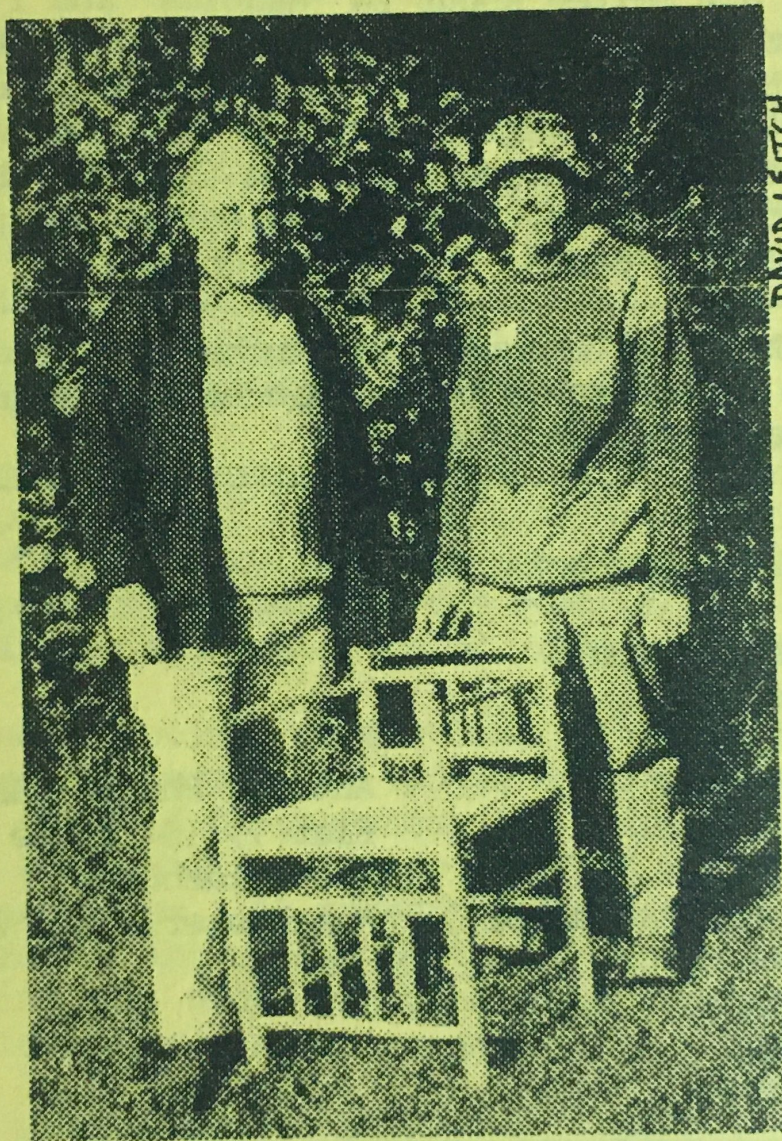


MANCHESTER WILDLIFE'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

# MACPIE

**Number 32**

**Autumn 1994**



DAVID LETCH

The bodger presents a Carver chair to Len Holden, head gardener, for over 40 years, at Parrs Wood Centre for Rural Education. The presentation took place on the Parrs Wood in Autumn open day. The chair, made in a 17th century style from a recently coppiced Alder planted in the grounds by Len 20 years ago, was a token of thanks to him for the help he has given, to both Manchester Wildlife and the Parrs Wood Trust, in the last few years.

Printed at MARC on Recycled Paper

**40p**



# Editorial

Editor's Office 437 7040

Nothing controversial in this editorial, in fact nothing much at all. We do have a reply to the previous editorial, from Pat Callaghan of the Potteries and Newcastle UWG. I would like to apologise, in advance, for the number of times the word sustainable, or one of its derivatives, is used in this issue. I have now edited about 24 "Magpies" and I feel that the time has come for a change. If anyone would like to take over, please let me know, we could do with some fresh ideas in time for our 10th Anniversary edition in summer next year; also I could do with devoting more time to other things such as sustainable development. A short editorial but plenty to read in the following pages; I hope you enjoy it. //

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

Unity Kelly (Chairperson),  
13 Ruskin Avenue,  
Rusholme,  
Manchester. M14 4DP  
Tel. 226 4583

Anthony Phelps (Secretary),  
Flat 7, 104 Clyde Road,  
West Didsbury,  
Manchester. M20 2JN

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

## Castlefield Canal Conservation by David J Thorp

The Castlefield Basin and Rochdale Canal Corridor, through the centre of Manchester, have, over the last 10 years or so, been given a great deal of attention by developers. Work carried out has left the area looking less derelict and made it a pleasant place to work and play. Although some of the improvements have been made with wildlife in mind most of the

work has resulted in a hard, concrete and stone environment.

As a second year Environmental Management student, on a six week placement from the Manchester Metropolitan University, I was assigned the task of assessing the area for habitat enhancement.

Within the area there are some obvious sites where wildlife habitats are flourishing. There are others where they have been destroyed or are under used. Suitable sites for improvements were sought where they would have least effect on navigation by pleasure boats. Where the canal is shallow enough to allow light to penetrate to the bottom, plants can thrive, without blocking the passage of boats. Some shallow areas, unused for navigation, would allow the planting of more visually attractive emergent and floating vegetation.

It is intended to begin planting in early spring 1995. Plants for the project will be sought from groups with an interest in canals when they are carrying out canal clearing projects. This is important for keeping the cost of the project down. Voluntary labour would also be of great help with some tasks.

As well as planting vegetation, making rafts and islands, nesting boxes on canal side ledges and ramps to allow ducklings to climb from the water are being considered. It is hoped that these will encourage wildfowl to nest and remain in the basin area. At present the majority of the ducks on these waters are introduced by the Castlefield Rangers. If they can find safe nests and food plants they may be discouraged from leaving for other places.

Plans by Manchester Wildlife for a canal side Urban Nature Trail through the area have been considered when making recommendations in the report. It would greatly enhance the interest for walkers if they could see abundant wildlife amongst the industrial heritage of the City.

For more information about volunteering, or the project in general, contact Unity Kelly at MW or Graham Sandham at the Castlefield Centre, 101 Liverpool Road, Manchester, M3 4JN, Tel. 834 4026. //



Dear Magpie,

# Reader's Letter

In your last edition you raised the problem of sponsorship money and where it comes from. We also have this problem - I'm sure many others do.

A recent magazine of our own County Trust carried this notice

"Since individual membership subscriptions, legacies and donations are not enough on their own to enable the Trust to function effectively, it also accepts sponsorship, donations and corporate membership subscriptions from organisations, some of whom carry out operations which are potentially damaging to the environment and wildlife. The Trust Council feels that it is able to accept such funding, because the money can be put to good use in furthering wildlife conservation. Corporate membership of the Trust gives us the opportunity to make direct contact with organisations and hopefully influence them into a more environmentally sound way of thinking. The Trust reserves the right to continue to object to any plans by donors and corporate members which impinge on natural history, nature conservation and wildlife matters, and that objection will be carried to its conclusion at public inquiry if necessary."

Most of the UWG and Trust members agree, a few do not, but we feel we must compromise. Having said that, the UWG would not accept sponsorship for itself from, for example, British Coal Opencast Executive (though BCOE is a Corporate Member of the County Trust). Like you with Sainsbury's, it's a very local matter.

Personally I've come to the reluctant conclusion that if sponsorship money enables us to fight for wildlife now, I'll take it. After all, if we act all moral and then can't afford to be there protecting, disaster will happen anyway. And in the Potteries and Newcastle, we've actually been helping to WIN a few public inquiries lately (against British Coal Opencast, quarrying and golf courses)! So keep up the struggle!

Best wishes from your (southern) neighbours

Pat Callaghan

Chair, Potteries and Newcastle UWG

Magpie

Page Four

## A Secret Place

The Potteries, whilst having an unjust reputation from some quarters as being somewhat gritty and depressing, are surrounded by beautiful landscapes exhibiting a fascinating natural history. Planners may describe these places as having 'amenity value', but those who love them would never attempt to put a price on their worth.

Descending, on a bright spring morning, into the valley via the lane, typically sunken below the level of adjacent pastures, one is immersed into a world in which man and nature seem to have achieved harmony.

The fine, mature oaks standing sentinel along the hedgebank may be there by man's agency, but along with the occasional ash, surely reflect the time when woodland pervaded this scene. Indeed, in the hedgerow, the spring flowers bear their testimony to this lineage. Dog's mercury, bluebells, barren strawberry, ground ivy, greater stitchwort, red campion and lesser celandine are all blooming along the roadside bank.

Further along a pair of bullfinches were making forays from high in an oak, white rumps flashing, to and from some overgrown holly in a nearby hedge. I was

initially alerted by their nondescript call note (surely not another great tit! I remember thinking), and was delighted to see this species, not encountered as often as other resident finches.

At the valley bottom I turned from the lane into Lower Brook Meadow. The local farmer subsequently told me that these pastures had been ploughed some thirty years previously. That newcomer, pink purslane had invaded the brook sides and much lady's smock was apparent in any damp areas. Pignut was now encroaching back into the improved pasture from its refuge in the unploughed margins.

Climbing from the flood plain up toward a piece of sprawling relict hedge, I could see bright blue bugle amid yet-to-flower tormentil. I reached the thicket and peered through the thorns. The earth was bare and trampled by the dairy herd grazing nearby, but I was soon aware of a marvellous sight -

A swathe of dog violets took centre stage; wood-sorrel, its dainty blooms nodding in pink profusion were massed to the right. Bluebells, of course, were there, over a carpet of celandines now completing their own flowering season; and wood anemones completing the picture.

It is hard to express in words the uplift this sight gave to my spirits, but these feelings were tempered by the knowledge that this special place is threatened by opencast coal mining.

The Trent Valley from Woodhouse Lane, Ball Green to Bemersley must be preserved. A question might be posed as to why British Coal Opencast Executive - an organisation in the business of legally destroying open countryside - should choose to become a corporate member of Staffordshire Wildlife Trust?

Mark Prina



Illustration by Mike Blakemore





# Standing up for Wildlife



## \* What Manchester Wildlife Does For You \*

- We're only a phone call away -

### - Irlam Wildlife Haven -

A call for help came from Ann Cavanagh (known locally a Toad Woman), who has, for years, been helping toads to cross the road, near her home, as they make their way to their breeding grounds in an isolated stretch of the old River Irwell, near the Ship Canal in Irlam. The area is one of the best wildlife sites in the Manchester area. This haven, as well as being great for toads, has an abundance of dragonflies, birds and mammals (maybe Salford's only Water Vole colony).

Too late in the planning process the locals found out that Peel Holdings, parent company of the Manchester Ship Canal Co who own the land, intend to sell it for house building. The SBI, which includes the old course of the River Irwell, will be sandwiched between two housing estates.

Manchester Wildlife were the only wildlife group to come to the aid of the local people; we visited the site (amazing!); we wrote to Salford City Council and many conservation organisations and individuals. Thanks to us it got into the M.E.N. (October 3rd) and now at least 500 local people have signed a petition to save this wonderful area. The planning permission flies in the face of Salford's otherwise admirable policies on wildlife conservation and open space. Anne Cavanagh can be contacted on 775 9644.

### - Parks for People, not Profit -

Manchester parks have been in the news; they're up for grabs (it's the same all over the country)! Landscaped open space, allotments, playing fields and parts of parks have been sold for development. Dubious deals with private developers are threatening our parks.

MW is helping to put together an alternative manifesto for the future of Parks for People based on Sustainability, Stewardship and Community Involvement. The largest number of

objections at the UDP public inquiry concerned parks and open spaces. People do use and care about their parks and they are important.

Look out for a "Parks for People" press conference (29th Nov) timed to precede the Council meeting (1st Dec) to consider the UDP inquiry inspector's report; the public can attend, it should be interesting. Contact PFP: North, Joan Wilson 795 0210; South, John Clegg 431 4789.

You may have read about Eddie Shah's proposals to take over the golf facilities at Heaton Park. This would have meant that one third of the park would have come under the control of a private concern. The latest, from the Manchester Evening News, is that Mr. Shah has withdrawn his £1.5 million bid but the paper does not have much to say about the strength of local feeling against this park sell off. There have been over 5000 letters of protest and the campaign seems to have worked wonders in changing the council's mind on this matter.

The Urban Wildlife Partnership is putting together a dossier from across the UK as a basis for its next campaign to save parks, and urban open spaces, for people and wildlife.

### - Red Rose Forest, Woodland and Crafts -

The Red Rose Forest held an all day workshop, which we attended, called "Where is this Forest then". We were told of the history of Community Forests and about the current state of play, which was that the Forest Plan was awaiting Government approval. We were shown slides of the Forest area; most interesting were the ariel photographs on which we could pick out open spaces which have already, or soon will be, gone. There were small group discussions on various aspects of the forest and we came away, not only knowing where the Forest could be, but a lot wiser about the way it might take shape over the 40 year lifetime of the plan.

We continue with our woodland management and crafts and have given many demonstrations of bodging and rake making during the summer. At these events we meet many crafts people and thus keep learning. The highlight was probably seeing Owen Jones, from Cumbria, making oak swill baskets. Ian attended the Bodgers Ball at Hay Bridge Nature Reserve, in Furness, a most enjoyable occasion despite the constant rain. A lot of



handy tips were picked up and the morning spent with Lakeland coppicer, Bill Hogarth, was most educational. Of great interest was Don Weber, from California, who demonstrated the use of a primitive forge. A home made box bellows, bricks for the hearth, a little charcoal, a small anvil and hammer, and a great variety of tools can be made. We may add this to our list of crafts; it's cheap to set up and charcoal can be made from wood which is not suitable for chair making.

Work on setting up the woodland craft centre at Wythenshawe Park has been a little slow, mostly because of too many other things to do. We will get there eventually, and when we do we will need a lot of help setting up and running the centre. If you are interested in woodland crafts please phone the Bodger now (437 7040) and we'll get back to you when we are ready to move in. John Rudd, who works with the Bolton Wildlife Project (0204 361847) hopes to set up a similar centre at Rock Hall, Moses Gate Country Park, so if you live north of the city, give John a call.

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"I hear, and I imagine; I see, and I understand; I do, and I remember for ever."

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Chinese Proverb

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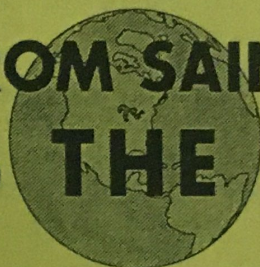
#### - Who's Sorry Now -

The Government has had a change of heart on the matter of out of town superstores; seven years after MW attempted to defend Bruntwood Hay Meadows at a public inquiry. As well as highlighting the effect of the proposed Sainsbury development on wildlife and "Vanishing Meadows" we drew attention to the damage to town centre shopping. Then, we were put down for our efforts but now the Government has caught up with US. A Parliamentary Select Committee has come out against superstores on out of town/greenfield sites for the very reasons we stated back in 1987. People are finally realising what they have lost at Bruntwood, and the enormity of the development. "Too late it was, too late".

Down in Yeovil, 6000 objectors forced Sainsbury's to withdraw from a similar development, though planning permission had been approved. Well done Yeovil - couldn't the same have been done in Cheadle! Our "Costing the Earth Walk" (during Global Forum) was, in reality, more of a wake than a walk but the campaign to boycott Sainsbury's, everywhere, is still alive

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

# FOOD FROM SAINSBURY'S COSTS THE EARTH



#### - Environmental Education Network Jamboree -

This took place in Cheetham on the 15th of October. We had our exhibition on display and it was a most enjoyable day; a great opportunity for networking. All "Green" teachers, play workers, or anyone in education should join this movement which is a grass roots greening initiative. If you are interested phone Ruth Levy on 431 7610. Unity discovered plans for a new community farm in Moston and made some useful suggestions. It has our support and we hope it gets off the ground. It could be a linking point for wildlife people in North Manchester. If interested, phone Colin Parsons on 203 5401.

#### - Ardwick Hedgehog Rescue -

An urgent phone call came from Peter Gaffney, of Chorlton-on-Medlock, near Brunswick Road. He had found a hedgehog with an injured leg, "could we help". Hardly a promising area for hedgehogs; too many roads. MW courier service, by bicycle, panniered the hedgehog to Simpsons the Vet, in Withington, who cared for it for three weeks and restored it to good working order and it was released to a long and happy life at Parris Wood Centre for Rural Education.

#### - Meetings and Events -

We put on a fairly varied programme this summer to tempt our members out but attendance was varied. A good number came on the Pomona Dock Picnic but there were only 6 on the, "Costing



the Earth Walk", from Bruntwood; we could have done with more help to carry our magnificent banner. However, at Abbey Pond, we did meet up with "Walk for the Earth" who had come all the way from London, on foot, to highlight many environmental problems including the Government's lack of commitment to Sustainable Development. We walked together, behind a street band, to arrive in Peace Square for the start of the Peace Festival and Global Forum 94.

The Urmston Meadows Walk was poorly attended as were the work days; Hay Making at Hough End Clough (Anthony and Charlotte Abbas) and Willow Coppicing at Painswick Park (Anthony, Unity and Ian), though some local youngsters gave a hand. Meetings, both Social and General, were generally poorly attended.

Ask not what Manchester Wildlife can do for you,  
but what you can do for Manchester's Wildlife.

(with apologies to J.F.K.)

The main problem is that we are getting a little stretched - more help is needed on many matters.

Would you like to:

- \* Host a Coffee Morning \*
- \* Turn up for Meetings & Events \*
- \* Help with Newsletter - We're looking for a new editor \*
- \* Help on stalls at events \*
- \* Get people to join \*
- \* Vet planning lists \*
- \* Help with book keeping, membership records and filing \*
- \* Get involved in projects-Butterfly Survey, Wildlife Walks \*
- \* Help at Members' Day (29th April) \*
- \* Collect Aluminium Cans for Cash \*
- \* Run a Recycling Point - and keep it tidy \*
- \* Helping to run the Craft Centre \*
- \* Raise money \*
- \* Take Photographs \*
- \* Send in Wildlife Records \*
- \* Put out membership leaflets \*
- \* Inform us early on local concerns \*
- \* Sell Sweatshirts \*

If any of the above appeal to you please contact Unity Kelly on 226 4583 or Ian Brown on 437 7040. Or come to one of our meetings with your offers of help or ideas of your own.

If we are to stand up for wildlife in Greater Manchester  
we will need all the help we can get.

## Nat West Urban Greenspace Initiative

by Unity Kelly

We have won (another) award, hastily put together in April; announced in August. £700 towards the expenses involved in researching and compiling information on four wildlife discovery walks in inner Manchester. They will be based on our successful Urban Safaris; Up the Irk, Around Ancoats, Along the Bridgewater and Rambling round Rusholme. What better way to mark our 10th Anniversary in 1995. We have enthusiastic letters of support from Ted Kitchen (City Planning Officer), Nat. Fed. of Anglers (NW), Visions, Open Spaces Society, G.M. Pedestrian Assoc. CMDC, Mersey Basin Trust & Red Rose Forest.

We spent a lot of time and effort setting up the obligatory press call and photo opportunity involving Peter Newton (Nat West Corn Exchange Manager). About 50 invitations went out (including some appropriate members) to take coffee with us after the press call. This took place on the 20th of October at Angel Meadow, next to the Charter Street Ragged School, where we launched the project. A delightful occasion but it made no immediate impact on the press despite the presence of a MEN photographer and children from the nearby King of Kings School. Did anyone spot the garbled press report! //

## Mersey Valley Countryside Quiz.

Apologies; we should have let you know the result of this in the summer newsletter. The Lyme Park Rangers were winners, Cheshire Wildlife Trust came second and Birds & Beasties (?) third. MW set the questions, this time, and it was more difficult than answering them. The Mersey Valley Wardens will be quiz masters next year; we're looking forward to it. //

## MW Super Shirt Sale

There are a few left so rush in your order now to avoid being disappointed. Long sleeved cotton shirts are £6.50; T-shirts are £5.50 and 70% cotton sweatshirts are £7.50. Phone 437 7040 to order; you can collect at events or meetings or pay an extra £1.50 for package and postage. The shirts are really good value! So be one of less than 50 privileged wildlifers and buy one of our shirts before it's too late. //



The Criminal Justice Bill became law at Midnight on Thursday the 3rd of November. As if by chance a member of MW, as an individual concerned citizen, found herself up a crane on a building site adjacent to Oxford Road. The time was 6.30 am. on the morning of Friday the 4th of November. Complying with police requests, she came down, at 12.15 pm., to be the first person in the country to be arrested under the new act and was kept in police cells for two hours. The crane belongs to John Laing who are bidding for the next phase of the M65 (Preston western by-pass) which will destroy even more and better wildlife habitats than those already trashed in Ceurden Valley Country Park. The Government change of heart on road building came too late.

(MW cannot take part in such "illegal" activities but members may as individuals in their own right.) //

#### ABBNEY POND UPDATE

Overheard at the Aquarius Centre, Hulme:

**Not forgiven, not forgotten,  
St. George's Pond is simply rotten.**

Jeff Stanniforth (Education & Leisure Department Manager) has been landed with the problem of managing the St. Georges Park Pond (pathetic replacement for the Abbey Pond) which has been described as a muddy puddle. Last time we saw it the liberal layer of topsoil and soggy clay, which is constantly stirred up by children and dogs, had turned the pond into a large bowl of oxtail soup. When asked for our advice, we said:

**Why not go the whole damn hog,  
and turn it back into a bog.**

When water was being pumped out of Abbey Pond, Unity asked to see the tanker driver's NRA discharge license. His reply was that, "We tested the water; it was so clean we didn't need one." During the battle to save the pond, the Director of the Science Park had asserted that it was so polluted that it could be a danger to public health. Well, it wasn't; but it was full of wildlife - not any more it isn't //

# Local Agenda 21

by Ian Brown

In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 1992 the largest-ever meeting of World leaders made critical decisions about how we can run our economies and secure our future. What 179 countries agreed to is nothing less than a blueprint on how to make the future development of our world economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. - This brief statement, on the back cover of "Agenda for Change" \*, sums up what was perhaps the most important international conference ever to take place. The conference made it plain that we can no longer think of environment, and economic and social development, as isolated fields. Agenda 21, a vast work programme for the 21st century, represents the consensus reached in Rio. It is a blueprint for a global partnership aimed at reconciling the twin requirements of a high quality environment and a healthy economy for all peoples of the world.

Many of the problems and solutions listed in Agenda 21 have their roots in local activities, so local authorities have a major say in making sustainable development (SD) happen. As the level of government closest to the people, they play a vital role in educating and mobilising the public around SD. By 1996, every local authority should have consulted its citizens and developed "a Local Agenda 21 (LA21)" for the community. Local officials should consult citizens and community, business and industrial organisations to gather a consensus on SD strategies. This consensus would help them to reshape local programmes, policies, law and regulations to achieve LA21 objectives. The process of consultation would increase people's awareness of SD issues.

With this in mind, Manchester City Council has set up a LA21 Group and on October 18th a meeting was held to introduce local interests to the programme ahead. Councillor Arnold Spencer started the proceedings; he noted that the Council had a dual role, both in initiating and co-ordinating the process, and as a "stake holder" - on an equal footing with other stake holders. SD was not just up to the Council, its citizens must play their part. "Ask not what your City can do for you, but what you can do for your City" (Apologies again



to JFK) seemed to be the gist of what he was saying. In my opinion this is quite right, for it is up to us to let those in authority know the correct way to go.

Jane Morris of the Local Government Management Board outlined the background to and the purpose of the LA21 process and Ted Kitchen, the City Planning Officer, explained that his department was now responsible for things "green & sustainable" within the City Council but admitted that he didn't have a "magic wand". (shame - Ed.) Dr. Kitchen said the Council has much to put right in terms of being sustainable, but equally, other members of the community have their own responsibilities. We must all make commitments to action and since there is no simple definition of what makes a sustainable city, we all need to decide what it means to us, and "us" included children. We must be able to measure progress towards sustainability, using "indicators" which are relevant to us in Manchester.

There followed a general discussion: Cllr. Richard Leese said that all Council departments would be addressing the issue of sustainability; Prof. Ian Douglas (MU) said the University is already making its activities more sustainable. (?- Ed.); Callum Thomas (MCCI) felt that industry did now recognise sustainability as an important issue and accepted that it needed to work with other groups in this respect, he also said that we can't keep going on for ever and ever - a little irony here as Dr. Thomas is environmental officer at the Airport; Martin Byrne (MCCI) felt that legislation also had a part to play (some commercial organisations would need some form of compulsion). It was decided that further meetings should be held and the first of these is in the Ante Room to the Council Chamber at 5.30 pm on the 6th of December. MW is to send a representative.

So what has all this to do with wildlife in general and urban wildlife in particular? I think the key is SD, the theme that applies to most of the Agenda 21 proposals; if we can run our lives in a sustainable way we shall be able to live without damaging the environment in a way which will put in jeopardy the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. We must learn to live in a way by which we meet our local needs from local resources.

In a way, SD and cities are a contradiction in terms; it is easier to imagine villages or small towns being able to live from local resources but cities must begin to procure their supplies from as near to home as possible. We've got to knock on the head the idea of importing goods from far away places, as is encouraged by the GATT Treaty and the European Single Market. Some might say that to do this would stop development in the poorer countries of the world. What do we need for a tolerable life? Food, warmth and shelter; poor countries will not be helped in achieving these basic aims by exporting food to richer countries. So let's cut down this movement of goods around the world; less transport, fewer roads, less pollution and less environmental destruction.

There is a lot to be said on the subject of SD but I think I will give it a rest, for now, before I do my head in; there will be more said in subsequent "Magpies", especially as the work on LA21 progresses.

Now, this is where you come in. We would like you to let us know of examples of SD which have taken place in Greater Manchester, let us say, within living memory. The best we can come up with is; in the late '40s and early '50s at the time of rationing and when one would walk a mile to the shops to save the penny bus fare. However, we can help by pointing out a few developments and activities which are not sustainable.

- \* Empty business parks \* \* Prestigious offices \*
- \* Second runway at the Airport \* \* The Airport \*
- \* Olympic/Commonwealth Games \* \* Drama City \*
- \* Heritage Museums \* \* Euro Disney \*
- \* Out of town Supermarkets on Greenfield sites \*
- \* Out of town Supermarkets \* \* Supermarkets \*
- \* Parsnips from Australia (£1.49 per lb at Tesco's) \*

We may enjoy some of the above but we could just manage to live without them. You can also play a further, vital, part in the debate by making suggestions of developments which you think would be sustainable, and appropriate to Manchester. They must help promote all or some of the following (without putting any of them in jeopardy):

Continued over.....



- \* Environmental improvement \*
- \* Reduction of pollution \*
- \* Health \*
- \* Relief of Poverty \*
- \* Less Unemployment \*
- \* Local Agriculture/Horticulture \*
- \* Sustainable Housing \*
- \* Conservation of Biological Diversity \*
- \* Management of Hazardous and other Wastes \*
- \* Children and Youth in Sustainable Development \*

Send your ideas to us or contact: Manchester Local Agenda 21 Group, c/o Sustainability Group, Manchester City Planning Department, P.O. Box 488, Town Hall, Manchester. M60 2JT Tel. (061) 234 4595/4590.

\* "Agenda for Change" is a plain language version of Agenda 21 and other Rio Agreements. If you can obtain a copy of this publication it will be of great help to you in understanding sustainable development and other matters discussed at the Earth Summit. There should be some copies left over from Global Forum 94; the Sustainability Group are trying to find these, so contact them (details above) and they may be able to send you a copy (it may cost money but will be worth it).

## R.S.N.C. and Local Agenda 21

### B.A. Environment City LA21 Seminars

When, Why, Who, Where, and What's it got to do with you? The RSNC, New Education Team will be hosting a series of regional seminars aimed at the Strategic Issues of LA21, as this needs a corporate approach. Wildlife (in Manchester) is almost totally ignored or very low priority. English Nature, on Bio-diversity: "You can't have any real form of sustainability without bio-diversity."

Unity and Ian have booked to go on the Northern seminar which will be in February. They will report back for "Magpie". //

### Hats off to Helmet Street

Another open space in the City is going. A recreation ground by Helmet Street was, many years ago, created over the River Medlock as a public open space for the local people. It's a marvellous place for wildlife but the council are selling it for development. Go and see it, before it's too late, near Piccadilly Station, off Fairfield Street. More next time. //

# Adopt a (Recycling) Bank

Bringing things down to reality, The Green Team (Manchester City Council - Logo message "making Manchester sustainable") are looking for community groups who would like to take part in a new adopt a bank scheme - see "Magpie No. 23, summer '92 page five (better late than never).

Quick as a flash, MW has put in for a bank and suggested a site in Rusholme. So far, MW is the only group to have identified a site. \* All members in Rusholme \* - we will need help to keep it tidy and put leaflets out - we (MW) get the money.

If any other members would like to adopt a bank, on behalf of Manchester Wildlife, contact the Green Team on 234 4590. We are told that a recycling bank could raise anything from £250 to £2000 each year. If you do decide to have a go, please let us know, it could be a good way to raise money for Wildlife in Manchester. //

### \* Media File \*

Unity wrote to "Costing the Earth" (Radio 4) saying how much she enjoyed their programme on derelict sites. The producer, Marie Helly, replied saying how much she enjoyed "Magpie" and that it was one of the things which inspired the programme.

We were contacted by "File on Four" (Radio 4) for information on out of town superstores, which we were willing to supply. The programme which followed was excellent but, most of the examples were from down south.

In the New Year, B.B.C.2 are putting out a programme on out of town superstores in a series called "Talking Shop". Look out for it. We have given them information, over the phone, and will be sending in some written material.

### Greenpeace on Climate Change:

Its not the beginning of better weather, but the beginning of the end of the World.



# Global Forum 94

We have not much to say about this event, which took place in June, at present, but we will have a report when there has been time to assess all that happened. In the meantime, one or two choice morsels to whet your appetite.

Two days after the Global Forum green summit half the trees in Crown Square were felled. Graham Stringer, leader of the City Council said the trees had been axed to open up the centre of the square and make it more user friendly. "It was too cluttered as things were." he said, "This is more a culling than deforestation." Unity says that the square now looks barren.

## Bellamy Bites Back

Why did the redoubtable, and much sought after, Dr. David Bellamy refuse to address both the Global Forum and the International Academic Conference twinned with Global Forum? Because of the destruction of Abbey Pond. How do we know? He wrote to say so (to the board of Global Forum - Prof. Ian Douglas [MU]). Delegates knew he was missing but didn't know why. MW made sure that at least the academics knew why! No comfort to Abbey Pond but slight satisfaction for us in view of the deafening silence from the same Manchester Academics who had promoted the pond 10 years ago, because it suited their purposes at the time. They will know who we mean.

At least the Global Forum has got people talking and doing. MW had an entertaining evening with Chorlton Civic Society on the topic of Local Agenda 21 - The new Wildlife Action Packs sold well - excellent value at £4!

Unity attended a meeting of Healthy Manchester 2000, 26th of October, the main subject was Local Agenda 21 and Sustainable Development. Interested, Contact Paul (Green Team) 234 4590

But will people be listened to - they know what's wrong but what chance have they against vested interests. If more MW members get involved we should be able to show them! //

# Have You Been Nynexed Yet?

We have a letter from a member, Janet Cuff, who is concerned about the threat to street trees posed by the cable laying activities of Nynex. She has written to the DoE, DTI, MPs and councillors. The DoE sent a copy of their "advice to arboriculturists" which should have gone out to appropriate local authorities. If the guidelines (and laws) are followed, the trees, close to trenching activities, should be safe as the advice is that hand trenching should take place round tree roots. The important word is IF.

Chris Baines (President of the Urban Wildlife Partnership) brought the whole subject to the attention of the local authorities; he has made a video, "How to Avoid Damaging Trees", which has gone out to councils. Some councils in Greater Manchester have formal agreements with Nynex. In Manchester, Vin Howard (City Arboriculturist) has said while there was no formal agreement there was unofficial guidance and, around trees, hand trenching should take place.

This is where we ask our members to be vigilant; if you spot a case of mechanical trenching round trees, please report it. The difficulty is that you can't be watching all day long but you might be lucky (or unlucky). Vin Howard can be contacted on 234 4190 - for other districts ask for the arboricultural officer. Nynex NW - Simon Shrouder P.R. 946 5068.

A bit of good news! A contractor, working for Nynex in the Salford area, contact us for the name of an independent tree surgeon to advise them. We were pleased to pass on the name of Nick Bowman who, apart from being good on matters arboricultural, has great sympathy with the environment. So things should be all right in Salford - but keep watching! //

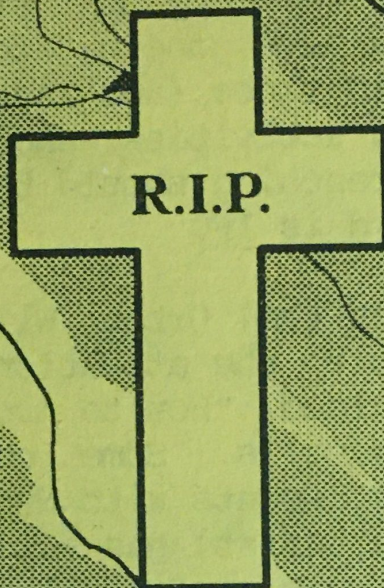
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# OBITUARY

Manchester's Environmental Forum  
1991 - 1994

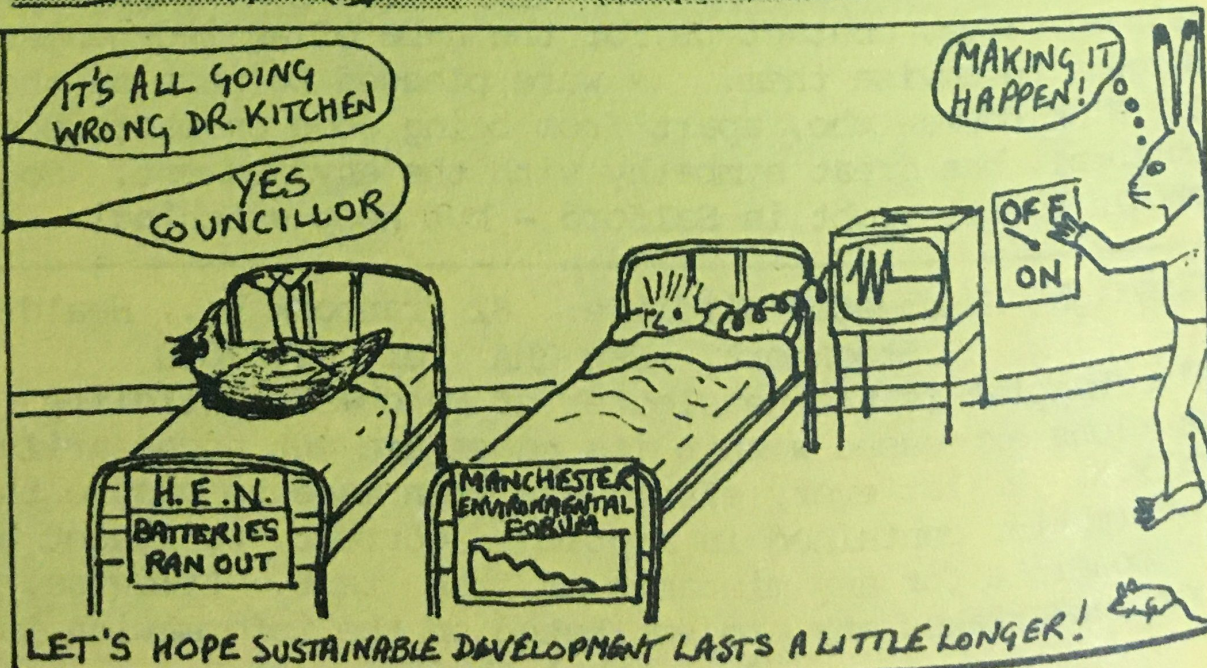


*It had become too demanding of its creator, Manchester City Council, expecting to be listened to, rather than just talked at. It was finally starved to death of the attention and resources it justly craved.*

by Dicken Graves

March  
Hare

by  
Jim  
Lepidus  
© MW  
020







## 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. For **WATCH** events please contact Sue Sharples - Tel. 445 5659.

**November 1994**

Thursday 24th **General Meeting** - Time 7.30 pm. At the One World Centre, Friends Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester. Contact Unity 226 4583.

### NATIONAL TREE WEEK

Sunday 27th **Caring for Woodlands - Kenworthy Fields, Chorlton** - Have a go at some practical work to keep this young woodland in good health. Wear strong shoes and bring waterproofs, food and drink. Families welcome - children under 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Meet at the Car Park off Chorlton Water Park, Maitland Avenue - Grid Ref. SJ 824919 - Contact Ian Brown 437 7040.

**December 1994**

Sunday 4th **Traditional Woodland Crafts - Chorlton Water Park** - Come along and try your hand at turning the wood from the previous week's task. Wear strong shoes and bring waterproofs, food and drink. Families welcome - children under 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Meet at the Car Park off Chorlton Water Park, Maitland Avenue - Grid Ref. SJ 824919 - Contact Ian Brown 437 7040.

Sunday 11th **English Martyr's School** - Annual clear-up. Manley Road, Whalley Range. Meet 11am. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040. Wear old clothes.  
Tuesday 13th **Social Meeting - Christmas Party** - White Lion Hotel, Liverpool Rd. Castlefield (opp. Air Museum) Time 7.30 pm. Contact Ian 437 7040

**January 1995**

Tuesday 10th **Social Meeting** - White Lion Hotel, Liverpool Rd., Castlefield (opp Air Museum) Time 7.30 pm. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040  
Sunday 22nd **Woodland Management** - Big Wood, Simonsway/Shadowmoss Rd, Wythenshawe Time 11am. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040. Wear old clothes and boots.  
Thursday 26th **General Meeting** - Time 7.30 pm. At the home of Unity Kelly, 13, Ruskin Avenue, Rusholme. Contact 226 4583.

## *Survey*

### Greater Manchester Winter Bird Feeding Survey

*Time!*

To start the survey off, on the reverse of the events sheet, there is a list of common birds seen in most gardens. Further species can 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 the number in box/boxes in brackets, e.g. (60) "Redwing". 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. (Not to Ian Brown)

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 (or near) Greater Manchester gardens. Findings of the survey, and participant's observations, will be sent out with the RSPB Manchester members' group magazine and Manchester Wildlife's newsletter "Magpie", in 1995.



Manchester Wildlife & RSPB Manchester Group - Winter Bird Feeding Survey 1994/5

[illegible]

Name.....Address.....