

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

Tuesday 19th October 2009, 2pm – The Green Flag Award ceremony at the curling rink at the end of Craiglockhart Terrace.

Sunday 23rd October, 10am and 12:30pm Nature Trail Tidy Day

FCWNT WEBSITE FOR FUTURE ISSUES

The FCWNT are keen to reduce the volume of paper being used for our newsletters and would like to encourage members to use the newly updated website to view the newsletter and all other woods information. This will be the last newsletter that is delivered to your door.

If you would like to receive your newsletter via email, please fill in the form on the contacts section of the FCWNT website at www.craiglockhartwoods.org or view on-line from the Download section on the website.

BECOME A MEMBER

The Craiglockhart Woods Group has been established for 13 years and relies heavily on the support of the local community for funding it's projects which maintain and upgrade our woods for the benefit of everyone. Becoming a member is easy. It costs just £5 for a lifetime individual membership and £10 for a family. Your fees will help to support the maintenance and on going projects on the site.

If you would like to become a member of the Craiglockhart Woods Group, please contact Bill Troup on 07834 908130 with your name, address, email and phone nos.



FRIENDS OF CRAIGLOCKHART WOODS AND NATURE TRAIL (FCWNT) AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2010



Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter, the leaves are starting to fall from the trees and the weather is on the change. Here is an update and some general information of what has been going on in our woods over the last few months. If you have any suggestions or information you would like to see in future newsletters please do not hesitate to let us know.



GREEN FLAG AWARD

We are thrilled to announce that The Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve has been awarded a 'Green Flag' a highly valued national quality standard for the second year running. The Green flag Award Scheme provides national quality standards for parks and green spaces. It is like the Blue Flag accreditation scheme for beaches. The Green Flag Award recognises well managed and high quality green spaces. It is a means of recognising and rewarding the best green spaces in the country. We were one of 10 awards in Edinburgh and 26 awards across Scotland. As a community we are tremendously fortunate to have such a gem on our city doorsteps. The official announcement described green places as "vitally important as 'green lungs' in our built-up areas, significant to people of all ages as a place to meet friends and family, celebrate, exercise, play games and sports, but some are also places to learn about not only plants, wildlife and farming but also art, music and films, and help bring the entire local community together."

We will celebrate our award with a ceremony at 14:00 Tuesday 19th October 2010 when our new Green Flag will be raised. You are welcome to join us. There will be some light refreshments available and the opportunity to socialise and for you to hear more about Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve.

SUMMER FÊTE

We had one of our best turnouts for the Summer Fête this year helped by a greater number of stalls and attractions than usual. We were also helped by the glorious weather with the first batch of ice cream selling out in a record 45 minutes! The money raised was £1,900, up on last year, and we would like to thank everyone who attended as well as all the members of the local community who contributed to the stalls or gave their time. We are also very grateful to the many local businesses for their generous donations.

FUTURE PROJECTS

We plan to use the money raised at the Summer Fête to continue our upgrade of the path network across the Local Nature Reserve. Look out for improvements to the path between the Craiglockhart Sports Centre and the Merchants Golf Club over the coming months.

New way-markers are being planned for the whole reserve and the recently updated Nature Trail Pamphlet will include these new markers, so look out for these over the coming months. The new leaflets will be available as soon as the way markers are in place. An application for funding assistance has been made to the South West Neighbourhood Partnership to assist with this project.

WORD SEARCH

W	C	L	E	A	V	E	S	U	K
S	S	T	R	E	A	M	W	P	I
I	D	B	E	G	W	Z	A	A	N
G	B	N	R	O	D	E	N	T	M
N	E	I	I	W	I	N	G	H	U
E	R	B	F	L	U	T	P	K	T
L	R	O	E	D	E	E	R	Q	U
O	Y	R	U	I	S	C	W	O	A

OWL, SWAN, ROE DEER
RODENT, PATH, BERRY
STREAM, SIGN, ROBIN
AUTUMN, LEAVES, FIRE
WING.

See if you can find the 13 words hidden in the grid. Happy hunting!

OUR LOCAL WILDLIFE

OWLS - The Tawny Owl is a stocky, medium-sized owl between 37 and 43 cm in length commonly found in woodlands across much of Europe and Asia. Its underparts are pale with dark streaks, and the upperparts are either brown or grey. They typically nest in a tree hole where they can protect their eggs and young against potential predators. This owl is non-migratory and highly territorial. Many young birds starve if they cannot find a vacant territory once parental care ceases.

This nocturnal bird of prey hunts mainly rodents, usually by dropping from a perch to seize its prey, which it then swallows whole, in more urban areas its diet includes a higher proportion of birds. Vision and hearing adaptations and silent flight aid its night hunting.

With an 81–96 cm wingspan, the Tawny Owl flies with long glides on rounded wings, less undulating and with fewer wingbeats than other owls, and typically at a greater height. The flight of the Tawny Owl is rather heavy and slow. As with most owls, its flight is silent because of its feathers' soft, furry upper surfaces. Dumpy broad wings distinguish it from other owls found within its range

Tawny Owls pair off from the age of one year, and usually stay together in a steady relationship for life.

Owls can be heard on a regular basis as dark falls in the woods, as there has not been a confirmed sighting we assume that these are tawny owls. The FCWNT working with the local rangers have installed a bird box on the top of Craiglockhart hill trying to attract Barn Owls, as far as we know this box have not been used as yet.

OTHER WOODS NEWS - Due to the reasonably good weather this year there was a bumper crop of wild raspberries available all over the hill. Maybe the blackberries will be as good?

There was a confirmed sighting of a Roe Deer in the woods near to Craiglockhart Terrace earlier in the summer. If anyone can confirm sightings of any wildlife we would be delighted to hear from you, it's always good to know who/what enjoys the woods as we do!