



PAISLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

All correspondence to the Secretary: Ewan Douglas
17 Marjory Road
Renfrew PA4 8BG
Phone: 0141 886 5232
e-mail: hande.douglas@ntlworld.com

Newsletter, March 2005

Coming Events

Thursday 7th April **Annual General Meeting & Members' Night**

After the business of the Society has been discussed there will be two short illustrated talks. Tom Byars will speak about *Digiscoping Birds* and Norman Tait will give a presentation about *Garden Wildlife*. Any other members wishing to contribute will be made welcome. A slide projector and digital projector will be available.

Summer Outings

Summer excursions are:-

Sunday May 8th - **Heads of Ayr** to see Lesser Whitethroats with Tom Byars.

In Scotland these small warblers are at the northern limit of their breeding range. They are difficult to observe owing to their secretive habits but respond readily to a recording of their call and may be caught in a suitably placed mist-net. The eggs hatch in 10 days and a further 10 days later the young birds leave the nest which is a very short breeding cycle. Definitely a 'must see' for local bird twitchers.

Meet at 10am in the car park at the Animal Farm, Heads of Ayr.

Sunday June 12th - **Glen Moss, Kilmacolm** to survey LBAP plants with Norman Tait.

It is hoped that Spignel (see attached sheet) and the Butterfly, Coralroot and Northern Marsh Orchids will be flowering at known sites in the area. This Scottish Wildlife Trust Reserve has many interesting and attractive wetland plants and the site is at its most colourful at this time of the year. Some dragonflies may be observed if the weather is bright and warm.

Meet at 2pm in the car park at Kilmacolm Town Centre.

Reports on Recent Events

Christmas Social (December) – The social evening was well attended and much frivolity ensued after we discovered how to open the wine containers. After the dreaded 'word game' (identifying natural history subjects from written clues) there was a slide quiz at which members had to identify 10 species of butterfly from views of the underside only. There was much gnashing and grinding of teeth at this one. Everyone present seemed to enjoy the evening.

Bird Nests (February) – Mike Hansell gave a most interesting talk about bird nests. The Society slide projector performed well as Mike showed many slides of the nests of British and foreign bird species and described how the nests were constructed. By far the most impressive was the small size of a Humming Bird's nest. Our attempts at constructing 'nests' using material provided by Mike ended in hilarity as many efforts simply collapsed. Conclusion? Them wee burds are smarter than you think!

Committee

The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 7pm in the Bull Inn on the 28th April 2005.

T. Norman Tait