



PAISLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Newsletter, November 2008

Coming Events

Thursday 4th December **Christmas Social**

Do come along to the society's Christmas Social at which members and friends celebrate the festive season. There will be natural history quiz games plus social chat and plenty of snacks. Our evening is informal so relax and enjoy yourself. Please remember that a small contribution to the festive fare would be welcomed.

Thursday 8th January 2009 **Clyde Reptiles and Amphibians**

The Clyde Amphibian and Reptile Group (CARG) is dedicated to the recording and the promotion of reptiles and amphibians throughout Strathclyde. Our speakers Ewan Kane and John Sweeney will tell us more about CARG's activities and the reptiles and amphibians found in our area.

Thursday 4th February **South Africa and New Zealand**

Duncan McEwan is our speaker for this evening and he will tell us about his travels in South Africa and New Zealand. Duncan is a well-known award winning photographer. He specialises in landscape photography but can turn his camera to record many subjects including birds, animals, plants etc. It will be fascinating to see his pictures from these two large countries. Definitely an evening not to be missed.

Thursday 5th March **Wildlife Crime in Scotland**

Joe Connelly is the Wildlife Crime Officer Co-ordinator for Strathclyde Police and he is the first point of contact for all wildlife and environmental matters within Strathclyde force. Joe will tell us about the types of wildlife crimes with which he and his 20 strong team deal. I hope that Joe will not have too many distressing images of injured animals and birds but these things do happen and have to be dealt with.

Winter Outing

Sunday 15th February 2009 **Red Kites at Argaty near Doune** contact Ewan Douglas **0141 886523**

Red Kites were hunted to extinction as a breeding species in Scotland during the early part of the twentieth century. A number of successful attempts to re-introduce these scavenging birds of prey have been made in recent years. Argaty Farm near Doune is a well-known release site where a hide has been built and members of the public can watch the birds picking up meat scraps. A guided visit to the hide is £4 and a visitor centre with toilet facilities has recently been opened. Meet at Cotton Street car park, Paisley for 9am.

Grant Application Success

The Paisley Natural History Society received a grant of £3000 from the Renfrewshire Environmental Trust (RET is a local charity which distributes funds through Landfill Tax with the purpose of environmentally enriching the community) in September to create high quality nesting and foraging habitat for the Lesser Whitethroat. This bird (which is used as our logo) is a Local Biodiversity Action Plan species due to its extremely localised breeding distribution and the maintenance of this rare habitat is regulated under the Scrub Habitat Action Plan as well. The PNHS has a leading role in the Scrub Enhancement Project which will run from 2008 to 2018 and our members will be involved in the project throughout this period.

Help Required

Anyone with website skills please contact Tom Byars if they are willing to help set up a PNHS website.

Subscriptions

Please note that subscriptions are now due for 2009. They are as follows:- Ordinary £6; Family £8; Unwaged £3. Subscriptions may be paid to the Treasurer, Marian Coates at any of the meetings.

T. Norman Tait