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Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of Update in 2020, produced by The Lochgair Association (SCIO).

This is a very different issue from previous copy. As a result of a virtual shut down - except for delivery of services, manufacturing and distribution, by workers from our community and elsewhere (for whom we're really grateful) all community social activities are on hold for at least 3 months.

HOWEVER, there are lots of things still going on which is worth reporting on; AND it's good to look back at photos of events we enjoyed between the last issue in December and now.



WELCOME TO
LOCHGAIR

WEBSITE FORUM BY MICHAEL RIED

A forum has been added to the Lochgair website to help people to stay in touch and help one another during the coronavirus outbreak. Turn to page 2 to find out how to register and to receive and post messages on the Forum.

Four threads have been set up to get you started:

Corona Help Offered: use this thread to offer help to anyone in Lochgair who needs it as a result of Coronavirus. If you need help you can reply to posts offering help and / or get in touch with the person directly.

Corona Help Wanted: use this thread to ask for any help that you may need as a result of the coronavirus - as long as it's not an emergency! If you can help, please reply on the forum or directly to the person who left the message.

General Discussion: use this to discuss anything you like. It will be important for people to just keep in touch with one another.

Tips & Tricks: we will use this to post tips on how to use the forum, website and its features.

This will be a bit of a learning curve for us all. Feel free to add anything that you come across.

You are welcome to also add other threads on specific subjects, e.g., gardening, wildlife, crafts etc. We may also add more as we see how the forum is used and come up with more ideas.

Over the next few months the FORUM will be the main way of passing on information sent to the Association.

CHECK IT OUT
www.lochgair.org/forum

GET STARTED! CREATE A FORUM ACCOUNT ON THE LOCHGAIR WEBSITE

To access the LOCHGAIR FORUM please go to www.lochgair.org, and click on Forum in the top menu bar.

Before you can post, you need to create an account. These will be available to anyone living in or with an interest in the Lochgair area, e.g. holiday homes or relatives – it is not necessary to be a member of the Association though.

Please click on 'Get Started' and provide your name, email address and a password. There will be a short wait until your membership is approved. We will try to do that as quickly as possible. You will receive an email once this has been done, you will need to confirm your email address by clicking on the link in the email. If you don't receive an email reply check your junk or spam folder.

You will then be able to provide your contact details. You do not have to provide all the requested details, just your name and email address as a minimum. Anything you do provide will only be visible to the site's administrators (currently Michael Reid and Marion Lacey).

Anything that you post on the forum will be visible only to other registered users, not the general public. You will then be able to start using the FORUM.

Great news! Lochgair.org is now available on the Wix app.

Join us to easily get in touch and stay updated right from your phone.

After downloading the WIX.app (IT'S FREE) you can join the Forum by using this invite code: RPXPKO

**TRUSTEES OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND VISIT TO LOCHGAIR****ON 1ST APRIL—CANCELLED**

In the December Issue of the LOCHGAIR UPDATE we reported that the Association's committee would continue to investigate options on the best way to take forward your ideas for "the social hub of the village" - Lochgair Hall. Our intention was to bring forward a proposal to the AGM to be held on Saturday 2nd May. Unfortunately we have had to postpone the AGM until the current restrictions on meetings are lifted.

However there has been some progress. This is thanks to the intervention of Alison Hay who followed up on representations in early 2018 by the Lochgair Hall Working Group to the Trustees of the Church of Scotland. We received correspondence from the Trustees in mid January indicating that they would consider various options in terms of transferring the ownership or lease of Lochgair Hall to the Lochgair Association. We were about to start formal discussions with their representatives and also to initiate a fundraising campaign in support of this, when they had to cancel the meeting. Hopefully we'll be able to continue from where we left off once normal business is resumed.

EVENTS THAT HAVE HAD TO BE POSTPONED OR CANCELLED

A number of events and activities were planned for over the Spring and Summer.

These have had to be cancelled for now but we hope we may be able to reschedule most of them.

Some of the postponed events include:

- **Planned for 11th April:** The very popular with all age groups Annual Beach Clean & BBQ. We're hoping to combine this with a picnic planned for later in the summer.
- **Planned for 2nd May:** The Annual General Meeting of The Lochgair Association (SCIO) at which we planned to encourage attendance by offering members croissants and fizz!. We will reschedule the AGM once we know when we're allowed to hold meetings.
- **Planned for 23rd May:** The Annual Plant Sale & Coffee Morning that attracts folk from outwith Lochgair as well as from the village because of the great quality of plants and shrubs available. This is a photo from last year's sale.



On pages 6 and 7 you will see photos of events that luckily happened before the current lock down!

APOLOGIES FROM MICHAEL REID – NO ARTICLE ‘FROM THE BENCH’ THIS ISSUE

There will be no ‘From the Bench’ in this issue for several reasons. Things have been pretty quiet out at the bench over the winter and there isn’t much to report that is different from the article at this time last year. I have been occupied with writing about Torsa’s adventures; and setting up the FORUM on the WEBSITE to help people to stay in touch and help one another during the coronavirus outbreak. I plan to write a Spring article for the next newsletter. **IN THE MEANTIME, PLEASE KEEP LOGGING YOUR OBSERVATIONS, AND SKETCHING IN THE BOOK.**

TORSA’S ADVENTURE



Hew and Barbara Service would like to express gratitude to all of the people who helped when their dog Torsa went missing recently. Happily, she was found safe and well and returned to them on Wednesday the 4th of March, after being on the run for around three days. You may have seen the article in the Argyllshire Advertiser in which Hew described his unfortunate experience of becoming trapped in shallow water amongst small trees, briars and bracken. Fortunately, he was able to raise the alarm with Barbara’s help, and the emergency services – all of them: fire, ambulance, police, mountain rescue and coastguard - came to his rescue.

But all the dog lovers in the village must be asking ‘what about Torsa’? How did she get out and how was she found? Torsa is a young, 20-month old, Patterdale Terrier. Like all dogs she can get up to mischief at times and she is particularly inclined to try to get down to the roadside to watch the passing cars. Because of this, Hew and Barbara keep her attached to a long lead when they are out working in the garden with her. However, this means that she tends to get tangled up around plants etc, so her lead was briefly untied to disentangle her, at which point she dashed off through some dense vegetation, trailing the lead. The Services followed as quickly as they could, but there was no sign or sound of Torsa at all. They set off to hunt for her but were hampered by the rough ground, steep slopes and dense vegetation. We have already heard how that ended up.

Barbara told her daughter, Leonora, that her father was being taken off to hospital so Leonora, knowing how much her father would fret about Torsa being missing, and not being based in Lochgair, got onto the internet and spread the word through facebook, twitter, the Lochgair gardening group and the village website, amongst others. Over the next few days, many people from Lochgair and the surrounding area went out to look for Torsa, but by Wednesday, hopes were fading of her being found. Then, on Wednesday evening, while on her bus home from work, Leonora got a call from a woman in Lochgilphead who had seen a post on a facebook page from someone who had found a dog! The woman said she would call the account owner and shortly afterwards the phone rang again, and it was David Robinson from Port Ann, whose wife had found the dog on the forestry track between Port Ann and Lochgair. Her lead was tangled around a tree, but fortunately she was unhurt. Leonora rang her parents and gave them Mr Robinson details, who were re-united with Torsa that evening. Torsa was tired and hungry, but otherwise safe and well, apart from being in a bit of a huff about being separated from her new friend, the Robinson’s dog.

Hew and Barbara and the rest of the family are delighted to have Torsa back and intensely grateful to everyone from Lochgair and further afield who gave so generously of their time and energy to try to find her.

UPDATE FROM GARDEN GROUP

This lovely photo of a Camellia ‘Yuletide’ shrub was taken by Elspeth Wells in her garden.



The Garden Group hope you have all been out enjoying your gardens in the good weather we have had the past few days. One member has started to tidy up her own garden and has sown some annuals for the summer.

Members have been asked to email each other photos of their gardens over the next few months so they can keep up to date with everyone over this difficult time.

DESIGNING QUILTS—MEMBERS OF LOCHGAIR ARTS AND CRAFTS GROUP



In January members of Lochgair Arts & Crafts Group embarked on textile printing—a workshop facilitated by Maggie Murray. After experimenting with different shapes including leaves to print on cloth, the designs were reworked ready to start quilting.



The following month members experimented with different techniques of quilting including machine embroidery. The workshop was facilitated by Chrystine Livingston, an accomplished quilter from Lochgilphead. However the follow up workshop which would have focused on finishing techniques had to be cancelled by Chrystine because of illness. However unperturbed some members have continued to work on their quilts.

This was also an opportunity for Maggie Murray to complete her textile art submission for an exhibition which is now cancelled:

“Sea gull’s view of Lochgair” Painted, machine and hand embroidered.



MEDLEY OF PHOTOS FROM EVENTS IN LOCHGAIR OVER THE LAST FOUR MONTHS



CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

At the bench; and at the lunch group where Jean Smiths' magnificent trifle went down a treat.



But the birds feeding near the bench on Loch Fyne were also not forgotten.

FIRST FOOTING LOCHGAIR STYLE

A great late afternoon & evening on January 1st enjoyed by all ages and unanimously agreed as worth repeating next year.



FLOODING — JUST ONE OF MANY!

High Tide 15th February

Photographed by Elspeth Wells at her gate.

MEDLEY OF PHOTOS FROM EVENTS IN LOCHGAIR OVER THE LAST FOUR MONTHS



It was a tight squeeze to get into the kitchen in the hall, but these amateur sourdough bread makers were keen to learn the tricks of the trade from Michael Reid.

PRIZE GIVING AT THE CURRY & QUIZ NIGHT



ROB'S PHOTOS SPELLBIND HIS AUDIENCE

Rob Wrate's photographic expedition through the Andes and the Himalayas gave his audience a new perspective on many well known iconic photographs by adding a real insight into the lives of people who manage to make a life in these harsh mountains.



LOCHGAIR AMBLERS EXPLORE LOCAL HISTORY - Arichonan Township & The Piggery
"Thank you for that evocative picture of Arichonan. It makes one wonder, what is the mark we leave?" Barabel.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Kirsty MacArthur

We had a wee bit of media coverage (first week in March) as we went public about being carbon negative. Our plan is to try and help other SMEs to reduce their carbon emissions in a bid to tackle climate change, so we have written a guidance note and shared what we have managed to achieve. It's had a really good response on LinkedIn and we have this week been picked up as Climate Change Champion by Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, which we're delighted with. We also have our new website up which covers our carbon negative business model and talks about Lochgair. It's been a slog, but we have got there! www.macarthurgreen.com.

Barabel and Tom Mckay are enjoying an extended honeymoon in their 60th year of marriage, courtesy of the coronavirus. At the moment it is a blissful existence and a precious time. Tom has actually made friends with his exercise bike, and Barabel is trying to reduce her cookery books from their three figure level. It was always a dream to entertain neighbours and enjoy food together. Now it might be possible to find the recipes!

Our comfort is troubled by the plight of other countries who have faced this crisis before us, and a sense of shame that refugee camps are in no state to withstand the threat to life. For so long there are those in our own country who have been disadvantaged, exploited and marginalised, and we have got used to this situation. Our teacher granddaughter is continuing to work, because "there are pupils in our school we know we will not see again if we stop them coming". They are at risk from extreme poverty, abuse, drugs and poor home circumstances.

Like all of you, we have immediate concerns for family and friends on the front line, and the list of essential workers is a long one. Without warm homes, clean water and electronic communication what would we do?

At a time when churches have closed many of us feel we need the power of prayer more than ever. There is a suggestion that we put a candle in our window on Sunday night. We have a 93 year old friend, who told us "I have to have hope". She spent the five days before lockdown in Lochgair, and says the memory of the beauty will keep her going.

The morning still dawns, the gardens are coming alive and something greater than us keeps the cycle going.

Barabel & Tom

From Fiona Rice.

Lochgair War Memorial. Emailed to the Editor is something I've been meaning to do for ages, maybe someone else has by now... It might be put on the website. It's a document the aim of which is to establish the connection between the fallen and Lochgair. I'd thought a loose leaf book might be nice, with a photo of each person and a printed certificate. The MacIver-CAMPBELLS/VIVIANs are confusing so I've made a brief family tree to make it a bit clearer. Any thoughts welcome!



Tae a virus

Twa months ago, we didna ken,
yer name or ocht about ye
But lots of things have changed since then,
I really must salute ye

Yer spreading rate is quite intense,
yer feeding like a gannet
Disruption caused, is so immense,
ye've shaken oor wee planet.

Corona used tae be a beer,
they garnished it wae limes
But noo it's filled us awe wae fear
These days, are scary times.

Nae shakin hawns, or peckin lips,
it's whit they awe advise
But scrub them weel, richt tae the tips,
that's how we'll awe survive

Just stay inside , the hoose, ye bide
Nae sneakin oot for strolls
Just check the lavvy every hoor
And stock-take, your, loo rolls

Our holidays have been pit aff
Noo that's the Jet2 patter
Pit oan yer thermals, have a laugh
And paddle ' doon the waater '

Canary isles, no for a while
Nae need for suntan cream
And awe because o this wee bug
We ken tae be..19

The boredom surely will set in,
But have a read, or doodle
Or plan yer menu for the month
Wi 95 pot noodles.

When these run oot, just look about
A change, it would be nice
We've beans and pasta By the ton
and twenty stane o rice.

So dinny think yell wipe us oot
Aye true, a few have died
Bubonic, bird flu, and Tb
They came, they left, they tried

Ye might be gallus noo ma freen
As ye jump fae cup tae cup
But when we get oor vaccine made
Yer number will be up.

You've gotta laugh. It's the best medicine !

I went to the chemist earlier to see if they had any face masks, they said they were sold out & said I should try Boots.....I've been in A&E for 40 minutes & I know its the doctors I can hear laughing!!!

