



Magpie

Number 51



Winter 2002



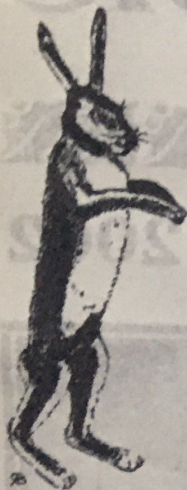
**Standing up
for Wildlife**

**Double
Issue**

50p

Editorial

Send me your story
☎ 0161-437 7040



I hope you enjoyed our colour version of Magpie. I was a little disappointed with the print quality of some of the monochrome photographs. The originals looked OK but I still haven't got the hang of the print settings. I'm hoping the photos will turn out better, this time; the quality of the originals is better, thanks to a new digital camera. Unfortunately it's back to black and white.

I also hope the articles are up to scratch; the one on Hulme's Ferry is a little novel. The article on Barrack's Lodge is much longer than we usually allow but, as it is a good example of what can be done if the local community gets a bit stropky, we thought it would be an inspiration to others. By the sounds of it, we can do with all the help we can get if we are to save other wetland habitats (see Wild Planning).

We have organised (?) a number of walks, some to new locations, so please do try to join us. We usually find that there is something new to be discovered, no matter where we go and how many times we go there. If you are keen to learn more about wildlife, particularly wildflowers, come along. Your knowledge, on your favourite subject, is sure to be widened; I know mine has. If you are in any doubt over how to get there, or anything else connected with one of our walks, don't hesitate to phone me.

Now I will leave you to enjoy the more interesting parts of **Magpie**.

**A Happy
New Year
to all our
Readers**



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Fig Flowers



It was near the end of November that I was walking towards Unicorn in Chorlton along Albany Road, and the first thing I noted was the buzzing of a lot of bees. I quickly crossed the road to the terraced houses, with their tiny front gardens, and saw what I initially identified as a Fig bush in flower - lovely spherical, star-burst type flowers of a creamy white colour, absolutely heaving with honey bees.

It was only when I was talking with my dad, that he reminded me of something I did know, but had forgotten, about figs - they don't flower in the traditional sense of flowers. They have a 'bud' - with a hole. The fertilisation is done by small beetles which crawl into this bud, and transfer pollen that way. Another interesting thing about the fig, is that the fertilised 'flower' has to endure the following winter, and only produces the fig fruit during the next summer. The old Victorian gardeners used to wrap each 'bud' in peat held on with muslin to keep them from dying during our frosty winters. They'd obviously never heard of "food miles"!

Anyway, these flowers I'd seen were obviously not fig - and my dad said they were "Caster Oil" plants, as he'd had one planted by his new pond. I wondered then if it was the same plant that produces the lethal poison "Reizin" (sorry - don't know how to spell it) which was featured on an Open University Chemistry programme, and which is, apparently, the most lethal poison known to man - probably hundreds of times more lethal than Hydrogen Cyanide - or was it thousands. Mind you, when you get to this level of lethality, I suppose it doesn't really matter all that much. It's a little like nuclear weapons - they've enough to destroy the world many times over - isn't once once too many times? It was this poison that killed the East European diplomat when it was fired into the back of his leg from an umbrella gun, whilst he was waiting for a bus on a London Bridge some years ago. I'm amazed that any plant (or animal) should feel the need to produce such a powerful toxin just to protect it from being eaten. However, there are many such similar instances in nature.

Maybe the botanists in the group can help me with a true identification of this plant. The interesting thing about my sighting is that I am seeing these plants everywhere now. Also, many other plants are in flower in what most people don't realise is a colourful season - Mallows, Winter Jasmine, etc.

by Anthony Phelps

North West Bird Fair by Anthony Phelps

It was a dull, but dry day on Sunday 18th November 2001, when I set out for Burscough Bridge, and the walk through farmland down Red Cat Lane, to the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust reserve at Martin Mere, for this year's Bird Fair. If you've never been - it's only just over £5 for a



return rail trip, and the walk's about a mile and a half - but the birds on the journey often make it take quite a long time - this year I saw a large Fieldfare flock, and Tree Sparrow. In other years, there have been marvelous views of Corn Bunting on the telephone wires down the road - but not this year, as well as the busy skeins of Pink-foot Geese in the winter sky.

It was very busy on the reserve - but I expected that. I had a quick trip around all the stalls - and managed to avoid consumerism - but did pick

up some good information about the Salford development from Judith (see article on Botany Bay Wood).

After that, I went out onto the reserve to do some birding. I checked the sightings board, and was thrilled to notice a bird that I'd never managed to see - despite having sat next to someone watching one, who, nevertheless was unable to direct me onto it as he couldn't take this eye from his telescope, or he'd have lost it too! The bird in question is the American Green-winged Teal. This is not a "full tick", in twitching terms, as it is only a subspecies of Teal. It differs from the European species by having a vertical white bar on the side of the chest, and not a horizontal white line through the wing.

I made my way quickly to where it had been spotted, and as I got to the steps of the hide, Bill Oddie (not a rarity at this event - he seems to open it every year!) was just coming out, and he confirmed that the teal was showing well at the moment. When I got to a seat, someone directed me to the bird, which was out in the open, almost in front of the hide - very obliging, and I had excellent long views of this bird.

All in all, a good day out. There are other parts of Martin Mere that I don't really enjoy, personally - like the pens where they have captive wildfowl, which are for breeding purposes. However, there are always people wandering around this area, so it must be popular, and it is, after all, what the WWT seem to spend a lot of time doing and, as a

supporter, I suppose I cannot be too critical. However, I do prefer my birds wild, and for that, I am well catered for here. Something for everyone.



European Green-winged Teal



North American Green-winged Teal

How to Combat Global Warming

Why Not Stay at Home

by Janet Cuff

When considering a holiday destination, why not Great Britain? The main reason I say this is that holidays abroad often involve air travel which, although not a lot is said about this by government bodies, is an extremely polluting form of transport, not only in terms of aircraft emissions, but also in terms of all the paraphernalia surrounding airports. We could, of course, use the train or coach to go to Europe but, even so, we are talking about quite long distances. So why not stay in Great Britain?

We have some wonderful seaside resorts. For example, Scarborough, Llandudno or even Morecambe, mostly accessible by rail, where there is plenty to see and where you can get healthy and pleasant exercise simply by walking from one end of the promenade to the other. At many of our seaside resorts, attractive countryside is very close at hand. At Llandudno you have the Great Orme, with an abundance of wild flowers, and at Morecambe you can walk northwards along the beach and view the seabirds on the sands. (Leighton Moss Nature Reserve is very close at hand - near Silverdale Station - an excellent day out - Ed.)

If you want to be more adventurous, you could try a walking holiday in one of the remoter parts of England or Wales, perhaps by using some of the simpler Youth Hostels. By doing this, you will not only be taking a holiday which does not make any significant contribution to global warming, but also one which gives support to an organisation which is in dire financial trouble, as a result of foot and mouth. Indeed, any holiday taken in Great Britain gives support to the

ailing British tourist industry. So, why not "holiday at home", using public transport to get there, of course.

Yes Why Not Stay at Home

by Ian Brown

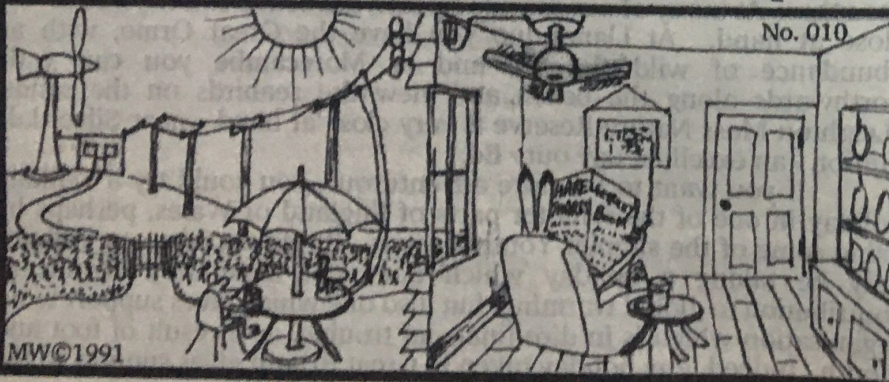
Yes, I tend to agree with Janet. I have been abroad on a number of occasions and greatly enjoy holidaying in foreign parts, particularly Austria. However, one of the best holidays I remember was a week on the Isle of Wight. I traveled by train to Portsmouth; then on foot to Ryde, by the ferry, and to Shanklin, on the east coast, by the local railway. I stayed in a simple hotel and, wishing to walk the island, I purchased a weekly ticket for the public transport.. This cost £9 in 1984, which I thought was extremely good value, and allowed me to travel all over the island, mostly by bus. One could walk across to the west coast and return by bus, all in one day. The Isle of Wight is simply amazing for wildlife, particularly butterflies and wildflowers. It was there I had my first, and only sighting of Stinking Iris (*Iris foetidissima*). I went in late June when the orchids are at their best. Walking the footpaths is made very easy. All the paths are signed, and numbered, and large scale maps are available which make it almost impossible to get lost. Of course, being by the seaside, there is plenty else to do and the evening entertainment is excellent. I would certainly recommend a week on the Isle of Wight; you would be sure to enjoy it!

Editor's Note - Enough of this advertising for the Isle of Wight Tourist Board. If anyone else has ideas for combating global warming, please send them to me. The main item, we informed you of in Magpie 50, is expected any day now but may not arrive in time for this issue.

March Hare

by Tim Lepidus

No. 010

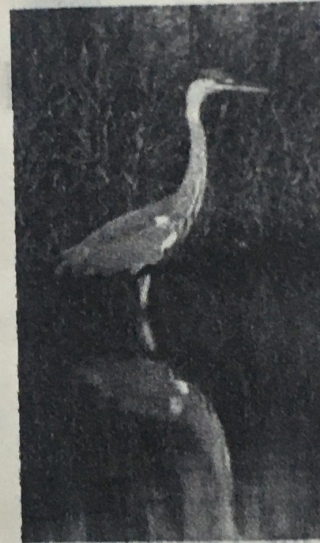


Botany Bay Woods - Salford's New Racecourse

When I was at the North West Bird Fair, I bumped into Judith Smith, County Bird Recorder, who showed me the plans for this area. It is a plan that has been discussed at length for ages, at the Wildlife Working Group.

Botany Bay Wood is a wonderful wild wood - with a large Heronry (I believe about a hundred nests), and other species of county note. The Heronry is now a proposed Site of Special Scientific Interest (pSSSI) - there are still negotiations over the boundary, and the buffer zone surrounding it. It is, unfortunately, owned by one of the least conservation-minded companies "Peel Holdings" (even typing their name leaves a nasty taste in my mouth!).

They had a plan to build a new racecourse on an area of



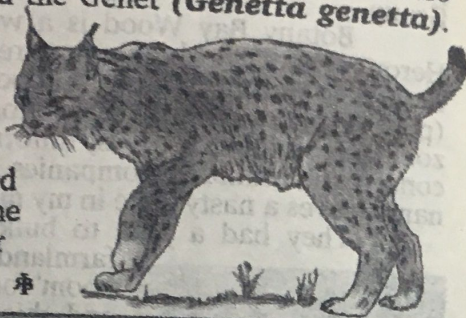
farmland just north of the woods. There is 'room' for one new racecourse in the country, and this site is a contender for it. It was thought that, because of the presence of Haydock Park Racecourse, that this site would be overlooked by the racing authorities, as there obviously isn't a need for two in one area. At one Wildlife Working Group meeting, we heard the bad news that Peel were planning to buy Haydock Park, sell the land for housing, and then put in their application for Botany Bay Wood. Bad news, I think you will agree. One of the reasons why Botany Bay Woods is so good for wildlife is inaccessibility - there are no public rights of way through the woods, and there is a thick rhododendron understorey around the Heronry, which makes any negotiated access difficult. Peel have recently been taking out the rhododendrons, with the express purpose of "opening up the woods ready for public access". This is not good news for the Grey Herons, as any disturbance, even walking under their nests, can cause them to abandon. Other notable species present and/or breeding, which are there mostly because of the lack of disturbance, are Long-eared Owls, Woodcock, Little Owl and Tawny Owl, with unconfirmed by ornithologist sighting of Nightjar. It is also the only Greater Manchester breeding site for Siskin and Buzzard. Most of these would not continue to use these woods should they be opened up for public access, or if major development nearby were permitted.

However, at the last meeting, Judith gave us the wonderful news that the Jockey Club itself had bought Haydock Park. It is unlikely that they will want to close this established course, and that Peel may have been thwarted in their efforts to develop the woods in Salford. It's a case of "watch this space".

Anthony Phelps

Cork of Life

The Extremadura region of Spain and Portugal is not only a haven for rare birds but also the last stronghold of the Lynx (*Felis lynx*). It also supports populations of Wolves and the Genet (*Genetta genetta*). The Cork Oak is a very important element in the habitat of this region and I would like to ask all Manchester Wildlife members, who like a glass or two of vino, to make sure you avoid wine stoppered by plastic corks and insist on genuine cork corks. Please tell all your friends and colleagues.



The cork forests of Spain and Portugal are in greater danger from plastic wine stoppers than previously thought, according to the RSPB. Figures show that plastic could have gained 15% of the stopper market by 2015, triggering a crash in the cork market. As a result, the Iberian peninsula's ancient cork forests, which provide a habitat for species such as the Booted? Eagle, could disappear. The RSPB is calling on consumers to complain to their retailer if they find plastic stoppers in the bottles of wine they buy.

Q Having spent half my life in southern Europe, I am used to having wine on the table. I love the Iberian cork oak forests and am alarmed by the threat of the ubiquitous plastic cork. The forests provide an essential habitat for birds so, to do my bit for bird life, I would like to buy wines with real cork stoppers. How can I tell which wines are closed with cork and which with plastic? - Beatrice Dennis - Weobley, Herefordshire

A Sadly, you can't. In general, plastic corks close only the cheapest £2.99 and £3.99 bottles. The few I have seen at £4.99 are used on stylish, new-wave wines such as Argentina's Argento pair and the Inycon range from Sicily where the bottles' livery, including the cork, has been considered as an important a statement as the wine within.

Editor's note - Forgive my ignorance but I thought that the reason for plastic corks was that the cork, for cork, corks, was becoming rare.

HLS

Is the End in Sight?

by Witha Smallpea

There has been a long and, some would say, successful campaign against Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS), the animal testing laboratory (see previous Magpies). This campaign recently culminated in a blockade of the roads leading to the laboratory, at 3.00pm on the 8th January, by large buses and a car outside the gates, with activists locked-on underneath them. Other tactics are a continuing e-mail and telephone campaign targeting its major shareholders, and staff.

On the 10th January 2002, it seemed that most of the Financial Times was devoted to this topic (* see note below), with the news that HLS's biggest backer, the US bank, Stephens Incorporated (from Little Rock, Arkansas), was "... Planning to end its relationship with HLS by the end of the month ...". Stephens dropped HLS a "lifeline" (to allow them to continue torturing and killing?) with a £24 million loan when the Royal Bank of Scotland severed its ties with the company. It is also HLS's biggest shareholder, with a 16% stake.

Stephens say they have secured a secret buyer for HLS's debt, and is also planning to split and offload its shares (to avoid disclosure). HLS shares are due to be delisted from the London Stock Exchange by the end of January, when they'll transfer to a new company on the New York Stock Exchange. They are 'worth' 3¾p each, as of the 9th January 2002.

However, protest groups opposing HLS are pushing Stephens to actually sever its ties completely, not just talk about it, and also to declare who the new backer(s) will be. HLS's Managing Director, Brian Cass seemed indifferent to the changes, saying "We'll just be paying interest to a different lender".* Note: I would add that, as expected, the coverage in the FT ("No FT, no comment?") involved very few words from the activists, with the majority, including an editorial and a large 'Personal View', was from people concerned with saving HLS, people themselves involved in animal testing, and other businesses targeted by the campaigners. How balanced of them! They repeatedly called HLS a "perfectly legitimate and reputable business", or words to that effect. But, does that make HLS's business activities right, ethical and immune from the peoples' right to protest? I think not.

One of the main campaign groups is SHAC (Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty), and their website can be found at: www.shac.net

Withington Hospital Update

by Witha
Smallpea

I've written about this campaign in Magpies 48 and 49, with the first phase being fought and won by West Didsbury Residents Association (WDRA).

The second phase of the campaign has Manchester Wildlife being asked for assistance by WDRA in helping to write a 'proper' Ecological Survey, which was sadly lacking in species in the official version. This we did, and it is now on the WDRA website for all to see, at www.westdidsbury.org.uk

Since then, we have been invited to talks with the "Primary Care Trust" (PCT), who believe they own at least most of the site - I think it is probably like this with most hospitals. So far, we have attended two meetings with a Mr Simon Stagg of the PCT.

The first meeting was strange. We had been talking a lot beforehand, and contacting all the concerned expert opinions we could, and getting prepared - after all, we didn't quite know what to expect - and, as it turned out, neither did Mr Stagg. We were almost stunned when Mr Stagg said he'd managed to get us £3,000, referring to it as "our money" (WDRA and MW!), which surprised us, as we'd not spoken before, and hadn't actually asked for any. He talked about us producing a "management plan" to enable him to transfer the money into one of our accounts. He also kept restating that "he wasn't an advocate for the environment, he was just a communicator". He kept stating that he didn't have any time to actually "do" anything, but would help to "enable" us to do things; ie. we'd have to do all the work!

Later, I spoke with Alison Hunt (joint member of WDRA and MW like myself), and she'd taken advice that our campaign could be "compromised" if we accepted the money, as it could affect our future mitigation negotiations. I checked our position with Ian, and we agreed that MW would not want to take possession of this money.

What amazed me was that, for the first time in my life, if my reading of the situation is correct, somebody was trying to buy me off (in association with the other members of the campaign group). At first I was flattered that I seemed to be 'important' enough, or causing that much of an annoyance to make this happen. However, on further consideration, I was disgusted that they should think me so cheap - just £3,000! Also, if you take the lowest estimated figure that the site is expected to attract from a developer (£20,000,000 to £30,000,000), this £3,000 is not even 1%! Shows you how much value is attached to wildlife.

Just prior to our second planned meeting, I was in contact with another of our 'negotiating team', Barry, from WDRA. He and I both felt apprehensive about attending the meeting, knowing that we wanted to turn down the offer of "our money", and knowing that we'd probably get nowhere fast trying to squeeze any actions out of Mr Stagg.

However, we arrived, and Mr Stagg had brought along another of his staff, someone who understands developers and the planning process. I initially started quietly - and kept my interventions to

picking up whenever Mr Stagg mentioned the possibility of selling the site "clear for development", reminding him that he'd not be allowed to demolish the site without having had a full internal bat survey - bats being the only European protected species seen using the site (although the initial bat survey lodged with the Council states that they didn't do any internal investigations, despite finding bats each time they were there). I knew that both the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit and English Nature were interested in the bats on this site.

Well, then Mr Stagg surprised us all, again - he seems to use this as a management ploy - he gave us the information that the plans may be changing again - and that the current thinking was that they were looking to use the Burton House site, which was the original site for the superstore, for the new Community Hospital, and to dispose of the whole of the main hospital site, in its entirety, for development. They stated that the site was now "on the market", and the proposed timetable seems to be Spring 2002 for any new development to start, and that it could be 2 years in construction. Outline planning permission has already been gained for the site. Another surprise was about the "Burial Ground" on the corner of Nell Lane and Princess Road, which is a woodland at present. We had believed, from the original outline plans, that this was outside of the scope of any development, and was, therefore, safe. However, Mr Stagg claimed some 'uncertainty' over the status of this land. What is in its favour is the history of development of the Duchess of York Children's Hospital, which used some of the burial ground when it was built. The cost of exhumation increased their costs enormously, so it still seems unlikely that any developer would knowingly take on that cost and try to destroy the woodland.



Then, the biggest surprise of the meeting happened. Mr Stagg actually agreed to put in place a formal internal Bat Survey. They are going to contact Angela Graham of the Lancashire Bat Group to discuss this, and the DEFRA license that will need to be obtained prior to the survey, and also to make plans for what to do should roosts be located. If that wasn't enough, he also said he'd speak with Brian Martin for advice on whether any of the buildings to remain on the site were suitable for adding special eaves to enable House Martins to build nests under.

So, it was a fruitful meeting, with something happening to ensure that the animals on the site are given some protection from the development.

Just before Christmas, it was announced that 31½ acres, about half of the main site, had been sold to Countrywide Properties for redevelopment. This company is one that Brian Martin - someone we have consulted over the House Martin (no pun intended!) Colony - has dealt with on a previous development. At that time, they included House Martin-friendly additions to that site following consultation. Hopefully, WDRA and ourselves can work to ensure that at least the House Martins can be assured a home within the new development. Outline planning permission exists for 25,550 square metres of office space, 380 homes and a 150 bed hotel.

Wild Planning

par M. Charlés É'Tange

Work on the County and District Bio-diversity Action Plans (BAPs) have stalled in some cases. It seems that site protection is taking priority over writing down our desires as BAPs. As I write, the Trusts and County Ecologists for the NW are trying to kick start the process again. They are looking for indicators to see how well we are protecting County Wildlife Sites. For my part I have re-launched my bid to set out criteria (using species richness and species quality scores) for selecting wetlands (ponds) as County Wildlife Sites, using wetland plants and aquatic invertebrates. We seem to understand pretty well what is a good amphibian site. Sadly, the two County Ecologists have sat on my work, for two years so far, and have done nothing with it.

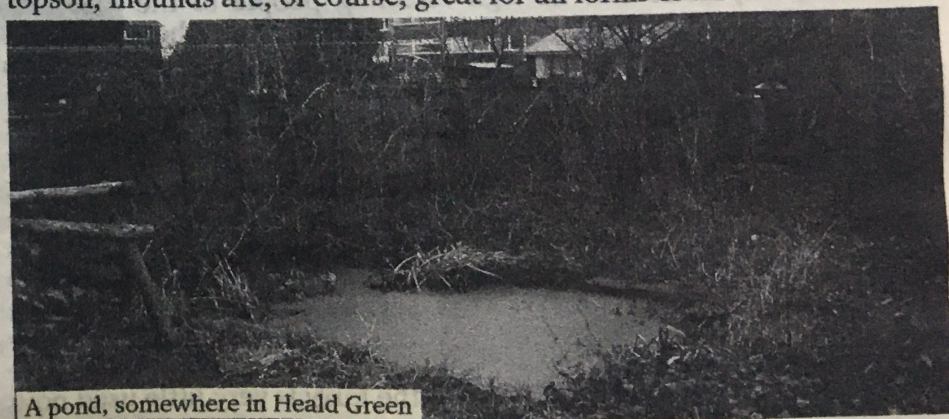
Bolton - Survey work stalled because of foot and mouth. The Bolton Wildlife Project has applied for grant funding to assist the final bits of survey work for the Borough, this year. Bolton's Countryside and Wildlife Planner has left the authority. Bolton MBC decided to disestablish the post when she left. Shame on Bolton. Bolton Wildlife Project are getting an awful lot of calls about frog deaths; apparently following in the wake of Tom Rangton's Radio 4 interview. They suggest that the public are over-keen to report any death rather than just those caused by Red-leg. A dead Slow Worm turned up in a suburban garden; found by my colleague who also does landscape work.

Bury - In early 2001 I wrote, in the Regional Report, "Last year it was reported that a Great Crested Newt pond had been filled in by developers acting unlawfully. Council Officers, the Council Leader (his ward), Police, Ombudsman, Wildlife Trust and English Nature (Greater Manchester) would do or say nothing to make the developers carry out the mitigation work which was 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 request for a Section 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." Well now, in 2002, I can tell you that the condition has been well and truly ignored - the replacement pond/habitat was supposed to have been built by November 2001. The golf screens are up. Bury MBC now has a Great Crested Newt BAP which is worth absolutely zero. Last year I reported that a Paper Mill had closed and that we feared for the wildlife of the lodges. I can tell you that the Planning Committee decided to approve an application for housing, subject to a Section 106 being signed to protect the wildlife. Well, as soon as the Council announced that it was minded to approve, subject to a Section 106, Barratt's contractor set about bulldozing all the amphibian land habitat beyond the SBI boundary and filled in the pond which was supposed to have had a pond rescue. The developers did not even wait for the Section 106; they destroyed the habitat first. Note that the earth moving, to infill the lodge, did require planning consent but, if you are Bury Council, what does that matter. You can't upset a developer by taking enforcement action. All the Council's ecologist could say was, "I haven't been down recently." The house building has now started so

one assumes the worthless Section 106 is signed. Local ecologists are to fight this year's local elections. There is something rotten in the Borough of Bury. Two more mills, in Bury, have gone bust. Both have several millponds, all now ready to be swallowed up by developers, sacrificed by their poodles at Bury Council.

Tameside - A population of neotonous Palmate Newts has been discovered living an aquatic life in a steep sided tank. They are apparently safe from development. 2001 was the year of the battle for Bee Cross, Hyde. The Tameside Council decided to ignore the Ecology Unit's request for a newt survey on a pond affected by proposals to build a new high school. An active opposition then filmed the survey techniques employed by the consultant after planning permission had been awarded. I won't go into detail except to say that a certain ecologist was brought in, by the residents, to rubbish his survey and evaluation & mitigation report (which had been given the support of the Ecology Unit). The deliberation of the licence application, to shift the Great crested Newts found by DEFRA (Department of the Environment Food and Rural Affairs) and English Nature, resulted in the application being thrown out - neither the survey, the evaluation nor the mitigation were good enough. As was said, at a Conference a couple of years ago, it is so easy to rubbish the work of bad consultants. So the mitigation was improved. The lot of newts is better than it could have been because local people chose not to accept what they knew was wrong. Note that, during this campaign, DEFRA were reminded of the Access to Environmental Information Regulations, which basically says that the public have a right to see environmental information held by the Government. I note a change in the license application forms, which talks of reports submitted with a license application not being subject to copyright because of these regulations. Remember, if you want a copy of a submitted license application and report you can get one from DEFRA! And the consultant/developer can do nothing about it!

Wigan - A major newt site has had the area of land, within its SBI boundary, massively increased. Consultants working on the adjacent site (an opencast site abandoned in the 1990s, by the developer without restoration) are presenting a development scheme. Everyone is very worried that the newts and voles will suffer. The vegetating subsoil, and topsoil, mounds are, of course, great for all forms of wildlife.



A pond, somewhere in Heald Green

Hulme's Ferry

An Unknown Salford Attraction

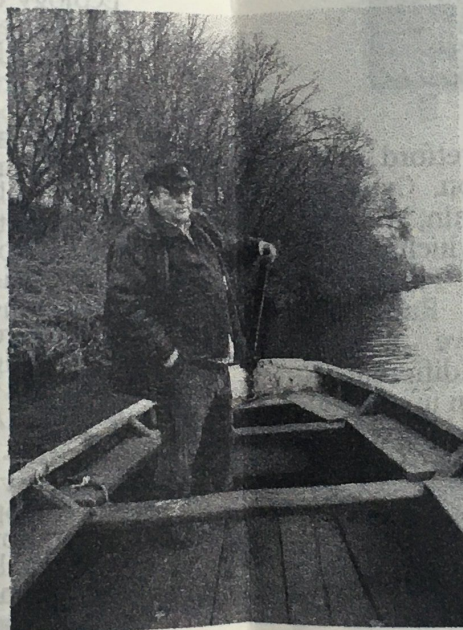
by Janet Cuff

Some time ago, a friend mentioned to me that there was a free ferry across the Manchester Ship Canal out in the Irlam area. Recently, I got round to investigating, and found something of "a hidden gem". I'm not quite sure about the history of this ferry, but I believe that, in the past, there was a bridge over the canal at this point and that, when it was demolished for some reason, the Ship Canal Company were legally obliged to provide a free ferry for the public in replacement. The ferry is still there, but the problem is that hardly anyone knows about it!

When I rang GMPTE travel information to enquire about buses, the chap who answered the phone insisted that there was no such ferry. He said I must be thinking of Bob's ferry, which no longer runs, and even though I protested that this was not the case, I could not convince him. With the aid of the A - Z, I did eventually find out which bus to catch, but that was not the end of my problems. I was not sure exactly where to get off the bus and so I asked some local people who were on the bus. They had never heard of Hulme's ferry either! The result was that I overshot the stop and went into Irlam where, after asking several people, I did eventually find someone who told me where to go back to find the path down to the ferry.

However, the path I was directed to, and used, was not in fact the public right of way - it involved trespassing on some land belonging to a golf course, although in fact no-one stopped me using it. When I did eventually arrive at the ferry, and had rung the bell to summon John the ferryman from his cottage on the south side of the Canal, I asked him why there was no sign directing people to the ferry. He then

informed me that there was no sign at the beginning of the path I had used because that was not the public path - but then neither was there a sign at the beginning of the true public path because that was virtually impassable owing to serious rubbish tipping! John is really fed up about the whole situation as he says that the ferry is very little used now



because hardly anyone knows about it, and that even those who do know about it are deterred from using it because of the path problems. You may wonder why I am raising this on the pages of Magpie. Well, the fact is that for those persistent enough to make it to the ferry, a little bit of rural bliss awaits them; if you didn't know that urban Salford/Manchester was close by, you wouldn't be aware of it. I'm not sure of the precise wildlife value, but I would think there's quite a bit to be found if you're more knowledgeable than I am. And once you're on the south side of the Canal, it's only a few minutes walk to a Nature Reserve run by North West Water, which is open to the public. Why are Salford City Council not publicising the ferry more? This is something I intend to take up with them, but I thought the first thing to do was to approach them to ask them to get the path cleared and usable. I did this wearing my Ramblers hat and, although they took a long time to reply, I have now had a very positive response from them. They say they have inspected the path, are shocked at the extent of the dumping and "will endeavor to ensure that the obstruction is moved before the end of January 2002".

A Ferry Nice Man

by Ian Brown

Having heard about the ferry, from Janet, I thought I ought to have a look. It would also be a good opportunity to take photographs for inclusion in this article. To this end I purchased a G.M. Railranger ticket and, after visiting Wigan for a little light shopping, I rode on to Flixton via Oxford Road Station. A short walk to the Woods End area of Davyhulme found me at Hulme's Ferry. I roused the Ferryman, John McDermott, who rowed me to the other side of the Ship Canal and kindly showed me the official footpath out to Irlam. Though there is a lot of fly-tipping, on the path, it is still possible to get through.

We re-crossed the canal and John offered me a cup of tea before I made my return journey. He told me a little about the history of the ferry. It came into being just over 100 years ago, when the canal was constructed. It replaced a wooden footbridge over the River Irwell, which used to flow through this area of, at the time, open countryside. The ferry cottage was built one year after the canal opened. Anyway, enough of this lazing about,



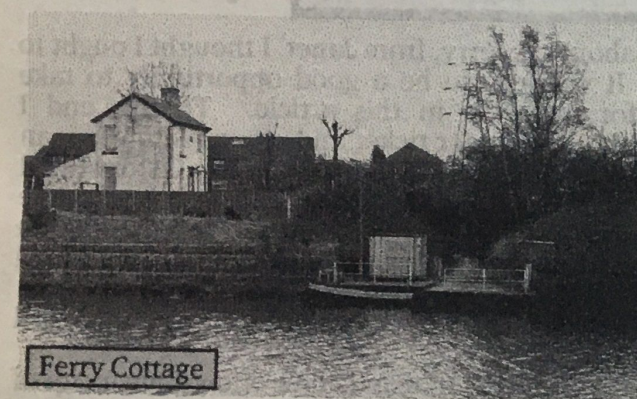
Fox & Hounds

chatting; it was about time I was getting home. I walked to Urmston Station, caught the train to Oxford Road, and then on to Piccadilly and home via Stockport. I rode on 10 trains, that day, all on a Ranger ticket. Not bad value for £2.50 and a most interesting day out!

We will be going on another reconnaissance walk, on the 2nd of February, to check out the further reaches of a walk which is advertised in the Events List. See what trouble we take to research our walks! You must be sure to join us when we go on the walk proper.

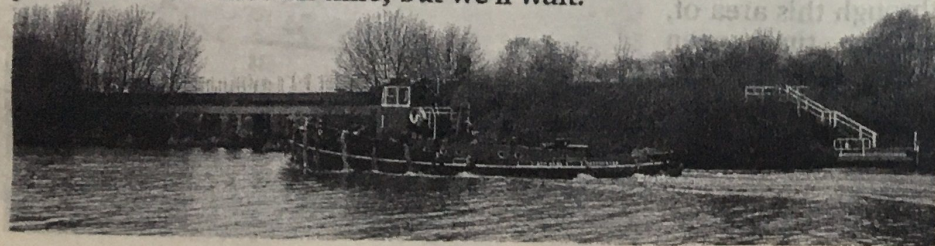
How to get there? There are several ways. You could walk, travel by bus or train, or even go by car. By bus, you can take the No. 67, every 10 minutes from Cannon Street in the City centre. This takes you down the A57 Liverpool Road and you get off on the outskirts of Irlam by Boysnope Wharf. You walk into this sort of scrap yard place and cut through the fence, to the left, onto the foot path proper. Bear right to the ferry and ring the bell to summon the ferryman. Even better the No. 15 bus (from Piccadilly Gardens) goes to Woods End (get off at the Fox & Hounds), or the 247 from Stretford to Woodsend Circle. By train you start from Oxford Road Station. Catch

the 11:13 train, from platform 5, which will take you to Flixton. Buy a Rail Ranger ticket as we may return by a different route (you can use the ticket again, in the evening). Turn right, from the station, along Flixton Road, turn left down Irlam Road and right down Woodsend Road.



Ferry Cottage

When you see the Fox & Hounds Pub you're almost there. Look out for the sign to Davyhulme Millennium Nature Reserve and follow that. We'll meet in the car park (O/S Ref 737958), on Daresbury Avenue, at 12 noon. As the journey takes about 45 minutes, from Oxford Road you should be there on time; but we'll wait.



Barracks Lodge Community Association

Working together to protect the local amenity and environment

A History of the work of Barracks Lodge Community Association 1999 to 2001

The inaugural meeting of Barracks Lodge Community Association was held on 22/8/99. On that date a formal constitution was adopted. Prior to that date our group had existed on an informal basis without a name since January 1999. The following paragraphs set out a blow by blow account of how our local community fought to save our much loved Barracks Lodge which backed onto our homes.

In January 1999 Stately Developments Limited applied to build 17 houses on the site of Barracks Lodge and 25 and 27 Newington Drive, Bury. We all knew that Barracks Lodge was special but we had never looked into things scientifically as the lodge has a security fence around it. It abuts our gardens and Council playing fields/open space. Letters of objection flooded into the Council. Michael Wellock arranged a public meeting. Dave Bentley the local ecologist was called in by Roy and Michael.

The residents were dismayed when in March 1999 the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit sent a novice to look at the site - the value of the site was not recognised. Simple botanical recording mistakes were made - eg. recording Yellow Iris as Greater Reedmace! Pond ecologist Dave Bentley did a quick survey in mid March and found the lodge was of definite interest and warranted further study. The applicant sent in their ecologist whose survey was amalgamated into a report by Chris Blandford Associates. Their report was complete rubbish and was ripped apart by Dave Bentley. They had claimed that they had established the value of the site by surveying it in late March even before the amphibians had arrived! Their mitigation package was merely ideas which could be jotted out on the back of a matchbox!

No one trusted the Council. The Estates Department were even involved with negotiations to sell off part of the adjacent school playing fields to the developers. We circulated letters to parents who must have made an uproar for the plans were quickly buried, much to the Council's embarrassment. Talk about the insensitivity of Council Officers bringing the Council into disrepute!

Michael Wellock stood for the Environment & Wildlife Group in May 1999's local elections and got a whopping 400 plus votes. We had made sure the politicians knew the case for the lodge had public backing. "Save the Wildlife Lodge" posters went up all over the place.

A site visit was held by Bury Council prior to its planning committee meeting. They came on 1/6/1999. The planning meeting that evening was packed with lodge supporters. Dave Bentley gave the speech to the committee to great applause from the locals. The application was refused and everyone went home happy.

Within a week Stately Developments set about cutting down all

the trees around the lodge and throwing them in the water. They disturbed nesting water birds. They drained the lodge, smashing the overflow tower. They spent the summer cutting down more and more trees and draining the lodge time and again. They were filmed doing it all. After they had trashed the lodge they made an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate against refusal. We tried to enlist support from the Forestry Authority, the Police and the RSPCA but got nowhere. The Council would only place Tree Preservation Orders on the trees which were not growing out of the embankment of the lodge.

Survey work to establish the wildlife value of the area continued over the summer. We made a case for designating the site a Site of Biological Importance (SBI), even with the lodge drained. It was our survey work that was important. We still had to persuade the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit to designate the site, including the adjacent pond and acid heath habitat.

We circulated a letter to all households asking them to send it in to say that they wanted a full public inquiry rather than an informal planning hearing. But we could not persuade the Council to state that they would refuse to sell or lease or allow the use of the Council-owned banks of the lodge which Stately wanted to flatten. We contacted the Land Registry. We found out that Stately Developments had transferred ownership of the lodge to Philip Rothwell, when the planning application was made, and received it back from him just before they trashed it. We also managed to help the Council acquire a bit of land in the process!

On 22/8/99 we met and became formally the Barracks Lodge Community Association. We have a constitution. We got the upstream trees on the lodge a Tree Preservation Order. Then, after several misleading comments by Council officers, we got the tree in the back garden subject to the TPO. We got the playing field gates and fences rebuilt and padlocked to keep Stately's vehicles and machines out. A bit late though.

When Anne GreatRex, of the GM Ecology Unit, wrote her proof of evidence for the Informal Planning Appeal Hearing we circulated a copy to the Leader of the Council. Anne had said that the lodge was worthy of SBI designation. On reading it he changed his view of the lodge and told his colleagues. Thank goodness. The Environment Agency also supplied a favourable proof of evidence. Councillor Bob Bibby arranged a public meeting for 25/8/1999 a few days before the Hearing, scheduled for 7/9/1999. The lodge, and environs, was important for 5 species of amphibians including the protected Great Crested Newts. Also present were 67 aquatic invertebrate species making this the fourth best sampled pond in North West England (compared with 1000+ others). Five of the species had an official scarcity status ranking it third best in the dataset. Little Grebe and Kingfisher were present. The Planning Hearing started and finished within minutes. The room was packed. We had clearly demonstrated a substantive public interest. The inspector also wanted a proper inquiry to test the wildlife issues and to find out if the wildlife value would

return if the lodge refilled. So he arranged for a public inquiry to be held in January 2000.

Stately continued draining the lodge over the autumn to keep it looking a mess for the inquiry. In November we circulated "have you seen Newts?" leaflets. Someone contacted the Council's wildlife officer and showed him a Great Crested Newt he found under one of the carpets which we had spread around the lodge banks. We finally gave up trying to get Stately Developments prosecuted for killing Little Grebe dependent chicks. Both the Police and the RSPCA failed in this respect. At the end of November Stately Developments tried to get the Inquiry delayed from January until the summer. We argued that this would give them more time to trash the wildlife. The Planning Inspectorate refused to delay. Then, a week before Christmas, Stately withdrew their appeal and the Inquiry was cancelled. We were all pleased. But it was not the end of it.

In February 2000, at our request, the Council refurbished their pond next to the lodge. This was the clay hole dug on Council land by Stately when they filled in and built on Haig Road Lodge. It had never held water because Stately were unfit to dig holes which held water. The pond was sorted out so that the local amphibians had somewhere to breed whilst Barracks Lodge's fate was undecided and the habitat was being drained continually.

In March, consultants working for Stately came on the lodge and counted Frog spawn. In April Great Crested Newt eggs were



discovered in the lodge. Stately were told but carried on draining the lodge. The Police were called. We could not tell if they were more interested in catching newt habitat smashers, or people trying to prevent such a crime. Bury MBC called in consultants who built an amphibian fence around half the lodge and put in bucket traps to catch amphibians wandering to the lodge (and away from it). Dave Dutton, the wildlife officer

checked the traps every day. We built a scarecrow to keep Magpies away from the traps. The upshot of the survey was that we had five species of amphibians, Frogs, Toads, Smooth Newts, Palmate Newts and Great Crested Newts, trying to breed in the drained lodge. And Stately kept draining the lodge, even whilst their own consultants were netting the water area. We have it on film!

On 6th June 2000 Stately submitted a new planning application to built houses on the lodge. They did not have to pay a planning fee. They had a free go, as per the rules. But they changed their application so many times, that it was not the same application. But the Council refused to send them a bill.

Anne GreatRex of the Ecology Unit evaluated all the surveys and made the Site a Grade A site of Biological Importance, covering lodge, banks, acid grassland and heath, shrub and tree areas and the fringes of the playing fields where the newts live under rubble. We dropped a line to Stately's consultants to tell them. But Stately changed their consultants and hired Mr. Gemmel, whose reputation goes before him. He designed a little on-stream pond which we showed could not work. Because of the water surges the lodge has from street drains, when it rains, we likened it to a flushing toilet! And to cap it all Stately found Water Voles on the site.

Another protected species!

The Kingfisher was spotted in September 2000 on the pool that formed after Stately had finally been warned off by the Police (we think that is the case).

We also recorded Sphagnum moss growing on the drained fen

peat. A Butterfly survey was conducted by us. Martin Prescott recorded two species of Bats.

During October and November 2000 our work concentrated on investigating the site's hydrology and building a case against Stately's plans. We showed that the plans would flood the school playing field. We also showed that the lodge was a safety valve preventing flooding when the aged culvert backed up. The Environment Agency also indicated that the downstream landowners would be liable if flooding occurred in the proposed housing development. This of course would be Bury MBC, who own the downstream land. In November we noted that thoughtful and kind folk had fixed the trashed overflow and the water began to rise. In December Mute Swans, Tufted Duck and Coots returned to the lodge. In December 2000 Mr Gemmel wrote a fuller ecology report, which was so easy to rubbish. He kept on referring to a drained waterbody in his report.

Over the year a Video was produced to tell the media about what had been going on. Granada TV came down to film (Council Leader Derek Boden joined us in the interviews) but then Granada abandoned it half way through and walked off. In February Dave Bentley had given a talk, using the lodge's story, at the National Conference of Amphibian Workers. The lodge was famous nationally. Michael had received an environmental award from the Council two years running, and Roy and Doreen also won an award in 2000. The annual lift of Frogs from the roads was undertaken. The Community Association is represented on the Bury MBC Area Board.



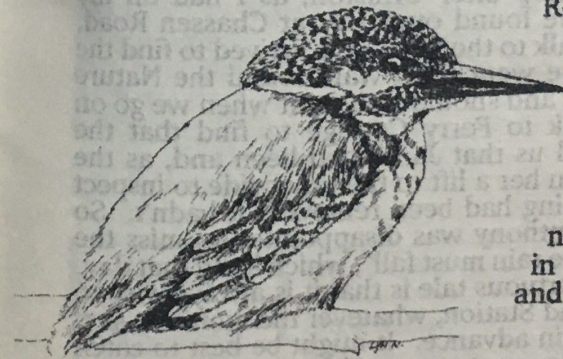
Our first Annual General Meeting was held on 10/1/01. Michael Wellock was re-elected Chairman. Our first Annual Report was delivered. On 18th January 2001 we all trooped into the planning committee meeting. Michael read his speech. The application was turned down. We all were pleased. We knew that Stately had six months in which to lodge an appeal against the refusal of planning consent. 18th June 2001 was the deadline. We vowed not to go public with the deadline in case it jogged Stately's memory.

The spring was spent monitoring amphibians and birdlife returning to the lodge. We recorded Great Crested Newts egg-laying in the lodge and the Council pond. Little Grebes and Coots nested again thankfully and produced young. A female Mallard spotted walking up Newington Drive with tiny ducklings following it was scooped up with her family and placed on the lodge. The highlight of 2001 occurred on the evening of 2nd of April when BBC TV's Animal Hospital turned up to film the annual Frog and Toad rescue on Newington Drive. They could not film in the countryside because of foot and mouth disease so were grateful to film our urban frog lift. Edwina Silver was the presenter. Although none of us had seen her before she has been on TV a lot since then. McAlpines lent us fluorescent jackets for the filming. So our educational work went national again when it was broadcast on 9th May. We also were pleased that the important issue of amphibians getting stuck down gulleypots was covered on TV.

The 18th of June came and went and no appeal was lodged by Stately Developments. We contacted the press in celebration. Our monitoring of Stately Developments' affairs alerted us rapidly to the fact that the company went into receivership in early October 2001.

We have made contact with the Receiver and have stated that we would like to discuss the acquisition of the lodge. We have pointed out that it has no development potential given its high wildlife value and recent history of planning refusals. We look forwards to the next stage of this history with pride in our achievements, anticipation and hope.

Charl s E'Tange

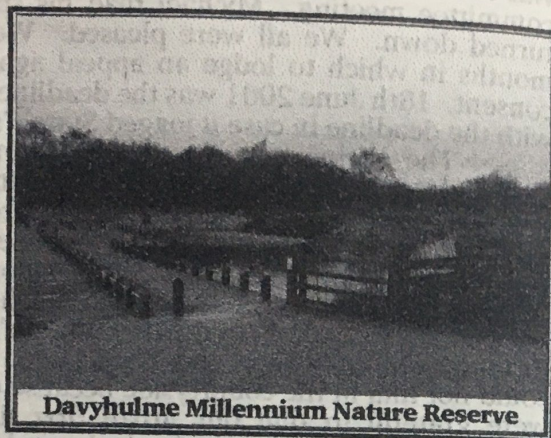


Xanadu - Remember this - first mentioned in **Magpie 41** - an indoor ski slope for Wigan! On open land opposite Pennington Flash. The development has been refused at a public inquiry. Who says there's no good news.

Ferry Important Notice

by Ian Brown

We went on our reconnaissance walk to Hulme's Ferry; Janet Cuff, Anthony Phelps and myself. It wasn't a great success, indeed it could have been called a comedy of errors. Anthony and I arrived at Oxford Road Station and duly waited on platform 5 for the 11:13 to Irlam. There were no information monitors working and no announcements (thank you Railtrack), which started our difficulties.



Davyhulme Millennium Nature Reserve

Shortly before our train was due to leave, we went to inquire of its whereabouts. Not a single platform employee was to be seen until, returning from an uninformative ticket office, we spied one who told us our train was on platform 1. Needless to say we didn't make it. An hour to wait with no alternative but to spend it in a nearby local hostelry. Returning to the station, we found that the monitors were now working and were informed, by them, that our train left from platform 1. So there we stood, only to be told by a station employee, on the opposite platform, "If you're waiting for the Irlam train it's on platform 5." Another dash over the bridge found us on the train. My next mistake was to get off the train at the stop after Urmston, as I had on my previous trip. To our surprise we found ourselves at Chassen Road, leaving us an extra 10 minutes walk to the ferry. We arrived to find the Ferryman was not at home so we went for a walk round the Nature Reserve, which was very pleasant and should be a treat when we go on the walk proper, in April. Back to Ferry Cottage to find that the Ferryman had returned. He told us that Janet had been and, as the ferry wasn't running, he had given her a lift to the other side to inspect the footpath to see if the fly-tipping had been removed: it hadn't. So now, Janet's on the warpath! Anthony was disappointed to miss the ferry ride but, "into each life a little rain must fall", which it did that day.

The point of this rather tortuous tale is that it is always wise to check. On arriving at Oxford Road Station, whatever the monitors say; ask one of the station staff, well in advance. It might be best to catch the 10:45, Liverpool train. This does not stop at Chassen Road (its stop after Urmston is Flixton) and it should leave from platform 1, though it might be platform 2. As the ferry does not run if there is a high wind or the sluice gates, at Barton Lock, are open (both conditions applied on the 2nd of February), it is best to check with the ferryman before you set out. His name is John McDermott and can be reached on 0161-748 4903. It's as well we tried a test run; I think we have ironed out all the pitfalls (can one iron pitfalls?). So, why not join us on the 6th of April, "it's a mini adventure!"

Making a Blue Tit Nest Box by Ian Brown

Most of you will be familiar with how to make a Blue Tit nest box from a plank of wood but I would like to show you something a little different. Take a log, 8 to 9 inches in diameter and about 10 inches long, of British hardwood. This could be from a firewood merchant, your local country park or, if you are lucky enough, from a woodland management task organised by the BTCV or similar. Saw a one inch slice off each end, from the top and bottom (remember which is which as they must be assembled in the same order), leaving an 8 inch section for the main body. If this can be done while your bit of log is attached to the rest of the tree, so much the better. To shape the main body (see Fig 1), cleave it into quarters. Using an axe, first along line 1 and then along line 2 on the resulting halves.

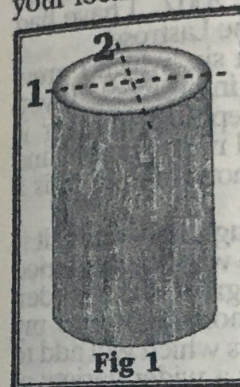


Fig 1

Now the inner waste must be removed. Do this by cleaving down along the line A to B of each quarter (see fig 2). The walls of the body should be 1½ inches thick, in the middle. Drill a 1 1/8 inch (29mm) hole in the centre of one of the quarters, about 2½ inches from the top. These quarters must be reassembled (see fig 3) and the top and bottom re-fixed to them. To do this use 2 inch No. 10 screws (preferably brass or galvanized). Drill guide holes, through the top (and bottom) section, into the centre of each quarter. One screw per quarter (both top and bottom) should be sufficient. Drill drainage holes in the bottom of the finished box.

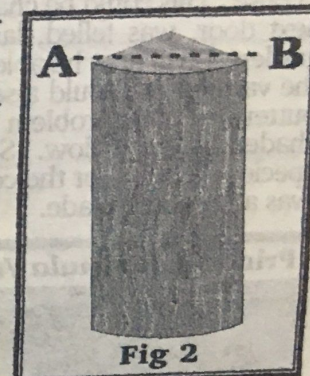


Fig 2

Fix the box to a house wall (north or north-east facing) or to the trunk of a tree (it is important to ensure the box is shaded from the heat of the sun). To do this, fix a 2 inch x 1 inch batten, of 14 inches in length, vertically to the centre of the back quarter (opposite the entrance hole), using the same size screws as for the main body. Make sure the screws do not protrude into the interior. To make this easier, this job could be done before the top and bottom were fixed. Be sure to leave the wood of the box untreated. If fixing the box to a tree, use aluminium nails or brass screws of about 3 inches in length. Your nest box will have a natural look and, if made from a durable wood such as ash, will last a few years. At the end of the nesting season, take the box down, unscrew the lid and clean out.

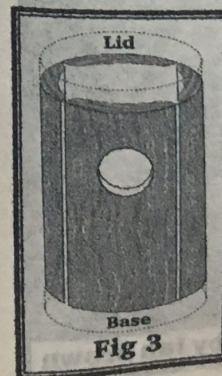


Fig 3

Any problems, please phone me.

First Herald of Spring

Everyone has something which, to them, is a sign that spring is just around the corner. For some, it may be the sprouting of a Hawthorne hedge (no pun intended!). For others it could be the first day that the sun feels warm, or cherry blossom. For me it is the Primrose which, as its name suggests, is the first flower of the year. This may not be strictly true but the example below was taken, in my garden, on the 5th of February 2002. I have had them flowering in December which would make them the Lastrose.

I now have about 25 Primroses. I started with six, which I grew from wild seed provided by John Chambers, who is still in business. If you are looking for a supplier of wildflower seed, his telephone number is 01933 652562. The increase is entirely through natural regeneration, and when they are all in flower, which will be in about a month's time, it is a truly magnificent sight.

The main problem with my garden is that, although only small, it is like a miniature woodland so not suitable for many of the wildflowers I tried to raise. This could be changed as a large willow, which grew in the garden next door, was felled, last year, letting considerable more light into my garden. I will now be able to grow more meadow flowers which will add to the variety. It should also make my garden suitable for a wider variety of butterflies. One problem is that I will have to move the nest box which was shaded by the willow. So if you are planting wildflowers, make sure the species are right for the conditions in your garden. It sounds obvious but it was a mistake I made.

Primrose (*Primula Vulgaris*)



by Ian Brown

On the Web

If any of you tried to access our website address following the instructions within Magpie 50 will have been unsuccessful, and we apologise for this. However, we have to state that this was not a fault of proof-reading - but of incorrect information being supplied to ourselves, just prior to publication.

Our correct website address is: www.bridge-5.org

The information to go to the Tenants button, and go to Manchester Wildlife's page from there is accurate.

Editor's Apology

Yes, you've guessed it! It was I who got the above web site address wrong. Sorry about that. Here are some more you might find of interest:

www.countryside.gov.uk/access/mapping - for information about the new Access to the Countryside Law.

www.recycle-more.co.uk - about recycling - wow!

www.greenindex.co.uk - lists green organisations.

L'Oréal - Still Testing on Animals?

by Jack Hughes

Following the article in Magpie 48 (Summer 2000), we did receive a letter from a member who'd taken the time to write to the company asking them about their animal testing activities.

The reply stated that they had not tested their products (and ingredients?) on animals since 1989 - which was reported in Magpie 50.

I was in London at the Christmas without Cruelty Fair in Kensington Town Hall, and bumped into a very nice lady from "Naturewatch" (covered with stickers proclaiming that L'Oréal do test on animals), a group concerned with compassionate shopping. I mentioned this to her, and her response was "they would say that - wouldn't they". Apparently, whilst they may not actually test their own products, so their letter wasn't actually a lie, they are still heavily involved in animal testing on behalf of other companies. Is this how they get around it? Test each other's products, so you can claim that you, yourself, do not test your products on animals?

Why not visit Naturewatch's website at www.naturewatch.org, or ask them for further details by sending an e-mail to info@naturewatch.org. If you prefer snail-mail, their address is 122 Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL53 7JX (telephone 01242 252871, or fax 01242 253569).

Quotable Quotes

"Every luxury must be paid for, and everything is a luxury, starting with the world" [Cesare Pavese, 1908-50 - Italian novelist]

Billy: "Do you ever commune with nature, Cleggy?" Clegg: "Well, I used to go blackberrying, but it turns your fingers purple. I always think too much nature can be risky if you don't want to go a funny colour". [Roy Clarke, "Last of the Summer Wine", broadcast 13/01/2002, BBC1].

"If they all survived, we'd be knee-deep in salmon!" [Ian Brown - Manchester Wildlife Social Meeting, 20/11/2001] (see what you miss by not coming to our social meetings!) - (We were discussing salmon and their death, because of natural causes and fishing, before they reach their spawning grounds. The same applies to most forms of wildlife. If all birds born survived to breed, there would be an awful lot about! - Ed.) - **BOLD**

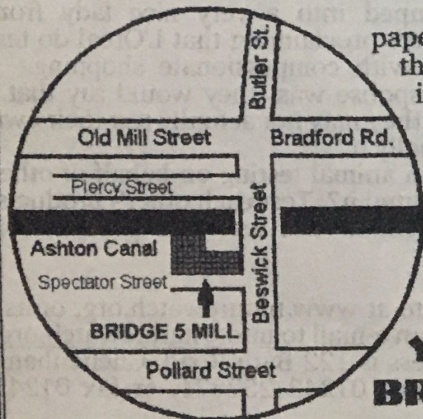
Manchester Wildlife Annual General Meeting

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

Saturday the 27th of April 2002 at 12 noon. The Venue will be at 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 unable to attend. Please try to come; it's your group and the walk, afterwards, should be most interesting.



THE MAP ON THE LEFT WILL HELP YOU TO LOCATE BRIDGE 5 MILL

Manchester Wildlife - Events and Meetings

February 2002

Tuesday 19th - Social Meeting - Time 7.30pm at the Old Monkey Public House (upstairs lounge - ask for Ian Brown or Anthony Phelps), junction of Portland Street/Princess Street, Manchester. Convenient for Piccadilly Gardens Bus & Metro Station. Contact: Ian Brown - Tel. 0161-437 7040. (Note - Social meetings are now on the third Tuesday of each month)

March 2002

Tuesday 19th - Social Meeting - Details as for February the 19th.
Thursday 28th - General Meeting - Time 7.30pm at Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street, Ancoats. Contact Ian Brown 0161-437 7040.

April 2002

Saturday 6th - Hulme's Ferry Walk - Details in article. Starts 12 noon. Wear good walking boots and bring waterproofs, food and drink. Contact: Ian Brown - Tel. 0161-437 7040.
Tuesday 16th - Social Meeting - Details as for February the 19th.
Saturday 27th - Annual General Meeting - Time 12 noon at Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street, Ancoats. Contact Ian Brown 0161-437 7040.

May 2002

Saturday 18th - Reddish Vale Butterfly Park - Meet at 12 noon outside Reddish North Station (trains from Piccadilly). A Rail Ranger Ticket is a good idea as we may return from another station. Wear good walking boots and bring waterproofs, food and drink. Contact: Ian Brown for exact date - Tel. 0161-437 7040.

Tuesday 21st - Social Meeting - Details as for February the 19th.
Thursday 30th - General Meeting - Details as for March the 28th.

June 2002

Saturday 7th - Wigan Flashes Open Day - Meet at 12 noon outside the main entrance of Wigan Wallgate Station. Regular trains from Victoria, Salford Crescent and Oxford Road. Wear good walking boots and bring waterproofs, food and drink. Contact: Ian Brown for exact date - Tel. 0161-437 7040.

Saturday 15th - Blackleach Reservoir Walk - Meet at 12 noon outside the main entrance of Walkden Station. Regular trains from Victoria and Salford Crescent. Wear good walking boots and bring waterproofs, food and drink. Contact: Ian Brown - Tel. 0161-437 7040.

Tuesday 18th - Social Meeting - Details as for February the 19th.

July 2002

Tuesday 16th - Social Meeting - Details as for February the 19th.
Thursday 25th - General Meeting - Details as for March the 28th.



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

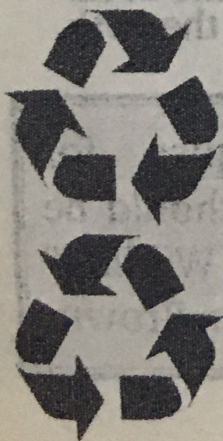
Useful Contacts

RSNC Urban Wildlife Partnership	01636 677711 (day)
English Nature	NW Regional Office, 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, 0161-608 0498 (day)
	Sale & Altrincham, Shelagh Aston, 0161-860 6910
	Bolton, Rick Parker, 01942 817302
	Bury, Lawrence Kitchenson, 0161-796 6404 (day)
British Trust for Ornithology	Gtr. Manchester Bird Recorder, Judith Smith 01942 712615
Red Rose Forest Team	Sarah Hauserman-Roberts, 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, 0161-763 7832
GM Police Wildlife Liaison 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	Lindsey Howard, Nature Development Officer, 0161-912 3206
Manchester Sustainability Group	Annie Morgan, 0161-234 4594
Manchester Recycling Officer	Gary Donoghue, 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.

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