



Craigencalt Trust

co-ordinating sports and leisure at Craigencalt for your interest and enjoyment.

Newsletter No. 18, Autumn 2017

Welcome:

Every year there are new things happening at Kinghorn Loch and this year has been no different. In spring there was a new challenge, to help the female swan hatch her eggs and raise her cygnets all on her own. With some TLC from folk, it has turned into a real success story with her five offspring now reaching adult size. It is a joy to see her and her cygnets happily mixing with the geese at the jetty.

Over the summer the usual annual regattas and radio sailing championships have gone well. Then, in August, came the first ever Cromwellian Re-enactment at the loch hosted by 'the Barn at the Loch' café. The Erskine Regiment arrived to impress us with their skills with canon, musket fire and demonstrations of pikes and colourful battle flags. The accompanying stalls and camps informed us about daily life in the 17th century and reminded us that Craigencalt, with its corn mill, would have been a lively community. The Trust took part with an information stall for visitors to browse the many photographs from working on our projects and the natural environment.



For late October, it is hoped that the first ever Triathlon will take place at Kinghorn Loch with running, open water swimming and cycling. It is good to see groups working together and a reminder of how far things have progressed, with a loch of excellent water quality and good pathways for walkers, joggers and cyclists.

One change over the summer is that Alison Irvine, Leader of Fife Access Team has retired and the remaining two members of the team are now part of Fife Coast and Countryside Trust. We are very grateful to Alison for all the help and advice she has given to the Trust and she did a great job with few staff and a minute budget. We wish her well for her future plans. Meanwhile we continue with our own plans, the Trust is working with RSPB to construct the nesting platforms in the wildlife area near the bird hide. The platforms are made so, over the coming months, we hope to get them in place. We would love to have some new helpers along. It is very satisfying work to see something blossom and be useful, so if you can give us a little of your time please get in touch with Ron on 891330 or 07740999514.



Locations for future project workdays - putting in our Nesting Platforms

and landscaping the Swan Bench

If you wish to support the aims of Craigencalt Rural Community Trust (CRCT) and become involved, either as a volunteer helper or as a supporter, become a Friend of CRCT by asking for an application form or emailing info@CraigencaltTrust.org.uk.

The Trust Walking Group

It has been a good year for the walking group with some new members joining the walks. We meet bi-monthly during the summer months but only once, on the first Wednesday of the month, during winter. In June, we met at West Wemyss and walked through the woodland to Wemyss Castle Gardens where the head gardener met us and told us all about the gardens before we were left to have a look round ourselves. The large colourful garden had many lovely features with statues and an ornamental pond with enormous goldfish in it. The trip concluded with a visit to the Wemyss School of Needlework where we viewed many beautiful embroidery works. It all made for a very special day out. In early September the group returned to Glassmount House gardens where there is always a lovely welcome and new things to see. Amongst the other walks was a real favourite, along Pettycur Beach to Burntisland and back via Binnend. The autumn colours in the countryside are beautiful and there are great walks on a fine day. All are welcome to join us. Telephone Kathleen or Pat to find out more.



A visit to Solaripe medicinal herb garden – Sunday 11th June



Simone took us around her herbal garden situated next to the allotments at Craigenfalt. The visit was informative and enjoyable. Many of the plants were in flower, which added colour to the aroma that is common to many herbal plants. Several kinds of mint, lavender, comfrey, nasturtium and marigolds were in abundance. The visit finished with a relaxing time sat out in the afternoon sunshine sampling some herbal teas that Simone had prepared. It was a good way to chill out on a Sunday afternoon. If you would like to learn more about herbal wellbeing and plant families, Simone holds regular workshops at 'Barn at the Loch Cafe'.

Future Projects

There are a number of projects to consider for 2018 onwards. You may have ideas too, which we would be glad to hear and discuss. Please bring them forward. Here are some ideas:

- **Rodanbraes extension.**
An improved route to avoid using the muddy field after Rodanbraes Cottage.
- **Swan Bench area improvements.**
To landscape the area and plant with raised beds and flowers.
- **Nesting platforms area.**
This is surveyed and planned. We will work with RSPB to get the best.
- **Access pathway and Red Path Brae.**
The possibility of forming a pedestrian path along Craigenfalt farm road and up through the trees at Red Path Brae to improve access. We await responses from clubs, businesses and landowner to make this viable.
- **Building jetties/platforms.**
Extending the launch facilities will greatly increase the sporting possibilities at the lochside.
- **New publications.**
There are a number of ecology and heritage subjects to explore.

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