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WILD TALK

2016



RHINO BABY BOOM!



John a few hours old with mum Nancy

In 2015 the Park was delighted to welcome the arrival of two 'bundles of joy' in the form of Ian and John, two white rhino calves...

Ian was born on 27th March, the day the Park celebrated its 45th anniversary. His birth was caught on camera by Keepers and he was born to mum Ruby in less than ten minutes, in full view of staff here at lunchtime, a moving experience many will never forget.

Ian was named after the South African conservationist Ian Player (1925-2014) who spearheaded efforts to save the White Rhino from extinction. The Park's original Rhino pair, called Lebombo and Somtuli, arrived from Umfolozi in 1972 as a result of Ian's Rhino conservation initiatives.

Nancy had given birth to Astrid in 2013 and Keepers knew she was pregnant for a second time, but weren't expecting her to give birth until later in the year. They

were taken by surprise in the early evening on 18th August when John the Rhino was born!

John the baby rhino is named in memory of Mr John Heyworth (1925-2012) who founded the Park in 1970. Rhinos were one of his favourite species at the Park and he would have loved to have seen the calves. His son Reggie, Managing Director, commented: *"You wait forty years and then three come along at once! This is such a happy event for the Park, and I have to pinch myself when I see six rhinos on the lawn."*



Ian with mum Ruby

Births in captivity are relatively rare, with only fourteen White Rhinos being born in European zoos in the last twelve months. The Park is responsible for two out of the three births in the UK in 2015.

DID YOU KNOW? If you see some Rhinos together, the 'collective noun' for the group is a 'crash'!