

Welcome to another busy month
in our wee Highland town.

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Town In The Spotlight Once More

Those in Cromarty last Tuesday or Wednesday (23/24 July) will know something special was happening down on Marine Terrace. The road was closed off for filming as a crew of more than 50 techies, light, sound and camera operators, presenters, judges and participants took part in the semi-final of the Sky Arts Landscape Artist of the Year (LAOTY) 2019. The production company, Storyvault Films, were particularly inspired by the challenges of capturing the 'landscape' of the Cromarty Firth with its iconic oil platforms and the hills and mountains of Ross-shire beyond. Six finalists were competing for the top prize, alongside the winner of the 'wildcard' groups. Presented by actor and art lover Stephen Mangan alongside Joan Bakewell, the filming of the heats has taken place over the Summer culminating in this semi-final. Each hour-long programme will be aired on Sky Arts and On Demand/NOW TV over ten weeks this Autumn.



This is the fifth series of the show, which is produced by the London and Glasgow-based independent production company. “Landscapes” first aired three years ago following the enormous success of Sky’s Portrait Artist of the Year (PAOTY), also from Storyvault Films, that has captured public imagination since its launch in 2013. LAOTY boasts the titles of “best-performing, non-scripted series of all time” and second-biggest series ever for Sky Arts, with viewing figures growing over the course of the series.

The location shoot in Cromarty created a genuine buzz around the town and many local businesses benefited from the influx, not only by the production team itself but also hundreds of intrigued onlookers who came to watch the proceedings. Some clearly came as ‘celebrity spotters’ initially, but there was an over-riding sense at the end of the two days that the production had brought a deeper appreciation of Cromarty’s unique beauty alongside a better understanding of the complexities of trying to paint it. Many of the production team were impressed with the warmth of the Cromarty welcome and one wouldn’t be surprised if we see some of them return with friends or family to spend a more relaxed time here in years to come.

Filming not only focused on the painting competition but included a lot of additional material for contextual scene-setting. It will be interesting to see how much of this makes the final cut and what impression it gives of the town and its people. The hour-long programme, to be aired in October, will certainly bring Cromarty’s delights to the attention of a lot more folk – even if they are only armchair arts enthusiasts.



Some locals wanted to be caught on camera with presenter Stephen Mangan. (Can't think why - ed)

Cinema Latest

Fraser Mackenzie writes:

'Works on the community cinema commenced on site on 24th June with Wyvis Homes Ltd., a local contractor from Fortrose. The contract is due to be complete by the end of 2019 with the first screening in the new cinema in early 2020. We want to thank all the funders who have made the project possible – LEADER Programme, Creative Scotland, Viridor Credits, The Robertson Trust, The Foyle Foundation and Highlands and Islands Enterprise. In addition to these funders we are very grateful to all the private individuals who have supported us through donations and sponsoring of seats and stars! The works also include improvements to the recycling and access to this area with inclusion of parking. We are also currently trying to find funds to put in a charge point for electric cars.

The cinema will be run in partnership with Eden Court - effectively functioning as an additional screen putting on a mix of movies available at the same time in Inverness - including blockbusters, kids movies, new independent releases and classics.

Thanks to the community for their support and understanding during the construction period. CRFS will provide another update on progress in the autumn.'

Cromarty Harbour Restoration Takes Another Big Step Forward

Pat Haynes writes:

'Work to repair the harbour is now well in to the fourth week. Scaffolding is almost complete and no one can have failed to hear the hydro demolition team tackling the degraded and damaged concrete under the deck of the inner harbour. The work is extremely dangerous as water at very high pressure hits the concrete with such force

that the aggregate is sprayed out at high velocity, heavy protective clothing is required and the whole area is encased in reinforced sheeting to contain the debris. The condition of the decks in places is so poor that the hydro demolition process has blown holes completely through.

Next week it is hoped to remove the old steel beams and columns to allow the concrete repair work to be implemented. Shuttering will be going in shortly to facilitate repairs to the underside of the decks which includes the provision of new reinforcement for the concrete. Following on there will be more hydro demolition work to tackle the supporting columns before they too are repaired or replaced.

The Fraser Bruce Group, our contractors, are working with the tides and the weather so inevitably there has been some activity out-with normal working hours but progress is on schedule and we apologise for any disturbance and disruption whilst this essential work continues.

The next phase of work will include the provision of a new concrete deck where the sheds will be reinstated and the provision of green heart timber and rubber D fenders along the Inner harbour pier.'



An unusual view of the underside of the pier showing the extent of the deterioration.

Development Trust Celebrates Further Funding

Support for Cromarty's development projects now stands at £400,000.

News of another major financial boost was announced this week by the developers of Scotland's largest offshore windfarm.

The new funding was confirmed on the day that Prince Charles officially opened the £2.65bn Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm, whose 84 huge turbines lie to the north east of the mouth of the Cromarty Firth.

The Cromarty Community Development Trust (CCDT) and its partners the Nigg and Shandwick Community Council, have each been awarded £50,000 by the Beatrice Partnership Fund, led by energy giant SSE.

It means another £100,000 being added to the funds for the upgrading of the ferry slipways and the establishment of a dedicated site for motorhomes, with facilities.

It follows the award of £300,000 from the Scottish Government's Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund announced in June. The development trust is continuing to pursue other funds for this project and others.

The letter of confirmation from the Beatrice Partnership's Community Fund Manager, Fiona Morrison, said: "I am delighted to confirm that your application to the Beatrice Partnership Fund has been successful. SSE would like to congratulate you on this fantastic achievement as the competition for funding was extremely high with over 55 applications for the panel to consider and a total value in excess of £2.2 million."

The Beatrice turbines are projected to generate enough energy to power 450,000 homes, while local communities also benefit from grant support, committed by the developers' fund.

The Cromarty/Nigg awards were amongst 11 projects in the Highland Council area which will share £405,507.91. Now in its third year of awards, the Beatrice fund, according to the partnership: "...supports projects that create opportunities, empower communities and help stimulate sustainable places. The fund will run for five years and is worth a total of £3m split between Highland (£2m) and Moray (£1m).

Morven Smith, Head of Community Investment for SSE Renewables, said: “Beatrice is such an amazing project, the size and scale of which has never really been seen before in Scotland, and we are so glad that, through this fund we have been able to share some of the benefits of the wind farm.

“Every year we are blown away by the innovative applications to the fund, they offer communities a chance to help grow sustainably and help bring much needed investment in these amazing rural communities. We look forward to hearing how each project progresses.”

The CCDT, meanwhile, is in the process of acquiring the wooded area around the industrial units at Whitedykes for the motorhome park.

This is being done under the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) scheme established by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. The offer to the council for this land is £1.

The council’s Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee meets on August 15, when a decision is scheduled to be taken on the CCDT’s bid.

Making an Exhibition of Themselves!

Rosie Newman writes:

'Introducing the Black Isle Collective, a recently formed group of local artists who came together for the first time this summer. With a cohort of talented, local makers and creators, from a range of fields and backgrounds, this eclectic group took over The Stables Gallery in July 2019.

The exhibition was initiated by printmaker Kathleen Madigan from Fortrose, a member of Highland Printmakers in Inverness which is where some of the other artists met each other. With her connections to other artists on the Black Isle, the group was soon formed, and the first meetings took place in her house over the winter.

The opening was a very well attended event which took place on a Sunday afternoon. Attendants were welcomed with a glass of wine or a chilled beer. As well as this, organic juice and cordial was kindly donated by both the Black Isle Veg Boxes and Knockfarrel Produce.

The show was a talking point in the town and beyond and ignited interesting and thoughtful discussions between visitors and artists. This atmosphere and attendance continued over the week and the group offered talks, workshops and events about the techniques and concepts that surrounded the exhibition. These included a poetry salon, a demonstration about the process of etching and a woodland foraging workshop.

Printmaker Menno Verburg said that feedback from attendants was extremely positive, “Many people commented on the variety of very high-quality work, which ranged from painting, printmaking and sound installation,” Menno created a buzz with his exquisite prints, many with reference to Cromarty.

The Black Isle Collective, with its rich variety of creativity, is set to build on the success of this year’s show and are due to meet up soon for their first pint to discuss next year’s exhibition. They would like to thank everyone for their support and generosity.'

If you would like to join their mailing list, please contact them through the facebook page: [@blackislecollective](https://www.facebook.com/blackislecollective)



A suitably arty image of the collective preparing to exhibit at The Stables.

Pupils Publish Their Own Guide

Children of Cromarty have published a wonderful guide to the town from their perspective. Produced in association with the Primary School and The Courthouse Museum it is now available to buy (a bargain at £2.50) from the Courthouse, Ingrid's House, Emporium, Gardiner & Gardiner, Couper's Creek, Calluna, Post Office and Ecoventures.

Profits from sales will be shared between the museum and the school.

Exhibition Celebrates Film-going In Cromarty And The Highlands

Alison Seller writes:

'This month sees the cinema come to the Courthouse – or, rather, the story of cinema in the Highlands and in Cromarty. From the early days of the 'Silver Screen' to Cromarty's own Film Festival, the people of the Highlands, like people everywhere, have laughed at, cried at, been inspired by and terrified by the worlds revealed through film.

In the decades since the late 1800s, people have gathered for the Magic Lantern Show . . . the pictures . . . the movies. Even today, with all the home entertainment choices we have, there is still something satisfying about the shared experience of watching a film in the company of others. As satisfying and magical as it must have been for our ancestors, sitting around the welcoming firelight and imagining the events of the tales told by the storyteller.

The exhibition includes reminiscences of film-going in Cromarty and also looks to the future and the much anticipated opening of our very own thirty-seater cinema, early next year.'

The exhibition will run from August to October. Open daily: 12 – 4. Admission free.



An image from the exhibition of an early Cromarty Film Festival.

Open Garden's Fundraising Total

In the last Newsletter we wrongly reported the amount of money raised by Open Gardens and the Art & Flower Exhibition. As Corrie Jeffrey reports:

'A fantastic total, £5,002, was raised.... a pat on the back to all the gardeners who worked hard to show Cromarty gardens at their varied and interesting best; a round of applause to Evelyn Wilson and her team for the inventive sea-side themed floral artistry in the East Church, the very best to date and to Julie Price's botanical watercolour painters for their wonderful paintings of shells, seaweed and feathers complementing the floral decoration; thanks to all the bakers and tea makers, the barbeque chefs and Pimm's mixers, the kind gardeners who potted on and donated plants for sale and to the Dupars for their kind gift of botanical and gardening books.

The money went to local charities and, after allowing for expenses and setting aside funds for next year, was divided as follows:

The West Church Pre-school Club and the East Church Pre-school and After School Club both got £400.

The East Church Restoration and Cromarty Court house received the same amounts, and there was a donation to the local flower arranging group and the Cromarty Community Development Trust.

£1000 was given to the Cycling Without Age tri-shaws to cover the cost of insuring them and to provide a scholarship for a couple of young people to get a qualification in cycle maintenance.

The remainder is to provide part funding to ensure that the Monday Lunch Club continues through the winter, thanks to Helen and Kenny.

Open Gardens will be on the third weekend in June next year, 2020, with the East Church exhibition continuing through until the following weekend. We hope the weather will be as kind as this year.

Especial thanks to all the people of Cromarty who make the event such fun.'

Thrift Shop Trials Two Days a Week Opening

Takings on Thursday 25th July were equally as good as takings on the now regular Saturday openings. Through the holiday months this seems to make a lot of sense and visitors to the town made up the majority of customers.

Overall takings for the Thrift Shop now stand just short of £3.5k . A fantastic amount from 'free stuff' that might otherwise have been thrown out or gone to landfill. Huge thanks go to the volunteers for their efforts – which not only involve 'manning' the shop when its open but also sorting through all the donated items (usually on a Monday).

If you would like to get involved and can offer a few hours to support this excellent venture contact Rosemarie Hogg or talk to any of the volunteers when the shop door is open.

Waterloo 2

Clinging to the Wreckage performed another concert on Saturday 27th in the Victoria Hall. The theme was 'Abba' but a lot of cheesy 70s hits were included too! A good night was had by all, especially those who dared to dress

up in Abba and 70s costumes and the evening ended with some excellent singing by many of those attending.

A total of £1015 was raised which will go to local and Black Isles charities. Thanks to all who came and supported the raffle, donated prizes and took part in the 'heads or tails' competition for a single malt whisky.



Insert your own caption here.

Cromarty Arts Trust News

On 5th July, Cromarty Arts Trust hosted stand-up comedian and Perthshire farmer, Jim Smith at the Stables to a sell-out audience of 120 people. Folk, including a high proportion of local farmers, came from far and wide to witness Jim's hilarious 'Back to the Teuchter' Tour - a show filled with tractor gags and the trials and tribulations of growing up and finding your way in a Scottish rural community. A memorable night was had by all!

AUGUST EVENTS

To purchase tickets/book places:

info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk / 01381 600354

MAKING SILVER JEWELLERY: 2nd – 4th Aug, Stables, 10am – 5pm **FULLY BOOKED!**

THE CROMARTY GROUP ART EXHIBITION: 10th – 18th Aug, Stables, 10am – 6pm (4pm on 18th). The annual exhibition of contemporary arts and crafts by this

talented local group which began in 1976. FREE admission

LOST LINO PRINTING: 24th & 25th Aug, Old Brewery, 10am - 4.30pm FULLY BOOKED!

MOLLY & HATTIE MCGREGOR: Sunday 25th Aug, Stables, 4.00pm (doors from 3.30pm)£13 (£11 conc; school children go FREE!) Tea/coffee available.

Talented sisters, Molly (18) and Hattie (16) McGregor, from Rosemarkie play violin and cello respectively and attend the Yehudi Menuhin School in Surrey. Prepare for your jaws to drop during this programme of Bach, Paganini and Gliere. Tickets available on the door.

PORTRAIT PAINTING: 31st Aug & 1st Sept, Stables, 10am-4.30pm FULLY BOOKED!

Please check out www.cromartyartstrust.org.uk for all our courses, workshops and gigs. Tickets available right now!

Other Events Coming Up

Strawberry Tea By The Sea

The RNLI Cromarty and Resolis Branch are holding a fundraising event this Saturday (3rd August) from 12.00 - 4.00pm. It involves strawberries, tea and takes place by the sea (on Shore Street). What's not to like?

New Term Already!

Cromarty History Society & Friends of Cromarty Courthouse will be promoting their new syllabus in the next few weeks, so look out for the posters around town and on the website!

Eight talks are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month, September - April at 7.30pm in the West Church Hall. There is a small entrance fee for non members or great savings can be made by taking out an annual membership which can be completed easily on the evening of any talk. As the Friends organisation for Cromarty Courthouse, the Society directly supports the Museum's work in

promoting, sharing and protecting the history and culture of this area.

The first talk of the season is on Thursday 19th September and the committee extends a warm welcome to everyone with a reminder that each talk is followed by an informal chat over a complimentary cup of tea and biscuits!

For further information, contact Gillian McNaught, Cromarty History Society Secretary on 01381 600337 or gijo@btinternet.com or through the contact form on www.cromartyhistory.scot

Gluren bij de Buren

The annual mini-fest which translates as 'Peeking on the Neighbours' is back this year in its traditional Sunday afternoon slot (Oct 6th).

This free and informal celebration of local hospitality, and creativity from far and wide, is organised by a small group of volunteers associated with The Cheese House.

Do consider giving up your sitting room, or, if you fancy performing (music, poetry readings, or pretty much anything that deserves a live audience) talk to Julie Price or Mary Bowers (for hosting) or Greg Fullarton or Jon Palmer (for performing).

And if you're still curious to know what actually happens on the day, make a note in the diary and look out for further details nearer the time. This year why not be really Dutch and dust off your bicycle to get from one venue to the next – it's the way to go! The tri-shaws should be out and about too for those who find walking a struggle.

More info and contact details at www.glurenbijdeburen.co.uk

Cromarty Film Festival 2019

Save the date! The 13th Cromarty Film Festival will take place between Friday 6th and Sunday 8th December thanks to funding from Creative Scotland.

An action packed weekend of movies, special guests, talks and workshops by practitioners - plus some eating and

drinking- across a range of venues including the Screen Machine is on the cards.

Other Notices

The Middleton Trust is inviting applications from organisations to fund social, cultural, educational or recreational projects/activities planned in the year **2020 - 2021** that benefit young people in Cromarty & District. The Trustees welcome all applications meeting their criteria, but this year wish to particularly encourage submissions supporting health and wellbeing in the 16 - 25 year old age group.

Ten organisations benefited from awards in the year 2019/20, including the Cromarty Rowing Club, Cromarty Primary Parent Council and the Cromarty Church Hall Playgroup. If you are a representative of an organisation or know of a group who would be interested in Middleton Trust funding, please get in touch.

A simple application form and further details can be found on the Cromarty Live website www.cromartylive.co.uk/middleton-trust or contact the Secretary, Gillian McNaught on 01381 600337 middletontrust@gmail.com

The deadline for completed applications is **Friday 30th August 2019** and all applications will be considered at the Trust's AGM on October 10th.

An open invitation has been received to anyone who would like to attend the **Resilient Communities Conference 2019** which takes place on 11th September at SFRS Cambuslang.

This year's conference will offer fantastic Scottish and international speakers, workshops that everyone can participate in and opportunities for building your networks. It will respond to the challenges that people living and working in communities are facing, and give us all the chance to help shape a more resilient future for communities in Scotland.

The Cromarty and District Community Council have been notified about the following **planning application**:

Construction of new East Quay including dredging and piling, and the formation of laydown area for handling and temporary storage of North Sea Oil related and renewable energy components

Land 230M West Of Nigg Ferry Hotel Nigg
Ref. No: 19/02777/FUL | Received: Wed 19 Jun 2019 |
Validated: Thu 20 Jun 2019 | Status: Under
Consideration

Residents can log onto the Highland Council website for further information and are also able to comment on the above application.

And finally...

Rob and Barbara Rogers asked for the following to be included: 'We are looking for a house or building to convert in Old Cromarty. Any condition or size considered. Cash paid at Home report price.
Contact: Gardenlane.rogers9@gmail.com
or 07976415562'

We hope you've found this an interesting and informative read. Please let us know what you think, or send suggestions and ideas for articles via editor@cromartylive.co.uk

The Cromarty Live Newsletter team is Jon Palmer, Jeremy Price, David Ross, Laura Shepherd

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