

SPRING 1992

Chester  
**ZOO**  
**Life**



# First Impressions

Starting a new job always involves a degree of anxiety. I can well remember my first posting to Botswana in Africa and - just off the plane - how outstandingly pale I was in comparison to all of the seasoned expatriates working in the departments of Wildlife, Tsetse Fly Control and Agriculture & Fisheries. A few days later my face turned lobster red and the skin peeled off like rolls of wallpaper. I was all too obviously a new boy. Someone gently advised that if I wanted to look less conspicuous, I might want to do something about my stiff khaki bush shirt, which was clearly just out of the wrapper. A furtive trip down to the river's edge found me pounding the offending garment with a rock, while a bemused hippopotamus snorted at me from offshore.

## Wired up

What now, I wondered, might I have to do to fit in at Chester Zoo? John Smith, controlling security at the gate, soon provided the first part of the answer. "You'll need one of these," he confided, thrusting a small, crackling radio receiver into my top pocket. This certainly did the trick with the Siberian tigers, which simply yawned as I walked by on the way to the freshly built Animal Division block. But the game was soon up. An elderly

**Dr Gordon McGregor Reid joined the zoo in January in the new position of Curator in Chief. He wrote these "first impressions" after just a couple of weeks in office.**

gentleman approached me to say: "Welcome - you must be one of the new Friends of the Education Division!" He was rather taken aback to find that I was not, after taking a closer look at my shiny elephant identity badge!

## Apprehensions

I quickly found that, despite my first apprehensions, nothing was lost by being a fresh face. Indeed, Members of Council, Dr. Brambell and all the staff at the zoo have gone out of their way to be friendly, helpful and to introduce me to the complexities of this large organisation. From lightning conducted tours of Finance, Marketing, Personnel, Education, Estates and, of course, the Animal Division, one can immediately appreciate how everybody has an important part to play and, also, the tremendous amount of thought and effort that goes into a modern zoo.

## Ideas and Information

The beautifully maintained gardens and the animals are naturally at the heart

of it all. I saw well-managed, healthy collections of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates, and met with experienced, enthusiastic and knowledgeable staff all bursting full of ideas and information - rather more information than I can immediately absorb! This is clearly an ideal place to work on the worthwhile tasks of conserving and scientifically studying the living collections and on promoting the zoo as an attractive recreational and educational facility for the public.

## Feeding Emma

My most thrilling moment so far? Well, it's got to be feeding Emma, our baby black rhinoceros. A large "nursing bottle" containing about a gallon of warm milk, plus special nutrients, was thrust into my uncertain hand. I gingerly approached the great horny bulk of this 252 kilo infant. But all was well. She immediately nuzzled into the feeder and with a remarkable bellows action, rapidly drained the lot, her second feed of the day. What an appetite! I was definitely relieved to discover that this particular baby doesn't need winding after a feed. My engaging experience with Emma is just one of many reasons that make me sure that I am going to enjoy working at Chester Zoo!

## New Company - New Post

In common with most major charities with trading interests, the zoo has now formed a subsidiary company, Chester Zoo Enterprises Ltd, to give a separate identity to the catering and retail operations. The surplus made by the trading company will be covenanted to the zoo.

Overall there will be no change to the present trading operations. The new company has been formed to ensure that full tax exemption of the Society is maintained.

A new Deputy Financial Controller, Alan Sykes, (pictured right) has been appointed, initially to handle the work involved in setting up the controls for operating the company. Alan is a Chartered Accountant, with wide industrial experience, gained in a variety of companies in the North



West. He is 43, and lives in Stockport with his wife and children.

"Accountancy elsewhere was boring" says Alan. "One plus one always equalled two. Here it can equal anything from one (in the case of a lion and a careless keeper!) to 101 (in the case of the prairie marmots!)"

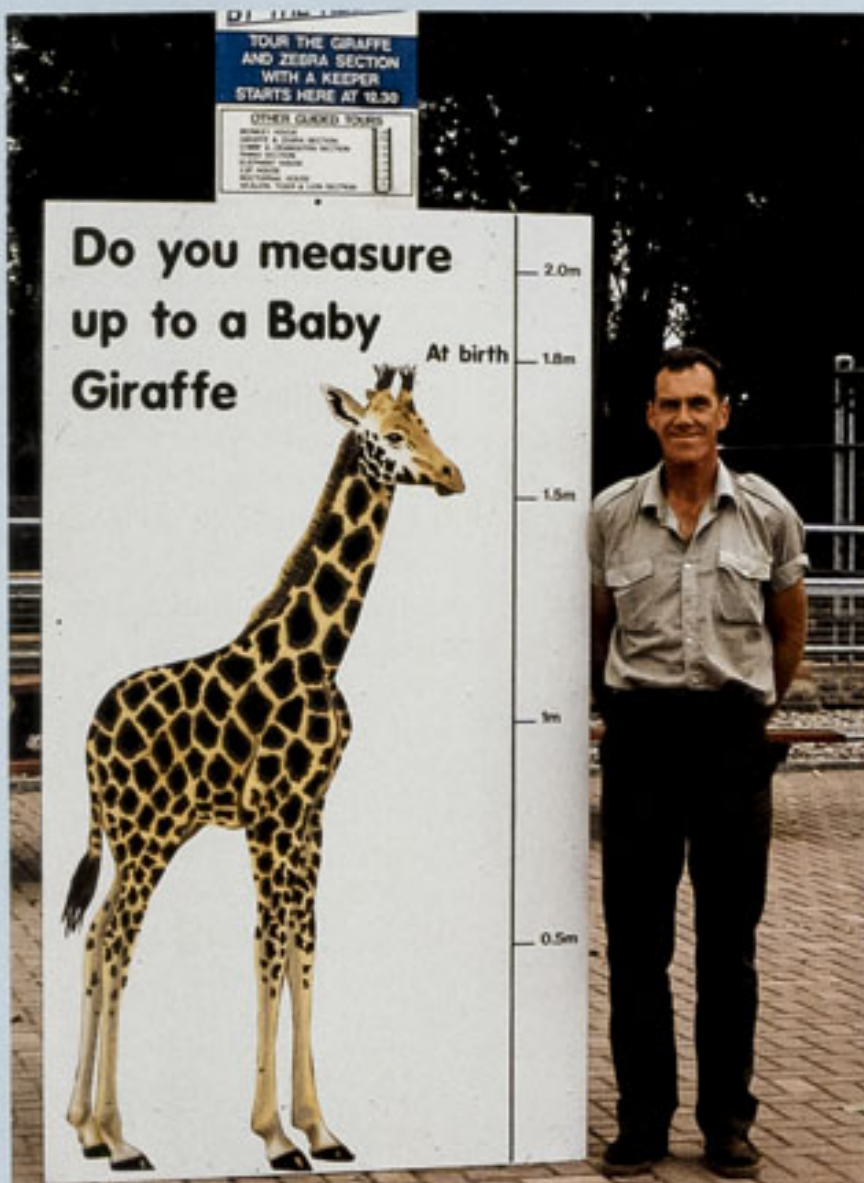
## Tours to India

Council Member Allan Guy had a very good response to his first venture organising a tour to India. But a lot of potential travellers asked him to arrange shorter trips of just two weeks. So, starting next Autumn, in conjunction with an ABTA registered tour company, a series of trips will be available, basically for two weeks, but with the option of an add-on third week. For example, choose two weeks in Northern India, with an optional third week relaxing on the sunny beaches of Goa.

A brochure with all the suggested itineraries and prices will be available shortly, and there is a 5% discount for all Chester Zoo Members and Adopters. Ring Allan on 0704 895157 (evenings), or Maureen, in the Membership Office, 0244 380280 for more details.



## A TALL STORY



The newest attraction at the giraffe house! Senior Keeper Charles Mackenzie designed this measuring board, to show youngsters just how they measure up to baby giraffe!

## THE "END" RESULT IS FIVE STAR!

More contributions towards the work being done by the elephant workshop group are being produced, in large quantities, by the elephants themselves! Just before Christmas, there was a tremendous demand for bags of "zoo-poo" for Christmas presents for keen gardeners. This followed a television appearance by Head Gardener Eric Rudman, on Granada's Green Life Programme.

Television presenter Alistair McDonald treated the whole subject almost like a wine-tasting! He and Eric both donned white coats, and laid a pristine white table-cloth on one of the greenhouse benches. Five samples, from animals ranging from Harvest mouse to Asian elephant, were carefully analysed for their aroma, acidity and value to soil enrichment!

A very entertaining close acquaintance of the turd kind!

Incidentally - the organically grown vegetables supplied to the Michelin-starred restaurant of Chester's Grosvenor Hotel are produced by an organic enterprise called "Veg-to-Table" - with the help of Chester Zoo Pool!

### ZOO NEWS Out Soon!

Our annual promotional newspaper, Chester Zoo News, will be out early in March, and at 16 pages it's the biggest ever. Pick up a copy when you are next in the zoo - you could win a family holiday with Haven, and there's a chance for young readers to win a £250 Hamleys Toy Shop voucher or a pair of Dunlop's Stampa shoes! There's a voucher for free child's admission to Martin Mere. All for 25 pence - and it's all for the animals!

### CANS CAN CONVERT TO CASH!

Another Keeper-led idea currently in operation is the lion-head can collector. Visitors are dropping all their empty drink cans into this special container, and the funds raised are being used towards conservation projects.





fresh fruit, tinned sardines etc) from the local market, we hired a four wheel drive vehicle to take us into the reserve. The position was spectacular, a forest clearing surrounded on three sides with hills covered in forests. Three days were spent enjoying the forest, each evening taking nocturnal walks looking for nocturnal lemurs. The lemur species seen were the diurnal Sanford's lemur and Crowned lemur. The nocturnal species seen were the Brown Mouse lemur, the Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur. Also seen was a Fossa. We saw one more of these beautiful Viverrids later on our trip and considered ourselves very lucky.

### Forest

From Diego we flew down to Mahajanga and hired a car to take us to the reserve at Ambijoroa. The Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust runs an excellent project there breeding the Ploughshare Tortoise, under the stewardship of Don Reid. Again we were afforded excellent hospitality in recently built accommodation for visiting researchers. The deciduous forest was a complete change from the forests of Montagne d'Ambre. However, Lake Ravalobi provided excellent swimming - despite the crocodiles! Many species of birds and seven further lemur species, including the beautiful Coquerel's Sifaka were seen.

Sadly, after three days we had to move on. Returning to Mahajanga we



◆ Another Magascan native - the Black lemur.

witnessed vast areas being burnt off to promote grass growth for cattle. Understandable as the needs are, one is aware of witnessing an environmental tragedy. From Mahajanga we flew up to island of Nosy Be. Looking out from the light aircraft one was constantly aware of moonscapes caused by erosion and many of the rivers running red into the Mozambique Channel.

Nosy Be is one of the very few areas in Madagascar which caters for the tourist. It is a tropical island providing

palm trees, white sand and sunshine, together with as-yet pristine reefs with an abundance of marine life. Certainly a place to relax, though sadly for the local people, all of the hotels were empty and much needed foreign currency was not coming in. From our point of view it was perfect.

### Black lemur

We left relaxed and suntanned after four days having only seen one lemur species, the Black lemur. In this species the males are black and the females are brown with white ear tufts. On the island of Nosy Komba, Black lemurs are habituated to tourists and these can be fed for a small fee. Some people may not approve, but both the local people and the lemurs benefit. I loved it!

From Nosy Be we flew back to Antananarivo and took the train to Andasibe (Perinet). Our aim was to see the Indri, the largest of the lemurs. Indris announce their presence with loud calls each morning, an unforgettable sound echoing around the forest. After two more wonderful days, and four more lemur species, it was back to Antananarivo, a visit to the local zoo, a day's shopping, and then home.

Would I go again? Certainly. The people were welcoming, the wildlife extraordinary, and there was so much I did not see. One thing I have not mentioned yet - the food was superb, I ate everything I could and was never ill. The downside - good gin is difficult to find, so is cold tonic, but the limes make up for it!

◆ The rarest tortoise in the world - the Ploughshare.



# PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

The nicest job for the Public Relations Officer is making telephone calls after the judging of the annual photographic competition, to tell the lucky winners of their success!

This year's winner of the title "Chester Zoo Photographer of the Year" is 22 year old David Clarke of Alsager, Stoke on Trent. His lovely slide of two young orang-utans was one of the last entries received. It was the only entry he sent in - and one of the first taken on a newly-bought Canon camera!

"I came to the zoo with a friend, because I knew it would be a good place to try out the new camera. I didn't even know there was a photographic competition!" he said.

David will be sharing his prize - a fabulous Sunmed Go Kenya safari holiday - with his father.

The prize for the best print - a Canon camcorder - was awarded to Mr Ron Patterson of Launceston in Cornwall, for his appealing photograph

of a dourocoulti - the front cover picture of this magazine.

The Junior Photographer of the Year is 15 year old Rachel Hankinson, of Thornton Hough, Wirral, for her classic picture of Sheba the elephant stealing roses. Rachel wins the Scandinavian Seaways family holiday to Denmark.

The best picture of the zoo's gardens was taken by Ken Thornton of St Helens, Merseyside, and he wins the Bridgemere Garden World trophy and voucher.

### OTHER MAJOR PRIZE WINNERS WERE:

Christopher West, of Windermere in Cumbria; second prize in the prints section, for a photograph of an orang-utan. Graham Roberts, Saltney Ferry, Chester; second prize, slides, for a lion portrait and Christopher Marsden, Great Sutton, who was the Junior runner-up for a print of a kookaburra.



◆ First Prize: David Clarke



◆ Second Prize, slides: Graham Roberts



◆ Junior Prizewinner: Rachel Hankinson



◆ Best Garden Picture: Ken Thornton

## THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION

The 1992 competition will be offering some fantastic prizes. It will run until the end of October, and any photograph taken in the zoo during 1992 will be eligible. Competition forms with full details will be available before Easter. In addition to the major prizes, we will be giving monthly merit prizes of film and zoo tickets, so it is worth while getting your entries in early.

### First - Print

First prize print section is again a Sunmed Go Kenya holiday for two, including one week in the luxury of the three star Griama Hotel at Bamburi Beach and one week on Safari. The trip starts in Mombasa, and includes the National Parks of Tsavo West, Amboseli and Masai Mara, and a tour of Nairobi. Paradise for any keen photographer!



### Second - Print

Second prize, prints, is a return flight for two people by British Airways to any of the 21 scheduled direct B.A. European destinations from Manchester.



### First - Slide

First prize slide section will be Canon's top-of-the-range Canovision EX1 Hi video camcorder, incorporating the new V1 Mount System with interchangeable lenses from wide angle to super telephoto. This camcorder provides the kind of creative versatility previously only enjoyed by the professional filmmaker.

## BRITISH AIRWAYS

### Junior

Junior Photographer of 1992 will be taking the family on a trip to Denmark. This is a four night tour with Scandinavian Seaways, taking in a visit to the Givskud Safari Park and the fabulous model world of Legoland.



The UK's largest garden centre, Bridgemere Garden World, near Nantwich, will present their shield for the best photograph of the zoo's gardens, plus a voucher to spend at the nursery.

British Rail will be offering free travel vouchers and prizes have also been promised from Ness Photographic Laboratories and Fishwicks of Chester and Haydock - our photographic suppliers.





◆ Crowned Plover



◆ West African Crowned Crane

the tiny chick hand-reared with infinite care and attention by Paul and Anne Morris. This was particularly important as the egg was removed after the death of the parents which left us with four females reared in previous years. The chick has now been sexed as a male and an unrelated female obtained as a future partner for this bird. The Greater Vasa Parrots repeated last year's first breeding success but this time doubled it by rearing four rather than two chicks. On the other hand only one Lesser Vasa Parrot was reared. Other parrots bred included three Blue and Yellow Macaws, two Derbyan Parrakeets, six Lesser Patagonian Conures, two Yellow-backed Chattering Lorys and three Musschenbroek's Lorikeets. Blue-throated Conures were hatched but not reared. Fertile eggs were laid by the Lilacine Amazons and by a pair of Green-cheeked Amazons. These were left under their parents but no chicks were hatched. New arrivals include a group of Cuban Amazons recently presented by Customs and Excise. These will form the nucleus of a



◆ Red-crowned cranes with chick.

Continued on Page 12



◆ Despite the expression on Kibriah's face mother and baby have bonded very well!

# SURPRISE ARRIVAL IN THE APE HOUSE!

The great apes at Chester Zoo are firm favourites with visitors.

Our successful chimpanzee colony is the UK's largest. Perhaps less well known is that we also house more orang-utans than any other UK zoo!

This summer there has been a constant buzz of excitement as enthralled visitors

encounter our latest arrival at the ape house (recently re-named "Chester's Orang-utan Breeding Centre.") The centre of attraction is Maluku – a female Bornean orang-utan born on 10 June to 17 year old Kibriah and sired by 21 year old Anak.

Maluku is named after a town in Southern Borneo, and continues the

Chester trend of names ending in "u." Kibriah kept the sex of her baby a closely guarded secret for six weeks, so a unisex named was called for!

Maluku's birth was a wonderful surprise. Observed matings between Anak and Kibriah suggested that after a 233 - 275 day gestation period, a birth should have occurred by 9 May. Sadly, this date came and went. However, a "sneaky" nocturnal mating must have taken place! Due to the solitary nature of orang-utans, they have individual sleeping quarters, but these are designed to allow contact if desired. We no longer use pregnancy tests as the oestrogen and progesterone levels in orang-utans during pregnancy differ too greatly from human levels to give reliable results.

June 10th began routinely. I gave the oranges their 8.00 am blackcurrant drink and vitamin tablets, then began cleaning the enclosures for the day ahead. I was horrified to discover a pool of blood on the floor of Kibriah's sleeping quarters. Initially my heart missed a beat – I thought something was seriously wrong.

However, this was short lived. She turned round and proudly showed off the most perfect miniature orang-utan, weighing the same as a bag of sugar (1.2kg) and about 20cm tall – alive and healthily producing bird-like chirps. I am not ashamed to admit I felt most paternal from that moment on.

There was no need to give assistance,

as Kibriah proved an excellent mother from the outset. The afterbirth was delivered complete and Maliku was cleaned and dried within one hour of the birth, and suckling successfully by mid-day. Kibriah didn't eat her afterbirth – the chimps always consume theirs!

Maliku is the 17th orang-utan to be born at Chester. She is Kibriah's third baby and Anak's sixth. True to orang-utans in the wild, Anak's role in parenthood was over as soon as he had mated. Orang-utans live in a single mother society!

Kibriah came from Twycross Zoo in January 1993 and Anak from London Zoo in June 1988 as part of a breeding programme. Meanwhile, Sibü, one of our Chester-bred Bornean males is away at Blackpool Zoo on breeding loan.

As Kibriah is such a good mother, I have not been confronted with problems. One week after the birth, I noticed that she was eating the shells of hard-boiled eggs, and so on a pharmacist's advice, Kibriah now takes a "calci-chew" calcium tablet daily.

Maliku's development conforms almost exactly to text book figures. She is, at the time of writing, four months old and putting solid food into her mouth.

Virtually every piece of food Kibriah eats has first been "tapped" on Maliku and thrust in front of her face. Kibriah's favourite pastime is eating, and it seems that she is encouraging her daughter to follow suit. Incidentally, Kibriah's mother will be well-known to many, as the very overweight "Athena" orang-utan!

Maliku should be eating solids by 9 months and weaned by four years – although this will be later if no other offspring are on the scene.

Complete dependence on the mother lasts for five years. Juvenile orangs (4 - 7 years) become increasingly more independent, usually leaving the mother at between 7 - 10 years.

Our orangs at Chester tend to go through a teenage stage at this age, often developing teenage spots! Males mature at about 10 years and females slightly earlier, with the first pregnancy generally at about 12 years of age. Maliku could potentially be a mother herself by 2004 - an awfully long way off!

Over the first four months, Maliku has become marginally more adventurous. Initially she simply suckled or nestled in Kibriah's chest. At about seven days old, she began looking round, straining with unfocussed eyes. Now she focuses and locks on to objects and is much more aware of, and interacts with her environment. She is also now in the process of shifting her "riding" position from mother's belly to mother's head. By two years, she will play no more than five metres away from Mum, and will not venture further until she is about three.

Regular visitors will have noticed gradual changes in Kibriah's social

## SENIOR KEEPER ROSS MEREDITH REPORTS ON THE PROGRESS ON THE UNEXPECTED NEWEST ARRIVAL IN THE ORANG-UTAN HOUSE

groupings. Although essentially solitary in the wild, females and youngsters do often live in loose-knit social groups. In the zoo, competition for food resources is eliminated and as a result orangs adapt well to small social groups.

Kibriah was carefully re-introduced to

Subis, Emma and Pundu when Maliku was six weeks old, and to Sarikei one month later. As the introductions went smoothly in the off-show sleeping quarters, they were let out into their outdoor enclosures. All were most interested in the newcomer, but kept a very safe distance from Kibriah. Five-year old Pundu can often be seen near Maliku, and they should become good playmates.

Both orang-utan species are endangered and may become extinct if causal factors of decline continue. Historical causes of decline included hunting for sport or meat; pest control and – many years ago – collection for zoos and circuses. To-day, their biggest threat is deforestation, shifting cultivation, logging and road construction – not to mention the Indonesian black-market pet trade. Against this depressing background can be seen the importance of Maliku's birth.

There are 902 orang-utans in collections world-wide, a viable number if managed globally. 1993 figures suggest there may be as few as 10,830 Bornean and 5,850 Sumatran orang-utans left in the wild.

200,700 people live in the Chester district, which puts the figures into perspective. Populations are reported to be small and declining in every part of their range, and so the long term survival of orang-utans depends on the degree of future human intervention.







◆ Chimpanzee "Jo" - just one of the chimps being helped in Brazzaville by the Jane Goodall Institute.

## INSIGHT INTO AN AFRICAN ZOO

The heat and humidity of Brazzaville struck me as I was driven from the airport to the U.S. Ambassador's residence, where I spent a week of air-conditioned luxury.

It was shocking to see the zoo. It was antiquated and dilapidated, and had been used in the past as a holding place for animals being exported to Europe. There were 13 chimps, - three females, ten males - and a variety of monkeys, mainly baboons, mandrills and mangabeys. These were kept in cages measuring approximately 18' x 12'. Their lives consisted of staring out through rusty bars at the visitors, hoping for hand-outs, which they invariably got. For some this was often their only food for the day. Many hours would be spent catching flies which swarmed around their faeces. The walls and floors of the cages were black with dirt and excrement, and the bare concrete walls offered little possibility for attaching branches or ropes.

I was introduced to Jean Mboto, a local Congolese man, and Grazella Cotman, a Belgian woman who had fled Zaire along with seven chimps. Both are employed by the Jane Goodall Institute.

We set to work scrubbing and disinfecting the cages. There were 20

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*In October, Chimpanzee House Keeper Vince Smith was invited by the Jane Goodall Institute to go to Brazzaville in the Congo, to assist in the rehabilitation and integration of Common Chimpanzees evacuated from Zaire due to the recent political problems over there. This is his account of the trip:*

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cages in all and we spent half a day on each cage. Three more baby chimps, all males, were confiscated during my first week. Two of them were mal-nourished and badly traumatised, and one of these was also covered in scabies. The third was in reasonable condition, apart from a small abscess on his lower jaw. His owner had tried in vain to sell him to the zoo, assuring us that it had not been hunted. However, the next day I discovered a shot-gun pellet in his chest which had completely healed over - testimony to his method of capture by killing his mother. Using a scalpel and tweezers, I removed the pellet, which served as a poignant reminder symbolising the plight of wild chimpanzees and highlighting the way

they are shot for food or commercial gain.

Faeces samples were taken from these chimps and sent to a laboratory for analysis. The results showed hookworm and amoebic dysentery. The dysentery was the most common ailment amongst the animals. Several chimps also developed bad colds due to the onset of the rainy season.

We successfully introduced many chimps together and were able to take them on trips to a 50 acre forest inside the zoo boundary. By increasing their time spent in the forest we hoped to slowly rehabilitate them to life in the wild, so that eventually they may be suitable for release into a sanctuary that the Conoco company is building in conjunction with the Jane Goodall Institute in Pointe Noire.

It was sad leaving these chimps behind, with their futures so uncertain. I will always be grateful to the Jane Goodall Institute for giving me the opportunity to go to the Congo, and to the people who helped me while I was out there - particularly Dan and Lucie Phillips, the U.S. Ambassador and his wife and Marc and Helen Attwater who run the Gorilla Orphanage, for putting me up for my last two weeks.

# Chez Nous



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Telephone (0244) 380280  
Director: Dr. M. R. Brambell Editor: Pat Cade

## KEEPING THE WHEELS TURNING.

New interpretation signs are going up in the Elephant House, the Aquarium and the Bird House. These are large information wheels, based on a day in the life of a keeper. They are part of the process of interpreting the zoo to our visitors, and are designed to show what goes on in the zoo when the visitors are not there, as much as when they are.

Interpretation is a fickle master. Too much information, given too precisely, becomes indigestible and dry. Too little leaves the visitor unimpressed. Not all visitors have the same background of information on which to base the information we give. Thus to describe a kinkajou as being in the Procyonidae is seen as pedantry by many of our visitors – and pedantry irritates. But to the person with a grounding in biology, the failure to find the answer to the question of whether a kinkajou is a Procyonid (i.e. a relative of the raccoons) – or a Mustelid, (a relative of the badgers), is infuriating.

Years ago, I saw some schoolchildren looking at a house mouse which had taken up residence in a small mammal's cage and reading from the label that this was a common marmoset! This convinced me that all basic labels should contain a picture of the animal. This has proved especially important in mixed exhibits.

Combining the artistic skills of Les Grandy, the relative cheapness of using prepared artwork for ever by reproducing it through colour photocopying and the ease of weatherproofing, we set out in 1978 to see that there is a colour painting of every species on its label. The idea has been sold on to other zoos and makes us a bit of extra income. The zoo now has an important bank of this most excellent artwork, on which it has been able to



◆ Campaigning for the Northern White Rhino in the Parc National de la Garamba, where support for the ranger force is vital.

mount the first level of interpretation.

Now we need to extend this, to explain the significance of the animal species living at the zoo and of the work we are doing with them, and yet keep it interesting to all. It's a big task and these new wheels are an exciting step in the right direction.

### Northern White Rhinos

Save The Rhino International is one of many rhinoceros-related pressure groups which operate to protect rhinoceroses from extinction. It is hard to distinguish those groups which are likely to achieve something from those which seem only to be providing "doom merchants" with the air fares to go out and update everyone on how bad things are.

With Save The Rhinos International I got the impression that this was something different; that here were people who were being careful with their resources and identifying real problems which could be solved in a quick and practical manner. I agreed to let them collect through a box in the Rhino House on behalf of the Northern White Rhino, of which there are still about 15 in Garamba Park in Zaire. (The Southern White Rhino, now numbered in thousands, numbered less than 10 in the early 1900's)

The zoo has guaranteed a minimum collection of £3,000 p.a., which in Zaire currency buys up to 10 times that value of local goods and services. The money is being used to support the ranger force in the Garamba. Remembering that Zaire's internal economy has virtually collapsed for such things as rangers' wages, provision of uniforms and equipment and so on, Chester's help is going where it is most needed - towards the active protection of this herd in the wild.

If the Southern White Rhino could do it, why not the Northern? If it does recover, we will have joined with those other practical groups who are making a real effort on behalf of these great animals.

### Gerald Durrell.

Gerry Durrell died on the morning of Monday 30 January, at the age of 70, after a long illness. It was Gerry who pulled the zoo world together, pointing out that the state of many species in the wild was becoming so serious that they would become extinct unless zoos put their backs into breeding these species. He set up Jersey Zoo, and backed it up with the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust and its related organisations.

Through his books, he reached countless people all over the world, emphasising the wonder of animals and their need for our help. He did more than any person I can think of to alert people to the need for zoo breeding as an effective weapon to save species, never letting us forget the need to link such efforts with the wild. Where Sir Peter Scott had been so effective influencing governments, Gerry was effective at influencing the reading general public and, more latterly, the television viewing public as well. Two truly great Britons, whom we have lost over such a short space of time.

A funny man, who wrote engagingly on his experiences and his visions; a determined man who was not going to be deflected by shallow thinkers; the man who convinced me of the way the zoo movement had to progress; Gerry will be sorely missed. Our sympathy goes out to his wife, Lee, to Jeremy Mallinson, the Director of Jersey Zoo who worked so closely with Gerry over 33 years, and to all connected with Jersey Zoo.

◆ Front cover: The winning print in the 1994 Photographic competition by Mike Wiltshire of Birkenhead.

## MEMBER'S MEETINGS 1995

**18 March '95 -**

2.30pm in the lecture hall  
Paul and Lena Bottriell - "The  
Inconvenient Cat."

**8 April '95 -**

2.30pm in the lecture hall- "A Zoo  
Review" by Dr. Michael Brambell

**13 May '95 -**

2.30pm in the lecture hall A.G.M.  
Members are reminded that a charge of  
50p per meeting will be made at the  
door to offset expenses for bringing  
speakers and towards defraying the  
costs of maintaining the meeting rooms.  
Tea and biscuits are available at no  
extra cost.

## INDIA WILDLIFE TOURS

The January "Tiger! Tiger!" tour to  
India with Conservatours and Allan  
Guy, had to be cancelled because of  
the epidemic threat. Allan Guy  
hopes to be able to run this tour in  
January or February 1995, and any  
interested members should contact  
him on **0704 895157**.

## DIRECTOR'S RETIREMENT PARTY

**Thursday 6 July 1995, 7.15 for 7.30pm**

This will be a very special  
opportunity for Members, Adopters,  
Staff and Volunteers to say "goodbye"  
to Dr Michael Brambell and Patricia.

The more formal part will be in a  
huge marquee on the Jubilee Lawn,  
followed by an informal buffet and  
wine in the Oakfield and in  
marquees on the Oakfield Lawn.

Tickets will be £6.00, including the  
buffet. We know there will be a great  
demand for tickets. We plan to be  
able to accommodate 500 (plus zoo  
staff) - that is why we are using the  
Jubilee lawn.

It would be of great help to us if  
you could book your tickets quickly,  
using the enclosed booking form.  
Obviously we will do our best to  
accommodate all bids for tickets, but  
to be as fair as we can, we are  
limiting bids to two tickets per  
application. This will be an adults  
only occasion.

All parking will be on the old  
North Gate car park, irrespective of  
the new gates being opened.



## FLORA and FAUNA Preservation Society Spring 1995

**24 March '95 -** An Evening of  
Extinction and Survival

Canadian-born David Day, the author  
of such well known environmental  
books as "The Doomsday Book,"  
"White Wars," and "Eco Wars," will be  
talking about his worldwide travels in  
the cause of conservation, with special  
reference to his experiences with the  
Totamic Indian culture of British  
Columbia.

**28 April '95 -** An evening in Gushaka  
Gumti

In 1994, our very own Dr Gordon  
McGregor Reid (who is also a Council  
Member of the FFPS International) was  
requested by the World Wide Fund For  
Nature to undertake the first ever  
aquatic survey of Nigeria's largest  
National Park, the Gashaka Gumti.  
This evening will be a marvellous  
chance to hear an illustrated talk about

his work in the Park and the many  
species he encountered there.

*FFPS evenings are open to everyone, and  
they are a combination of a serious message and  
social enjoyment. Lectures are held in the  
Lecture Hall, doors open at 7.00pm for a  
7.30pm start. We offer a light buffet and wine  
included in the ticket price, which is £5.50 for  
FFPS members and £6.00 for non-members.*

*Funds generated from the meeting are  
donated to specific projects undertaken by FFPS  
such as the Mountain Gorilla project and the  
Black Rhino appeal.*

**Please telephone Penny Rudd at the  
zoo (extension 215) to reserve a  
ticket.**

**BILL DUTTON, who died on 27**

**December last year, was a volunteer  
who helped the zoo in many ways.**

**He provided Welsh translations (in  
spite of his name he was 15/16  
Welsh), and he had a Chester Zoo slot  
on Welsh Radio, in which the  
character of Morgan y Mwnci became  
a celebrity. The slot was axed when  
someone spotted that Chester was  
not actually in Wales! As a trained  
librarian, Bill helped to catalogue the  
Education Department's books. He  
was a valued friend of the zoo, and  
will greatly be missed.**

## MEMBERS' CONCESSIONARY TICKETS - PRICE REVIEW

These special tickets are still available to members who wish to purchase them. The zoo entrance price increases at the end of March and the cost of concessionary half price tickets will therefore increase accordingly.

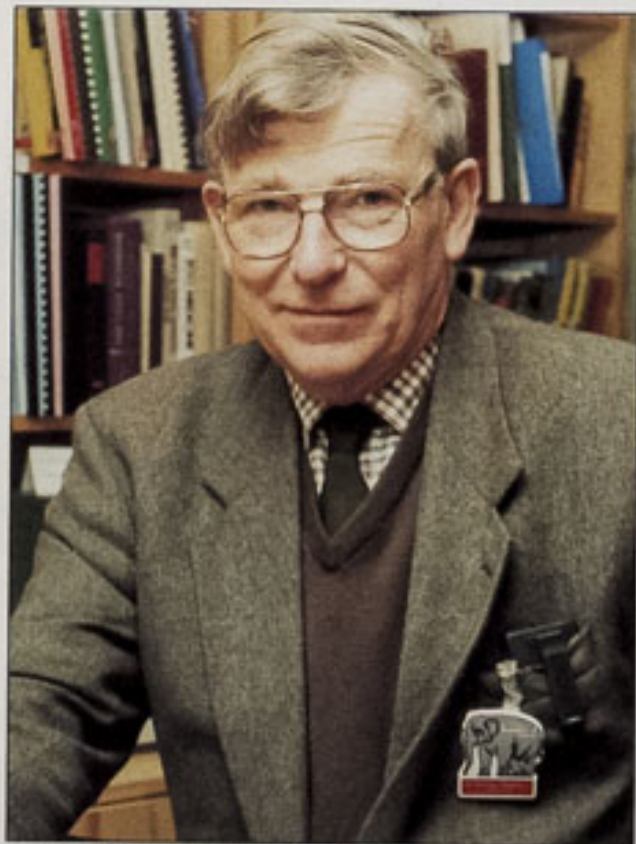
The prices from 26 March 1994 will be:-

**Adult tickets     £3.50 each**  
**Child/OAP tickets   £2.25 each**

These special tickets must be purchased in advance, in blocks of five, through the Membership Office (postal applications) - or at the Information Kiosk.

If applying by post, please make cheque payable to Chester Zoo and enclose a stamped addressed envelope for ticket return.

We sometimes get requests from Junior Members for concessionary tickets. Sorry Juniors - they are only available to adult members.



◆ Dr Michael Brambell.

## CHESTER ZOO ONE HUNDRED CLUB

The monthly winners since the last issue of "Zoo Life" were:-

Nov. 94: £100	Mr Brian Piercy
£50	Mr S. Tonelli
£50	Mrs B Malone
£50	Mr J. Atkins
Dec. 94: £600	Mr D & Mrs P. Minion
£100	Mrs A. Bostock
£50	Dr D. Cooke
£50	Janice Roberts
Jan 95: £100	Mrs L. Haddock
£100	Mrs P. Cade
£50	Mrs J. Ellis
£50	Miss A. Plimpton.

**Membership of the "100 Club" is still  
invited. Please contact Alan Sykes or  
Maureen Allsopp if you would like to  
join.**





NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 1991 &amp; JANUARY 1992

# Arrivals Births and Hatchings

**HOMO SAPIENS:**

To Debbie Cooke, Party Office Manager, and husband, Steve; a daughter, Alexandra Louise, born on 16th February.

**MAMMALS**

Red-ruffed Lemur	Varecia variegata rubra	1.1.0	received
Cotton-top Tamarin	Saguinus oedipus	0.0.13	received
Colombian Black Spider Monkey	Ateles paniscus chamek	0.0.1	born
Chimpanzee	Pan troglodytes	0.1.0	born
Capybara	Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris	0.0.1	born
Coypu	Myocastor coypus	1.1.0	born
Guanaco	Lama guanicoe	0.0.1	received
Blackbuck	Antilope cervicapra	0.1.0	born

**BIRDS**

Humboldt's Penguin	Spheniscus humboldti	0.0.2	hatched
Red-breasted Goose	Branta ruficollis	1.1.0	received
Baikal Teal	Anas formosa	0.1.0	received
Smew	Mergus albellus	0.1.0	exchange
Satyr Tragopan	Tragopan satyra	1.1.0	received
White Eared Pheasant	Crossoptilon crossoptilon	1.0	received
Brown Eared Pheasant	Crossoptilon mantchurion	1.0	received
Palawan Peacock Pheasant	Polyplectron emphanum	0.1.0	received
Grey Peacock Pheasant	Polyplectron bicalcaratum	0.1.0	received
Edward's Pheasant	Lophura edwardsi	0.1.0	exchange
Emerald Dove	Chalcophaps indica	0.1.0	received
Mountain Witch Dove	Geotrygon versicolor	1.1	received

**BIRDS**

Celebes Quail Dove	Gallicolumba tristigmata	0.0.1	hatched
Superb Fruit Dove	Ptilinopus superbus	1.2.0	received
Blue Crowned Pigeon	Goura cristata	0.1.0	received
Blue-streaked Lory	Eos reticulata	1.1.0	received
Musk Lorikeet	Glossopsitta concinna	0.1.0	exchange
Kea	Nestor notabilis	0.1.0	received
'Vosmaeri' Eclectus Parrot	Eclectus roratus vosmaeri	0.1.0	received
Yellow-naped Macaw	Ara auricollis	1.1.0	received
Cuban Amazon	Amazona leucocephala	0.0.9	rec'd (C & E)
Virginian Cardinal	Cardinalis cardinalis	1.0.0	received
Java Sparrow	Padda oryzivora	0.0.3	hatched
Emerald Starling	Lamprocolius iris	1.1.0	received
Red-billed Blue Magpie	Urocissa erythrorhyncha	1.0.0	received

**REPTILES**

Red-legged Tortoise	Geochelone carbonaria	0.0.2	received
Plumed Basilisk	Basiliscus plumifrons	0.0.11	received
Honduran Milksnake	Lampropeltis triangulum	0.0.3	bred

**AQUARIUM**

Oceanic Seahorse	Hippocampus kuda		bred
Cave Fish	Garra dunsirei	2.2.0	received
Axolotl	Amblystoma mexicanum		bred

Key: Col. 1 = Male, Col. 2 = Female, Col. 3 = Young, or unknown

Photographs by Muriel Constable



Capybara



Satyr tragopan

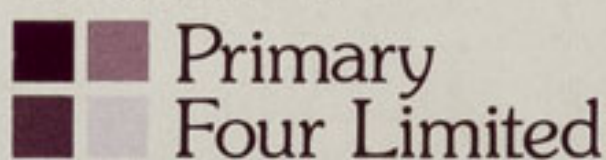
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Telephone: 051-677 4422  
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