

Paisley Natural History Society

Paisley Natural History Society Evening Talks 2019/20

Thursday 5th September 2019

Exploring the mysteries of the deep Atlantic by Prof J Murray Roberts FRSB (Head Changing Oceans Research Group, Edinburgh University)

We live on a blue planet with the oceans covering over 70% of Earth's surface and rely on the oceans for food, recreation and for the oxygen in every fourth breath we take.

The oceans were the cradle for life on Earth and today support an incredible array of habitats from shallow tropical coral reefs to the vast expanses of the deep sea. However, we have entered a period of unprecedented global change. Human activities are not only warming the planet but causing the chemistry of the seas the change more rapidly than at any point in the past. Our oceans have absorbed approximately a third of carbon dioxide released since the industrial revolution. This is shifting the chemistry of seawater towards acidification, a shift that could stress marine life with limestone shells or skeletons. This lecture will examine the potential implications for life in these changing oceans taking examples from the incredible diversity of marine ecosystems to the west of Scotland in the deep Atlantic Ocean.

Thursday 3rd October 2019

Tag-n-Track: Part Deux by Hayley Douglas (Tag-n-Track Project Officer)

What's been happening with the gulls since Tag--Track's first visit? Who's been where, who's come back and who's new.

Thursday 7th November 2019

Peatland Wildlife and Conservation by David Hill (Peatland Restoration Project Officer, Butterfly Conservation Scotland)

This talk will highlight the importance of peatland habitats for wildlife, particularly butterflies and moths, before discussing how Scottish peatlands are being restored.

Thursday 5th December 2019

A Twitcher's Tale by Andrew Russell

An insight into the excitement of twitching. This fast-paced take on birdwatching involves the race to see rare birds, with country-wide travelling witnessing incredible migration, friendly competition, euphoria, devastation of failure and the thrill of the chase.

Thursday 9th January 2020

How can we stimulate more biodiversity action in Renfrewshire? By Steve Edwards (40 years an ecologist but still only a semi-competent field naturalist and very weak-willed environmentalist)

This talk was provoked by the publication in May 2019 of the UN State of Nature Report, with its devastating assessment of the condition of our planet and dire predictions for the future, including the imminent extinction of more than 1 million species. Trying not to be too gloomy and in the spirit of optimistic New Year's Resolutions, the speaker will ask if there is more that we can be doing at a local level to save and enhance Renfrewshire's wildlife.

Thursday 6th February 2020

Floods of Motorway meadows – a journey from trainee to plant hunting flood surveyor by Rennie Mason

My journey from a trainee with the Scottish Wildlife Trust survey teams to running my own conservation consultancy and travelling the country hunting for plants and seeds for motorway landscaping, flood plains...and other things along the way!

Thursday 5th March 2020

Conservation in Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park by Alan Brown (Countryside Officer, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park)

A look at conservation work in the Country Parks and the wider Regional Park. From a historical perspective, what has been achieved.

Due to the current and fluid situation regarding the Coronavirus pandemic, it is with sincere regret that the committee has decided to cancel our April meeting and AGM.