

WEEKLY BULLETIN 21

Lochaber Rotary

Wednesday 12 August 2020

Welcome to our little bulletin that was intended to run for 12 weeks and has now reached edition 21 and still counting. We've had brilliant sunny weather since Sunday - and hopefully for a few more days. We still don't have a date to physically resume our meetings in the Alex but Mike has been discussing arrangements with Val, and Richard is contacting Rotary District for advice - so we should have firmer guidance today - Wednesday. Secretary John will have forwarded the joining code for today's meeting at 1pm - on Zoom !! Please try and join us !!

... and we start with a bit of Rotary business -

SPEAKERS' SECRETARY

Now that Terry and Marilyn are safely settled in Devon, we are without a Speakers' Secretary, and President Richard is looking for a volunteer for this not unduly onerous but important post.



Briefly, the role of the Speaker's Secretary is to prepare and arrange a varied and informative programme of speakers for Club meetings - in keeping with the aims of Rotary. Of late, Terry has been achieving this through allocating a weekly slot to each club member and requiring them to either speak themselves or arrange for a speaker.

The Speakers' Secretary also holds the speakers' diary and ensures that arrangements don't clash. If you are interested in volunteering for this post please have a word with Secretary John.

... next, we have a brief update from Ian Abernethy on life in lockdown....

Dear All,

Whilst Covid19 has turned the whole world upside down it has certainly taught us the values of life - in a unique lifestyle. Almost everything that doesn't move around the outside of the house has been painted, until the paint ran out. Not a weed was allowed to stay.

We missed family more than we thought possible, albeit we did experience 'Face Time'! Highlights were shopping, TV, and enjoying the quiet roads on rare outings, and catching up with many chores.

Pat and I celebrated our 80th birthdays during lockdown - dry affairs both! Oh, and I was in hospital - briefly - first time since 1958.

Regards, Ian A.

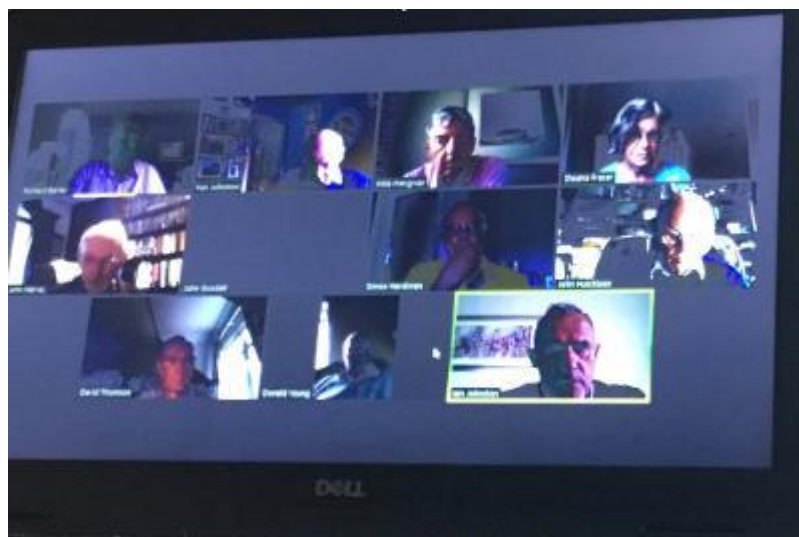
Next, a brief resume of last week's regular meeting and Club Council meeting,

The online "zoom" meeting was attended by 11 members. We noted that the Alex currently had 90 visitors and several tour buses. Discussion at the regular meeting included:

- Simon reported that, as restrictions ease, bookings for their Coire Glas guest house were on the upward trend
- John Hutchison informed us that construction work was ongoing at the Corpach Marina Project, he had visited Charlie Moore and arranged for Charlie to have an online zoom call with his three daughters.
- David T and Anne had walked to the Glencoe Lochan, all is well at Abbeyfield Care Home, and Glen Coe Valley was packed with parked cars.
- John G advised that he counted 40 tents on Morar Beach, and the pubs and restaurants in Arisaig were packed
- Mike is busy at work with a wide range of projects
- Sheana has been walking "Jack" her dog. It looks like the Nevis Centre may not open till mid-September. Disappointing.
- Iain J and Vivien had a great trip to Barra.
- Ken and Kath had been to both Inverness and Appin over the last week

Club Council meeting followed at 6.30pm and discussed the following matters:

- Treasurer's Report presented by Donald Y. Payment of some subs still outstanding
- President Richard has engaged in online meetings with other rotary clubs
- Honorary Membership candidate to be subject of a SGM
- Press & Publicity Convener John Hutchison reported good press coverage of Rotary work - articles on the Acharacle Brownies and Shelter Box
- Fundraising - Sheana reported progress on our Knitivity Project - a 4m high metal framed Christmas Tree to be covered in donated knitted and crochet items. Mike has designed the frame and has had it costed at £200 (cost approved). We need to arrange storage space.
- Youth Activities - Mike reported that he had a worthwhile meeting with John Rosie and discussed the activities that can be progressed and those that will be postponed/cancelled due to Lockdown.
- Club Meetings during Lockdown. Mike advised that the Alex is keen for meetings to resume as early as possible - with appropriate safeguards. After discussion, it was agreed that Richard will discuss the situation with Rotary District and a decision will be taken next week.
- Speakers - a speaker from the Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) has been arranged for 26 August - online.
- Leave of Absence of 7½ weeks was approved for Past-President Iain who has health issues. Iain was very positive and members wished him well with his treatment
- Speakers' Secretary - agreed to seek a volunteer through the weekly bulletin.



... and finally, another sighting of a red squirrel, this time by Past-President David Robertson

Following recent sightings of this little endangered species by David Mee and Simon, we now have an actual photo, kindly contributed by retired Rotarian David R.

The **Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels** programme focuses on one of our most charismatic and well-loved mammals - Scotland's native red squirrel. Once the common squirrel across the UK, red squirrels have undergone a catastrophic population decline primarily due to competition for food and living space by the invasive non-native, American grey squirrel.

