

# Lairg Magazine

LAIRG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



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## Exciting News from Lairg!

Lairg Gala are delighted to share that Olivia Saunders has been chosen as Lairg Gala Queen for 2025! ❤️👑

She's pictured here with the lovely Ella, Golspie's Gala Queen, as the countdown to this year's celebrations begins.

 **Lairg Gala Week 2025** will take place from the 5th to the 13<sup>th</sup> July, with a full programme of fun, family-friendly events planned throughout the week.

Congratulations to Olivia – we're sure she'll represent the community beautifully!

👉 See more on page 4 and 5 for what's in store for Gala Week!

# QUIZ

1. To what was Burns referring when he opened his poem with the line: 'Wee, sleekit, cow'rin, tim'rous beastie'?
2. Which pistol took its name from the person who patented it in 1835?
3. To which country does the island of Elba belong?
4. Between which dates can grouse not be shot?
5. What substance was formally known as brimstone?
6. The Speaker resides over debates in the House of Commons. What is his opposite number in the House of Lords?
7. What is the name of the vigorous Spanish style of singing and guitar-playing which is often danced to?
8. Which British warship was sunk by German submarines whilst at anchor in Scapa Flow, during the Second World War?
9. What kind of aircraft is a Chinook?
10. In what year was Decimal Currency introduced in the United Kingdom?



Now open Thursday evenings!

We're excited to announce our new Thursday evening opening hours! 🎉

From now on, we'll be open every Thursday from 5.30pm to 8.00pm, and we can't wait to welcome you.

☎ To book, please give us a ring on **01549 402 971** – we're not taking online bookings for Thursdays just yet, and bookings can only be made up to **2 weeks in advance**.

*Spaces are limited, so don't miss out!*

☀ With sunshine and blue skies in the forecast all week, it's the perfect time to come along and enjoy a relaxed evening with us.

See you soon! 😎



# JUNE CLASSES ARE HERE: EMBRACE THE ENERGY OF LEARNING

Lots to shout about for June, with IT classes, cooking sessions, sewing workshops, art lessons, and some fun foraging, we are ready to go with our new projects!

**ART** - 6-week session "Painting the Peaks" kicks us off on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June with mindful landscapes and calming seas.

**FAMILY COOKING** - weekly family cooking sessions with the lovely Yvonne West at Lairg Community Centre, starting on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

**BAKE AND BLETHER** - weekly adult cooking sessions also taught by Yvonne at Lairg Community Centre in the Shin Suite.

**SEWING** workshops - get better acquainted with your sewing machine with an 'Intro to Sewing' on June 24<sup>th</sup>, and a 'Dolman' style T-Shirt workshop over 2 days, June 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>.

**I.T.** - for both big and small ones; 4 week Coding Caterpillars starting June 4<sup>th</sup> & IT basics for the adults starting on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

**FORAGING** - monthly foraging sessions will be back from June 7<sup>th</sup> on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month up to October. First one is at Balblair Woods in Bonar Bridge!

*Book here*  
via  
**eventbrite**



## "IN ON THE ACT" IS COMING TO TOWN!

The creative team from Eden Court will be putting on their "In On The Act" production, all about Lairg, at the **Lairg Community Centre** on **June 28th, 7.30pm**.

*In On The Act* is a dynamic new creative project between Eden Court and artists from Highland communities, producing original performances reflecting local people's experiences and hopes for the future.

Save the date & book your tickets here:  
[www.eden-court.co.uk/in-on-the-act](http://www.eden-court.co.uk/in-on-the-act)



## FROM VISION TO REALITY: 'FLIGHT PATH' COMPLETION



If you've had a chance to check our **social media**, you might have seen some of our completed 'Flight Path' legacy pieces. ***Here are a few examples of some of the amazing work that has been put in!***



**MOSAIC** pieces signifying drought, flooding, and wildfires/deforestation.

**BOOKS** handmade and illustrated by children from Lairg Primary School to incorporate Climate Change into part-fictional stories using birds as their main focus.

**BIRD FEEDERS** installed in 4 locations around the area, which include a bird-spotting guide & a perspex feeder for viewing the birds.

## 🎉 Lairg Gala Week 2025 – Coming Together Nicely! 🎉

We're thrilled to bring you some exciting early updates as plans come together for Lairg Gala Week 2025, running from **Saturday 5th July to Sunday 13th July**. The festivities began with the much-loved **Queen's Dance on Saturday 17th May**, a wonderful evening to kick off the Gala season in style.

This year's **Gala Attendants** are:

**Ellie Young** and **Ally Bain** 🌞

A special connection to Gala history – both Ellie and Ally's mums were Gala Queens in their time: **Louise Young (2001)** and **Catriona Corbett (2003)**. It's lovely to see the tradition continuing in the next generation.

We are also delighted to announce that **Rhona Morrison** will have the honour of opening this year's Gala Week. A well-respected member of the community, Rhona's involvement adds a meaningful touch to this year's celebrations. ❤️

We've had fantastic interest in our **Vintage Car Show**, which promises to be one of the stand-out attractions again this year – don't miss it!

We're also pleased to share that this year's **programme cover** has been beautifully designed by Faye Innes – a big thank you to her for capturing the spirit of the Gala so perfectly.



**5th of July from 10am onwards at the Lairg community centre.**

If you would like to enter a car it is £5 entry, please contact Michelle on 07774557897 or email [michellemac11@icloud.com](mailto:michellemac11@icloud.com)

Come and see these beautiful cars! Admission by Donations!




Greatfully sponsored by Painters Garage Lairg!



This year's programme is bursting with activities for all ages and interests. Just some of the confirmed events include:

- **Opening Ceremony with Pipe Bands**
- **Vintage Car Show**
- **Craft Market Day**
- **Fancy Dress Parade** – on floats and on foot
- **Bouncy Castle, BBQ, Wheelbarrow Race**
- **Blue Ridge Family Night**
- **Pet Parade**
- **Football Kickabout**
- **Sports Day & Ice Cream Van**
- **Children's Activities:** Teddy Bears' Picnic, obstacle course, fun fishing, sunflower crafts, disco, story time, science sessions (primary & high school), Book Bug, and more
- **Teen Events:** High school pool, darts, gaming & pizza night
- **Workshops & Experiences:** Candle making, floral wreaths, sound bath, forest experience, paddle boarding with mocktails
- **Family Fun:** Colour run, duck race, raft race, 'It's a Knockout', mascot madness, large slides, crafts at Ferrycroft, and kids' play tent
- **Adult Events:** Pool and darts competitions, dominoes, bingo, quiz nights, curry night, beetle drive
- **Evening Entertainment:** Live music and a big dance to Ezra 🎵
- **Competitions:** Best Kept Garden, drawing competition, eating contest, Wheel of Fortune, and 'In It to Win It'

With such a huge variety of events, there really is **something for everyone** – from the youngest toddlers to older residents, and everyone in between.

 **The full printed programme will be available at the start of June**, packed with all the times, details, and extra surprises still to be confirmed.

Make sure to **book the week off**, gather your friends and family, and join us for what promises to be a truly unforgettable Gala Week in Lairg! 🏰🎈



“Sport’s Day was fun and exciting. We had a lot of fun funny games and races like running the 3 legged race, beanbag race, skipping rope race and the potato and spoon race. The weather was a really sunny and nice weather. The Sport’s Leaders did a good job. They organised the day. Being a Sport’s leader was fun. We held the rope and handed out stickers checking out who won. Faye Innes won the Sport’s Day Shield and she did really good, she really deserved it.”

- Duncan Mackenzie P6



“On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May we all took part in a sponsored walk. P3-7 went to Gunn’s Wood and Nursery to P2 walked around the school grounds 5 times to make a mile. The weather was sunny and hot. We are trying to raise money for a school trip to Landmark. We want to also thank all the people in the village who donated to our school. We are looking forward to our trip and we hope the weather is as good when we go.”

- Nola P6 and Harry P7



## Village Officer

LDCI has recently received an award of £5000 from Lairg Windfarm Fund (through Foundation Scotland) which will go toward contracting a Village Officer to carry out maintenance work. This will include cutting grass and tidying up areas of land identified by the Lairg Community Council.



## SCAA - Friendship Club Talk

On Tuesday, 20th May, Michael Hanratty from Scotland's Air Ambulance Charity (SCAA) visited Lairg Community Centre to speak to the Friendship Club about the charity's lifesaving work.

SCAA is Scotland's only charity air ambulance, responding to serious accidents and medical emergencies across the country. Their skilled paramedics and pilots operate two helicopters and rapid response vehicles from bases in Perth and Aberdeen. This service is especially important in remote areas like Lairg, where fast medical care during the critical "Golden Hour" can mean the difference between life and death.

Michael explained that his fundraising involvement began after the air ambulance saved his niece's life. The Friendship Club members enjoyed the talk and raised generous donations. Michael later visited Lairg Primary School to share more about SCAA's work. For more information, visit:

<https://www.scaa.org.uk/>



## Quiz Answers

1. A mouse

2. Colt

3. Italy

4. 11<sup>th</sup> December and 11<sup>th</sup> August

5. Sulphur

6. The Lord Chancellor

7. Flamenco

8. HMS Royal Oak

9. Helicopter

10. 1971

Our weekly events schedule is shared every Friday on Facebook and on noticeboards around the building. We've got a range of rooms available for hire – perfect for meetings, group activities, exhibitions, or celebrations. Just get in touch to book or find out more.

At the time of writing, we are due to hold our May market and hope it will be the lovely well attended event that it always is. The Market takes place on the third Monday of each month until December. Expect local produce like venison, goat's cheese, preserves, and a great mix of handmade crafts. A lovely way to support small, local businesses!



The Community Car is back in service to help those without transport get to medical appointments – subject to availability of a driver and the vehicle. To book, call 01549 402843 (Mon–Fri, 9–11.30am) or email [lairgcommunitycentre@gmail.com](mailto:lairgcommunitycentre@gmail.com). We're also on the lookout for more volunteer drivers – even occasional help is appreciated.

We're always keen to welcome new volunteers and board members to keep the centre thriving. If you'd like to get involved, please reach out.

A quick reminder – we have table tennis and badminton equipment available, and a fantastic stage ideal for performances, pantomimes or music events. Voluntary Groups Sutherland (VGS) are now based in our main office and can be contacted on 01408 633001 (Tuesdays and Thursdays). The local library is also located in the building – check their social media for opening times.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support – it means a great deal!



## Join Our Team at Lochview Rural Training!

**Position:** Rural Skills Assistant (Part-Time)

**Location:** Shinness, Lairg, Sutherland

Are you passionate about the outdoors, animals, and making a real difference in rural education?

Lochview Rural Training is seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic Rural Skills Assistant to join our friendly, supportive team on a part-time basis.

### **About the Role:**

As a Rural Skills Assistant, you will work closely with our staff and learners to deliver practical sessions across a range of rural subjects. This hands-on role involves working with animals, maintaining outdoor spaces, and helping learners build confidence and essential life skills—all within the stunning Highlands.

### **What We Offer:**

- A welcoming, inclusive environment where people come first
- The opportunity to be part of a social enterprise making a genuine impact
- Daily contact with nature, animals, and like-minded colleagues
- Flexible working hours to suit your lifestyle
- Opportunities for training and personal development

### **What We're Looking For:**

- A positive, can-do attitude and a passion for the outdoors
- Experience working with animals or in land-based tasks (preferred but not essential)
- Good communication skills and the ability to work with both young people and adults
- A team player with a practical approach and enthusiasm

### **Location:**

Our centre is located just outside Lairg, Sutherland, surrounded by breathtaking landscapes and a vibrant rural community.

### **How to Apply:**

For more information and a full job description, please contact us at:

[lochviewruraltraining@gmail.com](mailto:lochviewruraltraining@gmail.com)





**TICKETS:**  
£110

**EMERGENCY FIRST  
AID IN THE WORKPLACE**

**MONDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY**  
9AM - 3PM

**EDDERTON VILLAGE HALL**

admin@lairglearningcentre.org.uk  
01549402050




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/>

Thank you for reading issue 80 of the Lairg Magazine! If you would like to submit something to the magazine, please send it to: [heather@lairglearningcentre.org.uk](mailto:heather@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 18th of June.**