

SPECIAL 10th ANNIVERSARY NEWSLETTER of “*Burlinson House*” as *HQ of the MTVCA*



**Welcome to our Tenth
Anniversary Newsletter
celebrating MTVCA’s H.Q. at
Burlinson House (2008 – to
present day. Have a look at the
story over the past 10 years...**

**The house at 5 Oaken Clough
Terrace (now known as “Burlinson
House”) became the official
property of the MTVCA on 1st
December, 2008 under the terms of
Mildred Burlinson’s Will. It had
become the headquarters of the
Association in 1994 although rarely
used as such until 2007.**

**Now, we celebrate our 10th
anniversary of becoming legal
owners of the property. Since 1988
the property has been unoccupied
except for occasional use by the
Wooden Canal Boat Society and
Oldham Beekeepers.**



**Burlinson House, 5 Oaken Clough Terrace, Ashton under Lyne, OL7 9NY
E: mtvca@yahoo.co.uk W: www.medlockandtame.org.uk T:07989 147095**

Registered Charity No. 504558

There had been no noticeable improvements or maintenance to the house in the 20 years prior to us taking possession and indeed, parts of it were in a state of disrepair and in much need of maintenance.

Attached to the property is a .75 acre garden containing an ornamental pond and working beehives, and it became part of a declared Site of Biological Interest (SBI) because the large pond was a breeding site for the great crested newt (now a protected species). It also secured a Tree Preservation Order.

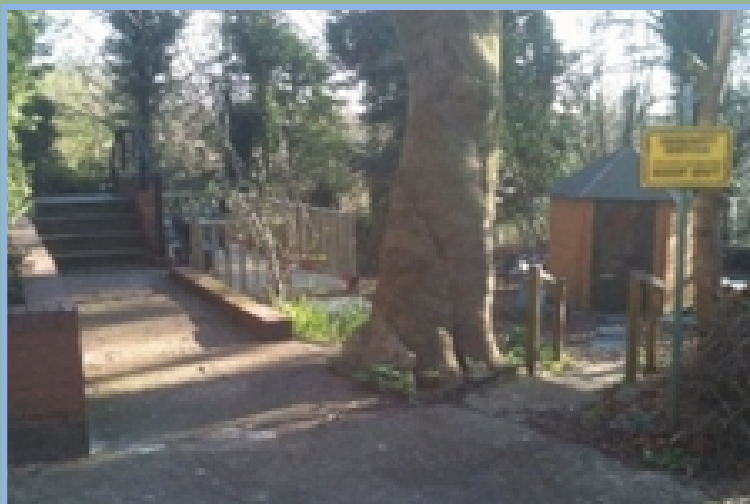
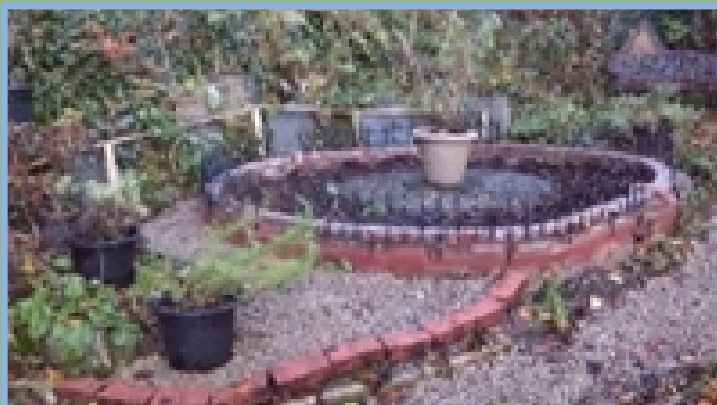
The continuing programme of garden projects was mainly funded by charitable donations. These projects initially included the construction and continuing refurbishment of the herb garden by Lee and Susan, the making of an adjacent bog garden to provide protection for insects and amphibians and the purchase and erection of the bird hide overlooking the wildflower meadow. We are thankful to Paul Heaton for his efforts in our early days in the garden. Paul did so much hard work and put in a lot of time sculpturing this area.



Other social events over the years have included quiz nights, wine and cheese parties and a cocktail evening.

More generous donations by charitable trusts have enabled further garden projects to be completed. In the side garden to the west of the main house were built a wooden veranda and summerhouse. Handrails were installed by our Chairman on the main stone steps, a pergola was positioned at the bottom of these steps, and two arbours were erected: one overlooking the pond, the other in the middle garden looking towards the beehives. A rose trellis arch was also erected between the middle garden and the wildflower meadow.

The construction of a website under Lee Borrell has made a huge difference in raising our profile to our members, the community, other wildlife groups and the various charitable trusts who have donated to us. We also have a presence on Facebook.



The utilisation of No. 5 as an events venue was deemed essential to justify its continued use. From 2008 onwards all Committee Meetings and AGMs have been held in the house and a continuing programme of public events has helped to raise funds and recruit new members . Carpet tiles were put in place throughout the house by Paul and Jean Lythgoe and Lee and Carl Borrell and of course they have made a tremendous difference to the warmth and furnishing of the house. Thanks are also due to David Borrell for his help in the purchase and replacement of some of our internal doors.

Popular, recurring meetings have included pond dipping to study freshwater fauna with associated presentations on amphibians, dragonflies and pond maintenance; and the deployment of the humane moth trap to collect and study the night-flying insects. A wide variety of talks have continued over the past 10 years including such topics as beekeeping, herbs, bats, owls, pollution, canal barges, nuclear power, poison plants and hedgehogs.





To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of the MTVCA a successful garden party was organised jointly with the Tameside Green Interest Group (TGIG) in 2011. Other social events over the years have included quiz nights, wine and cheese parties and a cocktail evening.

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Further improvements to the house were also ongoing. New blinds were purchased and fitted on the windows, alternative energy workshops were set up in the main cellar and later upstairs in the old utility room to explore the use of solar energy, water and wind power.

Thanks to Lee for adding external steps throughout the woodland garden and for the upkeep of the added garden structures with wood preserve.

Steel tables were purchased for the back room to facilitate honey extraction and the storage of other equipment. With units donated by New Charter the kitchen was completely refurbished by the effort of members. The exterior walls of the kitchen/bathroom extension were rendered with cement on wire mesh foundation and insulation and damp proofing applied. The chimney stack was repointed and the cowls fixed in place.

Another much needed improvement was the installation of a new bathroom suite.





Acknowledgement must also be given for the many items which have been generously donated over the past ten years including filing cabinets, stationery units, pictures, chairs, fan and convector heaters, a microwave oven, bird feeders, garden tools, a dining table, bookcases, metal storage cabinets, hat stands, kettles, clock, toaster, many miscellaneous items for the kitchen and bird seed (of which we never seem to have enough of!)

On an optimistic note it is hoped that we will still be in possession of the property in 2021 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the MTVCA, then known as the Medlock and Tame Valley Conservation Committee.

But for now, looking back over these past 10 years, we have made many happy memories and have a lot to be thankful for.



MTVCA PUBLIC PROGRAMME 2018

**March – Symbolism 19th
(Bryan)**

Badgers – 16 April

Herbs – 21 May

Meteorology – 18 June

Soil – 16 July

Winemaking– 20 August

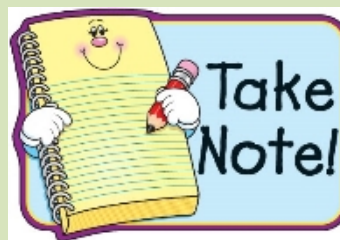
**Best plants for pollinators -
17 Sept.**

**AGM October 13 October
2018 2.30**

**All events start at 7.15 as usual
except for the pond dipping.**

Please ensure if you are coming to the events by car that you park at the Oldham Road End of Oaken Clough, as parking is strictly limited. Alternatively, a bus from Ashton bus station runs regularly and stops almost at the end of Oaken Clough.

All events are open to the public. £2 per person £5 per family including refreshments.



Much time and effort goes into our public events programme each year and they have been a source of information, encouragement and friendship for all who attend. We are grateful to all of the committee who have made such presentations.

Please do put the dates opposite in your diary. It would be really good to see you at the meetings and feel free to bring a friend to accompany you.

The events provide an important income for MTVCA and its ongoing needs.

Come along - and bring a friend, or two, or three and have some good chat and company over refreshments.





All donations, whether financial or 'gifts in kind', which you would like to make to MTVCA are very welcome. Please contact any member on the back page of the newsletter to arrange collection, if required, or to answer any queries you may have.

Items of interest to us are bird seed (always!) garden benches; bird baths; bird feeders; garden shears; good nature books; ornate flower pots; hanging baskets; gardening gloves; general tools. If in doubt, just ask!



During the Spring and Summer months in order to do light housework and general maintenance, a small number of us will be at Burlinson House each Saturday from 1 pm.

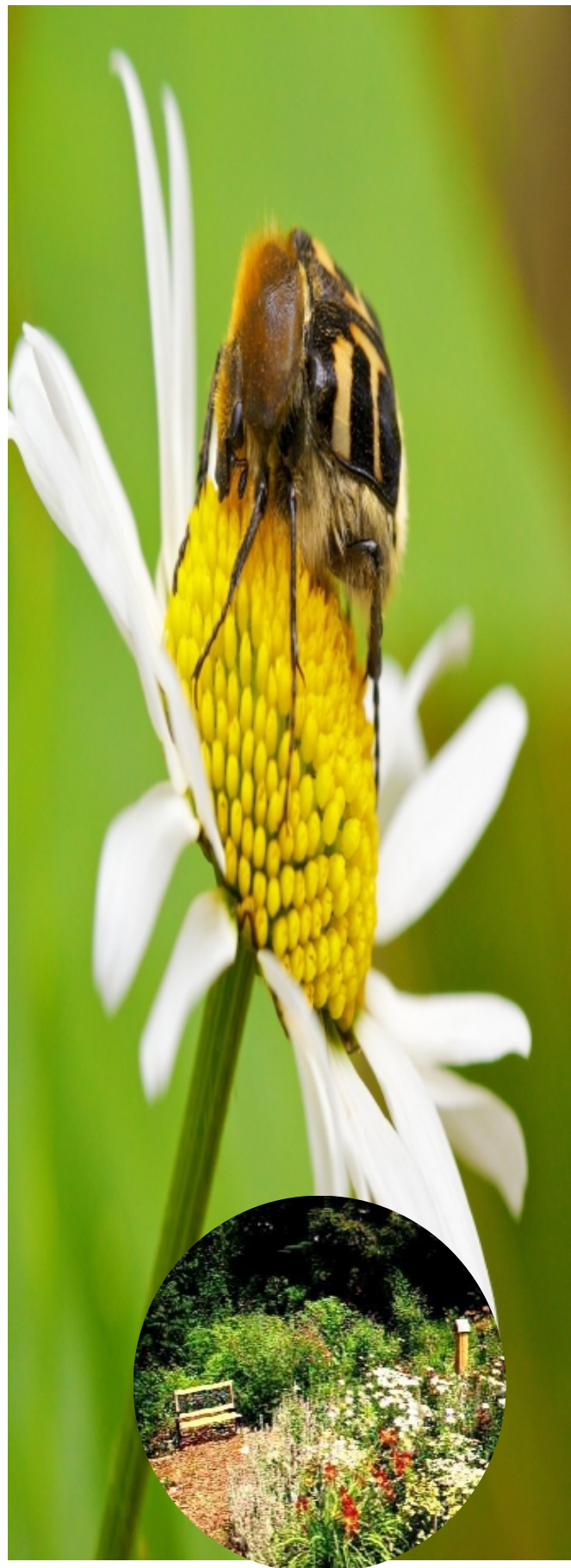
We do appreciate the ongoing input from Paul Lythgoe and the Chairman in doing very necessary repairs around the house, and the many tea towels and handtowels washed and ironed by Jean Lythgoe. Also to Katie for providing coffee and tea when our supplies have run out! Without such committed support we could not have functioned as a group over these past years.

If you would like to help practically in the house or garden, please telephone us beforehand to ensure the house will be open (for a visit or to help) on 07989 147095.

OFFER TO MEMBERS...

During the summer months we are very happy for members to use the hide in our wildlife garden to observe our garden birds. Perhaps you like to photograph or sketch/paint wildlife or would just like to sit and observe with some binoculars. This could be the perfect opportunity for you!

If you are interested, please telephone 07989 147095 and the committee can ensure the hide can be opened and comfortable for you to use.



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Spring/Summer 2014

Registered Charity No. 504558





Membership Fees

- Individual Adult: £10.00 per annum
- Family: £15 per annum
- Concessionary: £7.50 per annum

Committee members

Chairman:
Bryan Stringer

Treasurer:
Bryan Stringer

Secretary:
Susan Stewart
Tel: 07989147095

Newsletter:
Susan Stewart
thepliedes@yahoo.co.uk

Webmaster: Lee Borrell

Other committee members: Paul Lythgoe; Jean Lythgoe and Katie Caine.

Trustees:
Bryan Stringer
Susan Stewart
Katie Caine

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