

CROMARTY NEWS



November 2025

Remember, remember... to appreciate what's around us!

For you must learn, beyond bewildering years, How little things beloved and held are best...

The Child at the Window, Siegfried Sassoon, 1939



Photo Sandie Beach

Such a lot happening in Cromarty this month, so a long read, but stick with it to the end!

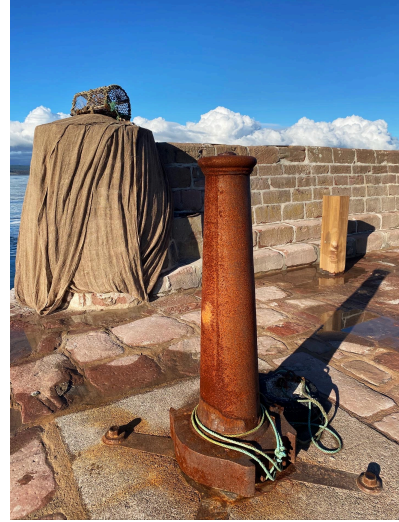
A Grateful and Proud Moment at the Harbour

Saturday 25th October marked the completion of the latest phase in the harbour's repair and renovation project, with the East Pier now restored to pristine condition. The sheer scale of work accomplished is difficult to capture in a few words, and we encourage everyone to take a stroll along the pier and see the results for themselves. The craftsmanship is outstanding, and the transformation remarkable.



With the project freshly completed, it may take time for the full impact to sink in. Together we have, quite literally, saved the pier from collapse, restoring stonework and mooring posts to their historic appearance from two centuries ago. Take a moment to admire the two new sets of stairs, the beautifully laid stone around the harbour, the improved decking, and the meticulous pointing.

Recall how the area between the steps looked just six months ago! Even the wall at the slip has been repaired and repointed. Photographs hardly do justice to the transformation—so please, come and visit and experience it for yourself.



Our heartfelt thanks go to all our funders, especially Historic Environment Scotland, whose financial support and steadfast commitment over the five-year journey made this project possible. We are also grateful to the many other supporters—both local and national—who stepped up to help. Every contribution, whether through purchasing posters, jigsaws, or a share in a whisky cask, has played a vital role. If you've supported us in any way, thank you. Every effort, big or small, truly matters.

Cromarty Winter Festival incorporating Christmas Shopping Preview Night!

2025 CROMARTY WINTER FESTIVAL

A perfect day for Christmas shopping, tasting, and discovering local talent.

Saturday, November 8th

EVENTS

- 11am** • Hermione's Fishing Floats @Calluna
- 11.30am** • Pottery Demo with Barbel @Cromarty Pottery
- LUNCH** • Christmas Pizza (all afternoon) @Sutor Creek
- 1pm** • Recycled fabric wreath @Foundling Home
- 2pm** • Mulled Wine Taster @Ingrid's House
- 2.30pm** • Weave a Willow Star @Cromarty Courthouse
- 3.00pm** • Lino Cutting @Hugh Miller's Cottage
- 4.00pm** • Cromarty Brewing taster @the Fishertown Inn

CROMARTY
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT TRUST

2025 CROMARTY WINTER FESTIVAL

Unique Christmas Shopping in our local shops, pubs, and museums | In-store Tasting Demos | Christmas Craft Market in The Old Brewery | Cromarty Art Collective Exhibition | Don't Miss the Community Ceilidh at Victoria Hall

Meet the Makers

Join us for a festive celebration throughout our historic town. A perfect day for Christmas shopping, tasting, and discovering local talent.

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 8TH
11AM - 5PM**



Find unique gifts. Support local artists. Celebrate the season in Cromarty.

CROMARTY
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Our very first Winter Festival begins on Friday 7th November and lasts all weekend. The festivities begin with a preview evening of **In Cahoots** art exhibition at The Stables on Friday evening.

A new **Meet the Makers trail** will showcase the talents of local makers at demonstrations, workshops and taster sessions at multiple venues around the town on **Saturday 8th November**. This is your chance to meet those clever people making gorgeous things, see them at work, try some making for yourself or indeed taste for yourself! The whole day is packed full of inspirational demo's and delights, look out for the posters at participating venues.

Over both Saturday and Sunday, the Christmas Craft Market runs at The Old Brewery (10 - 4pm)

In Cahoots art exhibition at The Stables (10 - 4pm)

All the details are on the
[Visit Cromarty Facebook page](#)

Cromarty Pottery



**Thursday 6th November, 5–8 pm
– Christmas Shopping Night.**

**Saturday 8th November - Meet
The Makers Trail** at the Cromarty Winter Festival. Come along to **Cromarty Pottery at 11.30 am** to see Bärbel give a demonstration of throwing on the wheel.

Christmas at the Post office



For the Winter Festival on **Saturday November 8th** we'll be staying open all day till **5pm**, and in the run up to that we are opening till **8pm on Thursday November 6th**. If you spend more than £20 at either of those special openings you'll get a bonus little bag of chocs, perfect as a wee gift or to pop in a stocking. There will be more extended hours in December, details next month.

Christmas is landing at the post office over the first weekend of November. There are lots of lovely new gifts including chocolate boxes, bath luxuries and things to keep you cosy in the colder weather. We also have a good

range of toys and games including plenty of Lego to keep you occupied. The Lego holiday express train will be in the window - if you want it be sure to book it fast, there's only one! It will be available to take away from Monday December 22nd for £85 (RRP £109.99). And of course all the essentials: cards, decorations, wrapping paper, crackers and more.

This year Royal Mail is not setting last posting dates for international mail. They've gone instead for the helpful "post as early as possible"!

For the UK the dates are: *December 17th, 2nd class *December 19th, Tracked 48

*December 20th, *1st class and Tracked 24 *December 22nd, Special Delivery



In Cahoots: An Art Exhibition

Mark your calendars for this celebration of local talent featuring an exciting collection of painting, drawing, ceramics, prints and sculpture! This is a fantastic opportunity to see and purchase new work from a group of talented local artists.

Join them for the Preview Evening on **7th November** to meet the artists and be the first to view the collection, or drop in any day during the show's run.

IN CAHOOTS



ART EXHIBITION FROM:

HELENA BARNES
ELISA DE WAAL
JESS GUNN
LEXIE MACLEOD
AMY MCILHENNY
STEFANO PIA
ALICE TAYLOR
IZZY THOMSON

The Stables / Cromarty

Fri 7th - 16th Nov / 10 - 4
Opening night Fri 7th Nov / 7pm

Including a raffle of artworks on opening night in aid of Medical Aid for Palestinians



Foundling Home

At **1pm on the Saturday** we are taking part in the **Meet the Makers** trail showing you how to make a festive wreath from scrap and recycled fabrics. There will be a few kits available to purchase but instructions to take away for anyone inspired to make their



own from scratch. Its not difficult (no sewing required) but does take time and a fair bit of fabric so start looking out your old worn shirts, pj bottoms, offcuts from other projects and even old duvet covers. Anything that frays works well but beware, nothing will be safe from your scissors once you start! Opening a little later into the evening until 6pm on Friday an Saturday too.

And suddenly November is here and its festive season... whether Christmas sets your pulse racing with anticipation, or whether the diminishing daylight along with the temperatures signals the time to cosy up and hide under the duvet, theres no getting away from the festivities here in Cromarty and in order to get ready for the **Winter Festival weekend (6th-9th November)** we will be closed on the previous weekend, so from 30th October to 2nd November, **reopening with a fizz on Thursday 6th with a late night opening until 8pm for a first dibs preview of our Christmas stock**, there may be extra enticements, clue in text. After that (and refreshment) we will return to our normal hours, Thursday to Saturday 10.30 to 5pm and Sunday 12 to 4pm.

Ingrid's House

I'm very excited to have my 1st Christmas at **Ingrid's House**, and November the 6th will see the launch of our Christmas stock. Join us for an evening of shopping, with bubbles to greet you, and some special offers on the night too.



Calluna

Our wee shop is bursting with fabulous gifts & sparkles for the season ahead. Join us for a preview on **Thursday 6th November from 5-8pm** with fizz, special offers and a chance to see what's available for your gift giving list!



Hermione from Fishing Float Art is our featured maker for the Winter Festival Shopping Trail on Saturday 8th November; she will be bringing her hand-painted Cromarty baubles and a selection of coastal inspired gifts & artwork which will be available at Calluna all day on the 8th.



Calluna

Gallery48

**On Thursday 6th November,
gallery48 will be staying open
late for the Christmas Shopping
night, from 5 - 8 pm!**

We have been getting prepared for Christmas, ordering handmade gifts to fit everyone's needs. From small gifts such as these hand-painted wooden studs (perfect for stocking fillers) to bigger gifts such as a piece of artwork - 'Crab Apple Blackbird' by Pamela Grace, we have you covered!

Vouchers available for purchase too.





Cromarty Arts Trust

We are very excited to have our **Christmas Craft Market** a few weeks earlier this year. We'll be in the Old Brewery over **8 & 9 November**, 10am - 4pm both days. There will be lots of favourites as well as new exciting makers and artists, plus tea, coffee and home-baking all weekend. And don't forget the special treat of free mulled wine and mince pies on Saturday afternoon from 2pm. There is also lots going on that weekend with Cromarty Winter Festival and the In Cahoots art exhibition!



For the last gig of 2025, Liam Ross and his Band are playing on **15 November** at the Old Brewery. Liam plays songs based on his grandparents' crofting life near Culbokie. Tickets are selling well, so get yours from the office or through Eventbrite.

After Liam, that's the Arts Trust events over for 2025. I'll just flag up a few things to watch out for in January:

Drawing Classes with Dre - Monday mornings and evenings

Nature Writing Workshops with Eleanor Updegraff on Monday evenings.

The Twa Roberts - see Robert Burns & Robert Tannahill transported in time to the modern dating scene, **23 Jan.**

And finally after three exciting years, I am stepping down from the Arts Trust and my successor, Sharan Brown from Killen, will be taking over the reins on 3 November. Thank you so much to everyone who has supported me and the trust over the past few years and we wish Sharan all the very best in her new role.

Eventbrite



Cromarty Community Development Trust

Cromarty Camping

CCDT is marking two successful years of operating Cromarty Camping this month, with a temporary Poster Art Trail around the campsite. The children of Cromarty Primary School have been designing and making some very colourful birthday cards for the campsite, and we are delighted to be putting them on display. The trail can be viewed by members of the community and those instrumental in supporting the campsite development, on **Wednesday 5th November at 1pm**. A big thank you to all of the Cromarty community who help to make the campsite the success that it is

Showing off our Town!

There's been a wee flurry of stories in the press recently about Cromarty, all part of the new Visit Cromarty group, where our Events & Marketing Coordinator (Hayley Muir) is working with local businesses to promote the attractions of our town. Cromarty is catching the eye of many a happy visitor, including journalists from The Times and The Sunday Times, The Guardian, The Scotsman, Lonely Planet and the Ross-shire Journal all in the last month! See links below to read the original contents.

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2025/sep/19/share-your-experiences-of-community-cinema-in-the-uk>

<https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/i-spent-a-weekend-at-the-elegant-scottish-hotel-that-conde-nast-just-rated-the-sixth-best-in-the-uk-5354940>

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<https://www.ross-shirejournal.co.uk/news/attractions-across-ross-shire-make-iconic-road-trip-travel-g-417154/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1394997963988957/user/61577964314537/>

18 pages of the best
in property, style
and hotels



In the town of Cromarty in the Highlands, which has a population of 700, a small team worked to secure funding to build the 35-seat Cromarty



BIQUE COMMUNITY

While the Western Highlands (the Hebrides gets a lot of brag since the arrival of North-st 500, more visitors have dis-tered our unique community he East of Scotland, and once /v'e been there they simply it to come back," says Phoebe , who is part of the inspiring it community.

he AS2 leads through fertile k Island countryside to Cromar-nd the Nigg ferry allows iors to stop and discover this

hidden Scottish gem. Cromarty Community Development Trust, a not-for-profit company, has been the driving force behind the revival.

The town boasts the Cromarty Bakery, a local cinema, and an events calendar which larger towns would envy. There are several fine hotels and restaurants, including Sutor Creek, a Michelin-noted eaterie.

"Sutor Creek is a wonderful restaurant with brilliant local seafood, wood-fired pizza and locally-brewed beers," says Fox.

Sutor Creek, Bank Street,
Cromarty. www.sutorcreek.co.uk

Platform 1884 in Taini or enjoying wood-fired pizzas and local shellfish at **Butor Creek in Cromarty** for an intimate take-to-table experience, Croft's Kitchen in Scone serves superb dishes crafted from homegrown and foraged ingredients, whereas **Crook Mountain in Dumfries** is a must-visit for its handmade artisan chocolates and their legendary hot chocolate."

Lifestyle

I spent a weekend at the elegant Scottish hotel that Conde Nast just rated the sixth best in the UK

By Gaby Souta
Lifestyle Editor

Published 10th Oct 2025, 16:14 BST | Updated 15th Oct 2025, 09:37 BST

Beyond the hotel grounds, I had my first ever trip to Cromarty, which is an utterly gorgeous town. I spotted other Newhall Mains guests there, with the green electric bikes, so it's obviously within cycling distance.

Among other things, this place boasts the excellently named restaurant Sutor Creek. It's named after the mythical Sutor giants and the destination's eponymous North Sutor and South Sutor headlands. The giants, who were named after the Old Scots word for shoemakers, would toss their boot-making tools across the water to each other.

The town also boasts a gallery, Fishertown Art & Ceramics, where their 16-year-old resident Jack Russell is waiting to greet customers—and gift them

Community garden

when we received lots of great suggestions from the community on what they'd like to see in the garden. The young team helped us plant spring bulbs and sow grass seed which has already sprouted.

raised bed where a youth group has planted a variety of herbs. The 'old gits' have also been working on the important seating areas and have cleverly repurposed potato boxes. We're currently looking at planting some fruit trees and getting more raised beds, as well as exploring the possibility of a polytunnel for the space. This week we are making a display for **Halloween** in the front garden beside the thrift shop so hoping for good weather on Friday night!

louisagarratt@gmail.com

louisagarratt@gmail.com



Women out walking - WOW group



Under the umbrella of Cromarty Grows Together we've started a women's walking group.

There is no sign up, no commitment, no what's app or social media groups; just come along when you can. We plan to walk the same time each week come rain, hail or shine. For many it's hard to find the motivation to get out & walk during the winter months, hopefully this group will help encourage us to stay active

Cromarty Tennis and Sports Club

Just one thing...

PICKLEBALL! Come along, everyone's welcome (16+) - we're all beginners!



Cromarty Stores..

.. to new beginnings



We'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who has welcomed the new owners into Cromarty. We are having some issues with the lottery and the newspapers but people have been very understanding and forgiving and for that we can only thank you.

You'll notice the layout of the store change slightly and we're looking to carry on making improvements to the store in the future. Exciting times are coming so please come and in and say hello if you get a chance,

Thank you from Struan, Innes and Rhiannon

.. and an emotional farewell to Kitty and Marcel

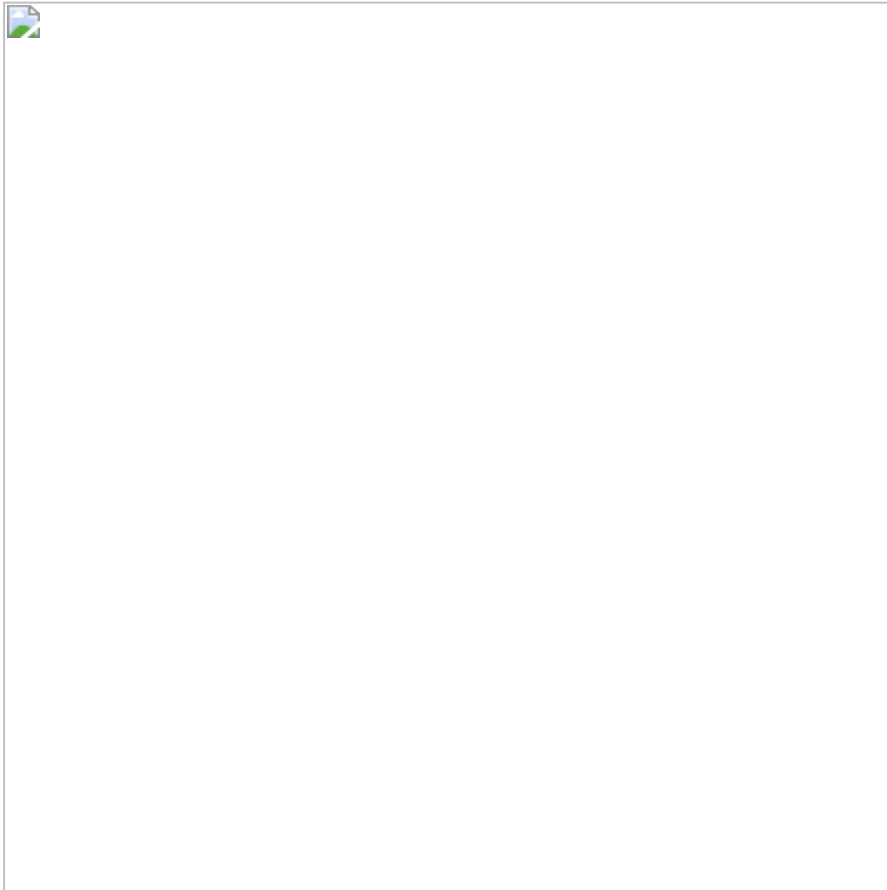
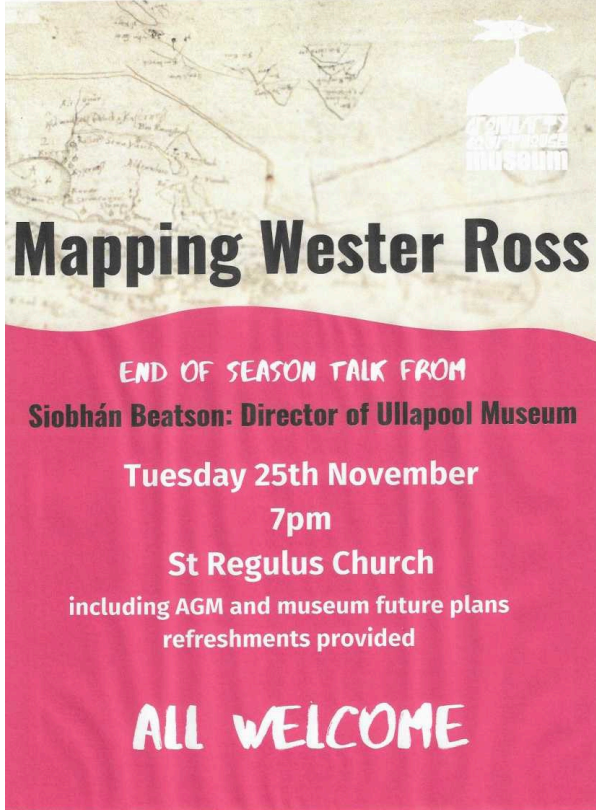


Image: Terrie Sawyer

Cromarty Courthouse Museum

We have a really exciting talk that explores Timothy Pont and his work in mapping the Scottish Highlands during the sixteenth century, focusing on his Wester



Ross map (Pont 4). Pont worked at a time when mapping was used to claim authority and bring order to a region seen as wild and unknown. Though his maps were never published in his lifetime, they became the foundation of Scottish mapping and still offer valuable insights into the landscape, culture, and daily life of the early modern Highlands. The talk will be delivered by Siobhan Beatson the Director of Ullapool Museum.

Cromarty Brewing Co.

October has been busier than expected with the good weather holding out and the holidays bringing in plenty of beer drinkers!

This month will see the return of our **Man Overboard**, a big, hoppy IPA, and our **Arctic Swell**, a Vienna style dark lager.

We were serving up beers at the North Hop festival on the 17th and 18th October and had a great time meeting fans of the beers and hopefully creating a few new fans too.

November will be very busy with various markets for Christmas shoppers, including Ellon Castle on 1st and 2nd November, Crathes Castle on 7th, 8th and 9th November, Eden Court 14th, 15th and 16th November, and Craig will be at the **Fishertown Inn on 8th November for a Meet the Maker as part of the Cromarty Winter Festival!**

Our on-site shop will be getting Christmassy later this month! We have some new gifts, decorations and branded cosy clothing coming in to help with your festive shopping. We will also be selling our beer crackers in the shop again this year, so don't forget to stop by and get some Christmas shopping done.

Our shop open hours for November will be: -

Monday to Friday - 10am till 4pm

Saturday - 10am till 2pm

Sundays - CLOSED



The Royal Hotel, Cromarty

Gearing up for Christmas...

Thanks for all your support over the year, it's been a busy season! The Royal is currently closed for our annual winter break and we look forward to reopening on **Friday 5th December at 11am**.

Christmas at the Royal is one of our favourite times of the year with real trees, log fires and sumptuous festive decor. It's a great time to come & see us!

We've had a great response to our pre-Christmas menu which is available from 5th - 23rd December. Choose from 2 or 3 courses & enjoy a glass of fizz on arrival. Available for lunch & dinner and you can book online or via email. (via our website www.royalhotel-cromarty.co.uk or email. (Please note, as we are on holiday there may be a delay to your email being answered or phone call being returned).

December opening times - Wed-Sat 11am - late. Sunday 11am - 5pm.

www.royalhotel-cromarty.co.uk

info@royalhotel-cromarty.co.uk



Pre-Christmas Menu at The Royal Hotel, Cromarty

Celeriac & pear soup with Cromarty Bakery bread & butter

Smoked mackerel with beetroot, rocket & horseradish dressing

Fraser Bros haggis bonbons with Drambuie cream sauce & parsnip crisps

Pan-fried mushrooms & Strathdon Blue cheese in a creamy sauce on a warm flatbread

Roast festive turkey with a rich roasting gravy, butcher chipolata sausages, homemade apricot & chestnut stuffing, roast potatoes & Brussel sprouts

Slow-cooked featherblade of Ross-shire beef, served on a bed of buttery mash, topped with a rich red wine jus

Pan-fried fillet of North Sea cod with leek Dauphinoise potatoes & parsley butter

Sweet potato & caramelised red onion tart, topped with flaked almonds & pomegranate, served with roast potatoes & cranberry sauce

All main courses served with roasted root vegetables

Christmas pudding, brandy butter, Mackie's vanilla ice cream

Banoffee pie sundae with bananas, caramel sauce & fresh double cream

Chocolate & Amaretto mousse with homemade biscotti biscuits

Two courses £35 Three courses £42 (Booking required)

Includes a glass of fizz on arrival, Christmas crackers & lots of festive cheer!

Available on dates between 5th – 23rd December

01381 600217 info@royalhotel-cromarty.co.uk

Sutor Creek

Tasting & Festive Dinners

Our Christmas Pizza will be available (for one day only in November) for the Winter Festival Meet The Makers event on Saturday 8th November. Order online, pop in to order or book a table!



During November, our wood-fired pizzas will be available for **Buy One Get One Half Price on Wednesdays and Thursdays.**

Treat yourself to a night out or order take-away for a mid-week treat (no washing up required).

We have scheduled two multi-course Tasting Dinners featuring the best seasonal produce that Graham can source, combined with award-winning culinary techniques (we are unable to provide vegetarian or vegan at this point). £110 per person with Wine Pairings optional.

TASTING DINNERS

Friday 28th November at 6.30pm

Saturday 29th November at 6.30pm

FESTIVE MENU

This year we are hosting two festive weekends (our seasonal and wood-fired pizza menus will not be available on these nights). Fizz, crackers, amazing food & lots of fun! £49pp. No minimum number per booking. Reservations available from 5 to 7.30pm.

Friday 12th & 19th December

Saturday 13th & 20th December

To make reservations please phone 01381 600 855.

www.sutorcreek.co.uk

The Fishertown Inn

Cosy days and nights at the Inn



We have the fire roaring in the pub now as autumn is definitely here. We continue to serve lunch and evening meals 7 days a week throughout November, including a traditional roast Sunday lunch. Our Christmas meals start on Sunday the 30th of November and every Sunday up to and including the 21st of December: booking is essential for this, please see poster. For large groups looking for a Christmas meal on any other day please email us on info@fishertowninn.com. Autumn and Winter is the perfect time to make use of our BBQ hut, whether you want to book it for group dining or just a cosy sit around the fire with friends, it's a lovely way to spend a dark evening.

We are delighted to be part of **Cromarty's Winter festival**. We will be hosting **Cromarty Brewing company** on **Saturday the 8th of November at 4pm**. Keep your eyes peeled on social media for more details.

Our **traditional music sessions** for November are on **Friday the 14th and 28th** from around 7pm onwards, all welcome to join or just listen.

Cromarty Library Book Group

Do you ever think about getting back into reading? Then we invite you to join the

Book Group that meets monthly at Cromarty Library. Our small group is committed to reading and discussing a designated book at each meeting. For some of us, it's become a way of prioritising reading again, however busy life has become. For others, it provides the motivation to explore titles outside usual preferences. The diverse selection of books encourages all members to broaden their literary interests and knowledge.

Group discussions open up new perspectives – there are definitely no right or wrong opinions and it's okay if you haven't managed to finish the book – no judgement here! It's not all serious, we have lots of laughs and we don't always stick to the subject – conversations take us where we want to go.

Hosting the group at the library offers mutual benefits. It ensures the continued active use of this community resource and supports its ongoing availability for all residents.

We extend an open invitation to attend on the **last Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm**. Meetings typically do not exceed one hour. To obtain a copy of the current month's book or for more information, please contact Lynn at the library. Prospective members are welcome to join a session to observe and participate.

Library opening times – Monday 10-12, Tuesday 2-7, Thursday 12-5
Tel – 01381 600318 Email – Cromarty.library@highlifehighland.com

Next meeting Tuesday 25th November



Cromarty Youth Café Turns 20!





It was a joyful celebration with many members of the community, as well as staff, partners and funders, which was a massive achievement.

We were delighted to hear from

- Sheila, who supported Wanda nearly 30 years ago
- Wanda shared a heartfelt poem
- John, reflecting on his journey from participant to staff
- Orlagh shared our history, impact, and gratitude to all attendees

We were honoured to welcome The Lord Lieutenant, Joanie Whiteford, who officially opened our newly revamped Youth Café, which creates a warm and positive space with it's newly painted walls and sensory decorations to go along with relaxing furnishing and handmade ornaments.

We showcased 20 years of precious memories in a fabulous table display that spanned the Cromarty Victoria Halls border. We also featured an Awards Table, displaying recognitions from nearly every year of the Youth Café's journey.

And the food... there was an abundance of delicious treats! Hot sausage rolls, sandwiches, tea loaves, snowballs, and millions of cakes, including beautiful celebration sponges made by Lewis. Everyone—young and old—enjoyed every bite.

Thank You!

To our incredible team:

Murdo (ASC), Joey, Orlagh, Loreta, John. Fraser (who worked tirelessly behind the scenes), Pat from James Support Group, as well as Allana, Kirsty and Alistair from Mikeysline, and our amazing kitchen crew, Eilidh from Cromarty Courthouse,

And to every young person, volunteer, staff member, funder, partner, and community member—thank you for being part of this journey.

"It takes a community to grow a young person."



Cromarty & District Community Council

At our latest meeting the following was agreed -

A new Bonfire Night Sub-Committee was formed to evaluate the possibility of arranging a **2026 Cromarty Bonfire Night**. This sub-committee is to include members of the Cromarty Fire Station, led by the C&DCC Associate Member Louise Alexander, and a C&DCC Member. More news, when available, will be shared and provided on our Cromarty Live website.

A discussion about our Use of the Links diary, for a limited number of community events each year, resulted in a proposal to change the 'no

commercial use' condition to 'available to an agreed list of Community Groups'. This list will be created by Vice Chair Andy Thurgood, who will use the Community Groups involved with the 'One Cromarty' Action Plan discussions. More news, when available, will be shared and provided on our Cromarty Live website.

Following the loss of our Winter Resilience Portfolio Lead, Allan Munro, due to new work pressures, we have temporarily suspended the volunteer gritting operations. This is a major blow, but totally understandable, and we can only thank Allan for the amazing job he has done over a number of years developing this invaluable community service.

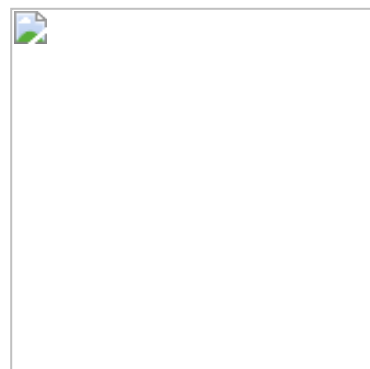


However the C&DCC will be making an appeal for volunteers, who may be interested in doing smaller gritting routes in their part of town. Once we have measured the response, the C&DCC will hopefully confirm a possible resumption of this community service. Please watch out for the appeal on Facebook, and again more news, when available, will be shared and provided on our Cromarty Live website.

Cromarty Live

Cromarty Care Project

We're delighted that the Garden Friday Club has helped brighten up the bench at Townlands sheltered housing. Run by St Regulus' Church, this after-school group has been busy "burying treasure"— spring bulbs planted in our floral tubs and around the grassy area in front of the houses.



We look forward to floral
surprises come March!

Community events:

- **Mondays 10.30–12: Table Tennis** at Victoria Hall (£3 suggested donation)
- **Tuesdays 10–11.30: Baby & Toddler Sessions** (£2 per family)
- **2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 2.30pm: Classic Film Club** at Cromarty Cinema. Pre-cinema lunch at the Royal Hotel (book by 4pm Sunday: 01381 600217). To join, contact Helen: 07889 181529 / helen.charley@doctors.org.uk
- **CAB appointments in Cromarty:** 01349 83333 / adviser@alnesscab.casonline.org.uk
- **Sharing Larder:** regularly stocked and available to anyone in need
- **Monday Lunch Club** returns! Fishertown Inn @12pm (£3). Book by the day before: 01381 600988. Over 60 and not a member? Call Alison: 07470 583641

If you support the aims of the Cromarty Care Project—“to provide relief to those in health or social need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, rural isolation and other disadvantages”—please consider becoming a member. It’s free, and your support helps demonstrate community engagement in our work.

<https://www.cromartycareproject.co.uk/>

Harbour seal lives up to his name

This month the harbour has had regular visits from a juvenile harbour seal. To keep it safe on one occasion the gate was closed for a few hours.

Local marine scientist Terrie Sawyer contacted the British Diver Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR) organisation, but the little chap had



disappeared back into the water by the time they arrived on more than one occasion.

BDMLR advise when the seal is seen hauled up, that dogs are kept away and the area kept safe and quiet. As cute as he or she is, they can give a nasty bite which can be become infected quickly.

To prevent too much attention they also advise us to post any photos on social media **after** the seal has gone back into the sea. However, if our wee friend seems distressed the link for the BDMLR is below.

From the photos provided the seal seems in good health and to be finding enough food from the scat it leaves behind. Harbour seals are suckled by their mums for around 4 weeks and then they are on their own. So it seems this solo wee chap has adopted our harbour as home for now.

www.bdmlr.org.uk



Cromarty Camera Club

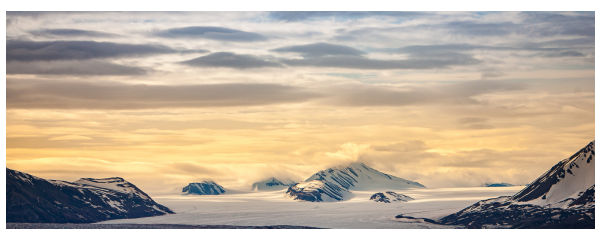


A big welcome to the new members who have recently joined us. Great to see our well known faces back again too!

Members recently enjoyed submitting and subsequently judging entries for our first club competition of the session; this was on the theme of Open Colour Digital Images, so any subject could be captured. A top quality range of 30 entries was received and the winning images are listed and shown here: 1st Twilight by David Kent, 2nd Nuts by Nora Watson 3rd Islands in the Ice by Nigel Atkinson. The planned syllabus for this season is as varied and interesting as ever with outings, presentations and workshop evenings. The next club competition is a Monochrome Print on the theme of Textures. Some club members were lucky enough to travel far afield during the summer and will share these experiences and photographs as presentations to the club membership shortly.

Our regular meetings are held in Victoria Hall, Cromarty on Thursday evenings at 7.15pm for 7.30pm. New members joining us at any of these meetings will have the added incentive of half-price membership for their first year with us! Further information available via our website.

<https://www.cromartycameraclub.co.uk>





Cromarty Cinema

November films, new merch and a very special talk

Happy November! We have another jam-packed month of cinematic goodness ahead so please go check out the full programme at <https://cromartycinema.com/films/>.

For a special treat, we also have Cromarty's own Steve Birch giving a talk on the discovery of three wrecks of the Spanish Armada on the west coast of Ireland on **Wednesday the 26th of November at 7pm**. Email dfrasermackenzie@gmail.com to reserve a seat, it's £5 on the door.

Finally, to go with our wonderful new logo, we have new merch! T-shirts, beanies, caps and stickers! Why not stock up next time you're at the cinema, or get your loved ones a present they really want this holiday season. See you in November!



St Regulus' Episcopal Church

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

COME-AND-SING EVENSONG

3.30pm - Rehearsal
4.15pm - Refreshments
4.45-5.30pm - Evensong

ALL WELCOME

Please join us, either to sing as part of the choir,
or just for the service. Singers of all levels are
welcome - just turn up!

9 November
St Regulus' Church, Cromarty



Remembrance Evensong

Come and sing: 3:30pm

Refreshments: 4.15pm

Evensong: 4.45pm

Remember the fallen and pray for peace on Remembrance Sunday at St Regulus' Church; as well as our normal service at 9.30am, there will be a traditional service of Evensong. It's a come-and-sing service – so if you'd like to join the choir, just turn up at 3.30 (maybe after visiting the Christmas market?) for a 45 minute rehearsal; the music is beautiful but simple, so singers of all abilities welcome. Or just join us for refreshments at 4.15 and the service which begins at 4.45.

Cromarty resident ordained

On Saturday 4th October in Inverness Cathedral, Stuart Thomson from Cromarty was ordained as a deacon by the Most Rev'd Mark Strange, Bishop and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church assisted by the Very Rev'd Sarah Murray, Provost of the Cathedral.

An ordination of a deacon in the Scottish Episcopal Church is a solemn, yet joyful act of worship in which a person is set apart for a ministry of service, pastoral care and proclamation of the Gospel. It marks the beginning of a new phase of ministry, often as a step towards priesthood but always as a lifelong commitment to serve God's people with humility and faithfulness.

In a colourful ceremony, Stuart was ordained together with Rev'd Anne MacDonald from the north-west of Scotland. Stuart felt the call to ministry for many years,

including while working as a lay school chaplain at Christ's Hospital school in West Sussex. His mother is also a priest - in the Anglican Church of Australia, where he hails from. He has been training for the last three years through the Scottish Episcopal Institute, following a teaching appointment at Glenalmond College in Perthshire.



Stuart will serve his curacy in the Black Isle Episcopal Charge of St John, Arpafeelie, St Andrews, Fortrose and St Regulus here in Cromarty. He is already making his mark organising an open 'Come and Sing' evensong on Remembrance Sunday and with his wife, Charlotte and children Connie and Ted will no doubt be involving himself in encouraging young people to come and worship!

Hugh Miller's Birthplace - Blast Off this winter

Once again a massive thank you to everybody who joined us in celebrating Hugh Miller's 223rd birthday over our Big Birthday Weekend - we hope y'all had a fabulous time and we are already planning what exciting experiments we'll offer next year (can anything possibly beat our rocket?!).

First and foremost for November, however, the museum will publicly be closing for winter on Sunday 9th November - that means you only have a few days to visit before we shut until next Spring. However, that doesn't mean there isn't a lot going on: we have some super exciting craft workshops coming up - from lino cut printing to rag wreath making, with more sessions on the way! We are also very excited to be taking part in the first **Cromarty Winter Festival's Meet the Makers on Saturday 8th November - pop by at 3pm that day as our property manager Debbie will be demonstrating how she designs her wonderful lino printed cards we sell in the museum gift shop!**

In terms of science, we are thrilled to announce our first ever Astronomy Month! Boldly go where no Cromarty lad has gone before, as we explore all things space science through a variety of exciting experiences: from Stargazing Evenings with the museum's own telescope, to the return of our fabulous kids Science Club for two super special space themed sessions!

All of our exciting events happening at the museum can be prebooked via our Eventbrite. Remember the best way to stay updated about the goings on at Hugh Miller's Birthplace is to follow us on Facebook. We hope to catch you all at one of our exciting winter activities!

eventbrite<https://www.facebook.com/HughMillersBirthplaceCottageMuseum>

eventbrite

Facebook





The Menagerie of Heathens

David Alston's talk 'The Menagerie of Heathens' will explore the portrait of the exiled Jacobite, George Keith, (last Earl Marischal of Scotland) and an enslaved African boy named Salvador. Keith led the Spanish forces which landed in Lewis in 1719 and were defeated at the Battle of Glenshiel.

Later his household in Italy, Spain and France included not only Salvador and others from Africa but enslaved people from Turkey and Kazakhstan. They were agnostic, Christian, Buddhist and followers of Islam – and they were known to Voltaire, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, James Boswell and David Hume.

David's 'Slaves and Highlanders: Silenced Histories of Scotland and the Caribbean' was the Saltire Society Scottish Book of the Year in 2022. He is currently working on an account of a murder in Larkhall in 1905 and the execution of Pasha Liffey, the only Black African to have been hanged in Scotland.

The talk will take place on **Tuesday November 18th** at 7.30pm in the Victoria Hall, Cromarty. The meeting will conclude with refreshments. As usual, non-members are welcome and pay £5 per meeting but membership of the Society is £15 for the remaining 5 talks. Please bring cash as we cannot take card payments. Under-16s are welcome and are free. We look forward to seeing you there.

cromartyhistory.scot

Next month will be my 12th edition, since taking over from Jon Palmer, who initiated the whole thing, and which now seems to be embedded in Cromarty culture. Generally, the feedback has been positive, with only on or two negative criticisms. So, if anyone would like to take it on and do it differently, get in touch.