

Cromarty History Society
& Friends of Cromarty Courthouse

Annual Report for 2019/2020

This year's review feels incomplete – it was very sad to have to cancel so many of our events. One was at short notice due to speaker illness and the others were taken out of our hands as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic igniting in March this year.

Those lectures that we have missed, we are hoping to run in the future. However, as one of the speakers, Janet Baker, will be moving away from the area, her talk about the making of a historical video of Fortrose cannot be included again. Her video *Fortrose: a Highland Village with a Bloody Past* can still be viewed on U-Tube (<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=fortrose+janet+baker+u-tube&docid=608008467907546072&mid=E5C50F2F90D482F85461E5C50F2F90D482F85461&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>), so please check it out if your appetite is whetted!

Lectures that we have been able to enjoy were, as usual, wide-ranging in subject content – archaeology in our national forests; Highland news reporting over three decades and the stories of some Highland medics. Two of our talks focussed purely on Cromarty – on emigration and on the history of our harbour - bringing us bang up-to-date with all the current developments.

The majority of these talks were given by members of our society, which is a great delight. We are so lucky to have members prepared to share their stories and research.

Our committee works hard to devise a suitable programme and to make each evening as welcoming as possible. We are indebted to John McNaught, who has again devised some excellent posters for our meetings. Thanks are also due to Roger Young for maintaining our society website. Enquiries through our website are generally dealt with by our committee or fielded to an appropriate source of information. Our monthly press reports are added to our archive on the website, presenting an overview of the topics the society has covered over the years - many people find this of interest.

As the friends group to the Courthouse museum, we look to give financial and practical assistance and this year we have donated the sum of £250, which we understand will go towards funding a new courtroom sound system.

Thank you, as always, for your support. We hope circumstances will allow us to operate “as normal” next season – only time will tell.

Mary Bowers
April 2020