



PAISLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Newsletter March 2017

Obituary - Jane Hetherington

For our society members, it is with regret to learn of the sad news that Jane Hetherington has recently passed away. Known to many of our older members as Sheena, she was an enthusiastic member of the Paisley Natural History Society from the early nineties and regularly attended most of our indoor meetings. Unfortunately, through ill health, Sheena was unable to attend our winter programme over the last few years and was certainly missed by many.

Sheena had made several generous donations to the society, including the purchase of our slide projector some years ago, which enormously helped our limited financial resources at that point in time. Sheena always had an intense, vivid interest in the natural world and would often come out with the phrase "That was fascinating!" after talking to other members about how informative the speaker was and on key points of interest from the given lecture. Sheena was always impressed by the casual expertise and displayed skill from various society members and she would often remark about how lucky they all were to have such encyclopaedic knowledge! She laughed heartily when I replied that it was all "smoke & mirrors!"

Sheena has kindly left us a generous legacy for the society and we have written back to her lawyers, thanking her estate for such a kind donation.

Anne Gray/Tom Byars

Spring Talks Programme

Paisley Museum

7.30pm

Thursday 6th April

AGM and Members Evening

The business of the society will be discussed followed by:

The factors affecting the status of Bearded Reedling in the Tay reed beds by Iain Malzer

The Bearded Reedling is so dependent on reed bed habitats that individuals may spend their entire life within a single reed bed stand. Despite being widespread throughout Europe, only 600 individuals inhabit the UK making it a specially protected species.

The Tay reed beds are the most extensive *Phragmites* reed bed habitat in the UK thought to hold the largest population of Bearded Reedling as well as being home to a number of other interesting bird species including Marsh Harrier, Reed Warbler and large populations of Water Rail, Sedge Warbler and Reed Bunting.

Iain, a PhD student at Glasgow University, is researching the status of the Tay reed bed population to investigate how this species reacts to climate change and management in order to provide a better understanding of how to help conserve it.

Summer Outings Programme

Sunday 30th April

**Green Hairstreak Butterfly
at Muirshiel Country Park**

**Contact: Tom Byars
01294 466393**

Meet at Watermill car park for 12.45pm to organise car-sharing for the trip. Bring a packed lunch and stout footwear.

This trip will be co-led by Tom Byars & Pat Emslie (Clyde Muirshiel Ranger & Green Hairstreak expert). We will be looking for the Green Hairstreak butterfly - weather permitting and if we have time, we might have a wander around the moorland looking for Tree Pipit, Cuckoo, Hen Harrier & Merlin if we are extremely lucky! **Please note this outing is weather dependent, contact the leader (Tom Byars) for further information**

Sunday 27th August

RSPB Reserve at Barons Haugh

**Contact: Iain McDonald
0141 581 5870**

Meet at Watermill car park for 9.00am to organise car-sharing for the trip. Bring a packed lunch and waterproof footwear.

This trip will be led by Iain McDonald. We will be looking for Autumnal passage waders and wildfowl but also on the lookout for the Comma butterfly if we are lucky!

[Renfrewshire RSPB Local Group](#) are also organising a number of summer outings which members can attend and are as follows:

Sunday 9th April

Great Cumbrae and Millport

**Contact: Margaret Brown
07843 479790**

Meet at the Largs ferry terminal for 9.45am ferry

Ferry costs: £3.20 return. Please contact the leader if you wish to attend.

The leader, Eddie Williams will meet us off the ferry from Largs and show us the wonderful sights of the island and the wealth of sea birds as well as stonechats and other passerines it has to offer.

We will not be taking cars over on the ferry so don't forget your bus pass if you have one. There is car parking close to the terminal, on the sea front, with a small charge payable on departure.

Sunday 7th May

Inchailloch

**Contact: Janet Tillman
07967 114604**

Meeting details to be confirmed, please contact Janet Tillman for information

Sunday 11th June

Leighton Moss – Coach trip

**Contact:
Margaret Brown 07843 479790/
Lesley Hill 07778 552339**

Time: 7.30am at the Watermill car park, Paisley returning to Paisley by 8.00pm

Price: The cost for the coach is £20, payment required in full by May. Please contact the leader to book a place.

Leighton Moss is the largest reedbed in north-west England, and home to specimens such as breeding bitterns, bearded tits and marsh harriers. You might also see deer and many other species of wildlife.

There is a selection of hides and trails that get right to the heart of the reedbed. Or you can take the nature trail alongside two coastal lagoons to see lots of wading and waterbirds.

Don't forget your RSPB membership card or you will be charged to enter the reserve.

Facebook Page

Check out our facebook page at www.facebook.com/PaisleyNaturalHistorySociety.

Society Website

The address is www.paisleynaturalhistorysociety.org.uk

Nicola Macintyre