

GLENMORISTON NEWS+VIEWS

MORISTON

MATTERS

ANNOUNCING  
NEW  
NAME:-

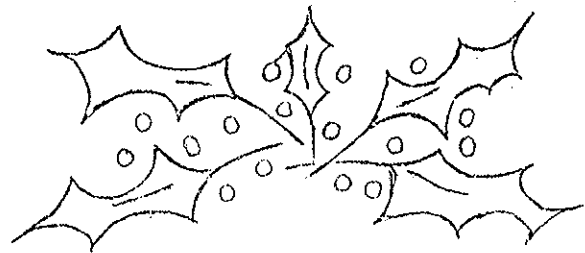
PRICE 10n.

No. 4 DECEMBER. 1977.



"I might even leave you some wine and a sandwich. Hope you have a nice journey to Glenmoriston."

## CHRISTMAS ISSUE

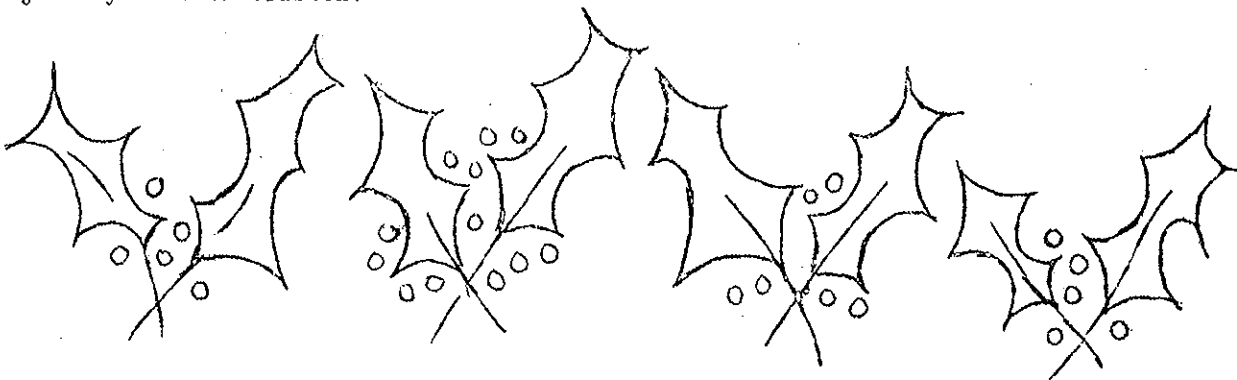


ATTENTION ALL CHILDREN! Santa has sent word that he intends to be at the Hall sometime on the afternoon of Saturday, December, 17th and everyone is invited to join in the fun from 2 o'clock onwards.

See p.8.

The Mothers' & Toddlers' group are holding a party in the Hall on Wednesday, 14th December and hope to welcome all children under school age and their mothers.

See



COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON TO ALL OUR READERS.



## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the last issue of "The Glenmoriston News and Views" - No, not the last issue of the newsletter/magazine (by no means) but the last issue under that name - - -

You may remember - - - in Issue No.1 we invited suggestions for a name for this venture - - - and in Issue No.2 we printed a collection of the names received. Well, we have now chosen one of these suggested names from an interesting collection - one that is short and snappy yet comprehensive and embracing our aims and purposes. MORISTON MATTERS. So our task is as before ; to publish (Glen) moriston matters (chatter, natter, patter and the more serious) in order to publicise the wellknown fact that (Glen) moriston matters.

We announced that the originator of the name we adopted would be awarded a prize. So a gift token has been awarded to Mrs. Grant, Dalchreicht with thanks for her suggestion.

And now we announce another competition - for an illustrated masthead to suit the new name, "MORISTON MATTERS". We have thought of one idea: on the left-hand side a drawing of a well-known River Moriston scene from "up the Glen", on the right-hand side a drawing of "The Falls" ("down the Glen"), the two drawings to be linked by a diagrammatic river, along the "course" of which would be lettered "MORISTON MATTERS". We invite then, illustrations of this - but will, of course, accept and consider any other suggestions. The prize will be well worth trying for.

In this, our last issue of 1977, we happily declare that this venture has been a success ; of that we have no further doubt. We will hold a public meeting, as soon as it can practicably be arranged. Meantime, we thank all our contributors (of whom there has been, gratifyingly, no dearth), those who have shown interest and have bought their copies, Ian Grant for making his Gestetner available, Christine MacDonald and Anne Douglas for their perfect typing, Allan Nairn for his titling and excellent illustrations and Mrs. Fraser for her tireless newsgathering, - all very much for the parts played in the founding and consolidating of "Moriston Matters". (Let's get used to the new name!).

Finally, "Moriston Matters" bows out of 1977 with words adapted from words used on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the founding of B.B.C. Local Radio with Radio Leicester (courtesy of "Nationwide") : "We are not professionals, nor are we trying to be ; but we are seeking to be the voice of the people of Glenmoriston speaking to one another". Beannachd leat an drasda.

## WOMAN'S GUILD

At the October and November meetings of the Woman's Guild two very different topics were considered - at the first Mr. Fraser gave a comprehensive history of the Bible from the early versions of Genesis to modern English translations, and at the second Mr. Bill Niven of the Department of Social Security in Inverness spoke of the various benefits provided by the Welfare State for different classes of handicapped or deprived citizens. The ladies have also been busy making Christmas cards, gift tags and calendars to sell for church funds and for the Feed the Minds Stall at the Charities Bazaar at the Caledonian Hotel, Inverness on Saturday, 3rd December.

Bygone Days in Glenmoriston

"Many a time and oft", as an old poet wrote, one recalls with happy memories the days of long ago, when Glenmoriston was the home of contented and kindly families who lived in what might be called "do it yourself" environments and circumstances. Take for example the case of an elderly couple who resided near Torgoyle over 60 years ago.

In those days, and for many years afterwards, my work entailed journeys up and down the glen, except in the dead of winter. Occasionally I was asked by the couple referred to above if I could pop into their house to "do a letter for them", as their knowledge of the English language was nothing like as good as it was of their own - the Gaelic. My first experience in carrying out the business of letter-writing for the couple concerned was an unforgettable one. As I entered the house along with the lady herself, she opened the kitchen door and ushered me in with a charming and courteous gesture.

The scene that met my eyes was staggering. The fireplace was actually on the flagstone floor, two lengths of a birch tree lying on the fire, and extending fully six feet over the floor towards the entrance door to the room itself. It was certainly a lovely fire. But that was not all. Perched quite unconcerned on those logs were five hens - two on one "log" and three on the other. What a picture! The good lady's husband was comfortably seated close by, and puffing away at his pipe. He asked me to sit at the table, which I did, and lying on it was notepaper and an envelope. It was then, and only then, that I saw at the farther end of the table a small pile of newly-prepared scones, all ready, as I thought, to be popped into the oven, and I naturally wondered where on earth the oven could be. I did not have long to wait, as the lady appeared carrying a huge cast-iron frying pan, complete with a handle which could only be suspended from something and hung over the fire. Then another miracle - she picked up the poker, which was over three feet long, thrust it up the chimney and began manipulating it from side to side. Then, after a couple of seconds, down came an iron chain with a hook-like end, and then I realised what was to follow. She slipped

the handle of the frying pan on to the hook, and there was the so-called oven. Then she put a large lump of greasy fat into the frying pan, and in no time it was bubbling merrily. Next she flipped four large "raw" scones into the pan. They seemed paper-thin to my inexperienced eyes, then lo and behold, they began to swell, and in seconds, it seemed to me, she flipped them upside-down, and in no time they had doubled in size and were golden brown. What a gorgeous sight they were, and the smell of them, after she had lifted them out of the fat and placed them on the table, was out of this world. Next she split them open with a knife and buttered them. We had them later with a cup of tea, and finer scones I had never eaten. Happy memories indeed.

A. M. C.  
Fort Augustus.

Tial 999

Glenmoriston telephone exchange must have been in operation long before 1939. In 1929 the exchange was already going strong although the original seven subscribers had been reduced to only two, numbers one and four, the remainder having decided that the innovation was superfluous.

The little hand-operated exchange of these days was operated by Miss Fullarton & Miss Buchanan, and our telephone calls were passed on with no less efficiency than they are handled by our impersonal system of today.

51204

P.S. Thanks to our Water Department who worked all of a wet Saturday recently and saved us from a very dry weekend.

The Peer.

We welcome features so that we can sustain our historical page.

Eds.

P U B    P A T T E R

We welcome in our midst once again, with pleasure, Mr. Tommy Calder from Invergarry, home from New Zealand to spend Xmas and New Year with his family. Being the great musician that he is, along with his brother and father, they never fail to visit us at Invermoriston. One occasion in particular was Saturday, 19th November when they joined us in our 'local' and need I say we all had a most beautiful and pleasant evening.

Looking forward to a return visit.

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A group of young, handsome men, have taken up residence in our glen and may we express our sympathy to poor Mrs. Mair, who has to put up with them. This 'beautiful' group of people work for the Ordnance Survey under the watchful eye of Mr. Bill Weaver. During an evening in our local, in the company of those fine gentlemen, the inevitable topic arose - DARTS. In all his glory Bill took the floor to play 'Smartie Pants' for a dram. We had 'bull up' which Bill won. Stating that three in a bed was game, what did Bill do? He went forthwith and put all 3 darts in treble twenty. (How about than then?). I declare him the champ!

To continue on a more sober note, we now come to the Miss Annie Fraser Trophy. All matches were close games and good crack was had by all until we discovered that 'you know who' ended up in the final (Bill Leather). The final of this lovely trophy was a very good and tense game with both players clocking up excellent scores. May we say 'Congratulations Bill' and commiserate with Willie, who played an excellent game.

The Duncan Grant Trophy is still in progress and the final results will be in the next issue.

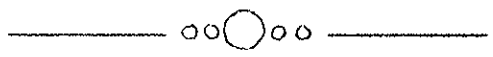
NESSIE - IN SAUDI ARABIA!

One day, while shopping in TAIF, I was spotted, or rather my GLENMORISTON T-SHIRT (a plug for the Craft Shop) depicting a caricature of the Loch-Ness Monster on the front was spotted, by a Saudi friend of mine. "Ah, what is this?" he asked, "Glenmoriston, maybe a whisky and some strange-looking creature. 'Is it some sort of cat?' (Whisky and a cat with humps!" I thought. "Is this country as dry as it is made out to be?").

Retiring to a street-side café and over a cup of tea and a puff on the "hubbly-bubbly", I proceeded to tell him a little about the Glen and the world famous 'beastie' of Loch Ness, adding spice to the monster's appearances with a little 'story here and there. He was most impressed and promised that on his next visit to 'my country' he would go North to seek out the fabulous Nessie. I assured him of a warm welcome, but insisted that he first visit Margaret in the bothan by the burn and sample a little Highland hospitality. So should you see an Arab by the dartboard dressed in 'thobe' and 'Goutra' don't be alarmed. His intention is not to take over our Scottish oil - he is merely another Nessie hunter. Donald'. 'Gird up thy loins' and double your fee; you have a customer.

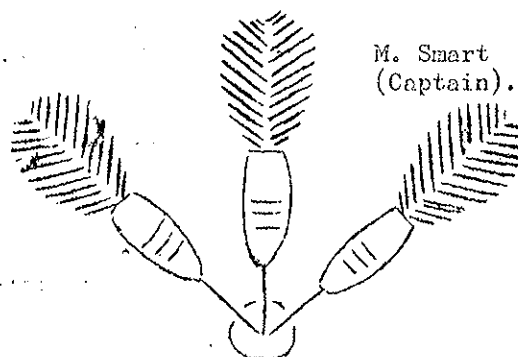
My next tale to my hosts here may be a little more difficult and even less credible. To relate to them the escapades of the monster's no less illustrious neighbour in the cottage by the river. Yes, you've guessed it - it's those wayward pair of plus fours!! Say, Craft Shop (again), how about a Glenmoriston plus-four T-shirt to help me on my way?

D.F. MacDONALD.



THE GLENMORISTON DARTS CLUB -----

Wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a good New Year.



CHRISTMAS DAY

As I lay in bed  
I heard a noise.  
It sounded like toys.  
Tingle! Tangle!  
Jingle! Jangle!  
Hark! it's Santa Claus.  
He brings us toys  
For girls and boys,  
Like dolls and trains  
And farms with lanes.  
He may go fast,  
He may go past,  
He may go slow,  
You'll never know,  
For in the morning  
When the sun is dawning,  
He'll be gone,  
Singing a song.

AMANDA GRANGE.

WINTER SNOW

Winter brings many a joy  
For you and me, girl or boy;  
The ground is cold, the frost doth scold,  
The rose hips fall, the trees seem small.  
The clouds become dark and grey,  
As Jack Frost comes out to play.  
Snow? Snow? is it true?  
Or is it just what the fairies drew,  
Only for me and you?

ELIZABETH WATSON.

WINTER

The snow is floating,  
The snow is crisp;  
The wind will blow,  
Blow strongly upon the bare trees.  
No leaves to fall,  
No colours at all,  
No colours to blow off the trees.

KAREN TOMLIN.

SANTA

Santa Claus is out in the snow,  
See his nose and fingers glow!  
Look at his shiny wooden sledge,  
He must have dusted it with 'Pledge'.

JULIA (Age 7)

C H R I S T M A S

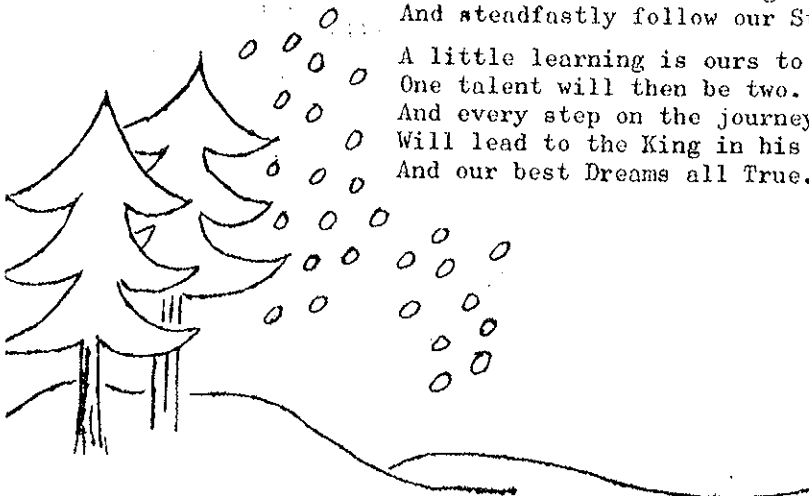
A little learning, the Poet wrote,  
It is a dangerous thing.  
A little learning can stuff the ears  
With fancies, theories, doubts and fears  
While sweetly Angels sing.

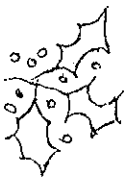
A little learning, the Shepherds<sup>d</sup> said,  
We never got in our Youth;  
But Peace on earth, Goodwill to men  
And Glory to GOD beyond our ken  
Have surely the ring of Truth.

A little learning, the Wise Men said,  
Is too little for us by far.  
With Prophet and Seer, with Song and Story,  
We'll seek our souls' King in all his Glory  
And steadfastly follow our Star.

A little learning is ours to use;  
One talent will then be two.  
And every step on the journey of Duty  
Will lead to the King in his matchless Beauty  
And our best Dreams all True.

P.F.





# CHRISTMAS LETTERS



Dear Santa,

For Christmas I would like a space hopper and a bike. May I have a walking, talking doll and a Sindy doll and her clothes and shoes? Can I have a blackboard and a big box of chalk and a duster? May I have a doll's pram and a really big teddy bear which you pull a string and it talks. On Christmas Eve I shall leave you milk or something. I hope I am asleep when you come. I got a lot of things for Christmas last year. How are your reindeer?

Love, JULIA  
(Age 7)

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Dear Santa,

For Christmas I would like an enjin. I would like a bike and a five raising cars and a toy horse and a toy farm. I would also like a cilt.

Love from JOHN (6)

Dear Santa,

I like Christmas Eve for I think how nice it will be in the morning to open all the presents you bring me. For Christmas I would like a small blackboard, a box of chalk and a rubber. I would also like a train set with a battery computer and a station on the rail and a bridge with it. If you would, could I have a big panda and a puppet on strings?

From JUDITH MARIA WATSON  
(Age 8)

P.S. I might even leave you some wine and a sandwich. Hope you have a nice journey to Glenmoriston.

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Dear Santa,

Will you bring your raindears and my toys. I would like books and games.

From ANDREW (6)

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Dear Santa,

I would like a big big teddy bear and a blackboard and duster, and an enjing on a rail, and a raising car.

From TINA (6)

## PARTY RECIPES.

A party recipe from Australia:-

### WHITE CHRISTMAS

- 3 cups rice crispies
- 1 cup coconut
- 2 cups chopped mixed fruit (including cherries and angelica, if possible)
- 1 cup icing sugar
- 1 cup powdered milk
- 6 ozs. white vegetable shortening.

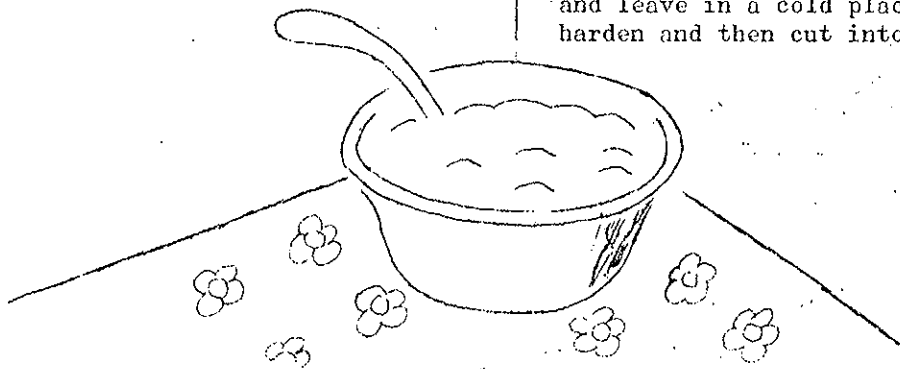
Mix everything except shortening in a biggish bowl. Melt shortening and stir it into the dry ingredients, making sure that all are well combined. Press into a tin and, when set, cut into pieces.

And one from Northern Ireland:

### FIFTEENS

- 15 wheatmeal biscuits
- 15 cherries
- 15 marshmallows (pink and white)
- 1 small tin condensed milk
- coconut to coat (or sugar strands, or chocolate vermicelli for a very special occasion).

Crush biscuits and cut up cherries and marshmallows (scissors warmed by dipping in boiling water are a help here). Mix together and bind with condensed milk. Form into a thick sausage shape and roll in coconut (or sugar strands or chocolate vermicelli). Wrap in greaseproof paper and leave in a cold place overnight to harden and then cut into slices.



THE CENTRAL YOUTH CLUB - FORT AUGUSTUS

T. V. CLUB

A notice appeared in Issue No.3 headed S.O.S. - a cry for help from the Central Youth Club! There is good news - slowly but surely the whole aspect of the Club has come to life. It could scarcely do anything else with a now regular attendance of 30-40 young folk (8 - 14 years), who led by Mr. Jack Smith and Mr. Ian Urquhart are making things hum in the Club.

A special evening for parents was held on Thursday, November 24th and after a talk about the Club everyone was asked to fill in a questionnaire. The results are most encouraging and it is clear that we have some parents who would very much like to help. At the next club evening there were 41 boys and girls and six adults helping - and what fun we all had : it was a really worthwhile evening for everyone. Plaster modelling, toy making from pipe cleaners, darts, blow football, a play rehearsal, snakes & ladders, dominoes, draughts, tuck and finally a short story and a general chat before going home ; and there was a good attendance from Glenmoriston too. So keep coming - It is your Club - and bring your pals along.

Apologies to Dalchreichart that you were not sent a news letter last week. Sorry - we will see you get the next one:

Exciting really, all this. Exciting and worthwhile and constructive too. We will let you know how we go on.

T.D.

YOUTH GROUP

We are glad to report a new Youth Group coming weekly to the Manse (our third) and comparing very favourably with their Predecessors - to whom we send warm Greetings in all parts of the wider world to which they have gone and to which they are making their respective contributions. All boys and girls of Secondary School and upwards will be made very welcome - Thursday Evenings, 7.00 / 9.30 approx.

A Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, November, 16th to discuss the club in general. Bad reception in Pier and Riverside Park areas was reported and this will be investigated.

Mr. Craft tells us that there is a strong possibility we will be able to receive the U.H.F. signal in about a year from a new mast being built at Fort Augustus. This will mean moving our masts "further round the hill" as we require to be in "vision" line" with the new mast - at the moment our masts are surrounded by trees and the Forestry Commission wouldn't take too kindly to being asked to cut the lot down!

The change-over will be expensive but this problem must be met when it arises.

The Committee will keep all club members informed - hopefully through the "Glenmoriston News".

M. J.

GLENMORISTON PUBLIC HALL

Final approval has been given by the Scottish Education Department for payment of a grant towards the cost of alterations to the hall. It is hoped that additional financial help will be given by the H.I.D.B. and agreement reached at our next meeting to put the work out to tender.

There was a good attendance at the A.G.M. held during November and the following were elected as Committee members for the year to come:-

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Mr. P. Macdonald | Mr. A. Nairn   |
| Mr. G. Cowie     | Mr. J. Service |
| Rev. P. Fraser   | Mr. A. Draper  |
| Mr. J. MacKenzie |                |
| (Portclair)      |                |

and ex officio members, Mr. I.H. Grant and Mr. J.E. Grant.

Mrs. P. Fraser has been elected as a representative from the W.R.I.

J.S.M.

# Schools

## FORT AUGUSTUS S.S.

Fort Augustus Secondary School has had a very cultural term with two trips to Eden Court. The first was a D'Oyly Carte production of Gilbert and Sullivan's 'The Gondoliers' and the second a 'Tie-Up' production of 'Macbeth' which, if the senior pupils had not been studying the play in school, might have been confusing as some of the actors were playing several roles. However it was enjoyed by all as the acting was excellent.

We were all saddened to hear of Mrs. Bruce's accident. We express our deepest sympathy towards her and wish her a speedy recovery. She is responsible for weaning us off the Bay City Rollers and introducing us to the pleasures of listening to good music, both pop and classical.

Some of the older French pupils are hoping to make it to the South of France next spring accompanied by our French teacher, Mrs. Pottage. We may not make it to the beaches of St. Tropez, but it will be an opportunity to brush-up our French. (Look out next May for a full report .... in French?).

With the exams now over we can look forward to our Christmas Dance on the 15th December. Sadly we are temporarily without Mrs. R. MacDonald, the gym teacher, but we hope to have her back before Christmas as we miss her expert dancing tuition.

Our planned Christmas concert has had to be cancelled because we are without Mrs. Bruce.

Alas! Wendy Johnstone, who now has close connections with Invermoriston, is leaving at Christmas to become a hairdresser in Inverness. The school won't be the same without her!

Finally, the Invermoriston pupils in Fort Augustus feel at a disadvantage when they play badminton in school as they have no opportunity to play outside it. Therefore some of us would like to revive the Badminton Club. Anybody interested?

C.A.M.

## GLENURQUHART S.S.

During the October holiday twenty-eight pupils from Glenurquhart S.S. School, accompanied by two teachers - Mr. & Mrs. Scoular - made a trip to Chester. We travelled by train with one change at Glasgow and arrived at Chester at 6.00 p.m. Feeling exhausted after a ten-hour journey, we were relieved to reach our guesthouse.

We paid enjoyable visits to the Chester Leisure Centre, the Museum, the Cathedral, Jodrell Bank, a candle-making factory, the cinema and had a cruise on the River Dee. Other highlights of our trip were visits to the famous Chester Zoo and the British Heritage with its well-known "Rows". We also walked along the old Roman Wall.

We owe a special thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Scoular for having given up so much of their holiday for our benefit. Everyone enjoyed themselves immensely. I thought it was super.

F.C.

## INVERMORISTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Shortly after the beginning of term we were sorry to lose Aileen and Marie Sandilands, who have removed to the Isle of Mull. From letters received from Aileen and Marie we understand they have settled down and are enjoying their new life.

Both Mrs. Grant of Dalchreichart School and I attended a Conference at Fort Augustus on Nov. 4th and the school was closed.

We are looking forward to the School Sale in aid of School Funds, on 8th December. The Annual Nativity Play is in preparation and we hope to hold it during the last week of term.

G.A.B.M.



CATHOLIC DAY OF RENEWAL

Saturday 29th October was a Day of Spiritual Renewal for the Catholic parish of Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston. The Catholics had decided that they wanted to share this with members of other churches, and accordingly they held it in the Secondary School at Fort Augustus and advertised it widely as open to all.

Over 60 people took part in the morning and afternoon sessions. They came from Glengarry, both sides of Loch Ness, Lochaber, Inverness, Kingussie and the west coast, as well as from Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston. Well over a third of them were not Catholics, and we were particularly pleased to see the Rev. Peter Fraser.

The parish priest, Fr. Mark Dilworth, welcomed all present and explained that the proceedings would be neither Catholic nor ecumenical but would focus on basic beliefs in God and Jesus Christ and the need for Christian commitment, things that are common to all the churches.

The principal speaker was Fr. Clement Bradley, CP, of St. Mungo's, Glasgow, who took as his text Ephesians 5,2 : "Walk in love, as Christ loved us". He gave a moving exposition of the parable of the Prodigal Son, showing how prodigal the Father was of his love and warning against being like the elder brother, correct but unloving, in our religious practices.

A lively period of hymns, scriptural choruses, readings and prayers brought the opening session to an end.

The afternoon meeting followed the same pattern and was chaired by the Rev. Ian W. Macbain, a Church of Scotland minister. Fr. Bradley described the human development of Christ and our need to accept our failings and weaknesses ; we are to offer them also to God, in order to be led, like Christ, by the Holy Spirit.

After a period of praise and worship, what certainly was a very satisfying conference closed with votes of thanks and the Lord's Prayer. The songs of praise were led by Miss Margaret McLaine, Inverness (guitar) and Mrs. Maureen Gaunt, Fort Augustus (piano).

The ladies of the parish looked after the young children during the two sessions and provided tea and coffee after each. At the end a collection was taken, which covered the expenses ; the surplus has been sent to the local collector for Help the Aged in Drumnadrochit.

Since the Day was so successful, it is hoped to organise further conferences on Christian Renewal in the Great Glen.

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THE REV. PAUL ROBSON

The Rev. Paul Robson with his wife and two children, who have spent several holidays in the Glen, came back in October with a group of young people drawn from diverse backgrounds, their aim being to live and work and worship together for a week. They spent the mornings doing useful jobs, the afternoons exploring the Glen and the evenings round a blazing log fire in Wester Dalcattaig playing and studying together, bringing each day to a close with an epilogue. Mr. & Mrs. Fraser were made very welcome at one of these evening sessions and Mr. & Mrs. Ian Grant and their family at another, and the young people left at the end of their stay expressing appreciation of the benefits they had derived from the Glen and the friendship that had been shown to them.

## OUTWARD BOUND

On Thursday, 27th October, under the auspices of the Department of Adult Education and Extra-Mural Studies of Aberdeen University, there was an illustrated lecture in the Hall by Dr. James Bruce of the Inverness Field Club, entitled "Exploring the Military Roads of Northern Scotland". In spite of this cumbersome heading the evening breathed the fresh air of the open hills, snow-clad in some of the pictures, or shimmering with the new life of spring in others, or again glorious with the purple of the heather. Dr. Bruce spoke of the

roads, characteristically heading straight for their objectives, with the intimate knowledge of having trapped them all, and he mentioned particularly the bridges, tributes to the skill of the craftsmen who built them two hundred years ago, for which he confessed a special affection. There was an interval for conversation over a cup of tea and the thanks of those present was voiced by the Rev. Peter Fraser.

Owing to cutbacks in the national economy this is the only lecture of this kind to be given in Glenmoriston this winter.



### BIRD MIGRATION

During the winter months we usually see birds which haven't been here all summer. Here are some birds that come in from the cold. From Scandinavia come the fieldfare and the redwing, from Iceland the pink-footed goose, from Greenland the knot and sanderling. The barnacle goose arrives from Spitzbergen and the starling from Finland. Two more common birds, the chaffinch and the teal, migrate all the way from Latvia. As well as these Bewick's swan and the coot arrive here from N. Russia.

So keep your eyes and ears open while you are outside this winter and see how many of these you can spot from the sky.

One day I was running an errand and I was just passing Dalchreichart Post Office when I spotted a bird. I ran into the field, picked it up in my hands and took it to school. I looked at our bird book and found to my astonishment it was a fieldfare all the way from Scandinavia probably.

We think it must have been exhausted when flying over our glen and injured its wing on one of the telegraph wires. It is much better now. When it recovers fully, we shall set it free.

ELIZABETH WATSON.



### A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE NEWCOMER

Memories are wonderful things we agree.  
But in the Glen means this to me:  
To wander down the loch so wide  
And my laddie by my side,  
Eyes full of wonder at things he sees,  
Of questions galore of sights and trees -  
Oh! How near to God we are.  
When I look around me near and far,  
These hills and trees, Oh! So green,  
And all the wonderful things to be seen,  
To climb the Snout and take in the view,  
To hear the far-off cry of a lone curlew.  
Gathering blackberries on yonder hill,  
Jelly jar handy and ready to fill.  
Up to the wee church at the head of the brae,  
Where all the folks gather to sing and to pray.  
And then we come to the end of the day.  
These are days I hope and pray,  
Of times gone by but here to stay.

"THE GARDENER".

### FARMING NOTES

November weather has been bad with the result that there are some potatoes to harvest and various tidying-up jobs still to do. The annual sales of lambs and calves have taken place and while prices were good they were still not good enough in those inflationary times. In fact, a farmer would need to see into the future to be able to cope with markets and consumer needs. Root crops are good this year, but with hand feeding already started no doubt all winter feed will be utilized by the time we get to grass-feed again. It can be a long winter in the Glen. Calves have started to make their appearance in Dalchreichart - and so the cycle goes on. It is said a farmer should plan as if he had a hundred years to live and work as if he were going to die tomorrow!!

J.A.

IN BRIEF

Congrats to:-

Congratulations to Jacqueline MacKenzie on winning a prize for cookery at the Technical College.

And to Alison McDonell on gaining a Secretarial Certificate.

Congratulations to Peter Stoddart for winning a second oak leaf to his bar for safe driving. (This signifies at least ten years' safe driving).

Our best wishes to Donald Kennedy and Janet Smart who were married on 7th October.

Interesting visitors to the Glen in October were Archie McDonald and his wife, now retired and living in Sanderstead, Surrey. Archie grew up at the Home Farm, the son of the grieve, and many of his old friends were pleased to be able to renew contact with him.

The work on behalf of the Red Cross, carried on so faithfully by the late Mrs. Grant of Glenmoriston, has now been undertaken jointly by Mr. Grant and Mrs. Sey as president and secretary respectively of the local Red Cross Centre. We wish them every satisfaction in the running of the chiropody service for senior citizens and other schemes organized from time to time.

FAREWELL and WELCOME

On leaving employment with the Hydro Board after twelve years' service, Mr. John MacDonald was honoured by his colleagues when Mr. Peter Woolley presented to him a coffee table and a silver tray in the course of an informal gathering at Auchterawe Control Centre. John is now working with Wilson Girvan at the Glen Service Station in Fort Augustus, and his place at Ceannacroc has been taken by Mr. David MacAdams whom we welcome to the community along with his wife and children, Fiona and Jackie, from Cruachan.

There has been a lot of illness since the last issue with no fewer than twelve of our community finding themselves hospital cases. Happily they are all now home again and we wish them a continuing recovery.

We offer our sincere sympathy to Mr Grant of Glenmoriston on the death of his sister, Beatrice (Mrs. Howard), in Canada so soon after his visit to her last month.

The minister was explaining to the class how the children of Israel were instructed to redeem their firstborn sons with a lamb and after that the children could go home to live with their parents in the normal way. A girl's voice was heard from the back of the class, "What could God have done with the boys anyway?"

RAINFALL AT INVERMORISTON

In the course of twenty years I cannot recall such consistently wet weather as in recent days. There have been thirty-seven consecutive days - October 19th to November 25th - with significant rainfall. The total fall in those days was 359.8 millimetres or just over fourteen inches. From November 5th to November 16th was the wettest period - eleven days which produced 202.0 millimetres or approximately 7.95 inches. The wettest day in the period was October 30th with 33.9 millimetres, closely followed by November 11th with 30.9 millimetres, 1.3 ins. (approx) and 1.2 ins. (approx) respectively.

First snow at Invermoriston came on November 16th and there were green leaves on some of the trees until December.

P.F.

## DR. BUCHANAN

Dr. Buchanan's untimely death cast a gloom over the area from Invergarry to Ceannacroc and Tomdoun to Primrose Bay. Few are privileged to have free access to so many homes and few could sustain that privilege more acceptably than he did. The packed church at the funeral service in Fort Augustus and the even bigger crowd outside in the rain bore silent testimony to the respect and affection in which he was held, and the Rev. Hugh Gillies voiced the feelings of all when he said, "He was our friend. He was one we could trust". The triumphant notes of Handel's "Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son, Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won" ringing from the church at the end of the service and the carpet of beautiful flowers at the cemetery brought a gleam of hope to what Mr. Gillies had described as the saddest day he had known in Fort Augustus; but it will be a long time before the people cease to mourn him who was indeed a beloved physician of modern times.

## WREATH for DR. BUCHANAN

Among the many tributes to Dr. Buchanan was a wreath from the People of Glenmoriston. Suitable contributions were invited at the time and these have left a surplus of £40.80 which sum has been placed in the Bank of Scotland, Fort Augustus, in the Dr. Buchanan Commemorative Fund. Thanks are due to all who took part in the Wreath Collection.

P.F.

Remembrance Day - this year on November 13th (mercifully dry at 11 a.m.) was celebrated in the customary way. The British Legion Wreath, in the presence of a goodly Company, was laid by Peter Stoddart.

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Community Council of Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston met on October 21st. Also present were Representatives of Invergarry Residents' Association, there to confer as to what was to be done to commemorate Dr. Buchanan and his great service to our Communities. Members representing Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston unanimously agreed to act together. The Invergarry representatives left the meeting to report back home. They have now reported that the Residents of Invergarry and District desire to enter into the joint Collection. This is now going ahead with receiving centres for Glenmoriston at Glenmoriston Village Shop, Inver Service Station and Dalchreichart Post Office. Contributions may also be handed in directly to the Bank of Scotland, Fort Augustus. Closing date for the Collection is December 16th and Mr. Everett, Secretary of the Community Council, who has already accomplished a lot of work, will be glad to receive all ideas for as worthy as possible use of the Fund.

Returning to other Community Council business, it was decided to fill the vacancy in Elected Members so soon and so sadly left by Dr. Buchanan, by the appointment of Mr. Andrew Goodwin. It was also agreed that Mr. Gordon Cowie should be invited to serve as a Co-opted Member of the Council.

P.F.

## HEALTH SERVICES

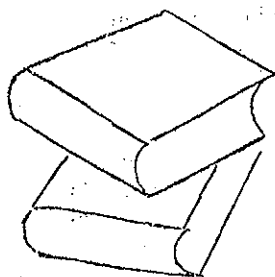
In September we welcomed as District Nursing Sister to Glengarry, Miss Veitch, a qualified Health Visitor, Midwife and Queen's Nurse, who has done community nursing in the Highlands for the past twelve years and who now lives with her mother in the Nurse's House at Invergarry.

A new departure in district nursing and Health Visiting services for the area is the introduction of trainee nurses to district nursing work. Student nurses studying for the General State Registration Certificate and for the State Registered Certificate now spend six weeks of their course accompanying the resident District Sister and learning the practical side of community nursing. In the Fort Augustus/Glenmoriston District we have a Jamaican girl, Miss Doris Brooks, who has been given a warm welcome by everyone and has taken up badminton since her arrival. In the Glengarry/Laggan District there is Mrs. Diana Stewart who hopes one day to take up district nursing as a profession.

K.E.

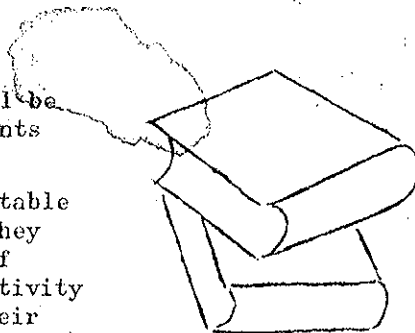
Dr. John A.L. Mayhew, M.B. ChB. of Edinburgh is to be the locum in the practice until the end of January and we hope he enjoys his stay among us.

A BLESSED COMPANION IS A BOOK



With Christmas approaching, parents will be fully occupied selecting suitable presents for their families.

Here are some suggestions for books suitable for various ages of school children. They will not only provide them with hours of pleasure but will attract them to an activity which can only be helpful to them in their school work. These are all paperbacks and relatively inexpensive.



PICTURE PUFFINS - 6-7 years

"Patrick"	-	Quentin Blake
"Mrs. Pepperpot's Busy Day"	-	Alf Proysen
"House of Four Seasons"	-	Roger Duvoisin
"Clocks and More Clocks"	-	Pat Hutchins
"Fly Away, Peter"	-	Frank Dickens
"Mrs. Mopple's Washing Line"	-	Anita Hewett
"The Story of Ping"	-	Marjorie Flack
"The Bears who Stayed Indoors"	-	Susanna Gretz

YOUNG PUFFINS - 7-8 years

"Flat Stanley"	-	Jeff Brown
"Paddington Books"	-	Michael Bond
"Albert"	-	Alison Jezard
"Magic in my Pocket"	-	Alison Uttley
"Robin"	-	Catherine Storr
"Gobbolino, the witch's cat"	-	Ursula Moray Williams
"Adventures of Galldora"	-	Modwena Sedgwick
"Fattipuffs and Thinifers"	-	André Maurois

PUFFINS - 9-10 years

"Highwater at Catfish Bend"	-	Ben Lucien Burman
"Along Came a Dog"	-	Meindert DeJong
"Stig of the Dump"	-	Clive King
"Sula"	-	Lavinia Derwent
"Moominland in Winter"	-	Tove Jansson
"A Dog so Small"	-	Philippa Pearce
"Little House on the Prairie"	-	Laura Ingalls Wilder
"The Gay Dolphin Adventure"	-	Malcolm Saville

PUFFINS 10 - 12 years

"House of Sixty Fathers"	-	Meindert DeJong
"The Lothian Run"	-	Mollie Hunter
"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe"	-	C.S. Lewis
"Ash Road"	-	Ivan Southall
"The Silver Sword"	-	Ian Serraillier
"The Railway Children"	-	E. Nesbit
"The Borrowers"	-	Mary Norton
"Carrie's War"	-	Nina Bawden.

I.M.

Have you read any good books lately? Want to share your enjoyment? Recommend your enjoyment? We will accept articles on books, from the simple (but completely commendable) attempt to communicate enjoyment to the skilled review.

Eds.

# Social Scene

Hallowe'en has come and gone, and with it the usual assortment of weird apparitions that invade the village for a few hours and then disappear for another year. One charming young lady, in the company of several such grotesquely unrecognisable characters, on being asked if she had anything to say repeated, "From ghosties and ghoulics and long-legged beasties, and things that go bump in the night, Good Lord, deliver us", and another cautious note was shown by the guiser who met a witch who offered him a "magic" biscuit, but he explained afterwards that he took it but hadn't wanted to risk eating it, and so had gone home and put it in the dustbin! The weather was wet and muddy, and apples and nuts are dearer this year, but nonetheless a good time was had by all - adults and children alike - who on this night at the beginning of winter enjoy a backward glance into the beliefs and customs of a bygone age. But a strange couple - the lady wearing a modern dark blue suit, beige hat and scarf and high-heeled black patent shoes, and the gentleman in a dark suit and deerstalker and wearing glasses - accompanied by a shaggy white dog - have not been seen since. Has anyone reported them as missing persons?

On Saturday, 22nd October, a "Country and Western" Party was held at the Glenmoriston Arms Hotel. The evening was arranged to raise Conservative and Unionist Party funds and was attended by Major Pat Hunter-Gordon, the prospective candidate for Inverness-shire. This gave people from the Glen and neighbouring areas an opportunity both to meet him and have a good time.

Country or Western dress was not obligatory, but many people came in very cheerful gear and gave a difficult job to the judges of the fancy dress parade! It was eventually won by Mrs. June Curson à la Jane Russell and Mr. Dinsdale - Young à la Roy Rogers.

The bidding at the auction was hard and fast. A very attractive crook carved by Mr. Jim Reid raised competitive bids, as did other items which had been kindly donated to the cause.

The Country and Western band, Capitals Dance Band, played very energetically and added atmosphere to the evening as did the genuine Western ponies who enjoyed their ride from Oklahoma!

Many prizes were won in the raffle and a mountain of hot dogs devoured. Altogether a good time was had by one and all, and as one guest said when she left: "We should have these 'do's more often".

S.G.

## W. R. I. NEWS

Old and new members at the first meeting of the session on October 17th, followed keenly a demonstration of savoury supper dishes given by Mrs. A. Woolley assisted by Mrs. M. Ritchie of Fort Augustus, and requested the tasty and economical recipes; and when the dishes were raffled, several lucky people each took one home. Mrs. Woolley also compiled a quiz about dishes from other countries which was won by Mrs. K. Tomlin. The November meeting was reasonably well attended, the night being very stormy, and Mr. G. Farnell, curator of the Museum in Inverness, gave a most interesting and enlightening talk on his work both in and outside the museum, followed by a show of slides. The competition for the most interesting piece of old jewellery was won by Mrs. K. Stoddart with a luckenbooth brooch.

A whist drive organized by the W.R.I. ladies in the village hall on November 7th raised £43.22 for the Royal National Lifeboat funds, Peter Stoddart was cardmaster at ten tables, and the prizes were presented by Mr. A. Cumming, Beauly, who represents the R.N.L.I. in the area to:- 1st Lady - Mrs. Henderson, Invergarry; 2nd - Mrs. Stewart, Invergarry; consolation - Christine Macdonald; travelling - Mrs. Urquhart, Fort Augustus; 1st gent - Mrs. L. Grant; 2nd - Mrs. Clark, Fort Augustus; consolation - John Morrison; travelling - Mrs. W. Robertson; raffle - Mrs. F. Grant, Foyers.

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BECAUSE OF THE MUMPS SANTA HAS CHANGED HIS PLANS  
AND IS NOW COMING TO THE HALL ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER  
23rd WHEN HE HOPES EVERYONE WILL BE BETTER.