



PAISLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Newsletter, March 2008

COMING EVENTS

Thursday, 3rd April **Annual General Meeting + Bats the Facts**

After the business of the Society has been discussed there will be a talk by Len Howcutt of the Clyde Bat Group. Are bats blind? How many bats are there in Britain? For the answer to these and many more questions come along to hear Len's talk on bats.

FORTHCOMING OUTINGS **Unless otherwise stated, the meeting place for all outings will be at Cotton Street car park, Paisley for 9am.**

Sunday, 30th March **Scone Palace** contact Tom Byars (evening) **01294 466393**
The mixed woodlands around Scone Palace is the current Scottish stronghold for the Hawfinch. These large finches have bred at Scone since 1948. The Tay Reed Beds will also be visited hopefully to see Bearded Tit.

Sunday, 27th April **RSPB Baron's Haugh Reserve** contact Tom Byars (evening) **01294 466393**
It is hoped that all the warblers will have arrived and that their melodic songs will be reverberating over the marsh and in the surrounding woodlands. Even the elusive Lesser Whitethroat may make a brief appearance.

Sunday, 18th May **Endrick Mouth Reserve** contact Ewan Douglas **0141 886523**
A walk from Gartocharn to the river mouth for spring flowers with the possibility of seeing an Osprey.

Sunday, 29th June **SWT Glen Moss Reserve** contact Norman Tait **0141 8851951**
Given a sunny day at Glen Moss near Kilmacolm, four types of dragonflies and five types of damselflies should be in evidence. A variety of butterflies may also be seen. Meet at 2pm in the car park at Kilmacolm Cross.

Sunday 31st August **Bat Walk at Castle Semple** contact Nicola Macintyre **0141 8406171**
Pat Emslie of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Ranger Service and Clyde Bat Group will be leading an evening bat walk around Castle Semple. Meet at 7.30 pm in the Visitor Centre at Castle Semple.

Sunday 21st September **East Coast Bird Foray.** contact Tom Byars (evening) **01294 466393**
This outing will be made to view the autumn bird migration at various locations on the South East Coast.

Reports on Recent Events

Christmas Social (December 2007) – The social evening was well attended as usual. Many thanks, once again, to Anne Gray for her efforts in producing the popular 'word quiz' using the theme of Forest Dwellers this year. Thanks also to Ewan Douglas for a bird quiz based on his photographs taken at the bird observatory on Fair Isle. Only one person identified all of the birds!! Tom Byars introduced us to a new game in which each person was given a natural history subject which they were expected to draw on an easel. Some weird creations were produced!

Hedgehogs on the Uists (February 2008) – Andy and Gay Christie, who run the Hesselhead Wildlife Rescue Trust at Beith, have been rehabilitating Scottish wildlife for almost 30 years. In 2003 SNH announced that they were going to cull around 5000 hedgehogs which were eating the eggs of ground nesting birds on the Outer Hebrides. Andy told how they joined forces with other organisations to form the Uist Hedgehog Rescue. For 4 years they rescued hedgehogs from the islands and brought them to the mainland where, using radio tracking, it was proved that re-location was a successful alternative to culling. This was a well attended and most interesting evening.

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