

# Lairg Magazine

LAIRG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



Photograph by Dr Steven Andrews

## Flow Country Consultation

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The Flow Country Partnership is taking its project on the road for a 16-day consultation tour of Caithness and Sutherland.

The Flow Country is the most intact and extensive blanket bog system in the world and this remarkable place is so important that it could soon join Victoria Falls and The Rocky Mountains on UNESCO's World Heritage Site list.

The Flow Country partnership, which includes Highland Council, wants to share the progress that has been made with this project and hear your thoughts on what a World Heritage Site could bring to the area.

The Flow Country is being nominated for the world class blanket bog it contains and the specialised biodiversity it supports. Please see page 8 for more details about how you can have your say.

# Recipe of the week

## 30 - Minute Pizza Pasta Bake

### Ingredients:

500 g potato gnocchi or any dried pasta  
100 g sliced pepperoni  
1 tbsp. olive oil  
1 red onion, thinly sliced  
100 g button mushrooms, sliced  
1 green pepper, thinly sliced  
1 x 400 g tin of chopped tomatoes  
Salt and pepper, to taste  
150 g cheese  
1/2 tsp. dried oregano and Basil  
1/2 tsp. dried chilli flakes (optional)  
Fresh oregano leaves, to serve



Cook gnocchi/pasta in large saucepan of boiling water, until just tender, following the packet instructions.

Meanwhile, reserve 8 pepperoni slices. Cut the remaining pepperoni slices into quarters.

Heat oil in an ovenproof frying pan over medium-high heat. Add onion, mushroom, pepper and quartered pepperoni. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 5-7 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Add tin of chopped tomatoes. Bring to the boil. Reduce heat and simmer, stirring occasionally, for 5-7 minutes or until mixture thickens. Season with salt and pepper. Stir in gnocchi/pasta.

Preheat grill on high. Sprinkle gnocchi/pasta with cheese. Top with reserved pepperoni, dried oregano and chilli flakes, if you like. Grill for 4-5 minutes or until cheese is golden. Sprinkle with fresh oregano to serve.

## ★ WANTED ★



## VOLUNTEERS! TO HELP CLEAN UP LAIRG CEMETERY

PLEASE BRING LAWNMOWERS, STRIMMERS, HOES  
FOR WEEDING, AND YOUR OWN GARDENING GLOVES

4TH JUNE 2022 | FROM 10AM - 1PM



## QUEEN'S JUBILEE HEALTH WALK & TEA

Join us to celebrate the  
Queen's 70th Jubilee

Thursday 2 June 2022

Meet at 2pm for a Health Walk at Ferrycroft

Or if you can't come to the walk join us at 3pm  
at the new Church Hill woods shelter for a Jubilee Tea  
All Welcome!

RSVP to [projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk](mailto:projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk)

1. What was the most popular name for boys born in Scotland in 2021?
2. 'Old Man River' is the nickname for which American river?
3. Who became the new leader of the Conservative Party in 2005?
4. Which football club's home ground is Loftus Road, known as Kiyon Prince Foundation Stadium since 2019?
5. Who wrote the poem "If"?
6. Which is the only Sea without a shore?
7. Which Musical features the character Eliza Doolittle?
8. In the human body, what does a tendon do?
9. What colourful nickname was given to fitness guru Diana Moran?
10. Brandon Flowers is the lead singer of which band?
11. Which country music singer, who initially thought she would be ineligible, will be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in November?
12. Who was the original host of University Challenge?
13. What type of fish is the principal ingredient used to make Stargazy pie?
14. What nationality is the actress Penelope Cruz?
15. What is the name of the Hubble Space Telescope successor, hoped to give us pictures of the very first stars in the universe?
16. Which metal has the chemical symbol Sn?
17. Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie died at which battle in Texas in 1836?
18. How many sides does a tridecagon have?
19. Which is older, Backgammon or Chess?
20. What is the most popular name for girls born in Scotland in 2021?



Penelope Cruz by Joelle Maslaton



## Hand Made Poppy Appeal

A big thank you to everyone who has been sending in their gorgeous knitted, felted and crocheted poppies for the celebration of the **Lairg War Memorial Centenary** which will be held on Friday the 30th September. We are very grateful for them so please keep them coming! As mentioned previously the poppies can be any size, any shade of red and any material - although they should be able to withstand the weather as they will be part of an outdoor display. Poppies can be dropped off at Lairg & District Learning Centre, Lairg Library and at the Rusty Co.



Lairg Primary School held their Annual Sport's Day on the 4th May. We were delighted to be able to invite parents back into the school grounds. There was a large turnout of friends, parents and carers there to support the children.

Last year the grounds were closed to visitors and the year before a virtual Sport's Day took place.

Throughout the morning pupils were split into groups and competed in 'field events' such as the caber, weight for distance, welly wagging, high jump and long jump.

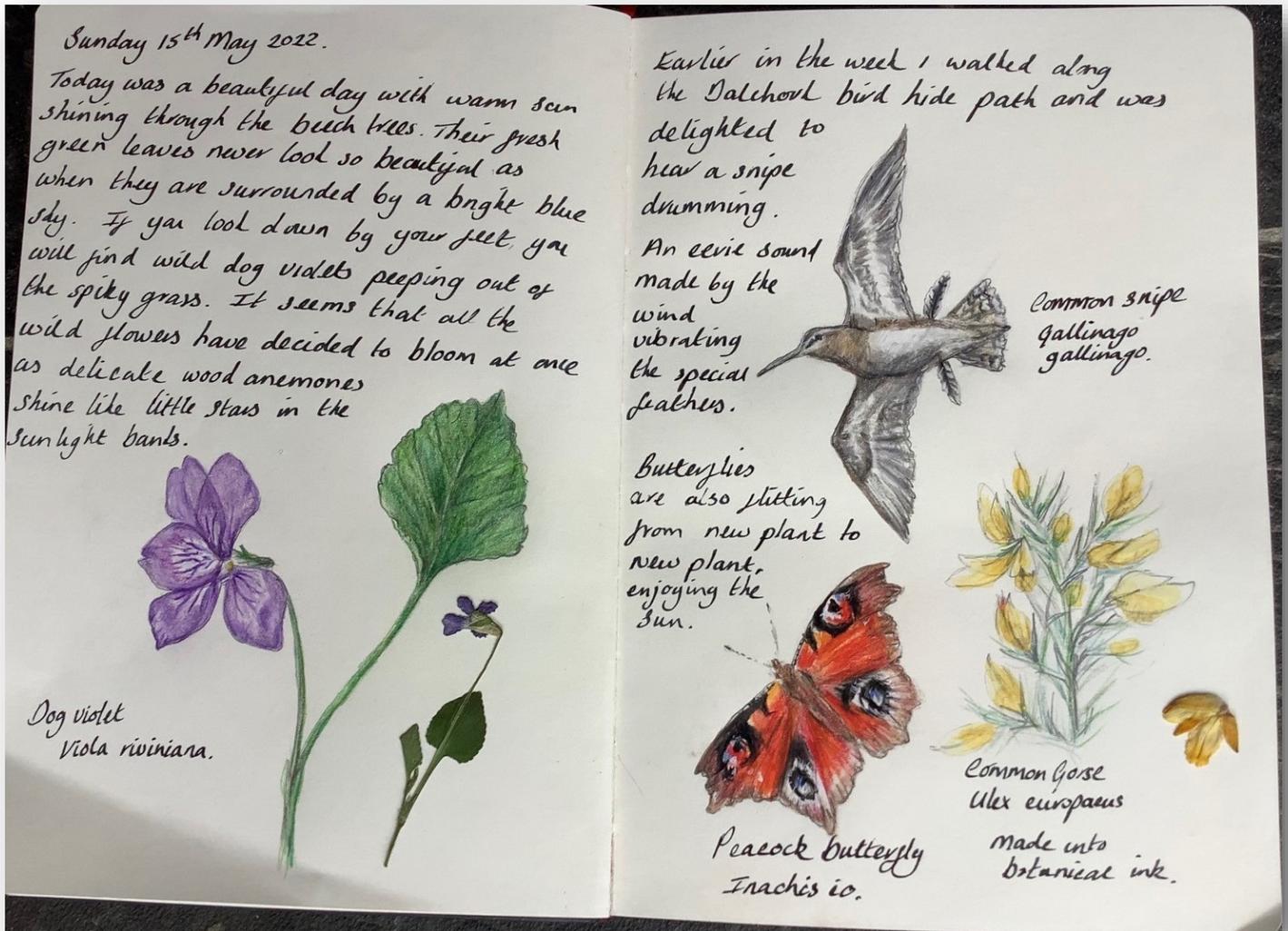
In the afternoon, the school held traditional sports day races, such as 'tattie and spoon', 'sack race' as well as a parent race. Sport's leaders from P6 and 7 led the sport's afternoon and organised the races.

The children also took part in an obstacle race working in mixed groups from nursery up to P7 where the winners were the group to lose the 'least water' in a cup!



Thank you to local artist Jan Blackwell for allowing us to print excerpts of her illustrations and notes from her own journal. Here is May's diary entry. If you would like to see more of her work you can follow her on Facebook and Instagram. See:

[www.facebook.com/janblackwellhighlandjournal/](http://www.facebook.com/janblackwellhighlandjournal/) and [www.instagram.com/highland\\_journal\\_art/](http://www.instagram.com/highland_journal_art/)



### LDCI Quiz Answers

- |                        |                                   |                                |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Jack                | 8. Connects muscle to bone        | 15. James Webb Space Telescope |
| 2. Mississippi         | 9. The Green Goddess              | 16. Tin                        |
| 3. David Cameron       | 10. The Killers                   | 17. Battle of the Alamo        |
| 4. Queens Park Rangers | 11. Dolly Parton                  | 18. 13                         |
| 5. Rudyard Kipling     | 12. Bamber Gascoigne              | 19. Backgammon                 |
| 6. Sargasso Sea        | 13. Baked pilchards (or sardines) | 20. Olivia                     |
| 7. My Fair Lady        | 14. Spanish                       |                                |

### How did you do?

1-5/20	5-10/20	10-15/20	15-10/20
Poor	Okay	Good	Excellent

## No Mow May

It's thrilling to see all the beasties flying around the garden.. although, perhaps not so those that slime across the ground and seem to be eating all the carrot seeds! May is truly the time to see an increase in growth, being able to get tomatoes and peppers planted in the polytunnels, and looking forward to fresh grown lettuce. May is promoted as "no-mow-may" month, it's about leaving the dandelions and other "weeds" in your lawn to grow, providing food for bees and other insects. Perhaps simply leaving an un-mown strip at the edge of the lawn would work for you?



## Seed & Plant Swap

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> May saw a local seed & garden swap take place in Ardgay Hall. We had a truly successful day with lots of trees, wild flowers, herbs, house plants, books, pots, sheep wool for mulching, and veg for indoors and out and of course, seeds. With about 45 folks turning up, we will certainly be planning similar again soon. Lots of gardening chat took place too with topics from composting and mulching, to how to grow flowers and veg and with some labels lost... we were grateful to the plant identification experts! Folks were also able to pop round to the community polytunnel for more growing advice and ideas. Perhaps we could do the same in Lairg soon? Do please get in touch if you're interested.

## Highland Climate Festival - 25<sup>th</sup> June - 4<sup>th</sup> July

The upcoming Highland Climate Festival is being co-ordinated by Highland Adapts and the North Highland Climate Hub. It will celebrate all the great stuff that's going on in the Highlands which is helping with the climate crises. Perhaps you have an idea that you'd like to see move forward, whether that's about recycling, energy use, food growing, composting, active travel etc. We're planning a number of events as part of the festival, so please do get in touch if you'd like to help organise something or simply to come along to our carbon cafes to discuss what we could do. There's more info available on this here: <https://highlandadapts.scot/highland-climate-festival/>

**Hot Desking**  
LAIRG & DISTRICT LEARNING CENTRE

A flexible co-working space at Lairg & District Learning Centre on the main street in Lairg available to anyone looking for workspace

- ✓ Shared working desk space or full office
- ✓ Access to meeting rooms & conference room
- ✓ Unlimited tea and coffee
- ✓ Scanning and printing services
- ✓ Discount on LDLC classes and events
- ✓ Quick and reliable wifi

If you would be interested in using our Hot Desking service please email [rebecca@lairglearningcentre.org.uk](mailto:rebecca@lairglearningcentre.org.uk)

**LAIRG & DISTRICT learning centre**



## Goodbye Rhionna & Welcome to Aileen!

Spring has sprung and we're happy to see all the new buds and flowers that have popped up and lots of new learning opportunities including:-

25 May Make Your Own Swiftbox -Woodworking Class 10am – 2pm

28 May Foraging & Soup Making Workshop 10am -1pm

29 May Make Personalised Drink Holders from a Wetsuit 10am – 1pm

18 June Make Your Own Veg Storage Box - Woodworking Class 10am – 2pm

From 6th June – 4-week Introduction to Gaelic online

This spring also brings with it some changes at Lairg & District Learning Centre. Our manager Rhionna Mackay is finishing up at the end of May to take on an exciting new challenge, running her own business The Sutherland Adventure Company. I'm sure you'll join us in wishing Rhionna all the best in her new venture.

We are also welcoming our new manager, Aileen Ogilvie. Aileen has just returned to the Highlands after 18 years in the Perth and Kinross area working in different roles within culture, heritage, community learning & development and most recently Gaelic development.

Take a look at Eventbrite for further information on our classes

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/lairg-amp-district-learning-centre-30464311808> or contact us on 01549 402050 and [admin@lairglearningcentre.org.uk](mailto:admin@lairglearningcentre.org.uk).

## Big Jubilee Community Bunting Making Session

Join the community effort to make bunting to decorate Lairg for the Queen's 70th Jubilee celebration. Come along to the Learning Centre's 'Maker Space' on Tuesday 24th May, from 10am-12pm or from 6-8pm.

## Flow Country Consultation (continued from front page...)

World Heritage listing would be an incredible accolade for the area and the communities that live and work there, and it is hoped it will also bring economic benefits. To find out more about the project and share your thoughts, the partnership would be delighted to welcome you along to one of its drop-in events (see timetable below).

There will be maps, videos and plenty of information about the work the partnership is doing, as well as opportunities to contribute your ideas to the consultation. There will also be plenty of tea and coffee.

If you cannot make it along to one of the drop-in events, you can also share your thoughts by visiting our online consultation from Monday 9th May: <https://flowcountry.commonplace.is/>

### DATES AND VENUES FOR DROP-IN EVENTS

All venues 11am – 7pm

25th May - Altnaharra Hotel

| 26th May - Kildonan Community Hall

27th May - Halladale Hall, Strath Halladale

| 30th May - Lairg Community Centre

**The Lairg Community Market** took place on Monday 16th May, in the Main Hall of the Community Centre. We had so many stalls selling amazing things made, grown and produced locally. Refreshments were also available for a small charitable donation. We are so lucky to have the vast array of stalls that we do! Such talented folk!

The market has, amongst other things....Charity fundraising stalls selling jams and preserves, raising money for Marie Curie, and arts and crafts raising money for the Hedgehog Sanctuary. Come along next month and find out more about what they do for our prickly friends!

There were, as usual, so many wonderful unique, handmade items: Wood-turned objects, Herbal teas, Skin Care products, Goats Cheese, locally produced meat and wonderful plants too. There are too many stalls to mention, so you'll have to come along and see for yourselves! It's held on the third Monday of every month from 1:30 - 4pm.

If you would like a stall or for more information contact us on 01549 402843 week day mornings or on [lairgcommunitycentre@gmail.com](mailto:lairgcommunitycentre@gmail.com).



## Versus Arthritis Health Walk

The next LDCI Health Walk will be held on Tuesday 24th May. We will meet at 10.30am at Ferrycroft. As ever, the walk is open to all abilities, but we would particularly like to encourage more people with chronic illnesses such as arthritis to be able to join our walks to see if becoming more active could help with your health and wellbeing ... Even if you don't feel able to join the walk—why not meet us afterwards at 11.30am for a coffee at the Ferrycroft Visitor Centre to find out more? (It will be LDCI's treat!)

9th May 1860. J. M. Barrie was born in Kirriemuir, Scotland.

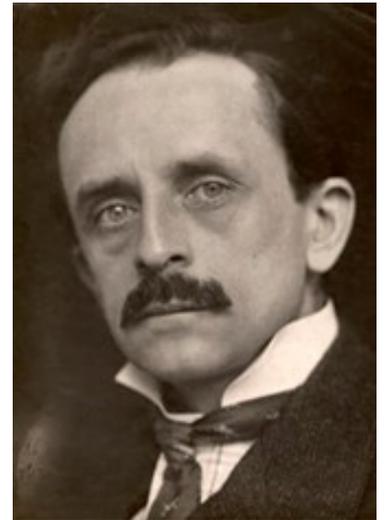
Sir James Matthew Barrie, 1st Baronet, O.M. was a Scottish novelist and playwright, best remembered as the creator of Peter Pan.

---oOo---

J. M. BARRIE  
Peter Pan author

J.M Barrie's father was a handloom weaver and James was the ninth of ten children. After graduating from Edinburgh University, he moved to London to seek his fortune in the world of literature and theatre. His first lodgings were in Grenville Street, behind Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH). It was this house that became the inspiration for the Darlings' family home. In 1894, he married the actress Mary Ansell.

Barrie was the author of Peter Pan, but he credited five boys with inspiring the tale: George, John (Jack), Peter, Michael and Nicholas. Barrie first met young George and Jack while walking in Kensington Gardens in 1898. Charmed by the boys, he also grew close to their mother, Sylvia (their father, Arthur, was less impressed by Barrie). Barrie began to invite the family to vacation at his estate, where the time he spent playing with the children gave him the idea for Peter Pan's adventures.



Cricket seemed to be the choice of sport for many famed British authors, artists and politicians of the late 19th century. So much so, that the author of Peter Pan, Sir James M. Barrie, founded an amateur celebrity cricket team that included several acclaimed writers, consisting of: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (creator of Sherlock Holmes), J. R. Kipling (creator of The Jungle Book), H. G. Wells (The War of the Worlds), A. A. Milne (Winnie the Pooh), P. G. Woodhouse, and G. K. Chesterton.

Barrie generously allocated the rights to Peter Pan to Great Ormond Street Hospital, a bequest that was confirmed after his death in 1937.



## Church Hill Woods Improvements

As part of LDCI's ongoing commitment to look after and make improvements to the community owned Church Hill woods area, LDCI has recently had a bike repair station installed which is free to use for any cyclists living in or cycling through the community. The repair station was funded through the Sustrans Art Roots programme which aims to make improvements along the National Cycle Network and to encourage more people to travel by bike or foot .

Please feel free to make use of the repair station whenever you need to!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS:**  
Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

# MERRY MONTH OF MAY

## Word Search

- BASEBALL
- BLOSSOM
- BUMBLEBEE
- BUTTERFLY
- CINCO DE MAYO
- FLOWERS



E	B	H	C	Q	Q	U	Z	O	K	W	G	E	M	I	N	I	P	J
N	O	Y	A	M	E	D	O	C	N	I	C	S	G	O	G	D	J	Y
I	L	Y	P	A	V	D	J	T	J	L	Y	A	G	P	L	A	N	T
H	X	L	B	V	N	M	Y	A	D	S	R	E	H	T	O	M	G	E
S	E	E	D	S	Q	M	O	I	L	D	I	I	L	T	E	Q	L	F
N	E	C	J	I	Y	E	D	M	E	E	W	C	S	L	L	N	I	K
U	C	D	L	Q	W	M	G	N	I	R	P	S	Q	N	O	N	N	U
S	U	K	N	O	I	O	E	X	Q	S	U	V	C	F	P	L	H	A
Q	W	P	E	E	S	R	E	N	K	F	Z	G	P	A	Y	A	Z	G
H	O	H	O	S	E	I	B	L	D	Y	L	F	T	A	A	R	F	L
M	M	F	E	H	V	A	E	B	C	V	O	H	T	U	M	E	O	F
N	U	Q	C	F	S	L	L	N	U	H	X	A	Q	V	L	W	L	F
A	E	A	L	E	O	D	B	B	E	T	N	T	I	S	M	O	S	C
G	E	E	B	A	H	A	M	Z	L	I	T	A	M	D	W	M	Y	X
T	F	A	R	L	D	Y	U	B	P	O	E	E	N	E	S	N	W	D
Q	L	Z	F	G	M	Y	B	I	N	S	S	J	R	N	R	W	C	W
L	B	Y	O	D	A	B	B	P	A	T	Z	S	S	F	H	A	Y	Z
I	Y	Y	Z	T	A	U	R	U	S	G	O	E	O	O	L	L	S	G
Y	O	O	Q	F	I	S	K	R	G	F	D	G	U	M	Y	Y	R	J

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| GARDEN       | MOTHER'S DAY |
| GEMINI       | PIÑATA       |
| GREEN        | PLANT        |
| LADYBUG      | SEEDS        |
| LAWNMOWER    | SPRING       |
| MAYPOLE      | SUNSHINE     |
| MEMORIAL DAY | TAURUS       |
| MOM          | TEACHER      |

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Thank you for reading issue 47 of the Lairg Magazine! If you would like to submit something to the magazine, please send it to: [projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk](mailto:projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk).

Phone: 07961 372 427 write to us at: Schoolhouse, Main Street, Lairg, IV27 4DD