

# Lairg Magazine

LAIRG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



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## 10 years of Winter Warmth at Winterfest! ❄️

Did you know that 'Winterfest' will celebrate its tenth year on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2025?

The event first took place in 2015, and has been running every year since (except for during the covid pandemic).

The festival has grown into a highly anticipated annual event in Lairg and for the wider community, and is showing no signs of slowing down as it gears up for its biggest and best celebration yet to commemorate a decade of festive fun!

This year's milestone event promises an array of excitement from 12noon-4pm, where you can whet your whistle with funfair rides, treat the little ones to a visit to the magical Santa's Grotto, explore the sparkling Christmas Market to find unique gifts and seasonal treats, and participate in numerous engaging family activities throughout the day.

Don't forget the Grand Raffle at 4pm - fantastic prizes to be won!

More details on page 5.





1. Who wrote the novel "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"?
2. What type of musical instrument is a dhol?
3. Which actress, who died recently, played the title role in the film 'Shirley Valentine'?
4. What began as the 'Christian Mission' in Whitechapel in 1865?
5. Strictly speaking, which 2 presenters recently received MBEs in the Kings honours list?
6. Which planes were used by the Dam Busters?
7. From which planet does Dr Who come from?
8. Who had a No 1 hit in 1988 with 'Heaven Is A Place On Earth'?
9. Where are the 2026 summer Commonwealth Games to be held?
10. In which country did the lambada dance originate?



# 80<sup>th</sup>

# QUIZ

**This significant milestone is the 80th magazine quiz!**



We extend our sincere thanks to Jayne for producing such an enticing monthly quiz for us all; she will now be stepping down from her role.

Five years ago, during the challenges of Covid, the quiz began as a special diversion for the magazine. It quickly grew into a highly anticipated regular feature that our readers genuinely looked forward to each month.

We've all enjoyed the journey - from those head-scratching stumpers to the questions that seemed easy by comparison! We will certainly miss the eclectic range of questions Jayne provided.

Thank you once again, Jayne, for all your hard work!





## Talk of the Town

We've hosted a wonderful array of classes over the last month, all of which were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who came along.

A particular highlight was our recent talk, 'Introduction to the Geology of Sutherland,' delivered by former headteacher and keen geology enthusiast, Peter Lang. This event was part of our 'Mountains to Coast' project, generously funded by The National Lottery. Peter's presentation was fascinating, offering a deep dive into the unique geological features of our region and sparking some discussions among attendees afterwards.

Due to popular demand, Peter will be repeating this talk early in the New Year for us. But that's not all Peter has in store!

As an ancestor of a crew member from the HMS Jervis Bay, a vessel that sank in the 1940s during an act of extreme bravery in the North Atlantic, he has an equally compelling talk lined up on this maritime history involving local service men from Caithness & Sutherland.

If tales of the sea are your "cup o' tea," keep a close eye on Eventbrite for details - this talk will also take place in the New Year.

### COOKING:

#### Soup, Sweet & Craft

Last month, we launched our 'Soup, Sweet, & Craft' sessions as part of our 'Winter Warmers' series.

Mornings are spent with our wonderful cookery tutor, Yvonne, where participants learn to make delicious soup, fresh bread, and a sweet treat.

In the afternoons, the talented Maria will take over with various fun and festive crafts. November's sessions included sewing, cross-stitch, and creating Christmas items like charming rag wreaths and ornaments.

Yvonne and Maria will be continuing these warming sessions into December so keep an eye on Eventbrite and our social media for dates. £5 per session - gain a skill and take home your creations!

Our social enterprise is a success!

Participants are learning new skills while creating truly beautiful items across sewing, art, ceramics, mosaics, and more.

A massive thank you to all who have made and donated so far. Find these unique pieces for sale at Winterfest on December 6th.

Pop over to the Learning Centre between 10am - 3pm to grab a beautiful and unique bargain!

If you're not in the mood for buying, why not send the kids over for a little morning Biscuit Decorating, or come along for Christmas Crafting in the afternoon (children & adults welcome).

Please book due to limited spaces! Details below:



**WINTERFEST**  
at Lairg Learning Centre

**DECORATE SOME CHRISTMAS BISCUITS**  
DROPIN  
10AM-11.30AM

**CHRISTMAS CRAFTS**  
1PM-2PM

**WINTERFEST 2025**

Visit  
THE MAKER'S MARKET  
- OUR SOCIAL ENTERPRISE  
10AM-3PM

**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](https://lairganddistrictlearningcentre.eventbrite.com)



## Lairg War Memorial

Lairg, Sunday, November 9th – The spirit of remembrance shone brightly in Lairg as a gathering of the young and old came together at the Lairg War Memorial for a moving Remembrance Sunday Service.

Led by Sandy Sutherland of the Lairg Christian Fellowship, the ceremony featured traditional bagpipes and powerful readings, ensuring the fallen were remembered with dignity.



During November, we took the time to honour the eleven men, named on Lairg War Memorial, who gave their lives during the Second World War.

Please find more information about the other eleven soldiers on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/LairgHistory](https://facebook.com/LairgHistory)



**CPL. D. J. MACMILLAN, SCOTS GUARDS  
DOUGALD MACMILLAN  
1916 – 1944**

Dougald John MacMillan was the son of Alexander MacMillan and his wife Margaret Mackay and was born on 10 February 1916 at Tullochard, Lochside, Lairg. He worked with his father, a mason contractor, before joining the Metropolitan Police. Dougald served with the Scots Guards. He was invalided out of the army and died in Inverness on 25 April 1944 aged 28 years. By this time his parents were living in Inverness where his Father was a clerk of works.



**PTE. A. GRANT, SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS  
SANDY GRANT  
1920 - 1944**

Sandy was the son of George and Margaret Grant and was born on 09 June 1920 at Rhemarstaig, Lairg. Sandy served with the Intelligence Section, 5th (Caithness and Sutherland) Battalion Seaforth Highlanders and died on Friday 18 August 1944 aged 24 years. He is Remembered with Honour at Banneville-La-Campagne War Cemetery, near Caen, Normandy, France.





## Winterfest 2025 - Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December

Winterfest celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

As per the tradition, at midday, the church bells will ring as the parade sets off from the Church Hill Wood shelter with the Cairngorm Reindeer carrying Santa and Mrs Claus up Lairg's Main Street to the Community Centre.

From **12pm – 4pm** the reindeer will remain outside the Community Centre for people to meet. (There will also be a small funfair.)

There will be a Christmas market with over 30 tables selling hand crafted gifts and other local produce, and a café selling refreshments and snacks.



'Strathfleet Buttons and Bows' will be on the stage playing a mix of traditional and Christmas music!

### The Grand Raffle will be called at 4pm!

LDCI can confirm that we have already received some fabulous prizes – in addition to the £200 cash prize donated by Shinness Estate, other donations include a £100 voucher from the Pier, £100 voucher from Dornoch Jail, a luxury hamper worth £100 from the Pat Munro Foundation, as well as vouchers generously donated by: Sutherland Sporting Tweed Company, Sutherland Game & Shellfish, Highland Fine Cheeses, The Hub, The First Tea, and Bannerman Seafoods.

There will also be other goodies – such as a bottle of wine from Royal Dornoch Golf Club and chocolates etc. So, make sure you snap up a raffle ticket. They will be going on sale shortly!

All school children from Lairg, Rosehall, Rogart, Bonar Bridge, and Gledfield Primary schools will be sent a letter with a free raffle ticket that they must bring on the day to enter into the special children's raffle which will be called just before the Grand Raffle.

Any home-schooled children from the area are also welcome to enter the raffle. Please just speak to the volunteers on the LDCI welcome table at the entrance to the Christmas Market.

*Enter!  
to Win!*



**RAFFLE**  
*at 4pm*







For more information or to view the digital programme please see:

<https://www.lairginitiative.co.uk/winterfest>



“

Winterfest is a great day for bringing the community together.

We are really pleased that in addition to Hopscotch Magic providing the entertainment, throughout the afternoon the RSPB will also be holding festive, nature-themed craft workshops in partnership with the Lairg Library, and the Lairg Learning Centre are also holding their own Christmas-themed workshops as part of the festival, so there are many free activities on offer for children and adults.

LDCI would really like to thank all the people who have volunteered to help out and all the businesses and people who have supported Winterfest by giving donations or raffle prizes.”

”

Robert Johnstone, LDCI's Chair

## Magazine Funding

LDCI are delighted to report that we have recently received a £1000 award from the 'VGS - Anne Duchess of Westminster Fund - Microgrant Scheme' to go towards funding the Lairg Magazine. As mentioned in a previous issue, it costs us approximately £2400 to publish the magazine each year, so we are very grateful to the youth panel who approved the grant for this other piece in the funding 'jigsaw'! We had previously received £500 from the Albyn Housing Community Fund, £403 from a private donation, and just last week we also received another generous donation of £300 from Peter Banham through his business - FOCUS 2000 INFRARED.

This means we are now just £200 short of our fundraising target for the magazine!

Thank you so much to all the donors to the magazine - we really appreciate your support!



Focus 2000 Infrared

## Quiz Answers

1. Mark Twain

2. Drum

3. Pauline Collins

4. Salvation Army

5. Tess Daly & Claudia Winkleman

6. Lancasters

7. Gallifrey

8. Belinda Carlisle

9. Glasgow

10. Brazil



# P3,4 & 5 News

P3-4 attended Golspie High School on Wednesday 5th November for The Giant's Harp performance.

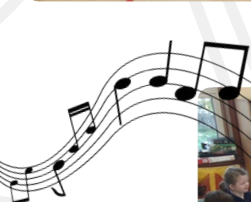


Scottish Opera's interactive show, The Giant's Harp, explored different cultures around the world where the harp takes centre stage, from Ancient Egypt to modern-day Scotland!

It was a musical adventure around the world for Primary 3 & 4 pupils.

Inspired by the fairytale Jack & the Beanstalk, the workshop took the kids on a whistle-stop adventure around the world.

The children learned about the beautiful instrument's history, and were engaged in clapping, singing, rhythm, and movement work with singer and narrator Lea Shaw and harpist Sharron Griffiths.



The children really enjoyed our first session of Feis with Gillian.

The Youth Music Initiative (YMI) is a partnership delivering 8 weeks of traditional music to our older classes.



The children recently enjoyed making collage animals.



## THANK YOU!

And lastly, Primary 3,4 and 5 really enjoyed preparing for the coffee morning and then welcoming all the visiting adults.

Thank you for helping us to raise just over £160 for the Macmillan charity ❤️

COME FOR  
COFFEE  
AND  
CAKE

WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT





## A Little Local Magic

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

As Christmas fast approaches, we are holding our last market of the season on Monday, December 15th. Make sure you save the date!

Come and see our stunning holiday decorations, soak up the vibrant atmosphere, and secure those final unique gifts from our talented vendors. You're sure to find the perfect something for yourself or a loved one!



## Christmas Party

Lairg Village Christmas party 2025, we are delighted the talented Zoe and young Jack Livings will be joining us.



We are always looking for volunteers and new board members to keep the Community Centre thriving as a hub for community activity. For more info, or if you feel you could assist in any way please let me know by email: [lairgcommunitycentre@gmail.com](mailto:lairgcommunitycentre@gmail.com), phone: 01549 402843 (the office is only manned part time) or Facebook Messenger.

## LAIRG VILLAGE PARTY

SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 13TH  
FROM 7PM  
LAIRG COMMUNITY CENTRE

HOSTED BY  
LAIRG GALA WEEK

LIVE MUSIC, GAMES, 200  
CLUB, RAFFLE  
FREE ENTRY  
BYOB  
ALL WELCOME

## LIGHT UP LAIRG

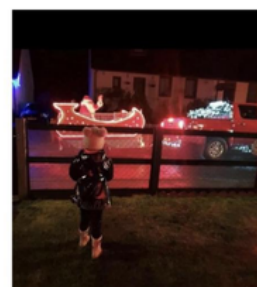
KIDS DRAWING  
COMPETITION.  
UPLOAD YOUR  
DESIGNS ON  
FACEBOOK FROM  
1ST DEC 2025

LOTS OF PRIZES TO  
BE WON

## LIGHT UP LAIRG WIN £100

Best Decorated House Competition  
-Judging on 20<sup>th</sup> December

## Light up Lairg Santa Sleigh 2025



Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Kindly sponsored by

**RJ McLEOD**



The days might be getting shorter and the rain's trying its best to keep us on our toes, but that hasn't slowed anyone down here at Lochview Rural Training - not one bit!

We've been busy with our school sessions and 1:1s, filling the place with laughter, learning, and plenty of muddy boots!

Our 8-week Introduction to the Land-Based Sector course kept the momentum going with machinery maintenance and ATV safety training, big smiles and even bigger confidence out in the field!

Our Acres of Knowledge crew returned to stir up a delicious chicken stir-fry before diving into some seriously creative croft-themed Christmas decoration planning.

We can't wait to see those festive masterpieces come to life!

And to round things off, our Young Crofters have been hard at work with the breeding ewes, expertly splitting them into groups and getting them ready for the tups heading out.



Oh and there's a new face in the barn!

Everyone, meet Mr Marley, our brand-new Suffolk shearling tup!

He's already turning heads and causing a bit of curiosity from Cathy and Cora, who are still deciding what they think of their new roommate!



## Kyle of Sutherland Whist Club



Bonar Bridge Hall,  
Wednesdays at 7.30pm

### DECEMBER 2025 WHIST DRIVE SERIES

3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Highland Hospice
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Kyle of Sutherland Gala Week Committee
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Royal British Legion Scotland Creich & Kincardine with Lairg & Rogart Branch

**ADMISSION £2  
INCLUDING TEA**



## 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](mailto:Lairg.library@highlifehighland.com),  
or call 01549 402 577 for more information



# WINTERFEST 2025

SAT 6TH DECEMBER

LAIRG COMMUNITY CENTRE



Join the opening parade of real reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh from the bottom of Main Street to the Community Centre at 12pm

MEET RUDOLPH & HIS FRIENDS | SANTA'S GROTTO  
CHRISTMAS MARKET | FREE ARTS & CRAFT WORKSHOPS  
CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT | REFRESHMENTS  
HOT FOOD VAN | FUNFAIR | GRAND RAFFLE

**LDCI**  
LAIRG & DISTRICT  
COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Thank you for reading issue 86 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 10<sup>th</sup> December.