

Magpie

Number 52

Autumn 2002

Recover Repair
Reduce Refuse
Recycle

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**Standing up for Wildlife
in Greater Manchester**

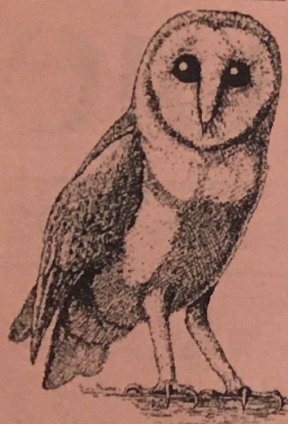
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Editorial

Send me YOUR Story
0161-437 7040



- ianbrown@bodaerbrown.freemove.co.uk



Circulating rumours concerning the demise of Manchester Wildlife have been grossly exaggerated. True, this newsletter should have been published in mid-summer, before my holiday in Scotland, but no articles had turned up by that time. On my return, a few articles did arrive but my computer went AWOL (two new hard-drives required, and all that entails). I've been at this editing lark for 15 years; I'm becoming a little jaded and the passage of time seems to lead to a lessening in stamina. I've enough articles, now, but for future editions of Magpie, you, the members can help. A newsletter is a two way street and many of you must have something about the environment or wildlife you would like to share with other members. If so, send it to me at any time (deadline for next issue - 31st March 2003), and I'll try to be more prompt with the next Magpie. Copy by typed sheet, floppy disk or E-mail would be appreciated.

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

If you live in Stockport, and would like to take part in the Project, **Change the Way We Live: at Home**, contact Helen Pennington 0161 474 3169 - helen.pennington@stockport.gov.uk - SMBC, Town Hall (Victoria House), Stockport. SK1 3XE

Cover photo: Small Tortoiseshell in Glen Loth, Sutherland - by Ian Brown

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Manchester Poplar Front - Re-launch

By
Felina
Tree

Some time ago (see Magpie 39 - Spring 1997), Anthony wrote about the "Manchester Poplar Front", started in direct opposition to our council's seeming hatred of this particular species of tree.

From information obtained, it now seems that it's time for this august (July?) Organisation to relaunch itself in defence of the Black Poplar.

My source informs me that there may be as few as 7,000 Black Poplar trees left in Britain. Although I am, as yet, unable to verify this figure, the facts as I understand them are not contradictory:

- 1 Black Poplars (in Manchester the Manchester Poplar - a separate species? hybrid?) were traditionally planted, especially in urban parks. However, from the many plantings schemes I've witnessed over the last 10 years, I know of none where it has been included in the species list.
- 2 Black Poplars are a fairly short-lived tree, and most of the ones that were planted, especially in the Manchester area (I can only assume that the fashion for this species was nation-wide) are at or reaching maturity.
- 3 Black Poplars apparently have a tendency to shed branches (much as Beech does in drought conditions) - according to the City Council, mostly on the heads of passers-by, hence their need to rid Manchester of them, leading to a massacre of this species from many of the parks where it was once common "to protect the public". As I mentioned in my last article, I have not heard or read about anybody having suffered as a result of such an incident.

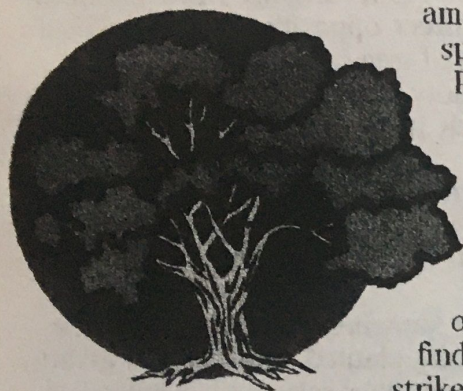
I feel that, had this happened to the Beech, that a public outcry far louder than that heard when the Poplars were felled in Chorlton Park, would have ensued. Beech woodlands are simply fenced, or have warning notices displayed during periods when boughs are likely to fall. Surely, this non-lethal policy could be adopted for Black Poplar.

When these three points are taken together, it is not surprising that their numbers are declining.

Other interesting points to note about Black Poplar:

- It is still, I believe, uncertain whether the Black Poplar is a "true" species, or a hybrid.
- It is also uncertain, to my knowledge, whether Black Poplar is classified as a "native" species (ie was here at the end of the last Ice Age), or whether it is an introduced species.

In fairness to this unfair treatment, I am calling for action to help increase the number of this species - at least in the Manchester area. Go out and gather seed, and plant out the trees you grow to reverse these disastrous losses. Remember, it's not just the trees that suffer. Any entomologists amongst the group will be able to tell you species of insects that feed on Black Poplar, and may exclusively feed on it (there's bound to be a moth, there always is!). In these days when we should be encouraging biodiversity in our countryside, towns and cities, it is such a little thing to be able to do, which could affect the prosperity of many different species. If you can't find seed, I'm told that Black Poplar strikes well from cuttings - just stick them in



soil, much as I have done successfully with Willow (just remember to keep the cuttings the right way up).

Should you require further information on Black Poplars, or how to propagate or plant them, please write to your Secretary at home, marking your envelope "MPF", and he'll ensure it's passed onto them for a response.

Interesting Fact

by Anthony Phelps

Whilst we in Manchester, because of the prestigious development at the Dale Street Canal Basin, have lost one of our best Black Redstart breeding/feeding areas, it is reported in the 2nd edition of



"Urbio" (English Nature's newest tri-annual publication - get on the mailing list by contacting Emma Clifton on 01733 455200, or e-mailing her at emma.clifton@english-nature.org.uk) that The Environment Agency now insists on a Black Redstart survey for all Thames-side building proposals within urban London. All this as the bird now has full protection under the Wildlife and

Countryside Act 1981. Hopefully, Manchester will note this, and start taking the presence of this wonderful bird into consideration when passing planning applications in the City Centre.



Waste Not

by Merton Niven

We thought it was about time to return to the subject of "waste management". This seems to be the term currently used to cover the way our waste is used to benefit the environment instead of despoiling it.

All local authorities should be working on a Waste Management Strategy. As I live in Stockport, a brief outline of what they are doing should serve as a good example of what we should expect from all councils. Stockport's Draft Waste Management Strategy was published in August 2002 and their vision is "... to maintain the high standard we set ourselves in achieving Beacon Council status (2000-2001) for Sustainable Development - 'Dealing with Waste'. This will mean creating a step change in attitudes towards waste minimisation and recycling."

Some of Stockport's waste management initiatives are as follows:

- **Neighbourhood Recycling Centres** - The provision of 114 household neighbourhood and 39 commercial sites to enable the depositing of a range of recyclable items has been achieved through co-operation with communities and businesses. New sites are being identified and developed.
- **Real Nappies in Stockport** - A joint project between the Council's Sustainability team and a local health clinic. Further trials were also undertaken in a renewal area. Funding for the project came from "Greening Greater Manchester". Information packs and talks were given to interested groups to encourage the use of real nappies and outline the potential financial savings and landfill avoidance benefits of using real nappies.
- **Slim Your Bin** - A small number of households were asked to take part in a project to reduce, reuse and recycle as much of their waste as possible. Full support was given, in the form of helpful tips on reducing and reusing waste, as well as information on kerbside collections and nearby recycling facilities.
- **Furniture Station** - Using the Council's anti-poverty strategy, a furniture station has been provided to enable the re-use of household items. This has recently been expanded to the recovery of cookers.
- **Green Waste Recovery** - Implemented at all CA sites, including a purpose built compound at Bredbury Material Recovery Facility (MRF) for reception of organic garden waste from households. This is shredded and used as mulch in land-

Reuse Recover Repair
Reduce Refuse Recycle

fill restoration. The scheme has enabled 5,000 tonnes of green waste to be recycled. In addition, the grounds maintenance contract has developed composting to process all of their arisings. A household collection of green waste is to start shortly.

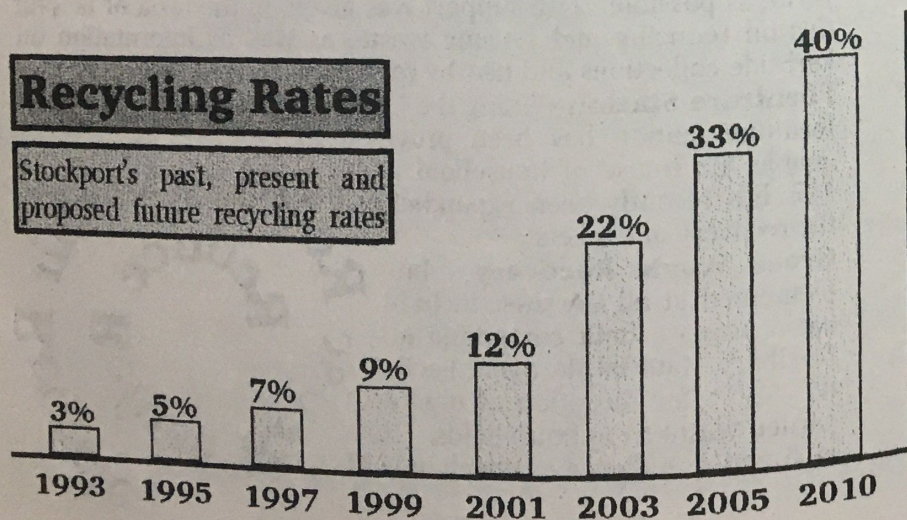
- **Soil Making Material** - Bredbury and Sharston MRF's have been fitted with additional screening equipment for extracting and refining the organic fraction of municipal solid waste. This is a growth medium for plants and can be used as a Soil Making Material in landfill restoration projects. Trials are currently being conducted to improve the quality of material to meet new standards for composting. If successful, this could provide 25,000 tonnes per annum of recovered waste.

- **Composter Sales** - These annual sales, to started in 1999, providing over 1,500 new composting facilities to households. The sale in April, 2002 also sold 10,000 energy saving light bulbs.

- **Aluminium and Steel Recovery** - Bredbury MRF has had Aluminium recovery equipment, identical to Sharston MRF, since 1999. The Sharston plant has recovered over 80 million cans since commissioning in 1993. The Bredbury MRF has improved steel recovery equipment which enables the recovery of 1,500 tonnes of steel annually.

- Other initiatives, in Stockport, include - **Household Collection of Paper** - **Adswood Eco Centre** - **Schools Waste Action Club** - **Rail Transport of Waste** - **The use of Bolton's Thermal Recovery Service**.

So this briefly outlines Stockport's contribution to reducing our waste material going to landfill and the state of recycling, in the borough can be seen in the table below.



So what's happening in your local authority? If you know, pass on what information you can to the editor. Trafford have introduced a kerbside paper collection and compost bin sales but we don't know their recycling rate. The North-West has a particularly poor recycling record. The best rate, in Greater Manchester is Stockport, at 12% and we think that Manchester City is the worst, at 3% (Switzerland manages 50%!)

However, in Manchester City, all is not lost. There is at least one community initiative and I will let Val Rawlinson tell you more about it.

FAIRFIELD COMPOSTING by Val Rawlinson

After messing about for six years trying to get people interested in starting a community composting project I decided last year to get my act together and go it alone. I got a grant for £2,980 from East Manchester Community Fund and bought 351 compost bins, had a beautiful composting pack produced at MARC on recycled paper of course, and began to promote home composting. I sold the bins for £12 plus £3 delivery. I am now coming to the end of my second order, although the bin has gone up in size and price 280 litre @ £18 + del but it is still a lot cheaper than retailed bins.

I also got a grant from Greening Greater Manchester for £3,000 and this enabled me to employ a Research and Development worker to design a waste audit on Smithfield Fruit and Vegetable Market. The Market management knew how much waste was produced but hadn't a clue about individual waste streams. Emma Smith, Fairfield's new R&D worker proved to be a goddess send. She designed the waste audit and produced a wonderful report. The physical audit was undertaken by Emma, Val and Chris Walsh of MERCi who did the main work and three other volunteers who worked for a few hours. Work was hard and smelly but we made it fun. The pictures of food waste in the skips would make you cry - we did. Emma then produced a business plan and we have since secured funding to install a Vertical Composting Unit (VCU) which will divert a third of the market's waste from landfill in the first year and produce a valuable soil conditioner. Other materials will be recycled and Emma has identified end markets for some of them. Our aim is to move the Market towards achieving zero waste. An additional VCU will come into operation during the second year and we are also looking at vermi-composting as an alternate waste diversion route. The scheme has the full support of New Deal for Communities who are providing some of the funding. The scheme is also another Manchester first for the UK and will be a flagship for other UK markets to follow.

We have also conducted a waste audit at St. Brigid's RC primary school in Beswick and Corpus Christy school in Ancoats. Frank Smith, St. Brigid's, Head is keen for the school to begin composting and recycling. We hope to produce a school waste audit pack that schools can use to do their own waste audits.

Another project is a trial of composting systems which claim to divert all kitchen and garden waste from landfill. The bins we are testing are the Green Cone and Green Hanna that claim to be rodent proof. Brian Keane of Bosworth Street Residents Community Garden in Beswick will oversee this project which is due to begin during the next month.

I am keen to have every home with a garden composting facility. Your garden waste shouldn't be shunted around the region using up precious energy and depriving your garden of nutrients. Garden waste should be composted where it is generated and returned to the land it was taken from, closing the energy and nutrients cycle. If you would like to start composting and need a bin give Val a ring on 370 9745.

Well, that's good news from Val of something good happening in Manchester. If you want to get a cut price compost bin then phone: **0161-912 5439 for Trafford - 0161-474 4747 for Stockport - 0161-370 0745 for Manchester.** If you find out the phone numbers in other areas; please let us know. The retail price of compost bins is about £50, so you will be making quite a saving, and a good way to dispose of all your organic waste. The added bonus is that you get lots of free compost.

Stockport Council's idea of encouraging people to, "Slim their Bins", is a good one but how successful they will be in getting folk to actually do anything remains to be seen. The best I have managed, so far is six weeks to fill a bin bag (that's for one person) - I think I can, at best, extend it to two months. My latest economy is to use envelopes and cardboard to light bonfires on which I burn non-compostable garden waste. (This should be carbon neutral as growth has already absorbed CO₂.)

The most controversial method of waste disposal is incineration. I would only be reservedly in favour if it was also used to produce energy. The main problem is that plastics may be burnt, which can produce dioxins. But, if there is a fire in a factory, warehouse, office, or even a house, plastics will be burnt. This being the case, the atmosphere must already be full of dioxins, so, if dioxins are harmful, it's already too late.

The main thing is that we must keep on finding ways to cut down our waste. Whether it be reducing what we buy, reusing and repairing things, recycling, composting or burning, or all of the above, it must be done so that we can stop destroying our land, and wildlife, by chucking our rubbish down holes in the ground.

Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

by Anthony Phelps

This always seemed an unfair expression - as wolves are only trying to "make a living", the only way they know how (much like the bad press heaped upon our emblem, the Magpie).

1. The Developer Wolf

The phrase was brought home to me recently during the opening rounds of the redevelopment of the main site at Withington Hospital. Initially, we'd been cautiously pleased at the developer who'd bought ½ of the huge site - Countrywide Properties, as one of our "consultants", Brian Martin, had dealt with them on a previous development (also a hospital site), and had found them to be happy enough to follow his advice, and provide a new home for a threatened House Martin colony - much as there is at Withington. I'm sure it wasn't their fault that this mitigation had to be demolished (I believe dynamited), as the building on which the eves

had been placed proved unstable. Mind you, being builders, I'd have thought they might have checked first!



It's not as if it's very difficult to make a new development "martin-friendly" - just a matter of ensuring the eves are the correct shape for the birds to stick their nests under - and that's without going to the expense of purchasing and fitting artificial nests as encouragement.

Manchester Wildlife and West Didsbury Residents Association (WDRA) produced our "superior" ecological survey (compared to the "official" one lodged with Planning, which is available on WDRA's website, <http://www.westdidsbury.org.uk>), and ensured that the existing wildlife had not only been identified, but that suggestions had been put forward to ensure that prospective developers could include these within their yet to be formulated plans.

The latest information is that Countrywide Properties are planning to plant a non-native species of Horse Chestnut, specifically a "non-fruiting" variety - which no-one yet has been able to find in any tree book, so we are not sure where this tree is native, that is, if it isn't a frankenstein creation! With the destruction of wildlife on the site as part of the development, it would be nice if the developers would consider using native species of trees in any planting scheme to encourage some wildlife to continue using the site following the destruction and re-development.

2. The Ecologist Wolf

You've probably guessed it - once our backs were turned, we heard that there had been felling of trees and clearance of shrubs and bushes after the bird nesting season had started. This, despite the fact that the developers have a "tame" ecologist on their payroll who "didn't think it was wrong"! (I wonder whether he changed his opinion when the Police Wildlife Liaison Officer put a stop notice on the works until after a meeting between the developers and the residents?) How many well-intentioned people go through the rigour of studying correct and legal ecological processes, only to "take the developer's shilling", and become "housetrained"? The first one of these characters we really came into conflict with was Jonathan Porritt - who'd sipped from Sainsbury's poisoned chalice. Others, like David Bellamy, are also tainted - with RTZs money. So few "heroes" left. (I think that Chris Baines is still sound, as far as I know).

The latest on Withington Hospital is their choice of timber products. We suggested that they source timber only from Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) approved suppliers. However, at least two people witnessed stacks of plywood stamped with the company names "Itamarati" and "Guarape" ("Itamarati Industria de Compensados Ltda" and "Industria de Compensados Guararapes Ltda"). A search of these companies found the following information:

Both companies are Brazilian logging/wood processing companies which seem to specialise in plywood for the international market. Both companies are based in Palmas, and none of their operations are listed as approved by the FSC as of the 22nd April 2002 (check on www.fsc.org).

In 1993, Itamarati was one of a number of Brazilian and multinational logging firms named in a report by two Brazilian groups (Agencia Ecumica de Noticias and Servico Espiritano de Justica e Paz) as being held responsible for:

- Environmental damage and abuse of indigenous people.
- Provoking conflict between indigenous peoples and newcomers, especially in the states of Para and Rondonia.
- Land rights abuses, such as where indigenous people have been attacked by companies for using forest resources on land owned by companies, but traditionally used by indigenous groups.
- Illegal extraction of timber from indigenous areas and reserves.

Checks on Guarape reveal the mention of "reforestation timber", but this does not seem to indicate that this company's operations are more environmentally sustainable. Several environmental bodies, such as Uruguay's World Rain Forest Movement (see www.wrm.org) have criticised reforestation timber as coming from monoculture plantations which do not support biodiversity, and often include non-indigenous trees which do not contribute to the redevelopment of local ecosystems".

Whilst the complexity of the Brazilian logging industry's web of companies and cross-share holdings does make more detailed checks extremely difficult, it is felt that, even with the small amount of information found above, that the source of the timber for Withington Hospital does not address the concerns felt by local residents around the site when they requested that FSC approved timber be used for the development.

3. The Council Planner Wolf

It's not only the developers and (some) ecologists with which we are "having trouble" - but also the Council's Planning Department.

It seems that, nowadays, asking a developer to adjust their building plans to allow wildlife to not only survive, but thrive is akin to asking King Herod to help reduce the incidence of child mortality, without persuading him to curb his "nasty little habits!"

However, we are not being helped by an intransigent Planning Department, who, even when armed with the facts, and with reinforced knowledge of wildlife law, still steadfastly refuse to ensure that their statutory role of monitoring developments is carried out to the wishes of their concerned constituents, or to the necessities of the law. I have previously referred to our Planning Department's collective skeletal disability (ie they haven't got a backbone between them - in my opinion) during a previous, regrettable incident at Holly Royde. When you receive the advice that "it's a matter between you and the developers", and get a statement that they will do nothing more (at all?) to ensure the continued presence of protected species (eg bats) at a site on which they have given planning approval, I cannot help getting a sickening image of a large divan cohabited by the members of our Planning Committee interspersed with smiling developers.

It is interesting to note that, in a "Report for Resolution" by the City Council's Chief Executive and Director of Works dated the 29th May 2002 on the subject "Environmental Action Plan 2002/3, the section "Environmentally Preferable Materials", (subsection 4.7) quotes:

"Work in 2001/02 on this issue highlighted the importance of promotion, education and consultation in order to encourage a culture of positive environmental action within the Council and by residents"

It also, rather belatedly, quotes the following on the topic of wildlife:

"Formulate City wildlife strategy following analysis of Phase 1 Habitat survey to prioritise areas for action and clarify responsibility. Nature conservation strategy to be subsequently developed to establish priority areas for the city to concentrate resources".

Those of us with memories know that the City Council has (had) a perfectly good Nature Conservation Strategy, written by their then Officer, Elaine Norsworthy, which was not adopted by the Council, and gathers dust on some forgotten shelf.

It would seem to me, an individual possessing an uninformed opinion, as I do, that if resources are tight, then the thing to do is encourage others to do what you are unable to do yourself - ie ensure developers 'in your control' do the right thing by placing specific planning conditions on use of materials, provision of adequate surveys, and, of course, sticking to the results of those surveys to protect and enhance what they have found. However, this is obviously not possible, otherwise our Planning Department would already be doing this. Hopefully, when the Chief Executive implements their fine words quoted above (and applies a much needed boot to the backsides of our seemingly environmentally unconscious Planning Department), then the situation will change and things will be a lot sweeter for wildlife in our City.

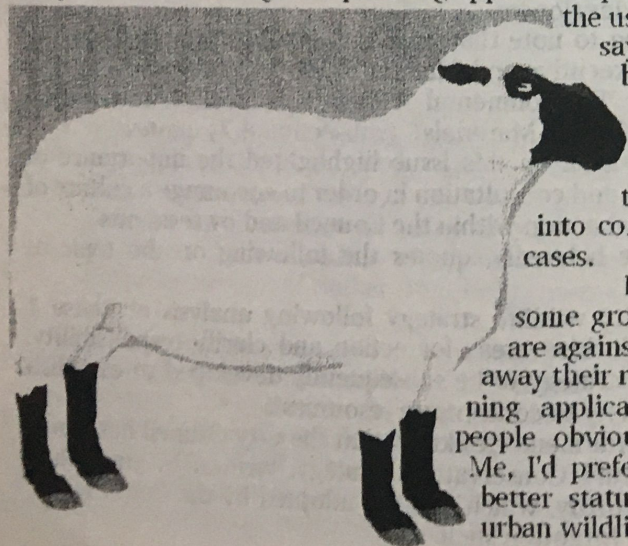
The Future?

With the announcement of the Government's new Planning Green Paper, it seems on the face of it that the planning process could be changed into something better. Several groups who attend the Wildlife Working Group meetings, including the Ecology Unit themselves, have commented on it, and all seem to agree that it's saying the right things - ie. trying to make the system less adversarial, with the main emphasis on "the developers" putting in applications, and "us" opposing them, and "them" (the Council) acting as referee, with the Secretary for State as final arbiter. This process is a lengthy one, is expensive (especially when taken to the extremes of a Public Inquiry, often incurring the expense of barristers), and, in my opinion, not a fair one, if you are not a developer.

The Government say they want a fairer system based on consultation prior to and through the planning application process to try to avoid the usual battle. All I can

say is I'm holding my breath and hope that it turns out right, because the current system doesn't take urban wildlife into consideration in most cases.

However, there are some groups I've heard that are against it, as "it could take away their right to oppose planning applications". So, some people obviously like the fight. Me, I'd prefer an easy life, and better statutory protection for urban wildlife.



Fun and Games

by Anthony Phelps

I don't know if you've heard, but Manchester held "some games" at the end of July, start of August. They (the City Council) kept saying they weren't going to lose any of our money (unlike everyone else who's hosted them in the past).

I stayed in Manchester for the duration. I know Ian disappeared to Scotland - feeling that 400+ miles distance from them was perhaps more preferable than staying in the city.

From what I saw (and I tried to avoid it), they tried to do things on the cheap - apart from the millions spent on the stadium (more about that later). They encouraged local people to act as volunteers to perform all sorts of tasks for them. They took over Owens Park as accommodation for athletes, and encouraged the use of public transport for people to attend. They even went so far as to have no public car parking at the new arena (which surprisingly doesn't look like it was cheap to build).

This penny pinching (and I'm all for being frugal with money, especially when some of it was paid in taxes by me!) can be taken too far, especially when it effectively scuppers one of your aims - to encourage people to travel by public transport. I read in the papers that they asked the now privatised transport bosses to quote for taking people to the stadium for free (obviously the companies involved would be recompensed afterwards). Stagecoach tendered for 25p per passenger, and I read in the local papers that even this was considered too much. I don't know what the final agreed price was, but whilst I was at Bridge-5 Mill on Saturday, painting the fence, it was sometimes hard to talk for the lines of buses to and from the Stadium.

About the Stadium. I heard recently, that despite the running track being extremely popular with the athletes, it is going to be ripped up, and new seating fitted in its place. It seems that even though this is obviously considered to be a good venue for athletics, that it isn't to be. I don't know why they can't have mixed use venues like on the continent, where athletics and other sports share the same stadiums. Manchester City football club have had their arms twisted to take over this stadium following the games. I wonder how their fans will react to this move - I know that other teams who have moved from their traditional grounds have lost some of their support following relocation to "better" facilities.

Mind you, I'm not a fan of these games. I believe they weren't as popular as the organisers hoped, and I'm sure the "rest of the world" weren't

clamouring to buy television rights to fill the coffers, like they would for the Olympics.

We'll just have to wait and see. As I mentioned previously, I escaped Manchester for the 11 days of hell. We were warned at work that we might have difficulties travelling to work and back, but the reality was that, on the day the baton was brought into the centre, I left work at my usual time, and got home 10 minutes early - the roads were almost empty! However, it's over now - almost before it started - all that fuss and preparation for so little games! Seems such a waste to me. Now we can sit down and ponder whether the huge expense was really worth it.

The funniest thing that did grab my attention, was the "unofficial" subverted Games leaflet. It was magnificent - even more glossy than the original, and actually full of useful information, and a nice selection of internet websites. My congratulations go to those who published and distributed this document. I just hope it got into the hands of those who may be swayed by the messages contained therein - ie the truth. Another fine piece of subvertising was on a billboard, just around the corner from Piccadilly building site, sorry, station. This has previously been painted pale blue, and was obviously waiting for a snappy message to be painted on it. When I went past, it said "Manchester - Corporate Wealth, Common Poverty". Just about says it all!



March Hare

by Tim Lepidus



Mc Rubbish

by Mack MacMac

McDonald's has announced it is to shut 175 stores in 10 countries and will pull out of three countries altogether - reversing its 20-year policy of global expansion. Six hundred jobs are also to go. Friday's announcement from the corporation's world HQ in Chicago followed a disastrous year in which a plunging share price knocked a third off the corporation's value. Shares worth £31 each, two years ago, are now worth only £10 and the company's value has fallen from £21bn to £14bn. McDonald's has so far refused to name the 10 countries where restaurants will close, but says the countries it is pulling out of are in Latin America and the Middle East. Financial experts say in Europe health fears over mad cow disease, and the rise in obesity in children, may have contributed to poor sales. High street competition from healthier alternatives is also to blame. In the Middle East and Latin America antipathy towards the United States may be keeping people away. In America itself a price war with McDonald's arch-rival, Burger King, triggered by falling hamburger sales, has knocked profits as well as creating financial problems for Burger King. McDonald's has long been in the sights of anti-globalisation protesters. On Thursday a partially built-store in Grenoble, France, was burned down. But with 30,000 restaurants in 121 countries, 400,000 employees and a £21bn turnover this year, McDonald's is still a global player, financial experts say. On Friday McDonald's chief executive, Jack Greenberg, said he was still looking to boost sales. "We remain focused on growing our existing restaurants' sales and are committed to making the changes necessary to succeed," he said. The question, experts say, is whether the company that revolutionised eating and business habits across the world is really on its way out or is just experiencing a temporary blip. "The billion dollar question is whether this is the beginning of the end or merely an adjustment to over-expansion," one Wall Street analyst said. At McDonald's in Dumbarton outside Glasgow yesterday the lunchtime's "rush" filled less than half of the restaurant. In a country with a preference for a fast-food diet, the golden arches seem less attractive than they used to. "I come here a couple of times a week with the kids but feel guilty about it every time," said Tracy Watson, 34, from Dumbarton. "It's easy and convenient but not exactly nutritious. If it wasn't for the children I wouldn't come here at all - the food isn't that good, it's usually cold and fairly bland." "They have good toys with the happy meal, that's the best bit," interrupted her son Matthew, aged 7. For electrician Bill Duncan, 48, and his wife Ann, from nearby Balloch, the restaurant provides a convenient coffee break from the weekly shopping chores. "I can see why they're closing branches; we don't come here very often, just for a coffee and maybe an apple pie on the odd Saturday. It's a quick treat but I certainly wouldn't consider it for a proper meal. I remember when

McDonald's first arrived in Scotland they were all the rage but ... it's no longer special." Not everyone is unhappy with McDonald's woes. Dave Morris, one of the "McLibel Two" who was sued by McDonald's in 1997 for claims made against the company in a leaflet, said it has "been under attack from all sides". "Its workers are organising internationally, local residents are increasingly campaigning against new stores and it is being blamed for causing obesity," he said, "McDonald's is a barometer of the food industry as a whole and capitalism in general. I think the fact there has been a global campaign against McDonald's for the last 20 years has helped people question their activities and look for alternatives."

First published in the Independent on Sunday 10 November 2002, "Stores shut and shares tumble as reality bites at McDonald's", by Andrew Johnson, Leo Lewis and Paul Kelbie.

Original E-Mail to Manchester Wildlife from "Linda Furness" <linda.furness1@btinternet.com> Original Message from: "McSpotlight" <info@mcspotlight.org> to: <list@mclibel.org>

The McLibel mailing list - McDonald's, McLibel, multinationals <http://www.mcspotlight.org>

We report this story as we know that some of our members are not on the best of terms with McDonalds and it is heartening to know that, now, it is less likely that more drive-through McRubbish outlets will be built on our precious open spaces!

Wildflowers of the British Isles

I was in the "Book Clearance Centre" (Bury centre), near where Booths Newsagents used to be, in the precinct yesterday and picked up the excellent title above by David Streeter and Ian Garrard for £8.99 cover price £24.99. I think it goes well with Stace and Rose, but you can't take it in the field. Well recommended. They have several copies and there are other stores in the chain in GMCR and Lancs.

Do you have a book clearance centre near you? Worth checking out. They do have branches in various towns. The book was advertised by flier in "British Wildlife" magazine for £24.

Editor's Note: I can back up Dave, here. I purchased a copy, many years ago, price £14.95, and it really is excellent. The plant illustrations are the best I have seen. It is the sort of book which might be picked up in any second-hand or remaindered book shop.



A book recommendation by Dave Bentley

What a Waste

by Des Poiler

Alongside Bradshaw Hall Lane, Cheadle Hulme, there used to be an area of ancient meadowland, in the Green Belt. Of the many plants which grew there, Pignut and Devil's-bit Scabious were indicators of this type of habitat. The meadow was full of humps and hollows with long grasses and it looked splendid in the summer; birds, butterflies and Dragonflies were plentiful. Just the spot we would be glad to have nearby our homes.



Devil's-bit Scabious

Unfortunately, the A34 by-pass was constructed through the meadow but, I thought that there would be enough left for the area to be reasonably pleasant, despite the noise from the new road. Imagine my horror when walking past, last year, I noticed that the field had been leveled and, as it was covered in grass, it must have been re-seeded. All those decades, maybe centuries, of wild countryside destroyed in moments by some brainless idiot. Still, I thought, it's open space and may have the chance to re-develop some wildlife interest.

Then, walking past again this year, what do you think I saw? Goal posts! Yes, two football pitches had been marked out on this once beautiful meadow! I didn't investigate further but, I am prepared to bet that the nearby football pitch (not in the Green Belt) is now covered by houses. Let this be a warning to us all. It's happened before, and will again. Whenever a school, or a sports club, wants to sell off their playing fields for development, you can be sure some area of wild Green Belt land will be used as a replacement. The big problem is that there are too many Philistines in charge.

New Guidance for Greenspace

New Planning Policy Guidance for open spaces has recently been published. PPG17 (*Open Space, Sport and Recreation*) states that these three subjects should help deliver the Government's broad objectives including urban renaissance, rural renewal, social inclusion, community cohesion, health and well-being, and sustainable development. As a result the Guidance note demonstrates a more holistic approach to open spaces, although its focus is predominantly urban, and still around formal sport rather than informal recreation. However, it states that "green spaces in urban areas perform vital functions as areas for nature conservation and biodiversity. It also states that sports facilities should "not be built on unless an assessment has been undertaken (that has shown these to be) surplus to requirements". This can only be a good thing! If you want to know more, PPG17 can be viewed, on the web, at: www.planning.odpm.gov.uk/ppg/ppg17

MORE AIRPORT EXPANSION

by Ian Brown

The Department for Transport is "consulting" on the future of air transport in the UK, including the North of England and Manchester Airport. Below are their forecasts for the year 2030:

UK demand could rise from the present 180 million passengers per year to 500 million and Manchester Airport could be allowed to expand:

- From the present maximum of 55 flights per hour to 80
- From the present 19 million passengers per year to 84 million
- From the present 178,000 flights per year to 580,000
- A 3rd Runway to cater for any increase beyond 60 million passengers!

However, well before a third runway is required, "mixed mode" operation would become necessary. This means that aircraft would land on both runways over Heald Green and take off from both runways over Heald Green. Note that this will not help those under the present runway flightpath, as this would only happen when the present flight path was so full it couldn't take anymore. This would start to happen well before 2030

The forecasts and proposals mean more noise, more traffic, more pollution, more risk, more stress and more degradation of our quality of life for tens of thousands of us.

Apart from the effects on those of us close to the airport, there are fundamental reasons why air transport should not be encouraged to expand at the rates quoted:

The Government is committed to reducing CO₂, the global warming gas, by 12.5%, under the Kyoto agreement and has set a target of 19% reduction. In the UK, aviation produces 6.3% of our total CO₂. It is forecast to increase by 100% by 2030. In addition, because aircraft produce CO₂; at high altitudes, they have between 2 and 4 times the global warming effect of ground level emissions. A family of four on a trip to Majorca produce about as much CO₂ as the average family car produces in a year.

Aviation is subsidised as it is virtually tax free. If you buy a car you pay car tax plus purchase tax. If an airline buys an aircraft it gets it tax free. Your car fuel costs about 20 pence a litre but you also pay about 60 pence tax. Aircraft fuel is tax free. There is VAT on virtually all non-luxury items. There is no VAT on air tickets,

only a minimal airport tax.

Most air travel in the regions consist of UK residents going abroad. In the year 2000, Government figures state that regionally outgoing travellers took out £16 Billion and incoming travellers brought in only £4.5 Billion. This massive £11.5 Billion deficit to our Balance of Payments, every year, loses the regions hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Is it sensible to continue to heavily subsidise a business which produces global warming, reduces the quality of life of tens of thousands of people near airports and destroys the economy? With Manchester Airport Environment Network, we have already held public meetings in Heald Green and Knutsford, with Patsy Calton, our MP, and George Osborne, Knutsford's MP, both speaking in support of our campaign.

The Department for Transport held an exhibition at the Village Hotel in Cheadle, on Friday, 15th November. I went to this exhibition and I found out that there are proposals for a new taxiway, crossing the River Bollin, and the possibility of a fourth terminal near Cotterill Clough. I told the staff there that the proposals are totally unacceptable. Unfortunately, the staff present were all from the Department of Transport (not the airport) so my complaints fell on deaf ears. There was a questionnaire to fill in (which I did, on the internet) but the deadline has now passed. However, there is no reason why you should not write to your MP stating any objections you may have.

A recent Royal Commission recommended that air travel should be made more expensive and we should be discouraged from flying. **Now that sounds more sensible!**

(Extracted from a Heald Green Ratepayer's Association leaflet)

Beans Means Destruction by Ian Brown

I recently saw a television programme which stated that a combination of global warming and destruction by humans would see the Amazon Rain Forest reduced to a desert within 100 years. I can't remember which programme, or when; life's too short for taking notes! One of the main acts of destruction by humans was the clearing the forest to grow Soya beans, plus the construction of a road to take the beans to a new port on the River Amazon. One of the forces behind this mayhem is Cargills, the food multinational. Makes you think!

It's Grim up North

by Ian Brown

We may consider that Manchester is in the north of the country. However, it is over 520 miles (by road) to the far north of Great Britain. London is about 180 miles from Manchester, which is one third the distance! This means that we live in the south midlands. For a few summers past I have been taking my summer holidays in the far north in a town (or village) called Helmsdale, in Sutherland. This year I went during the time of the Commonwealth Games, as I am not particularly interested in sport and I thought that one less body on the streets of Manchester would leave a little more room for the sports fans.

It's a different world. With a population of about 700, and completely surrounded by sea or open countryside, Helmsdale is exactly what Manchester is not. It's a beautiful part of the country, my only criticism is that there are not enough trees. Trees do grow there but over-grazing and lack of planting have left the landscape a little bare.

Though I had a pleasant holiday, there is little to report, of an earth-shattering nature, on wildlife. However there were a couple of events which I feel are worth sharing. On my arrival, after an over-night drive, we discovered there was a wildflower walk, on Dornoch Sands Nature Reserve, conducted by a Highland Council Wildlife Ranger. We had been before and seen the Grass of Parnassus, which is one of the specialities of the reserve. This time we were privileged to see Frog Orchid, a plant I had never come across before, which was nice! There is a pleasant walk, by the shore, from the town of Helmsdale to Navidale Cove. Well over 100 species of wild plants have been identified, in this area, by John Turner (with a little help from myself). Walking this route, one day, we had just reached Navidale Cove when, stepping from the shore onto the grassy bank, I noticed what I thought to be a coil of rope in the spot I was about to place my foot. It is not uncommon to find such flotsam washed up onto the shore. As my foot hovered over the spot, the rope hissed. I withdrew immediately to see this snake scurrying off into the long grass. This was my first close encounter with an Adder and I makes you think. Not a good idea to go dashing about, heedlessly, especially in a place which has no doctor after 5 pm weekdays or all weekend!

All this was most pleasant but the main reason for including this article on my holiday is House Sparrows! This bird is becoming rare in many parts and no one seems to know precisely why. There are plenty of Sparrows in Helmsdale and the reason could be that there is plenty of open space round about. If we continue to build on our open space, birds are bound to disappear! Other species are plentiful in the far north, apart from gulls, that is. Driving south, on the A9, one day, a road side field had so many crows feeding thereon that it was almost black. If you ever get the chance, go north; you'll be sure to enjoy it.



Manchester Wildlife Annual Report 2001

The Annual General Meeting of Manchester Wildlife for the year ended the 31st of December 2001 was held on Saturday the 27th of April 2002 at Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street, Ancoats, Manchester at 12 noon.

- 1 **Present** - Anthony Phelps and Ian Brown
- 2 **Apologies for Absence** - Janet Cuff
- 3 **Minutes of the 2000 AGM** - Were read by the Chair
- 4 **Matters arising from the Minutes** - There were none
- 5 **Chair's Annual Report**

General - I feel that the main change that I see in the group this year has been the reduction in our Officers, leaving just Ian and I to manage the group on a day-by-day basis. I have made the conscious decision to "cut our clothes to fit the cloth", and the main difference this has made is a change from a doing group, to an advisory/empowering others group - almost an unpaid consultancy, so to speak.

This is the second year of my record-breaking second term as Chair of Manchester Wildlife. I'm not saying I don't enjoy being associated with the group, because I do, and unless anybody else expresses an interest in becoming Chair next year, I shall happily fulfil my complete second term in office. However, I don't want to appear to be hogging the limelight, as I've been associated with, and working on behalf of the group now for so many years, that even if I wasn't Chair, people would still contact me for things.

As I said to my choice of prospective Chair prior to retaking over the position last year, the job specification for Chair is very easy - just turn up for 6 meetings a year, and help set the agenda. Maybe I made it sound too simple, as people assume that just because I get involved in a million and one other things, that this is, necessarily, also the job of Chair. This is not the case.

Anyway, we are what we are, and at the moment, we are a small group, with an even smaller active core, and therefore, have self-imposed limits on the amount of time that we are able to devote to conservation activities.

Campaigns - The main highlight of the year, if highlight you can call it, was probably the largest area of development land coming onto the open market since the airport second runway. This was Withington Hospital.

Luckily, there is a very active and capable local Residents Association - West Didsbury Residents Association, with many members in common with ourselves, who initially fought the first battle of the superstore application on the site. Next, they asked for our assistance in preparing and publishing on the Internet a full (or certainly more full than the predictably lacking developer's attempt) wildlife survey of the site. This is now on the West Didsbury Residents own website, and we are acknowledged as the author group of this report.

We loaned our exhibition boards to WDRA for their special hospital exhibition, which is still, I believe, doing the rounds of the local libraries, and I certainly helped in preparing some of the wording for the boards.

Since then, I have tried to limit my involvement to encouragement, and advice on the correct procedures to be followed, especially when the developers recently cut down shrubs and trees and destroyed about 10 nests. By the time that I had been asked for assistance, the press already got the full story, all the statutory authorities had been informed, including the Police Liaison Officer, who was soon to put a stop order on the works pending a meeting with WDRA.

So, there was absolutely nothing left for us to do - which is a good feeling to know that you can trust people to do the right thing, and do a very good job, but also realise that when they need a little moral support, or just to know that they're on the right track, that they'll contact you to check.

It has been a long-term aim (dream?) of ours to have satellite groups in various areas (Boroughs of Greater Manchester?) who are able to act autonomously, but still under the banner of Manchester Wildlife. I cannot say that WDRA are one of these, but they are certainly very active and do the right things on behalf of wildlife - and I applaud them for their persistence and hard work. At the end of the day, it isn't really important who actually does the work, as long as the work gets done.

Meetings - Our meetings have been poorly attended this year, with no actually meeting gaining a quorum figure, thus no minutes have been produced, although the general day-to-day running of the group continues as always.

We recently announced a change to the dates of our social meetings in the Old Monkey public house to the 3rd Tuesday each month. This was really to avoid the clash with the Friends of the Earth meetings which fell on the same night. Since then, there hasn't been a noticeable increase in the number of people attending, although Ian and I enjoy our chats.

Walks - We have, despite our "contraction of services", still tried to provide an interesting series of walks. Thanks to Janet Cuff, we now have a new walk, the Flixton Ferry walk, which you will all have read about in the recent Magpie. Unfortunately, I was in London on the day of the actual walk, so missed the largest attendance at any Manchester Wildlife advertised event this year - 9 people! And I still haven't had a ride on the ferry yet. Never mind, we will be running this walk again.

Involvement with Other Groups - Ian and I are still attending meetings of the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit's Wildlife Working Group. These are quarterly meetings, and provide an insight into natural environmental problems on a Greater Manchester wide basis, and allows contact with full-time (and other part-time) officers and workers from various voluntary and statutory groups, including ecologists from many Boroughs of Manchester.

Ian and I have also attended a meeting to restart a Manchester Environmental Forum in Manchester. This is being facilitated by workers from MERCi (our landlords), and hopefully, this time things will continue and useful dialogue can be maintained, and a far greater influence can be had within Manchester City Council to effect a more sustainable future for the city.

The Magpie - I would like to express my gratitude to Ian for his continued editorship of this esteemed publication. It gives me an outlet for my writing which may, or may not, be a good thing! This year saw the publishing of our special Millennium edition, which was also our 50th edition. I think, and I hope

you do to, that the quality of our newsletter is better than ever - certainly all the feedback I get is more than positive.

Survey of our Group - One of the baffling things that happened was an approach from Manchester University by Kath Ray (now Dr. and a member of our group) to use Manchester Wildlife as one of her guinea-pig groups for a sociological survey. All members were asked to complete a tick-box initial survey document, and several were invited for a first stage, face-to-face interview, and a few more to a much more in-depth, second stage interview. The results of these interviews are still in the process of being documented and when we have any results, then you can be sure that they will appear in the Magpie for you all to read about yourselves. Initial thoughts on the group show us to be very unusual in our structure and how we work, compared to the other groups studied.

Conclusion - I will finish with a wish list. That we can attract (and not frighten off) some more active people into the group (or from within the group) who can help to make Manchester Wildlife more effective than ever before - hopefully attracting even greater numbers of people to join, and to join in. I'd hate it to become just a retirement club for Ian and I. Please help us to not let this happen.

Thank you, Anthony Phelps Honorary Chair, Manchester Wildlife 23rd April 2002

6 Treasurer's Report - 31st December 2001

These are not audited accounts. There may be some differences when the final figures come out but I am confident that these will only be in minor detail.

Income and Expenditure

On the income side, Craft Sales are now down to nil, but we do have a fee of £70 for a bodging demonstration in Wirral. Other sales, though slightly up on last year, are, again, hardly worth mentioning. Subscriptions are down a little but as membership is fairly steady, at around 100, this is nothing to worry about. Last year, some of the smaller donations could have been included in membership subscriptions. Donations are considerably up on last year because of two large donations. Overall, income was up on last year, mainly because of the donations.

Expenditure is well down on the year 2000, mainly because we did not pay rates (we still do not know the position on this and have not made inquiries) and the rent was slightly less. Subscriptions are down, because we no longer pay the RSNC. Their Urban Wildlife Partnership is still in existence but they have reduced their services to a minimum. For example they no longer publish their Urban Wildlife News. Other items of expenditure are similar. It is worth pointing out that hardly any expenses are being claimed (travel, phone calls, etcetera). If it became necessary to claim these expenses then we would need to increase income to cover this contingency.

Therefore, there appears to be a large increase in profit, from -£125 to +£130, but this is of no significance and the position could change in the current year, particularly if there are no donations or craft fees. If this were to be the case we would have to dip into our reserves so that we can pay our rent and publish the newsletter, which seem to be our major expenditure.

Balance Sheet

Current Assets are up, because of the surplus, with the current account balance at £345, compared with £153 for 2000.

Current Liabilities are much the same.

Accumulated funds are up by £134 but we are in a fairly healthy state as we still have over £2,000 in our deposit account. However, I must again remind you that this is mostly made up of grant money which must be spent on specific projects and we still may need to find new ways of raising money to cover rent, as this is a major element in the cost of running the group.

Ian Brown, Hon. Treasurer

7 Election of Officers

Anthony Phelps, Chair & Secretary - Ian Brown, Hon. Treasurer - retired and, being eligible offered themselves for re-election.

8 Any Other Business

As there was no other business the meeting was closed.

The meeting was not quorate. Any member of Manchester Wildlife, who has objection to any of the above, must inform the Secretary - Anthony Phelps - Flat 7, 104 Clyde Road, West Didsbury, Manchester. M20 2JN, in writing, detailing their objection, by the 31st of January 2003. If there are objections, an extraordinary meeting will be held.

RARE WILDLIFE

Autumn crocus - has been found at Bottoms Hall, Tottington, Bury by Louise Llewellyn and later by Dave Bentley who visited the site on the 21st October 2002. Several few hundred plants in total in numerous patches at north end and south of field and scattered in between. Apparently all between public footpath and stream, in an arc nearly 400m long. "A bit weather worn when I got there", said Dave. There is a stream running through the site, which looks nice, and across the stream is a large rush pasture which is in the Wildlife Corridor. "Including the Crocus in an SBI will give an excuse to consider the marsh. Also of potential is the woodland on the valley side on the east bank of stream" added Dave, who wondered, "are these the Hawkshaw Crocus?".

Autumn Crocus are rare, nationally, but this area (Manchester) is considered to be a stronghold of the plant. A good number of colonies have been found in the Mersey Valley (see Magpie 49, page 21 "The Mersey Valley" by Dave Bishop). It is pleasing to know that there are other areas, in Greater Manchester, where Autumn Crocus is found and also, we hear, that sites where this plant are found stand a good chance of being made Sites of Biological Importance.

Manchester Wildlife

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st December 2001

	2001	2000
	£	£
Income	243	
Donations	70	180
Fees	20	11
Sales - Other	525	572
Subscriptions		35
Donations	41	37
Bank Interest		
	899	835
Less: Expenditure	392	580
Rent and Rates	3	31
Subscriptions, Training Etc.	225	207
Printing, Stationery & Postage	34	23
Minor Equipment & Consumables	40	40
Accountancy	55	55
Insurance	6	17
Food & Travel		
	755	953
Surplus/Deficit For The Year	144	-118
Tax on Bank Interest	-8	-7
Surplus/Deficit for Year after Tax	136	-125

Making your own Pond

We often get individual requests for information on ponds; their construction, stocking with wild plants and animals, etc. We are usually able to help out but this can be a time consuming process. A member has asked if we can publish an article on pond making, in the Magpie. We think this is a good idea and would appreciate your help. If you have any experience in the construction and development of ponds, why not share your experience with us. Do you know of a good source of uncontaminated pond mud which will help to get life started in a new pond, or a good source of native pond plants? We have a good basic knowledge on construction and stocking but any new, or interesting, ideas you may have will help us to compose a more interesting and informative article.

**Manchester Wildlife
Balance Sheet at 31st December 2001**

	2001	2000
	£	£
Current Assets		
Prepayment - Rates		64
Cash at Bank - Current Account	345	153
Cash at Bank - Deposit Account	2220	2178
Cash to be Banked - Subs collected		28
	2565	2423

Current Liabilities

Creditor - Rent		
Creditor - Tax	55	49
Accruals - Accountancy	40	95
NET CURRENT ASSETS	2470	2334

Represented By:

Accumulated Funds:

Balance Brought Forward	2334	2459
Surplus/Deficit for the Year	136	-125
Balance Carried Forward	2470	2334

Approved on behalf of the Management Committee By:
Mr. Anthony Phelps (Chair) Mr Ian Brown (Treasurer)

Of Newts and Village Greens

A Cautionary Tale

In 2001 it was proposed that a new high school should be built on land at Backbower in Gee Cross, Hyde. Local people considered that the land was public open space, with access allowed to all who wished to use it. The Council said the land belonged to them and that access was only allowed with their permission. Local residents wanted the area to be declared as a village green and a public inquiry was held to determine this. For the village green, witnesses told how they had used the land for informal recreation, for 20 years or more, and were not aware that the land was

Manchester Wildlife - Events and Meetings

January 2003

Tuesday 21st - Social Meeting - Time 7.30pm at the Old Monkey Public House (upstairs lounge), junction of Portland Street/Princess Street, Manchester. Convenient for Piccadilly Gardens Bus & Metro Station. Contact - Ian Brown - 0161-437 7040.
Thursday 30th - General Meeting - Time 7.30pm at the Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street, Ancoats, Manchester. M4 7HR. Contact - Ian Brown - 0161-437 7040.

February 2003

Tuesday 18th - Social Meeting - Details as for January 21st

March 2003

Tuesday 18th - Social Meeting - Details as for January 21st.
Thursday 27th - General Meeting - Details as for January 30th.

April 2003

Tuesday 15th - Social Meeting - Details as for January 21st.
Saturday 22nd - Bollin Valley Woodland Walk - Meet 11am at Heald Green Station (Trains From Piccadilly & Oxford Road - last stop before the Airport). This could be a long walk so, come prepared with, food, drink, walking boots & waterproofs. Contact - Ian Brown - 0161-437 7040.

May 2003

Tuesday 20th - Social Meeting - Details as for January 21st.
Thursday 29th - General Meeting - Details as for January 30th.

June 2003

Saturday 7th - Wigan Flashes Walk - Meet outside the main entrance of Wigan Wallgate Station. Time 12noon. Contact - Ian Brown - 0161-437 7040.

July 2003

Tuesday 17th - Social Meeting - Details as for January 21st.
Tuesday 15th - Social Meeting - Details as for January 21st.
Thursday 31st - General Meeting - Details as for January 30th.

owned by the Council and that they were trespassing. The Council argued that people only went on the land with their permission and that they made 'overt acts' to show that they owned the land.

The public inquiry inspector found against the village green. The fact that local people were not aware of council ownership was not relevant. It seems that ignorance of the law really is no defence! The moral is; all land is owned by someone so, if you want to declare an area as a village green, you must have the co-operation of the landowner. As, in this case, the landowner wanted to build a school, that co-operation was unlikely to be forthcoming.

There were Great Crested Newts (a protected species) on the site. These had to be re-homed. There was some controversy over the way this was handled. At one stage, strimmers were used to cut the grass, before the newts had been removed. Also, trees were cut down before the public inquiry had made a decision on the future of the land. **A sad affair!**

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. 0161-872 7640 (day)
	.....Sale & Altrincham, Shelagh Aston. 0161-860 6910
	.....Bolton, Rick Parker. 01942 817302
	.....Bury, Lawrence Kitchenson. 0161-796 6404 (day)
British Trust for Ornithology	.....Gtr. Manchester Bird Recorder, Judith Smith 01942 712615
Red Rose Forest Team	.....Jane Whitaker. 0161-872 1660
RSPB	.....Bolton Group, Tony Johnson. 01204 468850
	.....Manchester Group, Simeon Rydz. 0161 434 2720
	.....Stockport Group, 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 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, Environment	.....0161-912 3206
Trafford Recycling Officer	.....Glen Stuart. 0161-912 4912
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 NewsletterMichael Bane. 0161-226 9321
MERCiManchester Environmental Resource Centre. 0161-273 1736

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