



Paisley Natural History Society

Paisley Natural History Society Evening Talks 2017/18

Thursday 7th September 2017

[Dragonflies of Central Scotland](#) by [Daniele Muir](#) (Scotland Officer, British Dragonfly Society)

Voracious predators, able to detect movement up to 15 metres away and marvels of aerodynamic engineering, these animals are the raptors of the insect world.

Come along to find out which species can be found locally, what the British Dragonfly Society is doing to help conserve these species and how you can get involved.

Thursday the 5th October 2017

[Foraging Ecology and Movement of Herring Gulls](#) by [Dr. Ruedi Nager](#) (University of Glasgow)

Thursday 2nd November 2017

[Froglife's Scottish Dragon Finders Project](#) by [Dr. Victoria Larcombe](#) (Project Manager, Scotland's Dragon Finder Project)

Froglife's Scottish Dragon Finder project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, is entering its final year. The project was designed to reach out to people across Scotland and encourage them to get involved in reptile and amphibian conservation.

Thursday 7th December 2017

[Tag-n-Track](#) by [Hayley Douglas](#) (Tag-n-Track Development Officer, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park)

The Lesser Black-backed Gull is one of our most misunderstood birds. Using the latest in tracking technology 12 gulls have been tagged to investigate their summer and winter movements from the Clyde area.

Do they all forage for chips or are they more rural in their tastes? Do they overwinter in the UK or is Portugal more their 'scene'.

Thursday 11th January 2018

[The Elusive Pine Marten](#) by [Jackie Clark](#) (Scottish Badgers)

The pine marten was once found throughout Britain but suffered one of the most dramatic declines of any British mammal with habitat loss, fur trapping and predator control during the 19th century leading to a widespread population decrease.

However, over the latter half of the 20th century numbers have been recovering and in Scotland the population has expanded south and east from its stronghold in the Highlands, with the species now found in parts of central and eastern Scotland, including our local towns of Cumbernauld, Denny and Milngavie, but have they always been there?

Thursday 1 February 2018

[Dynamite in the Dunes: A Natural History of Ardeer Peninsula](#) by [Tom Byars](#) (PNHS)

Alfred Nobel purchased Ardeer Peninsula, North Ayrshire in 1871, the Nobel Explosives Company was once one of the largest explosive manufacturing companies in the world, at its peak, employing nearly 13,000 people. The factory closed in the 1990's after been taken over by Imperial Chemical Industries in 1926.

Since the 1990's nature has been left to reclaim the site, making it one of the most important sites for wildlife in the UK. Extensive areas of the peninsula are dominated by fixed dunes and acid dune grassland. Butterflies abound in this flowery grassland. The peninsula supports Ayrshire's largest colony of Dark Green Fritillary butterfly with over 100 recorded from the site. The dune habitats also support a massive invertebrate biodiversity. Some species are nationally rare and can only be found in this one location. Over 180 bird species have been recorded here and it has become one of the best breeding sites for Lesser Whitethroat in Scotland. Ardeer Peninsula is of extreme conservation importance but what will the outcome be when £200 million pound worth of investment is on the table to regenerate the third largest brownfield site in Scotland and create over 2,000 jobs in an area of social deprivation?

Thursday 1st March 2018

[Scottish Lepidoptera and Climate Change; the Succeeders, the Sufferers and the Surprises](#) by [Paul Mapplebeck](#) (Chair Butterfly Conservation Glasgow and Southwest Scotland Branch)

A whirlwind overview of Scottish butterflies and moths, starting with a brief history covering early extinctions and early records through to modern discoveries of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Plus a closer look at Renfrewshire species and the effects of climate change, including species gained and species threatened by global warming.

CANCELLED DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER.

Friday 16th March 2018

Joint Meeting with Hamilton and Glasgow Natural History Societies Hosted by Hamilton Natural History Society at Old Parish Church Societies Halls, Leechlees Road, Hamilton.

Badgers by John Darbyshire

John is an environmental consultant and a part-time lecturer at Edinburgh University - and a badger expert. He worked for SWT for about 10 years down at the Falls of Clyde reserve. He has been involved in the "Badgers in the Landscape" project in Lanarkshire and in the Clyde Corridor Badger Survey.

Thursday 5th April 2018

Could we live with lynx? by Dr David Hetherington

We know from bone evidence that the Eurasian Lynx lived in Scotland for thousands of years until its demise at the hands of humans. The species was similarly pushed out of most of the rest of Europe, clinging on only in the continent's wildest areas.

However, with changing social attitudes, the lynx has made a comeback in several busy, human-shaped landscapes across the continent and there is growing discussion about its potential reintroduction to the UK.

Find out from ecologist and author, David Hetherington, what it's really like to live alongside Europe's big cat in the 21st century.