



PAISLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Newsletter August 2017

News

PNHS outing to Clyde Muirshiel Park on 30th April 2017 by Tom Byars

Eight members turned up for this trip, all with eager expectations of seeing the beautiful Green Hairstreak butterfly.

The weather, although dry and bright was still rather windy and cool, so not ideal for butterfly watching. Nevertheless we set off to check out some perfect Blaeberry habitat where the butterfly colony is situated. After a steep climb through the conifer plantation, we approached the site with anticipation, looking for any sign of butterfly flight.

There were plenty of Bumblebees about, especially the White-tailed Bumblebee *Bombus lucorum*, Identified by its distinctive looking silky white rear end and bright yellow bands on the abdomen and thorax. Suddenly, a darker looking bee flew past which at first glance looked like a Red-tailed Bumblebee, but as it settled to feed on some Blaeberry flowers, it was plain this something radically different - the Blaeberry Bumblebee *Bombus monticola*, a much rarer upland species.



There appeared to be only 1-3 individuals on the site, whereas the White-tailed Bumblebee was far more common with at least 20+ flying around. This was a new species of bee for myself and a few other non- experts in the group and was due compensation for not seeing the Green Hairstreak, which many believed had still yet to emerge!

As a post script, an entomologist friend of mine had recently discovered a Green Hairstreak colony just a few miles from my home in Saltcoats! So, I went along during that fine weather in the middle of May and managed to capture some beautiful images.

Subscriptions

Please note that subscriptions are now due for 2017/18. They are as follows: **Ordinary £10, Family £14, Unwaged £4.**

Subscriptions can be paid at the meetings to our Treasurer, Anne Gray or by sending a cheque along with membership form to Paisley Natural History Society C/o Paisley Museum, High Street, Paisley, PA1 2BA.

Summer Outings Programme

Sunday 27th August **RSPB Reserve at Barons Haugh** **Contact: Iain McDonald**
0141 581 5870

Meet at Watermill car park for 9.00am to organise car-sharing for the trip. Bring a packed lunch and waterproof footwear.

This trip will be led by Iain McDonald. We will be looking for Autumnal passage waders and wildfowl but also on the lookout for the Comma butterfly if we are lucky!

Autumn/Winter Talks Programme

Paisley Museum

7.30pm

Thursday 7th September 2017

Dragonflies of Central Scotland

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 5th October 2017

Foraging Ecology and Movement of Herring Gulls **Dr. Ruedi Nager (University of Glasgow)**

Herring Gulls are going through some dramatic changes in terms of numbers and distribution. While numbers in many traditional sites decline, Herring Gulls increasingly use built-up areas both for breeding and foraging. Over the last few years we looked at the foraging decisions of Herring Gulls along the Scottish Southwest coast and its implications for their breeding success.

Thursday 2nd November 2017

Froglife's Scottish Dragon Finders Project **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.

Come along to hear what we have achieved so far and find out what Froglife has planned for Scottish amphibians and reptiles in the future.

www.paisleynaturalhistorysociety.org.uk

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Nicola Macintyre