

Crail Matters

Incorporating Kingsbarns Eagle

2 January 2026

Issue: Interim

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our readers

We are publishing this Interim issue to highlight again the **Crowdfunding Appeal for Crail Kirk**. The Appeal is to fund the development of a business plan for the Kirk, which can then be submitted to the Community Right to Buy scheme. This scheme allows the registration of an interest in the Kirk and then an option to buy when the Kirk comes up for sale. Without a viable business plan, there is virtually no prospect of community ownership, but with a plan, the community will be ready to respond and have the opportunity to influence the future of this very important community building.

A group made up of Crail Kirk and Crail Community Partnership has been formed to progress this. It proposes to work with independent professional consultants in the area of heritage architecture to assess future uses and build a business plan. The consultants would be tasked with providing a sustainable plan for the Kirk which would respect the fabric of the building as well as proposing a use for it which would provide real benefit to the Community. It would also take into account the repairs which will undoubtedly be needed, and potential sources of funding. The professional fees involved would be £12,000 and the Community Right to Buy process would cost £3,000. We are therefore asking for donations to help us raise the £15,000 needed to have a robust plan in place and register the Community interest.

Current information suggests the Kirk will be disposed of by the Church of Scotland towards the end of 2027. What will happen then will depend on who purchases it, but if it were to be sold to a private or commercial developer the community will lose all rights to the building. A target of £15,000 has been set to cover the costs of consultants and associated costs, and as of the date of publication £6520 (including offline donations) has been donated, (which will be supplemented by £500 gift aid) with 29 days left for the appeal.



If you care about the future of this building, which has been central to the life of Crail for 800 years, and have not donated, please do. You can find the details at <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/crail-kirks-future>, or use this QR code. The website for Crail Kirks Future can be found at: <https://bit.ly/45lMpdQ>





The Crail Seagull has its eye on you

Had a good Christmas? Did Santa come? He came out to Fife Ness and brought me a pair of wellies, a hat and some gloves. Not sure why I got these - I can hardly wear wellies and gloves, and a hat doesn't strike me as a very viable piece of Seagull kit. Maybe he made a mistake, and brought me things meant for you - are you missing wellies, gloves and a hat? Let me know if you think you are - you can have mine.

I don't like Hogmanay what with the fireworks and all so I went to bed early and missed everything. So nothing to report on that front.

The Kirk Appeal looks important to me. I've already donated something. Can you imagine, the Kirk has been a part of our community for 800 years - just think how you might feel if it was turned into offices, or a nightclub, or a small factory. Nothing against them you understand, but hardly seems right for something so important. What surprises me is the way in which the Church of Scotland so readily ignores the local significance of buildings., I can understand they don't want to spend all the money maintaining them, but these are not just any old building; the Kirk is a part of the fabric of the Crail community (I say this as a none-attendee - well actually they wouldn't let me in!!). Legally it might belong to the Church of Scotland, but morally it belongs to us!! If the Church is so insensitive to this, is it any wonder that attendance is diminishing?

What will 2026 bring to Crail? To Scotland? To the UK? One thing we do know that will happen are elections to the Scottish Parliament; I also suspect that Ukraine and the threat of war somewhere (if not Ukraine, then Taiwan) won't just go away - none of these are things to look forward to are they? In the elections we'll be promised all sorts of things - improved NHS, Ferries that work but I wouldn't take bets on any coming to pass.

Still, enjoy 2026 - for all the worries we do live in a fine place, so make the most of it.

Crail Matters Past Issues

The Editors have decided to remove the listing of back issues from the Crail Matters website as a security precaution. If any reader wants a backcopy of any issue, please contact the Editors at crailmatters@gmail.com

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Royal Burgh of Crail and District

Reference	Address	Proposal	Date Registered	Applicant	Agent	Comments Expiry Date
25/03303/APN	Kirkmay Farmhouse Crail Anstruther Fife KY10 3XA	Prior notification for erection of agricultural storage shed	08/12/2025	R F Logan & Co. Kirkmay Farm Crail KY10 3XA	Michael Goldie Craighead Farm Mauchline East Ayrshire KA5 6EX	
25/03136/LBC	Crail Harbour Shoregate Crail Fife	Listed building consent for installation of beam to harbour crane	11/12/2025	Mr Kai Laing Bankhead Bankhead Park Glenrothes Scotland KY7 6GH		
25/03339/FULL	8 Pinkerton Road Crail Anstruther Fife KY10 3UB	Single storey extension to rear of dwellinghouse	16/12/2025	Mr & Mrs Graham & Kerry Nimmo 8 Pinkerton Road Crail Anstruther Fife KY10 3UB	Christine Palmer 11 Bankwell Road Anstruther Scotland KY10 3DA	13/01/2026
25/03464/APN	Leys Farm Lochton Crail Anstruther Fife KY10 3XD	Prior Notification for Farm-related Building Works (Non-residential).	23/12/2025	Nisbet Brothers Leys Farm Crail Fife Scotland KY10 3XD	Michael Goldie Craighead Farm Mauchline East Ayrshire United Kingdom KA5 6EX	



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