



# Craigencalt Trust

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

Newsletter No. 21, Autumn 2018

**WANTED: A volunteer to help compile our wildlife database. No experience needed.**

## Diary of Events

### **September Moth Survey.**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September, 9am at Craigencalt Farm.

### **Walking Group show of photographs.**

At 'Barn at the Loch' café, 10am,  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Round up of moth surveys**

with Gerald Lincoln (date to be confirmed).

**Trip to Inchkeith** with Ron Morris to help count this year's seal pups (November, date TBC)



The good,  
the bad and  
the ugly of our  
woodland fungi.



*Do not eat any fungi  
unless you are certain  
what it is.*

## **Birthday congratulations to such a wonderful lady.**

Many of you will know Margaret Kinninmonth from her work with the Canoe Club and Guides over several decades. She has coached young canoeists at Kinghorn Loch since the club began around 1976. This is a wonderful achievement and commitment to our youngsters. As she celebrates her ninetieth birthday with her family we wish her good health and we hope she will continue her presence at the lochside.



*Light Emerald Moth*

## **Moth Surveys at Craigencalt. A great success.**

This summer has turned out to be a fantastic season for studying moths and records from the surveys show a huge number and variety present, with some never seen here before. Gerald Lincoln and his team have carried out a survey each month over the summer and the results are impressive. A round-up session will follow, probably in November.



*Elephant Hawk Moth  
(John o'Rourke)*

At 8am on the morning of the visit to 'The Murrell' it was pouring with rain, I thought my luck with weather had run out, but by the time for the walk the sky looked much brighter. It was a short walk from Aberdour to 'The Murrell' where we were welcomed by the owner, Alistair. He took us around this iconic 'Arts & Crafts' style house and garden which was built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The property sits on the sloping land above the Dour and Humble Burns. The gardens are extensive, with many interesting features including terraces and a walled garden with lovely box hedging. We walked down through shrubbery and woodland of varying shades of green to the burns that flowed under bridges, then back around to the house itself. By the end of the visit the sun was shining and we returned to Aberdour to enjoy lunch sat outside at Silver Sands. It was a perfect end to a very enjoyable visit.

### Walking Group.



*Former stables and servant's quarters at The Murrell, now the garage*

### Chairman's Report.

After a very harsh start to spring, the summer has certainly made up for it. Weeks of warm sunshine brought the wild flowers out in abundance and the bird life on the loch has thrived. Our resident swan has a new partner and hatched out seven cygnets this year which are doing well and the ducks and geese have all been successful too. Now, with plenty of damp warmth, the grass and weeds have grown well and berries and mushrooms/toadstools have certainly prospered - plenty of bramble and apple crumble. .

The number of Friends of the Trust has risen to 138 this year, our highest ever and we are really grateful for this continued support. However the number of folk at our annual get together was down, perhaps due to folk making the best of the good weather or perhaps we need another re-think for next time. Please let me know what you think! The standard of photo entries for the annual competition was very high indeed. There were 41 entries and deciding on a winner was hard. After a long elimination process and a tie-breaker the cup was won by Mike Gilbert with his view of Inchkeith from North Overgate. Our summer barbecue went really well with 35 folk attending, despite the weather being cool and cloudy; it never dampens the enjoyment of the event. Ron made his usual hot curry which never fails to get eaten quickly and Marilyn likes to do a bit of baking for the occasion too. It was lovely to see such a range of ages meeting up together. The sum raised at the barbecue was £169 and has now purchased a battery strimmer to be used for the finer trimming jobs (such as close to the Swan Bench) to compliment the beefier petrol machines.

This leads me on to path maintenance for this season. The summer growth has been less this year due to the long period of dry weather but erupted towards the end of August. The usual paths have been trimmed and weeded, managed by a small band of helpers, so a big thank you to them. Some new signs and guidance for fishing will soon go up at the loch, to help to maintain good relations and working together for all the groups, and also to help protect the wildlife.



*Mike Gilbert's winning photograph.  
"Inchkeith from North Overgate".*

If you wish to support the aims of Craigenalt 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@CraigenaltTrust.org.uk](mailto:info@CraigenaltTrust.org.uk).



## What is this new sign?

by Sandy Mackay

This is the abbreviation for Kinghorn Radio Sailing Club. The sign is attached to the old corn mill or Hermitage at the loch side, and it is now the new storage premises for the club. KRSC have now been

sailing at the loch on Saturday and Wednesdays for four years. Our yachts are sailed in exactly the same way as large sea going racing yachts, the difference is that they are controlled by radio transmitter, from the shore. Kinghorn Loch has proved to be a particularly good place to engage in our sport. The straight level jetty running East to West along the North shore is ideally suited to the prevailing winds, and this combined with the surrounding terrain provides exciting, challenging yacht racing. KRSC may be relatively new to Kinghorn loch and radio sailing in Scotland, but in this short time we have shown sufficient potential to host three Scottish championships and an open racing event. If you are passing Craigencalt jetty on a Wednesday or Saturday please stop and watch the yachts. You are welcome to chat with KRSC members, who are always willing to demonstrate their yachts, and if you like what you see visit us on our new Facebook page Kinghorn Radio Sailing Club (KRSC) or the Model Yacht Association web site.



*Seal pup counting on Inchkeith in November - come and help.*



*Moth counting*

### **VOLUNTEER AS A TRUSTEE – PLEASE!**

Come the Annual General Meeting of the Trust in February, Ron will need to stand down as Chairman at least for one year. This is a Charity Law regulation. So we really need some new blood! Two or three transfusions will do very nicely. You don't need to be expert or committee orientated, just a bit of enthusiasm and we will provide the friendly and welcoming disposition. Try it out. Everyone can bring skills to a group as diverse as the Trust – planning, engineering, building, landscaping, watersports, walking, admin, etc. We will make you very welcome. You don't have to be younger than me, but it will certainly help!

### **FRIENDS – PLEASE HELP!**

As well as needing two or three new trustees we also want to find some competent and enthusiastic Friends who might like to lead or help with some new groups. You don't need to be a trustee to help with these. We want to develop projects to improve the loch facilities, the paths and environment and to publish our books. We especially would like someone to help compile a database of all the birds, flowers, animals, etc, that are around Craigencalt and on the loch. We have so many photos of flowers and birds in particular and we want to put these into a public register for all to see and use. Each entry would have a short description of where it can be found and hopefully a photo. This should be an enjoyable task to be done quietly over a leisurely period. Please put yourself forward and we can make a really good team!