



Newsletter of the Manchester Wildlife Trust

# The Magpie

Number 13

Summer 1989



Irk Valley Walk  
Book Review  
MWT on T.V.

Odds & Ends

MWT Link-up

From Little Acorns

Dirty Washing

RB

This issue of "Magpie" is sponsored by  
Manchester Central Arthritic Aid.



# Editorial

contact Ian Brown 437 7040

In this summer edition of "Magpie" we have many and varied articles to stimulate the reader's interest. The last newsletter carried an article by Ian Johnson on how some farmers are polluting our rivers. Now read about your contribution to that pollution. For those many of our members who missed our walk in the Lower Irk Valley, read about it and find out why it was more interesting than you might have thought.

Do you want to grow trees and shrubs from seed? "From Little Acorns" tells you how. Read about "Link-up" - a new way to become more involved in the workings of the Trust.

**EVENTS** - An events list is enclosed with this newsletter. We hope you will be able to participate in the activities which have been organised by ourselves and others. Please inform us if you know of any event which would interest our members and we will include it on the next list. Some events are not yet finalised and as they will take place before the publication of the next list, please telephone nearer the time if you are interested in taking part.

**MEMBERSHIP LIST** - This will enable you to contact members living nearby. Maybe in this way members can get together to discuss local matters. This list will only be distributed to members of the Manchester Wildlife Trust.

## CONTACTS

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Tel. 437 7040

Mike Garnham (Vice-chair),  
37 Finchley Road,  
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Tel. 224 0050

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13 Ruskin Avenue,  
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West Didsbury,  
Manchester. M20 8WN

## Wash and Clean Up by Mike Garnham

Following the article on "Agricultural Pollution of Rivers" in the last edition of the Magpie, I thought I might briefly draw your attention to the pollution that we - the public - wash into the rivers.

Products for cleansing ourselves and our clothes have been around for centuries, but recently the trend has been toward whiter than white (which I suppose is meant to imply cleaner than clean) miracle cleaners. These may leave our clothes / dishes / selves spotless; unfortunately the same cannot be said for the impact these products have on our environment. The rate at which such products break down (bio-degrade) is of great importance to the environment. Detergents which break down slowly - and sometimes incompletely - prolong the polluting effect on our water systems and endanger plants, animals and micro-organisms which live there.

The main chemical offenders are:-

Phosphates These act as a fertilizer for algae, which grow rapidly using up the oxygen in the water. The lack of oxygen decreases the activity of micro-organisms which break down the detergents. In extreme cases this can lead to the water being literally suffocated.

EDTA Used as a bleach activator in washing powder and combines lead, cadmium and mercury. These highly toxic or carcinogenic heavy metals are very difficult to remove in the drinking water purification process.

Chlorine bleach The breakdown of this type of bleach produces various organo-chlorine substances which are known to be highly toxic or carcinogenic.

Optical brighteners Give that "whiter than white" look. Can be a skin irritant and are non-biodegradable.

Enzymes The so called "Biological" washing powders. Are a known skin irritant and can cause an asthmatic reaction. Factory workers involved in their production have developed



serious skin and respiratory disorders.

Synthetic Perfumes and Colours Can be petroleum derived. Skin irritants, dangerous to water organisms and are non bio-degradable.

Without wishing to advertise (especially for free as in this case!) "Ecover" offer a wide range of cleansing products which use entirely natural substances and are fully bio-degradable in 3 to 5 days. They are available from all good health food shops (eg. On The 8th Day, near M/cr University) and are stocked by some of the supermarket chains, including Tesco and Sainsbury's. If the shop where you buy your cleaning materials does not stock these eco-safe products, then ask the manager to "wake up to the green consumer" and get some in.

It may cost a few pence more, but as they say "saving the planet doesn't come cheap", so put your money where your conscience is!

**COMING SOON** - I have in front of me the pilot edition of a new magazine aimed at the environmentally conscious consumer called "New Consumer". It's a sort of green "Which" magazine and if the pilot is anything to go by, I would thoroughly recommend it. Enquiries and subscriptions (£10/year) to 52 Elswick Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE4 6JH //

Editor's Note Is it printed on recycled paper? I hope that it does not go the same way as "Environment Now", an excellent publication which unfortunately, because of poor sales, was taken over by World magazine, a sort of environment for Yuppies. //

## Churchyards

These can be, and in some cases are, havens for wildlife. We are keen to encourage the management of churchyards in such a way so that they are of benefit to the environment. Do the grounds of your local church teem with wildlife or are they kept too neat and tidy? Please let us know what you think and if you have a close relationship with your church write and tell us about the wildlife there, or what should be done to improve the situation. //

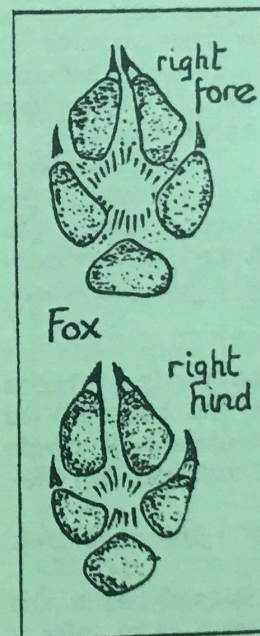
## Book Review

by Jan Boucher

RUNNING WITH THE FOX by DAVID MACDONALD, Unwin Hyman, £14.95

David Macdonald was willing to sacrifice many nights of sleep to gain entrance to a secret vulpine world. We may now share his experiences in a lucid book he has written called RUNNING WITH THE FOX, an enchanting story of a magical world.

The text charts the experiences of a naive biologist weighed down by thousands of years of misunderstanding, but full of curiosity, changing into someone who has glimpsed at a very special society and felt wonder.



Mr. Macdonald's prime aim on his quest was (and as far as I know still is) scientific and he has made many useful discoveries, charted in the book, that will help both fox and man in the future.

The book scores double points for the class of characters that lope, strike and stalk across the page aided by an understanding pen and beautiful photographs and sketches. It is impossible to attempt any thumbnail descriptions of these complex creatures; only a personal confidant can do that and give them full worth. This the author does with ease, setting the scene in winter and summer, in woodland, field, hedgerow, garden, bleak moor and the hot deserts; allowing us to meet some amazing personalities, not always foxes; humans and hyenas making admirable guest appearances. We are present, throughout the text, at uneasy first meetings, then sharing experiences of fox's lives to often painful goodbyes. The many stories are told by an exact eye of a scientist combined with the heart of a close friend. //

**FUTURE NEWS** - We hope to bring you details very soon of an exciting new project for the MWT, so don't miss your next edition of the **MAGPIE**. //



# From Little Acorns

by Mike Garnham

If, like me you have wandered round your local garden centre or looked through a seed catalogue and been horrified at the prices, you'll be pleased to know there are alternatives. You could ask around other members of the group to see if they could let you have some of the plant you want, or you could "grow it yourself" from seeds gathered by yourself, either from other members or from the wild. In the next edition of the Magpie I shall look at gathering and growing wildflower seeds, but this time I will deal with the propagation of trees and shrubs.

**Collecting Seeds** - Choose healthy trees for your seed source and avoid trees isolated from others of the same species as poor germination and poor quality trees may result because of self pollination. The seeds of small trees and shrubs can be picked direct from the branches. With large trees use a long hooked pole to bend the branches within reach. A pair of long handled pruners or a step ladder may be useful. The heavier seeds (eg. Oak or Beech) can be collected from the ground if freshly fallen. Seeds should be stored in an open-weave sack to allow a free flow of air. Don't use polythene bags - seeds heat up, sweat and blacken.

**Treatment of Collected Seeds** - The fruit and seeds of trees vary immensely in size and shape, from husks and berries to dry seeds with or without wings. The best treatment of seeds varies and the table gives the appropriate treatment as described below.

A - Small dry seeds, should be stored in a dry container until spring.

B - Trees with cones. The small seeds are situated below the scales of the cone. Spread the cones out on a tray over a radiator. As the cone dries out so the scales open and the seeds fall out. Sieve the contents of the tray to separate the seeds, which should be stored in a dry container.

C - Seeds can be sown immediately after collection in autumn

D - These seeds need a period of stratification. That is the seeds, when first picked, are dormant. During stratification the embryos will develop and the seed swells up and splits. The table indicates stratification time in months. [eg. (6)] Seeds with fleshy fruits, such as Yew or Cherry, are usually

separated from the fruit before stratification, but this is not necessary with Hawthorn or Holly. Sow the seeds immediately following collection and keep the soil moist at all times. Some trees will respond by germinating in the following spring, but if not, leave for a year and germination is almost certain to occur in the second spring.

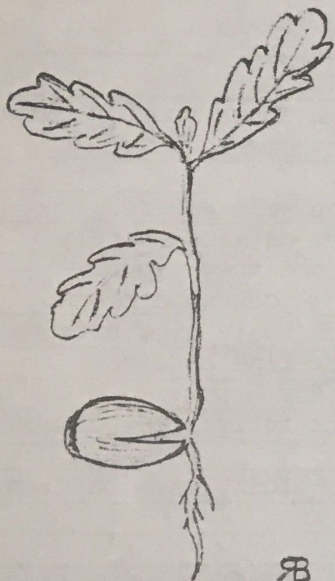
SPECIES	COLLECT	STORAGE	NOTES
Alder	Sep-Nov	B	Pick cones shortly before they open.
Ash	Sep-Nov	D (18)	
Beech	Sep-Nov	C	Keep well watered.
Birch	Jul-Sep	AorD(6)	Pick catkins shortly before they ripen.
Broom	August	A	Pick pods when black.
Buckthorn	Sep-Oct	D (6)	Pick fully ripe berries.
Cherry	Jul-Sep	D (4)	Pick ripe berries.
Gorse	Oct-Nov	A	As for Broom.
Hawthorn	Sep-Nov	D (18)	Pick fully ripe berries.
Hazel	Sep-Nov	D (4)	
Holly	Nov-Jan	D (16)	Pick fully ripe berries.
Hornbeam	Aug-Oct	D (18)	
Lime	October	D (18)	
Oak	Sep-Nov	C	Collect from below tree.
Rowan	Jul-Sep	D (6)	Pick fully ripe berries.
Scots Pine	Dec-Feb	B	Collect cones shortly before they open.
Yew	Sep-Nov	D(16)	Pick berries from tree. Seed/leaves deadly poison

**Sowing** - Seeds are sown in autumn (C&D), or in March or April (A&B) when the risk of ground frost is diminished. You can sow into prepared ground or the seedlings can be started in a seed tray and then potted singly into containers. The tree should spend a few years in the pot before being planted out in its final position. Sow the seeds thinly, press in firmly for good germination and rooting, cover the seeds with sand or sand and soil mix, and keep moist.

**Vegetative Propagation** - Some trees and shrubs can be propagated vegetatively. Obviously you can't do this with plants in the wild, but it is a quick and easy way of increasing your own plants or you could persuade other members to give you cuttings.



**Suckers** - Suitable for Blackthorn, Dogwood and Wild Privet. These species have shallow roots producing shoots, which develop into trees. Cut through the surface root around the sucker with its own roots to separate from the parent plant.



**Layering** - Suitable for Bramble, Guelder Rose, Hazel, Honeysuckle, Wayfaring Tree and Wild Privet.

These species have side shoots which can be bent down and will root where they touch the ground forming a new plant. Peg down a shoot and cover with soil. Roots should form after the first season and the plant can be separated from the parent. Transplant after second season.

**Cuttings** - Suitable for Alder, Dogwood, Hazel, Holly, Honeysuckle Ivy, Wild Privet and Willow. Most good gardening books will give details on propagation by using cuttings.

**Planting and Transplanting** - Try to select the correct species for the site to give your plant the maximum chance of survival. Ideally the plants should be moved during the winter months when they are dormant, to avoid drying out as a consequence of damage to the roots. Firm the plant in well to get rid of air in the soil and water well. Support the plant if exposure to wind is likely.

In our next issue I will be writing about propagating wild flowers, but in the meantime remember, let your flowers go to seed! //

For further reading we would recommend *Planting Native Trees and Shrubs* by Kenneth & Gillian Beckett. Publisher, Jarold.

**Etherow  
Country Park**

If there is anyone interested in volunteering for weekend wardening at Etherow Country Park, please phone Ian Brown on 437 7040 //

## M.W.T. on T.V. by M.G.

April the 27th was the big day when a new star hit our television screens. Was it in Coronation Street? Or Brookside? No, this was the day when Ian Brown opened up his garden to the Granada Television cameras, and to viewers right across the North West. The programme was "This is Your Right", the five minute early evening local interest slot; the subject "Wildlife Gardening". After a walk around the garden, during which Ian talked about the advantages and joys of a wildlife garden, the issue was widened out, with the help of Andrew Bielinski from the Lancashire Trust, to include urban conservation in general.

Following the programme phone lines were opened up for viewers to ring in with questions or to ask for a free "Wildlife Gardening Fact Pack". During the next 90 minutes, four M.W.T members were kept busy answering nearly 100 enquiries.

I think those involved found it a very enjoyable experience and, like me, were encouraged by the level of interest shown in the subject. I feel sure that this was only the first of many such events, and judging by his confident performance Ian will soon be applying for his Equity Card! //

## Talking About Wildlife

Manchester Wildlife Trust can offer talks on a variety of topics to groups of all kinds

Guides and Brownies	Cubs and Scouts
Senior Citizens Clubs	
Blind Groups	Rotary Groups
Church Societies	Womens Groups
Disabled Groups	

We have a selection of slides with which we can illustrate our talks.

If you would like a talk for your group, please contact Mike Garnham on 224 0050.



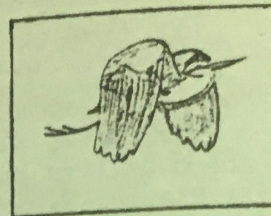
# Walk in the Lower Irk Valley.

Compiled from notes by Diana Downing with botanical information supplied by Audrey Franks.

Nine intrepid walkers assembled outside Victoria Station on a hot, sunny Sunday afternoon in June. We set off to follow the course of the lower Irk. Prospects at the start do not seem inspiring, but a patch of waste ground on Long Millgate revealed Black Mustard, and Common Melilot in flower, and Mugwort and Wormwood, which would be flowering later. Crossing Miller Street and heading Northward, we found a narrow gap in the wall with steps leading to Scotland and the last weir on this short and rather mucky stretch of the Irk, just before it disappears under Victoria Station. Even here, some interesting plants were to be found, with Spiny Sow-thistle on the steps, Ivy-leaved Toadflax on the high walls. Figwort by the river and Fennel Pondweed in it. Most people would walk past these areas without a second glance but time spent looking is rewarded by a sight of some quite unusual plants. This was to be the case for most of the afternoon.

Forced away from the river we diverted to the junction of Aspin Lane and Angel Street to find St. Michael's Church and a burial ground, St. Michaels Flags. In this area there are trees and shrubs which include Hawthorn and roses and a good urban meadow with patches of Bird's foot Trefoil, Lesser Yellow Trefoil and Black Medic. Audrey Franks noticed four species on the pathway; Hairy Tare, Cut-leaved Cranesbill, Field Madger and Thyme-leaved Sandwort, which were probably brought in with the grit. Nearby there was also a grass, Barren Fescue, which is unusual so near the City Centre. Back to the river and along Dantzic Street and in various corners and on odd walls were found to be growing, Buddleia, Eastern Rocket, Woody Nightshade, Biting Stonecrop, Smooth Sow-thistle and the roadside umbellifers, Cow Parsley and Hogweed with one plant of Hemlock by the river. We came to St. Catherine's playground, where there is a rose hedge and a brief grassy walk by the river. In this area Thyme-leaved and Wall Speedwell were found with Germander Spedwell and Ox-eye Daist growing in the meadow.

Heron Gulls - Our ornithologist spotted a number of Great Black-backed Gulls flying overhead, one of which turned out



to be a Heron, a pleasant sight in the city. How did the Scottish Laburnum come be growing near Red Bank Sidings? Well we are not far from Scotland. (See above). Further on there is a G.M.C. improvement scheme, now overgrown by wild vegetation vying with Cut-leaved Elder and Narrow-leaved Willow shrubs where Large Skipper butterflies flitted and sipped above the tall grasses. Contrast this with the boring, flat mown grass of the industrial site by the river, across the road. Here, just short of Moston Brook, a slight diversion was taken on a narrow path and steps underneath the Bury-Victoria line to view a superb colony of Patience Dock, a fine plant of about six feet high. Some of us had never seen this before.

Continuing down Collyhurst Road, pausing only to see a subspecies of Common Vetch (*Vicia angustifolia*) on the site of an old primary school, we diverted left down Smedley Road and crossed the river to arrive at a pleasantly landscaped area with recent tree and shrub planting. Just beyond this, at Batty Street Playground, two of us were left to continue the walk under Queens Road where we discovered Hendham Vale, an area with some woodland and a magnificent riverside hay meadow where a good quantity of Lady's Smock was growing. An almost rural scene. We made our way to Queen's Park to find some refreshment, for the day was still hot. Refreshments were not to be found, not even an ice cream. However, this park is well worth visiting as it has an air of informality not always associated with city parks and the views to be admired from this vantage point, give an impression of being far out in the countryside. According to a map of 1820, this park was once Endham Hall and must have at one time been an estate of some magnificence. But we must return to reality and the necessity of a walk under the hot sun to the city centre and hopefully a thirst-quenching drink.

Unfortunately there is no continuous path along the River Irk but two other areas in the valley which are worth visiting are Bowker Vale and Blackley Forest, respectively South and North of Blackley New Road.

This was an unexpectedly interesting walk, well worth trying but company is advised in this part of the city. //



## Odds and Ends

by Jan Brown

**Planning Matters** - In the spring issue of "Magpie" I reported on the loss of Nell Lane Playing Fields to industrial development and the possibility of the same fate befalling the playing fields at Sharston. Also, Christie's Playing Field, though saved from a Tesco Superstore seems to have been earmarked for some kind of commercial building and on the open fields, south of Simonsway, building has already started. We seem to be losing a great deal of our urban open space and it appears that the next such space to go could be at Heald Green Farm, just to the East of Ferranti's. There have been rumours of large scale developments in the open countryside near the airport.

One of the problems is that much of this open land is owned by the City Council and they obviously appear rather anxious to realize much needed cash by selling some of their assets. The desire to create employment is understandable and much to be applauded but it is a pity that most developments in recent times seem to be on open land rather than on derelict industrial sites. We could end up with the ironic situation where all the open land of some wildlife value is built on and the old industrial land is landscaped in an attempt to redress the balance. If we set out to oppose development of our open spaces, which is what we should be doing, we could be accused of being against the creation of employment, so it is a little difficult to know how to proceed. If any of our readers have an opinion to express about this important matter, please let us know.

**Green Forum** - We hear that the Manchester City Council is to set up a Green Forum in which, hopefully, organisations such as ours can take part. Let's all hope that this will go some way towards solving the problem. //

**Hough End Clough** - During the year work has been carried out to make improvements in this area. In March steps and fences were repaired and in May we laid twenty tons of stone on the paths. Both these work-days were well attended and although the tasks undertaken were hard going, those taking part had an enjoyable time.

On the 21st of May, during Wildflower Week, we planted Wildflowers at the Clough. The object of this exercise being to

increase the variety of flora, which will in time make the area more attractive. Unfortunately, this event was poorly attended. We are not sure of the reason for this but those not present for the occasion missed a pleasant, light task on a glorious late-spring day. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who did help on the above work-days.

The next two tasks at Hough End are on the 16th of July for environmental management work, including hay making, and in November for tree planting. We appeal to members to turn out for these events, as the more hands the lighter the work. So please do try to come. //

## FRIENDS OF THE MERSEY VALLEY

The Friends of the Mersey Valley was formed early in 1989 as an act of protest when Trafford M.B.C. proposed withdrawing from the Mersey Valley Joint Committee.

There was an enthusiastic response and the Friends rapidly gained over 150 members. These came from most of the diverse interests represented in the Mersey Valley. A petition containing over 3700 signatures, opposing Trafford's proposals, was presented to the Mayor of Trafford.

Since then, activities have been widened out and the aim is to become aware of any proposals which it is felt could be harmful to the Valley and to seek consultation with the appropriate authorities. The Friends co-operate with the Mersey Valley Wardens and watch out for and report any acts of pollution, vandalism and poaching. They also report sightings of interesting flora and fauna.

Though promoting broadly recreational and educational interests and trying to introduce as many people as possible to the pleasures and possibility of the Valley, special events have been organised, such as a wind surfing course for under privileged children. However, the main aims are conservation and enhancement of the Mersey Valley seeking improvements as and where necessary.

For further information, please contact

Jane Mayfield 860 6143

Ann Buckingham 881 1814



**Cover Competition** - Unfortunately there was no winner of the fiendishly difficult competition in the spring "Magpie". The correct answer was that the Woodpecker on the left had a red patch above the bill. This was so on three copies but as the fortunate recipients of these did not appear to have spotted the deliberate mistake, then there are no prizes. As we have not been able to think of anything difficult enough, there will be no competition this time. Maybe in the autumn. //

**Open Space Survey** - We are now in possession of a set of O/S 1:10000 scale maps of the City of Manchester. We were able to purchase these, together with slide projector equipment and the word processor which typed this newsletter, because of a Small Pools Grant, for which we are most grateful. With these maps we will be able to make a thorough survey of the open spaces of Manchester and in doing this we would be most appreciative of your help. If you would like to survey your local area then please telephone me, Ian Brown, on 437 7040. You should find this most interesting work and at the same it will help you to get to know the open spaces around you home and gain a more intimate knowledge of the wildlife to be found there. //

#### U.D.P. Submissions For Sale

Those of you who received our January News-sheet will hopefully remember a short article on Unitary Development Plans. We made submissions to the Department of the Environment on the U.D.Ps in March. These submissions expressed our views on what should be happening as regards future development in the Manchester area, particularly as far as it might affect urban wildlife and open spaces.

You may be interested to know what we had to say about the U.D.P. for your district. We made submissions on Manchester, Stockport and Trafford Districts. If you would like to have a copy then they are available for 50 pence each. Just write to:- The Manchester Wildlife Trust, 82 Crantock Drive, Heald Green, Cheadle, Cheshire. SK8 3HA, enclosing 50 pence worth of Postage Stamps and state which one you require. //

**March Hare** - Tim Lepidus regrets that March Hare will not be appearing in this edition of "Magpie". He says "There is not enough space left, even for a hare line crack". //

## MWT Link-up

Have you ever felt that you would like to be more involved with the Manchester Wildlife Trust, without the commitment that business meetings entail? Do you find that guided walks - however interesting - lack a certain something? Would you like to know what goes on behind the scenes at the M.W.T.? Have you ever felt that you could have helped with an event if only you had known about it?

**Link-up** is an opportunity for members to meet, to share experiences, discuss some the topics worrying them, learn who to approach in certain situations and know what discussions have already ensued. A chance for members to visit wildlife sites, to learn and understand the wonders of urban nature conservation from its enthusiastic supporters.

The M.W.T. needs you to:-

- \* Open your wildlife garden.      \* Grow wildflowers.
- \* Host the occasional coffee evening.
- \* Help plant wildflowers and trees.

But most of all we need to get to know you and to hear your views. You are our **Link** to the community at large. Help us, Help nature, Help yourself.

Please return to:- Mike Garnham, 37 Finchley Road, Fallowfield, M14 6EN

Dear MWT, I am interested in "Link-up" and would like to	
Attend a social occasion <input type="checkbox"/>	Open my wildlife garden <input type="checkbox"/>
Host a social occasion <input type="checkbox"/>	Grow wildflowers <input type="checkbox"/>
Help at a work day <input type="checkbox"/>	(Tick appropriate box)
Other.....	
From.....Address.....	
.....	

## Generous Donation

We would like to thank Manchester Central Arthritic Aid for their generous donation which has enabled us to afford the cost of publishing this newsletter. If anyone would wish to make a similar gesture in future, it would be most welcome.



# Membership Application Form

Do you care about City wildlife? Then join us by filling in this form and returning with a cheque/P.O. made out to the Manchester Wildlife Trust Ltd. to Unity Kelly, 13 Ruskin Ave Rusholme, Manchester. M14 4DP

The Trust aims to protect places of natural history interest and provide new wildlife habitats in our gardens and local neighbourhoods. At present we depend mostly on our members' subscriptions to cover our running costs. Members receive the "Magpie" quarterly and can get help and advice about urban wildlife matters. They can take part in any events organised by the Trust and have the chance to become involved in the running of the Trust, which can be very rewarding. Want to know more? Contact Ian Brown on 437 7040 or Unity Kelly on 226 4583. Articles for "Magpie" are always most welcome.

I wish to join the Trust and enclose my annual subscription.

- \* £4 - Individual. \* £6 - Family/Group. \* £60 - Life Member  
\* £2 - Individual. ) Unwaged; under 16 years of age,  
\* £3 - Family/Group. ) senior citizens, etc.  
(\* Please delete those which do not apply.)

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

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

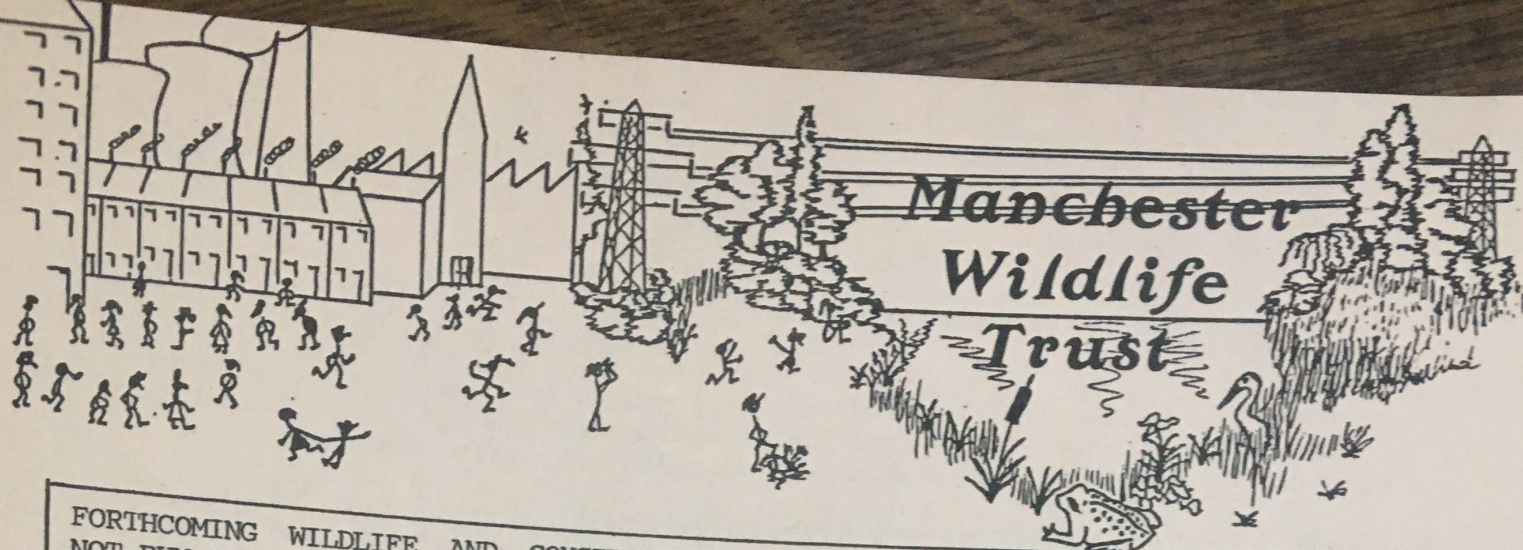
Address.....

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

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82 Crantock Dr. Heald Green, Stockport. SK8 3HA Tel 437 7040

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that information in the "Magpie" is correct, the Trust cannot be held responsible for any mistakes in the text. Likewise, any person who undertakes any project based on information from this newsletter does so at their own risk.





FORTHCOMING WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION EVENTS IN THE MANCHESTER AREA. THOSE MARKED \* NOT RUN BY THE MANCHESTER WILDLIFE TRUST. ORGANIZING BODY, CONTACT AND TELEPHONE NUMBER SHOWN WHERE POSSIBLE OR PHONE IAN BROWN 437 7040. WHY NOT PUT THIS CALENDAR ON YOUR WALL TO REMIND YOU OF WHAT IS GOING ON AND PLEASE TRY AND JOIN US. IT'S GREAT FUN

## July

- Thursday 27th Wildlife Trust Meeting. Committee Room No. 6, Town Hall Extension. Time 7.30 p.m. Contact Ian Brown 437-7040.
- Saturday XXth **Old Time Hay Making Day.** Celebration of ancient hay meadow at Sale Water Park. Time and date to be arranged but any time from end of July to end of August. Contact Ian Brown 437-7040.

## August

- Tuesday 1st Greater Manchester Countryside Festival. Week 1 - Countryside Access
- to Sunday 6th Contact your local River Valley Wardens. (Mersey Valley 491-1647). \*
- Sunday 6th **Walk to Philips Park** via the Ashton Canal. Meet Piccadilly/Newton Street. Time 2 p.m. Contact Unity Kelly 226-4583.
- Monday 7th "Operation Countryside" Activities for children. Something different
- to Friday 18th every day. Contact Mersey Valley Warden Service. 905-1100. \*
- Monday 7th Greater Manchester Countryside Festival. Week 2 - Wildlife. Contact
- to Sunday 13th your local River Valley Wardens. (Etherow/Goyt Valley 427-6937). \*
- Monday 14th Greater Manchester Countryside Festival. Week 3 - Children. Contact
- to Sunday 20th your local River Valley Wardens. (Medlock Valley 330-9613). \*
- Monday 21st Greater Manchester Countryside Festival. Week 4 - Water. Contact to
- Monday 28th your local River Valley Wardens. (Croal/Irwell Valley 0204-71561). \*

## September

- Saturday 9th Didsbury Insect Group Meeting at Parrswood Rural Studies Centre. Time 10 a.m. Contact Jon Delf 445-9648. \*
- Sunday 10th **Walk and seed collection at Abney Hall Park.** Meet at car park down Newlands Road (off Manchester Road, Cheadle). Time 2 p.m. Contact Ian Brown 437-7040.
- Thursday 28th Wildlife Trust Meeting. Committee Room No. 2, Town Hall Extension. Time 7.30 p.m. Contact Ian Brown 437-7040.

## October

- Saturday XXth Transplanting of **Rare Wildflowers** from a development site to a safe
- and Sunday XXth area. Date and time to be arranged. Contact Ian Brown 437-7040. An unusual and worthwhile task. Many volunteers needed.
- Saturday 7th Didsbury Insect Group Meeting/Greater Manchester Forum for Environmental Education - Invertebrate Education Day at Parrs Wood Rural Studies Centre. Time 10 a.m. Contact Jon Delf 445-9648. \*

## November

- Saturday XXth **Tree Plant '89** - Tree planting at Hough End. Dates and time to be to
- Sunday XXth decided. Contact Ian Brown 437-7040.
- Thursday 30th Wildlife Trust Meeting. Venue, time and contact as for the 27th July



## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MANCHESTER WILDLIFE TRUST

(1) To promote the conservation, maintenance and study of places and objects of botanical, zoological, geological, ecological or scientific interest in Manchester and elsewhere, and to encourage the public enjoyment thereof.

(2) To promote the education of the public, particularly young people, in the understanding, enjoyment and conservation of natural flora and fauna, particularly in urban areas.

(3) To promote, organise and carry out study and research in the principles and practice of nature conservation, particularly as they apply to urban areas, and to publish useful results of such research.

(4) To co-operate with other bodies of allied interest, where this may assist in attaining the aims of the Trust, and to promote membership of such bodies.

(5) To liaise with voluntary and statutory bodies involved in urban land use and development and to advise on the management of sites.

The above are extracted from our Memorandum of Association.

We are at present engaged in pursuing as many of these objectives as is practically possible.

Planning - We monitor planning applications in both Manchester and Stockport on a regular basis, and in other districts in Greater Manchester on an ad-hoc basis, in order to attempt to ensure that development does not unduly affect urban open spaces and their fauna and flora. We challenge planning applications where necessary and attend planning committee meetings and public inquiries.

Site Landscaping, Improvement and Management - We undertake these objectives in gardens and other urban open spaces such as North Reddish Mini-Wood and Hough End Clough to ensure that they are more attractive to the local people and of more benefit to wildlife. We have taken part in Manchester City's Tree Plant from its inception in 1986.

Surveys - We undertake surveys of open space in general and specific sites in particular in order to assess their existing and potential wildlife and landscape value.

Education - We design Nature Gardens for educational establishments where funding permits. We organise walks in areas of nature conservation interest and hold volunteer days to undertake practical environmental improvements.

Co-operation and Liaison - We practise these objectives with other voluntary conservation bodies and with appropriate council departments such as Recreational Services. We are asked for and give advice on environmental improvement matters and we try to persuade such departments to carry out improvements to parks and other open spaces under their authority which will be to the benefit of wildlife. We offer advice to those undertaking development in order to persuade them to landscape their developments for the benefit of wildlife.

Study and Research - We practise this in the pursuance of our other objectives, such as site surveys.

General - In order to keep members and the general public informed of our activities, we hold regular meetings and publish a quarterly newsletter and other items of interest.