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CROMARTY NEWS



March 2025

You normally have to be bashed about a bit by life to see the point of daffodils, sunsets and uneventful nice days.

Alain de Botton



Remember, if you want to get in touch the email address has changed to
editor@cromarty-courthouse.org.uk

Cromarty Public School Opened 1st March 1875

Dimensions of Rooms with maximum number each can accommodate:

School Room	165
Class Room (2)	37 each
Infant Room	<u>93</u>
	332

The two schools met in the Braehead school as a combined school under the School Board - the old Parochial School and the Free Church School - now under the charge of Mr J Buchanan, teacher of Old Parochial School, with two pupil teachers, on which day the number of pupils present being 131 and on the roll 168.

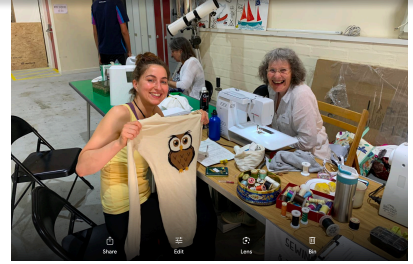
An exhibition illustrating the changes in the school and in education generally over 150 years is being prepared in the Courthouse. More news of this to follow.



Contributor: [Andrew Bathie](#) Year: [1884](#)
Courtesy of Cromarty Image Library

A timely reminder...

Black Isle Repair Cafe Repair Cafe in Cromarty Victoria Hall 1st March 1-4 pm



A walk along Church Street:

Calluna Home Ltd

New Spring Stock & Clearance Sale

Lots of gorgeous new spring stock in at Calluna! Essential Spring knits from £29 and jeans from £44.99. New stock from Sugarhill Brighton in sizes 8-22 now in and a stunning collection of Italian sling leather bags from £45 - definitely worth a look.

CLEARANCE SALE We have been busy behind the scenes preparing for a fabulous **SPRING CLEARANCE** Sale. Coinciding with National Spring Clearance Week, this sale is going to take place on **Saturday 22nd March** 11-3pm at the Victoria Hall. PLEASE NOTE; Cromarty residents only are invited to the **SALE PREVIEW on Friday 21st March at 6pm**. This sale occurs every two years and the private preview is a first dibs for our Cromarty customers. Fizz, Fun & amazing offers is what it's all about. SALE includes £10, £15, £20 and Half Price Rails.

Ingrid's House

Spring is in the Air

Spring is in the air at Ingrid's House: these colourful Hoptimists cannot fail to make you smile. We are still open 7 days a week and the shelves are filling up with lots of new products.



Sonas

Currently closed, but in season selling ice-cream and sweets and has an interesting gallery space.

St Regulus - Scottish Episcopal Church

News, upcoming events and service times

The congregation at St Regulus Church were delighted to welcome Father Alex in February as the new rector for the Black Isle and we have enjoyed having Father Alex taking services in Cromarty since. If you want to find out more about St Regulus and the Scottish Episcopal Church on the Black Isle please visit our new website (link below). The season of Lent is upcoming, which is the period of six weeks (40 days not including Sundays) leading up to Easter, the most important festival in the Christian calendar. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday. The last week of Lent is called Holy Week. In 2025 Lent begins on Wednesday 5 March and ends on Thursday 17 April. You are welcome to join any of the Lent events (see website).

9:00am Wednesday - Celtic Morning Prayer (online)

6:30pm Wednesday - Evening Prayer

7:00pm Wednesday - Holy Eucharist. The Weekday Eucharist will be livestreamed from the following Facebook page (link below).

The Sunday Service is being streamed from St Andrew's (Fortrose) only as there is insufficient Internet connection in St Regulus Church in Cromarty.

St Regulus Church building in Cromarty 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.



<https://www.blackislepiskies.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/blackislecharge>

Cromarty Library

Cromarty Library has a lot going on this March:

Fundraising Week

Our fundraising raffle to help support community libraries is taking place **10th-15th March**, with an array of prizes from Cromarty Pottery vouchers to signed local author editions. If any other local businesses would like to donate a gift towards our fundraiser please do get in touch.

We'll also be running a Guess How Many Books are Stocked in Cromarty Library competition, as well as a book sale. Any donations in exchange for these really help towards the library upkeep and are greatly welcomed.

Bookbug for 0-3 year olds (and their parents/carers). A singalong rhyming session on Mondays 12-12.30pm.

Book Group for adults. The last Tues of the month. 5.30pm-6.30pm. Book choices are chosen and provided by the library for the group to discuss each month.

Poetry & Creative Writing Sharing Session for adults. The second Tues of the month. 5.30pm-6.45pm. Bring along a poem/piece of writing to share with the group. If you wish to receive feedback from others, please provide three copies to hand out.

Photocopying is available in the library at 20p per print.

If any groups would like to consider using the library as a meeting space for free activities, please do get in contact. We are open:

Mondays: 10am-12pm.

Tuesdays: 2pm-7pm.

Thursdays: 12pm-5pm.

Cromarty Library contact details:

Email: cromarty.library@highlifehighland.com

Phone: (01381) 600318

Our library is a precious resource - Use it or Lose it!

Cromarty Courthouse Museum

As we prepare to reopen to the public on **Wednesday 9th April 2025**, we are looking for volunteers to join our friendly team!

There are lots of different ways to get involved:

Visitor Guide: Help make the visitor experience unforgettable! Available in the museum during opening hours. One day per week Wednesday - Saturday.

Gardening Volunteer: Calling our green-fingered friends! Help us to keep our community garden tidy and welcoming. Available ad-hoc.

Admin Volunteer: Put your organisational skills to good use with filing, sorting, and general admin tasks. Available as a remote or in-house opportunity.

Social Media Volunteer: Learn new skills and put your creativity to the test, helping us to share stories and announcements with our community. Available as a remote or in-house opportunity.



If you would like to get involved, please contact Eilidh at:

manager@cromarty-courthouse.org.uk

<http://cromarty-courthouse.org.uk>

The Fishertown Inn

Pub Quiz and Mothering Sunday

We've had such a good start to the year with two amazing quizzes and lots of folk in. We are open 7 days a week, serving lunch and evening meals everyday and tea/coffee and cakes throughout the day.

Our next pub quiz is on the **29th of March** in aid of Fortrose Academy parent council.

Hot on the heels on **Sunday the 30th of March** we are serving lunch and evening meals for Mother's Day.

Please book to avoid disappointment 01381600988



Hugh Miller's Birthplace Cottage and Museum

Grand reopening!

**Birthplace of Cromarty's most famous fossil hunter to
reopen for 2025**

We are so pleased to report that Hugh Miller's Birthplace Museum will be reopening on **Friday 14th March**, and lots of really exciting things have been happening and will soon be happening at the museum!

This year we are thrilled to be putting on display a series of new fascinating objects in the museum. These objects include the artwork created last year by Maria Maclennan, who, through techniques used by forensic investigators, has recreated the faces of Hugh and Lydia, and a gold mourning ring dedicated to Hugh found all the way in South Africa!

folklore stories. To kick off the celebrations, we are collaborating with the Carrick Artists Collective (based in Ayrshire) to bring the Carrick landscape Miller explored to Cromarty in a pop-up exhibition running from **21st March to 4th May**. The artwork includes geology inspired glasswork and fossil inspired jewellery!

And, speaking of fossils, our Fossil Walks will be restarting when we reopen: our first walk is taking place on **Friday 14th March** at 14:00 - tickets can be booked at the museum or on our Eventbrite page. Last year we found 174 fossils including a complete ancient lungfish; can you help us beat this record?

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hugh-millers-birthplace-cottage-amp-museum-33806402821>

Don't forget - if you are a local living in Cromarty, you can get FREE ENTRY to our museum! Keep updated on what's happening at the museum by following us on Facebook - we look forward to seeing you all!

<https://www.facebook.com/HughMillersBirthplaceCottageMuseum>

<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/hugh-millers-birthplace>



Cromarty Community Development Trust

East Church Hall, New Staff, Board member

who heard about the up-to-date situation with the East Church Hall. In short; the Common Good team now demand a Change of Use, meaning they will do a community consultation (asking if we support the change of use), then Highland Councillors need to approve that change, and then a Court Order is needed to make that legal. All this delay means we are unlikely to get the keys to lease the building before Autumn 2025. VERY frustrating! At the same time, we will shortly be submitting a Business Plan to Highland Council. The main purpose of our Business Plan is to convince Highland Council that CCDT is a fit body to take on the ECH AND to include all the possible activities we can think of, so that the new Common Good protection doesn't stop future options.

We welcome Andy Thurgood to our Board. He brings a lot of experience with managing risk and as he is already a Community Councillor, this will bring even closer working with the Community Council.

If you would like to become a member a link to the form is appended here.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc74HORQ7aTCL6wdwL9x1ut5VOom1NBryplc2JbPckIMCVwWw/viewform.](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc74HORQ7aTCL6wdwL9x1ut5VOom1NBryplc2JbPckIMCVwWw/viewform)

Welcome to Hayley Muir, our new Community Events and Marketing Manager, who started this month. She'll be working 0.3 of a week for one year. Her main themes are:

- * Planning and coordinating Community Events in Cromarty (along with volunteers and community groups),
- * Marketing, communicating and promoting these events and other Trust activities;
- * Promoting and marketing the campsite, overseeing and simplifying the booking system; and
- * Building stronger links with community groups, businesses and individuals.



Lots going on in March!

Toad Rescue Day Sat 8 Mar

Led by conservation experts, and your favourite potter Barbel Dister, this hands-on day will teach you how to safely help our toads out of drains and protect their habitats. Morning talk + rescue ladder demo free, Barbel's clay toad workshop £15, booking essential.



Cromarty Ukulele Weekend 14–16 Mar

Ukulele tutor, Finlay Allison leads two full days of ukulele teaching focusing on country music and Scottish songs.

For any non-playing uke fans - Aberdeen's ukulele playing twins Fair Trickit will be launching the weekend at the old Brewery on Fri 14 at 8pm. £14 BYOB,



Furniture Upcycling Workshop

Fri 21–Sun 23 Mar

Got an old chair gathering dust in a shed? Experienced tutor, Maia Eden, will teach how to prepare, paint, and decorate furniture. All materials and tools will be provided. Two full days + one half day workshop £175, includes all materials and paint.

Aud the Deep-Minded, Music Fri 28 Mar

Discover the awe-inspiring tale of Aud the Deep-Minded, a legendary Viking matriarch who defied expectations and shaped her own destiny. This new music and



Wood Carving Sat 29 & Sun 30 Mar

Join Wooden Tom for two hands-on workshops. On Saturday learn the art of spoon carving, a relaxing introduction to creating your own handcrafted utensils. On Sunday, Highland cup carving, make a functional drinking vessel.

Both workshops are led by expert tutor Tom Banks from Aviemore. Tools, materials, provided, all skill levels welcome. £90 each, discount for both days.

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



Local Artist Wins Accolades

Local botanical artist Julie Price has had some recent accolades for her work. She has been asked to become a Director of the Scottish Society of Botanical Artists (SSBA) in recognition of her teaching and work for the Society. She has been tutoring courses in Edinburgh and Aviemore for some years now and will be running one this autumn in Cromarty on behalf of the SSBA. The approach to her by the SSBA came out of the blue and Julie said "This is a fantastic opportunity to promote botanical art in the north of Scotland as well as being instrumental in the future of the

Almost on the same day, she received notification of the publication of one of her botanical illustrations in a prestigious florilegium. A florilegium in this sense is a permanent visual record of plants that are grown, collected, studied and named in one particular area, usually a garden or estate. Julie was commissioned to paint a species of Hellebore (the winter rose), seen here and published in the Florilegium of a large country house near Hungerford, a property where Jethro Tull once lived and with an estate and gardens of stunning beauty.



Julie teaches classes in painting flowers, foliage, seeds, birds and insects in watercolour from her home, Clunes House, and sometimes has spaces available on Mondays and Tuesdays. Beginners are welcome and initially, materials can be provided. If you are interested in joining, please contact her via her website.

www.juliepriceart.co.uk

Cromarty Pottery

Looking for a Mother's day present? We have lots of ceramics in stock that are perfect for the occasion, including these two daffodil jugs. If you are looking for a smaller gift, our range of bud vases start from just £6 and of course we have mugs, bowls and much more to choose from. Don't forget we are also participating in the Toad Rescue Day on Saturday 8th March - further details can be found through the Cromarty Arts Trust website.



Gallery48



Here is some Mother's Day gift inspiration from gallery48 this March.

Whether you are looking for a piece of artwork, jewellery, knitwear or a card by an independent maker, we have plenty to choose from. We also have vouchers available for purchase!

Cromarty Camera Club

Cromarty Camera Club Members have enjoyed an active start to the Spring session with the results of internal Competitions being revealed as noted below and as reported previously. Members also undertook a special visit recently to Cromarty Courthouse which gave the opportunity to experiment with photographic techniques in low light conditions. The most recently judged Club Competition was on the theme of 'Transport' with entries to be made in Monochrome format and as prints. A good variety of quality entries were received and the winning images chosen by our external judge and shown below were:

1st Crowded Conditions by Nigel Atkinson

2nd Up and Over We Go by David Kent

3rd Teamwork by David Kent

The planned Syllabus for the rest of the season includes interesting presentations by visiting speakers, along with Club Members, who like to showcase their images from their varied travels in particular. A number of interesting outings and workshops are due to be planned as usual. Our remaining photographic competitions for this Session; Portfolio and Natural History, are due to be judged soon and we look forward to reporting the results here in the Newsletter.

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.

<https://cromartycameraclub.com>



March madness at Cromarty Cinema!

We don't want to jinx it but Spring is in the air, and so is a fantastic lineup at Cromarty Cinema!

The **Summer with Carmen** whisks us away on a sun-drenched journey of love and self-discovery. For music lovers, **A Complete Unknown** tells the story of a young Bob Dylan, while **To A Land Unknown** delivers a poignant and visually stunning tale of migration in Athens. For something charming, **The Tasting** is a delightful French dramedy. For those craving a good laugh, our very own Bridget is back in **Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy!**

Music, art, and theatre lovers are in for a treat this month too. **Becoming Led Zeppelin** is an electrifying deep dive into the rise of one of rock's greatest bands. **Exhibition on Screen: Dawn**



CROMARTY CINEMA
March 2025



Friday 7	7pm	The Summer with Carmen (18) 1h 46m Two gay friends write a film script in Greek comedy drama.
Saturday 8	7pm	Memoir of a Snail (15) 1h 34m Award-winning animation is a charming tale of troubled twins.
Sunday 9	3pm	Becoming Led Zeppelin (12A) 2h 02m Interviews, performances and rare footage give insight into the origins of the band.
Friday 14	7pm	A Complete Unknown (15) 2h 20m Bob Dylan biopic starring Timothee Chalamet covers the early '60s Greenwich Village period.
Saturday 15	7pm	On Falling (TBC) 1h 44m Scottish-set drama depicts the dehumanising effect of soul-destroying menial work.
Sunday 16	11am	Dog Man (15) 1h 29m Animation based on children's graphic novel series Dog Man and featuring Captain Underpants.
Sunday 16	3pm	A Complete Unknown ** (15) 2h 20m
Tuesday 18	7pm	EOS: Dawn of the Impressionism: Paris 1874 (PG) 1h 32m Story of the rise of Impressionism told by the artists and the press of Paris 1874.
Friday 21	7pm	To a Land Unknown (15) 1h 46m Palestinian migrants face tough choices in Athens-set thriller.
Saturday 22	7pm	Becoming Led Zeppelin ** (12A) 2h 02m
Sunday 23	3pm	Jeanne Dielman, 23 Quai Du Commerce, 1080 Bruxelles (15) 3h 22m Belgian 1975 drama now a cult classic and considered one of the greatest films ever.
Tuesday 25	7pm	I'm Still Here (15) 2h 18m Political drama features an activist coping with the disappearance of her husband in 70s Brazil.
Friday 28	7pm	The Tasting (15) 1h 32m French rom-com features a couple who meet in a charming wine shop.
Saturday 29	7pm	Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy (12A) 1h 58m Latest of the franchise again stars Renee Zellweger and Hugh Grant.
Sunday 30	3pm	NTL: Dr Strangelove (TBC) 3h Steve Coogan plays four roles in stage adaptation of the Kubrick masterpiece.

**Screening with Descriptive Subtitles

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

19th-century Paris. Meanwhile, **National Theatre Live: Dr Strangelove** brings the satirical Cold War classic to the stage. **Memoir of a Snail** is a beautifully crafted stop-motion animation. **On Falling** explores the human cost of the online convenience shopping revolution. In **I'm Still Here**, a family is ripped apart when a father is disappeared by the military dictatorship in Brazil. And if you're up for a cinematic experience like no other, Jeanne Dielman, **23 Quai du Commerce, 1080 Bruxelles** is a hypnotic masterpiece of feminist cinema. Finally, for families and the young at heart, **Dog Man** is here to save the day! As you can see, there's something for everyone.

Book your tickets now at <https://cromartycinema.com/films/> or pop by the box office on Thursdays 12-2 — we'll see you at the cinema!

Sutor Creek

Spring at Sutors

Our menus are changing with the new season - rhubarb, wild garlic, asparagus and artichokes will all feature on our lunch & dinner menus, along with fresh Scottish seafood and Black Isle meats.

Join us in the afternoons for our new cake selection: apple sponge, chocolate & honeycomb, and a GF option will all be available in the afternoons.

We are open Wednesday to Saturday 12-8pm and Sunday 12-4pm. Phone 01381 600855 or visit our website to book a table or order take-away.

www.sutorcreek.co.uk

Cromarty Brewing Co.

We have had a busy February with a new brewery management system in place and a new member of staff joining us.

This month has also seen us brewing our yearly batch of blood orange and earl grey infused Breakfast in Berlin which will be back in stock soon!

We were delighted to be awarded an overall bronze from CAMRA in the Speciality, Differently-Produced category for our Red Rocker. Red Rocker has been a consistently recognised beer of ours and we are so thrilled to see it keep this up year on year.

Our on site shop is stocked with beers, Cromarty Brewing merchandise as well as many Scottish/Local gifts so don't forget to stop in and have a browse.

Our shop opening hours are now:-

Monday to Friday - 10am till 4pm; Saturday - 10am till 2pm; Sundays - CLOSED

Post office End of an era!

As some of you probably already know, both of our lovely posties are retiring this year and will be sorely missed. In rain, snow, gales, floods and occasional sunshine

As the dates are quite close together there'll be a combined leaving collection to be shared between them. If you would like to contribute please call in at the PO.

Cromarty Care Project

Community Events:

Monday 10.30-12 - Table Tennis, Victoria Hall, suggested donation £3

Monday 12.00 - Lunch Club 60+, Fishertown Inn, cost £3. Phone to reserve, or cancel, booking the week before on 01381 600988. Would you like to join? Please contact Alison on 07470 583641

Tuesday 10-11.30 - Baby and Toddler Playgroup, Victoria Hall, suggested donation £3

Wednesday 26th February, 12th & 26th March 2.30 - Classic Film Club, Cromarty Cinema. Arrive early to avoid disappointment. To join contact Helen Charley on 07889 181529 or email helen.charley@doctors.org.uk

The Royal Hotel offer a pre-cinema lunch at 12.30, book by 4pm on Sunday before on 01381 600217

Winter Warmth Grants CCP are pleased to have supported 57 households with winter warmth payments this year. Many thanks to all who applied, and to Cromarty Open Gardens for their generous donation used towards funding these payments.

Community Sharing Larder Huge thanks, as always for your generous donations, please ensure any foodstuffs are within use by dates. If you would like to make a financial contribution please visit cromartycareproject.co.uk

Drivers desperately needed Could you spare a little time just once a month, to give a lift to folks attending Lunch Club or Classic Cinema Club? If so we really need you. Please contact Maxine on 07875 963570.

CAB in Cromarty Christine Macdonald remains away from work so in-person appointments are not currently possible. To book a phone appointment please call

Cromarty Care Project: cromartycareproject.co.uk

Classic Cinema Club: helen.charley@doctors.org.uk

CAB: adviser@alnesscab.casonline.org.uk

Table Tennis Tuesdays

There is table tennis in Victoria Hall every Tuesday usually 6.30pm (sometimes 5.30pm)

If you would like to come along, everyone is welcome. We play for an hour, there are 3 tables available with all that is required to play.

Everyone chips in to pay for the cost of the hall, and to set up and pack up at the end of each session.

Cromarty & District Community Council

New Light from across the 'Water'

News from the February C&DCC meeting

Cromarty is accustomed to the subject of light pollution. Both locally and from across the Firth. At our latest meeting the C&DCC received a presentation from Ardross CC which potentially could take this to a whole new level, or perhaps we should say 'height'.

Your C&DCC is a strong supporter of renewable energy initiatives but we were surprised to hear the detailed proposals for windfarm development in Ardross. They were far more complicated/comprehensive than we had first heard. Proposed are the largest (250m tall) wind turbines in Europe and some within 500m of the Fyrish Monument! But most importantly, all with flashing lights on top (all wind turbines of 150m and over are legally required to have lighting).

this space! In the meantime if you wish to give us any views and/or opinions please email us.

Cromarty Live website - <https://www.cromartylive.co.uk/C&DCC>

email - cromartydcc@cromartylive.co.uk

'One Cromarty' Project

The Community Council is pleased to announce project 'One Cromarty', an initiative that seeks to bring together community groups, with the aim of sharing the best of our collective knowledge, experience, skills and expertise, to generate a Cromarty Community Action Plan, to shape Cromarty over the next decade.

Secondly, it will enable the development of proposals in support of the Back Isle Local Place Plan. A recorded PowerPoint presentation has been shared with 18 community groups. If you are involved in a group that has not been contacted, and you would like to be involved please contact the Community Council at cromartydcc@cromartylive.co.uk

The second stage will be a facilitated workshop, enabling community groups to have a voice in how we develop and proceed with the Cromarty Community Action Plan. It is hoped to hold this either late March or early in April.

Highland Council Visitor Levy Consultation

Have your say

The Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act 2024 gives local authorities discretionary powers to introduce a visitor levy in their area for visitors staying in overnight accommodation.

In case anyone is not aware of this, Highland Council's proposed scheme and its consultation process is explained in various documents by clicking on the first of the two links below. The consultation closes at the end of March and the Council is welcoming the views of all residents, whether involved in the tourism sector or not.

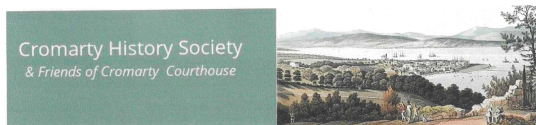
inviting responses to the various questions posed.

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/visitorlevyconsultation>

<https://consult.highland.gov.uk/kpse/event/36571DFB-0F00-4D02-B386-F77464ECE61A/form>

Cromarty History Society

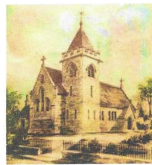
March 2025 Meeting



MARCH 2025 MEETING

Alexander Ross (1834-1925):

the Lasting Legacy of a Highland Architect



a talk by

Calum MacLean

Tuesday 18 March

7.30pm

Victoria Hall, Cromarty

All Welcome

Non-members £5

Under 16 Free

www.cromartyhistory.scot

On March 18th local architect Calum Maclean will tell us about the lasting legacy of Inverness Architect Alexander Ross (1834-1925). We all daily pass buildings designed and created by Alexander, who designed the Hugh Miller Institute in Cromarty, now the Library, and St Regulus Church. He also created the old primary school in Avoch and the farm cottages at Killen.

He didn't restrict himself to Inverness and the Black Isle and his buildings remain all over the country. They include the Bishop's Palace and Inverness Cathedral itself. He had a hand in Skibo Castle and Invergordon Castle.

Calum Maclean is a conservation architect and founder of MAAC Studio Ltd, specialising in the care and management of historic buildings throughout the Highlands, including in Cromarty. He provides advice and guidance to homeowners on appropriate repairs and maintenance. He is the Cathedral Architect for Inverness Cathedral and Diocesan Architect for the Scottish Episcopal Church.

and highlight projects in the Black Isle.

The meeting begins at 7.30pm in the Victoria Hall and refreshments will be served afterwards. For visitors the cost will be £5.

<https://www.cromartyhistory.scot/>

Cromarty Primary School/Parent Council

Cromarty Primary School is 150 years old!

Did you know that Cromarty Primary School is 150 years old this year? It's our sesquicentenary! A year of special celebrations and memory gathering is planned with events spread throughout the year both in school and out.

We want to get all of Cromarty involved in the celebrations, from young to old...more details to follow. In the meantime if you are interested in helping (we would especially love anyone willing to share knowledge and help with website design and funding applications!); want to share a celebration idea or simply want to share a memory of the school please get in touch by dropping us a line at cromartyprimary150@gmail.com.

cromartyprimary150@gmail.com

Faith Mission

You are warmly invited to the 'Hope for Life' meetings held on the second Sunday of each month at 6 p.m. in Victoria Hall.

message from the Bible, and a free supper, including hot food, cakes, and plenty of tea and coffee.

This month: **SUNDAY 9TH MARCH at 6pm** – Yuliia tells her story of how she grew up in Ukraine, the challenges of living in the UK whilst her family remain in a war-torn country, and why she left a career in finance to go to Bible college. Rory Stott from Fortrose Free Church will also share a short message from the Bible. Everyone is welcome.

And talking of ferries...

Kirkmichael recently gave a talk in Kildary, “Ferries of the Firths”. Although this one is past, it does get repeated at different locations round the north, with variations of local interest, the next being at Brora in a few weeks (March 19). But rest assured that it will be back in the Black Isle again at some point so make sure that readers can catch it again!

So, in the meantime, here’s part of a wee ‘ferry-story’, a little more up-to-date, which some of you probably know.

The Voyage of the Cromarty Rose

Martin Wooller had been looking for the ideal boat for beaching operations at the Holm Islands in the Bristol Channel when Cromarty Rose came his way. He says, “This remarkable little ship had been designed by Strathclyde Marine and built by Macrindles of Ardrossan in 1987 for the ferry service between Cromarty and Nigg. Shallow drafted, excellent sea-keeping qualities and specially designed to work from beaches, slipways, piers or jetties, she was exactly what I had been looking for.”

A considerable amount of work was undertaken before she could be certificated for the long journey to the Bristol Channel. The winter of 2009/10 was the worst for 100 years. The cobbled quayside at Cromarty was covered with an inch of solid ice, and so was the ship. To make things a little more comfortable Martin bought a 22ft motorhome to attach to the deck! Ready to sail - but the Caledonian Canal was blocked with 8” of ice at Fort Augustus.

On 10th February ready to depart, came reports of a force nine gale but they decided to run for it to Clachnaharry, where they moored up. Next day they made their way

all over the ship, and there were half-inch icicles on all the handrails. At Fort Augustus we were frozen in and the men had to break the ice to get us into the lock. The ice was so thick we almost came to a stop, but the Cromarty Rose had been built almost like an ice-breaker, although the process made an absolutely deafening noise.”

After many more dramas, they finally arrived in Portishead on 13th March, where Cromarty Rose stayed for a few weeks for the refit to serve as ferry to the Holm Islands.

Courtesy of the Marine Quarterly Journal 2019 and Martin Wooller.

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. Thanks too to the editorial team, Jeremy Price and Richard Robinson.

editor@cromarty-courthouse.org.uk



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