



## PAISLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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### Newsletter, November 2011

#### News

#### December Meeting

Christmas is just around the corner and the December meeting will be a time to celebrate and mark the occasion. Come along, join in the fun, try your hand at some of the nature based games and quizzes including the tricky 'labels game' and the new for 2011 'I belong to Scotland' quiz. Eat, drink and be merry. We hope to see you all there.

#### Website Update

From time to time questions about the history of the Paisley Natural History Society arise such as: When did it start? Who were the modern 'founding fathers'? Who have been the Chairpersons and when? What campaigns has the society been involved with, and what kind of talks and outings have we had over the years?

Well to answer these questions the committee (Anne Gray in particular) has been busy in creating an archive of the society which can be found in the new archives section of the society website. Check it out.

#### Annual Subscriptions

Annual subscriptions will be due at the beginning of January. They are as follows: **Ordinary £6, Family £8, Unwaged £3.**

Subscriptions can be paid at the meetings to our Treasurer, Anne Gray or by sending a cheque along with membership form to Paisley Natural History Society C/o Paisley Museum, High Street, Paisley, PA1 2BA.

Please find a membership renewal form enclosed with this newsletter.

**P.T.O**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

**Christmas Social**

There is no talk on this evening, but the members of the Natural History Society will be getting together to celebrate the festive season. So why not come along, meet new friends and join in with the games and quizzes.

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

**Rainforest Conservation and Community: The Payamino Project in Amazonian Ecuador  
Dr Stewart White, University of Glasgow**

Since 2002 Stewart has been involved with the Payamino Project, a joint effort between the Universities of Glasgow and Manchester and Aalborg Zoo in Denmark, amongst others, to help support the Payamino Community in their efforts to keep oil, mineral and logging companies from their land.

Stewart's work has been primarily to conduct a mark recapture study and general survey of the birdlife in the area adding significantly to the species list which currently stands at over 200 bird species. In addition herpetological and mammal surveys using camera traps have also been carried out to improve our understanding of this biologically rich area.

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

**Return of the Beaver**

**Simon Jones, Scottish Wildlife Trust**

The Scottish Wildlife Trust, in partnership with the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland and Forestry Commission Scotland, released the first beavers to live in Scotland in over 400 years in May 2009. This marks the first ever formal reintroduction of a native mammal species in the UK. Find out how the beaver family have been doing since their release in 2009 and what plans are in the pipeline for this reintroduction of beavers to Scotland

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March**

**Soil - teeming with life**

**Professor Colin Campbell, James Hutton Institute**

More organisms can be found living beneath the soil than on the land above. Discover more about the fascinating diversity of life which inhabits the soil as Colin leads us on a fascinating journey into the world beneath our feet.

Colin is Director of Science Excellence at The James Hutton Institute and has 23 years of research experience in soil microbiology and soil science applied to agri-environment issues.

**Facebook Page**

We now have a facebook page - [www.facebook.com/PaisleyNaturalHistorySociety](http://www.facebook.com/PaisleyNaturalHistorySociety).

There are already members posting photos looking for help in identification and producing records. With any luck we will have more members on the site soon. If you have a facebook account all you need to do is sign in and click 'like'. If you do not want to join facebook you can still view the page although you cannot contribute to any posts or photos.

**Society Website**

The address is [www.paisleynaturalhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.paisleynaturalhistorysociety.org.uk)

Any member wishing to add new information please contact me at Paisley Museum.