


# Lairg Magazine

LAIRG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



## Crofters & Community: The Lairg Show

 Lairg Crofters' Show will take place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August, with a full programme of fun, family-friendly events for the day (see page 4 for more details). The Crofters' Show Queen this year is Olivia Saunders, pictured above with her 3 attendants, Isla, David & Leon.

This annual event was established in 1911 and is the last remaining Crofters' show on mainland Britain.

The 2025 show will feature a horse show, dog show, sheep and cattle livestock classes, dog agility, highland dancing competition, industrial tent and various craft, trade and charity stalls and much more.

Starting at 9am on Lairg's Showfield, the Sutherland Schools' Pipe Band and the Caledonian Pipe Band (Golspie) will lead the parade of our show Queen and her attendants, followed by our large vintage machinery display.

The main attraction for this year's show: Mike Wylie & The Drakes of Hazard.



### Contents:

**Page 2** - Quiz/Armed Forces Day

**Page 3** - Lairg & District Learning Centre

**Page 4** - Lairg Crofter's Show pt.1

**Page 5** - Lairg Crofter's Show pt.2

**Page 6** - Lairg Primary School

**Page 7** - LDCI News/Quiz Answers

**Page 8** - Lairg Community Centre/Veg on the Edge

**Page 9** - Lochview Rural Training/Notices

**Page 10** - Notices





1. In a children's novel, into which world do Susan, Peter, Edmund and Lucy Pevensie enter?
2. What are the four principal types of teeth in the human body?
3. Which 80-year-old performed in the 'Legend Spot' at Glastonbury this year?
4. In which year did British and French workers meet below the English Channel, joining the 2 sides of the tunnel?
5. What name is given to the study of earthquakes and tremors?
6. Tenzin Gyatso recently celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and is more commonly known as what?
7. What title is given to the representative of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland?
8. Who is the leader of the Conservative Party?
9. What is the name of President Trump's golf course in Girvan?
10. Approximately how many tennis balls are used during the Wimbledon Championship? 55000, 75000 or 85000?

## Armed Forces Day 2025



Jonathan Brett Young receives his MBE from Major General Patrick Marriott, the Lord Lieutenant of Sutherland.



Willie Mackay, Annette Parrott, Jonathan Brett Young and John Smith.



Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June saw the Sutherland flag raising ceremony to mark Armed Forces Day taking place at the Memorial Garden in Golspie with music provided by members of the Sutherland Schools Pipe Band and the Sutherland Caledonian Pipe Band.

Attended by veterans, friends, family and members of the public from across the county as well as personnel from HMS Sutherland and Jamie Stone MP, the ceremony began with Kenny McAulay (Chair of RBLS Golspie) welcoming those present, followed by the raising of the AFD flag by Mike Ellis, Chair of RBLS Helmsdale. A special welcome was expressed to Flower Thompson DL, one of the founder members of Friends of Sutherland Veterans.

The Lord-Lieutenant spoke about the origins and importance of Armed Forces Day and Alasdair Miller, President of RBLS Golspie, gave an address about the role of animals in various conflicts. During the ceremony Jonathan Brett Young from West Shinness was presented with his MBE which was awarded in this year's New Year's Honours list for services to veterans and the vulnerable in Sutherland following over 30 years of service to both the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association, Voluntary Groups Sutherland and the East Sutherland Village Advisory Service which developed into the successful East and Central Sutherland Citizens Advice Bureau.

Jonathan commented, "I am deeply honoured to receive this award. But I would like to pay tribute to all those with whom I worked who should really take the credit - the volunteers and the management committees."



As we gradually turn towards the end of the summer, we still have a diverse range of classes available to all ages.

Our office is closed for the first 2 weeks of August, but that hasn't stopped us putting on some great classes for you all - this is just a little snapshot of some of this month's new classes; we also have Celtic Mythology, IT for the kids & Foraging on this month. Take a look at Eventbrite or Facebook for more details.

**4th August:** Pasta Making for Teens (12-16yrs)  
11am-1pm | Lairg Community Centre | FREE

**12th & 13th August:** Make Your Own Beauty Products for Teens (12-16yr)

10am-3pm | Brora Learning Zone | FREE

**14th August:** 8 week Celtic Mythology  
6pm-7pm | Online | £40+

**16th August:** Restorative Yoga with Tim  
2pm-3pm | Lairg Community Centre | FREE

**18th August:** Social Media & AI Safety  
10.30am-12 noon | Lairg Learning Centre | £5

**27th August:** Sew Your Own Bunting & Bag  
10am-1.30pm | Lairg Learning Centre | £5

Throughout July, we were delighted to offer woodworking and screenprinting sessions for children, which were very well-received and sparked a request for similar workshops. These hands-on sessions have been a great way for children to develop practical skills while having fun. We hope to offer more in the future!

On that note, we're thrilled to announce that we will be offering a variety of new classes starting next month (Sept). Whether you're looking to enhance your culinary skills, explore the art of drop spinning, or unleash your creative side with art, we have something for you!



## Walk & Talk SESSIONS

GUIDED WALKS WITH AMANDA

Our outdoor leader, Amanda Wagstaffe of Pedal Pursuits, will continue her 'Walk & Talk' sessions throughout August with us.

The walks are FREE and suitable for everyone

Whether you want to do something new, meet new people, or simply step out of the house for a change of scene, these one-hour walks are relaxed, welcoming, and great for your mental health and wellbeing.

- 6<sup>th</sup> Aug: Laundry Rd/Saval (meet at Transport Car Park), 10am-11am
- 13<sup>th</sup> Aug: Dalchork Bird Hide - bring a flask & binoculars, 10am-11am
- 20<sup>th</sup> Aug: Ferrycroft - possible routes via dam or the ord (meet at back car park), 10am-11am
- 27<sup>th</sup> Aug: Gunn's Wood, 10am-11am



With thanks to a collaboration with the Kyle of Sutherland Hub, we can continue to offer these walks for health and wellbeing to people in the Lairg area.

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.





Queen Olivia Saunders and her three attendants: Isla, David and Leon.

There will also be a parade of vintage tractors, vehicles and machinery lead by this year show Queen Olivia Saunders and her three attendants Isla, David and Leon.

This year we have around 50 craft and trade stands attending, showcasing their products from fresh venison, smoked salmon and baking to wood crafts, candles, jewellery and educational stands, and of course everything a Crofter needs from buggies and quads to animal feeds and supplies.

Highland Dancing, Piping, Vintage vehicles, Dog show and Horses are open to all.

The Sheep, Cattle & Industrial tent is open to the show area which covers: Lairg, Rogart, Rosehall & Altnaharra.

Main ring events open to all.

## Lairg Crofter's Show - Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> August

With show day fast approaching, it's time to open up our entries to all sections!

This being from horses and dogs to cattle and sheep, with vintage machinery, highland dancing and also the industrial tent.

Throughout show day we have a number of events running in the main ring with this years main attraction - the 'Drakes of Hazzard!'. They are a sheepdog and runner duck team bringing a fantastic crowd pleasing demonstration.

They will be sure to entertain and educate the audience both old and young!

**SATURDAY**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST**  
**2025**



# LAIRG CROFTERS SHOW

Main Attraction - 'Drakes of Hazzard'  
Horse Show, Dog Show & Livestock Classes  
Piping Competition & Highland Dancing  
Competition




Vintage vehicles & machinery and  
much, much more!

All entry forms and contact details can be found on our website  
[www.lairgcroftersshow.co.uk](http://www.lairgcroftersshow.co.uk)



The show committee would like to thank the local businesses and further afield for their continued support through sponsorship and donations, not forgetting the volunteers who without them the setup and take down of show day would be extremely challenging, the hard work really is very much appreciated.

There really is something for everyone at our local village show and we can't wait to welcome you all on **Saturday 23rd August 2025!**



# Crofters Obstacle Race



Enter on the day  
(Teams of 4)

Event sponsored by



**Lairg**  
ESTATE

Old Park, Maplehurst,  
Horsham, West Sussex.  
RH13 6LL  
01403 891989  
[information@lairgestate.co.uk](mailto:information@lairgestate.co.uk)

# Tractor Pull



Enter on the day  
(both male and female)

Event sponsored by

**John MacRae**  
**DIGGER HIRE**  
3 tonne - 13 tonne Diggers Available  
**07733141536**  
62 Rheanbreck, Lairg IV27 4DQ

## LAIRG CROFTERS SHOW 2025



TEAMS OF 8  
(BOTH FEMALE  
AND MALE  
TEAMS)

## TUG OF WAR





An emotional end to this school year as P7 leave to start a new chapter at secondary schools across Sutherland.

The prizegiving saw lots of happy faces receiving their awards!



Special Achievement Awards



P7 Leavers

Archie Taylor (P6) received LDCI's Citizenship Award



David -Sports Award



Mavis -Diligence Award



Harry -STEM Award

Congratulations and best of luck to all!



Laci -Art Award





**WINTERFEST**  
**FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY**  
**FOR A COMMUNITY GROUP TO**  
**RUN THE WINTERFEST CAFE!**

LDCI IS INVITING LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS TO TAKE PART IN THIS BUSY ANNUAL EVENT AND TO RAISE FUNDS FOR YOUR CAUSE/ CHARITY BY RUNNING THE WINTERFEST CAFE BETWEEN MIDDAY AND 4PM ON SAT 6<sup>TH</sup> DEC 2025. TO GET INVOLVED OR FOR FURTHER INFO - PLEASE EMAIL: PROJECTOFFICER@LAIRGINITIATIVE.CO.UK OR CALL 07961 372427.

**SATURDAY  
 6<sup>TH</sup> DEC 2025  
 NOON - 4 PM**

**LDCI**  
 LAIRG & FERRYCROFT  
 COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



### Village Maintenance Officer

Niall Smith, the village maintenance officer has been busy over the past month tidying public areas of land around the village - cutting grass on the verges and clearing moss from pavements. He has also cleared the moss and leaves from the surface of the tennis courts which are now looking much more inviting! So, if you have been inspired by Wimbledon - why not come along and try out your tennis skills during the summer holidays!

The courts are open to everyone, and no booking is required.

### Lairg II LLP Windfarm

The developers of the Lairg II LLP windfarm will shortly be beginning work on the LDCI owned land at the bottom of Main Street. Works on the corner will begin in August with the diversion and upgrade of various utilities in the area. Tree felling may also occur during this month depending on how things progress.

Replanting of trees will take place at a later date.



For further info about the project, scan the QR code or visit <https://energiekontor.co.uk/lairg-ii-deliveries/>



Maree Todd MSP visited the Ferrycroft Park in July to try out the zip wire!

### Quiz Answers

1. Narnia (The Lion, the witch and the wardrobe)

2. Incisors, canine, pre-molars and molars

3. Sir Rod Stewart

4. 1991

5. Seismology

6. The Dalai Lama

7. The Moderator

8. Kemi Badenoch

9. Turnberry

10. 55,000



**BEFORE****AFTER**

## Growing on the Edge

Earlier this year a small group called Veg on the Edge began to look into growing food in the community polytunnel. Thanks to Lairg in Bloom, who gave us permission to use the tunnel, and Jenny next door who provides us with water, we were able to make a start.

The soil in the beds was basically dust, but with a grant from the community council to buy compost and plants we started small in April with some lettuce and radishes.

The growth has been incredible, beyond our wildest dreams! We now have around 15 different vegetables growing, including tomatoes, cucumbers, courgettes, Sutherland kale and beans. We've built steps to the entrance and cleared the ground immediately around the tunnel to keep the weeds down.

Local people have been really generous with spare tools and pots, and three water butts which helps a lot with the watering. We are planning to build some new beds and have food growing in the tunnel year-round.

We will have an open afternoon in August, when everyone is welcome to come and have a look at what we are doing. The food is for everyone and will be put on a table outside when ready – we ask that people don't pick the veg directly themselves as they may not be ready or we may be saving them for seed.

Anyone interested in joining us, from beginner to expert, is welcome – give Justi a call on 07909381517 or Helen on 07968055227.

**AFTER**

## Community Centre News

We have had a fairly quiet month so far here at the hall, having given over the use of the hall to the Gala Committee for Gala Week, who once again surpassed themselves with many and varied activities taking place throughout the week. Well done all concerned.

We are now back to normal again and a full schedule of the upcoming events and activities is posted weekly to our Facebook page and also on the noticeboards around the building.



We held our monthly Community Market on July 21st, despite several stall holders falling prey to a bug that had been doing the rounds it was still a well attended, lively event.

## Upcoming Market Dates:

- August 18th
- September 15th
- October 20th
- November 17th
- December 15<sup>th</sup> (to be confirmed)



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



If you want to make a hall booking or need any more information, please just let us know: [lairgcommunitycentre@gmail.com](mailto:lairgcommunitycentre@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



## INTRODUCTION TO THE LAND-BASED SECTOR COURSE



Starting September

🎓 For ages 16+

Are you 16 or over, recently out of education, or looking to upskill in the land-based sector?

Our hands-on course is the perfect opportunity to explore a career working outdoors, with animals, and in rural land management.

💡 What's Included:

✅ Visit to a local working estate

🐾 Animal care across a variety of croft animals

🌿 Soils, conservation & biodiversity + NatureScot site visit

🧱 2-day Dry Stone Walling

🚧 2-day Fencing Skills

🌲 Forestry & Land Scotland visit

🔧 Machinery maintenance & ATV course

🚑 Emergency First Aid + Completion Celebration!

📍 Location: Lochview Rural Training Centre

💬 Contact: lochviewruraltraining@gmail.com

🌱 Discover your potential in the land-based world. Learn, grow, and thrive with us in a supportive and therapeutic environment.



## Back in Business

The Salt & Salmon Company at the Falls of Shin re-opened in June following an unfortunate fire at the location earlier in the year.

*"We're deeply grateful for the unwavering support from you all during this time - it has truly meant the world to us, and we are very excited to welcome you all back!"*

Open for brunch, lunch, coffee, cake, ice cream, cocktails and dinner, Thurs to Mon 9am-4pm.

If you'd like to join us for dinner or lunch message us on Facebook or email:  
**info@saltandsalmon.com**  
to book.



## VJ DAY REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

REMEMBERING THE SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT IN THE FAR EAST

LAIRG WAR MEMORIAL

FRIDAY 15TH AUGUST 4PM

ALL WELCOME

WE WILL BE HANGING THE POPPIES UP ON MONDAY 11TH AT 6.30PM

IF ANYONE IS FREE TO HELP



# Join LDCI!



## Become a Member of Lairg & District Community Initiatives (LDCI)

LDCI is the development trust for the Lairg Community Council area. Development trusts rely on residents' local knowledge to shape and contribute to our delivery by becoming members.

Members can contribute in various ways (if they wish to) – for example, by being a board member, volunteering to deliver local projects, or simply by showing support for local developments. Members also have voting rights at the annual AGM.

The more members that LDCI has the better - as it will mean that we will be able to fully understand the issues that are facing those who live and work in our local community. It also helps us when we apply for funding as it shows funders that we have strong community support.

If you are interested in shaping the future of the Lairg community - please sign up as a member. It costs nothing! Simply scan this easy-to-use QR code which will take you to our simple online application form. The only requirement is that you are a resident of Lairg Community Council area and that you are over 18. A junior membership is also available. Please ask for details.



Lairg & District Community Initiatives is currently inviting new members to join.

There are currently also a number of vacancies on the Board of LDCI, and we would welcome enquiries from members of the community who would be interested in getting involved in the work of the organisation, or interested in becoming a director.

The Board meets approximately ten times per year (plus an AGM) and oversees the different projects that LDCI is involved in developing and/or delivering, with Board members often taking the lead in particular projects where they have an interest or can bring specific experience.

LDCI itself has a dedicated project officer in place who supports the work and administration of the Trust. LDCI is also keen to continue to develop joint opportunities around funding and resources, and project delivery, with other local organisations for the benefit of Lairg and the surrounding area.

The LDCI magazine wishes to express its heartfelt gratitude to everyone who donated to Margaret Morrison's memorial fund through Alistair Rhind.

An amazing £303 was collected, along with a generous contribution of £100 from Margaret's daughter Irene.

If you would be interested in getting involved in the work of LDCI over 2025/26, please get in touch either by telephone to 07961 372427; or by email to [projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk](mailto:projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk) Alternatively - come and have an informal chat with us at our stand at the Crofters Show on the 23rd August!

Thank you for reading issue 82 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 23rd of August.**