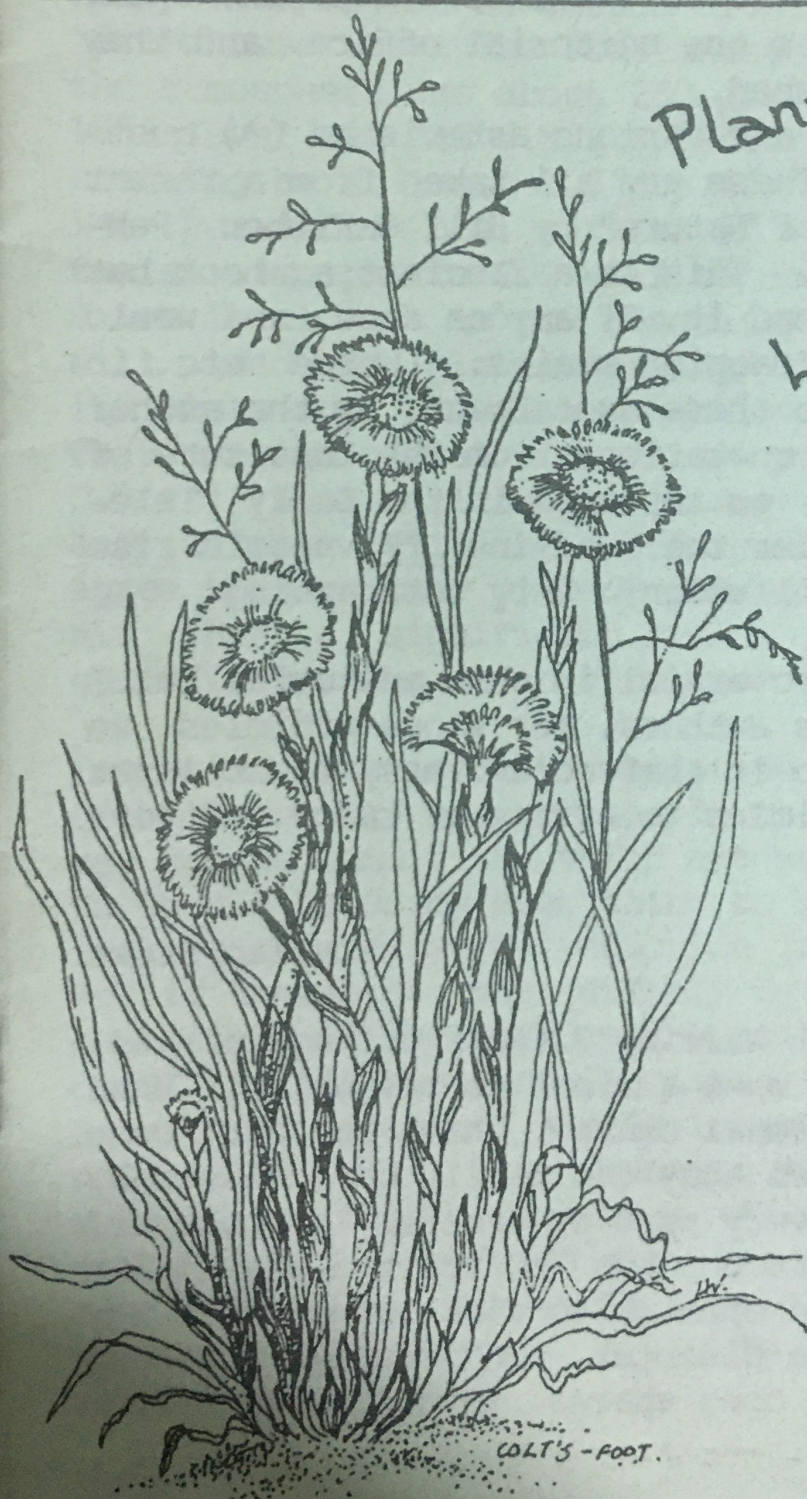


Newsletter of the Manchester Wildlife Trust

# The Magpie

Number 19

Spring 1991



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Manchester Butterflies

Malcolm Practise Award

and  
much  
much  
more

Inside





Spring is on its way (by the time you get this newsletter it may be almost over), and to me the first sign of spring is the Blackthorn blossom in my garden. Far more attractive, I feel, than the blooms of exotic trees in our streets, the Blackthorn blossom is like jewels in the hedgerow but worth far more than jewels. Look out for it this spring and see if you agree.

**Wildlife Matters** - Some readers may feel that there is a shortage of wildlife content in this "Magpie". If so, I apologise. I feel that the articles submitted and selected to appear are on matters of concern to urban wildlife and the environment but if you would like to see more devoted to wildlife; take pen, apply to paper and send the results to the editorial office, and they are almost certain to be published.

**Points of Information** - There are various asterisked (\*) quotations in this newsletter. These are all taken from a recent publication entitled "The End of Nature" by Bill McKibben (Penguin Books ISBN 0-14-012306-7). This is a fascinating book but you will need to be brave to read it. If anyone does, and would like to do a review, the next "Magpie" awaits. [Words etc. in brackets [] denote additions to these quotations, by the author [or editor]]. Also there are quotations from the Institute of Geographers' annual conference, as reported in the Daily Telegraph of the 5th of January under the headline, "Five-fold rise in fuel tax urged to cut car pollution". Very interesting.

I have tried not to be controversial in this editorial but I feel confident that the various authors, for whose articles we are grateful, will have seen to it that controversy is at least a minor ingredient spicing articles to suit your taste. Enjoy!

## Hot Offices

by Ian Brown

Do business parks cause "Global Warming"? (He's off again - Ed) I think that they do at least make a minor contribution. When offices are located at the regional centre, which in our case is Manchester City Centre, then they can easily be accessed by public transport from almost every part of Greater Manchester. Some may choose to travel by car but bus and train are a viable and easy alternative. The same applies to district centres for people living within the same district. Conversely, business parks, scattered randomly on open spaces, do not benefit from

public transport links with all parts of the conurbation. They may be on a bus route, or even a rail route, but access may entail a quite tortuous journey involving several changes of bus and/or train. It would be comforting to think that business parks would be staffed by mostly local people, who could cycle or walk to work, but judging by the generous car parking provision of such places, it seems that most employees will drive there. We cannot as yet dictate where people live in relation to their work.

So it would seem that business parks will bring about an increase in private car mileage. The main by-product of the internal combustion engine is carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), which is a principal "Greenhouse Gas". The Pre-industrial Revolution level of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere was about 280 parts per million (p.p.m.) and the 1958 level was 315 p.p.m.; hardly a trace. It is currently increasing by at least 1.5 p.p.m., annually; and rising! In about 140 years from now, earlier if we increase use of carbon based fuels, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> will be double the Pre-industrial Revolution level. It is now generally accepted that this increase will lead to global warming; by how much is not certain but, 100 years ago, "Swedish scientist Svante Arrhenius calculated that average global temperature would rise by as much as 5 deg. C." (\*) What will happen is anybody's guess but the atmosphere and climate, will be different. "Scientists now [generally] agree that we have already pumped so much gas [CO<sub>2</sub>] into the air that a significant rise in temperature, and a subsequent shift in weather is inevitable." (\*)

The main point is that, whilst we may be able to live with some global warming, an increase in the increase of CO<sub>2</sub> in the air may create conditions which are not tolerable to life on earth. We should be doing everything to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and this includes a drastic reduction in the use of cars and lorries. Public transport, particularly by rail (if used to a reasonable capacity), is far more environmentally friendly than the motor car. At the Inst. of Geographers' annual conference, Dr. John Roberts of Transport and Environment Studies, a London Consultancy, said better city planning was needed so that people could walk to the shops, work etc. "Virtually all car intensive projects should be refused planning permission," he said. Out of centre business parks will surely lead to more car use and they should be discouraged. A little bit too much global warming is bad for you.

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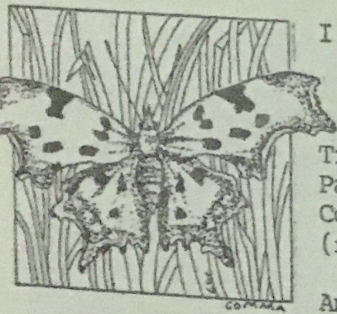


# Butterflies around Manchester

by Peter Hardy

Last autumn I attended an evening "Extra-Mural" study course on "Butterfly Biology" at Manchester University; the teacher Roger Dennis, expressed his regret that no systematic survey of the butterflies of the Manchester area has ever been published. This seems surprising, as such a survey has been done for Sheffield, for instance.

Living and working in the Mersey Valley I have good opportunities to observe and record the butterflies, particularly during lunch-breaks; being on "flexi-time" at work helps! My favourite site is the north bank of the Mersey westwards from Crossford Bridge as far as the Stretford sewage farm. This bank has now largely recovered from severe disturbance in 1987 when the water authority reshaped it. Other worthwhile sites nearby include the opposite bank, especially from Little Ees Lane to Church Lane; an abandoned sports field on Glebelands Road, Sale; the rear of Crossford Bridge sports field; the opposite bank by the motorway bridge; the rear of Priory Gardens; Kenworthy Fields; parts of Chorlton Ees including the disturbed but now settling bank of Chorlton Brook; the edge of the reclaimed tip at Poplar Road, Stretford; the strip between Kickerty Brook and the tip-road; "dead elms lane" (i.e. the gated track northwards from Bradley Lane just east of the Stretford sewage farm) and many more in the Urmston and Stockport areas.



I have recorded seventeen species: Small Skipper (first seen 1990), Large Skipper, Clouded Yellow (1983 only), Large White, Small White, Green-Veined White, Orange-Tip, Small Copper, Common Blue, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Comma (rapidly increasing), Speckled Wood (first seen 1990), Wall and Meadow Brown.

An observer in Heald Green who regularly monitors a local railway cutting has recorded all these species and also the Brimstone and Small Heath. He has also seen the Holly Blue in Cheadle Hulme.

Some years ago I was shown the White-Letter Hairstreak at Chadkirk; Green Hairstreak has been reported from Carrington Moss.

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Referring back to Roger Dennis, he has done very detailed observations on butterflies in the Bollin Valley and published several scientific papers on them. In all the river-valleys around Manchester there are habitats suitable for all these butterflies and the value of the area should not be underestimated. The Whites and the Vanessids are mobile species and likely to appear in any suitable habitat; most of the others are more sedentary, tending to form "closed" populations; the presence of a colony is a good indication of the overall ecological health of a site. With their high aesthetic appeal, butterflies ought surely to attract a large following. //

## BUTTERFLY SURVEY

by Ian Brown

It appears that a survey of butterflies in the Manchester area would be desirable. We feel that this would be best done on a site basis rather than by kilometre square. If you would like to be involved; chose a site; it might be your local park, or other open space, an area in a river valley, canal or railway cutting/embankment. Contact the editor's office, by telephone or post, and let us know the area you have chosen. We can send you survey forms and other information to help you with your survey work. There will be a sample survey form with the next "Magpie" but start looking now, as hibernating butterflies are likely to be found. A weekly or fortnightly visit to your site should be adequate. Take a note of any species seen, and the date. Additional information, such as caterpillars and their food plants, would be useful but not vital. You should find this an interesting way in which to become more familiar with your local wildlife and the results could reveal new sites of wildlife importance. Reports of butterflies from gardens will also be useful. We cannot hope to complete a full survey of Greater Manchester in the first year, but let's make a start, however small, and widen the survey in subsequent years.

Useful books include: A Field Guide to Caterpillars of Butterflies & Moths in Britain and Europe by D.J. Carter and B. Hargreaves, Collins ISBN 0-00-219080 - A Complete Guide to British Butterflies by Margaret Brooks and Charles Knight, Book Club Associates. For field work, the Mitchell Beazley pocket guide.

Did You Know - A specific creosote plant in the Southwestern Desert [USA] was estimated recently to be 11,700 years of age.

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This event was held on Saturday the 1st of December and I gallantly struggled to carry our exhibition boards to the school, where I found a few Greenpeace workers setting tables round the hall. I put my bags on a table right in front of the entrance, thereby securing the best position for the Manchester Wildlife Trust. Nobody seemed to mind, so I put two tables together and erected the exhibition.

Ian arrived soon afterwards, and we put out our merchandise (we were acting as a franchise agency for both the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, and Parrs Wood Rural Studies Centre). I'd made price displays for all the hedgehog goods, and we set up a bench in front of the tables to display Unity's plants from Parrs Wood (which Linda Smith had kindly brought in her car). The stand looked "magnificent" - there is no other word to describe it. I managed to sell about £23 worth of goods for the Hedgehog Society, and Unity sold 12 plants. We found people were most interested in our stand and many stopped to talk. We may well get a few membership subscriptions as a result, which will cover the fee we paid to Greenpeace. A very popular "attraction" was the Sainsbury's information on their application to destroy Bruntwood Hay Meadow in Cheadle. //

## POND CLEARANCE AT PAINSWICK PARK

by Anthony Phelps

"It was a cold and foggy morning". It was Saturday the 8th of December, the day of the blizzard and Arctic gales, but I wore enough clothes to ensure the wind wouldn't get through (I just beat Ian by one layer!). The Group were very enthusiastic, and consisted of Linda Smith, Zoe Cohen and Hilary Kelly. We started work in the relative shelter of the hedgerow pond which was lower than the field. There was snow, but not much more than grass deep, and the wind wasn't as strong as had been forecast.

It's amazing what people throw in ponds (and how!). Fuel tanks, a motorbike, several prams, a previously council owned plastic window, etc. (What no shopping trolley! - Ed.) We had to wait for the skip to arrive (It was already there; we just couldn't see it. - Ed.), and when it did, it was a long walk! Elaine Norsworthy, from Rec. Services, and her friend, June Oliver, arrived with a wheelbarrow, which was used to move the large

pile of rubbish to the skip. Ian and I pruned some of the trees around the pond edge, and I cleared a lot of Willow from the middle of the pond, to allow light to get through. A large habitat pile was created, on a bank, which was greatly appreciated by a local Robin. There is a huge amount of Willow left, both in and around the pond; we will have a good day's work for a couple of people, at least, to clear the rest of the pond, some time in 1991.

With the amount of rubbish in the water, it was good to see a frog (which we thought was on its last legs) on the edge of the pond when we arrived, but when I tried to find it to give it a home in the habitat pile, it had gone. Who knows what will arrive when we can clear the pond completely. //

## \*\*\* Wildflower Celebration \*\*\*

Painswick Park, Wythenshawe - Sun. June 16th - 2-5pm

\*\*\* Demonstration of Wildflower Photography \*\*\*  
Wildflower Identification with Local Botanists

Why not have a day out enjoying the wonders of wildflowers and other wildlife on Manchester's newly created wildflower meadow - Meet at the Transplant Site

Car parking near boating lake - details on events list

Mersey Valley Countryside Quiz Winners - This quiz was held on Tuesday the 5th of February at the Jacksons Boat pub and a most enjoyable evening was had by all the members of the nine teams who entered. Some very tricky questions were set by the Mersey Valley Wardens. Going into the fourth round, the Cheshire Conservation Trust, who were disadvantaged by only having three on their team, were  $\frac{1}{2}$  a point ahead of the MWT team, represented by Unity Kelly, David Bishop, Anthony Phelps and Ian Brown. In the last round, we just managed to squeeze ahead and emerged as winners by a short head. Well done team! The quiz was so much fun that everyone agreed it should become an annual event. //



# Light Fantastic

The following is a precis of a report on Street Lighting and Energy Conservation in Manchester sent in by the City Engineer and Surveyor (via Cllr. Arnold Spencer).

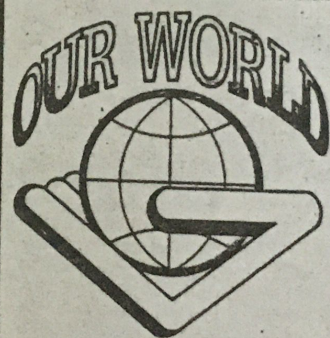
To say that "over half the light from a street lamp shines upwards and sideways" is misleading. Street lamps are designed, not only to illuminate the highway in the immediate vicinity of the column, but to distribute the light longitudinally, giving an even distribution between lamps. Efficient lanterns illuminate the road surface at a distance, enabling wider spacing and reducing the number of lamps used, but still achieving adequate illumination between lamps. British and European manufacturers are continually refining their lanterns and energy efficiency is a prime consideration. Some ornate lamps distribute light in all directions, mainly for effect, but their inefficiency must be balanced against aesthetic benefits.

Energy conservation initiatives in lighting are various. Manchester was one of the first local authorities in the country to change to cost efficient low pressure sodium lighting (mostly completed by the early '70s) which now have a type of photo-electric cell, for switching, which entitles the City a lower energy tariff. In May 1990, the Highways Committee resolved to adopt the higher standards of illumination for subsidiary roads subject to the revised British Standard for Road Lighting, and use high pressure sodium lighting which emits a better quality light than low pressure sodium, but is more expensive in energy terms. Benefits in residential areas are an improvement in the night time environment, less fear of crime, possible reduction in crime and a general improvement in the quality of life. Many illuminated road signs and bollards burn 24 hours a day but are gradually being changed to photo-cell control, and new bollards will have 22 W. compact fluorescent (CF) lamps instead of 40 W. fluorescents. It is proposed to replace lighting at High Street Multi Storey Car Park with CF lamps, which should save £40,000 per annum in energy and give a 60% improvement in light output. This gives a good return on the estimated £70,000 investment, which might not be the case at other car parks.

Where lighting is concerned, there is a continuing need to balance and reappraise the obvious benefits of energy conservation against the less tangible benefits of greater illumination to enhance the environment.

**Editor's Note** - The editorial comment on street lighting in the last "Maggie" was intended as an introduction to CF lamps so as to encourage readers to make domestic energy savings. Information was gleaned from a Radio 4 programme "Punters", in which an amateur astronomer complained that diffused street lighting interfered with the pursuit of his hobby. Various people with interest and expertise were consulted; Patrick Moore representing the astronomers, but I was not taking notes so cannot quote other names or exact figures. Findings were as I outlined, but maybe the programme was biased as no British City Engineers, or lighting manufacturers, made comment. (No area of the country was singled out as being better or worse than any other.) In a more recent John Dunne programme (Radio 2) a similar question about "light pollution" was asked and in reply, Dr. Paul Mordin of Edinburgh University said that, "at least 30% of the energy of street lamps is wasted."

I hope many of you have invested in CF lamps. I fitted two in January 1990 which resulted in a  $\frac{1}{2}$  reduction of total electricity consumed. I have since fitted three more CFs and with all lights blazing in my living area 96 watts are being consumed.//



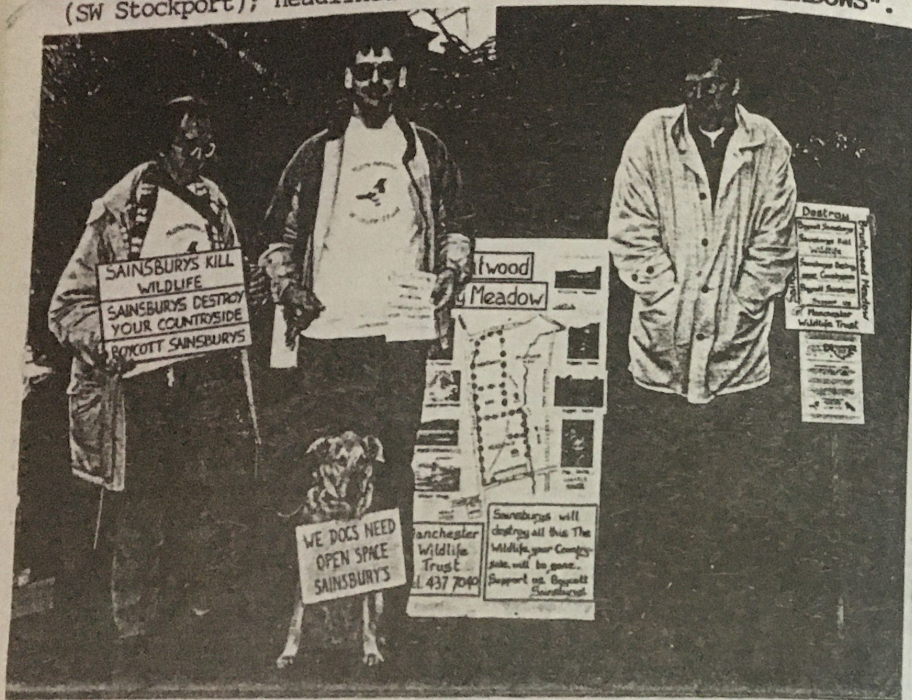
OUR WORLD LIMITED,  
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HR3 6NS ENGLAND  
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Our World is a new mail order company, near Hereford, selling environmentally friendly goods. The directors work as unpaid volunteers, and profits go to charities such as WWF, Programme for Belize and Survival International. The products they sell appear to be good value; from two toilet rolls at 72p., to a one kilowatt wind turbine, a snip at £2932.50p. Very speedy, efficient delivery and service, and parcels are packed with shredded paper (can be recycled), instead of those nasty styro-foam chips. We at the MWT thought this company was worth a mention. Why not send for a catalogue. //

Did you hear the one...about the man who changed his dog's name from Rex to Nirex after he had trained it to bury its waste products in other peoples' gardens!  
(from Anthony Phelps)



The press report below, appeared in the District Advertiser (SW Stockport); headlined "MEMBERS PICKET TO SAVE MEADOWS".



Members of the Manchester Wildlife Trust on picket duty outside Sainsbury's, Stockport. L-R:- Ian Brown, Anthony Phelps, Jonathan Proctor, with Gwilym (the Dog).

**MEMBERS** of Manchester Wildlife Trust have been on picket duty at Sainsbury's Stockport store objecting to the giant grocery chain's Etchell's Road development which they say will destroy one of the finest hay meadows in the Greater Manchester area opposite Cheadle Royal Hospital.

They want shoppers to boycott Sainsbury retail outlets.

Ian Brown, Chairman of the Trust from Crantock Drive, Heald

Green, told the District Advertiser:-

"The hay meadow at Cheadle has about 45 species of wild herbs, such as Hay Rattle and Pignut, which are indicators of ancient meadows, and Ragged Robin and Lady's Smock which are typical of marshy ground.

"Apart from these uncommon plants, the meadow, and its surrounding area, is important for its floral variety which provides food plants for 21 of the 24 butterfly species that are known to be present

in the general area.

"Around hay making time, the field is alive with thousands of Meadow Brown butterflies. Where will they go when a 250,000 square foot superstore, with over 2,000 car parking spaces, covers the ground?

"Mr Nixon, the farmer from Gawsworth who cuts the hay, tells me that the quality of the hay is superb, as the variety of herbs provide a balanced diet for the livestock which feeds on it," said Mr Brown.

At the public inquiry on the superstore, in

1987, the Manchester Wildlife Trust argued that the meadow was of high wildlife value but they feel that insufficient attention was paid to their objections. A landscape witness for the superstore only found 16 species of wild herbs, during a survey which took place one week before a survey by the Trust found 44 species.

"If this beautiful area of countryside is destroyed, we will lose a meadow, abundant in wildlife and much appreciated by local people. A loss which can never be replaced." Emphasised Mr Brown.

## Sainsbury Boycott

by MWT Picket Members

It was a cold and frosty morning, on the 15th of December, when we took to the streets to picket Sainsbury's Stockport store as the second phase in our boycott campaign. Present were Jonathan Proctor, Anthony Phelps, Ian Brown and John Turner (and his dog Gwilym, who didn't realise he was being used as an advert.) The object of the exercise; to bring to the attention of the public Sainsbury's intention of building a huge superstore which would destroy Bruntwood Hay Meadow, and to encourage people to show their disapproval by boycotting Sainsburys stores. We displayed placards, which briefly explained the situation, and a board showing a map of Bruntwood Meadow with photographs of the meadow in summer, when it looked superb. We also distributed 2,000, hard-hitting leaflets, which pithily outlined the environmental damage which is to take place. Very few people were aware of the situation, but most were appalled when they realised the full implications of Sainsbury's proposals. Some were persuaded to shop elsewhere.

**John Turner** - When articles have appeared in the local papers encouraging people to boycott Sainsburys because of the threat to the hay meadow, why is it that [almost] nobody knew anything about it? Do they live in caves? It would seem to me that unless people are directly affected by an adverse proposal, they suffer from what I will call the "ostrich syndrome", better known as complacency, and that you have to take to the streets to get your message across [We did and we did! - Ed.). Is this "everybody's turning green" just something that the media has latched onto because it is newsworthy? I still feel despondent about the future when profits have priority over protecting the environment on which we all ultimately depend for our survival.

**Anthony Phelps** - We conducted an orderly picket, meeting the store manager early on when he asked that we moved away from the entrance, to avoid obstructing customers, which was fair enough. After that we were kept under "surveillance". It would seem that Sainsburys pay their managers to walk trolleys to the parking area, and look out of the window! We distributed our leaflets, of which very few were discarded, and explained the impending loss of the hay meadow to people, with the aid of our displays. We had a photo session at the end of the day (just before we froze solid!) and, after checking the area for our



own litter, Ian, Jon and myself went into the store (not to buy!) to give the manager some information, including a copy of "Magpie", the leaflet and our press release about the proposed development, which he received without comment. He had, during an unwitnessed telephone call to Ian Brown on the previous day, stated that Sainsburys no longer had any interest in the site. This was probably to make us think that our demonstration was a waste of time! It wasn't!

Ian "controversy" Brown - What was it all about then! I think the article from the Advertiser deals adequately with the environmental implications as regards the Hay Meadow itself. (The meadow is a Grade B Site of Biological Importance.) But what about the wider environment. There is nothing environmentally friendly about an out of town superstore especially if it is on a greenfield site. The main worry is that this proposed Sainsbury store is specifically intended to attract the "car borne shopper" from a 30 mile radius and this will obviously bring about a considerable increase in private car use. More CO2 released into the air, more "greenhouse gas" to accelerate global warming. Could this be the increase in the increase which could create conditions intolerable to life on earth? (Hot Offices) The straw to break the camel's back? Will Sainsburys be responsible? We should be seeking ways to reduce car use not increase it. Oil is a finite resource which will one day run out, and if legislation is not implemented within the next 20 years, which will bring about a decrease in oil use, then dwindling supplies will lead to shortage and escalating prices.

Legislation could cut down oil use and decrease CO2 pollution of the atmosphere. At the Institute of Geographers' annual conference, Dr. John Whitelegg, of the University of Lancaster, called for ecological tax reforms, reducing tax on paid employment while increasing it on items which use non-renewable resources like petrol and diesel, helping public transport and railways and steering the economy towards sustainable growth. It would mean a five fold rise in fuel tax. He said, "Not only should private transport pay the full cost it imposes on society, it should contribute to the funding of alternatives which have the effect of reducing accidents, acid rain, the probability of global warming and of improving the immediate environment in all our cities." He also added that roads and car parking space should be taxed to reflect the environmental damage they cause. So it's not just me talking! If these tax

reforms take place, and they should, the public is not going to thank Sainsburys (and others) for encouraging them to become long distance "car borne shoppers" who find they suddenly can't afford the fuel. Sainsburys won't be thanking themselves when they find they have unusable and unsaleable assets too far from where people live. More acceptable, socially and environmentally, and more sensible from a business point of view, would be to have small shops within the community so that people could walk there.

Like John Turner, I am a little pessimistic and fear that not enough people care, to change the situation, and that it will all end in tears. So all you people out there, make my day; prove me wrong; show Sainsburys that you do care and you won't let them destroy OUR environment. (Contact Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover c/o Stamford House, Stamford Street, London. SE1 9LL) How can we preach to poor peasants in Brazil, telling them not to cut down the rain forest. They only want to make a meagre living; we destroy our environment for obscene profit!

Gwilym (the dog) - Woof! And thanks for the biscuits!

We have met Jonathan Porritt, who has recently been taken on by Sainsburys as a policy advisor, and informed him of the situation. We await developments.

A Trust Member, Diana Downing, has written to Sainsburys, complaining about their plans. In reply, they say, amongst other things, that, "if areas of the site were of special ecological importance, we would do everything we could to preserve and enhance these." There is only one way - not to build! //

Fancy That - An Esso [USA] advertisement from 1949, proclaimed, "The better you live, the more oil you use." (\*) [No change]

John Muir on Alligators - How narrow we selfish conceited creatures are in our sympathies! How blind to the rights of all the rest of creation!....Though alligators naturally repel us, they are not mysterious evils. They dwell happily in these flowery wilds and are part of God's family, unfallen, undepraved, and cared for with tenderness, as are saints and angels. Honourable representatives of the great saurians of older creation may you long enjoy your lilies and rushes, and be blessed now and then with a mouthful of terror stricken man by way of dainty! (\*)



## MWT Award Scheme

Nominations are still being accepted up until our 21st of March General Meeting, when judging will take place. Nominations in so far are:-

Golden Magpie Award - Manchester City Council for; 1) refusing U.M.I.S.T. application at Hardy Farm; 2) ceasing the use of Moss Peat. Peel Estates for; their intention to build a swallow nesting house to replace redundant barns.

Des Poiler Award - John Harrisson (Builder) for; destroying Longsight Lane Wood, (and selling it to get out of obligations to replant). Sainsburys for; the imminent destruction of Bruntwood Hay Meadow. British Telecom for; hedgerow destruction, Big Wood, Simonsway, Wythenshawe.

Malcolm Practise Award - Stephen Day M.P. for; not keeping his word that he would press for the abandonment of Cheadle superstore. Stockport M.B.C. for; (see "Ombudsman Refuses Injustice Complaint").

March Hare "MAD" Award - Joules Estates & British Rail Property Board for an application to build a multi-storey car park at Heald Green Station (and taking refusal to appeal).

It has been suggested that suitable prizes would be illuminated addresses, so if anyone reading this has skills in calligraphy, and would be prepared to donate their services, please 'phone the editor on 437 7040.

OMBUSMAN REFUSES INJUSTICE COMPLAINT - Stockport MBC recently erected a compound in Vernon Park. Vernon park lies within the established Green Belt and the Etherow/Goyt Valley Local Plan area and the siting of the compound therefore represents a departure from both Local Plans. (Vernon Park was, in 1847, given to the people of Stockport, for their enjoyment, by the Lord of the Manor, Lord Vernon).

Departures from Local Plans should, by law, require notices published in the press and erected on, or near to, the intended site. Stockport MBC did not comply with the statutory requirements and local Trust member, John Anthony Turner, lodged a complaint, to the Ombudsman's office, of maladministration causing injustice at being refused one's rights in law in making an

objection/representation to a planning application. The Ombudsman has refused to follow up the complaint, despite there clearly being injustice caused by the S.M.B.C.

This decision raises two important issues: 1) What is the actual function of the local Ombudsman's office? 2) The decision not to pursue with the complaint means that S.M.B.C. does not have to publish or erect any notices whatsoever on a given planning application, simply because the general public have no recourse in which to lodge a complaint. This latter is a cause for concern.

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council are hereby nominated for the Malcolm Practice Award. //

Readers may have noticed that Malcolm was incorrectly spelt as "Malcom" in the last newsletter. This was not one of the many spelling mistakes, but that we did not wish to be sued by anyone called Malcolm. We weren't; so that's all right. //

Newspaper Cuttings - We have a reasonable collection of Newspaper cuttings of interest to the Trust, especially from 1990. However, it is certain that we will have missed some, so if any members have any cuttings which mention the MWT or will be of interest to us, or see anything in the future, please send the original (or a photocopy) to the editor's office (see below).//

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Did You Know - Half the land in the western United States is public land; owned by every American. (\*) //



## Watch Group for South Manchester

Watch Groups are the Royal Society for Nature Conservation's organisation for young naturalists, and though there are a number of groups in Cheshire, they are not ideally convenient for Manchester children. For some time we have felt that the Manchester Wildlife Trust should hold activities of particular interest to children but had been lacking a volunteer able to take on such a role. We are pleased that Leslie Fletcher has come forward with an offer to start a Watch Group and anyone who is interested in helping to run, or take part in, the group should contact Leslie at 446 Parrs Wood Road, East Didsbury, Manchester. M20 0GP (Tel 445 9605). There was an initial meeting at Parrs Wood Rural Studies Centre on Saturday the 2nd of March and it was decided that a Watch Group should be started and that regular meetings would be held at the Centre on the second Saturday of each Month at 2.30 p.m.

Meetings arranged so far are:-

- Saturday 13th April - Opening Meeting - Family Fun Day.
- Saturday 11th May - Visit to (Trafford Ecology Park).
- Saturday 8th June - Natural History Activities - Barbecue.
- Saturday 13th July - Butterfly Talk and Walk with Peter Hardy.

All Details have not been finalised, so it would be best to check beforehand. It is hoped that parents will be involved in these events and that the Watch Group will enable people with young families, who cannot at present take part in MWT activities, to become more involved with nature conservation in Manchester. We thank Leslie for the effort he has put in so far, and hope that the Group will be an outstanding success. //

# Animal Lines

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M21 1QU.  
061-881 7818.



The artwork for the front cover of this Magpie, and the Comma Butterfly, is by Lyn Wells who has given her services free of charge. Thank you Lyn, and we hope there will be further examples of your work in future newsletters. There is an exhibition of Lyn's wildlife art at Withington Library until March the 23rd. Why not go along and have a look. You are sure to be delighted. //

## ODDS AND ENDS

Members' Section

**Wildlife Sightings** - 60 frogs in small Heald Green garden pond on 22nd Feb. and bats in Bruntwood Lane (Cheadle) on 25th Feb. Probably not records but a little early in the year (?). A pair of Long-tailed Tits in a member's garden near Washway Rd. Sale.

**Kingfisher Nesting Cliff** - We have a design for an artificial Kingfisher Nesting Cliff from Fords at Dagenham. It's success has not, as yet, been confirmed, but we should hear more this summer. We will make a fuller report in the autumn "Magpie".

**Ecological Surveys** - Phase 1 surveys are being undertaken by the Countryside Unit, for Trafford, Oldham and Manchester. The field work has been completed and the mapping and reports will be finished by the late spring, when the results will go to the respective local authorities. We hope that the surveys will be taken into consideration when planning decisions are made. If this is to be the case then maybe Urban Wildlife will receive the protection it deserves.

**Swallow Nesting House** - The building of this structure by Peel Estates at Hazelhurst Farm is now proceeding. There are breeding facilities for 6 species of birds and bats. We hope that the structure is a success and we will be visiting the site during Environment Week - May 11 to 19th.

**Vice-chair goes north** - Our Vice-chair, Jonathan Proctor is leaving Manchester to take a job in the Shetlands, helping to set up a Scandinavian/British networking organisation. Jon tells us he will be coming home at regular intervals. We wish him the best of luck in his new venture.

## March Hare by Jim Lepidus



Hariel Survey  
(Phase 1)



Hedgehogs - Further information on hedgehogs is not forthcoming but, if you are interested in these creatures, why not write to the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, Knowbury House, Knowbury, Ludlow, Shropshire. SY8 3LQ.

SBI Nominations - We have sent 3 nominations for local Sites of Biological Importance to the Countryside Unit. They are the Wildflower Transplant Site, the Marsh area at Abney Hall and the Railway cutting south of Heald Green Station. There will be more to follow. If you are aware of a good wildlife site, let us know and we will check if it is suitable for nomination. It could be that the Butterfly Survey will reveal some good sites.

Planning Matters - Grade A SBI Saved - Ringway International Developments appealed to the Secretary of State against the non determination of several planning applications they made, for business park/car parking, on land between Woodhouse Park and the Airport. Part of the area is a Grade A Site of Biological Importance. We made a written submission to the appeal, objecting to the proposed developments. We have just heard that the appeal has been dismissed. The reasons given were that it would be contrary to the Ringway Local Plan and would pre-empt the forthcoming Unitary Development Plan.

Multi-storey Car Park - An application for a 1000 space three storey car park, astride the cutting, south of Heald Green Station has been refused by Manchester City Council. The applicant has appealed against the decision and we have submitted a written objection to the Secretary of State. We hope the appeal is dismissed. A local naturalist has recorded 19 species of butterflies, and rare plants, including twayblade and adders-tongue fern, on the cutting, south of the station.

Offices Refused - The City Council has refused an application for a large office block on Palatine Road, Didsbury (Near Marie Louise Gardens). The main reason for refusal was that the car parking would be contrary to the Mersey Valley Local Plan.

Davenport Green - We are still deliberating on this proposed major business park development in Trafford's Green belt. When we have weighed the various environmental considerations, your Planning Department will go into action. Benny Rothman is leading the local opposition. We will keep you posted.

Summer Magpie - The next newsletter should be out in early June and we already have some articles. More are welcome, so if you have some flowing prose up your sleeve, your editor awaits. //

Did you know - One hour's use of a domestic compact fluorescent lamp costs less than striking a match! ////

## Useful Contacts

- Bats CCT Bat Group - 0606 781868 (day)  
LTNC Bat Group - Steve Garland - 0204 22311 (day)
- Bees (Swarms, information etc.) Keith Taylor - 793 7335
- Insects Peter Hardy - 969 4771 (evenings & weekends)
- 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)  
Stockport - Kim Porter 0625 874729 (evenings & weekends)

- Bury Wildlife & Countryside A. G. - Dave Bentley - 724 8602  
Cheshire Conservation Trust (Stockport and Tameside Group)  
Julia Mottishaw (Secretary) 494 7831

- Friends of the Earth - Neil Lea - 789 8880

- Friends of the Mersey Valley - Ann Buckingham - 881 1814

- Mersey Valley Wardens - Sale 905 1100 - Chorlton 881 5639

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.

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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.

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The opinions expressed in the "Magpie" are not necessarily those of the Manchester Wildlife Trust.



# APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

Telephone Number .....

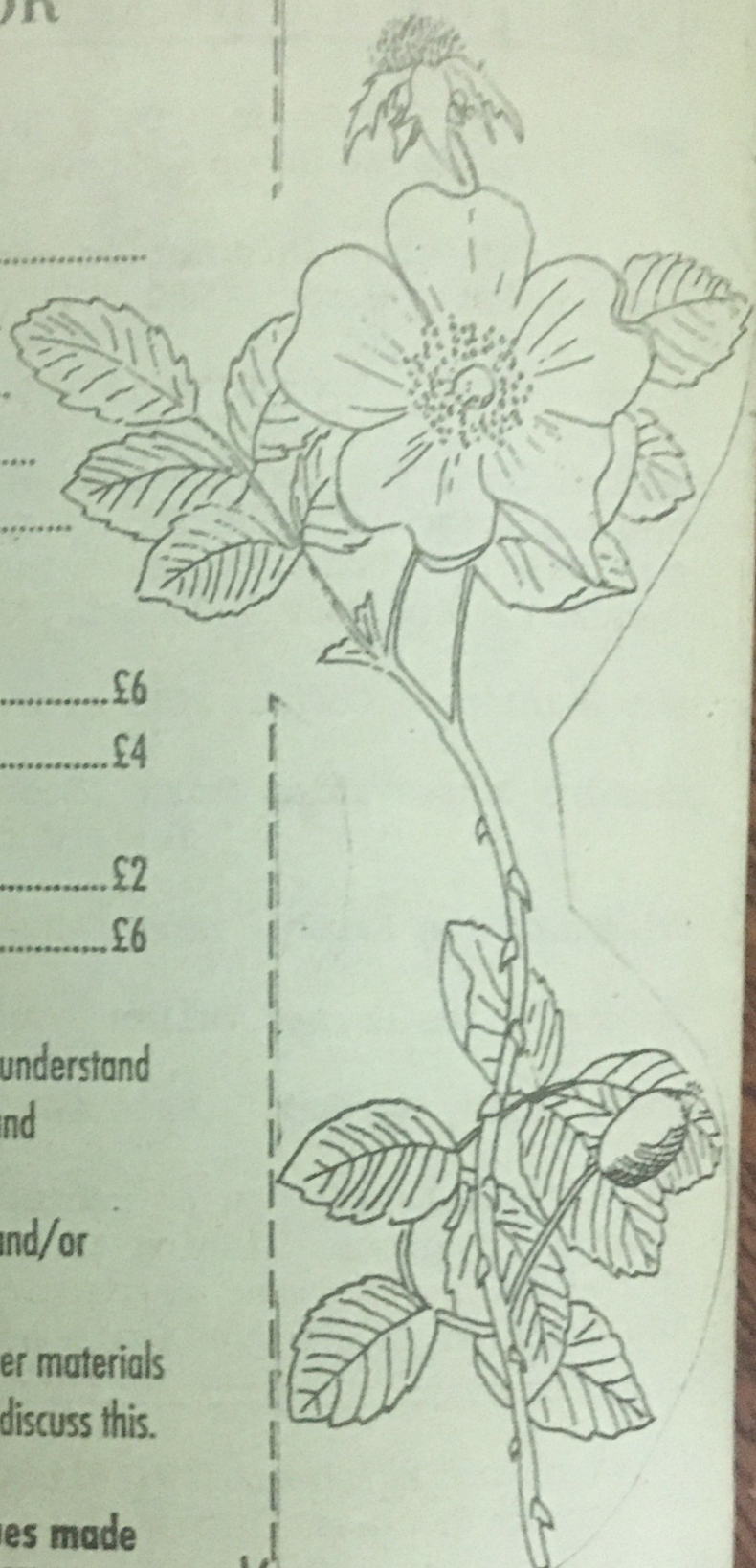
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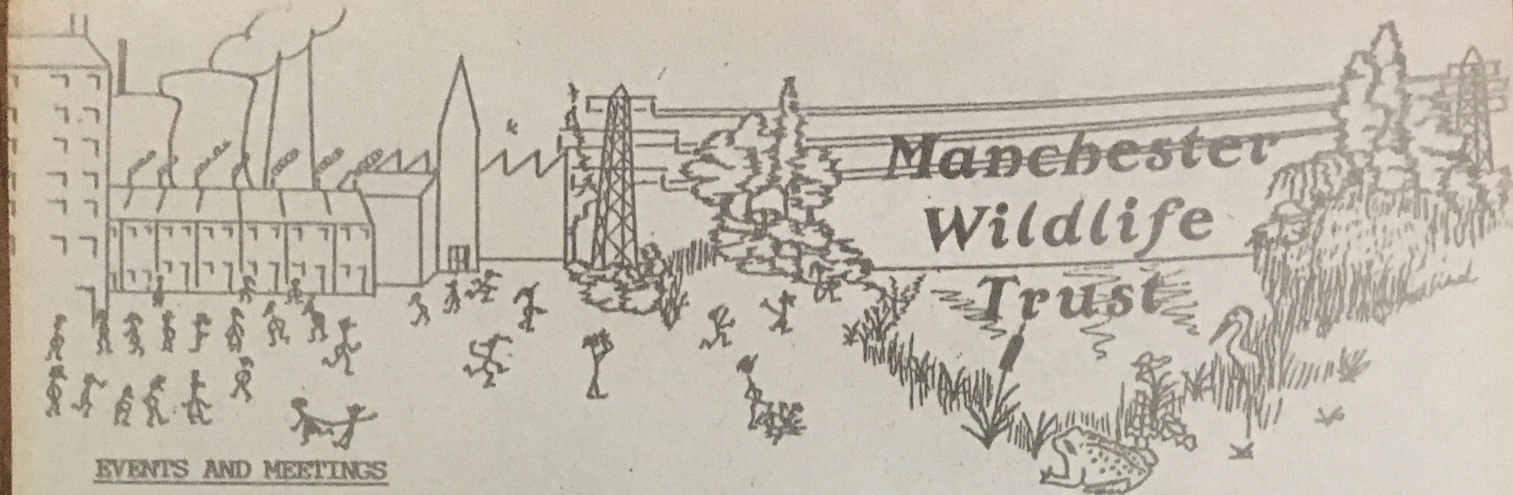
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Unity Kelly  
13 Ruskin Avenue  
Rusholme  
Manchester  
M14 4DP

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Inquiries = Editor = 437-7040







The following events and meetings have been arranged. Please note changes in date and venue of our General Meetings. There are events which some members find difficult to attend, because of distance. If you are going to an event, by car, please contact Ian Brown 437 7040 to offer a lift. If you require a lift, get in touch; we may fix you up

Thursday 21st **General Meeting** - At Unity Kelly's house, 13 Ruskin Avenue, Rusholme  
Time 7.30 p.m. Contact Unity 226 4583. Judging of **MWT Awards**.

April 1991  
Tuesday      2nd Pub Meeting - Parrs Wood Hotel, Junction of School Lane/Parrs Wood Road, East Didsbury. Time 7.30 p.m. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040.

Monday 29th MWT Slide Show - Newton Heath Library, Old Church Street, Newton Heath. (A-Z P41 4F) Time 7.30 Contact Ian Brown 437 7040.

Tuesday 7th Pub Meeting - Parrs Wood Hotel, Junction of School Lane/Parrs Wood Road, East Didsbury. Time 7.30 p.m. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040.

## Environment Week

Thursday 23rd General Meeting - At Unity Kelly's house, 13 Ruskin Avenue, Rusholme  
Time 7.30 p.m. Contact Unity 226 4583.

Tuesday 4th Pub Meeting - Parrs Wood Hotel, Junction of School Lane/Parrs Wood Road, East Didsbury. Time 7.30 p.m. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040.

Sunday 30th Last Chance to See? - Bruntwood Hay Meadow - Meet at Lay-by/junction of Schools Hill/Kingsway, Cheadle (O/S Ref:855872 - A-Z P92 1C) Come and see Hay Meadow Wildflowers & Butterflies before the meadow is turned into a Sainsbury Superstore. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040.

