

Lairg Magazine

LAIRG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



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 - LDCI Winterfest

Page 6 - LDCI/Quiz Answers

Page 7 - Lairg Community Centre

Page 8 - Poppy Scotland

Page 9 - Lochview Rural Training

Page 10 - Notices

Scottish Silence: Honouring the Fallen

 Remembrance Sunday is held on the second Sunday in November every year throughout the United Kingdom, including Scotland.

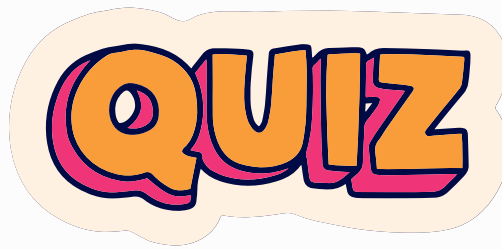
For the year 2025, Remembrance Sunday will be on Sunday, 9th November. It is always the Sunday closest to Armistice Day, which is observed on 11th November - the date the fighting of the First World War formally ended at 11am in 1918.

Why Do We Honour Remembrance Sunday?

Remembrance Sunday is a national day of commemoration in Scotland and the UK for the armed forces and civilians who have died in the two World Wars and subsequent conflicts. A two-minute silence is observed at 11am, to allow the nation to pause, reflect on the cost of war, and appreciate the peace and freedoms enjoyed today.

It is typically marked by the laying of poppy wreaths at war memorials and cenotaphs across Scottish cities, towns, and villages.

The Poppy Appeal is closely linked to the annual Poppy Appeal run by Poppy Scotland (the Scottish branch of the Royal British Legion). The money raised supports veterans, current service personnel, and their families. See page 8 for local services.



1. Which animal, in the story by Lewis Carroll, faded away until nothing was left but a grin?
2. Who has become the oldest winner of a Daytime Emmy award for work on the documentary 'Secret Lives of Orangutans'?
3. Which sign of the zodiac is represented by the Virgin?
4. Which name is given to the art of arranging the skins of dead animals, birds and fishes?
5. After the shortest permanent managerial reign in Premier League history (39 days), which football club sacked head coach Ange Postecoglou?
6. 'Banbury Cross' of the nursery rhyme is found in the market town of Banbury, in which county?
7. Which UK tax generates the most money for the UK government? Corporation tax, Income tax or VAT?
8. Which actress that starred in films 'Annie Hall', 'First Wives Club' and 'The Godfather' died recently?
9. Which Australian actor made the character 'Dame Edna Everage' internationally famous?
10. The 'Halls of Clyde' sailing ship built in 1878, has been scuttled with much controversy, 25 miles off which island?



Autumn Cooking Sessions Wrap-Up!

It's been a wonderfully busy and productive Autumn! Our entire 6-week block of Cookery sessions has now wrapped up for the year. Our Family Cooking sessions were a great success, with fantastic attendance. The families who joined us prepared some truly wonderful and delicious meals together!

The Bake & Blether sessions have also come to a close for 2025. Participants created and enjoyed many lovely biscuits and satisfying meals throughout these classes.

A huge thank you goes out to Yvonne West for generously lending her valuable time and expertise to teach and inspire everyone in the kitchen!

We'll soon be announcing a series of new Soup & Craft sessions to be held at various locations throughout Sutherland. These sessions are the perfect opportunity to learn how to prepare a lovely, cosy lunch for yourself and then dive right into a fun and interesting craft project.



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.



Crafting for Community: The Maker's Market

We're delighted to announce that our social enterprise project, The Maker's Market, funded by the Highland Third Sector Interface (HTSI), has started off strong this month with our mosaic-making classes.

As an independent charity dedicated to supporting, encouraging, and inspiring the work of community groups, clubs, charities, and other Third Sector Organisations across the Highlands, HTSI's support is invaluable. This funding will allow The Maker's Market to continue its mission of enabling locals to learn a skill and create something for themselves, while also generating crucial funds for our charity through the sale of one of the items they produce.



Thanks to this funding, we'll be running a fantastic array of classes throughout November, offering something for everyone, from Crochet to Ceramics. The unique and beautiful items created by our students will then be available for purchase at the Learning Centre during this year's Winterfest on Saturday, December 6th. Be sure to come along and grab a truly one-of-a-kind handmade item!



The Maker's Market November Lineup:

- 3rd:** Christmas Ceramics - over 2 sessions, make simple ceramic ornaments and decorate. LDLC Cabin | 10am-12noon | £10
- 5th:** Wet-felting: Bowls - a 3-hour workshop with renowned artist, Catherine Jones. Ardgay Hall (Committee Room) | 10am-1pm | £5
- 7th:** Mosaics - make some cracking Christmas creations with Sally, 2 sessions. Invershin Hall | 2pm-5pm & 6pm-9pm | £10
- 8th:** Mosaics - a second day of making cracking Christmas creations with Sally, 2 sessions. LDLC Cabin | 10am-1pm & 2-5pm | £10
- 12th:** Needle-felting: Christmas Cards - learn some needle-felting skills with Catherine Jones. Ardgay Hall | 10am-12.30pm | £5
- 13th:** Sew Tote-ally Christmas! - a day of making Christmas-themed Tote Bags. LDLC Room 1 | 10am-2.30pm | £5
- 15th:** Crochet Day - a 6-hour session with Carol Janes for beginners, making some Christmas-themed ornaments. LDLC Room 1 | 10am-4pm | £15
- 17th:** 3-week Crochet Course - Carol Janes will be teaching the basics over 3 sessions with a Christmas theme. LDLC Room 1 | 11.15am-1.30pm | £15
- 20th:** Art: Christmas Cards - join artist, Anne Little, to make some wintery scenes and mount onto greetings cards. LDLC Room 1 | 10am-12noon | £5
- 26th:** Wet-felting: Picture - create a picture to take home using wet-felting techniques, guided by Catherine Jones. LDLC Room 1 | 10am-12.30pm | £5



Other classes this month:

- 6th:** Art: Soft Pastels - join artist, Anne, for a 2-hour session creating vistas with soft pastels. LDLC Room 1 | 10am-12noon | £10
- 8th:** An Introduction to the Geology of Sutherland with Peter Lang. A 1-hour talk. LDLC Room 1 | 10.30-11.30am | FREE
- 17th:** Woodworking: Christmas Shelf - make a tiered Christmas shelving unit with Graham. LDLC Cabin | 12-4pm | £15

🌟 More classes still be announced for November, so watch our socials! 👁️

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. Eventbrite link: lairganddistrictlearningcentre.eventbrite.com

THANK YOU
SO MUCH



A big THANK YOU to everyone who came along to our AGM last Friday!

We give special thanks to Irene MacKinnon and Liz Quinn for their valued contributions, as they step down from the committee. We are also delighted to welcome Jock Macdonald and Harold Bowran, who will be joining Angela Sutherland (chairperson and secretary), Shirley Morrison (treasurer), Maureen Ross and Alex Eaton, on the committee.



A questionnaire was shared during the meeting, and the feedback will help shape our programme for the next session.

We were delighted to welcome new members to Lairg Local History Society.

Please see our Facebook page for further details:
www.facebook.com/LairgHistory

If you are interested in renewing your membership or becoming a member we would be delighted to hear from you!
Annual membership is £10.



Unveiling of Lairg Painting

On the afternoon of Friday, 24 October, folks gathered at the Ferrycroft Visitor Centre, where former LLHS chairperson, Marlyn Price unveiled a beautiful painting of Lairg, before the dam was built. "Loch Shin from View Hill" was created by Andrew Sutherland, fondly remembered as Andrew the Barber.

Born in Dornoch, Andrew later moved with his family to Balcharn. He and his wife, Madge, made their home on Churchill Road.

A photograph shows Andrew standing beside his garage door, which he had decorated with a painting of Loch Shin looking toward the Free Church. His house once stood at the entrance to Sutherland Way, though it no longer exists today.

The painting was generously donated by former Lairg resident William Sutherland, who now lives in Spain. Wanting the painting to return to the people of Lairg, William entrusted it to LLHS, and the society is honoured to preserve it for the community.

Painting of Lairg Dam by Alexander Clyne

Lairg resident Martin Clyne proudly owns a beautiful painting of the new Lairg Dam, created by his grandfather, Alexander Clyne. A copy of this artwork also hangs in the Ferrycroft Visitor Centre. Martin shares the story behind it:

This painting was made by a worker on the Lairg Dam in 1955. The artist, Mr. Alexander Clyne (born 1909), was a builder, architect, and civil engineer.

While working on the dam, he constructed scale models of the sluice gates to help interpret the blueprints accurately and assist the builders.

The painting was later featured in the 1955/56 Wimpey Construction Company calendar and sent to Wimpey headquarters. Sadly, Alexander passed away on 9 March 1956 after suffering a heart attack while working on the upper dam at Lairg. He was taken in by a local family, who gave him water and comforted him in his final moments.





The Hopscotch Team - James, Donald and Fiona will be returning for Winterfest 2025



Winterfest 2025 - Saturday 6th December

Winterfest 2025 is approaching fast!

LDCI are delighted to announce that in addition to the Cairngorm Reindeer and, of course, Santa and Mrs Claus visiting us - the fantastic Hopscotch Magic will be returning to provide the children's entertainment again this year.

James from Hopscotch said, "The Hopscotch Magic team are thrilled to be returning to Lairg Winterfest! Bringing with them a Santa sack full of festive cheer; beautiful glitter tattoos, bespoke yuletide balloon modelling, interactive circus skills workshops - and don't forget a festive family magic show; this is one winter party you won't want to miss!"

LDCI are really pleased that the RSPB will also be returning this year to hold festive, nature-themed craft workshops in partnership with the Lairg Library.

The Christmas Craft Market is now almost fully booked – but we do have a couple of tables available at £10 each. So, if you are an artist or craftmaker and would like to sell your wares – please get in touch.

Raffle

As usual LDCI will be selling tickets for the Grand Raffle that will be drawn at the end of the day.

We can announce that the first prize will be a £200 cash prize, once again generously donated by Shinness Estate.

We will, of course, have plenty of other fabulous goodies to dish out too. If any local businesses or individuals would like to donate a prize to the raffle – please email Kirstin at the email address below. All raffle donations will be publicised on LDCI's Facebook page and on our website.



Thanks to those of you who have already stepped forward to help out on the day – but we would still be grateful for a few extra pairs of hands, for example, to help out in the kitchen, and to help as marshalls during the reindeer parade. (This would be a great opportunity for 6th year school pupils hoping to gain volunteering experience to include on their personal statement for University applications.

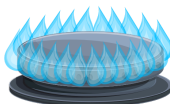
To get in touch about any of the above – please call Kirstin on 07961 372 427 or email: projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk.

Volunteers required!





The Lairg Helping Hand Fund



As the nights draw in and the seasons change, many of us find ourselves needing to keep the heating on for longer. With the cost of living at its highest level for a decade, and the average annual energy bill rising by 2% on the 1st October, it is possible that some of you might be having to make the difficult decision between choosing to keep food on the table or heating your homes. If this is the case for you – LDCI would like to remind you about the Lairg Helping Hand Fund which aims to provide a one-off grant to households who are struggling financially. Since 2020, the fund has supported 66 households in the local area with heating or energy costs.

LAIRG

HELPING

HAND FUND

IT'S OKAY TO NEED SUPPORT



Lairg & District Community Initiatives' Helping Hand Fund provides one off financial support to households in Lairg Community Council area who are struggling financially.

Grants of up to £250 are available to households who need help to pay an energy bill, or purchase an energy efficient white good - or provide assistance towards the costs of heating system repairs.

Confidential support is provided by our colleagues at the East & Central Sutherland Citizens Advice Bureau.

Contact:
projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk
 07961 372 427




What can be Funded?

- Grants of up to £250 will be awarded to households towards heating/energy costs. Electric, Oil, LPG Gas, Calor Gas Bottles, Coal, Wood, and other fuel types will also be considered.
- White goods with a minimum energy efficiency A rating can also be funded up to the cost of £250. The Helping Hand Fund will supply replacements for broken appliances or old appliances with an energy efficiency rating of B or below.

To be eligible for a grant applicants must live in the Lairg and District Community Council area and should be in receipt of a benefit. (E.g. Universal Credit, Pension Credit, etc.)

Unfortunately, applicants with savings of over £2500 are not eligible.

All applications are treated with the strictest confidence, however, we may ask for your permission to pass on your details to our partners at the East & Central Sutherland Citizens Advice Bureau for further support.

If you would like to apply to the fund – please call Kirstin on 07961 372 427 or email projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk.

The Lairg Helping Hand fund is supported by The Robertson Trust.



Quiz Answers

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. The Cheshire Cat | 3. Virgo | 7. Income Tax |
| 2. Sir David Attenborough | 4. Taxidermy | 8. Diane Keaton |
| | 5. Nottingham Forest | 9. Barry Humphries |
| | 6. Oxfordshire | 10. Hawaii |

Holly Jolly Shopping



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, 20th October 🍂 A lovely autumnal market with good attendance.

With just 2 markets left for the year, put a note in the diary for our next one on Monday, 17th November!

Step into a winter wonderland where the lights are twinkling, and the scent of Christmas fills the air. Our Christmas Market is a feast for the senses, bringing together the best of the festive season.

🛒 Shop local and find something special! Our array of stalls features delicious food, unique crafts of all kinds, and quirky gifts perfect for loved ones. You can even commission a unique, personalised piece directly from a stallholder. Plus, we'll have tea and coffee in the Hall to keep you warm.



We are super excited to have something a little new for the hall coming up on the 8th November Uncle Gravy, a comedian, is performing in the hall. It should be a fantastic event and tickets are on sale if you want to come. Please see Facebook or the posters around the village for details. There will be a bar and refreshments too!



QUIZ NIGHT

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



Lairg Remembrance Sunday Service

ON Sunday, 9th November we will begin the Remembrance Sunday Service at 10.45am beside the War Memoria., Tea and coffee will be available afterwards in the Church of Scotland.

The Scottish Connection

The symbol of the poppy is particularly powerful, often juxtaposed with the thistle, Scotland's national flower. The tradition is widely supported by many people, who wear the poppy on their lapels in the weeks leading up to the day. Proceeds from the sale of these poppies benefit the Poppy Scotland charity, which provides vital welfare support to veterans and their families.

For Scotland, Remembrance Sunday is not just a historical event; it is a current and deeply personal expression of gratitude, honouring the sacrifices made in the past.



Another fantastic Drystone Walling course this weekend!

Despite the best efforts of our Scottish Highlands weather to dampen spirits, our students rose to the challenge and did an incredible job under the expert guidance of Dave Goulder, master craftsman and trainer.



The transformation of the old Lairg Manse walled garden is a testament to their hard work, teamwork, and skill - just look at those walls! 🌞

Huge thanks to everyone who took part. Your dedication and enthusiasm make these courses so rewarding. 🍀

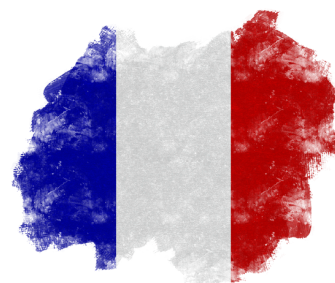


French Night

Saturday 8th November
6:30-10pm

3 course meal £35pp

Join us for an evening of French food, wine and music from Eric the accordionist.



Italian Night

Friday 14th November
6:30-10pm

3 course meal £35pp

Join us for an evening of Italian food and cocktails.



Booking is essential for these events. Please message us on our socials or email info@saltandsalmon.com to book. If you have any allergies or dietary requirements, please let us know when making your booking



Hope to see you!
The Salt & Salmon Team



Lairg Chess Club

Are you a Chess fan, or interested in getting into Chess?

If so, then come and join us to learn, compete & have fun

Juniors - Tuesdays - 4:30-5:30pm

Adults - Tuesdays - 5:45-6:45pm. Strictly 16 & over.

All abilities are welcome, we provide chess sets.
This is a free event.

Contact Lairg.library@highlifehighland.com or call the library on 01549 402 577 for more information



Kyle of Sutherland Whist Club



Bonar Bridge Hall,
Wednesdays at 7.30pm

NOVEMBER 2025 WHIST DRIVE SERIES

5 th November	Bonar Bridge Children's Christmas Party
12 th November	Creich Community Council
19 th November	Highland Hospice
26 th November	Bonar Bridge/Ardgay Golf Club

ADMISSION £2 INCLUDING TEA



The Lairg Larder would like to thank the Lairg and Rogart Churches for their most generous donations of food and money for the larder.
It was really kind of you and it really does help.

Lairg Larder Team

Thank you for reading issue 85 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 19th November.