



## PAISLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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### Newsletter, March 2011

#### News

#### Cattle Grazing on Gleniffer Braes

Cattle grazing on the braes has been a familiar sight to many park users over the years. As well as providing another point of interest in the park the Highland cattle currently grazing the braes are used to control vegetation, preserving the biodiversity of the area and the wide open spaces which visitors enjoy.

Whilst the vast majority of visitors to the Country Park act responsibly, there have been some incidents of irresponsible behaviour from dog walkers not keeping their dogs under control whilst in the cattle grazed areas.

In order to address health and safety issues of cattle grazing in a public area, Environmental Services undertook a rigorous risk assessment which resulted in improved publicity of the cattle grazed areas, signage of areas in use and leaflets on how to behave in cattle grazed areas.

To increase the public's understanding of the cattle as an integral part of the Country Park, Renfrewshire Council along with partners, a local tenant farmer and local professional dog trainers are developing a project to include improved public information via on-site interpretation, leaflets and website articles; on-site experimental plots showing the effects of grazing and no grazing to an area; guided walks and events; come and meet the cattle sessions; and dog/owner training sessions.

Two funding agencies have been approached about this project and both have shown initial interest. In order to succeed with this funding bid, the project must provide evidence of community support and this is where the Paisley Natural History Society can be involved. By giving our support to this project through our member's involvement in the Local Biodiversity Action Plans that are currently in place in the park, we can hopefully help the project achieve its aim of securing funding.

#### Evening Talks Programme

#### Paisley Museum

7.30pm

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April

AGM and Members Evening.

The business of the society will be discussed followed by a talk by Toby Wilson of the RSPB. RSPB Scotland is about to undertake an exciting project to enhance the habitat and visitor spectacle at its Lochwinnoch reserve. The talk will touch on the history of the reserve, the drivers behind the project and the significant changes that will take place.

## Summer Outings Programme

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April**

**Fossil Hunting at Girvan**

**Contact: Dave Mellor 01505 843 099**

**An all day outing to Girvan foreshore to hunt for fossils.**

Departure: from Paisley Museum, time to be arranged (to suit tide times). Contact Dave Mellor for departure time.

We will be looking at Mid-Ordovician to early Silurian rocks for geological structures to uncover the geological history of the area and to discover fossils, including trilobites.

We will be following excursion 30 in the geological excursions around Glasgow and Girvan handbook; simplified notes will be provided to participants before the trip.

Please contact the leader if you plan to come along.

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May**

**Isle of Arran**

**Contact: Tom Byars 01294 466 393**

**Joint outing with Renfrewshire RSPB local group.**

Meet at the Ardrossan ferry terminal for the 9.45am boat to Arran. There are a number of destinations on this lovely wee island that can be reached by the service buses including Brodick Castle, the Distillery and Lochranza. Please remember that bus passes cannot be used on the bus that takes you right to the entrance of Brodick Castle. Anyone feeling fit could enjoy a trip to Glen Rosa.

Golden eagles, Hen harriers, Adders and Slow worms are just a few of the wildlife inhabitants that can be encountered and the Castle gardens in May should be a sight to behold.

Returning back to Ardrossan on the 7.20pm boat.

Please contact the leader if you plan to come along.

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July**

**Dawsholm Park, Glasgow**

**Contact: Tom Byars 01294 466 393**

**Late afternoon outing to look for Purple Hairstreak butterflies.**

The mature woodlands of Dawsholm Park provide ideal cover for a wide variety of plants and animals, but it's the newly discovered colony of Purple Hairstreak that we will be looking for. Associated with oak trees these butterflies are to be seen high up in the canopy where the main adult food source is honeydew. On warm summer evenings they can be seen flying around the canopy and during spells of very warm weather are sometimes driven down to look for new sources of food.

Meet at the Watermill Hotel car park, Paisley at 5.00pm.

**Please note this outing is dependent upon the weather. Please contact the leader if you plan to come along.**

## Society Website

The address is [www.paisleynaturalhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.paisleynaturalhistorysociety.org.uk)  
information please contact me at Paisley Museum.

Any member wishing to add new

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