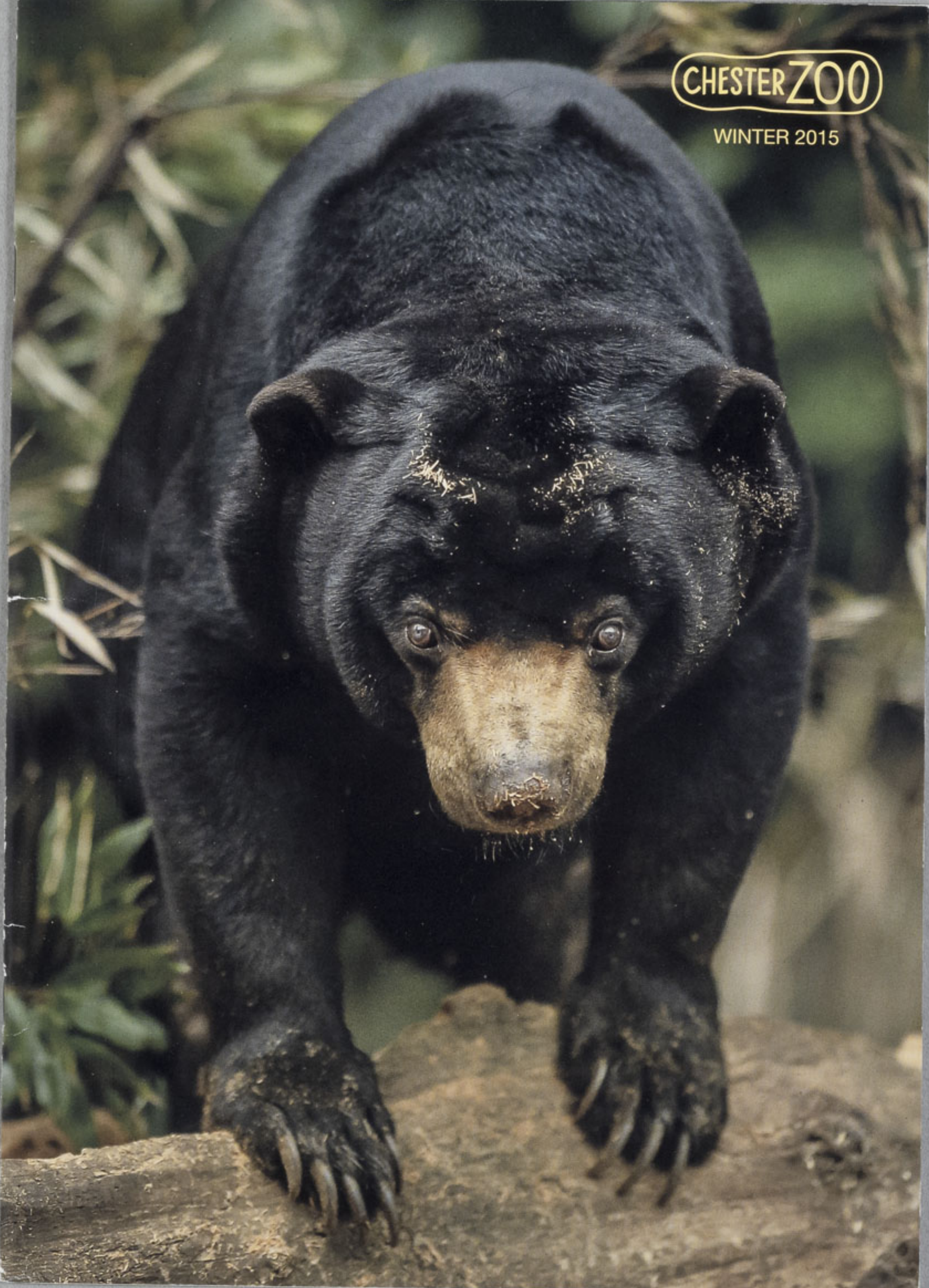



CHESTER ZOO

WINTER 2015





ZOOKEEPERS NAME BABY

Sumatran Orangutan

This tiny newcomer was spotted in her mum's arms by visiting Indonesian vet Fransiska Sulistyو whilst keepers were doing their daily checks one morning in September. Since then, keepers have discovered that the baby is female and have fittingly named her Siska.

Chris Yarwood, lead keeper, explains:

"Siska has been named after an Indonesian vet who spent some time working with our animal health teams earlier this year. Fransiska Sulistyو, who normally works in sanctuaries in South East Asia, spent three months in Chester working alongside our resident veterinary team as part of an initiative to exchange knowledge and skills. She was the very first person to spot our new arrival when she was born to mum Subis, so we thought it was a fitting name particularly given the vital conservation work that her team carry out in South East Asia with a range of endangered species.

"Sumatran orangutans are being pushed dangerously close to extinction every day and, as it stands, they are one of the world's most endangered species.

"Siska is a very special addition to both the zoo and the European-wide breeding programme which aims to have a healthy safety-net population of the species in case the worst should happen, extinction in the wild."

Sumatran orangutans are listed as critically endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and face an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild, meaning every new addition to the European Endangered Species Breeding Programme is vitally important.





NEW
ARRIVALS

Welcome

We've just welcomed four Asian turtles into the collection

The turtles, aged three and one, arrived at Chester from Toronto Zoo in Canada as part of an international breeding programme, which aims to have a healthy, thriving population of painted batagur turtles in zoos around the world in case the species become extinct in the wild.

We are the only zoo in the UK to work with the critically endangered species and supports vital conservation work in Sumatra, where one man named Joko Guntoro set up the Satucifa Foundation and made it his life's mission to save the species. Joko monitors the beaches and rivers where painted batagurs live, collecting eggs and rearing the turtles so that he can track their progress once they have been reintroduced back into the wild.



Dr Gerardo García, curator of lower vertebrates and invertebrates at Chester Zoo, said:

"Although not a lot of information is known about the biology of this species, it's now classed as critically endangered. So it's vitally important that we support the work on patrolling and reinforcing the wild populations and working with the local communities. Only then, with this parallel approach we can ensure their long-term survival in the wild.

"As it stands, painted batagurs are one of the world's most endangered turtle species at extreme risk of extinction, which is a direct result of extensive hunting for their meat and eggs, in conjunction with the deteriorating environments surrounding rivers in their native South East Asia.

"If we are to save the species from extinction then much more funding is needed in order to protect the habitat where the turtles and orangutans cohabit. It's the actions of a very, very small group of people like Joko that has contributed massively to the conservation of painted batagurs so far. We have reached out to offer a helping hand, not only financially, but also through our technical skills and knowhow. We hope that we can play a big part in safeguarding the species for the future."

The painted batagur is one of the largest living fresh water turtle species and, since 1996, has been classed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as critically endangered to extinction. The species can now only be found in very small, isolated populations in Southern Thailand, the Malaysian peninsula and the Indonesian islands of Sumatra and Borneo.

Moving house involves a lot of hard work, time and energy but when you finally settle in it's all worth it. Imagine trying to move five tigers...

Tigers on the move...



In September our family of five Sumatran tigers moved to their new home in *Islands*. The process from start to finish has taken over four years – so after all the planning, designing and building it was great to see Fabi, Kirana and their three cubs stepping into their new enclosure.

When we first moved them over, our tigers were off show to enable them time to settle into their new environment – they needed this time to explore the space and get used to their new surroundings.

So how do you go about designing a tiger enclosure? We asked our assistant curator of mammals, Nick Davis, to tell us more...

"Believe it or not the process of building the tiger enclosure started four years ago! In 2011 we started working closely with the architects to put the plans into place for *Islands*. We discussed key specifics of the tiger enclosure and provided them with a very large brief – how big it should be, how many enclosures we required, what indoor housing we needed, etc. – then we had to work out the relationship between these spaces and how they needed to link together. We went through every tiny detail.

"But the most important thing we needed to discuss was containment – tigers can jump over seven metres and can climb five metres. So it's critical to ensure these animals are kept safely within their enclosure. It's important to get this right during the early stages of planning as once the building work started it would have been hard to then change it.

"The architects worked closely with our curators and team managers especially as, like with any construction project, when it comes to building something as large and as complex as a tiger enclosure, the designs you have on paper may have to change when you're physically doing it. So, maintaining that relationship with the contractor and having regular site visits was a key part of the process.

"We also worked very closely with our estates department, in particular project liaison Chloe Helm, who worked extremely hard to ensure that what was built on site reflected the signed off drawings and met all the requirements.

"It's not a method you can rush or would want to rush!

"When our visitors see the new tiger enclosure they'll notice it's considerably bigger than their previous home – they now have over 2000sq metres of space. There are a number of viewing areas throughout; each viewing point shows another aspect of the enclosure.

"Tigers like height as it gives them that security, so the tiger tunnel that visitors walk through creates a hill in the middle of the enclosure providing them with that elevation. There are also a couple of platforms similar to those in their old enclosure which they can climb onto.

"You'll also see a deeper pool and a stream in this enclosure, so visitors can potentially spot the tigers taking a dip! Other features include two feeding poles; keepers can place meat on top of so the tigers work for their food, as they would in the wild. They use all their muscles during this exercise so it's a great way to keep them fit.

"But there's also plenty to their new enclosure that you won't see! We have an additional off show space, which we didn't have in the old enclosure, which provides us with an extra area should we have to separate animals or need to do any work in the main enclosure. We've also installed more CCTV cameras, both inside the house and outside, so our keepers can monitor them. Animals always behave differently when the keepers are there so to have these cameras means we can monitor them without distracting them.

"When everything was signed off and the tigers moved into their new enclosure, there was another process to go through to get them used to their new space – a settling in period.

"We left them in their house for a certain amount of time allowing them to get comfortable in this space. Then had access to the outside off show area – which also provided the team with the opportunity to get used to the new procedures.

"When we were sure that the tigers were happy with going in and out of the house we then let them have access to the main enclosure. And again, there was a period of acclimatisation – so the tigers got used to every bit of the area.

"It hasn't been an easy process and it's been a great team effort, but to now step back and see it all complete is amazing!"

Meet Andy Woolham

Our penguin and parrot team manager Andy Woolham has over thirty years' experience breeding and rearing birds at the zoo but his passion for our feathered friends didn't start here.

Growing up his home was always awash with animals; kestrels in the garden, snakes in the living room and, for a short period, a crocodile in the bathroom! His Dad had a mini collection at home, which included lots of aviaries filled with exotic, colourful and often noisy birds, so from a young age Andy started to build on his knowledge of birds. Z caught up with him to gain a brief insight into the three stages of successful bird breeding...

Since I started working here we have always been very successful at breeding endangered birds. Of course as a bird keeper you don't just have to make sure the birds mate - we often have to incubate eggs and then rear the

chicks until they are ready to stand on their own two feet. This whole process can be a long and emotional one but when you are successful rearing an endangered chick and see it through to adulthood it's immensely rewarding.



One of Andy's many visits to the zoo as a child



Andy (middle) with his two brothers.



THE BREEDING

Breeding a bird is not an easy process. Some birds will pair with the mate we pick for them, other birds are fussier and some, such as parrots, have the cognitive ability to form likes and dislikes - including potential partners!

When this happens breeding can take years and, for the Philippine cockatoo, it actually took nearly two decades to find the perfect pairing. After years of not finding a mate for our fussy female I started thinking outside of the box and created my own dating parlour. I had a female cockatoo one side of a corridor and six males on the other, providing the female with the opportunity to go past each male and pick the one she liked. This particular female had terrible taste in men.

The first male she picked was too aggressive towards her and the second was scared of her but, on her third attempt, she picked the perfect partner. They were a fantastic couple and we went on to rear three healthy chicks.



Andy with two Philippine cockatoo



Baer pochard ducklings



INCUBATION

With many animals in the zoo, once there is a successful breeding you can just let nature take its course but with birds we sometimes need to offer an extra helping hand. If we leave eggs on the nest then there is risk that the egg could be broken or even not incubated by the parents. When you are dealing with endangered birds, where breeding happens so infrequently, we have to remove that risk and so we remove eggs and incubate them mechanically.

We have done this with many of our bird species over the years but a recent example of this was with the Baer's pochard. This species of duck is listed by the International Union for the Conservation Nature (IUCN) as critically endangered and it's believed there are less than 200 individuals left in the wild, meaning that the species faces a huge threat of extinction. For the past few years we have played a vital role in the long-term survival of Baer's pochard and a big part of our success is incubating the eggs and artificially rearing ducklings correctly. The eggs are removed from the nests when they are first laid and we take them to our incubation room. Here the team weigh and measure the eggs and turn them daily throughout the 26 day incubation period. By doing this we can monitor the eggs during incubation and track their weight loss (all eggs lose weight during incubation). We also shine a bright light through their shells to check how the embryos are developing - a technique known as candling - and it's really fascinating to see the chicks grow inside the egg!

THE REARING

Once eggs have hatched in our incubation room it's imperative we get as many as we can through the early weeks of their life and so we give them a helping hand. Sometimes that means rearing them collectively in our rearing room, which we do with the Baer's pochard ducklings, but sometimes the chicks are so weak and vulnerable they have to be hand-reared.

I've hand-reared lots of chicks but the first one I ever reared is the one I will always remember. We were trying to breed condors to boost the population of this endangered bird - a species that had never bred at the zoo before - and with no internet in those days and not knowing anybody else who'd bred them, we had to use our instincts and experience. It was that very first egg that was extra special for me. We incubated it correctly and, once it hatched, I took the chick home with me so I could keep a close eye on her.



Perhaps our most significant success in 1985 was the hand-rearing of a female Andean Condor (*Vultur gryphus*). Our parent birds did extremely well early in the season in incubating and hatching a young male Condor. Sadly, this disappeared a week after hatching (probably eaten by one of the parents—the male smashed both eggs the previous year), and we resolved to remove the next egg for artificial incubation. After two months in the incubator under the watchful eye of Senior Keeper Nick Manning, we were rewarded with the hatching of a female Condor (the Andean Condors can be sexed on hatching, as the males already have the fleshy comb characteristic of their sex). The hard work then began. For a period of three months, Andrew Woolham shared his bedroom with the young Condor, so that he was able to give it day and night attention. We had



I hand-reared her in my bedroom feeding her several times a day. Everything was going well

Andy & the condor he hand-reared


until she caught a bacterial infection and refused to eat. She lost half her body weight in a week and I didn't think she would survive but, as a bird lover, I knew I had to do my very best to keep her alive. I fed her every hour of the day and night until she slowly started gaining weight and eventually pulled through. Nearly thirty years on she's still alive and well and now lives in a private collection in Wales.

There is such a sense of elation when you successfully breed an endangered bird. You use your skills, intuition and sometimes creativity to make sure you get as many chicks as possible to hatch and go on to reach adulthood and it's those very same techniques that we develop here, that also help bird species survive in the wild. Our keepers travel around the world to our conservation partners sharing their skills and knowledge.

I'm very proud that I work with birds every day and hopefully play my part in our attempts to conserve some of the world's rarest bird species.



Pekin robin chicks that hatched in March



Working together to create safe spaces
for our local wildlife

Hedgehog
MONORAIL

Glorious
GRASS LANDS


Wildlife

CONNECTIONS

We're really delighted to announce the launch of our latest campaign, **WILDLIFE CONNECTIONS**. Working together with community and conservation partners we want to create safe spaces to help protect a whole range of our most precious local wildlife.

The idea of the campaign is that by working together we can join one wildlife friendly space to the next, creating wildlife highways through our neighborhoods and connecting existing wildlife sites. This will enable the nature we love to move around safely, and find more places to live.

chesterzoo.org



Do let us know if you've created a wildlife friendly space at home. Have a look at our Wildlife Connections map to see how many connections we are making.

GETTING INVOLVED IS EASY

- STEP 1: Go to www.chesterzoo.org/wildlifeconnection and sign up.
- STEP 2: Watch our how-to films and download our guide.
- STEP 3: Head out in to your own local community and start work on recording wildlife and creating wildlife friendly spaces.
- STEP 4: Come back to the website and tell us what you've done.
- STEP 5: Sit back and watch the wildlife in your wildlife friendly space - don't forget to record what you see.

We're looking for local community groups to come on board to help get involved with the project. For more information contact our Community Conservation Manager on 01244 389412

WILDLIFE CONNECTIONS AT THE ZOO

We'll be hosting a number of events at the zoo during the course of 2016. Keep checking the website or sign up for our email to be the first to know about our events.

Find out more about Wildlife Connections at
WWW.CHESTERZOO.ORG/WILDLIFECONNECTIONS

chesterzoo.org

ACT FOR WILDLIFE 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

As another year draws to a close we wanted to take a look back at some of our wildlife highlights. We couldn't have done any of this without the help of our amazing supporters.

THANK YOU FOR ACTING FOR WILDLIFE!



WINTER

We kick started the year by celebrating five years of our Biodiversity Trainee scheme; a project which saw us train 12 future conservationists in a range of skills needed to preserve UK wildlife. The project was run in partnership with RECORD and Cheshire Wildlife Trust, and was made possible thanks to generous funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.



A team of zoo staff took part in an expedition to Assam in North East India where they spent time working with our **Assam Haathi Project**. The project has been working to reduce human-elephant conflict for over ten years! Together with local communities we have implemented a range of methods to help keep elephants and people from harm.



chesterzoo.org

SPRING

We were thrilled to announce our new **Living with Tigers** project which, as the name suggests, aims to protect tigers and help the local communities live safely alongside them. Despite the fantastic news that tiger numbers are increasing as a result of conservation efforts, this development brought with it a new challenge: human-tiger conflict. We recognised a need for support and are now currently establishing a team in Nepal who can work with the local villages to reduce the risk of tiger attacks.

Back in Chester, as the warmer weather arrived we celebrated our changing seasons and the wonderful animals and plants we have right here in the UK. We also conducted our own **BioBlitz** – which saw a team of around 30 professionals count and identify as many species as possible in and around the zoo – all within 24 hours! Some of the highlights included exceeding our 500 species target, recording over 50 species of mosses and lichens and using new technology to record seven bat species.



chesterzoo.org

WELL
DONE

SUMMER

We received some devastating news from our project partners the Katala Foundation, in the Philippines, that over 4,000 turtles were confiscated from a convoy on its way to China. We sent out an emergency appeal to send resources to the team who were working around the clock to save as many turtles as possible. Thanks to the amazing response from you, our wonderful supporters, they were able to treat and release almost all of the animals!



Those that weren't ready for release are being rehabilitated at the Katala Foundation, who sent us this message:

"WITHOUT THE GENEROUS SUPPORT, IMMEDIATE ACTION, MORAL SUPPORT AND GREAT DEDICATION OF ALL OF YOU, WE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MANAGE THIS CRISIS. THANK YOU SO MUCH!"

We were also flying high after being recognised for the work we do to protect highly threatened bird species. The British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA) created a list of the top ten birds benefiting from conservation and breeding programmes at zoos and aquariums in the UK. We are home to six of the species on the list and play a significant role in supporting and protecting endangered birds on the brink of extinction.

Socorro dove



Blue crowned laughingthrush



AUTUMN

Alongside **Go Orange** we launched the **Palm Oil Challenge** and asked for your help to take part in our challenge of making sustainable palm oil the norm. By picking products that contain sustainable palm oil on your weekly shop you're helping to protect the remaining forest homes for animals like the orangutan, tiger, rhino and elephant.

Act for Wildlife and help us to continue the vital work we're doing around the world by making a donation. Go to www.actforwildlife.org.uk/donate to donate now. And with Christmas only a couple of weeks away, why not sponsor a project for someone else as a unique gift? Perfect for any last minute presents!



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2016.....

In January a team of staff from the zoo will travel to a remote forest in Madagascar. This forest is home to the only remaining population of the golden mantella frog (*Mantella aurantiaca*) – a critically endangered species. The team is made up of experts in amphibian conservation and members of our herpetology team, who will work to survey and assess the situation for the frogs in the wild, and spend time restoring their habitat. Additionally members of the zoo's primate team will be running some of the first camera trap studies on the nine species of lemur believed to be present in the forest. A member of our bird team will be working to create the first bird list for this little studied, newly protected forest, and two members of our education team will be working with local schools and universities to promote the local biodiversity of Madagascar and raise awareness of conservation issues both locally and globally. **In the meantime to keep up to date with our work and to see more 2015 highlights follow Act for Wildlife on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram:**

@ActforWildlife facebook.com/ActforWildlife @actforwildlife www.actforwildlife.org.uk

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU!!



As the New Year approaches you may be thinking of new hobbies you can pursue or maybe old ones you can revisit.



If so, we may be able to give you a little inspiration. Next year we are offering you the opportunity to learn to draw your favourite animal using pastel on velour, right here at the zoo. We are running a series of one day workshops with professional wildlife artist Kerry Newell.

Kerry is a self-taught artist creating photo-realistic wildlife paintings of many animals from tigers to cheetahs. Mainly using pastel on velour she explains how this medium is perfect for creating a painting that looks like a photo. "Velour paper isn't like traditional papers because it has a velvety, textured surface. This enables the paper to hold a multitude of layers which is ideal when creating a painting that requires a feeling of depth."

Kerry has been running art workshops for over five years and loves motivating people to draw and improve their skills. "I think every budding artist should embrace self-criticism and after every painting I encourage people to look at their picture with a critical eye, making sure they give themselves a pat on the back for anything new they have achieved but then to look at a part of the painting where they feel they could improve."

The workshops cater for all abilities so it doesn't matter if you've never picked up a pastel before or you use them every week - you'll be guided through the step-by-step process of how to produce a perfect animal portrait. All materials and lunch are included in the workshops and at the end of the day you will be able to take home a unique piece of art.

For more details about the workshops visit our website: www.chesterzoo/wildart

We've got over 12000 animals here at the zoo. From the large, endearing Asian elephant to the small and beautiful Bali starling, the zoo provides you with hundreds of subjects and many fantastic photo opportunities but getting consistently good animal photos can be hard.



Sue Flood, professional wildlife photographer, knows all about the challenges of taking photographs of animals.

Her adventures have led her around the world. She has faced freezing conditions searching for emperor penguins, or polar bears, and dived with Great white sharks, all in search of that perfect shot. For Sue, one of the most important things to getting a good photo is to have an artistic eye. "You have to really think about how you frame your subject. Try and see things in a different way"

Sue has been taking nature photos for over 20 years and spent many of those working alongside the great Sir David Attenborough when she worked for the BBC Natural History unit. She's been a freelance professional photographer for over a decade and in that time she's won an array of awards for her work.

We are very pleased to announce that Sue will be coming to the zoo in 2016 to share her photographic skills with you. She's running a series of one day workshops to give you an insight into taking a perfect animal photograph and sharing some handy tips and techniques that will help you improve your images.

The workshops take place here at the zoo and give you the opportunity to get hands on advice from Sue, to help you take some fabulous photos all in the beautiful surroundings of Chester Zoo.

For more details on how you can book your place on the course please go to our website: www.chesterzoo/photography





Meet Mike Jordan Collections Director

After adding an additional 14 acres to the zoo's footprint with *Islands*, you may think we'd take a break from planning for a little while, in fact we are doing exactly the opposite. We've just appointed a new collections director Mike Jordan, who along with our trustees and other members of the management team, will be planning what we do here at the zoo regarding our animal collection and conservation, for the next decade and beyond.

Mike is no stranger to the zoo, he worked here as curator of mammals and birds seven years ago before spending six years working for the South African government as their senior conservation advisor. He took a few moments out of his busy schedule to explain what he'll be doing here at zoo.

What does your day-to-day job entail?

My role is to oversee all the animal teams, and the horticulture & botany teams. I also oversee the animal supplies team too; however my job is really more strategic than the day to day management of teams.

How can you plan what animals are needed in the zoo on a long term basis?

My aim is to give us direction on our collections not just for the next few years but in the longer term too, looking ahead to the next 10 to 15 years. This is not a definite list of animals and plants we want as there will be things that happen globally that have an effect on our collection, for example 10 years ago we didn't plan for a large amphibian collection but when the amphibian crisis hit, we reacted and adapted. I'm looking closely at our conservation priorities so looking at what we should be working with, where our passions and skills lie and linking it with our collection and achieving maximum conservation impact.

What excites you about this role?

Being a major part of the next step of the zoo's development is really exciting. We have, of course, always been passionate about conservation and have always tried to link our collection with conservation so our visitors can make the connection between the two. I want people to come to Chester Zoo and see a reflection of the conservation work we are doing around the world and for our conservation projects to be a representation of what we are doing here in the zoo, so the two are part of a single seamless conservation effort.

What is your long-term goal?

I would love to get to a stage where visitors understand that the animals and plants in the zoo are equally important to those we are working with in the field. I think it's an important message that people don't just see our animals and plants here at the zoo as ambassadors for our work abroad but that they get the connection that conservation work happens here at the zoo and abroad, and the two are equally important and seamless.

WINTER 2015

Kids' Zoo



OOOOOHHHHH

Prize to be won!
see our quiz

Page 20



Events

JUNIOR MEMBERS' PROGRAMME

2016

DISCOVERY SESSION SATURDAY JANUARY 23

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

Eights and over are asked to join us, meeting outside Oakfield House at 2.00pm and we will be returning there for collection at 4.00pm.

LIVERPOOL WORLD MUSEUM SATURDAY FEBRUARY 20

Liverpool World Museum is large and varied. It has a lovely interactive Natural History section and has a big Aquarium with live animals on display which we will visit (plus some other sections of the museum of course!). There will be so much to see and do that we will spend an action-packed cold February day, warm indoors!

The bus will leave from Cedar House car park (the second staff entrance on the left as you are coming up Caughall Road from Upton traffic lights) at 10.30am and return at 4.00pm. **Eights and over are asked to join us. Bring a picnic.**

TRACKS & SIGNS SATURDAY MARCH 19

One of our most popular events each year! You will see the zoo from the animals point of view. We give you the opportunity to go inside some of the enclosures to search for footprints and then make them into plaster casts. Hopefully, you will have a souvenir of your day to take home with you.

Eights and over can come along and join the messiness. We will meet outside Oakfield House at 11.00am, returning there for collection at 4.00pm. **You will need a picnic lunch, and it is important that you wear clean, very old clothes and absolutely clean wellies please.**

HOO FARM SATURDAY APRIL 23

We will visit the wide variety of animals at Hoo Farm near Telford where they have all the regular farm animals as well as a lot of exotic animals such as alpacas, bats, foxes, racoons, meerkats, snakes, frogs, lizards, parrots and all sorts. There will be a lot to do whatever the weather! It will be a lovely day out.

Eights and over are asked to join us. The bus will leave the Cedar House staff car park at 10.00am, and we will return there for 4.30pm. **Bring a picnic with you.**

PEAK WILDLIFE PARK SATURDAY MAY 21

This is a new venue for the Junior Members and will be a good opportunity to visit another zoo in this beautiful location on the edge of the Peak District National Park.

The bus will leave the Cedar House staff car park at 9.30am – returning there for 5.00pm. **Eights and over (with picnics) are welcome to join us.**

THE GREENWOOD CENTRE SATURDAY JUNE 25

Back by popular demand! This park, situated in the foothills of Snowdonia, is an amazing mix of an environmental park offering fun and games as well as good education – including den-building, and various self-propelled 'rides'. Definitely not to be missed.

Eights and over should be ready to leave the Cedar House staff car park at 9.30am and we will return for 5.00pm. **Bring a picnic.**

DAY WITH A KEEPER THURSDAY JULY 28

This is a unique opportunity offered to Junior Members to spend a day working alongside a zoo keeper. The work can be tough and demanding so we strictly limit this event to those juniors of **12 years old or over**. We try to match juniors to their favourite section, but places are limited so this cannot be guaranteed. Please arrive prepared to work hard, with squeaky-clean wellies and an additional completely clean set of clothes to work in.

Owing to the Zoo's biosecurity measures, it is important that the clothes you wear to work on the sections have not been in contact with any farm animals, or even your pets at home, since they were last washed.

We will meet outside Oakfield House at 10.30am, and the day will finish at 4.00pm. **Please bring a packed lunch. Please note:** bookings for this event will not be taken before 9.00am on Thursday July 14 2016, (01244 650215) and will be strictly on a first-come, first-served basis.



JUNIORS` SUMMER BBQ THURSDAY AUGUST 4

This is your opportunity to be in the zoo when there are no other visitor noises to distract you and the animals. We usually aim to have a speaker to chat to you or to engage in craft activities or to do zoo tours during the evening, but you can be sure to find it relaxing.

We would like to invite children **aged eight and over** to join us for a 7.00pm start, when you should arrive at the main entrance. **Parents are asked to collect juniors from the main entrance at 9.45pm please.**

JUNIOR MEMBERS` SUMMER SCHOOL FROM AUGUST 8 – 12 INCLUSIVE

Please note that the two week booking rule does NOT apply to this event and **EARLY BOOKING IS ADVISED** (anytime from December 2015 onwards).

The summer school is open to juniors aged 13 and above. Participants must be able to attend all five (full) days and the cost will be £190 for the week.

A full programme of events for this action-packed, but informal week will be issued closer to the time to those who have booked places, but essentially the Summer School will encompass a wide variety of theoretical and practical training including a mid-week field trip, live mammal trapping, tours of the zoo, and talks from a variety of zoo staff. It is a fantastic opportunity to get to know about the real workings of a modern zoo and will appeal especially (but not exclusively) to anyone wanting to follow an animal based career.

TWYXCROSS ZOO SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24

It is always nice to see how other zoos do things. Be prepared for a fairly long bus journey but it will be well worth it!

Eights and over are asked to join us, meeting at the Cedar House staff entrance at 9.00am, and we will return there for 5.30pm. **Bring a picnic with you.**

TATTON PARK HOME FARM AND THE DEER RUT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 22

We will start the day with a visit to Home Farm where we'll find out how the farm used to work many years ago when Tatton Hall was a family residence. Then head out into the park to identify some of the different deer species that reside there which is especially interesting in October when the Red Deer will be in their rut.

Eights and over should be ready to leave the Cedar House staff car park at 10.00am and we will return for 4.30pm, **please bring a picnic with you.**

WIRRAL COUNTRY PARK – THURSTASTON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19

We will start our walk at Thurstaston and will amble along the Wirral Way from there, back to the dungeons and then on as far as we want to go!

We will leave the Cedar House staff car park at 11.00am and return at 4.00pm. **Over eights are invited to attend and you should bring a picnic with you.**

CHRISTMAS PARTY FRIDAY DECEMBER 9

Our annual 'bash' welcomes juniors of eight and over to enjoy an evening of games, disco music, and a great hot-dog and beef-burger supper. You will need to bring along a cushion to sit on – and a torch to find us!

The venue will be June's Café. Access can be gained through the main entrance. You should arrive at 7.00pm, with your cushion and a torch, and we will guide you to the venue. **Parents should arrange to collect you from the main entrance at 9.45pm.**

Please Note: Bookings must be made for all events. Please ring Penny Rudd at the zoo on 01244 650215, not more than two weeks before the event you would like to attend (except the junior members' summer school for which bookings are taken from December 2015 onwards). Places are offered on a first-come, first-served basis and may be limited. This list is provisional and in exceptional circumstances we may have to alter dates and venues. You will be informed of any such changes in Z magazine and not by individual letter, so please keep up-to-date by reading the junior pages in each issue. A charge will be made to cover the cost of those events which involve transport, entry fees, materials or the provision of food, and you will be advised of this at the time of booking.

Bird Quiz

Name these three native birds with our picture quiz.



1 I've been voted the nation's favourite bird. I love singing and sometimes sing through the night! I usually nest in tree stumps, banks or walls.



2 I'm a very sociable bird and often nest with my friends in crevices of buildings. I love food and eat just about everything including sunflower hearts, peanuts, suet and even kitchen scraps!



3 I'm a bit of a hoarder so when there is lots of food around, I'll store it for later. I nest in the hollows of trees or in mouse holes.

G	S	I	K	H	E	E	L	E	M	I	O	S	C	A	E
O	T	O	C	C	X	F	H	L	H	E	S	T	P	N	X
L	A	E	O	S	H	E	V	O	E	R	O	T	O	I	A
D	R	I	B	K	C	A	L	B	L	D	S	A	X	E	E
F	L	T	T	Y	Z	G	F	N	P	W	I	S	K	R	T
I	I	E	F	I	T	Q	K	F	E	D	T	S	O	R	U
N	N	T	R	L	T	A	O	M	I	N	W	T	K	Y	S
C	G	I	R	S	B	E	E	E	U	N	V	N	F	R	F
H	A	R	B	V	E	M	U	C	E	O	C	N	T	T	D
M	H	X	E	O	D	B	E	L	E	B	O	H	A	O	M
X	T	H	T	A	R	B	M	A	B	I	L	F	E	P	M
W	O	Z	Z	E	T	T	R	E	K	N	D	A	E	F	E
A	M	Y	F	D	E	T	T	A	A	Z	O	S	E	E	C
E	A	B	I	T	I	R	I	D	F	A	W	Y	L	M	N
X	A	L	M	H	H	F	O	T	C	L	T	O	Z	Z	C
K	Q	R	S	R	S	A	O	I	R	I	B	N	E	U	V

Bird Search

Find some of the most popular British garden birds in our bird Wordsearch

- ROBIN
- BLUE TIT
- BLACKBIRD
- STARLING
- CHAFFINCH
- GREAT TIT
- GOLDFINCH

OOOOHHHHHH

Congratulations to our previous winner

Daisy & Jack Blake
(aged 8½) from
Malpas in Cheshire

Answers to our black & white quiz in previous edition:
1. Black with white stripes 2. Panda 3.1 Ring-tailed lemur 3.2 Sumatran laughing thrush 3.3 Malayan tapir

Send your answers to the address below including a picture or photograph of the birds you've spotted in your garden. For this edition we are adding a bird watching kit to our £10 shop voucher, so get spotting!

Z magazine, Media Department, Chester Zoo,
Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH
by Monday January 1st.

To celebrate our new campaign **Wildlife Connections** we want you to look out for wildlife in your garden and in your local area.

For this edition we are concentrating on birds. There are lots of species of birds that stay in the UK for the winter.

To help you spot birds, you could make your own bird feeder to encourage them into your garden/open space. You can be as creative as you want and it's a great way of recycling toilet rolls too!

GETTING STARTED

- 1 Get all the items on the list to make a start.
- 2 Place the pen through the top of the cardboard tube making sure you go through both sides. **Get a grown up to do this for you.**
- 3 Using a knife spread the honey on the tube.
- 4 Put the bird seed on a plate and roll the tube over it. **Leave the tube to dry.**
- 5 Tie a piece of ribbon at the top.
- 6 Place your bird feeder in your garden.

You can also use stale bread instead of a toilet roll holder then cut it into a shape of your choice and hang it on a tree with a ribbon. Once you've made your bird feeder email us a photo to marketing@chesterzoo.org and we'll put a selection of photo's in our next edition.

BIRD SPOTTING

During the winter many of our feathered friends will be using your garden to eat, sleep and sometimes bathe!

If there is a bird feeder in your garden then you'll see lots of different bird species visiting your garden on a daily basis and if you note them down on a recording sheet you can:

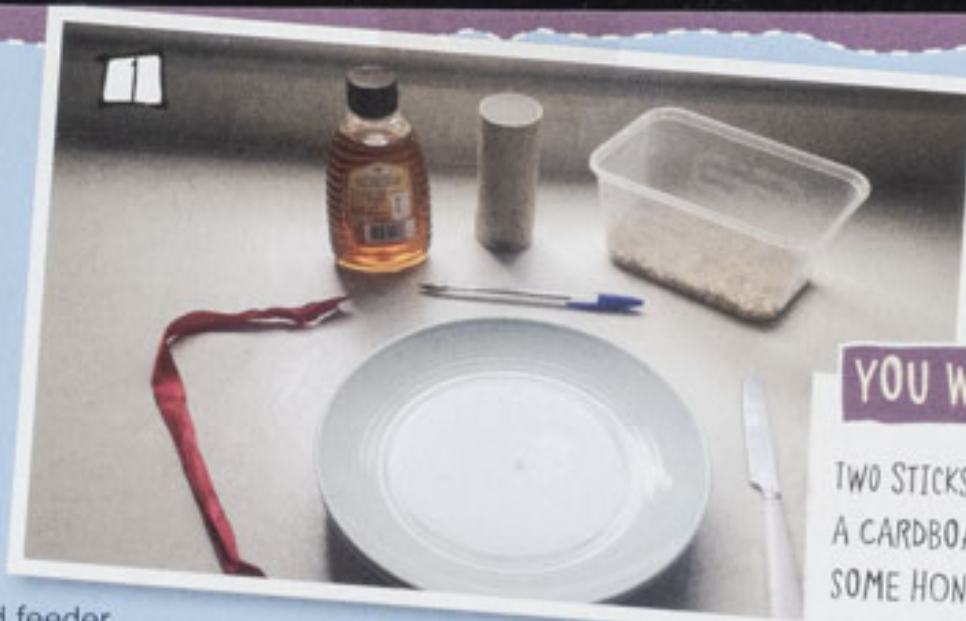
- 1 Count how many birds visit
- 2 See which species visits the most
- 3 Learn about all your different bird visitors
- 4 Compare sheets with your friends.

And if you spot a bird that you don't recognise use the RSPB bird identifier to help you:

www.rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/discoverandlearn/birdidentifier/

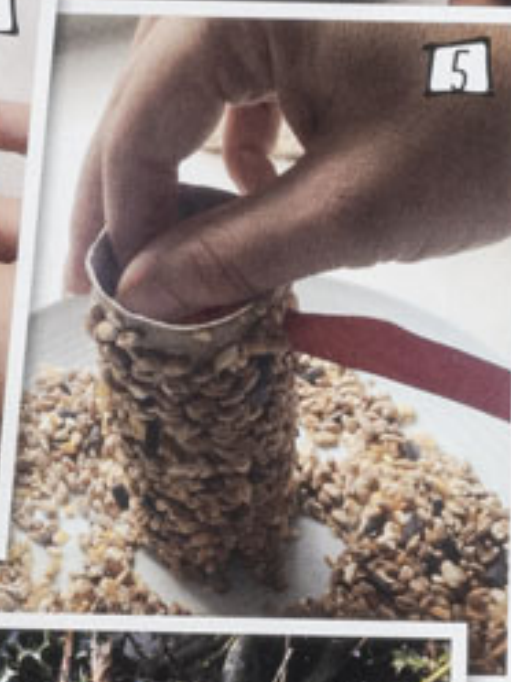
Here is an example of a recording sheet so you can make your own.

DATE	TYPE OF BIRD	NUMBER SEEN
10TH NOVEMBER	ROBIN	10
12TH NOVEMBER	BLACKBIRD	3



YOU WILL NEED:

- TWO STICKS
- A CARDBOARD TUBE
- SOME HONEY
- BIRD SEED
- PLATES
- SMALL BOWLS FOR THE HONEY
- BUTTER KNIFE
- RIBBON



ENJOY NATURE



MAKING A DIFFERENCE AROUND THE WORLD



MEXICO

Proud to have been working with the Mexico Fish Ark conservation project for over 10 years!

The project breeds threatened species of freshwater fish for reintroduction into the wild once suitable sites have been located. Dr Omar Dominguez and his team recently conducted a survey of wild springs and ponds looking for the *Zoogoneticus tequila* – a critically endangered species we have in the zoo. During the survey, the team in Mexico stumbled upon a new wild population of the opal goodeid (*Allotoca maculata*). The opal goodeid was thought to have been extinct in the wild, so the discovery of this wild population is extremely encouraging and we are all very excited!

UK

Partnered with Scottish Wildcat Action to help protect the threatened native wildcat.

We provided support to buy around 40 camera traps. These will help monitor the size and location of the last populations of wildcats in the Scottish Highlands. The monitoring period this year started in October and results from this year's findings will contribute towards future action plans for the protection of the species.



For more information about all of the updates featured here and our other programmes,

and how you can help please visit [ACT FOR WILDLIFE](#) website.



INDIA

Arrival of our beautiful elephant calf Nandita.

In early October this year, Nandita the elephant met her namesake, Nandita Hazarika. Nandita Hazarika is the project manager for our Assam Haathi Project which works to minimise incidences of human-elephant conflict (HEC). The reduction in conflict protects the safety of both the elephants and the local communities meaning that they can live side by side in harmony. Nandita has been working on the project in India for over a decade and so the elephant team decided that she was the perfect namesake for our baby elephant, in honour of all she has achieved in Assam. Since the project's inauguration, over 70 villages receive support, over 200 flashlights and torches have been distributed to deter elephants from crops raiding and over 265 farmers have now received training for better husbandry practices. Under Nandita's guidance the project continues to grow and thrive.



KENYA

Partnering Big Life Foundation for 13 years as part of our black rhino programme.

In conjunction with the Kenyan Wildlife Service, Big Life provides security and monitoring of the black rhino in Chyulu Hills. Earlier this year, we caught wind of some highly distressing news, a very special young male rhino, Bahati, had been caught on camera with a snare around his neck.

We launched an emergency appeal to raise funds for the search that ensued. After just four days, the rangers on the ground were successful in locating him. Unfortunately septicaemia had set in and the rhino's wounds were just too deep to treat.

Bahati sadly didn't survive. The Big Life Foundation and the Kenyan Wildlife Service continue their duties to protect the rhino left surviving in the National Park but the situation is becoming increasingly desperate.

For more information about all of the updates featured here and our other programmes,

and how you can help please visit [ACT FOR WILDLIFE](#) website.

NEWSFLASH!

MEET CHLOE INSKIP

Conservation Scientist

Meet Chloe Inskip, one of our very own conservation scientists. In the last Z magazine edition we told you all about our brand new tiger project in Nepal which is working to help tigers and people live side by side in harmony.

Chloe will be working closely with our tiger project manager in the field and has already been on several trips out to Nepal to take the development of the project forward. For more information please visit our Act For Wildlife blog.

ACT FOR WILDLIFE



CAUGHT on camera

Earlier this year, our very own Naomi Matthews and Sarah Bird from the field programmes department qualified as certified badger vaccinators.

They managed to vaccinate 9 out of the 11 badgers known to be on the zoo estate against Bovine TB. These are just some of the animals that they managed to capture on camera before vaccinating!



CELEBRITY ACTION

Act For Wildlife patron, Steve Leonard, travelled out to Zimbabwe to continue work vaccinating domestic dogs against Canine Distemper Virus (CDV).

The virus is highly contagious and often proves fatal. By vaccinating domestic dogs, the spread to local wildlife, including lions, hyenas and jackals, is dramatically decreased. Steve and his team travelled out with 1000 vaccines which in previous years had been far too many.

ACT FOR WILDLIFE

This year, the team ran out of vaccines on day 4 of what was supposed to be a 5 day vaccination clinic. This overwhelming response is extremely encouraging for the protection of Zimbabwe's wildlife against a highly contagious infection.



PRIZE WINNERS

Our partners at Katala received the Galing Pook award earlier this year for their work with the Philippine Cockatoo in Narra.

The Galing Pook award is a prestigious national award recognising their conservation success.

CONSERVATION NEWS

FROM AROUND THE WORLD!



THE GOOD 😊

In late September this year, the White House announced: **“The United States and China commit to enact nearly complete bans on ivory import and export, including significant and timely restrictions on the import of ivory as hunting trophies, and to take significant and timely steps to halt the domestic commercial trade of ivory.”**

In October, California became the first state to pass a law that bans all sale, offer for sale, possession with intent to sell, and importation with intent to sell of elephant, mammoth, narwhal, whale, walrus and hippo ivory, along with rhinoceros horn.



THE BAD ☹️

The IUCN have called for urgent action to save the Sumatran rhino.

With less than 100 individuals left in the wild, extinction for this critically endangered species is highly probable.

To make matters worse, earlier this year, a journal published results suggesting the species is extinct in the wild in Malaysia - once considered a stronghold for the Sumatran rhino.

WINNING BATTLES TO WIN THE WAR

You may remember the Emergency Appeal we put out earlier this year after our partners at Katala had seized over 4000 Palawan forest turtles, headed for the black market.

We have recently heard that only 6 Palawan forest turtles remain in the rehabilitation centre after the seizure of over 3000 earlier this year. Whilst in rehabilitation, some of the turtles were doing so well on the road to recovery that the team found several viable eggs! Those that have been released back into the wild are being closely monitored and seem to be doing well.





STAFF GO WILD

In the last 45 years the population of the endangered Rothchild's giraffes in Kidepo Valley National Park (KVNP) in Uganda has reduced by over 90%. A huge part of this decline was due to poaching in the 1990's but since then the population has failed to grow. Earlier in the year Sarah Roffe (giraffe team manager) travelled to Uganda to help the Giraffe Conservation Foundation conduct their first ever census of the Rothschild's giraffe in the park, the census is the first part of an initiative which will hopefully start providing vital clues as to why this particular population isn't growing.



HERE'S SARAH'S REPORT ON THE TRIP...

I've always loved Rothschild's giraffes and feel very lucky to work with them on a daily basis. I was extremely excited to travel to Uganda to help with the census in KVNP and see the Rothschild's giraffe in the wild.

KVNP was established in 1962 to protect animals from hunting and to prevent further habitat loss in the area. During the 1960's it had a sustainable and healthy Rothschild's giraffe population of over 400 animals. Sadly, by 1992, the population had dramatically depleted due to poaching and only three animals remained.

In an effort to increase numbers and genetic diversity, in 1997 six giraffe were translocated from Kenya's Lake Nakuru National Park to join the remaining giraffe, however, one of the males was killed by a lion shortly after arriving.

There has never been a ground survey of the total giraffe population at the park before and this detailed census was organised not only to give the park an official number of giraffes but to gain more information about each and every giraffe in the park.

The first thing I noticed about the park was its enormity! The park is 332,000 acres and we had just seven days to cover the whole area. To make sure we succeeded in our mission, we were joined by several giraffe 'experts' who had gathered for the census. The group comprised of experts from institutions all over the world, including: Dartmouth College, Santa Barbara Zoo, the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre, Leiden Conservation Foundation and of course, the Giraffe Conservation Foundation.

Over the course of the week, we split into three different vehicles which traversed the park over and over to ensure all areas were included in the census and photographing as many unique individuals as possible - by the end of the survey, we had travelled more than 1,600km.

Each morning we collected local Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) rangers to help us in the field. The Park employs more than 200 rangers and their expertise proved invaluable - they were often the first ones to spot groups of giraffe in the distance. Their expert knowledge of the park enabled us to track each individual giraffe from great vantage points and allowed us to get close enough to photograph if not both sides, the left hand side as a minimum. Once the giraffe was photographed we also collected other information including age, sex. One of the many things I learnt on the trip was how to use a range finder. The range finder told us how far away the giraffe was and when this measurement was paired up with the photograph taken at the same time, we were then able to estimate their actual height.

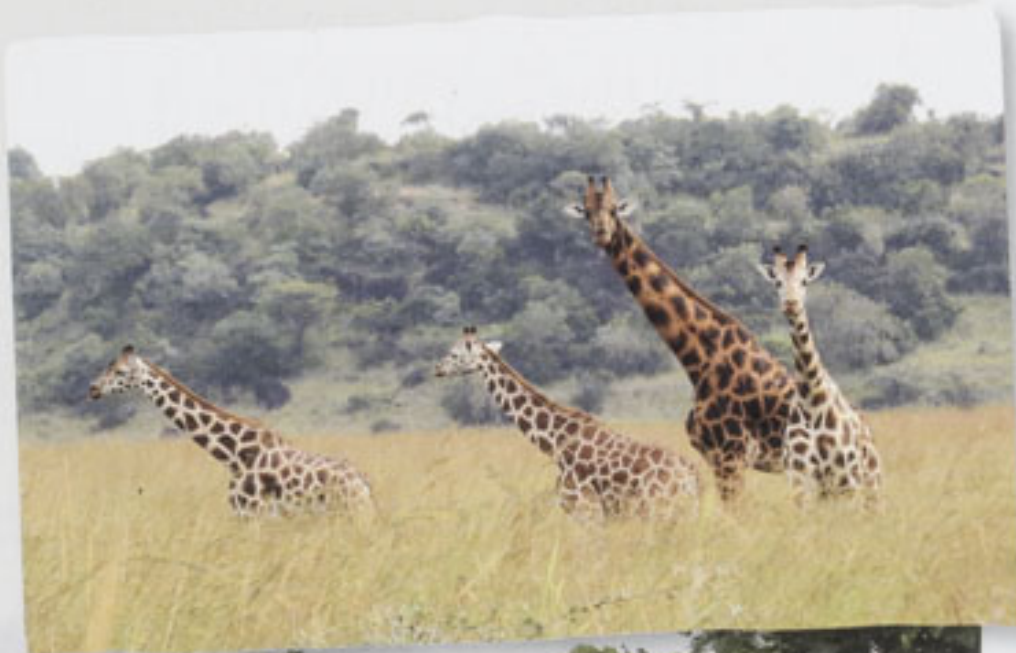
By the end of the week in Kidepo Valley, we had photographed and identified 25 individual giraffes. The images we collected were compiled and run through a pattern recognition software program (Wild-ID) to accurately determine the identity of each and every one.

The Giraffe Conservation Foundation GCF, with support from Chester Zoo, is in the process of establishing a 'citizen science' initiative to monitor the Kidepo Valley giraffe population, long-term. The data collected will help monitor the population dynamics and determine why this small population of Rothschild's does not appear to be growing, despite the seemingly abundant resources.

This project is in its early stages of development and it's exciting to think that Chester Zoo are directly supporting Rothschild's giraffe conservation and there may be other opportunities for keepers to work out in the field.

Whilst the Rothschild's giraffe population in Kidepo Valley National Park currently stands at 25 individuals, it is still unsure whether this population will be able to survive looking to the future.

The time I spent in Kidepo was unforgettable and it was great to be part of GCF's and the zoo's work helping to conserve Uganda's Rothschild's giraffe in such a beautiful natural environment."



FUNDRAISING NEWS

CHALLENGE YOURSELF IN 2016

LOVE A CHALLENGE

Do you enjoy going for a run, love riding your bike or going for a nice swim?

Or do you like doing something different that pushes you out of your comfort zone? If so, then why not join Team Act for Wildlife and sign up for a challenge event in 2016. It doesn't have to be a run, swim or cycle, you can do absolutely ANYTHING to challenge yourself through a sponsored event.

This year we've had people rock climbing, taking part in army assault course-style events and even doing a sponsored silence...ssshh! This year our fantastic challenge team members raised over £10,000 collectively and every penny will be spent directly on our conservation work in the UK and internationally.



Team Act for Wildlife about to set off on a training bike ride



A view of The Moll from Tom Walker and Matt Townsend, Ultimate Creative Communications, who cycled RideLondon for Act for Wildlife in 2015



8-year-old Olivia McCabe climbed and abseiled 100ft to raise £337!

THANK YOU!

ACT FOR WILDLIFE FIND OUT MORE

For more information about how to get involved in a challenge event for Team Act for Wildlife visit www.actforwildlife.org/challenge

Also, to register your interest in one of our guaranteed places in the hugely popular RideLondon-Surrey 100 cycling event for 2016 then please see our dedicated webpage:

www.actforwildlife.org.uk/cycle/ride-london



THANK YOU!



To all our wonderful members who have raised £619.47 for **ACT FOR WILDLIFE** through easyfundraising.

Member and volunteer, David Lomas

'I always use easyfundraising when I'm shopping online and I've already raised £150.58 which is enough to keep a rhino ranger on the move for over a week in East Africa.'

Chester Zoo Development Manager, Melanie Cowieson

'I got a great donation for Act for Wildlife when I got my holiday through easyfundraising - enough to build four nest boxes for dormice.'

easyfundraising
.org.uk

Join our 117 easyfundraisers and sign up online here:
www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/afw

Every time you shop online, you'll raise a donation and it won't cost you a penny extra.

CHESTER ZOO "100 CLUB"

WINNERS OF THE RECENT PRIZE DRAWS WERE:

JULY 2015

£100 Mrs Rosemary Anne Larcombe, Telford
£100 Mrs June D Colclough, Stoke-on-Trent
£50 Miss Lynne Norton, Northwich
£50 Mrs Susan Ann Davies, Brough
£50 Mr I D Ogden, Ashton-under-Lyme
£50 Mrs Katy Leach, Chester

AUGUST 2015

£100 Mr Robert A Callaghan, Stoke-on-Trent
£100 Miss Susan E Wilks, Preston
£100 Mr Peter Hobson, Sheffield
£50 Mr Kenneth Aldred Noble, Wallasey
£50 Mr James Seddon, Denbigh
£50 Mr Robin Rogers, Chester

SEPTEMBER 2015

£100 Miss Nancy Williams, Chester
£100 Mr Roy Sadler, Chester
£50 Mrs Elizabeth King, Chester
£50 Dr Philip Bramley, Chester
£50 Miss June Walker, Wallasey
£50 Mrs Jane Spencer, Chester

Membership of the 100 Club is still invited. All prize winners will be notified by post and will be listed in the next edition of Z. Please inform us as soon as possible if you change address. If you wish to participate, please contact the Development Office on 01244 650 229.

Dr Simon Stuart receives The North of England Zoological Society's highest award - The Gold Medal.

Dr Simon Stuart, the Chair of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission has received our highest award - The Gold Medal.

Since its inception in 1994, the Gold Medal has been bestowed upon individuals who have demonstrated outstanding lifetime achievements in the fields of natural science, conservation and the environment. Previous recipients have included Sir David Attenborough, Dr Jane Goodall as well as former Chester Zoo Director, Dr Michael Brambell, and former Director General, Prof Gordon McGregor Reid.

Dr Stuart has carried out incredible work over the last 30 years in the conservation of wildlife globally. The award, which was presented by His Grace the Duke of Westminster who is the president of the zoo, was in recognition of Dr Stuart's outstanding lifetime achievements in global species conservation.

Mark Pilgrim said: "It was an honour to host the Gold Medal award ceremony for Simon who has done incredible work over the course of his career. He continues to make a difference as the chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and is an esteemed friend of Chester Zoo."



REMEMBERING Walter Worth

As we approach the anniversary of his death, his family, zoo staff and supporters want to pay tribute to Walter Worth, our former Head Gardener. Walter secured a job here in 1960 following a successful interview with founder George Mottershead. He was passionate and meticulous about his work, putting in long hours to support the zoo's rapid development.

Relatives recall Walter's fond memories of his zoo career which included; the construction of the elephant house, monkey house and the tropical realm but he was particularly proud of the floral clock, just one of the many projects he led. The clock was created using money from George Mottershead's memorial fund and was situated near the Oakfield. The clock mechanism has long since stopped working but the bedding area still remains.

Walter retired in December 1985 with his dedication being recognised by the Royal Horticulture Society (RHS) with the Associate of Honour Award for 'services to horticulture'. Staff who worked with Walter remember him fondly and felt this was a richly deserved accolade for his devotion and enthusiasm.



Walter Worth next to the floral clock ↗

THE GREEN GOLD CONSPIRACY



At the end of October we ventured into the world of theatre to raise awareness of the growing palm oil industry and how it's affecting wildlife around the world. This piece of experimental theatre is part of our wider Palm Oil Challenge and aims to inform and inspire – showing people the effect palm oil is having on the environment and what we can do about it as consumers.

The interactive game was created by award-winning makers of theatre, Coney, and was performed at The Lowry as part of the Manchester Science Festival and then at the zoo. Each table represented an oil palm plantation - they had to generate enough income to keep their workers happy, keep an eye on what their competitors were up to (the other tables) and decide which route to take when dealt a new business opportunity. It was great to see the different choices made by the audience and the consequences they faced as a result!

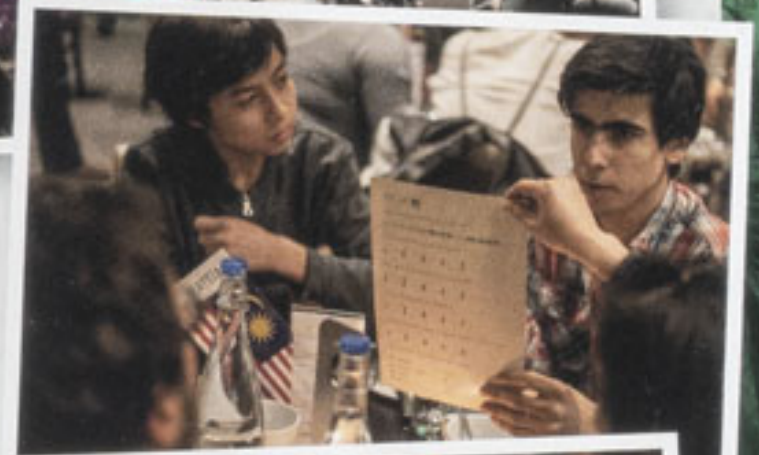
Owen Chamberlain, from the University of Chester's RECAP (Research into Education, Creativity and Arts through Practice) centre took part in the event here at the zoo and he kindly took the time to share his feedback of the adventure game.

"It was with some intrigue that I found myself at Chester Zoo on a Saturday night to take part in what had been described to me as a murder mystery, with the main suspect being a plant. Palm oil, as I was soon to find out, is not only in everything (including toothpaste apparently), but is also increasingly being grown everywhere. Not coming from an environmental standpoint, but having a minor eco-conscience (recycling is about my limit), I was interested to know more about what has been termed 'Green Gold'.

"The night was based around a three course meal and in between each course came a new round to the game.. Each table at the night was assigned a country, given a selection of forest cards, and the task of making as much money as possible over the night, whilst simultaneously trying to not cut down everything.

"Games like this usually bring out the worst in me, and it soon became obvious that everyone on my table was the same - we opted to cut down, bribe, use chemicals etc. We soon ended up with \$20,000 (10K more than everyone else), however the clincher came at the end. But I don't want to give away too much, but we lost the game!

AND THAT IS ONE OF THE MAJOR THINGS TO HAVE COME OUT OF THE EVENING FOR ME. WE ARE CONSTANTLY TOLD WITHIN MEDIA CIRCLES THAT THE ENVIRONMENT IS IN A LOSING BATTLE WITH US - WITHIN OUR GAME, THIS WAS BROUGHT INTO A STARK LIGHT. WE HAD ALL THE MONEY, YET NO FOREST, ANIMALS OR SOUL LEFT BY THE END OF IT.



"The event did an excellent job of lulling us into a false sense of security, with us damaging our tables' environment; and then showing us that we had backed ourselves into a corner of environmental ruin of our own making!

"Fundamentally, changing to sustainable palm oil production is going to take some serious business change, and it is something that we could do now if there was the will. Palm oil is not a glamorous subject, even with the inclusion of orangutans. However, it is a component in such a wide range of products, and we have to change our approach to its use.

"Kudos to Chester Zoo and Coney for showing this in an innovative, challenging and inspirational way!"

Thank you to those who attended **The Green Gold Conspiracy**. Don't worry if you missed it; you can still get involved and help us make a difference by taking part in our Palm Oil Challenge. Together we can make sustainable palm oil the norm!

FIND OUT MORE, HERE:
WWW.ACTFORWILDLIFE.ORG.UK/PALMOIL

© All images courtesy of the Museum of Science and Industry. Sebastian Matthes, MannoX

Talking Conservation...

2016 WINTER
AND SPRING
PROGRAMME

FEBRUARY-APRIL

We have some really great talks lined up for you in 2016 and hope you'll find them interesting and enjoyable. Our talks are planned to bring you up to date with the work your membership supports.



Wednesday March 2nd

GET CONNECTED!

Wildlife Connections is the theme of our new campaign for UK Wildlife. We're aiming to create a network of skilled people to help reverse declines in UK wildlife, focusing on local areas and community groups in Cheshire and North Wales. We hope the campaign will create new connections between people and wildlife, and build links between existing wildlife sites in the region. Join Sarah Bird, biodiversity officer and Chris Sainsbury, community conservation manager as they explain how you can be a part of this exciting new venture.

MEMBERS' TALKS:

held in the Geraldine Russell Lecture Theatre (near main entrance off the A41), start at 7.30pm and:

- are free to members (please bring your membership card and welcome letter)
- we offer a special rate of £2.00 to adopters
- members of the public and guests are welcome (£3.50 for non-members)
- our Lecture Theatre seats up to 170
- post-talk refreshments give you the opportunity to have an informal chat with speakers, zoo staff and fellow members

Wednesday February 17th

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF BORIS!

To celebrate Boris the chimpanzee's 50th birthday, we have a wonderful evening lined up for you to enjoy. Claire Parry, assistant team manager, primates, will start proceedings with a talk about Boris and his history at the zoo with Stuart Nixon, field programme coordinator, giving us an up-to-date report on our Gashaka Gumpti programme. We'll be auctioning some lovely ape art work, there will be a raffle and a fun 'Guess the weight of the giant cuddly chimp!' Other primate merchandise may be available too and, of course, this is a celebration so you'll be able to mingle at the end and chat with speakers, staff, fellow members and chimp enthusiasts over party food and drink!

Wednesday April 20th

THE SILENT KINGDOM: AN OVERVIEW OF CHESTER ZOO SPECIES AND PROGRAMMES

The lower vertebrate and invertebrate kingdom is one of the most fascinating, filled with thousands of weird and wonderful species. We might think of them as 'little brown jobs' but Gerardo Garcia, curator of lower vertebrates and invertebrates will show you that they really are superstars and that they all need a backbone to withstand the dangers that face them. We support a number of projects and Gerardo will give you an update on these as well as introducing you to some of these fantastic creatures.



Interested in attending?

Please call Kate in Education on 01244 389444
or email k.branksin@chesterzoo.org
Booking essential.

GIFT IDEAS

If you are struggling to find that special gift for your loved one this Christmas then we may be able to help. We offer a range of gifts, vouchers and experiences which could be the perfect present for any animal lover. Here's a selection of items we offer...



ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS from £59

AN EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

Love lemurs?
Adore elephants?
Batty about bats?

Our animal encounters start from £59 and get you closer to the animals that you love. If you've always wanted to be a zoo keeper or a gardener for a day then we can arrange that too.



ADOPT AN ANIMAL OR DONATE FOR WILDLIFE

Adopt an animal here at the zoo or support our work protecting wildlife all over the world by donating to

ACT FOR WILDLIFE

BE PART OF THE FAMILY WITH ZOO MEMBERSHIP

Our membership packages start from £45 and include unlimited FREE entry to the zoo for 12 months plus access to special events and priority booking. Gift Memberships are available online and perfect for the animal lovers in your life. If your budget won't stretch to a membership then we offer gift tickets too.

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS from £45



ZOO IN A TIN

Looking for an unusual stocking filler for your animal loving child? Packed into an easy to carry box, this fantastic gift gives children the opportunity to make their very own zoo. The chunky pieces include animals, a keeper, sign, tree, fencing and a play mat and is an ideal gift for kids on the move.

NEW IN THE SHOP



CHARLIE BEARS

These collectable, affordable bears and animals are designed by artists from around the world and made by a British family firm. Each bear is lovingly handmade and every single bear is different. We have a range of bears for babies from birth, children and adults alike.



For more details about our Gifts, Experiences or Charity Gifts go to

chesterzoo.org/christmasgifts

Thank You

for staying with us!



We're launching a new loyalty benefit for members.

To thank all of our members (we now have over 70,000!) for their loyal support we will be awarding a loyalty bonus for **continuous*** membership from January 2016. If you renew as **continuous*** after the first year of membership the price will reduce by £1 per member per year to a maximum value of £5 per member.

For example:

* RENEW AS CONTINUOUS MEMBERS

after the 1st year of membership and save £8 for 2 adults & 2 children, save £10 for 2 adults & 3 children etc
(renew after the first year and you will be in the 2nd year of your membership)

* RENEW AS CONTINUOUS MEMBERS

after the 2nd year of membership and save £12 on 2 adults & 2 children, save £15 for 2 adults & 3 children etc
(renew after the second year and you will be in the 3rd year of your membership)

* RENEW AS CONTINUOUS MEMBERS

after the 3rd year of membership and save £16 on 2 adults & 2 children, save £20 for 2 adults & 3 children etc
(renew after the third year and you will be in the 4th year of your membership)

* RENEW AS CONTINUOUS MEMBERS

after the 4th year of membership and save £20 on 2 adults & 2 children, save £25 for 2 adults & 3 children etc
(renew after the 4th year and you will be in the 5th year of your membership and receiving the maximum bonus of £5 per member)

Members renewing as continuous after the 5th year of membership and beyond will also receive the maximum bonus of £5 per member.

***CONTINUOUS** - refers to renewing a membership for another year before it expires with no breaks in the membership dates. Once a membership expiry date has passed the membership is no longer continuous. If you have any questions about this, or other aspects of your membership, please contact our **Membership team** on **01244 650208** or email membership@chesterzoo.org



MEET OUR TINY

CAPYBARA PUP

NEW
ARRIVAL

Back in October we welcomed a new capybara to the zoo, the baby which has yet to be sexed, was born on the 19th October and this tiny youngster was walking and swimming on its own within days.

Capybaras are the largest rodent species in the world, they are semi-aquatic mammals and originate from South America. They can grow up to almost 1.5m in length and weigh up to 60kg.

Dr Nick Davis, assistant curator of mammals at the zoo, said:

"Our new arrival is tiny and can barely be seen above the grass when it follows mum on adventures across the paddock. It only weighs a few hundred grams at the moment but, in time, it'll grow into a really chunky rodent.

"While the capybara is not currently classified as an endangered species, it is hunted and poached for its meat and skin, which can be turned into leather. So it's important that our new arrival helps us raise the profile of this often overlooked species."

The scientific name for the capybara means 'water hog' and their bodies have been specially adapted for swimming - with webbed feet and their eyes, ears and nostrils located on top of their heads. They are able to stay submerged in water for around five minutes to help avoid detection by predators such as jaguars, anacondas and caiman in their native South America.

MERRY

Christmas:

from all
at the zoo



Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH
Tel: 01244 380280
Fax: 01244 371273
Email: info@chesterzoo.org
www.chesterzoo.org

Founded in 1934, the North of England Zoological Society is a registered charity. We need your help and support to raise funds for the care and conservation of rare and endangered animals both in the zoo and across the world.

Registered charity no. 306077

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY?

As part of our commitment to the environment, we're giving you the chance to receive 'Z' electronically. Swapping over is really easy. Simply contact the membership office on 01244 650208 or email membership@chesterzoo.org with the email address you would like the link sending to – BUT DON'T FORGET to include your membership number or postcode so we can find you. *You'll still receive the magazine by post if you don't wish to receive it electronically.*