

FREE

ZOO LIFE

ISSUE 5
Autumn Issue 2022

**WILDLIFE
AT HOME**
How you can help
animals this
winter

**REINDEER
EXPERIENCE**
Find out why
Santa loves them
so much!

Making a Difference

Supporting projects
around the world

Spooky & Sensational

From Halloween terror
to Christmas magic

GET SET
FOR OUR
ZOOBILEE!

Countdown begins to
a year of incredible
celebrations

www.colchesterzoo.org

COLCHESTER ZOO



PARK VIEW

— CARE HOME —

**Are you taking steps to look for care
for your loved one?**

Take the next step to Park View Care Home

Park View is a state of the art, luxurious care home overlooking the magnificent gardens and grounds of Chantry Park near Ipswich.

Our philosophy is quite simple; to provide the very highest standard of care and quality of life to each person at Park View.

We provide residential, nursing and specialist dementia care to elderly ladies and gentlemen, this full complement of services means that elderly residents changing needs can be met throughout their stay with us.

- State of the Art Development
- Residential, Nursing & Dementia Care
- Private Dining/Hospitality Services
- Short & Long Term Care
- Beautiful Accommodation Throughout
- Individualised Care Plans
- Specialist Care Design Features
- Internet Wifi
- Activities, Hobbies and Clubs
- Stunning Landscaped Gardens

Please contact Sharon Bowen
Customer Relations

Telephone 01473 228 890



FIRST CARE HOMES
WHERE CARE COMES FIRST

CONTENTS

06 ZOO NEWS

We're preparing for a BIG arrival and getting to know our latest 'pawsome' bush dog pups

14 CELEBRATE OUR ZOOBILEE

As the countdown starts to our 60th anniversary, get ready for a celebration like no other!

24 TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY THAT COMES YOUR WAY

We chat with Amanda Warren who leads the Umphafa Private Nature Reserve team – and find out how we've struck gold

30 CONSERVATION AT HOME

How to look out for wild animals and outdoor pets as the cold weather approaches

32 FIND YOUR WAY AROUND

Our map and app will help you navigate the zoo – you won't want to miss a thing!

35 ZOO CLASSROOMS

Learn about education at Colchester Zoo and tell your school about our Camera Trap Loan Scheme

38 MAKING A DIFFERENCE

We take a look at some of the vital projects being supported by our Action for the Wild charity

46 BREAKING DOWN PLASTIC POLLUTION

A scourge on the planet, we put harmful microplastics under the spotlight

49 ANIMAL FACT FILES

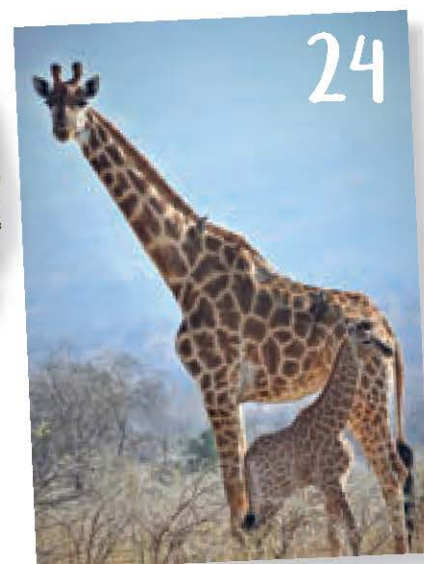
Find out about some of the amazing animals here at Colchester Zoo

54 SPECIAL EVENTS

Plan a whole year of non-stop activities with us – from spooky Halloween and a magical Christmas to half term fun and more!

62 SHOPPING

Indulge in some retail therapy, pick up a seasonal gift, and book an experience with Santa's favourite friends!



COLCHESTER ZOO

EDITOR Anna-Marie Casas

CONTRIBUTOR Colchester Zoo

PHOTOGRAPHY Caitlin Thomas, Jamie Reeve, Tom Smith, Libby Page, Josh Dennington, David Marsay, Nina Day

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.





Gosfield School

NURSERY ■ PREP ■ SENIOR ■ SIXTH FORM

A CO-EDUCATIONAL INDEPENDENT THROUGH SCHOOL



Your Journey Starts Here

Open Mornings: Saturday 1st October 2022 and Saturday 18th March 2023

PRIVATE TOURS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

☎ 01787 474040

✉ admissions@gosfieldschool.org.uk

🌐 www.gosfieldschool.org.uk

HELLO

WELCOME TO THE THIRD 2022 EDITION OF OUR MAGAZINE, ZOO LIFE!



Before we begin, we would like to dedicate this magazine to the late Queen Elizabeth II. Her Majesty will be remembered fondly as an animal lover and a fantastic advocate for the work of zoos and aquariums to save species and create a better world.

This autumn has come around far too quickly, but equally it is one of our favourite times of the year as the park fills with hues of soft orange and rusty red, and we aren't just talking about our red pandas!

This season is the perfect chance to enjoy a leisurely stroll around the park, leaving all your worries behind and just enjoying the beauty of nature.

Our Halloween events are back, and bigger and better than ever before so you're in for some frightfully good fun, whether you're a scaredy cat or a brave lion! Christmas will be here before we know it! Find out about Santa's new friend, Poco the sloth, at our Magic of Christmas events, plus come and discover our all-new Enchanted Trail of Light – all of which you can learn more about in this issue!

2023 will see us celebrating our 60th anniversary, do come and mark the occasion with us as we have so much in store for our BIG birthday!

Until then, thank you all so much for your support and we hope you enjoy this edition of Zoo Life!

FROM
COLCHESTER ZOO
MANAGEMENT



What on earth is that?

Turn to page 55 to find out!



Kindly supported by

Coca-Cola EUROPACIFIC
PARTNERS



Astrid and Tayo

Not only will 2023 be packed full of special events and historical reflections to celebrate our 60th birthday, we will also be ready and waiting for the pitter-patter of four very large, yet adorable, feet upon our African Plain exhibit.

We are overjoyed that our female southern white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum simum*), Astrid, has been confirmed as pregnant and is expected to give birth between January and March 2023, after a gestation period of around 16 to 18 months.

Astrid's pregnancy was confirmed via hormone analysis from faecal samples sent to a specialised lab.

A total of 91 samples from Astrid were tested between July 2021 and May 2022.

Early samples showed Astrid had cycles with oestrus (a period of sexual receptivity and fertility in many female mammals) around 6 September 2021, with a cycle length of 37 days.

After mating with our male, Otto, on 9 September 2021, the samples later revealed that Otto's efforts proved fruitful, and Astrid had fallen pregnant.

Our southern white rhino breeding programme is one of our most successful here at Colchester Zoo and is championed by our male, Otto, who has sired an amazing five calves!

Otto was born in 1997 and arrived at Colchester Zoo in 2009 from Knuthenborg Safari Park in Bandholm, Denmark. Astrid arrived in July 2016 from Cotswold Wildlife Park. This will be Astrid's second offspring, having given birth to a male calf back in October 2020, who was also sired by Otto.

Southern white rhinos are listed as 'Near Threatened' on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List of Threatened Species due to the poaching crisis, so this pregnancy is brilliant news for the conservation of this magnificent species.

The new arrival will be the seventh calf born here at Colchester Zoo. In the meantime, our Animal Care Team will be monitoring Astrid closely and look forward to the new arrival.

LUCKY NUMBER 7

We have some BIG news for 2023
and it's not just our 60th birthday!

PUPPY PROLIFERATION!

Our bush dog
family grows
with the arrival
of another
four pups!



This summer, we celebrated the arrival of not one but four tiny pups! Our bush dog (*Speothos venaticus*) family has grown once again, with our breeding female, Nina, giving birth to four adorable offspring sired by our breeding male, Nico.

On 17 July, the Animal Care Team were PAWS-itively thrilled to find that Nina had given birth to a litter of tiny pups after a gestation period of around 67 days. After exploring further, they discovered that Nina was caring for four offspring in the burrow of their den. This is Nico and Nina's fifth litter since arriving in July 2017.

During the first few weeks, the pups were housed in their indoor den where they stayed close to mum for protection. However,

more recently, they have started to venture out into their outdoor area along with their siblings.

The pups are yet to be sexed and named. Once their genders have been confirmed, they will be given names beginning with 'S', following previous litters alphabetically, with mum and dad's names starting with 'N'. The Animal Care Team named the pair's first litter starting with 'O' (Oakely, Ozara & Octavia), their second litter with 'P' (Pip, Pele & Pablo), their third litter with 'Q' (Quetzal & Qwiggly) and their fourth litter with 'R' (Rio, Rascal and Rusti).

While these pups will remain with us for now, some of their siblings have transferred to other zoos to become part of

breeding programmes, helping to ensure the survival of this species. Our male bush dog, Oakley, left to join another group at Paris Zoo in January 2020 while our female, Ozara, moved to Birmingham Wildlife Conservation Park in March 2021.

Our family now includes Nina and Nico, and their 13 offspring! Our adorable carnivore family can be seen in their outdoor area located at the Lost Madagascar Express Train Station.

Did you know? The bush dog is a rare and unusual member of the canine family, but looks more like a member of the badger or otter family than a dog. It is classed as 'Near Threatened' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

The Leading Independent
Regional Land & Property Auctioneers

Clive Emson 
LAND AND PROPERTY AUCTIONEERS

DISCOVER a great way to buy and sell all types of property



Whether **BUYING** or **SELLING** each member of our team is committed to providing a friendly, professional service for all of our clients

Entries are continually invited

If you own a property or parcel of land which may be suitable for a sale by auction please call us for a no obligation appraisal.

If you have any questions regarding our online auction process, however small, please do not hesitate to contact us - we will be happy to help!



Website: cliveemson.co.uk Telephone: 0345 8500333

Email: auctions@cliveemson.co.uk

Join us on:



KD Theatre Productions Ltd present

PANTOMIME RETURNS TO SAFFRON HALL THIS CHRISTMAS!

ROBIN HOOD

proudly supported by

 Saffron Building Society

SHOW PARTNERS

 AMBERST

 M. Ricci

Saffron Hall 22 – 29 DECEMBER 2022
www.saffronhall.com | 0845 548 7650
(7p per minute plus access charge)

MEET OUR FERRET FOUR SOME

We've welcomed four new arrivals to our Familiar Friends family. We would like to introduce you to Rocket, Jet, Dash and Flash! Our Animal Care Team will be introducing our family of ferrets to the public at intervals throughout the day.

Facts

Ferrets belong to the weasel family (*Mustelidae*), which includes polecats, stoats, and ermine.

The origin of the word ferret roughly translates as 'stinky mouse-catching thief' – this cute critter seems to have made a rather bad name for itself!

Ferrets are carnivores. They are natural hunters, and their wild ancestors survived off all sorts of small animals, from rodents to reptiles.



YOUR SAFETY IN MIND

As part of our zoo licence, we are required to recreate four animal escape scenarios each year. These drills must include two Category One animals, such as orangutans, tigers, and anteaters.

Safety is one of our top priorities, which is why carrying out a range of drills throughout the year is vital. By practising these drills, our staff can react to a potential real-life situation with confidence.

After successfully running two drills earlier in the year for Category One animals, our Management Team decided that the next escape artists would be five of our bush dogs! These are classed as Category Two animals, so this allowed the team to practise a slightly different procedure.



This drill saw five of our bush dogs – dad, Nico, and four of his offspring – breaching a fence in their outdoor enclosure, located opposite our Nature Area. We never tell the staff what has escaped before the drill as, in real life, you wouldn't know ahead of time!

To create a realistic drill, our staff are required to use their imagination, and, in this instance, they enlisted the help of five cuddly toys. String was tied to each of the toys allowing staff to move them. Creating movement in the bushes and playing noises through our speakers may seem a little strange, but, in a real-life situation, the Response Team will be listening out for sounds, following pawprints and looking for slight movement in foliage – these are all key factors that help to find animals quickly. All the 'escapees' were found and returned to their enclosure safely!



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

Gotta get a Garolla.



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 **FREE** of charge.

GAROLLA
ROLLER
SHUTTER
DOORS 

www.garolla.co.uk

CALL US TODAY ON:

01206 430 149

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.




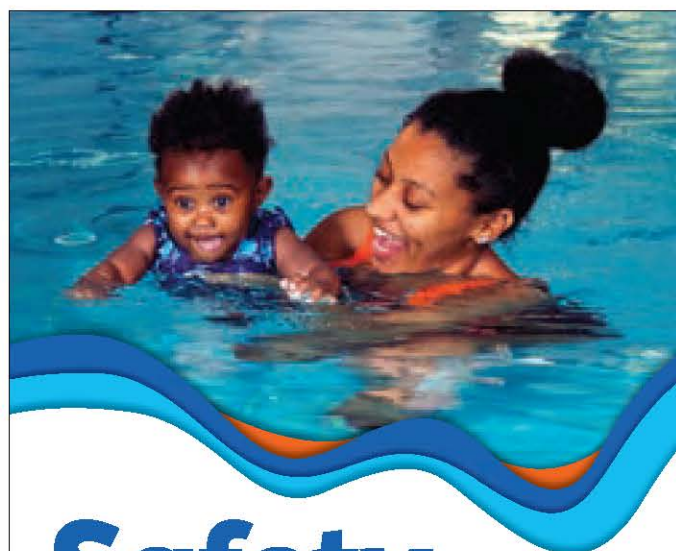
STEP BACK
IN TIME THIS

CHRISTMAS

THE BEST CHRISTMAS SHOP IN ESSEX
DISPLAYS FROM THE 1800s TO THE 1980s
LATE NIGHT SHOPPING * PERSONAL SHOPPING

perrywood.co.uk/christmas


Perrywood



Safety
flourishes
from play

That moment. When everything else melts away. And their smile washes over you. That skin-to-skin contact. Nurturing, bonding and developing in the warmth of the water.

Water confidence builds life confidence, for you and your baby.

And who better to guide you than the best trained teachers in the world?

When you're ready, we're ready.

Classes held

For 0 to 6 year olds in
Ipswich, Hadleigh, Bury
St Edmunds, Colchester,
White Colne and
Ramsey.

01206 841126
waterbabies.co.uk

water
babies
learn for life®



HYENA VIEWING IS UPGRADED!

Our Maintenance team have been hard at work upgrading the visitor visibility of our spotted hyena (*Procyon procyon*) enclosure.

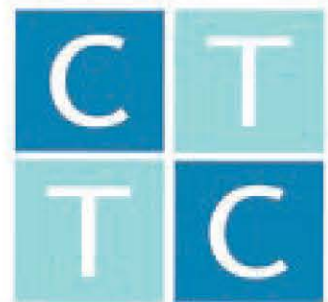
Abu, our male hyena, along with Jasiri and Kivuli, our two

female hyenas, were all moved to their off-show area while our Maintenance team deconstructed the old viewing area, removing parts of the old wooden frame and educational signage.

The new area now features over 10 metres of glass paneling directly in front of the enclosure, providing an open view into their home. All three hyenas have settled back comfortably in their on-view area, which is located at top of Africa!

Inspire, challenge, train to teach

Contact
the **outstanding**
primary & secondary
graduate **teacher training**
provider in your **local** area



Colchester Teacher Training Consortium

01206 364728

www.colchesterttc.org.uk

enquiries@colchesterttc.org.uk



Join the adventure, volunteer with us

**Help empower girls in your area to
know they can do anything**

Volunteering with us is loads of fun!

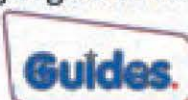
Working with young people and other volunteers helps develop valuable, transferable skills like event planning, time management, leadership skills and budgeting.

You choose the volunteer role that matches your skills and time. Then we'll help you build skills with training opportunities suited to your role.



SCAN ME

www.girlguiding.org.uk to find out more





CELEBRATE OUR ZOOBILEE!

Exciting plans are well underway for Colchester Zoo's 60th anniversary.

Preparing for our Diamond Zoobilee!

2023 is set to be a BIG year for Colchester Zoo as we celebrate our 60th anniversary.

Although Colchester Zoo doesn't officially turn 60 until 2 June 2023, we have decided to have a whole year of celebrations with a calendar full of fun-filled events.

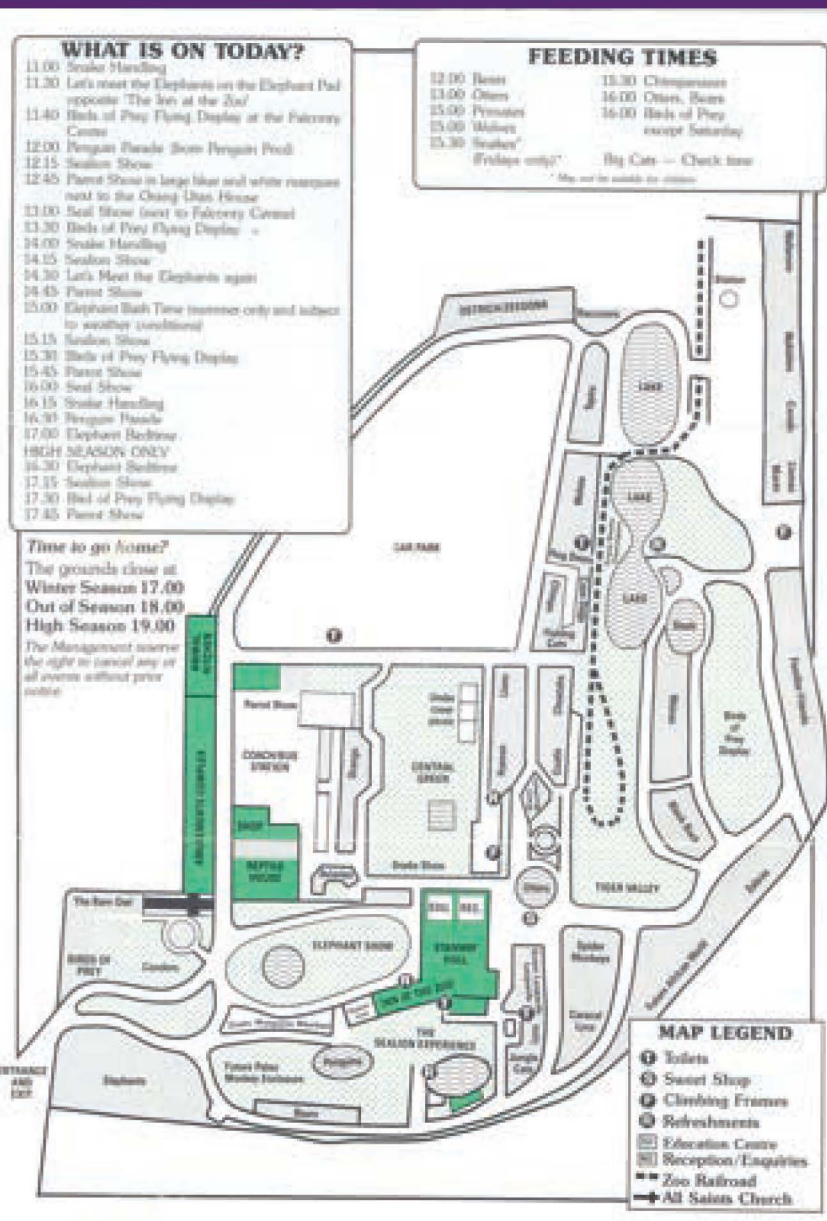
We have some very special new arrivals to introduce you to next year and work is due to begin on their new home soon – you won't be disappointed... they're going to be RRROOARRSOME!

Throughout the year, there will be a number of special guests joining us, including some favourite preschool TV characters, and we'll also be hosting a special, exclusive evening event celebrating the history and conservation work to which we have contributed over the years. Keep your eyes peeled for competitions next year too as we'll be offering some mega prizes to celebrate our birthday with you all!

Our Zoobilee Week will be taking place from 27 May to 4 June and will include a

timetable full of celebrations, including live music, dancing and even the chance to try your hand at some carnival skills. Party night is 2 June and we'll be open late into the evening as we're joined by a live band and entertainers.

Check out our website for more information and details about the host of limited-edition products and exciting events coming up to mark the occasion, including a new Top Trumps pack, mugs, pens, clothing and even a limited edition Zoo Pass – watch this space.



Clockwise from top left, a map of how the zoo looked in the 1980s; a sea lion show in the 1990s; the zoo's old elephant enclosure; construction of the sea lion viewing tunnel, which opened in 2003; and a Punch and Judy Show circa 1996.





Rajang, our special man of the forest

Over the years, Colchester Zoo has been home to many iconic species, but in 2018 we were left devastated by the loss of one of our oldest residents, Rajang the orangutan.

Not only will we be celebrating 60 years of Colchester Zoo, but also our dearest friend, Rajang, who would have been celebrating his 55th birthday in 2023 on 14 June. Rajang will

forever be embedded in the history of Colchester Zoo. Since arriving in 1980, he was a firm favourite among generations of staff and visitors, therefore, will be at the forefront of our Zoobilee birthday campaign.

Bornean orangutans are classed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Our current orangutan residents,

Tiga, Mali and Tatau, are great ambassadors for their species, so we're proud to highlight the conservation of this incredible animal and the ecological impact the world is currently facing.

In 2023, we will be releasing some limited-edition prints of Rajang to help raise funds for conservation, so keep an eye out!

ZOO LIFE
AUTUMN 2022
60TH ANNIVERSARY

Mali



Tatau



Tiga



COLCHESTER ZOO
CELEBRATING

60
YEARS

2023

BUY a Zoo Pass
today for unlimited
entry for a year and
join in the fun!

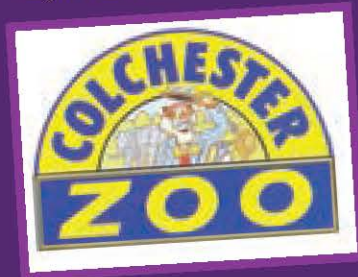
www.colchesterzoo.org 17

CELEBRATING



COLCHESTER ZOO

Logo in 1991



Logo in 2007



A whole lot of history

Colchester Zoo first opened its doors on 2 June 1963 and has since developed into 60 acres of beautiful parkland and lakes, home to over 180 different species, including a number of critically endangered animals.

To help towards the zoo's conservation mission, Colchester Zoo set up its Action for the Wild charity in 2004. Action for the Wild helps to fund conservation projects worldwide, including Colchester

Zoo's very own South African private nature reserve, UmPhafa, which was established in 2005.

In 1963, Colchester Zoo was first opened by zoologists, Frank and Helena Farrah, in the grounds of Stanway Hall Park. The site was around 25 acres in size and contained a small collection of animals, ranging from lions to kangaroos. The purchase of the Stanway Hall Estate was the realisation of a lifetime's ambition for the owners.

Helena acted as the zoo curator during this period, becoming the first female curator in Europe.

In 1983, Colchester Zoo changed hands and was taken over by the present owners, the Tropeano family. Therefore, 2023 also marks 40 years of the current ownership.

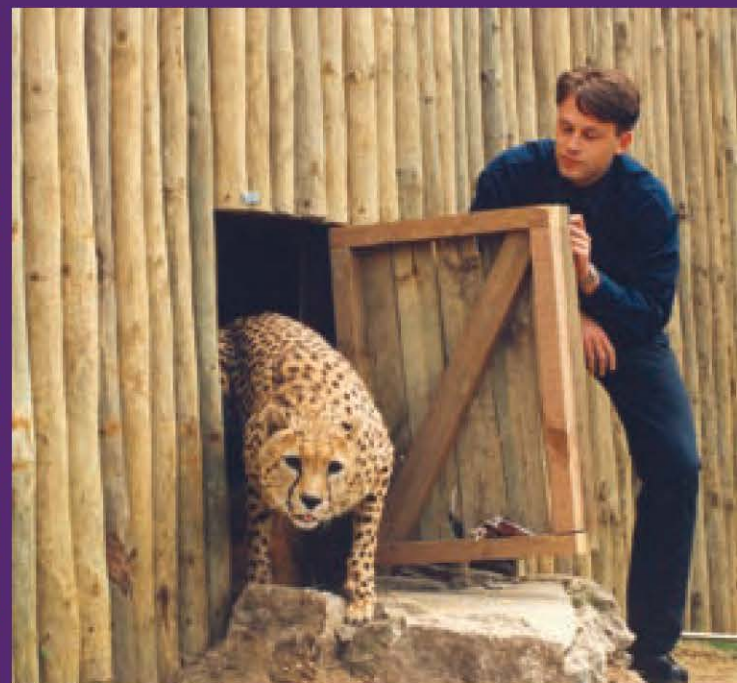
Not only are we celebrating the vital work that has taken place over the last 60 years, but we're looking ahead to what the future holds and how we can make a positive difference for wildlife!



All aboard

Keep an eye out for the number 75 bus that stops by the zoo daily! First Essex is supporting us and celebrating our 60th with a special animal-themed anniversary bus design. Travelling to the zoo by bus, rather than in separate cars, helps to reduce your carbon foot-print, so why not jump on board and catch the bus on your next visit?

ZOO LIFE
AUTUMN 2022
 60TH ANNIVERSARY



Clockwise from top left, a section of zoo map from 2004; the zoo's previous cheetah enclosure opened by Chris Packham in 1995; Babyface the seal, who spent over a quarter of a century with us; and our male lion, Subu, who sadly passed away in 2010.





BIG PLANS COMING FOR 2023!

We catch up with **Melissa Owens**, Colchester Zoo's Commercial Supervisor, as the countdown to our 60th anniversary celebrations gets under way.



Marimba music from Otto & The Mutapa Calling



Samba dancers



Magic Ian

Next year will be the zoo's 60th birthday – how excited is everyone about 2023?

We're all very excited! Plans started early this year and a number of entertainers are eager to be involved too!

When do the celebrations start?

The whole year will be jam-packed with activities and events. We kick off with February half term and our Zoo Crew Celebrations with parties and a trail to meet the crew! Our birthday falls within the May half term in 2023, so this will be our Zoobilee Week and we have planned a full timetable of entertainment, including a late-night party on 2 June – the Zoo's official birthday!

Will there be any surprise appearances from special guests?

Yes, we have some preschool TV characters joining us on various dates through the year and some special new arrivals too – watch this space...

Tell us about some of the big events that are taking place in 2023 – what can visitors look forward to?

Something BIG is coming but we'll keep that as a birthday surprise!

We have a host of live music and varied entertainment planned through the year, including steel drums, Samba dancers, magic shows, carnival acts, Marimba music and party fun, plus much more!

Our ever-popular events that take place each year will also continue, such as Dino Discovery Days, Shriek Week, Trail of Terror, and Magic of Christmas to name a few.

What's the best way for everyone to find out what's going on throughout the year?

Follow us on social media, subscribe to our mailing list and visit our website!



Bubble Time with Chris Mayne



MARKSHALL
ESTATE



A hidden gem in Essex. Discover more than 200 acres of formal gardens, trees from across the world and miles of leafy woodland walks. Stop at the natural play areas and spot wildlife in the stunning landscape, before enjoying a tasty treat from the Orchard Kitchen and taking home some inspiration from the plant centre. The perfect day out for everyone!

Discover more



Upcoming events include:

PUMPKIN TRAIL • CHRISTMAS MARKET • STARGAZING

Coggeshall, Essex • 01376 563796 • www.markshall.org.uk • enquiries@markshall.org.uk

HELPING MAKE HEALTHIER CHOICES EASY

Supporting our customers as
Sainsbury's gets ready for new
HFSS (High Fat, Salt or Sugar) laws.

This year, Sainsbury's is transforming its food halls as we keep adapting to the ways our customers want to shop, offering what you want to buy, and getting ready for the government's introduction of High Fat, Salt or Sugar legislation.

On 1 October 2022, the UK Government is introducing the Food (Promotion and Placement) Regulations in England. It will restrict the placement of products that are high in fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) in all supermarkets and convenience stores over 2,000sq ft. It will also restrict where we promote products on our Groceries Online website.

Following consultation with the industry, the Government will restrict unhealthy food promotions in stores. The regulations will require

medium and large businesses, including those with 50 or more employees, to phase out their offering of multibuy promotions such as 'buy one get one free' or '3 for 2' offers on HFSS products. These measures will support people in achieving and maintaining a healthy weight and improve the nation's health.

Over 25 years, these measures are estimated to accrue combined health benefits of approximately £60 million, according to the value that society places on changes in the quality and length of people's lives, as a result of fewer cases of obesity.

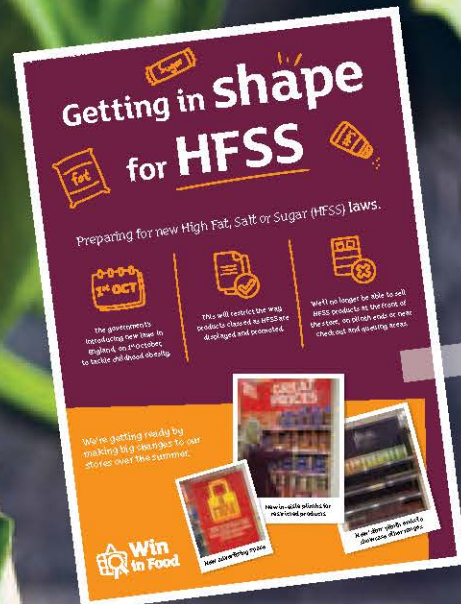
They will make supermarkets and other retailers places where the healthier choice is the easy choice for everyone and support people to lead healthier lives.

Obesity is one of the biggest health crises the country faces as almost two-thirds (63 per cent) of adults in England are overweight or living with obesity and one in three children leave primary school overweight or obese.

What our customers need to know

As Sainsbury's works hard to get in shape for the HFSS laws coming in on 1 October 2022 in our England stores, our customers are going to see some big changes.

HFSS will affect the promotion and placement of certain products in some of Sainsbury's England stores, across 13 different product categories.



At Sainsbury's, we are moving some items around to support the Government's new HFSS laws, aiming to reduce childhood obesity by restricting where we can place some products.

Less healthy promotions will also no longer be featured in key locations, such as checkouts, store entrances, aisle ends and their online equivalents.

The aim of the legislation is to tackle childhood obesity and help everyone live healthier lifestyles – the Government aims to reduce childhood obesity by half by 2030.



Which products are in-scope?

For a product to be in-scope of the legislation they must meet ALL of the following:

1. Be a pre-packed product
2. Be HFSS (high in fat, salt and sugar)
3. Be from a restricted product category

Which categories of food are in-scope?

- Non-alcoholic soft drinks with added sugars
- Crisps & savoury snacks
- Breakfast cereals
- Confectionery
- Ice creams & similar products
- Cakes & cupcakes
- Sweet biscuits & bars
- Pre-packed morning goods
- Desserts & puddings
- Yoghurt
- Pizza
- Chips & potato products
- Ready meals, meal centres & breaded/battered products

Each individual product will have its own Nutrition Profile Score, which will determine if it is in-scope of the HFSS restrictions.

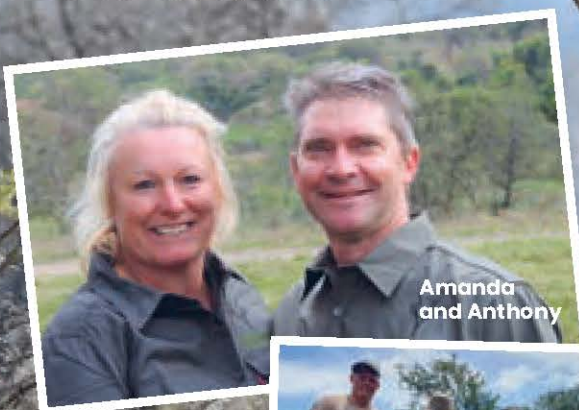


THANK YOU

Sainsbury's Stanway would like to say a massive thank you to all our customers for their patience as we make these changes. At Sainsbury's, we want our customers to be fully assured that our friendly and helpful colleagues will be available in our stores to support them as they get used to the new store layouts.

TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY THAT COMES YOUR WAY!

We catch up with
Amanda Warren,
who alongside her
husband, Anthony,
manages the team
at Umphafa Private
Nature Reserve in
South Africa.



Amanda
and Anthony



Rangers
and interns

What did you do before joining UmPhafa?

After working for 20 years in a UK bank, I decided to take redundancy and travel the world, ending up in Africa volunteering in Zimbabwe, and then running a volunteer programme on a Super 8 Reserve in South Africa. It was here that I met my husband, Anthony. As the project was moving to Kruger, I decided to stay on with Anthony and train to be a field guide, spending many years guiding for various lodges, as well as helping to manage the lodge and reserve where we were based.

What made you want to follow a career working with wildlife?

I spent many hours as a child watching David Attenborough and visiting zoos, and I hoped one day I would get an opportunity to follow my dream to see the animals 'wild' in their own habitat.

What were your first impressions when you arrived at UmPhafa? Was it what you were expecting?

Having been on game reserves in South Africa for ten years, I was surprised at how different the landscape at UmPhafa was compared to Zululand where we were previously based, which was much flatter. UmPhafa's scenery is stunning, and the beauty of this reserve is the diverse areas and little secret gems you find when exploring from river to mountain tops.

What do you think working alongside your husband, Anthony, in running the reserve brings to the mix?

We have worked closely together now for seven years and, being very practical people, we're able to discuss and agree our plans and then implement them. We work individually, according to our strengths, but our roles sometimes overlap when required.



Above, blesbok are released and, below, Umphafa scenery



Interns hard at work

COLCHESTER ZOO'S ACTION FOR THE WILD CHARITY SUPPORTS SEVERAL PROJECTS IN AFRICA, INCLUDING THE AMAZING UMPHAFU PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE IN KWAZULU-NATAL AMANDA AND ANTHONY, WHICH ENCOMPASSES 6,000 HECTARES SUPPORTING A WIDE RANGE OF HABITATS. THE LAND IS BEING USED TO REHABILITATE AND RECREATE HISTORICAL ANIMAL POPULATIONS.

Sunset on UmPhafa

What have been the highlights during your time managing the team at UmPhafa, and any lows?

The highlights have been the opportunity to work and live on such a beautiful reserve, working with a new team, the rejuvenation of the Intern Programme, introduction of animals to the reserve and the bonding of wild dogs. I love to watch the animals as they go about their daily business, knowing that I am helping in a small way to protect these iconic animals from disappearing in the future and passing that knowledge on to enthusiastic interns. Time does fly by so fast on the reserve though that sometimes you forget what day it is, and some days it's all office and no bush... but that's the role!

Sum up a typical day working on the reserve – is there such a thing?

To be honest, no! Days are varied, and no two days are the same. Running the reserve involves a fair bit of admin, but then you could be burning fire breaks one day, carrying out a game count the next, or fixing an eroded road!

What advice would you give anyone considering a career working on a reserve?

Take every opportunity that comes your way and put yourself in the right place to be noticed!

Any exciting plans for UmPhafa for the rest of the year and into 2023?

Hopefully bringing in cheetah and buffalo as well as the development of a community programme, plus lots of other ideas in the pipeline... watch this space!



Views over the reserve



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 30/11/22.
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.

www.gladwellspet.co.uk   



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE



We take happiness seriously

Independent day and boarding
school for boys and girls aged 2-18.
Nursery open all year round

Friday Snapshot
Prep - 11 November 2022
Prep - 2 December 2022

Prep and Senior School Open Day
Saturday 18 March 2023

Family tours are also available

To register please visit stjos.co.uk
or email admissions@stjos.co.uk

Space to thrive

KipMcGrath[™] EDUCATIONCENTRES

ENGLISH AND MATHS TUTORING

11 Plus • GCSE • SATS  In Centre  Online



Book a free assessment today

01206 563798 • kipmcgrath.co.uk/colchester-central

Conexus
Tuition

National
Tutoring
Programme 

Confidence, improving subject knowledge, understanding the exams and the strategies to maximise marks.

Tuition from experienced specialists with extensive examination experience.

What we offer...

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

Call Jo on 07734 086933 - Email joanna@conexustuition.co.uk



WE'VE JUST STRUCK GOLD

We are proud to announce that we have won the BIAZA (British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquaria) 2022 Gold Award for Field Conservation for our efforts in bonding African wild dogs on the UmPhafa Private Nature Reserve, South Africa.

In 2021, UmPhafa, in conjunction with the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), African Parks and Malawi's Department of National Parks, took part in the historic relocation of the African wild dog from South Africa to Malawi.

UmPhafa has collaborated with the EWT to hold and bond wild dogs since 2017, as part of the African Wild Dog Range Expansion Project, which implements the reintroduction of African wild dogs across southern Africa. The project introduces the dogs to feasible, protected areas, and in doing so, is working to develop a second viable population outside of the Kruger National Park. Today, the project boasts a population of over 300 wild dogs across 1.3 million hectares of safe space.

Due to previous success bonding in our purpose-built boma (enclosure), the EWT requested UmPhafa bond male and female dogs from separate packs, before relocation to Liwonde National Park in Malawi. In April 2021, five male and three female dogs were kept in separate areas of the boma, and behaviour was monitored and assessed twice daily to establish the crucial time to mix. The bonding process was successful, and the alpha female quickly became pregnant.

The dogs left UmPhafa on 26 July for a 27-hour journey to Malawi. After arriving at Liwonde, they were housed in a boma before release. Due to the fact that the alpha female was pregnant, they were released early from the boma. On 10 October 2021, nine pups were seen on camera traps placed by the den site, and the female has since given birth again!

This reintroduction is one step closer to the aim of restoring viable breeding populations in Malawi, representing a major international effort to conserve this endangered species.



**Reserve
Manager
Anthony,
Zoo Director
Rebecca
and Reserve
Manager
Amanda**

Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs can face a difficult time during the autumn months while they find a suitable place to hibernate. Around Bonfire Night, hedgehogs and other small animals may seek shelter inside unlit bonfires. Before your Guy Fawkes celebrations and lighting your bonfire, it's important to look out for creatures that could be snuggling down!

Top Tips:

- 1.** Don't start building the bonfire until the day you plan to light it.
- 2.** Check the area for hedgehogs before lighting.
- 3.** If you find a hedgehog in your bonfire or nearby, carefully put it in a cardboard box and keep it safe away from the fire. Release it back into the garden when the fire is out, dampened and cold.

CONSERVATION AT HOME

As autumn descends, it's time to look out for vulnerable wild animals as they try to stock up and nestle in for the cold months ahead as well as any pets kept outside.

Feeders

As a nation, we love to hang bird feeders in our garden for wildlife to enjoy. However, they can harbour dangerous diseases if not tended to properly!

Top Tips:

1. Do not overfill feeders to ensure that they are emptied every few days.
2. Use multiple feeders to reduce the number of birds using each station.
3. Avoid placing feeders below trees to help reduce the build-up of bird droppings.

Outdoor Pets

From rabbits to ferrets, many UK domestic animals are sometimes housed outside, but it's important to recognise that the colder seasons will require extra measures to ensure your furry friends are safe and comfortable.

Top Tips:

1. Try to find a suitable indoor area for your pets, a safe space inside which

receives daylight is ideal. If you're unable to find an indoor area for them then...

2. Properly cover outdoor housing including water bottles that may freeze.
3. Carry out any maintenance required to ensure housing is suitable against wet and windy weather.
4. Provide additional bedding such as hay and straw, for warmth.





SCAN HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE APP

PLEASE NOTE:

Some areas and enclosures may close prior to zoo closing. You will need to visit more than once to see every single animal / event. We cannot guarantee which animals you will see. Management reserve the right to close all or parts of the zoo as necessary without notice. Displays or attractions can be temporarily withdrawn without notice due to animal sickness or other unforeseen circumstances. Refunds cannot be given under these circumstances. Cars are parked at your own risk and Colchester Zoo cannot be held responsible for the loss or damage to vehicles or their contents. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times. Details are accurate at time of going to press, but subject to change. We are constantly developing, please bear with us as there may be some minimal disruption whilst work takes place.

WIFI
'Colchester Zoo Guest'
 Password:
 Please ask a staff member as our code changes.

PLEASE NOTE:

Some areas and enclosures may close prior to zoo closing. You will need to visit more than once to see every single animal /event. We cannot guarantee which animals you will see. Management reserve the right to close all or parts of the zoo as necessary without notice. Displays or attractions can be temporarily withdrawn without notice due to animal sickness or other unforeseen circumstances. Refunds cannot be given under these circumstances. Cars are parked at your own risk and Colchester Zoo cannot be held responsible for the loss or damage to vehicles or their contents. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times. Details are accurate at time of going to press, but subject to change. We are constantly developing, please bear with us as there may be some minimal disruption whilst work takes place.



'Colchester Zoo Guest'

Password:
 Please ask a staff
 member as our
 code changes.



**ZOO LIFE
JMN 2022
MAP**



RE-ENTRY TO THE ZOO

To be re-admitted, present your ticket and receipt at the exit (via The Outpost Gift Shop) before you leave to receive a wristband; you will not be re-admitted without your ticket and wristband.

PLEASE NOTE

This map is a guide only – the latest up-to-date map can be found on our app.



First Aid



Defibrillator



Fire assembly point



Toilets - all accessible



Adult changing (Accessible via
RADAR key)



Wheelchair & scooter hire



Information



Lockers



Hand Sanitising Station



Catering outlet



Seasonal catering outlet
These outlets are open during seasonal times.
Please check on the day of your visit.



Picnic area
Please do not picnic in other areas



Water fountain



Baby feeding (male/female)



Baby changing (male/female)



Quiet zone



Outside Zoo only, non-smoking park



Dead end
Please note you will need to turn around

COMING SOON

TO COLCHESTER TOWN HALL



FOOD & DRINK | GIFTS
STALLS | ARTS & CRAFTS

Christmas Gift Market

26 & 27 NOVEMBER 2022 | 10AM – 5PM

COLCHESTER TOWN HALL

FREE ENTRY

Christmas Gift Market 26 & 27 November 2022

TO CHARTER HALL, COLCHESTER



Howard Jones
Saturday 22 October



East 17
Saturday 17 December



Martin Kemp
Saturday 28 January



Jason Fox
Saturday 11 February



Henning Wehn
Saturday 11 March



Sara Pascoe
Friday 14 April

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW

www.colchester-events.co.uk

ZOO CLASSROOMS

Education at Colchester Zoo means so much more to us than just children's trails and worksheets.

Our award-winning team provides education for learners from age five to university. During the last school year, over 42,000 children visited Colchester Zoo on school trips. A massive 60 per cent of those attended one of our free education sessions during their visit.

Education in zoos has changed significantly in the last few years. Nowadays, a

peek into our zoo classrooms might reveal learners involved in activities such as wearing adaptation costumes, calculating fractions, comparing scientific study skins, making detailed sketches for higher level art courses, or learning about the history of animals in medicine in medieval Europe. All of these topics are connected to nature, conservation, Colchester Zoo and our animals.

Education isn't just for schools. Home educators, youth groups and general zoo visitors can learn about our animals, how the zoo helps nature, and actions you can take to protect the planet. We have free online resources, activities, and information to help everyone learn too.

Find out more via our website on the Education tab:
www.colchesterzoo.org/education

CAUGHT ON CAMERA

Colchester Zoo's Camera Trap Loan Scheme
will be available to schools this Autumn!



Camera traps are a brilliant tool for monitoring wildlife. In Colchester Zoo's Nature Area, there have been sightings of foxes, deer, badgers and small rodents, but camera traps have also captured footage of an otter near the stream!

UmPhafa Private Nature Reserve rangers use camera traps to observe wildlife living on the reserve. Using camera traps, the UmPhafa team have discovered leopards living on the reserve – a fantastic find! Once we know what wildlife is living in these areas, we can ensure that we protect and conserve them.

Colchester Zoo is now giving schools the opportunity to discover wildlife on school grounds using our Camera Trap Loan Scheme.



Top left, installing a camera trap; top right, camera trap footage of a leopard; and left, camera trap footage of an otter

Through this scheme, schools will be loaned one of our camera traps with instructions on how to use and set it up. Once they begin to capture footage of their local wildlife, they can use our exciting activities to investigate the wildlife they are seeing. Activities include exploring the ideas of habitats, ecosystems, classification and conservation, as well as applying wildlife monitoring to maths and English.

At the end of the loan period, schools will have followed the wildlife monitoring process from start to finish, and we hope that they will learn some of the valuable skills that conservationists use to monitor and protect wildlife.

This scheme will launch after autumn 2022. If you have a school group who would like to get involved, please contact education@colchesterzoo.org for more information.



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

Join us at Woodbridge School Prep on **Saturday 8 October 2022** from 9:30am - 11:00am. for our **Morning Of Fun**, where pre-school children are invited to experience Music, Spanish, Drama, Sports and Forest School. You will have the chance to see, explore and experience our School as well as chat to staff.

Join us each Friday during term time for a **Dawn Chorus** sing along from 9:30-10am.
Email prepheadpa@woodbridgeschool.org

We hold various **Open Days** throughout the year where you can come to visit and explore the School, however please feel free to call and make an appointment for a private tour of the School at any other time.

www.woodbridgeschool.org.uk



Hazardous Waste Specialists

Alchemize Ltd offers cost effective, rapid solutions to hazardous waste management and industrial cleaning enquiries across Essex.

Working alongside schools and aeronautical, cosmetic, chemical and pharmaceutical companies, Alchemize ensures the carbon footprint is kept to the minimum along the way.

Tel: 01245 490049

Email: sales@alchemize.co.uk

ZOO LIFE
AUTUMN 2022
CONSERVATION

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

From raising awareness and funds for lemurs, to sponsoring Forest Guardians to monitor and protect the red panda, we take a look at some of the essential projects supported by Colchester Zoo's Action for the Wild charity.



FOREST GUARDIANS

Colchester Zoo's charity, Action for the Wild, has supported the Red Panda Network since 2014, collaborating with other European zoos to help sponsor Forest Guardians to monitor and protect red pandas in Nepal.

Our donation this year has helped contribute towards further training and support of the 15 Forest Guardians who are supported via the European Ex-Situ Programme (EEP) for red pandas held in European zoos.

The Forest Guardian Programme is a critical part of a community-based approach. Forest Guardians are professional forest stewards and local conservation ambassadors who conduct regular monitoring of red panda populations and habitat, as well as delivering awareness-raising activities in their respective communities. They are also involved in anti-poaching patrols and serve as trackers during eco-trips.

So far in 2022, 11 zoo-funded Forest Guardians have undertaken refresher training in Panchthar and Ilam districts, furthering their understanding of red pandas, their importance, conservation status and threats.



Top inset, the work by Forest Guardians has included tree surveys; above, the sponsored stewards working to protect red pandas in Nepal





**Forest Guardian
working in the field**

TEXT TO DONATE!

Help to support the conservation
work of Colchester Zoo's charity,
Action for the Wild, with a simple TEXT message!

Scan the QR code to find out more.



Thirteen of the sponsored guardians have been carrying out regular red panda monitoring, including tree surveys and data collection. The Forest Guardians monitor red panda habitat on a quarterly basis.

Two of the sponsored guardians have been anti-poaching monitoring. They conduct anti-poaching patrols with the help of other local forest users every six months. During these patrols, they record information about poaching signs and dismantle any snares or traps they encounter. These activities will discourage poachers from entering the forest, resulting in a minimised threat for red pandas and other Himalayan wildlife in Nepal.

Forest Guardians are at the forefront of red panda conservation work, and it is crucial that they can withstand harsh and unpredictable weather conditions and difficult terrain.

FUEL YOUR ADVENTURE AT COLCHESTER ZOO

Warm up this winter with a delicious hot meal from Penguini's Restaurant! Indulge in a mouth-watering pizza or our spud of the season to fuel your wild adventure!

Enjoy a sweet treat this fall



SEASONAL DRINKS

Our seasonal hot drinks are back! Sip your way through a chocolatey indulgent mocha or heart-warming latte topped with fluffy cream.

Check our seasonal flavours on the day of your visit.

Available at selected catering outlets.



MERCURY

Tickets
from £15



BEAUTY
and the
BEAST

Sat 26 Nov
- Sun 15 Jan

mercurytheatre.co.uk



PINOCCHIO

Don't miss
our Studio show
this Christmas
for the little ones!



Tickets
from £12

Wed 7 Dec
- Sat 31 Dec



Keepers take part in the lemur workshop

ALL THINGS LEMUR

Colchester Zoo recently welcomed 50 keepers from across the UK as we hosted a Lemur Keepers' Workshop with the Association of British and Irish Wild Animal Keepers (ABWAK).

This was a one-day workshop that covered a range of topics relating to lemur husbandry, as well as providing information on a variety of lemur species.

Arranged in two sections, educational and practical, the workshop covered a range of subjects, with presentations about geriatric care, diseases and lemur medicine, browse and flower provision, training, as well as the process of mixing groups of lemurs together. A practical enrichment making workshop took place in the afternoon session along with tours of the lemur enclosures.



Lemur workshop attendees

WALDEGRAVES family HOLIDAY PARK

Waldegraves
Family Holiday Park

The Place to Stay in Essex



- Luxury Holiday Home Hire - Camping & Touring Pitches - Fishing Lakes -
- Seasonal Touring - Holiday Home Ownership - Dog Friendly - Beach Access -



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



Waldegraves Holiday Park



@waldegravesholidaypark



ZOO LIFE AUTUMN 2022 CONSERVATION

The day was a great success, providing vital information to help enhance the care of lemurs and raising £1,035 through ticket sales and raffle prizes. The money was donated through Colchester Zoo's Action for the Wild charity to lemur conservation charity project, HelpSimus.

HelpSimus was founded in November 2009. Its mission is to protect the greater bamboo lemur (*Prolemur simus*) in Madagascar 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.

The greater bamboo lemur is one of the most threatened lemurs of Madagascar. Spread widely all over the island in the past, it is now only found in the humid forests of the east where slightly more than a thousand individuals have been recorded.

The long-term conservation of the greater bamboo lemur and its habitat rests on two major challenges on which we need to continue to concentrate our efforts in 2022: food safety of the populations and, of course, the education of children. None of this would have been possible without the support, all the more precious during these difficult times, of partners and donors to whom HelpSimus is very grateful.

Find out more about how you can support conservation projects worldwide through Colchester Zoo's charity, Action for the Wild, at www.actionforthewild.org

TEXT TO DONATE!

Help to support the conservation work of Colchester Zoo's charity, Action for the Wild, with a simple TEXT message!

Scan the QR code to find out more.





**PROMOTIONAL
OFFER** on EMSella Pelvic
Floor Therapy and EM
Sculpt body contouring

50% off
for Escape readers

COLCHESTER MEDICAL AESTHETICS CLINIC

OFFERS A WIDE RANGE OF AESTHETIC TREATMENTS FOR FACE AND BODY INCLUDING:

- LASER HAIR REMOVAL
- ANTI WRINKLE INJECTIONS
- DERMAL FILLERS
- INJECTABLE PLATELET RICH FIBRIN(IPRF)
- MEDICALLY LED WEIGHT MANAGEMENT
- RADIO FREQUENCY/LASER TREATMENTS
- AESTHETIC GYNAECOLOGY
- AND MUCH MORE

ALL TREATMENTS CARRIED OUT USING THE VERY LATEST EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY



15A HIGH STREET, COLCHESTER, ESSEX CO1 1DA | [INFO@COLCHESTER-MEDICAL-AESTHETICS.COM](mailto:info@colchester-medical-aesthetics.com) | 01206 575155 | 077 3704 3608

COLCHESTER-MEDICAL-AESTHETICS.COM

BREAKING DOWN PLASTIC POLLUTION

The issue

Plastic pollution has become one of the most important environmental issues over the last few years and has now impacted how we purchase, reuse and dispose of our waste.

Not only is plastic pollution affecting the health of animals worldwide, including disturbing many natural habitats such as our countryside and oceans, it's also having a direct impact on our health.

Let's talk about microplastics

Microplastics are very small fragments of plastic, less than 5 mm long, which come from a variety of sources, including the breakdown process of larger plastic items such as microfibres from synthetic textiles, car tyres and manufactured microbeads added to personal care products. They've been found in deep ocean trenches, Antarctic snow, shellfish, table salt, drinking water and even in our bodies!

Purchasing products that are kinder to the environment will help to not only protect our planet, but also our health.

ECO-FRIENDLY STEPS

In the Kitchen

Cellulose sponges
Coconut scourers
Reusable kitchen cloths
Beeswax wraps
Solid washing up bars
Refillable cleaning products, laundry products and washing up liquid
Bamboo or recycled kitchen roll
Alternatives to plastic bin liners – paper liners

In the Bathroom

Bamboo or recycled toilet roll
Solid soap, shampoo, conditioner bars
Solid/cream deodorants
Reusable or disposable bamboo/cotton sanitary products
Cotton or charcoal dental floss
Bamboo toothbrushes
Bamboo cotton buds
Wooden nail and hair brushes

Out and About

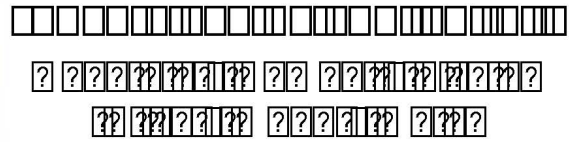
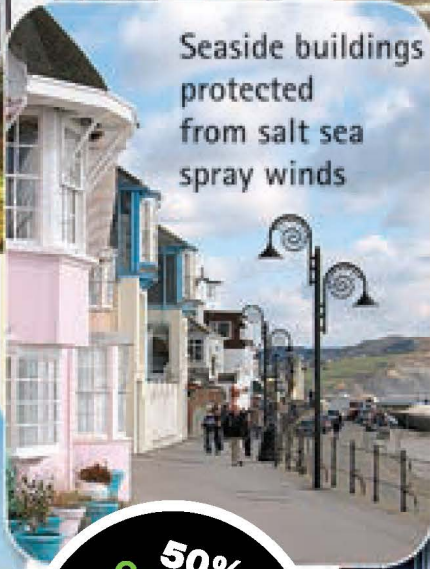
Reusable travel cups (bamboo, glass, metal and plastic versions)
Reusable water bottles
Reusable straws (refuse plastic straws)
Reusable cutlery
Reusable shopping bags
Bring your own refill container
Buy bulk or loose foods
Biodegradable dog waste bags

What Else?

Spread the word about plastic free ideas
Get involved in a beach or countryside clean
Reduce plastic use at work
Holding an event? Find ways to reduce plastic at your event
Buying products – look out for plastic free packaging
Avoid plastic cutlery and containers at a takeaway
Get involved with local plastic free projects

Reduce, reuse and recycle!

Superior Exterior Protection Eliminating Wall Maintenance



**50%
Cash Back
on VAT***
If you respond
within 7 days
& quote
'Escape Mag'

*Terms and conditions apply



ANIMAL FACT FILES

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

MY FAVOURITE FOOD:
FISH, ESPECIALLY
ANCHOVIES, HERRING
AND SMELT

My name:
Humboldt Penguin
Scientific name:
Spheniscus humboldti

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

About me: People think that I come from cold areas such as the Antarctic, but this is not the case. I live in the hotter climate of South America – Peru and Chile in particular. When swimming through the water, my torpedo-shaped body can reach speeds of up to 30mph while I can dive up to 500ft

under the water. I'm well adapted to see under the water with a protective lens that covers my eyes like goggles while my feathers are waterproof, acting like a wetsuit.

Did you know? My tongue is covered in spines, which help me to catch and hold onto prey.

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

My name: Linne's Two-Toed Sloth

Scientific name: *Choloepus didactylus*

About me: I am the largest out of six species of sloth currently found in the wild, weighing up to 11kg! I am covered in brown fur which can sometimes have a green tinge due to the fungi and algae growing in it, helping me to camouflage in my habitat. Moving at a slow speed, I spend most of my life living upside-down in moist, tropical rainforests and mountain forests found in Central America and northern South America. Although I may be known as the world's slowest mammal, I'm not as lazy as most people think as I'm an excellent swimmer!

I can be found at the Worlds Apart and Rainforest Walkthrough enclosures at Colchester Zoo where I will be hiding in the trees or sleeping in my nest box.

Did you know? I can hold my breath for up to 40 minutes while swimming, and I only leave the trees once a week to go for a poo on the forest floor.

MY FAVOURITE FOOD:
LEAVES, FRUITS AND
OCCASIONALLY INSECTS

— CHRISTMAS IN COLCHESTER — ***LIGHT SWITCH ON PARADE***

This year Christmas in Colchester is back bigger and better than ever! Join InColchester in the City centre on Wednesday the 16th of November for the most magical light switch on event.

A festive light parade will be making its way through the city centre, starting at Mercury theatre, and ending at Firstsite. Follow the parade as it makes its way along the route illuminating the Christmas lights as it goes. Wear your brightest most sparkly outfits, bring torches, and lanterns to help light up the parade route and experience that warm Christmas feeling.

Featuring spectacular large-scale puppets, including Santa and a fire bird, community groups, music, and dancing. Plus, see if you can spot some familiar faces in the parade! This a completely FREE event for the whole family, so come along and join in the fun.

Wednesday 16th November 2022
from 4pm

Colchester City centre starting
at Mercury Theatre and along the
high street.

Wednesday the 16th will also act as a launch event for all the Christmas activities in the city centre, including Virtual Reality sleigh rides in Culver Square, Late Wednesday's entertainment and late-night shopping, The Giving Tree campaign and lots more!

Come and join us for Christmas in Colchester and capture the glow!



Colchester



www.christmasincolchester.co.uk



Happy, healthy and hungry to learn.

Welcome to the **Nature Nursery**. We offer quality childcare for 2-5 year-olds based on **learning through nature**.



Set in the grounds of Abbots Hall near Colchester, where children can enjoy both freedom and security, our outdoor nursery is run by early learning experts at **Essex Wildlife Trust**, the most experienced provider of outdoor education in the county.

Find out more:

www.naturenursery.org.uk

**Nature
Nursery**
Play • Discover • Learn

Nature Nursery is part of:



**Essex
Wildlife Trust**

My name: Reindeer
Scientific name:
Rangifer tarandus

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

About me: I live in some of the coldest places on Earth – Alaska, Canada, Russia, Mongolia, Norway, and Finland. I have a thick fur coat made up of two layers, a soft fine undercoat of insulating hairs and a long coarse outer layer to help protect me in harsh, snowy conditions. In the spring, I will drop my antlers at the base where they will then regrow back larger within less than a year. We are the only deer species to have many females with antlers, as well as males. When I walk, I make a clicking sound which is often linked to the sound of Santa's sleigh, but it's just a tendon in my foot passing over the bone! The clicking helps the herd keep together when visibility is poor due to snow storms.

Did you know? We are the only species of deer to have hair completely covering our nose along with lots of tiny veins to circulate warm blood. This helps us to warm the cold air we breathe so we don't get cold.

MY FAVOURITE FOOD:
LICHEN, FUNGI, MOSS,
HERBS, FERNS, GRASSES
AND THE SHOOTS AND
LEAVES OF SHRUBS AND
TREES, WILLOW, AND BIRCH

SHRIEK WEEK:

22 to 30 October

This October half term, enjoy a week filled with SPOOK-TACULAR daytime activities suitable for children of all ages. From transforming into a scary witch at our Face Painting to carving your own pumpkin at our Pumpkin Patch, there truly is something for the whole family! Don't forget to look out for our Monster Trail, Glow Show, and Scare School... PLUS MORE! All included in standard admission!

Limited Availability
– book now to
avoid 'devilish'
disappointment!



THE TRAIL OF TERROR

THE TRAIL OF TERROR. EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED:

From 6:30pm on 14, 15, 21, 22, 26, 28 and 29 October

This horrifying event may cause you to shiver and scream as you take the perilous journey around the zoo after dark. Be warned... there are all manner of creatures lurking in the shadows, including a close encounter with monsters and ghouls that will leave you feeling truly terrified! The trail is not for everyone, and only the brave-hearted will make it through the horrors waiting for you.



What on earth is that?

On our Welcome page, we asked you to identify this creature... This beautiful Asian and African insect is a Jewel Wasp (*Ampulex compressa*) and it deals with its prey in a rather gruesome way!

The wasp drags much larger cockroaches into holes where it then seals them inside. It then stings the cockroach in the

specific part of the brain that deals with escape behaviour, so the prey just sits in the hole without trying to dig out.

In the meantime, the wasp lays some eggs on the body of the cockroach, which eventually hatch to a fresh first meal of live cockroach! So, the cockroach is munched alive to allow baby wasps to grow – yum yum!



Pre-bookable event, terms and conditions apply. Zoo is closed during the trail. Find out more and book on our website!



THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS:

26, 27 November, 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 21 to 24 December

It's the most wonderful time of the year filled with laughter and cheer, and we want to share it with you.

Join us for our festive celebrations and immerse yourself in the Magic of Christmas, where you can meet Santa himself*, watch his reindeer in their stable and take a walk through our Enchanted Woodland! Take a seat and let our jolly elves tell the tale about Santa's new friend, Poco the Sloth, and how her hair turned silver and white due to an unexpected flurry in the forest...

SANTA EXPERIENCE **£12.50 PER TICKET**

Journey 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 'Poco the Sloth' 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 a 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.



**Pre-book
online today!**



WREATH MAKING MASTERCLASS

15 and 22 November

Make your very own Colchester Zoo wreath with our festive masterclass.

All equipment provided, including foliage from Colchester Zoo gardens.

Mince pie and hot drink on arrival.
Entry to the zoo after the class.

*Entry not available before class.
This is a group class. Passholder discount
is not available for this experience.

Enchanted

TRAIL OF LIGHTS

ENCHANTED LIGHT TRAIL:

From 6:30pm on 3, 7, 10, 14,
17, 21 and 23 December

Watch as the zoo sparkles and shines with our BRAND NEW Enchanted Light Trail. From illuminated life-size animal sculptures and dancing fountains to walking along pathways filled with dazzling displays of luminous lights, our trail will leave you feeling truly enchanted.

Please be aware there is no Santa Experience (Grotto) taking place on our Enchanted Light Trail event evenings. Pre-bookable event, terms and conditions apply. Find out more on our website.

All event details, including dates, times and activities, are correct on the date of publishing (SEP 2022), but are subject to change.

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IS ALWAYS TIME!

We go behind the scenes with Colchester Zoo's Maintenance Foreman, **Chris Elsey**, who has been involved in the planning and organising of our special seasonal events for 22 years!



How far in advance do you start planning for these events?

We start planning for Halloween and Christmas a year in advance. As soon as we finish an event, the Events Committee hosts a debriefing meeting to evaluate each event and then the process for the next year begins straight away, with regular meetings scheduled throughout the year.

How big is the team working on the projects?

The Halloween Committee has eight individuals from different departments who plan and run the Trail of Terror and a second group who plan our activities for

Shriek Week. Over 100 staff work each night as part of the Trail of Terror from many sections of the zoo, including keepers, catering staff, and volunteers. For Christmas, select individuals from both Halloween Committee groups come together to plan our magical Christmas events.

We also liaise with the Animal Care Team to ensure that our events do not affect any of our animals and their welfare.

How long does it take to set up the trails?

Our day and evening Halloween events take around

four weeks to set up and are put together by just a few members of our Maintenance Team. We also receive help and support from our Grounds and Stores Team.

The Enchanted Trail is a brand-new event for this year, so work behind the scenes began back in June. This has included new sound systems, power sources, and a major pathway extension at the Nature Area.

What challenges do you face preparing for these events and throughout?

The biggest challenge is always time! Our event dates are set a



Enchanted
TRAIL OF LIGHT

THE TRAIL OF
TERROR

year in advance, so we must be ready! With 60 acres of zoo to maintain throughout the year and new developments to focus on, it's always a juggling act to bring everything together in time. The team will often stay late into the night, not only due to time restraints, but to work in the dark for the light set-up.

What's the standout feature for this year's trails?

Without giving too much away, our Halloween themes have changed since last year, as well as the Trail of Terror route. You really won't know what's around the next bend!

Our Enchanted Trail of Light is unlike any of the Christmas late nights that have gone before. We will take you on a magical and immersive journey through the zoo grounds, filled with sound and light – it really will need to be seen to be believed.

Any special mentions?

All the work that goes into planning and producing our events is done in-house and we have an events team that brainstorm creative ideas for every event.

A special mention must go to one of our electrician

team members, also named Chris, who is not only the electrical wizard behind these nights, but the driving force for a lot of the set-up too.

Also to our Commercial Supervisor, Mel, who chairs these committees and manages to keep us all on the same page. All this effort and preparation would be wasted if it wasn't for our amazing team of staff and volunteers who bring all the hard work to life every night, as well as doing their day jobs and keeping all the animals and visitors at the zoo cared for.

ZOO DATES 2023

Zoo Crew Celebrations:

11 to 19 February 2023

Our 60th celebrations kick off this February Half Term with our Mascot Sticker Trail!

Character Days:

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

Find out which favourite tv characters will be joining us throughout the year at www.colchesterzoo.org

Character Breakfasts:

11 March and 12 November 2023

Rise and dine with your favourite zoo crew characters from 9:30am while enjoying a delicious breakfast!

Dino Discovery Days:

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

Take a step back in time with our Jurassic days and meet your favourite prehistoric friends, including velociraptor, Blu!



Easter Eggs-travaganza:

1 to 16 April 2023

Join us for this Egg-tastic event including an Egg Hunt with a difference!

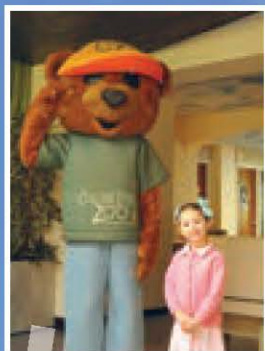


2ND JUNE
WE OPEN LATER
AS WE PARTY
INTO THE
EVENING!

Zoobilee Week:

27 May to 4 June 2023 (Colchester Zoo birthday on 2 June 2023)

Our Zoobilee week is bursting at the seams just like our party balloons and is packed with mystical shows from Magic Iain, Samba Dancers, and Marimba Music from Otto & The Mutapa Calling, as we celebrate turning 60!



**PASSHOLDER EXCLUSIVE
Wake up with:
1 July 2023**

Watch as the zoo awakens for another zoo-per day filled with early encounters and keeper activity! This event is for Zoo Passholders only who must present a valid zoo pass on arrival.

Zoo Passes cannot be purchased on the morning.

**Zooper Summer
Holidays:**

**22 July to 3
September 2023**

Join us for a sizzling summer of events, including our exclusive Wild Vibe Wonderland performances!

KEEP AN EYE
OUT AS MORE DATES
MAY BE ADDED!

**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.

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, 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!

Pre-booking essential.

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, 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, 22
December 2023**

Watch as the zoo sparkles and shines with our Enchanted Trail of light.

Pre-booking essential.

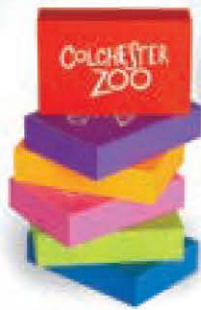
All event details, including dates, times and activities, are correct on the date of publishing (SEP 2022), but are subject to change.

THE OUTPOST GIFTSHOP

Treat yourself or buy a loved one a special gift this festive season – we have something for everyone!

FUN FESTIVE FILLERS

Pack their stockings high with our huge selection of fizzy bath bombs, brightly-coloured stationery and mini torches, to name just a few!

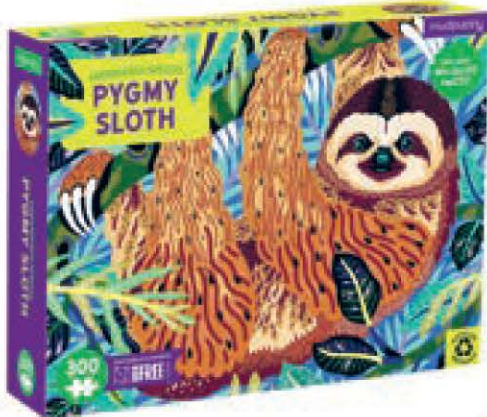


WILD THINGS

Our Retail Manager, Brooke Connelly, has a star buy that will bring a touch of wilderness to your home!

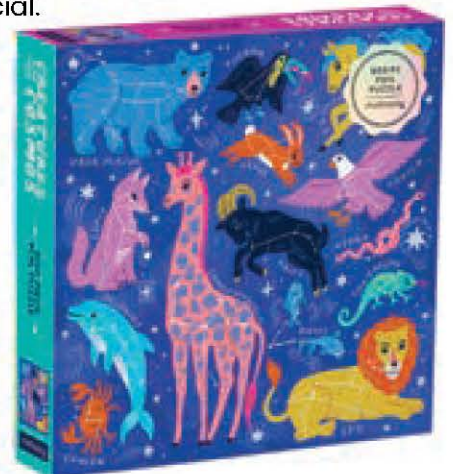
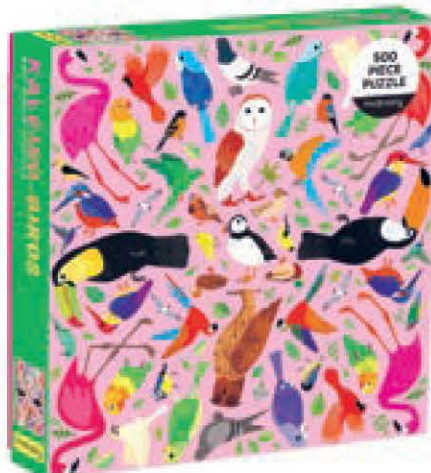
'Vivid Arts is a popular figurine collection with our visitors and has some stunning animal designs. The tiger, with its striking patterns, is a definite favourite of mine, as well as the very cute tortoise, plus all the designs are suitable for the garden or indoors.'

STAR
PRODUCT



Family Time

Spend quality time together this Christmas and create one of our beautiful nature puzzles. We have glow-in-the-dark and foil accent puzzles to make your choice even more special.



Cute & Cuddly

Meet our adorable festive characters from Keel Eco! Not only are they super cute, but they are made from 100% recycled materials – the perfect huggable new friends!



Deck the Halls!

Decorate your home in style with our range of attractive ornaments and baubles.



These
crackle as
they burn!

Seasonal Scents

Fill your home with the aromas of winter with our collection of Woodwick candles. Whether you enjoy the scent of the outdoors or cosy fireside evenings, we have the fragrance for you.

Adoptions

Struggling for that extra special present for a loved one this Christmas? Our Animal Adoptions make the perfect present for any animal lover! Choose from three special packages: Ambassador, Guardian, and Protector. All of our Animal Adoption boxes come with a presentation box filled with exciting goodies including a 'Thank You' booklet, certificate of adoption with a fact file of your chosen species, car sticker, notebook and pen, pin badge and lanyard, and an exclusive cuddly toy.

**All available to
purchase online
via our website!**



Animal Experiences & Vouchers

Our Animal Experiences provide a close encounter like no other. Feel the breath of a rhino as you come face to face with these magnificent creatures or discover just how fierce an Amur tiger is as you hand-feed them. Our Animal Experience vouchers are available for a range of packages such as Keeper for the Day or Keeper Shadow! View all of our Animal Experience packages online at www.colchesterzoo.org



Corporate Opportunities & Sponsorships

Let your business stand out above the rest with a corporate sponsorship at Colchester Zoo. We have several different corporate opportunities available for a variety of budgets! By becoming a corporate supporter of Colchester Zoo, you'll also play a huge role in assisting our conservation efforts and further development which is a great marketing opportunity for your company. Find out more on our website at www.colchesterzoo.org





Giraffe Feeds

Meet our tallest residents and discover the gentle bristles of a giraffe's tongue with our exclusive hand-feeding experience. Our Giraffe Feed Experience caters for a small number of groups to take part for a more intimate experience. Find out more on our website at www.colchesterzoo.org

Zoo Passes & Vouchers

Banish the boredom and keep the kids entertained for a whole year with our annual Zoo Pass. Not only can you enjoy unlimited visits for an entire year, but you will also receive a host of discounts along with your pass, including money-off Animal Experiences, discounts on food and drink in our catering outlets and within the Outpost Gift Shop! Why not pick up a voucher for a loved one this Christmas and give the gift that keeps giving all year round?



REINDEER EXPERIENCE

Santa's reindeers have returned to Colchester Zoo!

Ever wanted to know more about the magical creatures that pull Santa's sleigh every December? Come and meet our beautiful reindeer at their stable and learn all about these incredible animals along with their unique adaptations.

How much does this experience cost?

For just £20.00 up to 5 people can participate in this exclusive experience.

A number of other groups may also be taking part in this experience at the same time.

What time does the experience take place?

Our reindeer experience takes place at 10:30am and lasts around 20 minutes.

How do I book?

Visit our website at www.colchesterzoo.org or call our Experiences Team on 01206 331292 ext. 462.

The reindeer experience ticket does not include entry to Colchester Zoo. You must have Colchester Zoo entry tickets (or a valid Zoo Pass) to take part. You can buy your zoo entry ticket online in advance of your visit or purchase them on the day of your visit at the main entrance. All those participating in the reindeer experience must have zoo entry to take part.

These experiences have limited capacity and therefore, we advise you to book as far in advance of your visit as possible to avoid disappointment. Terms and conditions apply – see website for details.

DID YOU KNOW? LIKE
HUMAN FINGERPRINTS,
NO TWO REINDEER
ANTLERS ARE
THE SAME!

LIMITED
AVAILABILITY!



Fireplaces & Woodburners



Established for over 35 years we have a range of contemporary and traditional stoves, fires, and fireplaces to suit everyone's tastes.



Colchester

Unit 11 Peartree Business Ctr Colchester, Essex, CO3 0JN
01206 546111 colchester@zigis.co.uk

Halstead

01787 479944

halstead@zigis.co.uk

Cambridge

01223 833523

cambridge@zigis.co.uk

Chelmsford

01245 360772

chelmsford@zigis.co.uk

Ipswich

01473 312008

ipswich@zigis.co.uk

Norwich

01603 436944

norwich@zigis.co.uk

www.zigis.co.uk



"Give them the best start in life at Littlegarth"



LITTLEGARTH

A truly independent school & nursery

FOR CHILDREN FROM 2 TO 11 YEARS OLD

01206 262 332

Nayland, CO6 4JR

www.littlegarth.org | office@littlegarth.org



THE
GOOD
SCHOOLS
GUIDE