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Editorial

Welcome to this Special Issue of Update produced by The Lochgair Association (SCIO). It focuses on the AGM held on the 3rd October.

The next issue will come out in the first week in December. This will be your opportunity to do your bit for the environment and at the same time, if you wish, contribute to charity. As an option to giving out cards to your neighbours in the village you will have the opportunity to send via the Editor a Christmas/New Year greeting to everyone (this could include text/photos/cartoons). Your greetings will be included in a centre page spread of this Christmas edition of Update.



**A FIRST FOR LOCHGAIR -
AN AGM ON ZOOM**

TWENTY intrepid members braved the challenges of ZOOM and signed into the first ever on-line AGM of the Lochgair Association (SCIO).

Unfortunately a further **THIRTY MEMBERS** had to submit their apologies – the majority because of the challenges involved in using Zoom.

So, in recognition that so many folk did not have the opportunity to hear the Chair's report on last year's achievements (particularly a recap on some of the great events held over the winter, as well as on the improvements to the hall) we decided to include her report in a **LOCHGAIR UPDATE SPECIAL** covering the AGM.

We've also included Sandy's Treasurer's report so you can see how your money was spent and how we achieved a surplus of £1,307.

Four things you may like to know

Firstly, there will be **NO MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION** this year. This was proposed by the committee as current Covid-19 restrictions make it impossible to hold social events in the hall and as a result there is not expected to be a lot of expenses

Secondly, two of our very hard working volunteers have stood down as Trustees (**KAY OWEN AND MARGARET GRAY**) ; and in their stead, **ALISON WILKINSON AND BEV CUTHBERT** have agreed to join the committee. ...More on pages 4 and 6

Thirdly, we've registered the Association to receive donations through **AMAZON SMILE**. So if you buy goods through Amazon you can opt to donate through Amazon Smile to The Lochgair Association SCIO.

Fourthly, **IDEAS FOR WHAT WE CAN DO DURING CURRENT RESTRICTIONS** in terms of practical and emotional support; Plus a new Creative Activities Project. ..More on page 5 .

"As we go forward into the winter months and our movements and socialising remain restricted we are aware that this will be a more challenging time than it was back in March when the weather was good and we were able to get out and about gardening, walking and meeting people out of doors." Jean Smith, Chair.

2020 ANNUAL REPORT BY THE CHAIR, JEAN SMITH

A year ago who would have thought we would be having a Zoom meeting in a small village in Argyll, because of a virus that originated on the other side of the world.

Since our last AGM we have organised a number of events, all of which have been reported in the quarterly news Update, so just a quick reminder :-

On the 3rd August was the VILLAGE PICNIC at the Barge Ramp in Ardcastle Wood. Participants came by boat or kayak, and the less able by car. We were entertained to the activities of the wood barge being loaded nearby and some youngsters having their first kayak lesson. It was warm enough for some hardy souls to have a swim.



27th September was our BOTHY NIGHT. This was a super evening of good chat and entertainment. Our two main entertainers, Shona and Christopher went on to become Mod medal winners, and we had a very professional selection of music from Robert Lacey and son-in-law, with the rest of the evening filled by some fun songs by Douglas Murray and Rob Wrate, dancing organised by Rosemary and who will forget my magic knickers!

25th October we had an illustrated talk by Angus Stewart on 'THE APPIN MURDER' with both historical fact and the fiction of Robert Louis Stephenson's book Kidnapped. Angus has obviously enjoyed doing the research into his family history and this was a very well presented talk.



1st January we had a NEW YEAR'S DAY get together in the hall. This was very informal, bring a bottle and some of your left over nibbles. There was soup with home baked bread on offer for those who wanted something more substantial. There was no set programme so people could do their own thing. Many thanks to all who participated and helped with arrangements and a special thanks to Elsie's grandson who started a bit of a sing song.



8th February was our QUIZ AND CURRY NIGHT. The evening started with a delicious choice of curries expertly made by Dave Wilkinson and by Kay. The following quiz had Rosemary as the question master. There were some easy questions and some more challenging ones but nobody was made to feel uncomfortable because of their lack of instant recall of the answers, so thanks to all the organisers of the night.

2020 ANNUAL REPORT continued

On the 15th March seven members enjoyed a BREAD MAKING day. This day was made possible by our new cooker in the hall and Michael Reid had us all making sourdough bread, sampling the bread he had made earlier and taking home a loaf ready for the oven which filled our kitchens with the smell of fresh bread. Many thanks to Michael.



7th March was Rob Wrate's talk on HEBRIDES TO HIMALAYAS, starting with South America - the Andes and in particular Machu Picho- then following a short comfort break with a raffle draw we went on to Nepal and the Himalayas. For both destinations we saw some wonderful scenic photographs, but it was the story of the people in both locations, and how they live and survive in the harsh environment, that was really interesting.

JUSTIFYING THE HALL AS A VITAL VILLAGE AMENITY

In the year 2019/20 our main focus was to look at the use of the Hall. We tried to have as many events and as varied a programme as possible making them either free or a minimal charge to get as many people to attend as possible, so that when we are looking for grants etc we can truly justify it as a vital village amenity. So I would like to thank all who supported all or some of the events. If you weren't at any of them - why not?! When I wrote that it was meant as a rhetorical question, but then I thought we should ask the questions - were the events not advertised well enough, did you not know about them, were they on the wrong days, wrong times, wrong topics or you just couldn't be bothered? When we are able to start thinking about organising events again we will be looking for suggestions, feedback and support. The Association carried out another survey 'why do you think we need a village hall?'. My thanks to Kay for organising this and for correlating the results.

NEGOTIATIONS STARTED WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND TRUSTEES

Marion and I had started to have a conversation with the Church of Scotland headquarters to see what be involved for us, as an association, to acquire the hall and/or the Church building. Unfortunately Covid-19 halted this back in March, however we have recently written hoping to get things moving again.

Since our last AGM the hall has required some emergency repairs. The kitchen floor was in danger of collapsing and Mick Cuthbert and Robert Lacey took up the challenge to sort the worst of it, including the wall behind the cooker and the associated electrics so we are very grateful to them for that.

NEW COOKER & IMPROVED LIGHTING

Since our last AGM we have been lucky enough to be granted some money from the wind farm grants for various purchases - the new cooker, the portable lights in the hall, the bench on shore road and we have some money to be used on improved lighting for outside the hall.



2020 ANNUAL REPORT continued**MARCH 2020 – EVERYTHING CAME TO A HALT**

The Association offered to respond to requests for help from anyone in difficulty because of the virus, however since local suppliers and services have been so good at getting themselves organised with deliveries etc we have had relatively few requests. However I would like to thank all the villagers who offered or gave help when needed.

I have to express my thanks to the Association committee for all their hard work and support during the year, Marion as secretary has the biggest remit plus producing the quarterly newsletter which she does so well. Sandy for looking after the pennies on your behalf, and all the rest of the committee for their support, input to the meetings and to all the organised events. The Association could not function without them so thank you.

A BIG THANK YOU TO MARGARET GRAY AND KAY OWEN

Margaret and Kay have decided to stand down as Trustees of the Association. Both are well known in the village:— Margaret as a key member of the Garden Group, and also a Lunch Group volunteer; Kay, who has introduced the perspective of Lochgair's working population to the development of activities which are attractive to a younger section of the community. Over the last year they have initiated a number of projects such as the selection and sale of Lochgair cards; and the promotion of a range of highly popular events in the hall such as the New Year's Day Social and the Curry & Quiz night. Also their input to the work of the committee in other practical ways has been invaluable. Thank you.

TREASURER'S REPORT BY SANDY RICHARDSON

I am pleased to say that the surplus for the year was £1,307.04. So our Total Balance as at 31 March 2020 was £11,957.62.

Contributing to these funds we are grateful to West Loch Fyne Community Council (WLFCC) who gave us £450 towards the Beach Clean, lighting in the Church Hall and the bench replacement. BBQ donations reached a high of £273.70, and The Grab Trust again gave us a grant for the Beach Clean in the amount of £100.

Elsewhere, more cards were printed, this time for general use, giving us a profit of £175.70.

Also four excellent events - The Bothy Night. 'The Appin Murder' Night, the Quiz and Curry Night, and the 'Hebrides to Himalayas' Night - brought in a welcome £395.55.

The expenditure included admin costs (including printing newsletter copies); the bill for repairing the kitchen floor in the Church Hall which came to £95; the website fee of £86.40; and the cost of electrics for the bread-making workshop, £46.96.

It is fortunate that we are in a good position as our activities are currently curtailed because of Covid-19 restrictions, with no immediate end in sight. However we much hope there will be no great outlay required while our income is non-existent.

Meanwhile, our thanks go to Jan Williams, who once again has checked the accounts.

IDEAS FOR WHAT WE CAN DO DURING CURRENT RESTRICTIONS

These have been sent in by members. Some ideas are ready to go. Others need folk to run with them and make them happen, and we're also looking for your feedback on further ideas.

LOCHGAIR LOCKDOWN ACTIVITIES

During the autumn and winter months of lockdown we could be creative. Very many are, and it would be nice to encourage more to try. It could be painting, sketching, textiles, weaving, patchwork, turning, knitting, photography, recycling, composing a piece of music, writing a poem etc. A number of themes will be chosen and then we'll come together every three weeks to compare what we've done, and to get advice and encouragement. We hope that everybody in the village will take part and at the end of the current restrictions we'll be able to hold a grand exhibition and social in the hall.

SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL INTERACTION ON-LINE

- We're looking into paying for a Zoom membership for folk in the village to host longer meetings/events. For example Jennifer is offering to organize quiz nights on ZOOM. She is also suggesting the use of ZOOM for presentations or slide talks.
- Other alternative social media suggested are: A Facebook page or a village What's App Group.
- We also have the Lochgair Forum on our website. This worked for helping people with shopping etc. during lockdown. We can continue to use this— www.lochgair.org/forum
- We imagine that lots of people are phoning family/friends - might there be scope for a buddy phone call to keep in touch with people who can't get out much over the winter and check they're OK?
- Maybe we could offer remote support for folk to set up their laptops/phones/tablets to enable face to face on-line communication (chat groups). Jennifer is happy to share her knowledge of Zoom (taking into account current restrictions on households meeting up inside)
- We're aware that some folk in the village are excluded as they don't have email or computers. What are your ideas on what we can do to support and include them?



WELCOME TO
LOCHGAIR

EXCHANGING BOOKS AND DVDs

Bev Cuthbert says there are loads of books in the village 'library' at present. She's working on an idea for how a book exchange might be organised. Tom Glen is interested in an exchange of DVD films.

OTHER PRACTICAL SUPPORT?

Would there be any mileage in preparing and delivering occasional 'Surprise' meals?

EXERCISE AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

- See Ian Smith or Sandy Richardson if you're interested in learning Tai Chi or Chi Kung
- See Jean Smith if you're interested in joining the Lochgair Amblers on their Thursday morning walks.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS? PLEASE SHARE THEM WITH US!

NOTICEBOARD

THE TRUSTEES OF THE ASSOCIATION

Jean Smith, Chair (Tel. 886328) Marion Lacey, Sec (Tel. 886232 Email rock.solid.res@gmail.com)
 Bev Cuthbert, Rosemary Dargie, Elsie Freer, Maggie Murray and Alison Wilkinson

WELCOME TO OUR NEW TRUSTEES



"We're so thrilled to have found our home in glorious Lochgair - and the icing on the cake is the fabulous assortment of lovely lovely

residents (Lochgairians?) who've made us feel so welcome. At the heart of this, has been the Lochgair Association, and, although it's on ice currently, if we can feed it a little oxygen, I'm sure it'll burst back into life as soon as possible. We'd both love to help, if we can." Bev Cuthbert



"Most people in village already know my husband David and I and if not, they probably recognise us with our dog Duch, the Saluki. Even in these strange and challenging times that we are current experiencing, I am enjoying being a permanent member of the community. I hope I can share some of my previous experiences and skills as a Cub Scout Leader, for 15+ years. I have been involved in organising and supporting various fund-raising and social events including raising money to build a new Scouting Hall after the old hall was destroyed by fire. I hope I can bring some ideas and make a positive contribution to the Association." Alison Wilkinson



A FOND FAREWELL

On the 2nd of October at 10.30 am (the day preceding our AGM), the community of Lochgair came together to stand in silence to pay their respects to Sandra Bell as her funeral cortege left from Lochgair bus stop for a private service at St. Bride's cemetery.

Our thoughts are with her husband, Fraser, and their families at this time. She is sorely missed.

Donations in memory of Sandra can be made to Parkinson's UK via Donald MacDonald (funeral Directors) or direct to the charity.

WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK

How do we take forward some of the ideas for activities and support during the latter end of 2020 and beginning of 2021 (see page 5)? Pass on your suggestions to Jean Smith.

AMAZON SMILE.

Remember you can donate to the Association via Amazon Smile. 0.5% of the net purchase price of eligible purchases are donated to the Association, though you're welcome to choose an alternative charity of your choice.