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Contributions for the next issue by the end of August 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 'oversized' lettering (14pt normal/body text, if typed) to allow for it to be photographically reduced to A5 (approx 70% reduction) and still be readable.

AN EVENING'S BOTANICAL RAMBLE

Norman Bamforth, 1 Corporation
Road, Audenshaw, Manchester, M34
5LY

Over the last twenty-five years or more I have been doing local history research which has involved many hours perusing the local newspapers for the Tameside area. Natural history is not their strong point but every so often a gem appears.

In the North Cheshire Herald (based in Hyde) of the 22nd July 1882 was the following article entitled "An Evening's Botanical Ramble," in which two friends set out from Hyde Junction station which is now Hyde North in pursuit of the Greater Butterfly Orchid.

"Having heard that *Habenaria chlorantha* [*Platanthera chlorantha*] "the great butterfly orchis," grew in the district of Marple, I and a friend left Hyde Junction for Romiley one evening, to hunt for this interesting plant. Turning down the lane near Romiley Church, we soon came in sight of a remarkable and well-known garden. The varied and choice selection of plants this little spot contains was a sight worthy of going some distance to see. Passing St. Chad's well, and following the lane to Otterspool Bridge, we noticed *Asplenium ruta muraria* (Wall-rue fern) growing on the ledge over the parapet of the bridge, in a secure position. Passing the Sportsman's Inn we saw the *Lonicera caprifolium* (Perfoliate Honeysuckle) carefully trained to trail along the fronts of three or four cottages; it is a splendid flower. We soon reached Dan Bank, and taking the road leading to High Lane, for a short distance on the right hand side, we

saw several umbeliferous plants, the most noticeable on account of its size was the *Heracleum sphondylium* (Hogweed). Leaving the high road at the first turn to the left, we went for a short distance up an old lane and passed through the yard of the first farm. We were soon skirting the edge of a wood on our left, but had no time to examine its floral beauties. After crossing a few fields the first plant that attracted our attention was *Genista tinctoria* (Dyer's Greenweed), the Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) reared its stately head by the side of every hedge. *Viburnum opulus* (Guelderrose), *Rosa canina* (Dog Rose) and *Lonicera periclymenum* (Honeysuckle) shed their grateful perfume all around. Crossing a brook, we had a splendid view of a well wooded dingle, and heard the songs and call notes of many of the feathered race. We longed for the presence of Mr. B., in order that we might have heard him describe the varied species in that happy racy manner so peculiar to him. We now began to slacken our pace, for here we noticed the first orchid of the evening, *Orchis maculata* (Spotted Palmate Orchid) with its pale purpled flowering spikes, varying in tints almost to white, was found on every hand. Here and there we noticed the spent flowers of *Orchis mascula* (Early Purple Orchid). We now found the object of our search, *Habenaria chlorantha*, and whilst bending down to gather the first plant, a skylark rose up, for here was its nest containing three eggs. We gathered several plants of *H. chlorantha*, and examined each one carefully, looking out for *Habenaria bifolia* (Lesser Butterfly Orchid), but failed to find it. I had heard that this latter plant grew near this locality, but after a very careful search I could see no trace of it. One thing was very noticeable, that was only in the poorer portions of the meadow that the

Orchid could be found. Having a somewhat long distance yet to travel, it was with feelings of regret that we left these "buildings of nature." Near to the pathway we gathered *Lychnis flos-cuculi* (Ragged Robin). Arriving at a farm house we enquired our way to Rose Hill Station, and were told to cross the bridge over the Poynton and Macclesfield Railway and follow the road, which would lead us direct to the station. We did so, but soon found out that we were going in the wrong direction, but the walk being a pleasant one, and floral treasures all around, we did not much care. We eventually found ourselves on the Poynton Canal, about two miles from Marple locks. We turned in the direction of Marple and made our way to the station, and learned that we were exactly six minutes too late for a train home, and it would be nearly an hour before there would be another. We left Marple Station and followed that pleasant footpath just behind it, leading to the canal side. On arriving at the aqueduct my friend pointed out the roughest piece of ground to travel over in the district, that is, following the left bank of the river from this point to Otterspool Bridge. We passed Mankin Wood, where in days gone by, we had gathered that parasitical plant *Lathraea squamaria*, (Toothwort), with its fleshy looking scales and flowers of purple hue, also *Stellaria nemorum* (Wood Stitchwort), *Myosotis sylvatica* (Forget-me-not), etc., etc. Romiley Station was at last reached, and the train being punctual we soon got to Hyde Junction, a few minutes after 10 p.m., being not only well tired but well pleased with our somewhat hurried evening ramble. In addition to the plants named we gathered the following: *Rhinanthus crista-galli* (Yellow Rattle), *Solanum dulcamara* (Woody Nightshade),

Spergula arvensis (Corn Spurrey), *Galium cruciatum* [*Cruciata laevipes*] (Crosswort), *Vicia sepium* (Bush Vetch), *Vicia angustifolia* [now included with *Vicia sativa*] (Narrow-leaved Vetch), *Myosotis repens* [*Myosotis secunda?*] (Creeping Forget-me-not), and many others. - J. S. Rowse."

I interpret the route as being from Romiley station via Church Road, Chadkirk Road and Vale Road to Otterspool Bridge, then by Sportsmans Arms (still extant) and the cottages (Demolished in the 1970s) up Dooley Lane to Dan Bank, turning right then left then taking the path through Yew Tree Farm and over by Torkington Wood to Wood Farm. I would suggest that in one of the two fields between the wood and the farm was the location of the orchids (SJ943882). From here they should have gone over the railway and left but appear to have gone straight on by Buxton Lane and Hibbert Lane to the canal and station. Then back on the canal and over the aqueduct then down by the river back to Vale Road. There is no footpath here and it must have been hard work on a steep and slippery wooded bank.

According to the same newspaper the trains from Hyde Junction to Romiley were at 5.25 and 6.32 and the return train was at 9.52 from Romiley. This would give them 3hrs 20mins or 4hrs 27mins to do a walk of at least ten miles and look at botany.

Botanically it is interesting that so few of the plants listed have changed their botanical names since that time. Those that have are shown in parenthesis.

I have looked up a few of the plants in Alan Newton's "Flora of Cheshire":

Platanthera chlorantha is listed only on three squares SJ77SE, SJ96NW and SJ97NE, none of which are very close to Marple. *Orchis mascula* is not recorded east of Styal area. We have been shown a photo of it growing on the Marple side of Werneth Low within sight of the ramble but have not been in the right place at the right time yet to see it. *Lathraea squamaria* is recorded in the square. *Genista tinctoria* seems to have disappeared from all the sites I knew in the Marple area over the last twenty-five years, as far as I can see it is generally through horseyculture.

I have not been to the site to see if the orchids are still there, but I very much doubt it.

Birdwatching and the Law

**Anne Wilkinson, 19 Elswick Gardens,
Mellor, Blackburn, BB2 7JD**

The disturbance of a Hobby nest just outside our area this summer has angered birdwatchers throughout Lancashire. The disturbance has been described as wilful – which means that by definition it was regarded as ‘for which compulsion or ignorance or accident cannot be pleaded as excuse, was intentional or deliberate or was due to perversity or self-will’. But would those involved have gone anywhere near the nest site if they had known they would be committing such a serious act?

It all started when some birdwatchers learned the location of a Hobby nest whilst chatting to someone in the Eric Morecambe Hide at Leighton Moss. This information was shared with their circle of bird watching friends. Some of these birdwatchers visited the nest site

and watched the birds coming and going from a safe distance and some photographs were digiscoped. But two people with less experience than the others could not find the birds, and were stopped when they went up to the nest tree in a vain attempt to see them. The group was quickly identified and reprimanded, but a more serious incident had taken place when the site was not being officially monitored. Two photographers had also learned of the nest and had stationed themselves underneath the tree. A party of curious walkers who were passing by had joined them, and they had all stood watching and photographing the birds as they flew around the field. Those people were completely oblivious to the fact that the birds were alarmed by their presence and that they were probably preventing the adults from feeding the young.

The law is clear – all those people who approached the tree did wilfully disturb the birds by compulsion, ignorance or accident. And all those who photographed the birds without a licence, even by digiscope or pocket camera did commit an offence, which could have landed them with a £5000 fine or a jail sentence of up to 6 months. They were all very lucky not to end up being prosecuted. Needless to say, the group of birdwatchers were horrified as the realisation of what they had done began to sink in.

Imagine what might have happened to them if they had been caught at the site a few weeks earlier, before the eggs had hatched. And what if they had disturbed the birds and the eggs or chicks had been deserted. Suppose they had inadvertently given away the location of the nest to egg collectors or falconers. What if the location had got onto the Internet and hundreds of people had turned up at the site. It does not bear

thinking about. Ignorance of the law was no defence, nor was the fact that the majority were pensioners who had taken up their hobby on retirement. There was no excuse. They had filled their heads with bird guide books, started keeping lists, gone abroad on bird holidays – but not once had they bothered to read the Birdwatchers Code of Conduct, nor had they made themselves aware of the law regarding the protection of rare birds. And most of all, they had just not thought about the implications of their actions. This whole sorry saga is a sobering lesson and a timely reminder to all birdwatchers, young and old alike. If you want to watch birds you have to accept that you have responsibilities towards the welfare of birds. You need to be aware of the Birdwatchers Code of Conduct (issued jointly by the RSPB and BTO) and know how to conduct yourself whilst out bird watching. You need to acquaint yourself with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the laws designed to protect rare birds when they are breeding. You should be aware of the 82 species scheduled for special protection under the law and known as Schedule 1 birds, especially if you are going to remoter parts of Scotland. And most of all you should use your common sense. Don't get involved in discussions about rare birds in hides – you never know who is listening in. Never pass on sensitive information except to your local Recorder and never be tempted to go near a Schedule 1 nest site, no matter how late it is in the season. You might be confident in your field craft but it is just not worth the risk. Confine yourself to hides and supervised watch points, better safe than sorry.

This article was first printed in *Birdwatch* – the Bulletin of the Blackburn & District Bird Club (Number 50, September 2009).

CHESHIRE ACTIVE NATURALISTS

Clive Washington

www.cheshireactivenaturalists.org.uk

An exciting new natural history organisation has recently been set up in Cheshire, called 'Cheshire Active Naturalists' (CAN). The inaugural meeting was held on 21st November 2009 and is attracting members from across the north-west.

CAN is a group dedicated to furthering the study of ecology within Cheshire. There is a programme of fourteen events for 2010, covering a wide range of taxonomic groups. The aim is to help people improve their identification and wildlife skills so that they can contribute to wildlife recording, primarily in the Cheshire and Wirral areas. Most of the current events are aimed at existing naturalists although some are aimed at the complete beginner.

A number of expert leaders are lined up to lead the events in 2010, including nationally renowned Dipterist Tom Mawdsley who is leading a Syrphidae and other Brachycera Workshop in June. Andy Swash, author of the WildGuides 'British Dragonflies' is co-leading the Odonata Day in July, along with CAN expert Andy Harmer, and the enigmatic and highly experienced Fungal Punk Dave who will be taking the Fungal Foray in October.

Some of the courses will give protected species training relevant to a career as a professional ecologist. Ecological consultant Pat Waring will be leading a Bat Identification workshop held at Chester Zoo. Likewise, Andy Harmer and Rachel Hacking will be guiding the Great Crested Newt training sessions.

If you are interested in attending any of the events, please do not hesitate to join, as many of our courses are filling up fast. Please visit the CAN website: www.cheshireactivenaturalists.org.uk to view the events calendar, join our yahoogroup or twitter stream, and download the membership form (see also page 10). Membership is £20 per annum or £10 for concessions. These events, and others listed on the website, are 'members only' but open events (such as local BioBlitzes) will also be held at times to be announced in the near future.

AN AMPHIPOD NEW TO CHESHIRE : *Arcitalitrus dorrieni*

**Clive Washington, 6 Cedarways,
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WA4 5EW.**

Clive.Washington@ntlworld.com

In December 2008 I was turning stones in a small suburban wood (SJ6283, Appleton, Warrington) in search of hibernating ground beetles, when I was surprised to see a small shiny dark unfamiliar creature about 10 mm long, which leapt into cover too rapidly to identify. It was January 2009 before I managed to secure a specimen of this elusive animal, by shovelling a spadeful of leaf litter into a deep-sided tray. It proved to be not a beetle, but a crustacean reminiscent of Gammarus, of a dark grey colour, and I posted a photograph (Figure 1) on to the Yahoo "Beetles-Britishisles" web site in the hope that another coleopterist could identify it. The most likely

suggestion was that it was an amphipod, *Arcitalitrus dorrieni*. A specimen was sent to Prof. J. Spicer, of Plymouth University, the UK authority on Amphipoda, who confirmed its identity, and that it was a first record for Cheshire, and for the North-West.

Arcitalitrus dorrieni is not native to the UK; it was first described in 1924 from the Scilly Isles, but was subsequently discovered to be native to Australia. In recent years surveys have found it to be quite widely established in coastal areas of South-West England and South Wales, and there are unpublished reports of it being found in inland urban sites such as garden centres (Cowling et al 2004a). One possibility is that it spreads synanthropically in ornamental plants from nurseries where it is already established.

The Cheshire record comes from a small (~1ha) woodland which has no obvious ornamental plants present (this does not eliminate the possibility that dying plants may have been disposed of there in the past by local residents!). The main concentration of individuals is present in a damp depressed area covering several tens of square metres, although a lower density of individuals can be found up to 20-40 metres away. At the centre of the colony the density is several dozen individuals per square foot; lifting a stone or log reveals a seething mass of animals which disappear under litter in a few seconds. A full survey has not been conducted and it is possible that there are other concentrations in this wood. However no further individuals have been found in other nearby woods, and no local naturalists queried have encountered the animal.

Cowling et al (2004b) studied the effect of environmental factors on the survival of



Arcitalitrus dorrieni and concluded that it requires deep litter to protect from the influence of low temperatures. As the winter of 2009-10 had seen minimum temperatures of -14°C for several days in Warrington, on 25th January 2010 I revisited the site to see if they had survived. If anything, the colony was even more extensive than in the previous year, with every log turned revealing many individuals. All were highly active despite the ground temperature being only $3-4^{\circ}\text{C}$. *A. dorrieni* also appears to prefer environments with some salinity, which may explain why the majority of known colonies are near-coastal. These factors should be taken into account when

searching for new sites. As yet there is no national recording scheme but the author would be pleased to receive new records which will be collated and passed to the BRC, Monks Wood.

The author would like to thank Prof. J. Spicer (Plymouth University) for the identification of the specimens.

References:

Cowling J., Spicer J.I., Gaston K.J and Weeks J.M (2004a) *J. Nat. History* 38 1665-1675.

Cowling J., Weeks J.M., Spicer J.I. and Gaston K.J. (2004b) *Comp. Biochem. Physiol. A* 139 251– 259.



The Greater Manchester Local Records Centre

The Greater Manchester Local Record Centre Project is a partnership between the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit, Bolton Museum and Archive Service, Natural England, Environment Agency and the local authorities. Launched at the Greater Manchester Biodiversity Conference in 2008, the project aims to develop a fully functioning Local Record Centre (LRC) for Greater Manchester. The project is currently funded by Natural England, the Environment Agency, Manchester City Council and Greater Manchester Ecology Unit.

Over the past year significant progress has been made towards establishing the Record Centre, building on existing work undertaken by Bolton Museum and the Ecology Unit. Progress includes:

- **The first datasets of protected species and species of conservation concern were uploaded to the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Gateway in March 2008.**

These can be viewed at 2km resolution at by clicking on Browse Dataset Providers and looking for Greater Manchester Ecology Unit. We are also aiming to upload the significant dataset held by Bolton Museum to the NBN shortly. Eventually all the data held by the Record Centre will be available to view on the NBN at a 2km resolution.

- **Computerisation of the Ecology Unit's data sets for the City of Manchester and Rochdale.**

The Greater Manchester Ecology Unit holds a large amount of paper data, collected over the past twenty years from SBI surveys, Phase I and Phase II habitat surveys. We have now completed the computerisation of all this data for Manchester district and have started work on the Rochdale data. The aim is to computerise all the data held by the Ecology Unit. The database currently holds 70,000 records of 2945 species from across Greater Manchester. This means that the data can be searched by species or site and species distribution maps generated. Over time we will be able to identify changes in distributions of species as they occur. The data is also being made available to the Biodiversity Project to help identify areas for conservation action in support of the Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plans. A dataset for Manchester has been uploaded to the NBN with data from Rochdale to follow shortly

- **Development of a dedicated Record Centre Website**

The LRC will be launching its new website in April. This will promote the LRC to a wide and diverse audience and aim to enthuse and inform the general public about wildlife in Greater Manchester. The website will promote biological recording across Greater Manchester and hopefully encourage people to submit their records to the LRC. The website address is:

www.gmwildlife.org.uk

• **Developing links with recording groups and establishing a recording network.**

The LRC has started building links with recording groups, including training in the Mersey Valley and Rochdale on the use of MapMate recording software. One of the priorities for the second year of the LRC Project is to establish a recording network covering the whole of Greater Manchester and all taxonomic groups. Records supplied to the LRC will be used not only at a local level to support the continued selection of existing and new Sites of Biological Importance, but also uploaded to the NBN for use at a national level to support habitat and species conservation, as well as research into the impacts of climate change on species distributions.

Data exchange agreements have been completed with:

- o Lancashire Moth Group
- o Mersey Valley Countryside Wardens Service
- o Friends of Chorlton Meadows
- o Rochdale Field Naturalist

• **Running a training programme to develop recording skills**

As a pilot programme this year we are holding a number of training days across Greater Manchester. The spring and summer programme has just been published. Courses are open to all for a small fee to cover cost (see the Society Diary section of this issue).

We hope you will support the LRC over the coming year by submitting your records to stephen.atkins@tameside.gov.uk or via the website once it is up and running. If you would like further information on the LRC, or have any suggestions as to how it can be developed to best serve the Greater Manchester recording community, then please contact either Steve Atkins or Suzanne Waymont at the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (0161 3719171).

Hale Ornithologists

The NWNu committee has received the following note: I regret to inform you that Hale Ornithologists will be closing down in a few weeks time. Our membership has been falling and there is a lack of members prepared to help run the society and we have decided, with regret, that we have to close the society down.

NWNu AGM
Saturday 5 March 2011
Bolton Museum

SOCIETY DIARY

Please note that members of the North Western Naturalists' Union are welcome to attend meetings of all affiliated societies.

ALTRINCHAM AND DISTRICT NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Except where otherwise stated, all indoor meetings will be held at Bowdon Parish Centre, Stamford Road, Bowdon and will be timed approximately as follows: 7.30, informal gathering, 7.45pm lecture, 9.15pm tea and chat.

All excursions leave from the public car park, Cecil Road, Hale (behind supermarket) at the times indicated. If you intend to join the excursion please give **three days notice** to the leader. Food and drink for the day and suitable footwear is advisable.

Please note that dogs are not allowed on reserves.

Saturday 12 June: Silverdale, Lancashire

A full day excursion looking for plants of the carboniferous limestone.

Tuesday 28 September: The first indoor meeting

CESHIRE ACTIVE NATURALISTS

Please note these events, and others listed on the website, are 'members only'. Details of membership can be found on page 6.

Sunday 20 June : Syrphidae and other Brachycera

Rock Savage Power Plant Tom Mawdsley (*Fully booked – reserves list only*)

Sunday 27 June : Macclesfield Canal Photoblitz

Dr. D. Skingsley and Martin Kinder LRPS

Saturday 17 July : Odonata Day

Abbotts Moss and Shemmy Moss Andy Swash and Andy Harmer

Saturday 14 August : Bat Identification Workshop

Chester Zoo Pat Waring (*Fully booked – reserves list only*)

Saturday 4 September : Botanical Workshop

Etherow Country Park Rachel Hacking

Sunday 26 September Pond Dipping for Leaders

Lower Moss Wood, Ollerton Andy Harmer

Saturday 30 October : Fungal Foray

Styal t.b.c.

Saturday 13 November Lichen Identification Day

Goyt Valley Steve Price

Saturday 4 December : Mammal Trapping and Pellet Dissection

Rob Smith and Jeff Clarke

GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL RECORD CENTRE

Greater Manchester Ecology Unit, Ryecroft Hall, Manchester Road, Audenshaw, Manchester, M34 5. Each training course costs £25.

For queries contact: Suzanne Waymont on 0161 371 5834 -
suzanne.waymont@tameside.gov.uk

Monday 14th June : Invertebrate Identification & Survey
Reddish Vale, Stockport Leader : Don Stenhouse

Wednesday 14th July : Wildflowers & Grasses
Chadkirk, Stockport Leader : GMEU

Wednesday 21st July : Dragonflies & Damselflies
Philips Park, Bury : Dave Winnard

NORTHWESTERN NATURALISTS' UNION - BRYOPHYTE AND LICHENS SECTION

All meetings on Saturdays, starting at 10.30 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 at ANY meeting.

Saturday 5 June : Sunnyhurst Wood (Darwen)
SD679224 (carpark). Leader Martha Newton.

Saturday 17 July : Yarrow Valley (Chorley)
SD570153 (carpark). Leader John Lowell.

Saturday 7 August : Rixton Clay Pits (Warrington)
SJ686901 (Nature Reserve carpark). Leader Des Callaghan.

Saturday 4 September : Upper Bradford Dale (Bakewell)
SK195631 (park where possible in Middleton village). Leader Martha Newton.

Saturday 2 October : Salthill Quarry Nature Reserve (Clitheroe)
SD758427 (park in large lay-by on Lincoln Way). Leader Des Callaghan.

Saturday 6 November : Healey Dell (Rochdale)
SD880155 (Healey Dell Visitor Centre, Dell Road). Leader Norman Bamforth.

Saturday 4 December : Tom Wood (Charlesworth)
SJ996935 (Lymefield Visitor Centre, Broadbottom). Park in signposted overflow carpark. Leader Norman Bamforth.

MANCHESTER AND NORTH MIDLANDS FERN GROUP

Contact: Yvonne Golding, 7 Grange Road, Buxton, Derbyshire. SK17 6NH. 01298 24588. Secretary@eBPS.org.uk

Saturday 26 June : Deepdale and Hob's House, Derbyshire
Limestone ferns/nice flowers/fossil corals : Leader Yvonne Golding

Saturday 31 July : Tissington Trail, Derbyshire
D. submontana monitoring and other limestone ferns : Leader Yvonne Golding

Saturday 21 August : Goyt Valley, Derbyshire/Cheshire Border

Exploring Ingersley Vale. Visit to Jenny and Paul's garden : Hosts Jenny and Paul Martin.

4-6 September : Gardens of South Yorkshire

including Wentworth Castle, Brodsworth and Wortley Halls : Leader Paul Ruston

Saturday 23 October : Autumn Indoor Meeting

The Firs, University of Manchester. Plant swap, slide shows, organise next years programme.

ROCHDALE FIELD NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

www.rochdalefieldnaturalistsociety.co.uk

Indoor Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, September to April, at Cutgate Baptist Church, Edenfield Road, Rochdale. Enquiries: 01706 630707. Charges: Members £1.00, Non-members £2.00.

All Excursions depart from the cul-de-sac at Manchester Road, Rochdale. Time: Coaches 0900hrs, Cars 1000hrs. Coaches return at 1700hrs except during the months of November, December, January and February when return is at 1600hrs. Queries: Field excursions – contact Barbara Waddington on 01706 658260 / Coach bookings – contact Fred Royle on 01706 644394 Coach Price: Members £12, Non-members £14.

Saturday 12 June : Silverdale/Arnsdale area, Lancashire – Coach Trip

P. Stevens

Saturday 26 June : White Coppice, Chorley – Car Trip

A. Cross

Saturday 10 July : Prees Heath & Whixall Moss, Shropshire – Coach Trip

S. Allen

Saturday 24 July : Rixton Clay Pits, Warrington – Car Trip

S. Allen & M. Colley

Saturday 14 August : Hartington, Derbyshire – Coach Trip

A. Cross

Saturday 28 August : Ripponden area, Yorkshire – Car Trip

M. Colley

Saturday 11 September : Cockersands and Glasson, Lancs coast – Coach Trip

B. & P. Waddington

Saturday 25 September : Bolton reservoirs – Car Trip

K. & R. Cowley

Saturday 16 October : Filey Brigg and Dams, East Yorks coast – Coach Trip

K. & R. Cowley

Saturday 30 October : Moore Nature Reserve, Warrington – Car Trip

S. Allen & E. Clutterbuck

MANCHESTER FIELD CLUB

Indoor Meetings are held at Sale United Reformed Church Hall, Montague Road, Sale, M33 3BU, near Sale Metro station, commencing 7.00pm. Free to members, visitors £2.00.

Walk organiser: Alan Hill, 15 Merston Drive, East Didsbury, M20 5NT. Tel: 0161 445 1535 Website: www.manchesterfieldclub.org.uk

Saturday 12 June : Miller's Dale, Derbyshire

Meet 11.00 at Miller's Dale Station Car Park (charge). Walk along railway then back along river, so not much in way of climbing. Leaders Alan Hill (445 1535, mobile 07719 659 689) and Linda Otten.

Friday 18 June : Gall meeting, Cressbrook Dale and Ricklow Dale

Meet 11.00 at Cressbrook on double bend just outside village, map SK 172732. Joint meeting of Sheffield Naturalists Society and British Plant Gall Society; Field Club members are welcome. Hope to find gall of insect new to science! Leader Norman Bamforth (336 3914).

Saturday 26 June : Sutton Manor Reserve, near St Helens

Meet 10.30 at the Smithy Manor pub on B5419 Jubits Lane (off A57 near M62 Junction 7). Leader John Somerville (973 8610, mobile 07709 795 382).

Sunday 4 July : Moore Nature Reserve

Wildflower walk led by John Somerville (973 8610) for Nature Reserve Rangers and general public; Field Club members are very welcome. Meet 10.00 at new car park; normal finish is 1.00pm but walk could be extended to far end of reserve (different habitat) for those interested.

Saturday 10 July : Barrow Bridge and Walker Fold, Bolton

Meet 11.00 at car park on minor road 0.3km NW of Moss Bank Park, map SD 687118. Leader John Lowell (485 6892).

Saturday 24 July : Mytholmroyd, West Yorks

Meet 11.00 at Mytholmroyd Station. Park at Station if room, or in car park of Russell Dean Furniture shop in village (3 mins walk to Station). Leader Audrey Locksley (01422 882 049, mobile 07779 451 342).

Saturday 7 August : Wythenshawe Park

Meet 11.00 at main car park, Wythenshawe Park. Leader Dave Bishop (881 6276).

Saturday 21 August : Anglezarke, near Adlington

Meet 11.00 at East side of reservoir at picnic site and start of Anglezarke trail, map SD 621164. Leaders Tom and Barbara Waghorn (766 7304).

Saturday 4 September : Gall Gala, Lathkill Dale

Meet 11.00 at Over Haddon Car Park (charge), map SK 203660. Leader Norman Bamforth (336 3914). Joint meeting with British Plant Gall Society.

Saturday 16 October : Jodrell Bank Arboretum

Meet 11.00 in main car park, map SJ 643991, on Bomish Lane, off A535. Entrance £2 per person. Leaders Linda Otten and Alan Hill (445 1535, mobile 07719 659 689).

PRESTON BIRD WATCHING AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Meetings at St. Mary's Church Hall, Cop Lane, Penwortham.

Further details from Steve Halliwell 01772 705468, www.prestonsociety.co.uk

Monday 27 September : Save our Birds of Prey

John Loder

Monday 4 October : Mammals of Lancashire

Tony Parker

Monday 11 October : A Year in Wormwood Scrubs: Life for an Urban Birder

David Lindo

Monday 18 October : Birds, Bee-eaters and Dodgy Geysers

Keith Scovell

Monday 25 October : MEMBER'S EVENING

Bring your own images.

Monday 1 November : Hedgerows – Turning the Tide

Rick Parker

Monday 8 November: A Night on the Tiles

Jeff Clarke

Monday 15 November : Managing Shell-fishing in Morecambe Bay

Bob Houghton

Monday 22 November : Seafood Through the Ages

Prof. Callum Roberts

Saturday 27 November

A Saturday Special – Our 3,000th illustrated talk:

“The Arctic and Antarctic – Above and Below the Ice”

with Diver and Marine Scientist **Charlotte Caffrey MSc., FRGS.**

ALL TICKET - Not part of the Winter Programme.

Monday 29 November : Wildlife of Walls

Ken Green

Monday 6 December : The Wildlife of the Pennines (Cine Film)

Gordon Yates

Monday 13 December : Seagulls to Eagles – The Sequel

Peter Smith

Monday 20 December : MEMBER'S EVENING

Bring your own images.

NELSON NATURALIST SOCIETY

All meetings are held at Christ Church, Carr Road, Nelson and start at 7.30pm
Enquiries: David Nelson 01282 863012

Wednesday 6 October : Wild Life, Wild Places

John Gardner of Wakefield

Wednesday 20 October : A Beginners Guide to Fungi

Fungalpunk Dave

Wednesday 3 November : In the Wake of Darwin – The Galapagos Islands

Jim Clift

Wednesday 7 November : How to avoid being Eaten

Malcolm Edmunds

Wednesday 1 December : Birds of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Ian Court

Wednesday 15 December : Coconuts and Coral Reefs

Ron Crosby

ACCRINGTON NATURALISTS' AND ANTIQUARIANS' SOCIETY

Meetings start at 2.30 pm at Antley Methodists' Church Hall, Blackburn Road, Accrington. Enquiries 01254 381236 or 236076. Non-members welcome - £1.00 minimum lecture fee.

CHEADLE HULME & BRAMHALL NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Indoor meeting venue is at St. Michael's Church Hall, St. Michael's Avenue, Bramhall, Stockport, SK7 2PG at 7.30pm

DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

See www.danes-insects.org.uk/events.htm

LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Indoor meetings are at 7.30pm, unless indicated and are at Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Lane, Frodsham

LIVERPOOL BOTANICAL SOCIETY

Indoor meetings are held in the Clore Natural History Centre, World Museum, Liverpool, starting at 11.00am.

MANCHESTER MICROSCOPICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

All meetings are held in the Stopford Building (Medical School) University of Manchester M13 9PT, corner of Oxford Road and Aker Street (next to the Holy Name Church), Manchester, from 7 to 9 p.m. **All are welcome** – feel free to bring a friend or two. Non-members and members of other Societies are welcome. The Society's library will be available at all Stopford meetings and includes copies of our Newsletters and literature on microscopic history, as well as many books on microscopy and natural history. - See also our Internet site at <http://www.manchestermicroscopical.org.uk>

SADDLEWORTH NATURALISTS

All events listed are indoor meetings held at 7.30pm at the Brownhill Visitors' Centre at Dobcross.

The Northwestern Naturalist

The Executive Committee has decided, on a trial basis, to include colour images in the newsletter.

This will result in increased printing costs but will provide an opportunity for members to be more adventurous in the articles that they submit and will also be an opportunity for members to send images with short descriptions of unusual sightings that they may have made.

So more contributions, please!