

Lairg Magazine

LAIRG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



Picture by The Pier, Cafe

Contents:

Page 2 - Quiz/The Pier

Page 3 - Lairg & District
Learning Centre

Page 4 - Lairg Primary School

Page 5 - Lochview Rural/IT
Feedback

Page 6/7 - My Boomerang
Won't Come Back -
Part1+2/Quiz Answers

Page 8 - Lairg Community
Centre

Page 9 - Lairg Notice Board

Page 10 - Save The Date/Lairg
Local Plan

LDCI NEWS

Lairg & District Community Initiatives (LDCI) is delighted to report that we have recently been awarded funding from SSE Renewables Achany Community Fund and the RWE Rosehall Fund (via Foundation Scotland). This funding will go towards a proportion of our core costs of running the organisation for three years. Without the security of this funding LDCI would struggle to operate, and would not be able to deliver projects such as the Ferrycroft Playpark, the Sutherland Arms Way houses and the Lairg Lunch Club amongst others. We would like to thank the funders and those on the funding panel for their continued support.

QUIZ

1. What is the animal name given to the 2025 Chinese New Year?
 2. Who was the Captain of the ship in the story 'Mutiny on the Bounty'?
 3. What 2 symbols do Algeria, Turkey and Pakistan share on their flags?
 4. What type of gas is leaking from the surrounding rocks of the new Inverness Sheriff's Court, a natural phenomenon in Scotland?
 5. How many children did Queen Victoria bear?
 6. Who won the Best Director Oscar for the film 'Schindler's list' in 1993?
 7. Which team won the NFL playoffs "Superbowl" in New Orleans - Philadelphia Eagles or Kansas City Chiefs?
 8. Mary, Queen of Scots, was the only legitimate child of which Scottish King?
 9. What is the chemical symbol for Tungsten?
 10. Who had hits with "Leaving on a jet plane", "Annie's song" and "Rocky mountain high"?
-

PANCAKE STACKS

3 stack £10
Kids £6

Kinderella caramel stack:

Bueno sauce
Nutella
Caramel
Bueno
Salted caramel cheesecake

Pistachio & raspberry stack:

Pistachio sauce
White chocolate
Meringues
Raspberries
Whipped cream

Maple bacon stack:

Streaky bacon
Maple syrup
Berry compote
Whipped cream

The Pier

It's nearly the second most delicious day of the year!

Shrove Tuesday is 4th March (next Tuesday).

We'll be slinging these out from 10-12 then 3-4pm so be sure to get your tables booked.

We'll also have plain pancakes on the cake display if you're more of a butter and jam kind of person.

Takeaway available too.

From Mountains to Coast: A Wellness Journey

Our brand-new year-long project, launching this April, focuses on boosting emotional well-being through creative and mindful activities. With a variety of workshops—from journaling and mindful walks to coaching with Paralympian Karen Darke MBE—this project is perfect for anyone looking to reconnect with nature and foster personal growth.

Mini Makers & Maker's Space – with Jo Henderson

For families and young people, our Mini Makers introduces creative, hands-on skills for the next generation. Meanwhile, Maker's Space is ideal for those wishing to explore their crafting potential at their own pace. Whether you're creating something small or tackling a larger project, we've got the space and support you need.

Woodwork & Cooking

For adults, we offer practical workshops like woodwork and cooking, designed to teach lifelong skills and inspire your inner maker. Whether you're a seasoned crafter or new to these activities, there's always something new to try.

Digital Basics: Laptops & Computers, with Ryan Connelly

If you're looking to boost your digital skills, join our 4-week Digital Basics class starting Monday, March 31st, from 10.30-11.30am. These classes are perfect for beginners who want to learn the essentials of using laptops and computers in a relaxed and supportive environment.

Exciting Event: March 19th!

Don't miss our special event at Lairg Community Centre on March 19th in partnership with Eden Court! There'll be a bouncy castle, filming, interviews, and lots of fun.



**COMMUNITY
CLIMATE ACTION
MAPPING
WORKSHOP**

**04 MARCH 2025
10AM – 2PM
LAIRG COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Logos: Highlands & Islands Climate Hub, Net Zero Scotland, LET'S DO NET ZERO

Icons: Recycling, Tree, Fork and Spoon, Wrench and Screwdriver, House with Plug

Image: Three people outdoors at a table with food and materials, looking at a map or document.

This term P6 -7 have been learning about space.



We have been writing space stories.

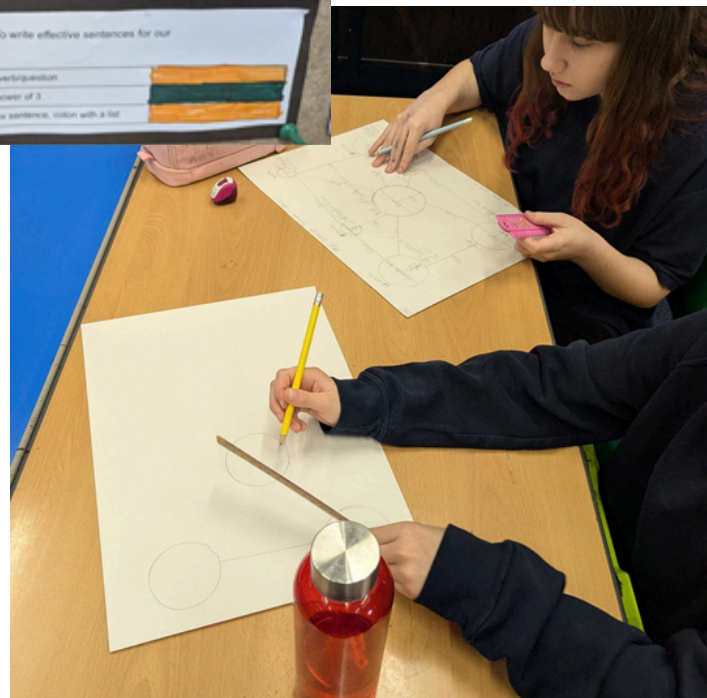
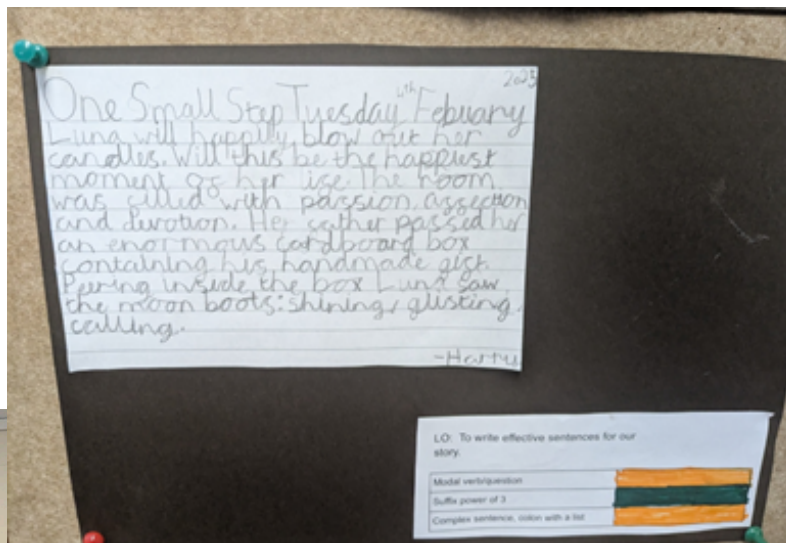
We have made 3D planets.

We have created journeys through space using measuring distance, time, speed, diameters and radius.

We are researching and creating a slideshow about our own chosen planets.

We have learned about the composer Gustav Holst and his Planets suite. We

learned the rhythms and notes from the Mars suite to create our own arrangement.





Introduction to Lambing!

Join us on Sunday, March 24, 2024, at Davochfin Farm for an unforgettable experience. Get ready to immerse yourself in the world of lambing and discover the wonders of this incredible process.

During this in-person event, you'll have the opportunity to hopefully witness the magical moments of lambing firsthand. Our knowledgeable staff will guide you through the process, sharing valuable insights and answering all your questions. At Davochfin Farm, you'll be surrounded by the beauty of nature and adorable lambs. This hands-on experience will allow you to interact with the lambs, learn about their care, and understand the importance of ensuring their well-being. The course will cover lambing equipment, pre lambing care, post lambing care and how to deal with presentations of lambs.

Lairg Learning Centre

We're reaching out to gather some feedback for a report we're preparing for our funder, about the IT Clinics we offer at the Learning Centre. If you've attended one of the clinics with Ryan, we'd love to hear how it helped you! Just a few words would make a big difference.



Your feedback is incredibly valuable—it helps us when applying for further funding so we can continue offering these clinics to the community.

What would you like to learn? Email us your top 3 topics!

You can either email admin@lairglearningcentre.org.uk or leave a message below. Or alternately fill out the google form through the QR code.

Thank you for your time and support!

My Boomerang Won't Come Back!

A tale by Jonathan Brett Young



My young grandson, Jonny, has recently been enjoying his first visit to Australia and as a rite of passage his Aussie relatives introduced him to that popular '60s song, "My boomerang won't come back" by the late Charlie Drake. As he told me about it, I was reminded of the occasion when I got into some trouble in chasing my own boomerang when it didn't come back.

Let's go back a bit. In the mid-1960s I bought a new Gray Nicholls cricket bat from Lillywhites of Piccadilly - THE shop for sporting goods in London. At the time I was on two years' exchange from the RAN in the Royal Navy and my ship, HMS Rothesay, was about to sail for the West Indies for a year. It was the time when Caribbean cricket had an immense reputation and I needed to be ready for everything that local teams we would be playing - Island, Fire Brigade, Police or Army - would throw at us. Teams from visiting British frigates were usually easy meat for West Indian sides, but in our case a forward-thinking Captain had arranged that our complement of midshipman should all be members of the Dartmouth cricket team. The First Lieutenant was a Navy cricketer, the Captain a Navy hockey player, and there were several other useful cricketers in the ship's company.

But while I was at Lillywhites, I spotted a boomerang for sale, and on impulse, added it to my shopping list. It was a purchase that was to get me into trouble later on.

We spent some time doing necessary maintainance in the lovely naval dockyard in Bermuda. It had been used by the Royal Navy for hundreds of years and to add to its historical significance we were all aware that Nelson had spent time there.

One afternoon, my colleague Bill and I decided to try out my new boomerang in a nearby sports field. As a light breeze came up we had some success in getting it to return in the great tradition of the Australian Aboriginals. But then the breeze began to strengthen and after one throw the boomerang returned but this time just kept going. It ended up flopping gently into the sea about 50 yards out. We became concerned when the wind and tide began to take it rapidly out to sea - the next stop would be South America unless we acted quickly.

In a nearby inlet we spotted a small boat, and fortunately the owner had not removed the oars. Without further thought Bill and I launched it and proceeded to chase our wayward boomerang out to sea. Bill was not so proficient at rowing and our journey was delayed by many crabs and splashes. Fortunately we were eventually able to rescue my precious boomerang and headed back to shore. The wind had now increased to a good force four and our return journey took some time. As we approached the shore a man took our line and secured it as we disembarked. I then noticed he was in the uniform of Sergeant of the Bermuda Police. 'What', he demanded, 'did we think we were doing?'. It appeared that he was responding to a report that two sailors had been seen stealing a boat.

I could see the headlines in the local paper: 'British naval officers arrested for boat stealing.' Just the previous week the local paper had carried a story: 'Bench heeds when officer speaks for sailor'. The sailor was one of my division and he had been charged with stealing a bicycle. The officer was me! As a devotee of Perry Mason I had put up a good case and my client was given an absolute discharge. I remember it was during the same proceedings that a local man had been charged with being drunk in charge of a horse. Crime was pretty low-key in Bermuda.

In this case, Bill and I were as contrite as possible, and after being told not to do it again the Sergeant decided to take no further action. After this I discovered that he was the secretary of the local police cricket team, and so I was able to arrange a match for the following week. I forget the result but I did make a few runs with my new bat. I didn't take my boomerang to the match however!

As a post script to my tale, after our return to the UK, Bill gave me a real boomerang and a nullah nullah (an Aboriginal throwing stick) that had been in his family.

They still both sit today on my hall table, highly polished, and looking very business-like. On the opposite side of the hall, under the hat stand, and together with umbrellas, a Crummock, my fishing rod, and camera tripod stands another Gray Nicholls cricket bat, a successor to the Lillywhites bat of nearly 60 years ago...

Quiz Answers

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Snake | 4. Radon | 8. James V |
| 2. Captain William Bligh | 5. 9 | 9. W |
| 3. Crescent moon and a star | 6. Steven Spielberg | 10. John Denver |
| | 7. Philadelphia Eagles | |

Another month had flown by and we are, as always, busy with the usual regular bookings. 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. We do have a variety of rooms that are available for, group activities, one off meetings, consultations, exhibitions and celebrations etc. If you want to make a booking or need any more information, please just let me know.



BÙTH-OBACH EALAIN

GAELIC CYANOTYPE WORKSHOP

An còrdadh e ribh ionnsachadh mu dheidhinn cyanotype anns a' Ghàidhlig?

All levels of fluency welcome!

Ionad Coimhearsnachd an Luirg
Lairg Community Centre

16 Màrt 2025
16 March 2025

2.30 - 4.30f
2.30-4.30pm

Book your spot at
weenorrag.co.uk/classes

We are already planning our first market of 2025 and it is full to capacity. The markets are on the third Monday of each month through until December. A typical market line up would contain an array of locally sourced produce, venison, goats cheese, preserves, honey and pickles. Not to mention the unique and wonderfully crafted handmade items, soaps and body care bars, knitting, photographic art, haberdashery, candles, collectibles and felted animals. Shop local and support small businesses and enterprises!

Don't forget that we have Ping Pong and Badminton equipment for use 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!

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 let me know by email lairgcommunitycentre@gmail.com, or by calling 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.

Great things happen when the community works **together**

Are you part of a community group, club, or organisation?

Join your **FREE** local event to find out how you can:



THESE EVENTS WILL BE LED BY ONE OF SCOTLAND'S MOST EXPERIENCED FACILITATORS, JOHN STURROCK KC
EVENTS WILL RUN 6 – 9PM, REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED. TO FIND OUT MORE EMAIL: CONTACT@VGS.SCOT | PHONE: 01408 633001

MARCH 2025	17 MON	LAIRG COMMUNITY CENTRE	18 TUE	GOLSPIE COMMUNITY CENTRE	19 WED	ARMADALE HALL	20 THU	KINLOCHBERVIE HALL
-------------------	---------------	-------------------------------	---------------	---------------------------------	---------------	----------------------	---------------	---------------------------

Coordinated by Voluntary Groups Sutherland



Supported by



Are you part of a community group, club or organisation or would you like to get more involved in your local community? Open to all, come along to any one of the four sessions taking place across Sutherland being led by John Sturrock KC to find out how you can:

- Have better conversations about local issues
- Enhance personal relationships and ways of working together
- Discuss difficult matters in constructive ways and find common ground
- Better understand what is going on in your local community
- Take opportunities and achieve better outcomes for the community.

The session in Lairg is taking place on Monday 17th March in Lairg Community Centre.

Each session will start at 6pm with everyone gathering together for a chance to meet and chat whilst having food/refreshments, followed by a presentation by John, combined with lots of conversation and engagement throughout the evening with each session due to finish at 9pm with a summing up and look ahead. There is no preconceived outcome for each session, simply that everyone leaves better informed and with some ideas about how to move forward, individually and collectively.

LAIRG LOCAL PLAN 2025-2030

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- HOUSING
- BUSINESS
- LEISURE
- TOURISM
- JOBS
- TRANSPORT

**LAIRG COMMUNITY
CENTRE**
5th March 2025

KINVONVIE SUITE
2-6pm

HAVE YOUR SAY



Lairg Community Council are working on producing a Local Plan for Lairg and are holding a public consultation in the Kinvonvie Suite at Lairg Community Centre on 5th March 2025 – you can drop in any time between 2pm-6pm.

Do we want a skate park, outdoor gym, or a MUGA in Lairg? Should we refurbish and develop the jetty and lochside? How do you feel about tourists? Should we be doing more? How's business?!

Share your thoughts and have your say on the future development and preservation of Lairg.

**LAIRG
WINTERFEST
2025**

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

**SAVE THE DATE!
6TH DEC
NOON - 4 PM**

FOR MORE INFO SEE: WWW.LAIRGINITIATIVE.CO.UK/WINTERFEST

LDCI
LAIRG DEVELOPMENT CENTRE INITIATIVE

Thank you for reading issue 77 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

The deadline for the next issue is the 19th of March