



Tri-Shaws Officially Launched

Ian Rankin was in high demand over the first weekend of May. Not only was he leading talks and discussions for another highly successful Crime and Thrillers Weekend, on the Sunday afternoon he was formally launching the Cromarty Trikes. Freshly doused with a bottle of bubbly Gracie and Patsy (piloted by Fi Grist and Ian Mitchell) took some other Cromarty celebrities for a spin around the town. The trikes are just one of the things the Cromarty Care Project has initiated.



Simon Evans gives some further updates on the Cromarty Care Project:

'Our office has now moved to the West Church. We are very grateful to them for being so welcoming and helpful. The staff use the office for meetings, storing equipment and administration. The office has been beautifully decorated by members of the church and we are all very pleased with it. So a big thank you from us all.

If you need care or know someone who does, then in the first instance contact NHS Social work in Dingwall on the single point of access number 01349 860460. Our home-carers are working hard to keep Cromarty residents at home for as long as possible.

Thanks to our trike pilots, the trainer Ian Mitchell and to Shirley Matheson who has overseen the trike project. If you would like a ride then do call Shirley on 01381 600451. We have received funding for the Tri-shaws from the Highland Cross and the Northern Meeting Park. Six of us from Cromarty will be going to help out at the Highland Cross on June 22nd which should be fun.

Table tennis sessions are continuing on Monday mornings 10.30 – 12 noon at the West Church Hall. Just come along and have a game or two or stay the full hour and a half. Coffee available for resuscitation! A great way to start the week.'y

Cromarty Care Project has a new website

www.cromartycareproject.co.uk



Open Studios - and a lot more besides

A full month of art events kicks off this weekend with the very popular Cromarty Open Studios. Saturday and Sunday (1st/2nd) should see the streets full with people seeking out the balloons that mark the various venues. Open from 11.00-17.00 both days. The artists are always delighted to talk to folk and explain their work (and maybe sell a piece or two along the way). This year the trikes will also be available on the Sunday for those who would like to visit the studios in style. Call the Trike helpline (that's Shirley) - 600451.

Later in June look out for the annual Art and Flower Exhibition in the East Church which starts on Friday 14th (and continues until Sunday 23rd).

Open Gardens takes place the following weekend (22nd/23rd) - when the trikes will once again be available to ferry folk around. Maps showing the locations of all the gardens will be available from the Hub - Belle Vue East Wing, Church Street - along with a wonderful selection of plants for sale. Gardens are open 11.00-16.00 both days.

Finally the Redcastle Art Group hold their annual exhibition at The Stables 22nd-30th. Entry is free and the exhibition is open 10.00 - 17.00 (16.00 on the final day).

Cromarty Harbour Trust and 'The Friends of Cromarty Harbour'

Pat Haynes writes:

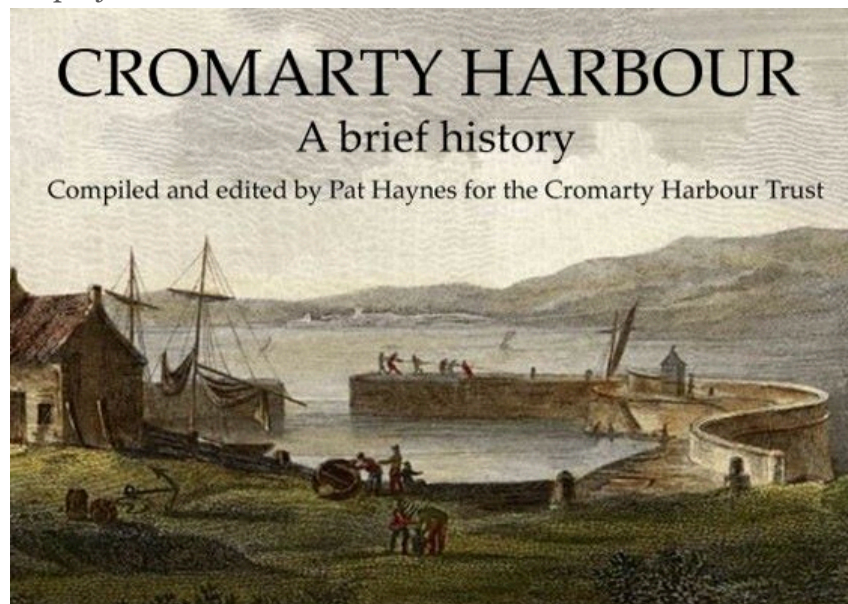
Further to our last update we are happy to be able to report that Historic Environment Scotland have now assessed our detailed proposals and budgets for the next phase of the harbour restoration and improvements works and have agreed to a funding package that will allow us to proceed with the project. As you can all imagine we are immensely grateful for their support and also for that of Viridor, the SSE Sustainable Communities Fund, Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG), HIE, Marine Scotland, The Cromarty Trust, The Highland Council and all those of you who have supported our local fundraising efforts.

The most recent of these was the Quiz Night and Auction of Promises on the 18th of May at the Cromarty Arms organised by the recently formed charitable trust 'Friends of Cromarty Harbour' which raised over £2,300. A big thank you to Kenny and Helen and their staff for allowing us to take over the Arms for the night and to all those who donated some amazing promises and raffle prizes. The important distinction, the Friends of Cromarty Harbour charity has been established solely to help raise funds for the restoration and improvements to the harbour and coupled with a recent generous donation from Global Energy, this represents a fantastic start to their efforts.

Now that we have most of the necessary funds in place to undertake the next phase of works, we have awarded the concrete repairs to the Smeaton Mole breakwater contract to the specialist concrete repairs company, the Fraser Bruce Group and the new deck platform (under where the replacement sheds will be sited) to Lochshell, who undertook the recent stone work repairs project. We are awaiting tender returns for the new greenheart fendering system to be located on the harbour basin side of the Smeaton Mole, this work, together with the concrete repairs to the supporting columns should allow for up to two larger vessels to be moored alongside the Mole.

These contract works will be ongoing throughout the summer and into the autumn and the expectation is that part of the West Pier and Mole will be mostly closed to the public during that time.

The harbour sheds are to be removed in the next couple of weeks to allow for the repairs contracts to commence (hopefully within the next four weeks) and they will be replaced later in the year. We are hoping to reclaim some of the better timbers to re-purpose, in liaison with local crafts folk, potentially making benches, picture frames and other small mementos which will be offered for sale to raise funds for the restoration and improvements project.



On Monday 27th May, the Cromarty Harbour Trust hosted an early evening gathering on the harbour to give the town the opportunity to say farewell to the sheds enjoy a glass of wine, share tales of the harbour and to launch a new publication which tells the story of Cromarty

Harbour. The booklet draws on the work of several authors who have previously written about the harbour and the town of Cromarty through the ages and includes photographs and prints which illustrate that story. The booklet is available at £5.00 and can be purchased at various local outlets or through the Harbour website www.cromartyharbour.org. All profits from the sale of the booklet will be used for the restoration and improvement of the harbour. If the booklet goes to reprint we have the opportunity to amend the text to take account of any new information or images folk may have of the harbour in the past so please don't be shy to contact us if you can help.

Follow Up To The After School Funding Crises

The generous donations from local businesses and groups to help secure the afterschool service for another year were acknowledged with all donors being invited to a tea party in the brewery next door to the centre, allowing them to partake of some tea and cake before touring the centre if they wished.

As previously reported, donations were received from Caintech, Global Highland, Highland Insurance Brokers, the Clinging to the Wreckage singing group, the Craigie Urquhart trust, the staff and regulars of the Royal hotel, and Claire Fraser and her Wednesday Warriors fitness class. To help the donors see the centre in action, some of the parents put on their best baking hats and dug out the china to say thank you.

Margi Campbell noted: 'as a small community we are always aware of the danger of the same people being asked again and again to give. We raised over £5000 in a six-week period which was frankly mind boggling. We are hugely grateful to those who rose to the challenge, and we didn't know how to say thank you for such an amazing response. but we thought a chance to see the centre in action might be welcome, and cake never goes amiss! Parents and children had written notes of thanks and a small booklet of these was handed over to each of the fundraisers present. After all, silent gratitude doesn't really count for much. The best way to say thank you is of

course to support the businesses that supported us.... so let's do it!

Courthouse Quiz

Friends of Cromarty Courthouse hold their fundraising quiz at The Arms on Saturday 29th June. £5 entry per person - teams of 5 maximum. It all kicks off at 8.00pm but teams are recommended to get there early, and even better book their evening meal through Helen - 600230. Mary Bowers says 'It would be a crime to miss this one!' (Is that some kind of clue?)

Bits and Pizzas

Sutor Creek reports they are delighted that their application for outside seating was approved by The Highland Council. Phoebe Fox said: 'Our tables should be in place mid June - perfect for the warmer weather to sit and enjoy a wood-fired pizza and local beer! We are open daily 12.00 - 9.00pm for pizzas, lunch and dinner.'

The next Cromarty Market on 8th June will run from **12.30 - 3.30pm** and not the usual 11.00 - 2.00pm. (Normal hours will resume in July). Lunches are being provided by the Primary School Parent Council fundraising team to hopefully win the MFR school's challenge.

Sheila Currie contacted us to remind people to make use of the ferry and the bus link to Tain. A timetable for the bus (29 or 129) is available at www.stagecoachbus.com

With holidaymakers now a familiar part of the season, a reminder to accommodation providers (and businesses generally) to keep their details updated - on Cromarty Live and also BlackIsle.info websites. Its frustrating for visitors (and doesn't provide a positive vibe) when accommodation says its available if it isn't or, worse, when somewhere no longer provides accommodation at all.

Cromarty Arts Trust - upcoming events

TURADH: Saturday 1 June, Old Brewery, 8.00pm (doors 7.30pm)

Tickets: £11/£9/£5 under 16

Outstanding fiddle player, Emma Donald, and creative harpist, Isbel Pendlebury, combine their individualistic styles and compositions to create this dynamic duo of original Scottish music with a contemporary twist.

ODORA TRIO - Sunday 9 June, Stables, 4.00pm (doors 3.30pm)

Tickets: £13/£11/School children FREE

This award-winning young cello, violin and piano trio formed in 2016 at the Royal Academy of Music and have performed widely throughout the UK. They bring a programme of Mozart, Mendelssohn, Beethoven and Ireland to the Stables for an afternoon of gorgeous music.

DRUMMING DAY - Saturday 15 June, Stables

TODDLER DRUMJAM - 10.30 - 11.30am, FULLY BOOKED!

CARNIVAL DRUMMING - 2.00 - 5.00pm, £15/£7 under 16s

Learn to play carnival rhythms and instruments in this relaxed afternoon workshop led by percussionist, Carol Scorer. From big bass drums to agogo bells, there is a part for everyone! No previous experience necessary - all welcome. Under 8s should be accompanied by an adult.

THE SHACKLETON TRIO - Saturday 15 June, Old Brewery, 8.00pm (doors 7.30pm)

Tickets: £11/£9/£5 under 16

Natural talents of the folk tradition, The Shackleton Trio's self-penned material blends seamlessly with their imaginative yet authentic re-workings of traditional folk standards.

Please check out www.cromartyartstrust.org.uk for all our courses, workshops and gigs. Tickets available for everything right now!

Planning Consultation Date Confirmed

Thursday 6th June is the date for the meeting to learn about proposals for new Road Traffic Management in Cromarty. Come and find out, discuss, make your views and opinions heard. 7pm West Church Hall

Community Development Trust

The Thrift Shop in the old dairy is doing good business and is taking around £200 each day it opens. So far an impressive £1200 has been raised for the development trust's funds.

So great credit must go to the Thrift Shop team of Rhona Garrett, Chrissie Hogg, Rosemarie Hogg, Irene Mackay, Colin Miller and Nora Watson. But also to all those in the community who have donated articles for sale, many of real quality.

Rosemarie told the Newsletter:

'We have had visitors from as far away as Africa and Australia! A lot of folks have come through from Fortrose, but most seem to be visitors to Cromarty, including bus trippers. The locals are eventually coming round to the idea of the shop, and we have seen quite a few more of them over the past couple of weeks. We are too busy to actually do 'market research' on which areas people come from. We only learn from chatting to folks when there is time.'

She said that there was no obvious trend on what were the most saleable items: 'Some weeks we sell a lot of clothes, other weeks it could be jewellery or books.'

The shop will be open every Saturday from 11am to 3.30pm up to the end of September.

Still Waiting

Any day now, we are told, the Cromarty Community Development Trust (CCDT), will be informed if it has

been successful in winning hundreds of thousands of pounds from the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund.

There was disappointment that there was no news in April and then May, as had originally been indicated. Unofficial soundings, however, suggest that the CCDT's application for funding to repair the ferry slipways and establish a dedicated campsite for motorhomes at Whitedykes, has been well received by Visit Scotland and the Scottish Government. But just how well it has done, has yet to be made clear.

In the meantime CCDT directors have been advised not to try to take over the area of the Whitedykes site where the spoil from the Cromarty Primary School Extension was dumped, until a proper options appraisal has been conducted by an experienced specialist consultant.

Therefore, CCDT is seeking to take control only of the wooded area surrounding the industrial units at Whitedykes to the west, at present. The trust is seeking a long-term lease of this area from the Highland Council, with an option to buy.

At the same time the CCDT will also identify funding sources, to pay for a study of the area with the spoil. This to establish whether it could be put to other community use.

We hope you've found this an interesting and informative read. Tell us what you think, or send suggestions and ideas for articles via editor@cromartylive.co.uk

The Cromarty Live Newsletter team is Jon Palmer, Jeremy Price, David Ross, Laura Shepherd

This edition was sponsored by The Cromarty Stores.

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