

SPRING 2016



EDITION



Lairg & District Community Initiatives

Hello everyone! It's Spring again and that always brings renewed energy and ideas. LCDI hopes to kick start your enthusiasm for improvements around the village. We wish the whole community well with the year ahead.

**OUR NEW ADDRESS IS:
SCHOOLHOUSE, MAIN STREET
LAIRG IV27 4DD**

**NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER:
01549 402240**

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RESILIENT COMMUNITIES FUND

Our application to Foundation Scotland for the remaining £2000 has been successful and together with the £2500 already awarded by SSE we will be now able to purchase the satellite phone for the village as well as buy and install the necessary connections for the power generator to power the Community Centre in a case of emergency and prolonged power outage. The Centre will be the main location for everyone who might require shelter - the kitchen and bathroom facilities will be open to everyone. Thankfully, this Winter was kind and we didn't need the facility (though the Broons had to be helped again!). Next Winter though all will be in place and we will be prepared to cope with whatever emergency demands arise. No resident should be without help, heat, light or hot water.



YOUTH CREATIVE WEEK 4 - 8 APRIL

Are you interested in music, dance, drama, art, film making and having fun?

Want to learn new skills from professional artists?



For more information contact:
 Magda MacDonald, Community Development Office
 01549 402 240 | 07857 755 521
 Facebook: Lairg Sutherland



EDEN COURT have prepared a varied programme for High-Schoolers who would like to take part in the YOUTH CREATIVE WEEK:

- Monday 4th April - Laura – dance /
 Catriona – visual art (painting, print, sculpture installation)-
- Tuesday 4th April - Julia – Environmental/floral art /
 Katy-Louise – drama, stage combat
- Wednesday 6th April - Jason – film/camera skills /
 Dave – Music
- Thursday 7th April - Dave – music / Laura - Dance
- Friday 8th April - Jason – Film / Jonathan - drama

It sounds like great fun and it's on your doorstep!

Pop in to the Community Centre any day (or everyday) of the next week and find out for yourself! 10 am they start!

Remember to take a packed lunch with you!



Path to the Station

Much effort has been put into researching a new path to the Railway Station. Magda has with Highland Council and HITRANS representatives as well as SSE and the various land owners to establish the most suitable route to the Station. A riverside route has proved impractical to achieve.

We are awaiting now final confirmation from the Council as to the cost of two different construction options alongside the main road and their advice on the planning application process.

Once we establish and agree these base facts we will then seek funding options and apply for grants to deliver the project. It is still some way off but hopefully we are on the right track and are getting closer to achieving the goal. We will keep you informed on the project as it develops.



Community Broadband

This week we were awarded a Start Up Fund to carry out a survey of the village and surrounding area, prepare the scoping report, investigate the potential partners and funders and organise a community meeting with the Community Broadband Scotland team who will help progress the project and advise on delivery. Within the next few weeks you can expect to hear from us - we would like to contact as many residents in the area as possible - you'll be asked to complete a short questionnaire which we are happy to help you with or alternatively do in your own time and return to us. This will include running a simple speedtest. Please contact Magda on 01549402240 should you have any questions.

STRONGER SUTHERLAND

You can change Sutherland!

Do you have an idea that will make Sutherland a better place for everyone?

Do you need £100 to £2,000 to put your idea into action?

If your answer is YES then 'Stronger Sutherland' is the opportunity for you to make your project happen.



Deadline for applications is

Friday 22nd April 2016.

If you need information or assistance with the application please contact

Christine Ross, Voluntary Groups – East Sutherland – 01408 633001
Magda Macdonald – Lairg – 01549 402 240

The 'Stronger Sutherland' Initiative lets the local community decide for themselves which projects are needed in their area. Grants of up to £2000 are available to make your local area stronger

Who can apply?

Any Local community, voluntary or non-profit organisation – even informal groups – can **apply for funding from £100 to £2,000** to put ideas into action. You don't have to come from an existing organisation to apply for this fund but **all activities will have to happen in Sutherland and benefit local people.**

How do you apply?

To apply for the funding you must return the required form before **6pm Friday 22nd April 2016**. If your idea fits, the community will get to vote for the best ideas at an event to be held on **Saturday 21st May 2016, 10.30 a.m. – 2.30 p.m.**

The Event will be held at Lairg Community Centre, doors open at 10.00 a.m. At the event you will be required to talk about your idea to the community. Those in attendance will then vote on all the applications and a decision will be made on the day. A buffet lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Applications should be made on the form obtainable in Lairg from Magda Macdonald projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk and should be returned to via email to: contact@vges.org.uk

CHURCH HILL PATH UPDATE + CLEAN UP DAY

LDCI has reapplied for funding to upgrade the path so everyone will be able to enjoy easy access to the woods and appreciate the scenery. We would also like to introduce some sitting and picnic areas as well as wood carved features to make the area more attractive for families and visitors. We are awaiting decision mid April and hope, if successful, to complete the work before Summer.

In the meantime, we would like to tidy up the area as best we can so the construction work can start without any delay and also to make it easier for the Summer wild flowers to come through. Children from the Primary School will be making bird feeders from recycled materials and we hope the whole path be revitalised for the benefit of the community and its wildlife. If the turn out is good on the day, we would hope to extend the clean up to other parts of the village.

We will meet beside the War Memorial on Saturday, 30 April at 10.30 am and all volunteers are welcome. Please join us if you have time to spare. It is not hard work and it is fun to do it together.

Sandwiches/soup/hot drinks as well as lots of fresh air will be provided.



BROONS GOT HELP FROM THEIR NEIGHBOURS ONCE AGAIN



Fitness room

We received news from the Police they intend to keep the police station premises for the time being, so its future is unclear and we can not be sure it will ever be available for community use. So, this brings us back to the original plan to utilise the conservatory at the Community Centre. Alasdair Marshall is currently researching the detail and hopefully we will have more to report on this shortly. Once the decision has been taken to move this project forward an application for funding to secure the facility will be prepared.

JOGGING GROUP

We assisted Jean West in securing funding for the Jog Leader course and also for safety bibs for participants. The group started jogging in January and it is growing in popularity. We wish them all the best and hope they enjoy many beautiful sunny evenings for their running sessions! Anyone who would like to join, please contact Jean on 07912425415



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Caithness and Sutherland Local Development Plan

As part of LDCI's input to this important Planning document we propose the following changes :

1. Formally identifying the former Sutherland Transport site for a tourist information and local craft type /hub development with a focus on linking the north, east, south and west. Possibly too some light recreational use such as picnic and children's play area.
2. Including the Railway Station footpath link as part of the formal Core Footpath Network.



Spring Classes

IT Intermediate and Hardware



Continuation from the virus protection class, learn more about how to protect your computer and see the different components inside the casing.

Advanced Excel and Word



Further enhance your Word or Excel skills by moving on to some the applications more advanced features

Sampler Runner



Create your own bed or table runner in this 4 week class. You will be using a number of different techniques each week such from applying sashing to binding.

How to make good compost



Learn how to make good compost and save yourself pounds! Find out which components are best and when to use it on your garden.

Cake Decorating



A four week class covering a range of techniques so that you create four different designs. Each week you will cover a different technique which can be used for any age of person.

Drama workshop



Come along for the morning and have a go at acting! This will be a fun introductory session, suitable for all ages and abilities.



Book your place now!
 01549 402050 or admin@lairglearningcentre.org.uk
www.lairglearningcentre.org.uk
 Scottish Charity no. SC033900

LAIRG LIBRARY

Opening hours

- Mon - 10:00 - 12:00; 14:30 - 17:00*
- Tue - 14:30 - 17:00; 18:00 - 20:00*
- Wed - Closed*
- Thu - 10:00 - 12:00; 14:30 - 17:00*
- Fri - 14:30 - 17:00; 18:00 - 19:30*
- Sat - Closed*
- Sun - Closed*

Community Centre Main Street LAIRG IV27 4DB
 01549 402577
lairg.library@highlifehighland.com



Lairg Local History Society

On the 25 March 2016 the Society held a very interesting event - a talk on Dave Goulder's & Eilidh Price's new book 'Bird Verses and Stone Odes' followed by a discussion about 150 Lairg Station Anniversary Project.

More evening events to follow:

6 May 2016 - 'History of the Seaforth Highlanders' by Lynsey Easton, The Highlanders' Museum, Fort George.

27 May 2016 - 'Ullapool Museum Memories' by former curator Alex Eaton

24 June 2016 - 'Then There was Light' by John Quinn

29 July 2016 - 'Childhood & Toys of Yesteryear' by Alison Boyle, Highland Museum of Childhood, Strathpeffer.

They all take place in the Community Centre at 7.30 pm

Our fortnightly archive meetings at Ferrycroft Visitor Centre will also start in May (dates to be confirmed nearer the time)

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

**LAIRG, ALTNAHARRA,
ROSEHALL AND
INVERSHIN**

**TELEPHONE DIRECTORY HAS NOW
BEEN PRINTED AND WILL BE AVAIL-
ABLE FROM NEXT
WEEK (4 APRIL) IN
BRIGEND STORES,
SPAR LOCH SHIN
STORES, POST
OFFICE AND
LIBRARY AS WELL AS
THE LDCI OFFICE
(REMEMBER WE ARE IN THE
SCHOOLHOUSE NOW!)**



**ORIGINAL COPIES
(2014 EDITION) WILL BE REPLACED
FREE OF CHARGE.**



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)

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 : every Monday at 7.30 pm in Lairg Community Centre

Sailing Club : Every Sunday 10.30 am till 3.00 pm. All welcome, no experience needed, all ages, plenty members willing to show and teach sailing



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

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
LDCI Development Officer
Schoolhouse (Lairg Learning Centre building)
E-mail: projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk

Tel: 01549 402240

www.lairginitiative.co.uk