



Craigenfalt Rural Community Trust

- to live and enjoy

Newsletter

April 2012 no 1

We are pleased to bring you, the Friends of Craigenfalt Rural Community Trust, the very first Newsletter to update you on the progress so far.....

February 3rd saw the launch in Kinghorn Community Centre of the Trust, when around 80 people came along to listen to Dr Bryan Spears of the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology in Edinburgh who have initiated a 3 year research project on Kinghorn Loch. He gave a short history of the pollution that had affected the loch over the years and explained how the plants and animals had responded to the various stages of change, from pollution to the excellent water quality that is present now. The new Trust website has been launched www.craigenfalttrust.org.uk where you can check regularly to get the latest news.

Check the interest group sections below for updates.....

Diary 2012

Date	Event
May 9 Community Centre 7 – 9 pm	CRCT Spring Presentation 'Pathways'
May 12 lochside 1 – 5 pm	Come & Try Day Sailing & Canoeing
August	Newsletter no 2
August 24 6.30 – 8.30pm	CRCT Summer BBQ
September	CRCT Presentation 'Islands of The Forth'

Full programme – see website
contact (01592)891330 or
email info@CraigenfaltTrust.org.uk



Blue Tit home under construction

Birdwatching

Spring mornings at the loch are very noisy affairs what with male birds singing or showing off to attract a mate. For many species, it's the one time of year you will hear their true song. Blue and Great Tits are already utilising nest boxes around the loch and Tree Sparrows are busy lining nooks and crannies in the walls of buildings. Migrant Swallows and Warblers are due back soon. On the water, Mallard, Coot and Moorhen numbers appear reduced but in fact some females are already hidden away sitting on nests. Tufted duck and Great Crested Grebe are visiting and may yet breed here.

This is a great time to get up to the hide for dawn, thermos and binoculars in hand.....especially now the clocks have gone forward! The other day I watched a Moorhen drag material into the undergrowth. Suddenly a Jack Snipe flushed from the spot closely followed by the Moorhen who stood stretching uncharacteristically upright, giving the interloper an indignant look and a loud

“kurr-uk”. Food for thought; many ground nests are hard to spot if you're tramping off the beaten path, also many species are a bit “twitchy” at this early stage of the season and may abandon the nest if you go too close.

Happy birding!

Danny Wallace
email info@CraigenfaltTrust.org.uk

Walking Group

Full walking programme -see
www.craigencalttrust.org.uk

Our first walk took place on Wednesday 28th March and it was a beautiful sunny day.

Three regular members took part, plus one valued new member namely Danny Wallace, who kept the group interested in all the bird life to be spotted along the route and identified them by their song.

We did a two hour circular route by walking through the Ecology Centre, visiting the bird hide in the hope of spotting the Kingfisher, but unfortunately it did not put in an appearance. We did see many other water and woodland birds including Tree creepers. We walked on through the woodlands and up the Rodanbraes path. Half way up we watched two hares chasing one another before continuing to the top, then round the edge of the newly planted field and across to the common road. We returned via the Whinneyhall track, through the Ecology Centre and back to our starting point.

We are hoping to visit **Glassmount Gardens** on our next outing on **Wednesday 11th April**.

We visited these gardens last Autumn and are looking forward to seeing them in Spring when they are at their best. If anyone wishes to join us please contact Rena on 891179.

Contact Rena Wallace on (01592)891179
or email info@CraigencaltTrust.org.uk

Loch Users

Kinghorn Loch Users Group (**KLUG**) undertakes new and maintenance projects on the loch and its banks.

Over recent weeks, KLUG volunteers have repaired the barley straw rafts and replenished them with fresh straw. This has been done since 1999 to improve the water quality of the loch by preventing for the most part, algae blooms.

Dr Bryan Spears and PhD student Justyna Olszewska of Edinburgh University have begun a 3 year research study of the loch.

The Sailing Club have been using the loch throughout the winter and will soon move to the beach for the summer. The Canoe Club and the Carp Fishing Group use the loch throughout the year.

An exciting new project this year, has been the construction of a nesting platform to encourage swans. This has been placed in a safe breeding area of the Loch.



Pathways

Rodanbraes We have applied for a grant for Signposting and the production of Flora and Fauna cards, one for each season with a map of Rodanbraes on the back. The path has been surveyed and we have determined a route for a disabled path that goes round the steep part at the beginning. We hope that work will soon be started on clearing the entrance for a disabled vehicle to turn, the picnic area at the top near the cottage, and the intermediate viewpoint. Picnic tables, seats on the way up, and information boards are in the planning stage.

Doric Wells path Now completely cleared by the Community Payback group in readiness for them to erect a new fence, which we hope will be soon, so that the path can be re-opened.

Golf Course field We are planning a clearing and cutting of the path round the field next to the golf course so that it can be walked without hindrance. See the web site for the day when we will be working.

All help appreciated. It will mainly be clearing the fallen stones so that mowing can commence.

info@CraigencaltTrust.org.uk