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Contributions for the next issue by the end of November please!

Contributions are welcomed as e-mail attachments to patricia.francis@bolton.gov.uk, or on disk, in most PC word processing formats (with a second file in rich text format *.rtf) or in typescript from contributors who do not have a PC. Illustrations should, ideally, be produced on A4 paper with a margin of at least 2.5cm all round with 'over-sized' lettering (14pt normal/body text, if typed) to allow for it to be photographically reduced to A5 (approx 70% reduction) and still be readable.

WIGAN & DISTRICT FIELD CLUB 1945 – 2007

Edna Stephenson, 4 Spinney Apartments, College Road, Upholland, WN8 0PY

Way back in 1862 the proposal to set up a Field Naturalist and Scientific Society in Wigan was a novelty. Social life was very different from that of the 20th century, and the few clubs and societies which did exist were generally open to men only. But the study and enjoyment of natural history were in vogue, and the movement to establish Field Clubs, which welcomed ladies as members alongside the men, was gathering momentum. Who better to start such a society in Wigan than the Master of the Mining and Mechanical School, Edward Birkenhead, and his assistant, Ralph Betley? For a few years it enjoyed great popularity, but with increasing difficulty in filling the posts of secretary, treasurer etc, and finding field meeting leaders and new lecturers, the society faded away in 1873.

In 1945, four lecturers at what had by then become Wigan and District Mining and Technical College, housed in a handsome red-brick building in Library Street, while chatting in their lunch breaks, decided that the town needed a natural history society. World War II had recently ended, people were returning from the armed forces and other wartime occupations: the time had come to think about the gentler things of life. It was Dr Elsa Adcock, Head of Biology Department, who set things in motion by placing a notice in the Wigan Observer calling a meeting of all who were interested. This met with a good response: about 50 attended on 21st September 1945 and resolved to set up Wigan and District Field Club.

At first the founders were unaware of the existence of the club's Victorian

counterpart, but soon a link was forged – Mr C Bell, who kept the seed merchant's shop in Market Street, joined the Field Club, and produced a report of the WFN&SS for 1870-72. This had been handed down through the family, from Thomas Bell who had been treasurer of the old society for several years. Subsequent research has uncovered much more information.

The programme of meetings drawn up for the embryo Field Club consisted of lectures and field meetings, with occasional social events. It was all rather academic at first, reflecting the background of the founders, with the first lecture given by Dr J H Orton, Professor of Zoology at Liverpool University, entitled 'The Naturalist and Research, with special reference to the American Slipper Limpet'. Forbidding though it may now sound, it attracted many eager new members on a Saturday afternoon, and although in the college refectory, no refreshments were on offer.

Early coach trips seem to have been hard walking and hard work! At Malham, Roy Millward gave a short lecture on the physical geography of the area and William Lacey spoke on the limestone flora. At Castleton, Arthur Bray explained many geological features. The visit to the Belmont-Darwen area was to study historical geography, again under the leadership of Roy Millward. On each occasion there followed longish walks to see the various features. Another very full day, this time in Cheshire, had visits to a salt works, and a stock farm, then a hill-fort and commonland.

Local sites were not neglected – on the contrary, one of the main purposes of the Field Club was seen as being the study of the natural history of the Wigan area. Frequent visits were made to Wigan Flashes for birds; the woodlands between Standish, Crooke and Shevington for fungi; and Dean Wood, Ashurst Beacon and countryside west of the town mainly for flowers and birds. Further afield, Ainsdale and Eccleston Mere (near St Helens) were favourites. These were of course reached by bus. It was not until the mid 50's that petrol rationing ended, and, with growing prosperity, car ownership slowly increased. Gradually field meeting venues not easily accessible by public transport were introduced into the programme, but bus/train times continued to be given where feasible until 1977.

Membership dipped in the late 50's-early 60's, but the Club managed to avoid the fate of its predecessor, and there was a slow recovery, with meetings continuing much as before. Already a member of the North Western Naturalists' Union, the Club joined the newly-formed Lancashire Naturalists' Trust (now Lancs Wildlife Trust) in 1962-3. It later affiliated to the Council for Nature, which necessitated drawing up a constitution, and the opportunity was taken to introduce a clause 'to encourage and assist the conservation of wildlife, particularly in the Wigan area'.

Action in this respect at club level was mostly low-key – some fundraising events; speakers from LNT. But some individual members played more active roles: Alan Fairhurst served on the Council of LNT, and Dr Adcock led a small group surveying and recording the flora of Wigan Flashes, an area under threat of reclamation in 1970's by an unsympathetic (Wigan)

Council. Thankfully, staff changes brought about a more enlightened attitude, the value of the area was recognised, and now Wigan Flashes is a wardened Local Nature Reserve, indeed part has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Arguably, the mid to late 1970's saw Wigan & District Field Club at its peak. Under the auspices of Wigan Arts Council several public lectures were held in the Linacre Hall: these were well attended and attracted new members. A major Local Natural History Exhibition was organised by the Leisure Department in the Derby Room at Leigh, demanding considerable effort from those members who participated, but was a great success. Shortly after, NWNNU celebrated its Jubilee with an exhibition at Manchester Museum in which we also took part. Membership topped 100, but, like the explosion of Marsh Orchids on many of Wigan's 'post-industrial' sites, with which it was contemporary, gradually declined.

By the end of the next decade, the rate of change in our wider lives started to accelerate – computers and television began to take over; attitudes changed; young adults were no longer interested in joining groups such as ours; retired people often became less inclined to take responsibility for jobs in the club. 'Field meetings' became 'walks'; 'lectures', 'talks'; tea and biscuits took on greater importance. In an attempt to re-emphasise the Club's original aim, to record wildlife in the area, a Recording Group was set up, and for a few years did useful work on lesser-known local sites. Some of its plant records later found their way into the NWNNU-sponsored project to produce a new Flora of South Lancashire.

Since the early days, a Record Book had been kept, containing not only syllabus

cards, accounts, membership lists, newspaper cuttings, and photographs, but also details of field meetings with lists of flora and fauna seen. The lists, while not purporting to be surveys, give a flavour of the wildlife of the period, and hint at some of the changes which have taken place. Four volumes are already deposited in Wigan MBC Archives, and the remaining one will be lodged there also. Interestingly, several (printed) Annual Reports of the predecessor, WFN&SS, are also archived.

As 1995 approached, it was decided to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Field Club by paralleling a number of meetings of the early years, examples being field visits to Dean Wood; Wigan Flashes; the Crooke-Standish woods for fungi; and a geology trip to the old quarries at Clitheroe. One of the year's highlights was a talk 'The Naturalist and Research – 50 years on' by Professor Tony Bradshaw of Liverpool University. No Slipper Limpets this time, but a discussion of the challenges facing conservation in a changing environment. Another special meeting was the visit by Roy Millward, one of the founder-members, who gave a delightful account of some of his travels in the intervening years. It was not difficult to imagine his youthful enthusiasm when leading field trips in the 1940's. Unfortunately Dr Adcock was not well enough to attend any of the Jubilee meetings, but took a keen interest and enjoyed the piece of celebration cake which we took her.

A Jubilee booklet was produced, but disappointingly few current members contributed. In the years which followed it became increasingly difficult to recruit new Committee members – the writing was beginning to appear on the wall. In the new Millennium the Field Club has consisted of

faithful, long-standing members, inevitably growing older and fewer, led by long-serving Officers.

So in January 2007, an Extraordinary General Meeting was called, when it was decided, sadly, that the Club was no longer viable and would close, though not until the end of the year, to allow bookings for speakers to be honoured and affairs wound up in a proper manner.

During the life of the Field Club, major changes have taken place in the natural world, with big declines of many species, whilst others, more adaptable, have thrived. One wonders, with the benefit of hindsight, whether clubs and societies should bear this in mind.

The following have served as Officers for Wigan and District Field Club for ten or more years, some much longer :

Dr Elsa Adcock	Tom Banks
David Clayton	Larry Hughes
Peter Kidger	Ron Lidgard
Joan McMullin	Joyce Riley
Edna Stephenson	Joan White

Beware of Statistics

**Stan Dobson, Moor Edge, Birch Vale,
High Peak, Derbyshire, SK22 1BX**

For the last few years, the High Peak local group of the RSPB has organised an annual garden bird survey. This is not particularly sophisticated: participants are issued with a form showing a list of birds likely to be seen in a typical garden (with blank rows for additional species), and from the beginning of October to the end of May the following year, they are asked to tick off, in the ensuing columns, the birds that they see on a weekly basis. The number of individuals is not recorded, nor are other factors such as weather – it is a simple present/absent indicator.

The table shows two sets of results, List 1 and List 2, covering a selection of species in the period 2005 to 2006 (ignore the third column for the moment). The figures show the number of sightings as a percentage over the survey period.

SPECIES	List 1	List 2	
Blackbird	100	91.8	100
Blackcap	8.6	0.8	25
Blue Tit	100	94.7	100
Chaffinch	100	95.9	100
Dunnock	88.6	58.4	100
Goldfinch	31.4	4.9	75
Great Tit	100	95.1	100
Greenfinch	100	90.6	100
House Sparrow	20.0	5.3	50
Jackdaw	100	95.5	100
Magpie	51.4	11.8	100
Robin	100	80.0	100
Starling	60.0	12.7	87.5
Wren	88.5	42.0	100

All other things being equal, if you were interested in having birds in your garden, which of the two gardens above would you prefer to have? On the face of it, there

seems to be no contest. List 1 appears to show much more birdlife. In fact, the two lists were obtained over the same survey period, by the same observer, me, in the same garden, my own.

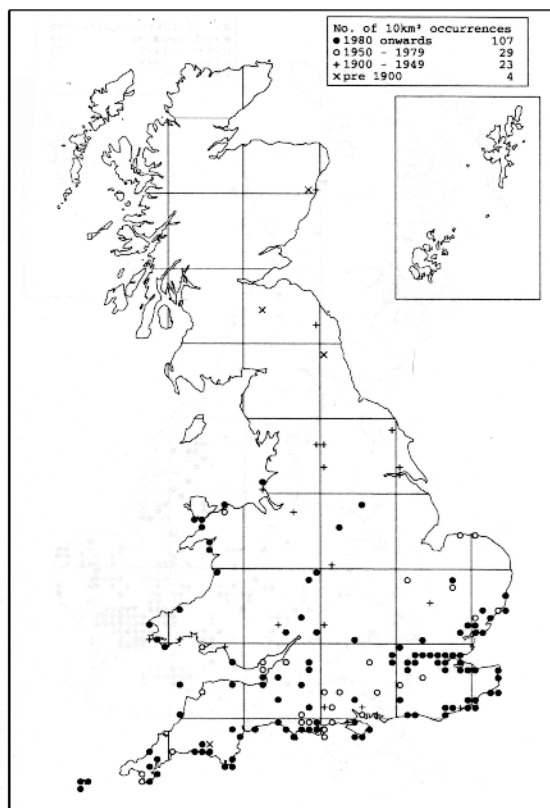
As an experiment, that season I decided to record the birds on a daily basis in addition to the prescribed weekly basis. List 1 is weekly with a percentage of 35 weeks and List 2 is daily with 245 days. This is a simple illustration of how statistics can be massaged to give a desired impression. Had you been buying a house and you asked the estate agent to give you some information about the garden birds, which list would he show you? Actually, he would probably show you the third column which represents the same data on a monthly basis.

Whenever you look at statistical data, it is always as well to find out exactly what the data represent. Had I included woodcock on the lists shown, you would have seen that it occurred 2.9% on List 1 and 0.4% on List 2. Looks as though you may have a chance of seeing one, but this is the result of one individual turning up on a cold day in winter.

There are other ways of manipulating data, such as logarithmic scales and suppressed zeroes, but this is not the place for an exposition of statistical methods. However, it is worth pointing out that confusion can also be caused when considering space rather than time. I was made aware of this recently when I was collecting spiders in the Barnsley area and I came across a crab spider called *Xysticus kochi*. In Lockett and Millidge, 1951, it is described as occurring 'fairly commonly throughout the country'. In Roberts, it is 'widely distributed throughout Britain'. However, I had only ever found it once before, and that in the

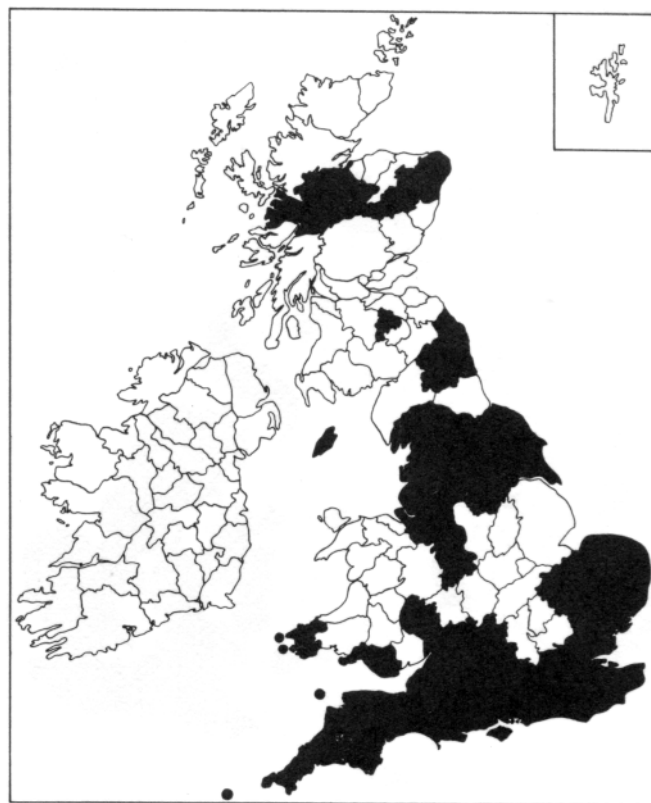
south of England and I had thought that I was either very unlucky, or that my collecting technique left something to be desired. I looked in the 2002 Provisional Atlas to see if there were any other records in south-

west Yorkshire, and got quite a surprise when I saw the distribution map, reproduced in Figure 1, especially when I compared it with the map in Locket and Millidge, 1974, in Figure 2.



[4306] Thomisidae: *Xysticus kochi*

Figure 1



106. *Xysticus kochi* Thorell

Figure 2

These two maps give a totally different impression. Figure 1 is based on 10km. squares and Figure 2 on vice-counties. It would appear that some of the records which were used in Figure 2 have not been accepted in the later map and, apart from the one record on the Lancashire coast, none of the records from further north than Barnsley are post 1979 (and very few before that). The large black areas in the northern counties are the result of probably one record each. I am now not surprised that I have not found this species in these parts before.

The main point that I am making here is that the broad brush approach to visual presentation, vice-counties as compared to

10 km. squares, needs to be interpreted with some caution in the same way that the same approach to statistical data must be. This is not to say that the broad brush approach is of no use. When the vice-county maps were drawn, this was all that was available, but by reducing the recording area, it is obvious that a more accurate picture is obtained.

References.

- Locket, G.H. & Millidge, A.F. 1951. *British Spiders*, volume I. London. Ray Society.
 Locket, G.H., Millidge, A.F. & Merrett, P. 1974. *British Spiders*, volume III. London. Ray Society
 Roberts, M.J. 1995. *Spiders of Britain & Northern Europe*. London. Harper Collins.
 Harvey, P.R, Nellist, D.R. & Telfer, M.G. (eds) 2002. *Provisional atlas of British spiders (Arachnida, Araneae)* Volume 2 Huntingdon: Biological Records Centre.

BAD DIET FOR URBAN FOX CUBS

John Lowell

The car park at Stockport station is sandwiched between the railway line and a mini Las Vegas of pleasure palaces and fast food outlets. Arriving there very late one night last summer I saw a vixen carrying a small white object across the nearly empty car park. I followed her to the far corner, where she had two cubs waiting by a hole in the wire-mesh fence, evidently their bolt-hole onto the railway banking. The object she had brought turned out to be a polystyrene container, and the cubs began to lick and chew at it with enthusiasm. All around the car park corner were remnants of similar polystyrene trays, pizza-boxes and greaseproof paper, licked clean of chip-fat, pizza cheese and hamburger gravy. The quantity was such as to suggest that this was their major food source. Are we going to see the obesity plague spreading to the urban fox population?

Dunham Park & Bridgewater Canal

**Manchester Field Club Report
24 February 2007**

**Audrey Locksley, 8 Kirklands, Sale,
Cheshire, M33 3SG**

Large areas of land in Cheshire, belonging to the stately homes, have been kept undeveloped and so are now there for the recreation of the present-day peasants. Dunham Park is owned by the National trust. Entry to the parkland is free but a fee is charged for the house and garden where there is a large mulberry tree. Our group of

nine strolled along past the roe deer reserves looking at mosses on fallen logs and trunks, left for the varied beetle population and special fungi. Drumming woodpeckers were heard and coot and moorhen scooted on the moat and ponds. The weather improved and lunch was taken on the picnic benches near the car park – no picnics allowed in the park.

A small woodland parallel to the canal was the next site visited. A stunted but well branched oak was home to a wonderful array of epiphytic mosses and liverworts – *Orthotrichum affine*, *Ulota sp.*, *Frullania dilatata*, *Metzgeria furcata*, *Radula complanata*, the last bearing loads of gemmae. Back to the road and up to the canal path leading to Little Bollington – not much plant variety here. Dropping back onto a lane going under the canal were patches of snowdrops on banks, wayside and field, probably all planted. The River Bollin was in spate and was crossed at the mill site, now, no surprise, luxury apartments. A short walk took us back to the park.

Chronology:

1066 Saxon thane Alfwald

1070 Norman baron Hamon de Massey.
No Saxons left after general slaughter

1086 Domesday Book Dunham worth
10s. Hamon built a motte & bailey castle

1288 the fifth Hamon de Massey had to
find five knights' fees for the Earl of
Chester

The Black death

16th century - Deer Parks were created by
the wealthier lords

William Booth Earl of Warrington owner;
later Earl of Stamford

1765 The Bridgewater Canal

1976 Estate bequeathed to National Trust.

A NOTE ABOUT PACKED LUNCHES

**Stan Dobson, Moor Edge, Birch Vale,
High Peak, Derbyshire, SK22 1BX**

Like, I imagine, most members of the North Western Naturalists' Union, when I go on a field trip, I take something for my lunch. On browsing through Mrs Beeton's book recently, I realised that I had been doing it all wrong, and, so that you don't make the same dreadful mistakes which I have done, I am setting out her advice below. Admittedly, this is for forty people, so you may have to scale it down a little.

BILL OF FARE FOR A PICNIC FOR 40 PERSONS.

2149. A joint of cold roast beef, a joint of cold boiled beef, 2 ribs of lamb, 2 shoulders of lamb, 4 roast fowls, 2 roast ducks, 1 ham, 1 tongue, 2 veal-and-ham pies, 2 pigeon pies, 6 medium-sized lobsters, 1 piece of collared calf's head, 18 lettuces, 6 baskets of salad, 6 cucumbers.

2150. Stewed fruit well sweetened, and put into glass bottles well corked ; 3 or 4 dozen plain pastry biscuits to eat with the stewed fruit, 2 dozen fruit turnovers, 4 dozen cheesecakes, 2 cold cabinet puddings in moulds, 2 blancmanges in moulds, a few jam puffs, 1 large cold plum-pudding (this must be good), a few baskets of fresh fruit, 3 dozen plain biscuits, a. piece of cheese, 6 lbs. of butter (this, of course, includes the butter for tea), 4 quartern loaves of household bread, 3 dozen rolls, 6 loaves of tin bread (for tea), 2 plain plum cakes, 2 pound cakes, 2 sponge cakes, a tin of mixed biscuits, ½ lb. of tea. Coffee is not suitable for a picnic, being difficult to make.

Things not to be forgotten at a Picnic.

2151. A stick of horseradish, a bottle of mint-sauce well corked, a bottle of salad dressing, a bottle of vinegar, made mustard, pepper, salt, good oil, and pounded sugar. If it can be managed, take a little ice. It is scarcely necessary to say that plates, tumblers, wine-glasses, knives, forks, and spoons, must not be forgotten; as also teacups and saucers, 3 or 4 teapots, some lump sugar, and milk, if this last-named article cannot be found in the neighbourhood. Take 3 corkscrews.

2152 Beverages.—3 dozen quart bottles of ale, packed in hampers; ginger-beer, soda-water, and lemonade, of each 2 dozen bottles ; 6 bottles of sherry, 6 bottles of claret, champagne a discretion, and any other light wine that may be preferred, and 2 bottles of brandy. Water can usually be obtained so it is useless to take it.

(I must confess that I keep forgetting the horseradish).

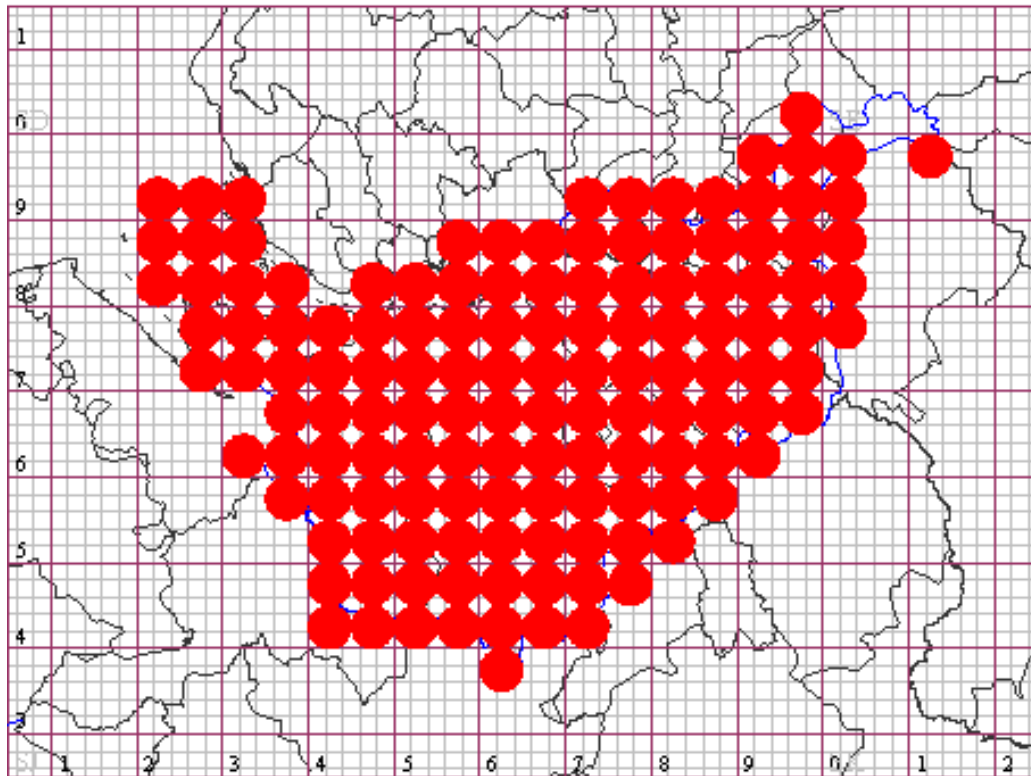
BRAMBLE RECORDING IN CHESHIRE AND ALONG THE CHESHIRE BORDERS 2006 – 2007

**Dave Earl, 2A Ash Street, Southport,
PR8 6JH**

The main focus of recording activity by Dave and Joyce Earl for 2006 and 2007 has been within the Watsonian vice-county of Cheshire vc58. All records have been made at 1km level. Additional records held in the Flora of Cheshire (A Newton 1971) and the Supplement to the Flora of Cheshire (A Newton 1990) are also being added to the Mapmate programme.

The objective of ensuring that all the suitable Cheshire 5km x 5km squares were visited on at least one occasion has now been achieved. This is clearly shown by the map of *Rubus tuberculatus* produced from Mapmate and presented below from which it can be seen that this species is only absent from the higher ground such as along the upper Goyt Valley and from Longendale.

Rubus tuberculatus



Note the Cheshire record at Woodhead SK19NW where several bramble species have arrived via the former railway, now the Trans-Pennine Trail on the Derbyshire side of the River Etherow.

<i>Rubus warrenii</i>	Woodhead vc57 (SK1199)
<i>Rubus conjugens?</i>	Woodhead vc57 (SK1199)
<i>Rubus sprengelii</i>	Woodhead vc57 (SK1199)
<i>Rubus vestitus</i>	Woodhead vc57 (SK1199)
<i>Rubus newbouldii</i>	Woodhead vc57 (SK1199)
<i>Rubus vestitus</i>	Woodhead vc57 (SK1099)
<i>Rubus sprengelii</i>	Woodhead vc57 (SK1099)
<i>Rubus tuberculatus</i>	Woodhead vc57 (SK1099)
<i>Rubus dasyphyllus</i>	Woodhead vc57 (SK1099)

The exploration of the boundary zones of Cheshire has proved to be very productive indeed.

Working round from the Wirral I was able to confirm a second Cheshire outlier for *R. griffithianus* in a wood at Pensby SJ2683. It was also found that the undescribed Miner's Bramble, frequent on the coal measures about Leigh in Lancashire and Buckley

in Flintshire is also a feature of a few woodlands on the Wirral and to the south of Chester. A most outstanding find along the shaded old Roman Road to the north of Storeton SJ3085 was *R. subinermoides* (conf. Alan Newton) some distance from the main populations in South Eastern England.

Along wood borders at Belgrave SJ3761 *R. murrayi* was found at a new northern limit. Another wood border to the east of Bruera SJ4460 provided first records for *R. ordovicum* and *R. surrejanus* as well as *R. pallidus* in abundance – a second vice county record.

Also in the Chester area further populations of *R. winteri* have been found and extend from Stretton SJ4452 to Ellesmere Port SJ4176 with additional records from the Buckley and Harwarden districts of Flintshire.

In the Peckforton Hills district a visit was made to Fuller's Moor SJ4954 where ES Edees collected a bramble determined as the local endemic *R. wolley-dodii* during 1963 and 1967. It is thought that the 'Fuller's Moor wolley-dodii' was collected during 2007 and further studies will be carried out to see if the voucher specimens are conspecific with type material.

A predominately Welsh species of bramble *R. fuscicortex* was collected from No Man's Heath by Wolley-Dod in 1903. The area was explored by Alan Newton in 1982 but unfortunately no plants were found. A small population has now eventually been confirmed from a wood border just within vc58 at Bell o' th' Hill SJ5244 to the north of Whitchurch. Also in this area was a surprise find near Marbury SJ5744 of *R. distractiformis*. A

search of the local area led to the discovery of a small population of this species along a wood border near Hollyhurst just within Shropshire vc40. To celebrate this find, a photograph of *R. leightonii* was taken at nearby Black Park in honour of the great Shropshire botanist Rev. Leighton (see British-Wild-Flowers.co.uk).

Moving round to Crewe Hall Woods SJ7453 we were very pleased indeed to find a few plants of what is thought to be *R. daltrii*. If correct this will be the first record outside of the nearby Hanchurch Hills district of Staffordshire.

An exploration of a lane adjoining the M6 at Rudheath SJ7469 & SJ7470 provided two new 10km records for *R. questieri*. Other results for Central and Southern Cheshire include several new sites for *R. adpersus* and the recently described *R. hindii*.

On reaching the borders to the east of Congleton plants of *R. adpersus* were eventually found just with Staffordshire on a lane at Bridestones SJ9062. A good population of *R. rubriflorus* was discovered along the A527 north of Biddulph SJ8860 vc39, whilst a plant thought to be *R. silurum* was found in a hedgerow beneath The Cloud SJ9063 vc58. The moorland lane hedgerow habitat is very characteristic of *R. silurum* in the Welsh strongholds and along the Lune Valley catchment area in vc60 and vc64.

R. rubristylus was found along wood borders at Dane Bridge SJ9664 and surprises from Wildboardclough SJ9869 included *R. nemorosus* and *R. rubriflorus*. Plants of a bramble with might be conspecific with the Staffordshire *R. turritus* where found in woods along

Clough Brook at Lower Nabbs SJ9767 & SJ9768. Also at Lower Nabbs was a plant of the local endemic Alderley Edge Bramble. A small population of the Alderley Edge Bramble was found further to the south along the railway at Cheddleton SJ9851 vc39 in 2006. As the distribution of this undescribed bramble extends as far north as Aston-under-Lyne vc59 SJ9398 and is known from three vice counties this species merits specific rank.

A visit to the Goyt Valley about Whaley Bridge also proved productive. Here the less hirsute form of *R. painteri* (frequent on the hills above Bolton) appears to have been found just with Derbyshire. Also of note for vc57 was *R. nemorosus* about the Whaley Bridge mills which surprising has not be previously recorded from Derbyshire.

Clearly *Rubus* recording in Cheshire and across the boundaries has been most productive during 2006 and 2007. At the time of writing there remained an estimated 109 tetrads with no records for common species such as *Rubus tuberculatus*. It is intended that during 2008 visits will be made to many if not all of these tetrads. A paper outlining the progress with *Rubus* recording at the 5km x 5km level is in preparation.

Finally I have also carried out a fair amount of photography of *Rubus* species over the last two years in the North West of England and in North Wales in order to aid *Rubus* identification. The results are presented on John Somerville's website British-Wild-Flowers.co.uk I am steadily adding associated species accounts and hope to make a lot of progress with these accounts over the winter months of 2007-2008.

NWNU A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 2.00 p.m. in the Group Room, Clore Natural History Centre, World Museum, Liverpool on Saturday 8 March 2008.

The meeting will be followed by a talk entitled '**Bessie's Country Diary; The Extraordinary Life of a Stretford Lady**' by Margaret McCormick.

Members might like to note that a talk for Liverpool Botanical Society by Peter Gateley entitled: '**British Arctic-Alpine Plants... catch them while we still have them?**' will be held in the Clore Natural History Centre at the museum at 11.00 a.m. on that day. All are welcome to attend the talk.

The agenda for the NWNU AGM will include the proposal that the rule setting out the arrangements for Annual General Meetings be changed from:

*An Annual General Meeting of the Union shall be held in such place as may be appropriate on **the first or second** Saturday in March, and the place and date of the next A.G.M. shall be decided immediately after the preceding A.G.M. and publicised in the following newsletter. Reports by the General and Section Secretaries shall be submitted, the audited Treasurer's Accounts presented, the Executive Committee elected and any other business conducted.*

to

*An Annual General Meeting of the Union shall be held in such place as may be appropriate on **a** Saturday in March, and the place and date of the next A.G.M. shall be decided immediately after the preceding A.G.M. and publicised in the following newsletter. Reports by the General and Section Secretaries shall be submitted, the audited Treasurer's Accounts presented, the Executive Committee elected and any other business conducted.*

SOCIETY DIARY

ACCRINGTON NATURALISTS' AND ANTIQUARIANS' SOCIETY

Meetings start at 2.30 pm at Antley Methodists' Church Hall, Blackburn Road, Accrington. Non-members welcome - £1.00 minimum lecture fee.

Sunday 11 November : From Malham to Monte Baldo – Geology and Flora of Limestone

Dr. Mike Gosling

Sunday 25 November : The Eden Valley

Margaret Curry

Sunday 9 December : Shearwater Summers

Jo Moran

Sunday 6 January 2008 Members slides & Exhibits

followed by afternoon tea

Sunday 20 January A Bavarian Miscellany

Keith Bottom

Sunday 3 February : Reef & Rainforest – Wildlife & Scenery of the Gold Coast of Australia

David Cummings

Sunday 17 February : The Work of the Rochdale Hedgehog Rescue

Sue Lewis

Sunday 2 March : Remote Scottish Islands in a Small Boat

Steve Halliwell

Sunday 16 March : Chester Zoo - A Force in Conservation Worldwide

Sarah Bird

Sunday 30 March : Annual General Meeting

Refreshments slides and exhibits welcome

BOLTON FIELD NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

Meetings before Christmas will be held in the Dido Suite, Albert Halls Complex, Civic Centre, Bolton commencing 7.30pm.

Please note that meetings after Christmas will be in the Central Library Lecture Theatre, Bolton starting at 1.30pm. Non-members welcome - £1.50 admission

Monday 3 December : Puzzles and Pies – Christmas Social

Eric & Joan Wright

Monday 14 January : Natural History of the Yorkshire Dales

Malcolm Edmunds

Monday 11 February : Insect Conservation

Steve Garland

Monday 10 March : The Countryside in Spring

Brian Barnes

Monday 7 April : A Taste of Islay

Gordon Yates

CHEADLE HULME & BRAMHALL NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Indoor meetings are held in St. Michael's Church Hall, St. Michael's Avenue, Bramhall, Stockport at 7.30pm unless otherwise indicated

Thursday 15 November : Understanding the Weather

Illustrated lecture by Philip Scragg

Thursday 13 December : The Cairngorms: Britain's Arctic Wilderness

Illustrated lecture by Gillian Pierce

Thursday 17 January 2008 : Cave Formation in NW England

Illustrated lecture by Paul Hindle

Thursday 21 February : The Work of the Woodland Trust

Illustrated lecture by Andrew Bonehill

Thursday 20 March : Marine Sponges

Illustrated lecture by David Moss

Thursday 17 April : Medicinal & Culinary Uses of Herbs & Flowers

Illustrated lecture by Brian Barnes

Thursday 15 May : Cheese & Wine Social Evening

CHESHIRE MOTH GROUP

All meetings at the Frodsham Community Centre.

Tuesday 16 October : Review of the 2007 season - Lepidoptera

Tuesday 20 November : Review of the 2007 season – other orders

Tuesday 18 December : Photographic slides and Christmas Social

Refreshments provided by members.

FYLDE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

Lectures are usually fortnightly from September to March and start at 7.30 pm at the Fylde Coast Alive Church Hall, Raikes Parade, Blackpool at a charge of £1.00 per person.

ALTRINCHAM AND DISTRICT NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Tuesday November 13 : Down on the farm

Illustrated lecture by Charles Owen

Tuesday November 27 : Wild swans in Lancashire

Illustrated lecture by Charles Ligget

Tuesday December 11 : Iceland; birds of fire and ice

Film Show with Gordon Yates

Saturday 15 December : Marbury walk and pub lunch

Details from Committee

Tuesday January 8 2008 : Namibia - at last!

Illustrated lecture by Mike Pettipher

Tuesday January 15 : New Year dinner

To celebrate 100 years of Altrincham & District Natural History Society

Venue to be announced. Details from the committee

Tuesday January 22 : *Phil Newton Memorial Lecture* History of trees

with Andrew Bonehill

Tuesday February 12 : Margaret Mee; botanist and explorer

Illustrated lecture by John Churchman

Tuesday February 26 : Curiouser and curiouser

Illustrated lecture by Margaret Curry

Tuesday March 4 : Social Supper and bring & buy

Details from Committee. Limited Numbers

Tuesday March 11 : Diving round Scotland

Illustrated lecture by David Moss

Tuesday March 25 : *Annual General Meeting*

With a short slide show to conclude the evening. Exhibits of natural history are welcome

Supplementary Spring/Summer programme Will be available at this meeting.

Saturday April 5 : Ploughman's Lunch

Details from Committee

Tuesday April 8 : All about Bats

Illustrated lecture by Martin James

Tuesday April 22 : History of the Green Man

Illustrated lecture by well-known TV personality Mark Olly

Tuesday May 13 : Jacksons Brickworks - before and after

Illustrated lecture by Pat Hilton

Saturday June 28 : Hutton Roof Crag, Burton in Kendal

9.30 a.m. Full Day excursion for Orchids & Limestone Plants

Contact: 0161-865-0118

Saturday July 19 : Millers Dale for carboniferous limestone flowers

9.30 a.m. Full Day excursion : Contact: 0161-980-8645

Tuesday July 22 : Annual Barbecue

Details from Committee

Tuesday September 23 : The first indoor meeting commences

LIVERPOOL BOTANICAL SOCIETY

Indoor meetings will be held at the Clore Natural History Centre, World Museum Liverpool, William Brown Street.

Members are advised to check with meeting leaders or Wendy Atkinson for further information regarding field trips, and the possibility of car sharing for the Downham and Bowland meetings. Please wear suitable footwear and waterproof clothing for meetings and bring a packed lunch.

Saturday 10 November: Holiday Exhibits, slides, Photos, Specimens etc.

Members are urged to bring along specimens of interest.

Botanical accounts from near and far welcome

Saturday 8 December: A Celebration of Trees

David Bryant

Saturday 12 January 2008: Plants of an Ancient Continent

Joan Vincent

Saturday 9 February: Annual General Meeting

Followed by a resume of the 2007 field meetings, slides, photos, exhibits etc.

Saturday 8 March: British Arctic-Alpine Plants... catch them while we still have them?

Peter Gateley

NORTHWESTERN NATURALISTS' UNION - BRYOPHYTE AND LICHENS SECTION

All meetings on Saturdays, starting at 10.30 am (except 12 May, 11 am). Bring food and clothing adequate for a full day in rough country and bad weather. Please check with section secretary a day or so before the meeting, in case of cancellation or changes.

"Beginners" are welcome any ANY meeting.

Saturday November 10 : Easden Clough

Meet at minor road junction SD853.277

Leader John Lowell

Saturday December 15 : Strinesdale

SD 955063

Leaders Alan & Norman Bamforth

Saturday 12 January 2008 : Meeting to plan 2008 field trips.

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