



Craigencalt Trust

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

Newsletter 23, Spring 2019



Mike Gilbert's winning entry in 2018; "Inchkeith over North Overgate"

It is always a keenly fought contest with thirty to forty good entries and last year it went right to the wire, with Mike as the final victor. He looks really proud and why not. It is decided by those friends that come along to the do, so do come.

Enter the 'Bestest Ever' Photo Competition!

The annual get-together is nearly upon us Monday- 3rd June. It is time to take a deep dive into all your photos and come up with a wondrous one (or two or three) that has any connection with CRCT activities or Craigencalt, from any era, that was taken by you. If yours did well the last time but was pipped by a genius one, then why not try that



Mike being awarded the Trophy by Alasdair.

Friends Get-Together, Monday 3rd June at Community Centre.

Spring report by Alasdair MacIver, the new Trust chairman.

Spring is now well established. There was some early warm weather in February and March which brought on the spring flowers and the birds on the loch are settling into the breeding season. They nest on the rafts just as soon as barley straw installation is complete. Ducks have produced their first brood of ducklings and the swans are using the nesting platform nearest to the bird hide for the first time making our construction of them well worthwhile. No longer do they need to worry about their nest on a raft slowly degrading, the platforms give a firm base.

Bumble bees are getting their fill from the early flowering plants, and ladybirds are in abundance this year, maybe aphids are plentiful.

The Castlemilk Moorit rare breed sheep at Craigencalt Cottage have just delivered their new lambs, so make a detour next time you are up for a walk to have a look at them.



Floss the sheepdog and a hand-reared lamb

All the Craigencalt paths are open and in regular use and the loch users enjoyed some superb spring weather for rowing, sailing, canoeing and radio-controlled model yacht sailing. The water is beautifully clear and toads are easily seen in shallow water getting on with mating. The bird hide at the west end of the loch is a magnet for naturalists from Fife and beyond, and well looked after by our local bird watchers. The Scottish Carp Group have completed their annual tidy-up and will be hoping the otter at the loch will disappear back to the coast soon and leave the carp in peace.

Recently we have heard that our application to the Common Good Fund has been successful, so we can now begin work on constructing the Red Path Brae woodland path which will take pedestrians safely away from the bad bend in the road and up onto the straight part of the hill. This will make another circular route around Craigencalt with spectacular views looking over Kirkcaldy and the Firth of Forth. We are always on the lookout for extra help, so please do not be shy to come forward.



As you can see from the photographs it was another busy 'Come and Try' day at Kinghorn Loch. The weather was sunny and mild. It was ideal conditions for all the clubs who work so hard to give the visitors an enjoyable taster experience of their particular sport. The event is now in its twelfth year, and the variety of leisure activities on offer at the loch has increased widely over that time making Kinghorn Loch ever popular.

Spotlight on Kinghorn Coastal Rowing Club

We are now coming to the end of our third winter on Kinghorn Loch and with a great deal of success. What is very pleasing about being on the loch during winter is that we are able to continue rowing with very few cancellations due to weather, and of course building up relationships with all who have a common affection for the loch and its surrounds.

We held our second 'Frostbite Regatta' although it was at the third attempt; first cancellation, ironically, was due to the loch being frozen over. We had skiffs from Wormit, St Andrews, Elie and North Queensferry attending. It was quite a spectacle seeing so many skiffs on the loch trying their best to get their best times for a circuit, with St Andrews being the overall winner. We would like to thank Kinghorn Radio Sailing Club for the loan of their clubhouse for the event.

Our club had another successful session of teaching women from The Cottage to row. This project has given both members of the club who taught them to row, and the women themselves a great deal of satisfaction. Most of the women would normally never get an opportunity to try rowing, and they all start off with great trepidation, but in no time at all they overcome their fears and some become very competent rowers. The involvement with The Cottage was featured in an article by SportsScotland and also appeared on the STV six o'clock news where the serenity of the loch was there to be seen.

By the time this article is being read we would have taken Yolande to Lochore for a gathering of the Fife coastal rowing clubs and have rowed from Perth to Wormit. Our next adventure is to take Yolande to Loch Awe for a weekend of fun rowing, a 14 mile race, hospitality and a ceilidh.

Shortly after the 'Come and Try' day we moved back down to the beach for the summer months where we will be regularly rowing during the weekends and evenings and attending regattas.

We can be contacted at kinghorncoastalrowingclub@gmail.com or on our Facebook page.



Another great Walking Festival.

This year's walking festival started off in wet, dreary conditions but it did not dampen the spirit of the walkers. As the weather improved the popularity of the event really soared, and most walks were full capacity. The coastline and the countryside locally were once again explored taking in a



variety of different and beautiful scenery. The real secret to the success of this event is the friendly, informal atmosphere it manages to retain, along with good organisation, and some excellent walk leaders who make the walks so interesting. The footfall was 224 and of the 83 participants, 15 were children, it is always lovely to see families taking part. One fact which has been pointed out, is that the total number of miles if taken as a relay would be from Edinburgh to Land's End and back again. In time it is hoped to include many of the walks in the festival on the Trust website so they can be enjoyed by an even wider audience.

Newsletter compiled by Marilyn Edwards.

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 through the website www.craigencalttrust.org.uk or by emailing info@CraigencaltTrust.org.uk

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