

Goodall in 1965.



DID YOU KNOW?
During a ceremony at Buckingham Palace on 20 February 2004, Goodall was made a Dame of the British Empire.

The champion of chimps

Dr Jane Goodall is the only human to have been accepted into a chimpanzee community.

Jane Goodall is one of the most famous primatologists in the world. A primatologist is someone who studies primates – the group of mammals that includes humans, lemurs, lorises and monkeys. Goodall was born in London on 3 April 1934, and her love of animals and Africa began when she was little, thanks to books such as *Tarzan of the Apes* and *The Story of Dr Dolittle*. At 26, Goodall travelled by boat to Tanzania, in Africa, with just a pair of binoculars and a notebook as her equipment. While she was there, she made one of the most incredible discoveries in the animal kingdom.

In the jungle

During her time in the Tanzanian jungle, Goodall took a different approach to that of other primatologists. Instead of numbering the chimpanzees she was studying, she gave them names and began to earn their trust, creating a unique bond and gradually being accepted by the animals as a member of the group. Not only did Goodall disprove the theory that chimpanzees are vegetarians – she observed them eating meat in 1961 – but she also found that it's not only humans who make and use tools. Goodall watched as two chimps, nicknamed David Greybeard and Goliath, used sticks to fish for termites in a termite mound. She strongly believed, and eventually demonstrated, that chimpanzees have emotions and personalities – just like we do.

Roots & Shoots

In 1977, she founded the Jane Goodall Institute for Wildlife Research, Education and Conservation. It's a charity that, among other things, works to preserve chimpanzees and their wild habitats by promoting sustainable living within local communities. Just 14 years later, in 1991, Goodall and 16 Tanzanian students set up Roots & Shoots, which she describes as a "programme for young people in which they decide on projects to improve the world for people, animals and the environment". Funded through donations, tens of thousands of young people across nearly 100 countries have been involved in Roots & Shoots.

An amazing legacy

Goodall has written several books and appeared in lots of wildlife documentaries and TV series to spread her message of protecting chimpanzees and the planet we share with them. She spends much of her year travelling around the world – 300 days on average. She speaks to many different people to raise awareness of the threats chimpanzees face. To find out how you can get involved in Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots programme, visit rootsnshoots.org.uk

Getting to know Dr Goodall

The Week Junior spoke to the famous primatologist.



What's your greatest achievement?

Since chimpanzees are so like us biologically and because of the equally striking similarities in behaviour and psychology, I was eventually able to help scientists understand that there was not – as I was first taught – a difference in kind between us and other animals. That we were not the only beings with personalities, minds capable of thinking and decision making, and emotions such as happiness, sadness, jealousy and grief.

What is the biggest challenge facing our planet?

Probably climate change, but this is due to other connecting major problems. This includes the unsustainable lifestyles we lead; for example, having far more than we need and depleting finite natural resources at a terrifying rate.

Do you have a particular bond with any animals?

I had a very close bond with a dog called Rusty, who came into my life when I was about 10 years old. I then had a very close relationship with David Greybeard, the first chimpanzee who lost his fear of me, in Gombe, in east Africa [which is now in Tanzania]. He helped me get to know the other members of his community – they were reassured by his calm acceptance of my presence, and gradually they too lost their fear.

Where is your favourite place in the world?

For a long time my favourite place was Gombe. When I could sit quietly, watching the chimpanzees, feeling part of it all. Those were the happiest days of my life, the most meaningful. But it has changed since those early days, with tourists, more infrastructure, more rules and regulations. So now my favourite place is in Bournemouth in the house in which I grew up, which belongs to me and my sister.