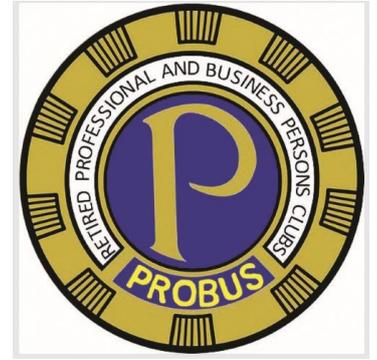


Winter 2021/22

Lochaber Probus Club



Volume 2, Issue 2

Looking forward to Spring



Warmer days are on the way

2nd December 2021

Barbara & Kenny Mathieson gave a presentation on their work with the Blythswood Trust.



They spoke of the history of the Trust and the widespread reach it has in Eastern Europe. The Trust is also involved in aiding people in Scotland. Through their shoebox appeal many receive life enhancing support.

A good point of contact is the Trust's shop at Caol.

The chairman thanked them and presented Probus mugs to them both.



Blythswood Care—Extracts from their website

“The Blythswood Tract Society was started in Glasgow in 1966. The group was made up of young men with a passion for Jesus and sharing the gospel. They engaged people in conversation on the city’s streets, handing out Christian messages and sharing the good news of Jesus living, loving and dying for people before rising again. The Society’s name simply came from the area in Glasgow where they had a tiny office, near Blythswood Square.

Jackie (John Walter) Ross, Donald Ross, Ian Tallach and John Tallach were all training to be ministers and they led the group. Friends gave financial support. People prayed. The demand for Bibles and Christian literature grew. As well as sharing the gospel with written words, the group desired to show Jesus’ example of love with practical action. They visited homeless hostels with food and clothes. Reaching out to people in need in their homes and communities became part of the much-needed work.

By 1970, all the student ministers had congregations away from Glasgow. In 1977, the Blythswood Tract Society’s office moved to Lochcarron, in Wester Ross, where Jackie Ross was a minister.

During the 1970s and 80s the work expanded. Bibles were being printed for Blythswood, 20,000 at a time. They were sent to Africa and India; taken into the communist Eastern Bloc; distributed to schools and given out in UK prisons. Christian bookshops, book vans and book agencies were established and spreading the Good News, in Scotland, England and Northern Ireland. Bible studies were compiled in response to huge demand from Africa. By God’s enabling, the gospel was transforming lives around the world.

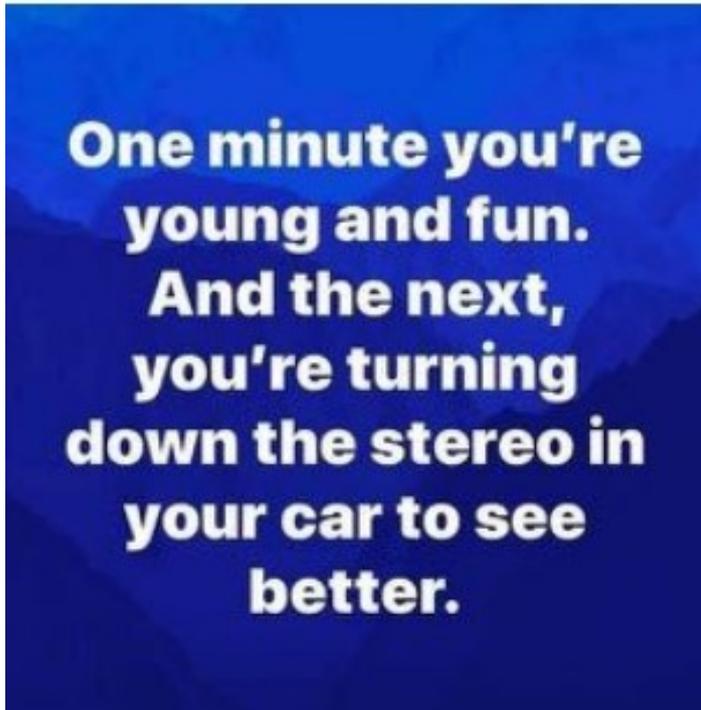
Sharing the gospel along with practical action has been important from Blythswood’s earliest beginning. In 1984, in response to emergency requests, essential aid was delivered to Poland. Relief goods were sent to Armenia in 1988 when a devastating earthquake killed 25,000 people and left many destitute. Another container went to the poor in India. Small loads of aid were taken into Romania early in 1988 and 1989.

Rapid change followed the Romanian revolution of December 1989, and the scale of crippling poverty there became evident. With urgent appeals and frenzied activity, Blythswood had sent five vehicles laden with aid by 15 January – the first of many convoys. In August 1990, Princess Anne sent Blythswood’s 45th load on its way from Glasgow.

Our first Shoe Box Appeal, in 1993, delivered Christmas boxes, packed with love and strengthened with prayer, to the poorest and most vulnerable communities in Europe. In 1997, as our work expanded, we moved to our warehouse and office premises in Deephaven, Evanton and in April the following year, James Campbell became our Chief Executive.

In 2002 Jackie Ross passed away but his fine work continues to this day through Blythswood Care.”

Extracts from Forest Lake Probus Newsletter (used with permission)



"The Old Days"

Joe the miser worked hard and saved all his money. He almost never gave any to his long-suffering wife, Mary. He just saved and saved. One day he told Mary that when he died, he wanted all his money packed in the coffin with him. He wanted it to keep him company in heaven. A few years later, Joe died. At the funeral Mary announced that Joe wanted to take his money with him. She put a locked metal box into the coffin next to Joe's body. Then they closed it and sealed it. After he was buried, a friend of Mary's said, "I can't believe you actually put all that money in there with him!" Mary replied, "I promised him I would. So I deposited all of it in my bank account, then I wrote him a cheque. If he can cash it, it's his."

Extracts from Forest Lake Probus Newsletter (used with permission)

THE RISING MOON

*A picturesque answer to the sun as
it set
The moon, a giant silver orb above
the bay
Rising slowly over a distant hill in
silhouette
Its mottled surface streaked in blue
and grey*



*In the bay's dark waters, placid
and still
A second orb appeared as a moon
reflection
And as the moon rose higher
above the hill It made this night
scene one of perfection*

*But then as a gentle breeze swept
across the bay
The rippling waves sparkled like a tinsel
lace
With the reflection forming a moonlight
causeway
Etching forever this memory in my mind-
space*



News Items

What happened to our Christmas Lunch?

Our Christmas Lunch had been planned to be held at the Alexandra Hotel on 16th December. Unfortunately the new omicron variant had just started to raise its ugly head in the days leading up to the lunch and we weren't sure what we were dealing with. We look forward to another 'meal out' soon.

St. Andrews Night Dinner at the Rural Centre.

Several of our members attended a great night on Tuesday 20th November in the Centre. Those attending were encouraged to wear an item of tartan. Two of our members wore the kilt while your Secretary elected to wear a tartan face mask.

The excellent meal of soup, tatties and neeps, local lamb, apple crumble and tea or coffee was served by our delightful Thursday waitresses ably assisted by a few friends.

The evening was rounded off with music from a section of Lochaber Strathspey and Reel Society which included our own Lizzie and Linda with your Secretary leading some community singing.

Social and planning meeting on 3rd March.

Our club started in January 2020, but since then there have been huge upheavals in both the lives of our members and in society. We plan to take stock and look at various aspects of the life of our club—consideration of our organisation, finances and our aims are to be given some thought.

Invite a friend to join Probus.

The best way to recruit new membership is by personal invitation.

Programme for March to June 2022

Thursday 3rd March - Social and planning meeting

Thursday 17th March - Lorna Steele-McGinn - Lochaber Archive Centre

Thursday 7th April - As this is during the school holidays, we may decide not to hold a meeting that day.

Thursday 21st April - Carrie Hallam - Prostate Scotland

Thursday 5th May - This is a school in service day, which could affect some members who grandparent child mind. Possibly no meeting?

Thursday 19th May - Hannah Newton - Lochaber Hope

Thursday 2nd June - The Queen's Jubilee Holiday - Possibly a royal theme that day?

Thursday 16th June - Annual General Meeting. If we decide to have an end of session dinner and AGM in the Alex., we might want to consider changing the date to Tuesday 14th June to allow Isabel to attend.

No meetings during July and August.

Thursday 1st September - First meeting of 2022 / 23 session.

About Probus

Probus Clubs are associations of retired and semi-retired professional and business people which exist to provide regular opportunities for members to meet others in similar circumstances, with similar levels of interest, make new friends, and maintain and expand their interests. It is not a fund-raising organisation.

Where and when do we meet?

At Lochaber Rural Centre, Torlundy Fort William, on the first and third Thursdays of each month. We meet at 11.30 am for coffee and chat followed by that day's speaker at 12.00 noon. Lunch follows the speaker ending at 2.00 pm approx.

How to contact us

Contact can be made through our Facebook page "Lochaber Probus Club" or by letter and email to the

Club Secretary David Anderson: -

1 Dumfries Place, Fort William PH33 6UQ

Email: david@mirlos.co.uk

Tel: 07802 452 293