

*THE  
NORTHWESTERN  
NATURALIST*

New series



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**The North Western Naturalists' Union**  
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**Contributions for the next issue by 1 May please!**

## NWNU Vascular Plant Section Annual Report 2015

2015 was an exciting year for Natural History in the northwest particularly in North Merseyside and Lancashire with the launch of the Heritage Lottery funded Biodiverse Society Project. In total around 70 wildlife sites were visited and a significant amount of data was gathered by staff, trainees and volunteers. Recording has been a great success and to date the project has provided almost 15,000 vascular plant records for Lancashire alone.

We enjoyed several trips to the Fylde coast seeing noteworthy plants such as the Isle-of-Man Cabbage and Sea Bindweed and were able to locate the small localised population of Flat-Sedge (*Blysmus compressus*) at Lytham in order that scrub clearance can be undertaken to conserve this vulnerable population. We were able to find Lesser Skullcap at Nicky Nook and there may be a good population of Heath Spotted-orchid in moorland fringe meadows at Wycoller although only a single flower spike was found late in the season.

With the Lancashire Botany Group we were fortunate to be shown many of the specialities of Gaitbarrows NNR by the warden Rob-Petley Jones before travelling on to Haweswater to see Fragrant Orchids, Bird's-eye Primrose and Saw-sedge in the afternoon. Further monitoring of Rare and Scarce Plants was carried out by Lancashire Botany Group members with visits to a series of flushes in Bowland and the discovery by Peter Jepson of Moonwort fronds near Belmont, this species having formerly been considered extinct in vc59.

The Liverpool Botanical Society excursion to Croxteth Hall provided the rediscovery of Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*) at this location with the former record being back in 1859. The trip to Aughton provided us with Field Mouse-ear (*Cerastium arvense*) and Bird's-foot (*Ornithopus perpusillus*) at the churchyard. A single plant of the somewhat sporadic and localised Long-stalked Orache (*Atriplex longipes*) was found by Patricia Lockwood on an excursion lead by Phil Smith at Marshside this being the first confirmed record 'Lancashire' for a number of years.

Sadly The Grey to Green project ran by the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit came to an end during 2015 but we did have a successful bioblitz at Boggart Hole Clough. In addition to exploring the wooded clough in search of native woodland ground flora plants we found populations of New Zealand Pigmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*) and New Zealand Bitter-cress (*Cardamine corymbosa*) amongst the short goose-grazed turf by the lake. We are very much aware that New Zealand Pigmyweed is an invasive plant but New Zealand Bitter-cress is a relatively recent arrival in the north-west of England. On the Manchester Field Club excursion to Dalton Crags we found a local speciality Rigid Buckler-fern and for those exploring Hutton Roof at the end of the day Lesser Meadow-rue, Spring Sandwort and the Limestone Fern.

The combined total number of vascular plant records obtained thus far for 2015 from North West England and North Wales is estimated to have exceeded 56,000 which is up by over 10% in comparison with 2014.

Much work has been carried out relating to the North Lancashire vascular plant card index compiled by Eric Greenwood over a period of around 50 years. Lancashire Wildlife Trust volunteers added the card index records to a series of spreadsheets which have now been checked by Eric Greenwood. Recently the records for Lancashire within vc64 have now been edited on or added to the BSBI Mapmate database which combined with former work for vc59 provides a most valuable chronological history of the recording of noteworthy plants in the Ribble Valley district. Work now continues with the noteworthy vascular plant records for vc60 and it is intend

that much progress will be made with this task during 2016.

Further progress was also been made with the study of *Rubus* species. On the BSBI *Rubus* weekend based at Northrop, Flintshire *Rubus distractiformis* and *R. newbouldii* were new to Wales and *Rubus effrenatus* was discovered on Hope Mountain some distance from the main populations that occur to the west about Snowdonia. The identity of a bramble known to occur in Flintshire and Denbighshire was also established over the weekend with Rob Randall determining the plants as *Rubus fuscicaulis*.

Further *Rubus* chromosome counts were obtained by supplying *Rubus* samples to Michal Sochor with samples having now been gathered from Lancashire, Cumbria, Cheshire, Staffordshire and Yorkshire. Many of the counts will be the first results for a number of endemic micro-species and counts were also obtained for several putative hybrids. Whilst out recording in Cumbria new vice-county records included *Rubus silurum* just within vc65 at High Oaks near Sedburgh and *R. rubritinctus* at Hale (east of the Gaitbarrows plants in vc60) but the main surprise was that of *Rubus accrescens* along the Old Scotch Road, Killington which is a significant distance north of the main populations in east Cheshire.

## **NWNU AGM**

**Saturday 12 March 2016, 2.00 pm**

**Bolton Library Meeting Room,  
Le Mans Crescent, Bolton**

The meeting is open to all members and members of all Affiliated Societies. It would be very much appreciated if each society could send at least one representative.

# North Western Naturalists' Union

## Bryophyte and lichen Section Report 2015

### Saturday 21 March : Greta Wood, Burton-in-Lonsdale

Six participants took part: Judith Allinson, Mike Canaway (walk leader), Phil James, Christine Kelly, Tony Moverley and Mike Wilcox. After a brief introduction we headed off towards the wood which is a Woodland Trust reserve with hard limestone rocks near the River Greta and stepped outcrops of shale and mudstones ascending the stream-eroded Clifford Gill providing a variety of habitats for bryophytes. Two of those present were complete beginners and hence time was spent by the other members (and good revision for us) going through some of the more common bryophytes such as *Mnium hornum*, *Plagiomnium undulatum* and the thallose liverwort *Conocephalum conicum*, as we encountered them. Before lunch we explored the western part of the wood where perhaps the highlight was *Hookeria lucens*, spotted by Judith and a small stream yielded *Rhizomnium punctatum* for the beginners. We then found a spot sheltered from the cold wind for lunch among a stand of large beech trees. Afterwards we ascended Clifford Gill whose stream tributary enters the river beneath a small footbridge beneath which was a handsome specimen of Hard Shield-fern (*Polystichum aculeatum*) admired by the group. Ascending the gill we found quite a mixed bag of bryophytes totalling about 50 (together with those seen earlier) with one or two having to be sent to the recorder, Tom Blockeel, for determination such as *Jungermannia atrovirens* and *Riccardia chamedryfolia*. For beginners it was good to see examples of *Fissidens* species and

also the three common species of *Rhytidia* - *delphus*, *R. triquetrus* being seen just as we left the top entrance of the wood to add to the *R. loreus* and *R. squarrosus* seen earlier. *Polytrichum* species or their relatives were on our hit-list for beginners but had eluded us all day but on our walk back to the cars some small clumps of *Polytrichastrum formosum* were seen enabling us at last to explain the characteristics of this group. All in all a good outing at a pleasant ancient woodland. MC.

### Saturday 18 April : Astley Moss

Nine of us met to take up an invitation to the N.W.N.U from the Lancashire and Merseyside Wildlife Trust to explore a wide variety of wetland habitat. It is a fine example of the lowland raised mires that formerly stretched for miles across South Lancashire. Of particular interest were the eight species of *Sphagnum* recorded (*S. capillifolium* s.s., *cuspidatum*, *denticulatum*, *fimbriatum*, *magellanicum*, *palustre*, *papillosum* and *subnitens*). Collectively, they are pleasing evidence of good restoration progress of bog surfaces. Elsewhere, characteristic species of more fen-like habitat were also present in the form of *Calliergon cordifolium* and *Calliergonella cuspidatum*. Interesting epiphytic bryophytes were also found on boundary trees. MEN

### Saturday 16 May: Watergrove Reservoir

I am not sure if this experimental meeting was a success. - The lichens and mosses were in different places so that half an hour was spent looking at the dam wall where

there were very few mosses and people got a bit impatient. The lichens were quite prolific and included *Lecanora muralis*, *L. dispersa*, *Porpidia tuberculosa*, *Acarospora fuscata* and quite a few others. As we turned along the bank of the reservoir the flora changed to woodland this was quite interesting also with epiphytic lichens coming right down to the lower branches of the trees and here we found a number of the *Parmelia* group as well as *Ramalina farinacea*, *R. fastigata* and *R. fraxinea*. The latter two are not common in this area. The mosses found included *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Bryum pseudotriquetrum*, *Pohlia bulbifera* and five *Sphagna*. On the reservoir drawdown area were *Atrichum crispum*, *Atrichum tenellum*, and *Fossombronia wondraczekii*. NB

### **Saturday 15 August : Langden Brook, Bowland**

We recorded 98 [99?] species on this excursion in the Bowland Forest. Many of these were epiphytes and ruderals found along the tree-lined avenue to the water works. Most of the trees were sycamores, and *Zygodon conoideus* was abundant on the trunks. One small patch of *Cololejeunea minutissima* was also noted. The track into the Langden Valley from the water works had some moist, semi-bare areas along its edges with an interesting flora that included *Scapania irrigua*, *Archidium alternifolium*, *Pohlia drummondii* and a *Fossombronia* that could be *F. incurva* [tbc]. The Langden Valley does not have much rock outcropping on its slopes, but one low crag by the stream notably had *Anastrophyllum minutum* on a rock face, as well as *Sphagnum girgensohnii*, *Dicranum fuscescens* and *D. majus*. Bare gritty soil on a steep bank further along had a small amount of *Discelium nudum* with immature

capsules. Tom was keen to climb up to Holdren Castle, which the map suggested was craggy. The steep ascent through bracken and tall heather was not appreciated by everybody, and the crags proved to be limited in extent. Nevertheless we added *Scapania gracilis*, *Sphagnum quinquefarium*, several *Racomitrium* species, and a very small patch of *Bazzania trilobata* to the day's list. TB.

Note. I complained about the almost vertical 200 feet or more climb to Holdren Castle but it was worth it to see the epiphytes dripping from the trees. Alas it was mainly *Hypnum cupressiforme*. NB

### **Saturday 12 September : Poynton Coppice**

A generally wet meeting with some heavy showers was attended by Des Callaghan, John Lowell, Sam Turner and Debbie Wallace. We wandered through Poynton Coppice Nature Reserve, which is partly an active coppice and had generally little bryological interest, then south-eastwards to Wood Lanes and up the Macclesfield Canal to Hagg Farm. Four monads were covered in all, with the total number of species in each monad now totalling: SJ9482 = 72 species since 1990 (46 before the meeting), SJ9382 = 73 (36), SJ9381 = 43 (9) and SJ9481 = 30 (2). In total, 86 species were seen during the outing. There was nothing breathtaking, but it was good to see the Nationally Scarce *Fissidens fontanus* in three new monads (along the Macclesfield Canal). DC

### **Saturday 10 October : Taddington Woodland**

Our day in Derbyshire was not confined to limestone and gave all eight of us an opportunity to distinguish between species of lime-rich substrates and others less closely

associated with lime-rich substrates. We were also pleased to find both male and female *Plagiomnium undulatum*. MEN

### **Saturday 7 November : Middleton Woods, Ilkley**

An extremely soggy start with heavy rain which naturally brought bryologists out in force with 12 participants from far and wide. Whilst the woodland is recorded as 'ancient semi-natural woodland' it has been modified and largely re-planted over the years. A good selection of woodland bryophytes was encountered in both dry and wet broad-leaved woodland although the search was somewhat hampered by recent leaf fall! Of note was *Fissidens pusillus* (only the second record for Wharfedale, the other being Lower Barden Reservoir), and *Nowellia curvifolia*, one of my favourite liverworts. Thanks to all participants, in particular Mike Canaway who helpfully instructed novices, Mike Wilcox for his microscope work and John Lowell for making the journey and providing welcome expertise! Maybe November 2016 will be fine weather?! GH.

### **Saturday 5 December : Tegg's Nose**

We were very lucky indeed with the weather, having a dry though blustery day whilst regions further north suffered the brunt of 'Storm Desmond'. We started in the carpark at Tegg's Nose Reservoir and ascended the hill to investigate the disused quarries at the top, before descending on the eastern side to have a look at the exposed mud of Tegg's Nose Reservoir. Prior to the meeting there were very few modern records for the area. Three monads were visited, in which we recorded 44 taxa (SJ9471), 64 taxa (SJ9472) and 44 taxa (SJ9572), amounting to 90 species altogether. *Syntrichia laevipila*, a scarce epi-

phyte in Cheshire, was seen on an elder in Tegg's Nose Wood, where a couple of tufts of the not-so-rare *Orthotrichum striatum* were also found. Lunch was taken in the shelter of an old quarry, on the top of the hill, in the company of a single cushion of *Ptychomitrium polyphyllum*, a rather scarce moss in the region. The exposed rock-faces on the hill were disappointing and no *Grimmia donniana* was found (Tegg's Nose is the only site in Cheshire where it has ever been recorded with certainty, back in 1976 during a BBS meeting). After descending the hill a single patch of the under-recorded *Racomitrium affine* was found on top of a stone wall beside the main path that borders Tegg's Nose Wood. This was only the third record for Cheshire, though it is likely to be occasional along the Pennine fringe (John Lowell recently found it on a garden wall in Cheadle Hulme!). The day culminated in the most exciting find of the day, the nationally scarce (almost nationally rare) *Physcomitrium sphaericum*. Small amounts were scattered on the exposed mud adjacent to the reservoir feeder-stream, a new site for the species, where it grew with *Bryum dichotomum*, *Pseudephemerum nitidum* and *Tortula truncata*. The shaded roots of bankside trees nearby supported strong colonies of *Hygroamblystegium varium*, a typical location for this under-recorded denizen of gloomy waterside spots. A gentleman that travelled from California arrived a day late for the meeting, due to a stupid mistake by the organiser. Fortunately, the meeting was not his prime reason for visiting Britain! DC.

# **SOCIETY DIARY**

## **ACCRINGTON NATURALISTS' AND ANTIQUARIANS' SOCIETY**

Meetings start at 2.30 pm at Antley Methodists' Church Hall, Blackburn Road, Accrington. Enquiries 01254 381236 or 07954 500642. Non-members welcome - £2.00 minimum lecture fee.

**Sunday 7 February : A Year at Leighton Moss RSPB Reserve**  
Alan Stamford

**Sunday 21 February : Fantastic Plants of Ness Botanic Garden**  
Tim Baxter

**Sunday 6 March : Papua & New Guinea – Our First Contact**  
John & Jean Broadbent

**Sunday 20 March : Annual General Meeting, Members' slides, Exhibits & Refreshments**

**Sunday 27 March** : Easter – no meeting

## **ALTRINCHAM AND DISTRICT NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

The indoor meetings are held at Jubilee Community Centre, The Firs, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 2TQ at 7.30pm. Excursions leave from the Jubilee Centre car park at 6.30pm, or meet at the venue itself. Entrance charges: £1.50 members, £3.00 guests. Please contact us at least 3 days in advance if you wish to attend any of the excursions.

<http://www.altnats.org.uk>, [info@altnats.org.uk](mailto:info@altnats.org.uk) 0161 865 0118

## **BOLTON FIELD NATURALISTS' SOCIETY**

Indoor meetings are monthly between September and April at Bolton Central Library, with generally a guest speaker. Lectures are held on Monday afternoons, commencing at 1:30– and guests are always most welcome. Outdoor meetings also take place, especially during the summer. For programme details telephone Arthur/Pat on 01204 782853, or <http://boltonwildlife.co.uk/>.

## **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](http://www.cheshireactivenaturalists.org.uk) or [Martyn@czd.org.uk](mailto:Martyn@czd.org.uk)



## **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

## **CHORLEY AND DISTRICT NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Meetings September - April St Mary's Parish Centre Chorley.  
See [www.chorleynats.org.uk](http://www.chorleynats.org.uk) - for details or telephone Phil Kirk 01257 266783

## **DERYSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

## **GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL RECORD CENTRE**

Any queries contact: Steve Atkins, Local Record Centre Development Officer, Greater Manchester Ecology Unit, Council Offices, Wellington Road, Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 6DL

Stephen.atkins@tameside.gov.uk  
Telephone: 0161 342 4121 Mobile 07792 041 528

## **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. Unless otherwise stated field meetings begin at 10.30am.

**Saturday 13 February : AGM**  
and members' field meeting photos

**Saturday 12 March : Plant Galls Workshop**  
Steve Cross

## **MACCLESFIELD & DISTRICT FIELD CLUB**

Indoor meetings commence at 7.30pm at the Salvation Army Hall, Roe Street, Macclesfield. [www.maccfieldclub.co.uk](http://www.maccfieldclub.co.uk)

Starting points for walks are obtainable from the walk leader. Adequate footwear should be worn, no dogs please.

**Monday 22 February : Birds, Butterflies & Dragonflies of Cheshire**  
Jack Swan

**Monday 28 March : Foxlowe House of Leek and its Families**  
Cath Watson

**Monday 25 April : Flowers of the White Peak**  
John Sears

## **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. Members £1.00, visitors £2.00.

Chair: Alan Hill, 24 Kingsfield Drive, Didsbury, M20 6JA;  
awhill@globalnet.co.uk 0161 215 0971; mobile 07719 659 689.

website: [www.manchesterfieldclub.org.uk](http://www.manchesterfieldclub.org.uk)

**Saturday 13 February : Indoor programming meeting** at 6.30pm followed by:

### **Highlights of Costa Rica**

Mike Pettipher

### **Saturday 27 February : Jumbles Country Park, Bromley Cross**

Meet at 11.00am at the car park (pay and display) SD 736 139. Take the A676 out of Bolton. After the traffic lights at Bradshaw Chapel and the turning for Harwood (Lee Gate) carry on along the A676 for 1.9km and turn left down the narrow road to the car park.

Walk leader John Lowell (tel: 0161 485 6892). Easy, distance 4.5km.

### **Saturday 12 March : The Joy of Natural History Books**

Paul Heaton

### **Saturday 2 April : Hollingworth Lake, Littleborough**

Meet at 11.00am at the main car park outside the Visitor Centre at Hollingworth Lake, map ref SD 940 153.

Leaders Christine and Roger (tel: 0161 740 7670). Moderate.

## **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. Visitors welcome: £4 for individual meetings, Children free. Outdoor meetings - arranged separately and announced at meetings.

Further information - Lynne Shuttleworth – 0161 427 2346 or Derek Clifford 427 4611 or Marple Naturalists Community page on [www.marple-uk.com](http://www.marple-uk.com)

## MERSEYSIDE NATURALISTS ASSOCIATION

Full programme listings are on our website [www.mnapage.info](http://www.mnapage.info) and reports of previous trips on our blog at [www.NaturalistsNotebook.mnapage.info](http://www.NaturalistsNotebook.mnapage.info)

## NELSON NATURALISTS SOCIETY

All meetings are held at Christ Church, Carr Road, Nelson and start at 7.30pm  
Enquiries: David Nelson 01282 863012 [davidnelson@btinternet.com](mailto:davidnelson@btinternet.com)

## NORTH WEST FUNGUS GROUP

(In association with the - British Mycological Society)

Bring strong footwear. Details about terrain and accessibility of sites can be obtained by contacting the foray leader. Most venues have their own website. Forays are planned so that they can continue into the afternoon. If you intend to so continue please bring food and drink. If travelling a considerable distance to a foray it is advisable to confirm with the leader that the foray is taking place, as on rare occasions, forays have had to be changed at short notice especially if very dry and changes will be sent round on the email list. Beginners are welcome at ALL forays. **Please note that forays are not suitable for very small children. DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED.**

**Saturday 27 February – AGM 10am (Coffee) for 10.30 at Risley Moss, north Warrington.** WA3 6QS SJ664920 (Sheet 109). Presidential address - Geoffrey Kibby. A short foray afterwards.

**Sunday 20 March – Roddlesworth.** Meet 10.30 at Tockholes Car Park by Vaughan's Country Cafe. SD665215 (Sheet 103) BB3 0PA; 2 ½ km north on Tockholes Road, 3 km after it leaves the A675 Bolton-Preston road. Leader - John Watt (07768 043 461 / 01695 578843).

**Sunday 10 April – Freshfield, Merseyside.** Meet 10.30 at Freshfield Station car park SD291084 (Sheet 108) (L37 7DD). Leave A565 Formby-by-Pass onto B5424 at roundabout signposted for Formby Point, BUT at mini roundabout keep straight on until Freshfield Road then turn right. (OR go by train). Leader - Tony Carter (0151-724-4600)

**Sunday 15 May - Styal Woods, Cheshire.** Nr. Manchester Airport. Meet 10.30, small National Trust car park off road by Styal Village, 600 yds past the Ship Inn on opposite side of road. SJ836836 (Sheet 109) (SK9 4JE). Leader - John Taylor (0161-445-330/ 07980629063)

**Sunday 19 June - Clock Face Colliery Country Park, Bold, St. Helens.** – Meet 10.30 at Gorsey Lane Car Park. From Jct 7 of M62 follow A57 Warrington Rd. After 2 miles turn left on to A569 Clock Face Road. After 1.5 miles, (passing back under M'way), turn right into Gorsey Lane (blue cycling sign Burtonwood). Continue to entrance on right. SD 535915 (Sheet 108) (WA9 4SN). Leader – Tom Ferguson (01744 739774 / 07743 509671).

**Sunday 17 July - Rostherne Mere.** Meet 10.30. Take the third turn on the left going south on the Chester Road (A556) from the M56 Jct 8. The car park is 200 yards past the church on the left hand side SJ743833 (Sheet 109) (WA16 6SB); or park on the road. Leader - Tim Rogers (07890949997).

**Sunday 7 August – Pennington Flash Country Park, Leigh.** The Country Park is signposted from the A580 East Lancashire Road-turn off onto A579 and after 1.2 miles turn L at traffic lights onto A572. In about 100m, turn R into Park access road (signposted) to the Main Car Park (small charge) which fronts the lake. SD 643 991 Sheet 109 (WN7 3PA) Good paths, level walking, Toilets on site as well as snack and ice cream vans (usually) Leader-Christopher Bowden (01772 812910/07597 921981).

**Sunday 14 August - Maes y Pant, Gresford.** Meet 10.30 at main entrance car park (9 spaces). Coming from Chester bypass, A55, take A483 to Wrexham. After 2 sets of traffic lights (new) continue for 3+ miles to 1st turn-off. Turn left at top of ramp and then right at roundabout. Continue up the hill until Red Lion pub, then right onto Pant Lane. Continue to car park on right. SJ354551(Sheet 117) which is next to The Conifers LL12 8HU. From East, A534, A5156 to roundabout accessing A483. However continue around roundabout onto Chester Road (5th exit) ; continue to traffic lights by Plough Inn, turn L into High St continue towards church till Pant Lane on R at Yew Tree pub. Car parking after 400 yards on left after The Conifers and on Pant Lane. Toilets in nearby pubs/inns. This is not the Marford Quarry site, which is just to the north. Leader-Robin 07985 206007

**Sunday 21 August – BEGINNERS FORAY at Risley Moss, north Warrington.** Meet 10.30. Access from M62 Jct 11. Continue along A574 to first island, turn left. Reserve signposted. Ample parking space. SJ665920 (Sheet 109) (WA3 6QS). Leader - Irene Ridge (01254-247274. A morning foray will be followed by an afternoon microscope workshop.

**Sunday 4 September - Hay Bridge Nature Reserve, Low Hay Bridge, Bouth, Ulverston, LA12 8JG.** Meet 10.30 in the meeting room adjacent to the car park at SD336876 (Sheet 97). By car, leave the M6 at J36 and bear left onto the A590 signposted to Barrow. After 3-4 miles take the first left signposted to Barrow. (NB 60 mph speed cameras on A590). At Newby Bridge roundabout take 1st exit, remaining on the A590 signposted Barrow and Ulverston then after ~ 4 miles turn right to Bouth. At Bouth village, turn right at the White Hart Inn and follow this lane for about ½ mile. Where it swings left, go straight ahead on a small narrow lane signposted 'Hay Bridge Only'. Follow this narrow lane until you reach the car park at the end (about 2 miles). The building immediately before the car park has facilities. Being a private reserve run as a Trust, (Warden, Keith) suggests donations for non-members. Leader - Mike Hall (015242-76460).

**Sunday 18 Sept. – Lytham Hall.** Meet 10.30 at Lytham Hall, Ballam Road, FY8 4JX. SD 3592864 (Sheet 102). From M55 J4 take A583 (Kirkham) at first roundabout, and take first right (Whitehall Rd) after second then immediately left onto Peel Rd. After 1.6 m turn right onto Ballam Rd and after 0.6 m turn R into Lytham Park and proceed to Hall (free entry for NWFG). Irene (07484 242523)

**Sunday 25 Sept – Delamere Forest.** Meet at 10.30 at Forestry Commission Whitefield Car Park, east off Station Road, B 5152, south of Hatchmere crossroads; SJ556710 (Sheet 117); 300m north of CW8 2HZ (nearby Station Cafe and station (trains from Manchester.) Group parking concession being arranged. Leader John 07768 043 461.

**Friday 30 Sept to Monday 3rd October - Residential Foray at Keswick Convention Centre.** Cost inc. meals, for members and for non-members will be announced later. Booking form with NWFG Newsletter. Contact Irene Ridge (01254-247274)

**Sunday 9 October – National Fungus Day.** To see events - <http://www.ukfungusday.co.uk/>

### **NORTHWESTERN NATURALISTS' UNION - AGM**

Saturday 12 March 2016, 2.00 pm, Bolton Library Meeting Room, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton

The meeting is open to all members and members of all Affiliated Societies. It would be very much appreciated if each society could send at least one representative.

### **NORTHWESTERN NATURALISTS' UNION - BRYOPHYTE & LICHEN SECTION**

All meetings on Saturdays, starting at 10.30 am and will commence whatever the weather. 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 and there will always be a more experienced field bryologist present who will be more than happy to name and talk through the identification features of species encountered. There will not always be a Lichenologist present.

Section Secretary: Norman Bamforth 1 Corporation Road, Audenshaw, Manchester. M34 5LY (0161 336 3914)

### **Saturday 13 February : Handforth and River Dean**

Meet at far end of Sagars Road Handforth (SJ85208350). Wooded clough and riverside - quite a small area but suitable for a short day in February. Leader John Lowell.

### **Saturday 12 March : Ladybower Woods**

Meet at Heatherdene Car Park, Ladybower. (Fee) (SK202858) Leader Joan Egan

### **Saturday 16 April : Mid Lathkil Dale**

Roadside parking at Haddon Grove between Monyash and Over Haddon. (SK180662) Leader Martha Newton

### **Saturday 14 May : Porter Valley**

Meet at Forge Dam Café Parking available near Fulwood Old Chapel around (SK302851)

Joint Sorby NHS and NWNNU meeting. Leaders Joan Egan and Ambroise Baker.

The aim of the day is to bring together people who enjoy field bryology and record species present in the Porter Valley as a contribution to the Porter Valley moss micro-flora. All levels of expertise are welcome throughout the day, including first time beginners. However, the focus of the morning will be training with no other objective than to learn from each other identification tips, while the focus of the afternoon will be recording bryophyte diversity. Ambroise has been recording bryophytes in the valley since 2013 and is now working on compiling all these records into a micro-flora. However there are still many habitats not surveyed, older records to be checked and many species he doesn't identify routinely with confidence, so any contribution is welcome!

The Porter Valley is one of Sheffield's major valleys and an exceptional nature corridor in the city. Following early industrial development with extensive water management including a series of dams, nature recolonised. Today the Porter Valley is a favourite green space for recreational activities. There is a wide range of habitats for bryophytes, including old masonry work, heathy grounds, acid grassland, alder carr, ancient and coniferous woodlands, swamps, wells, streams and river, etc. The lithology tends to be acidic but there are also many shale outcrops exposed by the river.

### **Saturday 11 June : Dove Stone Reservoir**

Meet at Binn Green car park. Fee or bring RSPB Card. (SE018043) On A635 Greenfield to Holmfirth Road. Leader Ken Gartside.

### **Saturday 9 July : Sleil Gill, Arkengarthdale**

Meet car park (with a paypoint but no toilets) is just south of the village of Langthwaite, (NZ00530238) The nearest Sat Nav is based on the Red Lion Pub in Langthwaite and is DL11 6RE. Both car park and pub are within walking distance of each other. Leader Sue Knight.

### **Saturday 13 August : Scutchers Acres, near Burscough**

We have permission to park on the neighbour's hardstanding turning in the drive to Forest View, to east off Flax Lane north of bridge over river. Post code L40 5TD; NGR SD 44961075. Easiest approach from east is along A5209 through Parbold and Newburgh, turning left short of Ring O'Bells and again to right onto Hobcross Lane, then onto Flax Lane by Qualco kennels. (Privy on site.) Leader John Watt.

Scutchers Acres is 13 ha in extent, and has been a Local Nature Site since 1997. The river Eller Brook has many indicators of ancient woodland but the site comprises a wide range of habitats from semi-natural woodland, recently planted woodland, broadleaves and conifers, meadows and stony artefacts.

### **Saturday 3 September : Upper Goyt Valley**

Meet at Pym's Chair car park, beside road at SJ99457677 Leader Des Callaghan.

We will explore the peaks of Cheshire and search for the county's highest species.