



PAISLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Newsletter November 2015

News

Although the summer months were not great for many wildlife species one society member did receive an unexpected visitor at his home in Renfrew, a Comma butterfly.

Until recently sightings of Commas in south west Scotland were not that common and thought to be of vagrants from the north of England. However, sightings have increased suggesting that this species may now be breeding in this area. So keep an eye out next summer.



Courtesy of E. Douglas

2015/2016 Talks Programme

Paisley Museum

7.30pm

Thursday 3rd 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.

This year we will have an easy quiz courtesy of Anne Gray entitled "Fun with Flowers" and two general natural history photo quizzes from Norman and Ewan.

Thursday 14th January

Hessilhead Wildlife Rescue by David O'Reilly

Hessilhead Wildlife Rescue has been caring for Scotland's wildlife for over 25 years. The centre rescues, treats and rehabilitates injured and orphaned wildlife with the aim of releasing them back into the wild.

David has been involved with Hessilhead since 1999, working full time for the charity since 2004. He will be providing a fascinating insight into the work of Hessilhead from the rescues to the releases and everything involved in caring for all types of wildlife.

Please note the January meeting is on the second Thursday in the month this year, not the first.

Thursday 4th February [Birdwatching in the Three Towns by Tom Byars](#)

Our Chairman, Tom Byars has been living in Saltcoats since leaving Renfrewshire 15 years ago. He took on a local patch covering the three coastal towns of Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston and whilst the habitats in North Ayrshire are quite varied, the sea tends to dominate the landscape. Extensive mature woodland however, is a rarity due to the exposed windy conditions but prime scrubland in this area has been found to support the highest breeding density of Lesser Whitethroats in Scotland.

Tom's talk will cover some interesting and diverse bird species such as Scaup, Sanderling, Long-tailed Skua and Twite, many of which have undergone some radical population changes during his time there. He will also show us some of the more exciting rarities encountered in his local patch, including Snowy Egret, Pallid Harrier, Laughing Gull and King Eider - what ever will turn up next? This is what makes the Three Towns such an exciting place to live for a birdwatcher.

Thursday 3rd March [Big Effort for the Small Blue by Jill Smart \(Scottish Wildlife Trust\)](#)

The story of a small blue butterfly re-introduction project
Extinct in Ayrshire since 1982, the UK's smallest resident butterfly was flying there again in 2015 thanks to some dedicated individuals and enthusiastic partner organisations. What does the future hold?

[Subscriptions](#)

Please note that if you haven't already paid your subscriptions they are now due for 2015/16 and 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 (which can be downloaded from the website) to Paisley Natural History Society C/o Paisley Museum, High Street, Paisley, PA1 2BA.

www.paisleynaturalhistorysociety.org.uk

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Nicola Macintyre