

# Autumn/WINTER 2015 EDITION

## Lairg & District Community Initiatives

Welcome to the Autumn/Winter edition of the Community Newsletter! Apologies to everyone for the delay - the preparations for the Winterfest event required a lot of time and some other projects have been on hold for a while. However, we made it and Winterfest is over for now.... so here we are with our updates and news !

### FITNESS ROOM :

It was originally intended to create a new fitness suite in the Community Centre. An application for funding for this was made earlier this year but we heard only recently this has been unsuccessful. However, the prospect of making use of the vacated Police Station has arisen and this is now being explored.

Subsequent discussion with the Hall Committee on the matter has seen the project being put on hold, for reasons as yet unknown.

Yet another opportunity for a fitness centre located over at the Ferrycroft site has come up, albeit at least 2 years away, as part of the envisaged Sailing Club development, a feasibility study for which is about to be undertaken.

At this stage it is worthwhile, given the three options available, to consult with the whole community (with the help of HIE) to seek your views on the most appropriate location for a fitness centre. This should cover :

- the practicality of the Community Hall to accommodate more facilities
- the potential advantages of the Police Station to offer space for other uses and what these might be
- the risk of waiting and depending upon delivery of the Ferrycroft/Sailing Club development

Once we receive more information on all three fronts we will confirm the details of the community consultation.



### RESILIENT COMMUNITIES FUND

We are pleased to announce our application for funding for the community emergency satellite phone and the generator connections has been successful.

We now turn our attention to the next stage which is to secure funding for installation.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

LDCI UPDATES:	1
FITNESS ROOM	
SSE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES FUND	
WINTERFEST	2
TELEPHONE DIRECTORY	3
BONFIRE NIGHT	3
CAPLICH WIND FARM DEVELOPMENT FUND	3
CHURCH HILL PATH	3
WHAT ' S ON	4
CONTACT DETAILS	4



## WINTERFEST 2015

On 21 November Lairg hosted the Winterfest for the first time and our village was transformed into a buzzing fun place. The community came together to make it happen and it was a truly spectacular day. We estimate there were around 1000 people who came to watch the parade and enjoy the attractions taking place in and outside the Community Centre and in the School Gym Hall.

We received wide acclaim and this is all down to the tremendous effort of the countless individuals involved who selflessly gave up their time to make sure the event was a success. We are in your debt.

This year we received financial support of £2000 from Foundation Scotland (project funded from Lairg Windfarm Ltd Community Fund) and donations from generous local sponsors. The generated profit of £1800 will be ring-fenced for the Winterfest 2016. Later in the summer we will hold an open meeting to discuss all ideas, options and arrangements for the upcoming event. All welcome!! Every contribution is important and will help each event to be better than year before.

Some photos from the day::

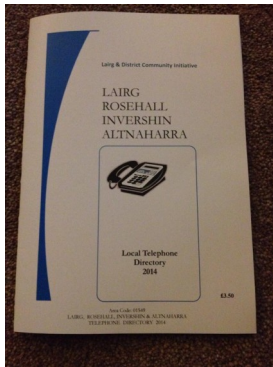


*Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!  
See you all next  
time! :)*



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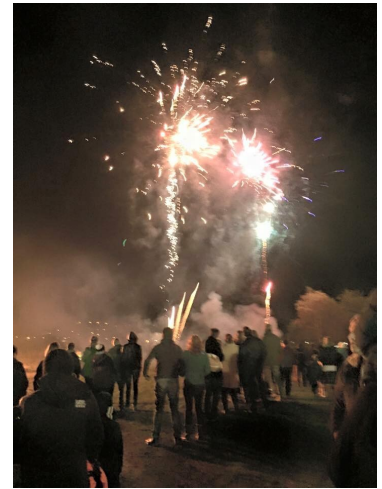
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**A huge thank you to Lairg Gala Committee for a spectacular Bonfire display on 7th November. A great night in Lairg!!**

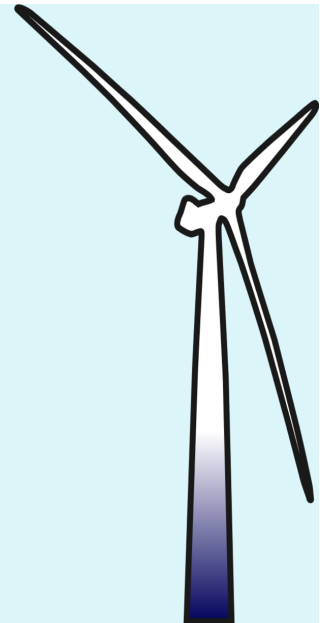


## CAPLICH WIND FARM DEVELOPMENT FUND SET TO DELIVER LOCAL SKILLS OPPORTUNITIES

The company proposing the 20-turbine Caplich Wind Farm, situated 5 km north of Oykel Bridge, has announced £8000 in funding to invest in the delivery of skills and training opportunities locally. Muirhall Energy, an independent Scottish developer, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Lairg and District Learning Centre to deliver the funding to cover the Community Council areas of Creich, Ardgay and Lairg. This will be invested over a six-month period from December 2015.

The Caplich Skills Fund will deliver a variety of courses, including chainsaw training and First Aid training, but the Lairg Learning Centre is open to suggestions from the community as to further uses.

The funding is on top of the proposed community benefit funding, amounting £340,000 annually (£8.5m over the 25-year period), to be shared with the five community council areas local to it should the windfarm receive consent.



## CHURCH HILL PATH

In October LDCI and members of the local community spend a Saturday cleaning the path and the woodland so the Hill looked smart for Remembrance Sunday and is ready for use in the winter months ahead. **Light up Lairg** set up some beautiful lights on the Hill side and when the snow comes it will look truly Christmassy.

We hope to continue this work on a regular basis throughout the coming year and new volunteers are always welcome.

Dates for the volunteer days will be announced on Lairg Sutherland Facebook page and the Spring edition of our Newsletter. Please join us if you have time to spare. It is great fun and lots of fresh air.

LDCI have re-applied for funding for upgrading the path and we are awaiting a decision in the New Year. Let's hope we'll be successful this time.

## Lairg Gala Week

Over 60's Community  
Christmas Party  
**Sat 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm**  
Lairg Community Centre  
Great Night and Good Craic!  
Light Refreshments, Tea,  
Licensed,  
Free Raffle & Games  
All 60 and over Welcome!



## Ferrycroft Visitors Centre

We have had a very busy Summer with lots of visitors many of whom were from overseas. The Shindig Duathlon, that was being run from Ferrycroft has been a success and we are hoping to expand this next year to a Triathlon. Our footfall to date is about par with last year but we have had more coach visits this year.

The Centre is now closed for winter and will open again in April 2016

## Lairg Local History Society

In autumn the Society held some interesting evening events

*'Memories of Lairg Station and the Highland Railway'*  
Speaker : Marlyn Price

*'Wartime remains in the Kyle of Sutherland'*  
Speaker Susan Kruse of ARCH

*'Cape Wrath to Strath Brora'*  
Speaker : Dr Nick Lindsay of Clyne Heritage Brora

Lairg Local History Society are having a break until their first 2016 meeting in February. Until then some Society members will be working on the History Society Archive.

## WHAT'S ON.....

**Pilates Classes:** Every Monday morning in Lairg Community Centre from 11.30am-12.30pm (not during school holidays)

**Families First:** Every Tuesday (during term time) from 9.15-11.30am in Lairg Community Centre

**Lairg Library:** Bookbug Challenge, every Tuesday Morning from 11am - 12 noon, Story time & Crafts

Lairg Lunch Club: every Thursday 11.30am -1.30pm (term time only)

Community Council: every first Wednesday of the month 7.30pm in Lairg Community Centre

**Lairg Art Group:** Every Tuesday @ 1.30-4pm in Lairg Community Centre

**Lairg Bowling Club:** Every Tuesday at 7.30pm in Lairg Community Centre

**Lairg Play Day:** Every Wednesday from 12 noon - 3pm in Lairg Community Centre

**Table Tennis Club:** Every Thursday at 6.30pm -8.30pm in Lairg Community Centre (Term time only)

**Jogging Group :** will start on 4th January at 7.30 pm in Lairg Community Centre



## CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 20th December  
3pm  
Lairg Community Centre

All Welcome

Organised By  
Lairg Christian Fellowship

Charity: SC043801

If you have any suggestions or ideas for potential projects for the community or wish to have an article added to the quarterly newsletter, please contact:

Magda Macdonald  
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