

Lairg Magazine

LAIRG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



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Victory In Japan Day 2025

Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day), celebrated on 15th August 1945, marked the official end of World War II after Japan announced its surrender to Allied forces. This date is recognised for bringing the six-year war to a complete end, though the official surrender documents were signed on September 2, 1945.

A lone piper stood at dawn in Edinburgh to mark the 80th anniversary on 15th August 2025. The conflict profoundly impacted Scotland, with regiments like the Gordon Highlanders and the Royal Scots serving in the Far East, suffering heavy casualties from 1941 to 1945.

Local Lairg residents came out in force to honour lives lost during the conflict.

An article authored by Jonathan Brett Young recounts an event that took place in the 1980's, titled 'Hiroshima Remembered' (page 2). Photographs and more information about VJ Day in Lairg can be found on page 5.





1. What nationality is the present Pope?
2. What did George Cowling (the first man) and Barbara Edwards (the first woman) do at the BBC?
3. In which American state did Trump and Putin meet last week?
4. Who is releasing her 12th album, titled 'The Life of a Showgirl', in October?
5. Titania, Oberon, Miranda and Ariel are all moons of which planet?
6. The actor Terrance Stamp recently died - what was the name of the character he played in the film 'Superman'?
7. How many books are there in the New Testament?
8. Which blind competitor won the 'Strictly Come Dancing' glitter ball in 2024?
9. How many keys does a normal piano have?
10. If Monday's child is 'full of grace', what is Wednesday's child?



BOOK OF TALES FROM THE FORECASTLE

Hiroshima Remembered by Jonathan Brett Young



The recent 80th anniversary of the dropping of an atomic bomb on Hiroshima reminded me of an incident that occurred many years ago at our Guest House.

In the mid-1980s, a middle-aged Japanese gentleman and his daughter stayed with us for one night. And then moved on. But I remember three things about their visit.

When they had settled in and we were talking, I asked him, as I always do, where he had come from that day. A usual reply is Inverness or Edinburgh. Or even London. But he astonished me.

“New York”, he said.



I then asked him where he and his daughter were from. “Japan”, he answered.

“Whereabouts in Japan do you come from?” I asked. I had visited Japan many times years ago. “Hiroshima”, he said.

“Were you there in 1945?” I asked. He said “Yes”.

I became inquisitive. “Were you there when the bomb was dropped?” He again said “Yes”. He saw my interest and explained that he was within 2000 yards of Ground Zero but had been in a deep shelter and survived. I noted that he had his daughter with him, but did not pursue that avenue of conversation.

The following morning after breakfast when they drove off in their large hired Mercedes-Benz I noticed a new shiny Mercedes-Benz hubcap lying in the drive.

Today, many years later, that same hubcap is Arkle's dish. Very upmarket. Very Cavalier King Charles Spanielish.

Needless to say, it is an object to which he is very attached.





It was lovely to see you all at the Crofter's Show - thank you for stopping by to ask questions and chat with us!

As we embrace the last week of August, we're gradually shifting more to indoor activities and autumnal crafts, but we still have one last flourish before the weather turns...



Join Maddy for a wonderful wander through Spinningdale Woods, foraging for mushrooms and berries on Sept 6th | 10am-12noon | £5

We're also in the midst of organising another session with Tim, as the Yoga was a great success. Keep your eyes open for more information on our 'Serene Saturday' sessions, which will be held outdoors! The lovely Lairg Tai-Chi group will also be hosting an outdoor session during September. Details coming soon!

Have you always fancied wool crafts, but didn't know where to start? We're offering four FREE classes in collaboration with Highland Wool CiC & The Hirsle so you can do just that! Each session will be held at Ardgay Hall from 6-7pm:

September 3rd : Basic Knitting - An Introduction
 September 10th : Learn How To Use The Drop Spindle
 October 1st: Knitting - Simple Pattern Reading
 October 8th: Learn How To Use The Spinning Wheel

Book Here



Visit: lairganddistrictlearningcentre.eventbrite.com or the QR code above to book, or contact us on: 01549 402050 or admin@lairglearningcentre.org.uk

Walk & Talk SESSIONS

GUIDED WALKS WITH AMANDA



Our 'Walk & Talk' sessions continue into September for the last month of these outings. Keep an eye out for 2 longer hikes coming up in October.

The walks are FREE and suitable for everyone

Join Amanda for a one-hour walk within the Lairg area - great for your mental health and wellbeing.

- 10th September: Ferrycroft & Ord Hill
- 17th September: Laundry Rd & Saval (meet at Main Street Car Park)
- 24th September: Ferrycroft Woods & Dam

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.

Join Us for our Climate Day on Saturday, 27th September. As part of the Highland & Islands Climate Festival 2025, we are hosting a day of activities and crafts.

Sign up with Graham to make your own Planter and/or a Seed-saving Box*. Have a chat with Maddy about sustainable growing in the Highlands, or just pop along with the kids to join in with some crafts - make a bug hotel or paint a flower pot with the LDLC staff.

*Woodworking must be booked in advance. Planter, 9.30am-12.30pm, Box, 1.30-3.30pm.



**SATURDAY 27TH
SEPTEMBER
11AM - 3PM**

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 Crofter's Show - Sat 23rd August

The Crofter's Show went off without a hitch for the 114th year running!

The day was filled with fun and wonder, thanks to a small committee dedicated to keeping this show going..

Opened by the Sutherland Caledonian Pipeband and the Sutherland Schools Pipeband (pictured below), the Show ran beautifully with craft and information stalls, prizes for livestock and pets, fantastic Highland Dancers alongside the main attraction, the Drakes of Hazard.



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



The Highland Dancing tent was buzzing with excitement as groups of youngsters put on a fantastic show (winners pictured to the left).



Left to Right: Ani MacArthur, Ava Mackay, Brooke Holden, Kara Manson, Isabella Tierney.

Photo by Aileen, Mina Mackay School of Dance



The Drakes of Hazard stole the show with their antics - herded by a Collie, the ducks ran up the helter-skelter and over bridges seamlessly! My favourite being the bridge over the River Quack...



Around lunch time, a whole host of vintage cars and tractors graced the field in an array of shapes and sizes. Once everyone was on the field, an inspiring and peaceful minute of silence was devoted to local Lachlan James.

The day ended with lots of laughter during the annual Tug O' War and Tractor Pull! Well done all!

Some photos from the event....



On behalf of the community, we would like to extend a huge thank you and well done to all involved with the Show!

THANK
YOU



80 years since Victory over Japan Day at Lairg War Memorial 15th August 2025

Friday 15th August, was VJ Day, and Lairg held a service followed by an afternoon tea at the Church Hill shelter.

We were delighted to welcome several family members who joined us for the afternoon. Their grandfathers and great-grandfathers not only fought in the Far East, but were also captured and held as prisoners of war in Japanese camps across Burma and the region for the remainder of the conflict.

Please visit the Lairg Local History page on Facebook to learn more about these remarkable men and their stories of resilience.

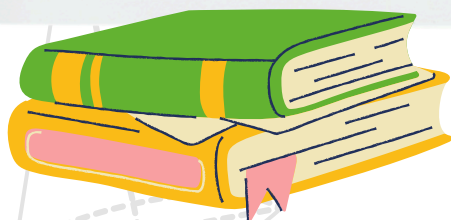
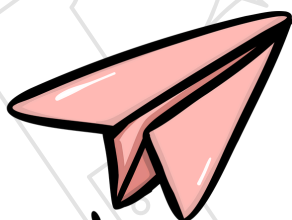
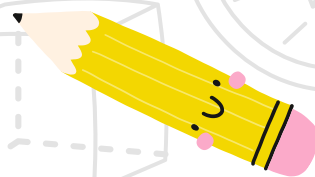
William Miller Sutherland
Neil Macdonald
Dave Macgruer

It was an honour to remember those who fought and fell, as well as those who survived and have since passed away.

The Memorial looked stunning, adorned with its Poppy Cascade.



The children are back for a new school year! Here's to a great term...



Crofters Show

Thank you to everyone who came to the LDCI stand to say hello to us at the Lairg Crofters Show! Thankfully the weather was very kind to us and it was a great day! The LDCI directors enjoyed meeting people who were interested in becoming members of LDCI, or were keen to learn more about LDCI's projects. We also spoke to others who had taken part in the recent community consultation and were interested to see the results in the new Lairg Local Plan which has been submitted to the Highland Council. For those of you who haven't seen it - the plan can be viewed on Lairg Community Council's website, see:

<http://www.lairgcommunitycouncil.co.uk/vision.html>



As mentioned in last month's issue of the Lairg Magazine - LDCI is currently recruiting new members to the board of directors, and we have put together an information pack for new prospective directors.

Please email projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk if you would like us to send you the information.



Lairg Lunch Club

The Lairg Lunch Club has just started back up again after taking a break over the summer holidays. We are delighted to announce that we have received £1464 from the W G Edwards Charitable Foundation which will go towards funding both the Lunch Club and the Friendship Club over the next year.

The club meets once a week on a Thursday during the school term time at the Lairg Community Centre.

Members receive a hot three-course meal which has been cooked by the Lairg Primary School Canteen and served by Lunch Club volunteers.

LDCI supplies an accessible minibus which picks the members up from their homes and brings them to Lunch Club and then takes them home afterwards.

Lunch Club members pay £5 every week and £6 per term – these fees go towards the costs of running the club and towards a Christmas meal in a restaurant (as well as a summer outing).

There is currently one space available if anybody is interested in joining. Please call Kirstin on 07961372427 or email projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk.

Quiz Answers

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. American | 3. Alaska | 7. 27 |
| 2. Weather presenters | 4. Taylor Swift | 8. Chris McCausand |
| | 5. Uranus | 9. 88 |
| | 6. General Zod | 10. Full of woe |

Albyn Housing Community Fund

LDCI would like to thank the Albyn Housing Community Fund for their recent grant of £500, which will go directly towards the costs of publishing the Lairg Magazine.

It costs approximately £2400 to produce the Lairg Magazine each year, so we are currently seeking more funding for this project.

If the magazine means a lot to you - or to one of your family members - we'd love to hear your feedback, as this could help us to show how important the Lairg Magazine is to future potential funders.

Please email projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk with your comments or write to:

LDCI at Schoolhouse, Main Street, Lairg.
Thank you.



Community Centre News



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

We held our monthly Community Market on 18th August - it was a fabulous, lively event.

With Christmas inching ominously ever closer, why not come along and start your shopping early to beat the high street rush and get that unique, handmade item, perfect for the hard-to-buy-for person in your life? You could always just treat yourself for a change!

Why not ask our traders if they would consider making you a commission piece, something entirely original and special?



TARAN

Autumn Scottish Tour

09.09.25 SKYE - SKYE BRIDGE SESSIONS.
11.09.25 SKYE - KILMUIR HALL
12.09.25 LAIRG - COMMUNITY CENTRE
13.09.25 DURNES - DURNES PARISH HALL
14.09.25 GLASGOW - NICE N SLEAZY



There is a quiz night scheduled once a month, on the third Tuesday, which raises money for local good causes. If you would like to hold a quiz night to raise money for your group or a good cause, please let us know.

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

ROOTS AND RANGERS

Fun Outdoor Education
for Ages 7–10



An outdoor education programme
running every Wednesday from
10:30am–12:00pm & 3:30pm–5:00pm
for children aged 7–10 years old

✉ cara@lochviewruraltraining.co.uk

☎ 07867 590454



LOCHVIEW RURAL TRAINING

INTRODUCTION TO EQUINE CARE

STARTS 6TH SEPTEMBER 1-4PM

AN 8 WEEK PROGRAMME COVERING
HANDLING A HORSE & IDENTIFICATION
TACK AND TACKING UP
EQUINE BEHAVIOUR
STABLE MANAGEMENT




LAIRG WINTERFEST 2025

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

SAVE THE DATE!
6TH DEC
NOON – 4 PM



LDCI
LAIRG DISTRICT COUNCIL INITIATIVE

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

Lairg II LLP Windfarm

As mentioned in last month's magazine, the developers of the Lairg II LLP windfarm will be working on the LDCI owned land at the bottom of Main Street to allow for the oversail of abnormal loads. Tree felling is scheduled to start on the week beginning the 8th September, and earth works will begin the following week.

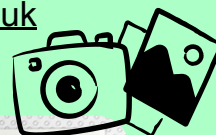
Replanting of trees will take place at a later date.



Names to Faces

We've been going through the archives and have found some of these gems from previous Crofter's Shows! Can you recognise any of these faces?

If you recognise any of these faces, why not let us know or share on Facebook @LairgDCI or email us at: projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk



Thank you for reading issue 83 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 22nd of September.