



## Development Trust Starts A Thrift Shop

Cromarty welcomed its latest addition to the number of shops on offer with a special project which will see all the income going straight back into the community.

Rosemarie Hogg writes:

'Holes were boarded-up and filled in, rough floor received a screed, and all rubbish dumped from the old dairy shop. After many hours painting when paint fell OFF the walls and large flakes dropped onto the heads of our poor unsuspecting volunteers, the walls were suitably disguised with old net curtains, LED lights were hung around to bring a bit of light into the room, the old dairy shop opened on Easter Saturday. No fanfares, no pipers, no ribbon-cutting, a low-key start was what we were aiming for; the thrift shop doors quietly opened and the visitors arrived. Luckily there were quite a few tourists around and we had a very busy day, raising £256 for our first effort.

Saturday 27th April was a quieter weekend, with life back to normal, but we still raised £190.20 for funds.

Our trading depends totally on the generous donations of the community, and we are extremely grateful for all the varied goods we have received. But please do not give us your rubbish – we can only 'sell on' good quality goods. Donations can be given to any of the people named on the notice on the thrift shop door.

This venture is raising funds for our community projects, the money stays in Cromarty. Please give us your continuing support. Thank you all, from the shop volunteers.

**The shop will be open every Saturday from 11am to 3.30pm up to the end of September.'**

A massive thanks to the CCDT Thrift Shop team - Rhona Garrett, Chrissie Hogg, Rosemarie Hogg, Irene Mackay, Colin Miller and Nora Watson - and keep those unwanted items coming! Currently they are sorting donations at the shop on Monday mornings from 10am.



Inside the new shop with (from left) Chrissie Hogg, Rhona Garrett and a mystery bargain hunter!

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## Crime To Rise In Cromarty At The Weekend

Everything is set for another thrilling festival starting this Friday (May 3rd) as the town once again plays host to the annual Crime & Thrillers Weekend.

Guest author talks from Ian Rankin, Lin Anderson, Lesley Kelly and Shona MacLean; writing and publishing workshops; book signings and a Saturday Movie Entertainment Night in the Victoria Hall on 4th at 8.00pm with the classic movie, 'Arsenic & Old Lace', complimentary cocktail - Guilty Until Proven Fruity - and fun, visual quiz.

Tickets still available for ALL events! You can purchase on the door. All info on the website: [www.cromartyartstrust.org.uk/crime-and-thrillers](http://www.cromartyartstrust.org.uk/crime-and-thrillers)

### And other events to look forward to courtesy of the Arts Trust

ORQUESTA LATINA DEL NORTE - Sat 11 May, Stables, 8.00pm (doors 7.30pm)

Tickets: £13/£11/£5 BYOB

They started life in Cromarty ten years ago and are celebrating that anniversary with a return gig bursting with Latin hits, R&B and rock covers and plenty more to get your feet tapping or even up dancing! What's not to love about 'the best Salsa band in the Highlands'? Fronted by Cromarty resident, Campbell McCracken, you won't want to miss out on this fun night.

BEGINNERS SEWING WEEKEND - 25 & 26 May, Old Brewery, 10AM - 4.30pm daily. £110

Possibly our most popular course ever! Learn to use a sewing machine and create wonderful and useful items in a friendly, fun environment in only two days.

We can even supply the machine if need be. All materials provided. **ONLY 2 PLACES LEFT!**

DAIMH - Saturday 25 May, Stables, 8.00pm (doors 7.30pm)

Tickets: £13/£11/£5 BYOB

Gaelic supergroup and current 'Folk Band of the Year' come to Cromarty for some foot-stompin', straight-in-the-eye Highland music. A night not to be missed.

EILEEN MACKINTOSH & ROBIN VERSTEEG - Sunday 26 May, Stables, 4.00pm (doors 3.30pm)

Tickets: £13/£11/School children FREE

Black Isle-based soprano, Eileen Mackintosh, and Speyside pianist, Robin Versteeg, present a recital combining the exquisite harmonies of Wagner's 'Wesendonck Lieder' with the romance and mystery of music by American art-song composer Ernest Charles and opera scenes by Puccini. What a lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon!

Please check out [www.cromartyartstrust.org.uk](http://www.cromartyartstrust.org.uk) for all our courses, workshops and gigs. Tickets available for everything right now!

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## Sutor Creek Returns - With An Upgrade

Phoebe Fox writes:

'We would like to thank our customers for their patience while we extended our kitchen at Sutor Creek. We now have a state-of-the-art kitchen (built by Wyvis Homes) which allows us to cater for more customers, expand our menus and train more chefs on our Modern Apprenticeship scheme! In addition to more space, light and room for much needed equipment, we also have a brand new Italian wood-fired oven which cooks our pizzas directly next the flame. Our restaurant was also updated with new colours, furniture, beautiful pendant lighting (created by Cromarty Woodturner Jim Pennie) and artwork from Gardiner & Gardiner Antiques on the High Street.

Our hours are now 12-9pm daily with lunch served 12-2pm, dinner 6-8.30pm and wood-fired pizza 12-9pm. We look forward to welcoming you to Sutor Creek!

Graham & Phoebe Fox and the Team.'



Chef Fox gets a bit more space to flex his mussels!

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# Keeping It Local

Sheila Currie reminds us about the monthly market:

'Transition Black Isle created the community markets to support and encourage local producers and local shopping. We have our own stall as well, with the Swap Stall and the information on TBI and sustainable living. We have energy meters to borrow so you can see how much electricity the things in your house use, also books on a wide range of subjects. If you have items that could be sold, please take them to the Development Trust thrift shop.

We could use more volunteers to run the TBI stall, even for an hour or so. Have a chat to us at the next market!

The next market is Saturday 11th May - 11.00-14.00 (and every second Saturday in the month after that).

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## Season's End

Cromarty History Society has concluded the 2018/2019 season with a talk on the Cromarty Courthouse building right up to the present day and has brought to a close this year's series of eight talks.

Audiences have been enthralled by the knowledge and research shared by our speakers this season - from a deeply personal project by Fran Tillbrook to bring together the history of her former Cromarty home, Rosenberg, to Liz Broumley's thoroughly researched talk and her reflections on the life - and death - of 'local hero' Hector Macdonald.

We have again had the benefit of members of the society talking to us about their interests – we value this greatly and would encourage anyone else who has a topic to share to come forward. We are here to offer any help with this.

The committee is pleased to announce that the next season opens on Thursday 19th September 2019 at 7.30pm in the West Church Hall with a talk on 'Caring for the historic environment in Scotland's National Forests' by Matt Ritchie followed by a diverse range of topics, from the contemporary use, history and folklore of healing wells to an expansive history of Cromarty Harbour.

A warm welcome is extended to anyone who wishes to attend our talks and evenings are always brought to a close with an informal chat over a complimentary cup of tea and biscuits! We look forward to presenting our next talk syllabus, due to be publicised in the summer.

Annual membership of Cromarty History Society for 2019/20 is £10 single & £15 for a family. There is a fee of £3 per meeting for non-members and under 16's are admitted free. The Society promotes the knowledge of the history of the town and parish of Cromarty and is the friends organisation for Cromarty Courthouse Museum.

[www.cromartyhistory.scot](http://www.cromartyhistory.scot)

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## Seasons Begin

The Cromarty and Resolis Film Society opened their new season of films last week with the highly impressive 'Leave No Trace'. The full programme for the coming year can be found [here](#). Become a member and enjoy an excellent range of films - at remarkably good value too!



The sight of flying boats once again created an annual spectacle for onlookers as yachts were lifted from the harbour pound in to the water on 20th April. Image: Jeremy Price

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## Artists' Studios Open

Two opportunities to browse art in beautiful surroundings coming up:

### **Sunday 5th May from 2pm. The Garden Gallery, Firthview, Jemimaville**

Original paintings by Barbara McHardy (Oil and Watercolour) as well as prints and cards. Enjoy the garden and live music by the Strumness Ukelele Band.

### **Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd June 11.00 - 17.00**

Cromarty Open Studios. Lovely, lively artists' studios open around town. Come and peek!

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## More Development Trust News - or not

For the second month running the Cromarty Community Development Trust (CCDT) has to report it expects to hear 'very shortly', whether the application it submitted to the Scottish Government's Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund (RTIF) has been successful.

The indication was that the trust would be informed in April. The latest information, however, is that Roseanna Cunningham, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land

Reform in the Scottish Government has asked to see all the applications. It is therefore difficult to know, when a final decision will be taken.

If successful, it would see up to £400,000 being invested in the community. This would be spent upgrading the slipways to secure the long-term future of the ferry service, and establishing a site for motorhomes at Whitedykes.

Meanwhile CCDT and its project partners Nigg and Shandwick Community Council have applied for grants of £50,000 each from the Beatrice (windfarm) Partnership Fund. Local MSP Kate Forbes agreed to be the CCDT's referee for the application. Kate had asked to be briefed on the project, and came to Cromarty last month.

Some folk have apparently been asking how they can find out what the Development Trust gets up to – the simplest way to know more is to join. It's only £1 and you get full access to minutes of the meetings and regular updates.

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## Planning Consultations

Two important meetings coming up with proposals that will directly effect local residents:

A second public exhibition is being held prior to the submission of marine licence applications for the proposed **East Quay at Nigg Energy Park**. Staff will be on hand to present the proposals, provide an interim update on assessments and seek public feedback.

Marine works will include the creation of a quay wall which will retain locally-dredged infill material; and dredging of sea bed sediment to provide access to berthing in all tides.

The exhibition will be held: Tuesday 21st May 3.00pm – 7.00pm at West Church Hall

There will be a further opportunity to provide feedback and leave comments for consideration by the project team. There will be subsequent opportunity to comment formally on the applications when submitted.

**Road Traffic Management in Cromarty** proposals – a date will be confirmed shortly for a public meeting in early June. Look out for further details on posters around the town coming soon. Please turn up to these events and have your say!

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## And finally...

### Dog Fouling in Play Park

There have been a number of incidents where children and young people have returned from playing in the park with dog mess on their shoes. As well as an unpleasant inconvenience for households this also presents a serious health risk. At the April Community Council meeting it was confirmed that no dogs are allowed on the playing fields. Signs will be erected on the fence in the coming weeks but please take note now.