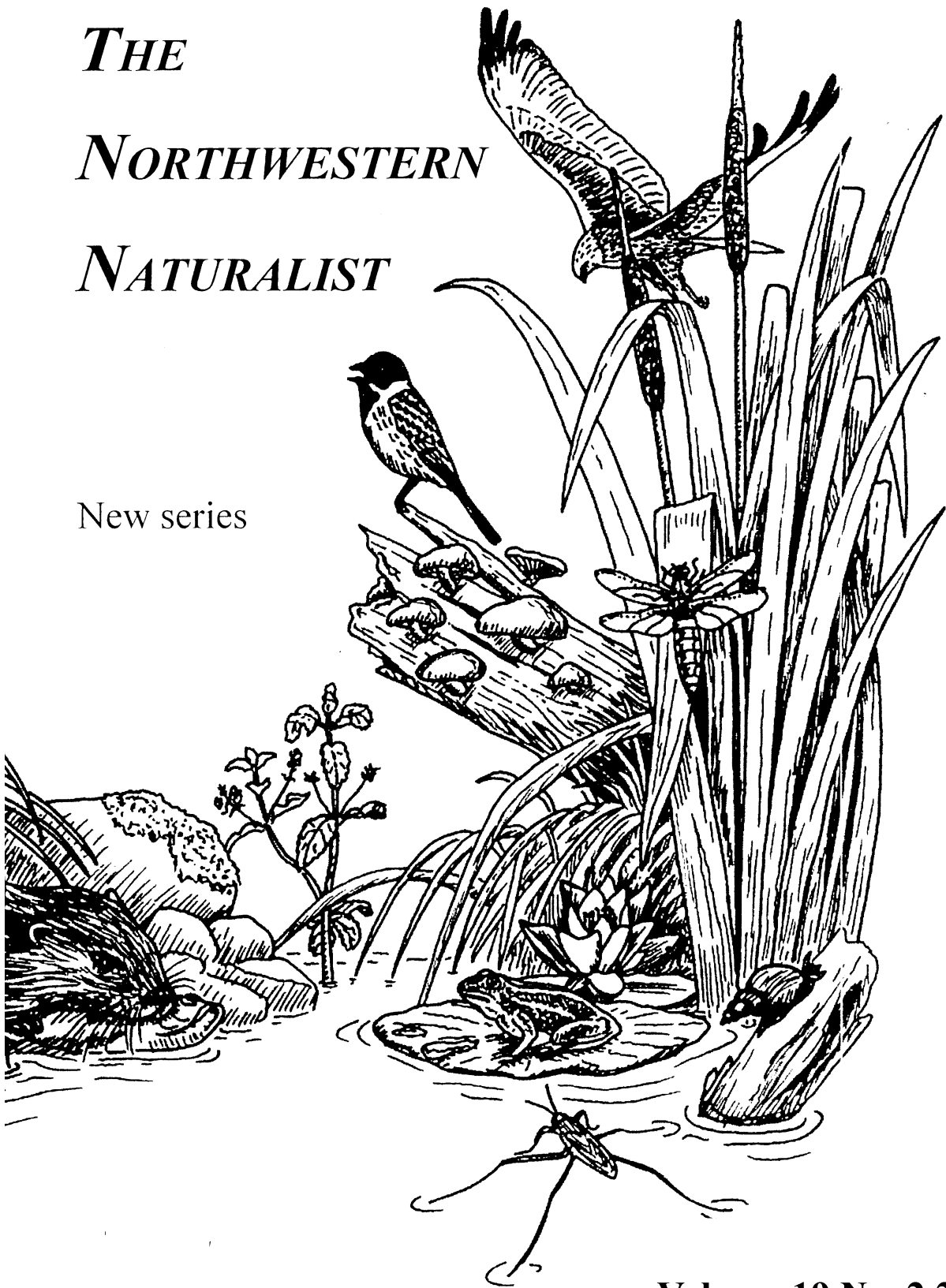


*THE
NORTHWESTERN
NATURALIST*

New series



Volume 19 No. 2 2018

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

North Western Naturalists' Union : Bryophyte and Lichen Section Report 2017

Lyme Park 18 February - Eight members met in Park Road just N of the Park. The lane down to the park had some interesting features, including *Orthotrichum cupulatum* and *O.anomalum*; large sheets of *Plagiomnium* on the grass verges were a deceptive mixture of *Plagiomnium rostratum* and *P. undulatum*, the younger plants of the latter looking just like the former. The stream as we entered the park had little beyond the usual aquatic species and we found few epiphytes on the bordering trees. Following the wall up the hill we were pleased see many dense cushions of *Pseudocrossidium revolutum*. We had lunch at the top of the hill and then followed the woodland path towards the main road. Epiphytes were again sparse, though we found *Orthotrichum pulchellum* and *Frullania dilatata* in small quantity. *Metzgeria violacea*, however, was quite abundant. The nicest find in the woodland was a small patch of very dark *Nowellia curvifolia*. We returned to the meeting place via the main road through the park. JL.

Holden Clough 15 April - This meeting started at Park Bridge and took the old railway line to Holden Clough. On the way we called at an old pond in one of the fields, it has a lot less water surface than it did and this has created areas suitable for *Sphagnum*s and *Caliergon cordifolium* and *C. giganteum* which has only three records on the vice-county. The old concrete wicket gate of a foot-crossing on the railway nearby produced most of the stone loving bryophytes. We then went into the clough itself. It was once rented by the North Western Naturalists Union, I remember the AGM at which we decided to stop paying the rent but do not know why we started in the first place. An ecological survey of the clough was conducted in the late 1960s. The woodland was full of common epiphytes without much interest and many of the trees were covered with *Orthotrichum pulchellum* with the capsules at their best.

Hynning Scout Wood 13 May - Five members - John Lowell, Mike Wilcox, Gail Quartly-Bishop, Phil James and Alex Helliwell - met on Hynning Road, just north of Warton, Lancashire to survey and record the bryophytes of Hynning Scout Wood.

The 21 hectare wood is a Woodland Trust Wood, much of which is semi-natural woodland formed on limestone pavement. The character of this upland mixed ashwood, with its ash, oak, birch and hazel, some base-poor areas and extensive limestone dry walls promised an interesting day.

The group started by recording species on the dry wall forming the boundary of the wood with Hynning Road. This was so rewarding that it was two hours before we had covered the two hundred metres to arrive at the entrance to the wood. In addition to the species growing on the walls and bedrock, we also recorded a good number of epiphytes. Also, in an elevated part of the wood, it was interesting to record species associated with acid soils. At the end of the day, on a limestone rockface, we recorded *Marchesinia mackaii*.

A list of 69 species was compiled, consisting of 18 liverworts and 51 mosses. We felt that this species list indicated the richness of a part of vice-county 60 which has probably been under-recorded in recent years.

Turton Reservoir 10 June - Not a good day: when the rain stops the midges come. This was a solo outing. From the gate on the A666 I went down the track towards Turton Reservoir. The coniferous woodland is not species rich but there were a couple of *Sphagnum* species, *Thuidium* and some typical acid woodland species. Further along in the next monad (SD7018) the rock of an old quarry has a small colony of *Marsupella emarginata*, a rare species for VC59, and *Sanionis uncinata*. The site was not very good for epiphytes but there was *Metzgeria consanguinea* on a willow. A grassy bank by the reservoir is a good site for *Sphagnum*, including *S. russowii* in some abundance. JL.

Anthony Hill 12 August - As is often the case, the car park (at Grin Low) provided plenty of interest even before we headed out for the day. The epiphytes were excellent, and included *Orthotrichum speciosum* (the 5th Derbyshire record), *O. lyellii*, *Pylaisia polyantha*, *Radula complanata* and many others. Before reaching Anthony Hill we spent some time on Stanley Moor, which in fact proved to be more interesting than the Hill itself. Parts of the moor are boggy, and had *Aulacomnium palustre* and seven species of *Sphagnum*, including *S. papillosum* and *S. russowii*. In one area there were some wet

sedgy seepages with *Climacium dendroides* and, remarkably, a few scattered shoots of *Calliergon giganteum* in only its second Derbyshire locality. Its presence is possibly explained by slight influence in the ground water from the adjacent limestone. The limestone is exposed in some very old diggings and we found *Gymnostomum aeruginosum* in one rocky recess, as well as common calcicoles such as *Neckera crispa*. There were some areas of short turf, presumably growing over very old limestone spoil, and one particularly fine bank had *Ditrichum gracile*, *Thuidium assimile* and a few stems of *Entodon concinnus* in the turf. Anthony Hill is a low hill with limestone rocks exposed mainly on the SW side. However, the rocks proved rather disappointing, dominated by a few robust, common mosses, and among the few additions here were *Scapania aspera* and *Reboulia hemisphaerica*, both in small quantity. We failed to locate *Racomitrium lanuginosum*, which has been recorded here previously. In total we recorded 85 species, including many additions for tetrad SK07K. TB.

Hartington Station 2 September - Tom Blockeel must like *Orthotrichums*, after finding *O. speciosum* at Grin, on this meeting he found *O. patens* in the car park at Hartington. This was found new to Britain by Richard Fisk in Suffolk a few months previous so it makes this the second British record. The group made their way along the railway line towards Ashbourne and up onto a lane for lunch. Many of the bryophytes were common species but they did include *Orthotrichum speciosum* and four *Ulota* species – *bruchii*, *crispa*, *crispula* and *phyllantha*.

After lunch we made our way back towards the station but a small group made our way to a silica pit in the nature reserve. The sides were steep and a little difficult in places but we did find *Pseudocrassidium revolutum*, *Riccardia chamedrifolia*, *Leiocolea badensis* and *Campyleum protensum* and some Grass of Parnassus (right) at its best.

As *Orthotrichum patens* is not in British books, I have included Tom Blockeel's description, as it may be lurking in your local car park.



It is closely related to *O. stramineum*, and like it has hairs on the vaginula, but the capsules are fatter and have narrow ribs (only 2-3 cells wide, 4-6 in *O. stramineum*). It also differs in the having uniseriate vaginular hairs (partly biseriate in *O. stramineum*), and slightly larger spores (15-18 vs 12-16 μm). It's easier to spot in the spring when the fat capsules are distinctive. NB.

Widdop Reservoir 7 October - Gordon Haycock led this meeting in atrocious weather. I have one problem under such conditions, I cannot see with my glasses on and likewise with them off. We set off over the reservoir embankment and over towards Cludders Slack and then around the reservoir banking. I know I was chicken but I left them around 1.30pm. and went back to the car to dry-off a little and have my lunch in pleasanter surroundings. NB.

North Western Naturalists' Union : Vascular Plant Section Annual Report 2017

2017 was a busy year and an estimated 40,000 records vascular plant records have been received thus far that included some 1375 vascular plants. A significant proportion of these records will be from the third and final year of the Bio-diverse Society Project (run by the Lancashire Wildlife Trust). Interesting finds included: *Oreopteris limbosperma* (Lemon-scented Fern) on a wooded part of the former mosslands to the west of Lydiate and *Phegopteris connectilis* (Beech Fern) at Artle Dale where several small populations of *Rubus nessensis* (a scarce plant in Lancashire) were also found.

Activities of the Lancashire Botany Group (see <https://bsbi.org/lancashire>) included a winter twigs identification session at Cuerden Valley Park with John Pollard. There was also monitoring of species such as *Carex ericetorum* (Rare Spring-sedge) about Silverdale, *Cirsium heterophyllum* (Melancholy Thistle) in the Cliviger Gorge, *Jasione montana* (Sheep's-bit) at Shirdley Hill, *Wahlenbergia hederacea* (Ivy-leaved Bellflower) at the Valley of the River Dunsop and a surprising find by Margaret and Brian Breaks of numerous plants of *Gentianella amarella* (Autumn Gentian) along the Slaidburn Road above Newton. In Greater Manchester *Eleocharis acicularis* (Needle Spike-rush) was found at Pike Fold (a new site) by David Dutton and Debbie Wallace whilst David Bishop discovered the **Afghan Fig** at Chorlton-cum-Hardy. There was also a trip to Silverdale with Tim Rich in search of scarce dandelion species. Looking ahead 10km lists have been prepared to assist recording for Atlas 2020 and are available on request. In addition a great deal of progress has been made with the preparation of the South Lancashire Flora. Most of the sections have been supplied by the various contributors and updates to the species accounts for the vascular plants are steadily being made. Recently vascular datasets from Biobank, GMEU and rECOrd have been supplied and hopefully an additional records will be incorporation within the flora, a quick glance at the GMEU data indicates there are some highly significant records to include. Once the sections are fully complete a major task will be the writing up of an introductory chapter.

A lot of progress was made with *Rubus* recording particularly further a field in Yorkshire where I was surprised to find several populations of *Rubus fuscus* about Sheffield in VC63 (and probably just within VC57) as well as a new northern record for England of *Rubus nemorosus* by Hey Beck, Woodkirk (SE2724). There has also been a lot of work carried out on Alan Newton *Rubus* collection (now held at Manchester Museum) with the steady incorporation of voucher specimens to the British collection of vascular plants.

Finally with the Bio-diverse Society Project reaching a conclusion it is intended that a Lancashire Active Naturalists umbrella group will emerge so that recording of the local flora and fauna in Lancashire will continue and we wish for such activities to thrive right across our region.

Wildlife Corridors

Formed by the Great Manchester Wetlands Partnership - a partnership of local authorities, NGO'S, environmental charities, private businesses and passionate local community groups; the Carbon Landscape is a £3.2 million Heritage Lottery funded initiative. Twenty-two interlinked projects will provide a forward thinking and effective program that will have lasting effects both for local community and for wildlife.



Here, Carbon Landscape trainee Katie Chambers talks about the significance of 'green corridors' in the project.

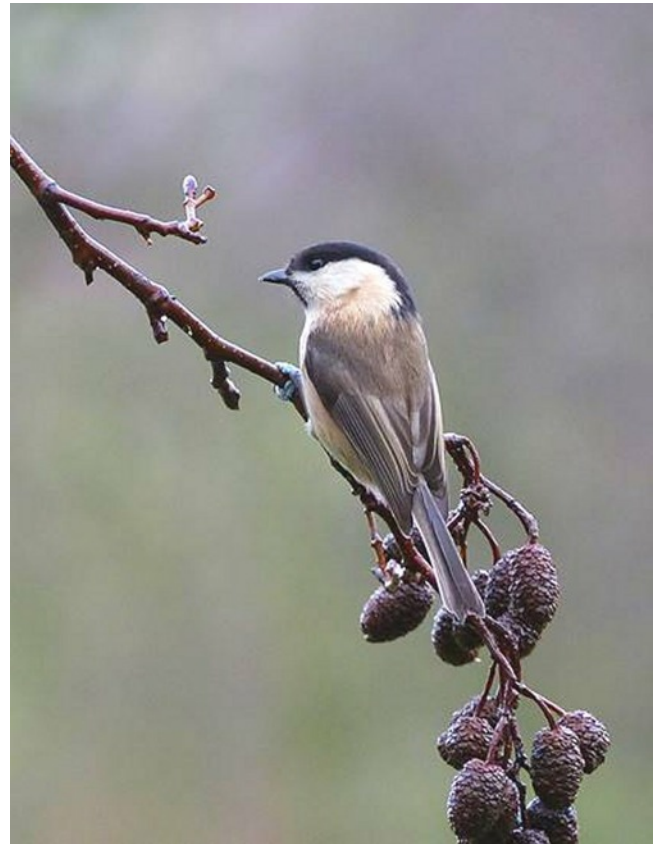
I had always been aware of the term 'wildlife corridor', and more so recently, having been working on the Carbon Landscape partnership - a large scale, multi-partnered restoration project based across the three boroughs of Wigan, Warrington and Salford. One of the main aims of this project is to restore key green spaces across the area, creating natural links, connections and so to allow the free flow of wildlife across a largely urban and suburban area. So, having been there from the beginnings of the Carbon Landscape project, sitting in meetings with different project partners, I heard this term 'green corridor' mentioned numerous times and had a vague idea as to what it implied.

It was only whilst on a Farmland winter bird survey carried out as part of the project recently, that I saw from absolute first hand, the real meaning of this phrase 'wildlife corridor'; the metaphor came to life in front of my very eyes. Through the tangled hedge of hawthorn, hugged by bramble and flanked by winter grass, gold in the low afternoon light, erupted a storm of life. Goldfinches, clown faced and quick, darted together with the streaky forms of reed bunting, and flashes of yellowhammer through a tangled tunnel of growth. All streamed together in one direction, creating a frantic yet unified body of movement. There must have been at least two hundred, some landing briefly, only slightly breaking the smooth flow of birds winging their way onwards to the farmlands ahead.

I suddenly realised that it is simple green corridors such as these that are so fundamentally important to wildlife. When farmers leave margins to their fields, allowing wild plants to flourish and their hedges to grow, the positive effects on wildlife and biodiversity are abundantly clear. It is this that the Carbon Landscape wants to replicate on a large scale

across Wigan, Warrington and Salford. It is this that we must do in order to save our special wildlife, and that which is already under threat.

The Carbon Landscape is home to many species of wildlife and some of these are incredibly rare on a national scale. Birds such as the red-listed willow tit (right) have chosen our ex-industrial landscape as a stronghold, preferring the wet conditions and scrub in this region. Also, amphibian species such as great crested newts are another red-listed species, increasingly under threat but here they have managed to thrive. Populations of these underwater miniature dragons in Rixton Claypits, Warrington are some of the highest in the UK. We also have a multitude of other special wildlife that calls this area its home, and with the changing climate and as our lands become warmer, more and more are travelling North to us.



However, modern practices are increasingly altering our landscape. Rising population

has led to housing and property developments across what used to be mossland and open farmland. More and more roads and railways are cutting across the land and earth becomes concrete.

That is where we come in, where landscape restoration projects such as this Heritage Lottery funded Carbon Landscape project fit into the puzzle. As the woodlands, the



mosslands, the fens and lakes becomes more and more fragmented, it is fundamentally important to preserve the green corridors that link them. We need to look after our green sites, sites as Pestfurlong moss in Warrington, the mossland of Salford, wetland habitats of Wigan and Warrington such as the Flashes and Woolston Eyes S.S.S.I. (left, below). It is these sites that support such an abundance of wildlife and these that will be restored and their wildlife protected with the Carbon Landscape's help.

If anyone needs proof of the importance of green corridors, do as I did and look to the simplest of all, the humble hedge. It is amazing the life it holds.

Harry Shorrocks 1930 - 2017

My lifelong friend Harry Shorrocks was a Prestonian born and brought up in the Plungington Road area of Preston, where he lived with his mother and father and younger brother Johnny. He attended Deepdale Modern School where the renowned Tom Finney was a fellow pupil, though in a different year and not in the same class. Harry's magnetic personality was infectious and he gained many friends all over the country and I know he was friends with several members of Preston Historical Society. Moreover, David Hunt gives Harry a mention in his classic book on the History of Preston.

Harry made me laugh when he quite often reminded me that he did his bit for King and country when he joined the RAF. A lifelong naturalist, he thought he might have had the opportunity to do a bit of birding in some exotic far away country, notwithstanding any flying bombs and bullets. So when he got his call up papers he told them he would serve anywhere in the world but finished up at Weeton ten miles down the road. Apparently he excelled at cross country running, so much so that he veered off the course into woodlands and did a spot of bird watching, before picking up the runners on the other side of the wood. No wonder he was first past the finishing line. But of course, young Harry

had to conform to the harsh discipline and rules but was never a sycophant or boot licker and quite naturally, didn't always approve of the bull. This was especially so when he attended an evening social event at the camp for all ranks of airmen BUT with two entrances to the mess. One door indicated officers and their ladies and the other simply said other ranks and their women. Oh dear Harry, no wonder you didn't sing their praises!

In civilian life Harry worked as a personnel officer at the Leyland and Birmingham Rubber Company at Leyland for many years and later as a Safety Officer with South Ribble. I first met him when I joined the Preston Scientific Society as a school-boy in 1956 and he was only 26. Harry became my mentor sharing my passion for bird watching and stimulating a keen interest in classical music. I will always be grateful to him for that. His enthusiasm was inspirational and he greatly encouraged many other mutual friends. He was the longest serving member of Preston Scientific Society and its President.

Harry had a perpetual interest in the natural world and enjoyed the aesthetics of bird watching, well most of the time, though with one or two exceptions. In fact young Harry Shorrocks and his friend Alan Harrison began to pioneer Lancashire bird watching in 1947 when they discovered the revered Freckleton Sewage farm. What a horribly dank, smelly, slippery yet fantastic

place this was with a host of interesting waders including a cast of trans-Atlantic rarities. Together Harry and Alan generated many records of scarce species at this old fashioned disposal plant. All, without doubt, pioneering stuff back then, and deservedly Harry got a mention in Oake's Birds of Lancashire (1953).

Harry discovered two white rumped sandpipers, which were then known as Bonaparte's Sandpiper. An unprecedented find and the first record for Lancashire of this species; but never mind old Bonaparte, perhaps this transatlantic rarity should have been renamed Shorrocks's Sandpiper. Harry informed a fellow birder, no less than his friend the venerable Major A.W. Boyd of his find. The galloping major suddenly turned up at the stinking sewage farm, in top hat and tails to confirm it as a Bonaparte's Sandpiper, whilst en route to a wedding. Freckleton Sewage Farm's fame spread nationwide and I was lucky enough to visit this prime location, and see some wondrous birds, after Harry first introduced me to the wretched place in 1958. So there you are and so much for the aesthetics of bird watching!

Harry lived throughout the halcyon days of birdwatching in the mid C20th and was undoubtedly a top botanist, birder and all round naturalist who will go down in history for his knowledge and love of the natural world.

In fact Malcolm Greenhalgh in his book on the River Ribble acknowledges Harry to be, and I quote, 'the greatest Lancashire naturalist of the C20th.' Without doubt, he was professional when out in the field and made meticulous notes of everything he saw.

His original contemporaneous notes were later transferred to 18 large indexed ledgers dating from 29 September 1946.



Harry looking at the escaped Eagle Owl near Dunsop Bridge a few years ago

In 2014 I said to him 'What are you going to do with your diaries Harry in the foreseeable future?' Typically he replied, 'oh they can do what they want with them when I go, they will probably end up in a skip.' I said, 'hang on a bit these will become a very valuable source of reference to this and future generations, reflecting the natural history scene in the North West during the mid C20th. Would you mind if I ask the Lancashire Record Office to take them please?' Harry granted permission and the following day I filled my car with them and took them to Bow Lane, where they have

been indexed 'the natural history diaries of Harry Shorrocks. (1946 – 2014) Thus documentary evidence of his contribution to natural history will be immortalised and will also serve as a legacy to a unique Lancashire character and he was definitely a character. He was never happier than being surrounded with friends, whilst regaling over an enthralling tale to his awe-struck captive audience. We listened patiently whilst musing over his amusing stories and only he could tell them the way he did. Harry was charismatic and funny and his timing and wit for pouring out a wealth of anecdotal material was spot on. He had an extensive library and was a particularly fast reader who read every one of his vast collection of books cover to cover and thoroughly absorbed what he read. There is doubt that he was intelligent and well-read with an incredible memory for detail and had an entertaining knack of being an excellent raconteur. I could fill a book with his anecdotes that I've heard so many times, under different guises. Harry christened one unsuspecting gentleman 15x60, but why 15x60? Well you see this gent was the very proud owner of a pair of ridiculously heavy, useless for bird watching 15x60 binoculars, courtesy of the Second World War, I think. To make matter worse he always insisted we tried them out, whilst proclaiming for instance: have a look through these are 15x60s you know, have a look at those swans - them's not ordinary swans them's whooper swans you know! Really, nevertheless we kept the old gent happy and looked through his bins to witness only a blank murkiness stretching to the horizon and prompting the remark 'I see no swans let alone ships.'

We went bird watching to far flung places like Silverdale, Cockerham Moss and Martin Mere before it became the wildfowl

trust in 1975. We also visited West Africa where I discovered Harry not only expressed human kindness but seemed to have a strange liking for biro pens. In fact he was gifting them to all the poor children and in the middle of the bush the whole school suddenly appeared from nowhere and descended on our party in the middle of the jungle, much to our amazement and probably the birds we were supposedly watching.

I have to say that at times he seemed to enjoy a jolly good argument, usually playing devil's advocate, I think! Just occasionally I began to think this guy is the ultimate pragmatist but you know what I will always think of him and miss him a great deal especially his quirky sense of humour, bless him. Despite the onset of a neurodegenerative illness Harry still had 'all his chairs at home', as he would say. Harry died peacefully in hospital on 4 August, 2017.

Finally may I recount visiting young Harry at home No 42, Allen Street, Preston, way back in the 1950s. It was there that I first met Dorothy Shorrocks, Harry's cousin and I am very thankful for that unplanned brief encounter to this day as we married on 19 September 1970.

Harry was a guest at my wedding and forty three years later he attended Dorothy's funeral in June 2013.

To conclude, Harry was unique and there will never be another Harry Shorrocks. Good bye Harry old mate, I have been honoured and privileged to know you.

David John Hindle

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. Non-members welcome - £2.00 minimum lecture fee.

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: £2.00 members, £3.50 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, 0161 865 0118

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

CHORLEY AND DISTRICT NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Meetings September - April St Mary's Parish Centre Chorley.

See 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
Stephen.atkins@tameside.gov.uk 07792 041 528

Greater Manchester Ecology Unit, Council Offices, Clarence Arcade
Ashton-under-Lyne, Tameside, OL6 7PT. Tel: 0161 342 4409

LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

LANCASHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST : CROAL IRWELL GROUP

Indoor meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month, at 7.30pm.at Prestwich Library, adjacent to Longfield Suite, Prestwich M25 1AY

Admission and refreshments by £4 donation. Field Trips Start 10.30am. Details at the indoor meeting or from listed telephone numbers. Programme may be subject to change; please check before setting out. Stephen Harris Mob: 07831 627208, Work: 0845 458 6680

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.

MACCLESFIELD & DISTRICT FIELD CLUB

Indoor meetings commence at 7.30pm at the Salvation Army Hall, Roe Street, Macclesfield, SK11 6PH www.maccfieldclub.co.uk.

Monday 26 March : New Mills Torrs Gorge

Derek Brumhead

Monday 23 April : The Bollin Valley from Macclesfield to Styal

Keith Warrender

MANCHESTER AND NORTH MIDLANDS FERN GROUP

Field meetings organised. Contact Leader John Grue: john.grue@virgin.net

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

Tel: 0161 215 0971; mobile 07719 659 689.

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. Visitors welcome: £4 for individual meetings, Children free.

For further information: Jane Michael 07917 434598 or Derek Clifford 427 4611 or Marple Naturalists Community page on www.marple-uk.com or www.facebook.com/marplnaturalists

*Outdoor meetings - arranged separately and announced at meetings.

MERSEYSIDE NATURALISTS ASSOCIATION

Full programme listings are on our website www.mnapage.info and reports of previous trips on our blog at www.NaturalistsNotebook.mnapage.info

NELSON NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

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

Enquiries and requests for copies of East Lancashire Butterfly Report and enquires contact David Nelson 01282 863012 davidnelson@btinternet.com Visitors welcome £2.50

Wednesday 21 March : Wildlife on the Orkney Isles

Phil Kirk

NORTH WEST ENGLAND FERN GROUP

Field meetings organised with an indoor meeting in October at Holehird, Windermere. Contact Peter Champion: peter@petercampion.com

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 24 March : Swallow's Wood and Devil's Bridge

Meet at Meadowbank Farm, Green Lane, Hollingworth. SK007967. Park without causing an obstruction. From end of M67 follow the A628 (Woodhead Road) past A57 junction for a 1/4 mile Green Lane is on the left just after a chapel on the right and follow to the farm. SK14 8JW. (Could be very muddy at beginning of walk)

Saturday 7 April : Healey Nab, Botany Bay, Chorley

Meet at fisherman's car park by Healey Reservoir **SD60461927**. Turn off M61 at J8 and follow A674 then take R turn onto Blackburn Road, B6228, as far as The Lock and Key pub by canal (**PR6 9AE**) (open from 12.00 onwards). Turn R into Heapey Lane for half a mile then turn right onto Higher Lane for car park a few yards beyond, sharp left. From there, we have a 10 minutes walk to reach footpath for Healey Nab, mixed woodland and heathland. Leader John Watt

Saturday 12 May : Longworth Clough

Meet on minor road Belmont-Egerton at SD693157. Leader John Lowell.

Saturday 15 September : Middleton Dale

Park in centre of Middleton-by-Youlgreave village. SK196632. Leader Joan Egan. (Joint meeting with Sorby NHS)

NORTHWESTERN NATURALISTS' UNION – VASCULAR PLANT SECTION

Contact: David Earl - david.earl@talktalk.net

NORTH WEST FUNGUS GROUP

Forays start at 10.30am and are planned so that they can continue into the afternoon. Please bring food and drink. Please contact the foray leader to confirm your attendance and for possible last minute details.

Beginners always welcome at all forays. Forays are not suitable for small children. No dogs. <http://fungus.org.uk/nwfg.htm>

Sunday 11 March : Liverpool World Museum Fungal Herbarium (L3 8EN)

A behind-the-scenes tour of the botanical collection, including the fungi archives which hold George Massey illustrations and Bess Harthan's illustrations & notebooks.

<http://fungus.org.uk/nwfg/history/htm>

10.30 to 12.30 + option to spend more time in the collection store or visit public galleries after lunch. Car parking at Hunter Street Car Park – access via Cuerden St, under Churchill Way at back of Museum; Car parking: £6.00 for > 4 hours or 5 mins walk from Lime St station. Book through JW (07768 043 461)

Sunday 13 May : Roudsea Wood, South Cumbria (SD 330827)

M6 Junction 36, onto A590 and after Newby Bridge, turn left onto B6278 opp Steam Railway station into Haverthwaite and park on road by Anglers Arms, LA12 8AJ; from where we shall car shuttle at 10.30 for final mile into reserve, where there is limited parking. Leader Helen Speed (07900 915328)

Sunday 24 June : Moor Piece NR, Bashall Eaves (BB7 3DA)

Meet in Bashall Eaves Village Hall car park at SD 696434 (Sheet 103) on right just past Red Pump Inn before onward journey to the Reserve. (Follow signs for Whitewell/Trough of Bowland). Terrain is rough and wet. Leader Irene Ridge (01254-247274)

Sunday 22 July : Risley Moss, Warrington - Microscope Workshop & Beginners Foray. (WA3 6QS) Meet 10.30. A morning foray will be followed by an afternoon microscope workshop. Details and bookings with Irene Ridge (01254 247274).

Sunday 12 August : Loggerheads Country Park (CH7 5LH)

OS Explorer Sheet 265, GR SJ 197625 From M6 direction, take M56 to m/w end, continuing on A5117, then A494 signed Mold, next signed Ruthin. The park is on the A494 Mold-Ruthin road, 3 miles west of Mold on the right at the bottom of a half-mile downward hill, wooded both sides. Entrance first right after "We Three at Loggerheads" pub on left. Leader John Ratcliffe (07751 330 120)

Sunday 19 August : Clock Face Colliery Country Park, Bold, St. Helens WA9 4SN

Meet 10.30 at Gorsey Lane Car Park. From Junction 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 motorway), turn right into Gorsey Lane (blue cycling sign Burtonwood). Continue to entry on right. SJ 535915 (Sheet 108). Leader Tom Ferguson (01744 739774/077020 38212)

Sunday 2 September : Gait Barrows NNR (SD 479777)

Option 1: Leave M6, J35 onto A6 northward 3 miles, going L at crossroads to Yealand Redmayne to T junction in village, then right and right at next fork passing Leighton Hall on Brackenthwaite Road and bear left at Cold Well Farm junction.

Option 2 : from Milnthorpe via B5282 turning left after railway bridge away from Arnside onto Black Dyke Road. Keep left then turn right onto Ford Lane at Cold Well Farm junction LA7 7LF. Turn left after 250 m along narrow track for Reserve parking. Limited Sunday rail service to Silverdale station.- liaise if to be collected from there.

Leader John Watt (07768 043 461) with Arnside Natural History Group.

Sunday 9 September : Wigan Flashes Nature Reserve

Meet at Welham Road entrance SD 579032 (Sheet108/Explorer 285). Turn off Poolstock Lane (B5238) into Carr Lane (sign-posted Hawkley Hall High School) and follow this for approx. 1 mile. Street parking in vicinity of high school WN3 5NY. Level walking on good paths but can be wet underfoot in places; canal-side and mixed woodland (carr). Leader Christopher Bowden (01772 812910/07597 921981)

Sunday 16 September : Ainsdale NNR (PR8 3QW)

Meet at car park at Reserve Manager's Office SD 303112 (sheet 108) Take A565 north past Woodvale Airport, turn on to Coastal Road, over railway bridge and left into private drive. Leader Tony Carter (0151-724-4600)

Sunday 23 September : Rixton Clay Pits, near Warrington (SJ 684908)

Sheet 109 WA3 6EE Leave the M6 at junction 21 and take the A57 (Manchester Road) toward Irlam. After about 1 ½ miles turn left into Moat Lane. Roadside parking after about ½ mile near the 'Anglers car park'.

Leaders Judith/John Lovelady (07921 189525/07921 189516)

Friday 28 September to Monday 1 October: Residential Foray at Keswick Convention Centre. Cost including meals, for members and for non-members will be announced later. Booking form in Newsletter. Contact Irene Ridge (01254-247274)

Saturday 6 October to 7 October : National Fungus Day

To see events - <http://www.ukfungusday.co.uk/>

Sunday 7 October : Beginners' Foray at Moore NR, Lapwing Lane, Warrington (WA4 6XE. SJ 578855) (Sheet 108). 2 miles south of Warrington on A56 turn north to Moore at traffic lights at Higher Walton. 1 mile turn right crossing railway and ship canal. Go to end of road to reach entrance. Car park to right of entrance road.

Leader Paul Hamlyn (0161-434-1401)

Sunday 14 October : Turn Slack Clough, Littleborough (OL15 9JZ. SD 935173) (Sheet 109) Meet @ **10.30** at Clough. Left off A58 onto Whitelees Road approaching Littleborough from west, continue along Calderbrook Road turning left at Clough Road. Leader Norman Bamforth (0161-336-3914)

Sunday 21 October : Errwood; Goyt Valley

From A6 take A5004 through Whalley Bridge, past A5470 crossing, through Fernilee, then turn R into Goyt Lane (signed Goyt Valley). Cross dam to T-junction with 'The Street' meeting at car park SK 013758 Sheet 119. Leader Lynne (07938 663232)/Tim

Sunday 28 October : Raven Meols Hills, Formby (SD 275065)

Meet **10.00**. From A565 Formby-By-Pass turn west to Formby at Tesco traffic lights on to B5195 Altcar Road. Continue to travel west to Formby Point, past Formby Railway Station to end of Kirkdale Road (1.8miles). Turn left past church to Shorrocks Hill Night Club (L37 2EB) then right on to Lifeboat Road to car park Bay One.

Leader Tony Carter (0151-724-4600)

Sunday 4 November : Lytham Hall (FY8 4JX)

Meet @ **10.00** 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 Road. After 1.6 m turn right onto Ballam Road and after 0.6 m turn right into Lytham Park and proceed to Hall (free entry for NWFG).

Leader Irene Ridge (07484 242523)

OLDHAM MICROSCOPICAL & NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Meetings at Werneth Centre, Oldham, at 7.30 pm for more information call Phil Whiteman 01612900722, philipwhiteman333@hotmail.com.

PRESTON BIRD WATCHING AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The meetings are at the Church Hall which is about 10 minutes walk from St. Mary's Church, Church Avenue, Penwortham, PR1 0AH.

All enquiries should be made to the secretary Kayleigh Roebuck who can be contacted on prestonwildlife@gmail.com or on 07713 975321. www.prestonwildlife@gmail.com

There is a charge of £3.00 on the door for any visitors.

Monday 26 March : World Wildlife Conservation with Down to Earth Films

Abigail Brown

Saturday in March TBC : Middleton & Sunderland Point (SD413571 LA3 3LL)

From Middleton, down Carr Lane, past caravan park to Potts Corner. Meet 10.00am. Car park on beach. High tide time required, so date TBC. Packed lunch required

Saturday 28 April : Whitbarrow Scar (SD451839 LA11 6SL)

Meet 10.00am park just off A590 at Millside. Some climbing. Packed lunch required

Saturday 5 May : Frodsham & River Weaver (SJ521781 WA6 7GB)

Meet 10.00am in the centre of Frodsham near road junction of B5439.

Monday 7 May : White Coppice (SD617191 PR26 7TA)

Meet 19.00 park on access track (Cuckoo Walk).

Monday 14 May : Twenty Acre Lane & Moss Lane (SD502217 PR26 7TA)

Meet 19.00 Bretherton, Much Hoole. Park on side road on left, just before Cocker Bar Bridge, off Cocker Bar Road. B5248.

Monday 21 May : Dean Clough Reservoir (SD706327 BB6 8DS)

Meet 19.00 park on York Road, junction from Blackburn, & Parsonage Road, Wilpshire. Some climbing.

Monday to Friday 21-25 May : Trip to Norfolk (4 nights B&B)

Arrange own transport and accommodation staying in Wells by the Sea area. Information will be on Society Website nearer the time.

Monday 28 May : Grimsargh & Alston Wetlands (SD593346 PR2 5LR)

Meet 19.00 park on Elston Lane, Grimsargh.

Monday 4 June : Birkacre Lodges near Chorley and Coppull SD570152 PR7 3RN

Meet 19.00 signposted off B5251 towards Coppull.

Saturday 9 June : Borrowdale from the West in the Howgills NY552037 CA10 3TE

Meet 9.30 am park at Hucks Bridge, in layby on left with telephone Box, 10 Miles north of Kendal on the A6. Meet in layby on left on A590, just off M6 Junction 36. 5 miles walk, packed lunch required

Monday 11 June : Marles Wood & River Ribble (SD676356 BB6 8AL)

Meet 19.00 park at Marles Wood car park. Walk to Dinkley Bridge and return.

Monday 18 June : Croston Finney (SD468182 PR26 9JQ)

Meet 19.00 park on Meadow Lane in safe place near Isle of Man Farm, Croston Finney, A581, Croston to A59 Road.

Saturday 23 June : Plough Pub at Eaves, Cuddy Hill (SD494375 PR4 0BJ)

Directions: From M6 Junction 32 leave and come down to the old A6. Pass under the motorway and drive north to Broughton traffic lights. Turn left off A6 onto B5269 then after 2 miles fork right. At left hand bend, turn right onto Hollowforth Lane and eventually cross canal. Turn left at junction onto Eaves Lane and find Plough at Eaves on right after a mile. Meet at 10.00am for 5 mile walk, packed lunch required.

Monday 25 June : Abbey Village (SD642222 PR6 8EA)

Meet 19.00 park on Doles Lane opposite Hare and Hounds Pub. Some climbing.

Monday 2 July : Altham & River Calder (SD772329 BB5 5BY)

Meet 19.00 park at The Walton Arms, Altham. Walk to the bend of the River Calder and return from Altham Bridge.

Monday 9 July : Leyland Moss (SD523231 PR26 6TE)

Meet 19.00 park on old section of Longmeanygate, cul de sac.

Monday 16 July : River Ribble & Howick Cross Lane (SD497283 PR1 0NT)

Meet 19.00 park at the bottom of Howick Cross Lane. To explore the River Ribble.

Monday 23 July : Belmont & Horder Pasture (SD654158 BL7 8BQ)

Meet 19.00 park in viewpoint car park at top of Rivington Road, overlooking Horder Pasture.

Monday 30 July : Holmes & Mere Brow SD435195 PR4 6JE

Meet 19.00 park at Holmes off Southport Rd on Blackgate Lane, at end of the old road on left near Huntapac. Tracks between Sollom & Mere Brow.

Monday 6 August : Ribble Valley (SD553287 PR4 4AE)

Meet 19.00 park behind The Shawes Arms at the bottom of London Road.

Monday 13 August : Mawdesley Moss (SD505162 L40 2RG)

Meet 19.00 park at The Robin Hood Public House, Mawdesley.

Monday 20 August : Midge Hall & Much Hoole Mosses (SD502217 PR26 7TA)

Meet 19.00 park on side road on the left, just before Cocker Bar Bridge. It is off Cocker Bar Road, B5248.

Saturday 1 September : River Lune & Crooke of Lune (SD594932 LA8 0DL)

Meet 10.00am park in layby on left just off M6 Junction 37 then drive in convoy. Walk 5 miles Crooke of Lune, River Lune to tiny chapel near Thwaite then return through farms. Packed lunch required .

Saturday to Sunday 21-23 September : Criccieth, North Wales

Staying at The George 4th Hotel. Can stay longer if desired. Arrange own transport.

We may get a group booking so look for information on Society website.

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. Start 7.30pm.

Enquiries: 01706 630707 and 814884. Charges: Members £2.00, Non-members £3.00.

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 – Joan Carter Secretary 01706 524255
/secretary@rochdalefieldnaturalists.co.uk

Coach bookings – contact Ruth Hardcastle on 07970 948175 Coach Price: £15.

The Conservation & Education events meet at 10.00am same rendezvous as excursions above.

Saturday 24 March : Tandle Hill Country Park, Royton – car trip

Thursday 5 April : Indoor Event - Members Evening

Saturday 14 April : Far Ings NNR, North Lincolnshire - coach trip

Thursday 19 April : Ashworth Valley/ Birtle - Conservation & Education event

Sunday 29 April : Brockholes LWT*, Lancashire – car trip

Saturday 12 May : Cressbrook Dale NNR, Peak District NP, Derbyshire - coach trip

Thursday 17 May : Roch Valley Heywood - Conservation & Education event

Saturday 16 June : Aber Valley NNR (Coedd Aber NR) North Wales - coach trip

Thursday 21 June : Conservation & Education Event

Saturday 30 June : Bell Sykes Hay Meadows SSSI, Slaidburn – car trip

Saturday 14 July : Foulshaw Moss CWT Nature Reserve, Cumbria - coach trip

Thursday 19 July : Blackstone or Eales - Conservation & Education event

Saturday 28 July : Rodley Nature Reserve, Leeds – car trip

Saturday 11 August : Smardale Gill CWT Nature Reserve, Cumbria - coach trip

Thursday 16 August : Watergrove - Conservation & Education event

Saturday 1 September : Malham Tarn NNR, North Yorkshire – car trip

Saturday 15 September : Cockersand and Glasson Dock, Lancashire - coach trip

Thursday 20 September : Conservation & Education event

Saturday 13 October : Stainforth salmon Leap, Yorkshire Dales - coach trip

Thursday 18 October : Piethorne - Conservation & Education event

Sunday 28 October : Beale Valley Walk, Shaw – car/tram trip

Saturday 10 November : Sherwood Forest CP or Clumber Park NT*, Nottinghamshire -coach trip

Thursday 15 November : Turnslack Clough - Conservation & Education event

Saturday 15 December : Fairburn Ings RSPB, West Yorkshire - coach trip

Thursday 20 December : Conservation & Education Event

Sunday 30 December : Daisy Nook Country Park, Oldham – car trip

*May be extra charges at these venues

SADDLEWORTH NATURALISTS

Indoor meetings are held at 7.30 pm at Saddleworth Conservative Club, 75 High Street, Uppermill OL3 6AP.

To assist with venue costs and speakers' expenses a small collection will be made - suggested donations: £2.00 for members, £2.50 for non-members. Guests are welcome - please introduce yourself at the start of the meeting.

More details at <http://www.oldham-wildlife-link.org.uk/saddleworth/>

WEST LANCASHIRE WILDLIFE

Meetings are held in Room B003 in the Business School Building , Edge Hill University, St Helen's Road, Ormskirk, L39 4QP. Please note that you can park in the car parks A & B in front of the main university buildings, and walk to the Business School Building. Please arrive by 19.15 for a prompt 19.30 start. Admission charge (including refreshments): £1.50 members, £2.50 non-members. More details at www.westlancswildlife.org.uk or contact 01704 83538.

WILMSLOW GUILD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Indoor meetings held at Wilmslow Guild, 1 Bourne Street, Wilmslow, SK9 5HD at 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome to indoor meetings (£4.00) & field-trips (free).

Contact David Warner (chair) for further information on 01625 874387
djawarner@hotmail.com

Thursday 22 March 2018 : Brockholes – the Unreserved Reserve

Brian Ashworth

Thursday 26 April : AGM followed by Beekeeping

Brian Corfield

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