



# CRAIL MATTERS

W/C 22 October 2018. No 82 Free - donations welcome  
Suggested hard copy Donation 40p

*Crail; The Jewel of the East Neuk.*

## Crail Folk Club

Thursday 25th October Crail Town Hall 8pm BYOB.  
Our guests are ERIC SEDGE.  
Supported by RICHARD DIGANCE.



Eric Sedge is a Suffolk born singer/songwriter who first appeared on the music scene as a member of the Broad-side Boys who played Crail Folk Club in early 2017. After two successful albums Eric

went solo in 2017 supporting Richard Digance on his national tour and releasing his first solo album Pleased To Meet You.

More recently, his song Kinder Shores is the title track of a compilation Folk album featuring Ralph McTell, Fairport convention and Show of Hands and he is the creator of the much acclaimed folk musical To Look For America, co-written with Richard Digance and Tom Leary of Feast of Fiddles and formerly Lindisfarne.

In less than a year he has established himself as a highly regarded songwriter appearing at some of the Country's top festivals including Cropredy.

In something of a role reversal, for one night only, Richard Digance will be doing a short support set.

## Crail Resident receives CBE from Princess Royal



Crail resident, Professor Ethel Quayle, was presented with a CBE for services to online protection of children by The Princess Royal at an investiture held at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday 17 October.

## Crail Preservation Society

Cheese and Wine Party

Friday 9 November 2018 Crail Town Hall at 7.30pm  
(Members - special General Meeting at 7.00pm)

Tickets £10 from Greens in High Street  
or any committee member.  
Scottish Charities No. SCO16960

## Rental House Wanted

We are a professional responsible couple looking for a 2+ bedroom, unfurnished house to rent in Crail or surrounding area that accepts pets.

As landlords to our own rental house, we understand how a property should be respected. Would love to hear from you. 07927446287.

## Crail in Bloom

The Crail in Bloom Committee would like to thank all the volunteers who came out in truly awful weather last Saturday to plant Crail's street tubs and troughs. It was hard going with the rain never letting up for one moment. The Pansies are doing well and in Spring, there should be a good show of bulbs. Thanks again to the volunteers. Hopefully nobody caught the cold!!

## Crail Community Choir

Come along and join us!



Monday, 22 October 2018

7.30pm in the **Town Hall**, Crail

All Adults Welcome

£1 per night

No meetings for the next 2 weeks after tonight.

Need more information?

Phone

Catriona - 01333 450398

Liz - 01333 450122

## Lest we forget

We continue our listing of the forty four men associated with Crail who died in the first World War. We will particularly remember these men on the centenary of the ending of that war on Remembrance Sunday this year.

Seaman John D. Meldrum (aged 36): Royal Naval Reserve  
Lost at sea 1917

Private John G. Meldrum (aged 19): Black Watch  
Killed in action in France 1917

Private George R. Mitchell (aged 20): Black Watch  
Killed in action in France 1917

Second Lieutenant Alexander R. Morris (aged 23): Black Watch  
Killed in action Arras 1917

Private Thomas L. Morris (aged 27): Machine Gun Corps  
Died of wounds France 1918

Sergeant Donald Morrison (aged 24): Royal Horse and Field Artillery  
Killed in action 1917

Private John Murray (aged 20): Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders  
Killed in action France 1918

Second Engineer George G. Myles (aged 28): Mercantile Marine  
Lost at sea 1917

Private William S. Patterson (aged 19): Cameron Highlanders  
Killed in action France

Private Robert Ritchie (age 31): Seaforth Highlanders  
Killed in action Middle East 1918

(Acknowledgement: In Commemoration of the men of Crail who died in the Great War 1914-1919. Crail History Group 2013. Available from the Museum)



Bent double, like old beggars under  
sacks,  
Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we  
cursed through sludge,  
Till on the haunting flares we turned our  
backs,  
And towards our distant rest began to  
trudge.  
Men marched asleep. Many had lost  
their boots,  
But limped on, blood-shod. All went  
lame; all blind;  
Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the  
hoots  
Of gas-shells dropping softly behind.

Wilfred Owen

---

*Crail festival*

Just to let everyone know that the Festival Committee is already looking ahead to the content of next year's programme. Children's activities will once again be accorded very high priority. The web site is being streamlined. When this work is completed a wonderful précis of this year's superb Festival will be posted. Details will be communicated via Facebook and Twitter. Note for your diaries 17-27 July 2019.

## **Crail Parish Church of Scotland**

(Charity registered in Scotland SC 001601)

Intimations to be in by Thursday noon to Lisa 450035,

Helen Armitage or email to

([intimations@crailchurch.co.uk](mailto:intimations@crailchurch.co.uk))

Locum Minister: Rev Peter Neilson

(tel: 01333 310 477)

Christian Aid we are delighted to report that we were able to send £455 to Christian Aid for their recent Harvest Appeal. This amount will be multiplied by 5 by the EU so that will make a terrific difference to the work that they do. This was made up of 5ps collected since May and our Harvest Appeal. Please keep collecting the 5ps.

Boxes are at the Church door and at Chatbite. Many thanks  
,Diana

Monday Club 22nd. Night Mail Train by Jack Jarvis

Annual Christmas Card and Gift Sale on Saturday 3rd November in the Kirk Hall 10.00am - 1.00pm

The Shoe box leaflets have arrived, they will be in the church and the Kirk hall and the filled boxes should be returned to the church before 4th November.

The Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 11 November will be held at the church gates at 10.50am followed by a service in the church at 11.15. Retiring collection for Poppy Scotland. Soup and sandwiches will be served after the service in the Kirk Hall. Donations of Soup and sandwiches would be gratefully received please put your name on the list in the tower if you can help.

## **Senior Carers Respite Fife**

Senior Carers Respite Fife are pleased to introduce our great new service - Senior Carers Respite Fife.

This is for carers 60 plus. We come to you and lend a helping hand. At a time that's convenient to you. This is a FREE service. For more information email Moira or Adele at [respite@disabilitiesfife.org.uk](mailto:respite@disabilitiesfife.org.uk) or call on 01592 203993

## **Crail Table Tennis Club**

Crail Table Tennis Club are pleased to announce the start date for the new season, the big ping off will commence on Tuesday 25th September in Crail Community Hall at 19.00, everybody is welcome.

Its a fun affair with some serious play and banter, the cost per session is only £3.00 and that includes free membership for the season which lasts throughout the winter months.

We play over three tables and there is rarely time to sit down, so if you are looking for things to do as the summer months drop off why not pop down and join us. If you would like to know more then please call Graham at The Honey Pot on 01333 450935.

Community Hall ( Side Entrance ) 19.00pm Tuesday All welcome

## **PITTENWEEM COMMUNITY LIBRARY & INFORMATION CENTRE AUTUMN EVENING TALKS**

### **SERIES DETAILS**

#### **OCTOBER 25**

Human Impact on Marine Mammals in the North Sea  
With Dr Kelly Macleod, Senior Marine Species Advisor

#### **NOVEMBER 8**

The Magic World of Nano Self-Assembly: Why Geometry Matters with Dr Louis Theran, Lecturer in Mathematics

#### **NOVEMBER 22**

The Milestones and Waymarkers of Fife with local archaeologist and historian Dr Paula Martin

Pittenweem Community Library and Information Centre  
Cove Wynd, Pittenweem KY10 2LE

Web: [www.pittcllc.org.uk](http://www.pittcllc.org.uk)

Email: [library@pittcllc.org.uk](mailto:library@pittcllc.org.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pittcllc/](http://www.facebook.com/pittcllc/)

**All talks Coastline Community Church, Pittenweem start at 7.30 with doors open at 7pm. £5 entrance: tickets are for sale in advance at the library with any remaining tickets available at the door on the night.**

Opening Hours: Mondays 2.00pm - 7.00pm; Wednesdays 1.30pm - 5.00pm; Fridays 9.30am - 1.00pm; Saturdays 10.00am - 1.00pm.

### **Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC047013**

## **Scottish Country Dancing**

Crail Town Hall  
Wednesday at 7:30pm  
October to March

## **RBS Community Liaison**

RBS Community Liaison staff will conduct drop in sessions each Tuesday from 1000 to 1200 in Anstruther Lower Town Hall. Anyone with questions or concerns is welcome to attend.

## **Crail Mobile Post Office Service**

Location - Along High Street  
Opening times:  
Monday: 1400-1600  
Tuesday: 1430-1630  
Wednesday: 1400-1600

## **CRAIL BADMINTON CLUB**

MEETS ON TUESDAYS 7 - 10 PM IN  
CRAIL COMMUNITY HALL  
New members welcome  
Any queries:- Tel. Anne on 07769156003

## **R.B.S. Mobile Branch Timetable**

Tuesdays St. Andrews Road Car Park, Anstruther - 2.15pm -3.00pm; Thursdays North Marketgate, Crail - 10.20am - 10.50am

# WILD CRAIL

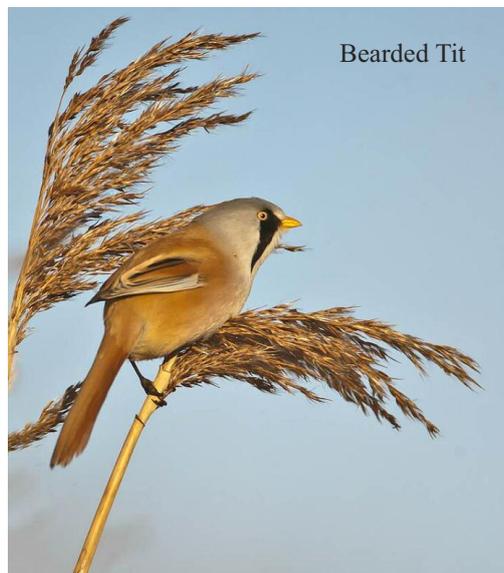
Will Cresswell,

with Photographs by John Anderson



Apologies for missing last week - I was too busy birding - the winds finally went to the east and there was a lot to see...

One of the reasons I love birding so much is that birds can and do turn up anywhere – in dull places, in routine moments – suddenly transforming them into something special. This happened a couple of weeks ago on a dog walk. I hardly ever go out dog walking in Crail at dusk – you can't really see anything – and there is something a bit suspect about walking around town at night with a pair of binoculars. Anyway, we were dog sitting, and as often happens when teenage daughters are tasked with something, the afternoon dog walk didn't happen, so it was left up to me and my wife to walk our dog guest, Jack, last thing. I nearly left my binoculars behind but there was just a bit of light left and so I hoped that if we headed down to Roome Bay we could at least appreciate the gulls coming to roost. It was a beautiful evening, so Jack and daughter were quickly forgiven. Birds or no birds, Crail is a lovely place to walk around just after sunset. We ended up on Roome Bay beach admiring the May in the gloaming when I heard a bird calling from the gorse bushes at the east end of the bay, above us. A distinctive “ping” – a bearded tit! They have very distinct metallic pinging calls and when you start birding their call is one of the first ones you learn. Because it is very distinctive and also because bearded tits are reedbed specialists and are great skulkers. If you want to ever see them you have to learn their call so you can locate them flying suddenly between dense reed clumps. And so here is the problem – bearded tits are one of the most habitat specialised birds in the UK. They only ever occur in reedbeds: I have never seen a bearded tit except on a reed stem, in a reedbed. Of course, they must disperse between patches of reedbeds and I have read very occasional accounts of people seeing a flock flying up from a reedbed noisily and heading high and with purpose away from it, presumably on the start of a hunt for somewhere new. But these are like stories of narwhals (real unicorns) – I would never expect to see one unless I go to the special places where they live.



Bearded Tit

But here was a bearded tit, pinging among the ticking robins in a gorse bush in Roome Bay. Just as I was pointing out the possible bearded tit (only a possible at this point because although I know their call really well we were in unicorn territory here) to my wife, who knows the call too, Jack started barking picking up on my excitement. A rapid turnaround from the hero of the hour for getting me out, to the zero of now, making it impossible to hear the bird. I ran away as fast as I could up from the beach back onto the footpath and along to the side of the gorse bushes, reaching for my phone to play back bearded tit call so I could double check it wasn't all wishful thinking. As my phone started pinging too, a bird popped out of the gorse immediately. Despite the waning light, it was a lovely view – a male bearded tit - they are like painted porcelain and this bird was unusually out in the open, moving along the fence just above the beach towards me. Bearded tits are one of the most social bird species. They hate being on their own and I have always seen them in flocks. This poor dispersing male must have thought it had hit the jackpot and found some other bearded tits in Crail after hearing my playback. I turned my playback off feeling guilty, but perhaps not very guilty because this was now definitely a bearded tit, in Crail, not just a possible unicorn. The bird was a beautiful male. Bearded tits are unusual in that first year birds adopt full adult plumage straight away in their first autumn so this could easily have been a dispersing juvenile. It pinged away in the gorse bush for another few minutes as it began to get properly dark. Number 226 for my Crail list and not one I was ever expecting to get. The closest ones in Fife are over on the Tay estuary and

as I have said they never go anywhere but reedbeds.

On the 7th it was high tide at Balcomie when I went along the coastal path. There were groups of redshanks and dunlins, with a few turnstone all along the high tide line, feeding on the stranded seaweed piles. As one flock of dunlin flew up in front of me I saw one bird was smaller, neater and whiter looking. A little stint – a once a year bird for Crail. It landed nearby and I was able to watch it picking among the seaweed, looking small next to the dunlins, and tiny next to the redshanks. It was a juvenile with a neat double “V” of white on its back.

The following Wednesday, on the 10th there were easterly winds all day and they became quite strong overnight. There was a haar first thing on the 11th but still with a strong south-easterly wind. A change in the weather at last and although it made a murky and damp day, it brought some birds in at last. I found a yellow-browed warbler at the top of Kilminning almost immediately I arrived – I was trying to track down a calling chiff-chaff and then picked up



Little Stint

Yellow-browed Warbler



the yellow-brow that was with it. Quite a dull bird and I thought of Hume's Warbler – the even more eastern, rarer version of a yellow-brow. It had dark legs and a subdued back pattern consistent with Humes, although two clear wing bars and the yellow bill base of a yellow-browed almost certainly made it wishful thinking. I waited for it to call to clinch it but it remained silent. Great views though and I am glad to have caught up with one at last this year – an autumn without a yellow-browed warbler in Crail is unthinkable. I heard another one calling a bit later from the garden of the ruined cottage at Balcomie and also met a birder who had seen one at Craighead. So there were a few about at last.

There were other birds that had been brought in. Probably 20 or so bramblings around Kilminning (the first of the winter), 50 or so redwings and lots of blackbirds and song thrushes. The



Redwing

Patch at Fife Ness had goldcrests and redwings but I didn't find anything else of note. The haar cleared a bit by late morning so I sat at Fife Ness for a few minutes before the rain set in. A great northern diver flew by as close as they ever get, just along the edge of the rocks. When you see them close up you realise what a monster they are – as big as a cormorant, and with their huge flappy feet, making them seem even bigger.

The winds became more southerly overnight on the 11th but there was heavy rain just after dark and during the early part of the night. Great conditions for a fall of migrants. Sure enough, at first light at Kilminning there were literally hundreds of redwings flying up from the trees and the ground, and there were flocks passing all morning, some still coming in from the sea. There were many blackbirds and song thrushes as well, with a few fieldfares, and lots of bram-

blings going over. But the real thrush highlight were the ring ouzels. I saw at least three that morning, starting off with a young female in the rowan at the entrance to Kilminning, by the go-kart sign. It helpfully was sitting in the middle of the road as I drove in before retreating to the rowan tree. It is full of berries and on the sheltered side of Kilminning – the wind remained strong all day making it hard to locate birds, and making it hard for the birds to find sheltered spots. It was really instructive to see this bird – obviously a ring ouzel when I first saw it out in the open, and because it gave the pebbles struck together chacking call that is so distinctive – but then pretty much like a blackbird when it was less obviously on display in the middle of the rowan. It made me realise I could easily have

Female ring ouzel



overlooked a couple among the blackbirds the day before. The moral is – on easterly stormy winds – double check every sooty billed blackbird for a first winter female ring ouzel. A much more obvious male joined the first bird a bit later, with a clear, large white breast band, and I saw a third bird, another obvious male on the golf course out at Craighead. I suspect there were a few ring ouzels feeding away in Crail gardens that day being overlooked as blackbirds.

The Patch at Fife Ness had at least two yellow-browed warblers – two were calling at the same time from different areas, and I suspect there was a third there as well. There was a pied flycatcher – the first of the autumn – happily catching insects in the sycamore canopy in the more sheltered sycamores with the yellow-brows. I had a frustrating brief view of the tail end of a greyish bird with white tail tips disappearing into a bramble – probably a barred warbler – but just not quite good enough view to be sure. I couldn't tempt it out with playback or refind it, but that means little with super skulking barred warblers. There was also a chiff-chaff and a female blackcap that I were probably new in migrants – I found almost nothing in the Patch the day before except redwings.

Sea watching at Fife Ness was exciting – strong winds and gannets like albatrosses soaring by at close range, auks shooting by like cannon balls. The highlight was picking up thrushes and flocks of starling far out and watching them come in from the sea. Thrushes continued to come in all week with Monday 16th being an amazing day. The sky was full of dark specks that turned into redwings. Big flocks over passing over the fields that would normally be starlings turned into blackbirds as they came closer. There were thousands of redwings around Fife Ness and a more few ring ouzels reported from Kilminning. The wind was back to a south westerly so the big arrival doesn't make a lot of sense in terms of the weather, but there is almost no wind over Scandinavia and further south on the continent so perhaps the departure conditions the night before were perfect.



# CHAS



Children's Hospices Across Scotland

# CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

## Kingsbarns Memorial Hall

## Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October

## 10am - Noon

Entry £2.50



**CHAS Christmas Cards & Gifts**  
**Home Baking, Books, Toys**  
**Crafts, Gifts, Raffle**  
**Children's Art Contest**  
**Refreshments**

CHAS (Children's Hospices Across Scotland)  
Charity Registered in Scotland SC019724



## Community Council Notes

### Remembrance

The Community Council wish to thank all who have put huge effort into tidying up and painting the area around the War Memorial in preparation for the commemoration of the ending of the First World War on 11 November. All members of the Crail Community are invited to attend both the commemoration service at the War Memorial, and the Kirk Service afterwards.



### Community Council Meetings

The next meeting of the Community Council is Monday 29 October at 7.15pm in the Town Hall. All members of the Crail community are invited to attend. This is an opportunity to raise local issues that might concern you. Fife Councillors are also in attendance, and it is an opportunity to raise any issues you might have about areas of Fife Council responsibilities. The Community Council is the lowest and most local tier of democratic representation in Scotland. It offers an opportunity for you to contribute to the development and well being of the Crail community.

### Do you know any young carers?

We are the respite care officers for Disabilities Fife. Carers that are actively looking for families to help. Please feel free to contact us anytime by:

Phone - 01592 203993

Email - [respite@disabilitiesfife.org.uk](mailto:respite@disabilitiesfife.org.uk)

Website - [YoungCarersRespite.com](http://YoungCarersRespite.com)

### Contact your Fife Councillor?

Cllr.Linda.Holt@fife.gov.uk 07725 223773.  
cllr.bill.porteous@fife.gov.uk 01333 730837 or  
07753982311  
cllr.john.docherty@fife.gov.uk 07718 66 89 96

## Better Broadband Subsidy Scheme

Digital Scotland administers the UK Government's Better Broadband Subsidy Scheme in Scotland. Its aim is to ensure that the remaining 5% of homes and businesses not covered by the current DSSB programme can at least enjoy basic broadband while they await 100% Superfast coverage between now and 2021.

If you're eligible for the Better Broadband Subsidy Scheme, you must apply before the end of December 2018. Fill out an application form [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/11aeINEfh01JmnYp6h9bMTHJYgCnuuUwM-FNd0Xxu8aY/viewform?edit_requested=true).

([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/11aeINEfh01JmnYp6h9bMTHJYgCnuuUwM-FNd0Xxu8aY/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/11aeINEfh01JmnYp6h9bMTHJYgCnuuUwM-FNd0Xxu8aY/viewform?edit_requested=true))

Hopefully, though, you're among the 95% of Scottish homes and businesses that will have Superfast by then.

Who can apply?

You can apply for Better Broadband Subsidy Scheme vouchers if:

- Your home or business can't currently access a broadband download speed of at least 2Mbps
- There are no affordable alternatives that provide at least 2Mbps download speeds
- There are no plans to bring Superfast Broadband to your location within 6 to 12 months of your application.

You must be the owner or occupier of the address you give on the application form. Even if your household or business appears to be eligible for Better Broadband vouchers, we still recommend researching alternatives. There may be satellite or 4G providers, or other broadband services that aren't registered with the Scheme, who can offer a better deal.

4G options

Digital Scotland administers the UK Government's Better Broadband Subsidy Scheme in Scotland. Its aim is to ensure that the remaining 5% of homes and businesses not covered by the current DSSB programme can at least enjoy basic broadband while they await 100% Superfast coverage between now and 2021.

## *The Crail Seagull*



Raisin weekend again - watch out for all those rowdy St Andrews seagulls mobbing us locals. What with seagull proof waste bins, we are becoming overwhelmed by immigrants! We need to take back control - lets declare independence!!! We need a free Crail freed from the regulatory shackles of St Andrews.

There was a lot of mess on Nethergate last week, including some bits of newspapers. Just looked through them for any scraps, and saw a piece with the title 'Seagulls: The unlikely Canaries of Climate change'. Apparently we are a declining species, because the food we normally eat like shellfish and small fish are reducing due to climate change and increasing pollution. Apparently, this is causing a migration of birds that usually live in the South. I can't say I've noticed that to any great extent, but I suppose over time us locals will eventually become overwhelmed by immigrants.

Richard Bach in Jonathan Livingston Seagull said "To begin with, you've got to understand that a seagull is an unlimited idea of freedom" - that's what I like to hear. I bet Richard would like to eat chips out of a newspaper whilst he was flying around.

Material for inclusion in Crail Matters should be sent to [crailmatters@gmail.com](mailto:crailmatters@gmail.com) and received on Friday midday before publication. Any views expressed in 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 2018: Editorial Team this week: Helen Byres, Julie Middleton, Isla Reid, Valencia Sowry, Max Taylor, John Wilson