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Contributions for the next issue by the 1 November please!

Contributions are welcomed as e-mail attachments to patricia.francis@oldham.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.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

A decision was made at the last Annual General Meeting (3 March 2012) of the North Western Naturalists' Union to reduce the number of issues of *The North-western Naturalist* from three per annum to two. This will ease the difficulty of filling three issues with original articles and additionally make a considerable saving on postage. We hope to release issues in **August (deadline 1st May)** and **February (deadline 1st November)**. Could programming secretaries of the affiliated societies in particular please note these changes and ensure that dates of field meetings and indoor meeting are sent in promptly for the appropriate issues.

Patricia Francis

North Western Naturalists' Union Vascular Plant Section Annual Report 2011

Dave Earl

This year saw a major step forward for vascular plant studies in the north west of England with Eric Greenwood's Flora of North Lancashire having been completed and sent off for publication, copies and will be on sale shortly. Work on the North Lancashire Flora began in the 1960s and therefore brings together the results of five decades of vascular plant recording activity. The flora covers Lancashire north of the River Ribble including the Lancashire coast from Lytham to Silverdale, the lower stretches of the Lune Valley, The Forest of Bowland and parts of the Ribble Valley. A copy of the data used to create the distribution maps for the flora has been donated to LERN (Lancashire Environment Record Network).

In the 2010 report mention was made of rearranging the South Lancashire Flora (1995-2005) text to the taxonomy of the *New Flora of the British Isles* Stace 3rd Edition. At our flora committee meeting it was decided this should be done and the revisions have been made. With the publication of the North Lancashire Flora and as we approach 2013 the 50th anniversary of *Travis's Flora of South Lancashire* we should aim to have the new South Lancashire flora published in the near future.

To complement the forthcoming new South Lancashire flora the associated website is being developed further. Much progress has been made creating web pages for the numerous exotic and casual species which have been recorded in vice county 59. Sections for which species accounts have been uploaded so far include the ferns and horsetails as well as trees and shrubs as far as the Poplars. In the case of web pages for native species and well established non-native species a standard text referring to the forthcoming new

South Lancashire flora is generally inserted. Much work has been carried out creating web pages for The Salford Flora section of the website and all species accounts and associated distribution maps have now been uploaded.

On the recording front several Bioblitz events took place during 2011 including: The Lancashire Wildlife Trust event at Brockholes Nature Reserve where a new discovery was a small population of Round-leaved Wintergreen.

A Bioblitz held by Blackpool & The Fylde College.

The West Lancashire Wildlife Bioblitz hosted by John Watt at Scutcher's Wood where species present include Round-leaved Wintergreen, Giant Bellflower, Soft Shield-fern, Hard Shield-fern and Dune Helleborine.

The rECOrd Bioblitz at Risley Moss a location at which several small populations of Round-leaved Sundew still survive.

The Lancashire Endangered Plants Group held excursions at the River Lune finding Fan-leaved Water-crowfoot and also at the Rochdale Canal where populations of Floating Water-plantain are now recovering following on from the re-opening of the canal.

Sheilla Wynne of Clitheroe has been actively recording vascular plants sending in a numerous of records from the Ribble Valley for vice counties 59, 60 and 64.

The Wild Flower Society final days' hunt for 2011 took place at Chorley. With the mild conditions a considerable number of species were found to still be in flower. With the Bioblitz meetings and general recording vascular plants totals for the BSBI data class 2010–2019 have been further boosted. The vc59 results for 2011 are presented on page 4.

In contrast to 2010 all the 2011 10km totals now exceed 33% of the pre 2010 totals = **the targets**. Note also that the majority of the 2011 totals now exceeding 50% of the targets. During 2012 it hoped that the recording activities will elevate all 10km target totals beyond 50%. It is also intended that species monitoring activity will be extended. Such work is undertaken by the Lancashire Endangered Plants Group and particularly by Phil Smith and associated botanists for the Sefton Coast. It is hoped to extend monitoring activity particularly for local Biodiversity Action Plan species in the north west of England. This may involve developing student projects with the local universities.

Work continues with our links to the Local Record Centres including the validating and exchange of vascular plant records particularly with LERN and Biobank. Progress by LERN includes the incorporation of 97% of the Lancashire Phase 1 target notes to the Recorder 6 database. Recently the Lancashire phase 1 data entry has focused on the Lancaster and Ribble Valley districts with historic data extended from 1979 to 1991. This work appears to highlight a decline in biodiversity particularly for grassland communities. During 2012 it is intended that records from reports held for Lancashire grassland surveys and SSSI's will be added to Recorder 6. Such data extraction will no doubt assist the potential development of student projects designed to focus on habitat and species monitoring in the north west of England.

10km	2011	2009	% pre 2010	Full Total	New Quad	%
SD52	930	1089	85.4	1233	144 NW	>80%
SJ88	385	476	80.9	549	73 SE	>80%
SD53	279	358	77.9	424	66 NW	>75%
SD94	374	492	76.0	561	69 NE	>75%
SD32	471	691	68.2	752	61 NW	>60%
SD74	579	869	66.6	953	84 NE	>60%
SD42	553	866	63.9	936	70 NW	>60%
SD63	484	766	63.2	825	59 NE	>60%
SD93	354	561	63.1	595	34 NE	>60%
SD41	718	1144	62.8	1197	53 NW	>60%
SD51	604	974	62.0	1027	53 NW	>60%
SD62	760	1249	60.8	1342	93 NE	>60%
SD31	934	1548	60.3	1610	62 NW	>60%
SD84	429	719	59.7	766	47 NE	>50%
SD73	585	988	59.2	1065	77 NE	>50%
SD72	565	968	58.4	1028	60 NE	>50%
SD61	554	997	55.6	1075	78 NE	>50%
SD40	581	1051	55.3	1101	50 NW	>50%
SJ79	497	928	53.6	977	49 SE	>50%
SD92	272	511	53.2	543	32 NE	>50%
SJ69	538	1013	53.1	1061	48 SE	>50%
SJ58	432	822	52.6	846	24 SW	>50%
SJ89	606	1191	50.9	1248	57 SE	>50%
SD82	436	871	50.1	914	43 NE	>50%
SJ49	510	1071	47.6	1121	50 SW	>40%
SD91	361	759	47.6	809	50 NE	>40%
SJ48	527	1113	47.3	1154	41 SW	>40%
SD21	277	590	46.9	626	36 NW	>40%
SD60	513	1096	46.8	1135	39 NE	>40%
SD70	543	1175	46.2	1213	38 NE	>40%
SD50	468	1013	46.2	1034	21 NW	>40%
SD20	583	1263	46.2	1311	48 NW	>40%
SJ39	627	1388	45.2	1437	49 SW	>40%
SJ38	385	864	44.6	908	44 SW	>40%
SD83	422	958	44.1	982	24 NE	>40%
SD80	469	1076	43.6	1127	51 NE	>40%
SD30	546	1260	43.3	1288	28 NW	>40%
SD71	451	1043	43.2	1089	46 NE	>40%
SD81	376	880	42.7	907	27 NE	>40%
SJ59	426	1034	41.2	1056	22 SW	>40%
SD90	342	868	39.4	900	32 NE	>33%
SJ99	304	813	37.4	844	31 SE	>33%
SJ68	258	698	37.0	719	21 SE	>33%

North Western Naturalists' Union

Bryophyte and Lichen Section

Annual Report 2011

Des Callaghan

Moses Gate Country Park and Nob End SSSI, South Lancashire: 19 February 2011

A bone-chilling day was spent exploring this rather grubby but very interesting area south east of Bolton. We skipped through the main Country Park and headed for Nob End SSSI, famous not only for its appealing name but also as an example of a 'brownfield' site of biological interest. Large amounts of toxic salts that were tipped here during the 19th century have weathered to calcium carbonate, thus permitting the establishment of an island of calcicolous vegetation in a largely acidic landscape. The bryophyte flora exhibits this wonderfully, with impressive amounts of *Leiocolea turbinata* plus strong populations of other calcicoles such as *Campylium protensum*, *Distichium capillaceum*, *Encalypta streptocarpa*, *Preissia quadrata* and *Pseudocrossidium hornschurchianum*. The most significant find of the day, however, was a good population of the nationally scarce *Fissidens fontanus* growing submerged on the sandstone walls of a disused section of the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal. A total of 76 species were recorded, of which six were new for the SD70 hectad (*Fissidens fontanus*, *Plagiomnium rostratum*, *Sciurohypnum plumosum*, *Trichostomum crispulum*, *Weissia controversa* var. *controversa* and *Zygodon viridissimus* var. *viridissimus*).

Marford Quarry, Denbighshire: 19 March 2011

A pleasant spring day was spent in this calcareous sand and gravel quarry, disused for 40 years and designated a SSSI in 1989 for its entomological interest. This was a joint meeting with the North Wales Non-flowering Plant Group and it was enjoyable to spend time in the field with some new acquaintances. Curiously, there were eight bryophyte records for the SSSI prior to our visit, all liverworts recorded by J. Shanklin in 2009. We managed to locate 67 taxa of which a large portion (15 taxa; 22%) were new for the under-recorded SJ35 hectad (*Barbula convoluta* var. *sardoa*, *Brachythecium mildeanum*, *Cryphaea heteromalla*, *Ditrichum gracile*, *Fissidens dubius*, *Frullania dilatata*, *Hypnum andoi*, *Hypnum cupressiforme* var. *lacunosum*, *Hypnum cupressiforme* var. *resupinatum*, *Isothecium myosuroides* var. *myosuroides*, *Leiocolea badensis*, *Metzgeria violacea*, *Orthotrichum pulchellum*, *Ulotia crispa* and *Ulotia phyllantha*). Of the liverworts reported by J. Shanklin we refound five (*Aneura pinguis*, *Lophocolea bidentata*, *Lophocolea heterophylla*, *Metzgeria furcata* and *Pellia endiviifolia*), failed to find three (*Conocephalum conicum*, *Jungermannia gracillima* and *Lunularia cruciata*) and located five new species (*Frullania dilatata*, *Leiocolea badensis*, *Metzgeria furcata*, *Metzgeria violacea* and *Riccardia chamedryfolia*). The list of bryophytes for the SSSI now totals 70 species. A little more work is needed in this hectad before it could be considered well-recorded, though our efforts improved matters somewhat and appear to have been the first full bryophyte survey of the SSSI. *Metzgeria violacea* was, surprisingly, new for Denbighshire.

Helsby Hill, Cheshire: 2 April 2011

Noted for its geological and archaeological interest, we met at this large outcrop of sandstone above the Mersey floodplain to see what bryophytes were on offer. Soon after leaving the carpark, *Syntrichia virescens* was seen growing on a tarmac path, this being only the second record of the plant in Cheshire. The hill itself proved to be rather dry and the species tally crept upwards at a slow pace. Some local goblins had stashed some gold (*Schistostega pennata*) in a recess of a sandstone cliff, providing a wonderful luminous green display. Another notable find was some strong colonies of the nationally scarce *Calypogeia integristipula*, seen on the more shaded, damper sandstone exposures. This species was recorded from Helsby Hill previously, in 1972 by H.J.B. Birks, and has been found at three other Cheshire sites in the past. A total of 52 species were recorded in all, including twelve (23%) new for the under-recorded SJ47 hectad: *Barbula convoluta* var. *sardoa*, *Calypogeia arguta*, *Didymodon vinealis*, *Fissidens incurvus*, *Grimmia trichophylla*, *Hypnum cupressiforme* var. *resupinatum*, *Pellia epiphylla*, *Plagiothecium curvifolium*, *Plagiothecium succulentum*, *Pohlia melanodon*, *Polytrichum commune* var. *commune* and *Zygodon conoideus* var. *conoideus*. More work is needed in this hectad in the future, but interesting-looking sites suited to our meetings are lacking.

Thurstaston Common (south end), Wirral: 16 July 2011

A total of 67 species were recorded, of which 16 were new for the SJ28 hectad (*Barbula convoluta* var. *sardoa*, *Bryum rubens*, *Cephaloziella divaricata*, *Cryphaea heteromalla*, *Hypnum andoi*, *Nardia scalaris*, *Orthotrichum affine*, *Orthotrichum diaphanum*, *Orthotrichum pulchellum*, *Oxyrrhynchium hians*, *Riccardia chamedryfolia*, *Sphagnum fallax*, *Sphagnum fimbriatum*, *Sphagnum subnitens* var. *subnitens*, *Ulota bruchii* and *Ulota crispa*). Nothing new for the vice-county, but a few new for the Wirral.

Hawarden Park, Flintshire: 17 September 2010

A total of 69 species were recorded, of which 19 were new for the under-recorded SJ36 hectad. Amongst these were *Barbula convoluta* var. *sardoa* and *Didymodon nicholsonii*, both new for Flintshire.

Court Hey Park, Liverpool: 8 October 2011

The site is largely covered with tall herb, but there are areas of bryological interest including limestone boulders, mature poplars and disintegrating tarmac. As usual in the west of VC59 epiphytes were rather sparse and recent colonists such as *Orthotrichum pulchellum* and *Metzgeria violacea* were not in evidence. However, we found small quantities of *Metzgeria furcata* and - the major find of the day - *Syntrichia papillosa* (new for vc59 but to be confirmed). Much of the old tarmacadam was invisible beneath sheets of *Didymodon fallax*, *Bryum capillare* and *Tortula ruralis*.

Brereton Heath Country Park, Cheshire: 5 November 2011

A total of 63 species recorded were recorded, including a high portion of new species (23) for this under-recorded hectad. *Didymodon nicholsonii* and *Syntrichia virescens* were found growing on damp tarmac in the carpark. Both species as yet have very few records in Cheshire, though likely occur in almost every hectad as they appear to have colonised rapidly in recent history. Some nice stands of *Pohlia bulbifera* were found beside the lake, which otherwise had a rather dull flora. Lots of *Barbula convoluta* var. *sardoa* was seen and no *B. convoluta* s.str., which appears to be a typical picture in the region. A small patch of *Brachythecium mildeanum* was found growing beside *B. albicans*, the former being another under-recorded species in Cheshire. Some very fine and typical 'pom-pom' patches of *Sphagnum angustifolium* were found in an area of willow car beside the lake, growing beside *S. squarrosum* and *S. fimbriatum*. Frequent small patches of *Zygodon conoideus* were on willow, but no *Z. viridissimus* (the former is typically the commoner plant within woodlands in the region nowadays).

The Oldham Butterfly Survey 2012

Steve Smith has begun a butterfly survey of the Oldham district this year. He is planning to continue with the survey over the next three years. Firstly he would like to find suitable sites within the Borough boundary which will be the target areas in future years and would be grateful for suggestions. He is interested in records of all species even small tortoiseshell and meadow brown although such species are relatively common at present circumstances can quickly change.

However Steve is particularly interested in scarcer species such as hairstreaks, wall brown, small copper, common blue and small heath in particular. So please have a search through your notebooks and in the first instance please send any records from this year to:

patricia.francis@oldham.gov.uk

To date (May 2012), the orange tip is on the wing and is one of the species that are single brooded. I've been particularly interested to record this butterfly and so far I have recorded it in 10 tetrads ranging from Uppermill to Daisy Nook and, as I expected, is quite a common butterfly in Oldham in the right habitat.

I've been looking at some old records (up to 2006) and note that wall brown was recorded in the Tandle Hill area and green hairstreak on the moors above Uppermill - if this awful weather relents I may have time to check out the green hairstreak (on the wing until mid-June at the latest). The wall is double brooded so I will have another chance in August.

In total so far I have recorded 7 species, the latest being today (14 May 2012) at Strinesdale - the small copper.

Steve Smith

North Western Naturalists' Union Annual Report of The Manchester and North Midlands Ferns & Lycophyte Section 2011

Yvonne Golding

Our first meeting of the year in March was a joint venture with the Yorkshire Fern Group when a whole weekend was devoted to *Polypodiums*. On the Saturday we explored the area around Malham, Yorkshire where all three native *Polypodiums* and their hybrids occur. These are *P. cambricum*; *P. interjectum* and *P. vulgare* with their hybrids *P. x font-queri* (*cambricum* x *vulgare*); *P. x mantoniae* (*vulgare* x *interjectum*) and *P. x shivasii* (*interjectum* x *cambricum*). Apart from other common limestone ferns we were also pleased to find nine plants of *Polystichum lonchitis* (holly fern) in the grikes above Waterswallows valley. On the Sunday we met at Manchester University and held a laboratory session where we examined sample fronds microscopically in order to look at the spores more closely and to count the cells of the annulus which is diagnostic in recognizing the species and their hybrids.

The main purpose of our meeting in May was to monitor the colony of *Asplenium ceterach* (rustyback fern) in Wolfscote Dale in upper Dovedale, Staffordshire. We were pleased to find an outlier colony with around eight plants before the main colony which contained at least thirty plants. We have photographed many of these and gathered precise GPS readings so we can monitor this colony in future years.

The first weekend in July we held a National BPS Field Meeting in Derbyshire. We explored many limestone areas and for contrast, Jagger's Clough on the millstone grit, where we found the usual ferns of acidic terrain including *Oreopteris limbosperma* (sweet mountain fern) and *Phegopteris connectilis* (beech fern) and after much searching one small colony of *Gymocarpium dryopteris* (oak fern). On this occasion we had a horsetail expert with us who found *E. x litorale* (*arvense* x *fluviatile*) as well as one of the parents *E. arvense* and *E. sylvaticum*.

In August we monitored the extensive colony of *Asplenium viride* (green spleenwort) in Cave Dale above Castleton. This fern is on the southern edge of its distribution in Derbyshire. The plants were too numerous to count so we just estimated the extent of the colony. In some cases plants were growing intimately with *Asplenium trichomanes* (maidenhair spleenwort) and *Cystopteris fragilis* (brittle-bladder fern). On the same day we explored Abney Clough which supported a range of acidic ferns including *Blechnum spicant* (hard fern) and a good colony of *Phegopteris connectilis* as well as a possible hybrid *Equisetum*.

In September we walked through the newly-opened Chee Tor Tunnels and dropped into Chee Dale to admire the forked *Asplenium scolopendrium* colony (hart's tongue fern) and to check on the few plants of *Asplenium viride* and the unusual *Cystopteris fragilis*. In the afternoon we monitored the *Dryopteris submontana* on the Tissington Trail. We could

only see four plants and were concerned about the encroaching ash saplings on the railway cutting. Along from this site we looked again for hybrids amongst the large colony of *Polypodium interjectum* and at a very large *Dryopteris* and concluded it to be *D. x complexa*.

Our field year concluded on a lovely sunny day at the end of October when we went fern hunting on the Chatsworth Estate and were lucky enough to be allowed to descend a ventilation shaft where many ferns both exotic and native had colonised.

SOCIETY DIARY

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

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.

ALTRINGHAM AND DISTRICT NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Except where otherwise stated, all meetings will be held at St Peter's Assembly Rooms, Cecil Road, Hale and will be timed approximately as follows: 7:30pm informal gathering, 7:45pm lecture, 9:15pm tea and chat.

All excursions leave from the car park at St Peter's Assembly Rooms, Cecil Road, Hale at the times indicated. If you intend to join the excursion please give three days notice. Food and drink for the day and suitable footwear are advisable.

<http://www.altnats.org.uk>, info@altnats.org.uk, 0161 865 0118

Tuesday 14 August : Moore Nature Reserve – evening walk

Tuesday 28 August : Dunham Park – evening walk

Tuesday 18 September : Cairngorms – Britain's Arctic Wilderness

Gillian Pierce

Tuesday 2 October : Wild Flowers of East Cheshire

Jack Swan

Tuesday 16 October : Biscay and Picos

Jeff Clarke

Tuesday 23 October : Social and Supper

Saturday 3 November : Fungi Foray at Tatton Park

Dave Higginson Tranter

Tuesday 6 November : The Fun of Fungi – An Idiot's Guide

Margaret McCormick

Tuesday 20 November : The Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Park
Mike Pettipher

Tuesday 4 December : Portrait of a River
Liz Blackman

Saturday 15 December : Annual Christmas Walk and Pub Lunch at Kilton

BLACKBURN & DISTRICT BIRD CLUB

Indoor meetings are usually held on the first Monday of the month at St. Silas's Church Hall, Preston New Road, Blackburn at 7.30 pm. Outdoor meetings are held to observe and study birds in the field, and are usually led by a member of the committee.

CHESHIRE ACTIVE NATURALISTS

To find out more information about how to join Cheshire Active Naturalists visit www.cheshireactivenaturalists.org.uk or email Martyn at Martyn@czd.org.uk

Saturday 4 August : Badger Surveying (badger law, licensing, ecology and sett watch) Frodsham - Brian Rhodes

Sunday 19 August : Electro fishing & Identification (survey techniques, fish ID & fish ecology) Rixton Clay pits - Dr Kevin Nash/Katherine Causer

Saturday 8 September : Wybunbury Moss (informal visit to this SSSI in south Cheshire) - Dr Bill Bellamy

Sunday 28 October : Nature of Industry (how flora & fauna has adapted to industrial landscapes) Frodsham - Andy Harmer

Saturday 24 November : Myriapod & Isopod Identification (millipedes, centipedes & woodlice) Etherow - Paul Richards

Saturday 8 December : Lichen Identification Workshop (fieldwork & microscopy to unlock the miniature world of lichens) Norton Priory - Dr Mike Gosling

Sunday 27 January : Pollen (pollen analysis, identification, impacts and uses) Rocksavage - Paul Quigley

Saturday 16 March : Aquatic Macro-invertebrates (assessing river quality by using the macro-invertebrate fauna) Rostherne Brook - Dr Bill Bellamy

CHEADLE HULME & BRAMHALL NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

20 September : The Cheshire Dormouse Project - Sue Tatman

18 October : Annual General Meeting (7.15pm) & Northumbria: England's Border County - Gillian Pierce

DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.danes-insects.org.uk/aboutus.htm>

GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL RECORD CENTRE

Greater Manchester Ecology Unit, Ryecroft Hall, Manchester Road, Audenshaw, Manchester, M34 5. Any queries contact: Suzanne Waymont on 0161 371 5834. Email: suzanne.waymont@tameside.gov.uk

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.

Saturday 4 August : Hale Lighthouse, Mersey Estuary (shore, saltmarsh, cliff & arable flora & fauna)

Stephen Fletcher (07766 668040)

Park by Hale Village shops/Childe of Hale PH/ Hale Park or alight at Hale Village from 82A bus from Stand 8, Liverpool One Bus Station. Walk to meet west end of Within Way, near Church.SJ471822 at 10.30

Saturday 11 August : Pat's Plateau & Green Beach

Pat Lockwood & Phil Smith

Pat's Plateau: Leader Pat Lockwood (07923 581059) Meet at 10.30 am, Ainsdale Station.

Green Beach: Leader Phil Smith (no mobile) Meet at 13.30 pm, Ainsdale Discovery Centre

Saturday 1 September : Sutton Mill Dam, St Helens (sheltered walk along a water course & old railway track bed)

Barbara Allen (07807 280088). Meet at Lea Green Station, 10.30 am

Saturday 15 September : Dibbinsdale (late summer plants & fungi)

John Crowder (07977 736172)

Meet at Bromborough Rake Station 10.30 am

Saturday 22 September : Rostherne Mere NNR, Cheshire (ancient woodland, reed-beds, & grassland)

Tim Rogers (079890949997)

Meet at NE car park SJ742834 10.30. Post code WA16 6SB

Saturday 13 October : Uncommon Trees of Court Hey Park: an Orienteer's Guide
Rob Duffy (07407515158)

9.40 a.m. 61 Murdishaw bus from Stand 2 Queen Square Bus Station to Roby Road.

Meet in National Wild Flower Centre, Knowsley in car park 10.30 am

Tree guides & pens essential

Saturday 10 November 2012 : Sedge Workshop
Dr Colin Smith

Saturday 8 December 2012 : Flower Stories and Folklore
Tom Goodale (& members' holiday photos)

Saturday 12 January 2013 : Wildflowers of the Sefton Coast
John Somerville

Saturday 9 February : Annual General Meeting
(& members' field meeting photos)

Saturday 9 March : Edible Landscapes
Richard Smedley

MACCLESFIELD & DISTRICT FIELD CLUB

Indoor meetings commence at 7.30pm at the Salvation Army Hall, Roe Street, Macclesfield.

MANCHESTER AND NORTH MIDLANDS FERN GROUP

Contact: Yvonne Golding, 7 Grange Road, Buxton, Derbyshire.

SK17 6NH. 01298 24588. Secretary@eBPS.org.uk

Saturday 18 August : National Trust woods at Padley and Longshaw Estate
Leader Yvonne Golding and National Trust Wardens

Saturday 22 September : Luds Church, Gradbach, Staffordshire
Tea at the Youth Hostel

Saturday 27 October : Indoor Meeting at Manchester Museum or Buxton
Leader Yvonne Golding

Member's travelogues?

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

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 p.m. 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>

MARPLE NATURALISTS

Meetings commence at 8.00 pm at United Reform Church, Hibbert Lane, Marple, SK6 7NN.

Wednesday 1 August 2012 : Fungi

Martin Ashworth

NELSON NATURALIST SOCIETY

All meetings are held at Christ Church, Carr Road, Nelson and start at 7.30pm

Enquiries: David Nelson 01282 863012

Wednesday 3 October : North West Mammals

Tony Parker Curator zoology World Museum Liverpool, Lancashire mammal recorder

Wednesday 17 October : Small Game Hunting - Invertebrates Home & Abroad

Lance Gorman

Wednesday 31 October : Birds of the Yorkshire Dales - Over 40 years of observations in the Dales

Colin Straker

Wednesday 14 November : Travels with Flatworms

Dr Hugh D. Jones of High Peak, Honorary Scientific Associate Natural History Museum, London. With video clips

Wednesday 28 November : An evening with Wildlife Photographer Alan Saunders

Alan has published in many magazines and books

Wednesday 12 December : A Naturalist Photographers Year

Howard Harrison

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

NORTHWESTERN NATURALISTS' UNION

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 2 March 2013

**2.00 pm in the Green Room, Bolton Library,
Le Mans Crescent, Bolton**

NORTHWESTERN NATURALISTS' UNION - BRYOPHYTE AND LICHEN 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 any ANY meeting.

Saturday 11 August; More Hall Reservoir near Stocksbridge.

Meet on dam wall at the eastern end of the reservoir. (SK 287958) Joan Egan.

Saturday 15 September: Errwood Hall

Meet at most southerly car park by Errwood Reservoir (SK012748) Martha Newton

Saturday 6 October: Hayfield

Meet Bowden Bridge Car Park (Chargeable) or road adjacent. (SK048869) Mike Walton (01606 259 286)

Saturday 17 November: Naden Brook, Heywood

Queens Park car park, Queens Park Road, Heywood (SD857117) Norman Bamforth (0161 336 3914)

Saturday 8 December: Marple Woods, Marple

Wood Lane Car Park, Middlewood Way (SJ949883) Norman Bamforth and Tony Smith (0161 336 3914)

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 and 814884. 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 11 August : Smardale, Cumbria – Coach Trip

E. & D. Clutterbuck

Saturday 16 August : Hopwood Ramble

Saturday 25 August : Swinden Water, Burnley – Car Trip

F. Royle

Saturday 8 September : AGM followed by lecture

Saturday 15 September : Upper Wharfedale, N. Yorks – Coach Trip

A. Cross

Thursday 20 September : Watergrove Ramble

Saturday 29 September : Alderley Edge, Cheshire – Car Trip

M. Heywood

Saturday 13 October : Goyt Valley, Derbyshire – Coach Trip

S. Allen

Thursday 18 October : Roch Valley Ramble

Saturday 27 October : Pennington Flash – Car Trip

P. & M. Culkin

*NB There may be extra costs of entrance fees for non-members of RSPB, WWT and local Wildlife Trusts when visiting their reserves.

SADDLEWORTH NATURALISTS

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

Wednesday 8 August : Slackcote

Leader Anne Parry - Meet Delph Methodist Church car park

Wednesday 12 September : A Taste of Islay

Gordon Yates

Wednesday 10 October : The Magic of Fungi

Dave Winnard, wildlife photographer

Wednesday 14 November : Canada – The Wild West

Dr Tim Melling RSPB

Wednesday 9 January : Woodland Wildlife

Nick Martin

Wednesday 13 February : Madeira, Island of Eternal Sunshine

Tony Pioli

Wednesday 13 March : RSPB Dovestones

Speaker to be confirmed

Wednesday 10 April : Annual General Meeting

plus members' digital pictures & light refreshments

WILMSLOW GUILD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Indoor meetings held at Wilmslow Guild, 1 Brown Street at 7.45 pm. Visitors welcome to indoor meetings (£3.00) & field-trips (free).

Contact Roy Beacham (secretary) for further information on 01606 891957
rybeacham@aol.com

Saturday 11 August : Hartington, Derbyshire - walk
Meet at 1.30pm at old Hartington Station car park SK414361

Thursday 20 September : What Grows Where and Why
Dr. Goronwy Wynne

Thursday 11 October : A Year at Potteric Carr
Susan & Alan Parker

Saturday 13 October : Delamere, Cheshire – fungi & fruits
Meet 10.30 am in the Linmere Visitor Centre SJ549704

Thursday 8 November : The Cairngorms – Britain's Arctic Wilderness
Gillian Pierce

Thursday 13 December : AGM & Members' Evening
quiz, members' slides & seasonal fare

Thursday 17 January 2013 : Africa – Namibia, Rwanda, Kenya & S. Africa
Paul Hobson

Thursday 14 February : Alpine Plants of Britain & Europe
Peter Llewellyn

Thursday 14 March : Spring on Aphrodite's Isle - Cyprus
Gerry Stephens

Thursday 18 April : Newts in your Pond
James Grundy

Addition to the Lecturers List

The Wildlife & Geology of Tenerife by Nick Martin

n.martin@tcv.org.uk