

WEEKLY BULLETIN 22

Lochaber Rotary

Wednesday 19 August 2020

Welcome to the 22nd edition of our in-house bulletin. We still await advice from Rotary District on when we can restart our physical meetings in the Alex. President Richard's interpretation of the Scottish Government's "Route Map" is that we are an "organised group" and as such we fall into "group gatherings and occasions" and these are still on the no-go list. Hopefully, we'll have firm guidance from District by today.

Special General Meeting 1.15pm today. Today's regular meeting will be briefly adjourned at 1.15pm to enable President Richard to convene an SGM to consider a proposal that Past-President Duncan Gillies be elected as an Honorary Member of this Club. We need a minimum of 11 for the meeting to be valid and allow the proposal to be passed.

Secretary John is urging as many as possible to attend.
(The highest Zoom meeting attendance this year has been 11 with an average of 10 whilst 18 members have attended at least one Zoom meeting.)



... last week's regular lunchtime meeting was attended by 9 members. Topics discussed included:

- Meeting in the Alex - still no firm advice from Rotary District. It is likely to be some time before the Scottish Government allows organised indoor group meetings.
- Lochaber Probus Club - several of our members have received circulars from David Anderson. We are happy to work with them on matters of shared interest
- Knitvity Project - giant Christmas Tree to be clad in knitted and crochet items. The structure has been ordered. Currently seeking a copyright-free image to aid our publicity. Leaflet prepared - appealing for knitters. Liaising with John Hutchison re publicity.

- Parade Sundial - part weeded but about a further 4 hours work is required to clear it all
- Support for local businesses project - Richard advised this is on hold pending government decisions
- Important dates ahead - SGM on 19 August; Susan Carstairs, Lochaber Environmental Group, speaking at 26 August meeting; evening Zoom meeting on 2 September.
- General chit chat - big parking issues in Glen Coe; all well at Abbeyfield Care Home; Donald M invited to broadcast on Radio Scotland; experimental opening at Kilmonivaig Church; High Street busy in Fort William; Nevis Centre hopes to open mid-September; Richard participating in a Radio Alba worldwide Gaelic course alongwith participants from Canada and Brazil; Charlie Moore in good spirits; and much more ..

Christmas Festival and Reindeer Parade

Sheana, Fund Raising Convener, advises that it is highly unlikely that this will go ahead but a formal decision will be taken at the next Club Council meeting (2 September).

Vacant Post of Speakers Secretary

No response from our plea last week for a volunteer for the post of Speakers' Secretary. Club Council 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 Lee 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.

Lochaber Rotary marks 20th anniversary of Shelter Box

An article by Press Officer John Hutchison in last week's Lochaber Times.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of ShelterBox, a charity which started out life as a Millennium project by Helston-Lizard Rotary in Cornwall and has now grown to be a strong part of Rotary's global work in disaster relief. Since 2000, the ShelterBox scheme has supported 1.5 million people with emergency shelter and other essentials, across 97 countries. Mostly these emergencies have resulted from earthquakes, floods, hurricanes and the like.

Each box contains basic items for 10 people, including a tent, stove, cooking utensils, solar lights, blankets, mosquito nets, water purification kits, and tools.

Clubs over the UK contribute from time to time and boxes are made up and stored in an aircraft hangar to be flown out when necessary.

Thanks to the generous support of the community, Lochaber Rotary has provided several Shelter Boxes over the years and those attending the Lochaber Agricultural Show have become used to seeing a box with tent, stove and other items on display.

Lochaber Rotary President, Richard Baxter said; "Although much of Lochaber Rotary's work is supporting locals, when major disasters strike we play our part in supporting those families who suddenly have nothing but the clothes they stand in. Shelter Box is an immensely practical way of doing so. We are very grateful for community support over the years."

