



PAISLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Newsletter August 2015

News

This has not been the best summer for many of our insect species, at least not here in Scotland. The Big Butterfly Count has just been completed for this year and the results will provide an indication as to how many species have fared.

On a more positive note, those of you lucky enough to have attended the talk by Simon Jones way back in November 2011 will know about the background to the Scottish Beaver Trials at Knapdale Forest.

The trial finished in the spring of last year with a report sent by Scottish Natural Heritage in June this year to the Scottish Ministers to decide the future of beavers in Scotland.

However, although their future is yet to be decided that hasn't stopped the beavers, with recent footage revealing two kits born this year at the Lochan Buic trial site. **Aww!**

Autumn Outings Programme

Saturday 29th August

**Outing to Lochranza,
Arran**

**Leader: Tom Byars
01294 466393**

Meet at Ardrossan Ferry terminal at 9.15am (ferry departs at 9.45).

We should be able to see breeding Black Guillemots at the harbour. The sailing takes about 50 minutes, so we could do some sea-watching, looking out for Manx Shearwater, Gannets, Fulmar, Kittiwake, Sandwich Terns, Guillemots, Razorbills or maybe a Puffin. There is a slight chance of encountering something rarer like a Great or Arctic Skua or even Storm Petrel!

On arriving at Brodick we will take the bus to Lochranza and then walk to the distillery, looking out for Red Deer & Red Squirrel. The main objective is the iconic Golden Eagle and the picnic tables at the distillery visitor centre are the best place to view the nearby mountain ridgeline. On the lower hill slopes we could look for Scotch Argus and any interesting plants species.

The ferry leaves Brodick at 16.40 or 18.00 depending on how the day goes.

Subscriptions

Please note that subscriptions are now due for 2015/16. They are as follows: **Ordinary £10, Family £14, Unwaged £4.**

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.

Thursday 3rd September

**Buglife Scotland and the Amazing Ardeer Peninsula
by Suzanne Bairner**

Buglife Scotland are currently involved in several projects across Scotland including 'Fife's Buzzing', the 'John Muir Pollinator Way' and the outreach project 'Roots to Shoots'.

This talk will give a brief introduction to these projects as well as some of our other work in Scotland including a recent project in Ayrshire at the amazing brownfield site on the Ardeer Peninsula that has revealed many exciting bug discoveries.

Thursday 1st October

**Plastics and Poo – threats to Scottish Seas by Matt Barnes
Scottish Co-ordinator (Marine Conservation Society)**

The seas around Scotland support a third of the global Grey seal population, the world's most northerly population of Bottlenose dolphins, nearly half of all breeding seabirds in Europe and not to forget our summer visitors, Basking shark and Leatherback turtle.

The myriad of habitats beneath the waves include rocky reefs, maerl and sea grass beds and coral reefs, home to a vast array of marine life.

This talk will provide an overview of the work of the Marine Conservation Society in Scotland from wildlife protection to beach clean ups, advice and education.

Thursday 5th November

**Wildlife in the Yukon, a trip to the Canadian Wilderness
by Paul Tatner**

This talk will introduce the concept of a truly wild and natural environment, where Man's influence is almost minimal. It will describe a trip to a fishing lodge situated on the Kluane Lake, from which day trips were undertaken to various locations in order to satisfy the basic hunting urge through capture of pictures and fish, while avoiding the direct attention of some of the larger native mammals!

The audience will hopefully be entertained with pictures of the scenery, plants and animals that were encountered in this amazing Arctic environment. While some mention of the fishing may slip in, it will basically be the reflections of a naturalist fortunate enough to have been able visit part the incredible Canadian wilderness during a lovely July in 2014.

