

Welcome to another busy month
in our wee Highland town.

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Is Cromarty Becoming Ever More Popular As A Holiday Destination?

Once again the town has seen its fair share of visitors over the summer months. There have been many tourism-related developments over recent weeks too - a big increase in the number of accommodation providers in the town, the Highland Council consultation on a Visitor Levy, success in securing funding for a new motorhome and campervan facility, the consultation on Traffic Management, as well as the never-ending issues around parking on the Links – to name just a few. Many groups and individuals are making great efforts to address some of the challenges that come with an increase in visitors. But is it all a bit piecemeal, and re-active? Maybe now is the time, when people's day-to-day experiences are still fresh in the mind, to have a serious conversation and come up with a properly joined-up plan: a more radical approach that pre-empts some of the problems that are likely to grow. One that is aspirational and determines how we want the town to be in the future rather than simply allowing things to happen and always having to play catch-up. The Community Council took a significant step this week by appointing newly co-opted councillor Marcel Gommers with responsibility for Tourism, and the September meeting will consider the CC's formal response to the Black Isle Tourism Strategy. Have your say. Share your thoughts and ideas with either Marcel at the Stores or Jon at The Cheese House.



MSC Preziosa dwarfs Cromarty as it leaves the firth during the late evening of 2nd August. It is the largest passenger cruiser to visit this year and only called in on this one occasion. It can carry a 3,900 passengers and has a displacement of over 139,000 tonnes. The liner had to squeeze past the Forte which was unloading its cargo of concrete caissons off Nigg. Image: Jeremy Price

Families For Cromarty

And not entirely unrelated... in August a group of local residents started a Facebook page aimed at attracting young families to move to the town on a permanent basis. They are highlighting many of the benefits of living and working in our small vibrant community. Its called Families Love Cromarty. Well worth a look and a 'like'. Go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/Families-Love-Cromarty-100847634607582/>

Cinema Latest

Fraser Mackenzie writes:

'The cinema is making good progress with the external structure nearing completion. The internal fit out with seating, audio visual and fixtures and fittings will however take a while so we are still targeting a January 2020 opening. The Cinema will be run in partnership with Eden Court.'



Onlookers were bemused to watch two halves of a boat being removed from the ground surrounding the new cinema. The area is being cleared for car-parking and rather than seeing Tess destroyed completely Jon and Emmy from Bank Street purchased the old boat, which has many memories for Cromarty folk. with plans to create a new lease of life for it in their garden.

Changes On The 'High Street'

An update from Phoebe Fox:

COUPER'S CREEK

We would like to thank all our customers and employees who worked at Couper's Creek over the last 5 years for their support. The hospitality industry can be hard work, challenging, exhausting and frustrating but our loyal customers have made that journey worthwhile and we will miss each and every one of them!

SUTOR CREEK

Closing Couper's Creek will enable us to focus our efforts on Sutor Creek. Our recent renovation there has allowed us to increase menu options, accommodate more customers and employ more staff. We are currently training 3 employees for modern apprenticeship catering qualifications in conjunction with UHI.

Sutor Creek will open daily at 11am for morning coffee and home-baking, lunch from 12-2pm, an afternoon menu featuring seafood, burgers, wood-fired pizzas, afternoon teas, and dinner from 6-8pm. Our wood-fired

pizzas will continue to be available for sit-in or take-away from 12-9pm. Our outside seating is proving to be hugely popular when the sun shines so we are crossing our fingers for an Indian Summer! Reservations can be made online at www.sutorcreek.co.uk or by phoning 01381 600 855 and following our automated message prompts. We look forward to welcoming you!

CALLUNA

New in for Autumn! We have a few new brands at Calluna for our Autumn range. Discover ICHI - creative, brave and feminine collection of high quality pieces in an accessible price range; Ollie&Nic - a British handbag and fashion accessory brand with uniquely designed bags, purses and jewellery; and Tif Tiffy - a beautiful brand from Denmark, their core values represent quality, design and sustainability. Our core ranges from Great Plains and CHALK provide a wide range of choice at Calluna. Stop by soon to see what's new and find out about our upcoming Autumn launch event!

Cromarty Courthouse Museum

Mary Bowers writes:

'A reminder that we are still open everyday (12.00-16.00) until the season closes on Sunday 20 October. So still time to come and checkout our 2 new temporary exhibitions for the season:

John Bain and The Cromarty News - the man behind a very local newspaper

Cinema in the Courthouse - an exhibition celebrating film-going in Cromarty and the Highlands

Our guidebook (Our Town, Our Cromarty, Our Guide) produced with the help of the clever primary school children [and featured in the last Newsletter - ed] is proving popular - get your copy before it's too late!

Are you interested in coming on board as a volunteer, or trustee? We will be having a meeting after we close for the season, in October, to run through some new ideas - the date will be publicised here next month.'

A New Term For The History Society

Cromarty History Society & Friends of Cromarty Courthouse have announced their Talks Programme for September 2019 - April 2020. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm, in the West Church Hall, Cromarty.

19th September - **Archaeology and the Historic Environment in Scotland's National Forests.**

Speaker: Matt Ritchie

17th October - **Healing Wells: Their contemporary use, history and folklore.** Speaker: Roddy McKenzie

21st November - **Cromarty Emigrants And the ships that took them.** Speaker: Sandy Thomson

19th December - **Telling the Highland Story: 30 years reporting the news from the north.** Speaker: David Ross, followed by festive mulled wine and mince pies.

16th January - **Three Doctors: Highland medics at home and in the Empire.** Speaker: David Alston

20th February - **'One of the best portes in this yslande': A history of Cromarty harbour** Speaker: Pat Haynes

19th March - **Fortrose, a Highland Village with a Bloody Past: Making an historical video.** Speaker: Janet Baker

16th April - AGM followed by **Cromarty Castle Policies: A designed landscape of national importance.** Speaker: Gordon Haynes

2019/20 Annual Membership of the Cromarty History Society is £10 single & £15 for a family. There is a fee of £3 per meeting for non-members. Under 16s admitted free. The Society promotes the knowledge of the history of the town and parish of Cromarty and is the Friends organisation for the Cromarty Courthouse Museum.
www.cromartyhistory.scot

'Gluren' Heralds The Start Of Autumn

The annual mini-arts festival Gluren bij de Buren (Peeking on the Neighbours) returns to its traditional Sunday afternoon slot (Oct 6th). A full line-up will be announced in mid-September promising to, once again, provide an eclectic mix of homespun entertainment - all in the relaxed surroundings of Cromarty living rooms. Keep an eye on www.glurenbijdeburen.co.uk for full details, or look out for the little maps in the local shops and hostelryes.



Greg Fullarton (pictured right) and Mike Schroeder - otherwise known as Piggery Spur - will, again, be joined by Phil Graham as one of ten different offerings to be sampled in the course of the afternoon.

Bonfire and Fireworks Night - Fundraising Quiz and Raffle

Saturday 21st September, 8.30pm, Cromarty Arms

The annual quiz to raise funds for this year's spectacular event is fast approaching. Teams of 4 max (£4 per person). Why not eat first and secure your table - call Helen/Kenny on 600230.

Raffle - lots of fantastic prizes donated by local businesses on offer! Tickets on sale now at Cromarty Stores and during the quiz (where raffle will be drawn).

Please note: this year's event will be on FRIDAY 1st NOVEMBER, 6-8pm.

If you have appropriate, combustible material you'd like collected to go on the bonfire, please contact Jeremy: 07837 666868 or 600709, or email jeremy@cluneshouse.co.uk to book your spot.

Arts Trust Events

To purchase tickets/book places:
info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk / 01381 600354

IMPROVERS SEWING WEEKEND: 14th & 15th Sept,
Old Brewery, 10am – 4.30pm

Ideal for anyone that has completed the Beginners Sewing Weekend OR has some basic sewing experience. This workshop aims to improve your skills and take you to the next sewing level, tackling zips and fastenings, buttonholes and reading a pattern.

£120 Bring a packed lunch; tea/coffee provided as are all materials (or bring your own if preferred)

MY NAME IS IRRELEVANT: Saturday 14th Sept,
Stables, 8.00pm (doors from 7.30pm) £10 (£5 under 16s)
Suitable for age 12+

In a world created by your imagination it can be difficult to work out what is fiction and what is reality. This subtle and moving piece of new writing by Edinburgh-based theatre company, Tortoise In A Nutshell Ltd, blends spoken word with a live, original soundtrack. A poignant and intimate production, 'My Name is Irrelevant' layers humour and pathos in the exploration of an intensely personal story of loneliness and isolation. Follow Matthew as he discusses all the people he has ever met with the assistance of a 35mm slide projector and a VHS player. Not to be missed!

CROMARTY HARP VILLAGE – 10TH ANNIVERSARY!: 20th- 22nd Sept, Old Brewery

We can hardly believe this is year 10 of this successful formula that brings harpists, young and old, those starting out to advanced players, to Cromarty to learn from the masters: Corrina Hewat, Rachel Newton, Mary MacMaster and Isbel Pendlebury. Throw in a Tutor's Concert on the Friday night, a Mega Harp Session on the Saturday and much eating and drinking and you've got yourself a superb weekend! Residential places are now full; minimal availability for workshops. See website for details and programme.

DIRTY HARRY: Saturday 28th Sept, Victoria Hall, Cromarty, 8.00pm (doors 7.30pm) £15 Over 18s only BYOB

If you think the Cromarty Arts Trust only programme classical, jazz, trad music, you'd be very wrong. As well as rock guitar, Latino and pop already on offer this year, we now bring you THE ultimate tribute band in the form of Dirty Harry from Edinburgh. If you're a Blondie fan, or just curious to see what all the fuss is about, get your tickets now before they all sell out. It's not a night for sitting down so get your dancing shoes on, bring a bottle and let's party!

Purchase tickets in advance OR on the door, only if available (check website & social media)

AURORA ENSEMBLE: Sunday 29th Sept, Stables, 4.00pm (doors 3.30pm) £13 / £11 (school children go FREE). Tea/coffee available

We are delighted to announce the world premiere of 'The Sutors Suite' by award-winning composer Andy Evans (and twin brother of Cromarty's own Simon Evans, one of the players). The concert will also include Beethoven's delightful 'Septet' all played by the specially created, Aurora Ensemble, drawn from the ranks of The Mahler Players. Come and support!

STONE LETTERING COURSE: 30th Sept – 5th October, Stables, 9.30am – 5pm daily £550 includes daily lunches plus your stone and all tools

Under the expert eye of master craftsman, Robbie Schneider, the focus will be equally on tools and cutting technique and essential drawing skills for letter design, spacing and layout. Suitable for beginners and those with experience.

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

Latest News From Blackhaven

Cromarty-based Blackhaven Productions now have their own recording equipment and are all set to put together a second series for podcasting over the autumn period. If you fancy being involved in a 'radio drama' this could be your chance – even if it's only as part of a crowd scene. For more information talk to Alison or Theo Seller, and take a look at www.blackhaven.scot



Some familiar local faces from the recordings of Series One.

Cromarty Community Development Trust

The Highland Council has agreed to sell the wooded area around the units at the Whitedykes Industrial Estate to the Cromarty Community Development Trust (CCDT).

This has been earmarked by the trust as the location of the proposed site for motorhomes, which is part of its

project which so far has attracted over £400,000 in funding.

The CCDT had made an offer of £1 for the land valued at £5,000 and members of the council's Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee accepted the bid. The transaction was conducted as a Community Asset Transfer (CAT).

The Community Empowerment Act of 2015 introduced this right for community bodies to make requests to all local authorities, Scottish Ministers and a range of public bodies for any land or buildings they feel they could put to better use.

The original committee papers had said the CCDT wished to lease the land for £1 a year, but at the meeting of August 15th Pablo Mascarenhas, the council's Community and Democratic Engagement Manager, explained the trust had decided that purchase would be better. The councillors accepted the change and supported the CAT application, along with another three other communities.

After the meeting committee chair, Councillor Allan Henderson said: "All of these transfers are integral to the sustainable development and viability of the future plans of these organisations. I am pleased the committee showed their support by agreeing the transfers and I wish all of the groups well with their projects."

The CCDT's plan for the development of a motorhome site, has still to go through the planning process.

The project, which also includes the upgrading of the ferry slipway, has occupied most of the CCDT directors' time and energy during the past few months. But they are not forgetting about the Townlands Barn, and plan to return to it shortly once all issues relating to the slipways/campsite have been addressed.

AGM

The CCDT plans to hold its annual general meeting in October, date and venue to be confirmed.

All members are encouraged to attend. In addition to the presentation of progress reports and the election of new directors, there is a particularly important item of business.

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.

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

The Newsletter is currently sponsored by Cromarty Stores.

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