



January 2024

Welcome to a New Year and a continuation of our monthly round-up of news and events taking place in the wee town at the end of the road. One can but wonder what the next twelve months has in store...

New Beginnings

Jon and Emmy Palmer closed the door of The Cheese House for the final time at 4pm on Christmas Eve. After 11 (and a bit) years of very happy trading in Cromarty they wish to thank all the local regulars for their support - not just buying cheese but also with some of the other crazy things they were involved in: Gluren bij de Buren for eight years; theatrical events including Murder Mystery plays for the Crime & Thrillers weekends and a DIY Sound of Music for Cromarty Gala; various performances in the Police House garden; an active member of Black Isle Tourism; securing funding to initiate the Local Place Plan, to name a few. Oh, and starting this newsletter!

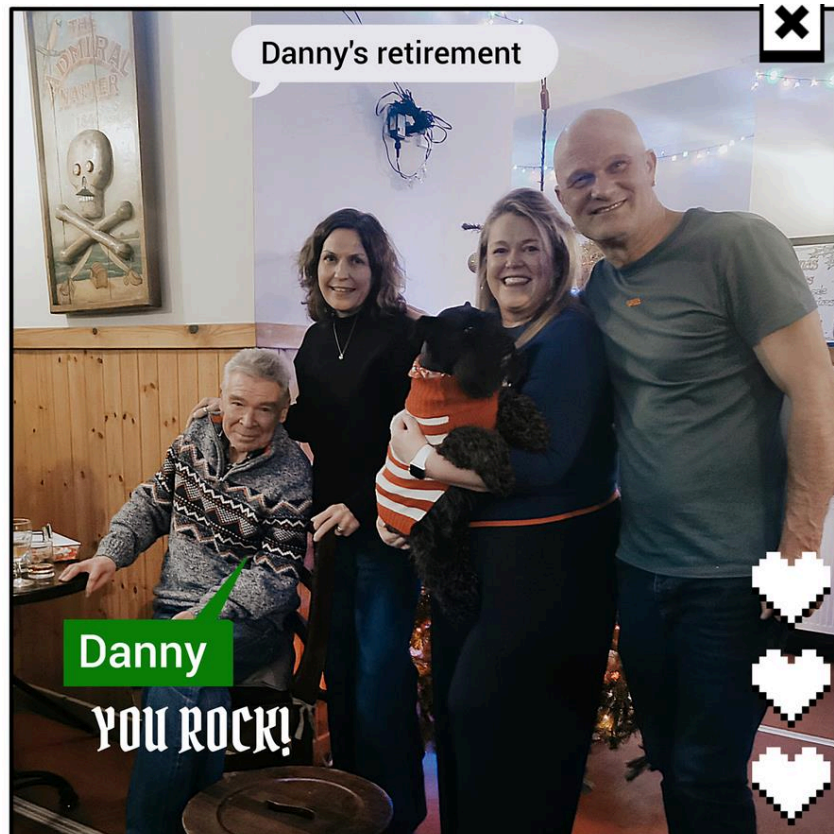
Over the past twelve months they have been making short videos about their time running the only Dutch cheese shop in the UK, and highlighting some of the joys of living and working in our special community. Released in weekly instalments the intention is to provide a light-hearted distraction through the winter months. You can watch a trailer for the series by clicking on the image below.



End of an Era 2

Jenny Henderson writes:

Christmas Eve also saw us bid a fond farewell to Danny, the Royal's long-standing (or should that be long-suffering?!) barman who has retired after 27 years service. Thanks to our regulars who joined us for a wee celebration, and to Stu and Lorraine Hill who organised a collection in his honour. The biggest thanks however go to Danny, for all his years of loyal service, good humour and legendary quick wit. Danny will be much missed behind the bar, and we wish him all the best for a happy retirement. It really is the end of an era.



A Courthouse Champagne start to 2024

2024 gets off to an exciting start for The Courthouse. We are delighted to welcome Eilidh Young as the new Manager and Curator. She starts work officially on 3rd January, although she has already joined a Board meeting to meet the Trustees and has been helping us with some early planning. You will soon be seeing her about the town. She will be making herself known to you all. Please introduce yourself and make her welcome. This is a real game changing time for The Courthouse to have a full-time manager on board. Please share in the excitement.

In her first few weeks in the job Eilidh is planning to talk to as many people as she can. She will be meeting staff and volunteers as well as getting to grips with the complexities of managing our great museum. In her words: All ideas are good ideas, even if we can't achieve them all. We will be putting some ambitious plans in place to give The Courthouse its rightful place in the community. Open to everyone, providing a place for history, culture, learning and above all fun.



Eilidh brings experience in 21st century museum management, she has previously managed museums across Scotland and the North of England, most recently at Kilmartin Museum and the Dock Museum in Barrow-on-Furness. In addition, she has been working as a museums and heritage consultant across the Highlands advising museums in taking their plans and ambitions forward.

Eilidh's appointment has been made possible through grant funding from Museums and Galleries Scotland and The National Lottery Heritage Fund. To meet our plans, continue to grow, improve the collection and displays we will be doing further fundraising, asking for volunteers to help in our projects, encouraging people of all ages to come and get involved. Whatever your interests, whatever your skills. Or maybe you would just like to do something new or a bit different. We would like to hear from you. We have something for everyone. You are all welcome.



We have had many people ask about The Courthouse Clock. Typically: Why has the clock stopped? Why doesn't the bell strike anymore? Some of the older folks have reminded us it used to strike the curfew. Others that when the clock rang out, they knew it was their school time or even their teatime!

In response to those who have asked, and to keep those who haven't up to date. We are in the early stages of a plan to get the clock going and striking again. The Highland Council no longer have the funds to continue to maintain public clocks, an unfortunate fact of life. We will

need to raise the funds to have the clock serviced and refurbish the clock loft. If you have ideas for fundraising and would like to work with us on them, please come forward.

We are arranging an initial assessment in February or March. Meanwhile watch out for ways you can take part in bringing this piece of Cromarty history back to life. Or if you would like to be involved in the project now or in the future, please let Eilidh know.

Wishing you all the very best for 2024. Make it a New Year resolution to visit The Courthouse.

Liz Broumley and Arthur Bird

Cromarty & Resolis RNLi Branch

We are pleased to announce that a total of £1,205 was raised by the Christmas Hamper Raffle. A big thank you to everyone for their help, donations and support for our latest fundraising event. We hope that the lucky winners have enjoyed the contents of their hampers.

Cromarty Care Project

A Guid New Year to one and all from all at Cromarty Care Project!

Winter Boost Fuel Payments

Cromarty Care Project will be making payments to applicants later this month. Along with those who will automatically receive payment as previous applicants, we have received the largest number of requests ever. This means, unfortunately, that the amount paid out will be limited. However, we hope that it will make some difference. We will notify applicants once the payment has been made.

Monday Lunch Club

Monday Lunch Club for the over-60s will re-convene on Monday 22nd January.

Please book with the Fishertown Inn no later than the day before, on 01381 600988, and please let them know if you won't be able to attend, so your booking can be offered to someone else. Lunch Club meets at 12.00 p.m. Charge: £3

(Supported by the Bank of Scotland Foundation, the Albert Hunt Trust and Making a Difference Locally)

Cromarty Needs Carers

Could you be a home carer? No experience is necessary since training is provided. Eilean Dubh Home Care are a very friendly and flexible company. Staff are well supported and issued with contracts. Contact them to have a chat (see advert below).



We are currently expanding our business to cover Cromarty, Avoch, Fortrose, Rosemarkie and Munlochy due to a **critical need**

Home Carer Vacancies

We are a family run home care business based on the Black Isle and are looking to recruit

Full & Part-Time Carers

Pay up to £15 per hour

Mileage Allowance

Pension | Uniform | Training

If you are interested in a much needed, rewarding career,
Please Call us on **07859 795029** or
Email **audrey@edhomecare.co.uk**



Transport while the Trikes are laid up for winter

If you need transport to the Monday Lunch club, or anywhere around Cromarty, we are happy to organise a car and driver for you. Please contact Maxine on 07875 963570

Table Tennis

Table Tennis will re-convene on Monday 8th January.
(Time to work off all those mince pies!)

We meet Monday mornings, 10.30 – 12 noon at the Victoria Hall Open to everyone. All equipment supplied. Entry is free, donations are welcome. For more information, text Simon Evans 07717 172385

Community Playgroup

The Playgroup will re-convene on Tuesday 9th January and continue throughout the school term. Parents and carers with their babies and toddlers are very welcome to join us at the Victoria Hall, 10 – 11.30 Charge: £1.50 per session.

Classic Cinema Club

The Cinema Club will meet at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday 10th January and Wednesday 24th January and will continue on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

For further information, please contact Helen Charley on 07889181529 or email helen.charley@doctors.org.uk

(Supported by the Albert Hunt Trust and the Bank of Scotland Foundation).

Community Sharing Larder News

We are delighted to announce that we have received a “Magic Little Grant” from the Postcode Lottery, which will be used to top-up our Larder fund. We are noticing increased use of the Larder as costs generally continue to rise. This has also meant an increase in our outlay to keep the Larder stocked, so the addition of the “Magic Little Grant” is very welcome. The Larder is also currently supported by the North Highland Initiative and the Corra Foundation.

We still very much appreciate any donations in kind to the Larder – just leave them in the box provided. Toiletries are especially welcome.

Cromarty Allotments

Now the year is new, and we may be starting to think of warmer days and growing fruit or veg, you might be looking for a bit of ground.

The Cromarty Allotments (in the old tennis courts) has a range of different size plots to suit everyone; from keen folk wanting to grow as much of their own fruit or veg as possible, to folk who just want a bit of ground to grow a few things. Tools can be shared, as well as advice and seeds and chat.

There is one plot available right now or you can join the waiting list.

Pop along and have a look - the entrance is beside 'The Kennels' on Causeway or off Reeds Loop (if it gets repaired) - or contact Della Matheson at cagssecretary@gmail.com

Community Development Trust

December was a very busy month, so there's a lot to say - please share this with folk who don't usually see Cromarty Live. Note the key timescales in January and February.

Royal Hotel

The Trust has interviewed potential (building and business) consultants and short-listed some to invite to tender to do a feasibility study. We have liaised with Development Trust Association Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and used our own expertise to make these assessments.

We are now preparing a scope of works as the basis on an invite to tender for the full feasibility study for The Royal Hotel. The brief, invite to tender and supporting documents will be released by mid-January for a return early February. All tenders will then be scored and

assessed with all the received information forming the main body of the application for Scottish Land Fund Stage 1 funding. The application will be made by CCDT.

All being well, this will be submitted by 12 February 2024; and if successful an award will be made by 19 February 2024.

Assuming we get the grant, we'll appoint a Lead Consultant to manage the feasibility study, which will explore potential community ownership, including:

- A full community engagement and needs assessment;
- A historical appraisal;
- Existing building condition report - including building and structural surveys and an energy assessment - and a current building valuation;
- An assessment and valuation of any urgent repairs or longer term remedial works;
- Assessment of the existing business, including a current business valuation;
- Proposed new business model under community ownership and the associated building footprint;
- Feasibility and business planning for this and associated costs.

If any member has the skills to join or strengthen the CCDT assessment committee for the tenders - ideally but not exclusively with a business or building or related background - and would like to contribute to this part of the process, please get in touch.

cromartydevelopmenttrust@gmail.com

Note: This has to be an entirely confidential process and the outcome will NOT be published, until and providing an award is made by the SLF and has been accepted by the successful Lead Consultant.

Note: If the feasibility study shows that community ownership is NOT viable, then we won't proceed.

East Church Hall

A Working group of 3 directors and 7 members held a meeting re ECH and it was agreed:

We'd liaise with the current owners (Highland Council) to do some outside maintenance and cleaning (gutters, weeds etc), hopefully in January.

An open day will be planned for (hopefully) February. We need solid business plans from parties who would be interested in taking over, or being involved going forward, rather than general ideas of what the building could be used for.

As a Common Good asset, it must deliver community benefit and pay for itself. Long lease and asset transfer were also discussed.

Community Campsite

At the time of writing, we have two four-night bookings, around the New Year period - again two couples who plan to support the wider community through their visit - and a couple of single night bookings on different days. And we're almost certain it will fill up further; so please make everyone welcome.

Beyond this, we have been buoyed by bookings made for April, June and September 2024. In short, it's looking rosy at the end of the year!

Even in the darkest winter, it is popular! Every visitor brings money to our town!

Community Groups and Consultation

As part of our wider work, the development trust would now welcome a meeting and / or exchange with all the community groups in Cromarty - ideally at a single session - to understand what your own plans are for your organisation and how our work might integrate with, complement or support your efforts.

Please get in touch if this is of interest to you.

Business Updates

Slaughterhouse Coffee

Happy New Year!! Many thanks to everyone who supported us throughout 2023, it is much appreciated and this wee coffee shop would be lost without our returning and growing community. We look forward to what the new year has in store for us.

The Slaughterhouse Coffee team will be taking a well earned break to kickstart 2024.

CLOSED from Monday 1st to Thursday 18th January

The opening hours for the remainder of January 2024 are as follows:

OPEN: Fri 19th / Sat 20th / Sun 21st (9am - 3pm)

OPEN: Fri 26th / Sat 27th / Sun 28th (9am - 3pm)

From Thursday 1st February, we will return to opening 5 days a week:

OPEN: Thurs / Fri / Sat / Sun / Mon (9am - 3pm)

CLOSED: Tues / Wed

We can't wait for the brighter days and look forward to seeing you soon.

All the best,

Laura & Team Slaughterhouse

Royal Hotel

Happy New Year Everyone from all at the Royal! Thanks so much for your support in 2023 and we look forward to welcoming you in 2024. We will be open throughout January and have lots on to banish the winter blues!

Our current opening hours :

Wed-Sun 11am – late (please note we currently close at 5pm on Sundays, except on Hogmanay when we will close at 10.45pm)

Lunch 12noon-2.30pm, Dinner 5.30-8pm

Closed 1&2 January, open again as normal on Wednesday 3 January.

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.

Hogmanay Dinner...

We still have a few tables available for our Hogmanay dinner on Sunday evening, so why not gather your crew together and join us for a final feast of 2023? Bookings recommended. We'll close at 10.45 on Hogmanay.

Fish & Fizz Fridays are back!

Perfect for a wee weekend treat! Two haddock & chips and two glasses of fizz for £35 on Fridays during January. As a wee twist, 'posh fish & chips' (monkfish tails in batter) will also be on offer.

(Soft drink option available. Available for lunch and dinner on Fridays in January, starting on Friday 12 January).

Scottish Tapas Night on Saturday 20 January...

As an alternative to a traditional Burn's Night, we're having a Scottish Tapas night to celebrate the best of Scottish produce. Wearing a 'touch of tartan' is encouraged! Reservations recommended.

Tasting Menu on Saturday 10 February...

Our Head Chef Denis is retiring soon and this will be his last Tasting Menu. If you've joined us for one of our Tasting Menus before, you'll know what a treat is in store. It's the perfect excuse to spoil the one you love or catch up with friends and celebrate the fact that spring is just around the corner... Reservations required as numbers are limited.

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.

Cromba Community Glass

Thank you to everyone who has supported Cromba Community Glass during 2023 including, everyone who has compoeted a Glass Taster Session or 1 Day introduction to Glass Workshop, to Andrea for all her amazing work on the design of promotional materials, to Chatterbox and Sutors Creek for helping to promote Cromba Community Glass and what we are doing and to anyone else who has had any kind of involvement.

The Gift Cards have gone down a storm and I'm looking forward to meeting new faces..... sessions in January will take place on 11, 12, 13, 21 and 25 January. Also 1 and 4 February. Various time slots are available. I will also be running a 1 day introduction to glass workshop on 18, and 20 January and 3 February. Message me on What's App on 07761 056282 for more details and to book a place or email hello@crombacommunityglass.co.uk

Gift cards are still available – so if you have birthdays or other special events coming up get in touch..... they are still available.

Looking forward over the next few months I will be running special technique workshops and a glass club so watch this space for more details.....

Still searching for a gift for Christmas?
Cromba Community Glass offers gift cards
 Get in touch to gift a glass workshop this holiday season!

Emma Nightingale Glass

Over the weekend of 27 and 28 January 2024 all work will be on sale with a 20% discount..... the studio will be open from 10am - 4pm on both Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 January 2024. We look forward to seeing you..... If you don't live in Cromarty you will also be able to purchase the same pieces on-line.....

Ingrid's House

Thank you for all for shopping local and supporting our wee shop in the run up to Christmas.

We are closed on January 1st & 2nd but open 7 days a week apart from that.

Look out for lots more goodies after our Annual trip to Stockholm in January.

Calluna

SALE now on - we have a selection of gorgeous items on sale up to 50% off. Pop in for a browse, open daily 10-5pm (apart from 1st and 2nd) or check our website www.callunacromarty.co.uk

Wishing all our customers all the best for 2024!

Fishertown Inn

Thank you to everyone who made it along on Christmas Day, it was wonderful to see you all. Dates for the diary:

31st Dec - Hogmanay Party, no booking required, just come and join us.

1st Jan - We are open from 12pm-7pm serving breakfast rolls and plenty of drinks.

25th Jan - Burns Night, please book to avoid disappointment

26th Jan - Quiz night, we see the return of Donald Cameron as quiz master!

Regular events:

Jan 4th & 18th - 7pm-8:30pm Creative writing and Poetry sharing session

Jan 11th & 25th Jan - Music nights (every second Thursday)

Wednesdays - 3pm Knit/Craft and Natter

We are open every day throughout the winter for coffees, teas, lunch and evening meals.

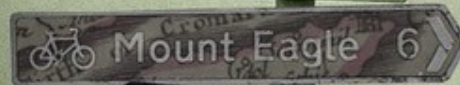
Sutor Creek

We are back open Friday 5th January and then will be open Thursday to Sunday for a few weeks, 10-8pm. Reservations and take-away available by booking online or phoning us on 01381 600 855.

History Society

CROMARTY HISTORY SOCIETY & Friends of Cromarty Courthouse

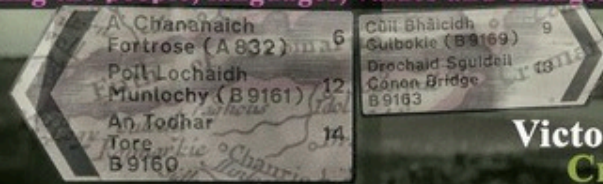
A TOUR BLACK ISLE place names



Speaker:
Sheila Currie

7.30pm Tuesday
16 Jan 2024

Revealing the people, languages, values and changes over time



**Victoria Hall
Cromarty**

ALL WELCOME

NON MEMBERS £3.00 UNDER 16 FREE

www.cromartyhistory.scot

As we go about the Black Isle, do we ever wonder where our place-names come from and what they mean? This talk will take the form of a tour around the Black Isle, stopping to peer at some of the road signs we pass by without a thought; teasing out what these place-names can tell us about the histories of the people who have lived here since these names were first written down. What do the names we give tell us about what was important to the people at that time? Which languages did they speak and how did the languages change? How did that change the place-names over time? Hopefully, you will come away with a flavour of the deep history of the places we whizz past in our car or vaguely notice out the bus window and may be inspired to do your own examining of the many hundreds of local place-names that I won't be able to mention in this talk.

After spells working in Archaeology, Geology, various factories, the Oil Industry, Nature Conservation and

Environmental Management, being retired allowed Sheila to follow her nose and be entranced by what's around her, including (very) amateur history research into this part of the world, where she has lived for 32 years now. She is fascinated by the people who have lived hereabouts since the glaciers receded some 12,000 years ago and what is revealed by the traces they have left.

Special Request

If you were at our September meeting, you may remember a request to consider joining the CHS committee. As things currently stand, there are only 2 members of our committee prepared to continue in their roles after our next AGM in April 2024. All of our current committee have given longstanding service and are deservedly due a rest!

To reassure you, the tasks are not onerous, but without new committee members, the Society won't be able to continue as before. There are other options to ponder, but firstly we really need to know if we can continue in our current format.

Please will you get in touch with me, if you would like to be part of a new committee. My email is:

marybowers554@gmail.com

Cinema

As 2024 is upon us, what better way to start the New Year than with some cinematic magic at your local community cinema!

Some films just have to be seen on the big screen and we have plenty of those on offer – new and a couple of selected classics. The Marvel universe shows no signs of slowing down and the latest offering is the funny and refreshing **The Marvels**, starring Brie Larson. Everyone's favourite mega-reptile is back in instant classic **Godzilla Minus One**, with a gripping plot to rival the spectacular effects. The ever-popular volunteers' choice is back in January and the results of the vote are in – don't miss the chance to see Christopher Nolan's sci-fi classic **Interstellar** on the big screen! Something new for 2024 is a special 'pay what you can' screening with price

options to suit various budgets and adding a bit of Stardust to January would not go amiss!

We're sure a lot of you have been looking forward to the latest Studio Ghibli, beautifully animated **The Boy and the Heron**. Another Miyazaki masterpiece, it's a soaring, soulful and deeply personal adventure in a world where everything is possible.

Of course, we're never short on drama and January brings an eclectic mix so there's something for everyone. **Polish The Peasants** makes use of digi-painted live action (yes, you read that right, it's a must-see!); Totem takes us to Mexico for a bittersweet family celebration; **One Life** stars Anthony Hopkins as British humanitarian rescuing children from the Nazis, and Tchaikovsky's Wife chronicles the legendary composer's disastrous marriage.

We know you enjoy your sporty flicks and this month we offer two gems based on real events. **Next Goal Wins** is the hilarious tale of infamously bad American Samoan football team and their chance at athletic redemption. Meanwhile, George Clooney directs **The Boys in the Boat**, an American University rowing team's quest for Olympic Gold.

For something slightly different this month, the Cinema will be hosting an illustrated talk by Steve Birch. **High Pasture Cave: Ritual, Memory and Identity in the Iron Age on Skye** will take place at 7.00pm Wednesday 17 of January. The event is free - but donations are welcome on the door. Email dfrasmackenzie@gmail.com to confirm your ticket and numbers attending.

Happy New Year from all of us at Cromarty Cinema and here's to a cinetastic 2024!



CROMARTY CINEMA January 2024



Friday 5 January	7pm	The Peasants (15) 1hr 55m Polish drama from same team as Loving Vincent using similar digi-painted technique from the live action.
Saturday 6 January	7pm	Godzilla Minus One (12A) 2hr 04m New Japanese version of the mega-reptile saga, this time set in the aftermath of the Second World War. Fabulous effects and a gripping plot.
Sunday 7 January	3pm	The Marvels (12A) 1hr 45m New sequel from the Marvels franchise, starring Brie Larson.
Friday 12 January	7pm	Totem (12A) 1hr 35m An extended family throws a bittersweet party in Mexican drama.
Sunday 14 January	3pm	One Life DS (U) 1hr 50m Drama depicting true story of Nicholas Winton who rescued hundreds of children from the Nazis. Antony Hopkins stars.
Tuesday 16 January	7pm	One Life (U) 1hr 50m
Friday 19 January	7pm	Next Goal Wins (12A) 1hr 44m Comedy biopic about American Samoa football team, infamous for losing a match 31-0. Can they turn their luck around?
Sunday 21 January	3pm	The Boy and the Heron (12A) 2hr 04m The latest Miyazake film from Studio Ghibli – Mahito searches for his lost mother in a fantastic world where anything is possible.
Tuesday 23 January	7pm	Tchaikovsky's Wife (15) 2hr 24m Russian drama chronicles Tchaikovsky's disastrous marriage with Antonina Miliukova.
Friday 26 January	7pm	Interstellar (12) 1hr 53m The popular Volunteers' Choice returns! Christopher Nolan's 2014 epic sci-fi classic stars Matthew McConaughey and Anne Hathaway among many others. Perfect Friday night big screen magic.
Saturday 27 January	7pm	The Boys in the Boat (12A) 2hr 04 m George Clooney directs in another sporty biopic. This time the University of Washington's rowing team seeks gold in the 1936 Olympics.
Sunday 28 January	3pm	Stardust (PG) 2h 02m A new category for a new year - Special Pay What You Can Pricing! 2007 fantasy adventure with incredible ensemble cast including Michelle Pfeiffer and Robert De Niro. Tristan must collect a fallen star to win Victoria's hand in marriage...

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

The Cromarty Cinema, Cromarty, IV11 8XZ

Arts Trust

We're looking forward to another busy year in 2024!
We're starting the year on 22 January with a block of four classes in Drawing for Absolute Beginners on Monday evenings. Led by artist Dre Huntley, this small class, with only eight participants, is already fully booked. However, we are keeping a waiting list and if we have enough interest we can plan for future classes, let us know of any subjects you'd like covered as regular classes.

Our first performance of the year is on **Friday 9 February** in the Old Brewery, **Turning Pedals into Poems : Open Mic Night**. Cycling poet (and Cromarty Bakery Curry Pie's biggest fan) Caroline Burrows is running an evening of spoken word, poems and stories. Just ahead of the publication of her first book, Caroline will perform her own work and invites anyone who would like to tell a story or read a poem they have written to come along and share it. Doors open 6.30pm, tickets are

Pay What You Can: £6 minimum suggested, but if price is a barrier please still come along.

Caroline is also starting a free, informal creative writing group in the snug of Fishertown Inn every second Thursday, next session is 4 January at 7pm.

The last of **Barbel Dister's super popular pottery classes** for 2024 is happening on **3 and 17 February**. It is already fully booked too and Barbel won't run anymore classes until next winter but if you'd like to go on the waiting list for much later in 2024, then drop us an email.

And finally, remember that we sell Cromarty Arts Trust vouchers for any amount. These can be used for any of our events – a great Christmas or birthday present for the person who has everything! As usual all information and booking details are on our website www.cromartyartsrust.org.uk, call 01381 600354 or pop in and see Nicki or Gail at Ardyne, 19 Bank Street, during the week.

And finally...

Look after yourselves, folks! (Better still, look after one another).

Best wishes,

- 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 Jon Palmer, Jeremy Price and Laura Shepherd.

The Newsletter is currently sponsored by a private benefactor.

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