

WEEKLY BULLETIN 37

Lochaber Rotary

Wednesday 2 December 2020

Good morning all and welcome to the first of the December editions of our Weekly Bulletin. Originally devised by immediate past-president Clive as a 12-week newsletter to keep members in touch with one another, we're now into our 37th week and it looks very likely that we'll still be producing the Bulletin next Spring! As always, members' contributions are very welcome. John Hutchison has been particularly helpful in producing this edition.

Last weekend saw some startling sunsets locally and the Fort William Facebook Page was full of spectacular skylines. One which particularly caught my eye, and the eye of another 309 followers, was the amazing picture of the High Street below. Comments included "love this picture", "fantastic photo of the High Street", "amazing picture", "ye old Fort William - brill", "beautiful sky". The photo was taken by Margaret Horner and she has kindly given us permission to reproduce it here! Thank you - Margaret.



Today's regular meeting starts at 6pm followed by the monthly Club Council at 6.30pm. As always, all members are welcome to stay on for the Council meeting. . Secretary John will forward the Zoom joining code today. Let's aim for a really good turnout!

Nearly half the membership joined us for **last week's online meeting** which was chaired and hosted by President Richard.

Knitivity Project: Good progress. The metal frame will be assembled in the Highland Cinema Café at 10am on Monday 30th; Ron and Malcolm will collect the stanchions; Gail, Vivien, Jenny and Sheana will clad it with the woollen and crocheted ware and the Rotary pop-up banner and a donations bucket will be installed alongside. John H will ensure publicity and will chase up the Rotary Roundle sign. Overall, everything is in hand for the Monday Launch. [update at end of this bulletin]



District 1230 Budget: delegated to Secretary John to examine and act on behalf of the Club.

West of Scotland Rotary eClub : agreed it would be beneficial to have a representative from Lochaber Rotary at the eClub Charter Evening. Anyone interested should speak to Secretary John.

Youth Philanthropy Award - Lochaber High School: Agreed that President Richard and Finlay will represent Lochaber Rotary at this event on 15 December

Guest Speaker at the Club's Lunchtime Meeting on 25 November - Douglas Cairns from Invergloy, Spean Bridge

Mike introduced Douglas, whom he met 6 months ago through Bidwells while undertaking design work at Invergloy Estate.

Douglas grew up at Invergloy and attended Lochaber High School. He is founder and Director of "Flying with Diabetes". In 1989 Douglas was a Royal Air Force jet pilot at the age of 25 when he was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, and consequently lost his flying career and moved into asset management where he achieved a successful second career. In 2000 he regained the freedom to fly in the USA as a private pilot, and in 2003 completed "Diabetes World Flight", the first round-the-world flight by a pilot with type 1 diabetes.

Following the regaining of his flying licence, at the invitation of David Maitland, he was guest speaker at our Club in 2003 and many longer term members will recall his inspirational talk at that time. Since then, in 2009 established "Flying with Diabetes" and subsequently broke the existing record to land in all 48 contiguous states of the USA and smashed the old record to land in all 50 USA states from 15 days to 5.75 days while raising funds for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. In April 2011 he set a world speed record flying to the North Pole from Barrow, Alaska, and landing on the polar ice.



Douglas is also a co-founder and coordinating member of "Pilots with Diabetes" which actively engages with aviation authorities to promote commercial and private flying with diabetes, culminating in the UK Civil Aviation Authority introducing commercial flying for pilots with insulin treated diabetes in August 2012.

Douglas returned to his home at Invergloy in 2018, he has a small plane based at Oban Airfield and is "so happy to return to Fort William".

On behalf of the Club, President Richard thanked Douglas for sharing his story with us and for a "fascinating and well worthwhile talk". Members responded with warm online applause.

STOP PRESS - The Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine has been approved for use in the UK - and health officials said the vaccine will be made available "from next week".

Donald's gardening Tips for December.

There is really very little to say about December gardening.

- continue lifting leaves and add to your leaf mould heap for use in the spring
- protect plants by mulching and placing fleece bubble wrap over them
- ensure newly planted bulbs etc are protected
- bubble wrap your greenhouse and place tender plants which are in pots into the greenhouse
- it's getting too late for serious pruning as frost could do serious damage
- take time to clean all your tools, pots and planters ready for next year and clean out and tidy your shed to make it more comfortable for your necessary wee libations next gardening year

It's been a horrendous year due to the pandemic, but I've had the best crops of tatties, tomatoes, black currants, gooseberries and blueberries I've ever had. Probably due to the amount of time I've had to work in the garden this spring and summer!!

Lochaber Rotary's 'Knitvity' Tree takes shape in the Highland Cinema, Cameron Square.

Rotarian Sheana Fraser and President Richard Baxter put the final touches to the tree. Thanks to the effort of knitters from across Lochaber more than 1,000 items will go to charities in the New Year.

