



THE MAGPIE

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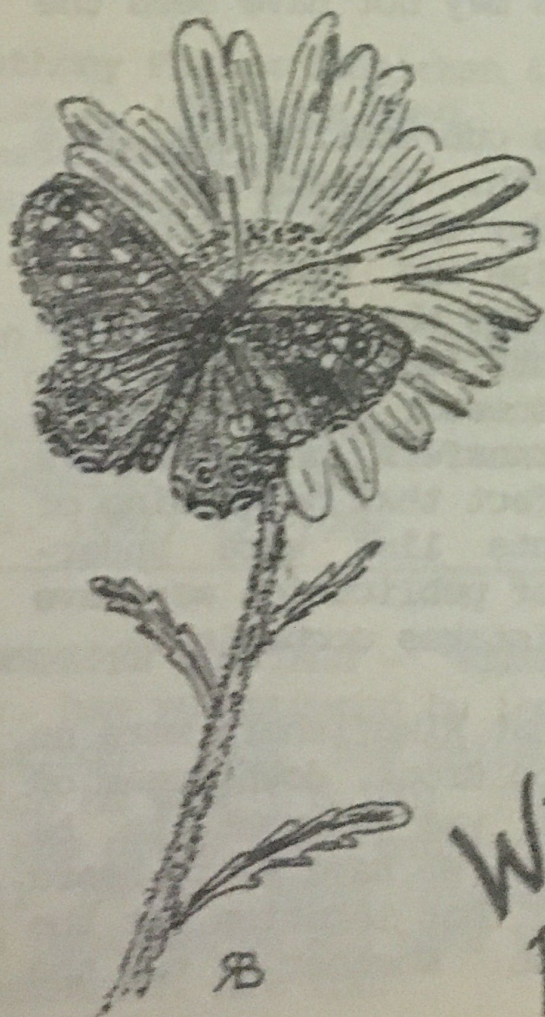
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Editorial

Editor's Office - 437 7040

I have decided to refrain from being controversial in this editorial; I will leave it to others to give controversy an airing in this edition of Magpie. Instead of which, it is time for apologies.

There were a few mistakes in the previous Magpie; some you may have noticed, some not. The article headed "Where were you on the 5th of April" may have been a little misleading. For 5th read 4th and you will realise that this was the date of our Annual General Meeting. Don't blame Unity for this; the headline was my idea to emphasise, to those who failed to attend, that a lot of effort and thought had been put into organising what turned out to be a most enjoyable afternoon. The next mistake was in the article "Managing for Wildlife". It should have been headlined "What a Waste" as the main point of the article was that much modern wildlife habitat management is high input/low output, unlike traditional methods where the main object was to earn a living from the countryside. In times past farming, and the practise of country crafts, generally benefited wildlife even though this may not have been the main intention.

And then there was the events list. The pub meeting for July was advertised as being on Tuesday the 9th. The 9th was not a Tuesday. One member turned up on Tuesday the 7th; another on Thursday the 9th. I hope that nobody else was similarly inconvenienced. It helps if you remember that the pub meeting is always on the second Tuesday of each month (until further notice). This mistake arose from a word processor operator error; it helps if, when carrying out block transfers, one remembers to alter any details which differ. The fact that headlining of articles and the compilation of the events list were undertaken between 1 am and 2 am on the day of publication may have had some bearing on the likelihood of mistakes occurring.

Merton Niven apologises for stating that Kingfishers were no longer using the nesting site on Chorlton Brook, downstream of Brookburn Road Bridge. This information was thought to be correct at the time of going to press. We have since heard that Kingfishers did attempt to breed at that location but the nest was predated by creatures unknown. Whether or not the

changes to the surrounding habitat has made predation more likely would be pure speculation.

Last but not least; apologies for the fact that this newsletter is a little late. It should have been out in July instead of (well I'm hoping that the task will be completed during August)! This of course meant that the venue for our July General Meeting was not advertised. I hope this omission inconvenienced no one (the meeting was held at the home of Ann & Mike Walters and was quorate) but if you want to hear the latest news on events and meetings, call me on the phone.

In future, all efforts will be made to keep mistakes to a minimum; maybe we should have a spot the mistakes competition. Anyone want to edit a Newsletter. //

Please note that all cheques, for membership subscriptions etc., should be made payable to - Manchester Wildlife and sent to the Treasurer, Ian Brown. //

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NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS - Susanne Clarence, our new Committee Member, has volunteered to look after our collection of press cuttings. This has relieved you Treasurer of one of the jobs which he wasn't doing! Thank you Susanne. If you see anything in the press which mentions Manchester Wildlife or you think will be of great interest to us; mark the cutting with date and publication and send to Susanne at 8 Lodge Ave., Urmston, Manchester. M32 1LL. //

What a Waste Recycling

by Ian Brown

No, it's not that recycling is a waste but it is a waste that more is not recycled. In Britain we used to recycle 59% of our waste paper, the best record in Europe. (Paper recycling is not a new idea but has been going on for years.) Apparently we are now recycling less of our own paper. You may well ask why. One reason is that the market has been flooded by waste paper from Germany which has reduced prices and now makes the collection of paper less commercially viable. How do the Germans do this? Well, they subsidise waste paper collection and they do this in order to encourage people to recycle more. The same happens with waste glass, which is subsidised so that German glass manufacturers pay nothing for their raw material. (They are aiming for 80% glass recycling.) The British cry foul, saying that this is unfair competition, but instead of manufacturers and the Government wringing their hands in despair, why not go for the simple solution; we should subsidise waste in the same way the Germans do, thereby levelling the playing field.

But how to pay for this? Well, presumably, paper and glass products would be slightly cheaper, saving us all a little money, so it would be in order to raise taxes to recoup the subsidies; robbing Peter to pay Peter! This may sound a little like Socialism gone rampant but it would solve the problem and save wasting our waste.

Another problem occurs over the way we recycle waste, particularly paper. Many voluntary groups collect waste paper which is loaded into a skip for delivery to the processing plant. An empty skip is delivered, filled, and collected later. This involves two return journeys per load. If an empty skip could be delivered when a full one is collected, this would involve one return journey per load. There is little point wasting one resource, fuel, wear and tear on vehicles (and more pollution) in order to save another. I am sure you wouldn't make a special car journey to a recycling centre, but do so when you were already going for another purpose, like shopping. Of course, if you hadn't to carry a load of recyclable material you might walk or cycle to the shops. Maybe doorstep collection is the best way to recycle. We need an environmental assessment of the best way to collect and deliver recyclable material.

Over to you Anthony

Recycling

by Anthony Phelps

I attended the public meeting of the Environmental Forum for Manchester on the 18th May, which was about Recycling. There were speakers from Friends of the Earth (FoE), Davidsons, a waste paper company, and the Council. These informed the meeting of what was happening now, and what others have managed to do in this field. I was left with a rather pessimistic feeling, to say the least.

On the 3rd June, at the Steering Group for the Forum, which I attend on behalf of Manchester Wildlife, it was decided to set up a 'pilot' sub-group to look into recycling [more sub-groups to follow on other subjects], and I put my name down on your behalf. Our first meeting was the FoE meeting on the 8th June.

The purpose of this sub-group was to get local input into the Council's Recycling Plan, which they are bound to supply to Central Government by the 1st August (although it will be delayed a little).

We decided to put forward the following initial proposals:

- 1) A Community Recycling Fund should be established, into which any monies earned from the sale of recycled materials should be placed, to be made available for future recycling schemes.
- 2) * "Adopt-a-Bank" schemes should be set up, where local community groups 'adopt' a recycling site, look after it, arrange for collections when it is full (which is more cost effective than regular collections from half empty bins), and receive funding from the sale of 'their' collected materials.
- 3) A Recycling Officer should be appointed at a suitable grading to be able to effectively co-ordinate the Recycling Plan.

Please write to your local councillor, using the three points above, and anything else you feel strongly about, to urge him/her to support your views so that recycling can have the Political priority it needs to succeed.

.....Continued Over

Remember - the more we recycle, the less we need to:

- 1) tip in land-fill sites;
 - 2) extract and import new raw materials;
 - 3) use our dwindling supplies of fossil fuels to create new products from scratch.
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* (If this proposal were to be put into effect we would have the ideal method for voluntary groups to deliver collections of waste paper etc. Skips would not be collected until full and empty skips could be delivered at the same time. Ed.) //

mini Book Review

by Diana Downing

Recommended reading to hearten wildlife gardeners when neighbours are intent on monoculture lawns or the extermination of Rosebay Willowherb and most insects: "Garden Life" by Jennifer Owen (1983 Chatto & Windus).

An account of 10 years study in her Leicester garden; lots of fascinating biology and readable enthusiasm. Try your local library. //

Wildlife sightings by Anthony Phelps

4 x Buzzards, flying over the Ramada Hotel, Deansgate on Monday 16th March 1992.

1 x Buzzard, seen high over the northern end of Clyde Road, West Didsbury, flying west (towards Southern Cemetery/Hough End), on Saturday 11th April 1992.

Turtle Dove, in telephone wire opposite Jackson's Boat pub, on Saturday 2nd May 1992.

3 x Grasshopper Warblers; two on Chorlton Ees, and one on Lower Hardy Farm, on Sunday and Monday, 3rd and 4th May 1992.

Did You Know? - "There is no Third World. There is only one world and we all have to live in it". - Gerald Durrell //

Manchester Wildlife Winter Bird Feeding Survey 1991-1992

by Janet M. Gorst

The weather this winter consisted of gales, rain (Dec/Jan), foggy cold conditions (late Jan), but later it became mild. It wasn't a hard winter, nor a vintage one for birds entering our gardens. In general observers have been disappointed and surprised at the small number of birds visiting gardens. The low numbers of birds seen is possibly due to the previous poor breeding season; June 1991 was one of the coldest on record.

However a range of species (49) did enter our gardens to keep us all busy watching. They were fed on peanuts, sunflower seeds, fat/seed blocks, cereal, peanut butter, wild bird seed cheese, fat, scraps, etc. The highest number of birds noted feeding in our gardens occurred during Jan/Feb.

Solitary Grey Wagtails were noted early on, one seen on top of a compost heap searching for insects. Regular sightings of Sparrowhawks; one seen taking a Blackbird. Parties of Long Tailed Tits have passed through; Blue, Great, Coal and Willow Tits were also seen but Greater Spotted Woodpeckers and Tree Creepers were scarce, as were Goldcrest, Tree Sparrow, Black-Caps, Bramblings and Yellow Hammers. One Bull Finch and three Linnets were spotted in a Gatley Garden.

Hérons were seen daily; Broad Ees Dole has provided a popular stopping off point and probably increased their flight routes, making them more likely to be seen. One was seen taking a welcome rest on a bungalow roof after being mobbed by Magpies and Crows. Greenfinches and Chaffinches have entered our gardens but no Bramblings were seen amongst the finch flocks. At Priestnall allotments forty Goldfinches were seen feeding on Hop manure seeds; 25 Wood Pigeons were also noted feeding in a cabbage/sprout patch. Many delightful Siskins were reported.

There were many reports of winter thrushes - mainly Redwings. These welcome Eastern visitors were seen throughout the survey feeding on berries and fallen fruit, which also attracted Song & Mistle Thrushes, Starlings & Blackbirds. One very "Bossy" Mistle Thrush was seen, by the writer, jealously guarding a pyracantha shrub, plus berries, against all comers. A good survey, with 15 reports (10%). The survey will be undertaken again, next winter; let's have an even bigger response. //



Butterfly Survey 92

by Ian Brown

You may have read in the press that we were successful in our attempt to secure a British Gas Grassroots Action Scheme award. A presentation of the award certificate was held, at a site very close to the south end of the airport runway, on the 6th of July. This was a fortuitously hot, sunny day, sandwiched between two very poor spells of weather; eight species of butterflies were observed, including Small Heath. Present were Bill Hamilton and Wendy Martin, from British Gas, and John and Rhona Houfe, and myself, from Manchester Wildlife. Also in attendance was John Thompson, who has been surveying the site for many years; 20 butterfly species have so far been recorded on this shrubby, grassland embankment and they do not seem to be deterred by jets flying a few feet overhead. Unfortunately the site may be lost if the second runway gets the go ahead.

Our Butterfly Survey is now in its second year and looks set to run and run; the GAS award will be a great help towards the costs of publishing a report. It is obvious that some species of butterflies are spreading into Manchester. Diana Downing, and many others report Commas; I first saw one in my garden in 1987. At that time I had thought the Comma was not seen north of the Midlands; the furthest north I had seen it was near Hereford. The Comma is now well established in this area and it seems that other butterflies are following its lead. Small Skipper has made inroads in recent years and is now fairly common, particularly in the Mersey Valley where Holly Blue was first recorded in April 1991. This year, reports of Holly Blue have been flooding in, it would seem that every garden has one (or more) including my own; it must be breeding somewhere, but

where? Gatekeeper has been observed in the Mersey Valley for the first time this year. This brings the Mersey Valley species total to 20 - there has been a possible sighting of Small Heath in the Valley but we are told that this is not likely though it has been seen on the cutting near Heald Green Station, and it's only a short flight from there. Gatekeeper is quite frequent on the fringes of Greater Manchester but it is encouraging to find it in a more central part.

This northward spread of butterflies could be caused by warmer conditions. Is this a permanent or temporary change? If it is temporary then some species could retreat south. If permanent it would be nice to see the butterflies remaining but it could also be a sign that global warming is affecting the climate.

There is still time to see butterflies this year; I saw eight species on one September day, last year, at Lower Hardy Farm in Chorlton. Even if you have not yet taken part in the survey why not take a look at your local patch and whet your appetite for taking full part in the survey next year. When we know where butterflies are we will be better able to protect them. //

URBAN PIGEONS FOR EVER?

by Anthony Phelps

At an Urban Ecology Conference I attended on the 20th May, we had a talk by Dr Martin Jones on urban pigeons. I learnt about their lifestyle and the usual practices which totally fail to reduce their population (whilst keeping Rentokil thriving!).

He finished on a light note with his (guaranteed) solution to rid Manchester of its pigeons:

- 1) Fine anybody who feeds pigeons £500 [removing part of their unnatural food supply].
- 2) Use this money to help fund a scheme to empty all the litter bins in Manchester twice a day [removing a further unnatural source of food].
- 3) Concrete over all the green spaces in the City [thus removing their natural source of food].
- 4) No more pigeons in Manchester!

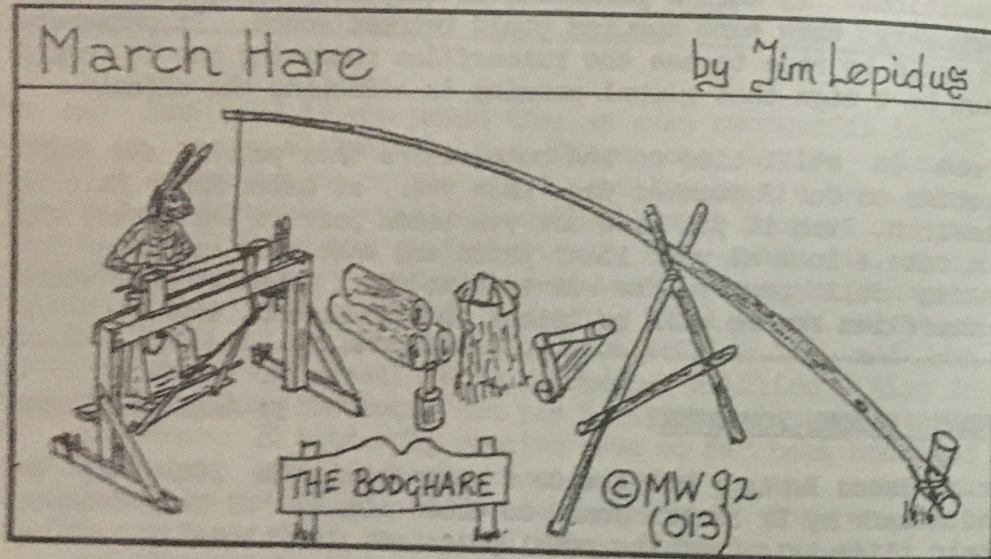
It's nice to see that Manchester City Council are attempting to comply with the third part of Dr Jones' solution! //

Green Woodwork

or How to >Bodge< a Windsor Chair

by Ian Brown

In the spring issue of Magpie I gave you a brief introduction to the art of bodging. While some of you will be familiar with this ancient craft, others may wish to know more. My first practical introduction to bodging came about when I was on a woodland management course in the Ashdown Forest. One day, we were confronted with a contraption, called a pole-lathe, which is roughly depicted below.



I leapt at the chance to have-a-go and was immediately smitten finding the rhythm, of applying the chisel with the downward pressure on the treadle, most therapeutic. On returning home I was determined to gain more experience and looked out for a greenwood course on which I could satisfy my need for more of the same therapy.

October of last year found me, and other potential bodgers, at the Greenwood Trust in Ironbridge, on a course run by the BTCV and we were soon to discover why the term "greenwood" is used. On the first day we coppiced a few sycamores; the following day we were turning the wood, from these trees, on a pole-lathe. I made some turned parts, for a shaving horse, a rolling pin and a hay rake in what was probably one of the most enjoyable weeks I had so far experienced.

To continue with my new found enthusiasm I had to build my own pole-lathe so, using an old, defunct bed and other scraps of wood, I had one completed by early January and started to get in a little practise. Under the banner of Manchester Wildlife and with the assistance of a few members I put on bodging displays at some Manchester parks. Those who had a go were, like me, smitten, particularly Yvonne Watson who has now made her own pole-lathe.

There is always more to learn in any craft and I realised that my technique could do with much improvement. A chair making course seemed the ideal way to achieve this object so early June found me in Henblas Country Park under the tuition of the Anglesey Chair Bodgers, two of whom, Hugh and Stuart, had been our tutors at Ironbridge. I was confronted by a large Ash log and a few simple tools with which I was to make a chair. There were two other students on the course and as there were three instructors, we had one to one tuition. This seemed a little confusing at first; every bodger has their own individual methods and one would say, "I don't do it like that, but like this", and a little later another would say the same. In time one realised that we were benefiting from years of experience, threefold, and would use this to eventually develop our own individual style. Let me tell you, making a Windsor chair is very hard work and more complicated than one could imagine, (it makes one appreciate why these hand made chairs are so highly valued), but at the end of six days I had something which bore a distinct resemblance to a chair and after a few finishing touches, at home, I am highly satisfied at the result. A most enjoyable week in a delightful woodland setting and the Anglesey countryside, in June, is really most pleasant. The making of a Windsor chair is probably the ultimate achievement of the bodgers art. Well I've made one, so what next? Answer; make another, but make it better!

I realise I have not told you how to bodge a chair; that would take almost as long as it does to do. My aim has been to give you a taste of what green woodwork is like and I would certainly recommend that you should give it a go. I wouldn't advise a chair making course without previous experience, but The Anglesey Chair Bodgers run 2 or 3 day pole-lathe introduction courses which I would certainly recommend. There may be some places left, this year.

.....Continued Over

The Anglesey Chair Bodgers can be contacted at, Carreg Rhys, Paradwys, Bodorgan, Anglesey, North Wales. LL62 5PB Telephone: (0407) 840 249.

The Greenwood Trust can be contacted at, Rose Cottage, Dale Road, Coalbrookdale, Telford, Shropshire. TF8 7DS Telephone: (0952) 433080.

Why Not Come And See The Bodgers - Information on Events List

Trafford Park Nature Haven

by Christopher Murray

At Barton upon Irwell, a disused farm is attracting wildlife. Across Old Barton Road, from the farm, and on the banks of the Ship Canal, a waterlogged field is home to Canada geese and mallards. Heron feed there and the overgrown hedgerows provide secure nesting sites for finches and long-tailed tits. Foxes and Kingfisher are occasionally seen; recently a Short-eared Owl has taken up residence. On the doorstep of Trafford Park, this green oasis is a nature reserve in all but name.

At nearby Barton Locks, the Northern Marsh Orchid thrives and at the power station, Ringed Plover and Wheatear have been seen. Let us hope that this small pocket of old countryside, near the glorious and recently restored, All Saints Church, will be saved from the relentless march of development. //

Stop Press

We hear that there are plans for a nine hole golf course and driving range at Bruntwood Park (alongside the proposed A34 by-pass). There'll be nothing left of the hay meadows; the best bet would be to move and go to live somewhere decent! //

Did You Know? "The Earth Summit is in danger of failing due to ignorance and apathy. Personally I don't know the difference between ignorance and apathy, and I don't care!"
[Comment on "Loose Talk", Radio 1, 6th June 1992]

Access Denied?

A Report from John Turner

In December 1991, together with Ian Brown, I attended a public inquiry into the proposed diversion of footpath 60, in the Goyt Valley at Bredbury and we opposed the diversion on several grounds. We contended that it would be contrary to Goyt Valley Local Plan landscape policies as local wildlife would suffer from destruction. We felt that, as the path was an Ancient Highway and carriageway drive to Highfield Hall, it had an historic interest and should not be destroyed on the whim of the landowner. We also pointed out that the diversion would deny vehicular and other access. This could be a problem for emergency services, such as ambulances wishing to gain access to the school playing fields in the event of an accident.

As the inquiry inspector granted the diversion order it is interesting to note that, recently, the Police used the path to to attend to an incident involving youths with airguns and the Etherow/Goyt Valley Wardens had to attend to a tree, down the path, which had been blown down in a gale. Prior to the inquiry we had asked the Wardens if closure of the path would cause them any inconvenience and they had said that it would not. The old path has not yet been closed, though the diverted path has been completed. It turns out that the only other way in which the fallen tree could have been attended to would have involved the use of a land rover and the felling of several trees.

As was reported in the winter Magpie we thought that Stockport Council should have been opposing the path diversion. Even so we feel that council officers did not inform the Council of the problems which could arise insofar as access is concerned. We expect that the old path will eventually be closed. Let us hope that no one needs to access the area, particularly by ambulance or to attend to the sewerage drain which will then be inaccessible. Even without these possible future access problems, it is sad to lose an ancient highway which has for long been an attractive landscape feature of the area. //

Did You Know? "Despite man's continuous battle against insects, even using radioactivity and the most powerful poisons his chemists can create; he has been unable to kill off a single species".

[Comment by David Attenborough from his "Life on Earth" series]

Sainsburys and the A34

by Ian Brown

The saga still continues; we have a report from John Beasley (OTDOGS) in South London. As well as being a strong opponent of Sainsburys, he is a shareholder in the company. This enables him to go to Sainsbury's AGM and kick up a fuss. This year he made a brief speech accusing the Board of Directors of hypocrisy by destroying open green spaces. Company policy is "To conduct our affairs with real consideration for the environment, both in the products we sell and in all operational practices throughout the business." We thank John, as he also mentioned Sainsbury's intention to destroy hay meadows at Bruntwood Park, in Cheadle. To this, Lord Sainsbury apparently replied that the A34 by-pass was to be built anyway and if Sainsburys did not build their superstore then somebody else would have built there. Doesn't this sounds like the sort of excuse that would be made by pimps and arms dealers to justify their trades?

In any event, it is not true that the by-pass would have been built. Prior to the public inquiry, in 1987, the road had a low priority and there was not the money available, locally, for its construction (it would have been a local road). At the public inquiry, Sainsburys offered to pay for part of the road system (as Tesco and Marks & Spencers did for their proposed Handforth store) and, low and behold, the road became a high priority and, not single but, dual carriageway. If it had been single carriageway, we probably would not have objected to the road as it could have been routed through the less sensitive areas of the meadows and adjacent development would not have been possible.

Further news on the A34 by-pass is that John Turner has been contacted by the EEC Environment Commission for information on the proposed construction of the road and the questions they have asked give us hope that they may ask for an Environmental Impact Assessment on the route. The bad news is that Carlo Ripa Di Meana has resigned as Commissioner and the Commission has not upheld objections to the M3 at Twyford Down. (They have not, fortunately, relented over the proposed road through Oxleas Wood in South London.) We hope the EEC Commission is not going soft as we need someone to keep an eye on the Dept. of Transport to deter them from their continual destruction of

our environment. Have you heard that, in the "eco-villain" contest, being held by the Radio 4 programme, "Costing the Earth", Sainsburys and Tesco are running a close second to the Secretary of State for Transport, John McGregor. We will soon be finding out who emerges as the biggest "villain"!

latest news is that the environmental pressure group "Earth First" have taken exception to Sainsbury's environmentally unfriendly policies. We hear that they started their campaign with a picket outside Sainsbury's Stockport store on Friday the 14th of August. We await developments and are pleased to note that it's not just us, and OTDOGS, who object to the activities of Sainsburys. We will continue to highlight this matter and hope that you will help us by boycotting Sainsburys until they withdraw their plans to build on Bruntwood Meadows.

Events Past and Future

by Merton Niven

Environment Week - Our first event of this week was our Spring Clean at Hough End Clough on the 16th and 17th of May. This was a very successful event and we managed to clear the whole area, removing tons of rubbish. 22 volunteers came to help us out, including 3 from the Watch Group who planted wildflowers in a woodland clearing. On the Sunday, Susanne Clarence and Yvonne Watson took our exhibition to the Environmental Fun Day in Castlefield. They reported a successful day and we get the impression that Castlefield is a better venue, for this event, than Albert Square. The following Sunday found us again at Castlefield on a wildflower survey of the canal basin. Only four members turned up, which is a pity because, although this may not have sounded a particularly exciting event we had a most enjoyable walk finding many wildflowers, including Marsh Orchids on the canal banks. The butterflies were out in force and we discovered that the canal path had been recently opened beyond Hulme Locks. This enables one to travel from the City centre along the full length of the Bridgewater Canal. There was a serious purpose to the walk as we will be reporting on what we found and this should ensure that any development in the area should be sensitive to the abundant, and unexpected, wildlife we found, so close to the centre of Manchester. Unity Kelly felt that Environment Week, in Manchester, was a bit of a "lead balloon". The fact that she attended an environmental meeting in Withington, where no one from the public turned up,

may have coloured her opinion. The most important thing about Environment Week is that there must be lots of good publicity so that the public can be encouraged to become involved, not just for the week but on a long term basis. Otherwise we may as well forget about special weeks and voluntary groups should just get on with caring for the environment, as they do during the other 51 weeks of the year. Merseyside produced a brilliant colour leaflet with information on the activities of all local groups and Edinburgh even produced a book. Maybe the insert in the Manchester Magazine isn't getting through. How about commercial sponsorship to produce a really eye-catching leaflet to grab public attention.

Other Events - June the 21st saw us at Bruntwood Park to view the Hay meadows. There was little publicity, this year, but a reasonable number of members, and others, some who hadn't been before, took the chance to see the beautiful, and rare sight of a hay meadow in all its glory. Many Meadow Brown and Large Skipper butterflies were seen and even the Common Blue put in an appearance. The Orchid Spot on the 5th of July attracted a small band of wildlife addicts to Painswick Park to see how the Transplant Site was progressing. A good variety of the plants were thriving and the orchid count is now about 310, twice the number counted in 1991!

Future Events - There is an events list with this newsletter but here are a few highlights. The **Family Fun Day and Rural Show** at Parrs Wood Centre for Rural Education (details on our events list) is run by the Parrs Wood Trust. This is sure to be a good day out. If you have not yet visited the centre, do come along, you will be pleasantly surprised. Why go out into the countryside, on a Bank Holiday Monday, when you can visit the most beautiful countryside on your doorstep.

At our **Hay Meadow Celebration** on Saturday the 5th of September we would appreciate the help of members to run this event. If you would like to give a hand with the games or looking after a stall, please phone 437 7040 or turn up on the day. Why not come along, bring the family, bring a picnic and enjoy a day out, in the pleasant surroundings of Sale Water Park. All this takes place on the meadow near the visitor centre (follow signs for Trafford Water Sports Centre, Rifle Road, Sale). If you would like to try your hand at mowing a real meadow, come along to **Hough End Clough** on the 20th Sept. We need your help!

Keep Wythenshaw Park Green by Des Poiler

This is another saga which has been running for some time. The application to build a basketball centre in Fir Coppice has stirred up plenty of local opposition. There does not seem to be any objection to a basketball facility in Wythenshawe, but not in the Park! This was the approximate theme of the resolution, passed by local councillors, at the recent Wythenshawe Area Consultative Committee Meeting.

There was a fear that, at the main planning meeting (Legal & Development Sub-Committee) in the Town Hall, the plan would be passed. Indeed there was a rumour passing round, a few days beforehand, that this was the decision which would be taken. However, at the Town Hall, and after the public, including Manchester Wildlife, had had their say, Councillor Arnold Spencer proposed and Councillor James Ashley seconded that the application be deferred and that a site visit should take place before a decision was made. We thank the councillors for allowing more time for the matter to be considered.

The site visit will be held, in Fir Coppice, on Thursday the 3rd of September at 10 am. This will be followed by a meeting at the Wythenshawe Forum where the outcome will be decided. Let us hope that the local people, and ourselves, can persuade the council that the basketball centre should not be built in Wythenshawe Park. //

Membership and Renewals

We have a new system for keeping track of our members. This should ensure that all paid up members receive their regular copy of **Magpie**. We hope this has been the case in the past but if in future you feel you have missed a copy, contact your Editor. The **Magpie** should come out in January, April, July and October (Roughly, we're running a little late, this year. Ed). **Membership Renewals** - Subscriptions are due annually, in the month you joined, so if you can pay your sub., before the publication date, we would be pleased. Each membership reminder takes about 10 minutes to process which can add up to 500 minutes of your treasurer's time; and he's a busy chap. From now, it will be our policy to send out two consequent reminders (if necessary) after which mailings will cease. //

Butterfly Survey Update - Speckled Wood has been seen in Big Wood, Wythenshawe, for the first time (we think). Heald Green member, Tony Browne, has also seen one in his garden. Unity Kelly reports 10 butterfly species on the Great Western Street site in Rusholme and some in high numbers.

MW Award Scheme - The time factor has delayed the announcement of the winners of our 1991 awards. We've been too busy and have not been able to get the certificates done. Though some nominations have been carried over from last year, we have only one new nomination for 1992. This comes from John Turner and is for Stockport Planning Officers in the Malcolm Practice Award category. In the officers report to councillors on the Cheadle Royal office application there was incorrect wording in reference to Greater Manchester Structure Plan policy on out of centre office building which John Turner felt could have mislead councillors into approving the application. There must be more nominations for the good, and the bad, relating to Manchester's environment - please sent yours to the editor.

Craft Goods for Sale - Manchester Wildlife has members turning out woodcraft items which are all made from reclaimed wood or coppiced timber which would otherwise be thrown away. Recycling in practice. These include Paper Knives from John Turner and Needle Cases and Rattles from the Bodger. Quantities are limited but if you would like one of these unusual items, they make excellent Christmas presents, contact the Bodger on 437 7040. There will be more specific details in the next Magpie when we can assess our stock after sales at our forthcoming exhibitions. Proceeds to Manchester Wildlife funds.

Tail-piece

a last word from the editor

Well folks, I hope nothing has been missed in this edition; if so I'll try to make sure to include it in the next Magpie. If you have any comments to make on the contents, or anything else, let me know. Again we thank the Community Resource Unit at Longsight Library for the use of their printing facilities.

"Nature never did betray the heart that loved her" - W.W. 1798

USEFUL CONTACTS

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 -

North Group (Trafford) - Liz Blackman (Chair) 962 6748
Stockport & Tameside Group - Rhiah Pendlebury (Sec) 427 4529
Wilmslow Group (South M/cr) - Tony Browne (Chair) 436 1761

Lancashire Wildlife Trust -

Bolton Wildlife Project - Alison Leeds (UWO) 0204 361847

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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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.

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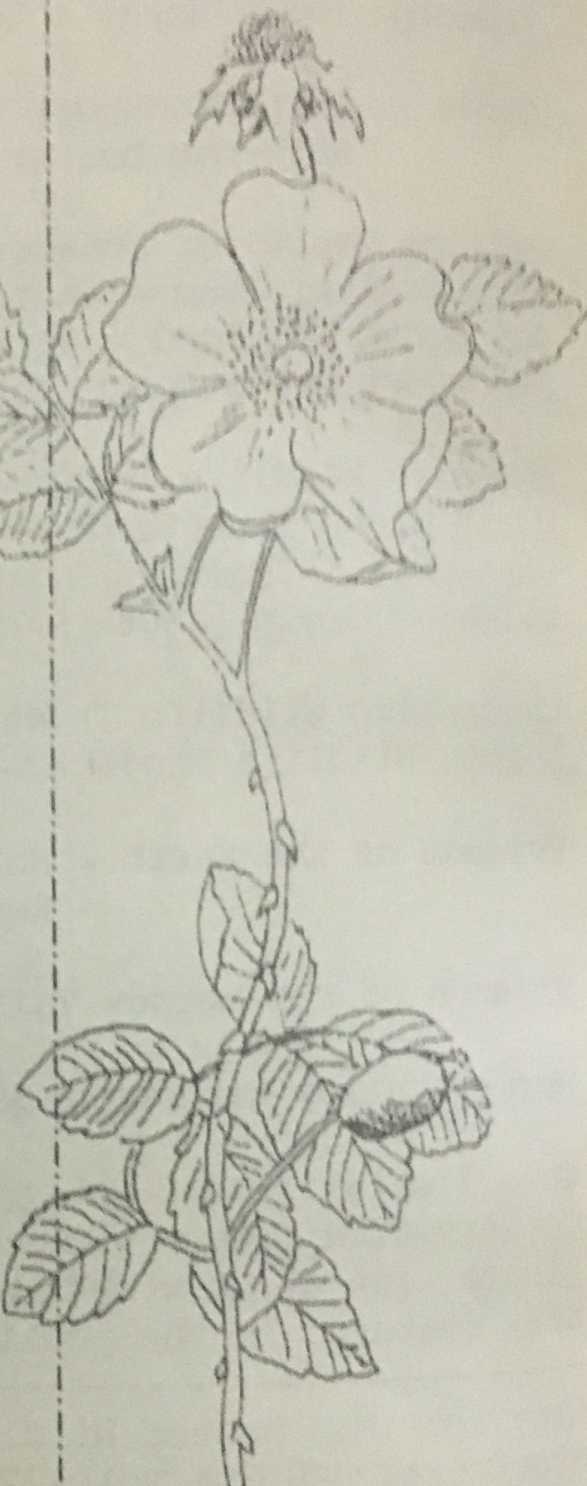
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