



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, August 2005

Hi folks! It's that time of the year again – when your subscription renewal is requested! Your contribution is greatly valued and we hope that you will renew your membership for the 2005/2006 Session.

Winter Programme

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

Thursday 1st September. Keith Watson Renfrewshire Plants

Keith is well known to PHNS members as the Botanical Society of the British Isles plant recorder for Renfrewshire. He is preparing a definitive Flora of Renfrewshire. Members are urged to list sightings of uncommon plants found during the summer months. Keith is employed by Glasgow City Council as a Natural History Curator (Botany) to work on cataloguing historical herbaria in their collections. He is also the Council's Biodiversity Officer and undertakes environmental surveys prior to planning approval for building developments. It will be interesting to know what interesting plant specialties he has discovered in our area.

Thursday 6th October. Stuart Glen Insects: The hidden gems of SWT reserves

Following two years as the Visitor Centre Manager at SWT Falls of Clyde, Stuart is now employed as the Development Manager with the Scottish Wildlife Trust. In addition, he is a freelance writer and photographer with articles in *Scottish Wildlife*, *Natural World*, *The Scottish Garden* and *Outdoor Photography*. Studies at the Universities of Glasgow and Birmingham resulted in insects becoming his true passion. Apart from the 'creepy-crawlies', beautiful butterflies and marvellous moths are on the agenda.

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

Reports on Recent Outings

Heads of Ayr (May) - Half a dozen enthusiastic birdwatchers gathered at Heads of Ayr to search for the elusive Lesser Whitethroat. The birds were present but not too vocal that day and only 2 singing males were heard. Later visits by our chairman Tom Byars established that 5 males were holding territories at Heads of Ayr and four pairs bred successfully. No Lesser Whitethroats were seen at Brownside Braes for the third year and one pair bred successfully at Baronshaugh Reserve near Motherwell. In Scotland these small warblers are at the northern limit of their breeding range.

Glen Moss (June) – A small group of members set off around Glen Moss. The weather was unsettled but that did not affect the plant sightings. Both Spignel and Whorled Caraway were rediscovered in course grassland at the southwest corner of the reserve. Obviously they have been overlooked for some years. Northern Marsh Orchids made a pleasant sight in wet ground in the southeast corner. Coralroot Orchids were absent this year at Glen Moss except for one flower head. Orchids in general seem to have good years in which large numbers of flowers are seen and bad years in which only one or two specimens are found. This phenomenon may be weather related.

Committee

The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 7pm in the Bull Inn, Paisley on **Wednesday 24th** August.

T. Norman Tait