



Newsletter of the Manchester Wildlife Group

The Magpie

Number 9

Spring 1988

Chair's Report

Mersey Valley Birds

Irkdale

Odds & Ends



January 1987 was marked by the registration of our group as a company limited by guarantee. This meant that we were now responsible for our actions as one group rather than as individuals and that we were properly constituted, with clear aims and rules.

I hope here to briefly outline our achievements in the main areas in which we operate.

Planning The group has been involved in over forty different sites in the Greater Manchester area during the past year. The majority of the work has been done by Ian Brown involving objecting to or commenting on plans affecting wildlife areas. Members from previous years will remember our victory concerning Woodhouse Park following a public inquiry. Ian's evidence was instrumental in persuading the Inspector to save valuable meadows from unnecessary development. The meadows (near Manchester Airport) have now been recognised as a Grade B site of biological importance by the Greater Manchester Countryside Unit. This should help to protect the site in the future. We also have commented on several car park proposals. Usually these are impossible to prevent, but plans can often be modified so as to avoid serious environmental damage - or even to enhance existing habitats. The car park opposite the NSPCC building on Wynstay Road, Fallowfield is a good example. The original plan would have cleared a whole block of woodland near the railway line. After our objections, however, the number of car park spaces was reduced, and fingers of woodland left intact between car spaces. This means the area is quite attractive and retains several trees and shrubs. Similar modifications have been made to the Jackson's Boat Pub extension plan in Chorlton due to our intervention.

A more unusual case was Hyde Fold Farm in Burnage. Local members had reported a barn owl which had been disturbed by builders. Our involvement here has resulted in the preservation of the present footpath and hedge plus the promise that the builders provide an owl nesting box to encourage the birds to return. Hough End Clough (near Chorlton) has been designated a Nature Reserve by the City Council, following our detailed survey and report. We have also commented on plans concerning shopping cities, parks, motorways and Blackleach Reservoir.

In spite of our constant objections, we have maintained a very good relationship with Manchester City Planning Department, and feel the emergence of a small trickle of nature areas and native planting schemes recently is at least partly due to our existence.

Not all has been good news, however. Perhaps the worst damage to existing habitats has been caused by the North West Water Authority concerning the Mersey Valley. Many riverside habitats have been destroyed in order to carry out engineering work of dubious merit. NWWA have not even bothered to answer our letters concerning these issues - a situation which I hope will be rectified in the future.

Habitat Creation and Management. This past year we have started designing wildlife areas for other organisations for the first time. Two schools are at present receiving our attentions: Heald Place Primary School in Rusholme has accepted a design by yours truly and its implementation is due this year. A larger scheme at the Lancasterian School for disabled young people has hit a few snags in the design stage but promises to be a very exciting project. One scheme which has been finished is at the Crown Point Estate, Newton Heath, designed by Ian Brown and planted by Mike Savage for the Church Housing Association. Around 2,000 thorny shrubs have been planted in order to encourage wildlife and deter vandals. M. Savage has also designed a management plan

for the improvement of some existing woodland at Brooklands in Sale.

On the garden front, Ian Brown has been designing wildlife gardens for members, and the odd pond has emerged in members' gardens due to our efforts. All these activities eventually earn much needed money for our funds.

Our pet wood, Hough End Clough, now has a management and planting plan drawn up by the Woodland Officer at Manchester City Recreation Department. A small extension to the Clough was planted by us and six schools during Tree Plant 87 in November.

The past year has seen an important shift in the way City parks are managed. Long grass appeared in Alexandra Park, Moss Side for the first time in over a decade. Fog Lane Park in Didsbury has, amongst other things, restored natural banks to one of its previously concreted ponds. Poundswick Park, Wythenshawe and Heaton Park are both showing an interest in native tree planting and management. A park already noted for encouraging wildlife, Fletcher Moss in Didsbury, has now gone the whole hog and lets the majority of its grassland grow as meadows! We cannot take the credit for this of course, indeed most of the impetus for such changes is as much due to cutting costs as to the enthusiasm for wildlife of many Council employees. However, by showing our faces at various meetings, sending newsletters and so on we have shown there is a public demand for such innovations - perhaps nudging the whole process along.

Education, Information and Publicity. We began sending our newsletter to several libraries this year and also sent our exhibition on wildlife gardening on a tour of Manchester libraries. In summer, three rainy wildlife safaris were led by members in Hough End, the Tame Valley and Chorlton, which were advertised nationally. We also appeared in the Manchester Evening News, BBC Wildlife Magazine, and the book "City Wildspace" by Bob Smythe. Ian Brown was also interviewed on Radio Manchester. Two successful plant sales were held at 31 Stanley Road, and we also supplied information, plants, trees, shrubs, and pond liners throughout the year. Dawn Chorus Day saw a dozen of us shivering in Hough End Clough frightening the local bird population off at 4am.

Considering our size and lack of public funding, I think we have achieved a great deal in the past year and would like to thank all our members for their continuing support. The main task in the future will be to find ways to finance more activities so as to firmly establish our group and so aid and protect our urban wildlife.

SHAUN WILSON

(CHAIR)

PLANT SALE

Sunday 24th April 10.30 - 5.00
31 Stanley Road, Whalley Range
If you can help, contact Shaun

AGM * AGM * AGM * AGM * AGM * AGM * AGM * AGM

OUR FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE LORD MAYOR'S PARLOUR, MANCHESTER TOWN HALL STARTING AT 2pm ON SATURDAY 30th APRIL.

AGENDA MANCHESTER WILDLIFE TRUST LTD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1988

1. Apologies for absence
2. Chair's Annual Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Election of Chair
5. Election of Treasurer, Secretary, and Vice-Chairs and other Officers.
6. Co-options to committee.
9. Election of Auditors
10. Any Other Business.

ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. After the meeting there will be a slide show concerning some of the achievements of Manchester Wildlife Group over the past year. IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND ANY OTHER EVENTS THIS YEAR PLEASE TRY AND COME ALONG TO THIS ONE !

There is full access for disabled people. If there is any reason you cannot come please let Shaun know (226 2029). We may be able to sort something out (transport, creche etc.). Please bring along anyone interested who is not yet a member.

Members standing for election

As mentioned in my recent letter, all the current Officers (Chair, Secretary etc) are resigning and the following are standing for election:

Chair	Ian Brown	Vice-Chair (1)...	Mike Garnham
Secretary.....	Eileen Land	Vice-Chair (2)...	Donald McGeorge
Treasurer.....	Unity Kelly	Vice-Chair (3)...	Ian McGeorge
Council Members without a title	Sue Tellet		
	Glyn Syson		

AS the rules allow for three Vice-Chairs, and as we can have up to six Council Members without a title there is little competition at the moment ! There is still time for you to stand for any of these posts if you write to Shaun at 31 Stanley Road M16 8HS before the AGM.

Planning Nature Gardens

Ian Brown.

I'm sorry about this, but for those of you who were waiting on tenterhooks for the next thrilling instalment in the serial, here is the bad news. This item has been postponed till the following newsletter. The bad news is that this has come about because more important issues merit discussion. For example:-

Save Reddish Vale.

On Sunday the 20th of March the Save the Vale Campaign held a Rally to protest against the instructions by the Department of the Environment that Reddish Vale should be sold at public auction instead of directly to Stockport Council. The highest bidder would of course be the new owner, which means that the Vale could fall into private hands and I dread to think of its eventual fate should that happen.

I attended the rally and there were a couple of other members of the group present, as well as a few familiar faces in the crowd which was estimated as being 3,000 strong. Well I didn't count, but if anyone else had turned up they would have had to stand in the next River Valley along. The place was packed.

Proceedings were started by a silver band, from Gorton if I remember rightly. They led a large group of marchers along Mill Lane to the visitor's centre. Unfortunately one of the musicians fell foul of the cattle grid on the way in but the remainder made it safely, playing stirring music until the speeches started. These were of a similar stirring nature and urged the crowd to write in protest to those in authority that the Vale should not be sold off merely to satisfy the greed of a few property speculators. Reddish Vale was purchased by the Greater Manchester Council and is now Green Belt land and a very attractive area, much loved by local people. The residuary body had been instructed by the Department of the Environment to dispose of the land as they thought fit, so they decided, as had been done in other similar cases, that it should be sold to the local authority in whose area the land lies. They were overruled and hence the public auction that looms before us.

This should not be allowed to happen, so I urge anyone reading this, to write to those in authority, registering your opposition to the public sale. Write to the Environment Minister, your local councillor, your M.P. or even she who must be obeyed.

As a start try:-

The Rt. Hon. C. Chope M.P.
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
Department of the Environment,
2 Marsham Street, LONDON. SW1P 3ER

(Suggested wording)

Dear Sir,

Re: Land at Reddish Vale

I would be most grateful if you would reconsider the decision to sell the land at Reddish Vale, which I consider should be transferred back to Stockport Council to be part of the Tame Valley Conservancy Area. The Greater Manchester Residuary Body, as well as, AGMA have as you are aware, already indicated their agreement to this transfer. I trust you will reconsider your decision in the light of public interest and concern. Yours faithfully, etc.

It should not be too late to register your protest. You may not live near Reddish Vale and may wonder why you should be concerned. The problem is that if the worse happens and the land is sold to developers it could set a precedent for other similar land and your bit of open space could be next.

We have little enough in the way of open spaces in and around our urban areas. These spaces are much enjoyed by people within their reach and we cannot afford to lose any, for if we do the quality of life, in our towns, will suffer a setback from which it may never recover.

Odds and Ends

Jan Brown.

SALE MOOR ANGLING CLUB

This is situated on Moor Road near Wythenshawe Park and is a small area of semi-natural vegetation with trees and shrubs and three ponds used for fishing. Some time ago a planning application was submitted to destroy a boundary hedge and replace it with a chain link fence. This was on the insistence of the council for "security" reasons. We made an objection and suggested that the hedge should be laid and replanted. Thankfully the council agreed and with the help of a Community Initiative Fund grant and the B.T.C.V., the hedge has now been laid and other environmental improvement work undertaken.

Things are looking good and we would like to thank the Sale Moor Angling Club for their co-operation with the voluntary agencies which enabled this work to take place. As well as making the site more attractive, the wildlife of the area will surely benefit. More similar work is to take place, which will further improve the area.

WOODHOUSE PARK

Is the last public open space in Woodhouse Park to disappear? Is this a silly question? It should be because when Wythenshawe was planned it was wisely decided that mistakes made previously in the development of Manchester should be avoided. The main mistakes were that building had taken place without any regard to leaving open spaces or even keeping open corridors of communication, either radially or axially. Therefore Wythenshawe was built with open spaces to act as a break between housing areas. 60 years on this wise decision seems to have been forgotten as there is an application for industrial development on this last public open space in Woodhouse Park. So it wasn't a silly question, was it?

The application has been made by the council for the development of this council owned land, which is to the south of Simonsway and west of Shadowmoss Road and surrounded by woodland. The council officers naturally recommended that the application be approved, but after the objectors put their case, at the Wythenshawe Consultative Committee meeting in late February, the local council members recommended refusal. For the second round we moved to the Town Hall and the main Planning Committee meeting where there was little discussion and the application was deferred for referral to the Finance Committee, who had approved the disposal of the land. Could this be because, on the 25th of June 1928, the Wythenshawe Estate Special Committee discussed the disposal of land owned by the council in Wythenshawe saying, "In all cases the freehold interest of the Corporation in the estate should be retained". Let us hope so.

The third, and possibly final, round is to take place back at the Town Hall on the 7th of April which, as you read this, has probably passed. Hopefully we will have helped to save this open space which is of much benefit to the local people and to wildlife. If industrial development is on offer to create more jobs, it should be directed to one of the many derelict areas in and around Manchester. Wythenshawe has its fair share of such areas and will have more, shortly, when warehousing companies re-locate to the newly built Airport cargo area. I'm keeping my fingers crossed and hoping that there will be good news to report in the next newsletter.

Stop Press - 7.4.88 - Woodhouse Park

Today the Manchester City Council Planning Committee approved an application for industrial development of this land between Simonsway and Portway in south Wythenshawe. Another open space gone the same way as Nell Lane Playing Fields. It is possible that we might lose most of Reddish Vale and the informal part of Brantwood Park in Cheadle, so in future we will have to be much more vigilant if we are to save what little is left of these open spaces in our urban areas.

Some of us will be fortunate in that our representative on the council will be supportive of the local people's need for open space; others will not be as lucky, so if anyone out there hears of any threat to open space near where they live, write to your local councillor and planning department expressing your feelings and report the matter to us. If we all make a noise together, hopefully we will be heard.

CHURCH HOUSING ASSOCIATION

We have just completed a landscaping scheme for this association at their Crown Point Estate in Newton Heath. If allowed to reach maturity, it should prove to be most attractive, so let us hope it withstands the ravages of vandalism which is a little prevalent in our inner city areas. We thank the Church Housing Association for the payment of our fee which will be of great assistance to the Trust's funds as they could come under a little pressure over the coming months.

URBAN HABITAT SURVEY

In late February, I attended a seminar at Wigan Heritage Centre on Wildlife Habitat Surveys and their computerisation. I would like to thank the B.T.C.V. for making this possible. (My attendance, that is.)

The event was very well attended, even including a representative from the City of Manchester Planning Department. The object of the exercise was to explain the work done by Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council in surveying their district for its wildlife importance. They have carried out a Nature Conservancy Council Phase 1 Habitat survey on every square kilometre in the district. There are 253 of these and it must have been a work of mammoth proportions. Not only that, but they have put all their findings onto a computer and this computer even produces coloured maps of all the kilometre squares, so that it can be seen at a glance exactly what types of habitat are present throughout the whole of the Wigan district.

You may be wondering what the outcome of all this activity will be. Having made this investment of capital and labour, the Wigan council will not wish to waste the results of the survey and they will use it to advise them, when making policy decisions in the future. For example, when considering planning applications, they will know of sites of wildlife importance and be able to advise as to whether a proposed development might disturb one of these sites and hopefully direct the development to an area where such damage would not occur. In the case of reclaiming derelict land it is important to know of interesting features, so that they may be preserved and incorporated into the future proposals for the site, whether it be landscaping for leisure, or for housing. The fact that the information is on computer means that it can be accessed quickly and opportunities to conserve wildlife and its habitats will not be missed for lack of time needed to prepare reports. In fact computers can turn out such reports when everyone is tucked up safely in bed.

All this sounds very useful and you may well be asking, "why can't we all have one?". Well I hope we can. Wigan are obviously some way ahead of the other authorities in Greater Manchester in demonstrating their practical concern for wildlife conservation and the spin off this can give to leisure and tourist activities. It is quite often the case that some of our urban areas are better for wildlife than some rural areas. It is even possible that working to make Wigan's urban areas more attractive will encourage industry to locate. It will certainly make the district a more desirable place to live. Let us hope that other districts in Greater Manchester will follow Wigan's lead and perhaps we can have positive development of our derelict and inner city areas, without causing damage to our few and precious areas of wildlife interest and open space.

There are some members of our group who feel that the type of survey done in Wigan would not be appropriate for some of the other districts in Greater Manchester. They have a good point, for after all there is quite a lot of open countryside in Wigan. In comparison Manchester City is very poorly off in this respect and it is possible that a survey based on individual open space sites would be more appropriate than one based on kilometre squares. (The Leicester Habitat Survey, for example.) However, the N.C.C Phase 1 survey is adaptable and can be moulded to fit the requirements of the individual districts.

It is important that surveys should be carried out and that these surveys should be recognised by the Planning Department of the district concerned and taken into account when planning applications are being considered.

EXPLORING IRKDALE

Diana Downing

The best guides to the rapidly changing townscapes of the Lower Irk Valley are people who have lived and worked there; they will tell you all about the flights of steps from Collyhurst and "the mucky mountains". Look out also for guided walks by local historians.

For an introductory walk gather together a few friends (company is recommended in this kind of territory) and an A-Z. From Victoria Station cross Corporation St., then left and across Miller St.; follow the footpath towards Cheetham Hill Road until a gap in the brick wall of the road bridge reveals the steps down to Scotland and, in Grindon's words, "the Irk - that unfortunate little river...in its last leap - the hideous cascade under the Victoria Station". Walk a short way upstream noting the varied vegetation, then turn right under the railway bridge to join Corporation St. This two mile walk continues upstream with the river on your left - Dantzic St. - Collyhurst Road - until the left fork (one way only) crosses the river. Smedley Road leads over Queen's Road to Woodlands Road and a train back to Victoria (except on Sundays). The train journey enables you to play 'Hunt the Irk' and enjoy different viewpoints. Buses also go back to town from Rochdale Road.

Diversions en route: St. Michael's Flags, entry at the junction of Aspin Lane and Angel St. - site of the church and burial ground of Irk Town. St. Catherine's Playground, entry across footbridge opposite Dalton St. High brick footbridge over Red Bank sidings on left soon after Vauxhall St. By Fitzgeorge St. the track under the railway arch leads to the former Collyhurst sandstone quarry and a 'lost river', Moston Brook. Further on, the new riverside footpaths and seats just before the railway viaduct over Smedley Road. A pleasant continuation path leads under Queen's Road through Hendham Vale with a bridge at the east end of Smedley Lane and paths into Queen's Park with its array of Manchester Poplars.

Wildlife is returning of its own accord; last August Manchester Field Club recorded over 60 plant species ranging from Fig to Fennel-leaved Pondweed, also a female mallard and duckling (but no baby in cradle). Thanks to landscaping on former industrial sites and efforts to reduce water pollution, Ben Brierley's "pleasant slopes of Irkdale" and "flowery banks" may appear again, once the Irk ceases its "occupation of a city scavenger". Send your compliments and comments, please, to Dennis O'Connor, Manchester City Planning Department. And persuade the Council to work with Rochdale Corporation to support a Warden Service to develop full use of this river valley.

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"Manchester Walks and Wild Flowers" Leo H. Grindon (1858)  
 "The Manchester Man" Mrs Linnaeus Banks (1875)  
 "Irkdale" Ben Brierley (1868)  
 "The Lost Rivers of Manchester" G. Ashworth (Willow Publishing 1987)  
 "Working Class Housing in Nineteenth Century Manchester" J. Roberts  
 - fascinating social history of Irk Town (Neil Richardson)  
 "The Family Walks" Warren Flood (1987) obtainable from the author  
 19 Downham Crescent, Prestwich, Manchester 25. £2.25 inc. pp.  
 this includes two walks further up the valley - Blackley Forest;  
 Heaton Park to Middleton with the Irk ('canal') at Alkington.  
 Johnson's Map of Manchester 1820 - reproduction on sale at Town Hall  
 and Local History section of Central Library.

## SPRING BIRDING IN THE MERSEY VALLEY

Put aside a morning in early May and take yourself down to the Mersey Valley. There's a wealth of bird (and other) life awaiting in the wings (no pun intended).

Choosing a preferably fine and dry day, make your start from the visitor centre at Sale Water Park after briefly popping in to 'see what's about'. It pays to enquire verbally as well as perusing the information board.

Head off in a northerly direction towards the river bank. On the way you should have no trouble in finding 2 or 3 willow warblers in full song. Reed Bunting, White-throat and Skylark should also be about. Before turning right through the car park to Jackson's Boat Inn, keep an ear out for the reeling of the Grasshopper Warbler. Around the Jackson's Boat area you'll no doubt hear Cuckoo and if you're lucky you may see Bullfinch in the trees just past the pub. Continue along the riverbank on the Sale-side, keeping Sale Golf Course to your right. This stretch for about  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$  mile can be pretty dull, though a pair of sun-glasses may help to tone down the garish attire of some of the golfing fraternity. Towards the electricity sub-station you may see Grey Partridge about on the path, also Whitethroat and Reed Bunting. If it's a little breezy, don't get caught out like I did by the 'song' of the Yellowhammer. It's actually a squeaking gate on the old disused bridge. Highly embarrassing when you're trying to point out to someone their 'first' Yellowhammer.

Keep an eye out on the river for Mallard, Moorhen or even Common Sandpiper 'flicking' it's way upstream.

Just past this point, on the right, is Kenworthy Fields. A nice wide open space and earlier in the morning alive with the song of Skylark, Reed Bunting, Whitethroat, Chiff-Chaff, Linnet, Sedge Warbler, Willow Warbler and Grasshopper Warbler. In fact your best chance of seeing one of two of these would be earlier in the day (or towards dusk). Sparrowhawk or Kestrel may also be about. By now you'll probably have seen Coltsfoot, Lesser Celandine, Butterbur and, if Ian Brown is with you, dozens of other plant species.

Crossing the Bridge to Chorlton Water Park things really start to happen, bird-wise



Crossing the bridge to Chorlton Water Park things really begin to happen, bird-wise. Great Crested Grebe, Little Grebe, Coot, Moorhen and Mallard are all about, some perhaps with young. Sand Martin and House Martin should be hawking over the water. Birds on passage are always something to keep an eye out for, particularly around the Barlow tip end of the water park. Wheatear, Lesser Whitethroat, Whinchat, Redstart and last year a female Black Redstart in late April. Green or Great Spotted Woodpecker may be heard from the trees behind the tip. Again, Willow Warbler, Reed Bunting, Chiff-Chaff and perhaps Garden Warbler will be around.

Onto the riverbank again and head back to Jackson's Boat keeping an eye out for raptors. Again this stretch on the Chorlton stretch can be surprisingly quiet, although Mistle Thrush may be seen. Just past Jackson's Boat is a scrubby area on the right which may hold Grasshopper Warbler if you're lucky, Willow Warbler, Whitethroat, Blackcap, Sedge Warbler, Redpoll and perhaps Spotted Flycatcher.

Cut 'inland' a little way and follow the course of the old tarmaced path which leads through Chorlton Ees. In the elders to your left you may see Blackcap, Garden Warbler or Willow Warbler and probably Wren. To the right are usually several Whitethroat and possibly Linnet. Towards the end of this path on the left is a large bank of Butterbur in April.

Chorlton Ees is another place to try and be earlier in the morning. This was where I saw my first Grasshopper Warbler last May sat atop a grass stem 'reeling' away. (The Grasshopper Warbler, not me!) This area abounds with birds. Apart from the Grasshopper Warbler you'll see or hear many Sedge and Willow Warbler, Linnet, Reed Bunting, Skylark, Blackcap, Cuckoo, Garden Warbler and perhaps migrants such as Spotted or Pied Flycatcher, Sparrowhawk or Kestrel may be seen here. This is also usually a reasonable area for butterflies; Orange Tip, Green-veined White, Small White, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell. The hirundines may usually be seen here too.

Continuing on through the plantation which at this time of year is alive with bird-song, cross over Chorlton Brook keeping an eye out for Kingfisher. Follow the riverbank along to Barfoot Bridge. On the river you may see Mallard or Moorhen. Crossing the bridge, proceed then to Broad Ees Dole and 'the scrape'. Already by the end of March this year the first Wheatears have passed through, also Redshank and Curlew.

House Martin and Sand Martin should be about over the reed beds by early May and you'll hear the 'whinnying' of Little Grebe. Reed Bunting, Linnet and Wren can also be heard. On the scrape and its surrounding banks almost anything can be expected to turn up. Oystercatcher, Redshank, Terns, Wheatear, Redstart, Yellow Wagtail. Hopefully this area will now start to attract more passage waders including perhaps Greenshank, Green and Wood Sandpipers and who knows, even an Avocet in the future? Blind optimism? Breeding birds include Canada Goose, Lapwing, Little Ringed Plover and Common Sandpiper as well as the ubiquitous Mallard and Moorhen. Amongst the wide variety of flowers and water plants are Water Plantain, Water Soldier, Yellow Flag Iris, White Water Lily, Early Purple Orchid, Lesser Celandine, Water Forget-me-not, etc., etc.

All in all a most rewarding walk from start to finish. Try and put some time aside.

#### DAWN CHORUS DAY

At 4 am we will once more assemble at Chorlton Ees on Bank Holiday Monday (May 2nd) to hear the birdies tweeting. Meet at Chorlton Ees Car Park (off Brookburn Road, down track starting next to Brookburn Road Car Park, past School, following Brook on your right. Car park on left as you get to elaborate stile.) There is access for disabled, and our birders Donald and Ian McGeorge will be there to identify our feathered friends. Bring your chocolate-covered Kendal Mint Cake to this one.

#### MEETINGS

Please note that the Town Hall meetings on 30th June and 27th October have been cancelled. The next meetings will be held in Committee Room 7 at 7.30pm, on the following dates:

Thursday 28th April 1988  
Thursday 26th May 1988  
Thursday 28th July 1988

All members are invited to these meetings which decide how the group is run. To find Committee Room 7, enter the Town Hall Extension at the Lloyd Street entrance. This is found under the bridge linking Town Hall and Extension at the Albert Square end of Lloyd Street. On the second floor (probably called level 12 or something but just count the floors and you will be OK) there is a sign pointing to the left with Committee Rm. 7 written on it. Carry on down the corridor and look for the Room on your left. Room 7 is found just after the entrance to another bridge linking the Hall and Extension. Bring some Kendal Mint Cake just in case.

#### ALLOTMENT

We do have some space on an allotment which can be used for growing wild plants etc. If you are interested in helping to work on it please get in touch with Shaun (226 2029).



If you care about our City's wildlife please join us by filling in the form below and returning it with a cheque/P.O. made out to Manchester Wildlife Trust Ltd. to 31, Stanley Road, Whalley Range, Manchester M16 8HS. Members receive "Magpie" quarterly and are welcome to all meetings.

I would like to join Manchester Wildlife Group for one year and enclose the following:-

- \* £6 - Family / Group.
- \* £4 - Individual.
- \* £2 - Unwaged, children under 16, Senior Citizens.
- ( \* Please delete those that do not apply )

Which of our activities interest you the most ? .....  
.....  
.....

Name..... Tel.No.....

Address.....  
.....

Signed.....Date.....

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Manchester Wildlife Group aims to protect places of wildlife interest and provide new wetland, woodland and meadowland habitats in our gardens and local neighbourhoods. At present we depend almost totally on our members' subscriptions to cover our running costs. Members receive the Magpie quarterly and can get help and advice with their wildlife gardens. If you want to know more about the group please contact Shaun Wilson at the address below. Articles, letters etc. are also always welcome.

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While every effort has been made to make sure that information given in the Magpie is correct, the group cannot be held responsible for any mistake in the text. Likewise any person undertaking any project based on information from this newsletter does so at their own risk.