



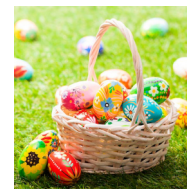
# CRAIL MATTERS



**HAPPY EASTER  
TO ALL OUR  
READERS**

*Incorporating The Kingsbarns Eagle*

11 APRIL ISSUE No. 402 FREE - DONATIONS WELCOME -  
SUGGESTED DONATION £2.50  
WWW.CRAILMATTERS.COM



## Prevent Wildfires



Spring is the most critical period for wildfires in Scotland. Scottish Fire and Rescue is urging the public to be aware of wildfire risk this spring as figures show almost 80% of large outdoor fires since 2010

were recorded between March and May.

Scottish Fire and Rescue is currently campaigning and promoting the prevention message across Scotland, educating people on how to behave responsibly when they're outdoors and how to keep safe.

Further information about the campaign and how to safe can be found on **their website** (<https://bit.ly/4jsS1aR>).

If you have any concerns or questions please don't hesitate to get in touch via:

**[SFRS.Pqinfo@firescotland.gov.uk](mailto:SFRS.Pqinfo@firescotland.gov.uk)**

This photograph was taken at Crail Harbour



Beach on Wednesday evening. Although the fish have now disappeared (presumably with the tide), for this to be on a beach much used by locals and visitors is quite appalling. Would anyone who has knowledge of who did this and why please contact the Community Council or Crail

Matters. (Photo supplied by a resident)

## Easter Reflection 2025 Peter Neilson Beyond Disappointment

Disappointment is a wound that is slow to heal. We set our hopes on a person, and they let us down. We apply for a job, but it goes to the other candidate. We imagine ourselves on an upward career path, but it flattens out to a sullen plateau. We had hoped for so much more from life. Sadness sours into cynicism. It is not the events that have let us down, it is life itself. Life is one big disappointment.

When that poison seeps into our souls, we see life through a distorting lens. Life loses its joy. We manufacture pseudo-happiness in the usual side-shows that distract us from our pain – until they too fail to deliver on their promises.

Disappointment runs through the Easter story. Judas was disappointed that Jesus was not the “strong man” leader to lead a revolt against the Romans. Peter was devastatingly disappointed in himself for denying Jesus when quizzed by a servant girl. Was Jesus disappointed as his disciples deserted him, or was he wise enough to have no illusions?

The most poignant expression of disappointment is in the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, on Easter evening. Their downcast body language says it all. A Stranger comes alongside asking why they are so sad.

They mutter their disillusionment: “We had hoped.....” There we have it. Hopes dashed on a cross. They were disappointed in Jesus. He had not measured up to their expectations of Messianic success and revolutionary change.

The Stranger goes on to describe a different kind of Messiah who “must suffer to enter into his glory”. He reframes their traumatic weekend from disappointment into heart-warming discovery. When they invite him in for supper, in one transformative moment they recognise Jesus, alive and well. He had not disappointed them after all.

Jesus never does. He leads us out of our dark places of dead-end disappointment into an open space of fresh possibilities. With resurrection resilience, he encourages us to dream again with a hope that will not disappoint. May that be your Easter gift.

## Easter arrangements

There are no print copies of Crail Matters available today. Crail Matters will not publish on 18 April (Good Friday). We will recommence publication on 25 April – copy for that issue will need to be submitted by **2.00pm** 23 April.



**VOTES FOR WOMEN**

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**CRAIL MUSEUM & HERITAGE CENTRE  
ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE  
A TALK BY**

**RODDY GREIG  
CHAIRMAN OF FIFE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

**“LADIES,  
WE ARE GOING TO FIFE”**

ON

25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025  
AT CRAIL KIRK HALL, MARKETGATE, CRAIL  
7PM FOR 7.30PM

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

TICKETS £5  
AVAILABLE FROM CRAIL MUSEUM,  
ONLINE AT [WWW.CRAILMUSEUM.UK](http://WWW.CRAILMUSEUM.UK) or ON THE DOOR

**“Ladies, We Are Going To Fife”  
A talk by Roddy Greig, Chair of Fife  
Family History Society.**

*“Theresa Billington and her suffragette colleagues spent three weeks in Fife haranguing the local MP and Home Secretary, Herbert Asquith. He was against the vote for women and was returning to his constituency in Fife only to be met with fierce opposition by the suffragettes who tried to rally support for their cause in his own backyard”.*



Anstruther Philharmonic Society  
Rehearsal

## Fife Coast and Countryside Trust

Bike and walk the Fife Coastal Path with experts from Fife Coast and Countryside Trust this May. We've just revealed 11 free events as part of the Beach of Dreams coastal arts festival. Our team will guide you around our unrivalled coastline, help you spot wildlife, and point out historic features and local heritage. There are various sections, from flat and straightforward, to rocky sections that are a bit more challenging. Please head to our website to book your free places. We expect these to be snapped up, so please book early to avoid disappointment!

Starting on 14 May, our Beach of Dreams journey culminates with a celebration in St Andrews on 24 May. Details to be revealed. And look out for creative events happening alongside our guided walks and bike rides: <https://www.beachofdreams.org/take-part>

Beach of Dreams is a UK-wide coastal arts festival that explores the unique heritage, culture and climate future of our coastline. We are delighted that Fife is the Scottish location for this creative programme. Presented by Kinetika, Beach of Dreams sees acclaimed and emerging artists commissioned UK-wide to create works to help local communities connect with the natural environment.

In Fife, artist Julie Brook will create a tidal sculpture from locally sourced materials, inspired by walks along the Fife coastline and talks with residents and artists. She will also lead workshops with local schools and community groups in partnership with ArtMovesFife.

<https://fifecoastandcountryside.co.uk/events/crail-to-cambo-guided-walk/>

**ANSTRUTHER PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY**

*Spring Concert*

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2025 7.30pm

**CRAIL PARISH CHURCH**  
5 Marketgate, Crail, KY10 3TH

Music from  
**TANGO MASS - Au Arias**  
**REQUIEM - Sir John Rutter**

Directed by Au Arias  
Organ: Andrew Macintosh  
Harp: Eleanor Hudson

**Tickets £12**  
to include programme and refreshment  
from members or on the door

EMAIL - [enquiries@anstrutherphilharmonic.org](mailto:enquiries@anstrutherphilharmonic.org)

 Anstruther Philharmonic Choir

Charity no. SC030614



## The benefits of life with an internet connection

If you're reading this, you're online. "So what?" you might think. "Isn't everybody? You can't really live without it these days." But this week, there is no hard-copy *Crail Matters*. So those readers who depend on the printed version for their update on local issues – either by picking up a copy in the village or by having it delivered by one of our admirable volunteers – will be without it. That seems a good opportunity to reflect on the importance of an online connection, the use of digital technology and how to help those who are currently without these benefits.

Some people genuinely don't want to live a digitally connected life. Others have chosen to use only part of what's available: maybe they have a mobile phone but it's not "smart"; perhaps they have a smartphone but don't use social media. But many people who are not "on the internet" are not on it simply because they are scared of what might go wrong, and/or feel that they aren't smart (!) enough to learn how to use it.

I have a very elderly friend whose flat is a treasure trove of theatre, opera and ballet programmes (the paper type, that is), flyers from hundreds of different performances he's attended, books (of course!) on actors, drama, the circus, etc. and collections of CDs, VHS pre-recorded videos and vinyl audio recordings. And by and large, he can still access these rather dated mementoes of a long-standing and continuing interest in performance. Very recently, however, he confided in me that he has acquired an iPad. I don't know why, or how, or where; these nuggets of information are to be shared when we next meet for lunch, in a few weeks' time. He is wary, but I am pleased for him, and I know he has good friends, more local to him than I am, who will help him explore the delights awaiting him online.

Do you know somebody – probably elderly – who "just can't be bothered with all that", but who might actually benefit from, and enjoy, being online? How might you encourage her or him to take those first steps?

Well, having you beside them as a guide will help immensely. You can't be there all the time, though, and many of us like time to think things over before we commit to them. Some of us like to do our research before committing to a new venture. If you're thinking of taking this further, look at the wonderful Age UK website:

<https://bit.ly/4i6ZPy0>

As well as ten Digital Instruction Guides which can be downloaded and printed out (in whole or in part), there are a couple of short videos from elderly users of digital technology. One – Dereck – has kept up with technology developments all his life, and now helps others with life online. "They love it once they're on," he says. Another features Jean, who lives with Parkinson's, and explains very naturally how she uses video calls and WhatsApp to exchange news and photos with her family; internet shopping to have groceries delivered to her door (as she finds supermarkets very tiring); catch-up tv and headphones so that she and her husband can watch different things at the same time; Alexa to remind her when to take her 3-hourly medication, play music and – in the event of an accident – call her daughter; and a Kindle (e-book reader) to enjoy some 120 books, which she's now reading for the third time, because she can now read texts without the weight and dexterity involved in dealing with hard-copy novels. She also takes part in Pilates classes online – something she would never do in real life – and has had her medication reduced by her GP as a result of the benefits accruing from her Pilates activity.



The Digital Instruction Guides cover everything from *Choosing your device* to *Staying safe online*, via *Making your device easier to use*, *Sending and receiving emails* and *Accessing local services*.

There is also a *Glossary of online terms* – invaluable for anyone coming late to the ongoing party which is life online.

"I couldn't live without it now," Jean says in the video clip. Perhaps you could help someone like her to discover the benefits of access to the internet.

**9 in 10**  
people survive bowel  
cancer if diagnosed at  
the earliest stage



## Bowel Cancer Awareness Month

April is Bowel Cancer Awareness Month, a fantastic annual opportunity to raise awareness of bowel cancer, the fourth most common cancer in Scotland.

The earlier bowel cancer is spotted, the more treatable it's likely to be. In fact, more than 9 in 10 people survive bowel cancer when it is diagnosed at the earliest stage.

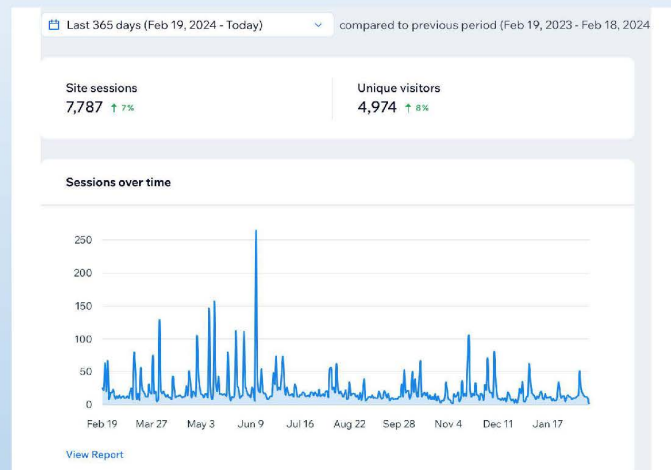
For further details go to <https://www.bowelcanceruk.org.uk/>



## Crail.Info - Advertising Opportunity

We began work on [www.crail.info](http://www.crail.info) in 2020 and the site has gone from strength to strength, attracting more and more visitors, which is due to interesting and up-to-date contents. In the last year we had nearly 8000 site sessions (up by 7%) and just under 5000 unique visitors (up by 8% to the previous period).

As a result, a wide range of local businesses are benefitting already from their feature on [crail.info](http://crail.info) and are reaching new customers throughout the year.



***We are now offering additional businesses the opportunity to become part of this exciting venture at the low cost of £15 per year.***

The fee allows us to cover website running costs. We are keen to continue to help to promote our town, events, attractions and businesses to a wider audience and to provide a well-used source of information for Crail.

***If you are interested, please email [crailcommunityhall@gmail.com](mailto:crailcommunityhall@gmail.com)***

### ATTENTION ALL BOOKWORMS

I'm planning to be at the Easter Fayre in the Community Hall **19-20 April, 11am - 4pm, both days**. My books will be in the smaller hall at the back which means desperate book addicts are not stampeding through the main hall 5 seconds before opening time and rummaging under other stallholders' tables hoping to find the latest Elly Griffiths - you can avoid the steps, and rush through the side doors to get first pick of bargains. I plan to bring fresh stocks on the Sunday (unless overwhelmed by dozens of locals who insist on helping with transport on the first morning!). In spite of inflation, I shall be selling all pre-loved volumes at £1 and hope to see the Usual Suspects as well as those just passing to say "Happy Easter". There is no obligation to buy anything, you can just have a bookish blether or browse: Adult fiction and nonfiction, children's, some published nearly 100 years ago, some hot off the press. If you don't like books, there are always plenty of other interesting stalls in both halls. I look forward to seeing new and regular customers, locals, visitors, fellow stallholders and - as always - hold a special place in my heart for those who really reckon they don't like books.

*Ruth Redfern*

# WILD CRAIL



Photos: Black redstart Will Cresswell, Northern wheatear, Blackcap John Anderson

There was a black redstart back in Roome Bay this week. It was found last Sunday (6<sup>th</sup>) and I caught up with it late morning on the 7<sup>th</sup>. A female or immature male – dark blueish grey with a bright red tail. And doing what black redstarts always seem to do in Roome Bay. Flycatching from the rocks behind the beach and along the cliffs, moving from below the play park to Sauchope and back. Despite the cold day, it was warm in the sun, and it brought out the seaweed flies, so the redstart was busy refuelling. It will be on its way to its breeding grounds in northern, mainland Europe, after its detour with us. There are only about 150 black redstart pairs that breed in the UK and pretty much none of them are in Scotland; opposite us in Germany, Denmark and Sweden they are everywhere. A common town bird, as common as robins are in Edinburgh. Why we don't have them is probably a climate thing – just not hot, long enough summers. So we might perhaps expect black redstarts to colonise in future.

There were some more migrants about on the 7<sup>th</sup>. I went round the corner of Roome Bay and immediately bumped into three sand martins flying around the headland. Hopefully scoping out the sandy soil there. It is not a sure thing having breeding sand martins in Roome Bay, but every few years it happens. Then at Balcomie Caravan Park, I flushed a woodcock spending the day under a hedge. I hardly ever see woodcocks on their way back to Europe or Russia in the spring. They are much more obvious arriving in the autumn. Probably because they can't plan the timing of the end of their journey, especially after a long flight over the North Sea, and so arrive in daylight, and pitch down in the first bit of cover they can find. Usually Kilminning. But in the spring, they can leave when conditions are perfect and with everything under their control. Hiding under a random Crail hedge because things have gone a bit wrong will be much more unusual.

In the afternoon of the 7<sup>th</sup> I had two more migrants. My first barn swallow, powering along the coast over Nethergate. Flying as fast and direct as you ever see a swallow. And then my first blackcap in the middle of Crail (I heard one singing in St Andrews the day before). The floodgates are opening, and we should expect many more migrants in the next week, especially with a warmer weekend forecast.

There was no sign of the black redstart at Roome Bay on the 9<sup>th</sup>. But there were other migrants to be found. My first northern wheatear on the Crail patch on the golf course at Balcomie and then four sandwich terns flying steadily to Fife Ness (and I guess round the corner further north) at Sauchope. But best of all was a flock of about 20 sand martins hawking over the pond at Kilminning. The new pond is adding a lot of insect life to the site, making it more attractive as a stopover for migrants.



**Black Redstart**



**Wheatear**



**Blackcap**

## From the Newbie

### From the Newbie

This week is snippet week:

I read that the Eden Project (Cornwall) is losing money and laying off staff – loss of £1.5 million. This should be of concern to our neighbours in Dundee who have given planning permission for an ‘Eden’ offshoot in an area that needs regeneration. That type of investment would need a shed load of public money. I loved the original Eden project, but I hope that there is careful scrutiny about public money going into this project given that the ‘original’ Eden is supposed to be backing this financially. I would suggest caution on this one.

\*

Fife council are looking at the potential for a ‘tourist levy.’ I pay a tourist tax/levy regularly when visiting overseas and don’t really think of it. However I notice that Fife council won’t reach a decision until August 2026 “at the earliest”. Plenty of opportunities for lots and lots of meetings.

\*

As a new resident of the ‘royal burgh’ – is that the politically correct title or is it village or town or what? Answers on a postcard. Talking of which I am glad to see that you can still buy postcards in Crail. There is something thoughtful about the entire process of postcard writing. There is the selection of the card. The writing. The stamp (way more expensive than the postcard). Whilst I do use Instagram it feels to me there is something more personal about showing you have taken the time to sit and actually write. My handwriting was never that great to be honest and even worse now due to the lack of practice. Some years ago Finland phased out handwriting lessons and focused on keyboard skills. Some research indicates

there is greater memory recall and spelling when one writes than just typing. No doubt the debate will continue and I will keep scrawling my postcards.

\*

I like to have a goal to keep myself fit(ish). I mostly run and have my first race of 2025 in two weeks. It is on the same day as the London marathon. That is pretty much where the similarities end. First of all there is the distance - my 15 miles compared to the 26.2 of London. The runners in London will pass close to various iconic landmarks – Cutty Sark, Tower Bridge, Big Ben, and Buckingham Palace. Meanwhile I will pant my way up Ballochbuie pine forest and in the distance see Balmoral Castle. Ta-da. So, there is a connection after all. Yes, that’s right I ran London in 2016 (don’t you hate show-offs).

\*

I got up at 6:30 in the morning this week and watered our garden that awaited 36 rolls of turf. Is it a sign of aging that you get excited about turf? Hover mower, crisp edges, aeration, and fertilisation – getting to fever pitch now...and calm.



We found that as the garden is not rectangle in shape but has lots of curves, we had to do a lot of cutting of our beloved turf. Cutting turf is arduous work, especially as the edge cutter we bought did not do the job. After debating whether to go and buy a new implement we decided to try our large serrated edged bread knife. It was a ‘bammy’<sup>1</sup> (gettit) idea but worked a treat.

<sup>1</sup> flatbread from Jamaica



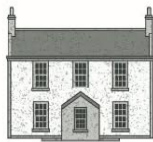
## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### Delivery driver required

- Local flower farm is looking for a delivery driver
- This is a part time, seasonal role that would perhaps suit someone who is retired or semi-retired
- We need someone who is flexible, reliable and comfortable driving a medium sized van
- For more information, please contact [sarah@keepingtheplot.co.uk](mailto:sarah@keepingtheplot.co.uk)



## We are Recruiting!



**THE INN**  
AT KINGSBARNES

As we are gearing up for the summer season it is recruitment time at the award-winning Inn at Kingsbarns! Please get in touch if you have the skills for the following positions and would like to join our small friendly team.

Assistant Manager  
30hrs per week

Food Server/Bar Person  
Approx 20hrs per week

Kitchen Assistant  
Approx 20hrs per week

Housekeeper/Room Attendant  
Approx 20hrs per week

Further seasonal posts available  
From May onwards

For further information or to apply please email your CV to  
Mark Lewis, General Manager  
[gm@theinnatkingsbarns.co.uk](mailto:gm@theinnatkingsbarns.co.uk)



### Job Opportunity: Assistant Editor – Crail Matters

Crail Matters is looking for a dedicated **Assistant Editor** to join our team! If you're passionate about community journalism, have strong editorial skills or want to learn those skills, and want to make a difference in Crail, this could be the role for you.

#### About the Role:

As **Assistant Editor**, you will support the editorial team in producing high-quality, engaging content for our weekly publication. Your responsibilities will include:

- Writing/editing material as appropriate
- Assisting with content planning and editing
- Proofreading and ensuring accuracy in articles
- Coordinating with contributors and community groups
- Helping to manage layout and distribution

#### What We're Looking For:

- ◆ Strong writing and editing skills
- ◆ Excellent attention to detail
- ◆ Ability to work independently and meet deadlines
- ◆ Passion for local news and community engagement

This is a **volunteer role** with a chance to gain valuable editorial experience while contributing to a vital local publication. We will provide expenses as appropriate.

**Interested?** Contact us at [crailmatters@gmail.com](mailto:crailmatters@gmail.com) for more details!



# RAIN OR SHINE GARDENING

Your local Fife full-service boutique gardening firm. Our team has an in-house garden designer, certified tree surgeon, qualified greens & lawn remediation specialist, and horticulturalist.

Day rates for services available upon FREE consult.  
Tree surgery rates highly competitive.  
Let us transform your outdoor space!



Call Us : 07485744789



[www.facebook.com/rainorshinefife](http://www.facebook.com/rainorshinefife)



*Choir rehearsals at 7.30 every Monday evening in Crail Church Hall.*



### Bin Collections.

Online collection calendars have been updated, so please check yours to confirm your next scheduled collection here:

[www.fife.gov.uk/bincalendar](http://www.fife.gov.uk/bincalendar) For more information on recycling and what can be recycled in your brown bins, visit: <https://link.eastne.uk/bins>

### Bin Collections Crail

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 Food and Garden Waste / Brown Bin, Landfill / Blue Bin  
Tuesday, April 22, 2025, Paper and Cardboard / Grey Bin  
Tuesday, April 29, 2025 Food and Garden Waste / Brown Bin, Landfill / Blue Bin

### Kingsbarns

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 Paper and Cardboard / Grey Bin  
Tuesday, April 22, 2025 Food and Garden Waste / Brown Bin, Landfill / Blue Bin  
Tuesday, April 29, 2025 Cans and Plastics / Green Bin

**Revised Deadline for Submissions.** Due to increased workload, the deadline for submissions has been moved to Wednesday at 14:00. We kindly ask all advertisers to adhere to this updated deadline.

**Exciting Design Update:** Stay tuned for our fresh new design, launching in the first issue after Easter!

## Community

### Kingsbarns

Reference	Address	Proposal	Date Registered	Applicant	Agent	Comments Expiry Date
25/00776/TCA	17 Bells Wynd Kingsbarns St Andrews Fife KY16 8SP	Dismantling of 24ft Cypress tree and reduction of 32ft Beech tree within conservation area	02/04/2025	Mrs Robie 17 Bells Wynd Kingsbarns St Andrews Fife KY16 8SP	Mark Edward 11 Danskin Place Strathkinnness, St Andrews Fife KY16 9XN	

### Royal Burgh of Crail and District

Reference	Address	Proposal	Date Registered	Applicant	Agent	Comments Expiry Date
25/00960/FULL	23 Carr Crescent Crail Anstruther Fife KY10 3XR	Single storey extension to rear of dwellinghouse	02/04/2025	Mr Mrs Ferguson 23 Carr Crescent Crail Anstruther Fife KY10 3XR	Mark Mclelland 3 Haig Place Windygates United Kingdom KY8 5EE	30/04/2025
25/00507/LBC	2 Castle Street Crail Anstruther Fife KY10 3SQ	Listed Building Consent for installation of replacement windows	31/03/2025	Sarah Mills 20 Faraday Road Glenrothes United Kingdom KY6 2RU	Steven White 18A Rothesay Place Edinburgh Scotland EH3 7SQ	01/05/2025

### Report potholes or pavement faults

If you are aware of any potholes or pavement faults, you can report them to Fife Council using this link - <https://bit.ly/3EbiwSP>

### Road Gritting

If you are concerned at all about road gritting, or wish to report a problem (with a grit bin for example) go to this web address <https://bit.ly/42tDJRZ>.



## Kingsbarns Community Benefit Society

### Share Offer 2025 Opening

We were excited to announce recently that we have reopened our share offer! Our first share offer ran from April to November 2024 and raised over £40,000 to help get the Inn up and running as a community hub.

Thank you so much to all those who bought shares or donated - thanks to you and a core of dedicated volunteers and staff, the Inn is doing well, and we have run a series of highly successful community events. Additionally, we are well on our way to honouring our agreed aim – supported by the village – to have a café and shop on site.

There are, undeniably, challenges ahead to make this happen: we need to do extensive repairs and maintenance to the roof, windows, and stonework, with an estimated cost of £85,000.

The team is working hard to source grant funding for a number of these challenges, but we need the community – both local and further afield - to get behind the project once more.

*Shares cost £25 for residents, and £50 for non-residents. Residents of the village only need to buy a minimum of one share and non-residents a minimum of two. Existing shareholders may also add to their shares if they wish.*

If you have not already bought shares, please consider doing so and apply using this form <https://bit.ly/4c8Sn3Y>.

## I Anee Kent A Man...

I don't believe he ever came to Crail but he was certainly well travelled, his name was John Ritche Cargill. As a child in the 1950's, I remember him walking around the village of Gourdon or standing chatting to the fishermen on the pier. Well, what's so strange about that? You're probably thinking that this was a common sight around fishing harbours but he was an extraordinary man. Here is why:

One of 5 siblings, John "Sergeant, Sarge or Serge" Cargill was born in Gourdon, Kincardineshire on the 6 July 1892. After leaving school he worked on a succession of fishing boats, until the 9th February 1912, when he signed up to the Cunard Line as a quartermaster (helmsman) on the Carpathia.

On April 14th 1912 the Titanic hit an iceberg, south of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. The Carpathia responded to the distress signals and was the first ship on the scene, but it took four hours to reach the area: by this time, the Titanic had sunk beneath the waves, putting 1,500 lives in jeopardy.

Along with the crew of the Carpathia, John Cargill set about rescuing passengers from the lifeboats of the Titanic and from the sea. He described the scenes he witnessed:

*"It was pathetic. People were dressed in everything from fur coats to pyjamas. We saw a man in the water clutching two children - a boy and a girl. They had frozen to death."*

Sacks were lowered for the children and babies to haul them aboard. One of the children was reunited with John, many years later.

That night John and the crew of the Carpathia rescued: 202 first class passengers; 115 second class passengers; 178 third class passengers; 4 Officers; 206 members of the Titanic crew.

The survivors were taken to New York, bodies were buried at sea, and the Carpathia resumed her journey. After the tragedy, John Cargill and the rest of the crew received a medal for their part in the rescue, known as the Titanic Medal.

John ended up fighting in the trenches of France during the First World War, and was promoted to the rank of sergeant - which resulted in him receiving his well-known nickname of "Sarge." He received a Gallantry Card for heroism on the battlefield and the Military Medal.

During WWI he continued working at sea and during that time earned the **nickname** "Sergeant," which persisted for the rest of his life. He became a sergeant in the Black Watch and was awarded the Military Medal. During WWII he again served with distinction and was awarded the DCM.

After the War, John went back to sea and worked as a fisherman, and when the Second World War broke out in 1939, he became a leading seaman in the Royal Navy. He was based at Dover on the minesweeper HMS Clythness, and won the Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) for his part in the blockade of Zeebrugge in Belgium. He was also involved in the evacuation from Dunkirk. He returned to his native Gourdon and worked as a fisherman, and died in 1980. In 1979 Brian Johnston brought the BBC programme "Down Your Way" to Gourdon and Bervie. During the programme John Cargill was interviewed and he gave a fascinating first-hand account of the Titanic rescue and his life in the Black Watch. A recording of the interview is available here:

<https://bit.ly/3XUcRaN>

I still find it hard to believe that I once knew a man with a connection to such an historic event.

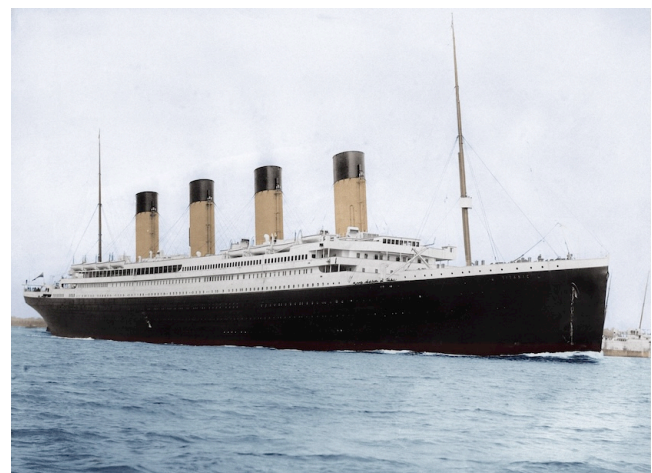
<https://www.maggielaw.co.uk/the-titanic-connection>



Carpathia



John Cargill wearing his Carpathia medal and service ribbons, with his wife Mary.



Titanic

# Easter Fayre

**19 & 20 April**  
**11 am - 4 pm**  
 Crail Community Hall  
[www.crailcommunityhall.co.uk](http://www.crailcommunityhall.co.uk)

Don't miss out on the Easter Weekend Craft Fayre, featuring loads of interesting stalls. Among them some old favourites and first-time participants. We'll have textiles, sea-glass and beach-craft, cards, paintings and print, soaps and scented wares as well as food and drink, and Whoopie Bakes from St Andrews running the Café. Some of the latest artworks from the Crail Primary School Children will be on display, too. Make sure your Easter walk will bring you past Crail Community Hall.

*Visit our Craft and Food Stalls and enjoy some refreshments in our Cafe*




## EXPLORE CRAIL!

Take a walk with one of our Knowledgeable Guides on a Sunday Afternoon

**13 and 20 April,  
 4 and 25 May,  
 1 June to 19 October**

**MEET AT THE MUSEUM  
 2.15pm for 2.30pm Start**

**TOUR LASTS 1.5-2 HOURS**

**Adults - £5: Young People (10-17 years) - £3  
 Children under 10 - Free**

Tickets are available online at [www.crailmuseum.uk/walks](http://www.crailmuseum.uk/walks)  
 Or from the Museum Shop






## Did you know?

**Badminton, Pickleball and Table Tennis**  
 are available for private hire sessions at Crail Community Hall

	1 hour session	2 hours session
<b>Badminton</b> Large Hall	<b>£20</b>	<b>£35</b>
<b>Pickleball</b> Large Hall	<b>£20</b>	<b>£35</b>
<b>Table Tennis</b> Small Hall	<b>£15</b>	<b>£25</b>

For enquiries and bookings please email  
[\*\*crailcommunityhall@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:crailcommunityhall@gmail.com)

Hire fees include equipment for up to four people and insurance

## Stagecoach to launch new bus service connecting St Andrews to Edinburgh Airport

The JET 787 route will operate between St Andrews and the airport terminal building from May 5. The daily service will run up to every two hours. It will also stop in Guardbridge, Cupar, Auchtermuchty and Kinross.

[Stagecoach](#) estimates a full journey time of around 90 minutes. The bus operator expects JET 787 bus times and ticket information to be available later this month.

A [JET 747](#) service from Halbeath Park & Ride already operates a 24/7 service up to every 20 minutes.

## Crail Rowing Club Cheese & Wine



**Friday 11th April 7.30pm**  
**Crail Town Hall**

Tickets @ £10.00  
Available at Green's or online at  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/crail-rowing-club](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/crail-rowing-club)

PITTENWEEM COMMUNITY LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CENTRE

### SPRING 2025 EVENING TALKS

#### CEREAL OFFENDER:

STORIES FROM THE STRUGGLE AGAINST ULTRA-PROCESSED FOOD

**Andrew Whitley, baker, writer and founder of Scotland The Bread**



**THURSDAY 24 APRIL**

Doors open 7pm, talk starts 7.30pm  
Tea and biscuits included in the ticket price

**Coastline Community Church**

21 Session Street, Pittenweem KY10 2QL

**Tickets: £6** available from the Library

Opening hours: Mon & Wed 2-5pm; Fri & Sat 10am-1pm

Pittenweem Library Cove Wynd, Pittenweem KY10 2LE

WEB: [pittenweemlibrary.org.uk](http://pittenweemlibrary.org.uk) EMAIL: [library@pittcllc.org.uk](mailto:library@pittcllc.org.uk)

FACEBOOK: @pittcllc

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Charity number SC047013



## SPANISH CLASSES

**CRAIL  
COMMUNITY HALL**

St Andrews Road, Crail, KY10 3UH

Wednesdays  
18.30–20.30  
Starting 23/4/25

[marchandospanish.co.uk](http://marchandospanish.co.uk)

## CRAIL HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE

### Drivers Wanted

If you could spare an hour or two every now and then to help out someone in need get to a hospital appointment please call:

01333 451165

## WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DOUGH MAKES: STORIES FROM A PIONEER ON THE FRONTIER OF NATURAL FOODS

**Andrew Whitley, baker, entrepreneur, writer and founder of Scotland The Bread gives the second talk in Pittenweem Community Library's spring series on 24 April**

Andrew Whitley loves a bun and a pun: 'Knead to Know More' and 'Flour to the People' are two more examples beloved by this man on a mission to grow, harvest and mill the best flour in Scotland. Andrew left a career as a producer in the BBC Russian Service to found one of the first UK organic bakeries in Cumbria. For more than twenty years he was the only commercial baker using renewable energy. His flour, grown and milled in Fife since 2017, is the flour of choice for winners in the Scottish Bread Championships.

# Coastline Friendship Club



All welcome for homemade soup,  
a cuppa and a blether!

Meets every fortnight on a Friday  
11.30-1.30pm  
Crail Community Hall

Next dates: 25 April  
9 & 23 May  
6 June



Coastline Community Church SCIO  
21 Session Street, Pittenweem  
[www.coastlinechurch.org.uk](http://www.coastlinechurch.org.uk)  
01333 312041 • Charity no. SC052258

## Social Security Scotland - Carer Support Payment income threshold increase

The earnings limit for **Carer Support Payment** will increase from £151 to £196 a week from 01 April 2025. This means that a carer can earn £45 more a week, after tax, National Insurance and other expenses, and be eligible for the payment.

To receive Carer Support Payment carers also need to be providing 35 hours or more of care a week to someone who receives a disability benefit.

The change could enable more unpaid carers earning a take home pay of £10,192 or less a year, to access the additional support of £83.30 per



Social Security Scotland  
Tearainteachd Shòisealta Alba

## CRAIL HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE

Do you ever need transport to/from a medical appointment?

If you unable to drive yourself or can't use public transport then CHOCS can help. Just call

01333 451165

Fife www.fife.gov.uk/cafefinc

Café Inc is a free lunch club open to children and young people in Fife. During the school holidays, this service will be available in your area. No need to book or register but children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

**This Easter Holidays Crail is hosting Café Inc lunches!**

Free lunches available daily Thu - Fri during the School Holidays from 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> (first come, first served basis)

Children & young people from any school can attend Under 10's must be accompanied by an adult.

**Thu 10<sup>th</sup> 11:45 - 1pm Dan's Goods**  
**Fri 11<sup>th</sup> 11:45 - 1pm Legion Hall**  
**Thu 17<sup>th</sup> 11:45 - 1pm Dan's Goods**  
**Fri 18<sup>th</sup> 11:45 - 1pm Legion Hall**

Think you know it all about drugs?

Think casual or occasional drug use is risk free?

Think you'd spot the signs of an overdose?

Think you'd know what to do for a friend feeling unwell after taking drugs?

Think you know what you're taking?

Think you know how to take drugs 'safely'?

# THINK AGAIN!

Drugs are unpredictable - you'll never know exactly what's in them.

Drugs are always unpredictable. There's always a risk in taking drugs - even ones someone has tried before.

Drugs that haven't been prescribed and on the illegal drugs markets aren't regulated - so we don't know exactly what's in them. And if you mix them with other things like alcohol, the risk goes up.

Don't take a chance and Think Again!



[www.fifehealthandsocialcare.org/thinkagain](http://www.fifehealthandsocialcare.org/thinkagain)



## We are seeking new trustees

**Crail Museum and Heritage Centre** is seeking to appoint trustees to build the capacity and resources of the Board. Successful candidates will work alongside the officers, fellow board members, staff and volunteers to play a key role in our continuing development.

### The Organisation

The Museum, formed over 40 years ago, provides an insight into the past life of this ancient Royal Burgh, its kirk, seafaring tradition, Crail Golfing Society (founded in 1786 - the 7th oldest in the world) and airfield history from the First World War until its closure in 1960 (HMS Jackdaw, Fleet Air Arm Station, HMS Bruce Boys Training School and Joint Services School for Linguists).

### About the Role

This is a voluntary position with great scope for personal and professional development. You will help us to shape the future of our organisation. The role involves sharing responsibility for museum operations, strategy and planning, marketing, exhibition and archive management, finance and governance.

**Term of Appointment:** Trustees retire annually, and may be re-elected

**Location:** Preferably located in the East Neuk of Fife

**Time commitment:** Around 10 days per year, mainly comprising: preparation for and attendance at Board Meetings, operations and other governance and strategic activities subject to the needs of the organisation.

### Skills, Knowledge and Experience

All applications are appreciated. We are keen to attract people with knowledge or experience in the following areas. These are desirable and not exclusive:

- Leadership
- Operations management
- Tourism
- Exhibition curation and archive management
- Finance and/or planning
- Understanding of the governance of a Charity or Development Trust

Applicants should have a strong interest in **East Neuk Heritage**

If you would like to apply or have an informal discussion in complete confidence with a member of the Board, please contact [trustee@crailmuseum.uk](mailto:trustee@crailmuseum.uk)

**Application notes:** Crail Museum and Heritage Centre is an organisation committed to equal opportunities and welcomes applications from all.

**For more information** please visit our website <https://www.crailmuseum.uk>

## Crail Matters Donations

Thank you to everyone who has subscribed! We've had a fantastic response, but we still need more support. If you haven't subscribed yet, please consider doing so today. A **\*\*£5 subscription\*\*** can make a real difference in keeping our work going. Click here to subscribe: <https://bit.ly/4gFDIDu>

### Crab Publishing Bank Details

Payee: Crab Publishing  
Royal Bank of Scotland  
Sort Code: 83-26-28  
A/c No.: 15518709

### Alternatively, by cheque to:

Crab Publishing  
1 Fife Ness  
Crail  
Fife KY10 3XN

If you go to our web site [www.crailmatters.com](http://www.crailmatters.com) there is a secure link for online donations using a credit card. You can also sign up there to receive Crail Matters.



**Holy Week and Easter at  
St. John the Evangelist,  
Marygate, Pittenweem,  
13<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

<b>Palm Sunday</b>	11.30am, Blessing and distribution of Palms and Holy Communion
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	7pm Evening Service of the Lord's Supper, with Pittenweem Parish Church, <b>in St. John's</b>
<b>Good Friday</b>	12pm, Meditation on the Lord's Passion
<b>Holy Saturday</b>	7pm, Service of Light and Blessing of the Easter Candle <b>in St. Fillan's Cave, Cove Wynd</b>
<b>Easter Day</b>	11.30am Holy Communion for Easter Day

Scottish charity no SC010982

**Crail Folk Club**

On April 24th Crail Folk Club has its first Singers' Night of 2025. This is always a fun opportunity for local singers and visitors alike to display the singing and musicianship. What can go wrong for just £2, pay on the door (please use the side entrance) at the Community Hall.

On May 8th we have Gness . A four piece band that proved to be a huge hit on their previous visit. They are not long back from conquering Canada, something yet to be achieved by Trump. A lively evening in prospect. There are only a few tickets left so don't leave it too much longer.



On May 23rd club favourite Siobhan Miller together with two star musicians is back in town. Again we hope/expect a sell out so don't delay.

Tickets, full details and video clips can be had from <http://www.crailfolkclub.org.uk>

**An Afternoon of  
Music and Flowers**

**EASTER SATURDAY**  
19<sup>th</sup> APRIL  
**KINGSBARN PARISH CHURCH**  
3.00- 5.00 PM

Enjoy musical medleys on our organ and grand piano, Easter flower displays and tea, coffee and cake

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**  
Admission free with donations to Church funds

CRAIL COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Easter Egg Hunt** £3.50 PER CHILD  
EASTER EGG FOR EACH CHILD

PRE REGISTRATION AND A SMART PHONE IS REQUIRED

**19th APRIL**  
The Legion Hall  
12 till 3pm

Teas & Coffees  
Soup & Sandwiches  
Home baking  
Fun and Games  
Meet the Easter Bunny

**Crail Bowling Club**   
**Opening of the Green**  
**Saturday 12 April - 2pm**  
 players: greys/whites or club shirts

then from 4pm  
 welcome the new season  
 with a drink and a blether

**music in the evening**   
 (dancing optional!)

members & guests    social membership £25 per year

**TRY SOMETHING NEW?**

Something you thought you'd never - ever - do?  
 Think you're too young?! Or too old?! It hasn't  
 even entered your mind?

Well, you never know until you try.  
 Maybe you're looking for a new hobby, or to  
 socialise, meet new people, or get a wee bit of  
 exercise.

It's fun, friendly, sociable and inclusive. Whether  
 you come on your own, or with someone, you can  
 be sure of a warm welcome.

What is it? Lawn Bowls! Crail Bowling Club  
 was established in 1891, so it's a long-standing  
 part of Crail. As well as the bowling green and  
 changing facilities, the clubhouse has a well  
 stocked bar and a kitchen. The bowling season  
 runs from April to the end of September, with  
 regular friendly games and competitions. Various  
 indoor activities and social gatherings are  
 organised throughout the year.

Experienced or beginner players are welcome.  
 There are bowls to borrow and free coaching for  
 beginners.

Social members can enjoy the facilities of the  
 clubhouse and have a wee blether over a drink or  
 a cuppa.

Two memberships are available - full playing  
 members (£95 per annum - £45 for your first  
 year) and social member (£25 per annum).

To arrange a visit or a free trial, please email  
 CrailBowlingClub@yahoo.com. The bowling  
 green is on Kirkmay Road (opposite the putting  
 green).

They look forward to seeing you.



Daffodil Bonanza Colin Morrison

**Free, hot & tasty.**

**COSY CAFE LUNCHES**

3rd March	Mince & Tatties	Fruit Crumble
10th March	Lentil Soup & Sandwich	Cake & Custard
17th March	Pasta Bolognese	Cake & Custard
24th March	Sausage & Mash	Rice Pudding
31st March	Curry & Rice	Cake & Custard
7th April	Macaroni Cheese	Cheesecake
14th April	Baked Potato & Filling	Cake & Custard

**Open to ALL - Vegetarian option available - No booking required**

**Mondays: Served between 12-1pm**  
 East Neuk Community Centre, Ladywalk, Anstruther  
 Meals are prepared and served by local volunteers  
 No charge to come, donations to help project welcomed

**Local Services**

**PO High Street South**  
 Monday 1400-1545, Tuesday 1400-1545,  
 Wednesday 1400-1545

**Bank - Marketgate Crail Thursday 1100-1130**

**Library - Marketgate Crail Thursday 1000 - 1045  
 fortnightly**

## Why Not Paws for a Dog Wash at Pitcairn?



We've had really good feedback on our new dog wash machine, with pet owners telling us that it's 'brilliant' and a 'great idea'. It's located at the front of our building at Pitcairn on the northern edge of Glenrothes. And there's a dedicated parking space for it too.

The products we use are pet-friendly and kinder to the environment. For £10 (payable by card) you can rinse, shampoo, add flea treatment and dry your dog, no matter its size. The choice of programme is up to you.

Saves getting your bathroom muddy after a walk on the trails around Pitcairn!



### **OPENING DATES FOR 2025**

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April

#### **Easter Weekend**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April

#### **Bank Holiday weekends**

1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> May

22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> May

#### **Weekly**

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October

#### **OPENING HOURS**

Thursday – Saturday 11am – 4pm

Sundays 1.30pm – 4pm

#### **Guided Walks on Sundays**

13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April

4<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May

Weekly from 1<sup>st</sup> June – 19<sup>th</sup> October

See Museum website for further information

[www.crailmuseum.uk](http://www.crailmuseum.uk)



Bookend Graffiti Colin Morrison

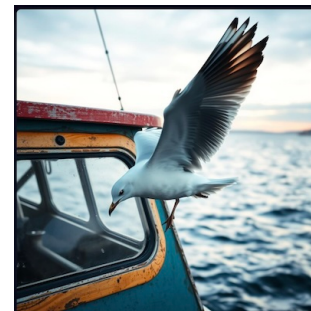
## The Crail Seagull has its eye on you



Well, the clocks have changed, the weather is getting warmer, and the fishermen are starting to put their creels in the water. Some of the fishermen aren't very kind to we gulls but some are. Unfortunately, you never know which ones are the friendly ones.

It was a lovely sunny day so I nipped into Crail and went down to the harbour and sure enough, there was a fisherman stacking creels on his boat, baiting them with the remnants of haddock fillets. That's for me, I thought but, although I hung around for ages, he continued working and completely ignored me. Yes, ME! Well, when he started up his boat, I gave him the benefit of the doubt and assumed that he had been so engrossed in what he was doing that he hadn't noticed me so I pecked on his windows, first at the side and when that produced no reaction, I pecked on the window he was looking out of. This resulted in him throwing me a bit of cheese (despite the ghastly sign that says, "Do Not Feed the Seagulls" but he was out of the harbour by then so I assume that was okay.

But, cheese, come on, I'm not a blinking mouse! Surely, he could have let me have a wee bit of haddock?



### Most Holy Trinity Church on Westgate North, Crail.

Refer to web site

[http:// www.stjamesparishstandrews.org.uk](http://www.stjamesparishstandrews.org.uk)

Sunday Mass changed from 8.45am to 9.00am

### St John's Episcopal Church, Marygate, Pittenweem.

See advertisement page 15 for service details over Easter.

### Coastline Community Church, Pittenweem.

Our morning service with Sunday school starts at 10.30am every Sunday. All welcome!

<https://coastlinechurch.org.uk/> Tel. 01333 312041

### Kilrenny Parish Church

Sunday services are at 9.45 am each week. Services are recorded, and are available on the church website, along with additional information on events.

Church Website: - <https://e-voice.org.uk/kilrenny/>

### Kingsbarns Parish Church.

All are welcome at this friendly village church. Sunday services are at 10.00 am each week. For more information, please contact Rev. Wotherspoon, 07711706634, [wotherspoonrig@btinternet.com](mailto:wotherspoonrig@btinternet.com)

### Crail Parish Church

Our interim moderator is the Revd. Nigel Robb.

**From Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025 services will be at 10.00 am unless otherwise stated. Tea and coffee will be served following the service.**

**13<sup>th</sup> April** Palm Sunday- Revd David Scott

**17<sup>th</sup> April** Maundy Thursday – Holy Communion Joint Service at Crail Church at 7.00pm

**18<sup>th</sup> April** Good Friday – Joint Service at St Ayle Cellardyke, at 7.00 pm

**20<sup>th</sup> April** Early morning Easter Service – Triangle Park at 8.00 am followed by bacon butties in the Kirk Hall.

**20<sup>th</sup> April** Easter Day Service – at Crail Church at 10.00 am.

**Streaming** - Sunday services are live streamed as video recordings, which can be publicly accessed from our YouTube channel or via Crail Church website..

**Chatbite** – Every Wednesday in the Kirk Hall from 10.00 am to 12 pm. Come along and enjoy home baking and hospitality. Lots of books to choose your new read from. All most welcome.

**Easter Coffee morning** – will be held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April from 10 am to 12.00 pm in the Kirk Hall. Donations of baking and raffle prizes would be most welcome.

**Prayer Group** – meets every Thursday at St Ayle, Anstruther at 10.15am. All welcome.



Material for inclusion in Crail Matters should be sent to [crailmatters@gmail.com](mailto:crailmatters@gmail.com) and received on Wednesday 2.00pm for publication in Friday issue. Any views expressed in articles or Letters to the Editor are those of the author, and not of Crail Matters. We reserve the right to edit copy for length and style. Submission does not guarantee inclusion. © Crab Publishing 2025: Editorial Team: Julie Middleton, Alex Scholz, Isla Reid, Max Taylor,, Peter Salkeld, Valencia Sowry,. Phone contact 07557884148. We are regulated by IMPRESS, but initial complaints must be made to us. You can view our complaints procedure at [crailmatters.com](http://crailmatters.com). Address for correspondence : Crail Matters Editorial Office, Crail Town Hall, Crail KY10 3UH

