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# Zoo News



in the Park, and one born in the Umfolozi herd which had been conceived in the wild.

We start this year's *Zoo News* section with an exciting 'British first' from Whipsnade Park — the birth of the first white rhinoceros ever conceived in captivity in Britain. The young male white rhino was born on 21 January, after a gestation period of 16½ months. The mother is seven years old and came to Whipsnade with 19 other rhinos in 1970, from the Umfolozi and Hluhluwe Game Reserve in South Africa. The Whipsnade herd now numbers 24 — it includes two rhinos which were already

Attractions at London Zoo this Easter include the male polar bear cub born last November; the fourth polar bear to be born and reared at the zoo. The young female black rhino, born last November, is also popular with visitors; she is the second black rhino to be born at London.

A new exhibit at Marwell Zoological Park is for European bison. An area of woodland has been partly cleared, and the first pair of European bison arrived at the end of December after having completed a year's quarantine. They

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**BELLE VUE ZOO PARK**  
Hyde Road, Manchester M12 5PT.  
Tel: 061-223 1331  
*Opening Times:* 10 am to dusk (all year).  
*Admission Charges:* Adults 32p, children 22p. Parties of 25 or over booked in advance — adults 27p, children 16p (except Bank and public holidays).  
Licensed and unlicensed restaurants, snack bars, cafeterias. Parties catered for by prior arrangement.  
*Special features:* Tropical river house, aquarium, and reptilium. Great ape house. Open-air big cat enclosures. Children's zoo. Special educational facilities for schools. Free brochures on request.

**COTSWOLD WILD LIFE PARK**  
Burford, Oxfordshire.  
Tel: Burford 3006  
*Opening Times:* 10 am — 7 pm daily, 20 March to 1 November. Winter, weekends only (closed Christmas Day).  
*Admission Charges:* Adults 45p, children 25p. Special rates for parties. Car park free.  
*Special features:* Wide variety of exotic birds, mammals, reptiles; tropical marine aquaria. Set in acres of park land. Mammals include white rhino, zebra, gazelle, otters, red pandas. Attractive gardens and garden centre.

nearly 250 acres of beautiful parkland. Includes one of the world's largest groups of scimitar-horned oryx, nyala, Przewalski wild horse, European bison, Sumatran and Siberian tigers. Many large paddocks with mixed species. Excellent parking. Special educational facilities for school parties and interested adult groups.

**BRISTOL ZOO**  
Zoological Gardens, Clifton, Bristol 8.  
Tel: Bristol 38951/2  
*Opening Times:* 9 am (Sundays from 10 am) to 7pm or earlier, depending on time of year.  
*Admission Charges:* Adults 40p, children 20p. Licensed and unlicensed restaurants and snack bars. Parties catered for except at peak times.  
*Special features:* Okapis, white tigers, Delilah the gorilla and her baby Daniel, Ann the orang-utan and her two youngsters, a fine collection of birds, and beautiful gardens.

**LONDON ZOO**  
Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY.  
Tel: 01-722 3333  
*Opening Times:* 9 am to sunset or 6 pm summer (whichever is earlier), 10 am to sunset or 6 pm winter (whichever is earlier).  
*Admission Charges:* Mondays (except Bank Holidays), adults 40p, children 20p; all other days, adults 50p, children 30p (subject to alteration as from 1 April 1973).  
Licensed restaurant, bar, cafeterias, snack bars.  
*Special features:* New ape & monkey house; new elephant & rhino pavilion. The Snowdon Aviary — 150 exotic birds. The world's largest pavilion for small mammals. Children's zoo.

**VERULAMIUM ZOO**  
Verulamium, St Michaels, St Albans, Herts.  
Tel: St Albans 54756  
*Opening Times:* 11 am — 1 pm; 2 pm — 6 pm, April to October inclusive.  
*Admission Charges:* Adults 11p, children 5½p. Tea chalet. Parties catered for.  
*Special features:* British wildlife only. Mammals, birds, and reptiles.

**CHESTER ZOO**  
Zoological Gardens, Upton by Chester.  
Tel: Chester 20106/7/8  
*Opening Times:* 9 am until dusk, open daily.  
*Admission Charges:* Adults 40p, children (under 14) 20p.  
Licensed and unlicensed restaurant, snack bars, and cafeterias. Parties catered for.  
*Special features:* Animals exhibited in spacious outdoor enclosures without bars or wire. Delightful gardens. Free coloured brochure on request to Dept. R15, Chester Zoo, Chester.

**LOWTHER WILDLIFE COUNTRY PARK**  
Lowther, Penrith, Cumberland.  
Tel: Hackthorpe 392  
*Opening Times:* From 10 am; Daily — 20 April to 14 October; Sundays — 1, 8, 15 April, 21 and 28 October 1973.  
*Admission Charges:* Adults 30p, children (3-15) 20p. Special rates for parties of 20 or over. Cafeteria, refreshment kiosks, gift shop, and garden centre.  
*Special features:* Over 150 acres of beautiful parkland in which visitors can stop their cars, picnic, or walk about. Deer, cattle, sheep, wild goats, and cranes roam free. European species include wild boar, mouflon, otters, badgers, wild cats, and owls. Flamingos, geese and ducks. Parrot section and children's play areas.

**WATERFOWL GARDENS**  
(of The Wildfowl Trust)  
Peakirk, Peterborough.  
Tel: Peterborough 252271.  
*Opening Times:* As for The Wildfowl Trust.  
*Admission Charges:* Adults 25p, children 15p. Restaurant; parties must book.  
*Special features:* Over 600 birds of 100 different kinds, including flamingos.

**COLCHESTER ZOO & AQUARIUM**  
Stanway Hall, Colchester CO3 5SL.  
Tel: 0206 330253  
*Opening Times:* Summer, 9.30am to 7pm; Winter, 10 am to sunset.  
*Admission Charges:* Adults 35p, children 20p. Special rates for parties of 25 or over.  
Cafes, ices and soft drinks kiosks. Gift shop. Children's amusements. Model railway.  
*Special features:* Situated in a famous Essex beauty spot; motorists can park in the grounds, get out of their cars, and picnic on the lawns. Collection includes a wide variety of birds, mammals, and reptiles.

**MARWELL ZOOLOGICAL PARK**  
Colden Common, Nr. Winchester, Hants.  
Tel: Owslebury 206  
*Opening Times:* 10 am to 7 pm or sunset (whichever is earlier).  
*Admission Charges:* Adults 40p, children 25p. Reduced rates for parties of 20 or over. Cafeteria, licensed bar, refreshment kiosks.  
*Special features:* Unique collection of rare and endangered animals many already breeding, in

**WHIPSNADE ZOO**  
Dunstable, Beds. LU6 2LF.  
Tel: Whipsnade 471  
*Opening Times:* 10 am to sunset or 7 pm (whichever is earlier).  
*Admission Charges:* Adults 45p, children 25p (subject to alteration as from 1 April 1973). Cafeteria, snacks and refreshment kiosks. Picnic boxes available, order in advance.  
*Special features:* New water mammals exhibit, displaying dolphins with underwater viewing. Herd of rare white rhinos. Umfolozi steam railway. Children's zoo. 500 acres of beautiful countryside. Over 2,000 wild animals.

**THE WILDFOWL TRUST**  
Slimbridge, Gloucestershire.  
Tel: Cambridge (Glos.) 333  
*Opening Times:* 9.30 am daily (except Christmas Day) until 6.30 pm or a quarter of an hour after sunset, whichever is earlier. Sunday mornings reserved for members. No dogs.  
*Admission Charges:* Adults 45p, children 25p. Mondays (except Bank Holidays) 35p and 20p. Restaurant; parties must book.  
*Special features:* World-famous collection including breeding flocks of flamingos; tropical house; large flocks of wild geese and swans in winter, with special viewing facilities open to the public; permanent exhibitions.

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originated from the Bialowieza Forest in Poland, where the species has been re-established in the wild.

A pair of African hunting dogs (which had been born at Whipsnade) have produced pups at Marwell — under somewhat unusual circumstances. The bitch experienced a very difficult, unsuccessful labour, and on examination it was found that the first pup was lying in a transverse position, preventing a natural birth. A Caesarian section was performed, which was successful — nine pups were removed, of which six were alive. Attempts were then made to get the mother to accept two of her offspring by coating the pups with afterbirth to conceal the smell of humans. But unfortunately the bitch ignored her pups, and after only two hours one had died. The other pup was returned to its brothers and sisters which were being bottle-fed. All the pups were very delicate, however, and two more died. An appeal was put out quickly for a foster-mother, and the response was enormous. A mongrel bitch which had all but one of its recent litter was chosen. The three remaining hunting dog pups, now in a very weakened state, were introduced to the tolerant bitch. Within twelve hours there was a dramatic improvement in the condition of the pups, and they fed normally. At six weeks they were weaned, and are continuing to grow rapidly. It is hoped that they will soon be introduced to the adult hunting dogs.

Philip Wayre, owner of the Norfolk Wildlife Park at Great Witchingham, has launched The Otter Trust, which aims to promote the conservation of otters all over the world. Many naturalists have given their backing to the Trust, which hopes to recruit 2,000 members. Mr. Wayre is the Trust's honorary director, and he has opened temporary offices for the Trust at Great Witchingham. He hopes to be able to establish the Trust at Raydon, near Hadleigh, in Suffolk, where a 60-acre site has been purchased. The site includes a valley with a stream, a small lake, marshes, and open parkland. The Otter Trust aims to promote and support field research on otters, and to breed otters in captivity. On 27 December a common otter was born in the Norfolk Wildlife Park, the fifth breeding in captivity in Britain this century — all of which have been at Great Witchingham.

For the first time in Europe, bongo antelopes have been bred at Frankfurt Zoo in Germany. A young female, born on 21 January, is only the fourth to have been born in a zoo. The three adult bongos at Frankfurt arrived from Kenya in 1970. Bongos are among the most beautiful, and elusive, species of antelope. They have reddish-brown fur and white stripes, and the young calf is already as colourful as its parents.

*Above: Whipsnade's white rhino calf at 10 days old. Right: Polar bears play in the snow at Brookfield Zoo, Chicago*

MICHAEL LYSTER/ZSL



BROOKFIELD ZOO

