



New Look Community Council

Alan Plampton writes:

Following the recent Interim Election process there is a new look to the Cromarty & District Community Council. At the Inaugural Meeting held on Monday 28th September, the following was confirmed:

CHAIR - Paige Shepherd, SECRETARY - Peter Ratcliffe,
TREASURER - Alan Plampton, MEMBERS - Kari Magee,
Nigel Shapcott, YOUTH MEMBER - Gregor Fox



This 'new look' Council now has, in Paige, the youngest ever Chair in the history of the C&DCC (and the Cromarty Town Council before it). Paige is also the youngest Chair of any current Black Isle Community Council (and probably in the Highlands!).

Paige not only brings a youthful enthusiasm to the Council but also a wealth of experience in Scottish Youth politics. It is hoped that her election will show Cromarty that the C&DCC listens to all ages and opinions in our

community. This also gives Peter Ratcliffe the opportunity to fill the vacant Officer post of Secretary after an impressive year as Chair, during what has probably been Cromarty's most challenging year ever. Thank you Peter as he continues his great work on the C&DCC.

The Interim Election process was triggered by the resignation of the Secretary, Diane Brawn who, along with Gabrielle Pearson, had decided after many many years service to Cromarty that 'new blood' would be a good thing. Diane and Gabrielle's contributions to the community are too many to mention, will be sorely missed and we are enormously lucky to have had them as Community Councillors. Thank you both.

We also see a change at the 'helm'. No not the Chair, but our Minute Taker! After seven years of steering Members through meetings and much more, Gillian McNaught has decided to spend the time concentrating on priorities 'nearer to home'. Gillian is going to be so missed by the C&DCC, with both previous and current Members benefiting from her thorough and meticulous approach, as she kept Members in order. Thank you Gillian.

But luckily, we have a very capable replacement in Della Matheson, who has been living in Cromarty for nearly 3 years. Good luck Della.

Anybody who wishes to contact the C&DCC should email on cromartydistrictcc@gmail.com. We are always listening. Contact details for the new C&DCC will be issued in due course.

Victoria Hall Update

At their Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 28th September, the new C&DCC Members unanimously agreed that the Victoria Hall will not reopen before 2021. At their scheduled meeting on 25th January 2021, the C&DCC will again review this decision.

This decision was not taken lightly and, after a full discussion, it was agreed by all that this was the only sensible way ahead. The Community's safety is the priority but by making the decision now, the C&DCC hope that regular users of the Hall can make forward plans accordingly.

If you have any questions regarding this announcement, please email the C&DCC on cromartydistrictcc@gmail.com.

Thank you and stay safe.

Oil Rigs Survey Results

Following the request for resident opinions and comments in the August Newsletter, the Community Council received emails and letters from 26 different residents. The results were as follows:

‘LOVE THEM’ – 11.54% (3)

‘HATE THEM’ – 80.77% (21)

‘ON THE FENCE’ – 7.69% (2)

Some of these responses were very emotive and at their meeting on Monday 31st August, the C&DCC unanimously decided the following:

“Members therefore agreed the C&DCC would support action or comment necessary to oppose rig noise around Cromarty.”

It was also decided to keep separate our actions relating to the Cromarty Firth Port Authority’s potential application to make the Cromarty Firth a Free Trade Zone or Port. The C&DCC involvement in this process will be led by Kari Webb and

“...members agreed KM can freely ask questions on behalf of the C&DCC to gather more details about the proposals and impacts on the local area.”

Harbour Restoration - Phase One Nears Completion



Pat Haynes writes:

'We are delighted to report that the first phase of structural repairs to the harbour is nearing completion at a cost in excess of £750,000. We are extremely grateful to the support of Historic Environment Scotland, Marine Scotland, Fisheries Local Action Group, Viridor, SSE Sustainable Communities, HIE, The Cromarty Trust, The Highland Council, Friends of Cromarty Harbour, to name just nine, the valued support of local businesses, various other small donations and local fundraising, without which none of this would have been possible. A special thanks should also go to the great engineers at Wallace Stone and all the various contractors involved in the project.

It has been exciting to see our stalwart contractors at last able to get back to work after lockdown. The new greenheart fenders have finally been installed with rubber D fenders on alternate verticals to provide extra resilience. The missing step on inner harbour steps is now in place and the ramp to the rear of the sheds has also undergone repair. New mooring bollards have been fitted along the restored concrete pier which will allow us to reopen the berths on the inner harbour.

The harbour sheds, although they are looking way too smart to be described as merely sheds, are also well on their way to being finished and our prospective tenants are understandably eager to get access. New floodlights and CCTV and two sturdy harbour ladders will also be installed in the next few weeks.

The two new finger pontoons installed earlier this year are proving successful and we hope to add three more in the coming months to extend the capacity of the harbour.

We are also excited to announce that we have been successful in one recent grant submission to the FCC communities Foundation and are awaiting word from HES as to the outcome of a further grant application to their Coast and Waters Heritage Fund. If we are successful then these grants when added to funds from the Cromarty Trust and Friend of Cromarty Harbour will enable us to repair the west pier surfacing and some of the voids in the structure. We hope this project can start in the early spring so that we can collaborate with the UHI

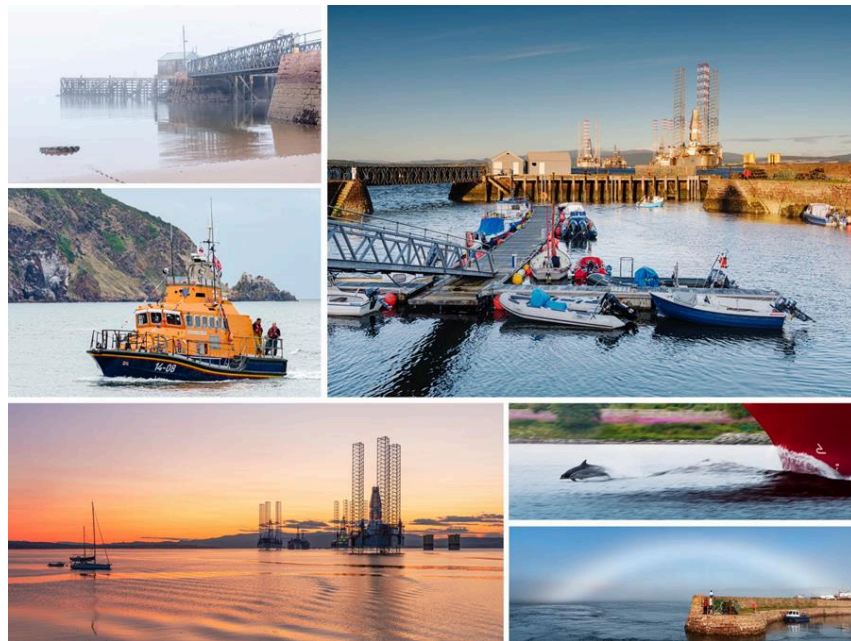
Construction and Built Environment Course, Covid-19 permitting, to provide on the job training for students in construction and conservation skills working alongside experienced specialist contractors.

We are also currently in the process of seeking new funding to carry out even more extensive stone work repairs to the harbour and a wave attenuation project which will be designed to subdue the wave action and tidal scouring in the harbour basin.

As always, the Harbour Trust is extremely grateful for all the hard work of our small group of volunteers and the support of the community and we would be delighted to welcome new recruits to help us maintain and manage the harbour which is so much at the heart of our wee town.

New Harbour Jigsaw

Last year our fundraising jigsaw proved such a success that we couldn't resist doing another. It does represent quite a milestone for the harbour as we complete phase one of our renovations. Over the last year the Friends of Cromarty Harbour has donated over £8,000 to the renovations with a little bit coming from efforts such as the organising and selling the jigsaw – all profits from the sale of the jigsaw go to the Friends of Cromarty Harbour, who in turn look to support the Harbour in their effort to restore the heritage structure. We can all see the result of the wonderful work the volunteers are doing. Please continue to support if you can, it could be a long winter. The jigsaw is in the same style as last year, 1,000 pieces and 50cm x 66cm. Photographs by David Kent, award winning photographer and harbour volunteer. We are looking to book advance sales to improve the margin with the manufacturers so, if interested, please let us know as soon as possible. The price is £22 this year plus £3 to post if required. Email info@cromartyharbour.org to secure your jigsaw.'



Development Trust News

As anyone who has been walking on the shore or the Links, been having a coffee at the Slaughterhouse or visiting the bottle bank will know, work has begun on the Cromarty ferry slipway.

There is something very satisfying to the CCDT, that we have finally got to this stage in our project to upgrade the slipways, which has consumed most of our time and effort for a year and a half. A project which at one point some in authority told us to forget.

But we understand that Cromarty is one of very few in our round of applicants to the Scottish Government's Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund (RTIF), which has reached this point to date. We may be the first.

That doesn't really matter. What does matter is that VisitScotland has now released the first tranche of the £300,000 RTIF earmarked for the CCDT. Simpsons, the builders undertaking the slipway work, are now being paid.

This follows the successful signing of the 25 year lease of the slipways from the Cromarty Estate, after a protracted period of complex negotiations.

The CCDT would like to thank solicitor Calum MacLeod of the Harper Macleod legal firm, for his guidance, advice

and encouragement. Calum, who is from Skye, is experienced in representing community bodies in their efforts to take control of local assets. He brought this experience to bear as he navigated the CCDT's course through the legal complexities.

The Campsite

It is hoped that progress can be made in the development of the motorhome park at Whitedykes this month. But we are at the mercy of the Highland Council's planning schedules.

The Barn

Meanwhile dialogue continues between the CCDT and the members of the Highland business community, who are considering Cromarty as a possible location for their proposed distillery operation. They are still interested, but the current Covid-19 restrictions have delayed further progress. We await further details which we can share with the community.

AGM

The CCDT board was due to hold a scheduled meeting online as the Newsletter was going to press.

One of the items on the agenda was how and when to hold the development trust's annual general meeting. In normal times we are obliged to hold one every year under our Articles of Association.

The maximum permissible time between meetings is not 12 months, however, but 15. This allows some flexibility as more Covid-19 restrictions on gatherings are being introduced by the Scottish Government.

When the agm is held, there will be at least one vacancy for a director which will have to be filled. David Ross is standing down from the CCDT board as he is planning to move to Inverness sometime in the fairly near future.



Links Hub Opens

The Cromarty Links Hub next to the Cinema opened during September and all four offices are now let to a range of small local businesses. There is however one desk space still available in a shared office. The offices have renewable energy heating and fibre broadband. If you are interested in the shared office desk space please contact either Fraser on dfrasermackenzie@gmail.com or Tanya on Tkarlebach@eunoia.com

Other Business News

Sutor Creek

Our new deli and take-away format is going well and we are constantly adding new items to our menus. The deli is full of delicious items like our customer favourites Black Pudding, Bacon & Onion Quiches, Haggis Scotch Eggs, and a range of Graham's exceptional desserts. In addition to our wood-fired pizza and regular menu, we are offering weekly seasonal specials - these are available Wednesday through Sunday 12-8pm. Coffee & Cake is available from 10am. As the winter months approach, we will be adding more casseroles and stews to the menu so keep a look on our website or follow us on Facebook!

Calluna

We have some beautiful new clothes in for the Autumn/Winter season - lots of cosy knits and layering pieces that work well for our colder climate. We have new

brands of jewellery, bags and accessories (including new styles and colours of facemasks) so pop in and see what's new!

Private Shopping. We have had lots of requests for private shopping experiences - these are held in the evenings so that you can shop at your leisure with just you or your bubble (we also provide a glass of bubbly for these private events!). To arrange one for yourself, just message us on FaceBook or phone 01381 600 464 - a great way to get some shopping for gifts as the present buying season approaches. Thank you for shopping local - we appreciate it!

Courthouse Exhibition

From Mary Bowers:

'The Sea Inside' community artwork will be on display at the Cromarty Courthouse Museum on the 3rd and 4th of October from 12-4. We can't wait to share these beautiful, handmade Cromarty sea stories with you!

The shop will also be open selling a fine range of books and locally handcrafted items.

Library Logistics

Return and Collect Service (from Tuesday 29th September)

1. Phone 01381 600318 (Tuesday and Thursday 12-2pm) or email cromarty.library@highlifehighland.com to ask staff to choose a selection of items based on your interests or to request a specific item from existing Cromarty Library stock. The catalogue can be checked online at www.highlifehighland.com/libraries. Unfortunately, at this time we cannot get books from other libraries due to the COVID restrictions.
2. Staff will agree a date and time slot for you to collect the items and to return any items you currently have on loan. The collection times will be available on a Monday morning between 10-12 and a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon between 2.30-5pm.

3. On arrival please use the disabled door at the side of the building to gain access to the meeting room where you will be able to drop off your returns and collect new items.

4. There is no need to make a specific trip to return books as they will all be automatically renewed and there are no overdue charges. However, if you do wish to return books then please feel free to drop them off during our restricted opening hours.

The library remains closed for drop-in customers and for PC use at this time but will reopen as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience whilst we ensure that the library is safe for our staff and customers.

Lynn Anderson

West Church Open

From Terry Burns:

'We've opened the Church on Sunday for people that want to watch the live-stream as part of a socially-distanced group. As with any indoor venue, masks are required. Additionally anyone that wants to join us online can log-on to cruparish.online.church. (No prefix or suffix) The Order of Service is available on our web site: <http://www.cromartychurch.org.uk>.

Support Group

James Support Group continues to support people bereaved by suicide and anyone who has had or currently has suicidal thoughts during this pandemic. We had intended to have our first face to face meeting in September but the new restrictions forced us to revert back to ZOOM.

We will resume the Games, Giggle and Craic evenings as soon as we are allowed, and meantime you can get 24/7 support from our helpline on 07563 572471.

October to March is a peak period for Mental ill health & suicides in particular, this is a real concern to all organisations dealing with Mental Health, and we urge

you to be aware of your family, friends & neighbours throughout this period.

If you or anyone you know is struggling, there is help out there and a list of these contacts can be found on our [webpage](#)

For more urgent needs please phone 999, or NHS 111. The Samaritans also have a 24/7 Helpline which is a superb service.

We would also urge you to download an APP called Prevent Suicide Highland which has a wealth of information and help covering our beautiful Scottish Highlands.

Please stay safe, look after yourself and others and remember, it really is ok not to be ok. After all we are only one call away.

Kind regards,
Patrick & Wendy Mullery
James Support Group
07754 271983
07563 572471(24/7 helpline)

And Finally...

A lovely feelgood feature to finish from Carsten Flieger:

Cromarty Sunday Club has been back up and running since the end of the summer holidays and has switched to outdoor sessions in the light of current circumstances. Thankfully the weather was always kind in the past few months, so the children had a fun afternoon on a Ladies Walk clearing in August where they listened to stories and staged a play, made colourful rock paintings and had a picnic with fairy cakes and juice.

Last weekend the group settled in the field above Cromarty amongst the straw bales and got creative in making conker figures and playing a round of conkers before (again) enjoying homebaking and juice in the warm Autumn sunshine.

For the the next session at the last day of the October holidays we are planning a scavenger hunt style afternoon

with a big bonfire at the end so come along on Sunday 25 October at 3.30pm.

Cromarty Sunday Club is run by St Regulus and the West Church congregations and is open for all young Cromarty Children (up to P7). Sessions are always free and fun! Currently outdoors only, all activities are run in line with Scottish Government Coronavirus guidelines so numbers of children are limited. For more information or how to get involved get in touch with Carsten Flieger on 07958 550333 or carsten@mylittlecampfire.com.



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

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

The Newsletter is currently sponsored by Sutor Creek. Printed copies are available at the Stores for those unable to access the online version.

[Forward](#)

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)