Craigencalt Rural Community Trust Projects

A presentation by Ron Edwards
Our Trust developed from a more or less single purpose project base to a community strategy that is linking in with landowners, residents, visitors and funders. We have the pleasure of looking after Kinghorn Loch, some lovely countryside and a wealth of activities that take place here. The trust has nine Trustees and some 140 Friends of the Trust, mainly locals, who subscribe to a fund and take part in presentations, fundraisers and help with the physical work. The Trust was born in November 2011 but is backed by fifteen years of build up.
Craighencalt Rural Community Trust – where did it come from?

The origins lie in two community groups:

- Kinghorn Loch Users Group
- Kinghorn Pathways

These groups (which are now committees of the Trust) together seek to represent the interests of:

- residents of Craighencalt area
- Kirkcaldy Canoe Club
- Kinghorn Sailing Club
- East of Scotland open water swimmers
- Kinghorn Radio Yacht Club
- fishermen
- birdwatchers/environmental interests
- walkers/cyclists/horse-riders and Walking Group
- Sustainable Communities Initiative
Setting up the Trust.
Kinghorn Loch Users Group

• As Chief Chemist of Forth River Board, Ron Edwards worked with Alcan to successfully remove pollution from the loch by 1983.
• Community Council set up an umbrella group for clubs and interests in 1995 to deal with algal blooms on the loch.
• KLUG has treated algal blooms with the barley straw rafts since 2002.

Whinnyhall Landfill polluted the loch up to 1983 after which the ‘dead’ loch quickly recovered.

The group has used these barley straw rafts (designed & built by the group) ever since – with great results.
Annual Come & Try Days – instructed by canoeists and sailors for all ages - youngest about 3 years, oldest first-timers in their 80s.
First projects:

• Barley Straw Rafts
• Jetty facilities

Barley Straw rafts – every year

New jetty - 2007

Funded by Burntisland Development Trust, Fife Environment Trust, Awards for All, Common Good and Rio Tinto Alcan
International visits

World Bank sponsored delegation from Albania.

Research delegation from Thailand.
HOW DID THE PATHWAYS GROUP START?

• The start – Grangehill Path (2000);

• Core Paths – linking with adjoining community councils;

• Consultation in Kinghorn;

• It has grown in strength and is now moving on to a link path from east Burntisland to east Kinghorn.
Consultation – popularity of routes

Popularity of Routes around Kinghorn

Codes 1-40 are within village. Route Code
Codes 41 - 105 are outwith village.
Core Paths - linking with adjoining community councils
Core Paths – inland connections
Success Story – the Walking Group
Even more success – Walking Festivals
CRCT Area of Interest
Link Path Strategy
Burnside Path – by popular demand:
Provision of Visitor facilities - Rodanbraes and Binnend Paths.

Our second BIG project

Craigencait Rural Community Trust (CRCT)
Phase 1: Rodanbraes & Binnend

Visitor facilities - Rodanbraes and Binnend Paths

- Rodanbraes Pathway improvements & maintenance
- Interpretation boards and shelter
- Seating, picnic spot, grassy bank
- Children's adventure area
- Disabled by-pass; the Troll Bridge
- Disabled parking spot, information board & signage, card return
- Signage for paths
- Repair former National Cycle Route path
- Main Binnend Path viewpoint: Picnic area and interpretation board, card return
- Potential path extension
- Bird Book Revised Pathways Booklet Flower Cards

Binnend Heritage Board

Other Core Paths
Improve public information.

- Interpretation Point on Rodanbraes
- Viewpoint improvements on Binnend Path

Dramatic times at this very spot.

For the last one million years, the Earth has been in the grip of an Ice Age which has covered virtually all of Britain. It is not over. We are currently in a ‘warm’ period which will end. The last ice sheets retreated from Scotland only ten thousand years ago. The Ice Age formed the landscape we have now.

Rodanbraes path

Twelve thousand years ago, once again nothing could live here, with a thousand feet of ice covering us, migrating slowly from the centre of Scotland towards the northern Ice Sheet.

A huge lump of ice sat beneath the clay and when it melted left Kinghorn Loch - known as the Cattle Hole. The steep ridges and deep gullies are typical relics of the Ice Age.

Nature Studies on Rodanbraes Path

In Spring you will see the bright yellow cowslips (but do not pick) and, from May, abundant Red Campion. Rambler bees busy themselves around the thistles and the Rosedale Willow Herb and the place generally abounds with groups of Goldfinches.

You may well hear the plaintive ‘mewing’ before seeing the Buzzard circling on the rising air-currents.

Listen out for the ‘drumming’ of a Great Spotted Woodpecker and you may be lucky enough to see Roe Deer and Brown Hares on the grassland in front of you.
Opportunities to involve children.
Building the Rodanbraes Bridge
Wildlife:
Craignecalt Rural Community Trust
Project plan – “Provision of Visitor Facilities at Kinghorn Loch and Its Environs”

Created by Craignecalt Rural Community Trust (CRCT) in co-operation with landowners, Alcan Aluminium UK Ltd and Craignecalt Farm.

www.CraignecaltTrust.org.uk

March 2015 - Revision 6.
Phase 2: Lochside improvements
New car park:
Link path through the woodland:
Raft building:
Interpretation panels:

Craignencalt Mill

1583. This is a record of rent paid to James Bower [Bower] by the miller in wheat, oats and barley for running the mill. It is the first mention of a mill sited at Craignencalt. The inclusion of Damhead (see map) shows that the Banchory Barn had already been diverted to feed the mill, indicating that the corn mill must have been well established by then.

1682. A report for Lady Margaret found the mill and associated buildings to be in a poor state of repair and describes what repairs were required. The miller, James Lightburn, is living at Damhead.

1757. An estate map made for Robert Ferguson of Raith. Descriptions of the buildings in 1682 tie up with the map indicating that in 1682 the mill was here, at the lochside.

1790. The corn mill was replaced by a threshing mill which required a barn to operate in. This much larger mill was built around 1790 by William Ferguson and William Young & Co. of Grange Distillery in Burntisland seems to have provided the gear and became a tenant. The work included damming the gorge to make a new mill pond.

1829. On his death in 1828, Robert Philip, a local brenn mill owner, set up an educational trust for poor children. As part of its investment portfolio the trust purchased several farms in the area including Craignencalt Mill and its land from Raith Estate.

1860. William Young, as the tenant at Craignencalt, took a keen interest in the place. After his death and that of his brother Robert in 1560 the tenancy went with Banchory; the mill closed as Banchory had a steam mill.

1891. Craignencalt Farmhouse was built for the tenant, John and Margaret Craig.

Features of the estate map of 1757

Craignencalt Rural Community Trust (www.craignencalttrust.org.uk)

Sponsored by Rio Tinto Alcan, Awards for All & Fife Environment Trust

Awards for All SCOTLAND

LOTTERY FUNDED
Craignecalt Rural Community Trust

Project plan – “Safety of Pedestrians at Red Path Brae” - an accessible alternative for all users.

Created by Craignecalt Rural Community Trust (CRCT) in co-operation with the landowner, Craignecalt Farm, and Fife Council.

www.CraignecaltTrust.org.uk
January 2019 - Revision 2
Phase 3: Red Path Brae

When Fife Council developed its Core path strategy, the Trust reluctantly agreed that Red Path Brae was too dangerous a piece of road to designate as a Core Path. This was despite the fact that this left a “hole” in our local path network, which would be lovely to fill. The alternative for walkers, horse-riders and cyclists was to either go up through Craigencalt farm or divert along the North Mire, both being significant deviations.

The Trust developed a by-pass strategy to go up through the woodland copse, avoiding the road, with the intention of making the path accessible to all users and hopefully to meet the Fieldfare Trust requirements for disabled use. Thus we needed a maximum gradient of 1 in 10.
The path would snake through the copse, but no significant trees needed to be removed. A steady gradient of no more than 1 in 10 could be achieved.
The digger needed to cut through the rock at the top to sweeten the gradient and connect with the roadside at the top of the hill. Fife Council will complete the connection by building a pavement to finish the work.

Surfacing the path. Wall building.
The completion of the by-pass path for Red Path Brae opens up two new circular walks at Craigencalt with some wonderful views and access to all the facilities and interests from the North Mire to the loch.
Communications & interests.

• The Trust has three presentations a year, including ‘Walk & Talk’ outdoor sessions. Last year we had a ‘Bumble Bee’ walkabout which found all common bumble bees and more. This year we hope to visit Inchkeith, Garald Lincoln’s sand martin housing estate and to have a update talk on the heritage of Craigencalt.

• Friends receive three newsletters each year and a poster version goes on notice boards.

• Regular newspaper articles and community snips are published.

• The Annual Meeting includes photo competition and social evening.

• The Trust website keeps our Friends, and the wider public, up to date.

• We published ‘Kingham Pathways’ booklets, ‘Birds of Kinghorn Loch’ and ‘The Burntisland Oil Shale Industry’. 
Craigencalt – there for everyone.

Working together.