

# Lairg Magazine

LAIRG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



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With the colour of the leaves changing and the nights starting to draw in, Autumn is upon us.

The magazine will soon be coming up to its third year. It has proved to be a hugely successful project, with so many of the different community groups now having a page, along with the school.

We are now working with the Learning Centre to produce the magazine. We are delivering over 160 copies now, with the two shops taking copies to put in their papers.

We are always looking for interesting articles. Please send them to [projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk](mailto:projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk).

*This month we hear from Lairg Primary's P1/2 class.*

The children in P1/2 have had a great start to the new school year. They have been learning about their emotions and how we are all unique and to demonstrate this the drew self-portraits.



### Outdoor Learning

The children have had two outdoor learning sessions. They planted seeds, learnt about the different berries we can find in the playground and enjoyed some nature based art. The P1/2 children from Rosehall also joined us for one of the sessions. The children also worked together to make a hedgehog house to encourage local wildlife in school.



The Water Cycle

The children set up an experiment in the water tray to see if they could observe the different stages of the water cycle. It was very exciting to observe the water evaporating and turning into “clouds” on the clingfilm.



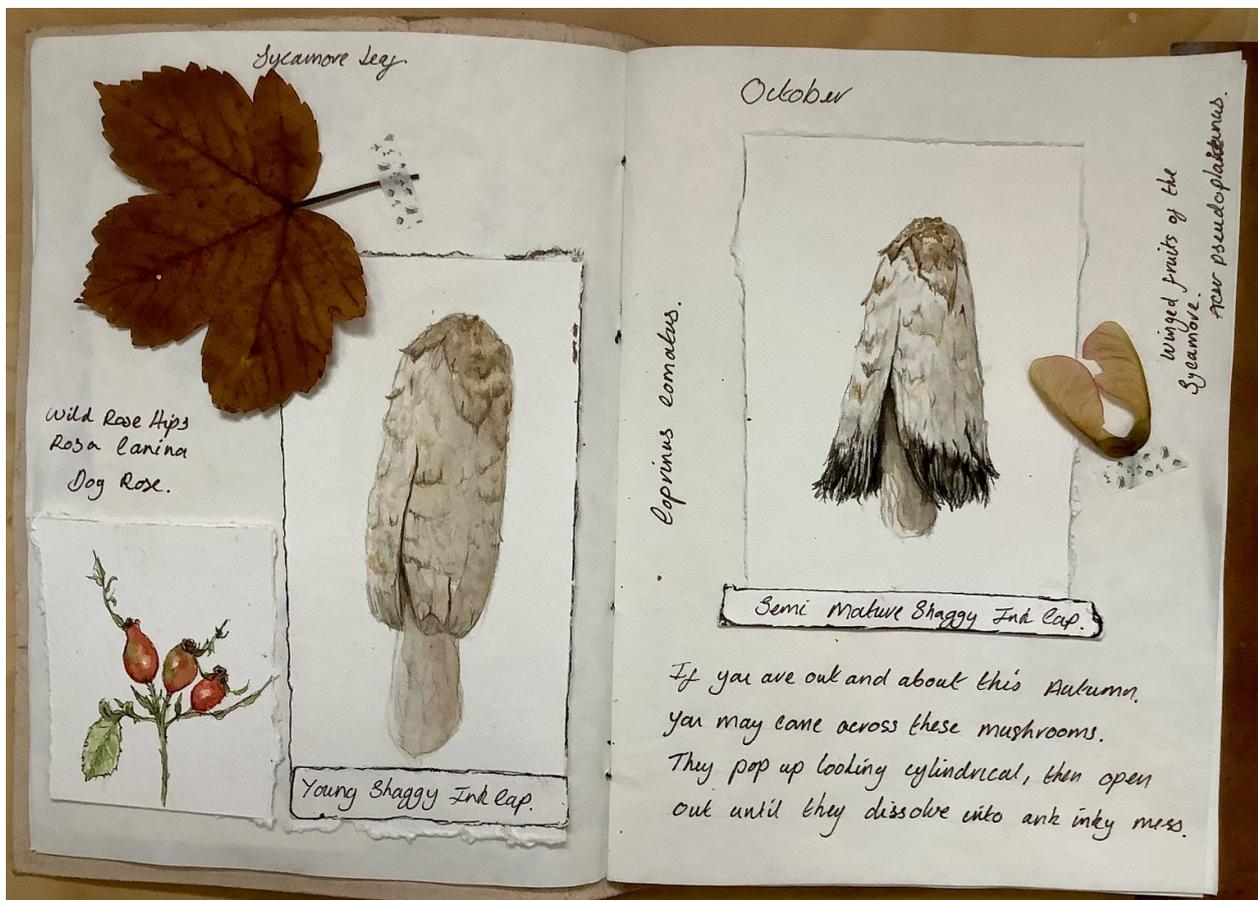
Lairg Library

The children went to the library to visit Sanaa and explore our local community. She read them a story and set them a Lego building challenge- to build a dragon! The children were all very creative in their ideas to build dragons of different shapes, sizes and colours.



# QUIZ TIME!

1. Who became Home Secretary in Oct 2022 to the present day?
2. What does a somniloquist do whilst sleeping?
3. Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney bought, and changed the fortune of, which Welsh football club in Nov 2020?
4. What name is given to a female camel?
5. Who presented the first edition of 'The Sky at Night' in 1957?
6. On the 26th August, a major search took place in Scotland, but there was no sighting. What was it looking for?
7. In which city in India is the Taj Mahal?
8. Daniel Khalife escaped from which penal institution on 6th Sept?
9. What number one single by The Three Degrees is the only one to have every line of the lyrics as a question?
10. In the human body, what does a ligament do?



From Jan Blackwell's handmade journal

The weather is starting to feel chillier but you'll always find a warm welcome at Lairg Community Centre. The change in season usually signifies the start of our busy spell at the centre as regular groups such as Whist, Indoor Bowls and Rifle Club swing back into action. The Crafters Group, who meet weekly on a Monday, have recently installed a piece of their work in The Kinvonvie which is a beautiful addition to the room. It showcases local creativity, a variety of craft techniques and the importance of sharing time together. Be sure to drop in and have a look next time you're in the building.

Remember that **Lairg Library** is situated within the centre and if you're not already a member, do go along and say hello. There is so much to choose from and a wealth of helpful information and support can be accessed too. The Citizens Advice clinic held on Thursdays between 9.30 and 10.30 is getting busier. The Shin provides a private space to talk about your issues to the team whilst a cosy seating area is provided in the corridor for those waiting.

The community centre is urgently looking for volunteers to come forward who might like to join the committee. We meet once a month on a Tuesday evening at 7pm. It doesn't matter if you have never done anything like this before or maybe you have life experiences and skills that could be really handy. We'd love to hear from you and arrange for you to come along and get a flavour of what we do and see if it's for you. The work done by our volunteers is essential to keep this amazing facility at the heart of Lairg for all to access and enjoy.

A date for the diary for all music lovers is the **25<sup>th</sup> November** when we have **The Mad Ferret Band** coming to Lairg as part of their Whirl of Scotland Tour. The Daily Record described their offering as "energetic, super-charged contemporary folk" and it promises to be a great night. See their website [www.themadferretband.com](http://www.themadferretband.com) for more details. Tickets can be booked via Eventbrite.

The remaining dates for this year's **Community Market** are **16th October, 20th November** and **18th December** (Remember—Every 3rd Monday of the month!).

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## 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](mailto: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 have lots of new learning activities coming up this month including some spooky themed activities for Hallowe'en. Thanks to funding from The Highland Council's Sutherland Cares fund we were also able to run free Family Art Sessions during the October Holidays !

We are delighted to have Heather Bruce from The Rusty Coo running workshops exploring paper cutting and what you can do with a Cricut Machine.

We'll be a special Micro Film Festival screening the Highlands & Islands Climate Hub Film, The Dreaming Bog and microfilms made by participants of our Through The Lens Smartphone Filmmaking Workshops with Robert Aitken.

October brings with it the Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival Highland. At Lairg & District Learning Centre we recognise the importance of participation in arts activities and how this can support mental health & wellbeing. All of the learning activities we deliver aim to support the mental health and wellbeing of our communities by providing a safe space to learn new skills, share skills and connect with others.

This month we also see another term of Mini Makers (our crafty after school club for P4-P7), Cook Together Family Cooking Sessions and Bake and Blether at Lairg Community Centre.

We're also launching a Woodworking Maker Space from the 31st October Our Cabin Sessions are open to anyone 16+ interested in woodworking who'd like to come along to use our space, our equipment and meet others with similar interests. You can bring any projects you're working on and our tutor Graham will be on hand to support sessions and answer any questions.

Date	Activity	Time	Location
Mon 23 Oct	Pumpkin Luminary	10am—11am	LDLC
Tue 24 Oct	8 Week—Family Cooking	4pm—5:30pm	Lairg Community Centre
Wed 25 Oct	8 Week—Bake & Blether	11am—1pm	LCC, Shin Suite
Thurs 26 Oct	Halloween Treat Bags	3pm—4pm	LDLC
Thurs 26 Oct	Micro Film Festival	6.30pm—9pm	Lairg Community Centre
Sat 28 Oct	Woodwork: Hedgehog House	10:30am— 2:30pm	The Cabin, LDLC
Tue 31st Oct	Maker Space: The Cabin Sessions A social space for woodworking	11.30am— 1pm or 6pm— 8pm	The Cabin, LDLC
Wed 8 Nov	Coding for Kids (4 week course)	3pm—4pm	LDLC
2nd & 3rd Dec	2 Day Basket Weaving Course	3pm—4pm	LDLC
		3pm—4pm	LDLC

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](mailto:admin@lairglearningcentre.org.uk).

The Highland Community Waste Partnership (HCWP) is a community-led collaboration working to reduce waste and build a movement for more sustainable consumption in the Highlands. Launched in April 2022 and funded by The National Lottery Climate Action Fund until April 2025, we are working to raise awareness, promote more circular services and skills, trial interventions and share learning across three key areas of waste



The initiative coordinated by Keep Scotland Beautiful is led and implemented by eight community organisations across the Highlands; Broadford & Strath Community Company, Highland Good Food Partnership, Lairg & District Learning Centre, Lochaber Environmental Group, Transition Black Isle, Ullapool Community Trust, Velocity Café and Thurso Community Development Trust.

Each partner has different areas of interest, experience and expertise. Over the past year Lairg & District Learning Centre have carried out the following projects and activities as part of the partnership:-

- We've developed and delivered a series of workshops focused on reusing and recycling—thrift flip, woodwork, foraging and composting - working with locally available tutors to provide learning experiences that lead to a more sustainable future.
- We've created a regular Maker Space drop-in session focused on bringing people together in a safe space to tackle loneliness & social isolation as well as reducing textile waste by nurturing skills and talent of local people to pass on skills in sewing, mending, crafting etc.
- Developed a programme of ECO Classes – interacting with people and showing them how to do something with the resources you have to reduce single use items – face pads, kitchen roll, food coverings, tote bags, felted soap.
- Tackling Rural Plastics through bunting making workshops using old Feed Sacks
- Forming connections in the communities around us – exploring ways of working with them on behaviour change.
- Attending the local community market on a monthly basis to promote the work of the HCWP and different workshops focused on behaviour change.
- Bringing creative recycling solutions to local initiatives and events e.g. making a Poppy Cascade for the War Memorial Centenary out of second hand wool and deer netting off cuts in partnership with Lairg & District Community Initiatives.
- Hosted Climate film screenings and Swish clothes swap events!

**LDLC have hosted 113 events & activities in the first year of the HCWP! Thank you to everyone who attended or helped us run these sessions! We could not do this amount of learning without you!** Coming up we have some online classes over the winter, more in person workshops and have another clothes swap planned with a crafty de-stash on the 11th November. So, please dig out your pre-loved clothes or crafty items or just come along for a cuppa and a chat.

**Contact Project Officer Jo Henderson on [jo@lairglearningcentre.org.uk](mailto:jo@lairglearningcentre.org.uk) or 01549 402050 for more info or to see how you can get involved.**

Lochview rural Training has had a very busy summer with a range of education sessions for both youths and adults.

Our junior crofters remains busy with youths aged 7-11 attending fortnightly on a Saturday morning - activities range from feeding the animals, looking after the polytunnel and playing games. Our young crofters for 12-19 year olds meet on a Friday afternoon, as part of the sessions they learn more about the skills required for entering the land based sector, sessions include all aspects of crofting from care of the livestock to land maintenance. The sessions are great for intergenerational work also as we often have the young crofters volunteering at large crofting community events including, shearing, sorting of lambs and sheep for the sales, Dipping and scanning. These occasions help the youths build up their Saltire Award volunteer hours.

Our Tuesday Fresh Roots program is a dedicated session for adults that like to be outside and learning about local produce but also wanting to improve their own wellbeing. The sessions often mix creativity and wellbeing, over the last few weeks they have been making Rowen jelly and apple butter. We aim to produce a small recipe book

Our employability program also continues to be busy and we are delighted to be taking one young person on as a paid placement for 6 months.



These photos from our recent basket weaving workshop with Aurore who provided an incredible weekend of creativity. Look out for our Christmas willow workshop coming up on the 25th November.

Classes coming up :-

**October 22nd**

**Pre tugging and synchronisation workshop**

**Oct 25th & Nov 1st:**

**Needle Felting Workshop**

**25th Nov**

**Christmas Willow Workshop**



To keep updated of our workshops follow our Eventbrite Page:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/lochview-rural-training-56587739653>

Remembrance Day is fast approaching, and LDCI is very pleased to support the commemoration. A flagpole has been purchased, and is now in place at the War Memorial. Funds are also available to buy some plants, and so some general tidying-up and new planting is also planned.

The wonderful poppy cascade, which was such a beautiful and moving feature of last year's War Memorial Centenary, has survived its display over last winter in good condition.

So many people from far and near contributed to its creation, and it will be taken out of storage and installed at the Memorial again in time for the Remembrance service on November 12th.



**The Remembrance Sunday service will be at the war memorial at 10.45am on the 12th November.**

### **Lairg Health Walks**

We're currently reviewing the day and time of our health walks and will provide an update in the next magazine. If you'd like to be kept informed contact 01549 402050.

### **LDCI Quiz Answers**

- |                     |                          |                               |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Suella Braverman | 5. Patrick Moore         | 9. When will I see you again? |
| 2. Talk             | 6. The Loch Ness Monster | 10. Connect bone to bone      |
| 3. Wrexham AFC      | 7. Agra                  |                               |
| 4. Cow              | 8. Wandsworth Prison     |                               |

Lairg &  
District  
Community  
Initiatives



# LAIRG WINTERFEST 2023

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

FOR MORE INFO SEE: [WWW.LAIRGINITIATIVE.CO.UK/WINTERFEST](http://WWW.LAIRGINITIATIVE.CO.UK/WINTERFEST)



SAVE THE DATE!  
9TH DEC  
NOON - 4 PM



## SWISHING + CRAFTERS EVENT + DESTASH

*Saturday, Nov 11th*

11pm - 3pm

AT LAIRG COMMUNITY CENTRE

Calling all Crafters and Hobbyists!

Come along to our **Swishing Event** on Saturday the 11th of November with a Crafters Destash! An opportunity to buy and sell new, unused, part used craft materials and tools.

swap don't shop!

To book a table for the Destash please contact [jo@lairglearningcentre.org.uk](mailto:jo@lairglearningcentre.org.uk)



Thank you for reading issue 63 of the Lairg Magazine! If you would like to submit something to the magazine, please send it to: [projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk](mailto:projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk).

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