



## PAISLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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### Newsletter August 2016

#### News

The society's outing to Gales Marsh SWT Reserve in search of the Small Blue butterfly on the 5<sup>th</sup> June this summer was a great success. Not only did the sun shine for us on the day, but we also managed to find the elusive creature (in fact more than one).

A big thank you to Gill Smart, SWT Southwest Reserves Manager for showing us round the site.



The outing to Ardeer on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July was another great success with Dark Green Fritillary, Common Blue, Small Heath, Grayling, Meadow Brown, Small White, Ringlet and Six-spot Burnet moths all flying on the day and evidence of what a gem of a site Ardeer Dunes is for butterflies. However, one unexpected sighting was of a Minke Whale spotted whilst looking at a raft of Manx Shearwaters.

#### The Amphibians and Reptiles of Scotland

Chris McInerny (who many will remember from his fascinating talk on a study of Adders, Slow Worms and Common Lizards on Loch Lomondside a few years ago), along with his associate Pete Minting has just published a free downloadable version of *The Amphibians and Reptiles of Scotland* available now at <http://www.glasgownaturalhistory.org.uk/books.html>

Well worth a look!

## Subscriptions

Please note that subscriptions are now due for 2016/17. 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, High Street, Paisley, PA1 2BA.

## Autumn/Winter Talks Programme

## Paisley Museum

7.30pm

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016**

**The changing fortunes of Eiders in the Clyde  
by Chris Waltho**

In little over a hundred years, the Eider has colonised the Clyde, growing into the largest population in the British Isles, only for numbers to crash by more than two-thirds over the last 20 years.

Chris has been monitoring Eider numbers in the Clyde for more than 40 years. Past President of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club, and current member of the Duck Specialist Group for Wetlands International/International Union for the Conservation of Nature, he has presented the results of this work at conferences around the world. Come along to find out more about this bird's changing fortunes.

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

**The Forestry Commission in Scotland  
by Derek Shannan, Ranger (Scottish Lowlands  
Forest District, Forestry Commission Scotland)**

Forestry Commission Scotland manages the National Forest Estate, some of Scotland's greatest natural assets. They are responsible for harvesting trees, planting new ones and play a fundamental role in wildlife, environment and heritage conservation.

Forests form part of the unique character of our countryside and Forestry Commission Scotland undertakes research to ensure sustainable forest management, supporting a wealth of biodiversity as well as providing places for people to work and visit.

Come along to find out more.

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016**

**All about Badgers  
by Jackie Clark (Scottish Badgers)**

The badger is one of the UK's most recognisable, interesting and protected of mammals. Distributed throughout the UK, badgers are found in a wide variety of habitats from woodlands, to fields and even urban gardens, but their nocturnal and elusive habits mean that they are rarely seen.

This talk aims to give an insight into the ecology, threats, legislation and poo of this shy but fascinating animal.

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

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*Nicola Macintyre*