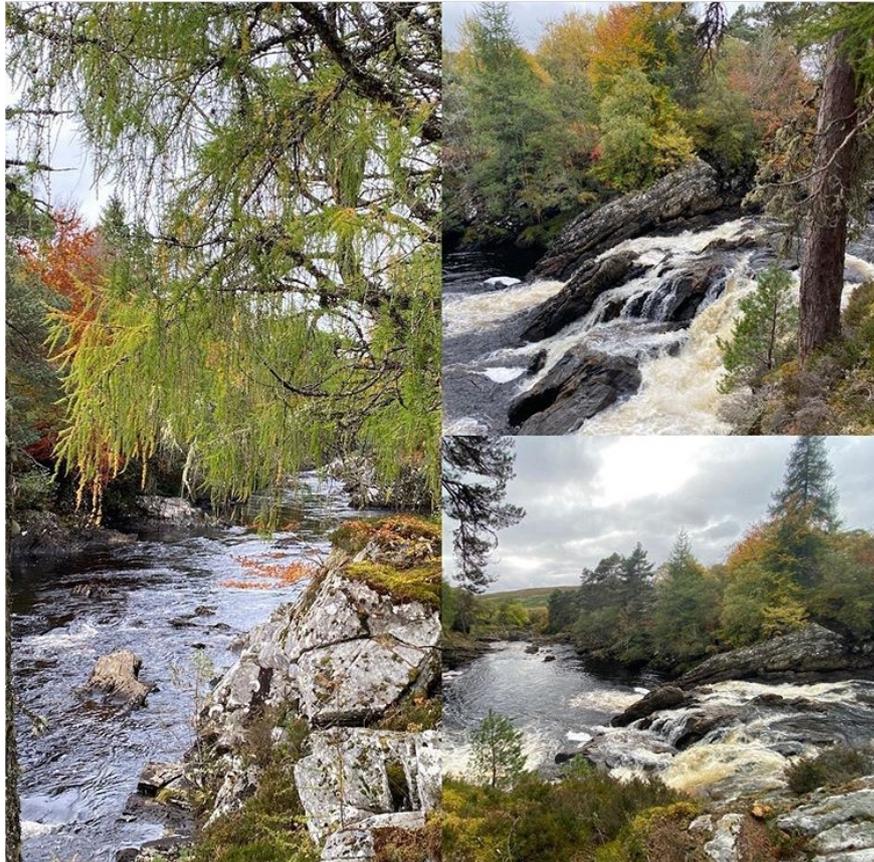


Lairg Magazine

LAIRG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



Some Autumn Colours at the Cassley Falls

We'd love to feature your photographs on the front page of the magazine - if you've taken some lovely seasonal photos that you'd be happy to share with us please email us your pics or if its easier message us on Facebook.

Contents:

Page 2 - Recipe/ News

Page 3 - Quiz

Page 4 - Reader's Entry

Page 5 - Planet Sutherland

Page 6 - Name the Faces

Page 7 - Lairg Learning Centre

Page 8 - Kids Activity



THE CROFTERS SHOW

Soup & Sweet

The Crofters Show are providing to the Parish of Lairg a Soup & Sweet delivered for £5

SATURDAY • 31 OCTOBER • 12- 2 PM

Choose from the following:

SOUP

- Tattie Soup
- Tomato & Basil Soup
- Lentil Soup

SWEET

- Caramac Cheesecake
- Pavlova
- Toblerone Cheesecake
- Banoffee Pie



Soup & Sweet

ORDER NOW

To order your Soup & Dessert please call one of the following members:

Iona Shearsmith - 07733 141530

Morag Macdonald - 07719 792966

Maureen Ross - 07928 853633

Or email - robert@johnstone.cc

Please have exact money ready on delivery

£5 Per Person

Recipe of the week

Cheesy stuffed mushrooms

Ingredients

Serves: 12

12 whole fresh mushrooms = £2.00

1 tablespoon olive oil = 25p

2 cloves garlic, minced = 50p

1 (200g) packet cream cheese, softened = £1.25

60g (2 oz) Parmesan cheese, grated = 75p

1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper

Total = £4.75

Method

Prep: 25min >

Cook: 30min >

Ready in: 55min



1. Preheat oven to 180 C / Gas mark 4. Line a baking tray with baking parchment. Clean mushrooms with a piece of damp kitchen roll. Carefully break off stems. Chop stems extremely fine, discarding tough end of stems.
 2. Heat oil in a large frying pan over medium heat. Add garlic and chopped mushroom stems to the frying pan. Sauté until any moisture has disappeared, taking care not to burn garlic. Set aside to cool.
 3. When garlic and mushroom mixture is no longer hot, stir in cream cheese, Parmesan cheese, black pepper and cayenne pepper. Mixture should be very thick. Using a little spoon, fill each mushroom cap with a generous amount of stuffing. Arrange the mushroom caps on prepared baking tray.
- Bake for 20 minutes in the preheated oven, or until the mushrooms are piping hot and liquid starts to form under caps.

The Community Larder in Ardgay

Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust have been in touch with us to ask us to share information about the Community Larder that runs at the Barn In Ardgay.

The Community Larder stocks a variety of tinned, packaged and frozen foods, mostly donated by CFINE. The larder is open to anyone in the community (including residents of Lairg & District) and is free of charge. There is no need to bring any kind of financial evidence, and you are welcome to collect for someone else too – perhaps a neighbour or relative...

If you are a keen gardener who happens to grow a surplus crop of vegetables, or if you have any tinned or packaged goods (within the use by date) that you don't need – please get in touch if you would like us to share them – as the Community Larder also aims to reduce food waste and avoid items being sent to landfill.

Due to social distancing regulations, there is an appointment only booking system. The opening times are: Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am – 2pm at:
The Barn, Drovers Square, Ardgay.
To book an appointment call 01863 766190 or send a message through the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust Facebook page. Carrier bags will be supplied.



(Answers on page 5)

1. In which country was Cliff Richard born?
2. The World Trade Centre fell on 11/9/2001 but what year was it opened?
3. Born in 2013, what is the directional name of Kim Kardashian and Kanye West's daughter called?
4. Which legendary singer married Irvin Bach in 2013?
5. Who captained the fictional submarine the Nautilus?
6. What was the most famous creation of the clergyman Wilbert Awdry?
7. What would I be using if I performed the tricks 'around the world' and 'walk the dog'?
8. In what country of the UK was King Henry VII born?
9. Whose famous speech had the words "I have a dream"?
10. What is the title of Ian Fleming's first novel?
11. Who was in charge of the Royal Navy at the battle of Jutland?
12. To which tribe did the American native chief Geronimo belong?
13. The Kon-Tiki museum is in what capital European City?
14. In the TV programme "Hart to Hart", what are the first names of the eponymous couple?
15. What colour was the ribbon tied around the Old Oak Tree according to the hit by Dawn?
16. Which board game was devised by Anthony E Pratt in 1943 and was first manufactured by Waddingtons?
17. What is the 1983 musical film directed, co-written, co-produced and starring Barbara Streisand?
18. What is the thinner bone of the human forearm called?
19. Whose home ground is Tannadice Park?
20. Who is the Goddess of love in Roman mythology?

Missing Dog Found Safe

As reported in the last issue, a small dachshund had gone astray near Gruids. We're delighted to report that after nearly a week missing the dog Llew was found safe and well. His owner Arwel Thomas said, "My family and I wish to extend a huge thank you to all of you who helped big or small in getting my little dog back.

The community has been overwhelming and fantastic. Truly you are salt of the earth, kind hearted people and we have a huge gratitude to everyone."

Whisky Galore! Review by Kaye Hurrion

(A true story)

Having seeing the Ealing Comedy Film adaptation of this story, I mentioned to a friend that I had not read the book. He promptly produced his copy and gave it to me to read.

Compton Mackenzie wrote the screenplay for the film, it sticks very closely to his original story, which was first published in 1947.

I knew this story was based on a real-life incident that occurred in 1941 on the Hebridean island of Eriskay when the SS Politician ran aground. I didn't know the extent of cargo in the hold because Compton Mackenzie's story focuses on the whisky. The cargo not only included cases of malt whisky but other trade goods headed for Jamaica and New Orleans.

Official files released by The National Archives showed that it was also carrying a sum of cash, nearly 290,000 ten shilling notes, which today would be worth the equivalent of several million pounds.

The British Government were not too worried about the money at the time and were focused on retrieving the whisky as they thought the money would never be recovered, and even if it was it would not reach the mainland. How wrong they were, bank notes from the shipwreck not only started turning up on the British mainland as far as Liverpool, but some even turned up in Jamaica! Because of this the Blue ten shilling note was withdrawn from circulation in 1952 and replaced with a purple one.

As for the whisky in the book and film, the locals play a game of cat and mouse with Custom and Excise Officers who are trying to locate the missing whisky. The amount was increased for the story to 50,000 barrels, where in fact it was 28,000 barrels. The chase to recover it and catching the locals is true, however, unlike the story where the locals outsmart the Officers, the truth is, many of the locals were arrested. Customs and Excise also seized boats of those they suspected of taking part. They pushed for the serious charges under the punitive customs legislation, which would have carried long jail sentences, but the local authorities charged those arrested with theft.

Many were found not guilty or not proven and several were fined. Nineteen men were incarcerated at Inverness Prison for terms ranging between 20 days and two months.

Salvage crews were then sent to recover as much of the ship cargo as they could, and that included the last of the whisky that was left in the hold, which they raised and sent back to their bonded warehouse where this was again looted.

During the salvage operation part of the ship's hold and her stern, were cut away and sank to the bottom of Eriskay Sound; the remainder of the hold was destroyed by gelignite to prevent further looting.

Most of the whisky that was found by the locals of the island Eriskay was either drunk by the islanders or given away.



The SS Politician
By Source (WP:NFC#4), Fair use, <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?>

Hopefully you're enjoying our wee additions to this newsletter. Please do feel free to get in touch if you have any questions or want to start looking at new projects or events and join Planet Sutherland. We are a welcoming group striving to have some fun and to help us all to cope better with these crises we're living through just now. Our projects and get togethers (on line) are all climate or environment focused, simply helping us all do a little more to help the planet.

First, some local news: We are delighted with the outcomes of the Lairg Primary School Polytunnel restoration. Before the covid restrictions set in, the volunteer team worked incredibly hard to remove a dead peach tree and to obsessively remove every scrap of ground elder. Ready to start growing, of course we were frustrated when everything then halted. However as soon as restrictions eased, new soil was added and we planted out dwarf green beans, purple kale, romanesco cauliflowers, melons, tomatoes, lettuce, rainbow chard, novel courgettes, peppers and squash plants which we'd been growing at our own homes.

With support and guidance, the children are now responsible for maintaining the health of the crops and harvesting them. They've also been enjoying steamed beans and chard prepared by the school cook. As well as the obvious learning opportunities, the resource has helped keep classes of children distanced from each other in accordance with guidance on Covid 19 safety.

Lesley has expressed her sincere gratitude to everyone involved with the project and we certainly are delighted to have made such a worthwhile contribution to school life!

Thanks are due to Lesley for a donation from the school gardening fund, to Lairg Community Council for approval of funding from their small grants fund, to local residents for the donation of plants, to the fire brigade for filling up the watering container and to Lairg Learning Centre for pallets to hold the container.

A true community venture! And what else?

Well we're currently building a polytunnel at Gledfield Primary, all under Covid restrictions. We've had a great response to our Sutherland Orchard Survey which you can still take part in on our web site, and we're working with SCCAN (Scottish Communities Climate Action Network) building a programme for their Highlands & Islands Regional Networking meeting on 5th Dec – save the date. The Highland Council also have a Climate Event coming soon. Please have a look at www.planetsutherland.com for details of these and our other news and events info or to join us and get more detailed news.



LDCI Quiz Answers

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. India | 8. Wales | 15. Yellow |
| 2. 1973 | 9. Martin Luther King | 16. Cluedo |
| 3. North | 10. Casino Royale | 17. Yentl |
| 4. Tina Turner | 11. Admiral Jellicoe | 18. Ulna |
| 5. Captain Nemo | 12. The Apache | 19. Dundee United |
| 6. Thomas the Tank Engine | 13. Oslo, Norway | 20. Venus |
| 7. Yoyo | 14. Jennifer and Jonathan | |

How did you do?

1-5/20

Poor

5-10/20

Okay

10-15/20

Good

15-20/20

Excellent

Name the Faces

Many thanks to Donnie MacDonald for sending us this photos below - can you recognise anyone?





Lairg & District Learning Centre

An Update from Manager, Rhionna Mackay

As the UK went into full lockdown in March we closed our doors temporarily but indefinitely, converted all staff to home working and moved all of our learning online and at a distance. At the time we had no real understanding of how long this might be for or what the next six months might look like. The panic purchases of whatever laptops were available, the 'see you in a few months' comments as we waved each other out the door and turning the heating down for the coming spring and summer sometimes feel even longer than seven months ago.

We've spent the time since then learning what works and what doesn't for online and digital delivery and upskilling the staff so they can work from home, interact digitally and remotely and still continue to deliver the projects that we have been funded to deliver.

This has all been an incredibly steep learning curve for the staff and our tutors who are currently delivering digital learning with us. None of us had used Zoom before and had limited experience of making video calls, we didn't know much about recording or editing videos, many of us were scared of talking on camera. However, we feel it is all working well and we are still engaging with existing and new students each week.

What's next?

At the moment we are delivering everything digitally and we expect that this will continue for the next 6 – 9 months, we made a brief attempt at being able to deliver some face to face learning and some one-to-one support but the continually changing situation has meant this is no longer feasible to do this, so to keep everyone as safe as possible we are planning digital delivery by default for the coming months. (We'll provide more detail about what we've been doing in the next issue of the magazine.)

What the past seven months have shown us is that there is a need and a requirement for digital delivery to be included in the way we deliver our learning opportunities and experiences beyond the pandemic. Digital delivery is something that our staff and many of our students have embraced and it is something we will continue to do to complement our face to face learning when the time comes to start this up again.

We recognise that lots of people will struggle to access our digital learning opportunities which is why we are able to offer dedicated support for people who may want to set up an email account, learn to use social media such as Facebook or to join a Zoom call. If this is you please get in touch.

We hope you all stay safe and are able to take part in some digital learning and activities or feel confident to reach out to us to ask for help to take part online.

Contact details for support with digital skills

Email admin@lairglearningcentre.org.uk or call 01549 402050 and leave a message as the phone is not being diverted, we will get back to you within a week.

Make an autumn collage!

Here's an excuse to go outside and collect some autumn leaves! Even the youngest children can make a pretty autumn collage that you will be proud to display...

You will need:

Autumn leaves
Paper
Glue
Pens



Instructions:

See www.activityvillage.co.uk/autumn-collage for more activities

Press your leaves for a couple of days by slipping them between sheets of newspaper under a heavy book.

Arrange your leaves on paper and glue in place, and add any further decoration you like with pens, crayons or pencils. You could also use glitter or even stickers to make your autumn collage special and original.

Email us a photo of your collages to projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk - we'd love to see them and share them in the magazine. We'd also love to see your photos of autumn colours or if you are lucky enough to spot some wildlife. We might even put them on the front page of the magazine! Here's a photo of a hedgehog that took a wee stroll through my garden! (Editor).



Fun Facts!

Did you know that the hedgehogs in the UK that do hibernate, they are one of only three animals who do hibernate?

When they hibernate, their heartbeats drop from 190 beats per minute to 20 beats per minute and their body temperature drops. Sadly, because of this, lots of them can die during the winter months. But that's not the only reason; they can die from fire, floods or someone wrecking their nests. Be careful where you walk and look out for nests. They often hibernate in compost heaps or piles of garden litter, so before you go digging or lighting a bonfire, keep a sharp look out for a little hedgehog nest.

This magazine is funded by:



Thank you for reading issue 26 of the Lairg Magazine! If you would like to put something in the magazine, please send it to the contact details below. We are very much open to ideas and suggestions, so please get in touch by emailing: projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk. Phone for Chair Kaye: 07500453301, Vice Chair Norman: 07742025719 or write to us at Schoolhouse, Main Street, Lairg, IV27 4DD