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Zoo Bereavement

The Welsh Mountain Zoo is sad to report the death on 6th July, after a short illness, of Tony Jackson, one of the key figures in the development of the Zoo. The eldest of the three sons of Robert and Margaret Jackson, founders of the Welsh Mountain Zoo, Tony Jackson was born into a life [...]

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The Welsh Mountain Zoo is sad to report the death on 6th July, after a short illness, of [Tony Jackson](#), one of the key figures in the development of the Zoo.

The eldest of the three sons of Robert and Margaret Jackson, founders of the Welsh Mountain Zoo, Tony Jackson was born into a life surrounded by wildlife in all its forms. His earliest memories were of accompanying his father on his rounds of visits to the pet shops, aquaria and assorted Zoological Collections in the North West of England where Robert plied his trade.

Educated at North Cestrian Grammar School, Tony preferred the outdoor life and on leaving school he was apprenticed to the famous Clibrans Nurseries in Hale, Cheshire before continuing his training at Bodnant Gardens under the tutelage of Head Gardener

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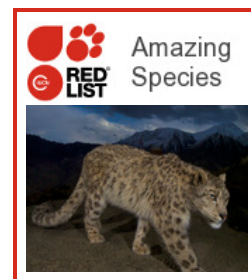
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Charles Puddle.

The Welsh Mountain Zoo opened in 1963 and in 1967 Tony came back to join his father and mother in establishing the collection, with a particular focus on the grounds and gardens of the Flagstaff Estate, in which the Zoo is set.

The untimely death of Robert Jackson in 1969 brought Tony together with his brothers Chris and Nick to form a hands-on management team with Margaret. In the early 1970s Tony undertook a variety of roles including that of Falconer to the Mayor of Colwyn Bay and featured prominently in the 1972 BBC2 Look Stranger documentary – Our Mum’s Mountain Zoo.

When the Welsh Mountain Zoo became a charity, the Zoological Society of Wales, in 1983 Tony became Works and Horticulture Director and continued in that role until his retirement in 2006. Amongst his many achievements were the establishment of the Zoo as the National Reference Collection of the plant Hoya and the supervision of the building of many of the Zoo’s most popular exhibits and features.

A celebration of Tony’s life will be held on Friday 19th July at 12:45pm at Bron y Nant Chapel (near the Crematorium) followed by interment at Colwyn Bay Cemetery.

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