

WESTERN ISLES LIEUTENANCY NEWSLETTER – NO 10

JANUARY TO JULY 2020

COVID-19

Our restricted and enforced lifestyles over the past three months, as we observed government Covid-19 guidelines, have resulted in public events and social gatherings being curtailed. This has meant that apart from a few low-key commemorative events reported below, all other meetings, gatherings, events and activities have been cancelled or postponed. A proposed Royal Visit to Barra by HRH The Princess Royal; meetings of the Lord-Lieutenants' Association in Edinburgh and London; a Seminar in London and meetings of the HRFCA in Perth; QAVS presentations; Clan Morrison Gathering in Ness in June and the Clan Mackenzie Gathering in Balallan in August as well as the Royal Garden Parties in Edinburgh and London were all cancelled or postponed. Some of these events were covered in the Lieutenancy Update Note sent out to Lieutenancy members last month.

IOLAIRE MEMORIAL



The proposed Remembrance Service and wreath laying ceremony which had been scheduled for 2.00 pm on 1 January 2020 to commemorate the Iolaire disaster was cancelled by the Council at short notice

following Health and Safety advice for members of the public because of the high winds and heavy rain on the day. However, the Convener and I managed to visit the memorial at the scheduled time to lay the wreaths on behalf of Her Majesty and the Council. The weather on the day was in sharp contrast to the weather a year earlier when we were able to commemorate the Centenary Service in splendid sunshine with HRH The Lord of the Isles in attendance.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

I attended an event at Lews Castle College on Monday 27 January 2020 to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day and to light a Holocaust Memorial Candle. The event was organised by the Health Board and included presentations on the history of the Holocaust as well as addressing current issues involving the rights of minority communities in Scotland.

ROYAL GARDEN PARTY 2020

The Royal Garden Party which had been scheduled for Wednesday 1 July at the Palace of Holyroodhouse was cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings. The fifty guests who were on our list will get the opportunity to attend next year's event in July 2021.

QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE 2020

The two groups from the Western Isles nominated for the QAVS 2020 were successful and both awards were officially announced on 2 June. We congratulate the Counselling and Family Mediation Western Isles, based in Stornoway and Fèis an Rubha, (Point Gaelic Festival) on their awards. They join the four previous winners - Guth Airson Iarrtasan Nis (Eoropie Playpark), Sporsnis and Comunn Eachdraidh Nis, in Ness and Garadh a'

Bhagh a' Tuath, in Barra – as recipients of this prestigious award which is the equivalent of the BEM for the voluntary sector. I am grateful to Iain and Margaret Doig for initiating the nominations this year and to Margaret and Maggie for assisting me in assessing the nominations. It would be good to see more nominations from the Western Isles next year as there have been no nominations from Harris and Uist so far. The closing date for nominations for the 2021 awards is 25 September 2020 and further information on the process for making nominations is available on our web-site at www.westernisleslieutenancy.org.uk or on <http://qavs.culture.gov.uk>



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS 2020

The Queen's Birthday Honours List, which was scheduled for publication on 13 June, has been delayed until the autumn. This will enable some of the exceptional contributions made by so many in response to Covid-19 to be properly recognised. Nominations are invited for those working on the frontline providing critical care to Covid-19 patients; people who have made significant innovations in order to support the vulnerable and those with COVID-19 or their communities and sectors; people who have gone to extraordinary lengths to keep critical services going and those who volunteered

in the community or for service organisations in support of those affected by COVID-19.

While we have been fortunate in the Western Isles in not having had COVID-19 related deaths, to date, and the numbers of confirmed cases has remained low, you make think of people who have been leading, co-ordinating and working for the COVID-19 response – people who are going above or beyond at this time of national emergency. It is anticipated that around 400 people from around the UK will be included in the Autumn Honours list and further information is available on [Covid-19nominations@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:19nominations@cabinetoffice.gov.uk).

The closing date for nominations under this process is 24 July 2020.

QUEEN'S AWARD FOR ENTERPRISE

Nominations are now open for the Queen's Award for Enterprise 2021 and the closing date for nominations is 9 September 2020. The Awards recognise and reward the outstanding achievements of UK businesses in the fields of Innovation, International Trade, Promoting Opportunity (through social mobility) and Sustainable Development. Companies interested in submitting nominations should be directed to the web-site www.gov.uk/queens-award-for-enterprise.

VE DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY

Low-key events were held throughout the country on 8 May to commemorate Victory in Europe Day. The Lewis Branch of the Royal British Legion organised a small gathering of invited guests at the Ross Battery Memorial outside the

Reserve Centre, where a 2 minutes silence was observed at 2.00 pm, followed by a short period of reflection. A similar event was held at the Harris War Memorial in Tarbert at 10.00 am and Harris Cadets joined other cadets throughout the country by saluting at their doorsteps.



80th ANNIVERSARY OF 51st HIGHLAND DIVISION'S SURRENDER AT SAINT-VALERY-EN-CAUX

The battle of Saint-Valery-en-Caux was commemorated in Stornoway at the Drill Hall at 10.00 am on Friday 12 June where a wreath was laid on behalf of the 51st Highland Division. Other events took place at The Nicolson Institute Clock Tower, the Lewis War Memorial and at various other war memorials throughout the islands. Local pipers joined hundreds of pipers throughout the country to play the pipe tune "The Heroes of St Valery" written by Pipe Major Donald Maclean of Ballantrushal. Donald Maclean served with the Seaforth Highlanders during the second World War and was taken a prisoner-of-war at St Valery, spending the following four years in a prison camp in

Poland.



ARMED FORCES WEEK

Although Armed Forces Week events had to be severely curtailed, the Flag Raising and Flag Lowering events proceeded with restricted numbers at Stornoway, Tarbert and Balivanich. It was gratifying to see the young pipers Jamie Doig in Stornoway and Hamish Scott in Tarbert as well as bugler Karen Logue in Stornoway in attendance and playing with such confidence and accomplishment.



LORD-LIEUTENANT'S CADETS

At the beginning of the year I was asked to approve the appointment of two Lord-Lieutenant Cadets, whose appointments began on Armed Forces Day on 27 June. Sgt Alexander MacCuish of the Harris Detachment Army Cadet Force and Sgt Luke Macleod of the Air Training Corps, Stornoway will be joining Sgt Emma Monk, of the Balivanich Detachment ACF as Lord-Lieutenant Cadets. This is the first time we have had L-L Cadets in three separate locations which reflects the

calibre of the current intake of Cadets in the Western Isles. It is unfortunate that there is so little in the way of public events at the moment that they could be involved in but hopefully they will have the opportunity to accompany some of us to events later in the year. Sgt MacCuish also has the distinction of being awarded the Lieutenant Governor of the Isle of Man's Cadet Certificate, prior to Sgt MacCuish's move from the Isle of Man to Harris, last year.



2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's Lieutenancy AGM is due to take place in Lewis and prior to the Covid-19 lockdown we were looking at the possibility of Uig Lodge and/or Uig Sands Restaurant. The planning for that and discussions with the venue did not advance too far before the lockdown, so matters are on hold and no booking has been made. Realistically, it may not be

PHOTO GALLERY

As there are a number of photographs from events that may be of interest, a photo gallery is included here. Despite lockdown, these photographs show that commemorations have been able to continue - albeit without the usual level of public presence.

possible to hold the AGM in September and depending on the measures taken by the Government to ease the lockdown we may need to postpone the meeting to Spring 2021 if we cannot meet this year. We will continue to review matters before a final decision on the date is made.

FUTURE ENGAGEMENTS

July - Visit to Stornoway by Royal Navy Patrol Vessels

14 August - VJ DAY Commemoration Events

5 September - Merchant Navy Day

15 September - Battle of Britain 80th Anniversary

7/8 November - Armistice Day Services

AGM - To be confirmed



Tarbert War Memorial



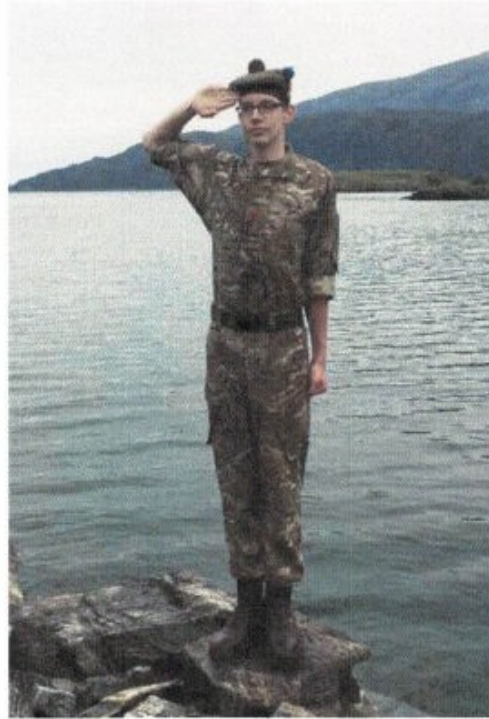
VE Day at Tarbert

Cadets from the Harris Detachment of 1st Battalion The Highlanders taking part in the 0800 doorstep salute on VE Day.

Sgt Maccuish



Cadet Langley



Cadet Macdonald



Cadet Campbell





VE Day at the Drill Hall in Stornoway



Saint-Valery-En-Caux Commemoration at the Drill Hall in Stornoway



Armed Forces Day in Stornoway





Army Cadet Force Event in December 2019