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## December 2023

This month is ~~all~~ *mostly* about getting through the darkest days and enjoying some festivities along the way. ~~Well,~~ (*as always*), there's plenty going on in Cromarty to keep you sustained. Read on...



ARTWORK BY LYNN SEMPLE

# CROMARTY CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH ON

WITH CROMARTY PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
MULLED WINE & HOT CHOCOLATE

**MONDAY 4TH DECEMBER AT 5PM**  
VICTORIA PARK  
CROMARTY

**Christmas Market This  
Weekend**



Image: Loom & Lichen

A very happy Christmas and best wishes for 2024 from us all at **Cromarty Arts Trust**. Thank you to everyone who came along to the many concerts, workshops, classes and exhibitions over this year, it was another busy year for us and it's great to have your support.

Our big December event is the annual Christmas Market at the Old Brewery. A great chance to buy locally created gifts and support artists and makers in your area.

Opening night is **Friday 1 December at 6pm – 8pm**. All the stalls will be open and you'll get a warm welcome along with mulled wine and mince pies. The market is then open all weekend, **Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 December from 10am – 4pm**. We look forward to seeing you there.

Kate O'Connell still some places left on her Winter Song day in the Old Brewery on Sunday **10 December**. Running 10.30 – 3.30, this will be a lovely, relaxed workshop, come along and get your voice warmed up for all the carols you'll be singing!

Hungarian artist and rope maker, Hanna Varga, is staying here for a six-week residency developing her cordage and rope work using materials she has found on the beach, up the Ladies Walk and around Cromarty. She is having an exhibition of the things she has made since arriving here. Preview night is **Friday 15 December from 5 - 7pm** and the exhibition then runs from 10am – 4pm over **16 and 17 December**.

In addition to the exhibition, Hanna is running a workshop in the Old Brewery on **16 December from 10.30am – 3.30pm** where you can learn more about this fascinating and ancient art, make your own natural Christmas present wrapping twine! £40 for the day and Hanna needs 6 people to make this happen, so call us on the number below to sign up, it will be a calm and relaxing few hours out the busy hustle and bustle.

And finally, remember that we sell Cromarty Arts Trust vouchers for any amount. These can be used for any of our events – a great Christmas present for the person who has everything!



**SAY  
IT  
WITH  
KNOTS**

**ART EXHIBITION +  
Cordage workshop** with artist  
Hanna Varga using locally  
foraged fibres.

**15-17  
DEC  
2023** EXHIBITION  
OPENING EVE:  
FRI, 15 DEC  
5-7PM



THE OLD BREWERY BURNSIDE PLACE, CROMARTY, IV11 8XQ  
MORE INFO + BOOKING AT [WWW.CROMARTYARTSTRUST.ORG.UK](http://WWW.CROMARTYARTSTRUST.ORG.UK)

## St Regulus Christmas Events

Carols by Candlelight, with the Cromarty community choir, will be on **Thursday 21st December at 7 pm**. Followed by refreshments. All welcome.

The Advent Trail will not happen this year, but St Regulus would like to invite families to come along to the church at 10.45 am on **Christmas eve** (after the morning service) where children will be able to make a Christingle and decorate the Christmas tree. Refreshments will be offered, including some mulled wine and mince pies. All welcome

There will be Eucharist, led by Bishop Mark, on **Christmas Day at 9.45 am**

# **Cromarty Care Project**

## **Winter Boost Fuel Payments**

With increased fuel costs on the horizon, Cromarty Care Project would like to support households in the cost-of-living crisis. If you would like help, and you live in the area covered by Cromarty and District Community Council, you can apply for a one-off grant (one payment per household).

Applicants to previous Winter/Spring Warmth Funds need not re-apply. You will automatically receive a payment. However, let us know if your bank details have changed.

If you feel you no longer need support, please do let us know so that others can benefit.

Apply to [info@cromartycareproject.co.uk](mailto:info@cromartycareproject.co.uk) or text 07850 889014

Closing Date: 22 December 2023

## **Monday Lunch Club**

Monday Lunch Club for the over-60s will continue up until Monday 18th December, after which there will be a break over the Christmas period.

Please book with the Fishertown Inn no later than the day before, on 01381 600988, and please let them know if you won't be able to attend, so your booking can be offered to someone else.

Lunch Club meets at 12.00 p.m. Charge: £3

(Supported by the Bank of Scotland Foundation, the Albert Hunt Trust and Making a Difference Locally)

## **Callout for Carers!**

Cromarty and the Black Isle need Home Carers. In Cromarty, we expect to be short of 40 hours per week of care. Please have a think about whether you could offer a few hours. The Eilean Dubh Home Care company are

very friendly and flexible and keen to support their staff. They are based in Culbokie (see advert below). They provide training and members of staff are issued with contracts. Just contact them and have a chat.



**We are currently expanding our business to cover Cromarty, Avoch, Fortrose, Rosemarkie and Munlochy due to a **critical need****

### **Home Carer Vacancies**

We are a family run home care business based on the Black Isle and are looking to recruit

**Full & Part-Time Carers**

**Pay up to £15 per hour**

**Mileage Allowance**

**Pension | Uniform | Training**

If you are interested in a much needed, rewarding career,

Please Call us on **07859 795029** or

Email **[audrey@edhomecare.co.uk](mailto:audrey@edhomecare.co.uk)**



## **Winter Rest for the Trikes**

The Trikes are being put to bed for the winter! If you need transport to the Monday Lunch club, or anywhere around Cromarty, we are happy to organise a car and driver for you. Please contact Maxine on 07875 963570

## **Table Tennis**

Table Tennis will take a break after Monday 18th December – your last chance to work off some calories before Christmas!

We meet Monday mornings, 10.30 – 12 noon at the Victoria Hall. Open to everyone. All equipment supplied. Entry is free, donations are welcome. For more information, text Simon Evans 07717 172385

## **Community Playgroup**

The Playgroup takes place weekly on Tuesdays during the school term. Parents and carers with their babies and toddlers are very welcome to join us at the Victoria Hall, 10 – 11.30 Charge: £1.50 per session. Final meeting before Christmas will be Tuesday 19th December.

## **Classic Film Club**

When Dr Helen Charley read an NHS Highland report on Health and Loneliness, she decided to offer her home and her considerable library of classic films, so that people could meet up, be entertained and have a chat. This was back in 2017, and the Classic Film Club continued successfully in Helen's home until Covid hit. Then, in December 2021, Cromarty Community Cinema stepped in to offer their state-of-the-art facilities and the Film Club has gone from strength to strength. This year, Cromarty Care Project were able to access funding from the Albert Hunt Trust and the Bank of Scotland Foundation. This has allowed the Club to expand and the meetings now take place on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

The Classic Film Club would like to thank all the volunteers and staff at Cromarty Cinema who make everyone's experience such a treat! The final meeting in December will be on Wednesday 11th at 2.30 (with many more planned for January and into spring). For further information, please contact Helen Charley on 07889181529 or email [helen.charley@doctors.org.uk](mailto:helen.charley@doctors.org.uk)

## **Trustee Changes at Cromarty Care Project**

At our AGM last month we officially said goodbye to four trustees who retired from our Board. Nige Shapcott (who retired in July) had been with us since our beginning in 2015 and for seven of those years acted as Secretary. Fiona Grist also joined us in 2015 and took a leading role during the Covid pandemic. Shirley Matheson joined in 2018, taking on several roles during Covid, and beyond, as Trikes Co-ordinator and funding researcher. Brenda Monk joined us in 2019 as our Treasurer, keeping our finances safe and sound. We thank them all sincerely for

their service and wish each of them all the best for the future.

We also welcomed two new trustees: Karen Mackay, who will take on the role of Treasurer, and Jenny Henderson.

## **Christmas is a time of giving – and thanking!**

We would like to give our warmest thanks to all our friends and supporters for the assistance we have received over the past year. To our sponsors and benefactors, who have provided the cash that allows our projects to continue and to our marvellous volunteers without whom nothing would happen! Also, we want to thank the “guid folk” of Cromarty, who continue to support us every step of the way.

We know there are many calls to give to good causes at this time of year. But if you can find a little extra, please remember that Cromarty benefits from Cromarty Care Project.

If you’ve decided not to send Christmas cards this year, perhaps you could donate what you would have spent on them? Please visit our website:  
[www.cromartycareproject.co.uk](http://www.cromartycareproject.co.uk)

Alternatively, the Sharing Larder is always somewhere you can donate in kind (and in kindness!). Toiletries are especially appreciated.

From all at Cromarty Care Project, we wish you a happy Festive Season and a healthy and caring New Year!

## **Don’t miss the chance to win a Large Christmas Hamper for just £1**

Tickets at just £1 are now on sale for the RNLI Christmas Hamper Raffle that will be drawn on Thursday 14th December. First Prize is a Large Hamper full of Christmas goodies that will keep the lucky winner happy for some time! Other hampers to be won are Gin, Cheese & Pickle, Vintage Port, Pamper Hamper, Children’s and Men’s



Hamper, One Dozen Durness Oysters, other Christmas Hampers and lots of alcohol prizes.

Please support your local Lifeboat – whether you swim in the sea, sail on it, work on it or just love it - the volunteer Lifeboat crews are on call 24/7 to keep everyone safe. All proceeds from the raffle will go to our local Lifeboat station at Invergordon.

Tickets cost just £1 and can be purchased from the Fishertown Inn, Calluna, Ingrid's House, the Antique Shop or from any of the RNLi committee members:- Evelyn Wilson • Diane Brawn • Moira Munro • Ruth Davidson • Marjorie Watson • Cordelia Fraser • Rosemary Hogg • Corrie Jeffrey • Ingrid Rochford • Alison Palmer.



## **Reeds Loop Storm Damage**

The Community Council are working with Highland Council Footpaths, John Nightingale and our Councillor Sarah Atkin to quickly implement a temporary solution to accessing the Reeds Loop footpath which was heavily damaged in recent storms.




# **NO ACCESS TO REEDS LOOP**



**A request from The Cromarty &  
District Community Council:**

The path has been damaged in the recent storms so please do not attempt to cross - use the Scottish Water access road until repairs have been carried out. We don't want anyone to get hurt & need to prevent any further damage.

**The sheep are on 24/7 watch - you have  
been warned.**



## **Earlier dates set for next year's Cromarty Open Gardens and Art & Flowers display**



The popular Cromarty Open Gardens and Art & Flowers display will be held earlier in June in 2024 in order to avoid coinciding with the Royal Highland Show that many local folk are involved in, meaning they are unable to volunteer to help out or enjoy the events because they are away.

**Saturday 1st June** will see the start of the week-long Art & Flowers display featuring beautiful flower arrangements by the Ross-Shire Flower Club and designed by Cromarty's Evelyn Wilson together with detailed Botanic and Wildlife artworks produced by pupils of local botanic artist, Julie Price.

The following weekend, **Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th June**, Cromarty Open Gardens will once again be a major attraction for garden lovers from across the Highlands and beyond. Organisers of this fundraising event are hoping to be able to match the amazing amount of £6,900 that was distributed amongst local organisations and charities this year.

Further details will be posted on the Open Gardens Facebook page in due course but put the date in your 2024 diary now to ensure you don't miss out:-

- Art & Flowers Display – Saturday 1st to Sunday 9th June 2024
- Cromarty Open Gardens – Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th June 2024

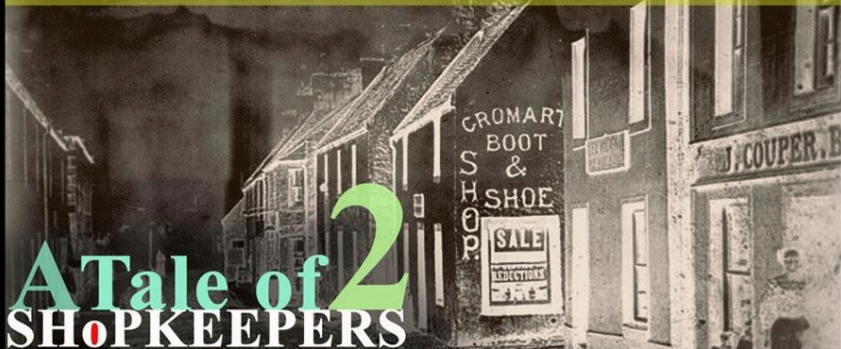
## **Plants wanted**

If you are busy dividing or taking cuttings of perennials in your garden please don't throw away the bits you don't need. Pop them in pots and keep them somewhere safe until next June when we can sell them on the Open Gardens plant stall to boost our fundraising efforts.




## History Society

**CROMARTY HISTORY SOCIETY**  
& Friends of Cromarty Courthouse



**A Tale of 2 SHOPKEEPERS**



**and their families**

followed by **FESTIVE** mulled wine and mince pies

Speaker: **Ross Couper**

**7.30pm Tuesday**  
**19 Dec 2023**

**Victoria Hall**  
**Cromarty**

ALL WELCOME      NON MEMBERS £3.00    UNDER 16 FREE

**[www.cromartyhistory.scot](http://www.cromartyhistory.scot)**

A very warm welcome to our mid winter talk is extended to all. We look forward to seeing you!

Walter Johnstone was the Chemist and Bookseller from 1864. J. M. Couper was a baker in 1897 then a general dealer in Cromarty. They both served in the Cromarty Artillery Volunteers, on Cromarty Burgh Council and as Elders of the Kirk. They were both keen sportsmen. The speaker will talk about their achievements.

Ross Couper retired to Cromarty after 12 years in heavy industry, a steel foundry and a lead smelter on Tyneside. For 20 years he was a lecturer in Mechanical Engineering at Northumbria University, then spent 3 years at Seoul Polytechnic in South Korea.

Followed by festive mulled wine and mince pies!

## **Business Updates**

## **CROMARTY POST OFFICE**

### **Christmas and New Year opening hours**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Dec 16</b>	<b>9.00-4.00</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Dec 17</b>	<b>10.00-2.00</b>
Monday	Dec 18	9.00-5.00
Tuesday	Dec 19	9.00-5.00
Wednesday	Dec 20	9.00-1.00
Thursday	Dec 21	9.00-5.00
Friday	Dec 22	9.00-5.00
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Dec 23</b>	<b>9.00-4.00</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Dec 24</b>	<b>10.00-2.00</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Dec 25</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Dec 26</b>	<b>Closed</b>
Wednesday	Dec 27	9.00-1.00
Thursday	Dec 28	9.00-5.00
Friday	Dec 29	9.00-5.00
Saturday	Dec 30	9.00-12.30
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Jan 1</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Jan 2</b>	<b>Closed</b>

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year



## **The Walled Garden**

The Walled Garden will continue to open for Pick Your Own on Monday from 12 noon to 3pm provided the weather holds. Our last opening will be Monday 18 December. However if we get snow or a heavy frost this won't be possible due to the potential damage to the veg, picking whilst frosted,.

Follow us at

<https://www.facebook.com/thewalledgardencromarty> to receive the latest updates ..... including availability of veg to pick. There is still lots available including potatoes, squash, pumpkin, spinach, swiss chard, rocket, landcress, parsley and more.

We hope to be at the Community Market on Saturday 9 December from 10.30 – 12.30 and look forward to seeing you all then.....



## **Cromarty Brewing Co.**

With winter underway we are gearing up for another busy festive season! Production is going full steam with party kegs being filled ready for Christmas orders and a new Weizenbock available in can soon!

Chap and Craig are headed off on their annual pilgrimage to Germany to see what new equipment is out there in the brewing industry, so expect to hear about more installs next year.

We enjoyed our Christmas Markets at Crathes Castle, Eden Court and Blair Castle and we look forward to seeing everyone who can make it to the next Eden Court Market on from 1st - 3rd December, if you're not visiting the shop here that is.

### **DECEMBER SHOP OPENING HOURS**

Monday to Friday 10am till 4pm

Saturday 2nd and 9th 10am till 2pm

Saturday 16th and 23rd 10am till 4:30pm

closed on Sundays including the 24th December  
(Christmas Eve)

Reopening Friday 29th and Saturday 30th December  
10am till 4:00pm

Closed Sunday 31st December, reopening Monday 8th  
January 10am till 4pm

In the spirit of Black Friday deals we will be offering 10% off ALL clothing (Hoodies, T-shirts and Hats) and 5% off Magnets, bottle openers and keyrings from Saturday 25th November to Saturday 2nd December to our onsite shop customers.

Our Christmas Mix Boxes are also available in store and online, making a great gift for all beer lovers!

## **The Cheese House**

Our opening times will be 10am – 5pm **every day** from **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> until 24<sup>th</sup> December** (opening at 12 noon Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>). Christmas Eve is officially our last day! If you're wanting parcels sending the last day for orders is Friday 15th.

## **Slaughterhouse Coffee**

Slaughterhouse Coffee is feeling the Christmas spirit!!

We will be OPEN on CHRISTMAS DAY from 11-12 ONLY!

**\*BRING YOUR OWN MUG\***

To ensure a fast and waste free service, we will only be accepting orders if you've brought your own drinking vessel! This allows us to focus on making as many drinks as possible, reducing waste and not spending our Christmas Day doing the dishes after you've all left! It's been a few years since we opened on Christmas Day, for a number of reasons, but I seem to remember there being roughly 160 hot drinks served and I don't know about you, but I don't fancy washing up that many mugs!

With the exception of Christmas Day, our opening times remain the same right the way through to December 31st 2023.



Open Thursday to Monday from 9-3.

Closed Tuesday and Wednesday.

We will then be CLOSED for a winter break from the 1st to 18th January 2024.

Really look forward to seeing lots of you over the festive period. Wishing everyone an enjoyable December ahead!

## **Royal Hotel**

The Royal is looking very festive with our Christmas trees, festive wreaths, garlands, holly, log fires and twinkly lights. We are onto our winter opening hours and we'd love to see you!

We're open Wednesday-Sunday from 11am for coffee, cake, drinks, lunch & dinner (currently closing at 5pm on Sundays).

## **Pre-Christmas Menu**

Our pre-Christmas menu starts on Friday 1 December and will run on Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays up until Christmas. Log fires, Christmas crackers and lots of festive cheer! Please get in touch to book a table (no minimum number).

## **Christmas Wreath Workshops**

We're excited to offer Christmas wreath workshops at the Royal for the first time!

Join us for a fun & relaxed festive workshop where you'll create a beautiful bespoke door wreath for your home. Enjoy a complimentary glass of fizz (or soft drink) & festive treats on arrival.

Thursday 30 November - sold out!, Sunday 3 December at 3pm, Thursday 7 December at 7pm (Classes last approx 2 hours)

£48 per person includes all materials & guidance to make your very own wreath.

Join together with friends or come along on your own. It doesn't matter if you are an experienced crafter or if this

is your first time, everyone is welcome!

Numbers are limited, please contact us to book.

## Christmas & New Year

We'll be holding Danny's annual Christmas Quiz and also festive bingo between Christmas & New Year - please keep an eye on our social media for dates. We also have a delicious menu planned for Hogmanay - why not join us for dinner before the Bells? Please get in touch to book a table.

Gift vouchers are always available for any amount or for a specific item. Available at the Royal or we can post them out.

Please note, we will be closed on 25&26 December and 1&2 January.

## Would you like to join our team?

We are looking for someone to join our team for one or two shifts per week. We can be flexible to a certain degree but the shifts do include some evenings and weekends. Full training provided. Please pop in or email Jenny.

## Charity Events...

We're delighted to host fund-raising events for local charities – quizzes, race nights, bingo, beetle drives – so please give us a shout if we can help!

And finally... thanks so much for all your support & custom this year, it is much appreciated. Hope you all have a very merry Christmas and a prosperous 2024!



### **Emma Nightingale Glass**

The exhibition at Alchemist Gallery was very successful with a number of pieces of work finding new homes. A small selection of work is still available in their upstairs space in the run up to Christmas. If you haven't been to the Alchemist Gallery, pay them a visit, it's a lovely gallery and a real treasure trove for Christmas presents... you will find them at 48 High Street, Dingwall IV15 9HL. [www.alchemistgallery.co.uk](http://www.alchemistgallery.co.uk)

Meanwhile the studio will be open on Sunday 3 December and Sunday 10 December from 12 noon - 4pm.

### **Cromba Community Glass**

Glass Taster Sessions continue to be highly popular with all sessions being fully booked for November and December. We have also started to run a 1 day Introduction to Glass Workshop, also very popular. Further dates have been set for January, February and March. Technique workshops where you can make a number of pieces using a particular technique will start in January. Follow us on [facebook](#) to discover workshop options, dates and availability.

Stuck for Christmas present ideas? We now have gift cards, which can be for any amount and put towards a Glass Taster Session or a Workshop. For more information or to order a gift card message us at [hello@crombacommunityglass.co.uk](mailto:hello@crombacommunityglass.co.uk) or 07761 056282. Gift Cards can be collected or I can post them out to you...

**GIFT CARD**

You are gifted £

Towards a glass making workshop with Cromba Community Glass

**CROMBA COMMUNITY GLASS**

The Glass Studio • 5 Bank Street • Cromarty • IV11 8UY • 07761 056282  
hello@crombacommunityglass.co.uk • facebook: crombacommunityglass

## Sutor Creek

### Christmas Menu

Thank you to everyone who has booked our Christmas Menu - really looking forward to welcoming all the work and family get togethers at The Creek this month! We are serving our special Christmas Menu every day until the 23rd but booking essential so give us a call. Phone 01381 600 855 or book online on [www.sutorcreek.co.uk](http://www.sutorcreek.co.uk)

### Christmas Plates

We will be preparing Christmas Plates again this year for folk that either can't or don't want to cook! Pre order by December 13th by phoning. Delivery in Cromarty on December 24th by arrangement.

### Christmas Pizza!

So excited to have our Christmas Pizza back on the menu - topped with Turkey, chipolatas, bacon, stuffing and cranberry (Brussel Sprouts too if desired 😊), it has become a festive tradition for many - worth a try if you haven't already!

## Tasting Dinner

Our Festive Tasting Dinner sold out in record time so we hope to add some special dinner events at the beginning of the year. If you'd like to know more please ask to be added to our email list to be the first to know or follow us on social media.

Wishing all our customers a lovely Christmas 🎄

## Calluna

We have new deliveries of gift books, jewellery, scarves and turtle dove cashmere gloves just in - all perfect for gift giving! Our winter and festive partywear styles are available in XS to XXL with prices from £23.99.

Gift Vouchers available for any amount and valid for one year.

## Ingrid's House

We are open 7 days a week up to and including Christmas Eve. We are also happy to open evenings by request. Thank you for shopping local.

## Fishertown Inn

Next quiz is December 9th in aid of Cromarty Cinema. Starts 9pm.

We are open 7 days a week including throughout Christmas and New Year and we still have some availability for our Christmas lunches and Dinners.

We will be open from 12pm-2pm on Christmas Day for drinks and it goes without saying that we will be open late on Hogmanay, no need to book, just come along and see the New Year in with us.

## Cinema

As the holiday season is upon us, Cromarty Cinema is not slowing down. We kick off the **9th of December** with a cinema open house so please pop in and say hello. We'll also be at the Cromarty Community Market so come

along, become a friend of the cinema for some great discounts, and pick up some of our lovely soft cinema tees which make the perfect present. At 9pm, the cinema pub quiz is back at the Fishertown Inn. This year's theme is 21st century cinema. Raffles, great prizes, and you don't need to be a film-nerd to enjoy. Gather up your team, book a table for dinner beforehand, and get ready for a cinematic night of fun.

If that wasn't enough, we'll keep you on the edge of your seat this month with a set of great thrillers: **Anatomy of a Fall** (which is back by popular demand), **Royal Hotel** (not set in Cromarty but the Australian Outback), and **Eileen** (starring Anne Hathaway).

If you're in the mood for a period piece, you're spoiled for choice. Epic blockbuster **Napoleon** stars Joaquin Phoenix, portraying the emperor's rise to power. **Maestro** is the star-packed biopic of Leonard Bernstein. Meanwhile, the Three Musketeers are back in sequel **Milady**.

Our classic picks of the month are Michael Powell's **The Edge of the World** and **Return to the Edge of the World**, based on the St Kilda evacuations. James Stewart fans will enjoy **Bell, Book and Candle** on the silver screen.

The audience favourite of the Inverness Film Festival at Eden Court was **Tish**. So if you missed it, you're in luck as we're screening the great documentary on photographer Tish Murtha. For fans of rowing, which we know many of you are, **Tarrac** is a must-see. Based in beautiful Kerry, it focusses on a group of women training for glory.

It wouldn't be the holiday season without a couple of family films. Disney's latest musical animation **Wish** is hitting the screens. We are also screening **Wonka**, the origin story of Roald Dahl's classic character Willy Wonka.

These are just some of the fantastic films on offer for your viewing pleasure. See the full programme below as well as our website.

All tickets can be booked at <https://cromartycinema.com/films/>, the human box

office on Thursdays 12-2, or at the door.

See you in December!



## CROMARTY CINEMA December 2023



Friday 1 December	7pm	<b>Anatomy of a Fall (15) 2hr 32m</b> French thriller back by popular demand. A woman is suspected of her husband's murder...
Saturday 2 December	7pm	<b>The Royal Hotel (18) 1hr 31m</b> Psychological thriller – backpackers Hanna and Liv take on a bar job in the Australian outback.
Sunday 3 December	3pm	<b>The Edge of the World + Return to The Edge of the World (PG) 1hr 15m</b> 1937 Michael Powell-directed drama based on the evacuation of St Kilda plus short film when he returns to the island (Foula, where it was filmed), forty years later.
Friday 8 December	7pm	<b>Tish (15) 1hr 30m</b> An exploration of the fascinating life and photography of Tish Murtha who focused on marginalised northern English communities.
Sunday 10 December	3pm	<b>Driving Madeleine (15) 1hr 30m</b> French drama. Madeleine is driven around Paris by taxi driver Charles and the pair bond.
Tuesday 12 December	7pm	<b>Eileen (15) 1hr 38m</b> Stylish psychological thriller set in a 60s prison. Anne Hathaway stars.
Friday 15 December	7pm	<b>Maestro (15) 2hr 9m</b> Biopic about composer Leonard Bernstein. Carey Mulligan stars, Bradley Cooper stars and directs.
Saturday 16 December	7pm	<b>Napoleon (15) 2hr 38m</b> Action epic depicting the emperor's rise to power – Ridley Scott directs, Joaquin Phoenix stars.
Sunday 17 December	3pm	<b>Maestro DS (15) 2hr 9m</b> Biopic of composer Leonard Bernstein. Carey Mulligan stars, Bradley Cooper stars and directs.
Tuesday 19 December	7pm	<b>Rudy (12A) 1hr 49m</b> Teenager Rudy is dealing with a fraught relationship with her father in rural Warwickshire in beautifully shot drama.
Friday 22 December	7pm	<b>Wonka (PG) 1hr 56 m</b> Captivating journey into the origins of Willy Wonka. Timothee Chalamet stars and Paul King (Paddington) directs for a scrumdiddlyumptious holiday treat.
Saturday 23 December	7pm	<b>Bottoms (15) 1h 31m</b> American comedy. Highschool girls PJ and Josie want to lose their virginities to cheerleaders – so they start a fight club...
Weds 27 December	3pm	<b>Bell, Book and Candle (U) 1hr 38m</b> Kim Novak and James Stewart sparkle in the classic 1958 comedy about witchcraft in Manhattan.
Thurs 28 December	7pm	<b>Wonka DS (PG) 1hr 56m</b>
Friday 29 December	7pm	<b>Fallen Leaves (12A) 1hr 21m</b> Two lonely people meet in a Helsinki karaoke bar in Finnish romantic comedy.
Saturday 30 December	11am	<b>Wish (U) 1hr 35m</b> Disney's latest musical animation. Asha wishes on a star and finds herself in a bunch of trouble.
Saturday 30 December	7pm	<b>Tarrac (15) 1hr 34m</b> Women in a rowing boat training for glory amidst beautiful scenery! Irish drama set in Kerry.
Tuesday 2 January	7pm	<b>The Three Musketeers: Milady (12A) 1hr 55m</b> Second of the opulent French swashbuckling epic based on Dumas's classic novel. Eva Green shines as Milady – en garde!

Adults £9      Under 26 £5.50      Friends £7.50

More film info and book online at: [cromartycinema.com](http://cromartycinema.com) or at [eden-court.co.uk](http://eden-court.co.uk) or in person at Cromarty Cinema on Thursdays 12 – 2pm.

Show your support - become a Friend and reduce your ticket price. Visit [cromartycinema.com](http://cromartycinema.com) or email [admin@cromartycinema.com](mailto:admin@cromartycinema.com)

The Cromarty Cinema, Cromarty, IV11 8XZ

# Cromarty Film Festival



Mulled wine and snacks!

**OPEN MEETING**

**Sunday 03.12**  
**4.30pm**  
**Old Buoy Store**  
**Lighthouse Field Station**

**2023 CROMARTY FILM FESTIVAL** team invites you to come along and discuss appetite and ideas for a future film festival 2024/25. Join us if you would like to get involved!

If you can't make the date, but would like to contribute, chat to Steffi, Sabine or Susan or message us on Facebook: @cromartyfilmfestival

## **Cromarty Community Development Trust**

**Great results from the Community Campsite - plenty visitors and they're spending good money in our town!**

**Things progressing on possible Royal Hotel buyout - bids submitted for funds to do a study. Watch this space to hear how you can be involved in January.**

**Group formed to take forward East Church Hall ideas – look forward to hearing from them.**

**Bird and Bat Boxes – we have wood, so who wants to make some?**



Lots more on all of these stories below – please share with folk who don't read this newsletter...

## Community Campsite

Over the weekend of 10th & 11th of November, we maxed out for the month with 5 bookings on the Friday night and 2 bookings on the Saturday night (7 in total). Cold temperatures but the prospect of winter sun likely helped. Beyond our income generated through these visitors, we know that certain bookings brought wider benefits or spends around the town.

Two of the campervan bookings on the Friday night were made by friends meeting up in Cromarty for a 'night out' - one from London and Strathpeffer. Not only did this support the campsite (bringing in a joint income of £70) but also helped local business through their stay and spend.: £45 in Cromarty Cinema; £100 in Fishertown Inn (est); £20 in Slaughterhouse Coffee (est); and £50 in Sutor Creek (est).

'It is the sum of the parts, that was the attraction, and really something we could promote' said one.

We had another two night booking that week, from a couple from Midlothian taking their campervan for 'one last fling of the year' – and we know that Fishertown Inn benefited with £80-100 of a spend.

A week later the first of our known 'regular' customers - a couple from Badachro - returned to us. They had first happened upon the site in September and they promised us a return visit (and soon). And they have told us to expect them again; they have advised us this is going to be a regular booking plus they are planning to bring other family members over too.

What's not to like?! It seems for many of our visitors the attraction of all of Cromarty is the whole package and the winning formula for the campsite.

And we have again confirmed another two day booking for the first weekend in December for the same mix. These visitors are coming through from Inverness for the weekend.

[yes, we know we're a town not a village, but we can let them off surely!]

## Promoting our services and building our IT provision through Plexus

If you haven't dropped into the campsite's booking system yet, you might want a look into our set up. Checkout what we show that's on offer to visitors and how the whole town is represented. See [cromartycamping.com](http://cromartycamping.com)

Our graphics, website and booking system were a team effort from Colin, Jamie and Gill in Plexus; working alongside the Development Trust. This work was fully funded by Development Trusts Association of Scotland (DTAS) - to act as a catalyst for the operational side of the campsite.

With booking now open for 2024, we can confirm we have recently taken bookings for April, June and September next year. This is just the news we need.

Moving forward, we have now commissioned the development of the CCDT's own website. Our own IT needs a radical overhaul, to better engage with and inform our members and the community, plus to share information to the local community and related groups, grants team, funders, local authority and other development trusts etc.

This process is now commencing.

## The Royal Hotel - A visit from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and applications to the Scottish Land Fund (SLF)

A couple of weeks ago, Gabbi Heaton-Armstrong, HIE (as Inner Moray Firth Development Manager) and Paul Harrington, HIE (as Scottish Land Fund Area Manager), met CCDT in Cromarty, visiting the Campsite (as early investors in the project) and The Royal to learn of the communities plans and support us in the process.

At the campsite we were exploring ways of capitalising on what we have and diversifying what we do in recognising that it may pay CCDT to put in place some provision for

cycle tourism going forward. HIE confirmed there are grants available for this, and we have discussed how we might tap into these.

With regards to The Royal Hotel, we have gone through all the preliminary checks with the Scottish Land Fund. This is jointly through the 'Funding Office' in Glasgow; and now locally through HIE / SLF recent visit making sure that to date we are compliant in our operations as a Trust and are following all the correct procedures.

We are now working on the Stage 1 Application for feasibility which is seen in SLF terms as 'being given the opportunity to explore the possibility of community ownership'. This will not only involve continued community and business engagement - plus tapping into the trusts and the communities skill base and setting up small working groups - but also fund and outsource discreet packages of work too (business planning and consultancy, structural and building surveys, building valuations etc).

Funding for Stage 1 is capped at £30K (but this is typically be associated with an estate purchase, with complexity). With quotes in place - which we are now obtaining - it is likely we will be seeking a sum in the region of £8-12K. HIE have confirmed they will provide ongoing support at every level as our 'critical friend' and DTAS plus their Community Shares team are in place too.

Stage 1 of SLF funds the feasibility which explores and determines the intrinsic value (or otherwise) of the asset to the community of Cromarty - as it stands and going forward with a business plan - and whether it is in the CCDT's / the Community's interest to take it into our own hands.

And part of this feasibility study will include coming back to the community – possibly with another public meeting in January.

## **East Church Hall**

A working group of members and Trust directors have formed to take forward ideas about how best to use the East Church Hall for community benefit that pays its way.

Watch this space and the various community facebook groups for progress.

## Bird & Bat Boxes

We've had a generous offer of wood to make bird and bat boxes for the Campsite. Please get in touch if you are interested in doing this.

## And finally...

Maybe someone (or a group of folk) fancy giving this a go...

# DOCUMENT YOUR COMMUNITY

A Photography Project with the **British Cultural Archive** celebrating the work of **Tish Murtha**



Tish

Karen On Overturned Chair, Youth Unemployment (1981)  
Tish Murtha © Ella Murtha, all rights reserved.

Photography project, **'Documenting Your Community,'** invites you to be inspired by Tish Murtha and take your own photos of your community, capturing life in contemporary Britain. You don't need to be a professional photographer - we'd love to see photos that capture your local shopkeeper or people in the park or pub.

### HOW TO ENTER

The British Culture Archive, in association with Modern Films and supported by the BFI, will showcase a range of work on its website that shows the breadth of modern life today.

If you'd like to be part of this photography project, then all you have to do is post your photo on Instagram with the **#tishmurthafilm**, and including a line about what your photo is about.

The photo copyright remains with you, and by tagging the photo, you will be permitting us to post the photo online on The British Culture Archive website.

Modern  
Films



That's it for the last edition of 2023. We'll see you all again - bright-eyed and bushy-tailed no doubt - at the start of the New Year!

Best wishes,

- *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](mailto:editor@cromartylive.co.uk)

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

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