OUR ZOO

CHESTER ZOO

Bringing together exclusive videos, great new games and sneak peeks from our global conservation work.

START EXPLORING ›



Highlights

Discover how, as one of the **world's leading conservation zoos**, we're playing a special role in tackling the global extinction crisis. Join us as we showcase, thanks to you, the **difference our zoo is making** in finding solutions in the **fight to prevent extinction**.



WELCOME

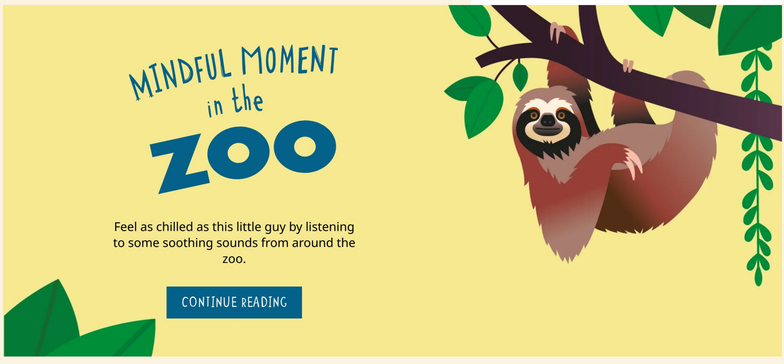
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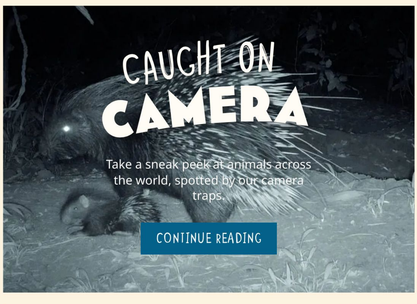
CONTINUE READING



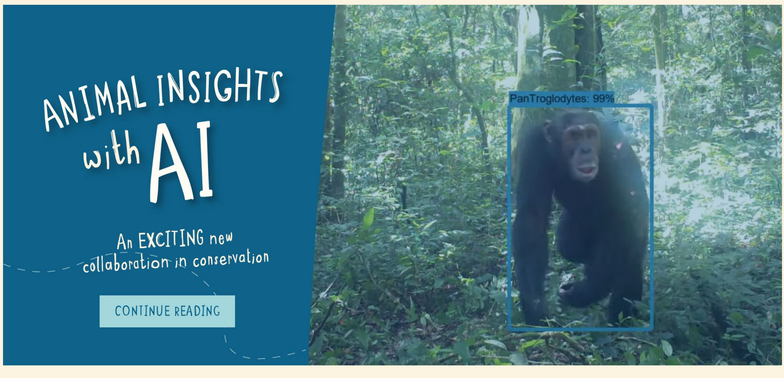
















OUR ZOO



This issue marks an exciting step into the future for **Chester Zoo** as we say goodbye to our printed publication, **Z magazine**, and welcome you to **Our Zoo** – a new digital era for sharing news and exclusive content with you, **our valued members**.

Moving into the digital age and improving the experience for members is an area where we have ambitious plans. Not only does this new experience allow us to create dynamic and engaging content that we couldn't bring to the printed page, by viewing online you're helping us to reduce our carbon footprint.

As we come to the end of 2022, it feels like a fitting way to say thank you to every one of you for continuing to support the work we do and your passion for the zoo and the wider conservation work we do around the world.

Looking ahead to 2023, there will be a number of new and inspiring developments for you to experience at the zoo in the new year. For the first time in our history, we'll be welcoming tamanduas to a newly created habitat which will see them mixing with miniature monkeys to mimic their South American home. We're very happy to be sharing an **exclusive first look** for all of you here in Our Zoo.





There will also be a science filled spring season to come and enjoy as part of our newly launched programme of events. Some very special guest appearances are due to be announced and we hope you'll be able to join us for an illuminating series of talks, demos and signings.

Our philosophy of 'always building' is a tradition we continue to see shape the future of the zoo and our wider work. The spring of 2023 will bring the grand opening of The Square, our new wedding and events space and our new look Learning Centre will follow in the summer. The work to welcoming endangered snow leopards to the zoo will also begin next year, seeing another fantastic and vital conservation project taking shape for its 2024 opening.

The team and I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing you at the zoo over the festive period and in the new year.

Bringing to life the work we do at the zoo and our worldwide mission to prevent extinction is something this new digital publication can do in a whole new way. We're excited to see a season at the zoo come to life through exclusive videos and 'first looks' at the work that happens behind the scenes.

Jamie Christon, CEO

START EXPLORING >



CHESTER ZOO

MEMBERS EXCLUSIVE

ALWAYS BUILDING

Our new southern tamandua habitat



Some of you will have already noticed a new habitat being developed near the exit of Islands on your recent visits to the zoo. We're excited to reveal that this space will soon be home to one of our latest new additions – the southern tamandua.

When introducing any new animal to the zoo, our priority is creating a habitat which they can thrive in. To achieve this we enlist a **whole host of experts** during the development process, from conservationists and scientists, to building contractors and architects.

In this issue, we're giving you a fascinating glimpse **behind the scenes** at how we develop habitats and ensure we're creating the best homes we can for our animals. Join us on a walkthrough of the brand new tamandua habitat with Emma Hughes, Assistant Project Manager, who has played a key role in its development.





Native to South America, the tamandua looks a lot like a smaller version of its relative the giant anteater but with one key difference. They are **arboreal**! That means they spend a lot of their time in trees, and we've designed their habitat to give them plenty of vertical spaces to explore.



DID YOU KNOW?

Check out our interactive tamandua fact file to find out more about this amazing animal!

Like many arboreal animals, tamanduas have a prehensile tail to help them climb trees. This specially adapted tail acts almost like an extra limb, and they will use it to wrap around trees for some extra grip when needed.

This is particularly important for tamanduas as it frees them up to use their sharp claws on their forelegs while in trees or balancing. Those sharp claws will be used to rip into insect nests, alongside one other important feature - their **long cylindrical tongue**. Measuring in at an impressive 40cm long, a tamandua's tongue is very similar to other anteaters in that it's used to seek out insects in hard-to-reach nests, mounds and tunnels. In fact, both tamanduas and giant anteaters are part of the suborder Vermilingua, which literally means 'worm tongue'.

With no teeth, this insect-loving animal relies on its strong stomach to **grind up their food.** They can eat thousands of ants and termites every day, and they also supplement their diet with honey and fruits.

When you eat that many insects you inevitably deal with a lot of bites, but thankfully tamanduas are equipped to defend against this. They have **extremely thick fur** to minimise the effects of bites, and they will never linger too long at one mound or nest. Not only does this keep painful bites to a minimum, it also ensures the tamandua doesn't completely wipe out a tasty food source. Clever!



We're currently putting the finishing touches to our tamandua habitat, and they'll be in their new home very soon. We can't wait for you to meet them!



THE SECRET LIFE OF THE FOSSA FAMILY

You may have heard the exciting news that the zoo is now home to a trio of fossa pups!

These rare triplets are a first for the zoo and are a key part of our conservation work in protecting these highly threatened mammals. But how does a breeding process like this work and what was the journey of five-year-old parents Shala and Isalo to welcoming their first litter?





The fossa's signature long tail is perfect for weaving through the tree branches, acting like a tightrope walker's pole.

IDEAL FOR *SPEEDY* HUNTING AND MOVEMENT

Fossas are slender cat-like mammals and are distant relatives of the mongoose. A native of the African island of Madagascar, fossa grow up to 6 feet long from nose to tail tip and weigh up to 12kg. They are the largest carnivore native to Madagascar, feeding on lemurs and any other animals they can catch in the wild, from pigs to mice.

Sadly, scientists report that up to 90% of forests have now been destroyed on the island of Madagascar, leaving the fossa on the brink of extinction. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), lists the fossa as Vulnerable to extinction, with recent estimates suggesting only 2,600 remain in the wild today.

Our zoo experts have been working on the ground with project partners Madagasikara Voakajy in Madagascar for over a decade to help save the fossa's unique home and the thousands of rare animals that live alongside it. The three fossa pups we've welcomed at the zoo are vitally important to the future of the species and there's a lot we can learn from their arrival and the mating behaviour of their parents.

90%

of forests have now been destroyed on the island of Madagascar.

2600

fossas remain in the wild today because of habitat destruction.

3

pups we have welcomed at the zoo are vitally important to the future of the species.

THE MATING CALL

Shala and Isalo's journey to welcoming their pups started with a fascinating ritual that we have been lucky enough to observe and record as part of pioneering research, in collaboration with the University of Göttingen, Germany.

The fossa's breeding season begins when the female climbs high into a tree where she produces loud calls to attract her potential suitors. With the unique sound of these mating calls, males begin to gather at the bottom of the tree hoping to be the lucky recipient of the female's attention.

The female can then pick and choose her male suitors. She may choose to mate with several males and copulation sessions between the fossas can last for many hours! We really see the female fossa find her voice as they are generally known to be a quiet character outside of their breeding season.





RECORDING FOR CONSERVATION



GET MORE INSIGHT FROM DR LEAH

For many years, scientists and conservationists have used the power of sound to record and study wildlife. From bird song to bat calls, sound is a way for animals to communicate and navigate their way through the world.

The powerful and distinctive sound of the fossa's mating call is a great example of how sound recording can be used to understand more about where the species are, their movements and how big remaining populations are in the wild.

Dr Leah Williams, Lead Conservation Scientist on the project, has been working closely with Dr Matthew Markolf, a scientist at the University of Göttingen and founding member of the Chances for Nature initiative, to bring the fossa's mating sound to the forefront of conservation work.

The fossa family here at the zoo and the sound of Shala's distinctive mating call are yet another vital part of our mission to prevent extinction in an everchanging world.



CHESTER ZOO

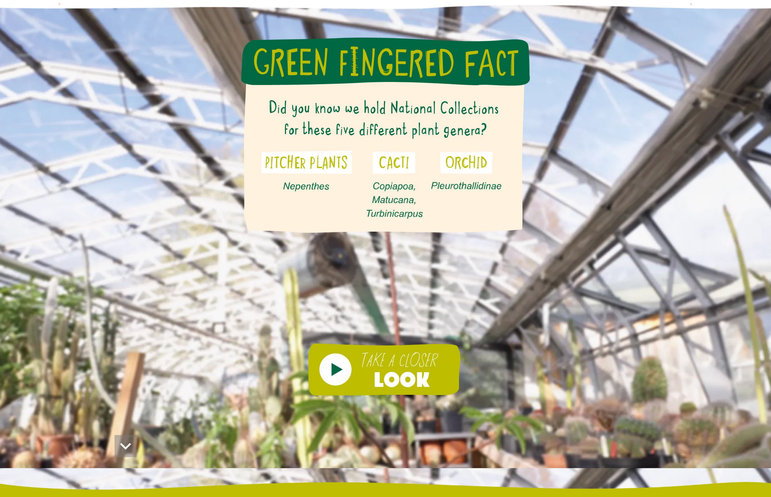
WINTER PLANT WONDERLAND

Keeping our plants thriving through the winter months



While we brace ourselves for the cold winter months and get our knits out, there's a very similar process for the huge collection of plants at the zoo and our conservation areas.

Green fingered experts are constantly monitoring and preparing our range of threatened plant species for the chillier months. Just like the three bears' porridge, the plants we take care of need to be kept in temperatures that are 'just right' which means very different winter remedies for each one depending on its origins.



GREEN FINGERED FACT

Did you know we hold National Collections for these five different plant genera?

PITCHER PLANTS	CACTI	ORCHID
Nepenthes	*Copiapoa, Matucana, Turbinicarpus*	*Pleurothallidinae*

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

WINTER WARMERS

Much like us humans, certain plants at the zoo need some extra warmth and the protection of the indoors during winter. Both the baobab tree (*Adansonia zo*) and Magagascar palm (*Pachypodium*) plants can be seen throughout the summer months in our Madagascar zone. Once the colder weather creeps in, these varieties are brought into our warm greenhouses for the equivalent of a warm by the fire and some toasty socks!

As threatened species found in Madagascar, both of these plants are in danger due to habitat loss and removal for the wildlife trade. Protecting these species here at the zoo is another part of the conservation work we are doing to ensure that both animals and plants are protected.

If you pay a visit to the zoo over winter you might also spot some of our more exotic species such as tree ferns and banana plants sporting their own version of a woolly jumper. The warm wrapping of a material like horticultural fleece insulates from the worst of the cold and keeps these plants cosy until we reach spring.



COOLER CUSTOMERS



Keeping species warm over winter is just one aspect of the winter work our botanists carry out each year. Warming winters in the UK and mild conditions mean that for some of the species that live in extreme environments in the wild, we actually need to work on keeping them cold. Plants that live on exposed spots like cliff edges, such as the Llangollen whitebeam (*Sorbus cuneifolia*) species or exposed areas like the Great Orme in Llandudno, home to *Cotoneaster cambricus*, need some seed support during winter.

Making sure these species' seeds don't germinate over the winter months is vitally important to protect seedling generations. The seeds have a clever built in mechanism which means they need to be kept cold for a certain time before their potential to germinate is switched on. The warming of spring then leads to germination at the right time.

With more unusual warm spikes in the winter months, linked to a warming climate, there is a risk that plant populations that have adapted to cooler winters can become unstable. Germinating too early can lead to losses of an entire seedling generation in an area if a harsh cold period returns immediately afterwards.

Here at the zoo, we're working to replicate this process for both of these threatened British species. Our seeds go into a chilled bank, which in reality looks like a very ordinary fridge in Nursery Team Manager, Richard Hewitt's office, known around here as the Hewitt Seed Bank where they get the stable cool conditions they need over the winter.

Next time you visit the zoo, take a trip around our award-winning botanical gardens and discover more about our passion for plants and the important part plants play in protecting wildlife!

YOUR GARDEN

There are some super simple ways you can take care of your own green spaces through the chillier months, and you can create a winter haven for wildlife in the process!

- Make your birds happy and well fed over winter by planting some berrying and fruiting trees and shrubs such as Hawthorn, Dog Wood and Guelder Rose.
- Leave any of your healthy herbaceous and hollow-stemmed plants unpruned until the spring. They can make a great home for overwintering insects.
- Careful with the compost! As compost heaps are often warm, they can be a winter refuge for frogs, toads and other animals.



ANIMAL INSIGHTS with AI

An EXCITING new collaboration in conservation



What you see here at the zoo is just one part of the work we do, with a lot more happening behind the scenes at conservation sites in the UK and around the world.

The more we can learn about endangered animals in both the zoo and the wild, the more knowledge we have to help them thrive and meet our mission of preventing extinction.

That means we're always looking to share skills and partner with other conservation experts. Our latest collaboration with Liverpool John Moores University Conservation AI Unit is a perfect example of how together we can make identifying and protecting animals simpler and speedier than ever before.

It's a groundbreaking mix of digital tech and animal welfare that Dr Carl Chalmers, Reader in Machine Learning and Applied Artificial Intelligence at Liverpool John Moores University, decodes for us in this insider interview.



SPOTTED ON CAMERA

Working alongside the university team has allowed us to set up an innovative camera trap system for capturing species on video. Camera traps never actually trap animals – the name can be a bit misleading. Conservationists use this name to describe the setting up of the cameras that work with motion sensors to detect changes and movements around the camera site when they spot something is on the move!

Camera traps are an important part of working with animals in the wild as some species are tricky to spot and can be pretty camera shy when it comes to being filmed. The precision of the AI technology we're working with helps us to pinpoint their exact locations, tracking them down and watching their behaviour without disturbing them as they go about their daily business.



See more of the moments we've caught on camera, from a curious crocodile to a cuddly little porcupette! >



4 seconds to rapid **RECOGNITION**

We've trained our smart imaging AI kit to recognise one of the world's most trafficked mammals – the giant pangolin. This is the first ever project detecting this species and we're excited to be leading it.

It might be an impressive 6 feet in length but the giant pangolin is a rare sighting and it's even harder to spot thanks to its nocturnal, secluded lifestyle. In 2018, we began a huge study in Uganda, seeking to develop a deep understanding into the status and movements of endangered giant pangolins.

We also use the AI cameras here on our Chester Zoo estate to monitor our native wildlife such as badgers, which like pangolins are nocturnal and live in underground chambers.

Here's a breakdown of how the complex AI technology works out in the field.

1. Our AI cameras begin to recognise giant pangolins using data from previous camera traps. Our cameras communicate with the Conservation Platform using 3/4G technology (exactly the same tech we use to make calls on our mobile phones).

2. Using the 'Deep Learning' method, they are shown thousands of tagged animals (around 1,500 per species) and can then learn the patterns of each animal.

3. Once it's mastered that, we then move on to a technique called 'Transfer Learning'. This uses a much smaller data set.

4. And we repeat this over and over again so that the model can easily tell the difference between a giant pangolin and a tortoise. Or an alligator and a shark. Or a lion and a tiger. It's like a really technical game of animal snap!

5. Once a sighting occurs, an infra-red sensor is triggered and the image is sent over to be analysed in real-time. Our conservation team receives an alert that a species has been identified and will then receive an image within just 4 minutes!

TODAY'S *PROGRESS*. TOMORROW'S **PROMISE.**



This new collaboration with Liverpool John Moores University Conservation AI Unit is helping us to save thousands of hours of human time.

The result? We can get down to the number crunching faster and apply the results to conservation efforts with greater impact and precision.

Detecting a giant pangolin nearby, with a rapid 4-minute detection rate, holds the potential for so much more. Tagging a giant pangolin has only been achieved by Chester Zoo once, and only once or twice ever by other organisations.

It's also making a difference closer to home - monitoring wildlife here at the zoo helps us to know how our native species are faring, and learning more about their behaviour helps us manage our site better for wildlife.

It's an exciting evolution and one we can't wait to explore more. Stay tuned as the technology develops alongside our work!

THE
LANTERNS
AT CHESTER ZOO

Limited tickets remaining!

BOOK NOW

MINDFUL MOMENT in the ZOO



FEEL AS CHILLED AS THIS LITTLE GUY

by listening to some soothing sounds from around the zoo.

Among the **roars and monkey calls**, there are plenty of **zen zoo moments to be found!** Sound has the power to stimulate something called ASMR (autonomous sensory meridian response). Sometimes referred to more simply as a **'brain massage'**, this soothing sensation begins on the scalp and **moves down the body**, triggered by **soothing and calming sounds** such as whispering or the **quiet tones of nature**.

We can't promise a brain massage but these soundscapes from the zoo are definitely designed to **help you unwind** and **escape life's noise!**



Monsoon Forest

Explore the soundscape of the South Asian jungles in Monsoon Forest. Immerse yourself in the calls of South East Asia's rarest birds and hear the soothing sound of water flowing through the jungle landscape.

Golden mantella

The critically endangered golden mantella frog has a cheerful chirping call that can be heard in its homeland of Madagascar's forests. These small amphibians are brightly coloured to let predators know they're poisonous!





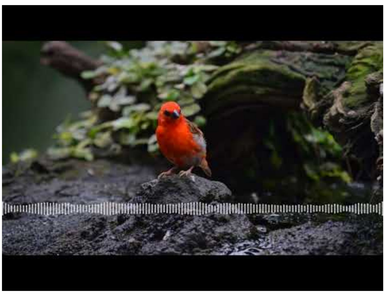
Islands Aviary

Hear the calls of the Asian glossy starlings and silver eared mesia from our Islands Aviary. Take in the beautiful bird song and learn more about why these birds are on the edge of extinction and the conservation work we're doing to save them!

Butterfly Journey

Feel like you're walking through the rainforests of Latin America or South Asia in our butterfly house. Hear the sounds and immerse yourself in the peace and tranquillity of this wildlife wonderland.





Tropical Realm

Soak up the surroundings of the Tropical Realm here at the zoo. Listen to the many different sounds around you; the running waterfall, the many beautiful songs of the birds. Explore each corner of this habitat with your ears!

Fruit Bat Forest

Take your ears for a walkaround our Fruit Bat Forest. Close your eyes and join our colony of bats for a night time sneak peek into the life of a bat.





CAUGHT ON CAMERA

Take a **sneak peek** at **animals across the world**, spotted by our camera traps. From bonding between a mum and baby porcupine to a warthog taxi, **there's a bit of everything** here, from **Africa** to the hedgerows of the **UK**!



A herd of buffalo cross a stream in Uganda, as a nearby crocodile emerges from the water. The Chester Zoo Africa team have camera traps here in Murchison Falls National Park helping the Uganda Wildlife Authority to monitor wildlife.



An inquisitive family of badgers emerges from a hedgerow on the Chester Zoo estate and takes a closer look at our camera trap.



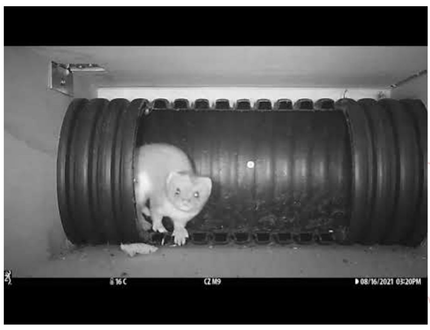
A pair of piapiacs, an African member of the crow family, can be seen hitching a ride on the back of a warthog. Piapiacs will often stand on warthogs and other animals to feed on insects.



As this polecat makes its way through the Chester Zoo estate, it pauses momentarily to roll in the grass. This is a common scent marking behaviour amongst mustelids, particularly near paths commonly used by other wildlife.



A sleepy porcupette (baby porcupine) wakes up from a nap and immediately cuddles up to its mum. Young porcupines will stay with their mothers for between 6-12 months.



Out on the Chester Zoo estate we see a particularly itchy weasel venture into one of our 'mostelas', a specially designed camera trap box for monitoring mustelids.

Camera Trap Fact

Despite the name, there's no trapping involved! The cameras are simply left in a secret spot and sense when there's some movement or animal action in the surrounding area, helping us capture magic little moments like these.

FUN & GAMES

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE >

SCREENSAVERS >





If you enjoyed the quizzes and games in Z magazine, we're sure you'll love the fun new selection we've created for the kids amongst you and the big kids too!

Start by putting your Spot the Difference skills to the test against the clock and see how many you can tick off, then download one of the wallpapers for your desktop or mobile to enjoy our animals wherever you go.

Download Wallpapers
for desktop & mobile

FOSSA PUP



DESKTOP

MOBILE

TAMANDUA



DESKTOP

MOBILE

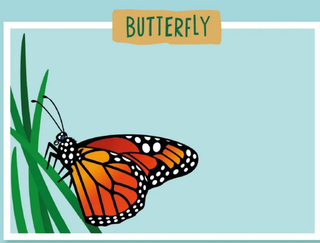
BABY RHINO



DESKTOP

MOBILE

BUTTERFLY



DESKTOP

MOBILE

GOLDEN MANTELLA



DESKTOP

MOBILE

ANIMAL COLLECTION



DESKTOP

MOBILE

CHESTER ZOO



Experience a Christmas of wonder at Chester Zoo

From amazing gift ideas to unforgettable days out, we've got everything you need for a magical festive season. Plus as one of our valued members, you'll **enjoy exclusive discounts and offers!**

Shop our Christmas range online

Whether you're looking for eye-catching decorations or a unique and memorable gift for a special someone, there's something for everyone in our online gift shop. Plus every purchase contributes to our critical mission of preventing extinction. Your support is SO important to us - each cuddly toy, bottle of gin, gift or book you buy is helping to fund our vital work.

Check out some of our Christmas highlights below, or shop the full range to see much more!



Chester Zoo calendar 2023



Take a Break with Chester Zoo



The Oakfield Christmas Greeting Card 10Pck



Sumatran Orangutan Soft Toy



Chester Zoo winter gin



Lottie Frosty Penguin Decoration

Online orders can either be delivered straight to your door, or you can click and collect from the zoo for FREE on your next visit!

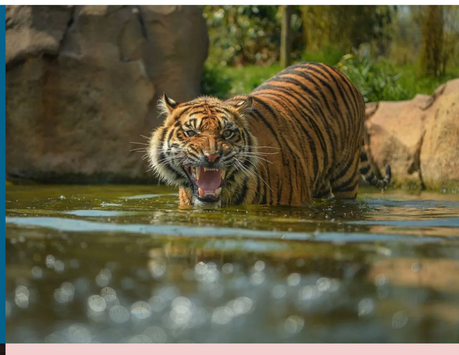
Don't forget, as a loyal member you get 10% off in our gift shop at the zoo and online! Just enter the code **02FFPMYFZ8G2** at checkout and your member discount will be applied.

10% off in our gift shop

Gift a membership

We don't need to tell you how rewarding it is to be a member of the zoo! Why not gift a membership to a friend or loved one, and give them a year of FREE unlimited zoo access, plus all the other amazing member benefits you receive?

MEMBERSHIP GIFTING





Make memories that last a lifetime with an animal experience

An experience at the zoo offers a once in a lifetime opportunity to get closer to our INCREDIBLE animals and plants, plus a chance to meet our experts. They make a great gift, or even a special treat for yourself.

Dine with our Asiatic lions, meet our giraffes or explore the zoo before we open to the public. And best of all, as a member you get 10% off!

DISCOVER EXPERIENCES

Adopt an animal for a loved one

Discover the perfect Christmas gift for the animal lover in your life!

Gift an animal adoption and you'll be funding conservation work in the UK and all around the world, as well as giving a unique gift that's impossible not to LOVE!

ADOPT AN ANIMAL





Festive season at The Oakfield

Whether you're looking for an intimate setting for two, or a cosy family occasion, The Oakfield is the perfect destination for Christmas food and drink. Set in the heart of the zoo, this beautifully-restored, Grade-II listed building is rich with history and stories to tell. Where better to enjoy the magic of the festive season?

With over 170 tipples available at our well-stocked bar, a selection of fine wines and of course a rich and varied menu featuring vegetarian/vegan and gluten-free options, there's no place better to be this Christmas time! Book now, and enjoy 10% off with your membership.

BOOK NOW

CHESTER ZOO



Junior Programme

Discover and explore

2023 DATES

CHRISTMAS CAMPS

BOOK YOUR PLACE >

Places are limited and often get snapped up fast, so make sure you book soon to avoid disappointment!

2023 PROGRAMME

We've got a jam-packed programme of events for 2023. With activities for ages 0 – 17, there is something for every future conservationist.

CONSERVATION TOTS under 5's

MINI RANGERS school years 1-3

JUNIOR RANGERS school years 4-6

JUNIOR CONSERVATIONISTS school years 1-9

YOUNG CONSERVATIONISTS school years 10-12



Conservation Tots Mornings – under 5's

Join us on Wednesday mornings for our toddler sessions. Designed using parent consultation and the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. We will of course, be using the zoo and its animals to inspire our sessions, so be prepared to roar like a lion, stretch like a giraffe, snuffle like a hedgehog and splash like a fish. We have two timeslots available depending on your baby's age:

FIND OUT MORE >



Mini Rangers – school years 1-3

Do you know a trainee conservationist in primary school years 1-3?
Join in with our Mini Rangers as we explore and learn at the zoo!

Mini Ranger Explorer Camps

Is your Mini Ranger looking for a fun morning exploring conservation during the school holidays? Join us for our themed Mini Ranger Explorer Camps! Each one-off session lasts 2 hours and is packed full of fun, games and adventure:

Mini Ranger Science Camp 10.30am-12:30pm
Choose from 21, 22 OR 23 February

Mini Ranger Easter Camp 10.30am-12.30pm
Choose from 4, 5, 6, 11, 12 OR 13 April

Hold the date for our Mini Ranger Christmas Camps 16, 17, 18 or 19 December – on sale in September 2023

BOOKING OPENING SOON

Mini Ranger Holiday Clubs

Our 3-day holiday activity club is perfect for young animal lovers and conservationists of the future. All of this learning happens through a range of fun activities both in and out of our learning spaces, including zoo trails, conservation actions, practical skills, games, arts and crafts, and much, much more!

Club 1 30 May – 1 June
Club 2 25 – 27 July
Club 3 8 – 10 August
Club 4 22 – 24 August

BOOKING OPENING SOON

Junior Rangers – school years 4-6

Our Junior Ranger activities are perfect for children who are currently in primary school years 4-6.

Junior Ranger Science Camp

Join us for a junior adventure into seasonal topics. Each one-off session lasts 2 hours and is packed full of fun, games and activities:

Junior Ranger Science Camp 1.45pm-3.45pm
Choose from 21, 22 OR 23 February

Junior Ranger Science Camp 1.45pm-3.45pm
Choose from 4, 5, 6, 11, 12 OR 13 April

Hold the date for our Junior Ranger Christmas Camp 16, 17, 18 or 19 December – on sale in September 2023



BOOKING OPENING SOON

Junior Ranger Camp

MEMBER EXCLUSIVE

Do you love wildlife? Are you a member of the zoo? If so, Junior Rangers will be perfect for you!

Junior Ranger Camps run every Sunday for FIVE weeks. Each week we explore different parts of the zoo and learn about our amazing animals and incredible conservation work.

Camp 1 15 January – 12 February
Camp 2 5 March – 2 April
Camp 3 23 April – 21 May

BOOK NOW >

Junior Ranger Holiday Club

Our 3-day holiday activity club is perfect for young animal lovers and conservationists of the future. All of this learning happens through a range of fun activities both in and out of our learning spaces, including zoo trails, conservation actions, practical skills, games, arts and crafts, and much, much more!

The holiday club runs from 9.00 am - 4 pm.

Club 1 30 May – 1 June
Club 2 25 – 27 July
Club 3 8 – 10 August
Club 4 22 – 24 August

BOOKING OPENING SOON



Junior Conservationists – school years 7-9

Is your trainee conservationist in secondary school years 7-9? Join us for our Junior Conservationist activities to learn how we prevent extinction!

Junior Conservationists Skills Courses

Our skills courses are the perfect opportunity to gain practical insight into different methods, tools and skills used in the field and in the zoo. From collecting data on animal behaviour to conducting an ecological survey on our nature reserve.

Animal Behaviour

Animal behaviour is incredibly important for everything we do at the zoo to make sure our animals are happy and healthy. Our science team and keepers work closely together to make sure our animals have everything they need. Join us over three days for an introduction to animal behaviour. Learn which behaviours to look out for and have a go at observing animal behaviour yourself.

Date: Every Saturday for three weeks:
21 January – 4 February 10:30am-12:30pm

Conservation Technology

Technology can play a huge role in conservation!

Join us over three days for an exciting introduction into conservation technology and how we use it at the zoo. Our experts will be on hand to demonstrate some of the amazing tools used across the globe in our field programme sites and you can have a go at using conservation technology to monitor the wildlife that visits the zoo.

Date: Every Saturday for three weeks:
11 March – 25 March 10:30am-12:30pm

Junior Conservationists Holiday Course

Join us this summer for a holiday event with a difference. During our three day Junior Conservationists Holiday Course, we'll be mixing games and activities with deeper exploration of conservation topics. Perfect for Junior Conservationists with an interest in learning more about how we prevent extinction around the world.

Save the date!

Our Junior Conservationists Course will be running 1-3 August OR 15-17 August

BOOKING OPENING SOON

Young Conservationists – school years 10-12

Our Young Conservationists activities for secondary school years 10-12 are great for future conservationists that are interested in learning more about the work of the zoo and exploring conservation careers.

Animal Behaviour

Our introductory courses are the perfect opportunity to explore different conservation methods, tools and skills used in the field and in the zoo. These are one-off courses lasting 2 hours, designed as a taster for future conservationists to try their hand at different skills.

Introduction to herpetology
Date: Saturday 4 March

Introduction to mammal identification
Date: Saturday 22 April

Introduction to bird watching
Date: Saturday 10 June

Introduction to butterfly and moth identification
Date: Saturday 8 July

BOOKING OPENING SOON

Zoo Keeper Career Day

Our popular Zoo Keeper Career Day is returning in 2023! This event is a unique opportunity for young people aged 14-17 to get hands on at the zoo, build skills and hear fascinating talks and insights from our zoo experts. Keep an eye on our website, dates for 2023 will be announced soon.

Careers in Conservation

Monday 6 - 11 March 2023

Keep an eye on our website for details on our upcoming Careers in Conservation Event. Details will be announced soon.







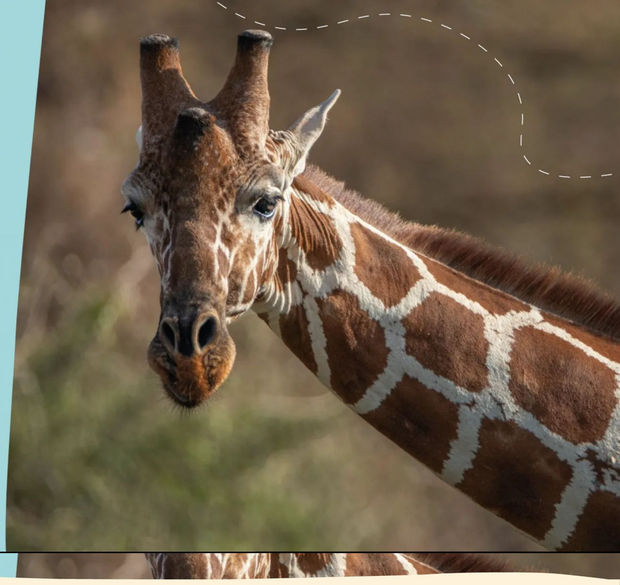
This February half term kicks off our WILD Science Season, where you can discover mind-blowing science at Chester Zoo.

Join us from the 18 – 26 February and you can become a scientist for a day in our Wild Science Safari! Uncover the SECRETS of the science happening behind the scenes at the zoo in activities and interactive events. AND conduct your own research and experiments at each immersive safari stop around the zoo.

Members go free with zoo entry

More details coming soon

MEMBERS DAYS & TALKS!



During 2023 our popular Members Days will have an added twist, with each one having its own theme. Coinciding with wildlife awareness days, there will be some extra surprises waiting for you and your guests! The next two upcoming Members Days are:

Butterflies theme



FRIDAY 10 MARCH 2023



Giraffes theme



SUNDAY 25 JUNE 2023



We'll be sending you all an email a couple of weeks before each date with details on how to book your tickets.

Members Talks
2023 & BEYOND

We've got some exciting updates to Members Talks for 2023.

We're exploring new ways to bring exclusive content to you, our valued members. Rather than a full programme of in-person Members Talks, some of our content will be going digital, enabling more of our members to access behind the scenes stories and captivating footage. We can't wait to show you what we've got in store.

To support access to Our Zoo and other exclusive digital content, we will be installing access points in our cafés on site. Here you will be able to sit with a cuppa while browsing online content on our table-top tablets.

We know that in-person Members Talks are a fantastic opportunity for members to meet our staff, get together and enjoy a catch-up. Monthly Members Talks will be replaced with an exciting programme of 3-4 in-person events that will take place throughout 2023. Details of these will be shared very soon, so watch this space!







Book the wedding of your *wildest* dreams

FIND OUT MORE

Venues for Nature

CHESTER ZOO

WEDDINGS & SPECIAL OCCASIONS
CONFERENCES & EVENTS



THANKS TO YOU

It’s thanks to your support, we’re able to work ALL over the world to protect endangered wildlife and we’re delighted to share more of the great work we do through Our Zoo. We’re always looking for ways to improve how we deliver you exciting behind the scenes content and stories. If there is anything you would like to see featured in Our Zoo or for general membership and adoption enquiries we’d love to hear from you.

GET IN TOUCH



The work we have been doing with the fossa here at the zoo during breeding season is going to be a key part of our project to inform future population monitoring techniques of fossa in Madagascar, helping us gain more accurate population estimates to support our conservation work.

Technology has now advanced so that small acoustic recording devices are able to cover a large survey area in the wild. This brings its own challenges as there can be a lot of data to work through. Once there is an initial set of data, we are seeing some amazing technological advances in machine learning which is now making it possible to automatically detect specific sounds from many hours of recordings.

Matching mating calls and call rates to the fossa's reproductive hormones and behaviour will also help us improve the breeding management of the fossa ex-situ.


Pachypodium lamerei
(Madagascar palm)
Matucana cacti