and you should bring a picnic lunch.

Lower Moss Wood Nature Reserve and Wildlife Hospital

Saturday 17 May 2008

This is a very special opportunity to experience a much-loved and cared-for woodland near Knutsford in Cheshire and to hear about the wildlife within it when we have a guided tour with Ray Jackson. We also hope to meet some owls and other birds of prey there as well as have a quick peek at the active Wildlife Hospital on site which is a vital resource rescuing and rehabilitating many of our native species.

The bus will leave the staff car park at 10am and return for 4.30pm. Over eights are invited to come along and you should bring a picnic and wellies.

Anglesey's Stone Science Museum and Pili Palace

Saturday 21 June 2008

We usually try to visit Anglesey during the summer and the Stone Science Museum is a fascinating place to start this event.

After visiting there in the morning, we will travel on to the amazing Pili Palace (Butterfly Farm) to learn more about how these beautiful animals can be bred and exhibited in our climate.

Juniors of eight and over are strongly advised to come along and find out more! We will be leaving the Staff Car Park at 9.30am and returning at 5.15pm.

Day With a Keeper

Wednesday 23 July 2008

This is a unique opportunity offered to Junior Members to spend a day working alongside a Zoo Keeper. The work can be tough and demanding so we strictly limit this event to those Juniors of 12 or over. We try to match Juniors to their favourite section, but places are limited so this cannot be guaranteed. Please arrive prepared to work hard, with clean wellies and an additional completely clean set of clothes to work in. Owing to the Zoo's biosecurity measures, it is important that the clothes you wear to work on the sections have not been in contact with any farm animals, or even your pets at home, since they were last washed.

We will meet outside the Oakfield at 10.30am, and the day will finish for Juniors at 4.00pm. Please bring a packed lunch. Also please note that bookings for this event will not be taken before 9.00am on Wednesday 9 July 2008, and will be strictly on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Junior Members Summer Barbeque

Thursday 7 August 2008

Our summer barbeque has become a regular feature for the Juniors' diary as it has proved immensely popular. Perhaps this is because it is our chance to be in the Zoo when there are no other visitor noises to distract you and the animals, so it is a different zoo experience. We usually aim to have a speaker to chat to you or to engage in craft activities during the evening, but you can be sure to find it relaxing.

We would like to invite eights and over to join us for a 7.00pm start, when you should arrive at the Ark Restaurant (near the Tigers) via the Zoo's Staff Entrance on Caughall Road. Parents are asked to collect Juniors from the Ark restaurant at 9.45pm please.

Bookings must be made for all events. Please ring Penny Rudd at the Zoo on 01244 650215, not more than two weeks before the event you would like to attend. Places are offered on a first-come, first-served basis and may be limited. This list is provisional and in exceptional circumstances we may have to alter dates and venues. You will be informed of any such changes in Z Magazine and not by individual letter, so please keep up-to-date by reading the Junior Pages in each issue. A charge will be made to cover the cost of those events which involve transport, entry fees, materials or the provision of food, and you will be advised of this at the time of booking.

Mike nets 40 years' service

How a schoolboy's hobby turned into full time career for longest serving employee at Chester Zoo

A one time schoolboy who started his career helping out in a tropical fish shop has become the longest serving employee at Chester Zoo.

Mike Crumpler was first given a job as a junior helper in the original Aquarium 40 years ago. And over an incredible four decades he has seen major changes, not just in the Zoo's physical landscape but also in its prominence on the world stage.

Chester Zoo today is a key player in global conservation and animal welfare work. Mike is now the team leader in the Aquarium, having helped to save several species from global extinction and become a respected expert among his contemporaries around the world.

"I started out straight from school, without a degree or any formal qualifications," said Mike, who lives in Chester with wife Margaret, a classroom assistant at the city's Dorin Park Special School.

He took up fish keeping as a hobby when he was aged about eight. "I was just interested in fish, like many young kids are," he said. "My fascination grew and then I got a job helping out in a shop in Chester. I learned a lot there before I came over to the Zoo."

In the early days Mike's role centred on day to day maintenance of the aquarium, ensuring fish were

healthy, regularly fed and that the old concrete tanks which used to be in place were kept clean and disease-free.

He said: "In those days the Zoo was not so heavily involved in worldwide conservation work as it is today and we did not do as much breeding of rare species."

He has witnessed major investments in many areas from the development of a new Asian elephants enclosure and Jaguar house to the opening earlier this year of the *Realm of the Red Ape*.

The current Aquarium is one of the oldest buildings at the Zoo, having been built and opened in 1952, the same year Mike was born, by the daughter and son-in-law of the Zoo's founder, George Mottershead.

Mike has been involved in some significant triumphs too, particularly with the breeding of rare Seahorses and fish species from destinations as far afield and varied as Cameroon, Mexico, and Sri Lanka. With fish bred at Chester being sent to collections in South Africa, North America, Spain, Poland & Russia to name a few.

He attended the first Seahorse symposium in Chicago and numerous important workshops around the world, though he says he travels less these days, concentrating more on breeding work at the Chester base.

He is proud of the work his team has done with Lake Victoria cichlids and Mexican Goodeids, which they have managed to successfully breed at the Zoo, despite their being extinct in the wild.

He talks with enthusiasm of exotically named Fresh-water Sting rays, Red tailed Catfish, Omani blind cave fish, Lake Barombi Mbo Cichlids, Celestial Pearl Danio, all subjects of important breeding work.

Such is the extent of Mike's work at the Zoo that he no longer keeps fish at home. "It stopped being a hobby 40 years ago," he laughed. "It's a full time occupation and more. I am privileged to be able to work with some of the most exotic species in the world, but having spent all day working with the fish here, the last thing I want to do is go home and start having to clean out more tanks!"



Frost Fair

World famous ice skater Robin Cousins to help make Chester Zoo *Frost Fair* one of the coolest events of the year.

Olympic and European ice skating champion, Robin Cousins, head judge on ITV's ratings winner *Dancing on Ice*, has been drafted in to make Chester Zoo *Frost Fair* one of the coolest events in Cheshire over December and January.

The event was such a hit with Zoo visitors when it was held for the first time last year that it was decided to repeat it, but this year's event features an even bigger ice rink, along with the array of magical attractions guaranteed to entertain young and old.

Robin Cousins' internationally famous company *Cousins Entertainment*, who also create the *Dancing on Ice* competition rink, set up the ice rink in the Zoo grounds – the size of about three professional tennis courts side by side. The rink is twice as large as last year's rink.

"We are delighted to have one of Britain's all time sporting greats help us kick off this year's spectacular," said Chester Zoo visitor services

manager Liz Child. "Not only is he an Olympic ice skating hero, but he has gone on to stage some of the world's most successful ice shows ever. It's fantastic to have him helping out the Zoo's team like this."

This year's *Frost Fair* will run until January 13 with a colourful line up of costumed characters, an enchanting Santa's grotto, animation shows, gifts, craft stalls and warming seasonal refreshments, all designed to put extra festive sparkle into the run up to Christmas and beyond.

Robin won Olympic gold in 1980 and went on to scoop the world free skating championship gold medal three times. Since giving up competitive skating he has worked with *Holiday on Ice*, choreographed television and stage blockbusters, such as the record-breaking *Electric Ice*, *Disney's Toy Story* and Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Starlight Express on Ice*. Now an MBE, he also commentates for the BBC and has been a frequent guest on TV sports quiz *A Question of Sport*.

He said: "I am thrilled that my company will be involved with the *Frost Fair* and ice rink at Chester Zoo this year. I am always delighted to see people being encouraged to participate in the fantastic sport of skating – what better time than at Christmas!"

The 110-acre Zoo will be open as usual throughout the *Frost Fair* and a special Twilight Ticket will allow guests into the fair after the Zoo itself shuts.

The Zoo is open all year round, except Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

For more details and to book tickets visit the website www.chesterzoo.org/frostfair



www.chesterzoo.org/frostfair



FROST FAIR

16th November 2007 -
13th January 2008

- outdoor ice skating rink • Festival gift stalls
- Journey through Lapland to meet Santa
- Live Entertainment and fun activities for the children

To book or for further details call: 01244 650240 or book online.

Chester
Festivals

Chester
ZOO
IT'S REAL!

Tiger image courtesy of Photodisc, Inc. Chester Zoo is a Registered Charity No. 306077

Animal Magic

More than 1,500 people took part in the two special days which now form part of the membership package.

Members were able to find out more about how the animals are looked after and to meet the keeping staff who care for them.



The activities included a talk with the Zoo's animal nutritionist, a meet and greet with the keepers, an insider's guide to Komodo Dragons, a chat with the giraffe team and the chance to find out more about the sealions and lions.

Dates for next year's members' days will be announced in Z in the future.



Fantastic prizes to be won in our Winter Raffle!

Tickets are now on sale for Chester Zoo's great Winter Raffle. For just £1 a ticket, you have the chance to win some fantastic prizes! First prize is the opportunity to be a Carnivore Keeper for a Day* – working with Chester Zoo's very own Carnivores team. You will see first hand just what it is our keepers get up to in a day. From lions and tigers to Bush dogs and otters, this is an opportunity to go behind the scenes and get your hands dirty. Second and third prizes are Raleigh Bikes, each worth over £100. Fourth prize is an M&S luxury 'Simply Food' hamper and fifth is a 'Special Guided Tour' at Chester Zoo*. There are also many other fantastic prizes to be won. So to get your chance to be a winner in the Chester Zoo Winter Raffle, simply contact the Development Team on 01244 650229 or visit the Guest Services Pavilion located at the Zoo's main entrance plaza. The raffle will be drawn on Monday 7th January and winners notified by post. All results will be published in Z magazine and on the Chester Zoo website.

Visit www.chesterzoo.org for full details

*Terms & Conditions apply.

Sir Ranulph explores Zoo's wilder parts

INTREPID explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes came face to face with a creature of a different kind during a visit to Chester Zoo.

Sir Ranulph, who was the first man to visit both the north and south poles by land and the first to cross the Antarctic by foot, came face-to-face with Asiatic lion cub Tejas during a whirlwind visit to the Zoo.

Together with wife Louise, Sir Ranulph also visited the Spirit of the Jaguar after meeting Chester Zoo's Director General Gordon McGregor Reid, wife Sally and Development Manager Melanie Cowieson.

Melanie said: "Sir Ranulph has taken parts in many feats of human endurance over the years and this was a good opportunity for him to take some time out and get back to nature, Chester Zoo-style.

"He was very enthusiastic about the zoo's conservation work and it was a pleasure to show him around."



From left to right: Chester Zoo Director General Gordon McGregor Reid, Carnivore Team Leader Alan Woodward, and lion cub Tejas meet Sir Ranulph.

Zoo flies the flag for the environment

CHESTER Zoo's commitment to the environment has been recognised yet again. The 110-acre zoo was the first in the UK to achieve ISO 14001 – the principal international standard for environmental management systems.

ISO 14001 requires an organisation to commit itself to pollution prevention and continual improvement of its environmental performance. The environmental management system provides a framework for driving improvements on key environmental issues such as raw material consumption, energy usage, emissions, waste and transport.

Di Yardley, the Zoo's Safety, Health and Environment Manager, said: "All our new animal enclosures – such as the *Realm of the Red Ape* orang-utan enclosure which opened this year – are specifically designed to be environmentally sensitive and energy efficient."

Chester Zoo is turning old mobile phones and inkjet cartridges into cash by recycling them for the care and conservation of animals and endangered species. **Please call the Zoo's Development Office on 01244 650265 for more information.**

Just for Members!

Our high quality speakers – staff and external guests – bring our conservation work to life as you see how our activities in the field really are helping to save endangered animals and plants from extinction. This vital work is only made possible with the support your membership provides. As a thank you, our staff and external speakers bring you up to date with the work you are supporting in the UK and throughout the world and, of course, the stars of the show ... we'll be bringing you lots of information about your own Chester Zoo animals!

Why not take a look at the programme below, join us and feel satisfied that you are helping.

Talking Conservation! – Winter Season 2008

Working towards the 'Introduction to Cheshire Mammals'

Weds 12th December – 7.30 pm

Sarah Bird

Join Sarah Bird and friends from the Cheshire Mammal Group to hear about the work that has gone into the new book *Introduction to Cheshire Mammals*, including survey and field work and artwork by local wildlife artist, David Quinn.

David will also be in attendance with work for sale and, as this is the last talk before Christmas, there will be mince pies to provide a festive feel!

Sarah Bird is the Zoo's Biodiversity Officer

Streams of Life: Protecting freshwater fish in the Philippines and Mexico

Sat 19th January 2008 at 2.30 pm

Colin Grist

Colin is working on freshwater fish surveys on the island of Polillo in the Philippines and has organised a fish taxonomy workshop at the University of the Philippines, Los Banos.

In Mexico, we support the Fish Ark at the University of Morelia where large numbers of extinct in the wild and critically endangered fish are being bred. Colin will have lots of images of his travels in these two amazing countries.

Colin Grist is Chester Zoo's Aquarium Projects Co-ordinator

Please note that this talk is rearranged from 25th October 2007.

After each talk, you are invited to join us for light refreshments where you will have an informal opportunity to ask questions and to chat to staff and guest speakers. At selected talks, there will be items for sale from our projects overseas – perfect gifts, supporting vital work. All of our Members' Talks are held in the Geraldine Russell Lecture Theatre (near the Zoo's Main Entrance off the A41) at the times stated above. The talks are free of charge and are provided to keep you abreast of Chester Zoo's conservation work which your membership supports.

Please call Kate in Education on 01244 389 444 or

Another voyage through the world of conservation with our talks especially arranged for you.

The Protection of Critically Endangered Coastal and Lowland Plants of Mauritius

**Thurs 6th March 2008
at 7.30 pm**

John Fletcher and Mark Sparrow

Earlier this year, the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation applied for joint funding to enable them to set up a field genebank on Ile Aux Aigrettes, a small islet lying off the south east coast of Mauritius.

Concentrating on 15 of the island's most critically endangered plants, John was invited to share his knowledge and experience in collecting and propagating coastal and lowland plants and to assist local staff with the location of the site.

Following completion of his training with the RHS, John Fletcher worked for many botanical collections in the UK, appearing in several television programmes, before joining Chester Zoo as Senior Horticulturist within our Botany Department five years ago. He has travelled extensively throughout the Caribbean and the Far East, developing a keen interest in the preservation of endemic plant species and the protection of their natural habitats.

** Mark Sparrow is Chester Zoo's Curator of Botany and Horticulture*

Journey through Conservation 2008

Under African Skies: Kenya

October 2008

In October 2008, we hope to give you a fantastic experience - fourteen days in Kenya visiting some of the projects we help to support in our outreach work. In Laikipia, we support research that has implications for the future management and conservation of the Black Rhino and we'll visit the Wildlife Forum (www.laikipia.org) where we'll take a ride out on the Education Bus, purchased and sponsored by Chester Zoo. The bus enables rural school children to visit surrounding wildlife areas and learn about environmental issues. The Forum staff will take the time to accompany us to a local school and Masai village where you will witness the true value of your Chester Zoo membership.

We will also visit:

William Holden Foundation
(www.whwf.org)

Aberdare National Park
(www.go2africa.com/kenya/rift-valley/aberdare-national-park)

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy
(www.lewa.org)

And spend some nights at the Ol Gaboli Community Lodge
(www.laikipia.org/hotel_ol-gaboli.htm).

This trip is not a safari but more a field trip so a sturdy constitution and an adventurous enthusiasm is required! You should be prepared for changes to the itinerary and be aware that things might not quite go according to plan! Two members of Chester Zoo staff will accompany the trip to organise any changes!

We envisage the cost to be in the region of £2400 (maximum £2500) which will include, for their investment in making our trip so worthwhile, a direct payment to the Laikipia Wildlife Forum enabling them to continue their crucial work in conservation. We need to gauge appeal before we can finalise the trip and a minimum of 20 is required.

Interested?

Then put your dreams into action, contact k.branks@chesterzoo.org or telephone 01244 389 444 by Friday 25th January 2008 to register your interest.

444 or e-mail k.branks@chesterzoo.org to book.

Gardeners Dig in for Make-Over

It took a team of people three weeks and 30,000 plants to complete but some of Chester Zoo's gardens will be blooming for a year of festivities.



When Cheshire Year of the Gardens gets underway in 2008, the 110-acre Zoo will have been given a green-thumbed makeover. The Zoo gardens staff had spades and trowels at the ready as the winter bedding change got underway.

The Fountain Lawn gardens were replanted with 30,000 plants including daisies, pansies, wall flowers and forget-me-nots, all sourced locally. Up to 15,000 tulip bulbs were also planted, ready for the spring. The new bedding -

which will change again in June for the summer - will be just one of the Zoo gardens that visitors will be able to see during Year of the Gardens. The 12 month celebration of gardens will include new events and activities throughout Cheshire with the Zoo taking part.

Chris Williams, the Zoo's Amenities and Gardens Manager, said: "The new bedding is designed to give us all some much needed lift during autumn and an explosion of colour in the spring.

"Not only that but there is an environmental aspect to what we do. Some eight tonnes of green waste is recycled during the bedding change and composted and used around the Zoo. "All the flower trays are returned to the nursery so there is very little wastage. 2008 is a year of celebrations for Cheshire gardens and never more so than here at the Zoo."

For more on Cheshire's Year of the Gardens visit

www.yearofgardens08.com

Chester Zoo joins in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 2008

The RSPB's 29th annual Big Garden Birdwatch will take place on 26/27 January 2008 and Chester Zoo will be doing it too this time. It is already the world's largest garden bird survey but we want to make it even bigger! In 2007 over 400,000 people took part across the UK, surveying nearly 240,000 gardens and parks, but in 2008 the aim is to get half a million people involved.

The survey is great fun and very easy to do and it takes just an hour. We will have survey forms available here at the Zoo and

local experts from Chester RSPB group and RECORD the local biological records centre will be available here to help. Let's see how many wild birds we can spot at the Zoo!

More details will be given in the local newspapers in January.

The information gained from the Big Garden Birdwatch is very important and very much appreciated. It enables us to continue raising awareness of the need to care for garden birds through the winter and also helps

in monitoring bird populations. For further information on the event at Chester Zoo please contact:

Sarah Bird at
s.bird@chesterzoo.org
 or phone **01244 380280**

For more information from the RSPB please visit
www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch or
 contact:

Sarah Kelly at
sarah.kelly@rspb.org.uk
 or by phone on **01767 693116**

100 Club

The winners of the prize draws held recently were:

July 2007

Robert Jewitt, Dukinfield	£100
Antony Sykes, Huddersfield	£100
Jillian Jones, Tarporley	£50
Nicola Jones, Goostrey	£50
Judith Irving, Prenton	£50

August 2007

Sharon Dodd, Huntington	£100
Nicola Jones, Goostrey	£100
Elizabeth Pemberton, Sheffield	£50
Mr S. Hamlett, Wirral	£50
Hilary J Goudge, Wallasey	£50

September 2007

Andrew Stevens, Bridlington	£100
Lynn Ridgway, Upton – Wirral	£100
Maureen Allsopp, Little Neston	£50
Andrea Warner, Gresford	£50
Robert K. Barnard, Garston	£50

Membership of the 100 Club is still invited. All prize winners will be notified by post and will be listed in the next edition of Z. Please inform us as soon as possible if you change address.

If you wish to participate, please contact the Development Office on 01244 650 292

IF YOU COULD Wish for ANYTHING?

A BRAND NEW WAY TO HELP CONSERVATION

So what are 'Wildest Wishes' gifts?

As members and adopters you'll know that Chester Zoo's vision is to be part of a diverse, thriving and sustainable natural world. To help us accomplish this, and to provide you with the perfect gift for people who care about wildlife, we've created 'Wildest Wishes', our feel good gift range.

'Wildest Wishes' gifts are a chance to show you care – both for your friends and family and for the planet.

When you purchase a gift from our 'Wildest Wishes' range you are helping to secure the future for endangered species around the world by supporting Chester Zoo's many conservation projects.

From an 'elephant pedicure' to a purrrfect gift for cat lovers' you can buy a 'Wildest Wishes' gift for your friends, your family and even yourself. Of course we don't actually send you an elephant, you'll get a gift card to give to the recipient and a warm glow from the knowledge that your gift is helping to save animals and plants from extinction.

There are gifts to suit every pocket and occasion, take a look, there's bound to be something perfect for you. Whether it's for a birthday, anniversary, to say hello or sorry we've got a gift to suit.

Looking ahead to Christmas why not give 'Wildest Wishes' this year, it's brand new, and totally different. It's ideal for wildlife enthusiasts everywhere and you'll be pleased to know that your gift is helping to fund conservation work at the same time.

'Wildest Wishes' are easy to buy, there are just 4 simple steps :-

- 1 Choose a 'Wildest Wishes' gift
- 2 Give us a call on 01244 650229
- 3 We send a gift card for you to send to the recipient
- 4 Enjoy knowing that you are helping to save animals and plants from extinction.

HOW TO BUY :-

For further information
Call 01244 650229 or
e-mail: wildestwishes@chesterzoo.org

£15 The Spice of Life



£15 can help buy chilli seeds for a struggling Assamese family. Chillies are a small plant with huge benefits. Dried, crushed and then burnt to create a pungent smoke, they are used by Assamese people to deter elephants who may otherwise trample their crops and villages.

Chillies can also be used to curry favour with struggling villagers by providing an alternative crop and therefore a new source of income.

Your gift will help the villagers and the elephants to live in harmony.



£20 The Milk of HUMAN Kindness

Have you got the bottle to help? Sometimes it's a tall order for inexperienced mother giraffes to feed their babies. When this happens, our dedicated keepers have to hand rear the youngsters, feeding up to six times a day with as much as nine litres of creamy gold top milk. Hand feeding continues for 11 months, until the baby is weaned.

Your gift can help us make sure those big babies get just what they need.



£30 Paint and Polish-an elephant Pedicure

Girls love nothing more than a little pampering and what's better than a pedicure to make your feet feel good. It's just the same for elephants, for whom foot care is an essential part of their weekly routine.

Keepers clean, check and treat any foot problems within the large herd at Chester, leaving the ladies in tip top condition.



£50 These boots were Made for Walking

Working with Rangers in Kenya on a variety of Black Rhino projects, we provide vital supplies, for example, uniforms and boots.

A strong pair of walking boots can make all the difference to someone who may spend weeks in the bush tracking poachers. Help secure the future of the magnificent Black Rhinos in the National Park by providing their rangers with the right equipment.

Your gift can keep them one step ahead.

Money raised from 'Widest Wishes' will go towards supporting the conservation, education and outreach work of the North of England Zoological Society at home and abroad.



THE NORTH OF ENGLAND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Chester Zoo, Upton-by -Chester, Chester CH2 1LH
Tel: 01244 650229 or visit www.chesterzoo.org

Registered charity No. 306077

The ideal virtual gift **Wildest Wishes**



£40

A 'Purrrfect' gift for Cat Lovers

Help make Chester Zoo's brand new tiger conservation programme a roaring success. With only 600 Sumatran tigers left in the wild they are on the very brink of extinction.

Your gift can help to secure the future for these magnificent creatures by helping to train tiger conservationists in the wild.

A 'purrrfect' gift for cat lovers everywhere!



Cheshire, Garden Gateway to Liverpool - European Capital of Culture 08

Cheshire's garden attractions are to take centre stage in a new initiative to help promote Cheshire internationally as a 'must see' visitor destination.

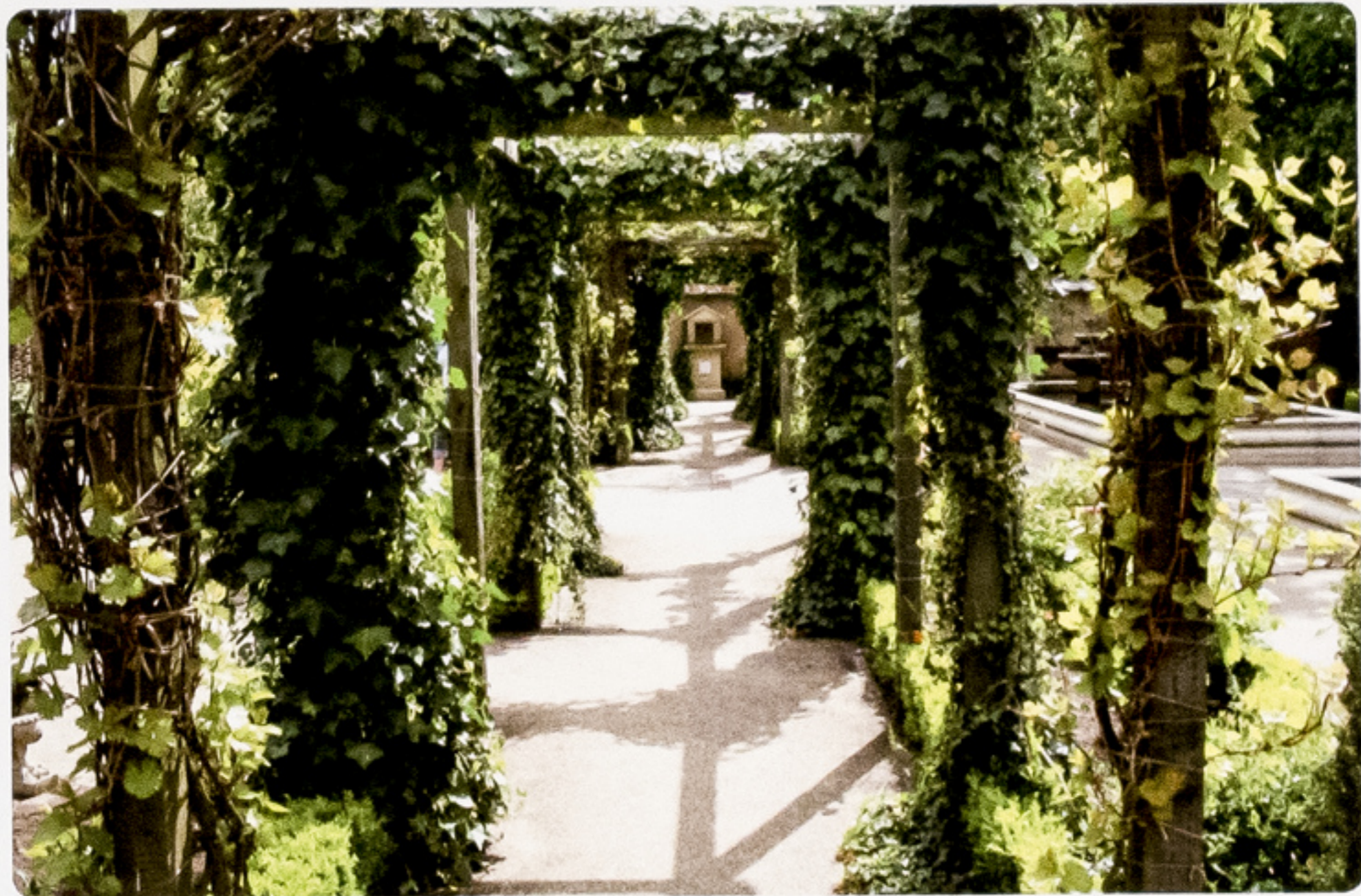
Cheshire's Year of Gardens 2008 - one of the biggest programmes ever to be launched in the sub-region - is expected to have a significant economic impact on the local visitor economy and leave a deep and lasting legacy. It will feature an ambitious programme of music, art, theatre, horticulture, and food and drink events

throughout 2008 based in and around 20 of Cheshire's leading garden attractions, and supported by a 'Gardens of Distinction' brand. The programme will cherish, enhance and bring a wider audience the joys of our gardens, of all types and sizes, and the people who make them so distinctive. The programme, which

aims to develop a new audience for gardens by extending their traditional offer, also features ambitious linkages with both Europe and China. 2008 is just the start of an annual celebration which will build on our huge variety of gardens and garden-related activity, with opportunities to involve everyone in the community.



Cheshire is the first Northwest destination to agree a joint initiative with 08 organisers. The Liverpool Culture Company. Liverpool '08's year-long programme of events is expected to attract two million extra visitors to Liverpool, 95% of whom will travel through Cheshire by road and rail. Chief Executive Chris Brown explained: "What we're launching is a global proposition with enormous potential for the future of our visitor economy." Liverpool Culture Company Chief Executive Officer Jason Harborow commented: "Visit Chester & Cheshire has been particularly innovative in exploring opportunities for joint working with the Liverpool '08 team which will clearly generate benefits for both areas. We look forward to developing the relationship in the future."



Celebrating Cheshire's Year of Gardens 08



Cheshire
**Gardens
of
Distinction**

www.yearofgardens08.com

Chester Zoo is one of Cheshire's Gardens of Distinction www.yearofgardens08.com

About the zoo gardens

1. The Carnivorous Plant Garden

Some plants have evolved to catch insects in order to survive. This garden displays a range of those plants, including some that are native to the UK.

2. Wildlife Garden

A typical back garden designed and planted to show examples of how to encourage wildlife into our own gardens.

3. Rock Garden

Recently revamped, this garden displays plants from the foot hills of South East Asia.

4. The Glorious Grasses

Grasses are the most important group of plants known to man. This garden shows their economic uses and the diversity of grasses:

5. The Fountain Gardens

The Fountain Lawn area was originally designed over fifty years ago by Phillip Gallop. Redesigned in 2003, the flower beds are home to 36,000 plants which are changed twice a year, once in June and again in October.

6. The Andes

A miniature slice of the Andes Mountains, showing the range of plants growing in this often harsh environment.

7. The VIP Border (Very Important Plant)

Plants that are important to humans are displayed here and include those used for medicines, drinks, cosmetics, food oils, dyes and flavourings.

8. The Roman Garden

The Roman Garden was opening in 2000 to celebrate the millennium. It shows the style of gardening and range of plants that the Romans maintained at the height of their occupation of Chester 2000 years ago.

9. The Sunken Garden

A peaceful and tranquil retreat which features Rhododendrons, ferns and other shade tolerant plants set around a magnificent statue, water feature and water fall.

10. The Grow Zone

The nursery glasshouses feature the Zoo's extensive cacti and orchid collections, as well as a range of tropical plants.

Garden Events at Chester Zoo - 2008

Orchid Festival

Tuesday 12th - Sunday 17th February

See our spectacular displays of rare and exotic orchids in our Grow Zone and meet our horticulturists who care for our rare species and buy a plant to take home. You could also book an Orchid Tea at the Oakfield. Tel. 01244 650209 for details or email events@chesterzoo.org

Plant Conservation Day

Sunday 18th May

Meet the Gardeners here at Chester Zoo and learn about the rare and endangered species of plant that we hold here at the Zoo. You may even be able to pot a plant yourself and take it home to grow.

Lazy Summer Evenings at the Zoo

Friday 4th July & Saturday 16th August

A new event to celebrate Year of the Gardens - come along to the Zoo as the sun goes down and experience the special atmosphere of an evening at Chester Zoo. Pre-booking will be available.

For further details of all events, visit www.chesterzoo.org

All details correct at time of going to press.

Events 2007

Christmas lunch

Saturday 1st December –

Monday 24th December

£22.75 per adult; £14.75 per
child (under 11 years of age).

Price includes a three course
lunch and admission.

Dinner and Disco

Saturday 15th;

Friday 21st &

Saturday 22nd December

£33.75

Dancing until midnight.

Betwixt and Between

Thursday 27th December –

Sunday 13th January

£19.50 per adult and

£13.50 per child

(under 11 years of age).

Price includes two course lunch
and admission. Booking and
pre-payment essential.

To book any of the events
please contact: **The Events
Office – 01244 650209**

THE ELEGANT VENUE — IN A — UNIQUE SETTING



Some time or other, every organiser needs a unique venue or an original idea for an event.

This is where Chester Zoo can help.

Oakfield Manor is a unique location, full of character, and is the ideal venue for a range of events

Weddings

Meetings

Private Dinners

Safari Evenings

Training events

Seminars

Themed events

Presentations



For more information, please call the Oakfield Corporate Team who will help you to plan a memorable and successful event.

Oakfield Manor,

Chester Zoo, Upton by Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH.

Tel: 01244 650209 • Fax: 01244 389497

Email: events@chesterzoo.org

www.chesterzoo.org



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