

Welcome to another busy month  
in our wee Highland town.

No Images? [Click here](#)



## Is This Election Season?



Well it certainly is locally.

(Calum Davidson's photo was taken at the 2007 Scottish Parliament  
Election - an illegal act so to do!)

## Cromarty and District Community Council

November sees the start of a new term for community councils. In Cromarty a number of current members have expressed their intention to stand down which means there are vacancies. C&DCC is a vital organisation for getting things done in and around the town and is an important channel of communication with Highland Council on any number of issues relating to local services. Indications are that in the future there may well be more devolved decision-making powers too. So it is essential we have strong representation within our local body. If you feel you can play a part and wish to be considered as a candidate look at the information on the Highland

Council website [here](#). You may also wish to talk to current chair Jaquie Ross, or Estelle Quick in the Post Office.

**The deadline for nominations is 12 noon on Tuesday 8th October.**

## Cromarty Community Development Trust

The CCDT's annual general meeting will be held in the West Church Hall on **Tuesday the 15th of October at 7pm**. CCDT chair David Fraser and other board members will report on the work of the trust in the last year. **There will be an election of new directors.**

The meeting provides an opportunity for the membership to help shape the future strategy of the trust. We are looking for ideas – from fundraising to communications.

As reported last month there will be an additional item of business of some importance. It is worth highlighting it again. During discussions with funding bodies over the summer, it emerged that there is a problem with one of the CCDT's articles of association, number 27.

It says: “The directors may, at their discretion, refuse to admit any individual or organisation to membership where they have reasonable grounds to believe that he/she/it might, if admitted to membership, act in a manner which would damage the reputation of the company, undermine the efficiency of its operations and/or disrupt the proper conduct of its meetings.”

The Scottish Land Fund, the principal supporter of community acquisitions of land and buildings, believes this runs counter to its own codes of governance. As a consequence, if the CCDT is seeking grant support from the Scottish Land Fund, article 27 will have to be removed. There is every prospect the trust will indeed be seeking such assistance, so the CCDT board is recommending its removal. A two thirds majority of those attending the general meeting will be required.

## Other Development Trust News

## The Barn

Progress is being made on the Townlands Barn project. Discussions have been held with architects and one has now agreed to prepare sketches for the development trust, at minimal cost. These will embrace the development of the barn itself and the construction of modest buildings on the area of ground to the south.

The brief given to the architect, reflects proposals from the barn working group for a multi-purpose plan to include: residential accommodation for let/sale; retail outlets; and workshops. Once the architect's drawings have been completed and publicly viewed, there will be an opportunity for further discussion. Only after that will the hard work, of trying to raise money to give the barn new life, begin.

The trust's efforts have not been helped by several acts of vandalism in recent weeks, which left the door into the barn damaged to the point where the building was not secure. The door has now been repaired twice, which has cost the trust money which would have been better spent elsewhere.

## Housing

Albyn Housing had been due to hold a public meeting to exhibit the visual impressions of the options for housing in the field behind the barn. Their architects have produced drawings, for a mix of housing based firmly on the results of the housing survey carried out by the CCDT's housing group. But the trust has not seen them yet.

We have just been informed that pressure of other work means that Albyn is to "revisit the timeline" for public meetings in Cromarty. In other words, things are again being delayed, which we cannot let continue for long.

The CCDT is working in partnership with the Cromarty and District Community Council in pursuit of the housing development. Following discussions, it has been agreed that the community council should be the lead partner, but will continue to work closely with the CCDT.

## Motorhomes and slipways

Work is progressing on both elements of this project. Wallace Stone, Marine Consulting Engineers based in Dingwall, have been appointed to advise and prepare planning and marine licence applications for the upgrading of both slipways.

Meanwhile an architect is drawing up plans for the motorhome site at Whitedykes. Several construction companies have visited and expressed an interest in tendering for the work. A topographical survey has been conducted, and an arborist has advised us how best we could “keyhole” the motorhomes amongst the trees.

Well over £400,000 has been raised for the two elements of the project, and we have high hopes of raising more. We could, however, still lose it all if we do not get the necessary planning consents for both the slipways and the campsite. A great deal of detailed work, therefore, has still to be done by the CCDT directors.

### Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop closed its doors for the last time this year on Saturday 28th September. It has been operating under the rules governing pop-up shops which allows for 28 days in a twelve month period. That allocation has now been used up. Over the course of the 28 days the shop has raised the amazing total of £5,910 (and 8 pence).

Rosemarie Hogg said: 'I can only thank EVERYONE who helped out over the past few months: Nora, Chrissie, Irene, Ewa, Louisa, Rhona, Janice, Meg, Moira M and Moira G. So many hours were spent organising the shop goods, sorting out same, pricing, selling goods; without our valuable helpers there would have been no thrift shop. We have managed to raise an incredible amount of money for CCDT, in very rough conditions (to put it mildly). My thanks go to you all for your contributions'.

Thanks should also go to Rosemarie who has worked tirelessly keeping the whole project going. When one considers the potential costs of renovating the barn £6k might seem like a drop in the ocean but it demonstrates the community rolling up its sleeves and pursuing every avenue it can to raise funds. This is viewed very favourably by grant-giving organisations so the efforts of the volunteers are worth far more than just the amount

raised, and can go a long way to unlocking other more lucrative funding.

## Community Market



Lorna Mackinnon and Louisa Garratt take a break from discussing the market. Image: Sheila Currie.

Sheila Currie writes:

'Lorna Mackinnon has run the monthly Cromarty Market for five years, smoothly and effectively, bringing us good quality local food, plants, crafts, and helping build and develop many other small local businesses.

As many will know, Lorna is moving on to a new venture in Cromarty, and so Transition Black Isle (who operate three of the Saturday Markets across the Black Isle) wanted to thank Lorna - and needed to find a replacement. Head scratching for a moment, until Louisa Garratt (daughter of Rhona) stepped forward - ideal!

Louisa is now back in Cromarty, having been involved in running a music venue/pub down south, and we are all delighted to welcome her to this job'.

And Peter Tilbrook informs us...

'It's Apple Pressing time again at the Cromarty Community Market on Saturday 12th October.

Weather permitting, Julie and Lesley from TBI (Transition Black Isle) will be outside the Victoria Hall from 11 – 1.30pm to help people press their apples. If it's wet they'll be inside, in the kitchen area.

Please bring your washed apples – cookers and/or eaters, both make lovely juice – and windfalls are fine. There'll be knives for cutting out the really bad bits and doing the initial chopping. Also remember to bring your own sterilised containers. Sturdy plastic bottles, such as milk containers, are ideal and freeze well'.

## Gluren bij de Buren

A reminder that this year's chance to 'Peek in on the Neighbours' is this Sunday 6th October. The mini-map programmes can be found in most of the shops and eateries around town. Or you can download a copy from the website [www.glurenbijdeburen.co.uk](http://www.glurenbijdeburen.co.uk)

If you've never given this a go you really should. Its back to its traditional Sunday afternoon slot and this year's line-up offers a great range of performances with some highly accomplished musicians (and a bloke who thinks he's funny). There's no set rule for what you can and can't see or where you have to go. You can go to as many things as you want or maybe only try one. And it's all free (though donations are appreciated). So what have you got to lose?

This year the trikes will be available for anyone who fancies a lift between venues (obviously those with mobility difficulties take priority). If you wish to pre-book a slot talk to Jon or Emmy at The Cheese House.

## Cromarty Courthouse

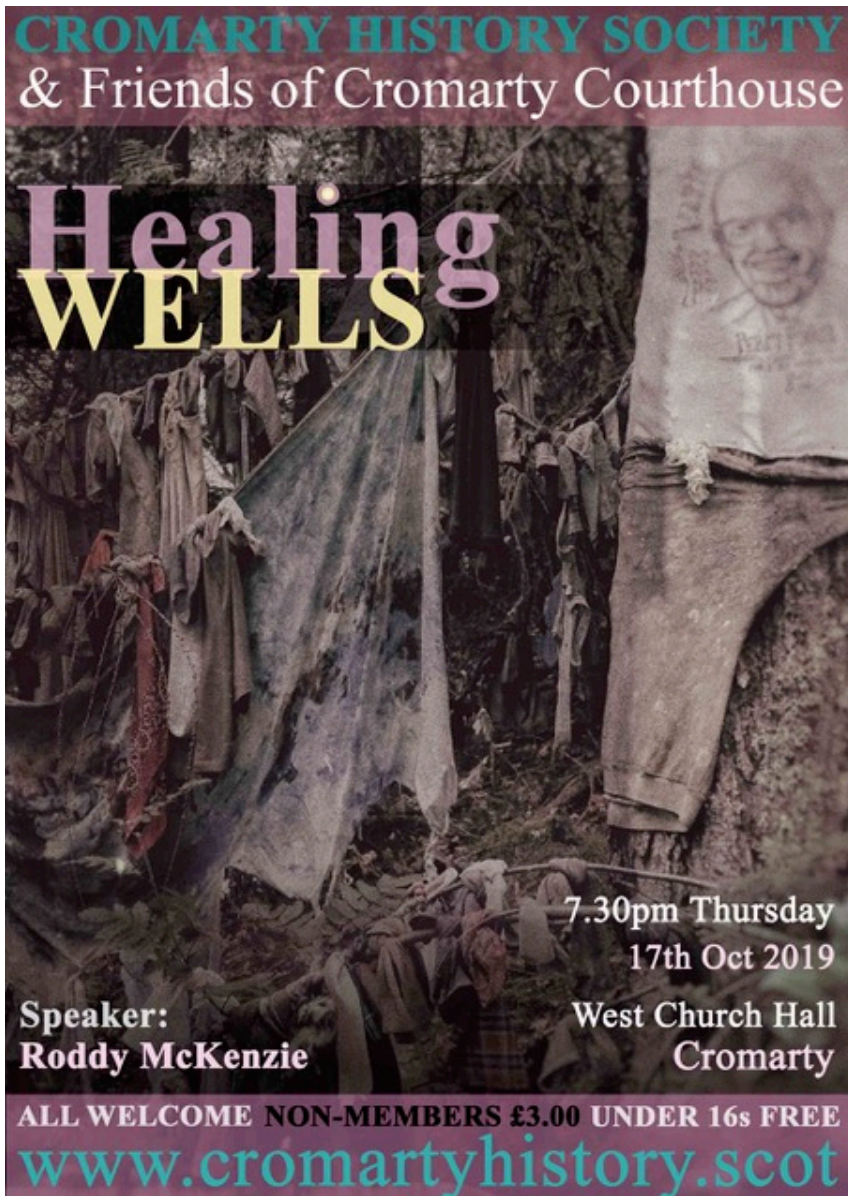
Mary Bowers writes:

'We will be closing for the season on Sunday 20 October. If you haven't been in to see us this season, there's still time to catch the 2 temporary exhibitions - one on John Bain and The Cromarty News - a newspaper which although ran for a year only in 1891, has so many parallels to our concerns today. The other, "Cinema in the

Courthouse", tells the story of cinema in the Highlands and in Cromarty. Also come to see the rest of our displays and browse the gifts and publications in the museum shop. We are open daily, 12-4 and admission is free.

We have heard from Highland Council that contractors will be arriving on site early in October to recommence the repair work needed to our roof. The contractor hastily packed up their equipment just after arrival in April this year, after discovering newly hatched seagull chicks on the roof. Fingers crossed they will now get to grips with some essential repairs!

Although the museum will be closed to visitors from mid October, volunteers will still be busy behind the scenes. We are holding a "New Ideas" meeting straight after closing on 21 October (10.00-12.00am) in the museum - so if you are interested in contributing, please come along and join in.'



**CROMARTY HISTORY SOCIETY**  
& Friends of Cromarty Courthouse

# Healing WELLS

7.30pm Thursday  
17th Oct 2019

**Speaker:**  
**Roddy McKenzie**

West Church Hall  
Cromarty

ALL WELCOME NON-MEMBERS £3.00 UNDER 16s FREE

[www.cromartyhistory.scot](http://www.cromartyhistory.scot)

Anyone else think Gillian McNaught deserves an award for the most creative posters in town? The History Society ones are always intriguing and this talk looks to be especially so.

## Wellbeing On The Black Isle

Thursday 10th October is **World Mental Health Day**. Although nothing specific has been arranged for Cromarty on that day people are being asked to wear something yellow to show their support and awareness.

## Shop News

From Ingrid Rochford:

'Ingrid's House and Calluna would like to invite everyone to their annual Christmas open night on Wednesday the 30th of October from 6pm-8pm. Please come along to get a preview of our Christmas stock and new seasons gifts, clothing and accessories.'

The Cheese House is now operating winter hours. (Open every day except Tuesdays and Wednesdays). But while there's still the promise of nice autumn weather you can continue to enjoy coffee, tea and toasties in the garden when we are open!

## Bonfire and Fireworks Night

The event this year is taking place on Friday 1st November at 6.30pm on The Links. There will be hot food and drinks, ice cream and all the usual things associated with bonfire night.

As usual, there is a need for combustible material for burning on the fire. If you have any wood, old furniture, pallets, etc, that you wish to donate, please take it to the Links on Thursday evening or Friday morning. If you are unable to take it there, we will have a limited collection service so leave anything out front and accessible and we will do our best to include you in our run. Please note – we will not take mattresses, sofas, anything with fibreglass, etc. We are also not a waste collection or



gardening clearance service so can't cut down your trees/shrubs or shift items from lofts or within your house.

Anyone able to help with the collection runs and building the bonfire on the day, we're always grateful for more bodies, even just for one hour! Pies and drams are often involved.

For booking wood collections, please contact Jeremy on 07837 666868 or 600709 or email [jeremy@cluneshouse.co.uk](mailto:jeremy@cluneshouse.co.uk)

## Cromarty Cares

The Cromarty Care Project will be holding its AGM on Monday 14th October in the West Church Hall (7pm). Everyone is welcome. There will be a short talk by local resident Professor Gill Hubbard who works at UHI.

CCP also urgently need home carers. No experience necessary and paid training is provided. Highland Home Carers are the employer and CCP work closely with them to provide care for Cromarty. £9.50 an hour.

Even if you can only offer a few hours a week or only want to be relief staff please get in touch. Contact Laura Dobinson at Highland Home Carers on 01463 241196 or Helen Charley 07889 181529

## News From The Harbour Trust

Pat Haynes writes:

'Since July our Contractors, the Fraser Bruce Group have been progressing well on the first phase of repairs to the harbour. As you will have noticed extensive scaffolding has been erected to allow access to both the concrete decks and supporting columns. A specialist hydro-demolition team have utilised high pressure water jets to cut away damaged concrete from the soffits and supporting beams and columns on the east deck. The condition of the decks in places was so poor that the

hydro demolition process has blown holes completely through the concrete.

The areas which required to be repaired following this process have proved to be more extensive than originally hoped and in order to accommodate the consequential increase in costs, the repairs to nine redundant but non-structural, columns which had originally been scheduled to be removed are now to be retained. However, these will be effectively hidden from view by the new greenheart fendering. Concrete repairs are progressing on harbour (east side). The main corner column has now poured as are most of beams. Hand finishing is required in places. The contractors should move onto columns at the V soon, although the recent strong winds have removed much of the scaffolding decking in that area. The old greenheart fenders have been salvaged and have been taken off site for use by local craftsmen to help fundraising.

On the advice of our consultant engineers, Wallace Stone and at our cost, we have also agreed appropriate protective coatings should be applied to all concrete surfaces except for the nine columns mentioned above which will be faced with greenheart with the alternate columns being installed with rubber D fenders. The next phase of work will include the provision of a new concrete deck for the replacement sheds and installing new electric cabling.

Lochshell Engineering will be installing the new concrete deck on the west side of the Mole and also the fendering. Taking advantage of the improved access provided by the scaffolding they have been on site to make detailed measurements for the provision of the new fenders. They are also in the process of removing redundant corroded steel pillars and beams which will assist both their fendering project and that of the concrete repair specialists who need to complete their elements before the new fenders can be installed.

#### MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

Outside of the repairs and restoration, the coming months will see further maintenance being carried out around the harbour. Whilst not exhaustive, this will include repairing damaged boards, painting the gangway pillar, renew bushes on pontoon hinges, fit safety chains for self-rescue

onto pontoon, fit new info boards and to remove tyres (at our cost nowadays) and disposing of other rubbish. We will continue to invest where we can to improve the facility, but we can only spend what we have at our disposal.

#### ABLE TO HELP?

You'll know the drill, the operation and maintenance of the harbour is carried out by a small number of volunteers to which we are indebted. If you are able to help, possibly with some of the small-scale maintenance work then please do let us know. You would be most welcome. For any information please do visit the website at [www.cromartyharbour.org](http://www.cromartyharbour.org) or email us at ['info@cromartyharbour.org'](mailto:info@cromartyharbour.org)



This photograph illustrates the condition of the soffits, columns and beams which require to be repaired or replaced prior to the new fenders being installed. Also work in progress which includes hand-finishing in places.

Phoebe Fox writes:

'Sutor Creek are holding a **Seafood Tasting Dinner and Auction** to help raise funds towards repairing our historic harbour in Cromarty.

Friday 8th November at 6.30pm

Graham will create a menu that highlights the very best of the Cromarty and Moray Firth (wine pairings available). We will end the evening with a small but very special auction! Limited spaces available. Call 01381 600 855 to reserve.'

## Film Festival and Upcoming Movies

Some movie dates for your diary for the rest of the year:

To celebrate (nearly) Halloween come along to the Old Brewery at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 29th October for the acclaimed horror film **The Babadook**.

**The 13th Cromarty Film Festival** will take place from Friday 6 - Sunday 8th December at various venues around the town including the Screen Machine. The full programme and tickets will be out early in November.

The Film Society's annual Christmas movie will be **The Muppet Christmas Carol** early evening at The Old Brewery on Saturday 14th December

## Cromarty Arts Trust

Georgia Macleod writes:

'After the most entries ever received, our annual competition for new Scottish art school graduates - the Student Residency Prize - was won by Glasgow School of Art graduate, Lyndsay Fairley. Jeweller Lyndsay has won a funded month's stay in Cromarty to seek inspiration in this part of the world to develop her work. You may bump into Lyndsay throughout October and if you're interested in learning more, take a look at her website:

[www.lyndsayfairleyjewellery.com](http://www.lyndsayfairleyjewellery.com)

KIDS ART WORKSHOP - As part of her time with us, Lyndsay will be running a workshop for children aged 6-11 years in the Old Brewery on Wednesday 16th October. More details to follow via [www.cromartyartstrust.org.uk](http://www.cromartyartstrust.org.uk), posters and social media - so parents and carers, keep a look out as numbers will be limited. A fun activity session for the school holidays on your doorstep!

Other upcoming Arts Trust events can also be viewed at [www.cromartyartstrust.org.uk](http://www.cromartyartstrust.org.uk)

## And finally...

Despite signs having been erected on the fences to Victoria Park alerting people to the fact that it is an offence to walk dogs there, this doesn't seem to have deterred some dog owners. As reported in a previous newsletter this poses a serious health risk to children and families especially if dog poo gets onto shoes etc. It is, after all, a dedicated play area. Can everyone please be vigilant and prevent this from occurring.

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](mailto:editor@cromartylive.co.uk)

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

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