

APE RESCUE CHRONICLE

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

It has been a long winter and a lot has happened since the last issue of the ARC. In January the television series, *Monkey Business*, went on air for seven weeks and it was an unqualified success. Everybody has been talking about the chimpanzee soap opera. With the help of Meridian Broadcasting, we should have the video available in the shop soon. Off the back of the series, the radio station, 2CR and DJ Graham Mack have launched an appeal to build a new house for Charlie, their adopted chimp. Work has already started on the building and it should be finished sometime around Easter (see Charlie's House).

When Gordon was born, we received a great deal of help from a number of people. Dr Peter Johnson, Dr Gerry Cox, Mr Mike Dooley, and Mrs Hilary Smith all provided medical care for premature Gordon. Bristol Zoo and Draeger Medical gave incubators which were essential during Gordon's first few weeks. To all of these people we (and especially Gordon) are indebted. We have initiated a keeper's exchange programme with several different zoos in Europe. The idea being that our staff can get a bit of experience working with different species of primates as well as a different perspective on the way in which other animal collections manage

species which we have at our park. The first keeper has already worked for one week at Twycross Zoo and we are now organising for others to visit Edinburgh Zoo, Marwell Zoo, and Apenheul primate park.

Over the past winter, the animals have been relatively healthy with few colds. However, in January, Chico got a very bad case of the flu. The vet came and prescribed Chico some antibiotics and A1 Hire & Sales gave us the use of a wall paper stripper to steam up Chico's house. We also owe a big thank you to Jon Stocking of the Endangered Species Chocolate Company who gave us hundreds of their Gorilla, Chimp, and Forest Chocolate bars. Of course, 10% of sales from this company go to supporting conservation projects around the world and the chocolate is excellent! Look for them in the shop. We have received a very kind donation of two-way radios from Dorset Police Amateur Radio Society. Mr Ted Bain brought several radios and they have been in use ever since. Thank you.

During both December and January the office was flooded with presents for Christmas and Bob's birthday. He enjoyed all his gifts and we have many more birthdays coming up over the next couple of months; don't forget! A very special



thank you goes out to Diane and Richard Oak who have been bringing donations and presents for the chimps regularly. Look inside for the photos of the trapeze rings, which they donated to both the nursery and Paddy's groups. We all owe a big thank you to Gwen and Brian Gill who prepare all of the Ape Rescue Chronicles ready to post to everyone. Their effort is a great help.

[Signature]
Scientific Director

IT'S A BOY

By Mike Colbourne



My first impression of Gordon on my first day back off holiday was this tiny red bundle wrapped up in blankets held tightly in Jeremy's arms.

Amy, Gordon's mother, had given birth to him on the evening of 9 December last year and although she had not harmed him in any way, she had in fact refused to look after him. She had cleaned him up and bitten through the umbilical cord but instead of clasping him to her body, left him in the straw. As she showed no maternal instincts it was obvious that Gordon would have to be hand reared. Normally a new born baby Orang would grip mum's hair with hands and feet, hanging on for dear life, but Gordon's gripping reflex was very weak. It also became apparent that his sucking reflex was not as strong as it should be. His weight at birth was 1.45 Kg and on that first day Peter Johnson, his very own pediatrician, visited Gordon. Although hungry and crying for food he could not get the hang of sucking the bottle, each feed took ages.

DAY 3 His intake of fluid was not sufficient to prevent him from becoming dehydrated so he was fed through a tube in his nose. We were very lucky to have the services of Hilary Smith, a midwife, who kept a close eye on Gordon. Because the great apes are so close to humans it is quite normal to have vets and human doctors working side by side.

DAY 4 Tube removed as he was taking bottle better and of course it was a bit uncomfortable for him.

DAY 9 By early afternoon he looks rather limp and Hilary puts the nasogastric tube back in his nose and we start feeding him with the tube. He has also developed thrush in his mouth and throat, so we gave him a few drops of Nystan to clear it up. At 22.15 hrs, after his feed, he vomits a little milk and becomes very limp in my arms, head lolling back and jaw dropping. He looks like he is going to die.

CONTINUED ON PG 2

Vets, Mike Nathan and Dr. John Lewis are called immediately as well as the local GP, Gerry Cox. Gordon is immediately put on an intravenous drip and placed in an incubator. He is also given a course of antibiotics. Our main concern is to re-hydrate him and fight off any infection, which could easily kill him at this very critical stage in his early life.

DAY 10 Dr John Lewis arrives early in the morning to see Gordon and decide what is the best course of action. John feels his only chance is to aggressively re-hydrate Gordon by giving him a great deal of fluid intravenously throughout the morning. He stays by Gordon's side for the next 8 hours. By the afternoon Gordon looks brighter and stronger. The drip is left in.

The next few days were a constant battle to keep him alive. At every 2 hourly feeds, day and night, it was vital to offer him a bottle first to enable him to develop his sucking reflex. Any milk he did not take by bottle was given through the nasogastric tube. We also weighed each nappy to compare the quantity of urine passed with the amount of fluid going in the other end.

A couple of times he managed to pull the nasogastric tube out and after it was replaced a tiny spot of super glue was used to keep it attached to his head.

DAY 14 The intravenous drip was removed as he was becoming much stronger and taking sufficient milk by bottle and tube for his weight.

DAY 18 Gordon manages to pull nasogastric feeding tube from his nose, so the vets decide to leave it out and see how he does on bottle alone.

DAY 19 Weight 1.7 Kg. Taking bottle very well and getting much stronger. Since the tubes have been removed we have been bringing him out of the incubator for short periods of time, and the temperature in the incubator has been lowered slowly to match the room temperature until both are at 25°C.

DAY 25 Weight 1.825 Kg. Due to power cuts it was necessary for Gordon to go to bed with me to maintain his body heat, fortunately it came back on at midnight so he was returned to his incubator once it had warmed up.

DAY 26 Power cut from 16.25 hrs until 10.00 hrs the next day. Gordon was wrapped up and spent all night in bed with me. On reading my notes, I wrote "Gordon has fidgeted all night in bed, he might be able to sleep, but I can't".

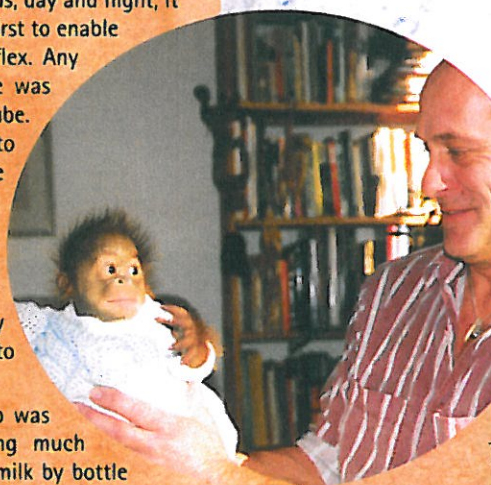
DAY 27 Put in incubator in front of Aga to keep warm until power returns at 10.00 hrs.

DAY 28 He loves watching TV and turns his head to look at screen when feeding. Spending lots of time out of incubator. In fact his incubator is only really being used as a cot now that he is feeding well and getting stronger each day. We have engaged Philip Pound, a vet nurse, to baby-sit.

DAY 32 Becomes constipated and cries when picked up. I am worried that there might be a problem with his breathing and call the vet Mike Nathan. After listening to his chest he decided that there is no infection and that his noisy breathing must be because of his pain caused from his



The first couple of weeks of Gordon's life were a delicate balance



Mike looking after tiny Gordon

Gordon is visited by Peter Johnson, his pediatrician



constipation. Sugar has been given on a regular basis but not successful.

DAY 40 Because of the continued problem of constipation we change his milk from SMA Gold to SMA White and begin giving him lactose to move things along.

DAY 41 We now have a cage for him on a table in my living room, which will give him more room to develop his crawling skills.

DAY 52 He manages to pull himself up on top of the cushions on the settee and actually looks to see the TV when he is being fed. He seems to prefer cartoons, presumably the noise and quick movement catches his eyes.

DAY 57 Last night he slept from midnight to 08.00 hrs which was good news for me and he can now do good push ups, lifting his whole body up clear of the blankets.

DAY 79 Manages to flip himself over onto his back; he is gripping the cage bars with his left foot and clutching his blanket, tightly across his chest. He looks greatly relieved when I turn him over. He has been given small amounts of baby food since Day 50 but he now demands his bottle before his baby food. At this stage in his life he is now developing his mind and makes it quite clear if he does not want something.

DAY 84 A bad day for constipation. Given a dose of Lactose, which works but leaves him with

terrible wind and a distended stomach. It takes about 24 hours for his stomach to settle. He starts feeding well again and all is back to normal.

DAY 88 8 March 1998. After a very worrying start Gordon is doing very well. His weight is 3.4 Kg. Every day he takes more food. He now cries to be picked up, demands attention, and wants to play. At the moment he takes 15 minutes to crawl from one end of my settee to me at the other.

His slow start from birth, points to the fact that he was probably 3 to 4 weeks premature. With medical help on hand 24 hours a day, and Gordon's strong will to survive, we now have a beautiful baby Orang who over the next few months will develop into a very inquisitive handful of a baby.

He is still much too young and delicate to bring into the Park and so will remain living with me at home. Our plan is to develop a home for him in the Park in a couple of months when he should be fitter and stronger to ward off any colds or flu bugs. Although the last few months have been very hectic and scary, it is a joy to see that Gordon has developed into a healthy normal baby Orang. The next few months will be very exciting to witness his first tooth and first wobbly steps around my living room, no doubt wrecking everything in sight. That is something I look forward to with great trepidation and will report on in the next edition of the Ape Rescue Chronicle.



A KEEPER'S VIEW

By Dave Simmonds

In my view, the proposed idea of bringing Charlie up from the Templer Pavilions and putting him with the Nursery and then Chico's group, is an excellent idea.

Being the first chimp enclosure built at Monkey World 11 years ago, Chico's area is the furthest enclosure from the road and therefore far away from the traffic. Perhaps more importantly, this enclosure is far away from the tanks, which Charlie could do without. In his old enclosure Charlie used to display at the tanks and this often got him in trouble, as the other chimps did not understand his intentions.

Some of you may remember 10 years ago when this enclosure had a large stand of trees with an electric fence around them. Unfortunately, all the trees in Chico's enclosure have since died. Chimps are very strong and destructive and have caused deforestation of their own enclosure. First taking off the foliage, eating some of it, then breaking off the branches to construct huge nests, left the trees little chance of survival. Watching this behaviour was very interesting, as it was much like the night nests that wild chimps are known to make. The chimps then started to take the bark off the trees, looking for the grubs and insects. Once the bark is off a tree, it dies. The enclosure is built around a natural hill and once the chimps are beyond the rise you can no longer see them.

Charlie's new house will provide the group with an improvement to their inside dens. The new house will be much easier for the keepers to work in and give the chimps a bigger area inside. There is also another benefit as you, the public, will be able to see Charlie and his new group inside their big play area when it is cold and wet outside.

Believe it or not, all of the chimps benefit from seeing the public. You are all as different as the chimps are, and they enjoy the diversity of human life that comes to see them each year. Visitors entertain our chimps and there is a noticeable difference to the way they behave in the summer to the winter. It is clear that they look forward to having people in each summer. As reactions go, chimpanzees live for them. Tapping on the windows can be annoying to the chimps and we would prefer if you did not do it. What they do is entirely different; it's their house!

Charlie's new house will be a two storey building with spacious inside quarters and a new kitchen. The second floor will have access by two large ramps, glass viewing areas into the play room, and also viewing over their outside enclosure. This will allow you to see further into their habitat.

Chico's group currently consists of 5 chimpanzees: -

CHICO, DOMINANT ♂ Big, strong, sleek, tough and powerful looking! A bit of a softy really, just like Paddy. Seen most often sitting on

Charlie will be in his new chimp house soon



his own on the platform watching the world go by.

MONA, DOMINANT ♀ Very small and hunched up looking. Runs with a kind of gallop but not very fast. In bright sunlight she is often seen with her hand over her eyes shielding out the sun.

MOJO ♂ Tanned brown flat face with quite a wide head. He has a dark mask colour around his eyes. Often seen following or harassing the females by chasing them or throwing things at them.

CHATTA ♀ Tanned face but her head is a bit more oval. She has a high forehead with wrinkles. Almost the 'baby' of the group. She is sometimes seen holding her hand out, mouth formed into a trumpet shape and making a noise like a Kazoo.

PEGGY ♀ A thin oval black face. Noticeable front tooth missing and a notch taken out of her left ear. Sleek looking like Chico but she is shy and not often seen unless she is with the others. Peggy has a 'Jekyll and Hyde' character and is a very different chimp when she has come into breeding season!

The group is generally quite quiet so the addition of an adult male and some babies will have some interesting results. All Charlie wants is a peaceful life, having no part to play in the politics of the group. He may get that here.

This will not be an introduction of two adult groups and therefore two dominant chimps contesting for supreme dominance as it was in Paddy's and Rodney's Group. I imagine that Chico's sub-adults would appreciate the introduction of a large male and babies into their group. That is not to say that there will not be any problems. With all of the introductions I have witnessed chimps never fail to surprise me. Always there is a lot of noise but there are subtle things going on when the noise has died down.

With the introduction of Charlie I look forward to seeing how the Nursery group will get on. Some of them are still small and should benefit from teachers like Charlie, Chico, Mojo, Mona, Chatta and Peggy.

BUILDING BUILDING BUILDING

It has been all action at the park over the winter. With help from Banghi's Nose Appeal, we were able to finish work on Amy and Banghi's new house; and it was finished just in time for Gordon's arrival. Their new house has a sunroof, central heating, deep bark litter on the floor, and ropes, tires and shelves for them to climb and rest on. Both Amy and Banghi still use their old house as well, but sometime during the next year, we will be remodelling it into a kitchen.

Paddy and Rodney's Group have had their climbing frames expanded with long stretches of telephone poles with trapeze hand swings hanging from them. After seeing how popular the waterfall was with the pig-tailed macaques, we decided to build one for the chimps as well. It has been a huge success with the chimps trying to figure out where the continuous supply of water is coming from. They have also been seen throwing stones into the pool and filling their mouths with water and spitting at each other. The fences around the two enclosures have also been rebuilt as they were seven years old and in need of refurbishment.

For the nursery we expanded their climbing area with more poles and the trapeze hand swings. After a bit of apprehension, the youngsters were soon seen swinging from arm to arm across the enclosure. Most recently we have begun construction on Charlie's new house which will also become home to the babies as well. For more information about this site, read on!

In the Visitor's Centre a new floor has been laid down and the shop has been expanded. Now there is more than ever monkey and ape paraphernalia. The patio outside the cafe has also been covered over so there is more sheltered seating. Oh yes, and by Easter we hope to have finished remodelling Pets Encounter.

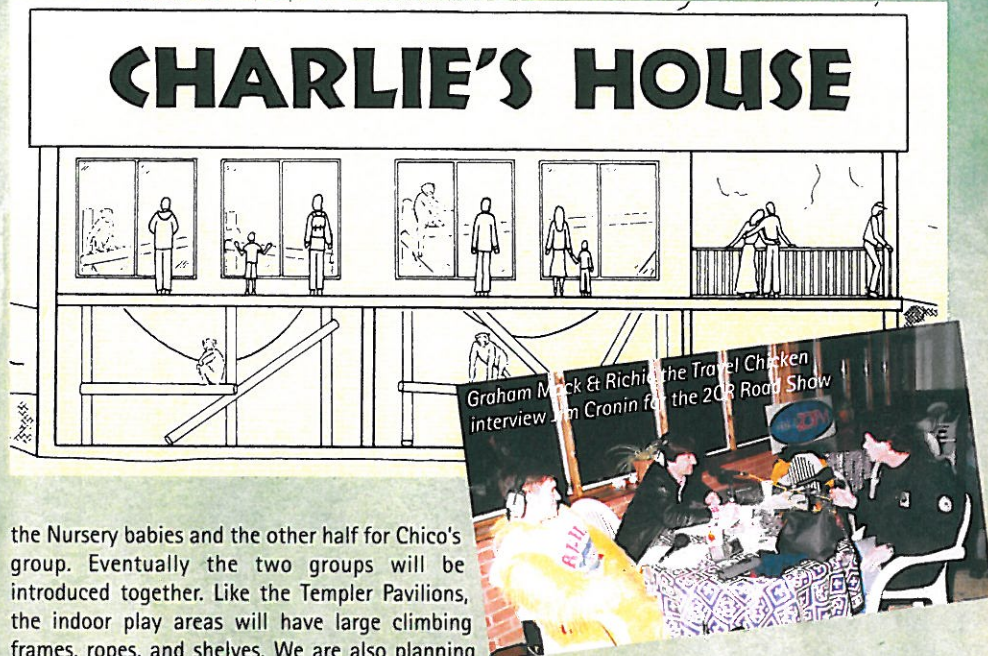


Adam's Axe Men put up the telephone poles and trapeze swings...
...and the chimps play on them



On 6 February 2CR Radio Station came down to Monkey World and while broadcasting their road show, they launched an appeal to help build Charlie, their adopted chimp, a new house. The response has been tremendous and on 11 March, we were able to begin construction. With the help of Graham Mack, the 2CR DJ, most of the materials for his new house have been donated by local businesses. For their help we would like to thank the following organisations: AA Décor, Amtred Ltd, Andrew Sykes Ltd, Bourne Gas, County Developments, ECM Pest Control, Fletchamore, Forticrete, Steve King, Leyland Paint, Mr Loader, McNicholas, Dr. Moon, Newlec, Ready Mix, Blackheat Ltd, Sean Lawry Plumbers, Simon Orgill Architects, Sharp & Fisher, Sherry & Haycock, South Coast Concrete Plumbing, Southern Electricity Board, STB Electrical, Suttle's Quarries, Travis Perkins, Vulcascot. All of this is being organised and built by Gary Towers of Towers Construction.

The new house will be divided up into two separate enclosures; one half for Charlie and



the Nursery babies and the other half for Chico's group. Eventually the two groups will be introduced together. Like the Templer Pavilions, the indoor play areas will have large climbing frames, ropes, and shelves. We are also planning to build a termite mound for the chimps to fish for hidden treats and there will be a separate kitchen

for this building. We hope Charlie's new house will be ready some time around Easter.



SPRING BIRTHDAY LIST

On January 27 Bob received loads of different presents including cards, fruit, bread, vitamins, and toys. We always ensure that the birthday boy or girl gets their presents and Bob seemed to enjoy all of his. Over the next couple of months we have many more birthdays. Check the list to see if your chimp is growing a year older.

APRIL 23 Arfur • 24 Jess • 24 Cathy • 24 Grisby • 24 Clin
24 Gamba • 24 Paco

MAY 31 Rodney • 31 Evie



GURNING FOR HELP

There are many ways which you can help Monkey World to rescue more chimpanzees and rehabilitate the animals we have already rescued. All donation money goes into a 100% fund which means that every penny goes to the animals; NO administrative costs are removed. We are still following up on negotiations with foreign governments to rescue more chimps that need our help, and of course this next summer we will make a big effort to rescue the last beach chimp in Spain.

Monkey World has started a special fund, the Laurie Parkin Education Centre Appeal, in order to build a multi-media centre at the park. While we have had many kind donations and offers of technical support, we could use your support.

You can help by adopting a monkey or ape and you will receive a year's

pass to the park, a photo of the monkey or ape, a certificate, and the Ape Rescue Chronicle three times per year.

Donate goods such as fruit, vegetables, or bread. The primates also need vitamins and minerals such as cod liver oil and vitamin C. We can also use thick rope and heavy-duty dog toys.

Establish a legacy for the long-term welfare of the animals and be remembered in our memorial garden.

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