

WEEKLY BULLETIN 26

Lochaber Rotary

Wednesday 16 September 2020

Here in Lochaber we are fortunate that the number of Covid-19 infections in the Highland Council area (under 9 per 100,000 population) continues to remain well below the threshold where extra restrictions will be applied. The infection rates in Glasgow City, West Dunbartonshire and East Renfrewshire are hovering around 50 cases per 100,000 population. People living in these areas are not allowed to host others inside their home, or visit anyone else's home anywhere in Scotland.

Lochaber, with its population of 19,500, has had a total of 9 infections to date, with only one serious case.

Here we are into our 26th edition of the weekly bulletin. We hope you find it interesting and, as usual, we would welcome any contributions.

Our meeting today will start at 1pm. The invitation / joining code is in Secretary John's email of 14 September. Hope to see you there.

Last week's Lunch Meeting was chaired and hosted by President Richard and covered a wide range of topics including:

- Charter Night and our 70th Anniversary: Still not certain that we'll be clear of this pandemic by November. May carry it forward until next year. Faye Steele, widow of Charlie Steele, who was one of our founder members, is keen to attend and is keeping in touch through John Hutchison. Club Council will keep this under review.
- Knitvity Tree Project: John Hutchison updated members on the press coverage of our project. He was liaising with both Lochaber Life (Iain Ferguson) and Mark Entwistle of the Lochaber Times. Members shared his disappointment on the slant that Mark's editor had put on the article - emphasising the cancellation of our

Festival rather than the positive aspects of our Knitvity Project. Sheana advised us that Jenny had successfully negotiated donations of wool from a number of suppliers including Hobbycraft and Yoeman's Yarns. The "Skye Knitters" had offered a huge piece of knitted handiwork. John's article is reproduced below.

- Christmas Festival Cancellation: Sheana has notified all our craftworkers, stallholders, supporters and sponsors, including the Cairngorm Reindeer Company. All had been understanding and supportive. Ferguson Transport have agreed to publicise our Knitvity Project through their media pages.
- West Highland Museum: John Hutchison reported that the museum was intending to re-open with appropriate safety measures (including pre-booking) in place.
- Upper Achintore Regeneration Group: Ken advised that the Group had been active during lockdown. It had assembled, and distributed, 150 windowsill planting kits and would be holding its first ever on-line committee meeting next week
- Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church: Richard reported that plans were in hand to resume services inside the church building itself, albeit with numbers restricted to under 50. A successful trial run, with numbers limited to 24, had been undertaken at Kilmonivaig Church in Spean Bridge.
- Hon Member Charlie Moore: John had visited him in the Care Home. He was in very chatty form and they spent a full 45 minutes together! We miss you Charlie !!!

.... and we continue with a brief update from Past-President George

Hi Everyone,

All is well with the Bruce household. We are heading south next week to see our great granddaughter and our son and family. It's been a long time in getting to this stage but it's looking as though we will get there this time so my apologies for Rotary for Wed 16th and hope that all my fellow Rotarians are in good health and looking forward to seeing one another soon.

George

Lochaber Rotary Charter Night 1989

President David Blair; Guest Speaker Ian Michie (Ken Johnston's late Father-in-Law)



arians and guests at the 39th Charter Night of the Rotary Club of Lochaber held at the Grand
eek. Centre, left, is John Fraser Michie, past president of the Rotary Club of Inverness who was t
speaker. Beside him is the president of the Lochaber club, David Blair

Christmas Change in Direction for Lochaber Rotary

by John Hutchison

Along with every other organisation, Lochaber Rotary is having to change direction in the lead up to Christmas.

The Rotary Christmas Festival and Craft Fair towards the end of November has been a popular event in recent years. Those who have attended previously will realise that a great deal of close interaction is involved but with the current restrictions it became clear that managing activities like Santa's Grotto, queueing, cash handling and movement around the Nevis Centre would prove close to impossible. While the reindeer could walk side by side, only Santa could ride in the sleigh and everyone else on the parade would need to be physically distanced. To ensure the safety of all the participants, but with a heavy heart, the decision has been taken to cancel this year's event.

But Lochaber Rotary's work will continue and so we are pleased to announce "Knitvity"! This ambitious community project will create a 13 feet / 4metre high Christmas tree made up of hand knitted or crocheted items that will form the decorative cladding to a steel framework. The tree will be on display in the lead up to Christmas. Organiser Sheana Fraser said, "It will take a huge effort to cover the framework currently under construction. The surface area will be around 500 square feet so we may need 1,000 items!"

Folk can be involved in several ways; either by knitting or crocheting, by donating yarn or donating money to let Rotary purchase yarn. Chunky or double knitting yarns give quick results and we would ask folk to choose bright colours. We are looking for items which will provide warmth such as hats, scarves, wrist warmers, etc. These will be donated to homeless charities after Christmas. We are also looking for handmade twiddle muffs for donation to Alzheimer Scotland and local care homes. Twiddle muffs are knitted muffs with items attached such as buttons, ribbons, etc to keep dementia patients' hands active and busy and are a source of visual, tactile and sensory stimulation.



Yeoman yarns, Woolyknit, Hobbycraft and Togs in Caol have donated yarn for the project so if anyone needs yarn, please get in touch. Woolwarehouse, an online supplier, is offering a 10% discount on orders submitted with a designated code. If you need more information then please contact either Sheana Fraser 07796687921 or Jenny Cooper 07880958698.

Rotary President Richard Baxter said, "While Covid 19 has given us plenty challenges there are opportunities and scope for some fun too. Please help us by getting behind this imaginative idea!"