

WEEKLY BULLETIN 16

Lochaber Rotary

Wednesday 8 July 2020

Well, we have now passed 100 days of lockdown and the Scottish Government has announced some slight easing of the restrictions. Most of the High Street shops opened on Monday (with physical distancing) but, starting this Friday, the wearing of face coverings by customers will be compulsory. Outdoor hospitality, pavement cafes and beer gardens, also opened on Monday.

The lockdown restrictions will be reviewed tomorrow and it is highly likely that we will move gently into Phase 3 of the "Route Map" and our tourism sector as well as services such as dental practices, opticians, hairdressers, museums etc will be given the go-ahead to re-open on 13 and 15 July. So, take care and stay safe!

..... and we start with our **Presidential handover**

Lochaber Rotary has appointed its new President for 2020-21. Rev Richard Baxter received the chain of office from 2019-20 President Clive Talbot. Responsibilities were passed over to the new office bearers at a Zoom meeting on Wednesday 1st July, and a video of the handover was shared.



The picture above shows Clive passing the chain of office to Richard at the Peace Memorial on the Parade.

Clive said, "Since we cannot have our normal meetings in the Alexandra Hotel at present, this part of the Parade seemed like the perfect place for the handover."

Richard explained, "The belltower in the monument came from the old Maryburgh Church (later the Town Hall) and I work as minister in the successor of that church, Duncansburgh MacIntosh. The monument has a plaque unveiled in 1995 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the second world war, and this year is the 75th anniversary of that milestone. It marks the friendship between Fort William, Dudley and Hiroshima, and contains the words 'May we all work together for peace and goodwill and live together as one great family,' words that are very close to the heart of Rotary's values. Finally, the back of the monument has a plaque bearing the words 'Rotary and Peace the world over.' It would be hard to think of a more fitting place." Lochaber Rotary has been serving the community since 1949, and marked its own 70th anniversary during Clive's presidency.

Asked about plans for the year ahead, Richard Baxter said, "Many of our regular activities cannot go ahead during the Covid-19 outbreak, but we are meeting online, and planning a series of events. We will focus on supporting a wide range of local causes and helping local businesses to recover from the effects of the pandemic, and we will support Rotary's international work on eradicating polio and a range of other humanitarian causes. We continue to welcome members of any age, gender, race or background interested in sharing in service to the community and enjoying friendship together."

..... and an interesting update from Past-President David Thomson. David is also the vice chair of the Abbeyfield Ballachulish Care Home

Hello All,

Since I didn't manage to connect to the weekly zoom with Richard this week I thought I would drop you a few quick lines.

Abbeyfield ; The second round of swab testing of staff is underway . visitation by residents relatives will start this coming week end will take place under strict protocol, time controlled and numbers limited. Apart from that everything going well and staff morale improving. We have received two substantial contributions to the funding of the improvements to the Care Home.



Glencoe ; The lodge house at the hospital can now be seen much better. It is a sorrowful site. The surrounding trees some of which must be 50/60 feet if not more are in the process of being felled. The tree feller (a local) informed me that Major Moss' son and daughter are away from the area and the land having been sold with the lodge to stay, apart from the concrete extension at the side and also the Dorran bungalow to be demolished with two new houses to be erected on the site. Regards to all, DT

..... and, for those who weren't able to join our virtual on-line meeting, followed by the monthly Club Council meeting, last Wednesday evening, here, below, is a brief summary of the proceedings. 11 members attended.

- On the invitation of our Assistant Governor Bob Thomlinson, President Richard attended the Kirkintilloch Rotary's presidential handover. American Rotarian, David Anderson, was the main speaker.
- Membership Subs to remain at £170 - due from 1 July - payment details from Treasurer Donald. Secretary John has the 20-21 membership cards ready for distribution and Sheana is again producing our handbook and it will be on-line.
- Donations in lieu of lunches still coming in and helping support the Club's Charity Account.
- Community Energy Scheme - Agreed we will invite a representative from the Lochaber Environmental Group to speak at an early meeting of the Club
- District 1230 Briefings for incoming conveners - John Hutchison and Donald have both attended district training courses.
- Support for local businesses - President Richard's card stamp project has secured the support of the Chamber of Commerce. Agreed we will strongly pursue this project.
- Past-President Terry Lee is leaving us on 15 July but is retaining his membership and intends to visit us frequently.

- Christmas Festival - Sheana is exploring different formulae but it's too early to decide. With all the preparatory work required, we'll need to make a decision by September.
- Fundraising - We are investigating a range of ideas including a giant Christmas tree project and an on-line raffle
- Press & Publicity - John Hutchison is looking again at the range of activities carried out by his committee and will present his recommendations to an early meeting of Club Council
- Youth Activities - Mike has been organising his committee members and allocating a range of activity projects and appropriate timetables.
- General - discussion on the new canopy in Cameron Square, fishing in the River Lochy, member recruitment and lots of other topical issues!

.... Congratulations to our new Vice President Flora on the occasion of her 60th Birthday.



And I quote a notable senior member's remark "The average age of the Club steps up a notch!"



.... and a brief update from Corpach-based Past-President and former depute leader of the Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team, George Bruce

Hi everyone,

All is well in the Bruce household. I can't believe that we are in week 15. Where does all the time go? Thursday is still our day to look forward to for shopping! Pity about the Scottish Government's policy on 10 am for refreshments - sometimes this means a second trip to the shops!!! But I have managed to get on the hill at last and hope for more soon as we increase the distance.

Putting the M.G. on the road today so hope for good weather. All I can say about lockdown is that without this I would not be in the position I am with my proposed book - it's coming along at a great speed. I will have to speak to Mr Abernethy soon to see if it's worth printing. Spoke to Terry Lee yesterday sorry to hear that he is leaving the area soon. It should not be too long before we can meet for lunch. The ladies' coffee mornings is due to start on Monday outside - weather permitting. Hope you are all well,
George

.... And thanks to Donald Young for his "GARDENING TIPS FOR JULY 2020"

- By July you will now be sick to the back teeth of mowing the lawn and trimming the hedges, but it still has to be done, so a large libation will now be in order and a necessity
- Weeds will keep sprouting up at a ridiculous rate, so you must keep on top of the hoeing and weeding
- Slugs and snails are always a problem and must be treated against, preferable by natural means, but don't use too much beer if you decide on beer traps or you may find yourself short for your well-deserved bevvies
- The tatties are coming along quickly and require earthing up as the shaws grow, and some earlies or salad tatties may be nearly ready for lifting and storing.
- Water and feed all plants very regularly especially during dry spells (if any)
- Net over fruits to prevent birds damaging them (by eating them)
- Pick sweet peas, picking the flowers encourages more flowers
- Divide bearded irises after flowering and split up the rhizomes - give more plants next year
- Cut back perennials that have flowered to enable them to regenerate.
- Keep spraying roses with a systemic insecticide to prevent aphids etc and spray against black spot and mildew. Feed well with blood, fish and bone fertiliser.

- Pinch out the side shoots of tomatoes regularly and feed with high potassium potassium liquid feed. Pick courgettes, tomatoes and beans when ready as this will encourage further produce.
- Feed and water pot plants regularly especially during dry spells we may get. Harvest lettuce, radishes and other early salads, keep sowing rotation
- It is still not too late to sow French Beans, peas, lettuce, beetroot, carrots, swede, spinach etc
- Spray flowers on French Beans and runner beans with water to assist pollination
- Harvest garlic when leaves start to brown at the top. Hang up in a dry sunny place to ripen
- Scatter slow release feed around the fruit trees and bushes

Time now for a well-earned libation - hopefully while reclining and contemplating on your forthcoming holidays and, if going on holiday, make sure you get a reliable person to look after your garden, and be sure to leave them some refreshments so they will maybe do it again.

