

WEEKLY BULLETIN 36

Lochaber Rotary

Wednesday 25 November 2020

Good morning all and a warm welcome to the 36th edition of our Club Bulletin. Like me, you are probably tired of the dreary day after day news about coronavirus - we should be grateful that we don't reside in the central belt where they were moved into Level 4 lockdown from last Friday.



As of Monday, there were 55 new cases in the NHS Highland area in the last 7 days - 2% down on the previous 7 days. 55 new cases in a population of over 240,00 doesn't sound much but it demonstrates that the virus is still worryingly present in our area. Hopefully the travel ban on the Level 4 areas will have a favourable impact on the NHS Highland area.

This week's Club Meeting will start at 1pm today and we have an online speaker. Secretary John will send you the Joining Code. The speaker will be Douglas Cairns from Inverglo, Spean Bride, who will be talking about "Flying with Diabetes". It's been encouraging to see the recent increase in numbers attending our online events. Let's try for a bumper attendance and a warm welcome for Douglas.



Let's move on to last week's meeting

Excellent turnout at last week's Rotary Lunch Meeting - see below - and an excellent exchange of views and opinions. Ian from Spean Bridge joined us for the first time online at our virtual meetings - thanks to the technical knowhow of daughter Morvern !

Club business: Knitvity Project progressing well with many donations; woollen and crocheted items can be dropped off at the Alex between Mondays and Wednesdays; stanchions and rope organised; pegs to be used to fix items to rope; publicity arranged; Jenny has made pompoms for the top of the tree. Sundial; we weeded and tidied and have arranged with the Town Team to leave it until next Spring.



Members discussions included: George has been working on his book and raking the leaves at Kilmallie Gardens; Ian joined us on line for the first time thanks to Morvern hooking him up albeit audio only; very quiet during lockdown; good neighbours (Simon and Morvern!!); John H offered to help with setting up a Zoom video connection; John

Hutchison: updating club website; visited hon member Charlie who was fine but rather sleepy; arranging to circulate local newsletter to members; John G: dull weather in Arisaig; boatyard closed; John Harvey: organising trailer load of firewood; David T: the pontoons have been removed from the moorings; Abbeyfield now allowing visits in the small lounge with sanitising between visits; development works for creating eight additional care rooms are ongoing;

Simon: all quiet business-wise; maybe open at Christmas, if not aim for Spring; Simon's dog Flora having gun dog training in Castle Douglas; David M: improved technology now working re Zoom; repairing trailer for transporting firewood; Mike: exceptionally busy at work; Lynsey moving house to Spean Bridge imminently; Paul: busy with gardening and local community Christmas lights; blocked drain resolved; Jenny: looking for a working gun dog puppy; poor weather affecting cycling; Ron: confirmed that David Smilie of Volunteer Arms will donate stanchions to Nevis Centre; concerned about vehicles speeding on the Banavie Road; drew attention to article by Colin Wood in Kilmallie Newsletter; John Hutchison to circulate for members' interest; Sheana: updated members on Knitvity project; drop-off box for donated items in the Alex; arranging publicity for when the tree is assembled; also arranging a Rotary donations cash box at the tree when it is installed; Richard: busy with the unification of the Duncansburgh MacIntosh and Kilmallie and Kilmonivaig churches set to take place on 19th November - see fuller article below.

President Richard Installed in New Parish

by John Hutchison

On 19th November, a piece of Lochaber history was made when two huge parishes of the Church of Scotland united. It was a Rotary event too since the Reverend Richard Baxter, President of Lochaber Rotary was installed in the new parish of Fort William and Kilmallie, linked with Kilmonivaig. Richard will also lead the ministerial team there.

Within Fort William an earlier church union took place a few years ago when the congregations of Duncansburgh and the MacIntosh Memorial joined, the link with Kilmonivaig having existed for some time. In itself that was a significant area since Kilmonivaig comprises a big landward area from Spean Bridge north and eastwards. West of the River Lochy, Kilmallie Parish extends almost to Glenfinnan and north to Achnacarry.

To an extent this new union reflects the 17th and 18th century when the Kilmallie parish of that time included Fort William and extended to Kinlochleven. Unlike those earlier days, however, the Installation Service was live-streamed on YouTube!

The Installation was quite a Rotary family event too since Past President the Reverend Donald McCorkindale, Lochaber presbytery clerk, read the Narrative, being the summary of the key steps that led to the Union and Linkage.

But allegiances other than ecclesiastic will have to change for President Richard, which could give him some difficulty. Now he'll not only need to support Lochaber Rugby Club as well as Fort William Football Club but Kilmallie Shinty as well as Fort William and Lochaber Shinty Clubs. Plenty changes o' jersey for when he gets oot o' his workin' claes, as it were!

The Baxter family are not unfamiliar with Kilmallie since Sheryl teaches at Caol Primary School.

'Father of the Club' and acting chair of Kilmallie Community Council, John Hutchison welcomed Richard across the Lochy and Lochaber Rotary wishes him well in his new ministry.

