

Lairg Magazine

LAIRG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



Photo by Niamh Ross Photography 2026

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We're gearing up for Gala!

Are you ready to dust off your fancy dress and get ready to celebrate? The summer galas are kicking off next month! First up on the calendar is the nearby Rogart Gala, running from 4th to 7th June. Expect four days packed with classic Highland community spirit, family games, and local stalls.

Lairg Gala will be following close behind, officially kicking off on 4th July with the Vintage Car Café and family dance with Blue Ridge. It's shaping up to be a summer of community fun, so make sure to clear your calendars!

More info on page 5.

If you've been out and about lately, from royal arrivals to community celebrations and big industrial shifts, there is plenty to talk about over a cup of tea.

Wind Farms on the Move

If you've noticed a bit of extra action out on the local roads lately, you aren't imagining it. The wind farm components are officially on their way to Lairg from 21st June. As these massive structures are transported through the area, keep an eye out for local traffic updates and temporary delays. It's an impressive sight to see them rolling through, but definitely give yourself a few extra minutes for your morning commute! See page 6 for more info.



THE GREAT JUNE QUIZ

1. Which famous British tennis tournament begins in late June?
2. Which UK bank holiday and celebration involves the "Trooping the Colour" military parade in London?
3. Which two UK universities traditionally compete in a historic boat race on the River Thames each summer?
4. According to British tradition, what is celebrated on the third Sunday of June?
5. What is the name of the ancient stone circle in the UK where thousands gather to celebrate the summer solstice in June?
6. Which famous UK music festival, held at Worthy Farm in Somerset, usually takes place the last weekend of June?
7. Queen Elizabeth II's official coronation ceremony took place at Westminster Abbey in June of which year?
8. Which two star signs (zodiac signs) are associated with the month of June?
9. In the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical Carousel, which famous song celebrates the arrival of summer?
10. What is the traditional birth flower for June?

Falls of Shin presents Japanese Night Saturday 27th June

3 course Japanese meal | £38pp
 Bookings are available from 5:30pm onwards. Please make us aware of any allergies or dietary requirements.
 Bookings are essential for our themed nights, so please email us to book: info@saltandsalmon.com

Our themed nights will be on the last Saturday of every month, so keep an eye on our social media!
 Open every Friday night for dinner, drinks & bar snacks

~The Salt & Salmon Team



Falls of Shin Presents

Japanese
Night



Bird Boxes Galore!

We've got a couple of bird-related woodworking sessions for you this month:

- 3rd June – Come and join us to make your very own Swift Box, 1.30-5.30pm, from £15
- 17th June – Create a beautiful Barn Owl Box for indoor or outdoor nesting, 10am-2.30pm, from £15



VIP Guest Alert

We are thrilled to announce a very special visitor just for our Barn Owl Box session: Echo the Barn Owl from Manor Falconry! Echo is flying in to advocate for these nesting boxes, give you some up-close inspiration, and maybe even pose for a photo (no touching, please!).



Walk & Talk SESSIONS

GUIDED WALKS WITH AMANDA

10am - 11.30am



Weds 3rd: Ferrycroft Woods - 'Walking with Merlin'. Use the Merlin Bird ID app to listen to bird calls. Meet at the Ferrycroft Centre. Stay afterwards for a coffee and wait for Ranger Andy's Bird Talk! If you need help installing the app, meet us there at 9.30am for assistance.

Weds 10th: Dalchork Bird Hide - what3words: perch.orders.intervals

Weds 17th: Falls of Shin - meet in the main car park, please enter your car registration at the cafe before the walk. Coffee & cake after!



NATURE WEEK

1ST-7TH JUNE

Scan QR code to book via Eventbrite:



SCAN

3rd June - Bird Day

A day of bird-related activities to honour our feathered friends!



10-11.30am - Walking with Merlin: A tech-aided walk.

Use the Merlin app whilst wandering through the woods.

Ferrycroft Visitor Centre FREE



12-1pm - Bird Talk with Ranger Andy Summers.

Ferrycroft Visitor Centre FREE/Donations welcome



1.30-5.30pm - Woodworking: Make a Swift Box.

The Cabin, Lairg Learning Centre, £15pp



6th June - Butterfly Day

A gentle day filled with FREE storymaking, crafts, butterflies, moths, and snacks!

Lairg Learning Centre, 11am-2pm



11am-2pm - Butterfly stories with Sally. Bring the wee ones along for a storymaking session and take home your own memento.



Times TBC - Take a look in the 'moth trap' and see what you can find, with Tracey from Butterfly Conservation.



12noon-2pm - Butterfly activities with Zelka and the LDLC Team, ages 5+



LAIRG LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Glimpses of the Past



Email us at lairglocalhistorysociety@outlook.com



CROSSING THE SHIN

Ford at Cashel, Gruids

The ford at Cashel was, more than likely, used from very early times. It is mentioned in a story about Rev Thomas Mackay (son of Rev John Mackay) who was minister in Lairg from 1753 to 1797.

Lairg Ferry

Rev John Mackay (father of Rev Thomas Mackay) was minister in Lairg from 1714 to 1753, and a story is told about him which makes reference to a ferry boat.

Footbridge

Mrs Mackay of Rockfield arranged for a suspension bridge to be erected across the River Shin so that people could walk to the new Free Church which was built on Achany (Matheson) land. The Free Church was built in 1845 and Mrs Mackay died in 1850 so the bridge was built sometime during that period.

Can anyone add to this information? What is the history of the Black Bridge?

References

Records of Grace in Sutherland compiled by Rev Donald Munro

A History of Lairg by Lesley Ketteringham

For more insights into local history, please follow us on Facebook by searching for 'Lairg Local History Society'

Veg on the Edge



"Veg on the Edge" started last year when a small group of us decided to see if we could grow some food in the community polytunnel.

"Lairg in Bloom" kindly gave us permission to take it over from them. It hadn't been used for some time and was full of weeds and dust.

The community council gave us a small grant to buy compost and seeds, and the tunnel's neighbours were very generous, giving us the regular use of a hosepipe on the one side, and lots of garden equipment on the other.

It's amazing what can be done when people get together, and before we knew it, the weeds were cleared and the beds were sprouting seedlings. We grew tomatoes, cucumbers, chard, lettuce, radishes, French beans, peas, courgettes, carrots and peppers. The whole place felt different! This year, we have bigger plans. We will continue to use the three existing beds, but another grant has given us the resources to buy and fill a new raised bed, which gives us more space to grow. Eventually, we would like to fill the tunnel with beds, growing a greater variety of vegetables for the village.

We are not growing to sell, but the produce will be made available to anyone that wants to use it (though please don't go and help yourselves, as things might not be ready yet, or we may be keeping some back to produce seed).

We are looking forward to working together with the Learning Centre with their new tunnel, and with amateur and professional growers alike to increase the amount of food that we grow locally.



New members are always welcome in a group like this! Join us in building our food tunnel - it's a great way to share ideas, learn new skills, and make friends. No experience necessary! Contact Justi on 07909381517.



Lairg GALA WEEK

Saturday 4th July - Saturday 11th July

It's GALA time again!

We are delighted to announce that this year's Gala Week will be officially opened by Iain Mackay (also known as Doof) ✨

As a committee, we're absolutely thrilled he has accepted this role and we can't wait to kick things off in style.

Led by our stunning Gala Queen, Dawn, and her attendees Rosie-Jo and Rory, we have a packed lineup of fun activities for all ages - don't forget to grab a copy of our official programme from local shops!

We will be kicking things off in style with the Vintage Car Café and Gala Opening Show during the day, followed by the family marquee dance on Saturday, 4th July. We are absolutely delighted to announce that Blue Ridge will be providing the soundtrack for the night.

Throughout the week, look out for crowd favourites like the competitive annual Raft Race, the always-popular Duck Race, a fantastic candle-making workshop with Candles from the Croft, and a brilliant Quiz Night raising vital funds for Light Up Lairg. Plus, our thrilling 'Make Me a Winner' draw is back - the more tickets you buy, the bigger the jackpot grows!

Keep your eyes peeled for July's magazine for the full, detailed lineup of events!



Lairg Gala Vintage Car Cafe

Saturday 4th July

★ 12-2pm ★

Lairg Community Centre

£7pp, OAPs and Children £5pp

Come and see these beautiful cars! Admission by Donations!



Sponsored by
Shin Stores

LAIRG GALA WEEK 2026

FAMILY MARQUEE DANCE with BLUE RIDGE

SATURDAY 4th JULY
7:30pm – 10:30pm

TICKETS:

- Adults £10
- Under 16s £5
- Preschool FREE

A GREAT NIGHT OUT FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

Sponsored by
Robert Sutherland Electrical

LAIRG



Sutherland Adventure Company will be hanging out in Lairg this Summer

Little Loch Shin in Lairg will be busy this summer as the new central base for the Sutherland Adventure Company's Paddleboarding activities.

After securing funding from the Highland Council's Whole Family Wellbeing Fund, the local development trust LDCI was able to purchase paddleboards, equipment, and storage space on the Lochside for use by the social enterprise Sutherland Adventure Company.

Launching this summer is the Lairg Teens Paddleboarding Club. Open to ages 12 to 18yrs (plus children who may be transitioning from P7-S1), alongside existing Sutherland Adventure Company activities.

Sessions are always weather permitting, with space for 8 paddleboarders, and are run by 2 fully qualified and insured instructors.

Mailing list sign up: <https://mailchi.mp/cc3922dcffd/mailling-list-sign-up>

LDCI Chair, Robert Johnstone, said, "We are delighted to be able to support Sutherland Adventure Company and provide opportunities for our local teens to enjoy the Loch and develop paddleboarding skills."

Co-founder, Beth Simco said, "We are really grateful for the opportunity on Little Loch Shin, working in partnership with LDCI and look forward to welcoming folks to our sessions."



Anyone interested in taking up paddleboarding with the Sutherland Adventure Company can sign up to the mailing list by emailing info@sutherlandadventurecompany.com to be notified when sessions are running from week to week throughout the summer months (May to September).

Lairg II Windfarm Updates

Turbine component deliveries for Lairg II windfarm are scheduled to begin in June, and will travel to Lairg via the A9, A839 and A836.

In order to keep up-to-date, please follow our pages for regular updates on convoy movements, delivery schedules, and links to their live tracking.

A delivery trial run will be happening on 21st May, leaving the Port of Nigg at 9:30am, and continuing to Lairg via the A9, A839 and A836.

If you have any queries, please get in touch via their Facebook page, or at their project email: lairgii@energiekontor.com

Website: <https://energiekontor.co.uk/our-projects/lairgii/>



1. Wimbledon
2. The King's Official Birthday
3. Oxford and Cambridge
4. Father's Day
5. Stonehenge
6. Glastonbury Festival

7. 1953
8. Gemini and Cancer
9. June Is Bustin' Out All Over
10. Rose

Sponsored WALK



Lairg Primary Pupils Enjoy Sponsored Walk in Gunn's Wood

Pupils at Lairg Primary School had a fantastic time taking part in a sponsored walk on Wednesday 13th May in Gunns Wood to help raise money for their school trip to Landmark Forest Adventure Park.

The children were very excited to get outdoors and explore the woods. They walked together along the paths, chatting with friends and enjoying the fresh air and beautiful surroundings. There were lots of smiles and laughter as everyone encouraged each other to keep going.

Many of the pupils said their favourite part was spending time with their friends and being out in nature. Some also enjoyed spotting different trees and wildlife along the way.

The walk was not only fun, but it also helped raise money for their upcoming trip, which everyone is really looking forward to.

All the children showed great effort and enthusiasm, and it was clear they were proud of what they had achieved together.



Landmark

Forest Adventure Park

“We had so much fun walking in the woods!” said one pupil. “I liked being with my friends and raising money for our trip.”



Monthly Markets

The market on 18th May was full of fantastic stallholders, and a good turnout of people - which is always welcome!

A typical market line-up would contain an array of locally sourced produce, goats cheese, preserves, honey and pickles. Not to mention the unique and wonderfully crafted handmade items, painted slates, soaps and body care bars, knitting, photographic art, haberdashery, candles, collectibles, tie dye clothes and felted animals.

The Tie Dye Emporium were at our last Lairg Community Market with their end of clothing range - did you get yours?



Photo by Tie Dye Emporium



Our next market is on Monday, 15th June, please come along and show your support!



Don't forget our Community Car is available!

To book, please call the office on 01549 402843, Monday to Friday between 9-11.20am.

Outside of these hours, please email: lairgcommunitycentre@gmail.com. The more advance notice given of the request for a driver, the better! If you would like to volunteer to drive for us, please get in touch.

Lairg Library's Book Club is welcoming new members who would like to start a reading habit or those who like reading and want to meet fellow readers to talk about books.

We have monthly meetups every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5pm, in Lairg Library.

Next Meeting is on June 16th and we will be reading "Poacher's Pilgrimage, An Island Journey" By Alastair McIntosh.

Please get in touch if you'd like to collect a copy.

Tea & coffee and a good laugh!



For more info, please get in touch on 01549 402 577 or email: Lairg.Library@highlifehighland.com



LAIRG LIBRARY

Opening Times:

Mon - 10:00-14:00

Tue - 12:00-15:30; 16:00-19:00

Wed - Closed

Thur - 10:00-14:00

Fri - 12:00-15:00

Sat - Closed

Sun - Closed

Phone Number:
01549 402577



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) 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





Exciting things are happening at Lochview Rural Training! As we move through the year, our programmes are in full swing and we have some wonderful news to share with our community. Here's a round-up of what's on, what's coming up, and how you can get involved.

What's On: Our Current Programmes

Grow Well Together — Thursday Afternoons, 1pm–3pm

Our Grow Well Together sessions run every Thursday afternoon and offer a warm, relaxed space for adults 18+ to come together, learn new skills, support one another, and nurture their wellbeing. Whether you're interested in growing food, connecting with nature, or simply looking for a friendly community to be part of, you're very welcome. No experience needed, just a willingness to get involved!



Land to Livelihoods — For 16–30 Year Olds

Are you between 16 and 30 and thinking about a future in the rural sector? Maybe you're considering starting a rural business, need support with career progression, or just want to explore your options. Land to Livelihoods is here for you.

We offer:

- Flexible, tailored support one-to-one or group sessions
- Connections with partner organisations across the Highlands
- Signposting to training, funding, and employment opportunities

Introduction to Land Based Sector — Cohort 3 Starting End of May!

One of our most popular programmes is back and places are filling fast! Our Introduction to Land Based Sector course runs two days a week over eight weeks and is designed for young people aged 16+ who are considering a career in farming, crofting, land management, or the wider rural sector.

This hands-on programme provides practical skills and real-world experience to help you take your first confident steps into the land-based world. Cohort 3 starts end of May – don't miss out!

Upcoming Event: Two-Day Fencing Course Saturday 13 – Sunday 14 June 2026

Whether you manage a croft, smallholding, or any rural land, good fencing is essential. Join us for our practical two-day fencing course and learn the techniques you need to get the job done properly.

This is a brilliant hands-on opportunity covering real-world fencing skills in a Highland setting.

Tickets are available now on Eventbrite.

July 17

Coming Soon: LVRT Open Day

We're excited to announce that we'll be holding an Open Day and we'd love to see you there! The date is to be confirmed, so keep an eye out for updates. The best way to stay in the loop is to follow us on Facebook, where we'll share the date and all the details as soon as we have them.



Get Involved: Our New Volunteering Programme

Whether you have a few hours a month or more regular time to give, whether you'd like to get outdoors, work with young people, share a skill, or help behind the scenes, we'd love to hear from you. No experience is necessary; your time and enthusiasm is what matters.

To find out more, please contact Martin at:

volunteering@lochviewruraltraining.co.uk

Celebrating Our CEO: National Women in Agriculture Award

We are absolutely delighted to share some wonderful news Cara, CEO of Lochview Rural Training, has been shortlisted for a National Women in Agriculture Award. This is a fantastic recognition of the passion, dedication, and vision she brings to supporting rural communities and land-based training across the Highlands. We couldn't be more proud. Congratulations, Cara – this is so well deserved!





GROW YOUR FUTURE

with *Lochview Rural Training*

We have a range of programmes to support your personal growth, skills and career journey.



GROW WELL

Together

THURSDAY AFTERNOONS
1PM – 3PM

A friendly, relaxed group for adults 18+ to connect, learn, grow and support wellbeing together.



LAND TO LIVELIHOODS

For anyone 16–30 years
Thinking about starting a rural business? Need training, advice or support with your career progression or employment?

- ✓ Flexible support tailored to you
- ✓ One-to-one or group sessions
- ✓ Working with partner organisations
- ✓ Signposting to other training providers and opportunities



INTRODUCTION TO LAND BASED SECTOR

Cohort 3

- 📅 STARTING END OF MAY
- 🕒 TWO DAYS A WEEK OVER 8 WEEKS
- 👤 For young people 16+ considering a career in the land based sector.



INTERESTED? WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

For more information or to book your place, contact Cara:
✉ cara@lochviewruraltraining.co.uk

*Invest in You.
Grow Your Future.*



Notice of Far North Line Closure

The ScotRail Far North Line will be completely closed to trains north of Dingwall for three weeks, running from late on Sunday, 7th June, until early on Monday, 26th June.

During this time, Network Rail is carrying out a £6 million engineering project to renew over 4km of track, improve drainage, and maintain the Rogart level crossing.

LAIRG GALA WEEK

TEENAGERS' TEXAS SCRAMBLE

at

BONAR BRIDGE GOLF CLUB

📅 THURSDAY
9TH JULY

🏠 MEET AT THE MARQUEE AT
11.30AM

£ £10 PER PERSON



SPONSORED BY
TUCKS
- JOINERY -

📞 TO BOOK, CONTACT
DEAN | 07939 116001
OR SEE ANY GALA MEMBER

MAKE ME A WINNER!

NUMBERS ON SALE FROM
SATURDAY 9TH MAY 2026

£5
PER NUMBER

WINNER GETS
50%
OF THE PRIZE FUND

OTHER 50% GOES TOWARDS

- 🎭 LAIRG GALA CHRISTMAS PANTO TRIP
- 🌱 NURSERY HUB TRIP & TRAVEL

★ ★ THE MORE WHO ENTER, THE LARGER THE POT! ★ ★

- ### TERMS & CONDITIONS
- ✓ All players must be 18+
 - ✓ All entries must be entries by using their mobile number only
 - ✓ £5 must be paid to enter

- ### DRAW DETAILS
- 📅 Lucky caller will be called **SATURDAY 11TH JULY 2026** at 4:00PM
 - 📞 Winning caller must answer by saying **"MAKE ME A WINNER!"**
 - 🎰 Lucky number will be chosen using number generator

NUMBER WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM ALL GALA MEMBERS

GOOD LUCK EVERYONE!

Thank you for reading issue 92 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 16th June.