

*THE  
NORTHWESTERN  
NATURALIST*

New series



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

## **North Western Naturalists' A.G.M**

**2.00 p.m. on Saturday 2 March 2019**

**Reference Room, Bolton Library,**

**Le Mans Crescent, Bolton, BL1 1SE**

**After the AGM there will be a talk given by David Earl:**

*Results of the Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland  
New Year Plant Hunt linked to Local Climate Change*

# North Western Naturalists' Union Bryophyte & Lichen Section Report 2018

## **Saturday 24 March: Swallow's Wood and Devil's Bridge, Hollingworth**

We received news that Tom Blockeel had found *Frullania teneriffae* in the valley with a grid reference which we went to and searched, deciding that everything was *F. Dilitata*. As the site is not far from home, I went again the following week with packets and tweezers and took one strand from every tree within about twenty metres of where we thought it should be, alas they were all *F. dilitata*, it was worth a try. We walked up the west side of the valley and found a total of 67 bryophytes none were particularly rare but of note were *Plagiochila porelloides*, *Syntrichia ruralis* var. *ruralis*, *Dicranodontium denudatum*, *Sciuro-hypnum populinum*. N.B.

## **Saturday 7 July: Haslingden Grange**

This was a solo expedition, in highly unsuitable weather: after a long dry spell bryophytes were dried up in most places. The shaded streams under Musbury Heights were investigated; the usual selection of acid woodland species were present, and semi-aquatics like *Scapania undulata* and *Hyocomium armoricum*. *Sphagnum palustre*, *S.denticulatum* and *S.fimbriatum* were mostly bone-white. J.L.

## **Saturday 4 August: Cuerden Valley Park**

Three members; Norman Bamforth, Mike Canaway and Phil James met to explore an extremely dry Cuerden Valley Park.

This site had been suggested in the hope that the range of habitats within the park, including parkland, woodland plantations, the banks of the River Lostock and an artificial lake, would contain a varied bryophyte flora and provide an interesting species list. Unfortunately, the many weeks of dry weather had left nearly all the bryophytes in a poor, desiccated state and quite difficult to spot. Consequently, the three dedicated recorders were successful in listing only thirteen mosses and three liverworts in parts of the two monads explored. Epiphytes were particularly subdued and attempts to find *Cololejeunea minutissima* were definitely over-ambitious.

Despite the rather disappointing number of records on the day, it was agreed that Cuerden Valley has considerable botanical interest and would repay another visit in more suitable conditions. Towards the end of the excursion, exploration of the 19th century pinetum was rewarded with the discovery of a substantial stand of the elegant Ostrich Fern *Matteuccia struthiopteris*. P.J.

## **Saturday 17 November: Roych Clough, near Chapel-en-le-Frith**

Roych Tor is a gritstone crag with bouldery ground below, apparently formed by an ancient landslip. It is notable for the presence of a number of base-rich sandstone boulders among the hard acidic rocks. We recorded *Tortella fasciculata* (the former *T. bambergi*) on many of these boulders, accompanied by smaller amounts of *T. tortuosa*. Also

on the base-rich rocks were *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Fissidens dubius*, *Schistidium apocarpum* s.str., *Seligeria recurvata*, and a very small amount of *Encalypta streptocarpa*. Species on the acidic rocks included *Marsupella emarginata* and *Pohlia cruda*. *Leptodontium flexifolium* was found on thin peat in several places. We also recorded briefly in the upper part of Roych Clough, noting *Jungermannia pumila*, *Solenostoma sphaerocarpum*, *Blindia acuta* and *Fissidens adianthoides*, as well as a nice fertile patch of *Bartramia pomiformis* in a rock crevice. In total we recorded 62 species.T.B.

### **Saturday 20 October: Lower Knotts Nature Reserve, Tosside**

Lower Knotts is a private nature reserve in border country between Yorkshire and Lancashire (currently residing in the latter!). The reserve was acquired by Stephanie Peay in 2014 as a series of semi-improved grassland fields with mature trees and wooded ghyll of Bond Beck. There are plenty of mature trees in the valley, and the site is now largely ungrazed with many planted trees and some scrapes dug as natural flood management features created in partnership with River Ribble Trust. The weather was kind to us and we spent most of the morning in a side gill getting a good list taking in disturbed habitats and those associated with the beck. Of particular interest were the recently created scrapes where Mike Wilcox collected material which, after microscopic examination, included *Ephemerum minutissimum*, *Pseudephemerum nitidum* and a bonus of some *Pleuridium* sp. At lunch time we retired to the unheard of luxury of a hut with deck chairs and tea facilities (kindly provided by Stephanie). Once fortified we set forth in the afternoon to investigate Bond Beck where there was evidence of ancient woodland groundflora and bryophytes to match including *Scapania nemorea*, oceans of *Homalia trichomanoides* and lots of lovely liverworts. Epiphytes were abundant in Bond Beck ghyll and Mike collected *Ulota crispa* s str which was confirmed by Tom Blockeel as new to VC64! Overall a really interesting outing with a good variety of habitats in close proximity producing a list of 83 species. Many thanks to Stephanie for hosting the outing and attendees Judith Allinson, Naomi Dalton, Mike Wilcox for making it such an enjoyable day.G.H.

### **Saturday 8 December**

The original venue of Cowbury Dale, Carrbrook, Stalybridge, was right at the centre of the so called "Saddleworth Moor Fire" in July and when I visited the site in September it was mainly black ash which I thought was not really a good habitat to look for bryophytes or for bryologists so soon after the fire. I decided to change the venue and chose Jumbles Country Park north of Bolton hoping for some drawdown after the summer drought, we were a week too late as the reservoir had filled with the exceptionally wet weather the previous week and which we suffered from noon. By 2.30 it was going dark and many bryophytes were unidentifiable, so we returned to the cars. *Orthodontium lyellii* is an increasing moss in the area and in the waterfalls and dripping overhangs was on the side of the valley *Riccardia chamedryfolia*. Alas we did not reach the most interesting parts towards Turton N.B.

# North Western Naturalists' Union Manchester & North Midlands Fern Group Section Report 2018

By way of introduction I should say that I am new to this task as the regular leader of the group, John Grue, sustained a serious injury whilst cycling. I am glad to report that he is making steady progress but the consequence was that only two field meetings were held in 2018, mainly on the initiative of British Pteridological Society President-elect, Alison Evans. However, I moved to Saddleworth from the Yorkshire Dales over the summer and hence I volunteered to fill John's shoes until further notice. The meetings were at Froggatt and Coombs Dale in June followed by a visit to Broadbottom Fernery in September as detailed below.

## Saturday 2 June: Froggatt and Coombs Dale, Derbyshire

Henry Folkard led this re-visit to the National Trust woodlands on the Longshaw Estate. Four of us met in the Hay Wood car park at 43/2555 7773, and briefly explored the woodland in pouring rain.

*Dryopteris dilatata* and *D. filix-mas* were our first records, with bracken soon after, then a nice plant of *D. affinis* subsp. *affinis* at 43/2549 7774. On the stream side we found *Oreopteris limbosperma* and *Athyrium filix-femina* at 43/2551 7759. We added *Dryopteris borrieri* to the list at 43/2546 7762, with much more lobed and toothed pinnules than the *D. affinis* subsp. *Affinis*.

The stream was too swollen for some of us to cross, so we returned to Henry's house to dry out and have lunch. An added treat was to look round Henry's garden. We saw lovely plants of *Polystichum setiferum* 'Bevis', *Asplenium scolopendrium* 'Bolton's Nobile', *Athyrium filix-femina* 'Vernoniae', 'Victoriae', and plumose forms, a fine *Dryopteris affinis* 'Revolvens' and an equally robust *Dryopteris wallichiana*, a crested *Osmunda regalis*, and pristine *Athyrium otophorum* 'Okatum'.

The afternoon was dry, so we headed back to Calver to walk along to Coombsdale, in limestone country. The change in geology was obvious from the change in fern flora – many large plants of *Asplenium trichomanes* subsp. *trichomanes* on the rocky outcrops, accompanied by *Cystopteris fragilis* and *Asplenium scolopendrium*. In the wet areas by a small stream we found both *Equisetum arvense* and *E. palustre* giving a good opportunity to look at the differences between the two. We noted *Polystichum aculeatum* at 43/2225 7433, with what looked like *Polypodium vulgare* on a fallen mossy log close by. The highlight of the day was a huge colony

of limestone oak fern, *Gymnocarpium robertianum*, extending up the hillside from 43/2225 7429, a vast expanse of newly-flushed fronds in perfect condition.

A good way to restart the Manchester and North Midlands fern group meetings.

**Alison Evans**

**Saturday 15 September: Broadbottom Fernery and environs, Greater Manchester**

Broadbottom Fernery has been created within the boundaries of Broad Mills Heritage Site. As the name suggests the area was once part of the thriving cotton industry in and around Manchester. The demolished mill buildings have been thoughtfully converted by Tameside Council into a conservation area with woodland trails, information boards, picnic areas and more recently, the fernery, all within a loop of the River Etherow. The fernery was the brainchild of Tameside Open Spaces, led by Greenspace Officer, Sue Roberts, ably assisted by volunteers (including husband, Gordon) some of whom joined us for the visit. Our expectations were not all that high as we had been led to believe that with the summer drought things had not gone all that well.

We met at the Lymefield Garden Centre and Tea Rooms (33/9968.9344) where Gordon gave us some background to the project before leading us down to the fernery. Arriving at the site (33/9936.9355) we were immediately impressed, not only by the amount of work that had been done and the structure and layout of the fernery but also by its situation, nestling along the banks of the River Etherow but elevated enough to evade any flooding and protected by mature woodland. Hence the ferns were looking magnificent, the scene enhanced by a fledgling stumpery and moss-covered logs all of which exceeded our expectations. It was stressed to us that this was still a work in progress so we did not attempt to list the ferns. Members spent the rest of the morning admiring the ferns and their setting before returning to the tea rooms for lunch. Congratulations to Sue Roberts and the volunteers for their sterling efforts and the group looks forward to a return visit at a future date.

After lunch we decided to walk past the fernery, continuing through woodland and then returning to the starting point via the road through the village where on a previous visit a number of ferns had been seen. We recorded 13 species of ferns and horsetails, the highlights being a nice colony of *Asplenium adiantum-nigrum* and a stray garden fern, *Polystichum tsus-simense* growing by the footpath. Members then re-visited the tea-rooms before returning home.

**Mike Canaway**

# North Western Naturalists' Union Vascular Plant Section Annual Report 2018

2018 was a busy year with general recording. In addition Biobank, GMEU and rECOrd supplied extracts from their vascular datasets from which many thousands of additional tetrad resolution records will be imported to the South Lancashire Flora dataset during 2019. Please note also that 2019 will be our last year of recording for the flora and for the BSBI Atlas 2020 project.

During 2018 excursions included a winter twigs identification session at Stanley Park, Blackpool with John Poland in early January and a summer trip to explore the Wyre Valley at Scorton led by Mary Dean. There was an exploration of the shore and adjoining arable fields at Hale with the Liverpool Botanical Society and a trip to the Rochdale Canal at Todmorden with the Manchester Field Club together with members of the Royal Society of Biology where we found Samuel Gibson's Bramble and an established patch of Maltese-cross which was new to South Lancashire. The most interesting find of the year was however made by Peter Jepson this being the discovery of a Lady's Mantle-*Alchemilla monticola* above Belmont.

The BSBI Exhibition Meeting <https://bsbi.org/annual-exhibition-meeting> was held at Edge Hill University at which Josh Styles delivered a talk on the North West Rare Plant Initiative (NWRPI) [www.nwrpi.weebly.com](http://www.nwrpi.weebly.com) informing us of the progress being made with the re-establishment of several plant species on local moss-land sites. Progress with the South Lancashire Flora featured as an exhibit and Dr Paul Ashton provided a tour of the new laboratories. Also during the autumn a collection of over 340 specimens gathered during 1942 by Dorothy Harker was donated to LERN. Dorothy was a pupil at Lancaster Girls' Grammar School and it thought that most of the specimens might have been gathered from the Lancaster District.

The year finished with recording for the BSBI New Year's Hunt which began on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and with an exceptionally mild winter over 150 species were found to be in flower in the north-west. Most records were of species continuing to bloom but a surprise was that of Barren Strawberry in flower along the Leeds & Liverpool Canal at Wheelton.

This leads nicely on to our illustrated talk for our forthcoming NWNNU AGM 2019 entitled 'Results of the BSBI New Year Plant Hunt linked to Local Climate Change'. Further details of this meeting appear in this issue – we hope you can come along to hear about the latest developments.

## HAY TIME RESCUE PROJECT 2018 – 2019

This is a new project funded by Lancashire Environmental Fund, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The project aim is to bolster the population of scarce plant species in the Forest of Bowland, and extend and manage the areas where they are currently found, with the support of farmers and volunteers. The work will be focussed in the species rich hay meadows and pastures in the area, but also to include special verges.



The key focus species are Bird's-eye Primrose (*Primula farinosa*), Globeflower (*Trollius europaeus* - above) and Melancoly Thistle (*Cirsium heterophyllum*). Also Saw-wort (*Serratula tinctoria*), Dyer's Greenweed (*Genista tinctoria*) and Grass of Parnassus (*Parnassia palustris*).

Seed will be collected from sustainable local populations and together with the resources at Kew Millennium Seed Bank, local volunteers and land owners have propagated and fostered into plug plants.

Local knowledge is key to the project: from identifying the local sustainable populations, to the help of Lancashire Environmental Records Network (LERN) and local botany groups. This will enable us to gain a fuller picture of the species distribution, their decline, and hopefully a list of additional re-establishment sites at historically recorded locations.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the project, either knowledge sharing or propagation volunteering can contact the Project Officer, Carol Edmondson at the Dunsop Bridge office:- 01200 448000



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

## **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, Clarence Arcade, Ashton-under-Lyne, Tameside, OL6 7PT

[Stephen.atkins@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:Stephen.atkins@tameside.gov.uk) Tel: 0161 342 4409 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

## **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](mailto:djawarner@hotmail.com)

## **LANCASHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST : CROAL-IRWELL GROUP**

Indoor meetings are at the Creative Living Centre, 1A Rectory Lane, Prestwich, M25 1BP (on the opposite side of the car park from Prestwich Library) on the first Wednesday of the month, at 7.30pm. Admission and refreshments by £4 donation. Monthly field trips on Sundays start at 10.30 am. Details of these at the indoor meetings 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

## **LEIGH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

Indoor meetings are in the Derby Room at Leigh Library. There is ample free car parking in the car park next to the Library (but please note that you do park at your own risk). Meetings are on Fridays at 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start. Everyone is welcome free of charge but a small donation to our funds from non-members would be gratefully accepted. A varied programme of speakers and slideshows on wildlife subjects is organised, commencing in September running through to May each year.

For all up-to-date information visit our website [www.leighos.org.uk](http://www.leighos.org.uk). A warm welcome is guaranteed at any of our meetings.

## **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](http://www.maccfieldclub.co.uk).

## **MANCHESTER AND NORTH MIDLANDS FERN GROUP**

All meetings at 10.30 unless otherwise stated

Field meetings organiser : Mike Canaway [mikecanaway@gmail.com](mailto:mikecanaway@gmail.com)

**Museum visit at Gallery Oldham** to look at herbarium specimens of ferns and lycophytes – I recall they have some interesting material for New Zealand as well as the UK. Please advise me if you are aiming to attend as the museum needs to have numbers beforehand. - Leader Mike Canaway

For directions, parking and public transport see <https://galleryoldham.org.uk/> there is a tram service from Manchester railway stations which stops nearby and there is also parking in Sainsbury's next door as well as the pay and display car park mentioned on the web site. The aim is to finish by lunchtime followed by the option of a snack lunch at the museum café.

**Wednesday 22 May : Broadbottom Fernery Work Day** - Leader Alison Evans

Meeting place – Lyme field Garden Centre and Tea Rooms, Broadbottom, SK14 6AG, NGR SJ996935. Please park in the overflow car park to the left rear of the tea rooms.

Lunch – Alison will reserve a table for 12.30 for lunch. Please let her know if you will be attending, and if you want to have lunch in the cafe - if we are more than 10, we need to let them know to reserve another table. You can see the menu on their website <https://www.lyme field.com/tea-rooms>

**Saturday 8 June (t.b.c.) : Deepdale, Bakewell, Derbyshire - Leader Henry Folkard**

Meet at car park off A6 N of Bakewell. (Confusingly there is another Deepdale so please ensure you go to the one nearest to Bakewell).

**Saturday 6 July : Native ferns and horsetails at Greenfield - Leader Mike Canaway**

A revision or training day on native ferns and horsetails jointly with Saddleworth Naturalists including a couple of *Dryopteris affinis* taxa to keep members talking! Meet at the entrance to Friezland Riding Arena and park to one side (if there is no equestrian event taking place, we can use the larger car park lower down – to be advised on the day). For map and directions see <https://www.odrc.co.uk/friezland-arena/> and scroll down to the map. Coming from the Mossley direction on the A635 into Greenfield, look out for Noon Sun Close, which is on the right, and the entrance is first left after that, at an acute angle.

**Saturday 27 July : Tissington Trail – Dryopteris submontana monitoring**

Leader Alison Evans, [acl.evans@btinternet.com](mailto:acl.evans@btinternet.com)

*Dryopteris submontana* (Rigid Buckler-fern) is almost completely confined to limestone habitats in the Yorkshire Dales and South Cumbria with only a small number of plants elsewhere. Meet in the car park at SK 156563 on the A515 Buxton Road, south of Newhaven. In the morning we plan to monitor the *D. submontana* on the Tissington Trail, plus several *Aspleniums*, some *D. affinis* and *Polystichum aculeatum*.

In the afternoon it may be possible to visit another site for *D. submontana* in Miller's Dale.

**Wednesday 25 September : Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre Work Day**

Leader Yvonne Golding, [yvonne@buxtonhouse.free-online.co.uk](mailto:yvonne@buxtonhouse.free-online.co.uk)

Meet at Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre. See <http://www.jodrellbank.net> for directions and further information. Please bring any spare ferns for planting.

- 10.30-11 Arrival tea/coffee/admin
- 11-12.30 Carry out task
- 12.30-1.30 Lunch: packed lunch or café
- 1.30-3pm Continue and complete task
- 3pm Finish and return tools
- 3.15-5pm Volunteers free to look around Discovery Centre

For field meetings members must abide by the BPS Code of Conduct <https://ebps.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/BPS-Code-of-Conduct-2015.pdf> and [https://ebps.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/BPS\\_Safety\\_Code\\_A42015.pdf](https://ebps.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/BPS_Safety_Code_A42015.pdf) - the Safety Code which covers responsibilities, clothing and equipment etc.

**MERSEYSIDE NATURALISTS ASSOCIATION**

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

## **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](http://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](http://www.marple-uk.com) or [www.facebook.com/marplnaturalists](http://www.facebook.com/marplnaturalists)

\*Outdoor meetings - arranged separately and announced at meetings.

## **NELSON NATURALISTS' SOCIETY**

All meetings are held at Christ Church, Carr Road, Nelson BB9 7JX 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](mailto:davidnelson@btinternet.com) Visitors welcome £2.50

**Wednesday 21 February : Gannets of Bass Rock: Feeding Patterns - Jude Lane**

**Wednesday 7 March : Birds of and Migration over Hutton Roof - Bryan Yorke**

**Wednesday 21 March : Wildlife Encounter - Brian Rafferty**

Summer trips announced at this meeting

## **NORTHWESTERN NATURALISTS' UNION – VASCULAR PLANT SECTION**

Contact: David Earl - [david.earl@talktalk.net](mailto:david.earl@talktalk.net)

## **NORTH WEST ENGLAND FERN GROUP**

Field meetings organised with an indoor meeting in October at Holehird, Windermere.  
Contact: Robert Sykes [r.sykes56@gmail.com](mailto:r.sykes56@gmail.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 23 February: Roddlesworth.** Meet at visitor centre (SD665215) Adjacent to the Ryal Arms. Leader - John Lowell.

**Saturday 23 March: Dean Wood, Gathurst, WN5 0LL.** Park on Ackhurst Lane, **SD540073.** Half km walk under motorway to reach Dean Wood, SD 5306 0643. Leader - John Watt (01695 578843/ 07768 043 461).

**Saturday 13 April: Ainsdale** Meet at Ainsdale Discovery Centre Car Park (SD297146) Leader – Joshua Styles.

Joshua will show us some of the interesting new discoveries.

**Saturday 11 May: Reddisher Wood, Holcombe Brook.** Meet at the entrance to Woodhey Road. (SD780153). Leader – Norman Bamforth.

**Saturday 15 June: Tideswell Dale.** Meet at Tideswell Dale Peak District N.P. Car Park (Charge) SK153741. Leaders – Joan Egan and Norman Bamforth.

**Saturday 9 November: Cosh Beck, Littondale.** Meet at Halton Gill (limited parking, please car-share where possible) SD 8806 7646 Leader Gordon Haycock.

We will be heading out into limestone country to a relatively remote location at the head of Littondale. Parking at Halton Gill we will be north-west around 1.5km to an unexplored beck and associated waterfalls and springs. Please come prepared for a good hike and unpredictable Dales weather!

## **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 you 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>

**Saturday 23 February: Risley Moss, SJ664920, AGM & Presidential address from Geoffrey Kibby.** Ample parking. 10am (Coffee) for 10.30.

**Sunday 17 March: Dean Wood, Gathurst, WN5 0LL** Park on Ackhurst Lane, SD540073. Leader John Watt (01695 578843/ 07768 043 461).

**Sunday 14 April: Rixton Clay Pits, SJ 684908** Roadside parking after about ½ mile near the ‘Anglers car park’ Leaders Judith/John Lovelady (07921 189525/07921 189516)

**Sunday 19 May: Spring Wood, nr Whalley. SD741361** Park in long-stay section near visitors’ centre; small parking charge. Leader – Irene Ridge (0112540237274/07484 242523)

**Sunday 16 June: Microscope Workshop and Beginners Foray. Risley Moss** Meet 10.30. Details and bookings with Irene Ridge (01254 247274).

**Sunday 14 July: Wigan Flashes Nature Reserve. SD579032** Street parking in vicinity of Hawley High School Leader Christopher Bowden (01772 812910/07597 021981).

**Sunday 18 August: Hay Bridge Nature Reserve SD335876.** Park in centre car park. Facilities in centre building, and suggested donations for non-members of £2.00. Leader Helen Speed (07900 915328).

**Sunday 1 September: Hawarden Castle Grounds, SJ 322 655** Park at Tinkersdale car park. Leader Clive Garnett (07990 016450).

**Sunday 8 September: Dibbinsdale, SJ346828** (Sheet108). Leader Jeanette Maddy (07548 838946).

**Sunday 15 September: Gait Barrows NNR, SD 479777.** Park at reserve car park. Leader John Watt (07768 043 461) & Sue and Sarah.

**Friday 20 to Monday 23 September: Residential Foray at Keswick Convention Centre.** Booking form in NWFG Newsletter. Contact Irene Ridge (01254-247274).

**Thursday 3 to Monday 7 October: Isle of Man residential foray with Isle of Man group.** Contact John Watt (01695 578843 /07768 043 461)

**Sunday 6 October: Freshfield & Ainsdale NNR, Merseyside.** Meet in station car park SD291084. Leader Tony Carter (0151-724-4600).

**Sunday 13 October: Beginners’ Foray at Moore NR, Lapwing Lane, Warrington. SJ 578855.** Car park to right of entrance road to reserve. Leader Paul Hamlyn (0161-434-1401).

**Sunday 27 October: Ainsdale NNR.** Meet at car park at Reserve Manager's Office SD 303112 down private drive. Leader Tony Carter (0151-724-4600).

**Sunday 3 November: Turn Slack Clough, Littleborough. SD 935173** (Sheet 109). Meet at 10.00 at Clough. Leader Norman Bamforth (0161-336-3914).

**Sunday 10 November: Rostherne Mere, SJ743833** Meet in car park I centre of village. Leader Tim Rogers (07890949997).

## **OLDHAM MICROSCOPICAL & NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Meetings at Werneth Centre, Oldham, at 7.30 pm for more information call Phil Whiteman 01612900722, philipwhiteman333@hotmail.com or <http://www.oldham-wildlife-link.org.uk/micro/>

## **PRESTON BIRD WATCHING AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

The meetings are at 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](mailto:prestonwildlife@gmail.com) or on 07713 975321. [www.prestonsociety.co.uk](http://www.prestonsociety.co.uk). There is a charge of £3.00 on the door for any visitors.

## **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/>

## **ROCHDALE FIELD NATURALISTS' SOCIETY**

[www.rochdalefieldnaturalistsociety.co.uk](http://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](mailto:/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.

## **SOUTH EAST CHESHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

Indoor Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month from September to April, starting at 7.30pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available at the end of each indoor meeting. We meet at Ettiley Heath Church Community Centre; Elton Road, Ettiley Heath, Sandbach, CW11 3NE. Visitors are charged £3 and are welcome at any indoor meeting.

Field trips are held on one Sunday a month from September through to June and a long weekend meeting in March is very popular. More local field meetings are also held on the first Tuesday of each month and local evening walks in the summer. Travel is usually by car, or sometimes by bus or mini-bus, to sites of particular birding interest and

will be led by experienced birdwatchers. Bookings for the trips are made at the indoor meetings. Further information is available at [www.secos.org.uk](http://www.secos.org.uk) or by telephone from 01270 582642. Chairman Colin Lythgoe 01270 582642

**Friday 1 March – 4 March : Dumfries & Galloway long weekend field trip**

**Friday 8 March : Land of Geysers and Gyrs**

Keith Offord

**Tuesday 12 March : Westport Lake field trip**

**Tuesday 2 April : Pennington Flash field trip**

**Friday 12 April : A.G.M. and Members' Evening**

**Sunday 14 April : Burton Mere Wetlands RSPB field trip**

**Tuesday 7 May : Goyt Valley field trip**

**Sunday 12 May : Aber & North Wales field trip**

**Sunday 9 June – 10 June : East Yorkshire short weekend field trip**

### **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](http://www.westlancswildlife.org.uk) or contact 01704 83538. Membership Secretary: Hilary Bedford 01772 519090

**Wednesday 20 February : Every Fly Counts - Alan Bedford**

**Wednesday 20 March : Members Evening**

**Wednesday 17 April : Lancashire: A Journey into the Wild - John Lamb**

**Wednesday 15 May : Mountain Hares - Carl Bedson**

**Wednesday 5 June : Farming and Conservation: A Farmer's Perspective**

Chris Molyneux

members will be encouraged to attend Open Farm Sunday at Chris' farm in June 9

**Wednesday July 17 : Galls - Hilary Bedford**

**Wednesday August 21 : Ecological Education: Lessons Learnt from a Trot around the Globe - Helen Greaves**

**Wednesday 18 September : The Tanyptera Project - Gary Hedges**

**Wednesday 16 October : Sedges - Mary Dean**

**Wednesday 20 November : Purse Web Spider - Richard Burkmarr**

**Wednesday 18 December : Members Photographic Competition**



**Annual Subscriptions for 2019 - £6 for ordinary members and £7.50 for affiliated societies - were due on 1 January.**

**If you have not already done so, please send a cheque made out to *Northwestern Naturalists Union* to**

**Hon. Treasurer N.W.N.U., Mr A Mansfield,  
15 Aberdale Road, Old Swan, Liverpool L13 5YE.**