

# Zoo life

**WINTER 2005 - ISSUE 24**

CHESTER ZOO'S MAGAZINE FOR MEMBERS AND ADOPTERS

**NEW VIEW  
FOR TIGER**

**HELP PLEA  
FOR ORANGS**

**PLANS FOR  
FESTIVAL BLOSSOM**





# Director's Pen

By the Zoo's Director General Gordon McGregor Reid

Welcome to the last *Zoo Life* issue of 2005.

It is hard to believe another year has nearly passed!

It has been a busy time here once again and 2006 promises to keep us on our toes too.

This year we have been building around the Zoo to give you, our visitors, a better experience and to provide enhanced facilities for our animals.

We are always keen to strengthen our business and charity links and this year has been no exception.

Recently we were pleased to welcome Tom Wright, Chief Executive of *VisitBritain*, to the Zoo and he was able to hear first hand our exciting plans for the future.

We have been proud to host a number of high-profile visitors this year including Sir Digby Jones, chairman of the CBI, and such support and enthusiasm for the Zoo is greatly appreciated.

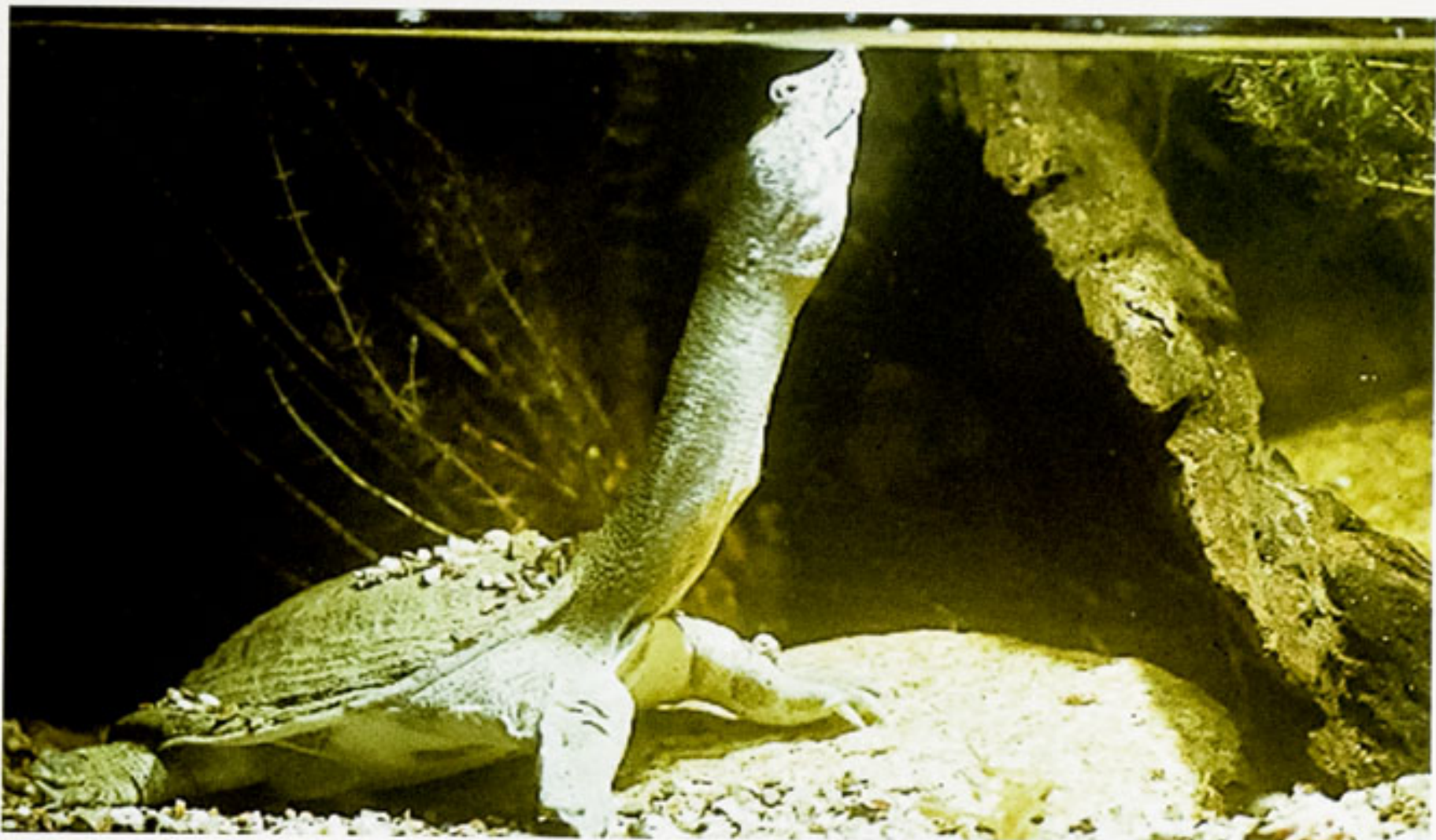
We have also made some changes to our own management

structure, which is important as the Zoo continues to grow and develop.

We have created two new directorate posts to steer the Zoo forward and to enable the Zoo to better focus on our mission – to be a major force in conserving biodiversity worldwide – and to represent the Zoo locally, regionally and globally.

As a result, I will take on the role of Director General and Mark Pilgrim (previously our Chief Curator), now becomes





Director of Conservation and Education. An entirely new post of Commercial Director has been advertised. These changes will enable us to move the Zoo forward over the coming years.

Some of you may have read reports in the local press recently about our future vision for the Zoo.

This is a long process which would take shape gradually over the next ten years.

We wish to emphasise that, while we have undertaken internal research, expansion proposals are still in their early stages. As ideas start to take shape we will be consulting widely to ensure all possible views are taken into consideration.

Back to essentials, we were finally able to finish the *Asian Elephant - Secure the Future* appeal mid-way through this year and we are on target to open the massive new elephant area in Spring next year. We have also closed the successful international turtle and tortoise campaign, *Shellshock*. You can read more about these stories on pages 4 and 5.

It has also been a busy time on the animal front as you will see from pages 6 - 11.

By the time you read this, the Zoo's popular *Magical Santa Trail* will be underway once again and I hope to see many of you and your children visiting our wonderful animals and Father Christmas too!

For those of you who still have some last minute Christmas presents to pick up, why not consider shopping at the Zoo or an animal adoption or membership for friends and family?

To make life easier for you, you can now buy both of these online simply by visiting [www.chesterzoo.org](http://www.chesterzoo.org)

Wherever you are this Christmas, may I, on behalf of all of us at the Zoo, wish you a very happy festive period and all the very best for 2006!

Thank you for your continued support.

*Gordon M.J. Reid*

If you are thinking of buying a friend or loved one an animal adoption for Christmas, spare a thought for the Top 10 of the least favourite animals with one adopter each!

To buy on-line visit [www.chesterzoo.org](http://www.chesterzoo.org)

### Top ten least favourite animal adoptions:

1. Warthogs
2. Praying Mantis
3. Prehensile-tailed Skinks
4. Fruit Beetles
5. Gila Monsters
6. Macleays Spectre
7. Jamaican Boas
8. Turkish Spiny Mice
9. Rhinoceros Hornbills
10. Green Mambas

Cover image: Eileen Jackson, Eye Imagery

# Focus on Fundraising

News from Development

## Shellshock raffle draws to a close.....

Many thanks to all of you who bought or sold raffle tickets for our *Shellshock* campaign. Kevin Buley, the Zoo's Curator of Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates, who headed up the *Shellshock* campaign, picked the lucky winners. The winners of the top three prizes were Michelle Harley from Stoke-on-Trent (Eurocamp holiday for two adults and up to three children), the North West Reptile Club from Ormskirk (£100 worth of Cheshire Oaks vouchers) and Ian



Kevin Buley picking the lucky winners, watched by Sarah McDonnell and Lauren Evans from the Development Office.

Wilson from Colwyn Bay (meal for two at Bella Italia). The raffle raised £1,500 for the *Shellshock* campaign.

## A mobile phone is not just for Christmas!

If you receive a new mobile phone for Christmas, don't just leave the old one in the back of a cupboard - your old mobile phone can be recycled to raise valuable cash for us!

Just put your old mobile phones, chargers and batteries in one of our freepost envelopes and send them directly to our recycler. Free collections can be arranged from anywhere in the UK for large amounts of items. These can be arranged by calling The Mobile Phone Recycling Appeal direct on **08712 50 50 50**, quoting Chester Zoo - account 718100.

You'll be helping the environment and helping our fundraising. What's more, it won't cost you a penny.

We can also recycle old inkjet and toner cartridges. If you would like more information on the recycling scheme or require envelopes, please contact us either by email at [developmentoffice@chesterzoo.org](mailto:developmentoffice@chesterzoo.org) or call direct on **01244 650229**.

**Please note** - we cannot accept any Epson products. Sim cards must be removed. We no longer recycle silver foil, stamps or foreign currency.

## Charity begins at home

And yes 'home' does mean Chester Zoo! It still amazes many people when they are told that Chester Zoo is in fact a *registered charity* (number 306077). Of course to many people we are a visitor attraction, but our crucial conservation work is a continuous challenge which is not possible without the generosity of our supporters.

With so many species near to extinction both within the UK and internationally, our expertise is needed more than ever. Chester Zoo's conservation work involves breeding programmes, public education and research. We also support over 40 conservation programmes in 22 different countries worldwide, not forgetting the need for conservation in our 'own back yard' with threatened native species. Through a combination of field and zoo conservation Chester Zoo significantly contributes to the protection of species and habitats worldwide.

In addition to supporting Chester Zoo's work through taking out a membership or adoption, you can also help by recycling your mobile phones and printer cartridges, leave a gift to us in your Will, or simply make a donation.

For more information on how to help make a difference, call **01244 650229** or go to [www.chesterzoo.org/donate](http://www.chesterzoo.org/donate).



Appeal Board member Robert Mee with wife Hayley, Zoo Director General Gordon McGregor Reid, Kirstie Fraser, Director of Conservation and Education Mark Pilgrim and Curator of Higher Vertebrates Mike Jordan.

## Success of the Elephantasia Ball rounds off the Asian Elephant Survival Appeal

The second Elephantasia Ball was heralded as a great success and the evening raised well over £30,000 for the Asian Elephant Survival Appeal.

The Zoo event of the year was held at Chester Racecourse and was attended by 300 supporters. Guests were treated to a glittering reception with canapés and a sumptuous four course Heathcotes dinner, which was followed by a fun game of bingo, a raffle, an auction and live musical entertainment.

There were many prizes on offer, including a signed football, donated by Manchester United, a signed England shirt donated by Michael Owen, a Hollyoaks tour and a luxurious spa day with meal and overnight accommodation donated by Grosvenor Estates.

Peter de Savary, Founder and Chairman of Bovey Castle, Devon, donated a two night stay for two people, including dinner with wine,

breakfast and a complimentary round of golf. The prize went for over £1,200 in the auction!

## A message from Appeal Chairman, Neville Chamberlain CBE

*"Following on from the success of the Ball, we are delighted to announce that we have now finally reached our £1.5 million target. This wonderful result could not have been achieved without the help and support of all staff, donors and volunteers, for which we are extremely grateful.*

*As you are aware, the Appeal was launched to raise the much needed funds for a new Elephant Breeding Centre.*

*The building work is well underway and, combined with the Zoo's contribution from core funds, we can now be sure that we have what we need to complete this magnificent project and help secure the future of the rare Asian Elephant here at Chester.*

*Although the Appeal is now officially closed, work will continue behind the scenes and we envisage a formal opening ceremony in Spring 2006 which will launch the new centre to the media and the public as well as thank those many supporters who have been involved over the last five years.*

*Thanks again to all those who have been involved at every level, we couldn't have done this without your help and support."*



Development Manager Melanie Cowieson with Lord and Lady Speakman.

# Animal News

What's new at the Zoo

## Zoo firsts

Two Vicunas (one pictured right) have been born, the first ever at the Zoo. Vicuna only joined the collection in March and can be found near to the Spectacled Bear enclosure. Records show that over the years we have previously maintained several camelids (camels, Guanaco, Alpaca) except Vicuna. The females arrived here pregnant and have since given birth.

As part of our on-going commitment to the conservation of turtles and tortoises, we have brought Four-eyed Turtles into the collection, pictured below. We are the only zoo in the UK to have this endangered species in our collection. They are currently being held off-show in quarantine facilities.



A Four-eyed Turtle



One of the two Vicunas born at the Zoo

## Arrivals

Among the many new arrivals is a Bongo calf (pictured opposite). This is the latest addition to our growing Bongo herd and is the second calf born to the male brought in from Port Lympne last year.

Other highlights include the birth of a Philippine Spotted Deer - each of our three females now has off-spring - a Blackbuck, a Dwarf forest Buffalo (pictured), Greater Rea, Roul roul Partridge, Laysan Teal, Carribean Flamingo (pictured below), a Buffy-headed Capuchin, two Bush Dogs, a Mandrill, Powderblue Panchax, Seahorses, a Palawan Peacock Pheasant and two Schalow's Turaco have also joined the zoo.

A flamingo chick



The new Bongo calf, born to parents Nibbles and Narok

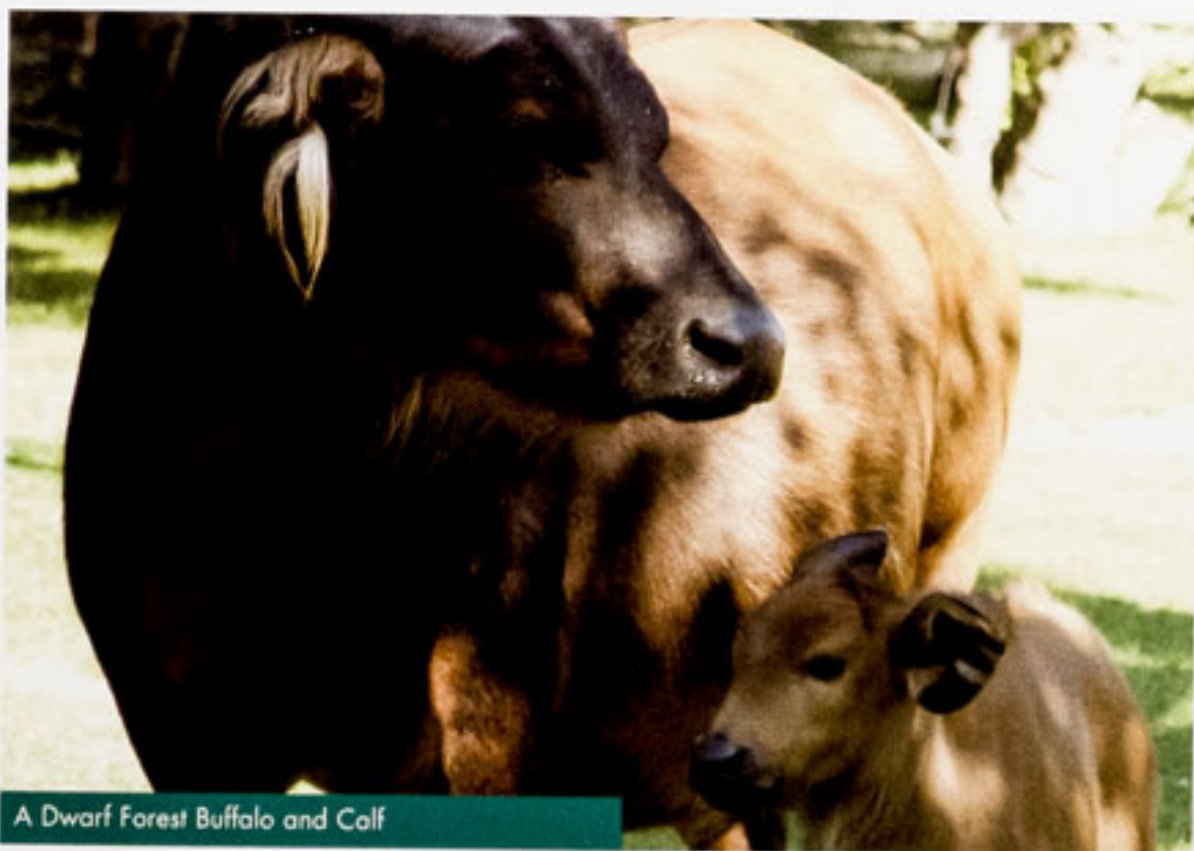
We now have a total of four Egyptian Tortoise hatchlings and Red-billed Curassow have laid a second clutch of eggs.

A pair of Lesser Antilles Iguana have arrived in the collection. Kevin Buley, our Curator of Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates, has been involved in Iguana conservation for many years and we are delighted to have them in the collection. We are the only zoo in the UK to have them.

### Saying Goodbye

We have said goodbye to *Pundu* the female Orang. She has moved to Madrid as part of the European breeding programme.

We also said goodbye to Spectacled Bear *Valentin* who has been transferred out of the collection to make way for a female, *Loja*, who has arrived from Leipzig Zoo. The two are getting along well and it is hoped that the new pairing will start to breed in the not too distant future.



A Dwarf Forest Buffalo and Calf

### Sealion Pup has a name

The male sealion pup has been called *Carlos*.

### Okapi

Work has started on the new Okapi enclosure in the old Camel House. This exciting new exhibit will be open for Easter 2006.

Two Warthogs and three Scimitar-horned Oryx have also been added to the collection. The Warthogs can be found in one of the rhino paddocks near the Meerkats - for those who remember they are where the Marmots used to be.

### Junior Members

Junior members (and several imaginative members of staff) had a great evening in August doing *Creative Recycling*. They were joined by Ticky Lowe, Learning Activities Officer from the National Wildflower Centre at Knowsley, who showed them how to make pom-pom birds out of plastic bags and wire. Everyone then helped to decorate a 5ft ostrich using colourful plastic waste. The bird was christened *Bin Bag* at the end of the evening. A good time was had by all and thanks go to everyone who helped out and donated plastic bags.

## Chester Zoo "100 CLUB"

The winners of the prize draws, held recently, were:

### July 2005

Mrs Gillian Edwards, Crewe,	£100
Mrs Ivy Bentley, Chester,	£50
Mr Antony Sykes, Huddersfield,	£50

### August 2005

Mr Nigel Jones, Wrexham,	£100
Mr Geoffrey Elkin, Stafford,	£100
Mrs Judith Beastall, Wirral,	£50
Mr A. M. Jones, Ellesmere Port	£50
Mrs Patricia Cade, Wirral,	£50

### September 2005

Mrs Elizabeth A. Roberts, Chester,	£100
Mrs Elaine Glover, Liverpool,	£50
Mrs K. Pickersgill, Chester,	£50
Mr Jason Spencer, Chester,	£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 *Zoo Life*. Please inform us as soon as possible if you change address.

If you wish to participate, please contact the Development Office on **01244 650229**.

# Zoo life

## A Class Apart

CHESTER Zoo's education department has proved to be a class apart when it comes to conservation.

A zoo-based exhibition, aimed at raising awareness of the current extinction crisis facing the world's turtle and tortoise species, was an award-winner at the EAZA (European Association of Zoos and Aquaria) annual conference in Bath.

The exhibition was set up as part of *Shellshock* - a Europe-wide fundraising campaign involving over 170 zoos and aquariums - and included the story of Shelley, a cartoon Yunnan Box Turtle, to highlight the plight of the other turtles and tortoises.

Zoo Director General Professor Gordon McGregor Reid received the education award - a hand-made clay tortoise made by an Edinburgh-based artist.

Stephen McKeown, Chester Zoo's Head of Education, said: "We're delighted to receive this award for our *Shellshock* education and awareness programme, especially so given the very high standard of entries from zoos across Europe.

*"The creative approach we took in commissioning a cartoon to showcase the plight of turtles seemed to really bring the conservation messages home to our visitors."*

More than 100,000 visitors passed through the doors of the *Shellshock* exhibition and all were also given the chance to get up close to Annam Leaf Turtles, to experience a Chinese Market and take a look at a range of Customs' confiscations. There was also information about tortoises and turtles from around the world.

This group of vertebrates - on Earth for almost 250 million years and with over 300 species - is threatened with extinction. Millions are being harvested and traded for food and for use in traditional medicines and many are victims of egg collectors and pollution.

**ShellShock**  
EAZA Turtle & Tortoise Campaign 2004/5

# Shellshocked Visitors!

VISITOR Andrew Davies found himself shellshocked on a visit to Chester Zoo.

Andrew, five, was with parents Berwyn and Louisa and sister Abbie, two, when his day turned out to be a little special.

Andrew, from Llanellian, Colwyn Bay, was given a welcome surprise by Zoo staff as he came through the doors of Shellshock, the Zoo's special turtle and tortoise exhibition, to discover he was the 100,000th visitor.

The campaign was co-ordinated by Kevin Buley, Chester Zoo's Curator of Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates, who was on hand to present Andrew with his prize of a Chester Zoo animal adoption and a host of exclusive Shellshock merchandise.

Kevin said: "We are delighted that so many visitors have got behind the campaign and visited the exhibition.

*"Turtles and tortoises need our urgent help now. By visiting Shellshock and supporting our fundraising efforts here at the zoo, our visitors are genuinely helping to save these incredible species from extinction.*

*"The money we have raised across Europe as part of the Shellshock campaign - which has now come to an end - is the biggest single global conservation effort for these animals ever and I am incredibly proud that Chester Zoo has led the entire campaign."*



Andrew Davies, front, with his adoption pack and back (L-R) Kevin Buley and Andrew's family Louisa, Abbie and Berwyn.

# Lizards to go

## Sand Lizard release update

Following on from the success of the last year's Sand Lizard release when 180 lizards were relocated to three separate sites in North Wales, a further 268 have been released to a further two sites.

Karen Entwistle, a member of our Herpetology Department, accompanied our own animals to their release site.

Representatives from the Herpetological Conservation Trust, English Nature, Countryside Council for Wales, local Conservation groups and also members from our own Conservation and Research department were at the two North Wales sites.

Animals contributed for the release came from Chester Zoo, Jersey Zoo and four private breeders.

Just over 12 years ago, when the Sand Lizard Recovery Programme was in its infancy, it was suspected that there were less than 300 individuals left in the wild.

The continued collaboration between Zoos, Conservation Societies and private individuals in the UK will help to secure the future of this important species.

Chester Zoo first became involved in the Sand Lizard Recovery Programme in 1996 when, with the collaboration of the Herpetological Conservation

Trust and English Nature, a Vivarium was designed and built at the Zoo. We started our breeding group off with only five individuals, two males and three females and these successfully produced our first offspring for release which took place in May 2000.

With the addition of three more young adult females to the group, we were able to produce many more offspring for release in the following years.

To date we have sent over 200 individuals for release.



David Smith, left, and Prof Gordon McGregor Reid at the opening of the tiger window.

SUPERMARKET chain Asda rose to the occasion when it came to seeing Chester Zoo's tiger in a whole new light.

A unique partnership between the two organisations has opened up a new world for Zoo visitors.

By donating 1p per product from the sale of its Tiger Bread range, Asda has paid for a viewing window to bring a new dimension to the tiger enclosure at the Zoo.

The new window takes up a side of the Amur Tiger enclosure and allows visitors to get up close and personal with the tiger in complete safety.

Asda has generated £130,969 from the sales of the bread – a welcome boost for the Zoo as a registered charity.

Melanie Cowieson, Chester Zoo's Development Manager, said: "Asda has proved to be an excellent corporate partner and we are delighted with the results of this partnership.

"As a charity, support of this kind is very welcome and helps us to make a great difference, both from our tiger's and our visitors' perspective.

*"The key to good commercial sponsorship is finding the right partner so that both parties benefit as has been the case with Asda."*

The new-look tiger exhibit, which includes three 1.8m by 2.3m wide panels and 34mm heat-soaked glass, was officially launched by David Smith, Asda's People Director.

David was joined by Gordon McGregor Reid, Director General of Chester Zoo, and staff and colleagues from local stores to help mark the occasion.

Mike Jordan, the Zoo's Curator of Higher Vertebrates, said: "It is important for the public to understand just how critically endangered tigers are and this very generous donation from Asda enables us to bring the public up close and personal with our tiger.

*"It is also a great opportunity to tell them about the threats tigers face in the wild."*

**ASDA**  
part of the **WAL\*MART** family

## Tiger fast facts:

- Tigers are the longest and heaviest of the big cats.
- They emphasise their size by reaching up to their full height against boundary trees and leaving scratch marks that indicate how big they are.
- Although they are large bodied, they are very slim, their shoulders able to fit through the same size gap as the width of their heads. This allows them to move silently through dense vegetation.
- They also indicate their presence by deep vocalisations that carry a long way.
- An average tiger is between 1.4 and 2.8 metres long. It weighs between 100 – 300 kg. Its tail measures between 60cm and 1.1m
- Chester's male tiger is called Korda and is 16. He was born at the Zoo and is one of the largest tigers on record.



David Smith, left, and Prof Gordon McGregor Reid at the opening of the tiger window.

# Life with the primates

By Team Leader Andrew Lenihan

Our daily work on the primate section obviously involves time spent on a whole host of other tasks and issues that involve the whole team and on occasions other teams.

Over the past few years the primate section has undergone several changes, some big some small. In 1997 the monkey house, as it was then known, was totally refurbished and totally transformed to enable us to look after primates the way they should be kept. Ideas from Chester's renamed *Monkey Islands* have been used and copied elsewhere within the country.

Although most people are aware how intelligent primates are very few know also how destructive they can be! When planting out the Monkey island complex we were very careful in choosing the right plants to ensure at least a small chance of survival. This has worked, on the most part, very well and we are now even having to thin out and remove some plants.

Here at Chester we have an excellent reputation in good husbandry and breeding with all our animals and have some of the largest social groups of captive primates in the world. In order to successfully manage the yearly population increases (within most of our groups) they need to be managed properly.

Animals regularly move to other collections to form new groups and we also receive animals from time to time to prevent inbreeding and supply new bloodlines.

Breeding successes on the section over the last two years have been excellent, five Chimps have been born increasing the group size to 31, five Sulawesi and three Liontail Macaques, two Mandrills, two Columbian Spider monkeys, three Geoffroy's Marmosets, 14 Ring-tailed and three Ruffed Lemurs, two Sumatran Orang-utans and one Buffy-headed Capuchin.

Keeping these animals stimulated is a constant challenge and can take several forms. This could be totally renewing their enclosures, making enrichment devices for them to play with or just reforming groups by adding or taking away new animals.

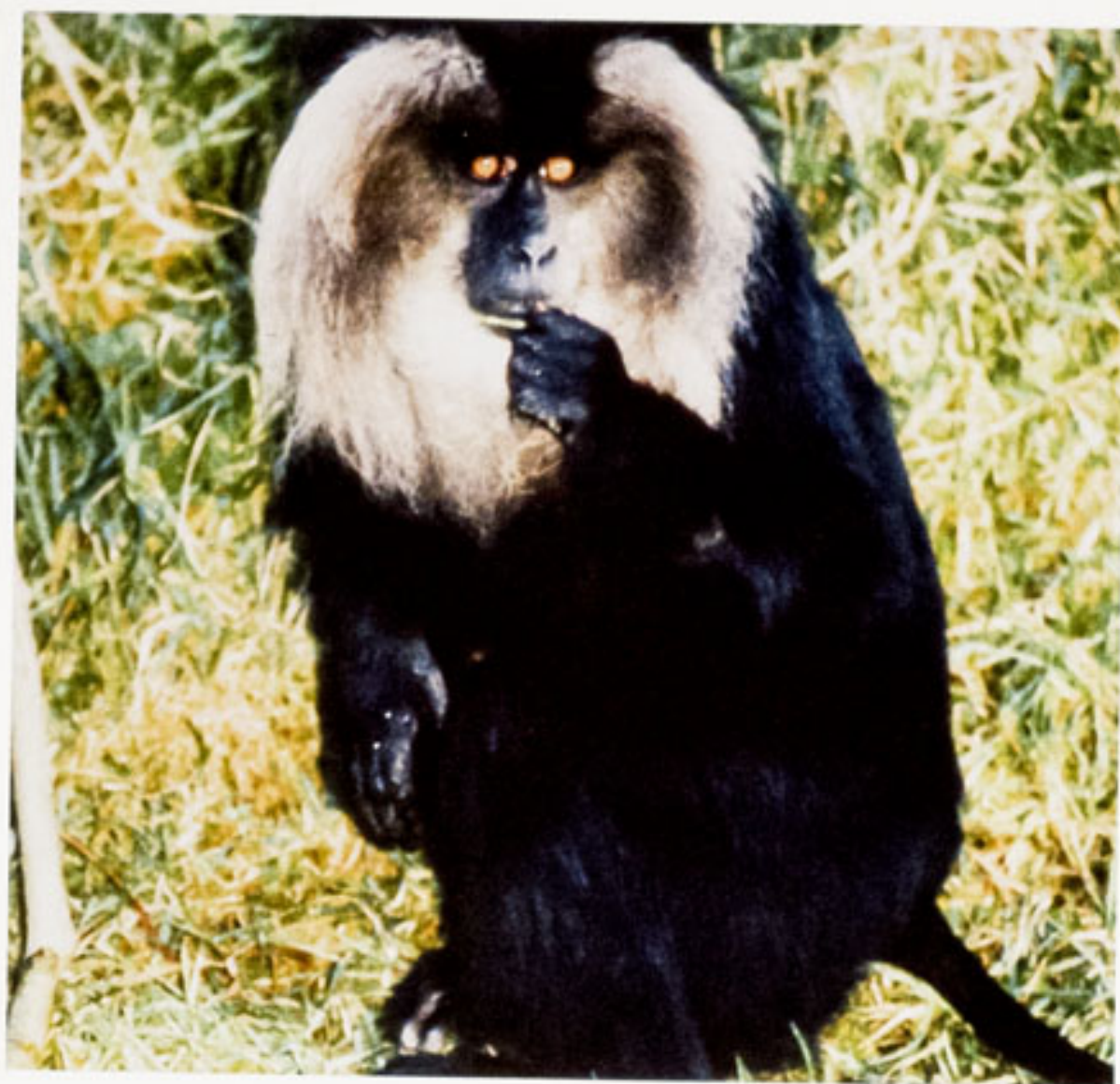
Other areas we have concentrated on since we finished *Monkey Islands* includes giving the chimp



island a total makeover which has been a huge success and now allows us the advantage of being able to provide the chimps with 24 hours access to not only their off show area and internal enclosure but also their island. We have provided the Ring-tailed Lemurs with new accommodation, replacing their old enclosures and by doing so improving the size, quality and quantity of the enclosures.

Only last year we built a new development for tamarins and marmosets that was titled *Miniature Monkeys*. This has gone from strength to strength in just over a year and houses some of the smallest and most endangered primates within the collection. It is hoped that in the near future the current species can be added to and that further developments of this kind could be built.

Most jobs are done within the section and by the primate team,



but without the help and support of other departments, teams and individuals our role here at Chester Zoo would be a lot

harder. So thanks must go out to everyone both within the Zoo and outside who have helped and supported us over the years.



# Rhinos on the move

Helen Massey, Senior Keeper

While team leader Chas MacKenzie and Rosemarie Scott were trekking across Namibia raising money for *Save the Rhino* the remainder of the Rhino team were preparing to send two male Black Rhino *Kata Kata* and *Jeremy* to a nice new exhibit at Zoo Doue in France.

Why did we send them to France? Black Rhinos are critically endangered in the wild with just 3,610 thought to be left, so this wild population may not survive without careful management and the individuals in zoos like Chester Zoo are very important. Black Rhinos are part of a Breeding Programme where the rhinos are exchanged to spread their genes about to ensure that they do not get over represented in the zoo world!

The moving preparation consisted of crate training initially by feeding them within the crate so that they get used to

going in and out. Everything went very smoothly on the day of the move and they went in their crates no problem.

The crates were lifted by crane onto a lorry and away they went to France. I ended up deserting Mark and Shane on the section and followed *Kata Kata* and *Jeremy* to Zoo Doue by plane the following day. By the time I had arrived the rhinos had been off loaded and sleeping in their new indoor pens.



Munch time for *Kata Kata*

The journey had gone well except for one hiccup - *Kata Kata* had unfortunately managed to damage his horn during transit.





Jeremy in his new home

During his journey *Jeremy* had had no problems and was very calm by the time I arrived - by the third day he was allowed to explore his new paddock. It was a few more days until *Kata Kata* explored his paddock as his wound had to be healing to prevent any infection from dirt in the enclosure.

So why did Zoo Doue decide to build a black rhino exhibit? Three reasons mainly. Firstly, they wanted to bring in a big mammal but also they looked at the species from a conservation point of view, *ex situ* and *in situ*. The Black Rhino was chosen as it is very threatened, very beautiful and active. It was a difficult exhibit to build. It took a year to bring in ideas, visiting other Black Rhino institutions etc and just seven months from the field to the arrival of *Kata Kata* and *Jeremy*. The ideas mainly came from Peirre the

owner and Francois who have travelled a lot, and had the lasting image of a female Black Rhino they met in a rift in Africa. There are two one hectare paddocks and two smaller paddocks of 1000m<sup>2</sup>, so have plenty of room when the females join them to

continue the breeding programme.

A few months later I have heard from Dr Bice Lefaux that *Kata Kata* and *Jeremy* have been mixed with some Guinea Fowl are doing very well and really enjoying their new home.



Jeremy in his new surroundings

# 'Artist in Residence'

Twenty-nine year old Katy Hollinshead from Bolton has spent the past five months capturing images of the Zoo on canvas.

Katy fought off stiff competition to take the title of Zoo 'Artist in Residence', a position which was supported by funding from the Arts Council of Great Britain and the Granada Foundation and gives recently qualified artists the opportunity to establish themselves and gain experience in an unusual and stimulating environment.

Katy, who qualified from Manchester Metropolitan University with a first class degree in Embroidery, says she has thoroughly enjoyed the experience: "The residency has gone extremely quickly and I'm very sad it has ended especially as I have lots more ideas! The most memorable and

evocative experience was hearing raucous parrots and chimpanzees from the studio which was a constant reminder of being in such a unique environment.



"I feel extremely lucky to have been given this opportunity and it has undoubtedly influenced the direction of my future work. I hope to keep on developing my drawing in the hope of making it my career," she said



# Lock up your Boss!

The Director of Chester Zoo will be spending a night behind bars and waking up to a prisoner's breakfast this weekend, and all thanks to his staff!

Professor Gordon McGregor Reid, was 'arrested' at the Zoo by PC Drew Brand of Cheshire Police and will be spending a night in January in Middlewich Jail.

Staff at Chester Zoo sentenced their boss to a night in prison but it was all for a good cause as part of the Crimestoppers 'Lock up your Boss' event to raise money for charity and raise awareness of Crimestoppers.

Professor Reid will be joining a host of other 'inmates', including local authority chiefs and representatives from the Police, Fire Service, Crown Prosecution Service as well as other business leaders from across the region and the former High Sheriff. They will be spending the night in Middlewich's brand new custody suite and will have the opportunity to test some of the 'state of the art' equipment the police

use to fight crime. They will also be put to the test on their policing knowledge, anything from Dixon of Dock Green to high tech surveillance capabilities and will have their 'mugshot' taken.

Once in their cells, the unusually high calibre criminal fraternity will remain locked up until 7am and will wake up to a typical custodial breakfast.

To be sure of Professor Reid's release, zoo staff and supporters have been busy raising money which will be divided between Crimestoppers and Chester Zoo's 'Realm of the Red Ape' orang-utan fundraising appeal.

Professor Reid said: "Although this is a fun event, it brings home the reality of the importance of fighting crime and the feeling of what it would be like to have your liberty taken away.

"Crimestoppers helps to make Cheshire a safer place to live, work and visit and it is important we pull together as a community to fight crime together. I would like to thank everyone who has sponsored me."



It's a fair cop: Professor Reid's attempts to 'do a runner' are thwarted by PC Drew Brand.



## Top 10 Animals adopted at Chester Zoo

1. Asian Elephants
2. Amur Tigers
3. Orang-utan
4. Giraffes
5. Humboldt's Penguins
6. Chimpanzees
7. Meerkats
8. Red Pandas
9. Jaguars
10. Black Rhinos



# Making a Difference

Focusing on Conservation by Scott Wilson

NEZS conservation outreach update.....



- Continued support has been given to the Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Programme. This is one of Chester Zoo's longest running, and most

diverse, conservation programmes. The programme is coordinated by William Oliver of Fauna and Flora International Philippines. William recently visited the Zoo and kindly gave a presentation to Zoo staff on the various components of the programme.

- Also in the Philippines, Chester Zoo, in conjunction with the German conservation organisation Stiftung Artenschutz, provided support for several Philippine hornbill conservation projects.
- The Rhino Programme, another of Chester's larger conservation programmes, works closely with, amongst others, Save the Rhino International and the Kenya Wildlife Service. This Programme supports

several projects in East Africa, one of which is the protection of an important population of Black Rhino in the Chyulu Hills National Park, Kenya. This year Chester provided funding for fuel costs, field shelters and water stations.

- As part of Chester's China Programme, and linking with our outreach work for the species, support was provided for a Cardiff University project - "Molecular sexing of Yellow-throated Laughing Thrush."
- Also part of Chester Zoo's China Programme; funding was awarded to Sichuan University, China, to conduct research on Red Panda genetics with implications for the conservation of Red Panda in the wild.



- Through Chester's Conservation Grants support was provided for a PhD study *The Wadi fish of Eastern Arabia – ecology, distribution and conservation status*. As well as directly funding the research Chester will also provide facilities to hold research specimens and Prof. Gordon McGregor Reid will act as supervisor for the project.
- Grant support was also given to conserve Axolotls through nature tourism at Lake Xochimilco, Mexico, and for a Komodo Dragon outreach project *Community awareness and wildlife protection in the Wae Wuul Nature Reserve, West Flores, Indonesia*. This is a project supported jointly by different zoos who participate in the European Breeding Programme for Komodo Dragons.



- And locally, as part of our Native Species Conservation Programme, work on Freshwater Pearl Mussels in the Dee has taken a step forward with a sample of mussels being taken into captivity for breeding at the Environment Agency hatchery near Corwen. Dormouse monitoring has been very successful too, with more than 100 animals having been marked with microchips, and we have also provided support to the volunteer conservation organisation the Clwyd Badger Group.

### Conservation news from around the world.....

**Good**....As the 2004/5 EAZA *Shellshock* campaign comes to a close, we are proud to announce that Chester Zoo are one of the top fund raisers amongst the participating European zoos. Chester Zoo achieved a Platinum Award for raising over £12,000. Thank you to everyone who gave their support to the campaign and a big well done to Chester's Kevin Buley who coordinated the whole campaign. Throughout Europe the *Shellshock* campaign has raised over €¼million for tortoise and turtle projects around the world. The campaign also



successfully raised public awareness for this severely threatened group of animals, and has encouraged many zoo's to increase their tortoise and turtle conservation involvement, both in-zoo and in the wild.

The 2005/6 EAZA campaign, *Save the Rhinos*, will start soon which sadly links to the bad news....

**Bad**....Severe poaching by organised gangs in the Garamba National Park, DRC, has led to the Northern White Rhino being on the brink of extinction in the wild. Only 5 to 10 individuals remain. If the park fails to protect the Northern White Rhino from extinction it will most likely lose its status as a World Heritage Site.



# Let's put the Record Straight.....

By Sarah Bird Biodiversity Officer

Since I share an office with Dave Brunger, who is responsible for animal records here at Chester Zoo, I thought it would be interesting to compare the number of species kept at the zoo today (Dave's records) with the number of wild species recorded here (from the database at r**ECO**rd).

After a discussion with Dave it became a bit of a competition between us as to whether there were more zoo animals or wild animals here. I was of the opinion it was obvious there would be more wild animals since that would include all birds and animals that come and go through the gardens, and all the thousands of insects that must be here too. Dave pointed out that most of the insects have not been identified or recorded so don't count, and that we have had hundreds of babies, particularly in

the aquarium, this year. We have also had to agree to differ about the numbers of different species!

There are interesting facts from the wild species that have been recorded here:

- We have Great Crested Newts in several ponds and damp areas across most of the Zoo estate – these are rare and protected in the UK.
- Barn Owls have been seen here in 1996, 1998, 1999 and 2003.

- I was confused at first by the record of a 'shark' here! – until I realised it is a moth - *Cucullia umbratica* pictured opposite. Apparently it gets its name from of the pointed structure sticking out above its head a bit like a shark's fin perhaps...?
- One interesting thing that is clear from this data is that it is easy to be misled by statistics....with almost 4000 wild species recorded here you might think

Here are some of the statistics:

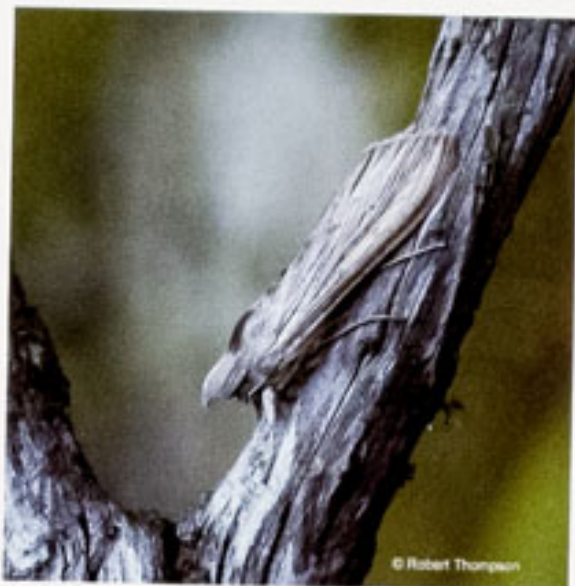
	Zoo collections today	Wild	Wild records (1985-today)
Total number of individuals	<b>6016</b>		<b>3959</b>
Number of animals	<b>412</b>		<b>439</b>
Number of plants	<b>427</b>		<b>450</b>
Most abundant sp	<b>350</b> Butterfly Goodied <i>Ameca splendens</i> – a fish in Spirit of the Jaguar.  Unless you count people – on the busiest day this year there were around <b>11,000</b> visitors in the zool		<b>133</b> Common Shrew <i>Sorex araneus</i> – found during Harvest Mouse surveys on the zoo estate
Number of protected or endangered sp	<b>232</b>		<b>20</b>
Biggest individual	Jangoli weighed <b>4.2</b> tonnes when she was last weighed		Large Oak and Cedar trees at the zoo probably weigh more than <b>10</b> tonnes
Most numerous taxon group	Birds – <b>158</b> species		Plants – <b>450</b> species

All the species illustrated have been recorded at Chester Zoo



Common Shrew caught during monitoring on the Harvest Mouse release site. Handling like this does not harm the animal, (or handler! - these animals do bite!) and allows breeding status to be determined.

that you would be tripping over wild birds and animals on a visit to the Zoo – but it actually means that we have some very keen naturalists on the zoo staff who have been recording all the wildlife they have seen here over many years. The Zoo wild plant list in particular, compiled by Paul Morris from the Bird Department over at least 20 years, represents a huge amount of dedication and effort.



- The Common Shrew is the most frequently recorded mammal, closely followed by the Wood Mouse and Bank Vole. This is because we have been monitoring small mammals on the fields where the Harvest Mouse releases took place for several years now, and record all the animals we catch. It does not mean the Zoo is over run



with these animals, it just reflects the effort that has been put into this survey work.

- Foxes, Stoats and Weasels are quite common visitors to the Zoo but are not encouraged because they have a taste for our waterfowl and smaller animals.
- Kingfishers have bred within the zoo, and Grey Partridges are occasionally seen on the fields of the Zoo estate.
- With the establishment of rECOrd here at the Zoo the site is visited frequently by expert naturalists and records of more obscure groups such as spiders and flies have increased dramatically.

We are keen to continue to record wild species within the Zoo so if you see wild animals or plants next time you are here don't forget to pass the information on to rECOrd in the usual way.

### Cheshire Wildlife Watcher's Diary – have you ordered yours yet?

This ideal gift, devised by Chester Zoo, Cheshire Wildlife Trust and rECOrd, was first advertised in the last edition of *Zoo Life*. The

Wildlife Watcher's Diary highlights several species each month, giving identification tips and illustrations, and incorporates a recording card at the bottom of each page to fill in and send back to rECOrd. It has been promoted in the Cheshire Wildlife Trust magazine and Cheshire Life and stocks are running short now. To order your copy please visit the rECOrd website:

[www.record-lrc.co.uk](http://www.record-lrc.co.uk) or  
telephone 01244 383749.



# Return To Ngamba

By Chris Yarwood, Senior Primate Keeper

Following a Keeper For a Day funded trip to work on Ngamba Island in 2004, Clare Lightfoot and I both felt a return trip to Uganda was necessary for a holiday - to travel around to see the varied wildlife of the country and revisit our friends on the island.

As we were already flying to Africa, we approached the Zoo to help the island again and offer



funds which we could see being used and help out?

Our request was granted and on the island's 'wish list' were funds to build climbing structures in the newly created 'Dawn' and 'Dusk' enclosures. These new areas were to allow the juvenile group and the adult group more freedom, without having to be brought inside whilst swapping areas. The small trees that were growing in these areas had been stripped of their vegetation by the chimps, leaving them no shade. Shade is important to chimps, they naturally live under a forest canopy and too much sunlight can damage their eyes.

Flying in to Entebbe our first week

included meeting the CSWCT's new Executive Director Lilly Ajarova and Operations Manager Dr Richard Ssuna. We spoke of what could be achieved with the funds available.

Our second week was spent on safari in the hope that our return to Entebbe would coincide with the delivery of the materials. Our safari included a couple of Chimpanzee treks, one at Kyambura Gorge at the Northern end of the Queen Elizabeth National Park and one at Kibale Forest further north. The Kibale Forest trek was a real step into the world of the wild chimpanzee. We set off into the forest by torchlight to where our

researcher/guides had seen the chimps build their nests the previous evening. An hour and a half of trekking through the blackness and we were there. The night wasn't quite over, but morning was arriving. The sun had barely given any light to the forest before the chimps were calling out to one another from their night nests. Indeed before we had enough light to view the nests above our heads shadowy shapes were descending to the ground around us. We never really got an idea of just how many chimps were surrounding us, but it was a lot, and felt like even more! It was exhilarating to be in that situation and the





weariness of our early start quickly disappeared. More light penetrated the canopy stirring the male chimps to do early morning displays, screams echoed through the trees, undergrowth rocked and swayed around us as the chimps ran through the

scrub so a team of us all armed with pangas began to hack our way towards the centre. Not an easy task.

24ft long eucalyptus poles (from sustainable plantations) arrived on the island.

A few shallow holes, some bracing of the verticals, the beginnings of the horizontals and platforms and over the next few days it looked quite impressive. The 21 upright poles allow the chimps a birds eye view all over the 'human sector' of the island as well as into the neighbouring enclosure and the edge of the forest. The staff all worked extra hard to ensure that we could see it through as near to completion as possible before our flight home. We had to leave before



the chimps were given access to the enclosure, but the photos that arrived in our emails the following week made it clear what a success it was with the chimps showing a reluctance to leave their new climbing frame to return to their lush forest area!!!

A huge thanks once more to everyone at Chester, for sending the funds over for the project including our Education Department for funding a teacher-training workshop and the staff on the island who once again welcomed us and showed us that their dedication to the chimps and the environment is resolute.



vegetation. Then they all moved off in one direction with the guides and us trying to keep up. When we did we could observe them much clearer, some sitting on the ground 10 metres away, some in the trees above, it was a great honour to be this close to them in their natural environment.

After our safari adventures we returned to Entebbe and caught the boat over to Ngamba, one day ahead of materials. Ground had to be cleared of 6-8 foot high



# Junior puzzle page

Winter puzzles



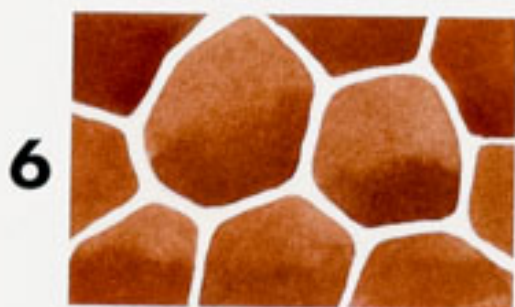
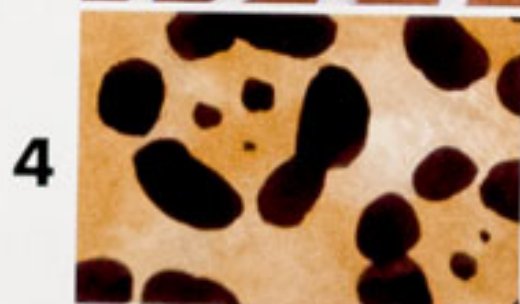
This is your chance to win £10 to spend in the Zoo shops and as this is the Christmas issue we have two puzzles for you enter to double your chances.

Please send your entries – photocopies are allowed to: Zoo Life, Junior Puzzle Page, Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH by January 30 2006.

Can you recognise the animal from its pattern?

You will have to look very carefully as some of these animals have very similar patterns.

Match the number of the pattern with the correct animal's name.



## The animals to choose from are:

Amur Tiger

Bongo

Cheetah

Common Zebra

Grevy's Zebra

Jaguar

Leopard

Masai Giraffe

Reticulated Giraffe

Spotted Hyena

## Wordsearch

The names of 47 different birds from all over the world are hidden in this wordsearch. The words may read forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonally. When you have found them all, the remaining letters will spell out the names of five British birds that you may see on a visit to the Zoo.



ANDEAN CONDOR	EGYPTIAN VULTURE	MAURITIUS KESTREL	SATYR TRAGOPAN
BALI STARLING	EMU	OSTRICH	SHAMA
BARN OWL	FINCH	OWL	SMEW
BLUE CRANE	FLAMINGO	PALM COCKATOO	SNOWY OWL
BLUE-THROATED MACAW	GOOSE	PARROT	SOCORRO DOVE
CASSOWARY	GREAT INDIAN HORNBILL	PEAFOWL	SPECTACLED OWL
COCKATOO	HUMBOLDT'S PENGUIN	PELICAN	STORK
CONURE	HYACINTHINE MACAW	PIGEON	TEAL
COOT	IBIS	PINK PIGEON	TIT
CROW	KEA	RED-CROWNED CRANE	TURACO
DOVE	KITE	RHEA	WREN
EGRET	LORY	ROOK	

### Last month's winner!

The winner of last month's puzzle page was Marc Paxton from Chester.

# Saving Private Rhino!



Fauna and Flora International Talks with Cathy Dean

Spring 2006 Programme

## Friday 17 Feb 2006 Marine Turtle Conservation with Dr Brendan Godley

Brendan Godley is a globe-trotting veterinarian who has dedicated his career to marine turtle conservation worldwide.

In the face of ever growing threats to their survival, turtles are fortunate to have such a passionate advocate on their side. All proceeds from this talk will go to the international *Shellshock* campaign. It proves to be a fascinating talk.

Tickets may be available on the door, but advanced booking helps keep costs down. Please call Penny Rudd on **01244 650215** to reserve tickets, and to enquire about other FFI Spring 2006 events. Doors open at 7.00 pm for

a 7.30 pm start at Chester Zoo's Russell Allen Lecture Hall. Members and non-Members of FFI are welcome to attend; tickets cost £7.50 for FFI Members and £8.00 for non-Members, with a concession of £5 for students. All ticket prices include a buffet and wine.

## Friday 17 March 2006 Saving Private Rhino with Cathy Dean

During the last century, the Black rhino has suffered the most drastic decline in total numbers of all rhino species. In 1970, it was estimated that there were approximately 65,000 black rhinos in Africa but by 1992-93, just over 20 years later, there were only 2,300 surviving in the wild, a decrease of 96%. However, since 1996, the intense anti-poaching efforts have had encouraging results.

Numbers have been recovering and are now back up to about 3,600, but there is no room for complacency.

In this talk, Cathy Dean, Director of *Save the Rhino International* (SRI), will look at four East African

projects supported jointly by *Save the Rhino* and Chester Zoo: the Laikipia Wildlife Forum in Kenya; Tsavo East National Park, Kenya; Mkomazi Game Reserve, Tanzania; and the Chyulu Hills rhino project in Kenya. These four projects, some in private sanctuaries, others in public National Parks, illustrate many of the different issues facing rhino conservationists working in the field today. Cathy will also talk briefly about *Save the Rhinos*, the EAZA Rhino Campaign 2005/6 which Chester and SRI are both supporting.

After the interval, we will screen an episode of *Last Chance to Save* (first shown on SkyOne on 4 September 2005) featuring Griff Rhys Jones as he travels around Kenya visiting the Chyulu Hills, Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary in Tsavo West National Park, and Laikipia. Cathy Dean trained in art history at university and worked for art bookshops and publishers, before joining the Tate to fundraise for the creation of Tate Modern and Tate Britain. In 2000 she went on a wildlife trip to Madagascar and had a 'road to Damascus' moment, deciding that her fundraising skills would be better put towards conservation of endangered species and the environment.



Zoo life

# Dying to be saved



How endangered does an animal have to be to get attention?

Within 10 short years, the Orang-utan, one of man's closest biological relatives, could be extinct from the wild forever. So quickly is their natural habitat being destroyed in both Borneo and Sumatra that numbers have fallen by an astounding **90%** in the last century. *If we don't act right now, these amazing creatures and their majestic forest homes will be lost forever.*

How can **YOU** help these magnificent animals?

Your support and commitment as a friend of the Zoo is highly valued and so we hope you won't mind us reminding you once again about this tragic situation. With your donation we know we can make positive steps towards Orang-utan conservation. We can't promise to stop their extinction, we can't claim to halt their decline but we can safeguard their future through our breeding and conservation work both here in the UK and through our work abroad. **YOU** can help us to do this.

## Donate Now!

I enclose a cheque for:

£100  £200  £300

Other £

made payable to "Chester Zoo". Please send cheques to Development Office, Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester CH2 1LH.

*giftaid it* Gift Aid declaration – If you are a UK taxpayer, we can claim tax back on your donations at no extra cost to you. This means a further 28p in every £1 donated can be claimed by the Zoo.

You can also donate online at [www.chesterzoo.org/donate](http://www.chesterzoo.org/donate) or by calling **01244 650229** with your credit or debit card details.

'I would like The North of England Zoological Society to treat this and every subsequent donation as Gift Aid Donations'.

Name

Address

Postcode

Signature of person making payment

Date

(you must pay income/capital gains tax equal to the tax we reclaim on your donations)



*ZooLife*

# Talking Animals

Members and adopters' talks for 2006. Lecture Theatre, off the A41.

We anticipate that these talks will attract a wide audience so, as we cannot guarantee availability at the door, we advise you to send for your ticket in advance. Most of the talks are free but should it be held in support of a specific fundraising appeal, there will be a charge and a booking form/price details will be enclosed with the magazine. We ask those attending to make a donation of £1 each towards refreshments, payable at the door. This donation will be waived at chargeable meetings.

## Saturday 14 January 2006

2.30pm

**Dr Sonya Hill**

### 'Conservation and welfare of chimpanzees and gorillas'

Chimpanzees and gorillas share a close evolutionary relationship with us, but are endangered due to human activity, including the illegal bushmeat trade, deforestation and exposure to human diseases. How does the presence of researchers help with conservation efforts? What is life in the wild like – for researchers and for the apes? What conditions are important to the needs of apes in zoos?

Sonya Hill will talk about these issues, including her previous work with the Jane Goodall Institute in Tanzania, and her research into the welfare of zoo-housed gorillas.



## Saturday 11 February 2006

2.30pm

**Mike Jordan**

### 'Thinking big about small mammals'

Small mammals make up 75 per cent of all mammal diversity and yet very little conservation effort is put towards safeguarding them from extinction.

Mike's talk will look at the threat and challenges facing them and the work Chester Zoo is involved in to conserve small mammals.

## Saturday 4 March 2006

2.30pm

**Alexandra Zimmermann and Scott Wilson**

### 'The Assam Haathi Project'

**Alex Zimmermann**

Assam is a unique place. Dramatic landscapes, diverse cultures, one of the world's highest concentrations of biodiversity and, not least, one of the largest remaining populations of the Asian elephant. But for how long? Along with many other

species, the elephants of Assam are seriously threatened with extinction. As in many other regions, direct conflict between people and elephants has become the most acute elephant conservation problem in Assam. The aim of our Assam Haathi Project is to facilitate the co-existence of elephants and people through community outreach, practical solutions, sustainable livelihoods, research, and environmental education. Find out how to keep an elephant out of your backyard...

### 'GIS: A Modern Tool for Conservation'

**Scott Wilson**

Geographic Information Systems – a new tool much used and often mentioned in conservation work, but what exactly is it, and how does it work? Core to our work in Assam, we are one of the few zoos in the world using this advanced tool for direct conservation applications. Find out how GIS works and how it can help plan for the survival of Asian elephants...

# Growing Concerns

By Mark Sparrow, Curator of Botany and Horticulture



Orchids have enchanted and beguiled people for centuries. Folklore has told that orchids are the "flowers of love." A spray placed beneath the pillow is said to inspire dreams of one's future love. The shape and fragrance of the orchids' intricate flowers seem to suggest an air of sensuality. The absolute simplicity of their leaves contrasted by the complexity of their delicate flowers has been known to drive people into an orchid 'frenzy.' Once you've been enchanted by an orchid there is no escape!

At the end of the 19th century orchids were being taken from the wild and shipped to Europe in their thousands. Very few of these lived for more than a couple of years. Fortunately most orchids sold today have been propagated and grown in nurseries and there is no longer a need to take them from the wild. Unfortunately due to past exploitation and the continuing loss of habitat many are now endangered in the wild.

With an estimated 30,000 species worldwide it is thought to be the largest flowering plant family. They occupy every conceivable habitat

type from tropical cloud forests, seashore scrub, tundra to semi-deserts. Orchids come in virtually every colour of the rainbow and their fragrances range from pleasantly sweet to foul.

See if you can withstand the magnetic attraction and allure of these plants by visiting the Chester Zoo Orchid Festival. This annual event, now in its fifth year, will take place from Tuesday 14th - Thursday 23rd February 2006.



You will see exquisite displays in the Grow Zone, Monkey Islands, Tropical Realm and Ark Restaurant arranged by members of the Cheshire branch of the National Association of Flower Arranging Societies.

Also on show will be the Zoo's own extensive orchid collection and also a display by members of the Cheshire and North Wales Orchid Society. Members of the Society plus the Zoo's horticultural staff are on hand to answer questions about how to care for your own orchids. But that's not all. There are daily interactive workshops



for the children and also a wide range of orchids are available to buy.

This year's event is timed to coincide with the school half term and also Valentine's Day! What better way could there be to celebrate the most romantic day of the year than by immersing yourself in the "flowers of love."



# Junior Members'

Programme of Events 2006



## DISCOVERY SESSION

**Saturday 21 January 2006**

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

Eights and over are asked to join us, meeting outside Oakfield House (near the Lions) at 2pm, and parents can collect the youngsters from there at 4pm.

## DUDLEY ZOO

**Saturday 25 February 2006**

It is a while since the Juniors visited Dudley in the Midlands and it is always nice to see how other zoos do things.

Be prepared to walk up and down hills as Dudley Zoo has to create enclosures that suit steep slopes!

Eights and over are asked to join us, meeting at the staff entrance at 10am, and we will return there for 5pm. Bring a picnic with you.

## TRACKS & SIGNS

**Saturday 25 March 2006**

This is probably one of our most popular events that includes the wide age range we cater for. This is your chance to see the Zoo from the animal's view of the visitors as you will be going inside some of the enclosures to search for footprints from which to make plaster casts. March is the best time of year for this as it is normally muddy – but please keep this in mind when you dress in the morning. Hopefully, you will have a souvenir of your day to take home with you.

Eights and over can come along and join the messiness, meeting outside Oakfield House at 11am, returning there for collection at 4pm. You will need a picnic lunch, and it is important that you wear clean, very old clothes and clean wellies please.

## ACTON SCOTT HISTORIC WORKING FARM

**Saturday 22 April 2006**

This will be a new trip for Juniors, when we will be heading off to Shropshire to experience daily life on an upland farm at the turn of the last Century. The waggoner and his team of heavy horses work the land with vintage farm machines, while the farmer's wife goes about her chores in the cottage. You will love the cows, pigs, sheep and poultry in the

farmyard together with some rare breeds and have the opportunity to see lots of other craftsmen at work keeping the farm going.

Eights and over are invited to join us, leaving the Staff Entrance at 9.30am, and returning for 4.30pm. Bring a picnic.

## THE GREENWOOD CENTRE

**Saturday 20 May 2006**

Back by popular demand, this seems to be one of the Junior Members' favourite haunts! Set within the Snowdonia National Park, the Greenwood Centre is an environmental park offering fun and games as well as good education. The amazing grass slide, boat races, woodland walks, archery and den building activities to name a few always keeps everyone well occupied for the day.

Eights and over should put it in the diary early. We will leave the Staff Entrance at 9.30am, taking a picnic and returning at 5.00pm.

## THE CONWAY RSPB RESERVE

**Saturday 17 June 2006**

This is a beautiful reserve on the banks of the River Conway in North Wales. Do not be lured into thinking that all you can do in an RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) sanctuary is to

do a spot of bird watching. This, of course, will form an important part of our day, when we can sharpen-up our identification skills, but we will also be pond-dipping, river-watching and trundling along on a wildlife walk to spot butterflies.

We will leave the Staff Entrance at 10am and return at 5pm. Eights and over should bring a picnic and sunscreen.

## HOW TO BE A GOOD ZOOKEEPER!

**Wednesday 26 July 2006**

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

We will meet outside the Oakfield at 10.30am, and the day will finish for Juniors at 4pm. Please bring a packed lunch. Also please note that bookings for this event will not be taken before 8.30 am on Wednesday 12 July 2006, and will be strictly on a first-come, first-served basis.

## SUMMER BARBEQUE

**Thursday 10 August 2006**

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 finding it relaxing.

We would like to invite eights and over to join us for a 7.00 pm 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 9.45 pm please.

## WALKING THE WIRRAL WAY

**Saturday 23 September 2006**

The 'Wirral Way' follows the route of an old railway line running from one end of the peninsula to the other which has been disused for some years now, but it has been made into a wonderful footpath for walkers. The bus will drop us off near Heswall and we will walk to Thurston to have a look around the visitor centre there and await collection by the bus.

Eights and over should come along prepared for all weather conditions, and bring a picnic. We will leave the staff entrance at 10am and return there for 4.30pm.

## THE HAWKSTONE FOLLIES

**Saturday 21 October 2006**

It is a while since we visited this interesting location in Shropshire. The Autumn colours should be a lovely backdrop for the walk we will take along the paths around the 'follies' in Hawkstone Park. There is one point on this walk when you might need a torch and another point where a good head-for heights might be useful if you choose to climb the tower! Good footwear will be vital, and you should bring a picnic.

Eights and over are welcome to join us, and we will leave the staff entrance at 10.30 am, and return at 4pm.

Please Note: Bookings must be made for all events. Please ring Penny Rudd at the Zoo on **01244 650215**, not more than two weeks before the event you would like to attend. Places are offered on a first-come, first-served basis and may be limited. This list is provisional and in exceptional circumstances we may have to alter dates and venues. You will be informed of any such changes in *Zoo Life* and not by individual letter, so please keep up-to-date by reading the Junior page in each issues. A small 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.



**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 our  
rare animals and endangered species  
across the world.



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