

# Lairg Magazine

LAIRG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



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## A Summer of Celebration in Sutherland

Whilst Scotland Men's National Football Team is making history at the 2026 FIFA World Cup in North America, marking their first tournament appearance in 28 years, in Sutherland we will be kicking off 4<sup>th</sup> July with Lairg Gala Week!

This beloved annual tradition fills the village with family sports, raft races, and community dances, showcasing the very best of Highland hospitality.

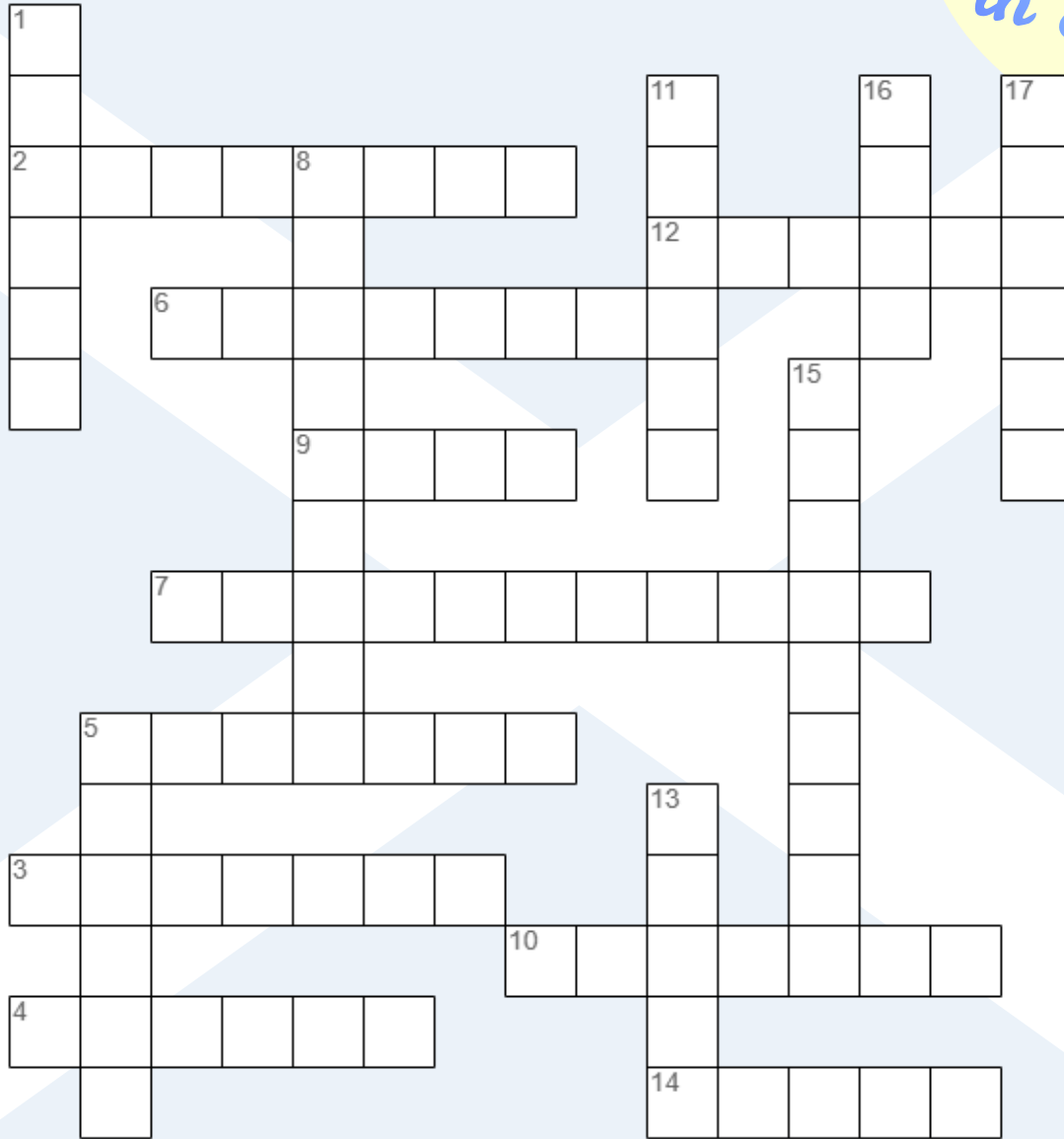
Festivities rev up at 11am with the Vintage Car Show at the Lairg Community Centre car park, followed by the Car Cafe from 12pm to 2pm. If cars aren't your thing, head down to the Transport Car Park at 4pm for the grand Opening Ceremony. It will be a great start to the week's events as the Sutherland Schools and Caley Pipe Bands strike up, proudly accompanying the arrival of our very own Gala Queen and her royal entourage.

As night falls, dance the night away to the brilliant sounds of Blue Ridge from 7:30pm to 10:30pm in The Marquee - family friendly!



Later in the month, The Sutherland Agricultural Show takes over the Dornoch Links on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> July. A massive staple of rural life, it bridges traditional farming with family entertainment and incredible local food and craft marquees.





**ACROSS**

- 2. Rare summer commodity in Scotland (8)
- 3. Scottish summer hillside plant (7)
- 4. Scottish national dish (6)
- 5. Scotland's national flower (7)
- 6. Traditional Scottish instrument (8)
- 7. Historic Scottish town (11)
- 9. Scottish lake (4)
- 10. Purple Scottish moorland flower (7)
- 12. Hebrides or Orkney, for example (6)
- 14. Scottish pastry (5)

**DOWN**

- 1. Loch \_\_\_\_, famous Scottish lake monster (7)
- 5. Scottish plaid pattern (6)
- 8. Mountainous region of Scotland (9)
- 11. Scottish spirit (6)
- 13. Scottish family groups (5)
- 15. Capital of Scotland (9)
- 16. Scottish word for fine or good (4)
- 17. Annoying summer Scottish insects (6)

**Windfarms On The Move**

Turbine component deliveries for Lairg II windfarm began in June, travelling to Lairg via the A9, A839 and A836. The next delivery will be made on Fri, 26<sup>th</sup> June, further deliveries are awaiting police confirmation.

Keep up-to-date by following Energie Kontor for regular updates on and links to their live tracking: <https://energiekontor.co.uk/our-projects/lairgii/>

Boralex is currently widening the road at Tirry Bridge to ensure the large windfarm components can be safely delivered to their site at Sallachy. These roadworks will run until the end of June, and the company promises to keep the community fully updated with specific delivery dates over the next few weeks.





## Putting the 'fun' in funding!

Behind the scenes, we also have some fantastic news on the horizon. We can't share the full details until July 1st, but a brilliant new partnership is on the way.

This is a really wonderful boost for our charity, and it means we'll soon be introducing some wonderful new globally-inspired arts & crafts sessions.

We're also really happy to announce another funding stream from the North Highland Initiative, which will enable us to keep going with our children's crafts and our usual textile arts - please stay tuned!



## June Highlights: From Crafts to Carpentry

We've been having a brilliant time at kids' club with our wonderful creative tutor, Zelka. The children have been busy as bees with all sorts of projects, from planting treats in the polytunnel and building cardboard cars, to painting ceramics and shells to take home!

Moving up in age, we were also delighted to welcome teens from Golspie High School for a fantastic day of skills through our employability project. They jumped straight into a mix of pottery sessions, sewing bunting, and an introduction to IT coding.

The learning doesn't stop there, either—tomorrow, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, we're taking our project straight to the school to deliver Barista Training for 10 pupils, who will be working towards earning an official SQA award!

A huge highlight across our sessions was our woodworking day on 17<sup>th</sup> June, where everyone teamed up to make a fantastic barn owl box.

To make the day even more special, we enjoyed a visit from Echo the Barn Owl, thanks to Florence from Manor Falconry in Golspie.

It was an incredible experience, and everyone learned so much about these beautiful birds and how to look after them.



## Walk & Talk SESSIONS

GUIDED WALKS  
WITH AMANDA



Funding may be ending for our weekly walks, but our new Everyday Wellbeing project is just beginning. Stay active with us via two new monthly walks, featuring both long and short routes!

**Weds 15<sup>th</sup> July:** Lairg Station/River Shin Loop (1 mile) - meet at 10am in the Lairg Train Station car park.

**Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> July:** Falls of Shin/Achany (3.7 miles) - meet in the main car park, please enter your car registration at the cafe before the walk. Coffee & cake in the cafe after (optional).

TICKETS: All our workshops are advertised on Humanitix 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. Bookings: <https://events.humanitix.com/host/lairg-learning-centre>

# Lairg GALA WEEK

## 2026



Photo of Gala Queen, Dawn, and her attendants, Rosie Jo & Rory. Courtesy of Niamh Ross Photography.

**LAIRG GALA WEEK**  
2026

**FAMILY MARQUEE DANCE**  
with  
**BLUE RIDGE**

**SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> 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**  
QEF



**Lairg Gala Week 2026**  
- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> July

This year's programme is bursting with activities for all ages and interests, including:

- Opening Ceremony with Pipe Bands
- Vintage Car Show
- Fancy Dress Parade – on floats and on foot
- Bouncy Castle, BBQ, Wheelbarrow Race
- Blue Ridge Family Night
- Pet Parade
- Quiz Night
- Angling Competitions
- Football Kickabout
- Sports Day & Ice Cream Van



### Children's Activities:

Kids crafts, floral headdress making, fishing competition, dominoes, pet parade, picnic, bingo, storytime, quiz, treasure hunt, disco and more!

### Teen Events:

High school pool, darts, fly-fishing, golf, gaming, football and dances.

### Workshops & Experiences:

Candle making, floral wreaths, sound bath, paddle boarding with mocktails



### Family Fun:

Colour run, duck race, raft race, 'It's a Knockout', mascot madness, large slides, face painting, crafts at Ferrycroft, and kids' play tent

### Adult Events:

Pool and darts competition, dominoes, bingo, quiz night, curry night, badminton, fishing and a fish tea!



### Evening Entertainment:

Live music - Blue Ridge and Eilidh & The Energy

### Competitions:

Best Kept Garden, Wheel of Fortune, and 'In It to Win It'



With such a huge variety of events, there really is something for everyone – from the youngest toddlers to older residents, and everyone in between.



# New Development Manager for Lairg & District Community Initiatives (LDCI)

LDCI are celebrating the appointment of a new full-time development manager for the Lairg area.

Miranda Jones, a Lairg resident, took up the position on 1st June. Miranda has lived in Lairg for the past 4 years with her partner Ian, two dogs, Maisie & Bobby, and now also with her daughter's visiting Husky, Zola.

Miranda comes to LDCI from the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust where she was a Project Manager. A former town and county councillor from Rutland in England (and former Mayor of Uppingham) Miranda brings an abundance of community engagement and project management experience to the role. She has been the minutes secretary for Lairg Community Council for the last four years and stood down as a board member for LDCI in order to be able to apply for the development manager position.



Miranda said "I am delighted to take on this role and work on behalf of the community I live in. Lairg has just published its Draft Local Plan\*, and I'll be working closely with the local community council, community organisations, and the wider population to deliver on the priorities identified in it. I really encourage people in Lairg to engage with us and give their input to any plans or proposals. Our monthly reports can be found in community council minutes, you can follow us on social media - and keep your eye out for this magazine where we will be posting regular updates.

Miranda is also the co-founder of Lairg-based Community Interest Company 'Seed to Supper CIC', a non-profit aiming to tackling food insecurity across the county by helping to increase food production, support food producers, and improve accessibility for consumers.



The role at LDCI is funded by the SSE & Foundation Scotland Rosehall & Achany Windfarm Fund and was made full-time via Scottish Government funding administered by the Highland Council's Community Regeneration Team.

\*You can view the draft local plan on the community council's website [Vision - LAIRG COMMUNITY COUNCIL](http://Vision - LAIRG COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

To contact Miranda email: [developmentmanager@lairginitiative.co.uk](mailto:developmentmanager@lairginitiative.co.uk) or call 07961 372427

LAIRG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

2025-2030  
**LAIRG LOCAL PLACE PLAN**

**Thank You!**

to **Miranda at LDCI**

for securing funding for the **UPGRADES** to the **WALLS and ROOF** required on the **Broons hoose Lairg**

Local contractor **TUCKS JOINERY** has been appointed to *proceed with the works* in the coming months



## Pupils Celebrate Memorable Trip to Landmark After Fundraising Success

Children enjoyed a fantastic and well-deserved trip to Landmark Adventure Park after successfully raising an impressive £1,509 through their own sponsored walk.

The pupils worked incredibly hard to organise and complete the fundraising event, showing determination, teamwork, and a strong sense of community. Their efforts paid off, allowing them to take part in a special day out filled with fun and new experiences.

The trip itself was a great success from start to finish. Staff were delighted with the children's behaviour, which was exemplary throughout the day. They were polite, respectful, and a credit to the school, representing themselves and their community with pride.

There was something for everyone to enjoy at Landmark, and the pupils made the most of every opportunity on offer. The water slides proved to be a particular favourite, bringing lots of laughter and excitement as children returned again and again for more.



Another highlight of the day was the butterfly house, where pupils had the chance to explore a calmer environment and learn about a variety of beautiful and fascinating species.

Many children commented on how much they enjoyed seeing the butterflies up close, making it a memorable and rewarding experience.



Overall, the trip was a wonderful celebration of the children's hard work and achievement. Their fundraising success not only made the day possible but also demonstrated their ability to work together towards a shared goal.

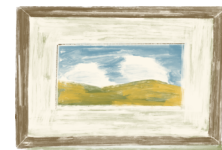
It was truly a day to remember for everyone involved.



## June Joy

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Hall throughout June, it's been busy! We were especially delighted to welcome Rachel and Holli for a fantastic evening of traditional music, host some inspiring Gaelic sessions, and run our monthly Community Market on 15th June - which saw a brilliant turnout and a wonderful selection of stallholders.

Mark your calendars for our next market on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> July.



Visitors to our next market can look forward to our signature showcase of locally sourced produce, including goat's cheese, preserves, honey, and pickles. Alongside the fresh food, there is always an array of unique, beautifully crafted handmade items to discover - from painted slates, soaps, and natural body care bars to knitting, photographic art, candles, tie-dye clothing, and felted animals.



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



Outside of these hours, please email: [lairgcommunitycentre@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## HOLIDAY

The Library has got something for both children & teens over the holidays:

**Chess Club** on Tuesdays only during the summer holidays, 4.30-5.30 for juniors and 5.30-6.30 for adults!

**Crafty Mondays**, 2-3pm for all school-aged children

**Lego Club**, Tuesdays 2-3pm

**Dungeons & Dragons**, 3-4pm

We also have the Summer Reading Challenge for all primary aged children. Read 6 books over the summer holidays and win a certificate and a medal.

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





# REAL SKILLS. REAL CONNECTION.



**PRACTICAL SKILLS.  
STRONGER COMMUNITIES.  
BUILT TOGETHER.**

**12 ACTIVITIES OVER A YEAR**

LEARN. SHARE. GROW.  
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED.  
JUST TURN UP.

**A YEAR OF HANDS-ON LEARNING,  
GOOD COMPANY & REAL RESULTS.**



**A PROGRAMME FOR MEN**  
TO LEARN, SHARE, GROW & CONNECT

**LOCHVIEW RURAL TRAINING**  
**LAIRG**

**INTERESTED?**

GET IN TOUCH TO FIND OUT MORE

✉ [cara@lochviewruraltraining.co.uk](mailto:cara@lochviewruraltraining.co.uk)

## Starting this August

Are you looking to get out of the house, meet new people, learn practical skills and spend time with other local men in a relaxed setting?

The Roots & Resilience Project at Lochview Rural Training is bringing men together on the 2nd Wednesday of every month from 12pm–3pm for informal, hands-on sessions designed to build skills, friendships and stronger community connections.

We all know that looking after our mental health is important, but talking about it isn't always easy. That's why these sessions focus on doing things together. Whether we're cooking outdoors, building something, fishing, growing food, learning a new skill or simply sharing a brew and a chat, the aim is to create a supportive environment where men can connect naturally.

The activities shown in our programme are just ideas nothing is set in stone. We'd love to hear what interests you and help shape future sessions around the skills, hobbies and experiences that local men want to explore.

- FREE to attend
- No experience needed
- Friendly, informal atmosphere
- Build friendships and connections
- Transport may be arranged if getting here is difficult

No pressure. No expectations. Just good company, practical activities and the chance to connect with others.

Learn. Share. Grow. Connect.  
Our first session will be a BBQ with firepit and time to chat.

Starting August 12th– then 2nd Wednesday of every month, 12pm–3pm

# RAFT RACE

ON LITTLE LOCH SHIN



**TEAMS OF 4** | **SATURDAY 11TH JULY 2026**

**ALL TEAMS MUST BE REGISTERED WITH A GALA COMMITTEE MEMBER BY 12 NOON**

**£100 CASH PRIZE**

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY **AGRI Rogart**

# IT'S A KNOCKOUT!

**TEAMS OF 4**

**SATURDAY 11TH JULY 2026**

**ALL TEAMS MUST BE REGISTERED WITH A GALA COMMITTEE MEMBER BY 12 NOON**

**18+ OVER 18s**

**£100 CASH PRIZE**

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY **R J McLeods**

# LAIRG GALA WEEK

## TEENAGERS' TEXAS SCRAMBLE

at **BONAR BRIDGE GOLF CLUB**

**THURSDAY 9TH JULY**

MEET AT THE MARQUEE AT **11.30AM**

**£10 PER PERSON**

**TRANSPORT PROVIDED**

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 there 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 93 of the Lairg Magazine! If you would like to submit something to the magazine, please send it to Heather at Lairg Learning Centre: [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 16<sup>th</sup> July.