



Craigencaht Rural Community Trust

- to live and enjoy

www.craigencahttrust.org.uk

Newsletter

no 7

Spring 2014

What a difference a year makes

CRCT has enjoyed a very successful spring with the launch of the Rodanbraes/Binnend path, the completion of the Burnside Path from Kinghorn to the loch and the swans nesting on our raft out in the water. Makes it good to be involved. The completion of the path works, brings a well earned rest for all our volunteers before some maintenance and trimming back will be required over the summer months. Kinghorn Loch User's Group (part of CRCT) held the annual "Come and Try" day on 10th May. After poor weather in the morning it was bright and calm and ideal. Children of all ages thoroughly enjoyed trying out canoeing, sailing, while the brave tried open water swimming. A good time was had by all.



Rodanbraes Path is now a bright and welcoming path. It is disabled accessible and has a lovely drystone shelter, seat donated by the Rotary Club, a picnic area, children's play area and information boards telling walkers about the area's geology, history, flora and fauna.

The children can also enjoy the Troll Bridge with its resident troll and toadstools and play out "The Three Billy Goats Gruff". Together with Binnend Path it forms a circular route of over 2 miles around Alcan's Whinnyhall Site. With 750 yards of disabled path Rodanbraes offers spectacular views for buggy users.

On the sadder side of things, the wildlife camera that the Trust bought to observe wildlife activities at Kinghorn Loch was stolen. Recent pictures of an otter were recorded on camera and it was hoped there would be further interesting wildlife discoveries to follow. Unfortunately this is not to be. Money to buy the camera had come from fundraising at last year's BBQ. The Trust is making a real difference by opening up paths, maintaining the loch and informing so many people about what the area has to offer.

Thank you Friends of CRCT for being part of it, your support is greatly appreciated.

2014 Diary Presentations & Events

May 26
Community Centre
Kinghorn
7.30pm – 9 pm

**The History of the
Craigencaht area**
from Whinnyhall to
Kilrie and Grange
speaker
Marilyn Edwards

August 22
Craigencaht
Cottage
Kinghorn
6.30pm – 9 pm

**CRCT
Summer BBQ**
All Welcome

September 22
Community Centre
Kinghorn
7.30pm

**Kinghorn Loch
Study**
speaker
Dr Bryan Spears

November 17
Sands Hotel
Burntisland
7.30 pm – 9 pm

Annual Meeting
*social & photo
competition*

Kinghorn Pathways Walking Group

The walking programme for 2014 continues with walks lasting from one to two hours based around the beautiful countryside around Kinghorn Loch. There are interesting birds, animals and plants to observe and wonderful views to enjoy. Meeting for all walks at 10 am prompt, dates below.

Wednesday 4th June

Wednesday 3rd September

Wednesday 2nd July

Wednesday 1st October

Wednesday 6th August

In the event of inclement weather on the above dates, the walk will take place on the following Wednesday, weather permitting. Suitable walking boots or shoes and waterproofs recommended

Walk Leaders

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SPRING BIRD REPORT

The most remarkable thing about this Spring is the lack of any Winter preceding it. There is of course, a reasonable possibility that mother nature has thrown out the rule book and we may see Winter following Spring. Let's hope not, for the birds' and for our own sakes.

During early spring, an Otter made an appearance on the loch and has been helping himself to fish (I say 'he' as we think he is a young male). Being nocturnal, you aren't likely to see him. He is a protected species but if he stays he will have an impact on fish stocks and may also help himself to eggs and birds. Other fish eaters include Grebes. Three pairs of Great Crested Grebe were seen 'displaying' on the Loch in March indicating their intention to breed here. We are privileged to witness their courtship activity, in the form of various dances and territorial activity, in posturing towards other pairs. Coot numbers are down now, to just the resident breeders. Moorhen are often early starters so watch out for young near the hide. Goldeneye ducks have left the loch for breeding grounds further north. Female Mallards are becoming conspicuous by their absence and we could see young ducklings very soon. Another sign of Spring is the return of the Lesser black-backed Gull though they have never bred here to my knowledge.

The domestic and hybrid geese have lost their dominant male patriarch and are unlikely to breed this year (unless of course they don't know the rules). This might allow their rivals, the Mute Swan an opportunity to breed unmolested.

Of the woodland birds, the winter visiting migrants are all but gone.

Blue and Great Tits are busily preparing the various nest boxes you will see around the north and west sides of the loch. They will likely display their annoyance at your presence with a 'churring' alarm call.

The woods and gardens are full of song just now and the choir is getting

bigger all the time. It began with the Chaffinch, Robin and Wren, then sang Goldfinch, Blackbird, and Song Thrush. Now we hear from Greenfinch and Yellowhammer. Chiffchaff is the first of our summer migrants and will soon be joined by Sand Martin, House Martin, Swallow, Willow Warblers, Garden Warblers, Whitethroat, Sedge Warbler and finally Spotted Flycatcher (all the way from South Africa). I am sure to have left somebody out!

A final word must go to the Water Rail that has provided much entertainment to us 'birders' over the winter. Not least when it was mugged by a Moorhen in March! It survived the ordeal and is still here suggesting that it may stay and breed.



Water Rail

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 the Trust by asking for an application form or emailing info@CraigencaltTrust.org.uk

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