

All the latest from our thriving  
Highland community

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## March 2023

It's starting to feel a bit like Spring, and with Spring there is always that feeling of hope and better days to come, so it seems appropriate to kick off with this...



## Its Time to Shape Our Own Future

The Black Isle Local Place Plan is your opportunity to help create a Black Isle that we are proud to call home. A Black Isle fit for future generations.

The aim of the plan is to provide a Black Isle wide vision for the future. It will build on existing consultations and surveys and over the next few weeks we will be consulting with communities across the Black Isle to find out what your priorities for the Black Isle might be. There will be eight drop-in events held in Community Council areas across the Black Isle, where we'll be seeking your views.

What do you want Cromarty and the other communities across the Black Isle to be like in the future? What are the changes you would like to see? What kind of voice do we want to have, sitting in the middle of the Greenport bubble?

Your answers will give you and your Community Councils real influence over the future of your community, because they will be the basis of the Black Isle Local Place Plan - a new feature of Scottish planning legislation that influences Council planning policy and public services. To achieve that, the first stage is for you to tell us what really matters to your communities. Please drop in at one of the March events for a chat and a cuppa.

Then, over the next few months, we'll organise more events with residents, businesses, Community Councils, Highland Council councillors and staff, and other groups and organisations to work out how to tackle what matters to you in the future. The work is being funded by the Council, so we hope it will have a real impact.

Our logo Opportunity Black Isle is in response to the awarding of Greenport status to Opportunity Cromarty Firth. We are not in any way affiliated to the Greenport. We want to highlight the fact that we're responsible for creating our own opportunities. The Local Place Plan gives us, the local community, a great opportunity to determine what life on the Black Isle will look like in the coming years. We look forward to working together.

The Community Engagement Events kick off in **Cromarty on Monday 13th March**, 3.30pm - 7.30pm at the West Church Hall. Come along, enjoy a cup of tea and some cake and share your views with us. We'd like to hear from as many different folk as possible. It's really important we gather a wide range of views from all sectors of the community.

If you can't make the event in your local area, you will be warmly welcomed at any of the events across the Black Isle. For further information please contact either myself: [becky@blackislestud.co.uk](mailto:becky@blackislestud.co.uk) or Nick Wright at: [nick@nickwrightplanning.co.uk](mailto:nick@nickwrightplanning.co.uk)

Becky Richmond, Project Manager Black Isle Local Place Plan

Cromarty & District Community Council is keen for everyone in Cromarty to engage with this process, as outlined by Becky Richmond and Nick Wright above. So, get yourselves along and let them know what you think is important.

## Tourism Networking Event

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 10.00-12.30 at Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf Club. Another chance for folk to have an input into the Place Plan – but this time with a particular emphasis on issues relating to tourism. If you want to help shape the future of tourism in the area you are warmly invited. If you want to know more talk to Jon at The Cheese House ([jon@cromartycheese.com](mailto:jon@cromartycheese.com)) and/or see [Opportunity Black Isle - Spring Networking Event Tickets, Tue 14 Mar 2023 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)



And there's so much more going on in March too...

## Community Market

**Saturday 11 March: 10.30 – 12.30**

All the usual goodies of local foods, crafts, plants will be there and who knows what else!

This month also has the Transition Black Isle Seed Potato stall. We'll have a good selection of earlies, second earlies, maincrop varieties. Only 20p a tuber.

Grow your own - save money – enjoy the taste – varieties not found in shops

## Baby Clinics at Victoria Hall

NHS Highland Baby Immunisation clinics will start at the Victoria Hall from **Wednesday 15th March**.

Initially to be held fortnightly from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and please check the NHS vaccination [website](#) for details.

## Youth Cafe

### Windows of Reality Project

### **Hand-in-Hand puppet-making**

With Creativity in Care



Puppet Stories  
about  
belonging and  
connections

From aged 10-yrs to older adults

Victoria Hall, Cromarty  
2023

- Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 10.30am-12.30pm
- Tue 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 1pm-3pm
- Wed 15<sup>th</sup> March 5.15pm-6.45pm
- Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> March 5.15pm-6.45pm
- Wed 29<sup>th</sup> March 5.15pm-6.45pm
- Wed 5<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am-12.30pm



Part of the *Windows of Reality* story project  
by CIC



## Repair Cafe

Come to our ROAMING Black Isle Repair Café

📅 **Saturday 25th March**, Victoria Hall CROMARTY  
1pm-4pm

What can you REPAIR instead of having to buy new? 🌐



💡 A dodgy lamp or flex? 🔪 A knife that doesn't cut so well anymore? 🧵 A hem that has started to fray? 🧵 A hole in your favourite jumper - 💻 even a computer or phone that is behaving oddly! 🚲 Plus bike repairs! 👍

ALL WELCOME!! (Even if you don't have a repair)  
coffees, teas and CAKE! 🍰 ☕ 🍵 😊

TRY US!! "A stitch in time saves nine" - we will do our best to help you and also show you how we do it so you grow in confidence yourself! 😊

Come along and see what a Repair Café is all about - talk to our volunteers, have coffee and cake in our cafe (donations).


Our volunteers this month are offering:

- Sewing repairs 🧵 👚 🧵
- General and bike repairs 🚲 🔧 🔪
- Electrical repairs & PAT testing 💡 🔌 🔪
- Computer & Digital clinic 💻 📄 🔍
- Tool sharpening 🧰 🔪 👤

#### A REMINDER OF HOW IT WORKS

- ✅ All repairers are volunteers
- ✅ Bring one item please
- ✅ Bring any spare parts if you know what is needed
- ✅ Do watch, learn & ask questions
- ✅ Please donate as you see fit

The Black Isle Repair Café is a collaboration between Transition Black Isle, the Highland Community Waste Partnership and Black Isle Men's Shed.

 For more information or to volunteer, please get in touch by email: [blackislerepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:blackislerepaircafe@gmail.com).



## **Business Updates**

### **Cromarty Post Office**

I'm pleased to report that full international mail services have been restored, although the system changes needed have been rushed through and the process is a bit clunky. It will help to speed things up if customs forms are fully and legibly completed before you present your parcel! There's still no news about any further Royal Mail strikes.

In the shop we're beginning to look forward to spring and new stock is coming in regularly. The popular hairy highland cow doorstops are back, and it's never too late in the year for a highland cow hot water bottle!

### **Ingrid's House**

We are open 7 days a week and are always happy to open up for private shopping in the evenings by arrangement.

After our trip to Sweden we have a shop full of new stock including some amazing vintage Nordic travel posters, puzzles, books and trays including this one, aptly named Swedish Selfie...



## **Calluna**

All new Spring season clothing collections & accessories, featuring beautiful bright colours and fun styles, now in the shop. There are lots of lovely gift ideas for Mother's Day this year including jewellery, candles, books and gorgeous house plants. Gift Vouchers are also really popular for special occasion gifts - available for any amount and valid for one year.

For everyday essentials, we are all stocked up on jumpers, T-shirts, blouses, lounge wear and our best-selling RAVEN jeans; comfort fit, in sizes 6-18, in a range of colours, and just £44.99 a pair!

If you'd like to arrange private shopping to help find something specific for a holiday, special occasion or just need a bit of help choosing some new pieces, call us on 01318 600 464.

## **The Cheese House**

During March we will return to our normal Sunday openings (12.00-16.00) as well as full days on Thursday, Friday and Saturday (10.00-17.00) All fully stocked again after our latest mega delivery, and always some nice little surprises in store too.

## **Fishertown Inn**

We had another wonderful quiz night, supporting James' Support Group, thanks to everyone for coming along. Wendy and team stayed late playing some live music and there will be more of this to come, so keep an eye out on social media for dates. If you would like to have a quiz night at the inn to raise money for a good cause, get in touch. It's always a great night out and a good way to raise money too.

We are open 7 days a week serving lunch and evening meals. Booking is recommended to avoid disappointment.

In the last week of February we are expecting our new coffee machine to arrive, so from the start of March we will be serving speciality coffees and cakes for sit in or take away.

### **This month at the inn:**

Book Group 14th March, Knit and Natter 14th & 28th March, Folk music session 9th & 23rd March, Film festival all day food and drinks 24th-26th March

Games night every Wednesday

Throughout the film festival weekend we will be serving food and snacks all day from 10am to 9pm.

## **Royal Hotel**

Thanks to everyone who joined us in February, your custom and company have been much appreciated! It's been great to see so many of you enjoying our Bingo night and our first Tasting Menu of 2023. Thank you.

We're planning another Bingo night in March, so please keep an eye on social media (facebook & Instagram under [@royalcromarty](#)) for details.



## **Return of Fish & Fizz Fridays!**

Due to popular demand, we are delighted to offer our Fish & Fizz Fridays on 10th, 17th and 24th March. Fish & chips for two, plus two glasses of fizz for £30. It helps us if you book in advance but you are also welcome to just turn up.

## **Mother's Day**

We're opening slightly earlier for brunch, and serving brunch from 10.30am-midday, then lunch from 12noon – 3pm. Chef Denis has created a delicious menu – spoil your Mum, she's worth it! Please get in touch to book.

## **Cromarty Film Festival**

We're excited to see the film festival return and will be open for brunch, lunch and dinner if you want to catch a bite inbetween films. We've also increased our selection of takeaway drinks – including small bottles of prosecco, artisan cocktails in cans, bottles/cans of local beer, coffee and soft drinks – perfect to grab and enjoy whilst you watch a movie!

We are open...

Wed-Sun 11am – late (please note we currently close at 5pm on Sundays) - Late Lazy Breakfast 11am-12noon, Lunch 12noon-2.30pm (Sunday lunch 12noon-3pm), Dinner 5.30-8pm

Coffee and homemade cakes are available all day, to sit-in or takeaway. Our coffee is from the Inverness Coffee Roasting Co and our hot chocolate comes from another local business, The Chocolate Place and it is gluten-free & dairy-free.

*Follow us on facebook and Instagram to keep up with what's happening at the Royal. And if you are organising an event in Cromarty, please let us know so we can share on our social media to help promote it.*

## **Sutor Creek**

Our Midweek Wings Special will continue through March; Your choice of wings and two-sides for £15pp on a

Wednesday & Thursday from 12-8pm. To order Wings deal for take-away please phone 01381 600 855.

### **Mother's Day**

We are now taking reservations for Mother's Day from 12-8pm on Sunday 19th March. Our menu will feature our Slow Roast, seasonal specials and our wood-fired pizzas. We have limited availability so book soon to avoid disappointment!

### **Film Festival**

Sutor Creek will be serving hot food outside (including Tacos & BBQ Pork Rolls) for a quick pick-up for the opening projections at the Lighthouse on Friday 24th. We recommend booking tables for the Film Festival weekend as soon as possible due to our limited availability, phone 01381 600 855 to reserve. Take-Away seasonal menu & wood-fired pizzas always available and can be booked in advance by using our website [www.sutorcreek.co.uk](http://www.sutorcreek.co.uk).

We are open Wednesday to Sunday 10am to 8pm for brunch, coffee & cake, seasonal dishes and wood-fired pizza. Our deli is stocked up with fresh salads, meals, desserts and an excellent selection of local beers, Scottish Gins & Malt Whiskies.

## **Spring Cheer in Cromarty**

The Cromarty & District Community Council is pleased to announce that, with funding from the Highland Council's Cost of Living Support Fund, we hope to put a smile on the faces of 100 Cromarty families who may well be struggling to cope with the challenges of the current Cost of Living crisis.

If you are one of those families, and you fancy the culinary delights offered by having a Sutor Creek takeaway, we are pleased to make available 100 Spring Cheer vouchers worth £10 off the cost of your order (only applies to food).

From 15th March, each week (Wed-Sun 10am to 8pm until 2nd April), there will be at least 30 vouchers available, on a first come first served basis. As we hope to reach out to 100 different homes in the community,

everyone is restricted to one voucher per address. When ordering, if you wish to use one of these vouchers, you will be asked to supply your address so that we can monitor these funds reaching as many families as possible.

Obviously this is restricted to homes in our Cromarty & District area. The address data will only be used for this monitoring and will be deleted after 2nd April.

So call (01381) 600855, from 15th March, to place an order and ask for a £10 Spring Cheer voucher discount to perhaps make you smile as we hopefully move in to a less challenging Spring!

## **Cromarty Bowling Club – 50/50 Club**

You don't have to be a member of the bowling club to be a part of the fun of the 50/50 Club. Essentially this is a monthly draw, open to anyone and everyone (except the promoter!) to take part in and costs a mere £5 per month with a chance to win 50% of the amount raised that month. Usually, people set up a standing order for £5 per month and this guarantees payouts of around £75-90 at the end of each month! Or you can pay in blocks of 3, 6 or 12 months by cheque or cash.

Of course, the bowling club stands to gain funds with the other 50% going into its coffers.

A worthwhile punt and one with much better chances of winning than the National Lottery whilst helping a local cause to survive in times when costs of greenkeeping, indoor maintenance and running the clubhouse are spiralling just like any other costs these days.

It is all run legally, licensed by the local authority and audited just like any other such venture has to be.

For more information, please contact the promoter, Jeremy Price, on 600709.

## **Cromarty History Society**

## **Where Angels Fear To Tread - Tues 21st March, West Church Hall**

A little bit of background...

The writing of *The Bookseller of Inverness* was born of a desire to come closer to home in Shona's writing, and to delve more deeply into her own history and culture. She will consider some of the challenges of writing a fictional adventure set in the Jacobite period, and discuss (with photographs) how she went about the research for the book, much of which was written in periods of lockdown. She will then speak briefly about a longprojected novel set in 1830s Cromarty, set aside twice, which she is now working on in earnest.

Shona MacLean was born in Inverness and brought up in a series of small Highland Hotels in Lochaber, Easter Ross and the Black Isle. After Dingwall Academy, she attended Aberdeen University and has a PhD in C17th Scottish History. Married with 4 now grown up children, she is the author of two series of C17th-set historical crime novels, as well as the recent standalone, *The Bookseller of Inverness*. She has twice won the Crime Writers' Association dagger for best Historical Crime novel of the year. Cromarty History Society meets on the third Tuesday of each month, September - April  
[www.cromartyhistory.scot](http://www.cromartyhistory.scot)

Talk starts at 7.30pm. Please note venue - not Victoria Hall.

## **Cromarty Courthouse**



*Liz Broumley writes:*

Our museum is gearing up to opening for the 2023 season on Easter Sunday, 9 April.

As we prepare to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the completion of the construction of Cromarty's Courthouse building in 1773, it is important to let you all know that the Courthouse and the museum are facing significant financial challenges. The hostile economic environment that's affecting us all has reduced the museum's income and grant funding while leaving us responsible for the heating needed to preserve the museum collections. We are trying to turn this into an opportunity to find alternative funding including a fundraising campaign. . In the coming weeks we will be launching a series of fundraising events, as well as opening the Courthouse and garden to community functions. We are planning an open evening in the Courthouse for local people to come behind the scenes in the museum and explore some of its gems.

The Courthouse formed part of George Ross's development of the town in the late 18th century, which also included building Cromarty House, the harbour, the brewery and the Gaelic chapel, as well as a hemp factory, a nail and spade factory and housing. As the Laird of Cromarty, he was keen to bring new prosperity and status to 'his' town. Today, it's our town and your Courthouse remains a key building and visitor attraction. We would like it to return to greater community use, it's not just a place for visitors!

In the 250 year period since, the Courthouse has served many purposes for the community. Apart from housing

the Sheriff Court and a county prison, it latterly housed the police cells, the Naval Shore patrol cells during WW1, the Burgh Magistrates Court and was the venue for town council meetings. From 1950s, it was neglected and in a deteriorating condition before its restoration as a significant heritage site and museum.

If you have an idea to raise funds, please let us know. Please support as many events as you can. Even better, come and work with us as a volunteer and share friendship and skills. The Trustees will continue to apply for grant funding and work closely with our sponsors. We want to take the opportunity created by economic problems to develop the Courthouse as a vibrant, sustainable local resource, but this can only be done with your support.

If you would like to help us in our endeavours, please email us using the “CONTACT” page on our [website](#).

## **Cinema and Film Festival**

After a very busy February, Cromarty cinema has no intention to slow down! The month includes a great selection of international films, for example the magnificent EO about an ex-circus donkey’s journey through the world; Saint Omer, a French courtroom drama based on real events; Broker, from the studio that brought us classic Parasite; and Holy Spider, based on a true story of an Iranian serial killer.

In terms of British films, we have some real gems for you. Blue Jean focusses on homophobia in the 80s; What’s Love Got To Do With It, starring Emma Thompson in a drama about arranged marriage; and Allelujah, based on an Alan Bennett play featuring more British stars than we can count!

If you have kids you no doubt will be familiar with YouTube sensation Marcel, who gets his own feature length film in Marcel The Shell With Shoes On. And it’s both Oscar and Bafta nominated! The volunteers’ choice of March is Hunt for the Wilderpeople, the delightful Kiwi comic adventure.

The weekend of 24-26 March sees the new iteration of a Cromarty Film Festival and the cinema will host a number of screenings so check out everything happening over on [www.cromartyfilmfestival.org](http://www.cromartyfilmfestival.org)

This is just a taste of the filmic goodies coming your way so please peruse the full programme below and get your tickets at [cromartycinema.com](http://cromartycinema.com), the human box office on Thursdays 12-2, or at the door.



**CROMARTY CINEMA**  
March 2023



Friday 3 March	7pm	<b>Saint Omer (12A) 2hr 03m</b> French courtroom drama based on real case of immigrant mother accused of murdering her daughter.
Saturday 4 March	3pm	<b>Marcel the Shell With Shoes On (PG) 1hr 30m</b> YouTube sensation Marcel the tiny mollusc brought to the big screen in brilliantly animated Oscar and Bafta nominated film.
Saturday 4 March	7pm	<b>Hunt for the Wilderpeople (12) 1hr 41m - This month's volunteers' choice</b> Much loved 2016 Kiwi quirky comic adventure. Sam Neill stars.
Sunday 5 March	3pm	<b>Blue Jean (15) 1hr 37m</b> Powerful drama focussing on homophobia and the controversial Clause 28 legislation in '80s Britain.
Friday 10 March	7pm	<b>Joyland (15) 2 hr 07m</b> Banned in its native Pakistan, poignant love story between a young man and trans woman.
Saturday 11 March	7pm	<b>Plane (15) 1hr 47m</b> American all action thriller - plane crashes in the jungle! Gerald Butler stars.
Sunday 12 March	3pm	<b>What's Love Got To Do With It (12) 1hr 49m</b> British drama focusses on an arranged marriage between Indian families. Jemima Khan scripts, Emma Thompson and Lily James star.
Tuesday 14 March	7pm	<b>EO (15) 1hr 28m</b> Polish genre defying drama about an ex-circus donkey's journey through the world.
Friday 17 March	7pm	<b>Broker (12A) 2hr 09m</b> From the studio that brought us the amazing Parasite, this Korean drama focusses on adoption and child trafficking. Song Kang-ho won Cannes best actor for his starring role.
Saturday 18 March	7pm	<b>Holy Spider (18) 1 hr 58m</b> Based on the real-life story of an Iranian serial killer - thriller/horror murder mystery.
Friday 24 - Sunday 26 March	All weekend	<b>Cromarty Film Festival 2023 - New Realities</b> New Scottish shorts +classics +animation+artist's films+anime+rom coms+late night horror+talks +workshops in the Screen Machine+cinema. Programme kicks off with Bend it Like Beckham.
Thursday 30 March	7pm	<b>Lunana: A Yak In The Classroom</b> Bhutanese drama set in remote Himalayan school featuring reluctant teacher who thinks he prefers the city.
Friday 31 March	7pm	<b>Allelujah (12A) 1hr 39m</b> British drama based on Alan Bennett's play. Set in struggling Yorkshire geriatric hospital, directed by Richard Eyre and starring almost everyone including Judy Dench and Jennifer Saunders.

Adults £8.50 Under 26 £5 Friends £7

- More film info and book online at: [cromartycinema.com](http://cromartycinema.com) or at [eden-court.co.uk](http://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](http://cromartycinema.com) or email [admin@cromartycinema.com](mailto:admin@cromartycinema.com)

The Cromarty Cinema, Cromarty, IV11 8XZ

## Cromarty Arts Trust

The 2023 season has well and truly started and we have a busy March coming up. A big thank you everyone who came along to the Winter Wednesdays at the Old Brewery, we enjoyed poetry and rag rug making, especial thanks to Jane Clunas and Caroline Burrows for giving their time and materials. Along with others from Cosy Cromarty, we even featured on BBC Alba! Wednesday 1 March is our

last session and Nicki will be showing people how to make a natural lip balm with beeswax, shea butter and essential oils. Come along to the Old Brewery for a free afternoon from 2 – 4pm and take home a lip balm.

Lizabett Russo is back in Cromarty and performing at the Stables on **Saturday 4 March**. Everyone who saw her perform here last year was blown away by her extraordinary voice. If you think of a combination of Kate Bush, Bjork and Alison Goldfrapp's singing on Felt Mountain, you'll have an idea of her sound. Accompanied by Graeme Stephen on guitar, it should be a great night. Click [here](#) for a flavour. Tickets still available from the office or on the door, tea and coffee on sale and remember you can BYOB.

We have the first of this year's exhibitions starting on **7 March** up at the Stables, Land, Sea & Sky Exhibition. Black Isle artists Jane Angel and Simon Jackson are showing and selling their work alongside work from Edinburgh based painter Michele Gun and the late Gordon Gunn, a noted 20th century watercolour painter. This runs until 12 March and is open every day from 11am – 4pm.

Over the weekend of **18 – 19 March** Cromarty will be alive with the sound of massed ukuleles! After a few covid stricken years of virtual teaching, the Cromarty Ukulele Weekend is back in person. There is a full weekend of workshops at the Stables, an informal, free ukulele jam on the Saturday night in the loft at the Old Brewery. All levels are welcome and there is a £10 session on Saturday morning at 10am for absolute beginners where ukuleles will be supplied, this author is hoping to master Oh My Darling Clementine!

Our classical offering this month is something a wee bit different. Apollo's Cabinet are bringing us a quintet with singing, harpsicord, viola da gamba, recorder and theorbo (a very impressive giant lute). They are telling the story of Kitty Clive, a ground-breaking 18th century singer, the Beyonce of her time. It's a Wednesday evening, **22 March** at 7.30pm As always under 18s are free.

Have you ever fancied making your own basket? Tim Palmer is back running his popular weekend of Frame Basket Making over **25 – 26 March**. The weekend long



workshop includes all tuition and materials and you'll have a great basket to take home at the end. There are only 3 places left so book now through the office.

Although this is at the very start of April, we thought you'd like to hear now about the latest Sewing Weekend Workshop. The talented and ever patient, Rebecca The Sewist is back on **1 and 2 April** for a weekend long class where you can bring your own project, this is your chance to finish a tricky project or perhaps get started with something you've always wanted to make.

As always you can find out more on our website [www.cromartyartstrust.org.uk](http://www.cromartyartstrust.org.uk), by emailing [info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk](mailto:info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk), by calling us on 01381 600354 or even pop into the Ardyne house office, please just come in the big blue door at number 19 Bank Street. We're open during office hours and everyone is welcome to pop in to see us, buy tickets or ask for more information. The office is the first door on the right, look for the Welcome sign!

# LIZABETT RUSSO

**Saturday  
4 March  
7.30pm**

**'Bjork-like intensity'**

**Acoustic Magazine**

**'This is simply world-class  
work' BBC Radio 6**

**'Other-worldly  
charm' MOJO**

**The Stables, Cromarty**

£14 (£12 con) Tickets: [info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk](mailto:info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk)

01381 600354 / on door. BYOB



## **Picnic in the Park**

A future date for your diary from Laura Shepherd (sub group):

**Monday 8th May 2023** at The Victoria Park, Cromarty.

Currently being organised by The Fourways and a working sub group.

This is for all Cromarty businesses, groups and residents to come together in celebration of King Charles III Coronation.

Full details to be posted on Facebook etc in the next couple of weeks.

# Community Development Trust

*From Sheila Currie:*

## **Campervan site**

I hope folk have had a chance to see how well Aardvark are getting on with the site works for the community's new Camper Van site, with the levelling and drainage works getting done. Also a brand new section of pavement along the front of the houses.

There is a great sense of community support now emerging behind the construction of the campsite, and specific thanks go to the immediate neighbours who have been kind, tolerant and encouraging during the construction phase – one neighbour commented that now it was quite exciting to see the project underway with the investment, change and the prospect of a new community facility 'happening' at their end of the town; as a result they were feeling more connected.

New pavement is now constructed to connect up the campsite. This gives safe pedestrian access to the 3 neighbouring houses and any businesses or facilities in the industrial estate. This was part of the community gain, in the delivery of the wider campsite facility.

Similar works will be done at the entrance - integrated with landscape features and planting - as a mixture of native trees and shrubs, biodiversity and 'drifts' of coastal plants and grasses for colour and interest.

Aardvark Contracting Ltd kindly agreed to filling up the potholes after the construction of the pavement. This was not in their contract or their responsibility, but they are onside and share the vision to deliver the best that they can for the community.

Most of the building works will be finished by/in April, and we hope to be open as soon as possible after then.

If anyone wants to help make that happen, please get in touch. [cromartydevelopmenttrust@gmail.com](mailto:cromartydevelopmenttrust@gmail.com)

So far we've just been calling it 'the campsite' or 'campervan site', but does anyone have any better ideas

for a snappy title that might bring in the punters? We created a facebook page called Cromarty Campervans some time ago, which doesn't have much content yet (no surprises!), but if there's a better name, do please suggest it!

And please do tell any of the campervan people parking in Cromarty that you speak to, that we'll have a new Site opening this spring, with electric hookups, sewage and other waste disposal, plus toilets and shower.

## **East Church Hall**

Gillian Newman, who was heavily involved in the East Church Hall millennium renovations, has been on a hunt for the record drawings and photographs of the construction. These drawings and documents are enormously helpful in understanding the construction details and condition of the building as it stands and in considering future plans.

Beyond this Gillian has kindly volunteered some of her time to work with us to better understand more on the building, its past life, and clarify unknowns; all in conjunction with a wider process of community engagement going forward. We are going to take up her offer, and will also digitise and archive these building records for access to all.

Highland Council and The Common Good Fund (who own the building) have now approved us running a Community Doors-Open Day. We have reached a point in the year of longer daylight hours and warmer temperatures, which we needed as there is no heating at all in the building at present. We'll set a date soon, and give everyone plenty notice and details so all can come along.

## **Trust AGM**

We will be holding the Development Trust's AGM soon (probably in April) when there will be a chance to hear about progress made in the last year, ideas the Board have about the future and - more importantly - to hear the views of Members about what you want your Development Trust to be doing for our community.

We've missed being able to have open public meetings and we so very much want to get back to where we were before Covid, where Members are actively involved in developing and delivering projects.

Membership forms can be got from the Post Office, and are also pinned to the top of the Development Trust facebook page

The AGM is also when Directors can stand down, or members can put themselves forward to be elected (by members).

After many years of being treasurer, Estelle Quick is stepping down and so we will need a new Treasurer.

Anyone potentially interested should speak to Estelle to discuss what is involved. Our finances are in good heart and our accounting is in very good heart too, thanks to Estelle.



## **So finally...**

Thinking about our roads and pavements. Regardless of the potholes, there is quite a lot we can all be doing to help keep the streets looking smart (and helping with the run-off when we get torrential downpours). As some folk already do, how about taking 20 mins to clear the kerbs outside your property. Since Highland Council stopped road sweeping a few years ago some kerbsides have got very silted up. How about we get in the seasonal mood and give our handsome town a bit of a Spring clean this month?

We'll be back in April with more news. Meanwhile, enjoy the lighter days.

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

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.

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