

we thought.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2020/344/schedule/1/paragraph/7>

Allows up to 15 people from up to 5 households to assemble outdoors for voluntary or charitable work. Specifically we are permitted under sections i) Voluntary or charitable work and xii) an organised activity which is not a procession. We fall into those categories so we can plan for teams of four to get the boats into the water. Please confirm that you are able to meet at the Club Hut, Glencruitten Road or out at the lochs on Sunday 21st March.

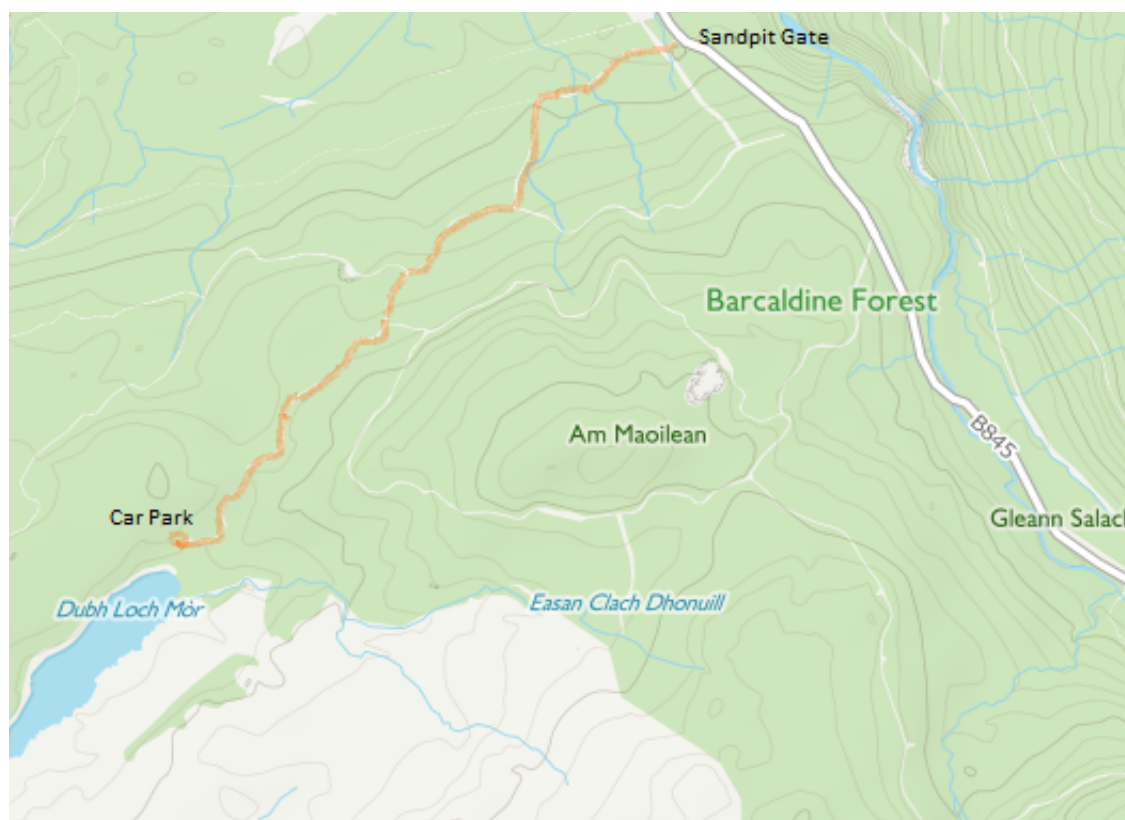
The first day of spring seems suitable to go out and launch boats. Exactly which boats will depend on numbers and the vehicles' ability but Loch an Leoid and the Oude boats will be our primary objectives. If there will be enough, we hope to have a "North Team" meeting at the Nant Gate to do the Sior boat and Loch an Leoid, and a "South Team" to do the Loch Oude and Avich boats. At least one from each team will need to come to The Club Hut for 10:00am to pick up oars, thole pins, bungs and tools. The others can meet at the Nant Gate for 11:00 or the Oude layby at 10:30. Please be ready to wear masks and observe social distancing as far as is possible.

If you cannot make it on Sunday, please confirm by replying to this email, texting me or phoning me on [07766811088](tel:07766811088). I promise not to try and persuade you to come - slavery is illegal but it really helps if we know how many people can make up a work party. If we cannot assure enough people to make the two teams, I can advise those who are able to make it where and when to meet so that at least some progress is made. The worst case is for two people to turn up and make a wated journey. Please communicate and make it easy for everyone.

Second, thanks to Allan Coutts and his assistants, the Loch Seil and Loch Gleann A Bhearraidh boats were launched this week. After much hard work by Geoff Blunsum our webmaster, the online calendar is live on the website and will show the boats' availability. The booking phone number on your membership card is also available, but our preferred method of booking is via the website by email to: bookings@olac.org.uk. We hope that this is easy for you to remember

Third, The Club has secured a lease from Forest and Land Scotland for Dubh Loch Mor at Barcaldine. This is a new water for members to fish and is easy to reach from good

forest roads with a car park about 50 metres from the water's edge. We plan to install a mooring and deploy a small boat on this loch for two anglers to fish from. Access will be through the "Sandpit Gate" on the Bonawe to Barcaldine Road B845 through Glen Salach. We will have a lock in the ring on this gate so that members can drive through to the loch. See the map below.



F&LS have kindly offered to clear a route for the boat but getting it and the mooring installed will need a week or two to organise. We will keep you informed of progress. If you wish to explore this loch to bank fish it, feel free but you will need to email Allan Coutts to receive the lock code. You may recall

that there was a tragic incident in this area a few years back and F&LS are understandably wary of public access. Our use of the forest roads is a privilege, not a right and we should stay on the route to the loch with the car sticker displayed when you park. The forest roads are clearly shown on the map but can be confusing when driven - there are three junctions to traverse. Please keep your speed down and navigate carefully to avoid taking the wrong track.

Fourth, the Club has bought a 12 foot loch boat with water ballast for use on Dubh Loch Mor (see above). This boat is similar to the one on Loch Seil and will permit access to clear water later in the year when weed and lilies make bank fishing difficult.

Fifth in the succession of good news this week is that we have over fifty subscribing members. This is a really good number given the Covid-19 restrictions and the resultant temporary closure of The Anglers' Corner. We hope that Mario will be able to open soon. I am sure he hopes so even more... Members have been using BACS, Paypal, e-cheques and paper cheques to send The Club their money and Iain Moody our treasurer has been kept busy posting cards out. Iain deserves sincere gratitude for doing this - it was not what he expected to be doing in his retirement! If you have not yet

joined this year, please do. The Club is doing pretty well despite the pandemic and the limitations we have to follow. The more members we have, the better we can help each other.

Sixth - the accounts have been drafted by R A Clement and will soon be posted on the OSCR website for public viewing. The accounts showed that the Club made a surplus of income over expenditure for the year, despite the problems of the pandemic and a slightly lower membership than in 2019. The Club has now carried forward?? a surplus of funds for the last two years and we are well placed to weather the financial impact of Covid-19. We will be able to buy materials for the ongoing repairs to the boats and the hut. It seems that fishing is a healthy and practical escape from the stresses of life and visitors are keen to purchase permits. This has made all the difference to our financial well-being.

You will find the accounts here:

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/about-charities/search-the-register/charity-details?number=47428>

In summary, due to Covid-19 and a slight fall of in season permit sales, the income for the year to 31st October 2020 was almost ??1000 less than in 2019 but thanks to careful

management The Club did not make a loss.

Lastly I was able to visit Loch Awe Service Station and Graham's Store, Taynuilt last weekend to ensure that they had their permits ready for sale before the 15th of March. They are the only permit sellers open just now but as the lockdown is eased we shall have permits available from the other outlets.

We know that members often wish to invite guests to fish on Club waters and it is good that day, three day and weekly tickets continue to be available from these premises. The Club remains grateful to the permit sellers for their assistance in selling tickets to the public. The income we derive from these often makes the difference between The Club making a loss or profit in the year.

I am sure that you will find the above good news is a good start to the season. If we can get together and launch the boats over the next week or so we can look forward to a spring and summer with lots of fishing and the prospect of a return to more normal living. I had my vaccination on Tuesday and will continue to follow the guidance on avoiding Covid-19, but I am going to get my rods out nex week.

I hope that this finds you well, and looking forward to some

trout in your net.

Kind regards

Jonathan Anglesea
President

Mobile: [07766811088](tel:07766811088)