

# Minutes

## of Executive Committee 15<sup>th</sup> October 2008 Open Meeting

held at Boggart Hole Clough Visitor Centre, Charlestown Road, Manchester, M9 7DF.

**BHCCAT:** Boggart Hole Clough Community Action Trust. **MCC:** Manchester City Council. MCC departments – **MDDA:** Manchester Digital Development Agency, **MEDC:** Manchester Engineering Design Consultancy, **ML:** Manchester Leisure, **Zest:** healthy living project.

**1. Present:** Gary McCaffery, Janet Shephard (Rochdale Road Residents Action Group Chair), Joan Kavanagh (BHCCAT Chair), Joan Royle, Keith Heesom, Ken Hill, Kylie Ward (ML North Area Parks Manager), Malcolm Frost, Mark Hackett (BHCCAT Deputy Chair, Charlestown Councillor), Peter Milner (BHCCAT Secretary), Sam McCormick, Saul Mearns (ML North Area Parks Warden), Shirley McCardell (*Zest* Harpurhey & Moston Hub Coordinator), Suzanne O'Callaghan, Teresa Rooney, Terry Maher, Thomas Rooney, Tom Clarke.

**2. Apologies** for absence: Frankie Mananasy, Jean Finch (BHCCAT Treasurer).

**3. Minutes of Executive Committee 18.3.08 Open Meeting** (revised Minutes dated 31.7.08) agreed as true record.

**4. ML management** (see also items 5, 6, 7, 8, etc).

**4.1 Miscellaneous maintenance.** New railings on Fish Pond Clough footbridge installed. Clough perimeter fence at Weybourne Avenue completed. Visitor Centre roof & water tower repaired.

**4.2 Valentine Brow Garden** beside Rochdale Road, sometimes referred to as a Peace Garden, in neglected state. Kylie: "...regeneration plan being prepared for consultation..." Ken: "...weddings at Mount Carmel church across the road had photos taken in the garden... Dick Turpin stopped there to water his horse ! ..."

**4.3 Rochdale & Charlestown Roads corner**, site of building demolished 2004. Site visit 10.9.08: Jean, Joan, Kylie, Mark H, Peter, Saul. Agreed provisionally: between the 2 gates (Rochdale Rd 60 yards from corner, Charlestown Rd 25 yards from corner) should be ½ metre high brick wall topped with coping stones and wrought iron railings; 'Boggart Hole Clough' written in wrought iron into railings and/or into wrought iron arch above gates same as several other entrances e.g. Glen Avenue entrance.

**4.4 New facilities suggested.**

**4.4.1** Joan suggests **adult exercise area** as recently installed near Dam Head Housing Office, Whitemoss Road. LifeTrail equipment [www.playworldsystems.com](http://www.playworldsystems.com)

**4.4.2** Gary suggests **bowling green** at Charlestown side of Clough.

**4.4.3** Email 6.10.08 from John Biggs (Charlestown Residents Association Chair) forwarded by Andrew Jones (MCC Harpurhey Ward Support Officer): "...we want to discuss us having a **skateboard area** in the Clough maybe on the old plot of land that the girls school use to be at [Clough Top]..." (see item 9.4). Plant Hill Park skateboard facility cost £80k. Ken: "...should be well away from houses... get skateboarders to design it..." Kylie: "...have to prove there's a real need & strategic fit for any development / capital investment..."

**4.4.4** Sam says east end of David Lewis used for football needs **drainage to make into a decent grass pitch.**

**4.4.5** Joan said Harpurhey had requested **lights for astro-turf 5-a-side football pitch** at David Lewis.

**4.4.6** Email 6.10.08 from Stephen Holt (Trinity District Residents Association Chair): "...Lack of facilities around the David Lewis recreation ground... a small **warden centre**..." Kylie: "...park warden surgery where wardens able to meet residents... need more wardens first - we have only 4 wardens for North Area Parks..."

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**4.5** Ken says big **dogs** running about in Clough. Saul: "...young lads with aggressive dogs – find amusing to set dogs onto other dogs... in such cases take description of dogs & dog owners..."

**4.6 Green Flag** inspection 19.6.08: John Howard (ML North Area Parks Assistant Manager), Kylie, Mark H, Peter, Saul accompany Inspector (only one this year) around Clough. Subsequently Green Flag awarded for 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. Raising Green Flag event ? Request copy of Inspector's Assessment.

**4.7 ML publicising BHCCAT activities.** Saturday Conservation Volunteers (item 8.2) included in latest ML Events calendar leaflet published several times each year; hopefully will continue to be included. Request more info in Clough lecterns publicising BHCCAT activities.

**5. Boathouse Café.** Closed since December 2006. Exterior renovation finished end May 08. Interior renovation started end September 08. See also item 14.

**5.1** The 'Coffin Dodgers' collected 342 signatures for '**Petition** to press for the re-opening of the Boathouse for café & toilets'. Thomas delivered Petition 14.10.08 to office of Howard Bernstein (MCC Chief Executive) with cover letter: "...MP Graham Stringer is aware of our intentions to have the café & toilets open this year. The office staff promised it to be open at Easter 2008... then a large sign put up outside the Boathouse stating it would be open Summer 2008 and again it did not open..."

**5.2 Renovation, tendering, reopening.** Mark H: "...I do not accept that the Café can't be run commercially... Café in Vernon Park, Stockport, and in Queens Park, Heywood, are both run commercially... process of dealing with contracts – why taken so long ?... system failure of Council..." Chadderton Hall Park, Oldham, also has commercially run Café. Sam asks whether there is a business plan for income generation. Kylie: "...£150k already spent on exterior... £64k confirmed for interior... repositioning of doors, fire exit at back... presently no windows... suspended ceiling... there will be 3 toilets including toilet with disabled access... building opened up inside... delay re concertina door for partition to separate Café from meeting room and enabling whole space to be opened up for events... moveable seats & tables... there will be places for Trust info... contractors one month to finish... delay caused by 2 attempted break ins... rats - had pest control in... building control and environmental health checks... opening for Christmas... should be open throughout winter... open all week... for two months will be operated in-house [Manchester Fayre]... thereafter will pay somebody to run Café if necessary... host training courses to make economically viable... building needs to become hub of park and live up to site potential..."

**5.3 Pigeons** around Boathouse and on roof. Ken: "Pigeons carry disease..." Kylie: "We're considering anti-Pigeon spikes on roof to stop perching..." Better signage requesting public not to feed Lake birds (item 7.5) would also diminish Pigeon numbers.

**6. Manchester Poplars** – 650 felled & removed from Clough during 2007 as considered unsafe due to venturia populina disease.

**6.1 Replacement planting.** To date only 17 trees planted, on David Lewis Rec. No trees planted in main body of Clough. £130k cost of works in Clough (Minutes 6.6.07 BHCCAT AGM, item 7.2). 10% of cost to be spent on replacement planting (Minutes 7.3.07 BHCCAT Open Meeting, item 6.2). Replacement planting in other parks evidently completed. More Poplars felled in Clough than any other park but replacement planting hardly begun. Press for meeting with Joe Walsh (MCC Arboricultural Officer) to progress matters perhaps concentrating on avenue of Sessile Oaks as proposed at 9.1.08 meeting re Manchester Poplars replacement planting options (Minutes on website).

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**6.2** It is understood that installation of **50-60 bat & bird boxes**, to compensate for habitat loss due to Manchester Poplars felling, was stipulated in Lowther Forestry's contract (Minutes 7.3.07 BHCCAT Open Meeting, item 6.3). At 18.3.08 BHCCAT Open Meeting Kylie distributed copies of maps of Clough showing locations of 37 bat & bird boxes installed (MEDC Landscape Practice maps dated Nov 06). Paul McCrystal & Peter 31.5.08 using these maps found only 24 boxes. Therefore apparently less than half boxes installed as were stipulated in contract.

### **7. Lake, Island & Fish Pond** (see also item 14).

**7.1** Email 21.4.08 to Catherine Hartley (MCC Irk Valley Project Officer) from Peter: "...After extensive consultation with BHCCAT Members and other informed sources the consensus is that for aesthetic & ecological reasons we cannot support your proposals for **fencing off the Island** and reducing the Lake's open landing aspect for large waterfowl by laying ropes on the water etc. However, we support several other Lake & Island regeneration proposals. We will send you document when completed focussing on these proposals..."

**7.2** BHCCAT '**Lake & Island biodiversity health proposals**' document reassessing various measures proposed during past several years – supporting 15 proposals (including signage requesting public not to feed Lake birds, Fishing code of conduct, planting vegetation in Lake, and Canada Geese eggs management), opposing 9 proposals (including fence around the Island, floating ropes installation, and mechanical aeration pumps). Draft doc emailed to BHCCAT Members. Meeting 16.6.08, Dam Head Housing Office, Whitemoss Road: Basil Curley (Charlestown Councillor), Jean, Joan, Mark H, Peter, Suzanne. Draft doc discussed & broadly approved. Basil: "...consensus that big issue is bread... involve schools... fence issue – local people do not want a fence around the Island... breathing life into the Lake – planting... Environment Agency – whether water overflows adjustment feasible... regulated fishing... dissolvable hooks..." Mark H: "...need to turn off supply of bread to Canada Geese – stop food source..." After meeting small amendments made to 'Lake & Island biodiversity health proposals' doc; final draft dated 16.6.08 (see website).

**7.3** Email 18.9.08 from Nigel Fowler (Three Owls Bird Sanctuary & Reserve Trustee): "...thanks for forwarding on the report [item 7.2] to me – I am very interested by its content. You may like to note that on waterways the most common cause of injury to wild birds brought to us is *still* through **carelessly discarded Fishing lines / hooks / weights**. We do get a number of birds brought in with poisoning, either natural or man-made, but these are fewer in number and less fatal / disfiguring than the former. We are watching the rejuvenation of the Lake with interest, as we would very much like to be able to include it on our list of safe release sites at some point in the future, so please keep us updated with your progress..."

### **7.4 Field trips** studying waterbody management.

**7.4.1 Black Lake, Lindow Common**, Wilmslow, 11.4.08: Frankie, Joan, Paul McC, Peter, Steve Hamilton. Meet Paul Hughes (Macclesfield Borough Council Countryside Ranger): "...Roach, Bream & Carp are bottom feeders - will eat any vegetation growing... ban ground bait mixed with linseed oil – pollutant... Fishing code of conduct - needs policing... wildlife friendly approach to Canada Geese management... bread feeding prohibited at Black Lake... encourage long grass growth, Canada Geese fear long grass because may hold predators... plant vegetation unpalatable to Canada Geese e.g. Cocksfoot Grass, Yellow Flag Iris, Branched Burr Reed... temporarily fence off small blocks of banks for planting to get vegetation growing, naturalizing banks... habitat for Water Voles... Mace, Soft Rush, Yellow Flag Iris... Reeds clean water... Rigid Hornwort pumps air into water, roots itself... avoid Canadian Pond Weed..."

**7.4.2 Martin Mere** Wildfowl & Wetland Trust Reserve, Southport, 23.5.08: Jean, John Bridle, Paul McC, Peter. Numerous ponds – wide variety of planting in gabions of different materials, shapes & sizes, and along ponds' graduated naturalized edges; Yellow Flag Iris particularly abundant. New beaver habitat - no beavers seen.

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**7.4.3 Painswick & Wythenshawe Parks**, south Manchester, 15.8.08: Mark H, Paul McC, Peter, Steve Hamilton. Mark H writes 'Draft notes' 23.8.08 re trip: "...Painswick Park showed it was possible to install gabions containing aquatic plants e.g. Reed Mace or Common Reed without Canada Geese destroying aquatic vegetations planted in them. Lesson being it should be possible to introduce aquatic plants of the right species into the Boating Lake... Wythenshawe Park... the wetland near the Horticultural centre showed that some aquatic plants and mammals could thrive near to people. Could some refuges on the Lake Island be home not only for birds like moorhens, but possibly Reed and Sedge Warblers and Water Voles ?..."

**7.5 Canada Geese.** August 08: signs attached to Lakeside railings near Boathouse -

Please do **NOT** feed **BREAD** to the Canada Geese:

\* There are too many of them on the Lake and they have become a NUISANCE.

\* Geese, swans and other waterfowl are vegetarians and should only eat GRASS and SEEDS.

\* Overfeeding of bread causes their flight feathers to grow too fast, resulting in a DISEASE called 'Angel Wing'.

\* This high protein diet will hamper or stop the birds flying, meaning that they cannot easily escape from predators, many birds are KILLED as a result.

\* Geese, swans and other waterfowl should only be fed low protein foods like the WHEAT DISCS sold in local pet shops, or other NATURAL FOODS like grass and lettuce.

\* Large numbers of Canada Geese cause serious problems; they put pressure on the smaller waterfowl, Geese snap off the heads of baby ducks, they are aggressive eaters and will DESTROY any unprotected plants.

\* Each goose deposits 1kg of droppings per day around or in the lake, this adds up to over HALF A TON of droppings per week.

\* This spoils enjoyment of paths and grass areas and increases BACTERIA levels in the lakes.

\* Feeding encourages AGGRESSION, geese will chase anyone with a plastic bag, thinking it has food in it.

Waterfowl should **NOT** be fed **BREAD**

Thank you for your cooperation

Manchester City Council

Signage welcomed as bread feeding considered main cause of Canada Geese problem. Signs criticised as too small (measuring 16 x 12 inches), too few (only 2 signs attached to railings; suggested also locate at south Lakeside entrance with steps) and containing too much information. Doubts re accuracy of some info on sign e.g. 'each goose deposits... over half a ton of droppings per week'!? Not everyone knows what Canada Geese look like – needs picture of Canada Goose on sign. Or preferably headline sign with penultimate sentence: 'Waterfowl should not be fed bread'. Apparently signage quickly resulted in fewer Canada Geese but this perhaps illusory / only short term result. Weekly waterbirds survey continues (item 8.2.6). Further measures perhaps necessary e.g. planting vegetation in & around Lake unpalatable to Canada Geese & eggs management (these are preferred options: see items 7.1, 7.2, 7.4).

**7.6 Lake's water quality** considered unlikely to improve unless appropriate vegetation planted in Lake (see items 7.2, 7.4). Kylie: "We're in process of revising proposal for Lake based upon Trust's paper [item 7.2]..."

**7.7** Kylie: "King William IV Angling Society (King Billys) creating 5 year management plan for **Fish Pond** – will forward copy to the Trust for consultation... agreed informal fishing lease / licence with King Billys... they will check licences & conduct... they will soon net Fish Pond to check fish stock..." Joan: "We would be pleased if representative from King Billys attended BHCCAT Open Meetings..." See also items 7.2, 7.3, 7.4.1.

**8. Nature Conservation** (see also items 4.2, 6, 7, 9, 13.2).

**8.1** Sam suggests setting up **funding committee** to apply for grants to e.g. support Conservation Volunteers (item 8.2) and to commission firm to help eradicate invasive woodland weeds - Japanese Knotweed, Rhododendron Ponticum & Himalayan Balsam. Gary, Tom, Sam & Peter to arrange meeting.

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**8.2 Wildlife Regeneration** volunteers restoring natural woodland biodiversity with Peter on Saturdays assembling 10 a.m. at the Boathouse Café. Thanks to participants: Dan Early, Frankie, Noah & Sylvie Mananasy; particular thanks to regulars: Paul McCrystal & Steve Hamilton. Since March 08 among other tasks (see also item 6.2):

**8.2.1** Continue pulling **Himalayan Balsam**;

**8.2.2** Continue removing **invasive Rhododendron** - area at lower east side of Fish Pond Clough;

**8.2.3** Collect 250 **Acorns** for planting;

**8.2.4** Create small **wetland** area of seasonal ponds out of ditch at meadow / woodland edge above & between Fish Pond Clough & Middle Clough – to stop water spilling onto footpath & conserve water to increase biodiversity; build earth ramps for easy access from meadow across wetland to woodland glade; make glade into performance space for Fairy Tale Play (item 12.3.2);

**8.2.5** Carry out walkover **biodiversity survey** of Clough Top (see item 9.3.3).

**8.2.6** Continue weekly **waterbirds survey**; Kingfisher spotted flying at Island edge; see website.

**9.** Dappa Homes Ltd submitted **planning application to build 50 houses on site of former Clough Top School adjacent to Clough** (MCC ref 082039/FO/2007/N1) for consideration by MCC Planning & Highways (P&H) Committee including Councillors Tony Burns (Chair), Andrew Fender, Harry Lyons.

**9.1** Gary, Joan, John B, Peter attend MCC P&H Committee **meeting 24.7.08**, Town Hall: site visit ordered.

**9.2** MCC P&H Committee **site visit 21.8.08**, 10.15 a.m. John B & others spoke. Peter pointed out that the site is naturally regenerating woodland spreading from, and forming contiguous habitat with, the Clough's adjacent Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) and suggests the site is drawn into Clough's Local Nature Reserve boundary; Mark H said had reservations about this idea.

**9.3** Prior to MCC P&H Committee meeting 21.8.08, 1.30 p.m., Town Hall: Peter distributed BHCCAT '**Boggart Hole Clough Top planning proposals**' first draft doc dated 21.8.08 to MCC P&H Committee Members. Document outlined objections to application on following grounds:

**9.3.1 Perfunctory public consultation.** The local community had minimal opportunity for their concerns to be conveyed & addressed and alternative proposals to be presented & discussed.

**9.3.2 Loss of educational resource.** The proposed 'change of use' of the site from education (site of former Secondary Modern School and later annexe of North Manchester Girls High School) to residential housing reduces north Manchester's educational facilities/resources. The site's educational value could be developed & enhanced by e.g. developing & enhancing its biodiversity / conservation value.

**9.3.3 Loss of biodiversity / woodland.** Surveys (Trevor Bridge Associates Ltd, Feb 07; Greater Manchester Ecology Unit, 8.5.07; BHCCAT, 16.8.08, item 8.2.5) show woodland naturally regenerating on the site spreading from the Clough's adjacent ASNW. The proposed development requires clearance of the site.

**9.3.4 Negative impact on Clough's wildlife.** The loss of the site's naturally regenerating woodland, forming a contiguous habitat with the Clough's adjacent ASNW, will adversely affect the Clough's wildlife by diminishing the size of this contiguous habitat.

**9.4** Basil, Gary, John B, Johnny Biggs, Mark H, Peter attend MCC P&H Committee meeting 21.8.08, 2 p.m., Town Hall. John B: "...over development of site... more traffic on poor road network..." Basil: "...request very strongly that committee refuses permission..." Tony B: "...minded to refuse..." **Application refused.** See also item 4.4.3.

**9.5 Proper consultation procedure required.** BHCCAT was informed about this planning application by Charlestown Residents Association, not by MCC Planning Department. Sam: "...no mechanism in place ensuring the Trust receives planning applications for developments which may affect the Clough or edge of the Clough... the Trust should be included in loop for comment..." See also item 9.3.1.

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**10. Healthy activities, Play & Sports** (see also items 4.4.1 - 4.4.5, 8.2, 11, 12, etc).

**10.1 Guided Walks.**

**10.1.1 Strollers group** Tuesdays assembling 1.30 p.m., at the Visitor Centre, led by Ann (ML North Area Park Warden) and Saul.

**10.1.2 Health walk** Fridays assembling 10 a.m., at the North City Library for 1 hour walk around the Clough, led by Vicki Coulton (NHS PACE Team).

**11. Supervised Cycling.** Wheels For All scheme enabling people of all abilities / disabilities to ride adapted / non-adapted cycles under supervision on athletics track.

**11.1 Local Network Fund** for children & young people (LNF) £6,541 grant awarded via Community Foundation for Greater Manchester (CFGM). Portable hydraulic hoist & 5 adapted cycles purchased & delivered. Completed End of Grant Form posted 26.3.08. Receive closure letter dated 4.4.08 from Kathryn Woodward (LNF/CFGM Officer): "...I am glad to hear that the grant money has been so useful in providing an innovative project for the children and young people in your area..."

**11.2** After Shirley gave presentation to management of GB Building Solutions Ltd (GBBSL), undertaking street 'facelift' schemes in north Manchester, they arranged **fundraising dinner dance 9.5.08** at Tyldesley Suite, Old Trafford Cricket Ground. Ann, Elaine Monk (Zest Blackley Hub Coordinator), Jean, Joan, Peter, Shirley, Suzanne attended. Tickets, auctions, raffles raised £12,765. Deposited BHCCAT bank account. See item 11.4.4.

**11.3 Boggart Bikers Family Funday 22.6.08** integrated cycling (adapted & non-adapted cycles) event organized by Zest. Ann and Sports Development coaches organized cycle races. GBBSL supplied blow up climbing slide, stocks, music and announcements for the races and games. Manchester Joint Health Unit paid for a climbing wall. Zest provided fruit, kite making, face painting, helium filled balloons, medals for everyone entering a cycle race. Over 100 people attended.

**11.4 Meeting 22.8.08**, NMR offices, Hexagon Tower, Blackley Village. Present: Ann, Charles Hill (GBBSL Manager), George Lightbowne (Northwards Housing Ltd Neighbourhood Warden), Joan, Mark Gumbs (MCC Cycling Development Officer), Martin Roberts (MCC Sports Development Officer), Peter, Shirley. Shirley's Minutes of this meeting quoted from below.

**11.4.1** Mark Gumbs has been appointed MCC **Cycling Development Officer** for 4 years. He is one of 14 officers appointed around the country as part of CTC (Cycle Touring Club) *Working for Cycling* Lottery funded 'Cycle Champion Project'.

**11.4.2** Mark G is keen to help us get proposed **Boggart Bikers All Ability Cycling Club** up & running.

**11.4.3** Quotes for public liability & equipment **insurance** being obtained from brokers including Butterworths, Perkins Slade, Priestley & Partners.

**11.4.4** Shirley's Minutes re **£12,765** raised at 9.5.08 event (item 11.2): "...Ann advised us that the Wheelchair Up Front was very popular and we have more people in their own wheelchairs who wished to access it... dual cycles, where someone can be supported to ride, particularly hand operated would be a welcome addition to the fleet, i.e. two person hand cycles... It was agreed that we could look to spend a total of £7,500 on equipment... Joan thanked GBBSL... and also Ann who has helped to support the sessions in the Clough, while looking after the cycles so well..."

**11.4.5** Shirley's Minutes re **cycle maintenance**: "...Ann explained that Bike Right had carried out the maintenance on a number of the adapted cycles, and she was going to enter into an agreement with them for a monthly cycle of maintenance. When people use the cycles, they pay a fee to ML as part of the maintenance programme, and this money will be used for the maintenance and upkeep of the cycles..."

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**11.4.6** Shirley's Minutes: "...Ann told the group that there were **several sessions a week now taking place**, although the majority were semi independent – it still meant the involvement of a warden in making sure the cycles are taken out of the cabin and put away in a safe condition. All users have to complete a form in order to use the cycles independently showing the safe use of the cycles and any repairs needed, as well as a check on insurance and CRB. Sessions with the bikes could easily be doubled because the need is there, but this is difficult due to the amount of time wardens can commit to the sessions.

Tuesday mornings: Gateway Leisure – Rochdale - £5 per person;

Wednesday afternoons: ML North Area Park Wardens – Manchester - £1 per person; average 27 people;

Thursday mornings: Gateway Leisure – Rochdale - £5 per person;

Thursday afternoons: Northfields – Manchester - £1 per person;

Friday afternoons: Northfields – Manchester - £1 per person;

Saturday mornings: Cycle Club – Manchester – Free; to date up to 35 people..."

**11.4.7** Shirley's Minutes: "...Mark G explained that as people became more proficient – it would be good for them to go around the roads in the Clough. This prompted a discussion about the adapted cycles – some of which would not be suited for the hilly nature of the Clough outside the running track. It was agreed that at this stage, as far as the sessions and events organised and covered by BHCCAT insurance, these would **remain within the confines of the track**. However, when Mark G was running cycling sessions covered by his own insurance, including the adapted cycles – then if Mark G was sure the users and cycles were suited, then this was a decision for him to make..."

**11.4.8** Shirley's Minutes: "...Shirley... intending to meet with someone from the Joint Health Unit regarding **across the City funding** for the running costs of the Wheels for All sessions... If successful, this would enable the sessions to at least cover their insurance and a small amount which could be used on staff, or maintenance or equipment – depending on how the sessions operate..."

**11.4.9** **Cycling for All Open Day**, Wednesday 29.10.08, noon to 3 p.m. Mark G will try to get some vintage bikes for the day. Request NEPHRA (Residents Association in New Moston) provide hot refreshments. Disability horse riding suggested.

**11.5** Ann, Charles, Jean, Joan, Peter & Shirley viewed **10.9.08 exhibition of specialist cycles** on the athletics track. Mark G arranged exhibition with Quest 88 Ltd, manufacturer & supplier of equipment for people with special needs.

## **12. Arts events** (see also item 13).

**12.1 Lakeside Music.** Summer 2005 successful series of 6 small concerts held outside (inside when raining) Boathouse Café. Similar concert series suggested for summer 2009. Invite e.g. North Manchester High School for Boys Swing Band, North Manchester High School for Girls Steel Band, Blackley Brass Band, and smaller ensembles & soloists. Apply for grant to hire musicians and/or pay for refreshments & travelling expenses if playing for free. Contact Brian Crook (Manchester Music Service Management Committee Member).

**12.2 Teddy Bears' Picnic**, annual event since 2006.

**12.2.1** MCC Charlestown ward *CASH* grant Completion Report for **2007** Teds' Picnic delivered 18.7.08 to Town Hall.

**12.2.2** Bid for MCC Charlestown ward *CASH* grant of £4,370 for **2008** Teds' Picnic submitted 27.9.07. Awarded £3,067. Picnic took place Sunday 3.8.08. About 500 people attended.

**12.2.3** Another Teds' Picnic wanted for **2009**. Peter to arrange meeting with Ada Nzeribe (MCC North Manchester Cultural Regeneration Officer) and Heath Cole (MCC Charlestown Ward Support Officer) to discuss *CASH* grant bid.

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**12.3 Boggarts of the Clough - A Fairy Tale Play** produced by Purple Expressive Arts (PEA), local voluntary community theatre group, a variation of their show *Quest for the Sun – a fairy tale about the Boggarts of Boggart Hole Clough*.

**12.3.1 Meetings** discussing play's storyline, music & picnic elements of event, rehearsals on site, equipment requirements, storage of props & costumes, health & safety, risk assessment, insurance. Ye Golden Lion, Blackley Village, 2.5.08: Stef Portersmith (PEA Director), Jean, Joan, Peter. Visitor Centre, 22.7.08: Joan, Kylie, Peter, Stef, William Eastwood (ML North Area Parks Assistant Manager).

**12.3.2 Walkabouts** round woodland near Lake & meadow viewing possible performance sites. 31.3.08: Jean, Joan, John H, Mark H, Peter, Stef, Suzanne. 30.7.08: Joan, Peter, Stef, William. Site chosen: small woodland glade adjacent to meadow above & between Fish Pond Clough & Middle Clough (item 8.2.4).

**12.3.3 Rehearsals** on site attended by Joan, Peter, Steve Hamilton: 13.8.08, 20.8.08, 27.8.08, 3.9.08.

**12.3.4 Public performance 6.9.08.** Sunny despite wettest summer for decades. Audience of 60, mostly families with young children, assembled Visitor Centre carpark; accompanied walk across meadow to woodland glade (item 12.3.2) where tarpaulins set out for sitting; 3 musicians (accordion, violin, drums) & 9 actors/actresses performed colourful, lively, funny, musical Fairy Tale Play. Free simple picnic served during interval: 200 pieces of fruit provided by Zest through Shirley, and flasks of tea. Jean, Joan, Paul McC, Peter, Steve Hamilton, Suzanne facilitated as stage hands / stewards. Enjoyable, successful event.

**12.3.5** PEA say like to perform **another Fairy Tale Play** in Clough summer 2009. BHCCAT would be pleased to facilitate & support.

**12.3.6** Although photos of Fairy Tale Play were taken, the event highlighted need for **camcorder** to better record, develop & promote BHCCAT activities / projects. Apply for grant to purchase camcorder starter kit.

**13. Autumn & winter 08-9 events** (see also items 8.2, 10, 11, 17).

**13.1 It's a Knockout**, Saturday 13.9.08, athletics track, organized by Northwards Housing Ltd.

**13.2 Firework Display**, Tuesday 4.11.08. Kylie: "...cone dancers – light cones with dancers inside... benefits of public firework displays – safer, so people don't have their own displays..." Fireworks frighten animals, bats, birds, etc. Many Members would prefer bonfire.

**13.3 Angel Hill War Memorial Remembrance Service**, Sunday 9.11.08, arranged by Mildred Lloyd (Trinity District Residents Association Treasurer).

**13.4 Christmas Tree Lights Switch-on & Carol Service**, Friday 12.12.08, Visitor Centre. Kylie: "ML have planted Christmas tree beside Visitor Centre carpark... tree dressing & switch on of fairy lights... brass band, carol service... mince pies, mulled wine..."

**14. Safety & Security** (see also items 4.4.6, 4.5, 5.2). Suzanne: "...perception of crime... overcome fear of walking in Clough... there used to be 'No entry after dark' notices..." Suggested Mounted Police should regularly ride through Clough. Kylie: "We're pushing for Police Community Support Officer to be based at Visitor Centre... ML security budget... employing individual with dog 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. summer, 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. winter... installed safety lights at Visitor Centre... can't afford dedicated security for Boathouse Café... ML put in bid for monitored CCTV cameras for Boathouse Café & Visitor Centre, linked to city centre cameras... £3k per year per camera... presently no night fishing – perhaps okay night fishing for Boathouse Café security... We're carrying out risk assessment of Lake... ML staff carry Safety Lines..."

**15. BHCCAT website** (boggart.org.uk). Meeting at MDDA, Portland Street, 12.8.08: Paul Limbrick (MDDA Digital Development Officer), Peter. Set up Flickr photo store on website.

**16. Treasurer's report** (see also items 8.1, 11.1, 11.2, 12.2.2). Copies of accounts distributed.

**17. BHCCAT Open Meetings.** AGM took place 11.7.08 at the Visitor Centre. Minutes to be written for 2009 AGM. Next Executive Committee Open Meeting arranged for 11.3.09, 6 p.m., at the Boathouse Café if available, otherwise at the Visitor Centre.