



**May 2021**

## **Cromarty & District Community Council**

*The CDCC writes:*

### **Cromarty Needs You! Litter Pickers Ahoy**

Urgent call for volunteers of all ages! With the visitor season upon us, we are now assembling litter picking teams to help keep the town clear. If you are interested in helping, please contact Peter Ratcliffe on [cromartydistrictcc@gmail.com](mailto:cromartydistrictcc@gmail.com) and he will contact you. For full results of the recent Cromarty and Black Isle litter surveys, please see [Cromarty Live](#).



## Some Good News for Cromarty Young Folk



An example of a pumptrack, with one hopefully coming to a town near you... (aka, Cromarty!)

Following a great proposal and a full project report from the Community Council Youth Member, Gregor Fox, our plans are well advanced to build a brand new mountain bike pumptrack on the old skatepark area, in Victoria Park. We await the final legal go ahead, but hope to have a start date for this project in the next newsletter. Funding will come from a number of sources, both in cash and in-kind, so don't be surprised if you are approached to support this great new amenity for young of all ages in Cromarty.

**Q:** *So, what is a 'pumptrack'?*

**A:** *A looped path designed for bikes featuring crests (rollers) and banked corners (berms). Much safer and more fun for beginners than a skatepark! Suitable for all levels of rider and all types of bikes. Progressive, so can be enjoyed by both beginner & experienced rider for years. Ideally, ridden without pedalling; it teaches balance and fundamental bike skills, is low maintenance and can be made to look aesthetically pleasing, as features are relatively small.*

Plus, a little bit more good news from us: following another initiative from Gregor, we can tell you the Highland Council has agreed to organise the reinstatement of the goalposts, on the football pitch, in

Victoria Park, after they were accidentally knocked down last year. So it might well be a good summer!

### **Highland Council and Weedkilling in Public Places**

Following some social media coverage of recent inappropriate weed control examples, Cllr Craig Fraser has received both an apology and some helpful guidance from the Highland Council:

Firstly, the apology: "Unfortunately this was Highland Council that actioned the spraying. I have spoken to the Officer looking after this Ward, and the area has been sprayed too wide with some possible drift of the chemical, resulting in a wider kill than we would like, or intend. She will instruct that the brown areas are strimmed off to ground level, which will make it look much easier on the eye."

**CF** - Discussed at length with **IJ** about community concerns and sought assurances this should not happen again and **IJ** agreed that weed killer will only be used in specific areas and will not be used around schools, sports grounds and play parks in-line with HC policy. **CF** explained that the Links and the Park are used by families, with children and many dog walkers.

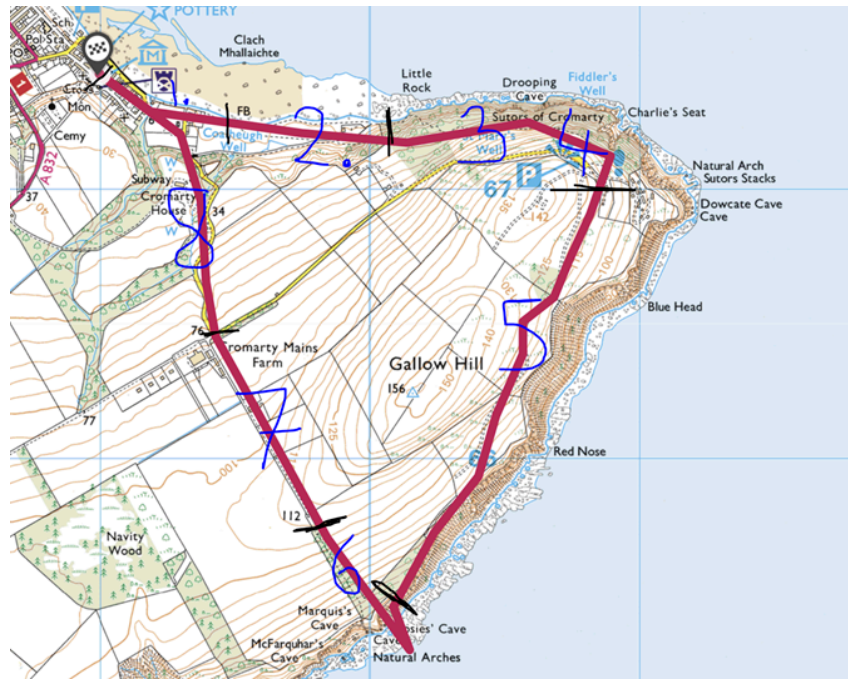
And then the guidance: "Members of the public should refrain from using hazardous chemicals in public places. Unlike Council operatives, they are unlicensed with no public liability insurance cover, do not have suitable protective clothing and are not trained. In addition, please refer to the following [link \(round up material safety data sheet\)](#)."

### **Cromarty Could Be Top of the Walks!**

BBC2 is making a series called 'Top of the Walks', which is a competition to find the most stunning walk in the UK. Unsurprisingly the Cromarty Coastal Route/McFarquhar's Bed route has been selected as a contender!

No plot spoilers but the producers, Cardiff Productions, will be here to film the episode between 1st and 9th May. They have been liaising with local people to make sure it

goes smoothly and show viewers how lucky we are to live here.



### **It's That Time of Year Ahead: Seagull Do's and Dont's...**

For Highland Council guidance, please see [here](#) (more info also on [Cromarty Live website](#))



And finally, from the CDCC, an update on the East Quayside Development at Nigg:



## Cromarty & District Community Council

### Update on East Quayside Development Nigg

- ❖ All permissions for the 225m long quay have been granted.
- ❖ Construction is due to start the week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and finish in 14 months.
- ❖ Dredging and the construction of a temporary causeway will start on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 21.
- ❖ Piling will start on May 21<sup>st</sup> and finish on November 21<sup>st</sup> – this will be noisy and noise monitoring will happen during the test pile in May.
- ❖ Piling will happen between 0700-1900 Monday-Friday and 0700-1300 on Saturdays.

## Cromarty Community Development Trust

*The CCDT writes:*

### Slipways and Ferries

The ferry will start from **1 June** this year. Please share this news and any social media posts etc. that we or Highland Ferries put out. We want folk to remember there is a ferry and it's for both locals and visitors! And the new slipways will make it much easier to drive on and off, and should mean far fewer cancellations due to weather that even Ronald can't overcome...

### Campervans - The Story So Far

Cromarty has too many campervans parking outside people's homes. We want visitors, but we wish that it is managed well. This is why the Development Trust is building a campervan park at Whitedykes for the community. After much consultation, funding applications, comments by Highland Council

etc., planning permission was issued earlier this year and the Trust now owns the land west of the Industrial Units.

We're about to start work on-site and some tree removal (as agreed with Highland Council and tree experts), with final details of where the toilet/shower block and van waste disposal are being sorted.

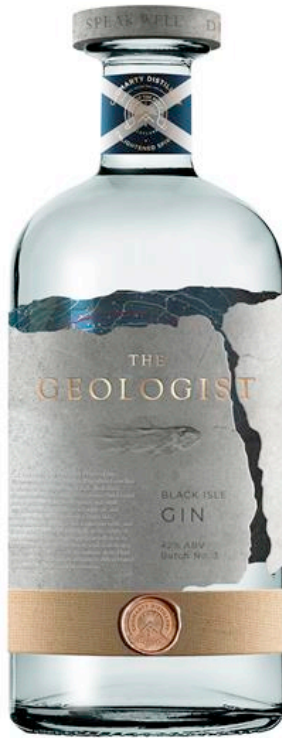
This has been a **huge** amount of work by a small group of Trust members and the next stages need more people to make it a success:

- *Supporting/helping supervise the construction work.*
- *Working out how we operate the site, how we collect fees and keep it clean and tidy.*
- *Creating jobs to manage the site and managing those people.*
- *Promoting the site to customers (website, social media etc).*
- *Planting up new trees and hedges to screen the site. This would be a great volunteer project!*
- *Managing camper vans coming to Cromarty – signs, byelaws, discouraging fly parking.*

We can make this something for Cromarty to be proud of, but this needs many more heads and more ideas to make it right. If you've got ideas or want to see this work well, get in touch and be part of it! Have a look [here](#) on our Facebook page or speak to any of the Directors: [cromartydevelopmenttrust@gmail.com](mailto:cromartydevelopmenttrust@gmail.com)

### **Finally, the Barn and Dairy**

The Sutor Gin people have been working on the taste and branding for their new Cromarty Gin range, launching "The Geologist" – building on Hugh Miller of course - and have also just launched their new [website](#).



They are keen to move the distilling to Cromarty in due course, *possibly* based in the Townlands Barn, with *possible* storage for this gin in Cromarty before then.

The Trust is very keen to work with this company to bring production to Cromarty, establish the proposed visitor facility and so create jobs and community income, as well as preserving and giving a new use for the Barn.

Cromarty Distilling are inviting people to buy shares in it. The Trust is not involved in the share-issue or the creation and marketing of Cromarty Gins; so it is completely up to individuals to decide if they want to buy shares in this new venture.

## **Black Isle Wellbeing Week: 24-28th May**

*Jon Palmer writes:*

Plans are coming together for a week of activities from 24th-28th May.

The focus is wellbeing and what it means for us in the Black Isle. There will be a series of 'conference'-style

sessions (online) on the Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. The themes are Young People, Befriending, and Looking After Ourselves. On the Tuesday and Thursday evenings there will be two live-streamed sessions showcasing various clubs and community groups in the Black Isle doing amazing things to support people's health and wellbeing. Cromarty folk are sure to be featured! So, **keep the dates in your diary** and look out for the full programme which will be publicised in the next couple of weeks. This is a chance to celebrate what is currently going on and also to plan for the future - creating better networks and getting more funding!

If you want to get involved in helping put the event on, contact [jon.palmer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jon.palmer@hotmail.co.uk) Or, if you know someone who might like to participate but can't do 'online', contact Patrick Mullery [p.mullery61@gmail.com](mailto:p.mullery61@gmail.com)

## **Cromarty Harbour Trust**

*Colin Dickie from the Harbour writes:*

The Cromarty Harbour is run by a small group of volunteers who freely give their time and energy to look after, improve and sustain the facility for the benefit of both users and the wider community. From previous reports you will know that we have been successful in tapping into a number of funders to help get us into a position to make the harbour more resilient and robust. Much has been achieved and it wouldn't have been possible without someone stepping up to talk to funders, identifying opportunities and developing programmes of work. In our case that largely fell to Pat Haynes. After five years and £800,000 of investment in our harbour, Pat has decided to leave our group. She will be sorely missed, but I am most grateful to her for her huge efforts, support and guidance. Few know that Pat has also been a driver in the personal fundraising efforts via commissioning our Harbour booklet and developing a series of greeting cards, all of which will have raised something in the order of £3,000. So, **thank you Pat!**

In other harbour news, repairs to the West pier and Smeaton Mole were completed in March. However, you may have noticed that the lime mortar in the Mole area has not cured and as such is now in need of some

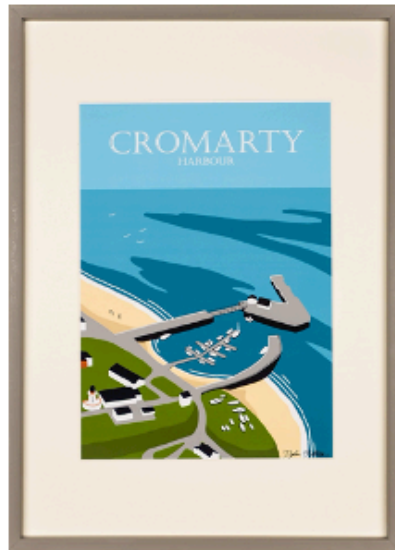
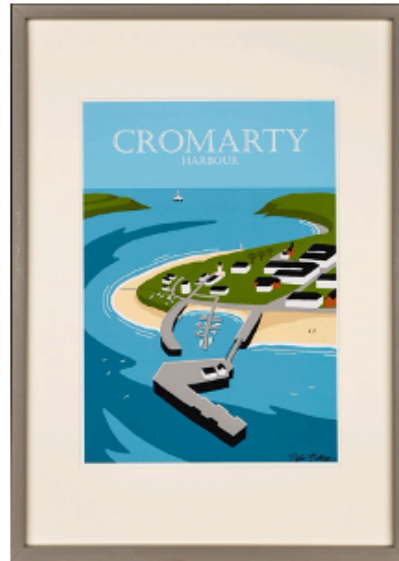
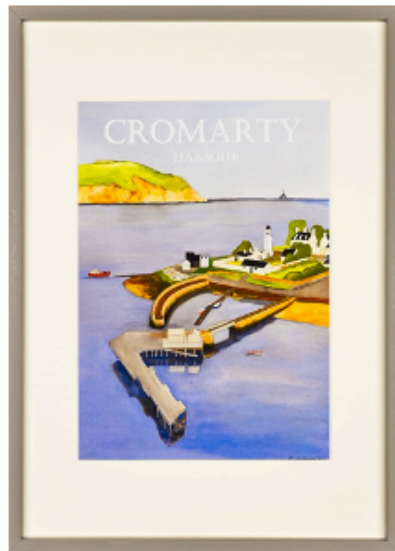


remediation. We are working with our consultant engineers and contractor to rectify this over the coming weeks. In meantime please do take care when walking in this area.

Commercial activity has increased with the arrival (and temporary departure) of Toplander and Pegasus providing much needed funds. These workboats are here to service the Aberdeen harbour blocks and the mussel farm, respectively. The ferry is due on berth next month and leisure users will also now start to fill up the harbour for the summer months. We have managed to increase capacity over the winter, courtesy of having installed additional pontoons which themselves have created some challenges with the volunteer team - adding new holding brackets and chain work to cope with the combined effects of weather and tide - as well as clearing some obstructions away. It will be great to see our harbour full again!

The Friends of Cromarty Harbour charity are again active on the fundraising front. Just newly updated is the booklet, 'Cromarty Harbour - A Brief History'. The price remains at £5 and is available for purchase from our [website](#) and local shops. For those that bought previously, please download the newly updated pages (42 & 43) from our website at no cost.

Lastly, some further fundraising news! The charity has developed a series of A3 posters along a retro theme. Three styles and views are available and thumbnail images are shown below. These which will be available to order from today. Prices are £10 each (£18 for two) in a tube or £16 each (£30 for two) in a A3 grey frame (no mount). Please note that the thumbnails show the images as A4 within the A3 frames, whereas the prints will be A3 within an A3 frame (just a timing thing!). Advanced orders can be secured via our [website](#). Sales from local shops will be available in early May. As always, all funds raised by the charity go towards the repair and restoration of Cromarty Harbour.



Newly launched (get it...?!) posters available to buy, with proceeds going towards the Cromarty Harbour.

## **Cromarty Bowling Green**

*Alex Wilson writes:*

Cromarty Bowling Green will be re-opening for play on Saturday 1st May at 2.00pm when the first jack will be bowled. It's a perfect opportunity for people to come along and have some fun and exercise... and maybe a little bit of competition!

We've spent a lot of money improving the playing surface during lockdown so come and play and enjoy. All will get a warm welcome!

## **The Cromarty Courthouse**

*Mary Bowers writes:*

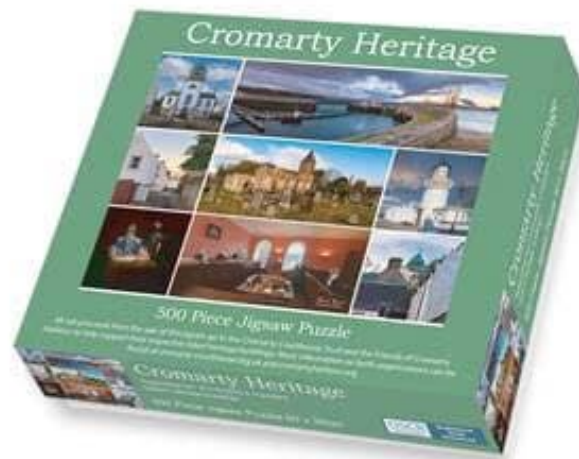
The Courthouse garden will open again on Saturday 1 May. The garden gate will be left open so that you can come and find a spot of calm and check out how our flowers and orchard are coming on. It will remain open to all through the summer and autumn.

The museum itself will reopen on Saturday, 29 May and remain open through until Thursday, 30 September. Opening hours: 12.00am – 4.00pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. **Closed on Mondays and Fridays.** However, we will open on the following Bank Holiday Mondays - 31 May, 2 August and 30 August. As usual, admission is free to all (but remember that we rely on donations!).

Many of you know that our main focus, during lockdown and restrictions, has been to install a new digital sound system throughout the building and work with a local author to create scripts for a whole new soundscape within the museum. On your visit, you will encounter a journey through Highland justice, as experienced in our local parishes of Cromarty and Resolis. All our 'voices' are local people and we hope that they all have a great time at the various recording sessions this month!

Our temporary exhibition this year is named "Coastal Cromarty" and links with the Year of Coasts and Waters 20/21. It will include the sails made of collages, part of The Sea Inside project last year - a collaboration between the museum, local artists and the communities of Cromarty and Resolis. If you missed their brief outing in October last year, make sure you don't miss them this time!

Special Note: **The Courthouse Shop will be open on Saturday 8th May from 10 to 12 noon**, primarily for the sale of the new Cromarty Heritage jigsaw. This is a joint venture with Cromarty Harbour Trust and depicts various scenes including the Courthouse! A 'must' for all puzzlers!



## **Business News**

### **Sutor Creek**

We are open 9am-8pm Wednesdays through Sundays. Pop in to pick up your freshly ground coffee and fresh cakes from 9am. The deli is full of goodies including new products Honest Toil Virgin Olive Oil, Isle of Skye Sea Salt, Orkney Vinegars, Harris Gin (Click and Collect from [Sutor Creek](#)), Bojangles Truffles and Unicorn Gingerbreads - lots for picnics and impromptu gatherings on the beach or hikes up the Sutors!

Our hot food is available 12-8pm and includes our new Crispy Chicken Burger (a definite keeper on the menu), beer battered Fish & Chips, a seasonal fish dish, vegetarian options and all our wood-fired pizzas - everything made fresh to order. Free delivery available within Cromarty Friday - Sunday 5-7.30pm.

We still have our Pay It Forward scheme in place and want to thank everyone who has contributed. We have provided lots of meals to folk throughout the community and hope that we can keep it going for those that need it.

### **Calluna**

We are delighted to be back and open daily 10-5pm on Church Street. Clothing brands include CHALK, SugarHill Brighton, ICHI, Great Plains and Brakeburn. Sizes range

from 6-20 and our team are there to help you find the right piece for your budget and style. All our new Spring stock is in and our new Summer ranges are on the way - lots to see so come in and say hi!

## **The Emporium**

The Emporium has changed its ethos and is now focusing on stocking green gifts and toys. We had to explore new options for our space because we no longer have a coffee shop . As we feel it's important to be part of creating a sustainable, green future, we have used the space to stock on FairTrade, eco friendly items for kids. We also have well made wooden toys by Lanka Kade, eco friendly crocheted animals and baby items and vegetable based silicone sand toys, buckets and spades. We are phasing out plastic toys!

In addition, we have Scottish-made craft kits including knitting, crocheting, felting and cross stitch and many new craft books. We also have FairTrade gift items and our standard favourites like rainbow pottery, scarfs, candles, wide variety of cards and a Cromarty calendar for 2022.

Come in and see our new look!

## **Cromarty Arts Trust**

*Georgia Macleod writes:*

We're excited to be officially back OPEN and able to run courses and events and open our venues to hires once more! Things are booking up fast so please do get in touch if anything on our programme (see [here](#)) takes your fancy.

May Events:

- 2nd - Introduction to Willow Weaving - FULLY BOOKED
- 22nd & 23rd - Dressmaking - FULLY BOOKED
- 28th - Aurora Quartet concert - FULLY BOOKED
- 29th & 30th - Celtic Art Weekend - places available

## Accommodation

This year not only is the Cromarty Arts Trust accommodation available to those in the world of arts and education, but we are also opening our doors to friends and family looking to take a holiday or short break. The Old Brewery is the perfect venue for a long-overdue staycation for small groups, either catered or self-catered. Find out more on [this page on our site](#) and get in touch for bookings or queries: [info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk](mailto:info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk)



Events and Accommodation with the Cromarty Arts Trust

## Cromarty Community Markets

*Sheila Currie writes:*

Many of you are missing the monthly community markets provided by Transition Black Isle (TBI) at the Victoria Hall. So are we! We don't know yet when the Hall will be open again, when stallholders will be able to return or when you - the customers - will return. It's likely that we'll have to play it by ear and open up slowly and in stages. We'll let you know as soon as we know.

TBI pays for a Market Organiser to work with stallholders, the Victoria Hall Committee, other Black Isle Market organisers/TBI; and to oversee the market on the day. Louisa Garratt has been doing this for a while and has done a great job, but she has other commitments coming along. We'd like to thank her and also invite anyone who might be interested in taking on this role to speak to Louisa or to Sheila Currie to find out more: [sheilacurrie15@gmail.com](mailto:sheilacurrie15@gmail.com) or 07512 763538

TBI pays £150/month and much of the work (apart from the market Saturday) will work around the times when stallholders are available. This work would start in good time before the market will resume.

# Cromarty Cinema Update

*Fraser Mackenzie writes:*

With cinemas allowed to reopen from May 17th, we will be working with our volunteers and with Eden Court to determine opening again for public screenings and hires, in line with government regulations.

During the lockdown period the Cinema has, with the help of Aberdeen University Lighthouse Field Station, installed high quality video conferencing equipment which will allow the Cinema to broadcast and stream live conferences, training events etc. We hope to develop this facility and offering in partnership with other local businesses. Our first conferences are booked in for later this year.

We have appointed a part time Cinema Manager, Grazina Scuckaite, who has previously worked on events at Eden Court. Grazina will work with our volunteers on re-opening, running and developing the cinema. This post has been funded by ScreenScotland through our partnership with Eden Court.

Our partnership with Cromarty Primary School has been fully underway with pupils from Primary 6 & 7 meeting animators, developing research, analytical and literacy skills. Students have also been making films themselves as part of the process. *A celebration of reading* is core to the whole programme. Books have been purchased with project funds to work together and assess how text translates to film. Feedback from the school has been warmly enthusiastic with plans shaping up for the coming weeks.

Other cinema behind-the-scenes work includes weekly meetings of the Young Programmers who are working together to develop a special programme for the new Cromarty Community Cinema with funding support from the BFI FAN Film Exhibition Fund. Plans are still firming up plans for the summer – but there will be talks, Q+As, special screenings of shorts, artists' films, features and old classics on two key themes. More to follow on this!

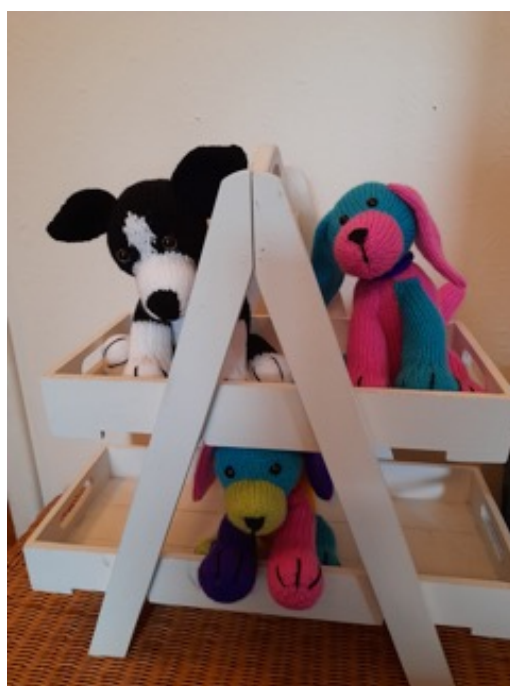
## James Support Group

*Patrick Mullery writes:*

This month sees Mental Health Week launch on 10 May. There are several things happening, including the launch of the 'Speaking of Suicide' podcast with a different one released every fortnight. Here is the [link for the trailer](#) featuring Wendy and myself. Many thanks to Pennie Latin.

James Support Group will have a gazebo on Sunday 16 May at 12 noon with hot chocolate, tea and coffee for any brave souls who would like to 'splash & raise cash' for our Charity. This will all be located at the slipway/ramp along Bayview Crescent.

Our 'charity cards & gifts shack' will again be available outside Jalidor on Bayview Crescent throughout that week, with a good selection including various knitted dogs including labradors, sausage dogs & schnauzers! All proceeds to help our charity.



Home-made knitted dogs! All proceeds go to James Support Group.

## Ocean Endeavour Rig on Mooring 12

*And a few local voices write:*



Since 20th April, numerous noise and vibration complaints have been raised, particularly by residents on the east side of the town, regarding the intrusive noise and vibration experienced since the Port of Cromarty Firth chose to locate the Ocean Endeavour rig on Mooring 12. As with previous rigs moored in this location, this has caused numerous incidents of sleep disturbance. If you have been impacted you may wish to lodge a complaint with Highland Council and with the Port of Cromarty Firth. It is quite straightforward to do this with the Council online [here](#).

The Port can be contacted at [Port@POCF.co.uk](mailto:Port@POCF.co.uk). In terms of filling in the online form this is a "non-domestic" incident and you need to provide an address for the source of the noise, which is a bit tricky for a rig at sea, but you could input the Port of Cromarty Firth's address, which is Port Office, Shore Rd, Invergordon IV18 0HD. The rig is supposedly meant to leave by 11 May.

## **That's All for Now...**

So long and thanks for all the fish. That's all we've got for now but stay tuned for next month's newsletter. Thanks for reading!

[Forward](#)

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 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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