

# Z MAGAZINE

The official magazine for  
**Chester Zoo Members and Adopters**

Spring 2011



The big  
and the beautiful

CONSERVATION AT ITS FINEST!

# Z MAGAZINE

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As members of Chester Zoo we value your input and would be delighted if you could spare us a few minutes of your time to help with a new project.

We are looking to create an exclusive 'members only' area of Chester Zoo's website and we'd love to hear your ideas about what you would like to find inside the 'members only' section before work gets underway.

Perhaps you'd like to have early notification about zoo babies, collection changes or hear the latest news on the zoo's development? If you are interested in getting involved please register your interest by sending your name, address and telephone number to 'members only section' Chester Zoo, Chester, CH2 1LH or register by telephone with Claire or Alex on 01244 650208. We'll then be in touch to gather those ideas from you.



**FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL**  
 (NORTH WEST GROUP)



Please note that FFI evenings are a unique mix of 'entertainment' and learning focussed on conservation. They are informal, informative and fun, and are open to everyone, so please do feel free to come along.

Friday 25 March 2011

**COLD PLACES**

**Sue Flood**

A welcome return to the Zoo by Susan Flood, the world renown Wildlife Film maker and producer. Sue's first visit to us was just after she had completed filming for the Blue Planet series with the BBC and she has been busy since then. Her visit in March will coincide with the publishing of her new book 'Cold Places' and will be an opportunity to gain a preview of some of the stills as well as some recent film footage from the Polar travels. An evening not-to-be-missed.



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# news

from the zoo

with...

**Dr. Mark Pilgrim** *Director General*

After what seems like an even longer wait than usual *Thi* finally gave birth towards the end of January. As we had hoped and expected experienced mum *Thi* had a good delivery in the company of the herd with no interventions from her keepers. We are delighted the new arrival is an all-important female calf that will remain within the herd at Chester.

*Thi's* calf is a great start to what is going to be an exciting and busy year. Our major new exhibit for this year will be Painted Dogs. Staff flew out to Sweden to become acquainted with the pack of dogs that will be coming to us. Work on the enclosure continues at a pace. The arctic blast of winter weather we had just before Christmas made work difficult as the ground was frozen but despite that setback we are still on course for the April opening.

The Giant Otters are giving us a slight headache but in the best possible way. As you may know we plan to build them an underwater heated pool. This would give the otters the opportunity to bathe even when the weather is somewhat nippy. We had hoped to start work at the beginning of the year but the otters have been rather friendly of late. Potentially that means they could end up having offspring – this is good news for them (and for us!) but it does mean we may have to delay the work and start again at a more appropriate time. Sometimes things get in the way of projects but on occasion they are potentially good things so watch this space!

Spirit of the Jaguar is also in the pipeline for a make-over. The exhibit is 10 years old and in need of a facelift. We plan to build a central aquatic exhibit with fishes and turtles and hope to introduce sloths – they are providing somewhat difficult to acquire but that's the plan! The Savannah side will also be given a boost. We will also move the Leaf Cutter ant exhibit back to create more room for visitors in that area.

Given that Spirit of the Jaguar is very popular we will be moving the scheduled works to the autumn time. Some very special primates have also been given a new enclosure – this time off-show.

The Pied and Black Lion tamarins were moved off show last year so repairs could be done to their exhibit. However, it became apparent that their behaviour changed as soon as they went off-show as they began breeding. These endangered primates are an important species so we are in the process of building them a new home which will remain off-show. In their place, we have introduced three female Golden-headed Lion tamarins. They are far more robust, very confident and curious and not so sensitive.

#### **What other species are being introduced at the zoo?**

We have a very special species making an appearance this summer – dinosaurs.

I am pleased to say we have 13 dinosaurs with us for three months from July, the first time this exhibit will have been

to a UK zoo. These dinosaurs are very impressive. A large part of what we do here is encourage adults and children alike to be excited and enthralled by animals.

The exhibition, will be based around Islands in Danger and there will be a big retail spin off with dinosaur-themed goods in the Ark shop. Visitors will be given the opportunity to pan for fossils.

Those of us with children will know the sense of awe and wonder they get from dinosaurs and given the popularity and success this has had at other zoos we are confident some of its magic will rub off on you!

#### **Please can you update us on changes in catering?**

We will be unveiling a mouth-watering new offer for our visitors this year.

The Ark Restaurant and Café Tsavo are being given an overhaul and fresh and exciting food offers are in the pipeline.

We have joined forces with Heathcotes Outside which was set up in 1997 by Michelin-starred chef Paul Heathcote MBE and Managing Director Gary Bates, merging the experience we have here with that of Heathcotes who already work with a number of household names across the North West including Tatton Park and Blackpool Tower and Winter Gardens.

This is an exciting time for the development of the zoo's catering.

#### **Are there any other highlights?**

The Tree Tops zipwire will be up and ready for July. It will be located in the main entrance car park and provide an added thrill to attract older children and young at heart adults. We are also making some alterations to the Reticulated Python enclosure, adding an extra door making maintenance somewhat easier.

The zoo hosted an event at the House of Lords recently. This gave us the opportunity to introduce Managing Director Barbara Smith to our supporters, funders and MPs and to enable the zoo to develop its presence and clout in the city.

This is going to be a very busy year with a number of big projects for us to get our teeth into and we look forward to sharing these new developments with you.

Thank you for your support.



Rhino team leader Chas Mackenzie had an extra guest at the dinner table at Christmas – Red Lechwe calf *Astrid*.

Two week old *Astrid*, named after a character in the film *How to Train Your Dragon*, is being hand-reared by Chas. Chas, who bottle feeds *Astrid* with cow's milk four times a day, took the pretty youngster home for Christmas to ensure she got her daily quota.

*Astrid*, who has gone from strength to strength, will be reunited with the rest of Red Lechwe group in the near future.



A Black-tailed Marmoset peaks out from behind mum *Sura* at Chester Zoo. Dad *Spartacus* is also keeping a close eye on the new-comer who is quite content to get a lift from mum.

Picture: Phil Noble/Reuters

Red Panda cub *Lily* falls head over heels for winter berries at Chester Zoo.

Six-month-old *Lily* was caught on camera by zoo member Matt Rimmer as she scrambled for the tasty treat at the bottom of the tree.

The cub, whose parents are *Lushui* and *Pali*, had been bounding around in the winter sunshine before falling for her snack.



**A love-sick Great Indian Hornbill is in need of a new companion – after a date brought in especially for him fell for her keepers instead.**

Chester Zoo's bird team brought in 11-year-old *Eliza* as a breeding companion for the zoo's male Great Indian Hornbill.

But *Eliza* showed her true colours when she fell head over wing for her keepers rather than her new mate – to the extent that she would regurgitate food for keepers as a sign of affection.

Although not much is known about *Eliza*, it is believed she may have been hand-reared and is imprinted, bonding more easily with humans as a result.

*Eliza* came to Chester from Vogel Park Avifauna in Holland, but belongs to Lourosa Zoo in Portugal. She is believed to have originally come to Europe from the Philippines, but her records are rather vague. However Vogel Park which run a 'hornbill dating agency' had hoped they had found the unnamed male the perfect mate.

Despite being unlucky in love, both *Eliza* and her companion are happy spreading their wings in the zoo's Tropical Realm.

Wayne McLeod, Chester Zoo's Bird Team Leader, said: "We believe that *Eliza* has been partially hand reared which explains why she is so friendly towards people. When an animal is hand reared it can become imprinted on humans and often doesn't mix well with its own species as a result.

"*Eliza* is very people orientated and when keepers go into her enclosure she will fly over and regurgitate food to them as birds would do with each other.

"Although it may take a long time for her to ever be successfully mixed with a male she is quite happy in the tropical house as the public provide great enrichment for her as there is always something and someone for her to see."

The hunt for a suitable mate for the male will now continue.

Pictured right is Alexandra Gray with lovelorn *Eliza*.



**The matriarch of our Asian elephant herd, Sheba, has died after a short illness.**

*Sheba*, 56, has been at the zoo for 46 years and was our oldest elephant. Affectionately known as Madam Sheba by the team who looked after her, she had been at the zoo longer than any other elephant.

*Sheba* had been ill for a short time and despite the best efforts of the keeping team and zoo's veterinarians the decision was taken to euthanise her.

Dr Mark Pilgrim, Director General of Chester Zoo, said: "The death of an animal is always hard, never more so than for everyone who has been involved in looking after it every day and *Sheba's* death is a huge loss to all who cared for her.

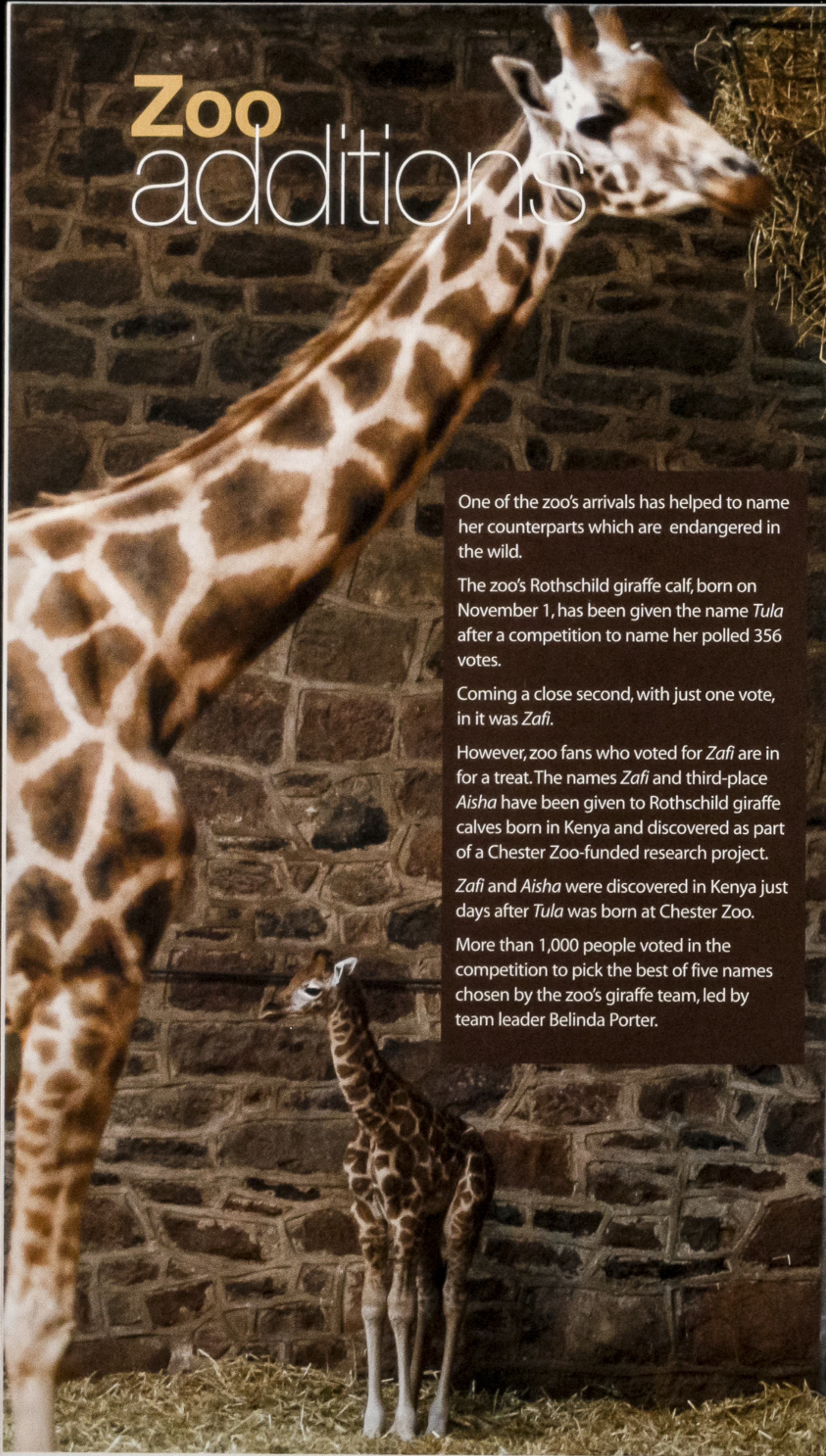
"*Sheba* had a long and happy life with us; she had a strong personality – intelligent and sometimes stubborn – and she thought the elephant section belonged just to her. She was a good elephant with a will of her own. *Sheba* had a way with the other elephants too and was able to keep the others in line.

"I have no doubt the elephants will miss her too – *Sheba* adopted and raised our male *Upali* from when he first came to us, and they had a particularly close bond.

"*Sheba* will be missed by all of us here and the visitors with whom she was a particular favourite."



# Zoo additions



One of the zoo's arrivals has helped to name her counterparts which are endangered in the wild.

The zoo's Rothschild giraffe calf, born on November 1, has been given the name *Tula* after a competition to name her polled 356 votes.

Coming a close second, with just one vote, in it was *Zafi*.

However, zoo fans who voted for *Zafi* are in for a treat. The names *Zafi* and third-place *Aisha* have been given to Rothschild giraffe calves born in Kenya and discovered as part of a Chester Zoo-funded research project.

*Zafi* and *Aisha* were discovered in Kenya just days after *Tula* was born at Chester Zoo.

More than 1,000 people voted in the competition to pick the best of five names chosen by the zoo's giraffe team, led by team leader Belinda Porter.

## Rare footage of Sun Bear mother and cub

A video showing rare footage of a Sun Bear with her cub in Indonesia has been released by conservationists. Chester Zoo funds researcher Wai-Ming Wong, allowing him to set up 21 camera-traps along a 100km<sup>2</sup> study site as part of his PHD 'Sun bears in human-dominated landscapes: Distribution, population trends and conflicts'. The forest area where the pair was spotted is called Sipurak, part of Kercini Seblat National Park, Sumatra.

Wai-Ming Wong is from Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE) – University of Kent. Kercini Seblat National Park is classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

During his project, Ming has captured other animals such as Sumatran Tigers, Malayan Tapirs and Marble Cats. Earlier this year, he captured a rare sighting of a Clouded Leopard.

## Spix's Macaws studied with help of zoo

**Chester Zoo is playing a key role in saving a rare parrot species, Spix's Macaws *Cyanopsitta Spixii*, – by using 1200 poo samples from Qatar.**

Extinct in the wild, the species is notoriously difficult to breed in zoos but with the zoo's unique in-house Endocrinology team, the Qatar based Al Wabra Wildlife Preservation, hopes to learn more about the reproductive physiology of this rare species.

Husband and wife team, Monalyssa and Ryan Camandaroba-Watson, travelled hundreds of thousands of miles to witness the basics of endocrinology laboratory techniques. Ryan, who heads up this project for Al Wabra Wildlife Preservation, comments:

**"We are relying on the expertise of Chester Zoo to examine the reproductive cycles and adrenal activity of 12 pairs of Spix's Macaws we have in Qatar. Ultimately we are hoping that the results will increase our awareness of the physiology of this species and improve our captive breeding efforts."**

The zoo's Endocrinologist, Dr. Sue Walker, was discovered by Al Wabra Wildlife Preservation through a Wildlife Endocrinology Workshop she held in Brazil at Iguassu Falls. Sue said:

**"Chester Zoo's mission is to conserve biodiversity worldwide and this project echoes that aim. Our team focuses heavily on conservation and collaboration with other partners and our area of research expertise focuses on non-invasive hormone analysis and reproductive function and welfare in wildlife. To support the research carried out by the Al Wabra Wildlife Preservation team we will act as technical support by using hormones to help us understand the different between successful and unsuccessful breeding pairs."**

If the collaborative project proves to be a success, the long-term vision would be for the endocrinology team to assist Al Wabra Wildlife Preservation to set up its own laboratory in Qatar; a service that has been successfully proven by Chester Zoo in the past. This would allow the Al Wabra Wildlife Preservation research team to analyse samples in real time giving them an up to date picture of the species' health and reproductive activity.

Endocrinology is an important tool in our mission to conserve biodiversity. When animals fail to thrive or breed, clues can generally be found through hormone assessment. Hormones associated with reproduction and adrenal function are easily measured non-invasively in urine and faeces. For more information please contact see [www.chesterzoo.org](http://www.chesterzoo.org)



## Chester Zoo welcomes its second elephant calf in 12 months.

Asian Elephant *Thi* gave birth to a female calf just before midnight on Saturday.

*Thi*, 28, is mum to *Sithami*, 13, who had her own calf, *Nayan*, in July.

Proud dad of both calves is *Upali*, 16.

Tim Rowlands, Curator of Mammals, said the zoo was delighted with the news.

*Thi* gave birth naturally with the herd around her. The zoo boasts one of the best

elephant houses in the UK, built with the elephants in mind. Sand flooring and extra space made giving birth more comfortable for mum.

The calf is yet to be named.

Picture: Peter Byrne/Press Association

**The arrival of an elephant calf is always a cause for celebration but two healthy calves in six months is fantastic. The new arrival and mum are doing very well and I am sure our visitors will share in our good news."**

Tim Rowlands

# Highlights of Chester Zoo's **Bird Collection**

Andrew Owen, Curator of Birds

Chester Zoo has always had a large and varied collection of bird species, with a world renowned reputation for breeding rare and endangered species.

**C**ONSERVATION plays a very important role within the collection plan for the Bird Department and wherever possible we strive to work with rare and endangered species, often focussing on species that come from areas where the zoo has a field conservation commitment.

The most recent bird facility to be built is the Tsavo African Bird Safari Aviary. Opened in 2009 and named after the Tsavo region of East Africa, this large out door walk-through aviary holds a variety of species found in that area including multi-coloured Lilac-breasted Rollers, Schalow's Turacos and Von der Decken's Hornbills. An industrious colony of Village Weavers are constantly on the go, with males trying to attract the females with their frenzied nest building activities.

Other birds in this aviary to have successfully reared young are two species of Ducks, Hottentot Teal and White-faced Whistling Ducks and the Hamerkop. These small brown stork-like birds build an enormous nest, which may be a tonne in weight!

Chester Zoo is well known for its collection of large Asian Hornbills, many of which are extremely rare in the wild. We currently keep five species of Asian Hornbills including the Great, the Rhinoceros and the Wrinkled Hornbill, all of which the zoo has bred and all are from areas in South East Asia where we also support conservation efforts for these species, including nest site monitoring and protection in Southern Thailand and Hornbill survey and local community work in our Realm of the Red Ape project in Borneo.

We are one of only two zoos in Europe to keep the Visayan Tarictic Hornbill, an endangered species which occurs on just two Islands in the Philippines.

Chester Zoo supports field work and captive breeding programmes in the Philippines for this and another even rarer Hornbill species the Rufous-headed Hornbill, which has the unenviable title of the worlds most endangered Hornbill.

In 2007 we received two pairs of Visayan Tarictics from the Philippine Government and in 2008 were the first collection outside of the Philippines to ever breed this species. These birds and the four that were bred in 2010 will be sent to other zoos as part of the EEP (European Endangered Species programme) with the plan to establish a safety net population in zoos.

Many of the zoos parrot species are kept in the off-show Rare Parrot Breeding Centre, a specially designed off-show facility where we can keep and breed some of our most sensitive species, such as the critically endangered Philippine Cockatoo and the Blue-throated Macaw, gravely threatened in its native Bolivia and another species who's conservation in the wild is part of the Bird Department's mission.



Not all of the zoos parrots are off-show and our magnificent pair of Hyacinth Macaws can be found in their aviary at the rear of the Tropical Realm.

Wherever possible we try to link the work we do in zoos with our field conservation work and this is highlighted by a number of highly threatened Chinese species, including the Grey-cheeked Liocichla and the Blue-crowned Laughingthrush. The Laughingthrush is a species that is regularly bred in the zoo as part of another breeding programme and we also support a lot of work in the wild to help preserve this critically endangered bird for which the known world population may be as few as 250 birds!

Both of these species are small passerines or song birds and this group is an area of focus for the bird team with many species becoming extremely rare in the wild and often disappearing from zoos as well. One such bird is the Montserrat Oriole, now critically endangered in its tiny Caribbean Island home due to severe volcanic activity, a small group of these birds were rescued from the wild and their role in the zoo is now conservation research. Our bird keepers have perfected the techniques to keep and breed these birds and can now if necessary, return to Montserrat to bring more birds into zoos to act as a safety net population or help protect the species in the wild.

Commoner passerines such as Pekin Robins are managed partly for exhibit and also as a training tool for our bird keepers, who perfect their hand-rearing skills with these common birds and then apply this and other management techniques to endangered species in the wild. Most notably on the Indian Ocean Island of Mauritius, where our keepers breed, hand-rear and trans-locate critically endangered birds such as the Mauritius Fody and Olive White-Eye to safe predator-free islands in an attempt to avoid these birds going the same way as that other famous Mauritian resident the Dodo.

Within the bird department we hope to develop more of these

links between zoos and the wild and we feel that these hands-skills can be applied to help save many other species that are on the verge of extinction around the globe.

The Sumatran Laughingthrush is one such bird, endemic to Sumatra in Indonesia and threatened from loss of habitat and poaching for the pet trade. Chester Zoo manages a number of these charming birds and also holds the European stud book for it too.

Other groups we will continue to focus on are the Pigeons and Doves, which include the Superb Fruit Doves and turkey-sized Victoria crowned Pigeons from New Guinea to the Socorro Doves, a species so rare it is now extinct in the wild!

Pheasants are another group of birds that are also in big trouble, with hunting and habitat loss the main reasons for their decline. We will again focus on Pheasants from our main areas of conservation support, such as the beautiful Cabot's Tragopan from China and Salvadori's Pheasant from Indonesia.

This is just a small glimpse of the variety birds that the Chester Zoo bird team are so passionate about and we will continue to keep and breed our visitors' favourites such as Penguins, Owls and Flamingos whilst striving to help protect as many of these rare avian gems as we can.





Chester Zoo's field and zoo conservation support for the critically endangered

# Blue-crowned Laughingthrush

Roger Wilkinson, Head of Field Conservation & Research

Chester Zoo's China Conservation Programme has two main components. One is our work in Sichuan Province where we support four important broadleaf forest nature reserves. These support a whole range of endemic animals and plants. Another is our work with the Blue-crowned Laughingthrush that extends over two disparate areas in SW and SE China and especially focuses in the latter area on conservation of the only known extant population of this beautiful and charming bird in Wuyuan County, Jiangxi Province.



## Blue-crowned Laughingthrushes

appeared in the bird trade in Europe in 1988. This was remarkable as these birds were previously only known from five museum specimens – two that had been taken in Wuyuan County, SE China in 1919 and three collected near Simao, SW China, in 1956. No subsequent sightings of these birds had been recorded by either Chinese or visiting ornithologists. These birds were then considered to be a subspecies of the Yellow-throated Laughingthrush which was then considered globally near-threatened. Other than that the two Chinese subspecies (*courtoisi* and *simaoensis*) were rare their status in the wild remained completely unknown.

### Rediscovery of Blue-crowned Laughingthrush in Wuyuan County, China

Roland Wirth, of the German conservation organisation ZGAP (Zoologische Gesellschaft für Arten- und Populationschutz) first brought Blue-crowned Laughingthrushes to the zoo and conservation community's attention. ZGAP funded Professor He Fen-qi of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, to search for Blue-crowned Laughingthrushes in the vicinity of the type locality of *courtoisi* at Wuyuan, Jiangxi Province. In March 1994 Prof He found recent evidence of *courtoisi* as a photograph of a skin that had been collected in 1991. This photograph showed a bird that differed from the earlier taken specimens in having a red bill. Remarking on this it was explained to Professor He that the bill had been painted red so that it looked prettier! In 1997 a report of two living birds was received by Professor He, and then in 2000, a really important discovery was made, finding Blue-crowned Laughingthrushes breeding at two different sites in the vicinity of Wuyuan, SE China.

### Conservation status of the Blue-crowned Laughingthrush

The China Species Red List recognises two subspecies (*courtoisi* from Wuyuan and *simaoensis* from Simao, SW China) of Blue-crowned Laughingthrush and considers both as Endangered whilst the 2010 IUCN red list treats the Blue-crowned Laughingthrush *Garrulax courtoisi* as Critically Endangered. Although Blue-crowned Laughingthrushes are protected in some of their breeding areas (through their local designation as Small Protected Areas) their wintering areas remain unknown and outside the breeding areas the birds receive no protection. Moreover several breeding sites have been subject to urban development and disturbance as a result of which at least one has been abandoned by these birds.

### Support for In-situ conservation

Following on from the rediscovery of Blue-crowned Laughingthrushes in Wuyuan County both ZGAP and WWF-China supported the initiation of Small Protected Areas to preserve important breeding habitats. Since 2000 Chester Zoo and Leeds Castle, Kent, have assisted with financial support and in 2001 were joined by CEPA as a consortium of four funding partners. This is now

co-ordinated through Roger Wilkinson at Chester Zoo and the four European partners (CEPA, ZGAP, Leeds Castle and Chester Zoo) have a Memorandum of Agreement, negotiated through Prof He, with the Wuyuan Forestry Bureau to support the conservation of these birds. Additionally all four partners have funded the many expeditions to search for birds in Yunnan and Guangxi. Additional financial and technical support for the programme has come from a number of donors and from the Hong Kong Birdwatching Society (HKBWS). In 2009 Birdlife International through its support from Leeds Castle enabled HKBWS to carry out a programme of conservation education in Wuyuan.

### Conservation in Wuyuan County, China

Since 2000 a further six breeding locations have been discovered by Fen-qi and his colleagues. Most of the breeding sites lie in lowland areas close to a river where there remain stands of tall trees suitable for the bird's nesting requirements. All sites are close to human habitation. However other recently discovered breeding sites are in small towns away from the river and here the birds live in close harmony with the local people. Although new sites have been found we know that three sites have been abandoned over this period. In 2009 the number of laughingthrushes summed at the five known breeding sites was estimated to be over 240 birds. However in 2010 the census indicated a lower number. This is thought to have resulted from desertion of one breeding area after disturbance at that breeding colony.

Year	Number of Blue-crowned Laughingthrushes (number breeding sites)
2000	95-110 (2)
2002	140-155 (4)
2004	130-135 (4)
2006	180-190 (5)
2008	230 + (5)
2010	200+ (5)

### Searches for missing birds in SW China

Since 1956 when the only known specimens of *simaoensis* were collected near Shitoushan, Simao, in Yunnan Province, no further reports of its presence there were received. As such Professor He and colleagues in April 2002 visited Simao where they spent nine days searching for these laughingthrushes. The locality Shitoushan was visited but no trees remained around any of the three villages or on the hills in this area. A second visit to Simao was made in May 2004, but again no Blue-crowned Laughingthrushes were seen. On this second visit it was learnt that there was a second location called Shitoushan, closer to Simao and with good habitat that may more likely be the place where the birds had been collected. However no laughingthrushes were seen or heard there either. Photographs of Blue-crowned Laughingthrushes were shown to local villagers one

of whom said the bird had been quite common some 20 years ago but none had been seen for over 10 years.

Bird owners and some hunters were interviewed at several bird markets in Simao. Consistent reports from local people indicated that Blue-crowned Laughingthrushes may have been quite common in this area but disappeared around twenty years ago.

Between 2005 and 2009 a further eight surveys, also funded by Chester Zoo and our three other European partners, have been undertaken by Prof He and colleagues in this and other areas of Yunnan and also in far western Guangxi.

Visits to bird trappers in W Guangxi confirmed that the bird was trapped by them there and at a few localities and also in areas of E Yunnan. Between 1987 and 1992 some 400 birds were trapped. Most birds apparently were destined for export via Hong Kong to Europe. The bird catchers were encouraged by higher prices to focus on these birds and moved to different areas after they wiped out local populations. This suggests that the bird trade has played the major role in the birds recent decline. The villagers reported the birds in SW China, bred in colonies and as such their susceptibility to being trapped out would be high. The local bird dealers reported that birds were still being caught until 1998 and that since then the bird export ban made this unprofitable. This suggests that unfound populations of Blue-crowned Laughingthrush are likely to still occur in SW China and a continued search for these may result in positive sightings upon which, as in SE China at Wuyuan, a local protection and conservation strategy could be based.

#### Origin of traded birds

It is unclear how many captive birds arrived in Europe or in how many consignments although it is most likely these may all have come through Hong Kong. Birds entered Italy in 1988 in a mixed consignment from Hong Kong and in the late 1980's these birds were also on sale in the Netherlands, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom. Although a recent report suggests some may have arrived more recently most appear to have been imported around 1989. Blue-crowned Laughingthrushes appeared in trade in Europe at the same time as in the U.S.A. It is likely that the birds traded there may have originated from the same source as the European birds. Birds at Ocean Park, Hong Kong, are also believed to have been received at the same time.

Birds imported to the USA by San Diego Zoo in 1988 were described as being from Yunnan, SW China. That would fit with later observations by local villagers in Yunnan that these birds were common there some twenty years ago and with more recent reports of trapping there of other laughingthrushes. Although another report from China suggested that birds in the Hong Kong bird markets had been traced back to Wuyuan, SE China, the more recent investigations of Professor He strongly suggest their origin was SW China.

#### Identification of captive birds

On the basis of having a grey breast band that separates the yellow throat from a yellow belly the birds in captivity in Europe were considered to be *simaoensis*. Contrary to this the captive birds in Germany have been considered to represent *courtoisi*. However because of the very few

museum specimens of *simaoensis* and *courtoisi* the significance of any differences between these and captive birds remains uncertain. Observations in the field of *courtoisi* in Wuyuan County show a variation in colouration with individuals both with and without a grey breast band and this may argue against this being diagnostic. As such Nigel Collar in 2007 (Handbook of Birds of the World) does not recognise *simaoensis* as a valid taxon and treats both Chinese populations (*courtoisi* and *simaoensis*) together as the monotypic *Dryonastes courtoisi*. This taxonomy with the Blue-crowned Laughingthrush being placed in the genus *Dryonastes* is also now followed by the International Species Inventory System (ISIS). Birdlife International retains the genus *Garrulax* for *courtoisi* and also treats it as a full species *Garrulax courtoisi*.

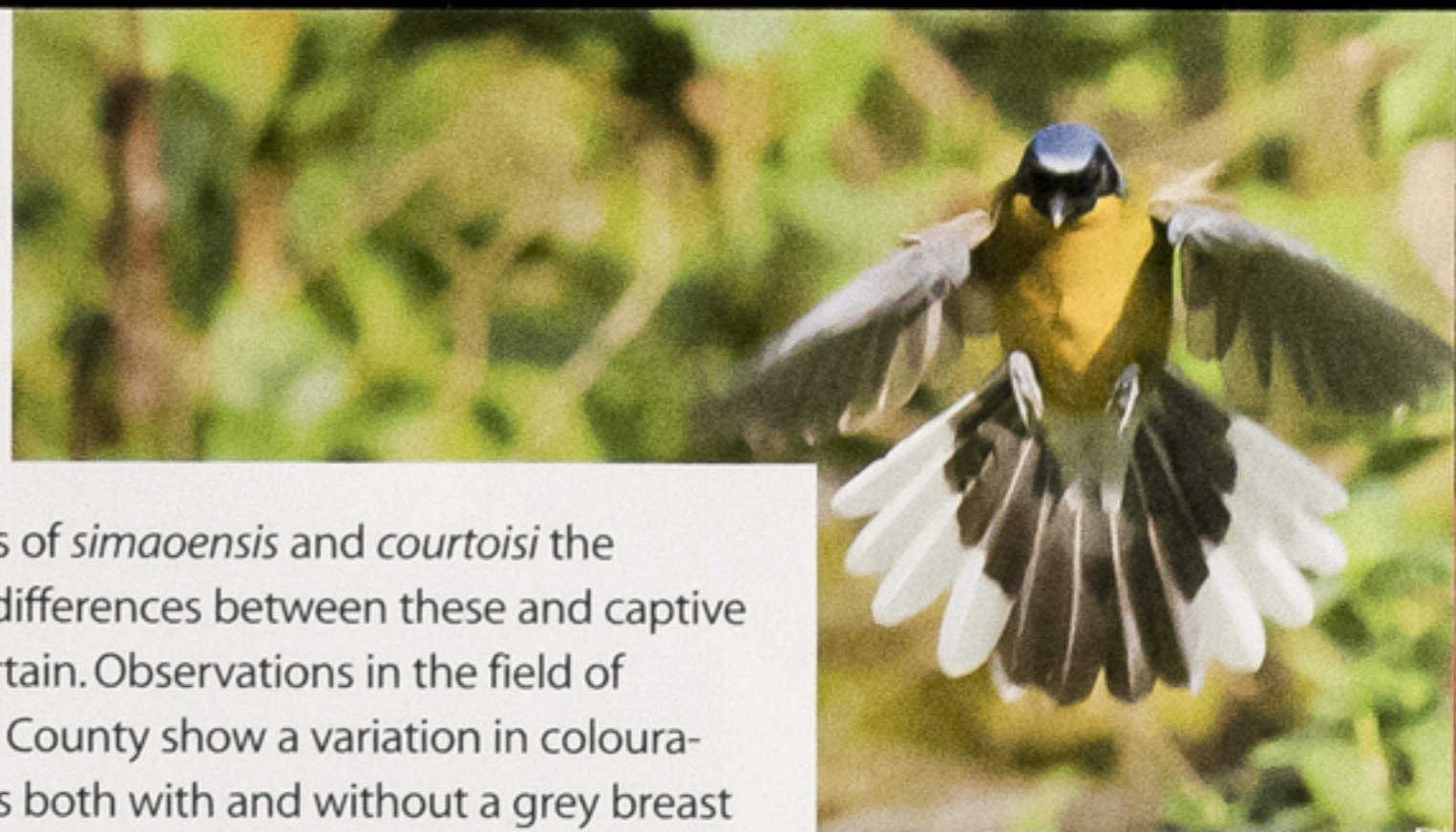
So where does this leave us in terms of origin and identification of the captive birds? It would appear that *simaoensis* and *courtoisi* are more similar than was previously thought and we cannot yet be certain what subspecies we have in our zoos nor yet indeed whether the two subspecies are valid.

#### Ex-situ Zoo breeding programmes

A total of 122 captive Blue-crowned Laughingthrushes were listed on the "ISIS" international inventory for 2 November 2010 with 95 in Europe and 27 in the USA. This inventory notes 19 birds hatched in Europe and one in the USA over the previous 12 months. An additional 26 birds listed on "ISIS" as Yellow-throated Laughingthrushes are likely instead to be Blue-crowned – as Yellow-throated remains unknown in captivity in Europe and North America. The number of captive birds is approximately half the number of Blue-crowned Laughingthrush known in the wild and as such these deserve and require continued and co-ordinated management. Laura Gardner, Curator of Birds at Leeds Castle, initiated the first European studbook for the Blue-crowned Laughingthrush in 2003 and Mark Myers of Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle, manages the zoo population for the USA. These birds require zoo management as both an insurance population and to continue as ambassadors for this most attractive and charming Chinese endemic.

#### Blue-crowned Laughingthrushes at Chester Zoo

Chester zoo first began working with Blue-crowned Laughingthrushes in 1993 when we received one pair from Leeds Castle Aviary, Kent and two more pairs from the renowned private aviculturist Raymond Sawyer. We first bred from these birds in 1996 and bred from these regularly until 2001 with birds bred being then sent out to Rode Tropical Bird Gardens, Paradise Park at Hayle, Jersey Zoo, Mulhouse Zoo in France and Rotterdam Zoo in the Netherlands. Four fallow years followed but with a new hen received in 2006, through the European Studbook from Leeds Castle Aviary, regular breeding was resumed. Since then chicks have again been hatched every year to date, and birds sent to Paignton Zoo, Paulton's Park, Belfast Zoo, Cologne Zoo in Germany, Rotterdam Zoo and Durrell in Jersey. Chester is one of only a few EAZA zoos now regularly breeding this critically endangered bird. This is important in itself but especially so as it demonstrates clear *ex-situ* links with our *in-situ* international field conservation support.



Photos:  
Xie Xiao-fang  
He Shu-hui  
Lin Jian-sheng

#### Acknowledgements

Thanks to the staff of the Forestry Bureau of Wuyuan County for their support of the Blue-crowned Laughingthrush through the creation of Small Protected Areas and those people living at the known breeding sites who continue to protect, respect and have pride in this bird. For their past and continuing support Chester Zoo, CEPA, ZGAP, Leeds Castle, HKBWS, WWF-China, Birdlife International and other organisations and individuals, particularly the Chinese volunteer birders, who have also assisted with this conservation programme. Thanks are also due to the EAZA Studbook Coordinator and all the zoos and private keepers who contribute to the conservation breeding programme.

# Staff go Wild!

## Mauritius

**To help out partners with conservation breeding and reintroduction projects for endemic Mascarene birds**

**Bird section: Wayne McLeod (Team Leader), Paul Morris (Senior Keeper) & Amy Vercoe (Keeper).**

The Mascarene Islands – Réunion, Mauritius and Rodrigues – are home to hundreds of species found nowhere else in the world (known as endemic species). Since the 16th Century, many of these have become extinct, due to loss of habitat and the introduction of alien species the most famous of which is probably the Dodo. In partnership with the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF), Chester Zoo, through the Mascarenes Conservation Programme, is working to save the threatened endemic bird species of the Mascarenes from extinction.

Huge successes already include the Echo Parakeet and Pink Pigeon projects, which have seen numbers for each species increase from around a dozen (and almost extinct!) to 400. Currently, our support is focussing on the Mauritius Olive White-eye and the Mauritius Fody. Zoo keepers and other staff from Chester have been heavily involved in these projects, visiting Mauritius to develop rescue techniques and to train and help with hand-rearing. The hand-rearing of chicks has been instrumental to project success; keepers have used their specialist knowledge and experience of hand-rearing exotic birds at the zoo to save chicks from nests which were in danger of failing in the wild.

Staff from Chester Zoo continue to pass on their knowledge and experience to staff at MWF. At the end of 2010, three members of staff from the Bird section all visited the programme to help out with the hand-rearing and reintroduction project currently underway for the Mauritius Fody. This project has already been a huge success; in 2009, this species was downgraded on the IUCN red list from Critically Endangered to Endangered due to the work of this project.

During their visit, Paul and Amy provided valuable hand-rearing expertise. Nine chicks successfully rescued from failed nests in the wild whilst they were in Mauritius. Hand-rearing takes a lot of time, patience and care, which keepers from the zoo are well equipped for and used to dealing with. Rescued chicks are placed in brooders and fed every two hours. Three voluntary conservationists were trained by our keepers and helped with this intensive feeding programme. One of the nine chicks was in a bad condition and required constant care for over 12 hours to help it recover. Of the nine chicks rescued, eight survived to fledgling.



Once strong enough, the successfully reared birds are reintroduced back into the wild onto selected small islands off the Mauritius coast. Ile aux aigrettes was the first translocation site used for this project, however after successfully reaching an optimum population size, work began on a second translocation site – Round Island. As part of Wayne's visit, he helped with this reintroduction component of the project. Release aviaries are stationed on Round Island where the birds are first taken to before eventually being released. Before Wayne's visit, the Boas which live on Round Island had entered the aviary and predated three birds. Help was needed to make the aviaries predator proof to ensure that no more birds were lost in this way. Since the keepers returned, six of the chicks have successfully made the move to the island.

Despite its success so far, there is still a long way to go with this project to ensure that the Fody does not reach critically low numbers again.



Mauritius Fody chicks  
© Christelle Ferrière



Mauritius Fody © Wayne McLeod



Spring 2011

**Animal Fun!**

# Kidz

See Inside...  
KIDS' PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

# ZOO!



PRIZE TO  
BE WON  
NAME THAT  
**BIRD**

**BIRD  
SEARCH**



Junior Members

# NAME BIRD THAT BIRD

Can you find the correct name to go with each bird?  
Can you say which live in the zoo and which are wild visitors?



- 1 Seagull
- 2 Great grey owl
- 3 Heron
- 4 Spoonbill
- 5 Amazon parrot
- 6 Robin

Zoo/Wild


- 7 Jackdaw
- 8 Mallard
- 9 Blue and yellow macaw
- 10 Spectacled owl
- 11 Flamingo

Zoo/Wild


# kidz zoo!

## BIRD SEARCH

Can you find the names of these Chester Zoo birds, and the foods that they eat in the grid? See if you can match each bird with the food that it likes to eat.

A W S A P A L H Z A L I P A L I  
 C A D P G E B C A L X A E B G E  
 S C R L E P A N V A E C P Q A L  
 P A I A M C N I P L S N G M S P  
 C M B L E G T F R U I T E B E E  
 S W A P L P C A A P H I A W N A  
 H O A I E E L R C R P D E O I L  
 C L G P G S A B U L A P D B D P  
 A L P L S D E E S L E H P G R J  
 A E A E W N A Z B G A D E L A A  
 R Y L P U A L G I P F R O G S S  
 K D N I B O R N I K E P J W I T  
 U N U T S P A E T G A P G L L C  
 P A T O R R A P N O Z A M A T E  
 G E A C P E L B A Y D P V A B S  
 H U M B O L D T S P E N G U I N  
 A L A L I E A C E L S A K E L I  
 P B P E L A G E B A P L I G A P

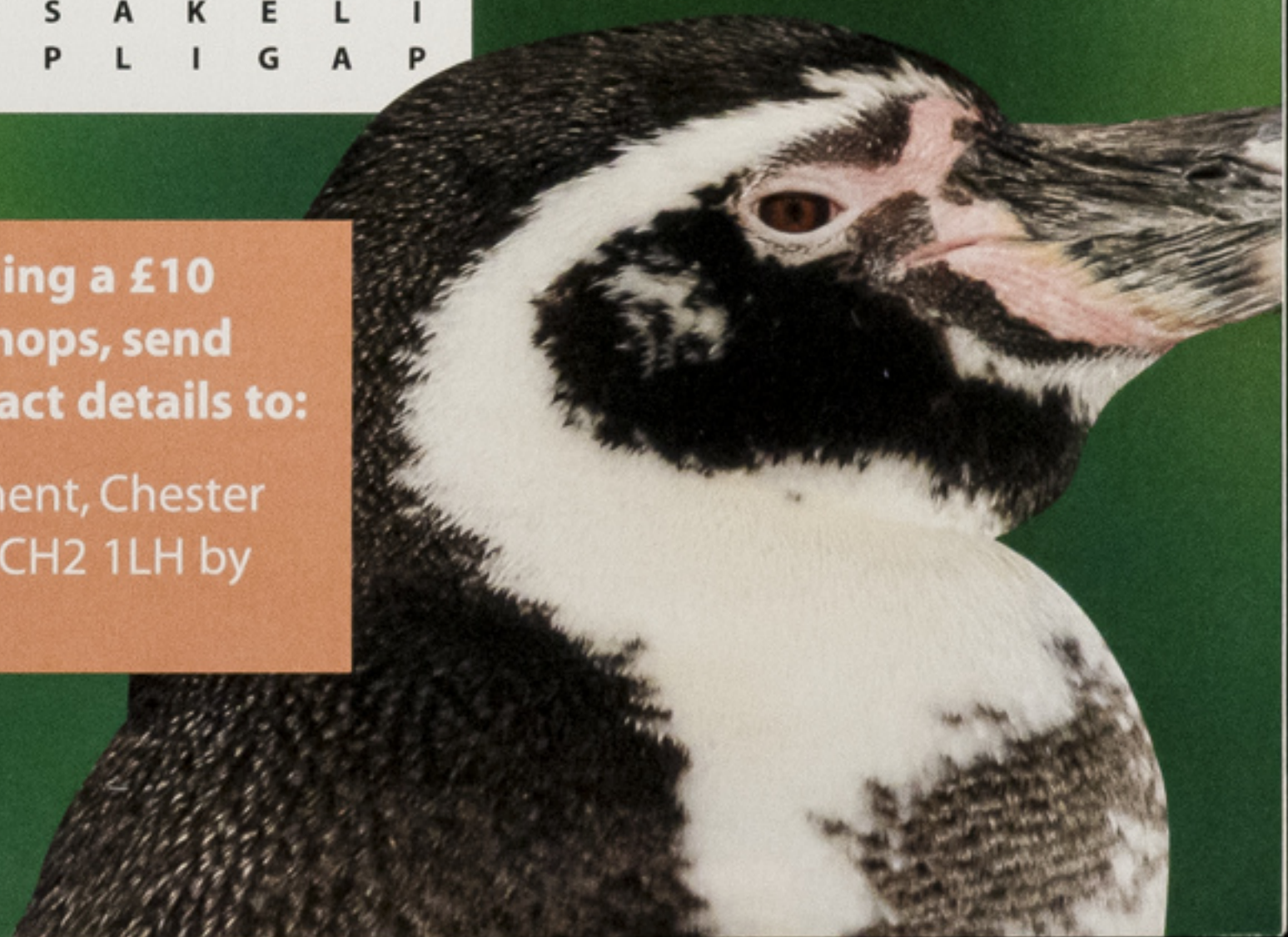
- BIRDS**
- SPECTACLED OWL
  - ZEBRA FINCH
  - BLUE & YELLOW MACAW
  - PEKIN ROBIN
  - AMAZON PARROT
  - HUMBOLDT'S PENGUIN

- FOOD**
- A** INSECTS
  - B** SARDINES
  - C** FRUIT
  - D** NUTS
  - E** FROGS
  - F** SEEDS

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

Z magazine, Marketing Department, Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH by Wednesday May 4.

Congratulations to our previous winner, Natalya Ryder of Blacon.



# Junior Members

## JUNIOR MEMBERS' PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2011

### TRACKS & SIGNS

SATURDAY 26 MARCH 2011

This is undoubtedly one of our most popular events in the Juniors' calendar. This is your chance to experience the animals' view of zoo visitors, as you will be going inside some of the enclosures in search of footprints from which to make plaster casts. March is the best time of year for this as it is normally wet and 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 enjoy the mess, when we meet outside Oakfield House at 11.00am, returning there at 4.00pm. You will need a picnic lunch, and it is important that you wear clean, very old clothes and squeaky clean wellies please.

### BLACKBROOK

SATURDAY 16 APRIL 2011

Blackbrook Zoological Park near Leek in Staffordshire has a wide array of species but specialises in birds. This is a new venue for the Junior Members and will be a good opportunity to visit another zoo and this will be an interesting day.

The bus will leave the Staff Car Park at 9.30am - Returning to Chester Zoo for 5.00pm. Eights and over (with picnics) are welcome to join us.

### HAWKSTONE FOLLIES

SATURDAY 21 MAY 2011

Apart from being a lovely walk through woods and around cliffs, the follies themselves nestling in the hillside are well worth seeing. You might like to bring a torch for this one as you may need to go through a tunnel in the cliff and its very dark!

We will leave the Staff Car Park at 9.30am and return at 5.00pm. Over eights are invited to attend and you should bring a picnic with you.

### THE GREENWOOD CENTRE

SATURDAY 25 JUNE 2011

Back by popular demand! This proves to be one of the Juniors' favourite summer trips and so we've added it to the list to visit again! This park, situated in the foothills of Snowdonia, is an amazing mix of environmental park offering fun and games as well as good education - including den-building, and various self-propelled 'rides'. Definitely not to be missed.

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

### HOW TO BE A GOOD ZOOKEEPER!

WEDNESDAY 20 JULY 2011

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 aged 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 are by telephone only and will not be taken before 9.00am on Wednesday 6 July 2011, and will be strictly on a first-come, first-served basis.

### SUMMER BARBEQUE

THURSDAY 4 AUGUST 2011

Our summer barbeque has become a regular feature for the Juniors' diary as it has proved immensely popular. Perhaps this 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.

### THE JUNIOR MEMBERS SUMMER SCHOOL

FROM 8 - 12 AUGUST 2011

Please note that the two week booking rule does NOT apply to this event and EARLY BOOKING IS ADVISED (anytime from January 2011 onwards). A full programme of events for this action-packed week will be issued in the July Edition of this magazine, but this is open to Juniors aged 12 and above (although preference will be given to those aged 13 and above). Participants must be able to attend all five (full) days and the cost will be £180 for the week.

### HILBRE ISLAND

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 17/18 SEPTEMBER 2011 (Tide times dependent)

This will be a real treat for those who have not previously visited Hilbre Island in the Dee Estuary - and also for those who have! We will follow the tide out from West Kirby and plan to spend some time exploring the rock pools around Little Eye and Middle Eye on our way across to Hilbre, the biggest of the three islands. We hope to see a wide array of sea birds and other coastal life.

Over eights are invited to join us, bringing a picnic and suitable clothes for the seaside! Leaving at c.9.30am - returning at 5.00pm. Exact details to be confirmed.

### TATTON PARK & HOME FARM

SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER 2011

We have not visited Tatton Park and the Home Farm for a couple of years, and we felt it was well worth returning to this year. We'll start the day with a visit to the Home Farm where we'll find out how the farm used to work many years ago when Tatton Hall was a family residence. Then out into the park to identify some of the different deer species that reside there.

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

### THE WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST, MARTIN MERE

SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2011

November is a brilliant time to visit Martin Mere as we should see the migratory geese and swans as they pass through this lovely haven. It can be quite chilly at that time of year so dress warmly to see this fantastic sight.

We'll be leaving the staff car park at 10.30am and will return at 4.00pm. Eights and over welcome.

### THE JUNIORS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER 2011

Our annual 'bash' welcomes Juniors of eight and over to enjoy an evening of games, disco music, and a great hot-dog and beefburger 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 Ark Restaurant 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.

Please Note: Bookings must be made for all of the regular monthly Junior 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.





Evie and Maggie in Assam

## Assam, NE India

### Moving the Assam Haathi Project forwards into 2011!

**Evie Astbury:** Conservation Researcher

In Partnership with EcoSystems-India, the Assam Haathi Project is working to tackle the growing issue of human-elephant conflict across Assam.

Evie spent 10 days with the Assam Haathi Project team visiting communities affected by elephants. While there, she saw first hand the damage that elephants can do to people's homes and crops. However, the Assam Haathi Project has been making a difference and because of the techniques used to protect communities, villages that were abandoned are now lived in once more. An important part of Evie's visit was to discuss the future expansion plans for the project. The team has already started visiting districts right across the whole state of Assam and surveys are finding new villages to benefit from the projects.

### To develop local community education initiatives to tackle human-elephant conflict

**Maggie Esson:** Education Programmes Manager

Maggie visited Assam to begin working on a new education component of the Assam Haathi Project. Joining up with field coordinators in Sonitpur and Goalpara, she attended village meetings and visited schools and tea gardens – all locations where local people have their livelihoods and sometime their lives threatened by elephants.

Over the next two years Maggie will work with EcoSystems-India to develop and monitor community education initiatives and to raise awareness of the issues surrounding human-elephant conflict.



Maggie visits a school in Assam



Andrea in Assam

### To discover the nutritional reasons behind elephant crop raiding

**Andrea Fidgett:** Nutritionist

Andrea visited Assam to advise on a research project which aims to understand the reasons why elephants raid crops. Supervised by Andrea, Bidyut Das is studying for a Masters degree from Assam Agricultural University. Bidyut has been collecting data for 12 months monitoring the abundance of different plants throughout the year and especially noting plant species which are preferred by elephants. Knowledge of what elephants may prefer to eat will help the Assam Haathi Project to develop plans for the future and ensure that people and elephants can live safely together in Assam.



# Making a difference

© NASA

## Black Rhino Programme

Building on our Black Rhino Programme, and following on from last year's successful Rhino Mania event in Chester, our support for Black Rhino conservation continues to grow. This support is even more important right now with poaching for rhino horn increasing and becoming more serious by the day in east Africa. We have been working with the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary in Tanzania for a number of years helping to protect the rhinos. Black Rhinos were moved to Mkomazi to establish a new secure breeding population in quality habitat within their former range. However, due to the escalating poaching issues, there has been a recent need to increase security and replace communication equipment at Mkomazi. Chester Zoo have supported the construction of two new security observation posts, which will be manned 24 hours a day. Both of these outposts are to be positioned in areas where rhinos are often seen browsing and drinking. In addition to security posts, communication equipment has been upgraded to make certain that communication links between guard posts and mobile patrols are upheld, ensuring efficient management and security in the park.



Kifakua uniport © GAWPT

## Greater One-horned Rhino NEWS!

Chester Zoo support has enabled the translocation of Greater One-horned Rhinos in Assam, India. In a move to ensure the survival of this vulnerable species, four rhinos – one male and three females – were translocated from Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary to Manas National Park in January. The animals join two females that were moved to Manas in late December, and five rhinos (two males and three females) that were moved in 2008.

## News on Conservation from around the World

### Bad

News was received at the beginning of the year that another gorilla infant has been confiscated from poachers in the Democratic Republic of Congo. An event such as this is proof that gorilla poaching is still going on – conservationists predict that a whole gorilla family could have been killed for every orphaned infant found. Confiscated infants have often undergone severely traumatic experiences and suffer from a number of medical problems due to confinement in cages and lack of food.



photo © gorilla.cd

### Good

Promising news was received from a recent census confirming an increase in Mountain Gorilla numbers. Mountain Gorilla's are classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List and the census, carried out in the Virunga Massif, confirms a 26.3% increase over the last seven years. The Virunga Massif consists of three National Parks spanning across three countries – DRC, Uganda and Rwanda. Mountain Gorillas are found in only one other place – the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Uganda.



© Yvonne Pohlner

### Nigeria Programme

Nigerian Chimpanzees are the most threatened chimpanzee subspecies, having the smallest distribution and population. The only remaining viable population of Nigerian Chimpanzees is found in Gashaka Gumti National Park. Although found in a few other protected areas, Gashaka is the only place where these primates are not heavily hunted. In 1999 we started a long term partnership with the Gashaka Primate Project, providing core support for the project which includes a research centre, equipment and infrastructure requirements and salaries. The researchers' work focuses primarily on Gashaka's primates, and as a direct result of their presence in the area, they deter poachers from entering the national park. Our support for this important project has continued into 2011.

**FAST FACT:** Chimpanzees are primarily vegetarian, however they are omnivores which means they also eat meat.



### China Programme

In 2010, staff from the Chester Zoo Discovery & Learning Division visited Chengdu Research Base for Giant Panda Breeding in the Sichuan Province of China to strengthen links between education at the research base and back here at the zoo. As a result of this visit, we have since supported a project which will boost conservation education activities at the research base. This will include capacity building visits to Chester Zoo for Chengdu research base staff. Training will be provided by zoo staff and will include direct input into developing education and evaluation methods to allow the Chengdu research base to develop their education programme.

**FAST FACT:** The Giant Panda can defecate up to 40 times a day due to its large diet.

### Philippines Programme

As part of our Philippines Programme, we support the conservation of the Critically Endangered Philippine Forest Turtle. Heavily exploited for food and the pet trade, research was required on the home range and seasonality of the species. Due to a current lack of data, this project will provide essential information to aid conservation efforts for the species.

The Philippines are recognised globally as a 'Biodiversity Hotspot', and Chester Zoo is involved in projects throughout the Philippine Islands, protecting the important species and habitats. We have continued our support for numerous projects which include protection schemes for the Philippine Cockatoo and hornbill species found on the islands, conservation breeding centres on the West Visayan Islands, and biodiversity protection and monitoring on the Polillo Islands.

**FAST FACT:** The Philippine Forest Turtle is one of the most endangered turtles in the world.



Forest turtle © Richard Gibson



### Jaguar Programme

Human-wildlife conflict is a conservation issue which Chester Zoo is heavily involved in finding solutions for, and Jaguars are one of the main species we focus our work on. In addition to our ongoing research on human-jaguar conflict, we have supported two further projects working towards finding solutions to the problem. In Guatemala, work is being carried out to implement livestock husbandry practices which will reduce the conflict between ranch owners and Jaguars. A community project is also underway in Costa Rica, working with local people to change attitudes and behaviours towards Jaguars. Our support of these projects will help to alleviate some of the issues caused by conflict with humans.

**FAST FACT:** The word Jaguar comes from the native Indian name *yaguara* which means a beast that kills its prey with one bound.

### Grant Support

Other projects which we've supported during the last quarter include:

- Borneo Carnivore Symposium
  - Road towards conservation action plan
- Fresh water fish specialist group symposium
  - hosted by Chester Zoo
- The ecology of the Maroon Langur in Sabangau peat swamp forest, central Kalimantan
- Assessing the conservation status of cactus species of the Andean hotspot and Galapagos Islands
- Restoration of Wetland forest and reintroduction of its associated epiphytes at the REGUA reserve, Brazil
- A comparative parasitological study of chimpanzees, DRC
- Budo Hornbill Conservation and Education Center, Thailand
- Habitat, Status and Conservation of Red Panda in Nepal
- Geographical variation in socio-ecology of spider monkeys in Meso-America
- Construction and furnishing the new field station in the Barba Azul Nature Reserve, Bolivia
- Buffy-headed Capuchin conservation programme, Brazil
- Mabula Ground Hornbill Research and Conservation Project, South Africa
- Socio-economics of human-tiger conflict: patterns, perceptions and impacts, Bangladesh
- Fish Ark Project, Mexico
- Grey-breasted Parakeet project, Brazil
- Partula Consortium EEP support

# EAZA APE CAMPAIGN



© KOCP



© Yvonne Pohlner

## EAZA campaign

EAZA, the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, runs an awareness and fund-raising campaign annually; this year is the EAZA Ape Campaign.

Apes (gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans, bonobos and gibbons) are our closest living relatives and are all under threat from hunting, deforestation and disease.

The campaign aim is 'to make a significant and lasting contribution to the continued survival of apes and their habitats.' Without awareness and funding to tackle the problems facing these species, they will soon become extinct.

Chester Zoo is running a whole host of activities throughout the spring and summer to fundraise for the campaign.

Check out the events below and come along and support ape conservation!

### Monday 18th to Friday 22nd April Ape Week

11:00 – 11:45

'Meet the keepers and hear about the Ape Campaign.'

Taking place at the waterfall at the bottom of the Realm of the Red Ape exit ramp, opposite the flamingos.

14:30 – 16:00

'Ape-ing around' with touch tables, face painting, ape information boards, stalls and ape games. Join us at the otter and babirusa lawn area at the bottom of the Realm of the Red exit ramp, opposite the flamingos.

### Saturday 7th May

#### Saving apes: frontline conservation

A day of talks, films and discussions with experts, straight from the field!

The EAZA Ape Campaign 2011 is bringing the leading zoos of Europe and beyond together to make a significant and lasting contribution to the continued survival of apes and their habitats.

Chester Zoo is running an Ape Symposium in aid of the Campaign, which will bring together an international array of experts working on the frontline of primate conservation, and give our audience the opportunity to hear about and discuss this important work.

Some of the topics being covered include:

See how primate conservationists are working to save apes in the field.

Learn about tool use in apes.

Find out the important role the media has in ape conservation.

Hear about Chester Zoo's apes.

Talks will be aimed at a general audience and this event is a real 'must' for anyone interested in wildlife conservation!

TV wildlife presenter and veterinary surgeon

#### Steve Leonard

South-east Asian ape expert **David J. Chivers**

Expert on great ape behaviour **William C. McGrew**

Question time with **Chester Zoo's Primate Team**

Gorilla, bonobo and chimpanzee experts from the **Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA)**

**Meet and Greet the Speakers!** – mingle and chat with our speakers in a designated 'meet and greet' session.

This one-day event also includes a guided **ape highlights tour\*** of the zoo, and free zoo entry during lunch break\*\*

This fundraising event is open to members and non-members. Tickets are £24 for members and £30 for non-members.

**Due to the popularity of this event, advanced booking is required.**

Please check the Chester Zoo website for further information and booking details.

If you have any questions about this event, please email [symposium@chesterzoo.org](mailto:symposium@chesterzoo.org)

\* Zoo entry from 12-2pm is included in the Symposium ticket price.

\*\* Ticket price also includes tea/coffee/biscuits at two refreshment breaks in the Lecture Theatre. Lunch is not provided – but please do visit the zoo's cafes and restaurants, where you'll find a great selection of food and drinks available for purchase.

### Sunday 15th May

#### BUPA Great Manchester Run

A team of 18 Chester Zoo staff and friends are taking part in the annual BUPA Great Manchester Run to raise money for the campaign. Some staff will be running the 10km distance in gorilla outfits to raise awareness of endangered apes

Look out for the 'apes' and their keepers running around Manchester!

To support the team 'Chester Zoo's Apes' please visit: [virginmoneygiving.com/team/Apes2011](http://virginmoneygiving.com/team/Apes2011)



## Scrub clearance aids creatures great and small

Scrub clearance work on protected sand dunes in North Wales is not only helping to preserve the threatened wildlife and plant species that inhabit them – it is also helping to feed hungry animals at Chester Zoo.

The project on the coastline at Talacre, near to the Dee Estuary, is being funded and supported by the Countryside Council for Wales and BHP Billiton, and implemented by Ecological Land Management (E.L.M) Ltd.

Kim Norman, Land Management Advisor for BHP Billiton, said:

"The rich dunes we're trying to protect support a huge range of vulnerable plant and animal species, most notably one of Wales' rarest creatures – the Natterjack toad. The toads were once common, but now Talacre is one of the very few colonies in Wales and is restricted to a small area of dunes. Therefore, the removal of areas of invasive scrub, dense areas of bramble and hawthorn cover is absolutely vital for the conservation of these species and preservation of the dunes habitat!"

The work will also be to the benefit of some much larger animals.

"Not only are we able to help conserve the native dune dwelling species, the scrub that we remove is then donated to Chester Zoo for their big animals to browse on", said Philip Pearce, E.L.M Director.

"This is great as it reduces the amount of material that has to be disposed of, turning a waste product into a resource for the animals."

Phil Molyneux, of Chester Zoo's Giraffe Team, added:

"Given that the scrub is coming from a conservation area, coupled with the fact that we're a major conservation centre, it's a perfect match. We feed it to a whole host of our species including giraffes, elephants, rhinos, camels and porcupines. Indeed, as well as some fresh branches, our elephants will also chew on the left over browse that the giraffes have had enough of. Then, when they're done with it, it's chipped and recycled into the soil!"

Thanks to the rich wildlife and plant species, Talacre is legally protected as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).



Steve Leonard

# a gift or experience to treasure

Meerkat Encounter  
Gift Tickets  
Giraffe Encounter  
Beastie in a Box  
Virtual Gifts  
Animal Adoption  
Zoo Keeper Experience  
Keeper for a Day  
Penguin Island Encounter  
Junior Zoo Keeper Experience  
Gardener for a Day  
Private Tours  
Zoo Membership



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and Adopters\*

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Proceeds from Gifts & Experiences help fund Chester Zoo's conservation work in the UK and around the world, which is good news for animals everywhere.

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For more information and to purchase, visit  
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or call **01244 650 281**

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\*Chester Zoo Members and Adopters can receive a 10% discount on selected Gifts and Experiences. Please call the number above to find out more.



## GO APE in run for charity

Staff and friends of Chester Zoo will don gorilla outfits for a charity race to raise awareness of endangered apes.

A team of 18, which includes Director General Mark Pilgrim, are running the BUPA Great Manchester Run in May in support of the 2011 EAZA (European Association of Zoos and Aquaria) Ape Campaign, which aims to raise awareness and help protect endangered apes in the wild.

There are six species of great ape and 16 species of gibbon, all under threat from hunting, deforestation and disease. Without awareness and funding to tackle the problems facing these species, they could soon become extinct.

Cat Barton, Assistant Conservation Officer said:

"Almost all species of ape are now on the brink of extinction and urgent action is desperately needed.

"That's why we've all decided to take on this

exciting challenge – to raise awareness and funds for these amazing animals.

"A few of the team will be aptly dressed, so be sure to keep an eye out for the 'apes' and their keepers running around Manchester".

Scott Wilson, Conservation Officer added: "I run regularly but it's going to be much harder wearing the hot and heavy gorilla costume."

Others taking part include Scott Wilson, Yvette Foulds, Nick Davis, Andrea Fidgett, Claudine Gibson, Suzanne Turnock, Sonya Hill, Emma Jones, Rachael Wheatley, Lizzie Bowen, Fiona Howe, Mark Sparrow, Matt Davies, Deborah Goff, Shane Goff, James Chatterton.

To support the 'Chester Zoo's Apes' team please visit [virginmoneygiving.com/team/Apes2011](http://virginmoneygiving.com/team/Apes2011)



**A Lowland Tapir mum and her calf sneak past a hidden camera trap in a series of images that capture wildlife at its finest in the Brazilian Pantanal.**

The pair were pictured as they strolled past a camera that had been set up in a tapir latrine to capture images of the species.

In another image, a nosy giant anteater also saunters past, as does a juvenile marsh deer, unaware that their moves are being caught on camera.

Dedicated tapir researchers working in the Baía das Pedras Ranch in the Pantanal, Brazil, as part of a project part-funded by Chester Zoo, uncovered the shots as they looked for tapir activity.

The sighting of the tapir female and her calf has raised further questions for the researchers. They eventually hope to be able to radio-collar the mother to help gather more data for the project.

Patrícia Medici, who runs the Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative in Brazil, says: "All the tapir photos, especially those taken at tapir latrines, will help us gather precious information about the social organisation and reproduction of this species.

"We know very little about these aspects of tapir life and it raises many research questions for us. Potentially in the future we will be able to photograph mating pairs and mothers with their calves over longer periods of time and determine how fast calves develop and how long they stay with the mothers before leaving to establish their own home ranges.

"These are critical pieces of information for the assessment of the status of lowland tapir populations in the Pantanal."



## One Free Child Entry to the Play Barn

on production of this voucher with your Chester Zoo membership card\*

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Voucher valid until 31/03/11

\* Only one voucher to be used per group. This voucher has no monetary value.



# The zoo's Greenest Traveller

The zoo's intrepid travellers have been going green and doing their bit for the environment.

**B**Y putting their best foot forward, hopping on their bikes or sharing lifts, staff have been finding alternative ways to travel to and from work.

The zoo's Green Travel scheme offers incentives for staff who clock up the most environmentally-friendly trips each month.

To mark a year of the project – which has nearly 100 participants – an award has been presented to 2010's 'greenest' traveller.

Gavin Hill, who work in the zoo's stores department, car shares or cycles in every day from his home in Bebington.

Simon Mann, Chester Zoo's Development Director, presented the award to Gavin and said: "Gavin has shown real commitment to travelling sustainably on a consistent basis."

"Green travel will play an important role in the zoo's future development which, over the coming years, will include creating more sustainable travel options for both staff and visitors."

Gavin was presented with a bespoke trophy made by the zoo's maintenance department. In-keeping with the green theme, it was shaped as a footprint and made from recycled materials including flooring from the Fruit Bat Forest and parts of old washing machines.



## Share the adventure!

**GROUP VISITS**  
CHESTER ZOO

Whether you're getting together to celebrate a special birthday, looking for a venue for a team building day or wanting to spend time with family and friends, get together as a group of 15 or more paying visitors and save up to 30% off!

Book online to benefit from fast track admission and receive a free place with every 20 paying visitors.

[www.chesterzoo.org/groups](http://www.chesterzoo.org/groups)  
0870 720 1507

SAVE UP TO  
**30%**  
OFF BOOKINGS  
OF 15+



# Zoo's support enables the translocation of Indian rhinos in Assam

In a move to ensure the survival of this vulnerable species, four rhinos – one male and three females – were translocated from Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary to Manas National Park yesterday. The animals join two females that were moved to Manas in late December, and five rhinos (two males and three females) that were moved in 2008. Funding from the zoo, a conservation charity, played a part in helping the move go ahead.

Indian rhinos are a conservation success story. The species has recovered from about 200 animals in the early 1990s to more than 2,850 today. Resembling living armoured tanks, the species is a popular zoo animal – about 175 Indian rhinos live in 66 zoos around the world. As a result of increasing commitment to conservation, zoos from Europe, Australia and the United States have joined forces to support the rhino moves.

Pobitora, where the four rhinos were captured, boasts the highest density of rhinos in the world, with more than 90 rhinos in less than 18 square kilometers (4,450 acres) of rhino habitat. To minimize the chance of loss from disease and other disasters, the rhinos need to be spread among other parks. The translocations will lessen pressure on Pobitora's rhinos for food and space, and hopefully reduce the number of rhinos straying into nearby villages which can lead to injuries to people and animals.

Moving a rhino is no easy task – the moves are the result of months of meticulous planning for every possible situation that might arise from capture to release – all with

the aim of keeping both the animals and the people involved safe. Under the guidance of veterinarians, field workers, park guards, conservationists and forest department officials, the four animals were captured and released within 24 hours. Veterinarians darted the animals with tranquilizers, then transported them 250km in crates specially-designed to hold the 1.5 to 2 ton pachyderms. Each rhino is radio-collared and will be closely monitored by WWF-India and Manas National Park staff.

The translocations are the backbone of the ambitious Indian Rhino Vision (IRV) 2020 – a partnership among the government of Assam, the International Rhino Foundation, the World Wide Fund for Nature, the Bodoland Territorial Council, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – that aims to attain a population of 3,000 wild rhinos in seven of Assam's protected areas by the year 2020.

Dr Roger Wilkinson, Chester Zoo's Head of Field Conservation and Research, said:

**“Chester Zoo's conservation efforts extend beyond the zoo's boundaries and assistance from organisations such as ours can make a real difference to species everywhere. The translocation of these rhinos is a real success story and one that we are proud to support.”**

It is not the first time the zoo has supported Manas National Park. In 2008 it provided funding to help reduce the risk of poaching, human-wildlife conflict, disease transmission and ultimately protecting the habitat. Community projects were also supported.

Manas National Park, once an icon among India's many spectacular wildlife reserves, was

designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985. As of 2010, only 911 sites in the world have been named as a place with special cultural or physical significance. Manas is home to the tiger, pygmy hog and golden langur as well as elephants, wild buffalo and Indian bison. Rhinos were once common in the park, but violent civil conflict beginning in 1989 caused massive damage to the park's infrastructure, including destruction of anti-poaching camps, roads and villages. Until recently, the last rhino seen in Manas was in 1996.

Zoos have contributed more than half a million dollars in the past three years to rebuild Manas National Park's infrastructure, including anti-poaching camps, roads, and bridges, in preparation for the Park's new inhabitants. Because of the ever-present threat of poaching, guards from the local communities, which herald the rhino homecoming, have been hired to protect the park's rhinos and other wildlife. Many of the guards are former poachers who now want to help to conserve the park's living treasures. The funding consortium, led by the International Rhino Foundation in the U.S., Save the Rhino International in the United Kingdom, and the Asian Rhino Project in Australia, include the American Association of Zookeepers, Zoo Basel, CERZA Zoo, the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, Chester Zoo, Los Angeles Zoo, Mesker Park Zoo, Philadelphia Zoo, Stuttgart Zoo, Taronga Conservation Society Australia, Woodland Park Zoo, and the San Diego Zoo.

# Mouth-watering new offer for visitors



Change is on the menu for the zoo's catering outlets with the Ark Restaurant and Café Tsavo being given an overhaul and fresh and exciting food offers in the pipeline.

The zoo has joined forces with Heathcotes Outside which was set up in 1997 by Michelin-starred chef Paul Heathcote MBE and Managing Director Gary Bates.

Alasdair McNee, Chester Zoo's Corporate Director, said:

**“Working with Heathcotes Outside will bring a vibrant new offering for all our visitors, whether they are here for a day, a specific function or just to enjoy a coffee with friends. This is an exciting time for the development of the zoo's catering and we look forward to unveiling an exciting new food offer in the near future. We have been inspired by Heathcotes Outside's creativity and vision and believe this will be reflected in our new menus.”**

Heathcotes Outside already works with a number of household names across the North West including ACC Liverpool, Tatton Park, Warrington Wolves RLFC, Preston North End FC and Blackpool Tower and Winter Gardens.

Gary Bates said: “Our aim and vision is to work in partnership with Chester Zoo to create a strong, ethical brand and provide all visitors, delegates and clients with a high quality, value for money food and beverage offering using the freshest local ingredients.

“We know the zoo remains a market leader in national visitor attractions; we want to make the catering a world class attraction over the coming years as well.

“This will all be delivered by a highly motivated and trained team to ensure the zoo remains to be a top national visitor attraction.”

## Native species such as tiny Harvest Mice could be plunged into crisis given the early cold snap that swept the country this winter.

That was the warning shot from Chester Zoo specialists who say Harvest Mice could see their numbers drop by 95 per cent in harsh weather this winter.

Other smaller, fragile species such as wrens and goldcrests could also face hardship.

Sarah Bird, the zoo's Biodiversity Officer, said

**“Harvest Mice in particular will struggle this winter. Frozen ground can make it difficult for species that have to dig for food, such as moles.”**

However, Sarah said blankets of snow could make it easier for people to spot wildlife and in turn do their bit to help them. She said it was well worth watching out for unusual birds feeding



in trees with berries or at bird feeders. This year there have already been a lot of waxwings seen across the UK, which have come here from Eastern Europe and Siberia.

Footprints from foxes, squirrels, rabbits or hares can spotted on the ground in gardens, and some birds leave distinctive trails too like the marks left by pheasants' tails along side their foot marks..

The zoo has given its top tips for caring for native species over the winter months including:

- feeding birds with seeds, fat balls and fruit can also help other wildlife including mammals. Food should be provided in feeders, on bird tables and on the ground too.
- providing water is extremely important when the temperature is below zero. Make sure a shallow water container is ice free for at least part of the day.
- trees and shrubs with berries on are a very festive sight in the frost and snow, but it is worth remembering that they are very important food for wildlife, so always leave plenty if you collect any from your garden.
- submit your records to RECORD the local wildlife recording centre based at the zoo. [www.record-lrc.co.uk](http://www.record-lrc.co.uk) and help us build up knowledge of local wildlife.

# NEW Adoption Pack

Chester Zoo has launched an exciting new adoption pack for 2011



The new range includes a fact sheet and puzzles and a special cuddly toy.

The adoption range feature eight of the zoo's most popular animals:

**Red Pandas, Giraffes, Elephants, Orangutans, Tigers, Meerkats, Penguins and Chimps**

For just £50.00 you'll receive the cuddly toy, two admission tickets and have your name displayed on a thank you plaque at your animal's enclosure. The bumper gift pack also contains a welcome letter, thank you card, personalised certificate, fact and puzzle sheet, image of the species you have adopted and a copy of Z magazine.

Karolyn Toner, Memberships and Adoptions Manager, said:

**"Proceeds from animal adoptions help fund conservation work in Cheshire and around the world, which is good news for animals everywhere"**

For details visit the website: [chesterzoo.org](http://chesterzoo.org)

CHESTER ZOO

## 100 Club

The winners of the prize draws held recently were:

### October 2010

Janet Thompson, Connah's Quay	£100
Nigel Jones, Wrexham	£100
Lynne Norton, Northwich	£50
Steve Evans, Anglesey	£50
Mrs. J Colclough, Stoke on Trent	£50
Mr. M A Shepherd, Wirral	£50

### November 2010

Gordon Weston, Mold	£100
Amanda Jones, Rhyl	£100
Steve Evans, Anglesey	£100
Janet Thompson, Connah's Quay	£50
Mr. and Mrs. Milligan, Wirral	£50
Lauren Davies, Ewloe	£50

### December 2010

Pauline Dutton, Ellesmere Port	£1000
Graeme Errington, Worcestershire	£100
Mr. K J Sims, Norfolk	£50
Andrew Stevens, East Yorkshire	£50
Ste Rogers, Merseyside	£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.

## CHESTER ZOO'S 100 CLUB CASH PRIZES GALORE

Would you like to be in with a chance of winning prizes ranging from £50 to £1000? If so, why not join Chester Zoo's 100 Club scheme! Draws occur monthly and the quantity of prizes increases with the number of participants.

We usually have two first prizes of £100 per month and three second prizes of £50. Once or twice a year (depending on the number of members) there are larger prizes of £900 to £1000.

Winners are written to directly and are also announced in Z Magazine. If you too would like to be in with a one-in-three chance of winning per year, all you have to do is pay £5 per month by standing order (half of the money goes towards our work as a charity, the remainder is used for the prize money). Regretfully, the scheme isn't open to under 18s.

For further information, please contact the Development Office at [developmentoffice@chesterzoo.org](mailto:developmentoffice@chesterzoo.org) or telephone 01244 650229.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Chester Zoo, Upton by Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH.  
[www.chesterzoo.org](http://www.chesterzoo.org)

Chester Zoo is a Registered Charity No. 306077



## CHESTER ZOO



## Safari Ranger

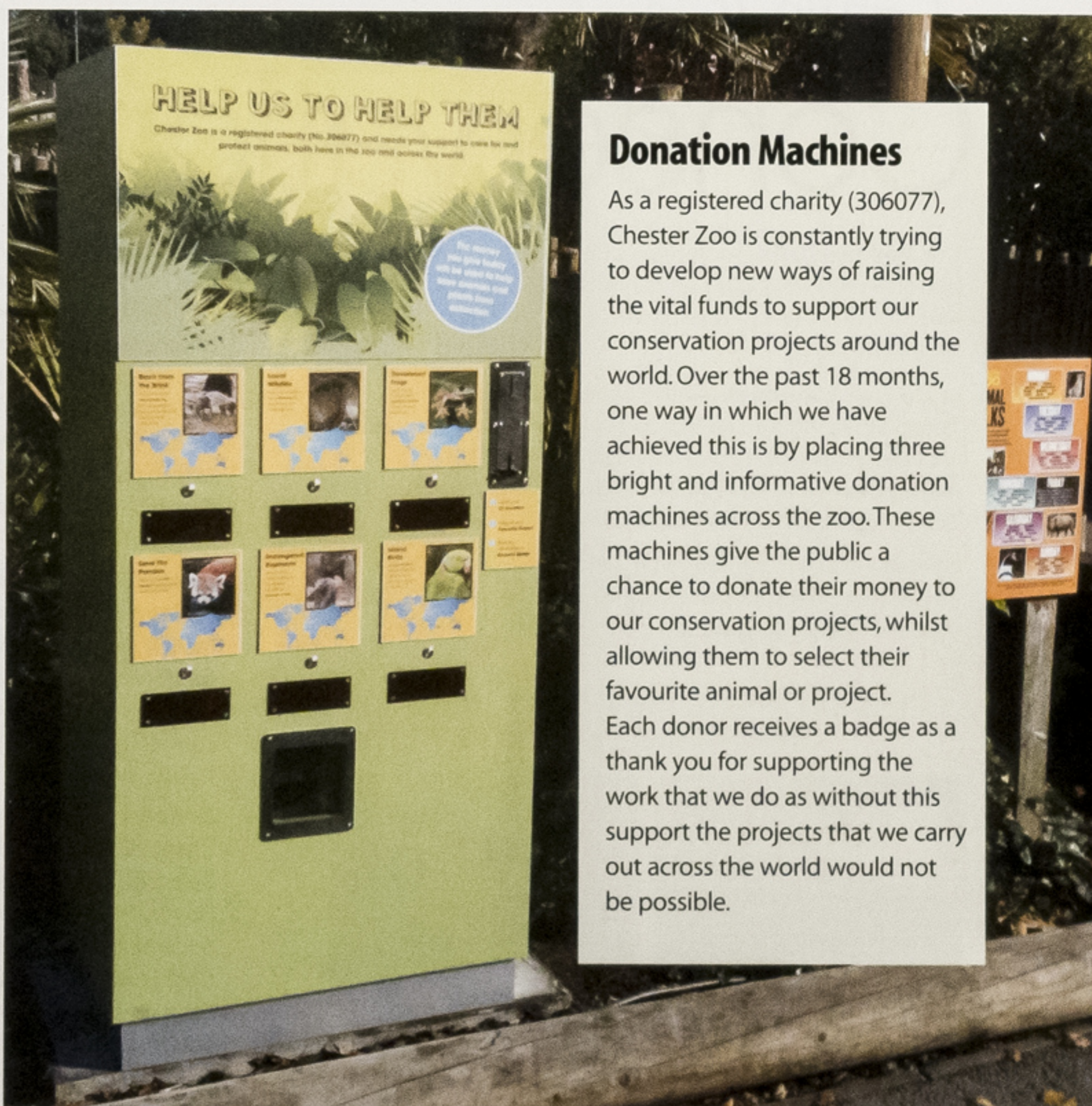
Chester Zoo's Discovery and Learning Division is a vibrant and dynamic team providing exciting activities through our hands-on classroom based sessions. Education is an essential aspect of conservation. By inspiring today's young people to care for our planet's wildlife, we are a step closer to achieving the zoo's mission of being 'a major force in conserving biodiversity worldwide'.

One of the ways we do this is through the Safari Ranger, **Becca Biddle**. The Safari Ranger project allows Becca to visit schools throughout the North West area to deliver free classroom sessions. The children are able to handle bio facts such as eggs, tusks, horns and skins that really bring the subject matter to life.

Recently **Halliwell Jones Chester** kindly donated a BMW X1 on lease to the Safari Ranger project which will allow Becca to continue educating the children of the North West. The car is easily identified by its bright and colourful design. To find out more on this project please contact our Discovery and Learning Department on 01244 389738.

[www.chesterzoo.org/conservation-and-science](http://www.chesterzoo.org/conservation-and-science)

**Halliwell Jones**



## Donation Machines

As a registered charity (306077), Chester Zoo is constantly trying to develop new ways of raising the vital funds to support our conservation projects around the world. Over the past 18 months, one way in which we have achieved this is by placing three bright and informative donation machines across the zoo. These machines give the public a chance to donate their money to our conservation projects, whilst allowing them to select their favourite animal or project. Each donor receives a badge as a thank you for supporting the work that we do as without this support the projects that we carry out across the world would not be possible.



Wednesday 30th March at 7:30pm

## **The Chinese Connection – Saving Species and Habitat**

**Simon Dowell, Marisa Edwards, Roger Wilkinson**

Several people have asked about the possibility of viewing the whole James Fisher 1950s 'News from the Zoos' documentary filmed at Chester, excerpts of which we have previously shown at Members' evenings. Now is your chance! We'll be screening the whole 25 minute documentary in advance of tonight's main presentation, starting at 7pm sharp so be sure to get here early if you're interested in seeing this rare archive footage.

*And the evening's main event ...*

China contains some of the world's most exciting animals but they are also under some of the most severe threats as the country rapidly develops. A recent search for the Yangtze River Dolphin failed to find a single individual and this enigmatic species, once widespread in the Yangtze river and its tributaries, is now believed to be extinct. This has provided a stark warning that time is running out for China's charismatic wildlife, including that most iconic of endangered species, the Giant Panda.

In the face of this it would be easy to despair, but Chester Zoo has been at the forefront of efforts to save a number of exciting Chinese birds from the brink of extinction, such as the beautiful Sichuan Hill-partridge and the spectacular Blue-crowned Laughingthrush. In doing so, we have also been instrumental in protecting broadleaf forests for important populations of many other species including China's Red Pandas. The talk will explain how this has been achieved by helping nature reserve managers and staff and actively working with people who live alongside the wildlife.

From local agreements to protect laughingthrushes in Eastern China to harnessing the inherent wonder in their environment shown by schoolchildren in the Giant Panda's mountain home in Sichuan, we will show how work with local conservation reserves and their communities can help to secure a brighter future for the great diversity of Chinese wildlife.

# Talking Conservation

Our Members' Talks Programme brings you up close and personal with what goes on behind the scenes at the Zoo, our plans for the future and, of course, our conservation work in the UK and overseas.

In 2010, we told you about the Zoo's work in the Philippines and Tanzania; we introduced you to our Vet and Education Teams; we brought you up to date with our environmental management and had fun evenings with a Christmas Quiz, Zoo history and our Rhinomaniacs!

Our talks in 2011 promise to be just as diverse, exciting and informative. Why not join us and find out more about the work your membership supports?

**Dr. Simon Dowell is a Conservation Fellow and Trustee of the Zoo and has been involved in conservation work in China since 1995. His early research on the Sichuan Hill-partridge and other endemic birds in collaboration with the Sichuan Forest Department, led to the establishment of Chester Zoo's Sichuan Forest Biodiversity Project which now supports the protection of over 900 km<sup>2</sup> of forest habitat. He has been a lecturer in Conservation Ecology at Liverpool John Moores University since 1992 where he also promotes their Science Faculty to encourage closer collaboration on higher education projects in Asia.**

**Marisa Edwards has been a Presenter at Chester Zoo since 2005. Before this she completed a Zoology Degree, gained a PGCE and taught primary school children for seven years. Marisa visited China for the first time in September 2010. This visit provided an amazing opportunity to visit schools around the reserve and see the work completed by the education team at the Research Base for Giant Panda Breeding.**

**Dr Roger Wilkinson is Head of Field Conservation and Research at Chester Zoo. His interests are in Conservation Biology, Animal Behaviour, Ecology and Ornithology. Roger joined Chester Zoo in 1983 as Curator of Birds and later became Curator of Higher Vertebrates and Research. He has visited China on many occasions and as well as working with Simon in Sichuan he actively manages and promotes the Blue-crowned Laughingthrush conservation project in partnership with Chinese scientists and international conservation organisations.**



Tuesday 5th April at 7:30pm  
**Whose Game Is It Anyway?**  
Tony Fitzjohn

Tony Fitzjohn has worked in the field over the past forty years in Kenya and Tanzania and his talk will focus on this work, covering rehabilitation of ecosystems, endangered species programmes including the African Painted Dog and Black Rhino, lion and leopard rehabilitation programmes. Tony will also talk about his community outreach work and environmental education programmes.



**Tony Fitzjohn is Field Director for the George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust and spent 18 years rehabilitating lions and leopards with George Adamson in Kora National Reserve, Kenya. In 1989, he was invited by the Government of Tanzania to rehabilitate the Mkomazi Game Reserve and in 2008 this was upgraded to National Park status. As well as being heavily involved with community outreach and education programmes, he established the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary, Tanzania's first, and has established and managed the African Painted Dog programme. In 2006, he was awarded the OBE for Services to Wildlife in East Africa.**

**EXCLUSIVE: Born Wild** is Tony Fitzjohn's amazing and moving autobiography, published in 2010. Copies of his incredible story will be available to purchase on the night at **£7.99** and if you buy on the night you will have the opportunity to meet the author! Tony will be doing a book signing after his talk when you will have the chance to meet the man described as an 'African wildlife warrior'. (Unfortunately, there will be insufficient time for Tony to sign pre-purchased books; only those purchased on the night will be signed by Tony.)

Please note that admittance to this free of charge event will be by ticket only. Tickets will be available exclusively to members and their guests from 1st to 21st March. Thereafter, tickets will be made available to Zoo staff and the wider community. Please contact Kate Brankin on 01244 389444 or at [k.brankin@chesterzoo.org](mailto:k.brankin@chesterzoo.org) to book.

Saturday 21st May at 2:30pm  
**Sandbags, salad, shrapnel and sustainability: lessons for the future from how Chester Zoo and other World War Zoo gardens survived wartime challenges in the past.**

Mark Norris

Chester Zoo's early years were overshadowed by the food rationing, resource shortages and challenges of the Second World War and postwar austerity. Its founder George Mottershead was part of a generation that experienced the First and Second World War; sadly not all zoo staff were to be so lucky. Chester Zoo emerged relatively unscathed from wartime bombing; some zoos in Europe were almost destroyed. Drawing on a range of resources from garden history, family history, Newquay Zoo's wartime life collection and Dig for Victory allotment together with Chester Zoo's superb archives, Mark Norris from the World War Zoo gardens project at Newquay Zoo shares some of the varied, innovative, amusing and sometimes tragic experiences of British and European zoos and botanic gardens in wartime. What we can learn from the stories of the wartime generation to help us prepare for the future? Gasmasks, ration books and identity cards optional for those attending!

**Mark Norris has been the Education manager at Newquay Zoo since 1996 and is currently editing wartime blitz diaries, a book and schools' resources for the World War Zoo gardens research project based at Newquay Zoo. Newquay Zoo opened postwar in the late 1960s and is now part of the Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust which also runs Paignton Zoo, opened in the 1920s and operational in wartime.**

Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th June  
**Conservation in the City**  
Members' Trip to London Zoo and Wetlands Centre

Following the success of our previous members' trips and the interest recently shown by members for these to be resurrected, we are happy to offer a weekend in London, the cost of which includes the following:

- Return coach travel from Chester to London (leaving Chester at 08:30 Saturday 18th June; returning to Chester at 20:30 on Sunday 19th June)
- Transfers and admission to venues within London – Wetlands Centre and London Zoo
- Dinner, bed and full English breakfast in a four star hotel [www.parkinn.co.uk/airport/hotel-heathrow](http://www.parkinn.co.uk/airport/hotel-heathrow) with full leisure facilities including swimming pool
- After dinner dancing with hotel DJ also available
- Two members of Chester Zoo staff accompanying the tour

Gorilla Kingdom is London Zoo's enclosure and home to a colony of majestic Western Lowland Gorillas. Walk through the forested, atmospheric pathway to the African birds' aviary before emerging next to the clearing where the stunning gorillas live side by side with the Black and White Colobus Monkeys.

Sunday will be spent at the 42 hectare London Wetland Centre - the best urban site in Europe to watch wildlife, an international award winning visitor attraction and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Barnes is the showcase site of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust whose work deals with the restoration of wetlands and the wildlife that depends on them.

For further information visit [www.wwt.org.uk/visit-us/london](http://www.wwt.org.uk/visit-us/london)

We are able to offer this trip to members at the fantastic price of £125.00 per person sharing a room with a £25.00 single room supplement.

For further details and a booking form, please contact Kate Brankin at [k.brankin@chesterzoo.org](mailto:k.brankin@chesterzoo.org) or telephone 01244 389 444.

Completed booking forms and deposit of £50.00 to be received by Friday 15th April 2011, with the remaining payment of £75.00 (£100 including single room supplement) due by 20th May.

Members' Talks are held in the Geraldine Russell Lecture Theatre (near the zoo's main entrance off the A41) and are free to members (please bring your membership card and welcome letter). Members of the public and guests are welcome (£3.50 for non-members).

Our Lecture Theatre seats up to 170.

Post-talk refreshments give you the opportunity to have an informal chat with speakers, Zoo staff and fellow members at selected talks, items from our projects overseas may be available.

The Lecture Theatre has its own car park and a bike rack for cyclists.

To assist us with our catering arrangements, we request that all members advise us of their attendance.

**Interested in attending?**

Please call Kate in Education on 01244 389 444

or e-mail [k.brankin@chesterzoo.org](mailto:k.brankin@chesterzoo.org) to book.

# Events at Chester Zoo

**Sunday 3rd April**

**Mother's Day**

£27.50 per adult £15.95 per child (3 – 11 years)

Adult Members £23.95pp

Price to include admission into Chester Zoo from 10.00am.

Three course lunch served in Oakfield Manor

at either 12.00pm or 3.00pm

Flowers, chocolates, champagne or zoo experiences can be added at an additional cost.

**Friday 24th June**

**Tropical Treat**

At 6.30 pm enjoy a refreshing glass of summer Pimms on the Oakfield Manor Terrace.

Isolde McGeorge, our specialist Herpetology keeper, will then give an informative and guided tour of the Komodo Dragons and Tropical Realm.

BBQ (Tropical theme) will then be served at Oakfield Manor.

£34.95

**Thursday 14th July**

**Pudding Night with Garden Tour**

The evening commences at 6.30 pm with Bucks Fizz served on Oakfield Manor terrace.

Enjoy an informative tour of our grounds and Grow Zone in the company of our gardeners.

After the tour enjoy a light main course and tasters of seven delicious puddings.

£30.50

**Sunday 18th September**

**Back by popular demand**

**Roaring Event with a tour of carnivores**

Admission into the zoo from 2.00pm (non-members)

Afternoon tea 5.00pm.

6.00pm: Tour of selected carnivores.

7.00pm: Talk given by Chester Zoo's carnivore team leader

Alan Woodward.

8.00pm: Conclusion.

£21.95 (10% discount for members)

**July**

**Jazz in July**

Price includes:

Admission into Chester Zoo from 2.00pm.

6.00pm cocktails on the terrace.

Delicious buffet whilst listening to the sounds of Summer Jazz.

£30.50 (£27.00 members)

Pre-booking and pre-payment essential

For further details please contact

the Events Office on 01244 650209

or email: [events@chesterzoo.org](mailto:events@chesterzoo.org)



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

Tel. 01244 380280 Fax. 01244 371273 Email: [info@chesterzoo.co.uk](mailto:info@chesterzoo.co.uk)

Web: [www.chesterzoo.org](http://www.chesterzoo.org)

Founded in 1934, the North of England Zoological Society is a registered charity and receives no Government funding. We need your help and support to raise funds for the care and conservation of rare and endangered animals both in the zoo and across the world.

Registered charity No. 306077

# CELEBRATE YOUR WEDDING IN STYLE AT CHESTER ZOO!



**UNIQUE LOCATION • AWARD WINNING GARDENS  
WILD ANIMALS • EXPERIENCED EVENTS TEAM**

**Ultimate unique venue for your wedding**

- 45 weddings in 2010
- Summer Safari & BBQ a popular choice offering something a little bit different
- Photographs to be taken anywhere within the zoo – stunning backdrops to create a memory with a difference
- With over 7,000 animals and lots to see and do, Chester Zoo prides itself on tailor making your special day
- What's more, by holding your celebration with us, you will be contributing all profits to our conservation efforts, helping critically endangered animals and their habitats around the world.
- Exclusive use of Oakfield Manor for your special day
- Accommodation to suit all budgets just a short distance away

*A beautiful  
and unique venue*

Telephone **01244 650209**

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