

# WEEKLY BULLETIN 8

Rotary Club of Lochaber

Wednesday 13 May 2020

A big hello to the 8th edition of our little bulletin. It's only been 50 days since normality stopped for most us on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March but some days it does feel longer. Last week's experiment with our "Zoom" lunch meeting was successful - with 7 members joining host John Hutchison in a lively discussion. Sheana is hosting this week's get-together - 1pm today! See you there!

.... we start this week with a newsy update from Past-President George Bruce .. and we wish Brenda a speedy recovery ..

Hi Everyone,

Just an update of how the Bruces are coping with the Lockdown. I have completed all my exterior painting - started on the garden but was short of cement, none to be got in the town, but this is where friends and neighbours come to the rescue.

My next door neighbour arrived with a bag and I got started, was well on the way but was running short again when I got a phone call from a fellow Rotarian who I had been speaking to at a distance with the offer of a part-bag! - so, to cut a long story short - job done and I have the same amount of cement left as I started with!! Thank goodness for friends and neighbours!!

Brenda has completed more knitting for our first great granddaughter but was short of buttons - again, family and friends came to the rescue and the knitting is completed. !!

But, now for the bad news. Brenda and I were out for our walk along the canal when we approached the railway crossing and as I was talking to a family friend, I heard a thump and on turning round found that Brenda had tripped on the crossing and was lying on the crossing. We got her onto her feet and found that she had a black eye, and a bruised knee and wrist. Got her home - then a bath and bed with pain killers and she is on the mend but not looking too pretty. George

..... and a "Thank You" from the Acharacle Brownies group

Some time ago the Club provided funding for start-up and equipment costs for a new Brownie Unit set up in Acharacle. As well as the local township, the group will cater for the wider areas of Ardnamurchan and Moidart.

We were delighted to award £350 to support this very worthwhile community venture. It sits perfectly with the Club's ethos of supporting communities and encouraging youth activities.

Speaking on behalf of the Brownie Unit, Marie Luise MacDonald said "We are really pleased to receive the grant money from the Rotary Club as we have just recently started up our new unit - which the girls seem to really enjoy. The funds will allow us to buy equipment that will be used for years to come so that hopefully lots of girls in the area will benefit".

Marie Luise added "Acharacle is a great community for youngsters to grow up in but there are not always activities available for the younger members of the community. I am hopeful that by setting up the Unit for Brownies we can evolve into Brownies and Guides in future, therefore this is a long term plan".



..... and, on a lighter note, some more splendid contributions from former Speakers Secretary and newspaper editor Ian Abernethy ..

- When I worked in the Central Office of Information in London, most of our correspondence was with the Board of Trade and the Foreign Office. When writing to the latter, the code of practice meant that we had to start the letter with 'Dear Johnston', or 'Dear Talbot', for example - and end it with 'Yours Ever'. That's why I sometimes have a smile to myself, musing that, if David Mee had been a Foreign Office official I could have started a letter to him with 'Dear Mee'!
- Since its inception I've had the role of 'Raffle Convener' at our Am-Am Golf Tournament. In all that time, however, I've never set foot on the golf course! The crack is good in the Clubhouse, though, and one classic episode still keeps me smiling. I asked if I could borrow a stapler, and, a few minutes later a staff member appeared - with a stepladder!

**.... and, from Past-President and architect Mike MacGruer, another family update including some sad news ....**

Hi All,

Like everyone else enjoying the wonderful weather and Sheena and I are either in the garden or out for walks or the occasional cycle run...Both well and slowly becoming alcoholics and putting on weight with the lockdown....like the rest of the country!

Work consists of a weekly Skype call within the Fort William office updating everyone of the week's events. My part of work is quiet at present with all building sites closed down and cannot see it changing until June at the earliest but design work on new projects continues.

Thankfully our local building suppliers have stayed open allowing access to paint, garden supplies etc so most people's homes and gardens will be in first class condition.

Sheena has started making face masks for us both which means she is getting fed up of me at home so I may have to go back to work or even do the shopping sooner rather than later...

Enjoy being home however....at the moment.

Family are all well and the Australian section won't now be coming home permanently until next year at the earliest rather than this summer as previously planned

Our daughter in law Katie had her parents over in Australia at the beginning of this virus and when they returned to Wales her mum took unwell and sadly passed away a

week after coming home. Coroner put it down to coronavirus but after the family and the doctor disputed the reason it was put down as a heart attack. Funeral was held last week with five family members in attendance and at least 8 undertakers but as it meant a 14 day isolation on arrival to the UK and a further 14 day isolation on her return to Australia, Katy didn't attend. Very sad and hard to accept but we live in difficult times.

Hope all fellow Rotarians are well and keeping safe, Mike

.... and, following last week's Zoom meeting, a note from John Hutchison ....

Dear colleagues,

Seven Rotarians had a pleasant chat on Zoom last Wednesday and things mostly worked fine. I had apologies from a couple of others.

Sheana kindly offered to host next week's gathering so you'll hear the meeting ID from her nearer the time. We'll also use a specific password for the Club.

This is a learning experience for most of us so if anyone wants to do a wee trial of Zoom beforehand, please let Sheana or I know. Best wishes, John

**Has anyone joined the recently formed "Fort William Memories" group on Facebook? One of the posts last week was of the Charity Fun Run organised by the Rotary Club in the late 1990s !**

