



Slipway Survival

Positive news from the Development Trust.

It is something we have been waiting to say for too long, but now we can. After many setbacks, the CCDT is delighted to announce that work is about to begin on its £400,000 plus slipways/ campsite project.

Simpsons, the Beaulay-based builders, have started preparatory work at the old ferry slipway at Nigg.

The structure had become structurally unsound and dangerous, meaning that the ferry service simply could not work this year or indeed any other. One slipway is not much use to a ferry, and the one at Cromarty is also in need of upgrading.

Shortly after it was founded the CCDT recognised that the slipways had to be replaced as a matter of urgency or we would lose our ferry. The Cromarty Estate, which owns them, did not appear to have any plans.

So the CCDT negotiated to lease them and seek financial support for their required restructuring. At the suggestion of the Highland Council, the proposed campsite for motor homes at Whitedykes was included in the plan. This was to qualify under the terms of the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund (RTIF).

This proved successful with £300,000 due to come Cromarty's way. The CCDT has also just been informed that Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) has confirmed it will contribute £50,000 to the slipways/campsite project.

That figure had been earlier proposed by HIE. But given the financial pressure the agency is under due to a significantly reduced budget from the Scottish Government, CCDT directors are much relieved that HIE will be as good as its word.

Contributions from SSE, Global Energy, the Port of Cromarty Firth and Balnagown Estate have also now been confirmed.

As newsletter readers will be aware, progress on the campsite had stalled due to planning issues raised within Highland Council. These related to access to the site and the trees that would need to be felled.

We have now heard from our architect, who says that the council are now considering our proposals to address these issues, and we can expect a decision in the not too distant future.

In other news, we haven't forgotten the barn. We have been working on some ideas recently and hope to have a proposal to put forward in the next few weeks. Meanwhile work will soon be carried out to remove the huge growth of ivy which is damaging the stonework.

And finally we need to hold our AGM in the next couple of months. The date and details will be circulated once we have decided what format it should take this year.

Poignant Commemoration



From Judith McDonald:

'On 6th August the Cromarty Peace Group gathered in beautiful sunshine at Cromarty Harbour to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the nuclear bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Several passers-by joined in this poignant event, which was attended by about 50 people.

Patsy Thomson welcomed everyone and introduced her husband Sandy who read a joint statement from the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Following on from this Alison Seller led us in an Act of Remembrance whereby all present were given a rose by Ben Flieger (10), a pupil at Cromarty Primary School. Each rose carried a label which said "August 1945 – In remembrance of the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and in hope of a world free of nuclear bombs" and people were asked to either take it home for reflection, pass it on to someone else or leave it in a prominent place in the village for others to see. While this was happening Kyle Cameron (15), award winning piper from Rosemarkie played a Piobaireachd, Lament. Kyle, whose mother Hanako is from Japan, had been taken to visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and the Genbaku (A-bomb) dome when he was 7 years old.

Annie Ratcliffe was invited to talk about a picture she had brought along. She described how 50 years ago her nephew, then aged 15, had asked her to embroider some words by poet Colin Rowbotham. The words of the poem, "Einstein's eyes were filled with tears when he heard about Hiroshima, Mr. Tamihi had no eyes left to show his grief", are very powerful. Having been in storage all these years this picture is now going to be on display in St Regulus Church in Cromarty.

Simon Evans ended the event by reminding us that while it is important to remember the events of 75 years ago, it is also important to recognise that nuclear weapons are not a thing of the past. In Scotland we house the UK's four nuclear submarines at HM Naval Base Clyde, Faslane, less than 30 miles from Glasgow. As we gathered, at least one Trident nuclear submarine would be at sea, carrying up to 8 missiles and 40 nuclear warheads, each one potentially more powerful than the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Progress towards global disarmament has been made, but it is slow. In 2017 the United Nations adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear

Weapons, currently ratified by 44 of the 50 states required to bring it into law. Simon urged us to work together towards the day when the wellbeing of all men and women of every country and every tradition becomes our main concern so that the indiscriminate destruction threatened by nuclear weapons would be unthinkable for us.

Thank-you to Carsten Flieger for taking the photographs.'



Cinema Update

The Cromarty Cinema is opening in a carefully managed capacity over the next 12 weeks. Early stages will involve private rentals (for groups of up to 18), with systems in place which ensure that the cinematic experience fits the current situation. Friends of the Cinema, or constituted organisations are now able to rent the cinema. So look out your favourite DVDs or games console and bask in the comfort of a state-of-the-art cinema!

HIRING

If you would like to hire the cinema please download a Booking Form from the Society's [website](#). For enquiries about booking the cinema, you can also message 07841 591 873.

The web site also has information on and an application form on becoming a Friend.

Fraser Mackenzie



Some familiar faces 'manning' the Box Office before it was forced to close.

Middleton Trust

Organisations with an idea for a project or activity to benefit the young people of Cromarty & District are reminded that the deadline for applications to the Middleton Trust Awards is **Friday 11th September 2020**.

Further information and a simple application form can be found at www.cromartylive.co.uk or contact the secretary, Gillian McNaught on 01381 600337/ middltontrust@gmail.com

No Peeking This Autumn

For obvious reasons Gluren bij de Buren won't be happening this year. The popular event normally heralds the start of the 'cosy' season - offering folk the chance to gather together in people's living rooms and enjoy live entertainment. Current restrictions make this impossible. As an alternative it would be nice to collect people's memories of past events and maybe 're-live' some of your experiences. You can do this by submitting a comment through the 'contact us' page of the website: www.glurenbijdeburen.co.uk

Bonfire and Fireworks Night 2020

Because of the current uncertainty surrounding Covid-19 and not knowing what the situation will be in November, the Bonfire and Fireworks committee has reluctantly decided not to run the event this year.

There are a number of reasons for this. For example, planning for the event normally starts in June and fund raising has to commence around then. We have been unable to hold a quiz night or other fund raising events so the finances aren't sufficient to run the evening on the normal scale. Businesses that normally contribute are suffering in the present climate, so would be unlikely to be able to help financially as they normally do. The added burden this year is obtaining the three-year licence that is required to hold such events and the cost is approaching £500 for that alone. We rely on donations of cash on the night, collected in buckets and that process alone goes against safe Covid protocols, meaning even less money in the pot.

Nobody knows what the situation will be regarding social distancing in November and although outside gatherings will be permitted in Stage 4, there is no guarantee when that will be. Many people are still reluctant to socialise in large groups and if the normal food and refreshment stalls are running, that may require additional stewarding as well.

After last year's abandoned event because of the shocking weather, the committee was really keen to put on a first-class display this year, but the situation as explained above has rather limited the ability to do so. We'll just have to aim for something really special in 2021!

Ping Pong Finds An Alternative



One event that has got around the restrictions is the Monday Table Tennis Group. Weather permitting sessions will take place (10.30 - 12.00) at the outdoor facilities in Resolis. Everyone welcome!

And finally...

It's been a quiet month for news and disheartening to have to report the cancellation of events as we head into autumn. But it's good that the children are back at school and to hear the sounds of them playing together at break times. The businesses are benefitting from an influx of 'staycationers' and the hope is that the town will continue to see visitors through to October, and beyond. For the locals reality is: the next few months are going to be hard. But Cromarty has proved itself capable of coping. If we continue to look out for one another and remember that little acts of kindness make a big difference, we will surely find our way. Until the next time... stay safe!

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

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