

# Society pages

## Donations

It is gratifying to report that donations to the Society and its *Oryx* 100% Fund continue to increase. In future all donations will be acknowledged in the Annual Report.

## FFPS Council Members

David Chivers was elected to Council, for the second time, in September 1985, and Sue Runyard was co-opted on to Council shortly afterwards.



## David Chivers

David was educated at Merchant Taylors' School, Northwood, and Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, where he graduated in Medical Sciences (Veterinary) and Physical Anthropology in 1966. His boyhood ambition to be a veterinary surgeon evaporated while at Cambridge as he found the opportunity to combine his natural history (bird-

watching) interests with an interest in human biology and evolution. Being born in the Year of the Monkey and spending his formative months in Marsh Gibbon in Oxfordshire clearly had a major effect on him! Instead of proceeding with clinical veterinary studies, he embarked on doctoral studies in the Department of Physical Anthropology. After gaining experience in the study of forest primates on Barro Colorado Island in the Panama Canal Zone, investigating the role of dawn calls in the spacing of howler monkey groups, he carried out a two-year study of the siamang in Peninsular Malaysia with the help of his first wife Sarah, gaining his PhD in 1972.

For regular employment, he returned to the Sub-Department of Veterinary Anatomy in 1970 as a University Demonstrator, upgraded to University Lecturer in 1975. As well as teaching veterinary students the anatomy of domestic animals, he also taught primate biology and behaviour in the Department of Physical Anthropology on a regular basis, fostering primate research in South-East Asia through a succession of research students (13 to date). Most worked in Peninsular Malaysia, many at the Kuala Lompat Post of the Krau Game Reserve in central Pahang, and in 1980 he edited '*Malayan Forest Primates: Ten Years Study in Tropical Rain Forest*', published by Plenum Press, collating the results of this research. Following regular visits to Malaysia, including a WWF survey of the Krau Game Reserve in 1977, he gained a US National Institutes of Health contract for the University of Cambridge to collaborate with two Malaysian universities in a three-year programme of co-ordinated field and laboratory research on primates, starting in 1978. It was hoped that the results of studies of nutrition and reproduction in captivity would be relevant to the management of wild populations. His growing appreciation of the importance of applying the results of scientific research to conservation and sustained management of tropical rain forests has been the basis of much of his research and publications.

During the 1970s he developed studies of the anatomy of the gastrointestinal tract of primates and other mammals, in collaboration with Dr Marcel Hladik of the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Brunoy near Paris. The under-

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standing gained of the constraints imposed by gut morphology led to an appreciation of the significance of the diets of primates in the wild. This work has recently been developed in collaboration with Professor Bob Martin, fellow FFPS Council Member. David followed Bob as President of the Primate Society of Great Britain and is now completing his four-year term. He has been active in the Primate Society of Great Britain since 1973, when he initiated a listing of current primate field studies, which he still produces at least biennially; he was Treasurer from 1974 to 1977. He served on the FFPS Council from 1980 to 1984, joining the Projects (now Small Grants) Committee at its inception in 1983. He has organized three international congresses, editing the resulting volumes with colleagues. Apart from the 1976 6th Congress of the International Primatological Society in Cambridge (yielding four volumes), 1984 saw the publication of *The Lesser Apes: Evolutionary and Behavioural Biology and Food Acquisition and Processing in Primates*, which embody his main research interests.

He spent five weeks on the Amazon in 1983, a truly memorable experience, travelling around the mouth of the Japura river with Marcio Ayres, who is now completing his doctoral dissertation on the red-faced uakari (or English monkey, as it is locally known!). In 1984 he made his first trip to Africa, to the 10th Congress of the International Primatological Society in Nairobi, finding time to visit Amboseli, Tsavo West, Lakes Nakuru and Naivasha and Mutara ranch where an American Dana Olsen was studying patas monkeys: it was a marvellous experience with easier observation conditions and many more home comforts than one finds in the jungles of the Far East. Supervising research students and attending conferences have also taken him to Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bangladesh, India, Japan, Sarawak, Sabah, Java, Sumatra and the Mentawai Islands. Now, with fellow Council Member Bob Stebbings, an Oxford botanist, Caroline Pannell, and freelance photographer and explorer, Rupert Ridgeway, he is developing a study of the ecology of fruit-eating animals in the watershed of the Barito river in the centre of Borneo with the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry.

Remarried in 1983 to Christine, life is further  
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enriched by two boisterous young sons and two step-children, in addition to a daughter, leaving little time for hobbies, other than supporting Cambridge United . . . from an increasing distance!



### Sue Runyard

'Is it a bird—is it a plane? No, it's a bat!' Expertise in wildlife identification is not my strong point, even though I work for the home of taxonomy: the Natural History Museum. I am tolerated there by kind colleagues because of my supposed skills in wooing and soothing the press, and encouraging the less loquacious scientists to explain in words of one syllable what goes on.

I have always occupied a 'no-man's-land' position between experts and outsiders, trying to bring different disciplines and interests together. This started when I joined a telecommunications research group. At that time they were developing new consumer goods, and found that the engineers were producing ingenious technical products that their marketing force was having difficulty in selling to the public. My job was to find

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out what the public wanted, discuss it with the sales force, and feed back the information to designers and engineers, so that desirable as well as functional products could be produced. So much of this sounds like common sense, but even when different groups of people talk to one another frequently, they do not always start from the same position, and this causes expensive problems.

The next intermediary role I took on could be regarded as the zenith of communications jobs—or the pit, depending on your standpoint. I became a journalist. The Pulitzer Prize was in no danger—I covered everything from football matches to council meetings, and on one occasion, the making of a lifesize jelly in the shape of a naked lady. Having honed my wits on such challenges, I moved on to publicity work, working first for the Civil Service Commission, then the Victoria and Albert Museum, and now the British Museum (Natural History). My job at the Victoria and Albert Museum was very much concerned with sponsorship seeking and increasing public awareness of the museum. I sit on a local educational trust and the Anglo-Italian Society for the Protection of Animals. I occasionally lecture on public relations at Leicester University, and am keenly interested in garden design and garden history—largely through the Museum of Garden History at Lambeth.

I am delighted to be involved with the FFPS. I am new enough to be able still to see the Society from the outside, and am interested in the way people perceive its name and work. Conservation and environment issues are obviously gathering into a tidal wave. Many people of different disciplines and with diverse interests are joining the bandwagon or starting to beat the drum on their own account. The FFPS has been in the field longer than others, and holds a shining reputation with the *cognoscenti*. Can it harness the new interest into constructive channels, and meet the competitive challenge with professionalism and style? Are we matching our enthusiasm with clearly defined objectives expressed in a common language? The Mountain Gorilla project has won great support from wildlife enthusiasts, and the Bat project has reached a whole new audience. Can we run fast enough to capitalize on all our potential, win friends and influence people? Obviously I believe so, and will do all I can to help.

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## Annual General Meeting

The 82nd Annual General Meeting will be held in the Meeting Rooms of the Zoological Society of London at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 10 September 1986. Following the AGM, Dr Martin Holdgate, Chief Scientist at the Department of the Environment, will give an Address, and a wine and cheese buffet supper will be served. Tickets for the AGM are free, but a charge of £4 will be made for the supper. A stamped addressed envelope would be appreciated with your order for tickets, which should be sent to FFPS, 8–12 Camden High Street, London NW1 0JH.

## Local group meetings

### Bristol and the West of England Group

Thursday 16 October 1986 at 7.30 pm: Bob Stebbings will give a talk on bats. For full details write to: WOW Posters, PO Box 308, Bristol BS99 7LQ, and please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

### North-West Group

Friday 19 September 1986: 'An Evening of Endangered British Wildlife', will include a talk on bats by Tony Hutson, FFPS Bat Conservation Officer. There will also be a short film, wine and a buffet supper. The venue, ticket prices and time are to be decided later. Full details are available from Nick Ellerton, telephone 0244 380280.

## Do you have a skeleton in your cupboard?

Would you be willing to let your old hunting trophies and souvenirs wear out in the cause of conservation education? An FFPS member is looking for skins, heads, feet, bones, shells and other unwanted animal relics to be used as educational handling materials for children and adults.

If you can help, please contact Gill Standing, Assistant Education Officer, London Zoo, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY. Tel: 01-722 3333 Ex 554.

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