

# Lairg Magazine

LAIRG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



## Contents:

**Page 2** - Ferrycroft Playpark

**Page 3** - Quiz/Lochview Rural Training

**Page 4** - A Visit from Ukraine in 1996

**Page 5** - Lairg & District Learning Centre

**Page 6** - Lairg Notice Board/Quiz Answers

**Page 7/8** - Lairg Primary School

**Page 9** - Lairg Community Centre

**Page 10** - Save the Date/Changes to the Bins

## LDCI Opens New Playpark at Ferrycroft Centre

Lairg & District Community Initiatives (LDCI) is delighted to announce that the installation of a new playpark at Ferrycroft Visitor Centre in Lairg is now complete. Since 2021, LDCI has been working in partnership with the Highland Council, the Lairg Community Council and a group of local parents who were keen to address the lack of play facilities for children in the area.

A playpark had been developed at the Ferrycroft Visitor Centre in the 1990's but over time the equipment grew old and had to be removed, so the site lay empty for several years. A community consultation held by LDCI showed widespread support for the creation of a new playpark on the site, and this has now been achieved, with much of the new all-abilities equipment chosen by local children themselves. (More on page 2)



To celebrate, an informal opening was held on the 10th October in time for the school holidays. Around 70 children from Lairg and Rosehall Primary and Nursery Schools attended the event, which was opened by LDCI board member Annette Parrott MBE, who asked the children to join her in counting down from 10 before she cut the ribbon and declared the park open!

Alison Magee, LDCI's Vice Chair who worked on the project said, "It was wonderful to see how excited and enthusiastic the children were to try out the new equipment that they had helped to choose! As well as thanking the pupils, we have many others to thank for helping us to deliver this project: Louise Skinner from Lairg Community Council who also represented the parents; Phil Tomalin, John Mackay and Evan Sinclair from the Highland Council; Derek Harvey and Dawn Leitch from Hags (the Playpark suppliers); and Steven Christie Landscapes (the contractors).

"I am really grateful to have such a great park." Robyn

"It's really fun to play on." Lexie

"I think it's something that we really needed in our community." Tor

"It's a much better replacement." David

"The design is fabulous." Mavis

"The best day ever!" Anon



We are also grateful to David Watson from Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust for assisting us to secure much of the £117,473 of funding required to build this new playpark, and of course we would like to thank all of the funders for their financial support."

LDCI received £60,000 from the Highland Council Community Regeneration Fund, £33,600 from SSE Renewables (Achany Community Fund) & RWE Rosehall Community Benefit Fund, £10,000 from The Westminster Foundation, £5000 from Lairg Community Windfarm Fund, £2357 from the North Highland Initiative, and LDCI also pledged £6516 through community fundraising.

Malcolm Macleod, Assistant Chief Executive at Highland Council said, "The new all abilities playpark at Ferrycroft is a very welcome development for the area and testament to the hard work of all involved. There is no doubt this will make a difference to the lives of young people in the area by meeting a need that has long been identified locally for more recreational facilities. I'm delighted that Community Regeneration Funding and working in partnership with Highland Council has enabled the community to achieve this long held aspiration."

David Shearer, SSE Renewables Community Investment Manager said, "The fantastic modern play facilities now available at the Ferrycroft play park, not only helps young people to thrive and develop, but also showcases Lairg as an attractive place for young families to live or visit. The need to address the lack of recreational play facilities in Lairg was a priority for the community and we are delighted that the Achany Community Fund has been able to support this worthy project".

Lesley Morrison, headteacher of Lairg and Rosehall Primary Schools commented, "The children thoroughly enjoyed the opening of the park, and I am sure it will be well used. They loved being involved in choosing the equipment. We want to thank all the people who made it possible."



1. Which German has become the new England football manager?
2. From medieval Italian, which disease literally means "Bad Air"?
3. Which Welsh singer broke records at a Paris auction by selling £1.8 million of her diamonds, the proceeds being donated to her chosen charities?
4. In Greek mythology, what type of animal was Cerberus?
5. Which Musical has songs including "My shot", "You'll be back" and "The room where it happens"?
6. Who is the current 'Archbishop of Canterbury'?
7. Which Dame, who starred in such films as 'Harry Potter and Philosopher's Stone', 'The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie' and #The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel', died recently at the age of 89?
8. The Morlocks and Eloi are races in which H G Wells novel?
9. The 'Europa Clipper' was launched by NASA in October, to reach which planet's icy moon in 2030?
10. In which year did Inverness become a city?



## Lochview Rural Training

Come join us for a fun and creative workshop where you can learn how to make your very own felted heart wreath!

This hands-on event will take place at the Lochview Rural Training Centre, a beautiful setting to get your craft on.

No experience necessary, just bring your enthusiasm and creativity! Supplies will be provided, so all you need to bring is yourself. Don't miss out on this opportunity to create a lovely piece of decor for your home or to give as a heartfelt gift to someone special. See you there!



*Book!  
Now!*





# UKRAINIANS from ZAPOROZHYE VISIT SUTHERLAND

CHRISTMAS  
1996



Having a meal at Aultnagar Where the party was accommodated. Liz Quinn in the front at the table with the staff from Zaporozhe.

**Lower photo:** 2 members of staff and a pupil from Zaporozhe, Ukraine.

## ORD HILL THE CHILDREN FROM CHERNOBYL



## 1996

Children from Zaporozhe visit Sutherland and climb Ord Hill.

Four standing staff from Zaporozhe who accompanied the children to Scotland.

Liz Quinn N.T. correspondent at the time pictured with Ord hill Party, John Quinn in lower photo.

All Photos belong to Liz Quinn

## Lairg Friendship Club

Next Meeting  
Tuesday 12th November  
At 2PM

In the Conservatory  
Lairg Community Centre  
All welcome

## 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  
01863 766190

Lairg &  
District  
Community  
Initiatives

The  
ROBERTSON  
Trust



## CYBER SAVVY KIDS

Between October 2024 to January 2025, Ryan will be visiting schools around Sutherland with the aim to enhance digital literacy and internet/AI content safety for children.



## Lairg Winterfest 2024

Schedule to be confirmed - please keep an eye on Eventbrite and Facebook for changes

9.30-11.30am - Make Your Own: Door Wreath  
10.00am-12.00noon - Mini Bakers: Pretzel Wreath  
1.00-3.00pm - Sew Your Own: Felt Birds  
2.00-4.00pm - Writing: Winter Birds  
3.30-4.15pm - Cricut: Make a Tree Lantern

## Digital Skills &amp; IT Support

## IT Drop Ins

Do you need some support with IT?  
Whether you've received a new device or need help with an existing device come by the centre with any questions you may have.  
Laptops, Tablets, Phones, Emails and Anything else IT related.  
There's no such thing as a silly question!

Tuesdays 9.30am - 11am

1-1 IT Clinics can also be booked by contacting  
ryana@lairglearningcentre.org.uk or calling 01549 402050

find us on **Eventbrite**



SCAN TO  
BOOK  
CLASSES

SCHOOL HOUSE, LAIRG,  
MAIN STREET, IV27 4DQ

01549 402050

admin@lairglearningcentre.org.uk

## GROUP SEWING: WORLD MAP

16TH NOVEMBER AT LAIRG LEARNING CENTRE - FREE

## LIGHT BOX DEMONSTRATIONS

18TH NOVEMBER

KINNONVIE SUITE, LAIRG COMMUNITY CENTRE

Join us for 2 demos in the Kinnonvie Suite  
-we can transform old photos and items for  
photographing; the ultimate picture!

## SEW YOUR OWN: FESTIVE DOLLS

21ST NOVEMBER AT LAIRG LEARNING CENTRE - £5

## BIRD TALK: HIGHLIFE RANGERS

22ND NOVEMBER AT CONSERVATORY, LAIRG COMMUNITY CENTRE - FREE

## BOOK CLUB: CLIMATE CHANGE FICTION

28TH NOVEMBER AT LAIRG LEARNING CENTRE - FREE

## DECEMBER CLASSES

## POTTERY BIRDS: 2-WEEK INTRO

4TH DECEMBER IN THE CABIN, LAIRG LEARNING CENTRE - £35

## WINTERFEST

7TH DECEMBER AT LAIRG LEARNING CENTRE

See next page for agenda.

## CRICUT: PAPER TREE LANTERN

11TH DECEMBER AT LAIRG LEARNING CENTRE - FREE

## KIDS CRAFTS: SALT DOUGH ORNAMENTS

18TH DECEMBER AT LAIRG LEARNING CENTRE - FREE

ALL CLASSES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE/CANCELLATION. PLEASE KEEP  
AN EYE ON EVENTBRITE AND FACEBOOK FOR UPDATES

## CURRENT CLASSES

## 8 WEEKS: BEGINNERS GAELIC (ONLINE)

UNTIL 20TH NOV - ONLINE - £40

## 8 WEEKS: POST-BEGINNERS GAELIC (HYBRID)

UNTIL 28TH NOV - ONLINE & AT LAIRG LEARNING CENTRE - £40

## 8 WEEKS: GAELIC MYTHOLOGY

UNTIL 9TH NOV - ONLINE - £40

## Climate Change

BOOK CLUB

AT Lairg Learning Centre  
LAST THURS MONTHLY,  
10.30-11.30am

## NOVEMBER CLASSES

## MINI BAKERS: SOUP &amp; SPARKLES

2ND NOVEMBER AT LAIRG LEARNING CENTRE - FREE

## CREATIVE WRITING: OSPREYS

9TH NOVEMBER AT TIMESPAN - £10

## WOODWORKING: XMAS TREE SHELF

12TH NOVEMBER IN THE CABIN, LAIRG LEARNING CENTRE - £20

## SEW YOUR OWN: GIFT BAGS

14TH NOVEMBER AT LAIRG LEARNING CENTRE - FREE

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LAIRGLC

INSTA: #LAIRGDISTRICTLEARNINGCENTRE

WEB: WWW.LAIRGLEARNINGCENTRE.ORG.UK





As you may have spotted, LDCI has put up the poppy cascade that was created two years ago as part of the project to celebrate the Centenary of the War Memorial - in time for Remembrance Day this year. Thank you to Sheila Stewart and Shirley Morrison for coming along to help out.

Here are the details for the service.

Remembrance Service

Sunday 10th November

10.45am at Lairg War Memorial.

Tea/coffee in Lairg Church Hall after the service.

All Welcome.



William Mackay

**BACK LEFT**, Edwin Sutherland, L.F Willie Mackay, Michael Corbet, William Ross.

**FRONT ROW**, Alex Morrison, John Corbett, Archi Fraser, S.O. Alex Robertson

## 50 Years Ago

From the newspaper of October 25, 1974

Lairg's eight-man fire brigade, only three years old, have distinguished themselves by bringing off the double - winning the Northern Area Fire Authority's shield for practical drill and the Stornoway Cup for a technical quiz. They were the youngest retained brigade in the area and so this was an outstanding achievement, said Mr. Eric Macintyre, Northern area fire master, when he presented the trophies at a ceremony in Lairg Restaurant last Monday night.

Information from The Northern Times Newspaper

## Quiz Answers

- |                        |                      |                     |
|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Thomas Tuchel       | 4. Three headed dog  | 8. The Time Machine |
| 2. Malaria             | 5. Hamilton          | 9. Jupiter          |
| 3. Dame Shirley Bassey | 6. Justin Welby      | 10. 2000            |
|                        | 7. Dame Maggie Smith |                     |



**The Battle of Bannockburn**

On the 23rd of June 1314, a battle took place between Scotland and England at Bannockburn, immediately south of Stirling. Scotland tried to reclaim their land to get one step closer to independence.

Firstly Robert the Bruce was hiding in the forest with his army. Robert the Bruce knew he was outnumbered but he had a plan.

Then Robert the Bruce told the Scottish army his plan they were going to form three schiltrons (which the army called hedgehogs because their spears combined into an impenetrable wall) the Scottish courageously advanced to where the English were waiting. When the Scottish saw the English they engaged in battle, the battle of Bannockburn had begun. Once Scotland formed the schiltrons King Robert commanded Scotland to attack, Scotland charged and England was pinned back.

Next, the English archers fired at the Scottish army luckily the Scottish cavalry noticed and charged at the English archers, despite there being many more English archers they could not hold their ground and were defeated.

Lastly the Scottish tricked the English by civilians charging over the hill. The English retreated and Scotland won the battle and sent King Edward home to think again.

The Battle of Bannockburn was one of most brutal battles in Scottish history, over 500 soldiers laid down their lives for their home, Scotland.

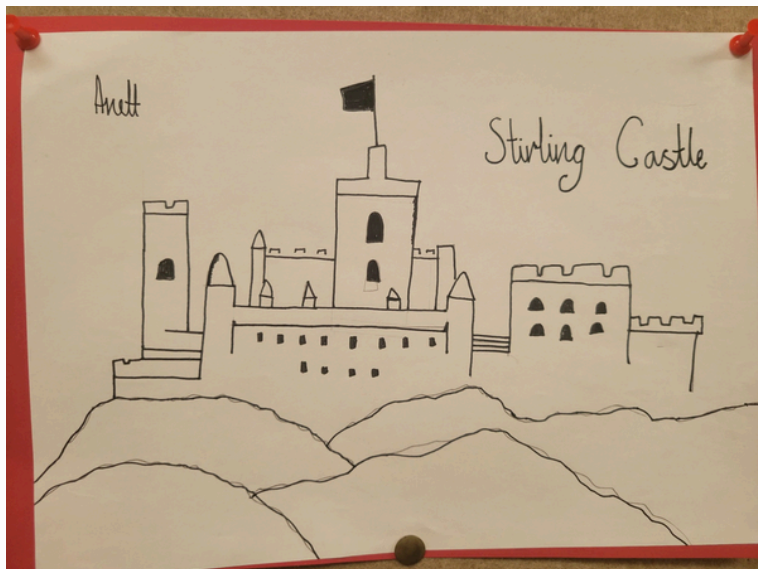
- By Harry

On the 23rd of June 1314 a battle took place, not just any battle it was the battle of Bannockburn, it happened because the Scots wanted their land back from the English.

Firstly Robert the Bruce hid his army in the trees so they had the element of surprise although they knew the English army was about three times bigger than the Scottish army. They waited for his signal to charge.

Next they charged and formed themselves into a schiltrons, they called them hedgehogs because they held their spears up and it looked like a hedgehog, using the schiltrons the Scottish pushed the English back. They were stunned, they didn't expect a smaller army of men on foot.

**continued on the next page...**

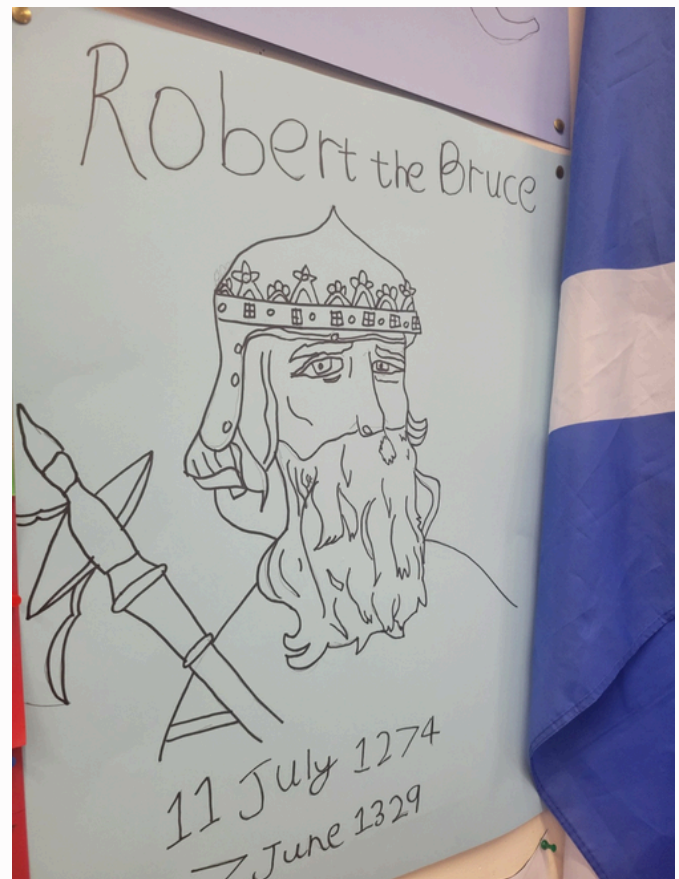
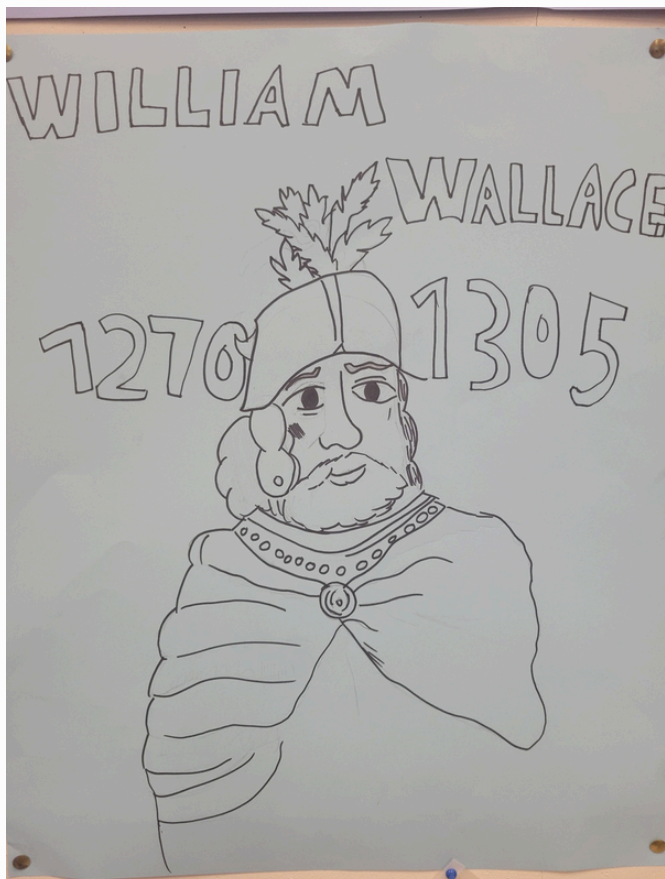


After the schiltrons formed the English charged, they had much less room to come forward, the Scottish schiltrons pushed on so that the English were trapped .

The English archers shot arrows at the Scottish but calvary chased them away, they kept pushing on until the English got pushed into the Bannockburn.

It was an intense battle and many men died but the Scots were victorious and they were one step closer to getting their land back.

- By Mavis





We have a variety of rooms that are available for one off meetings, consultations, exhibitions and celebrations etc. 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.

We are looking to take possession of a Community Car to cover medical appointments where people might have trouble arranging transport to attend. More details on this to follow soon. It is anticipated that it will cover the Ardgay, Bonar Bridge, Lairg, Shinness and Rosehall areas. The car cannot be used unless we have volunteer drivers available to meet the requirement of bookings and we are currently compiling a list of volunteer drivers for this service. If you feel you could offer a few hours as a driver please let Ros know. This service will be entirely dependent on there being volunteer drivers available.

Our next Community Market is on **Monday 18th November**. We had a few requests to hold a market in December, and had a good response from traders saying they would like to come so we are going ahead with one on 16th December now too. If you would like to ask one of our traders whether they might be able to create a bespoke commission piece for you for Christmas, or just because you deserve it, please don't leave it too late. Shop local and support small local businesses and enterprises!

As always, we are looking for volunteers to keep the centre thriving as a hub for community activity. If you feel you could assist in any way, or would like more information on anything please email [lairgcommunitycentre@gmail.com](mailto:lairgcommunitycentre@gmail.com), or call 01549 402843 (the office is only manned part time) or contact us via messenger. We are also on Facebook and the market has both Facebook and is on Instagram...

Just a reminder that Voluntary Groups Sutherland (VGS – formerly based in Golspie) are now housed in our 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.

For those of you who may not know we also have the local library housed within our building which is always made good use of. Please check their social media pages for opening times.

As ever, thank you all for your continued support, it really is greatly appreciated!

Keep Saturday 7th December free for Winterfest!



**LAIRG  
WINTERFEST!**

**Save the Date!**  
**Sat**  
**7th Dec**  
**2024**

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

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

**LDCI**  
LEARN & DISCOVER  
COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

### Changes to waste services in the Sutherland area:

The delivery of new grey bins in Sutherland is slightly delayed.

If your green bin has been emptied and a new sticker placed on it, but you don't have a new grey bin yet, please continue to use the green bin for non-recyclable waste until your new bin arrives.

It will be emptied on your next scheduled non-recyclable waste collection.

**I'm arriving  
soon...**



 **recycle for Highland**  
ath-chuairtich airson na Gàidhealtachd

 **The Highland  
Council**  
Comhairle na  
Gàidhealtachd

Thank you for reading issue 74 of the Lairg Magazine! If you would like to submit something to the magazine, please send it to: [zoe@lairglearningcentre.org.uk](mailto:zoe@lairglearningcentre.org.uk)

Phone: 01549 402050 or write to us at: Schoolhouse, Main Street, Lairg, IV27 4DD