

WEEKLY BULLETIN 34

Lochaber Rotary

Wednesday 11 November 2020

Good morning all and a warm welcome to edition 34 of the weekly bulletin designed to keep members in touch with one another during the Covid-19 government restrictions that prevent us from meeting in person. Lochaber Rotary is usually invited to attend the local Remembrance Day Ceremony on the Parade Green last Sunday but, as with everything else, this was scaled down this year.

Most of us have relatives who served their country and we use this occasion to remember their service and their sacrifices. Kath's Dad, who was a proud Rotarian, was captured at St Valery in 1940 and spent 5 years in a PoW Camp in Silesia. Many members will remember his brief spell in our Club and will recall him cutting the Club's 50th Anniversary Cake in the year 2000. Despite his lengthy imprisonment, he had a lasting love for the German people and became a Highland tour guide specialising in welcoming and guiding German tourists. He had a big mind.



Today's lunch meeting is at 1pm and will be a virtual meeting held using Zoom technology. It will be hosted and chaired by President Richard. The Joining Code will be circulated by Secretary John. We hope you can pinch 45 minutes out of your busy day and join us.

Contributions from members for the Bulletin are enthusiastically welcomed. Email Ken at johnstonk7@aol.com

Last week's evening meeting was attended by over one third of the membership including, for the first time, Past-President Ron!

General conversation/contributions from members included:

Simon: guest house closed for last two or three weeks; likely to reopen near Christmas, Ian is fine; John Harvey: quiet in Onich, had flu jab (as had many of us); Mike: very busy at work; daughter Lynsey gutting and renovating her house in Spean Bridge; Iain: also had flu jab; Finlay: business closing down for winter; concern about impact of virus on sustainability of local economy; next year will be challenging;

David T: quiet in Glencoe; only 4 boats in harbour; Abbeyfield Care Home, all staff tested negative; testing 5 residents per week; major redevelopment/conversion project to create 8 more care bedrooms; Ron: first ever attendance at our weekly virtual meetings thanks to Christine's computer; keeps in touch with Gareth, Becky and Finlay in New Zealand by weekly skyping; goes cycling most days; arranging rope and pedestals for knitivity tree.

John H: contacted by a gentleman who has a bottle of Lochaber Rotary's 25th anniversary whisky; visited Hon Member Charlie who was quiet but fine; Paul: watching late night politics from USA; gardening; visited new marina; Richard: trying to uproot an old tree stump; working on the union of the congregations; Sheana: had flu jab although too young for it; gardening; knitivity project; Flora: the weeks are flashing past; busy at VAL; also had flu jab; Ken: working on award submission for innovative project for Upper Achintore; also had flu jab.

.....**followed by the Council Meeting** at 6.30pm: General resume:

- Preference for District Assembly to be held as a virtual online meeting
- District Council meets on 18 December
- Knitivity tree will be delivered next week. Cost £200. Store in Nevis Centre. Article will be in next week's Lochaber Times [held over till following week]; 40 twiddle muffs have been requested once the tree is dismantled. Gifted items need to be isolated for 72 hours before being hung on the tree. The tree will be assembled in the Highland Cinema Café on 30 November.
- Charter Night: Simon contacted the Alex and formally cancelled the booking.
- Rotary Website: John Hu now has access and will update it.
- Parade Sundial: John Rosie and Alan Kirk have been tidying it. We'll leave it until next Spring.
- Office Bearers 2021-22: recommendations to Club at meeting on 9 December



HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY SHEILA!!

**... with her telegram from
the Queen.**

SHEILA CELEBRATES HER 100th BIRTHDAY

Thanks to all the Rotarians and friends who sent birthday greetings to Sheila on the occasion of her 100th birthday on 31 October.

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' Lunch usually escorted by Ron and she continues to contribute to Rotary fundraising events.

Sheila was born in Walsall and moved to the Fort William area after the war where she and Mick ran the Caledonian Warehouse and she was the postmistress. She had a son and daughter - Chris and Carol. They started a caravan site at Annat Mill, Corpach and then relocated to Annat with the arrival of the Pulp Mill where they developed and ran Linnhe Caravan Park, now Linnhe Lochside Holidays.

Sheila was an active Guider and was Brown Owl for many years, she was involved with the WRI and travelled widely including to the ACWW World Conference in Nairobi.

She has always been interested in nature and art and was involved in the local Art Group for many years. She and her husband started off the local Scrabble Group and were volunteer drivers.

Along with the Speech Therapist at the time they hosted the Speech Therapy Classes and she still keeps in close contact with both the Speech Therapist who now lives in Guernsey and still keeps in touch with many of the class members. She was actively involved in the Rotary spin-off groups - the "Grand Ladies" and the "Alex Angels".

... and we are really pleased to have heard from Margaret Boyd.

article by John Hutchison



Margaret is now very happily settled in Castle Douglas and hopes she doesn't have to see a packing box for a long time! Both her children and the four grandchildren now live within 5 minutes walking distance, which makes life very much easier for all of them. Margaret is classed as an informal childminder of course, which lets her go into their houses.

Margaret has joined Dalbeattie Rotary Club. There are 28 members and surprisingly everyone seems to have adapted to Zoom without any problem; most weeks there are 25 on screen. There's always a short presentation and often on a topic about the local

area, which helps her to increase her local knowledge. Last week's talk was highlights of a member's holiday trip to South Africa, so something for us to think about perhaps.

Margaret has a part-time development job in the village of Palnackie where, in spite of Covid they have managed to bring in sufficient funding to refurbish the community owned village shop and adjacent cafe. They have also developed a 'Made in Palnackie' brand because there are many creative people in the village and are now working on a project to get more locally produced foods sold through the shop and to develop the home delivery service. Impressive stuff - I'm sure the village will benefit from Margaret's creative energy and experience.

So, family, some work and Rotary keep Margaret going, together with walking and an art class when it restarts. The wee photie above shows a 'gleeful grannie in sylvan setting'!