

Unity

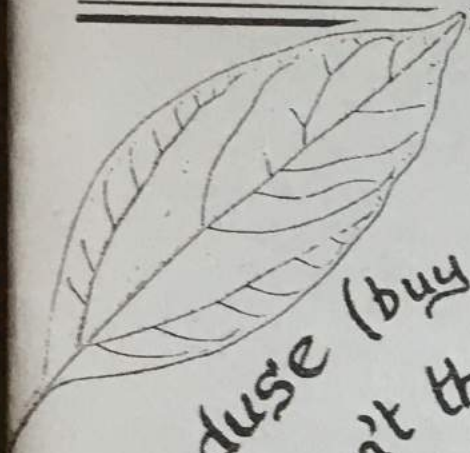


MANCHESTER WILDLIFE'S NEWSLETTER

THE MAGPIE

Number 36

Autumn/Winter 95



Reduce (buy less stuff) + Refuse (that carrier bag/over packaged goods)
Repair (don't throw away) + Return (milk bottles) + Recycle (cans, paper, glass/make compost) = Less landfill - Misguided Bolton Councilors = RED MOSS SAVED??



Standing Up For Wildlife

40p

EDITORIAL

Editor's Office 0161-437 7040

Some of the more astute of our readers will have noticed that this newsletter is somewhat late; about two months, in fact. Now where have I heard that before? Oh yes, in the summer Magpie. The way things are going I may as well keep that opening line for every edition. I will make no excuses, though there are many, but I do offer my apologies. Many of you may have thought we had gone out of business, and there may be some (no names) who wish we would. But no, we are still battling along trying to make Manchester better for wildlife and a more pleasant place in which to live.

The delay in publication may have been opportune. A while back, there was a break in at MARC, where we publish the Magpie; some of Manchester's less desirable element made off with their computers. This meant that we could not have published in the format to which you were becoming accustomed. We had debated about going back to the old type-written style but, the delay in publishing has coincided with MARC being able to re-equip itself with computers. So every cloud does-have a silver lining.

At MARC, however, the silver lining is beginning to lose some of its shine. This is no reflection on the organisation, or the work they do, but the fact that Council funding is being reduced (down to 25% this year) and will eventually reach zero. It would be best if the Council could be persuaded to change their minds but this looks increasingly less likely. There are ways in which MARC can be kept going, without this funding, but cutting back on services seems to be a necessary part of any solution. Maybe this is where someone reading this might be able to help. Have you a little time to spare? Could you spend some of that time helping out at MARC? You would be able to learn about printing and publishing in a friendly atmosphere (if you can operate computers, that would be a bonus) and you would be helping Manchester Wildlife, and many other voluntary groups. If we can't do our printing at a reasonable price it will be very difficult to continue as a group. Anyone interested? If so, phone MARC on 236 0350. They would welcome your help.

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

Manchester Wildlife Contacts

Unity Kelly (Chairperson), 13 Ruskin Avenue, Rusholme, Manchester M14 4DP - Tel: 0161-226 4583 (24 Hour Answerphone)
Anthony Phelps (Hon. Secretary), Flat 7, 104 Clyde Road, West Didsbury, Manchester M20 2JN
Ian Brown (Hon. Treasurer & Editor), 82 Crantock Drive, Heald Green, Cheadle, Cheshire. SR8 3HA - Tel: 0161-437 7040 Fax (One World Centre): 0161-834 8187

FRESH AIR NOW - Please?

by Chris Winter

I probably don't need to tell you that Manchester is the most polluted city in the UK. Levels of nitrogen oxides and ozone regularly exceed European levels aimed to protect public health. This is worrying enough but the poison in the air is expected to get worse. Ninety percent of the pollution in our city is produced by the motor car. And the most conservative estimates suggest that the number of cars is to double in the next 15 years!

Already the people of Manchester are suffering and in many cases dying from these pollutants. Asthma has increased by 60% in twenty years and the government estimates that ten thousand people die each year from ailments aggravated by diesel exhaust fumes.

So what is Manchester City Council doing to relieve such a human cost? Well one thing that they are doing is building more roads. Another is that they are planning to build a huge incinerator in East Manchester. They are also likely to build a second runway at Manchester Airport.

For years, people have been fighting for the Council to listen to the mounting evidence about health problems, demanded that open spaces are preserved, demonstrated that more roads simply generate more cars, that incinerators pump deadly dioxins into the air. But to no avail! Unfortunately for us, the council are still locked into the car culture mentality of the Thatcher years, where cars equalled prosperity. This is an economical assumption which refuses to take into account health, access to local open spaces, fresh air, peace and quiet and a good quality of life available to all. Even though a minority of Manchester's people own cars, roads and car parks have, it seems, taken priority over everything else.

FRESH AIR NOW intends to put these policies into reverse. We are a loose coalition of resident, environmental and health groups who have come together behind a radical - yet practical list of recommendations which we believe the Council must adopt and act on, if we are to change Manchester into a safe, pleasant place in which to live and work.

We want priority given to clean buses, and cycles; cars to be discouraged and banned from the city centre and the council to withdraw its support for a second runway and the incinerator. All open spaces should be protected (not sold off) and nature conservation placed higher on the agenda. We will compel the Council to respond by putting pressure on Councillors when they are most vulnerable - at election time. We

want the rest of Manchester to know how incompetent and stubborn their council really is.

FAN will act as a platform for all these concerns, as a demonstration against the Council's inactivities, and a celebration of communities. FAN is a non-party political group. We invite you all to join in the democratic process. Fresh Air Fortnight will take place before the local elections in May, when we will be holding seminars, press stunts and demonstrations. If you want to see a green and pleasant Manchester, please support us by contacting us at:

FRESH AIR NOW! One World Centre, 6 Mount Street, Manchester.

THE BUTTERFLY YEAR

by Unity Kelly

1995 was a remarkable year for butterflies, reflecting the sustained high temperatures of the summer and the preceding mild winter. Was this all good news? Read on to find out.

Here in Manchester we had no inkling of the butterfly bounty to come as the cold wet weather of spring and early summer saw a dearth of common species. Orange-tips were all over the place in April but it took the fine weather of mid-summer to liven things up for Meadow Browns, Skippers and Common Blues, and even the usually ubiquitous Small Tortoiseshell. Speckled Woods were the most abundant I have yet seen them in South Manchester. It's only a few years since a sighting in the Mersey Valley was notable. Red Admirals are definitely known to have over-wintered further south. I believe I may have seen such a one on Offa's Dyke, at Mardu, near Clun. By late July, Red Admirals, Peacocks, Small Tortoiseshells and notably Commas were around in good numbers and could be admired at will on the buddleias of Great Western Street, by the Job Centre. Wherever you wander, it's worth looking around the less obvious sites, such as the rough meadow under the pylons by the motorway slip road to Sale Water Park. Cinnabar and Five spot Burnet were there in great numbers. It's the kind of site where anything might turn up.

Incidentally, I know of no urban (butterfly) site hereabouts where the abundance of butterflies is the result of planned "improvements",

intervention or "creative conservation". I can think of plenty that have been ruined by activities such as mowing, flail cutting, re-seeding, spraying or landscaping.

When temperatures soared and water tables dropped, the vegetation wilted, giving rise to tales of butterflies dying of thirst and caterpillars shrivelling up for lack of a juicy green leaf. Maybe things were not that bad along the Mersey. Butterfly observers are waiting to see whether this year's butterfly populations will suffer as a result.

However, robust migrant species reached new heights of profusion and some were on the wing until November. The star of 1995 was the Camberwell Beauty - a species of theatrical colouration. I shall never forget watching them migrate through a limestone pass near the Pyrenees. Remember the two records we reported in the Summer Magpie? They were the edge of a wave of Camberwell Beauties which alighted across the east and south of Britain, reaching Cornwall and Shetland.

Away from the few protected or favourable areas, all butterflies are still in decline in Britain; and at an alarming rate. In urban areas it is our remaining pool of common species which really matter. Anything rarer is a bonus. Most city people, including planners, don't believe you can see butterflies in town, even when they are just around the corner, so it's hardly surprising that whole populations can be wiped out by wall to wall development, without a backward glance; as has and is happening all over Greater Manchester. No wonder people think you have to visit a Butterfly House to see butterflies - adding to traffic pollution as you go.

Species extinct this century in Britain
3 Butterflies - 11 larger moths

Species in serious decline
22 butterflies (40% of U.K. species) - 52 larger moths

Thanks to Butterfly Conservation News for the national picture.

More on the YHA

by Janet Cuff

In the last issue I wrote about the decision by the Board of Trustees of the Youth Hostels Association (England & Wales) to reduce the post of Countryside Officer from full-time to part-time. Many of us were concerned that this move would impair the credibility of the YHA as an environmental organisation, so we asked all other YHA members, who share our concerns to write to the President, Professor David Bellamy, to see if he could exert any pressure to get the decision reversed.

Professor Bellamy did in fact receive many letters on the topic and is known to have strongly disapproved of the decision. A motion was also brought to the National Council, aiming to restore the post to full-time, but following strong speeches from the Chief Executive and the National Chairman, calling for the motion to be rejected on the grounds that a reversal of policy would "damage the association", the motion was lost.

So the YHA now has only a part-time Countryside Officer, and many of us feel that it is this move itself which has damaged the Association. However, we will continue to work within the YHA to try to ensure that the Association's countryside work is maintained as far as possible.

It remains to be seen how Professor Bellamy will react.

Christmas Japes at the Town Hall

by Merton Niven

Resourceful and impudent as ever, members of the FAN coalition devised their own "Twelve Days of Christmas" for the delectation of the City Council and the enjoyment of the passing public.

Twelve seasonal gifts were hand picked and delivered to the relevant officers or Council meetings, each one symbolising a local environmental issue. Manchester Wildlife's piece of the action came on day nine. Nine dead trees, found in Council skips, standing for nine open spaces destroyed by development, were offered up. Curiously these offerings were refused but it made a good photo in the M.E.N. By this time, the Town Hall were heartily fed up with the daily offerings (some supporters of FAN became persona non grata). Ian supplied the list, mentioned in full in the M.E.N., of nine up to the minute sites of wildlife destruction.

For some reason the event got mixed up with a visit from the Duke of Kent, and had a police escort. FAN is such fun!

Christmas shoppers were mystified on Day Twelve by the Reclaim the Streets pantomime, outside M&S, but some of them stopped shopping for a while to watch the fun and enjoy free mince pies. Maybe they also appreciated the traffic-free zone.

Making Birdwatching Count

by Ian McGeorge

In August 1993, I made my first visit to the now annual British Birdwatching Fair at Rutland Water (part of the proceeds each year go to a designated international conservation project). I began birding (sounds more "athletic" than birdwatching, as Bill Oddie once remarked) in 1985, and immediately joined the RSPB and later the local members' group and eventually the committee, but outside this, my "contribution" was in sending occasional records of unusual sightings, etc. to the County Recorder.

It was at the Birdwatching Fair however, that I came across the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) stand. I knew of them, of course, but somehow never got around to learning more about them. One of their signs caught my eye that day - "Make your Birding Count", or words to that effect. This was a direct reference to the invaluable and extremely extensive survey work that their members have been carrying out for many years. To cut a not too long story even shorter, I joined on the spot and soon learnt of an exciting new project, the Breeding Bird Survey. Designed to achieve more of a random sample than, for instance, the nonetheless excellent Common Bird Census (where participants choose their plot specifically), the Breeding Bird Survey chooses one kilometre squares at random, where all birds seen and heard are recorded, and the BTO Representative for a given area offers these squares to local members. My square takes in part of a council estate, next to Princess Road, on to the playing fields, and also most of the full length of Hough End Clough. With two visits early and later in the breeding season, the survey gives new meaning to sightings of our most common species,

which, of course, may in future years become very localised, or indeed rare - witness the Tree Sparrow and Corn Bunting, now quite uncommon birds in the Manchester area.

The BTO has recorded a steady decline in the last 20 plus years for the Song Thrush, and I was very pleased to note this species holding territory and gathering nest materials in the Clough in July last year. Grey Wagtail has been present, albeit briefly, as a pair in the two years I have counted thus far. Tony O'Neill (Stockport RSPB Group Leader) counts the "tip" end of Chorlton Water Park, and across the Mersey to the motorway, and we did in fact find a Tree Sparrow nest on his plot in 1994 - sadly not there in 1995 as the tree had been felled.

With over 1,000 participants in 1994, and on its way to 2,000 in 1995, the survey is proving a great success, and will give conservationists a much more accurate picture of the successes and failures of Britain's breeding birds as the survey progresses.

It does also have its lighter moments. On one morning visit last year, as I wandered through the council estate with my forms, clipboard and pen, an elderly resident, leaning on her garden gate, asked if I'd come to fix her leaking-water - oo-er missus! And I'm sure some of these residents think I have other motives, and perhaps think that "Son of Dumplington" is about to arrive in their backyard.

On my last survey visit, Hough End Clough was surrounded by a large car boot sale. Once I'd fought my way into the trees, and noted two pairs of Blackcap nesting in almost the same territory as the year before, I felt pleased that my birdwatching was being "made to count".



REMEMBER YOU READ IT FIRST IN MAGPIE

"Faith in their hands, they snap in two,
And death shall have no dominion."

Dylan Thomas

*Rest in peace, Ken Saro-Wiwa and friends.
Your struggle is not forgotten - the Ogoni will have justice,
and Shell, their just deserts.*

*Shell Better Britain - respecting the Earth's resources"
Pull the other one, it's got blood on it.*

The execution of nine Ogoni leaders, including one of Nigeria's leading writers, Ken Saro-Wiwa, on the 10th of November 1995 by a brutal and corrupt military regime, a.k.a. respected member of the Commonwealth and valued commercial client, awoke world opinion to some more unpalatable truths. Shell Oil could indeed have saved Ken's life at the drop of a fax, even if he had had to become an exile. But Ken was even more effective, sorry troublesome, on the international stage than home in Nigeria. For that, he was hanged.

Phone Tim at Friends of the Earth (834 8221) for campaign information.

We may feel powerless, as individuals, to prevent such atrocities. But we all have the power to inform ourselves of the political, economic and ecological realities which give us our daily bread, tank of petrol, etc., just by listening to Radio 4. Our standard of living is bought at the expense of indigenous peoples and their environment, the world over; so:

"Make the Connections - Break the Links"

"Red Moss is Saved" - Oh No It Isn't

As predicted in Magpie 85, Bolton Met. Borough recently announced intention to proceed with a planning application to allow Waste Management UK to create "Greater Manchester's Millennium Monument", pardon, super-tip; a lucrative man-made mountain of our rubbish, 10⁶ million cubic metres in volume, and a mile long.

Underneath this monument to a throw away society would be Red Moss, County's last remaining lowland raised mire, a living sample of botanical history and refuge for plants, insects and birds, squeezed out of other habitats.

The application will have to go to Public Inquiry and who can tell how much weight will be given to Sec. of State John Gummer's declaration in favour of preserving this SSSI - especially if there has been an election? New Labour lies low when it comes to ecology and nature - Bolton's "Green" policies are evidently skin deep, if that, but Bolton West MP, Tom Sackville, is right behind the growing local opposition to the tip (M.E.N. 13/12/95). Good on you Tom, you have nothing to lose but your marginal voters. Bolton recycles only 3% of its rubbish. Manchester is no better. We can all help to save Red Moss.

Watch out for outbursts of expediency and double-speak. Contact Friends of the Earth or Bolton Wildlife Project for updates. See the excellent article in February's Lancashire Life.

THE ANTHONY PHELPS CORNER

Despite the NRA - Living in Didsbury, I often walk along the River Mersey between Stockport and Stretford. Knowing what a real river can be like, I find it a sad experience, especially just missing seeing the Autumn Crocus when the NRA mowers get there first!

However, this year, I started to get quite enthusiastic on my walks. Over the past few years, I'd been noticing the spread of River Water Crowfoot in the river (a clean water indicator), and now there's hardly a stretch where its long, flowing tresses cannot be seen. This summer I thought somebody had been planting reeds, as there were emergent clumps spaced all along "my bit". These flowered, and turned out to be Bur-reed. Near Princess Road bridge, I found one plant of Flowering Rush in bloom, and a smallish patch of Amphibious Bistort. This display was softened by a moving carpet of Duckweed, in areas of slower flow (better not tell the NRA about that!).

There is a theory that this blossoming of the Mersey happened because of the low water levels brought about by the drought, but all -is that I will be out again, this year, wondering what will turn up next.



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Campaigning for Animals - If you didn't know, I'm a vegan, and as I've got a bit more into it, find myself increasingly involved in animal welfare and anti-cruelty groups.

One of the groups I support is the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). Their latest campaign is a repeat of their original one, to stop the seal slaughter off the east coast of Canada. The sad thing about this resumption is not that "seals eat fish", which has always struck me as being a lame excuse for killing them, but one part of them, their penises, are valuable in Asia as an aphrodisiac. It is being denied that this is the prime reason for the resumption of the cull, as the Canadians state that the whole of the seal is commercially valuable. However, it is well documented that the meat is being sold cheaply, simply to be fed to foxes incarcerated in farms for their fur.

The first part of this campaign asks supporters to write letters to the major salmon buyers (supermarkets included), asking them to buy American fish instead (why not buy British Salmon - Ed). The second part is to take postcards into local shops, asking them to do the same.

I decided that, as I don't use any major supermarkets, and don't buy fish, I'd compose a letter to send to them all. So far I've had about a 50% response and despite the fact that these companies are supposedly in competition with each other, the replies are remarkably similar - basically that the east coast fishermen are the baddies, and that they only buy fish from the west coast fishery which is completely separate. To this "agument" I say "Bunkum", not because it's what I'd really say but because it's more likely to get printed!

If you would like to add your voice to the campaign, send me a stamped, addressed envelope (with another 19p stamp to cover copying costs), and I'll send you a copy of the address list, together with an example of my letter, which you can adapt.

City Council Poisons Wildlife - I don't know what substances the council uses to control weeds, but even three or four years after the

spraying of the banks around Southern Cemetery bus station, very few species can be found emerging from the bare soil.

I find it ironic that we were refused permission by the Planning Department to plant a wildlife hedge on this very area "because it would attract litter". I haven't noticed any reduction in the litter problem since the council sprayed. At least the vegetation "hid" some of the litter!

Magpie Impressions - One day, about five or 80 years ago, when I was crossing the bailey bridge at Chorlton Water Park, a bird rose from the edge of the river. As I was lifting my binoculars for a closer view, the thought "magpie" crossed my mind, but instantly vanished as I found myself watching a Carrion Crow with pure white wing bars.

This "genetic imperfection", or partial albinism, has been passed down to succeeding generations, to a greater or lesser extent, but always in the wings. It is now quite a frequent sighting to see two, three or more "white winged crows" along the river.

If you notice strange or unusual colourations or patternings on bird or other wild creatures, please let me know.

Wildlife on the Allotments

by Roger Moore

The Brighton Grove Allotments site is tucked away between school fields and housing, roughly midway between Birchfields and Platt Fields parks. It is edged by mature trees and a brook runs through the middle. Being well protected, there is only occasional vandalism, and this gives the plot holders the confidence to grow a wide variety of fruit, flowers and vegetables. There's a nice mix of people, some of whom, like myself, garden organically. Lots of steaming piles of manure and compost "feed the soil, not the plants".

A couple of years ago, the allotment association put a plan together to enhance the site for wildlife and applied for a "Nature in the City" grant from Manchester City Council. This was successful and several hundred

pounds was duly coughed up - yes they actually "made it happen" for once!

The association bought some quality pond liners, nest boxes, bulbs, plants and shrubs chosen for their wildlife value. These were distributed to the allotment tenants who dug their ponds and planted the plants on their plots. Anything remaining was planted up on land surrounding plots and the banks of the brook. I'm sure this has really benefited and attracted wildlife.

The ponds are full of life and little frogs seem to be everywhere. Along with the hedgehogs, they bring the added benefit of slug control. (Slugs do not have many friends amongst vegetable growers!) Very early one bright morning I was privileged to see two dragonflies emerging from my own pond (built incidentally using guidance from previous "Magpie's") slowly filling out their wings ready for their first flight. I was transfixed - and consequently late for work; but that's another story.....

Other times I've been startled to see a pair of foxes in broad daylight around 10 am. Talking to other plot holders it seems they are regular visitors, and stoats have been seen too.

Kestrels, sparrowhawks and herons regularly fly over the site - I often wonder where they are from, and where they are going. There are numerous small birds; tits, dunnocks, robins, finches of all kinds and very noisy wrens. I've heard jays, though have yet to catch sight of them, and seen migrants like redwings and fieldfares. Sometimes, while taking a break on my own plot in the cool of an early summer's evening, watching the comings and goings of insects and birds, the air heavy with the sweet scent of honeysuckle, it's hard to believe I'm in the middle of a bustling city.....

Oh, and talking of sustainability (which we do, a lot - Ed)...allotment folk are some of the world's greatest recyclers. Just about every item of "rubbish" you could imagine finds a good use. From old carpets to kettles, from baths to bins, and no skip is left unturned in the search for old timber and glass!

It's a shame the City Council don't help more; e.g. by tipping autumn leaves, gathered from local parks (excellent for leaf mould to use as a soil conditioner AND avoids using peat), or delivering woodchip from park's prunings (good for paths and mulches) or old timber, metal rods, flags etc. from demolition (for cold frames, cloches and compost bins). Are the Sustainability Group aware of this? Could they promote allotments as good for people, good for wildlife and great savers of "food miles"?

Two of the plot holders may be opening their particularly attractive allotments to the public for one day this year, as part of a national scheme. Proceeds go to charity; they're well worth a visit. Watch nearer the time for more details.

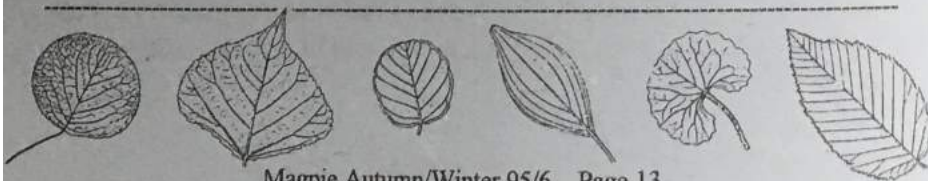
NOTE: From the Manchester Local Agenda, Greening, Land-use and Open Space Action Group Convenor - The Action Group has taken on food production (agriculture, horticulture, permaculture, etc.) as part of its remit. We could do with more input on these subjects, so if there are any allotment holders who would like to take part please phone the LA 21 Forum Administrator on 0161-236 5195 and ask to be put on the mailing list.

"We used to grow food here. Now we grow cotton; but you can't eat cotton. We sell the cotton for money; but you can't eat money."

Old man in Turkmenistan

Woodland Action Week

We apologise for the short notice given for this event but hope you can get involved in caring for the woodlands in Greater Manchester. This event is organised by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) and runs from February the 17th to the 25th. Some events are on our Events List; for information on others in the area, phone the BTCV on 0161-872 7640. Please try to take part. Trees need your help if we are to have a healthy environment for future generations to enjoy.



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Local Agenda 21 IS Rubbish!

by Ian Brown

I once said, "You can tell what the average Mancunian thinks about their environment by the amount of rubbish they throw at it." (You've said it again - Ed)

Heald Green, where I live, was disgraceful; the council have recently tidied it up but it is almost back to normal. Why the council should have to spend the money of the many, clearing up the mess of the few, is a little mystifying.

Strange how other European countries do not seem to have a problem with litter; householders and shopkeepers can be seen sweeping the streets though, in truth, there is little to sweep up.

And I'm not just talking about the littering of the streets, which is bad enough, but fly-tipping in our woods, streams and other of our rare and rapidly decreasing wildlife havens. It takes little time and effort to scatter the rubbish about (a degree in stupidity helps!) but it costs a fortune in time and resources to clear it up. Having said that, one often wonders at the trouble some people must take to find a remote dumping ground for their old T.V. set, or carpet or, well you name it, we've seen it.

What we need is a campaign to "Get Britain Tidy"; "Keep Britain Tidy" or "Tidy Britain" don't seem to have quite filled the bill (or the bin). Some dramatic publicity is needed to impress on people the consequences of dropping litter; from the place looking a mess, at best, to the drowning of young boys in culverts, at worst.

Just throwing litter in the bin is not good enough; what we need is less of it. There are several ways to achieve this end. Expanding on the Greenpeace slogan, "Reuse - Reduce - Recycle", here is a slightly more comprehensive way to start solving the problem.

Reduce - Cut down on consumption. Before buying anything, think; do you really need it? There is a "Factor of 10 Club" whose aim is to cut consumption to a tenth of present levels (in the richer countries presumably). I will try to find out more about this, but in the meantime we could be working our way towards this goal. The latest thing I've cut out is the use of shampoo, on the principal that clean, hot water is quite adequate for the washing of one's hair. What next? Suggestions on a postcard please.

Refuse - that carrier bag: when out shopping, take a bag with you. If you really need something, choose the least packaged alternative. Why some things need packaging is a mystery. Take dry cell batteries; do they need to be sold in a bubble pack, put in a

paper bag and then a carrier bag? Could they not be sold loose and carried home in your pocket?

Reuse - If you buy rechargeable batteries, these can be "re-used" 100 times, or more, and carrier bags can be used to destruction rather than being thrown away after only one use. Don't buy disposables like razors, pens (try a fountain pen) and, dare I say, nappies; now there's a problem if you like.

Repair - A difficulty here is that many things cost more to repair than they do to buy. A solution could be to buy better quality goods which will last longer and be worthwhile repairing. A Bodger Brown chair?

Return - Returnables seem to have gone out of fashion but there's still the milk bottle. Even if door step deliveries do cost a little more than milk from the supermarket, it's worth paying extra to avoid the problems caused by having to throw away plastic containers (see later).

Recycle - This rightly comes last. Do all the above first then recycle as much as you can of what is left. Most of your rubbish is worth something. Aluminium cans can be sold for cash (freephone Alcan 0800 262465 for details). Give the money raised to your favourite wildlife group. Put steel cans in the bin; in Stockport, and other districts, these are extracted, along with other ferrous items. Glass and paper can go to the recycling centre. Clothing etc. to charities (don't forget, I need somewhere to shop). Plastic is a problem; it has been recycled, for years, on a commercial scale but one wonders if it is environmentally sustainable on a domestic scale. But as you will be buying less stuff in plastic bottles and other containers that should solve that problem. Buy concentrated drinks and detergents (e.g. Stardrops), etc. in glass bottles which can then be returned or recycled.

An important thing to remember, when recycling, is energy use. For example, the energy saved making new glass from old, as compared to using raw materials (per kilo), is equivalent to the energy used to propel a car one mile. So don't make a special journey, by car, to the recycling bank; only go when you are passing on a necessary trip.

I am told it is the intention in Manchester to raise the amount of our rubbish recycled from 3% to 25%. I say this is not good enough. If the guidelines above are followed, I estimate that 75% would be possible. If I had an open fire I would not have to leave any rubbish out for the bin collection, except steel.

Recycling facilities vary from district to district. In Stockport, community recycling units have been installed. There are now 100 of these and they are conveniently situated in local shopping areas. This means you can WALK to the shops with your

re-used bag full of paper and bottles, dump them in the recycling bins, do your shopping and then pick up aluminium cans, on the way home. There'll be a fresh supply tomorrow! (But remember, I've got the concession for Heald Green). In Manchester, recycling facilities seem to be diminishing but we hope this will be reversed. If you would like to run a recycling unit, to raise money for your favourite voluntary group, phone Mike Shearing at the Sustainability Group on 234 4629. Then read the article - Local Agenda 21 is RUBBISH.

Then there's composting. All garden waste, and organic domestic waste (except meat), can be put on the compost heap. The result is a beautiful rich loam which can be used to enrich the soil in your vegetable plot and save you buying fertilisers and peat (from one of our disappearing peat mosses). Compost bins and wormeries can be purchased from your council at bargain prices. In Manchester, phone 273 4578 Ext. 214 and in Stockport, Mark Rimmer 474 4889.

Part of Local Agenda 21 is Education and Consultation. If my experience while collecting recyclable materials is anything to go by, a lot of education is needed on the subject of recycling. There are many examples but finding bottles, strewn on the ground and in the waste bin, right next to a bottle bank is one of the best.

All of this may be old stuff to some of you; if so and you have some great ideas for reducing waste, let us know. Better still, why not take part in the Waste & Pollution Action Group. Phone the Manchester LA21 Forum, Tel. 236 5195 for more details.

So, what has all this to do with wildlife. Well, all the rubbish we throw away has to go somewhere. In the case of Greater Manchester this could be Red Moss. This SSSI represents one of our rarest wildlife habitats. DON'T USE IT, OR LOSE IT, or as it says on the cover:

Reduce + Refuse + Reuse + Repair + Return + Recycle = Less Landfil-Misguided Bolton Councillors = RED MOSS SAVED?

Many times I have heard it said that what the individual can do will not make a difference. Don't forget, there are 60 million individuals in this country; acting together they can make a considerable difference. If not YOU, then who?

So what else is happening in Local Agenda 21? The Action Groups are going strong and about to hand in their Initial Statements. Public consultation will be between March and June, this year, with the hope that the draft document will be out by the end of the year.

Just out: "Manchester City Vision" the newsletter of the Manchester Local Agenda 21 Forum. Copies should be available in libraries, information centres and similar places

but if you have a problem finding one, phone the Sustainability Group on 0161-234 4527. Full of interesting information and all the contacts if you want to become more involved.

But what of Sustainable Development? We're still waiting for examples in Manchester; if you have any, let us know. I'm still looking, but the only developments I hear of do not seem to fill the bill. Arenas; concert halls; Commonwealth Games; 2nd runway; art show; offices, shops and conference facilities at the Great Northern Warehouse; hotels; we may enjoy some of these but there is no way that they can be said to come under the heading of sustainable development. As a U.S. businessman once said, "We can't all make a living opening doors for one another." (From: "As it Seemed to Me" by John Cole) It seems to me that that sums it up very nicely.

Local Agenda 21 is RUBBISH!

by Unity Kelly

By their deeds shall ye know them. It is now two years since MW was asked if we would be willing to adopt and benefit from a bottle bank in Rusholme. A site was eventually agreed, over a year ago, in the Aldi car park on Great Western Street and that's as far as it has got. Mike Shearing, Waste Minimisation Officer, explained that Manchester City Council have decided, in its infinite wisdom, that sites for bottle banks need planning permission, even on car parks, adding to the time and cost involved in getting them established. Other councils don't find this necessary. Manchester now has fewer bottle bank sites - those in Withington Village and at Dales (ASDA) in Longsight have gone. In the same period Stockport has installed 100 Mini-recycling sites (glass, cans and paper). Do you get the feeling that someone up there is not really bothered?

I use the University bottle banks but the glass all goes in one bin and the University runs them as a loss-making cosmetic exercise. The nearest plastic recycling skip is in East Didsbury - only I need a car to shift the collection now. I don't want my rubbish to end up on Red Moss or produce dioxins from an incinerator, or be part of some Mickey Mouse scheme. Will Local Agenda 21 come to my aid?

WILDLIFE GARDENING - Part 2

by Lesley Bernadis

ANIMALS

Birds - There is a lot you can do to attract birds. Small birds (robin, wren, tits, sparrows) will appreciate lots of shelter - this means a high hedge, preferably with some evergreen shrubs, which is allowed to grow fairly rough; to provide immediate shelter from predators, roosting places during cold, rain and wind, and possible nest sites in spring. Larger-predatory birds will be discouraged by high hedges - landing is not too bad but take off can be problematical. Of course, all birds appreciate food, especially in winter. Finally, if birds build nests under your eaves, make sure they remain undisturbed - damage to property will be negligible. Bird nesting boxes are a possibility, but don't be surprised if they are neglected in favour of your eaves.

Mammals - Hedgehogs can survive in your garden but suitable hibernation sites are rare, so winter mortality is a problem (you could try a hedgehog box - send 2x19p stamps for a plan - Ed). Also, encouraging hedgehogs to live near a busy main road is inadvisable as they have little road sense. On the whole, the hedgehog is not well suited to urban living unless your garden is close to a natural feature such as a golf course, park or river valley. **Mice, Voles, etc.** - These are unlikely to survive in an urban area because of the high population of cats which are almost as nocturnal as mice. **Bats** - quite rare in the heavily urbanised areas, especially where the houses are modern and likely to be weather-tight. Bats will not damage your property and remember, they are protected by law. It is important not to disturb their hibernation, as that could easily be fatal. If you find a bat colony you should report it to the national bat census - via the local bat group. (See Useful Contacts on back cover.)

Amphibians - The chance of frogs being successfully introduced into your garden is high. All you need is a pond and generally frogs will find it. If this does not happen, frog spawn can be introduced in mid to late March and a friend or neighbour may be a good source of supply. Failing that, you could ask Chorlton Water Park Wardens (Tel. 881 5639) if you may take some of the frog spawn donated by local residents like me. If you have cats, don't worry, frogs still seem to survive. **Newts** - I have never tried breeding them but I understand that they require a large pond and large grassy surroundings free of predators such as cats and dogs, so they are probably not suited to an urban location.

Butterflies and Moths - These are so impressive and quite easy to attract to your garden by planting nectar-rich plants such as Buddleia but providing conditions for

breeding is more difficult. Even if you have the correct caterpillar food plants it is not easy to create the ideal conditions. I have bred Cinnabar Moths on Ragwort, in East Anglia - breathtaking. *Bees and Wasps* - if you find a nest of one of these creatures, do not disturb it. Bees and wasps are important for plant pollination and will almost certainly not sting people who do not interfere with them. For people with a vegetable plot, bumble bees are vital for the pollination of some vegetables, such as runner beans. *Spittle bugs* - which as larvae live in the white "spittle" attached to plants in spring and summer - when adult, it is amazing to see how far they can jump and this is very entertaining for children - an ideal introduction to wildlife. *Hover flies* - often disguised as wasps but distinguished by their ability to hover. It's hard to believe, but there are possibly over 100 different species in Britain. They are excellent pollinators. *Spiders* - a good indicator of the success of your transition to a wildlife lifestyle.

Snails - much more entertaining than slugs, and suited to an anti-slug habitat of woody plants. They rarely succeed to plague proportions and are very pretty in their spring breeding colours.

Good luck with your wildlife gardening. If you need any specific advice, Manchester Wildlife should be able to help. See contact list for phone numbers.

We still have a few of the excellent RSNC Wildlife Gardening leaflets - send in your order, to the editor with 3x19p stamps to cover cost and postage - send 4 stamps and we'll include the hedgehog box plan.

COALITION AGAINST RUNWAY II

by Des Poiler

While we are on the subject of the airport, there was a note at the end of Magpie 35, "Manchester Aviation Tree Challenge?", and you were promised more next issue. Well this is the next issue and the only reason for the mention was that we thought it rather ironic that the Airport, and several airlines, should be sponsoring a tree planting scheme when, if Runway II gets the go ahead, they will be responsible for the destruction of many acres of ancient woodland, and much more. "Never mind the wildlife, feel the sponsorship!"

This leads us to the subject in hand. A new organisation, who are calling themselves, Coalition Against Runway II (CAR II), has been set up with a single aim: to stop runway 2 at Manchester. Any person who is in sympathy with this aim is welcome to join in.

There are many arguments for and against - mainly against - a second runway. The pro arguments rely on the claim that up to 50,000 jobs will be created. This claim, made by Manchester City Council, a major shareholder in Manchester Airport plc, has now been revoked and disclaimed by many, notably MCC itself (an MMC witness at the public inquiry stated that only 8,500 jobs would be created). There are other covert arguments for the runway but these are largely played down because of their highly sensitive nature; being concerned with massive financial and political capital to be made by a few individuals. (Same old story.)

Arguments against the runway proposal are diverse, and as many as there are people who will be detrimentally affected by it. Here are some of the arguments: Reference to the Green Party report "Pigs Can Fly", which outlines the economic arguments, will indicate that rather than being an advantage, a second runway would actually be a burden on the local and national economy. Further considerations define the proposal as, what some environmentalists describe as "A major environmental catastrophe" affecting not only the local area but as a contributor to global warming and ozone depletion.

For the people, the wildlife and the natural environment in the North West, there will be unprecedented upheaval and destruction: 700 acres of open countryside and woodland, some compulsorily purchased from the National Trust - The River Bollin to be diverted through a concrete culvert - Wildlife habitats, including 140 ponds, many badger setts, and much prime farmland will be destroyed - 4 MILLION TONS of rubble and hard-core will be dumped in the Bollin Valley in order to create a 90 ft. high embankment to carry the runway.

The calculated usage levels will saturate the local road network as one vehicle every two seconds arrives at the airport. That is 30 million extra journeys per year. This could create the need for another 120 miles of motorway and add to the levels of noise and air pollution, globally and in the most air-polluted region in the country.

WHAT YOU CAN DO - Join the protest - Contact CAR II for more info. - Write to, or better, lobby your MP, Councillor, Euro MP - Form a local group. Direct actions will be taking place.

(Information from the Coalition Against Runway II - Tel. 0161-225 4863)

There will be a conference on Runway II organised by Environment, Transport and Planning Research on Saturday March the 3rd at Manchester Metropolitan University. Booking: Martin Lever 0161-226 0919. Low rates for local groups and individuals - should be a thought provoking day as many interesting speakers are booked.

Trees in our Time

by Fellina Tree

With impeccable timing, Manchester University celebrated National Tree Week by felling a large grove of healthy deciduous and evergreen trees, including holly, yew, oak and cherry. Squirrel corpses were spotted in skips and the outrage- reached the local papers and The Independent. Somehow, the resident academics, close to the site, behind Owens Park and next to the Botanical Garden, had missed the warning signs. Even the usually vigilant student Green groups were wrong footed. No doubt the University authorities and Harris were able to congratulate themselves that no "tree dwellers" had got wind of the clearance for yet another car park, right in front of C.P. Scott's historic residence, The Firs. It augers well for the University's lead role in Local Agenda 21, doesn't it?

Cars first and trees last - Floreat academia!

The BBC 2 Wildlife Special, about City Trees, fronted by UWP President, Prof. Chris Baines, obviously struck a chord with the concerned public. People mentioned it to me on busses and in the streets. Will it come out on video? All planners and City Engineers should be made to watch it.

We've had years of propaganda about tree planting, even in Manchester, but what people see and experience, in their own neighbourhoods, is a continual process of tree felling or mutilation. This has been worse than ever throughout 1995, to judge by the constant stream of anguished and outraged phone calls which we receive. Often it seems that perfectly healthy trees are removed wholesale, with no evidence of disease in the stumps. Street trees have been targeted in the last 12 months. There seems nothing planned to take their place, and we have not yet begun to experience the inevitable consequences of the Nynex trenching. Perhaps the felling of mature street trees is some sort of pre-emptive strike to avoid future claims and recriminations?

A noble beech tree, outside the Manor House pub in Withington, took matters into its own branches by falling down and blocking the Wilmslow Road on the 8th of January. A spokesman for the City Engineers said, "The tree had appeared to be intact above ground but it looked as if there had been damage to the roots, which may have caused it to fall."

All these local losses will pale into insignificance once the M66 contractors slice through the Medlock and Goyt Valleys and if the 2nd (and 3rd?) runway is given the go ahead to remove entire ancient woodlands.

NO M66 CAMPAIGNERS - need your help - tools, building stuff,
food, ropes, plastic sheet, etc.
Phone 0161-344 0225

Poetry

On the departure of Manchester's Countryside Officer,
Elaine Norsworthy.

Corner

So farewell Elaine,
Wildlife Matters.....
Didn't.
You knew that
and went.

So welcome mercurial Tony Jones,
Calling a spade
a conservation fashion accessory.
May the Mersey Basin
Trust in you.

E.J. Thrip 54 and three quarters

Tony Jones replaces Phil Barton as Director of the Mersey Basin Trust. Phil retired, after being in the post since the Trust's formation, but is still alive and well, and doing good work in Manchester. Tony comes to us via the Urban Wildlife Partnership, Hackney, and Liverpool Local Agenda 21. We wish them both well in their new posts.



Members' Day

This will take place on Saturday the 27th of April. The main event of the day will be Environment Question Time, which is being repeated as it was such a success, last year. If you missed what was described as, "One of the best events I've been to", make sure you are there, this year. There will be other activities, of interest, taking place and it will be a great opportunity to meet like minded urban wildlifers.

The final programme will be advertised in the Spring "Magpie", but in the meantime, make a note in your diary so that you don't miss out on one of the most fascinating days out in the wildlife calendar.

WELCOME TO HELL!

by Tim Lepidus

or,

Arrest that man with the banner.

I spent 11 hours, on a freezing day, stood by a roundabout in Cheadle. The occasion was the opening of the Sainsbury's and John Lewis stores, at what is called the Cheadle Royal retail park, on the 25th of October 1995.

At around 8.30 of the forenoon I pitched a banner which proclaimed - "SAINSBURY'S DESTROY BRUNTWOOD MEADOWS - Boycott Sainsbury's" - in a highly visible position by the entrance to the superstores. The reason I describe it as hell is that I didn't realise that there were so many cars in the world. They never stopped coming, not all going to the superstores but many passing through. It seemed to be an effort to export the polluting, inner-city traffic to an area which was, until recently, almost rural.

Quite early on in the proceedings I was privileged to receive a visit from the management. Their opening remark was, "I don't suppose it's much use asking you to take down your banner." I replied in the affirmative. They extolled the virtues of their store and I told them what I thought of it and the destruction of the meadows, finishing by saying that, Sainsbury's didn't give a d*** about the environment". The older of the two pointed to the nearly full car park saying, "It's what people want", and they left, promising to get the company to write explaining their position; they haven't. Not much point, really!

John Turner walked over from Bredbury to keep me company for a while, which was welcome. A few people passed on foot, most of them disorientated by massive new road works; one woman, on her way to the store, saw my banner saying she thought it

(the banner) was wrong, that the new stores were wonderful and, "you can't stop progress". Progress, forsooth; if I ever see any I'll let you know.

Three Earth Firsters! came over to let me know that six of their number were going into Sainsbury's, with banners, for a more intimate contact with the shoppers. A little later, the police activity was testament to the success of their venture. Two had got onto the roof, banners unfurled, and four were arrested for aggravated trespass and disrupting the opening ceremony. Their case came up on the 22nd of January at Stockport Magistrates Court. I went along with the banner to give support; joined by Anthony and John. There was no case to answer to, on both counts; they had come down from the roof, when asked by the police, and the opening ceremony had finished ninety minutes before the protesters had entered the store. The Magistrates had wanted them to be bound over (I thought you had to be found guilty for that) but they refused. Their solicitor said that the police should also be bound over, as they had also been on the roof. After further discussion, the accused were released and are now suing the police for wrongful arrest. When the police were at the store, the manager said that he wanted "that man on the roundabout" arrested as well. Apparently he wasn't best pleased. In some ways it's a pity I wasn't arrested; I could have made a bit of money out of it.

Some have asked, what is the point of continuing to protest now that the stores are open. I think we should continue to inform people of the fact that Bruntwood Hay Meadows have been destroyed and hope it will make Sainsbury's, and their like, think again before doing similar damage to our precious countryside. If you would like to join us on our next Bruntwood vigil, phone the editor.

Finally, thank you to two other Manchester Wildlife members who turned up, on the afternoon of opening day, with their banner proclaiming - "Sainsbury's - Not Wildlife's Favourite Ingredient".

How do they do that?

by Malcolm Practice

Apres Manchester Unitary Development Plan, we might have been excused for thinking it had now been settled as to where development could take place and what kind of development it could be. But no; recently there has been a spate of departures from the UDP, applications for change of use and selling off of open land. (People don't buy open land in urban areas unless they wish to develop it.)

A recent example is some land in the Medlock Valley (Ancoats) which the Council advertised for sale. A Mercedes franchise showed interest and

put in an application for a sales and servicing establishment. There was much opposition, from both conservation groups and local residents, and we hope this was why the developers withdrew their application.

Then there is the application to build houses on part of Longford Park and the sale of open land fronting Queens Park. So watch out, your **open spaces** are up for grabs.

And what about the open land on the south edge of Woodhouse Park, near the airport. It was designated for business use in the U.D.P.; at the inquiry it was stated that this was an important strategic site and would be for high quality offices, etc. with generous landscaping. It's now a car park; I've only seen it in the dark but they appear to be charging £3 per day. We've twice supported the Council in opposing the use of this land for car parking. Never mind the orchids; this-Grade A Site of Biological Importance was probably the best example of bio-diversity in Manchester. It's a funny old world.

Surveys Surveys Surveys Surveys Surveys Surveys Surveys

Pond Survey - We would like to know about the health of ponds and the creatures which make them their homes. Do you have a garden pond? Could you check the numbers of breeding frogs? If you can here is what to do. About mid-March, when the frog spawn is freshly laid, count the clumps of spawn (the product of each female). This can be done by hand or by using a stick to separate the clumps. If you have a local open space, with a pond, perhaps you could do the same there. Also, look for evidence of toads, a little later on in the spring. Their spawn is laid in strings and can be found in shallow water at the pond's edge; probably amongst reeds. "fish" amongst the reeds with a stick. If you come up with a string of spawn, try again, there may be more, and again, to give an idea of how many toads there may be. Don't forget to replace all spawn. Let us know your results. Any other evidence of pond life would be appreciated; dragonflies, beetles, pondskaters, etc.

Winter Bird Feeding Survey - Because of late publication it has not been possible to supply you with the usual forms, in time for the start of the winter season. If you are a regular and would still like to take part in the survey, simply note the birds you see in your garden, each week. You may have already started; if so, please keep going. At the end of March, please send your results in to Janet Gorst at 39 Mauldeth Close, Heaton Mersey, Stockport, SK4 3NP. If you have any problems you could phone Janet on 0161-431 8803. We hope to be back to normal for the next survey.

Butterflies - Thank you to the members who sent in butterfly survey reports, last year. Yes the survey still continues. More details in the spring "Magpie". It is important to know how healthy our open spaces are for wildlife. Butterflies are a good indicator so when we know where they are we will be better able to protect their habitats.

Talking about indicators - Light trap surveys of moths, in Heald Green, have revealed an interesting fact on the bio-diversity of the area. In 1994, there were 220 species of moths trapped; in 1995 this was down to 180 species. Could this decline have anything to do with the building of the Sainsbury/John Lewis superstore on Bruntwood Meadows; you bet your life it could!



Interested in WATCH - See Events List

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USEFUL CONTACTS:

RSNC, Urban Wildlife Partnership	Chris Gordon, 01522 544400
Cheshire Wildlife Trust	(North Group, Trafford), Liz Blackman, 0161-962 6748 (Wilmslow Group), Tony Browne, 0161-436 1761
Lancashire Wildlife Trust	Bolton Wildlife Project, 01204 361847
BTCV	(Salford & Trafford), Val Sutton, 0161-872 7640 (day) (Sale & Altrincham), Shelagh Aston, 0161-860 6910 (Stockport), Kim Porter, 01625 874729 (weekends & evenings)
British Trust for Ornithology	(Greater Manchester Recorder), Judith Smith, 01942 712615
Red Rose Forest Team	Jonathan Woods, 0161-872 1660
RSPB	(Stockport Group), Tony O'Neill, 0161-962 2449 (Manchester Group), Simeon Rydz, 0161-945 3831
South Lancashire Bat Group	Martin Prescott, 0161-796 6211
Mammals/Insects	(Bolton Museum), Steve Garland, 01204 522311
Amphibians/Ponds	Dave Bentley, 0161-724 8602
Mersey Valley Wardens	(Sale), 0161-905 1100; (Chorlton), 0161-881 5639
Medlock & Tame Valley Conservation Association	Mildred Burlinson, 0161-330 2721
Manchester LA21 Forum	Brenda Sedgwick, 0161-236 5195
Manchester Sustainability Group	Adrian Pearce, 0161-234 4594
Stockport Countryside Ranger Service	Dewi G Morris, 0161-477 5637
Traford Council	Roz Park, 0161-912 4174
Manchester FoE	0161-834 8221
Manchester Earth First!	0161-274 4665 (Day), 0161-248 9224 (Evening)
Networking Newsletter	Michael Bane, 01457 871609

257 3613 print

Richard 257 3340
Mark Hugh Owen

Manchester Wildlife is a networking organisation. You are included on our Contacts Lists, are we included on yours?

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"Standing Up For Wildlife"

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 1996

Woodland Action Week

- Sunday 18th **Woodland Management** - Kenworthy Fields, Mersey Valley. Meet 11 am. Chorlton Water Park Car Park, Maitland Avenue (off Barlow Moor Road) or on site - contact Ian Brown 437 7040 for details. Wear strong footwear and old clothes. Bring lunch.
- Friday 23rd **Coppicing** - Chorlton Ees. With B.T.C.V. Contact 872 7640
- Sunday 25th **Woodland Management** - Details as for 18th February.
- Nature Walk and Woodland Activities** - Kenworth Fields and Chorlton Water Park. Details as for 18th February. Suitable for children.
- Persons under 16 years of age must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

? ? **Local Agenda 21 - Public Consultation Launch** - This will be more interesting than it sounds. Phone Ian Brown 437 7040 for details.

March 1996

- Sunday 10th **English Martyrs School - Spring Clean** - General management work on this school nature area. Meet 12 noon at the school - Manley Road/Alexandra Road, Whalley Range. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040.
- Tuesday 12th **Social Meeting** - Old Monkey Public House, Portland St./Princess St Time 7.30 pm. Convenient for Piccadilly bus station and Metrolink (St. Peter's Square/Piccadilly). Contact Ian Brown 437 7040.
- Wednesday 20th **Manchester Watch Group** - Meeting to restart the Watch Group (Young person's section of the Wildlife Trusts) At Parrs Wood Centre for Rural Education. Time 4.30 to 6.30 pm. Contact Chris Swinburn Tel. 248 8279.
- Thursday 28th **General Meeting** - Time 7.30 pm. At the One World Centre, Friends Meeting House Basement, Central Street (off Mount Street) Contact Unity Kelly 226 4583.

April 1996

- To be announced. **Strategic Planning Meeting** - 7.30 pm at the home of Unity Kelly, 13 Ruskin Avenue, Rusholme - Contact 226 4583
- Tuesday 9th **Social Meeting** - Old Monkey Public House, Portland St./Princess St Time 7.30 pm. Convenient for Piccadilly bus station and Metrolink (St. Peter's Square/Piccadilly). Contact Ian Brown 437 7040.
- Saturday 27th **Members' Day/AGM** - Parrs Wood Centre for Rural Education. Starts at 10 am. **Environment Question Time** about 2 am. More details in next "Magpie" - Not to be Missed.

May 1996

- Sunday 12th **Spring Walk - Lonto's Lake to Gatley Carrs** - Meet 1 am at Tatton Arms by Northenden Weir, Mill Lane (off Palatine Road, Northenden. Join us on a leisurely nature walk. Wear strong footwear and clothing appropriate for weather. Bring lunch. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040.
- Tuesday 14th **Social Meeting** - Old Monkey Public House, Portland St./Princess St Time 7.30 pm. Convenient for Piccadilly bus station and Metrolink (St. Peter's Square/Piccadilly). Contact Ian Brown 437 7040.

Friday 17th

BT Environment Week Starts

If taking part in practical conservation tasks, please make sure that your tetanus injections are up to date

MEMBER OF



Putting *wildlife* on the map

MANCHESTER WILDLIFE CALENDAR 1996

JANUARY

9th: New Year Social Meeting
14th: Tree Pruning, Reddish Mini-Wood
16th: Strategic Planning Meeting [1/96]
25th: General Meeting

FEBRUARY

13th: Social Meeting
17th: BTCV Woodland Action Week starts
18th: Kenworthy Fields - Coppicing
25th: BTCV Woodland Action Week ends
25th: Kenworthy Fields - Hedge Weaving (Children Welcome)

MARCH

10th: English Martyrs School, Whalley Range - Tidy Up
12th: Social Meeting
28th: General Meeting, One World Centre

SPRING MAGPIE



APRIL

TBA: Strategic Planning Meeting [2/96]
9th: Social Meeting
27th: Members' Day/AGM
(includes "Environment Questiontime II")

MAY

12th: Spring Walk - "Loonts Lake to Gatley Carrs"
14th: Social Meeting
17th: BT Environment Week starts
30th: General Meeting
27th: BT Environment Week ends
TBA: Hough End Clough, Knotweed Bash/Tidy Up

JUNE

8th: National Wildlife Week starts
TBA: Quaint and Curious Wildlife Events
11th: Social Meeting
16th: National Wildlife Week ends

SUMMER MAGPIE



JULY

9th: Social Meeting
TBA: Strategic Planning Meeting [3/96]
25th: General Meeting
28th: National Bog Day (date to be confirmed)

AUGUST

13th: Social Meeting
TBA: Parrs Wood Family Fun Day

SEPTEMBER

10th: Social Meeting
26th: General Meeting
TBA: Hough End Clough Hay Cut
TBA: Autumn Walk

OCTOBER

4th: Mersey Basin Weekend starts
7th: Mersey Basin Weekend ends
8th: Social Meeting
21st: "Apple Day"
TBA: Strategic Planning Meeting [4/96]
TBA: Urban Wildlife Partnership AGM and Conference

AUTUMN/WINTER MAGPIE



NOVEMBER

12th: Social Meeting
20th: National Tree Week starts
28th: General Meeting
TBA: Woodland tasks

DECEMBER

1st: National Tree Week ends
10th: Christmas Social Meeting
31st: Accounting Period ends

There will be other events throughout the year, so watch out for the events listings in your Magpie.

For further details, contact:

Ian Brown: 0161-437 7040
Unity Kelly: 0161-226 4583 (plus answerphone)