



Craigencalt Trust

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

Newsletter 25, Christmas 2019



**Seasonal Greetings.
We wish you a Merry
Christmas
and
a Happy New Year**

Chairman's Round-up of the year.....

This year has been both busy and rewarding for the Trust. Keeping paths trimmed has been a major effort, battling against giant weed growth in summer. Then in autumn, we constructed our new path, which was a great team effort. We heartily thank all our volunteers for their help during the year, for without them we could not achieve what we do. Now winter brings a well earned rest to enjoy the festive season before 2020 brings more challenges and new projects to tackle .

The new Red Path Brae Walk

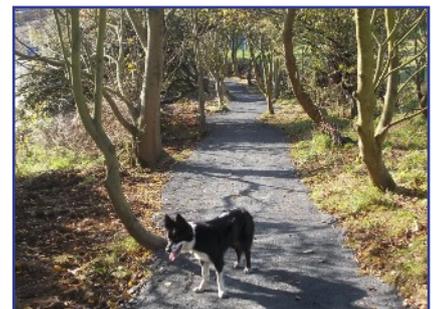
It takes a long time to plan a project and then to find funding and get everything in place but the construction of this new path was completed in record time. This was thanks to great organisation and tremendous help from all our volunteers. In just one week of solid hard work they made it happen. Now this safe route through the trees and away from the road is appreciated by lots of users daily. When Fife Council adds their length of pavement, Red Path Brae will be complete and a job well done.



Ron watching Alasdair at work on Red Path Brae



A mottly crew!



Floss inspecting the path



Some Highlights of 2019



*Come & Try
coastal rowers & dinghies*



Walking Festival



Civic Week walk



Tree identification walk

The 'Come and Try' day at the loch is always a success, with the clubs remaining a big attraction. The Trust held its 6th Annual Walking Festival in spring and it proved to be the busiest ever. The Walking Group thrives and has enjoyed good times out this year as our pictures show. We invited Burntisland Civic Week folk to join us for a walk across Pettycur beach. The tree identification walk around the woodland at Craigencalt discovered a wide range of mature trees thriving. Lyn Strachan identified many trees and whilst we may not remember them all, we know how special this woodland is for us and the wildlife in it, a place to treasure.

Wildlife and wild flowers thrive at Kinghorn Loch

Early in the year an otter was caught on camera. It left evidence of its visit by leaving partly eaten fish on the nesting platforms. In spring ladybirds filled every flower on the gorse, which delighted the youngsters. In summer there were thousands of baby toads jumping about, followed by a host of painted lady butterflies dancing around the buddleia bushes. Each year is different as Gerald Lincoln discovers as he continues his moth surveys here, always finding new varieties. Although the rain has fallen in bucket loads this year, it has not deterred our wonderful wildlife from flourishing. For the wildflowers, bittersweet (woody nightshade) was prolific on Rodanbraes and the rare agrimony is always present.

Lock on the Bird hide - The Trust has asked the Ecology Centre to reconsider permanently locking the bird hide. This is a gross over-reaction, as anti social behaviour and wilful damage is very rare at the loch. We have suggested locking it on Friday and Saturday evenings only. We await a reply.



Swans nested on a nesting platform.



Painted Lady butterfly



Agrimony



Beautiful but poisonous Bittersweet

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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