

Lairg Magazine

LAIRG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



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Celebrate in Style: Blue Ridge's Exciting Start to Lairg Gala Week



 Lairg Gala Week 2025 will take place from the 5th to the 13th July, with a full programme of fun, family-friendly events planned throughout the week (see page 4 for more details). It kicks off on the 5th July, with the Vintage Car Show from 10am at the Lairg Community Centre, followed by the Gala Market starting at 11am in the Marquee, with the 'Gar's Tractor Run' stopping at the Transport Car Park shortly after.

The Opening Ceremony will start with the Sutherland Pipe Band at 3pm!



From 7.30pm in the Marquee, Blue Ridge will be delighting us with their mix of traditional tunes and quirky styles.

A firm favourite for a Highland family dance - so bring the weans and kick off your heels on the first evening of Gala Week 2025!

Lairg Gala Week Family Dance to
BLUE RIDGE



SATURDAY
THE 5TH OF
JULY
7.30-10.30PM

2 UNDER 18S
PER ADULT
ID REQUIRED!

£10 pp (16+), £5pp (under 16)

QUIZ

1. Which former professional footballer and England captain became a Sir in this year's King's Birthday Honour List?
2. Who played M in the Bond film Goldeneye?
3. What is the occupation of a leprechaun?
4. Where did the letters DG REG FD change to DG REX FD in 2023?
5. Which word connects these descriptions - a timber or iron support, to tie up securely, a bundle of hay or straw and the British PM with the shortest time in office?
6. Which is the last of the year's four 'quarter days' in England?
7. Where is the Neolithic village of Skara Brae?
8. What is the last event in the Decathlon?
9. Where was Mary Queen of Scots born?
10. How long does it take the Earth to travel one and half million miles? A day, a week or a month?



We're delighted to offer online booking for our new Thursday evening opening hours! 🎉

We're now open every Thursday from 5.30pm to 8.00pm, to add to our evening hours on Fridays & Saturdays - we can't wait to welcome you.

☎ To book, please give us a ring on **01549 402 971** or book online at: **www.pier-cafe.co.uk**

Spaces are limited, so don't miss out!

We're also open every day for brunch, lunch, coffee, cake & cocktails!

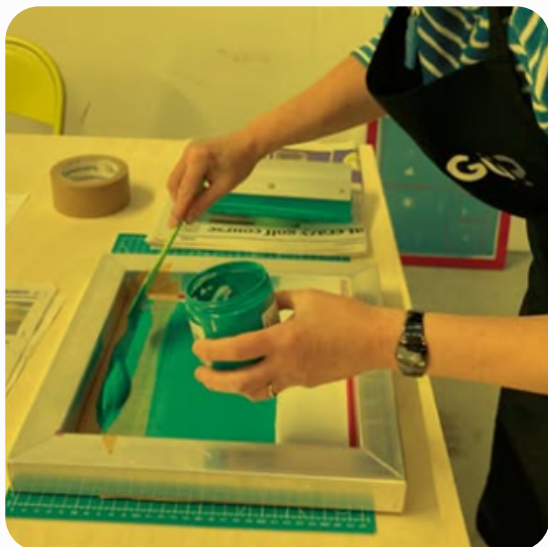
Opening Hours:

Monday: 10am-4pm
Tuesday: 10am-4pm
Wednesday: 10am-4pm
Thursday: 10am-4pm, 5.30-8pm
Friday: 10am-4pm, 5.30-9pm
Saturday: 10am-4pm, 5.30-9pm



Celebrating Creativity & Community This Lairg Gala Week

We're absolutely delighted to be supporting Lairg Gala Week with a host of creative, community-centred events for all ages.



We're thrilled to welcome Colleen Coe of Timber & Stitch to Lairg on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th July. Visiting from her studio in Aviemore, Colleen will run two days of screen-printing workshops in The Conservatory at Lairg Community Centre.

These sessions are open to adults, teens and children, a fantastic chance to explore your creativity, design something personal, and learn a new skill. Colleen is looking forward to sharing her passion and meeting members of the community.

Other LDLC Gala Events:

- Saturday 5th July, 10am-12noon at Ferrycroft Woods - Foraging
- Tuesday 8th July, 2.30-3.30pm at the Learning Centre (Rm 1) - Sheep pom pom making (P1-7)
- Thursday 10th July, 2-3pm in the Community Centre's Conservatory - Sunflower sequin art (P1-7)

As the month continues, we're delighted to offer something for younger crafters: wooden toy making workshops with Graham Rennie in The Cabin at the Learning Centre: Weds 16th July (1–3pm), children will build their own wooden toy horses, followed by a spinning top session on Weds 23rd July (1–3pm).

These hands-on sessions are a great way to develop practical skills while having fun. We're just planning our late summer and autumn woodwork workshops, including making a clock and picture frames so keep your eyes posted for these dates.

Pottery is also back, by great demand! 4 weeks from Tues, 15th July.



Walk & Talk SESSIONS GUIDED WALKS WITH AMANDA



And because wellbeing matters just as much as learning, we're very pleased to welcome Amanda Wagstaffe, our new Walk & Talk tutor. Amanda leads gentle, friendly walks around our local woods – a lovely way to stretch your legs, meet others, and have a good blether. Walks are weekly through July, alternating between Ferrycroft, Ord Hill & Gunn's Wood.

At LDLC, we know how powerful community spaces can be. Whether it's learning something new, meeting new people, or simply stepping out of the house for a change of scene, these workshops are relaxed, welcoming, and great for your mental health and wellbeing. You don't need to be an expert, just come along and enjoy the experience.

We're also incredibly proud to share that our Chair of the Board of Directors, Irene Mackintosh, and Centre Manager, Sarah Forrest, have been nominated by the Scottish Government to attend the Royal Garden Party at the Palace of Holyrood House, Edinburgh, on Tuesday 1st July 2025, which is a wonderful recognition for our Learning Centre.

If you'd like to keep up with what's on, you can follow us on Facebook, check our Eventbrite page, or sign up for our monthly newsletter. We also print monthly leaflets, and share posters around the village which have all the information you need.

TICKETS: All our workshops are advertised on Eventbrite where you buy tickets, but if you'd like help with online bookings, or simply want to pop in for a chat, just give us a call on 01549 402050 or drop by the Learning Centre – we'd love to see you! Monday-Thursday, 9am-3pm.



Lairg Gala Week 2025 - Saturday 5th - 12th July

This year's programme is bursting with activities for all ages and interests, including:

- 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.



**1st Saturday of
Lairg Gala!**

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

Come and see
these beautiful
cars! Admission
by
Donations!



Greatfully sponsored by
Painters Garage Lairg!



£5 per number

**Winner gets 50% of the prize fund,
other 50% goes towards Kids Panto
trip 2025**

**The more who enter the larger the
prize pot**

- Players must be 18+
- All entries must be filled in using their telephone number only
- Winning caller must answer with "Make Me A Winner"
- Call will be made July 12th, between 4-5pm
- Number chosen by a random number generator
- Numbers available from Gala members



LAIRG GALA WEEKS

DANCE TO EZRA
SATURDAY THE 12TH
OF JULY
9PM TO 1AM!



STRICTLY NO UNDER
18'S!
PLEASE REMEMBER ID!



All proceeds
to Lairg Baby
& Toddler
Group
-Thank you to
Lairg Gala
Week

Bottle Stall

Saturday 5th July
Lairg Gala Marquee Tent
From 11am
£1 per ticket

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July 5th – 12th 2025

Best Kept Garden



Judging takes place throughout Gala Week

Sponsored by Costcutter Lairg
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It's a Knockout - Saturday 12th July



Teams of 4 - call 07511334080 to register
£100 cash prize

All teams must register by 12noon

Sponsored by Lewis Mackay Electrical



FAMILY CEILIDH

FRIDAY 11TH JULY
7PM - 10PM
GALA MARQUEE,
MAIN STREET, LAIRG

£3 ADULT, £2 CHILDREN
£10 FAMILY TICKET FOR FAMILIES
WITH 3+ CHILDREN.

RAFFLE ON THE NIGHT.

LOCAL MUSICIANS.

BAR & TUCK SHOP
PROVIDED BY GALA.

THANK YOU, LAIRG GALA WEEK.

PROCEEDS TO
LAIRG PRIMARY PTA.

Lairg Primary School children (P3-5) have written their own pieces about why people should visit Lairg...



“Lairg is a village in the highlands of Scotland. Lairg has a population of about 900. It is at the south-eastern end of Loch Shin.

Most Importantly Lairg once was hit by a meteor and it made the Loch. (It hit 1.2 billion years ago).

Furthermore, Lairg has beautiful landscapes to look at and explore.

In addition, Lairg has a restaurant called the Pier that is so delicious.

You can have lunch, brunch, breakfast or dinner.

I am definitely convinced that you should visit Lairg because of the landscapes and the delicious food.”

By Theo P5



“Lairg is a lovely village in the Highlands of Scotland.

It has a population of about 900.

Most importantly Lairg has lots for families and friends to go to, there's a nice hotel to stay in, a lovely cafe called The Pier.

Furthermore Loch Shin is fine, you can do paddle boarding, canoeing and swimming. You can do a lot in the loch, you can go on a boat and you can go on Jet Skis.

In addition Lairg has the The Pier and has a dock that you could go on to so you can eat your beautiful brunch and enjoy the nice view.

Sometimes when you wake up there is a nice sunrise that you can look up and see it happens most mornings if you wake up at the perfect time.

You should definitely visit Lairg to see the Loch, the Pier Cafe and the sunrises.”

By Emily P4



“Lairg is a village in Scotland. Lairg has a population of about 900. It is at the south eastern end of Loch Shin.

Most importantly Lairg is full of walks like Ferry Croft and Gunn's wood and more. Lairg has a lovely cafe called The pier which has great food and drinks.

There is a celebration called Gala week in the Summer each year.

There are fun games and events through the week.

In addition there is a big park at Ferry croft with a huge zip line and a big climbing wall.

I definitely agree that YOU should visit Lairg to see the parks, walks, cafe and enjoy the Gala week.”

By Maisie P5

“Lairg is a village in the highlands of Scotland.

Lairg has a population of about 900. It is at the south-eastern end of Loch Shin.

Most importantly Lairg has a beautiful countryside for people to explore and go on lovely walks.

In addition you can visit the ferry croft centre and you can get coffee and cake. There is also a great big new playpark for everyone.

Lastly in August there is a Crofter's show. At the show there is a dog show, bouncy castle, tractor run and loads more. As well as our big gala week in July.

I think that Lairg is a lovely place and of course you can go to the Pier !”

By Lottie P3



Since November 2024, Lairg Community Council, Lairg & District Community Initiative, and Sutherland Community Partnership have been working on a Local Area Plan for Lairg.



This plan reflects views gathered through community engagement in 2024/2025, addresses key issues highlighted by the residents and community organisations of Lairg, and details community aspirations and land-use opportunities.

The Council would like your feedback on the draft plan ahead of submitting it to the Highland Council. You can view the plan on the council website at www.lairgcommunitycouncil.co.uk or on the council Facebook page. Please send any feedback to: secretary.lairgcc@gmail.com

‘Sutherland Arms Way’ nominated for two prestigious industry awards



The Sutherland Arms Way housing development by Albyn Housing Society has gained national recognition after it was nominated for two categories at the Scottish Home Awards 2025 which took place in Glasgow on the 19th June.

The development was nominated for the ‘Social Housing Development of the Year’ (under 100 units) and ‘Community Contribution’ awards.

Kirsty Campbell of Senior Development & Investment Officer at Albyn said, “Sadly, we did not win an award this time, the competition was tough, but we remain happy to have made it to the finals, with a fantastic project which has made a positive impact on the community and the individual tenants.”

Andrew Martin, Exec Director of Group Services, commented: “It was really exciting to have this development recognised in this way. It is the result of a great partnership between Lairg & District Community Initiatives (LDCI) who donated the land, Compass who did such a fantastic job ahead of schedule, our funders, and Albyn’s Fit homes technology. Most importantly, this new housing has provided high quality homes for our tenants and it is now part of a strong local community.”

Lairg II LLP Windfarm

The developers of the Lairg II LLP windfarm will be beginning work on the access routes to the site in July - this includes the LDCI owned corner of land at the bottom of Main Street. You may see barriers going up and preliminary surveys taking place. For further info about the project see: <https://energiekontor.co.uk/lairg-ii-deliveries/> or their Facebook Page - scan the QR code to go to the page

SCAN ME!



Quiz Answers

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. David Beckham | 4. On new coins (with King's Head) | 8. 1500 metres |
| 2. Dame Judi Dench | 5. Truss | 9. Linlithgow Palace |
| 3. Cobbler | 6. Christmas Day | 10. A day |
| | 7. Sandwich, Orkney | |



We have had another busy month here at the hall with many varied activities taking place.

A full schedule of the upcoming events and activities 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 us know: lairgcommunitycentre@gmail.com



We held our monthly Community Market on June 16th, despite several stall holders falling prey to a bug that had been doing the rounds it was still a fabulous well attended, lively event.

Our markets are on the third Monday of each month from March through until December.

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You will no doubt have seen that the Learning Centre and Eden Court have worked in collaboration to bring a performance to our stage on Saturday 28th June. It is all very exciting! 🎭

Also just a reminder that Lairg Gala Week takes place from Saturday July 5th to Saturday July 12th and as with previous years the centre is taken over by them for the week to allow their activities to take place so there are no regular bookings that week unless previously agreed.

We wish them a successful and fun week and hope that the weather is kind to them!



The Sutherland Resilience Initiative Community Car back is in service again now and it is available to take people to medical appointments should they have no other way of getting there. This is subject to both the car and a volunteer driver being available at the required time.

To make a booking, please call the office on 01549 402843 Monday to Friday between 9 am and 11.30 am out with these hours please either leave a message or email lairgcommunitycentre@gmail.com.

We are also looking for more volunteer drivers to join the bank of drivers already in place, if you feel this is something you might be able to help with, even on and ad hoc basis, please call or email for more information.

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Tai Chi in Lairg

The Tai Chi group are looking to invite new people to their weekly sessions in the Main Hall, Thursdays 2-4pm.

Tai Chi is beneficial for any age, no special equipment or clothing required, just come along and try!

We are a very small friendly group, refreshments included!

Contact Diane:

dianek27m@gmail.com



School House Crafters

New members wanted for our friendly craft sessions. Any craft is welcome - we have embroiderers, quilters, knitters, etc. Use of a Brother sewing machine & sewing materials are available. Tea & biscuits included. £10 per month.

Meet in the Kinvonvie Suite. 10am-12noon every Tuesday.

Contact Diane:

dianek27m@gmail.com



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

UPCOMING EVENTS.



**JULY
2ND**

Wednesday for 6 weeks 10am - 12

ASN sessions

Do you have a child between 11-16 with ASN, we have a 6 week pilot programme running with lots of activities we are sure they will enjoy. FREE

**JULY
28TH**

Running 4 days

Land based taster sessions

Are you 16+ and looking to learn more about the land based sector contact us to sign up for our taster sessions.

**JULY
24TH**

Thursday 7-9pm

Family craft session

Come along to this free event - bring the children ages 7+ to knit an Izzy Doll

**AUGUST
21ST**

Thursday, 7-9pm

Family craft session

come along and get involved with our craft sessions, For all the family children 7+

Lochview rural training

**SUMMER
HOLIDAYS**

Volunteer Day - 17th June 2025

☀️ What a wonderful day at Lochview Rural Training! 🌿

We were thrilled to welcome both new and familiar faces to our Volunteer Information Day — and the sunshine made it all the more special.

🐔 The livestock were on their best behaviour (yes, even the goats!)

🐷 And the biggest star of the day? Heather, our lovely Large Black pig, who surprised us with a beautiful litter of piglets just in time! 🐷❤️

Thank you to everyone who came along, asked questions, and shared in the joy of what we do here. We're so lucky to have such a warm and supportive community.



SCHOOL'S OUT East Sutherland Summer Activity Camps - July '25

Tues 15th Helmsdale 10-3pm, P1-7 Booking code: SOS002324
Sports / Ranger / Library activities

Thurs 17th Golspie* 10-4pm Booking code: SOS002625
Sports / Swimming / Ranger / Library activities
*8-12 years

Mon 21st Brora 10-3pm, P1-7 Booking code: SOS002325
Sports / Ranger / Library activities

Wed 23rd Dornoch 10-3pm, P1-7 Booking code: SOS002626
Sports / Ranger / Library activities

Thurs 24th Lairg 10-3pm, P1-7 Booking code: SOS002623
Sports / Science Skills Academy Rockets / Ranger / Library activities

Fri 25th Bonar Bridge 10-3pm, P1-7 Booking code: SOS002624
Sports / Science Skills Academy Rockets / Library activities

Cost: £16 All Inclusive & Budget members / £32 for PAYG members

Book online at: www.higlifhighland.com/schools-out-2/

higlifhighland.com

For future information or queries, please contact Elissa Stevenson on 07825 116498 or email elissa.stevenson@higlifhighland.com

SCHOOL'S OUT East Sutherland Mini Highland Games - July '25

P1-P7

Mon 14th Dornoch 2-4pm | Meadows Pitch
Booking code: SOS003008

Mon 28th Helmsdale 2-4pm | Couper Park
Booking code: SOS003017

Tues 29th Lairg 2-4pm | Ferrycroft Pitch
Booking code: SOS003007

Wed 30th Brora 2-4pm | School Pitch
Booking code: SOS003018

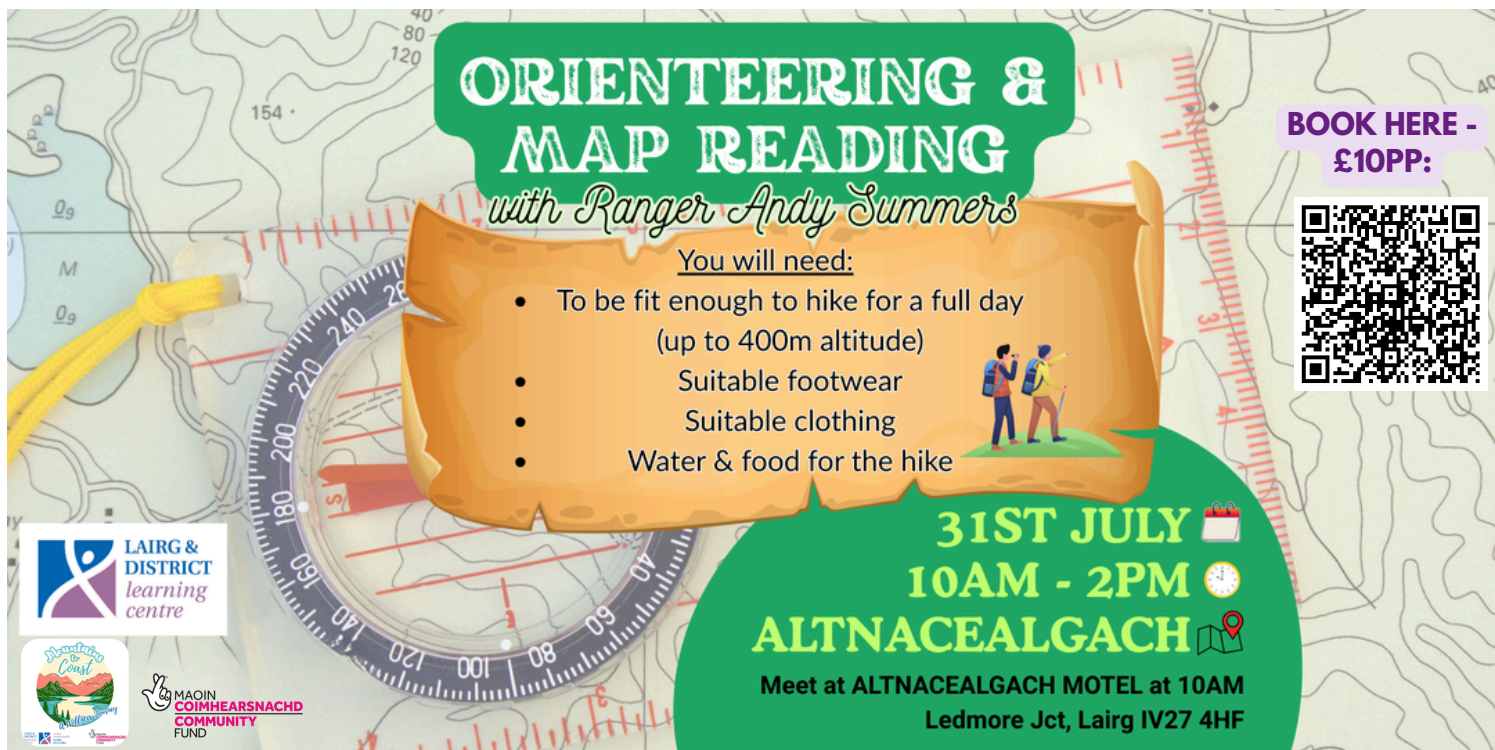
Thurs 31st Bonar Bridge 2-4pm | Football Pitch
Booking code: SOS003019

Cost: FREE All Inclusive, 50p Budget & £8.60 PAYG members

Book online at: www.higlifhighland.com/schools-out-2/

higlifhighland.com

For future information or queries, please contact Elissa Stevenson on 07825 116498 or email elissa.stevenson@higlifhighland.com



ORIENTEERING & MAP READING

with Ranger Andy Summers


You will need:

- To be fit enough to hike for a full day (up to 400m altitude)
- Suitable footwear
- Suitable clothing
- Water & food for the hike

31ST JULY
10AM - 2PM
ALTNACEALGACH

Meet at ALTNACEALGACH MOTEL at 10AM
Ledmore Jct, Lairg IV27 4HF

BOOK HERE - £10PP:



LAIRG & DISTRICT learning centre

MAOIN COIMHEARSNACHD COMMUNITY FUND

ARMED FORCES DAY FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY

MEMORIAL GARDEN , GOLSPIE
SATURDAY 28 JUNE



In addition to veterans, all members of the public are welcome

Assemble Memorial Garden, Golspie

Tea and coffee available in Golspie Heritage Centre from 10:30

Ceremony 11:00-11:45

Free lunch for veterans and one guest each in The Stag Hotel, Golspie 12:30

Enquiries to: sutherlandlieutenancy@gmail.com

RWE

Foundation Scotland

RWE ROSEHALL WIND FARM COMMUNITY FUND

COMMUNITY

ROUND 1 AWARDS, 2025

£112,250.55 was awarded to local organisations in Ardgay, Criech and Lairg, including 2 multi year awards. Grants included awards to:

Lairg and District Community Initiative, to help with core running costs over 3 years to deliver long term community projects

Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust, to help with core running costs over 1 year to deliver projects benefiting East Sutherland.

Bonar Bridge Football Club, to contribute to costs of grass cutters, new gates, equipment storage and fencing for the playing field.

Culrain Hall, to help with costs of repairs to external cladding.

Lochview Rural Training, to contribute to the salary of a part time Community Development Officer for 2 years

Lairg Gala Week, to support the purchase of new fridges, tables and a BBQ tent as part of a bar and refreshment facilities refurb.

Thank you for reading issue 81 of the Lairg Magazine! If you would like to submit something to the magazine, please send it to: 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 23rd of July.