

Lecture Programme for 2018 – 2019

Meetings are at 7.30 pm in Crosthwaite Parish Rooms

Oct 4 Kevin Scott Reintroducing Species – how and why?

This talk gets our season off to a forward-looking start by considering Cumbria's possible future as a home for creatures such as beaver, lynx and wolf. Kevin is the Northern Reserves Officer for Cumbria Wildlife Trust and pays his first visit to our society.

Oct 18 Peter Mawby The Inuit people and their relationship with wildlife

This is Peter's 4th visit to our Society since his iconic talk on Dippers in 2011. His talks regularly feature his own original research into his subject combined with a great clarity and enthusiasm for his subject. In this talk he looks at the Inuit people to whom, for thousands of years, the High Arctic has been home. Peter considers in detail their relationship with the wildlife of these inhospitable northern regions.

Nov 1 Mick Durham Shetland Wildlife

Mick has been a wildlife photographer for 42 years and, after first visiting Shetland in 1989, became fascinated both by the islands and in particular the coastal otters. After moving to Dumfries, Mick joined the local camera club, of which he has been president twice. He also holds a fellowship with the Royal Photographic Society and is a member of the Assessment Board for Nature.

Nov 15 Neil Harnott Natural Flood Management

Neil has been a Senior Conservation Officer with Cumbria Wildlife Trust for the last 10 years. Having worked closely with the Environment Agency and academics since the 2015 floods, Neil looks closely at river flows through hydrographs and addresses a subject close to our hearts, namely what can be done through natural means to alleviate the risk of flooding.

Nov 29 Mike Hambrey Impact of climate change on the Arctic/Antarctic

Mike lives locally but has a long and illustrious academic career including Professor of Glaciology at Aberystwyth University. He has recently been awarded the prestigious Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research's 2018 Medal for Excellence in Antarctic Research. He has also twice previously been awarded the Polar Medal by HM The Queen, in 1989 and 2012. In this talk he brings us up to date with the latest thinking on climate change and its effects on the our two polar regions.

Jan 10 Ian Winfield The Story of Schelly

The schelly is a freshwater fish related to salmon and trout, occurring in four lakes in the Lake District. This visit by Ian Winfield, of the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology in Lancaster, completes a trio of talks by him on rare fish in our region, the earlier ones covering vendace and Arctic charr. Another fascinating discovery of a creature many of us may not have heard before!

Jan 24 Joe Murphy Cumbria Wildlife Trust's Reserves

Joe is Senior Reserves Officer for Cumbria Wildlife Trust and pays his first visit to this Society. He will provide an overview and history of CWT nature reserves, focussing on the big things that are happening on these reserves, including new acquisitions, habitat works and visitor infrastructure improvements. South Walney is one of CWT's flagship reserves and will feature quite heavily in the talk.

Feb 7 Mike Porter Wetland Flowers/Plants

Mike is well known to the Society both as a speaker and a leader of several excellent local outings to find and inform us about our local plants and flowers. He is also a Botanical Recorder for Cumbria. In this talk he will focus on the plants of our Wetlands.

Feb 21 Tony Marsh Wildlife of Madagascar

Tony is of course well-known to members, now running all of our outings as well as giving talks in the Keswick area on wildlife in various parts of the world. All of these are supported by his wonderful wildlife photography where he has the uncanny knack of pointing a camera at a tree and coming up with a great shot of an almost invisible bird! He recently went to wildlife-rich Madagascar and we will doubtless see and hear about the lemurs for which that island is famous as well as its other birds and animals.

