

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



Number 43 Summer 1998

Magpie



**Standing up for Wildlife
in Greater Manchester**

50p

Editorial

Send in
YOUR Story

Editor's Office 0161-437 7040

Deadlines can be a bit of a curse, especially if one is an editor. The spring Magpie has to be out three weeks before the AGM and, ideally, the winter Magpie should be out before Christmas. Fortunately, the deadline for the summer Magpie is fairly flexible, so long as it comes out some time during the summer. It rather looks as though I am going to be late (again) but I do have a good excuse, this time.

I've been on my holidays! A most enjoyable three weeks was spent in Helmsdale (Sutherland) with MW member, John Turner (alias Malcolm Practice), a very relaxing time in a part of the world which is the exact opposite of the hustle and bustle of Manchester. Crossing the A9 trunk road, one hardly needs to bother looking to see if traffic is coming, and not one set of traffic lights in the picturesque fishing town of Helmsdale. The coastal walk to a nearby cove was most interesting with nearly 100 species of wild herbs to be found and plenty of bird life; one almost gets fed up of seeing Eider ducks and Oystercatchers. Dramatic scenery, though I prefer a more wooded landscape, and one drive along the Strath, through the middle of a really horrendous thunderstorm, was quite scary.

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



Then I spent a fortnight in Wexford, Eire, just to the south of the Wicklow Mountains. The scenery is magnificent and the countryside so quiet that one feels envious of a country with only about 4 million inhabitants especially as nearly half of them are safely tucked away in Dublin.

Anyway, if you have been away on holiday I hope you enjoyed yours as much as I enjoyed mine.

At this stage it is difficult to say what this issue of Magpie will contain. I am nervously biting my fingernails waiting for articles to arrive by post, just hoping that our regular contributors will not let me down. We do have a couple of letters which should give hope to those readers who occasionally get depressed at the state of our wildlife and environment, and there's a competition with fabulous prizes.

Manchester Wildlife Contacts

Rob Allen (Chair), 10 Brooklyn Court, Wilmslow Road, Withington, Manchester. M20 9NA
Tel: 0161-448 8631

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

Reader's Letter

Dear Magpie,

I'm sorry I missed filling in your survey. I'm writing instead to express my feelings about 'Magpie'. I think it's great. I like how it's written - the individual styles shine through; it's honest, human and humorous; and, most importantly for me, it's observant and vigilant. This means it's more in touch with a fast changing world reality than most magazines and, I would even say, our so-called political leaders.

Also, I want to support you in daring to write about 'depressing' issues. Who says you shouldn't and why? The world environmental situation is alarming, no - terrifying! If we take just one aspect of it, global warming - 95% of scientists agree that the apparently moving seasons, the energetic extreme and upside down weather and the more frequent appearance of severe 'El Niños' are symptomatic of global warming now. If we add to this loss of habitat, toxic chemical build-up, acid rain, radiation leakage, depletion of the ozone layer.....etc. etc. etc., it cannot be overstated how serious the current situation is.

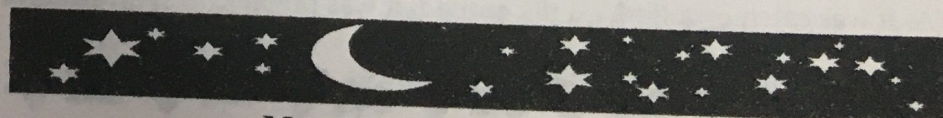
But, what I also want to challenge is that our reaction to that must be to be depressed. I believe that we can react in more positive and constructive ways. Let's look at what depression is. I think most who've experienced it would agree that it's a feeling of utter hopelessness. I see elephants in a zoo and I see depression. When we feel depressed we feel like the elephant in the zoo - tethered, caged and hopeless. But in our case the cage is an illusion. The disempowerment is mental not physical because we can always do something. Perhaps people react this way because they believe they cannot challenge, they must accept, they have no power, or that there is no alternative - and yes that's depressing.

I believe we can react to the damage being done by being outraged, angry, incensed and determined to act in the myriad of ways open to us in our 'democracy'. Yes, a lot of people have to make a noise simultaneously in order to be heard. So in this new age of assertiveness let's all shout and see what happens. There's never no hope - even the word hopeless has hope in it. We are never totally disempowered. So keep writing the 'depressing' articles, and let's shout, challenge, live and help the planet live too!

Just one small complaint - even if you don't have the type to do it, could you manually put the little squiggle (tilde) over the 'n' in Niño?

Yours - An offended, but not depressed, Spanish speaking reader.

Pauline Hocking



Another Reader's Letter

Dear Magpie,

I used to be so envious of our previous Chairperson's (Unity Kelly) ability to find and identify rare species of bird or plant life in the middle of Manchester. Do you remember her finding an almost extinct, extremely poisonous plant on the bulldozed remains of a furniture storage firm on the corner of Great Western Street in Rusholme? (Henbane - Ed.) She thought the seed may have been in the ground since the turn of the century. I almost, but not quite, believed she had made up her sightings. But not any longer. Since I acquired a dog, I've gone for occasional early morning walks in Birchfields Park, (fairly central Manchester I think). One such trip, in late March, revealed three Jays, a pair of Long-tailed Tits, a Heron and a pair of Great-spotted Woodpeckers complete with nesting hole!

A few weeks before, cycling through Victoria Park at dusk, I heard a loud "Twit-Twoo", so loud, I thought someone was playing a joke on me. But no - an extremely large and not at all camouflaged owl was sitting on a branch over my head - ignoring the world below it just as much as the students on foot, and cars racing through, were ignoring it.

I've got an above average size garden for Longsight - 25 yards long, and it's planted mainly with fruit trees, rambling roses and flowers for wildlife. I made ponds in the front and back gardens, but the local children destroyed the pond in the front garden looking for frogs, so I had to fill that one in. Frogs abound in Longsight and my garden is no exception. The whole area has streams running underground through it, and one local row of houses is reputed to have a stream underneath the floorboards! My friend's pond, in a back-terrace garden, acquired large frogs, seemingly from nowhere. I wonder if they use the sewers as I once found quite a large but rather thin frog in the drain from my bathroom.

Birdlife in my garden is ever increasing as the amount of cover increases, but is still mainly sparrows, Blue Tits and Magpies. However, I do have the occasional surprise - a mature male Great-spotted Woodpecker came once to my trees and the old apple trees next door. And three times there has been a bird of prey in my garden - on the last occasion on the ground tearing up a sparrow. It's certainly not a Kestrel - the only bird of prey I can identify. Rumour has it that it could be a Sparrowhawk. In case it comes again, is there any way of helping me identify it?

Monica Bolton

(As it was catching a bird, on the ground, it was probably a Sparrowhawk - Ed.)



Don't Let Them Muck About With Your Genes!

by Jean Bender

I don't know if you've heard much about Genetically Modified Organisms, or GMOs, as they are becoming commonly known, but it is something that concerns me deeply. Simply, it involves scientists isolating certain genes from a source organism, which they believe controls certain characteristics like pesticide resistance, and inserting them into another, target organism. This sounds like simple cross-pollination, I know, except that the organisms involved are often completely unrelated. For example, they stuck a gene from a flat-fish into a tomato. This, in itself, has enormous implications for vegetarians and others who wish to know what they are eating. Also, there is no knowing what this cross-species gene tampering will do. I like to think that if it was a good idea, nature would have tried it first!

I am firmly of the opinion that GMOs are being produced and forced onto a mostly unsuspecting public, who are being treated as guinea pigs in what could become a monstrous global experiment affecting the health and well-being of everyone on the planet.

Why is this happening, you may ask yourself - surely if Governments and multi-national companies are doing this, it must be "for our own good". This is what companies like Monsanto would like you to believe. However, just ask the question: "Who are Monsanto?", and you'll soon discover that they are a chemical company.

What they are doing is modifying the genetic structure of food crops to enable them to:

1. Patent that crop so that everyone who wants to grow it has to pay them.
2. Possibly add a gene to that crop so that the seed produced is unviable, therefore forcing farmers to pay each year for their seed. Once a crop has been patented, it is theoretically illegal for anyone growing it to save and grow any seed produced, as it "belongs" to Monsanto (or one of the many other companies involved in this sinister activity).

Because the crop has been modified to be resistant to one of the chemical company's own pesticides/herbicides, the farmer not only has to pay them for the seed, but also for the chemicals with which to grow them.

I find all this extremely unsustainable, and feel that these companies are doing this not for our own good, not to produce more food - after all, there's more than enough food at the moment stock-piled, which we are all paying for - but for simple greed, and also because they like to "play God". Also, "... if crops are guaranteed resistant to herbicides and insects, farmers might use non-selective weedkillers on their crops more widely than before, reproducing 'the sterility of the greenhouse in open fields'. It has also been demonstrated that insect pests have the capability to develop resistance to genetically modified crops bred for insect resistance, making the crops worthless after a relatively short time"(1).

This technology is inherently unsafe. Not because there's any evi-

dence that it is dangerous, but simply there is no research to say one way or another. These crops are being "released" into what the companies would prefer us to call "test sites", with trials attempting to see if the genetically modified plants interbreed with the wild/natural crops they grow in a buffer zone around each GMO crop. "French researchers have shown that genetically modified Oil-seed Rape has interbred with Wild Radish and Wild Turnip - introducing genes for herbicide and antibiotic resistance into wild plants"(1).

However, once "released" - and there are over three hundred such sites across the country - it is too late. There are reports in the journal "British Wildlife" that these organisms have already moved into wild plant communities: "... New Scientist recently printed a list of companies and government-sponsored research institutes which have been accused of failing to stick to various conditions that applied to their GMO experimental plots. Breaches of consent included: buffer zones surrounding crop being too small; failure to implement measures to limit escape of pollen from herbicide-resistant wheat; failure to notify officials about trials; and scattering of the seed of herbicide-resistant Oilseed Rape outside designated area ... In a number of cases, experimental plots had to be destroyed"(1). This is particularly worrying because insect communities are also at risk because of this, if not from the massive amounts of pesticides and herbicides being liberally sprayed on the new crops. "The Oilseed Rape has been modified to make it resistant to the herbicide glufosinate ammonium. This means that the crop can be sprayed with the herbicide, which will kill all weeds except the Oilseed Rape"(2). Once insect communities and weed communities are affected, this means that birds and small mammal populations which rely on them for food are also at risk. What is also worrying about the British Wildlife article is the wording "... failure to implement measures to limit escape of pollen from herbicide-resistant wheat", which means to me that they know the pollen will escape, but won't worry unless it goes "too far". Many of the bird species which are already in serious decline, like the Skylark, Corn Bunting and Grey Partridge may well be pushed over the brink to extinction. This is not just resistance to insect pests are passed into related wild species, it is possible that 'non-target' insects 'hosted' by the wild plants could be denied their food source. Indeed, recent research has shown that plants genetically modified to produce an insect toxin have detrimentally affected non-target species"(1).

Luckily, we live in a world where people, at least some people, do really care, and have been taking action for some time now to stop this slide into the evil clutches of companies such as Monsanto. There is a group known as "genetiX snowball" (calling themselves "a campaign of civil responsibility"), which aims to encourage groups and individuals to "non-violently, accountably and safely pull up a small number of genetically modified crops and convince others to do the same"(3). It's called "Snowball", because, like a snowball rolling down a hill, it gathers momentum and gets bigger as it goes; genetiX snowball "will spread open resistance to the unsafe, unwanted and unnecessary practice of genetic

modification of crops and food in the same way"(3). This action has come about because the democratic process has ceased to protect our health, and the health and sustainability of the environment by allowing the testing and growing of these crops. Therefore, it is entirely reasonable for ordinary citizens to take reasonable non-violent action to affect change within that democratic process. When this change has been met, the genetiX snowball will have done its job, and will cease. Even Jeff Rooker, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, commenting on the regulation of genetically modified crops and food said: "The Government is not in the driving seat". If not them, then it's down to us all.

English Nature have come out against it, wanting a moratorium on further releases, so that research can be done, and a system of ethics can be worked out. They are obviously concerned about the danger to wild populations of both fauna and flora. Prince Charles has been particularly outspoken against GMO foods, and Malcolm Walker, Chair of Iceland Foods has gone so far as to call GMOs "Frankenstein's Food", and pledged that no GMO products will be used in any of Iceland's own-brand products. Also, for once, French farmers have acted in a "sane" way, and several of them have gone so far as to be jailed for destroying GMO Soya Beans in a French port - one of them said "I wish I'd had time to destroy more of them".

Some food companies already using GMO ingredients in their products are starting to follow a voluntary agreement to label processed foods which contain GMOs - Unilever was one of the first. However, almost any product which contains Soya Flour (excepting organic products) may well contain GMO Soya (this being Monsanto's first crop which is being grown in the USA).

This is a campaign which can and must be won. The other morning, whilst deciding whether to get up or not, and listening to GMTV's "News Hour", I saw my colleague Mel sitting on the sofa, next to a Monsanto "clone". She was magnificent, and the interview was very calm and very informative, and I got the impression that the interviewers were definitely not on the side of Monsanto.

Today (16th July), I heard a news item stating that Monsanto have bought a British plant breeding company, "PBI", which breeds strains of wheat (in the traditional way), which are mainly sold in France at the moment. When questioned about the choice that farmers had over whom to buy seed from, the Monsanto representative stated that even after this take-over, they only control 10% of the seed producing/selling, and that farmers still have a choice. However, if they keep releasing GMOs, and wild crops and non-GMO crops are infected, then there will be no choice at all.

If you are interested in learning more about "genetiX snowball", or wish to get your free action pack (however, donations of stamps/money will always be welcome), containing all you need to know to take part, the address and other contact details are in the reference section at the end. The first action took place on the 4th July, and following that, regular actions will take place on the 1st and 3rd weekends of every month.

The genetiX snowball action on the 4th July 1998 saw the five women "snowballers" (including three from Manchester) safely and openly remove 200 GMO plants from Model Farm, Watlington, Oxfordshire re-

lease site, despite the "heavy" police presence (two dozen officers and a helicopter). These plants were sealed in marked bags and sent to the Environment Agency, requesting that they dispose of them as "biohazardous waste". The women were arrested, but later released without charge, as they have successfully obtained injunctions on the women.

So, don't be afraid of arrest, as it seems the worst you'll receive is to be told to stay away from GMO crops. I only wish we could collectively get an injunction against Monsanto stopping them from trying to control us all!

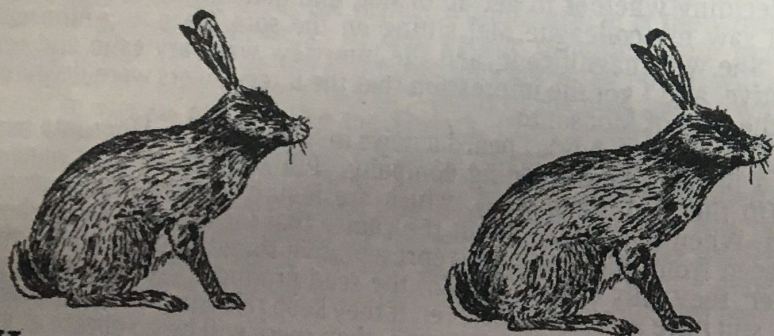
Advance notice: There is to be a "Harvest Festival" genetix snowball event on the 19th and 20th September 1998, in Cambridge. Contact genetix snowball(3), or call 0780 1055657 for further details.

References

- (1) From "British Wildlife" - Volume 9, Number 4 (April 1998), page 261 "Conservation News".
- (2) From "British Wildlife" - Volume 9, Number 5 (June 1998), page 336 "Conservation News".
- (3) From the "genetix snowball" leaflet. This is available from genetix snowball, One World Centre, 6 Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS (telephone: 0161-834 0295; fax: 0161-834 8187).

March Hare

by Tim Lepidus



Hare Today.....Clone Tomorrow

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No.029

Did You Know?

The House of Commons have banned GMO food from their kitchens, until it can be proved to be safe. However, they're letting us eat the stuff!

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Birchfields Park Orchard or All Projects Invariably Lead to Gore Brook

by Anthony Phelps

For those who believe in coincidence or synchronicity, we've been consulted on and involved in a number of projects recently in which Gore Brook has appeared: (1) Gorton Heritage Trail, which is based on the brook directly; (2) the LAND scheme (Longsight A New Direction), where a short portion of the brook enters one corner of the area; (3) Highfield Country Park; (4) Nutsford Vale Park, and most recently (5) Birchfields Park, where Gore Brook also flows through.

Regarding Birchfields Park, we received a letter on Monday 6th July 1998 about the proposed community orchard in this park in Rusholme, inviting us to attend a consultation event the following Saturday, the 11th July. I quickly responded on Manchester Wildlife's behalf, offering our support.

On the Saturday, I attended the event in a marquee in the park, and found a whole variety of ways for people to give their views on what they wanted for the orchard area. It seemed that most people favoured a forest garden, with votes cast in descending order for wildlife, beauty, education, community activities, food production and recreation. As there is an apple orchard across Wilmslow Road in Platt Fields Park, it will be interesting to have something different in Birchfields Park.

Last Thursday, the 6th August, I attended the follow-up meeting of "Birchfields Green Action Group", who were formed from local residents to lead the project. As Manchester Wildlife had recently been offered a little space on MERCI's allotment, I offered our help in providing a home for some tree seedlings, should the need arise - although the group have already been given a local allotment for this use.

All in all, it's good to keep being involved in projects which are community generated, and not simply responses to threats from development.

Whilst at the consultation event, I met Phil, who showed me a "wild" area of the park for which he has definite plans. There are several dead/dying trees which are in need of pollarding fairly high up, so that they are still of use to the resident woodpeckers. Hopefully, Phil and I will be able to get this work done this Autumn/Winter. Other things to do include coppicing Sycamores, and increasing the biodiversity of the area by planting other species, such as Hazel.

Things may not go the way we plan, as the Council think there's a need to drive a 3 metre wide hard path through this wild area. Phil and I can see the need for a path of no more than 1 metre wide, which will give perfectly adequate wheelchair access. Also, there is no need to put a hard surface along the whole length of the existing path, only where there is a problem with drainage.

Also, I found out that the Action Group wanted some practical experience of managing an orchard, and asked the Council if they would mind them doing some grass pulling from around the trees in Platt Fields orchard. However, the Council, with the wisdom I have come to expect of them, and with the persistence of a territorial tom-cat, went and sprayed the grass around the trees two days before the group had planned to go and do this work for free. What is it with our Council and weed killer? They seem to be addicted to the stuff! I only wish there was something we could spray on the Council to stop them doing this!!

If you live in the Birchfields Park area, and want to join the Birchfields Park Action Group, contact: 3 Birch Polygon, Rusholme, Manchester M14 5HX Tel: 224 8437

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Opinion

**"Freedom's just another word
for nothing left to lose"**

by Ian Brown

There will be very few of you who will not have heard about the release, by animal rights activists, of 6,000 Mink from a fur farm in Hampshire. On the news, the action has been described as, "irresponsible", "crazy" and "stupid" and I am inclined to agree that it was at least one of those or, more probably, all three. The perpetrators of this mad act claim that they were giving the Mink their freedom. Whether or not fur farming is cruel is a matter for conjecture; I am inclined to think it is but the animals involved have only known captivity and have probably been well fed and looked after. To release them into the wild could also be an act of cruelty as they may have difficulty fending for themselves and many could die prolonged deaths.

The main cruelty is to the wildlife which will suffer from predation by the released Mink. Mink are voracious predators and, presuming these Mink get the hang of catching prey, instead of being hand fed, they could cause great problems to the wild fauna in Hampshire and possibly farther afield. One of the animals which will suffer is the Water Vole which now has protected status because of its increasing rarity. Apart from habitat loss, Mink are thought to be the main threat to this charming, and harmless, rodent. Anyone who would put our native wildlife in peril must be mad!

I have been against fur farming for a long time now, not necessarily from a cruelty point of view but because it usually involves introducing non-native animals. Any introduction of alien species, fauna or flora, is undesirable as it can have a detrimental effect on our indigenous wildlife. This realisation came to me in the early '60s when I used to go to Norfolk, regularly on business. During the occasional evening spent in the pub, I would hear local people talk about rats "this big" (a length of about a yard being indicated). I was a little mystified, at first, as I had never heard of rats so big. Eventually I realised that Coypu were being referred to. These herbivores, which had escaped from fur farms, could be thought to be quite harmless but they caused so much damage to river and dyke banks that it was thought necessary to exterminate them. This was done and now the Coypu is extinct in Britain.

The recent event involving the release of 6,000 Mink could have one good aspect. Now it should be generally realised how much of a threat these Mink are to our wildlife and the efforts to remove them in Hampshire may be extended to other parts of the Britain making the countryside safer for creatures which are part of our natural biodiversity.

The sooner fur farming is made illegal, the better, and I support the Government's aim to bring this about. Then there will be no chance for daft people to give these animals their "freedom". In the meantime, some so called animal liberationists have scored an own goal and caused a lot of trouble we could have well done without.

Security Guard

by Rob Allen

*I'm hard, I'm hard,
I wanna be a security guard.
I love to see an electric fence,
To me it makes perfect sense.
My peaked cap and uniform
Make me feel that I belong
To a body, a respectable band,
Keeping those hippies off private land.
But the other day a grubby hand
Offered me a sarney and a cheery song.
We talked through the night
And as the sun rose,
I drifted into a thoughtful repose.
The penny had dropped, I knew my Fate,
As I tore down the wire by the main gate.
Now I scoff tofu round the old camp fire,
My previous life seems dull and dire.
I'm off to the peace camp at Faslane,
I'll never, never guard the fence again.*

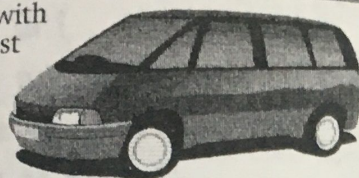
Eco Tip

I'd like to recommend the newsagent on the corner of Rippingham Road, opposite Withington Library, as they now stock orange juice, from Waterford Dairies, in returnable (milk) bottles. As these are probably delivered by electric vehicle, this has got to be the most environmentally sound bottled drink in south Manchester.

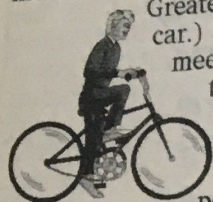
Management of the People

by Ned Leggit

No wonder there are so many problems with communications between people when most of us do so much of our travelling locked in metal boxes. (Less than 50% of people, in Greater Manchester, own a car.)



How many people do you meet to talk to on the street these days? If you do, you can hardly make yourself heard above the constant roar of traffic on main roads. A lot of older people must now find travelling on foot, where roads need to be crossed, almost impossible because of improved (?) standing start acceleration of modern cars - being a pedestrian, in the city, is now really dangerous, especially when taking into consideration the proven damage to health of breathing in the fumes produced by the internal combustion engine.

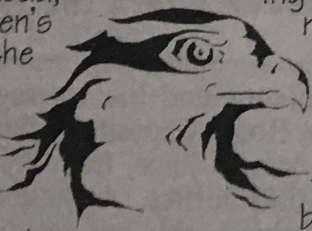


Surely the myth of the great "car economy", promoted by the previous government, is well and truly discredited. It is now high time the private motorist was priced out of the city streets and the money used to design, and implement, people friendly pedestrian and cyclist routes and increase the availability of an effective public transport system.



STRANGE OLD BUZZARD

The Withington Buzzard was again spotted on the 8th of August. As I was walking down Mauldeth Road, next to the children's nursery opposite the Arosa, early in the morning, there it was peering down at me from its perch on a chimney pot. It viewed me calmly as I walked right up to a point immediately underneath its vantage point. Then, with an



effortless flap of its wings, it flew to another perch, on the other side of the road, keeping a beady gaze on my next move.

If anybody has any information, or ideas, they could give me about this extraordinary bird, which has remained in this locale for three months now, I would be most grateful (via Manchester Wildlife).

The Law Isn't Always An Ass - The Gandalf Update

by Witha Smallpea

My previous article on "The Gandalf Six, and the Freedom of Speech" (Magpie edition 39, Spring 1997) has, luckily for us all, had some surprising but welcome developments.

Anthony went to hear Paul Rogers (editor of Green Anarchist magazine) on the 8th April 1998 in the Friends Meeting House, and was amazed at the reports of the "farce" (or trial) at Portsmouth Crown Court. If Paul had written these down, they would have automatically been assumed to be fiction! Stories of Judge Sellwood returning drunk from a do with the Lord Mayor; not remembering the names of the defendants, or the publications which they were accused of publishing; Judge Sellwood reminding the prosecution counsel of evidence he'd forgotten to tell the jury! Impartiality? I think not!

Anyway, their convictions have now been quashed in the High Court, with the judges strongly criticising the original judge for misdirecting the jury, and giving excessive sentences (3 years apiece). Paul Rogers, who is still up on the same ridiculous charges, celebrated this High Court decision as "a hammer blow" for the authorities.

What is really spooky is that, despite us all being tax payers, and thus "responsible" for funding the £4 million so far spent on this "witch-hunt", nothing seems to have been reported in the press. The pressure put on the editors of our "free" press by such unrepresentative bodies as MI5 and Special Branch to keep the lid on this story seems to be working. Luckily, however, the "alternative press", of which the Magpie is proud to be a part, is not afraid to tell it how it is.

Since the collapse of the Iron Curtain, the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the ending of the Cold War, we have spooks and spies wandering around twiddling their thumbs wondering who to target next. They thought the Green Movement was a "soft target" - well, we're not!

Any other industry who suddenly finds their order books empty is down-sized, or shut down. What about MI5?

People in Distress

by Ian Brown

I now know why I have been getting so many calls about wildlife in distress; somehow, my telephone number is in the Thompson directory. I am becoming to suspect that it is not the wildlife which is in distress but some of the people.

I will not bore you with the details of all the calls I have had but a few might prove of interest. During the nesting season, the majority have been about young birds which have been found on the ground and can't fly. "I've got it in a box, what shall I do with it.", they say. I say, "You should have left it where it was. Put it back in the place you found it; the mother bird will hear its calls and feed it; a job it can do better than any human. The caller might say, "But a cat might get it." Maybe so, but that's life and not all young birds survive. If they did the skies would be darkened by birds in flight. Then there was the case of the hedgehog with a runny nose. Again it was being kept safely in a box. Again I said to put it back where it was found. I think that hedgehogs do tend to runny noses (They probably get over them in the same way we do!). A man phoned to say he had this spider, "Big, it was, (about $\frac{3}{4}$ " body length) with stripes." He thought it might be a venomous alien species. I said that I didn't think any native spiders were venomous enough to be of danger to humans, it was hardly likely that a foreign species had got into his house and, if he didn't want it in the



house, to put it outside. He wouldn't be placated so I suggested he phone Bolton Museum for advice. I phoned the museum the following day. No one had been in touch about spiders but they confirmed that my advice was about right.

The most bizarre call of all was about the butterfly with no co-ordination. It sounded to me that it was a newly hatched specimen and would recover, given time, but the caller insisted that it was flapping about without getting anywhere and needed help. Maybe a visit to a psychiatrist would be the answer, but not necessarily for the butterfly. Why do people ask for help if they won't listen to advice? If a butterfly has got a screw loose, there is not much anyone can do about it. Really, it's a matter of common sense, a quality which seems to be lacking in some people who think that any form of wildlife, which seems to be a little poorly, should be taken in and cosseted.

On a more serious note, there appears to be a plague of foxes in Fallowfield. It is a little to early, as yet, to tell if this plague is real or perceived. It seems certain that urban foxes are getting bolder and so more noticeable. If you don't want foxes to become a problem, in your area, it is best not to feed them. The main problem is that, areas like Fallowfield are full of takeaway food outlets and most of the food ends up on the pavements where it make good eating for foxes. If you have a similar problem in your area, let us know.

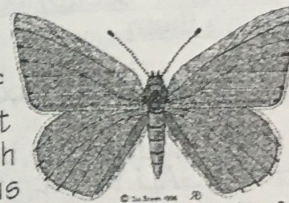
For birds in distress contact Mrs. Irena Zalasiewicz - Tel: 0161-763 5146 - 35 years experience in treating wild animals.

It's Been a Funny Summer

by Peirs White

Or has it? Not long ago, a wet, blustery summer, with occasional sunny days, was considered normal. The occurrence of fine, hot summer was always a welcome respite but it is only in recent years that we have become used to the real scorchers, whatever our childhood memories may tell us. This year, a few people have asked me, "Where are all the butterflies?" Well, like the weather, it has been a poor year for our fluttering friends. But, if you remember, it is not so long ago that dearth of butterflies had us thinking that they were becoming extinct. Before that time (in my youth) there seemed to be plenty of butterflies in the countryside but I have no recollection of them being plentiful in urban areas. Changes in agricultural practices have rendered much of the countryside unsuitable for butterflies but it could be argued that the opposite has happened in the towns, even though we have lost much of our valued open space.

The general warming of the weather must also be a factor and can probably be the main reason for the expansion in the ranges of some species. A century ago, the Comma was almost



extinct and confined to the Welsh Border Country. Now its range has considerably increased and it made an appearance in Manchester about 20 years ago. Shortly after, the Speckled Wood was seen in this area. It had been increasing its range since the 1930s and can now be found almost any where there is a tree. In April 1991 the first Holly Blue was sighted in the Mersey Valley (at Abney Hall Park) and for a few years it was seen in many locations. Then, it mysteriously became scarcer but, this year it appears to be back in strength. It could be that, though the weather has been generally poor, conditions have been right at the critical time in the breeding cycle of the Holly Blue. This butterfly can be found in the most urban of locations; a pair have been seen at St. Michael's Flags (near the Ragged School), Aspin Lane; less than half a mile from Victoria Station.

I expect you've all been out there spotting the butterflies for the Manchester Wildlife Butterfly Survey. If so you'll have seen some of these blue jewels; the most likely place to see them is in your garden but look in any open space, especially where there are trees.

It may have been a funny summer but there have been butterflies about, and still more to come, so keep looking!

The Airport are at it Again - by Malcolm Practice The Saga of Arthur's Wood

On Sunday 21st June 1998, protesters set up camp in Arthur's Wood near the site of Manchester Airport's second runway, when news broke that AMEC planned to take the tops off the trees during the nesting season. This woodland, owned by the National Trust is not on the path of the runway, but Manchester Airport say the work is needed to "improve flight-path visibility", despite the Inspector of the Public Inquiry for the runway advising that everything should be done to avoid these trees being destroyed.

An injunction was sought in the High Court. I reprint below the Press Release issued by the Manchester Green Party on the 9th July 1998.

NATIONAL TRUST TO AXE ITS OWN CREDIBILITY IN ARTHUR'S WOOD, SAY GREENS

Treetop protesters are LEGALLY occupying trees to prevent contractors AMEC illegally felling them

Greens lose injunction case 'only on technicality'.

Green Party legal buffs today claimed the treetop protesters at Arthur's Wood, near Styal, are LEGALLY occupying their trees - in order to prevent the criminal act of felling them. Greater Manchester Green Party legal officer Chris Maile said:
"We believe that contractors AMEC will be breaking the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 if they go ahead and cut down the trees during the nesting season. That's what the law says."

In today's high court injunction case, counsel for the defendants argued that no birds were nesting in Arthur's Wood - apparently after merely walking the perimeter of the site to check. The protesters, however, have seen birds including Herons nesting in the wood, and argue that the cutting should be postponed until after the nesting season. Chris Maile added:

"AMEC and the National Trust only won their case on a technicality that the women who brought the case didn't have locus standi - despite the fact that, following a recent precedent, she said she was speaking for environmentalists represented by groups like the Green Party and Earth First!. This means the rights and wrongs of the case were never aired."

Local Green Party Representative and prospective Euro-candidate

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Lance Crooks added:
"We're now facing the spectacle of the National Trust evicting environmentalists from protected woodland in order to let contractors cut down trees during the nesting season. If that doesn't destroy the National Trust's credibility, what will?"

Contact: Lance Crookes (0161-998 1888); Chris Maile (01942 513792); Spencer Fitz-Gibbon (0161-225 4863).

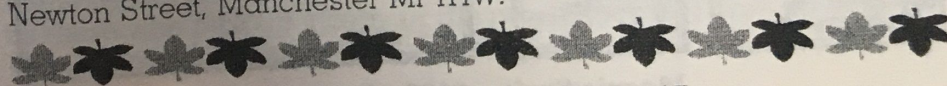
Anthony Phelps has been in discussion with English Nature to find out what is planned for the protection of the Bat species in the wood, should AMEC go ahead with this unnecessary felling. Firstly, he was a little dismayed to discover that English Nature are monitoring this woodland in Cheshire from their office in the West Midlands. Secondly, he was not "trusted" with the name of the consultant who would be given the task of "protecting" the Bats "for fear that this may lead to telephone calls to the consultant"! Confusingly, he was also told that, although plans were already documented, a consultant had not yet been engaged (?).

What Anthony did discover was that, although Bats are one of the best protected species in the UK (more so than Great Crested Newts, whose homes/ponds are not protected), all that is planned is for a licensed Bat expert to identify possible roost trees, which will be marked. Then, when these trees are cut, this expert will be on hand to ensure that any Bats found in the tree cavities are "safely released into the wild". There are no plans to provide any extra roosts for these intentionally evicted animals, not even a few (cheap) Bat boxes. So much for the laws that protect wildlife! With eyewitness reports from residents at the camp that the "survey" for nesting birds was simply a walk around the perimeter, which surprisingly found none, he's not completely happy with these answers from English Nature.

To visit the camp (call first to make sure it's still there!), take a bus or train to the airport. Walk towards the Cargo Centre, and onto the A358, and walk towards Wilmslow. Turn onto the Styal Road at the roundabout, and immediately turn right towards the Moathouse Hotel. Follow the bridle path on the left hand side to the camp.

Wish list: people, equipment (rope, tarpaulins, etc.), and donations.

Contact number (mobile): 0775 602954. Address (also for donations): "Save Arthur's Wood", c/o Manchester Earth First!, Department 29, 1 Newton Street, Manchester M1 1HW.

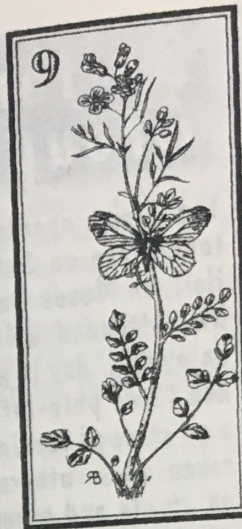
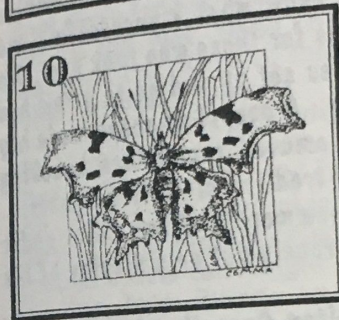
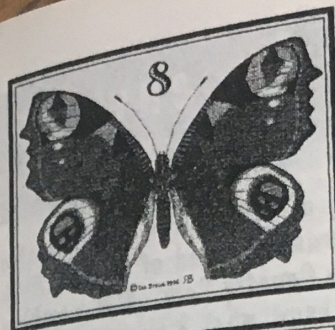
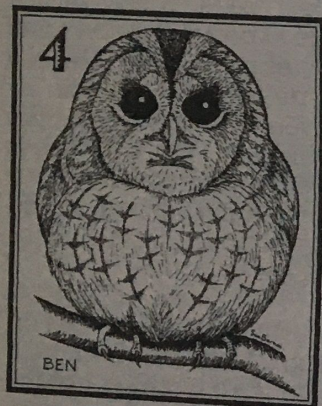
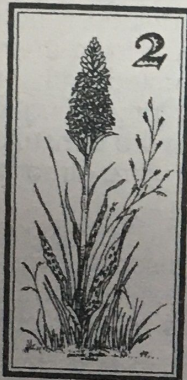
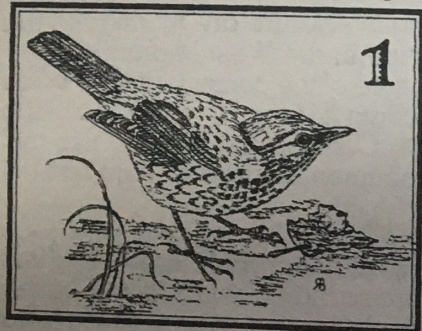


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Competition Time

As you will no doubt be aware, the **Magpie** editorial office has some fairly sophisticated computer stuff. This has enabled us to scan in most of the art work from previous editions. Some of our more long-standing members will have recognised recently used illustrations from previous newsletters. This gave us the idea for a competition.

Below are illustrations featured in previous editions of **Magpie**. The object of the competition is to say when these illustrations have appeared before, but not including this issue.



Now here's how to enter the competition

First, take a blank sheet of paper. Write the numbers 1 to 10, vertically, in the left hand margin. These numbers represent the numbers on the illustrations. Then, against each number, write down the edition of **Magpie** in which you have seen the illustration before; either the edition number or season and year (both will be found on the front cover). One point will be awarded for each correct answer but, if you can name the edition of **Magpie** in which the illustration first appeared, two points will be awarded for each correct answer. The illustration without a number (the chair) is a tie breaker. Has it previously appeared in **Magpie**? Put your answer below those to nos. 1-10. If there is still a tie there will be a draw to decide the winner. Write your name, address and telephone number at the bottom of the sheet and send the result to the editor.

And the prize - a needle case, made by the Bodger, and a hand carved **wooden paper knife**, made by John Turner. Those who have kept their copies of **Magpie** will have the best chance of winning, otherwise you'll need a very good memory, but give it a try, you never know your luck.

Officers of Manchester Wildlife are not eligible as they have access to back numbers of the newsletter. Closing date for entries is the 31st November 1998.

Ways to help the Environment - Number Two

The District Advertiser - (West Stockport) have ceased free delivery to every household and it is now available to be picked up free at local stores. This reduces the number of copies printed as only those who are interested in reading the newspaper will pick up a copy. However, cover for advertisers will probably not be affected as those who pick up a copy of the newspaper will probably read it. **Other free newspapers take note!**



Bolton Greenwood Group

by Art Craft

The grand opening of the Bolton Craft Centre took place on Saturday the 2nd of May at Rock Hall, in Moses Gate Country Park. MW members who attended will know what a successful, and enjoyable, day it was for those who took part. We had three pole-lathes set up and quite a few had a go at wood turning. A couple of chaps made hay rakes while others amused themselves knocking up stools and other traditional craft products.

The forge was fired and there was much hammering of hot metal under the tuition of blacksmith, Steve Hopps, who generously put on a display of his fine iron work.

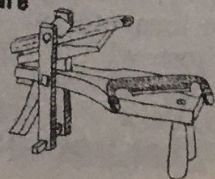
Attending were representatives from Bolton Council, whose funding had helped to make the venture possible, and some Croal/Irwell Valley Wardens, who have given invaluable help in the setting up of the Craft Centre.

Now the Centre is up and running, and available for those who want to make use of its facilities, to learn a traditional craft, as a hobby or to make a living. The Bolton Craft Centre is the first of its kind, in Greater Manchester but, of course, we hope there will be more.

If you would like more information on opening times, training courses or membership of the Greenwood Group, please contact - Ian Brown - Tel. 0161-437 7040.

The gaining of a grant from Health for Bolton will enabled us to provide two more pole lathes and we have purchased a tcwt anvil, bringing the total to three. These additions will allow us to take more people on our training courses. We have also been successful in winning a landfill grant, with which we will be able to buy; a chainsaw, to help in our woodland management work, more wood turning tools and many other essential items.

More people are becoming interested in traditional crafts and an increasing number are making a living from them. If you are interested in developing new skills, the Bolton Craft centre is the place for you. So give us a call, volunteers are always welcome, come along to Rock Hall and take part in satisfying work in a peaceful outdoor setting.



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Road to Ruin

by Gus Train

This is not as bad as it sounds; in fact, to those who care about the natural environment, it is very good news. The Government's road building programme has been announced and a lot of proposed roads have got the chop. Most important, for this area, is the cancellation of the A6(M). Had this road gone ahead we would have been faced with the prospect of a dual three lane motorway going down the Goyt Valley. Not just across it but all the way along, from Offerton to Bredbury, which would have shattered the peace in this quiet river valley. So we can heave a sigh of relief (for the moment).

Of course, this will be bad news for those who have problems on the busy A6 but there must be better ways of solving traffic congestion than building roads which ruin our countryside. Surely there are and, in this case, a solution which will go some way to meet this objective has already been implemented. Recently, transport minister Glenda Jackson opened a new rail freight depot at Tilcon (South) Ltd., in Bredbury. The rail line, from Buxton to Bredbury has been reopened which will allow stone to be transported from the Peak District to the new depot thus saving 50,000 lorry trips, annually, on the A6. Ms. Jackson also promised more funding for road repairs in Stockport (to compensate for money lost on cancelled road schemes), so that's good news for cyclists in the area.

Mind you, it is not many years since the Peak District National Park had a rule which stated that all stone, quarried in the park, had to be transported by rail. Why this rule was abandoned is a little difficult to understand as road traffic causes congestion, not only on the A6, but on roads in the national park itself. ICI still transports stone by rail, now another company has joined them.

The bad news is that the M60 (née M63) is to be widened by Sale Water Park. This spells doom for the nature reserve at Priory Gardens.

Runway to Ruin

by Ron Weigh

Recently, I was told a little story which I found most interesting. It may, or may not, be true; I will leave you to decide. We know that the runway, at Manchester Airport has nowhere near reached its capacity and I, with others, believe that there is sufficient capacity, on a single runway, for the future increase in air traffic. The story I was told is that an over-riding reason for needing a second runway was that the existing runway is not safe, at the point where it crosses the Wilmslow Road. I have noticed a number of occasions when one, or other, of the tunnels under the runway has been closed for repairs and I am told that these repairs have not been successful. Makes you think!

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CAA Waves the Rules

There is a plot of land in Heald Green, on the corner of Finney Lane and Styal Road, which has planning permission for office buildings. This land is directly under the flight path for planes landing at Manchester Airport, and quite close to the north end of the runway. At public inquiries and planning meetings, we have argued that building on such sites could prove to be a threat to the safety of planes landing at the airport. It makes common sense that there should be some soft ground on the approach to the airport, in the event of a plane falling short of the runway. We have always been told that the Civil Aviation Authority had no objection to building on the flight path, except within the safety zone which seems very small.

It's amazing what you learn if you stop to speak to people on the street. In this case a local councillor. I was told that the CAA have changed the rules and now, building on land under the flight paths to airports has been banned. We are not sure of the extent of land to which the ban applies but it seems certain that Heald Green will not be saddled with yet another block of offices.

Also, the land to the south, and east, of the old Ferranti factory should also be protected by the new rules. There was a proposal, in the Manchester Unitary Development Plan, for an airport car park on this site. It was turned down by the inquiry inspector but the Airport is probably still casting a beady eye on the site and Manchester City Council have a bad habit of changing the rules, when it suits them. So a thank you to the CAA, you may have saved some of our valuable open spaces.

SNAILS

In **Magpie** No. 40 there was a small article on snails. We asked if anyone had noticed that there had been a great increase in the numbers of these creatures, recently, in the Manchester area. This seems to be the case, and it seems that there must be a combination of circumstances which has brought this about.

Now this could not be defined as scientific research, but it is worth reporting and maybe there is someone out there who knows the real answer. One theory is that the decline of the Song Thrush is a factor. It would seem that Blackbirds do not use snails, as food, in the way thrushes do. Another theory is that warmer weather is a reason for the increase in snails and it is possible that the recent drier summers favour the snail over the slug. I am still convinced that a major factor is that calcium, needed for the development of the snails shells, is now more readily available. This may be in the form of imported limestone or concrete, which has now started to break down. What is noticeable is that the shells of many of the snails are very thin and weak, so maybe the amount of calcium available is not sufficient for their full development.

This chap is sitting at his kitchen table, wrapping Christmas presents, when he hears a light tapping at the door. Opening it, he sees a snail on the step and kicks it down to the bottom of the garden. A year later, the same chap is making out his Christmas cards when he hears a quiet knocking at the door. He opens the door but can't see anyone there. And the snail says, "What did you do that for?"

OBITUARY

Raymond George Leach 1924-1998

It is with sadness that I write about the death of our friend and member, Ray, after a long illness.

Of all the people I have known, he was probably the only man who I can honestly say was loved by everyone he touched. I know no-one who had anything bad to say about him.

He will always live in our hearts and minds, which I hope will be of some consolation to his surviving partner and family.

Anthony Phelps

Manchester Wildlife - Events and Meetings

September 1998

Tuesday 8th - Social Meeting - Time 7.30pm at the Old Monkey Public House, junction of Portland Street/Princess Street, Manchester. Convenient for Piccadilly Gardens Bus & Metro Station. Contact Ian Brown 0161-437 7040.

Thursday 24th - 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.

Sunday 27th - Working Woodland Festival - Moses Gate Country Park. Time 12noon to 5pm. Contact Croal/Irwell Valley Wardens Tel. 01204 571561.

October 1998

Sunday 11th - Meadow Mowing - Hough End Clough - Time 11 am. Meet at Hough End Crescent (at south end of Alexandra Road South. Wear old clothes. Contact Ian Brown 0161-437

Tuesday 13th - Social Meeting - Details as for 8th Sept.

Sunday 25th - Woodland Survey - Kenworthy Fields - Time 12 noon. Meet at Chorlton Water Park Visitor Centre, Maitland Avenue, Chorlton. Contact Ian Brown 0161-437 7040.

November 1998

Tuesday 10th - Social Meeting - Details as for 8th Sept.

To be arranged - English Martyrs School - Nature Area Management. Contact Ian Brown 0161-437 7040.

Thursday 26th - General Meeting - Details as for the 24th Sept.

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
	Stockport Group, Tony O'Neil, 0161-223 8987
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.....	
Croal/Irwell Valley Wardens.....	Sale, 0161-905 1100. Chorlton, 0161-881 5639
Stockport Countryside	Nicky Greek, 01204 571561
Ranger Service.....	0161-477 5637
Trafford Council.....	Roz Park, 0161-912 4174
Manchester Sustainability Group...	Adrian Pearce, 0161-234 4594
Manchester Recycling Officer.....	Pete Stevens, 0161-234 4629
Manchester FoE.....	0161-834 8221
Networking Newsletter.....	Michael Bane, 01457 871609
Visions Community Design.....	Judith Mottram, 0161-834 6309

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

MANCHESTER WILDLIFE - Annual General Meeting 1998

This took place at the Parrs Wood Centre for Rural Education, on Saturday the 25th of April 1998.

The minutes of the 1997 AGM were read and approved by the meeting.

The Chair read the Annual Report, as follows:

CHAIR'S REPORT - January 1997 to December 1997

Group Development

This year has found Manchester Wildlife, although not overwhelmed by volunteers, instigating its own activities and bolstering those of like-minded organisations. This has been prompted in at least some instances by our presence in the One World Centre in Manchester, where many an environmental campaign is hatched. Also, the office, which had begun to resemble a stationery warehouse, has been reorganised, and is now a valuable information resource and meeting point.

Publicity and Communication

The production of the Magpie, our newsletter, has again taken up much of our creative endeavours and time, and there is a continual search for new contributors. The effort appears to be validated by a readers survey which brought a response that was, in the majority complimentary of its content and style. The publication finds its way to many different people including journalists and councillors, etc., and we hope that, along with other environmental journals has some effect on opinion and policy formation.

Our exhibition boards are still getting the occasional outing despite weighing a ton. In particular, last year at the "Streets Ahead" festival in central Manchester in June, we set up stall in the Peace Gardens and throughout the day received many inquiries, including requests for advice from members of the public who were involved in their own local campaigns. In addition, Ian and Anthony still attended meetings of the Wildlife Working Group of the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit.

Events and Activities

Our nature walks took in such locations as Wigan Flashes, and most recently Blackley Forest. The butterfly survey has kept a number of our members busy, turning up its customary comprehensive and

surprising sightings. We have also supported the Gorton Heritage Trail Action Group, who are creating a trail through part of the Gore Brook Valley, both in committee and on action days, where paths were cleared and rubbish removed. On the conservation side, visits were made to two favourite haunts; at English Martyr's school, further work was done on the wildlife garden and pond, which have matured nicely, the latter being home to a large number of breeding frogs; also, at Hough End Clough, the meadow mowing regime has been continued, allowing some native wildflowers to compete with the rank grass. Ian has continued giving bodging displays from Stalybridge to Wythenshaw, and never fails to arouse new interest in this ancient craft. Perhaps, most impressive of all has been the setting up of the Bolton Craft Centre at Moses Gate Country Park, as a result of co-operation between Bolton Conservation Volunteers, the Bolton Wildlife Project and Manchester Wildlife, with help from the local ranger service. This has resulted in a permanent sheltered site where there is everything from a traditional blacksmith's forge, cleaving brakes, pole lathes through to a hurdle making device. The results of all the hard work which has gone into this venture will be able to be seen on the grand opening day on the 2nd May 1998.

Campaigns

Sometimes it seems that there is a concerted effort by developers to obliterate every greenspace left in Manchester, and sometimes, something like battle fatigue threatens to set in.

The development plans for Parrs Wood "Millennium" school were a case in point; where, following the assertion at the public meeting that the organisers were not going to oppose the plans, for fear of jeopardising the school project, the Manchester Wildlife delegation made a staged walk out. However, further opposition has at least seen the Rural Studies Centre being fully incorporated into the overall plan, and some mitigation of the impact of building on the grounds.

The Holly Royde campaign to try and save both the grounds and historic building on Palatine Road in Withington received tremendous publicity, and has resulted in the City Council reviewing its greenspace standard and protection for unlisted buildings. Despite faltering under pressure, the University of Manchester has now sold the site to David Wilson Homes, and although the developers have promised to safeguard the building, the outlook for the grounds is foreboding.

In the case of the threat of housing applications on land owned by Cheadle Royal Hospital, there has been a welcome suc-

cess for objectors. A combination of telling evidence produced at the Public Inquiry, and widespread local opposition finally resulted in planning permission being refused.

Unfortunately, the Sainsbury's store is set to be built on the Fallowfield station site, undoubtedly sounding the death-knell of large numbers of local traders; a phenomenon caused by the big supermarket chains right across the country.

Finally, the most recent initiative we have backed is the attempt by the Green Party, in tandem with local residents, to try and have Nutsford Vale redesignated as a park, pre-empting any proposals to build on this land in the future. This former landfill site, now extensively planted up, covers quite a large area, and has good wildlife potential in this heavily built up area.

Rob Allen, Chair, Manchester Wildlife, Saturday 25th April 1998

The Hon. Treasurer read his Annual Report as follows:

Treasurer's Report for the year 1997

Income was broadly similar to that in 1996 but members should be warned that, in 1998, income from craft demonstrations (listed under craft sales) would probably be down considerably.

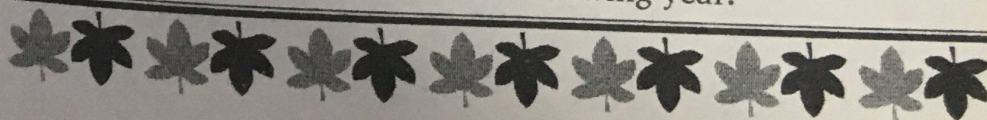
Expenditure was slightly down, despite there being a full year's office rent. This came about because of reductions in; Printing, Stationery & Postage; Minor Equipment & Consumables; Food & Travel. This left us with a surplus of £54 as opposed to a deficit of £15 in the previous year.

On the Balance Sheet, Clothing was written off, though we have some T-shirts and sweat shirts remaining. Because of a slightly better year the Current Assets have increased.

(A copy of the accounts is to be found, overleaf.)

Election of Officers - Rob Allen (Chair), Anthony Phelps, (Hon. Secretary) and Ian Brown (Hon. Treasurer) resigned and offered themselves for re-election. They were re-elected by the meeting.

Election of Auditors - The Community Accountancy Service were re-elected as auditors for the following year.



Manchester Wildlife
Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st
December 1997

	1997		1996	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Sales - Crafts	452		424	
Sales - Clothing			30	
Sales - Other	79		116	
Subscriptions	642		636	
Donations	216		182	
Bank Interest	60		33	
		1449		1421
Less: Expenditure				
Subscriptions, Training Etc.	12		76	
Telephone	62		28	
Printing, Stationery & Postage	415		701	
Minor Equipment & Consumables	48		110	
Accountancy	40		60	
Insurance	55		75	
Food & Travel	155		213	
Craft Expenses	0		4	
Clothing for Resale	40		20	
Rent and Rates	547		144	
Bank Charges	0		5	
		1374		1436
SURPLUS /DEFICIT For The Year		75		-15
Tax on Bank Interest		-21		
Surplus/Deficit for Year after Tax		54		-15

Manchester Wildlife
Balance Sheet at 31st December 1997

Cash at Bank - Current Account	475	544
Cash at Bank - Deposit Account	2097	2037
Cash to be Banked - Subs collected	70	0
	2654	2621
Current Liabilities		
Creditor - Rent	36	
Creditor - Tax	13	
Accruals - Accountancy	40	89
NET CURRENT ASSETS	2565	2511
Represented By:		
Accumulated Funds:		
Balance Brought Forward	2511	2526
Surplus/Deficit for the Year	54	-15
Balance Carried Forward	2565	2511

Approved on behalf of the Management Committee By:

.....
Mr. Rob Allen (Chair)

.....
Mr Ian Brown (Treasurer)

.....
Date

.....
Date