



# PAISLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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## Newsletter, December 2003

### Christmas Social

The next meeting of the Society will take place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December, and will be the Christmas Social. This is always an enjoyable event, giving members a chance to have an informal get-together and to test their wits in some light-hearted games. We will also have a supply of festive fare, to which modest contributions will be welcome. You are also invited to bring along any slides or prints that you would like to show.

### Future Meetings

The programme of meetings in the New Year is as follows:

#### ***Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February. Bernard Zonfrillo. The Natural History of Ailsa Craig***

Bernard has for some time been involved in research into the birds of Ailsa Craig and their conservation. Recently, he has been directing a project aimed at eradicating the Brown Rat from the island to allow Puffins to return to breed. This work has attracted great interest and has recently achieved its objective: the Puffins are back. Bernard will give us an overview of the natural history of Ailsa Craig, and bring us up-to-date with the Puffins story. As Bernard is an expert wildlife photographer as well as an excellent speaker, this meeting promises to be a highlight of our winter programme.

#### ***Thursday 1st April. Annual General Meeting + Members' Night***

Following the AGM, we will have several short presentations from members. Contributions are invited. Please contact Ewan or Tom if you would like to show some slides of your holidays or outdoor activities. Some relevance to natural history is desirable but not essential.

### Constitution

We had a very constructive discussion at our September meeting of the draft constitution, which was adopted with some minor amendments. A copy of the approved constitution is enclosed.

### Projector

The Society now has its own slide projector, thanks to the generosity of a friend and supporter, who wishes to remain anonymous. The projector is a Kodak Ektapro 5020 model with a 75 – 120 mm zoom lens and an infrared remote control. We received it just in time for it to make its debut at the October meeting, where it immediately showed its worth, performing faultlessly and providing very sharp, bright images. We are extremely grateful to our benefactor for this very generous gift, and the committee has already expressed our thanks to the person concerned.

### Lottery Application

We had originally planned to seek lottery funding for the purchase of the projector, and this was one of the motivations for drawing up a constitution. Obviously we no longer need to do this. However, the committee is considering applying for funding for a laptop computer, which would be useful for storing our membership list and biological record databases, and a digital camera, which we would use on our excursions.

### Subscriptions

Some subscriptions are still outstanding. You will find a membership renewal form with this newsletter if you haven't renewed your subscription. Please send this along with your subscription to the Treasurer, Marian Coates. This applies to you if this box is ticked .

Bill Gray.