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CHESTER ZOO

magazine

SPRING 2021



Founder of the zoo George Mottershead



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MAGAZINE FEATURES



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For all of the zoo's latest news,
go to chesterzoo.org/news



It's been a tough start to the year with the third national lockdown forcing us to close our gates once again. But whilst we've been closed, teams across the zoo have been working hard behind the scenes to ensure we're ready to welcome you all back safely to the zoo this spring. After a tough year, it's more important than ever for us to remain **POSITIVE** and **FOCUS** on planning for the future of our wonderful charity zoo.

Our mission to prevent extinction has never been so important. I'm really proud to say that not only have our teams of zookeepers, vets and scientists continued to provide the animals at the zoo with the world class care they receive all year round, but we've stuck by our partners in the field who are working on conservation projects all around the world. The support we've been able to continue to provide may have been reduced, but it has been vital. If the pandemic has shown us anything, it's that a healthy natural world is precious and we must protect it.

With this in mind, the launch of our new Conservation Masterplan is a great step towards a brighter future. This 10-year plan details how we aim to secure a future rich in wildlife and sets out some ambitious targets around reversing the decline of highly threatened populations, protecting wildlife habitats, empowering people to live more sustainably and supporting conservation training programmes.

As we approach our 90th birthday a little later this year, we have a valuable opportunity to look back at just how far we've come. From a small, family run zoo, to one of the biggest charity zoos in the world that's home to almost 20,000 animals and 500 species - it's incredible to sit back and think about our journey. Of course, we wouldn't be here without you, so we'd love for you to celebrate this momentous milestone with us. We know that many of you hold special memories of the zoo, so please head to the Me, You & the Zoo pages on our website to share your own personal photos and stories with us.

With spring very much here, the occasional sunny days have seen some inquisitive animals enjoy the lighter days. We've had some exciting and important animal births, like okapi and Rothschild's giraffe calves, which are both highly threatened in the wild. A trio of babirusa piglets have also been born, which are vulnerable to extinction too. It's heart-warming to see that, even though many of us all over the world have had our lives turned upside-down, life for the animals in our care carries on as usual.



Although you may not have been able to visit us for a while, I hope you've managed to catch some of our Live Virtual Zoo Days to experience the zoo from the comfort of your own home. Hosted on Facebook and YouTube, these free videos shine a spotlight on many incredible species and have provided a great way for those home schooling to learn all about conservation,

animal biology and science. We've had a never-ending amount of grateful messages, and we're so glad to have been able to help raise some smiles during another difficult lockdown.



As we welcome you back, you'll spot some exciting changes that have taken place during lockdown, like our new Latin American Wetland Aviary, an extraordinary, immersive, walkthrough experience where you can witness some of Latin America's most precious and colourful birds. Looking ahead to the summer, our upcoming 'Love It For Longer' sustainability spectacular, an exhibition that will highlight how we can all think very differently about rubbish and live more sustainable lives going forward, will then take centre stage.

On a personal note, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to Dr Mark Pilgrim, who has recently departed the zoo and his position as CEO. Mark began working at the zoo in 1988 and has been a critical part of the zoo's development in the years since, helping to shape it into the world-leading conservation charity it is today. I worked alongside Mark for almost eight years and I am determined, as your new CEO, to maintain his passion and dedication to both the zoo and our mission to prevent extinction.

Jamie Christon, CEO

SIGHT-SAVING SURGERY FOR A HUMBOLDT PENGUIN, MUNCH



A Chester Zoo **FIRST!**

When four-year-old Humboldt penguin, Munch, began tripping over himself and struggling during feeding times in the pool with the rest of the colony, a team of expert bird keepers and vets stepped in to investigate. What they discovered was a deterioration in his eyesight that was so severe that only specialist treatment could save his vision. This is the story of the first penguin at Chester Zoo to ever undergo sight-saving surgery.

It all began when keepers spotted that Munch was having trouble navigating around Penguin Island and that his eyes started to look misty.

Parrots and Penguin Keeper, Sophie Bissaker, said:

"We first noticed that Munch had a problem when he started to struggle to find his way around the nesting areas on Penguin Island. He had also started swimming more slowly than normal and struggled to dive for fish at feeding times – and if a penguin can't catch a fish then you know something is amiss. He did though, develop a clever little habit of pulling at my trouser leg to let me know that he hadn't been able to get any fish, and this gave us an opportunity for closer inspection.

"Typically, Munch would confidently make his way around his home and so as soon as we noticed a change in him we immediately called in our vet team. Penguins can live up to the age of 30 and so it's unusual for a bird so young to develop a loss of sight but that's where we suspected the problem might lie."

The vets discovered that Munch had sadly developed cataracts, a disorder that creates cloudy patches on the eye lens, which develop overtime causing blurry vision, and eventually blindness. He had little sight available to him in his left eye and no vision at all in his right.

Humboldt penguins are vulnerable to extinction in the wild and their numbers have declined in recent years, so the team wanted to do everything they could to try and save Munch's eyesight. It was clear that he would need to see a specialist. Enter Eye Vet – specialists in animal optical care – who were contacted to see if anything could be done to help Munch to recover his sight.



Veterinary ophthalmologist, Iona Mathieson, knew that surgery was the only option for Munch:

"I've been in the veterinary field for almost 24 years and Munch was the very first penguin I operated on – they're not regular clients that's for sure! Unfortunately, because his quality of life was impacted by the diminished sight, surgery was the only option we had available to us. I had researched penguin cataract surgery and the success rates were good, so we were confident that we could give Munch back his sight.



"We had seen the news about how the coronavirus pandemic had massively impacted the zoo, and this sort of surgery can certainly be costly. Eye Vet was happy to donate their equipment, and I asked some of the staff if they'd be happy to donate their time. We then approached several companies that manufacture specific items that we'd need for the surgery to see if they'd kindly donate to us, and amazingly, they all agreed! We're really happy to report that the surgery was successful and we are hopeful that Munch will make a full recovery.

"Like many of the staff at the zoo, our team have worked through the lockdowns, so we're all feeling mentally and physically exhausted, but taking care of Munch was just the morale boost that we all needed. It's an amazing feeling knowing that we've helped to save him, he's the first thing that made me smile in a long time and caring for him was definitely the best part of my year. We can't wait to visit Munch and the penguins when the zoo reopens in the future."

Following his procedure, Munch was initially kept away from the main penguin pool and instead spent time recovering in the zoo's much shallower nursery pool. He was joined by his life partner, Wurly, who was by his side to keep him company while our keepers monitored his recovery and progress.

Sophie added:

"We needed to keep Munch away from the rest of the group for a couple of weeks before and after his surgery. But, as penguins live in colonies and like to be with other birds, Wurly went with him and they had their own little habitat together. I think it was a huge comfort for Munch to know that he wasn't going through it alone and had his partner by his side. Munch really dotes on Wurly. Wherever she goes, he follows, so I'm sure it provided some much needed comfort. The pair are inseparable and even had their first chick, Leek, in 2019 - they're a real tight family unit.

"When any animal has a health issue, it's always emotional. And because of COVID-19 restrictions, the number of people at the surgery was, understandably, kept to a minimum, so it was hard to watch an animal that I care for every day go in for his surgery without being able to be in the operating room with him. I'm so happy that he's made a speedy recovery and to see him back in the main pool with the rest of the colony, just a couple of weeks after his surgery, is just brilliant.

"If we hadn't of intervened, his sight would have deteriorated and he wouldn't have any quality of life - he simply wouldn't have been able to carry on like that. This operation has not only saved his sight, but his life too.

"We're still giving Munch his daily eye drops to help him heal, but he's already swimming through the water faster, feeding with the group and waddling around his home with ease. He's a confident, happy little guy and a real fighter - which considering all he's been through, is pretty amazing. We are incredibly lucky to have our onsite vet team who dedicate their time and expertise solely to the animals in our care. That, alongside the incredible generosity from the team at Eye Vet, is the reason Munch's recovery has been so successful."





ENDANGERED

OKAPI BORN AT THE ZOO

A beautiful female okapi calf, born to mum K'tusha (7) and dad Stomp (17), has arrived safely following a 14-month-long pregnancy.

Our keepers have named the adorable youngster 'Nia Nia' in homage to a small village in the centre of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve, a place where the zoo's field partners are based, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) – the only country in the world where okapis are found in the wild.

The okapi's zebra-like stripes on its back legs allow offspring to easily follow their mothers into the dense forests in the DRC, keeping them well hidden from predators. Its elusive nature, paired with its impressive sense of hearing and unique camouflage, led to the species being nicknamed the 'African unicorn' as the animal went undiscovered until as recently as 1901.

Sarah Roffe, Team Manager said:

"The birth of an okapi calf is cause for great celebration – they are incredibly rare and incredibly special. Mum

K'Tusha is so far doing a wonderful job of caring for her newborn. Watching her gently encourage her new baby to its feet in those precious moments shortly after her birth was a real privilege to see.

"Okapis are incredibly secretive animals and, for a little while following her birth, Nia Nia had not wanted to venture too far and had instead remained snuggled up in her cosy nest area, with mum returning to her every few hours to allow her to feed. But now she's gaining in confidence every single day; she's bouncing with energy and eager to explore. She's a joy to watch – she's all ears and long, spindly legs!"

The okapi is the only known living relative of the giraffe and is the national symbol of the DRC, with the species protected under Congolese law. However, despite their protected status, the species has suffered a 50% decline in the past two decades – a result of hunting for its meat and skin, habitat loss and civil unrest in the country.

The species is therefore now listed as endangered on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.

IT'S A GIRL!



Nick Davis, Deputy Curator of Mammals added:

"These gentle creatures have been heavily targeted by poachers in recent years, mainly as a result of the illegal bushmeat trade, which is growing across nearly all of its natural range – making conservation efforts to protect these animals really difficult.

"With only 76 okapis in zoos across Europe, and with sightings in the wild becoming even less common than before, every birth is therefore vital to the endangered species breeding programme. The safety-net population in progressive zoos is protecting future conservation options for the okapi, so not only is Nia Nia's arrival an important moment for us, it's an important moment for the species."

Our experts, along with our partners at the Uganda Wildlife Authority, have conducted surveys for okapis in Semuliki National Park, Uganda, which borders the DRC and contributed to a 10-year IUCN conservation action plan for the species. We're also a long term supporter of the Okapi Conservation Project that is based at the Okapi Wildlife Reserve in the Ituri Forest DRC.

AT THE LAB

"Our endocrine team has have been monitoring the Okapi since 2007, so we have a huge amount of data on these guys. We study faecal samples, examining the markers of chemicals called hormones that tell us whether a female has a stable reproductive cycle and when oestrus - the releasing of eggs from the ovaries - is about to occur.

"This information allows our keepers to optimise the mixing of males and females and provide a greater chance of a successful breeding. We then confirm if conception has occurred, and continue to monitor the pregnancy as the calf develops, ultimately giving our keepers a due date to expect the new arrival. All of this data contributes to the long term study of okapi here at Chester, growing our understanding of how to conserve this shy and endangered species." - John O Hanlon, Laboratory Technician.



Look who's dropped in!

RARE

GIRAFFE BORN



This leggy new arrival - who our keepers have named Albert - was born to mum Orla in early March, landing onto soft straw from a height of around 2m (6.5ft).

Incredible CCTV footage, which can be viewed on our website, captured the special moment the young male calf entered the world, as well as his wobbly first steps and his precious first suckle.

Already standing at 6ft tall and weighing 70kg, our giraffe experts say he will grow to be 18ft and weigh over 1000kg.

Sarah Roffe, Giraffe Team Manager, said:

"Giraffes give birth standing up and so their young receive quite a welcome to the world, dropping around six feet to the ground. Although this seems like a long way, the fall actually breaks the umbilical cord and helps to stimulate the calf's first breath - it's a dramatic entry but it's just how they do it!

"Albert has arrived at the end of a 15-month pregnancy for mum Orla and already he stands at 6ft - he could grow to be up to 18ft tall. Orla, an experienced mother, has slipped back into the role like a natural. She's doing everything right, and it's lovely to see the close bond between the two of them.

"This latest arrival joins a group of eight Rothschild's giraffes at the zoo and it's always an exciting time for the herd when a new calf arrives. Two of the older females, Dagmar and Tula, appear to have taken on the role of protective aunties, helping Orla to watch out for the newborn. The other youngsters in the group love running around together and so, as soon as Albert starts to increase in confidence and venture outside, I'm sure they'll enjoy having a new playmate around."

The Rothschild's giraffe is highly threatened and its population has suffered a 50% decline in recent decades, making it one of the world's most at-risk mammals. Experts estimate that as few as 1,600 remain across Africa with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) citing habitat loss and poaching as two of its biggest threats.

We have a long history of protecting Rothschild's giraffes in the wild, working with the Giraffe Conservation Foundation and the Uganda Wildlife Authority in Uganda. Despite recent challenges created by the coronavirus pandemic, the team has just reported a sixth consecutive yearly increase in giraffe numbers in the areas where we and our partners work.

Mike Jordan, Director of Animals and Plants, added:

"Once wide-ranging across Kenya, Uganda and Sudan, the Rothschild's giraffe has been almost eliminated from these areas and now only survives in a few small, isolated populations. Encouragingly, they are starting to recover with the support of conservation programmes such as those supported by the zoo but they're still threatened with habitat loss and an ongoing poaching crisis, which has seen giraffes hunted for their tails to be used as good-luck charms.

"Working with The Giraffe Conservation Foundation and Uganda Wildlife Authority to monitor, track and protect the giraffe population in Uganda's Kidepo Valley National Park, we're delighted that even with the challenges the pandemic has thrown our way, numbers are slowly increasing. It's positive news and we must push on and do all we can to help prevent the extinction of these gentle giants."

Me, You & the Zoo

Celebrating 90 years of
AMAZING MOMENTS

As we celebrate **90 YEARS** since the zoo first opened its doors in **1931**, we're reflecting on **ALL** of the **INCREDIBLE** stories and **MEMORIES** you've shared with us over the **YEARS**, both **OLD** and **NEW**.

All of the happy memories, the inspiration, the fun times and laughter.

Times spent at the zoo with loved ones, or those moments when you've felt totally connected to wildlife. The time you were a fundraising hero and faced a challenge to help us **SAVE OUR ZOO**, or even your ideas about how we can all help to **PREVENT EXTINCTION**.

We've had the privilege of reading some truly heart-warming stories about what the zoo means to you, our supporters. Here are just a few amazing memories, but let's keep them going!

Share your story and inspire our conservation community at chesterzoo.org/yourstory

Sadie's Story Preventing Extinction In France!



"My name is Sadie, I'm 10 and I live in France.

I love watching *The Secret Life of the Zoo* on English TV - it makes me feel like I have been to Chester Zoo because I know all the animals!

I love zoo animals and when I am older I really want to be a zoologist or a zoo vet. Maybe I will come to work at Chester Zoo.

I was really hoping to visit you last year but then Covid happened, and France locked down, I didn't go to school for ages which sucked!

The best thing in my lockdown was watching your live zoo days, they inspired me to do my own project on extinction and made me think lots about helping to save our planet.

I did lots of worksheets from your website and even made my own t-shirts! I learned loads and now I'm teaching my friends. I want to say a big **THANK YOU** to Chester Zoo for helping me as well as the animals and I really hope that one day soon I get to come and visit for real."

Tim's Story A Lasting Legacy



"Animals were Monica's great passion. Be that looking after our two dogs or her dream to be a zookeeper. She loved the meerkat encounter experience she had at Chester Zoo and had even considered having our wedding there too!

Monica tragically passed away in 2016, aged just 28. Nothing can bring Monica back, but knowing that I could do something in her memory - something she would have loved - means so much."

In 2020, Tim made a gift in Monica's memory. This gift is helping to fund Chester Zoo's pangolin conservation work in Africa.

"For something so positive to come out of something so terrible is incredible. She's still making a difference to the wildlife she loved."

Now remarried, Tim and his wife Jamie have taken out lifetime memberships with the zoo and look forward to supporting Chester Zoo for years to come.

Avril's Story A Chester Zoo Wedding



"We got married at Chester Zoo in June 2014. Our guests often still talk about it being one of the most memorable weddings they have been too. We had the most magical day and adopted the ring-tailed lemurs for all of our guests. The following year we visited for our first anniversary spending time on Lemur Island. We love the work Chester Zoo does for conservation!"

Lauren's Story Members Memories



"Me and my son love the zoo! We've been members for seven years and we visited often, even before we were members. I used the giraffe wall over the years to see how much he has grown!"

We visit for birthdays, Christmas Eve, school holidays and everything in between. We bring along family members, friends and have made countless amazing memories. We've attended workshops, visited the nature reserve and learnt so much about all of your conservation efforts! Chester Zoo will always have a huge place in our hearts and I hope he has the best memories to look back on when he's older. Thank you for everything you do, and thank you to all of your amazing staff."

Beth's Story Zoo Inspired Art



"I am a Youth Board Member and Volunteer for the zoo."

Chester Zoo means everything to me. I have always been proud to live locally, call the zoo my "own" and, even when I was just a visitor, tell people all about their incredible conservation work and outstanding animal husbandry. I think it's the best zoo in the UK by far, and have many fond memories of it new and old.

Since I was young I wanted to work here as a Reptile Keeper and look after all the snakes. Whilst life took a different turn, volunteering and the Youth Board, as well as the menagerie of snakes and fish I look after at home, mean I get to follow my childhood dream of working at the zoo! The Youth Board has given me the opportunity to learn a great deal more about the inner workings of Chester Zoo, create connections and make a difference.

Among many other projects we are working on behind the scenes as a Youth Board member, during the start of our term early last year, we helped to raise over £1,900 during the Save Our Zoo campaign with a "Chester Zoo Youth Board Fundraiser" in which many of us took on a series of challenges. My contribution was a 30 day art fundraiser- 30 completed pieces of digital art in 30 days. These designs have in the months since helped me to raise over £400, (separately from the fundraiser) with my artwork and other zoo related art I had already done on stickers, posters, mugs, colouring sheets, t-shirt's and more - you can see design number one "Iblis" as a poster on my pic!

In short, Chester Zoo is very special to me, and I hope to continue working with the Zoo for many years to come!"

Steve's Story Chester Supertrees



"I completed the wildlife champions course at the zoo, where we learned fun ways of engaging people with local wildlife, and actions we can take to protect them. Since then, with the support of the zoo, the Forest City Projects C.I.C have created a unique space for wildlife. By installing 'Supertrees' in the centre of Chester, we aim to provide a home for a huge range of birds, insects and invertebrates."

There are so many well meaning community groups like ours, who don't have the size of the organisation like Chester Zoo to support our mission, and help give our actions validation. Just simply saying 'the zoo supports our cause' carries so much weight and influence, that it really helps facilitate almost any project the zoo puts its name behind. We love working with the zoo, to help protect wildlife. Myself and my family are also members!"

Charlie's Story Cycling To Save The Zoo!



"My seven-year-old daughter, Charlie, cycled 20 laps of our local common (4.4km every day) for 45 days, which is until the end of the state school summer term. She was very upset on hearing the news that the zoo might have to close so she wanted to do something to help them. She has really enjoyed watching the TV series based at your zoo, but because we live in Kent, we haven't yet been able to visit. She has raised an incredible £2,000!"

- Sarah (Charlie's proud mum).

PREVENTING EXTINCTION IN A CHANGING WORLD:

A Conservation Masterplan for Chester Zoo

Our world is undergoing rapid and catastrophic environmental change brought about by our unsustainable exploitation of the planet's resources. In 2010 the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) set out a target of extinctions prevented and conservation status of threatened species improved by 2020 (known as 'Aichi target 12'). In 2019, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) reviewed progress by collating 15 years of extensive research and revealed that over 1 million species are in immediate danger of extinction, concluding that Aichi target 12 is very far from having been met. Their report calls for **transformative change** in our present patterns of behaviour to end biodiversity loss.

As we enter the decade of the 2020s our relationship with the natural world has been brought into even sharper focus by our experience with the coronavirus pandemic and we are perhaps in the 'last chance saloon' for making this transformative change.

Zoos like ours are **conservation powerhouses**. Our unique combination of living collections, millions of visitors, scientific support and wide ranging skills can be harnessed to make a substantial contribution to the transformative change required. We at Chester Zoo are already at the forefront of tackling biodiversity loss and leading behaviour change amongst our visitors and supporters. Our work is evidence-based, grounded in the interlinking of science and practice.

However, transformative change requires new and more integrated approaches to tackling the biodiversity crisis. We must bring together our skill sets and combine them with those of a wide range of partners to tackle both the biological and anthropological causes of extinction in order to ensure that our planet remains diverse and vibrant.

This Conservation Masterplan for Chester Zoo aims to build on our success and sets out a road map for the delivery of our mission of **preventing extinction through close integration of our many different types of conservation work**. At its heart are a set of bold targets that clearly set out the significant contribution we plan to make to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the successor to the CBD, the post-2020 biodiversity framework.

This forward looking plan covers an initial period of 10 years from 2021 – 2030, and seeks to implement significant parts of the Society's Strategic Plan. It sits alongside the visionary 'Strategic Development Plan' for the physical zoo site over the same time period.

Read our CONSERVATION MASTERPLAN
at chesterzoo.org/ourmasterplan

PREVENTING EXTINCTION IN A CHANGING WORLD USING OUR INTEGRATED APPROACH TO CONSERVATION, BY 2030 WE WILL HAVE:

PRESERVED options for future
conservation for an additional

150 

species through conservation
breeding and propagation

EMPOWERED 
10million

people to live
more sustainably

IMPROVED 
landscapes for
wildlife totalling
250,000 ha

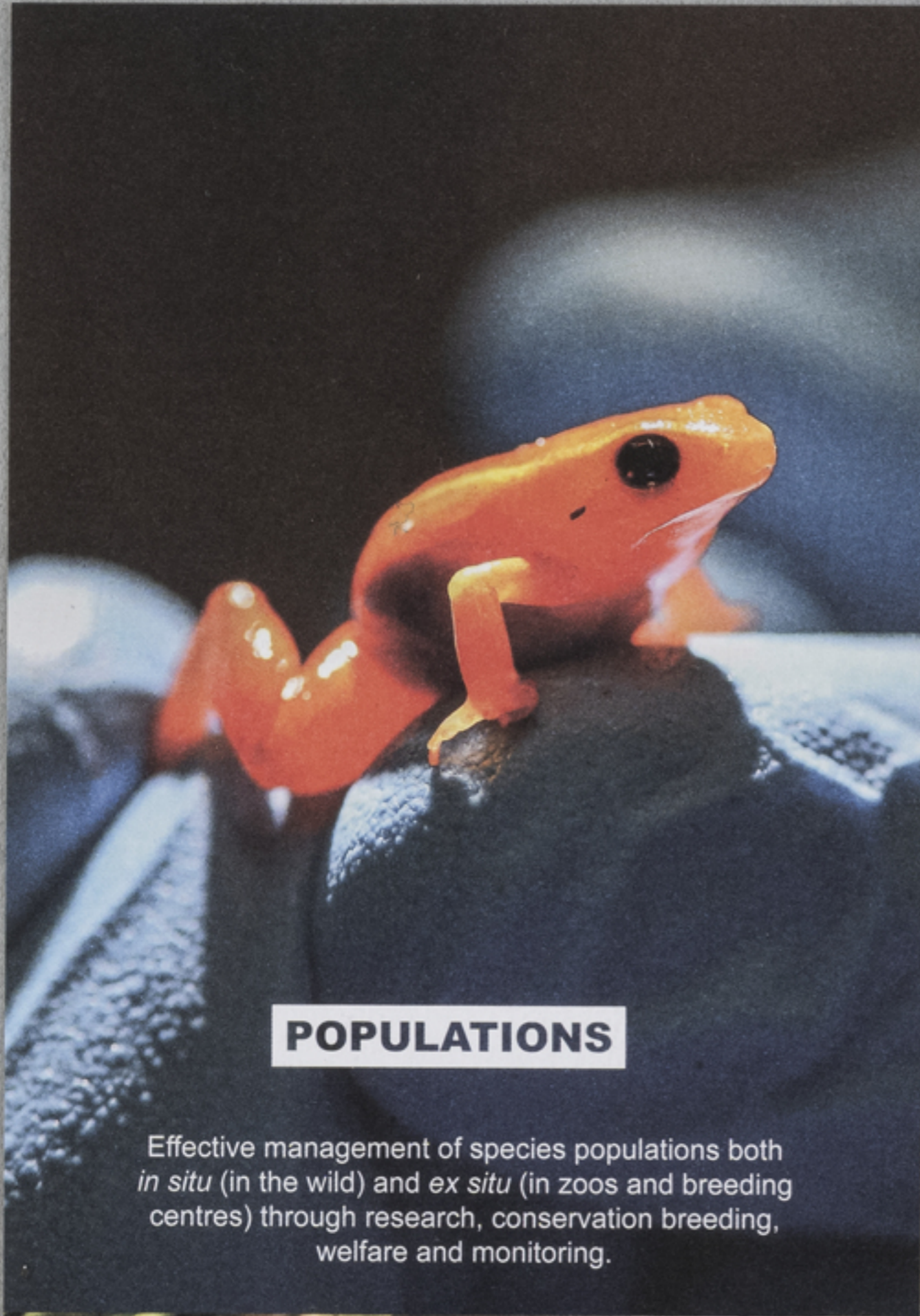
REVERSED
declines of

200 

threatened populations
of species in the wild

TRAINED 
5000
conservationists

INFLUENCED
5 
major policy areas
for wildlife



POPULATIONS

Effective management of species populations both *in situ* (in the wild) and *ex situ* (in zoos and breeding centres) through research, conservation breeding, welfare and monitoring.



PLACES

Providing safe and healthy habitats for wildlife through effective protection, restoration and management.



PEOPLE

Working with people everywhere and in all areas of society to enable them to co-exist and thrive with wildlife and develop nature-friendly, sustainable lifestyles and livelihoods.



POLICY

Influence businesses, statutory agencies and governments to incorporate effective planning and legislation to protect and enhance biodiversity, and in doing so contribute to vibrant economies.

OUR Approach - Integrated Conservation

Preventing extinction is complex and requires multi-faceted and collaborative approaches to resolve inter-related threats.

Our work with the animals and plants under our care, underpinned by sound science, and our deep understanding of people, provides a winning combination of skill sets. Added to this, the development of field-based research, often associated with the species with which we work in the zoo, provides an important link to addressing threats in the field.

The 'One Plan' approach has been developed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Conservation Planning Specialist Group to promote integrated species conservation planning that considers all populations of a species to be valuable, both inside and outside its natural range and under all conditions of management, with the ultimate goal of viable populations of species thriving in healthy ecosystems. This approach to conservation is strongly advocated by the IUCN, WAZA and regional zoo associations such as the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA)

and was the subject of a motion approved by the IUCN World Conservation Congress led by EAZA and co-sponsored by Chester Zoo.

'One Plan' thinking provides the basis of our integrated approach in managing *in situ* and *ex situ* populations together. In addition to managing the populations themselves we take on critical areas of influence for the species - managing landscapes and influencing the actions of people, business and governments.

Our inter-disciplinary teams and extensive network of partners and supporters take a holistic approach to preventing extinction by tackling the '4 Ps': **Populations, Places for wildlife, People and Policy**

Working together we will solve complex problems by integrating these major components in our conservation delivery.



CASE STUDIES

Eastern Black Rhinoceros

Our scientists and animal care team led a 5 year research project, which culminated in the establishment of a conservation physiology toolkit and the birth of 10 rhino calves within 10 years.



Our work in zoos resulted in the founding of a lab in Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Kenya to develop a similar approach for wild populations, work that continues to develop with the support of partners.

We are committed to finding safe places for rhinos through community led initiatives and the use of scientific research to establish how best to reintroduce animals successfully to the wild.

Asian Songbirds

Overexploitation for the wildlife trade is one of the main drivers for species loss, including a demand for cage birds in Indonesia that has led to the Asian songbird crisis; a very real, and imminent, extinction threat to numerous species. Working in close partnership with a variety of organisations, we are already addressing the impact of the songbird trade and finding solutions.

Activities include on-going commitments to specialist conservation breeding facilities that manage assurance populations of some of Indonesia's most threatened species. These include the critically endangered Javan green magpie (*Cissa thalassina*) whose population we have rescued through conservation breeding at Chester and with our *in situ* partners at the Cikananga Wildlife Centre in West Java.

Following the first breeding at Cikananga in 2012, in 2015 six pairs of Javan green magpies were imported from Indonesia to Chester Zoo, to establish an assurance population. Skilled husbandry informed by behavioural research has resulted in a number of successful breeding attempts, increasing the zoo population to over 90 at seven institutions.

Over the coming years we will develop a comprehensive programme of work designed to reverse threats and secure populations of a number of Asian songbird species.





Giant Pangolin

The giant pangolin (*Manis gigantea*) is the largest of the pangolins, endangered by the illegal trade in scales and meat and by habitat loss. It is also one of the least known of all Africa's mammals.

We have used conservation technology such as camera traps and GPS based biotags to develop giant pangolin specific survey and monitoring methods at our study sites in Uganda, Nigeria and Gabon, and these have recorded numerous new behaviours.

This groundbreaking project has used these data to identify key habitat requirements and priority populations.

Together these are contributing to the development of long-term monitoring programs and regional conservation action plans that we will use to protect this remarkable species from extinction.



Mexican Freshwater Fish

The Mexico Fish Ark project is a collaboration between Chester Zoo and Universidad Michocana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo in Morelia, central Mexico. It aims to prevent the extinction of about 40 species of fish that are endemic to Mexico and under severe threat from deforestation, overfishing and invasive species.

The project runs a large 'Aqualab' together with outdoor ponds, providing a naturalistic environment to better prepare species for release in order to bolster dwindling populations in the wild.

As part of this project we have already successfully reversed the extinction in the wild of the Tequila splitfin (*Zoogeneticus tequila*) through reintroduction from zoo populations to suitable sites within its historic range in the Teuchitlán River basin of Jalisco, Mexico.

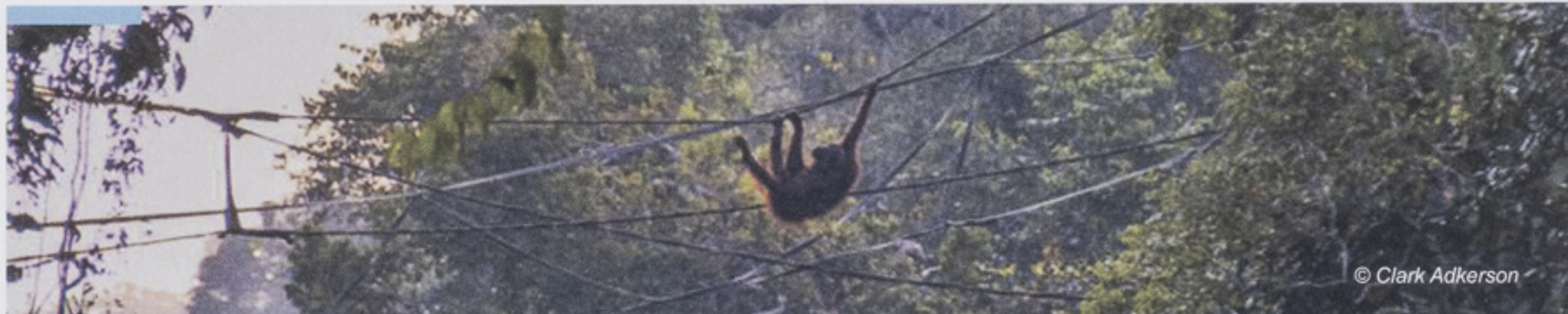
The Tequila splitfin has become a flagship species for the engagement and education of local communities in the protection of the wider Teuchitlán River system.

We will now use this model to inform the development of new conservation programs for other endemic Mexican freshwater fish species and threatened endemic salamanders.



South East Asian Islands: Orang-utan forests

In the Malaysian state of Sabah, the Kinabatangan floodplain is home to almost 1000 Bornean orang-utans (*Pongo pygmaeus*) and many other threatened endemic mammals and birds. The area is under intense pressure due to the habitat fragmentation caused by deforestation for agriculture, including oil palm.



Working alongside conservation organisation HUTAN our approach has combined scientific research with education and protection and management of wildlife habitat. Local communities are the implementers of project activities, with the ultimate aim of providing sustainable solutions for the long term survival of orang-utans and other species.

A scientific, evidence-based rationale for our sustainable palm oil work, working with HUTAN and other NGOs, has helped us to establish a movement for the sustainable industry and sustainable practices on the ground in Sabah.

We have helped connect fragmented habitat through the erection of orang-utan bridges and work to regenerate rainforest at a number of sites along the Kinabatangan River. Through our partners working with plantation owners, local communities and the Sabah Wildlife Department in the Kinabatangan forests we have been able to help establish critical forest corridors.

The next phase of the landscape work will restore more forest corridors over a wider landscape and provide future monitoring for management of wildlife in forest-agricultural mosaic landscapes across Borneo and further afield.

Madagascan Forests: Mangabe

Through staff exchanges, expeditions and capacity building we are building an inventory of the biodiversity of this important but previously neglected forest area, home to rare lemurs such as indri and aye aye and a host of endemic birds and reptiles.



Our conservation activity includes golden mantella frog monitoring through new techniques which have been developed in the zoo and are now implemented in the wild as standard monitoring technique for the species, informing pond management strategies.

We are also working with local communities to establish a community-led, sustainable management plan for Mangabe, enabling them to patrol the protected area and prevent illegal gold mining and logging.

We will step up our support for community initiatives and help communities to secure legal management rights, as well as participating in the collection of data on the distribution and status of various threatened species populations. We will extend this model of community development to other wildlife-rich areas in Madagascar as opportunities allow.

Mainland Asia (Foothills & Floodplains): The Assam Haathi Project

We work in partnership with the Wildlife Trust of India in Manas Tiger Reserve (MTR) and Manas National Park (MNP) in north-western Assam in India. The diverse landscape includes semi evergreen forests and is significant for the conservation of a variety of threatened species including the population of perhaps over a thousand wild Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*).



During the last two decades, an increasing human population in and around MTR has resulted in natural wild habitats being converted into human settlements and farmland. This has resulted in conflict between elephants and local people.

Our 'Assam Haathi Project' has focused on researching and implementing interventions to mitigate this conflict and restore habitat within and around MNP and in other parts of Assam.

The Project will now apply our learning to scale up these interventions in order to mitigate human-elephant conflict across the whole Manas landscape.

We will also support the creation of new protected areas to ensure that elephants can move safely between existing national parks and neighbouring community forest areas.

UK Conservation: Chester Zoo Nature Connection Corridor

Our Chester Zoo Nature Reserve was established in 2013 and now covers 5 ha of restored wetland, wildflower meadow and replanted woodland. It has been used as a training ground for the Chester Zoo 'Wildlife Connections Campaign' which has already shown great success in providing skills to local communities in and around Chester, enabling the creation of wildlife habitats in a range of settings across the region.



We will adopt more sustainable practices across the zoo estate, extend the area of land managed directly for biodiversity and connect it with priority wildlife habitats within the surrounding landscapes between the City of Chester and Ellesmere Port, working with local communities to help restore habitats.

The resulting 'Chester Zoo Nature Connection Corridor' will provide a 15 km long wildlife corridor running adjacent to local waterways. We aim to build on this to create and connect habitats such as pond, reed bed, wildflower

meadow, and hedgerow to benefit a wide variety of native species such as the great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) and the hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*).

Our collaboration with a broad network of local partners will continue to contribute to and complement other local conservation initiatives to facilitate a regional biodiversity conservation approach in the north-west of England and north Wales. Our close collaboration with the local biodiversity record centre, rECOrd, will continue to inform land and species management strategies.

Bermuda snails

The greater Bermuda snail (*Poecilonites circumfirmatus*) was considered extinct until a tiny population was recently rediscovered in Bermuda. A rapid response initiative to prevent extinction was mobilised in 2016 by bringing 60 individuals to Chester Zoo for conservation breeding.

Two years later conservation breeding success enabled the first releases to new locations on the island, and continued conservation breeding will provide further snails for other planned release sites.

The project has also developed innovative monitoring, which will continue until the wild populations become stable.

The programme has provided a reference model of rapid response in invertebrate species conservation, with applied research helping to provide evidenced guidelines in regard to husbandry, health screening and best practise in marking and monitoring of post release populations. We will employ this model for other invertebrate populations as part of our work towards target 1 over the next ten years.



Montseny Brook Newt

The Montseny Brook newt (*Calotriton arnoldi*) is a critically endangered amphibian endemic to the Montseny National Park in Catalonia, Spain and *ex situ* management is required to save it from extinction.

Chester Zoo joined the conservation breeding programme in 2017, using biosecure facilities specifically designed from modified shipping containers.

We developed a multidisciplinary approach to address the key issues in the *ex situ* programme, which included low survival rate from eggs in captivity and slow growth towards sexual maturity. We have been able to establish a long-term breeding programme and an EAZA *ex-situ* Programme (EEP) for the species.

Newts bred in our facilities are now used for reintroductions into areas of the Montseny National Park where habitat has been restored which will help to recover the population.

This project is providing a reference model of applied research answering key conservation questions. Experience has been disseminated on best practice husbandry, health screening, individual marking and monitoring of post release populations. We will employ this model for other amphibian projects.





Asian Wild Cattle and Babirusa

Chester Zoo is a core supporter of the Action Indonesia Global Species Management Plans (GSMPs) for lowland anoa (*Bubalus depressicornis*), Banteng (*Bos javanicus*) and Babirusa (*Babirousa spp*), which use the 'One Plan' Approach to combine the skills, resources and expertise of the zoo community and *in situ* conservationists.

Building on our own success with breeding these species, we delivered training to Indonesian zoos and forestry office staff which built the capacity for transfers and breeding to occur, helping to achieve the GSMPs' goals of healthy *ex situ* populations.

Where recommended by genetics, and with adequate monitoring and protection in place, these skills will be used to translocate animals between protected areas in Indonesia to increase gene flow.

We will now support our partner's work in the field to secure protected areas for the release and reestablishment of individuals into the wild from these *ex situ* assurance populations.

These are only a few of the diverse projects we're carrying out around the world to protect threatened species. To find out more about our other case studies, visit chesterzoo.org/what-we-do/our-projects.

VISITING US SAFELY

Welcome back!

We've been working hard behind the scenes to make sure you can visit us safely.

We understand that adhering to these measures may be frustrating at times, we would love nothing more than to get back to normal too. But it is for your safety and ours that we must adhere to these new guidelines, so please bear with us as we adjust, we really appreciate your patience.

Members booking

We are doing our best to keep the need for members to book to a minimum, but as we re-open you will need to pre-book a visit. We're delighted to say that we're now able to release member booking slots for visits between **Monday 12 - Wednesday 21 April**.

We're releasing limited dates for two reasons. Firstly, our main priority is getting back to a position where our members don't need to book. We'll be keeping a really close eye on how many visitors are coming to the zoo and we'll make a careful judgement each week about whether or not we need you to continue to book online, in advance.

Secondly, we found that last year, member slots were being booked up very far in advance but members weren't always able to make the dates that they'd booked. This left empty spaces that could have been given to other members. So, this time, we'll only release tickets each week and ask that you please only book a slot if you are sure you'll be able to visit. It would be a huge help to us, and other members.

Our team has been working hard to ensure that all of our safety measures are in place and the experience of visiting the zoo will be better than ever. As you may have heard, in line with the government's road map for coming out of lockdown, we won't be able to open our indoor spaces straight away. But hopefully we'll be able to make changes from Monday 17 May, and reopen more of the zoo's amazing habitats and eating and drinking areas as we go along.

In the meantime, you can see all of our COVID-19 safety information here and we ask for your ongoing support so that we can keep everyone safe.

We really have missed seeing you and can't wait to welcome you back, slowly and safely. If you can, please bear with us in the first few weeks as we juggle the ongoing restrictions and get

used to being open again. We're so very hopeful that things will be back to normal very soon.

For all the latest re-opening information, please sign up to receive our emails.

Rule of 6

People can meet in groups of up to 6 people, or as a group of 2 households. A group made up of 2 households can include more than 6 people, but only where all members of the group are from the same 2 households (or support/childcare bubbles, where eligible).

Face coverings

The use of face coverings in shops and supermarkets in England is mandatory for the general public, therefore it is mandatory for any of our indoor spaces that you wear a face covering. This is applicable to the following places:

- Main shop
- Safari Supplies
- Sweet Shop
- Toilets
- Covered routes through Islands
- Painted Dogs



If you do not have a face covering with you when you attend the zoo, they are available to purchase from our kiosks, and the main shop.

Our lemur walkthrough

Please note that wearing a face covering in the Madagascar lemur walk-through is now mandatory. This is following the latest advice from our animal experts, in order to protect the health of our lemur families. Anyone without a face covering will not be allowed entry into this area.



Keeping your hands clean

There are lots of hand sanitising stations around the zoo for you to use. Please do utilise them whilst you enjoy your trip to the zoo, to help ensure the safety of our visitors and staff. Any young children using our hand sanitising stations must be assisted by an adult.



Toilets

All of our toilet facilities (apart from those within cafes and restaurants) will be open, with limited capacity to enable social distancing and a face covering is required. Our team will be carefully managing these areas, and so there may be a short wait to use the facilities. All of our washrooms will be cleaned thoroughly and regularly throughout the day for your safety.

Parking

You'll still be able to park free of charge at the zoo, as normal. We'll be asking that visitors please respect social distancing measures when leaving and returning to their vehicles. On arrival you may be asked to wait in your vehicle to help our team manage the number of visitors approaching the zoo entrance at one time.

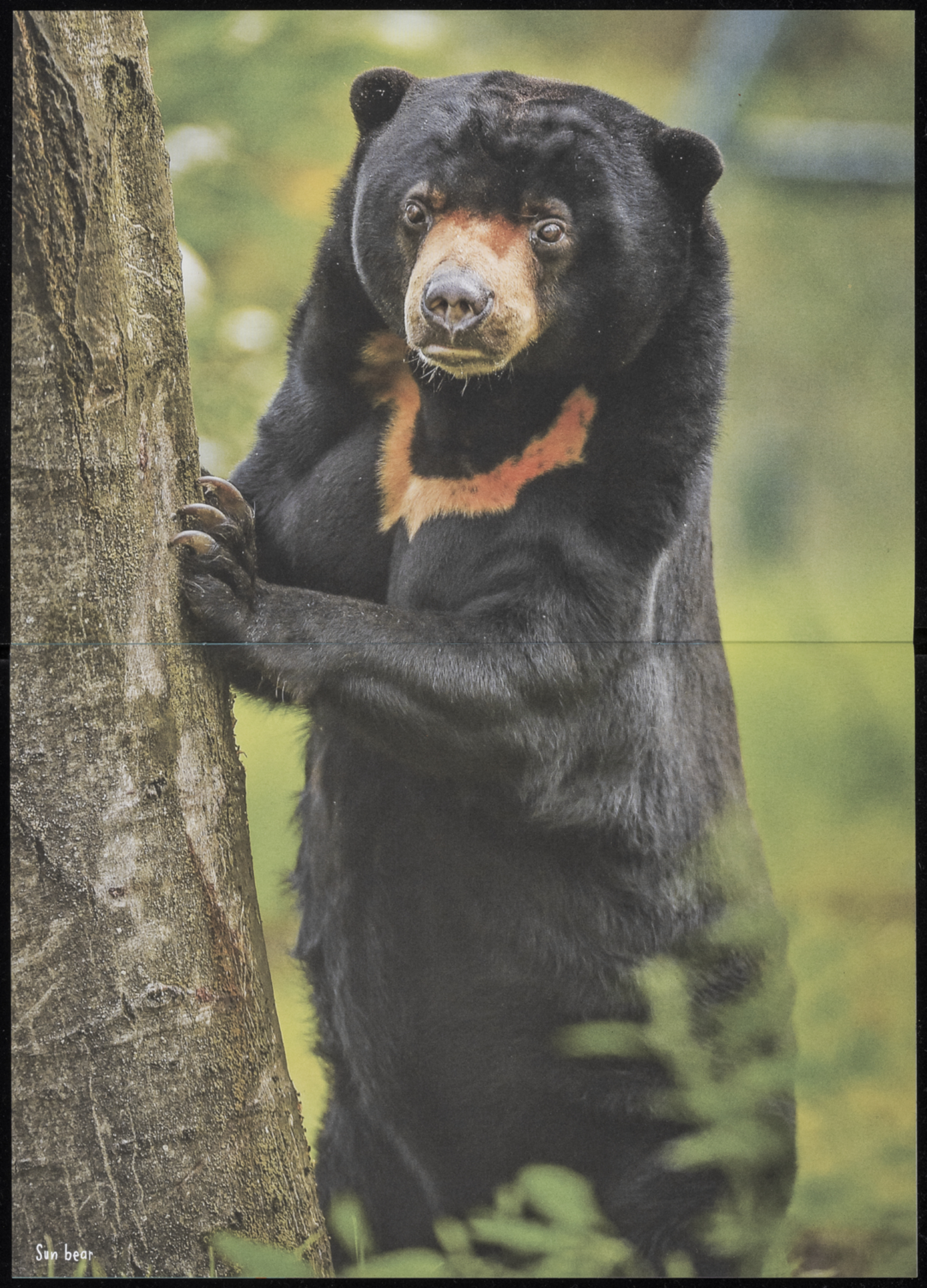
Getting around

Wheelchairs, buggies and mobility scooters can be booked online when you book tickets or by emailing guest.services@chesterzoo.org. Please note these are subject to availability and booking is essential. We currently have a limited number available due to the new safety measures we have in place therefore we recommend booking early. We only have a small team working therefore it may take us a little longer than usual to get back to you. Thanks for bearing with us.

To find out more information, please visit chesterzoo.org/faq-2021



STAY SAFE
CHESTER ZOO



Sun bear

Junior Programme 2021

Discover, explore, share & learn

Places are limited
& often get snapped
up fast, so make sure
you **BOOK SOON!**
chesterzoo.org/events

This summer, we have **LOADS** of exciting activities available to our Junior Members. You can find out more and book your place on our website, at chesterzoo.org/events. Places are limited and often get snapped up fast, so make sure you book soon to avoid disappointment!

Junior Ranger Training Camps 2021

Are you aged 8 - 11?
Do you love wildlife?
Are you a member of the zoo? If so, Junior Rangers is perfect for you!



The Training Camps run every Sunday for FIVE weeks. Each week we explore different parts of the zoo and learn all about the amazing animals and the incredible conservation work that takes place in the zoo, and overseas.

Date: 6 June - 4 July
19 Sep - 17 Oct

HOLIDAY ACTIVITY CLUB

Primary School Years 1-6

Our holiday activity clubs are perfect for animal lovers and conservationists of the future. Discover the amazing animals, habitats and the remarkable conservation work taking place all around the world. Learn interactively, through a range of fun activities both in and out of our learning centre, including zoo trails, conservation action, practical skills, games, arts and crafts, and much, much more!

Week 1 27 - 29 July Year 4 - 6
Week 2 10 - 12 August Year 1 - 3
Week 3 17 - 19 August Year 4 - 6
Week 4 24 - 26 August Year 1 - 3

The holiday club runs from 9.00am - 4.30pm, with free early drop off available from 8.45am.



SKILLS COURSES

Throughout the year, we'll be running a series of exciting courses for young people between the ages of 12-17. Gain practical experience and learn lots of incredible new skills and join the next the generation of conservationists! PLUS, you don't need to be a wildlife expert to take part, anybody can get involved!

Keep your eyes peeled on chesterzoo.org/events for new courses and events.



HORMONES AND GENETICS (12 - 15 YEARS)

Did you know that you can tell if an animal is healthy, happy or even pregnant, just from its poo? Learn all about the incredible science behind hormones and genetics, and the vital role they play in our conservation research. Over the course of three days, you'll be working with our talented science team, whilst they demonstrate the detailed science used right here at the zoo, and in the field. This is the ideal course for budding conservationists who are wanting an introduction into science, conservation and research.

Date: Every Saturday for 3 weeks, between Saturday 8 May - Saturday 22 May.

YOUNG CONSERVATIONISTS SUMMER SCHOOL



Become a Chester Zoo conservationist, this summer!

Our summer school has been developed for those aged 12-17 years who are passionate about conservation, and interested in a career working with animals, research or veterinary fields. Throughout the week, young people will be immersed into the world of Chester Zoo, with sessions and activities led by our experts, across a range of specialist areas. The week will involve a combination of practical activities and theory sessions, both indoors and outdoors, so be prepared for an interactive, jam-packed week!

Date: 2 August - 6 August

The summer school runs from 9.00am - 4.30pm, with free early drop off available from 8.45am.

Junior Ranger Training Camps, Holiday Activity Club and Young Conservationists Summer School are all available to **BOOK** at the **END OF APRIL**.

Fundraising Stories

Breeding efforts in Africa BOOSTED by Chester Race Company

We're the only zoo in the UK with a dedicated wildlife endocrinology department – our team measures hormones and other biomarkers to assess the health, wellbeing and reproduction of wildlife to assist in our goal of preventing extinction.

We're pleased to be situated in close proximity to Chester Race Company, as it means we're on the doorstep of a wealth of knowledge about commercial breeding techniques that we can learn from.

To make sure populations thrive both in zoos and in the wild, animals need the right conditions. Our research focuses on developing tools and approaches to identify what these conditions are, giving us invaluable insight into what's needed to create the right environment for breeding while maintaining our highest standards of welfare.

Working with our field partners, we will be exploring innovative approaches to biomarker discovery in wildlife using faecal samples – these techniques are vital for wild populations due to their non-invasive nature. These markers will help us to answer a range of questions relating to the health and overall wellbeing of a number of endangered species, including the eastern black rhino, Grevys' zebra, eastern bongo and okapi. Tools developed in the lab at the zoo, can then be adapted for use under field conditions, supporting our mission to prevent extinction.



This important project is only possible with the support of Chester Race Company, who have shared their expertise and provided vital funding, enabling us to progress our work and continue our mission to prevent extinction.



CHESTER RACE
COMPANY LTD.



Online Auction



Back in Spring 2020, some of our volunteers and members came up with the fantastic idea of an online zoo-themed arts and craft auction to raise money for the Save Our Zoo campaign. It was a huge success, and they managed to raise over a whopping £4,000!

Fast-forward to November 2020, a time where we were facing yet another COVID-19 lockdown and another period of lost income, some of the original auction team, along with some new faces, decided to re-visit the idea, and held a 'Christmas special' in aid of the Save Our Zoo campaign. Lynda Smith (a zoo volunteer), Josh Allen (staff member), Zoe Bowler and Imogen Bowler (both zoo members) set about organising another online auction. The team told us that they just had to do something to help save the zoo.

As a result of their love and passion, the idea to auction original home-crafted items with all profits going straight to the zoo, was resurrected. Auction items were all inspired by the zoo and a love of animals, with around 30 volunteers, 18 members and 15 staff members involved in the efforts. Zoe said they were 'overwhelmed' by the level of support they'd received, especially during difficult times for everyone.



The auction lots included everything from original watercolours, jewellery, colouring books, specially commissioned pet portraits, Christmas decorations, resin

models and even some stickers to put on envelopes to thank our postal workers for their continued work! Individuals were able to post their lots on the 'Arts and Crafts Auction Christmas Special in support of Chester Zoo' Facebook page, and people pledged an amount in the comments. The lucky individual with the winning bid donated through the 'Just Giving' page to claim their auction goodies. With a huge amount of dedication and hard work from the team, their efforts were well rewarded, with an incredible £5,132.10 raised in just under two months! Wow! That amount was more than

three times the original target of £1,500 - so an amazing achievement by everyone involved.



The figure was boosted by sales of a 2021 calendar, put together by Fran, including some stunning photographs

taken of our animals by other members and volunteers. It proved a very popular Christmas gift, and sold over 200 copies at £15 each, raising just over £2,000! Fran said the response had been phenomenal and that they had even sent calendars to people abroad, including one copy to America for a super fan of Secret Life of the Zoo! She said it had been quite a challenge getting all the calendars out to people on time with all the issues around posting in the run up to Christmas, but that they had managed it.



Buoyed by the success of the last campaign, the group is already looking into setting up another auction and even some raffles. If you'd like to find out more

about their auctions, head over to Facebook and check out their page, 'The Art and Craft Auction Christmas Special, in support of Chester Zoo'.

Never one to let the grass grow beneath her feet, Fran has now also set herself the challenge of a virtual big walk from Land's End to John O'Groats, where she will be posting 'virtual postcards' along the way!

We're hugely grateful to everyone involved in this amazing home grown fundraising project for all their hard work; often carried out alongside full time jobs and the joys of home schooling! We also feel very proud that it has come from our wonderful members and volunteers who already do so much to help us with our mission to prevent extinction.

Thank you!

Julie, Rose and Tanya –
the Chester Zoo Fundraising Team



Would you like to get involved in a **NEW** and **EXCITING** citizen science project all about our **LOCAL** garden wildlife?

We're looking for volunteers to participate in Chester Zoo's Hedgehog Watch!

We're putting a call out to members of our community here in Chester who want to Act for Wildlife by surveying their back garden using motion-activated cameras. This information will help us to learn more about the exact habitat features needed for hedgehogs to thrive.

Armed with this information, we hope to inspire communities to improve their green spaces for hedgehogs and other threatened species.

Together we can all help to protect hedgehogs and other UK wildlife!

Visit [CHESTERZOO.ORG/HEDGEHOGWATCH](https://chesterzoo.org/hedgehogwatch) to find out if you're eligible to take part, and register your interest.

PREVENTING EXTINCTION

from home

If you're feeling *inspired*, or just want to get **ACTIVE**, have *fun* or do something to **HELP** support our zoo, then we've put together some **INSPIRATION** to help beat those lockdown blues, from the comfort of home!

KEY

-  Suitable for indoors
-  Suitable for outdoors
-  Family-friendly activity
-  Virtual activity
-  Grownups only please
-  Suitable for schools & learning bubbles
-  Adult supervision required
-  Physical activity
-  Great for nature lovers



LET'S GET PHYSICAL...

Staying fit and healthy has taken on a new importance, so get your family and friends behind you to shed a few unwanted pounds with the added bonus of helping a charity.

Take on the challenge...

Climbing your stairs, laps of the garden, or jumping on the exercise bike can all be great ways to get fit. But why not make it Chester Zoo-focussed and raise money to prevent extinction? Choose a height/distance relevant to something important to you (eg. 11 miles of pathways around the zoo, 4095m is the height of Mount Kinabalu on the Malaysian island of Sabah, home to our rhinoceros hornbill project). Part of the fun is picking the number, and then achieving your goal!



Strava challenges

This was one of our favourite challenges from Save Our Zoo - people using their Strava app to write the names of, or even to draw a picture of, their favourite animals! Create your own Strava Zoo and post your updates on social media. Your followers will be amazed!



FAMILY FUN...

Juggling home schooling with home-working is a challenge so many of us are facing, and finding new ways of keeping the family busy, cheery and doing wonderful things together is more important than ever.

Crafty Creatures

Put your crafting skills to good use and create animal art for every day of the week. You can use paint, pens, felt, beads, stones and even twigs from the garden. Post pictures for your family and friends to enjoy & 'sell' your crafty creatures for donations.



CONNECT WITH NATURE...

Just because we have to stay indoors more, this doesn't mean you have to go without a connection to nature. Roll up your sleeves and get busy with the wildlife on our doorsteps.

Do a sponsored birdwatch in your own back garden

Grab a notebook and a snack and keep very very still... Record all the birds you see for half an hour to an hour and then share your sightings with friends online. You can even set up a bird feeding station near to a window so you can take photographs and share them.



The green-fingered challenge

Plants are massively important to our eco-system, so embrace the leafy goodness in your house or garden. Challenge your neighbours, friends or classmates - who can grow the largest tomato plant, the biggest courgette or the tallest sunflower? Make a donation for competition entry, and celebrate by 'growing for good'!



WITH FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES...

We've all had to learn how to socialise in different ways recently and it's so important to keep connected with friends and loved ones, so we've thought of some ways you can have fun together for social good.

The (dreaded) quiz Night!

Yes, yes, we know...we all got fed up with them by the end of the first lockdown but actually they were pretty good fun weren't they? Get everyone together on a virtual platform, find some new and original rounds - from 'identify the animal from this sound' and 'guess the celebrity from the dodgy waxwork' to 'name that beard' and 'the baby photo challenge'. Go on, relive the novelty of online quizzes - the more effort you put in, the more fun you have!



DOWNLOAD the **FULL** Fundraising from Home or Preventing Extinction Your Way Chester Zoo fundraising guides from the website for more **HINTS, TIPS** and **IDEAS** about how you can support your favourite charities safely.

LOVE IT

for

LONGER

A SUSTAINABILITY SPECTACULAR

Join us this **SUMMER** for our sustainability **SPECTACULAR**.
A completely utterly incredibly absolutely, gobsmackingly,
amazing exhibition that is 100% total **UTTER TRASH**.

We will be turning the world of waste on its head. From plastic
and technology to water and even poo! We'll be revolutionising
our rubbish and learning to **LOVE IT FOR LONGER**.

At Chester Zoo we've made a big commitment. We're working to be a zero waste zoo by 2030.

So, we're looking at all of the waste we produce and we're thinking differently about it. We're getting rid of single use items, being smarter about what we buy and trying to figure out how we can love everything for longer.

Our NEW exhibition will show you some inspiring ideas and will start a conversation about how we can work together to make Chester Zoo (and the rest of the world) a waste free zone.

Reusing and reimagining....a sustainability spectacular where anything is possible.

FOOD

Our food zone will be a geodome made from wind damaged trees. There will be giant food sculptures and we'll be asking people (including our own chefs) to share their top tips and creative ideas for reducing food waste.

Growing food puts lots and lots of pressure on the environment as wildlife habitats are often cleared to make space to grow food. We're massive fans of only eating food that is certified as sustainably grown (ie palm oil) but another amazing way to help the environment is by only buying what you really need and NEVER wasting food.

We're committed to reducing our foodwaste by 50% and everything else will be composted or turned in to bio fuel or fertiliser for reuse.

Our team will be on hand throughout the exhibition to show you how to get the most out of food you might usually throw away and we'll be giving some masterclasses on growing your own food in a sustainable way.

TECHNOLOGY

We've all got unused computers, tablets, phones and game consoles lying around the house. But what can we do with them? Take a look inside our inflatable forest (made from old tents that have been thrown away) and you'll be able to hop on to our exercise bikes and power up the old technology that we've found.

We'll shine the lights on what you can do to love your technology for longer and dispose of it safely when you are done with it – so other people can make use of it too.

We're passionate about this as we've seen first-hand the impact on wildlife of the mining that happens in order to find the precious metals that make all of our favourite gadgets. From repair workshops to swap shops and recycling – we'll have all of the answers.

RAINWATER SCULPTURE

Ever thought about the importance of saving water? Well we're celebrating all of the little steps we've taken to reduce the amount of water we use and to reuse waste water to help our wonderful collection of plants to grow.

Our fantastical sculpture will use rain water to make music. Our team will be there to share their tips and to inspire all of us to think of brand new ways to keep water moving to achieve the most incredible and beautiful things.

PLASTICS GARDEN

We've been saving up all of the plastic bottles we can find and have found some plastic bag off cuts from a factory up the road. We'll be transforming these things in to a beautiful garden and we hope that you'll help us to add to it as the summer goes on.

It's always been our ambition to get rid of single use plastics and we've already removed more than two million items of plastic. But we're not stopping there. We're committed that this year we will remove all single use plastic from our site. Any other plastic that we just can't avoid will be reused, repurposed or recycled.

We'll be sharing ideas for plastic alternatives and also some quirky ideas about how to reuse the plastic that you already have.

JUNK YARD MAKER SPACE

This is where you come in. Find all kinds of ways to turn your junk in to jewels, things that you'll treasure for years to come. Upcycling, reimagining but most of all having fun.

FAST FASHION FABRIC MAZE

We've created a massive maze of fabrics that would normally have been thrown away. Get lost amongst the thrown away fabric and figure out ways we can upcycle, relove second hand stuff and choose different materials that are much more recyclable. Good luck getting to the end.

ELEPHANT POO FACTORY

We'll show you a pooey transformation right before your very eyes. From elephant poo to gorgeous gifts that you can take away. Poo paper and elephant inspired energy we've got lots of lovely stories to show how the brown smelly stuff can be loved for longer!

Most of the materials used in the making of this exhibition are reused or recycled objects that would usually have been thrown away. When the exhibition leaves us we will find new homes for the exhibits so other people can love it too.

Keep an eye on our website for more updates, and sign up to our newsletter to receive the latest news straight to your inbox at [CHESTERZOO.ORG/PREFERENCES](https://www.chesterzoo.org/preferences)



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

Chester Zoo
Upton-by-Chester
Chester CH2 1LH

Email: info@chesterzoo.org www.chesterzoo.org

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Our Chester Zoo Z magazine has been produced using vegetable based printing inks and is printed on sustainable FSC resourced uncoated paper. The outer packaging and magazine are also fully recyclable