



# Craigencalt Rural Community Trust

- to live and enjoy

## Newsletter

August 2012 no 2

**The Trust is holding a BBQ on August 24 between 6 and 9 pm at Craigencalt Cottage to raise funds for the building of an information kiosk near the Loch car park. Everyone is welcome, so please bring you friends. Tickets only £5 to include food, but bring your own refreshments. See diary for booking arrangements.....**

The Trust was involved in two international visits in June. The first, an academic visit from Thailand and Poland, was organised by the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Edinburgh, to consider how the loch had recovered from pollution since the 1980s. The second conference, including a visiting Albanian delegation, was sponsored by the World Bank to show how well remediation of the Alcan factory, Whinnyhall Tip and Kinghorn Loch had progressed and the community involvement in this.

[www.craigencalttrust.org.uk](http://www.craigencalttrust.org.uk) for more information.

**Check the interest group sections below for updates.....**

### Diary 2012

Date	Event
<b>August</b>	<b>Newsletter no 2</b>
<b>August 24</b> Craigencalt 6.00 – 9.00pm	<b>CRCT Summer BBQ</b>
<b>September 26</b> Kinghorn Community Centre 7.30pm	<b>Friends Evening</b> 'Islands of The Forth' Ron Morris
<b>November 12</b> Carousel, Kinghorn 7.30 pm	<b>CRCT AGM and Social</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Newsletter no 3</b>

**BBQ tickets call (01592) 891330 or email [info@CraigencaltTrust.org.uk](mailto:info@CraigencaltTrust.org.uk)**



**Great Crested Grebes**

### Birdwatching

At this time of year, woodland birds are a little hard to see due to foliage, and those that are moulting feathers may be more shy and skulking. There are still groups of young that can be seen (and heard) and they may approach quite closely out of curiosity. One group of fledgling Common Crossbills was passing through on 12<sup>th</sup> July feeding on Larch cones. These are quite rare visitors to the site. If you are wondering where all the male Mallards have gone, they are still here but have lost their breeding plumage. The Coot young seem quite large now. There are some young Moorhen on the water also but they are difficult to spot. There are 3 breeding pairs of Great Crested Grebe. Two pairs are still nesting with eggs and one pair now on the water with four young (mostly frequenting the south shore of the loch at the eastern end). Little Grebe may also nest soon, mainly in the weed on the banks of the western half of the loch. Have a care if you are boating or sending your dog in for a swim, as the nests are easily damaged.

For up to date bird surveys, please look at the website [www.craigencalttrust.org.uk](http://www.craigencalttrust.org.uk)

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**Walking Group**

Full walking programme -see [www.craigencalttrust.org.uk](http://www.craigencalttrust.org.uk)

Since our last report we have had only four walks. Unfortunately due to heavy rain always appearing on Wednesdays we have had to cancel four walks. We had a very successful walk and nice weather on our visit to Glassmount Gardens in April with sixteen people participating.

On 9th May twelve people joined in a circular walk through the Ecology Centre down to the B923 then up the Whinneyhall track with a deviation down the old Cycle Path and a steep climb back up to rejoin the track at the old Binnend village. We continued round the edge of the fields leading back to the Rodenbraes path.

The weather was dull but most importantly dry. On 23<sup>rd</sup> May seven people participated on a beautiful warm sunny day. This was a circular route via Rodanbraes, down in to Burntisland and returning by Pettycur Beach to Kinghorn Loch.

On 20<sup>th</sup> June four people enjoyed a lovely walk through Kilrie woodlands into Kilrie estate via Balmutto Castle, returning on a woodland path back to the minor Auchtertool road. This again was a lovely sunny day.

*If you wish to join us please log in to the CRCT website [www.craigencalttrust.org.uk](http://www.craigencalttrust.org.uk) to view the 2012 Programme.*

**To book contact Rena Wallace on (01592) 891179**



**Loch Users**

**At the end of May another successful Come and Try Day was held with many people of all ages trying out sailing and canoeing.**



**Friends visit to Glassmount walled Gardens**

**Pathways**

The Pathway Group has been successful in securing a grant from *Paths for All* for the production of Flora and Fauna cards, one for each season with a map of the local pathways on the back. Volunteer Friends have identified photos of some of the local flowers and trees growing around the Loch and these will be used for the first series, using both common and Latin names.

**Rodanbraes Path.**

The area has been surveyed and a route for a path that by-passes the steep part at the beginning has been carved out by machine. This will allow a gentler access for the disabled, less-abled and buggies. We are grateful for the support of Alcan who own this land and have carried out the earth work.

**North Mire Path.**

The Pathways Group has cut a new way through the North Mire that is now safer than the previous path and also easier and safer to maintain. It looks really good and was initiated on horseback on the weekend.

**Doric Wells path.**

This path is now open for public use, having been completely cleared by volunteers and the Community Payback group. A new fence has been erected, and the path surfaced. We have to thank Fife Council for their help in bringing this path back into use.