



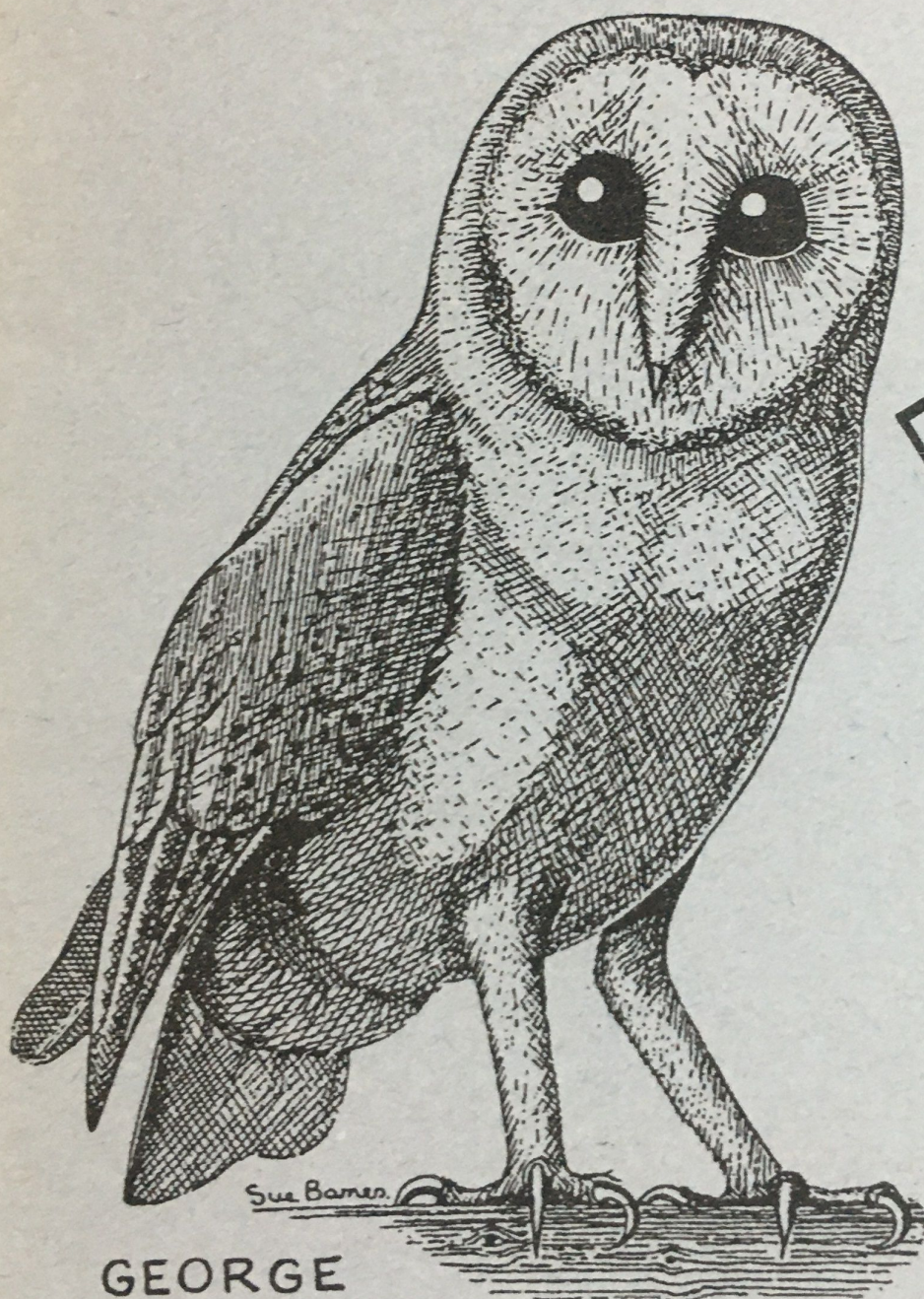
The

MANCHESTER WILDLIFE'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

MAGPIE

Number 29

Winter 1993/94



GEORGE

DESTRUCTION
SPECIAL

**Sainsbury's
destroying
Bruntwood
Hay
Meadows**

Editorial

Editor's Office - 437 7040

Happy New Year?

But not for:

- The Dragonflies of Old Abbey Pond -
- The Butterflies of Bruntwood Hay Meadows -
- The Orchids on the Airport Fields -
- Short-eared Owls at Dimplington -
- Ancient Woodland in the Croal Valley -

The problem? Offices, Superstores, Airport Development, Shopping Cities and Motorways (in that order).

We have opposed these, and many other threats to our environment, but the odds are stacked against us. There seems to be a disorderly retreat from nature conservation as a contribution to people's quality of life.

Holding an £8,000,000 Global Party to "distract?" us from the fact that they're killing South American Indians for Mahogany and Polar Bear cubs are full of P.C.Bs. from our effluent is hardly likely to fool those who have a deep concern for the environment.

The World's most powerful forces are dedicated to getting what they can, out of the planet, before it all goes!

MANCHESTER WILDLIFE CALENDAR

Your 1994/5 Calendar is on the reverse of the Events List

Don't Lose It - Use It!

"People must not do things for fun. We are not here for fun. There is no reference to fun in any Act of Parliament." A.P.H

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

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Flat 7, 104 Clyde Road,
West Didsbury,
Manchester. M20 2JN

Unity Kelly (Vice-chair).
13 Ruskin Avenue,
Rusholme,
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Ian Brown (Treasurer & Editor),
82 Crantock Drive,
Heald Green, Cheadle,
Cheshire. SK8 3HA
Tel. (061) 437 7040

Derelict?

by Anthony Phelps

This word is being used more and more nowadays in a way designed to devalue a piece of land. However, its specific meaning describes an area of land where "sub-standard housing has been demolished, inefficient industry has collapsed, or land has been set aside for road schemes". This is taken from Oliver Gilbert who uses a much better phrase to describe such land - "The Urban Common".

I believe the term "derelict" is inappropriate because, soon after becoming "derelict", a succession of naturally seeded plants, both wild, garden escapes and commercially introduced, take over the area. It is for this reason that I offer the suggestion that there should be a time limit set on the use of the description "derelict".

I am sure we all know of an "Urban Common" near us. Unity has written about Great Western Street in a previous Magpie, we are currently surveying Pomoma Docks (see your 1994 calendar) and I've been looking at a small patch of land in Withington - unfortunately now to be developed.

What saddens me is that these unique sites are slandered (or should that be libelled) as being "rubbish strewn" and "alive with rats". Both "charges" which have been wrongly levelled at the Abbey Pond, by the way. Of course there's rubbish on the sites - just show me a patch of Manchester that hasn't! Having seen the Withington "common", I found rubbish which, in my opinion could only have come from the public house across the road. The amount of litter could very quickly be cleared up, and if there was a political will, it could be reduced, if not stopped. I get the distinct feeling that certain people try to influence planning decisions by giving the impression that the site can only be improved by building the particular development they wish for.

Yet, the sites all contain wildlife value - the Withington site supported Small Copper and Large Skipper butterfly populations last year, and is the only site I know where the pink-flowered variety of Purple Toadflax can be found - all this in the middle of Withington.

We should be on constant guard against the misleading propaganda that appears about these Urban Commons. We should get out and survey the truth about the sites, and then campaign to refute the claims. This has to be done quickly, as these sites can be fairly short-lived. //

WOODLAND ACTION WEEK

This event is organised by the BTCV and runs from Saturday the 26th of February to Sunday the 6th of March. We will be taking part with two events; woodland management at Kenworthy Fields on Sunday 27th of February and Pole-lathe and Shaving Horse construction at Parrs Wood Centre for Rural Education on Sunday 6th March. For full details see our events list or phone Ian Brown on 437 7040. These events are the start of our award winning Woodland Management and Crafts Project. For the latter event there will be a charge of £5 to cover costs; unwaged free.

For other events, in this week, phone BTCV office on 872 7640

S.D. Off?

by Ian Brown

Sustainable Development, the European Single Market, GATT and all that.

Global Forum 94 is being organised as a showcase for Sustainable Development (SD) but whether or not the event itself is going to be sustainable could be a debatable point.

As far as I can ascertain, such words as, "sustainable" and "environment", will not be used when promoting the event to the general public. Apparently, it is thought that such words will only confuse us and words like, "party" and "fun" would be more appropriate! We should be used, by now, to having our intelligence insulted by those in authority but it still has a tendency to get up one's nose.

This, and other matters, makes one wonder what commitment the politicians and the business community have to SD and the environment. We gave a simple definition of SD in the last "Magpie" but it is probably easier to define SD by saying what it is not. The European Single Market (ESM) is a case in point. As far as I can make out, the ESM is about the free movement of goods, about Europe, without tariff barriers which can lead to some interesting situations. Take Holland. In that country they export hams to Parma, in Italy, to be Parma-ised, then promptly re-import them. Worse still, they send potatoes to Spain, to be washed, and bring them back again. It is probably economical to do these stupid things but certainly not sustainable; the extra transport means more roads across the Alps and Pyrenees.

Then along comes the latest GATT (General Agreement on Tariff and Trades) deal. News reports after the signing of this daft agreement said the idea was that each country should do what they were good at and sell it to the rest of the world. The far east make cheap clothes so we should buy our clothes from them. What is Britain good at? Rock music and drugs (not narcotics)! More unnecessary movement of goods; SD means you make your own clothes even if they cost more money. Even more serious is the effect of GATT on wildlife and bio-diversity. In a recent "Natural History Programme" on Radio 4, Nicholas

Hildyard, of the Ecologist Magazine, said, "The new agreement requires governments 'to ensure the conformity of their laws to GATT'. Now in practice that means that their existing laws, which have been passed to protect individual species, to protect habitats, to prevent pollution, conserve resources, or whatever will have to be scrapped if they're deemed, so called, barriers to trade". Quite frightening really. If a country wants to ban the import of Tuna, caught in a way that kills Dolphins, it will not be able to except with the agreement of the exporting country, which is hardly likely to be forthcoming. The same applies to timber from unsustainable sources. If C.I.T.E.S wish to apply sanctions to countries, such as China and Taiwan, for trading in Rhino horn or Tiger bones, GATT will not allow it. It seems that the answer lies with YOU (you). Refuse to buy the products of countries, or organisations, who harm the environment in any way. For help, why not buy the Ethical Consumer (as advertised in the autumn Magpie). The politicians won't be much use.

So was the Rio Summit a waste of time? The politicians would have us believe that all is safe in their hands; they will control Carbon Dioxide omissions, protect the bio-diversity of species and work towards SD! So they build more unnecessary motorways, destroy our SSSIs, and as far as sustainable development is concerned, if most politicians ever get to know what it really means they would run a mile, that is if they could get their legs to move at the same time as having a fit. //

DO YOU WANT TO START A FOX GROUP

Understand foxes better and protect them from harmful human behaviour through practical lawful means. Foxes live in town and country so you can go "foxing" in either or both. We* are organising a network of fox groups up and down the country. Groups are independent and we* support them with information, advice and newsletters. A booklet on fox protection and how to run a group is available. Send for details:

* Carnivore, 35 Church Street, Kidlington, Oxford. OX5 2BA

"Losing it is the only sure fire way of knowing you once had it" - Irma Kurtz

Watch Out

For those of you with children (aged 5 and above) the South Manchester Watch Group is the ideal way to become involved in local wildlife and environmental issues. The letter below is from one of the younger members of the Watch Group who wishes to meet you.

* * * * *

Dear Children,

Would you like to join in our activities? We meet, once a month, somewhere in south Manchester. We have done lots of surveys to see how good our part of Manchester is for wildlife and people.

At the moment we are planning to improve one small area in Birchfieldss Park. I'm sure you would enjoy it if you came too.

From Claire Sharples

11 Cottonfield Road,
Withington,
Manchester. M20 4QW

Phone 445 5659

P.S. Give me a ring if you want to come.

The Group are meeting Council Officials at 2.30pm on Tuesday 15th February (Half-term) at Birchfield Park to discuss improvements to the park. Meet at Dickenson Road/Birchfields Road entrance. For more details on this and other meetings, phone Claire. Also see Events List. //

MEMBERS' DAY

This will take place on Saturday 23rd April (St. George' Day) at Parrs Wood Centre for Rural Education. We are working very hard to make the day as spectacular as last year. There will be a small slot for the A.G.M. but the main part of the day will be for your enjoyment!

Make a note in your diary - Don't miss it!

Angels from Paradise

by Unity Kelly

The 6th of June was a real scalp-scorcher and a few fishermen apart, nothing moved in 'old' Manchester, once the thriving heart of the textile industry with as many as 1000 souls to the acre. What would Fred Engels make of this magnificent but decaying area now I wonder. But down at the canal side, something stirred. Yes, it's Manchester Wildlife, knotted hankies and reference books at the ready, together with some intrepid and inquisitive members of the public, eager to decipher the inner meanings of the heavenly slant to our Urban Safari.

Paradise Wharf was our starting point, on the Ashton Canal, behind Piccadilly Station. It is a delightful oasis where the "regulars" (fishermen) see as much, or more, wildlife as any country dweller. ~~MW~~ first surveyed this part of the canal network in 1989; Audrey Franks gathered an amazing total of plant species for the national botanical record. The elegant white flowers of the Arrowhead, for which the basin is famed, were just coming into flower. There has been a quite unnecessary and insensitive tidying up of the spare land around the canal side but rabbits (& foxes) still survive in the remaining area of bushes and bramble. Our most attractive sightings were in shades of blue - damselflies, pansy and harebell. The cracks between the sandstone blocks, edging the canal, are developing a very attractive flora - let's hope the "improvers" don't destroy these mini-rock gardens in their misguided enthusiasm for tidyness.

We then turned our attention to the Rochdale Canal (or what's left of it). This canal also has interesting vegetation, especially ferns covering the damp shady stonework and amazingly clean water swarming with fish (roach, bream, pike, carp) and is a good place to look for dragonflies. Kingfishers are also to be seen by the fortunate (Steve at MARC). Do our planners really appreciate, or even know, just how much wildlife can thrive in a quite restricted area, in the heart of the city if nature is left to do some of the landscaping or given the appropriate helping hand? The semi-formal landscaping along the canal is far from successful, by any criterion - struggling ornamental shrubs in an expanse of bark mulch. Surely it is not too difficult to look at what seeds itself, and flour-

ishes, and go with the flow.

Amazingly enough, we turned into Radium Street and found just such a (labelled) site - a small meadow, backed by mature trees, with Cowslips, Greater Burnet, knapweed and vetches. This delightful anomaly of a herb rich meadow in the heart of the poorest and oldest area of semi-derelict mills may not be the finest example of habitat creation but it is certainly a step in the right direction and could be copied in many small "crofts" throughout the city.

The "greening" of every scrap of vacant land is taking place, without council input, but as these mini-woodlands are flourishing on neat rubbish (A contradiction in terms? - Ed.) they are just as likely to disappear, should a use be found for the site. For the time being, they are home to all kinds of small birds; wrens, finches, wagtails, etc. - and compensate for the absence of primroses on Primrose Street!

Leaving Ancoats, our next objective was Angel Meadow and St. Michael's Churchyard. We had been looking forward to showing people this site, having recorded five species of butterfly here last year, attracted by the sunny banks of long grass, and mixture of self-seeded shrubs and plants, especially the buddleia. Alas for the Angels, this once lovely area has received the full City Council treatment; herbicide, wholesale shrub removal, tree butchery and replanting with coarse ornamental shrubs and HT roses which are (all) already dead. Devastation would not be too strong a word and for what purpose? Serious tree vandalism, not noted last year, had taken place and to add insult to injury, a huge dump of spoil has disfigured the Ludgate Hill approach and has half buried some good trees.

Full of gloom and anger at this waste of public resources and total ecological insensitivity, we made our way to our final destination, the lovely Ox-eye Daisy meadow at Scotland (Red Bank), just below Cheetham Hill. Our route took us across the Scotland Bridge and along the less than limpid River Irk. The Red Bank meadow is superb. It shows how reseeded can create a place of beauty and wildlife interest in the most unlikely of spots.

//

R.I.P. BRUNTWOOD HAY MEADOWS

The time has now come to mourn the passing of Bruntwood Hay Meadows. The cranes and excavators have moved in to destroy this once beautiful part of our natural heritage by the erection of Sainsbury and John Lewis superstores. This will be like a carbuncle on the backside of a much loved friend.

Meadows rich in wildflowers, such as Bruntwood, are disappearing so fast they will soon be all but a memory. With them will go the butterflies, birds and mammals which depend on such lovely places for their lives.

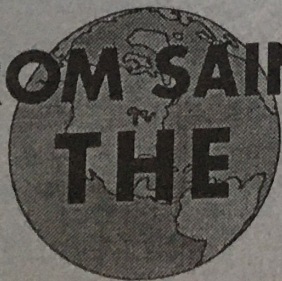
And what for? Greed pure and simple, so that the already obscenely rich can become richer. We have tried hard, since 1986, to stop the development but obviously not hard enough. The odds have been against us. As John Turner says *'What is a policy worth'* when planning law in respect of open land is ignored. What hope have we that this will not happen in future? One is also tempted to ask – did the offer of £millions to pay for new roads have any influence on the decision to allow this development? Well now its up to **YOU**. By refusing to patronise Sainsbury's, John Lewis and others who wantonly destroy our countryside. You can show your disapproval and hopefully help change their hearts and minds by hitting them where it hurts – in their pockets.

And I hope we succeed.

Ian Brown

*Which Supermarket Group is destroying
the Bruntwood Hay Meadows?*

**FOOD FROM SAINSBURY'S
COSTS THE EARTH**



My true thoughts about the appalling developments affecting the Cheadle/Heald Green area are unprintable. Therefore, I include some quotations to demonstrate the almost breathtaking hypocrisy of those running this country at both local and national levels –

"Quality of the environment at all levels from local to national and worldwide is at the forefront of public concern, and the need to conserve natural resources including land and energy is fully recognised ..."

"The Council has produced a plan which adheres to the principles of sustainable development, seeking to take positive action to improve the quality of the environment for all residents of the borough, meeting the needs of the present with least harm to the environment or the ability of other areas and future generations to meet their needs."

These quotes from Stockport's draft Unitary Development Plan will bring a wry smile to those aware that this area is becoming one huge construction site. Work has started on the Sainsbury/John Lewis Partnership superstore, the A34 bypass and Manchester Airport Eastern Link Road (MAELR). A further planning application is now before the Council for developing a hotel, sports facilities, industry and housing on 88 acres of fields and woodland adjoining Cheadle Royal Hospital.

For me, the most heartbreaking issue of all is that we don't need yet more supermarkets, empty office blocks and factories – or roads generating yet more traffic. I have little doubt that Nicholas Ridley's approval of Sainsbury's scheme was influenced by the offer of cash for the A34 by pass ('planning gain' in the official jargon) also the fact that the land was owned by the NW Health Authority and every pound from its sale meant a pound less to be found from the public purse.

"High architectural standards are something we insist upon at Sainsbury's. The constant aim is that supermarkets should blend in with their local surroundings and be built in sympathy with local styles." (Sainsbury booklet 'Supermarket Development')

"The Council will require new development to respect the appearance of existing buildings and landscape on the site and surrounding area by virtue of its scale, massing, siting, design and the materials used on external elevations" (UDP Policy UN1.2)

I am still trying to puzzle out how a 335,000 sq ft development of stone and glass with parking for 2000 cars will "blend in" with semi-detached brick houses.

Finally, a quote from the 'Sunday Times' (30 January 1994) –

"Sainsbury has never operated in a truly competitive atmosphere but now the complex cartel of the supermarkets has been rumbled, the bloom is off ... it turned out to be just one more company whose stock market reputation came to exceed the reality."

Some personal thoughts from John Houfe (a local resident)

Dear Dr. Bellamy

Jolly Green Con?

I don't know if you read M.E.N.'s "irrepressible" prose serenading your "Field Study" along the Irwell Valley in September but before you tell us "so many good things are happening here", escape from your minders for a while and talk to the folk who live along your route. You could try asking some real questions or just open your eyes. Salford Quays is all that urban redevelopment shouldn't be; sterile, artificial, under-occupied, and as unsustainable, in every sense of the word, as it's possible to be. Though the water is Grade 4 murky, it still supports more wildfowl than watersports. The Salford swans (based in the vegetated basins at Pomona Dock), must be ultra-resistant to noxious substances...Respect! I'm glad to hear you used to explore this amazing area with Prof. Valentine. Did you know that these derelict docks are now Manchester's last great wildlife resource, a complex mosaic of habitats from shingle and dry heath to damp glades and thickets? The area supports many mammals, birds of prey, Little Ringed Plover, butterflies, lizards, an astonishing range of flowers including Bee Orchids. Now that access is so much easier along the canals, may we invite you to come back and declare Pomona our first Urban Nature Park?

Did you notice that the shiny commercial palaces down there are empty? "Buildings without jobs opened by Minister without brains", to quote a placard held up by a perceptive resident outside a similar facade in Sunderland (Channel 4). As for "the green light" you speak of in Greater Manchester, every voluntary organisation and public servant involved in conservation with whom we network, is suffering from total overload just trying to keep pace with the constant stream of threats to what's left of our local environment. Such threats are actively sponsored by the, "company and council bosses", who arranged your package tour.

A case in point is the fate of Red Moss - one of the last raised mires in Greater Manchester and a speciality of yours. It is a Grade A SBI and SSSI which Bolton M.B.C. (the owners) want to use for waste disposal for all G.M. authorities, generating over £1 million for Bolton. Did you "wax lyrical"

over that? At Agecroft power station remarkable plant communities have established themselves on the alkaline substrate but their value has been overruled in favour of speculative housing. So the peregrines, who now breed on the redundant structures will have to move on too. Need I go on?

You don't need a publicity stunt to tell people that the environmental rejuvenation of the Irwell Valley is a good thing but did they tell you about the threat posed, by the M62 extension, to prime ancient woodlands in the Croal Valley? I guess not, because the whole shebang was a production number from RTZ, who are one of the top ten global polluters and ruthless destroyers of indigenous cultures. They're currently in breach of treaty rights with the Western Shonone (Nevada), and the tribal peasant farmers of Minas de Oro, Honduras.*

RTZ must have supplied some very long spoons for "the top 40" who sat down to dinner, in Manchester, at their expense at the end of this a "amazing" day.

Sincerely

Daphne Laureola

(* Source - Partizans)

A NEW REGION FOR ENGLISH NATURE

Greater Manchester has become the forgotten area of the North Western Region of English Nature. To solve this problem, a new region is being created and will be composed of Cheshire, Lancashire, Merseyide and Greater Manchester. This will be in April when we will be in the centre of things, rather than on the edge. This new region will be led by Robbie Bridson and we are to have a meeting, soon, to discuss the role which we, at Manchester Wildlife, are to play.

Traditional Woodland Crafts

There is a book, just out, under this title by Raymond Tabor. Most interesting and informative! A must for crafts people & woodland managers; we will do a review in the next Magpie.

"The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore all progress depends on the unreasonable man." GBS.

Abbey Pond - Last Rites

by Unity Kelly

The final indignities will start on 11th Feb. when Manchester Science Park's contractors begin the annihilation of this pond secure in the knowledge that the City Council has planned the event since 1985. Many local people do not know that the pond is about to go, together with the green open space that has been our only wildlife oasis in Hulme for some 20 years. The Planning Department received many objections and informed comment, from local people (who clearly value the pond), through to regional and national advisory and pressure groups. (Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Manchester FoE, CPRE [Lancs], the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, English Nature, the Greater Manchester Countryside Unit and the City Council's Conservation Officer. With such consistent advice, (keep this pond for its social as much as its ecological value), where did we go wrong?

The planning approval given on 22nd December only endorsed a strategic land use decision made by a Policy and Resources Committee in 1985, which privately condemned the pond to a limited life expectancy, even as the publicly funded community "improvements", to the pond, were being completed. In 1989, the Aquarius Community Centre were fired up and willing to help LWT care for the site with the help of a large grant from the N.C.C. (as it was) but it emerged that no lease could be entered into; just as well it didn't happen. Then came the grandiose aquatic schemes for the Birley playing fields, to which the grant was reallocated (an earlier attempt at moving the Abbey Pond). We don't know what happened to the money, but the spacious playing fields have been allocated for new housing and commercial development. If the Science Park is so short of land, despite the empty acres near the University, and so pious about their job opportunities for Hulme, this "indefensible" decision to target the pond site could have been avoided and an asset for their own workforce retained. Perhaps the idea of mixing with children from Hulme and Moss Side just wasn't their vision of community benefit? We shall probably never know. It is now clear that, even before the planning application was submitted (26th Oct), the laboratory complex (Phase 4, M/C Science Park) was cut and dried, allocated money from the European Regional Development Fund and a construction time table had already been finalised. On the

4th of February, we learnt that the tenant for the laboratory is to be Zeneca (ICI Pharmaceuticals).

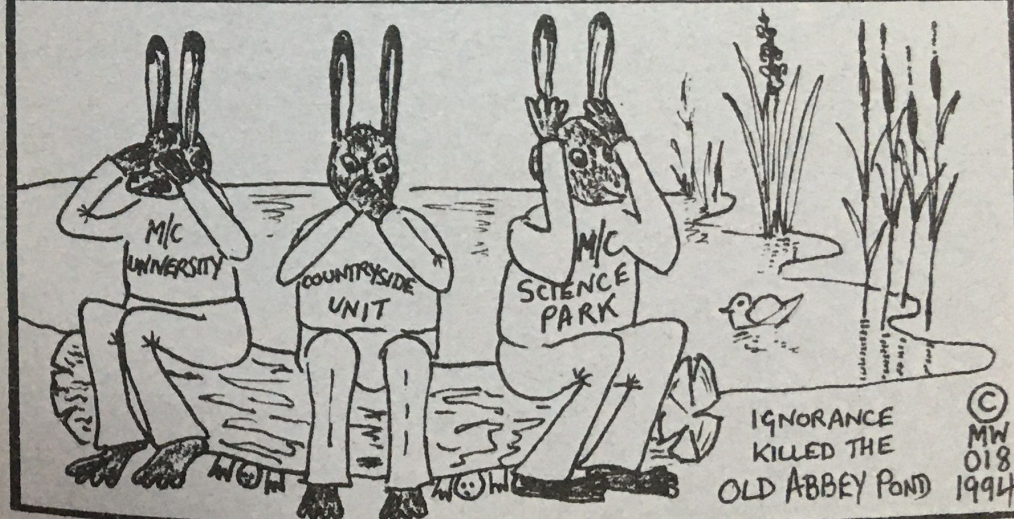
So the pond is to be moved - known as a "mitigation measure" and the following appears to be mitigation, Manchester Style:

- Step 1 - Hope that no one will notice.
- Step 2 - Avoid consultation with your own ecological advisors
- Step 3 - When faced with public outcry and press comment, say daft things like, "the pond should be moved for its own good" or, "someone could come and tip beach into it and ruin the wildlife".
- Step 4 - Describe visitors to the pond as "invisible users".
- Step 5 - Add on the Planning Condition, requiring mitigation measures, after planning approval has been granted.
- Step 6 - Ensure planning condition (move contents of pond) is ecologically unsound, because the planner did not know that newts hibernate on land (invisible, like the children).
- Step 7 - Hire an expensive consultant to tell developers how to get out of trouble. Don't leave time for translocation.
- Step 8 - Chose a new pond as far away as you can get in Hulme
- Step 9 - Give local community 2 weeks notice of new pond.
- Step 10 - Ask your voluntary wildlife groups to help with the translocation - giving 5 days notice!

//

March Hare

Tim Lepidus



Bio-diversity?

by Merton Niven

Yet another subject which was discussed at the Rio Summit. I will make no attempt at a description; this has been done by others more qualified than myself. Britain has signed the Bio-diversity Treaty (John Major did this at Rio), so we can confidently expect it to be upheld! But do the politicians understand what it means?

The subject was aired on a recent "Natural History Programme" with Barbara Young (RSPB Chief Executive) speaking for the environment. John Gummer (S.O.S. at the D.O.E.), who was also speaking for the environment (he said), was questioned about roads, and their effect on rare habitats such as heathlands. The gist of what he said was; we've got to build the roads which damage the environment so British industry can get the goods to the ports so we can earn the money to pay for preventing damage to the environment.

I give up! I mean, what is the point? But why should I be surprised? I seem to remember Margaret Thatcher saying something similar, a few years back. //

Manchester Wildlife Sweatshirts for Sale

Be smart; look cool. Why not buy one of our quality long or short sleeved T-shirts, or Sweatshirts. All styles in medium, large or extra-large, in black, and L and XL short sleeved T-shirts and Sweatshirts in Royal blue. And they're not bad value. s/s T-shirts - £5.50; l/s T-shirts £6.50; Sweatshirts £7.50. Order early to avoid disappointment by phoning Ian Brown on 437 7040. Your garment can be collected at any of our events or meetings.

NEW MEETING PLACE

We are changing the venue for our monthly social meeting. The Old Steam Brewery is the current favourite; see Events List. The day will remain the same - 2nd Tuesday of every month.

Any Old Iron (or Wood)

We have won two awards which will enable us to buy tools and equipment to help in our Woodland Management and Crafts Project. However, money only goes so far! You may be able to help. Have you any tools which you no longer need? Hammers, planes, chisels, gouges, rules, or work benches. We may also need wood for making pole-lathes and other devices and jigs. If you have any of the above, please phone the Bodger on 437 7040; any tools which are surplus to our requirements can be passed on to "Tools for Self Reliance" //

Global Forum 94

This event takes place in Manchester from the 24th of June to the 3rd of July, this year. It will be on us before we know it! The main theme of the event is "Sustainable Cities" and we have some ideas; a sustainable industries event is one of the suggestions in, so far. If you have any good ideas for what we can do, on a sustainable theme - let us know. Contact Ian Brown on 437 7040. If you wish to know more about Global Forum 94, there is a public meeting at the Friends Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester on Tuesday Feb. 15th from 7pm to 9pm. The theme to be considered, at this meeting, will be "People in the City - Poverty and Vulnerability". One thing that poor people need is "Urban Greenspace" near their homes, as they can't afford to travel far to go to the countryside. See you there.

Tim Lepidus

NRA Emergency Hotline

You can help the NATIONAL RIVERS AUTHORITY to prevent pollution and protect the water environment. Please telephone the emergency hotline to report all environmental incidents, such as pollution, poaching and flooding, or any signs of damage or danger to our rivers, lakes and coastal waters. Your prompt action will help the NRA to protect water, wildlife, people and property.

24 hour free emergency telephone line - 0800 80 70 60

PARKS FOR PEOPLE, NOT PROFIT

This new organisation has been set up to combat any possible threat, from Manchester City Council, to develop parks in an undesirable way. If you would like to join their campaign, why not make contact - your support will be most welcome.

Wythenshawe Park - Kevin Donnelly 998 4791
Fog Lane Park - Jack Gately 434 6836
Platt Fields - Sue Henry 225 9345

A SOUVENIR OF BRUNTWOOD

The Bodger is making a signed Post-and-Rail Stool of Willow from Bruntwood Hay Meadows. The stool is to be about 18" high with fancy turned posts and rails, and a sea grass seat. If you would like a souvenir, to remember Bruntwood Hay Meadows, as they were, send your bid by post to: The Bodger, 82 Cranstock Drive, Heald Green, Cheadle, Ches. SK8 3HA, by the 23rd April 1994. The winning (highest) bid will be announced on our Members' Day. As a guide, such hand-crafted stools would sell for about £50. All proceeds to Manchester Wildlife funds

FORESTRY SELL OFF - If you are against the privatisation of the Forestry Commission, write to your M.P. Before the last election, John Major promised that there was no intention to privatise the F.C. but a committee has now been set up to examine the possibilities. Problems - denial of access, as has happened in 4/5 of woods already sold; danger to landscape, wildlife, SSSIs and special areas like the Forest of Dean. //

AS SEEN ON T.V. - Did you see the Abbey Pond on television? Unity was interviewed by Fred Talbot at the pond which looked great, despite it being a very dull late autumn day. Then the protest on the Town Hall steps was on "North West Tonight", with local children being interviewed at the pond. //

Apology - The new Hulme park will not be called Barracks Park as we stated in the autumn Magpie. This name is the alternative given to the existing St. George's Park, by local people.

"Man masters nature not by force but by understanding" - J.B.

Useful Contacts

Insects Peter Hardy - 969 4771 (evenings & weekends)

Birds RSPB Stockport - Tony O'Neill - 962 2449
RSPB Manchester - Simeon Rydz - 434 2720

Bird of Prey Rescue - Brian Wilcocks - 945 3831

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 (weekends & evenings)

Cheshire Wildlife Trust

North Group (Trafford) - Liz Blackman (Chair) - 962 6748

Stockport & Tameside - Rhian Law (Secretary) - 0663 743070

Wilmslow Group - Tony Browne - 436 1761

Lancashire Wildlife Trust

Bolton Wildlife Project - Annie Surtees - 0204 361847

Manchester Friends of the Earth - 13 Paton Street - 236 4155

Friends of the Mersey Valley - Ann Buckingham - 881 1814

Mersey Valley Wardens - Sale 905 1100 - Chorlton 881 5639

Manchester City Conservation Officers - 273 5843

Elaine Norsworthy - Countryside Officer

Graeme McVitie - Woodland Officer

Manchester Wildlife is a networking organisation - You are included on our contact list; are we included on yours? Other groups might like to come to a similar arrangement!

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

The "Magpie" is the newsletter of Manchester Wildlife - the opinions expressed within its pages are not necessarily those of M.W. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in Magpie is correct, we cannot be held responsible for any mistakes in the text. Likewise, anyone who undertakes any project based on the information in these pages does so at their own risk.

Planning Matters

by Des Poiler

STOCKPORT UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

This plan goes on deposit on the 16th of February 1994. While there are some good aspects to this plan (We note that the old Mirlees sports ground at Woodsmoor is to be designated as a "Strategic Open Space"; which makes our attendance at the public inquiry worthwhile) there are a number of policies to which lovers of open space, and the countryside, might take exception. It's too late for Bruntwood Meadows but if you want to object to similar disasters, take a look at the plan and see what is in store (pun) for you in **YOUR** local area. Copies of the plan should be available in your library or advice centre but if you have problems, contact: Director of Technical Services, Hygarth House, 103 Wellington Road South, Stockport SK1 3TT (Tel. 480 4949). Responses should be made by the 29th of March 1994.

The Manchester U.D.P. Public Inquiry was reported on in your autumn Magpie; this was not the whole story. On looking back, what saddens me most is the loss of open space in Wythenhawe, particularly the south. Apart from a few small woods and a couple of parks (Painswick & Peel Hall), public open space is going to be a thing of the past. When Wythenhawe was built, on land purchased from Lord Simon (he gave Wythenshawe Park to the City), a large chunk of the Cheshire countryside may have been destroyed, but the City fathers had the wisdom to leave some generous open spaces so that the people who moved from the crowded, inner city areas would have plentiful pleasant countryside near their homes. Soon, even the farther countryside will be put out of reach by the ever increasing growth at the airport.

Cheadle Royal - Is it on or is it off? Speyhawk, Capital & Counties, and now Orbit have all put forward plans to develop this pleasant open space (opposite Bruntwood) but but so far can't find clients or the £3m needed to pay for a modified junction on the A34 by-pass. Let's hope!/
/



EVENTS AND MEETINGS

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

February 1994

- Sunday 13th **"Bramble Clearing"** - at Parrs Wood Centre for Rural Education, East Didsbury. Meet at the Stable Block. Time 11am. Wear old clothes. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040
- Tuesday 15th **Watch at Birchfields** - The South Manchester Watch Group are meeting with City Council Official at Birchfields Park. Meet at 2.30pm at the Dickenson Rd/Birchfields Rd entrance. Contact Sue Sharples 445 5659. Object - to discuss improvements to the park.

BTCV - Woodland Action Week

- Sunday 27th **Woodland Management - Kenworthy Fields** - Meet 11am in the car park of Chorlton Water Park, Maitland Avenue (off Barlow Moor Road), Chorlton. Wear old clothes and boots; bring food. Contact 437 7040.

March 1994

- Sunday 6th **Woodland Crafts at Parrs Wood** - 11am - 4pm at Parrs Wood Centre for Rural Education, Parrs Wood Lane, East Didsbury - How to build a pole-lathe and shaving horse - a chance to have a go at bodging. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040. Fee: £5, Unwaged free.

- Tuesday 8th **Social Meeting** - Old Steam Brewery, Oxford Road (opp. Royal Northern College of Music) Time 7.30 p.m. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040.
- Saturday 12th **Watch at Birchfields** - The South Manchester Watch Group are putting up bird nesting boxes in Birchfields Park. Meet at 2.30pm at the Dickenson Rd/Birchfields Rd entrance. Contact Sue Sharples 445 5659
- Sunday 20th **Pomona Dock Survey** - Early spring look at Manchester's wildlife wonderland. Meet 11am at entrance to Throstle's Nest Lane (off Trafford Road, Old Trafford). Contact Ian Brown 437 7040
- Thursday 31st **General Meeting** - Time 7.30 pm. At the home of David Bishop, 21, Brookburn Road (off Chorlton Green). Contact 881 6276.

April 1994

- Tuesday 12th **Social Meeting** - Old Steam Brewery, Oxford Road (opp. Royal Northern College of Music) Time 7.30 p.m. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040.
- Saturday 23rd **Members' Day** - At Parrs Wood Centre for Rural Education. Watch out for details. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040. **It's Your Day!**
- Thursday 28th **Strategic Planning Meeting** - Time 7.30pm. At the home of Unity Kelly 13 Ruskin Avenue, Rusholme. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040

May 1994

- Tuesday 10th **Social Meeting** - Old Steam Brewery, Oxford Road (opp. Royal Northern College of Music) Time 7.30 p.m. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040.

YOUR 1994/5 CALENDAR IS OVERLEAF

A member of the RSNC
Urban Wildlife Partnership

We can work together for Wildlife

MANCHESTER WILDLIFE CALENDAR 1994/5

FEBRUARY

8th: Social Meeting
13th: Parrs Wood CRE, "Bramble Clearing"
27th: Kenworthy Fields Woodland Management

MARCH

SPRING MAGPIE

Copy: 11th



6th: Woodland Initiative, "Pole Lathe Training Day"
8th: Social Meeting
31st: General Meeting
[includes deadline/voting of Awards 1993]

APRIL

12th: Social Meeting
23rd: Members' Day: topic "Sustainability"
[To include Award announcement and presentation]
28th: Strategic Planning Meeting [2/94]

MAY

1st: Fletcher Moss Park Circular Walk
8th: Kenworthy Fields Survey
10th: Social Meeting
15th: Hough End Clough, Japanese Knotweed Bash
21st: Didsbury Festival (?)
26th: General Meeting
29th: "Disused Railway Safari"

JUNE

5th: Highfield Country Park, Levenshulme Survey Day,
12th: Painswick Park, Wythenshawe, Willow Bash & Orchid Count
14th: Social Meeting
19th: Pomona Docks Picnic
24th: Global Forum '94 starts

JULY

SUMMER MAGPIE

Copy: 1st



3rd: Global Forum '94 ends
10th: Urmston Meadows walk
12th: Social Meeting

JULY (Continued)

19th: Strategic Planning Meeting [3/94]
28th: General Meeting
TBA: Middlewood Way Open Day

AUGUST

9th: Social Meeting
29th: Parrs Wood CRE Family Fun Day

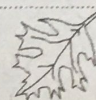
SEPTEMBER

4th: Hough End Clough Hay Cut
13th: Social Meeting
24th: Jodrell Bank WATCH event (with Cheshire Wildlife Trust)
25th: Painswick Park, Wythenshawe, Hedge Pond Willow Cutting
29th: General Meeting

OCTOBER

AUTUMN MAGPIE

Copy: 7th



8th/9th: Mersey Basin Environmental Weekend
11th: Social Meeting
18th: Strategic Planning Meeting [4/94]
23rd: Kenworthy Fields Woodland Management

NOVEMBER

8th: Social Meeting
12th/13th: Wood Turning Course
24th: General Meeting

DECEMBER

13th: Christmas Social Meeting
31st: Accounting Period ends

JANUARY 1995

WINTER MAGPIE

Copy: 11th



10th: Social Meeting
17th: Strategic Planning Meeting [1/95]
22nd: Big Wood, Wythenshawe, Woodland Management
26th: General Meeting

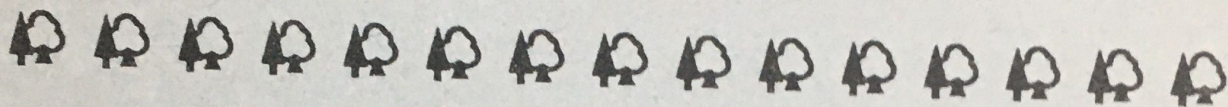
There will be other events throughout the year, including a full programme of events for our Woodland Initiative, so watch out for the events listings in your Magpies.

For further details, contact:
Ian Brown (061-437 7040)



BTCV Woodland Action Week
26th January - 6th March
Manchester Wildlife Activities

Take part in the Launch of our Award Winning
Woodland Management and Crafts Project

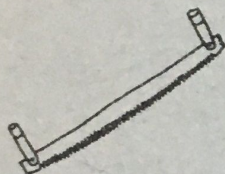


Woodland Management at Kenworthy Fields

Sunday 27th February 1994

meet 11am in the car park of Chorlton Water Park
Maitland Avenue (off Barlow Moor Road), Chorlton

Wear old clothes and boots; bring food



Woodland Crafts at Parrs Wood

Sunday 6th March 1994 - 11am to 4pm

at Parrs Wood Centre for Rural Education, Parrs Wood Lane, East Didsbury

How to build a pole-lathe and shaving horse

A chance to have a go at Bodging

For those wishing to build their own
a list of materials required will be available on the day



*Watch out for future events and training days
in this programme around Manchester
Do join in and support action for local woodlands*

Contact - Ian Brown - Tel: (061) 437 7040
82 Crantock Drive, Heald Green, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 3HA