

WEEKLY BULLETIN 30

Lochaber Rotary

Wednesday 15 October 2020

A warm welcome to Edition 30 of our Weekly Bulletin. The ongoing pandemic has certainly turned our world upside down and unfortunately the number of Covid-19 cases continues to rise in Scotland. There is also an increase in the number of people being admitted to hospital. The Prime Minister says it is going to be "bumpy through to Christmas" and possibly beyond as we deal with the impact of this horrible virus.

Locally, we're all affected by the tightening of restrictions and it looks like we will not be back in the Alex before 2021.

At last week's meeting of Club Council (see below) it was agreed that we would continue with the Bulletin on a weekly basis. There was extensive discussion on the frequency - weekly, fortnightly or monthly - but as generally about 30% of members attend our on-line weekly meetings there was concern that, without a weekly bulletin, we could lose touch with our members and this is important. As with other community organisations, we need to embrace new ways of working!

Today's lunchtime meeting will once again be held on-line and, as Richard is away, it will be hosted by Sheana and chaired by Simon. Secretary John sent the joining code on Monday. Hope to see you there.



the 'Alex' from an 1895 brochure

Last week's regular meeting was hosted and chaired by President Richard and was followed by the monthly Club Council meeting. 13 members attended.

Regular Meeting - general chit chat included the following

Mike - hectic at work, new clients, daughter Lynsey bought house in Spean Bridge

John Harvey - gathering firewood for next year as this Autumn and Winter are covered.

Paul - golfing, gardening, keeping in touch, not forgotten his "talk" to Rotary

David T - less traffic on A82, all well at Abbeyfield Care home

Simon - Bookings for guest house "fallen off a cliff". Ian and Robbie are both fine

Ken - good holiday; £1200 grant for Upper Achintore project; disabled access project

John G - Quiet in Arisaig; flat tyre incident; Morar Beach quieter

Iain - gardening, BT installing new cable; operation on small finger

Sheana - four days in garden; all pruning done; filled a skip; tending to 66-year old plant

John Hutchison - toy model making; involved in New Hospital pressure group; Community Council liaison group re Boyd Brothers project at Corpach; met with Charlie at gazebo in Mossbank and he was in "remarkably good form"

Donald Y - Son in Law's Mum's funeral; gardening; Rugby Club AGM held on Zoom

Flora - busy being a grandmother; community council; working at VAL; had to defer reopening An Drochaid;

Richard - 1½ days at General Assembly; Donald M did a great job of co-ordinating it on-line; prospects of combining the Fort William and Kilmallie Parishes; still producing video sermons.

Club Council

Some general notes from Club Council Meeting - High School not doing Rotary Christmas Parcels this year; World Polio Day is 24 October; Funding Award to Sarah Cairns; Good press coverage of Knitvity Project - responses from Kilchoan and Invergarry - possible venue is in the Highland Cinema foyer area; Keep frequency of bulletin to Weekly; decline offer of tea bar at local Craft Fair; cancel Charter Night;

.... and an update on Club Council decisions from Secretary John

Dear All.

Club Meetings: I have no doubt that you are wondering when we will be able to meet up face to face again. This has been a regular topic of conversation at our weekly Zoom meetings and also at Council. Also, RIBI, in the middle of last month, announced their decision that there should be no Rotary face to face meetings until further notice. In the light of this and the practical difficulties and the possible bad publicity for the Club if a problem resulted from holding a face to face meeting Council has decided with regret that we will not hold any face to face meetings until the situation improves.

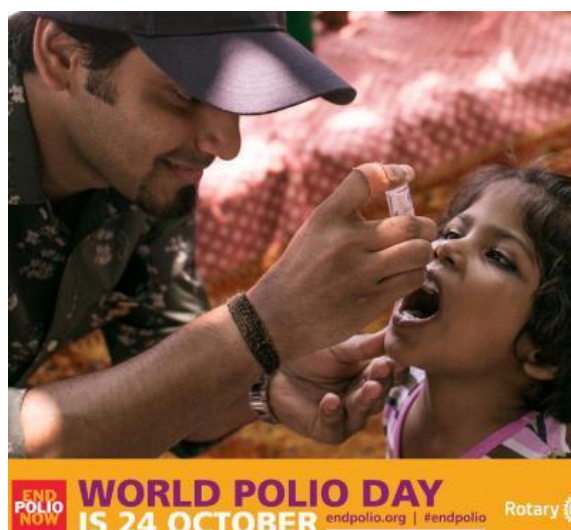
Charter Night: This of course covers not only our weekly lunches but also Charter Night, which was to have been held on 7 November this year. (Charter Night fees paid for this year will be held over towards our next Charter Night.)

Zoom Meetings: We shall of course continue to hold weekly Zoom meetings where to date approximately one third of members attend any one meeting and approximately two thirds of members have attended at least one meeting.

Weekly Bulletin: Regarding the Weekly Bulletin Ken has managed to keep this going to help us all keep in touch but has had a drop off in contributions of late, so if you have any news you can pass on please let Ken know.

Hoping to see as many of you as possible at our Zoom meetings.

Regards. John



CHRISTMAS 'KNITIVITY' TAKING SHAPE

**If you can knit or crochet, please get in touch as we have yarn.....
all items need to be finished by the end of November**

by John Hutchison

Lochaber Rotary's ambitious community project "Knitivity" is taking shape. The fabrication of the 13 feet / 4metre high Christmas tree from steel tube is well in hand at Macphersons Welding & Engineering Services (see picture below).

The tree will be on display in Fort William from the beginning of December when the frame will be covered by hand knitted or crocheted items. Organiser Sheana Fraser said; "We are delighted to have offers of help from knitters across Lochaber. If you can knit or crochet, please get in touch as we have yarn, which may be used so there is no need to buy any. All items will need to be finished by the end of November and we will let you know nearer the time where to send them."

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 and the like 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, "This project is off to a good start. The surface area of the tree will be around 500 square feet so we may need 1,000 items!"

