Dear Member,
Welcome to the Autumn/Winter edition of Fota News.

This summer Fota Wildlife Park had the highest rainfall recorded for the months of June, July and August since the Park opened in 1983. I hope this inclement weather did not spoil your enjoyment of Fota but at least the ducks had a good time!

Okapi killed.
In June 2012, Simba rebels (Mai Mai militia) attacked the Institute for Conservation of Nature headquarters in the Okapi Wildlife Reserve near the village of Epulu in the north-eastern area of the Democratic Republic of Congo. They killed six people, including two rangers and the wife of a ranger, as well as 14 Okapi that were kept at the headquarters. This represents a serious blow to the conservation efforts for Okapi in the Democratic Republic of Congo and demonstrates the brave commitment that many rangers give to the cause of protecting wildlife throughout the world.

Fortunately the Okapi’s cousins, the Giraffe have fared much better at Fota with two female calves, Casey and Aoibhinn, born this summer. These two Rothschild Giraffe calves are not only an important addition to Park but also to the global conservation of this subspecies of giraffe, given the small population in the wild of less than 700 animals. Studbooks are used to manage their breeding in wildlife parks and zoos and many giraffes born at Fota have gone to other facilities including our Male ‘Finn’ to Belfast where he has sired two calves and our female ‘Maeve’ to Dublin Zoo where she has given birth to her second calf there.

Fota Wildlife Park recently teamed up with Flora and Fauna International, FFI, to assist with the conservation of endangered primates in Vietnam. The overall aim of this collaboration between Fota and FFI is the long-term conservation of the critically endangered Western Black Crested Gibbon at Mu Cang Chai Species and Habitat Conservation Area (Yen Bai Province) and the critically endangered Tonkin snub-nosed monkey in Quan Ba District (Ha Giang Province). You can find out more about this initiative on page 10.

Finally I would like, on behalf of the staff and management of Fota Wildlife Park, to offer our sincerest condolences to Riana Casey and extended family on the tragic death of her husband, Paraic. He was a wonderful work colleague and will be fondly remember for his humour and dedication to the educational activities of the Wildlife Park.

Sean McKeown
2012 FOTO COMPETITION

Fota Wildlife Park is running an exciting photography competition open to all visitors to the park, both young and old. So all you photography enthusiasts should get snapping for the 2012 FOTO Competition

CATEGORIES

- BEST OVERALL PICTURE
  This will be the overall best picture taken by a visitor. Open to all ages.

- FUNNIEST ‘CAUGHT IN THE MOMENT’ PICTURE
  This will be for the funniest picture of one of our animals. We have heard stories of the ring-tailed lemurs stealing food, but have no evidence!

- BEST PICTURE BY A YOUTH (UNDER 16)
  This category is open to everyone aged 16 and under only. Our younger visitors tend to be more camera happy and creative!

- BEST PICTURE TAKEN BY A MEMBER
  This category is dedicated to our members in recognition of their ongoing support.

Each category will have a winner and two runners-up. All 12 finalist images will appear in a special edition of Fota News in 2013

HOW TO ENTER:
Submit your photos by email to marketing@fotawildlife.ie before October 31 2012

Rules
- Image manipulation of any sort (apart from brightness/contrast levels) is not allowed to enhance a picture. If a picture is suspected of been manipulated or modified, Fota Wildlife Park reserves the right to refuse admission of that photo to the competition.
- The photo must be submitted in JPEG format and cannot exceed 8 MB in size in landscape.
- You may not enter more than one category unless otherwise stated in the category’s description.
- Fota Wildlife Park’s decision is final.
- By submitting the photograph to Fota Wildlife Park you agree to allow non-exclusive rights to the image that may be used in publications other than the calendar. Photo must be submitted in JPEG format and cannot exceed 8 MB in size in landscape.

Digital specifications
1. For judging purposes: Save a copy of your image as a JPEG, at the highest quality setting (eg quality setting 10 in Adobe Photoshop). The image should be 1920 pixels on the longest dimension and 8-bit, Adobe RGB (1998) at 300ppi.
2. For proof of authenticity: Your original digital camera RAW files (eg CR2, NEF, ORF etc) will be requested if your image is shortlisted for an award. Original transparencies or negatives will also be accepted. Digital images captured as JPEG are allowed, providing the original un-retouched JPEG is available for inspection. Any work created from more than one original (eg stitched images), must be declared as such, and the original captured images should be available for inspection when requested.
3. For printing and inclusion in the exhibition: a high-resolution image will be requested if your image is shortlisted for an award. This should be 8-bit, Adobe RGB (1998) at 300ppi.
NEW ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

WHAT A BUSY TIME OF THE YEAR SUMMER IS WITH ALL THE NEW BIRTHS AND ARRIVALS AT FOTA!

There was good news for our gibbon families with the arrival of two new baby gibbons within the space of a month. Our new Aggie was born on March 8, to proud parents Conor and Chloe. We had over 100 name suggestions from a competition run on our Facebook page. These were narrowed down to Robin, George, Mel and Shay. Euro 2012 fever won out over Saturday Night Fever in the end, resulting in Shay!

Lots of changes too for the Siambang Gibbons. Following the expansion of their family with their new baby born on April 24, big brothers Bart and Rocky got an upgrade to their own new island to make way for the new arrival! So, keep an eye out for them on the island after the activity tent.

Meanwhile, mother Kaya is keeping her baby closely protected so we have yet to determine whether it’s a boy or a girl, but it is thriving and already playing with Dad Clyde and sister Maggie. Gibbons are the fastest and most acrobatic of all the primates but also among the most endangered, so we are delighted to be increasing the worldwide population here at Fota.

Another exciting arrival to the park is our new White-tailed Sea Eagle chick which hatched 16 weeks ago. Mother Maeve incubated the egg for five weeks before it hatched and the chick’s progress was monitored closely through our live webcam, giving members of the public a unique opportunity to witness its development first hand.

This arrival is of particular importance internationally as it is the largest eagle in Europe; but also one of the most endangered. Native to Ireland but extinct since the early 1900s, it is making a welcome return through a reintroduction programme in Killarney. Maeve’s chick from last year was released into the wild near Golan Heights in the Middle East so watch this space to see where her new chick will go to.

We are also delighted to welcome our new Red Panda Bonnie, who arrived from Dublin Zoo in the last two months. She was born on June 27, 2011 and was well loved by staff there but they’ll be glad to hear she is settling in well with her new mate Pete, who arrived to Fota last year from Germany. Fota’s Red Pandas hit the spotlight with baby Rua being born unexpectedly in 2010 and he is currently residing at Belfast Zoo. There are less than 2,500 Red Pandas in the wild so we are over the moon to have a new breeding pair. Watch this space for future arrivals . . .

Other new arrivals at Fota to keep an eye out for include a male Scimitar Horned Oryx from Marwell in the UK. Our Oryx are of international importance with a male born in the park in 2003 being successfully re-introduced into the wild in Dghoumes National Park, Tunisia. He is now the dominant bull and has successfully sired a number of calves, demonstrating the success of re-introduction programmes.

Last month, the park also welcomed a new male Capybara from Twycross Zoo, UK. Capybaras are the largest rodents in the world and can be seen alongside our Brazilian Tapir Mia in the South American enclosure.

In the past year we’ve seen a lot of changes to our cheetah population, with a complete change from Southern African Cheetahs to a North African sub-species. This is due to our successful reputation for breeding Cheetahs, with over 200 cubs being born here since we opened!

So, we said farewell to some of our cheetahs who went to zoos and wildlife parks in the UK, Netherlands and France.

However we welcomed five new cheetahs from Safa Wild in Dubai and five from La Palmyre in France and they’ve been settling in well together and getting to grips with the cheetah run and the Irish climate!
PARK LAUNCH
NEW WEBSITE

KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH EVERYTHING AT FOTA WILDLIFE PARK AT www.fotawildlife.ie

FOTABOOK is one exciting aspect of the new-look Fota website that will allow visitors to interact with the park at www.fotawildlife.ie - FOTABOOK has taken the art of creating conversations online to the next level.

Establishing a sense of community for users was an early objective for the park’s old site, built in 2009. Customised guestbooks, a members’ log-in area and our ‘Ask Larry’ section helped to achieve that.

The new look site has been designed around the main objectives of the park - conservation, education and fun. The site now offers the visitor interaction with the park before, during, and after their visit.

Speaking about the new site, Head of Marketing for Fota Wildlife Park-Stephen Ryan believes that interaction is key to communicating with the public: “We have built this site to make it easy for our visitors to find out about us through meaningful content, to discover what we have to offer through fantastic imagery and, more importantly, to find out what other people say about us through our unique interactive tool FOTABOOK”.

The FOTABOOK technology was developed in-house by StudioForty9 to facilitate Fota in organising and monitoring their social network feeds in one place, expanding our knowledge of the online ‘buzz’ about the park and encouraging conversation on the website without forcing a new medium on visitors.

Developer of the site Gerard Keohane from StudioForty9 believes that: “Fotabook will quickly become a collection of the best tweets, photographs and videos posted on the web by visitors to the Park.”
He added: “Few people arrive at Fota Wildlife Park without a camera or smartphone, and everybody loves to have their say online, the new website will gather this visitor-generated content, share it with the rest of the world and give their visitors a central home online.”

The new-look website also has new features to help tourists such as the ‘How to Find Us’ tool which gives detailed directions from all main access points into Ireland and they have also introduced a ‘Things to do in Cork’ section which looks at family trips, city breaks and weekend adventures in the area.

The site also helps the visitor to discover a bit more about the park’s conservation work, not just here in Ireland but throughout the world with its many partners.

OTHER FACTS ABOUT THE WEBSITE

- A comprehensive look at the animals including their Fota connection which concentrates on how the animals are linked specifically to Fota Wildlife Park.
- The site also allows people to buy tickets online for the park for the first time and sponsor any of the animals or plants.
- This is also the first phase of the new site with a mobile edition and translated sites for the Chinese, French, German and Spanish markets.
- Fota Wildlife Park were the winners of the Grand Prix award at the Eircom Spiders in 2010.
- The park has over 21,000 fans on Facebook and almost 4,000 fans on Twitter
- The new site has been a significant investment on the park’s behalf following a huge growth in web traffic in the last three years, going from 60,000 hits a year in 2009 to 220,000 in 2011.
- Fota Wildlife Park also have their own free app for iPhone and Android
Do Giraffes Need a Passport?

One of the most exciting things about walking into Fota Wildlife Park is the sight of the tallest animal in the world gracefully walking along in the distance. Not something you see every day in Ireland, it is a unique experience and I’ve overheard many visitors likening it to a Jurassic Park moment.

The giraffes we have here at Fota are actually the tallest of all the nine subspecies. The Rothschild or Baringo Giraffe, Giraffa camelopardalis rothschildi, has a long association with Fota and we have sent giraffes all over the world - as far afield as Australia and several more can be seen at Blackpool Zoo in the UK.

The latest to move was Finn, born in 2008, who is now a resident of Belfast Zoo and has since sired his first calf. A male giraffe from the Czech Republic, Walda, arrived at Fota in 2011 and has settled in well with the herd and staff.

Our older male Tadhg, who arrived from Hamburg Zoo as a three-year-old, has sired a number of calves including Finn, Aoife and Setanta. Setanta’s mother Sapphire came from Edinburgh Zoo and we still have some of her fans that travel over from Edinburgh every year to visit her!

Our newest arrival is a three-year-old male, Ferdie, who travelled over from Arnhem Zoo in the Netherlands two months ago. He is already having fun learning neck wrestling from Walda.

All giraffes have a special taxon report and are tagged so when they are being sent abroad, they need to be checked and signed off by the Department of Agriculture before they can be allowed to travel. A passport of sorts!

Many people wonder how do we transport the giraffes: There is a special truck that has been built for this purpose that has an adjustable back end roof. The giraffe is walked into the back of the truck ensuring that it has sufficient standing room to accommodate its long neck! Should the journey encounter low lying bridges or tunnels, the truck has a automated system which slowly lowers the roof to a level that facilitates its movement through this obstacle and on emergence, it raises back up to its full height.

There are fewer than 700 Rothschild Giraffes existing in the wild in Western Kenya and Eastern Uganda, due to the destruction of their habitat and farming developments in their native ranges. Giraffes were also hunted in the past, with their tail hairs used in jewellery making and their hide used for water buckets. So, we are delighted to be part of such a successful breeding programme, adding to the international numbers of this beautiful animal and contributing to their longterm survival.
A FOND AND UNEXPECTED FAREWELL TO A DEAR COLLEAGUE, PARAIC CASEY

ON Sunday, July 22, sad news reached the park that our dear friend and colleague Paraic Casey had died whilst attempting to swim The English Channel from Dover to Calais.

Paraic became a valued member of Fota Wildlife Park’s education team in 2008. Having graduated as a computer scientist from UCC in the early 1990s, his love for the great outdoors led him to re-training as an ecologist in 2006. This career change led Paraic to Fota Wildlife Park’s gate.

Paraic’s knowledge base was extensive; yet his eagerness to attain new skills and information was formidable. Throughout his time at Fota Wildlife Park, Paraic became a familiar face to teachers and students, as well as members of the public. His ability to interact and engage people of all ages was a fantastic trait and as Paraic’s colleagues, we will remember a dedicated, dependable and good humoured individual.

All the Fota staff will forever be grateful for spending five years working with a friend like him. All the memories we have shared with him will be cherished and remembered.

Paraic was far more than a dedicated professional, he was a genuinely warm individual - one we will miss greatly. We offer our condolences to his wife Riana and extended family.

WILDLIFE

INVASION OF THE DIRTY DOZEN!
The aliens have landed - referred to by scientists as ‘the dirty dozen’, invasive species are becoming a global problem.

Much of Ireland’s natural heritage is at risk of extinction as a result of the introduction of non-native floral and faunal species such as Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam, Ruddy Duck and Grey Squirrel to mention but a few.

These alien species have been introduced into this country either intentionally or by accident. Attention to the problem of alien, or exotic species often centres on their costs to agriculture, ranching, forestry and industry. The price they exact on the nation’s forests, grasslands and waterways however, is at least as great.

Scientists worldwide are concerned that indigenous species will eventually be out-competed and subsequently our ecosystems will experience significant changes. A two-year study entitled Invasional Meltdown suggests that the Irish hare, red squirrel and red deer could be eradicated throughout Ireland in the coming decades and shows that the country’s smallest mammal, the pygmy shrew, has “completely vanished” in some areas.

The research showed “local extinction” and “rapid and complete” replacement of the pygmy shrew in certain areas due to the introduction of new foreign species. The study was conducted by scientists at Queen’s University Belfast and highlights the severity of the problem. “The introduction of alien mammals to Ireland over the last 100 years has had major detrimental effects, threatening our indigenous habitats and species,” according to lead researcher Professor Ian Montgomery. “The American grey squirrel, for example, passes a deadly virus to native red squirrels; whilst European hares threaten the ecological and genetic integrity of the native Irish hare through competition and interbreeding.”

Ireland’s native plant and animal species and the ecosystems on which they - and we - depend, are too important to sacrifice to alien invaders. This is an issue of both ecological and economic survival. Containing these invasions requires shared commitment and action both nationally and internationally. Initially, the problem may be expensive to address but the cost will be far higher if we delay - both in monetary terms and biodiversity loss.

Containing the onslaught of exotic species will not be easy or quick, but it is not impossible. This effort requires work on four fronts:
• Prevention of additional introductions.
• Early detection and eradication of new pests.
• Control and management of established problem species.
• Protection and recovery of native species and ecosystems.

The National Biodiversity Data Centre established the National Invasive Species Database in 2008 to provide up-to-date distribution information on invasive species in Ireland. Emerging invasive species policy at European and national level and amendments to national legislation are expected to result in enhanced responsibility for state bodies, traders and individuals. Local authorities are the agency responsible for managing invasive species in their region and they are seeking public support in halting the spread of the ‘dirty dozen’.

Further information is available from the National Biodiversity Data Centre website: www.biodiversityireland.ie
THE FUNKY GIBBONS

FAMILY POLITICS, COMPETITIVE SIBLINGS, MONKEY CHOW AND EXTRA LONG THUMBS - HEAD PRIMATE KEEPER TERESA POWER TELLS FOTA NEWS ABOUT THE AMAZING SINGING GIBBONS ON THE ISLANDS AT THE WILDLIFE PARK

When the park’s latest and most high profile primate Shay Gibbon was born in March this year, sister Billy The Kid wasn’t having any of it. Limping around the Agile Gibbon island holding a foot, the keepers were understandably worried. Parents Chloe and Conor fussed over her but it turned out the wily one merely had small cut and was just jealous of the attention the new arrival was getting. Sound familiar? Our primate cousins really are as smart as us!

Shay, named after Euro 2012 Irish goalkeeper Shay Given, still clings tightly to mum’s belly, so we don’t know yet if it’s a boy or a girl.

The primates are very popular at Fota. Often mistakenly referred to as monkeys, the gibbons are lesser apes and there are 15 species of gibbon worldwide – with three species of them in conservation and breeding programmes at Fota; the Agile, Lar and Siamang.

The small apes, or gibbons, are among our closest living relatives, yet they have received little attention from the scientific community and the public in comparison with the other larger living apes such as gorillas and orangutans.

However, their physical beauty, graceful acrobatic movements, and thrilling songs make it clear why gibbons are always among the most popular animals in zoos and wildlife parks throughout the world. In the wild, gibbons live in family groups consisting of a mated pair and their dependent offspring. The family unit occupies a territory and they defend its boundaries using a vigorous vocal and visual display.

The vocal display consists of a spectacular, bird-like duet between the mated pair, with the young occasionally joining in as they learn from their parents. This vocalisation, or song, is audible for long distances and is the primary way scientists (and poachers) locate wild populations. It can also be heard five kilometres away in Cobh when the Fota gibbons get going – usually in the mornings!

Native to the dwindling rain forests of Southeast, South, and East Asia, gibbons are arboreal (tree dwelling) and considered to be among the world’s greatest acrobats. They have the ability to swing from tree to tree, covering a distance of 16m, at speeds of up to 50 km/hr, while in trees 70m above the ground. This mode of locomotion - swinging under branches while suspended by their hands - is called brachiating. All gibbons have a very long thumb that stretches down their wrists and very powerful upper bodies to facilitate this. Gibbons are one of the few monogamous primates, and whether on the ground or in the trees, they are known for their dexterity and ability to walk upright.

Shay and his family are Agile Gibbons, very quick and energetic. You’ll know them by their white eyebrows. The Lar are also known as the ‘white handed’ gibbons so you can identify them easily. The Siamang are the largest of the species with different anatomical features. They are also the loudest, with a throat sac that amplifies their call. The gibbons eat figs, pulpy fruit, branches, leaves and Monkey Chow – yes, really!

HELLO SHAY!

Baby Agile Gibbon Shay Gibbon was born in March and aptly named by an astute member of the public, as his arrival coincided with the onset of Euro 2012 fever! Shay has become a socialite in recent weeks and has graced many national broadcasts. He has also grabbed the attention of his namesake – Shay Given, who has expressed an interest in popping in to see the latest addition.

FOTANews Autumn/Winter 2012
Head primate keeper Teresa Power likes to feed them little and often to mimic the way they would exist in the wild. Breakfast is one of several specially designed primate feeds brought in from the UK, including the banana-flavoured Monkey Chow – cereal if you like! A mid-day snack sees bananas and vegetables thrown onto the island but Teresa stresses that visitors to Fota must not throw food onto the islands.

A lunch of branches follows, as gibbons would eat leaves in the wild and particularly enjoy the Willow, Sycamore, Birch, Ash, Blackthorn and Whitethorn at Fota. At 4pm, they all go into their houses for the main feed of fruit and vegetables and they will also use these houses to shelter from bad storms, or when they just need a break from all the attention!

“We’re very lucky here at Fota,” says Teresa, “there’s a lot of trees, vertical height, natural foraging opportunities for the gibbons and wider primate population. There are no cages like in many zoos, so there is a proper 3D environment for them to swing and play in. We have added the poles and ropes to amuse them and put food in feeders attached to branches so they hang to get food like they would in the wild.

“They tend to be most active in mornings, and forage, although this decreases as they day goes on. They will also snooze after a feed,” she said.

The Agile family is made up of Dad Conor, Mum Chloe and children Billy and Shay. The Lar family are laidback Dad George, Mum Namfon and daughters Noi, who is blonde and Ampai, who is dark. The Siamang are a feisty lot with Dad Clyde, aged 32, keeping the peace; Mum Kaya, daughter Maggie, sons Rocky and Bart and a new baby.

The birth of the baby has meant that the two teenagers, Rocky and Bart, have had to move out of home to accommodate the new arrival. Harsh as it may seem to be separated from your family, Bart and Rocky were getting a little aggressive but have settled in very well to their newly-refurbished bachelor pad. However, they haven’t travelled far from their parental home and both Kaya and Clyde are keeping a careful eye on the two boys and their various antics!

Grooming is a very important part of family life for the gibbons and there is equal give and take as to who grooms who and when. It forms social bonds and establishes hierarchical positions – although Dad is generally the boss.

When Fota News visited, we watched Dad Clyde give Mum Kaya and the new baby a wonderful cuddle, a real heart-warmer. It’s a sight that never gets old for Teresa: “We check them all every morning as they will hide any injury or sickness which would be seen as a weakness in the wild, so we have to make sure they are OK. It takes a while to know them but they are so clever, I could watch them all day.” “They get to know us as well as we know them, I can nearly tell what mood they are in when I meet them in the mornings!” she said.

**Gibbon Facts**

- There are 15 living gibbon species, whose colouration range from cream to brown, grey and black. In some species, the males and females are a different colour. Infants may also have a different colouration to their parents.
- The largest species are known as Siamangs and can grow to 29lbs (13kg). Smaller species reach only about nine lbs (four kg).
- They can live up to 40 years; they have a baby every two years and are mature after eight years. Babies gestate for seven months.
- Gibbons thrive on the abundant fruit trees in their tropical range and are especially fond of figs. They will occasionally supplement their diet with leaves and insects.
- Their habitat is disappearing at a rapid rate and they are often captured and sold as pets, or killed for use in traditional medicines.
- All but one species of gibbon is listed as endangered or critically endangered. Often referred to as the “leaf-pickers” of the primate family and the most musical land mammal, gibbons can project their voices up to 1.5km through the dense rainforest canopy. Unfortunately, their natural habitat is being destroyed at the alarming rate of 32 acres per minute and threatens their future survival.
- When on holiday, please don’t encourage the practice of having your picture taken with a cute baby gibbon. Many mother gibbons are killed for their babies, who then grow up and are killed or starved to death.
- Please do not throw food across to the islands at Fota Wildlife Park.

**FOTA’S GIBBONS**

- Agile (white eyebrows): Conor, Chloe, Billy and baby Shay, born March 8.
- Lar (white hands): George, Namfon, Noi and Ampai.
- Siamang (larger): Clyde, Kaya, Maggie, Bart, Rocky and new baby.
Fota Wildlife Park is collaborating with Flora and Fauna International (FFI) to help save some of the world’s critically endangered primate species in Vietnam.

South East Asia is one of the most densely populated areas in the world and its ever-increasing human population poses the greatest threat to its remaining habitats. It now has more endangered, or critically endangered, species of large vertebrates - including amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals - than any other region in the world.

The loss of habitat has been one of the main factors in the decline of many species but hunting for food and medicines has emerged as the issue that will tip the survival balance to extinction for most of these endangered species in South East Asia.

Vietnam has an incredible diversity of gibbon and monkey species, many of which are found no-where else in the world. The Tonkin snub-nosed monkey Rhinopithecus avunculus and Western blackcrested gibbon, Nomascus concolor, are two of the most endangered primates in the world and have been driven to the brink of extinction by the loss of habitat and hunting. The global populations of each species are around 250 and 1500 individuals respectively and are only found in isolated patches of forest in just three provinces in Vietnam.

Central to FFI’s efforts to conserve endangered primates in Vietnam is ensuring that the local communities who live nearest these species are aware of the need to conserve and are involved in, and benefit from, efforts to conserve them.

These community conservation groups form the core of FFI’s interventions at all sites in Northern Vietnam, where endangered or critically endangered species require protection. These Community Patrol Teams (CPT) are trained, equipped and monitored by FFI, and managed by the local Forest Protection Department. Fota Wildlife Park now sponsors two of the Community Patrol Teams, each composed of six people, that patrol the forests and help protect the flora and fauna of the area. This includes their uniforms, salary, equipment, training, technical support and management.
The overall aim of this collaboration between Fota and FFI is the long-term conservation of the critically endangered Western Black Crested Gibbon at Mu Cang Chai Species and Habitat Conservation Area (Yen Bai Province) and the critically endangered Tonkin Snub-Nosed Monkey in Quan Ba District (Ha Giang Province).

In the next issue of Fota News, we will update readers on the project’s progression.
LOOK WHO’S BEEN HAVING A WILD TIME AT FOTA WILDLIFE PARK RECENTLY!

The future stars of Manchester United paid us a recent visit before their pre-season friendly with Cork City.

All the players enjoyed their trip to Fota, although I doubt they had as much fun losing to the Rebel Army at Turners Cross later that evening!
WALL OF FAME

IF YOU HAVE BEEN TO FOTA WILDLIFE PARK RECENTLY THEN YOU MIGHT SEE YOURSELF HERE...

Holly O'Flynn - Age 3 - Baltimore

Niamh & Darragh McKeown

Harry Dowling

Sam O’Riordan - Age 5

Julie, Tadgh & Jason

Andrew Condon - Blarney

Tim, Joy, Sophie & Allie

Autumn/Winter 2012 FOTANEWS
FOTA Wildlife Park will host internationally renowned wildlife artist Gareth Hook from August 25 to September 7.

Gareth’s exhibition will feature a selection of his work, including a number of oil, charcoal and pencil portraits. A native of Zimbabwe, Gareth’s inspiration to become an artist was encouraged when he became a member of the Cub Scouts, under the leadership of Craig Bone.

Craig Bone is recognised by the global art market as one of the most renowned African wildlife artists today. His ultra-realistic style of painting has enabled him to break auction records, feature on magazine covers, and illustrate a variety of books. Craig was to have a huge influence on Gareth becoming an artist in his own right. In fact, he gave Gareth his very first camera, which Gareth still has today. Craig felt it was important to capture wildlife in their natural environment and Gareth has since spent many hours in the Zambezi valley, photographing not only the animals themselves, but a variety of floral and faunal species and their associated seasonal changes.

Gareth attained A-Levels in Art and then went on to study for four years to complete a Fine Art degree at Rhodes University in South Africa, where he graduated with a distinction in Studio Practice. When he returned from university, Gareth embarked on his full-time art career. He spent time in Mana Pools and the Zambezi Valley in that first year, gathering material and inspiration for his work. He held his first successful solo exhibition in 2007 in Harare, after spending a year in England furthering his experiences and skills.

Whilst in England he travelled to the United States where he exhibited in Charleston, South Carolina. After the exhibition he was invited to spend some time painting with Craig in Florida. Gareth has since exhibited at a number of functions and events and has built up a solid clientele. Art is all about self-discipline and Gareth has learnt all about the sacrifices that go with being able to continuously produce work.

Gareth is passionate about wildlife and this passion is reflected in his art. A single painting may take many hours with sketches, memories and photographs to complete.

Visitors to the park will be provided with an opportunity to not only view this amazing array of art works; but will also be provided with an opportunity to meet Gareth in person.

For further information regarding this exhibition and public access, please check the Fota Wildlife Park website; www.fotawildlife.ie or alternatively, www.garethhook.com
KIDS CORNER

HALLOWEEN CAMP 2012

Fota Wildlife Park’s Annual Activity Camp takes place this year from Wednesday, October 31 to Friday, November 2

Wednesday: AM: Safari Trails in Fota Wildlife Park
            PM: Behind the scenes tour - Discover how the Wildlife Park operates on a day to day basis, information on animal diets and much more!

Thursday:  AM / PM: Spooky Halloween Arts and Crafts

Friday:    Friday is Halloween funday - fancy dress, spooky storytelling and lots more!

Cost:     €25 per child, per day, or €68 for three days. 10% discount is available for members or three or more children. Full payment is required on receipt of booking form. Monies paid are non-refundable.

Arrival:  Participants are to be dropped to the Education Centre, Fota Wildlife Park at 11am each morning

Collection: To be collected each evening at 4pm.

For Bookings: Please contact the Education Dept. on (021) 4812678 or 4812736 ext 206

BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

NAME THAT ANIMAL

1
2
3
4

SPOT LARRY THE LEMUR!

Larry the Lemur is cleverly hiding in places around the magazine.

Have you spotted him? If not, then have a look back over the pages and see can you spot him. He appears seven times throughout the 16-page magazine. Answers on the bottom of this page.

CAN YOU MAKE OUT WHICH ANIMAL IT IS?

HINT: These well travelled animals appear in our magazine, with our latest member coming from the Netherlands.

Name That Animal answers = Capybara, Seal, Indian Peafowl, Ring Tailed Lemur. Can you make out which animal it is? = Giraffe. Larry appears on pages = 2, 3, 4, 6, 12, 13, 15.
WILDLIFE TALKS

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<td>11.30</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>Siamang Gibbon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30</td>
<td>Eagle &amp; Seal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Penguin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>Lion-Tailed Macaque</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Siamang Gibbon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.30</td>
<td>Eagle &amp; Seal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.15</td>
<td>Giraffe Crossing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TALKS & ACTIVITIES:
AUG (DAILY) + SEPT (WEEKENDS)

FEEDING TIMES

Daily

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>ANIMAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.45</td>
<td>Penguins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.45</td>
<td>Cheetahs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.15</td>
<td>Siamang Gibbons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Cheetahs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.30</td>
<td>Penguins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>Seals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

KIDS’ ACTIVITIES

Arts & Crafts plus face-painting
Saturday & Sundays 12pm - 5pm

Keep checking our website for more up-to-date information on events.
www.fotawildlife.ie
Follow us on Facebook & Twitter

AUGUST ACTIVITIES
BASED AROUND THE EAZA SOUTH EAST ASIA CAMPAIGN EVERY WEEKEND

SEPTEMBER 1-2
MIND THE GAP CONFERENCE
Which species are native to Ireland and why? The implications of this will be the subject of lectures and discussion at Mind the Gap Conference at Fota Wildlife Park on September 1-2.

SEPTEMBER 15
INTERNATIONAL RED PANDA DAY
We’ll have activities in the park based around the conservation of the Red Panda.

OCTOBER 26-29
JAZZ FESTIVAL

OCT 31 - NOV 2
HALLOWEEN KIDS CAMPS

BOO AT FOTA:
We have a week of activities lined up at the park to celebrate the spookiest time of the year. Keep an eye out also for special night-time events to be announced soon.

CHRISTMAS AT FOTA
LATE NOVEMBER/EARLY DECEMBER.
Keep an eye on our website for details!