

# Lairg Magazine

LAIRG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



Photo by Sutherland Adventure Company

## Contents:

- Page 2** - Quiz/Lairg & District Learning Centre page 1
- Page 3** - Lairg & District Learning Centre page 2
- Page 4** - Lairg History Society
- Page 5** - Business Spotlight
- Page 6** - Lairg Primary School
- Page 7** - Noticeboard/Quiz Answers
- Page 8** - Lairg Community Centre
- Page 9** - Lochview Rural Training
- Page 10** - Notices

## New Funding for Paddleboarding Project

LDCI are delighted to report that we have received funding from the Highland Whole Family Wellbeing Programme (WFWP) through the Highland Council, which will allow us to work in partnership with the Sutherland Adventure Company (SAC). SAC who are based in Brora, have previously run some 'Sutherland Girls on Boards' sessions on Little Loch Shin. This collaborative project will allow SAC to increase the number of paddleboarding activities that they can offer for young people in Lairg.

LDCI will purchase a container that will allow SAC to set up a base in Lairg, and the WFWP funding will go towards purchasing paddleboarding equipment and wetsuits that can be stored locally.

The funding will also allow SAC to deliver a free weekly 'Teens Club' on the loch starting in May 2026. (Weather permitting!)



If you are a young person (- or if you are a parent/carer of a young person) that would like to sign up for the Lairg 'Teens Club' - we will keep you updated closer to the time. Please keep checking the LDCI Facebook page and this magazine for notices.



1. What 50-year-old song featuring Brian May and Roger Taylor opened the 'Last Night at the Proms' this year?
2. Which king led the Huns from 434 to 453 AD?
3. Who designed St Paul's Cathedral?
4. What is the more common term for the vitamin Riboflavin?
5. What colour light do ships display at night on the starboard side?
6. What coin was known as a bob?
7. In Greek mythology, who had a box of blessings for man, but when opened, all flew away except for hope?
8. How many pips has a lieutenant in the British Army?
9. What small bird, synonymous with Christmas, has the Latin name *Erithacus rubecula*?
10. In days gone by, if a Scotsman referred to a man as a 'Johnnie Ged's Hole' what trade or occupation would he have?

## What's On at Lairg Learning Centre

October is set to be a busy one over here at the Lairg Learning Centre!

After all our hard work on sewing, woodworking, mosaic making, and painting, we're excited to announce more upcoming classes.

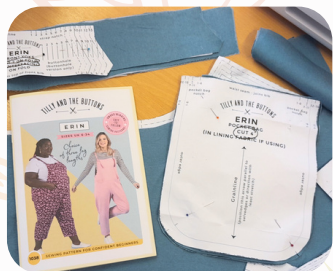
Throughout October, we'll be adding new workshops to Eventbrite, including a four-week inspirational coaching course with Karen Darke MBE, fermenting classes for making kombucha and other items, as well as sessions on foraging, first aid, and seasonal crafting.

Our 'fully-booked' 'Serene Saturday' was a success, with the weather staying on our side for at least one of the sessions.

There will be another chance to try out Tai-Chi on Thurs, 23<sup>rd</sup> (during half-term) with the local Lairg Tai-Chi Group.

If the weather smiles upon us, it will be held outside; if not, then the Lairg Community Centre will be available for use. Refreshments & cake available!

Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct | 2-4pm | FREE



Our wool craft sessions, in collaboration with Highland Wool CiC and The Hirsell, have been a blast so far. We've loved seeing everyone enjoy the first two sessions.

We're excited to see the final two groups, both of which are fully booked, for their sessions at Ardgay Hall from 6-7 pm:

1<sup>st</sup> October : Knitting - Simple Pattern Reading

8<sup>th</sup> October : Learn How To Use The Spinning Wheel



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 have monthly class programmes available at the Centre.



In the first part of October, we're delighted to host three Wildflower Painting Workshops with artist Sally Purdy. Two of these sessions will be held at Rosehall, coinciding with National Poetry Day, while the third will take place the following day at Invershin Hall.

To celebrate National Poetry Day's theme of 'Play,' writer Jackie Pavlenko will also be leading a dedicated writing workshop.



Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October | Rosehall Village Hall | £5-10

Writing: 11am-1pm

Wildflower Watercolours: 11am-1pm & 2-4pm

SCAN QR CODE  
TO BOOK 3<sup>RD</sup>  
OCT



**National  
Poetry  
Day 2025**

**PLAY**

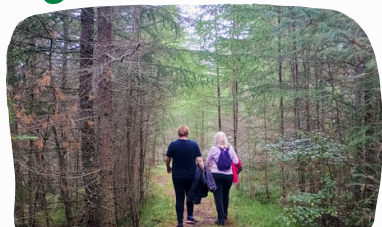
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October | Invershin Hall | £20

Wildflower Postcards: 10.30am-3.30pm

SCAN QR CODE  
TO BOOK 4<sup>TH</sup>  
OCT



## Rogart Rambles



GUIDED WALKS WITH AMANDA



Our 'Walk & Talk' sessions wrapped up in September, receiving lovely feedback on their social and health benefits.

We have two walks on the agenda for October - suitable for all ages - with thanks to Rogart Development Trust for lending a hand with logistics:

- 8<sup>th</sup> October: Rogart Loop (4.3 miles), meet at Rogart Mart car park
- 22<sup>nd</sup> October: Farlary Footpaths (4 miles), meet 200m up the Kilbruar Windfarm track - why not bring the kids!

On that note, if you're looking for something for the kids/grandkids to do during half-term, we've got a few things on for them and you, too!

Family Art, Kids' Bushcraft Day, Family Screenprinting, and Rogart Rambles around Farlary Footpaths - view this page for details and book via Eventbrite.

Screenprinting | 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> October | Venues & times to be confirmed.

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 have monthly class programmes available at the Centre.

## KIDS' BUSHCRAFT DAY

THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER

10AM-4PM

GUNN'S WOOD, LAIRG

8+

**£8  
PER CHILD**

BOOK  
HERE



## Family ART Class

SHELL PAINTING



**£3  
PER  
FAMILY**

BOOK  
HERE



Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October  
10:00am - 12:00noon

**SAVE THE DATE**

Carolyn and Nigel Hillier of 'The Wild Forgotten Way' will be performing from new and recent albums, including The Creel & The Crock & The Cauldron, This Remembered Earth, and Lichenheart.

**Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> October  
7.30pm-10.30pm**

Lairg Community Centre,  
Main Street, IV27 4DD  
Refreshments available.

Tickets: £15 / £10

- concession for those on low income benefits, carers or students



## Outing to Strathnaver Museum



Last Saturday we enjoyed a wonderful day out, travelling north via Tongue to the Strathnaver Museum in Bettyhill.

Along the way we stopped at the Pillars at Altnaharra, where Shirley shared the story of her great-great-grandfather, Donald Macpherson, who around 1850 was sent by the Duke of Sutherland from Tongue Mains Farm to the quarry at Glencraggach on Drumholistan, transporting the two huge blocks to Altnaharra.

To read the whole story visit the post on the [Lairg History Society's Facebook page](#) on 24<sup>th</sup> February this year.

The museum itself, housed in the old parish church with a fairly new annexe, offered plenty of interest for the group.

After a tasty lunch at The Store Café, served by friendly staff, we returned to hear an engaging talk by Fiona Mackenzie on the Clearance village at Rosal.

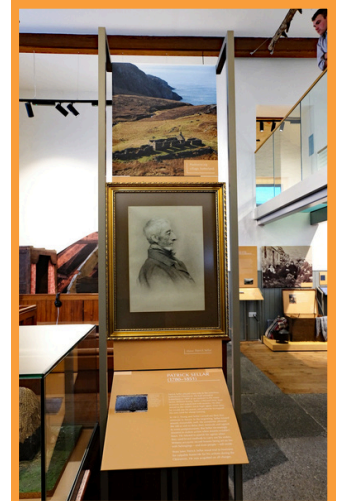
Fiona also displayed a number of fascinating artefacts discovered at the site.

Our journey home took us through Strathnaver, passing the memorial to the raising of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Sutherland Highlanders and the Dalharrold Battlefield, among other notable places.

Calum, our helpful and attentive driver from MacLeod's Coaches, took us all safely back to Lairg.



If you would like to know more about the Lairg History Society, please visit our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/LairgHistory](http://www.facebook.com/LairgHistory), or contact us via email: [LairgLocalHistorySociety@outlook.com](mailto:LairgLocalHistorySociety@outlook.com)







## Spotlight on K.O. Joinery



Having lived in Lairg nearly my entire life, I find it to be a unique place I never want to leave.

After leaving school, I studied Engineering while working in my family's tweed shop on Main Street. I also joined the Fire Service alongside this (serving a total of 8 years in the village).

Then I had the opportunity to serve my joinery apprenticeship with the Lockharts in Lairg as well. I've been fortunate to be able to continue working in the village.

The latter two years I worked as a Technical Officer for Albyn Housing Society, maintaining their stock of houses by the means of inspecting and organising the work from Gairloch all the way to Wick and everything in between. This experience has led me to where I am now. Realising there is such a shortage of good reliable trades in the area, I have decided to put my knowledge and experience back to the public by starting my own business.

I have seen and heard too many stories of poor services from tradesmen and wish nobody in Lairg to have to go through any of that.

I am now providing all Joinery related works and can accommodate all other trades as well. You will always receive a contract for the works requested, outlining what has been agreed and the terms and conditions surrounding it. I take pride in my work, and if I can help anybody in Lairg, whether you are stuck with a repair or to make a project come to fruition, then I'd be delighted to help.

I have spent a lot of time achieving several construction-related qualifications in order to provide the most knowledgeable and reliable service possible. I have 10+ certificates that can be shown at any time.

I look forward to serving the people of Lairg in another new way!

### Qualifications in



**Carpentry & Joinery**



**Construction Management**



**Damp & Mould**



**Engineering Systems**

**Highly recommend!! (Kylle) Recently did some work on our kitchen and 10 out of 10 for the quality of work, professionalism, work ethic and flexibility. A real craftsman. So happy with everything!**

-Facebook Review ★



# K.O. JOINERY

# Kylle Offor

Construction Specialist

**LAIRG**

✉ kojoinerycs@gmail.com

☎ 07521 195593

📘 @K.O.JoineryCS

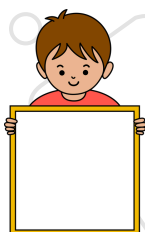
P1-2 News



We had great fun this afternoon building houses from wood and playdoh for our marshmallow pigs! All stayed strong and safe even when the Big Bad Wolf (Miss Maclellan's hair drier) tried to blow them down.



P1-2s Henri Matisse inspired self-portraits.



Lauren and Christina working hard on their 'p' formations! 😊



★ GREAT JOB ★

P1-2 held a virtual pet show, they talked about their pets and answered questions. Next week they will share their pet shows with the nursery.





## Future Food Summit

Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust and Planet Sutherland are hosting a local food convention in Ardgay on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

As part of the H&I Climate Festival we will be bringing together local food producers (commercial and community), landowners, funders, and people interested in increasing local food production and resilience.

Our Guest Speakers include, The Hirsell, Highland Good Food Partnership, Lochview Rural Training, Alladale Wilderness Reserve, and there will be food stalls and exhibitions as well as lunch and refreshments provided. At the event, alongside our Project Gardener, we will be launching our Seed to Supper initiative which has developed from the Kyle Feeds project here at KoSDT.

We're looking forward to lively discussions, networking opportunities, and good food - we would love for you to join us. Please scan the QR code in the advert to book.

*Running from 13<sup>th</sup> September to 8<sup>th</sup> October, the Highland & Islands Climate Festival 2025 is all about promoting local produce and sustainable practices.*



## Appeal for Winterfest Volunteers!

As you may know - LDCI's annual event - Winterfest will be taking place again on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> December.

As usual the Cairngorm Reindeer will be coming to visit, and Santa and Mrs Claus will be there to meet the children!

We will release the the programme details shortly but in the meantime we are appealing for volunteers to help us out on the day. We need volunteers to help out in the Winterfest cafe and with tasks such as welcoming visitors and selling raffle tickets on the door.

Even if you are able to help out for an hour - we would be very grateful!

If you would like to put your name forward - please email: [projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk](mailto:projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk) with your contact details.



## Quiz Answers

1. Bohemian Rhapsody

2. Attila

3. Sir Christopher Wren

4. B2

5. Green

6. Shilling

7. Pandora

8. 2

9. Robin

10. Gravedigger

## Community Centre News



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

What a fantastic day for our monthly Community Market on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> September! 🍁 The event was a lively way to welcome Autumn.

With Christmas inching 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. The next market is on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October, remember... only three markets until Christmas... just saying!



## Community Car

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 11.20 am out with these hours please email [lairgcommunitycentre@gmail.com](mailto:lairgcommunitycentre@gmail.com).

The more advance notice given of the request for a driver the better! 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 the office for more information.

## Lairg Ladies Night

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Lairg Christmas Party Committee at our fantastic Ladies Night in the Main Hall on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> September! 🎉

It was a brilliant night of dancing, bingo, karaoke, and party games.

Congratulations to all our lucky prize winners, especially our lucky local who took home a luxury night away, including dinner and breakfast, at the 5-star Ness Walk Hotel in Inverness.

Thanks to your incredible generosity, the committee raised a grand total of £3,135!

This amazing amount means we can have an excellent budget for each child's present at the Christmas party this year.



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](mailto:cara@lochviewruraltraining.co.uk)  
☎ 07867 590454

## Huge Congratulations to Ashleigh!



We are absolutely delighted to share that 17-year-old Ashleigh Campbell has been named Young Farm Worker of the Year at the prestigious Young British Farming Awards 2025!

At Lochview Rural Training, we've been proud to support Ashleigh on her journey toward her dream career, and this award is a testament to her hard work, passion, and dedication.

As Lochview continues to grow and develop, we're excited to support even more young people as they build bright futures in farming and rural careers.

Congratulations once again, Ashleigh we're so proud of you!



## New Defibrillator Installed at Lochview Rural Training

We are delighted to share that, thanks to generous funding from the British Heart Foundation, we now have a brand-new defibrillator installed at our training centre here at Lochview Rural Training.

Being in a remote township just outside Lairg, it's vital that both our trainees and our local community have access to lifesaving equipment in case of an emergency. This defibrillator will not only benefit those using Lochview but also provide reassurance and protection for local residents.

We hope our community never needs to use it, but having this defibrillator close at hand could make the difference between life and death.

A huge thank you to the British Heart Foundation for supporting our community's health and safety. ❤️



## October's Time Warp: An Extra Hour of Daylight Saving

Ready to embrace the cosy season? 🍂

On Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> October, at 2am, the clocks will turn back one hour to 1am, marking the end of British Summer Time (BST).

This change brings the country back to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) and provides an extra hour of daylight in the morning.

While the evenings will become darker sooner, the adjustment signals the official start of winter time, giving everyone a little extra time in bed on Sunday morning.

In Scottish Mythology, the one-hour change is not a loss of light, but a gift—so, when the clock strikes 2am and gracefully returns to 1am, listen closely. It is not the sound of gears turning, it is the hum of the faerie mounds being sealed. It is the Cailleach bringing her first breath of winter. It is Scotland itself, telling you to light the fire, pour a dram, and settle in. For in this extra hour, we are not just gaining sleep; we are connecting to a time far older than memory itself.



### Kyle of Sutherland Whist Club



Bonar Bridge Hall, Wednesdays at 7.30pm

**OCTOBER 2025 WHIST DRIVE SERIES**

OCTOBER 1 <sup>ST</sup>	BONAR BRIDGE FOOTBALL CLUB
OCTOBER 8 <sup>TH</sup>	FRIENDS OF ROSEHALL CHURCH
OCTOBER 15 <sup>TH</sup>	INVERSHIN HALL
OCTOBER 22 <sup>ND</sup>	BONAR BRIDGE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
OCTOBER 29 <sup>TH</sup>	BONAR BRIDGE COMMUNITY HALL

**ADMISSION £2 INCLUDING TEA**



## SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Beginners Welcome

From 07 October 2025

Tuesdays from 7.00pm to 9.00pm

In Ardgay Community Hall

*Come along for a sociable evening of exercise and company, plus tea at half-time*



Contact David Hannah – 01863 766 061  
e-mail: dhannah559@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you for reading issue 84 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 22<sup>nd</sup> October.**