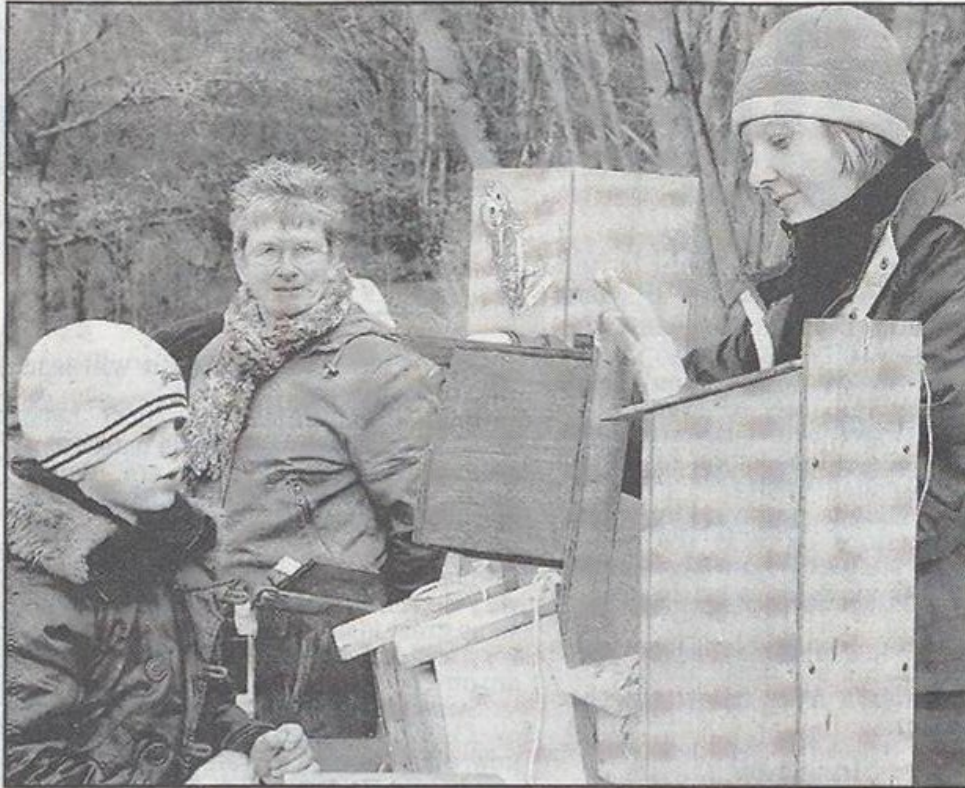


Just wild about wildlife

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Locals busy building bird boxes to attract wildlife to the area

YOUNG carpenters have been bidding to bring more birds into the city's gardens.

As part of this year's 100-day Challenge Manchester, 350 bird boxes are being constructed and put up in residents' gardens, to attract birds to the area.

The first 50 nest boxes were made by young visitors to Manchester Museum, who took part in interactive sessions during February. A further 300 boxes are to be made at various Wildabout events and nature conservation projects, which focus on green issues and sustainable living. Two box building events have already taken place in Blackley, at Boggart Hole Clough and Blackley Forest.

The initiative is aimed at re-introducing traditional British garden birds, such as chaffinches, house sparrows, robins, song-thrushes and starlings, all of which have been in decline in recent years.

Neil Swannick, the council's Executive Member for Planning and Environment, said: "It is very encouraging to see Wildabout Manchester - our biodiversity strategy - in action in this way. We want to conserve, protect and enhance wildlife in the City for current and future generations. The boxes will be going into gardens at the perfect time to encourage birds to nest there, adding a touch of colour and interest as spring approaches."