



March 2024

Welcome to another edition of your local news round-up, which will continue for the foreseeable future thanks to the generosity of two local residents, who responded positively to our appeal for sponsors in the last edition. We take this as acknowledgement of how useful the publication is to folk. We trust you agree, otherwise you wouldn't be here reading this!

Cromarty Care Project

A New Storage Shed for the Community Larder



On Friday 23rd February, Chris and Paul from Fettes Sawmills rolled into town and constructed a new shed for us (seen here with Denise McIntosh, Chair of Cromarty Care Project).

Why do we need a new shed? Up to now our storage has been in three separate locations, relying on the goodwill of

St Regulus Church and one of our Trustees, together with a small 'bunker' (showing signs of age, visible in the image on the left) beside the Larder itself. Now, our wonderful volunteers can focus on stocking the larder without extra running around, and we have all our stock in one place. A definite improvement!

The new shed has been made possible thanks to a grant from North Highland Initiative Community Infrastructure Support Programme. We are grateful to Fettes Sawmills who donated delivery and installation charges. Thanks also to Cromarty Development Trust for allowing us to erect the shed at Townlands Barn.

Please leave any donations in the Donations Box – we are always grateful for toiletries.

Monday Lunch Club

Monday Lunch Club for the over-60s will continue this month, the last meeting before Easter taking place on 18th March. We really appreciate the Fishertown Inn, who have made us very welcome since October last year and we look forward to returning there after the Summer Season. Meanwhile, CCP are working on making alternative arrangements, which will be posted here, in the Post Office and on Facebook.

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 March until the Easter Break (final meeting on 25th). 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 (final meeting on 26th). 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 13th and Wednesday 27th. Please arrive early to avoid disappointment!

For further information, please contact Helen Charley on 07889181529 or email helen.charley@doctors.org.uk

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

The Trikes are coming out of hibernation!

The Trikes are waking up from their hibernation and will be available, weather permitting. If you need transport to the Monday Lunch club, Classic Cinema Club, or anywhere around Cromarty, 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. Pay up to £15 per hour, plus mileage and pension. Contact to have a chat on 07859 795029 or email audrey@edhomecare.co.uk

Citizens Advice is Coming to Cromarty!

Christine Macdonald, from Ross & Cromarty Citizens Advice Bureau, will be offering face-to-face appointments in the Victoria Hall on the third Tuesday of every month, starting on Tuesday 16th April. 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



Below is the first of a regular information slot from CAB:

CAB Focus on . . . Attendance Allowance

Attendance Allowance is a benefit for people over State Pension age who need help with personal care or supervision because of an illness or disability.

There are two different weekly rates, and the amount you get depends on how much help you need. Any money you do receive doesn't need to be spent on your care. The money you receive isn't taxable or means-tested – so your savings or income won't affect your claim. Claiming also won't affect any other benefits you receive.

You can claim Attendance Allowance if you meet all the following criteria:

- You're over State Pension age (if you haven't reached it, you may be eligible for Adult Disability Payment instead).
- You have any type of disability or physical or mental illness, including sight or hearing impairments and conditions such as dementia.
- You could benefit from help with personal care, such as getting washed or dressed, or supervision to keep you safe during the day or night.
- You have needed help for at least 6 months. If you are terminally ill you can make a claim straight away.

You don't need to be receiving care to apply for Attendance Allowance.

To make a claim, you have to fill out the Attendance Allowance application form. There are a couple of ways to get your form. You can:

- call the Attendance Allowance helpline on 0800 731 0122
- download a claim form from GOV.UK.

It is best to telephone for an application form because if your application is successful, it will be back paid to the date of the phone call. You have 6 weeks from the date of your request to return the form.

When filling out the form, it is important to be really clear about how your illness or disability affects your life and attach any supporting information, such as GP letters, your care plans, or prescription lists. The success of your application can depend on how well you complete the form. Citizens Advice can help you with this. It can take up to 12 weeks to get a decision but, if successful, your payment will be backdated. If you're not happy with the decision, you can appeal. Our Advisers can also help you with appeals.

Tattie Day(s)



A reminder that the main Black Isle seed tattie day is **Saturday 2 March at the North Kessock Hall** from 11-3. Bring bags. See more info on varieties etc here. Organised by Transition Black Isle.

Some varieties will also be available at the Cromarty Community Market on Saturday 9 March 10.30-12.30. Bring bags.

These are all guaranteed disease-free seed potatoes, some are organic too.

Development Trust



East Church Hall

Thanks to everyone who came to the Open Day last Saturday or got a separate tour. Lots of potential interest in uses for the Hall IF the Trust was to put a bid in for a Community Asset Transfer from Highland Council. As a Common Good asset, any use of the building has to pay for itself AND show community benefit. The next stage is to see if the interest shown so far is enough for CCDT to risk taking on the costs of running such a building on behalf of the community.

Special thanks to Phoebe Fox and Fiona Deakin for putting in a big effort to have the place open and welcoming, and with Julie Macrae (Development Officer) having many conversations with the folk who came along.

Anyone wanting to write in with more detail on their ideas or questions can write to us at cromartydevelopmenttrust@gmail.com

Royal Hotel

The application for Stage 1 Funding associated with a full Feasibility Study was submitted on 12 February to the

Scottish Land Fund; and we await a funding decision w/c 18 March 2024. Look out for more news soon.

Cromarty Courthouse

From Eilidh Young:

I am writing at the end of February, just about six weeks into my role at the Courthouse. This is an exciting time of year as we prepare for our 2024 season and the opening on 1st April. There is a lot going on at The Courthouse. I started at the beginning of January and it's been a very busy time, meeting the staff, volunteers and lots of new people in the town, whilst taking on the exhibits and the shop amid the cleaning, painting and general tasks getting ready to open for the new season. Thank you to everyone I have met so far for the very warm Cromarty welcome. I am delighted to be here.

A new season is always a new challenge. This year we are focusing on growing the charity so that we have a future in 2025 and beyond. We will be doing this through community projects, applying for external project funding, and finding innovative ways to share the history of Cromarty.

Upcoming events at the Courthouse

30th March A community Quiz Night at The Fishertown Inn.

1st April Opening for the 2024 season with a new exhibition from the Camera Club.

4th April A talk on the Mathesons and the Isle of Lewis community, featuring the Mathesons, by Kate Forbes at the Victoria Hall.

8/9th June Cromarty Open Gardens with events at The Courthouse.

31st October Halloween at The Courthouse. The highlight of the community year. It's bigger than Christmas!

The Courthouse finances

As with all businesses, and the Courthouse is a business, we are working hard to build a sustainable financial plan going forward because unless we change this will be the last season The Courthouse is open. Our priorities are to improve the shop sales significantly along with the visitor experience with the aim of increasing our donations. Entrance will still be free. But we are putting a lot of effort into creating projects that will create funded roles as well as improve and enhance our business model. Unfortunately, it's the gritty reality facing museums and heritage across the country. We are recruiting: for an Operations Supervisor. This is a new role five days a week from 1st April to 31st October and one day a week through our closed season. The job is all about working with visitors, making the shop more efficient and looking after our social media to enhance the museum and the overall experience. It is designed to be as flexible as possible around other commitments such as caring responsibilities. We also have an exciting new volunteering opportunity for Volunteer Tour Guides who will be to lead our new free tours of the Courthouse. Volunteer Tour Guides will only be committing to being onsite for 60 minutes so it can easily be fitted into lunchtimes or around busy days. If you are interested please come and have a chat.

And, in addition, we have some great projects on the go...

The Courthouse building

We have been working closely with Highland Council (the owners of the building) to get essential works completed. The Council has already cleared the gutters and the downpipes and we have been working with them to address other essential maintenance to maintain integrity and make the building watertight. It's ongoing and major work is required. Our thanks to Julie Ferguson our Building Volunteer and the staff at the Highland Council for their help and assistance in taking this forward.



If you have time on a Wednesday morning please drop in and say hello to us! Everyone is welcome, young and old. We will be busy making giant easter eggs for the next couple of weeks but even if you don't fancy getting your hands dirty come along for a chat - if the weather is nice we might even get our cake in the garden!

The Courthouse Clock

I am told the clock has not kept time nor struck the hours for twenty years or so. The last record of it being serviced is 2002, shortly before the Highland Council ceased to support the maintenance of clocks on public buildings.

We have agreed an initial repair contract with Smith of Derby to get the clock going and the bell striking again. But, there is always a but.....there is additional work to do in restoring the clock loft, making it safe, along with other ongoing clock repairs. To do this and fully restore the clock and the clock loft we have to raise some money through grants, donations and a Crowdfunding Campaign. It's really exciting stuff.

As the project develops, we will be recruiting staff and volunteers to take on important roles supporting the clock and creating a long-term community involvement for the young people as well as the not so young. Please visit our

JustGiving page, every donation makes a big difference
www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/cromarty-courthouse-clock



'What's on at The Courthouse'

We will be holding a What's on at the Courthouse event once the season is underway. This is a natural progression from our earlier Behind the Scenes at the Courthouse before Christmas last year. We look forward to the community getting involved in this piece of Cromarty history and it gives us a chance to share our ideas as well as hear what you think too.

The Garden

We are drawing up some plans to make more use of the garden. It is a fabulous space which has been well tended over the years. It's a well-preserved conservation space for wildlife and people alike. We would like ideas as well as some willing volunteers to get involved and help us take this opportunity forward. So far, we have had suggestions for a community vegetable space involving the younger generations and the youth group, as well as a sensory garden. Others have suggested using it as a creative space for plays or poetry. Whilst all this is being thought about, Arthur likes the idea of a Summer BBQ!

As you can see there really is a lot going on. Please come and get involved. I am always happy to have a chat over coffee, drop me an email on manager@comarty-courthouse.org.uk or just pop in when you are passing.

Eilidh

Cromarty Open Gardens and Art & Flowers Display 2024



Image credit: Cromarty Camera Club

With only three months to go until Cromarty throws open its gardens to the public and East Church hosts the wonderful display of floral arrangements and botanic art, the organising team are busy making preparations in the hope that this fundraising event will once again raise a substantial sum of money to benefit local organisations.

Fortunately, several worthy people have agreed to join the team this year and take some of the strain off the small committee. If anyone would like to help over the weekend, please get in touch.

The Art & Flowers Display is on daily from Saturday 1st June until Sunday 9th June. The Open Gardens weekend is Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th June.

Please grow for us

The popular Plant Stall at the Open Gardens makes a great contribution to our fundraising so, now that Spring is nearly with us, please take cuttings or plant seeds to help us – perennials, bedding and vegetable plants – all are welcome as are unwanted plant pots or garden paraphernalia.

Would your group like to benefit from our fundraising?

Last year we distributed £6,700 between eleven local Cromarty groups and charities. If your group could use some financial help please get in touch.

New gardens welcome

We always welcome new gardens to add to the list. They don't have to be show gardens, just your space, large or small, where you relax and enjoy pottering or sitting out with a cuppa or a glass. About 30 gardens are open over the weekend, some are hidden spaces, some are just viewed over the fence, so if you would like to open your garden please contact us.

To discuss any of the above please contact one of the following:

Julie & Jeremy Price – 01381 600709; Evelyn Wilson – 01381 600718; Ginny Hourston - 01381 600409; Alison Palmer - 01381 600466 or alison.palmer@btinternet.com

Business Updates

Slaughterhouse Coffee

Slaughterhouse Coffee is *still* 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!

Current opening times: Thursday to Monday (9am - 3pm). Closed Tues/Wed.

Fishertown Inn

We have exciting news! As of Easter weekend, possibly slightly earlier, we're planning to be selling Ice-cream from a wee bothy in the Beer Garden. This will be

accessible from Miller lane so no need to come through the pub. Watch our social media for updates.

Our Sunday roasts are proving very popular so we encourage folk to book in advance, if possible, to avoid disappointment.

Dates for the Diary

Saturday 2nd March - Quiz, in aid of Cromarty Fire Service

Sunday 10th March - Special Mother's Day Roast

Every Tuesday - 3pm - Knit and Natter

Thursday 7th & 21st of March - Music nights

Thursday 14th & 28th - Poetry & creative writing sharing sessions

CROMARTY FIRE SERVICE

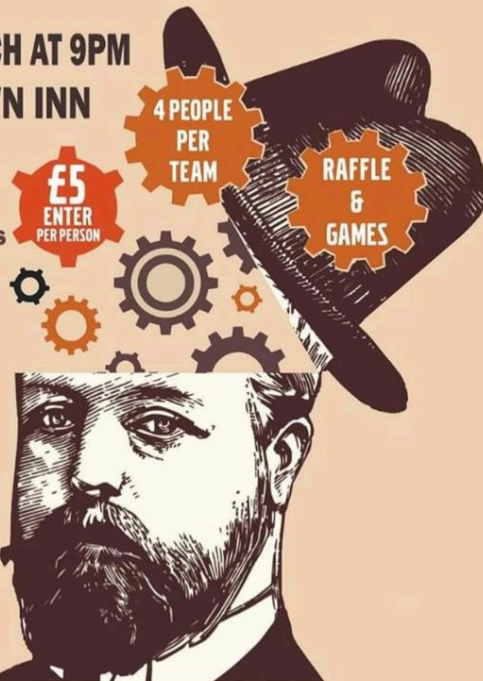
QUIZ NIGHT

**SATURDAY 2ND MARCH AT 9PM
AT THE FISHERTOWN INN**

Come and support your local Fire Station. Funds raised will go towards community events.

**POP IN AND BUY
YOUR
RAFFLE TICKETS
NOW!**

To reserve your table for food before the quiz, please call
01381 600988



THE FISHERTOWN INN

Church Street, Cromarty, IV11 8XA
Email info@fishertowninn.com

Cromarty Brewing Co.

February has been a month of planning here at Cromarty Brewing Co. We have been installing some new tanks, looking into some new kit to help speed up production (watch this space) and sprucing up the shop.

We continue to see the results from our new CO₂ recapture and solar panels and are looking into more ways to help reduce our carbon footprint.

We are looking forward to our first event of 2024, the Etape Loch Ness which will take place on 28th April.

We received another award from CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival Winter for Champion Beer of Scotland in the Speciality, Differently Produced category for Red Rocker which took Silver. On the topic of Red Rocker our Double Rocker will be back later this year and our 80 shilling will be available in cans soon.....make a sure to check out the can as there is some familiar local scenery featured!

Our winter onsite shop opening hours will be Monday to Friday 10am till 4pm, closed on Sundays. We will be re-opening on a Saturday from March 2nd 10am till 2pm.

We have some winter deals in the brewery shop just now so make sure to head over and have a look.

The Royal Hotel

We still have a few tables left for lunch on Mother's Day on Sunday 10th March, please get in touch to book if you would like to treat your Mum!

Would you like to join our team? We have part-time positions available throughout the hotel - kitchen, bar/restaurant & housekeeping. Please contact us if you are interested.

Open Wed - Sun from 11am. Coffee, homemade cake, drinks, local beers on tap, lunch & dinner are all available.

And did you know? We serve takeaways (our takeaway fish & chips is very popular but we also do other dishes), gift vouchers are available for any amount, you're welcome to pop in for 'just a coffee', and we are dog-

friendly.. (it's come to our attention that lots of you didn't know we offer these things, so now you do!)

Thanks for all your support, it is much appreciated. Have a great March and hope to see you soon!

Sutor Creek

Thank you to all our local customers who supported us through the winter, we've been kept busy with our additional tables, take-aways, and our special nights including Tapas and Tastings.

In addition to additional tables, our newly configured space has allowed us to create a bar area which has resulted in a few more options on our drinks menu. We now offer pre-dinner cocktails, increased our wine list (to include some zero alcohol) and extended our whisky & gin list to include a good range of local distilleries.

Our take-away menu continues to offer all the best sellers from our menu alongside our wood-fired pizzas - menu includes Cullen Skink; Crispy Calamari; Beer Battered Fish & Chips; Flank Steak with sauteed potatoes, bacon & onion; Butternut & Sage Risotto; and much more!
Order from www.sutorcreek.co.uk or give us a phone on 01381 600 855.

MOTHER'S DAY - Sunday 10th March

Treat mum to a meal at Sutor Creek this Mother's Day (with choices available to suit the entire available!).
Roasts, pizzas, seafood, delicious desserts! Tables available from 12-7pm

EASTER SUNDAY - Sunday 31st March

We will serve a traditional Sunday Roast Lamb for Easter Sunday, slow roasted overnight in our wood-fired oven and served with all the trimmings. Our seasonal menu with local produce and Scottish seafood will also be available alongside our Roast and Wood-fired pizzas. Reservations available 12-7pm. Book online or phone 01381 600 855.

Ingrid's House

We have new stock arriving weekly from our travels to Stockholm. Watch our social media for special offers as we make space for all the new stock.

Ingrid's House is a great place to find the perfect Mother's Day gift so why not pop in for a browse, we are open 7 days a week.

Calluna

Spring has sprung! So has our selection of styles - we have a gorgeous range of Spring Knits that start at just £29.99. New brands include RELIGION London - perfect dresses for attending weddings and parties if you are planning ahead for the summer!

March Offer!

We have a stunning new collection of Elie Beaumont Italian Leather bags in the shop. With the sale of every Town and Crossover style leather bag, we are giving away a £25 strap of your choice... lots of fun colours & fabrics to choose from. Pop in and have a look (perfect Mother's Day, combined gift for someone special or just a lovely treat to yourself).

Calluna is open daily 10-5pm.

The Cheese House Vlogs



March sees the culmination of our series of You Tube videos all about our time running the cheese shop in Cromarty.

This weekend's episode is 'the big one' – the day a great number of locals turned out to help move the shop from

Church Street to the Old Police Station. A genuine slice of Cromarty history. That's followed by an episode re-living the sights and sounds of eight years of *Gluren bij de Buren*. (Watch for some familiar faces and places - and some cracking music). The final two episodes are about closing the shop and the all-important question: what happens next?

It's never too late to subscribe to the channel, and comments and feedback are always appreciated. Go to [Last Year - @cromartycheese2023](#).

Cinema

Happy March from Cromarty Cinema! If you don't have much planned, just peruse our jam-packed schedule below and you're bound to find plenty to keep yourself occupied in the comfort of our cozy community cinema.

Want to see the most talked about features? Not to worry, we start the month off with **The Zone of Interest**, the impactful and unforgettable Auschwitz drama. Mads Mikkelsen stars in Nordic Western **The Promised Land**, and Ethan Coen directs **Drive-Away Dolls**, a star studded road trip comedy. Hirokazu Kore-eda (*Shoplifters*) is back with compassionate drama **Monster**, and of course, the much anticipated **Dune 2** will continue the epic saga.

Fadia's Tree is a documentary about a Palestinian refugee's quest to find an ancient tree, tied to her family's heritage. We're also lucky to be able to welcome director Sarah Beddington for a Q&A after the film! If you're in the mood for a bit of music, **Bob Marley One Love** is a biopic about the legendary reggae star. Something for the whole family? **Migration** is the latest fun Universal animation about a group of mallards trying to find their way south to Jamaica.

Dave's Mid-Week Screen Specials at the Cromarty Cinema

Thursday 7th March to Thursday 4th April

Five... amazing, classic Film Noir movies rarely seen on the big screen. Kicking off with 'The Maltese Falcon' on the 7th March, then followed by 'Double Indemnity', 'Key Largo', 'The Night of the Hunter' and finally, on the 4th April, the Orson Welles classic, 'Touch of Evil'.

This is an
incredible season
of films not to be
missed!



Please contact Cromarty Cinema for tickets and further information.
<https://cromartycinema.com>

Following on from last year's highly successful, Jacques Tati season, Dave Newman is once again introducing another short season of great movies. This year it will be based around the genre of Film Noir. For around twenty years, starting in the early 1940's, Hollywood produced a number of movies, stars and directors who became synonymous with a genre of films known as Film Noir. These movies were generally marked by a mood of pessimism, fatalism, and dark menace, and many are now seen as classic films of the period. These films also helped launch the careers of so many great actors and directors of the period, such as Humphrey Bogart, Edward G Robinson, Lauren Bacall, Peter Lorre, Fritz Lang, Orson Welles and Billy Wilder to name but just a few. Over the course of five Thursdays beginning on 7th March, Cromarty Cinema will be screening five of these classic films that are rarely seen on the big screen... but should be!

And that's not all so please have a look for more wonderful films in the schedule below and book your tickets at <https://cromartycinema.com/films/>, the human box office Thursdays 12-2, or at the door.



CROMARTY CINEMA

March 2024



Saturday 2 March	7pm	The Zone of Interest (12A) 1hr 46m The Auschwitz commandant and his wife are living a dream lifestyle - beside the camp.
Sunday 3 March	3pm	The Promised Land (15) 2hr 07m Nordic western. Mads Mikkelsen stars as army captain turned potato farmer.
Wednesday 6 March	7pm	Fadia's Tree + Q&A with director (U) 1hr 26m Documentary about a Palestinian refugee's search to find an ancient tree, witness to her family's heritage. Q&A follows with director Sarah Beddington and the Highland Palestine Network.
Thursday 7 March	7pm	The Maltese Falcon - Noir Season (PG) 1hr 44m Humphrey Bogart is Sam Spade in the classic 1941 noir. John Huston in directorial debut.
Friday 8 March	7pm	All of Us Strangers (15) 1hr 45m Fantasy romance about love and loss starring Claire Foy, Paul Mescal and Andrew Scott.
Saturday 9 March	7pm	American Fiction (15) 1hr 57m Writer hits big time with his satirical novel in hard hitting comedy about race and hypocrisy.
Sunday 10 March	3pm	All of Us Strangers DS (15) 1hr 45m
Thursday 14 March	7pm	Double Indemnity – Noir Season (PG) 1hr 48m Barbara Stanwyck gives her all opposite Fred MacMurray in the ultimate crime thriller.
Friday 15 March	7pm	Perfect Days (PG) 2hr 03m Wim Wenders directs in Oscar-tipped love-letter to Tokyo – and clean toilets.
Saturday 16 March	7pm	Dune: Part 2 (12) 2hr 36m More of the mythic journey of Paul Atreides as he unites with Chani and the Fremens.
Sunday 17 March	11am	Migration (U) 1h 31m A family of mallard ducks struggle to find their way south to Jamaica in fun Universal animation.
Sunday 17 March	3pm	Dune: Part 2 DS (12) 2h 36m
Thursday 21 March	7pm	Key Largo – Noir Season (PG) 1h 37m Bogart and Huston again, this time with Laren Bacall and Edward G. Robinson as scary gangster.
Friday 22 March	7pm	Four Daughters (12A) 1h 50m Docudrama exploring why two daughters left family to become fighters for Islamic State in Syria.
Saturday 23 March	7pm	Out of Darkness (15) 1h 27m Stone age horror set in the bleak freezing Highlands in confident directorial debut.
Sunday 24 March	3pm	The Breakfast Club (15) 1h 37m Relive Saturday detention with the brat pack in the 1985 John Hughes classic
Thursday 28 March	7pm	The Night of the Hunter – Noir Season (PG) 1h 32m Robert Mitchum at his most terrifying in gripping 1955 thriller.
Friday 29 March	7pm	Drive-Away Dolls (12A) 1h 24m Comedy road trip starring Margaret Qualley and Matt Damon. Directed by Ethan Coen.
Saturday 30 March	7pm	Bob Marley One Love (12A) 1h 44m Biopic exploring 1976-78 in the life of the legendary reggae star.
Sunday 31 March	3pm	Monster (12A) 2h07m Director Hirokazu Kore-eda's (Shoplifters) compassionate new drama.

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

Arts Trust

The Arts Trust events are coming thick and fast now we are approaching spring.

On **Saturday 9 March**, Rosie Newman is running a Seascapes Unfolded day on the seashore and in the Old Buoy Store by the harbour. This one-day workshop will explore the intricate world of seaweeds then create beautiful memory books using cyanotype, printing, collage, and painting. At only £10, this day quickly sold out, it was generously funded by the Highlands & Island Climate Hub. We'll keep seeking funding to run more of these workshops at an affordable rate, so keep an eye on our e-newsletter for more. Our thanks too to Paul and the

Aberdeen University for letting us use the Old Buoy Store for this workshop.

Friday 15 March sees Scottish singer/songwriter and accomplished guitarist Simon Kempston, play a small scale and intimate gig in the Old Brewery. Kicking off the Cromarty Ukulele Weekend there are still two tickets left if anyone wants to join us for dinner first then stay on for Simon's performance. £35 for a two-course dinner and the gig.

If you're going up past the Stables on **Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 March**, you'll hear the mellow sounds of massed ukulele playing for Cromarty Ukulele Weekend. The residential places are fully booked but there are still spaces left for the individual workshops, at £15 for a two-hour workshop, you can do just one or two or join all four and enjoy playing Ewan MacColl folk songs, Burt Bacharach for Ukulele, Country Blues on the Ukulele, The Beatles Now and Then for Ukulele.

On **Saturday 23 March** the Black Isle Correspondent and all-round musical genius, Anna Massie play her first solo gig for many years at the Stables. Anna is releasing a new solo album on 15 March, hear it live and enjoy an evening of amazing music and great craic with Anna. Tickets selling fast.

Sunday 31 March, Simon Evans & Ian Sharp are giving us an Easter Sunday afternoon concert at the Stables. Simon on violin and Ian on piano will play pieces by Dora Pejaevic, Lili Boulanger, Lekeu, Mozart Sonata in F and Brahms Sonata in G. Tea, coffee and a home baked easter treat included. As always for our classic series, under 18s go free.



Anna Massie plays the Stables on March 23rd

And finally...

Following on from last month's 'appeal', and the fact there is obvious demand for this publication to continue - is there anyone out there who fancies taking on the editorial role? (As proved, one can do it remotely!)

It's a very straightforward task, technically, as long as you have a bit of basic computer literacy. Takes just a couple of hours a month. And is very rewarding when you know it's being appreciated by so many folks (yes that's all 330 of you!)

If you'd like to discuss what's involved in a bit more detail (no obligation) then have a chat with Jon, please! (Its been the best part of five years now, and time for someone new).

And finally, finally...

From the Community Council: A NEW **Cromarty Live** website will be visible before Easter. The existing link - [Cromarty Live](#) - will take you to it. Currently it's carrying (almost daily) updates on the work/disruption to Cromarty by Lothian Broadband.

(Always worth a delve and the new website will, no doubt, be far less cluttered and much easier to navigate - Ed)

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 Jon Palmer, Jeremy Price and Laura Shepherd.

The Newsletter is currently sponsored by a private benefactor.

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