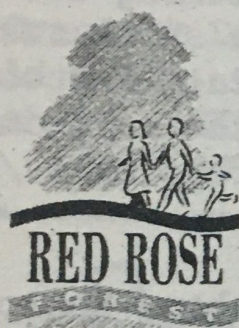




THE MAGPIE

Number 24

Autumn 1992



Competition Time
mini **Book Review**

Odds and Ends

Opinion

A load of Rubbish

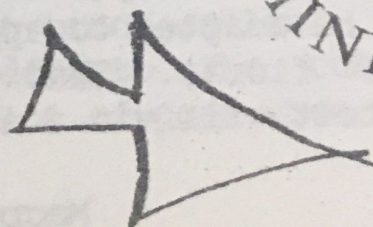
Butterflies in 1992

Planning Matters

Events

Cartoon

and more



Editorial

Editor's Office 437 7040

It's been a busy year, so far; a case of too much to do and not enough time in which to do it. The Bodging is going well and the Butterfly Survey has had a successful second year. Unitary Development Plans are upon us, for all ten districts in Greater Manchester, and we are commenting on those for Manchester, Stockport and Trafford. More on all these matters later. Because of my habit of writing the editorial first, I cannot tell, at this stage, exactly what the contents will be but this newsletter looks like being shorter than usual. Of course there might be some last minute articles coming along to beat the deadline. March Hare will be taking a short rest but there is a guest appearance of a continental cartoon character. If you don't understand the point of the cartoon, call me on the telephone and I will explain. Now read on...//

ORNITHOLOGIST'S FILM CLUB

Transcribed by Anthony Phelps

Films likely to be popular with birdwatchers

.....

"The Outlaw Josie Quails" - "Nine and a Half Beaks" - "All Quiet on the Crested Grebe" - "The Forbidden Gannet" - Sean Canary in "Licenced to Trill" - "Back to the Vulture" - "The Maltese Ptarmigan" - "There's a Gull in my Soup" - "Waders of the Lost Ark" - "Duck Tracy" - The Sound of Emu Sick" - Cole Porter's "Anything Goose" - The musical "The Merry Wigeon" - "Pied Wagtails of the Unexpected" - Steve McQueen in "Pullet" - "Oh! What a lovely Warbler" - "Nightjar on Elm Street" - "The Last of the Red Hot Plovers" - "Rook Back in Anger" - The Threepenny Osprey" - (How about, "From Here Teal Eternity" - "A Nightjar Named Desire" - Ed.)

("I'm sorry I haven't a clue" - Radio 4, 27/06/92)

.....

Competition Time - Can you think of any Book, Film or Play title which can be adapted to appeal to any wildlife enthusiast (fauna or flora). Send your entries to the editor by 7/12/1992; The best will win a needlecase from the bodger. //

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

Manchester Wildlife Contacts

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

Unity Kelly (Vice-chair).
13 Ruskin Avenue,
Rusholme,
Manchester. M14 4DP
Tel (061) 226 4583

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

mini Book Review

by Anthony Phelps

Title: "Birdwatching by Train - Where to go in Britain"
Authors: Alison Mo and Nigel G. Harris
Publisher: Transport Publishing Company (April 1992)
ISBN: 0 86317 179 6 **Price:** £5.95 (paperback)

As a personal recommendation, this book is one of the main causes of me not having been spotted in the Mersey Valley recently. I don't have a car, and usually need to take advantage of RSPB and other organised trips to reach most areas. This book highlights 50 varied sites for good birdwatching around the country which lie close to railway stations. Information given includes access, map references, timetable numbers, frequency of services, facilities available, habitat types, likely sightings and the best time of year to visit. //

Did You Know? - The old Refuge Assurance building on the corner of Whitworth Street and Oxford Road is probably the only building in Manchester with a rat-proof cellar. When laying the foundations, broken glass was added to the concrete mixture, which doesn't do the rats a lot of good when they attempt to chew their way in! //

7th October 1992- COMMUNITY GROUPS SAY COUNCIL RECYCLING PLAN IS A LOAD OF RUBBISH!

A coalition of local environmental and community groups, united under the banner of Community Action on Recycling for the Environment (C.A.R.E), today condemned Manchester City Council's Recycling Plan as a missed opportunity to expand recycling in Manchester.

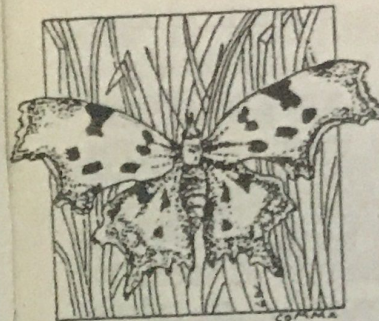
C.A.R.E. claim the plan is fundamentally flawed because while it sets ambitious targets for recycling it fails to make specific commitments on how these will be achieved. In particular C.A.R.E. are concerned that there is no commitment to appoint a Recycling Officer. Steve Munro, of Manchester F.O.E said:

"Environmental groups, the DoE and most Local Authorities agree that appointing a Recycling Officer is crucial to improving local levels of recycling. Without this basic commitment, Manchester's plan lacks credibility."

C.A.R.E. also maintain that in drafting their plan Manchester Council have failed to give serious attention to tried and tested ideas put forward by local groups as essential means of encouraging community participation in recycling. Two such ideas, which members of C.A.R.E. have put a lot of time and effort into investigating, are the establishment of a Community Recycling Fund to support community based recycling schemes, and the establishment of an Adopt-a-Bank Scheme to improve community usage of existing recycling banks. Anthony Phelps of Manchester Wildlife said:

"Manchester City Council claim to be a 'green' council and claim to encourage community involvement in the development of Council policy. Sadly this Recycling Plan, in terms of its contents and the way it has been drafted, undermines both claims."

C.A.R.E. will be writing to Michael Howard, the Secretary of State for the Environment, asking him to reject Manchester's Plan and intend to put pressure on the Council to modify it./



Butterfly Survey 92

BUTTERFLIES IN 1992

by Peter B. Hardy

There have been many comments that the weather during the '92 butterfly season was much poorer than the previous few years and that the recent expansion in range and numbers, of some species, isn't likely to continue.

This hasn't been my impression. I think that in commenting on a year's weather we sometimes tend to look more at the end of the season, which is fresher in our minds, and forget what went before; thus, although this summer ended with a poor August and September, most of May and June were splendid; whereas in the supposed "Hot, dry" summers in the last few years, June, especially in 1991, was abysmal.

My total number of species in the Mersey Valley rose to 20. There were two peaks of exceptional activity and surprises: mid-May and mid-July. The 13th and 14th of May provided my first-ever Brimstone in the Valley, my second Holly Blue and a very early Red Admiral, which I hoped would presage good numbers of this lovely species later in the season. Then the 16th of July provided my first-ever Gatekeeper in the Valley, on the riverbank just west of the A.56, and also, in the same site, this year's real highlight: the Clouded Yellows, for the first time since 1983. From then until the 24th (when I went away for 2½ weeks) Clouded Yellows were regularly to be seen patrolling the bank: the sloping, south-facing levee, with abundant larval food-plant (Clover) and adult nectar sources (particularly Ragwort and Knapweed), provided ideal habitat; and IF the weather has held and IF the National Rivers Authority had done as I requested and refrained from mowing the bank during the breeding season, the Clouded

Yellows could well have gone on breeding there until October - but alas neither of these IFs came true!

The other recent colonists, the Small Skipper and Speckled Wood, did very well and continued to expand their ranges. The Speckled Wood was about in good numbers at the very end of August and early September. The Comma fared better still, culminating in record numbers in the autumn emergence (September/October). I believe that the vast swathes of Michaelmas Daisies which occur in the Valley, especially on sites such as Kenworthy and near the old Stretford tip, and which form a very important nectar source for the Comma, as well as other Nymphalids particularly the Small Tortoiseshell and the Red Admiral, may well have been a considerable influence on the recent success of this butterfly.

Incredible numbers of Peacock caterpillars appeared in the summer; I fear that some, particularly in the Priory Nature Reserve, ran out of food, and the number of resulting adults, though good, was less than I had hoped. Of the other Nymphalids, the Small Tortoiseshell and Red Admiral fared well but the Painted Lady somewhat less so; the first one was not seen until the 24th of July.

As I had feared, following the flooding of the river-bank in the winter, when the main Common Blue breeding area was inundated and smothered in silt, numbers of this species were down, as also were the Small Coppers in the first brood; they did however still appear on the bank. Interestingly, my first sightings of the Common Blue, Small Copper and Large Skipper were all on the same day, the 28th of May, this being very late for the Small Copper, very early for the Large Skipper and about right for the Common Blue.

Of the Browns, the Wall, after a smallish spring brood which was over very quickly, did fairly well in the summer brood, though there was no sign of a third brood as occurs in some good years. The Meadow Brown was very abundant and had a long season.

The Orange-Tip was reasonably abundant in its single brood in the spring. Of its multivoltine relatives, the Green-Veined White fared noticeably less well than the Large and Small Whites, which were both reinforced by immigration; the Large

White in particular had an excellent season and usually was the most abundant of the three, though unlike the Small and Green-Veined there were no third brood individuals.

Reports from elsewhere agree in range extensions of the Small Skipper and Speckled Wood, particularly to the south and east of Manchester, to some extent the Gatekeeper also, and especially in the Stockport area vast expansion of the Holly Blue.

More interesting still is that in spite of the continued loss of Elms the White-Letter Hairstreak continued to be seen in numbers at its Chadkirk site; and reports of Purple and Green Hairstreak colonies keep coming nearer and nearer to the boundaries of our area.

There have been several other reports of Clouded Yellows from other districts, mostly in mid-July as were mine, but at least one site (Adswold tip) they did in fact continue until October, unlike those in the Mersey Valley. //

Editor's Note - In Peter's previous article - "Mersey Valley Butterflies 1991" - it was stated that a male Common Blue was seen as late as September the 6th at the former Stretford tip. This should have been October the 6th. Another editorial error has been spotted! I don't expect the Common Blue was at large so late this year. //

Butterfly Survey Update - Survey reports are still coming in but it is difficult to say if the response will be as good as last year. Many thanks to those who have taken part and we hope they, and others, will continue with the survey in 1993. Work is continuing on compiling the report but this project is likely to consume much of our time so we cannot make any promises as to when this report will be completed. In the interim a booklet will be published to summarise the work so far. The survey has brought to light some interesting sightings not only in the expansion of the ranges of some species, as reported by Peter Hardy, but a few Fritillaries have been seen. Most reports appear to be positive, we even have one with photographic confirmation. One thing the survey should reveal is whether there are any breeding colonies of these unusual and beautiful butterflies or if they were merely passing through or blown off course. Keep looking! //

Red Rose Forest

by Ian Brown

This the new name chosen for what was previously known as the Greater Manchester West Community Forest. It is one of twelve Community Forests being established throughout England close to major conurbations so as to be convenient, as recreational areas, for the majority of the population. These forests will not be mass plantings of trees but rather a mixture of woodland, hedgerows, meadows, lakes and other features which are (or use to be) typical of the English countryside. There will be some sites for formal recreation but these will be established away from the more sensitive nature conservation areas and most of the area will be available for recreational activities of an informal nature. Some of the forest will be in public ownership and it is to be assumed that in these areas people will be able to wander freely but where the land is in private ownership public rights of way would be respected, as is usual in the wider countryside.

There is a leaflet available on the Red Rose Forest (curiously subtitled, Greater Manchester's Olympic Forest for the Future!). A copy can be obtained at the Mersey Valley Visitor Centre, Sale Water Park. To quote from this leaflet, under the heading: **A Better Place to Live and Work** - Community Forests will have a dramatic impact on the whole environment and surrounding areas. They will link existing woodlands and open spaces, creating green corridors extending right into the city. Not least, Community Forests will bring wider environmental benefits, with the trees acting as a giant air conditioning system, soaking up pollution and releasing oxygen back into the atmosphere. Or, under: **New Environments for Leisure** - Set amongst trees, glades and open countryside will be opportunities for people to enjoy quiet pastimes such as walking fishing, birdwatching and picnicking. In appropriate places there will be organised activities such as watersports, football and orienteering, and forests may include sensitively sited facilities such as information centres, play areas and tea rooms. And, under: **Timber Production** - Thousands of acres of new forest will be a valuable economic asset for Britain - a nation that imports almost 90% of its timber and wood products at an annual cost of £6 B. Types of tree, along with planting and felling schemes, will be carefully chosen to fit the forest landscape and maintain a varied woodland scene.

It all sounds very interesting and I am please to note that Wildlife Corridors, which have long been appreciated by many amateur naturalists, seem to have been officially accepted and are even included the Unitary Development Plans. Derelict land is to be utilised for forest planting; it is a pity that this was not used for superstore and office building instead of destroying the green fields near our urban areas!

Normal countryside activities, such as farming and forestry, will be encouraged and I hope the woodlands, and other areas, are to be managed, not only to improve conditions for wildlife but in a way which will encourage the revival of some of our traditional country crafts. The forests should not only be places where townsfolk can go to play but should be seen as a golden opportunity to create employment of a more environmentally friendly nature than that represented by much of modern industry.

The area of the Red Rose Forest will include all of Trafford, Salford, Wigan, Manchester, Bolton and Bury. This does not mean that the whole area will become forest but that anywhere within those six districts will be considered for tree planting and other improvements. There is always a danger that trees will be planted in areas which are important wildlife sites for reasons other than woodland; species rich meadows and wetlands would come into this category. Fortunately, all is well and care will be taken not to destroy one habitat type in the attempt to create another and sites of wildlife importance will be identified and treated in a way which will preserve and enhance the reason for their importance. Originally this was only to apply to officially designated sites (SSSIs and SBIs) but negotiations have taken place to ensure that all areas with some wildlife importance will receive sympathetic treatment.

This is where you, our members and anyone else who is concerned about wildlife, can help. If you know any area which is good for wildlife (Butterflies, Birds, Plants etc.), let us know where and why. We will pass the message on to the right people. Or you could contact: the Red Rose Forest, Community Forest Centre, Warwick Road, Old Trafford, M16 0QQ. Tel. 975-0010. They are welcoming the views of local people and there should be plenty of opportunities for volunteer involvement; this includes us, and you!

Mini-Wood Wings Award.

by Merton Niven

The winner of the "Golden Magpie" Award for 1991 is June Greaves for her work in establishing Reddish Mini-Wood for the benefit of wildlife and local people. On October the 19th the Award was presented to June by North Reddish Councillor, Rachel Smith. Also present at the ceremony, which took place at the Mini-Wood, were Councillor Sandy Broadhurst, Sergeant Stewart Rees, the local Community Policeman, Kim Porter and Gillian Partington representing the Stockport Conservation Volunteers and Anthony Phelps, Unity Kelly and Ian Brown from Manchester Wildlife. A few local people called in and the local press were represented by four newspapers.

There were two nominations for the Award. The runner up was Peel Estates for the erection of a Swallow House in Worsley but June was voted the winner because hers was an entirely voluntary effort and involved her in a tremendous amount of work over a long period of time. Work on the Mini-Wood was started in 1988 when Manchester Wildlife was called in to advise on the planting of what was a rubbish strewn patch of overgrown grassland, surrounded by houses. Much work was put in by local people, and other volunteers, on the horrendous task of clearing the rubbish and getting the grass into manageable shape. June got down to the hard work of applying for grants and funds which were vital to pay for trees and other necessary items such as tools, fencing, seats and a notice board. Tree planting started in the autumn of the first year and was added to in subsequent years. A marsh garden was established and meadows were mowed annually. This hard physical work was done by the Stockport Conservation Volunteers, some Manchester Wildlife members and local school children.

After its fourth season of growth, the Mini-Wood looks quite a picture. Why not go and see for yourself, next spring; the wood can be accessed by an alleyway between 17 & 19 Fovant Crescent, Reddish. Wildlife there is thriving, with breeding Tortoiseshell butterflies and many other wonders, and we must remember that if June had not had an idea, and been willing to work hard to ensure the idea became a reality, nothing would have happened and the area would still be an informal rubbish tip. As it is the Mini-Wood should be used as an example for other derelict areas in Greater Manchester. //

Manchester Wildlife Awards 1991

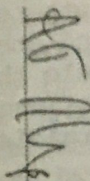
This is to Certify that -

June Greaves

Is the Winner of the 'Golden Magpie' Award
For her work in establishing Reddish Mini-Wood
for the benefit of Wildlife and Local People

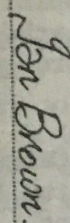
Signed

Chairman



Signed

Treasurer



Events Past and Future

by Tim Lepidus

There was a quite extensive events list with the summer copy of "Magpie". We have arrived at the other side relatively unscathed. Some events were more successful than others; this is inevitable when you take the British weather and other unpredictable elements into account. On the whole the days chosen for the events were remarkably sunny. I believe that this is something a really experienced events organiser can do; apparently luck has nothing to do with it!

The Family Fun Day and Rural Show, which was organised by the Parrs Wood Trust, was a stunning success. There is a theory that, as the weather had been so appalling prior to the Bank Holiday, everyone had decided to stay at home. Then the day dawned and the sun did shine relentlessly, thus bringing out the crowds in their thousands. About two thousand people came to see the show. Manchester Wildlife had their exhibition on display and gave a demonstration of Bodging (two lathes this time) which proved a great attraction and sales were good, to the benefit of group funds.

September the 5th was the day of the Hay Meadow Celebration at Sale Water Park. This was a co-production with the Friends of the Mersey and the weather was again, brilliant. A very enjoyable day but the event did not pull the crowds we had hoped for. We had the same format as at Parrs Wood (Bodging again) and there were stalls from Cheshire Wildlife Trust, the Sale & Altrincham Conservation Volunteers, Greenpeace, etc. The event was organised to celebrate the fact that, as Trafford Council decided to remain in the joint Mersey Valley management, the hay meadow would be safe from unsuitable use.

While a reasonable number turned out for the Butterfly Survey Safari, it was not a success. The weather was not conducive to encourage butterflies to flit from flower to flower, sipping as they went. In fact we did not see a single butterfly. We did however have the chance to roam over Stretford tip and thought the area has good potential as a wildlife habitat. We did see two caterpillars, one a moth and the other (according to the bodger) a Clouded Yellow. We also saw albino wasps but later discovered that they had got that way by feeding on Himalayan Balsam, the pollen of which is white.

The remainder of September was taken up by meadow mowing. We started at English Martyrs School which after one season's growth was looking well. The meadows were cut and some of the shrubs were suitably pruned. Next year should see a distinct improvement. On to Hough End Clough where the work we have undertaken is now beginning to bear fruit. From being a Himalayan Balsam field in 1986, through a stage of nettle and cleavers, it is now beginning to look like a hay meadow. Even Japanese Knotweed has been tamed by a combination of pulling and annual cutting at hay making time. The Meadow Cranesbill and Ox-eye Daisy, which were planted in the spring, were well in flower; this was a pleasant surprise. The last hay cut of the season took place at Reddish Mini-Wood where we had the luxury of using power tools to assist our work. The Stockport Conservation Volunteers were the main workforce but we lent assistance and had the wood looking spic and span in no time. The area looks better with every passing year and we always look forward to going back to see how it is progressing.

Future Events - There is, as usual, an events list with this newsletter. It is not as packed as the summer list but we hope there will be enough to keep you amused. The 14th of November is your last chance to see the Bodger. The Woodland Management at Big Wood is to coppice Alders to prevent them overshadowing an Orange-Tip butterfly breeding area. As this event is being run by courtesy of the City Council please phone the contact to make sure it is to go ahead.

Our meetings are generally not well attended. It would be an asset to the group if more members could come along and get involved with our activities. Coming to meetings enables you to become acquainted with people sharing your concerns about the environment and enables you to have a say in the running of the group. Why not make a start by coming to our Christmas Pub Evening. We realise that time is precious in this busy life and you may find it difficult, for one reason or another, to attend meetings. If this is so in your case, why not have a meeting come to you? If you can offer to host a meeting you will find the experience quite painless and most enjoyable. Contact the editor, he will be most pleased to hear from you.

If you have any ideas for events, articles for the newsletter or suggestions for the running of the group; do get in touch.

OddsandEnds

Member's News and Views

OPPOSITION TO THE DESTRUCTION OF OPEN GREEN SPACES (OTDOGS)

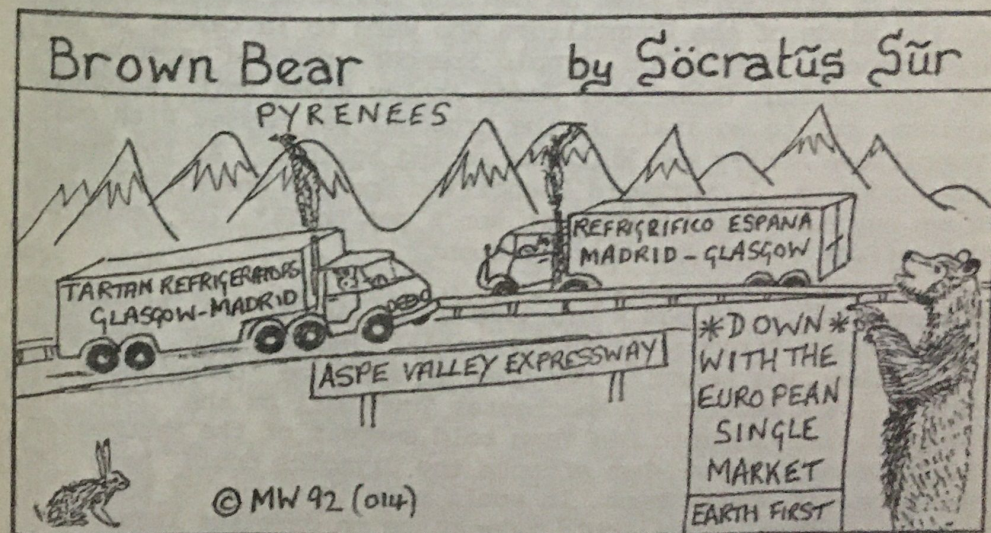
The campaign against Sainsburys building a superstore on the Hay Meadows continues. Earth First, who were mentioned in the previous "Magpie", have been meeting at Sainsbury's Stockport store to inform shoppers of the plans to destroy most of the meadows. Some Manchester Wildlife members have attended these regular meetings and if you would like to show your disapproval of Sainsbury's intentions, why not join them one Saturday morning. To check when they'll be there contact Lance Crookes on 256 2065. These demonstrations are of a peaceful nature, the intention being to get the message across to the public. Lance tells us he has contacted John Beasley, of OTDOGS, down in London and the intention is to widen the campaign to include all supermarket companies who destroy open spaces. It appears that Sainsburys are not on their own; Tesco and Marks & Spencer want to build a store on Chadderton Playing Fields, and have built on Blackwater Meadows, Bracknell; Tesco are building a store on Golden Hill in Bristol; Lord Hesketh has sold a water meadow on his Northamptonshire Estate to Safeway supermarkets; even the Radio 4 programme "The Village", about Bentley in Hampshire, reports of a Sainsbury store in nearby Alton which has had a severe effect on Bentley's village shop and as most of the other village shops, in the area, have closed people are being forced to travel further to shop. The environmental effects of this are obvious. So phone Lance, go on a demonstration to show that you care about Food Giants destroying open spaces.

Are Crows Making a Comeback - Unity Kelly reports that there has been an increase in Crow numbers since she first came to Manchester. Has anyone else noticed this and is it possible that Crows are fighting back against Magpies. Unity says she prefers Crows to Magpies; the editor is not amused. The first edition of "Crow" will be out in January 1993.

Piccadilly Peregrine - Manchester Wildlife Member, Stephen Young, who has come to Greater Manchester from Heptonstall in West Yorkshire, reports sighting a Peregrine Falcon circling over the towerblock beside Piccadilly Station (Aug. 12th 7.30 pm.). Could this be a way of reducing the Pigeon population.

Deliberate Destruction - Another report from Unity tells us that The Royal Society for Nature Conservation is getting stropky about (taking an aggressive standpoint on) deliberate destruction of sites of wildlife importance. What happens is that a developer or land owner wants to build on a site but there is a woodland or a Site of Biological Importance in the way: out with the chainsaws, bulldozers or weedkiller; problem solved; apply for planning permission; granted; thank you kindly. This means loads of money for the developer and the environment suffers. The RSNC are building up a dossier on this type of destruction and we have a few examples; Ringway International Developments ploughing a Grade A SBI near the Airport and John Harrisson (builder, Bramhall) destroying Longsight Lane Wood, Cheadle Hulme. What the RSNC will do to cure the problem we are not yet sure but there is hope in the shape of the Unitary Development Plans. Woodlands, SBIs, etc. will be protected from development, which will be directed to specific sites. There will be no point in destroying sites of wildlife importance as planning permission would not be granted as there would be no development designation in the plan. Let's hope it works. //

Don't Forget to take part in the Winter Bird Feeding Survey. Forms are included with this newsletter. //



Did You Know? - One of the main problems with roads is that they go in both directions! //

Planning Matters

by Des Poiler

Bruntwood Park Golf Course - This was noted in the previous "Magpie" and was a proposal put forward by Stockport Council Leisure Services Department. Some Councillors felt that the full impact of the scheme was not adequately explained. We undertook a little light lobbying, explaining that the golf course would destroy most of the hay meadows which would remain after Sainsbury and the A34. At a recent Leisure Services Committee meeting, the plan was thrown out and we thank the Councillors for that. Not only would the golf course have had severe implications for wildlife but those wishing to go for a stroll in Bruntwood Park would have had little room to manoeuvre without the danger of being hit by golf balls. The possibility of a golf course on land north of Cheadle Royal Hospital will probably be considered.

Basketball in Wythenshawe Park - The site visit on the 3rd of September was followed by a planning meeting at the Forum in Wythenshawe. Members of the public were allowed to speak on the proposed development and after the local people had had their say, Ian Brown spoke on behalf of Manchester Wildlife. He told me afterwards that he had not had much hope of changing the minds of the Councillors who were to in favour of the development. Councillor Arnold Spencer proposed approval of the application; Councillor James Ashley spoke very strongly against, but to no avail as the proposal was passed with only Councillors Ashley and Whitmore voting against. As the meeting broke up, I overheard Councillor Spencer speaking to Ian Brown saying, "Don't worry, it won't get built", (or words to that effect); I wonder what he meant?

Olympic 2000 - Sounds a bit like a car but Michael Eastwood, Manchester's Director of Environmental Health and Consumer Protection was heard to say that it would be "three weeks of hell". At a meeting in Manchester Town Hall on the 27th of October, the Olympic Bid Team told members of the Manchester Environmental Forum what effects the Olympics could have on Manchester's environment. It would seem that most of the main permanent development would take place on derelict industrial land or already developed sites, like Victoria Station. The main stadium, velodrome, a commercial leisure centre and alot of car parking would be on the Eastlands site which used to

be occupied by a gas works and much heavy industry, such as Richard Johnston & Nephew and Manchester Steel. The site sits astride the Ashton Canal, a Grade A Site of Biological Importance though there would be a great opportunity for improvements and open space would be created. We hope that the canal will not be made too "tidy". Other developments would either be temporary, such as archery facilities on Hough End Playing Fields, or arenas which can be scaled down, after the event, and used as local facilities. There are however plans for facilities in districts other than Manchester, such as an ice rink on Warth Meadows on the banks of the River Goyt in Stockport, which could have environmental implications. We were told that Pennington Flash would have to be extended to accommodate the rowing and the number of different facilities required is staggering. When we have studied the plans in more detail we will be able to make more specific comments but it is the hidden agenda which could be more harmful to the environment; the Olympics are being used as an excuse for road building and the airport second runway, but will we need these developments après Olympics. Manchester may not get the Olympics but if they do I know someone who will be going away on holiday, when the time comes.

Unitary Development Plans - We have already commented on the plan for Trafford. Stockport's plan is at the consultation stage and is being dealt with by John Turner. Manchester's plan is on deposit and the final date for objections is the 27th of November. We have already made some comments and we will be making some objections but there many good points in the plan which will be worthy of comment. The main difference between these current plans and the previous Structure Plan is that the former positively identifies areas for development with specific housing, industrial, shopping, open space areas, etc. and the latter directed development to derelict sites or the inner core and presumed against development of public open space. Green Belt protection will be the same, with a slight increase in area. Points most worthy of comment are Policy LL/3, a much needed Country Park in Levenshulme by Nelstrop Lane and Policy CB/4, Lower Hardy Farm will be protected from any development which would effect its SBI status. This policy replaces Mersey Valley Local Plan Proposal 27 which sought its restoration for formal recreational use. Now we must get down to a detailed study of the plan; 285 pages, weighing a ton and too big for the office desk. //

Opinion

by Ian Brown

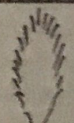
ETHICAL CONSUMPTION

Being concerned about the state of environment I try to avoid consuming the products of organisations who damage the environment. These include; Sainsburys (naturally); Tesco and M&S, for the same reasons; Nestlé; Japan, for the destruction of forests; Michilén, for building a test track on the site of the rare Hermann's Tortoise; the Olympic Games for destruction of Alpine meadows (World Heritage Site); there are more but fortunately not too many. I think it was Richard Ingrams who said, if one were to refuse to buy, on ethical grounds, it would be "Boycott and Die". He may be right, but I think it is just possible to survive and there is a magazine which will tell you how. The Ethical Consumer, tests products, comparing them on an ethical basis. As well as environmental considerations, factors such as oppressive regimes, wages and conditions, irresponsible marketing and animal testing are researched. If you believe in ethical consumption, why not buy a copy (from Front Line Books, Newton Street, Manchester) or phone (061) 237 1630 for subscription details. Do yourself and the environment a power of good. //

Bodging Rattles and Needlecases

The Bodger

We have put on 12 bodging demonstrations so far this year and they have attracted much interest. The result of all this activity is that we have some needle cases and rattles for sale. They make excellent and unusual presents; if you would like one, contact the Bodger (Tel. 437 7040) to place your order. The price is £7.50 each in various woods and subject to availability. We also have a few paper knives in various re-cycled woods. Order early to avoid disappointment. //



Tail-piece

a last word from the editor

We managed to fill the space, after all; it's amazing where the articles come from. The next Magpie should be published in early January; till then a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. (Printed at Longsight Library Community Resource Unit.)

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.

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

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

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

Address

..... Postcode

Phone number

Subscription rates

☐ Family membership £6

☐ Individual membership £4

☐ Reduced membership
(Senior Citizen, Unwaged, Under 16) £2

☐ Schools, Groups and Societies £6

☐ Please send me details of Life Membership

☐ I enclose a donation of £ which I understand
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.

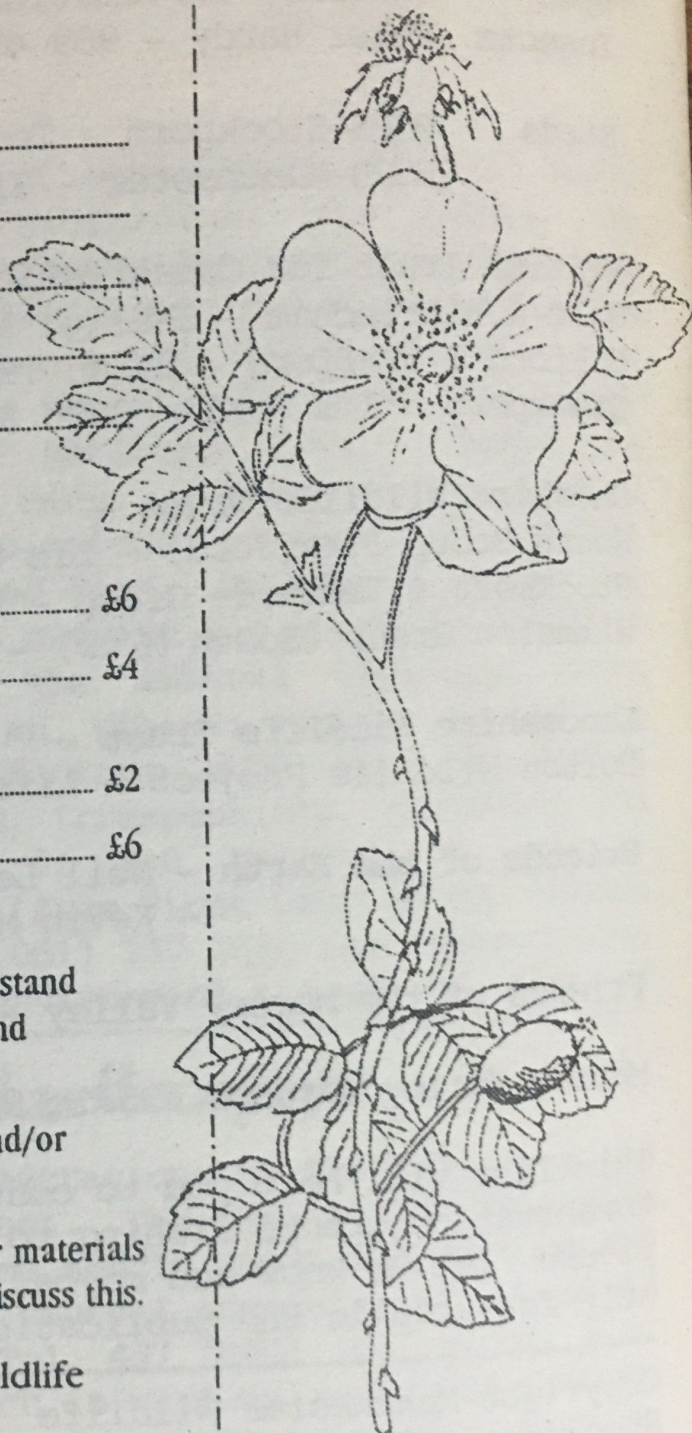
☐ I may be able to sponsor tools, trees or other materials
in exchange for publicity and would like to discuss this.

Please list your particular interests in Wildlife
and Conservation -

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

Ian Brown
82 Crantock Drive
Heald Green
Cheadle
Cheshire SK8 3HA

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



Please try to take part in as many events as possible. It is best to phone the contact before attending to make sure there are no alterations.

November 1992

- 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 12th **Westminster Trip** - Mini-bus trip to the House of Commons to lobby MP Gerald Kaufman on the Re-Forest the Earth debate. Information form Danny Bates, Tel. 256 1276.
- Saturday 14th **Woodland Management & Green Woodwork Demonstration** - With Watch Group at Parrs Wood Centre for Rural Education, East Didsbury. Time 11 am. to 4 p.m. Wear old clothes and strong shoes. For further information and specific directions, contact Ian Brown 437 7040.
- Sunday 15th Continuation of above if necessary (without Watch Group) contact Ian Brown to check that more work is necessary.
- Thursday 26th **General Meeting** - At the home of Hugh Warwick, 18 Hackness Road, (off Kingshill Road, off Edge Lane), Chorlton. Time 7.30 pm. Contact - Hugh Warwick 881 6956.

December 1992

- Saturday 5th **Greenpeace Christmas Fair** - Cavendish Road School (near Burton Road) West Didsbury. Charity and Volunteer Stalls, goods for sale. Why not come along and buy some environmentally friendly Christmas presents. From 12 noon till 4 pm. Contact Greenpeace 338 6543 or MW 437 7040.
- Tuesday 8th No pub meeting this month, see Tuesday 15th below. **
- Sunday 13th **Woodland Management** - Big Wood, junction of Simonsway and Shadow Moss Road, Wythenshawe. (A-Z Page 91 F2) Wear old clothes and strong shoes. Time 10 am. to 4 pm. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040.
- Tuesday 15th **Christmas Pub Night** - Parrs Wood Hotel. Junction of School Lane/Parrs Wood Road, East Didsbury. Time 7.30 pm. Contact Tel. 437 7040. **

January 1993

- Tuesday 12th **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 28th **General Meeting** - At the home of Unity Kelly, 13 Ruskin Avenue, Rusholme. Time 7.30 pm. Contact Unity, Tel. 226 4583.

Greater Manchester Winter Bird Feeding Survey

To start the survey off, overleaf is a list of common birds seen in most gardens. Hopefully, further species will be added to your list during the winter months.

For each species, fill in the maximum bird counts recorded at any one time in your garden each week; the birds don't necessarily need to be feeding.

If numbers of birds can only be estimated please indicate number in box/boxes in brackets, e.g. (60) "Blue Tit". If during the survey you cannot fill in a particular week/weeks, please show N/A in boxes.....

Please submit your survey (and any comments you would like to make) as soon as you have recorded for the last week in March, to: Janet M. Gorst, 39 Mauldeth Close, Heaton Mersey, Stockport. SK4 3NP Tel. 431 8803.

The aim of the survey is to find out how important gardens are as station/habitat for birds during the winter months, and the species seen in Greater Manchester gardens.

Findings of the survey, and participant's observations, will be sent out with the RSPB Manchester member's group magazine and Manchester Wildlife's magazine "Magpie" in 1993

