

WEEKLY BULLETIN 27

Lochaber Rotary

Wednesday 23 September 2020

Today marks exactly six months since the original government lockdown and, sadly, there has been a huge increase in viral transmission all over Scotland.

Indeed, the number of corona virus infections in Lochaber rose at a stroke by over 40% with the cluster of 4 cases in the small and close-knit community of Kinlochleven - apparently four schoolgirls working as waitresses caught it from a visitor to the MacDonald Hotel. The NHS advise that all the close contacts of the girls have been contacted and told to self-isolate. Hopefully it's been caught in time and will be contained.

Stop Press: Tuesday 22 September: The Scottish Government has announced a ban on indoor social visits.

We're asking our members to identify and suggest a possible venue/location for Knitvity Tree !!! Please give it some thought !!!

Today's lunch meeting will once again be held on Zoom starting at 1pm. It will be hosted by John Hutchison. Our secretary, John Harvey, circulated the joining code earlier today. Hope you can manage to pinch 40 minutes from your day and join our discussion!

Last week's Club Lunchtime meeting had a healthy turnout. Twelve members attended and discussed a wide range of issues including the following:

- Ballachulish Area: Past-President David Thomson reported that the Abbeyfield Care Home directors were attending governance training sessions; the local Co-op had installed a traffic-light system to control the number of shoppers at any one time; Loch Leven had become popular with Paddle-Boarders; the number of visitors was dropping off.

- Spean Bridge Area: President-Elect Simon and his family have acquired a cocker spaniel, holiday business trade is still strong; Robbie and Ian are both well
- Crown Estate: Past-President John Hutchison reported a successful lobby to achieve more of this income for Lochaber; Good meeting with colleague Armando regarding access to and management of the Club's website; Honorary Member Charlie Moore had a quiet week in the care home
- Strontian Community School: Past-President Donald McCorkindale reported that a video report on this community project had been carried on the Social Enterprise World Forum media and he had received feedback from as far distant as Nova Scotia! Members will recall that Donald gave us a presentation on this exciting project at a Club Meeting in February 2017 - the design, layout and footprint of the new school will enable it to be adapted at a later date into three affordable social housing units and then transferred to the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust for local need. It was good to get an update on the project.



- Knitvity Project: John and Sheana updated us on this project which has now become our key project for the 2020-21 Rotary Year. Posters and publicity have been stepped up. Much wool and yarn has been donated and a number of volunteer knitters have been recruited. John is arranging a photo of the welders working on the frame under construction for publicity purposes; Still looking for a venue - all ideas/input will be considered! It will be 2.5m diameter at its base and ideally it should be a well visited public space.
- Arran: Past-President David Mee just back from a cycling weekend in the Isle of Arran with friends! A taste of freedom!!!
- Return to the Alex: President Richard advised that an early return is looking increasingly unlikely. The Lockdown rules are tightening rather than easing. The prospects of an early return to a physical meeting are doubtful.

.... and, in these dismal times, a happy update on Past-President George and Brenda's trip down south

Hi All,

.... attached is a picture of why we went over the border to see our latest addition to the Bruce family. It looked like we just made it down and back after seeing the latest Covid 19 restrictions, Hope all are well and it would seem that it will be next year before our Rotary get together starts again

George



Congratulations to George & Brenda !!!

.... and another happy uplifting report from Rotarian Margaret in Castle Douglas

Hello there!

Hope you are all well and enjoying this fine spell of weather. It's hard to believe that it is already over a year since I moved from Spean; now feel very much at home in Castle Douglas and finally getting to an end of unpacking bags and boxes!

Like yourselves our Rotary meetings are via zoom, but it will be good to eventually meet everyone in person when restrictions allow.

I'm enjoying my p/t community development work in Palnackie and gradually getting to meet a few local characters, including the retired motor mechanic who has been

assembling this replica Skeoch car in his garage since lockdown started. Poor fellow suffers from Parkinsons but working on the car seems to have given him a new lease of life.

Have also managed to get a few games of lawn bowls in before the end of the season, which was a real treat...this semi-retirement phase of life has a lot to be said for it!

With kindest regards to you all.

Margaret

