



Paisley Natural History Society

Paisley Natural History Society Evening Talks 2022/23

Following a break of 2 years during 2020/21 and 2021/22, when no talks were held due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our talks programme has resumed.

Thursday 1st September 2022

[Pterosaur Discovery on Skye](#) by [Natalia Jagielska](#), (Researcher, University of Edinburgh)

The recent discovery of a large pterosaur on the Isle of Skye shook the paleontological world. *Dearc Sgiathanach* had an estimated wingspan of 2.5 metres, the largest pterosaur yet discovered, and the skeleton is preserved in excellent condition. The discovery fills a gap in the Middle Jurassic and makes Scotland a potential fossil hotspot. Natalia will talk us through the discovery, and hopefully bring us some of her illustrations of *Dearc*.

Thursday 6th October 2022

[Glow-worms in Scotland, illuminating research](#) by [Charlotte Martin](#) (Scottish Glow-worms)

Lampyrus noctiluca the Common Glow-worm is very little known in Scotland and even less well recorded. Charlotte Martin, self-confessed glow-worm obsessive, has been surveying for them across Scotland and conducting research which is increasing our understanding of Scottish populations. Charlotte will enlighten us on their lifecycle, ecology and her findings so far.

Thursday 3rd November 2022

[Changes in auk numbers on Ailsa Craig after rat eradication](#) by [Dr. Bernie Zonfrillo](#) (University of Glasgow)

The talk reviews the situation regarding Auks on Ailsa Craig (before Avian Influenza). Rat eradication began in 1990 and rats were successfully exterminated by the end of that year. Initially the Puffin, historically numerous, was targeted as a species for re-colonisation. However, this proved very slow, but eventually it did happen after 10 years, however other changes took place more rapidly and these will be revealed.

Bernie's interest in Ailsa Craig began as a young boy and annual trips evolved into long-term studies, which included Gannet ringing, studies of seabird growth rates, diets and general ecological aspects of Ailsa wildlife, including birds, animals, insects and plants.

Thursday 1st December 2022

[A hairstreak raising experience](#) by [Kirsty Menzies](#)

Last summer Kirsty successfully reared 3 Purple Hairstreak butterflies from eggs gathered the previous autumn from windfall twigs. Kirsty will tell us more about this unrecorded butterfly, where to find them and how to go about raising them. Guaranteed to have lots of pictures that will leave you wanting to have a go too.

This replaced the programmed talk by Jim Blackwood on 'Botanical forays in and around Renfrewshire'.

Thursday 5th January 2023

[The Western Isles – Birding on the edge](#) by [Angus Hogg](#)

Positioned at the north-west extremity of the British Isles, the Hebridean islands of South Uist, North Uist and Benbecula are ideally situated to attract a wide variety of birds from many different parts of the Northern Hemisphere. In the Spring, the rush of migrants northwards is always likely to throw up a few surprises. In Autumn it's possible to see a Siberian warbler in the same field of view as a North American wader. Add to this the fact that these islands also support a wide range of breeding birds which have vanished from many parts of the Scottish mainland.

Angus' first visit to this part of the world was in the summer of 1974 and he's been lucky enough to make repeated trips in Spring and Autumn. This talk will trace a typical year in the Uists, from April through to October, as well as looking at some of the current changes to the landscape through human activity.

Thursday 2nd February 2023

[The Young Ornithologist's Dream](#) by [Rebecca Dickson](#) (Ecological Consultant)

Rebecca is an Ecological Consultant at the start of her career with a love for Ornithology (of course) and wildlife photography. Ever since carrying out fieldwork for her dissertation on the humble House Sparrow in 2017, her love and passion for Ornithology has grown exponentially. This talk offers a glimpse into Rebecca's birding lifestyle, where she will share her exciting encounters within Scotland and abroad. This includes her fieldwork for bird monitoring projects with the BTO and raptor study group.

Thursday 2nd March 2023

[RSPB Lochwinnoch Past, Present and Future](#) by [Dan Snowdon](#) (RSPB Lochwinnoch)

RSPB has managed the nature reserve at Lochwinnoch for nearly 50 years. Current reserve warden Dan Snowdon will give a talk on the reserve's history, recent management and aspirations for the future.

Thursday 6th April 2023

[40 years as a Natural History Curator](#) by [Richard Sutcliffe](#) (former Natural History Curator at Glasgow Museums)

Glasgow Museums has an extensive natural history collection of geological, botanical and zoological specimens. Richard will talk about how he first got interested in museums and natural history and his time as the Natural History Curator and Research Manager at Glasgow Museums. Richard will describe some of the highlights he experienced along the way and show some of his favourite specimens from the museum's collection.