



## PAISLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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### Newsletter, August 2011

#### Scrub Enhancement Project for Lesser Whitethroat at Brownside Braes 2008 - 2018

The Management Programme at Gleniffer Braes Country Park began in 2008 with the aim of managing existing scrub at Brownside Braes and creating new scrubland through the planting of scrub species. The programme also involves promotional events to raise awareness and understanding of the Scrub Enhancement Project and to highlight the importance of scrub for biodiversity and aims to encourage community groups and volunteers to help with the practical management of the scrub habitats.

This year's events with Park staff included a guided walk for the public on 6 February titled "Blow away the cobwebs". Seven people attended the walk which covered the lower hillside including the scrub enhancement areas. Five people enjoyed a longer walk over Brownside Braes on 1 May which discussed the scenery, wildflowers, birds and the Lesser Whitethroat project and 12 members of the Park's Evergreens Club for adults strolled over Brownside Braes on 3 May to look for summer migrant birds and other wildlife.

The young sapling hawthorn and blackthorn trees which were planted at the start of the project have grown well and this year two community groups were involved in removing tree shelters from some of the trees. A total of 20 people from the Greensyde Centre outdoor group and the Green Gym South Paisley group removed about 100 shelters. Monitoring is another key part of this programme and Tom Byars has been recording the birds in this area for decades. However, although no Lesser Whitethroat territories were recorded this year, the number of Common Whitethroat recorded in the Park was higher than any year since Tom began recording the bird population at Brownside Braes. In addition Willow Warbler and other farmland bird species also showed good numbers.

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Green Gym South Paisley Group

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September**

**Paisley's Hidden Landscapes: Geological time-travel from the Gleniffer Braes**

**Dr Simon Cuthbert, University of the West of Scotland**

The view from Gleniffer Braes spans a spectacular array of scenery that reflects the geology below. By reading the rocks we can learn much about past environments; ice ages, tropical seas, volcanic eruptions and the rise and decay of mountain ranges; enormous events back in deep time that have shaped the place we live and work in today.

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

**Farmland birds and Ayrshire Yellowhammers**

**Dawn Thomson (PhD student with SAC and Glasgow University)**

A researcher in Yellowhammer ecology, Dawn will be talking about farmland birds and their conservation in general, before concentrating on her work in Yellowhammer distribution, density and habitat choice in grassland dominated farms in Ayrshire.

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

**Trees: Their Importance to Mankind and the Environment**

**Bryan Bowes**

It is estimated that there are around 100,000 species of tree worldwide. They dominate a variety of landscapes and play a fundamental role in the environment, but many are under severe threat. Britain however, is home to only 35 native tree species including 3 conifers: Scots Pine, Yew and Juniper. Come along and find out more about these amazing plants.

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

**Christmas Social**

There is no talk on this evening, but the members of the Natural History Society will be getting together to celebrate the festive season. So why not come along, meet new friends and join in with the games and quizzes.

**Wildlife Around Glasgow**

**We still have a few of the 'Wildlife Around Glasgow' books for sale at the reduced price of £9.00. These books describe 50 sites around the Greater Glasgow area that people can visit to experience our local wildlife. Anyone interested in purchasing a copy please speak to either Anne Gray (our secretary) or Nicola Macintyre at the next meeting.**

**Facebook Page**

We now have a facebook page - [www.facebook.com/PaisleyNaturalHistorySociety](http://www.facebook.com/PaisleyNaturalHistorySociety).

There are already members posting photos looking for help in identification and producing records. With any luck we will have more members on the site soon. If you have a facebook account all you need to do is sign in and click 'like'. If you do not want to join facebook you can still view the page although you cannot contribute to any posts or photos.

**Society Website**

The address is [www.paisleynaturalhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.paisleynaturalhistorysociety.org.uk)

Any member wishing to add new information please contact me at Paisley Museum.