

# Lairg Magazine

LAIRG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



'Winter Wonderland' photo by Mick Auvache

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## **A cold start to 2023!**

Welcome to the first Lairg Magazine of 2023! We hope that everyone has had an enjoyable time over the festive season...

With the cold snap that we are having right now it might be tempting to follow the lead of some of our animal friends and hibernate for the next couple of months - but that would be a mistake! There are lots of different events, activities and social opportunities being provided by various different community groups in Lairg that are taking place over the next month or so... Keep reading inside to find out more!

You'll notice that the monthly Quiz is now a bit shorter - moving forward there will now be 10 questions instead of 20 - so no excuses for not taking the time to test your brain! Thank you to Jayne for tirelessly coming up with the questions each month.



## Lairg Lunch Club

After having to take a break during the Covid pandemic, the 'Lairg Lunch Club' started back up in September 2022. The club meets every Thursday during the school term in the Shin Suite in the Community Centre. Anyone can join the club, the membership fee is £6 per term, and £5 per week. For this you will receive a hot two-course meal cooked in the Lairg Primary canteen, followed by a dessert and tea or coffee, served up by Doreen Mackay and her



team of dedicated volunteers! (The membership fee also contributes towards the annual Christmas lunch at The Pier. )

Free transport to and from the community centre is provided on an accessible minibus for those who require it.

There is still some space if you would like to come along and try out the Lunch Club - please call LDCI on 07961 372 427 or email [projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk](mailto:projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk) to book.

The Lunch Club is subsidised thanks to funding from NHS Highland and the Lairg Community Windfarm Fund.

## Lairg Gala Week

Lairg Gala Week has two fundraising events happening on the same day on the 18th February, so come along to whichever one suits you best - or even better - come along to both! There will also be a meeting this Saturday the 21st January in the Community Centre from 10.30am - 12.30 pm - join us to give your ideas for this year's Gala Week. Refreshments and juice (and Bouncy Castle!) provided!



# QUIZ TIME!

1. Which British naturalist is famous for TV series such as 'Life on Earth' and 'The Trials of Life'?
2. Which comic book originally featured the character Dan Dare?
3. What year will be the next leap year?
4. What was the name of The Beatles' first studio album, released in 1963?
5. King Charles III coronation is to be held in which month?
6. Which musician from the group Queen was given a Knighthood in the New Years' honours list?
7. How many pecks make up a bushel?
8. Which Scottish footballer has the most caps?
9. Which spirit provides the alcoholic content in a Cuba Libre?
10. Which American State is known as 'The Sunshine State'?

## Lairg Health Walks

Have you set a New Year's resolution to be more active? Are you trying to reach a target to achieve a certain amount of steps each day? If so, why not join us for the next Lairg Health Walk which will be held on **Thursday the 26th January**. (Weather Permitting!) We will meet at Ferrycroft Car Park at **10.30am**.

We have a small group of regular walkers that meet once a month, but we would love to welcome more people to our group. After the walk we tend to go for a coffee and a chat - either at The Pier or the Ferrycroft Visitor Centre, or in the summer we take flasks and enjoy refreshments in the fresh air. We also sometimes go off for walks in other areas, and we're hoping to do more of that this year. The walks are for people of all abilities - so don't worry if you don't feel amazingly fit. We also have some walking poles that we would be happy to lend you if you would like some support. Please email [projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk](mailto:projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk) or call 07961 372427 if you would like any info.

## Recipe for under a Fiver



### Haddock & Kale Kedgeree

#### Ingredients:

250g Smoked Haddock £2.50  
 200g Basmati Rice £0.44  
 4 Eggs £0.76  
 25g Butter  
 1 tbsp oil  
 1 small onion, finely chopped £0.30  
 100g Kale, washed £0.43  
 2 tsp curry powder  
 Salt and Black Pepper  
 Total cost - £4.43

#### Method:

Place the haddock in a pan and cover with 500ml water and a little seasoning. Bring to a gentle simmer and cook for around 5 minutes. Remove the fish, draining well and set aside. Stir the rice into the cooking liquid and bring to the boil. Reduce heat and simmer gently for 10 minutes. Turn off the heat and leave so that the rice absorbs all the liquid. While the rice is cooking, hard boil the eggs. Shell once cooked. Melt the butter and oil in a large pan and sauté the onion and kale until tender. Add the curry powder and cook for a couple more minutes. Add the cooked rice and seasoning. Remove the skin and flake the fish into the rice and cook for a couple of minutes. Cut the eggs into quarters and add to the pan. Cover with a lid and heat gently for 2-3 minutes until the eggs are warm.



The pupils of Lairg Primary School were excited to perform the musical pantomime, 'Cinderella Rockerfella'. Cinderella Rockerfella retells the story of Cinderella with a modern twist. There was lots of audience participation, catchy songs, and hilarious characters.



The ugly sisters, played by Lewis Morrison and Cathal Poole kept the audience amused with their wit and humour. Cinders was played by Katie Dick and Elise Vinni played a moody Rocky. The likeable character Buttons was played by Danny Macleay. The Fairy Godmother, Lola Mackay and evil Fairy Nasty Boots, Imogen Wood sang beautifully.

The impressive backdrop was designed by our artistic stage designers, Gwyneth Fiddian and Anastaicia Biswas. Props were designed by Anwen Fiddian who also took over the role of 'Cassie' Button's loyal dog, at the last minute!



P4/5 took on roles such as, the Fairy Brigade and villagers. David Jeffrey was a hilarious chef, throwing rockbuns at the audience. P1-3 entertained us with colourful animal costumes and their dance group showed off amazing dance moves to the crowd. Nursery pupils made fantastic crowns and dressed up like royalty for the day.





Everybody agreed that the show was a great success. The staff and pupils thoroughly enjoyed finally performing live for parents and carers.



By Lesley Morrison and Gwyneth Fiddian

We're looking forward to welcoming everyone back to the Learning Centre this year for new classes and learning opportunities.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> Jan – How to Set Up Eventbrite 10:30am – 12:30pm**

Join the Lairg & District Learning Centre as we teach you how to make an Eventbrite Profile and Event.

This will include how to make an Event completely from scratch, from the initial set-up right through to publishing and marketing your event.

### **25<sup>th</sup> Jan – The Songs of Rabbie Burns 2pm – 3.30pm (Free)**

Join us at LDLC for a fun free singing session to celebrate the birthday of Robert Burns led by our manager (and singer) Aileen Ogilvie. No previous experience of singing necessary.

### **28<sup>th</sup> Jan - Make a Slow Cooker " Haybox" 11am – 3pm**

Bring along any scraps of material and wadding, as Jo shows you how to make a Haybox. A haybox is a thermally insulated box/bag that utilises the heat of the food being cooked to complete the cooking process. This is a great way to reduce fabric waste.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Feb – Sutherland History and Language 7 – 8pm for 8 weeks**

Sutherland is one of the largest areas of northern Scotland, with a history as long and diverse as any other. From old settlements, to the empty landscapes, this area is rich in history, culture and legend and has its own uniqueness.

### **10<sup>th</sup> Feb – Celtic Mythology 7 – 8pm for 8 weeks**

The Celts left Scotland with a rich and vibrant oral tradition of mythology and stories carried from generation to generation and their mark is still left stamped on Scotland today.

### **14<sup>th</sup> Feb – Emergency First Aid at Work - Pittentrail Hall Rogart 9am – 3pm**

This one day course covers the basics of assessing casualties and dealing with emergencies so that you learn how to deal with a range of accidents.

### **Lairg Gaelic Gathering**

On Sunday the **26<sup>th</sup> February** we're hosting Lairg Gaelic Gathering at Lairg Community Centre as part of Seachdain na Gàidhlig (World Gaelic Week). You don't need to speak Gaelic to attend, this event is open to all. Join us from 2pm – 4.30pm for a traditional Cèilidh featuring music, stories, song & more celebrating Sutherland's Gaelic Heritage. More info to follow.

Our Usual Drop In Sessions are on too:

IT Drop In 9.30am – 11am

Maker Space 11.30am – 1.30pm and  
6pm – 8pm

Contact us on  
[admin@lairglearningcentre.org.uk](mailto:admin@lairglearningcentre.org.uk) or  
01549 402050 for more details.





**Born 31 January 1762: Lachlan Macquarie of [Ulva](#), off the coast of the Isle of Mull.**

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Major General Lachlan Macquarie C.B.  
*Fifth Governor of New South Wales, Australia*



**Lachlan Macquarie**

Major General Lachlan Macquarie, [C.B.](#) was a British Army officer and colonial administrator. He served as the fifth Governor of New South Wales from 1810-1821 and had a leading role in the social, economic, and architectural development of the colony. He played a major role in the shaping of Australian society in the early nineteenth century.

Between 1788 and 1868 more than 162,000 convicts were transported to Australia. The convicts were transported as punishment for crimes committed in Britain and Ireland. In Australia their lives were hard as they helped build the young colony.

His father, Lachlan Macquarie, was a cousin of the sixteenth and last chieftain of the Clan MacQuarrie while Macquarie's mother, Margaret (*nee* Maclaine) was the only sister of Murdoch Maclaine 19th Laird of Lochbuie in Mull. There are few details of Lachlan's early years and education. He appears to have spent his boyhood on Ulva and Mull, and in his early teens he was sent to Edinburgh where he received a rudimentary education and learned to speak and write in English.

His army career began in 1776, when at the age of 15 he accompanied his uncle, Murdoch Maclaine (of Lochbuie) to North America as a volunteer. In April 1777 he obtained an ensigncy in the 2nd Battalion of the 84th Regiment of Foot (then known as the *Royal Highland Emigrants*) and performed garrison duty, first in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and later in New York and Charleston in the closing stages of the American War of Independence.

His older brothers, Hector and Donald, also served in the British Army in North America. However, both of them became prisoners of war: Hector was captured by the Americans on 21 July 1776 and died in South Carolina on 7 January 1778; whilst Donald was captured by French forces in December 1778 and was eventually repatriated to Britain in 1780. Lachlan was commissioned as a lieutenant in the 71st Highland Regiment on 18 January 1781, and subsequently posted to Jamaica.

***Note: Community Owned Ulva lies a short ferry crossing from Mull and is a must for wildlife, scenery and unspoilt car-free exploration and discovery.***

Lairg Community Association would like to wish all our hall users, volunteers and staff a very Happy New Year. To launch a busy 2023 at the centre, we have a new noticeboard going up outside the front door so it's easy to see what's on each week along with upcoming events. We are grateful to Foundation Scotland and the Lairg Community Windfarm Fund for supporting this project.

Lots of events run by local organisations, along with regular clubs & classes offer plenty of opportunity to get involved and have fun at the community centre. Keep checking the noticeboard and our Facebook page for updates. Do get in touch if you have ideas of what you'd like to see happening or maybe you'd like to start something new where we can support you in your new adventure.



With more chilly days ahead, we'd like to invite you to our "Winter Warmer" sessions in the conservatory on a Tuesday from 2:30pm to 5:30pm where there'll be a warm cosy welcome from our friendly community centre volunteers. Drop by to enjoy a hot drink, have a chat, or maybe sit and read a book or play cards. Why not visit the library at the same time? Look out for posters on the noticeboard & Facebook. Everyone is welcome and we'll have games available for the youngsters.

Lairg Community Market takes a well-deserved break in January & February and we would like to thank all our amazing stall holders, staff and volunteers for the hard work they put in. Originally started by Heather from The Rusty Coo, the market is always well worth a visit and a chance to meet with friends over free refreshments. Held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in the month, the market will be back in full swing on the 20th March. We can't wait to welcome everyone back.

If you or anyone you know would like to hold a stall at one of our markets, are interested in volunteering with us or other groups within the community or want to know more about hiring our facilities; please contact Ros, our administrator, on 01549 402 843 or email [lairgcommunitycentre@gmail.com](mailto:lairgcommunitycentre@gmail.com)

## Send us your photos please!

We are always looking for good photographs of Lairg for the magazine. We'd like to thank Mick Auvache for sending us some lovely snowy photos that he took recently. So if you snap a particularly wonderful sunset or manage to capture some of the local wildlife we'd love to share them... Please email [projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk](mailto:projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk) with your images and we'll credit your photo.

### LDCI Quiz Answers

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. David Attenborough | 6. Brian May      |
| 2. Eagle              | 7. 4              |
| 3. 2024               | 8. Kenny Dalglish |
| 4. Please Please Me   | 9. Rum            |
| 5. May                | 10. Florida       |

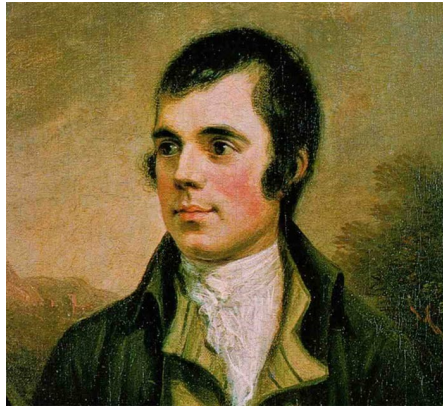




Here are some old photographs from our photo archive. If anyone has any information about dates when they think the photos were taken - or who is in the photos - it is always interesting to hear your comments!







## Burns Night Wordsearch

Can you find the Burns Night words hidden in this puzzle?  
Find them all and you can celebrate with some haggis!



RABBIE, BURNS, POET, SCOTLAND, JANUARY,  
HAGGIS, NEEPS, TATTIES, WHISKY, BAGPIPES,  
COCKALEEKIE, CLOOTIE, DUMPLING, TRIFLE

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**Foundation  
Scotland**

Thank you for reading issue 56 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 or write to us at: Schoolhouse, Main Street, Lairg, IV27 4DD