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December 2022

The festive season is fast approaching and, as always, Cromarty looks like the place to be with plenty going on - celebrating and supporting.



Cromarty has a Christmas tree and what a beautiful specimen it is! This 20ft beauty came from Black Isle Christmas Trees in Drumsmittal.

Thanks to James Whiteford, Graham Fox and Kenny MacFarlane for all their help installing the tree... It's starting to feel a lot like Christmas ❤️ 🎄 ❤️

Note to parents; please ask your children not to play under the tree or with the lights for their own safety.

Thank you, Laura & Phoebe x

Scottish Music Awards

Child of Cromarty **Tamzene** (Allison-Maccracken) was among the winners that included the likes of Lewis Capaldi, Sir Rod Stewart and Paolo Nutini at this year's Scottish Music Awards.

Tamzene opened the show in Glasgow's Barrowland Ballroom and went on to be presented with the rising star accolade. BBC article [here](#).

Cromarty Aid for Guyana

Sandy Thomson writes:

Towards the end of 2020 just over £4,000 was collected locally and transferred to All Saints Presbyterian Church in New Amsterdam, Guyana.

This funded the renovation of a kitchen in the church's Development Centre so that free school lunches could be provided for local children.

The impetus for the fundraising was the growing understanding of the historic links between Guyana and the highlands of Scotland based on highland ownership of slave plantations there.

The Rev. Dr. Selby Ross at All Saints has now asked us if we could help some more. The church needs to repair the back and side walls of the Development Centre, replacing the wooden structure with a concrete one.

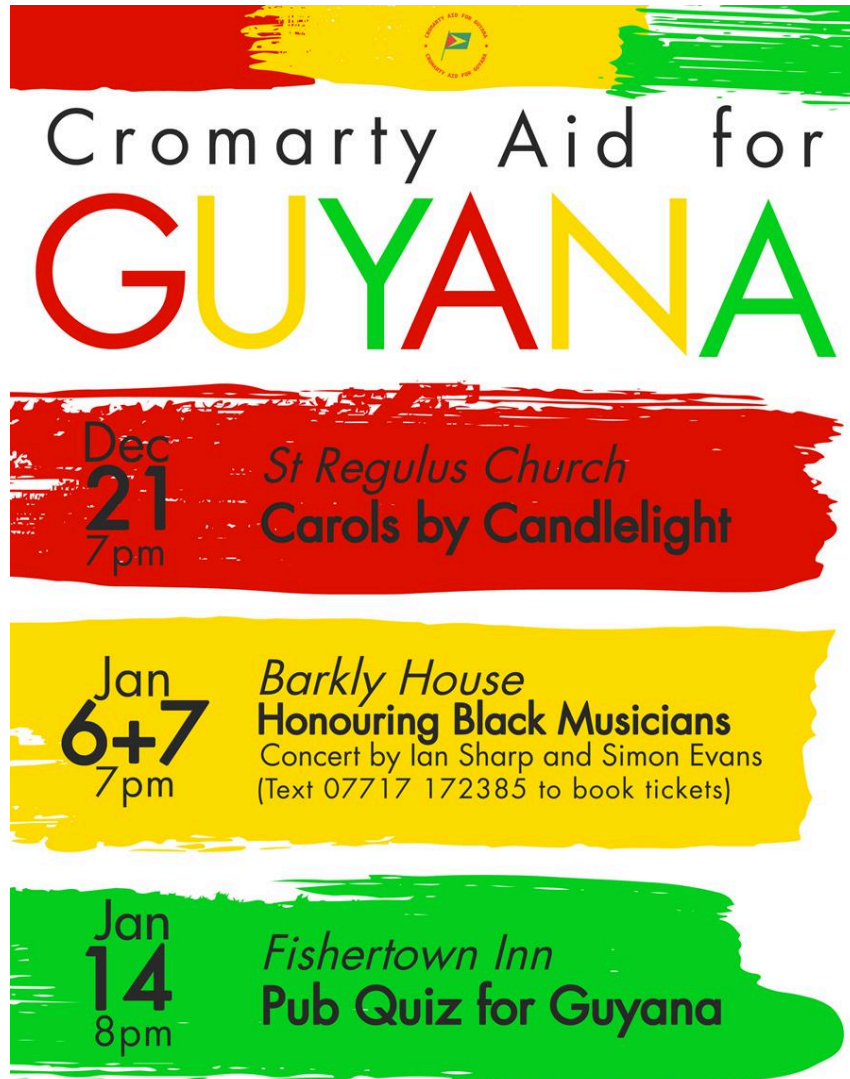
Cromarty Peace Group is promoting three events over the festive period to raise money for this project. These are:

Wednesday 21st December: Carols by Candlelight, St. Regulus Church, Cromarty

Friday/Saturday 6/7th. January: Two House Concerts at Barkly House, Cromarty.

Saturday 14th. January: Quiz Night in the Fishertown Inn, Cromarty.

There is also a GoFundMe page if anyone would like to make a donation. Details are on the poster below.



Cromarty Aid for
GUYANA

Dec 21
7pm
St Regulus Church
Carols by Candlelight

Jan 6+7
7pm
Barkly House
Honouring Black Musicians
Concert by Ian Sharp and Simon Evans
(Text 07717 172385 to book tickets)

Jan 14
8pm
Fishertown Inn
Pub Quiz for Guyana

More info and donations at gofundme.com/f/cromarty-aid-to-guyana



James Support Group

November's fundraising efforts, with the 'Sunshine on Leith' gig at Victoria Hall, raised an amazing £2,000. Patrick Mullery wrote on Facebook:

'Wow, what an absolutely fab night. Clinging to the Wreckage were just 'on fire'.

Wendy and I would like to thank the band: Jeremy Price, Matthew Bushell, Ewan Henderson, Gill Fey, Leah Roehling and Richard Fey. Thanks also to Laura Shepherd, Dorothy Penn, and everyone who bought a ticket, a raffle ticket and everyone who donated raffle prizes, Joanna Rose and all of the James Support Group members who came along - some from a very long way away.'

Cromarty Community Development Trust

Constructing Cromarty Community Campsite

The tenders are out for pricing by the contractors over December 2022. Funds permitting, we will be able to commission the full scope of works, in a single phase. To this end CCDT secured a further £40K grant for the campsite in June 2022. It was awarded, as an uplift, to take account of the rapid inflation and the changing economic climate currently affecting construction works.

With a clear scope of works, the remainder of the tree cutting commission - which was halted last year on account of nesting - will now be carried out week commencing 05 December 2022. Tree surgeon, Alex Cills, has agreed a return to site. Of the remaining trees to be felled, Alex will then mill, hold and dry a small quantity of 'our' hardwood at his premises. This will be returned to Cromarty for the manufacture of street furniture (or a similar community project) at a later date.

Construction - in a single phase - is provisionally timetabled from January to March 2023.

We recognise this is an important new asset for the community; and we will put out a call for a 'community planting day' once construction works are concluded, and the site is again safe to access.

Operating Cromarty Community Campsite

At the start of November 2022, CCDT made an application to the Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) for funding which supported furtherance of our remit.

We applied for £3K, for IT support, to develop a website for CCDT and the online booking system for the Campsite.

We have just had confirmation that this has been awarded with a spend by 31 March 2023. We will be working on this from December 2022 (in the background) ready for launch in Spring 2023.

East Church Hall

In November 2022, CCDT applied to the Highland Council and the Common Good to host a community 'doors open day' for the East Church Hall. Permission has been granted, with a date to be arranged in the New Year.

Thank you to everybody who has already made contact with CCDT to date about a potential use; it's exciting to consider new life being breathed into the East Church Hall. In return we will follow this through and make contact with all of you individually, over December 2022 and into the New Year, for a more detailed discussion.

This is signalling that there is indeed an interest in the building and demand for the space going forward; and needs to be addressed in the Community.

Strengthening Local Partnerships

Over the past six months, we have now formed a working relationship with CDCC. Although operating as discrete organisations with our own remits or focus, there is clearly a lot of common ground.

CDCC & CCDT recognise that through working together and having a regular exchange, we can share resources, effort and energy where we can.

Christmas Wishes

Thank you to each and every one of you in the community who have given CCDT your support, in any form, over the current year.

Specifically, thanks also go out to the dynamic team at the Thrift Shop and the Trust's Directors, who all work tirelessly on behalf of Cromarty.

All of these individuals are unpaid volunteers.

2023 Onwards

The appointment of the Trust's Development Officer in June 2022, has been a significant milestone in the CCDT's evolution, allowing us to expand what we do.

We aim to make sustainable change through community led projects, infrastructure and development. Through creating or unlocking opportunities - big or small - we will bring energy and focus to our works and continue to deliver for Cromarty in the year to come.

Cromarty Care Project

At the AGM on 7th November, Denise McIntosh took over from Jill Stoner as Chair and Alison Seller was appointed Secretary, replacing Nigel Shapcott. Both Jill and Nigel will remain as Trustees. The Trustees would like to express their deep appreciation of the work that Jill has undertaken and the legacy for the community that she has created under her leadership of Cromarty Care. That leadership now passes to Cromarty lass, Denise, who brings her own youthful energy and optimism. Also, Dr Helen Charley has retired as Trustee. Helen has been cheerfully engaged with Cromarty Care since its earliest days in 2015 and has contributed much to the organisation. She will continue to be involved in one particular 'baby' of hers – the Classic Cinema Club for the over-60s, which meets on the second Wednesday of the month at Cromarty Cinema. If you are over 60 and would like to attend, please text Helen on 07789 181529, or email helen.charley@doctors.org.uk.

Sharing Larder

The larder has seen increased use, especially since the days have become colder. A big thank-you to our friendly volunteers, who re-stock daily in all weathers! Thank-you also to the Masonic Lodge, who continue to support the community with donations including recent donations of

kids' clothes and toys. We are very grateful for all donations in kind to the Larder, but we do depend on our own funds to supply the weekly staples and toiletries.

If you feel you would like to support the work of Cromarty Care in the community, please visit our website:

www.cromartycareproject.co.uk

Cycling Without Age Trishaws

These have now been put to bed for the winter. If you need transport to get to a Cromarty event, please contact Shirley on 600541

Playgroup

The Playgroup has been running for 4 weeks and is open to carers and babies/toddlers in Cromarty and the surrounding area. The Playgroup meets in the West Church Hall on a Tuesday 9.30 am – 1.00 pm. Charge is £1.50 per child.

Home Care

Would you consider being a home carer?

Cromarty needs carers. There are more people needing care in Cromarty than there are care staff to provide it. Top Care Inverness are the employer and they are looking for relief bank, part time and fulltime staff. Pay is weekly. Basic pay rate starts at £11 per hour with an extra 30p at weekends. Work phones are available as is the use of company cars. If you use your own car the mileage rate is 40p. All training is provided – no experience is necessary. Uniforms are provided.

Contact Maxine Worsfold on 07483881981 or info@topcareinverness.co.uk for an application form.

Cromarty Stores

Thanks again to Marcel Gommers at Cromarty Stores for helping us apply for a special community award through NISA Retail's charitable arm, Making A Difference Locally. We are not quite ready to announce details – hopefully more on this next month!

Four Ways

We are delighted to report that Four Ways (for the over 60's) will be back up and running for the next two Thursdays at The Old Brewery starting at 2pm.

Thursday 1st – musical entertainment provided by Wendy Mullery

Thursday 8th – with food!

Please let Anne Short know in advance if you're coming on the 8th.

Business Updates

Cromarty Post Office

Estelle writes:

On Thursday December 1st we're joining with Calluna and Sutor Creek for late opening till 8. There'll be some special offers and chocolate nibbles for that evening only - see the poster in the PO window for more details. During December we're staying open until 4 every Saturday till Christmas so there's plenty of opportunity to get your cards, wrapping paper, crackers, decorations, lights, toys, gifts, chocolates - I could go on but you get the idea! - and you're very welcome to come in just for a chat or a browse.

There are several Royal Mail strikes planned for December. The dates keep changing which makes planning Christmas posting difficult and it will probably be best to post as early as you can. We get regular updates and can advise you on the latest situation when you come in.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and the hope of a brighter new year.



Highland Coos at the Post Office this Christmas

The Cheese House

We're gearing up for our busiest time of the year. (It wouldn't be Christmas without cheese!) If you wish to avoid the rush and to guarantee you get what you want, please feel free to pre-order in the next couple of weeks and we'll have it made up ready for you on a day of your choosing.

If you're wanting to send cheese further afield, we are very happy to do that. The deadline for parcel orders is Friday 16th and they'll be sent on Monday 19th to guarantee delivery before 25th.

We will be open every day (10.00 – 17.00) from Wednesday 14th until Christmas Eve (except Sun 18th, opening at 12.00 and 24th, closing at 16.00).

We will also be open 28th – 31st as normal.

Ingrid's House

Open 7 days a week up to and including Christmas Eve for gifts and decorations. We also offer private shopping in the evenings for individuals or groups.

Helping to keep you warm this winter we have amazing machine washable blankets, perfect for cuddling up in.

Moomin hot water bottles and Norwegian Wool socks, hurry while stocks last as they are flying off the shelves.



Fishertown Inn

We are delighted to welcome 3 new members of staff to the team, Izzy, Anna and Karen.

We've done some work on our wood-burning stove in the main bar, bringing it forward to make the space even cosier.

Regular **games nights**, every Wednesday from 7pm. Backgammon, dominoes, Dutch Shuffle Board and many more, come on your own or with friends, all welcome.

Traditional music session first Thursday of the month.

Cosy Cromarty 2-4pm every Friday in the snug. Free tea, coffee and biscuits.

Serving freshly cooked food 6 nights a week, lunch Friday to Monday. Sunday lunch served every Sunday 1-4pm.

We still have some limited space available for our Christmas lunches. Please get in touch to book.

We are taking bookings for quiz nights. If you are looking to raise money for your organisation, please get in touch to book a slot. info@fishertowninn.com

We are open every day throughout the festive season including 12-2.30pm on Christmas Day.

For Hogmanay we are looking forward to making use of our later license so everyone can see in the New Year in traditional Cromarty style! We look forward to you joining us for the party.

Thank you for your continued support of our new venture,

Ingrid and Pete

Sutor Creek

Lots going on over the next couple of months including Pop Ups and changes to the Creek so thought we would share!

Hours over the winter

Open Wednesday to Sunday for next couple of weeks

Open 19th to 23rd December

Open 27th to 31st December

Closed until Friday January 13th

Christmas Pizza

Yes, it's that time of year when we create our pizza topped with everything Christmas! Available Wednesday to Sunday 12-8pm.

Late Night Shopping in Cromarty

Thursday 1st December from 5-8pm

Join Sutor Creek, The Cromarty Post Office and Calluna for late night shopping in Cromarty. Lots of lovely gifts, treats and stocking fillers available with mulled wine & Christmas pizza available at Sutor Creek!

Sutor Creek Pop Up at The Old Brewery

Wednesday 14th to Sunday 18th December

Our Christmas Pop Up at the Old Brewery has proved to be so popular that we have added in the Sunday 18th to the diary. This is selling quickly so if you fancy a night out with Michelin recommended food, exceptional wines and friendly service give us a call!

Scottish Italian Awards

Sutor Creek made it to the finals of the prestigious Scottish Italian Awards in the Best Pizza & Best Chef categories. Graham was awarded 2nd Place for Best Chef in Scotland which is a huge achievement which we plan on toasting with a nice glass of Italian wine and a big slice of pizza! Thank you to all our customers who voted to get us there!

And the news you've all been waiting for....

When we reopen on January 13th (as long as the work is completed by then), we will be offering indoor seating! Our deli and take-away offerings will remain as is, but we are reconfiguring the space to accommodate seating areas. We are excited about the changes ahead and looking forward to welcoming you back!

Graham & Phoebe Fox

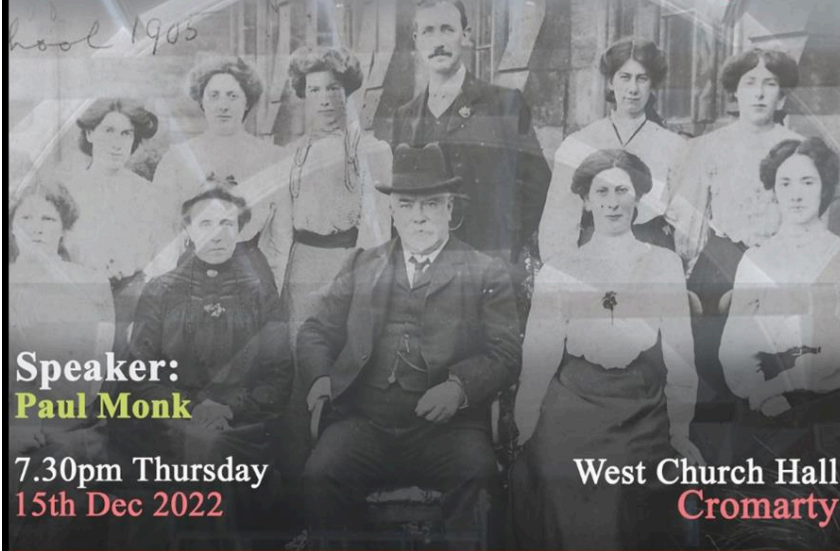
Cromarty History Society

CROMARTY HISTORY SOCIETY & Friends of Cromarty Courthouse

FROM PUPIL TO Teacher

One Cromarty girl's journey in the first decade of the 20th century

followed by festive mulled wine and mince pies 🎄



Speaker:
Paul Monk

7.30pm Thursday
15th Dec 2022

West Church Hall
Cromarty

ALL WELCOME

NON-MEMBERS £3.00

www.cromartyhistory.scot

The Cromarty History Society will hold its December meeting in the West Church Hall on Thursday 15th at 7.30pm. Paul Monk will chart the journey of Mains Farm Cottages resident Margaret Munro, from Cromarty school pupil to pupil teacher in the early 20th century. Papers recently donated to the Courthouse Museum have shed light on aspects of life in the town a hundred years ago.

Following the talk, attendees will be offered complimentary warming mulled wine and mince pies in addition to the usual tea or coffee.

New Year, New Day, New Venue!

The Cromarty History Society has for many years found its regular home in the West Church Hall, but due to changes there a new venue was required. Sincere thanks to Douglas Couper for all his help over the years in preparing the Church Hall for our talks, dealing with

queries and being considerate and reliable at all times. We hope Douglas continues to enjoy our talks along the road, but without the added responsibilities! Thanks also go to Stuart Ticker for his assistance in facilitating our meetings.

So, the second half of our season in 2023 will take place in the Victoria Hall on Tuesdays at 7.30pm and will open with talks about Scottish heroes, respectively of the fire service and of military service. In March, a local writer will outline her methodology in setting historical novels 'in your own backyard'. The season will end with a condensed history of our town as recorded in 6 maps.

All welcome!

The Cromarty History Society Committee

Cinema

With the holiday season upon us, what better way to get away from the hustle and bustle than a visit to your community cinema! In December, we have treats for kids, with Guillermo del Toro's reimagining of Pinocchio, and Matilda the Musical. Bros, a gay romcom will keep you laughing and if drama is what you're in the mood for, there is plenty to choose from, such as Armageddon Time, She Said and the much lauded Banshees of Innershin. To mark Scotland's Year of Stories, Glasgow Short Film Festival brings us a selection of new award-winning films telling diverse stories in fiction, documentary and animation. These five films collectively present a vision of Scotland and Scottish identity that reaches way beyond its traditional cultural and geographical boundaries. And of course, we have festive treats on offer too, with the classic films It's a Wonderful Life and Fanny and Alexander. Finally, you can start the new year with the epic fantasy Avatar: The Way of Water.



CROMARTY CINEMA
December 2022



	Adults £8.50	Under 26 £5	Friends £7
Fri 2 Dec	7pm	Aftersun (12A) 1hr 42m Paul Mescal stars - drama exploring complex family dynamics	
Sat 3 Dec	3pm	Pinocchio (PG) 1hr 57m Guillermo del Toro directs a new take on the classic story	
Sat 3 Dec & Sun 4 Dec	6pm 3pm	Film Festival Trailer Events (Free/£5/£3, see website for more info.) Films, refreshments & performance	
Fri 9 Dec	7pm	She Said (15) 2hr 8m Carey Mulligan stars in drama exposing Harvey Weinstein	
Sat 10 Dec	7pm	Utama (12A) 1hr 28m Visually stunning drama set in Bolivian highlands	
Sun 11 Dec	3pm	Armageddon Time (15) 1hr 55m Coming of age and the American dream. Anne Hathaway stars	
Tue 13 Dec	7pm	Bros (15) 1hr 56m Riotous New York gay romcom	
Thur 15 Dec	7pm	Glasgow Scottish Film Festival Shorts (£5 see website for more info.) Including Bafta Winner 'Too Rough'	
Fri 16 Dec	7pm	The Menu (15) 1hr 47m Dark satire on food and the super-rich. Ralph Fiennes stars	
Sun 18 Dec	11am	Matilda The Musical (PG) 1hr 57m Acclaimed remake based on smash hit West End musical	
Sun 18 Dec	3pm	Banshees of Innershin (15) 1hr 54m Irish friendship comedy drama. Colin Farrell stars	
Tue 20 Dec	7pm	Banshees of Innershin (15) 1hr 54m Descriptive Subtitles Set direction by Cromarty lass Erin Coutts	
Fri 23 Dec	7pm	It's a Wonderful Life (U) 2hr 10m Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings. James Stewart	
Tue 27 Dec	7pm	Fanny and Alexander (15) 3hr 17m Ingmar Bergman's multi-Oscar winner Christmas film	
Fri 30 Dec	7pm	Avatar: The Way of Water (TBA) 3hr 10m New fantasy adventure sequel. A big screen must	
Sun 1 Jan	7pm	Avatar: The Way of Water (TBA) 3hr 10m	

- More film info and book online at: cromartycinema.com or at eden-court.co.uk

or in person at Cromarty Cinema on Thursdays 12 – 2pm.

- Become a friend of Cromarty Cinema, show your support and reduce your ticket price.

Visit cromartycinema.com or email admin@cromartycinema.com

**GLASGOW FILM
SHORT FESTIVAL**

The Cromarty Cinema, Cromarty, IV11 8XZ

Film Festival News!

The 'TRAILER' weekend marks the relaunch of the much-missed Cromarty Film Festival. A wonderful mixture of events will provide a taster of things to come. **Main festival will take place 24-26 March 2023.**

TRAILER' WEEKEND - SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER - 6
- 7pm

FREE family friendly international animations outdoor projections on Cromarty Lighthouse. Hot food available outside Sutor Creek Restaurant before the projections.

SUNDAY 4TH DECEMBER

3- 5.15pm - intro by writer Maria Fusco + screening of screwball comedy Ball of Fire (1941) in Cromarty Cinema

5.15 - 5.30pm - free refreshments provided

5.30 - 6.30pm - performance in Orkney dialect by award-winning writer Harry Josephine Giles plus Q+A with Maria Fusco

TICKETS: £5.00 for each event OR Special Deal - £9.00 for both

Writer Maria Fusco will introduce Howard Hawks' screwball comedy *Ball of Fire* (1941) for Cromarty Film Festival. "It's a sparkling anti-fairytale exploring the necessity to preserve irregular ways of speaking and the right to speak in your own way."

The programme is being delivered by Hannah + Steffi + Susan + Wyn and supported by Scottish Screen, Film Hub Scotland, Discovery Film Festival, University of Aberdeen, Cromarty & Resolis Film Society and Sutor Creek Restaurant.



Cromarty Arts Trust

It's been a busy year for us at the Arts Trust and I hope that most readers have found something in our annual programme that appealed. We've just completed our 2022 Winter Arts & Craft Market and were delighted to see so many visitors supporting our local crafters. It was especially lovely to have Cromarty Primary School manning a stall full of fabulous quirky items that they had been making over recent weeks. Cromarty Primary School also featured in one of our great November memories when P5 to P7 came up to the Stables to see a great theatre show from Catherine Wheels Theatre company. Some of the pupils also took part in a movement workshop with the show's choreographer.

So, for our final couple of events for 2022 there is a chance again for everyone to get involved. If coming along to the Solstice Song Workshop on Sunday 18th December is a bit too daunting, then why not join us in the evening when those singers, as well as a range of guest including Black Isle Acapella and Cromarty Christmas Choir will be joining us for a Christmas Concert and Sing Along. Song sheets will be available, so you don't even need to know all the words. The workshop which runs from 10.30-3.30 is suitable for adults but the evening event which begins at 4.30 is open to the whole family. We'll have some mulled wine and mince pies on the go too.

Events with Cromarty Arts Trust in December 2022:

18 Dec SOLSTICE SONG WORKSHOP Stables
10.30-15.30 £25

18 Dec CAROL CONCERT & SING ALONG
Stables 16.30-18.00 Free entry but please book so
we have enough mince pies!!

To book tickets or to find out more please email us at info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk or call the office on 01381 600354.

And finally...



That's it for the last edition of 2022. Once again huge thanks to our private benefactor who has supported the newsletter financially through the year. (Minimal monthly costs but it all has to come from somewhere). If anyone would like to sponsor some months of 2023 please get in touch.

- *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 Briony Moses, Jon Palmer, Jeremy Price and Laura Shepherd.

The Newsletter is currently sponsored by a private benefactor.

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