

Summer 2006 **Issue 26**

The official magazine for Chester Zoo  
Members and Adopters



# Roaring in

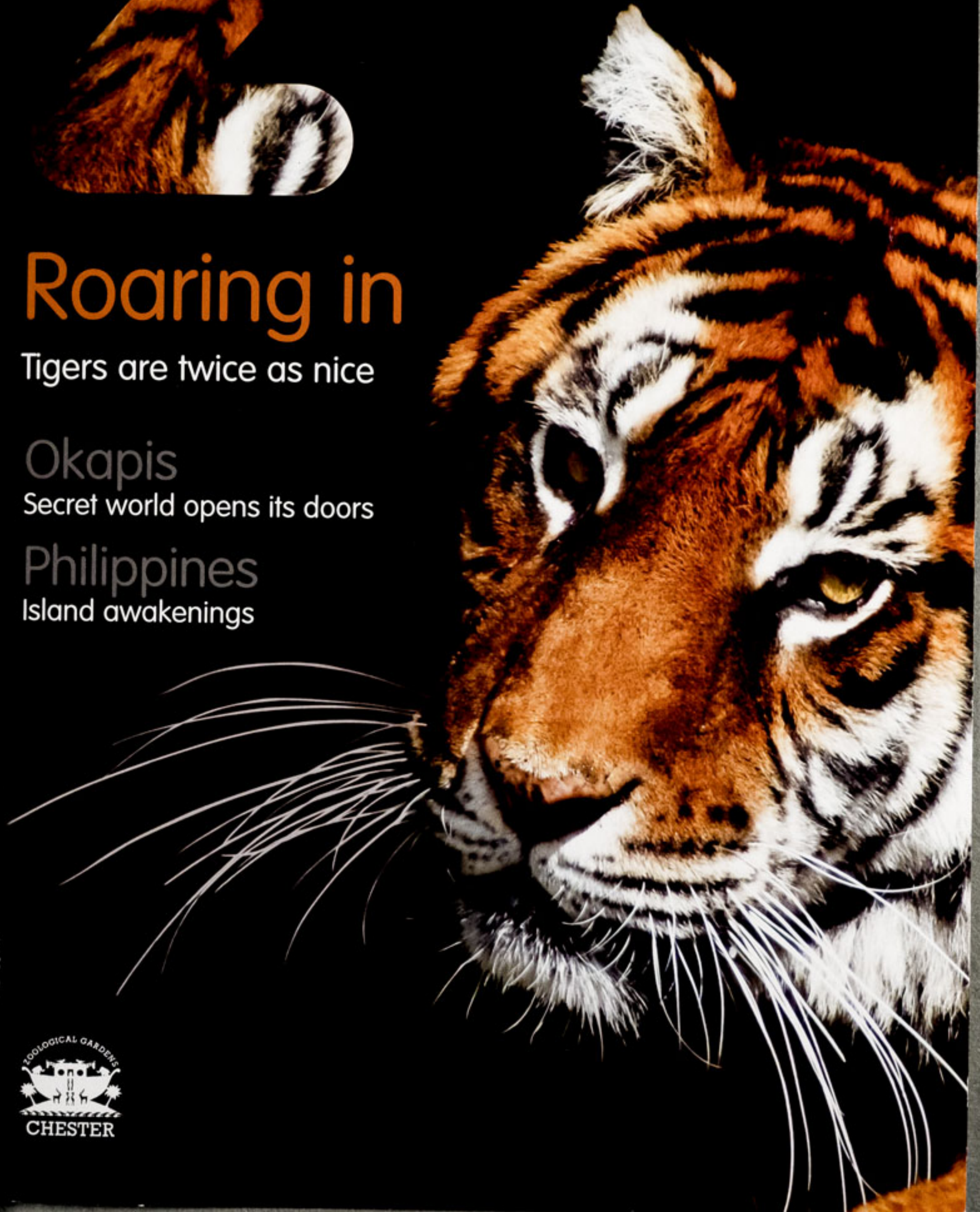
Tigers are twice as nice

Okapis

Secret world opens its doors

Philippines

Island awakenings





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# Director's Pen

By Gordon McGregor Reid  
Director General

A warm welcome to the summer issue of Z – and what a lot we have to tell you this time!

If you are a new member or adopter and reading this for the first time, then welcome on board and I hope you enjoy reading the magazine and visiting the Zoo.

There is lots more for members and adopters – old and new – to see at the Zoo since my last column and as you read on you can find out more about our new exhibits such as Elephants of the Asian Forest and The Secret World of the Okapi. For the artistic amongst you, our Pottery Studio has also opened. You can read more about our new attractions in the magazine, but nothing quite beats seeing our animals first hand and we hope you will share our delight in what has been achieved when you next visit us.

On the next few pages you can also learn more about our new arrivals including Bengal tigers Khali and Rhani (page 3) as they settle into their new home.

We also hope you will find something interesting and informative amongst the details of Members' Talks and forthcoming Events and look forward to seeing you at one of those soon so you can find out more about our conservation work both at home and abroad.

For our younger readers, there is a jam-packed Kidz Zoo in the centre of this magazine, including tickets for Chester's Gateway's forthcoming show The Jungle Book up for grabs, and a story on the naming of our baby giraffe.

Once you have been in to the Zoo and seen the many new exhibits for yourself, then please join us and take the weight off your feet in the new Café Tsavo. We hope you will enjoy this pleasurable dining experience where the emphasis is on recycling.

Whenever you choose to visit us over the next few months, we hope you have a good visit and we thank you for your continued support.



Front page picture courtesy of Cavendish Press

# News

## Twice as nice



Visitors are seeing double with the arrival of two very lively youngsters.

Eight-year-old Bengal tigers Khali and Rhani arrived at the Zoo to take up residence in their new home. The two females have come from the West Midlands Safari Park.

Mike Jordan, Curator of Higher Vertebrates, said: "It is our intention to move forward with the aim of keeping Sumatran Tigers but in the meantime we are delighted to welcome Khali and Rhani to the Zoo."

"They are young, energetic animals and we are sure they will be a big hit with our visitors who will be able to make full use of the large tiger window around their enclosure to see them in their full glory."

## Korda

The Zoo said a sad farewell to Amur Tiger, Korda, who died aged 17.

Korda, who was born at the Zoo on April 22 1989, was a much-loved and popular animal and died after a short, age-related illness.

Mike Jordan, Chester Zoo's Curator of Higher Vertebrates, said: "It is very sad when we have to say farewell to any animal particularly one as popular as Korda who has been with us for so long.

"Korda was a good age for a tiger but his health had declined recently. He will be sadly missed not just by the staff but by our visitors, members and adopters who, I am sure, will share our sense of sadness."



# Zoo additions



## Forest Giant Pouched Rat

These enormous rats (weighing more than 1kg) are sometimes also called Emin's Giant Pouched Rat (*Cricetomys emini*). They are new to Chester Zoo and can be seen as part of the new Secret World of the Okapi exhibit which opened at Easter. They have very large cheek pouches which they use to carry food, but also inflate with air to make them look bigger when faced with predators. In the wild this particular species inhabits dense forest in West and Central Africa. Only very recently a new species of pouched rat (*Cricetomys kivuensis*) was described, unique to the eastern border of the Democratic Republic of Congo, home of the Okapi.



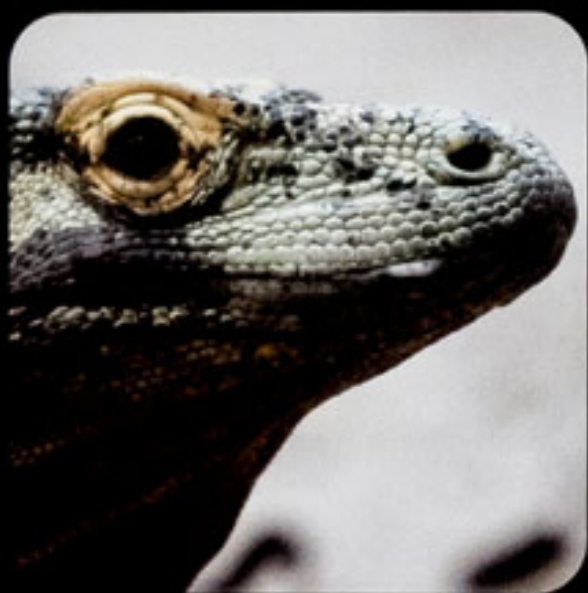
## Madagascar Fody

New to the Tropical Realm are three pairs of Madagascar Fody (*Foudia madagascariensis*). These birds are very similar to the critically endangered Mauritius Fody that our bird staff travel to Mauritius each year to incubate, hand-rear and reintroduce to the wild as part of our field support to Mauritius. Whilst the female Madagascar Fody is brown and easily overlooked, the males in breeding condition have stunning red feathers and a loud song.



## African Dormouse

Also new to the Secret World of the Okapi are a group of African Dormouse (*Graphiurus* sp.) There are at least 14 different species in Africa, seven of which occur in the forests of the Democratic Republic of Congo. All these species are very similar and very poorly studied. They can be voracious hunters in the wild catching and eating invertebrates and small vertebrates as big as themselves! They are small (15g) agile dormice that live in colonies and will often take over an old bird's nest, or small tree hollow to nest in.



### Komodo Dragon

New to Dragons in Danger is male Komodo Dragon, Kimaan. He has come from Thoiry Zoo on a breeding loan and will be a mate for our two females Flora and Nessie.

### Chestnut-backed Thrush

This beautiful ground thrush species new to the Zoo can be seen in the Tropical Realm. They are secretive but with patience can often be found around either the waterfall or Dwarf Crocodile areas of the Tropical Realm. Chestnut-backed Thrush (*Zoothera dohertyi*) is endemic to Lombok, Timor and the Lesser Sunda Islands in Indonesia. The species is rapidly declining and it is already extinct on Lombok and possibly also on Lesser Sunda.



# Seeing double

Tourists are doing a double take at our latest attraction – two animals which appear to be half giraffe half zebra.

**D**icky and Mbuti are Okapis of which there are only 20,000 - 30,000 around the world. They resemble giraffes, only with shorter necks, and have distinctive zebra-like markings on their back legs. The Okapis are actually the only living relatives of the giraffe, but ironically are no relation to the zebra.

Ten-year-old Dicky and two-year-old Mbuti – both males – were brought to the Zoo as part of a European Conservation Breeding Programme. They had initially been kept away from the public eye awaiting the building of their new enclosure but now they have moved in to The Secret World of the Okapi exhibit.

The Okapi's natural habitat is in central Africa, in the dense Ituri forests of the Democratic Republic of Congo, which is the only place in the world where the Okapi can be found in the wild. The animals take their Latin name of **Okapia Johnstoni** from the British explorer Sir Henry Johnston, who first discovered the animals to Western science, whilst working as Council General to the Colonial Administration of British Central Africa in 1901. Sir Johnston, Queen Victoria's first commissioner, was intrigued with reports of native sightings of this strange 'forest donkey', known to the Wambutti Pygmies as O'api.

He set about trying to find the elusive animal, which had avoided confrontation with Western civilisation for years amongst the dense tropical rainforests of Central Africa, and finally managed to track an Okapi down in 1901. The Okapis have large ears and a long neck, have cloven hoofs and are usually chocolate brown or grey in colour, with zebra-like markings on their back-legs. Male Okapis have small skin-covered horns, which usually appear in the first one to five years of their lives. The animals weigh up to 550lbs, grow up to 8ft long and reach heights of up to 6ft to the shoulder.

The Okapi's zebra-like markings are designed as a method of camouflage for the animals, helping them to evade predators in the wild, and also as a beacon to help the young follow their mothers through the impenetrable rainforests of the Congo. Okapis are herbivores and their main diet consists of leaves, grass, fruit and fungi, and have a well developed sense of smell which helps them to forage for food.

They have specially adapted long tongues, which reach lengths of over 30cm, allowing them to pluck leaves and buds from high up in the trees. The Okapi's tongue is so long that it is able to wash its own eyelids and it is one of the few animals in the world that is able to actually lick its own ears. Okapis have unusual sleeping patterns, and are able to sleep for just five minutes a day, whilst remaining extremely alert.

Okapis tend to be solitary animals and come together only to breed. The mothers are extremely protective of their young and will defend them violently if necessary. Okapis have a gestation period of up to 15 months and baby Okapis, known as calves, are usually born between the months of August and October. Female Okapis usually give birth every two years, with only one calf being born at a time, and the young are nursed for up to ten months.

It is thought that young Okapis don't necessarily imprint on their own mother, as the animals have been known to be nursed by more than one female. Male Okapis are fiercely protective of their territory and mark their domain via scent glands on their feet and by urination.

The Okapi population numbers between twenty and thirty thousand in the wild, and, while the species are not currently classified as threatened, their existence is fragile with poaching and continued destruction of their habitat reducing the population.



The Okapi Wildlife Reserve was set up in the Ituri region of the Congo in 1992, covering over 8,500 square miles, and works to conserve and protect the species in its natural, wild habitat. The animals were first introduced into captivity in the early 1900s and there are now over a hundred of the animals in zoos across the world. As well as taking part in the conservation breeding programme, Chester Zoo is providing funds to the Okapi Wildlife Reserve to ensure that the Okapis continue to flourish in the wild.

With an expected lifespan of over 30 years in captivity, it certainly looks like Okapi will provide animal lovers with a special reason to visit Chester Zoo for a long time to come.

“The Okapi’s natural habitat is in central Africa, in the dense Ituri forests of the Democratic Republic of Congo, which is the only place in the world where the Okapi can be found in the wild.”



# Elephants of the Asian forest

As part of the Zoo's continued programme of improvements, a number of major projects all aimed at enhancing animal enclosures and facilities to visitors, have been completed and opened to the public. These include Café Tsavo and Elephants of the Asian Forest.

## Elephants of the Asian Forest

Elephants of the Asian Forest, the new £3 million elephant house, stands more than 12 metres high and covers more than 2,900 square metres of ground. The new enclosure is home to our Asian elephants and to Tree Shrews, Elongated Tortoise, Great Hornbill, Green Pea Fowl, Azure Winged Magpies, Arowana and Probarbus fish and two species of Squirrel.

As well as continuing Chester's excellent breeding record, we fund conservation projects in Assam to protect wild Asian elephants and other species.

The new £3 million elephant house stands more than 12 metres high and covers more than 2,900 square metres of ground.



## The Assam Haathi Project

Assam in north-eastern India is home to one of the largest populations of Asian Elephant. Unfortunately this population is also one of the least protected and most threatened. Here, wildlife and people compete for space and food and, as a result, encounter each other more frequently than ever before.

At certain times of the year, elephants leave the forests and venture into croplands; trampling fields, eating crops, and entering villages. The villagers in turn try to scare the elephants away, often resulting in chaos and accidental deaths.

To protect the Asian Elephant we need to ensure that they have natural areas in which they can survive. We need local people who are willing and able to tolerate their existence, and support their protection. This can only be achieved by addressing the needs of the people. In response to these needs, we developed the Assam Haathi Project ("haathi" is Hindi for "elephant").

On the practical side, our project assists villages suffering from elephant crop-raiding. This means a great deal of community work with the aim to design elephant crop-raiding control measures for each village, and to teach communities how to adapt these. We also assist villagers in learning how to cultivate cash crops to decrease their dependence on subsistence crops.

On the research side, we study elephant movements and behaviour to learn about their needs, predict their paths, and use these insights to help develop large-scale land-use plans. The project has provided training for over 20 villagers who gather this information. This data is then collated to produce GIS datasets: layered maps that show where elephants migrate, rest and crop-raid throughout the year in relation to various factors. The AHP, now in its third year, is one of Chester Zoo's major conservation programmes and is managed in partnership with the Assamese-based organisation Ecosystems-India.



## Greater Adjutant Rescue Project

Greater Adjutants are huge Asian storks that stand up to 1.5 m high and in many ways resemble the more familiar African Marabou Stork. They live in wetlands and, like Marabous, also scavenge in rubbish dumps close to urban areas.

Greater Adjutants were historically distributed over a large area from India across to Cambodia but declined dramatically and now are only known to breed in Assam and in Cambodia. Recent estimates suggest their world population to be between 800 and 1,000 and still decreasing. Causes for this decline are considered to be habitat loss, coupled with decreasing food and loss of nesting trees. The storks nest in large trees, and the loss of these has forced many to nest in less secure sites in younger trees as a result of which nests get blown down in strong winds and many nestlings may die.

The largest world concentration is in the Brahmaputra Valley in Assam. Here the storks gather and nest in tall trees. In 2001 a local conservation body, Green Guard Nature Organisation, with funds from US Fish and Wildlife Service, initiated a three-year rescue and rehabilitation project placing nets under nests to break the fall of chicks. Rescued chicks are given veterinary care then transferred to a holding area where they are reared and taught to fend for themselves.

After six months the birds are assessed as to their fitness for release. Releases are made at a site where the wild birds forage and where food is most plentiful. Of 36 nestlings rescued in the 4 years to 2005 a total of 28 have been successfully rehabilitated to the wild. Chester Zoo has an ongoing elephant project in Assam and was approached for support in 2005 after the US funding had run out. We bridged that funding gap in 2005 and after first hand experience of this valuable project during a Chester team visit to Assam this year will be sure to offer continued support in 2006.

# 15 days in the Philippines

By Mark Sparrow, Curator of Horticulture and Botany and Maggie Esson, Education Programmes Manager

**W**e went to the Philippines to gain first hand experience of the conservation programmes that Chester Zoo is supporting, and to recommend ways that the botanical and educational components of these programmes could be further developed.

The Philippines archipelago, comprising over 7,000 islands, is one of the biodiversity hotspots of the world. Many of the animals and plants are found nowhere else on earth and a large number are endangered in the wild. The greatest threat to loss of biodiversity is the continued cutting down of primary forest for logging and agriculture. It is estimated that less than 3% of primary forest is left intact. Chester Zoo has been involved in the Philippines since 1990 and through Fauna and Flora International (FFI) and local partner agencies funds some vitally important conservation work there. This report gives a very brief outline of some of the work we saw.

## **Mar-i Conservation Park**

Started in 1993 on the island of Panay this is a breeding centre for Philippine Spotted Deer, Visayan Warty Pig, Panay Bushy-tailed Cloud Rat, Visayan Writhe-billed Hornbill and Visayan Tarctic Hornbill. Chester Zoo assisted funding the building of the Hornbill Aviaries and whilst we were there we were privileged to hear the world's first aviary-bred Visayan Writhe-billed Hornbill chick in the nest. There are believed to be only 200 of these birds remaining in the wild.

## **Nug-as Forest Reserve**

This small 700 hectare patch of protected forest is the largest remaining area of primary forest on the island of Cebu. It is home to two threatened endemic bird species - the Black Shama and the Cebu Flowerpecker and one endemic tree species, the Cebu Cinnamon tree. The forest is patrolled by 21 part-time wardens (three on patrol each day). These are local subsistence farmers and their wages are funded by Chester Zoo. I was particularly interested in the native tree re-forestation programme. The wardens collect wild seedlings, which are grown on in a nursery, before being planted out in areas that had previously been forested. In 2004 some 4,657 native trees were collected including over 500 Cebu Cinnamon trees.

## **Polillo Island**

On an island of about 76,000 hectares only 200 hectares of old growth lowland dipterocarp forest remains as part of the Sibulan Watershed reserve. Like the Nug-as Forest this is patrolled and guarded by Chester Zoo funded staff. We spent an incredible night and day up in the forest guided by the Head Ecology Warden Vincente B. Yngente (Enteng). We saw endemic Polillo Tarctic Hornbills and a host of other birds, animals and plants.

It was truly inspiring to see that Chester Zoo's money is making a real difference in supporting the work of Philippine conservation organisations staffed by dedicated Filipinos in conserving their unique flora and fauna.



# Awake! Polillo Island

The island of Polillo is transformed into a bustling hive of excitement, noise and colour during the week of the Polillo Tarictic Festival. Polillo island is situated off the east coast of Luzon in the Philippines. The narrow streets of Polillo town are made completely impassible by the sheer volume of swaying humanity out to enjoy the festivities. Opportunistic vendors, cooking up all manner of finger food, lay claim to every street corner and set up frighteningly precarious drums of cooking oil or charcoal fires. Even the youngest of the town children seems to know instinctively how to survive in these streets, avoiding the dangers of crushing, scalding or being run over.

This is the social highlight of the year in this tiny island. This is the home of the Polillo Tarictic Hornbill and several other endemic species. The protection of the remaining forest in Polillo, hornbill habitat, and the funding of wardens who keep the forest safe, is largely due to the efforts of Chester Zoo and our outreach programme there.

Though not so colourful as some of its cousins, the tarictic hornbill is gregarious, charismatic and an icon for conservation in the island. This iconic status is evident throughout the three-day festival where it seems the entire community, young and old, gear themselves up to take part in parades, events, contests and socializing. The amazing creativity and imagination of the women from the various island barangays, (the equivalent of our



"The narrow streets of Polillo town are made completely impassible by the sheer volume of swaying humanity out to enjoy the festivities."





**Great trips!**



# Meet Rafter's the giraffe!

A lucky young shopper at Morrisons Liverpool Road has beaten hundreds of other hopefuls to win the once in a lifetime opportunity to name the latest attraction at nearby Chester Zoo - a beautiful young giraffe now known as Rafter's.

William Rushforth, 7, from Dee Banks, Chester, won the unique prize after entering an exclusive to Morrisons Liverpool Road competition along with more than 500 other customers. Morrisons Liverpool Road were awarded the prize of naming the young giraffe after Dairy Crest, Morrisons' milk suppliers

in the area, agreed to provide the thirsty youngster with his requirement of milk as he grows into adulthood over a period of nine months. Keepers at the Zoo are helping mother Penny by feeding Rafter's, born in late 2005, with nine litres of Gold Top milk a day, as it can be common for giraffe mums not to suckle their youngsters.

**Win Jungle Book tickets!**

# The Jungle Book

Watch out for a stampede  
Jungle Book adventures  
are coming to town!

Chester Gateway is giving you the chance to win tickets for you and your family to see the wonderful adventures of Mowgli, Baloo and Shere Khan live on stage when The Jungle Book comes to theatre from Tuesday 25 - Saturday 29 July.

Mowgli, the man-cub, Baloo the bear and Shere Khan the tiger - with a little help from Disney, these Rudyard Kipling creations have become some of the best known children's story characters ever. Now you can see them live on stage as the wonderful Jungle Book has its first major theatre tour. This production is the latest show from The Birmingham Stage Company who are renowned for the high quality of their children's classic productions including Roald Dahl's *George's Marvellous Medicine*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *The Witches* and Philippa Pearce's award-winning *Tom's Midnight Garden* which have all played here during recent years.

The Jungle Book tells the exciting story of Mowgli, a young boy who is raised in the jungle by a family of wolves. When Shere Khan, the tiger, swears to kill the child, Baloo, the bear, and Bagheera, the panther, agree to take the boy to the man village for his safety. But the jungle holds danger and surprises for them all in this adventure of a lifetime!

Tues 25 - Sat 29 July

2pm & 7pm Daily

Tickets £15.50 Concessions £13.50

Children £9 Family Ticket £40

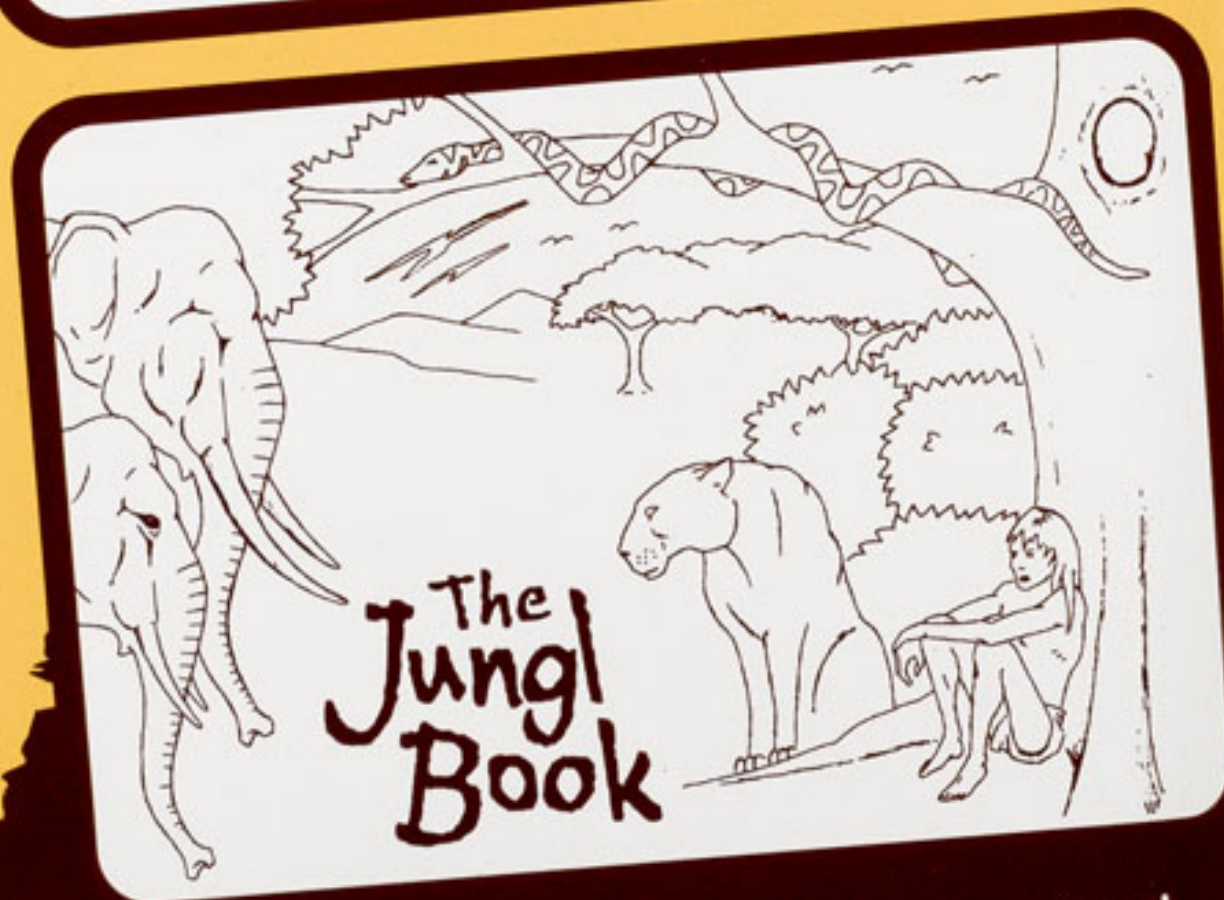
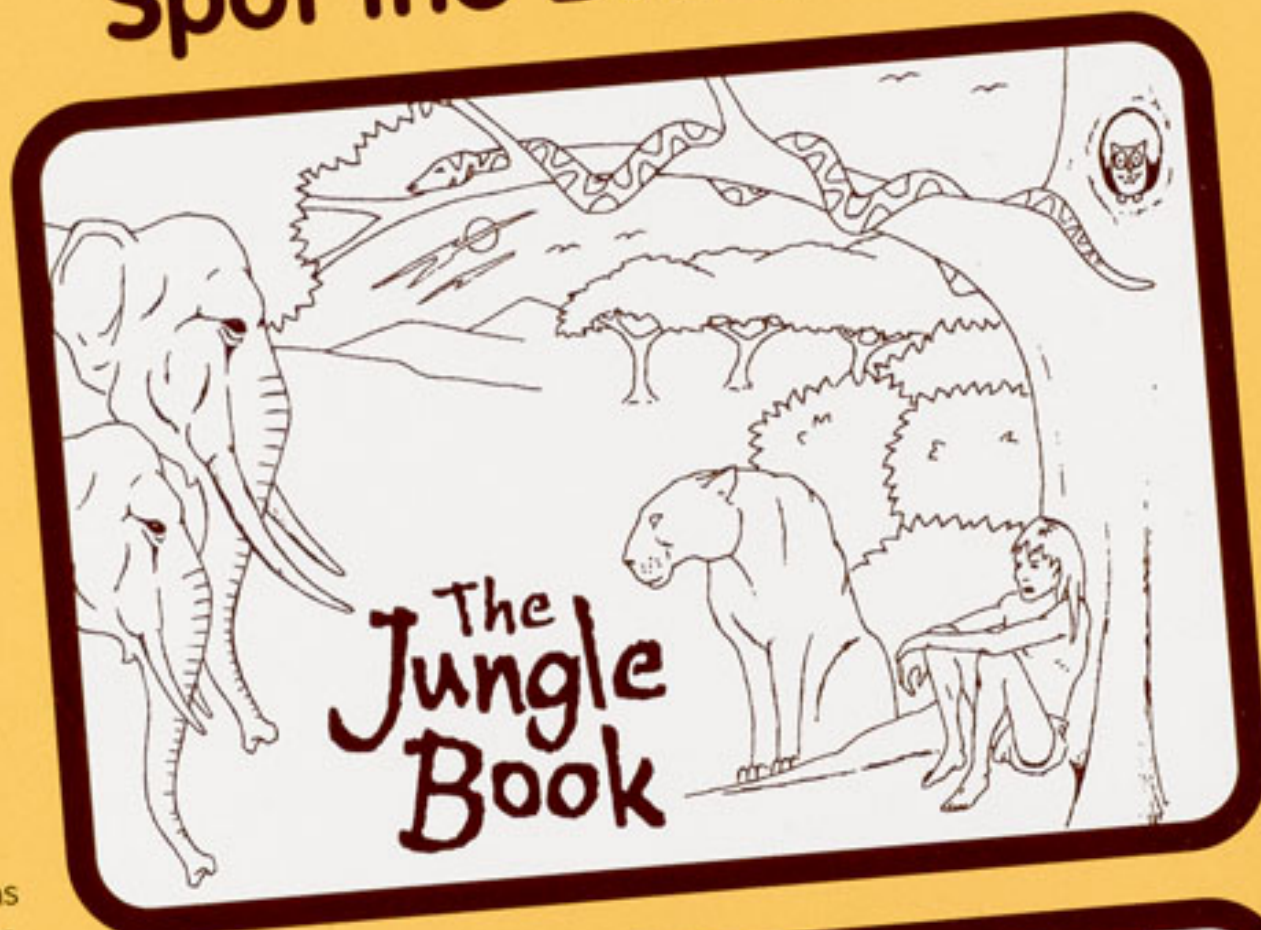
Tickets are available from

Box Office on 01244 340392

or online at

[www.chestergateway.co.uk](http://www.chestergateway.co.uk)

## Spot the Difference!



Play Spot the Difference and once you have found them all send it to:  
Jessica Robbins, Chester Gateway,  
Hamilton Place, Chester CH1 2BH  
Put your name, age and telephone number on the back and the winner will be picked out of a hat!!

# Junior Members' Events 2006

## The Conway RSPB Reserve

**Saturday 17 June**

This is a beautiful reserve on the banks of the River Conway in North Wales. Do not be lured into thinking that all you can do in an RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) sanctuary is to do a spot of bird watching. This, of course, will form an important part of our day, when we can sharpen-up our identification skills, but we will also be pond-dipping, river-watching and trundling along on a wildlife walk to spot butterflies. We will leave the Staff Entrance at 10am and return at 5pm. Eights and over should bring a picnic and sunscreen.

## How to be a good Zookeeper!

**Wednesday 26 July**

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 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 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 the Oakfield at 10.30am, and the day will finish for Juniors at 4pm. Please bring a packed lunch. **Also please note that bookings for this event will not be taken before 8.30am on Wednesday 12 July 2006, and will be strictly on a first-come, first-served basis. Places will be limited.**

## Summer barbeque

**Thursday 10 August**

Our summer barbeque has become a regular feature for the Juniors' diary as it has proved immensely popular. Perhaps this because it is our chance to be in the Zoo when there are no other visitor noises to distract you and the animals, so it is a different zoo experience. We usually aim to have a speaker to chat to you or to engage in craft activities during the evening, but you can be sure to finding it relaxing.

We would like to invite eights and over to join us for a 7.00pm start, when you should arrive at the Ark Restaurant (near the Tigers) via the Zoo's Staff Entrance on Caughall Road. Parents are asked to collect Juniors from the Ark restaurant at 9.45pm please.

## Walking the Wirral Way

**Saturday 23 September**

The 'Wirral Way' follows the route of an old railway line running from one end of the peninsula to the other which has been disused for some years now, but it has been made into a wonderful footpath for walkers. The bus will drop us off near Heswall and we will walk to Thurstaston to have a look around the visitor centre there and await collection by the bus.

Eights and over should come along prepared for all weather conditions, and bring a picnic. We will leave the staff entrance at 10am and return there for 4.30pm.

## The Hawkstone Follies

**Saturday 21 October**

It is a while since we visited this interesting location in Shropshire. The Autumn colours should be a lovely backdrop for the walk we will take along the paths around the 'follies' in Hawkstone Park. There is one point on this walk when you might need a torch and another point where a good head-for heights might be useful if you choose to climb the tower! Good footwear will be vital, and you should bring a picnic.

Eights and over are welcome to join us, and we will leave the staff entrance at 10.30am, and return at 4pm.

### **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. 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 and not by individual letter, so please keep up-to-date by reading the Junior page in each issues. A small 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.

Congratulations to the winners of the competition to name the Galapagos tortoises. **Emily Birdsey, Rhiannon Johnson and Katherine Ann Roberts** all chose **Darwin** and **Zuzu Walker** chose **Zuzu**.

**Liam and Hannah Westcott** were the winners of the Nosey Nosey competition.

# Summer School

Chester Zoo is offering a very special event this summer for Junior Members of twelve years old and above.

**Monday 14 to Friday 18 August 2006, inclusive. 8.30am – 5.00pm daily. Drop off at 8.30am and collection at 5.30pm can be arranged.**

The aim is to enhance the 'service' offered to Junior Members and fulfil the needs of the 'older' Juniors at a time when they tend to

have been joining in with events for a few years and have a real interest in zoos. Above all, it should be great fun and a rare opportunity to become much better acquainted with the real work involved in zoos – you will be surprised what you find out!

**Please ring Penny Rudd on 01244 650215 as soon as possible if you would like to reserve a place for this Summer School. To participate, junior members must be available for the full week. Cost £125.**

## Monday August 14

AM:

### Introduction

(Penny Rudd)

To explain the Programme of Events, behavioural expectations, housekeeping.

### Powerpoint and Discussion Session – Why Zoos?

(Penny Rudd)

Zoo Tour and Picnic Lunch.

PM:

### Botany in Zoos

(Paul Shipsides)

Indoor Greenhouse session (half day). Starting the Summer School 'Mosaic' – to be continued through the week.

## Tuesday August 15

AM:

### Powerpoint – 'Outreach Conservation'

(Scott Wilson)

Projects overseas.

### Animal Records The Dating Game and Personal Passports.

(Dave Brunger)

## Tuesday August 15 cont.

PM:

### The Wildlife Garden Quiz & Zoo Botanical displays explained.

## Wednesday August 16

(Day Out)

### Full Day Away

Venue to be confirmed.

### Half Day Away

Possibly Cheshire Wildlife Trust and the Goway Meadows (pond dipping, field signs, dragon and damsel fly hunt, etc).

## Thursday August 17

(Native Species Day)

AM:

### Powerpoint presentation on Native Species

(Sarah Bird)

Black Poplars, Pearl Mussels, Water Voles, Sand Lizards etc. Visit to Water Vole breeding area, and to Sand Lizards, Making Bird Boxes, Bat Boxes, Dormouse Boxes, Barn Owl Boxes.

## Thursday August 17 cont.

PM:

### Harvest Mouse Project

(Penny Rudd)

Brief Powerpoint and Field visit. Record to run a Bird Identification or insect recording session.

## Friday August 18

AM:

### Zoo Nutrition (The Balloon Game)

(Dr Andrea Fidgett)

Environmental Enrichment and Toy-making session.

PM:

### Feeding the Chimps

Using the toys (Primate Team)  
Careers in Zoos (Various Keepers)  
Being a Zoo Vet or Veterinary Nurse.

### Close

Workshop, scrapbooks, zoo quiz and unveiling of mosaic.



parishes) was demonstrated in the costumes they had spent most of the year making; first a group with skirts and hats strung with mussel shells, the skirts swaying as they walked and making a lovely sea shore sound, another group had used individual foil sachets from shampoo and detergent packets to make dresses that were layered in silver and gold fringes. As if testifying to the high rainfall and strong winds the island receives (while I was there we enjoyed the tail end of a cyclone) broken umbrellas are turned into frilly skirts. This is reuse and recycle at its most creative!

The barangay entries were each accompanied by majorettes and brass bands, each in savage competition, it seemed, with the preceding band in the parade; the tinny notes of one group attempting to drown out all others and adding to the hysteria very effectively. What the bands lacked in musical acumen they made up for in the splendor of their uniforms. Gold braid, knee-high boots and impossibly white tunics and gloves were the order of the day. How such high standards in the laundry department are attained is a mystery, given the complete absence of any of the amenities we would consider as essential for washing and ironing.

Amongst this melee of singing, dancing women our forest wardens walked tall, looking proud and strangely imposing amidst the competitive chaos of the barangay entries. Leading the wardens were two characters dressed as tarctic hornbills, their waddling procession not quite as elegant as the birds I had been privileged to see at dawn the day before in the forest, but nevertheless undoubtedly the stars of the show with children running alongside, ready to pose for the cameras. The tarctic costumes were funded by Chester Zoo and made by the local tailor, a testimony to Philippine ingenuity.

In Polillo, kite flying is the cool thing to do if you're male, young and macho, and want to impress your peers and the girls. So as not to leave this image conscious group out of the action, our team in Polillo organised a kite contest with a conservation theme. The competition was sponsored by Chester Zoo. Contestants had to design and build a kite and then prove it could fly. On the designated afternoon we sat in the peeling, cement grandstand of the local school games field and wondered if anyone would turn up. The rain was still falling and this weather was not exactly what we had in mind for kite flying, especially as we thought that some of the kites would probably be made from paper and disintegrate before our eyes.

The fervour of the festival atmosphere couldn't be dampened by a mere cyclone and over 200 youngsters turned up. Each entrant was accompanied by their 'gang' of adoring girls and strutting peers. The kites were paraded proudly to the hoots and yells of the highly partisan audience. In a rare break in the clouds we were able to venture out from under the shelter of the grandstand and take to the open space of the games field where the action really started. The kites took to the skies and everyone was relieved. We ducked back into the grandstand and the three judges, including me, got into a huddle to

confer. Some of the impassioned audience members tried to 'help' us make the 'right' decision. The atmosphere was pregnant with anticipation as Jun Redor, the project manager, addressed this captive audience with an excellent talk about conservation on the island.

Decisions having been made, the prizes were given out. First prize went to a Philippine Cockatoo kite, resplendent in chicken feathers with a head fashioned from a washed up chunk of polystyrene. Second was a tarctic hornbill, a papier mache masterpiece of such gigantic proportions that it appeared to defy gravity as it flew. Third was a resplendent butterfly made from coloured acetates. Unfortunately the pilot was over-enthusiastic in flying the kite and it disappeared into the stratosphere so the prize had to awarded in absentia!

This is conservation education at its best, delivered by stealth and soaked up by osmosis with no feeling of being 'told', 'taught' or 'preached' to. The festival brings the entire community together and provides an excellent opportunity for raising awareness of the conservation issues that concern us and for us to show how we translate that concern into action to protect the endangered species and habitats of Polillo.



# Save the Rhinos

Following last year's highly successful Shellshock campaign, this year the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) conservation campaign is Save the Rhinos.

There are five rhino species and all of them are threatened with extinction. The current wild population for all five species is only 18,000 animals! Numbers of rhinos in the wild have plummeted due to poaching for their horn, which is used in traditional medicine and for dagger handles in the Yemen; habitat loss is also a concern.

It is only through significant efforts in recent years by governments and conservation organisations that rhinos have not already disappeared from most of their range countries or become extinct altogether.

The Save the Rhinos Campaign aims for zoos and aquaria across Europe to raise awareness of the plight of rhinos and to fundraise a target of 350,000 euros to support 13 rhino conservation projects in Africa and Asia.

Chester Zoo have pledged to raise 20,000 euros towards the campaign and have just passed the Bronze Certificate mark (2,000 euros).

Money so far has been raised by the kind donation of the profits from FFI talks by Wildlife Photographer Nick Garbutt, and the Director of Save the Rhino International, Cathy Dean; and donations from staff at Marks & Spencer Money and local wildlife artist, Anthony Wyatt.

## How you can help

The Zoo will be running a number of fundraising events during the year with which you can get involved. Information on these events, plus more on the campaign, rhino merchandise, and how you can donate, will be posted on the Chester Zoo website ([www.chesterzoo.org](http://www.chesterzoo.org)). Further information can also be found on the campaign website at [www.rhinocampaign.net](http://www.rhinocampaign.net).



# Café Tsavo

Built on the former rhino sites, the £2 million café boasts a warm indoor area and an outside covered area for diners.

The new café, which replaces the Oasis café, brings extra catering facilities to the west side of the Zoo, whilst visitors who find themselves over on the east side during hungry times will still have the benefit of using the Ark restaurant or the Oakfield. Café Tsavo diners can look out over the Warthog, Mongoose and Rhino enclosure as they eat.

"The Café has been sympathetically themed to fit in with its surroundings and visitors who choose to dine outside will be able to do so under the watchful eye of our rhinos, mongoose and warthog offering a whole new dining experience."

Steve O'Brien  
Head of Estates



## Adopter Days

The two special Adopter Days this year will be Saturday 7th and Sunday 15th of October.

The Adopter Days are a chance for all our supporters who have adopted an animal to come and enjoy a day out at the Zoo and a chat with the keepers. Look out for your invitation and timetable of animal talks which will be included in the September issue of Z magazine.

# Making a

## NEZS conservation outreach update

### Chester Zoo Nigeria Biodiversity Programme

This programme goes from strength to strength with continued support for:

**Gashaka Gumti Primate Project**  
Protecting the flora and fauna of Gashaka Gumti National Park, including probably the last remaining population of Nigerian Chimpanzee.

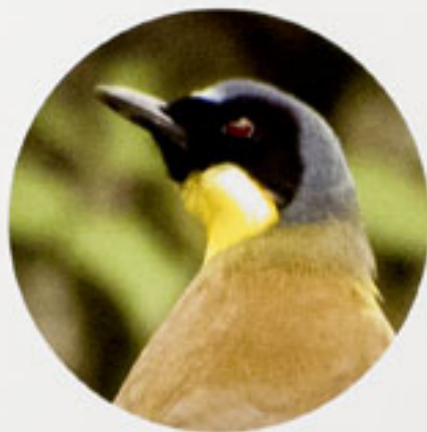
**Nigerian Montane Forest Project**  
Forest restoration and the establishment of a herbarium to aid researchers.

### NEZS China Programme

continued support for:

**Sichuan Biodiversity Research**  
A highly successful part of the programme, working closely with local communities and the government to protect Sichuan's Forest Reserves.

**Yellow Throated Laughing Thrush**  
Support for continued field conservation, searches for further breeding sites, and research into the presently unknown wintering areas of these enigmatic birds.



### NEZS Native Species Programme

**Lesser Silver Water Beetle**  
Only recently rediscovered in Cheshire, NEZS support will assist in the production and distribution of education and awareness leaflets.

**Otter Road Mitigation seminar**  
Although making a come back in Cheshire, road deaths are still a serious threat to Otters. This seminar will work with stakeholders, including the Highways Agency, to help mitigate Otter road deaths in Cheshire.

**Support for the production of the Cheshire and Wirral Breeding and Wintering bird atlas.**

### Other Grants

support included:

**Ongoing adoption of Chester Zoo's hornbill nests in Thailand**  
Both of which produced fledglings in 2005.

**Support for a Red Billed Curassow Action Plan Officer**  
To aid in the conservation of key areas of the Atlantic Rainforest in Brazil.

**Two grants were provided through the Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force (DAPTF)**  
Population monitoring of terrestrial frogs, stream frogs, and caecilians in the Amazonian cloud forests of Ecuador.

**Support to assist in the anthrax crisis in Grevy's Zebra in Northern Kenya**  
Funding of a centrifuge to help study diseases in wild chimpanzees in Cote d'Ivoire.



### Komodo Dragon Project

Community awareness, habitat and wildlife protection plan for the Wae Wuul nature reserve, West Flores.

**Monitoring Bufo atacamensis populations from the North of Chile.**  
**Continued support for the Zoo Outreach Organisation (Z.O.O.) and Wildlife Information Liaison Development (W.I.L.D).**  
Both of these organisations are involved in many successful conservation initiatives across SE Asia.

**Ongoing support for research into the geographical variation in socio-ecology of Spider Monkeys in Meso-America.**

**Support for the conservation, maintenance and management of the ichthiofauna of Central Mexico.**  
And finally, in Brazil, continued sponsorship of Chester Zoo's adopted **Black Lion Tamarin group.**

# difference

## Conservation news from around the world

### Bad

A PhD study report, supported by NEZS in 2004, by Sharon Brooks of the University of East Anglia, has shown the huge scale of water snake harvesting that occurs in the Tonle Sap Great Lake in Cambodia. The study revealed that around one million snakes were caught by fishermen and removed from the lake in a single month! The snakes, once used only for local consumption, are now also harvested for export and as animal feed for the 1000+ crocodile farms in the region, and are being removed from the Lake at far higher than sustainable levels.

### Good

The above study has highlighted the enormity of the snake harvesting on Tonle Sap to local government officials and conservation organisations. Work is now in progress to continue to monitor harvesting and work with local communities to discuss sustainability and management options.



# Holiday of a Lifetime

with Discovery Initiatives

Chester Zoo has joined forces with Discovery Initiatives – a company that has gained an unrivalled and award-winning reputation for delivering high quality nature tours and safaris across the globe – to offer Zoo supporters the chance to participate in one of their nature lead travel journeys. By booking a Discovery Initiatives holiday package you will be making a direct donation to Chester Zoo's important work.

“Chester Zoo and Discovery Initiatives have joined forces to provide you with a series of exceptional wildlife encounters in the wild for all the family or as part of a group study tour.”



To give you a feel of what a Discovery Initiatives holiday involves, we have an extract from the diary of Francis Bridgeman, a holiday maker undertaking the Game Safari Ranger Course for the first time.

“Which other ‘nutters’ here are going to participate on a Wildlife Ranger course?”, I wondered as I waited to board my flight.

Les, the course leader, is ready to share his knowledge with us, the budding rangers. Everything from the trees to the birds and spiders takes on a new meaning as we travel on foot; every sound and hoof print is analysed with care. The bush is an instant natural history book – written large in the sands.

Following the walk we tuck into a hearty breakfast and then the first lecture of the trip. Les is hardly an archetypal school teacher; however, his sheer enthusiasm soon captures the imagination. Amusing anecdotes enliven the facts we need to know about the plants and animals we have been seeing.

The afternoon trip provides one of the most fascinating insights of the trip. A visit to



Moholoholo Animal Rehabilitation Centre, where injured animals, or those that have come into conflict with man, are cared for, either indefinitely or until they can be released back into the wild, where possible. This part of the trip enables the group to better understand man's influence on the delicate balance of nature and the steps required to ensure man and wildlife can continue to co-exist.

From here-on in the walks and drives take on a new excitement. A puncture mid way through our first night drive, which in normal circumstances would seem of little importance, takes on a whole new meaning as it is located 30 metres from where a leopard had been sheltering a few moments earlier. At the end of the evening we are lulled to sleep by the melodic chorus from a group of five young male lions.

We discover their footprints outside the camp the following morning.

As the course heads toward its conclusion, a night sleeping out under the stars is on the menu – though hopefully I am not! Les and Hein lay on a line spread on the

barbecue as the sun sets, with a herd of almost a hundred elephants playing in the water to provide a perfect back drop.

The last lecture is delivered in the morning by the pool, followed by a session of revision and finally the exam to conclude the course. Results are announced before evening and everyone enjoys the final hearty meal of the trip. All the team have successfully completed the introductory course and are on the first of many steps towards the goal of becoming an experienced ranger in the mould of Les and Hein. Suffice it to say – I am booking up for this next year already!



Chester Zoo and Discovery Initiatives have joined forces to provide you with a series of exceptional wildlife encounters in the wild for all the family or as part of a group study tour.

Or take your first steps to becoming a game ranger on the eight day Family **Game Ranger Safaris**. These have a strong nature and cross-cultural focus and, through a programme of structured activity, enable children to learn about the enchanting world of African wildlife, bush lore and local culture. Prices start from £1,695 per adult and £995 per child fully inclusive with flights.

Or why not take your family on a cruise of the **Galapagos Isles**? These programmes are designed to provide an unforgettable, activity-based holiday for parents and children. Each has a strong focus on nature and aims to connect the children with the enchanting world of the Galapagos. These cruises are filled with fun and, at the same time, enrich the knowledge of children, creating awareness of the importance and fragility of the natural world.

Prices start from £3,450 per adult and £2,370 per child fully inclusive with flights. Alternatively participate in an ongoing wildlife research programme in the **Panna Tiger Reserve**. There are a host of conventional tiger tours to choose from, but we offer something different for those of you who expect more than the ordinary, and want to become involved. You will enjoy guided walks with park rangers, carry out an animal and pug mark census, meet local villagers, spend a day with the park elephant team, spend a night on a tree hideout, and meet experts behind the research projects in the Park. Prices from £2,595 per person fully inclusive with flights. For full itinerary and further information, please contact Alison in the Development Office on 01244 650229, email: [developmentoffice@chesterzoo.org](mailto:developmentoffice@chesterzoo.org) or alternatively please contact Fiona Place on 01285 643333, email: [fiona@discoveryinitiatives.com](mailto:fiona@discoveryinitiatives.com) and quote the code CZ06 and the Discovery Initiatives team will be delighted to help you. For every individual that participates a financial contribution will be made to Chester Zoo in support of their outreach projects.

# 100 club

The winners of the prize draws, held recently, were:

## January 2006

<b>Mr &amp; Mrs Waight</b>	<b>£100</b>
Mold	
<b>Mr A.S. Burgess</b>	<b>£100</b>
Torquay	
<b>Mr John Clegg</b>	<b>£50</b>
Liverpool	
<b>Mr Gary Wynne</b>	<b>£50</b>
Norley	

## February 2006

<b>Mr Richard Watson</b>	<b>£100</b>
Welshpool	
<b>Mr Nicholas Morgan</b>	<b>£100</b>
Warrington	
<b>Mr Nigel Jones</b>	<b>£50</b>
Wrexham	
<b>Mrs P.M. Jackson</b>	<b>£50</b>
Chester	
<b>Mrs Joann Williamson</b>	<b>£50</b>
Runcorn	

## March 2006

<b>Mrs Kathleen Oakes</b>	<b>£100</b>
Manchester	
<b>Captain M. Ramsbottom</b>	<b>£50</b>
Bolton	
<b>Mr David Lloyd</b>	<b>£50</b>
Leamington Spa	

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 650292.

# E-mail campaign

Some of you may have noticed our recent Valentine's email campaign which was created as a bit of fun with a serious message. Emarketing is a fast, easy and cost effective way of reaching a large number of people quickly and is a growing medium being used by charities to raise the profile of their work as well as funds.

Working with ClickNow – the company who run the fundraising search engine – we wanted to find a fun and quirky way to remind people about the Zoo and incorporate a more serious conservation message, as well as a direct link to our safe online giving page on the website [www.chesterzoo.org/donate](http://www.chesterzoo.org/donate).

The email campaign had fantastic results and we hope to follow this up with more innovative ideas using email and e-newsletters to update you on news at the Zoo. If you'd like to be included but we don't have your email address then drop us a note at [developmentoffice@chesterzoo.org](mailto:developmentoffice@chesterzoo.org).

And don't forget to try the great search engine which raises funds for the Zoo – just go to the website and click on the ClickNow icon to start raising funds straight away.

**CLICK**  
  
**NOW**



## Fundraising focus

### Buy raffle tickets and help Chester Zoo's Conservation Work

We are delighted to announce the launch of this year's annual raffle, the proceeds of which will be going towards our conservation projects.

We have many fabulous prizes available, including a Eurocamp holiday for four. Tickets cost £1 each and you should have received a book of five with this magazine.

So what difference will £5 make to our conservation projects? With £5 we could buy a microchip for a harvest or dormouse which is used to monitor survival rates. We could also use £5 in Assam to purchase seeds to help those villagers who have been effected by conflicts with elephants to supplement their livelihoods.

If you haven't received your tickets and would like a book or two, then please e-mail us on [developmentoffice@chesterzoo.org](mailto:developmentoffice@chesterzoo.org) or call 01244 650229.

If you are not able to help on this occasion, we would be grateful if you could return them either by dropping your tickets off at the Information Desk in the Ark Shop next time you visit the Zoo, or by sending them (no stamp needed) in an envelope to: Chester Zoo Raffle, FREEPOST, Chester Zoo, Chester, CH2 1YZ.

## New Pin Badge Hops into the Zoo

A new species of frog has arrived at Chester Zoo, in the form of a green enamel pin badge! Regular visitors will have seen elephant and orang-utan pin badges sold in various locations around the site, and we are now launching a frog pin in recognition of the growing amphibian crisis. A fungal disease affecting amphibians is sweeping across the globe and it is estimated

that 122 species may have gone extinct since 1980.

So, next time you are in the Zoo pick up one of our frog badges and support our conservation work. If you are able to sell pins at work and would like a box, contact the development office on [developmentoffice@chesterzoo.org](mailto:developmentoffice@chesterzoo.org) or via 01244 650292 to find out more.

## Ronald and Kathleen Pryor's legacy

Regular visitors to the Zoo will know of the Ronald and Kathleen Pryor Walk, an area by the Fountain Shop. This was named after two special people who not only supported the Zoo during their lifetimes, but beyond it through their charitable trust.

Ronald and Kathleen Pryor have always had a fondness for the Zoo. Ronald Pryor became a member in 1961 and a Life member in 1970. On the invitation of Mr George Mottershead (with whom he shared a common interest in animal conservation and beautiful gardens), he was elected to the Zoo's Council in 1968, subsequently serving as Chairman of the Pension Fund

Trustees from 1977, Vice-Chairman of Council from 1978 and Chairman of the Conservation Fund Trustees from 1983; posts he held until 1984. The trust that was set up by Ronald and Kathleen Pryor has generously given donations to the Zoo for over 20 years. When the trust first started donating in 1985 (with a £1,500 donation) Chester Zoo was a very different place. We had gorillas in the collection and a modest 1,140 members (compared to over 26,000 now)! The Ronald and Kathleen Pryor charity has donated over £135,000 to a variety of projects, most recently towards the elephant and orang-utan developments. We are forever grateful for their long-standing support.

## Frogs Recorded!

Do you remember being asked to record frogs in this magazine in Spring 2005?

Well, your efforts have been rewarded and the new Atlas of the Amphibians of Cheshire and Wirral has now been published. It is available from RECORD through their office in the Oakfield at the Zoo, or tel: 01244 383749. We would highly recommend this book to everyone interested in the wildlife of Cheshire. Texts for each species give an overview of their habitat preferences within the county, and an outline of history and current status. The chapter on conservation issues clearly puts into focus the fact that the Great Crested Newt, though endangered and protected across the UK, is far more common here than its cousin the Palmate Newt.

In addition to informative text, there are some stunning photographs – we particularly like the one of a heron eating a newt – the bird has turned over its prey so we can even identify the newt species!



# Moving back

## the return of the Otter to Cheshire

Otters were widespread in the UK until the mid 18th century, but persecution by gamekeepers and hunting for sport caused population changes in the 19th and early 20th centuries. From the 1950s numbers plunged in mainland Britain as a result of poisoning by pesticides; the otter was effectively lost from many English counties, including Cheshire, by the 1980s.

However, since the early 1980s populations have been making a steady recovery and there is increasing evidence that they are now returning to Cheshire.

There are lots of otters in North Wales, where they seem to be present on every suitable river; and numbers have increased in neighbouring English counties such as Shropshire too. This means that there are plenty

of otters round our borders – we just have to make them want to come and live in Cheshire! Chester Zoo has provided funding to help the Cheshire Otter Biodiversity Action group do this. We have bought materials for building artificial otter 'houses' known as holts. These are quite elaborate residences as you can see from the picture below. In addition we have provided remote camera equipment in the hopes that we will soon be able to film these beautiful creatures using our countryside again. If we get any film you will be among the first to know! Zoo staff are also helping to record signs of otters on rivers and canals in Cheshire. The return of the otter is good news for other wildlife too as it indicates that our rivers are getting cleaner and can support many other plants and animals.





## Exhibitions

### The birds, the bats and the islands

A new Chester Zoo exhibition and a powerful conservation message will help bring extinct animals to 'life'. The exhibition – The birds, the bats and the islands – a story of Chester Zoo's work in the tropics – is due to open on Monday April 10 and will run throughout the summer holidays.

To be held in the Zoo's Joseph Banks Room, the display will feature interactive elements for adults and children together with a stunning display of bronzes.

The sculptures all represent creatures that once lived on the Mascarene Islands of Mauritius, Reunion and Rodrigues – but have since become extinct. The sculptures will include the Dodo and the Rodrigues Giant Tortoise and are a visual way of showing people how the animals used to look.

The exhibition will also tie in with Chester Zoo's conservation work to demonstrate how zoo-supported projects in the wild can play their part in helping to secure the future of threatened animals.

Chester Zoo keepers have been sent to the Mascarene Island of Mauritius to use their expertise in helping to incubate and raise some of the most endangered birds there in an off-show island facility before they were releasing back onto the island.

The main emphasis of the exhibition is to educate visitors on this conservation work abroad in the Mascarenes, and what the Zoo is currently doing to conserve the species that are left on the islands such as the critically endangered Echo Parakeet and the Rodrigues Fruit Bat.

Stephen McKeown, the Zoo's Head of Education, said: "The exhibition will highlight some of our important conservation work abroad. At the same time it will relay a powerful message as to why we, as a conservation charity, must help in the battle to conserve endangered species so they do not become extinct like some of the animals shown and that now, sadly, can only be viewed as sculptures."

## Events

### Special Midsummer Event

**Fauna & Flora International  
(North West Group) and Chester Zoo  
Friday June 23  
7.30pm**

### Unlocking the Secrets of the Japanese Garden

**Sam Youd & Gardeners Question Time  
With your panel Sam Youd (Head  
Gardener at Tatton Park), Mark Sparrow  
(Curator of Botany and Horticulture,  
Chester Zoo), Jack Swan (Former Head  
of the Arboretum at Jodrell Bank), Sue  
Tatman (Wildlife Gardening Specialist  
with Cheshire Wildlife Trust).**

FFI and Zoo Members are invited to join us on this special Gardens event to celebrate Midsummer 2006.

The first half of the evening will be a presentation on Unlocking the Secrets of the Japanese Garden from Sam Youd, the Head Gardener at Tatton Park in Knutsford since 1983. While at Tatton, Sam has become a horticultural writer, and a member of the team on the Classic FM Gardening Forum programme, and has been on various TV programmes. He also lectures for the Royal Horticultural Society. The Institute of Horticulture appointed him a Member in 1996 and then in 1998, a Fellow. In addition to many other distinguished associations, in January 2003 Sam was awarded Associateship of Honour of the Royal Horticultural Society conferred on persons of British nationality who have rendered distinguished service to horticulture in the course of their employment. The number of Associates may not exceed 100 at any one time.

Audience participation will be encouraged for the second half of the evening when guests will be invited to ask advice from a distinguished panel of gardening specialists. In addition to Sam Youd who will Chair the Gardeners Question Time, Chester Zoo will be represented by our Curator of Botany and Horticulture, Mark Sparrow.

#### Tickets

These may be available on the door, but we advise early booking for this event as it is likely to be popular and advance

booking helps to keep costs down, with more accurate catering. Please call Penny Rudd on 01244 650215 to reserves tickets. Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start at the Zoo's Russell Allen Lecture Hall, off the A41, just before the Park & Ride. Members and non-Members of FFI are welcome to attend and tickets cost £8.50, with a ticket concession of £5 for students. All ticket prices include a buffet and wine.

### Twenty Years of Filming Reptiles

**Nigel Marven  
Friday September 8**

Nigel is so well known for his fascinating 'Walk with Dinosaurs', 'Giants' and 'Britain's Finest Natural Wonders' series, plus several other captivating, if sometime 'white-knuckle' television programs detailing his varied encounters with 'amazing creatures'. We feel very privileged that he has agreed to spend time out of a hugely busy filming and travelling schedule to be with us for this event. Nigel is a wonderfully entertaining speaker and we strongly urge you to book well in advance to be sure of a ticket. Money raised from this event will be going towards the 'Shellshock' campaign which aims to raise the awareness of the terrible plight of millions of reptiles, especially turtles and tortoises that are being exploited for the food trade in the Far East. The indiscriminate hunting of these animals has brought several species to the brink of extinction and beyond.

### An Introduction to Cheshire Mammals

**Saturday July 8  
10am**

**by Cheshire Mammal Group**  
Presentations on basic biology, ecology & behaviour of groups, followed in the afternoon by identification of field tracks and signs including sessions of owl pellet analysis.

**Meet at Cedar House,  
Chester Zoo.**

**Booking required**

**Contact Sarah Bird: 01244 389448**

## Members' programme 2006

### Where Condors Fly

**Thursday May 25**

**7.00pm**

Join Director of Conservation and Education, Mark Pilgrim and Head of Education, Stephen McKeown, as they recount their trip to Bolivia to help develop a management plan for the highest zoo in the world. Close encounters with jaguars, condors, giant hummingbirds and more than a few llamas made for an exciting and successful expedition set in one of the world's most spectacular landscapes.

### Members' Coach Trip

**Saturday September 16 and**

**Sunday 17**

Members' Coach Trip to Edinburgh Zoo and the Royal Botanic Gardens. At just £99.95 per person (sharing twin room) to include all transport, entry to the Zoo and Botanic Gardens, 4 star accommodation, dinner and full Scottish breakfast, this trip is excellent value. Head of Education, Stephen McKeown, (who used to work at Edinburgh Zoo) and Maggie Esson, Education Programmes Manager, will lead the trip. See your magazine mailing label for the booking form.

### Global Conservation of Freshwater Life

**Thursday October 19**

**7.00pm**

70% of the Earth's surface is water but only 2.5% is freshwater. In a world where increasing demands are being placed on this precious resource, Zoo Director General, Professor Gordon McGregor Reid reflects on the importance of protecting freshwater environments and their many inhabitants.

### Island Hopping

**Saturday November 25**

Maggie Esson, Education Programmes Manager, and Anne Morris, Senior Bird Keeper. Providing practical help in the wild is key to us achieving our conservation mission. Maggie gives us an insight into the Zoo's projects in the Philippines, one of the world's great biodiversity hotspots under increasing pressure from a growing population. Anne's hand-rearing work with Echo Parakeets on Mauritius is a fine example of hands-on conservation and proof of how we really can make a difference.

### Chester Zoo through the Years

**Wednesday December 6**

**7.00pm**

A multimedia presentation celebrating the Zoo's achievements over the past 72 years. This is a unique opportunity to view the Zoo's precious archive material in newspaper clippings, film footage, photographs and sound recordings. An evening not to be missed!

## Events programme 2006

### Chester Zoo's East Side Tour

**Thursday June 8**

**£24.50**

Take an informative guided tour of the Gardens and Animals on the East Side of the Zoo, before returning to the Oakfield Manor for a delicious buffet.

### Family Picnic Evening

**Thursday July 20**

**Adults £21.95**

**Childrens Boxes £8.95**

Enter the Zoo from 4.30pm. Children's picnic baskets may be collected from the Oakfield Restaurant at 6.30pm. There will also be the opportunity to purchase drinks from the Acorn Bar and desserts will be available from the Oakfield terrace between 7.30 – 9.00pm.

### Carnivore Evening

**Thursday August 3**

**£24.50**

An evening visiting our Red Pandas, Sealions and Big Cats, returning to the Oakfield Manor for a BBQ.

### Elephants of the Asian Forest

**Thursday September 7**

**£32.50**

Take a guided tour of our new elephants of the Asian Forest, meeting the Keepers, and finding out about our elephants. Upon your return to the Oakfield Manor enjoy cocktails and a delicious 3 course dinner.



For further details or to book contact: The Events Office on 01244 650209

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Founded in 1934, the North of England Zoological Society is a registered charity and receives no government funding. We need your help and support to raise funds for the care and conservation of our rare animals and endangered species across the world.