

# ZOO LIFE

ISSUE 7  
Summer Issue 2023



## ZOO-PER SUMMER FUN!

Find out what's in store  
for our visitors this summer  
and the rest of the year

## EXCITING EXPERIENCES

Get closer with  
these exciting  
**NEW** packages

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

We share our vision for Colchester Zoo...

## SUPPORTING WILDLIFE

Find out how our  
charity helps  
conservation  
projects  
worldwide.

## AMAZING AFRICA

We go behind  
the scenes  
with our Animal  
Care Team



[www.colchesterzoo.org](http://www.colchesterzoo.org)

COLCHESTER ZOO







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**SUMMER 2023**  
ISSUE 7

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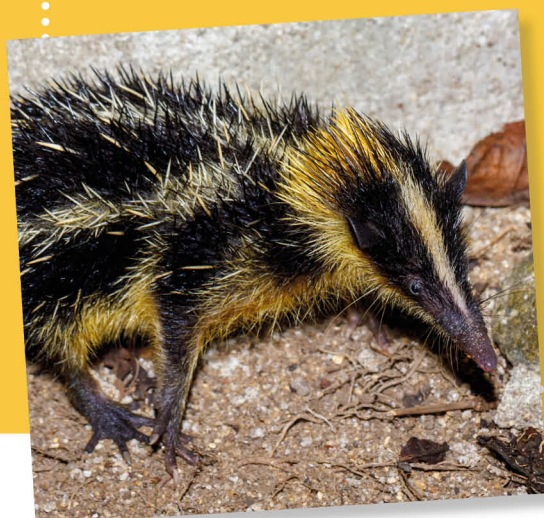
See the many souvenirs available to celebrate our 60th and add a touch of wildlife to your home

## 40 ZOO DATES

Plan the rest of your year with us, from a sizzling summer through to the sparkling lights of Christmas with our activities and events for all the family to enjoy!



Photography:  
Tom Smith, Mark Blakemore, Brian Matthews, Daniel Thrower, Thomas Harris,  
Jamie Reeve, Lurii Nikitin, Orangutan Foundation, Save the Rhino



## WHAT'S THAT?

This unusual-looking animal is a Lowland Streaked Tenrec (*Hemicentetes semispinosus*).

This species is endemic to Madagascar, meaning it is found nowhere else in the world! Tenrecs may resemble hedgehogs but are from a separate evolutionary line and are more closely related to elephants than they are to hedgehogs or rodents! This tenrec species inhabits the tropical rainforests but due to human encroachment they are sometimes found wandering in gardens in search of food.



# WELCOME

WELCOME TO THE FIRST ONLINE ONLY EDITION OF OUR MAGAZINE, ZOO LIFE!

It is hoped that you will enjoy reading this interactive issue, allowing you easy access to the current news and events on our website and ensuring you are kept up to speed with all that's **new at the Zoo!**

A huge **thank you** to everyone who has visited us this year and joined in with marking our 60th anniversary, whether that be with a general visit, participating in our Colchester Zoo Rocks campaign or joining in with our birthday week during the May half term.

It's been a joy to commemorate this **momentous milestone** with you and we're excited to continue the celebrations into the summer with a whole host of extra activities taking place, including parties with our Wild Vibe Wonderland crew!

Whilst the celebrations have been taking place, we've been busy behind the scenes putting our **vision for the future** into action. You can read about our vision in this issue of Zoo Life. A big part of this is a major change for the Zoo in that we will become a charity as of 1st January 2025, known as **Colchester Zoological Society**.

Becoming a charity will open many doors for us, particularly in terms of funding. It will also secure the Zoo's future as a place where **conservation, research and education** are the prime objectives.

Our vision may be quite ambitious, but **it is now time for us to evolve**. Very soon, we hope to present an application for a new Lion enclosure. This will be the start of our own progress towards the future.

For this vision to become reality **we will need your support**, so please do continue to enjoy days out with us and celebrate the wonders of wildlife of today, but also of the future too.

**We hope you enjoy reading our summer edition!**



CELEBRATING  
**60**  
YEARS OF  
COLCHESTER ZOO



FROM  
COLCHESTER  
ZOO  
MANAGEMENT

A new Lion enclosure (TOP) and the introduction of a new species, Okapi (*Okapia johnstoni*) (BOTTOM), are just two of the many developments planned for the zoo as part of our future vision.





## TAIWAN'S MOST POPULAR BRAND ARRIVES IN COLCHESTER

### BAKERY



### BUBBLE TEA



### ICE CREAM



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[info@milksha.uk](mailto:info@milksha.uk)

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\*Can only be used once in our Colchester  
store, expires 31st August 2023



SCAN TO VISIT  
OUR WEBSITE



WE ARE PLEASED TO SPONSOR THE RED PANDAS AT COLCHESTER ZOO



**ST JOSEPH'S  
COLLEGE**

# OPEN MORNING

Whole School  
**Saturday 16  
September**

Join us for our Prep and Senior  
School Open Days. Family tours  
also available, to find out more  
please visit [stjos.co.uk](http://stjos.co.uk) or email  
[admissions@stjos.co.uk](mailto:admissions@stjos.co.uk)

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



# HAVE YOU 'HERD'?

There are so many ways to keep in touch with us so you don't miss a thing. Follow us on social media for all the latest news about our animals, exciting events and developments taking place at the Zoo. Plus get all the information you need before your visit to make your day an adventure like no other! Click the icons below to visit our sites:



We're now on  
TIKTOK! Check  
out our content  
for ZOO-PER  
stories and  
videos!



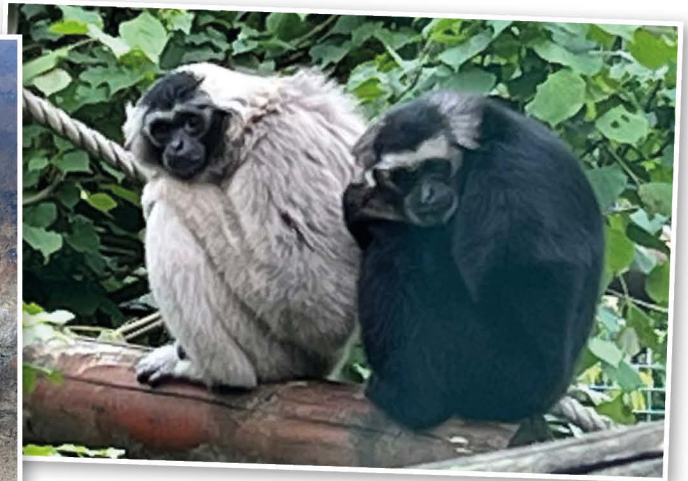
Don't forget to download the Colchester Zoo app [HERE](#) for an interactive map and animal encounter timetable to get the most value for money from your time with us.



## RECENT ARRIVALS

Meet some of our new animals!  
CLICK [HERE](#)

**ZOO LIFE**  
**SUMMER 2023**  
NEWS



## EXCITING ACHIEVEMENTS!

Our Education Team  
has been winning awards!  
CLICK [HERE](#)

## ENCLOSURE UPDATES!

Our Maintenance Team  
are continually working hard  
to freshen up different  
areas of the Zoo.



## ANIMAL BIRTHDAYS!

We have a party to celebrate  
our wonderful animals!  
CLICK [HERE](#)





# SCHOOL ROCKS

**'Colchester Zoo Rocks' is a local school community project to commemorate our 60th anniversary!**

In January 2023, 81 local participating schools painted stones which, on return to the Zoo, were added to our commemorative garden that will be on display into 2024. The theme for the art on the stones was the Zoo and our 60th anniversary; this could have been a favourite animal or special memory.

We were delighted to have collaborated with Silverton Aggregates and Long Rake Spar who kindly supported this project with the supply of approximately 12,000 Scottish Cobbles and around 160 Cambrian Boulders which were painted by over 11,500 students across Essex, Suffolk and London!

In March 2023, our Gardening Team began work on the new rockery garden located within the Zoo for all to enjoy.



Colourful rocks





**THANK YOU**  
to everyone involved in this  
special project!



Painted by the participants.

**KINDLY  
SUPPORTED BY**

**SILVERTON**  
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RAKE SPAN  
Decorative Aggregates

**Grantex**  
Landscape Aggregates

Alresford Primary School  
Ardleigh St Mary's  
Baynards Primary School  
Birch CEVA Primary School  
Boreham Primary School  
Braiswick Primary School  
Brinkley Grove Primary School  
Broomgrove Infant School  
Cann Hall Primary School  
Canvey Island Infant School and Nursery  
Chappel CoFE Primary School  
Colchester General Hospital School  
Copford CoFE Primary School  
Culford Pre-Prep  
Earls Colne Primary School  
East Bergholt CEVC Primary School  
Exceptional Ideas Ltd  
Friar's Grove Primary School  
Great Dunmow Cambian School  
Grove Pre-school  
Gusford Primary School  
Hadleigh Infants and Nursery School  
Hazelmere Junior School  
Heathcote Prep School  
Holy Trinity Halstead  
Home Farm Primary School  
Kerry Jane Cowin  
King's Ford Infant School and Nursery  
Ladybirds Pre-School  
Lakelands Primary School  
Lawford CoFE Primary School  
Lexden Primary School with Enhanced Provision  
for Deaf Children  
Lexden Springs Residential Special School  
Little Doves Nursery  
Littlegarth School  
Lyon's Hall Primary School  
Market Field School  
Messing Primary School

Millfields Primary School  
Monkwick Infant School  
Montgomery Junior School  
North East Essex Co-operative Academy  
North Primary School and Nursery  
Orwell Park School  
Philip Morant School and College  
Prettygate Infant School  
Prettygate Junior School  
Ravenswood Community Primary School  
Ridgewell CoFE Primary School  
Rolph CoFE School and Nursery  
Silver End Academy  
Spring Meadow Primary School  
Stanway Primary School  
St Albans Catholic High School  
St Andrew's CoFE Primary  
St Benedict's Catholic College  
St Francis Primary School  
St George's Church of England  
St John's Green  
St Joseph's Catholic Primary  
St Mary's RC Primary School  
St Mary's School  
St Mary's School Colchester  
St Michael's Primary School and Nursery  
St Michaels CoFE Primary  
St Peter's CoFE Primary School  
St Teresa's Catholic School  
Tanglewood Nursery School  
The Colne Community School  
The Gilbert School  
The Mayflower Primary  
The Leverton Primary School  
Thomas Lord Audley School  
Tollesbury School  
Westcliff High School for Girls  
Wix and Wrabness Primary School



# DINO-MITE DEVELOPMENTS!

We are currently developing a new **T-REX-ELLENT** experience for all ages to enjoy!

Regular visitors may have noticed some **BIG NEW ARRIVALS** who are currently in quarantine until our new wondrous walkway is developed and ready for them to be released into their new home.

When this new experience is complete, your prehistoric journey will begin near Gelada Plateau and take you into the past with a range of animatronic dinosaurs, including a Brachiosaurus that stands just under 5 metres high.

You will come face-to-face with creatures from the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous periods – leaving you feeling like a true palaeontologist! Each magnificent dinosaur will be paired with fact files and information so you can discover more about the creatures that once lived whilst surrounded by foliage and shrubbery for an **IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE**.



Development of the area.







This development  
raises the awareness  
of conservation,  
to preserve the  
wonderful wildlife  
we can protect,  
with which we share  
this Earth.



Whether your favourite dinosaur is a herbivore or carnivore, our **DINOSAUR REALM** is the **ULTIMATE** dino-destination within the Zoo for any adventurer!

We are hoping to open this **CLAW-SOME** new area early 2024 – follow us on social media for future updates.



# ZOO OF THE FUTURE

## We have an exciting announcement...

As we celebrate our 60th anniversary this year, we have been putting our vision for the Zoo's future on paper.

We are excited to share with you what we hope the coming years will hold for Colchester Zoo, which is sure to bring a **BRIGHT** future for, not only the Zoo, but the City of Colchester too!

The long-term future of the Zoo has always been our main priority; we want to see the Zoo prosper and so have produced an ambitious vision which will hopefully see it become one of the leading zoos in the country.

For the last 60 years, we have been known as a commercial Zoo, setting high standards for us to achieve in education and conservation. We have been second to none, but we want to do more.

Therefore, it is with great pride that we announce, as of 1st January 2025, the Zoo will become a charitable trust, known as **Colchester Zoological Society**.

1. EXISTING ENTRANCE BUILDING
2. CAR PARK
3. WETLAND/WATER ATTENUATION POND
4. ORIENTATION CENTRE
5. EDUCATION BUILDING, DISCOVERY CENTRE & INDOOR PLAY AREA
6. CONFERENCE, RESTAURANT & SPECIAL EVENTS FACILITY
7. LODGES RECEPTION BUILDING
8. OVERNIGHT STAY LODGES
9. GARDEN AREA
10. WATER PLAYGROUND
11. OUTDOOR THEATRE
12. MAZE
13. CAVE WALK FOR NOCTURNAL SPECIES
14. AFRICAN VILLAGE
15. OUTDOOR PLAY ACTIVITIES
16. ZOO FARM
17. WETLAND WALK
18. WATERFALL & POOL
19. TREE TOP BRIDGE LINK
20. SAVANNAH RESTAURANT TERRACE
21. ELEVATED BOARDWALK
22. ANIMATRONIC DINOSAUR EXHIBITION
23. ELEPHANT ENCLOSURE
24. ELEPHANT HOUSE
25. GORILLA ENCLOSURE
26. GORILLA HOUSE
27. ORANGUTAN ENCLOSURE
28. ORANGUTAN HOUSE
29. AFRICAN LION ENCLOSURE
30. AMUR TIGER ENCLOSURE
31. BUTTERFLY HOUSE
32. FLAMINGO ENCLOSURE
33. HIPPO ENCLOSURE
34. VULTURE ENCLOSURE
35. GELADA BABOON ENCLOSURE
36. ROMAN RIVER
37. GRYME'S DYKE
38. ROMAN INTERPRETATION AREA



The visual drawing above gives you a taste of what the future holds for Colchester Zoo. We must reiterate this is just a vision at this stage, due to this being subject to surveys, consent and planning permission. **You can download the drawing [HERE](#).**

*“We must now move towards the future we want, with everyone playing their part in this unique and wonderful project.”*

Dr D.A. Tropeano – Managing Zoo Director

A printed version of this vision is available in our exclusive 60th Anniversary Souvenir Book!

Order your copy online [HERE](#) or purchase in the Outpost Gift Shop.







We hope to create many new jobs for the local community, as well as generate and expand our building association with many local suppliers and traders.

A bigger Zoo will not necessarily see the arrival of many new species, but will ensure that every animal here will have better and bigger facilities, with many habitats tripling in size.

We hope to be able to bring new species such as, Gorilla, Bonobo and Okapi, amongst others, with an aim to very much retain the African theme we have had over the years.

Our Green Zoo Policy will remain, and we are thinking of ways in which we can continue to reduce our carbon footprint, such as further use of solar power.

Of course, all of this cannot be achieved overnight. Surveys and planning permission application is required and granted before anything can start and we need to build the funds to fulfil these plans to the highest standard possible.

*“Thank you to all our dedicated staff, visitors and supporters who have, for so many years, given us the strength to survive and helped bring us through the darkest of days.*

*Without your support we would not be where we are today and striving towards the Zoo of tomorrow.”*

Dr D.A. Tropeano - Managing Zoo Director





**Jo Burch**, Team Leader for Colchester Zoo's Giraffe section, shares what it's like to work with animals everyday, having worked at the Zoo for the last 18 years, and the never ending amount of poo to clean!







Training time with Otto to help with carrying out health checks.

### **Why and how did you become a Zoo Keeper?**

I became a Zoo Keeper because I've always wanted to work with exotic animals and provide them with the best care possible.

I was fortunate enough to do a couple of animal care qualifications at Writtle University College. I then visited Colchester Zoo and submitted a job application here, from which I was lucky enough to get a trainee keeper role.

### **Which animals do you care for on this section?**

My section cares for the Aardvarks, Giraffe, Rhino, Zebra, Kudu, Ostrich, Cranes (crowned), Hippos, Red River Hogs and Rock Hyrax. In particular, I care for two of our four Giraffe, Isha and Lili, who arrived in 2009. Although they are sisters they both have very different personalities.

Lili is very much the boss of the group and always puts Nzuri, our youngest Giraffe, in her place. Isha is much more laid back and takes everything at her own pace. They are both very food orientated and love munching on their browse.

### **What do you love the most about your job?**

The thing I love most about my job is the training of 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?**

The never ending amount of poo that needs cleaning!

### **What is your favourite animal?**

My favourite species has to be our 'crash' of White Rhino. We always say they are like giant dogs! They come over for a fuss and a tickle and they love human interaction.

In January, we were delighted to welcome the arrival of a female White Rhino calf. This arrival was extra special, as not only was she born at the start of our 60th celebrations, but on 7th March 2023, The King and The Queen Consort unveiled the name of our calf.

### **5 things you didn't know about our African animals**

1. Giraffes have the same amount of neck vertebrae as us - 7 in total.
2. An Ostrich can run anything up to 45 miles per hour.
3. White Rhinos are pregnant for 16 months.
4. A group of Zebras is called a 'dazzle'.
5. Greater Kudu can jump between 2 and 3 metres high!

Preparing vegetables for the animals on section.





# CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGY

Conservation technology can support efforts to monitor and protect wildlife through enhancing our understanding of behaviour, biology, and natural history.

Wildlife rangers on our UmPhafa Private Nature Reserve in South Africa make use of this technology to better understand wildlife and to provide more effective protection.

The reserve spans 6,000 hectares, which makes conservation technology vital for navigating the wide range of habitats, from acacia savannah to mountainous terrain.

**DISCOVER WILDLIFE**  
on school grounds  
and in your local area  
using our **Camera Trap**  
**Loan Scheme.**

Click [HERE](#) to find  
out more



### Camera Traps

Camera traps are wildlife cameras that can be used to observe the number, distribution, and behaviour of animals in a non-invasive manner. Using camera traps, researchers have been able to identify new species in areas and record previously unrecorded behaviours and interactions.

Camera traps are used regularly on UmPhafa to conduct biodiversity surveys. A survey grid is set up at six specific locations (known as zoo sites) and set to record for four weeks.

Cameras are set up next to game trails where animals are passing regularly.

Using camera trap images captured around the reserve, rangers can identify four individual Leopards on the reserve using their different markings. The camera traps have also identified Hyena, Honey Badgers, and Caracals in the area. Carnivores are an indicator of ecosystem health, so their presence also suggests that the habitat is in good condition.

Honey Badger camera trap footage.



### Drones

As well as observing animal movement, drones can be used for a range of conservation methods, such as monitoring poacher activity, replanting forests after fires, and to collect biological samples.

In March 2022, new drones arrived at UmPhafa to help support the rangers' work on the reserve. During the summer, students for Writtle University College visiting the reserve were able to use the drones to locate lost Kudu, relocate bird hides, and conduct weekly game counts of animals used to monitor animal health and population size.



Drone footage of the Reserve.



Caracal caught on the camera trap.



### Radio and Satellite Tracking

This device consists of a small radio transmitter combined with a battery which emits a signal at a specific frequency that can be tracked from up to 5km away.

Radio collars allow researchers to track the movement of an animal to understand their use of a home range or migration patterns.

By understanding animal movement, conservationists can better protect the areas they use.

In July 2021, 14 African Wild Dogs (*Lycaon pictus*) were translocated from UmPhafa to Liwonde National Park as part of efforts to reintroduce the species to Malawi.

Each pack of dogs is fitted with both satellite and radio collars to allow for monitoring of the group's location, habitat use, and long-term protection.



African wild dogs with radio collars





### **The Future of Conservation Technology – eDNA**

Environmental DNA, also known as eDNA, is genetic material obtained from an animal's environment, meaning samples can be captured non-invasively and without disturbing the animal.

Colchester Zoo is supporting a project by the Wellcome Sanger Institute which aims to provide a database of insect species diversity over space and time, forming a conservation resource for DNA-based monitoring in the UK for the future.



This research project will study the genetic diversity of 1 million flying insects from across the UK by collecting insect samples from 100 sites – Colchester Zoo is one of these.

The hope is that, after creating this database of genetic information, genetic material can be captured from the environment, such as by taking a sample of air or water, and loaded onto small, computerised readers which will scan the genetic material of a species or group and will inform conservationists of insects living within an area. Conservationists can then plan projects to better protect these species and the habitats they rely on.

The Zoo's Conservation Education team are working on hands-on school sessions based around this exciting area.

CLICK **HERE** to check the education session link.



As part of our 60th celebrations, we look back at some of the species Colchester Zoo has held in the past...



## My name: Bengal Tiger

Scientific name: *Panthera tigris tigris*

**About me:** I am also known as the Indian Tiger and have a wide distribution across the Indian subcontinent, living in subtropical and temperate rainforests and dry forests. I have an average lifespan of 14-16 years in the wild.

**Did you know?** White Tigers are not their own species, just a different colour. This is due to a rare gene and only occurs naturally once in every 10,000 births.

One of our White Tigers was called Sasha and lent his name to an area of the Zoo called 'White Tiger Valley', which is now home to our Ring-tailed Lemurs.

A Tiger's stripes are as unique as human fingerprints, no two tigers have the same stripe pattern. This is useful to conservationists as specific individuals can be identified and tracked through camera trapping.

Tigers are mainly solitary, however groups may tolerate one another when there is plentiful food. Tigers maintain a home range containing enough prey, water, and shelter to suit their needs and provide for their cubs.

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

MY FAVOURITE FOOD:  
LARGE UNGULATES,  
SUCH AS WATER BUFFALO,  
AND DEER. ALSO SMALLER  
PREY SUCH AS WILD BOAR  
AND LANGUR MONKEY.



Get your very own Bengal Tiger cuddly toy, named Spirit, when you book our **SANTA EXPERIENCE** this Christmas!

Find out more [HERE](#)



## BORIS THE BACTRIAN CAMEL WAS DOUBLE THE FUN...

Colchester Zoo was once home to a Bactrian Camel called Boris...



### BACTRIAN CAMEL

*Camelus bactrianus*

The two large humps (like the letter "B" in Bactrian!) on this Camel store fat for energy, not water.

Wild Bactrian Camels live in the harsh deserts and plains of central Asia and can survive in temperatures ranging from 50°C to -30°C.

**CR** STATUS: CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

Boris, the 11-year old Bactrian Camel, arrived in August 1963 as part of an animal exchange programme with Moscow Zoo. Boris soon became a firm favourite with the public.



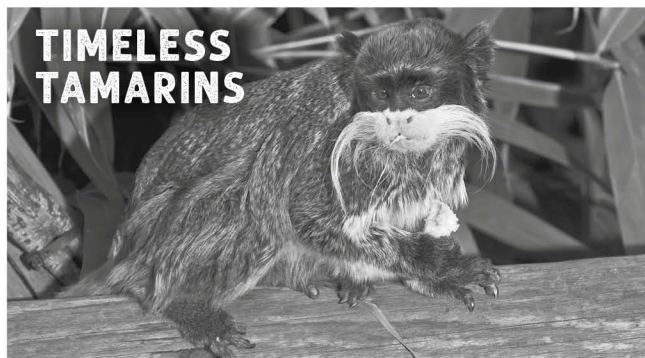
### FOSSA

*Cryptoprocta ferox*

Fossas are the top predator in Madagascar. They hunt both during the day and night, and can take prey from the ground as well as up in the trees. This means they have quite a varied diet, which includes Lemurs, small mammals, fish, lizards, birds, frogs and insects.

The elusive Fossa is a solitary animal and spends its time both in the trees and on the ground.

**VU** STATUS: VULNERABLE



### TIMELESS TAMARINS

### EMPEROR TAMARIN

*Saguinus imperator*

It is thought they got their name after the German Emperor Wilhelm II, because he had a similar moustache.

They are a social monkey, living in groups between 4 and 20, with the eldest female leading the group.

Not only are they social with each other, they have been seen living with other species of Tamarins to have more eyes looking out for predators!

**LC** STATUS: LEAST CONCERN

A variety of Tamarin species have been housed at the Zoo since the first summer opening in 1963.



### SNOW LEOPARD

*Panthera uncia*

These Leopards live in the mountains across a vast range of Asia. They are insulated by thick hair, in shades of grey or creamy yellow, and covered with greyish black spots, and their wide, fur-covered feet act as natural snowshoes. Snow Leopards have powerful legs and are tremendous jumpers, able to leap as far as 50 feet.

**VU** STATUS: VULNERABLE

Amir and Firsia were the first pair of Snow Leopards to arrive at Colchester Zoo in 1986. Shan and Vinci, the Zoo's last two Snow Leopards remained here until 2005.



### JAGUAR

*Panthera onca*

The name Jaguar comes from the Native American word 'yaguar', which means 'he who kills with one leap'. Jaguars were found throughout the Americas, but have their strongholds in the Amazon Rainforest. It is hoped that recent sightings in Arizona mean that these brilliant cats can establish themselves once again in the USA.

**NT** STATUS: NEAR THREATENED



### CAPE PORCUPINE

*Hystrix africaeaustralis*

Porcupines are known to collect bones and other hard objects to chew in order to wear down their teeth!

**LC** STATUS: LEAST CONCERN

Find out about more of our historical species with our celebratory 60th birthday Top Trumps pack.

Order your copy online **HERE** or purchase in the Outpost Gift Shop.





# SIZZLING SUMMER EXPERIENCES!

NEW Experiences have landed this Summer...

**PASSHOLDERS**  
can receive  
a **DISCOUNT**  
on these  
experiences!

**Keeper Shadow**  
£85 for ONE person\*  
£145 for TWO people\*

There are 16 Keeper Shadowing experiences to choose from!

NEW for 2023

- Pygmy Hippo (Summer only)
- Komodo Dragon

**Keeper for the Day**  
£210 for ONE person\*

Two NEW Packages to choose from:

- Creatures Great & Small
- Weird & Wonderful Wildlife



Find out more about all our experience packages [HERE](#)





**ZOO LIFE  
SUMMER 2023  
SHOPPING**

# BECOME A ZOO PASSHOLDER

Enjoy **UNLIMITED** visits  
for a whole year...

## PRICES (INC VAT)\*

Adult 16 – 59yrs: £70.50

Child 3 – 15yrs: £50.50

Senior 60yrs+: £60.50



A Zoo Pass membership gives you unlimited visits for 1 year\* and entry to exclusive events, such as our Wake Up with Colchester Zoo event where Passholders see the Zoo in a whole new light as you enter, just as the animals are beginning their day!

Being a member also means you receive discounts in our Outpost Gift Shop and food outlets so you can fuel your adventure and purchase souvenirs to remember your day for even less.

Not only do you receive discounts in our shops, but you can also get even closer to our amazing species with money off selected Animal Experiences!\*

**PLUS**, a Colchester Zoo membership gives you entrance to selected major zoos free of charge.

Click **HERE** to purchase a pass

\*Ts & Cs apply to all Zoo Pass Benefits  
Prices correct at time of publishing JULY 2023.

[www.colchesterzoo.org](http://www.colchesterzoo.org) • 23



## FOCUS ON CONSERVATION

We shine a spotlight on how our charity, Action for the Wild, supports many conservation projects around the world and give an overview of two key projects we're helping this year.



ORANGUTAN FOUNDATION



The Orangutan Foundation is working to save Orangutans by protecting their tropical forest habitat, working with local communities, and promoting research and education.

The Orangutan Foundation operates five Orangutan post-release monitoring camps within the Lamandau Wildlife Reserve, a reserve spanning almost 160,000 acres in Borneo, Indonesia. At these camps, field teams care for orphaned Orangutans in a soft release programme and continuously monitor Orangutans in surrounding forest.

The young Orangutans in the soft-release programme learn forest skills necessary for life in the wild, and once fully prepared are ready for release.

From time to time, situations arise where the team help with the rescue and translocation of Orangutans stranded in threatened areas, such as community land and fragmented sections of forest. Veterinary assistance ensures the highest welfare standards are available to expertly treat these Orangutans straight away before release into the Lamandau Wildlife Reserve.

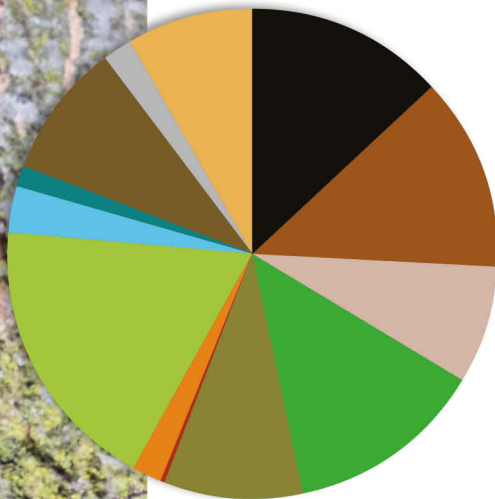
In 2022, Action for the Wild donated £7,000 for the vet's annual salary to provide critical veterinary aid, contributing towards the cost of Orangutan monitoring in the forest and providing equipment for a new veterinary clinic in Pangkalan Bun, essential for wildlife rescues and translocations.



projects  
the Wild supports  
**Panda Network.**

latest news  
the projects  
port **HERE**

Action for the Wild provides both financial and technical assistance, aiming to raise awareness among local people in community conservation programmes, as well as supporting conservation research. The money Action for the Wild receives from your kind donations is split every year between the numerous projects our charity supports. In 2022, £322,070.53 was given to the UmPhafa Private Nature Reserve and the remaining funds were distributed as follows:



	Save the Rhino - £7,125
	Orangutan Foundation - £7,000
	VulPro - £4,287.92
	Free the Bears - £7,000
	The Centre de Rehabilitation des Primates de Lwiro - £5,000
	Red Panda Network - £214.06
	Komodo Survival Programme - £885.98
	Elephant Orphanage Project - £10,000
	AEECL Lemur Conservation - £1,712.48
	E.A.Z.A. Leopard Project - £629.63
	International Otter Survival Fund - £4,910
	HelpSimus - £1,035
	Yellow-breasted Capuchin Monkey Conservation Programme - £4,486.65



**SAVE THE RHINO INTERNATIONAL**

Sadly, National Parks in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal Province (KZN) have been hit hard by Rhino poaching gangs in 2022. Targeted by poaching syndicates and criminal gangs, there were 244 poaching-related Rhino fatalities within the Province (compared with 448 in South Africa as a whole) – equivalent to a Rhino being poached in the Province every 36 hours.

The majority of these devastating poaching incidents have been recorded in Hluhluwe-Imfolozi National Park (HiP); an important stronghold for black and White Rhinoceroses.

In 2022, Action for the Wild donated £7,125 towards the purchase of vital equipment for extended camping kits. Extended patrol kit items include tents, backpacks, sleeping bags and cooking equipment.

This equipment allows rangers to camp for extended times at short notice in areas frequented by poaching syndicates; to assist early detection of poachers and increase the chance of saving the life of Rhino in the field.

The extended patrols help to maximise anti-poaching effectiveness, enabling rangers to remain within detection zones/hot spots for longer periods. The equipment is carried in patrol members' backpacks and the team remains totally self-sufficient.

The superior quality of the kit will result in more effective patrols for the rangers who will be working under extremely tough conditions. This will enable them to remain alert and will also increase the amount of time for which they will be able to be deployed.





# ZOO LIFE SUMMER 2023 CONSERVATION



## ELEPHANT ORPHANAGE PROJECT Zambia

The orphanage strives to rescue, rehabilitate and release orphaned Elephants back into the wild.



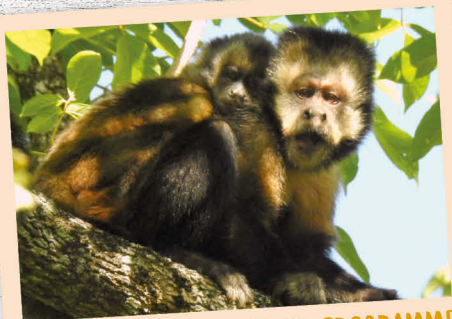
## LWIRO PRIMATES REHABILITATION CENTRE Democratic Republic of Congo

The Centre de Rehabilitation des Primates de Lwiro (CRPL) works to care for and rehabilitate orphaned primates.



## E.A.Z.A. LEOPARD Europe

The Amur Leopard Programme (EELP) is a lab-based project that identifies and monitors the health of leopard captives.



## CAPUCHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAMME Brazil

The programme aims to collect information on the ecological and behavioural needs of Buffy-headed Capuchins, to then provide a strong basis for the development of conservation strategies to avoid this species' extinction.



## SAVE THE RHINO South Africa

This project strives to uphold the security of Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Rhino populations by maintaining a viable perimeter fence and to increase the effectiveness of anti-poaching and monitoring activities, in order to ensure the continued and increased competence of field rangers in the reserve.

## ACTION FOR PROJECT



## VULPRO South Africa

Through rehabilitation, research and education, and a captive breeding programme, VulPro aims to save Africa's wild Vulture population.



## HELPSIMUS Madagascar

The project works to protect the Greater Bamboo Lemur, through the Bamboo Lemur Programme, which combines scientific monitoring of the species, protecting its habitat, supporting the development of the nearby villages and financing the education of local children.



## A.E.E.C.L. LEMUR Madagascar

AEECL focusses on understanding and documenting the biodiversity of Madagascar's scientific research, propagation, and conservation of their natural habitat.





**PROJECT**

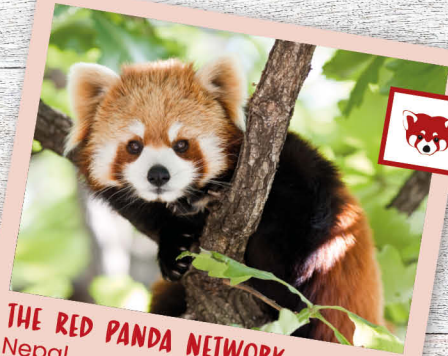
and European Ex-Situ  
) has initiated  
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anism in the Amur  
population.

**THE WILD  
PROJECTS**



**UMPHABA PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE**  
South Africa

The reserve was created to form a sustainable future for the area, whilst maintaining social responsibility and promoting environmental regeneration and conservation.



**THE RED PANDA NETWORK**  
Nepal

The network is committed to the conservation of wild Red Pandas and their habitat through the education and empowerment of local communities.



**INTERNATIONAL OTTER SURVIVAL FUND**  
Asia

The International Otter Survival Fund works to protect Otters so that future generations can enjoy one of the world's most charming, elusive and enjoyable mammals.



**ORANGUTAN FOUNDATION**  
Borneo

The world's foremost Orangutan conservation organisation focussed on saving Asia's endangered great ape by protecting their forest habitat, working with local communities and promoting research and education.



**CONSERVATION**

in advancing the  
and conservation  
Lemurs through  
n, captive  
protection  
habitats.



**FREE THE BEARS**  
Laos

The mission of Free the Bears is to protect, preserve and enrich the lives of Bears throughout the world.



**KOMODO SURVIVAL PROGRAM**  
Indonesia

The Komodo Survival Program aims to protect and monitor Komodo Dragons and their habitat with the involvement of the local community.



# RESERVE RUNDOWN!

We get an overview of all the amazing work happening so far in 2023 on the UmPhafa Private Nature Reserve, which is supported by Colchester Zoo's charity, Action for the Wild.

UMPHAFA IS A 6,000-HECTARE RESERVE IN KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA, ESTABLISHED BY COLCHESTER ZOO AND ITS ACTION FOR THE WILD CHARITY AFTER BUYING THE LAND IN 2005 TO REHABILITATE AND RECREATE HISTORICAL ANIMAL POPULATIONS.





Blue Cranes make an exciting appearance on the reserve.

## ANIMALS OF UMPHAFU

The first two game counts of the year were similar to those done at the end of 2022, however, in March, we saw an additional 780 animals compared with March 2022.

We could put this down to the amount of rain we received keeping the vegetation fresh and green, and therefore more sightings of the animals in the open before they moved off into the thickets for winter.

We have had some amazing sightings of Blue cranes with chicks and Crowned cranes performing their mating dances.

A new species has been seen on the Reserve for the first time – the Natal Sand frog. This is great news for the species diversity of the reserve and is an encouraging sign that the habitat is continually improving.

The three male Wild Dogs that joined us in December, Dennis, Menace and Shadow, left in March and travelled to Pongola before being released into their new home.







## INTERN PROGRAM

We had four Interns join us for the start of the New Year and they all stayed for 3 months, carrying out a variety of activities, projects and tasks, including even being able to help out on our game capture trips and going for a ride in a helicopter!

Further into 2023, we shall again be hosting more interns to help with the management tasks and will be focusing our efforts on protecting our species, bringing in new genes and hopefully maximising our bulk grazers.

Following on from the rains of 2022, we also need to focus our energies on repairing fences and roads, doing more bush clearing and reducing the number of alien plants on the reserve.

## GETTING SOCIAL

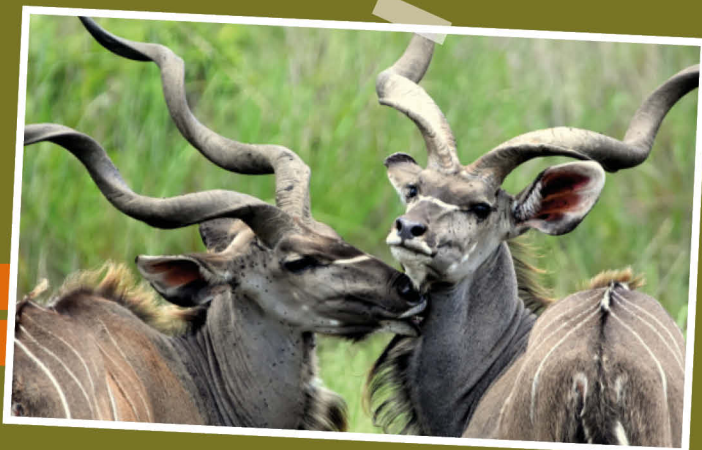
Both Facebook and Instagram have seen an increase in followers this quarter, with the story of the Wild Dogs creating the most interaction and likes.



FIND  
OUT  
MORE!

Visit our website [HERE](#) for the latest UmPhafa news!

Find out how to become an intern [HERE](#)





## CARING FOR THE RESERVE

Freddy the tropical cyclone from Mozambique affected the Reserve with lots of rain and hail at the start of 2023. The destructive weather set the maintenance priorities required on the Reserve for the next three months, including the removal of fallen trees that blocked vehicle access.



With the amount of rain this quarter, the focus has been on repairing roads and building gabions to reduce and remove the flow of water off the roads and fence lines. In total 62 mitre drains were fixed and 50 new ones created. A mitre drain reduces the flow of water on the road and moves it off into the bush thereby reducing erosion and ensuring the road remains drivable. Six new gabions were built to stop the erosion along the fence lines.

A team of 6 ladies were employed from the local community to become alien plant destroyers – so far, they have cleared 31 hectares of Lantana – a veracious toxic plant that affects the health of the animals and in some cases could kill them if eaten.



We continue to use natural materials where we can in our projects, with the thatch collected last year being used for the bush camp roof extension, as well as poplar trees being used to make an Owl box. Recycling is always important where we have used old metal to build a lockable cage for our herbicide and we have fitted the old windows and doors from the lodge to the bush camp extension.



## COMMUNITY & PROJECT MEETINGS

During this first quarter of the year, we have spent time with the local communities bordering on UmPhafa, we learnt who the indunas were (chiefs) for the local communities and have since had several meetings concerning Leopards in the community as well as discussing options for us to introduce Cheetah and Buffalo to UmPhafa. We have also had several meetings about a new satellite tracking system we are hoping to introduce later in the year for our priority species.



## BUSY FIELD RANGERS

With the start of the New Year, we were expecting an increase in poaching incidences but these were down on last year which was great for the reserve, despite this though we still had 16 incursions, but only 5 animals were taken, whereas in the fourth quarter of 2022, we lost 20 animals.

We had 30 metres of fence stolen in 2 incidents. In total the rangers patrolled over 5,000 km of the reserve, keeping our animals safe.





# SUPPORT US

None of the valuable work on UmPhafa would be possible without the help of your kind donations. Below are some of the areas we are currently focusing on continuing to develop the reserve.

If you are interested in making a donation, please contact [amanda@umphafa.org](mailto:amanda@umphafa.org) for details on how you can help.

## CAMERA TRAPS

A silent observer – we put these at locations within the Reserve to not only monitor our Leopard activity, but also to research the nocturnal species that live on UmPhafa, a great way of identifying new species and keeping a track on where we see them.

## VITAL EQUIPMENT




On UmPhafa our prime responsibility is to ensure the protection of its biodiversity – supporting species, habitats, ecosystems and communities which is why we need your help towards providing field ranger equipment.



The field rangers work tirelessly for nature protecting our boundaries and the animals within – doing daily patrols on foot as well as monitoring those under their care.

We are looking to obtain more Cheetah radio collars, which are used to monitor location of each individual.

## ANIMAL INTRODUCTION

From time to time we bring in new animals, this is so we can improve our gene pool and sometimes add in a new species altogether to improve the overall ecosystem of the reserve. The diagram (BELOW) shows the species we would like to bring in for 2023.

-  **3 Eland bulls** to boost genetics
-  **4 cheetah** a new species for UmPhafa
-  **5 Red Hartebeest bulls** to boost genetics

-  **3 Giraffe males** to boost genetics
-  **20 Buffalo** a breeding herd as a new species for UmPhafa

## PROTECTION STATUS

We are continually striving to change the conservation status of the reserve to become a protected area. The aim of this is to provide a safe habitat and protection from hunting for threatened and endangered species. Protection helps maintain ecological processes that cannot survive in most intensely managed landscapes and seascapes.



# A HELPING HAND IN THE HEAT

With the weather heating up, our native species need our help more than ever to survive in the high temperatures. Follow our tips to make your outdoor space a haven for wildlife, whilst adding some extra colour and interest too!

Add an explosion of colour to your garden with a flower bomb! These balls of seed, compost and plant food can be thrown into an unused patch as an easy way to introduce insect-friendly flowers and help vital species, such as Bees and Butterflies.

Head to Tiger Taiga at the Zoo to pick up your own blast of colour\*!



One of the biggest issues for wildlife in the hotter months is lack of water. We can help by introducing small dishes of water around our gardens for insects, birds and mammals to get a refreshing drink.

Water points will also provide a place for animals to bathe, which helps them cool down, and dampen birds' feathers which loosens the dirt and makes their feathers easier to preen.







## The Place to Stay in Essex

- Camping & Touring - Luxury Holiday Homes - Live Entertainment - Restaurant - Licensed Supermarket -
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Holiday  
Homes



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](http://www.waldegraves.co.uk)

Waldegraves Family Holiday Park, Waldegraves Lane, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex, CO5 8SE  
t: 01206 382898 w: [www.waldegraves.co.uk](http://www.waldegraves.co.uk) e: [holidays@waldegraves.co.uk](mailto:holidays@waldegraves.co.uk)



We are  
pet  
friendly



Enjoy our celebratory 60th treats!

## FUEL YOUR ADVENTURE AT COLCHESTER ZOO

Cool off in the hot summer sun with our delicious range of food available around the park!

CHECK OUT OUR NEW  
GLUTEN FREE RANGE!\*\*

SWEET SNACKS

KEEP AN EYE OUT  
FOR SEASONAL SPECIALS!

All food subject to change depending on season. \*\*Selected outlets only.



## COLOURFUL COLLECTIBLES

As well as a year packed with celebratory events, we have also released a range of special 60th birthday memorabilia to mark this joyous occasion!

Available online or in our Outpost Gift Shop at the Zoo.

## HISTORY ALL BOXED UP!

Our 60th Edition Commemorative Hamper includes, a super soft Orangutan toy, historical Souvenir Book, car sticker, pin badge, branded glass, PLUS much more!

PURCHASE ONLINE [HERE](#)



## TOP TRUMPS

Our very own Top Trumps are back and better than ever! Learn more about the species here at Colchester Zoo, along with some historical friends. Have fun finding out which animals are the most mischievous and who has the highest pong factor!

Purchase online [HERE](#)

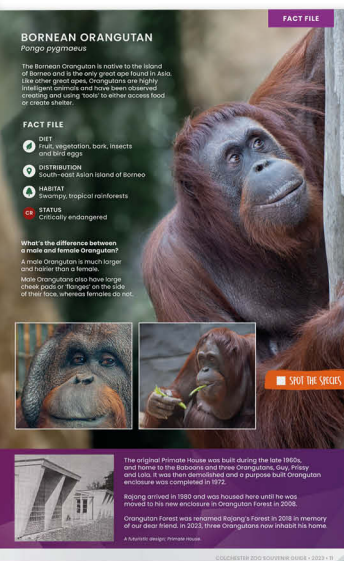
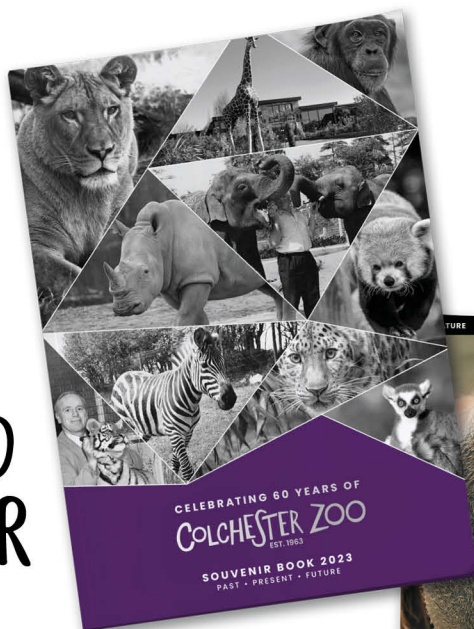




# SPLENDID SOUVENIR BOOK

Our BRAND NEW, historical 60th Anniversary Souvenir Book is here, packed with incredible zoo history, animal fact files, and shared memories, PLUS our Zoo of the Future vision!

Purchase online [HERE](#)



## CELEBRATORY 60TH SCENTS

Relax and unwind with our range of 60th candles! Choose from earthy **Sandalwood & Tonka Bean** or our light and fresh **Sea Breeze**.

Purchase online [HERE](#)



## PUZZLE PERFECT

**\*\*LIMITED STOCK REMAINING\*\***

Piece together and watch as the zoo comes to life in your home with our very own puzzle! Featuring beautiful pictures of a Sloth, Tiger, Penguin and Giraffe, this 1000-piece puzzle is the ultimate addition for any Zoo lover.

Purchase online [HERE](#)





# THE OUTPOST GIFT SHOP

## MATCHY MATCHY

In this new game, players aim to be the first to MATCH 5 of your FAVOURITE animals in a row – horizontally, vertically or diagonally to WIN!

This game is great for those summer holiday adventures with no assembly required. Plus, the robust case means you can take it anywhere!

Purchase online [HERE](#)

## Sip in style

Prefer a hot drink to start your morning right? Choose one of our colourful mugs that ooze style. We have four exclusive designs to choose from! Can't decide which one is your favourite? Why not purchase the whole set and serve your friends and family a cuppa that's as wild as they are!





## PICK UP A PIN

See a pin and pick it up, all day long you'll have good luck!  
Pick up an exclusive Colchester Zoo metal pin badge from  
our NEW range and add a pop of colour to your favourite outfit.  
They make an excellent souvenir to remember your favourite day!



## CUDDLY & CUTE

Due to popular demand, our adorable  
Zoo Crew character, Poco the Sloth,  
has returned!

Pick up a Poco soft toy online or in our  
Outpost Gift Shop. A great addition  
to any room!

Purchase online [HERE](https://www.colchesterzoo.org)



PLEASE NOTE: All items are subject  
to availability and may be removed  
from sale at any time without notice.



# ZOO DATES JULY-DECEMBER 2023

With our exciting calendar of activities and events continuing throughout the summer into Halloween and Christmas, you'll have plenty to keep the whole family entertained at Colchester Zoo!

## The Exploratorium

22 July – 3 September

Join our Education Team to find out more about the amazing world of wildlife at their hub next to Dragons of Komodo!



## Summer Holidays

22 July – 3 September

Party every day this summer with **WILD VIBE WONDERLAND!**

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 6 WEEKS OF ENTERTAINMENT** as they bring an exclusive Wild Vibe Wonderland to us here at Colchester Zoo!

This will include two wonderfully wacky parties per day during the summer holidays on our main stage by Penguini's. Watch out for the mischievous monkey and prepare your loudest roar as this celebration involves your participation too!

This event includes attendance by third parties and we cannot guarantee their presence.

**WILD  
VIBE**

*Wonderland*

### JOIN THE PARADE!

Not only will we have zoodles of fun at the parties, but there will also be themed parades at various times and different locations within the park!

## Character Days

16 July and 10 September

Join us to meet some of your favourite PRE-SCHOOL TV characters!

To allow as many visitors as possible the chance to see the characters, this will not be an individual 'meet and greet', but you will still have the chance to see the characters! Queuing will be required, but please be assured we will do our utmost to keep waiting time to a minimum.

**Passholders:** This event is FREE for Zoo Passholders. Simply turn up on the day and bring with you your valid zoo pass to gain entry into the zoo.

**Paying Visitors:** Paying visitors are no longer required to pre-book tickets, however, we recommend all non-passholders to book their tickets online in advance to receive the best price on admission.

Find out more [HERE](#)

## Character Breakfast

12 November

What better way to start your Sunday than with a meet 'n' greet over a delicious breakfast with your favourite Colchester Zoo Crew characters!



Please be aware that not all of the Zoo Crew may be out at the same time during the breakfast and not all characters may appear.



# Summer Nights

22 July, 5 August, 19 August & 2 September

Join us until 8:30pm for our extended summer opening where you can enjoy the zoo into the evening with a special party as we celebrate turning 60!

Experience a summer like no other as we host a number of activities and animal encounters for all the family to enjoy! Feeling toasty yourself? Duck out of the heat and head into one of our many undercover areas! You can even pick yourself up a delicious and cooling treat at one of our many seasonal catering outlets, such as Slush Station!

**PLUS  
LIVE MUSIC**  
on the  
Main Stage  
by Penguini's  
Restaurant  
from 5.00pm  
to 8.00pm!



ZOO LIFE  
SUMMER 2023  
CALENDAR

## Starlight Safari Nights

16 & 30 September

Enjoy a magical twilight spectacular as we remain open until 9.30pm on Saturday 16th and 30th September 2023!

As the temperature drops and the senses sharpen you will have the chance to see some of our animals in a whole new light, as some bed down for the evening whilst, for others, the night is just beginning!

This event is **FREE** for **PASSHOLDERS!**  
You must have a valid Colchester Zoo pass to qualify.

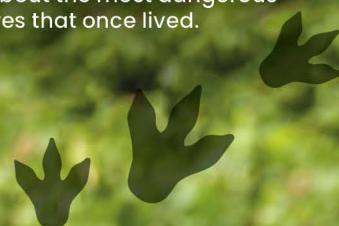
**PLUS  
ENJOY A LIVE  
PERFORMANCE**  
by One-Drum at 6.30pm,  
7.30pm and 8.30pm  
on the Main Stage, with  
traditional Highlife Jazz  
and Afrobeat music  
using authentic African  
instruments!

## Dino Discovery Day

23 September

Take a step back in time with our Dino Discovery Day filled with all things prehistoric, including the chance to meet and greet our dinosaur friends, and it's all included in the cost of your admission! Discover extinct species from millions of years ago, from gigantic carnivores to the graceful herbivores.

We will also have a range of exciting activities taking place throughout the day to find out more about the most dangerous creatures that once lived.



Terms and conditions apply to all events and activities and details are subject to change. Find out more on our website.

[www.colchesterzoo.org](http://www.colchesterzoo.org) • 41





# Shriek Week!

21 - 29 October

This October half term, enjoy a week filled with **FANG-TASTIC** daytime activities suitable for children of all ages. Let your little one transform into a scary witch or creepy zombie at our Face Painting Station or create wands and potions with the good witches and wizards at the Craft Coven.

Plus our animals will be joining in the fun with **SPOOK-TACULAR** encounters throughout the day!

Terms and conditions apply to all events and activities and details are subject to change. Find out more on our website.





# THE TRAIL OF TERROR

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

The **HORRIFYING** Trail of Terror begins as soon as you step foot in the door, from rustling bushes, to **CREEPY** masked monsters and screaming scarers, they could get you anytime and anywhere!

This is a pre-bookable event with a maximum capacity each evening. Arrivals will be staggered along the trail offering you screams of laughter as you won't know what is lurking around the corner on The Trail of Terror!

Colchester Zoo will close at 5:00pm to day visitors as usual, before opening at 6:30pm on selected evenings, leaving the Zoo behind as The Trail of Terror comes to life!

We do have a limited number of Safe Zones during the trail which are located alongside food outlets offering hot food, snacks and drinks that you can enjoy without fear of being scared!

THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR SCAREDY-CATS!

Terms and conditions apply  
Minimum age 12 years

We will also have food and **LIVE MUSIC** for you to enjoy at the end of the trail, **PLUS** a themed photo point so you can purchase a souvenir of your evening.

Click **HERE** to  
**BOOK NOW!**







# Enchanted

## TRAIL OF LIGHT

**2, 6, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 20 & 22 December**

With a host of colourful illuminations along a designated route, dancing fountains and fairies spreading their magic, our light trail event will leave you feeling enchanted!

Seasonal food and drinks will be available along the route to keep you warm and cosy as you discover the trail, so there is no need to worry about eating beforehand!

**NEW FOR 2023!** Why not **UPGRADE** your ticket. Purchase an Enchanted Trail of Light Combi Ticket and receive a £6.50 food and drink voucher for just £5.

\*Terms and conditions apply to voucher.

Children under the age of 3yrs and assistants are not required to pre-book and will be admitted free of charge on the evening of the event. Anyone under the age of 16yrs **MUST** be accompanied by a responsible guardian over the age of 18yrs. We will not admit anyone unaccompanied under the age of 16yrs.

Enchanted Trail of Light is a limited ticket, pre-bookable event. Arrival time slots are staggered offering you the chance to leisurely experience the wonder of the lights and magical atmosphere!



Click **HERE** to  
**BOOK NOW!**





# The Magic of Christmas

ZOO LIFE  
SUMMER 2023  
CALENDAR

25 & 26 November

2, 3, 9, 10, 16 to 24 December

Join us at this most magical time of the year for a day filled with Christmas activities and adventures! Take a walk through our Enchanted Woodland, watch Santa's beautiful reindeer in their stable, and let our elves take you on a journey with their festive tale. PLUS you can meet Santa himself as part of The Santa Experience!\*



## THE SANTA EXPERIENCE\*

£15 PER TICKET

Travel through our magical Santa Experience filled with festive scenery and cheeky elves, where you will have the chance to meet Santa himself and take home your very own 'Spirit the Tiger' soft toy!

Please note: The Santa Experience takes place within the zoo grounds and an admission ticket will need to be purchased alongside a Santa Experience Ticket. All guests, including Zoo Passholders will need to pre-book Santa Experience Ticket online in advance. Tesco Partner Reward Codes CANNOT be used for The Santa Experience Ticket. Admission tickets and the Santa Experience Ticket are non-refundable.



Click [HERE](#) to  
**BOOK NOW!**

