

Lairg Magazine

LAIRG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

WINTERFEST ISSUE

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Lairg's annual 'Winterfest 2023' is taking place once again on Saturday 9th December.

Now in its seventh year, 'Winterfest' is a wonderful family day out that will get everyone into the Christmas spirit!

The day will kick off at 12pm with Church bells ringing to open the Festive Parade – come and see the real reindeer from Cairngorm Reindeer Centre pulling Santa's sleigh along the Main Street to the Community Centre (where the rest of the activities are based). For more info about Winterfest see page 2 & 3.



Santa will be in his Grotto within the Community Centre to greet children from 12.30- 4 pm. Children can also meet the reindeer at the back of the Community Centre throughout the afternoon. There will be a Christmas Craft Fair with local traders and artisans selling their wares in the Community Centre. Perfect for picking up some unique Christmas gifts! Buttons & Bows will be playing traditional music during the afternoon too. There will also be a café selling refreshments and home baking provided by Lairg Crofters Show. Outdoors there will be a family funfair to keep the kids amused! Further children's entertainment will be provided by the wonderful 'Hopscotch Magic' in LAIRG PRIMARY SCHOOL GYM at 2pm. Lairg Learning Centre are also putting on some fabulous festive classes throughout the day and there will be Winter Stories in the School Gym. The Grand Raffle will be drawn at 4pm before the event closes at 4.30pm. Kaye Hurrion, Chair of (LDCI), the organisers of Winterfest said, "We are delighted to be able to hold Winterfest once again this year. Winterfest is only possible because of the generous donations from a number of local businesses who have either donated towards the event or have donated to our raffle which has some fantastic prizes. Winterfest is a really important event here in Lairg for our community and without their support we would really struggle to host the day. We'd also like to thank all the volunteers who help out, and we look forward to welcoming everyone on the day!"





Winterfest 2023 Programme

12pm	Ringing of Church of Scotland bells, and Opening Parade of the reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh from the bottom of the Main Street up to the Community Centre.
12 – 4pm:	Craft Fair in the Community Centre (Main Hall, Kinvonvie & Shin suites) with Buttons & Bows playing traditional music.
12.30 – 4 pm	Santa Claus will meet children in his Grotto in the Conservatory £3 entry per child.
12 – 4pm:	Café provided by the Crofters Show in the Rifle Range Centre). Tea/coffee and home-baking.
12 – 4pm:	Fun Fair & Hot Food Van outside.
12:45 – 1:45pm	Wonderland of Festive Tales in Lairg Primary School Gym with Lairg & District Learning Centre – Free admission.
10am – 4pm	Festive Classes at Lairg & District Learning Centre for Winterfest. Booking in advance is essential. Contact Lairg & District Learning Centre on admin@lairglearningcentre.org.uk or call 01549 402050 to book a place.
2pm	Hopscotch Magic Show in LAIRG PRIMARY SCHOOL GYM – Free admission.
3:30pm	Community Sing-a-long. Come & join in with some festive songs in the Community Centre.
4pm	Grand Raffle Draw in the Main Hall with children's mini raffle first!
4:30pm	Event Closes

The word "QUIZ" is displayed in a playful, 3D style. Each letter is cut out of a light-colored wooden block with a visible grain. The letters are arranged in a slightly staggered, horizontal line. The 'Q' has a small tail, the 'U' is a simple outline, the 'I' is a simple outline, and the 'Z' has a small tail.

1. Which pantomime is being performed at Eden Court in Inverness this year?
2. How many ghosts arrive in Dickens "A Christmas Carol"?
3. What is the name of George Bailey's guardian angel in the film "It's a wonderful life"?
4. In the song "The Twelve days of Christmas", what was given on the 8th day?
5. What colour are mistletoe berries?
6. According the carol, which 'little' animal carried Mary to Bethlehem?
7. Which animated film features the song "Walking in the Air"?
8. Which TV family has a pet dog called 'Santa's little helper'?
9. What is the name of the skin that hangs from a turkey's neck?
10. What name is given by the Christian Church to the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ?



Check out what's coming up this winter.

The Centre will be closed for our Christmas holidays from the 21st of December and will re-open in the New Year on the 8th of January 2024.

Date	Activity	Time	Location
Tues 21 Nov	4 Week Introduction to Gaelic	6pm - 7:30pm	LDLC, Room 1
Wed 22 Nov	Make Your Own: Gift Bags	6pm - 8pm	LDLC, Room1
Fri 24 Nov	Introduction to Gaelic Taster Session	2:30pm - 4pm	Dornoch Hub
Wed 29 Nov	Make Your Own: Bottle Bags	6pm - 8pm	LDLC, Room 1
Thurs 30 Nov	3 Week - Sock Knitting	6pm - 8pm	LDLC, Room 1
Sat/Sun 2/3 Dec	2 Day—Basket Weaving	10am - 4pm	LDLC, The Cabin
Sat 16th Dec	Candleholder Making Workshop	10.30 - 1.30	LDLC, The Cabin

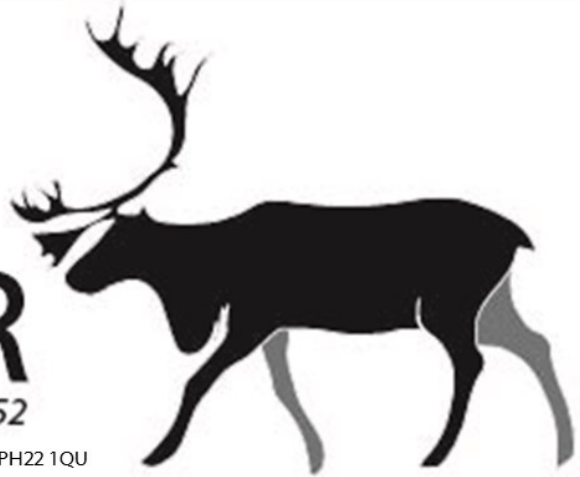
WINTERFEST CLASSES - 9TH OF DECEMBER

Activity	Time	Location	Price
Digital Christmas Cards	10am-11:30pm or 1pm-2:30pm	IT Suite	£10
Willow Stars	10am-11:30pm or 1pm-2:30pm	Room 1	£15
Snowman Ornament & Candleholder Woodworking	10am-11:30pm or 1pm-2:30pm	The Cabin	£10
Make Your Own Wooden Christmas Baubles	3pm – 4pm	Room1	FREE
Christmas Sing Along	3:30pm-4pm	Lairg Community Centre Main Hall	FREE

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.

THE CAIRNGORM REINDEER

est 1952



The Cairngorm Reindeer Centre, Glenmore, Aviemore, Inverness-shire, PH22 1QU
www.cairngormreindeer.co.uk Tel: 01479 861228

History of the Cairngorm Reindeer Herd

Reindeer are native to Scotland but died out thousands of years ago. They were then re-introduced here from Sweden and Norway by a Sami reindeer herder, Mikel Utsi, and his American wife, Dr Ethel Lindgren.

In the late 1940s Mr Utsi visited the Highlands of Scotland and was immediately struck by the similar landscape and vegetation to his homeland, Swedish Lapland. In 1952 he brought reindeer from his own domestic herd here to the Cairngorm Mountains, near Aviemore, in Scotland, where the herd have been ever since.

Today they are Britain's only free-ranging reindeer living in their natural environment.

Mr Utsi and Dr Lindgren devoted the latter half of their lives to the success of this imaginative project. Since 1989 the herd has been owned and looked after by Alan and Tilly Smith who previously worked for the pioneering couple, and their children Alex and Fiona.

Scotland – A Reindeer Herding Nation

Every four years we travel to the World Reindeer Herders' Congress, which is held in a different country each time, meeting reindeer herders from across the Arctic and sub-Arctic who all live by their reindeer in different ways.

In July 2013 the Congress took place in north-eastern China, once known as Inner Mongolia. During our time there the World Reindeer Herders' Association voted for Scotland to be recognised as one of their member states as we are a 'reindeer herding nation', due to the way we herd our reindeer here in the Cairngorm Mountains. We still use the traditional Sami methods that Mikel Utsi set in place when he re-introduced the reindeer here.



What makes us different?

Reindeer are not a wild species of deer but a domesticated one, and as a result of this they are docile and placid animals. However, they are not a species which thrives in permanent captivity, and as such we have the **ONLY** herd in the UK who live a semi-wild lifestyle for at least part of each year, roaming completely freely on the mountains in their natural habitat. All other reindeer in the UK are kept in permanent captivity – a situation which can never provide what they truly need.

We work closely with our herd – every reindeer has a name and we know their individual personalities, and they will live out their entire natural life with us. We don't farm them for meat and never sell them on. For six weeks a year we take some of our trained reindeer out on tour, helping to generate an income to maintain their natural lifestyle, and have done for over 30 years. Each individual reindeer will only leave home for a maximum of 2.5 weeks before returning to the mountains, and many of our reindeer never go out on tour at all.

There has been an increase in recent years of reindeer being imported to the UK for commercial use at Christmas, who then live in a captive state for the rest of the year. We disagree with this practice, and our herd are not bred for this purpose. We take part in Christmas events and parades as a way that we can help to sustain the herd at home, and also to bring joy to those who would never have the opportunity to see the reindeer otherwise. We never 'dispose' of our reindeer once they mature – they remain part of the herd for the rest of their lives.

Let's tell you about our Right's Respecting School's Journey

Why?

We want to put UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school's ethos and culture.

We want children in our school to be;

- healthier and happier
- safer
- have better relationships
- become active and involved in school life and the wider world

We want to;

- Tell you what we are working on
- Help you become familiar with UNCRC
- Share what we do in our assemblies
- Involve you, our community

In each edition of your magazine, we will share what UN article each class has been working on and how they shared their article across the cluster at assemblies.

P6/7

Article 42- Everyone should know about rights.

Each week a different class has to take assembly. Even the nursery join in and Rosehall too. We decided to sing a song for our assembly to show what this right is about.

The whole class had a job to do, we decided on what job we wanted to do, we had video designers, singers, film crews and editors.

The singers sang a song, they wrote the lyrics themselves, the tune was 'Believer' by Imagine Dragons. This is it.

First things first

We have something that we need you all to hear

We have rights, and we need you all to hear that they are true now

Ooh ooh

We need you all to hear that ooh ooh

Second thing second

An agreement has been made to keep us safe

Help us grow, help us learn and give us time to talk and play yeah, ooh ooh

To give us time to be us ooh ooh

We are important, always will be

Hear our voices pay attention

Keep us protected from dark

Know what we need and know what we don't

To keep us safe, always will be

Hear our voices, pay attention

Keep us protected from the dark

Know what we need and know what we don't

So

We all have rights

We all have rights so hear us, so hear us

Then

Let's Spread the word

Let's spread the word and shout out and shout out

We have rights

So

We all have rights

We all have rights so hear us, so hear us

Then

Let's Spread the word

Let's spread the word and shout out and shout out

We have rights

Third things third

Let's keep teaching everyone about our rights

Treat us fair, with respect and that's for all around the world yeah

Ooh ooh

All around the worlds yeah

Ooh ooh

The Lairg Community Association is urgently looking for volunteers to come and join the committee in running Lairg Community Centre. It is a fabulous facility which is one of the best in Sutherland. It has a rich history and your help could ensure it's here for all to enjoy for many years to come.

Here, one of our board members talks about her experience of volunteering.

I'm Helen and I've lived in Lairg since 2017. You might sometimes see me out riding my horses Jack and Toby around Gunn's Wood. I've been volunteering with the board since 2019 when an appeal was made for volunteers in a village wide campaign. I'd been curious to know more about the community centre and thought I might like to get involved at some point. I went along to their annual general meeting and was inspired to join the committee as treasurer. I enjoy knowing the time I give to the centre makes a difference and contributes to it remaining at the heart of the village and being accessible to everyone in our community. The biggest challenge is finding new volunteers to help carry on the good work we do by joining our committee. We have 3 part time staff who do an amazing job in ensuring smooth day to day running of the centre. Ros is our administrator, Caroline keeps the centre spotlessly clean and our newest recruit is Leon, our caretaker. The role of the board is to make sure the organisation is run properly in order to maintain the building, protect it for future generations and encourage a vibrant offering through supporting our hirers. No experience or special skills are needed to get involved. Most of the work we do together simply requires a willingness to work together as part of a team, be open minded and use a common sense approach. Many people might think they don't have anything to offer but just being in a supporting role to the Chairperson or Treasurer makes a big difference in bringing enthusiasm and ideas forward. This might even be an opportunity to learn new skills and discover hidden talents with increasing opportunities for training through organisations such as Volunteer Groups Sutherland. In terms of how much time is needed in order to get involved, we hold meetings every second Tuesday of the month which last around 90 minutes. We understand you might not make all of them but we'll keep you updated. As the Treasurer I probably spend about 3 hours in addition to the board meeting per month working on the financial side of things and the role would be perfect for someone with basic numeracy skills. I'd love to have someone shadow me and show them how things work. For other committee members, it can be as much or as little time as you can spare in this busy life. Volunteers are vital and flexible ways of working might be possible to help you get involved. If you would like to know more, please contact

Ros on Lairgcommunitycentre@gmail.com

LDCI Quiz Answers

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Sleeping Beauty | 5. White | 9. Wattle or Dewlap |
| 2. 4 | 6. Donkey | 10. Advent |
| 3. Clarence Odbody | 7. The Snowman | |
| 4. 8 Maids a milking | 8. The Simpsons | |



In 1822 a Classical scholar and poet, Clement C. Moore wrote a poem for his children. An expert of Dutch, German and Scandinavian folklore Moore blended aspects of St Nicholas with the Dutch equivalent Sinterklaas, the pagan mid-winter festival with Father Christmas and the Norse mythology. From this concoction he wrote the poem 'The Night Before Christmas'. The poem became an instant success across America and remains popular worldwide today.

Thank you for reading issue 64 of the Lairg Magazine! If you would like to submit something to the magazine, please send it to: zoe@lairglearningcentre.org.uk
Phone: 01549 402050 or write to us at: Schoolhouse, Main Street, Lairg, IV27 4DD