## CROMARTYNEWS



## February 2025

### **Hello February!**

We have a very long newsletter this month, an indication of how much is happening in Cromarty.

Remember, if you want to get in touch the email address has changed to editor@cromarty-courthouse.org.uk



RSS

#### Cromarty News, Thursday, December 31, 1891.

Sound advice: Let it be the ambition of every son of Cromarty to do something during this year, [..] for the material and social progress of the good old town.

Not so good: There is nothing towns are more particular about than being advanced. Now, I think it may be fairly claimed that Cromarty is an "advanced" town, seeing that whereas in other towns the habit of smoking is peculiar to men, boys here are quite used to the habit. Inhabitants of other towns would think it strange to see boys of ten or twelve strutting about with pipes in their cheeks.

## **Transition Black Isle**

#### **Seed Swap at Community Market**

Get ready for Spring! Transition Black Isle will again have a seed swap table at the **community market on Saturday 8 February**. Although this is called a swap, you don't have to bring seeds, a donation can be made. Mostly veg, but some flowers too. See more on seed saving - and a local seed growing business - on the TBI website (link below)



TBI seed swap

# **Cromarty Allotments and Gardens Society**

**Cromarty Allotments - space available** 



**RSS** 

Forsyth House Garden 1907 courtesy of Cromarty Image Library

Now the year is new, and we may be starting to think of warmer days and growing fruit or veg, you might be looking for a bit of ground.

The Cromarty Allotments has a range of different size plots to suit everyone; from keen folk wanting to grow as much of their own fruit or veg as possible, to folk who just want a bit of ground to grow a few things. Tools can be shared, as well as advice and seeds and chat.

There is a plot available right now or you can join the waiting list.

Pop along and have a look - the entrances are beside 'The Kennels' on Causeway and off the Reeds Loop path - or

contact Della Matheson at cagssecretary@gmail.com

cromarty allotments

## **Cromarty Post Office**

## **Anniversary!**

Don't forget our anniversary on **February 8th**. 15 years of delight (mostly!) for me and **15% off everything** in the shop for you. Looking forward to seeing you.

We are so thankful that we still have our post office in the face of post-officide elsewhere. Thank you so much for your all your hard work to keep it going. Let's not forget our wonderful posties too, who so often go above and beyond...

Use it or Lose it!

the Post Offce, (Missing the Cheese)

Cromarty Stores - for almost all we need

Cromarty Arts Trust, Sutor Creek, Ecoventures, our fire station and, at the corner, the

Royal Hotel.
We are so fortunate!

## **Cromarty Arts Trust**

#### **February Music and B&B News**

Mike McKenzie - live music at the Old Brewery. Friday **21 February,** 7.30pm. £14 BYOB

This will be a great evening of original music from BBC Award winning singer-songwriter Mike McKenzie. Reminiscent of Tom Odell, David Gray, Maggie Rogers and Villagers, his heartfelt lyrics are always front and centre in his writing and live performances. Described as "Gorgeous" by Jo Whiley on BBC Radio 2, "Glorious and Heartwarming" by Horse McDonald and "Absolutely Stunning" by Grant Stott.

Make sure you get your tickets booked for this talented and lovely guy with a sublime voice. Booking: Online through Eventbrite or avoid the booking fee by emailing info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk



**RSS** 

#### \*\*\* NEW \*\*\* The Old Brewery Bed & Breakfast. \*\*\* NEW \*\*\*

This historic building will open as a B&B for this year's Easter and summer holidays. Offering comfortable and affordable accommodation from 7 - 20 April and from 21 July - 6 Sept, you can book as an individual or a group, the building sleeps 20 across 11 bedrooms with singles, twins, triples and one double. Comfortable sitting rooms for relaxing in the evenings, bright cafe area for breakfast and an enclosed sunny garden.

Full cooked breakfast with vegetarian, vegan, gluten free options. No minimum stay. Children welcome. £60 per person per night, £30 for children under 12. Pre-booking is essential, just email info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk for availability and booking or visit our website for more details.

Please pass on the details to friends, family or anyone looking for a B&B over the holidays.

www.eventbrite.co.uk

Cromarty Arts Trust

## **Sutor Creek**Upcoming Events

Our next Pizza Supper Club is scheduled for **Wednesday 5th Feb** at 6.30pm. Sample new pizza toppings and delicious salads in a family friendly setting!

Our current hours are Wednesday to Saturday 12-8pm and Sunday 12-4pm.

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Friday 28th February and Saturday 1st March reservations 5-7.30pm. Enjoy a taste of Spain at Sutor Creek with small plates, sangria and specially selected Spanish wines.

www.sutorcreek.co.uk

## The Royal Hotel, Cromarty

### What's on February 2025

Hurray to the end of January - surely the longest month of the year!

We still have a few tables available for our Boozy Brunch on Saturday 8 February enjoy a glass of fizz on arrival, your choice of two cocktails from our Brunch Cocktail menu and your choice of one of our brunch dishes. £35/person. A great way to catch up with friends, family or work colleagues! Reservations required.

Spoil the one you love this Valentine's Day with dinner at the Royal. We have a delicious menu available, and still have a few cosy tables beside the fire - the perfect spot for a romantic evening. Reservations required.

We plan to close for a short break towards the end of February but at present we are open Wed-Sun from 11am (close at 5pm on Sundays).

Coffee, homemade cake, breakfast rolls, lunch, dinner, drinks, cocktails and takeaways all available!

Hope to see you soon!

Get in touch - 01381 600217 or info@royalhotel-cromarty.co.uk







info@royalhotel-cromarty.co.uk

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### **Big Announcement!**

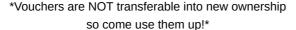
As we settle into 2025, I would like to share some mega news happening here in the coming months. I've thought long n hard about this one, and it's not been easy but now is the right time for big changes at Slaughterhouse Coffee. I will be stepping down as owner and I'm ready to pass the business baton on. I've made plenty changes over the years since taking over in 2020 and now it's someone else's turn to add their own spark.

We're currently open as usual and I'll be pouring your coffees for the next month or two before handing over to new ownership (who have been carefully picked and are equally lovely)! I can't wait to see everyone over the coming weeks and thank you all so much for supporting me these last 4 and half years.

Here's to being proud of what we've achieved so far but excited for what the future holds.

Lots of love,

Laura 🤎





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## Cromarty Cinema It's Cromarty Cinema's 5th birthday!

February is the month of Cromarty Cinema's fifth birthday! We'd like to start off by thanking all our fabulous customers and lovely volunteers for making our wee community cinema such a great place to come together for some cinematic magic. As always, we're bringing you an exciting mix of films, from classics to contemporary masterpieces in February.

Start the month with Maria, with enigmatic Angelina Jolie playing legendary singer Maria Callas, in a moving drama about courage and perseverance. Meanwhile, Nickel Boys, adapted from Colson Whitehead's Pulitzer-winning novel, delves into the harrowing realities of a segregated reform school.

Vermiglio offers a stunning war-time visual journey through small-town Italy, while fans of anime won't want to miss Spirited Away, a Studio Ghibli classic returning for a magical experience.

Join Jesse Eisenberg and Kieran Culkin on a road-trip that is both funny and moving, as two distant relatives reconnect while traveling to Poland to explore their shared family history in A Real Pain.

Robert Eggers is back with yet another future classic, Nosferatu. Adrien Brody shines in celebrated architectural drama of The Brutalist, with 10 Oscar nominations under its helt

National Theatre Live is back with The Importance of Being Earnest, Oscar Wilde's witty masterpiece, plus, family fun awaits with Sonic the Hedgehog 3!

Mark your calendar for Cromarty cinema's birthday month and grab your tickets now at https://cromartycinema.com/films/, the human box office on Thursdays 12-2, or at the door — there's something for everyone this February!



## CROMARTY CINEMA February 2025



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Friday 7	7pm	Maria (12A) 2hr 3m
February		Angelina Jolie stars as opera singer Maria Callas during the week before her death in 1977 Paris.
Saturday 8	7pm	Nickel Boys (12A) 2hr 20m
February		Fictionalised account of the abuses at the real-life Nickel Academy, a reform school in Florida.
Sunday 9	11am	Spirited Away (PG) 2hr 5m
February		Studio Ghibli classic in which a girl is lost in a hidden spirit world and must work to get home.
Sunday 9	3pm	Vermiglio (15) 1hr 59m
February		Second world war deserters upset the lives of an isolated mountain community.
Tuesday 11	7pm	Presence (15) 1hr 25m - TBC
February		Steven Soderbergh's twist on the classic haunted house horror starring Lucy Liu and Julia Fox.
Friday 14	7pm	A Real Pain (15) 1hr 30m
February		Keiran Culkin and Jesse Eisenberg star as cousins delving into family history on a tour of Poland.
Saturday 15	7pm	The Brutalist (18) 3hr 35m
February		A visionary architect and his wife flee post-war Europe in 1947 to rebuild their legacy.
Sunday 16	3pm	A Real Pain** (15) 1hr 30m
February	_	
Friday 21	7pm	Nosferatu (15) 2hr 12m
February		New retelling of the gothic tale of obsession between a haunted young woman and the terrifying vampire infatuated with her.
Saturday 22	7pm	National Theatre Live: The Importance of Being Earnest (U) 2hr 14m
February		A live recording of Oscar Wilde's classic comedy play.
Sunday 23	11am	Sonic The Hedgehog 3 (PG) 1hr 50m
February		Sonic and his friends face a new threat, Knuckles, who has been manipulated by Dr. Robotnik.
Sunday 23	3pm	Invasion of The Body Snatchers (PG) 1hr 20m - TBC
February	•	1956 classic in which humans are slowly replaced by emotionless alien duplicates.
Tuesday 25	7pm	Nosferatu** (15) 2hr 12m
February		
Friday 28	7pm	The Brutalist (18) 3hr 35m
February		A visionary architect and his wife flee post-war Europe in 1947 to rebuild their legacy.
Saturday 1	7pm	Hard Truths (12A) 1hr 37m
March		A story of the ways bitterness and untreated emotional pain can impact human relationships.
Sunday 2	3pm	September 5 (15) 1hr 35m
March		The true story of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympics being held hostage by a terrorist group.
Tuesday 4	7pm	The Seed of the Sacred Fig (15) 2hr 47m - TBC
March		Investigating judge Iman grapples with paranoia amid political unrest in Tehran.
		**Screening with Descriptive Subtitles
		Adults £9.50 Under 26 £6 Friends £8
		More film info and book online at: <i>cromartycinema.com</i> or at <i>eden-court.co.uk</i> 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

https://cromartycinema.com/films/

## **Cromarty Camera Club**

Cromarty Camera Club News
'Colourful' results from our first Competition of 2025

#### **Cromarty Camera Club Update**

Cromarty Camera Club Meetings resumed in mid-January after a short delay as our first Session of 2025 had to be cancelled due to the freezing weather conditions! At one of the early season Meetings recently, Club Members voted to choose the winning images in the first Club Competition of the year on the theme of 'Colour'. The winning images were:

1st Nigg Illuminations by David Kent 2nd Equal Aurora by Nora Watson 2nd Equal Red Umbrella by Nora Watson 4th Aquamarine by David Greer

The planned Syllabus for the rest of the season includes interesting presentations by visiting speakers and also Club Members, who like to showcase their images from their varied travels in particular. A number of interesting outings and workshops are also planned as usual, together with the usual array of photographic competitions, the results of which we look forward to reporting again here in the Newsletter.

Our regular meetings are held in Victoria Hall, Cromarty on Thursday evenings at 7.15pm for 7.30pm. New members and interested individuals are always welcome to

https://cromartycameraclub.com





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## Gallery48

We are finally ready to welcome back customers after painting and refreshing the shop in January! We are now open daily, from 10.30 am - 5 pm. You can see images of all these on our Facebook page - Gallery48 Cromarty or our Instagram @gallery48cromarty or pop in and visit us in person!

This year, we are delighted to be showing work in the gallery by another local artist, Helena Barnes! We have four small studies by Helena, based loosely on the hills behind Achnasheen. These are acrylic on wooden panel, framed in a hand stained and waxed oak tray frame.



## **Cromarty Pottery**

painting the shop, changing our displays and making new stock, we are excited to be fully open again! We have lots of wonderful items in stock, including Bärbel's one of a kind beasties on wheels, Maureen Minchin's ceramics and much more, so please pop in to see us! From February onwards the shop is open daily, 10.30 am - 5 pm



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### **Fishertown Inn**

**February 8th**: Another of our popular fund-raising quiz nights, this time in aid of RNLI.



## **Calluna**

#### **New for Spring**

Our wee shop is starting to show signs of Spring! New collections in from SugarHill Brighton, B.young, ICHI and Chalk. New gifts include Sandwick Bay Candles, socks from Sock Talk and a range of new jewellery designers that make gifting easy! Visit our website for new and Sale items. The shop is open daily 10-5pm.



www.callunacromarty.co.uk

## **Cromarty Courthouse Museum**

**Welcoming our new Digitisation Project Volunteers!** 

As we undertake some exciting work to digitise and photograph our collection (meaning more people from anywhere in the world will be able to explore objects from the museum) we are delighted to welcome Alex and Isabela, who have both come from Edinburhg, to the Courthouse Museum as Digitisation Project Volunteers! They will be photographing as many objects in the collection as they can over the next two weeks, working alongside some talented local volunteers (thank you David

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cromarty-courthouse.org.uk

## **Cromarty History Society**

#### **February 2025 Meeting**



#### **FEBRUARY 2028 MEETING**

#### Only the Brave Sail from Here:

the Vikings in Northern Scotland

A talk by Professor Donna Heddle



Tuesday 18 February
7.30pm
Victoria Hall, Cromarty

All Welcome

Non-members £5

Under 16 Free

www.cromartyhistory.scot

Cromarty History Society's February talk will be given by Professor Donna Heddle from the University of the Highlands and Islands. Donna is Director of the UHI Institute for Northern Studies, based in Orkney. She has won awards for course design and development and is Professor of Northern Heritage. Her talk to us is titled 'Only the Brave Sail from Here: the Vikings in Northern Scotland'.

At one time, the north of the Black Isle had Norse inhabitants, while the southern shore was Pictish, so much of what Donna tells us about should be very relevant to Cromarty history.

As usual, the meeting will begin at 7.30pm on **Tuesday 18th February** in the Victoria Hall and refreshments will be available afterwards. The cost is £5 for non-members, but there is still time to buy membership of the Society for the remainder of the year at £15. We look forward to welcoming you.

https://www.cromartyhistory.scot/

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#### **Development Trust news**

**New Job in Cromarty!** - We hope very soon to be able to announce the successful candidate for the Community Events and Marketing Coordinator, when they'll start and how things will develop. This role is designed to (re)develop key community events in Cromarty and support and promote the campsite.

Open Members Meeting - We're holding another open meeting for Trust members on 10 February, at 7pm at the Old Buoy Store. Come and hear more of our news and contribute to our priorities. Copy this address to become a member.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1QrdXWEFMRrzc4z85MKUz1sX0cMLeB23XCzzl-QkkZ0Q/edit

**Julie Macrae moving on** – Our Development Officer has found another job and will start in March, shortly before her funding comes to an end. She's achieved a vast amount for the Trust, especially getting the campsite built, opened and operating plus a great deal behind the scenes that means the Trust is in a far better position than before. We have plans for how to carry on development work.

**Unit 2 Whitedykes** – Highland Council will not sell it to us via a Community Asset Transfer and so it will come back onto the open rental market once HC have refurbished the roof and electrics.

East Church Hall – we are very close to finally(!!) having an agreement with Highland Council to rent the building and bring in commercial and community users. More news to follow as soon as we have this formalised.

**Exchange Visit** – Torridon Development Trust came to visit in January, as part of their plans to open a community camp/campervan site. They were very impressed and learned a lot from us.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1QrdXWEFMRrzc4z85MKUz1sX0cMLeB23XCzzl-QkkZ0Q/edit

## The Thrift Shop

#### **Volunteers Urgently needed!**

The Thrift Shop is opening again in April and we have a lot to do to get it ready. We really need more volunteers and hope that we can get some more help. At the moment the Thrift Shop works with 8 volunteers but as we are all getting older, we find working the whole day on a Saturday quite tiring as you are on your feet all day. We would hope to get more volunteers so that we could each do a half day on a Saturday. We also have two donation slots on a Tuesday night and a Thursday morning but this could be altered to suit everyone.

The Thrift Shop is very popular and we all enjoy meeting new customers and our regulars. Please get in touch if you think this is something that appeals to you.

[The income from the Thrift Shop contributes to the Community Development Trust]

To contact us, please call Rhona on 01381600376 or Chrissie on 01381600284.

## **Black Isle Repair Cafe**

Repair Cafe in Cromarty
Victoria Hall 1st March 1-4 pm



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Black Isle Repair Cafe was set up in 2022 and moves around the Black Isle offering a monthly Repair Cafe from September to June (except for December), usually on the first Saturday of the month.

The repair cafe is run by volunteers and as well as offering home baking and a warm welcome at the cafe, volunteer repairers offer sewing/darning, electrical, woodwork, bike and digital repairs along with tool and knife sharpening. The type of repairs we are able to do are "stitch in time" repairs, one you might attempt at home if you knew what to do. We encourage people to watch the repair, ask questions and potentially learn some repair skills. If the repair is beyond the time or skill available at the cafe, we try to point people to local businesses that could help them. All electrical items are PAT tested before and after a repair.

There is no charge for repairs, but as a volunteer run organisation, Black Isle Repair Cafe is dependent on donations to cover our costs. Please support us if you can.

We are also looking for new volunteers. Repairers are always welcome, but you can also volunteer in the cafe or with some of the administrative tasks.

The next repair cafe in Cromarty is on 1st March, at the Victoria Hall from 1-4 pm (last registration of a repair 3.30 pm.

You can pre-register an item for repair, this is especially useful if you are not sure if item is repairable or if it might require any spare parts.

https://teamup.com/c/13dxkv/events/1771158844

## St Regulus - Scottish Episcopal Church





The Scottish Episcopal Church on the Black Isle warmly welcomes their new rector. Father Alex's institution service takes place on Saturday 1 February, 12 noon at St Andrew's Church Fortrose. During February, Father Alex will lead the Sunday services in Cromarty on 9th and 23rd February 2025.

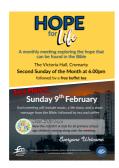
Note of services and other upcoming events:

**Sunday Service: 9:45am, St Regulus Church** - all (including children) welcome to participate or enjoy some time of reflection. Coffee afterwards.

Celtic Morning Prayer: Wednesday 9am (online), please contact Gillian Newman if you would like to participate.

St Regulus Church on Church Street is open most days during daylight hours - everyone is welcome to visit for private prayers, a quiet moment or to simply enjoy the atmosphere of this lovely building.

#### **Hope for Life meetings**



A meeting takes place in Victoria Hall on the 2nd Sunday of every Month

## **Cromarty Youth Cafe**

Memories of Cromarty Courthouse: Cromarty Youth Cafe & Cromarty
Courthouse Museum

The Youth Cafe came to Cromarty Courthouse Museum to learn about a range of different objects. They chose three objects as a group: the tawse, a pair of handcuffs, and a salmon box brand. They came up with a series of questions, and learned about asking 'open questions'. They used microphones and iPads to interview museum staff about the objects.

The Youth Cafe then took the objects along to a Fourways club session, where they used the same interview techniques to interview older people about their memories of the objects. Most of them discussed getting the belt at school. They also had a go at photographing the objects against a white background. Some of the young people recorded the introduction and conclusion to the tour.

Project launch - 22nd January 2025

During the project launch with the youth cafe, small groups used an iPad to scan the tour QR code and navigate to Smartify to listen to the tour. They listened to all the stops and looked at the pictures, and then wrote down their thoughts.

What did you learn?

- About the leather strap
- I learnt that you can get the belt in school!!
- I learned that old people remember lots of stuff
- I learned that if you were bad you got the belt
- I learnt about interviewing people
- About handcuffs
- I learned about people being hit by belts!

What did you enjoy?

- Stories
- I enjoy hearing my friends (on the audio tour)
- I enjoy seeing myself
- The interviews
- I enjoy listening to it

What job would you do in a museum?

- Tour guide
- Presenter
- Teacher
- Cleaner (conservator!)
- Digital person
- Photos







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#### **Time to Celebrate**

I am delighted to bring the news that in the Black Isle we have 3 people who are finalists for the Highland Hero's Awards 2025

Carer Hero of the Year Wanda Mackay Secondary Pupil of the Year Orlagh MacIver Allan Munro

In October, the Cromarty Youth Café will be 20 years old. Our aspiration, and ambition, is to revamp the Youth Café and have a community celebration

 We were successful in receiving part funding from — Scottish Government Children and Young People Mental Health & Well-being Fund. We will continue to look at other funders for support of the project as we are potentially £10K short of total project costs, but we can start!

Over the next few months, we will be:

- Removing all photos from the walls and creating new storyboard walls with these photos for reflection. Some of the people in the photos are no longer with us, and it's so important to retain these precious memories.
- After creation of a schedule of works, obtaining acceptable quotes and necessary permissions, all walls would be repaired/painted, and the flooring replaced. (it's in a bad state of disrepair).
- In October we will relaunch and open our Snug a safe space for young people
  and families. A room with subdued lighting, suitable for partnership work in
  sensitive times and a subtle quiet place for our neuro diverse young people.
- · There's lots to do before October!
- Any suggestions for funding or sources of support gratefully received.

## **Cromarty Care Project**

#### **Community Events**

Monday 10.30-12 - **Table Tennis**, Victoria Hall, suggested donation £3 Monday 12.00 - **Monday Lunch Club 60+**, Fishertown Inn, cost £3. Phone to reserve or cancel a booking the week before on 01381 600988. Would you like to join? Contact Alison on 07470 583641

Tuesday 10-11.30 - Baby & Toddler Playgroup, Victoria Hall, suggested donation £3

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The Royal Hotel offer a **pre-cinema lunch** at 12.30, book by 4pm on Sunday before on 01381 600217

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#### Winter Warmth Grants

All applicants will receive wintervwarmth payments in February

#### **Community Sharing Larder**

or email helen.charley@doctors.org.uk.

Thank you for all donations, especially toiletries. Please ensure all food donations are within use by date. Alternatively, to make a financial donation please visit www.cromartycareproject.co.uk

The Larder shed is in need of replacement. CCP are delighted to be working with Black Isle Men's Shed to provide a new, improved shed, watch this space!

#### **CAB** in Cromarty

Unfortunately Christine Macdonald is currently away from work so in-person appointments are not possible. To book a phone appointment please call 01349 883333 or email on adviser@alnesscab.casonline.org.uk

Please let us know what you think, and/or continue to send suggestions and ideas for articles to editor@cromarty-courthouse.org.uk

We are grateful to Cromarty Courthouse for providing the digital platforms for the compilation process. Thanks too to the editorial team, Jeremy Price and Richard Robinson.

editor@cromarty-courthouse.org.uk







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