

WEEKLY BULLETIN 31

Lochaber Rotary

Wednesday 22 October 2020

Here we are in the thirty-first week of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions and it looks like it's getting worse before it gets better - 800 patients in hospital in Scotland today, over 13,000 positive tests and 15 deaths in the last 24 hours.

In light of this setback the Scottish Government has imposed hefty restrictions on our hospitality venues - indoor eating establishments cannot serve alcohol and require to close at 6pm. Households must not visit one another indoors but can meet at hospitality venues subject to a maximum of 6 people from 2 households.

On the brighter side, the Rotary Knitvity Tree project is progressing well and getting good press coverage.

This week's lunchtime meeting starts at 1pm as usual and will be hosted by Sheana and chaired by President-Elect Richard. We have a disappointing weather forecast so hopefully you'll be joining us on our video link. Hope to see you there. Secretary John emailed the Joining Code to you on Monday.

SHELTER BOX - When Evie and Torin discovered their grandparents had far too many cooking apples and dahlias growing, they knew there was only one thing to do - auction them for charity! They raised an impressive £85 for Shelter Box - and now Rotary will use the money to support displaced families all over the world. Thank you, Evie and Torin!



Last Week's lunchtime meeting was hosted by Sheana, chaired by President-Elect Simon, and attended by 7 members. Despite the low turnout there was a lively exchange of views and comments including ...

- **Knitvity Tree Project:** Construction of the 4m high frame is progressing well and we are having good responses from the general public in our request for donations

of knitted and crocheted items. We still seek a suitable venue for the tree and we're looking at the new Highland Cinema foyer, Morrisons entrance foyer area and Cotswolds Clothing shop. We also need to source donation buckets with lids - as the tree will not generally be attended.

- **Club Meetings:** evening meeting at 6pm on Wednesday 4 November followed by Club Council (all welcome) at 6.30pm
- **General Chit-Chat:** Simon's computer crashed; guest house business slowing; gardening; Rotarians Robbie and Ian both well; Sheana has been fiddle tutoring; preparing for the Nevis Centre AGM; concerned about lack of income threatening financial viability of the Centre; John Harvey has been beating at a pheasant shoot and reports reduced season due to Covid; Ken just back from a week's holiday in Portpatrick near Stranraer; working with Disability Equality Scotland to secure legal consultee status for Scotland's 35 access panels; preparing for Upper Achintore Regeneration Group's AGM on Monday; John Hutchison reminded us that in normal circumstances this would be Mod Week; Hon Member Charlie less communicative but doing well; local Gaelic Choir thankfully continuing; working with Kilmallie Community Council to prepare their newsletter; meeting with Kate Forbes MSP to discuss new Belford Hospital project; John G reports all quiet in Arisaig; getting his flu jab; ordered a wind turbine and gardening; Welcome back to Jenny just back from four solid weeks fishing including Loch Hope in Sutherland and the Tweed, the Tay and the Dee. Evidence of climate change affecting conservation of fish stocks.

....and we have a newsy family update from Past-President Alan Kirk

The Kirks are keeping well and getting a little fed up with each other. We have been out regularly with our ebikes. It was lovely to have Glen Nevis to ourselves during lockdown and we did not take kindly to visitors in our Glen after lockdown

During the summer I have been playing golf with Rotarian John Rosie - weather permitting and hosting Edinburgh families. We were due to visit our 2 families in Edinburgh a few weeks ago. As we were not allowed to have 2 families inside, the plan was to stay in an hotel for 3 nights, socialise with Graham's family in their garden on Saturday then take them for dinner in a restaurant before 6pm and repeat with Bryony's family on the Sunday. This did not work out as Nicola then advised against travel into the Edinburgh/Glasgow area and new restrictions meant there was nowhere to eat out!

We have had a couple of overseas trips. We took two ferries to Mull for a couple of days at the end of September and are just back from 3 nights in Skye staying in a nice hotel. We were not allowed alcohol after 6pm!!, although they would serve drinks to the

bedroom or outside on the terrace! Rather strange treating ourselves to a gourmet dinner without an alcohol aperitif and no wine with the meal, although you could nip up to the bedroom for a glass of wine between courses. Fortunately, we are having a "Sober October" for charity, so it was not too much of a hardship.

Guess where the photo was taken? We have a grandchild that goes by the name of Calum.



.....cleverly spotted by Past-President John Hutchison



This is Robin Swann, a politician in Northern Ireland, currently Minister of Health and former Leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, at a press conference. Of note is that one of the signers interpreting for the deaf is actually mentally translating from English to Irish and signing in the Irish language! Wow!!!

....and a hilarious little gem from John H

Rotarians will recall Chancellor Rishi Sunak calling for people 'in all walks of life' to consider retraining and changing their jobs because of the pandemic. Motivated by this, John had a wee dabble on the UK Government website and has passed his thoughts on for members consideration and amusement.

Many of us will remember the misquotation of the Norman Tebbit 'get on your bike' speech with which the current Chancellor is being associated in his call for folk to retrain. (If you have an idle moment you could check your options here: <https://beta.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>)

Amongst other suggestions, (Past-President, Lochaber Area Manager and Chartered Engineer) John is now trying to decide whether to become a scaffolder, tourist guide or bingo caller - the latter because he expressed an aptitude with numbers.....the fitness instructor suggestion seemed a bit of a hoot and he doesn't fancy the current political associations of becoming a football referee (nor does he know much about football). The suggestion of becoming a coroner sounded gloomy, nor do we have them in Scotland, but the possibility of having a copy editor in the Club could be useful with the job he did on the Bulletin a couple of weeks ago, says Ken !!!

Perhaps he'll just stay on his bike for a while longer.....

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