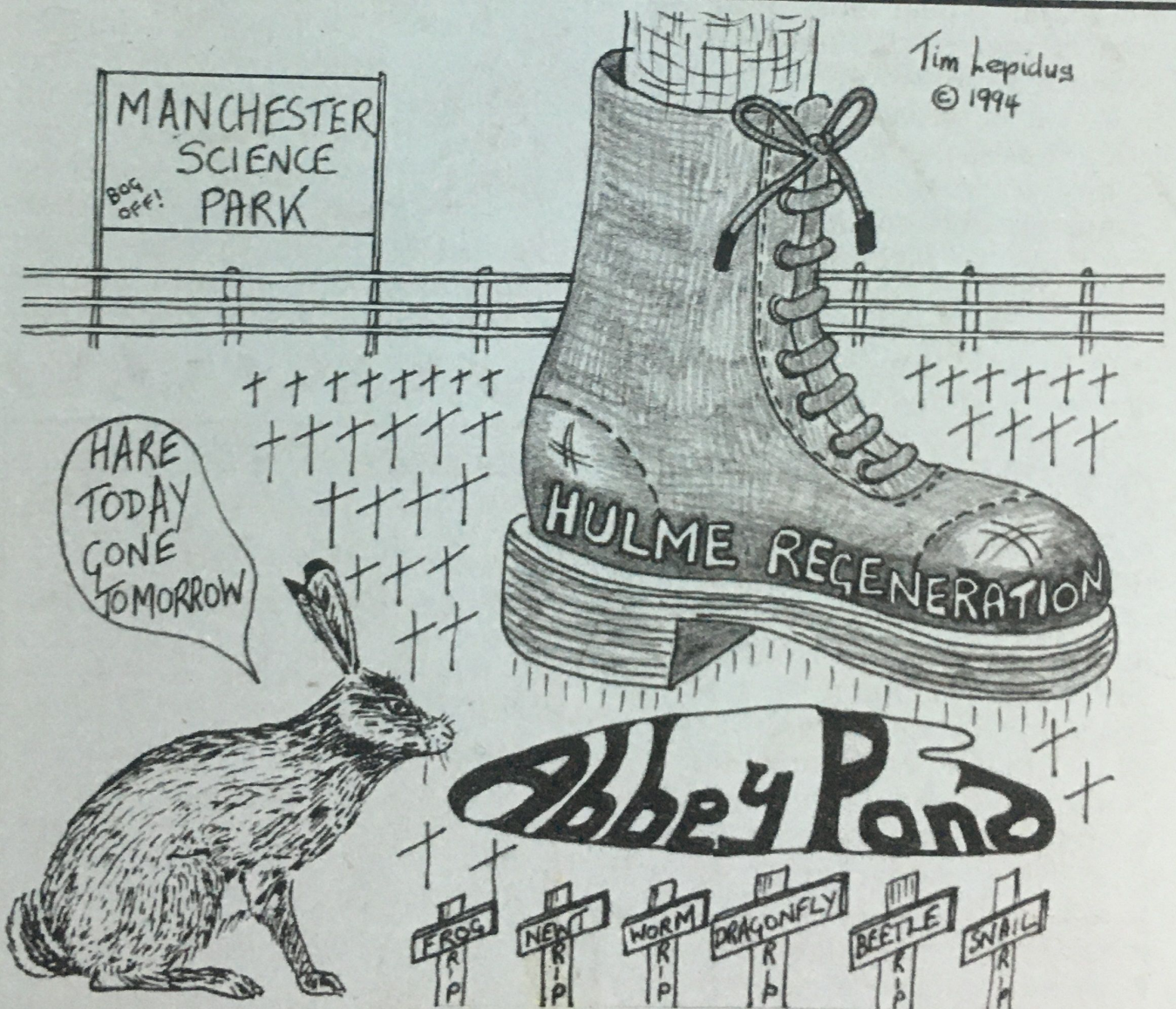


"The Excellent Newsletter
of Manchester Wildlife"
John Vidal, Environment
Correspondent, The Guardian

Magpie

Number 47 - - - - - Winter 2000



Standing up for Wildlife
in Greater Manchester

50p

Editorial

Send in YOUR Story

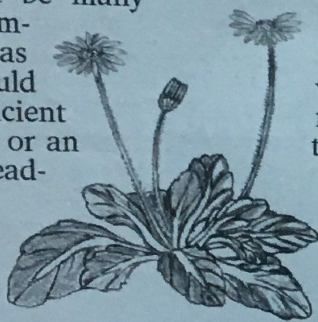
Editor's Office 0161-437 7040

Genetically Modified Organisms have been much discussed in these pages, and elsewhere. There can be few people unaware of their existence. At the same time, the anti-GMO campaign has probably been the most successful in the history of environmental campaigning. There must be many who wish that their campaign had been half as successful. If we could only have saved that ancient woodland, a peat moss or an area of species rich meadowland; if only.

It is often difficult to assess the merit of any environmental campaign; how much it deserves to succeed; except in hindsight. As I have said before, my main reservation over GMOs is that the seed from such crops cannot be used to grow next year's crop. This is because of the patent rights held by the company who owns the GMO. This may not be such a problem in the richer countries but, in the less well of regions of the world, where costs are reduced by using seed from the previous year's crop, it is a serious economic disadvantage. I know little of the environmental and health problems which could be caused by GMOs; does anyone?

My main concern is: will

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history tell us whether or not the anti-GMO campaign was the right cause to fight for. It would be sad if GMOs were found to be perfectly safe and the efforts against them could have been applied to a more worthy environmental cause. Hindsight is a wonderful thing. It's a pity we cannot have "foresight" so that we would know which were the right environmental causes in which to become involved.

There is a further article on GMOs, this time on trees, from Hugh Warick who used to be a Manchester Wildlife Member. The article on St. George's Pond should also be of interest and, of course, there is much, much more.



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Going to see your local GP by Anthony Phelps

It was just before Christmas (18th December), and I'd been to visit my birding friend on the other side of Hough End Clough. It was only about 6.00 pm, and dark, but I decided that I'd attempt the playing fields again, on my way back, despite having found several boggy puddles on the way there! As I was walking along, missing the obvious puddles, by the reflection of the Princess Road lights on their surfaces, I heard this "peep". It was obviously a bird, but I hadn't startled it, and crouching down, could just about make out about 12 "wader-like" shapes moving away from where I'd been walking. That's all I could make out, and didn't hear another "peep" from them.

Frustrated at my inability to identify these birds, I determined to get up early and be at the fields before dawn, to make sure of seeing them - if they were still there. It had been a really heavily frosty night, but I rushed, and managed to arrive just before dawn, and the sight nearly took my breath away - there was a flock of about 200 Golden Plovers roosting on the fields, glinting in the early morning light.

By the time the sun was completely visible in the sky, they had gone, and, as far as I know, they haven't used the field again. I left a message for Judith Smith (the Bird Recorder), and she e-mailed a response the next working day to say she'd not had a report of "GPs" there before (a first for the site). The theory we have come to is that the hills, where they are most likely to be found roosting and feeding at night, were probably frozen solid, and Hough End fields, being lower, and still very wet (as I had found out), meant that feeding was still possible. It is also probable that there are less chemicals used on this grass than in their more traditional farmland fields. If it hadn't been for that initial "peep", I would never have noticed them, and hence missed a wonderful local spectacle.

I did return another morning (27th December), to see if they had returned, or if it had been a "one off" sighting. I was standing next to one of the goal posts, so that I wasn't too obvious, and when the sun rose, was disappointed to see nothing at all. However, the sky suddenly became black, filled with a massive flock of gulls - both Black-headed and Common Gulls. I tried to estimate their numbers, and could only manage "several thousand", as they almost completely filled the air above me. Gradually they settled like snow, and just kept "drifting" - moving between the areas of open water for their early morning bath. Even though these are quite common birds, seeing so many of them suddenly descend all around you is something very hard to put out of your mind.

Human use of these fields tends to be quite sparse. This Sunday, the day of our "Red Lion Ramble", most of the football pitches were being used. However, this is for about 2 hours maximum (90 minutes for the match, plus setting up time). I know that dog walkers use the fields, mostly early morning, and late evening, and in the Summer, there are other activities happening, such as cricket, model aeroplane flying, as well as the ubiquitous motor biking and car drivers who seem to delight in making deep tyre ruts all over the fields. From my two sightings, there are probably far more birds that use this grassland than people!

4 Genetically Engineered Trees

[From The Ecologist - Volume 29 No 4 - July 1999 [editorial] The Next GM Threat: Frankenstein Forests - By Hugh Warwick] - Reprinted with permission.

It had to happen: geneticists are turning their attention to trees. After all, compared to domestic flora and agricultural crops, trees are still largely untouched, so there is a great deal of room for 'improvement'. For example, while it has taken some 5000 generations of traditional breeding to turn teosinte into maize, even the most altered trees lag some 4996 generations behind. Imagine what a few decades of genetic tinkering could achieve...

But this is not something new. While newspapers have been full to bursting with the GM food furore, the new wave of foresters' have been quietly getting on with the business of preparing for the greatest ever change to our planet's trees. And it has gone way beyond the laboratory. There is already at least one test plot in the UK, there are the early stages of plantations in China and Brazil, and test plots in Belgium, France, Spain, US, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Indonesia. As the environmental movement wakes up to the potential threats of GM trees, it will see a potential disaster on the same scale as the introduction of GM crops.

So what can we expect if the future unfolds as the biotechnologists predict? Already they are working on speeding up the time it takes trees to reach maturity. Their slow growth rate has always been one of the stumbling blocks in any attempts to domesticate the tree. Achievements in traditional plant breeding have brought the rotation time for eucalyptus down from 15 to 7 years. The geneticists hope to halve this again.

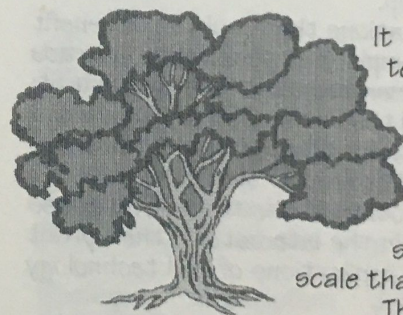
Then, of course, there are the better-known types of genetic tinkering: engineering herbicide-tolerant trees, for example, and instilling an ability to produce pesticides, to be protected by terminator technology. But serious questions are already being asked. Will there be safeguards against the cross-pollination of engineered trees with their wild relatives? If terminator technology is not employed, how will the many and ingenious techniques that trees have evolved to spread themselves be contained? And what will the impact of genetically-modified plantations be on neighbouring forests? Will disenchanted insects just move on to the easier prey of un-engineered trees?

Some of the most sophisticated work is concentrated on altering the lignin content of trees. Lignin is the component in the cell wall that gives a tree the rigidity and toughness needed to withstand environmental stresses. It is also something that needs to be removed in the process of making pulp for paper. This part of the paper making process

by Hugh
Warick

is one of the most expensive in terms of energy and pollution, so engineering trees with less lignin could even carry with it environmental credentials. But many balk at the idea of industry tailoring the living tree to the needs of the end product; and I still have the alarming vision of what one campaigner described as 'wobbly trees'. And, as with any biotechnology development, there are serious impacts for the environment. Even after a tree dies, it plays a role as an ecosystem in itself, forming a three dimensional structure for a myriad of micro-beasties. The lignin content of the wood slows the rotting process, and thereby increases the length of time it can maintain this vital role. It is also worth bearing in mind that lignin plays an important role in the tree's defences against herbivores - it makes the plant harder to digest. Will this mean that low-lignin trees become fast food?

The longevity of trees leads to all sorts of questions about their interaction with the environment. For example, the basic ecology of traditional forests - in particular the soil interactions - are very poorly understood. How will an altered tree further affect the environment? A field of maize is in the ground for one season. Even the fastest growing trees count their lives in years and most still take decades to reach maturity.



And this raises one of the key concerns. It is well recognised that the results of the technology that creates GM organisms are fragile. And one of the factors affecting this fragility is the stress the organism is placed under. Trees, many of which need to survive 30-80 years, are going to be exposed to the stresses and strains of the environment on a far greater scale than any crop, with unknown results.

The concerns arising about GM trees are heightened by the ubiquity of wood products. As the forestry industry is keen to remind us, trees, and their products, surround us every day of our lives. And there are many edible tree products, such as fruit and nuts, which will raise the same health concerns as are currently being expressed about GM crops. Already there is a test field site of GM Oranges in Valencia, Spain, and there are tests underway on papaya and walnuts in the US.

Another reason for concern was highlighted by the announcement on April 6th last year, that Fletcher Challenge Forests, International Paper, Monsanto and the Westvaco Corporation are entering a "Forest Biotechnology Joint Venture to produce and market tree seedlings that will improve forest health and productivity for the forest market world-wide." The four companies will contribute \$60 million over five years to the joint venture. They will be working with the Genesis

5

6 Research and Development Corporation Limited, a New Zealand biotechnology research company. The joint venture also will acquire forestry intellectual property from Genesis.

None of the participating investors have a good environmental record, and the details of the joint venture should give more cause for concern. The stated aim is to make the improvements for the 'forest market'. There is not even a pretence at trying to improve the lot of people or ecosystems already affected by industrial tree plantations. And the focus for the research will initially be to develop eucalyptus and poplar species, radiata pine, loblolly pine and sweetgum, which are all principle components of the pulp industry.

When the issue of forest biotechnology is looked at closely, it also becomes obvious that many of the most significant social and environmental problems besetting countries in the south can be linked to the rise of biotech trees. 'Traditional' intensive forestry has been impacting on the lives of local people for decades, and the spectre of GM trees will make the problems worse rather than solving them. Industrial tree plantations are already responsible for taking the place of forests and local people's land. These monocultures can never replace the value of forest that has been removed; they are planted with the simple aim of meeting the world's insatiable need for pulp.

There may be some GM-tree applications that could be of benefit to the poorer people of the world. For example, it is possible to increase the calorific value of wood, such that it generates more heat when burnt; this is highly significant as it is estimated that some 55% of global wood production is purely used for energy. But, as with GM crops, the technology is expensive, and it is unlikely that the results of the research will be given away. As ever, the issue of who controls the technology arises - and while global corporations control it in the interests of their profit margins, it is unlikely that truly beneficial applications of GM technology on trees will be used.

It is not just the pulp and paper industry that will reap benefits from the spread of GM trees: some other key investors are oil and automotive corporations. The Kyoto agreement on climate change implies that the more trees you plant into the ground, the more oil you are allowed to take out of it. Under this logic, planting fast growing trees will allow oil companies to exploit oil reserves all the quicker and ease any 'carbon debts' run up by the car manufacturers as the roads gridlock.

But the most alarming connection that emerges from this biotech vision is its relationship with international trade rules. Come November, as the Millennium round of the WTO meets in Seattle, many of the most vital regulations designed to protect the environment from the ravages of neo-liberalism will be under attack. For example, if the recent Global Free Logging Agreement [see the last issue of *The Ecologist*, Volume 29, No. 3, p. 181] is ratified, perceived barriers to free trade, such

7 as national safeguards against the introduction of GE trees or invasive plant species will be outlawed. It will also make it easier for more land to be taken up by GE plantations. And it could see the demise of labelling initiatives such as the Forest Stewardship Council, which included in its founding principles the statement that the, 'use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited'. While this passed by with little comment in 1994, it now seems prescient.

The first commercial plantations of GE trees have yet to get going. But if and when they do, they will herald a quantum leap in our relationship with trees. And the issues raised are far greater than just the trees themselves. The way that timber and pulp are produced around the world already raise many important ecological and social concerns, and the arrival of a genetic component to this will not make these problems go away. Instead, the arrival of GM technology in our forests will just add yet more pressure to an already fragile world.

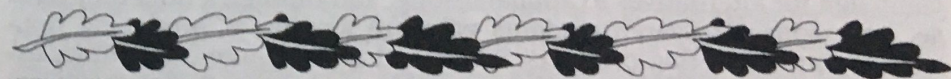
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Email geneticsforum@gn.apc.org

Website: <http://www.geneticsforum.org.uk/> > www.geneticsforum.org.uk

Further information about GE trees can be obtained from the Womens Environment Network (WEN) publication *The Gene Files Resource and Action Pack*. Available from WEN, 87 Worship Street, London, EC2A 2BE. Priced £2.50 plus £1 p+p.

Ecologist subscription details - 0171-351 3578, or email: ecologist@gn.apc.org



The truth, or spoken in jest?

It was E. M. Forster who said (in a Radio Broadcast), "Planners laugh at us when we express our fears of their activities; or rather they sneer." He went on to say, "There is a psychological connection between planning and sneering which ought to be investigated."

8 Ethics Girls (and Boys)

by Anthony Phelps

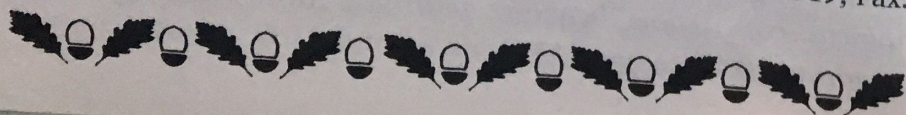
I was thinking today about things that are happening in the world, and how they do not fit in with my idea of ethics. I was listening to the World Service news (very early in the morning), and there was a short article about how a company, Geron Bio-Med, has bought the company who cloned "Dolly" the sheep, and patented their cloning processes. What this means is that anybody who wants to clone other animals to provide body parts for transplanting into humans, or for any other reasons (like to try and find a cure for diseases such as Parkinson's, which has been in the news as well), has to pay Geron Bio-Med money.

I don't know what you think, but the thought of having a bit of an animal sewn inside me makes me feel quite sick. As a practising vegan (maybe one day I'll get it right!), I don't want to have the death of any animal on my conscience. There was a programme on the television over the festive period, which I only saw a few trailers for, called "Pig Boy", which dealt with this subject, and how he felt about "not being totally human", and how others felt about him post-operation. The problem with this boy was that he was under parental control, and obviously they, his parents, wanted "the best" for him. At least I have the right to choose for myself. Personally, I don't take any drugs that have been tested on animals, and haven't for years now, and don't intend to.

I don't believe that testing things on animals actually proves them to be safe anyway. Animals are totally different to humans, and react differently. For example, if Penicillin was discovered today, it would never become a drug able to be given to people, as it is lethal to certain small furry creatures, such as guinea pigs, and other types of animals commonly used in laboratories. However, we know that it does help people. Another example is Thalidomide, which passed the testing process, and was licensed, and proved disastrous to unborn children, causing terrible disabilities. Despite these inconsistencies, governments still insist that animals are needlessly tortured and slaughtered in the name of safety for us all.

One of the groups which I support is Dr Hadwen's Trust, who campaign for alternatives to animal testing, and through a fund they have set up, sponsor research students who are looking at producing non-animal ways of testing products, which include computer modelling, using cell cultures and human volunteers. Many of the tests that they have sponsored are now available, and being used, and the more that are can only add fuel to the argument that using animals is not only unethical, but also doesn't give the answers that the testers actually want.

If you'd like to know more about this charity (number 261096), they can be contacted at: Dr Hadwen Trust for Humane Research, 84A Tilehouse Street, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG5 2DY (Telephone: 01462 436819; Fax: 01462 436844).



Local Agenda 21

by Witha Smallpea
(our political correspondent)

9

Once again, Local Agenda 21 (LA21) has been kick-started in Manchester. It's one that Anthony has been involved in (very early on). Then Ian worked very hard, and the process actually produced a draft document. Then there was a long period of nobody knowing whether it was still breathing, or had given up and was pushing up the daisies.

I can report that the Council have greased LA21's tappets, and the engine is now running again. The structure is quite tight, there being an "upper echelon", or Forum of representatives. As you can imagine, the voluntary sector just have one seat on this Forum, titled "Interest Groups". When this "Partnership Group" was formed, Manchester Friends of the Earth (Man FoE) were the "Interest Group" representative. Recently, Man FoE's representative has "left", and no one else was available to take up the vacant seat, so Man FoE pulled out of the Forum.

Manchester Wildlife were recently invited to join a coalition group. Anthony attended the first meeting. We decided to call ourselves "Action 21", with the intention of bidding for the vacant "Interest Groups" seat on the Partnership Group of LA21. We put our bid in the other Friday, and, as yet, I have heard nothing about whether or not we have been successful. What I find exciting about Action 21 is that we are already doing what the process says we should be doing - ie. involving other groups in our area, with true two-way consultation. I don't know whether any of the other representatives can say that.

What is important is that we will continue to meet, and share ideas, and putting the best of these forward into LA21's melting pot of ideas, even if we are unsuccessful with our bid. We are, and will continue to keep in contact, and hopefully widen our group to include other interested groups, not just environmental groups. I really believe the council think that we are all separate groups, and don't bother talking to each other - how wrong they are!

Anthony put forward a couple of interesting ideas (which we'd discussed at a previous Manchester Wildlife business meeting) for consideration by Action 21 - mainly concerning nest boxes for specific target species, namely Swifts and Peregrine Falcon. He has up-to-date information concerning designs from Judith Smith, and will soon be attempting to interest companies that own tall buildings in the City Centre to put up Peregrine nest boxes. If you can help with this, please contact Anthony (address at the front). Also, if you want a design of a Swift nest box to put under the eaves of your house, again, contact Anthony. He's also got details of a supplier for the boxes, for those unwilling or unable to construct their own.

I will keep you updated on the progress of "Action 21" in future editions, but it is quite exciting to be able to report on serious co-operation amongst sometimes quite different groups in the City. Long may it last!

10 Events

by Anthony Phelps

Rob and I have been talking about our events lists, and how we only seem to go on walks to places that we already know, and like to visit.

We would like to invite any member to suggest places near where they live, or places which they feel we'd like to visit, and invite us all to come along. You don't have to know every Sparrow or tree in the area - we certainly don't on our patches - so you don't need to be an expert. If you're not confident to lead the walk, Rob and/or I would certainly be willing help you.

If you think you could suggest a future event, please contact Rob or I, and let us know about your patch, and hopefully we can arrange to pop out some day and have a look around, and maybe put it into a future events list. It would be nice to see other places, sometimes - so don't be shy!

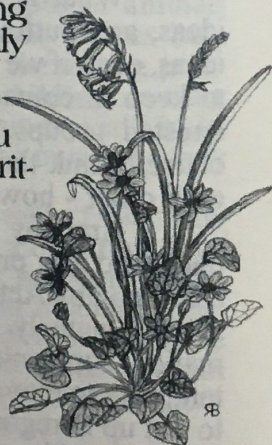
Arthur's Wood by Rowan D. Table

It appears that eventually the forces of evil got their own way down at Arthur's Wood and carried out their legitimised Manchester Airport backed vandalism - the latest instalment in a very sorry story indeed.

However, before people start throwing themselves into the Bollin in despair, this is hardly the end for this ancient woodland. The fact of the matter is that most of the trees, which have been topped or coppiced, will survive. If you consult any foresters manual most indigenous British trees tolerate even the harshest of "pruning". So the vandals have hardly had the last word - nature will have the last word, in this case, as in many others where the short term profit mongers have lacerated our environment.

A thousand blessings on those and their issue who stuck out the occupation of the site and tried to prevent the forces of evil from taking advantage of the National Trust's craven accession to the warped plans of the Airport Authority. Their efforts will not be forgotten. Nor have they been in vain. It has kept the issue alive and before the public and, I am sure, we have not heard the last of them.

VIVA THE PROTESTERS, VIVA ARTHURS WOOD, VIVA LAS VEGAS (only joking about the last one).



11 DEPLETED URANIUM - WHAT THEY DON'T WANT TO TELL YOU

by Anthony Phelps from information supplied by Clare Frisby
What is Depleted Uranium?

UF6 is the chemical symbol for uranium hexafluoride. Scientists sometimes refer to it as DUF6. To produce enriched uranium, one must first convert it into UF6. It is a part of the enrichment process. Gaseous diffusion, the process used to extract enriched uranium from UF6, produces four tonnes of depleted uranium for every tonne on enriched uranium. Therefore DUF6 constitutes a huge proportion of the United States' nuclear waste: France stores its waste in a different form. (It has not been possible to find out how the UK stores its DU). It is unstable, difficult and expensive to store, posing a threat to workers and the surrounding environment.

How is it being used?

NATO forces used A10 Warthog bombers and Apache helicopters to fire munitions containing depleted uranium extensively during the Balkan Conflict.

The US Navy used Vieques in Puerto Rico to test DU munitions in preparation for the Balkan conflict. The locals, quite understandably, protested vociferously. Now the US Navy have found an alternative site at Cape Wrath in Scotland, although the UK Ministry of Defence has denied agreeing to it (so it must be true!).

In the United States the government have come up with a proposal to process DUF6 back into uranium metal and use it in industry - as counterweights in lifts and fork lift trucks for example. In July 1988, President Clinton signed the 'Uranium Recycling Bill'. It provides \$400 million to the UF6 storage plants in Ohio and Kentucky to treat and recycle UF6. Construction is due to start in January 2000.

Industry has already used DU in ballast for aeroplane wings, and in ships. It is possible that these products could be arriving in the UK without any clear labelling.

The use of DU in ordinary industrial machinery could have more far reaching effects than the use of DU in munitions. However, the problems associated with the use of DU in munitions remain. IER in the United States have some practicable proposals for storage of UF6. They suggest ways to make it safe in terms of proliferation. For example, processing it in such a way that it would be difficult to enrich it for use in power stations or nuclear weapons. The important word in this proposal is "difficult". I'd have been

Safety

The uranium hexafluoride that the US government store at Paducah, Kentucky could be contaminated with Plutonium and Neptunium. This could be the most worrying problem to date. Plutonium and Neptunium are 'Transuranics,' that is they are larger in atomic number than uranium. All transuranics are very radioactive and very dangerous even in small quantities.

This is the same stockpile that the Department of Energy plans to give away for commercial uses, including depleted uranium ammunition.

UK and US Veterans continue to campaign for their respective governments to provide urine analysis, currently considered to be the most reliable way to assess exposure to ceramic DU. The debate about the extent to which DU contributed to Gulf War Syndrome also continues.

Maybe the governments think that if they spread DU6 around widely enough, we'll all become immune to it (or become a race of mutants? or dead?). It strikes me that this bears some similarity with Fluoride, which was a poisonous biproduct of the Aluminium smelting process. Someone (probably a government scientist) discovered that they could feed it to us by hiding it in toothpaste, or polluting our water supplies with it, and claiming it helped us! Unfortunately, DU6 is far more dangerous than Fluoride.

If you'd like to learn more about this topic, contact: The Campaign Against Depleted Uranium (CADU), c/o Greater Manchester and District Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (GM&DCND), One World Centre, 6 Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS.

You can ask to receive their quarterly newsletter by e-mail or post.
E-mail: gmdcnd@gn.apc.org

Arthur's Wood & Cedar Wood by Janet Cuff

I think I can truthfully say that I hated the prospect of Manchester Airport's second runway as much as anyone; not only is this part of the inexorable expansion of air travel, which has to be unsustainable, both locally and globally, but I knew it would destroy a corner of Cheshire in which I had very much enjoyed walking. In fact, I felt so sickened by the whole business that I couldn't envisage ever walking there again, whatever "mitigation measures" were promised. I did what I could to oppose the development - writing letters, etc. - and whilst not being young enough or, perhaps, brave enough to join the protesters, I went down on several occasions to visit them and take food.

The article "Arthur's Wood & Cedar Wood" in Magpie 46 rekindled my feelings of despair at the fact that, despite our best efforts, we were unable to prevent the destruction. I recalled having walked along the Bollin, by Arthur's Wood, and stopped to picnic on a fallen log at the edge of the wood. I knew I would not be doing this again - no way would I want to picnic under mutilated trees. Yet - despite the fact that the article was highly critical of the National Trust, for their involvement in the process, I have not resigned my membership, nor have I any plans, at the moment, to do so. There are two reasons for this:

Firstly, there is an argument - quite a strong one, in my opinion - that although you might disagree with an organisation's policies, you should nevertheless stay in and make your voice heard. This is an argument advanced in "Earth Matters" (winter 1999) concerning pension funds and ethical investments, where FoE recommends that, even if you hold a pension with a company that is investing in industries damaging to the planet, your best course of action is to stay in, thus maintaining the leverage you have to persuade the company to make changes. Regarding the National Trust, it could be claimed that they are much more likely to listen to the views of a paid-up member than they are to the views of a non-member.

Secondly, although I have thought about this quite a lot, I have been unable to come to the conclusion that the National Trust could reasonably have been expected to act any differently in this whole affair. They spent over £100,000 opposing the development at the public inquiry but, having lost the case, all they could do was to try and salvage as much as possible from the devastation that would ensue. Regarding Arthur's Wood, strict Civil Aviation Authority safety rules, which control the heights of obstacles within a set distance of runways, meant that about 300 trees would have to go and, despite efforts by the Trust to negotiate, the CAA, backed by the power of legislation, made it clear that the regulations could not be relaxed.

The only course then open to the National Trust would have been legal action against the CAA but, according to Trust area manager Vicki Dawson ("Big Issue in the North" July/August 1999), the Trust's legal team advised that it would not win this. It would have been a question of spending money on an unwinnable case, leaving hardly any money to fight other more promising cases. So the Trust settled for co-operation with the airport to develop plans for the tree work which would safeguard as much of the nature conservation value and natural diversity of the wood as possible.

I get rather annoyed when Chris Maille, of the Green Party, tells the National Trust that they should have spent their (i.e. Members') money on a hopeless cause.

I am unlikely to resign my Trust membership, for the reason already given in this article but, if anyone has any comments, I do hope they will write to "Magpie". I would be very willing to take up the matter with the National Trust, if I thought it justified.



14 St. George's Hollow by Kilda Dragon



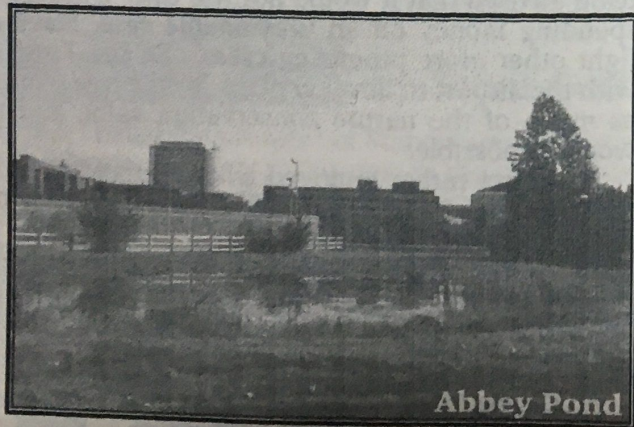
Whatever happened to St. George's Pond? (now known as Barrack's Park Pond) This was supposed to be the replacement pond following the trashing of the Abbey Pond in Hulme many moons ago - indeed this episode goes back to 1993. A recent visit to St. George's Pond reveals it to be a shallow depression in the ground invaded by couch

grass and a few pioneer saplings, and being in Manchester, a varied assortment of litter. Hulme Regeneration must have carefully selected one of the best drained areas in existence to site their flagship re-location for the Abbey Pond, which what was one of the most biologically rich ponds in the entire inner city area.

To outline a brief history of how this tragic outcome occurred may be helpful at this juncture:

Planning consent, for the development of an office/research building (part of the Manchester Science Park), on the Abbey Pond site, was granted on 22nd Dec 1993. The City Council imposed a planning condition that "the contents of the pond to be transferred to an alternative site"- the start date was set at 14th Feb 1994.

As the new pond (half the size of Abbey Pond and with a maximum depth of 18 inches) would be on the doorstep of surrounding housing estates, promises of security fencing, a locked gate and spotlights on trees (Stalag St. George's Pond) were extracted from the hapless planners. Expense no object. The Abbey Pond and users had somehow survived intact for twenty years with nothing more than a post and rail fence and the good offices of the Abbey Pub. Two days, the 10th and 11th of February 1994, were given to the consultant ecologist



hired to rescue and transfer pond contents, once the pond had been drained.

The pond defenders camp appeared overnight, on the 10th of February 1994, during freezing conditions. This was the first Direct Action in Manchester, with Earth First taking the initiative. The University of Manchester, major shareholders in the Science Park, and it should be said, the source of substantial improvements to the Abbey Pond as a community nature site in the 1980's, changed their stance and recommended that the pond should be spared. But too late, with Dr Allen, Chief Executive of the Science Park, conveniently out of the country on business, the dark destroyers moved in.

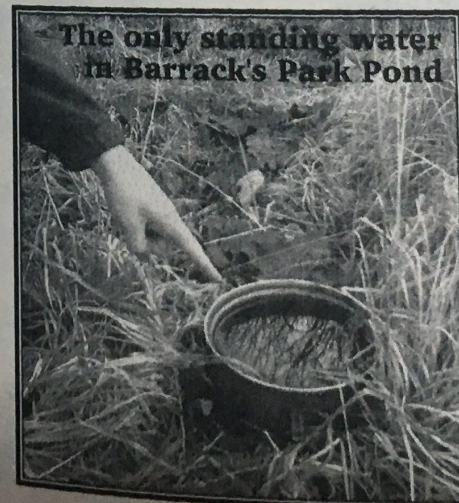
On the 17th of February 1994 Dr. David Bellamy pleaded the case for the Abbey Pond in a fax to Manchester University - but even the famous cockney conservationist could not prevail against forces of darkness.

The pond site was finally invaded, sorry, repossessed on 24th Feb 1994. With only about a third of the water pumped out, an excavator, which appeared out of nowhere, proceeded to strip off the top soil and trees and, directed by Mr Thompson (Director and shareholder of the Science Park) dumped huge amounts of soil into the pond. An hour later pond and wildlife had vanished.

The children, whose tree dressing on the 11th of February 1994 bore poignant witness to the final indignities, will long remember this episode and an unforgettable post script to the story was provided by a local eleven year old filmed by the BBC cursing the Under Sherriff and the Science Park as the tanker hose reached into her "f.....g pond".

However, to be fair, as Unity Stack, a stalwart among the Pondlifer activists observed, "the Science Park (with its under occupied premises) is but a pawn in the wider investment policies of the City Council. Dominated by one man the Council has (still is?) 'locked on' to an inflated crusade for prestige projects and EC supported inward investment, heedless of basic community needs and impact on the natural environment".

As a last throw of the dice the Ombudsman was contacted, by Manchester Wildlife, in an effort to demonstrate that the planning conditions had clearly been flouted. We did this with the long



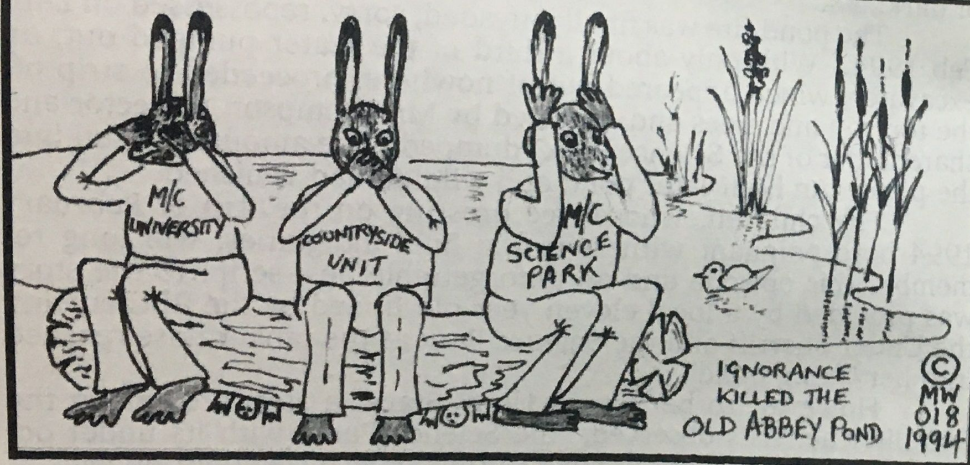
15

term goal of holding future developers accountable for their actions. However, predictably perhaps, even whilst accepting that in particular Manchester Wildlife's evidence was accurate, the Ombudsman found that there was in balance no practical grounds for further action. One could almost say giving future developers a clear run.

At this point I feel like going into a customary MW rant but it's all been said and in reality it's all blood under the bridge. All I would observe, however, is that it is no wonder direct action has taken hold and, for sure, there will be a lot more of it to come until those with the power, in Manchester, to reverse the environmental decline in this City, get off their flaming mobile phones and do something.

March Hare

by Tim Lepidus



Editor's Notes

The cover picture was taken from the cover of the spring 1994 "Magpie". The photograph of Barrack's Park Pond was taken, by myself, in February 2000. It may not look like much (and it isn't) as, even after the recent heavy rain, there is no standing water in the pond. The photograph of the Abbey Pond was taken in the autumn of 1993. The final photograph, showing the only standing water in the Barrack's Park Pond (a pan full of water), was taken, by myself, at the same time as the first photograph. The March Hare Cartoon first appeared in the winter 1993/4 "Magpie" and sums up the situation in very few words!

All in all, a very sad affair which need not have happened had the political will been there to take serious consideration of the natural environment. The Abbey Pond was a beautiful sight and a great asset to the people of Hulme.

Performance Piece for Respectable Middle-class Newt (with Lancashire accent) - by Carol Batton (reprinted with permission)

"Abbey Pond is not a 'Dirty Puddle' that can be replaced"

Someone would be glad of it,
A 'Puddle' like that,
With the sort of natural grassland,
Makes us newts grow fat.

Newts don't choose 'dirty puddles' for their Summer Habitat!
(We let the puddles 'Meditate', in Winter,
While we hibernate),
Then swim, and try to congregate,
If it stays we'll celebrate!
Maybe Mate!?
But maybe fate,
Won't allow us that.

We're fussy is us newt types,
(Some find us very cute types),
Alternate puddles, muddle us,
We like to have our herbiage,
And scrummage in the undergrowth.

SOME PARK - 'POND', LIKE HEATON PARK LAKE,
IS A LOAD OF DUCK'S WALLOP!

Never would a decent newt be told to live where planners say,
Never has a council stopped increasing
Concrete in our way,
'Could a Newt speak out t'would say ...
But can't,
T'll die asleep.

My Pond is under threat.
Please help me, before it is too late!

MY POND DRAINED!
24th February 1994!

Abbey Pond,
Back of Manchester University,
Pencroft Way,
C/o A-Z.

Butterflies

by Piers
White



Clouded Yellow



Common Blue



Peacock



Gatekeeper

Just a quick note to remind you that our Butterfly Survey is still alive and well. We received a few reports in 1999 but they were mostly from gardens. While these are welcome, and very valuable to the survey, we would appreciate more records from our urban open spaces during 2000. If you could survey YOUR local open space; a park, river valley, country park or "derelict wasteland", this would be a great help.

There is a survey form enclosed with your "Magpie"; we hope you will be able to use it. If you have concerns on any aspect of the survey, please phone me on 0161-437 7040. The pictures of some of our urban butterflies may help with identification.

If you can find the time to come on one of our walks, there should be plenty of opportunities to see butterflies; we only need the weather to be a little kind. So good hunting; you may be surprised at the places where butterflies can be found. Holly Blues only half a mile from Victoria Station!



Red Admiral



Small Copper



Large White



Speckled Wood

Slugging it Out

by Sam Speyed

To go back to first principles, slugs prefer to eat some things but not others. They are, however irksome, none the less a vital part of the eco-system.

They do not for example eat gooseberries; similarly they do not seem to favour rhubarb. I have no experience of them eating onions or garlic, so there are things you can grow without losing much sleep about the slimy fellows.

Slugs also feed the frogs, and badgers and foxes that predate upon rodents which eat or spoil many crops, particularly seeds and beans, so their effect is not entirely negative.

And it does have to be said that after all they were there first and in reality it is our intensive growing methods that have upset the natural balance that was originally in place.

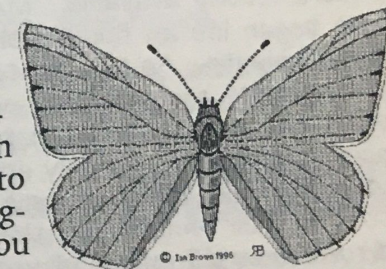
Wigan Flashes

by Ian Brown

Yes, we're going to Wigan Flashes again. This time it's for an event organised by the local authority. If you haven't already visited the Flashes, or if you want to go again, this is an event not to be missed. Details of our visit are on the events list (Page 27).

We think this is one of the best wildlife areas in Greater Manchester. There are a variety of wildlife habitats on the site including lakes (or flashes), woodland and species rich grassland. The wildlife is very varied and, at times, abundant. On one visit we saw so many dragonflies that we were amazed. In June, Marsh Orchids are bound to be in flower and there could also be some Common Spotted Orchids about. Many other spring and early summer wildflowers will be in bloom. Common Blue butterflies should be about and it is even possible that Brimstone will be seen. As far as birds are concerned, Kingfishers and Common Terns have been seen and many other species use the site.

So, as I say, **"don't miss this!"**. What Wigan Council have in mind for the "Open Day", we are not as yet sure but, knowing their commitment to the environment, it should be well worth coming along to find out. If we get to know more details, and the next "Magpie" comes out in time, we will let you know.



British Trust for Conservation Volunteers

Like Anthony Phelps, I have always had a very favourable opinion of the BTCV because, as Anthony points out, in "Magpie" 46, they provide regular opportunities for "hands-on" conservation work. However, in a recent attempt to obtain their services for a hedge-laying project for an organisation I am associated with, their estimate was over 50% more expensive than that of a professional hedgelay. Has anyone had a similar experience?

Janet Cuff

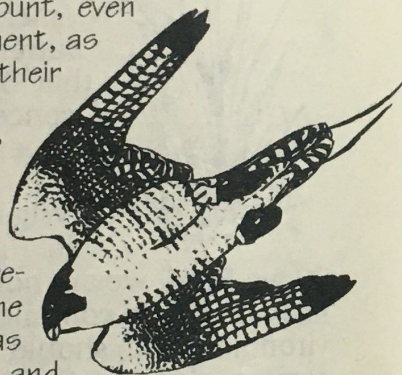
20 Pack in the Peat by Sue Barber

Lowland raised peat bogs are today one of the rarest and most threatened wildlife habitats in the country. So it is ironic that gardeners, who spend so much of their time lovingly creating paradise in their own backyards, are responsible for the current devastation of the UK's lowland raised peatlands, of which 945 have already been lost.

Peat milled from these sites is used for potting composts, growbags, as a soil conditioner, surface mulch - and even to make plant pots. Many horticulturists use peat. Amateur gardeners increased their usage by 50% between 1993 and 1997 but use by the professionals actually fell by 10% between 1990 and 1997. The 'ordinary' gardener now accounts for 70% of the UK's peat market - up by 1 million cubic metres. More than half the peat (60%) used in the UK comes from UK bogs. Three English sites, Thorne and Hatfield Moors, near Doncaster, and Wedholme in Cumbria, supply half of this amount, even though they have been designated, by Government, as Sites of Special Scientific Interest because of their outstanding value for wildlife conservation.

Peat use started in the late 1950s when improved extraction and packaging made it more readily available. Many raised peat bogs began life as flooded shallow basins of fenland plants. As the plants died off, their remains slowly accumulated, eventually filling the basin with peat. The developing peat area was poor in nutrients and only sphagnum mosses, and other specialised plants, were able to survive. Over the centuries, these too left their remains and the peaty mound grew larger and larger, until it rose above the surrounding countryside. Some raised peat bogs can be more than 10 metres deep. They are home to several species of bog mosses as well as cotton grasses, Bog Bean, heaths, Bog Rosemary, sundews, butterworts and bladderworts. They are also outstanding sites for insects such as dragonflies, butterflies and rare beetles, as well as being important wintering areas for Hen Harriers, Merlins and both Pink-footed and White-fronted Geese. In summer they are often home to Dunlins, Golden Plovers and teal.

Thorne and Hatfield Moors rate among the very best wildlife sites in the country. They are home to more than 3,000 species of insect, 800 species of flowering plants and ferns, hundreds of species of mosses, liverworts, lichens and fungi and a wide range of birds, including a significant population of breeding Nightjars. Ancient trackways, tools and other objects have been found in peat bogs, making them a historical treasure trove waiting to be discovered. Their waterlogged conditions prevent decay and rotting and preserve the contents of the bog over



hundreds of years.

To supply gardeners with peat, companies strip off the living layer of vegetation to expose it. The bog is drained and huge machines scrape away the drying peat, leaving the remaining area unsuitable for bog-loving wildlife. Permission for peat extraction was mainly granted decades ago, before machinery made modern methods so efficient, and before the wildlife and archaeological value of such sites was recognised. The added shame of the destruction is that there is no need to use peat. Peat free alternatives are available and the more gardeners demand them, the easier they will be to find. Many UK companies produce alternatives, ranging from coir to sewage cake and woodfibre. These alternatives work well - but some gardeners are put off after the first attempt as they try to use them in the same way as peat products, sometimes with poor results. Read the on-pack advice and guidelines, particularly regarding watering - but, above all, give peat free a go.

Our last remaining peat bogs depend on you. Inevitably, gardeners will at some time have to look for peat alternatives. Even if campaigners, such as the RSPB fail to persuade them to make the switch, the day will come when the peat bogs are exhausted and natural resources will run out. People will then be forced to use alternatives. Sadly, by then, the wildlife which relies on these ancient sites will be forced to look for alternative habitats - or face a very bleak future.

A list of suppliers and producers of peatfree alternatives, and leaflets giving more details about peat and peatlands are available from the RSPB Regional Office, Westleigh Mews, Wakefield Road, Denby Dale, Huddersfield, HD8 8QD

Opinion

I used to be in business, supplying goods for public consumption.

In the early stage of my career, the thought that any company would exploit their source of raw material to depletion seemed ludicrous. Of course it is, but I soon learnt that all companies did did not conduct their business in a sustainable way but were only interested in making as much profit as possible today, with little thought to tomorrow. They must assume that, when one source of supply is exhausted, another will become available or, that they can change from exploiting one type of raw material to another. Mining companies, which includes coal, oil and peat, are trading in finite resources. They must think that, when these resources run out, they can deal in some other commodity which they will probably exploit to depletion. This is bad enough but these companies, particularly those mining peat, are not only destroying their source of supply but they are also destroying the environment. In my opinion, the only just fate for those who are guilty of both these crimes against humanity is to lock them up and throw away the key.

by Ian Brown



You may think that there are an excessive number of buildings depicted in this edition of "Magpie" (wot about the wildlife? - Ed.). I make no apologies for including this view of the New Shambles. If you have not already seen it then it is well worth a visit. It can be found by walking, from St. Anne's Square, towards the Cathedral. This is a vast improvement on the previous location as it forms a

square with inns, of different architectural styles, on three sides. I have only one beef (Ha - Ed.), and it is this: it must have cost a fortune to translocate these buildings from their previous site. How many millions? If only some of that money could be used to improve the natural environment, and the lot of wildlife, in our great city.

The one thing that is apparent is that the translocation of buildings is far more successful than that of wildlife.

Eco Tip

One material which is difficult to recycle is cardboard.

Cereal boxes are probably the largest source of waste domestic cardboard. These could probably be recycled with paper but, up until now I have saved the large panels to use for stiffening envelopes, when necessary, putting the side panels on my compost heap.

Recently, I was about to run out of wooden spills, which I use for lighting my gas fire, oven and pilot lights as the automatic igniters have long since ceased to operate. I thought that, instead of buying new spills I would make my own. So I cut the cereal box main panels into strips, on a pre-war guillotine which I inherited from my father. This produces about one hundred spills per box. As I am also a smoker, I use them for lighting cigarettes from the gas fire.

This means I can **reuse** cardboard and save money on spills and lighter fuel. The short ends go on the compost heap. So far, Rob Allen has had a bundle to light his gas heater and they are used at the Craft Centre for lighting the forge. If you do not have a guillotine you could use a craft knife but this would not be so convenient.

by Merton Niven

Did You Know

Cheese and Onion flavour Walker's Crisps are not suitable for vegetarians but Smokey Bacon flavour crisps are O.K. We don't know if this applies to other brands of crisps.

Now, I'm no linguist but, I do hope that other languages are not as confusing, and misleading, as English. How English has become an almost international language I will never understand.

Take simple words which sound the same but have entirely different meanings. For example, yew, ewe (you saw the ewe eat yew) and two, too and to (in French: deux, aussi et à). There are many other examples. Also, there are words with the same spelling but different meanings and, equally as confusing, words with the same spelling but different pronunciation. So we should take care when using both the written, and spoken, word.

The reason I bring this up here is that I have become increasingly aware that some people use the English language to say what they mean rather than to mean what they say. I was watching an Open University programme, about inner cities, when I heard the phrase "social ecosystem". Though I find it difficult to give a proper definition of the word ecosystem, it's not in my dictionary or my computer's thesaurus, I think the word means something like the structure of a living community. Or, the interdependence of plants, animals, earth, water and air in a locality. The programme talked of artists and musicians being part of the "social ecosystem". At least they defined the word, ecosystem.

Problems arise when a word needs defining but isn't. Take the word "environment", which is increasingly being used in a misleading way, mostly by those who have little concern for the environment. We hear that those who wish to build more roads are saying things like: "we don't want to build more of those nasty motorways but we should be building by-passes because they are good for the environment." What do they mean. When most people hear the word "environment" they think of the countryside and wildlife; something that is good for the environment must be good for wildlife. But even a road is part of the environment, as is everything on land, sea or in the air. A by-pass might be good for the environment if it saved the buildings of a town from being shaken by heavy traffic even though, at the same time, it might destroy a Site of Biological Importance.

Those of us who are committed to the conservation of the natural environment must be careful to define our words and ask others to define theirs. If someone tells us something they intend to do will be good for the environment, we must ask why. If we say a road, or other structure, will be bad for the environment we must use the word "natural" to define environment. "Careless talk costs lives."



The latest news on Local Agenda 21 is that the Coalition Group, Action 21, has failed to get a place on the LA21 Partnership Group. The one place has been given to both the Red Rose Forest and the Community Technical Aid Centre!

The law on registering land, under the Commons Registration Act 1965, has been clarified in a House of Lords judgement in a test case funded by the Countryside Agency. In it, Sunningwell Parish Council in Oxfordshire was defending what it looked upon as the village green against plans of the owners to build houses on it.

The problem in law over registration arose from rulings, in lower courts, that all those using a local area of land, and wishing it registered as a green, had to believe they had a legal right to go there but the wider public did not. Since a state of mind is difficult, if not impossible, to prove, attempts to register greens were failing. What the Act itself says is that a green can be registered if local people have used it as of right, for at least 20 years, for lawful sport and pastimes.

Now five Law Lords have unanimously blown the legal dust away. The users' state of mind is irrelevant, they said, and it is good enough to produce good, objective evidence of use of the land by local residents for recreation without force, secrecy or express permission for at least 20 years. They also clarified that present-day-pastimes such as dog walking and children's play could be counted as well as more ancient uses.

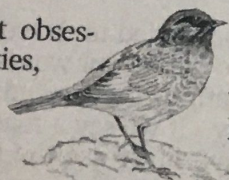
This opens the flood-gates for all the proposed registrations held up, pending the outcome of this case, and for many attempted registrations which were rejected in the past.

Further details from Paul Johnson, Countryside Agency, John Dower House, Crescent Place, Cheltenham GL50 3RA. Tel: 01242-521381.

Black Redstarts could suffer in urban regeneration

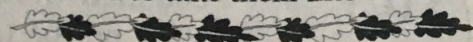
As we mentioned, in the previous "Magpie", the Black Redstart is rare in this country, with only 30 to 75 pairs breeding. It is protected by law, but only in the breeding season; outside these months its habitat can be destroyed at will.

With the current obsession for tidying up our cities, especially with the benefit of Millennium funding, breeding sites are likely to be lost. Up to 30% of Black Redstarts are found in London, mostly along the Thames and Lea river corridors and developments, like the Dome, could



lead to a decline in the species.

We do not have many in Manchester but it would be a pity if we were to lose the few we do have because of thoughtlessness by developers. It should be an exciting challenge for planners and developers to work together to accommodate the rarer species which are found in our cities. Black Redstarts may be common in their main European range, but it would be a shame to lose them on the edge of their range because nobody bothered to take them into account.

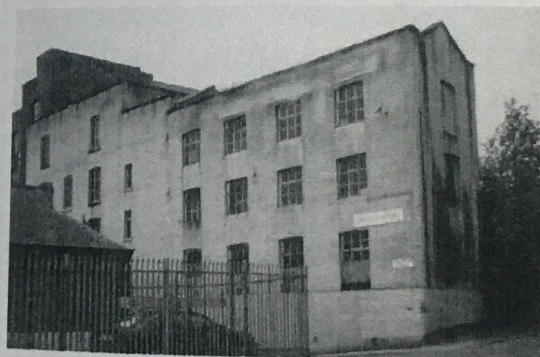


The articles on this page were gleaned from the pages of "Urban Wildlife News" and used with their permission.

For those of you who don't know, MERCi is a three-year-old project to establish a Centre for Sustainable Development in the heart of Manchester. Such a centre is to be a focus and tool for those working to make Manchester a more sustainable, green and safe city to enjoy.

The Centre will be accessible and welcoming to all. It will incorporate environmentally friendly businesses, a cafe, exhibition space, voluntary groups and accommodation. The whole building is to be an example of environmental design with high-energy efficiency, renewable energy and non-toxic and recycled materials.

To this end, over the last three years we have been fund-raising, consulting with our membership and looking at potential properties to buy. And miracle of miracles, finally, we have bought the building.



It has been something of a serious slog to get to this point. All the failed bids; all the buildings that were bought from under our noses; all the battling for charitable status; all the Christmas parties; all the times we've explained that; no we're not the council's environment dept and therefore can't help with the rats in the alleyway; all the successful

bids, all the convincing of people to support us; all the unlooked-for support from unknown and known people; all the selling of MERCi cookbooks and all the inspiration from other people working all over the city. All this has brought us to this point.

The question is, are we glad?

Well for the support we've received over the last three years, yes we are immensely glad. Thank you to everyone who has been there unstintingly behind us, dealing with our bad moods and stress induced rudeness. The MERCi project exists and goes forward because of you - we couldn't have got here without your support.

As for the work that is still to come, well it's certainly a challenge. MERCi has made an art of working on a shoestring and despite being in possession of more funding than we've ever had before; this doesn't look set to change.

Still, efficiency is our middle name and even on a shoestring we're going

26

to get a lot done. The building is a rather complex warren of different floor levels and room sizes. By the end of the first phase of construction work we're starting now, we will have a working lift; a solid roof; no rot in the building; a sound structure; a disabled access ramp down to the front door; a huge exhibition space; 10 offices; communal space; an information resource space; a café space (with views on the canal); bike racks and a shower room!

Clearly there is a long way to go (even at the end of this stage the building will only be half done) but this is definitely the beginning of something big...

If you could like to find out more through our newsletter, or get involved in our volunteering weekends then contact Chris Walsh on 0161 273 1736 or e-mail merci@gn.apc.org

Manchester Wildlife Annual General Meeting

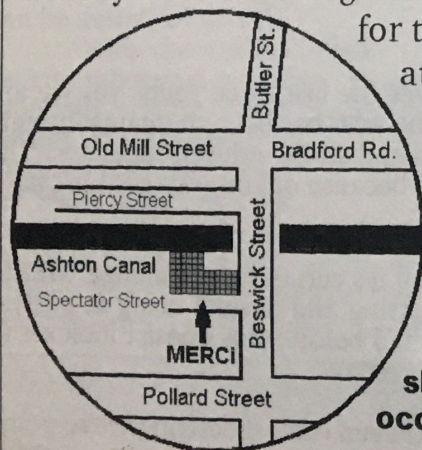
Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Manchester Wildlife will take place on:
Saturday the 29th of April at 12 noon.
The Venue will be the MERCi Building,
22a Beswick Street, Ancoats.

The meeting will be followed by a walk along the Ashton Canal, possibly as far as Phillips Park, Newton Heath and may include a visit to the meadow area at the south of the park.

Accounts and all appropriate papers will be available on the day of the meeting and will be published in "Magpie"

for the benefit of those not able to attend. Please try to come; it's your group and the walk, in the afternoon should be most interesting.

The map on the left will help you to locate the MERCi Building, on the day, or if you should wish to visit on another occasion.



Manchester Wildlife - Events and Meetings

27

February 2000

Saturday 26th February - Metro Meander - Time 11am. Meet Hough End Crescent (off Mauldeth Road West, south end of Alexandra Road South), Chorlton for a walk along disused railway lines. Contact - Rob Allen - 0161-448 8631

March 2000

Tuesday 14th - Social Meeting - Time 7.30pm at the Old Monkey Public House (upstairs lounge), junction of Portland Street/Princess Street, Manchester. Convenient for Piccadilly Gardens Bus & Metro Station. Contact - Ian Brown - 0161-437 7040.

Sunday 26th March - Hough End Clough Clean Up. Time 10am onwards. Meet Hough End Crescent (off Mauldeth Road West, south end of Alexandra Road South), Chorlton. Wear old clothes and boots. Contact - Rob Allen - 0161-448 8631

Thursday 30th - 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.

April 2000

Saturday 8th - MERCi/Manchester Wildlife Allotment Open Day - Time 12noon at the Allotments on Bethnall Drive (off Wilbraham Road), Fallowfield. South of St. Kentigen's School. Contact - Rob Allen - 0161-448 8631

Tuesday 11th - Social Meeting - Details as for 14th March.

Saturday 15th - MERCi Open Day - At 22a Beswick Street, Ancoats. Contact - Chris Walsh - 0161-273 1736

Saturday 22nd - Easter Woodland Ramble - Meet 11am at the entrance to Bowker Vale Metro Station on Middleton Road for a walk in Blackley Forest. Contact - Rob Allen - 0161-448 8631

Saturday 29th - Manchester Wildlife Annual General Meeting - Time 12noon prompt. At **MERCi House**, 22a Beswick Street (off Old Mill Street), Ancoats. Followed by a walk along the Ashton Canal. Contact - Ian Brown - 0161-437 7040.

May 2000

Tuesday 9th - Social Meeting - Details as for 14th March.

Saturday 20th - Sinderland Stroll - Meet 11am at Navigation Road Metro Station for a walk on the mossland. Contact - Rob Allen - 0161-448 8631

Thursday 25th - General Meeting - Details as for the 30th March.

June 2000

Saturday 10th - Wigan Flashes Open Day - Meet outside the main entrance of Wigan Wallgate Station. Time 12noon. Contact - Ian Brown - 0161-437 7040.

Tuesday 13th - Social Meeting - Details as for 14th March.

July 2000

Tuesday 11th - Social Meeting - Details as for 14th March.

Thursday 27th - General Meeting - Details as for the 30th March.



Useful Contacts

RSNC Urban Wildlife Partnership	Chris Gordon, 01636 677711 (day)
English Nature	NW Regional Office, Bernard Flemming, 01942 820342 (day)
Cheshire Wildlife Trust	North Group, Trafford, Liz Blackman, 0161-962 6748 Wilmslow Group, Tony Browne, 0161-436 1761 Stockport & Tameside, Eric Stead 0161-494 9130
Lancashire Wildlife Trust	Bolton Wildlife Project, Mick Weston, 01204 361847 (day)
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 Bury, Lawrence Kitchenson, 0161-796 6404 (day)
British Trust for Ornithology	Gtr. Manchester Bird Recorder, Judith Smith 01942 712615
Red Rose Forest Team	Jane Whitaker, 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
Advice on Birds in Distress	Irena Zalasiewicz, 0161-763 5146
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 (day)
Amphibians/Ponds	Dave Bentley, 0161-724 8602
Mersey Valley Wardens	Sale, 0161-905 1100 (day) Chorlton, 0161-881 5639 (day)
Croal/Irwell Valley Countryside Service	Nicky Greek, 01204 571561 (day)
Stockport Countryside 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
Stockport Recycling Hotline	0161-474 4747
Manchester FoE	0161-834 8221
Networking Newsletter	Michael Bane, 0161-226 9321
Bolton Greenwood Group	Ian Brown, 0161-437 7040

Manchester Wildlife is a networking organisation. You are included on our Contacts List; are we included on yours? Please inform us if any details are incorrect.

You are welcome to reproduce anything contained in "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 "Magpie" does so at their own risk.

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