

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

*John Vidal, Environment
Correspondent, The Guardian*

Number 49 - - - Millennium Edition

Magpie



Snow in Big Wood, Wythenshawe

Photo. Ian Brown

**Standing up for Wildlife
in Greater Manchester**

50p

Editorial

Send in
YOUR Story

Editor's Office 0161-437 7040

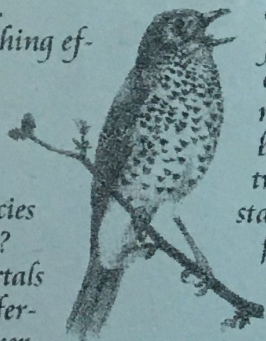
Welcome to the Third Minellium (did I say Minellium, I mean Millenium). Yes, I'm one of those pedants who believe that the Century, and Millennium, start at the year 01. Not that it matters, the main thing is - can we make the 21st Century a better one than the 20th.

Can we do something effective to combat global warming? Can we maintain bio-diversity and help to halt the decline of once common species such as the Song Thrush? What can we mere mortals do which can make a difference? The secret is, however bleak the prospects seem, on the environmental front; don't get depressed. There is always something you can do to improve the situation, however little it may seem. Have you recycled cans, paper or glass; that will help. Have you donated to a wildlife charity; that will also help. Have you objected to a planning application which would adversely affect the environment, or written a letter to your MP or a Minister expressing your concerns; that will help. If we all do a little it will add

up to a lot. Never give in, do your bit, and together we will make a difference.

So what have we got for you in this edition - there's more on recycling related subjects; success on the peat front; wildflowers (and flood control) in the Mersey Valley, planning in Greater Manchester, Future Forests, and much more. You have probably endured the longest gap between newsletters, since we started publishing. Thank you for your patience and I hope the wait was worthwhile.

If at any time you think you have been left out of the newsletter distribution, please contact me. It is possible I can slip up with membership renewals and someone can get left off the mailing list. I will only find out if you let me know.



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

Sustainable Government

By Bob
Dickinson

A quick response to your riddle "Sustainable Government 2000" in issue 48.

The meaning is quite clear. "Sustainable" here implies that the government of 2000 can be sustained, in the way that an onslaught or a paralysing injury is sustained, and is meant as a note of reassurance that, in spite of everything we may well still be alive at the end of the year. I hope this clears any confusion for Mr. Phelps.

Wigan Flashes

by Ian Brown

As you will be aware, we re-visited Wigan Flashes on the 9th of September. The weather was considerably better than on the open day, in June. Quite brilliant for the year 2000; we saw about 50 Common Blue butterflies. We noticed that there was a high percentage of females.

We cannot stress too strongly that the Flashes are a must for any nature lover to visit. We will, no doubt, be arranging a walk there, in 2001 so be sure to be come along. MW member, Donna Morris, joined us in September and enjoyed the day so much that she was moved to write us a letter, which went:

"Just wanted to let you know Christine and I had a really enjoyable day on Saturday.

Wigan Flashes is a beautiful place and it has encouraged us to explore the area further; we plan to return very soon. I particularly enjoyed the wildflowers, you pointed out, and the informative comments you made about the butterflies and dragonflies. It was really informal and friendly; like going for a stroll with friends. Please thank Anthony for lending us his spare binoculars!

I look forward to the next visit and look forward to meeting more Manchester Wildlife Members."

Don't disappoint her.

Give Us the Money

Recently, there have been some large donations to political parties. 1 million, 2 million, 4 million; any advance on 5 million? Wouldn't it be nice if, instead of frittering away all this cash on political organisations, the money could be spent on worthy causes. Maybe you can think of a few environmental charities who could do with a little financial boost. At least the money would be put to good use!

Green Recycling

by Ian Brown

The subject of recycling green waste has been aired, on occasion, in these pages. Recently, progress has been made on finding out what some of Greater Manchester's districts are doing, in this field, and the results are both surprising, and gratifying.

It all started because one of our members has an inquiring mind and the determination to carry things through to their conclusion. Janet Cuff phoned me, a short while ago, to ask if I had seen the hanging baskets in Albert Square and if I knew whether or not peat was used as the growing medium. I hadn't and I didn't, but promised to make inquiries. I found the person, in the City Council, whose responsibility this was and, after some discussion, I got side-tracked onto the subject of street leaves, which is the subject of this article. Hanging baskets, and peat, will feature elsewhere.

Janet first contacted Craig Horabin, Manager of Horticultural Services for Stockport Council. He reported that all green waste (grass cuttings, leaves etc.), from Stockport's parks, is composted, rather than being tipped in landfill. Regarding street leaves, Janet was referred to Geoff Dook, Stockport's Waste Management Co-ordinator, who sent a written reply. He said, ".....Several allotment societies throughout the borough have, in the past, requested that leaves swept from the streets be tipped at a convenient location on their allotment. The council's contractor (Fosca) has been happy to oblige and tips as many as 6 or 7 loads of leaves in the immediate vicinity of the respective allotment. We are happy to continue to offer this service which obviously results in the leaves being composted locally.

On a broader scale, Greater Manchester Waste's site, at Bredbury, has, since February 2000, been operating a soil forming process. This produces a material suitable for covering old landfill sites, motorway embankments, etc., and has been proved to withstand, and indeed encourage, growth. The soil is made by mixing approximately 13% of general waste, which has gone through a separation process, with the green waste that is collected at the site. GM Waste are happy for all the leaves collected to be tipped in the Green Waste area, which will obviously result in them either being

composted or added to the soil. The only concern is that the leaves may be contaminated by other street waste such as cans, bags etc., but the general feeling is that this will be minimal and therefore not create a problem. GM Waste are in agreement with your observation that any oil residue would degrade in the process."

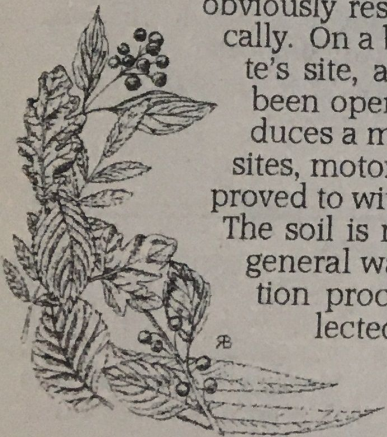
The response from Robin Cordock, Director of Operational Services for Manchester City Council, was on similar lines, though not quite so detailed. All this is very gratifying and I thank the council officials, and Janet Cuff, for the trouble they have taken in this matter. It seems that some council workers are taking the principles of Local Agenda 21, and sustainable development, into consideration. Also, the lack of landfill sites, and the cost of landfill tax must be forcing councils to think of more environmentally friendly ways of disposing of our waste.

Some time ago, **MW** member, Roger Moore, informed us he was reluctant to take street leaves, for composting, at his allotment because of the possibility of lead contamination. This lead would have come from vehicle exhaust fumes. Fortunately, this is now no longer a problem as leaded petrol is no more.

The fact that soil made from waste products is being used on reclaimed sites and motorway embankments, is most satisfactory but, it would be even more ideal if it could be used as a substitute for peat. There was a suggestion that people could take their garden waste to a Green Waste area and pick up a bag of compost while they were there. (Not as environmentally friendly as making ones own compost but the end product might be of better quality.) One disadvantage to this idea is that the product might not be as consistent as that of composts bought commercially, but I feel that this would not be a problem for most people, particularly if they were getting a bag of free or, at

least, very cheap compost. Of course, those running garden centres might have objections!

It is pleasing to note that both Manchester and Stockport are taking the disposal of park, and street, waste seriously and putting it to good use. What are other councils in Greater Manchester doing? Maybe you would like to follow Janet cuff's good example and make inquiries in your area!



Manchester City Council and Peat

By Anthony Phelps

Firstly, I would like to thank Janet Cuff for this story. It was her inquisitiveness that led to her looking into the many flower baskets adorning the City this year - as part of the "Manchester in Bloom" competition (in itself part of the "Britain in Bloom" competition). She was suspicious about the potting material, and wrote to the Council asking them what it was. On one of our many walks we held this year, she showed me the letter she'd quickly received from Robin Cordock, Head of Operational Services, which stated that they had used a "loamless peat compost", and was a little surprised at the interest it held for me. This is because, back in 1991, I can remember standing on the steps of the Town Hall, and presenting two Councillors (one of whom is currently a Deputy Leader) with our Golden Magpie Award for their commitment to phasing out the use of peat by 1993 (they were one of the first local authorities to sign Friends of the Earth's [FoE] Peatland Charter).

So, when I saw Robin's admission to using "loamless peat compost", I was saddened, but surprised that such a little phrase could open up possibilities for a campaign against the Council. I immediately wrote back to Mr Cordock, alerted FoE, and produced a Media Release which I sent to Manchester Evening News (as they had covered the original story back in 1991), and Private Eye for their "Rotten Boroughs" section. You can imagine my delight to be rung at work by the Environment Correspondent of the Evening News the morning after I'd hand delivered the Release, and to be informed that he'd also spoken to FoE and the Council. Then I had the news that it was in the 10th November edition. I got a back number and was hit by the headline "You blooming hypocrites", with a picture of the offending baskets in Albert Square, together with the council's "Sustainable Government 2000" banner, as part of a half page article. On the 1st December 2000, Private Eye picked it up as well.

The next part of the story was that Dr Michael Bane, Group Co-ordinator Manchester FoE had a call from Martin Pagel, Deputy Leader of the City Council (a different one from the recipient of our award in 1991), asking for a meeting. Michael said he'd agree as long as I could come along as well (FoE had written directly to Richard Leese, Leader of the Council). I discovered that Martin had read the Evening News article whilst on a plane going down to London, and he realised the enormity of the problem (his two words were much shorter and more succinct!), as the Council had only recently received an award in the Britain in Bloom competition.

The meeting was fixed for Tuesday 12th December 2000, and we arrived, and spent two hours talking with Martin Pagel, and every now and again I was able to bring the conversation back to the subject of peat, and at one point asked him to summarise where we were up to. For once, I was hit by "sound-bites". He said that firstly he apologised (which is the

first time I'd had an inkling that the council were sorry for what they'd done), secondly, he'd already put in place a purchasing policy that no further peat was to be purchased by the Council, and thirdly, that if he caught anyone from the Council buying peat again, that he'd personally shoot them. I was quite pleased, as that is exactly what I wanted to hear (although not about possible firearm usage as I'm strictly non-violent). He also stated that the Council were looking to develop a database available to all staff which would list materials and other services which the Council had either agreed to use or not to use, in order that this forgetfulness should not occur again.

I asked him about any stockpiles of peat they may have, as when Ian and I checked in Wythenshawe Park back in 1993, we found loads in one of the back greenhouses. He promised to make an itinerary of any peat stocks, together with time scales for its use. He also promised to put the results of our conversation in writing. Michael has just informed me that ManFoE have received Martin's written confirmation of our meeting, and I am awaiting my copy of this letter.

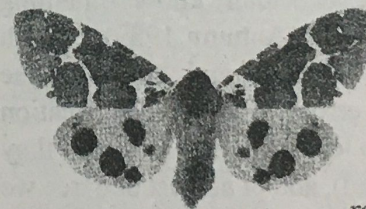
So, WE WON! It's just a pity that the original 1993 deadline was missed!



Butterflies (and Moths) by Piers White

As mentioned in the previous "Magpie", the year 2000 was not a good one. There were some exceptions and there was a good showing in some gardens in the late summer. There were, unsurprisingly, very few submissions to our Butterfly Survey but, we must hope that, 2001 may be a better year.

Enough of butterflies, I would like to talk of moths or rather, one specie in particular. The Garden Tiger Moth. These used to be quite common but I haven't seen any for years. We had a report from Rusholme in 1994. I remember seeing their wooly bear caterpillars migrating across roads; they used to do so in great numbers. In these days of increased traffic, this seems a dangerous occupation. I don't suppose these moths were expecting such an increase in the number of cars. Who'd have thought of that? Whether or not this has affected their numbers, I do not know, but it would be interesting to find out if the Garden Tiger is still to be found in Greater Manchester. If you see any, please let us know, or include this species in your butterfly survey report. The picture above will give you a good idea of what they look like.



Withington Hospital Redevelopment Update

by Witha Smallpea

Thanks to sterling efforts from members of West Didsbury Residents Association (WDRA), the planned superstore on the Burton House site has now been completely dropped from the plans for the development of the site. All the "spare" land will now be sold for residential development. WDRA had been campaigning for a long time, and previously succeeded in gaining a reduction in the size of the proposed "shop" every time they mentioned it, and it must have seemed to the hospital authority that there was no prospect of any large shopping chain being interested in such a small area. Added to that was the independent random telephone survey of local residents asking whether they wanted a store there (there is a perfectly suitable Kwiksave just across the road), which proved that the overwhelming majority of locals didn't want it. Luckily they have now caved in, with proof again that determined resistance, although not guaranteed to win every time, can win at the end of the day.

I, on your behalf, was supplied with a photocopy of the Ecological Survey of the hospital site(s) by WDRA, and asked to supply comments. These have now been passed to WDRA Chair, Vanessa Hartley, and hopefully will provide valuable ammunition in their continued battle to gain a development which is suitable for the area. On starting reading the survey, I noticed right at the start something which clouded my judgement of it - they'd based the whole survey on just two site visits (walks) at the end of January. Quite unsurprisingly, therefore, since we actually know something about one part of the area (see Magpie Edition 14, Autumn 1989) - which we called, naturally, "Withington Hospital Woodland", and they call "The Paupers Graveyard" - I found quite a few errors in their identification (especially of trees, which in January have no leaves in situ, although they could have checked the old leaves on the ground), and of at least one tree we found, Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), which they omitted from their list (which I assume is still on the site). Also I have been watching a patch of Autumn Crocus (*Crocus nudiflorus*) for a number of years, and it was not listed as a site for protection. I alerted WDRA at the flowing season, and they have a good picture of the blooms, which were spectacular this year.

I have asked, at the end of my comments, for Manchester Wildlife to be consulted on any ecological matters relating to the redevelopment, and I will let you know what results we can achieve.

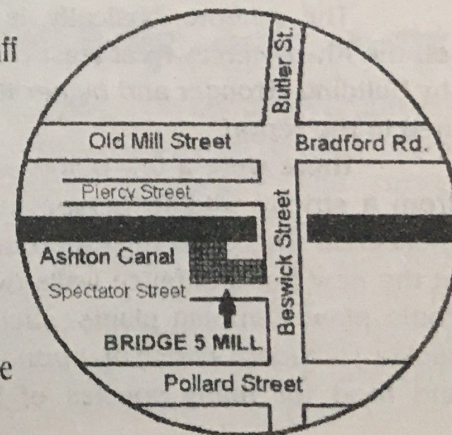
Moving Office

by Anthony Phelps

Since the last time you heard from us, we have now moved. The old One World Centre in the basement of the Quakers Meeting House behind Central Library is now no more, and most of the groups (together with new groups) have moved into the building MERCi have bought and are in the process of developing into a magnificent environmental centre for Manchester. After long discussions, a name for the building has finally been agreed - "Bridge 5 Mill" - as it is a mill, and it's beside Bridge 5 on the Ashton Canal. Our new postal address is, therefore: Manchester Wildlife, Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street, Ancoats, Manchester M4 7HS. Don't worry if you've sent us things to our old address, as the Quakers are keeping these, and they're being collected each day, but please change the address in your records for future use.

Our office is a little larger than the one in the basement of the One World Centre, with the benefit of a cheaper rent, two windows which look north and have Alder trees outside. To get here is easy - walk under the lines of Piccadilly railway station (Store Street), up the hill and under the Ashton Canal which crosses near the top. Go straight across Great Ancoats Street at the traffic lights onto Old Mill Street (passing Argos on your left, and the Ancoats Community Hospital on your right). The traffic lights you'll next reach is Beswick Street. Turn right, and you'll go over Bridge 5, and immediately turn right and the entrance (at present the main entrance) is down the little side street.

We physically moved our stuff into the new office on Sunday 17th December, and I got it "up and running" (ie put the computer together) on the following Tuesday. One of our members, Lance Crooks, has kindly offered to help by putting some shelving up for us (thanks Lance), which will enable us to become far more organised.



Mersey Valley Flood Alleviation

Scoping Report Comments

by Basil Fawcett

When Anthony made his first comments on the Environment Agency's (EA) scheme on behalf of Manchester Wildlife back in February 2000, all he received as a "non-statutory consultee" was a letter requesting his comments, and information as to where their document could be viewed. So, one Saturday, he visited Didsbury Library to get to work, only to be informed that the library staff had never heard of this document, and were sure they'd never received one. On Monday morning, therefore, he telephoned the consultants, working on behalf of EA, who were very apologetic, were certain they had sent it out, but said they'd send out another copy. Well, armed with this knowledge, on the following Saturday, he again went to the library, and received exactly the same response as before - no copy here. However, they did telephone Northenden Library who said they had a copy. Thus, to complete the request, he found himself sitting at a kiddies table in Northenden Library (no tables or work surfaces in the adult section).

When he sent in his comments, he also expressed his dissatisfaction with the consultation process, as he and I are sure that others may well have given up, meeting similar obstacles.

So, this time, Manchester Wildlife not only got a letter, but their own personal copy of the Scoping Report (the next stage in the process). Does this mean that Manchester Wildlife's status as non-statutory consultee has been raised a notch? They even telephoned Anthony to check on his consultation.

The scheme, basically, is looking to raise the flood defences on the River Mersey to at least once in 70 years, and will be achieved by building stronger and higher flood defence banks at places identified in the report.

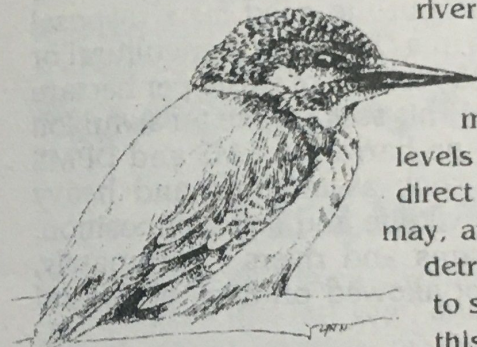
There were a few points which we felt worth commenting on, from a strictly wildlife perspective. One was on their landscaping measures, where we suggested that to help reduce the visual impact of the new flood defence walls (which will be faced with brick), they could plant climbing plants, such as Ivy (*Hedera helix*) and Honey-suckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), which would also provide habitats and food for many species of insects and birds. Secondly, we

commented (as Anthony had also done previously, when he met the consultants and EA representatives at Didsbury Library) on their management regime, and suggested changing the mowing timings to allow the Autumn Crocus (*Crocus nudiflorus*) to flower. As EA are keen to promote biodiversity, it's such a small "duty of care" to ensure that this species is protected. Lastly, we noted that over the last decade or more, the quality of the water in the Mersey has improved, allowing River Water Crowfoot (*Ranunculus fluitans*) to colonise the river. Anthony always gets quite poetical when he sees this plant, "with

its long flowing tresses gently swaying in the river currents". As this species relies

upon a gravel bottom in which to root, we felt it necessary to comment

that any increase in sediment levels covering the gravel in the river - as a direct result of their piling operations - may, at least in the short term, be to the detriment of this species. We asked them to see what evidence they have to show this to be the case or not - at least they



now know that somebody cares about it. Just in case you feel that Manchester Wildlife should be commenting on species like Kingfishers and Sand Martins, we felt that there were statutory consultees, such as the Mersey Valley Wardens and Judith Smith, County Bird Recorder, who have provided all the information necessary to ensure that these protected species are cared for. We took our role to include ensuring that other threatened but less visible wildlife was not forgotten in the consultation process.



Bird Survey

The RSPB are conducting a survey to ascertain the status of common birds. Some species, once quite numerous, have been declining. The survey should help to find out the reasons and, hopefully, do something to improve the situation. You can take part by noting the birds which visit your garden, or local park. To find out more write to: Big Garden Bird Watch, RSPB Wildlife Explorers, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire. SG19 2DL. The species they are interested in can be seen by visiting the RSPB website at: www.rspb.org.uk.

More Recycling

by Pierre Maché

At a recent meeting of the Greater Manchester Wildlife Working Group, the "Waste Paper Issue" came up. The papers we received before the meeting, on the subject, were somewhat technical, so I won't bore you with the details. The gist is that paper mill sludge (PMS), waste paper and de-inked paper mill sludge (DPMS) are causing problems in the countryside. These three by-products of the paper and paper recycling industries can be dumped on agricultural land, without the need for a disposal licence, where this activity results in a "benefit to agricultural or ecological improvement". Up to 250 tonnes of waste per hectare may be spread on land each year. This sounds like an awful lot! You might think that this can do no harm but PMS and DPMS can contain harmful chemicals such as chlorine and heavy metals which can be harmful to wildlife and soil composition, and can cause pollution to streams and rivers. Fortunately, dumping of these materials is not allowed on Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Although there is no need for a disposal licence, the Environment Agency (EA) must be informed if tipping is to take place. Unfortunately, the EA does not have the resources to monitor these activities, though they have made prosecutions in some cases where the guidelines have been broken.

The main problem is that it is difficult to know what, if any, nasty substances these waste products contain. There is no need for the producers of the wastes to make any analysis of them before distribution on the land. They could be harmless or they could be extremely polluting. To combat this problem we need a licensing system for this type of waste, and it should be tested for safety before it can be disposed of in this way. To bring this about, legislation is needed. This is where you can help. Why not write to John Prescott, Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions and/or your Member of Parliament. We know that Andrew Bennett has concerns on this matter. If you let him know you are also concerned we may get some action.

Most of these waste products come from the paper recycling industry. It's what is left over when the newspapers, etc.

have gone through the process of being made into re-cycled paper. Chemicals, such as chlorine, are added to remove ink and make the paper look good enough for resale. Don't let this put you off re-cycling paper; that would not solve the problem. It's a licensing system which is needed.

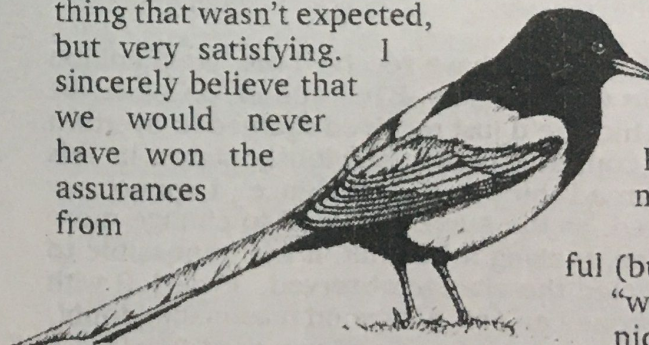
PMS and DPMS waste could be composted by mixing with other organic materials but the contaminants could still be present. It is possible that they would be safe on non-sensitive sites, such as land reclamation schemes. Tests should be made to find out if such composts would be safe to use.

The present system cannot be allowed to go on; wildlife and the environment are being put in danger. In the long term that can only be to the detriment of human health and well-being.



PUBLICITY

Our profile has been significantly raised this last year, and this is partly because of the press coverage we have received. As stated in the article about Peat, we got a huge article in the Manchester Evening News (MEN) (10th November 2000), and got into Private Eye ('Rotten Boroughs' - 1st December 2000) - which was something that wasn't expected, but very satisfying. I sincerely believe that we would never have won the assurances from



Martin Pagal had the M.E.N. article not had such an impact. Say what you will about the press - occasionally we can use it to our advantage.

Following on from the above, Anthony was also "commissioned" for articles on the Peat campaign by Manchester Friends of the Earth (Man FoE) and the Networking Newsletter.

Lastly, there was the "Magpies" article in the West Didsbury Residents Association newsletter.

All in all, a very successful (but busy) year, ending in a "win" - on which it is always nice to report.



Magpies - Friend or Foe

by Anthony Phelps

I was telephoned at work by Pam Siddons (mutual member of Manchester Wildlife and West Didsbury Residents Association) as the perennial topic of Magpies and their threat to urban/suburban bird populations had cropped up again.

My comments appear in their Winter 2000 newsletter:

"Magpies suffer from a very bad press. Because they are such a successful bird and so striking in appearance they are more visible than other birds." I went on to state that, yes, Magpies did take eggs and fledglings but, like all members of the crow family, this is the way they feed their own young and is part of the natural food chain. The Magpie itself has only one predator, the Goshawk, which has virtually been driven to extinction by man. Research by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) has shown that Magpies have no significant effect on the general success of other garden birds. By far the biggest enemy is the domestic cat which kills thousands of young birds in urban gardens when it doesn't even need them for food."

If we want to give smaller birds some protection the best thing we can do is to plant thick shrubs which Magpies cannot easily penetrate and provide nest boxes. If our gardens are less tidy, there are more places where small birds can hide their nests, and more importantly, their fledged young until they are able to look after themselves. Most importantly, and this is some advice from a previous "Magpie", if you have a cat, try to keep it indoors at night, and especially at dawn and dusk.

The final part of the article was my quote "Enjoy the Magpie - they're not as harmful as you think".

Since that went to print, however, I have received the latest edition of "British Wildlife", and in Chris Mead's (BTO) update on birds, he did say that survey work which he'd just received seemed to overturn or at least question our common belief, previously stated in this article. However, when I read through the 'evidence', I cannot say that I was totally convinced, as the survey seemed to change more than one variable at a time, making it difficult, if not impossible to say what had actually affected the change observed. I was left with the feeling that, until someone can prove, beyond reasonable doubt, that the Magpie does affect small bird populations, then "the jury's out". They are, and will remain innocent until proven guilty - my book is now closed on the subject.

Wild Planning

par M. Charlés
E'Tagné du Paris

Work has started on a County Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for Great Crested Newts. The Water Vole County BAP is well under way. A Ponds County BAP is also considered. Overall, the change in licensing requirements, and the work of Jim Foster at English Nature (EN), seems to be boosting amphibian protection, but we have to work quite hard to make planners aware. EN are actually objecting to things for the first time ever it seems.

Bolton - This Borough has produced three pond related District BAPs - for Great Crested Newts, Ponds and Mill Lodges. The latter was added, distinctly from ponds, because of the increasing threat to mill lodges which are so easily drained. Following the drowning of a child, the Bolton Evening News launched a campaign aimed at filling in mill lodges in Bolton (and Bury) which did not contribute to landscape and quality of life. Two MPs now appear to have distanced themselves from the campaign, saying to the Wildlife Trust that they merely promote actions which will make lodges safer. A major scheme to develop a river valley wildlife corridor, and destroy two lodges, has been withdrawn after objections on economic grounds (ie. that it would affect Bolton town centre). So the lodges are safe, for now. **MW** objected to this scheme. No further volunteer surveys, as yet, but more hoped for the future.

Bury - Last year, it was reported that a Great Crested Newt pond, at Pike Fold Golf Club had been filled in by developers acting unlawfully. Council Officers, the Council Leader (his ward), Police, Ombudsman, Wildlife Trust and EN (Greater Manchester) would do, or say, nothing to make the developers carry out the mitigation work which had been required as part of the broad consent. Finally, in November, the golf club applied for planning permission to put up screens along the motorway and a forceful 106 agreement from the Planning Committee's audience resulted in the Committee adding a condition to the consent. We wait to see whether all involved will simply ignore this condition as well.

Last year a farm owner had damaged a newt habitat. This year the new owner agreed to enhance newt habitat in exchange for being allowed to finish a farm track which had already been built.

The infamous Barracks Lodge - 2000 saw the Council pay for a bucket-trapping exercise around 50% of the lodge, on the banks owned by the Council. This resulted in five species of amphibians being found, including an exceptional population of Smooth Newts. The owners spent the first

half of 2000 continually draining the lodge and refused to stop when Great Crested newt eggs were located, in the water, by their own consultants. We filmed the consultants netting the pond whilst the owner was draining it away! With the owners warned-off by the police, the outflow could be restored and the wildlife returned.

The owner's consultants recorded Water Voles! The Council also paid for the hopeless pond dug by the owners, four years earlier, on Council land, to be turned into a pond rather than a dry pit. Originally the pond builders had simply scraped the soil off the clay base and piled it in a ring, on top of the bank soil, and pumped water into it - it all leaked away. They had only dug 6 inches into the clay! The second planning application, to build houses on the lodge was refused in January 2000 after the lodge, and adjacent area was made a Grade A Site of Biological Importance. A letter arrived from EN stating the planning application should be refused. A first in Bury making a change in approach! Toad crossing signs have been applied for.



At Spen Moor, the landowner, and a major developer, submitted a housing planning application. Part of the land is an SBI for ponds and Great Crested Newts. The newt survey was carried out again in 2000. The "consultant" stuck his bottle-traps in the pond mud for the whole season, turning up several times to put them in the water. At several ponds, rising water levels meant the bottle-traps were under the water for at least five days (Great Crested Newt located in one casually checked). EN Licensing merely spoke to the "consultants" who refused to do as EN bottle-trap guidelines say, which is to remove the traps when not in use. EN took no action whatsoever and allowed the traps to stay stuck in the mud, around the pond, waiting for a dog, a child or a flock of Canada Geese to knock them into the water. EN have some explaining to do. A local angler has just acquired two of the ponds and has set out trashing them at the same time as lamenting the threat of the planning application. Will anglers never stop their selfishness?

A cricket club relocation on to a newt site has meant the temporary loss of a newt breeding pond. For some reason EN approved a one pond lost for one new pond license application. It is probable that the appalling pond construction will mean that fish will get in the new pond and the newts will die out. EN (Greater Manchester) really have to explain why they are so inconsistent. There is no point in having a two for one policy and then allowing a one for one change.

Tameside - Last year, it was reported that there were plans to build a

business park on a major newt site. A second inquiry was held and, whilst the inspector ruled for, he was over-ruled by Minister John Prescott. The owners have asked for a Judicial Review.....

Manchester - Two Slow Worms discovered on a railway development site were rescued. The owner claimed they were pets released by his son. During the refugia search (looking under things) Great Crested Newts turned up on the land!

Wigan - A prosecution for disturbing newt habitat was held, in February 2000, after the alleged offence occurred in October 1998. The defendant was found not guilty by the Magistrates, accepting that he did not know there were newts, despite being stopped by the police for the same act 12 months earlier! Could we prove newts were there when bulldozing took place? EN (Greater Manchester) then revealed, 5 minutes before the court case, that the developer had applied for planning consent at the same time as he was bulldozing the site and was acting in advance of permission. The Council and EN had advised, in October 1998 that the development should be conditional on a Newt scheme but he didn't wait. This revelation would have resulted in his prosecution, had it been made at the time. Both the Council ecologist and EN must be criticised for the police expert witness phoned them at the time of the bulldozing to ask if they had commented on the planning application two weeks earlier. EN has a lot to answer for; their negligence wrecked the prosecution. At a nearby site, gulleypot grilling has taken place after dead newts were found in new gulleypots.

Stockport - Whilst Councils may refuse to take enforcement action where developers abuse newts/mitigation schemes, there is a tale of Great Crested Newts being used as a tool in enforcement against a private garage, at Stanley Road, Gilbert, built in Green Belt, beyond the garden curtilage, without permission. The householders claimed they could not remove their unlawfully built garage because Great Crested Newts, from the adjacent, well known site had started hibernating in the foundations! The appeal against the enforcement notice was dismissed and the householders were requested to instruct an ecologist to supervise the demolition, in mid-summer. They were also advised that, if they wanted to build a new garage, in their garden, they would need ecological supervision as well! Apparently, the DETR advised upon this case. An application to build a fast food outlet and widen the road was dismissed on the adjacent site. The planning committee apparently accepted that it was a bad thing to translocate newts from a site which they had previously been translocated to! Stockport Nature Network and Cheshire Wildlife Trust Amphibian and Reptile Group have been working at a school to replace a pond lost to playing field construction in the 1970s. At another school overshadowing trees have been carefully selected for removal, and training for teachers in pond education is being grant-aided.

Sane Plans

Chris Maile, from Radcliffe, has been involved in environmental campaigning for 20 years. He is a founder member of a new group called, the Campaign for Planning Sanity (CfPS). This group was formed to address activists' concerns that there was no national advisory service for local community groups who are concerned about adverse planning and development issues. It offers campaigners an advisory service and can provide representation at local planning inquiries and planning appeals.

Mr. Maile, who has been involved in many campaigns, such as the Newbury By-pass and Manchester Airport's second runway, said "With the formation of CfPS, local communities will, for the first time, be able to co-ordinate at a national level, giving every community a voice strengthened by the combined voices of dozens of similar communities, which will build into a voice so strong that it cannot be ignored."

A number of briefings are already available free to local community and campaign organisations. These include: *Village Green Applications, Planning Campaign Tactics, Planning and the Human Rights Act and Telecommunications Base Stations.*

If you would like information or advice from CfPS then call Mr. Maile on 0161-959 0999. There is a Web site: onlinecam.freemove.co.uk and the E-mail address is: planning@onlinecam.freemove.co.uk



Strange how there is nearly always a little space left which is difficult to fill. On this occasion it gives us a chance to say a little about:

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

This subject has featured strongly on the news so you will probably not need us to add to the information. However, a little needs to be said on how this might affect the activities of Manchester Wildlife. Some, or all, of our walks may have to be cancelled, or altered, to ensure we do not go onto agricultural land. If you intend to join us on one of these occasions, please phone the contact for up to date information. Us urbanites are fortunate in that much of our "countryside" is non-agricultural land; areas like the Wigan Flashes and most of the Mersey Valley should not be too much of a problem. However, if you go for a walk, please take notice of any signs you may see. There is no telling when the problem may will be over; the previous serious outbreak, in 1967, lasted 8 months.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2001

The details of this meeting are to be found in the box below. We hope you will be able to attend. The meeting itself will be of short duration and the walk, afterwards should be rewarding. The occasion will also give you the chance to look round our new office location, Bridge 5 Mill.

There will also be the opportunity to become more closely involved with Manchester Wildlife. You could volunteer to become a committee member of Manchester Wildlife. If you wish to do this, please inform the Secretary, Anthony Phelps, in writing or in person, before the meeting starts. You can be assured that you will find this a rewarding experience.

We hope to see you there.

Manchester Wildlife Annual General Meeting

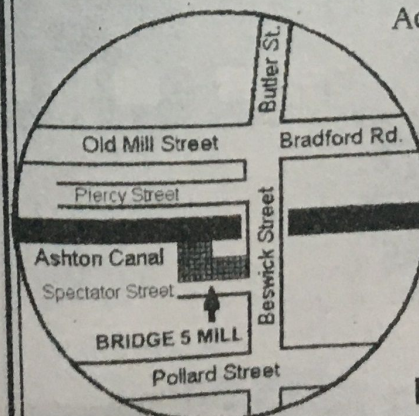
Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Manchester Wildlife will take place on:

Saturday the 28th of April 2001 at 12 noon. The Venue will be the Bridge 5 Mill, 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, and Clayton Vale.

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 Bridge 5 Mill



Waxwings t'nR' Us

by
Merton
Niven

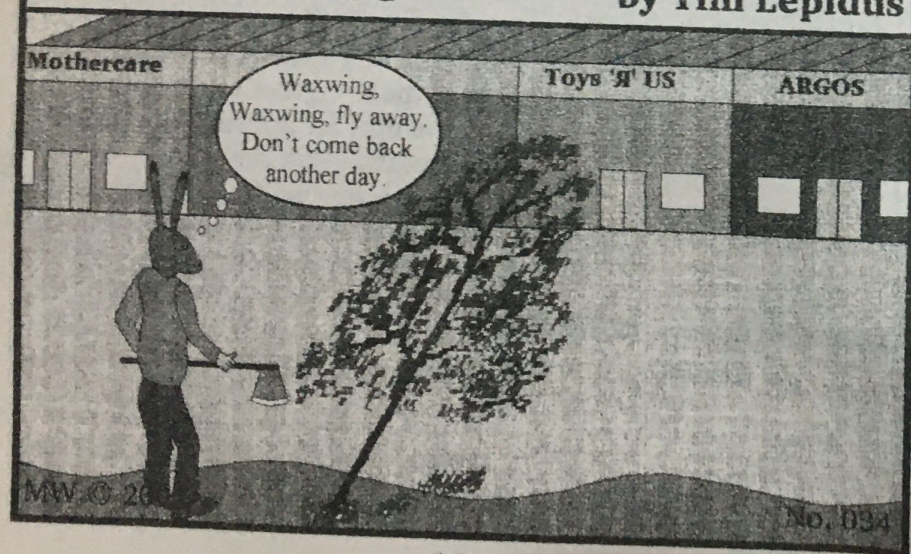
You know the retail sheds on Great Ancoats Street; Argos, Mothercare Toys "R" Us; all the usual suspects. During late January, a flock of Waxwings turned up to feed on the Rowan trees growing on the edge of the site. This sight attracted birdwatchers ("twitchers?") in great numbers. Then the trees were felled! It was rumoured that this was because the birdwatchers were taking up a lot of car parking spaces but not buying anything. The management denied this, saying, "This has nothing to do with birdwatchers in the car park. It's part of a long term plan. Had we known of the rare birds, we would have done everything possible to keep them happy." Landscaping firm, Strutt & Parker said they had planning permission to take down six trees and replace them elsewhere.

For the Waxwings, natural history photographer, Gordon Yates said, "Waxwings are the most exciting winter birds you could see in Britain. There were 60 birds feeding in the trees one day, then I turned up to see a stump and a chap cutting the other one down." Judith Smith said, "They can seek out red berries from a great distance. This is gross vandalism. The birds are rare visitors to this country."

We can only hope that the Waxwings found Rowan trees elsewhere, on which to feed.

March Hare

by Tim Lepidus



The Mersey Valley

By David
Bishop

My first encounter with the Mersey Valley was in the early '70s (I can't recall exactly when). I had moved to Manchester in late 1972 and must have discovered the MV the following year. I remember that it represented a haven from the stressful business of establishing myself in a new job, finding somewhere to live, making new friends etc. I also seem to recall that much of it was fenced off or otherwise out of bounds.

Around this time I was becoming increasingly interested in finding and identifying wild flowers. I had a view, at that time, of the MV as a piece of "urban wasteland" - a good place to practice using floras, but little else. I remember looking forward, eagerly, to my holidays when I could visit the "real countryside". Gradually it dawned on me that the MV was really very rich in plants, and wildlife in general, and, although parts of it may have been tipped on, dug up for gravel or stripped of topsoil there still remained little pockets of great richness which I came to think of as "windows" into an older, often more "authentic" countryside than existed outside the city. Soon after this revelation I met David Lloyd, the first Warden in the MV and a remarkable man who shared my enthusiasm for the Valley and taught me to "see" it and what it really represented - a piece of genuine, working countryside that had been abandoned by agriculture only very recently (of course, there are still pockets of agriculture left, to this day).

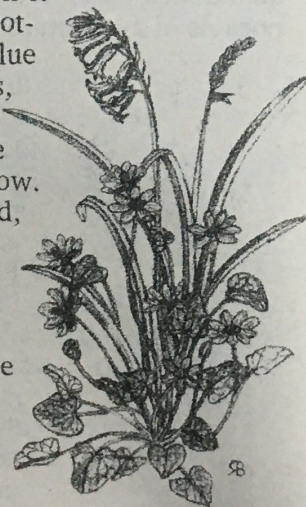


It's the plants that will remain in my memory. First the common ones that I think of as "typically MV": Coltsfoot and Lesser Celandine, irrepressible heralds of spring; Butterbur and Bistort which really do have a north-western distribution; Sweet Cicely, with its aniseed smell, and ubiquitous, invasive Ground Elder, both of which are supposed to be medieval introductions; Cow Parsley which covers vast areas with a spectacular white froth in May (I swear that, if it were rarer, coachloads would come to view it!); Lady's Smock, whose delicate, lilac/pink flowers always transport me back to the England of Chaucer and Shakespeare; Ox-eye Daisy (now, alas, much rarer than it was 20 years ago) and Great Burnet, both old hay-meadow flowers; the yellow "dandelion" flowers of Common Catsear which grow on leached, sandy patches of ground, often with a reddish haze of Sheep's Sorrel and, if you are really lucky, with patches of Heather or delicate, blue Harebells;

Nettles and Brambles which will always be with us (as will the vast armies of insects which depend on them); old cottage garden escapes such as Sweet Rocket ("Queen's Gillyflower" is an old name that I like for its historical resonance), Michaelmas Daisy and Goldenrod and more invasive escapes such as Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed; and a whole host of others: Comfrey, Tansy, Horseradish, Hogweed, Wild Hops, Foxgloves, Wild Raspberry (truly wild or a garden escape?), Reed Canary-grass, Tufted Hair-grass, Sweet Vernal Grass, Meadow Foxtail.....where do you stop?



Second are the rarities (rare nationally or rare in the MV) - every season seems to bring new discoveries as though the MV were an inexhaustible treasure trove. When, years ago, I decided to learn the buttercups the first plant I chose to study turned out to be Hairy Buttercup (*Ranunculus sardous*), a national rarity! Then there was the Easter at which I believe I found the last two plants of Wild Daffodil in the central MV. One summer I found a single plant of Lady's Mantle, which, I suspect, was once a fairly common component of MV meadows. Near the same site was an area that, at some point in the past, had had limestone tipped on it and here were Common Spotted Orchids, Hay Rattle and Blue Fleabane. Speaking of orchids, there are Marsh Orchids as well, in certain spots, and I once



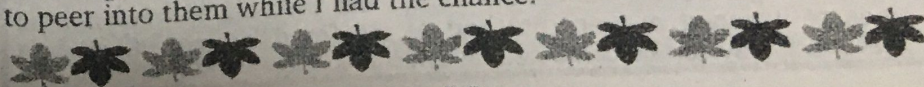
found a Broad-leaved Helleborine under a willow. A few summers ago a friend of a friend found, quite unexpectedly, a huge colony of Bee Orchids (the biggest colony that I know of anywhere!). Woodland plants also crop up, here and there: Bluebells, Wood Anemones, Ramsons and Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage (some of these, I am sure, are relics of old woods but others appear to have been transported, some distance, in flood waters). Other curiosities which have turned up, over the years (not always found by me, by the way) include: Yellow Birdsnest, Grass Vetchling, Columbine, Meadow Cranesbill and Cut-leaved Bramble (a plant so obscure that it is usually only mentioned in the footnotes or appendices of most floras!).

Perhaps our most intriguing plant is the Autumn Crocus (*Crocus nudiflorus*) - a native of South Western Europe which is said to have been introduced into England by the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. This medieval order of warrior monks and physicians had holdings around Oldham and Halifax and I believe that our plants were washed down from the Pennine watershed in winter floods. Reading round the subject, a few years ago, I began to suspect that I should also find the Spring Crocus (*Crocus vernus*) as well, and, sure enough, I now know of several colonies which I believe to have been previously unreported.

Finally there are the ferns. I had always believed that ferns were too difficult until I found one that looked totally different from the very common Male and Broad Buckler ferns. This specimen turned out to be Soft Shield fern - a plant that had previously been thought to be extinct in Greater Manchester. Then there were the Royal Ferns that I found one summer's evening, echoes of the old peat mosses of South Lancashire. A single specimen of Rustyback fern grows on the mossy wall of Withington Sewage Works and the woodland fern, Hartstongue appears wherever it can find a shady spot. Scaly Male fern is probably our most spectacular fern, particularly when it unfolds its golden croziers in early summer. My favourite is Narrow Buckler fern, mainly because it took me three years to find (the trouble was that I didn't really know what I was looking for). Once I had certainly identified one, I started to find others. In May of 1999 I was proudly inspecting one of my colonies when, to my amazement, I found it to be growing with a truly huge colony of Adder's Tongue fern, a plant which is an indicator species of very old grassland and one which I had given up all hope of ever finding in the MV - yet another "window" into the past.

Unfortunately the Present is either indifferent to, or actively hostile to, the Past. I notice that the policy, in the MV, for several years now, has been, "Informal Recreation" (whatever that is!) and not Conservation. Every year there are developments or threats of developments. My colony of Royal Ferns will probably be wiped out (along with much else) when The Metro is driven across the MV. This summer the Environment Agency (good name, that!) wiped out most of Chorlton's colonies of Autumn Crocus. I met the shade of Richard Buxton (one of Manchester's greatest botanists, who recorded the colonies over 150 years ago) weeping on the river bank - I don't think that anyone else noticed.

The magic "windows" are growing dim now - I'm glad that I was able to peer into them while I had the chance.



Future Forests

In the Summer 2000 issue of Magpie the article, "Plant a Tree to Ease Your Conscience", we asked for more information on the subject. It came in the form of an article in "Going Green", the magazine of the Environmental Transport Association (ETA). The following is an approximation of what was contained in the article:

For about 10 years Governments and environmental organisations have endeavoured to find ways of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As a response, Future forests was founded in 1995 and their energy efficiency initiatives have been adopted by 50 companies and over 10,000 individuals.

Future Forests has two main aims. First to get involved with the carbon dioxide (CO₂) debate, up to government level and secondly to encourage and enable immediate action. Future Forests provides a way for organisations, and individuals, to invest in the environment and offset their emissions in a way that is educational, tangible and instantly accessible. However, the trees are just a start: in planting a tree, purchasers agree to take responsibility for the CO₂ they generate and that can lead the way to a much wider discussion about carbon management.

The core message of Future Forests is: reduce what you can, then change to lower carbon intense energy, then offset the rest. Future Forests do all the work helping businesses and consumers to tackle global warming by:

- ♦ Working out how much carbon dioxide an activity produces; driving a car, plugging in a vacuum cleaner, going on holiday, etc.
- ♦ Identifying how that CO₂ can be reduced.
- ♦ Calculating the amount of forest cover needed to offset the non-reducible CO₂.

Offering the option to pay to have some, or all, of the trees planted. If all are planted the activity becomes carbon neutral. **1 tree = return airline flight = carbon neutral flight. 5 trees = annual driving = carbon neutral driving.** Or plant 15 trees a year to become a carbon neutral citizen.

This is only a rough guide as the number of trees planted to absorb a ton of carbon will vary according to local conditions, but the figures are memorable and this is important given the lack of consumer knowledge of global warming.

We have no contact for Future Forests, save for their Web site - www.futureforests.com - so, if you are interested; start there.

The Environmental Transport Association (ETA) is a road rescue and transport organisation, like the AA except that they are interested in all types of transport and are not part of the Road Lobby. If you are interested, they can be contacted on 0800 212 810.

Floods

by Basil Fawcett

Floods have been much in the news during the past months. The thing which struck me most was that many of the housing areas affected were relatively new and built in vulnerable areas. There was one example of houses recently built behind the flood bank of a river. In objecting to developments we have, when appropriate, used the argument that they could exacerbate the problems of flooding. Generally the Environment Agency have not thought this to be a problem. Recent events seem to be changing the minds of those in authority. Also it is good to know that politicians seem to have accepted that Global Warming is a contributory factor to the climate change which seems to be bringing us more rain.

There are other factors which contribute to flooding. Over 20 years ago I heard that parts of the North Yorkshire Moors were being drained (to improve grazing for sheep) and I thought, at the time, that it sounded a foolish idea. More recently, whilst working with the BTCV near the Cat & Fiddle, reinstating an old ditch by a dry-stone wall, I noticed a large ditch (at least 1m x 1m) further downhill and right across the valley. I asked the chap in charge, who worked for North-west Water and the Peak Park Rangers, the purpose of this ditch. I was told that it was there so that the water would drain quickly off the hillside. Enough said! Draining of riverside meadows for agricultural improvement, or any hard development of open land, causes water to drain more quickly into the streams and rivers.

We hope some of these past mistakes can be reversed and more thought will be given to future developments. Floods are "natural disasters" which cause great distress to those involved. They are also very costly in economic terms and, if it is for this reason only, we hope that politicians will be persuaded to address the causes of the problem.



If you
know of a Web
Site which will
be of interest to
our readers,
please let us
know

Web sites of interest, so far:

Foxes - www.nfws.org.uk

Anti Slavery - www.antislavery.org

Croal/Irwell - www.mbbcanal.demon.co.uk

ETA - eta.co.uk

Future Forests - www.futureforests.com

WWF - www.wwf-uk.org

Wildlife in M/cr - www.gmbirds.freemove.co.uk

Stop Press - Waste Disposal

You may have heard, and been thrilled that Stockport MBC (and it seems Manchester is thinking along similar lines) is composting their organic waste, together with street leaves for spreading onto landfill sites. Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority (GMWDA) and GM Waste (GMW) who collect our waste call this material "soil ameliorant", although it's easier to call it "soil former", and includes all the usually smelly stuff left in your waste bins after all the paper, glass, metals and other recyclable materials have been extracted. Well, the Environment Agency (EA) has just ordered GMWDA and GMW to stop spreading this "soil former". I have had a report of a site in the north of Manchester where this material has been spread, which said it stunk, and they'd erected tall poles from which deodorants were being sprayed to "keep the number of complaints down". Not what I'd call "compost"!

The problem is, without a waste collection system which separates the waste prior to collection - a "multi-material collection system" (which is being planned for counties like Lancashire) - the residual organic matter (which is estimated to be around 30% of all waste collected) can become contaminated by heavy metals from leaking batteries, or any other toxic materials in the waste stream.

Sadly, rather than change the culture of collection, and simply clean up the waste stream, GMWDA/GMW are planning to try and turn this potentially rich and useful organic material into an "inert waste" (presumably by heat treatment and adding brick dust?), enabling it to be landfilled. I can only question the lack of intelligence in people who can only think in this blinkered and pathetically wasteful and expensive way.

If you compare the recycling figures for 1998-9 and 1999-2000, and you take "soil former" out of the equation, the recycling rates for Manchester have actually dropped. If we cannot change this backward attitude by our disposal companies, we'll all end up paying more in our Council Taxes.

Editor's Comment - As I penned the article "Green Recycling" I can hardly let this go without comment. It would seem that, when "experts" get to work common sense goes out of the window. Surely it is common sense that organic waste should be properly composted before being used for any purpose. Standards of education are supposed to be rising; maybe heads are being filled with facts and figures, to get us through exams, leaving no space in the brain for independent thought. Whether or not this leads to those in authority to do daft things, on occasion, is open to speculation but I would make a plea that the brain ought to be engaged before decisions are taken.

*An expert is someone who knows everything there is to know on their specialist subject. This is impossible, therefore there is no such thing as an expert. This information was given to me by someone who left school at 14 years of age, without qualifications.

Manchester Wildlife - Events and Meetings

March 2001

Tuesday 13th - Social Meeting - Time 7.30 pm at the Old Monkey Public House (upstairs lounge) ask for Anthony Phelps, Ian Brown or Rob Allen. Junction of Portland Street/Princess Street, Manchester City. Convenient for Piccadilly Bus and Metro Station. Contact - Ian Brown - 0161-437 7040.

Saturday 24th - Spring Awakening at Highfield Country Park - meet at 12 noon on the old railway bridge, Nelstrop Road North (south of Barlow Road/Longford Road, Levenshulme. Contact - Ian Brown - 0161-437 7040.

Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th - Launch Day at Bridge 5 Mill - Details from **MERCi** Tel. 0161-273 1736.

Thursday 29th - General Meeting - Time 7.30 pm at Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street, Ancoats. In Office No. 9. Contact - Ian Brown - 0161-437 7040.

April 2001

Tuesday 10th - Social Meeting - Details as for the 13th March.

Saturday 21st - Spring Bollin Walk - Meet 12 noon at Heald Green Railway Station for a walk round Manchester Airport to see what it is like after the 2nd runway. This is a long walk (about 10 miles) so bring food and drink and wear good boots. Contact - Ian Brown - 0161-437 7040.

Monday 23 (St. George's Day) - MW/MERCi Allotment Party - Time 12 noon at the allotments on Bethall Drive (off Wilbraham Road), Fallowfield. South of St. Kentigen's School. Bring food to share. Contact Rob Allen - 0161-448 8631.

Saturday 28th - Annual General Meeting - 12 noon at Bridge 5 Mill, Ancoats. See notice for details. Contact - Ian Brown - 0161-437 7040.

May 2001

Tuesday 8th - Social Meeting - Details as for the 13th March.

Thursday 31st - General Meeting - Details as for the 29th March.

Mute Swan Survey

In spring 2001, there will be a national census of the Mute Swan population in Great Britain. This will provide an update of the last survey in 1990, and specifically seeks to determine the size of the population, and identify the breeding and non-breeding components. This will enable an assessment of the recovery from lead poisoning and the effect of mild winters and cleaner waterways, and whether there has been expansion into new areas or habitats as a consequence. It will also provide data by which to measure potential and actual increases in conflict between swans and agriculture and fishery interests.

In Greater Manchester, I have agreed to be the organiser for all of the 10km squares within the county, and these will include some fringe areas in Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside.

I should be grateful for any help at all that local birdwatchers can give, even if it is a pair that I know about. Contact Judith Smith, 12 Edge Green St., Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan, WN4 8SL e-mail: judith@gmbirds.freereserve.co.uk Tel: 01942 712615

Useful Contacts

RSNC Urban Wildlife Partnership.....	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 Kitchenon, 0161-796 6404 (day)
British Trust for Ornithology.....	Gr. 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, Brian Hallworth, 0161 456 5328
Advice on Birds in Distress.....	Three Owls Bird Sanctuary, 01706 642162
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
GM Police Wildlife Liason Officer	Inspector Denise McGowan, 0161-865 1666
Mersey Valley Wardens	Sale, 0161-905 1100 (day) Chorlton, 0161-881 5639 (day)
Croal/Irwell Valley Countryside Service.....	Nicky Greek, 01204 334343 (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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