CROMARTY AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL CHAIR’S REPORT

May 2021

I think it is fair to say that since the last chair's report in 2019 a lot has changed in the world. With the COVID-19 pandemic it has been a tough couple of years for us all but, as ever, residents and business owners of Cromarty rallied around to make sure people were cared for and looked after. Who knew this would still be a thing a year and a bit later?

The pandemic has taught us all a little something about ourselves I think and the message of "be kind" has never been more prominent.

With that being said, I think it is important to thank those businesses who contributed greatly during the pandemic:

Cromarty Stores

Cromarty Bakery

Sutor Creek

The Post Office

A lot of work was undertaken in Cromarty by various different groups during the pandemic which wasn’t an easy ask. The Cromarty Development Trust put in the new slips for the ferry, The Harbour Trust finished a large renovation project as part of the restoration plan, there was another large renovation done by both the History Society to the Museum and the Cromarty Courthouse Trust to the Courthouse, all while being documented and published by our very own Cromarty Newsletter who brought us frequent updates and often smiles from around the town. Thank you all for your contributions in this surreal year.

There is a group who I do believe deserves special mention and that is Jill and her Team in the Cromarty Care Project who have been instrumental in making sure the community has been provided for with food vouchers, food parcels and the setting up of the Cromarty food larder, which has really made a difference to some members in the community who are struggling. Jill and her team are an asset to the community, and we are extremely fortunate to have you all.

I also want to say a massive thank you to Corrie and the gritting team who braved the elements in what seemed to be a long winter. The number of young volunteers who helped with his is just amazing. Again, a massive thank you for all your efforts, you are the unsung heroes of the community, but I promise your work does not go unnoticed.

A massive thank you also must go to the team at Cromarty Medical Practice for all their sterling work, we know last year was particularly hard and we thank you for all your efforts.

It has been a difficult year for a lot of young people in Cromarty, with the uncertainty of school and things constantly changing but we are so very fortunate to have Wanda MacKay, Fraser Thomson and John Munro who do a tremendous amount of work and innkeeping with the Youth Cafe, which has been helped with funding for another year by the Middelton Trust, which is excellent news. We look forward to seeing what this year and next holds for our young people.

I also want to say a huge thank you Alan Plampton for his continued work running the Victoria Hall. Alan had a huge amount of work to do with the recent election making sure everything was covid compliant and making sure we have the saftest election possible. There is going to be some challenges post covid with the opening of the hall but with Alan at the helm we are in the best hands and we are very lucky to have you.

Now coming into some lighter relief from COVID, the Community Council has been busy with various projects in the past year which has kept us all on our toes. All the projects we have been involved in can be found in the minutes on Cromarty Live. We also welcomed a new minute secretary to the fold and Claire has hit the ground running. We do need to say a massive thank you to our outgoing minute secretary Gillian who has suffered us all for many years, Gillian was an integral member of the Community Council who we hope to persuade back as a member but for now we wish Gillian all the best and thank her for her services over the years. We also have our two Youth Members, Tilly and Gregor, who have been fundamental in making sure the young people are listened to and their requests looked at such as replacement goals being put up in the park which is imminent.

The Community Council has seen a lot of change over the past year, but we are working hard to keep Cromarty the striving community it has grown into. We cannot do this without help, so with that been said we are always looking for people who can spare some time to help us push on with new projects coming in. We may not always get things right first time, but that is how we grow and learn so if you do have any helpful comments or questions, please do get in touch on cromartydistrictcc@gmail.com.

Finally, a chair is nothing without their team behind them, and I am very fortunate to have such an incredible team who come with a wealth of knowledge, skills, abilities and often laughter when I need it the most. As most of you are aware this is my first shot at being chair and with limited experience, I’m very lucky to be in this position and want to thank them all for everything they do for the community and the help they have given me in my first term. You all are wonderful.

As for 2022, I would not even like to predict what is going to happen, but I am hoping we are back to some kind or normality and continue the good work we have started for the community of Cromarty and District. I am going to leave you all with one final thought:

"Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see, choose kindness."

Paige

Chairwoman for C&DCC