



October 2021

Well, it's become a lot colder! Welcome to the latest edition of news and events happening in and around our bustling wee town. If you haven't seen them yet, here's a picture of some of the lovely sunflowers along the shore road. A vibrant splash of colour as the leaves on the trees begin to change...



Victoria Hall Re-Opening... Bat Not Yet!



The CDCC writes:

Following an initial reopening on 1st September, we have had to delay a full restart until essential maintenance is completed. This work includes new lighting, new fuse boards, replacement toilet fittings as well repairing damaged windows, rotten fire doors and damaged/vandalised security lights! An investment of nearly £10k which will hopefully be appreciated by all.

During the work, we have discovered that the Hall has a squatter! What looks like a soprano pipistrelle bat has been 'assisting' the electricians! The current thinking is that it is either called Victoria or Victor. We are currently contacting NatureScot for advice and guidance.

A new booking form is now available on the Hall's website www.thevictoriahall.net and this includes an Event Risk Assessment form. Bookings restart on 7th October, with increased cleaning protocols, but please note that bookings are only available to existing regular users and Cromarty residents.

Good News for the Young (and Those Young At Heart!)

The C&DCC are pleased to confirm two bits of good news. Firstly, the proposed MTB Pump Track is going ahead (see May Cromarty Live Newsletter for details – to be found on the Cromarty Live website

www.cromartylive.co.uk) and funding is now being secured!

And we have some positive news regarding the replacement goalposts (again see May Cromarty Live Newsletter for details). Funding has already been confirmed and these will be delivered to Cromarty during the w/c 18th October. Once erected, the 5 a-side goals will be moved to the Links.

All a bit later than first planned, but a massive help to the mental health of Cromarty young folk.

Using the Links for Community Events

As we think about being able to organise more community events, we thought it a good idea to remind folk that the C&DCC runs a booking system.

To avoid planning issues, on behalf of the landowner Cromarty Estate, we are allowed to open the Links for a limited number of occasions each year to facilitate community events.

The booking calendar is managed by Peter Ratcliffe who can be contacted either directly or on the C&DCC email cromartydistrictcc@gmail.com, with any proposal to hold such an event.

Development Trust Update

Things remain a bit in limbo on the campervan site at Whitedykes. We have received a response from Highland Council re the questions they came back to us with (after giving Planning Permission and us starting the process of tendering for contracts), so are going through what we need to do next.

Alex will be back on site to remove the felled timber and a few trees missed in springtime.

On a lighter note, we tried out the Cycling Without Age trike on the new Reeds Loop path. Here's Nigel Shapcott giving Jeremy Price a hurl, with Peter Ratcliffe from the Community Council.



If a trike can get along the path, anything can! And many thanks to John Whyte for offering to trim the vegetation.

We may be closer to getting electricity reconnected to the Friendly Shop/Old Dairy/Thrift Shop, having had to go to OFGEM to complain about SSE's slopey-shouldered approach to customer relations. Fingers crossed.

Delighted to see an excellent first season for the ferry on the new slipways – far fewer weather-related cancellations this year, thanks to the wider, longer and better-angled slips.

Cromarty Bonfire and Fireworks Night Update

The CBF Committee writes:

Having confidently announced that this year's event on Friday 5th November would definitely be happening, we very much regret to say that this is no longer the case. We have consulted with the Highland Council via the Community Council and have been advised that it is considered unwise to go ahead in the circumstances. We have also been informed that licences are not being renewed at present and as ours is currently in that queue, we cannot legally proceed. We're sorry to bring this disappointing news and hope for more positive times ahead.

A Thanks: Cromarty Youth Cafe

Fraser Thompson writes:

Biggest thanks to Wanda for submitting an application that has got us through to the voting stage in the Tesco Community Grants! Could you, your family and your friends possibly vote for Cromarty Youth Café from Oct 1st until December the 31st 2021 in the Dingwall Tesco Superstore?

The project with the highest number of votes across our region will receive £1,500 (or the amount that was requested up to this value), the second-placed project approx £1,000, and the third-placed project approx £500. So, if we are first in the vote, we will receive £1,500 to help our young people with some awesome activities. Thanks!

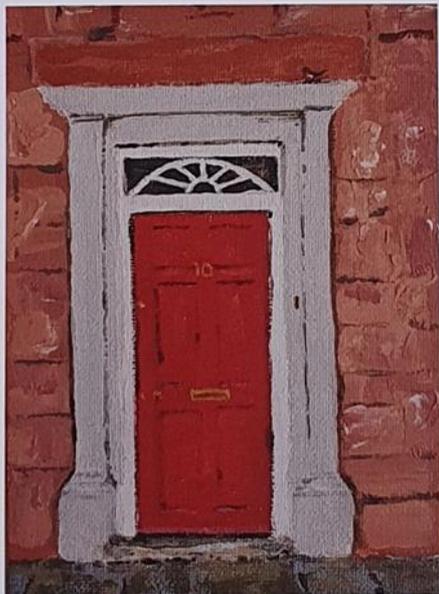
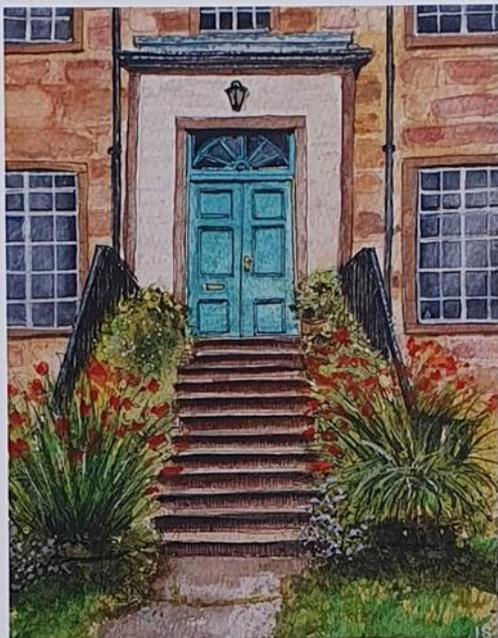
A Family Art Project: Doors of Cromarty



Lynn Semple writes:

My Dad, Iain J. Matheson, and family are from Cromarty (the Couper family) and have a flat in the town. They split their time between there and Glasgow (in normal circumstances) and I visit with my family as much as possible.

My Dad and I are both artists and, whilst stuck in Glasgow during the lockdown, decided we would paint our favourite Cromarty doors to help us cope with not being able to visit the place! We accumulated quite a few wee paintings so have created an online gallery on my website ([Gallery 3 – Lynn Semple Art](#)) and have had a limited run of calendars for 2022 made up. These are already available to purchase in Calluna so do take a peek if you fancy!





Business Updates

Sutor Creek

We are now open Wednesday to Sunday from 9am to 8pm for coffee, homemade cakes, deli, take-away and a fabulous selection of local beers, Craft Gins and Single Malts.

Graham is introducing weekly menu specials for the autumn and winter – follow us on Facebook, Instagram or see our menus at the Post Office or Sutor Creek.

Our Deli is bursting with goodies for the winter season – stop by and see what's new! We look forward to welcoming you to Sutor Creek.

We've had lots of questions about Christmas this year – we will be offering our Roast Turkey Plate with all trimmings again! Pre-order for collection on 23rd (all heating instructions included). We can also deliver if you need it dropped off – just let us know when you phone in the order. We will be closed December 24th to 26th and then open 27th to 31st before closing for a few weeks in January. Find us at www.sutorcreek.co.uk or 01381 600 855

Royal Hotel

Wow, it's been a busy summer at the Royal! Huge thanks to everyone who has supported us since we reopened in May. Whether you've always been a regular visitor or just

discovering us for the first time; your support has been much appreciated during these difficult months. Thanks to the 'staycation' trend, it seems like Cromarty has never been busier and it's been great to welcome everyone to our wee town - from locals enjoying a day out to guests from all over the UK.

And if you haven't visited us yet, then autumn is the perfect time to pop in. You can expect a warm welcome should you choose to join us for lunch, dinner, drinks or just a coffee. Even on the coldest days, the Royal is always cosy thanks to our biomass boiler and log fires. Don't forget our public bar and conservatory are both dog-friendly so feel free to bring your pooch with you!

Our menus are full of freshly-prepared dishes, using local, seasonal produce, including beef from our family farm just five miles away at Udale - it doesn't get much more local than that! Our ever-popular Cullen Skink and haddock & homemade chips also deserve a mention here, as does our slow-cooked Sunday roast beef. Just remember to leave room for one of our homemade desserts or a liqueur coffee for afters...

Although social distancing rules have relaxed, covid obviously hasn't gone away so our tables are still well-spaced out. We are fortunate to have areas of the hotel which are naturally separate and we utilise these to ensure our guests feel as safe as possible.

Even though the traditional peak tourist season has passed, we are still busy and therefore ask that you book a table for lunch and dinner.

To give our team a well-earned break after a hectic summer, we will close on Sunday 7 November and reopen in December as in previous years.

I know it's early to mention the 'C' word, but following on from the success of last year's Festive Tasting Menus, we look forward to offering these again in the run-up to Christmas – it's a great excuse for our Head Chef Denis to show off his culinary skills. If you're interested in joining us, please get in touch for more details, or follow us on social media (@royalcromarty on Facebook & Instagram) for further information nearer the time. And speaking of Christmas, don't forget we sell gift vouchers which make great presents!

And finally... the Royal is still for sale – after nearly 12 years, it's time for me to move on, and either hand-over to someone else or explore different options for this historic building. It's a great-going business in an awesome part of the world, so if you or someone you know is interested in a new challenge with lots of potential, then please do get in touch.

Open Wednesday-Sunday from 11am for drinks, coffees & cakes. Lunch 12-2.30pm. Dinner 5.30pm-8pm. Contact us on 01381 600217 or info@royalhotel-cromarty.co.uk
Thanks for reading and hope to see you soon!

Calluna

We have loved seeing so many new local customers in Calluna! We are constantly working on introducing styles and brands that suit our Highland lifestyle with new stock arriving weekly. New ranges include a gorgeous range of scarves, hats and gloves just in for the colder months; lots of cosy jumpers & knits; jeans of all styles & colours; outfits for the festive season; and last but not least a new range of satin pyjamas which make a lovely present.

Our new jewellery collections from Scottish designers Alison More and Chris Lewis are absolutely stunning. For some colourful accessories, pieces from Hot Tomato and MyDoris collections are proving to be hugely popular.

To view a selection of what we have to offer visit us on www.callunacromarty.co.uk or phone 01381 600 464 if you need help finding something specific. Open daily 10am-5pm.

Shaken, Not Stirred: Cromarty Cinema



James Bond is back (and in Cromarty)! We're showing 'No Time to Die' on 16,17,18 and 19 October. Also of note is the epic new science fiction 'Dune', and for those with no fear of heights the "nerve-shredding" climbing film, 'The Alpinist', will start the month off (i.e. tonight!)

Tickets for all movies are available through the Eden Court website <https://eden-court.co.uk/> or at the Cinema in person 12-2 every Wednesday or from half an hour before each performance. Info on each of the films and the cinema can be found here: <https://cromartycinema.com/>



Cromarty Cinema

October 2021 Programme



Date	Time	Film	Rating	Duration
FRI 01/10	19:00	The Alpinist	12A	1h32
SAT 02/10	19:00	The Courier	12	1h52
SUN 03/10	15:00	When Tomatoes met Wagner	6+	1h12
FRI 08/10	19:00	The Many Saints of Newark	18	2h
SAT 09/10	11:00	Addams Family 2	PG	1h33
SAT 09/10	19:00	Klute	15	1h54
SUN 10/10	11:00	Addams Family 2	PG	1h33
FRI 15/10	19:00	No Time To Die	12A	2h43
SAT 16/10	19:00	No Time To Die	12A	2h43
SUN 17/10	15:00	No Time To Die (captioned)	12A	2h43
TUE 19/10	19:00	No Time To Die	12A	2h43
FRI 22/10	19:00	Rose Plays Julie	15	1h40
SAT 23/10	11:00	Shang-Chi and The Legend of Ten Rings*	12A	2h12
SUN 24/10	15:00	Balloon (subtitled)	12	1h42
TUE 26/10	19:00	Wildfire	15	1h25
FRI 29/10	19:00	Dune	12A	2h35
SAT 30/10	19:00	Dune	12A	2h35
SUN 31/10	15:00	Dune (captioned)	12A	2h35

Screenings marked * - TBC

Adults - £7.50 Under 26 - £5.00 Friends - £6.00

For info on all films, visit our website <https://cromartycinema.com/>

TICKETS + BOOKING

Tickets available **IN ADVANCE** via **Eden Court Box Office:** <https://eden-court.co.uk/booking-information> OR **Wednesdays in-person** from **12:00-2:00pm** at **Cromarty Cinema Box Office.**

SAFETY

Covid protocols in place for safety & comfort.

BECOMING A FRIEND

For info on Friend's Membership, visit our website.

www.cromartycinema.com

Harbour Access Road, Cromarty, IV11 8XZ admin@cromartycinema.com

Arts Trust Activities

Our October courses (Stone Lettering and Notebook Making) are now fully booked but any budding writers out there, please do take a look at the Creative Writing For All weekend course we still have places for in early November!

Tickets are still available for our two October concerts at the Stables:

Sunday 17th at 4pm - CONSONE QUARTET, £12.

Formed in 2012 at the Royal College of Music in London, the award-winning Consone Quartet are the first period instrument quartet to be selected as BBC New Generation Artists and are fast making a name for themselves with their honest and expressive interpretations of classical and early romantic repertoire.



Thursday 28th at 7.30pm - TIM KLIPHUIS TRIO, £15 Standard/£13 Conc. Their trademark brand of high-octane gypsy jazz and classical mash-ups will have you swinging in your seat. Featuring Tim Kliphuis (violin), Nigel Clark (guitar) and Roy Percy (bass). Played to a sell-out audiences in Scotland two years ago so get your tickets early!

As usual, get in touch via info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk or 01381 600354 check out our website www.cromartyartstrust.org.uk or Facebook page.



Hugh Miller: A Thanks for the Season!

Alix Powers-Jones writes:

Hugh Miller's Birthplace Cottage & Museum is now closed to visitors for the winter. It has been a strange old season, only opening to visitors at weekends in July and August and ensuring that we had all the policies and procedures in place to keep our visitors, volunteers and staff safe from covid. Visitors have been very patient with booking timed entry slots, wearing masks and using the ubiquitous hand sanitiser gel stationed throughout the museum.

Despite the strange visiting conditions, we have had lots of visitors through the doors and lots of interesting conversations. Not being able to go out and visit places during lockdown seems to have fired up interest in visiting heritage sites anew or for the first time.

We could not have opened to visitors without the stalwart support of staff and volunteers - particular thanks to Duncan and Sandy staffing the Birthplace Cottage and to Patsy and Judith working to tame the rampant vegetation in the gardens. Special thanks also to volunteer James who developed and delivered the family-friendly fossil event - on two Saturdays this month - and who is looking to do more work on our fossil collections to bring them to a wider audience. You have all made an enormous difference to the service we offer to our visitors.

Looking forward: we are due to open again for the new season on Saturday 2nd April 2022, when we will be back to 7-days a week opening (covid permitting).

Before that, however, keep your eye on social media because there is a storytelling Fun Palaces event coming up where the task is to write a story in 50 words - a challenge indeed! (Further details also on signs in the museum windows).

Port of Cromarty Firth Annual Public Meeting

Stuart MacDonald Butler from Port of Cromarty Firth writes:

Once again, the Port of Cromarty Firth will be holding its Annual Public Meeting virtually on Thursday 28th October from 6:00pm – 7:00pm. All are invited to attend.

If you would like to learn about our ongoing activities, ambitions for the future and the Port's performance in 2020, then please register your interest in attending this online event through the below Eventbrite link:

Eventbrite registration: <https://pocf-annual-public-meeting-2021.eventbrite.co.uk>

Access and dial-in details will be sent to all registered attendees prior to the event. If you have any questions or queries then please do not hesitate to contact me: s.macdonaldbutler@pocf.co.uk

Flora's Super Cycles



Flora Thomson writes:

Phew: I've cycled 1346 miles and have 576 to go in aid of Poppy Scotland. Thanks to Fi Grist and Phoebe Fox for the company on my Easter Ross cycle debut. Thoroughly enjoyed it, despite getting a soaking! Thanks also to Jane Scott for her crochet poppies to help me with my fundraising.

Link below for donations gratefully received: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/flora-thomson1>. Thanks everyone!

Well folks, that's all we have! It's still strange times, but so many people are doing their best to keep us all connected, as evidenced by the number of things going on. Look after yourselves and see you in a month's time. Happy October!

- The Editorial Team

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

The Cromarty Live Newsletter team is Catriona Mallows, Jon Palmer, Jeremy Price and Laura Shepherd.

The Newsletter is currently sponsored by Cromarty Rising.

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