



September 2021

Slightly later than usual... welcome to the latest edition of news and events happening in and around our bustling wee town.

A Summer of Fun for the Young (at heart)



As the schools returned, the Cromarty Youth Café looked back on its summer with pride and belief that it has been a good job done!

The highlight was undoubtedly the 5-week Summer Programme, which was blessed with magnificent weather as young, and not so young, were brought together to enjoy a whole range of activities.

But this summer has seen much more than the Summer Programme as, despite the pandemic, the Cromarty Youth Café has supplied fun, learning, support and smiles to so many during this challenging time.

The list of those to thank is endless, but here goes:

Top of the list is our Youth Workers, Fraser Thomson & John Munro. It is their endless work and enthusiasm that has delivered so much.

Massively supported by our voluntary Chair, Wanda Mackay, whose energy has made it possible to deliver projects with great fundraising and expertise crafted by years of selfless Youthwork, not only in Cromarty but all over the Black Isle. Thank you to Highlife Highland (Wanda's Day Job!) for supporting the Cromarty Youth Café, both with funding and a helping hand. It makes a great team and a great difference to so many.

But much of this would not happen without funders so thanks to –

* The Middleton Trust with continued help employing our Youth Workers, Youth Café running costs and various resilience projects.

* The Cromarty Care Project for funding of the Summer Programme.

* MFR 'Cash for Kids' (and all those who donate to its work), for funding endless projects. Too many to mention but especially in their work helping young folk in vulnerable families, across the Black Isle.

* Tesco and their Community Champion staff who have continued to provide supplies to make these resilience projects happen.

* Highland Council Black Isle Ward funding for the 2021 Summer Programme as well as many other important projects.

* Halfords, JD Sports and MacGregor Industrial Supplies (Schoolwear) for help in delivering MFR 'Cash for Kids' projects to young folk in vulnerable families, with a little bit of extra service to those in need.

Yes, a good job done and one that continues. With your help and support of the Cromarty Youth Café, it can continue to provide this and, at the very least, put more smiles on young faces! Thank you.



One of the activities for the more energetic was 'sit on top' kayaking. The top image is from one of the many sessions where young and not-so-young gathered together. (And cake was consumed).

Victoria Hall Re-opening?

Alan Plampton writes:

Over the last 3 months the C&DCC, through the VHMC, has continuously reviewed the situation since the use of the Hall for the Scottish Elections on 6th May. Once all the necessary protocols and precautions were put in place (one way systems, social distancing etc.), this proved to be a useful exercise in understanding what will be necessary for the Hall to reopen. In addition we are taking guidance from the HTSI (Highland Third Sector Interface) as to how we might be able to reopen the Hall, as well as seeking Highland Council support. Obviously Scottish Government decisions impact this whole process. We are responsible for not only establishing clear guidance as to what is required, but also making sure that a hirer follows that guidance. These requirements make no allowance for whether the Hall is run by volunteers or paid staff. The Health & Safety standards are the legal priority and cannot be delegated to hirers. It is the legal responsibility of the Hall to provide a safe venue.

What does this mean for the Victoria Hall?

Our Obligations

A. We have to ensure that the way we run the Hall has to keep people safe and stop the spread of the virus.

B. We have to ensure that use of the Hall is in line with all Health Protection guidance.

C. We have to ensure that all users of the Hall follow and practice the guidance that we establish for the use of the Victoria Hall.

What Must Happen

A. We have calculated a PDBC (Physical Distance Based Capacity) for the Hall, based on users maintaining sensible distancing.

B. We will complete a full Venue Risk Assessment of the Hall, which will include the PDBC, how the space will be used, how entry and exit points will be used, what cleaning routines are required, what gaps between lettings are needed, what signage is required and, given the extended closure of the Hall, what health considerations need to be addressed (e.g. required building repairs, water supply hygiene etc.)

C. We will create a new Booking Form to reflect all aspects of the Venue Risk Assessment results. This new Booking Form will require all hirers to accept all the Hall's guidance and responsibilities for ensuring the delivery of this guidance by all users. All hirers will be required to complete their own Risk Assessment that covers their particular activity or event and to submit this to the Hall with the Booking Form. The Hall will then hopefully confirm that the booking's risk assessment conforms to all the Hall's requirements. Currently all users of the Hall will be required to wear face masks, except when consuming food/drink, dancing and for medical exemption reasons.

D. The cost of extra cleaning between lettings will probably need to be added to the hire cost but for now we will attempt to maintain previous rental fees as we budget for an unknown future. To be reviewed.

E. The hirer will be required to keep accurate Test & Protect records with verified contact details. We will be

required to make sure the hirer is following the conditions of hire.

Practical Plan for Reopening

A. PDBC for the Hall is now calculated as 100, based on 155sqm, based on sensible indoor 1m social distancing. Good ventilation will be encouraged.

B. Initially, bookings will be restricted to previous regular users and Cromarty residents. Regular users will be asked to start booking after 5th September.

C. The Youth Cafe has mainly operated outdoors, but will commence indoor sessions from 8th September. Their sessions will now be on Wednesdays, for 2021. There will then be a review of whether they return to Mondays.

D. Regular Users who are registered key-holders will not be allowed access to the Hall, outside the times for booked sessions. This is very important.

This plan will be monitored on a weekly basis, and any update will appear on the Cromarty Live website.

The C&DCC, at its meeting on 30th August, reviewed and confirmed this update to the Hall reopening timetable/plan.

Development Trust Update

Campsite - We have been very frustrated at the slow progress in getting the work started. What seemed like full approval for all the works by Highland Council Planning Dept, turns out to be a series of extra hurdles. We have commissioned (yet more!) drawings to show Highland Council what we want to do. After resolving the planning issues we're hoping to start construction of the campsite in the autumn.

Housing - We're putting pressure on Albyn Housing to either get on with the housing project or let someone else take over. Things have been 'almost starting' for far too long now.

East Church Hall - We're in discussion with the Community Council and Highland Council (who both

have the lead on this) about the future use of the now empty Hall.

Electric Vehicles - We're investigating funding and locations for an Electric Vehicle charging point.

Thrift Shop - After more than 18 months of wrangling with SSE over reconnecting the electricity supply to the thrift shop we've taken the case to the ombudsman and are expecting a decision and enforced action within the next few weeks. Times are not yet ready for us to reopen the wee Thrift Shop, at least not where it was.

And of course the more folk who are involved in the Development Trust, the more we can get done for the benefit of all. You can help us/the projects by becoming a member. Find the form [here](#).

Community Market



From Sheila Currie:

People miss the monthly community markets. So do we (Transition Black Isle) who organise them. We want to be able to offer the good food, the crafts, the social chat and lunches and all the other good things.

Even though the Covid rules are more relaxed, we're not out of the woods yet and Hall Committees are being cautious about the numbers of people allowed into halls (so no standing chatting), not using kitchens (so no

lunches) and numbers of stalls (so less choice). Stallholders too have to consider when and how they might come back – and some will have found other ways to reach their customers.

We all want them back, and they will be back as soon as we can make them work.

We're still looking for someone to take on the (paid) job of organising them when they restart. Please get in touch with Sheila Currie if you're interested.

Business Update

Sutor Creek

What a summer! Sutor Creek's new deli, take-away and off-license has been a hit with locals and tourists alike. We've really enjoyed meeting folk from all corners of the UK; those who've discovered Cromarty whilst touring the Highlands; customers who just love a regular wee trip on the ferry from the North; Black Islers who enjoy a drive into Cromarty to catch up with old pals; and locals who have discovered our best selling fish & chips and pizzas for the very first time. We are constantly adding to our salads and dishes available in the deli with our vegetarian options proving to be hugely popular (and yes, the Haggis Scotch Egg will be a permanent feature:).

We have made the decision not to return Sutor Creek to indoor seating. As a team, we are finding a better work/life balance with the current format and remaining as a take-away feels like the right decision after experiencing life in a pandemic.

As we move forward, Graham will introduce new dishes for the Autumn & Winter months, weekend deliveries will resume, our selection of Single Malts & Craft Gins will continue to grow, deli stock will start featuring items that you will love for the colder months, and our team will continue to welcome you!

Our hours for September to May are Wednesday to Sunday 9am-8pm. Order online at www.sutorcreek.co.uk or phone us on 01381 600 855. Thank you for your support.

Calluna

Calluna's Autumn/Winter stock has arrived and our shop is bursting with beautiful new styles for the season (for those of you who enjoy our window displays - we are loving this one - come and have a look!). We have focused on sourcing clothing that suits our Highland lifestyle with consideration to sustainable fabrics and wardrobe essentials. Our range of raincoats, blazers, and jackets has expanded to include lots of lovely colours and range from XS-XL. Blazers (perfect for casual wear with jeans or dressed up for work) are just £39.99 and our raincoats are only £54.99. We stock jeans (of all shapes, colours and sizes), lovely cosy jumpers, easy wear dresses and some pieces more suitable for a special night out.

If bags are your thing - you need to come and check out our new CORK bags and our range of hand-made leather bags from Rowdy - stunning and guaranteed for life.

Come in, try on, and see what you like! We offer a 14 day refund/exchange policy and encourage all our customers to find the right piece to help work with their wardrobe. We are open daily 10-5pm and are always happy to open in the evening for a private shopping experience if daytime shopping doesn't work with your schedule. Find us online at www.callunacormarty.co.uk, phone us on 01381 600 464 or follow us on [Facebook](#). We look forward to welcoming you to Calluna!

Cinema Special



During August the cinema ran a special programme entitled "New Navigations" curated with our 5 Young

Programmers. This attracted a loyal local audience as well as visitors from farther afield. As well as screenings, there have been talks, Question & Answer sessions, special intros by artists and surfers plus moonlit swims to celebrate the themes. The project has been valuable for developing + hosting future seasons. Thanks to everyone involved for making Thursdays memorable.

Director Minna Dufton sums up her response to sharing her surfing documentary BIG Vs SMALL with audiences in Cromarty:

I've had a lot of people send me messages after the screening and it's really left me and my team feeling pretty speechless!

The Schools Programme supported by The Middleton Trust will be restarting later this term and discussions with other local community groups are underway.

Image shows an inspired audience from one of the screenings just before they all took a dip themselves! (Handy being so close to the sea. Could this become 'a thing'?)

And Coming Up...

Our September Programme is here! Great variety of films to satisfy all your refined tastes.

Following the change in Scottish Government guidance the cinema is now fully reopened with all seats now available. Buy online through the [Eden Court website](#), or at the cinema 12 to 2pm every Wednesday or on the door from half an hour before each performance. Can't wait for Paw Patrol!

(Date, Time, Film, Rating, Duration)

FRI 03/09 19:00 **Our Ladies** 15 1h46

SAT 04/09 11:00 **Spirit Untamed** U 1h28

SAT 04/09 19:00 **I'm Your Man** 15 1h48

FRI 10/09 19:00 **The Nest** 15 1h47

SAT 11/09 11:00 **PAW Patrol: The Movie*** U 1h26

SAT 11/09 19:00 **Zola** 18 1h26

SUN 12/09 15:00 **My 20th Century** 15 1h39

FRI 17/09 19:00 **Gunpowder Milkshake** 15 1hr44

SAT 18/09 15:00 **Annette*** 15 2hr13

SAT 18/09 19:00 **Censor** 15 1h24

SUN 19/09 15:00 **Jazz On A Summer's Day** U 1hr25

SUN 19/09 18:00 **Dirty God** 15 1hr44

WED 22/09 19:00 **Beyond The Visible: Hilma af Klint** U 1h34

FRI 24/09 19:00 **Herself** 15 1h37

SAT 25/09 15:00 **Free Guy** 12 1hr55

SUN 26/09 15:00 15:00 **Respect*** A 2h25

Screenings marked * - TBC

Adults - £7.50 Under 26 - £5.00 Friends - £6.00

For info on all films, visit Eden Court's [website](#)

Becoming A Friend

For info on Friend's Membership, visit our website
www.cromartycinema.com

Sunday Club - All Aboard Noah's Ark

After some time off for everyone to enjoy their summer holidays, Sunday Club is back. We are continuing to meet outdoors whenever possible, which challenges our creative and organisational skills but that's half the fun.

We meet regularly on the last Sunday of the month and the meeting point alternates between the West Church

and St.Regulus. Sunday Club is open to all children. You don't have to attend either of the churches, just come along and have some fun. Everyone is welcome, and that was our theme for yesterday's Sunday Club. We met outside the West Church and then made our way down to the beach, where we had a great time building sand and sea churches and discussing making people feel welcome. Our underlying themes are 'being inclusive' and 'the environment'.

Our next session will be Sunday 26th September at 3.30pm, meeting at St. Regulus. We will be building Arks, making animals and seeing if our Arks can float, as well as the usual stories, games and tasty snack. We look forward to seeing all our regular Sunday Clubbers and perhaps some new faces as well. Everyone is WELCOME



Mr Millers Fascinating Fossils!

At the Hugh Miller Museum. A free drop in session for families on Sat 4 and 18 Sept from 1.30 - 4.00pm As part of the #scottishgeologyfestival.

You can become a fossil explorer in the footsteps of Hugh Miller for an exciting adventure back in time. Find out more [here](#).

History Society



We are gingerly starting to offer a programme of History Talks this year, beginning in September - as usual on the 3rd Thursday of the month (16 September) at the West Church Hall.

Our first talk will be by Paul Monk, volunteer curator at the Courthouse, on “Old photographs of Cromarty that you may not have seen”.

We are not sure what the appetite will be for audiences going back to attending group meetings, so it's a 'suck it and see' process.

We have a further talk arranged for October, but initially we'll be announcing talks on a month by month basis.

In the meantime, those with an appetite for online talks may want to watch a series of talks given by the National Library of Scotland. There's a new one on 1 September “Navigating the Maps Website” . There's a huge quantity of historical maps on the NLS website and this will help folk find things.

Their [YouTube channel](#) has a lot of fascinating stuff from past events - including a recent talk on ‘A Voyage around the Scottish Islands’, using selected maps to provide insights into the distinctive history of particular islands and looking at who made these maps and how they did it.

And thank you to those members who participated in our “AGM-by-Correspondence”.

The Highland Archaeology Festival runs in September/October, with a large number of guided walks

– from prehistoric to the Nuclear Bunker!

<https://www.highlandarchaeologyfestival.org/calendar.as>

📍

Cromarty Library

We were delighted to be able to return to our normal hours on 16th August. You no longer need to book an appointment but please continue to wear a face covering, sanitise your hands and be aware of social distancing when visiting us. You will also need to sign in for Test and Trace.

We do not have any dates yet for the return of our regular library activities but fingers crossed it won't be too long.

Our opening hours are: Monday 10-12, Tuesday 2-7, Thursday 12-5

Middleton Trust

Does your group or organisation require funding to support a project that will specifically benefit Cromarty's young people?

The Middleton Trust is now welcoming applications for awards to be released in early April 2022 and a form can be found [here](#).

For further details, please contact the MT Secretary, Gillian McNaught middletontrust@gmail.com / 01381 600 337 or visit the Trust's webpage on Cromarty Live to see information on previous recipients.

The deadline for applications is Friday 1st October.

Arts Trust Activities

It's a busy month for our courses, most of which are fully booked but you can still sign up for a fun day of Textile Printing if you fancy spending a Sunday getting creative:

11th & 12th - Life Drawing - FULLY BOOKED

17th & 18th - Stained Glass - both days FULLY BOOKED

22nd - Lino Printing - ONE PLACE REMAINING!

25th - Textile Printing - FULLY BOOKED

26th - Textile Printing - PLACES AVAILABLE! 10am - 4.30pm, Stables, £70, all materials provided, all welcome.

Get ahead of the game and book your tickets NOW for our next live music in the Stables - Consone Quartet on 17th Oct.

As usual, get in touch via info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk or check out our [website](#) or Facebook page.



And finally... The 'Sports' Pages

The Return Of Cromarty Yarn Club

Date - Sunday 19th September. Time - 2-4.00pm.

Location - West Church Hall.

All welcome, £2 for session, tea/coffee/biscuits provided, please bring/wear masks on entry. Contact - Jane Scott. Mobile - 07971 554669 or email woollybirdie@icloud.com

You don't have to knit/crochet. Bring craft work, or just pop in for a nousey and some company.

Ping Pong

At West Church Hall on Mondays 10.30-12.00 All welcome, all abilities.

and Women's Tennis

Is now on Thursdays - 6.00-7.30/8.00pm

Strange times! But so many folk doing their best to keep us all connected, as evidenced by the number of things going on. Look after yourselves and see you in a month's time.

- *The Editorial Team*

Forward

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 Catriona Mallows, Jon Palmer, Jeremy Price and Laura Shepherd.

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