

Z

CHESTER ZOO

magazine

for members and adopters

SPRING 2020



Z

MAGAZINE FEATURES



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



There's *ALWAYS* something
NEW

*Rare 'fingertip-sized'
pygmy chameleons hatch!*

Three tiny chameleons have hatched...
and each one is barely any bigger than a pencil tip.



The minuscule bearded pygmy chameleons, which get their name from the small beard-like lobes underneath their chins, hatched in January and will grow to be just three inches in length.

Found only in the coastal forests of Tanzania, the tiny reptiles can change colour and produce a line down the side of their body to perfectly blend

in with leaves in their surroundings. Chameleon experts say little is otherwise known about the perfectly camouflaged creatures.

The current population of pygmy chameleons is unknown, with no research carried out on their habitat and numbers in the wild. Little information is known about the differences between small

chameleon species, and there is a high likelihood that some types have remained undetected by science and could go extinct without ever being discovered.

At the moment, the pygmy chameleons are being cared for in our special, behind-the-scenes rearing facilities. The new youngsters will play a vital role in establishing a new breeding programme

— a carefully managed initiative between many of the world's most progressive zoos. This will allow us to create a sustainable population and help gather new information about the species that has previously been unavailable to us, helping us play a key role in preventing the extinction of chameleons and other reptiles in the future.

Worldwide, species like the pygmy chameleon are under threat. Now is the time to Act For Wildlife. Together, we can **PREVENT EXTINCTION**.

Visit chesterzoo.org/actforwildlife to find out what you can do.

ACT FOR WILDLIFE

There's **ALWAYS** something
NEW



Otterly adorable!

Meet the cute and curious **short-clawed otter pups** as they take their first 'swimming lessons'



After staying snuggled up in their holts with parents Annie and Wallace for a number of weeks since their birth, the adorable quintet finally developed the confidence to venture outside for the very first time.

Led by mum Annie, the new pups – three girls and two boys – began to dip their tiny toes in the water and splashed around the water's edge.

Asian short-clawed otters are the world's smallest species of otter, and the new born pups currently weigh around just 500 grams!

Their diets consist of mainly fish, and the pups will often call out for their parents to try their luck to get them to feed them. As an incredibly family orientated species, they rarely leave each others' side!

Listed as Vulnerable to extinction by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Asian short-clawed otters are the smallest of all 13 otter species and face increasing threats in the wild of South East Asia.

The tiny mammals are hunted for their skins and organs, which are often used in traditional Chinese medicine. Their wetland habitats have also been overfished by humans and used for logging and farmland.



With our sustainable transport friends across the North West,
we're embarking on a BIG Green Travel Adventure!

It's the little things that go a long way, and we want to show **YOU** that by boarding public transport, or journeying to the zoo by foot, paws, claws or bike, you can help us with

**PREVENTING
EXTINCTION** *Hoorah!*

So grab your loved ones and ditch the car, for what will be a trip to the zoo you'll never forget. Doing the right thing doesn't have to be boring!

We'll be boarding trains and buses and taking all of the stress out of getting to the zoo by public transport.

We'll be sprinkling some Chester Zoo magic onto your journey! This won't be any ordinary bus or train ride, we'll be keeping you entertained along the way. **PLUS**, when visitors arrive, the 'green adventure' will continue, with lots of events and playful challenges to complete throughout the zoo!

Hold on to your hats and **LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN!**

Keep your eyes peeled for the latest news and events on our website as part of our

BIG Green Travel Adventure,

COMING THIS EASTER

Katie's MAMMOTH YEAR

It's been a year since Indali Hi Way was diagnosed with EEHV, the deadly virus that claims the lives of Asian elephants all over the world. This was a scary time for all of us at the Zoo and we all waited with bated breath as events unfold.



THANKFULLY,
after tireless work
from our dedicated
conservationists, Indali

pulled through. This outcome was a direct result of the **AMAZING** support shown to us by our friends and supporters who have helped us raise over **£220,000** over the past five years... supporters like Katie Morrison, Assistant Team Manager of the Elephant section.

Katie spent 2019 engaged in My Mammoth Year, an epic fundraiser for our Never Forget campaign to fight EEHV.

Every month she took on a new challenge, from taking up crochet to an Ironman triathlon to going vegan, and she has raised over £4,500 to date! We're so proud of everything Katie has achieved.

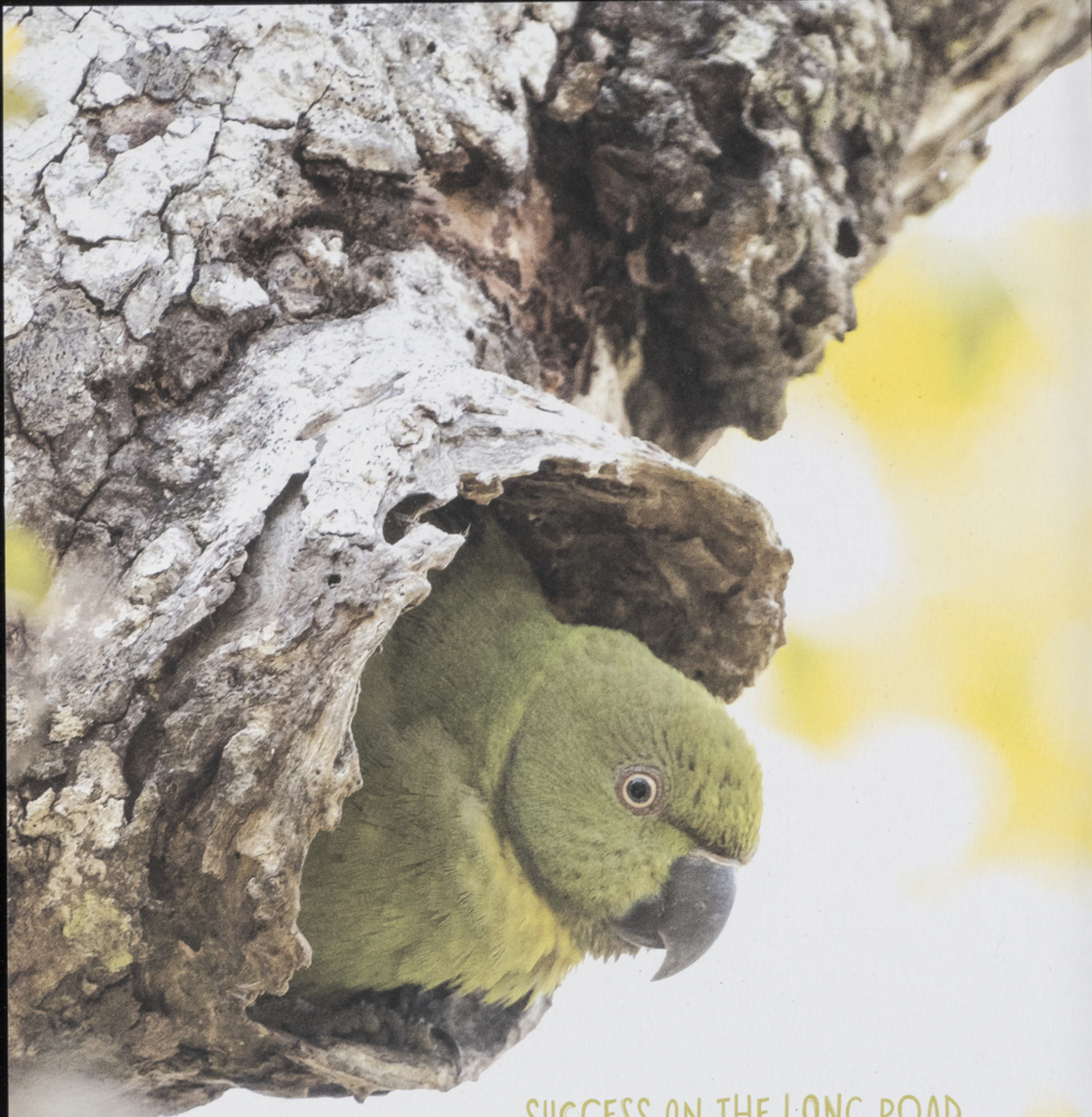
Katie says, "Every challenge has pushed me in some way. Obviously the more active challenges, like the half Ironman, were very physically demanding. I was especially frightened about learning to ballroom dance and perform in front of an audience, but it turned out to be more fun than I thought. That being said, I was super nervous at the time so I'm glad I did it, but I'm more glad that it's over!"

"I think the best thing about My Mammoth Year has been making so many memories and being able to share them with my family and closest friends. And of course raising so much money for the Never Forget Campaign!"

"I'm thinking of ways that I can keep the spirit of My Mammoth Year alive now that the year is over, but for now I'm looking forward to a rest!"

To support Katie and help fund our fight to eradicate EEHV once and for all, visit... www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mymammothyear





SUCCESS ON THE LONG ROAD TO CONSERVATION

A word from our CEO, Dr Mark Pilgrim...



We're at the forefront of conservation, making a difference to the future of plants and animals currently under threat of extinction. We have a whole team of experts working hard around the globe helping to build up knowledge and scientific evidence so we can have an impact globally in finding conservation solutions. You're helping us to do this.



Pangolin caught on camera

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is the universally recognised global authority on the state of the natural world. It evaluates the status of individual species on criteria such as range size and the number of living individuals, ultimately producing a 'Red List of Threatened Species' identifying those most at risk of becoming extinct in the near future. Evaluations are regularly conducted and at the end of last year they published an update which highlighted two species where we've had some of our greatest impact, each in very different ways.

For the giant pangolin, it's been a hard few decades as the demand of the insatiable Asian traditional medicine market continued to soar. Before we at the Zoo act to protect a species, we need essential comprehensive knowledge of the population that remains. Due to their elusiveness, very little has been understood until recent years. It's been our goal to build this knowledge.


Stuart Nixon, our Field Programme Coordinator for Africa, has been working in Uganda alongside the Uganda Wildlife Authority since 2017. Gathering a wealth of data on giant pangolin distribution and status using camera trapping methods, we've been able to observe never before seen pangolin behaviour. Last year we successfully tagged a giant pangolin with a radio tracking device, the first time this has ever been achieved. At last, we're beginning to understand pangolin ecology, behaviour and threats better than ever before.

I've been very proud this winter to see our efforts to support conservation and research across continental Africa and the Mascarenes see success in different directions, as the IUCN carries out status updates to some of our flagship species.

As one of the principal authors of the new IUCN red list assessment, Stuart's work has supported the up-listing of the giant pangolin from vulnerable to Endangered. This up-listing is a disturbing moment, yet highly significant statement to the world of the situation facing this species. I hope the findings will catalyse further and more intensive efforts to save pangolin species from the imminent extinction that many of them face.

On the other end of the spectrum - a positive success story. After years of hard work, Mauritius' echo parakeet has seen a down-listing from Endangered to Vulnerable. Only 20 remained as of 1987, but restoration efforts have returned them from the edge. We became involved with the species in 2000, financially supporting our good friends and partners at the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation, and by sending our bird keepers to work alongside the emergency breeding programme, providing valuable training in *ex-situ* breeding and hand-rearing.

Over my years in conservation, I've seen that it isn't easy, and we need to always be ready to respond to crisis. A 2005 breakout of a highly infectious disease in the recovering parakeet population threatened the entire project. Our partners rapidly shifted their strategy towards protecting a wild population, and we've been supporting the effort for the 14 years since. The hard work is far from done, and we'll be sticking with the project to ensure the recovery is maintained.

A terrarium scene featuring a large green plant with heart-shaped leaves, a log, and a crocodile in a pool of water. The background is a dark, textured wall. The text "Not that long ago, in a county not that far away,..." is written in white, with a yellow underline under the word "county".

Not that long ago, in a
county not that far away,...

HOLLYWOOD

comes to Chester

Mark Hargreaves, our Projects Team Manager, travelled down to London. His mission? To recycle various plants of all shapes and sizes that had been used on the set of blockbuster films such as Star Wars - part of a five star recycling relationship between two major film studios and the zoo.

Here's how the story began...

When you're watching the latest Hollywood movie what grabs your attention? Is it the actors? The cars? The special FX? Something you probably don't notice too much are the plants and trees that appear in scenes but, if you look carefully, you'll see a wide range of magnificent flora, many of which are sourced from all over the world. Many film sets have indoor and outdoor nurseries that house lots of plant species that are needed to create a set but once the film is finished, some of them are sadly thrown away. Last year, a company called Green Space contacted the zoo about a very different recycling project. They remove green waste from Warner Bros and Pinewood Studios and, aware of our expertise in botany and horticulture, thought we may be able to utilise any unwanted plants and trees. Mark went to investigate:

"In my forty years at the zoo, I've undertaken many strange and unusual tasks but I never imagined I'd be on a Hollywood film set as part of my role! But after Green Space contacted the zoo about recycling trees, that's exactly where I found myself - inside Warner Bros Studios on the set of Fast and Furious 9.

"Being on a film set is surreal. There are lots of people, equipment, cameras, lights and, to my surprise, plants. I was lucky enough to see a brief glimpse of Vin Diesel but, to be honest, I was more interested in the plants we could potentially bring to the zoo. Many trees and plants are very expensive and we spend a lot of money making

sure the zoo has a vast range of horticultural specimens, both in habitats and around the zoo, so I wasn't going to waste the opportunity to recycle plants. I looked at a large range of species, including a beautiful acer that was used in a scene where a plane crashes in the film. I visited the set again to select more plants and then got a call saying we could also take some that were used in the latest Star Wars film! I'm very happy that we're giving these plants a second home - it's a brilliant way of recycling and we can let millions of people enjoy these specimens in real life not just on the big screen."

This is hopefully just the start of this fabulous recycling scheme and the team hopes to be able to recycle plants from the next big movie set, Jurassic World 3, once filming has finished. Mark has a range of plants he is planning to use around the zoo, including in a new bug hotel located in the main car park, and there's already some greenery from the big screen on display. The most recognisable plant currently on-show is a *Alocasia Portadora* situated in the caiman habitat in our Tropical Realm, seen in Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker. Next time you venture in there, why not take a look and try and spot a piece of Hollywood right here at the zoo.



Alocasia Portadora



— LIFE AS A —

BIRD KEEPER

From helping breed the first rhinoceros hornbill chicks at the zoo in over a decade, to spending two hours each day chopping food, a life of a Bird Keeper is interesting, varied and two days are rarely the same.

CASEY POVEY tells **Z** what it's like working with all our feathered friends...

Why did you become a Bird Keeper?

"I've always loved animals and knew I wanted a practical role working with them. When I left school, I opted to do a zoology degree and thought I'd figure out where my career would take me after the course finished. Just before I graduated I applied for an internship here at the zoo and I've never looked back.

Why do you like working with birds?

"Birds are beautiful, challenging and they don't make things obvious which I like, it keeps you on your toes! They often get overlooked but there are so many beautiful species, I never tire of watching the birds interact with one another in the aviaries - they are fascinating.

What's been your career highlight?

"It was last year when we successfully bred the rhinoceros hornbills. This was the first time we have bred these hornbills at Chester for 13 years and it was a big team effort. When working with birds you can see the fruits of your labour quite quickly as the breeding and incubation period is relatively short for most species. However for the hornbills it took a long time to create the perfect breeding environment. Successfully breeding birds is not just about putting two birds together; there are so many factors that can influence a pairing. We changed a lot of variables with the hornbills - we swapped the pairs, changed their habitat, their diet and the way we managed them on a day to day basis. At the beginning of December 2018 we were really hopeful that all of our efforts had paid off when

the pair in Monsoon Forest were seen mating and the female started visiting her nest. But then, tragically, there was an awful fire in their habitat. Thankfully we were able to rescue them to a new area but thought we'd have to wait another year for an egg. Then, in just a few days of us providing them with a nest barrel, the female started building a nest again and we were amazed when she laid two eggs which then hatched into two beautiful chicks. It was a real success for the whole team and for the insurance population as we're the only zoo in the UK ever to breed them.

What is your favourite animal?

"When I was younger we kept ferrets. I know they are not everybody's cup of tea but they are so cheeky, ferocious and fun. I love them. Now I work with birds, there are lots of species I like but one of my favourites is the silver eared mesia. They are a little showy bird that I look after in the Sumatran aviary here at Chester. They are a really interactive bird and we have a lovely little family of them.



Silver eared mesia

Why do you like working at the zoo?

"Working for a leading conservation charity is amazing and maintaining insurance populations for many rare bird

species is very rewarding. The staff at the zoo are such a lovely bunch of people and it's a pleasure to come to work with them every day. With over 128 acres of zoo to walk around with over 35,000 animals just going about your day to day business is a pleasure".

Casey's daily routine...

7am: Get into work and prepare the food for the animals.

8am: As soon as it gets light we go and feed the birds and thoroughly clean their habitats, while also doing a visual check of them. I work over on Islands so I ensure the Sumatran aviary is clean and ready for visitors by 10am.

10.30am: Break time which includes a nice cup of tea and a catch up with the team.

11am - 1pm: This is preparation time, so I usually spend the best part of two hours chopping a wide variety of fruit and steaming lots of veg. If there are any practical jobs to do, like fixing a perch, then I'll do it at this point in the day.

1pm - 2pm: Lunch hour. We usually sit down as we don't get a lot of time to do this in a day.

2pm - 4pm: More feeding and more checks. Finally, just before we go home, we do a daily report on all of the birds.



Rhinoceros hornbill

Beautiful Birds

Spring is in the air with the days drawing out and flowers beginning to bud. It's always a very busy time for our bird team as spring signifies the start of breeding season. We play a significant role in supporting and protecting endangered birds on the brink of extinction, not just through the work at the zoo with our breeding programmes, but also the important work we do in the wild.

There are more than 1,500 beautiful birds at the zoo, from the large northern bald ibis to the small and colourful silver-eared mesias. Spring is the perfect time for you to enjoy this diverse range of bird species on your next visit to the zoo.

Here are some to look out for...

Fire-tufted barbet (main image)

This stunning small bird is named after the tufts of feathers above its beak which, on male birds, is a fiery orange colour. They are found in tropical forests in Sumatra, Thailand and Malaysia. The primary threat to this species is illegal capture and trade. The illegal wildlife trade is the fourth largest international crime in the world, worth around \$19 billion annually, and thousands of birds have appeared in parts of Europe after being taken from the wild in Africa, South America and South East Asia. We have just one male bird here at Chester. He was given a safe new home in 2018, after customs officials seized him and 14 other bird species that were all destined to be illegally sold as pets in Europe.

Hamerkop

This long-legged, wading bird is native to tropical Africa, Madagascar and South West Arabia. Its long bill gives it a hammer like appearance, which is where its name originates from. If you look carefully you can see a hooked tip on its beak, which provides opportunity to grab onto prey such as tadpoles, small fish, insects and other invertebrates. The hamerkop build enormous nests that can be two metres deep and are so strong that they can take the full weight of a person. These complex structures can take the bird up to six weeks to build in trees and are often found decorated with a range of materials from bits of animal fur to general rubbish.



Black-headed village weaver

These yellow birds are native to Central, Eastern and Western Africa and are just 17cm tall. All weaver birds get their name from their intricate nests that the males build to impress the females. These nests are weaved from grass and leaves and are suspended in trees. Once a male has built his nest the female then inspects it and, if she is impressed, she will line it with more feathers, grass and leaves and claim it as her own. The black-headed village weavers live in large, noisy colonies which means one single tree can have as many as 200 nests!



Grey crowned crane

This large bird is the most threatened of Africa's cranes and occupies the wetlands of eastern and southern Africa. Its grey body contrasts sharply with its white wings and the bright red pouch that hangs from its throat. Like all cranes, these graceful birds have very strong bonds with their partner, and often remain paired up for life. These bonds are strengthened prior to breeding by elaborate dances and booming calls involving the inflation of the throat pouch. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists the species as endangered, and their population has declined by more than 50% in the last two decades due to habitat loss and the illegal wildlife trade.



KIDS' ZOO

There's ALWAYS something **NEW**!

QUIZ

It's time to put your animal knowledge to the test!
How much do you know about our baby animals?

1. How many of our baby otter pups were boys and girls?

- A. 3 boys and 2 girls B. 3 girls and 2 boys C. 5 boys



2. In which month was our beautiful baby orangutan, Arga, born last year?

- A. October
B. May
C. November

3. What species of otter are our **NEW** pups?

- A. Sea otter
B. Asian short-clawed otter
C. Giant otter



If you need any **HELP** with finding the answers - either visit our website chesterzoo.org/somethingnew or on your **NEXT VISIT** look out for these animals



4. Can you name this baby animal? →



?
← Complete the name! What's missing?
..... bongo

? ? ? ?
How many animals are at the zoo?
A. 1,500
B. 10,000
C. 35,000
D. 10



Competition

? ? ?
Answer the questions and you could be in with a chance of winning an **OTTERLEY ADORABLE** prize!

Send your answers to: Z magazine, Marketing Department, Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH or email marketing@chesterzoo.org by 30 April 2020

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNER OF OUR LAST **KIDS' ZOO** COMPETITION IN OUR WINTER ISSUE. WINNING NOT ONE BUT TWO FLUFFY PENGUIN TOYS!



Granddier's mongoose

CHESTER ZOO

Junior Programme 2020

Discover, explore, share & learn

This summer we have loads of **EXCITING** activities available to our Junior Members.

BOOK NOW!
To make sure you don't miss out on our **AMAZING** junior programme
chesterzoo.org/events

HOLIDAY CLUB

Primary School Years 1-6, 9am - 4.30pm with **FREE** early drop-off available from 8.30am

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 through a range of fun activities both in and out of our learning centre.

Week 1: 27 July - 31 July, Year 4 - Year 6

Week 3: 10 August - 14 August, Year 4 - Year 6

Week 2: 4 August - 6 August, Year 1 - Year 3

Week 4: 18 August - 20 August, Year 1 - Year 3

Big Green Travel Adventure

Come and join our Zoo Rangers for a Big Green Travel Adventure this Easter.

Discover animal movers! Get your steps in around the zoo as you visit our elephants, ibis, jaguars and penguins and discover all about these amazing animal movers. Whether it's mass migrations or just enormous home ranges, these animals travel big distances, with zero carbon footprint.

Stories, games and shows. Join our Zoo Rangers at Basecamp for a wide variety of games, stories and shows. We'll put your knowledge of sustainability to the test in our quiz show, and take you and your family on a Big Green Travel Adventure with one of our immersive stories.

Junior Ranger Training Camps 2020 (8-11 years)

Are you aged 8-11? Do you love wildlife? If so, Junior Rangers will be perfect for you! The Training 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.

Book now for our blocks running from 19 April-17 May and 7 June-5 July. **To book, visit chesterzoo.org/events**



SKILLS COURSES

Throughout the year we'll be running a series of exciting courses for young people between the ages of 12-17. You'll get practical experience, learn loads of new skills and you don't need to be a wildlife expert - anybody can get involved!

Cooking for Conservation (14-17 years)

What we eat and how we cook affects our health and the health of our planet. We have an exciting opportunity for you to join our top chefs at The Oakfield to explore the world of sustainable cooking. This three day course will take you through practical workshops and demonstrations, finishing in a MasterChef-style competition with an opportunity to impress our Head Chefs!

Date: 6-8 April. **Booking now available.**

Conservation Technology (12-15 years)

From camera traps to satellites and drones, conservation technology is increasingly critical to ensuring that people and nature thrive. Join our conservation team over three days for an exciting introduction into some of this technology and how it's being used as a powerful tool for conservation and ecological research across the globe.

Date: Every Saturday for three weeks, from Saturday 2 May - Saturday 16 May. **Booking now available.**

Coding for Conservation (15-17 years)

Do you like playing games? Are you interested in making games? Here at the zoo, we've been making some games to create conservation change and need your help! Over the course of five days you will learn all about the zoo, from science, marketing and creative media - then armed with that inside knowledge, we'll take you on a journey of creating a 'choose your own' adventure game to help others learn about conservation! If you are aged between 15-17 this is the perfect opportunity for you. You will be introduced to the skills of digital media content creation and the methods needed to design and make a playable game with our game experts.

Date: 24-28 August. **Booking now available.**

Field Skills and Ecology (12-16 years)

How do we know that species are threatened by extinction? Ecology helps us understand how and why. Join our native species experts on this three day course and learn some of the necessary practical skills ecologists use to better understand the relationship between species and their environment.

Date: Every Saturday for three weeks, from Saturday 4 July-Saturday 18 July.

Evening Meets

This year, we are launching a series of relaxed early evening meets for young people with a wide variety of interests but with one thing in common, preventing extinction. We're lucky to have some truly inspiring people and projects, all working to help prevent extinction. This is your opportunity to meet and talk to some of our experts, and find out about their job role and career pathways. It's also an opportunity to meet other young people with a shared interest. If you are aged between 15-17 years old come and join us!

Date: Meet the Keepers, Wednesday 1 July

Junior Members Zookeeper for a Day

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a Zookeeper? As a junior keeper for the day, you will be helping our amazing keepers to take care of many of our animals around the zoo. See behind the scenes, meet the keepers and carry out tasks such as cleaning and preparing food for our animals in the zoo. Behind the scenes tours could include areas such as elephants or Realm of the Red Ape. You will have the opportunity to get stuck into tasks, like cleaning areas or checking temperature/humidity/water quality.

This is an all-day activity, running from 10am-4.30pm. Suitable for ages 12-17.

Date: Tuesday 26 May.



Don't miss out on our AMAZING junior programme

Please note that some of these events are paid for. **To book any of the above courses** visit chesterzoo.org/events, or contact our Events team on 01244 650209 or via events@chesterzoo.org

An interview with...

Adam Reid

Cooking for Conservation

For the first time ever we're hosting a unique, three day course to educate our Junior Members on the importance of sustainable cooking through practical workshops, led by industry experts.

What we eat and how we cook affects our health and the health of our planet. Issues such as food sourcing, waste reduction and food preparation are areas all linked to food sustainability and the impact on our environment.

Working with experienced cooks, you'll create a dish each day, culminating in a MasterChef style competition with an opportunity to impress our Head Chefs and special guests Brian Mellor, owner of Harthill Cookery School, Adam Reid, Head Chef of prestigious 'The French' restaurants, and Simon Radley, Head Chef at The Grosvenor Hotel, Chester.

We sat down with Adam to find out more about the importance of sustainable cooking, what inspired him to become a chef, and his advice for budding young chefs looking to pursue a career in the restaurant business.

What inspired you to become a chef?

"Basically, my mum's home cooking and an unhealthy obsession with 'Ready, Steady, Cook,' the first time round!

How old were you when you first started cooking?

"I did a bit at high school and messed about at home when my mum was around, but mainly when I got a job two weeks after finishing high school.

At 'The French', what is your stance on sustainability in cooking?

"We think it's incredibly important. Our focus is to create the highest quality food we can and that means sourcing the best ingredients. Invariably sustainability is a major factor in that. We use suppliers and producers we can trust and if they have a focus on sustainability it's a clear sign the product will be good.



Do you take precautions at 'The French' to ensure you are minimising your impact on the environment?

"We make every effort we can to reduce our footprint on the environment. We only use electric as we took the step to change to induction cooking units. Wherever possible we use local or British ingredients to avoid airfreight and avoid packaged or processed ingredients. For a number of years, we had a garden on the roof of the hotel consisting of 21 raised beds in which we grew our own herbs/flowers and small vegetables.

What is your favourite dish you have created?

"It would have to be my Tater'ash. It's a super simple presentation which appears very humble, but it uses the best Cumbrian shorthorn beef aged for seven weeks and is just chopped as a tartar with root veg and potatoes cooked in dripping.

What cuisines have influenced your cooking?

"I've had a lot of experience with traditional and modern French along with a new Nordic style which, along with other styles I've encountered, help to form my own cooking style. But above all, my love for British food is what I was brought up on so it's what I like to cook now.

What was it like winning a course on the 'Great British Menu' (again) and getting to cook at the famous Abbey Road Studios?

"It was an amazing experience and I was honoured to have been able to be part of it, but the best thing about winning this time was that I went cooking my own food in my own style, without compromising for the competition."

What are the first steps you recommend a young 'wannabe' chef should take?

"Take your time, learn to cook and do the hard yards... everyone's in a rush nowadays but it should be about loving what you do and enjoying doing it."



≡ Junior Programme Course ≡ Cooking for Conservation (14-17 years)

The Oakfield, 6-8 April

This is a three day course. Each day runs from 10am-4.30pm

Please remember that these events are for Junior Members aged 14 - 17 only.
We will require you to fill in a short questionnaire when booking to ensure we have all of the relevant contact details and information in advance of the first session.

Booking is essential

To find out more about this course, visit chesterzoo.org/events.
You can book online via our members portal, or get in touch with our Sales and Events team via email events@chesterzoo.org or by calling 01244 650209

BOOK NOW!
LIMITED SPACES
ARE AVAILABLE

There's a **BIG** **WILDERVERSE** OUT THERE!



We're really pleased to announce that we've been working with an amazing group of self-confessed animal loving gaming geeks, Internet of Elephants, to bring together a brand new augmented reality wildlife conservation game called Wildeverse.

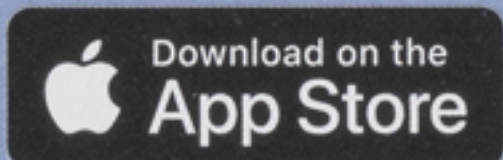
Think of it as the 'Pokemon Go' of wildlife. Wildeverse enables players to beam far away wild places to their own home using just their phone. With the game, you can track real wild animals and carry out real conservation challenges.

Charlotte Smith, our Head of Conservation Education and Engagement, said: "We're always looking for interesting ways to talk about the work that we do across the world and to inspire people to be the conservationists of the future. When Internet of Elephants suggested we become their UK partners on the project we jumped at the chance. It's a really fun game to play but also shows some of the real challenges that conservationists are facing."



The game includes characters based on conservation experts here at the zoo and even features one of our own field partners, Borneo Nature Foundation.

The game will be **AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD FROM 3 APRIL!**



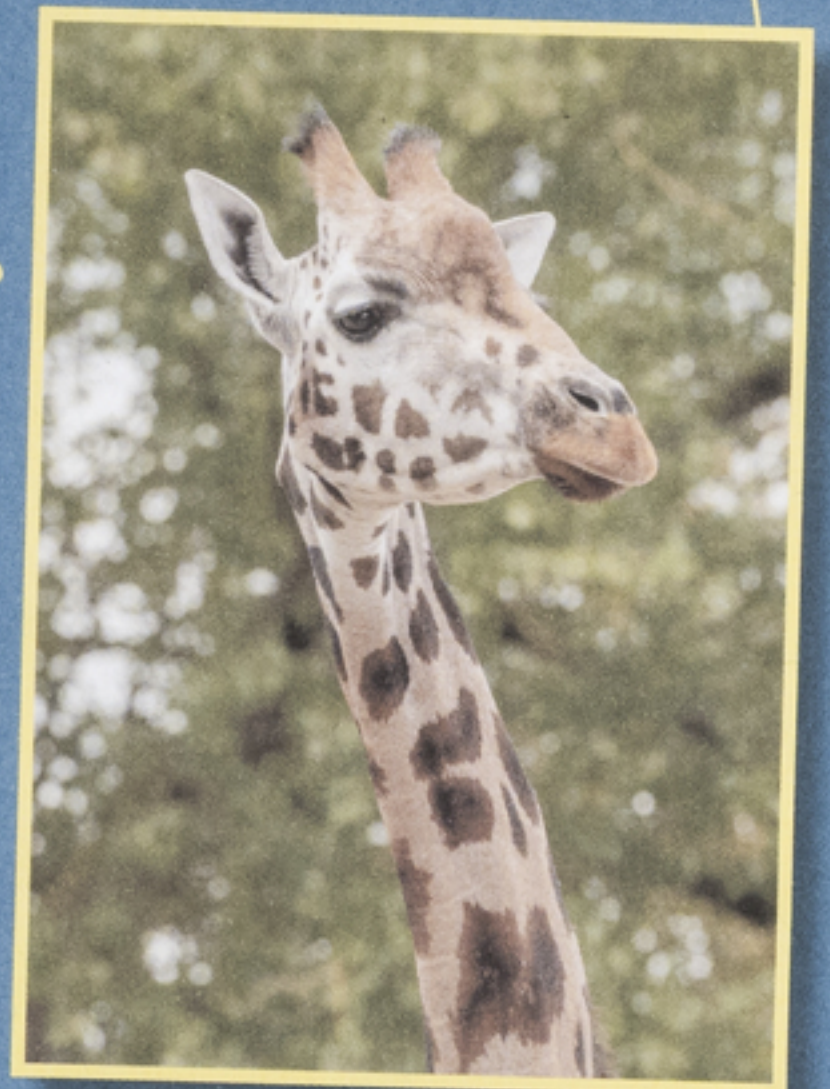
Using Your Vote

As a member **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT** to vote on a number of issues that might affect the way the zoo is run. You can also vote for who you'd like to appoint to our Board of Trustees!

We want to ensure that this process is as easy for you as possible, so last year we moved to online voting. Throughout May 2020, please keep an eye out for an email from us, detailing our Annual Report and AGM notices, which will include the opportunity for you to **vote online**.

The online voting will be overseen by an independent organisation to ensure that the process is fair and transparent. If you haven't already let us know your email address, now would be a good time to contact the Membership team **M&A@chesterzoo.org** and **sign up for emails**. If you don't have access to email then please don't worry. We can make special arrangements for anyone who can't receive the AGM notices and voting forms online.

ANIMAL MOVES...



WELCOME TO...

At the end of last year we welcomed a new tree kangaroo. Two year old Kayjo came to us from Belfast Zoo and he's settled in well to his habitat on Islands. The Goodfellow's tree kangaroo is a tree-dwelling marsupial, native to the mountainous rainforests of Papua New Guinea.

Much smaller than their common cousins, tree kangaroos live off the ground, using their tails to hang from branches and their strong limbs for climbing. They are listed as endangered by the IUCN and face a very high risk of becoming extinct in the wild.

MOVING ON...

In January we said a fond farewell to two of our Rothschild's giraffes, Sanyu and Murchison. Both male giraffes moved to Lisieux Zoo in France and we're happy to report that they have settled into their new home really well.

Our experts, alongside The Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) and the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), have been working to protect one of the last remaining populations of wild Rothschild's giraffes in Kidepo Valley National Park - where numbers have risen by 2,000% in the last 25 years.

SECRET LIFE OF POO

Being global leaders in animal well-being for more than 35,000 animals is no easy task and takes a dedicated team of keepers, vets and scientists.

There's a myriad of questions about the animals that our brilliant team set out to answer, every single day. Are the animals happy? Are they healthy? Are any females pregnant?

Many of the answers to these questions can be found in a very unusual place - **POO** =





Our Endocrinologist, John O'Hanlon, talks to Z about what his team gets up to...

These nuggets of brown matter hold the secrets to understanding nearly anything about an animal species but, how do we get this information? The zoo is home to a unique laboratory team of endocrinologists and it's the only one of its kind at any zoo in Europe. Working closely with each of our animal teams, these scientists help to solve the day-to-day mysteries of animal management. John is a member of the team that works in the lab and explains how he looks into hormones...

"Foraging through faeces doesn't sound like the nicest job at the zoo, but poo really can be fascinating! This waste product holds lots of hormones which can tell us tonnes of useful information about an animal. It's full of "metabolites", broken down remnants of hormones, the diverse assortment of chemicals that make every aspect of our body tick along nicely. The hormones of every animal worldwide are held continuously in careful balance, and reflect the changes happening outside and inside their body. So, we can use poo samples to see if an animal is happy, healthy or even pregnant. We've successfully predicted due dates of Eastern black rhinos and Asian elephants and we have detailed graphs mapping hormones right the way through some of our animals' pregnancies. They give us the opportunity to compare pregnancies within the same animal and species, which is extremely helpful to our animal teams.

"We receive our poo samples from keepers and, to ensure that they bring the right sample from the right animal, they have to carefully observe the animal's toilet habits! If we are trying to detect a pregnancy, then the first thing we look for is a rise in progesterone, as this hormone increases during a pregnancy, and then when an animal is due to give birth we look for a drop in their progesterone levels. Monitoring hormone levels can also give us clues as to when a female is ready to conceive, as we will see a rise in oestrogen. We then relay this information back to keepers so they know the perfect time to mix the animals.

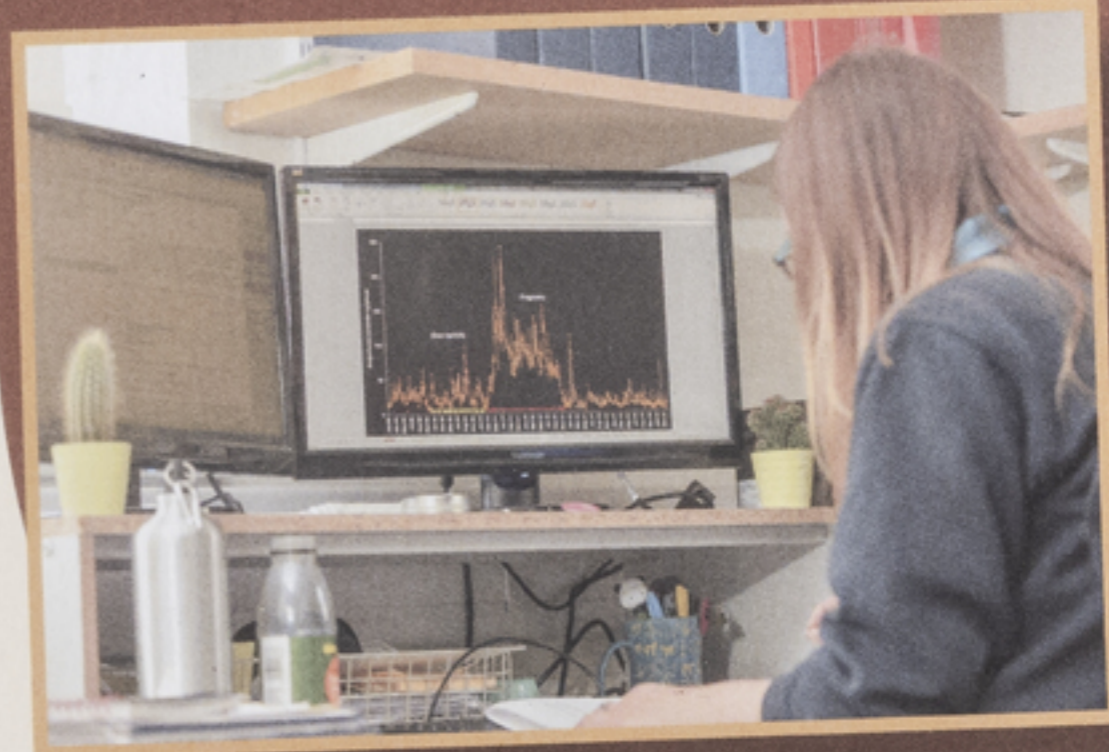
"With more than 100,000 poo samples and counting in our huge walk-in freezer, we have more poo resources to carry out research than ever before. As well as monitoring animals at Chester, we receive samples from zoos all over Europe to analyse. This means we receive more than 300 external samples, on top of 300 internal samples to analyse each month. We are kept very busy. This collaboration with other zoos is vital for reproductive management across multiple European breeding programmes and it's great knowing we're doing our bit to help create insurance populations for some of the world's rarest animals."

In the wild...

The knowledge gained through our research at the zoo doesn't just help animals in zoos, we've also been able to use it out in the wild. Our team is currently involved in several projects in Northern Kenya, including one focusing on increasing the population of Eastern black rhinos where poaching has caused their numbers to crash, with fewer than 100 remaining in the wild.

With support from sponsor and conservation enabler Rhino Products Ltd, we have been able to help set up the first ever wildlife field endocrinology lab in Kenya. The lab, which is based at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, will help to identify factors that influence healthy reproduction in Eastern black rhinos. Soon, pregnant females in the area will be identified on-site without having to send samples further afield for diagnostic testing, a lengthy and costly process. Sue Walker, our Head of Science, and Becky Mogeey our Lab Coordinator, visited the new lab last year to provide technical training to our partners in the Kenyan Wildlife Service and Lewa Wildlife Conservancy to help them use endocrinology techniques independently.

With this new facility and training, conservationists in Kenya are hoping to expand their research to include other threatened species such as the critically endangered Eastern bongo. This is a species that is already seeing some success in UK zoos; in September last year we celebrated the first Eastern bongo to be born at the zoo in 11 years. With only 70 left in the wild, the birth of Elinah was of huge importance for the survival of this incredible species. There's a lot that remains unknown about the bongo and by studying populations both in zoos and the wild, we hope to find out more about their nutrition and reproductive physiology, with the goal of preventing their extinction.



This project has been made possible with thanks to Rhino Products Ltd. If your company would like to support our conservation in the field, please contact Rose on r.gelder@chesterzoo.org

Membership Moments

After welcoming a record breaking **2 million visitors** to the zoo last year, we wanted to delve into the stories and zoo experiences of the people who pass through our gates, in particular, our **loyal members**.

Our members are a **HUGE** part of Chester Zoo. Whether they're **PASSIONATE** about conservation, **LOVE** visiting the animals or just enjoy coming for a **GREAT** day out, you are a **VITAL** part of our mission to **PREVENT EXTINCTION**.

We sat down with zoo members and entrepreneur couple **Julie** and **Oliver Perry**, who have been visiting for a number of years. With their zoo journey beginning as young children themselves, they now frequently visit with three children of their own. We discuss favourite zoo memories, first impressions and what their membership means to them...



How long have you been a member?

J: "We've been members for six years. We have three children, Lola, Rafael and Elias, so we have a family membership. Our first membership was given to us as a gift and after twelve months of unlimited zoo access we just couldn't not have one! We love the zoo and are so lucky to have it on our doorstep. We don't just come here to see the animals, there is also lots of great play areas for the children so sometimes we just pop in for an hour so the kids can play."

O: "We love the fact that in the summer you can come in around 3:30pm when everyone else is leaving as it feels like you have the whole zoo to yourself. It's our 'all-weather' go to place, and we often come here on a rainy day and explore the many fantastic indoor habitats."

How often do you visit us?

O: "We come a couple of times a month with the family, and once a week to work in The Oakfield. We're fairly regular as all the staff at The Oakfield know our names and we know theirs!"

J: "They're always really friendly in The Oakfield and also all around the zoo! The staff who set up tables for demonstrations and all the volunteers are all just so approachable."

Who do you come with?

J: "We visit as a family, but we also bring people who come to stay with us for a weekend. The zoo is always a crowd pleaser."

O: "You don't need to worry about the kids as you know they're safe which means we're more relaxed than if we were visiting a city centre for example."

What inspired you to become a member?

O: "The location for us is ideal and it's such an enjoyable place. It just makes sense for us to be members - you only have to come a few times a year to make the most of it too."

J: "There's just so much to see and do and you don't have to always come here for the whole day. The flexibility is what inspires us to keep renewing our membership."



What does your membership mean to you?

J: "We know we can come here and everyone will be happy. The kids love being outdoors so it's the perfect place for them. All the amazing animals are brilliant but we also love all the plant life here as it's so diverse and we love to see the beautiful changes through all seasons."

O: "We run a business from home and don't have an office to operate from, we often come to The Oakfield to do some work. Working from home is absolutely fine, but having the opportunity to leave the dining table is nice and I think it's good for the business. I think that you think differently in different spaces and being at the zoo gives you that time to think big and creatively."

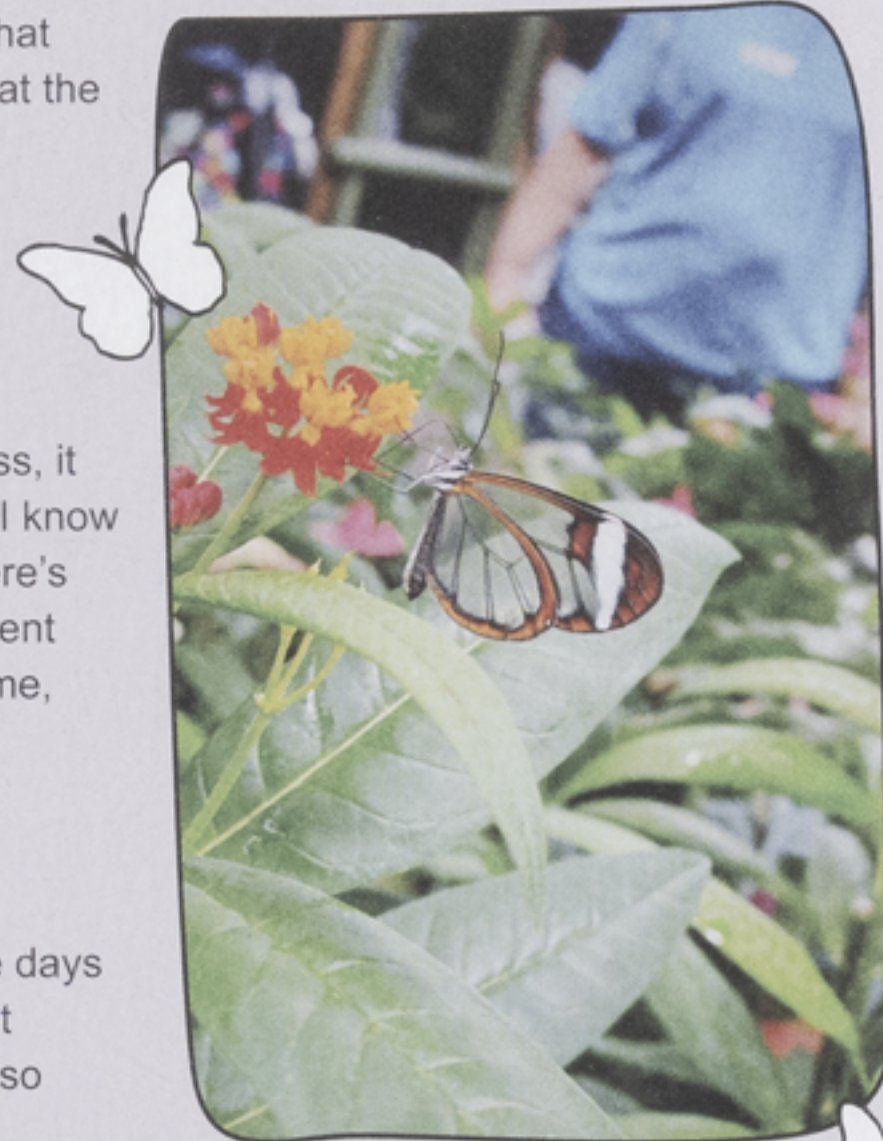


What's your favourite animal at the zoo?

J: "I've always loved the otters – it is the playfulness, it makes me smile no end. I also love the giraffes – I know everyone does but I think they're so majestic. There's also a butterfly in the butterfly house with translucent wings and it's absolutely stunning. I forget the name, but it's really unusual."

O: "I think the butterflies and the moths are my favourites."

J: "There's a giant moth that can only live for three days and doesn't eat. We saw it and learnt that day that it only lives for that short period of time so we felt so humbled to have seen it at all."



What is your most treasured memory of a visit to the zoo?

O: "I think the family moments are the special ones, but I also genuinely love coming here to work; I find it to be a real kind of sanctuary and space to be creative. I think there's also been a few occasions when it's been a really hot summer day and we've walked through the first part of Islands and you literally could be in the Philippines - it just feels so nice and I find that really inspiring."

J: "You wouldn't believe it but you really do feel like you are somewhere completely different when you're in Islands and it's a sunny day, - it's very special."



Membership Moments

We'd love to hear from you, email us on memories@chesterzoo.org if you would like to be featured in our Membership Moments.



BIG, small, TALL, furry, scaly and cute – our Chester Zoo family is all kinds of WEIRD and WONDERFUL! We want to keep it that way, but we can't do this without *your support.*

The PERFECT GIFT for **ANIMAL LOVERS**

By choosing to adopt an animal at Chester Zoo, you enable vital conservation work here, and around the world.

Our adoption packs start from just £45, and whether you decide on a gold, silver, bronze or junior package, adopting an animal is really rewarding.

Not only will you receive an exclusive adoption pack, but your name will be displayed on a 'Thank You' plaque near the habitat of your chosen animal as well as other exciting benefits.

Find out more about our adoption packs at chesterzoo.org/adoptananimal or get in contact with our Membership and Adoptions team

M&A@chesterzoo.org





THE OAKFIELD



Say 'I do' at **CHESTER ZOO**

A truly one of a kind venue - make Chester Zoo the destination for your unforgettable day. We've made our history memorable, let us make yours memorable too.

Host your incredible ceremony in a stunning Grade II listed house The Oakfield, in the heart of the zoo surrounded by over 35,000 animals, of which many are critically endangered species, and 128 acres of award winning zoological gardens.

Our dedicated team will be on hand to ensure that your big day runs smoothly, from your first phone call, to the wedding day of your dreams, so you can soak up this magical occasion.

Few other wedding venues can offer you the amazing opportunity to have your wedding photos with some of the world's most endangered wildlife as a backdrop.

Take your wedding to the next level, with Chester Zoo.

Contact us on **01244 650209** or email us at **events@chesterzoo.org**

Mother's Day




Treat mum to afternoon tea at the zoo!

Celebrate the amazing lady in your life with a Mother's Day treat at Chester Zoo.

Mums deserve to be spoilt, so why not show her just how much she means to you with an unforgettable afternoon tea at The Oakfield.

To book a table, get in touch with our Events team on **01244 650209** or email them at **events@chesterzoo.org**



   @theoakfieldatcz



COULD YOU BE OUR
NEXT TRUSTEE?

— We currently have an *exciting opportunity* for two Trustees to fill —
— vacancies on our Board as part of our succession planning. —

We're a big, complex and diverse organisation which is also reflected in our Board of Trustees, with backgrounds in a number of academic disciplines and industry experience, from accounting to conservation. Each Trustee brings their own unique perspective to the table, to inform key decisions that shape the future of Chester Zoo, ultimately impacting our worldwide conservation mission and our 2 million visitors a year.

As a Trustee, you will support the development of the zoo's strategy, act as a guardian for the zoo's assets and ensure that governance is of the highest possible standard. You'll also get to work alongside talented, expert people from a variety of fields and disciplines who love wildlife and care about nature.

The roles are voluntary with reasonable expenses reimbursed and you will receive a full induction and relevant training. The Board meets in Chester six times a year and attends an annual two day away days.

Please do get in contact if you share our conservation mission and have skills in one of the following areas:

- Accounting or finance
- Fundraising
- Education
- Political influencing
- Animal welfare or conservation


Previous board or business experience in a large complex organisation would be beneficial.

Closing date for applications is 31 March.

To express an interest in this opportunity, please forward your CV directly to
Emma Powell via email e.powell@chesterzoo.org.

For an informal chat, please email Emma to book a call with our Chair of Trustees, Bruce Ursell.

Further details about Chester Zoo can be found at our website: www.chesterzoo.org



The Chester Zoo Giving Tree

*The zoo is one of the most magical places
you can share with your friends and family.*

*We are so lucky to be an important part of so many people's lives, and we
are always mindful that the zoo holds many treasured memories.*



**Some people wish to have a lasting memory to
remember special moments and people.**

Joining the Giving Tree is a beautiful way of preserving
memories here at the zoo. Our elegant tree contains
golden leaves that represent much-loved people or

moments, each leaf engraved with a personal message.

In choosing to engrave a leaf and donate to our vital
conservation work, you can be sure that your precious
memories will help us in our mission of preventing
extinction for years to come.

To find out more about remembering loved ones at Chester Zoo, please contact the Fundraising department
by email fundraising@chesterzoo.org or telephone 01244 650229.

Talking Conservation

Spring/Autumn
2020
programme

If you'd like to find out more about how your membership helps fund vital conservation work, then pop along to one of our brilliant membership talks.



Thursday 14 May at 7:30pm DISCOVERING ORCHIDS - SEAN COLE

In this talk, join orchid specialist Sean Cole and members of the zoo's Horticulture and Botany team for an evening all about these amazing plants. Discover the most stunning orchids found right here in the UK and find out about the incredible collection and our work right here at the zoo.

Sean Cole is co-author of a new field guide to British orchids. He has been fascinated by orchids since 1999, when he first set out to see all the British species, and quickly became obsessed by them. His main interests are in identification, taxonomy and pollination. He has a particular fascination with ghost orchid, the only species he is yet to see in the UK, and he wrote a paper for the New Journal of Botany in 2014 on the status of that species in Britain.

Members Days 2020

We are delighted to tell you that we have added a fourth members' day for 2020!

- Saturday 7 March
- Friday 3 July
- Sunday 15 November
- Friday 18 September

You can bring up to six half price guests per member, per day. Tickets are available for purchase in advance via the Members' Portal on our website. You can also purchase them on the day.

Thursday 28 June at 7:30pm

UNDERSTANDING DEMAND FOR SONGBIRDS DRIVING THE ASIAN SONGBIRD CRISIS - HARRY MARSHALL

Many songbird species are declining at alarming rates across South East Asia, precipitating an 'Asian Songbird Crisis', and Indonesia is considered the biggest source of both supply and demand driving songbird declines. Harry will discuss the Asian songbird crisis and its drivers, and how his PhD research will contribute to attempts to reduce demand and increase the sustainability of songbird-keeping in South East Asia.

Funded by Chester Zoo and Manchester Metropolitan University, his PhD research seeks to examine the problem of the overexploitation of wild birds as pets by quantifying the scale of demand in Java and exploring the attitudes and motivations of songbird keepers.

Harry Marshall is a final year PhD student in Conservation Social Science at Manchester Metropolitan University, with a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Master's degree in Biodiversity and Conservation. Harry has worked on projects across the conservation spectrum, all over the world.



MEMBERS' TALKS BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

All of our members' talks are held in the Lecture Theatre, near the zoo's main entrance off the A41.

- FREE to members
(please bring your membership card and welcome letter)
- We offer a special rate of £2 to adopters

- Members of the public and guests are welcome (£3.50 for non-members)
- Our Lecture Theatre seats up to 158
- Post-talk refreshments give you the opportunity to have an informal chat with speakers, zoo staff and fellow members

Interested in attending?

Booking is available through our website, or you can contact our Sales & Events team via events@chesterzoo.org or 01244 650209

Photography Courses at Chester Zoo

ASPIRE TO CAPTURE NATURE'S MOST BREATHTAKING MOMENTS?

Master the art of photography, and develop your skills under the expert guidance of three of the most acclaimed photographers in their industry, Sue Flood, Cindy Miller Hopkins and Stephen Johnson. With experience working alongside the BBC, National Geographic and Sir David Attenborough, you'll be learning from some of the best in the business.

Not only will you have the opportunity to photograph some incredible animals at the zoo, your course will also be based in our stunning Grade II listed building, The Oakfield. Once home to George Mottershead, founder of the zoo, this will provide a stunning back drop to your creative sessions with the experts. Refreshments and lunch will also be provided.

Whether you're a novice wanting to learn the basics of wildlife photography, or an experienced photographer looking to fine tune your skills, we run both a beginners course and an advanced course to cater for varying abilities.

One day **BEGINNERS** photography course

Date: 26 September **Price:** £200

Two day **ADVANCED** photography course

Date: 28 – 29 September or 3 – 4 October **Price:** £380

To find out more about these courses, what is included and the expert photographers that'll be teaching you, visit chesterzoo.org/events or contact our Events team on 01244 650209 or via events@chesterzoo.org

Testimonials

"Excellent, taught me things I knew little about and had not really considered."

John Fowkes, Advanced Photography Course

"I would definitely recommend this course and I would love to do it again!"

Georgia Frayne, Advanced Photography Course

"The content was pitched at a good level and was very informative and thought provoking".

Greg Armstrong, Advanced Photography Course

"Great. The Oakfield is gorgeous, the food at lunchtime was delicious".

Mark Baxter, Advanced Photography Course



Photo credit: Thomas Woodward

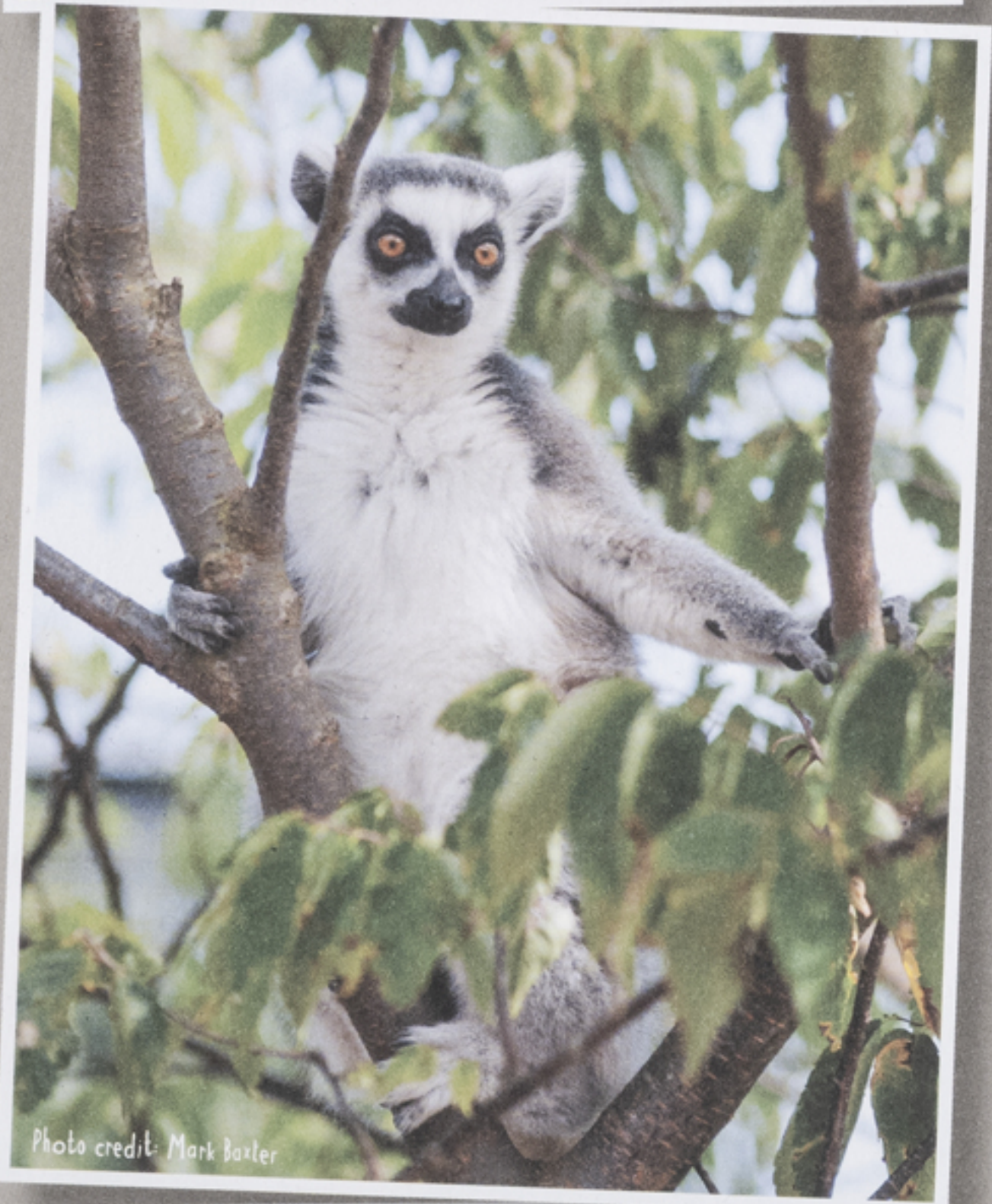


Photo credit: Mark Baxter



Photo credit: Nioni Parrons

⇒ Photos captured by students on the course. ⇐



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www.chesterzoo.org

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to ensure you get your copy via email.

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