

Lairg Magazine

LAIRG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



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Lairg Lunch Club's Summer Outing

Lairg Lunch Club headed out of Lairg for our summer outing at the end of the term.

Murray our driver packed us all on to the minibus and off we went to The Stag's Head Hotel in Golspie. We had a lovely afternoon, John and his team were amazing hosts, and we had a wonderful meal, topped off with a wee dram to finish with!

As well as it being our summer outing it was also Doreen Mackay's leaving do. The Lunch Club said a fond farewell to Doreen who has been running the club for a long time. Lairg Lunch Club was started by Myra Goskirk and Doreen took over running the club with Leslie Goskirk when Myra passed away. The club will really miss her.

More on page 3...



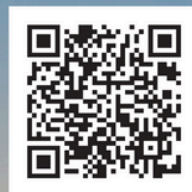
1. What fruit has varieties called Water, Galia and Honeydew?
2. Of the seven ancient wonders of the world, what type of construction was at Alexandria?
3. What is the name of the UK's first woman Chancellor of the Exchequer?
4. What is the name of the deepest loch in Scotland?
5. Where do Brazil nuts grow – on trees, on the ground or underground?
6. In which American State was the attempted assassination of Donald Trump?
7. Who wrote and sang the hit 'That don't impress me much'?
8. In chess, in what move can a player move two pieces at one time?
9. Who wrote the book 'Dracula'?
10. The 'Emperor of Japan' is a character in which Gilbert and Sullivan work?

Consultation

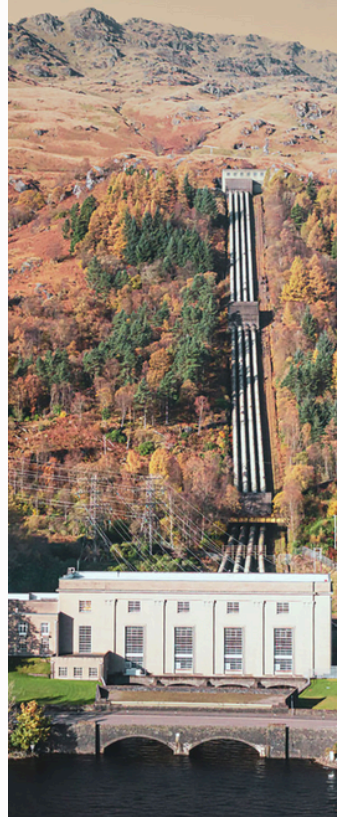
The **Hydro Fund** is a new £10 million community fund for projects in community council areas which host SSE Renewables hydro assets. Lairg Community Council is one of those eligible areas!

In advance of the launch of the fund in Autumn 2024, SSE have prepared a short survey that is designed to let people say what they value about their local community, what they see as the challenges facing it, and to indicate what they see as the priorities for the Hydro Fund to support.

The survey is now available online at: www.ibp.eu.com/hydrofund and will remain open until Monday 19th August 2024.



SCAN TO START



HYDRO FUND SURVEY

SSE Renewables is providing a new **£10 million hydro community** fund for projects in community council areas which host our hydro assets.

SSE Renewables recognises that hydro assets play an important part in communities. We will mark the 80th anniversary of our Hydro provision by introducing the £10 million community fund, which will be available across those community council areas that host our hydro assets.

In advance of the launch of a fund in Autumn 2024, we are asking local people in these community council areas to tell us what things are most important to you, so that the new fund can focus on these priorities.

This consultation survey is being undertaken on our behalf by independent consultants, *IBP Strategy & Research*. Please take a few moments to complete the survey at the link below or by scanning the QR code above.

ibp.eu.com/hydrofund

The consultation will be open until Monday 19th August, 2024.



Doreen Mackay

The Lairg Lunch Club will start again on Thursday 22nd August. If anyone would like to join the club, we have two spaces available. We meet once a week on a Thursday, in term time only. Transport can be provided if needed.

Please contact:

projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk if you are interested.

Do you have a couple of hours you could spare to help with the Lunch Club?

We work on a rota so you would be asked to help out one Thursday every three weeks. We meet at 11.30am in the Community Hall to lay the table, collect the dinners from the school's canteen and serve the food to the club members, then do the washing up after they have finished (you also get your lunch).

For the club to continue - we need more volunteers... This would suit anyone who has recently retired or has moved into the area and would like to get to know more people.

The club is very important to the members and is a huge asset to those who come along to it. So why not come along and get involved in your community? We'd love your support!

The Haven

The Haven is run by Lairg Christian Fellowship and is held in Lairg Community Centre on Friday mornings between 10:30 and 12:30.

Resumes on Friday 9th August 2024.

Tea/coffee and cake/biscuits are available free of charge.

The aim of the Haven is just to be a place where folk can just pop in and have a blether...

A place where old friendships can be renewed and new friendships made.

Half way through there is a 2-3 minute 'Thought for the day', from scripture.

Pop in for 10 minutes or stay for two hours, the choice is yours !

We'd love to see you !



CANCER
RESEARCH
UK

Thank you to all who supported the recent Cancer Research Cake Sale!

Leanne Campbell and family held their cake sale in aid of Cancer Research on Saturday 22nd June, at the Church Hill Woodland Picnic Shelter. They raised the amazing sum of **£2,121.50**.

A huge thank you to all who bought cakes, squares or donated through the just giving page.

If you would still like to donate, please see:

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/leannes-giving-page-2022376>

During this month we are delighted to say that the staff of Voluntary Groups Sutherland (VGS – formerly based in Golspie) have taken up residence in the main office. The staff will be in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays and have retained their original phone number, 01408 633001, should you need to contact them.

As ever we have seen a wide range of bookings in the centre, both regular ones such as The Haven, (a weekly coffee morning), Tai Chi, Pilates, Lairg Art Group, Schoolhouse Crafters, Toddlers, Whist, various classes organised by the nearby Learning Centre and the monthly Quiz night. There is also a weekly Music/Chess Summer School running throughout the summer holidays with another holiday club in the planning also.

A full schedule is posted weekly, usually on a Friday, to our Facebook page and also on the noticeboards around the building so you can see the events that are happening in the centre each week. If you want to make a booking or need any more information, please get in touch.

Our July market was held on Monday 15th, although we did see a few last-minute cancellations which were completely unavoidable, but they will be back next month! There is always a wide range of items available to purchase, most of the goodies have been handmade with great care and attention, not to mention the time put into making the items.



Lairg Community Centre
Monday 19th August
1.30pm to 4.00pm

**Come & meet the traders and
enjoy free refreshments!**

Situated just at the door into the market there is a wonderful plant stall, all grown in the local area so you know they will be hardy! Follow our social media for a full list of all the traders booked to attend each market. If anyone knows of a baker, a fruit and veg grower or honey producer that might like to give our market a try please let me know!

Don't forget that we have ping pong and badminton equipment in the Hall should you want to make use of it. We also have a wonderful stage that could be put to use for amateur dramatics, pantomimes and music performances!
Email:

lairgcommunitycentre@gmail.com

BOOKING ESSENTIAL!

BOOK HERE



What's on LDLC? August 2024

Wednesday 14th August: Emergency First Aid + Forestry 9am – 3pm Lairg Community Centre, Kinvonvie Suite

This one day course covers the basics of assessing casualties and dealing with emergencies so that you learn how to deal with a range of accidents.

This course also covers aspects for forestry workers including:

Role of a First Aider in a forestry setting, Protecting a casualty in an outdoor environment, Responsibilities of the first aider, Wounds and bleeding, Management of catastrophic bleeding, Tourniquet use, Haemostatic agents, Drowning, Managing a casualty who is experiencing the effects of extreme cold or extreme heat, Managing a casualty with crush injuries, Awareness and recognition of Lyme disease, Managing a casualty with an Adder snake bite, Handing over to the emergency services

Wednesday 21st August: 6 Week Class - Highland Heritage: From Flint Scatters to Farmsteads 10:30am – 12:30pm Lairg Community Centre, Kinvonvie Suite

Welcome to Highland Heritage: From Flint Scatters to Farmsteads! Join us from Wed Aug 21, at 10:30 AM at the Lairg Community Centre for a fascinating journey through the history of the Highlands. Explore the evolution of settlements from ancient flint scatters to modern farmsteads. Immerse yourself in the rich heritage of the region through interactive exhibits, guided tours, and engaging presentations. Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn about the past and present of the Highland landscape!

This class will explore the fascinating journey of Highland Scotland, tracing its development from the earliest signs of human presence to the establishment of permanent settlements.

Wednesday 21st August: Coding for Kids: the Next Level (P5 - P7) 3pm – 4pm LDLC, IT Suite

Get ready for an exciting coding adventure at Lairg & District Learning Centre on Wed Aug 21 2024 at 3:00 PM. This event is perfect for kids in Primary 5 to Primary 7 who are eager to take their coding skills to the next level.

Join us for a fun-filled day of learning and creativity as we explore the world of programming together. Whether your child is a beginner or already has some coding experience, this event will provide them with the opportunity to enhance their skills and have a blast doing it!

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to ignite your child's passion for coding. Sign up now and let's get ready to code, create, and innovate

Thursday 22nd August: WOODWORKING: Make Your Own Planter Box 10am – 2pm LDLC, The Cabin

Join our woodworking tutor, Graham Rennie, as he teaches you how to make a planter box. This will be using recycled and reclaimed wood and is perfect for a herb garden, flowers or smaller veg growing. You will use a variety of tools including a drill, sander, and jigsaw.

This class is for those with all levels of woodworking skills, from beginner to intermediate. All materials and equipment will be supplied. This class will be held in The Cabin at Lairg and District Learning Centre.

Thursday 22nd August: Mini Coders (P1 - P4) 4 week course 3pm – 4pm LDLC, IT Suite

Does your child love playing games and using technology? Mini Coders is the perfect introduction to the exciting world of coding!

What We'll Explore:

- Coding Fundamentals: Learn the basic building blocks of coding in a fun and interactive way. Concepts like sequences, loops, and problem-solving will be introduced through engaging activities.
- Creative Play with Code: Unleash your child's imagination by using coding to create animations, simple games, and interactive stories.
- Character Building: Develop essential skills like critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving through the process of coding.
- Building Confidence: Nurture a love of learning and a sense of accomplishment as children master new coding challenges.



Best Kept War Memorial Competition

This year, Lairg & District Community Initiatives (LDCI) entered the Lairg War Memorial into the Royal British Legion Scotland's 'Best Kept War Memorial' Competition.

This is the first time the Lairg War Memorial has been entered and we are really pleased to have been awarded with a **Highly Commended** achieving **98/110**.

A huge thank you to Nick Fry, Emma Armstrong, Shelia Stewart and Carl Porter for their hard work getting our memorial ready in time for the judging.

We are always looking for help to keep the War Memorial clean and tidy.

Please contact projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk if you think you could spare an hour every couple of months to help us.

Armed Forces Day

We met at the Ferrycroft Visitor Centre on Saturday 29th June for this very special occasion.

Veterans from all over Sutherland attended.

Willie Mackay MBE raised the Veterans flag.

The Sutherland School Pipe Band were marvellous playing on through the rain.



The lunch in the Community Hall afterwards gave time for old friends and new, to sit and natter whilst enjoying the lovely lunch provide by The Highland Hotel.

A huge thank you to Shelia Stewart and the whole of team from the local branch of The Royal British Legion Scotland for organising this event.

Quiz Answers

1. Melon

2. Pharos Lighthouse

3. Rachel Reeves

4. Morar

5. On trees

6. Pennsylvania

7. Shania Twain

8. Castling

9. Bram Stoker

10. The Mikado

Traveller's Tale - The Island of "Whisky Galore"



Excerpts from an article by Dorothy Brett Young first published in the 'Australian Women's Weekly' during the 1960's, about a trip that she and her husband Jonathan Brett Young took to Barra in 1963.

"One still autumn morning, we watched the small heron wheel over the jade-green seas of the Hebrides, then touch down softly on the fine white beach that serves the island of Barra as an airstrip. It is said that the airport boasts the only timetable on earth subject to the time of the tides. Incidentally, the controller of this rather unorthodox airstrip is one of the few women to hold such a post. But we had not gone to Barra by air, we had made our way by sea, over the treacherous Minch that lies between the islands of the Hebridean archipelago off the north-west coast of Scotland.

It took us ten hours to get there. We left our car in Oban, as taking it with us would have cost about £25, an unnecessary expense when one considers the size of the island - about eight miles by two or three wide - and that most places are only accessible by foot.

My husband is a sailor, and to him the crossing was uneventful. But then, he was not five months pregnant as I was and, therefore, not troubled by every shuddering wave that beset the hull of little inter-island ferry! I was not too sick to relish the islands' names - Tyree, Coll, Vatersay and Benbecula, and to view the ruins of Kisimul Castle rise from the bay that is the approach to Barra; not too sick to reflect on the long line of chieftains that had guarded her bastions for so long... Dating from around 1427, it is the ancient seat of the Clan MacNeil.

As we passed Tobermory, we peered over the side and wondered, as hundreds have done before, about that legendary Spanish galleon that lay beneath us, heavy with pieces-of-eight and priceless gems - for so long the property of fish and plankton.

Two aspects of the Western Isles will haunt those who ever visit them – their colours and their people. If you are one of those who dream of coral strands and azure skies, Barra is not for you. If sunbathing is your sole requirement when on holiday, you will not appreciate the Atlantic gales that sweep here for much of the year. And be warned: if you are of the kind that cannot survive without the amenities of modern living of electrical gadgets, you had better forget the whole idea.

But if you can forget that the sea was ever blue, you will stand entranced by the emerald shoals, the iridescent depths of water that is never still. The sand is not golden but white, and the lovely beaches, are flanked by swaying tufts of seashore grass...

This is the island of the book and film "Whisky Galore." The people will beguile you with their whisky, but more with their talk. They will treat you with courtesy and with slight amusement. All their speech is tempered with curious disrespect for "status symbols." They will nod casually at Kisimul Castle and tell you how it was advertised, when funds were low, and sold to the highest bidder. He is an American, and has established his claim to be the rightful laird of the MacNeil Estate. He comes yearly and opens his home to those willing to make the short trip by boat to view the ancient ramparts and the ultra-modern rooms within.

The island is noted for its pure Gaelic and for its Hebridean folksongs and folk-lore. The islanders will tell you how, when the laird first brought his bride to the ancestral home, they laid on a welcome that was unprecedented; how they sent to Harris for kilts and bagpipes and piped the couple to the tables which were swathed in tartan and groaning with goodies. They will inform you just as nonchalantly that they could hardly be expected to give repeat performances in the ensuing years with wives numbers two and three!

We spent our week with a Mrs McNeil. For £6 a week we had the run of the house and two bedrooms. (She slept, I believe, in our sitting-room but we were never up in time to see where or how!) She "did" entirely for us, and we fetched the milk for her from the local farm. She provided us with a huge breakfast and evening meal and the inevitable cuppa before bed. Our lunch we had to find for ourselves. In return for giving a hand with the dishes, we had her inimitable conversation, the magic of her soft Gaelic voice.

We loved Barra, and were saddened by it, too. Progress has not only bypassed it but had robbed it of industry and driven its menfolk away. The women, the children, the aged are there, but their men are far afield, riding the seven seas, restless men on tankers and merchant ships, seeking enough to support the families they cannot join.

But for a holiday, it is magic. To those Australians who complain that Britain has little to offer but a poor climate and stony beaches, that her only advantage lies in proximity of the Continent, my rejoinder would be that a world of enchantment lies on her doorstep."






LOCHVIEW RURAL TRAINING
**INTRODUCTION TO
EQUINE CARE**

STARTS 24TH AUGUST 2-4PM

A 12 WEEK PROGRAMME COVERING
HANDLING A HORSE & IDENTIFICATION
TACK AND TACKING UP
EQUINE BEHAVIOUR
STABLE MANAGEMENT



As we almost come to the end of July just a reminder of new courses coming up - booking is essential.

First we have our Equine Care - this is a 12 week programme running every Saturday 2-4pm.

We can take people aged from 13 + years.

We also have our introduction to land based course this is for 16+ (with priority to 16-25 yrs). This 8 week course will be starting mid September. Please email us for more information.

CROFT EXPERIENCE SESSIONS

Lochview Rural Training is offering you to spend time on a working croft, feed the livestock, groom the horses, and ask lots of questions. So turn your holiday into a new experience.



CONTACT US TO CHECK AVAILABILITY FOR OUR 1.5 HOUR SESSIONS

For more information email:
info@lochviewruraltraining.co.uk
or visit our website:
lochviewruraltraining.co.uk




Croft experience sessions running all summer so get in touch to book a session.

Email: lochviewruraltraining@gmail.com