



Craigencalt Trust

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

Newsletter 24, Autumn 2019

How high can a thistle or stinging nettle grow?

Well we have certainly found out this year, as the weeds have towered above the poor volunteers cutting them. The season started well with a big beast of a strimmer, donated to the Trust, cutting through everything at speed. But it broke down, and is too old and costly to repair. As volunteers have enjoyed a short taste of the good life in this efficient power tool, we must save up for a beast replacement. To add to our problems, Ron's flail mower, which is used with the quad to trim the North Mire and Rodanbraes paths, stopped working after only 25 years of hard graft. It needed the attention of a good mender and we found one. It is now ready for action again, for seven foot high weeds. Despite these setbacks, we have been able to keep all the paths and picnic areas open. Most importantly several drainage points have been dug out on our paths to combat the heavy rain falls. There are always more jobs to be done.

Photo Competition winner



The winner of the annual photo competition this year was Ian Bell with his photo of Great Crested Grebes. There are so many varied entries that it is always a joy for friends to choose a winner.

Summer BBQ

always an enjoyable event

The sun shone on a pleasant evening for just the time needed. Everyone enjoyed good food and a very sociable occasion. The money raised was £215 and this will go towards a new strimmer.

What a treat

Those who managed along to Gerald Lincoln's nature trail in Puddledub enjoyed a special treat this year. Two specialist volunteers were there to ring some birds so they can be traced easily. Visitors were able to watch this delicate operation, and marvel at these tiny brown birds; weighing just 12 grams, who journey to Africa each winter.

A round up of what is happening

Red Path Brae

Over the summer we have worked with the new owners to agree the route for the path through the trees at Red Path Brae and now we have begun work. Another car came off at the bad bend in the road just a few weeks ago emphasising that this proposed new path is a much needed safety feature for walkers and others in the area. We are grateful to all the support from Fife Council, landowners and funding of £3,000 from Kinghorn Common Good to install this path, which we know will be well used and much appreciated.



Do you like taking part in a quiz?

Historical and Environmental Inter-group Quiz

This is organised and hosted by Markinch Heritage Group and we have been invited to join them. The event takes place at the Old Kirk in Kirkcaldy on the evening of Friday 18th October. The teams are a maximum of 5, the evening has a quiz master and small buffet in the ticket cost, **anyone interested, please get in touch.**



Walkers on the beach at Pettycur during Burntisland Civic Week



Identifying trees with Lyn Strachan in the woodland at Craigencaft

Trust Walking Group thriving

The walking group continues to attract new folk along and this may be due to the lovely countryside and coastline that surrounds us. It may also be in part that people are discovering the therapy of a walk in good company. Generally the group is fortunate to manage good weather on Wednesdays, like the glorious sunny morning in May spent at Glassmount House gardens. We admired the beautiful tulips and many other flowers early to bloom after an early spell of warm weather.

In June the walking group teamed up with walkers from Burntisland during their Civic Week to enjoy a great mid-week walk together. It was an excellent turn out on a beautiful sunshiny day. The group set off from Burntisland Links across Pettycur Beach to Kinghorn, on up to Craigencaft, with a stop for refreshments at the cafe. Then back to Burntisland via Rodanbraes with a chance to show some new folk our troll bridge. Some could not resist a shot on the well famed rope swing half way up the track, showing we are all children at heart.

Recently Lyn Strachan, Fife Coast and Countryside Ranger, led a tree identification walk, with the Walking Group and other interested folk. Richard Neil, who helped create the woodland thirty years ago, explained how the owners at that time worked with the Woodland Trust to produce a really diverse woodland of deciduous and evergreen trees.

Everyone was surprised how mature the trees had become in a relatively short span of time. Walking through the shaded woodland, Lyn pointed out many interesting trees and explained their medicinal and nutritious qualities. She also added some mythical folklore about them, which seemed to concentrate on witches!

Notably, the woodland serves as a wonderful place to hear the voices of the many different birds and a place to catch a glimpse of the wildlife that inhabits the area. The highlight was the meowing of a young sparrow hawk in its nest. Afterwards, the group returned to the 'Barn at the Loch' cafe for further discussion and some refreshments.



A six spotted burnet moth

Beautiful Moths

Gerald continues to visit Craigencaft during the summer months to do regular moth surveys, giving us an in depth knowledge of the variety of moths around us.

Nature news

Every year is different and nature is full of surprises. A warm spring brought on plant growth with flowers blossoming early. Loads of ladybirds appeared, much to the youngsters delight. The summer brought out scores of Painted Lady butterflies fluttering around the buddleia bushes, especially on the Binnend Path, a spectacular sight to behold. Plenty of tiny toads have been seen leaping in the grass as they search for a home until next spring. There are still plenty of hares in the fields too. The kingfisher returned for a while to feed on the little fish in the water near the bird hide. Sadly the male swan died, of natural causes as far as we know and now the female is rearing the two cygnets on her own.



Painted lady butterfly



Agrimony a familiar wild flower at Craigencaft

Newsletter compiled by Marilyn Edwards.

If you wish to support the aims of Craigencaft 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.craigencafttrust.org.uk or by emailing info@CraigencaftTrust.org.uk

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