



PAISLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Newsletter November 2017

News

Brian Beer, spots a Firecrest. 30 October 2017

'I was up Garvock Lodge at the Gryfe Reservoir, watching and photographing Goldcrests when what I thought was a Goldcrest flew out of a large conifer from my right hand side onto some Rhododendron bushes. It was there for a second, just enough time to fire off some shots before it darted back into cover never to be seen again, this all happened about 40 or 50 feet away. It was only when I looked at my photos I saw it was a Firecrest.'



© Brian Beer

Winter Talks Programme

It's that time of year again when the society gets together to celebrate the season. But one again we're ringing the changes with a talk instead of our usual games and quizzes, so get out your winter woollies and head down to the museum for the Christmas talk and although a talk on birds there will be no mention of robins or turkeys.

Winter Talks Programme

Paisley Museum

7.30pm

Thursday 7th December 2017

Tag-n-Track

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

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 1st February 2018

A study of the reptile population at the Greenock Cut Visitor Centre, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park

Kathleen McMillan

This study started as an Honours Project and as a result of the data collected in the first year has continued.

This talk will cover facts on all three Scottish reptile species, will look at how the studies were carried out and provide an overview of the results.

Thursday 1st March 2018

Scottish Lepidoptera and Climate Change; the Succeeders, the Sufferers and the Surprises

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 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.

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Nicola Macintyre