



PAISLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Newsletter March 2020

Spring Talks Programme

Please note that due to the current situation regarding Coronavirus the decision has been to cancel the April AGM and meeting. Additionally, we are also cancelling the joint outing we had planned with Glasgow and Hamilton Natural History Societies.

We hope that by the start of the autumn/winter programme we will be able to resume the talks programme, but we will make that decision nearer the time and will keep you informed.

Brownside Braes Scrub Enhancement Project

In the meantime here's a good news story from Paisley Natural History Society:

On the 27th February 2020, phase 2 of the Maintenance Programme for the Scrub Enhancement Project for Lesser Whitethroat at Brownside Braes had begun.

This community led project was instigated way back in 2008 when funding was acquired from Renfrewshire Environmental Trust to help create Lesser Whitethroat breeding habitat - a project that has never been implemented before in Scotland.

The Lesser Whitethroat used to regularly breed at Brownside Braes during the 1980 - 2000 but this species has since practically disappeared as a breeding species from the county. In order to create habitat viability and attract this rare summer migrant back to this area, a habitat management plan was put into action. This involved planting over 400 Hawthorn trees in a 3.02 hectare field which only previously held breeding Meadow Pipits and turn it into a haven for wildlife and really increase the biodiversity there.

Planting started way back in 2008 and the Hawthorn has really flourished, they now stand at 2m tall and have started to bloom. The next phase of this exciting plan was to plant the important understorey - consisting of Gorse, Bramble and Dog-rose. Through time these plant species will form a vital dense matrix of vegetation at around one metre high which

will provide an important refuge for many nesting songbirds - including hopefully the Lesser Whitethroat.

Many groups have been involved in this project - including Gleniffer Braes Country Park Ranger Service, Paisley Natural History Society and Community Networks Group. This planting is vitally important not only for the habitat requirements of the Lesser Whitethroat but also for Red Data Book Species such as the Song Thrush and Bullfinch.

Brownside Braes is classed as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) in the local plan and hopefully through time (around 50 - 60 years!) this planted area will provide a substantial and important scrub site not only for Brownside Braes but Renfrewshire as a whole and this work will leave behind a legacy the community can be proud of.



PNHS members doing their bit!

Facebook Page

Check out our facebook page at www.facebook.com/PaisleyNaturalHistorySociety.

Society Website

The address is www.paisleynaturalhistorysociety.org.uk

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