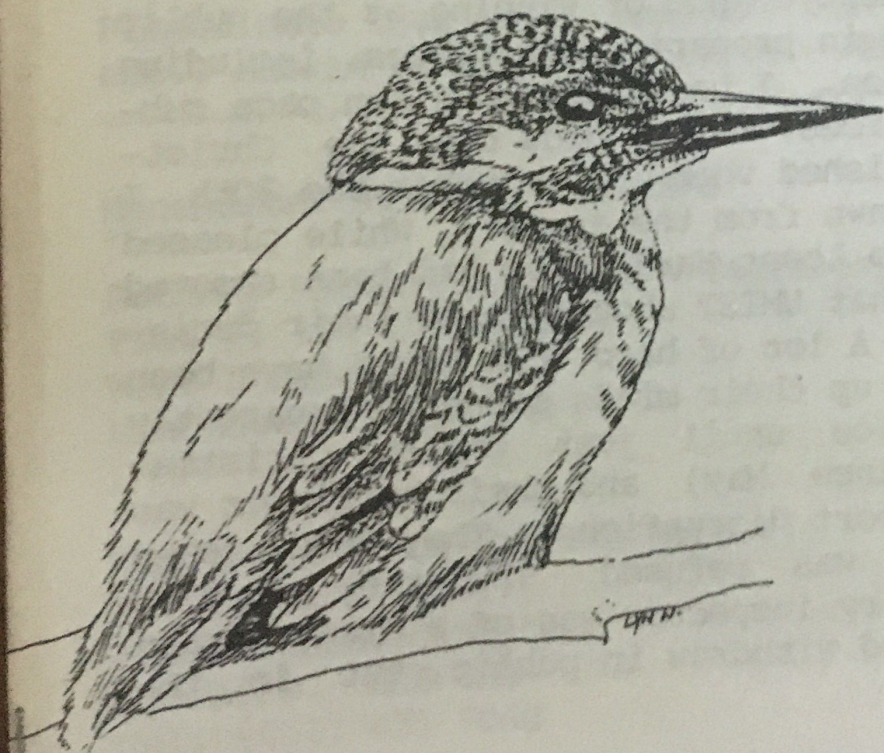




THE MAGPIE

Number 21 Winter 1991-92

Churchyard Wildlife
Book Review



Mersey
Valley
Butterflies
Odds
and
Ends
Waste
and More

TWENTY-ONE TODAY! WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT WE SHOULD MAKE IT
THUS FAR. HERE'S TO THE NEXT 21 ISSUES OF MAGPIE AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE.

NOW FOR THE GOOD NEWS

Lower Hardy Farm Saved?

Some of you may remember a report by David Rydeheard, in "Magpie" No. 18, about Hardy Farm and UMIST's plans to re-develop their playing fields by tipping with builders waste, to a height of up to 23 feet (on the Grade B SBI). After strong opposition from ourselves, Friends of the Mersey Valley and local people, Manchester City Council refused planning permission. That should have been the end of the matter but UMIST appealed, on the last day allowed, and a public inquiry was to be held, starting January the 7th, this year.

This re-activated the opposition groups and submissions were prepared to give us the best chance of winning at the public inquiry. Much work was put in preparing our cases, including meetings and much discussion. I had prepared a ten page submission with as many appendices, mostly done over the Christmas period. I had just finished when, on December the 30th, I heard that UMIST had withdrawn from the appeal. While pleased that the immediate threat to Lower Hardy Farm had been removed I was particularly galled that UMIST should leave their decision until the last minute. A lot of hard work could have been avoided if they had made up their minds sooner. Apparently they did not seek legal advice until just before Christmas (what were they doing since May) and their barrister was caught up in London's transport disruptions. They then asked for a postponement, which was refused. Then they asked to withdraw. We hear the inquiry inspector was of a mind to make UMIST come to the inquiry and withdraw in public, but in the end decided against this.

We had a very strong case, against the development, with much additional information such as a butterfly survey and more botanical evidence, and I don't think UMIST would have had much chance of winning but the outcome of public inquiries is

always uncertain, so perhaps to win by default is better than all those anxious days of waiting on the result. The case should never have been taken to appeal; indeed I am surprised that an educational establishment, like UMIST, could have even considered such wholesale environmental destruction but you live, and if you are lucky, you learn.

Our main objective now must be to save the Grade B SBI and the other areas of natural history interest. Lower Hardy Farm must be placed under the control and management of the Mersey Valley Wardens so that this historical wildlife area can be safe to be enjoyed by many future generations of wildlife and local people. UMIST will probably submit a planning application for the restoration of their existing playing fields. We will have to keep our eyes, and ears, open to ensure that the plans are not against the interests of the Mersey Valley area. UMIST should now work with the opposition groups to ensure that there is a secure future for this part of the Valley.

THE BAD NEWS? - Read on and see if you can find any. //

Please note that all cheques, for membership subscriptions etc., should be made payable to - Manchester Wildlife. //

Manchester Wildlife Contacts

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Manchester. M20 8WN

Unity Kelly (Treasurer),
13 Ruskin Avenue,
Rusholme,
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Tel. (061) 226 4583

Ian Brown (Vice-chair & Editor),
82 Crantock Drive,
Heald Green, Cheadle,
Cheshire. SK8 3HA
Tel. (061) 437 7040

Did You Know? - The Sainsbury family fund Landlife in Liverpool; patron, Lady Sainsbury takes an active interest. Considering their plans to destroy Bruntwood Hay Meadow, you may appreciate the irony of the situation! //

Pushing Up The Daisies?

In Loving Memory of a September Day

by Diana Downing

There were lots of bonuses: sunshine and swallows at the National Agricultural Centre in Warwickshire; glimpses of other activities at the Arthur Rank Centre, where the Church and Conservation Project is based; the friendly welcome by the development officer, Eve Dennis; for my own interest, learning to identify three lichenologists and then watching them identify lichens in the scenic churchyard of nearby Stoneleigh.

I was sitting in on the 3rd annual "Churchyards Specialists Day" which was attended by some three dozen professional and voluntary conservationists from England and Wales - representing Wildlife Trusts, BTCV, Groundwork Trust and specialist societies. There was frequent stress on the value of churchyards as refuges for wildlife, offering in the best instances continuity, varied habitats and abundance of native species. (I'll spare you the horror story of the tidy minded rural vicar who had all the primroses mown so promptly that chrysanthemums had to be bought to decorate the church for Easter.) As we are aware in the Manchester area, many of our mature trees, larger shrubs, green patches, wildflowers and birds are found in local authority cemeteries, burial grounds and churchyards. There is, quite rightly, an increasing interest in such sites.

The morning's programme concentrated on surveys and recording - ranging from full species lists of plants (with suggestions for evaluating them) for the county museum records to the forthcoming "simple survey" by Butterfly Conservation. Sarah Hawkeswell, information analyst for RSN, is engaged in devising national standards for data collection, storage and retrieval. She emphasised the need to record management activities as well in order to assess their effect. Bats, lichens and geology had enthusiastic speakers. New Curriculum-related projects include tombstone trails in urban cemeteries. "Rock WATCH" is being set up by the RSN and the Geologists' Association.

Techniques of management (with a special plea for invertebrates) were considered after lunch. In the concluding session Eve Dennis highlighted future developments: more churchyards

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management training days on a regional basis; a national meeting for representatives of local authorities and diocesan advisory committees for the care of churches; the "Living Churchyard" campaign continues - the information pack (£6), other materials and advice on grants etc. are obtainable from the Arthur Rank Centre, N.A.C., Stoneleigh, Warwicks. CV8 2LZ (0203 696969). Look out next year (1992) for the updated and paperback edition of "God's Acre" by F. Greenoak.

Back home again I contemplate urban coke cans and crisp packets in their niche by the church boundary wall and then a sprig of Maidenhair Spleenwort between the bricks. We can try to record hopefully and work with local congregations and their wildlife helpfully. News of your work welcomed. More details on request.

//

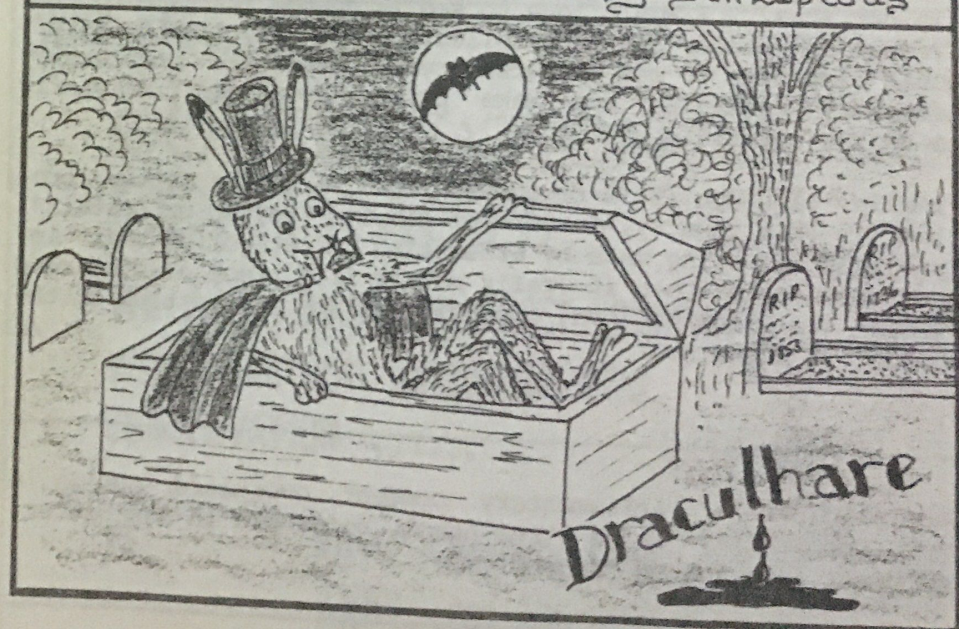
15 Lowick Avenue, Bolton BL3 2DS (0204 23919)

.....

Diana Downing is our religious affairs correspondent.

March Hare

by Jim Lepidus



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Page Five

What A Waste

WASTE

by Anthony Phelps

Since my article "When waste becomes a resource" (see Magpie edition 18, Autumn/Winter 1990/91), here are a few further thoughts on the problem of waste. We (the World's population) have turned into a race of waste junkies. This is brought home to me every time I refuse (no pun intended) a new carrier bag when out shopping. I always take a re-used bag with which to carry my purchases, but am always met with "Do you want a bag?" I recently watched a bag of crisps (adequately wrapped, I think you would agree) being put into another plastic bag. That same assistant even attempted to place my packet of chewing gum into a bag!

Part, if not all, of the problem is the title of this article - "Waste". Once the packaging is finished with (in the case of the bag surrounding the crisp packet, I would think its lifespan was no more than 5 minutes!) it changes from raw materials, manufactured and printed, and turns into "waste", something to be shunned, and, therefore somebody else's problem. Whos? "The Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority" (in our area). I would love to see it change its name to "The Greater Manchester Resource Collection and Recycling Unit". I would also like to see manufacturers cease all unnecessary secondary packaging, and make primary coverings from easily re-usable materials.

Finally, although it is recognised that we have a litter problem in this country, instead of simply "tidying up Britain", 'progress' is being made by attempting to categorise what is, or isn't, waste. Does it really matter if a piece of discarded "waste" is floating on a pond's surface, or settled on the bottom? I think not!

//

Gossip Column - Parliamentary comment, overheard during a photo-opportunity at a tree plant, somewhere in Manchester: "Oh dear, I've got my hands dirty!"

LANDSCAPING FOR WILDLIFE

Advertisement Feature

In the early years of Manchester Wildlife we were much involved with designing wildlife gardens but, because of the many pressing matters which come before us, this aspect of our work has been rather neglected recently. Do not despair; help is at hand! Andy Bell and Roy Griffiths of Conservation Contracts come to the rescue. If you would like your garden to be more attractive to wildlife, Andy and Roy can undertake the landscape design and practical work necessary to bring this about. They may be a little more expensive than Manchester Wildlife but you can be sure their rates will be competitive. Andy and Roy have considerable experience and expertise in conservation management, working for many years with the Sale & Altrincham Conservation Volunteers, on a wide variety of nature reserves, managing the habitats to improve their wildlife value. They have acquired many countryside skills such as tree planting, hedgelaying, pond digging, coppicing, dry-stone walling, so no task should daunt them. Andy and Roy are also able to take on work of a larger scale than gardens. So if a local authority, or other landowner, requires landscaping work and wishes to break away from the traditional and boring mown grass and isolated standard trees, call in Andy and Roy and they will be sure to put (wild) life into your land.

WHO ARE.....

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THE MANCHESTER WILDLIFE (TRUST) AWARDS 1990 - The Full Story

During 1990, we instigated a series of wildlife awards, both for the good and the bad (rather more bad than good, sadly). At our AGM in 1991, we announced the winners of the awards. The "Golden Magpie" award was won by Manchester City Council for their decision to cease the use of Moss Peat completely by 1993. The other (negative) awards were the "Des Poiler" award which was won by John Harrisson, a Bramhall builder, for his destruction of Longsight Lane Wood (Cheadle Hulme) without the benefit of a felling license, and our "March Hare MAD" award went to Joules Estates and British Rail Property Board for their plan to build a multi-storey car park at Heald Green station (which we thought was just "ridiculous!!").

We asked a couple of our members (Lyn & Joan Wells) to produce the certificates, and then attempted to arrange the ceremony. This was April 1991. I contacted the Council's Media and Public Information office, to fix a date with enough time to contact the other awardees. June came and went, and then it got shelved, because of the EGM and other crises! It was only a chance meeting at the Environmental Forum at the Town Hall in September that put it back on the agenda. Eventually, the 5th of December 1991 was agreed, invitations went out, a few "early mornings" producing and sending out press releases, and telephone conversations with the press, and the day arrived. Councillors Neil Warren and Kath Robinson accepted the award on behalf of the Council. Then, at the G-Mex Centre, we had photographs taken, minus the other winners (who did not seem to want their certificates!). Ian appeared as "March Hare", Hugh as both "Des Poiler" and "The Mad Hatter", and myself as myself. The Manchester Evening News covered both events, and a large article and pictures appeared on Friday the 6th. It included a quote from Norman Joule, calling us "facetious and irresponsible", as he did not appear to appreciate the serious side to our "joke" award, and, as predicted, John Harrisson "preferred not to comment".

Finally, our "Malcolm Practise" award remains in our possession, as the prospective recipient seems to have "changed his tune", and we felt him to be a greater ally than enemy at this present time.

//

by Anthony Phelps, Chairman, Manchester Wildlife.

EVENTS

There is an events list enclosed with this newsletter. We hope you will take the opportunity to partake in some of our activities, you are sure to find the experience enjoyable.

Please Note

The pond clearing event at Painswick Park has been postponed and will be re-arranged to take place in the summer.

Woodland Crafts

by Ian Brown

Manchester City Council's new Park Ranger Service are organising environmental events at City parks over three consecutive week-ends. These are as follows:

Wythenshawe Park, Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th January
Heaton Park, Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd February
Platt Fields, Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th February

Times - From 10am to 4pm

The main object of these events is to highlight the problems of waste and the problems it can cause. There will be demonstrations on ways of recycling and advice on how you can contribute to the environmental improvement of your area. For the more energetic there will be tidy-up activities.

Manchester Wildlife have been invited to take part and we will be staging a demonstration of Woodland Crafts which will include, pole-lathing and rake making. You may well wonder what woodland crafts have to do with waste (or saving it); why not come along and find out, we may even let you have a go on the pole-lathe!

There will be more on woodland crafts in the next edition of Magpie. How can these ancient arts help in the management of our woodlands and improve the local economy? Watch this space!

Mersey Valley Butterflies 1991

by Peter B. Hardy

As in 1990 the season began early with the three hibernating species - Comma, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell - appearing the second week in March in good numbers. This warm spell was short; the butterflies apparently went back into hibernation and next appeared in mid-April. There were far fewer webs of Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars in the spring; however the early-summer adult emergence still seemed to be in reasonable numbers. Several broods of Peacock caterpillars were seen. A fine but brief emergence of 'hutchinsoni' Commas appeared in mid-July, particularly in the Priory Nature Reserve. Autumn numbers of these three Nymphalids were however low; the vast beds of Michaelmas Daisies which occur in various parts of the Valley, especially Kenworthy, only attracting a few. The migrant Red Admiral was also very down in numbers from the last two seasons, though there were rather more Painted Ladies this year, with confirmed breeding at Lower Hardy Farm.

The Orange-Tip and Green-veined White both produced very large spring broods, from mid April. Orange-Tip eggs then appeared in every available host-plant site, on Cuckoo Flower and sometimes Garlic Mustard. It remains to be seen what damage extensive mowing, coupled with the disastrous weather during the larval period in June, will have done to this species. The Large White and Small White did not initially fare very well; indeed the Large was quite rare in the Spring. These two species were reinforced by immigration and numbers picked up mid-summer, whereas the more sedentary and non-migratory Green veined White was down in numbers then. There was a sudden and brief large emergence of Small Whites in mid-September, by which time the Large and Green-veined were virtually over - a rather early date.

The Small Copper, Wall, and especially the Large Skipper, all had a rather poor season compared to some. The Small Copper and Wall did not appear in synchrony as they usually seem to do. The Small Copper did apparently produce three broods, though it was only in early August that it was anything like numerous. No third brood Walls were seen.

On the other hand, the Meadow Brown was extremely abundant;

its flight period was late starting (July 1st) but continued to the 6th of September. The Common Blue also fared well; numbers were up on the river-bank in spite of mower damage, and single specimens (usually males) were seen in many other sites nearby. White Clover was being used as a host-plant. A male was seen as late as September the 6th at the former Stretford tip.

The main success story this year was the Small Skipper. As well at the site of its surprising appearance last year (the "dead elms lane" near Stretford sewage farm), it was recorded at Heaton Mersey, Abney Hall, Hardy Farm, the river-bank..... Similar expansion has been noted in other Manchester sites, and R.L.H. Dennis (pers. comm.) reported large numbers spreading in quite unexpected sites including intensively farmed land around Wilmslow.

The other species new to the Valley in 1990, the Speckled Wood also reappeared in 1991, with three sightings (July & September) in the Priory, Sale, and one on Passage near Turn Moss (15th September). Although the Priory butterflies had clearly established territories it is doubtful whether the species is yet really established and breeding in the Valley. On the other hand, B.T. Shaw (in litt.) reports considerable expansion in the Heald Green/Wilmslow/ Bollin Valley areas, with records from nineteen sites, from early May to the 7th Oct. with a peak in September.

Holly Blues have been widely reported as single sightings, often from unlikely places such as a park in Timperley. A presumed but not positively identified Holly Blue was momentarily seen flying round a high Elder bush beside the canal at Barfoot Bridge, Stretford on the 6th of August. Records of definite breeding colonies of this species are urgently wanted!

To sum up: 1991's changeable climatic pattern seems to have favoured some species, especially the less common ones, but not others. Hopefully the results of our Butterfly Survey will make the pattern clearer. //

Did You Know? - Thomas Midgley led a team of chemists, working for General Motors, who invented a non-toxic gas, which they labelled CFC, in 1928. Mr. Midgley also formulated tetraethyl lead as a petrol additive. Some record, for one man! //

Bruntwood Meadows Update

by Ian Brown

The most recent news is that Stockport Council have asked the Secretary of State to call in the latest planning application (350,000 sq ft store) for public inquiry. We have not yet heard what decision Mr. Heseltine has taken. We thank the Stockport Councillors for coming to this brave decision; a public inquiry could prove expensive, but it gives us a chance to continue our fight with Sainsburys. All is not yet lost.

Our campaign has had some publicity in the media. The local press and, at least, the Green Magazine and Ethical Consumer have featured the plight of Bruntwood Meadows. Granada's "Green Life Guide" were unable to include the Hay Meadows in their last series, as it was the wrong time of year; maybe in the summer?

The article in Ethical Consumer attracted much interest and we have had contact with some organisations and individuals who obviously subscribe to that excellent periodical. Tim Boote, of London Wildlife Trust's Camley Street Natural Park, wrote to us saying he was considering approaching Sainsburys for sponsorship, but would not do so if they were to destroy another wildlife site. We sent Tim information on the meadows and he says he will now not approach Sainsburys. Thank you Tim. John Beasley of OTDOGS (Opposition To Destruction of Open Green Space, 6 Everthorpe Road, Peckham, LONDON SE15 4DA) wrote asking us for advice on conducting a boycott campaign as Sainsburys are building a superstore on an open space in S.E. London. I hope our advice will be of some use to highlight the problem when the store opens.

John liked our slogan "Good Food Costs The Earth at Sainsbury" and suggests that "Good Food Costs More than it Should at Sainsbury's" would be appropriate as their profit margin is 7.9% (supermarkets in the U.S.A. are content with 2%). We feel our slogan is a little more pithy and direct to the point. Perhaps we should have a competition - send us your Sainsbury slogans and we will pick the best. Tim Boote contacted John (our suggestion) and it appears that Tim had not realised what Sainsburys were really like. John suggests that some of our members might like to buy some Sainsbury's shares so that they can go to this year's A.G.M and make their feelings known. He

has done this, kicking up a fuss and privately accusing Lord Sainsbury of "sheer hypocrisy" for writing as he did in THE BLUE PETER GREEN BOOK * and, at the same time, destroying open spaces. Apparently, Lord Sainsbury visibly flinched. Also, John has written a booklet "STOP FOOD GIANTS DESTROYING OPEN GREEN SPACES", which he will send you for a modest donation - it relates OTDOGS fight to save Dog Kennel Hill and is a real eye-opener, telling of wildlife interests being bought off!

Apparently Sainsburys have plans for about 160 new or replacement stores but they won't say how many will be on greenfield sites; so, wherever you live, it will be your turn next. You can only hope that the site which they chose, near you, is not as good for wildlife as the meadows at Bruntwood Park.

We now know that 18 species of butterflies have been seen at Bruntwood. This is a very high number and only exceeded, in Greater Manchester, by the 21 species, seen over ten years, at the Heald Green railway cutting. Together with the botanical diversity, this makes the meadows a very valuable wildlife site; one which should not be destroyed by superstore development. If you have any bright ideas for highlighting our campaign; let us know. We have a few schemes up our sleeves but the more we put our heads together, the better. The word seems to be creeping over the country; this could be better, in the long term, than banging drums.

The Meadows must be saved; once gone they will never return!

* In his foreword to THE BLUE PETER GREEN BOOK (BBC Books, '90) Lord Sainsbury expressed concern about the environment and then declared: "At Sainsbury's we are trying to contribute in many different ways, by building and running our supermarkets so that they do not damage the environment and by selling products which are more friendly to it." //

RAFFLE FOR WILDLIFE - The RSNL are running another raffle to help with the funding of Wildlife Trusts and Urban Wildlife Groups. The last one raised more than £170 towards our funds. There are some fantastic prizes, so everyone will want to buy a ticket. If you would like to buy raffle tickets, or help to sell them, contact Anthony Phelps or phone 437 7040, you will be doing Manchester Wildlife a great service.

Odds and Ends

Members' Views and Latest News

Wildlife Sightings - Our Chairman reports: Tawny Owl and Bats in his rear garden and Holly Blue butterfly in the front; Sparrowhawk breeding in southern Cemetery; Grasshopper Warbler and Garden Warbler on Kenworthy Fields; Kingfishers (pair) at Hough End Clough with 13 sightings over a 6 hour period. June Greaves reports a Magpie Moth caterpillar at Reddish Miniwood. Let us know if you have any unusual wildlife sightings.

Butterfly Survey - We feel that our survey can be judged a success, so far; with over 100 site reports in, to date. We have applied for a grant so that the results can be compiled into a report. Thank you to all those who took part; a copy of this report should be sent to all surveyors. **Floods** - The recent Mersey Valley floods could produce something of interest, botanically, but it is feared that the silt deposits may have destroyed some Common Blue butterfly breeding sites.

MW Awards 1991 - The prizes for the 1990 Awards have been presented. Mike Tuckman, a resident who lives opposite Longsight Lane Wood, presented John Harrission's award in person; unfortunately, Mr. Harrisson ducked behind his doorway and only his hand appeared in the Stockport Times photograph. We are still open for 1991 nominations. Those in so far are: Sainsbury's, Norweb, Stockport Leisure Services, Ringway International Developments and UMIST for the Bad and the Mad, and Peel Investments for the Good. There must be more, especially for the Good; let us know by March the 26th when judging will take place at our General Meeting. Results to be announced at AGM.

Annual General Meeting - As the events list shows, this takes place on Saturday the 4th of April at Parrs Wood Rural Studies Centre. All members are welcome and anyone may attend the slide show and Woodland Craft Demonstration. Accounts, agenda etc. will arrive with your next Magpie.

National House Spider Survey - Like to take part. Contact Ian Brown on 437 7040. Sounds interesting.

PLANNING MATTERS - **Public Inquiries** - We attended a public inquiry on a proposed footpath diversion in the Goyt Valley. This was the ancient carriageway drive, to Highfield Hall (now demolished), Bredbury, dating back to 1722. A local builder

had applied for a diversion of the path and he admitted, at the inquiry, that he had bought the land with the intention of building a house on the site. Stockport were supporting the diversion. We felt that they should have been defending the landscape and natural history interests of the River Valley. We have also been represented at the A34 (by-pass) and M66 (Denton-Middleton) inquiries in an attempt to defend the natural history interests along their routes. It would be better for wildlife if these roads were not to be built. We thank John Turner for his valuable work at these inquiries.

Airport - Most of you will have heard that Manchester Airport want a second runway. They have chosen their preferred option which is, as we expected, the one nearest the present runway. The good news is that all the opposition groups were, and are, against any second runway. We are consulting with other conservation groups to find ways of protecting the environment from this serious threat. The devastation it would cause, in the Bollin Valley, will be horrendous. You can be sure that we are against a second runway and will be striving to assure that the airport do not get their way.

Basketball Stadium in Wythenshawe Park? - There is a proposal for such a facility in Fir Coppice. While this wood has been somewhat spoilt by the refuse disposal activities (now ceased) in the park, it should be reinstated by replanting or natural regeneration and be properly managed. Wythenshawe Park was given to the City, by Lord Simon, to be used as a recreation facility for all and a building there, for a small minority interest, should not be tolerated.

Roads Campaign - A seminar, on roads, was held at Manchester Town Hall, in November 1991. We attended, along with other groups who were fighting road plans, had an interest in public transport or were concerned with the pollution and congestion caused by too many cars on our roads. The seminar was a great success with a free exchange of ideas and the problems which face us for transport in Greater Manchester. There will be nothing but roads (and empty offices) if all the planned roads come to fruition. It has been decided that a group should be set up to co-ordinate opposition groups so that they can share experience and expertise to help overcome the problem. It is now well known that building roads does not solve traffic congestion but encourages more cars onto the roads, leading to more pollution. Better public transport and improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists is a way to solve the problem and it's time the Department of Transport got the message! //

Meadows in Parks ?

Elaine Norsworthy, Countryside Officer with Manchester City Recreation Services, has asked us to identify grassland areas, in our City parks or other Council land, which would benefit from meadow management. Some parks in the City already have meadow areas; Broadhurst Park and Boggart Hole Clough, for example (probably under the same management). We think there is much scope for hay meadows, in parks, and would like to suggest the low meadow, adjacent to the carr woodland, in Fletcher Moss Park. There is (should be!) Ragged Robin growing in this wetland area. Also, there is plenty of scope in Wythenshawe Park, especially to the east of the Hall where there are some patches of Lady's Smock, indicating damp conditions. It is of interest to note that this park only supports five butterfly species which compares unfavourably with the 21 species at Heald Green railway cutting (both surveyed by Barry Shaw). We will have other suggestions to make so why don't you join us in our Meadows Campaign; if you know a park where a meadow is appropriate, phone Elaine on 230 7412 or contact us, and we will pass the message on. As those of you who joined us in Bruntwood Park, last June, will testify, hay meadows are most beautiful and the difference such management can make to butterfly populations (compared to mown lawns) has to be seen to be believed. We are pleased that Manchester City are keen to establish meadows in their parks, requesting suggestions from the public. We look forward to the day when Stockport's officers contact us with a similar request. Even though it is a policy of Stockport Leisure Services Committee to create meadows in their parks, there is little evidence of this on the ground. More on meadow management in the next Magpie. //

Animal Lines

WILDLIFE AND PET PORTRAITS

294 Brantingham Road,
Chorlton,
Manchester,
M21 1QU



Lyn Wells

061-821 7818

The Kingfisher on the cover of this newsletter is by Lyn Wells of Animal Lines. We thank Lyn for her most beautiful artwork and hope the printing process does not spoil the quality.

MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

by Anthony Phelps

Working out our membership number is not easy. This is because of our "rolling membership" system, meaning you receive your subscription reminder a full 12 months after you join. When I last asked Unity, we has 102 fully paid up members (including those due to pay in December), which is the target we set at our last AGM (200 next year?).

I sent out the questionnaire hoping that every member would take a couple of minutes to "communicate" with me (I have still only met about 30-35 actual members out of 102!), so I can find out your interests, and any comments you may have. So far I have had about 30 returned, but to be able to really know Manchester Wildlife, and the range of its members' skills and hobbies, I need each member to complete their form. I do value your membership, whether you just wish to receive the Magpie, or are able to be involved a little or a lot, but to be able to plan events and predict possible turnouts for activities, I need to know. So, if you have not yet sent me your questionnaire, please do. I look forward to hearing from you soon. //

Opinion

by Ian Brown

Having read "Fell Swoop" by Jonathan Kaplan (Guardian 17.1.92) has confirmed my opinion that the successful Japanese Economy is almost entirely dependent on the despoilation and destruction of our Global Environment. Not satisfied with destroying the Tropical forests of Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, etc, they are now turning their attention to the remaining tropical and temperate rainforests in Australia. The products of this destruction will be wood-chip, for the paper industry, and timber products for Japanese industry to re-export. This is being encouraged by Prime Minister, Paul Keating, to boost the depressed Australian Economy. I suppose the foreign currency earnings will enable them to buy more Japanese cars!

In my opinion, the only way to show disapproval of the unethical practices of the Japanese is to boycott all Japanese goods. This will probably be more difficult than boycotting Sainsbury but if enough people join me, some effect should be felt. //

Book Reviews

by Ian Boucher

The Good Wood Guide: A F.O.E Handbook published by the F.O.E.,
26-28 Underwood Street, London. N1 7JQ Price: £ 4.00

.....
The Which? Guide To Planning And Conservation by John Willman,
published by the Consumer Association & Hodder/Stoughton £8.95

.....
Both these books consider themselves as useful rather than just informative, which they both are as well. I bought both of them for a specific purpose. Firstly, could I buy a new exterior door without adding to the destruction of the rain forests and secondly, is it possible to oppose the building of new houses on a field, which is home to 8 to 10 species of butterflies, in such a manner that the planning authorities would listen and take notice.

In both circumstances the books have proved their worth and passed the usefulness test. There is a local supplier, listed in the Good Wood Guide, of home grown hardwood, who has a policy of replacing each tree used and expanding the number of such useful trees, like oak, being grown, and I was able to follow some very simple steps to oppose the planning application - though the results are still pending.

The "Which?" Guide is so simple to use, read and refer to - though having no index can be a bit of a nuisance - and is full of really helpful information with "tips" highlighted in separate boxes throughout the text. It tells you what you can and cannot do, and things you should and should not do, all in an easy to follow text. The book takes the view from both sides of the fence and looks at applying for and opposing planning. Recommended.

The "Good Wood Guide" is a lobby on behalf of rain forest conservation with practical tips on what the individual can do and where he or she can buy wood products without the environmental costs. Before giving advice, the book looks at the facts in straightforward terms of the Rainforest Timber Trade and emphasises the positive steps that can be taken by our governments and industries, before it is too late.

Both these books may date quickly but they are important NOW.

USEFUL CONTACTS

- Bats** CWT Bat Group - 0270 610180 (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-Stockport - Tony O'Neill - 962 2449
RSPB-Manchester - Simeon Rydz - 434 2720

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)

Cheshire Wildlife Trust (Stockport and Tameside Group)
Rhian Pendlebury (Secretary) 427 4529

Friends of the Earth - Neil Lea - 789 8880
- Kevin McGovern - 945 1097

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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Stockport. SK8 3HA Tel 437 7040

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that information in the "Magpie" is correct, we 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.

The "Magpie" is the newsletter of Manchester Wildlife - the opinions expressed therein are not necessarily those of MW.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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Address

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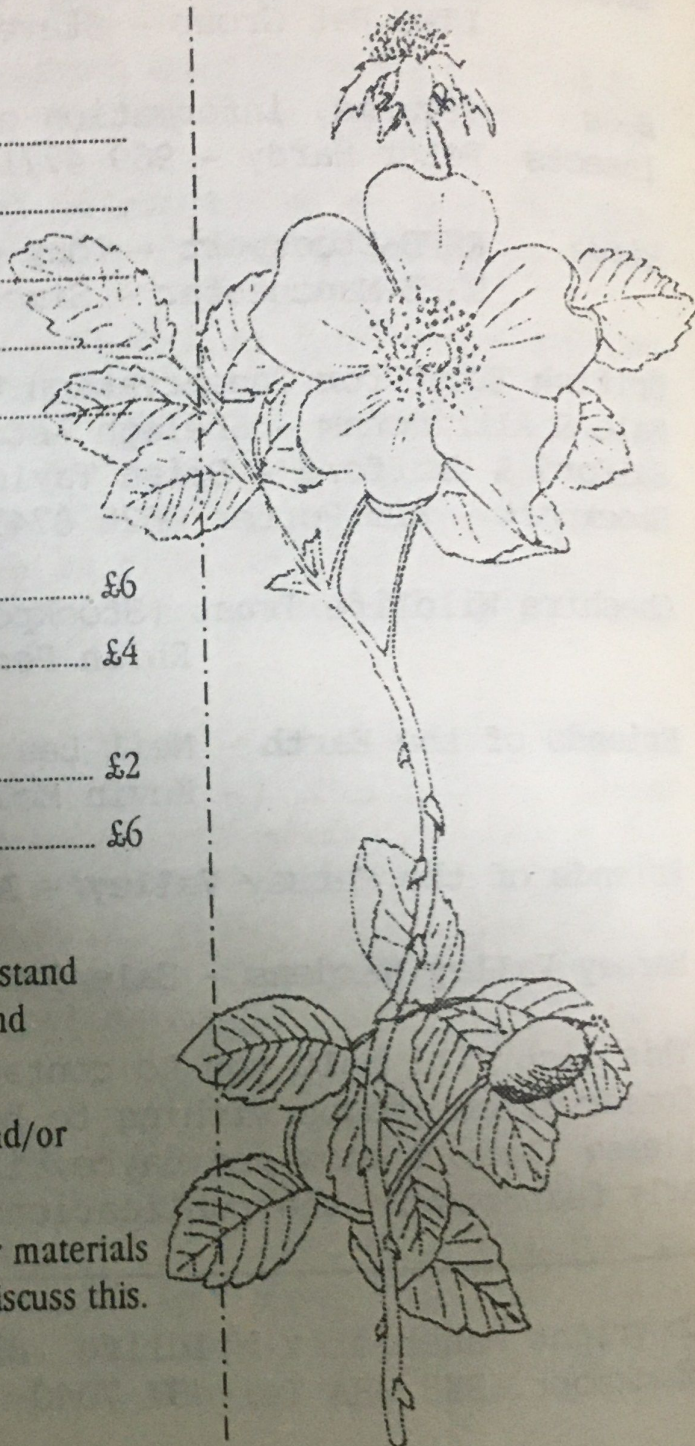
Subscription rates

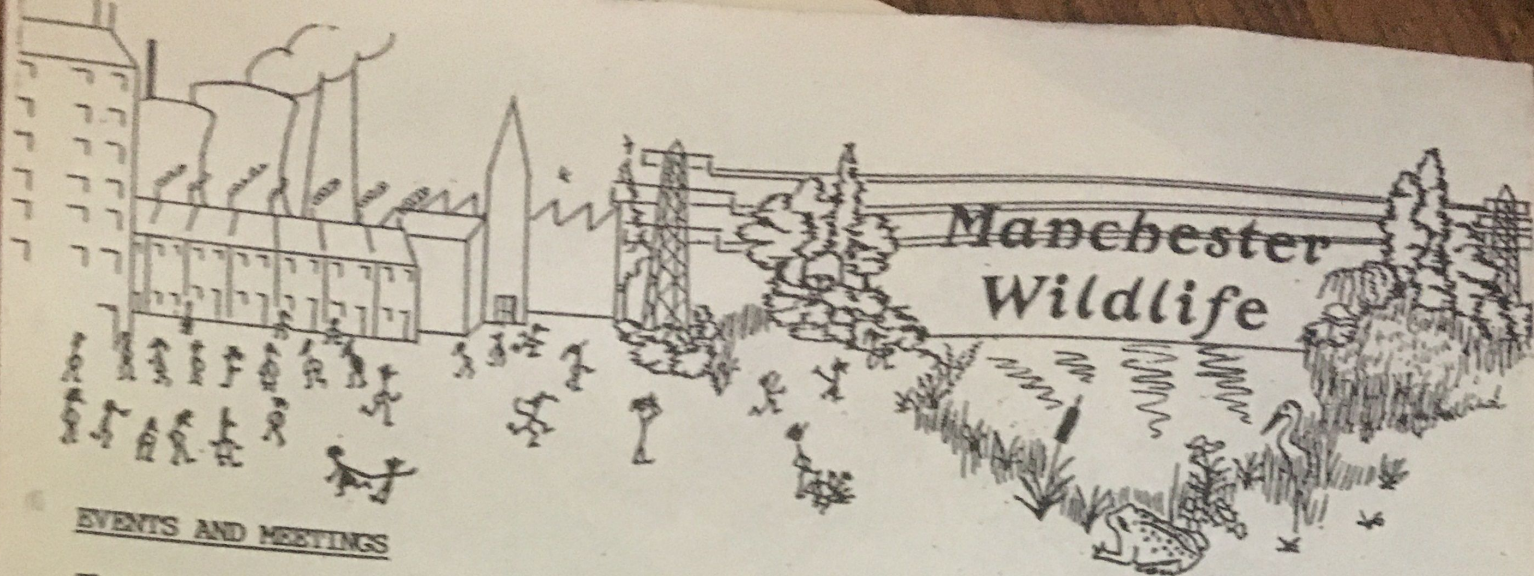
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- ☐ Please send me details of Life Membership
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will go towards the funding of local nature and
conservation work.
- ☐ I am interested in sponsoring a Newsletter and/or
leaflet. Please send me further details.
- ☐ I may be able to sponsor tools, trees or other materials
in exchange for publicity and would like to discuss this.

Please send completed forms with cheques made
payable to Manchester Wildlife
to:

Unity Kelly
13 Ruskin Avenue
Rusholme
Manchester
M14 4DP

*Space here for Sponsor's
Name + Logo + Phone No.
Inquiries to Editor - 061 437 7040*





EVENTS AND MEETINGS

The following events and meetings have been arranged. Other events may be organised at short notice, so to keep up to date, or for further information on advertised events, please contact Ian Brown Tel. 437 7040. Please try to take part in our events, and come to meetings. You are sure to enjoy the experience.

January 1992

- Saturday 25th Environment Week-end - Wythenshawe Park - A Manchester Park Warden's event. Environmental activities. Manchester Wildlife will have a display of Green Woodwork. Time 10-4. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040.
 and Sunday 26th
 Thursday 30th General Meeting - At the home of Unity Kelly, 13 Ruskin Avenue, Rusholme. M14. (A-Z P60 2B) Tel. 226 4583. Time 7.30 pm.

February 1992

- Saturday 1st Environment Week-end - Heaton Park - A Manchester City Park Warden's event. Environmental activities. Manchester Wildlife will have a display of Green Woodwork. Time 10-4. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040.
 and Sunday 2nd
 Wednesday 5th Environment Conference - at the Polytechnic - Time 5.30 pm. Contact Graeme Hunt, 234 4583, for further details.
 Saturday 8th Environment Week-end - Platt Fields - A Manchester Park Warden's event. Environmental activities. Manchester Wildlife will have a display of Green Woodwork. Time 10-4. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040.
 and Sunday 9th
 Tuesday 11th ~~Pub Meeting - Parrs Wood Hotel, Junction of School Lane/Parrs Wood Road, East Didsbury. Time 7.30 p.m. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040.~~
 Saturday 22nd Bird Walk - Chorlton Water Park - Meet Visitor Centre, Maitland Ave. (off Darley Avenue), Chorlton. Time 10 am. Leader Anthony Phelps.

March

- Sunday 1st Woodland Management Day - Venue to be decided. Contact Ian Brown, for details. 437 7040.
 Tuesday 10th Pub Meeting - Parrs Wood Hotel, Junction of School Lane/Parrs Wood Road, East Didsbury. Time 7.30 p.m. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040.
 Thursday 26th General Meeting - At the home of Susanne Clarence, 21 Victoria Road, Whalley Range, M16 (A-Z P59 3F). Tel. 226 6071. Time 7.30 pm.

April 1992

- Saturday 4th Annual General Meeting - Venue: Parrs Wood Rural Studies Centre, Parrs Wood Lane/Kingsway, East Didsbury (A-Z P82 1C). Time 2 pm. Slide Show and Talk. Display of Woodland Crafts including Bodging. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040.
 Tuesday 14th Pub Meeting - Parrs Wood Hotel, Junction of School Lane/Parrs Wood Road, East Didsbury. Time 7.30 p.m. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040.

.....
 There will be another events' list out in mid-March, with the next edition of *Maggie*.
 Amongst the treats on offer will be a Woodland Walk.

Working for Wildlife in Greater Manchester
 - A Member of the Fairbrother Group -
 - The National Association of Urban Wildlife Groups -

