

WINTER PROGRAMME SPEAKERS 2015

Thursday 3rd September 2015

“Buglife Scotland and the Amazing Ardeer Peninsula”

by Suzanne Bairner

Buglife Scotland are currently involved in several projects across Scotland including ‘Fife’s Buzzing’, the ‘John Muir Pollinator Way’ and the outreach project ‘Roots to Shoots’.

This talk will give a brief introduction to these projects as well as some of our other work in Scotland including a recent project in Ayrshire at the amazing brownfield site on the Ardeer Peninsula that has revealed many exciting bug discoveries.

Thursday 1st October 2015

“Plastics and Poo – threats to Scottish Seas”

by Matt Barnes

Matt Barnes is the Scottish Co-ordinator for the Marine Conservation Society. His talk will provide an overview of the work of the Marine Conservation Society in Scotland from wildlife protection to beach clean ups, advice and education.

The seas around Scotland support a third of the global Grey seal population, the world’s most northerly population of Bottlenose dolphins, nearly half of all breeding seabirds in Europe and not to forget our summer visitors, Basking shark and Leatherback turtle. The myriad of habitats beneath the waves include rocky reefs, maerl and sea grass beds and coral reefs, home to a vast array of marine life.

Thursday 5th November 2015

“Wildlife in the Yukon, a trip to the Canadian Wilderness”

by Paul Tatner

This talk will introduce the concept of a truly wild and natural environment, where Man’s influence is almost minimal. It will describe a trip to a fishing lodge situated on the Kluane Lake, from which day trips were undertaken to various locations in order to satisfy the basic hunting urge through capture of pictures and fish, while avoiding the direct attention of some of the larger native mammals!

The audience will hopefully be entertained with pictures of the scenery, plants and animals that were encountered in this amazing Arctic environment. While some mention of the fishing may slip in, it will basically be the reflections of a naturalist fortunate enough to have been able visit part the incredible Canadian wilderness during a lovely July in 2014.

Thursday 3rd December 2015

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Come and join our Christmas Social and do bring a friend with you. This is an informal evening packed with quirky quizzes and fun-filled frivolity. Will members please remember to bring a small contribution to the festivities.

2016

Thursday 14th January 2016 *Hessilhead Wildlife Rescue Centre*

Thursday 4th February 2016 *Gulls*

Thursday 3rd March 2016 *Big effort for the Small Blue*

Thursday 7th April 2016 *AGM and Hunters, Munchers and Management*

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Thursday 4th February 2016

“Birdwatching in the Three Towns”

by Tom Byars

Our Chairman, Tom Byars has been living in Saltcoats since leaving Renfrewshire 15 years ago. He took on a local patch covering the three coastal towns of Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston and whilst the habitats in North Ayrshire are quite varied, the sea tends to dominate the landscape. Extensive mature woodland however, is a rarity due to the exposed windy conditions but prime scrubland in this area has been found to support the highest breeding density of Lesser Whitethroats in Scotland. Tom’s talk will cover some interesting and diverse bird species such as Scaup, Sanderling, Long- tailed Skua and Twite, many of which have undergone some radical population changes during his time there. He will also show us some of the more exciting rarities encountered in his local patch, including Snowy Egret, Pallid Harrier, Laughing Gull and King Eider - whatever will turn up next? This is what makes the Three Towns such an exciting place to live for a birdwatcher.

Thursday 3rd March 2016

“Big Effort for the Small Blue”

by Jill Smart (Scottish Wildlife Trust)

Gill will tell the story of a small blue butterfly re-introduction project

Extinct in Ayrshire since 1982, the UK’s smallest resident butterfly was flying there again in 2015 thanks to some dedicated individuals and enthusiastic partner organisations.

What does the future hold?

Thursday 7th April 2016

A.G.M. followed by

“Hunters, Munchers and Management”

by Richard Clarkson

Richard is a ranger with the National Trust for Scotland and he will describe the natural history of the Grey Mare’s Tail reserve near Moffat. Richard will give an overview of the area but with a focus on Peregrine Falcons, grazing animals and the implications that has for managing an upland reserve. The magnificent Grey Mare’s Tail waterfall is the fifth highest in the UK and cascades from Loch Skeen into the Moffat Valley. Richard will also give a brief account of the Geology of the area.

Tuesday 10th May 2016

Annual Joint Meeting with Glasgow and Hamilton Natural History Societies

This year Glasgow Natural History Society will be hosting the annual joint meeting. This will take place in the Boyd Orr Building, Glasgow University and it is hoped that our members will make the effort to attend.

The main lecture is at 7.30pm but for anyone arriving earlier Jeanne Robinson, Curator of Entomology at the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow University will give a short lecture on Scottish Ants at 6.30pm. Please note that you will need to enquire at the Boyd Orr reception desk for the location of the lecture theatre.

6.30pm Tutorial: ***“Scottish Ants”*** by Jeanne Robinson of the Hunterian Museum.

7.30pm Lecture: ***“Scotland’s Deep Seas and their future in a changing ocean”***
by Prof. Murray Roberts, Heriot Watt University.

Following the talks, Glasgow Natural History Society would like to invite you all to join them for refreshments in the Graham Kerr Building.

N.B. This talk is hosted by Glasgow Natural History Society and will be held on a **TUESDAY**