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**Contributions for the next issue by the end of March please!**

Contributions are welcomed on disk in most PC word processing formats (preferably with a second file in rich text format \*.rtf) or in typescript from contributors who do not use a PC. Illustrations should, ideally, be produced on A4 paper with a margin of at least 2.5cm all round with 'oversized' lettering to allow for it to be photographically reduced to A5 (approx 70% reduction) and still be readable

## SOCIETY NEWS

### Moth Recording in Cheshire

Steve J. McWilliam

Since taking over the post of County Recorder for Macro-moths from Ian Rutherford at the end of 1998 things have been relatively quiet. Very few records of moths have been received and I feel that, following the publication of Ian's book *The Macro Moths of Cheshire - 1961 To 1993*, most of the moth workers in the Cheshire Region (vice-county Cheshire and modern county Cheshire) think that everything is completed and that there is no further work to do.

This is most definitely NOT the case. Over the next ten years or so I would very much like to update and extend Ian's work on the Macro-moths and to produce accurate distribution maps for all species recorded in the Cheshire Region. However, to accomplish this I need the assistance and co-operation of all the moth workers in the area and also those recorders working in other groups who make casual moth observations. PLEASE send me your moth records both recent and historic - I need them all. As to what data is required - I would be over the moon if everyone could send information with the following items:

- Place (Name of site be it a woodland, or even a back-garden);
- OS Grid Reference for the site (I can help to work this out if people don't know how to do it for themselves);

- Date (the date the moth was seen or the date the moth-trap was put out);
- the name of the species seen/observed;
- the name and contact details of the observer (obviously this need only be provided once with each batch of records assuming that the records are all observations made by the one individual).

The above is the minimum requirement. Other data can be very useful and if it can be provided then I will be even happier. These items can be:

- numbers,
- numbers of each sex,
- trapping method (e.g. mercury vapour moth-trap, actinic moth-trap, sugared, beaten larvae, etc.),
- egg-laying,
- in cop (mating)
- etc. etc.

Please help and send in your records if you can. We need to re-vitalise the recording of moths in the Cheshire Region (Cheshire, Wirral, Stockport and Tameside, Halton and Warrington) especially as more and more ex-birdwatchers seem to be moving to moths as their next interest.

Many thanks.

Steve J. McWilliam, Cheshire County  
Macro-moth Recorder  
4 Priory Close, Halton, Runcorn,  
Cheshire, WA7 2BN  
Tel.: 01928 573697  
stevemc@consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk

## Lack of Recorders?

Steve J. McWilliam

Entomology is an extremely large subject with over 30,000 species to cover in this country alone. This tends to lead to specialisation in one or two groups of animals in order to allow one to build up expertise and knowledge concerning their biology and identity. However, in the North West this has resulted for many years now in a dearth of people specialising in the groups which do not seem to capture the imagination (or perhaps those which are a little more difficult). For example: we seem to be seeing an increase in the number of people working in macro-moths (Lepidoptera) but virtually no-one working with beetles (Coleoptera).

I would like to try to persuade some of the readers of this Newsletter to take up some of the invertebrate groups other than Moths and Butterflies - particularly as there are now some very good books available and more are on the way. For example the *Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica* series (written in English) provides excellent keys and biological information regarding the Ground Beetles (Carabidea) and this provides a superb starting area for anyone interested (even slightly) in these amazing creatures. The new *Larger Brachycera* (Diptera (Flies)) book by Alan Stubbs is due out very soon and of course his tome on *British Hoverflies* has been out for a number of years - an absolutely superb and very much

recommended way of beginning to get into the flies.

Should anyone require a small bibliography of available books for getting started in these invertebrate groups perhaps I could be persuaded to produce such a list for this Newsletter in the future. In the meantime do try to have a go at a few of the easier groups and why not come along to the Lancashire & Cheshire Entomological Society meetings at Frodsham Community Centre in the north of Cheshire - please see the Calendar entries for the LCES in this Newsletter.

## Halton Biodiversity Audit

Steve J. McWilliam

During 1999 Halton Borough Council undertook a project to audit the wildlife and habitat holdings within the new Unitary Authority. Due to this audit a large number of sites have been proposed as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and over 30,000 new biological records (mainly botanical and entomological) have been generated for the Borough. A definite move forward in understanding the natural history of what has, historically, been a very under-recorded area.

For further information on the Audit please take a look at the developing web-site (which will be moved to Halton Borough Council in the future) currently at:

<http://www.consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk/hbc/>

and/or contact Halton's Nature Conservation Officer: Mr Paul Oldfield either on email at Paul.Oldfield@halton-borough.gov.uk or by 'phone at 0151 424 2061 Ext. 3117.

### **The Bluebell Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)**

#### **Julia Hancell**

The second meeting of the Bluebell Biodiversity Action Plan Group took place on the 18th October 1999; the third meeting is due to take place on the 7th February 2000. It became obvious at the second meeting that, due to the funding from Mersey Forest and Landlife, the Merseyside, Halton and Warrington areas were paying attention to the preservation of bluebells. It would appear that the remainder of Cheshire is not so well catered for and funding is to be sought. Can anyone give me information regarding bluebell action plans or funding in Lancashire and the rest of the North West.

Should anyone be interested in attending the Bluebell BAP meetings could they please contact me at:

4 Priory Close, Halton, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2BN  
Tel.: 01928 573697  
julia@consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk

### **Warrington Nature Conservation Forum**

#### **Steve J. McWilliam**

Warrington has recently, within the last two years, formed the Warrington Nature Conservation Forum (WNCf).

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This forum is extremely active in promoting nature conservation within the Unitary Authority area and during the last year has developed a number of biological surveys implemented through involvement with the general public. These surveys were based on paper forms provided to schools and in libraries and other outlets, as well as online via their own web-site:

<http://www.consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk/wncf/>

For those wishing to become involved with the Forum and to make their views on nature in the area known either visit the web-site mentioned above and email David Bell (Warrington's Nature Conservation Officer); email David direct for further information on DBell@warrington.gov.uk, give him a ring on 01925 442837, or come along to the next WNCf meeting at [Venue to be arranged] on 19th February 2000.

### **Local Record Centre**

#### **Steve J. McWilliam**

Some people may know that I have been campaigning for the setting up of a Local Record Centre to collate ALL biological records in the North West area for a number of years (just seems like a lifetime). The developing National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Project allowed me to apply for Cheshire to become a Pilot Local Record Centre within its remit about 18 months, or so, ago.

During this 18 month period a con-

sortium of bodies and individuals has been working with a Local Record Centre Support person (Liz Halliwell) to attempt to bring a Record Centre to fruition. It now looks as though our efforts are going to be rewarded. The Local Record Centre will be called "rECOrd" (note the ECO in the middle) and should struggle to its feet early in 2000. There will be lots of work to do in formulating relationships with data providers (naturalists) and users (also naturalists but also including a much wider strata of potential requirements).

For the last 5 years I have been using English Nature's Recorder package to store both my own entomological data and also data from a number of other naturalists (mainly entomological but including botanists, bryologists, ornithologists, etc.). The data in this database will, I think, be used as the start-up basis for the Record Centre. Currently I have in excess of 189,000 records on the database and have two satellite users with another 17,000 records; and I feel that by the time the Record Centre is ready to receive the data there will be in excess of 250,000 records to be passed across. BUT, this is only a tiny fraction of the historic and recent records which are locked up in naturalist's notebooks and databases. We will be hoping that you will be able to come on board this project and allow your data to be used for the benefit of wildlife and people alike.

Formally, these agreements between naturalists and the Record Centre will

take place once the Centre is up and running. However, should anyone wish to begin to pass their data across for keying before the Centre is ready I will be happy to receive it for entry to the database.

For information on recording, the Recorder software and the need for biological data to support correct decision making in planning and site management please contact me at:

4 Priory Close, Halton, Runcorn,  
Cheshire, WA7 2BN,  
Tel.: 01928 573697,  
email: see p2

Further information may be found on the NBN web-site at:  
<http://www.nbn.org.uk/>

### **Recorder-2000**

**Steve J. McWilliam**

Many naturalists, or even most naturalists, record what they observe and for hundreds of years these observations have been laboriously entered into notebooks, many of which have provided the basis for reports, theses, and other publications (e.g. Gilbert White's - *Natural History of Selborne*).

The past 10 years or so has seen a move amongst some naturalists to enter the observation data onto computer. Why? To enable filtered extractions to be swiftly made for reports and species lists, to allow mapping to be undertaken by machine rather than by hand, to simplify and speed up all data management

tasks, etc. Unfortunately, many of these databases have been home-brewed which has resulted in vast amounts of data being held by individuals which cannot be shared with other database users due to inherent incompatibilities in the systems

English Nature produced a package called Recorder in the late 1980's in an attempt to bring some standardisation to recording in Britain but though over 700 copies of this are in use it didn't take off amongst many naturalists as they perceived that it was difficult to use (it wasn't) and the fact that it was not Windows based put off a lot of people.

Recorder-2000, a redevelopment under the Windows platform, is just about finished - it will be released to JNCC this month (December 1999). Actual general release to naturalists, local record centres, county recorders, national scheme organisers and the public will not be until June 2000. This redevelopment has been publicly demonstrated (November 1999) at the NHM in London and it appears to be a superb package with many advanced facilities and mechanisms for maintaining and updating information both locally and over the Internet. Data transference and information sharing facilities have been deliberately built in to the software. NOW is the time for naturalists to be able to make maximum use of their data and to share information to assist each other in their researches.

JNCC are hoping to keep the price of

Recorder-2000 commensurate with the current Recorder at about £70. This is a superb price as if they sold it to recoup their costs of development and uptake was the same as the current package they would have had to charge £750 - a definite and most welcome subsidising effort from JNCC.

A Beta test disk (CD) for all those wishing to be involved in testing the product before its general release is (I believe) obtainable from JNCC. Contact: Eva Leck, Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough, PE1 1JY  
Tel.: 01733 562626  
email: Leck\_E@jncc.gov.uk

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## RUBUS REPORT AUTUMN 1999

**David Earl, The Herbarium, Manchester Museum, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL**

We are fortunate that the study of brambles (batology) has been a subject that has been enthusiastically pursued within the vice counties of north western England. Intensive studies have been carried out by E.S. Edees in Staffordshire, A. Newton in Cheshire, E.F. Greenwood, Livermore & Livermore in VC60 and G. Halliday in VC 69 & 70.

Encouraged by Savidge's comments in Travis's Flora I began a *Rubus* tetrad survey covering north

Cheshire, Merseyside, Gt. Manchester, and Lancashire in 1991. This project was finally completed in 1999. The survey has produced numerous new vice-county records and several undescribed species have been found to have extensive distributions and therefore merit specific description.

Further work during 1999 has shown that the distributions of *Rubus silurum* (Ley) Ley, *R. wirralensis* Newton and an undescribed corylifolios species of the Lune valley extend to the Clapham district of VC64 highlighting the fact that the low lying ground between Bentham and Keighley requires further exploration.

It should be noted that several studies of the genus *Rubus* were carried out by local botanists in the past especially during the 19th Century. Records are normally supported by specimens which can be traced back as far as the 1820's. This is a factor that must always be taken into account and it is essential that reference is continually made to museum collections in order to acknowledge the activities of previous workers in this field. Such research invariably demonstrates that many of the regions undescribed species are represented by herbarium specimens. Key locations for such specimens are Liverpool and Manchester museums.

*Rubus* collections within the region which have been critically determined and arranged in taxonomic order are held at Bolton, Liverpool and Manchester museums and Lancaster

University. The vast majority of the determinations at Liverpool and Manchester were carried out by Alan Newton during the 1970's. Recently the details of the British *Rubus* collection at Liverpool were placed on a database by M. Palmer and presented as a publication in 1994. A modification of the database file was subsequently used as the framework on which to enter the local field data collected between 1991-99.

During the 1990's the collection of *Rubus* specimens at Bolton museum were determined and later placed into Kent order with the assistance of Eric Kearns. Numerous *Rubus* specimens were donated to the museum including many first vice county records discovered whilst conducting local field work. In addition specimens were collected and exchanged in association with many of Britain's leading botanologists with the result that Bolton Museum now has one of the most comprehensive museum collections of British *Rubus* species in the country. The details of the vast majority of the specimens have been entered onto a Modes Plus database at the museum.

Significant progress has also been made at Manchester museum. The British *Rubus* collection was rearranged from Dandy to Kent/vice-county/date order by D.P. Earl and J. Buckley-Earl in 1998. In addition an intensive survey of the *Rubus* flora of Alderley Edge was carried out during 1998 for the Manchester Museum Alderley Edge project. This produced

several discoveries including new locations for *R. adspersus* Weihe ex H.E. Weber, *R. intensior* Eedes, the recently described species *R. hindii* A.L. Bull and a new southern limit for the Manchester bramble. Two specialities of the area The Alderley Edge bramble and Bailey's bramble were photographed by Sean Edwards and exhibited at the museum.

Work has now begun on the cataloguing of the *Rubus* collections held at Manchester which are now conveniently housed in elegant solander boxes. This project will take some time to complete as the museum *Rubus* collections are extensive.

With the Millennium approaching, 55 *Rubus* samples from the region were collected from several Wildlife Trust reserves, Country Parks and parks for the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew Millennium seed bank project. At least one member of each *Rubus* section and series has so far been collected including plants of *Rubus angloserpens* Eedes & Newton from Billinge Hill, Blackburn.

It is intended that botanical research will be undertaken at Oldham and Warrington Museums this winter. Several of the Lancashire artisan botanists are known to have collected bramble specimens and Warrington's champion bryologist W. Wilson was also known to use the secateurs from time to time.

The results of any further studies will be highlighted in future editions of the *Rubus* report.

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## BOOK REVIEW

### *Flora of County Dublin.*

Declan Doogue et al.  
Dublin Naturalists' Field Club.  
35 Nutley Park, Dublin 4  
566pp plus folding colour map  
IR£25 hb 0-9530057-0-1.

To mark the centenary of the DNFC in 1986 the club decided to produce a Flora of County Dublin and this volume is the result. The authors and their many helpers have done their organisation proud as the book is a magnificent publication.

Nathaniel Colgan (1851-1919) was the author of a comprehensive flora of the county in 1904; (supplement in 1961). However Dublin has undergone many changes since the early years of the century and especially since the 1960s and there was an obvious need to bring the information up to date. The authors believe that they have produced a base line against which any changes in the flora through further urbanisation and alterations in the agricultural practices etc can be measured. They hope that planners, elected representatives and other citizens will become more sensitive to the value of the existing flora and the particular habitats that the region supports.

In Part 1, after an account of the topography, climate and geology of the county and a note on the history of the study of the flora there are descriptions of the botanical districts into which the county is divided and



accounts of habitats encountered, with colour photographs.

Part 2 contains a systematic list of the plants, there are maps for about 200 selected species and also notes from Colgan and earlier works. In addition there is a list of casual plants and aliens. Finally there is an annotated bibliography, a topographical index and an index of scientific and common names.

In all, this is quite a remarkable production and a very handsome volume too.

**E.P. McCann**

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## INTERESTING FINDS

### The Moss *Octodicerias fontanum* in the Ashton Canal

**Dave Earl, The Herbarium, Manchester Museum, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL**

*Octodicerias fontanum* was reported to occur in an overflow channel of the Ashton Canal by J.C. Wilson in 1912 in the account entitled New and rare mosses in Lancashire - *The Lancashire Naturalist* 5.

During the Manchester Field Club meeting held on 4th September 1999 at Guide Bridge, Ashton plants of *Octodicerias fontanum* were once again to be found along the canal by D.P. Earl and J. Lowell. Here the moss grows in relative abundance along the watermark on the canal towpath stones of the Ashton canal in VC59 and the Peak Forest canal in

VC58. Bearing in mind J.C. Wilson's earlier observations it seems probable that populations of *Octodicerias* may have been present along the canals in the Ashton district for a considerable period of time and it is possible that further populations of *Octodicerias* may await discovery along other sections of the Manchester canal systems.

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## PHIL NEWTON'S SLIDE COLLECTION

**Elizabeth Blackman**

Phil Newton was a Timperley Naturalist who died in January 1999 in his eighties. He was secretary of the Altrincham and District Natural History Society for forty years, a founder member of the Cheshire Wildlife Trust, and a member of many other natural history societies. He will have been known to many of the older generation of naturalists in the North West.

Phil's collection of slide and print photographs was intended to be left to Manchester Museum. As the Museum could not take them The Cheshire Wildlife Trust accepted them. I am provisionally housing the slides and prints. The Reserves and Technical Committee has agreed, in a response to a request from the North Group Committee, that for the time being they can be kept in the area where Phil lived and worked.

There are eight thousand or so slides, which I am trying to sort. They are numbered serially and most are labelled but a break-in at Phil's house

whilst he was in hospital before his death has left them somewhat jumbled. The present basis of my sorting, which follows Phil's own arrangement, is into subject areas and then either alphabetically or by number. The full listing of the slides would be a massive task. I have only done this so far, and on paper, for the Fungi, at the request of Margaret McCormick. Julia Hancell has offered to transfer this first hand written list onto a database.

Potentially, much could be done with such a valuable resource. The slides were taken between the mid-nineteen sixties and mid-nineteen eighties. For fungi, flowering plants and sites, they provide a reference set. Eventually they might be transferred onto a CD rom and exploited commercially. First, however, they need to be fully catalogued and listed. I wonder whether there is anyone who would like to help with this? Please contact me and we can discuss the way forward. An extension of this project would be to relate the slides to Phil's notebooks, which were left to Liverpool Museum.

An immediate use for some of the slides is to provide a show. The following eleven sets are in carousels, of 100 slides which look to be ready to show. The only challenge is that, although individually labelled, there is no list or commentary to go with them! I should be delighted if any local group of the Trust, or Natural History Society contacted me in order to borrow them.

- Flowering Dunes
- Limestone Flowers
- Wind in the Heather
- Wetland Plants
- By Path and Lane
- Some less-common Plants
- Portrait of a River (Bollin Valley)
- Dunham Park
- The Awakening Year
- Summer Journey
- Autumn Journey

A provisional list of the other main subject areas is, as follows:

Flowering Plants (Four trays roughly sorted alphabetically, and many more), Fungi (a file box holding up to 300), Birds (two file boxes, up to 300 each), Mosses and Liverworts, Colourful Insects, Geology (mainly locations), Maps and Plans, Slide Sets in Subject Areas (some as in carousels, i.e. additional or substitute slides, some other subjects), Locations (Cotterill, Bollin Valley, Dunham Park, River Mersey, Plumley, Witton, Other Cheshire, Other North West, Other National), Gardens, Garden Plants, Buildings (e.g. of industrial, archaeological or architectural interest), Vehicles, Agricultural Implements, Memorial Stones, notices etc., Curiosities, People (groups, CHA, NWNLU, BNA etc and individuals)

If you are interested in either helping to catalogue the slides or using them for slide shows etc. please contact me at the address shown at the foot of page12

## EARLIER ARRIVAL AND NESTING BY REED WARBLERS AT A SITE IN NORTH CHESHIRE

The Reed Warblers *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* which breed at Rostherne Mere National Nature Reserve, to the south of Altrincham and north of Knutsford in Cheshire, have been studied since 1973.

Attention has been paid to the size of the population, the timing of the breeding season, with particular reference to egg-laying and the hatching and fledging of young birds, and the overall productivity of the adults.

Global warming is now widely accepted and part of its effect may be in establishing an earlier return for pioneering spring migrants: those birds which form the advanced guard of the hordes returning from the winter quarters in Africa. If birds are arriving earlier in Britain, perhaps they are also nesting earlier.

The Reed Warbler was first discovered nesting in Cheshire when Charles Oldham (1885) found a nest in the mere-side vegetation at Pickmere in the spring of 1884. A century later, the Cheshire Bird Report 1984 made reference to many breeding sites around the county and in excess of one hundred and fifty pairs were noted, the stronghold being at Rostherne Mere where forty-three pairs were in residence. Various surveys undertaken for the British Trust for Ornithology, including the Common

Bird Census, have shown an upward trend in the population of these warblers. At Rostherne Mere in 1999, a new record was established with eighty-five pairs in territory.

The weather has been cited as important to the birds in providing the necessary conditions for breeding and producing good growth of the common reed *Phragmites australis*, a plant vital in nest-building and for nest support. Sharrock (1976) suggested that the 16°C July isotherm was of relevance in this respect. The mean July temperature at Manchester Airport, some seven kilometres from the reserve, has averaged 15.8°C (1961-90, per Manchester Weather Centre), but surely conditions are cooler further north at Leighton Moss, north Lancashire where some four hundred pairs of nesting Reed Warblers are expected annually. Until a few years ago, Reed Warblers arriving at Rostherne Mere were not anticipated until late April or early May, but in more recent times they have often arrived in mid-April.

First-noted Reed Warbler arrivals at Rostherne Mere may be summarised as follows:-

Average date	1973-99	26 April
	1973-79	1 May
	1980-89	26 April
	1990-99	22 April

The individual at Rostherne Mere on 10 April 1993 is the earliest Reed Warbler ever recorded in Cheshire.

Trelfa (1959) reported an early nest of four eggs on 9 May 1958 alongside Cheshire's Budworth Mere and Boyd (1916) found an almost com-

pleted nest on the old canes at the margin of Rostherne Mere on 4 May 1913, but he later commented that it was unusual to find nests before about 20 May (Boyd 1933). I have encountered exceptionally early nest-building resulting in first egg-laying on 6 May 1987 (Calvert 1987) and 5 May 1997. On 1 May 1999, I was surprised to find a female Reed Warbler, laden with eggs, in a mist-net at Rostherne Mere and on 4 May was able to locate her nest of 3 eggs; the first egg having been laid on 2 May.

The first known layings of Reed Warbler eggs at Rostherne Mere are summarised as follows :-

Average date 1974-99 17 May  
1974-79 20 May  
1980-89 19 May  
1990-99 14 May

(N.B. Data for 1973 omitted as incomplete.)

The Reed Warblers have one of the most protracted breeding seasons of British-nesting passerine migrants, as eggs can be laid from early May to mid-August. As a general rule, I find that where the young birds have successfully left their nest by 10 July, another breeding attempt will normally be undertaken by the parent birds. Most pairs, however, only manage to raise a single brood within the season. The adult birds start to leave in early August, by which time the swampland and adjacent willow carr is alive with young birds. In recent years, however, most birds have moved on by the end of August, although others remain through September. The reed plants may be developing earlier and flowering earlier, signifying the end of the war-

blers' breeding season.

### Conclusion

Observations at a Reed Warbler breeding site in Cheshire indicate that in recent years the first birds have arrived earlier from their winter quarters than they did in previous years and that some birds have commenced egg-laying in early May. Fewer birds than in previous seasons appear to be on site during September.

### Malcolm Calvert.

'Hilbre', 12 Hall Drive, Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire. SK9 3AR

### References :

- Boyd, A.W. (1916) Early nesting of Reed-Warbler in Cheshire. *Brit. Birds* 9:121
- Boyd, A.W. (1933) Notes on the nesting of the Reed-Warbler. *Brit. Birds* 26: 222-223
- Calvert, M. (1987) Early nesting by Reed Warbler. *BTO News* 151: 3
- Oldham, C. (1885) Breeding of the Reed Warbler in Cheshire. *The Naturalist* X:149
- Sharrock, J.T.R. (1976) *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland*. BTO.
- Trelfa, G. (1959) Early nesting of Reed Warbler. *Brit. Birds* 52:165-166

### Contact for Phil Newton's Slide Collection

(see page 9)

Miss E. Blackman  
North Group Chairman,  
Cheshire Wildlife Trust,  
4 Abbots Close, Sale M33 2DD  
Tel. 0161 962 6748

## SOCIETY DIARY

### ACCRINGTON NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

Indoor Meetings are at Cannon Street Baptists Church Hall, Accrington, on Sunday afternoons at 2.30 pm.

#### Sun. 23 January - Fjords beneath the Ice

Mr. Ken Holgate

#### Sun. 6 February - Costa Rica and its Rainforests

Mr. Steve Higgins

#### Sun. 20 February - The Bailiwick of Guernsey

Mr. Pat Milligan

#### Sun. 5 March - Birds in Concert

Mr. David Cummings

#### Sun. 19th March - Naturalists in the Canadian Rockies

Malcolm and Janet Edmonds

### LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

#### Tues. 15 February - Indoor Lecture

7:00pm - Frodsham Community Centre

#### Sat. 18 March - Exhibition Meeting

1:00pm. - Frodsham Community Centre

#### Tues. 21 March - How To Draw Invertebrates

7:00pm - Frodsham, Community Centre

#### Tues. 18 April - Discussion on GM Crops

7:00pm - Frodsham Community Centre

#### Sat. 24 June - Bickerton Hill (SJ 49 53)

11:00am

#### Sat 22 July - Haystack Lodge, Runcorn (SJ 545 828)

11:00am

#### Sat. 23 September - National Moth Night at Risley Moss

day & evening

## MANCHESTER FIELD CLUB

**Rambles Organiser Mr. P.D.White 10, Charter Road, Altrincham, WA15 9RJ Tel: 0161 928 3614**

BM1 = Bring packed lunch.

Visitors are welcome on all rambles but attend at their own risk.

IMPORTANT please check current bus and train times before travelling.

LIFTS are gladly arranged. Contact the leader or Rambles Organiser in advance.

Saturday evening meetings are in Committee Room 1, Manchester Town Hall at 7.00pm

Committee meetings are at 6.30pm (18 March)

### Sat. 29 January - Davyhulme Millennium Nature Reserve

Daresbury Ave, off Woodsend Road. Meet at 11.00am. Buses 15, 20, 25 to "Fox and Hounds" Woodsend Road

Leader Audrey Locksley. BM1.

### Sat 12 February - Galapagos - a Special Place

7.00 pm Dr. W.E.Addison

Sat. to be arranged

### Sat. 18 March - Costa Rica

7.00 pm Miss Betty Charleton

### Sat. 25 March - Fletcher Moss Gardens

Meet 11.00am at the entrance to the Parsonage Gardens near the Old Cock Hotel, Wilmslow Road, Didsbury.

Bus 42 Picc. Leaders Diana and Peter White. BM1.

## SADDLEWORTH NATURALISTS

All events listed are indoor events held at 7.30pm in the Brownhill Visitors Centre, Uppermill.

### Wed. 9 February - Polish Wildlife

Mr. Nick Martin

### Wed. 8 March - Wildlife on the Galapagos Islands

Mrs Janet Lancaster

### Wed. 12 April - Annual General Meeting

Plus members slides and light refreshments

(subscriptions £5.00 now due)

## **MANCHESTER MICROSCOPICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Web site:** <http://www.biomed.man.ac.uk/ns/mm/mms/>

Meetings are now held at a **new venue** - Stopford Building (Medical School), University of Manchester, corner of Oxford Road and Aker Street (next to the Holy Name Church) from 7.00 - 9.00 pm.

All are welcome at meetings - feel free to bring a friend or two. Non-members and members of other societies are welcome. The Society library will be available at all meetings and includes copies of our Newsletters and literature on microscope history, as well as many books on microscopy and natural history. We are endeavouring to arrange at some meetings a trade stall selling slides, stains and related items.

### **Thurs. 20 January - Hands-on Microscopy**

An opportunity to hear about the workings of and to gain hands-on experience of modern microscopes including dark ground, polarising, phase contrast, interference, confocal and fluorescence. Mr. Mike Mahon and Dr. Grenham Ireland

### **Thurs. 17 February - 120th Anniversary Lecture and Exhibition - Recreating the Origins of Modern Biology**

See and hear about the beginnings of microscopy, the power of the simple lens, and the origins of modern biology, from the famous author, biologist, science reviewer, lecturer and broadcaster. Also - trade and book exhibition. Brian J. Ford

### **Thurs. 16 March - Annual General Meeting**

A short business type meeting, which is followed by a Members' Exhibits and Gossip Meeting. All exhibits, large or small, will be of interest, especially for beginners.

### **Thurs. 20 April - Honey Bees**

Illustrated talk and "honey tasting". Bring your family and friends for this entertaining evening. John Charlton and Frank Coaker

## **WIGAN AND DISTRICT FIELD CLUB**

Indoor meetings are held in Appley Bridge Village Hall and commence promptly at 7.30pm. Suitable clothing and stout footwear are advised for all field trips.

### **Fri. 4 February - Creepy-Crawlies beneath your Feet**

Mr. Steve McWilliam

**Mon. 14 February - Mere Sands Nature Reserve (SD 447 157)**

Meet at 10.30am. Duration about 2hours. Leader Mr. P. Kidger.

**Fri. 3 March - The History of Knowsley Menagerie**

Mr. Steve Woolfall

**Sat. 11 March - Anglezarke and Lead Mines Clough (SD 620 161)**

Meet at car-park. Duration about 2 hours. Leaders Ken and Joyce Riley.

**Fri. 7 April - Amphibian Conservation**

Mr. Rik Parker

**Fri. 28 April - Canal walk from Appley Bridge to Parbold**

Meet at 10.30am at the canal bridge in Appley Bridge. Return by rail. Leader Larry Hughes

**NORTH WEST NATURALISTS' UNION**

**Sat. 11 March: Annual General Meeting**

2.00pm Wilmslow Guild.

**Please note the change in venue from the note in the previous issue.**

**Errata and amendments**

**Please note the following corrections and changes to web site URLs which were published in Vol. 1 No. 2:**

- a). The web-site address at the top of page 6 should have read:  
<http://www.consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk/entomol/lces/>
- b). Cheshire Dragonflies (Dave Kitching's site) should have been:  
<http://www.business.u-net.com/~brocross/dfly/dfly.htm>
- c). UK Moths has now changed its address to:  
<http://www.ukmoths.force9.co.uk/>

**Obituary**

**Miss Anne Tallantire**

Many members will have very kind memories of Miss Anne Tallantire, who died suddenly and unexpectedly on July 17th, 1999. Miss Tallantire was a valuable member of the N.W.N.U., and served it exceptionally well in her time as Secretary. Our sympathies are with her family in their sad loss. After spending some time in Africa, she returned to Manchester and, as a plant taxonomist, worked for a number of years in the late 1960s and early 1970s with Prof. D.H. Valentine in the University of Manchester.