

CROMARTY NEWS



August 2025

Oh, I do like to be beside the seaside....



Cromarty takes on the world!

Skiffie Worlds 2025

This month the rowing club took to the Skiffie Worlds 2025! A long journey to Stranraer found us at this year's Skiffie Worlds. With 79 other clubs from across the world and over 2000 rowers, our little community club felt right at home!

We came home with some exceptional results, both in heats and races. Our 60+ women smashed their heat and came 10th overall in the world - an incredible achievement! Our **U17** women rowed a fantastic row, coming **2nd overall in the world!** Our club came 32nd in the world, which is an immense achievement. Overall the club had an excellent time at the Skiffie Worlds 2025 and everyone can't wait for the next one in three years time!

In the coming month we start to gear up for **Cromarty Community Rowing Club Regatta!** With 15 clubs coming to visit our lovely town, we are excited for a fun-filled racing weekend! Cromarty Community Rowing Club invites you to join us at the beach on the **30th-31st of August 2025** to get involved with all of the action! From the raffle, to our amazing food stalls, to getting involved in games or just socialising, there's something for everyone! We look forward to seeing you all on the day cheering on Cromba!

Orlagh Maciver



A new initiative - Visit Cromarty

This is a new initiative by Cromarty Community Development Trust (CCDT) to build a digital presence for the attractions and businesses of Cromarty with the primary aim of increasing visitor footfall to the

town. The developing strategy has been initiated by creating a Facebook and Instagram account called Visit Cromarty which will share content about things to do, places to visit and stay, where to eat and shop, community events and fairs and so on.

Next on the list is a website highlighting these same things with some static content (listings for each business/visitor attraction) alongside blog content, captivating images and hopefully some video content too.



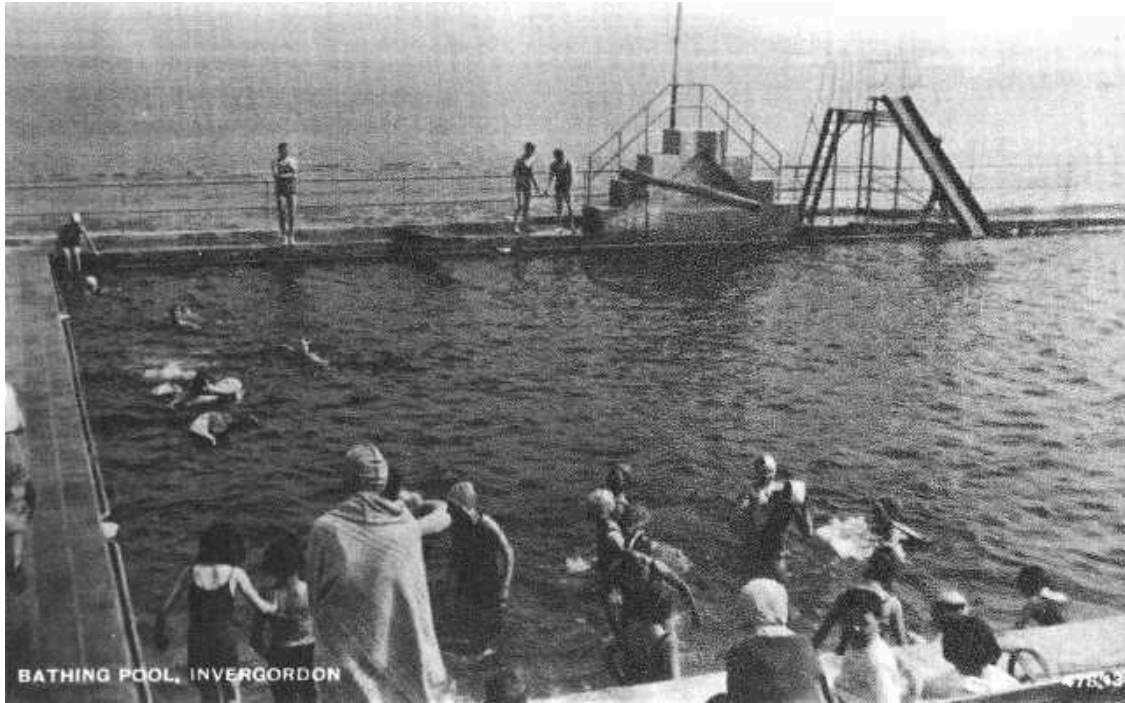
The task is big, and to include all that want to be part of the campaign, a Business Group will be formed. At this stage, a private facebook page for the Business Group has been created to help collect members and share information on the proposed digital strategy. Invitations to join have been extended to all Cromarty organisations that are following the Visit Cromarty facebook page, but we know there are more. Invitations will also be sent by email and regular snail mail where a social profile doesn't (yet) exist. If you haven't received any invitation and you are a business owner/visitor attraction please get in touch with Hayley at CCDT by email (hayley@cromartycdt.org.uk) and she will be happy to add you and share any information about the campaign.

Our community can help this campaign by following the Visit Cromarty social profiles, on Facebook and Instagram and using #visitcromarty and #thisiscromarty with any posts of our local scenery/beauty spots!



Facebook

Instagram



Could we have one of these in Cromarty? It would have a wide appeal. Lidos offer numerous benefits, including opportunities for exercise, social interaction, and improved well-being. They often feature beautiful architecture and can provide a safer and more controlled swimming environment than natural bodies of water. Furthermore, lidos can boost local economies and contribute to community cohesion. (AI)

There are remnants of this to be seen just as the road leaves Invergordon. It closed in the mid-70s. There are more pictures on the Invergordon Archive website (to whom credit is due for this image).

Cromarty Harbour - East Pier Update

Hopefully you will have seen the progress being made so far on the East Pier project. It is now well underway and the results are starting to show. Hoping that all challenges were behind us, we came across an issue that had the potential to drastically limit the scope of the project. When work started, a diving survey was conducted at the end of the pier to check the condition of the base and to identify where there may be issues in the structure.

Regrettably, the structure was not as stable as we had hoped, with the discovery of voids and slipped stones at the base, making the pier structure highly vulnerable to collapse; perhaps not in the short term but certainly a likely event in the near future. From this survey our engineers arrived at a plan

to secure the foundations but at an increased cost of some £90k. Given this information we had no choice but to redistribute funds to underpin the pier head. This left us to either scaling back the ambition of the project or to press on and raise more funds. The need to resolve took on some urgency due to Aberdeen Marine being on site. It would not have been financially efficient to revisit elements of the project at a later date, particularly as the cost of setting up had already been incurred. Fortunately, we once again had the support of Historic Environment Scotland who agreed to fund an additional £124k, making the project cost nearer £450k. Quite a commitment and quite an endorsement. Today the work continues, probably through until late September, where we will again have a pier to enjoy for years to come. Picture of progress on 28 July 2025.

An article in The Times on 29 July about the state of harbours in the British Isles features Cromarty and the work being done. Sorry, it's behind a paywall but email info@cromartyharbour.org for a copy.



Madness on the Links!

The Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever!

The Highland Fling Edition. Sunday 27th July

2025

Thank you to everyone who came along to Cromarty to dance in our edition of the Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever! from near and far across the Highlands

(including Fort William and the Isle of Skye); to Dave who donated his time, speakers, amp, and took the official photos; to Fran for letting us use her electricity supply; to James Support Group for being our nominated charity; to Cromarty Community Council for letting us use The Links; and to the weather gods who stopped raining just in time for us to Wuther.

My guestimate is there was somewhere between forty and fifty Kate Bushes dressed in red. We did a practice dance without music, then a run through with an amplified Kate Bush before our final group dance. After packing up the electricals, with concern more rain might arrive, a pair of extra Wutherers arrived who'd been delayed by a bee sting. That led to an additional Wee Wuther with Kate Bush played through a phone.

An astonishing £413.24 was raised for our nominated charity 'James Support Group: It's OK not to be OK' which helps families bereaved by suicide, and gives support to those struggling with their mental health.

The Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever Event was originally created by Shambush in the UK and facilitated as a global organiser's community by Samantha Wareing in Berlin. It is a not-profit event to spread the joy of dancing to Kate Bush's wonderful song Wuthering Heights, on or around Kate Bush's & Emily Bronte's joint birthday.

Thank you again everyone who danced and helped.

I very much hope we get to do it again next year.



Cromarty Camera Club Update

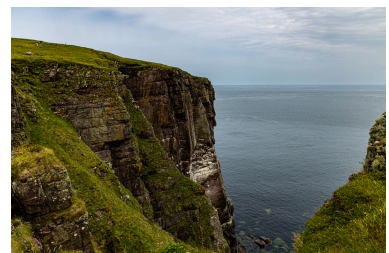
We now have our traditional summer break from meetings and members have been using the time where available for stimulating photographic outings and travels. Outings double up as a good sociable day out along with the opportunity to share photographic experiences and knowledge.

Members particularly enjoyed a recent trip to the bird-rich island of Handa on the west coast and some fine images taken by Nigel Atkinson and Alistair Meldrum on the day have been shared below. Some club members are lucky enough to travel far afield during the summer and usually share these experiences and photographs as presentations to the club membership during our Thursday evening sessions over the following months.

The planned syllabus for the start of the next season is as varied and interesting as ever with outings, presentations and workshop evenings. Our regular meetings are held in **Victoria Hall, Cromarty on Thursday evenings at 7.15pm for 7.30pm**. New members will be most welcome to join us from our first meeting of **Thursday 11th September** onwards and for this new Season we will have the added incentive of **half-price membership for new members** for their first year with us! Further information will be available via our new website soon.

Look out for our Club images in the **Cromarty Courthouse Exhibitions** and our collection of prints currently in the **Sonas Gallery**.

camera club



Cromarty Courthouse Museum

'Herring Girls' exhibition celebrations!

We are celebrating the launch of the touring exhibition 'The Herring Girls' coming to Cromarty Courthouse Museum in August!

Join us for a drop-in fish weaving workshop with basket-maker Malcolm on **13th August** - more details to follow.

Come along to **Fishy Dishy Day**, an afternoon of family fun at the Courthouse with fish BBQ, felt herring gutting championships, and more! **Saturday 16th August, 12-4pm.**



Facebook

Fishertown Inn

Our next pub quiz is on Saturday the **16th of August** in aid of **British Divers Marine Life Rescue**. Please come along and show your support for this amazing charity who work year round saving our sea life.

Quiz starts at 9pm. We look forward to seeing you then.



Fishertown Inn

BDMR

Foundling Home

**Open every week
throughout August,
Thursday to
Saturday 10.30-5.00
and Sunday 12.00-
4.00.**

New in are two very
summery fabric
designs 'Fleabane'
and 'Seafoam', hand
printed with natural
dyes by Madder
Cutch and Co,

available to order by the metre in 5 colour ways or made up for you in-house as cushions or lampshades, and from Fizzarrow we have new turtle keyrings in their lovely colourful leather.



Then don't forget you can now order your scentsational Lilyfield seasonal flower boxes from us to celebrate your special occasions or just to treat yourself, home grown by her without nasty chemicals on the shores of the Cromarty Firth. Just contact us in the shop or on 07957 833901 for details and availability.

The Last Splash

Sit by the slipway and enjoy coffee and a toastie!

Toasties at the cafe. The menu changes weekly and they have been a hit. They come three cheese as standard and menu highlights have included reubens and local venison chilli!

Last Splash Coffee Shop
Marine Terrace
Cromarty
IV11 8YL
Tel: 07360 205 368

Cromarty Library

Another of the clever, topical displays in the library.

And don't forget, there's much more than book-borrowing available: internet access, photocopying, reference, reading group, Bookbugs for the littlies....



Cromarty Youth Cafe

Summer of 2025 Fun

We don't know anyone who doesn't greet summer with open arms.

So here is a Sizzling Start and Welcome to Summer 2025 with Cromarty Youth Café

Jumping July with 29 Activities delivered to over 500 young people, friends, family and community!

There were many highlights - here's a few:

Sea Shore Exploring

We visited rockpools, discovered the hidden treasures of the tide pools, spotted exciting marine life and little sea creatures, starfish, baby crabs, mussels, limpets, and barnacles under the rocks and in the seaweed. We put them in a aerated tank and had great discussions about all.

Family Fun wellbeing day with head, shoulder and foot massage with Claire.

All families received vases of fresh flowers and well-being bags (who doesn't like a wee pamper?)

Cromarty Courthouse days, picnics in the garden, crafts, working on 'The Herring Girls' project and graffiti painting around the town with the Courthouse logo.

Mikey's line on the hive tour bus joined us.

Team building and Problem solving with the Army building a car and catapult.

Multi-Sports – Tennis with Vicky – Cricket with Cricket Scotland; Rugby with North Highland Ruby Club.

Multi-Sports with our Academy Soccer Coach and Highlife Highland young leaders.

Indoor Rock Climbing at the Ledge; very exciting many Spidermen appeared all over the wall!

Coastal Rowing and our newly crowned World Champions gaining Silver at the Worlds.

Tennis tournaments and Crombledon

Cookwell and **Bakewell** classes meant all activities were blessed with an abundance of Fresh Fruit, Food, Snacks and Summer picnics.



Cromarty Tennis and Sports Club

Another busy month for the club. At the end of school term we ran 3 x weekly sessions for the entire Primary School with coach Anne Erskine. The sessions were thoroughly enjoyed by all, as ever.

We've just had our Summer Camp, where thirty two young people got great coaching from Jack MacAulay, a new young coach from Inverness club (Anne popped over to give some encouragement too!) who, together with young coaches in training - Murdoch Jamieson and Kelsey Benjamin - contributed to the smooth running and enjoyment of the week. Big thanks to them and to our chair Vicky Benjamin for doing the organising of the coaching plus tournament, and for continually putting so much care into encouraging the next generation of Cromarty budding tennis players!

Thanks also to the MiddletonTrust for their valued funds and support.

As usual, check our website for other news + upcoming events:

We've had quite a few new people join the club lately - welcome!

If you'd like to join too the details are on the website.

Why not come along to our open sessions on Wednesdays from 6 - 8 - for all levels - all welcome!

<https://www.spanglefish.com/cromartytennisandsportsclub/>

The Crombledon tournament results were:

Six + under category

Winner : Bonnie

McDaid

Runner Up : Luna

Marcelo

8 + Under - Pre

Junior Cup

Winner : Archie

Mackay

Runner up : Innes

Maclean



Middleton Trust

Shield for most Sporting Conduct

Winner : Adam

Thomson

11 + Under - Primary Cup

Winner : Ruaridh

Horkan

Runner up : Archie

Mackay

16 + Under - Senior Cup

Winner : Kelsey Benjamin

Most Improved

Player

Winner : Theo

McIntosh

Runner up : Ruairidh

Horkan

Sutor Creek

Summer at Sutors

Summer brings lots of new items to our menus - both for sit in and take-away. Regulars will be delighted to know that Korean Fried Chicken is back - this time as a burger - whitebait and calamari all making a comeback! Book a table or order online.

Sutor Creek

Summer of Science at Hugh Miller's

There's been a lot to celebrate about here at Hugh Miller's Birthplace Museum. Our first summer of science has gotten off to a roaring success: from our fantastic fossil hunting walks to our super new summer science club, we've had the privilege of introducing people to science here in Cromarty. Over the past four Thursdays in July we have been watching volcanoes explode, calculated dinosaur sizes from footprints, grown crystals, and even fired a rocket in the Courthouse Museum garden! Looking to get your kids into science? **Our fossil walks are still available to book** on (Fridays and Saturdays tide dependent) and we have **four summer science club sessions** happening on Thursdays from the **7th August to the 28th August** - to find out more and book your place on our science workshops be sure to visit our website!

Throughout this month, our fossil experts James and volunteer Brodie are working on prepping our super exciting Scottish Geology Festival activities. This will include a fascinating exhibition on fossil myths and legends, tying in to celebrating the 190th anniversary of Hugh Miller's book "Scenes and

Legends". Get ready to traverse the boundaries between fact and folklore with our temporary exhibition, "**Stories in Stone**" - launching on **Sunday 31st August**. We will be announcing more about our Geology Festival activities soon so keep an eye on our museum Facebook page for more updates!

We hope to see you this month - don't forget Cromarty townsfolk get **FREE ENTRY** to the museum!

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hugh-millers-birthplace-cottage-and-museum-33806402821>



News from St Regulus' Church

The Church has undergone a bit of a transformation since Fr Alex started as Rector in February. He is very tech savvy and a number of positive changes have taken place.

We are indebted to Highland Broadband which has installed a super-fast fibre optic system for us completely free and as a community benefit. It means the church can now live stream services, accept donations via a QR code and offer the space to others in the community to enjoy the facility.

Some old pews have been taken away, as have some wooden chairs and there is now a good deal more room on offer and we are encouraging local groups to make use of the facilities. There is no need to be a card-carrying member of the Episcopal Church - all are very welcome!

Services are held at St Regulus' Church **every Sunday at 9.30am** and every **Wednesday at 7.00pm**. The Wednesday Eucharist is a very short service and gives a wonderful opportunity for silent reflection. Other services are advertised on the board outside on Church Street and the church is open every day for private prayer or a visit.

There is a herb garden from which everyone is welcome to help themselves to produce - it's for the community to share! We also have a donation box outside the church for Blythswood food boxes.

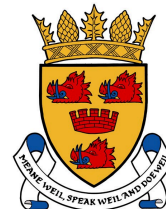
The Black Isle Charge (including St Regulus') will have a presence at the Black Isle Show, so why not visit us there?

Finally, there will be a **chamber concert on Thursday 7th August** in the church, details of which are in a separate article in this newsletter. Come and see the church and enjoy some fabulous music.

www.blackislepiskies.org

Cromarty & District Community Council

In Cromarty We Share



As most of the community knows, the Community Council has managed the Cromarty Victoria Hall for the last 15 years. Over this time, we have accumulated items that are available to be shared by the community. Some have been purchased, some donated and even some made by residents!

Mainly used by the community hirers of the Hall, but also other community groups and community individuals needing to borrow something to enhance their event.

The basis on which this is done obviously gives priority to someone hiring the Hall. But if something is not needed by hirers, and anything borrowed is returned in the same condition as it was taken, there is much that can be shared with the rest of Cromarty.

More information is available if you email vhmc.cdcc@btinternet.com, but in the meantime here is a list of some of the items available. There is no charge so that cost is not a barrier to sharing, but donations (however small) are always gratefully received. All donations are 100% used to enhance the volunteer run community of Cromarty and District. This list is not exhaustive, and does not tell you how many, but hopefully gives you an idea of what is available (and is always expanding!).

Chairs, Tables, Crockery, Glassware, Cutlery, Teapots, Coffee Pots, Bunting (over 2km!), PA Equipment, Ladders, Market Stalls, Heated Trolley, Event Signage, the Queen's Jubilee Beacon (also available to purchase), LPG Cooker, Tea Urn, Electric Heaters, etc, etc.

And for those community minded volunteers, we have litter-picking tools and black bags. So maybe we can start our very own Cromarty SpoGomi!

Chamber concert at St Regulus' Church

Köthen Duo , comprising Lucas Robson and Skye El-Shirbiny will present a French-inspired evening of German and Soviet classical music in **St Regulus' Church, Cromarty on Thursday 7th August at 19.00hrs.**

From the middle of the candlelight of 18th century Leipzig to the Highlands in 2025 - a reimagining of J.S. Bach's French suites for the warm sounds of the violin and cello.

These will be contrasted with the youthful warmth 'Huit Morceaux' by Ukrainian born Rheinhold Gliere and topped up with a small selection from Bach's solo collections.

A charming evening of music from Lucas and Skye, who are both studying at the Royal College and Academy of Music respectively. They have been playing together in various chamber formations for a number of years now and are greatly looking forward to presenting their duo programme both here and in Inverness.

KÖTHEN DUO

FRENCH DANCE MUSIC

PLEASE JOIN US, LUCAS AND SKYE, FOR AN
INTIMATE EVENING OF VIOLIN AND CELLO MUSIC



FRENCH DANCE INSPIRED PROGRAMME, SET TO INCLUDE A HANDPICKED
SELECTION OF MUSIC FROM THE INNER WORLD OF JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH.
AND ADDITIONALLY INCLUDING 'HUIT MORCEAUX' BY RHEINHOLD GLIERE

ST REGULUS' CHURCH
CHURCH STREET - CROMARTY

THURS 7 AUGUST 2025 7PM START

ENTRY - FREE

DONATIONS OPTIONAL BUT WELCOMED

Cromarty Arts Trust

What's On in August

Lewis McLaughlin Live. Fri 15 Aug. Catch the amazing singer and guitarist Lewis McLaughlin performing with fiddler Chloe Bryce at the **Old Brewery**. Tickets are £14, incredible value for a fantastic young musician. Don't take my word for it, *"Folk edged Paolo Nutini for a fresher generation... masterful songwriting, acoustic folk to take you floating away on a cloud,"* raves the

BBC's Phoebe IH. Half the tickets sold already, don't delay! Click the button beside the image.

Portrait Painting in Oils with Anna Wimbledon. Anna is back in Cromarty for her always popular portrait weekend **30 & 31 August**. £160 for the whole weekend. Suitable for all levels, find out more on our website.

And a quick heads up for September - the amazing fiddle talent that is **RANT** are back at the **Stables on Sat 13th Sept**. This was a sell out three years ago - get your tickets now! Click the button below the image.

<https://www.cromartyartstrust.org.uk/events/30-aug-2025-portrait-painting.asp>



Rant 2024 2 (Credit Paul Jennings Photography)

Rant



Lewis McLaughlin

Cromarty Care Project

CCP 10 Year Anniversary

Friday 29th August 4pm-7pm

Victoria Hall

We are all set to celebrate our 10th birthday and are hoping you can all join us by dropping in at any time between 4pm and 7pm. We have been gathering photos and memories to share with the whole community, alongside refreshments and a free raffle with vouchers from all our fabulous local businesses.



10th Anniversary

Drop-In

Friday 29th Aug

4 – 7 pm Victoria Hall

Join us for a glass of wine and refreshments
to celebrate

Cromarty Care Project

and our work in the community!

FREE Raffle Tickets!

Win a £10 token from a Cromarty
business



Community Events

Monday 10.30-12 - Table Tennis, Victoria Hall, suggested donation £3

Tuesday 10-11.30 – Toddler sessions continue during Summer, with activities for older siblings too! Suggested donation £3

Wednesday 13th and 27th August 2.30pm – Classic Film Club, Cromarty Cinema. Arrive early to avoid disappointment. To join contact Helen Charley 07889 181529 or email helen.charley@doctors.org.uk. The Royal Hotel offer pre-cinema lunch at 12.30, book by 4pm Sunday before 01381 600217

Thank you . . .

To all our fantastic volunteers who ensure the Sharing Larder is restocked each and every day.

To Gillian Newman and the gardening club for the beautiful tubs that now sit by the Chairs for Chats bench.

And to Caroline Burrows for creating our QR code for donations to be made electronically to CCP.

CAB in Cromarty

To book a phone appointment please call 01349 883333 or email to adviser@alnesscab.casonline.org.uk

Cromarty Community Development Trust

East Church Hall: A revised timeline from Highland Council means agreement on Common Good change won't be before 10th November at earliest. Lindy Cameron (new Development Officer) is doing an options appraisal of all buildings in Cromarty (so we can show due diligence to funders) and looking at funding sources.

Development Officers: All now 'inducted'. Lindy started mid July. Jess Gunn & Helena Barnes start mid August. Lindy looking at ECH funding. Jess/Helena looking at engaging community.

Cromarty Sauna: Just arrived. Will be painted and rebranded. Soft launch 14th August. Corrie Jeffrey is leading on staffing/volunteers. Euan Lohead on funding/business plan. Naphtali Rodriguez on website/branding/marketing. Matt Hall on compliance, licensing and H&S. Watch out for it and how to sign up!

Cromarty Camping: It remains busy, but we need someone to take the lead on running it as a business. Ronald Young and Phoebe Fox have arranged improvements to extractor fans.

Townlands Barn: We are looking into a Building Survey (last one was many years ago).

Thrift Shop: Another good season so far, though slightly less footfall than usual. This (and an influx of donations) means they are short of space. We need to find/fund them a shed next to the food larder for stock.

Visit Cromarty Strategy: Phoebe and Hayley looking at ways to promote the town as a day destination. See new [visitcromarty](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61577964314537) facebook page.

Cromarty Grows Together: See further down for full story in this wider community project funded by CCDT.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61577964314537>

Scandi Summer at Ingrid's House

We have everything you'll need to dress your table for a tablemats and organic linen table runners and napkins.

We even have items to help with the clean up: our super dishcloths are a top seller and teatowels will be in store from Saturday 26th. Heading outdoors to party? Our festival friendly glasses(unbreakable) are sure to please.



Calluna: New stock, launch event and sale

Our new season styles have started to arrive and we are super excited to share what's in the boxes.

We are launching our new season styles (and celebrating our new shop) with a special event at **Harper's Court in Dingwall on Thursday 4th September from**

5pm. Join us for an evening of fun, fashion and fizz!

We've got a lovely wee sale rail going on in Cromarty with up to 60% off. Need to make room for all our gorgeous new collections so pop in and see what's on offer!

Calluna



EXCLUSIVE AUTUMN PREVIEW



Boutique located at 5 Tulloch Street

Autumn preview located at Harper's Court

Thursday 4th September from 5-8pm for fizz, fashion & fun

What 3 words event location: Swimsuits/Digs/Bulbs

Cromarty Pottery

Some exciting and some possibly controversial ceramics to be found at Cromarty Pottery this month! This octopus bowl with decorative tentacles is currently available to buy in the shop. Meanwhile Bärbel's feelings about Oasis can be seen in this other bowl.... Is anybody else as fed up as she is with hearing them on the radio? (Apologies in advance to any Oasis fans!)



Gallery48

We are excited to have these new prints by Ali Ginn, based on scenes from Cromarty, available to buy at gallery48. These are limited edition giclee prints from original watercolour paintings. Picture 1 - 'Sea haar over Cromarty' by Ali Ginn. Picture 2 - 'Lighthouse Cromarty' by Ali Ginn. Pop in and visit us to see the rest!



Cromarty Cinema

A Brilliant Summer at Cromarty Cinema – With More to Come!

We've had a fantastic start to the summer: 5 of our 15 screenings in July were complete sell-outs, and we reached an impressive 70% audience capacity. Huge thanks to everyone who came along and helped create such a great atmosphere in the cinema!

If you haven't booked yet, there's still plenty to look forward to. Take a look at the August poster and book your tickets online at cromartycinema.com/films. You can also grab tickets in person during our human box office hours – Thursdays, 12–2pm – or simply buy them at the door on the day (subject to availability).

And if you love film and want to get more involved, we're always looking for volunteers to join our friendly team. Whether it's helping out at screenings or