

Welcome to another busy month  
in our wee Highland town.

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## All Eyes On The Future

### Rubble removal

Top of the list of the Cromarty Community Development Trust's resolutions for 2020, was to get rid of all the rubble at the old But 'n Ben site, which has been an eyesore for far too long.

But as we prepared for the Festive Season, the welcome news broke that it had been removed.

So, many thanks to John Gordon of Rose Farm and his team, for their sterling work in addressing this blot on the High Street. It is much appreciated.

### Other resolutions

Significant challenges remain for the CCDT in 2020, not least to get slipways/campsite project done - to borrow a grossly overused phrase.

We are entering a critical phase with planning applications being submitted and a marine licence sought. Meanwhile the search goes on for additional funding.

Following confirmation that Aberdeen University's Lighthouse Field Station was committing £5,000 to the CCDT for the project, our slipway partners Nigg and Shandwick Community Council, resolved to match that sum. They have been as good as their word winning a promise of £5,000 from the Cromarty Firth Port Authority. But they have also almost doubled that amount from other fundraising activities.

### The Barn

Progress must be made on finalising the plans for Townlands Barn. This would allow the CCDT to approach the most appropriate body for funding.

Another priority is to get power restored to the old dairy, to help the Thrift Shop team whose business activity exceeded all expectations in the last year.

## Housing

Representatives from the Community Council and the Development Trust will meet in the New Year to discuss how both organisations will work together for the benefit of the community of Cromarty. One of the key areas for discussion will be how the development of housing will be taken forward.

We are currently waiting for Albyn Housing to bring forward their proposals for the development of up to 30 houses in a range of styles and ownership/rental options. The aim of this development is to encourage families into the town to ensure the security of the primary school.

We have asked Albyn to bring a number of options to the table as a starting point for community discussion. Following the presentation of these, the community will have the opportunity to work with Albyn and Highland Council to ensure any development suits the needs of the community.

We believe that the community should have full ownership of any development and we look forward to bringing you more detailed information in the new year.

A happy and very prosperous New Year to all Cromarty residents from the Cromarty Community Development Trust.

## Cromarty Cinema Nears Completion



Fraser Mackenzie writes:

'The cinema continues to come together and we are still targeting a late January opening. The area around the recycling bins will be tidied up and improved during the month as the Cinema and Offices near completion. We will circulate more information about the opening and initial film programme (with Eden Court) very soon.'

## Fireworks A No-Go

From The Bonfire and Fireworks Committee:

'Following the atrocious weather during the Bonfire and Fireworks Night in November, it was apparent that the remaining fireworks (around half of the display) had suffered damage or their safety had become compromised due to the weather and attempts to set them off.

Having taken professional advice, it is clear that any attempt to use them would be very dangerous to those lighting them and also anyone in the vicinity. There is no guarantee that they could be ignited in a safe way or indeed that they would even work correctly. There is no prospect, therefore, of either using them on a one-off occasion and certainly no way they can be stored and used in 2020.

For this reason, the Fireworks Committee has reluctantly come to the conclusion that the only way forward is to destroy them in a safe and environmentally responsible way. We are seeking advice about methods of disposal.

We do understand people's disappointment but the last thing anyone wants is to compromise anyone's safety in any way. We'll just look forward to the next event in November and hope that nature doesn't throw the same force of storm at the event on the night!

## A Quiz Night Record?

Sandy Thomson writes:

'A new record may have been set for Cromarty Quiz nights. The one on Saturday 14th December in the Cromarty Arms raised a staggering £750 for Prostate Cancer UK and Macmillan Cancer Support. But the organisers had also set up a JustGiving page that allowed non-quizzers, both here in Cromarty and literally throughout the world, to add their donations. At the time of writing that internet page has raised an additional £863, with more to come.

The fundraisers are four Cromarty men who have all themselves been diagnosed with prostate cancer. They are Sandy Thomson, Nige Shapcott, Jim Pennie and Jim Templeton. As Sandy said at the Quiz Night, when thanking all the supporters, they weren't solely interested in raising money. They also wanted to raise awareness of what is the most common cancer among adult males, and to encourage others to get themselves checked out if they had any concerns. Like all cancers, the earlier it is diagnosed, the better the prognosis.

Conscious that there are other cancer sufferers, men and women, in Cromarty, the group decided that half the money raised would go to Macmillan Cancer Care, whose local group were very supportive.

The Cromarty Boys are hoping their final fundraising total might top £2,000. Now that is really setting the bar high for future Quiz Nights.'



A big night for 'the boys' but they only sent a small picture!

## Fun and Games at The Library

'Thank you to everyone who attended our first games afternoon. We will be hosting the next one on **Tuesday 14th January** 2.30-4.30pm. Look forward to seeing you all then.'

Lynn Anderson, Library Assistant

## Miller House Museum Winter Activity

Forthcoming Tuesday Talks:

**14th January** 'Dementia Friends' - Hayley Lyons

**21st January** 'Introduction To The Hugh Miller Writing Competition' - Jane Verburg

**28th January** 'The Zulu Nation' - Elizabeth Leisegang

**4th February** 'Starting Up A Guest House In The Highlands' - Caroline Biscoe

**11th February** 'Object Storytelling' - Alix Powers-Jones

Tuesday Talks are very informal, with tea or coffee and cake. 10.00am start. Entry £3 per person (including refreshments).

**CROMARTY HISTORY SOCIETY**  
& Friends of Cromarty Courthouse

# THREE Doctors

Highland medics at home and in the Empire

Speaker: **David Alston**

7.30pm Thursday  
16th Jan 2020

West Church Hall  
Cromarty

ALL WELCOME NON-MEMBERS £3.00 UNDER 16s FREE

[www.cromartyhistory.scot](http://www.cromartyhistory.scot)

## Business Updates

### Calluna

'Our big sale will start on **January 4th** at Calluna. Up to 50% of clothing, shoes and accessories to make room for the new season stock! Clothing sizes from 8-18 will be in the sale from our Brakeburn, ICHI and Great Plains brands. Open daily 10-5pm.'

### Sutor Creek

'We will close January 1st & 2nd and then open from 11am-9pm on **Friday 3rd, Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th January** for home-baking, lunch, dinner and wood-fired pizza. To book a table or order take-away call 01381

600 855 - bookings can also be made online at [www.sutorcreek.co.uk](http://www.sutorcreek.co.uk).

The restaurant will then be closed from Monday 6th until Wednesday 22nd January 2020. Keep an eye on our Events page or Like our FaceBook page for news about Tasting Dinners (including a very special Apprentice Dinner!) and our new Cookery Classes.

We would like to thank all our customers for their support over 2019 and we look forward to welcoming you in the New Year!'

Phoebe Fox

## The Cheese House

'Will be closed for our annual holiday from New Year's Day, opening again for the weekend of **Sat-Sun 18th-19th January**, then open as normal from **Thursday 23rd**. We would like to wish everyone a Happy and Fulfilling New Year and thank all our loyal customers for their support throughout the year, which is very much appreciated.'

Emmy and Jon.

## Cromarty Arts Trust

Georgia Macleod writes:

'Our 2020 programme has started being uploaded onto our website with lots more to follow in early Jan and the printed Events Programme due out at the beginning of February. If you want to keep up to date with all that's on offer, don't forget you can sign up to receive our fortnightly Enews via the 'Sign Up To Mailings' section at the bottom left of our website pages (and you can unsubscribe at any time if you change your mind). [www.cromartyartstrust.org.uk](http://www.cromartyartstrust.org.uk)

Tickets are on sale now for our first event of 2020, a piece of theatre particularly relevant for the 16-30 year olds:

**THICK SKIN, ELASTIC HEART - Sunday 2nd February**, Stables, 8.00pm (doors 7.30pm) Tickets: £10

(£6 students, school-aged, unwaged)

Tap - scroll - like - click - follow - repeat... Award-winning writer and director Drew Taylor's thick skin, elastic heart explores the everyday overwhelming instability of millennial life in modern Britain.

Playing like a frenzied scroll through a social media feed, the show takes the audience on an exhilarating and emotional journey through the characters' lives. With seemingly disconnected pieces running into one another at speed, woven together with athletic physical delivery, thick skin, elastic heart showcases a kaleidoscope of voices from across the UK, tackling a myriad of topics and giving a voice to a generation often dismissed as 'snowflakes'. This is Under Milk Wood for and by millennials, exposing the inner thoughts, fears and hopes behind the Instagram filters and the 280 character tweets. Suitable for age 16+

Not to be missed! Tickets: [info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk](mailto:info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk) / 01381 600354

**STOP PRESS!** Are you, or do you know of, a young person that likes to perform - either with the spoken word or through music? We are looking for a 'support act' for this show, someone keen to have an opportunity to show off their burgeoning talents with a 10-15 minute slot before the theatre piece begins. Great experience and exposure, plus....you'll get paid!! If you would like to put yourself forward to be considered, please email Georgia on [info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk](mailto:info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk) '

## Blackhaven Shenanigans

As forewarned in last month's newsletter, a new series of Blackhaven podcasts is now available to download. The three fifteen-minute episodes feature Blackhaven resident Seymour Strangely and his travails broadcasting the Blackhaven News and Chat Show from his shed - 'its a studio'.

His guests are a motley crew of Blackhaven characters, the voices for which are provided by some, possibly recognisable, Cromarty folk. Definitely worth a listen to cheer you through the dark days of winter. Each episode



can be accessed directly via the website  
[www.blackhaven.scot](http://www.blackhaven.scot)

## The Year's Top 5

This time last year we highlighted specific events from the year just gone – this year we've grouped a few together. As we begin a new decade it might be interesting to also recall what's changed in the last ten years (anyone?) For now, here are some highlights from 2019...

**5. Structural developments.** Harbour work has progressed at a pace and we look forward to seeing the reinstatements of 'the sheds' next year. We've also seen the cinema and offices on the links spring up from nothing. Though opinions may differ as to their location, hopefully everyone can agree that developments such as these are a sign of a confident community - one that is literally 'building for the future'.

**4. More opportunities to shop local.** It was good to see Lorna Mackinnon take on the new Church Street Café enterprise and we wish her much success. There can be no doubt that having warm and welcoming places to eat and drink, especially through the winter months, makes the town an attractive proposition for those seeking 'a trip out'. The Thrift Shop was another addition. After a first season that exceeded all expectations, the team of volunteers are facing 2020 with confidence (and warm toes, when they get some heating plugged in).

**3. Cromarty's year-round calendar of Events** goes from strength to strength. The Film Festival appeared to be the most popular yet with most screenings sold out. Open Gardens in June welcomed more visitors than ever before, and Gluren bij de Buren attracts an increasingly high standard of performers. On top of these we had the added attraction of a TV production crew in residence for a weekend filming Landscape Artist of the Year. Watch out for more curious visitors next year as a result. All these events help to 'put Cromarty on the map' and raise awareness of what a cultured community we are.

**2. Keeping active.** The community rowing club maintains its popularity and this year saw increased success at various regattas around Scotland. The trikes

are proving themselves a very welcome addition to the local offering and a big thank you should go to the volunteers who provide the opportunity for many to get out and about when they otherwise might not. And the Monday morning table tennis sessions have now become a regular fixture.

**1. Volunteering.** As well as all the clubs and societies which provide such a variety of activities – run by people who willingly give their time for nothing – there are some more mundane tasks that get done by teams who rarely get the recognition they deserve. Community Council members, Development Trust directors, Middleton Trust trustees, the Gritters, the dog bin emptiers, the Cromarty Care Project trustees to list just some. Without them our town would be a far less joyous place to be, for sure.

So to them, and all Cromarty folk near and far - we wish a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

## And finally...

If one was ever in search of something to sum up what makes Cromarty special, what better than this thoughtful gesture spotted on one of the benches over the Christmas period?



We hope you've found this an interesting and informative read.  
Please let us know what you think, or send suggestions and ideas  
for articles via [editor@cromartylive.co.uk](mailto:editor@cromartylive.co.uk)

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

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