

Lairg Magazine

LAIRG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



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Lairg Community Housing Development

The building of the houses is well underway, and Lairg & District Community Initiatives (LDCI) will give regular updates in the magazine as the project progresses.

Albyn Housing Association have already held two community engagement sessions in the village, and are hoping to have another one in the new year.

Watch out for further updates next month.

If you are interested in applying for one of the homes please email: fhallocations@albynhousing.org.uk

After the extremely early tropical summer Lairg Gala Week was left to contend with some challenging weather but it didn't stop it being a great success! Lots of fun was had by people of all ages who took part in the festivities – a craft market, duck race, sports day, pet show, fishing competition, quizzes, hill race, raft race, It's a Knockout, spaghetti eating competition (because the tin opener broke for the beans), crafting activities and more. There were events for all to dance the night away and the children (and big kids) were kept entertained by Artie from the Singing Kettle. We even had a snake visit the marquee!

Gala weeks are an integral part of the intangible cultural heritage of communities and Lairg certainly know how to put on a good show! Take a look at some of the Highlights below.





School is back !

Here are all the new classes at Lairg Primary School. We look forward to hearing more about what they get up to this term in the next newsletter.



Nursery



P1/2



P3



P4



P5



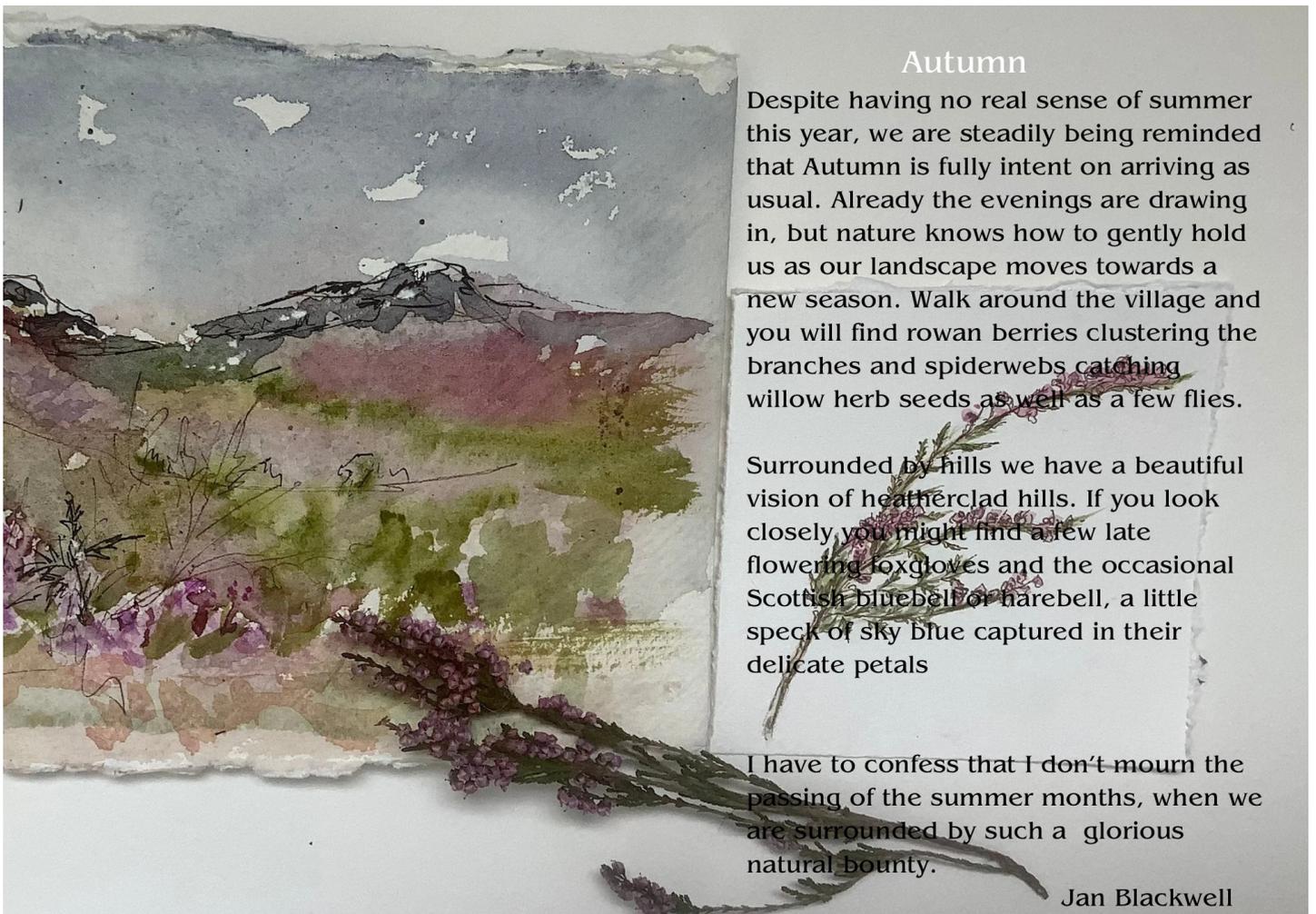
P6



P7

QUIZ TIME!

1. Which of these three in the series of Indiana Jones films came first - The Temple of Doom, The Last Crusade or The Crystal Skull?
2. Which chocolate did Mars announce it was removing from Celebrations as a trial in 2022?
3. Who has won the most Grand Slam titles - Rafael Nadal or Novak Djokovic?
4. Who was arrested for "disobeying the police" during a protest blockading oil tankers in Malmö in June?
5. Scotland's highest road, the A896, runs between which two towns?
6. Who played his final ever UK show at Glastonbury this year?
7. 'Rouge' and 'Noir' in French, translate to what in English?
8. Along with the Crown and Sceptre, what new weapon was given to King Charles III from the Scottish Honours?
9. What is the name of the mercenary group that failed to complete a mutiny in Russia in June?
10. Tom Cruise and which actress divorced in 2001?



Autumn

Despite having no real sense of summer this year, we are steadily being reminded that Autumn is fully intent on arriving as usual. Already the evenings are drawing in, but nature knows how to gently hold us as our landscape moves towards a new season. Walk around the village and you will find rowan berries clustering the branches and spiderwebs catching willow herb seeds as well as a few flies.

Surrounded by hills we have a beautiful vision of heatherclad hills. If you look closely you might find a few late flowering foxgloves and the occasional Scottish bluebell or harebell, a little speck of sky blue captured in their delicate petals

I have to confess that I don't mourn the passing of the summer months, when we are surrounded by such a glorious natural bounty.

Jan Blackwell

Lairg Crofters Show is the last remaining Crofter's show in mainland Britain. Established in 1911, the show is held annually in the showfield off Main Street. The 2023 show took place on Saturday 26th August, one of the wettest days this year so far. However, the rain stopped on time for this year's main attraction 'Riders of the Storm', a unique and exciting equestrian stunt team based in Perthshire. In addition to performing at the show, they offered lessons for the local community the following day!



Rain has been a key feature of some of our summer events in the area this year but it hasn't stopped things happening. There was a great turn out for the horse show, the dog show, sheep and cattle livestock classes, dog agility, highland dancing competition and industrial tent. The crowds were kept entertained by the Vintage Tractor Parade, tug of war, crofters obstacle course and both the Sutherland School's Pipe Band and Sutherland Caledonian Pipe band. The piping competitions produced some extremely talented young pipers too (pictured below)!



Lochview Rural Training Centre have had a busy summer of workshops and activities at the centre including Willow Weaving, Wool Prep and Spinning and our Muddy Boots Summer Holiday Club.



We also had an amazing day at the Sutherland Show running the fun on the farm marquee and on the 15th August we headed to the Lairg Lamb sale with some of our young crofters who got in the ring to sell sheep!



Everyone who attended our Wool Preparation and Spinning Workshop had a great time learning how to assess wool quality and breeds, how to clean wool and card it ready for spinning. Then onto the spinning. Who would have thought you would get so many different types of spinning wheels?! Everyone got the opportunity to try a variety and then spin the wool they had carded. Well done to everyone. A big thanks to our ever patient tutor Brenda McGuire



Coming Up

- **Straw Workshop - 6th September**
- **Felting Workshop - 23rd & 24th September**
- **2 Day Willow Weaving - 7th & 8th September**
- **Felting Workshop - November**
- **Christmas Workshops - December**

To find out more visit www.lochviewruraltraining.co.uk or contact info@lochviewruraltraining.co.uk / 07867590454

It's looking very busy in the diary for the coming weeks and months at Lairg Community Centre with more exciting new events and sessions in the pipeline.

We are very proud to be one of the venues featured in the Blas Festival with Gaelic Voices appearing at the centre on Saturday 2nd September at 7.30pm. You can find out more about this Highland Council and Sutherland Sessions collaboration along with ticket information at WWW.BLAS.SCOT It promises to be a great evening!

The Citizens Advice team will be in The Shin Suite each Thursday between 9.30am and 10.30am. A private space is provided for you to be able to seek support on a whole range of issues. You might like to drop in and say hello to find out what they can help with just in case you can point someone you know in their direction at a time when it's needed.

Our August community market was very well attended by both local people and visitors to the area. With so many tourists passing through Lairg, it offers a fantastic opportunity to showcase local businesses. We're known for being one of the friendliest markets and offer a warm welcome with free refreshments provided by our wonderful volunteers.

If you would like to get involved as a trader or volunteer, please contact Ros in the office on 01549 402843 or email lairgcommunitycentre@gmail.com. Ros is always happy to answer your questions or help organise bookings in our brilliant facility.

The remaining dates for this year's Market include:

18th September, 16th October - 20th November - 18th December

(Just Remember - Every 3rd Monday of the Month)

East & Central Sutherland Citizens Advice Bureau News

WE NEED YOU

Citizens Advice first and foremost is a voluntary service of advice and assistance provided by individuals serving their communities in a formal, unpaid capacity.

Consequently, we need people from all walks of life and ages to be volunteer advisers, receptionists, admin staff, and to join our management board.

If you would like to know more, email volunteer@ecscab.org.uk and we'll send you a volunteer pack or pop into the bureau.

BUREAU EXPANDS SERVICE

ECSCAB has expanded its service across Sutherland with the return of the daily drop-in service in Golspie and by adding further outreach clinics in Brora, Helmsdale and Lairg.

We are now open 9 - 5 Monday to Friday in Golspie and have drop-in advice clinics:

Brora Library - Monday 2 – 4

Helmsdale Community Centre – Tuesday 9.30 – 10.30

Dornoch Hub - Wednesday 10 – 12

Lairg Community Centre - Thursday 9.30 – 10.30

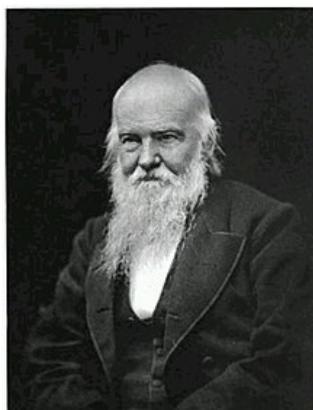
Bonar Bridge Hub – Thursday 11.00 – 1.00.

We hope to add an outreach clinic in Rogart in September.



James [Paraffin] Young

Created the first oil refinery in the World



*Years truly
James Young*

July 13, 1811—May 13, 1883

James Young was born in Shuttle Street in the Drygate area of Glasgow, the son of John Young, and his wife Jean Wilson.

In 1847 Young had his attention called to a natural [petroleum seepage](#) in the [Riddings colliery](#) at [Alfreton](#), Derbyshire, from which he distilled a light thin oil suitable for use as lamp oil, at the same time obtaining a thicker oil suitable for lubricating machinery.

In 1848 in partnership with his friend and assistant Edward Meldrum, set up a small business refining the crude oil. The new oils were successful, but the supply of oil from the coal mine soon began to fail (eventually being exhausted in 1851). Young, noticing that the oil was dripping from the [sandstone](#) roof of the coal mine, theorised that it somehow originated from the action of heat on the coal seam and from this thought that it might be produced artificially.

Following up this idea, he tried many experiments and eventually succeeded in producing, by distilling [cannel coal](#) at a low heat which when treated in the same way as the seep oil, gave similar products. Young found that by slow distillation he could obtain a number of useful liquids from it, one of which he named "paraffin oil" because at low temperatures it congealed into a substance resembling paraffin wax.

In 1865 Young bought out his business partners and built second and larger works at [Addiewell](#). It was a substantial industrial complex, in its time one of the largest chemical works in Scotland. In 1866 Young sold the concern to Young's Paraffin Light and Mineral Oil Company, although Young remained in the company.

The company continued to grow and expanded its operations, selling paraffin oil and [paraffin lamps](#) all over the world and for its founder the nickname "[Paraffin](#)" Young. Addiewell remained the centre of operations for Young's Paraffin Light and Mineral Oil Co. Ltd.

By the 1900s nearly 2 million tons of shale were being extracted annually, employing 4,000 men. The West Lothian oil-shale industry peaked in around 1892 operating 120 oil shale works, but the end was approaching, retorting the oil shale was energy intensive and expensive. Cheaper free-flowing petroleum from Russia and later the USA, effectively priced oil shales out of the market, causing the industry to almost collapse by 1919, long after Young himself had died. Young's refinery closed around 1921.

LDCI Quiz Answers

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. The Temple of Doom | 5. Lochcarron and Kinlochewe | 9. Wagner |
| 2. Bounty | 6. Elton John | 10. Nicole Kidman |
| 3. Novak Djokovic | 7. Red and Black | |
| 4. Greta Thunberg | 8. Sword | |

Lairg & District Learning Centre spent this summer delivering events and activities focused on sustainability and reducing waste. This included a Zero Waste Bake Off Challenge at Lairg Gala Week, a Swish Cèilidh event, wellbeing days with paddleboarding and wetsuit upcycling activities and heading off on tour to Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival and Lairg Crofters Show. September's programme of learning activities in the local area are all part in this year's Highlands & Islands Climate Festival. The festival coordinated by the Highlands & Islands Climate Hub in partnership with organisations across the area is a celebration of localism and community engagement with a focus on climate action. Thanks to funding from Think Health Think Nature we have a new series of walking activities to launch this month focused on getting outdoors and tuning into the sounds of the environment. Join us for a Listening Walk to see and hear what its all about.

Date	Activity	Time	Location
Sat 9 Sept	Foraging Workshop	10am—12.30pm	Rogart Primary
	Make Your Own Peg Loom	10am—3.30pm	LDLC
	Woodworking & Weaving Workshop		
Mon 11 Sept	Heart & Gaither Big Picnic Event	10.30am - 2.30pm	Ferrycroft
Tue 12 Sept	Intro to Smartphone Filmmaking	6.30pm—8.30pm	Community Centre
Wed 13 Sep	Listening Walk	5.30pm—6.30pm	Ferrycroft
Thurs 14 Sep	Advanced Smartphone Filmmaking	9.30am—4pm	LDLC
Fri 15 Sep	Listening Walk	10.30am –11.30am	Golspie Big Burn
Mon 18 Sep	Listening Walk	5.30pm—6.30pm	Ferrycroft
Tue 12 Sept	Climate Café Lairg	4.30pm—6pm	LDLC
Thurs 21 Sep	Smartphone & Tablet Photography Workshop	10am – 12pm	LDLC
	Learn how to use your own phone or device to take photos using our local environment as inspiration	6.30pm – 8.30pm	
Fri 22 Sep	Listening Walk	10.30—11.30	Golspie Big Burn
	Climate Film Festival	6.30pm—9.30pm	Rogart Mart
Sat 23 Sep	Srùpag Gaelic Conversation Group	2pm—4pm	Golspie FRH
Sun 24 Sep	Woodworking : Birdbox & Bird Table	10.30am—3pm	LDLC
	Fabric Printing	10.30am—12.30pm	LDLC
	Make A Zippy Pouch	1.30pm—3.30pm	LDLC
Thurs 28 Sep	Woodworking: Birdbox & Bird Table	10.30am—3pm	LDLC
	Tetra Pack Printing	2pm—4pm	LDLC
		6pm—8pm	

Our programme of classes is updated on a regular basis via Eventbrite which you can find by searching **Lairg & District Learning Centre** or contact us on 01549 402050 or admin@lairglearningcentre.org.uk.



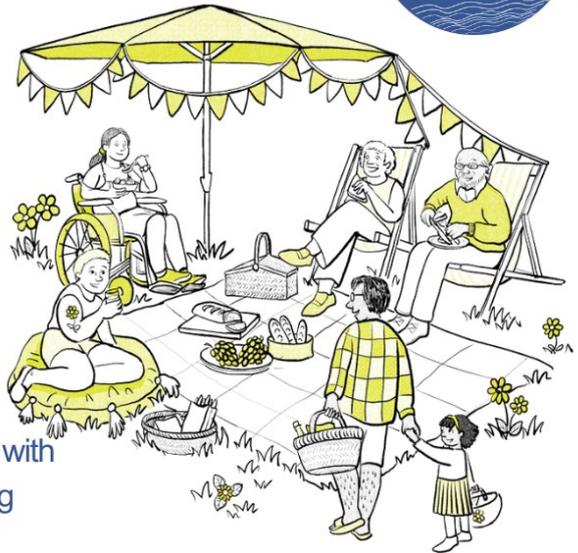
HEARST & GAITHER PICNIC IN THE PARK

MONDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

10.30AM - 2.30PM

FERRYCROFT VISITOR CENTRE, LAIRG

Bring a picnic and join us for a day celebrating our local area with a community litter pick and free activities including foraging workshops, orienteering & crafting. Everyone welcome!



#HICLIMATEFEST
#HILOCAL



Lairg Health Walks

The next Health walk will take place Thursday the 14th September 2023. We will meet at the Ferrycroft Visitor Centre Carpark at 2pm, go for a walk and then have refreshments afterwards.

Lairg & District
Community
Initiatives



REINDEER PARADE
CHRISTMAS MARKET
CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT
SANTA'S GROTTO
FUNFAIR & MORE!

FOR MORE INFO SEE: WWW.LAIRGINITIATIVE.CO.UK/WINTERFEST



SAVE THE DATE!
9TH DEC
NOON - 4 PM

The Screen Machine mobile cinema will be in Lairg on the 20th & 21st September with Elemental, Barbie, Oppenheimer and more!

Thank you for reading issue 62 of the Lairg Magazine! If you would like to submit something to the magazine, please send it to: projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk.

Phone: 07961 372 427 or write to us at: Schoolhouse, Main Street, Lairg, IV27 4DD