



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 2006

COMING EVENTS

Thursday, 6th 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 the recent sightings of an American *Laughing Gull* at Ardrossan South Beach; Norman Tait will talk about *Winter around Renfrew* and Pat Allan will tell us about the *Flora and Fauna of Bermuda*. Any other members wishing to contribute will be made welcome. A slide projector and digital projector will be available.

SUMMER OUTINGS

Sunday, 30th April **RSPB Leighton Moss Reserve, Lancashire** contact Ewan Douglas **0141 8865232**

This coach outing has been organised by Renfrewshire RSPB Local Group. Non-members are welcome and there are some seats remaining. Leighton Moss is an extensive wetland reserve established in 1964. Specialties include Bittern, Bearded Reedling and Water Shrews. Well worth a visit!

Sunday, 14th May **Heads of Ayr, Girvan** for Lesser Whitethroats. contact Tom Byars **01294 466393**

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 9am in Cotton Street Car Park, Paisley and then at Heads of Ayr Farm Park at 10am. Tom will be giving a talk about the Lesser Whitethroats to the RSPB Renfrewshire Local Group on the 7th April.

Sunday, 9th July **Gleniffer Braes C.P., Paisley** for an Orchid survey contact Cathy Gillen **0141 8843794**

Cathy is one of the Countryside Rangers at the Country Park. She will lead PNHS members to a specific area of grassland to conduct a survey of Greater and Lesser Butterfly Orchids - species which are included in the Renfrewshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Please make a booking with Cathy and receive further details. Whatever the weather may be the plants should be there! So, make sure that you are!

Reports on Recent Events

Christmas Social (December 2005) – The social evening was well attended as usual. Many thanks to Anne Gray for an improved dreaded 'word game' (identifying natural history subjects from obscure clues). Thanks also to Ewan Douglas for an excellent bird-sound quiz. Another quiz, presented by Norman Tait, consisted of pictures of Renfrewshire habitats to be identified by the members. Everyone present enjoyed the evening.

The Isle of Eigg (February 2006) – Sarah Longrigg has visited this island for many years. She gave the members a pictorial tour of the island featuring the unusual geological features and the interesting plants to be found there.

Artificial nest-bank for Sand Martins

A 15 metre structure has now been built by an SWT work team and landscaped into a site at the Scottish Water treatment plant near Inchinnan. The wall looks impressive. Let's hope the Sand Martins think so too!

Subscriptions – Will members please note that subscriptions are now due from the 1st January each year in accordance with our new Constitution.

Committee

The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 7pm in the Bull Inn on Thursday 13th April.

T. Norman Tait