

WEEKLY BULLETIN 48

Lochaber Rotary

Wednesday 03 March 2021

A warm welcome to edition 48 of our little weekly bulletin. Covid-wise we are moving in the right direction - a significant reduction in infections, hospitalisations and deaths over the last week - we just have to hang on a few more months!



Corpach Basin in the mist on 24 February - courtesy of Helen Christie of Tomonie

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Nearly half the membership attended last week's excellent lunchtime meeting. Business discussions included the likelihood that, with membership of the 46 Rotary Clubs in West of Scotland District 1230 falling to 900, it is likely that our District may be amalgamated with one of the two other Districts in Scotland - East of Scotland or North of Scotland. Also, we are still seeking storage accommodation for the festival material and other important goods. If you can help, please contact secretary John.

Members were delighted to hear Iain report that his round of treatment is finished and he is feeling fine. Well done Iain! George reported that, despite all the book shops being closed because of Covid, book sales are steady; Mike has been busy at work and Malcolm has been grandchild sitting and building a garage at his house; Flora has been busy with Voluntary Action Lochaber and getting out during the good weather; John from Onich has been trying to hire a roofing contractor to replace a roof tile lost during the recent storm; Simon, business-wise, disappointed with the long term virus strategy;

John from Corpach reported that Honourary Member Charlie has been rather unsettled at Mossspark Care Home recently and both his daughters had travelled up to visit him; John himself is busy with the community council and the new hospital project; Paul has been home-schooling his granddaughter and winning the Banavie School's "Pupil of the Week" award; Finlay is concerned and frustrated, business-wise, about the

economic uncertainty; Ken has had plumbing problems, attended the local housing association online meeting and undertaken several disability access audits of buildings; Jenny has had to curtail her walking programme because of the stormy weather, she is reading George's book and has welcomed a new granddaughter; Ron is regretting the recent poor weather that is curtailing his daily walks; grandson Finlay had his first birthday; sad memory of losing a close and very long-term friend from his early days at the Lochiel Centre; Sheana has been self-hairdressing and was about to have her Covid vaccination; Richard thanked everyone and closed the meeting.

A "MOTTO" FROM DG ANGELA SAMSON

Angela was born in Glasgow in the mid-fifties. Although now living in Renfrewshire she is proud to consider herself a Glaswegian at heart. She has been a member of Barrhead Rotary since 2008, having served as both Secretary and President. Angela's motto is simple - Treat others with empathy, kindness and compassion. You will feel better about yourself.



..... and a newsy update on Past-President Terry from John Hutchison

I spoke with Terry Lee in early December of last year about a missing Rotary sign for use with our Knitvity Tree, just trying to find who might have it now. Marilyn and Terry are getting settled near Barnstaple in Devon and seem pleased with the move and send their best wishes. Week by week their garage is steadily emptied as rooms get organised and established.



Terry has joined Barnstaple Rotary which, from the website, appears lively and even has a town centre charity shop.

But did I trace the sign, you wonder? It was last seen in in the garage at Kinlocheil before the flitting so probably reached the Barnstaple garage before all the other stuff from whence, in due course, it will appear. It isn't a bespoke Lochaber Rotary sign so it can usefully be used by Barnstaple; "it's nae loss what a freen' gets!", as they won't say in Devon...

.... and, from our westernmost member, retired physician/apprentice sous-chef John G, a few happy and uplifting paragraphs

I am sure we would all agree that Ken has done and is still doing a wonderful job getting out the weekly Newsletter to us all: so when I received a message from him today asking me to write a word or two I couldn't really refuse.

The problem is that I really don't have any news that would be interesting to anyone else.

I have the same wife and we are still talking to each other quite happily in spite of sharing the same kitchen - because she has not been able to use her right arm and since most of her recipes start with "finely chop up a large onion" I have had to come to the rescue. As she hasn't got the hang of using her left hand to cut, or stir, grate and peel for that matter, I have been compelled to become her apprentice sous chef. There are compensations however. I am very partial to macaroni au gratin and now I can have it as often as I like because I have learnt the mysteries of making a roux which, as I am sure you all know, is the basis of a bechamel sauce.



... Donald's Gardening Tips for March 2021

As February was so awful, weather-wise, and very little could be done in the garden, the February tips are still current with just a few additions.

- › Protect any new buds from late frosts
- › Plant onions, garlic and tatties at the end of the month providing there is no frost

...and another little push for George's Book, "**My love affair with the Hills**"
by **George Bruce** ... from Ken

I met up, socially distancing, with George's mountaineering colleagues Alex Gillespie and Iain Sutherland, at a sad event last Friday. Along with several hundred others, we were attending the "drive-past" following the funeral service of a dear friend. Alex asked if I had read George's book yet and I said I was about one-third of the way through it and that it was a good read. Alex then explained that he had taken the photo used to illustrate the front cover of the book (see below) and his claim to fame was that Aberdonian George had presented him with a free copy! What next?

At £8.95 (£6.50 to Rotary colleagues) - it's a terrific buy and a good easy read. You can dip in and out as many of the chapters are "stand alone" stories. Chapter 9 "The Ice Maidens" is the exciting story of the rescue of two girls - with a happy ending! The photo below was kindly offered to Rotary, via Ian Abernethy, by journalist Iain Ferguson to help publicise the book! Thanks Ian and Iain.

