



MANCHESTER WILDLIFE'S NEWSLETTER

The MAGPIE

Number 37

Spring 96



Standing Up For Wildlife

40p

Editorial

A few errors did turn up in "Magpie" 36. I was blaming them on the computer when some bright spark spotted a little mistake on the front page. Hand written, and sticking out like a sore thumb, I had spelt "Reduce" as "Reduse". No excuse there I'm afraid. Mind you I feel that the mis-spelling had a certain attractive quality to it.

The situation at MARC has been resolved, for the time being. There has been a reduction in the time allocated to DIY work so that more service work (which pays better) can be undertaken. This could cause problems for some voluntary groups but no doubt they can be overcome. A MW member has responded to our plea for helping out at MARC; apparently an expert on computers, so should be of great assistance. Any other volunteers will be most welcome (Phone Steve on 0161-236 0350).

We have taken the decision to move into a small office in the One World Centre. This should enable us to be more accessible. The office will probably consist of a desk, with phone, a filing cabinet and a couple of chairs. It will be a convenient central location where our members can meet, and hopefully do a little work for wildlife. Other voluntary groups have offices in this basement area of the Friends Meeting House, on Mount Street, so the atmosphere is very friendly. There will be more details on this development as time progresses. If you would like to become involved, please get in touch with one of the committee (see contact list). We have been discussing this move for some time but were not sure how it would work out. Now we feel that it is the only way forward, if we are to raise the profile of urban wildlife in Manchester.

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

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Manchester M14 4DP - Tel. 0161-226 4583 (24 hour answerphone)
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West Didsbury, Manchester M20 2JN
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Heald Green, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 3HA - Tel. 0161-437 7040

Fax (One World Centre): 0161-834 8187

From Tree to Chair

by Ian Brown © 1995

*Working in the forest, harvesting the wood.
Thank the Lord for nature's bounty, and for all things good.
Use regeneration, sustain the world with care.
Treading softly on the earth, working from tree to chair.*

*Consumerism makes pollution, mass production feeding greed.
Simple living's the solution, making what we need.
So you're making loads of money, pumping all them oil wells dry.
Now you tell me you're not happy, and you ask me why.*

*Craftsmen through the ages, working with their hands.
Making all that was required, not feeding our demands.
Serving local markets, made with love and care.
Treading softly on the earth, working from tree to chair.*

*How we slash and burn the forests, transport goods from the earth's
ends.
Now's the time to change our habits, and to make amends.
No more belching factory chimneys, roads that kill where nature died.
Offices and supermarkets, destroying countryside.*

*Change your way of living, leave all that behind.
Show them that you love your country, show them that you mind.
Heal the world's destruction, all the harm repair.
Treading softly on the earth, working from tree to chair.*

We must tread softly on this earth, and work from tree to chair.

TREASURE

HUNT

ANTHONY
by
PHELPS

Restore lake refuge

SIR - If migrating birds have their own travel brochures and their equivalent of our TV Watchdog programme they will, no doubt, have been warned against a holiday stay on Loonts Lake in south Manchester.

A few years ago it was designated a site of special interest for wildlife, an area of peace and quiet where they could take a rest on their long migratory journeys.

It became such a popular holiday resort for birds, the lake teemed with wildlife. Some visitors liked it so much they even stayed to breed. Swans made a home there. So did herons, all types of duck, some of them rare species, and kestrel hawks patrolled the banks.

An idyllic setting created by the Mersey Valley Leisure plan, not far from the M63 and adjacent to Didsbury Golf Club, it was an environmental success.

But we all know what councils and some councillors are like, don't we? Loonts Lake by its very nature slipped out of the early limelight and out of the council's atten-

tion. A protective fence erected after two youths lost their lives in the lake-owned by Manchester City Council was torn down by human vandals. Five cygnets were killed, other birds shot at. Nesting sites were destroyed with the result breeding pairs have significantly decreased.

Many birds are now going elsewhere. And who can blame them? A holiday on Loonts Lake for the birds is like spending our summer hols in Sarajevo.

Surely, in this age of environmental awareness, the Manchester City Council, who own the lake, and the Mersey Leisure Valley, who administer the area, can't allow their early success to end in total failure.

The very least they can do is make sure the fencing and the "danger deep water" notices are replaced. It would be a start to restoring the "resort's" safety and popularity among the tourist chiefs of the birdworld.

**Leo White, Didsbury Golf Club,
Ford Lane, Northenden**

I read this letter in the South Manchester Reporter on the 16th of November and decided I had to find "Loonts Lake". All I could find out from a Warden at Chorlton Water Park was that it was on the way to Stockport, and later I found the lake on the A-Z.

On the following Sunday, I went exploring and entered the area from Royle Green Road in Northenden. All that was showing on the map was the Rose Hill Assessment Centre and lots of space. However, the Centre is now closed and most of the land is a housing estate.

Between this housing and Didsbury Golf Course, on a meander of the Mersey, is a wonderful bank of mixed woodland, which included Sweet Chestnut and a Monkey Puzzle. That in itself was lovely to walk through. Luckily I spotted an angler and asked if he was going to "Loonts Lake". He said he'd not heard of that one, but was going to "Dead Man's Lake", and he had known it as that since his childhood (I guessed he was in his mid-thirties). After a short walk on a hard path around the boundary of the course, it led straight to the lake which was surrounded by the fencing mentioned in the article. However, it was very accessible, with most of the fence missing.

The lake is brilliant, with a reed bed at one end and a ring of mature willows. I found a small raft of Tufted Duck, Mallard, Moorhen, one Coot, a Grey Wagtail and two Mute Swans; the cob was ringed "Blue L2J" but his mate was unringed.

After my visit, I found it hard to believe all the war references in the article, although Adam Davidson has since confirmed the loss of four cygnets (sadly, birds are shot or have their nests robbed, wherever you are in this country). This lake showed very little evidence of abuse and certainly a lack of litter. Also, being on the edge of the golf course, and with the presence of anglers, there is little feeling of being threatened.

In response to Mr. White's answers to the perceived problems, I would say that fencing off areas like this will not stop people gaining access, as has been proved in the past. I would hate to be stopped from visiting the lake again and if more decent people used the area, then those who do abuse wildlife would find it more difficult to do so without being caught. I do agree that the warnings about deep water need to be replaced. I'd also like to see a resumption of some management work by the Wardens (or some other group), as the willows are very unkempt.

The area has much potential, it is obviously used by the locals and loved by most of the people who visit. As for access, there are two ways to the lake. The one I have described, and the other is from Longley Lane, down a path opposite Leestone Road.

Last of the Red Hot Sundays!

by Unity Kelly

It was Sunday the 17th of September when three urban wildlifers converged on Piccadilly Station, armed with bikes, binoculars and the A-Z. Our resident photographer wore his paraphernalia. We were off to explore, and record, the vanishing wildlife of Ancoats. We had already been brought to a halt on our bikes by the piercing cries from a pair of Kestrels above Ardwick Green. They were clearly in possession of the conspicuous chimney behind the battlements of Ardwick Barracks, and they performed some animated manoeuvres silhouetted against an eggshell blue sky.

Ironically, the main purpose of our safari was to photograph Helmet Street recreation ground before it disappeared beneath concrete. On my first visit to this doomed oasis I had "flushed" a female Kestrel from the grassy "glade", prey in foot. What hope for the survival of inner city kestrels (our unpaid rat catchers) if their feeding grounds are bulldozed and built over? It's not as if this particular enterprise, helped by a give-away price for the land, will create jobs in significant numbers. Single Storey warehouses operate with minimal staff and should, of course, only be put on clearance sites.

We set off into what is left of the maze of streets behind the station and were attracted by the Victorian appeal of the Moulders' Arms in Heyrod Street. It was the delightful sign, not the beer, which appealed. A patron told us that this area was once known as the Dardanelles because of the regular outbreaks of fighting generated by twenty or more pubs slaking the thirsts of the workers in the heavy engineering workshops.

These have been replaced by an assortment of service businesses set in a landscape of mown grass, garden shrubs and pockets of natural regeneration. As we wandered through the trading estate towards Pin Mill Brow, there was plenty of evidence that wildlife will move in wherever it can. Blackbirds and thrushes were foraging on Elder and Rowan berries, Yellow Toadflax festooned the mellow bricks of a splendid Victorian wall, high as a castle - a true urban cliff overhang with Elder and Bramble, which would have George Barker (EN) in raptures. With the will and knowledge, the landscaping around

industrial estates can be enabled to become ecologically interesting. But not if the Council's Development Guide becomes the rule book.

An expanse of re-seeded greensward behind the wall parapet was covered in rabbit droppings. I hope money is not wasted mowing this area. Where on earth did the rabbits make their burrows? Not in the solid rubble beneath the grass, so we think they must live in tunnels hollowed out at ground level under a dense Bramble thicket which covers the steep embankment above the River Medlock in its concrete canyon.

Descending to Helmet Street "rec" we bid a fond farewell to this leafy wildlife rich urban oasis. The Victorian tiles had "gone" from the floor of the shelter and evidence of its impending destruction was all around. Flowers, birds, blackberries, field mushrooms, more rabbits, some butterflies - another vital link in the fragile chain of urban wildlife, dismissed and destroyed by the City Council. I ate the mushrooms for supper.

Walking back (with bikes) along Helmet Street, towards Great Ancoats Street, we spotted a gap in the fence which our photographer thought would get us closer to the River Medlock, and a few more interesting shots. This provided us with the surprise highlight of the day: a line of buddleias against a south facing brick wall, growing straight out of the post industrial rubble. We were surrounded by butterflies flitting from one purple bloom to another, soaking up the warmth on the wall and piles of timber. Large and Small Whites, Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admirals, Peacock - nothing special (in scientific terms-Ed.) but what a feast of colour and life. The photographer got busy and posing for the camera were several pairs of Painted Ladies. Not the kind you might expect near Piccadilly Station, but the stylish tawny, black and white beauties that migrate to Britain. They were in mint condition - and were the first any of us had seen in Manchester this year; all the more welcome for being so unexpected on this scrap of a site. This is what we mean by saving space for wildlife in cities.

And What of the Nature Conservation Strategy?

Has it been thrown out by the City Council?

The position is a little unclear at the moment.

We are trying to find out the true situation - More in the next "Magpie".

Waste not Waste

The United Arab Emirates wastes nothing. Dirty water is used to irrigate miles of young trees and other plants. Sewage is never, at any stage, put into the sea but only on land. Refuse is ground into a minute mulch and spread on the reclaimed desert farms with the result that greening of the desert is a reality. We buy gallons of their oil. Could we not, in return, send them our processed refuse instead of filling precious land sites.

by Margaret Brown

(Editor's Note: Sounds great but if we were to put raw sewage on our land we must stop pouring nasty chemicals down our drains. Plastics should be removed (and recycled!) before the refuse is ground up.)

Alison Hunt sent us a copy of an article from the Feb 96 BBC Wildlife:

"Make your compost top of the heap" by Peter Harper. An interesting read with good ideas. A compost bin using old car tyres. Make a pile of three tyres on the ground. Put 6 inches of compost in the bottom and fill the voids with scrunched up newspaper. Put in worms and give them a few days to settle in. Then add garden and kitchen waste; add more tyres as the heap builds up. A lid is needed to keep the rain out and the worms need a little lime. When the heap is full, take off the top few tyres and place them on the ground at one side and transfer the freshest compost to these, together with the worms. Put the remaining tyres on top and use the rotted compost. The article also points out that waste paper and card make good compost as they are made from carbon rich cellulose. They won't break down on their own but need nitrogen, such as is present in grass cuttings. Cardboard helps to introduce a more open texture in the compost heap. Urine is another good source of nitrogen; mixed with cardboard it makes a good mulch.

COGGRA FOLD SAVED

by Merton Niven

We have a report in from pond ecologist, Dave Bentley, that Coggra Fold, in Radcliffe, has been saved from an open cast mining development. The inquiry inspector threw out the application on the grounds that it contravened Greater Manchester Structure Plan Policy OL9, which states a presumption against developments effecting Grade A Sites of Biological Importance. The Minerals Local Plan, which protects any grade of SBI from unexceptable impact by mineral working, was also cited as a reason for refusal.

All five species of amphibians were present on the site, including signs of Great Crested Newts breeding in at least 12 ponds. Snipe, Redshank and Lapwing were known to be breeding in the area, part of which is a fine marsh of SBI quality, and the site is listed on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee's invertebrate site register.

The refusal of development was entirely down to the fact that local people had built up a case to prove this wildlife interest. Local voluntary naturalists had done much research and a Mr. J Butterworth has been conducting a BTO census since 1964.

This serves to remind us that those who have long term knowledge on the wildlife of their local area can be of immense importance when it comes to saving sites of wildlife interest.

END OF HOUGH END?

Broughton Park Rugby Club Have Put out a consultation plan to build a stadium on Hough End Playing Fields. They also want to sell their present ground, for housing, to raise money. Neither plan would conform to the Manchester U.D.P. Planning permission has not yet been applied for so there is little we can do officially but we must keep our eye on this one. It could adversely effect Hough End Clough.

Manchester Wildlife Members' Day

*Saturday 27th April 1996 - 10am to 5pm
Parrs Wood Centre for Rural Education, East Didsbury*

*Environment Question Time - 2pm
A Panel of Local "Wildlife Personalities"*

There will be demonstrations of Woodland Crafts, Bodging is back, and new for this year, Besom Making.

There will be exhibitions, with a display from the South Lancashire Bat Group. The Manchester Local Agenda 21 Forum workers will be present.

All that, plus a surprise raffle, will make it a day which is too good to miss out on.

All Welcome - Come along and enjoy yourself.

Raking up the Leaves

by Tim Lepidus

On a recent visit to Wythenshawe Park, I was walking down the main drive, to wards the car park. Well, you know the wood, on the corner where you turn to go to the Horticultural Centre; there was a chap in there raking the leaves from the woodland floor. I thought, "How amazing", or words to that effect. Surely a woodland floor should have leaves on it to encourage the fungi and insects which will break them down to release nutrients into the soil and thus help the trees to grow.

John Steedman, in his leaflet on "Organic Gardening", published by the Horticulture Centre, states this as the main reason for using compost. If its good enough for organic gardening it's good enough for nature.

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I contacted Steve Downie, the Park Manager, to inquire of the reason for this futile exercise. He said it is done to keep the woodland looking tidy but that he would prefer it if they were kept to look more natural. Unfortunately, at the moment, such activities are not entirely under his control but are the responsibility of the City Engineers. Fortunately this is soon to change and Steve will have complete control over the management of Wythenshawe Park. Hopefully, the next time we see rakes being used, in the Park, will be to gather in the hay from the beautiful wildflower rich meadowland.

RUNWAY II CONFERENCE

by Des Poiler

This event, as advertised in "Magpie" 36, was postponed and is now to take place on **Saturday the 20th of April - 10am to 5pm** at the **Manchester Metropolitan University Students' Union, All Saints, Oxford Road.** It was originally to be held at the U.M.I.S.T. Students' Union but we believe that, as U.M.I.S.T. receive funding from Manchester Airport, the event could not go ahead at that location (allegedly).

The programme is as before with many interesting speakers booked. They will cover all aspects of the effects of **Runway II** including the environment and economics. The cost to students and local residents is £5. As this includes two meals it is very good value. To book, simply turn up on the day with your wallet. If you really need to know more contact Mary on 0161-273 1162 (Office Hours).

Another Event That's Too Good To Miss

National Wildlife Week

This takes place from the 8th - 16th of June.
Our Star Event will be a Mini-bus Orchid Safari on the 15th
Bookings will be taken at our Members' Day
or Contact Unity on 0161-226 4583

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Magic Roundabout - This event took place, in Denton, on the roundabout at the north end of the M66. It was organised by the **No M66 Campaign** to highlight their efforts to stop the Denton to Middleton part of the road. Some cyclists were stopped by police, coming out of Manchester, so it is possible that the demonstration could have been larger. Those who did make it took to cycling and walking around the roundabout, causing the desired effect of holding up the traffic to a considerable extent; the tail-back on the motorway must have nearly reached into Stockport. Some motorists were very supportive, despite probably missing the Grand National. Anthony enjoyed the walk but I did not join in as I was busy taking photographs. The highlight was when a Shell tanker turned up (a red rag to a bull) and was stopped for about 20 minutes. The police did nothing to stop the protest, once it had started.

Ian Brown

Butterfly Survey - This survey still continues and we hope you will be out during the spring and summer looking at you local patch to see what butterflies you can discover. Survey forms will not be distributed, this year, to save paper and an extra sheet would have put us overweight on this mailing. (If you desperately need a form contact the Editor.) All you need to do is note the species you see and the date. Also say where they were; name of site with OS or A-Z map reference and names of surrounding streets. Send your results to us and when we get the time we will update our survey records. When we know which sites are good for butterflies we will be better able to save them.

LA 21 Launch

by Ian Brown

The public launch of the Manchester Local Agenda 21 took place at the Town Hall on Thursday the 28th of March. The organisation was good but the security was a little overbearing, considering this was supposed to be a "public" event. The public would have had a job getting in. Some of the speeches were a different matter. We were warned by Joint Forum Chair, Prof. Ian Douglas, that the speakers were representing their sectors, not the LA 21 Forum, but we were still not quite prepared. Hilary Brooke from the Manchester University Settlement did a creditable job but I missed a lot before the microphone was turned on and Lucy Ingham, representing the youth sector, raises a few laughs but talked too fast for taking notes, probably through nerves.

However, in-between things were not quite so good. Ken Franklin, representing the Council, started off by saying he wanted to talk about the past, "I'll come to the future in a minute". He used to be a very good skuller! He said that he could not

give in to those who wanted to pedestrianise the city centre as it would turn it into a desert. A speaker from the floor named 12 cities in Britain and mainland Europe where pedestrianisation had improved them economically and if done in Manchester would turn the centre into an oasis. Geoff Muirhead (Airport) was representing the business sector. He started off by saying Local Agenda 21 would enable society to move towards a more sustainable future, which meant "not living off our capital but off our interest" (Richard Jefferies I think). A good start, he'll be cancelling Runway II next, I thought. "The board of Manchester Airport are committed to sustainable development. Tourism, leisure, 2nd runway, meeting the demand for air travel, the demand for car parking.....". He's talking about unsustainable development! Then the 50,000 extra jobs and 50,000 more if the second runway is built - the usual claptrap and propaganda. At the end of the proceedings, Mr. Muirhead was presented with a sod of earth topped by a flag bearing the words, "Bollin Valley". Just about sums it up really. He even allowed a photographer to snap the happy occasion.

With a Planning Committee Chair and an airport boss of such calibre, does **LA 21** really stand a chance in Manchester.

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"Send in the Clowns".....Stephen Sondheim

Fresh Air Fortnight - This event takes place between the 19th of April and the 2nd of May and is run by **Fresh Air Now**. The article in "Magpie" 36 by Chris Winter gave you an idea of what they will be doing. If you want to take part **FAN** are still at the Grass Roots Office (MU Union) but a call to the FoE office in the One World Centre should put you in the right direction.

Hanson is as Hanson does

by Daphne Laureola

The antics of the Hanson Trust, a multi-national conglomerate now undergoing a process of painful demerger, have kept Private Eye, Have I Got News for You, and even Radio 4's, The Board Game topped up with sensuous news items and off the cuff jokes.

In case you weren't aware, Lord Jim made his pile out of sand and gravel extraction, leaving a bequest of holes across the UK. One of these sites is near English Nature's headquarters in Peterborough, the Orton Brick Pits (160 hectares) which now hosts the largest colony of

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Great Crested Newts in Europe (30K+) and much else besides. All went well for this teeming wetland wildlife "reserve" until Hanson plc and Peterborough (Environment City) reached a deal to construct 5,200 houses on the site (in 1992). The mud really hit the fan in 1995 when WWF decided to challenge The UK Government (and it's conservation body, EN) for "gross dereliction of duty" in the European Courts, as the scale of the intended wildlife destruction became clear. It's rather like the Abbey Pond, M/c Science Park, fiasco on a huge scale.

Imagine our surprise when, out of nowhere, in September '95, came news of a generous award (£75,000) from Hanson to the Wildlife Trusts and urgent calls from the National office for County Trusts and Urban Wildlife Groups to come up with suitable projects by the 2nd of November! In October, pleas to produce schemes for the Hanson money were made as only three projects had been put forward. Clearly, Hanson were desperate for a PR fillip to counteract the chorus of disapproval surrounding the fate of the 30 thousand newts at Orton.

Puzzled by the lack of comment, from the Wildlife Trust, on the timing of this munificence, since commercial sponsorship deals usually have quite a long lead in and some kind of rationale, MW decided to look more closely at Hanson.

We discovered that Hanson features in Survival International's 1992 Top Ten List of companies doing serious damage to tribal people's lands in the Americas, notably by strip mining on assigned Navajo land, resulting in forced re-location, harassment, pollution and water contamination, and destruction of sacred sites. Huge extensions to strip mining (Peabody) led to the well publicised Navajo protest at Hanson's AGM.

In the UK, ARC, one of Hanson's most profitable subsidiaries, is deeply implicated in destruction of SSSIs by quarry extensions and ARC was top of the league in 1994 for water pollution with a total of 11 prosecutions by the NRA. Whatley Quarry, in the Mendip Hills, is ARC/Hanson's planned to become the largest hole in Europe, eroding into vital aquifers and producing cheap roadstone for the Newbury by-pass and other profitable road schemes, which of course County Trusts vainly oppose when SSSIs on their own nature reserves are threatened with destruction.

The Wildlife Trust's Senior Public Relations Officer explained, in a recent letter, that since 1992, 16 Trusts 'have had working relationships with

subsidiaries of Hanson plc, ARC in particular have donated a considerable sum of money for conservation." Yes, conservation comes cheap to the industrial conglomerates and the guardians of our wildlife swallow the bait, whole. No wonder the evidence for nature conservation at public inquiries does not cut too much ice.

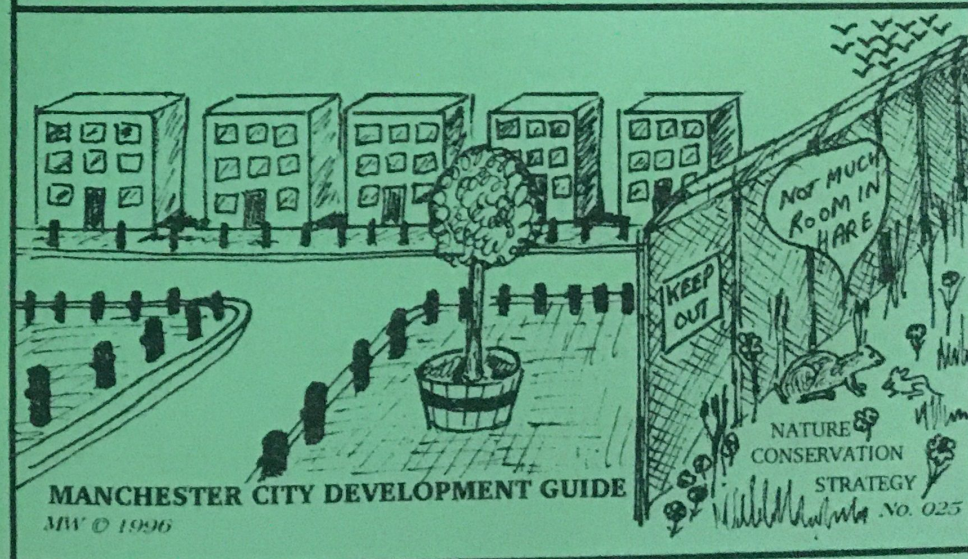
Is MW alone in thinking that money from companies, like Hanson, who despise human rights as much as they do wildlife habitats, is not only irridemedly tainted but subverts the integrity of the Wildlife Trusts.

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"Don't Bother They're Here"..... Stephen Sondheim

Tale Piece - You don't see many butterflies when you're editing a newsletter. Oh, and while I remember, there's another article at the back of the Members' Day Supplement.

March Hare

by Tim Lepidus



USEFUL CONTACTS:

RSNC, Urban Wildlife Partnership	Chris Gordon, 01522 544400
English Nature	(NW Regional Office), Bernard Fleming, 01942 820342
Cheshire Wildlife Trust	(North Group, Trafford), Liz Blackman, 0161-962 6748 (Wilmslow Group), Tony Browne, 0161-436 1761
Lancashire Wildlife Trust	Bolton Wildlife Project, Mick Weston, 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	(Bolton Group), Tony Johnson, 01204 468850 (Stockport Group), Tony O'Neill, 0161-962 2449 (Manchester Group), Simeon Rydz, 0161-945 3831
Bat Groups	(South Lancashire), Angela Graham, 0161-797 4745 (Cheshire), Mike Freeman, 01606 41581
Butterflies/Moths	Barry Shaw, 0161-491 0753
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
Stockport Countryside Ranger Service	Dewi G Morris, 0161-477 5637
Trafford Council	Roz Park, 0161-912 4174
Manchester LA21 Forum	Brenda Sedgwick, 0161-236 5195
Manchester Sustainability Group	Adrian Pearce, 0161-234 4594
Manchester FoE	0161-834 8221
Manchester Earth First!	0161-274 4665
Networking Newsletter	Michael Bane, 01457 871609
Visions Community Design	Judith Mottram, 0161-834 6309
Parrs Wood Centre for Rural Education	Jo Frazer, 0161-445 4566

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 and phone the contact to make sure there are no alterations

April 1996

Friday 19th
Saturday 20th

Fresh Air Fortnight Starts - See "Magpie".

Runway II Conference - 10 am - 5 pm at the Manchester Metropolitan University Students' Union, All Saints. Contact Mary ☎ 0161-273 1162 (day).

Saturday 27th

Members' Day/AGM - Parrs Wood Centre for Rural Education. Starting at 10 am. **Environment Question Time** - 2 pm. For details see Member's Day Supplement. Contact - Unity Kelly ☎ 0161-226 4583.

May 1996

Monday 6th
Sunday 12th

Recycling Carnival - Albert Square. Contact Cae & Lucy ☎ 0161-220 7113

Spring Walk - Meet 1 pm in car park, **Tatton Arms**, Mill Lane, Northenden. Walk to Loonts Lake and Gatley Carrs. Contact Unity Kelly ☎ 0161-226 4583.

Tuesday 14th

Social Meeting - At the Old Monkey Public House. Junction of Portland St./Princess St., City Centre. Time 7.30 pm. Convenient for Piccadilly Gardens Bus & Metro Station. Contact Ian Brown ☎ 0161-437 7040.

Friday 17th

B.T. Environment Week Starts

Saturday 18th

Bodging at Risley Moss Nature Reserve - Pole-lathe turning and other crafts, including Charcoal Burning. Contact John Moorcroft ☎ 01925 824 339

Thursday 30th

General Meeting - Time 7.30 at the One World Centre (Friends Meeting House Basement, Central Street (off Mount Street). Contact Unity Kelly ☎ 0161-226 4583.

June 1996

Saturday 8th
Tuesday 11th

National Wildlife Week Starts

Social Meeting - At the Old Monkey Public House. Junction of Portland St. and Princess St., City Centre. Time 7.30 pm. Convenient for St. Peters Square Metro and Oxford Road B.R. Contact Ian Brown ☎ 0161-437 7040.

Saturday 15th

Orchid Trip by Mini-bus - Time 11 am Manchester Museum, Oxford Road. Bookings - Unity Kelly ☎ 0161-226 4583.

TBA

Hough End Clough - Knotweed bash and tidy up. For further details contact Ian Brown ☎ 0161-437 7040.

July 1996

Tuesday 9th
Sunday 14th

Social Meeting - See May and June for details.

Mersey Valley Hedge Weaving - Kenworthy Fields. Meet 2 pm at Chorlton Water Park car park, Maitland Avenue. Contact Ian Brown ☎ 0161-437 7040.

For details of Strategic Planning Meetings please Contact Unity Kelly ☎ 0161-226 4583

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

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

JULY

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

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)

AUGUST

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

MARCH

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

SEPTEMBER

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

SPRING MAGPIE



APRIL

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

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



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

NOVEMBER

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

JUNE

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

DECEMBER

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

SUMMER MAGPIE



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

For further details, contact

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