



PAISLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Newsletter, August 2004

Hi folks! After a rather dismal and wet summer your committee has put together a varied winter programme that should help to brighten up the rather dismal and wet winter ahead.

Winter Programme

The programme has now been arranged. As was the case last year, there is again a programme with five indoor meetings. These will continue to be held in Gallery 3 in the Museum. The meetings until the end of this year are:

Thursday 2nd September. Iain Gibson, Senior Ecologist, Glasgow City Council

Iain is well-known to most of us as the Editor of the annual Clyde Bird Report and he is also the Bird Recorder for the Clyde Area. He will talk to us about his involvement with the Hen Harrier Project which he has organised for the last two years in the Renfrewshire uplands. Members of the public have, thanks to Iain's efforts, been able to watch nesting Hen Harriers on the moors at Clyde Murshiel Regional Park via cameras which were carefully positioned at a nest site. Live pictures were successfully transmitted to the Murshiel Visitor Centre for all to see and admire. No doubt Iain will have much interesting information to present to us about these spectacular birds-of-prey.

Thursday 7th October. Calum Duncan, Marine Conservation Officer, Scotland

If birds are not your scene – then how about marine life? Calum Duncan is coming to give an illustrated talk about his work with the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) which is the UK's national charity dedicated to the protection of the marine environment and its wildlife. Many ongoing studies are undertaken by MCS and Calum is involved in the Adopt-a Beach initiative and studies of the Basking Sharks which arrive in Scottish waters annually. These harmless, plankton-eating creatures are often to be seen feeding placidly around Arran and other islands. Calum will answer any questions you may have and he might be persuaded to lead a 'Shark Hunt' next year.

Thursday 2nd December. Christmas Social Details will be given in the December issue of the Newsletter.

Forthcoming Outings

East Coast Birds – September 19th Meet at 9am in the Cotton Street car park. Tom Byars (evening - 01294 466393) will lead an outing to locations on the east coast at which rarities have been recently sighted. Please remember to contact the outing leader, or Ewan Douglas, if you plan to come on this excursion.

East Coast Birds – October 16th AS ABOVE

Subscriptions

These are due in September. The rates are the same as last year: Ordinary £6; Family £8; Unwaged £3. A membership renewal form is enclosed, which you should send with your subscription to the Treasurer, Marian Coates. Do enter your e-mail address if you have one. This will allow the committee to contact you quickly about unscheduled meetings.

Committee

The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 7pm in the Bull Inn on the 30th September. Our Chairman has volunteered to buy a round of refreshments!