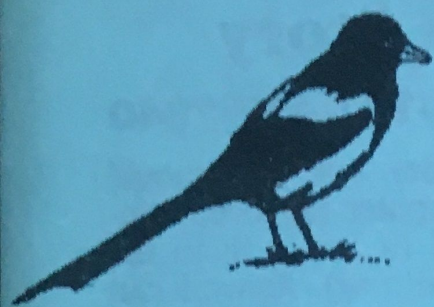
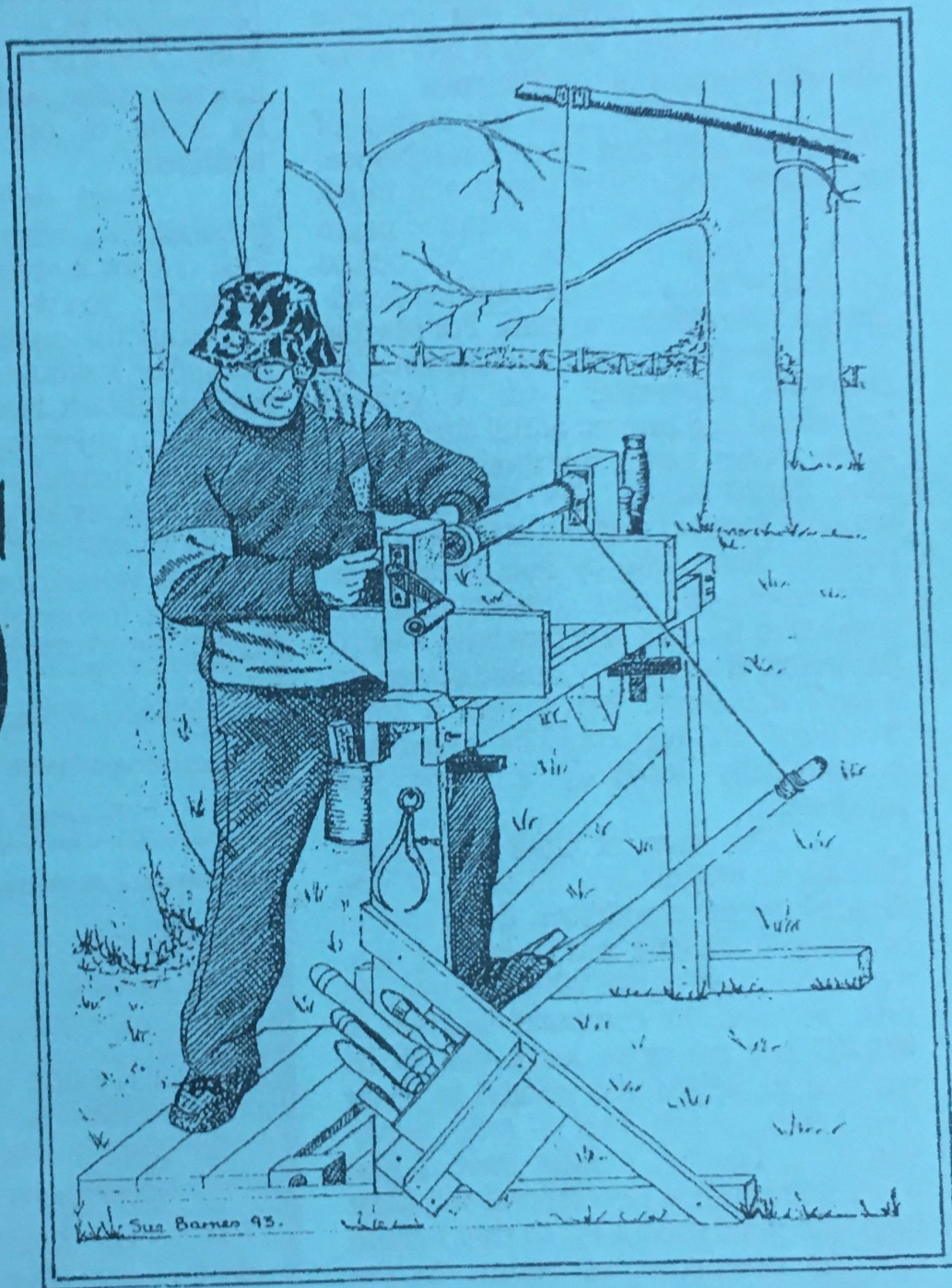


"The Excellent Newsletter of Manchester Wildlife."
*John Vidal, Environment Correspondent,
The Guardian.*



Number 41 - - Autumn/Winter 1997

Magpie



**Standing up for Wildlife
in Greater Manchester**

50p

Editorial

Send in YOUR Story

Editor's Office 0161-437 7040

In the summer **Magpie** I opted out of doing an editorial and it set me to thinking "what is an editorial for?" Even after 40 editions of this newsletter, I'm still not sure. I suppose that anything goes, so this time I will say a little about the development of the **Magpie**.

Issue No. 1, in the spring of 1986, was produced using a mechanical typewriter (remember them) and much cutting and pasting. The prepared pages were reduced from A4 to A5 before printing which made the finished newsletter a little difficult to read. For **Magpie** No. 11 (autumn 1988) we borrowed an electronic typewriter with a golfball print-head and printed at full size, which made things easier for those with less than 20/20 vision. For No. 12, I attempted justified text but this had to be done by hand, line by line, which was very tedious and time consuming so we decided to go mad and purchase a word processor. It was a very simple device, by today's standards, but it had a small "memory" and text could be edited and automatically justified; a great improvement.

This state of affairs continued through to **Magpie** No. 33 when it was decided, by the committee, that I should be dragged, kicking and screaming, into the second half of the 20th Century. At first, we used the computer facilities at **MARC** but the news letter had to be scanned in, edited and printed in about five hours, which was a little nerve-racking. Luckily, a little later, I had some spare cash at my disposal so I went mad and purchased a PC so that I could edit the newsletter, at leisure, in the comfort of my own home. Up until this time, illustrations had been hand drawn by artists of varying ability but a computer allowed for pictures to be made which didn't require artistic ability. You may have noticed that these have been

mostly of butterflies but this should change as my computer has been considerably upgraded (it had a fit in the process but it's better now). Artwork can be scanned in so I can put the glue pot away. You'll be seeing some old artwork in a new guise, which may be recognised by some of our more long-standing members.

Even desktop publishing is a possibility so, when I get the hang of it, look out for a snazzier more up to date **Magpie**; you're sure to be amazed. Hopefully the quality of the content will not suffer; it would be rather pointless to publish rubbish, however smart it looked. I hope you enjoy your **Magpie** but if you have any helpful suggestions there is a reader's survey for you to fill in so that we can try to ensure that your newsletter is what you would like it to be. Look out for this in the following pages.

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

Rob Allen (Chair), 10 Brooklyn Court, Wilmslow Road, Withington, Manchester. M20 9NA

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

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

Tel: 0161-437 7040

Fax (One World Centre): 0161-834 8187

A Year of Child-watching

Why Not Join
South Manchester
Wildlife WATCH

by Alan Pinch*

Wildlife WATCH, the network of natural history societies for children, has had a branch in South Manchester for somewhat over a year. We have had a lot of fun, with as many children we can cope with brought to most meetings, and have learned quite a lot, about wildlife, certainly, but mostly about children.

Kids live in a paradoxical world where nature is concerned. They see wonderful TV programmes, have beautiful picture books and are taken to wildlife centres, birds-of-prey sanctuaries, model farms, sea-life centres, butterfly breeders and what have you. But they are taken everywhere by car, are closely supervised and probably spend less time than we did mucking about in odd corners noticing what is under their noses. They may have held a Barn Owl on their wrist, but don't recognise a Bluetit in a bush. They will recount to you what they have heard about the Kalahari desert or the Peregrine Falcon, but can they tell a Scots Pine from a Yew? Working with a play-group in Moss Side, I took children blackberrying in Hough End Fields. Some of them were very suspicious at first. "Mum doesn't let me eat things off bushes." "How do you know it isn't poisonous?" But they took to it and ended up purple all over.

We meet once a month, usually on a Sunday afternoon at Parrs Wood Rural Studies Centre, where we have the run of a couple of classrooms. These are a refuge in inclement weather, and a place where we can do craft work, see slides and examine portable specimens. But real wildlife is out of doors, isn't it? So we constantly use the Rural Studies compound. I feel I know every tree in that little wood by now. But for many purposes we need

to visit other habitats, and this causes some little complications. My colleagues tell me that the programme, to be attractive, needs to announce an interesting theme for each meeting. Bats, amphibians, garden mammals; that sort of stuff. The trouble is, will wild creatures show up when you want them to? I remember an embarrassing half-hour trampling round in the dark pretending we were detecting fascinating sounds. The promised bat-detector was not produced on the night, and the weather conditions caused the bats to take a night off. As any old teacher will tell you, the capacity to improvise is essential. "X and Y are going to be late arriving with the stuff, Alan. Can you do something with the children for about half an hour?" We got them to run round in circles being planets, while a little boy and I described an ellipse of high eccentricity in the role of comet Hale-Bopp. (Are comets wildlife? Don't be pedantic; I'm past caring.)

As we all know, the real joys of nature observation are often unexpected. Be quiet and patient and notice what happens to be there. But these are hard lessons for children to learn, and we must compromise. It's got to be fun or they won't be there next time.

To my mind the best moments are when you do succeed in getting the children to make their own observations in the field. Yes the caterpillars were there on the ragwort. The kids did succeed in finding the old nest. They counted how many seconds the grebe spent under water. And so they will begin to notice more and more.

But you are more likely to be lucky if you are well prepared. What is on my mind today is this. Will the

spiders provide plenty of interesting webs at Parrs Wood on the Day? And why don't the spiders I am daily observing in my garden do what the book says? Sometimes wild creatures just don't seem to have learned their parts properly.

Readers are sure to have noticed the atmosphere of panic there is nowadays about all aspects of child safety. What a happy-go-lucky lot we were when I helped with children's camps in the fifties! Now our national organisation (the Royal Society for Nature Conservation or Wildlife Trusts) makes us consider all sorts of risks in advance. If we stop by the canal should we check for infectious rat-droppings? Are you sure there is no Giant Hogweed (which causes a nasty rash)? And, of course, there is the need for leaders to undergo moral vetting and behave with great discretion.

Although we have always had enough adults at each meeting, so far, we could use many more volunteers. If we lost just two or three of our most committed people we could have serious problems. And we would like to extend our work geographically and socially. We are seeing lots of delightful children from the prosperous parts of South Manchester. It would be very good to reach more inner city children. If we had volunteers who could work on weekdays we could assist play-schemes and after-school clubs, which are always looking for sensible activities.

Please spread the word. An interest in nature is of course desirable, but the really essential qualification is a healthy liking for that very curious species, the immature Homo sapiens.

* This is my real name. As far as I can tell, I have not been made up by Ian Brown.

WATCH Out

South Manchester Wildlife WATCH

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 14th December
2.00-4.00pm. Parrs Wood
Centre For Rural Education
Winter Wildlife-Christmas Crafts

For further information and

1998 Calendar contact:

WATCH Leaders

Chris Swinburn-0161 434 0362

Sarah Ross-0161 446 1068

Learning About
Wildlife
Can Be Fun

Airport 2nd Runway Update

Did you notice, in September, that the anti-runway protest was in the news again? There was a short, but nonetheless effective reoccupation of River Rat Camp by two protesters, Woolly and Autumn. It seems that, despite all the fencing, security guards and other defensive measures the Airport have taken, that these brave eco-warriors went "over the top", and straight up a tree. They stayed there for two and a half days, and came down, basically because they ran out of food. What did they achieve? A lot, I believe. They got the campaign straight back into the news, after a period of calm. They've forced the Airport to realise that they will never be allowed to relax their expensive security measures, and also forced them to employ those very expensive climbers again.

"Did they expect we'd simply sit and watch whilst they raped our netherage?"

With a Smallpea

Hanging Baskets in Stockport

Janet Cuff

Members may be interested to know I have been doing my bit to try and safeguard our peat and moss resources.

The stimulus was an article in the *Heaton and Reddish Reporter* this June - "Let's brighten up Reddish for the Millennium". The scheme in question was a Town Hall operation to brighten up the North Reddish Renewal Area by delivering nearly 400 free floral hanging and wall baskets to people's homes.

Like most people, I thought it was a splendid idea to brighten up neighbourhoods with floral displays but, aware that both peat and moss are commonly used in hanging baskets, I was perturbed that no mention was made of the nature of the materials used in these particular baskets. Peat, of course, is being very much over-exploited for use in horticulture with disastrous consequences for the natural environment; over 94% of lowland bogs in the UK have already been destroyed or damaged, so it is crucial to protect what we still have. Also, as the trade in hanging baskets grows apace, moss is increasingly being stripped from the wild for use as a liner, again with serious consequences for natural habitats.

I therefore wrote to Councillor Anne Graham, who was involved with the project, putting queries on these points to her and inviting her to respond via the pages of the newspaper.

This she did, stating that the use of moss for lining the baskets had been minimised, a waste wool product having largely replaced it, but that peat had been a constituent of the compost, as there was as yet no commercial substitute.

Her comments were elaborated on in a telephone call I had from David Brayshay, head of Woodbank Nursery,

where all Stockport Council's plants are grown. He confirmed that a waste wool product had been used rather than moss - this is apparently only available commercially, but felt and cardboard products can be obtained, for domestic use, from garden centres, whilst DIY materials such as old woollen clothes, carpets or newspaper can also serve the purpose.

Regarding peat, he said that although it had been used as a filler in the baskets, no peat from SSSIs was ever used, and most of the peat used was sedge peat which, he claimed, was a type of peat that is fairly plentiful and therefore less threatened with over-exploitation. He stressed, however, that Stockport were constantly experimenting with peat alternatives and that although coir had proved a disaster, they had had some success with barley straw and were currently trying composted wood bark.

I felt that my enquiries had been worthwhile in that I had made the Council aware that their activities, in this respect, were being noticed and I had made some of the readers of the local newspaper aware that there was a problem with hanging baskets.

I was not too happy with the answer I got about peat, as I would like to have heard that Stockport has definite plans to phase out the use of this material. However, I do not have enough information, at present, to pursue this matter further with the Council, and I am wondering if any other members could help me here. Does anyone know a Council which has given up the use of peat and, if so, what are they using as an alternative? I read a couple of years ago that Chester City Council had signed the "Peatland Protection Charter", committing them to phasing out the use of peat, and I am currently trying to contact them in order to find out how far they have got with this commitment. If anyone has any information, please let me have it via the next issue of *Magpie*.

Editor's Comment - Do you remember, in the Summer edition of *Magpie*, I mentioned a promotion on compost bins by Stockport Council? And now Stockport takes garden refuse at the new eco-centre. Well, it's obvious that they are encouraging people to make compost and must be making compost from the waste they collect. I have found that garden waste rots down to make the most superb potting compost; far better, and more nutrient rich, than moss peat. Surely, if Stockport Council are making their own compost, they could use it in hanging baskets. Also, a few years ago, Manchester City Council made a commitment to phase out the use of moss peat; they won a Golden *Magpie* Award for this brave and selfless act. I am not sure how faithfully they held to this commitment but the last time I was at Wythenshawe Horticulture Centre, bags of Moss Peat were amongst those present.

It's Your *Magpie*

What do you think
of it so far

We have received compliments on the quality of the *Magpie* from two eminent journalists; Gerald Dawe, the Founding Editor of *Urban Nature Magazine*, and John Vidal, *Guardian* Environment Correspondent. However, we are not about to allow these plaudits go to our head and we will always strive to ensure that your newsletter maintains a high standard, and hopefully improves. Some members tell us (in writing, and in person) they look forward to the arrival of the *Magpie* and how much they enjoy reading it. We do not get many complaints but maybe people are loathe to voice adverse criticism. We do welcome criticism, even if it is adverse, as we are keen to ensure that *Magpie* is the newsletter YOU want to read. Obviously, we cannot please all of the people all of the time but we can please all of the people most of the time.

To help us to achieve this object we are conducting a readers' survey. You will find this on the reverse side of your membership renewal form (you will be able to send it in with your subscription, saving postage) or on a separate sheet. We have kept the survey as simple as possible and we hope you will take a little time in completing the form.

Do you like the layout and presentation of the *Magpie*? Are there enough articles on wildlife or is there too much on general environmental matters? Is *Magpie* easy to read? Would you be willing to submit articles on your experiences, or opinions, of wildlife and the environment? Do you appreciate the humour which sometimes surfaces in these pages? Answers to these questions, and others, could help to make YOUR newsletter even better. Please try to fill in the comments section to give a more personal opinion on the quality (or otherwise) of the *Magpie*.

We look forward to hearing from you.

PLAYING THE NUMBERS GAME

by Witha
Smallpea

There has been much misinformation spread by the Airport about the damage caused by the protesters occupying the site in the Bollin Valley.

It was stated that, due to the actions of both the protesters and the Under Sheriff's bailiffs and climbers, that 25% of the site was unable to be transplanted. It seemed that the mitigation measures, so proudly negotiated by Chris Mahon (Cheshire Wildlife Trust) were in jeopardy, and at one point it seemed as though the Airport itself was going to weasel out of it's so called mitigation completely, thus saving itself a huge amount of money.

Whilst attending a meeting of the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit's (GMEU) Wildlife Working Group, in September, Ian Brown asked Anne Greator (GMEU's Senior Ecologist) what was the status of the mitigation. Anne replied that GMEU had surveyed the site immediately following the clearance work, and

that the 25% figure was theirs. However, she had since undertaken a further survey and, surprise, surprise, the "damaged" areas had shown signs of recovery, and the official figure of "damaged", and hence untransplantable, land is now only 12%.

You may be surprised to know that this new figure has received no publicity from the Airport! Mind you, they're still using the figure of 50,000 new jobs to be created, despite the fact that this figure was admitted to be grossly exaggerated at the Public Inquiry!

Are you still shopping at Sainsburys?

by Des
Poiler

Those newer members amongst you may not realise it, but Manchester Wildlife instigated a boycott against Sainsburys many years ago. This followed their destruction of Bruntwood Hay Meadows (R.I.P.), a nationally rare habitat, by the building of their Cheadle superstore.

Sainsburys have always told their customers that they are an "environmentally friendly" shop, encouraging them to "save the planet" by shopping at their stores. When you have fought to save a beautiful habitat like Bruntwood, and then seen it trashed in the name of "greed", that just sticks in my throat.

However, another of their "environmental halos" has just fallen. They have been, and still are, informing their customers that they care by insisting that their cosmetics and toiletries are not tested on animals. They adopted a "fixed cut-off date" policy - that they wouldn't allow ingredients tested after a certain date to be used in their products. Sainsburys have now changed that policy to a "five year rolling rule" - which means that ingredients tested less than five years ago will not be allowed, but those tested over five years ago will be. Thus, ingredients not allowed this year will be allowed next year, and so on. This is a step backwards, and is an outrageous betrayal, not only of the laboratory animals who have to endure the suffering and torture, but also of their customers who believe their claims.

It is important to remember that most ingredients have been tested on animals at some time in the past and that it is essential, if we are to stop the unnecessary and barbaric cruelty to animals, for all companies to have a fixed cut-off date, as this is the only true way to discourage current and future animal testing.

Why have Sainsburys betrayed the animals and their customers? It seems they found a couple of ingredients in their products which had been recently tested on animals. So, rather than do the honourable thing and remove these products from sale, they did the opposite, dishonourable thing and changed their policy so that they

wouldn't lose out on their profits. Unbelievably, they are still promoting these products as "cruelty free"!

So, I urge you to boycott (or continue to boycott) Sainsburys, and more importantly let them know your reason for doing so. Enclose receipts from other shops to show them that it isn't just words, but they are losing customers.

"SAINSBURYS - FRESH IDEAS - MORE ANIMAL TESTING!"

Stop Press 1: It has just been announced (Wednesday 5th November 1997) that the Government are to stop all animal testing for cosmetics immediately. So, it looks as if Barry Horne's jail-based hunger strike did have an effect. Barry started this because of the new Labour Government backing-out of their election promise to review all animal testing. He stopped only after the Government agreed to meet several of Barry's colleagues to discuss the matter. However, I was not too pleased to note that the Government were hoping to achieve this by a "voluntary ban" by the major companies, rather than by legislation, so keep watching this space.

Stop Press 2: I've just heard a news item which stated that the major companies involved (no names, no pack-drill!) have "agreed to a voluntary ban". As I said before, keep watching this space.

Stop Press 3: I have just read with dismay that the "fight" over the Fallowfield Railway Sidings site, between Tesco and Sainsburys has just been "won" by the latter, who are soon to come to a final agreement with British Rail Property Board who own the site. So wildlife has lost out once again to the greed of the large shopkeeper.

As Seen on T.V.

When watching television, it is advisable not to let your attention wander, even for a second. In late September our Bodger, Jan Brown, was asked to go to Rock Hall, in Bolton, to appear on Fred Talbot's weather spot on Granada Tonight.

Together with Mike Fisher (Bolton Greenwood Group) and Roy Dutton, a cooper from Bury, Jan appeared demonstrating the art of bodging in front of the Hall in Moses Gate Country Park. It lasted for little more than a minute but the result was a most interesting moment in television.

The object of the exercise was to advertise the Working Woodland Festival, which was held on Sunday the 28th of September, the second year this event has taken place. Organised by the Red Rose Forest and the Croal Trivell Valley Wardens, and supported by Bolton Metro, the Countryside Commission and the EC, the Working Woodland Festival has become what is probably the most popular event in Greater Manchester. You should have seen the crowds (maybe you did); county shows don't get more people! Not surprising really; if you put on the greatest show on earth you can expect to attract a few folk. Almost every Art, Craft and Woodland Worker was there demonstrating their skills; from

Acorn Lamps to Wheelwright and Tree Planting to Tree Felling. Blacksmith, Clog Maker, Heavy Horses, Hedgeclaying; well I think you get the idea. The people who came really showed an intelligent interest in what was going on and were obviously delighted to see such a revival in woodland crafts and management, which was very heartening for those of us who took part.

For the second year running the weather was marvellous; that's a great help for the outdoor craft workers. If you missed it (it was on our events list), hopefully the event will be held again next year. See you then!

Walk on Wigan

Flashes by Anthony Phelps

The date was Saturday the 30th of August, and it didn't look hopeful, weather-wise, when I woke up. However, as the walk was starting at 1.00 pm and the weather forecast said it was going to clear up, then I thought we'd be lucky. Mind you if Michael (Fish could forget to mention the hurricane....

I caught a train to Wigan, arriving at the North-western Station, and met Jan there. He'd arrived on the previous train, which confusingly arrives at Wallgate Station. By then the sun was shining, and we both felt foolish clutching rucksacks crammed full of water-proofs! Luckily, Jan and I had both remembered our sun hats! We walked to Wallgate to meet the next train, and waited for the throng of Manchester Wildlife members wanting to explore the Flashes.

The three of us then set off (we'd met Shelagh Aston),

following the route so accurately described in the summer Magpie. At first, the vista isn't one to make you want to carry on - a rough, muddy track and a few piles of rubble - not fly tipping! However, soon we found ourselves in a patch of young woodland, and we were almost swatting the dragonflies away, so thickly were they flying around us. I've certainly never seen so many dragonflies at one time before.

As we had arranged to meet Judith Smith, Greater Manchester County Bird Recorder, at a prearranged point and time, it was a struggle to keep going - we can always find something of interest, anywhere. We reached the meeting point, a long-since partially demolished railway bridge across the canal, and waited for Judith. We were disappointed - we later learned that there had been a "Swan incident" which had caused her failure to meet us. Jan had a map of the site and we wandered around what is a vast area. There are plenty of different habitats, including a seeded

meadow, with Cornflowers in it, the Flasher, or laker caused by mining subsidence, which are also of great interest - mostly in the winter, but even today there were several pairs of Common Tern who had bred on the islands on one flash, and a pair of Mute swans, who joined us for lunch but were not fooled by Jan's newly bodged wooden egg.

One of the species we had targeted was the second brood of Common Blue butterflies and these were found in large numbers, together with a variety of other species, including vast numbers of Small Tortoiseshells, despite the fact that we didn't pass any major areas of Stinging Nettle on our route around the area.

I was left feeling that there was still a lot more to of the area yet to discover, and as it is so easy, and cheap, to reach by public transport. It is somewhere I shall (mandatory) be visiting again in order to see what else it has to offer. I advise other members to do the same - if you don't, you'll never know what you are missing.

Editor's Note: I'll second that - but you didn't mention the visit to Ye Old Man and Scythe, in Bolton, to view the pub furniture made by the Bolton Greenwood Group - quite a day!

R.I.P. Bluebell Woods

In a last ditch attempt to delay the developers destroying this last patch of woodland in Long-sight, a gallant band of local activists set up camp on site. However, despite their brave efforts, Bluebell Woods has fallen to the "powers of darkness". The eviction took two days to clear the site (literally!), as some of the "residents" had gone underground!

This action probably hurt the developer, Browns of Wilmslow, quite deeply in the pocket, as fencing had to be purchased to surround the rather extensive perimeter of the site, pay had to be provided for the services of the Under Sheriff and his merry band of bailiffs and, once again, those expensive climbers. More importantly, unlike the Airport, who had expected and thus budgeted for such measures, I'm sure Browns didn't expect this extra expenditure.

Let us hope that other developers will start to wonder if trashing wildlife sites, for short term gains, is really worth their while.

by Des
Poiler



What Recycling?

Where Have All The Bottle Banks Gone?

By Bufo Low Bob

Just as the GMWDA (Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority) have the temerity to launch their much vaunted "public consultation exercise" (or "maybe we'll build one or two less incinerators than we've already planned for" exercise) my nearest bottle bank has disappeared! Living in Withington, that used to be next to the clock tower in Didsbury - not really that local - and this the nearest available after Somerfields discontinued theirs because of vandalism and "nuisance".

At this rate, the distances between recycling facilities and people's homes is going to result in many giving up the idea - particularly the 40%, or so, of the population in Greater Manchester who do not have access to a car.

On reflection, it appears to me that it is yet another facet of the supermarkets' increasingly arrogant domination; surely the serious amounts of money they are now making (whilst putting a lot of established small shopkeepers out of business) bestows a considerable onus on them to take some responsibility for the waste their huge product generates. Isn't it high time that, as an integral part of their planning permission, they were required to provide recycling facilities on site (and not requested if it's not too much trouble). Otherwise, the customers who have already paid for goods, off the shelf, are then expected - through their council taxes - to pay again to have the packaging disposed of; to add insult to injury the waste is then turned into toxic emission from the incinerator chimney!

The giant supermarket chains have been appeased to long over a lot of issues - from increased car traffic

and the pollution they cause, to the impact they have on small traders who cannot compete with their commercial muscle. If they at least provided accessible recycling facilities to the community they would make a start to redress the balance of what is, at present, a very one sided relationship.

Recycling - are we
any good at it?

by Ian Brown

Manchester City recycles only 2% of its waste; that certainly is not good enough! Stockport manages 6%; not good enough but much better. It is a great help that Stockport has over 100 community recycling facilities which are thoughtfully located near shops and other convenient places. The eco-centre, at the old Adswold Road tip is another great step forward. This is a new facility which takes in all sorts of unwanted materials for recycling. As well as the usual bottles, cans and paper; garden or green waste, textiles, fridges, motor vehicle oil and batteries, rubble, books, cardboard, scrap metal and plastic are also taken. This should further increase Stockport's recycling rate.

"Households in England and Wales discard a total of 24 million tonnes of solid waste each year (enough to fill Wembley Stadium every day of the year). In round figures, this is nearly one tonne per household a year at a cost of over £55 per household, and it costs about one billion pounds of taxpayers' money to dispose of....Another 415 million tonnes of

waste comes from shops, offices, factories, farms, mines, quarries and building sites. This is about 20 times greater than the domestic pile!... Nationally, only 6.5% of domestic waste is recycled. Over 80% is disposed of in landfill sites; about 10% being incinerated." (GM Friends of the Earth Waste Network.)

Some Problem but What's the Solution?

First of all we've got to cut down on consumption which creates waste; buy less over-packaged goods.

Reduce

Don't throw things away if they can be repaired or put to further good use.

Reuse

When there is no other option but to throw something away, make sure it can be put to further good use.

Recycle

The Government target of 25% recycling by the year 2000 is a start but it's not good enough. 60% should be the target to aim for, though some of us will be able to better that figure. It may be that the Government's targets are not ambitious enough, and the fact that Manchester no longer has a recycling officer makes progress on waste minimisation almost impossible, but we can't place all the blame on the "authorities".

What are WE doing about it? From my casual observation, the answer is; not enough. The amount of recyclable material which is thrown away with the general rubbish has to be seen to be believed. Also, on a visit to the eco-centre on Adswood Road, I noticed that most of the garden waste was still in plastic bags and there was other waste in the container, despite the obvious notice asking that this

should not be done.

If anyone from the popular press is reading this, how about a feature to bring the problems of waste disposal, and recycling, to the attention of the general public. The cost of getting rid of our waste and the savings to be made by recycling could prove a persuasive argument in changing people's habits.

It seems that the GMWDA has decided that their solution to waste minimisation is to be incineration and not recycling. This might be acceptable if, and only if, incineration was used to generate heat and power, and if there were no harmful emissions. However, incineration on its own is no answer; an effective recycling policy must be pursued.

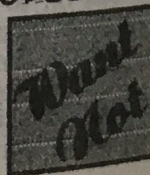
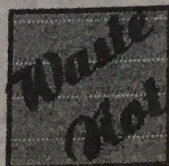
The only alternative is landfill, and that is no solution. Just think of it; Wembley Stadium being filled every day. We would soon have no countryside left! To those of us who love the open spaces and the wildlife which thrives there, it does not bear thinking about.

Want to know more about what is happening to Manchester's rubbish? Contact: Friends of the Earth, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NB
Tel: 0161-834 8221

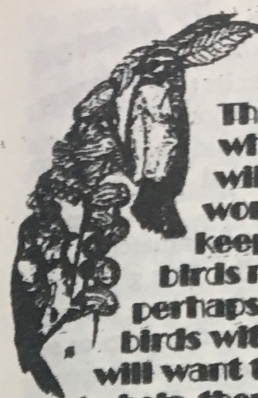
Call Stockport's Recycling Hotline
Phone: 0161-474 4747

Let's Get Rid of

All This Mess



Tuppence a Bag

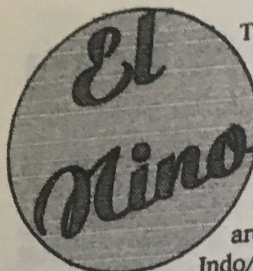


That's what it used to cost to feed the birds when Mary Doppins were a lass! These days it will be a little more expensive but it's still well worth doing. Humans need central heating to keep warm, in winter, or at least a good fire. All birds need to keep them warm is plenty of food, and perhaps a little shelter. If you have provided the birds with plenty of cosy bushes, in your garden, you will want to be sure that they have larders full of food to help them through the winter. Nuts, fruit and seed should be a varied enough menu but try to serve it up in such a way that you won't be giving out food parcels for the hoards of local squirrels. If you put the food containers in a wire cage which had holes, big enough for small birds but too small for the rodents, that should do the trick. You will be doing your bit to ensure that the birds will survive to breed in the spring and summer.

It used to be thought that it was not a good idea to feed birds in the summer as nestlings cannot digest nuts. It is now believed that the parent birds have more sense than to feed their young unsuitable food. They may eat the food you put out themselves but will continue to provide their chicks with natural food, such as caterpillars and seeds.

As Heard on Radio

Those of you who are fans of Radio Quiz shows may have heard a familiar voice on "Wildbrain", which was broadcast on Monday the 10th (12.25pm), and Wednesday the 12th (6.30pm), of November on Radio 4. The voice was that of Unity, former Chairperson of Manchester Wildlife. She took part in the South West heat of "Wildbrain" competing for a place in the semi-finals. Unfortunately, Unity failed to gain a position high enough to progress further in the quiz. This was a surprise as she was an invaluable member of Manchester Wildlife's undefeated team in the Mersey Valley Countryside Quiz. Maybe the competition is stronger at a national level.



This may seem to be a subject which is a little too global for airing in a local urban wildlife newsletter, but we have never let that stop us before. The literal translation for this natural phenomenon is "The Christ Child" and it was so named because it was first recorded just prior to Christmas. Briefly, what happens is this. The warmest area of sea water in the world is normally situated in the Indo/Pacific Ocean, to the north of Australia. This global hot

spot is usually kept in place by cold ocean currents which flow, in a westerly direction, from the South American continent. However, every five years or so, these cold currents weaken and this causes the area of warm water to drift over to South America, or from one side of the Pacific Ocean to the other. This is a long way and as can be expected dramatic climate changes can, and do, ensue; not only in the Pacific region but in Africa and further afield.

El Nino has been featured in the media, recently, mainly because an **El Nino** event is taking place at this time. The BBC 2 television programme, presented by Julian Pettifer was stunning. My most abiding memories of the programme will be the dust storm in Melbourne, a cloud slowly enveloping the city, and the raging torrent of water, thundering down the main street of a town in South America. Also, to see once abundantly fertile areas of Australia reduced to little better than a desert was very saddening. Farmers forced to give up the land and find jobs in the city. What sort of a future does this portend? If food producers cannot make a living from the land then it is a future which does not bear contemplation.

The first sign that an **El Nino** event is taking place is that the fish, normally to be found in the seas off the coast of South America, move away. This means that the water is getting warmer. The fishermen cannot move with the fish, so their livelihoods are ruined. But this is only the start. As the effects of **El Nino** take hold, the climatic changes become quite calamitous. Areas which normally enjoy wet and fertile conditions become deserts and dry areas become subject to horrendous floods. Even droughts in parts of Africa have been blamed on **El Nino**.

Human activity cannot be blamed for **El Nino**, which is an entirely natural phenomenon, but scientists are convinced that global warming is exaggerating its effects. **El Nino** events are occurring more often and lasting longer. It is reckoned that if the amount of Carbon Dioxide, in the atmosphere, is doubled then the frequency of **El Nino** will probably increase from, once every five years to once every two to three years, and could last for 18 months or more. This could lead to a permanent **El Nino**.

So, it may not be our fault, but it is our fault that it's getting worse. So what are **WE** going to do about it? Well, we've got to change our ways so that we produce less Carbon Dioxide and other "Greenhouse" gasses. We can cut down on the burning of fossil fuels by insulating our homes and work places, and by using renewable sources of energy generation, but the fastest increase in global warm-

by Merton Niven

ing gasses comes from transport. "In the past 20 years the car mileage for shopping has tripled....Supermarkets have driven up 'food miles' - food transport is the fastest-growing portion of the European freight sector."* Foreign holidays have undergone a phenomenal increase in the last 30 years, some people flying abroad two, three or more times a year. Can we afford to be so selfish when people in other parts of the world are suffering severe hardship because of our wanton hedonism? The answer to that question is, of course, **NO!**

If we are to be entirely selfish, it is worth considering the effect **El Nino** could have on the climate of the British Isles. Imagine a force that can move an area of warm sea across an entire ocean; almost half way round the world. What effect could it have on the Gulf Stream? Could Britain be turned into a tropical island, a desert or could the Gulf stream be diverted and make our climate sub-arctic? Whatever the effect, can we risk it? **NO** we can't! I'm sorry, Manchester Airport, you might as well stop building Runway II because there will have to be a considerable reduction in air travel. I'm sorry, Mr. Sainsbury, Mr Tesco, Mr Marks & Sparks (et al) you'll have to abandon your out of town stores so that we can return to local shopping. Changes will have to be made. "1997 is a critical year for global action on climate change. In December governments will meet at the Climate Summit in Kyoto, Japan, to discuss legally-binding international agreements for cutting greenhouse gasses. The outcome of the Kyoto Climate Summit will affect us all for generations to come. It's time for governments and industry to take decisive action to stop dangerous climate change before it's too late. Earth Summit II, in New York, in June ended up with very little movement towards agreement to tackle the threat to climate change, largely because of successful lobbying on the US Congress by the fossil fuel industry. We must do everything we can to ensure this doesn't happen again."*

We urge you to write to:

Prime Minister Tony Blair at 10 Downing Street, London SW1P 3AG. Welcome his strong call for action at Earth Summit II and ask him to continue to put pressure on other nations in the run-up to Kyoto, and to support legally-binding carbon dioxide cuts of 20% by 2005. Ask him what measures he is taking at home to cut carbon dioxide and meet the UK's target.

President Bill Clinton at the White house, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington DC 20500, USA, and ask him to support legally-binding carbon dioxide cuts of 20% by the year 2005 at Kyoto. Urge him not to be influenced by the fossil fuel lobby. Point out that a recent statement by 2000 economists from across the political spectrum said that measures to cut emissions will not damage the US economy or cost jobs - on the contrary, investing in solutions to climate change is economically beneficial.

Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto at the Prime Minister's Office, 1-6-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100, Japan. Ask him to demonstrate leadership and ensure that the Kyoto Climate Summit - a critically important international gathering - is a success. Urge him to commit Japan to a legally-binding carbon dioxide reduction target of 20% by 2005. Japan's position on climate change is of central importance because it will host the Kyoto meeting.

Act Today, Tomorrow Will Be Too Late * Extracts from Earthmatters - FoE Magazine (Anyone would think it was the end of the world! -Ed)

BOGS AND MADNESS

IFOUR YEARS AGO, following a fierce anti-peat campaign led by Friends of the Earth, the official wildlife watch-dog, English Nature, struck a dubious deal with the peat-digging firm Fisons (now Levingtons). The deal was a craven compromise, to allow continued peat mining on England's largest lowland raised bogs at Thorne and Hatfield Moors. The idea was that restoration of valuable wildlife habitats could supposedly occur later on. We now learn that English Nature, having entered into a compromise that should never have happened (these sites should quite simply have been protected from peat extraction) now proposes to remove a large part of the sites' special protection. This is because their wildlife interest has now - not surprisingly - been damaged. It's another piece of spineless official cowardice in the face of commercial pressure, and another monument to unsustainable development. How much longer do we have to suffer the destruction and betrayal of our natural heritage because of timid official agencies and laws that favour the developers? If you think, "not much longer", then take action now.

Another unreasonable threat to our finest wildlife areas is posed by mad subsidies from Europe that pay farmers to grow flax, even in supposedly protected areas. Friends of the Earth exposed this loophole in the wildlife protection laws last year and continues to press the

Government to follow through on its election promises to stop such payments where they damage Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Action in this area will be a test of the Government's green election promises, and a measure of its interest in protecting our sadly diminished wildlife. Please write to Michael Meacher to ask him to live up to his promises.

Tony Juniper,
Campaigns Director, FoE

THORNE AND HATFIELD MOORS

Thorne and Hatfield Moors, in Yorkshire, are home to thousands of insects, internationally important populations of Nightjar and the largest lowland bog habitats in England. Yet English Nature has proposed de-notifying part of each site - 100 ha of Thorne and nearly 500 ha of Hatfield. The reason is that it is not prepared to stand up to commercial pressure from Levingtons, the peat company which wants to see the site de-notified so that it can sell the peat as non-SSSI peat. Write to Environment Minister Michael Meacher at the Dept. of Environment, Transport and the Regions, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU, and tell him that English Nature must not de-notify the sites. Urge him to put pressure on EN not to give in to commercial pressures and to support better protections for SSSIs.

The above are extracts from "Earthmatters", Friends of the Earth magazine, and reprinted with their permission.

Two Men Went to Mow (or what the Martins saw)

by Mo Mead

As we arrived at Hough End Clough for our annual hay cut, the usual Grey Wagtail was in evidence but the main sight to greet us was the House Martins circling overhead. These were not British martins but from other parts of the world on their way to Africa for the winter. In honour of the great effort of their epic journey I will let them continue this story.

- Martin Jarvis: There are two men down there, what are they doing?
Martin Luther: Of course, it's your first trip! That's Manchester Wildlife.
Martin Jarvis: But what are they doing with those bits of wood and metal?
Martin Bell: Rakes and sickles, They're going to cut the hay meadow.
Martin Luther: Yes sir! You can rely on Manchester wildlife; you can almost set your clocks by them. Every time we come past Hough End Clough, there they are cutting the hay!
Martin Bell: Yes, it's a great place to feed up for the journey south. All that cutting disturbs the insects. Lovely grub! Hang on there's another midge, must be after it.
Martin Jarvis: But there are only two of them, how will they manage to cut all that grass; are they here for the week?
Martin Luther: Questions, questions, young Jarvis! Of course, usually more than two turn up but I think they'll manage. And no, they're not here for the week, only one day.
Martin Bell: (Enter stage left, pursued by Sparrowhawk) That was close! You see, they don't need to cut it all. The idea is to remove as much of the hay as possible, so reducing the fertility and encouraging a greater variety of wildflowers and more insects.
Martin Jarvis: You do know a lot Uncle Bell! So all that work by Manchester Wildlife will make Hough End a better place for us Martins?
Martin Bell: Well, thank you young Jarvis, but I don't know as much as Father Luther; he's been coming here longer than I have.
Martin Luther: Quite true. Yes, Hough End has improved since I first started coming here and I think it's mostly down to the work done by Manchester Wildlife. The place used to be covered in that nasty Himalayan Balsam. It's much better now!
Martin Jarvis: Will we be back next year?
Martin Luther: I hope so. I'm getting a little long in the beak now but I would enjoy just one more summer in Sweden.
Martin Bell: More optimism Father Luther; of course you will. Where to next? Cannock Chase I think!
The Martins: (In unison) Cannock Chase it is!



Last year, Stockport Council upset our editor. Looking out of his window, one day, he espied a chap, with a pack on his back, pointing this stick thing at the base of the wall adjacent to the pavement. "He's spraying herbicide!" In a jiffy, ye editor was out with his watering can dowsing the affected plants; they survived. What the weed-killing chap thought of this is not

recorded. These weren't just any old weeds, but Hedgerow Cranesbill which is rare in these parts. This year they flowered from early spring to November. Why do councils do this; are they ignorant. Many beautiful plants thrive on our pavement edges; Common Dog Violet, for one. Why can't they let them be? They are doing no harm and killing them must cost a fortune. We can only assume that councils have more money than sense!

Membership Renewals

This may not be the most interesting article that you will read in **Magpie** but it's well worth a quick perusal, if you want to keep up to date with what is happening on the subscription front. To put you up to date, since Manchester Wildlife started subscriptions have been due in the same month that a member joined. This ensured that, if someone joined late in the year, they were not asked to renew early in the next year, but a year later. One problem with this system is that it takes a very long time to work out which members' subs are due when the reminders go out with the **Magpie**.

To save your treasurer much work, it has been decided that we should adopt an annual subscription system. This will mean that all subscriptions will be due at the start of the year. You do not have to renew on the dot of the first of January; you may wish to pay earlier or slightly later. As a concession to those who joined in the last four months of the year, they will not have to pay a subscription in the year following, but at the start of the year after. For example, if your subs are due in October 1997, you would not pay in 1998 but in January 1999. I hope that is clear.

Most members will receive one subscription reminder with this **Magpie** as reminders, up to August, went out with the summer edition. The few exceptions will be for those members whose subscriptions are due in September, October, November or December, and who paid their 1997 membership fee in advance. If you receive two membership reminders it means that you have not yet paid for 1997 (January-August), we would like you to continue to be members and we think you are still there. Of course, if you are not still there you won't be reading this.

As before, members will receive two reminders before their mailing of **Magpie** ceases. It is most likely that after two reminders the member has either moved or does not wish to rejoin. If any member has paid up but does not get their copy of the newsletter, contact the editor.

In Brief

How about a bit of Good News for a change. You deserve it.

Car Park Tax

You will probably have heard about the proposal on taxing car parking spaces. Any commercial concern with 10, or more, parking spaces will be subject to a tax based on the number of spaces. This should discourage people from using their cars to travel to work or to the out of town superstore.

Better Wildlife Protection

It has recently been on the news that the government proposes to beef up

the 1981 "Wildlife and Countryside Act". This should hopefully afford better protection to Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

We do not have specific details of either of the above proposals, at present.

About 15 years ago, it was estimated that the earth's oil reserves would last about 50 years. This estimate had been recently revised. Because of new discoveries, it is now expected that the oil will not run out until the year 2117! Gosh, that's a long time!

(That's good news, is it? - Ed.)

Holly Royde - update

by Anthony Phelps

The campaign to save Holly Royde and its grounds from development (see "Losses of Small Patches of Open Space in Manchester" - Summer **Magpie**) has been very successful, attracting lots of local support, and raising awareness of what is, unless you happened to have been on a course there, a part of our heritage that is mostly hidden and unknown.

Recent campaign highlights even included the Hall, Brass Ensemble donating their time to the campaign (18th August 1997), giving a full audience a wonderful evening of music, and raising money to keep the campaign running.

They also seem to have "caused" the Council to actually pass a paper (Item No. 13, 4th September 1997 - Environmental Planning Committee - I have a copy) which, whilst not actually mentioning Holly Royde, shows great concern that the UDP (see worries in the Summer **Magpie**) is too weak to provide any protection for these old buildings - something of which the campaigners have been only too aware during many meetings with the Planning Department.

Lucy Fogarty (Manchester Green Party), one of the hard working campaigners has taken the fight to the Government, writing letters to Michael Meacher, and even seems to have provoked what could become an "international incident". Apparently, some of the money donated for building the extensions to Holly Royde back in the 1960s came from one or more of the Scandinavian countries. Some of the ex-course members from these countries, who are now Ambassadors, etc, are upset at the loss of the building as an educational establishment, and certainly don't seem keen that it should be developed. It seems they may protest.

The developers, David Wilson Homes, are, I believe, costing out a new proposal. It seems unlikely that this will be presented in time for the November (or December?) Planning Committees. There's even the possibility of a Public Inquiry, which could take a year to resolve. So, the campaign goes on.

Gorton Heritage Trial

by Anthony Phelps

I've not written about this before, because it's something that is fairly new on the agenda of our group. We were consulted by Councillor James Ashley about this project to develop a heritage and wildlife trail along the length of the Gore Brook. As I had never visited the area before, I went to the walk on the 11th October 1997, and met a small band of locals. The walk will stretch from Sunny Brow Park across Hydc Road by Brookfield Church, ending up at the first surface evidence of the Brook beside Gorton Lower Reservoir.

I was struck by the beauty of this linear walk, with plenty of trees, a meadow area, a spectacular graveyard with the Brook babbling through it, and other different but exciting habitats.

Why I wanted to become involved was to make sure that wildlife interests were to the fore, and I have to report that I have no worries on this at all. At the second public meeting which Rob and I attended, the constitution was decided, and there were only two objectives, one mentioning "heritage", and the other "wildlife" - so it seems that their aims are OK with Manchester Wildlife.

Last Saturday (15th November) I was on site helping them on a Public Work Day, tidying-up one patch of the graveyard. Some people were worried that in "tidying up" the work would be done insensitively. However, they had called in Greater Manchester Ecology Unit to look over the site and offer advice prior to any work being undertaken. About 20 people turned up, and we did several hours of work before the rain started. Highlight of the day was when a Grey Heron flew in and settled on the Brook.

They are hoping to start a twice yearly meadow cut (on GMEU's advice), and this should start in April 1998. Hopefully we'll be able to notify you in the Spring **Magpie**. It would be nice for members in the north and east of Manchester (or anywhere!) to get involved in this project.

What A Waste

On the evening of Thursday the 20th of November I went to a public consultation meeting to hear about the future of waste disposal in Greater Manchester. This was organised by the GMWDA who gave an appalling presentation, to much barracking from the assembled multitude. The fact that the acoustics in the Great Hall, at Manchester Town Hall, are pretty dire, did not help matters; hardly a word could be heard and the amplification didn't improve matters. The fact that the speakers representing GMWDA did not mention waste minimisation was not very helpful in endearing them to the audience. The emphasis seemed to be on the "fact" that incineration was the cheapest, and most environmentally friendly, method of waste disposal.

The presentation from the Friends of the Earth was much better; very simple, "What do you want?" - "More waste minimisation and recycling!" - "When do you want it?" - "Now!" When it came to the turn of the audience to ask questions and make comments, the overwhelming conclusion was that nobody wanted incineration; there is enough pollution in Manchester without making it worse. Furthermore, it was obvious that if we went down the incineration route, waste minimisation and recycling would take a back seat. The idea is that incineration plants would be used for power generation; admirable, you might think but there are cases where local authorities have been fined for not providing enough rubbish to feed the flames. This would act as a disincentive to finding ways to reduce the amount of waste.

One obvious aspect of the consultation process was that it had received little publicity. This is not unusual on these occasions; the fewer people who know about it the fewer will be the comments that need to be taken into consideration. Did you know about this public consultation exercise? Probably not! However it's not too late to make your opinions known. Pop down to your local library; ask for a copy of "A Waste Management Strategy for Greater Manchester"; give it the once over and fill in the reply paid card, giving **YOUR** opinions. You've got until the 31st of December 1997. Tomorrow will be too late!

The Cutting Edge

We have had reports, from members, of grass verges being cut at inappropriate times. We are not talking about narrow verges in positions where lack of regular cutting would be inappropriate. No, these are wide verges in places where "tidiness" is not paramount. The first report was concerning a grassy bank, between the pavement of Albany Road, Chorlton, and the rear walls of units on Albany Trading Estate. The cutting was done at a time when Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars were feeding up on nettles, so interrupting their breeding cycle (killing them!). We are told that this verge was a mass of wild, and other, flowers, and Cinnabar moths had already bred there. The second case was the wide verge on Simonsway, Wythenshawe, adjacent to Big Wood. This is, in effect, the last remnant of Shadow Moss and, apart from a good variety of wild flowers, Orange Tip and

Green-veined White butterflies breed there. Some years ago we were able to persuade Manchester Recreational Services to leave cutting of this area until late summer. Unfortunately, this year the grass was cut in late spring/early summer, which could have disrupted the butterfly breeding cycle. We have had discussion with Bill Herstatt, at Manchester Operational Services (who are responsible for the cutting of roadside verges); he proved a sympathetic ear and promised to investigate the matter further. He was not sure if the bank on Albany Street was the responsibility of the Council. As for the verge on Simonsway, he said he would speak with the person responsible. Ironically, if the Airport Metrolink goes ahead, a station is to be built on this meadow!

We hope to have more on this subject and when our investigations are complete, we will let you know the result. In the meantime, if you see grass being cut at the wrong time of year, let us know.

PLANNING MATTERS

by Malcolm Practice

XANADU - An unlikely sounding name for a proposed development in Wigan. An indoor ski slope with real (artificial) snow, with other indoor leisure facilities and parking for 5000 vehicles. No wonder then, that when the application came into the Wigan Planning Department they thought someone was winding them up and did not, at first, take it seriously. Of course, they did take it seriously, eventually (probably soon after they had stopped laughing).

The site of the proposed development is a very pleasant area of open space, designated as a wildlife corridor in the Wigan Unitary Development Plan (UDP) just across the road west of Pennington Flash. From a brief visit, I would assess that it is a good wildlife site; in late September I saw Speckled Wood butterflies and a Kestrel hunting over one of the wild meadows. The variety of habitats, stream, ponds, hedgerows and maturing woodland, also indicated the wildlife value of the area.

Of course, we are used to developers wanting to destroy our valuable open spaces but developments of such an unsustainable nature should never be allowed on greenfield sites, or anywhere else for that matter. It is obvious that it is expected that people would travel long distances to use such a leisure facility; it's not for local people. And talking about local people, there is much opposition to the development from that quarter. Also, there is to be a local by-election in the ward and the Green Party have entered a candidate who is fighting on a solely anti-development ticket!

PARRS WOOD - What will be the fate of the Parrs Wood Centre for Rural Education? Parrs Wood High School is falling apart and needs replacing. Manchester City Council have decided that, as they can't afford to build a new school (they can afford to spend millions on a **white elephant** like Runway II but not on an essential like a school), they will get private enterprise to do the job. Of course, the builders will want something out of the enterprise. In this case they want a 15 screen multiplex cinema, indoor leisure facility, a hotel, a restaurant (in the old stable block) and parking for plenty of cars.

A few modifications have been made to the original plans; a night club has been dropped, the hotel has been moved a little, to save some of the orchard, and it is hoped that an access road can be moved so that it won't bisect the fine woodland strip which surrounds the Rural Studies site.

So, is there a future for the Rural Studies Centre in all this? Nothing has been finalised, as yet, but there are hopes that it will be taken back into the educational system and be part of, but independent from, the High School. It should still receive a grant from the City Council but would not have to pay it back in rent, as it does at present. There would be a new class room and the Centre would move out of the stable block to the gardener's cottage. Some of the open area would be lost but most of the woodland, and the pond, would remain. This is how it should be. It is not right that the onus for running such an important educational establishment, which is for the benefit of the people of Manchester, should be left entirely on the shoulders of volunteers, however willing.

On Tuesday the 18th of November, the Didsbury Civic Society called a public meeting to discuss the plans. We were told, at the start, that there was to be no opposition to any part of the plans as that could put the whole project in jeopardy and there would be no new school. Under these circumstances, there seemed little reason for the Manchester Wildlife delegation to remain so, after a quick look at the plans we retired to the Gateway Hotel, to discuss, amongst other things, the imminent collapse of the leisure industry.

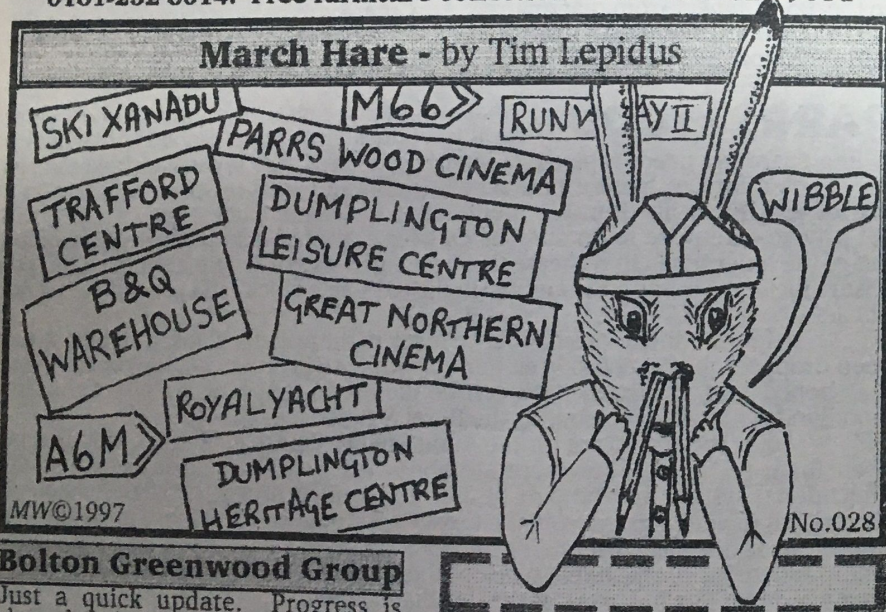
Is there any sustainable development out there?

This is the third, and final, time of asking. We can assume, from the response we have had, so far, that the answer is no; at least as far as Manchester is concerned. However, we can think of a few examples. The first is a group called Emerge who run a recycling scheme which carries out house to house collections in East Manchester. They even collect old furniture. We wish them success. For a second example, how about the Bolton Greenwood Group?

Unfortunately these examples pale into insignificance when compared to the unsustainable developments which abound. This time, let us concentrate on multiplex cinemas. At present, there are 58 cinema screens in Greater Manchester. If all current proposals proceed there will be 203 screens, in several cinemas which will all have huge car parks! When was the last time you went to the pictures? Soon, it will be compulsory to go twice a week, if all these enterprises are to be a success. Even if there was enough spare cash sloshing around in the system, do you have the time? All these new cinemas may create new jobs, not extra jobs, but this cannot compensate for the environmental damage they will cause. An American businessman once said, "We can't all make a living holding open doors for one another."

Emerge - c/o 12 Little Lever Street, Manchester. M1 1HR - Tel: 0161-232 8014. Free furniture collection - Tel: 0161-226 9051

March Hare - by Tim Lepidus



Bolton Greenwood Group

Just a quick update. Progress is slow, but it is progress. We have had two training days, one on tool sharpening and another on making a shaving horse with a little bodging tuition. The next training day will be on more bodging but we can't give a date at the time of going to press. There have been several work days, we've even made a start on the

blacksmith's forge. Our main problem is that most of our current members have other pressing commitments, such as the Bolton Conservation Volunteers. If you would like to take part in woodland crafts, contact Mike Fisher, Tel: 01204 574457 or Ian Brown, Tel: 0161-437 7040.

Manchester Wildlife - Events and Meetings

November 1997

Thursday 27th - **General Meeting** - Time 7.30pm at the One World Centre (Friends Meeting House Basement) Central Street, Mount Street, Manchester. Contact - Ian Brown 0161-437 7040

December 1997

Tuesday 9th - **Social Meeting** - At the Old Monkey Public House, junction of Portland St./Princess St. Convenient for Piccadilly Gardens Bus & Metro Station. Ian Brown 0161-437 7040

January 1998

Tuesday 13th - **Social Meeting** - Details as for Tuesday the 9th of December

Thursday 29th - **General Meeting** - Details as for Thursday the 27th of November

February 1998

Tuesday 10th - **Social Meeting** - Details as for Tuesday the 9th of December

March 1998

Tuesday 10th - **Social Meeting** - Details as for Tuesday the 9th of December

Thursday 26th - **General Meeting** - Details as for Thursday the 27th of November

April 1998

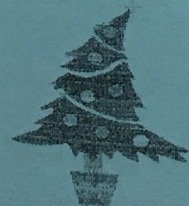
Tuesday 14th - **Social Meeting** - Details as for Tuesday the 9th of December

Woodland Management - We hope to carry out at least one of these tasks, probably in the Mersey Valley, during late February or March. Please contact Ian Brown (Tel: 0161-437 7040), nearer the time for details.

There is plenty happening in the **Wildlife & Conservation** area. **Don't Miss Out** - Contact **Manchester Wildlife** or the other conservation organisations listed on our contacts list (back cover) to find out what is going on.

Tail piece

Well, that's about it. I hope I've not forgotten anything important; I usually do! I was beginning to get the hang of this Desktop Publishing Programme, towards the end. It strikes me that, as far as font style and size is concerned, Charter, at 10 points (what you're reading now) is about the best. The fancy fonts could be a little difficult to read unless they are writ large. Let me know what you think by completing and returning your readers' survey form. I did not use as much "art" as usual; there didn't seem to be room, with so much to report. If you would like to see more art work, let me know. Don't forget, keep the articles and stories rolling in; I think we had some interesting stuff, this time. It's the articles we get that make the **Magpie** what it is, whatever that may be.



**A Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
to all Our Readers**



And don't forget, send those letter on Global Warming to: the Prime Minister and the Presidents of the USA and Japan. The Kyoto Summit starts in early December. (see page 15)

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
	Stockport and Tameside, Eric Stead, 0161-494 9130
	Bolton Wildlife Project, Mick Weston, 01204 361847
Lancashire Wildlife Trust.....	
Medlock & Tame Valley	
Conservation Association.....	Mildred Burlinson, 0161-330 2721
BTCV.....	Salford & Trafford, Val Sutton, 0161-872 7640 (day)
	Sale & Altrincham, Shelagh Aston, 0161-860 6910
	Bolton, Rick Parker, 01942 817302
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
	Manchester Group, Simeon Rydz, 0161-434 2720
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
Groal/Irwell Valley Wardens.....	Nicky Greek, 01204 571561
Stockport Countryside	
Ranger Service.....	0161-477 5637
Trafford Council.....	Roz Park, 0161-912 4174
Manchester Sustainability Group...	Adrian Pearce, 0161-234 4594
Manchester Partnership 21.....	Nick Carr-Brown, 0161-272 7771 (Ex Local Agenda 21)
Manchester FoE.....	0161-834 8221
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 List, are we included on yours? Please in form us if any details are incorrect.

You are welcome to reproduce anything contained within "The Magpie", with an acknowledgement.

The "Magpie" is the newsletter of Manchester Wildlife. The opinions expressed within its pages are not necessarily those of Manchester Wildlife. Every effort is made to ensure that the information in the Magpie is correct. Anyone who undertakes a project based on the information contained in the Magpie does so at their own risk.

Stop Press - 29th July 1997. Manchester Local Agenda 21 has been wound up and the funds transferred to the new organisation, Manchester Partnership 21.

*****Printed at MARC on Recycled Paper*****

MARC (Manchester Area Resource Centre) - The place for Community Printing and computer work. ☎ 0161-839 0839. 28-30 Edge Street, Manchester M4 1HN