



PAISLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Newsletter, August 2009

Hello again. Our summer outings were well attended this year due to the considerable efforts of Nicola Macintyre who is assistant Curator of Natural History in Paisley Museum. Apart from promoting our society's activities, she also updates our website. The birds have now stopped singing, the nights are drawing in and the football season is under way – all of which are signs that autumn and winter are fast approaching.

Winter Programme

The meetings will be held in Gallery 3 at Paisley Museum. The talks until the end of this year are:

Thursday 3rd September Paula Baker RSPB in Scotland

Paula is the Visitor & Publicity Officer at the RSPB reserve at Lochwinnoch. Her talk will concentrate on some of the RSPB's ongoing work in Scotland involving some of our best loved and well known species. Their best known conservation success in Scotland is the return of the Osprey as a breeding species. In 1958 a pair nested successfully at Loch Garten. The RSPB then made the momentous decision to allow the public to view the nesting birds while maintaining a 24 hour watch to protect the birds from egg collectors. There are many other success stories which Paula will elaborate on.

Thursday 1st October Dr Willie Yeomans The Clyde River Foundation

Willie Yeoman will explain both the origin and function of the Clyde River Foundation. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the river suffered greatly from the impact of the industrial revolution. Pollution levels rose and fish stocks and wildlife declined. The Clyde is slowly recovering and is now home to at least 30 species of fish including the Atlantic Salmon and Sea Trout. Willie will be talking about the Foundation's research on the ecology of the Clyde and the promotion of environmental education throughout the catchment area. Maybe he will bring some Clyde caught Salmon!

Thursday 6th November Shona Quinn Fellowship of the Ringers

Shona has undertaken bird ringing throughout Britain and abroad. She will talk about her work as a ringer, the people she has worked with and the birds she has ringed. Bird ringing requires very careful handling of the bird and licences are only given to qualified ringers of which there are about two and a half thousand in Britain. Although bird ringing has been done in Britain for nearly a hundred years, new facts about migration routes, wintering areas and even the age of individual birds are still being discovered.

Thursday 3rd December Christmas Social Details will be given in the November issue of the Newsletter.

Forthcoming Outings

Sunday 27th 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.

Society Website - The address is www.paisleynaturalhistorysociety.org.uk Any member wishing to add new information please contact Nicola Macintyre at Paisley Museum who has access to the site.