

Country's biggest New Year's Day Firework display celebrates 21 years



Cromer New Year's Day Fireworks 2019. R Birnie

All eyes will be on the skies above Cromer Pier on 1st January 2020 as the traditional New Year's Day Firework display celebrates its 21st anniversary.

The event, which started as a one-off display for the new millennium in 2000, was funded by Cromer Town Council and was located on The Meadow - it was a success in terms of local support, and it raised a few hundred pounds for charity.

Former Firework Committee Chairman Jim Bond said: "This seemed to be an event that we could do every year, and the following year it attracted a larger crowd. After a few years, the display was moved onto the pier, thanks to North Norfolk District Council's support.

“It has gone on to attract larger and larger crowds, and consequently an increase in donations which helps pay for the following year's display and grants to local charities.”

Since 2000 the event has given out grants totalling over £60,000 to local charities and good causes.

Organisers hope as many people as possible will again come to Cromer for the day to see more than 3,000 firework shots light up the skies over the North Sea.

Firework Committee Chairman Pat West said: “As always, the advice is please arrive early and support the local businesses in town who do support the Fireworks committee.

“There are several exciting new sequences within the main display which will be new to Cromer this year and we are very excited to show these to everyone.

“As last year, there will be a torchlight parade from Cromer church before the display. We have a new route and for those who have purchased official merchandise there is a designated area with a grandstand view of the firework display”.

The annual display attracts more than 10,000 people into Cromer on New Year's Day with many spending the day in the town for a breath of fresh air and something to eat and drink before the display is fired from Cromer Pier at 5pm.

Will Evans, Project Manager at Titanium Fireworks, said: “Titanium Fireworks are delighted to be firing again off Cromer pier on New Year's Day 2020. This show is now a firm highlight in our calendar and the crowds it draws, and money it raises for the community, make it something special for us to play our part in.

“A local youngster will be leading the countdown as a thank you for the winning drawing she sent to the display organisers after the 2019 event and we will then start the main show and fill the skies above Cromer with an array of effects to wow the crowds and start the year with a bang.

“As always we would like to encourage those who can, to donate to the collectors around the town so that this event can continue to run and raise as much money as it can for the worthy causes in the area.”

The event is free, however there will be bucket collectors out in force on the day to fundraise for the 2021 display.

The bucket collection at the 2019 display raised over a fantastic £10,000. Half of this was given out in grants to local good causes and the balance has been used towards funding the 2019 display.

“Just a few coins can make a lot of difference to local charities and good causes – and without everyone’s help we couldn’t continue the annual display” said Pat West.

Organisers are still looking for volunteers to bolster their official bucket collectors team. Please contact Cromer town council for more information or register at Cromer museum on New Year’s Day from 2pm.

Timeline of events

Prior to the fireworks there will be a fun run along Cromer Promenade at 3pm organised by North Norfolk Beach Runners.

The one-mile fun run is the perfect opportunity to work off those New Year’s Eve excesses with a gentle jog or a five minute dash if you’re up to it!

Starting from the pier forecourt, the run is open to all ages and abilities, with categories for under 13 year-olds, 14-16 year-olds, seniors, and even Fancy Dress. Registration will take place from 2.30pm for a fee of £1.

Illuminated merchandise available to buy during the afternoon outside Cromer Museum (next to the Church). Mulled wine will again be served outside the museum, with tea, coffee, and hot soup available in the church from 2pm – 4.30pm. The torchlit procession will set off from Cromer Museum at 4.30 pm, for those who have purchased official torches from the official merchandise stall, to a viewing position on slopes in front of the Hotel de Paris.

Local cafés, pubs, shops and restaurants will also be open and other vendors are planning to ensure the crowds who descend on Cromer won’t go hungry.

Parking

Visitors are urged to arrive in Cromer as early as possible on New Year's Day. All three NNDC car parks will be open. Runton Road car park will be charging a fixed charge of £5 per car for all day parking from 2pm on the day. Normal car park fees will apply on all other car parks. Additional car parking will be publicised in advance of the event.

There will be no parking available on Cromer Promenade on New Year's Day.

Please note Cromer Pier will be closed from 8am on New Year's Day until after the display (approximately 7pm) although Tides Restaurant will be open until 4pm.

Mobility Provision

This year there will again be a wheelchair viewing area at the top of the slopes outside the Hotel de Paris. This will be available on a first come, first served basis. There will also be a new disabled Changing Places facility located in the newly refurbished Tourist Information Centre off The Meadow car park **(this is subject to completion of building works)**

Drones

Titanium Fireworks have stressed absolutely no drones are to be flown during the event.

It is currently illegal for drones to be flown over public land and near a crowd of more than 25 people without full insurance and a pilot's license. Any drones flown near to/into the show may cause the show to end early so the team do not risk hitting the drone.

Firework Photography Competitions

This year there will be one firework photography competitions.

Sponsored by Titanium Fireworks, the winner will have the chance to visit one of their 2020 display for a behind the scenes tour.

Full competition rules will be published soon, please visit www.cromer-tc.gov.uk

Winning Entries to the 2019 competition

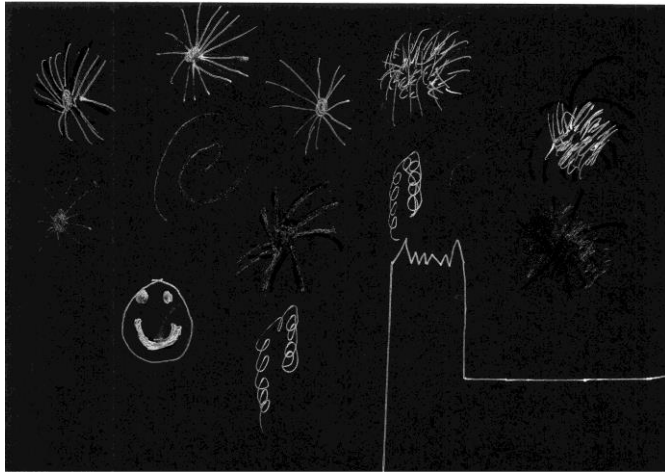
- New Year's Day Fireworks 2019. Credit R. Birnie
(Winner 2019 photography competition sponsored by Titanium Fireworks)



- New Year's Day Fireworks 2019. Credit R. Birnie
(Winner 2019 photography competition sponsored by Hughes)



- Thomas's winning drawing of New Year's Day Fireworks display 2019



Please see Cromer Town Council website (www.cromer-tc.gov.uk), the event's Facebook page ('New Year's Day Fireworks, Cromer') or Twitter feed (@NYDFireworks and @north_lodge) for updates.