

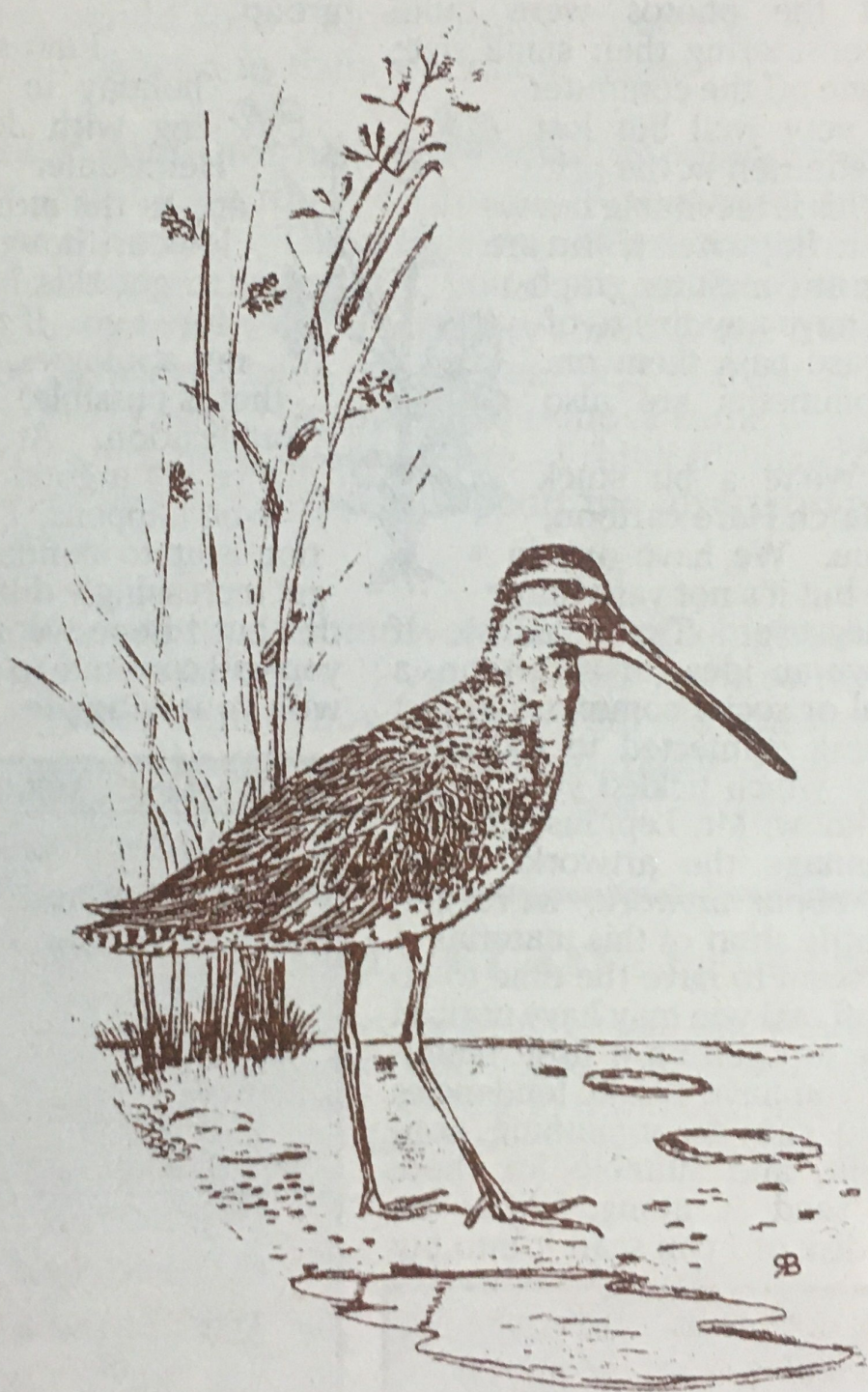


**"The Excellent Newsletter
of Manchester Wildlife"**

*John Vidal, Environment
Correspondent, The Guardian*

Number 48 - - - - - Summer 2000

M a g p i e



**Standing up for Wildlife
in Greater Manchester**

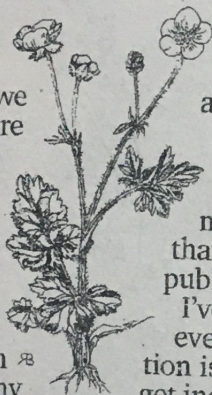
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Editorial

The quality of print, and graphics, in **Magpie 47**, were about as good as they're going to get with the technology we've got, and the printing facilities we can afford. I thought the photos were quite good, considering their small size; they came off the computer printer very well but lost some definition at the print shop. This is inevitable but we will try to improve. If you are a whizz at computer graphics and have any tips to offer, please pass them on. Any comments are also welcome.

We're a bit stuck for a March Hare cartoon, this time. We have one in reserve but it's not very funny (are they ever - Tim Lepidus). If you have an idea for a cartoon, a political or social comment, or just something connected to the environment which tickled your fancy, let me know; Mr. Lepidus can usually manage the artwork. And talking about artwork, we're getting a little short of this material. I do not seem to have the time to do new stuff and you may have noticed that we are getting a little repetitive. If you have artistic tendencies and you can do something non-copyright, and suitable for these pages, send it along, either on floppy disk or I can scan it into my

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**Send in
YOUR Story**
Editor's Office 0161-437 7040

computer. (Remember to sign your work.) If we have a reasonable quantity of artwork it would be worth putting it into CD format and selling them to raise funds for the group.

I am shortly to go on holiday in Scotland, staying with John Turner in Helmsdale. The way things are, at the moment, it doesn't look as though I will be able to get this Magpie out, before I go. If that is the case, my apologies, in advance (if that is possible) for the delay in publication. At least this time I've got a good excuse. Whatever happens, I hope this edition is up to standard. It seems to get increasingly difficult to achieve this but I hope we always will and you will continue to get a good read with your **Magpie**.

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BLACKLEY FOREST

**Management Work
by Anthony Phelps**

Last year I went to a public consultation meeting in Blackley where the plans for work in the forest were outlined. These sounded quite intrusive - the thinning out of a third of the trees in the forest. However, when you consider that this was the country's first community woodland planting, starting in November 1952, and that since then there has been no management work to thin out the closely planted trees, and that if this were not done, disease and fungal infections would soon follow, I understood that the council had no option but to send in their woodland team.

On Saturday 22nd April, we held our Easter woodland ramble in Blackley Forest, and I have to say I was really pleasantly surprised by the results of the work. The whole woodland now feels more open and airy, and more importantly, you don't get that 'is anybody around' feeling, as you have good visibility through the trees now. It's obvious that someone's been taking trees out, as there is timber lying around. I don't know if the plan is to remove some of these for use, or to leave it all to decompose on site - I think it's nice to leave some fallen timber in a woodland to support the invertebrates that make it their home.

It's nice to be able to report on some work that is of a high standard, and has been done sensitively. If you've never been to the area, access is easy; take the tram to Bowker Vale from Manchester, cross the main road outside the station, go downhill a little, and take the first right. The forest entrance is on your left past the dye works. It's well worth a visit.

If you
know of a
Web Site which
will be of inter-
est to our read-
ers, please let
us know

GM UPDATE by Jean Bender

There is a new web site which gives good, up to date, information about issues relating to GM foods, including all the latest test sites, and crops planted, etc.

Find it at: www.primalseeds.org

The authors of the site are from Manchester, and can offer advice and help in creating your own web site - there is a 'contact us' section - let them know what you think of the site.

Demonstrations in Manchester

by Witha
Smallpea

I have been on two big demonstrations in Manchester this spring/summer; the first on Saturday 1st April, against the Terrorism Bill, and the second on Monday 1st May a May Day of activities. The venue for both was Piccadilly Gardens, by the statue of Queen Victoria (it is not certain whether she was amused, or not).

The Government are introducing the Terrorism Bill, and rushing it through Parliament like they're scared it'll go off, as they seem to be bothered that some people don't like some of the things they are doing and exercising their democratic right to protest. This new bill, if and when it becomes law, aims to seriously limit the right of individual citizens to protest. From what I have learnt about the bill, it seems to be completely over the top - a knee-jerk reaction from a Government who cannot stand opposition in any form. Basically, if it becomes law as it stands at present, I may as well go and hand myself into the nearest police station, together with all the other Officers of Manchester Wildlife, as we will, according to the Government, be classified as Terrorists, and be a danger to the State. Previously, the worst that any of us have been called is "A picket" - that's Ian and I with a banner standing, freezing, outside Stockport Magistrates Court whilst the "Sainsbury's 4" were up before the Beak; and "mischievous" by a solicitor, when we simply objected to a planning application (although we did manage to get a retraction in writing).

I don't think that I would be wrong to call the bill 'draconian' in its present state. Anybody who even knows somebody who would, under the bill, be classified as a terrorist, and who doesn't immediately volunteer this information to the authorities, is, themselves, acting against the bill, and is therefore, a terrorist. I can see big queues forming outside police stations up and down the country even now!

What is strange is that it is all so unnecessary, in my opinion. There are existing anti-terrorist laws, which seemed to work perfectly well all through the Northern Ireland crisis (depending on which side you happened to be on), and there didn't seem to be a need during those times to tighten up on the legislation. However, as soon as a few "anarchists, crusties and hippies" start to express their disapproval, then that's different - and all the stops have to be pulled out.

My only hope is that, as with many of the Government's past Acts, this one will prove unworkable, and be ineffective. Watch this space. Unfortunately, if my hopes are proved wrong, don't expect a phone call from me to say I'm in the clink, because under the new Act, I'll not be entitled to a phone call! Democracy in action it isn't.

The other event I attended was on May Day, and proved rather more successful than the Anti-terrorist event, which was heavily policed, and ended in the usual stalemate of an unofficial reclaiming of Oxford Street yet again. This time the tactics were different. Rather than staying in one large gathering, and getting surrounded and "controlled" by the police, several small units of activists were gathered from amongst the crowd, and each decided on what actions they felt capable of doing, and also decided where, and once decisions had been made, sneaked off quietly, and got on with it. Most were initially tailed by police, but most lost these quickly, and didn't see any police until they got back to the city centre at the end of the day, where they found another unofficial reclaiming of, this time, Portland Street, as the police had valiantly stopped activists moving towards McDonalds. Once all the information on the day was gathered in (check out the web site www.capitalismsucks.com - it was still available when I just looked) - it was found to have been a most successful way of campaigning.

by Anthony Phelps

Recycling

Some weirdness seems to be happening in the field of toxic waste. Whilst you need stringent guidelines, permissions and safeguards to be able to dump such wastes, apparently, these completely fall away if you decide to reuse the waste. Thus you can use it as infill in a development, or use it as ballast weights in airplanes or forklift trucks (depleted uranium - see Magpie 47, Winter 2000), or even as an ingredient in consumer products, as with fluoride in toothpaste (fluoride being a toxic by-product of the aluminium industry, which is a poison which slowly builds up in our bodies - don't let them put it in our water supplies!). As I've said many times before - the kind of recycling which we can well do without.

What's crazy is, despite the presence of "toxic waste", once it has been reused or "laundered", to borrow banking fraud terminology, it can then, legally, be dumped without the usual safety conditions applying. If you don't believe me, ask the Campaign Against Depleted Uranium (CADU - see last Magpie for details), or write to your MP.

Countryside and Rights of Way Bill

by Anthony Phelps

At present, our most precious wildlife sites are "protected" as SSSIs (Sites of Special Scientific Interest - or should that be Sites Selected for Superstores and Industry - Magpie edition 16), and apart from statutory bodies who have the legal right to enter and perform their statutory works on these sites, anybody else needs to liaise with English Nature to gain consent. It is possible for an unscrupulous developer to damage SSSIs, and even English Nature are lacking in "teeth" to prevent this happening, or to effectively prosecute the offenders, and there is an annual list of SSSIs lost or damaged which reads as an obituary to the inadequacies of SSSI protection. However, within Greater Manchester, this leaves most of our wildlife almost completely unprotected.

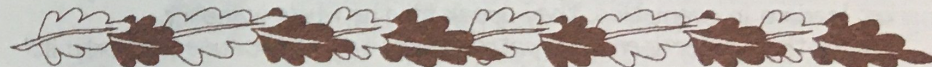
Manchester Friends of the Earth asked Manchester Wildlife to help lobby Michael Meacher, the Minister for the Environment to widen the scope of the new Bill's protection, to include wildlife outside SSSIs. In Greater Manchester sites are graded as Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs), the very best being Grade A (of County importance), with the lowest grading, Grade C (of Local importance - although still worthy of protection). These gradings are granted by Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU), who will defend threatened SBIs at Public Inquiry.

The letter we jointly wrote to Mr Meacher whilst applauding any increase in protection for wildlife, asked for consideration to be given for some protection to habitats and species which are unlucky enough to live outside SSSIs. This includes Water Voles, which are in serious decline nationally, and the subject of a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), which plans to halt their decline, and either increase populations where they exist at present, reintroduce them, or provide suitable habitats for natural outspreading of populations. Many of our foremost conservation bodies, and commercial companies have been bidding to take the lead role in these BAPs - indeed the Environment Agency (EA) are taking the lead on the one for Water Voles (as their remit includes rivers). The problem identified with BAPs is that they are not mandatory, but voluntary. Most councils will simply be adding them to their current lists of "Planning Guidance", or Unitary Development Plans (UDPs - previously referred to in Magpie edition 40 as "Useless Democratic Process"). As has been published before in the Magpie, the City Council seem unwilling even to ratify their own Wildlife and Woodland Strategies, and won't even allow draft copies of these documents to appear in the ERIC part of Central Library.

Manchester Wildlife was consulted by EA, and I eventually found a copy of their plans to look at, and sent in my consultations on Manchester Wildlife's behalf, and later, meeting both the consultants and EA representatives in Didsbury Library, directly pleaded the Water Vole's

plight, as the EA are planning massive flood defence works along several sections of the River Mersey. I brought to their attention the obvious (to me) inconsistency between their management of this river, and their aim to assist in the reintroduction of Water Voles - who need long vegetation in which to shelter and feed (EA seem to need short vegetation to order to turn the Mersey into a "high speed drain" - as they like to move water quickly before it can flood! For more on this, see past articles by Basil Fawcett, our expert on "high speed drains"). Sad, as there have been a few (fairly reliable) reports of Water Voles at various sites around Greater Manchester, and if the habitat was right, and the North American Mink could be controlled (or Otter helped to re-establish itself, which seems to reduce Mink numbers), then the Water Vole may well be able to re-establish and increase its range and numbers.

Let's hope that our joint large petition and letter can add weight to persuade the Government to give all wildlife a helping hand by improving the statutory protection for both species and habitats outside SSSIs.



Withington Hospital Superstore

by Witha Smallpea

There has been a lot in the local press about Withington Hospital losing its A&E department to Wythenshawe, and the plans for the redevelopment of part of the site to include, amongst other things, a superstore.

A local campaign started against this, and notices were seen pasted everywhere asking our MP, Keith Bradley, to show an equivalent amount of concern over West Didsbury, as he did over his daughter's private education (this was the gist of the notices I saw). I can only assume that the compiler(s) of this notice had not been successful in their lobbying of Mr Bradley, and felt that further publicity was required.

Since then, the news has been better - with front page headlines proclaiming that plans for the superstore had not been agreed. Apparently, the Planning Committee must have had a backbone as a Christmas present! - remember Holly Royde? Who did I see in the press, and on leaflets, but the said Mr Bradley MP, all smiles, as if he'd had everything to do with the plans failing. Strange thing politics!

Animal Rights News

"L'Oréal" - I have been informed of a boycott call against the cosmetics company "L'Oréal", which is linked to Nestlé, as Nestlé are a major shareholder in L'Oréal. Nestlé, themselves, are the subject of a boycott, concerning the selling of their milk powder in the developing world, despite being consulted by, and ignoring, the World Health Organisation. This abuse is still continuing.

Most cosmetics companies, and even the British Government, understand that testing products and ingredients on animals for cosmetic use is undesirable and most people in this country want to buy cruelty-free products. L'Oréal, in their wisdom (sic) have decided that they still want to test on animals, despite public pressure on them to stop.

Please boycott all products in the L'Oréal range, which also includes their subsidiary companies' Cosmair, Redken, Maybelline, Vichy, Lancôme, Laboratoires Garnier, Helena Rubinstein, Ralph Lauren and Gloria Vanderbilt. If you do decide not to purchase their products again - please write to the address on their packaging, and let them know the reason why. As market leaders in cosmetics, they speak for the whole industry.

As their advertisements patronisingly say "... because I'm worth it." I hope you'll think that they aren't!

"Huntingdon Life Sciences" - HLS is a company that takes contracts to test products on animals - more accurately titled "Huntingdon Death Sciences", as all their "patients" (sic) end up dead, as part of their processes.

There is a long-running campaign against this company, mostly aiming at the cruelty of their workers against the animals in their care (sic), attempting to get the company closed down. Recently, however, there have been some successes with the company's share price free-falling, and at the moment they are almost worthless (about 12p), and with the campaign switching to the shareholders, many of them large corporations, several have dumped their shares - most notably the Labour Party and the CJS.

Another bit of news is that some time ago, the last time their shares took a dive - mostly because of the campaign's adverse publicity against the company, they were desperate for funding to keep the company going, and NatWest Bank offered them loan facilities, and bailed them out. NatWest, because of this act, themselves became the target of a campaign, urging customers to change their accounts from NatWest, because of their links with HLS. I was pleased to hear in the news the other week that NatWest have called in that loan, which means that HLS will have to find another bank to be generous to them.

So, once again, we see the strength that writing letters, and handing out leaflets on the street can have to effect change for the good. The next piece of news I want to hear is that HLS has gone out of business, and the animals will be spared torture and death and their hands.

by Witha
Smallpea

Bird News

by Anthony Phelps

"Black Redstarts in Manchester" - I have been out searching for the young male bird I watched all last summer, but have not been blessed with a sighting, or heard his song. One possible reason for this, which was posed in an article republished in the last

Magpie from "Urban Wildlife News", was that the area of Dale Street car park, and the associated Rochdale Canal, are in the process of being "re-developed". This area formed the main feeding area for the Black Redstart, and other birds, and is the possible cause for his non-appearance in 2000.

"House Sparrows in Manchester" - I had a strange telephone call at work a while ago, from a reporter in London, who'd been passed to me from Ian. She wanted information on the status of House Sparrows in Manchester, as she'd read that they were in national decline. I asked if she'd spoken to Judith Smith, the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO) County Bird Recorder, and she said that Judith had very little information on the species. So surprised was I to be asked for this information - surely there must be people in London Wildlife Trust who could have helped? - that I completely forgot to ask her name or where she worked!



I said that, from my knowledge of the City Centre, there were patches, like that behind The Co-operative Bank's Head Office, where there had been a small family of House Sparrows for many years - although I had no data on whether their population was declining, or increasing. I added that there were other areas where I regularly hear and see this species in the City - mostly in areas where there were some trees, and older buildings for nest sites (they use spaces in Rosenfields, the tailors behind the bank for nesting), and some grassland or open spaces where they could find food.

I added that, as far as I knew from my reading, the BTO have no definite evidence for the reason for the decline of House Sparrows in the UK.

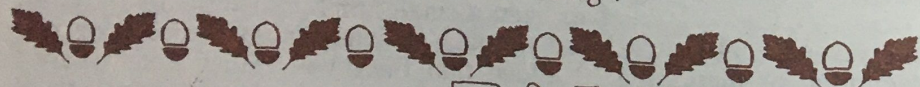
Since that conversation, and quite coincidentally, I had a call from a friend in Withington, asking if I had any information on how to attract House Sparrows to nest in their garden. So, off to Central Library after work, and I found a book with information that could prove helpful. I produced an explanatory leaflet (single A4 side), which also included a design for a suitable nest box. I haven't had any feedback yet on the success or otherwise of this venture in Withington - when I do, I'll let you know.

If you'd like a copy of my House Sparrows sheet - please let me have a stamped, self-addressed envelope, and I'll send you a copy.

Bluebells, Indicator of Ancient Woodland?

by Anthony Phelps

One of the great pleasures of our social meetings at the Old Monkey, is having no agenda. Last meeting was a case in point, as we got onto the topic of Bluebells, and whether they were one of the indicator species for ancient woodland. Ian said not, as there were only two irrefutable indicator species for ancient woodland - one a liverwort, the other a moss - neither of which is happy living outside of ancient woodland. However, the Bluebell is not totally dependent upon woodland. Whilst it is true that in the east of its range, on continental Europe, it is nearly always associated with woodlands, in the west, including the west of the British Isles, it is often found, and is seemingly quite happy growing in open, unwooded habitats. Ian concluded that what Bluebells needed was moisture, and in the east of their range, the only guarantee of constant moisture was under a woodland canopy; whilst on this side of the continent, there was plenty of rainfall from the Atlantic. It was, as I succinctly put it, "a western seaboard thing".



Riddle

Seen on a banner (PVC?) above Manchester Town Hall:

"Sustainable Government 2000".

If anybody can solve this riddle - please write to me - I haven't a clue! Best solutions to be published in the next Magpie.

observation by Anthony Phelps

For Peat's Sake

by J. A. Turner

Continuing the story of peat extraction in the last edition of Magpie. Last August, I had to visit Thurso, some 44 miles to the North. I took the direct A9 route from Latheron, which took me through a place called Spittal in Caithness. There I witnessed the devastation of peat removal with the naked eye. I have never seen such utter degradation in my life. A huge great hole has been created by monstrous digging machines, all made doubly worse by the numerous, large, blue coloured plastic bags which littered the site. A far cry from the peat bog at the RSPB Forsinard reserve, 20 miles, from where I live, up the Strath of Kildonan and almost in its original state. I say "almost original"; the railway to the North does pass through part of the site. Even so, it is well worth a visit, on a warm day, if you are ever up here. It needs to be a warm day as the site is rather exposed and subject to cold winds. Hmm, I digress a little.



Ian Brown, in his "Opinion" mentioned that companies mining peat are not only destroying their source of supply but are also destroying the environment. This is called capitalism where everything must have an economic value. Just like house and road builders, peat mining concerns have to keep on destroying the world in order to survive economically. Just how long we can keep this up I do not know.

Neither have I the solution to the problem because the opposite of capitalism - communism - is just as bad at environmental destruction. It would seem to me, the human race is on a suicide course to extinction, just like all the great civilizations of the world that are now history.

Incidentally, isn't peat acidic and, therefore, of little use in the garden except for rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias?

John Turner was a resident of Stockport for 26 years and now lives in the fishing village of Helmsdale, Sutherland, and is still a MW member.



The article "Pack in the Peat" in Magpie 47 was first published in the RSPB Manchester Group Newsletter and was re-printed in Magpie with their, and the author's, permission.



A Question of Law

by Judge Bent

In the article "Arthur's Wood" by Rowan D. Table (Magpie 47, Page 10), the word "legitimised" was used to describe the 'forces of evil' in carrying out their vandalism of the wood, all in conjunction with the non-sustainability of Manchester Airport's second runway. The operative word is legitimised and I ask the question, is it?

The legislation that permits the construction of the second runway is found in the 'Town and Country Planning Act 1990', and the 'Highways Act 1980', and are about as interesting as reading as reports on urban renewal in Antarctica. Nevertheless, as I attended public inquiries during the 1980s and 1990s, representing MW and other groups, it was necessary to familiarise myself with the Acts to make sure all was well.

Unfortunately, I often found that all was not well. The 'Decision Letter' confirming the go ahead for the second runway was published in February 1997 following the public inquiry and the inspector's report. (I did not attend the inquiry as I had already become disillusioned with the bias of inquiries towards the promoters.) On the first four pages of the letter the phrase "Secretaries of State for the Environment and Transport agree with the inspector's findings" (or similar wording), 21 times, giving the impression the Secretaries of State spent many hours studying the report over breakfast and during the course of the next few weeks. Fine, so far. So one would have expected their names to be at the end of the letter. But they aren't. The name that does appear is that of a civil servant.

The two Acts already mentioned grant the Ministers to authorise, or not as the case may be, the go-ahead of the scheme. It does not grant the Ministers the right to delegate power to civil servants to act on their behalf. If it was Parliament's intention to grant such power, it would have done so. The decision, therefore, to go-ahead with the airport second runway is unsound in law.

Before you go running off to your solicitors to issue writs against the DoE/DTp, a word of warning. You haven't got a ghost of a chance of winning a case in the High Court. Forces, known as the Henry VIII Clause, will ensure that any decision is made in favour of the government, no matter how valid the complaint.

Two points to make. First, where does this leave the ordinary law-abiding citizen? Answer, with nowhere to go. Second, what is the function of the Secretary of State? Answer, a highly paid figure head, nothing more. And they have the cheek to call this a democracy. "That'll be the day."



Urban Foxes

by Ian Brown

Most people are aware that there is a substantial urban fox population; there are probably more foxes in towns than there are in the countryside. Many of us have seen foxes roaming the streets, or even in our gardens, and there are a lucky few who actually have foxes living in their garden. Some people may actually object to the presence of foxes but this is generally not the case.

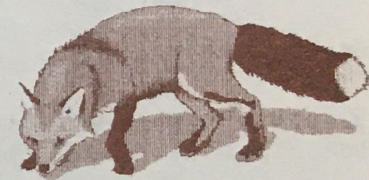
Whatever your point of view, if you see a fox, it is much to be preferred if the animal is a healthy specimen. The problem is that many of our urban foxes are far from healthy. The main reason for this is that they are suffering from Scarcotic Mange. I have seen a fox suffering from this condition and it was truly a sorry sight.

Some years ago, there was an outbreak of Mange in Bristol and it caused a severe decline in the fox population. It was thought, at the time, the fact that urban foxes lived in such close proximity, compared with their country cousins, was a major contributing factor in the spread of Mange. However, it now seems more likely that the major factor is poor skin condition, caused by the poor diet of the urban fox, which allows the Mange mite to breed.

Living is fairly easy for the urban fox. There are plenty of left over take-away meals; bins to scavenge; some people even put out food for them. However, what a fox really needs is a healthy young rabbit, which is what country foxes eat. They get essential vitamins by eating the liver and heart and there will be roughage provided by what the rabbit has eaten. This is what the urban fox is missing and, if you see foxes in poor condition, you can play your part in helping them to become more healthy.

There is an organisation out there to help you in this task. They are the National Fox Welfare Society, 32 Bradfield Close, Rushden, Northants. NN10 0EP (Tel. 01933 411996). They send out a homeopathic remedy, which improves the skin condition, with instructions on how to administer it. Why not give them a call. They have a web-site - www.nfws.org.uk - which is packed with interesting information. The treatment is free but I have no doubt that they would be grateful for any contributions.

Some of the information contained in this article has been gleaned from the NFWS web-site.



**Strange
but
True?**

Did anyone else see the report in one of our free daily papers? About the giant duck, standing 15ft tall, weighing half a ton with legs like tree trunks. It was called bullock-ornis planei and belonged to a

group of flightless birds, known as thunderbirds, which finally died out 50,000 years ago. Its beak was powerful enough to rip off a nice slab of meat from a large mammal's thigh! Were they kidding?

Genetically Modified Organisms

by
Janet
Cuff

Referring to the success of the anti-GMO campaign in *Magpie* 47, the editor says he "know(s) little of the environmental and health problems which could be caused by GMOs; does anyone?" I'm no expert, but I've gleaned a certain amount from various newspaper and magazine articles - so here's a start.

As far as I am aware, no human health problems have emerged so far regarding GMOs, apart from those deriving from the rather dubious experiments of Dr. Arpad Pusztai, which appeared to show damage to the stomach linings and immune systems of mice. In fact, an enormous health benefit could result from the production of rice which has been genetically modified with three genes that enable it to produce provitamin A, as Vitamin A deficiency is responsible for 250,000 children, in South-east Asia alone, going blind each year. Such a product has, in fact, been developed by a team of Swiss, German and American researchers and will be freely available to farmers, in developing countries, once breeding lines of the plants are established.

The long term health problems, from GM crops, are of course unknown.

Regarding environmental problems, several are already known, or have been shown, by research, to be likely to occur.

- a GM herbicide-resistant crops will enable all 'weeds' to be wiped out with one late pass of the sprayer; formerly, many 'weeds', e.g. Poppies, which germinate late in spring, escaped the sprayer. There is plenty of research in Britain and Europe to prove how valuable weeds are to the natural fauna in farmland, e.g. Conservation headlands - where weeds are left unsprayed - boost butterfly populations and support insect and seed eating birds. Farmland biodiversity has already suffered enormously under intensive agriculture; herbicide-tolerant GM crops could make this even worse.
- b Research in the USA has shown that pollen from GM insect-resistant (GMIR) crops is toxic to monarch butterfly caterpillars and it is highly likely that similar GM crops would cause similar effects in butterfly, and other larvae, on UK farmland, and put at risk the butterflies seen now in urban gardens and in the countryside.
- c It is possible that GM crops might become weeds in their own right, e.g. self-sown herbicide resistant oilseed rape might become an aggressive weed that would be hard to control without using yet another herbicide.
- d Many crop plants can interbreed with wild plants that are closely re-

- lated to them. For example, both oilseed rape and sugar beet can cross breed with various wild plants in the UK. Could this lead to the development of 'superweeds', resistant to herbicides?
- e The spread of GM crop genes, via pollen, is of great concern, as Government-sponsored research has shown that wind and insects carry viable pollen further than anyone supposed. A report from the Soil Association, in 1999, gives records of pollen dispersal, by insects and the wind, as far as four kilometres from test sites - some 20 times further than recommended distances. Not only does this threaten natural ecosystems, but it threatens to undermine the livelihood of organic farmers.

Field trials of GM crops in the UK are already under way and many more are planned. The question is: should they proceed? The RSPB's position is that the field trials should proceed under extremely rigorous conditions and that, should environmental problems be revealed, the Government should ban the relevant GM crops permanently. The Wildlife Trusts are calling for an indefinite ban on the cultivation of GM crops unless, or until, they are proven to be completely safe.

I am sceptical as to whether GM crops could ever be proven to be completely safe as serious problems may take many years to surface. Moreover, I am concerned that damage might actually occur from the trials themselves, as is the Countryside Restoration Trust, who say it is imperative that further research is done in sterile conditions, under glass, before any further work is undertaken.

Personally, I feel that the potential long term consequences of GM crops are so serious that the Government should ban them, as from now, as, once GMOs are released into the environment, there is no calling them back. How will we know when the under glass research has gone on long enough for us to consider it safe to release GMOs into the environment?

But what about the question of the GM rice, with its potential enormous health benefits for the developing world? Should this be banned? Reluctantly, I have come to the conclusion that it should and that urgent research should be carried out to find other ways of tackling this problem. But the question is not for the UK Government to decide, it is for the governments of the nations concerned to decide, basing their decisions on research carried out in regional research centres such as the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines. Above all, GM crops are not a 'Solution' that should be imposed on developing countries by the developed world's biotechnology industry.

My message is to carry on with the anti-GMO campaign!

SOURCES - *BBC Wildlife Magazine* Sept. 1999 - *Urban Wildlife News* Aug. 1999 - *Guardian* 18 Aug. 1999 (Mark Avery/David Gibbons, RSPB)

More Recycling

**Stockport plans
a green bin
revolution**

We could soon see door-to-door collection of all recyclable household waste in Stockport. At the moment, only paper is collected. Stockport has already been awarded Beacon status for its environmental record with the highest recycling return, for a metropolitan authority in the country, at nearly 11% of all household waste. New Government targets that will require local authorities to recycle at least 40% of all household waste, by 2005, have prompted Stockport to investigate the possibility of using small green wheelie bins for the collection of bottles, cardboard, cans and drained batteries. The scheme will cost a lot of money to implement but it is sure to be economically viable, if only in the saving of landfill site requirement.



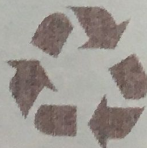
In Trafford, the recycling rate is five per cent, while Manchester is lagging behind at a mere 3.14 per cent. If you are not satisfied with the recycling record of your local authority why not write to them and tell them what you think. A little public pressure might persuade them to get a move on!



Actually, I'm quite happy with the present arrangement in Stockport; the neighbourhood recycling centres are most convenient. However, it is obvious that some people have not been bitten by the recycling bug and household collections will encourage more people to take part, as seems to be the case with the door-to-door paper collections. What interests me is the possibility of "drained battery" recycling. If they mean dry batteries, this sort of facility is long overdue. I have already enquired of the Stockport Recycling Officer if battery recycling is a possibility. I was told that they were looking into the possibility but there were collection problems as different types of batteries could react with one another, which could be dangerous. Let's hope they solve this problem because I have a large stockpile of old batteries awaiting recycling.



In 1988, I went to Lugano, in Switzerland, for a holiday. One day I walked over a mountain (only a small one) and, on the descent, I came across a small village. I stopped to rest outside a building which looked like a town hall. I noticed a metal container which, on close investigation, turned out to be for the collection of spent dry batteries. I thought, "If they can have such a facility in a small Swiss village, why can't we?" It looks as though this might be about to happen. Let's hope so, as putting batteries into landfill sites is bound to be a cause of pollution.



Universities of Manchester and Salford research Social Capital and Social Networks: the careers of political activists

A team of researchers are currently carrying out research into political activism in Greater Manchester, and we would like your help in this research.

The project is part of a programme of research across the UK which is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and is designed to investigate the nature and extent of political participation in Britain today. Further details of this research programme can be found on the world wide web at:

<http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/uni/academic/NQ/pol/democracy.htm>

Our project focuses on different kinds of participation in political, campaigning and community groups. We would like to find out:

- ♥ who gets involved in such activities?
- ♥ what are the different ways of being involved?
- ♥ why do people get involved in different kinds of activities?
- ♥ is participation sustained by social contacts among members?

During September 2000, we will be distributing a short questionnaire to all of the members of Manchester Wildlife to find out about your involvement in the organisation. It is important for the success of the research that we obtain as many replies as possible, and we would like to ask for your co-operation in this. All replies will be confidential.

I will also be attending meetings over the coming months, to find out more about Manchester Wildlife and to tell you about our research. I hope to meet some of you then. If you have any questions about the research in the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

**Contact: Kathryn Ray, tel. 0161-275 3853, E-mail
kathryn.ray@man.ac.uk**

Wigan Flashes Open Day

by Tim Lepidus



For the benefit of those who did not attend this event, the above is a photo of the area showing Scotman's Flash and the Leeds & Liverpool Canal. Very few folk were about, as Anthony and Ian made their way across the Flashes to the area where the festivities, celebrating the designation of the area as a Local Nature Reserve, were to take place. There weren't many more about when they arrived. There were several reasons for this. Wigan Council had decided to keep this first, of what is to be an annual event, low key. Secondly, they had changed the date from the 10th of June to the 3rd, after we had published Magpie; we did let a few likely attendees know

but did not feel it practicable to phone all our members. Finally, it was a rotten day. Although, with hindsight it was probably quite good for this summer. I don't suppose Piers White will be writing a butterfly article for this edition of Magpie.



Here a couple to cheer you up!

The only butterfly to be seen, on the day, was a solitary Speckled Wood. This was in stark contrast to previous visits, at this time of year, when we have counted 70 Common Blues. An interesting

contact was made with some local people who have been conducting a butterfly survey of the area. We have sent them the results of our butterfly survey of Wigan Flashes.

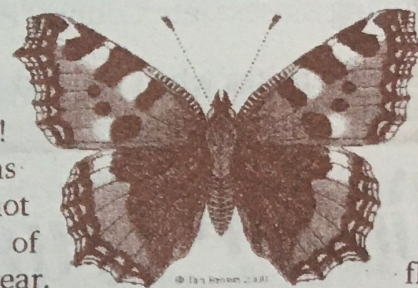
The Marsh Orchids were out again, so that was some consolation, though, as we were there a little earlier than usual, there were fewer than in previous years.

If you were among those who did not attend the Open Day, for any of the above reasons, please make sure you go to the Flashes some day. But pick a fine one; you are sure to be rewarded. August is a good month for Gatekeeper butterflies, and other insects. September is good for the second brood of Common Blues. If you are unsure

Butterflies

by Piers White

Au contraire! Just a short note to confirm that it has, so far, been a very poor year for butterflies. I have been out on a few survey trips. One day, I went to Abney Hall Park and Bruntwood Meadows (remain-



der, post Sainsburys) and I saw two white butterflies, one at each! And the weather was reasonable. I'm not expecting a rush of survey reports this year.

who saw good numbers of Commas at his allotment site. The bad news, from Anthony Phelps, is that the colony of Common Blues, at Fairy Lane (Sale), seems to have disappeared. The grassland, at the sub-station where they bred, has become overgrown and their food plant, Bird's-foot Trefoil, is no longer present.

How butterflies survive, in this country, is a miracle when they get a summer like this thrown at them. The weather people tell us that this is more like a normal summer and the good ones are the exception. Maybe they are right, and global warming in just a figment of our imagination, but when we do get a hot day it seems so much hotter than it ever did.



MW Goes into Cyberspace

Your Editor goes into Orbit

Yes, I just connected to the Internet. If you're tempted to do the same, take my advice, don't bother. It took me five days to get it all sorted so that it worked properly. The trouble is, once you've started it's difficult to stop. Anyway, it's all working now. The point of this is that I can now receive, and send, E-mails and, in time, I will be able to set up a Web-site for Manchester Wildlife (well, I don't really want one for myself). Any advice on how to go about this would be welcome.

I will not publish my E-mail address here. There are two reasons for this; it might change and I don't want too many people to know it, as I may be overwhelmed with mail and unable to cope. If you wish to send me an E-mail, with an article for Magpie for example, phone first (0161-437 7040) for my E-address. This may appear a little inconvenient but that's the way I want to do it.

Here's a Web-site which may be of interest:

[Http://www.mbbcanal.demon.co.uk/News/news/html](http://www.mbbcanal.demon.co.uk/News/news/html)

It covers many matters of interest in the area of the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal, which runs from Salford to both Bolton and Bury, including Moses Gate Country Park and the Bolton Craft Centre.

We will publish other sites when we find them. If you have any to recommend please let us know.

Wildlife Fun

This duck goes into a pub, waddles up to the bar and says to the landlord, "Have you got any bread?" "No", says the landlord. The duck waddles to the door, turns round, waddles back to the bar and says to the landlord, "Have you got any bread?" "Look," says the landlord, "we haven't got any bread and we don't serve ducks!" The duck waddles to the door, turns round, waddles back to the bar and says to the landlord, "Have you got any bread?" "I've just told you", says the landlord, "We don't serve ducks, we haven't got any bread and if you ask me again I'll nail your wings to this bar!" "Have you got any nails?" asks the duck. "No", says the landlord. "Have you got any bread?" asks the duck.



"Friends of the Fallowfield Loop" Walk

I was invited to attend a walk by Cos Harnasz on Sunday 7th July 2000. Cos and his colleague, Rob Trueblood, from the campaigning group "Two Wheels Good" want to turn this old railway line into a "cross-city green route from Chorlton to Gorton" for pedestrians and cyclists. He said, when inviting me, that he hoped for a large number of people to turn out, and he wasn't wrong. Despite the drizzly nature of the day, 60 people started the walk at Sainsbury's in Fallowfield. We joined the old railway track just east of Sainsbury's store. My part was to deliver some impromptu words, when asked, about the value of the line for wildlife - which I did, and thankfully, Rob found a convenient point in my ramblings to stop me! The rest of the time I was adding value by giving wildlife advice, as we walked along, to individuals, as well as networking for myself. Many of the people were from the Civic Society, Sustrans members, and many people willing and able to add valuable and knowledgeable information about the history of the area, and what's happening in their own local patches. It was a very enjoyable day. However, as with Sainsbury's nearly blocking the route with their "shop", there is still work to be done to persuade the powers that be to keep the line open, and for its future use to be sustainable. Contact your local councillor via the Town Hall, "Membership Services" (0161-234 3235) to lobby for the line, or drop in at the local surgeries in your area (details from your local library).

If you would like to become a "Friend of the Fallowfield Loop", please contact:

Cos Harnasz, 217 Burton Road, Manchester M20 2NA (0161-283 7548);
Rob Trueblood, 5 Gardner Road, Manchester M25 3HS (0161-773 6450)

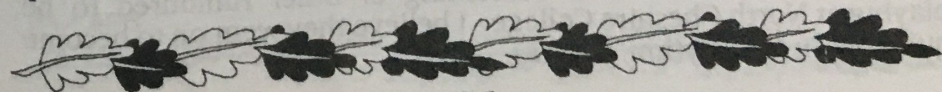
There is a "witness" account of the walk (with photographs) available on the Internet:

www.manchesteronline.co.uk/ewm/00features/428.html

by Anthony Phelps



Withington Hospital - It's just been announced, in the local press, that new plans for the site have been submitted, and, guess what? They're almost identical to the ones previously withdrawn - except for one important detail; the superstore has been reduced in area to about half the previous size. Don't developers listen to real people? **WE DON'T WANT A SUPERSTORE!**



The Sinderland Stroll

by Bob
Footslog

'Above all, do not lose your desire to walk, everyday I walk myself into a state of well being and walk away from every illness; I have walked myself into my best thoughts, and I know of no thought so burdensome that one cannot walk away from it; but sitting still, and the more one sits still, the closer one comes to feeling ill - thus if one just keeps walking, everything will be all right.'

Kierkergard

Having previously done a somewhat chaotic reci the intrepid walkers set of from Navigation Rd metro station and headed towards the nightmare that is Chester Rd. This is definitely the part of the walk to do at pace, this is not the most picturesque part of Altrincham, but is the quickest way to Sinderland Road and thence to the start of the walk proper.

It was with some relief that we left the noisome Broadheath traffic behind us and cut up Woodcote Rd until we came to a bridge over the abandoned railway line and into the most amazing piece of remnant ancient woodland with Sinderland brook running through the middle of it. A joy it was indeed to find the likes of Wild Garlic, Wood Avens and even Pignut and no sign of the gruesome twosome Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam; also rather a pleasant surprise to find little vandalism and hardly any litter, a curse which seems bedevil almost any patch of countryside anywhere near a built up area in these consumer driven times. It occurred to us that, as the field next to the wood seemed no longer to be cultivated, if only it could be left alone the woodland would over a period of time spread out naturally - and we mused on this being repeated using, say for example, 'set aside' farmland all over the country. A fond hope maybe but surely not impossible to do for a truly 'green' government.

The majority of the rest of the first half of the walk consisted of following the meandering course of Sinderland Brook, taking us past some more remnant woodland until we reached some rather unnecessarily manicured semi-parkland until someone spotted a pelican! Oh sorry that should read the Pelican, a watering hole I remember well from many moons ago when on the trail of little known combos like Status something or other rumoured to be playing at North Cheshire College - I believe they went on to become quite big in the rhythm n' blues.

Having completed what is usually one of my favourite parts of any walk we soldiered on only briefly having to endure Washway Rd and after a short saunter down what amounted to an urban lane we came across a delightful nature reserve which one of our party had worked on as a conservation volunteer, which had now matured into a diverse willow carr and pond habitat.

The remainder of the route took us along the canal towpath and back into central Altrincham. The consensus was that it had been an interesting stroll and that it would be nice to see especially the woodland in another season, so perhaps see you next time.

They Would Do That Wouldn't They

by Rob Royd

As readers of this publication will know, the stealthy destruction of one of the last remaining open spaces in Withington which was given planning permission for house building in the teeth of a long fought and, at times, bitter campaign (first mentioned in Magpie No. 40) has lurched from one diabolical episode to the next. Despite all their frequent pious protestation that such thoughtful developers would never do such a thing, yes you've guessed it, David Wilson Homes has had to admit two separate breaches of the planning conditions relating to the protection of trees. They were fined £500 for each offence plus £249 costs in each case.

Although I know it is oft repeated, but it bears stating again that, whilst welcome in that they show that the planning authorities have not ignored a flouting of the law but, to the likes of national companies, these fines are derisory and therefore have no deterrent effect. Property developers can proceed to wreak havoc and merely include the fines as a minor proportion of their building costs. Having showed themselves in their true colours one can only hope that this company will not get such an easy ride through the planning process next time and the local community and objectors will still remember the Holly Royde debacle with great chagrin.

N.B. If you would like to impress on David Wilson Homes your dismay at their behaviour please feel free to write to them at:

David Wilson Homes (North West)
Regional Office
Davenport House, West Rd
Congelton
Cheshire
CW12 4FB

Plant a Tree to Ease Your Conscience

by
Merton
Niven

A short time ago, whilst driving my car on a short journey, I turned on the radio to find I was part way into a broadcast, on Radio 4, about an idea that everyone should make all their activities carbon neutral. Now I was unable to take notes, and maybe I missed something important, but this is what I took to be the gist of the idea.

For any activity that an individual, or an organisation, takes part in, they should plant a number of trees sufficient to absorb the carbon dioxide produced by that activity. For example, an average motorist should plant three trees every year. A specific example was given of a Pop group, about to take part in a world tour. This group was going to plant enough trees to absorb all the carbon dioxide produced by their travelling, the staging of the concerts and even that produced by their fans travelling to their concerts. The amount of trees required to do this was 2,500!

It was said that the trees do not need to be planted in the place where the activity was taking place, but I would have thought it best to plant them near to where carbon dioxide is being produced. If everyone took this idea on board, it would go a long way in reducing the quantity of a gas which is a major cause of global warming. However, I can see a problem. It would provide a "good" excuse to carry out polluting activities. Instead of asking, "should we be doing this?", the cry would be, "let's do it and plant a few trees". Another problem is that, if everyone took this idea on board, we probably wouldn't be able to move for trees and there would be no space left to grow food.

Still, these objections apart, it does sound like a good idea and certainly better than doing nothing. If anyone heard the whole broadcast, and has more information, or comments to make, please contact the editor.

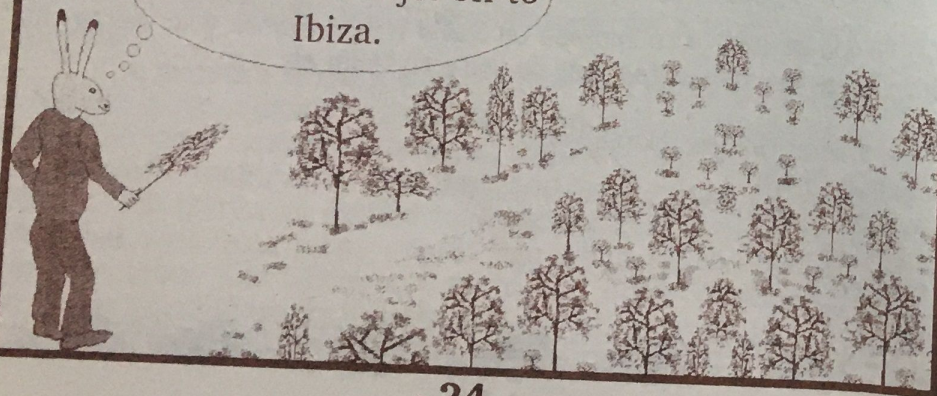
March Hare

by Tim Lepidus

MW © 2000

No. 033

Only another 50 to
plant and I can jet off to
Ibiza.



Respect for the Earth

by Ian Brown

Did you catch any of the Reith Lectures on Radio 4? They were back in April and I managed to listen to three of them. The theme for this year was "Respect for the Earth" - subtitled Sustainable Development - and the one which most held my interest was on Biodiversity, by Thomas E. Lovejoy. Apparently, it was he who first used the word "Biodiversity", some 20 years ago. This is the gist of what he said:

"We share the world, not just with our family but with other living things. We discover that there are many different species, and habitats, and these differences are termed collectively, biological diversity. It is another fact of life that no organism can exist without effecting its environment. To be alive requires energy, so all organisms need to eat. Even green plants, which use the energy of the sun, have to take in nutrients to both live and grow. All organisms produce waste and even if these wastes are biodegradable, that can effect other organisms. It is not a matter of whether or not we effect the environment but, in what way and to what extent. Our planet is a very much a living one and its incredibly rich web of life is central to how it functions, and therefore to sustainability of the human enterprise. Understanding and attaining sustainability development is complex and does not admit of many simple solutions. We are far, far from sustainability.

We are in deep trouble biologically and are already into a spasm of extinction, of our own making, unequalled since the one which took the dinosaurs. It is not a peaceable Kingdom; the rate at which species disappear is about 1,000 to 10,000 times normal and a quarter, or more, of all species could vanish within a couple of decades. There is a major problem with biodiversity. It is important to recognise why it's happening and how we can arrange our lives so our grandchildren can enjoy a sustainable existence on a biologically rich planet. Biological diversity lies at the heart of sustainable development. The quality of our lives are entwined with it so much more than most of us ever notice and that our fate depends on how well we provide for other forms of life."

He then gave a number of examples of how biodiversity can effect our lives. Here are a few. (1) An insignificant slime mould yielded promising new compounds to fight tumours resistant to taxol, which is a key element in the arsenal against many cancers, but loses effectiveness in some cases. Taxol originally came from the Pacific Yew, which was considered by foresters to be a trash tree. The effective molecules came from natural defences of the two wild species in interaction with other species. (2) High blood pressure can be treated with a venom from a tropical viper. (3) New York City opted to restore the ecology of its water catchment area, rather

than construct a multi-billion water treatment facility, at a tenth of the cost; a natural and permanent solution. (4) Natural disasters are not always natural. The mudslides and floods hurricane Mitch brought to Honduras, and the even more ghastly events, in December, following heavy rains in Venezuela were caused by the deforestation of critical slopes. It happened again, more recently, in Madagascar.

He carried on to say, "Studies on rivers show that the numbers and kinds of species, in a river, reflect the basic ecology of the river and the environmental stresses to which it is subject. This applies to all ecosystems. Biological diversity integrates the effects of all environmental problems effecting an ecosystem. It is the single measure of how humanity is effecting the environment. The measure of sustainable development is that the species list of an ecosystem will be the same in 100 years, or 500 years, as it is today. It means there must be enough wild places, and enough connections between them, so that all the species can make it in the long term. The moment is at hand to take the right steps to underpin a sustainable future, biologically, but it must happen everywhere so that it all adds up to sustainable development. We need to live within nature rather than think of it as something which happens inside fenced off areas, while humanity operates without restraint in the rest of the landscape. Classical conservation is not enough. We have to live in ways which don't degrade the biology of areas of strict preservation but also won't degrade that of the landscapes in which we live. That is why sustainable development is so important even though it is so complex to grasp.

But all our efforts to maintain biodiversity will be for naught if we can't combat global warming. Gerald Durrell once said, 'There is so little time'. Nobody can want to live on a planet which is nothing more than a lonely wasteland.

Bits and Pieces

by Ian Brown

House Sparrows - There may be a lack of sparrows in the city areas but, in Helmsdale, a small fishing town in the North east of Scotland, I saw plenty while I was there on holiday. Maybe what sparrows need is the nearby open spaces, of which we have recently lost so many.

The truth about the Airport - I was recently told, by a local Councillor, that the per annum increase in passenger numbers, at Manchester Airport has been 1½%, not the 5% they claimed it would be at the public inquiry. If this had been known, at the time, would permission have been given for the second runway.

Bluebells and Woodlands - I'm expecting comment, on the page 10 article, from one David Bishop. Look out for this in the next Magpie.

Manchester Wildlife - Events and Meetings

September 2000

Saturday 9th - Wigan Flashes Walk - Meet outside Wigan Wallgate Station at 11 am. Contact - Ian Brown - 0161-437 7040.

Tuesday 12th - Social Meeting - Time 7.30 pm at the Old Monkey Public House (upstairs lounge). Junction of Portland Street/Princess Street, Manchester City. Convenient for Piccadilly Bus and Metro Station. Contact - Ian Brown - 0161-437 7040.

Saturday 23rd - Allotment Day - Time 12 noon at the allotments on Bethall Drive (off Wilbraham Road), Fallowfield. South of St. Kentigen's School. Contact - Rob Allen - 0161-448 8631.

Thursday 28th - General Meeting - Time 7.30 pm at the One World Centre (Friends Meeting House basement), Central Street, Mount Street, Manchester. Contact - Ian Brown - 0161-437 7040.

Saturday 30th - Blackley Forest Walk - Meet at 11 am by the entrance to Bowker Vale Metro Station on Middleton Road. Contact - Ian Brown - 0161-437 7040.

October 2000

Tuesday 10th - Social Meeting - Details as for the 12th September.

Saturday 14th - Sinderland Stroll - Meet at Navigation Road Metro Station for a walk on the mossland. Time 12 noon. Contact - Rob Allen - 0161-448 8631.

Sunday 15th - Fungus Foray - Meet at Priory Gardens, Dane Road, Sale. Time 2 p.m. This is a Mersey Valley Wardens Event. Contact - 0161-905 1100.

Saturday 21st - River Irk Walk - Meet at 11 am outside the main entrance of Victoria Station, Manchester. Contact - Ian Brown - 0161-437 7040.

November 2000

Saturday 4th - Ashton Canal to Clayton Vale - Meet at 11 am outside the Ian Allen bookshop, Piccadilly Station approach. Contact - Ian Brown - 0161-437 7040.

Tuesday 14th - Social Meeting - Details as for the 12th September.

Thursday 30th - General Meeting - Details as for the 28th September.

December 2000

Tuesday 12th - Christmas Party - Details as for the 12th September.



Eco
Tip

Given that there are estimated to be a staggering 9 million of the furry natural born killers, keep your cat in overnight. Cats hunt from dawn till dusk so keeping your moggy in overnight you will be saving any number of birds and small mammals from certain death! Many creatures are most active at dawn so this is the time to have your cat indoors.



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 Bolton Wildlife Project, Mick Weston, 01204 361847 (day)
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 Bury, Lawrence Kitchenon, 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 3206
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.

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Printed at MARC on recycled paper

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