

WEEKLY BULLETIN 32

Lochaber Rotary

Wednesday 29 October 2020

As we move into Week 32, there is no doubt that this ongoing pandemic has turned our world upside down. However, there are some good things as we came together to support each other and new ways of working and engaging have emerged. Working from home means less travel and less fossil fuel, internet links allow us to see and engage with each other, and community spirit in Lochaber is booming - so it's not all doom and gloom!!!

However, as we said last week, it may get worse before it gets better - and, to address this, the Scottish Government has announced new Covid-19 restriction levels that will come into force next week. This 5-tier plan is to be known as "Protection Levels Framework" and it looks like the Highlands will be in Level 1.

I missed last week's meeting. I'm grateful to our Press & Publicity Convenor John for his substantial input into this week's bulletin.

SHELTER BOX - the photo insert in last week's bulletin was too small - so here it is again - isn't it just brilliant



Today's online meeting will be hosted and chaired by President Richard. Secretary John emailed the Joining Code to all members yesterday. Let's try

for a good turnout today - you only need to pinch about 45 minutes out of your day - hope to see you there!!!

Today's online speaker will be Eleanor Brown, Community Activities Organiser with Alzheimer Scotland, based at An Drochaid in Claggan. Join her at 1pm!



Last week's meeting was hosted by Sheana and chaired by President-Elect Simon. Eight members attended and contributed online.

***Watch this space -
the venue for the Christmas Knitvity tree has been confirmed!***

Discussion not attributed but folks' activities touched on:

- Spean Bridge local produce and crafts sale;
- Domestic chores, ironing, decorating, grass cutting, hedge trimming;
- Moss Park Care Home shut to all but essential visits as a precaution;
- New Belford delays;
- IT challenges, site meetings,
- Difficulties of meeting with family members, both younger and older;
- Tourists.

Unusual items were:

- Lochaber Gaelic choir collaboration video, "Gleann Bhaile Chaoil" on the choir Facebook page;
- David and Liz Robertson have now flitted to Bute;
- Dental issues;
- Uniting church congregations and building a team ministry.
- Ian Nicol and Robbie Robertson were reported as well and playing with their new toys, being shed and lawnmower respectively.

THE FUTURE OF FORT WILLIAM TOWN CENTRE

Monday, 30 November - An Online Event by the Chamber of Commerce

Many of our members will be interested in registering for this event. Our town is the second largest urban centre in the Highlands and the town centre has been adversely impacted upon by a combination of online shopping, out-of-town retail parks and the Covid-19 pandemic. How can we address this? The Chamber has arranged for a series of high profile and inspirational speakers.

"We'll hear from a range of voices on trends and opportunities for town centres, including a vision of what can be done from Phil Prentice, Chief Officer of Scotland's Towns Partnership and Philip Long, CEO of National Trust for Scotland and formerly of the V&A Dundee.

With high-profile contributors from Scottish Government, HIE, business, the arts and the Highland Council - this is a fantastic opportunity to be inspired by ideas and get onboard to transform the centre of Lochaber's only town into a destination that locals and visitors will love to spend time in. Booking details and a full schedule for the morning will be sent out soon".

If you wish to attend this conference, please contact the Chamber direct at ceo=lochaberchamber.co.uk@cmail19.com

... and a message from Honorary Member Val McIver at the Alex

Despite the restrictions we are busy at the Alex. We're missing all our Rotary friends and looking forward to welcoming you back as soon as the restrictions are lifted.

Val is the Events & Conference Manager at the Alex and has been a mainstay of Rotary since we arrived in the early 2000s.

Photo is of Val being awarded Honorary Membership by the then President Iain Johnston

... and a wee reminder about **Sheila Sutton's 100** October. Let's deluge her with birthday greetings cards !!!!



Sheila is the widow of Past President Mick Sutton. Mick was our president in 1974-75. Her son Chris Sutton was a member of our Club for many years and is still a member at his new abode. Sheila regularly attends Partners' Day usually escorted by Ron and she continues to contribute to Rotary fundraising events.

Sheila is at:

Sheila Sutton

Rudha Mor

Annat

Corpach

Fort William

PH33 7NB

... **and farewell** to Past-President David Robertson and Liz

After several decades of living in the rural township of Torlundy and participating very actively in our Rotary Club, David and Liz have returned to their home town of Rothesay in the Isle of Bute. David was Club President in 1988, he chaired all of the Club's committees during his 30-year membership and he was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship by the Club at its Charter Night in 2017. David retired from Rotary last year and we wish him and Liz a long and happy (semi) retirement in their new home. Photo below is of David receiving the Fellowship Award from the then President the Rev Donald McCorkindale.

