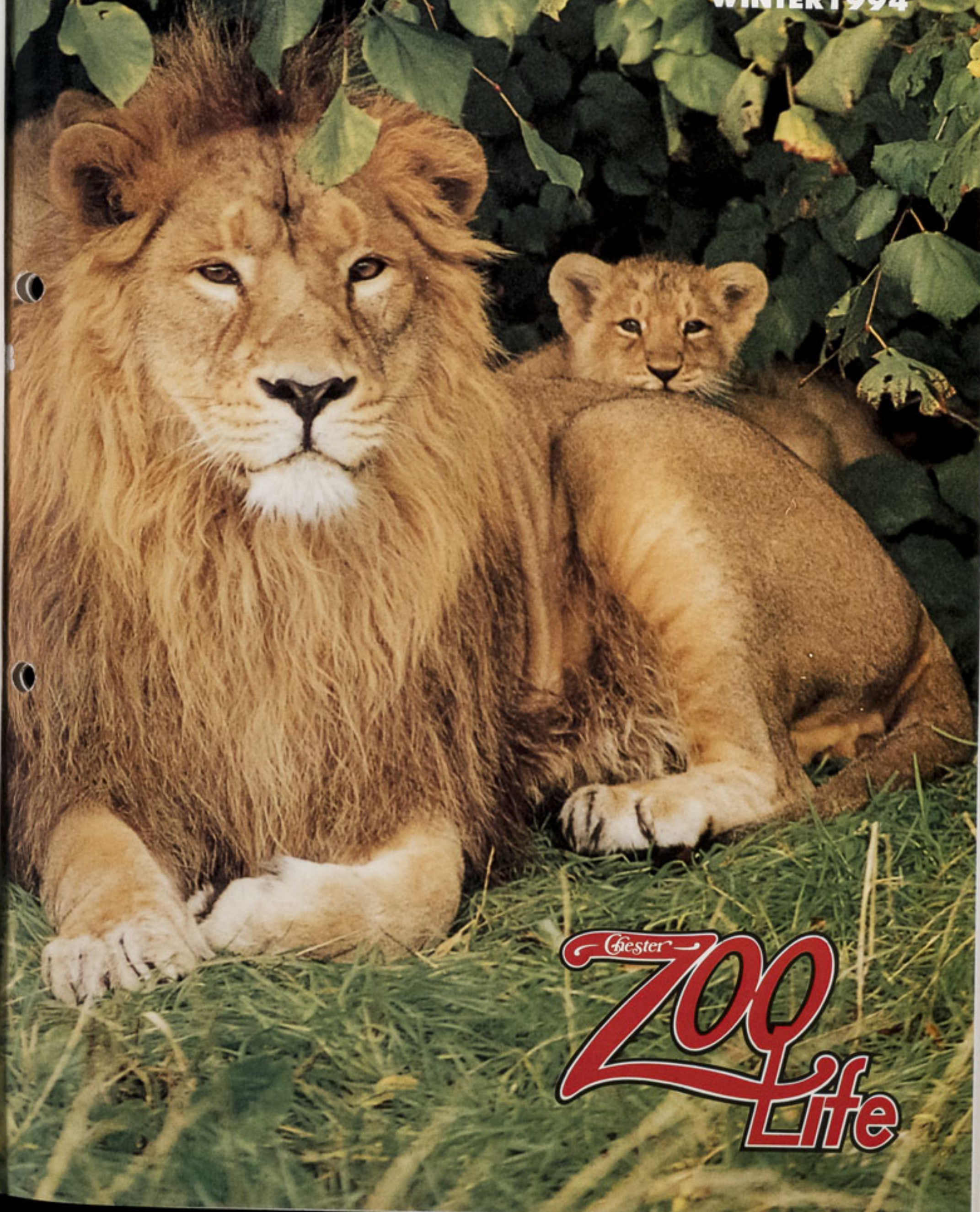
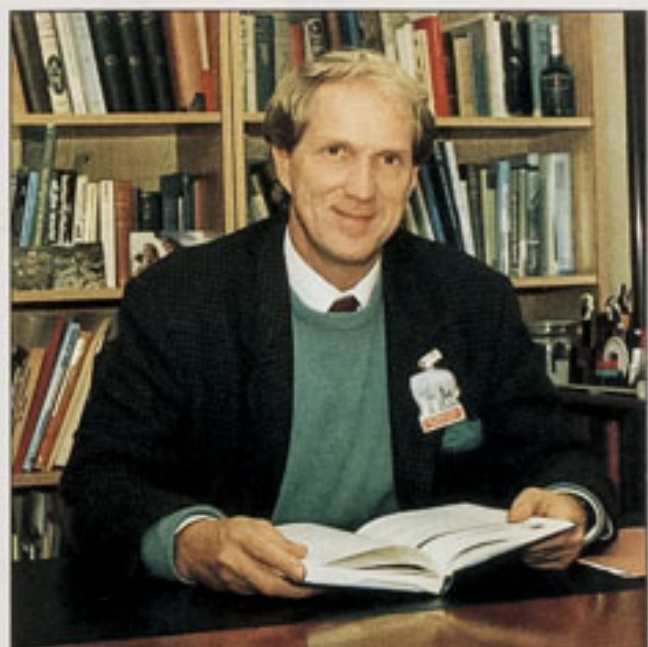




WINTER 1994



Gester
ZOO
Life



THE ZOO'S NEXT DIRECTOR

The Council of the North of England Zoological Society is pleased to announce that Dr Gordon McGregor Reid has been appointed as the next Director of Chester Zoo. The appointment is with effect from September 1995 when Dr Michael Brambell, the present Director, retires.

Dr Reid was selected from an initial response of over 60 applicants and a final short list of four candidates from an international field. He has held the post of Curator in Chief at Chester Zoo since January 1992. Previously he was Keeper of Natural History at the Horniman Museum in London and before that held a similar position at the Liverpool Museum.

Dr Reid said: "I am delighted to accept this position and to have the opportunity to continue building on the solid foundations laid by Michael Brambell. Under his leadership the zoo has gained an international reputation in conservation programmes and animal breeding and I

am sure this is the way that good zoos must progress."

As reported in the last issue of Zoo Life, Dr Reid spent a month earlier this year in Gashaka Gumti, the largest wildlife park in Nigeria. At the request of the WWF and the Nigerian Conservation Foundation, he conducted the first ever survey of conservationally sensitive fishes and other aquatic life of the park, and also trained African staff in field research methods.

Gordon Reid is a zoology graduate of the University of Wales and obtained his doctorate at Queen Elizabeth College in the University of London. He has an international reputation as a fish biologist, is a Fellow of the Institute of Biology and President of the British Cichlid Association.

In its 60 year history, the zoo has had only two directors. George Mottershead, the zoo's founder, held the position until his death in 1978, the year in which Dr Michael Brambell was appointed.

MEMBER'S MEETINGS 1995

4 January '95 –
2.30pm in the lecture hall
Mr M. Freeman – "Focus on Bats"

11 February '95 –
2.30pm in the lecture hall
Dr D. A. P. Cooke –
"An Ambition Achieved - Wildlife of Tanzania."

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
Dr. Michael Brambell - "A Zoo Review"

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.

CHESTER ZOO ONE HUNDRED CLUB

The winners since the last issue of the magazine are:-

August: £100	Miss J. Dixon
£100	Mr N. Hawkes
£50	Mr P. Mills
£50	Mr & Mrs J. Makinson
Sept: £100	Mrs S. Jones
£50	Mr T Williams
£50	Mr R. W. Grice
£50	Mrs E. White
October: £100	Mrs E. White
£100	Miss A. Nolan
£50	Mrs B. Jones
£50	Miss M. Milan.

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



◆ *Lena and Paul Bottriell, who will be the speakers at the March members' meeting, were in the zoo in October for a meeting of the FFPS.*


As the subject of that talk was King Cheetah – it was appropriate that the Bottriells should be welcomed by Thika, the zoo's very gentle cheetah.

ADOPTA-DAY QUIZ WINNERS

(9 and 15 October '94)

Congratulations to quiz winners Christopher Allmark (elephant adopter) and Alice Roberts (cotton-topped tamarin adopter) who have been sent zoo vouchers.

Chez Nous



Chester Zoo Life is published by the North of England Zoological Society,
Upton-by-Chester, Cheshire CH2 1LH
Telephone (0244) 380280
Director: Dr. M. R. Brambell Editor: Pat Cade

I am delighted that Gordon Reid has been appointed to follow me as Director of this wonderful zoo. George Mottershead founded the zoo and built it up physically and by reputation, so that in almost 50 years it had grown from nothing to being a world class zoo.

I joined the zoo at a time when Britain was experiencing the worst inflation it had known; when the changes in demographic patterns were resulting in a 25% drop in the numbers of pre-teenage children in the population and when the national economy was heading for the worst recession since the 1930's. Against this background the very function of zoos was undergoing fundamental change. Their role as essential links in the whole process of species conservation across the world was becoming recognised. I have seen my task as being to preserve the character of George Mottershead's zoo, yet recast it to meet these new demands. It is a process that has not yet finished.

In handing the helm on to Gordon, I know that the zoo will be steered by somebody who fully understands these new requirements, and who is far better qualified than I would ever be to meet the zoological and technical demands that will be made on the zoo as it passes into the next century. I am well satisfied.

More and more I meet people who tell me that this zoo or that zoo does something so much better than us. Almost always, this zoo or that zoo is in a country which has a very different attitude towards its zoos, and towards what those zoos are trying to achieve. The typical good zoo in Northern Europe or North America has to find between one third and one half of its revenue from trading with its visitors and the remainder from its national or local government.

That is something we cannot reasonably expect in the United Kingdom. What we can expect is to be free of sales taxes, for the £1 million odd which we collect as VAT is an imposition that those zoos with which we are more and more finding ourselves being compared do not have to bear.

We could be given a much more level playing field than successive United Kingdom governments have been prepared to grant and it is high time that they changed their attitude. The work being demanded of us is far too important for VAT penny pinching to be allowed to get in the way.

Those of you who read the Daily Telegraph may be aware that not only do the judges presiding at the courts in Chester spend their nights in the judges lodgings, whose grounds abut the zoo near the reindeer, but that their Lordships' nights are, allegedly, disturbed by the sounds emanating from the digestive processes of our nine elephants!

I use the word "allegedly" advisedly, because the elephants, who must have seen this pernicious libel on a piece of litter blown across the moat, have complained to me, in far more diplomatic language than their

Lordships' representative used, that it is unfair to blame the disturbance of judicial slumber on their borborygmi. Give them their due, the elephants do not deny that processing nine times the half hundred weight that each elephant eats each day causes rumbling and, on occasion, more unfortunate noises. But these are nothing to the noises some on the bench are known to sleep through in the course of their daily routine.

The matter arose because the government is being accused of spending too much money on the various judges lodgings about the country.

That is certainly not an allegation that can be made about the government's support of elephants or any other species whose future depends on their having long term breeding programmes in the nation's committed zoos.



◆ The end of this subject!

M. R. Brambell

◆ Front Cover: Proud father Jake with one of his pride. See article on centre pages.

THE QUEEN OF DIET MEETS THE FOUR-TONNERS!



ZOO REVIEW

Rosemary Conley, author of best-selling books and videos on diet and fitness regimes, visited the zoo in October – to show just what four tons of weight looks like!

In her TV programme, Rosemary's band of dieters had lost a total of four tons excess weight, and one of the zoo's elephants is a perfect illustration of this!

The film will be shown on Granada's "This Morning" in January.

◆ Adele Darsey, left and her next door neighbour Katherine Burrows, had a real "hands-on" experience on the camel island!

FEEDING WITH E.D.S.!



The zoo's volunteer force – E.E.D.S. – were not quite sure what to expect when, as part of their training, they were invited to spend a day with a keeper!

They all reported a wonderful learning experience, although most were very glad of a hot scented bath at the end of the day.

ANOTHER BLOOMING AWARD!

The "Tidy Britain" award for the best large tourist attraction was retained by the zoo for yet another year, when the winners were announced in August.

Photograph shows head gardener Eric Rudman receiving the trophy for the fifth time in seven years. This year, the awards were presented by Lady Pilkington at the Southport Flower Show.



ZOO'S TOP PRIMATE?

Dr Gordon McGregor Reid, Curator in Chief and, as reported elsewhere in this issue, the new Director Designate, has been given yet another new title! The newsletter of the British Cichlid Association, of which Dr Reid is the President, quotes: "This work needs evangelists to spread the gospel of conservation. The Aquatic Conservation Network is the Church . . . and education is indoctrination. It can only be a matter of time before we start addressing Dr Reid as 'Your Holiness!'"

GROUND STAFF CHANGES

Maintenance Foreman Peter Brady (below left) retired in October after 13 years service at the zoo. Good wishes, Peter, from all the staff for a long relaxing retirement! Ray Morrison (below right) has been appointed as Peter's successor.



YEAR LONG CHRISTMAS GIFT

Zoo membership is gift that lasts all year. Now that our membership is "rolling" your subscription lasts for a full 12 months from the date of joining. If there are still some gaps on your gift list – they will appreciate zoo membership, with all its benefits. Contact: Membership Secretary Maureen Allsopp on extension 203.



◆ Helping at sealion feeding time is Iris Markham.

THE BIRTH OF THREE CUBS TO THE PAIR OF ASIATIC LIONS HAS INCREASED THE WORLD POPULATION OF THIS CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES BY ABOUT 1%. SENIOR KEEPER ALAN WOODWARD REPORTS ON THE NEW ARRIVALS.

Today the Asiatic lion is found only in the Gir Forest in Kathiawar in the state of Gujarat in India, and their numbers are around only 300 animals in the wild state. Due to this extremely low wild population it is essential to have a healthy captive breeding programme to maintain this species.

On 16 March this year, after being in the collection for ten years, our African lions were re-located to Longleat Safari Park, and the same day the Asian lions arrived from London Zoo. The male, "Jake" was born on 22 February 1990, and the female, "Chandani" on 2 May 1989. The animals had not been together before, so were actually introduced at Chester Zoo. The initial introduction went very well, and they settled into their new enclosure quite quickly.

It was a while before they knew where their food was coming from at feeding times, and it was sometimes embarrassing standing for a long time, joint in hand, with no lions to throw it to! After a while, they both got the hang of things and learnt where to be at the right time - well, the male has anyway!

Asian lions are smaller in stature than their African cousins, and a lot of people actually wondered why the lions had suddenly got smaller, until all was explained to them.

A few weeks after arrival, Chandani came into oestrus and was mated on several occasions. Mating dates were noted and she did not cycle again, so it was assumed that she was pregnant. Three weeks before birth the female's girth was noticeably larger and her teats were clearly visible, confirming that she was indeed pregnant.

A week before the birth of the cubs, the cubbing den was screened off. The female had been accustomed to the area prior to the 105 day gestation period by being shut inside for a few days. Three cubs were born on 24 July, at approximately 11am. Noise and working routines in the vicinity were kept to a minimum. Chandani had given birth on two previous occasions at London Zoo, and rejected her cubs both times. But as the days turned into weeks, it was obvious that she was

going to look after her cubs this time, and they began to get more adventurous in the dens, moving from one den to another with a helping mouth from mother, as she sometimes picked the protesting cubs up and carried them.

After several weeks, when we were sure that all was going well, we removed the boards from the cubbing dens, and the cubs were monitored by a video camera which was viewed from outside, and became a very popular place where visitors could also watch the cubs with their mother without them being disturbed. In the evenings when Jake was brought in, his sleeping arrangements were changed around so he became accustomed to the smell of the cubs on the bedding where they had been during the day. Later, a grill was fitted so he could actually have eye contact with Chandani and the cubs, and we could gauge his reaction to them. Vocalisation was quite common between Jake and Chandani through the grill. The cubs were more interested in the male than he was in them - probably because they saw him as another tail to swing from!

Eight weeks after the birth, the day had come to integrate the female and cubs with the male. After Chandani had put Jake in his place over the cubs with a few warnings, all went well. Later on in the day the male was seen playing with them under the watchful eye of the female. It has been many years since a family group of lions has been seen in this enclosure, and to see the antics of Jake, Chandani and the cubs has drawn many a crowd around the lion enclosure making more people aware of this endangered species and the importance of keeping captive bred stock for the future.

To-day the cubs are growing fast, and have been sexed as two males and a female. All three have now had their vaccinations for feline flu and have started to eat meat.

The cubs will remain in this enclosure for about a year, when hopefully we will start again with more cubs for years to come.

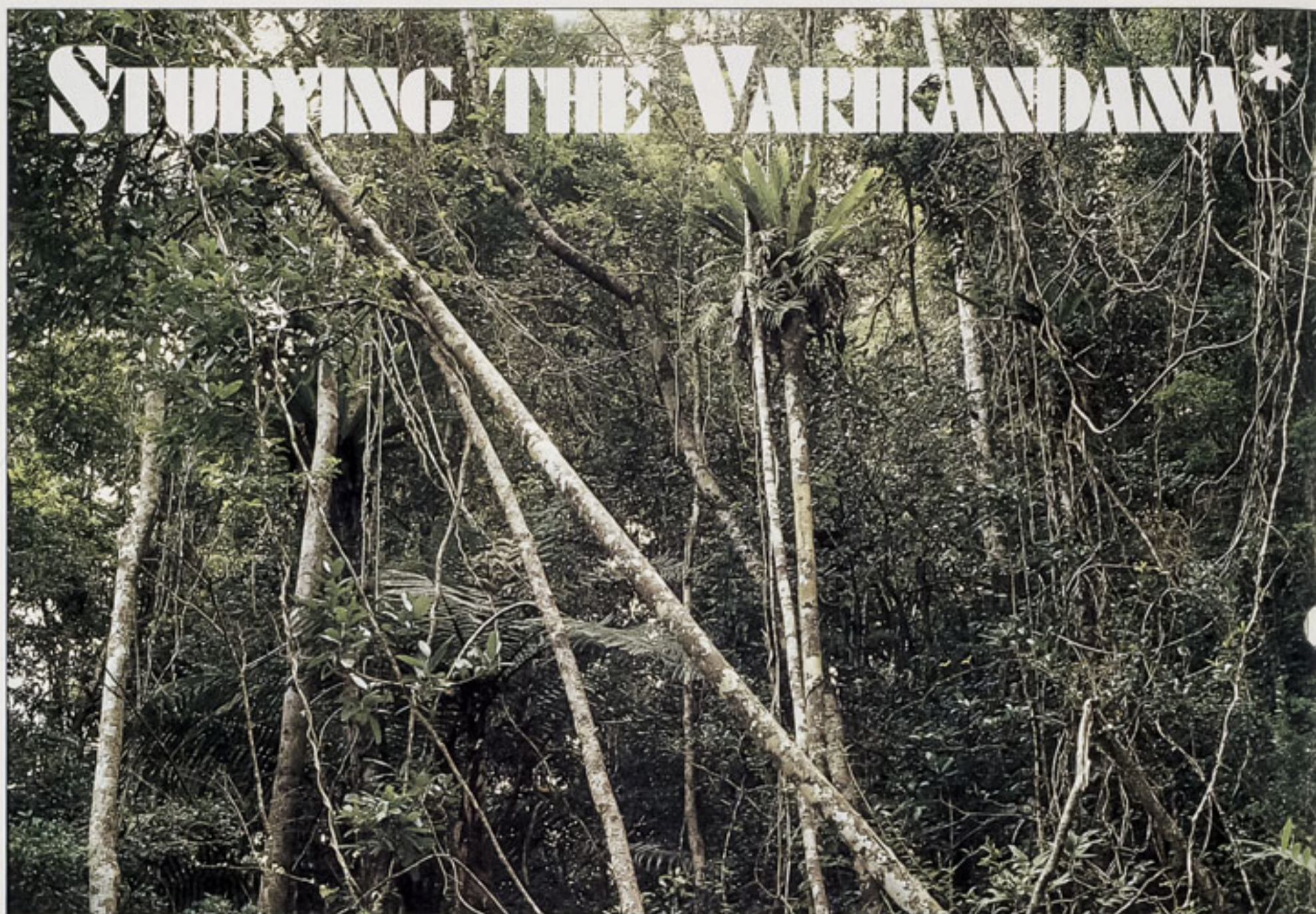
Many thanks to Whippsnade section staff for all their help.

Photograph courtesy Daily Star.

ASIATIC LION CUBS

ANOTHER CONSERVATION BREEDING SUCCESS.





◆ They're out there somewhere!

Adam Britt - ex keeper, now Research Associate with Chester Zoo - has recently spent some time in Eastern Madagascar, studying the black and white ruffed lemurs. Adam is researching the survival skills in captive bred lemurs as part of his Ph.D. studies at Liverpool University.

He was invited to join the preliminary phase of an experimental restocking programme of this species into the Betampona natural reserve in eastern Madagascar.

* *Varikandana* - Malagasy name for the black and white ruffed lemur.

Stopover in Nairobi

En route to Madagascar, I spent four days with my friend Dr. Gerald Muchemi at the Institute of Primate Research, at Karen near Nairobi. The institute aims to become an important centre for conservation through the captive breeding of endangered Kenyan primates. I gave a seminar on the management of primates at Chester Zoo, but the highlight was a trip into the forest to observe blue monkeys in the 400 hectares of protected forest that surround the institute.



Tsirendahy, Celestin and myself after a hard day in the forest.

Is my beard the source of amusement?

Arrival in Madagascar.

I arrived in Antananarivo (Tana) on 9 November and after negotiating the airport chaos, eventually found my way to the house owned by Jersey

Wildlife Preservation Trust. Here I met Charlie Welch of the Madagascar Fauna Group (MFG) who, with his wife Andrea Katz, is co-ordinating the work at Betampona. As this is a strict nature reserve, we had to obtain the necessary permits.

We were joined by Randy Junge, a vet from the St Louis Zoo, who was to assist in darting the lemurs for collection of blood, faecal and hair samples for health screening and genetic analysis. When we departed for Tamatave on the east coast, it was a relief to get out of Tana, as the wild nightlife was taking its toll both physically and financially!

Zoo Parc Ivoloina

On arrival at Charlie and Andrea's house in Tamatave we began preparations for the darting mission and I had the chance to spend some time with the lemurs at Parc Ivoloina. Charlie and Andrea have worked in Madagascar since 1987, developing the zoo within the forestry station at Parc Ivoloina into a captive breeding centre for endangered Malagasy primates. Many of the lemurs are ex pets, confiscated by the Water and Forests Department (DEF). There are currently 13 lemur species in the

collection, including 27 black and white ruffed lemurs. A group of five of these and groups of white-fronted and bamboo lemurs range freely within the zoo grounds. Many native forest tree species – important food sources for lemurs – are being planted in an attempt to recreate a natural forest habitat.

Unfortunately, climatic conditions are not ideal, hence this is likely to be a slow process. Ivoloina is funded by the MFG, which was formed in 1988 to coordinate and facilitate in-situ conservation work by participating zoos worldwide.

Into the rainforest.

In Betampona I met the guides Tsirendahy and Celestin, who looked after me for the next couple of months. It is the second smallest reserve in Madagascar, and is the last fragment of primary rainforest left. There is evidence that the lemurs have been hunted in the reserve. During my visit, temperatures ranged between 18 and 35°C with humidity between 85 and 100%.

As well as ruffed lemurs, the reserve is home to Indri and Simpona or diademedsifaka. We saw the beautiful simpona at very close range on a number of occasions. The presence of the elusive Aye-aye was confirmed through evidence of feeding activity.

Base camp was the DEF post at Rendrirendry on the south west corner of the reserve.

Darting Miss(ion)!

For six days we trekked into the forest attempting to capture ruffed lemurs, but without success. This was a blow to me as I was hoping to attach colour-coded collars to as many individuals as possible and to fit at least two radio-transmitting collars. Low calling frequencies made the animals difficult to locate, and they were so wary of our presence that they took off immediately at high speed, or simply remained so high in the canopy that it was impossible to get a clear shot.

Trail cutting, habituation and grid system.

Charlie and Randy left on the 29th November (leaving me to spend my birthday alone – boo hoo!) while I continued to work in the reserve until 23 December. I concentrated on two ruffed lemur groups with territories 2 - 3 km from camp. With my guides, I cut a series of new trails to allow easier access to the study area. When we encountered lemurs, we stayed with them as long as possible, and by the end of December both groups were reasonably habituated to our presence. Group One was an adult pair, a juvenile male and female (offspring from the previous year) and a single infant. Group Two consisted of an adult pair with twin infants and



◆ A good view of the varikandana!

at least one juvenile.

The territory of Group two was marked into a grid system of 30 x 30m quadrats using forestry flagging tape. This is a prerequisite for radio-tracking to measure range size and daily ranging patterns – and also very hard work!

Serious Work.

After a seasonal break in Tamatave, I returned to Betampona on 3 January and spent the month collecting behavioural and ecological data, alternating between the two groups. This will be used to determine the level of natural behaviour in captive individuals and provide important

baseline information for the restocking project.

When I return to Betampona in November '95 I hope to be able to employ the radio-telemetry equipment to investigate ranging behaviour.

The work was arduous, but enjoyable. As you read this, I'll be out there again, slogging through the forest, picking off the leeches and being eaten alive by biting flies – great fun! As for the "toaka gasy" (home brew rum) sessions with my Malagasy friends - I'll be taking a huge bottle of aspirin this time!

All the Malagasy I met were such friendly, happy people and in particular I must thank my marvellous cook, Anastasie – she should write a book called "1001 meals with rice!"

It was fantastic to see the various lemur species in their natural habitat, not to mention to numerous birds, reptiles and amphibians.

Getting Back

On my way home I was stranded in Tamatave during one of the worst cyclones in living memory – terrifying! It blew for about 24 hours with wind speeds up to 200 mph and caused incredible damage, exposing the fragility of the country's infrastructure. Road and rail links to Tana were impassable, but I eventually managed to fly out in time for my flight to Nairobi.

Thanks

My trip was made possible by a scholarship from the Harold Hyam Wingate Foundation, a complimentary flight to Nairobi under British Airways' Assisting Nature Conservation scheme and funding from the North of England Zoological Society. I am extremely grateful for all this help, and particularly from N.E.Z.S. I hope I can continue to rely on the Society's support throughout the remainder of my research.

◆ A more detailed account of Adam Britt's research, can be found in the zoo library.



ALL YOUR GIFT PROBLEMS SOLVED AND A 10% DISCOUNT!

NO parking problems; no jostling bad-tempered crowds; a unique selection of gifts for every one on your list – and 10% discount on everything you buy!

The zoo's Fountain shops are open seven days a week from 10 am – 4.30pm, full of animal-themed presents that you won't find in the usual high street stores. Members are entitled to 10% discount on all purchases on production of their membership card. As a "thank you" to our adopters for their support, we are making the same offer to them for all shopping during December. Just cut out the coupon, and show it to the assistant when you make your purchase. No need to hand it over – you may want to use it again later in the month.

The Fountain retail centre is three shops in one:-

The children's souvenir shop, has pocket money toys – lots of ideas for inexpensive stocking fillers here.

The book shop has a great selection of wild life titles,

bargain books, children's books, cassettes, videos and stationery. Stock up on Kodak film here, for all those Christmas memories.

The gift shop – with the biggest selection of cuddly animals in the North West (at prices from £1.99); puppets; jewellery; Lego; jigsaws and games; a superb selection of animal-themed pottery, glass, and pewter ornaments; T-shirts, sweatshirts and jumpers; after-shaves, soaps; and colourful mobiles to enchant everyone, from babies to teenagers.

The Christmas shop in the lecture theatre will be open again this year, for people using the park and ride carpark. No need to pay zoo entrance to shop here – and the 10% discount also applies. The Christmas shop will be open from 28th November to Christmas Eve, every day from 10am. Christmas trees will be on sale at this Christmas shop, for easy loading into your car.

1995 THEME EVENINGS

IN THE OAKFIELD RESTAURANT

Some dates for those brand-new diaries!

- 20th January:** Spanish Evening. A heel-tapping evening to start the new year, complete with authentic Flamenco guitarist!
 - 24th February:** Caribbean Evening. This was so popular last year, we had to repeat it the following evening to avoid disappointing a lot of people – so book early. A steel band will provide the sunshine even if it's snowing outside.
 - 24th March:** Italian Evening. Another one back by popular demand! There will be pasta and parmesan - but also Italian cuisine at its best.
 - 28th April:** Chinese Banquet. Don't eat lunch! A vast selection of wonderful chinese food.
 - 19th May:** Welsh Evening. Much nearer home – just a few miles to the wonders of Welsh home-cooking. Gentle music provided by a talented harpist.
- All bookings through Party Office, on extension 209.**

This voucher may be exchanged for a 10% discount on purchases at the Fountain Gift Shop or the Lecture Theatre Christmas Shop during December 1994.

See Santa at the Zoo!

What does Father Christmas do with his reindeer all year long?

He asks the keepers at Chester Zoo to look after them for him! Then each December, he returns to the zoo to train them for the one night a year when they must work!

He will hold open house in his Christmas Ark at the zoo from 12 noon on December weekends, and every day from 17 – 24 December inclusive.

No extra charge to visit Father Christmas with his reindeer.

Optional gifts are £2.00.

Will You Find An Elephant In A ZooPoo Tub?

Our unique tubs of zoopoo - personally passed for horticultural use by our herd of elephants - are proving as popular as ever for Christmas gifts! This year, there's an extra surprise for some recipients. In seven of the tubs there's a (well protected) envelope containing a year's adoption of an elephant!

To order your pots-by-post - for all those men who have everything - we will need your order by 9 December. The product is packed in a plastic liner, then in a rigid plastic pail with a snugly fitting lid; then in a strong cardboard box. There's a certificate of authenticity in the lid, and a complimentary ticket to the zoo in every pack.

Including post and packing, the cost is £18.00.

Christmas Fare

The Oakfield Restaurant is open all through December, serving traditional Christmas lunches, as well as less traditional food.

For December only - book a table in the restaurant, and zoo entry is free! Spoil yourself - enjoy relaxed shopping at a discount; a complimentary zoo visit and an excellent lunch!



Book Review, by Roger Wilkinson, Curator of Birds.

BIRDS ON FILM - A PHOTOGRAPHIC DIARY, BY STEVE YOUNG.

THIS EXCELLENTLY presented soft-back volume chronicles Merseyside bird photographer Steve Young's 1993 twitching year. Facing each "diary" page is a selection of Steve's colour photographs. Most of these are of national rarities, and given the difficult conditions under which these were taken, there are remarkably few distant record shots and some excellent close-ups.

I specially like the photographs of the Frodsham juvenile Red-backed Shrike and the Seaforth Firecrest.

Steve's 1993 year took him as far north-east as Fraserburgh for the year's first Ross's Gull and south west to the Scillies for October rarities. The photos from the magical isles of Scilly include the transatlantic vagrants Upland Sandpiper and Hermit Thrush, and from eastern Europe, Bluethroat and a probable Blyth's Pipit. The latter record is still under consideration by the records committee of the British Ornithologists' Union and Steve's three photographs may help get this on the list!

Local interest is supplied with photographs of the north-west's trio of travelling Black-winged stilts - at Anglesey, then Inner Marsh Farm before their failed breeding attempt at Frodsham. A wonderful study of a summer plumaged Black-tailed Godwit at Inner Marsh Farm is my favourite of the over 150 photographs presented in the diary. My least favourite pictures are the ones of birds I missed seeing - especially those which the author photographed so well!

This book is a must for everyone interested in rare birds and of special interest because photographs of the commoner species have nearly all been taken locally.

Published by Holly Publications at £14.99, Birds on Film is available in the zoo shop.

JUNIOR MEMBER'S FIELD TRIPS AND MEETINGS

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY –

Friday 9 December 1994

No year in the Junior's calendar would be complete without the annual bun-fight at Christmas. The picnic area in the Tropical House survived our onslaught last year so we plan to hold the party there again this year. As usual our hamburger/hot dog supper will be disrupted with a variety of party games and music. Over 8's welcome to join in. Juniors should arrive at the MAIN NORTH GATE ENTRANCE for 7.15 pm and parents may collect them from there or from the party area (bring a torch) at 10 pm

THE CONTACT SESSION –

Saturday 21 January 1995

Juniors should assemble outside the Oakfield before being taken to meet some of our friendlier residents at the zoo. We will walk from the Oakfield at 2.15 pm to the indoor picnic area, and older Juniors may drift away from there after 3.15 pm, with the rest being accompanied back to the Oakfield for a 4 pm collection.

WATERFOWL WATCHING

AT MARTIN MERE –

Saturday 25 February 1995

Hardy Juniors should take this opportunity to see the wealth of visiting waterfowl at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Martin Mere in February. We should see Bewick and Whooper swans, Pink-footed geese, all sorts of ducks including Teal and Wigeon, Shelduck, Pintails, Tufted Duck and a host of waders and other waterfowl. If we are lucky we may even spot a day-flying Barn owl and perhaps even a Merlin or Harrier. The bus will leave the staff car park at 10.30 am returning at 4.30pm. There are plenty of "hides" at Martin Mere, but you will need warm clothes and a picnic. Over 8's are invited.

TRACKS AND SIGNS –

Saturday 25 March 1995

March is selected for the ever-popular day when Juniors are let loose in some of the enclosures to find footprints and take plaster casts, because we can almost guarantee muddy conditions! We will meet outside the Oakfield at 11 am and will meet back there at 4 pm. Over 8's are invited to join the fun, and everyone should bring a picnic and wear old clothes and wellies.

FARM WORLD, ERDDIG –

Saturday 29 April 1995

An opportunity for Juniors to meet some of to-day's domestic farm animals at this working farm near Wrexham. You will be able to feed the lambs and learn about milking and farming techniques. The bus will leave the staff car park at 11 am, returning at 4 pm and over 8's are invited, bringing wellies and a picnic.

SHUGBOROUGH PARK –

Saturday 20 May 1995

Everyone had a marvelous time when we last visited Shugborough, the home of Lord Litchfield in Stafford. The Home Farm is a centre for rare domestic breeds such as Longhorn cattle, Bagot goats, Leicester Longwool sheep, Tamworth and Gloucester Old Spot pigs. We will also see demonstrations of traditional farm crafts including butter and cheese making, farmhouse cookery and spinning. The Shire horses can be seen at work and there is a Noah's Ark touch area for smaller animals. The restored corn mill and waterwheel complete the picture of a working estate farm of the pre-Victorian era. We also plan to visit Shugborough House in all its Victorian splendour. The bus will leave the staff car park at 9 am and return at 5.30 pm. Over 8's invited, and everyone should bring a picnic.

HILBRE ISLAND –

Date in June to be finalised

Watch this space for the date in June when we will visit Hilbre Island to see the seals and to explore the rockpools. We will walk over the Hilbre from West Kirby as the tide goes out and we will return before the tide comes in which should allow us a great day of exploring around the island. Over 8's invited.

DAY WITH A KEEPER –

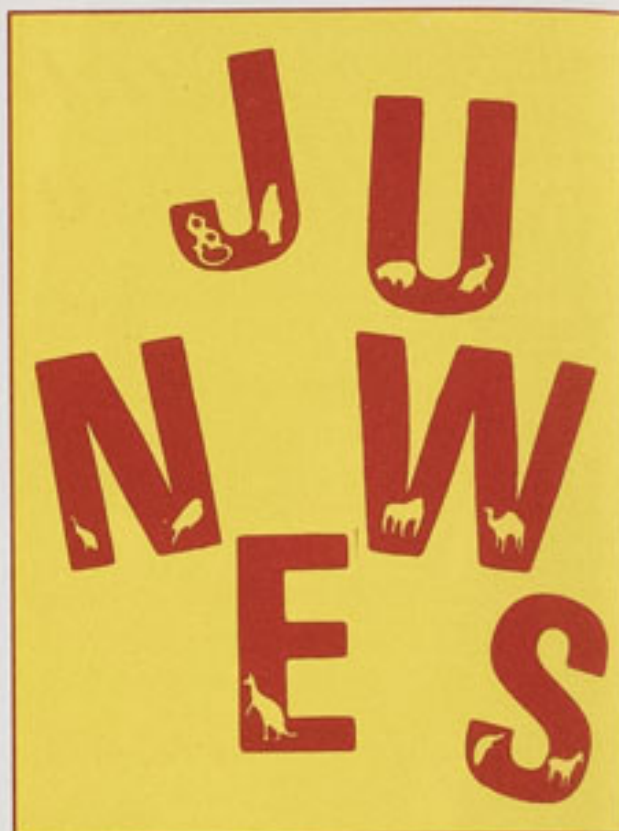
Wednesday 26 July 1995

One of the highlights of the year for Juniors over 12 years is the day when you can come to the zoo to help a keeper for the day. It is a very strenuous day, but well worth the effort! Juniors must book and should bring along a picnic lunch and wear wellies. Meet outside the Oakfield at 10.30 am to be allocated to a section, and return there for 4 pm to be collected by parents.

JUNIOR MEMBERS' BARBEQUE AND CREEPIE CRAWLIE EVENING –

Friday 18 August 1995

We will be keeping our fingers crossed for a good evening for our Juniors' barbeque. For those of you who want to meet some creepie crawlies, we will have Senior Member Alan Marrow along to introduce you to some of his favourite animals who share his home (most of them have eight legs!). Those not so keen on spiders should not be put off coming, as there is lots of space to spread out on the Jubilee Lawn!



THE FOLLIES - HAWKSTONE PARK -

Saturday 23 September 1995

This will be a new trip for Juniors when we travel into the wilds of Shropshire to discover the surprises of the follies and caves on the nature ramble at Hawkstone Park. The bus will leave the staff car park at 11.00 am, returning at 4.30 pm. Over 8's are invited to bring a picnic, and be prepared for being outdoors.

COMPETITION WINNERS.

In our Summer issue, we announced a poetry competition for Juniors as part of our Diamond Jubilee celebrations. We had lots of very good entries, and the judges enjoyed reading all the poems very much.

The two prizes of radio cassette players, generously donated by Britvic go to:

Under 12 years: Kirsty Fitzgerald, (6 years) of Belle Vue Lane, Guilden Sutton, Chester.

12 and over: David Hall (12 years) of Cherry Tree Road, Moreton, Wirral.

Kirsty wrote a very funny poem about Zoo Poo, and David's contribution was a very descriptive poem about the Rodrigues Fruit Bat. Congratulations to you both – and thank you to all the other super poets. We wish we could give you all a prize!

PLEASE NOTE

Bookings must be made for all events. Please ring Penny at the zoo not more than two weeks before the event you would like to attend. Places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, and may be limited. For those trips which involve either a bus trip or provision of food or materials, a charge will be made to cover costs - but we will keep this as low as possible. The list is provisional and in exceptional circumstances we may have to alter the dates and times of some of the trips. You will not be informed of such changes individually – so please read the Junior pages in the magazine each quarter, to keep up to date with Junior news.

Penny Rudd (Mrs) Junior Members' Club Leader.



MOTHS, SQUIRRELS AND SAND DUNES

Penny Rudd reports on the Junior Members' activities during the Summer.

We were lucky enough to have a lovely, fine evening for our Moth Trapping and Barbeque in August, which was great for the "eating" part of the event, by not so great for the moths. The clear skies meant it was a little cold to attract them in their hoards. However, the moth traps did attract several different species and our "entomologist extraordinaire," Jon Delf,

◆ The Star of the show.

was on hand to identify those caught up before they were released again. The "concoction" made up by the Juniors and spread on the tree trunks also lured several moths into the identification parade and the photo – below left – shows Jon explaining how to identify one of these. Such camouflage!

The September trip proved beautifully sunny again, and saw the Juniors heading off to the National Trust's Squirrel Reserve at Freshfield, near Formby, where we were to seek the rare red squirrels. Having explained to the juniors on our double decker that they were to be quiet as mice – not to crackle crisp packets etc., if we were to have any chance of seeing these shy creatures at all, we were practically mobbed by hoards of red squirrels as we got off the bus with the usual high spirits! (There is a saying about working with children and animals . . .) We were taken on a guided tour of the reserve and down to the sand dunes by one of the rangers, before having our picnic lunch in the woods and then moving on further up the coast to Ainsdale Nature Reserve. (Pictured above)

Once again, we were met by a ranger who took us onto the sand dunes and explained about the conservation work going on in the area. We went in search of the Natterjack toad's habitat, and had a great day.



Arrivals ○ Births ● and 🐣 Hatchings 🐣

AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, & OCTOBER 1994



◆ Lake Victoria Cichlids.

MAMMALS

Rodrigue's Fruit Bat	<i>Pteropus rodricensis</i>	0.0.1	Born
Seba's Short-tailed Bat	<i>Carrollia perspicillata</i>	0.0.2	Born
Pygmy Marmoset	<i>Callithrix pygmaea</i>	0.0.1	Born
Celebes Macaque	<i>Macaca nigra</i>	0.0.1	Born
Capybara	<i>Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris</i>	0.0.1	Born
Bush Dog	<i>Speothos venaticus</i>	1.0.0	Received
Guanaco	<i>Lamaglama guanicoe</i>	2.0.2	Born
Nilgai	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	2.0.0	Born
Arabian Gazelle	<i>Gazella gazella arabica</i>	0.2.0	Born
Axis Deer	<i>Cervus axis</i>	1.1.0	Born
Blackbuck	<i>Antelope cervicapra</i>	3.1.3	Born
Sitatunga	<i>Tragelaphus spekii</i>	0.0.1	Born
American Bison	<i>Bison bison</i>	1.0.0	Received
Sable Antelope	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>	4.0.0	Received

BIRDS

Greater Rhea	<i>Rhea americana</i>	0.0.2	Hatched
Chilean Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus chilensis</i>	0.0.3	Hatched
Carolina Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	3.4.0	Received
Falcated Teal	<i>Anas falcata</i>	1.1.0	Received
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	2.2.0	Received
Ringed Teal	<i>Callonetta leucophrys</i>	1.1.0	Received
Smew	<i>Mergus albellus</i>	1.0.0	Received
Chiloe Wigeon	<i>Anas sibilatrix</i>	1.1.0	Received
Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	0.1.0	Received
Hooded Merganser	<i>Mergus cucullatus</i>	1.0.0	Received
Rosybill Pochard	<i>Netta peposaca</i>	0.0.5	Hatched
West African Crowned Crane	<i>Balearica p. pavonina</i>	1.0.0	Received
Stanley Crane	<i>Anthropoides paradisea</i>	1.0.0	Received
Blyth's Tragopan	<i>Tragopan blythii</i>	1.1.0	Received
Bare-faced Curassow	<i>Crax fasciolata</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Nicobar Pigeon	<i>Caloenas nicobarica</i>	0.2.0	Received
Nicobar Pigeon	<i>Caloenas nicobarica</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Diamond Dove	<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>	0.1.0	Received
Diamond Dove	<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Superb Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus superbis</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Black-winged Lory	<i>Eos cyanogenia</i>	1.0.0	Received
Yellow-backed Chattering Lory	<i>Lorius garrulus flavopalliatu</i>	0.0.2	Hatched
Yellow-faced Parrotlets	<i>Forpus xanthops</i>	1.1.0	Received
Golden-capped Conure	<i>Aratinga auricapilla</i>	0.1.0	Received
Eclectus Parrot	<i>Eclectus roratus vosmaeri</i>	1.0.0	Received
Lesser Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis n. nigra</i>	0.0.2	Hatched
Blue-eyed Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua opibalmica</i>	0.0.2	Hatched

Red-vented Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua baematuropygia</i>	1.1.0	Received
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	0.1.0	Received
Ferruginous Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>	1.1.0	Received
Channel-billed Toucan	<i>Rampastos vitellinus</i>	0.0.3	Hatched
Blue-winged Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo leachii</i>	1.1.0	Received
Pekin Robin	<i>Leiobrix lutea</i>	0.0.3	Hatched
Red-cheeked Cordon-Bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>	3.3.0	Received
Fairy Bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>	1.1.0	Received
Bicheno Finch	<i>Poebpila bichenovii</i>	0.0.6	Received
Gouldian Finch	<i>Chloebia gouldiae</i>	4.2.0	Received
Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Rothschilds Mynah	<i>Leucopsar rothschildi</i>	0.0.6	Hatched
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	0.0.1	Received

REPTILES

Matamata Turtle	<i>Cbelus fimbriatus</i>	0.0.4	Received
Carolina Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene ornata carolinensis</i>	0.0.1	Received
Green Iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>	0.0.3	Hatched
Honduran Milk Snake	<i>Lampropeltis triangulum hondurensis</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
Jamaican Boa	<i>Epicrates subflavus</i>	0.0.15	Hatched
Brazilian Rainbow Boa	<i>Epicrates c. cencbria</i>	0.0.6	Hatched
Plumed Basilisk	<i>Basiliscus plumifrons</i>	0.0.4	Hatched
Leopard Gecko	<i>Eublepharis macularius</i>	0.0.33	Hatched

AMPHIBIANS

Axolotl	<i>Ambystoma mexicanum</i>	0.0.9	Received
---------	----------------------------	-------	----------

INVERTEBRATES

Snails	<i>Lymnaea peseger buruetti</i>	0.0.12	Received
--------	---------------------------------	--------	----------

FISH

Lake Victoria Cichlid	<i>Haplochromis riphianus</i>	217	Bred
Lake Victoria Cichlid	<i>Haplochromis sawagei</i>	12	Bred
Lake Victoria Cichlid	<i>Haplochromis pyrrhoccephalus</i>	267	Bred
Lake Victoria Cichlid	<i>Haplochromis obliquidens</i>	84	Bred
Lake Victoria Cichlid	<i>Haplochromis xenognathus</i>	79	Bred
Lake Victoria Cichlid	<i>Haplochromis argens</i>	90	Bred
Lake Victoria Cichlid	<i>Haplochromis 'Velvet black'</i>	203	Bred
Lake Victoria Cichlid	<i>Haplochromis obliquidens</i>		
	<i>'Zebra uganda'</i>	58	Bred
Lake Kutubu Rainbow Fish	<i>Melanotaenia lacustris</i>	50	Bred
Red Rainbow Fish	<i>Glossolepis incisus</i>	50	Bred
Stingray	<i>Potamotrygon motoro</i>	1	Received

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

Printed by Rockliff Printing Group Ltd, Long Lane Aintree, Liverpool