

WEEKLY BULLETIN 6

Rotary Club of Lochaber

Wednesday 29 April 2020

Morning everyone, That's us into our 6th week of Government Lockdown and we still have plenty of members' contributions for our wee weekly bulletin - keeping in touch with one another. We're also taking this opportunity to send our congratulations to Rotarian Ian and his wife Sheila on the occasion of their 60th Wedding Anniversary!!

We're starting with an update from Vice President Simon who, with his wife Morven, are proprietors of the Coire Glas Guest House in Spean Bridge

Hi all,

A quick update reference life in Coire Glas Guest House during lockdown. As previously mentioned, the cancellations are still coming in however not as many as in the early days, I think people are now watching and waiting to see when lockdown and restrictions are lifted.

This has meant that our unexpected holiday has given us the opportunity to do jobs that were not high priority but have moved up the list to be done. We have just had a new fence around the front and side of the Guest house installed and I have spent a good while painting it our brand colour of Anthracite Grey (Coire Glas - Grey Corries). It looks so much better now it has been finished and gave me the opportunity to literally chat to passers-by over the fence.

As mentioned by Robbie we are helping out both Jan and himself and Ian and Sheila with the weekly shop as they are all in the at-risk group. Social distancing is being strictly adhered to however we did manage a "drinky" to celebrate Ian and Sheila's diamond wedding anniversary last week.

I do hope that all members are safe and well and not going stir crazy and look forward to seeing you all in the not too distant future.

Kind regards, Simon

..... and a newsy message from Margaret who left us last year to be closer to one of her daughters in Castle Douglas

Hello' to all at Lochaber Rotary. I hope this finds you all in fine fettle and surviving 'lockdown'.

Since leaving Lochaber last September, I have been splitting my time between the Isle of Bute (where my father's side of family came from) and Castle Douglas.

Although moving from an area that was home for many years was a bit of a challenge, I am happy that I did it as it is great fun making new friends, getting to know my neighbours, exploring new walking tracks and joining local arts and crafts groups. Have even managed to pick up a part time community development job. (Keep forgetting that I am supposed to be retired). But of course, that was all before Covid-19 reared its ugly head!

Thankfully, I started work with Palnackie Village Shop before the pandemic, and as part of this work I'm now co-ordinating the rota of home delivery volunteers and finding new ways and funding to enable the community shop to keep going. Dalbeattie Rotary Club have been a great support in this and will look forward to joining them properly when restrictions allow.

Like everyone with family working in the NHS, it is a worrying time but there's a fantastic community spirit down here and in many ways the lockdown has enabled me to fit in very quickly.

Although I live in the heart of Castle Douglas, it is only two minutes to walk to Carlingwark Loch (see below) which is looking particularly pretty at the moment.

With kindest regards to all, Margaret



and an interesting proposal from Past-President John Hutchison on maintaining the Rotary lunch meetings/fellowship through use of "Zoom".

Rotary 'Lunch' Fellowship?

Given that it will be some time before we'll be able to meet in whatever the new normal brings, how do members feel about a virtual weekly gathering? Many will be on Zoom, or could easily join, so we could take shots at hosting week by week rather than one person having to commit to hosting, unless someone wanted to.

Zoom is free but we would be limited to 40 mins in any event so folk could opt in and out as suited between 1 and 1:30, say. It wouldn't need to be structured unless we want it to. I'm already doing something similar with other groups and it can be fun. If one person was prepared to host every week then it would be really straightforward; we would simply insert that person's 10 digit number every Wednesday between 1 and 1:30 - but that person would have to remember to open Zoom just before 1 pm! BYOF of course, or BYOB too! Best, John

... and a poignant and very relevant reminiscence from Past-President Ron, previously an instructor at Outward Bound Lochail and Community Education Manager with the Highland Regional Council.

Hello All,

In the late summer of 1967 I returned home from a trip to the Alps to find a letter waiting for me from the Warden of Loch Eil Centre, Mr Peter Downs.

Before going off to the Alps I had applied for a job as an instructor at Loch Eil and the letter was the offer of an interview. I had already decided that living in Newport and working in Cardiff on the Railways wasn't what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.

I came up to Loch Eil and had an interview but wasn't offered a job at that time. A year later, again after another trip to the Alps I returned home to find a letter from Peter offering me a job. I accepted and joined the staff at Loch Eil Centre on 30th August 1968. That was the day I met Kay for the first time, the luckiest day of my life.

Sadly, I heard last week that Peter had died. He was in hospital having routine hip replacement surgery which was successful. He was recovering well from the surgery but contracted the Coronavirus and died within two days.

Let's all be really careful about this thing and all come through it. Yours in Rotary, Ron

... and a few more fascinating Retro-Rotary paragraphs from former reporter, newspaper editor and Rotary Speaker's Secretary Ian Abernethy

Recalling the late Bruce Tulloch's presidency in the 1980s. The first course in the Grand was just about finished when a lone piper struck up across the street. The dining room windows were open and the strains of the pipes proved a very noisy accompaniment to lunch. Bruce got up from his seat, crossed the street and remonstrated - nicely - with the piper. 'What tune are you playing?' Bruce asked him. 'Within a mile o' Edinburgh Toun', was the reply. 'Well, you're not within a hundred miles of it', said Bruce, ' But here's a donation from the Rotary Club of Lochaber if you wouldn't mind moving on. Nearer Edinburgh perhaps!' Bruce's 'diplomacy' did the trick!

Have you ever studied 2015-2016 President Terry Lee's e-mail address? Go on, have a look at it. 'terryleekinlocheil'. What's your interpretation of that?

Su Sen. Not a President but a very regular attender, driving to the Grand from his surgery - diagonally across the High Street! Su would always insist that the president's seat at table was facing the wrong way. 'You should be looking to the East', he declared - each week.

I'm always looking for new material for our Weekly Bulletin. Contact me at johnstonk7@aol.com

