



August 2023

All Systems Go For The Development Trust

From Sheila Currie:

No rest for CCDT; and summer holidays are officially postponed this year for us.

For the town's Development Trust, it's been all hands to the deck, following the community open day at the end of June.

Staffing | Expanding the Campsite team

At the start of July, we confirmed the local appointments of both John Nevin, as Campsite Warden; and Saffron Sutherland, for the Campsite Cleaning.

To them we would like to print a personal message in the newsletter : "Welcome to you both. You've both made a great start and we know - unreservedly - we have the right team to make a success of this new community enterprise".

Between John and Saffron we will now have a daily presence at the campsite, year round; meeting visitors and keeping the whole site and associated facilities fully operational and looking as good as the day it (soon) opens.



With the groundworks and construction nearing completion - concluding Phase 1 of the Landscaping Works have also been instrumental to getting us open - and aligned with gaining consent for the statutory permissions. To this end, to up the 'people power' in addition to John and Saffron, we were able to employ Rory Mackay and Scott McDonald - again both local to Cromarty - on short seasonal contracts, to add to the landscape squad.



This is just the sort of work, both permanent and seasonal, that we look to be able to offer up and secure going forward across the Trust. And what a difference extra hands make - at the right moment in time - to the completion of a project 🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌

Come and have a look for yourself, anytime.

Volunteering | Supporting the development of the Campsite in other ways

We also put out a call - across social media and our existing networks - for help with tree planting and general site landscape works. To this end we would like to thank the following volunteers who have or are assisting us and are expanding CCDT's volunteer team at the campsite:

Ian Donald - a 'fair weather' gardener local to the town - has helped John Niven with the landscaping work over a number of sunny days.

Nigel Barnes - father of Cromarty's Helena Barnes but himself resident in Hexham - has and will continue to add to our landscape team whenever in Cromarty for extended visits.

Sheila Currie - CCDT Director and Secretary - has been in her element (although currently in denial) in co-ordinating the landscaping team locally at site and physically planting many of the trees.

Kevin Fraser, a forester - with 20+ years of experience - from Poyntzfield, has offered up advice and consultancy, and has already checked in on the site team and advised on our replanting works.

Stewart Smith and Caoimhe McKeown - both veterinary bioscience graduates - now returned to Rosemarkie, are going to assist with regeneration and rewilding of the site. This will include the installation of bat and bird boxes for the site. We hope that Stewart might also be open to guiding a community session for the design of these. He's an expert in this.

And at last the much needed rain came...

Whilst many might bemoan the summer rains, the development trust has secretly been doing a little rain dance around the town, desperately needing a volume of water to nourish the trees at the campsite. What a difference it has made to our ability to plant ahead of opening.

It has allowed us to transfer the planting over from Green's Nursery in Nairn and critically get Phase 1 of the (Soft) Landscaping in.

This has included the replanting of:

130+ purple beech whips to form new hedges; 150+ young native trees (as a mix of birch, hazel, rowan, oak etc) across the site; some 'specials' in the form of 3 Scots pine, 3 crab apples, 2 purple hazels, 2 silver stemmed willows; 10 semi-mature single stem birches and 3 multi stem birches; a stand of dogwood.

There is also a natural regeneration happening from the seed that has been set - from the earlier clearance works - in opening up the woodland to the back of the site.

With this we are also extensively seeding grass across the site, both as a mulch and general cover. We will be casting some areas with a wildflower mix - as a part of this - to further support biodiversity going forward on the site, bringing some Spring 2024 interest.

And there's more to come.

In late summer and autumn, over Phase 2 of the Landscaping, we will be planting:

Native yellow irises to the roadside ditch; a herb garden to the campsite adjacent to service building; 'edges' will be established with wildlife attracting planting; the first of these is on show in the lead up to the service building; further bare root whips - as hawthorn - to add to the regeneration.

Our agenda is not only to make a campsite, but also to start off a new area of native woodland and to 'place make' providing a new and landscaped outdoor space for the local community. That's what this very important and

recent phase of work has been about - over July - ahead of getting opened.

Come August - with all the planting now in place - we'll happily accept a return to wall-to-wall sun, with the opening of the campsite.

Our daily role as tour guide commences

As stated whilst we transition from construction to operation - over July - interest has mounted and word of mouth is most certainly getting round.

Every single day at the campsite, we now have at least 3 to 4 people arrive unannounced - to learn about our works and what the site has to offer.

These individuals are either part of the community and local to Cromarty; from the wider Black Isle; or visitors / motorhome owners with the express intention of visiting the site as a user and soon.

We wholeheartedly welcome this opportunity for community engagement and dissemination; and we are sensing the community interest and ownership growing now.

Equally, in return to showing individuals around - where appropriate - we have asked visitors to consider our works, glean knowledge from their experience and trouble-shooting in advance of opening, to start to 'test' the site in earnest for us.

As an example of this locally Fran Sadler brought friends Linda and Geoff along, for the 'extensive' tour.

Linda and Geoff - both past residents of the town and now relocated to Perthshire - plan to return in autumn. With this in mind we asked them to feedback on the site and facilities, plus trial parking and manoeuvring on site.



Happy camping anybody? We are soon to be open.
Watch this space!

Picnic At The Courthouse

Mary Bowers writes:

Last week, our museum played host to 23 children with 4 Young Leaders (accompanied by Wanda, Fraser and Michelle) as part of the school holiday activities arranged for members of Cromarty Youth Café.

There was a fair amount of surplus energy expended racing around the garden and community orchard! Discovering all the hidden artworks that are part of the “Beelines Trail” and coming across the Resolis Riot puppets out in the exercise gallery added to the enjoyment of exploring outside the museum.

Once inside, the children were split into small groups to discover the varied objects to be found in the museum exhibitions. Then everyone met together to hear the story of Cuthbert Mackenzie – a defendant in one of the two trial scenes to be heard upstairs in the courtroom. They found out that things are not always as simple as they seem at first and punishments were certainly harsh all those years ago.

Finally, the picnic! As it was too damp outside, the venue was the courtroom. All the mannequins were astonished to be in the midst of a veritable feast that was laid out before them – and hardly a crumb was left. This is obviously why they have the word “Café” in their title!

We hope they enjoyed their visit and look forward to seeing them again soon.



We are continuing to make changes to secure a sustainable future for our small independent museum. One of the initiatives we have recently been part of is a venture with “Smartify”, the world’s most popular art and museum app. As one of six Highland museums, the project has allowed us to offer a digitised exhibition and a curated tour – David Alston and Nicole Bontemps talking about “Cromarty Built on Slavery”. Now our collection and stories are available to a worldwide audience. You will need to download the Smartify app on your mobile phone to access the information.

On another subject, the recent difficult financial times for many businesses, have hit museums as well. For this reason, we spent the spring writing funding applications to two different organisations in order to help put the museum onto a firmer and sustainable footing.

We are delighted to report that Museums Galleries Scotland came back to us last month to award us the funding we'd asked for from them. This is provisional on us securing backing from the other funding body we also approached. If we manage to get all the money we've bid for, the Courthouse will be able to employ a full time museum manager/curator to drive forward its development, ensuring its future as a dynamic community resource for us all. Keep your fingers crossed!

Cromarty Care Project

Alison Seller writes:

Thank You, Cromarty!

Thank you to Cromarty Open Gardens Committee, who have distributed donations to so many worthy causes in the town, including ourselves, from the proceeds of the Open Gardens weekend. We know that the weekend could never have been so successful without the hard work and effort of all the countless volunteers who were involved and the Committee members themselves. What stars you are! Many thanks to all!



Caledonian Canal Cruise

On a gloriously sunny day last month, some Cromarty residents were treated to a cruise on the Caledonian Canal. This was made possible by The Seagull Trust, a charity who run a specially-adapted boat for those with mobility issues. A lovely morning was had by all, including a rousing rendition of “My Own Cromarty” (our very own Cromarty Anthem!). We hope to organise one or two more cruises over the next month or so. If you’re interested in participating, or you know someone who would be, please email us:
info@cromartycareproject.co.uk

Callout for Carers!

Cromarty urgently needs Home Carers. Topcare Inverness are the care provider locally and are keen to chat with anyone interested in working as a Home Carer.

No experience necessary, training is provided locally. Do consider this possibility even if you can only offer a few hours a week. Contact Jill Stoner for more information on 07850 889014, or Maxine Worsfold on 07483 881981

Delivery of fresh vegetables to the Community Larder

From time to time we receive fresh veg which are supermarket surplus. We try to deliver the veg directly to households. Please check our Facebook page for updated posts.



Have you received food from us in the past year? **Make your voice heard** in a new food support study conducted by @FareShareUK, who help supply food to us.

Taking their survey will give you the chance to win one of 10 gift vouchers worth £15.

Please note this survey is only for people aged 18 or over who access food or have accessed food from Cromarty Care Project/our Community Larder at least three times.

Get started here: <https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/FSHI>

Community Playgroup

The Playgroup will re-convene on Tuesdays once the school term begins. Please note the new venue is the

Victoria Hall. Parents and carers with their babies and toddlers will be very welcome to join us. First meeting: Tuesday 15th August, 10 – 11.30 Charge: £1.50 per session.

Harbour Trust Latest

As indicated last month, we continue to review access to the outer pier area, and we will shortly be moving to the gate being open for longer and from earlier in the day. We just have a couple of things to do to improve safety and to make clearer the non-fishing area. Unfortunately, I am a little uncertain of the timing due to illness within the volunteer group, but it will be days, not weeks. However, the concerns expressed last month remain and even with limited access over the last two weeks, the issues have merely been re-affirmed (see pictures below). With greater traffic, the issues are only likely to be further exacerbated from what we are experiencing today.

We will continue to monitor, e.g. the number of people fishing at a given time and where they position themselves. For information, on Tuesday night, at one point we had 22 people – 18 fishing – on the outer pier - that was just about at safe capacity. For these reasons, we move forward with a degree of trepidation and should circumstances dictate, we will close the gate at short notice to get some respite. I thank my fellow volunteers for continuing to put the time and effort into the harbour and in providing a focus to improving safe access. Also, thanks to all harbour users for your understanding and engaging with us in dealing with this difficult issue. All relevant notices will be posted on our website at cromartyharbour.org and mentioned as part of the monthly newsletter.

Colin Dickie



Beyond Expectations

The **2023 Open Gardens and Art & Flower** display was an amazing success, well beyond the expectation of the organising team and, after paying overheads and putting an amount aside for next year, a sum of £6,970 has now been distributed among 15 local groups and charities.

Fortunately the weather was kind, but the credit for the success of the event lies with the many, many people of Cromarty who gave not just their time but also their resources free of charge to help transport chairs and tables, provide power for the musicians and tea urns, loaned marquees, provided eggs for home baking, collected supplies and printing from Inverness and Dingwall, delivered leaflets and put up signs around Highland and encouraged friends and family to come to Cromarty for the event.

A great deal of time and effort went into getting the 32 gardens ready for viewing all of which were a credit to their owners. Likewise, the artistic expertise displayed in the flower arrangements and botanical and wildlife drawings on show in East Church were the result of hours of dedication. Overhead costs were offset by the generous support of so many local businesses and, for the first time, Global Energy Group – Port of Nigg joined the list of our sponsors – a big thank you to them all.

Although the organising team said ‘never again’ immediately after the weekend they have now recovered

and, all being well, Open Gardens and Art & Flowers will happen in 2024, possibly at a slightly earlier date in June.

Well done Cromarty – you certainly all pulled together to make it happen. Thank you.

The following are the groups and charities among whom the £6,970 was distributed:-

Art Club • Bowling Club • Camera Club • Lunch Club • Cromarty Care • Cromarty Courthouse • East Church • Ross-Shire Flower Club • Fourways Club • James Support Group • RNLi • Tennis Club • Victoria Hall • Wall 2 Wall Musicians • Youth Café

Cromarty Camera Club members took a fantastic number of photos over the weekend, they can be viewed on the Cromarty Open Gardens Facebook page or via [this link](#) .

Alison Palmer



Arts Trust

From Nicki Slater:

Lots of great things coming up in August from the Cromarty Arts Trust. We start off the month hosting the annual exhibition from **The Cromarty Group** at the

Stables, it runs until Sunday 6th August and is open every day from 10am – 5pm. Head up for a chance to see wonderful work from your local artists.

Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th is going to be busy weekend, we have a marquee up at the Stables with a **craft market under canvas** running both days from 10am – 4pm. There will be loads of lovely stalls with high quality handmade crafts, some firm favourites returning along with some wonderful new crafters and artists.

We also have Black Isle artist Kathleen Madigan running a **Mindful Art workshop** at the Old Brewery on the Saturday 5th. This will be a quiet day of meditation and mindfulness practices, interspersed with time drawing and observing closely from nature. A chance to relax, create and be with nature without any distractions.

There is a foot stomping evening of music at the Old Brewery on Thursday 10th August. **The Woo Town Hillbillies** play a lively mix of Americana, Bluegrass with the odd ska tune thrown in. Between the three of them they play guitars, mandolin, banjo, double bass, harmonicas. BYOB, so grab your bottle of moonshine and head over to the Old Brewery for 7.30pm.

Between 19th and 27th August, there is another exhibition at the Stables. **Nigg/\Cromarty/\Nigg** is a major exhibition of new work by Sue Jane Taylor and Ian Westacott, two of the Highlands' most distinctive artists. This is the first time Sue Jane and her partner Ian, who live near Dornoch, have exhibited together and they focus on very different aspects of Nigg and Cromarty.

The exhibition brings together opposites: industry and nature, new and old, machines and trees, just as the Port of Nigg and the historic town of Cromarty face each other across the entrance to the Cromarty Firth. Open every day from 11am.

To coincide with the **Nigg/\Cromarty/\Nigg** exhibition, there will be a free showing of the **Rigs of Nigg film** at the Victoria Hall. Don Coutts and Lindy Cameron will be there along with Sue Jane and some stars of the film. The showing will be followed by an informal discussion and chat and some tea and coffee. The event is free and there

is plenty room in the hall but you can book tickets through our website. Starts at 5.30pm on Saturday 19th August.

The following day there's a change of pace with chamber music from the **Fyrish String Quartet** at the Stables. Playing at 4.30pm on Sunday 20th August, surrounded by Sue Jane and Ian's art, Fyrish are bringing us a lovely programme of music for strings:

Dark Lochnagar (Traditional) arranged by Seonaid Aitken; Two Movements for String Quartet - Rebecca Clarke; Sound of Sleepless Kings - Emma Jean; String Quartet No. 1, Opus 13 - Carl Nielsen; Unst Boat Song (Traditional) arranged by the Danish String Quartet.

If I can sneak in an early September date, there are a few places left on Anna Wimbledon's **Landscape Oil Painting course** on 1 – 3 September, based at the Old Brewery but outdoors as much as possible. The three days are suitable for beginners and more advanced painters.

More information, booking and tickets as always on the website, www.cromartyartstrust.org.uk, call Nicki or Gail on 01381 600354 or pop in the big blue door and see us, Monday to Thursday 9am– 5pm and Friday 9am – 12.30pm.

Business Updates

Fishertown Inn

It's our one year anniversary at the beginning of August and we would like to thank everyone for their support and encouragement.

We will be having a wee party the evening of Saturday the 12th of August to celebrate. There will be karaoke from 9pm. We hope to see you there.

We think we might be a little tired on the Sunday so the pub will not open until 3pm on Sunday the 13th to give all our hard working staff a lie in.

We continue to be open 7 days a week serving morning coffee & cake, lunch and evening meals every day.

Thank you all again for making our first year such a success.

Pete, Ingrid and our amazing team

Slaughterhouse Coffee

Slaughterhouse Coffee is currently open every day from 9am til 3pm! From August 7th to 28th, we will be open 6 days a week (closed on Tuesdays). From August 29th, we'll be back to our usual 5 days a week (closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays).

As we enter August, we say farewell to Eva and wish her luck on her mega Thighs of Steel challenge - raising money for grassroots projects across the UK and Europe. She will be joining this peddling frenzy from Milan to Athens, and making us super proud! If you haven't donated already and are able to do so, her JustGiving page is below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/evacoutts>

Good luck Eva - we'll miss ya!

Laura

Post Office

Everything you need for a Scottish summer, in no particular order! Buckets and spades, footballs, fishing nets, outdoor toys, umbrellas, maps, postcards, jigsaws, Lego and other activities, as well as souvenirs and gifts. Recent customer comments:

"I wish we had a post office like this at home"

"The best dog poo bags on the Black Isle!"

"Isn't the *nice* lady working today?"

Estelle

Cinema

Ana Terje writes:

August is full of blockbusters, summer fun and general quality film at Cromarty Cinema. Yes, Barbenheimer fever has swept the nation and yes, we're screening both **Barbie** and **Oppenheimer**. But get in quick as tickets are bound to sell out in a jiffy! The blockbusters don't stop there as Tom Cruise is yet again ready for action in **Mission: Impossible Dead Reckoning Part One**.

For a great family day out at the cinema, check out Pixar's latest – **Elemental**, or spellbinding Ukrainian animation **Mavka: The Forest Song**.

You know we always have a delicious selection of drama for you, and August is no exception. Some of the highlights include **La Syndicaliste**, a tale of corporate dirty tricks starring Isabelle Huppert; **L'immensità**, which takes us to 70s Rome, led by Penelope Cruz; and **Paris Memories**, where a woman tries to regain lost memories of a terrorist attack. That's not all so please peruse the schedule below for all that's on offer.

As for documentaries, follow the Nepali women who make a gruelling annual journey from their Himalayan home to transport medicinal herbs to urban markets in stunning **Baato**. And if music and visual arts are your passion, you can't miss Anton Corbijn's **Squaring The Circle – The Story of Hipgnosis**, the story of the album art design studio that brought us some of the most recognisable and iconic album covers of all time.

Finally, in the spirit of summer, we are offering a special season of nostalgia laden, light-hearted, summer blockbusters from years past. Every Wednesday evening from 4 August until 13 September join us for a Summer of Fun, kick back, relax and enjoy classics such as **Clueless** and **Starship Troopers**. Enjoyment guaranteed!

We look forward to welcoming you to our wee community cinema in August.



CROMARTY CINEMA

August 2023



Friday	7pm	Mission: Impossible Dead Reckoning Part One (12A) 2hr 43m Ethan Hunt and the IMF team are back! Tom Cruise, Hayley Atwell star.
4 August		
Saturday	4pm	Barbie (12A) 1hr 54m Margot Robbie + Ryan Gosling. Barbie suffers a crisis and has to enter the real world.
5 August		
Saturday	7pm	Barbie (12A) 1hr 54m
5 August		
Sunday	4pm	Mission: Impossible Dead Reckoning Part One (Descriptive Subtitles) (12A) 2hr 43m
6 August		
Tuesday	7pm	Barbie (Descriptive Subtitles) (12A) 1hr 54m
8 August		
Wednesday	7pm	Ferris Bueller's Day Off (12A) 1hr 43m - Summer of Fun Season.
9 August		
Friday	7pm	The Damned Don't Cry (18) 1hr 51m Tender Arabic language drama, set in Morocco.
11 August		
Sunday	11am	Elemental (PG) 1hr 49m Ember and Wade in a city where fire, water, land and air residents all live together.
13 August		
Sunday	4pm	La Syndicaliste (Sitting Duck) (15) 2hr 02m French drama, based on true story of corporate dirty tricks. Isabelle Huppert stars.
13 August		
Tuesday	7pm	Smoking Causes Coughing (15) 1hr 17m Black humour. Vigilantes fighting threats to humans from monsters, go team bonding.
15 August		
Wednesday	7pm	Clueless (12) 1hr 37m - Summer of Fun Season.
16 August		
Friday	7pm	Paris Memories (15) 1h 43m A woman tries to regain her lost memories after a terrorist attack. Virginie Efira stars.
18 August		
Saturday	11am	Mavka: The Forest Song (PG) 1h 39m A woodland spirit must choose between love and duty in this beautiful fantasy set in the forest.
19 August		
Sunday	4pm	Squaring The Circle – The Story of Hipgnosis (15) 1h 41m Documentary. Story of the album art design studio who created some of the most iconic album covers of all time. Features Paul McCartney, Dave Gilmour, Robert Plant.
20 August		
Tuesday	7pm	Baato (12A) 1h 21m Documentary about modern changes, set in Himalaya of Nepal.
22 August		
Wednesday	7pm	Starship Troopers (18) 2hr 04m - Summer of Fun Season
23 August		
Friday	7pm	Oppenheimer (15) 3hr Story of development of the atomic bomb. Star cast includes Cillian Murphy & Florence Pugh.
25 August		
Saturday	7pm	L'immensità (12) 1h 39m Drama set in 1970s Rome. The story of love between Clara and her children, Penelope Cruz stars.
26 August		
Sunday	4pm	Oppenheimer (Descriptive Subtitles) (15) 3hr
27 August		
Tuesday	7pm	Silent Running (PG) 1hr 30m 1972 sci-fi drama, a future where flora is extinct on Earth. Bruce Dern stars.
29 August		
Wednesday	7pm	Grosse Pointe Blank (15) 1hr 51m - Summer of Fun Season
30 August		
Thursday	7pm	Oppenheimer (15) 3hr
31 August		

Adults £9 Under 26 £5.50 Friends £7.50

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.

Show your support - become a Friend and reduce your ticket price. Visit cromartycinema.com or email admin@cromartycinema.com

Middleton Trust

The Middleton Trust is now welcoming applications for funding to local organisations providing support in 2024 to the young people of Cromarty & District, through sport, arts and wellbeing activities.

Further details and a simple application form will be available from the 1st August 2023 on the Cromarty Live Middleton Trust webpage or from the Secretary:

Gillian McNaught t. 01381 600337 m. 07771874921 e. middletontrust@gmail.com

Enquiries welcome at any time or please feel free to have an informal chat with any of our Trustees: Alison Vandyke (Chair), Phoebe Fox, Antonia Gordon, Paige Shepherd, Denis Torley and Nora Watson.

And finally...

A big shout out to all our community ambassadors - that's basically all of us! Especially at this time of year there are a lot of visitors to our wee town and a big part of their positive experience is the warm and friendly welcome they get from 'the locals'. Those of us working in retail, hospitality or our splendid visitor attractions know that just occasionally one does get the 'difficult' tourist and its hard to maintain that friendly demeanour! But, unless they are actually being disrespectful of this place or its people, it's probably best to remember their behaviour is borne of ignorance not malice. If they go away having learnt something of what it is to be a strong and supportive community then it will only have added to their experience. Enjoy the rest of the summer, whatever the weather decides to call it.

- *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 deadline for the next edition is always a few days before the end of the previous month.

The Cromarty Live Newsletter team is Jon Palmer, Jeremy Price and Laura Shepherd.

If you have an interest in communication and would like to join the team please get in touch.

The Newsletter is currently sponsored by a private benefactor.

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)