

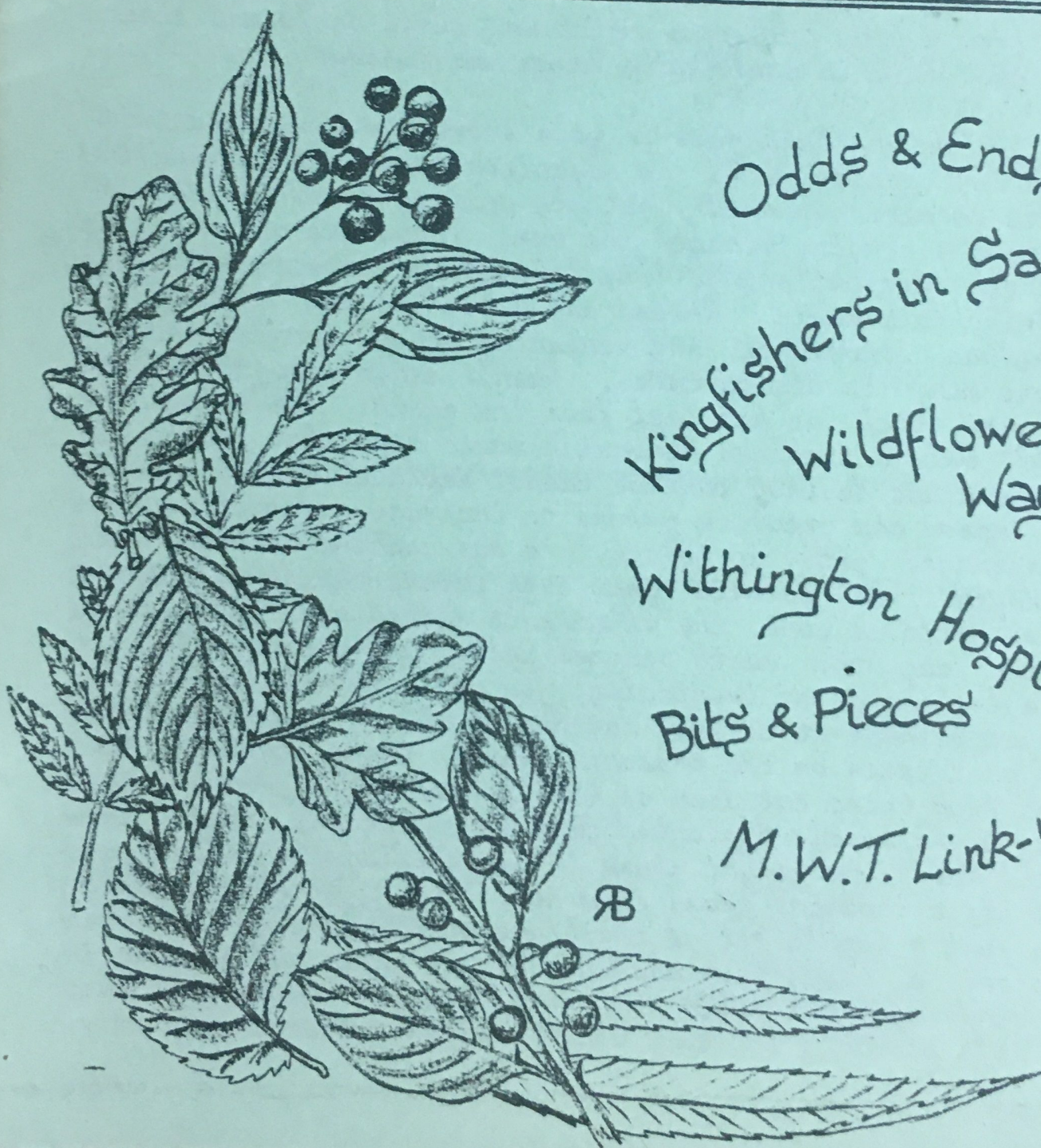


Newsletter of the Manchester Wildlife Trust

The Magpie

Number 14

Autumn 1989



Odds & Ends
Kingfishers in Sale?

Wildflower
Ways
Withington Hospital
Bits & Pieces

M.W.T. Link-up

RB

Editorial

How Green was my Country

contact Ian Brown 437 7040

The "Green" movement has been much in the forefront recently with all sorts of people and organisations, even commercial concerns, becoming involved. You can now buy a green car (Oh yeah!). One might be forgiven for thinking that a concern for the environment is something new.

A short while ago, I was listening to a programme on Radio 4 called, "With Great Pleasure", when Stephen Fry read an extract from a play by Chekov which was first performed ninety years ago. This is what Uncle Vanya had to say.

.....You can burn peat in your stove and build your out-houses of brick. I've no objection anyway to cutting the forests to meet our needs, but why destroy them. The Russian forests are ringing beneath the axe. Thousands of millions of trees are perishing. The habitats of mammals and birds are being laid waste. Rivers are dwindling and drying up; marvellous landscapes are vanishing beyond recall. And all because man, in his idleness, hasn't sense enough to bend down and pick up his fuel from the earth. Isn't that the truth? Only a reckless barbarian would burn that beauty in his stove and destroy what we cannot replace. Man is endowed with reason and creative powers to increase and multiply his inheritance, yet, up to now, he has created nothing; only destroyed. The forests grow ever fewer, the rivers parch, the wildlife is gone, the climate is ruined and with every passing day the earth becomes uglier and poorer. You sit there looking at me ironically; you don't take me seriously, and yes perhaps it is just another of my odd ideas, but when I go past trees on the peasants' land; trees that I have saved from being cut down on when I hear the sigh and rustle of my young woodland planted with my own hands, then I know that I have some slight share in controlling the climate and that if, a thousand years from now, human beings are happy, then just a little bit of the blame will belong to me. When I plant a birch tree and then see it green and swaying in the wind, my heart fills with pride and I.... However I must go. It's probably all some crack brained notion anyway.....

I hope you will find Chekov's words more enlightening than the usual rubbish to be found in the editorial. I will now leave you to enjoy the rest of this newsletter in peace. //

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. Maybe you would be prepared to lead a walk in your local urban countryside. Let us know. And again, please do try to join in our events. //

CONTACTS

Ian Brown (Chairman),
82 Crantock Drive,
Heald Green, Cheadle,
Cheshire. SK8 3HA
Tel. 437 7040

Unity Kelly (Treasurer),
13 Ruskin Avenue,
Rusholme,
Manchester. M14 4DP
Tel 226 4583

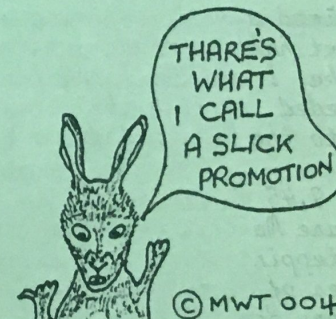
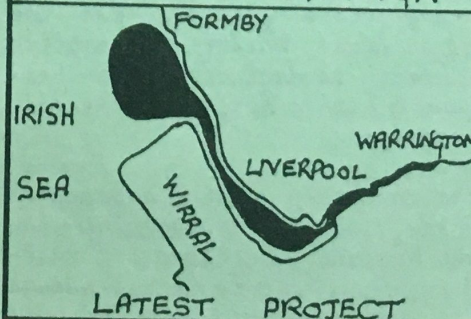
Mike Garnham (Vice-chair),
37 Finchley Road,
Fallowfield,
Manchester. M14 6EN
Tel. 224 0050

Anthony Phelps (Secretary),
Flat 7, 104 Clyde Road,
West Didsbury,
Manchester. M20 8WN

March Hare

by Jim Lepidus

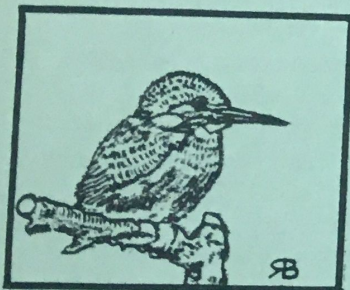
SMELL BETTER BRITAIN CAMPAIGN



Kingfishers in Sale? (and so to BED)

Broad Ees Dole - Monday 28th August 1989 by Anthony Phelps

This was the second day of the Sale Countryside Fair, and I had heard that the Kingfisher nesting on Chorlton Brook was regularly seen on Broad Ees Dole (BED). I had gone there the day before, but had had no luck. I was not to be defeated, and, after an extremely early start, arrived at 7.00 a.m. The weather was cool and clear, and the lakes and river were thickly covered with mist, and the ground was drenched with dew, as was the bench at BED! The sun was at 2 o'clock, just over the Mersey banks, and the view was of spider's webs and strands of gossamer, outlined with dewdrops, poetically backlit.



With the heavy mist, all I could see were some stationary Herons, and some Moonhens. At 7.20 a.m. I heard a piping call and from the back left I saw the Kingfisher fly in, low over the ground, and it settled in the perching tree. During the next twenty minutes it flew between the majority of perches on the site, offering marvellous views, trying

failingly to find a perch overlooking "good" water, as the Dole is drying up. While it was on one perch, just to the left of the tree, two Snipe settled almost in front, and I could see a female Kestrel on the shingle bank to the rear. The Kingfisher left the way it had come. However, I heard it calling, and noticed it on a perch by the edge of the main lake. It flew around over the lake, which was quiet. It remained around, offering only very scarce glimpses, for the next half to three quarters of an hour. Whilst scanning the lake, I saw two Terns fly in (Common or Arctic?), which proceeded to fish the waters, and a Little Ringed Plover flew onto the Dole, as did a Pied Wagtail.

At 9.45 a.m., I left to attend the Fair, seeing a party of the House Martins over the lake, and, as I was approaching the "Stepping Stones", I saw a Grey Wagtail. By then, all vestiges of mist had cleaned, and it turned out to be a glorious sunny day.

AUG 89

Odds & Ends

by Jan Brown

Planning Matters - In the last issue of "Magpie" I informed you about the loss and possible future loss of open space in south Manchester. The reaction from some members was that we should continue to object to these losses, even when the often spurious argument of "new jobs" is used (see "Bits and Pieces"). I have recently received news that we are now almost certain to lose a fine species rich hay meadow to the east of Cheadle Royal Hospital. One of the plants growing there is Hay Rattle, which, I am led to believe, is an indicator of ancient hay meadows. The reason for this possible loss is the construction of a 250,000 sq. ft. superstore, with 2,500 car parking spaces; hardly a sympathetic way to manage such an area. I have not yet had time to read in detail the two reams of paper which constitute the public inquiry report into shopping cities (try the complete works of Shakespeare), but I think we ought to make a comment on this matter to the powers that be. Apart from the wildlife implications, the rate at which food shops are closing down in Heald Green (where I live) is most alarming and these shops are hardly likely to be re-occupied with the threat of a nearby superstore hanging over us all. We have already come to the ludicrous situation where there are more shops, in the main part of Heald Green, where you can buy a house than there are shops selling food. (Sound familiar!) Still, there is no need to worry. Instead of walking to the shops we will in future be able to go by car (those who have one). The strong possibility of a similar development in Handforth will help neither wildlife nor the walking shopper. For this situation we have to thank, Tesco, Marks and Spencers, Sainsburys and British Home Stores. //

Environment Now - In the last newsletter I reported on the demise of the magazine "Environment Now" and its incorporation into World magazine as a very slim insert. I was perhaps a little harsh in calling the latter publication "an environment for Yuppies" as the environment for these creatures probably does not extend beyond the wine bar. World magazine is an excellent and colourful publication, but a little slanted towards people and places whereas I prefer to read about wildlife and the wider environment. The good news is that in November "Environment Now" is to be relaunched as an

AUG 89

Page 5

independent magazine. Much as I am loath to advertise other people's products, free of charge, I would recommend that you give it a try. In the past some articles have been a bit pessimistic but it does no harm to know the worst and will certainly not stop me from working for a better environment. This magazine has confirmed my suspicions that some governments of the world have little concern for the environment. In fact, going for "growth" is probably, in most respects (all respects?), in direct conflict to an indefinitely sustainable environment. //

For an explanation of the last sentence (if needed), I would recommend "What is Ecology" by D.F. Owen - Oxford University Press. //

Special Importance - Both Nan Nook Wood and a hay meadow at Sale Water Park have recently been declared Grade "B" Sites of Biological Importance. We hope this will afford them some extra protection from unsympathetic development and encourage the local authorities, in whose areas they lie, to adopt or continue management practices which will increase their value to wildlife. //

Open Space Survey - We have not had much response to our request for volunteers to help in this survey, except from a new member, David Barnes, who lives in Gorton. If you are able to spare a little time to survey the open spaces near your home, then phone Ian Brown on 437 7040. We especially need this work doing in Trafford as council officials there are keen to co-operate with us in this matter. //

Wildflower Ways by Mike Garnham

Quite a good range of wildflower seed is now available "off the shelf" at your local garden centre, and of course there are some excellent specialist suppliers around the country, including "NPK" in Didsbury. The drawback is the cost; about a pound for a pinch of seed!

While it is illegal to harvest the seeds of some rare species (lists available from good books or the RSNC), it is quite easy to collect seeds from plants growing in gardens belonging to other members. If care is taken, where there is a large colony of a common wildflower, you can also gather a

small amount of seed from the wild. Of course never pick any wild flowers!

This short article on growing wildflowers from seed can do no more than introduce the subject, but I hope it will be some guide as to the collecting and propagating some of the commoner species, and could be to other plants in the same family.

Seed Collecting - Most seeds should be harvested when the seed head has dried and turned brown. If the seed is held in a capsule (eg. poppy) you can simply pick the head and empty the ripe seed into a container. Some capsules may need to be crushed to release the seed (eg. foxglove). If the seeds are green or still moist, leave for another week. Where the seed is contained on the dried out flower head (eg. daisy), pick the head and rub the thumb across it over a container to collect the seed.

The seeds of dandelion or thistle are ripe when the seed head opens and the seed can be pulled out by the tail (pappus). The pappus doesn't need to be cleaned off before sowing.

Members of the carrot family (umbellifers) have branching seed heads, and the seeds are ripe when they are dried out and shake readily off the seed head.

Some plants are best harvested just before fully ripe. The cranesbill family catapult the ripened seed quite some distance. The best solution is to cut the seed head as they turn brown, and then ripen them in a container covered with muslin. Similarly, podded seed (eg. vetch) are best collected when the pods have turned brown. The pods should be put in a container in a warm dry place to burst.

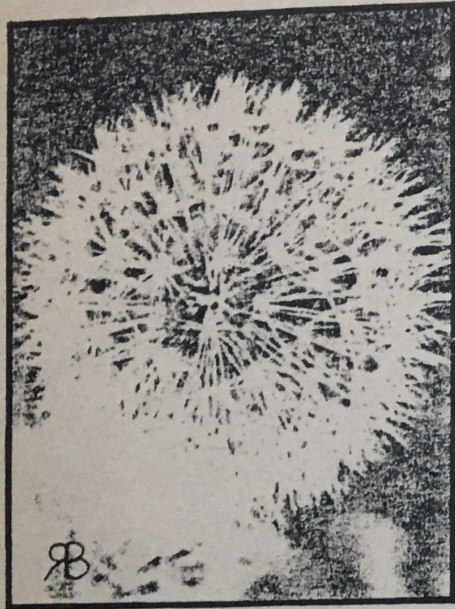
The final tricky seed head is the primrose, which is on a long stalk, which bends over onto the soil. Collect the seed head just before it splits open, or the seed will just fall to the ground.

Storage - Store seeds in a paper bag or envelope, preferably in a drawer or tin in the house where they will be dark and dry and at an even temperature. Avoid keeping fresh seeds for more than a year, but if you do, the best place is in a container in the fridge.

Germination - When you sow wildflower seeds, some may germinate straight away, some may wait a season. It is in the

interest of the flower not to have all its seeds come up at once. One bad winter, disease on cultivation, and the whole colony might be lost.

There are no hard and fast rules about which wildflower seeds will germinate easily, and which need special conditions to assist them but plants of the same family often need similar conditions.



Scarification - This involves rubbing the seed between two sheets of sandpaper in order to weaken the hard outer coat and allow moisture, required for germination, to penetrate. This is necessary for many of the seeds in the Cranesbill and Pea families.

Stratification - Many seeds have a dormancy period, which requires a cold spell followed by warmth to break. These seeds are best sown in autumn or alternatively sown in damp sand/peat in trays and placed in the fridge for four weeks.

Seeds of poppy, rose, carnation, primrose and lily families all require a period of stratification. Seeds of other families don't normally require this treatment, but it never hurts to sow seed in autumn, and if in doubt do so. After all it's only imitating nature!

Some plants have a double dormancy period (i.e. cold, warmth, cold.), eg. Lily of the Valley and Solomon's Seal.

Primrose seeds, which will often germinate readily when fresh, when dried, become dormant and require cold or freezing conditions to re-awaken.

Sowing Seeds - I won't say much here as most gardening books have a section on the subject. However, as a rough guide, large seeds are best sown in the soil, while small seeds, which would be easily lost outdoors, are best sown in seed trays. Scatter small seeds on the surface of moist compost on soil; press medium seeds into the surface with your hand or foot; lightly cover large seeds. Keep the soil moist. //

Plant	Type	Flowers	Harvest	Notes
Bird's-foot Trefoil	P	May-Aug	Aug-Sep	Scarify. Sow in autumn where it is to flower. Press into soil.
Red Clover	P	May-Sep	Aug-Sep	Scarify. Sow in autumn where it is to flower and press in.
Corn Cockle	A	Jun-Aug	Sept	Now a protected species in the wild. Sow where it is to flower in autumn and cover with soil.
Cornflower	A	Jun-Aug	Aug-Sep	Scatter seeds in autumn, rake in/cover lightly
Corn Marigold	A	Jun-Sep	Aug-Sep	Sow seed where it is to flower in autumn. Rake in or cover lightly.
Cowslip	P	Apr-May	May-Jun	Stratification helpful. Sow in seed tray in autumn. Firm in. Plant out following autumn.
Meadow Cranesbill	P	Jun-Aug	August	Scarify. Sow in bare soil in the late spring and cover lightly.
Devil's-bit Scabious	P	Jul-Aug	Aug-Sep	Sow seeds in spring or autumn in soil or seed trays. Cover lightly.
Foxglove	B	Jun-Aug	Aug-Sep	Sow seeds in spring where it is to flower or in seed trays. Cover lightly.
Harebell	P	Jul-Sep	Sept	Best sown in trays in spring. Plant out in short grass in autumn. Or scatter seeds onto soil in spring and water.
Hawkbit	P	Jun-Sep	Aug-Sep	Sow seed in trays, spring or autumn and press firmly in. Plant out in grass when large enough
Knapweed	P	Jul-Aug	Aug-Sep	Sow seeds in trays in spring and cover lightly. Plant out in autumn.
Lords and Ladies	P	Apr-Aug	Aug-Sep	Sow ripe berries where they are to flower in autumn. Cover lightly with soil.
Meadow Buttercup	P	Jun-Aug	Sept	Sow where it is to flower in spring or autumn. Cover lightly with soil.
Ox-eye Daisy	P	May-Sep	Jul-Sep	Sow seed where it is to flower in spring or autumn, cover lightly. To sow in established, meadow, cut grass short in autumn & sow seed.
Wild Pansy	A	Apr-Aug	Jun-Aug	Sow seeds in spring where they are to flower. Press lightly into soil.
Primrose	P	Mar-Jun	May-Jun	See Cowslip.
Common Poppy	A	Jun-Aug	Aug-Sep	Sow thinly in autumn. Press into soil but do not cover.
Ragged Robin	P	May-Aug	Jul-Aug	Sow seeds in soil or in trays in spring and press in.
Red Campion	P	Apr-Jul	Jul-Aug	See Ragged Robin.
Teasel	B	Jul-Aug	Aug-Sep	Sow in autumn where it is to flower.
Common Thistle	B	Jul-Sep	Aug-Sep	Sow in autumn where it is to flower. Cover lightly.
Tufted Vetch	P	Jul-Sep	Sept	Scarify. Sow in autumn in bare soil in meadow. Cover lightly.
Yarrow	P	Jun-Sep	Sept	Sow early spring in tray or on bare soil.

Type: A = Annual. B = Biennial. P = Perennial.

Withington Hospital by Anthony Phelps

The Story so Far

My idea first started when Dave Bentley, of the Bury Wildlife Action Group came to a meeting of our own Trust, at the Town Hall. I was so impressed by what he said that I immediately sent off an application for membership of his Group, despite the fact that I was unable to become an "active volunteer".

When the Bury newsletter arrived, I read with interest a large article about their work at the Florence Nightingale Hospital. This made me want to do something similar, and, as I live very close to Withington Hospital, this sprang to mind. There is a particular patch of woodland at Withington Hospital, that had remained unchanged for as long as I have lived in Manchester, and this has, fairly recently become fenced in from the public right of way.

Earlier this year, during Easter, I sat down and wrote a draft agreement document, setting out my proposal to manage this patch of woodland, which I produced at the next meeting in the Town Hall. Following advice from Mike Gannham, I then wrote to the General Manager at the Withington. This yielded two replies, from the General Manager & his assistant, both showing enthusiastic interest in encouraging wildlife at the Hospital.

On Tuesday the 25th of July 1989, I arranged our first meeting with Mr. Brown, the Assistant General Manager. I attended the meeting, and invited Ian Brown and Mike Gannham as well. We had a good look at the site, and talked about the possibilities. We left Mr. Brown saying that he would obtain confirmation from his boss, the General Manager, at the meeting to be held the following Wednesday. He would contact me, with a decision. He also said that he did not foresee a negative response.

I will keep you posted of developments and, should you think of similar sites, please contact me and I can let you have a copy of the agreement (amendable on our Word Processor), and the original letter. After all the idea was someone else's!

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
Womens Groups
Church Societies
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 Gannham on 224 0050.

GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

Do you want your Garden to be a haven for Wildlife and be more attractive and easier to manage? Grass which needs less cutting. Hedges that only need trimming once a year. Shrubs & Flowers which attract more Butterflies and birds. Ponds with frogs & newts. You do!

THEN CONSULT US - THE MANCHESTER WILDLIFE TRUST - Phone Mike Gannham 224 0050

and find out what you can do for Wildlife
No garden too large or too small.

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.....

Copyright the Manchester Wildlife Trust Ltd. (No. 2091456)
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.

Bits and Pieces

by Anthony Phelps

Important Notice - If anyone wishes to contribute a little money to the Trust, may I inform you of a couple of specific funds which we have set up.

Tool Fund - The Trust is in need of tools, to enable it to carry out work more efficiently on our work days throughout the year.

Hospital Fund - Although we have not officially been given the go-ahead on the Withington Hospital project, if/when we do hear, we will be in need of specific items such as wood and nails for the building of nest boxes, as well as plants. If YOU would like to give to either of these funds, please sent your donation to Unity Kelly (Treasurer) and mark your envelope **Tool Fund** or **Hospital Fund**. Cheques payable to the "Manchester Wildlife Trust" and thank you for any help that you can give. //

Newsletter Sponsoring - Following the sponsorship given by "Manchester Central Arthritic Aid", these are the suggested rates for advertising, which can be given to companies:

£ 7.50 (minimum) for a $\frac{1}{4}$ page advertisement

£15.00 (minimum) for a $\frac{1}{2}$ page advertisement

£20.00 (minimum) for a $\frac{1}{2}$ page advertisement and a cover logo

If you know of a company who would like to sponsor us, then please let me know, as I have a letter on the word processor which can be sent, using official headed paper. //

Don't give up, you can win! - I write to a friend who lives in Tasmania, who is very interested in conservation, and is keen to know about what is happening in the "old country". I had explained to her how it is often very difficult to argue against developments which will "provide X number of jobs". This is her reply:

"The 'X amount of jobs' argument would seem to be a popular one. Earlier this year an Australian and a Canadian company wanted to build a pulp mill in a prime farming area along the coast. The jobs argument was the major one put forward to support it, and our previous government really took great delight in its little disinformation campaign. The trouble is that so many people trust what the government tells them. Luckily we had an election in May, and the woman who led the

local anti-mill campaign stood as an Independent candidate and won a seat. Tassie (Tasmania) actually finished up with five 'Green' Independents who joined forces with the supposedly 'Green' Labour party to rid us of the Liberals. A very surprising and unusual election, and one which gives me hope."

//

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 topics which are 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.....	

Round up

Forthcoming Marriage - We are pleased to announce that in November, one of the Trust's Vice Chairs, Donald McGeorge, and Jane Elizabeth Mary Atherton are to be married. We wish them both happiness for the future and hope that rather than losing a member, we will be gaining one. Undoubtedly there will be room in the honeymoon luggage for binoculars.

PLANTS FOR SALE - We have for sale some Wildflower Plants. They are easy to grow and amongst those presently available are, Rough Hawkbit, Bird's foot Trefoil, Water Avena, Bugle, Common Toadflax and Red Campion, with others to order. All at a competitive price of 40p. each or 3 for £1. Phone Mike Gannham with your orders on 224 0050.

Publications for Sale - The first in a series of **Maggie Booklets** - **Making your own Pond** by Shaun Wilson - is now available. Step by step instructions for the making of a Wildlife Pond for your garden. Still available - Copies of our submissions to the forthcoming Unitary Development Plans for **Trafford, Manchester and Stockport**. Find out what we think about future planning for your area. When ordering, state which District you require. The above publications are all available for 50p. worth of postage stamps (2 @ 20p. + 1 @ 10p.) including delivery from Ian Brown, M.W.T., 82 Crantock Drive, Heald Green, Cheadle, Cheshire. SK8 3HA

Chorlton Open Day - Many thanks to members **Ida Hobbs & Liela Harvey** for their work in making this "Coffee Morning" event such a success. We are also very grateful to the ladies of the Chorlton Community Centre for their good efforts at the sales counters. All this hard work ensured the success of the enterprise and the surplus of over £100 will help to supplement our much stretched funds. A similar event in the future would be a good idea. Any suggestions?

Article Stakes - At the autumn meeting in Manchester, Phelps won the Article Stakes by a short head from Gannham with The Chairman, a poor third and March Hare, way down the field. If you want to break up this monopoly and see a fair race, then send your article to Maggie for the Editor's scrutiny.

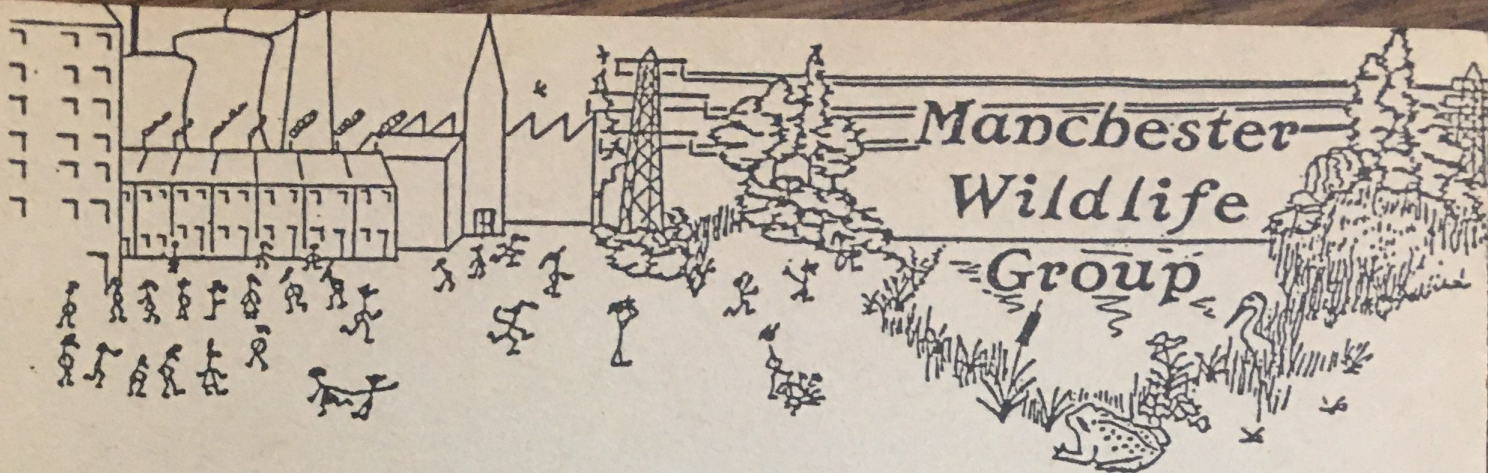
Useful Contacts

- Bats OCT Bat Group - 0606 781868 (day)
 LTNC Bat Group - Steve Garland - 0204 22311 (day)
- Bees (Swarms, information etc.) Keith Taylor - 793 7335
- Birds RSPB - Tony O'Neill - 962 2449
- British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
Sale & Altrincham - Shelagh Aston - 275 3146 (day) 928 2223
Salford & Trafford - Brian Taylor - 872 7640 (day)
- Bury Wildlife & Countryside A. G. - Dave Bentley - 724 8602
- Insects Didsbury Insect Group - Jon Delf - 445 9648
- Friends of the Earth - Kevin McGovern - 945 1097
- Friends of the Mersey Valley - Ann Buckingham - 881 1814
- Mersey Valley Wardens - Sale 905 1100 - Chorlton 881 5639
- RSNC Tony Jones (Urban Wildlife Development Officer),
 The Green, Nettleham, Lincoln. LN2 2NR
- Stockport Heritage Trust - John Turner - 494 6589

This list will help you to contact the correct organisation. Conservation groups wishing to be included on future lists - please let us know and maybe, in return, we could be similarly featured in the publications of others.

Old Members

We would like to appeal to those who have become lapsed members to consider rejoining the Trust. It's not that so much that we need your subscriptions but we need your help. The more members we have, the more influence we have. We need this influence in order to be more effective in conserving and improving YOUR urban environment and making the Manchester area a better place in which to live. We have made good progress in recent times but to keep this going we need your support. //



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

October

- Sunday 29th North Reddish Mini-wood. Bulb planting. Contact June Greaves on 432 6475 for time and location. Volunteers needed to plant 350 bulbs. *
- Sunday 29th Sale and Altrincham Conservation Volunteers - Rostherne National Nature Reserve - Leader Shelagh Aston 928 2223. *

November

- Saturday XXth Transplanting of Rare Wildflowers from a development site to a safe area. Date and time to be arranged. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040. An unusual and worthwhile task. Many volunteers needed.
- Sunday XXth
- Saturday 4th Didsbury Insect Group Meeting. Trip to Liverpool Museum. Contact Jon Delf for details 445 9648. *
- Sunday 12th Sale & Altrincham Conservation Volunteers - Priory Gardens Nature Reserve - Leader Andy Bell 905 1609. *
- Friday 17th Social Evening at 37 Finchley Road, Fallowfield. Video on Churchyard Wildlife, Slide Show, Wildflower Plants for sale etc. Time 7.30 p.m. Contact Mike Garnham 224 0050.
- Friday 17th Tree Plant '89 - Tree Planting at Hough End. Meet at Hough End
- Saturday 18th Crescent (South end of Alexandra Road South), Time - 10 to 4. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040.
- Thursday 30th Wildlife Trust Meeting. Committee Room No. 6, Town Hall Extension, Manchester. Time - 7.30 p.m. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040.

December

- Sunday 3rd Sale & Altrincham Conservation Volunteers - Hogswood Covert - Leader Jon Sykes 941 5465. *
- Saturday 9th Didsbury Insect Group. Christmas Party. Meet at Parris Wood Rural Studies Centre 10 a.m. Bring some food. Contact Jon Delf 445 9648. For dates of 1990 meetings phone Jon or turn up for the Party. *
- Sunday 17th Sale & Altrincham Conservation Volunteers - Priory Gardens Nature Reserve - Leader Andy Bell 905 1609. *

1990

- January
- Sunday 7th Sale & Altrincham Conservation Volunteers - Tatton Park - Leader Andy Powell 445 0021. Task Hedgelaying. *
- Thursday 25th Wildlife Trust Meeting. Committee Room No 6, Town Hall Extension, Manchester. Time 7.30 p.m. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040. Venue and date may change, look out for further information or contact contact



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.