

FREE

ZOO LIFE

ISSUE 6
Spring Issue 2023

NEW
FOR 2023
WILD VIBE
WONDERLAND

CELEBRATING
60
YEARS
OF
COLCHESTER ZOO

LET'S PARTY!

Discover a year of
amazing events



Introducing our new
bundle of joy along
with a special ROYAL
announcement

A VERY
SPECIAL
BIRTHDAY

Join in the
ZOOBILEE
celebrations

KEEPER
FOR THE DAY
An experience
to remember

www.colchesterzoo.org

COLCHESTER ZOO



The Enchanted Lost Kingdom

Introducing Wyvernwood, an immersive story-led experience, where you'll meet unique characters in a beautiful outdoor setting near Colchester.

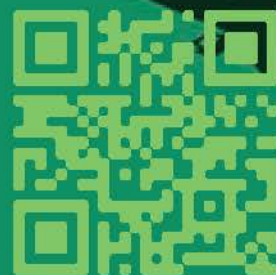
Step through the Magic Portal into another world to start your fun-filled family day out. As you explore, you'll meet our heroic Captain, a princess, fairies, unicorns, dragons and wizards - brought to life through our talented actors.

Another World Awaits!



Visit wyvernwood.co.uk or scan the QR code to book an adventure now!

captain@wyvernwood.co.uk | 01206 700675 | www.wyvernwood.co.uk



CONTENTS

06 ZOO NEWS

We can't wait for you to meet our amazing white rhino calf!

08 IT'S ZOOBILEE TIME

Our BIG year kicks off with a host of events in the pipeline to celebrate our 60th anniversary

11 'IT'S LIKE A BIG EXTENDED FAMILY!'

Zookeeper Kirsty chats about her job and why she loves it so much

15 LEARNING AT THE ZOO

Discover our education sessions and how we can help you overcome a fear of spiders

16 GARDEN WILDLIFE HACKS

Top tips to help you do your bit for local wildlife

18 AUF WIEDERSEHEN, LOTTIE

We bid farewell to one of our Southern white rhinos as she arrives at her new home in Germany

21 UMPHAFU UPDATE

Find out about the work of a Field Ranger on the UmPhafa Private Nature Reserve and the interns given an opportunity of a lifetime

24 SHARING KNOWLEDGE

Colchester Zoo plays a vital role in vet training for Nepal's first wildlife hospital

27 ANIMAL FACT FILES

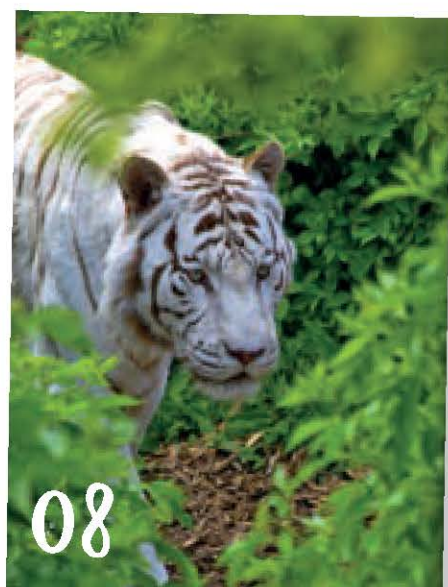
Find out about some of the awesome animals here at Colchester Zoo

30 SUPPORTING THE ZOO

Step into the boots of a member of the Animal Care Team and be a Keeper for the Day

32 ZOO DATES

Check out our 2023 calendar for a jam-packed year of special surprises and activities!



08



11



28



18

COLCHESTER ZOO

EDITOR Anna-Marie Casas

CONTRIBUTOR Colchester Zoo

PHOTOGRAPHY Tom Smith, Libby Page, Josh Dennington, Jamie Reeve

ART DIRECTOR Lee Thomas

ADVERTISING

SALES EXECUTIVE

Lauren Munson

MARKETING

CREATIVE MARKETING MANAGER

Dominic Littler

SENIOR MARKETING EXECUTIVE Tyler Chase

PUBLISHING

PUBLISHING DIRECTOR Clara Perry

MANAGING DIRECTOR Allistair Hunter

CONTACT

Zoo Life Magazine

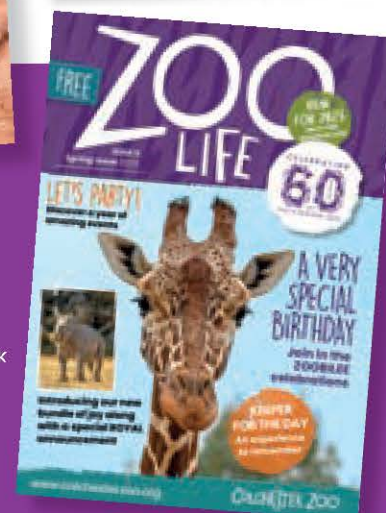
The DS Group, The Nexus,
Systematic Business Park, Old Ipswich Rd,
Ardleigh, Colchester, Essex CO7 7QL

Advertising Enquiries: 01206 585286

Editorial Enquiries: editor@thedsgroup.co.uk

Zoo Life Magazine

is published by DS Media on behalf of Colchester Zoo. The contents of this magazine must not be reproduced without permission. Zoo Life is available at Colchester Zoo and Sainsbury's Stanway Superstore, 1 Western Approach, Stanway, Colchester, Essex.





Brentwood School
PREPARATORY

*Big school opportunities,
small school feel...*

Book a tour today



01277 243 291

www.brentwoodschool.co.uk

Shenfield Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 8BD

HELLO

WE ARE NOW IN FULL SWING OF OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS!

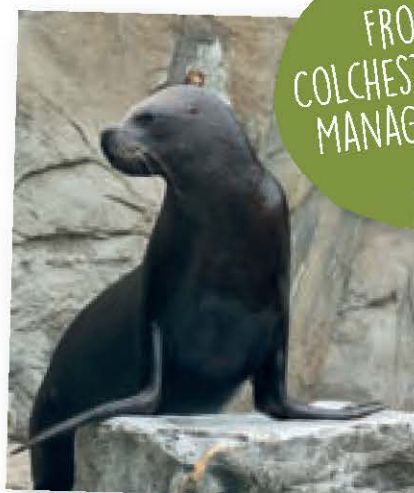
There could not have been a better way to start 2023 than welcoming the birth of a healthy Southern white rhinoceros calf! You can read more about the calf in this issue, but mum, Astrid, has really kicked off the year of births for us with a bang!

2023 is packed with exciting events as well as, of course, beautiful animals to discover. This Easter we are celebrating reptiles and birds, and May Half Term includes our 60th birthday, so we have a jam-packed week full of activities and events with a number of special guests joining us. PLUS we will be having a BIG birthday BONANZA on 2 June, which will see the zoo open until 8.30pm, so do come and join in the fun.

This summer holiday, we have Wild Vibe Wonderland joining us every day, providing exciting entertainment that you won't want to miss, including daily parades in the park! We also have some BIG new arrivals joining us this year. Do keep an eye on our website and social media for updates and exciting news.

With so much going on, a Zoo Pass has never been better value for money! Offering you unlimited visits throughout the year, you are sure to get your money's worth and more, not forgetting that you will also be playing a vital part in our 60th anniversary and continued conservation efforts.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue of Zoo Life and that we have the chance to welcome you this year to join in our Zoobilee celebrations!



FROM
COLCHESTER ZOO
MANAGEMENT

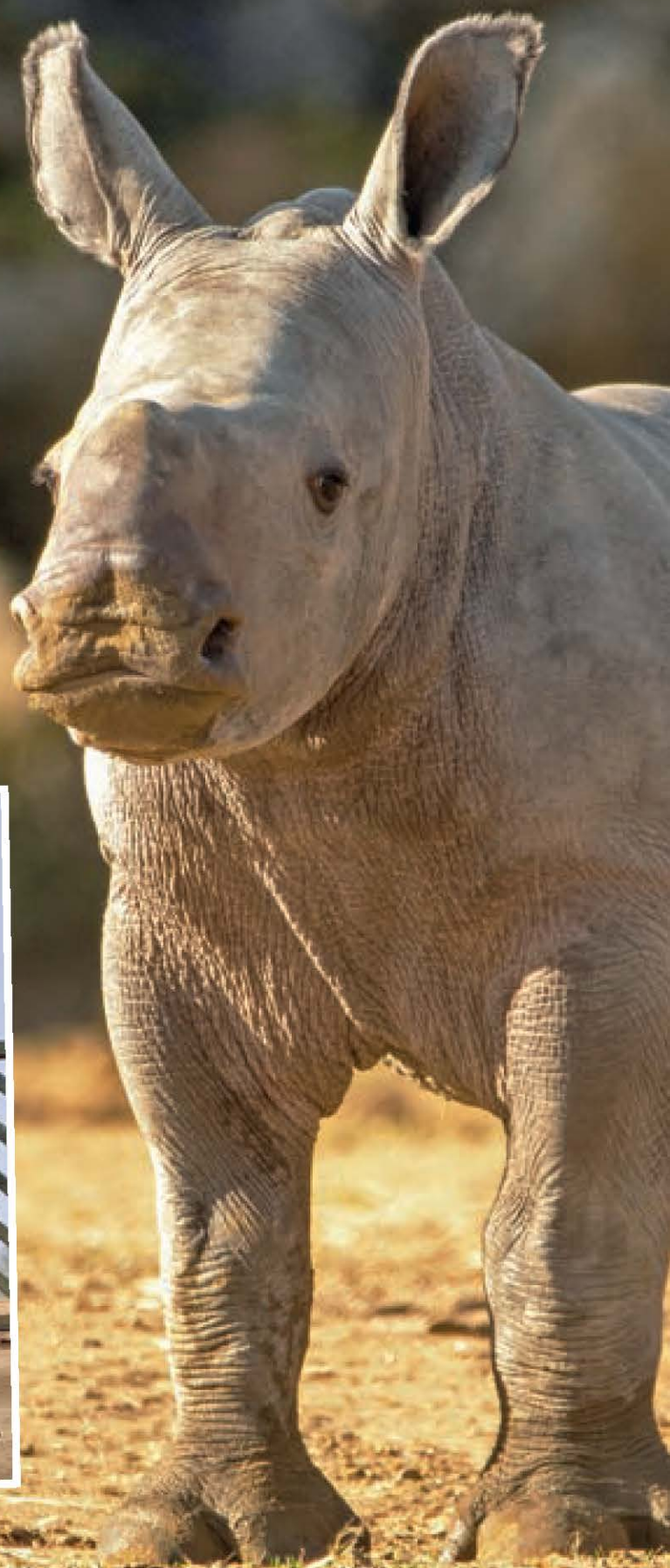


Kindly supported by



INTRODUCING DARA....

Colchester Zoo celebrates
the birth of a white rhinoceros
calf, along with a very
ROYAL name reveal!



"AFTER SOME ASSISTANCE
SQUEEZING THE MILK
FROM THE BOTTLE, THE
CALF HUNGRILY TOOK
HER FIRST FEED."



Early on 13 January, white rhino Astrid gave birth to a strong and healthy 66kg female calf but was confused as to where to feed from!

Team Leader, Jo Burch said, "The newborn explored her stall looking for a milk source, but unfortunately didn't successfully suckle from mum. This continued throughout the day on the 13th, and we were concerned that she would miss the vital colostrum from mum. Therefore, that afternoon, we decided to express milk from Astrid and bottle feed the calf."

Astrid was used to this process as we had regularly been checking her teats throughout January to check for milk pre-birth. After some assistance squeezing the milk from the bottle, the calf hungrily took her first feed."

Finally, on 15 January, the Animal Care Team's hard work and dedication paid off as they successfully managed to encourage the calf to drink from Astrid, and she hasn't looked back since then. The young calf can now be seen enjoying her outdoor space, running and playing in the mud.

A special name reveal....

The King and The Queen Consort have been celebrating Colchester's recently awarded city status on Tuesday 7 March with local organisations which represent the city's rich heritage and communities.

The zoo was honoured to have attended a reception at Colchester Castle to showcase the vital conservation work, including private nature reserve, UmPhafa, in South Africa and our successful white rhino breeding programme.

This was the perfect opportunity to celebrate a special moment in our 60th anniversary year, with Their Majesties revealing the name of our newest rhino calf, Dara.

The King and The Queen Consort unveiled a photo of the rhino calf with a special message which read: 'Welcome to the World Dara'. Dara means beautiful in Swahili, so seemed a perfectly fitting name!



ZOO LIFE
SPRING 2023
60TH ANNIVERSARY



Clockwise, from left, zoologists Frank and Helena Farrah, who established Colchester Zoo in 1963; the original zoo site, Stanway Hall; and an old, pre-1983 guide book.



IT'S ZOOBILEE TIME!

Our BIG year kicks off with a host of ZOO-PER events and activities lined up to celebrate our 60th birthday!



Get ready for a PAW-SOME time as we mark our special anniversary... with a 2023 calendar full of fun-filled celebrations and surprises.

The culmination of our festivities, Zoobilee Week, will take place from 27 May to 4 June and includes a jam-packed timetable, featuring live music, dancing

and even the chance to try your hand at some carnival skills.

Our BIG Birthday Bonanza Bash is 2 June and we'll be open late into the evening as we're joined by a live band and entertainers.

Throughout the year, there will be special guests joining us, including some favourite pre-school TV characters, and we'll also be partying like it's 1963 with special evenings celebrating the zoo's history and the conservation work it has contributed to over so many years.

See our calendar on p32-34 to find out what's coming up!



Arrive at Colchester Zoo in style – and reduce your carbon footprint – by getting on board First Essex's number 75 bus, which has an animal-themed design to mark our special anniversary.

ZOO LIFE
SPRING 2023
60TH ANNIVERSARY

Our beautiful Bengal white tiger, Sasha, who became one of the most popular residents - sadly, Sasha died in 2010 at the age of 15 years.



REMEMBERING RAJANG

As well as celebrating a very special year, we will be remembering our dearest friend, who arrived at the zoo in 1980 and would have celebrated his 55th birthday on 14 June 2023.

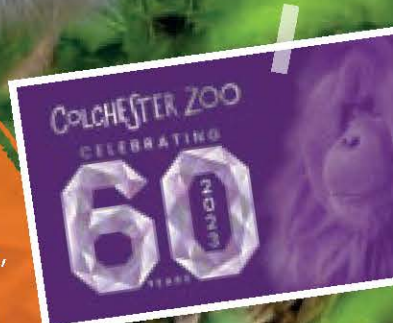
Rajang, whom we sadly lost in 2018, is forever embedded in the history of the zoo and will be at the forefront of our Zoobilee celebrations. In 2023, we will be releasing some limited-edition prints of Rajang to help raise funds for conservation, so keep an eye out!



**COMING
SOON!**

SPECIAL GIFTS

Pop into The Outpost gift shop during your visit to discover an array of fabulous, limited-edition anniversary products for sale - including a bookmark, lanyard, a special Zoo Pass and a Commemorative Hamper, coming soon!



Conexus
Tuition

National
Tutoring
Programme

Empowering progress!

There is a gap between what is being taught in classrooms and what is being learned by young people.

At Conexus, we bridge that gap through personalised tuition and encourage our young people to progress across that gap.

All our tutors are experienced teachers and subject specialists!

What we offer:

GCSE and KS3 English / Maths / Science
Primary & 11+ English / Maths

Call Jo on 07734086933 - email
joanna@conexus tuition.co.uk



AWARD WINNING GARDEN CENTRE

Visit today to find out why



Perrywood
www.perrywood.co.uk



Established timber yard based in Maldon,
Essex providing timber supplies
to the public and trade.

Tel: 01621 891999

www.southwoodtimber.co.uk

Local Delivery Service Available

CONSTRUCTION & LANDSCAPING

HOME & GARDEN

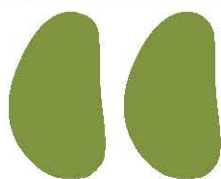
Fencing - Post & Rail - Chestnut Posts
Ironmongery - Decking - Trellis - Treated Timber
Logs - Field Gates - Galvanised Fencing
Paternal Fencing - Postcave - Log Cabins



South Wood Timber
Hands-on timber supplies

IT'S LIKE A BIG EXTENDED FAMILY!!

Team Leader **Kirsty**, who leads up the Sea Lion Section, chats about her job and why she loves it so much.



Why and how did you become a zookeeper?

I decided to become a zookeeper after doing work experience at another collection and immediately fell in love with the job. When I was younger, I was incredibly shy, but I now present displays and talk to crowds of visitors every day. Don't get me wrong, I was terrified to talk in front of so many people, but the love of the job encouraged me to educate others about our amazing species here at Colchester Zoo.

I first started in the Sea Lion Section. Over the years, I worked my way up from a qualified keeper and soon became a senior member of the Animal Care

Team as I had previous experience with sea lions. This gave me the fantastic opportunity to step into the deputy's shoes. I continued to work alongside the Head Keeper and after she decided to move on, I was lucky enough to fill her position and become the new Team Leader of the Sea Lion section.

What do you love the most about your job?

Training the animals and the relationship I have with them. I also enjoy educating the public about all of the different species we have here at Colchester Zoo.

What do you enjoy the least?

Although I love working outdoors in all weathers, extreme weather such as snow and torrential rain are probably my least favourite.



Kirsty and team member, Nicole, with Colchester Zoo's Humboldt penguins

How long have you worked at Colchester Zoo?

I started working at Colchester Zoo on 19 July 2010, so I am now entering my 13th year!



What do you love about Colchester Zoo?

The thing I love most is all of the people I get to see every day. It feels like a big extended family with all of the animals, members of staff, and friendly visitors.

If you weren't a zookeeper, what would you be?

I would probably pursue a career with young children. I like to go against the familiar saying, 'never work with animals or children', as I love both.

What is your favourite animal?

My favourite animals in our section are Sydney, the sea lion, and Big Baby, the penguin. Although my favourite species are sea lions, I do love our apes as well!

Did you know?

Sea lions can hold their breath for up to 30 minutes under water

Penguins poo every 20 minutes

Fish are much more intelligent than people think, and you can target train them – we often do this with Patricia, the blackspotted puffer fish.

People often get seals and sea lions mixed up – in the UK, only seals can be found in the wild (never sea lions)

Humboldt penguins can dive up to 53 metres and emperor penguins can reach up to 500 metres!

Coachstop

COACH & MINIBUS HIRE FOR EVERY OCCASION

16 seats - 24 / 29 seats - 33 seats - 49 seats - 53 seats
+ 49 seat executive coach with WC

Book with Coachstop for:

- Airport Transfers
- After School Activities
- Coach Tours & Holidays
- Conference Travel
- Cruise Ship Transfers
- Day Trips
- Educational Visits
- Exhibitions & Show Events
- Flight Diversions & Crew Transfers
- Golf Trips
- Historic Houses & Gardens
- Museums & Stately Homes
- Mystery Tours
- Race Meetings
- School Trips
- Sightseeing Tours
- Shopping Trips
- Theme Parks & Zoos
- Theatre Trips
- Weddings

Book Your Coach Today

Call 01245 401 541 | Email info@coachstop.co.uk



Stores in Copdock, Stowmarket, Bury St Edmunds & Rayleigh



GLADWELLS

PET AND COUNTRY STORE

Where pets are more than companions...they're family!

£5 Off

A £30 or more spend in store!

For readers of Zoo Life. Offer ends 30/04/23.
Hand this voucher to the cashier to get £5 off a £30 or more spend. Retail only. No cash alternative. One voucher per transaction. Copies will not be accepted. Not redeemable online.

www.gladwellspet.co.uk





WOODBIDGE SCHOOL

A co-educational independent day and boarding school for students aged from 4 to 18

Providing children of primary school age with a warm, stimulating environment, instilling them with a love of learning and a sense of fun, children develop new skills and confidence at Woodbridge School Prep as they learn and understand the fundamentals across a broad range of core subjects.

Offering a wide variety of stimulating subjects, including engineering, drama, food technology, forest school and music, children are encouraged to challenge themselves, build resilience and learn from their mistakes, through our core values, of 'try your best' and 'be kind'.

Various Open Days are held throughout the year where you can visit and explore the School, experience our wonderful facilities, learn more about our approach and talk with staff as well as our Head of Woodbridge School Prep, Nicola Mitchell.

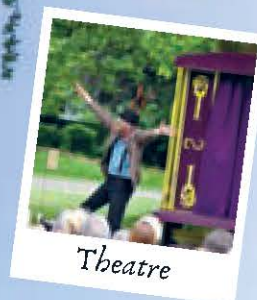
We also welcome you to contact us and make an appointment to visit the School at any other time on 01394 382673 or via email on prepheadpa@woodbridgeschool.org.uk. You can register for all of these events by visiting www.woodbridgeschool.org.uk.



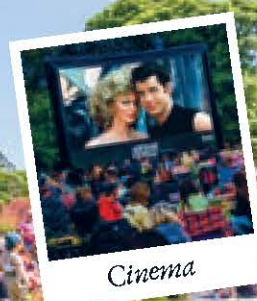
Escape Room



Medieval Joust



Theatre



Cinema



There's something for everyone at Hedingham Castle

BANK HOLIDAY JOUSTS - EXCALIBUR & CAMELOT EVENT - OPEN-AIR THEATRE
ESCAPE ROOM - LIVE MUSIC - OUTDOOR CINEMA - AND MUCH MORE!

For full line up and to book tickets, visit hedinghamcastle.co.uk

LEARNING TO LIVE WITH SPIDERS

Find out how Colchester Zoo can help you overcome your fears.

Do you feel uncomfortable around spiders? If so, why not join us at Colchester Zoo to learn how to begin to cope and discover techniques to help you deal with situations?

Here at the zoo, we love spiders, but understand that not everyone does. While some may find them scary, spiders are an essential part of our ecosystems and spiders found in the UK are completely harmless to humans.

Through a range of interactive tasks, in a friendly, relaxed, and supportive atmosphere, our zoo experts will explore the origins of phobias, find out which are most common, and figure

out just what it is about spiders you don't like. We will provide the opportunity to try a range of tools designed to remove unwanted arachnids from our homes.

Great care is taken to ensure that the programme is as stress-free as possible – you might actually have fun! **We also want to make it clear that there will be no live spiders in this session at any point.**

Full details can be found on the education page on our website. Register your interest by emailing education@colchesterzoo.org to be kept informed of upcoming Spring 2023 dates.

STUDENTS FLOCK TO ZOO

We welcomed more than 40,000 learners last year, with many taking part in a range of popular and unique education sessions.

During the academic year of September 2021 – August 2022, Colchester Zoo received visits from more than 760 schools – a total of 41,914 students.

Out of those students visiting, 27,579 of them attended our FREE formal education sessions that we offer with 836 lessons delivered. These sessions include subjects such as Maths, Art, English, Evolutionary Biology and Animal Care to name a few.

At a glance

Here's a snapshot of the number of sessions held for some of the most popular and unique subjects:

- 74** African Safari for KS1
- 58** Rainforest Layers for lower KS2
- 31** Rainforest Threats for upper KS2
- 14** English – 'The Zoo Debate'
- 11** Maths
- 14** Art
- 14** Careers – wildlife and zoo jobs
- 14** Evolutionary Biology for KS3 and older
- 17** Business, Travel & Tourism
- 9** Teacher in Training – planning school trips for trainee teachers
- 20** Animal Care – a range of topics for FE Animal Care students
- 8** Zoo Visitor Psychology (focusing on cognitive, conservation, environmental, and social psychology)

Find out how to book a visit and FREE education session via our website www.colchesterzoo.org/education



WILDLIFE HACKS

There are many ways you can do your bit to help wildlife in your own garden, from getting creative and making a bug hotel to collecting every drop of rainwater.

BUG HOTEL

Not sure what to do with garden waste? Building a bug hotel in your back yard is a brilliant way of using your garden waste as it can provide a safe hideaway for a whole range of wildlife.

A bug hotel can shelter many species, from hedgehogs and toads to bumblebees and ladybirds. Providing a safe home for a variety of creatures is incredibly important as many insects can increase biodiversity by pollinating plants and preying on pests. Once you have created your masterpiece, watch as your garden grows!

Top Tip: Place some wildflower seeds around the bug hotel to provide food for butterflies, bees and other pollinating insects and encourage creatures to settle into their new home.

CONSERVING WATER

High demand for water has meant that it is becoming increasingly important to find ways of conserving this valuable resource. Not only can conserving water in your garden help to cut the risk of drought, but it can also protect a range of wildlife.

Thousands of litres of rainwater fall on the average roof each year. This water can be collected by water butts, which can be easily attached to your house, shed, garage or greenhouse. By using water butts, it's estimated that around 24,000 litres can be saved from the average roof each year.

Top Tip: If you can, place the rainwater butt in the shade as this will keep the water at a cool temperature and, therefore, reduces the growth of bacteria.



Colchester Park and Ride

**Stress-free commuting,
shopping and visiting**

Buses run between 7.00 - 7:30 Mon to Sat

Safe Secure Car Park

WiFi on Bus

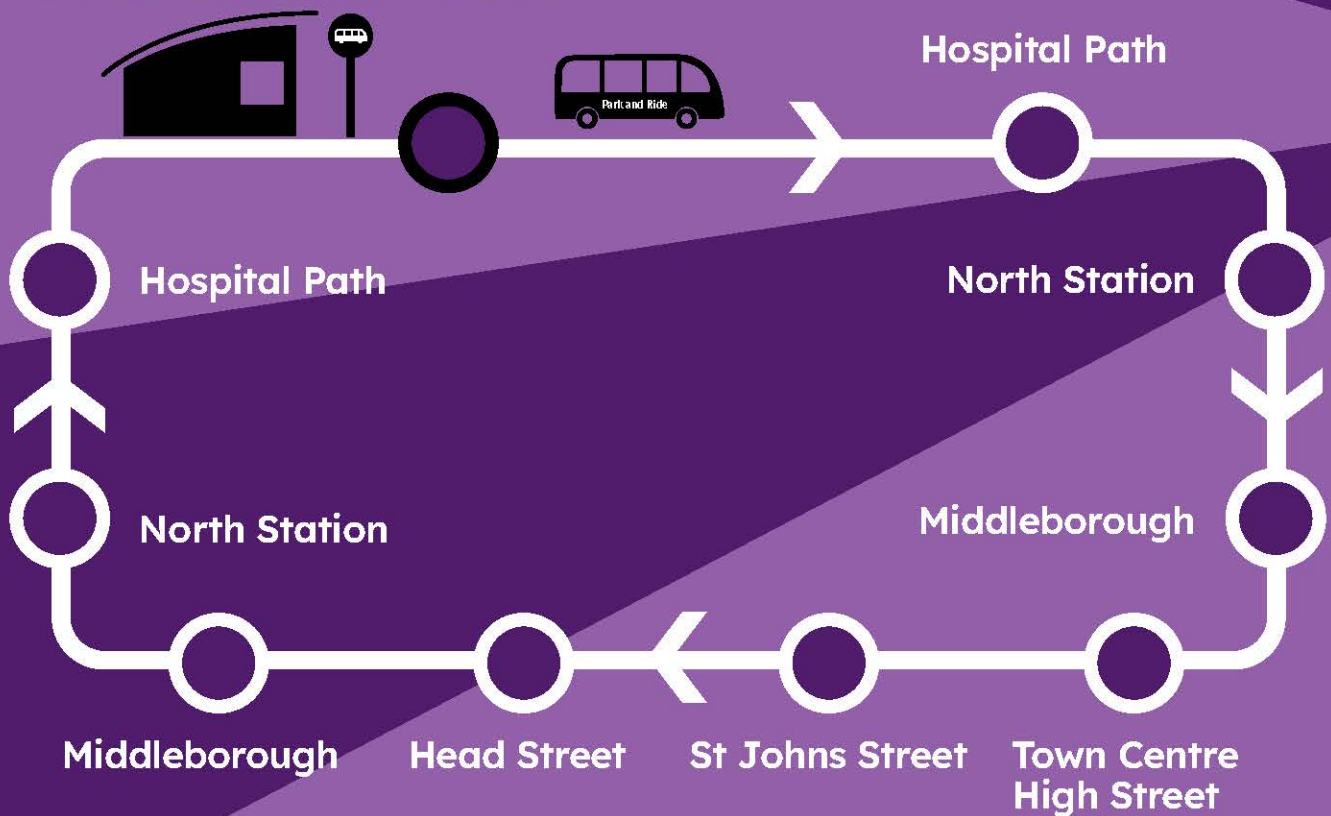
Group Ticket (up to 2 adults / 3 children)

Contactless & App Payments

12 tickets for the price of 11



Colchester Park and Ride site





ZOO LIFE
SPRING 2023
CONSERVATION

AUF WIEDERSEHEN, LOTTIE!

We bid farewell to one of our Southern white rhinoceros in our first big animal move to take place since Brexit.

Lottie enjoying a quick snack.



Lottie and Stella settling in their new home together.



White rhino, Lottie, headed to Erfurt in Germany on 19 October 2022, in Colchester Zoo's first large animal transfer since leaving the EU.

Animal transfers to the continent are proving very difficult – 2021 saw major legislative changes for the zoo and aquarium sector with the transition to a new EU Animal Health Law (AHL) coupled with the UK's departure from the EU.

Lottie's transfer was our quickest to date and only took six months to organise, unlike our gibbon transfer to Thoiry Zoo in France, which took 16 months.

She travelled with another female white rhino, Stella, from Cotswolds Wildlife Park, so we worked very closely with them

to ensure we had the required paperwork for both.

Once everything was in order, we were ready to move – but not before the crane company tasked with lifting Lottie into the transport crate had completed a site visit.

In the meantime, Lottie's keepers prepared her for the big move, getting her used to the idea of travelling in the large crate.

Lottie is a very confident rhino and within 10 days of completing a five-minute training session each day, she was walking in and out of her box. We placed straw in her training box, which we could transfer over to the transport crate to make it a familiar environment for her when the time came.

On the morning of the transfer, Lottie realised the crate she thought she knew was now different so wasn't as keen to walk into it. We had to be very patient, letting her go back inside her enclosure to see her mum, Emily, and giving her a fuss and tickle when she came over to say hello to the keepers.

Finally, after two hours, Lottie walked happily into her new box, and we shut the doors. We were all very sad to see her go, but super proud of the star she was.

Lottie stopped en route at Cotswolds Wildlife Park to collect Stella before their onward journey to Germany. Early on 21 October, they arrived to a warm welcome at Erfurt Zoo.

Lottie and Stella have since settled in extremely well and have become inseparable!



OPEN DAYS

Whole School
Saturday 18 March

Prep School
Saturday 13 May

Join us for our Prep and Senior School Open Days. Family tours also available, to find out more please visit stjos.co.uk or email admissions@stjos.co.uk

Independent day and boarding school for boys and girls aged 2-19.
Nursery open all year round



Re-Cycle your Bicycle

Our mission is to send used bikes to rural communities in Africa.

By donating your unwanted bikes you are enabling:

- ✓ Affordable transport for the local community
- ✓ Sustainable income to help fund local work
- ✓ Local employment and skill development

For more information about our bike drop off locations and the charity please visit re-cycle.org.uk or call us on 01206 617865



@bicyclecharity

Registered Charity No: 1063570



Colchester Korban Project breaks the cycle of homelessness for young people in Colchester, providing them with a home and the support they need to live independently and make the most of their potential. We provide supported housing and over the last 5 years approximately 80% of our residents moved on positively, 4 of whom even went to university!

We are also a key partner in delivering Nightstop Essex with Depaul UK.

T: 01206 869 533 E: admin@korban.org.uk
www.korban.org.uk

NIGHTSTOP Essex



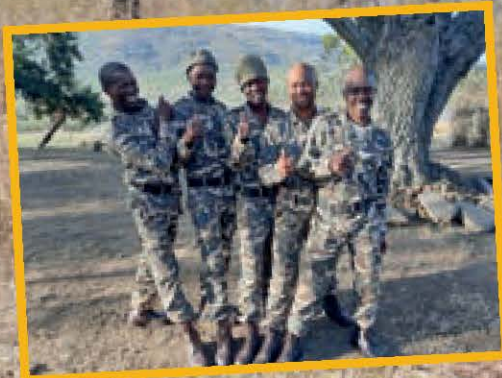
Nightstop Essex offers emergency accommodation for young people facing homelessness. This is provided in the homes of trained and vetted volunteers, who are supported by professional staff. The national Nightstop Network comprises over 30 services across the UK, and is led by national homeless charity Depaul UK.

T: 07929 750574 (Chelmsford)
T: 07516 574313 (Colchester)
E: nightstop.essex@depaulcharity.org.uk
www.depaul.org.uk/nightstop/nightstop-essex

UMPHAFA UPDATE

We get the latest from UmPhafa Private Nature Reserve in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, which is supported by Colchester Zoo's charity, Action for the Wild.

UmPhafa's
dedicated
Field Rangers



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FIELD RANGER

Have you ever wondered what a Field Ranger at UmPhafa Private Nature Reserve does on a daily basis?

The Head Ranger plans their daily schedule, which could include a walking patrol, an OP (basing themselves at an observation post), or a vehicle patrol. These patrols are used to protect the reserve from any poaching incidents, which also includes checking the animals are safe.

Field Rangers can walk up to 15km-20km a day with a heavy backpack full of tools to help them fix a fence or reset the electrics around the reserve. The patrols can take place at any time and in any weather, so they always need to be vigilant in case they run into a leopard or a poacher!

However, it's not just patrolling; they also work with the interns visiting UmPhafa each year, who come to learn about how a working reserve is run. They show them how to fix fences, teach them how to identify tracks and signs, take them on snare hunts, and teach them how they ambush would-be poachers.

Without its Field Rangers, UmPhafa would be constantly at risk. With many species becoming endangered, it is this group of people who are at the forefront of conservation, which is why on 31 July each year, rangers who have been killed or injured in the line of duty are remembered for the work they do to protect the planet's national treasures and cultural heritage.

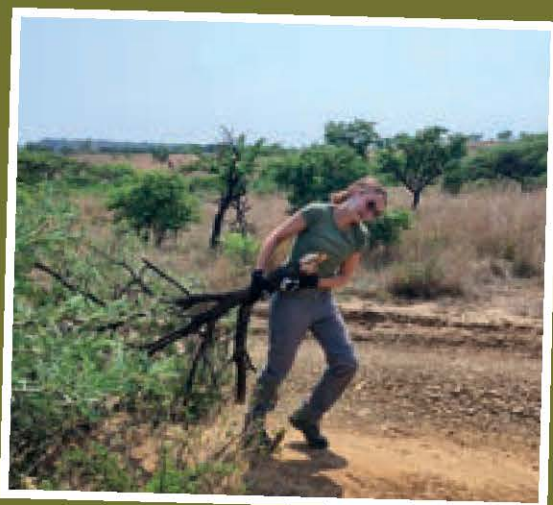
OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME

UmPhafa hosts many interns across all walks of life. You don't have to be studying conservation to join us, you can be any age, and all you need is an interest and a willingness to learn about life working on a game reserve as an active part of the team.

Emma Barker, who recently joined, says: "Being an intern at UmPhafa for three months was an incredibly rewarding experience, allowing me to be involved in a range of conservation activities. Having completed my Zoology degree, I was eager to be involved with a conservation project in Africa and UmPhafa exceeded all of my expectations.

"Every day was so exciting; the activities included camera trapping, biodiversity surveys, animal tracking, reserve maintenance, game count's, and much more. Living on the game reserve was so enjoyable – I will never forget the range of animals walking by our accommodation and the stunning scenery we saw every day."

Emma adds: "We were fully immersed into the world of conservation, and I felt like a valuable member of the team. I made so many amazing memories and would highly recommend this internship to anyone with a passion for wildlife and conservation."



An intern helping with the clearing of roads.



Interns become fully immersed in life on the reserve



Find out more at www.umphafa.org

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Sue Pipe, President of The Rotary Club of Colchester Centurion, recently presented a cheque for £1,650 to Rebecca Moore, Colchester Zoo Director, to buy one solar water pump and one solar hot water geyser for UmPhafa.





we ♥ animals...

Located near to the city of Chelmsford, Writtle University College offers a range of industry focused apprenticeships, college, degree and postgraduate courses in the subject areas of:

- Animal Welfare and Conservation
- Animal Science
- Animal Management
- Veterinary Nursing
- Animal Care and Welfare

Putting science into practice

WRITTLE.AC.UK/ANIMAL



Colchester Royal Grammar School

Compassion - Respect - Generosity - Support



The Sunday Times East Anglia State Secondary School of the Decade

11+ Open Evening

Tuesday 27th June, 6.30pm - 9.00pm

Day school for boys aged 11-18 years, with Co-ed Sixth Form and Boarding

Limited parking at rear of school No booking required

crgs.co.uk 6 Lexden Road, Colchester, CO3 3ND 01206 509100

THE
GOOD
SCHOOLS
GUIDE



SHARING KNOWLEDGE

Colchester Zoo plays vital role in vet training for Nepal's first wildlife hospital.



Dr Amir, left, assists zoo vet, Nic Masters, with an orangutan

A Nepalese wildlife vet on the front line of conservation work at a world heritage site visited Colchester Zoo recently for crucial training and experience.

Dr Amir Sadaula is a wildlife vet working with the National Trust for Nature Conservation, who oversees the care of animals in Nepal's world-famous Chitwan National Park.

In 2020, Nepal's first wildlife hospital opened in Sauraha, at the edge of the park. It has been equipped with modern diagnostic and anaesthetic equipment, much of which is not in standard use in veterinary clinics in Nepal. Therefore, the team didn't have

the experience that would let them realise its full potential. Wildlife Vets International (WVI) teamed up with the Metamorphosis Foundation, which kindly sponsored a vitally important trip to the UK for Dr Amir to help improve the service the hospital can provide for conservation.

We are proud to have been able to support WVI by welcoming Dr Amir on a typical 'vet day' at the zoo for some invaluable experience and training. Dr Amir assisted zoo vet, Nic Masters, of the International Zoo Veterinary Group (IZVG), with several patients – from a Burmese python and giant anteater to an aardvark and orangutan.

Dr Amir has been able to take what he has learnt back to Nepal and share this new knowledge with his colleagues, building vital in-country wildlife health capacity.

Colchester Zoo's charity, Action for the Wild, has supported WVI for many years now. WVI provides a service to the international conservation community, sponsoring top veterinary specialists who can help conservationists and local vets as they battle to save endangered species worldwide.



Waldegraves

Family Holiday Park

The Place to Stay in Essex

- Camping & Touring - Luxury Holiday Homes - Live Entertainment - Restaurant - Licensed Supermarket -
- Heated Outdoor Swimming Pool - Holiday Home Ownership - Children's Play Park - Kids Club -
- Fishing Lakes - Golf Facilities - Beach Access - Launderette -

Please call our friendly bookings team on
01206 382898 to book your break or for more information.
Alternatively, you can visit our website
www.waldegraves.co.uk

Luxury
Holiday
Homes



Waldegraves Family Holiday Park, Waldegraves Lane, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex, CO5 8SE
t: 01206 382898 w: www.waldegraves.co.uk e: holidays@waldegraves.co.uk



We are
pet
friendly



*Delicious
Home Cooked Food
Served Daily*

Call 01206 381195 to book a table

Planning an Event?

We cater for all occasions



THE
GRANARY
BAR & RESTAURANT

Breakfast
9am - 11.30pm

Lunch
12noon - 2.30pm

Dinner
5pm - 8pm

Sunday Lunch
12noon - 6pm

Waldegraves Family Holiday Park,
Waldegraves Lane,
West Mersea, Essex
CO5 8SE
01206 381195

granary@waldegraves.co.uk
www.waldegraves.co.uk



HOLMWOOD HOUSE
SCHOOL

From Nursery to GCSE

To book at visit please contact
admissions@holmwood.house

**From
£895***
for a fully
fitted electric
garage door.

Gotta get a Garolla.

WHAT'S INCLUDED WITH EVERY DOOR:

- EXPERT MEASURING & FITTING
- 2 REMOTE CONTROLS
- ACOUSTIC & THERMAL INSULATION
- FREE DISPOSAL OF YOUR OLD DOOR
- AVAILABLE IN 21 COLOURS

Garolla garage doors are expertly made to measure in our own UK factories, they're strong and solidly built. The electric Garolla door rolls up vertically, taking up only 8 inches inside your garage, maximising valuable space. Our expert local installers will fit your new door and they'll take away the old one too, so there's no mess.

Give us a call today and we'll come and measure up completely **FREE** of charge.

GAROLLA
ROLLER
SHUTTER
DOORS 

www.garolla.co.uk

CALL US TODAY ON:

01206 430 059

01284 220 166

MOBILE:

07537 149 128

LINES OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

*Offer valid for openings up to 2.4m wide & including 2 remote controls, 55mm white slats, internal manual override.

ANIMAL FACT FILES

Find out about some
of the awesome
animals here at
Colchester Zoo.

My name:
Spotted Hyena

Scientific name:
Crocuta crocuta

About me: I can be found in Africa, south of the Sahara. I have a thickset muzzle, large ears and powerful jaws for crunching bones. I can reach up to 1.6 metres in length and weigh up to 70kg. Where I live determines how sociable I am. I can be solitary, live in a pair or even in a large clan of up to 80. The clans are female dominant and even the highest ranking male is subordinate to the lowest ranking female! I keep in touch with other members of the clan through vocalisations, including whoops, yells and a manic cackle.

Did you know? Hyenas are famed scavengers but are also very skilled hunters, working as a group to take down prey.

I'M CLASSIFIED AS:
'LEAST CONCERN' ON THE
INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR CONSERVATION OF
NATURE (IUCN) RED LIST
OF THREATENED SPECIES

MY FAVOURITE FOOD:
LARGE, HOOFED
MAMMALS THAT WE
HAVE EITHER HUNTED
OR SCAVENGED

My name:
Komodo Dragon
Scientific name:
Varanus komodoensis

I'M CLASSIFIED AS:
'VULNERABLE' ON THE
IUCN RED LIST OF
THREATENED SPECIES

About me: I am the largest land-living lizard and can be found on the Indonesian islands of Komodo, Rinca, Gili Motang, Gili Dasami and Flores. I can reach lengths of 2.75 metres or 9 feet and live up to 30 years in the wild. While I am young, I will spend the majority of my life in trees so that I am safe from predators. I use my keen sense of smell and my long tongue to find my food. I am mainly a scavenger, but will also hunt animals such as pigs and water buffalo. I use my serrated teeth and the deadly bacteria in my mouth to disable our prey. I can eat up to 80% of my body weight in a single feeding.

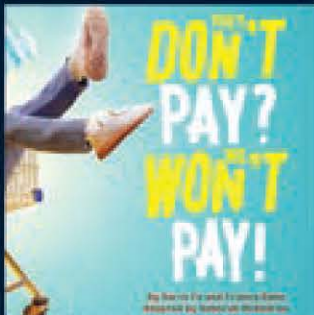
Did you know? Because I have a slow metabolism, I can survive by only eating 12 meals in a year!

MY FAVOURITE FOOD:
DEER, WILD BOAR AND
SNAKES — I WILL ALSO
EAT FISH AND YOUNG
KOMODO DRAGONS

MERCURY

A great night out.

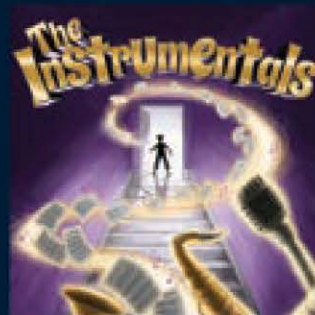
Enjoy excellent entertainment, fantastic food, a brilliant café bar, workspaces and more. Come on in!



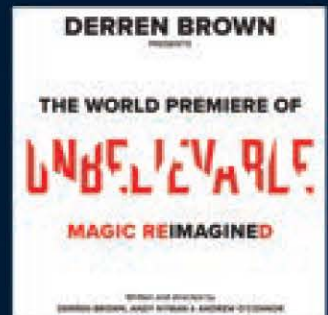
Fri 17 - Fri 31 Mar



Fri 12 May - Sat 27 May



Wed 31 May - Sun 4 Jun



Fri 28 Jul - Sat 26 Aug

View our full What's On: mercurytheatre.co.uk

FUEL YOUR ADVENTURE AT COLCHESTER ZOO

Spring into the warmer season with specials that will tickle your taste buds!



LOOK OUT FOR OUR SEASONAL FOOD AND DRINK!



CHECK OUT OUR NEW GLUTEN FREE RANGE!



PICK UP THE PERFECT PIZZA!



ENJOY ONE OF OUR DELICIOUS MEAL DEALS!



ENJOY A SWEET TREAT THIS SPRING



*Menu subject to change depending on season. **Selected outlets only.

KEEPER FOR THE DAY

Step into the boots of a member of the Animal Care Team in one of two new, exciting options that take you closer to the animals than ever before! Go behind the scenes with a number of different species for the whole day. Plus, enjoy a scrumptious meal at Penguini's Restaurant and receive a special souvenir gift at no extra cost!



SCHEME 1: CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

Discover the amazing world of African elephants as you create some exciting enrichment. Meet our group of meerkats as they scurry around and say 'hello' to our lovable lemurs as they leap and jump. Prepare food for our friendly anteaters and sun bears, and watch as they enjoy their snacks.



SCHEME 2: WEIRD AND WONDERFUL WILDLIFE

Watch as our sea lions show off their skills in a fascinating training demonstration. Prepare food for our stripy Amur tigers and watch as our gelada baboon troop feast on their tasty meal. Meet our nocturnal aardvarks as they cuddle together and greet our towering giraffes as they reach for their treats.





IN GOOD COMPANY

Become a corporate sponsor
and make a difference.



With just under 1 million annual visitors and over 50,000 Annual Zoo Passholders, Colchester Zoo provides a great location to use innovative marketing to gain new interest and increase brand recognition.

The possibilities are endless with a number of different corporate opportunities suitable for a variety of budgets. Becoming a corporate supporter of Colchester Zoo will mean you'll play a huge role in assisting our conservation efforts and further development, whichever package you choose.

Corporate Sponsors:

In January, we were joined by members of the management team from MHA who are proud sponsor of Colchester Zoo's Amur tigers and Lost Madagascar Road Train. The team popped in to see their branding in action and received a special experience where they fed our Amur tiger, Anoushka, and chatted to Ash, of the Tiger Section. This was a great chance for members of MHA to learn more about the vital conservation work that goes on behind the scenes for animals in the wild, and how their sponsorship has helped towards protecting and caring for these incredible animals.



**Find out more about how you
can become a corporate sponsor
at www.colchesterzoo.org**



ZOO DATES 2023

Character Days:

26 March, 21 May,
16 July and 10
September 2023

Throughout the year,
we will be joined by some
very exciting pre-school
TV characters.

FREE pre-bookable time slot is
required. Limited availability.

Character Breakfasts:

12 November 2023

Rise and dine with our
Zoo Crew characters from
9.30am whilst enjoying a
delicious breakfast!

Dino Discovery Days:

1 April, 22 April, 25 June,
23 September 2023

Enjoy dino-mite activities
on these prehistoric
adventure days.



EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA:

1 to 16 April 2023

Learn all about our
Egg-citing reptiles
and birds as you take
part in our Easter trail.
Take a gentle walk
down to a Nature
Area and spot which
prehistoric creatures
have been constructed
out of bricks!



Zoobilee Week:

27 May to 4 June 2023

Let the 60th birthday celebrations begin...

Throughout the May Half Term, we are hosting a variety of fun activities featuring an array of guests. Shake and shimmy along to performances from samba dancers, steel drums,



and marimba music from Otto & The Mutapa Calling. Looking for something a little more spellbinding? Magic Iain is back with sorcery skills that will truly amaze your little one!



2 June

Join us for our Big Birthday Bonanza as we remain open until 8.30pm celebrating our official birthday!

Tuck into delicious, birthday-themed sweet treats from our food outlets and exclusive merchandise from our retail shop to commemorate this special day and become a part of the Colchester Zoo history!

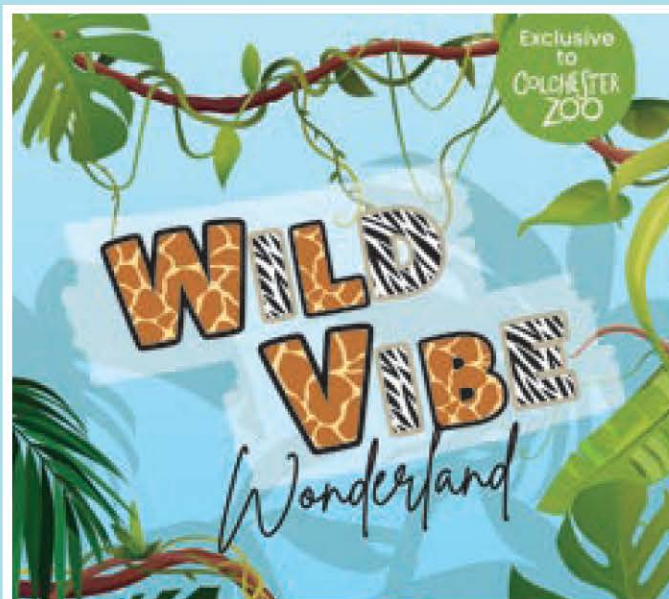
PASSHOLDER EXCLUSIVE

Wake up with:
1 July 2023

Watch as the zoo awakens for another zoo-per day filled with early encounters and keeper activities!

This event is for Zoo Passholders only and you must present a valid zoo pass on arrival. Zoo Passes cannot be purchased on the morning.

ZOO LIFE SPRING 2023 CALENDAR



NEW FOR SUMMER 2023



Wild Vibe Wonderland:

22 July – 3 September 2023

To make this summer extra zoo-rific for our 60th birthday, we have teamed up with Jammy Creative Studios to provide you with a full six weeks of entertainment as they bring an exclusive Wild Vibe Wonderland to us here at Colchester Zoo!

This zoo-mazing extravaganza will include two wonderfully wacky parties per day during the summer holidays. Watch out for the mischievous monkey and prepare your loudest roar as this celebration involves your participation too! Not only will we have zoodles of fun at the parties, but there will also be themed parades at various times at different locations within the park.

Wild Vibe Wonderland is sure to join us all together in getting into the zoo-groove and celebrating our big 60th Zoobilee!

60th Party Celebrations:
22 July, 5 and 19 August,
and 2 September 2023

We're going to party like it's 1963 with our special birthday evenings. Join us as we stay open until 8.30pm with 60th celebrations.

ZOO DATES 2023

Starlight Nights:

16 and 30

September 2023

Spend the evening at the zoo as the sun begins to set and nocturnal animals begin to emerge. It truly is a twilight spectacular!

Trail of Terror:

**13, 14, 20, 21,
25, 27 and 28**

October 2023

Are you brave enough to take the journey on our Trail of Terror? Our ever-frightening event returns with more screams and scares! Limited spaces available – book early to avoid disappointment!

Shriek Week:

21 to 29 October 2023

Enjoy a week filled with spook-tacular daytime activities suitable for children of all ages.

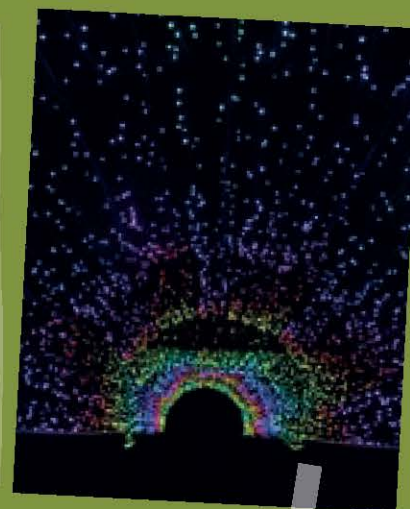
Magic of Christmas: **25 and 26 November, 2, 3, 9, 10, and 16 to 24 December 2023**

No Christmas is complete without a magical trip to the zoo where you can visit Santa himself and his magical reindeers.

Enchanted Trail of Light:

**2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20 and 22
December 2023**

Watch the zoo sparkle to life with magical illuminations and spectacular light displays and a light tunnel that will leave you feeling dazzled and truly enchanted... Limited spaces available – book early to avoid disappointment!



*Explore exciting options
to join us this September!*



Chelmsford College

www.chelmsford.ac.uk

**Get free, impartial
careers advice**

Call 01245 293031

or email careersadvicezone@chelmsford.ac.uk



St Mary's
Colchester

EMPOWERING GIRLS



**Attend an Open Day or arrange an individual tour to
find out more about how St Mary's empowers girls**

Visit www.stmaryscolchester.org.uk,
email registrar@stmaryscolchester.org.uk or
call **01206 594256** today