

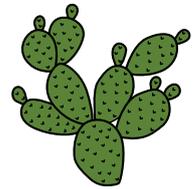
# LEARN AT CHESTER ZOO

## CHESTER ZOO HISTORY QUIZ

Since opening in 1931 there have been many notable events, visits and firsts. You can explore lots of these on our website [chesterzoo.org/memories/](https://chesterzoo.org/memories/). You can even add your own memories of the zoo here too! We've picked some of our favourite moments to give you a bit more of an insight into the history of Chester Zoo. We hope you enjoy reading these and that they help you with the quiz that follows.

### 1930 - THE ZOO OFFICIALLY OPENS

Chester Zoo opened officially on 10th June. It was staffed almost entirely by the Mottershead family. George was Director-Secretary, his wife Elizabeth dealt with the catering and Muriel their daughter was the zoo's first Curator. June, their younger daughter, was still too young to do very much but as soon as she could, she joined in with the rest of the family in helping keep the zoo going. George's father, Albert, took charge of the greenhouses and gardens as he had a horticultural background, and Lucy, George's mother, staffed the zoo's first entrance and pay booth, which was little more than a wooden shed.



When the zoo first opened, there were so few visitors that they would have to ring a bell to summon Lucy from the lodge to take their money, one shilling for adults and sixpence for children. Those first years were very difficult financially, and as the animal collection grew, new habitats were built with whatever came to hand. As the zoo grew, so did the visitor numbers, but it would be another ten years before the zoo started to make a surplus. Little did the family know that the 9 acres of land that the zoo currently sat on, would eventually expand to over 128 acres!

"As a guide, philosopher and friend, Mr Mottershead is a host himself, and he always will be delighted to give visitors a description of the habits of the birds and animals he has brought together in surroundings that are ideal." - Chester Observer, June 1931

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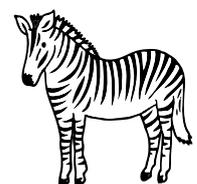
### 1940 - JUNE MOTTERSHEAD GETS MARRIED

After the war George's younger daughter June, married Fred Williams on 26 February 1949. Fred had started out as a keeper, working his way up. Together they were responsible for changing the face of the zoo, making the most of second hand materials and applying their ingenuity in designing new habitats. One of their building projects survives to this day in our aquarium. Fred and June amazingly built this themselves in their spare time, often at night on a floodlit building site. They had to hand cast the 130 pillars needed to support the building!

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### 1950 - ALWAYS BUILDING

During the 1950s, Chester Zoo began to invest more in marketing to generate more visitors following the war. The slogan 'Always Building' was created and the logo was a beaver to reflect the pace of post-war reconstruction. New animal houses and habitats were built, including a giraffe house, a camel house, zebra house, an aviary for macaws and cockatoos.



# LEARN AT CHESTER ZOO

## 1960 - WORLD RECORD HOLDER

The tallest giraffe ever recorded was a Masai bull named George, who came to Chester Zoo when he was 18 months old from Kenya. He featured in the Guinness Book of Records and was just under 20 feet high. He had to duck his head to get in and out of the giraffe house! He was a bit of a cheeky giraffe too - every time someone walked through the door he was able to bend his neck and pinch their hats off their heads. He even ate some of them too!



## 1970 - FIRST ASIAN ELEPHANT TO BE BORN IN UK

We were the first zoo in the UK to successfully breed Asian elephants. Jubilee was calf to Judy and Nobby, and made an early arrival into the world being born a month before anyone expected. Jubilee was named by viewers of the BBC's TV show Blue Peter. Judy successfully reared him to adulthood with the help of another elephant, Sheba.

Chester Zoo News (June 1977): "Jubilee continues to grow daily in strength, and his weight at the time of writing has increased by about 10lbs since birth...with the first really warm day all the elephants came out. The little one has taken to life in the open and already is a great source of interest and amusement to the visitors coming daily into the zoo to see him."  
Jubilee left Chester Zoo in 1998 and was transferred to Belfast Zoo.

## 1980 - MAJOR RE-LANDSCAPE OF THE ZOO BEGINS

The zoo started a major re-landscaping project to meet new demands for space. Over the coming years thousands of tons of earth would be moved.



The bear pits that were built in 1943 - 44 were demolished and replaced by South American gardens. The flamingo habitat was also developed to create more open shallow water in the hope that they would breed for the first time since they arrived at the zoo in 1957. The shallow water was needed so that the birds could build mounds to support their nests.

## 1990 - THE MONORAIL OPENS TO THE PUBLIC

Chester Zoo built a modern transport system to help visitors to travel round our 100 acre site. The monorail was opened by H.R.H the Duchess of Kent, which broke down on its first trip round the zoo with the Duchess still on it!

## 1990 - BILL ODDIE SUPPORTS OUR LOCAL CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Bill Oddie - birdwatcher, broadcaster, actor, television presenter, writer, song-writer, musician AND conservationist - comes to the zoo for a visit. During his time here he also had the chance to see some of our local conservation projects all of which then featured on the BBC's Springwatch show.

## QUIZ QUESTIONS

1930s

What made the first years of Chester zoo so difficult?

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How would you describe the review of the zoo by the Chester Observer?

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1940s

Why do you think that second hand materials and ingenuity were needed for building projects during the 1940s?

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1950s

What animal was used to represent the new 'Always building' slogan?

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1960s

Who do you think George the giraffe may have been named after?

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George is described as being 'a bit cheeky', why?

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1970s

Born in 1977, what event in that year inspired the viewers of Blue Peter when naming Jubilee?

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What did the zoo's visitors think of Jubilee?

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1980s

Why was a re-landscaping project started in the 1980s?

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What new feature was created in the flamingo habitat to encourage them to breed?

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1990s

How large was Chester Zoo in the 1990s?

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Disaster struck this decade. What happened?

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2000s

You may have watched Secret Life of the Zoo, but this is not the only TV programme to have been filmed at the zoo or about the work of the zoo. Which programme was Bill Oddie filming for when he visited the zoo in the 2000s?

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## QUIZ ANSWERS

## 1930s

What made the first years of Chester zoo so difficult?

**The first years were very difficult financially.**

How would you describe the review of the zoo by the Chester Observer?

**Positive, describing Mr Mottershead as a 'host' and the surroundings as 'ideal'.**

## 1940s

Why do you think that second hand materials and ingenuity were needed for building projects during the 1940s?

**The Second World War added to the financial difficulties of these early years.**

## 1950s

What animal was used to represent the new 'Always building' slogan?

**A beaver.**

## 1960s

Who do you think George the giraffe may have been named after?

**George Mottershead.**

George is described as being 'a bit cheeky' why?

**He would steal guests' hats and sometimes eat them.**

## 1970s

Born in 1977 what event in that year inspired the viewers of Blue Peter when naming Jubilee?

**The Queens Silver Jubilee.**

What did the zoo's visitors think of Jubilee?

**Zoo visitors were interested and amused by Jubilee.**

## 1980s

Why was a re-landscaping project started in the 1980s?

**To meet new demands for space.**

What new feature was created in the flamingo habitat to encourage them to breed?

**Open shallow water.**

## 1990s

How large was Chester Zoo in the 1990s?

**100 acres**

Disaster struck this decade what happened?

**The Duchess of Kent was trapped on the Monorail during its first trip.**

## 2000s

You may have watched Secret Life of the Zoo, but this is not the only TV programme to have been filmed at the zoo or about the work of the zoo. Which programme was Bill Oddie filming for when he visited the zoo in the 2000s?

**Springwatch**