

Lairg Magazine

LAIRG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



Picture by Lochview Rural Training

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Lairg News

As we step into another exciting edition, we are delighted to bring you all the latest updates, stories, and events happening in and around our wonderful community. From local initiatives and school achievements to upcoming workshops and wellbeing programmes, this issue is packed with valuable insights and inspiring news. This month, we also shine a spotlight on the hands-on learning at Lochview Rural Training, where the ever-popular Drystone Walling course was recently filmed for a BBC documentary. Whether you are looking to get involved, stay informed, or simply enjoy a good read, there is something for everyone.

QUIZ

1. From which country was President Bashar al-Assad ousted in December 2024?
2. With members including Keith Richard, Bill Wyman and Charlie Watts, which band had an early hit with 'The Last Time'?
3. Whose CV will include both the Governor of the Bank of England and PM of Canada?
4. What was the name of the Chief of the Dakota Sioux, who led the defeat of Custer at the Little Big Horn in 1876?
5. On a wine bottle, what does the word 'Brut' mean?
6. Who was given a Bafta lifetime award last month, with tributes to his roles in film franchises such as 'Star Wars' and 'Harry Potter'?
7. Which Egyptian God of the Dead has the head of a jackal?
8. Who is the youngest ever World Darts Champion at the age of 17?
9. Scientists have found an overeating gene in which breed of dog?
10. On which sea is the Port of Odesa?

Easter THE Hub Holidays

Monday 7th - Family Crafty Cafe
Decorate a Wooden Monster Flowerpot
10.30am - 12pm

Youth Easter To Steal or not To Steal
2pm - 3.30pm

Tuesday 8th - Pre-school Fun
with Balance Bike Circuits
9.30am - 11am

Wednesday 9th - Easter Family
Bingo 10.30am - 11.45am

Friday 11th - Family Crafty
Cafe - Spring Wreaths
10.30am - 12pm

First Week of Our Easter Holidays Programme

We're excited to offer a variety of fun and engaging activities for children and families this Easter! All of our activities require booking, and spaces are limited, so we encourage you to book early to avoid disappointment. Don't miss out on the chance to create unforgettable memories during the holidays.

To secure your place, please contact us via Messenger or call us directly at 01863 769170.

Our friendly team will be happy to assist with any queries or bookings you may have.

We look forward to seeing you!

From Birdwatching to Bouncing Castles!

The start of 2025 has been packed with activity at LDLC. We wrapped up two major climate projects—Flightpath and the Highland Community Waste Partnership—with birdwatching kits, beautiful signage, and final reports heading to Scottish Government and Keep Scotland Beautiful. Project Officer Heather Bruce headed off to Edinburgh to meet with Scottish Government's Climate Engagement Team, showcasing our project, and meeting with the other amazing eight organisations taking part. We're exploring further funding, ***so watch this space!***

We've also been busy with workshops: cooking classes, writing classes, mosaics, woodworking, a swishing event, soap-making for young people, storytelling, art in soft pastels, gardening with dead hedges, and even talks with Highlife Highland Rangers.



Add to that Eden Court bouncy castle visit, for our joint community performance project, In On The Act, and it's safe to say—there's never a dull moment at the Learning Centre.



With writer David McNeish, cameraman Ben, and producer Suzy on site, it was a fun-packed—and slightly surreal—afternoon, especially with the children dressed in Jo Henderson's amazing sheep costumes. The performance will be on ***28th June at 7:30 pm***, featuring 18 Golspie High School students, cameos, stories of Lairg, and a few surprising set pieces. It will be a night to remember—***tickets on sale soon!***

April will be a little quieter as we take some breathing space to plan the months ahead. With three new grant-funded projects lined up, we'll be bringing a vast array of learning opportunities to the community—and we can't wait.

Lairg Primary 1/2 100 Days of School Celebration

Since school began in August, Primary 1/2 have been tracking how many days they have been at school since the summer.

On the 24th of February the class reached their target of 100 days at school and had a special 100 days of school celebration. There were many fun activities to do on the day!

They made colourful cereal necklaces by counting out 100 rainbow loops each and then threaded each one onto a piece of ribbon.



The children worked together to ice and decorate 100 biscuits using chocolate icing, hundreds and thousands and mini marshmallows. The class shared the biscuits with the whole school!

The best part of the day was coming to school dressed up as 100 year olds, it was funny to see what everyone wore and the teachers got involved too.



Lights, Camera, Action!

You might have heard whispers of a certain film crew visiting Lochview. We were thrilled to welcome the BBC Landward team for filming! Keep your eyes peeled for our feature on the show, coming soon. We can't wait to share our work with a wider audience.



Hands-on Learning and Creative Craft:

Our workshops have been a resounding success!

In February, we hosted a delightful willow workshop, followed by another in March where participants crafted beautiful baskets. We've also run a practical two-day fencing workshop, and our ever-popular Drystone Walling course, led by the esteemed Dave Goulder BEM, took place in Rosehall. Last week, we shared essential lambing skills at a course in Dornoch.



Nurturing Wellbeing Through Nature:

We're incredibly proud to announce the launch of our new partnership project with the NHS mental health team. Every Thursday afternoon, we welcome a wonderful group to Lochview for a programme designed to support their wellbeing. Through outdoor activities, practical skills, and collaborative teamwork, we aim to help participants build confidence, establish routines, and develop essential communication and personal development skills.

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Exciting Volunteer Opportunity Coming Soon!

We have some exciting news regarding a volunteer day! Keep a close eye on our social media pages for details. We'd love for you to join us and contribute to our community.

Get in Touch! Either via Facebook or by email.

- lochviewruraltraining@gmail.com



Spring Time Picnic on the Farm

Saturday 5th April 2025

11 AM – 2 PM


Join us for a fun-filled family day out at Davochfin Farm, Dornoch! Bring your own picnic and enjoy a range of farmyard activities, including:

- The Lambing Shed – Meet adorable newborn lambs
- The Icy – A chance to explore the farm's natural surroundings
- Little Otters Crafts – Fun creative activities for children
- Barrel Ride – A thrilling ride around the farm
- Lamb Cuddles – Get up close with our friendly lambs
- See the Chicks – Watch fluffy baby chicks up close
- Bouncy Castle – Hours of fun for the little ones

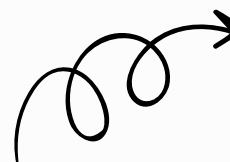
All ages welcome!

However, we kindly ask that **no dogs** are brought along for the safety of our animals.

 Location: Davochfin Farm, Dornoch

 Entry Fee: £5 per person

 More Info: www.davochfinfarm.co.uk or scan here



We look forward to welcoming you for a fantastic spring day on the farm!



Mother's Day Cake Box

Lemon, mango & berry posset
Mars krispie chocolate tart
Biscoff truffle
Caramel cheesecake meringue
White chocolate & strawberry
scone
Red velvet cupcake

£20

We are full for lunch but we have space for Mother's Day brunch and Mother's Day cake boxes.

Call on 01549 402 971 to reserve a table and to pre-order a cake box.



Happy
Mother's
Day

Quiz Answers

1. Syria

2. Rolling Stones

3. Mark Carney

4. Sitting Bull

5. Dry

6. Warwick Davis

7. Anubis

8. Luke Littler

9. Labrador

10. Black Sea

Another month has 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.

We have held our first market of 2025 and it was so lovely to see everyone again. 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!



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.

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!



New Chairperson for LDCI

Following LDCI's AGM on the 6th February, Kaye Hurron stood down as Chairperson. LDCI's directors would like to thank Kaye for all of her hard work and acknowledge the huge amount of time that she dedicated to LDCI during her five years in the seat as Chair. During this time LDCI delivered some transformational projects in Lairg - including the new Sutherland Arms Housing and the Ferrycroft Playpark amongst others. Moving forward, Robert Johnstone has taken over the role of LDCI's Chairperson. He said,

"Following the recent online community consultation for the Lairg Place Plan which was run by Lairg Community Council, LDCI will work with the Community Council to look at the feasibility of the proposed projects which will then be presented to the residents of Lairg."

The Radio Teleswitch Service (RTS) switch-off is scheduled for June 30, 2025. This will affect households that use older electricity meters to heat their homes and hot water



Why is RTS being switched off?

- RTS meters are older electricity meters that use radio signals to switch between peak and off-peak rates.
- The radio signal and supporting infrastructure and systems will be shut down.
- RTS was introduced in the 1980s and has reached the end of its natural operational life.

What will happen if my RTS meter is switched off?

Your heating and hot water supply may stop functioning as normal.

What can I do?

Contact your electricity supplier to find out if your meter needs replacing.

If you think your meter might use the RTS, speak to your landlord.

Ask your landlord to find out whether your meter uses the RTS and to contact the energy supplier if it does.

What will replace RTS meters?

RTS and DTS meters are being replaced with smart meters. Smart meters work in the same way as your meter does now.

For further information see: <https://www.energy-uk.org.uk/customers/the-radio-teleswitch-service-switch-off-what-you-need-to-know/>

The NHS Highland Technology Enabled Care (TEC) Team are holding a Wellbeing Tech drop-in session in Lairg Community Centre on Monday 28th April from 10am - 12pm.

They will showcase their services and demonstrate how simple technologies can support vulnerable people and their carers to live safe, happy, and healthy lives, and stay independent at home.

There will also be other 3rd sector organisations showing what services they can offer in the Sutherland area.

These drop-in sessions will be open to everyone, especially those living with, or supporting someone with:

- a long term health condition
- dementia
- learning disabilities
- memory problems
- sight or hearing problems
- and many others



For more information scan the QR Code above.

Simple Technology ROADSHOWS

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Drop-in to your local event to see how simple technology can help vulnerable individuals stay independent, healthy, and happy.

03 April – Alness – 10am-12pm
03 April – Ullapool – 3-5pm
10 April – Drumnadrochit – 10am-12pm
10 April – Fort William – 3-5pm
11 April – Mallaig – 11am-1pm
14 April – Kyle of Lochalsh – 10am-12pm
14 April – Portree – 2.30-4.30pm
17 April – Grantown on Spey – 10am-12pm
17 April – Kingussie – 2.30-4.30pm
22 April – Wick – 10.30am-12.30pm
22 April – Thurso – 2.30-4.30pm
24 April – Inverness – 10am-12pm
28 April – Lairg – 10am-12pm
28 April – Kinlochbervie – 3-5pm

For information on venues contact:
nhshighland.telecare@nhs.scot
 07929 713760

Local Services

Thank you for reading issue 78 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 23rd of April