



April 2021

Cromarty and District Community Council

The CDCC writes:

A Thanks

Many people have worked amazingly to help us get through the last 12 months. At their latest meeting, the Community Council wanted to minute their thanks on behalf of the residents of Cromarty to the Cromarty Medical Practice, and all their staff, for their amazing work and support over this last year of the pandemic, particularly for their great work in getting so many residents vaccinated before the rest of Scotland!

In addition, thanks were also minuted to the Conon Bridge Pharmacy, who have delivered prescriptions direct to Cromarty doorsteps free of charge throughout this turbulent year, often at short notice and always with a smile. They have even been spotted delivering in an electric vehicle... healthier for everyone!

When Will the Victoria Hall Open?

The Hall has now been closed by the pandemic for over a year. That is a long time without an important community asset that has often been the place to bring us together. Obviously, that has not been possible as the Scottish Government seeks to protect the lives of everyone. But, there is a light at the end of the tunnel!

On Thursday 6th May the Hall will be used as a polling station. While following the law and guidelines to keep folk safe, this is going to be a test of how to use the

Hall in the future. Those who vote there on that day will start to get a feel for how we can use the building. It will be different! As a result of the experience, we shall conduct a review that will result in the C&DCC discussing a potential 'roadmap' to reopening at their meeting on 31st May 2021. By then, the Scottish Government will also have made further decisions for easing beyond the middle of May. Thank you for your patience.

Inner Moray Firth Development Plan

The Community Council is preparing the final draft of its submission to the Highland Council as part of the long term planning process for Cromarty and its surroundings. Obviously, individuals can submit their own thoughts, views and suggestions directly through the portal <https://consult.highland.gov.uk/kse/event/35403>, but if you wish the C&DCC to consider anything for inclusion in the official community response, please email any views to cromartydistrictcc@gmail.com. Thank you.

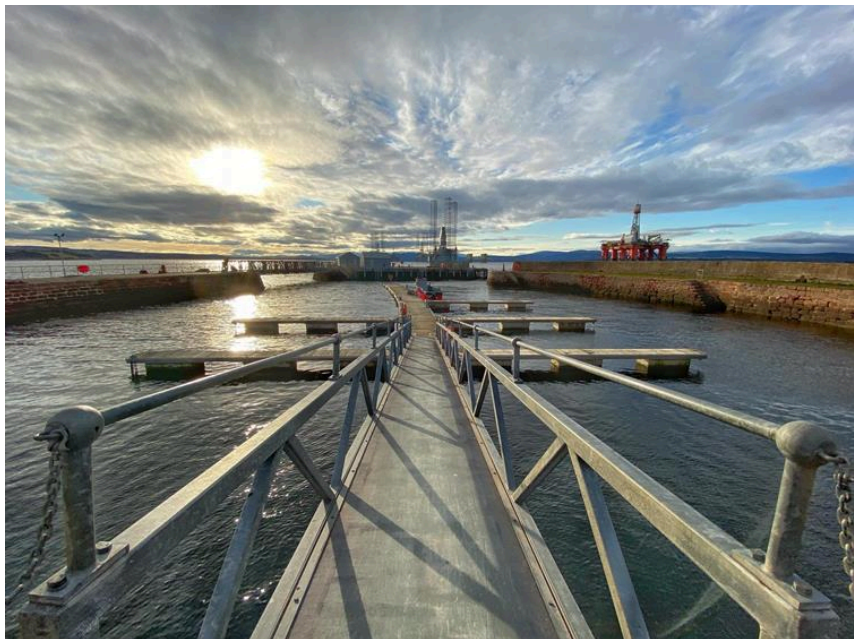
Cromarty Youth Café has an Outdoor Home!

Following funding from the Scottish Rural Action Fund, the Youth Café now has an outdoor home. Its first outing will be on Easter Monday, for a short Easter Programme, when the restrictions ease to allow young folk to participate in group activities outdoors. The gazebo cannot be missed, with its bright appearance, and will provide essential cover and protection from the often unpredictable Cromarty weather. Please remember that these rules will have eased for under 18s only, not adults. But watch this space for news about a much larger Recovery Summer Programme, which is being planned for when life gets back to being a bit more *normal*.



Cromarty Youth Café's outdoor home.

Cromarty "Marina"



Colin Dickie writes:

It remains a busy time at the harbour as we ready for summer. The repairs to the worst of the poor surfaces on West and Mole piers are now complete; much more was undertaken than originally envisaged as we took the decision to extend work on the Mole to reinstate as much of the sandstone surface as was practical and financially tolerable. Concrete and tar have been removed where possible. We hope that when you venture down the piers, you will agree that it looks all the better for it! The unevenness of the surface has been much reduced, allowing greater access to the Mole area in particular. Our thanks to our funders in: Marine Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland, FCC Communities Fund, Cromarty Trust, The Friends of Cromarty Harbour and support from Highland Council. That area of the harbour is stabilised and hopefully secured for the benefit of future generations. No further such work is envisaged this year, although our thoughts have been drifting towards the East pier and what may need to be done there.

With the summer season approaching, the boats will soon be back in the water with newly expanded capacity due to the addition of three new pontoon fingers. We will be operating at full capacity. We have three new boats joining as the new capacity allows us to reduce our waiting list. It will be good to see the harbour so full.

Finally, I should clarify there is **no** truth in the rumour that we will be renaming Cromarty Harbour "Cromarty Marina"... It must just be the time of the year!



Mole repairs at the harbour

Cromarty Community Development Trust

Slipway

Thanks to some speedy work, we got the threat of ferry funding cuts into the ears of Councillors and the pages of newspapers; and the funding was saved for this year. But, we need to make sure the Council knows how important the ferry is to Cromarty, to the Black Isle and the wider north and east Highlands.

Cromarty is still the 'first refusal' buyer for a newer, 12 car ferry (the Isle of Cumbrae) once Calmac get their two new ones built and into their fleet.

Until then—fingers crossed with coming out of lockdown—the ferry will start running from May this year. Watch out for the ship arriving back up the Caledonian Canal from her winter quarters at Fort William!

The slipways will get a skoosh to clean off the slippery stuff and we'll have better signs up.

Remember, our lease says the slipways are for the Ferry, Ecoventures and Aberdeen University to use. Other boat users should launch into the harbour.

Campsite

We have the land. We have planning permission. We have done the wildlife survey. We are on the point of starting on the clearing of space. We are getting tenders for construction. We are costing off-the-shelf toilet/shower blocks. We're working on water and electricity connections. Slowly we are getting there, but there's a lot of detailed stuff to work through.

The campsite is for all of us to manage the camper vans coming to Cromarty and to create a job or two. **So if you can help with any of this, please get in touch— we don't want the Directors having to do everything.**

We also need bye-laws to control campervan parking elsewhere in the town, but this is where the Community Council has the powers.

Barn

The Gin ideas are developing (distilling?) nicely and we have just this week received something more specific, which we'll be looking at.

We've been in discussions with Scottish Water and SSE about the water and electricity supplies to the Old Dairy/Thrift Shop: we're being charged for water and we don't use it, we've got no electricity but we want it. We're fixing these things. As soon as we're allowed, the Thrift Shop can re-open and everyone who has been sorting out their stuff can find new homes for it.

Housing

We keep trying to get a reply from Albyn Housing re. our offer to buy the land off them and for the community to take forward the housing development ourselves. We're also in touch with the Communities Housing Trust on the same issue.

We need new housing so that Cromarty families can build their future here and keep our school open. We'll keep trying. Anyone want to help take this on?

New Directors

We advertised for new directors to join the team and had a couple of quick responses. We're following these up (sorry for delay!). Anyone else interested?

Inner Moray Firth Development Plan (Main Issues Report)

We've drafted a response, which we can share with interested members. The consultation has been extended to the end of April, so if members want to add to it, please get in touch with Sheila Currie.

Cromarty Courthouse

Mary Bowers writes:

Our new heating system is working well and the Courthouse is now a more comfortable temperature. This is good for the building, levelling out the fluctuations in

both temperature and humidity and it will also make a big difference to those working with us in years to come.

Installing a new sound system means there will now be: a splendid series of 10 Sir Thomas Urquhart monologues, covering everything from his very progressive views about witchcraft to the joy of mathematics; a dialogue between a Victorian jailer and our Cell B prisoner; and two late C18th trial scenes upstairs in the Courtroom, one based on an act of vandalism with a strange motive and the other on a riot in a local alehouse.

Author Vee Walker and Director Jon Palmer are close to casting all roles for these new Cromarty Courthouse soundscapes. Vee has let me know that one more man, to act as an extra and an understudy to the main roles, would be ideal, **so please get in touch if you can help**. No need to learn lines, just to be able to deliver them convincingly in a local accent. The recordings will take place in Inverness as soon as it is legal/safe to do so with further entertaining rehearsals on Zoom in between.

We are also working on developing a new website with Plexus Media. Thanks go to Liz Broumley for all the effort she is putting into this. An important area of the content will be our Learning Zone.

Vee's scriptwriting for our "re-voicing" has led her to draw on Cromarty's historic Fishertoun dialect. Back in 2008, a booklet was produced (by Highland Council/Am Baile and a number of Cromarty residents), which mapped as much remaining Fishertoun dialect as could be recalled at the time. With kind permission of Am Baile, this booklet is now being digitised in such a way that anyone can translate from English into Fishertoun, which has never been possible before. This will be presented on our new website. It is hoped there will also be audio files alongside each word or phrase so that future generations know how to pronounce each word too (**volunteers for recording these words/phrases most welcome**). We are grateful to Moira Munro, Clem Watson and all those who have expressed interest and had input via the Cromarty Community Facebook Group.

The Learning Zone content will be available online to any school but will be particularly handy for Resolis and Cromarty Primary Schools. **We'd welcome parent**

(and other) volunteers who would be prepared to work with us to help deliver some of our exciting new ‘Crumbs of Justice’ (classroom mock trials staged at different periods in Cromarty’s history) and other activities in the classroom. Full training provided and PVG advantageous.

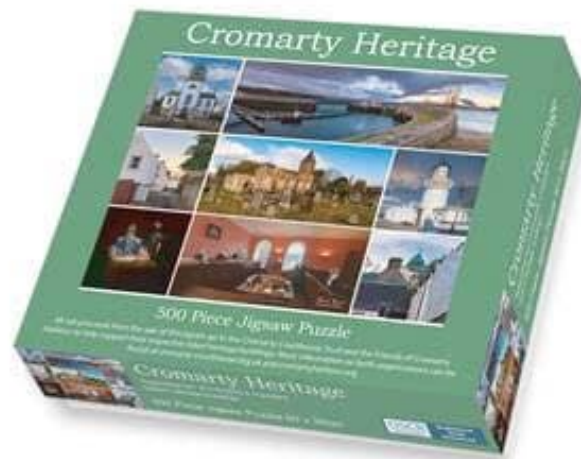
Recently the archives team at Scotland’s People (Scottish Government Archives) have released all the Kirk Session records online, including those for Cromarty. Some are easier to read than others. We would love to know more about what’s in there, **so if you fancy helping out by reading and transcribing these records, which are so important for Cromarty’s history, please let us know.** You will need to create a (free) account here: www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk and then look for the records within their Virtual Volumes. Once ‘in’, the reference you need for Cromarty is CH2/672. Please contact Vee direct for any further guidance on **077789 22407** – it would be great to get a regular small group of volunteers together for this kind of useful research during the winter months and take a methodical approach.

We Hope to See You Soon

We are planning to open the Courthouse in May— a date still to be decided. In advance of this public opening, we hope to arrange a private view for all those involved in the project soundscape recordings.

We can’t wait for you to come in and see/hear what’s new, and then spread the word to friends, family and visitors! Keep your eye out for the next newsletter, social media and posters for a more precise timescale.

A Cromarty Jigsaw!



The Cromarty Courthouse has collaborated with Friends of Cromarty Harbour to produce an exclusive Cromarty Heritage 500 piece jigsaw, featuring the Courthouse and the cultural heritage of Cromarty. The jigsaw will be available in April (cost will be £20 with free local delivery) and can be pre-ordered by sending an email to courthousecromarty@gmail.com. Both the Courthouse and Friends of Cromarty Harbour are very excited by this project... and they hope you are too!

Community Sharing Larder



Jill Stoner writes:

The community larder has been open now for three months and is there for everyone to use. A team of volunteers restock it seven days a week and we can also make deliveries to those who would like it.

The larder is being well used. Thank you to the bakery and to Rose Farm for their continued donations and to everyone who has left donations in the box next to the larder or given CCP money. We have also received donations from the local Masonic lodges and supplies of food from Highland Council. Thanks also to the Cromarty Arts Trust for giving us the use of Ardyne Studio for storage purposes.

As the growing season gets going, perhaps some allotments and gardens may have surplus produce that could be shared? All donations gratefully received.

This is about the community helping each other to get through this difficult time. Just as I have said before, none of us know when our moment of need will come. Please do get in touch with the Care Project if we can help in any way. All enquiries are dealt with confidentially. Call or text Jill on 07850 889 014 or email info@cromartycareproject.co.uk (Jill Stoner, Chair CCP)

The Middleton Trust

Gillian McNaught writes:

The Middleton Trust is pleased to announce that this year's funding will be distributed in April to support four groups providing a range of sporting, arts and educational activities for young people in Cromarty over the coming year, including **Cromarty Tennis & Sports Club, Cromarty & Resolis Film Society, Cromarty Community Rowing Club** and **Cromarty Youth Café**.

The Trustees wish the beneficiaries all the best for their current programmes and look forward to continuing to make available funding to support all youth in the IV11 area in future years.

Applications will be welcomed later this year for Middleton Trust awards in 2022/23 and dates and more information for this will be announced shortly.

For further information, please contact the Middleton Trust Secretary, Gillian McNaught middletontrust@gmail.com

The Adventures of Cromarty Sunday Club

Becky Richmond writes:

The Cromarty Lockdown Banners

Following our invitation to all the children and young people of Cromarty to design a piece of bunting with words and pictures depicting things they are looking forward to doing once lockdown restrictions are lifted, the primary school offered to take packs and use the activity as an art session. We made up the banners and delivered them to the school along with the fabric pens, where they sat over the weekend, ready for the children to use once they all returned to school on the 15th March. This collaboration with the school, along with children from the nursery, resulted in almost 60 children taking part! Sleepovers, visiting family, swimming and not having to wear masks were common themes, alongside going on holiday and shopping.

The lovely, colourful banners are now in situ on lamp posts linking the Primary School, St Regulus and the West Church. We hope you enjoy the banners and that they bring a wee bit of colour to the town.

Many thanks to Mrs. Dinwoodie and the teachers of Cromarty Primary for giving all the primary children a chance to design a banner.

Sunday Club Easter Egg Trail: Sat 3rd April

On Saturday 3rd April, we will be running an Easter egg Trail from 2-4pm. Join us at St. Regulus and we will send you off with a quiz sheet and clues to hunt for. On your return to St. Regulus there will be Easter treats for all those who successfully complete the quiz. All children

This position is full-time and the rate of pay is dependent on experience.

Calluna

Due to our selection of gorgeous homeware items at Calluna, we are able to reopen on April 5th! We have brand new fluffy pink and grey cushions from CHALK, a range of coastal-inspired crockery, decorative furnishings, CHALK linen aprons and all the new Scottish Collections candles & diffusers from Isle of Skye Candles. All our new Spring and Summer clothing and accessories collections are in and we are thrilled with the bright & cheery colours and lovely styles that await you! Lots of what we have is currently available at www.callunacromarty.co.uk with free delivery within Cromarty.

We are really excited about welcoming all our lovely customers back to Calluna - we do ask that customers continue to follow our COVID guidelines by limiting 3 persons at a time, wearing face masks and using the hand sanitiser when entering the shop. Thank you for your support.

James Support Group: Gifts and Cards

Patrick Mullery writes:

James Support Group has launched their Charity Gifts & Cards Shack located at Jalidor in Bayview Crescent. It is open from 9.30am to 5.30pm every day and is filled with handmade goodies, including easter cards, birthday cards, gift cards, and cards for many occasions. There are knitted headbands & easter chicks, easter 'hatching' eggs, different knitted dogs and more! All items are lovingly made by Wendy with all proceeds going to our charity. Hand sanitiser is available as are lovely candy-striped bags for your cards!



Some of the gifts and cards located at the Jalidor in Bayview Crescent

Cromarty Arts Trust Update

Georgia Macleod writes:

We ran a hugely successful virtual Ukulele Weekend in March with 139 bookings and participants joining in from all over the world! But while it's great to know what we can achieve online, we're looking forward to welcoming folk back into our venues in May for the start of a busy socially-distanced programme of courses.

So... no workshops or events scheduled for April, but please do take a look at our website, www.cromartyartstrust.org.uk for what's coming up next. For instance, there are still spaces on our popular BEGINNERS SEWING weekend, 8th & 9th of May, for complete newbies or those with rusty skills that need a reminder. We can even supply the sewing machine!



Last year's Sewing Weekend

Victoria Park Lights

Laura Shepherd and Phoebe Fox write:

On Monday 22nd March we took down the fairy lights in the park (due to tree growth) but we intend to put them back up before winter. There is still some money left in the Gala fund so we will fix and add more! Massive thank you to our volunteer helpers: Louisa Garrett, Jenny Henderson, Graham Fox and our youngsters Gregor, Jackson and Cody. A special mention to Jackie Morrison, our electrician, for all his help.

Community Beds!



Volunteers giving the community beds a spring clean in the sunshine.

These beds outside Forsyth House are looked after by the Cromarty Allotments and Gardens Society, and the fruit later on in the year is for anyone to take. Yum!

That's All for Now...

Who'd have thought there'd be so much going on in this little town during a fairly quiet month?

That's all we've got for now but stay tuned for next month's newsletter. Thanks for reading! Here's to brighter and lighter days.



A figure in Cromarty Courthouse smiles and gives the big thumbs up: it's spring!

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 Catriona Mallows, Jon Palmer, Jeremy Price and Laura Shepherd.

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

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