

February 2024

So that's January done with, finally! Let's crack on and see what February has to offer... (along with a catch up on what's been going on so far this year).



This impressive image of Cromarty in the recent snow was captured by Garry Mackay and chosen by the community Facebook page as their current header.

Development Trust

Royal Hotel

Contractors have been invited to tender for the work of doing a Feasibility Study on potential community ownership of these buildings. Bids have to be in by 9 February and the successful Team will be appointed soon afterwards, once we have confirmation of grant funding to cover the Feasibility Study. Work will include a Structural Survey, Business Assessments, and work with the Community and with Community Groups; all hopefully during February to May.

East Church Hall

The working group of members will shortly be in touch with members to take forward the next stages of looking into community uses for this currently empty building, owned by Highland Council Common Good and managed by Highland Highlife. Contact Fiona Deakin, Phoebe Fox or Stefano Pia.

Visit to Gairloch

In January, some of the Directors and Julie Macrae (Development Officer) visited Gairloch and Loch Ewe to see what the Development Trust there have done. They have a specially-built Community Hub with a Gift Shop, Tourist Information, a café and meeting spaces. They employ 25 people, work with many volunteers and earn most of their income (so less reliant on outside funding). It's taken them quite a few years to get there, but it shows what an energetic community can do!

Well worth a visit if anyone is over that way!



L to R - Fiona Deakin, David Stewart, Sheila Currie, Stefano Pia, Matt Hall, Janet Miles (GALE), Julie Macrae. (Matt Grist, Ronald Young, Phoebe Fox and Fraser Mackenzie were unable to attend).

Youth Café

Monday 19th February - In-service Day activities

Intergenerational Table Tennis - games with Coffee and homemaking session - 10.30am–12noon, Victoria Hall (8+) **Football Coaching** - skills, drills and games with Inverness Caley Thistle - 12noon–1pm. Victoria Hall (5+)

Cromarty Mosaic Art Project 12noon – 2pm, Victoria Hall (5+)

All activities are FREE of Charge and open to everyone. Snacks and Refreshments served at each activity. If you have any questions, please contact:

Wanda Mackay – Youth Development Officer – 07515717011, Fraser Thomson - Assistant Youth Worker -07470 522172

Care Project

Winter Boost Fuel Payments

Cromarty Care Project was able to make payments of £50 each to 61 households in Cromarty last month. This was funded through the Open Gardens Committee award as a result of the Open Gardens Weekend in the summer and through individual donations to CCP. Sincere thanks to those who have contributed. We hope that the payment to households has made a difference, however small. Please note that applications have now closed for the Winter Boost Fuel Payments.

CAB is coming to Cromarty!

The Ross and Cromarty Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) are organising face-to-face appointments in Cromarty. CAB provide impartial, confidential information on a range of issues including: benefits, debt and money, energy, housing, work and relationships. Details will be available very soon. Meantime, if you need advice, call 01349 883333 or email <u>adviser@alnesscab.casonline.org.uk</u>

Monday Lunch Club

Monday Lunch Club for the over-60s will continue throughout February.

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)

Table Tennis

Table Tennis continues throughout February. Open to all, at any level. All equipment supplied. Entry is free, donations are welcome. We meet Monday mornings, 10.30 – 12 noon at the Victoria Hall.

Community Playgroup

The Playgroup continues throughout the school term. Parents and carers with their babies and toddlers are very welcome to join us at the Victoria Hall, 10 - 11.30 on Tuesdays Charge: £1.50 per session.

Classic Cinema Club

The Cinema Club will meet this month at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday 8th and Wednesday 22nd. For further information, please contact Helen Charley on 07889181529 or email <u>helen.charley@doctors.org.uk</u>

(Supported by the Albert Hunt Trust and the Bank of Scotland Foundation).

Transport while the Trikes are laid up for winter

If you need transport to the Monday Lunch club, Classic Cinema Club, or anywhere around Cromarty, we are happy to organise a car and driver for you. Please contact Maxine on 07875 963570

Cromarty Needs Carers

Could you be a home carer? No experience is necessary, since training is provided. Eilean Dubh Home Care are a very friendly and flexible company. Staff are well supported and issued with contracts. Contact them to have a chat (see advert below).



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

New donations box for the Community Sharing Larder

Cromarty residents continue to show their generosity to the Community Sharing Larder – we really appreciate your kindness! We have replaced the donations box, which was broken, and the new one is very sturdy. If you are leaving any donations, though, please just give the lid an extra push, to make sure it has closed! Donations of toiletries are especially welcome.

Christmas Lights Fundraiser

Phoebe Fox writes:

The fundraising ceilidh held in November raised £1600 towards the ongoing costs of Christmas tree and lighting the park. As part of that event we auctioned off an apron that Phil Vickery offered to get signed at This Morning TV studios. (Phil is Graham's old head chef from the 90s). Phil has kept his promise and gathered signatures from a huge selection of UK celebrities! Michael McIntyre, Rick Stein, Alice Beer, Rylan, Gino D'acampo.. it's great fun and we hope the biddee loves it!

Laura and I just want to say thank you to everyone who helps us along the way to have a wee bit of sparkle over the darker months. (And it is hugely appreciated by all, no doubt - Ed)



You'll have to tilt your head to read the signatures - I can't publish this vertical for some reason - Ed.

Growing Vegetables This Year?

For anyone wanting to grow heritage or rare varieties of potatoes, Transition Black Isle's seed potato day will be on **Saturday 2 March** at North Kessock, with SOME of the varieties of seed potatoes being available for sale at the Cromarty Community Market the following **Saturday 9 March**.

For more information, go to www.transitionblackisle.org

And locally-produced veg seeds are available to buy at Ardullie Farm near Dingwall - <u>www.seedsofscotland.com</u>







Saturday 2nd March 2024

11a.m. – 3p.m. North Kessock Village Hall

Many varieties of seed potato to grow your own (20p a spud) – plus onion sets, seed swap, advice, competitions and café

Remember to bring a bag for each variety of potato you hope to buy.

Entry £1 (kids go free)

www.transitionblackisle.org Sorry but cash only.

Middleton Trust

The Middleton Trust, who celebrated their ten-year anniversary in 2023, is looking forward to another successful year.

The trustees held their AGM in November and considered new applications for funding to support young people through sporting, creative and educational projects and activities. Trustees announced that in 2024, funding will go to the following organisations:

Cromarty Youth Café receives continuing funding from the Trust to support a wide-ranging programme for the wellbeing and needs of young people in Cromarty.

Cromarty and Resolis Cinema will carry on running its successful schools programme with Cromarty Primary School, assisted by a multi-year grant from the Trust. **Cromarty Primary School** will receive funding to help in becoming an accredited Reading School through the Scottish Book Trust.

Cromarty Baby and Toddler Group, who meet weekly in Victoria Hall, will receive funds to buy new toys.

Cromarty Arts Trust have been awarded funds towards a Summer Sewing School which will take place for a week during the summer holidays.

Cromarty Tennis and Sports Club will receive funds towards tennis coaching lessons in the Easter and summer holidays.

Cromarty Parent Council will obtain funds towards Cromarty Primary's Outdoor and Residential Learning curriculum.

Cromba Creative, which provides after-school creative workshops for Cromarty Primary pupils (P3-7), will obtain funding towards the cost of materials.

The Trust encourages all groups to consider how your project could benefit from funding from the Middleton Trust. Applications for 2025 will open this August. Please visit our webpage <u>www.cromartylive.co.uk/middleton-trust.asp</u> for more information or contact Jenny Pyle, Secretary, at <u>middletontrust@gmail.com</u>

Business Updates

The Walled Garden



Thank you for all your support during 2024. We hope you have enjoyed seeing the Walled Garden continue to evolve......

The Walled Garden is now closed to allow us to prepare for the next growing season. We are hoping to reopen late May/early June although we are very dependent on the weather.

Follow our updates on our Facebook <u>page</u>. We will also post an update here when we have a better idea of when we will re-open.

Although we are closed there are still some veg in the garden that can be picked – leeks , spinach, Swiss chard etc. As long as it isn't really frosty, just turn up on a Monday between 11am – 3pm and Derek will show you what you can pick.

Slaughterhouse Coffee

Slaughterhouse Coffee is looking for an enthusiastic, hard working and flexible team player to join us for 2024. The role is available from mid March to late September but willing to curate specific preferences for the right candidate.

If you love making coffee (don't worry, we can teach you!) and chatting away to people in a fast paced environment,

then this might be the job for you!



Royal Hotel

Happy February folks!

Our new menu is proving popular with lots of delicious new dishes - why not book a table to come and try them?

Saturday 3 February...

Eyes down for a full house as BINGO returns to the Royal! Starts around 8.30pm. Cash prizes - don't forget your dabber! Join us for dinner beforehand to guarantee your table or just turn up and we'll find you a seat.

Saturday 10 February...

Join us for a multi-course tasting menu. If you've joined us for one of our tasting menus in the past, you'll know what a treat is in store. This will be our last one as our head chef is retiring soon so don't miss out! £70/person, wine pairing also available. Reservations required.

Wednesday 14 February...

Why not join us for dinner and spoil the one you love on Valentine's Day? Booking recommended.

We're also taking bookings for Mother's Day lunch on **Sunday 10 March**, so please get in touch if you'd like to join us. Our lunch menu includes a complimentary glass of fizz for the Mums!

Open Wed-Sun from 11am-late (currently closing at 5pm on Sundays). Coffee, drinks & cakes available all day. Lunch 12-2.30 and dinner 5-8(ish, depending how busy we are!)

01381 600217 info@royalhotel-cromarty.co.uk

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for all our latest news!

Cromba Community Glass

Thank you to everyone who has supported Cromba Community Glass during 2023 more than 20 people completed a glass taster and several people also attended a one day introduction workshop to glass and I also hosted a couple of private bookings. I look forward to seeing you again in 2024.

Gift Cards sold well in the run up to Christmas and I'm busy teaching those lucky people who received a gift of a session in the studio. With Valentines Day coming up in a couple of weeks it would make a great gift for that special person or for birthdays and other special events. .

Dates for workshops in February include taster sessions on 4 and 29 February, 3, 7 and 28 March (various timeslots are available). I will also be running ! day introduction workshops on 2 and 30 March. Message me on What's App on 07761 282056 for more details and to book a place or email hello@crombacommunityglass.co.uk......

It is also possible to make a private booking, for a maximum of 4 people, on a date of your choosing and we can agree what you all want to achieve in advance of the session.

From April onwards I will be running special technique workshops. More details on these will be available in the

March update.



I look forward to teaching you all in the coming months......

Calluna

We invite Cromarty residents to join us for a Spring preview event on **Thursday 1st February**. Special offers, prize draw, fizz & nibbles from 5-7pm. Pop in to see what's new for the months ahead.

Valentine's

Calluna offers a lovely selection of cards and gifts for Valentines including Alison Moore's Happily Ever After jewellery collection and My Doris accessories.

Open daily 10-5pm.

Fishertown Inn

Thank you to everyone who came out for our last pub quiz. We raised £352 for the MS Society.

Dates for the diary:

14th February, Valentines evening with live music from Wendy and Matt. To book call 01381600988.

Saturday 2nd March - Pub Quiz in aid of Cromarty Fire brigade.

We are open for lunch and dinner 7 days a week. Freshly ground coffee and baking available daily.



And don't forget Knit and Natter every Tuesday at 3pm.

Sutor Creek

We are now fully back to being a restaurant! It's been a long transition since March 2020 but we are finally there and excited to be able to accommodate more customers again.

Our special events have been super popular and now that we have additional seating we have availability for the following;

Winter Tasting Dinner Friday 9th February

Valentine's Dinner Wednesday 14th February

Tapas at The Creek Friday 23rd February

Our opening hours are Wednesday to Sunday 10-8pm for sit-in and 12-8pm for take-away. Book or order online at <u>www.sutorcreek.co.uk</u> or phone 01381 600 855.

Cromarty Courthouse

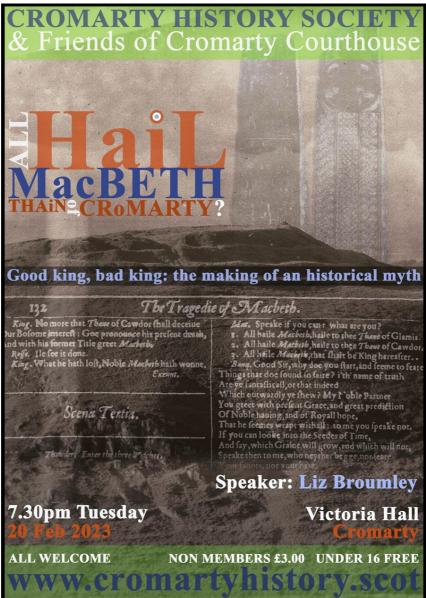
Come and join us doing some crafting ready for the museum re-opening - no experience necessary - or just drop in for a chat, we would love to see you!

We are also looking for Trustees. It's an exciting time at the Courthouse so if you are interested in finding out more about becoming one of our Trustees please email Liz on <u>chair@cromarty-courthouse.org.uk</u> to have a chat.

History Society

Of Macbeth, did one of the weird sisters actually say "Lo, yondyr the thayne of Crwmbarthy"? Was this a king under whose reign "the land did prosper mightily"? Macbeth was king of Alba, one of the areas the we now call Scotland from 1040 to 1057, he took power towards the end of a turbulent time as Scots, Gaels, Norse, Picts and Anglo-Saxons fought for power across northern Britain. The scant contemporary record suggest he was a skilful king with enough control of his realm to become the first ever King of Scotland to make a pilgrimage to Rome. When he was beaten in battle there was enough respect from his enemies for him to be buried with honour in Iona. So why is Shakespeare's depiction of him so bleak? What had happened to the story of Macbeth between his death and his reincarnation in the Scottish play? This talk will look at the emergence of Scottish narratives about Macbeth and the reasons that might lie behind the creation of a myth that in Macbeth "Something wicked this way comes." As for Macbeth being Thain of Cromarty, well I will present the evidence but you, the jury, must decide!

Liz Broumley trained in the social sciences, working in industry and academia before being seduced by computing, which led to a major career shift into AI and computer science. She spent the rest of her career in research and tutoring, finally running a small research unit on e-learning within UHI, cleverly combining her background skills with her love of the Scottish mountains. Liz plans to be one of the oldest women ever to complete the Munros. When not huffing and puffing her way up hillsides, she can be heard tormenting a perfectly innocent fiddle or engrossed in the plays of a glover's son from Stratford; that is when commitment to Cromarty Courthouse Museum allows.



Cinema

February is full of blockbusters at Cromarty Cinema! We kick off with **Poor Things**, based on a novel by Alasdair Gray and nominated for just about any award you can think of. You don't want to miss this genre-defying visual masterpiece. Speaking of nominations, Sofia Coppola's **Priscilla** puts the spotlight on the wife of Elvis. And it's a race to book your tickets for **Ferrari**, starring Adam Driver (no pun intended) and Penelope Cruz. Meanwhile, Jodie Comer shines in post-apocalyptic thriller **The End We Start From**, and in bittersweet dramedy **The Holdovers** a prep school instructor is forced to spend the holidays with students who have nowhere to go. Embrace the romance and indulge your visual taste buds by diving into **The Taste of Things**, starring the ever enigmatic Juliette Binoche. If you missed **Dune** the first time or want to relive the sci-fi epic on the big screen, here's your chance ahead of the next instalment.

Featuring a Q&A with the director, **To See Ourselves** is a moving documentary about the Scottish independence referendum. For something completely different, **Samsara** is a non-narrative documentary that is a spiritual visually stunning immersive experience. For the art fans, Exhibition on Screen is back, this time focussing on the beauty of gardens with **Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse**.

Following the success of Steve Birch's talk last month, Andrew Wilson, Local Archaeological Guide will be giving an illustrated talk about the stunning Italian City of Ravenna, titled **Mosaic Art of Byzantine Ravenna**. This will take place at the cinema on **Wednesday 21st February** at 19.00. The event is free (donations welcome on the door) but email <u>dfrasermackenzie@gmail.com</u> to reserve seats. As ever, book your tickets at <u>https://cromartycinema.com/films/</u>, the human box office on Thursdays 12-2, or try your luck at the door. If you want discounted tickets and the chance to hire the cinema for a cinematic experience for you and your friends and family, you can become a friend of the cinema by filling in the form <u>here</u>. And we're always looking for more volunteers so get in touch to join the gang.

We look forward to seeing you in February!

CROMARTY CINEMA





February 2024

Friday 2 February	7pm	Poor Things (18) 2hr 22m Young woman Bella gets the brain of a baby. Genre-defying and many times nominated, Emma
	1.000000000	Stone and William Defoe star and Yorgos Lanthimos (The Favourite) directs.
Sunday 4	3pm	Poor Things DS (18) 2hr 22m
February	7	D
Tuesday 6 February	7pm	Poor Things (18) 2hr 22m
Friday 9	7pm	The End We Start From (15) 1hr 41m
February	7 pm	Jodie Comer stars in post-apocalyptic thriller as England sinks beneath the flood.
Sat 10	7pm	Dune (12) 2hr 35m
February	7 pm	A chance to rewatch part 1 (or see for the first time) before the release of part 2 in March.
Sun 11	3pm	The End We Start From DS (15) 1hr 41m
February	Spin	The End we start from DS (15) 1m 41m
Weds 14	7pm	To See Ourselves + Q&A (U) 2hr 03m
February	7pm	Moving documentary tells the untold story of the Scottish independence referendum. Director
rebruary		Jane McAllister will be joining us for post screening Q&A.
Friday 16	7pm	Priscilla (15) 1hr 53m
February	7 pm	This time the spotlight is on Priscilla, from schoolgirl and child bride to her strange life as wife of
rebruary		Elvis. Sofia Coppola directs.
Sunday 18	3pm	The Holdovers DS (15) 2hr 13m
February	Spin	A teacher, a student and a cook are forced to spend the holidays together in 1970s set
rebruary		bittersweet college comedy.
Tuesday 20	7pm	Priscilla DS (15) 1hr 53m
February	, but	
Thurs 22	7pm	The Holdovers (15) 2hr 13m
February	· P····	
Friday 23	7pm	Ferrari (15) 2hr 10 m
February		Enzo Ferrari has retired from racing and is heavily in debt. Handsome biopic set in 1957 stars
,		Adam Driver and Penelope Cruz.
Sat 24	7pm	The Taste of Things (12A) 2h 15m
February		French foodie belle epoque romance starring Juliette Binoche as cook for a wealthy gourmet. Eat
2019-09-07-2019-020- 4 11		before watching
Sunday 25	3pm	Samsara (U) 1h 54m
February		Filmed in 25 countries over 5 years, non-narrative documentary depicts a spiritual journey in
		visually stunning immersive experience.
Tuesday 27	7pm	EOS: Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse (U) 1h 33m
February		Based on the sell-out show at the Royal Academy in London. The ideal film for lovers of art
		and/or gardens.
		Adults £9 Under 26 £5.50 Friends £7.50
		Adults ±9 Under 26 ±5.50 Friends ±7.50

More film info and book online at: **cromartycinema.com** or at **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 or email admin@cromartycinema.com The Cromarty Cinema, Cromarty, IV11 8XZ

The Cheese House Vlogs

For those who enjoy their viewing in bite-sized chunks, (see what I did there? – Ed), the Vlogs in the series **'Last Year'** continue to be released on a weekly basis throughout February. Over the next four weeks we cover the summer months of May, June, July and August. Expect glorious weather, a trip on the ferry, a tour around the Police House garden and regular commentary from a resident monkey. All intended to lift the spirits. All episodes so far (approximately 16 minutes in length) are available to view <u>here</u>.



The June episode - featuring some midsummer madness - is scheduled for release on 9th February.

Arts Trust

February is a fairly quiet month for the Cromarty Arts Trust but two exciting events to let you know about, both at the Old Brewery.

Friday 9 February. Cycling poet Caroline Burrows will be there, with her bike of course, to read some of her work ahead of the publication of her first book in March. It's open mic night as well so if you have story, a song, a poem or any piece of writing you'd like to share, please come along. Just let us know on the door when you arrive. Doors open at 7pm, this is a pay what you can event, we suggest £6 minimum but please don't let price be a barrier and come along. BYOB.

Friday 23 February. Award-winning writer Sian Meades-Williams will be running a half day writing workshop from 10am - 1pm. Entitled 'Getting Your Writing Out Into The World', this workshop will cover everything from finding your writing tribe and building your own writing network, to entering your work into competitions and submitting for publication. The gentle practical exercises will help you shape your writing goals for 2024, and guide you towards dusting off your writing from your desk drawer and help you get it seen and shared with a new audience. £35, book by emailing info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk .

Sian Meades-Williams is staying at Ardyne for almost a month. She is a poet, author and freelance writer living in

North London. Her work has been published by the New York Times, National Geographic, and Sunday Times.

Many more exciting events coming up over 2024, including a solo gig from Anna Massie on 23 March! Tickets for that, Cromarty Crime & Thrillers Weekend and all events, courses and workshops are now on sale and full details are on the website. <u>www.cromartyartstrust.org.uk</u>

And finally...

These newsletters are not expensive to produce but they do cost money. We have enough in the coffers for the next three months but it would be great if someone (or an organisation) was willing to sponsor a few more months or even a year! If you think that might be you, please drop us a line.

See you all in March (and I mean that literally, folks!)

Best wishes,

- Jon and 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 <u>editor@cromartylive.co.uk</u>

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

The Newsletter is currently sponsored by a private benefactor.

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