

*THE
NORTHWESTERN
NATURALIST*

New series



Volume 28 No.1 2026

CONTENTS

The Freshwater Jellyfish <i>Craspedacusta sowerbii</i> Lankester	
John Terenzini.....	2
Henry William Madoc and Guy Charles Madoc: Father and Son Ornithologists	
Fenella Davis.....	4
Centenary, Northwestern Naturalist - Part 2	
Alexander Mansfield.....	6
Rochdale Field Naturalists' Society.....	7
Society Diary	
Calendars of Meetings of Affiliated Societies.....	11

Contributions for the next issue by the beginning of December please!

The Freshwater Jellyfish *Craspedacusta sowerbii* Lankester

While most people are familiar with jellyfish in the ocean, many people, even professional ecologists, are surprised to learn that jellyfish can be found in freshwater bodies as well. There are thought to be up to 20 species of freshwater jellyfish in the world, however, due to similar-looking species and complex identification, only around 10 of them are considered valid. One of the most common and widespread freshwater jellyfish is *Craspedacusta sowerbii*, which was first scientifically described in London in 1880 by zoologist Ray Lankester and named for William Sowerby, who was the Secretary of the now defunct Royal Botanic Society in London.

Despite being first scientifically described in 1880 in London, the origins of *C. sowerbii* likely begin much further back in time and farther away geographically. There are written records of these jellyfish in Chinese texts dating back several centuries, mentioning them as appearing when the peach blossoms bloom and disappearing when the peach blossoms fall, giving the jellyfish one of its common names, “peach blossom jellyfish”. Despite these long-term records, freshwater jellyfish were largely overlooked by the scientific community and considered an aberration compared to their marine relatives.

Although of Chinese origin, the freshwater jellyfish *Craspedacusta sowerbii* (sometimes spelled “*sowerbyi*”) can be found on all continents except Antarctica, so has the widest distribution of all freshwater jellyfish species. Even the jellyfish that were described by Lankester in 1880 came from a South American origin through the transfer of aquatic plants, meaning they were widely distributed long before coming to scientific attention in the West. While researchers do not clearly understand how *C. sowerbii* has been able to move around the world, other transport hypotheses besides the transfer of aquatic plants include fish stocking, movement of objects like boats between water bodies, and even the migration of waterfowl. The complex life cycle of this jellyfish plays a part in the way they move between water bodies.

Similar to their marine relatives, freshwater jellyfish have a reproductive life cycle that has several stages. The adult stage, the medusa, is up to only 2.5cm and consists of the soft, flexible, see-through body that is typically associated with jellyfish in general. This stage reproduces sexually, and can produce small polyps, only a few millimetres and capable of reproducing asexually, which can attach to aquatic plants or hard surfaces under the water. These polyps are incredibly resilient, capable of waiting for years or even decades, for ideal environmental conditions to produce medusae in large numbers, which then become visible to people looking for them.

The ideal environmental conditions for *C. sowerbii* medusae to appear is when the water temperature exceeds 21 Celsius. Due to their small size and soft bodies, *C. sowerbii* prefers still water bodies, like lakes, ponds, reservoirs, and canals, though these jellyfish can be sensitive to UV light and are more comfortable in water that is not clear, making it challenging to find them. The unpredictable nature of their occurrences makes it difficult to find them without concerted research effort, widespread awareness of citizen scientists, or molecular methods like eDNA.

If you see any freshwater jellyfish in UK reservoirs, ponds, lakes, or canals, please take photos and videos, record the date and location, then contact John Terenzini at john.terenzini@plymouth.ac.uk to share your sighting. Even if you have spotted freshwater jellyfish in previous years, please share the date (month/year), location, and any information you can about the water body. If you are comfortable scooping some up in a container and contacting John, collecting specimens could be an important contribution to understanding the genetic lineage of the *C. sowerbii* currently present in the UK. Thank you!

John Terenzini

N.B. In the north west of England this species was recorded in the Rochdale Canal at Oldham in 1956. and in the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal at Little Lever, Bolton in 1982. With our warming climate it would be interesting to look for further records and reoccurrences. **Editor**

Henry William Madoc and Guy Charles Madoc: Father and Son Ornithologists



LIEUT.-COLONEL HENRY WILLIAM MADOC, C.B.E., M.V.O.

I recently made contact the NWNNU while researching my grandfather, Henry William Madoc. Thanks to help from the Journal's editor, Patricia Francis, I was sent a photo of my grandfather holding a Barn Owl chick (*Northwestern Naturalist* 31 March 1937, Vol XII).



As I have few images of him, I was delighted by this photo of my grandfather the birder, in contrast to my grandfather in uniform.

Col H W Madoc was appointed Chief Constable of Police on the Isle of Man in 1910. Previously he was in the British Army, fought in the Siege of Kimberley and remained in South Africa in peace time, serving in the Colonial Police Service. He and my grandmother lived on the Isle of Man until his death in 1937. They had two sons; the second son was my father Guy Charles Madoc (right).

In addition to his police service, Henry's great passion was ornithology. During his 27 years on the Isle of Man Henry studied birds assiduously. He wrote and published "Birdlife on the Isle of Man". His observations and records of Manx birds remain a source of reference and the book can still be obtained from second-hand bookshops.



After his death a memorial was erected on Langness, a rugged peninsula near Castletown, Isle of Man. This was a favourite spot where Henry watched birds feeding on the seaweed strewn rocks. Originally the top was adorned with a white marble wading bird. Sadly, it wasn't long before it was stolen, but the memorial remains in very good condition, thanks to the care of a kind volunteer on the Island.

My father, Guy, was encouraged by his father to be a bird watcher from an early age. As with his father, this became a life's passion. Guy followed his father's calling, joined the Colonial Police and spent all his working life in Malaya (now Malaysia). From 1931 to 1959 he observed and kept meticulous field notes of Malayan birdlife. These field notes are kept at the Natural History Museum Library in Tring, and are to this day referred to by ornithologists. The outcome of such dedication was a book, "An Introduction to Malayan Birds"; the third, definitive edition published in 1956.

When Singapore surrendered to Japanese forces in February 1942, my father was taken captive. Like thousands of servicemen and civilians he spent the next three and a half years in Changi prison camp. The remarkable thing about my father's period as a captive was that he occupied his time writing the first edition of "An Introduction to Malayan Birds", largely relying on his memory and that of fellow captive ornithologists. Written on paper stolen from the Japanese Commandant's office, typed on a borrowed portable typewriter, it is a unique artefact. Other prisoners of war contributed pen and ink drawings and two exquisite watercolours. The book was bound by two French prisoners of war, bookbinders by profession. The leather for the cover was scavenged from the seats of a wrecked car in Singapore city. The finished document had to be kept hidden from their Japanese captors, who were deeply suspicious of any written material – diaries, journals – and my father's book, albeit about birds, would have led to interrogation, probable beatings, possible torture. Nevertheless, Dad was able to give talks in the men's camp, the book was widely circulated and will have provided interest and solace to prisoners starved of contact with the world of nature.

Not only did my father contribute to Malayan ornithology with a guidebook, he has a bird named after him, Madoc's Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius madocii*) (right). In Singapore's Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum are the original pair of stuffed birds, a male and female, which provided the proof that these were indeed a separate species and not a sub species.



My father's book, the third edition, can still be obtained online. The original, unique edition of "An Introduction to Malayan Birds", is held by me. It is a powerful tribute to the determination of the human spirit against adversity. I am proud to own it and proud of the two generations of ornithologists who came before me and inspired in me a love and fascination for birds.

Fenella Davis

Centenary of The Northwestern Naturalist

Part 2

A very short history of the following 98 years

Firstly, a short recap, The Northwestern Naturalist was launched in 1926 with the North Western Naturalists' Union (NWNNU) following three years later in 1929, comprising both individual members and affiliated groups of the fourteen counties in the area.

The Union was very successful and by 1944 affiliated groups had joined from far and wide – comprising amongst other the Freshwater Biological Association of the British Empire and the Glasgow and Andersonian Natural History and Microscopical Society.

The Northwestern Naturalist paused in 1948, resumed briefly between 1953 and 1954 and then restarted in 1961 as a stapled rather ephemeral A4 format and has been in its current format since 1999.

1997/8 was a key time for the Union as it entered a period of uncertainty, the minutes of the AGM eloquently reported that some members commented that the newsletter “wasn't what it used to be”

The then editor resigned and Patricia Francis was invited and appointed as the new editor and 28 years later remains in post.... The then Secretary Martha Newton was quoted as saying that she “was optimistic about the future and of the new look Northwestern Naturalist” At about the same time an ambitious new Flora of South Lancashire was initiated. This now completed, but still growing, project can be viewed on the NWNNU website.

In 1998 the Union comprised about 56 members and 46 affiliated societies (35 being part of the insurance scheme).

The NWNNU became a registered charity in April 2005.

In 2024, the number of affiliated societies had reached 54, and their spread was much wider than the originally intended 14 counties, reaching all corners of the UK, from Edinburgh to Essex to Somerset to Clocaenog in North Wales. This was primarily due to the Union being able to offer a low-cost public liability insurance scheme to all of its affiliates. Sadly, the long-time provider of the underlying insurance withdrew its cover (there had never actually been a claim under the scheme) and a replacement could not be found.

In 2026, we now have just 25 affiliates as the Union returns to its original roots...and it is great to celebrate the seven groups that have been affiliated since the very beginning. In addition to the four groups that have submitted centenary articles, three were published in the last issue and one in this issue, we must also mention: Manchester Microscopical Society, Liverpool Botanical Society and the Lancashire and Cheshire Fauna Society.

In 2029, it will be the centenary of the Union itself and any ideas as how to celebrate this would be most welcome.

Alexander Mansfield

Page No. 6

ROCHDALE FIELD NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

The Rochdale Field Naturalists' Society (RFNS) was founded in 1874 and except for two breaks the name has continued into the present.

Origins

In 1874 five working men of Rochdale met and established the Rochdale Field Naturalists' Society. They intended to “*promote and popularise the study of Natural History and kindred subjects and also promote the intellectual improvement of members by means of essays, lectures, addresses, discussions etc.*”

We have learned a lot about the first 20 years of the Society from documents left by the first secretary Dennis Ashworth (1835-1918).

His exercise book, in which he monitored attendance, shows that membership quickly increased to over 30. The Membership Fee was 6d and the entry fee was 1d per week paid even when the member did not attend. The income was used to purchase reference books and scientific equipment. The first members were mainly working men or self-made entrepreneurs in the rapidly growing town. They grew up before education was compulsory so were often self-taught. Joining societies like the RFNS was a means of obtaining education beyond the elementary level.

From 1882 to 1892 Dennis reported on every meeting and activity in a large ledger which still exists. The topics for meetings and the venues for excursions were announced the week before and were all member led. The first page has an article pasted from the Rochdale Observer describing a Sunday afternoon walk to a local wood listing all the plants they saw. Many plants were picked and taken to the club room where afterwards, using reference texts they would be named according to the Linnean system and all present could learn.

The Society had a peripatetic existence for its first 10 years but in 1883 they obtained their own premises. The Society bought tables and benches and from then, the meeting room was open daily to members. The public were invited to “soirées” where natural history exhibits were displayed.

During 1885-6 the Society produced a professionally printed journal. Besides the accounts of Society meetings there are transcriptions of some lectures. With an eclectic list of topics ranging from “A Malay Betrothal”; “A Day in Zanzibar”; there is plenty of information about local Birds and their habits (including the “Whip-poor-Will”); “The Common Green Fly”; “Objects of the Sea Shore”; “Meteorology” and “The Dispersal of Seeds” to name just a few. Several members took the opportunity to advertise their own trades e.g. the local taxidermist, the vendor of microscopes and the manufacturer of blowpipes.

The Society offered cash prizes for specimens, collected within five miles of Rochdale Town Hall, of botany, geology, microscopy as well as for local natural history notes.

The archives reveal how dedicated the founding members were, considering that they only had a half day of leisure each week. The first President was James Beal (1851-1909), only 23 years old when he was elected. He gave many talks on local wild flowers and wrote the first unpublished Flora of Rochdale, deposited in Rochdale Museum after his death.

Another notable botanist was Mr James Percival (1829-1902), whose business made equipment for cotton spinning factories. He was often called to “name” specimens at meetings like the annual Working Men’s Botanical Society gatherings. In 1873 he named over 400 plants, giving both their Linnean and common names whilst two thousand people listened spellbound for 3 hours before giving him a tremendous ovation.

The new science of geology fascinated many men who worked in quarries and mines where they searched for flints and fossils. They learned about glacial drift and one member demonstrated how to use a blowpipe to analyse metals and minerals.

A frequent lecturer on geology was Robert Law F.G.S. (1840-1907). He worked in a cotton mill from a young age. After excelling at the Workers’ Institute night classes, he was selected for a course of study in South Kensington and returned in 1878 as a certified teacher of geology. He travelled widely in the pursuit of his studies in Europe and North America and became an authority on limestone. In 1884 he addressed the British Association in Montreal and then the American Association before being elected as Fellow of the Geological Society in 1886. The heyday of the Society was in 1885, also marking the first two women members.

Soon there were signs of decline. Attendances were down and fewer people brought papers or specimens to meetings. The subscription was raised to 5 shillings per year and the tables and benches sold off. Finally in May 1892 the Society was dissolved and all the books sold.

20th Century

In 1899 students from the Pioneers and School Board evening classes got together to form a new “Rochdale Field Naturalists’ Society”. The name was the same but the new Society was very different. The weekly meetings were held in the newly built Rochdale Technical College and often used lantern slides. The lectures were given by accredited qualified teachers and several of the officers of the Society were graduates – and invariably men. In winter the programme would include papers on botany, geology, ornithology, meteorology and entomology. There were two “Excursions” or “Rambles” per month on Saturday afternoons, visiting local sites and places further afield using trains and tramcars.

There seemed to be no connection between the members of the old society and those in the new version even though several of the previous members were still alive in 1899.

The Society gained a new dynamic President in 1912 - Mr. J. L. Maxim M.Sc. F.G.S. (1877-1952). Maxim was fond of publicity and wrote 2 long articles in the Rochdale Observer. He included the history of the Society, omitting its first 20 years. He was quickly brought to task in the letters page and was introduced to Dennis Ashworth.

Dennis handed over his exercise books and ledger which Maxim later passed to Rochdale Museum.

The Society weathered both World Wars but ceased to function in 1953 even though there was money in the bank and the membership seemed healthy. One of the younger members protested vigorously but he had to wait 18 years before the Society relaunched.

1971 to 2026

That member was Allan Marshall who worked for the Lancashire Naturalists' Trust. He was one of 7 people in the Hollingworth Lake Conservation Group who formed the first committee of the relaunched Society in 1971. That year his first Nature Notes column for the Rochdale Observer appeared which continued for 40 years. He published a new "Rochdale Flora" in 1982 and a Nature Trail for Healey Dell, now a Site of Biological Importance (SBI).

In the 1980s several knowledgeable naturalists led the Society such as Fred Earnshaw, Charles Linford (Lancashire Trust for Nature Conservation and British Trust for Ornithology ringer) and Donald Taylor (a distinguished painter of northern landscapes). Monthly coach trips were introduced to wildlife sites beyond the Rochdale which continue to be popular to this day.

During the 1980s Peter Hill's name appeared in the Society's accounts. He became Chairman in 1996, his meetings always starting with interesting sightings around the borough. He was centre of a network of wildlife recorders in the Rochdale area. All the observations they made were meticulously recorded in his card index and published within in the Society's quarterly reviews and annual bird lists. Peter's records were crucial when the local authority began to designate SBIs in the 1990s. After his death in 2007 these records were digitised.

The long history of observation and recording which started in 1874 continues to this day though the means have changed. From 2010 records were entered into the Society's MapMate© database by 3 volunteers and shared with Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU). Members are encouraged to observe wildlife in their garden and their local area. In addition, the Society organises monthly recording walks in the borough just as our antecedents did in 1874.

Recently the Society switched to a bespoke version of SWIFT developed for us by GMEU which enables members to enter their own records using a variety of digital devices.

The Society adopted a new management structure 10 years ago, with a "Steering Group", made up of the leaders of these activity teams: Conservation and Education; Outdoor Team and Indoor Team plus the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Publicity Officer.

As in 1874 the Society is run by members for members and it is hoped that everyone will find a niche and contribute to activities in our shared interest and concern for the environment.

ROCHDALE FIELD NATURALISTS' SOCIETY.

SUMMER RAMBLES, 1914

President.

Mr. J. L. Maxim, F.G.S., M.Sc.

Vice-Presidents.

Mr. H. Boothman Mr. F. Williamson
Mr. E. Stenhouse, Mr. J. Clegg
B.Sc., A.R.C.S. Mr. W. Osbaldeston

Hon. Secretary.

Mr. F. Whittaker, 51, Greenfield St.

Treasurer.

Mr. Fred Duckworth, 3, Sawyer St.

Committee.

Mr. G. W. Mills Mr. J. Coates
Mr. T. Clegg Mr. J. Lees
Mr. W. J. Lawson Mr. J. O. Bloomer
Mr. J. Whiteley

✓ April 4.—Hunger Hill. ...
Leader: Mr. T. Clegg.
2-15 Car to Staff of Life.
Route, Shawfield, Hunger Hill, and Moorcock.

✓ 18.—Tooter Hill. ...
Leader: Mr. G. W. Mills.
2-15 Car to Bacup.

May 2.—Carr Wood. *as present* ...
Joint Ramble with Bury Naturalists.
Leader: Mr. J. Whiteley.
2-15 Car to Bury Road Terminus.
Meet Bury Naturalists at Simpson Clough, 3 p.m.

16.—Prestwich Clough. *as present* ...
Leader: Mr. E. Wilkinson.
2-34 Excursion to Manchester. *Ruby*
Gt. Ducie Street Car to Prestwich Clough
TEA IN CLOUGH.

26.—Rush Hill and Brown Wardle
Leader: Mr. J. L. Maxim, M.Sc., F.G.S.
7 p.m. Car to Gale.
Route, Nook Farm, Coptrod Head, Quarry Hill, Toad Leach,
Flash, Rush Hill and Lobden. Return via Whitworth.

June 6.—Delamere. ...
Leader: Mr. I. E. Whitehead.
See Railway Excursion Bills.

20.—Crimsworth Dene. ...
Leader: Mr. F. Duckworth.
2-10 Excursion to Hebden Bridge. Fare 1s 5d
Return via Beckett Walls and Keighley Road

June 30.—Visit to Greenhill, by the
courtesy of Colonel Sir
Clement M. Royds, C.B.
Meet at the Butts at 7 p.m.

July 4.—Burnley and District. ...
Leader: Mr. W. Baldwin, F.G.S.
1-53 Train to Burnley via Todmorden.
Return 8-22 p.m.

18.—March Hill. ...
Leader: Mr. W. A. Parker, F.G.S.
2-15 Car to Newhey.

28.—Belfield Old Hall. ...
Leader: Mr. W. Osbaldeston.
7 p.m. Car to Firgrove.

Aug. 1.—Piethorn and Whitely Dene. ...
Leader: Mr. F. Williamson.
Route: Car to Newhey, Huddersfield Road, Ogden Chapel,
path between Piethorn and Norman Hill Reservoirs to
Windy Hill Farm; return via Longden End Brook and
Hollingworth. Objects: Search for Meum Athamanticum
and other rare plants.
N.B. Members should bring their own Refreshments.

Sept. 5.—Fern Isle Wood. *Danes Wood* ...
Leader: Mr. J. Coates.
2-15 Car to Broadley.
Then to Spring Mill, Fern Isle and Doctors Wood

12.—Annual Meeting. ...
In Technical School at 7 p.m.
King Street Entrance.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION, 1s.

Members are requested to bring Friends,
who should be introduced to the Leader.

NB After further research, The Preston Society, reported a small error in their centenary article which was published in the last issue:

“In the second paragraph it read that in 1928 the society purchased its own rooms, this should have said leased its own rooms.”

SOCIETY DIARY

Please check the details and visit websites and Facebook pages where they are given for further information.

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

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 6.30 pm 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 BIRD CLUB

Indoor meetings are usually held on the first Monday of the month at Feniscowles Methodist Church, Preston Old Road, Blackburn, BB2 5ER 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.

BUXTON FIELD CLUB

We offer a programme of field visits (May-October), talks (October to March) and volunteering opportunities throughout the year. Talks with refreshments start at 7pm at Buxton Methodist Church Hall, Chapel Street, Buxton, SK17 6HX. Attendance for non-members is £3. For details of our programme, how to join and information about local fauna and flora visit: <https://buxtonfieldclub.org.uk/>

CHESHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS CENTRE (RECORD)

Any queries contact: Eric Fletcher info@record-lrc.co.uk

CHORLEY AND DISTRICT NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Meetings September to April St Mary's Parish Centre Chorley. 7:30 pm start.
See www.chorleynats.org.uk for details or contact the secretary Paul West 10 Birch Road Coppull, Nr Chorley Lancs. PR75BG, 07708336529, email secretary@chorleynats.org.uk

CROAL-IRWELL LOCAL GROUP

We are a local Wildlife Trust group in the North Manchester, Bury and Bolton areas, who have been supporting the Lancashire Wildlife Trust for over 30 years.
As volunteers, we manage a nature reserve in Summerseat, enjoy monthly field trips to seasonally interesting sites, and run monthly indoor meetings with a speaker. All are welcome!

Indoor meetings are usually on the first Tuesday of each month, at 7.30pm, and take place at the Cottage, Our Lady of Grace, Highfield Road, Prestwich M251AS.
Admission and refreshments by £5 donation. Please bring your own cup! To check/confirm details please message 07377 539882.

GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL RECORD CENTRE (GMLRC)

Any queries contact: Stuart Fraser, Local Record Centre Development Officer
E-Mail: Stuart.fraser@tameside.gov.uk

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

JOY OF WILDLIFE

The group gets together weekly at sites around Shropshire to record the wildlife that we can find and identify. Outings are on a Wednesday, starting at 10.30am and finishing around 3.30pm. We meet as a group of friends out for the day together doing something we all enjoy. Everyone welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult,
For further details contact Keith Fowler (vc40joyofwildlife@gmail.com). Follow our exploits at <https://wrekinforestvolunteers.blogspot.com/>.

LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

We meet twice per year – Spring and Autumn at World Museum for an afternoon of talks. Meetings are free to attend and membership of the society is currently free.
Contact: Honorary Secretary: Gary Hedges gary.hedges@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

LCES also have a page on the northwest invertebrates site:

<https://www.northwestinvertebrates.org.uk/entomological-societies/lancashire-cheshire-entomological-society>

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENT RECORDS NETWORK (LERN)

Any queries contact: lern@lancashire.gov.uk

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. A warm welcome is guaranteed at any of our meetings.

LIVERPOOL BOTANICAL SOCIETY

Indoor meetings are held in the Weston Centre, World Museum, Liverpool, starting at 11.00am. Unless otherwise stated field meetings begin at 10.30am. Please check the website for details.

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 7.30 pm at United Reform Church, Hibbert Lane, Marple, SK6 7NN. Visitors welcome: £5 for individual meetings, Children free. Further information: Jane Michael 07917 434598 gmicsch@gmail.com or Deb Cavanagh 07810 450764 or <https://www.marple.website/community/community-groups-in-marple/marple-naturalists.html> or www.facebook.com/marplenaturalists

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

Indoor meetings are held at Higherford Methodist Church Hall BB9 6JZ 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 £4.

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.

Contact: Phillip James - epiphyte17@gmail.com

NORTHWESTERN NATURALISTS' UNION – FERN SECTION

Contact: Mike Canaway – mikecanaway@gmail.com

NORTHWESTERN NATURALISTS' UNION – VASCULAR PLANT SECTION

Contact: David Earl - dpearlbsbi@gmail.com

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>

OLDHAM MICROSCOPICAL & NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Lifelong Learning 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/>

THE PRESTON SOCIETY: BIRD WATCHING AND NATURAL HISTORY

The meetings are at St Leonards Church, Marshalls Brow, Penwortham, PR1 9JA. Enquiries should be made by e-mail to prestonwildlife@gmail.com, through our website www.prestonsociety.co.uk, or by phone on 07565 497065. There is a charge of £3.00 on the door for any visitors.

ROCHDALE FIELD NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

Indoor meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month from September to April at 7-30p.m. at Cutgate Baptist Church, Edenfield Road, Rochdale, OL11 5AQ. Coach trips and local walks are held each month. Details of all these events are on our website www.rochdalefieldnaturalists.org.uk and our Facebook page.

If you would like more information about events or RFNS in general, please email our Secretary (Ian Short) at rfns_enquiries@btinternet.com

SHROPSHIRE BOTANICAL SOCIETY

We will be offering a Mosses Workshop using microscopes sometime later in the season to make sure we get the chance to keep learning and networking on something meaningful. Do please keep some specimens in packets over the field season for checking and confirming later on, and keep an eye on the Society's website for more details. Contact email: phwarden@sky.com

SOUTH EAST CHESHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SECOS is a welcoming society open to birders of all levels, from novices to experts. Our field trips and events provide a wonderful opportunity to connect with like-minded people, explore beautiful natural settings, and share the joy of birdwatching. Whether you're looking to learn more about bird identification or simply enjoy the camaraderie of group birding, you'll find plenty to love at SECOS.

We host monthly indoor meetings from September to April, held on the 2nd Friday of each month at 7.30 pm at Ettiley Heath Church Community Centre near Sandbach. These engaging talks are delivered by experienced birders, conservationists, and photographers, covering topics ranging from local species to global birding adventures. Visitors welcome £5 charge. Occasionally, we host talks via Zoom.

From October to May, we organise excursions to local reserves and birding hotspots on the first Tuesday of each month. Additionally, from September to May, we host Sunday trips to more distant locations. Please check our website for membership details: www.secos.org.uk.

We'd love to welcome you to the SECOS community and look forward to meeting you at one of our events.

WILMSLOW NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Indoor meetings are held at Wilmslow Guild, 1 Bourne Street, Wilmslow, SK9 5HD monthly on Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. from September to April and field trips February to October. Visitors welcome to indoor meetings (£6) and field trips (£6) Contact Steve Osborne on 07922 283 017 steve.osborne42@gmail.com.

Thursday 15 October : Cheshire Basin Geology - Peter Webb DWT

Thursday 19 November : North Wales – from Mountains to Coast - Mike Roberts

Thursday 17 December : Christmas Social & Quiz

Thursday 22 January 2027: The Plant Hunters - Anthony Brandreth

Thursday 18 February : Kenya - off the beaten track - Michael Turner

Thursday 18 March : British Butterflies - David Tolliday

Thursday 15 April : AGM followed by The Roaches, Stafford WT t.b.c.

WORLD MUSEUM LIVERPOOL

Part of the Tanyptera Project/North-West Invertebrates. This is a regional project aimed at promoting the study and conservation of insects and other invertebrates. Contact www.northwestinvertebrates.org.uk/events for information on fees and booking instructions.

Northwestern Naturalist - Old Series

Articles from the original series of the North Western Naturalist from the website

<https://northwesternnaturalistsunion.org.uk> → Resources → Newsletter

The formation of the North Western Naturalists Union

Occurrence of the Land nemertine, *Geonemertes dendyi* Dakin, in Wirral, Cheshire. By Margaret J Durham, M.Sc.

Notes on the Hole of Horcum, Saltersgate, North Yorkshire.

The Herbarium of Thomas Velley (1748-1806).

A New Staffordshire Bramble

Obituary of Fred Taylor (1871-1949).

Notes by J. R. le B. Tomlin, M.A. On Marrat's Species of *Oliva*.

Some Observations on the Orkney Vole

Heather, by the late Frank Elgee, Ph.D.

Letters in the Possession of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society; Selected and arranged by SIDNEY MELMORE.

The Flora and Fauna of the Isle of Man and their Geographical Relationships – By D. E. ALLEN and W. S. COWIN.

The Lichens of the Isle of Man, Hartley. J. W., & Wheldon, J. A. (1927)

A List of Flowering Plants, Ferns, and Horse-Tails of the Isle of Man – by Cyril I. Paton – 1944 – first 9 of 30 pages

Some Flowering Plants of the Leigh Area of Lancashire by T. Edmondson A.R.I.C. (1947) [pub. 1954]