

Lairg Magazine

LAIRG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

WINTERFEST

ISSUE

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Unfortunately this year - like the other groups in the village, we are unable to hold our annual **Winterfest** due to the Covid 19 pandemic. This would have been our sixth year of holding the event which has become a fixture in the community's calendar and an opportunity for people of all ages from Lairg and beyond to get together. Last year we teamed up with the Crofters Show who ran the café, and Light up Lairg who ran the dance in the evening which was a great success.

We will be back next year and hope to have the reindeer, Santa's Grotto, the craft fair and all our usual entertainment.

Recipe of the week

Flat Apple & Vanilla Tart



Ingredients:

375g pack puff pastry, preferably all-butter
5 large eating apples - Cox's, russets
Juice of 1 lemon
25g butter cut into small pieces
1 tsp vanilla extract
1 tbsp caster sugar
3 rounded tbsp apricot jam

Method:

STEP 1 Heat oven to 220C/fan 200C/gas 7. Roll out the pastry and trim to a circle 35cm across. Transfer to a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.

STEP 2 Peel, core and thinly slice the apples and toss in the lemon juice. Spread over the pastry to within 2cm of the edges. Curl up the edges slightly to stop the juices running off.

STEP 3 Dot the top with the butter and sprinkle with vanilla and caster sugar. Bake for 15-20 mins until the apples are tender and the pastry crisp.

STEP 4 Warm the jam and brush over the apples and pastry edge. Serve hot with vanilla ice cream or cr me fra che.

Lairg & District Community Initiatives

AGM

Wednesday 2nd December 2020
at 2pm

All Welcome

Due to Covid 19 the meeting will be held online via Zoom.
If you would like to attend - email: projectofficer@lairinitiative.co.uk and we will send you the meeting invitation.

Scottish Charity SC033349

LDCI's Annual General Meeting will be held on zoom on Wednesday 2nd December at 2pm. We welcome all our members to attend. If you would like to join us please email: projectofficer@lairinitiative.co.uk and we will send you the zoom invitation.

GOOD NEWS!

Lairg Library started the Collect and Return service on Monday 16th November 2020.



Lairg Library

This library is now offering Collect and Return services from the conservatory

Please call **01549 402 577** or e-mail lairg.library@highlifehighland.com to book a return and collect slot.

Please note we can only offer titles from Lairg Library stock.
Browsing, photocopying and PC use are not available at this time.

Our revised opening times are

MONDAY	10:30-12:00
TUESDAY	13:30-16:00
WEDNESDAY	CLOSED
THURSDAY	10:30-12:00
FRIDAY	12:30-15:00

Please use the conservatory door

Only 1 person at a time

(Answers on page 5)

1. In which year was the first Winterfest held in Lairg?
2. The elves accompany Santa in his sleigh up Lairg Main street but who played Buddy the Elf in the 2003 film Elf?
3. The Feast of Annunciation on 25th March is also called what?
4. What National Holiday is celebrated on the 4th Thursday of November in America?
5. At what time of day do the reindeer pull Santa and his sleigh up Main Street to the Community Centre at Winterfest?
6. Who had a top 10 hit with 'A Winter's tale' in December 1982?
7. Pesach is better known as the Jewish feast of what?
8. At what degree of declination is our Sun when the Winter Solstice occurs in the north?
9. The Edinburgh Fringe festival is held in what month of the year?
10. What is the scientific name for reindeer?
11. Where, in Scotland, is the spectacle of a Viking-themed fire festival, called 'Up Helly Aa', held?
12. What is the name of the Hindu Festival of Lights, falling between October and November, honouring Lakshmi, the Goddess of wealth?
13. What is the North American name for reindeer?
14. Winter Funnel Cap is a poisonous type of what?
15. Which country holds the Sapporo Snow Festival for 7 days in February, when about 400 ice sculptures of buildings, people or events are shown?
16. The 'Fur Rendezvous Festival' is held in late February in Anchorage in which US state?
17. What are male and female reindeer called?
18. What is the Spanish name for Winter?
19. What date in November is St Andrews day?
20. Sleepyhead Day is the first day of the Harvest Festival of Naantali, Finland, where the honoured persons are thrown into which Sea?



The Cairngorm Reindeer herd is Britain's only free-ranging Reindeer herd, and have lived in the Cairngorms National Park since 1952. They were introduced to the Cairngorms by Mikel Utsi and his wife Dr Ethel Lindgren who together founded the Reindeer Company.



Mr Utsi brought some of his own Swedish Mountain Reindeer Herd to Scotland as an experiment, to show that they could live and breed in these surroundings, and although the last record of wild British reindeer is from around 800 years ago and there has been much climate change since this, the unique sub-arctic qualities of the Cairngorms provides a perfect home for reindeer – in fact this is the only place left in the UK able to support such an animal.

His first consignment of reindeer who came over to Scotland was a group of two bulls and five cows who travelled over on a Swedish ship called the S.S. Sarek; on arrival they had to spend 28 days in quarantine at Edinburgh Zoo before finally being released into the Cairngorms.

I was very lucky as a child to meet Mikel whilst on holiday in Aviemore with my family back in 1970. We met up with him whilst hill walking in the Cairngorm Mountain Range, he invited us up on the hillside to meet the herd. It was a lovely experience - one which I have never forgotten.

The Reindeer Centre is now run by a couple who met whilst working for Mikel and his wife. Tilly and Alan Smith. They have built on Mikel's legacy and run a truly remarkable and unique centre; we are very disappointed not to be able to have the reindeer come to visit us in Lairg this year for Winterfest we know how much a big draw they are.

Hopefully next year we will have the Cairngorm Reindeer back for Winterfest.

by Kaye Hurrion



Save the date

SCCAN Highlands & Islands Event
10am-1pm - Sat, 5th Dec

**Growing
 Community Climate Action
 Emotional Resilience
 Carbon Conversations
 & Collaboration**

Best Place for Nature
 Scotland RSPB

Scottish
 Communities Climate
 Action Network

PLANET
 SOUTHERLAND

Booking & Info at
[sccanhi5dec.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/sccanhi5dec)

Firewood

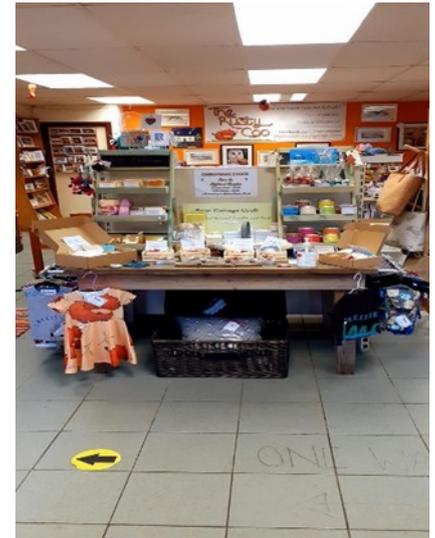
If you need, or know someone that needs some firewood, please contact LDCI as we have a small quantity of freshly cut wood from one of our sites that we'd like to distribute amongst those in need.



We have been very fortunate to have been supported over the years by lots of our local businesses who have made, the putting on of our festival possible, with their generous donations and support. Along with the crafters who take a table each year (we had forty in 2019) unfortunately there are too many business and crafters to mention all of them. But if you are looking for Christmas presents Visit Lairg Community Market Facebook page, or Heather in the Rusty Coo who has many of the crafters' items in her shop.

Shopping locally this year for your Christmas presents will really help our local businesses survive this pandemic.

How about a voucher from The Pier or The Hotel, or a food hamper made up at Shin stores or Costcutters, smellies from the chemist, or maybe some tools from Lockharts.



LDCI Quiz Answers

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. 2015 | 8. -23.5 | 15. Japan |
| 2. Will Ferrell | 9. August | 16. Alaska |
| 3. Lady Day | 10. Rangifer Tarandus | 17. Bulls and cows |
| 4. Thanksgiving | 11. Lerwick, Shetland | 18. Invierno |
| 5. Noon | 12. Diwali | 19. 30th |
| 6. David Essex | 13. Caribou | 20. Baltic |
| 7. Passover | 14. Mushroom | |

How did you do?

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





Swedes, Norwegians, Finns and Russians who live within the Arctic Circle and share common International borders, are all Sami people and also Nationals of their home countries.

The Sami have passports that allow them to cross borders. This is because the reindeer herds which can reach numbers of many thousands cross over these borders. So the Sami are permitted to cross the borders to control them, this has advantages for them as they are able to buy goods which are not only cheaper but also not readily available in their country. The Norwegian Sami can cross into Russia and buy Vodka, and the Russian Sami can cross into Norway to buy petrol, nappies and coffee!

The traditional clothing worn by the Sámi people is the Gakti, which is made from reindeer leather and sinews, even the buttons are made from the reindeer antlers. The Sami men wear a Four Winds Hat which is bright blue and represents the four corners of the earth and sky. The decoration on the hat traditionally show whether a man is free to marry, or is married and may also show the clan to which he belongs.

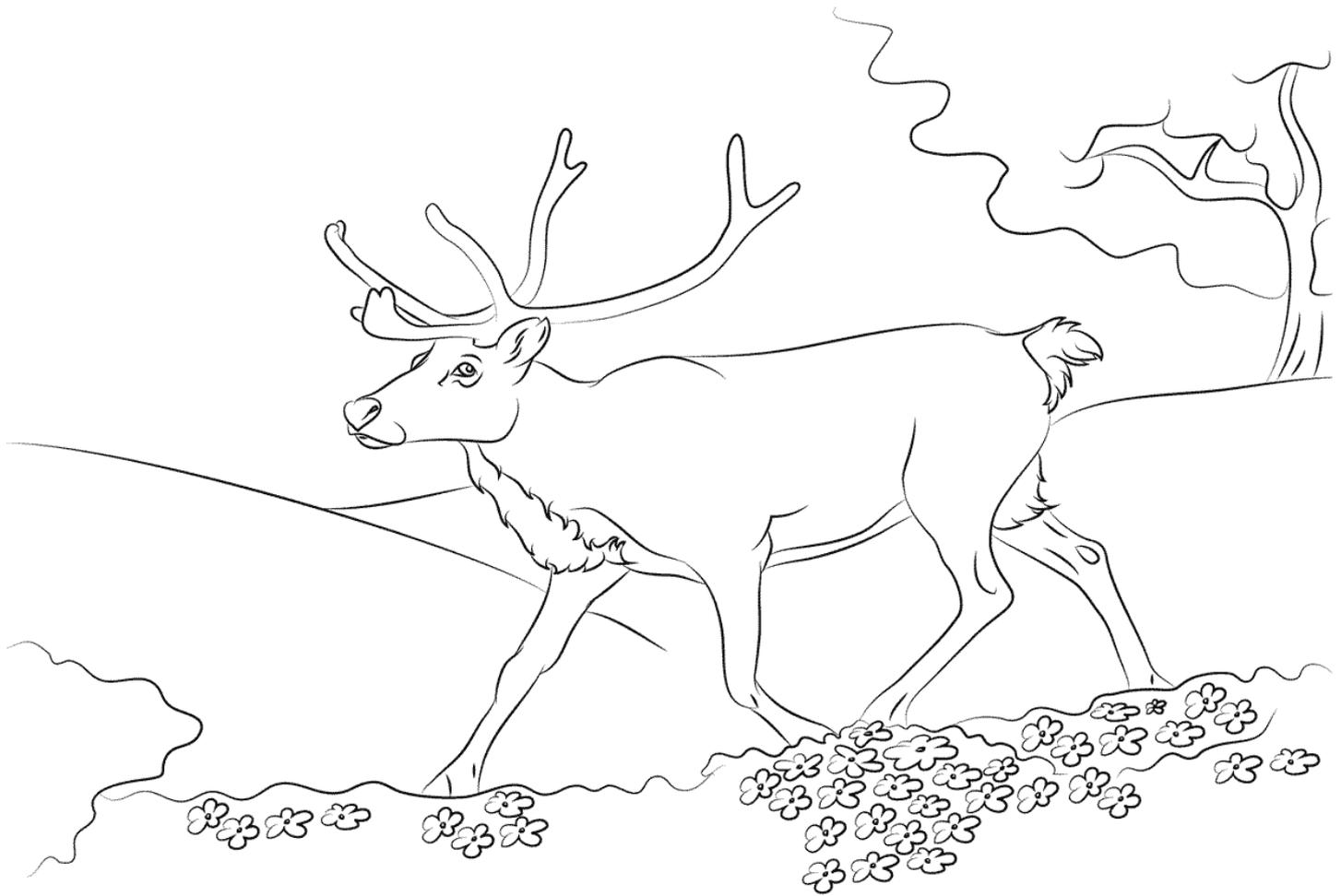
Reindeer are the most important possession of the Sami, never ask them how many do they have? Their reply might be "How much money do you have?" Today in Norway and Sweden, reindeer husbandry is legally protected as an exclusive Sámi livelihood, and only persons of Sámi descent with a linkage to a reindeer herding family can own, and make a living off reindeer.

The Sami people are very proud of their heritage and consider the name Lap or Laplanders very insulting.

Ann Moore



Colouring In



Reindeer Facts

paint the world
SUPER
COLORING

- Reindeer comes from the Old Norse word “hreinin,” which means “horned animal.”
- Reindeer are the only mammals that can see ultraviolet light, to help them spot things more clearly in the Arctic.
- Reindeer are excellent swimmers and can swim as fast as six miles per hour.
- Reindeer are herbivores meaning they only eat plants, and love feeding on leafy greens and mushrooms. Carrots and apples aren't available in their natural habitat, but they do enjoy both as a treat (so remember to leave a carrot out on Christmas Eve!)

This magazine is funded by:



Thank you for reading issue 28 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