

WEEKLY BULLETIN 42

Lochaber Rotary

Wednesday 20 January 2021

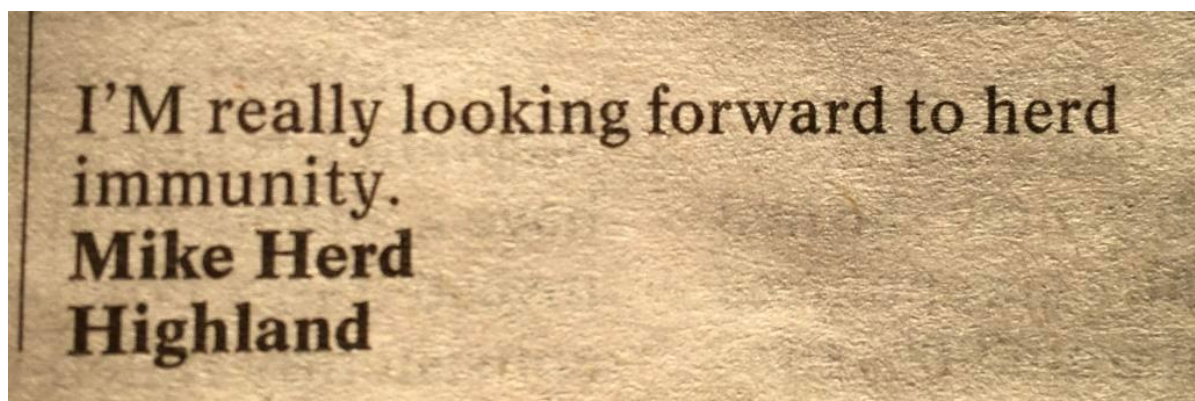
Welcome to our 42nd edition. The last two weeks have seen a substantial change in the course of the Covid19 epidemic with a sharp rise in numbers and hospital admissions. The new variant that can be transmitted more easily is now circulating widely in Scotland. Stay at home, stay safe and get your vaccination.

Last week's 45-minute lunchtime meeting was hosted and chaired by President Richard. Twelve members attended and the ensuing discussion covered a wide range of topics.

Formal business included (1) the need to find a suitable place to store the knitvity tree frame, (2) Treasurer Donald's annual return to Rotary District, and (3) Club Council's decision to provide funding support for 15 lessons on jazz improvisation for a local junior saxophonist. Be sure and read the Winter Edition of the District Magazine - it includes two articles on Lochaber Rotary penned by our own John Hutchison.

General discussion ensued. Topics included - chopping logs, Scottish Dance Music Masterclass with Martainn Skene; very slippery roads and pavements locally; Church of Scotland General Assembly to be held online; local volunteer networks during Covid19; opportunistic crime; Carlotta's bothy at Arisaig; water leaks; refurbishing Kilmallie Manse

Spotted by John Hutchison in a Scottish newspaper



This week's regular meeting will take the form of an online Burns Supper Lunchtime lead by John Hutchison. If you would like to recite a Burns poem, sing a Burns song or otherwise perform, contact John direct. 1pm Wednesday; Zoom online. See **BARZ** below

Christmas Boxes

Past-President Paula and a group of friends, with donations from a wide group of contributors including Lochaber Rotary, made up and delivered over 60 Christmas Boxes to children and young people in the area. Well done Paula and friends!



Sherlock Holmes

by John Hutchison

I suppose I've been interested in Sherlock Holmes most of my life, first encountering him at primary school. I also had a woolly recollection of some character in an annual called 'Herlock Sholmes' but now I see that had been a French plagiarism first published in 1906. This all came back to mind when reading a couple of Conan Doyle's stories during Lockdown.

We're well aware of the tourism value of film locations but did you know that Switzerland has its own Sherlock Holmes following with a mock-up of the 221B Baker Street drawing room that you can see at a couple of locations in London?

In 2004 I was walking the Alpine Pass Route, a 'challenging' east to west venture across Switzerland, from Engleberg to Saanen and I was keen to see the Reichenbach Falls, near Meiringen, where Professor Moriarty finally did away with Holmes, or did he?

It was interesting to see the Falls but hadn't quite expected the inevitable tourism links! Herewith street signs, Sherlock in bronze and me at the Falls.



Shewell in bronze.JPG 140x



Reichenbach Falls.JPG 93x8



Meiringen street signs.JPG 67x8

BURNS APPRECIATION ROTARY ZOOM (BARZ) - WEDNESDAY 20 JANUARY by John Hutchison

Instead of the usual Ian Abernethy-christened 'Rotary Burns Supper Lunch', this week on 20th January we'll have the Burns Appreciation Rotary Zoom (**BARZ**) at the usual time of 1pm. Feel free to share your favourite sections of poems or songs, Burns anecdotes or history, etc. Community singing won't be in sync over Zoom so we'll be spared that. It wouldn't be a Burns event without the Toast to the Immortal Memory of RB and, since BARZ have been mentioned a wee refreshment for the toast would certainly be in order...

Sunrise over the Ben on 13 January. Courtesy of Charlotte Sutton.



Address to the Covid (wi' apologies tae the Bard)

By John Hutchison

My curse upon your venom'd stang,
That breaks my febrile health along,
An' thro' my Corp sends monie a twang
Tae my hale persona;
Tearing my nerves wi' bitter pang,
The vexed Co-Rhona!

When fevers burn, or ague freezes,
Rheumatics gnaw, or Covid squeezes,
Our neebors sympathise to ease us
Wi' pitying moan;
But thee! - thou hell o' a' diseases,
They mock our groan!

When I awake wi' sudden cough,
I rack an' roar, enough, enough,
Look for a spade to dig a sheuch
Enough tae lie in;
Ne'er afore has it been this rough,
Tae feel I'm dyin'!

Whiles the salt tear blinds my ee'
I writhe aboot, gey feart tae dee,
Then a' my other senses flee,
An' temperature flutters;
O wad some power just mak' me free,
Frae coughs an' splutters!

Whare'er that place be priests ca' Hell,
Whare a' chiels lose their sense o' smell,
An' ranked plagues their numbers tell
In dreadfu' raw,
Thou, Covid, surely bear'st the bell
Amang them a'!

O thou grim, mischief-making chiel,
That gars the notes o' discord squeal,
Till humankind aft dance a reel
In gore, a shoe-thick,
Gie a' the faes o' Scotland's weal
A towmond's Covid.

