

## December 2024

Welcome to the last of this year's newsletters - and possibly the last in this current format! (More on that anon). Read on for a catch up of what's been happening, and notices of what promises to be a busy month as our wee town prepares for mid-winter celebrations. We trust you will find something to whet your appetite and inspire you to meet up with others at a time when it is important for our well-being to stay connected.

## Development Trust

### Seashore Hub, Coastal pollution and Beach Clean



The group of hardy souls who braved a bitterly cold morning for a beach clean...

Cromarty now has a 'Seashore Hub' - a shed containing materials to do beach cleans. It was launched on Saturday 22nd November, with a beach clean & survey by 10

volunteers. 1422 items were collected and recorded in a 100m stretch, with large amounts of small bits of polystyrene, shotgun cartridges and old plastic cotton buds ([full info, photos and more here](#)). One crisp bag was from 1991!

This hub will hopefully soon be looked after by a new local group who will coordinate regular beach surveys - previous beach surveys have helped change the laws on plastic bags, cotton buds and plastic straws, all of which can do real damage to seabirds and sea animals.

The Hub is currently at the Community Campsite, but can easily be moved to a more central location later if wanted.



and the hoard that was collected.

## **An Advent Calendar with a difference**

If you are interested in locally produced food, and how we could all support improvements to what we eat and where it comes from, this might help provide a focus. Simply follow the [Highland Good Food Partnership](#) Facebook page for daily inspiration throughout December.



## A Young Resident Doing Themselves and Our Community Proud



Orlagh MacIver (with Wanda Mackay) receiving the Eric Liddell Award for Youth Volunteering, presented by HRH Princess Anne on 1st November.

# Eric Liddell Award Ceremony

- What a fabulous night of a Lifetime , meeting HRH Princess Anne, to add a layer of excitement and further respect to meet Eric Liddell's daughter Patricia Liddell Russel - at a service to commemorate 100 years since her World-Famous Father Eric Liddell Won Gold at the Paris Olympics in 1924.
- Orlagh was presented the Prestigious Overall Eric Liddell 100 Youthlink Winner Award by HRH the Princess Royal
- We very much enjoyed our Private VIP session with our Royal Highness , who spent time listening to the great work Orlagh has achieved lots of talk about Coastal Rowing and oars ( types , weight , wood , weather , HRH was extremely friendly and knowledgeable Orlagh loved meeting Colonel Don of the Cavalry, Tim Frew CEO Youthlink and Gillian , Lorna the poet

**This weekend...**



## Christmas Craft Market

THE OLD BREWERY, CROMARTY

FRI 29 NOV 2024, 6-8PM ~ OPENING NIGHT WITH MULLED WINE & MINCE PIES ~  
SAT 30 NOV & SUN 1 DEC 2024, 10AM-4PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[WWW.CROMARTYARTSTRUST.ORG.UK](http://WWW.CROMARTYARTSTRUST.ORG.UK)



# HOPE for Life

A monthly meeting exploring the hope that  
can be found in the Bible

The Victoria Hall, Cromarty

**First Sunday of the Month at 6.00pm**

followed by a free buffet tea

**THIS MONTH**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

Each meeting will include music, a life story, and a short  
message from the Bible, followed by tea and coffee

*Everyone Welcome*



ORGANISED BY THE FAITH MISSION, FERINTOSH & RESOLIS FREE CHURCH,  
AND FORTROSE FREE CHURCH



## Business Updates

## **CROMARTY POST OFFICE**

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

Monday	Dec 16	9.00-5.00
Tuesday	Dec 17	9.00-5.00
Wednesday	Dec 18	9.00-1.00
Thursday	Dec 19	9.00-5.00
Friday	Dec 20	9.00-5.00
Saturday	Dec 21	9.00-4.00
Sunday	Dec 22	10.00-2.00
Monday	Dec 23	9.00-5.00
Tuesday	Dec 24	9.00-4.00
Wednesday	Dec 25	Closed
Thursday	Dec 26	Closed
Friday	Dec 27	9.00-5.00
Saturday	Dec 28	9.00-12.30
Monday	Dec 30	9.00-5.00
Tuesday	Dec 31	9.00-5.00
Wednesday	Jan 1	Closed
Thursday	Jan 2	Closed

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year



### **Cromarty Brewing Co.**

Winter has certainly arrived, and with it the Christmas rush. We have been working hard to get stocks up so that everyone can enjoy a Happy Chappy Christmas with a well-stocked Cromarty Brewing fridge.

We received some fresh award certificates last month from CAMRA for our Happy Chappy which took Gold in the Session Golden Ale of Scotland, our Brewed Awakening which took Gold in the Speciality Beer – Flavoured of Scotland and our Red Rocker which took Bronze in the Champion Beer of Scotland.

Our Christmas Markets are done for 2024 and we have enjoyed seeing some familiar faces at these over the last month. Craig and Chap are off on their yearly pilgrimage to Germany this week to see what's new in the world of brewing. This event has seen the brewery find most of its equipment over the years and let us meet some fellow passionate brewing industry professionals.

Also, just in time for Christmas we have had delivery of some new clothing stock and A4 Posters, both of which are available to buy in the on-site brewery shop and online. To coincide with our new clothing, we will be having a Black Friday Event with 10% off ALL clothing from 30th November till 7th December. This event will be EXCLUSIVE to our on-site shop so make sure to head over and pick up a bargain!

Our festive opening hours will be as follows:-

December (until Christmas Eve) - Monday to Friday 10am till 5pm, Saturday 10am till 4pm, Sunday CLOSED

Tuesday 24th December 10am till 3pm

CLOSED 25th to 27th December

Saturday 28th December 10am till 2pm, Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st 10am till 3pm

CLOSED 1st to 5th January

Reopen Monday 6th January 10am till 4pm

Closed **all** Saturdays and Sundays in January

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year

## **Cromarty Pottery**

We enjoyed an eventful month at Cromarty Pottery, participating in the Christmas Shopping Trail evening and hosting a two day workshop for 6 brilliant students! If you are interested in participating in future workshops, please contact the Cromarty Arts Trust. Our shop will be open Tuesday - Sunday 10.30 am - 5 pm, closing on the 25th December for our Christmas break. We have plenty of options for Christmas presents and decorations in stock, so pop in and see us before then!

## **Gallery 48**



'North Sutor' by Jess Gunn

We recently received a series of framed original paintings (framed by the Inverness Framing Co.) and unframed prints, by local artist Jess Gunn. If you would like to view these or get some Christmas shopping over December, our shop will be open daily - 10.30 am - 5 pm, closing on 25th December for our Christmas break! We would also like to thank everyone who made it out on the evening of the Christmas Shopping Trail, we hope to see you all again soon!

## **Carols by Candlelight**

Following the departure of Simon Evans to pastures new, a new musical director has stepped forward in the form of Nigel Robson, a renowned former professional tenor who has moved to Cromarty. The annual Christmas celebration will take place under his direction at St Regulus' Church at 7pm on **Thursday 19th December**. The Cromarty Community Christmas Choir will once again be performing, but be prepared for something quite different this year! There will be music from the choir and individuals as well as the traditional carol singing for everyone, but in a different format which hopefully will see local folk taking more of a role and also the opportunity for everyone to reflect on the theme, which is "Heaven and Earth in Little Space" - a reference from



Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols, of which a couple of pieces will be sung by the choir. This is not a church service but many people see this as the real start to a Cromarty Christmas with the opportunity to sing carols!

Please come and join us. A collection will be held for charity and there will be mince pies and mulled wine to follow.

## **Arts Trust**

### **Dr Maria Maclennan - Showing of Work**



**Friday 13th December 6 - 8pm at The Old Brewery**  
Join us for Dr Maclennan's end of residency talk and showing of work.

Maria has been working closely with the Hugh Miller Birthplace Museum drawing inspiration from the world of forensics and post-mortem reconstructions to create both a 2D digital portrait and a realistic 3D wax model of Hugh Miller.

She will be giving a short, informal talk and showing her work to date. We'll also have some of the work from Maria and Dr Tobias Hoult's facial reconstruction workshop last weekend on display. This is a great chance to meet Maria and learn more about her fascinating field of work.

We hope to see you there.

## History Society

Dr Andrew Newton is a retired NHS Emergency Medicine consultant who has a longstanding interest in Roman history and the history of healthcare. He undertakes regular work with museums as ' Marcus the Medicus ', bringing early medical history and how it has influenced modern medicine to life.

He will be speaking to Cromarty History Society on **Tuesday 17th December** in the Victoria Hall Cromarty at 7.30pm.

The meeting will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Visitors are welcome, each meeting costs £5 but £15 membership will cover the cost of all further meetings until April 2025.

Further information can be found on the Society's website [www.cromartyhistory.scot](http://www.cromartyhistory.scot).

## Cromarty Courthouse

Thank you to everyone who came to Halloween at the Courthouse and our catch-up event to hear about our plans for the future. We are hoping to have some exciting news to share next month about our plans for 2025!



## Cromarty Care Project

### Winter Warmth Payments

Are you struggling to pay for fuel to heat your home? Cromarty Care Project can help! So long as you are a resident of the Cromarty and District Community Council area, you can apply for a one-off grant. Just email [info@cromartycareproject.co.uk](mailto:info@cromartycareproject.co.uk) including your name and address, or text **07919 543086** One grant per household. Closing date: 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2024.

**Please note**, you must make a fresh application this year, even if you have had a grant from us before.

If you are pension age and struggling to make ends meet, have a look at the info from Citizens Advice in this newsletter about Pension Credit.

### Intergenerational Panto – 5<sup>th</sup> December

In collaboration with the Four Ways Club, Cromarty Care Project are delighted to announce an Intergenerational Christmas Panto, Aladdin, performed by Presto Theatre. Cromarty Primary School have all been invited along with members of the Four Ways and the Monday Lunch Club.

If you are over 60 and would like to see the Panto, but are not a member of either club, please get in touch as soon as possible. Email [info@cromartycareproject.co.uk](mailto:info@cromartycareproject.co.uk) or text 07470 583641

Aladdin will take place on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December**, 2.30 – 3.30 at the Victoria Hall.

This production is supported by the Bank of Scotland Foundation.

### Monday Lunch Club

The Monday Lunch Club for the over-60s continues until 23<sup>rd</sup> December in the Fishertown Inn. Please telephone the Fishertown to reserve your place **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.

If you are not currently a member and would like to join, please contact Alison on 07470 583641.

Lunch Club meets at 12.00 noon Charge: £3

The first meeting in the New Year will be on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January.

Supported by the Bank of Scotland Foundation.

## **Classic Film Club**

The Classic Film Club for the over-60s will only show one film this month, on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30 p.m.** We hope you can join us for a festive treat! Please arrive early to avoid disappointment. If you would like to join the Club (entirely free!), or for further information, please contact Helen Charley on 07889 181529 or email [helen.charley@doctors.org.uk](mailto:helen.charley@doctors.org.uk)

Two showings per month will return in January. The Classic Film Club is funded by the Port of Cromarty Firth.

The Royal Hotel will be offering a pre-cinema Xmas lunch at 12.30, please book by Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. 01381 600217

The Fishertown Inn also offer a pre-cinema lunch. Please book by December 8<sup>th</sup> on 01381 600988

## **Table Tennis**

Table Tennis will continue until 23<sup>rd</sup> December and will re-convene on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Open to all, at any level. Please join us on Monday mornings, **10.30 – 12 noon at the Victoria Hall.** Suggested donation is £3 per session.

## **Baby and Toddler Playgroup**

The Playgroup will meet during term-time in December, finishing on 17<sup>th</sup> (and re-convening on 7<sup>th</sup> January). Parents and carers with their babies and toddlers are very welcome to join us at the **Victoria Hall, 10 – 11.30 on Tuesdays** Charge: £2 per session.

## **Community Sharing Larder**

Thank you to all the kind community residents who have left donations in the Donations Box at the Larder. We are especially grateful to receive donations of toiletries, such as shower gel, shampoo, etc. If donating foodstuffs, please make sure they are within the use-by date. Alternatively, if you would like to make a financial donation, you can do so online at [www.cromartycareproject.co.uk](http://www.cromartycareproject.co.uk)

## **Carers for the Black Isle**

Could you be a home carer? Homecare is urgently needed in Rosemarkie, Fortrose and Avoch. Training will be provided, so no experience is necessary. Eilean Dubh Home Care are a very friendly and flexible company. Staff are well supported and issued with contracts. Pay up to £15 per hour, plus mileage, 5% bonus scheme and pension. Contact to have a chat on 07859 795029 or email [audrey@edhomecare.co.uk](mailto:audrey@edhomecare.co.uk)

## **Callout for Drivers!**

Cromarty Care Project would like to invite 'occasional' drivers to join our volunteers. If you could offer transport, in your own car, to members of the Monday Lunch Club, please get in touch. You would only need to be a driver once a month. Transport would involve pick-up at 11.45 on a Monday to the Fishertown Inn and return just after 1.00 pm.

If you'd like to help out, please email [info@cromartycareproject.co.uk](mailto:info@cromartycareproject.co.uk) or text Maxine on **07875 963570**



## **Citizens Advice in Cromarty – 17<sup>th</sup> December**

Christine Macdonald, from Ross & Cromarty Citizens Advice Bureau, will be offering face-to-face appointments in the Victoria Hall on the third Tuesday of this month (17<sup>th</sup> December). It's also possible to have a telephone appointment if that is more convenient. CAB can give advice on a whole range of issues including benefits, debt and money, energy, work issues, relationships and housing, and we can help you to fill out benefit forms. To book an appointment with Christine, telephone 01349 883333 or email [adviser@alnesscab.casonline.org.uk](mailto:adviser@alnesscab.casonline.org.uk)

**There are two issues from CAB this month:**

### **CAB Focus on . . . Pension Credit**

Pension Credit is a means-tested benefit for people over State Pension age, to help with the cost of living. You could be entitled to Pension Credit if your weekly income is less than £218.15 if you are single, or £332.95 for a couple. If you are a couple, your combined income and capital are taken into account in the calculation.

To work out your entitlement to Pension Credit, you can use the Pension Credit Calculator on the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator) website (Pension Credit Calculator – [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator)), or you can contact Ross & Cromarty Citizens Advice Bureau to arrange a Benefit Check (01349 883333).

If you get Pension Credit you may be entitled to other grants and benefits, such as the Pension Age Winter Heating Payment (which is replacing the Winter Fuel Payment in Scotland).

## **CAB Focus on . . . Power of Attorney**

A power of attorney is a legal document that allows someone to choose a person, or people, to act on their behalf. The person that gives the powers is called the granter. The person that gets the powers to make decisions is called the attorney.

To grant a power of attorney, the granter must still be capable of making decisions for themselves.

It's a good idea for everyone to plan for the future by making a power of attorney.

There are three types of power of attorney that can be used to manage someone's affairs:

- Continuing Power of Attorney - to deal with and make decisions about finances, like paying bills. Continuing Power of Attorney may be used before the granter loses capacity, if the document expressly states this.
- Welfare Power of Attorney - to deal with and make decisions about personal welfare, like care arrangements and medical treatment. Welfare Power of Attorney cannot be used while the granter has capacity.
- Combined welfare and continuing powers - to deal with and make decisions about both welfare and financial issues.

You should get legal advice to make a power of attorney. The document must meet certain requirements before a power of attorney can be registered by the Office of the Public Guardian. The wording of the power of attorney document is important and the powers granted must be tailor-made to the granter's needs.

If you're appointed as an attorney, you must act in the best interests of the person who has granted the powers. There is a code of practice you must follow.

For more information visit  
[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/scotland](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/scotland)

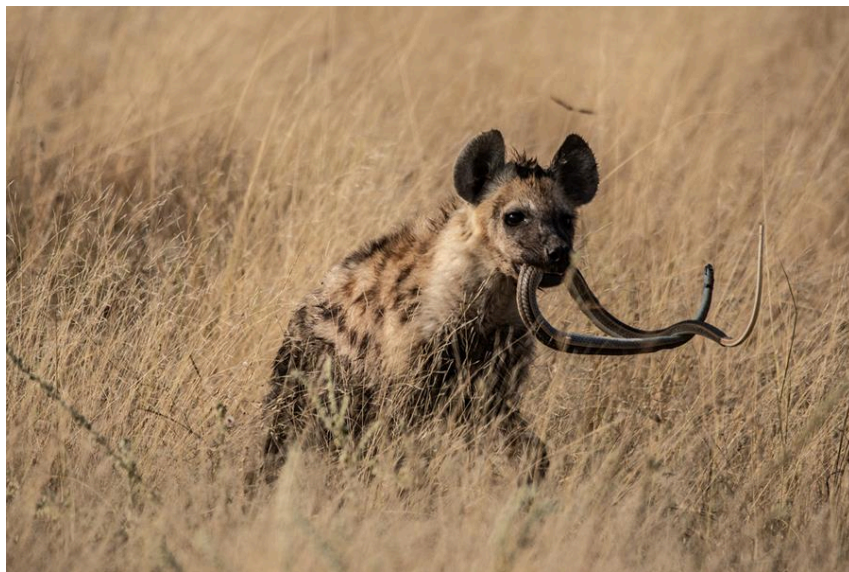
and search for *Managing Affairs for Someone Else*, or visit the Office of the Public Guardian Scotland website  
<https://www.publicguardian-scotland.gov.uk>

## **Thank You!**

From the Trustees of Cromarty Care Project, a huge thank you to all our funders, supporters, volunteers and the community of Cromarty. Have a caring Christmas and a very happy New Year!

## **Camera Club**

Cromarty Camera Club recently completed their first Member's Competition of the 2024/25 session. The Competition Theme was 'Open Digital Colour' which meant that Members could submit any colour image they felt appropriate. A total of 33 images were submitted, and the winning entries after Member voting at the Club Meeting on 31st October were;



**3rd equal 'Slippery Customer' by Graeme Hill**

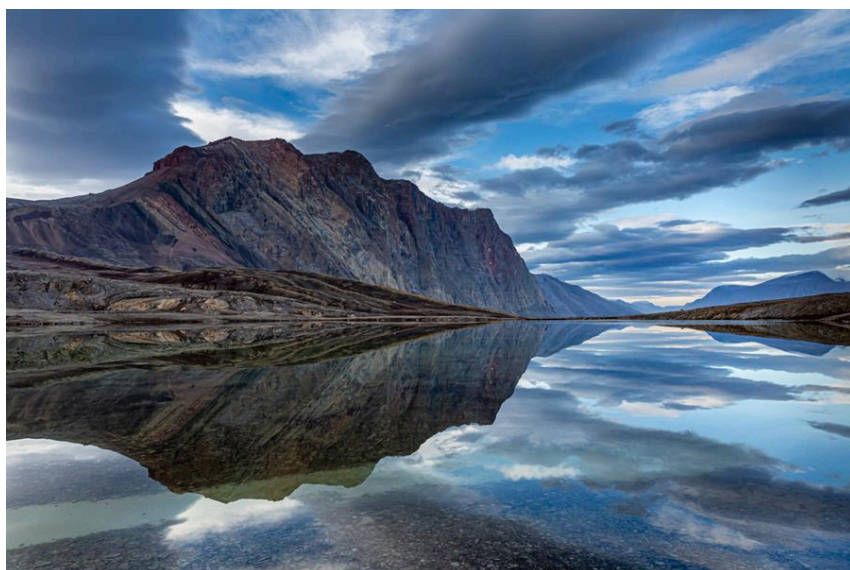




**3rd Equal 'A Touch of Green' by David Kent**



**Second 'Misty Landing' by Nigel Atkinson**



**First 'Infinity Lake' by David Greer**

Cromarty Camera Club meets every Thursday evening from September to April in Victoria Hall, Cromarty at 7.15pm for 7.30pm. We have a varied programme of speakers, workshops and outings to which new prospective members would be most welcome at any time.

## Cinema

Get ready for an incredible lineup at Cromarty Cinema this month, featuring thrilling action, gripping dramas, and delightful adventures!

The action packed special season Cromarty Kicks Ass (CKA) rages on! From British-Pakistani sisterly clashes in **Polite Society** to Kampala's filmmaking dreams in **Once Upon a Time in Uganda**, the CKA season is a celebration of diverse action. Don't miss Forest Whitaker's serene assassin in **Ghost Dog**, or the martial arts spectacle of **The Raid**. End the season with Jackie Chan's legendary **Police Story** for a big-screen adrenaline rush!

For blockbusters and beyond, **Gladiator 2** brings Ridley Scott's epic storytelling back with Paul Mescal in the lead. For a unique blend of humour and thrills, Hugh Grant stuns as a sinister villain in **Heretic**. Meanwhile, **Paddington in Peru** returns with heartwarming charm and chaos for all ages.

Explore moving tales from around the world with **All We Imagine as Light**, an evocative Indian drama, and **Blitz**, a war story by Steve McQueen. Pedro Almodóvar's first English-language feature, **The Room Next Door**, starring Tilda Swinton, is a must-see for arthouse lovers.

The ultimate Christmas action movie, **Die Hard**, sets the holiday mood, while the vibrant musical **Wicked** reimagines the land of Oz. Wrap it all up with **Conclave**, a gripping tale of power, faith, and intrigue led by Ralph Fiennes.

Book your tickets at <https://cromartycinema.com/films/>, the human box office on Thursdays 12-2, or try your luck at the door for an unforgettable month of cinema magic!



## CROMARTY CINEMA December 2024



Sunday 1	3pm	<b>Polite Society (CKA - Cromarty Kicks Ass - our special season of action films) (12) 1hr 40m</b> Action comedy follows British Pakistani sisters torn apart by an arranged marriage.
December	7pm	<b>Once Upon a Time in Uganda (CKA) (15) 1hr 34m</b> Two men with a shared love of Rambo make movies in Kampala - documentary.
December	7pm	<b>Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai (CKA) (U) 1hr 56m</b> Forest Whitaker stars as hitman living by Samurai principles, directed by Jim Jarmusch.
Monday 2	7pm	<b>The Raid (CKA) (18) 1hr 37m</b> Indonesian fast-paced thriller follows a SWAT team on a mission packed with martial art action.
December	7pm	<b>Run Lola Run (CKA) (12A) 1h 17m</b> A true action classic - 1998 German thriller featuring amazing bad ass heroine Lola.
Tuesday 3	7pm	<b>Police Story (CKA) (15) 1hr 36m</b> Final film of the CKA season – the 1985 Jackie Chan action-comedy classic which still amazes.
December	7pm	<b>Gladiator II (15) 2hr 28m</b> Paul Mescal leads, and Ridley Scott again directs in spectacular blockbuster sequel.
Wednesday 4	7pm	<b>The Room Next Door (12A) 1h 47m</b> Almodovar's first English language feature starring Tilda Swinton and Julianne Moore.
December	3pm	<b>Gladiator DS (15) 2hr 28m</b>
Sun 8 Dec	7pm	<b>No other Land DS (15) 1h 32m</b> Documentary shows the destruction of the West Bank's Masafer Yatta.
Tuesday 10	7pm	<b>Anora (12A) 1hr 38m</b> Tragicomedy - an escort and an oligarch's son and the aftermath of their Vegas wedding.
December	7pm	<b>Heretic (15) 1hr 58m</b> Hugh Grant plays the diabolical Mr Reed in terrifying horror/thriller.
Sat 14	3pm	<b>Juror #2 (12A) 1hr 42m</b> Juror struggles with a moral dilemma in psychological drama starring Nicolas Hoult.
December	7pm	<b>All We Imagine as Light (18) 2hr</b> Haunting drama set in Mumbai featuring three women and their overlapping lives.
Tuesday 17	7pm	<b>Blitz (12A) 1hr 39m</b> McQueen directs war drama starring Saoirse Ronan and Paul Weller.
December	3pm	<b>Paddington in Peru (PG) 1hr 47m</b> More Paddington mayhem with all the beloved characters back from previous adventures.
December	7pm	<b>Timestalker (15) 1hr 29m</b> A time-hopping comedy romance adventure of reincarnation told over many centuries.
Sat 21	11am	<b>Paddington in Peru (PG) 1hr 47m</b>
December	3pm	<b>Blitz (12A) 1hr 39m</b>
Sun 22 Dec	3pm	<b>Die Hard (15) 2hr 22m</b> The ultimate Christmas action movie – a treat on the big screen.
December	3pm	<b>Wicked (PG) 2hr 20m</b> Exuberant musical retelling of the Wizard of Oz starring Arianna Grande.
Thurs 26	7pm	<b>Conclave (12A) 2hr 0m</b> Ralph Fiennes leads ensemble cast in adaptation of Richard Harris novel.
December	3pm	<b>Conclave DS (12A) 2hr 0m</b>
Sat 28 Dec	3pm	<b>A Sudden Glimpse to Hidden Things DS</b> Documentary focusing on leading St Ives painter Wilhelmina Barns-Graham.
December	3pm	<b>Wicked (PG) 2hr 20m</b>

**\*\*Screening with Descriptive Subtitles**

Adults £9.50 Under 26 £6 Friends £8

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

## And finally... not finally!

We are delighted to announce that Cromarty's monthly newsletter will have a new lease of life to coincide with the coming of a new year. After 6 years - and 74 editions - this format is being replaced by a slightly different one. The intention is for it to be more user-friendly, more interactive and even more informative.

Cromarty Courthouse has generously agreed to set up a new system for the way it will be produced. This is appropriate for the newsletter which is, after all, a record of Cromarty's ever-evolving story. It also, fittingly, places it on a timeline alongside Cromarty newspapers and newsletters of the past. (Yes, there have been a few!)

And it will have a new editor. Fran Sadler has kindly offered to step in and we (the current team) are excited to see what she will bring to the role. We wish her well.

So, having initially started this back in November 2018 I am delighted to finally be passing it on to a new team. I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and to wish you a peaceful end to the year and success in all that you strive to do in 2025.

Jon (Palmer)

PS We will be emailing you further details about the 'new' newsletter towards the end of the month.

[Forward](#)

The Newsletter is currently sponsored by the Fishertown Inn. We are grateful for their support.

Please let us know what you think, and/or continue to 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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