

WEEKLY BULLETIN 40

Lochaber Rotary

Wednesday 6 January 2021

Happy New Year fellow Rotarians. We are delighted to deliver the 40th edition of our bulletin to your inbox. Maybe, just maybe, it might lift your spirits during this bitingly cold week. Virus-wise we seem to be going backwards - although there is hope on the not too distant horizon.

As we leave 2020, and our Club's 70th anniversary year, we wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous year in 2021 - make every single minute count! Our Club has had a huge and positive impact on the community during its 70 years of existence. Picking just one project that we had an influence on, the late Dr Su Sen founded and chaired the original Corpach Marina Pontoons Committee, and the emerging marina project is a fine legacy to his drive and inspirational leadership.



photo courtesy of Scot Vance

Today's meeting is an online evening event and Secretary John will send you the joining code. The regular weekly meeting starts at 6pm with Club Council set for 6.30pm. Hope to see you there.

Our **last meeting of 2020** was attended by 12 members and chaired and hosted by President Richard.

After some formal business, and sympathising with David Mee following his cycling accident that resulted in several broken ribs, Richard invited members to recall a special memory or a funny Christmas incident from past years.

Stories ranged from an "off" turkey, 4-day walk in New Zealand, an all-night ceilidh in the North West Highlands, a cloutie dumpling story, an office Christmas dinner with fringe benefits, an advent calendar tale, an all-day Christmas dinner in the Western Isles etc.

Other interesting news: David T updated us on progress at the internal refurbishment work at Abbeyfield to create an additional 8 care rooms, All the staff and residents were about to have their Covid19 vaccinations. David M advised that, due to his hospital visit, he had a negative test. John Hu has sent a Christmas card to Rotary colleagues in Japan. John G delay in installing an anemometer for his renewable energy scheme.

Donald's Gardening Tips for January

- Really all I can say about January in the garden is "yeuch"
- Apart from keeping plants, bulbs etc protected from frost, and generally tidying up ready for spring there is little to be done.
- This month and February are for recharging the batteries for the new year.
- It is also a good time to order plants and seeds

Interesting to see the Abbeyfield Magazine in-house feature on our past-president David Thomson

Our Trustees

One of our longest serving, trusty Trustees, David Thomson has been awarded the Royal Patrons Award by HRH The Prince of Wales. Only 4 were awarded in the UK and David was one of them. Because of Covid, the awards dinner, down south could not be held this year, so David received his award from the Chairman of the Board at Abbeyfield Ballachulish, Mr John McLaren, in a socially distanced reception in the forecourt of the Care Home on the 22nd October. Luckily it was a lovely dry day with even a few blinks of sunshine. The ceremony here was filmed for a short documentary to be produced by the Abbeyfield Group.



Ferguson's Donation Dec 2020

by John Hutchison

Ferguson Transport and Shipping have continued their support of Lochaber Rotary by presenting a cheque for £500.

Group Managing Director, Alasdair Ferguson, sent best wishes from the directors and staff, commenting: "We are delighted to support the Rotary Club of Lochaber. This year has been very challenging for everyone for a number of reasons and with the Christmas Festival unfortunately having to cancel due to Covid, it is good to be in a position to support where we can. We have no doubt that this money will be put to good use in the local area. "

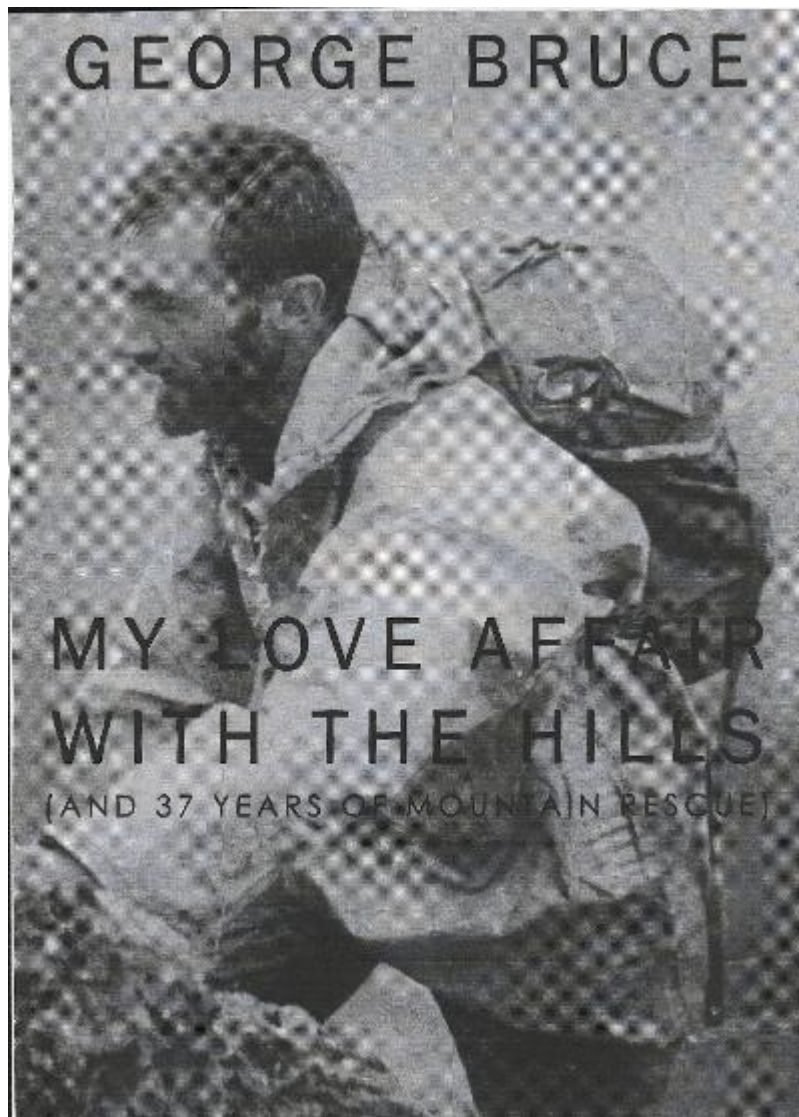
In expressing the thanks of Lochaber Rotary, President Richard Baxter said: "Ferguson Transport and Shipping has been the main sponsor of our Christmas Festival and Craft Fair in recent years. Although we couldn't run the event this year our work continues and so we much appreciate their continuing support."



Past-President George Bruce's Book is Published!

A brief message from George

Wishing all Rotarians a Happy Covid-Free New Year. Last year was spent working on my book which has now been printed and is available via Amazon Books but will be in the local book shop later in the year "My Love Affair with the Hills" and 37 years in Mountain Rescue. George



and a sad further update from George on the loss of his young sister

Just when we were thinking that there was an end in sight to 2020 along comes something else! My young sister died in hospital on 23rd December after her husband died on the morning of the same day after fighting cancer. Roll on 2021 it can't be any worse. George