

CROMARTY NEWS



January 2025

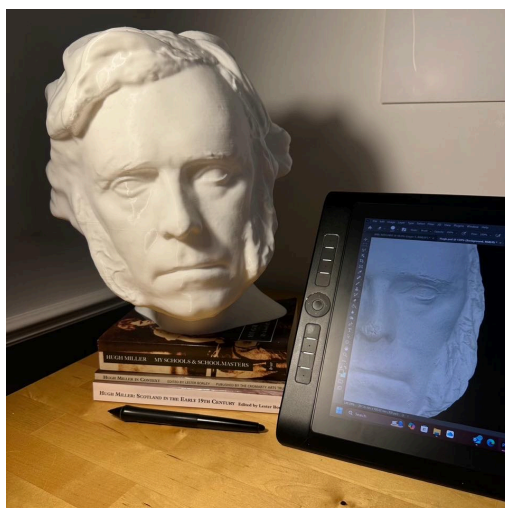
Happy New year (the old Scottish one!) and welcome to the first Cromarty Newsletter of 2025. Let's look forward and celebrate the many positive aspects that make Cromarty the special wee town it is.

Over the coming months, we hope that we can begin to include not only the contributors' updates as previously, but perhaps a few "did you know"-type snippets, burning issues that we can air, or an item of interest missed through the regular contributions. There are so many things of which residents should be proud; not just the innovative, independent shops, but the valuable retention of the post office and library, the businesses, the cinema and many cultural offerings, clubs and organisations, the scenery, climate, a very special Cromarty community... so many things for which to count our blessings!

Hugh Miller's Birthplace Cottage & Museum

Goodbye 2024 & Hello 2025!

A year at the museum



2024 was a busy year at Hugh Miller's and we're keen to keep going!

A big thank you to everyone who has supported us, whether attending some of our events, joining us on a fossil walk, or donating a book to the bookshop. It is always tricky to take over running a place that has been so well looked after for so many years, but Cromarty has been brilliant and welcomed us with open arms. In 2024 we launched our fossil walks, which were a wonderful success and hard to miss with the amazing James leading the groups. We also celebrated Easter, Hugh's birthday, Scottish Geology week and Hallowe'en with many people getting involved. The cottage got a fresh thatch ridgeline, we featured on Landward and got our own NTS podcast!

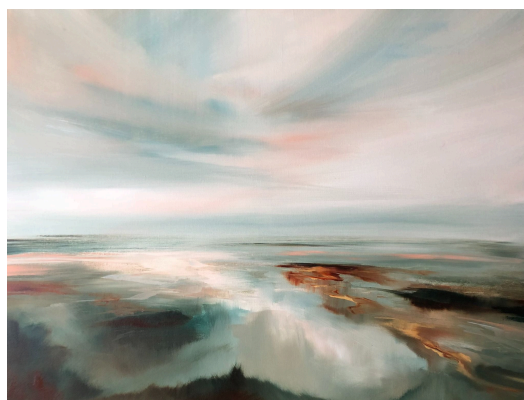
our Facebook page. The museum will be closed for January and February, but we will be behind the scenes getting things ready and preparing a couple of new additions! 2025 is the 190th anniversary of 'Scenes and Legends' going into print, so we have the perfect theme for the year in place. So far plans include temporary exhibitions of art and photos, new interpretation in the cottage, fun science experiments and, of course, the return of the fossil walks! We hope everyone has a fantastic 2025!



[Follow Hugh Miller's on Facebook](#)

Cromarty Arts Trust

January Classes & Events



Happy New Year! The Cromarty Arts Trust has two evening classes in January, both taught by local artists. Dre Huntley is running a six week beginners drawing class on Monday nights and Helena Barnes is teaching abstract landscapes for beginners over four Tuesdays in January. Both these classes are now fully booked but you can be added to the waiting list, just email us at info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk.

We'd also really like to hear what else you would like as a regular class over the winter months so please do email Nicki and I'll do my best to make it happen.

There is lots more coming up over the year ahead, remember signing up to our e-newsletter is the best way to find out about all upcoming events. We look forward to seeing you at our events throughout 2025.

<https://www.cromartyartstrust.org.uk/calendar>

Cromarty Post Office

Has it really been that long?

On February 8th it will be 15 years since I took on the Post Office and what an enjoyable 15 years it's been. Thank you all for your continuing support, cheery chats and tolerance (I hope) of my sarcastic jibes! To mark the occasion there'll be 15% off everything on that day only. Although not official Post Office stuff of course, that would be too much to hope for! Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2025.

The Fishertown Inn

Wonderful Winters at the Inn

Thank you to everyone who's been in over Christmas and New Year. It's been great seeing everyone. Lovely to see the pub so full and lively. Our next quiz is on Saturday the 11th of January, in aid of Medical Aid Palestine. We are working on dates for our next tapas night and will post on social media as soon as we have a date. We are serving **Burns Supper on January the 25th** more details on social media and also our next pub quiz will be on Saturday the 8th February in aid of RNLI



Cromarty Camera Club

Cromarty Camera Club News

[An exciting Syllabus ahead for our new Session](#)

Cromarty Camera Club Members and some partners enjoyed a very sociable end to the autumn session with a fun topical quiz and Social evening in Victoria Hall in mid-December. This marked the completion of a very active and varied session which saw Members engaged in various photographic competitions, outings and workshops, along with enjoying engaging presentations by both Members and visiting speakers. Our Club Meetings will resume on 16th January after a short delay as our first Session of 2025 had to be cancelled due to the freezing weather conditions! The planned Syllabus for the rest of the season includes interesting presentations by

also planned as usual, together with the usual array of photographic competitions, the results of which we look forward to reporting here in the Newsletter.

Our regular meetings are held in Victoria Hall, Cromarty on Thursday evenings at 7.15pm for 7.30pm. New members and interested individuals are always welcome to any Meetings, though do check ahead in case we are planning to be 'out in the field'. Further information is always available on via our website.

Club image displayed is Walkies by David Kent



<https://cromartycameraclub.com>

Cromarty News Vol 1 No 36 Cromarty, Thursday, January 7, 1892.

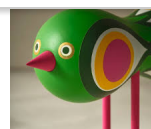
Though by no means severe, the weather experienced in the district this winter was the most changeable on record. At no time have two days alike followed each other.

Ingrid's House

New spring stock



We are still open 7 days a week throughout winter. 11-4 Sunday to Friday and 11-5 on Saturdays. We have new items arriving all the time from Scandinavia including these wonderful bird from Design House Stockholm, so bright and cheerful to brighten up the winter days.



Calluna Home Ltd

SALE

Pop into Calluna and pick up a bargain with up to 60% off items. Clothing, footwear and accessories all included in our January bargains.

<https://www.callunacromarty.co.uk>

Cromarty Pottery

Happy new year from Cromarty Pottery and thank you to all of our 2024 customers! Our shop will reopen on reduced hours this January, to allow Bärbel to have some well deserved time off! January 2025 opening times: Thursday **16th**, Friday **17th**, Tuesday **21st**, Thursday **23rd**, Saturday **25th**, Tuesday **28th**, Thursday **30th**, Friday **31st**, 10.30 am - 5 pm. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2025!

Gallery48

Happy new year and a big thank you to the returning and new customers who visited us in 2024! Gallery48 will be closed for most of January, reopening late January (exact dates tbc). You can keep up to date with our opening hours by following us on social media.

Sutor Creek

Pizza Supper Club, Burns Night & Valentine's

We have a few upcoming events to share with you before making public... we recommend phoning or emailing as soon as possible to make a booking as these tend to sell out quickly! We will require a credit card number to confirm bookings with 50% charge if cancelled within 48 hours.

Pizza Supper Club

Wednesday 22nd January at 6.30pm

A new supper club focusing on our award-winning wood-fired pizzas! Family style seating, endless pizza & salads, all for £15pp. A great way to sample all our pizzas by the slice in a fun, sociable setting! Sides, drinks & desserts available.

Burns Night

Saturday 25th January at 6.30pm

Multi-course Tasting Dinner highlighting the best Scottish produce. Wine pairing optional.

Friday 14th February

Chef Fox has created a Valentine's inspired multi-course menu for this special day.

Reservations available 5.30-7.30pm, £65pp with wine pairing optional.

Phone 01381 600 855 or book online.

<https://www.sutorcreek.co.uk>

Royal Hotel, Cromarty

[What's on at the Royal...](#)

Happy New Year folks!

Thanks for all your support over the past year, it is much appreciated.

We're open throughout January to chase away the winter blues with our cosy fires & warm welcome.

'Fish & Fizz Friday' is back by popular demand! Two 'fish & chips' plus two glasses of fizz for £35 on Fridays during January. A perfect way to round off your week!

Available for lunch & dinner. Booking recommended.

Boozy Brunch...

Enjoy a glass of fizz on arrival, your choice of two cocktails and one of our delicious brunch dishes. £35/person. Great excuse to get together with friends!

Saturday 8 February, 12noon-3pm. Booking required.

Be My Valentine...

We have a delicious Valentine's menu So why not spoil the one you love with dinner at the Royal on Friday 14 February. Booking required.

We're open Wed-Sun from 11am for coffee, cake & breakfast rolls (sit-in or takeaway)

Lunch 12noon-2.30pm

Dinner 5pm-7.45pm (we'll serve later on busier nights)

(Please note - we currently close at 5pm on Sundays).

To book : 01381 600217 or info@royalhotel-cromarty.co.uk

Follow us on Instagram & Facebook @royalcromarty for our latest news & offers.

Did you know...?

We also have a takeaway menu, perfect when you can't face cooking..

We offer gift vouchers for that hard-to-buy for person (they can be personalised for any amount)...

You're welcome to take your laptop, log onto our wifi & catch up with work - perfect for those who wfh & need a change of scenery...

info@royalhotel-cromarty.co.uk

Cromarty Brewing Co.

After a few weeks off for the festivities the brewery is back up and running and we are working hard to make sure stocks are back up for all our customers this month.

Back in stock this month will be Pibroch our wee heavy with hints of smoke. Brewed each year to tie in with Burns Night this is the perfect accompaniment to Haggis, Neeps and Tatties.

We are looking forward to more shows, markets, events and collaborations this year.

The on site brewery shop is stocked up with our new clothing, including pullover and zip Hoodies, long sleeve T-shirts, beanie and bobble hats. Not to mention our posters, magnets, coasters, mugs etc.



Cromarty Cinema

January at Cromarty Cinema

Lights, Camera, Hilarity: New Year, New Flicks, Same Old Fun!

Happy New Year to all our lovely cinema fans! This January, our Cromarty Cinema is packed with an incredible lineup of films that promise to entertain, inspire, and amaze. From epic adventures to thought-provoking dramas, there's something for everyone to enjoy as we kick off 2025 on the big screen

Drama takes centre stage with **On Becoming A Guinea Fowl** mixing dark survivors' humour and heartbreak as a young woman embarks on a journey of self-discovery and heritage.

Families can look forward to the highly anticipated **Moana 2**. For music lovers, **Better Man** takes an intimate look at the life of Robbie Williams. Meanwhile, **Merchant Ivory** is a stunning documentary that fans of cinema history won't want to miss.

This month also brings thrills and classics to the big screen. Brian De Palma's **Blow Out**, starring John Travolta; **Grand Theft Hamlet** reimagines Shakespeare's iconic tale; **Lord of the Rings: The War of the Rohirrim** takes us back to Middle-earth in an animated tale of bravery and battle; and you can't miss **Babygirl**, the provocative thriller starring Nicole Kidman.

Romance and introspection round out the month, with much-anticipated **We Live InTime**; and **A Real Pain** brings the month to a heartfelt close.

Book your tickets now at <https://cromartycinema.com/films/>, the human box office on Thursdays 12-2, or try your luck at the door, to join us for some incredible stories on the big screen. Whether you're looking for thrills, laughs, or heartfelt moments, January's Cromarty Cinema schedule has it all. Let's start 2025 with some cinematic magic — see you there!



CROMARTY CINEMA January 2025

Eden Court
HIGHLANDS

Friday 3 January	7pm	Queer (18) 2hr 17m Adaptation of William Burrough's novel starring Daniel Craig, set in Mexico City.
Saturday 4 January	7pm	The Order (15) 1h 56m Neo-Nazi-hunting 80's-set thriller starring Jude Law and Nicholas Hoult at the top of their game.
Sunday 5 January	11am	Moana 2 (PG) 1hr 40m Disney's livewire teen heroine is back on fine form with more adventures and catchy songs.
Sunday 5 January	3pm	The Apprentice** (15) 2hr 02m Director Ali Abbasi's take on the young Trump's early career in 70's NYC. Trump hates it!
Friday 10 January	7pm	On Becoming a Guinea Fowl (12A) 1hr 40m Zambian-set family drama with events sparked by a woman finding her Uncle Fred dead.
Saturday 11 January	11am	Moana 2 (PG) 1hr 40m
Saturday 11 January	7pm	Better Man (15) 2hr 11m TBC A pop biopic with a crucial difference: the star - Robbie Williams - is played by CGI chimp...
Sunday 12 January	3pm	Merchant Ivory (12A) 1hr 51m Documentary pays tribute to the period-movie powerhouse – perfect for Sunday afternoon.
Friday 17 January	7pm	Blow Out (15) 1hr 48m Brian De Palma's 1981 thriller masterpiece starring John Travolta.
Saturday 18 January	3pm	Lord of the Rings: The War of the Rohirrim (12A) 2h 14m TBC Anime take on the saga, goes back 200 years before Frodo.
Friday 24 January	7pm	Babygirl (15) 1hr 54m TBC Nicole Kidman stars as CEO embarking on an affair with her intern.
Saturday 25 January	7pm	It's Raining Men (18) 1hr 38m A woman turns to dating apps in an effort to refresh her ailing marriage in French comedy.
Sunday 26 January	3pm	Grand Theft Hamlet (15) 1h 31m Two out of work actors during lockdown stage in-game performance in bonkers documentary.
Friday 31 January	7pm	We Live in Time (15) 1hr 47m Time-hopping romcom with hidden depths starring Florence Pugh and Andrew Garfield.
Saturday 1 February	7pm	We Live in Time** (15) 1hr 47m
Sunday 2 February	3pm	A Real Pain (15) 1hr 30m TBC Cousins go back to Poland to pay respects to their grandmother in bro dram. Keiran Culkin stars.

****Screening with Descriptive Subtitles**
TBC – these films are still to be confirmed

Adults £9.50 Under 26 £6 Friends £8

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

<https://cromartycinema.com/films/>

21C Bus Service

Cessation of Service 21C 17:40 – Dingwall- Culbokie- Resolis-Cromarty

Dear Community Council Secretary.

I write to inform you after analysing passenger usage by our In-house Bus service, it has been decided to **cease the following service 21C at 17:40 from the 10th February 2025.**

Monday to Friday

Service 21C 17:40 – Dingwall- Culbokie- Resolis-Cromarty

Total (June - Dec) 8 5 2 1 16

As you can observe the usage is exceptionally low and the cost of running this service is not sustainable and with budget restraints, we must look at more effective uses for the bus.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

All other journeys on this service will remain unchanged.

Yours sincerely

David Summers

Principal Transport Officer

The Highland Council

Cromarty & District Community Council

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 27th January. (None in December.)

Change of email: cromartydcc@cromartylive.co.uk. Linked to our Cromarty Live website domain and is now more secure.

Winter Resilience & Volunteers: The Winter Resilience team has got all the equipment ready for action. We must thank Allan Munro, C&DCC Youth Member and in charge of Winter Resilience activities. SSEN have confirmed funding for this and Emergency Resilience for the next 5 years! Both based at the Victoria Hall.

More volunteers for the gritting team are needed and welcomed. Initial training is given, so please contact us on the email address below.

Minutes Secretary: We need to find somebody to replace Claire Fraser and take over this crucial role. We are investigating other technologies, like AI and sound recordings to help support this position. If you can help, in whatever capacity, please contact us by email.

C&DCC 50th Anniversary: In 2027 we will be celebrating the 50th birthday! The intention is to hold a major gala/event(s) and planning has already begun. We welcome any volunteers to join C&DCC Anniversary Events sub-committee. Please email us!

The C&DCC is always available to the whole community as we continue to represent your interest and concerns of living and working in Cromarty. Please continue to contact us about anything on cromartydcc@cromartylive.co.uk. If we haven't got the answer then we'll find one and will always respond.

cromartydcc@cromartylive.co.uk

A Hot Topic

[The Cromarty News 1891](#)

Vol 1. No. 34. Cromarty, Thursday, December 24, 1891

The road passing the factory is in want of thorough repair. It is to be hoped the authorities will see that this is attended to ere long. The material can be got cheap.



St Regulus - Scottish Episcopal Church

Looking back and ahead

A special treat was enjoyed by many on the 19 December at the annual carol concert. The Community Christmas Choir (under excellent new leadership of Nigel Robson), as well as instrumental pieces, readings and traditional carols provided for a wonderfully thoughtful and meditative event followed by mulled wine and mince pies. During the concert everyone was invited to note down a wish or a hope. We aim to have these wishes on display in the church from February. We invite everyone to drop in to read these and enjoy a quiet moment of reflection on what lies back and ahead. Another exciting event for the Scottish Episcopal Church on the Black Isle lies ahead with the institution of a new rector, Father Alex, on 1 February 2025.

Note of services and other upcoming events:

Sunday Service: 9:45am, St Regulus Church - everyone (including children) welcome to participate or enjoy some time of reflection. Coffee afterwards.

Celtic Morning Prayer: Wednesday 9am (online), please contact Gillian Newman if you would like to participate.

St Regulus Church on Church Street is open most days during daylight hours - everyone is welcome to visit for private prayers, a quiet moment or to simply enjoy the atmosphere of this lovely building.



Cromarty History Society

January meeting - The Countess of Sutherland's Shopping List

This month, the Cromarty History Society will get together with the Cromarty Fourways Club to share a talk given by one of our members, Scilla Aitchison.

Scottish Diaspora around the world in the search for their Highland ancestry.

Her talk will explain an 18th Century Countess of Sutherland's shopping list and its Black Isle connections.

The meeting will take place on **Thursday, January 30th at 2-4pm** in the Victoria Hall. All are welcome and refreshments will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there.



JANUARY 2005 MEETING

Joining with the FOURWAYS CLUB
to hear a talk by
Scilla Aitchison

The Countess of Sutherland's Shopping List



Thursday 30 January
2.00pm – 4.00pm
Victoria Hall, Cromarty
All Welcome

www.cromartyhistory.scot

www.cromartyhistory.scot

Cromarty Courthouse

New Exhibition: Opening April 2025!

'Changing Tides: Cromarty's Firth' in partnership with the Natural History Museum

From April 2025, you will be able to visit our brand new exhibition looking at our relationship with the Cromarty Firth.

In recent years, Cromarty has witnessed a changing energy landscape. Historically, the people of the town relied heavily on fishing, with both men, women, and children employed in the trade. The sea enabled the movement of goods and people. Its energy was central to everyday life in Cromarty.

Well known across Scotland and beyond for the looming oil rigs that dominate the Firth, our community watches an ever-changing energy landscape. Local ports produce green energy infrastructure, yet the rigs are a symbol of the threat of offshore oil and gas. They also act as a reminder that we are not yet through with fossil fuels: the rigs can be called back to work in the North Sea at any time.

This exhibition explores how our use of the sea has changed, and the impact on our home. Discover the historic relationship between town and sea. Explore how this fragile ecosystem has been exploited by our need for energy. And find out what we can all do to help fix our broken planet.



Cromarty's Firth

Opens April 2025

An exhibition in collaboration with the Natural History Museum exploring Cromarty's changing relationship with the sea: from fishing and transport, to trade, defence, and energy production.

Learn about what's happening in our firth, and discover the views of our community about how the firth is valued today. Explore a photographic exhibition alongside our historic collection that tells the story of Cromarty and the sea.



Natural
History
Museum



Cromarty Courthouse Museum, Church St.

<https://www.cromarty-courthouse.org.uk>

Cromarty Care Project

Winter Warmth Grants: Deadline passed for one-off grants. Trustees to be in touch with applicants by end January.

Festive Fun: Intergenerational fun for Monday Lunch Club, Fourways Club and Cromarty Primary School! Presto Theatre performed Aladdin with audience participation!

Supported by The Bank of Scotland Foundation.

Monday Lunch Club: Fishertown provided an excellent Christmas Lunch. Lunch Club re-convenes Monday 13th January at 12noon. Telephone Fishertown to reserve your place before Sunday 12th, 01381 600988. Charge: £3
Would you like to join? Contact Alison:07470 583641.

Classic Film Club:

Two showings this month on Wednesdays, 8th and 22nd, at 2.30pm. Arrive early to avoid disappointment! To join the Club, contact Helen Charley: 07889 181529 or email helen.charley@doctors.org.uk

The Royal Hotel offer pre-cinema lunch at 12.30, book by 4pm on Sunday 19th January, 01381 600217.

Table Tennis meets Mondays, 10.30–12 at the Victoria Hall. All welcome. Suggested donation: £3

Baby/Toddler Playgroup meets weekly from Tuesday 14th January at the Victoria Hall, 10–11.30am. Parents/carers with babies and toddlers all welcome. Charge:£2

Community Sharing Larder: We appreciate all donations, especially toiletries.

Alternatively, to make a financial donation visit www.cromartycareproject.co.uk

CAB in Cromarty: Christine Macdonald, Ross & Cromarty CAB, offers in-person appointments in Victoria Hall on the third Tuesday every month (21st January), telephone appointments available. To book an appointment telephone 01349 883333/email adviser@alnesscab.casonline.org.uk

CAB advice please use link <https://www.cas.org.uk>



Please let us know what you think, and/or continue to send suggestions and ideas for articles to editor@cromarty-courthouse.org.uk

We are grateful to Cromarty Courthouse for providing the digital platforms for the compilation process, and to Plexus Media for their provision for previous editions.

Particular thanks to Jon Palmer for initiating and editing the newsletter for the last 6 years: it's a hard act to follow!

editor@cromarty-courthouse.org.uk



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