

WINTER PROGRAMME SPEAKERS 2016

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.