

# Lairg Magazine

LAIRG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



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## Midsummer Madness!

It is that time of year again. School is out for the summer, the days are long and hopefully we can finally put away our winter coats after that rather chilly start to June that we had! Can anyone recognise themselves in this throwback photo from Lairg Gala week in 1985?!

As you will read on page 8 of this issue - Lairg Gala week will be back on Saturday 6th July and has a packed programme of events and activities.

There is also info about other workshops and events being run by the Learning Centre, the Community Centre and Lochview Rural Training so there is plenty to keep you and the wee ones busy during the holidays! You can also view the designs for the new Ferrycroft Playpark. See inside for more details.



1. What is the name of the Scottish Conservative Leader, stepping down after the General Election on 4th of July 2024?
2. What planet takes the shortest time to orbit the sun?
3. TV presenter and Doctor Michael Mosley died tragically on which Greek Island?
4. What is the main ingredient of the liqueur Guignolet?
5. What type of creature was 'Mijbil' in the novel 'Ring of Bright Water' by Gavin Maxwell?
6. Which central Scotland town has a railway station called 'Grahamston'?
7. The wreck of the ship 'Quest' was recently found and is synonymous with which polar explorer, after he suffered a fatal heart attack onboard in 1922?
8. In 1991, Ronnie O'Sullivan was the youngest person to do what in competitive snooker?
9. Which 'Mr Men' character has very long, orange arms?
10. What road sign is a blue circle with a red rim, and single diagonal line running from upper left to lower right?

**LAIRG**

**HELPING** 

**HAND FUND**

IT'S OKAY TO NEED SUPPORT

**Lairg & District Community Initiatives' Helping Hand Fund** provides one off financial support to households in Lairg Community Council area who are struggling financially.

Grants of up to £250 are available to households who need help to pay an energy bill, or purchase an energy efficient white good - or provide assistance towards the costs of heating system repairs.

Confidential support is provided by our colleagues at the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust.

Contact Fiona:  
[fiona@kyleofsutherland.co.uk](mailto:fiona@kyleofsutherland.co.uk)  
 01863 766190

**Lairg & District Community Initiatives**



**Looking for advice?**

**Help with a form?**

**Money worries?**

**citizens  
advice  
bureau**

**Free and confidential advice is available.**  
**For help with benefits, housing, debt, employment, immigration and much more.**

**Golspie Office opening hours**  
 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9am-5pm  
 Wednesday 8am-7pm  
 Saturday 10am-12pm

Every Monday at Brora Library 2pm – 4pm  
 Every Tuesday at Helmsdale Community Centre 9:30am-11:30am  
 Every Wednesday at Dornoch Hub 10am-12pm  
 Every Thursday at Lairg Community Centre 9:30am-10:30am  
 Every Thursday at the Hub Bonar Bridge 11:00am-1pm  
 Every Friday at Rogart Hall 10am-11:30am

For more information call 01408 910069 or email [advice@ecscab.org.uk](mailto:advice@ecscab.org.uk).

Interested in volunteering? Contact us at [volunteer@ecscab.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@ecscab.org.uk).







Scottish charity (SC039847) and company limited by guarantee (SC341055)



Lairg & District Community Initiatives (LDCI) are delighted to confirm that the new all-abilities play equipment destined for Ferrycroft has now been ordered from HAGS, our chosen supplier. The items and layout shown in the illustrations are provisional, and might be subject to change, but do give an idea of what we can expect. Larger scale drawings are available to view in the Lairg library.



LDCI had hoped that everything would be ready for the summer holidays, but the time needed for manufacture and installation means that realistically it will probably be autumn before everything is completed. The whole project was initially delayed by a tedious and intractable organisational issue within Highland Council, which took a long time to resolve. However, the present Highland Council Amenities department has been most helpful, and will be taking over the equipment and maintaining it in the future. Lairg Community Council have always supported the project, with very helpful ideas and input from Louise Skinner in particular. LDCI are very grateful to them, and to the Primary School children for their opinions on equipment choices. We hope everyone who responded to the original community consultation, carried out nearly two years ago, will think that the result has been worth the wait!

Any further developments at Ferrycroft which LDCI might bring forward would of course be subject to a similar consultation process to establish community support.  
By Alison Magee. LDCI, Vice Chairperson.

Lairg Community Centre are starting to see some activities being arranged over the summer holidays, holiday clubs, music sessions, sports, crafts etc. These will be advertised nearer the time.

We hold a monthly Community Market on the third Monday of the month from March through to November. We are not holding one in December this year due to its proximity to Winterfest. Our June market was held on Monday 17th and had the largest number of stallholders booked to attend so far this year which was totally amazing. The July market will be held on Monday July 15th from 1.30 - 4pm.

In no particular order here is the list of all the stall holders currently booked:

Sylvie Painted Slates for Parkinsons

Jean's Jams - raising money for Marie Curie

Jumping Goats Dairy

Rose Cottage Croft

The Fabric Fairy

Clyth Charcuterie

LDLC

Kai - Ukraine Fundraiser

Knockdhu Plants

Geoff Woodturner

Brawscotland

Tie Dye Emporium

North Scotland Knits

Brawlbin Crafts

Highland Creative Crafts

Shadowcrafts

Taylor Wood Craft

House of Pie

Mushroom Moon

Alexandra Regan

Carol Ross

Lighthouse Crafts

Spellbound Caithness

ArtiClan

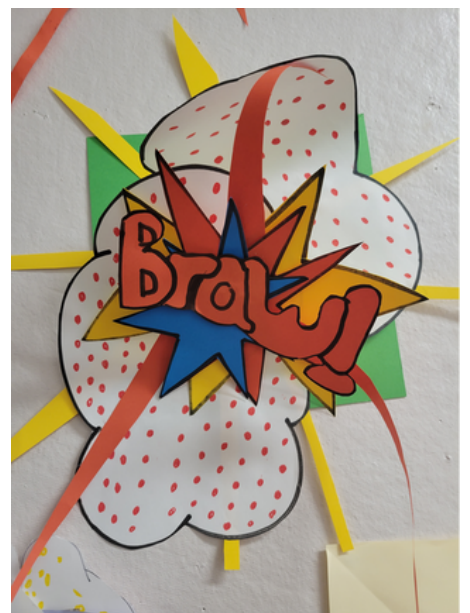
Squirrel NutKraft

Roshina Readings

Highland Blooms

If you would like more information please email [lairgcommunitycentre@gmail.com](mailto:lairgcommunitycentre@gmail.com), or call 01549 402843 (the office is only manned part time) or by messenger. We are also on Facebook and the market has both Facebook and is on Instagram...





A few pictures from Lairg Primary School

## INGREDIENTS

- 4 tbsp olive oil
- 2 red onions, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 2 aubergines, diced
- 2 red peppers, seeded and diced
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 2 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 1 tsp soy sauce
- 500ml passata
- 200g young goat's cheese
- 4 courgettes (a mixture of green and yellow looks nice), thinly sliced

For the cheese sauce

- 400ml milk
- 50g unsalted butter
- 50g plain flour
- 80g parmesan or vegetarian alternative, finely grated



## METHOD

### STEP 1

Heat 1 tbsp olive oil in a heavy frying pan and gently cook the red onion and garlic for 5 mins until just starting to brown. Scatter over the aubergine and red pepper and sizzle for another 4 mins, adding more oil if you need to. Season well and stir through the paprika, then splash in the vinegar and soy sauce. Pour over the passata, then simmer for 5 mins until glossy and thick. Turn off the heat. Can be made up to two days ahead and kept in the fridge.

### STEP 2

To make the cheese sauce, heat the milk in a heavy saucepan until simmering. In a separate pan, melt the butter and add the flour. Stir to make a paste. Slowly whisk in the hot milk and simmer gently for 2-3 mins, stirring continually until thickened slightly. Stir in the parmesan and season.

### STEP 3

Tip the ratatouille into an ovenproof dish, then completely cover it with the cheese sauce. Crumble over the goat's cheese and arrange the courgette slices on top in concentric circles, alternating between green and yellow if you have them. Can be assembled several hours before cooking.

### STEP 4

Heat oven to 220C/200C fan/gas 7. Brush or drizzle the remaining oil over the courgette slices and season with sea salt. Bake in the oven for 25-30 mins until the courgettes are cooked through and starting to brown. Remove from the oven and allow to rest for 20 mins before serving.

## Quiz Answers

1. Douglas Ross
2. Mercury
3. Symi
4. Cherries
5. Otter
6. Falkirk
7. Ernest Shackleton
8. A 147 break
9. Mr Tickle
10. No Waiting

**UNVEILING THE FALLS OF SHIN'S FEAST: A FORAGING ADVENTURE**



Saturday 6th of July  
10:00am - 12:00pm  
Falls of Shin

BOOK HERE





If you would like to attend the Foraging Adventure please note how to register for free parking. The operators of the carpark and the Salt & Salmon Company have come to an agreement that ALL locals and regulars will get to use the carpark for free. However, you must enter your registration number into the tablets located at 'The Salt House' and inside the Café. There is no obligation to purchase anything whilst doing this. Non-local patrons can also redeem their £2 parking charge when purchasing from the Cafe/Salt House.

**THEN & NOW**



Ferrycroft Visitor Centre, Lairg

- Monday, 8th July, 10:30 am
- Saturday, 13th July, 10:30 am

These workshops are free and open to everyone interested in Lairg's history and heritage.

Don't miss this chance to contribute to a meaningful community project and help preserve the rich history of Lairg for future generations. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information or to book a place contact Email [admin@lairglearningcentre.org.uk](mailto:admin@lairglearningcentre.org.uk) or call 01549 402050

**SEW YOUR OWN...  
ECO FACE WIPES & BAG**



Monday 1st July  
10:00am - 12.00noon  
Lairg & District Learning Centre

Book Here



For more information or to book a place contact Email [admin@lairglearningcentre.org.uk](mailto:admin@lairglearningcentre.org.uk) or call 01549 402050



Best Kept Garden



Judging take place during Gala Week  
Sponsored by Costcutter Lairg



Paint a Stone competition  
Upload your creations on our Facebook



Prizes to be won  
Judging during Gala Week

**Mr BOOM!**  
Is coming to Lairg  
Gala week on the  
11th of July!  
Lairg Community  
Hall at 12-2.30pm

**TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE SOON! KEEP AN EYE ON OUR GALA PAGE.**



It's a knockout  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 3pm  
Teams of 4



Register by text 07511334080  
Sponsored by Murray Peat Contactors

A QUEEN has been chosen for the 2024 Lairg Gala and Lairg Crofters Show.

Local girl Lucy Mackenzie who attended both Lairg Primary and Golspie High school is the new queen.

Lucy is a keen crofter and has built up her own small flock from scratch and hopes to continue to build it up, but career wise Lucy is hoping to get an apprenticeship in hairdressing next year.

The two organisations take turns each year to choose a queen and this year it was the turn of the Gala week.

Last Saturday a 'Queen Dance' was held jointly with Golspie Gala in the Stag's Head Hotel, at which this year's queens were announced.

Lucy will be accompanied at the gala by attendants Karmen Vinni and Christina Graham who both attend Lairg nursery. The Lairg Gala week runs from Saturday 6th to Saturday 13th July. Steven MacLean, of Lairg Gala, said the programme for the gala is available in local shops.

He said: "We have a fun-packed programme organised with activities ranging from a pub quiz, pool, darts and a treasure hunt to 'It's a Knockout' and kids' sports. We'll also have performances by 'In-Cahoots' and the 'Doon Major' as well as 'Mr Boom'."

To find out more please see Lairg Gala Week's Facebook page.



**Kids Drawing Competition**  
Draw, paint any Lairg Village Landmark  
Hand all entries into any Gala Member  
All entries will be displayed in The Lairg Highland Hotel windows.  
Lots of prizes to be won.  
Judging will take place 11<sup>th</sup> July.  
Sponsored by Woodend Caravan and Camping Park



Make a Fairy Garden using natural materials

**LAIRG LEARNING CENTRE - CABIN**

**11<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024**  
**2.30PM - 4.00PM**

make your own

**FAIRY GARDEN**



**Raft Race**  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 3pm  
Teams of 4



Register by text  
07511334080

Sponsored by Lairg Garage

**VINTAGE VEHICLE SHOW**  
SATURDAY THE 6<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY  
12-3PM  
AT THE LAIRG HALL CAR PARK

**FREE TO SEE!**





This week Lochview Rural Training launched our new pilot project 'Acre of Knowledge ' working in partnership with Highlife Highland adult learning.

We welcomed adult learners onto the croft where for the next 12 weeks they will get creative with an enterprise programme that will incorporate aspects of crofting.

On week one they met the animals and made designs for their own personalised mugs to use whilst here.



Can you help please? We are looking for donations of plywood offcuts and planed wood offcuts for a project we are currently running.

If anyone knows of any joiners that are clearing out please think of us.



**Summer Croft Club is making a comeback in 2024!**

Calling all parents with little adventurers aged 7-11!

Get ready for a summer packed with fun starting on July 8th.

Mark your calendars for Mondays from 10-12 and Thursdays from 1-3. Let the good times roll with a mix of games and activities, promising a summer to remember!

Booking is crucial as places are limited and tend to fill up fast.

To secure your place, please email [lochviewruraltraining@gmail.com](mailto:lochviewruraltraining@gmail.com) with "summer club" in the subject line.





**900 - MON TO FRI**

TAIN → LAIRG

<b>Tain</b> Asda 10:05 12:52 13:02 15:32 16:36 18:25	<b>Lairg</b> Main St 07:53 07:53 11:00 14:00 17:25
<b>Edderton</b> 10:18 13:15 13:15 15:55 16:51 18:40	<b>Invershin</b> Old School House 08:03 08:03 11:15 14:10
<b>Ardgay</b> Hall 10:31 13:27 13:27 16:07 17:03 18:52	<b>Invershin</b> Hotel 08:05 08:05 11:18 14:12 17:37
<b>Bonar Bridge</b> Migdale Hospital R13:30 R13:30 16:09 R18:55	<b>Bonar Bridge</b> Post Office 08:10 08:10 11:23 14:17 16:09 17:42
<b>Bonar Bridge</b> Post Office 10:34 13:31 13:31 17:06 19:00	<b>Bonar Bridge</b> Migdale Hospital R11:25 R14:19 R17:44
<b>Invershin</b> Hotel 10:39 13:36 13:36 17:11 19:05	<b>Ardgay</b> Hall 08:13 08:13 11:26 14:20 16:11 17:45
<b>Invershin</b> Old School House 10:41 13:38 13:38	<b>Edderton</b> 08:28 08:28 11:38 14:32 16:22 17:57
<b>Lairg</b> Main St 10:53 13:52 13:52 17:23 19:17	<b>Tain</b> Asda 08:45 08:41 11:53 14:45 16:35 18:10

00:00 Mon-Fri R Requested stop  
00:00 School days only 00:00  
Fri school days only 00:00 School days not Fri. 00:00 School holidays  
00:00 School days and holidays except Fri school days

**167 - MON TO FRI**

LAIRG → DORNOCH

<b>Lairg</b> 07:31	<b>Lairg</b> 16:42
<b>Invershin</b> 07:39	<b>Invershin</b> 16:34
<b>Bonar Bridge</b> 07:46	<b>Bonar Bridge</b> 16:29
<b>Ardgay</b> 07:49	<b>Ardgay</b> 16:26
<b>Ardgay</b> 07:59	<b>Ardgay</b> 16:16
<b>Bonar Bridge</b> 08:02	<b>Bonar Bridge</b> 16:13
<b>Spinningdale</b> 08:10	<b>Spinningdale</b> 16:05
<b>Clashmore</b> 08:19	<b>Clashmore</b> 15:56
<b>Dornoch</b> 08:27	<b>Dornoch</b> 15:40



Up to 8 standard bicycles can be carried on this service but must be booked at least 24 hours in advance. Bicycles are carried at the owners risk, The Durness Bus LTD takes no responsibility for any damage incurred.

**805 ROUTE**

Outbound Monday to Saturday  
Mondays to Saturdays

Smoo Cave Hotel	0800
Durness P.O.	0805
Balnakeil	0810
Rhiconich	0835
Kinlochbervie P.O.	0855
Rhiconich	0902
Laxford	0910
Scourie	0920
Laxford	0930
Achfary	0940
Overscaig	1000
Lairg War Memorial	1025
Bonar Bridge P.O.	1040
Ardgay P.O.	1043
Ardross Crossroads	1100
Tore Roundabout	1125
Inverness Bus Station	1140
Raigmore Hospital	1150 R
UHI	1155 R

Inbound Monday to Friday

Inbound Sat

UHI	1435 R	1535 R
Raigmore Hospital	1445 R	1545 R
Inverness Bus Station	1500	1600
Tore Roundabout	1515 R	1615 R
Ardross Crossroads	1540	1640
Ardgay War Memorial	1600	1700
Bonar Bridge P.O.	1605	1705
Lairg War Memorial	1625	1725
Overscaig	1650	1750
Achfary	1710	1810
Laxford	1720	1820
Scourie	1730 R	1830 R
Rhiconich	1730 *	1830 *
Kinlochbervie P.O.	1740 *	1840 *
Balnakeil	1805 R *	1905 R *
Durness P.O.	1808 **	1908 **
Smoo Cave Hotel	1810 **	1910 **

R Request stop only must be booked 24 hours in advance  
\* Service will be approx 20 minutes later than indicated if request stop at Scourie is used  
\*\* Service will be delayed by a further 5 minutes  
**SERVICE DOES NOT RUN ON NEW YEARS DAY, CHRISTMAS DAY OR BOXING DAY.**