

Lairg & District Community Initiatives Newsletter - Spring 2013

Company Ltd by Guarantee No: SC230960
Registered Charity No: SCO33349

Ferrycroft Visitor Centre

In partnership with Highland Council and Visit Scotland, LDCI has been successfully operating Ferrycroft Visitor Centre since May 2010.

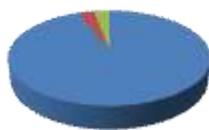
During this time LDCI recognised that the facilities at the Visitor Centre would need to be developed to maintain the sustainability of this community enterprise.

The decision by Highland Council to re-organise many of their recreational and leisure facilities to be run by an arms-length company prompted LDCI to consider the future of Ferrycroft Visitor Centre for the community.

A community consultation was carried out in July 2011 where every household in Lairg was invited to express their opinion on the future of Ferrycroft and its long term development.

The results of the consultation indicated that the community were in agreement with LDCI acquiring and developing the centre for the benefit of the community.

Ferrycroft Questionnaire



- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't Know

Based on feedback from the consultation, funding was secured to appoint an architect and quantity surveyor. Plans were drawn up to extend and enhance the existing facilities to cater for visitors to Ferrycroft. This in turn will create a number of new employment opportunities within the community. A feasibility study using this information has formed the basis of a five year business plan. A number of other suggestions were made including:

Local Crafts Could Be Expanded - Ferrycroft acts as a retail outlet for local arts and crafts and provides an income for producers.

Play Facilities Need To Be Upgraded – LDCI is currently trying to secure the £14,000 required to replace the Cable Ride.

Update The Exhibitions – LDCI is working with SSE to provide a new exhibition.

LDCI is aware of the importance of retaining Ferrycroft as a visitor attraction, information point and most importantly, seasonal employment provider.



A copy of the business plan and results of the community consultation is available to view in Lairg Library.

Lairg Eco Croft

The idea for the Lairg Eco Croft was conceived in 2009 and the concept has been gradually developed into a working business plan.

Foundations of the Eco Croft plan have already been achieved by LDCI by providing a community hub at Ferrycroft for local producers to sell arts and crafts.

Due to the condition of the land a sensitive approach to its management has been identified and the development will be based on the principals of permaculture.

LDCI aims to access funding during early 2013 and start working on the site in late summer/early autumn.

A copy of the business plan is available to view in Lairg Library.



Easter Fun Day

The annual Easter Fun Day will be held at Ferrycroft on Saturday 30th March.

This event will be an opportunity for families to take part in an Easter Egg Hunt and various other fun activities.

The annual 'Lairg Photograph Competition' will be displayed for judging. This is a fun opportunity for keen photographers to enter photos of Lairg in the spring, summer, autumn, winter and open category and have a chance to be published in the Lairg 2014 calendar.

Voucher prizes will be awarded to the first prize winner in each category.

LDCI would like to thank the Lairg Community Council for its financial support via the Lairg Wind Farm Ltd for the last two years.

Please check local posters for further information.



Easter Fun Day 2012

Village Clean Up

In 2010, the first LDCI led 'village clean-up' took place in Lairg. This has become an annual event and relies on volunteers to help collect litter from the loch shore, Church Hill woods and the areas as far as both dams.

Volunteers are rewarded with refreshments served by the LDCI working group.



In 2012 LDCI registered for the 'Keep Scotland Beautiful' national spring-clean and aim to continue this partnership in 2013.

The annual village clean-up will take place on Saturday 11th May. We look forward to welcoming new community volunteers to participate this year.

Mayfest 2013- Preview

Mayfest 2013 will be held on Saturday 4th May in various venues throughout the village.

Plans include a Food and Craft Fair and mini Art Exhibition in Lairg Community Centre, Car Boot Sale, Magician, Children' Face Painting and afternoon Children's Disco.

The evening will conclude in the Community Centre with an adult's Fancy Dress 70's Disco! A prize will be awarded for the best fancy dress.

Please check local posters and press for further information.



Mayfest 2011

Dates to Remember

Saturday 30 th March	Easter Fun Day
Saturday 4 th May	Mayfest
Saturday 11 th May	Village Clean Up

All Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to read the Lairg and District Community Initiative newsletter. To discuss any of the highlighted projects please contact Moira Matheson.

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LDCI offers an open door policy and welcomes everybody at their office in Lairg Community Centre.

