



April 2022

Welcome to the latest round up of news and events across our wee toon. It's a pretty jam-packed newsletter: yer in for a treat.

That squawking...



The following is taken from [an article by NatureScot](#) and was shared with us by a member of the community. We thought it quite timely:

'If you're woken up by noisy gulls, it may seem like they are everywhere in our towns and cities. But gull species are actually struggling in their native habitat, with their numbers tumbling in some areas and for all species in Scotland. Some of them have moved into our towns and cities from their more natural coastal habitats, as food is much more readily available around humans.

Herring gulls are a red-listed species on the birds of conservation concern list, meaning that overall their populations are in decline. The other large gull species that we often see in towns are lesser black-backed gulls, a species which is also in decline, along with all other species of gull on the amber list of conservation concern which breed in Scotland...

In April, gulls begin to establish territories and nesting locations, with the first eggs laid towards the end of April. Between May and June, eggs are incubated and chicks hatch and grow. In July, the chicks fledge and adult and juvenile gulls begin to leave nesting colonies. This means applicants should apply now for individual licences from NatureScot if they are having or anticipating a public health or safety issue with nesting gulls that can't be solved through preventative measures or deterrents.

A licence is required from the NatureScot Licensing team to carry out any activity that would otherwise be an offence with regards to gulls. Licensing is considered to be a last resort after all other solutions have been tried or considered. However, you can now apply for a gull licence for public health or safety purposes via our new [online gull application service](#). For gull licence applications to prevent serious damage to livestock or foodstuffs for livestock, please refer to our [bird serious damage licensing page](#). We strongly advise that, for locations where you believe problems with gulls will occur this year and licensed action is likely to be necessary, you apply for a licence as soon as possible.

But if they're *not* causing a problem, take some time to appreciate these wonderful, often under appreciated, birds. They're amazingly agile fliers, some of which travel for thousands of miles from Scotland to spend winter in Africa. They mate for life, with male and female bird splitting all caring duties. They're also clever, dropping mussels onto rocks or roads to break them open, and stamping their feet to imitate rainfall and trick earthworms into coming to the surface!

[Read more here](#)

Business Updates

Public Toilets

We know what you're thinking - no, they aren't a business... Lots of play on words here...! But we can, for sure, say that the lack of public toilets does affect businesses across Cromarty and beyond. The Cromarty and District Community Council have been working hard to get them sorted after they were vandalised recently. [Please check out their website for recent updates.](#)

Calluna

Our spring collections are in and they are fabulous. Sizes 8-20, XS to XXL, in a range of fun, colourful prints and styles from shorts to jumpsuits, skirts to dungarees and a range of t-shirts perfect for all wardrobes. The Calluna team is focused on helping you find the

right piece for your size, style and budget. Come and visit us soon!
Open daily 10-5pm or phone us on 01381 600 464 if you would prefer a one-on-one appointment.

Sutor Creek

It's been lovely seeing so many people out and about with the glorious weather we've had! We will remain open Wednesday to Sunday until the ferry starts on May 1st and then will be open daily from 9am.

Our specials for April will include a spicy crayfish pizza, Shetland mussels, and, due to its popularity, we will be keeping on the BBQ box! The deli fridge now has smoked anchovies, dressed crab (depending on the weather) and jumbo black pudding rolls. We also have a goats cheese & sun dried tomato baby pizza in the deli fridge for those in a hurry or needing something to heat up later.

Order online at www.sutorcreek.co.uk or phone in your order to 01381 600 855.

Hugh Miller's Birthplace Cottage & Museum

On Saturday 2nd April Hugh Miller's Birthplace Cottage & Museum opens for the new season. For the first time since September 2019 we will be open to the public 7 days a week from 1pm to 5pm (last entry 4.30pm).

It has been a strange couple of years with the pandemic but now we are delighted to be opening on a daily basis once more. It's a chance to dust off our engagement skills and get ready to welcome a range of visitors. For those who come to pay homage at the birthplace of a master fossil hunter, to those stumbled upon the museum, never having heard of the man... all are welcome.

We have a new team staffing the front desk including new faces and old hands. Do pop in and say hello. To all our fellow businesses across the Cromarty: we wish you a profitable, safe and enjoyable season!

Slaughterhouse Coffee: Recruitment

Welcome Rosie - the newest member of the Slaughterhouse Coffee crew! Rosie is from Fortrose, studied Jewellery in Glasgow and also makes a mean coffee. Introduce yourself when you're next in, she's doing a brilliant job of remembering people's "usual" orders already but names are the tricky bit!

We are still on the hunt for extra helping hands as we prepare for another busy summer and are currently looking for a part-time weekend cafe assistant. The role will include greeting/chatting with

customers, taking drinks and cake orders, tidying, restocking and assisting the head barista. Experience is preferred but not essential and there's potential to progress towards barista if desired/suitable. If you're interested or know of anyone who might be, please send a CV to slaughterhousecoffee@gmail.com

Hope to see you soon for a coffee in the spring sunshine! Opening hours Thursday to Monday: 9am - 3pm, Tuesday and Wednesday: closed.



Cromarty Community Development Trust

Sheila Currie writes:

Thanks to the Trust members who came to our AGM the other week. The big news they heard about is that **the Trust has got funding for a three year Development Officer post!** This is for someone to help take forward the current projects, work with the community to develop a Community Plan, help put the Trust on a sounder financial footing and generally make more stuff happen. The funding is full-time, but other options may be available. We're currently pulling together the Job Description/Person Specification and will very soon be putting out a recruitment advert.

We have also resolved most of the problems relating to Planning and Building Control for the campervan site, and will soon be inviting tenders for the construction works, which should be happening *soon*.

We also have one new Director, Matt Hall - welcome!

And as soon as the weather warms up (and, you know... covid...) the Thrift Shop volunteers are raring to get back into the shop. But you

don't have to become a Director to become involved in any of our current projects - just ask. And as soon as feasible, we'd love to have a proper community meeting to chat through all of what's going on.

Cromarty History Society Event

Mary Bowers writes:

This month brings our AGM, which will preface our meeting on Tuesday 19 April. This is the last meeting of our reduced 2021/22 season. We plan to show a couple of short films from the archives of the Courthouse museum. One, from 2010, is about Fishertown memories, featuring many local faces, some who are sadly no longer with us. The second film is part of a production from 30 years ago presenting "Cromarty – the Story of a Town".

The meeting will commence at 7.30pm in the Old Brewery, with a £3 admission charge - all welcome.

Cromarty History Society



Cromarty Open Gardens, Studios and Art and Flower Festival



Jeremy Price writes:

As reported in last month's newsletter, the return of Open Gardens Weekend after a two year lay-off is now being planned in earnest.

This year, it will share the weekend with Open Studios and also the Flower and Art Festival in the East Church which will run for the

entire week beforehand.

At this stage the Open Gardens side needs to look for volunteers to help with the tasks associated with the event such as staffing the hub where the issue of tickets, selling plants and books and providing maps will take place, helping at the car park if necessary, maybe supervising a garden that's open but the owners are away, helping at the tea spots, etc etc. There's lots to do for volunteers and any assistance is gratefully received as these events don't run themselves! Home made cakes will also be required on the day.

We're also asking you to consider opening your own garden and this is plenty of notice to get it ready if you have to. Remember, this is about YOUR garden. It doesn't need to be like the Palace at Versailles - it can be tiny, lived in, loved in, visible only from the street, a space for the kids to play or the adults to BBQ in. Every garden can provide inspiration to someone so don't be shy - especially if you have one hidden from everyday view that will surprise people!

We are also looking for potted plants to sell at the hub - something interesting or cuttings of different species. So get planting/sowing/grafting and information on when and where they are needed will be provided nearer the time.

The dates for the Open Gardens and Studios will be **the weekend of the 2nd and 3rd July 2022**, with the Art and Flower Festival opening on Saturday 25th June and closing on 3rd July.

If you are interested in committing to volunteer for some or all of that weekend or you want to open your garden on the day, please call Jeremy or Julie on 600709. All money raised will be shared amongst local charities!



Cromarty Harbour

Colin Dickie writes:

The harbour is in the final stages of being ready for the summer season. The pontoons have been spruced up and will be put back into position later in April. We find ourselves in that transition phase of boats finishing their winter stay being slowly replaced with summer berthers. This year we have surplus berthing capacity as two of the smaller boats are not returning. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please get in touch with me at info@cromartyharbour or through the [website](#). Ideally, we are looking for two additional boats of up to 5 metres.

Finally, I'd like to give thanks to Sarah Pern who, after many years, has retired as a trustee. Over the years her input and guidance has been most valuable, and we are fortunate that she will still be on hand to help as a member of our working group, the volunteers! Her replacement is David Kent, also a volunteer and our resident photographer. David joins me as the Community Council's representatives amongst the trustees of Cromarty Harbour Trust.

Transition Black Isle: Cromarty Market, Potatoes, Bikes, Jobs?

Cromarty Market

Covid bashed us on the head last month, but All Systems Go for **Saturday 12 April at Victoria Hall: 1030-12.30**. See you there for many of your favourite local food and craft stalls. No refreshments or lunches yet.

Job Available - Market Organiser – £150 (about 10 hours work)/ month

Can you organise the monthly markets? Work with stallholders, set up and take down on the day, do a bit of social media? Lorna McKinnon has set everything up for whoever takes over from her. Speak to Lorna to find out more about what goes on. Aiming for a June start.

Seed Potatoes

Still some available of all varieties held locally by Sheila Currie or by other 'Tattie Hosts' across the Black Isle. And also available at the community market on the 12th of April!

Black Isle Bikes?

Who wants to earn money renting out bikes? Dom Scott-Lodge is still looking for someone to take this on. Speak to him or to Sheila Currie.

Cromarty Cinema

We hope to see you along at Cromarty Cinema this month! As usual, there may be some delays with getting all films available to purchase online but please keep checking as they WILL all be there just as soon as the back office boxes at our end have all been ticked. Happy April viewing!



Cromarty Cinema

April 2022 Programme



Date	Time	Film	Rating	Duration
FRI 01/04	19:00	The Phantom of The Open	12A	1h36
SAT 02/04	15:00	The Phantom of The Open	12A	1h36
SAT 02/04	19:00	Great Freedom	18	1h57
SUN 03/04	15:00	River	U	1h14
SUN 03/04	19:00	The Phantom of The Open**	12A	1h36
FRI 08/04	19:00	A Banquet	15	1h37
SAT 09/04	11:00	The Bad Guys	U	1h40
SUN 10/04	15:00	The Worst Person in The World	15	2h08
TUE 12/04	19:00	Young Plato	12A	1h42
FRI 15/04	19:00	Compartment No.6	15	1h48
SAT 16/04	19:00	The Outfit	15	1h45
SUN 17/04	15:00	The Outfit**	15	1h45
FRI 22/04	19:00	The Northman	15	2h20
SAT 23/04	19:00	Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore	12	2h22
SUN 24/04	15:00	The Northman**	15	2h20
TUE 26/04	19:00	Red Rocket	18	2h10
FRI 29/04	19:00	The Wall of Shadows		1h34
SAT 30/04	19:00	The Lost City*	12A	1h52
SUN 01/05	15:00	The Lost City*	12A	1h52

* TBC
** Captioned screening

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

For info on all films and to book tickets please visit our website:

www.cromartycinema.com OR <https://eden-court.co.uk/booking-information>

OR Wednesdays in-person from 12:00-2:00pm at Cromarty Cinema Box Office

Covid protocols in place for safety & comfort.

BECOME A FRIEND: For info on Friend's Membership, visit our website

www.cromartycinema.com

The Cromarty Cinema, Cromarty, IV11 8XZ

admin@cromartycinema.com



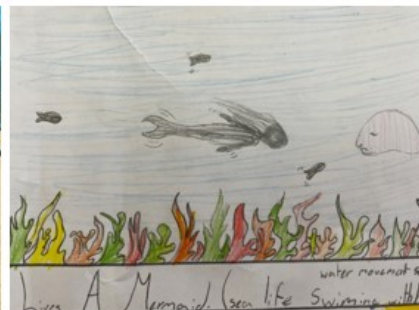
Cromarty Cinema and the Primary School



Film-maker Eleanor Stewart and cinema volunteers Jenny Pyle, Andrea Huntley and Susan Christie have been working with Primary 3-7 on an animation project with support from the Middleton Trust. Eleanor visited Cromarty earlier this month to help the pupils with their short film, which is entitled 'The Mermaid'. She describes the process of working with the children:

'It was really great to get to know the children and see how well they work together in small groups. And how they help each other out. The children are very resilient and were able to adapt to new ways of working. They got a lot out of the process and seemed to be really inspired to create their own films. That was such an unexpected bonus. I didn't anticipate that they would be inspired to go on to make their own films!'

Discussions are underway to host a mini-premiere in the cinema and to share the children's work sometime in May. Further details will be shared once plans progress.



Cromarty Courthouse Museum

Mary Bowers writes:

Our museum is back to “normal” after the last two tough years. We will reopen on Easter Sunday and will stay open every day until at least the beginning of October. Our opening hours are from 12.00am until 4.00pm.

If you didn't get the chance to come and listen to our new trial recordings and other soundscapes last year, then there's plenty of opportunity to do so this season. The performers are local voices bringing some of the unique Fishertoun dialect words to life.

As 2022 is Scotland's Year of Stories, we are enthusiastically developing exhibitions, displays and digital content for our website. The Cromarty Camera Club has taken up our challenge to mount a show entitled “Every Picture Tells a Story”. This will be ready to view from our opening and will showcase the considerable talents of all their members. We are planning other events during the season.

Outside, our wildflower garden and community orchard are maturing nicely. We are waiting for the delivery of an arbour seat so we can create another seating area in a different part of the garden. It's such a lovely space, particularly when the sun shines! So please feel free to pop along and spend time or bring your visitors there.

And finally the museum shop stocks a range of books and a variety of locally produced products. These make lovely Cromarty-themed gifts suitable for all ages!



The Friends of Hugh Miller AGM - all welcome!

Saturday 21st May at the Old Brewery, Cromarty

Members and interested parties are most warmly invited to attend our AGM, preceded by a fossil hunt on the Cromarty shore led by our chairperson, Bob Davidson. Bob will also give a talk on an intriguing Miller-related fossil mystery after our AGM in the afternoon. The talk is open to all, and the public are most welcome to attend. Full details:

10am - 12 noon: Fossil walk led by Bob Davidson, leaving from the Old Brewery at [10am](#), taking in Cromarty shoreline for a fossil hunt before heading back round the loop to the St Regulus' graveyard. All are welcome,

2pm – Annual General Meeting

3pm – Talk by FOHM chairperson Bob Davidson on the topic: '*Detecting 'fake news' in Geology - past and present*'. All are welcome. Free coffee/tea and shortbread will be provided during the afternoon

Cromarty Arts Trust



AN EVENING OF JAZZ SONG, Thursday 14th April at 8pm
(doors 7.30pm), Stables.

Tickets: £14 (£10 students/unwaged). Book via info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk / 01381 600354 / on the door
Liane Carroll Sara Colman Sophie Bancroft & Brian Kellock are back! A must for jazz and non-jazz fans alike. A glorious mix of styles, impeccably performed and with superb harmonies dextrously performed with informality and a real sense of joy.

THE AURORA QUARTET, Easter Sunday 17th April at 4pm
(doors 3.30pm), Stables.

Tickets: £10 (£6 students/unwaged and school kids go FREE).
Book via info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk / 01381 600354 / on the door

Ian Sharp, Rachel Farmer, Adam Csenki & Simon Evans play a programme of Beethoven, Sibelius, Wolf & Schubert. A lovely way to spend Easter Sunday afternoon!

FREE MOTION EMBROIDERY, Saturday 23rd April, 10am - 4.30pm, Old Brewery

£60 includes tea/coffee, bring a packed lunch. Book via info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk / 01381 600354
Learn the wonderful art of 'drawing' with your sewing machine. This is a fun way to become more creative with your machine; a great means of using your imagination to bring some uniqueness to

your makes. This day-long course is ideal for anyone who has completed the Beginners Sewing weekend course or has some experience of sewing. We can supply a machine if needed.

SEWING FOR KIDS, Sunday 24th April

Only ONE place remaining for HAND SEWING class, 9.30am - 12.30pm, Old Brewery.

£15. Book via info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk / 01381 600354

A fun, creative class suitable for children aged 7+ to learn the lifelong skill of hand sewing. They will have their very own self-made soft toy/cushion at the end of the class to take home with them. Sewing needles, fabrics and haberdashery will be supplied. No experience necessary.

LINO PRINTING, Saturday 30th April, 10am - 4.30pm, Stables.

£60 includes tea/coffee, bring a packed lunch. Book via info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk / 01381 600354 **ONLY 2 PLACES LEFT!**

Techniques include designing then transferring your design onto the lino block, cutting, proof printing and make a small series of 2 – 3 colour prints. All materials are provided including a mount for your final artwork. Suitable for ALL abilities.

And don't forget, THE RIOT OF RESOLIS tickets for both performances on Friday 6th May are selling well so get yours now to ensure not to miss out!



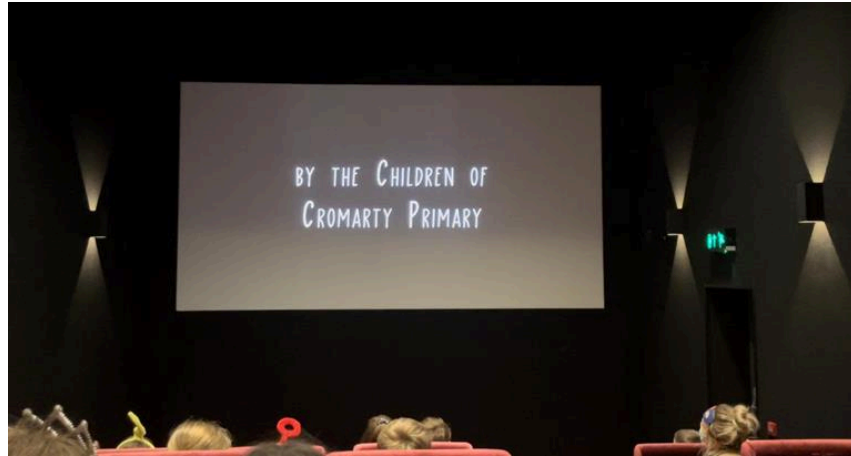
THE AURORA QUARTET, Easter Sunday 17th April at 4pm (doors 3.30pm), Stables.

Well, there's a lot going on! Thanks for reading.

We're always happy for others to join the editorial team, and if you have any suggestions for how to improve our wee round-up of news,

let us know. See you next month!

- *The Editorial Team*



Cromarty Cinema and the Cromarty Primary School's animation project.

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 a local benefactor.

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