

# CHESTER ZOO News

News from The North of England Zoological Society



10p

ALL  
FOR CHIMP  
HOUSE  
FUNDS

## NEW CHIMP HOUSE BEST IN BRITAIN!

### £250,000 PLAN RELEASED FOR NEW QUARTERS FOR OUR COLONY



Give a Chimp a new home  
Picture by Howard Walker of Mirror  
Group Newspapers.

IN OCTOBER our chimpanzees could be moving into new, custom built accommodation, with central heating, composite flooring, nursery area, dormitories, climbing apparatus and year round viewing facilities.

In previous years, the chimps were often unable to come out onto their spacious island during the coldest part of the year because they are so susceptible to colds and flu. This meant that visitors were unable to see one of the zoo's finest exhibits for several weeks every year.

The circular house plans have a public walkway all around the perimeter, with viewing through a protective, laminated window. A shallow moat will surround the chimps' living area. This has a double purpose; it will help control humidity and, because the chimps will not cross water, it will prevent them climbing up the walls! The 40 foot diameter circle will contain a massive climbing frame, extending almost to the 30ft high roof, giving the animals the freedom of the whole volume of the house. They will have access to the island through doors fitted with flaps to stop heat escaping. Except for very cold days, they will have the freedom to choose to be indoors or out.

On one side of the main house will be the nursery area. This is a section that we hope will not be occupied very often. Although the chimps are prolific — there were four births last year — it is far better if the chimp mothers rear their own babies. The nursery area will only be used if a baby is rejected by its mother for any reason, and has to be hand reared by keepers.

Outside, jutting out across the moat, will be a circular photo-point, echoing the style of the house. This will give close access to the chimps on the island for memorable photographs.

A MODEST investment of a £1 brick gives you a real stake in the new Chimp House, and will provide a useful desk top pen and pencil holder as well as a talking point for years to come.

Buy yours in the Fountain Gift Shop

### First President



HIS Grace the Duke of Westminster has agreed to become the first President of the North of England Zoological Society.

The presidency was announced at a meeting of the Society at Chester Zoo in March. Two Honorary Vice-Presidents were also announced at the same meeting. They are Ditch, Lady Tollemache, and Professor J. O. L. King, who was Chairman of the zoo's control for many years.

The Duke of Westminster told Zoo News, "It is a particular pleasure to be invited to become Chester Zoo's first President. The Zoo has an enviable reputation and I much admire the work being done for the conservation of endangered species."

"I loved raising the zoo as a small boy, and my daughters enjoy their visits now. I look forward to a very happy association with you all."

GARY  
picture TALBOT

How are  
Roberts getting  
humans to help  
build my new house  
at Chester  
Zoo?



ARTISTS impression of the proposed new Chimp House - looking from the North East. Architects are Lovelock, Mitchell & Partners of Chester.

### BRICKS & BREAD

AS Chester Zoo is a registered charity, we rely totally on the income from our visitors. We hope that the thousands of people who will enjoy a day at the zoo this Summer, will help us to raise the £1 1/2 million needed for the new chimp house. Roberts Bakery are giving us their support, with special chimp tokens on bread wrappers. They have promised the zoo 1p for every token collected. Please save these tokens and either post or bring them to the zoo, or drop them into the local Chronicle or Sentinel newspaper offices. There are free zoo tickets and special prizes for groups collecting 200 or more.

The other way you can help is by buying a brick. You'll find these commemorative bricks, which double as pen holders, in the Fountain Gift Shop, at £1 each.

If you have enjoyed watching our wonderful group of chimps on their island, please help us to build their new house.

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### For the Children

OUR Education Division's volunteer helpers (FEDS) run the "Lets Make Centre" (near the Sea Lions) and the Brass Rubbing Centre (by the Oakfield) during the season. The Fountain shops and Information Kiosk stock Animal Information Sheets and childrens material produced by the Education Division.

# I FOSTERED AN ORANG-UTAN

## SENIOR KEEPER NEIL SPOONER TELLS HOW HE BROUGHT UP SUBIS THE BABY ORANG-UTAN

SENIOR keeper Neil Spooner spent most of 1987 being "Foster-Mum" to a baby Sumatran orang-utan called Subis. Her mother, Ramona, could not be persuaded to rear her baby herself, and so Neil began a year of broken nights, dirty nappies and supreme reward. Neil tells *Zoo News* how he coped.

There is no great trick or secret to fostering any healthy great ape, such as an orang-utan. The simple, most important prerequisite is a limitless supply of patience and care, and the willingness to "write off" about one year of one's life — this being the approximate duration that the infant will be "in care" — and, accordingly, the foster parents' lifestyle must, to a great extent, revolve around the youngster and its needs.

Rearing a baby orang is a 24-hour job. The baby's needs change and alter as it progresses from one stage to the next; from being 100 per cent dependent, and feeding every couple of hours, through teething problems, to becoming more adventurous and independent, only to experience insecurity traumas at a later stage, screaming for attention and comfort at every opportunity.

### LUNCH

It is safe to say that the first three to four months are the most demanding. After this, night feeds have usually been cut down to a minimum, or ceased altogether, and — on the "plus" side — the baby is beginning to become more interesting as its character develops.

"Subis" was born at exactly midday on 30 November, 1986. It was lunch-break — or at least it should have been, until "Subis" made her appearance. This obviously set a precedent, as she has been interrupting lunch-breaks ever since, wanting to feed, play or defecate as soon as you make a move towards thinking about yourself eating!

"Ramona's" track record for motherhood is not a good one. She is a highly potent creature, but seems to feel that the contribution of procreation is enough, and there her responsibility ends, and should be handed over to someone more suited to the menial task of child-rearing. This — her fourth birth — was to prove no exception and, after an encouraging start, cradling the baby in her arms and holding her near to her breast, she suddenly decided that enough was enough, and placed her baby on the floor and walked away from her. From that point on, no amount of encouragement or cajoling would induce her to have anything further to do with her offspring.

So, after only three hours, "Subis" was to become a ward of the Zoo staff, and has since endeared herself to all who have come into contact with her, in a way only a baby ape can.

Since "Subis" was born at the onset of winter, it was desirable for her to wear clothing for much of the time, in an effort to maintain an optimum body temperature. Under normal circumstances, she would effectively have gained this from her mother through 24-hour-

a-day contact. This constant source of contact serves a number of different purposes — perhaps most notably that of reassurance. Should "Subis" be mildly frightened or hungry, a gentle soothing tone of voice would quite often be sufficient to allay her fears. If the stimulus were more acute — for example, should her foster parent oversleep (heaven forbid!) and be late with that first, much-needed early-morning feed, after a whole seven or eight hours' culinary abstinence, no amount of soothing talk would be able to calm the baby and stop her from screaming. Picking her up and simply holding her would immediately have the desired calming effect, even without the feeding-bottle to hand. This response again emphasises the great importance of close physical contact.

### WEANED

At about five months old, "Subis" was weaned off her milk feeding-bottle and on to a baby's covered cup with a spout. It took a couple of weeks of persistence (and mopping up quantities of spilled milk) before she finally got the hang of things. By this stage, of course, she was getting her milk-teeth through, and treating everyone to the benefit of these wonderful new acquisitions.

Subis is now integrated with the other orang-utans, following a very gradual introduction. Her brother Douglas, just one year older than Subis, was also hand-reared by a keeper, and the pair now spend much time together, either fighting or playing like any other siblings.



DURING 1987, Subis was frequently seen traveling piggy-back with Neil, who hand reared her for the first, critical year of her life. She is now with her brother, Douglas, in the Ape House and can often be seen playing on the islands.

## A LYON'S DAY — WITH OUR VET



Christmas Post!



of British and Irish Zoos links collections, large and small, whose interests place the welfare and conservation of species as a prime concern. Chester is a founder member.



### TRIBUTE

WE plan to publish a tribute to the late Eric Kirkland, Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society and one of the most eminent animal photographers. It will include most of his FRPS submission.

## The OASIS

BETWEEN the Elephants and Rhino house, we have a great range of snacks and drinks, Walls Ice Cream, Slush Poppie, sweets, crisps and sandwiches — all freshly made.

Do drop in — you'll be most welcome.



DEREK Lyon (left), Douglas the orang and keeper Tim Hayward.

THE TV series "One by One" following the adventures of a zoo vet, was filmed largely at Chester Zoo. The man who has the real-life job of caring for the zoo's animals is Derek Lyon.

"Treating zoo animals doesn't differ very much from domestic species. The tricky bit is getting into a safe position to do something simple."

That rather simplified statement comes from Derek Lyon, Chester Zoo's regular vet. Derek isn't on the zoo staff — his practice is at the Gatehouse Veterinary Hospital in Lavister, Rossett. But he spends every morning doing his rounds among his more exotic charges, and the rest of the day the more usual domestic and agricultural cases.

The medical equipment for his zoo round is rather larger than the items needed for cats and dogs. To get an injection into the armour plated skin of a rhino, for instance, Derek uses a dart driven from a special rifle. For the lighter skins of zebras or bears, the vaccine-filled dart is powered from a pistol, and for primates and birds, a gentle blow-pipe does the trick.

When Derek has to visit the chimp island to see a patient, the entire zoo is aware of his visit. Just the sight of Derek brings high pitched screeching through the chimps' tightly clenched teeth and pursed lips. Because he has given them all their necessary, preventative inoculations, he is not a popular man with the island's 21 chimps.

"Most of them will pluck out the dart and throw it straight back at me" said Derek. "Even if I try to lose

myself in the crowd around the island when I'm not working, they will still wave their arms in fury and blow noisy raspberries when they spot me!"

The zoo has over 550 different species of animals, birds, reptiles and fish — many more than most veterinary colleges cover in their training, and certainly more than most vets would encounter in a lifetime's practice.

The knowledge and experience that Derek has gained in more than 20 years "on the job" are his most valuable assets. He has devised ways of coping with some of his more difficult patients — like luring snakes into tubes so they can't wriggle around while receiving a jab.

Derek videos much of his work in the zoo, and the tapes make fascinating viewing. One unforgettable image on video is of a young female wallaby being treated for a jaw disease. While the vet is working on her jaw, a young joey jumps from the pouch onto the floor, very skinny, and very surprised to find herself outside the warmth and comfort of her mother for the first time.

The keeping staff, Derek asserts, are wonderful veterinary assistants. "When it is necessary to use an anaesthetic on a large animal, in order to treat it safely, shock can be a great enemy. The regular keeper, known and trusted by the animal, can do a lot to calm his charge.

Derek relies very much on the keepers for help and information. "They all know their animals so well, and their advice is invaluable."

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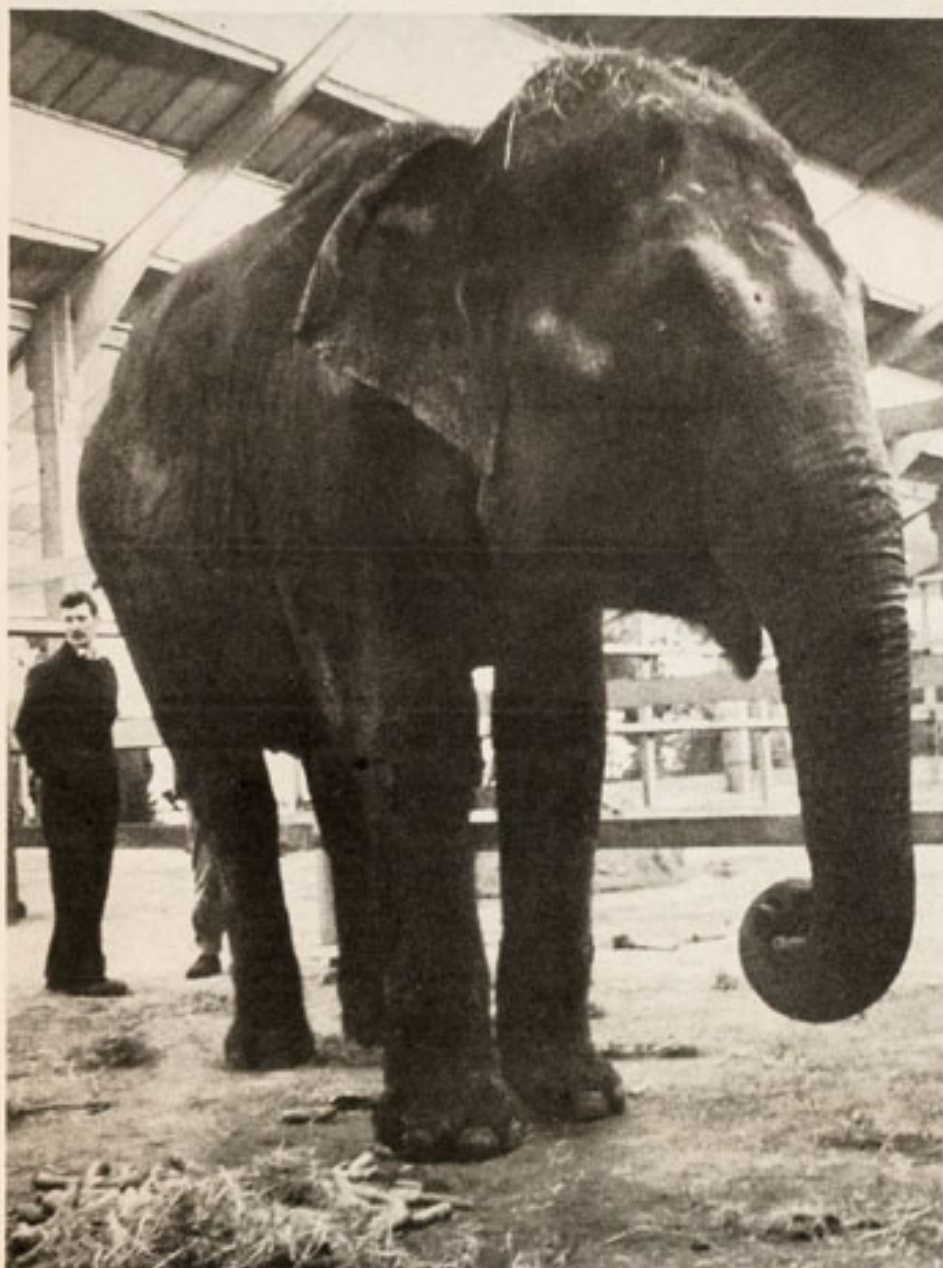
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# WILL YOU BE OUR ZOO PHOTOGRAPHER OF 1988?

Three round contest gives you more chances to win £500 of prizes



## Welcome to Kirsty

MEET Kirsty from Glasgow — who joined Sheba, Judy and Jubilee in the Elephant House late last year as a result of the inter-zoo joint management project for elephants which means that female elephants of suitable age will have the chance to mate with one of the few bull elephants in the country. Jubilee, aged eleven this year, is already getting acquainted when his Mother, Judy, is not around. Willie Patterson, Kirsty's keeper from Glasgow came south for two weeks to help her settle in. He's on the left.

THIS year's competition couldn't be easier to enter. There is just one category: "My Favourite Chester Zoo Photograph". There are two classes for adults — one for prints and one for slides — and one class for juniors under 16.

### Triple Chance

The competition will be judged in three stages during the year, with three prize winners at each stage. All entries in the first two stages will be included in the final judging.

### Classes and Prizes

Theme: My Favourite Chester Zoo Photograph.

Class A: Prints; Class B: Slides; Class C: Juniors under 16 on 31 October 1988.

Stage One: All entries received by 30 June. Class A: Color 3 processing voucher for £25. Class B: Color 3 processing voucher for £25. Class C: Family zoo ticket, plus £10 voucher for zoo shop.

Stage Two: All entries received by 31 August (including stage one entries). Class A: Fishwicks Photographic voucher for £25. Class B: Color 3 processing voucher for £25. Class C: Family zoo ticket, plus £10 voucher for zoo shop.

Stage Three: All entries received by 31 October (including stages one and two). Overall winner — "Zoo Photographer of the Year" wins a 35 AF2 camera — Kodak's top of the range compact.

Plus Class A winner — a Kodak MD compact camera. Class B winner — a £50 Fishwicks photographic voucher. Class C winner — a Kodak S 100 compact camera.

Plus Zoo family tickets for all the Grand Finale winners, and for the top runners-up.

We are most grateful to Kodak, Fishwicks of Haydock and Color 3 Photo Labs of Widnes for their help with prizes. Thank you!



KEEPER Wayne McLeod took this shot of the first flamingo chick to hatch in 1987 and won a prize in our staff competition.

## Barn Owls are back

THANKS to a special breeding programme, organised by the zoo's Curator of Birds — Dr Roger Wilkinson and his team, there are successful re-introductions of the barn owl in Cheshire, the Wirral and Staffordshire. For the last two years, we have raised barn owls in the aviaries and when they are ready, they are released in suitable sites. The young owlets are first fed daily in their new homes, but the amounts are gradually reduced to give them the incentive to hunt. We are grateful for all the help we have received from local landowners and from Dr Carole Hackney of the University of Keele who has worked with us on this exciting project. Anyone who is interested in this project should contact Dr Wilkinson at the zoo — (0244) 380280.



## Have your Birthday Party at the Zoo!

WHAT a great idea for children... there are hats and novelties, and for parties of twelve or more, there's a special Zoo Birthday Cake — with our compliments.

Please contact Party Office, where Debbie or Lynn will give you full details. The telephone number is Chester (0244) 380280 — or on weekdays come to the Oakfield reception.

## £15,000 TARGET FOR ZOO MONTH



JULY is Zoo Month — and we will be helping the appeal to raise £15,000 for a special study of the Diana Monkeys on the island of Tiwai, Sierra Leone (in West Africa) as well as contributing to the educational programme for the local people. Hunting and loss of habitat have threatened the existence of this delightful creature. Regrettably, we don't at present have them in the collection — but we will have the special tea towels seen here for the appeal!

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DURING 1987 there were over 670 births or hatchings in our animal collection. For the latest news in 1988 — see the Zoo News posters at the Information kiosk.



# MEET THE ZOO'S CLASS OF 1987



Just a few days old, and already he can rock and roll! This little flamingo chick, hatched in July, was the first ever for Chester Zoo, but two more were hatched later in the month. The proud parents — shown here — are clearly tickled pink!



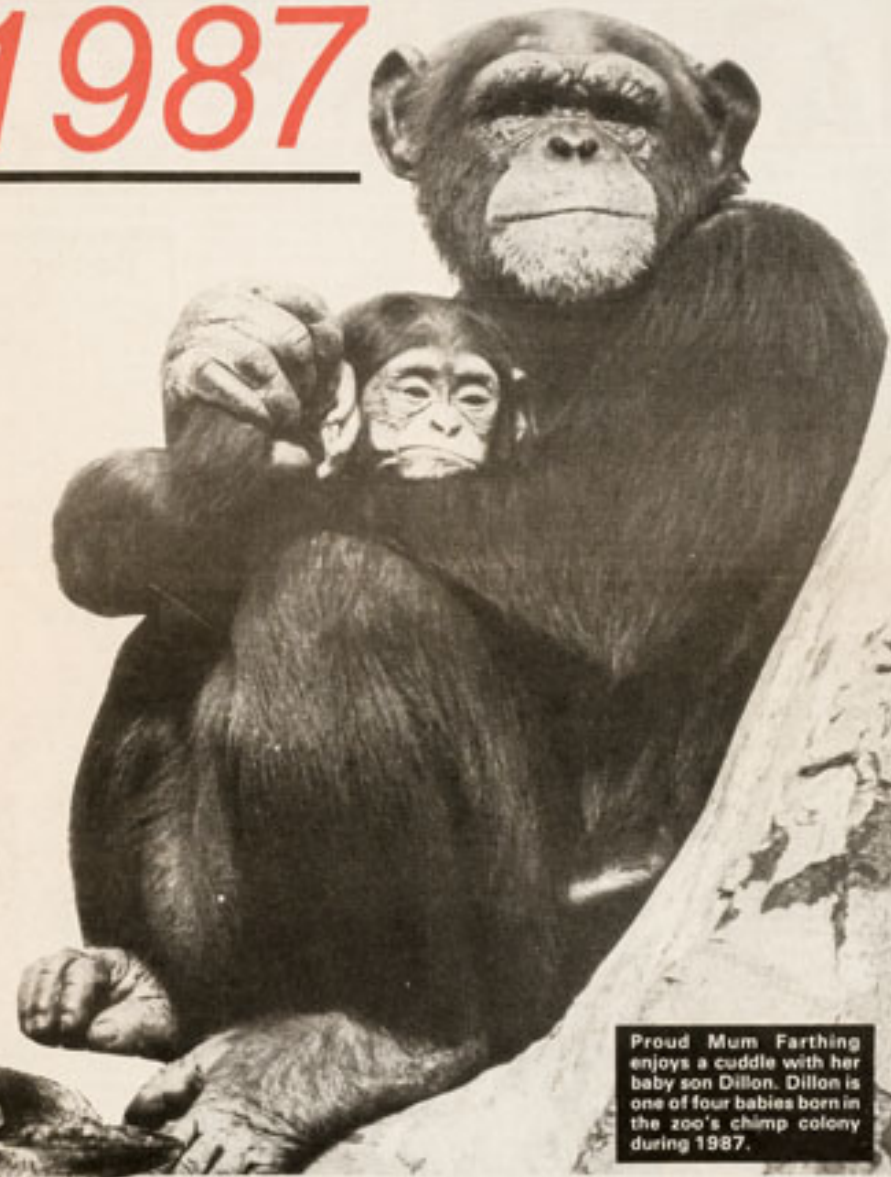
Snowy Owl chick.



A young kookaburra takes its first look at the world.



This little capybara, just one week old, is one of a litter of six born in October.



Proud Mum Farthing enjoys a cuddle with her baby son Dillon. Dillon is one of four babies born in the zoo's chimp colony during 1987.

WHENEVER you visit, there are always likely to be some appealing youngsters in some part of the 110 acres of the zoo.

But to see the largest selection of baby animals, the Spring and early Summer are the best time — and Easter, traditionally a time of new births really begins the cycle of "new arrivals". Every Spring we expect that the female kangaroos have "joes" in their pouches and the patient watcher or photographer will be rewarded with the sight of one of these appealing youngsters.

Over the canal bridge in the paddocks, there will be baby wallabies, pretty young Aardvark and maybe a couple of new arrivals in the herd of the rare Père David's Deer (from which we contributed to the herd that returned to their native China after becoming extinct there earlier this century).

The ring tailed lemur always produce many young in the Spring, and maybe there will be other pregnancies in the monkey house. Make sure that you watch out for the young chimpanzees and orang-utans who love to play with the suspended car tyres on their islands. In the children's farm, there are goats to make friends with, and a chance to stroke over the walls, the Dexter cattle and the Tamworth pigs.

If the weather is bad — don't despair. The magnificent Tropical Houses probably the finest in Europe, providing ample cover, as well as the collection of reptiles and amphibians. Marvel at the tropical plants, the free flying exotic birds and the upper and lower gardens.

All around the zoo — enjoy the wonderful prize-winning gardens. Many visit as well as that they come just to enjoy the work of Eric Wadman and his team of gardeners — and find the animals a bonus!

And don't forget the Garden Shop — close to the Ape House and convenient for the zoo's visits. The zoo's keepers have some of the 1987 new arrivals for you. In 1988, we are sure there will be many more.

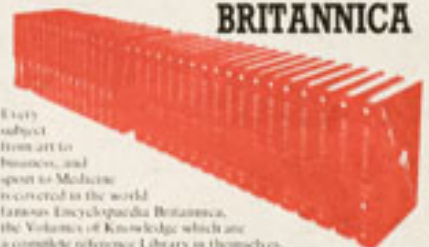
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The Zoo's shops are at the Fountain, in Jubilee Square, by the Rainbow Lawn and at the Monkey House.

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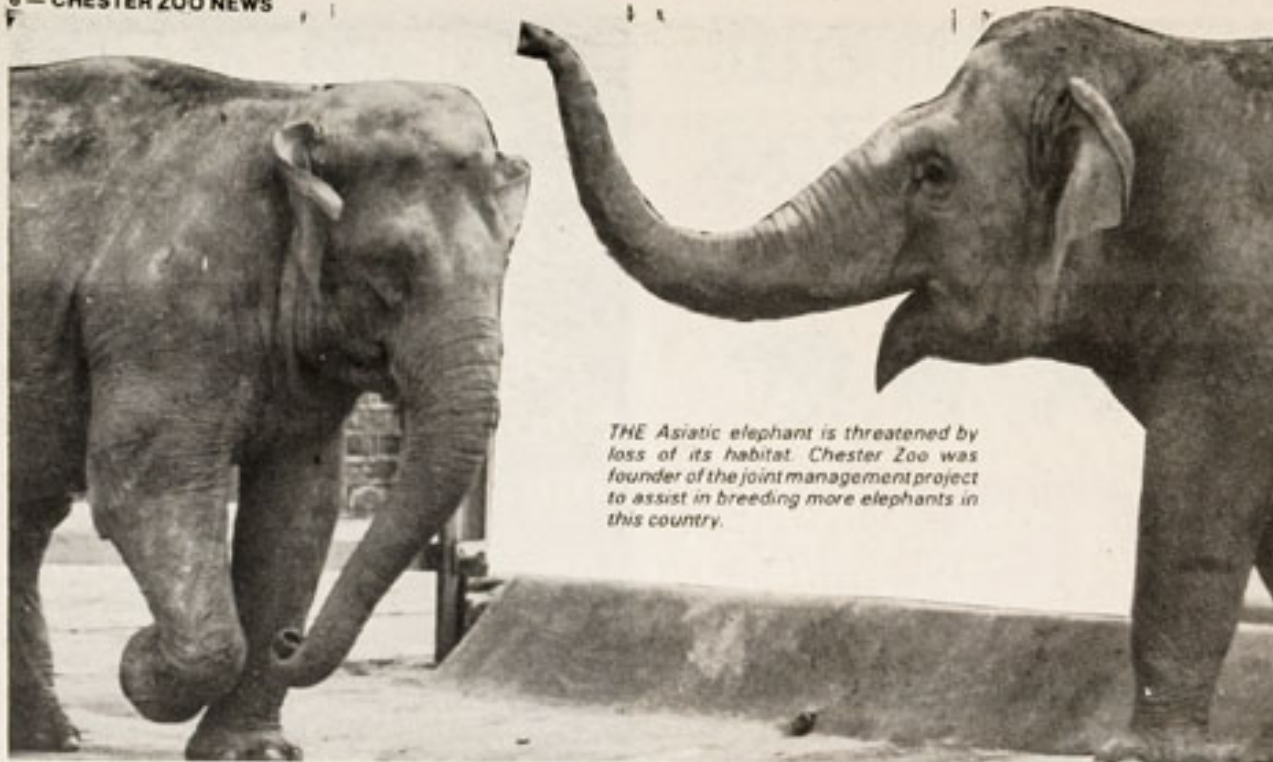
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For further details: See us at our Exhibition Caravan, close to the Sea Lions or contact:

**E. B. International Ltd, Room 270/020 Carew House, Station Approach, Wallington, Surrey or telephone: 01-669 4355**



THE Asiatic elephant is threatened by loss of its habitat. Chester Zoo was founder of the joint management project to assist in breeding more elephants in this country.

## Is there room in your heart for a Hippo?



WOULD you like to be the adoptive parent of a red-kneed tarantula? May be you would find a big eyed bush baby more appealing!

All the animals at Chester Zoo are up for adoption — but they don't expect you to take your choice home with you!

To help meet the enormous food bill of more than £150,000 annually, the zoo has devised its imaginative adoption scheme, which has proved extremely popular. Based on units of £25.00, one or more shares will foot the feeding bill of a particular animal for a year. For example, one unit would cover the entire cost of some of the smaller snakes and birds. It would take four shares to feed a wallaby or an arctic fox; eight shares for a penguin or a kangaroo; 40 shares for a rhino or a hippo and — hungriest of all — 80 shares, or £2,000 for a whole elephant!

In return, adopters get a certificate, two free zoo tickets for every £25.00 spent, their name on the adoption plaque by the appropriate enclosure in the zoo, and copies of the zoo's quarterly magazine.

Adoptions have been very popular for presents. One young lady adopted a skunk for her boyfriend — but the zoo doesn't know if the romance survived! Following the TV programme "The Rise and Fall of Reginald Perrin" there were several enquiries at Christmas for hippopotamuses for mothers-in-law.

Pubs with animals in their names often adopt their namesake. The Eagle Hotel, in Paradise Street, Liverpool, and the Gazelle on Menai Bridge in Anglesey are examples. Marconi Underwater Systems chose to

adopt the stingray — for obvious reasons.

There have been several "celebrity" adopters. Jazz musician, George Melly has adopted a Rodrigues fruit bat; William Roache (Ken Barlow of Coronation Street) has adopted a kinkajou for his small daughter, and Granada's Bob Greaves, who once had a very embarrassing moment with an elephant at Chester Zoo, that was filmed for posterity, has adopted the animal that made him blush!

Adoptions last a whole calendar year. The animal adoption secretary, Maureen Alsopp, will be delighted to give further details. Write to her at Chester Zoo, Upton by Chester, CH2 1LH or telephone (0244) 380280.

### Become a member

IF you become a member — not only can you visit the zoo whenever you choose, but you'll also receive invitations to special lectures, our members' magazine — Chester Zoo Life — and the chance to buy additional tickets at special prices. Come to Oakfield reception for more details, or telephone 0244 380280 or send us an SAE and we'll send you an application.

# WHY HAVE A ZOO AT ALL?

Asks our director, Dr Michael Brambell.

THE trite answer to this question is: "Because we have a zoo already, a lot of people enjoy it, and why question something which people obviously want?"

Animals are exciting and fun, especially to children. Wild animals in particular are extremely exciting. If this excitement results in positive stretching of the minds of our visitors, making them more concerned and more informed about the variety of natural life of the world in which we live — that must be a very strong argument for zoos. However, the world is not as it used to be; travel is easier, and electronic experience-giving is very sophisticated.

But the zoo shows real animals — warts and all — and provides the missing dimensions of size, sound and smell and the real thing. In this respect the zoo is an essential complement to the electronic natural historian. What the zoo does not do and cannot do is to show the wildlife environment, and can only indirectly indicate the interaction between the

animal and its wild environment. However, the zoo can resist the claim that this divorce from the wild is of itself cruel. Our own species is an example of how removal from the wild has led to an improvement in survivorship, if nothing else!

#### GENE-POOLS

Most important of all, zoos are now places where populations rather than isolated individuals of species can be kept; where gene-pools — albeit small ones — can be husbanded, so as to be self-propagating. No amount of celluloid or magnetic tape can substitute for real live chains of D.N.A. doing their own thing. The only serious contender for this aspect of the zoo is the concept of the "Frozen Zoo", where gene pools are kept in suspended animation, pending the arrival of Utopia. In the meantime, they would represent the most boring and unexciting stimulus to public awareness imaginable.

It is this ability of the zoo to provide — in concert with like-

minded zoos and on-the-spot programmes across the globe — havens for refugee species which are losing or have lost the battle for survival in the wild, that provides the strongest argument in favour of zoos. Indeed, the argument is so compelling that we can justly claim that zoos are on the way in, are at the start of their most useful purpose, and are not in the twilight of a Gothic heyday. I have argued to the international zoo community that, in practical terms, we should now be aiming to deliver to the people of the 22nd Century viable populations of species which would otherwise long ago have lost out to human competition.

It is this aspect of zoos — the "time-bridge" concept — which I believe should be the central point of zoos in the future and around which all other functions should be built.

#### WIDER VIEW OF CONSERVATION

Chester Zoo, with its ownership of a rural land-holding around the Zoo itself, is in the unique position of being able not only to foster international species conservation, but also national conservation, by developing a variety of habitats around the perimeter. Bluebell Wood forms the basis of a woodland nature reserve. A wetland immediately to the west of the Zoo (and south of any proposed entrance from the A41) would serve the double purpose of being a reserve for native waterfowl and also a filter for storm-water and relatively clean pool water prior to being pumped back into the Zoo from the redundant sewage farm. There is also room for a grassland reserve and for a sandy heathland to be made, to form a back-up for the National Nature Reserve at Ainsdale.

#### SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION

Much that is useful can be gleaned from the stock in the Zoo by direct observation, without interference or manipulation. Some of this work can be done by visiting university researchers, and some can be done by scientific officers appointed to the Zoo's own staff. There is also a need to co-ordinate captive management programmes with genuine field research and conservation. Once the Zoo is sufficiently well-funded, it must undertake to enter this field. In time, particular areas of the world with which the Zoo can have a special relationship will identify themselves.

#### EDUCATION

The educational potential of the Zoo lies in two principal areas:



formal education — presenting opportunities to schools and colleges for education at all ages; and informal education — aimed at the public outside the Zoo.

Not only has education to provide explanations of biological principles in general and zoological principles in particular, but it has also to endeavour to induce in the general population positive attitudes towards the furtherance of zoology.

In modern times, this must mean a heavy emphasis on explaining the challenge to wildlife posed by habitat degradation and destruction by the world's human population, and the task must fall not only on the professional staff of qualified teachers, but also on a dedicated volunteer force.

## Zoo smile



**MAGNIFICO FEAST**

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THE boardroom is a wonderful setting for a formal occasion. Our founder, George Mollershead's portrait is over the fireplace.

## Perfect for parties

A PARTY at the Zoo, is special the minute guests arrive. Wedding Receptions, 18th or 21st Birthdays, Golden Weddings — whatever your requirements, we can suggest first class ideas for the menu and arrangements — including a zoo tour if you wish. Parking is no problem at all and the wonderful gardens make a great backdrop for your celebrations. We can even lay on a special cruise on the water bus for you. For more information, and our special Function Brochure, ask at the Oakfield Restaurant, or telephone Debbie or Lynn at Party Office on 0244 380280.



**Flying Coati?**

YOUNG Brillo does another of her fantastic leaps from the launch pad of Charlie MacKenzie's shoulders. She was hand reared by Charlie.

**DO COME INTO THE GARDENS**

CHESTER ZOO'S reputation is due almost as much to its gardens as to its animal collection. There are 100 acres of formal bedding, rose gardens, shrubs, rockeries and trees, all maintained to a very high standard by the zoo's 22 dedicated gardeners.

Out of doors, thousands of daffodils come into flower every Spring, best seen from a trip on one of the canal boats. Following on in late September are the glorious formal bedding displays of 80,000 polyanthus, pansy, wallflowers, daisies and forget-me-nots. 10,000 tulips are planted for flowering in May. The shrubs and rockeries all start to bloom at this time.

To follow the Spring bedding are the half hardy Summer plants.

The Spring bedding plants are lifted and replaced by another 80,000 plants to fill the flower beds. The variety of plants used include begonia, heliotrope, canna lilies, calceolaria, verbena and all the well known Summer plants.

To make the flower beds more exotic, they are interspersed with 300 standard fuschias, heliotropes and lanterns. It takes as many as 2,000 plants to fill some of the flower beds. All the bedding plants are grown in the zoo's own nurseries and greenhouses.

**15,000 ROSES**

There are two main rose gardens of floribunda and one of hybrid tea roses, which are in flower from the second week of July. A total of 15,000 bush and standard roses are planted throughout the grounds.

Most of the animal houses are planted with exotic plants out of reach of the animals. One of the main buildings is the Tropical House, which covers 4,500 square metres. In here are planted bananas, palms, rubber trees, hibiscus, bougainvillea, ferns and many other smaller plants, all growing as if in their natural habitat. To add to this, groups of pot plants are exhibited when in their flowering season. These include orchids, anthurium and poinsettia. In the cooler animal

houses, there's a large variety of abutilons, plumbago and cassia.

Gardening enthusiasts will certainly not be disappointed by their visit to the zoo and after much persuasion, the zoo now has its own Garden Shop — in the Greenhouse — close to the main entrance.

ERIC RUDMAN and most of his team of gardeners celebrate their 1987 Britain in Bloom win by the Floral Clock.



**PIGS WALK TO FARM**

NOW that the second phase of the popular Childrens' Farm has been completed, the pigs — warm red Tamworth's — were "walked" through the zoo early one morning with the help of Senior Keeper, Charlie MacKenzie who wheeled the barrow full of pig nuts and Keepers Tim Rowlands and Hilary Liebeschuetz who scattered them making a "food trail".

**NEWCOMERS**



TALISKER the Scottish Wildcat was born in 1987. See her in the Cat House.

**SALUTE CAPTAIN NEMO\***

THIS four year old Californian sealion was born in Colwyn Bay Zoo, and has spent most of his young life at Whipsnade Zoo. He arrived at Chester in February this year on breeding loan.

Three years ago, the National Federation of Zoos organised an exchange of sealions to achieve a healthy breeding programme for these magnificent animals. A sealion pup has been born in Chester Zoo each year for the past three years, and we hope that Nemo will do his best to keep up the record!

\* Named after Jules Verne's hero of "50,000 Leagues Under The Sea".



**BOYS and GIRLS — if you know an Orang-Utan from a Chimp, Enter the Free MARS ZOO TRAIL Competition. Prizes every month — buy any Mars product from our Shops and Kiosks and ask for an entry form.**

**1 KEEPERS CORNER**

**ASIAN ELEPHANT**

HELLO — I'M PETER THE ZOO KEEPER, AND I'M GOING TO SHARE SOME FACTS AND FUN OF CARING FOR THE ANIMALS IN THE ZOO WITH YOU. AND WHAT BETTER WAY TO START THIS SERIES THAN THE LARGEST LAND MAMMAL IN THE WORLD — THE ELEPHANT

**AFRICAN**

**ASIAN**

**FACT** — There are two species of elephant — the Asian and the African. The easiest way to tell the difference is to look at the ears — the one with the enormous, floppy ears is the African. The elephants in Chester Zoo are Asian and they are just as impressive as, if slightly smaller than, their African cousins. Strangely, their nearest relative is the Hyrax — an African mammal barely 30 cm long.

ELEPHANTS DON'T HAVE VERY GOOD EYESIGHT BUT THEIR HEARING IS EXCELLENT. THEY ARE VERY SENSITIVE AND USE THEIR TUSKS TO COLLECT FRUIT AND VEGETATION. THEY ALSO USE THEM TO DRINK.

IT TAKES 22 MONTHS FOR A BABY ELEPHANT TO GROW AS BIG AS ITS MOTHER. THE FIRST ONE EVER BORN IN THE U.K. IS JUBILEE WHO WAS BORN IN CHESTER ZOO ON MAY 15 1977. SHE'S STILL THE ONLY ANIMAL VISITORS ASK FOR BY NAME.

**FACT** — The trunk is a universal tool. The tip is very sensitive and it is strong enough to pull up a tree by its root.

Jubilee weighed 95 kg at birth and was 80 cm tall. Now, at 10 years he is almost 2 1/2 metres tall and weighs over 3 tonnes. When fully mature, he could reach over 3 metres and weigh up to 4 tonnes.

**FIRST STEPS**

THE first flamingo chick to hatch in 1987 takes its first steps (see page 4).

# CHESTER ZOO NEWS



## HANGING AROUND

HANGING around is a very 'tyre-ing' occupation for young Douglas, a 2½ year old Sumatran orang utan. When he isn't swinging or climbing, Douglas's favourite occupation is teasing his little sister Sobis.

# Twelve ways to enjoy the zoo

1. BUY A ZOO GUIDE — it's got a map, details of the collection and wonderful photos

2. MEET THE CHIMPS

4. SEE OUR PENGUINS 'FLYING' UNDERWATER



3. CATCH A CANAL CRUISE

THE waterbuses leave their terminus just opposite the Oakfield for a fifteen minute cruise through the zoo. The fare is 50p for adults, 25p for children.

HEIDI with her baby, Peggy taken in 1985.



Pic Mel Grundy Agency.

7. TAKE PHOTOS — you can borrow a Kodak camera from the Fountain shop.



6. ADOPT A TIGER

IT can cost as little as £25. Ask for our Adopta leaflet.



5. GET ICE CREAM ON YOUR NOSE

8. BECOME A FED.

FRIENDS of Education Division Services give volunteer help to the department. Ask for details at the Education Division.

9. SEE THE LIONS FED

EVERY day at 3pm except Friday.

10. STOP AT OUR SHOPS

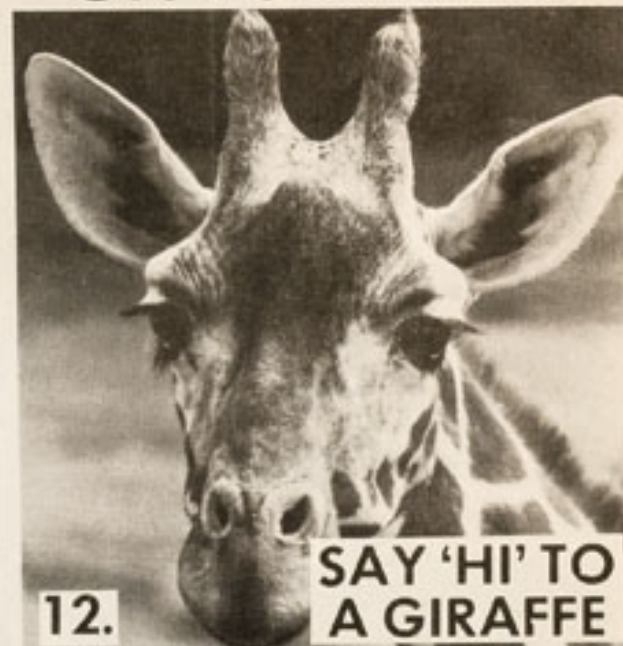
THERE is a wide selection of gifts and Fountain and the Jubilee Kiosk, plus our Kodak kiosk near the Monkey House, the Rainbow kiosk, close to the picnic lawn, the Garden Shop by the Ape House and the Information Kiosk by the main entrance where you can buy guides and material from our Education Division.



11. SNAKE INTO THE TROPICAL HOUSE



IT'S like another world with free flying birds and a waterfall.



12. SAY 'HI' TO A GIRAFFE



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Lyons Maid



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## LITTER FREE ZOOS ARE GREAT NEWS

Please help us keep the gardens free of unsightly and dangerous litter — just put it in the litter bins provided everywhere

