



# Craigencalt Rural Community Trust

- to live and enjoy

## Newsletter December 2012 no 3

The Trust held its first Annual Meeting in The Carousel, Kinghorn on 12<sup>th</sup> November. Those who managed to come along enjoyed the evening with the opportunity for everyone to chat and hear about the many achievements of The Trust in its first year and the exciting plans for the coming year. For those of you from further afield, see the Chairman's round up of the year at [www.craigencalttrust.org.uk](http://www.craigencalttrust.org.uk) Ron expressed thanks to all the Friends of the Trust for their wonderful support during the first year and hoped that they would continue to support CRCT over the coming years. There will be projects coming up that will require hands on assistance using labour and tools to build paths and an information kiosk, so if you would like healthy exercise in the fresh air, please register your interest with Ron or Marilyn at [info@CraigencaltTrust.org.uk](mailto:info@CraigencaltTrust.org.uk). We would like to compile a list of available Friends. Once project programmes have been detailed, we will be able to advise days and times.

**Next Friends evening 4<sup>th</sup> February 'Wild flowers of Craigencalt' venue to be confirmed.**



Great Crested Grebe juvenile

### Birdwatching

Another year almost over at the loch and the Mallards have already paired up for next year's breeding season. Despite the dubious weather the waterfowl have been much more successful this year, most notably, 3 pairs of Great Crested Grebes have successfully raised 9 juveniles (much greater than activity we have seen in the previous 2 years put together). Couple this with equally successful Little Grebe and we must conclude that the stock of fish fry in the loch is in a healthy state. Last year was a disaster for breeding Coot yet this year we have 13 juveniles. In Spring 2011 many birds suffered from predation by American Mink (a non-native species) and things significantly improved after this threat was neutralised, for now. If you see any, please let us know. As for woodland birds, a wet summer will have taken its toll on food supplies. You may notice a lack of berries just now. (Time to put out some extra fat balls out I think.) One pleasant surprise in October was a brief but noisy visitation by 6 Ravens. This is a great time of year for Scandinavian visitors, so watch out for Thrushes, Redwing, Fieldfare and Waxwing.

For up to date bird surveys, please look at the website [www.craigencalttrust.org.uk](http://www.craigencalttrust.org.uk)



American Mink

Danny Wallace,  
email [info@CraigencaltTrust.org.uk](mailto:info@CraigencaltTrust.org.uk)

## Walking Group

Full walking programme - see  
[www.craigencalttrust.org.uk](http://www.craigencalttrust.org.uk)

We have had a bit more success with the weather since late August, 2012 and have completed another four walks. Only one had to be cancelled due to heavy rain. On the 15<sup>th</sup> August we walked through Banchory Farm passing Drinkbetween then on to Manorlees and up to the crossroads returning by the Kissing Trees Road. This was a very dull day with thick mist and we could barely see anything at all.

We had a beautiful, clear sunny day on 12<sup>th</sup> September when we walked over the stubble fields in the surrounding countryside. *See photograph below right.*

On the 10<sup>th</sup> October we had a change of scene and took the cars to Invertiel Bridge. From there we walked to Balwearie Farm, passed Balwearie Tower and Golf Course, took a track over to the Auchtertool Road and returned via the Mill Dam. This was another lovely sunny day and the walk was enjoyed by all.

Our final walk of the season took place on 24<sup>th</sup> October when we walked up the Rodanbraes path over to the Common Road and back via Whinneyhall path.

**A new programme will be available in January 2013.**

Walks will commence every second Wednesday at 10am from late March, 2013. Please check the website for full details [www.craigencalttrust.org.uk](http://www.craigencalttrust.org.uk)

**To book or for further details contact Rena Wallace on (01592) 891179**

## Loch Users

It has been another busy year on the loch for watersports with Canoe Club training and many trying out canoeing for the first time, *see* [www.kirkcaldycanoeclub.co.uk](http://www.kirkcaldycanoeclub.co.uk)

The Sailing Club are now back for their Winter racing, *see* [www.kinghornsailingclub.org.uk](http://www.kinghornsailingclub.org.uk)

It is proposed to deal with the erosion of the bank near the jetty and to improve the launching facility into the bay. There is a proposal to form a water based sports hub on the loch, which would be in association with Sports Scotland. Earlier in the year, for the first time, the East of Scotland Open Water Swimming Club held a very well attended event and hope to come back again. Banchory Farm are again donating barley straw bales to top up the floating rafts in the new year to maintain good water quality.



## Pathways

***It has been a very busy year for the Pathways group with a great deal being achieved to bring more of the paths around Kinghorn back into use.***

**Doric Wells path** has been re-opened, with help from volunteers, Fife Council Access Officers and Community Payback. The fencing is complete with boarding on the north side going all the way up the steps to Glamis Road. We are aware that the stream floods the path in extremely wet weather and have plans to build a raised walkway on hollow blocks so that the path can be walked at all times.

**North Mire.** A new path was cut in the summer avoiding the badly sloped section which made walking and also mowing difficult. Take this route to join onto the Kissing Trees Road.

**Burnside Path.** We applied for a grant to be able to widen and level it to 1.8m wide and to then lay a type 1 grit path down the centre to avoid it becoming muddy. The sides will then be grassed. We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the grant. Although it is winter it is hoped to carry out the work in the new year and volunteers will be needed to help spread the grit and generally tidy up. We will email Friends once a planned programme of work has been put together.

**Rodanbraes.** Much of the progress is in the CRCT Chairman's report, *see* [www.craigencalttrust.org.uk](http://www.craigencalttrust.org.uk) but in brief, the new disabled path has been cut, One grant has been received towards the follow up work and another is in the pipe line. We know that the area before the gates gets eroded in severe weather and the track to the B923 runs like a river. Remedial work is planned. Surveying of an extension through to the Common road by Binnend is also planned.