

reference copy.

# MORISTON MATTERS

PRICE 10p.

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## editorial

Well, Moriston Matters has survived its early infancy and is now one year old. We thought it might have been possible to make this issue a special celebratory one, but the scarcity of time has made it instead the usual scrambled one. The more leisured period before the next issue is due, however, might make it possible for the second year of Moriston Matters to be launched with a decisive bang.

We must pay tribute to those who, having once lived in the Glen, now take the trouble to send a contribution from other airts. The latest one, from a source that insists on being anonymous, on Mr. Pollock, has given us the idea of featuring similarly the other 'dominies' who have stamped their pedagogic marks on one of our most seminal periods in life. And, of course, this can be extended to include other 'characters'.

On a more mundane but essential 'Martha-kind' note: our reserve funds will stretch perhaps until Christmas, and so enable us to produce the same kind of magazine in presentation and size and at the same price. As has been



explained in a previous issue, the present format and size seem reasonably satisfactory, AND we intend to hold the price at 10p. We will therefore have to think of ways of earning funds and will get down to details during the summer months.

It remains now to thank Mrs. Fraser Christine MacDonald, Anne Douglas and Allan Nairn for their work in making the magazine a continuing reality, mentioning also Mrs. Grant, Dalchreichart, whose interest, morally and in substance, has been considerable.

# Out & About

Summer days are here,  
Winter is nowhere near,  
Little flowers are growing,  
Gardeners start their mowing,  
Birds are singing, bees are winging -  
What a lovely day!

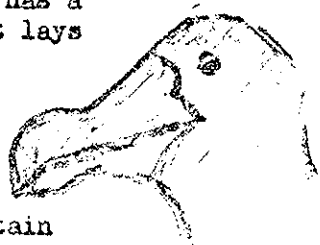
JUDITH WATSON.

## VISIT TO CANNA - - -

### ACCOUNT 1.

Twenty-two children and three teachers from our school Bird Club went to the Isle of Canna for five days. Most of our time was spent ringing the birds. We mainly concentrated on shags, fulmars, shearwaters and razorbills. Shearwaters are small birds (about 15 inches long) with a very long beak with a hook on the upper mandible, which is inclined to rip into your arm while you are holding them. They lay pure white eggs. The birds themselves are greyish-white underneath with black wings and back. We catch the Manx shearwater at night. We shine a torch directly in their eyes and grab them while they are dazzled. Razorbills (see drawing) are 17 inches long and have large razor-sharp beaks. They

are pretty little birds and as many as three pairs may lay in one nest. They lay white eggs with brown blotches. The beak is black with white stripes. Its head is black and it has a short stumpy tail. It lays its eggs on a plain rock ledge and makes no attempt to make a nest. It is a colonising bird and its colonies may contain anything up to 300-400 members. Once the egg has hatched the young bird jumps off the ledge and falls -- either to death on a rock, or safely into the sea. The young are able to dive and swim immediately, but cannot fly until a month old.



## VISIT TO CANNA - - -

### ACCOUNT 2.

On the evening of the 19th. of May I was picked up from Invermoriston and taken to Mallaig, where I and four other boys joined the other party of 18. We set off from Mallaig at 5 o'clock in the morning on the Loch Arkaig on a voyage that lasted 2½ hours.

Whilst on Canna we spent most of our time on bird-ringing expeditions. We ringed approximately 100 shags, 80 Manx shearwaters, 11 razorbills and a few fulmars. We also ringed a few other birds like corncrakes, pipits, oyster-

catchers, a wheatear, a puffin and 6 female eider ducks.

We were very lucky because we had brilliant sunshine most of the time and only occasionally was there a cloudy sky. The weather was ideal for bird-watching and we saw peregrine falcons, buzzards, kittiwakes, snipe, heron and guillemots.

We returned home on the evening of the 24th. of May. We all thought the trip had been very enjoyable and successful and hope there is one next year!

P.M.T.

S.G.



# the historical glen

## VILLAGE DOMINIE.

When asked to write a short article for *Moriston Matters* my mind instinctively turned to our old Schoolmaster, Mr. Pollock, who taught at Invermoriston for several years in the mid-twenties. He came to us towards the end of his teaching career. Although the school was smaller than those he taught in previously he never for one moment dropped his professional standards, and he still appeared in the classroom wearing his starched wing collar, black 'swallow-tail' coat and striped trousers. He was indeed the true pedagogue until the very end.

He held a Master of Arts degree and his utmost concern was to do his very best for the education of his pupils, even to giving free private tuition in his own time in such subjects as Latin, Geometry and Algebra. He imparted his own enthusiasm as he read to us in Latin the epic stand of Horatius holding the Bridge. At other times he would take us on a trip into Greek Mythology, perhaps reciting by heart the Twelve Labours of Hercules. In Geometry, when we reached the Fifth Theorem of Euclid, he was soon reminding us that we were astride 'pons asinorum', (the 'asses bridge' or the 'path over which to guide the obstinate'.)

He had a fund of conundrums, such as:

What two towns in France describe a sailor's trousers?

Toulon and Toulouse.

Why is Berlin like a drunken man?

Because it is always on the Spree.

What city is increasing in size all the time?

Dublin.

Of course the pupils were not to be outdone and were quick to supply samples of their own, for example:

Austria was Hungary and took a piece of Turkey and dipped it in Greece;

or If a person from Poland is called a Pole, why shouldn't someone from Holland be called a Hole?

Mr. Pollock introduced us to horticulture, using his own garden as a base for experiments. He was very interested in 'double-digging' and gave us a first-class demonstration. This aspect of our work pleased him, but our weeding efforts brought severe comment, in particular when one of the boys pulled up all the beetroot plants, thinking for some inexplicable reason that they were only weeds. Perhaps the gardening day that caused the greatest commotion was when one of the boys, who was vigorously emptying a barrow of manure, caught his helper on the forehead with the prong of his fork. The victim gave a blood-curdling howl which caused Mr. Pollock to fly into the garden with all the schoolchildren following behind him. So relieved was he to see that the injured boy was still alive, even if covered with blood, that he immediately accepted the explanation offered and treated the whole incident as a pure accident.

Our essays and short stories may have lacked the imaginative and creative touch of the modern schoolchild, but nevertheless what was lacking in this respect was amply made up for in other ways, as, for instance, our native ingenuity when dealing with unusual or difficult words in spelling. Two howlers, which nearly sent our dear teacher berserk, readily come to mind. One was in the History lesson

when a boy referred to the preacher, George Wishart, as a 'pear-pincher', and the other in a spelling test when someone wrote 'wooden-enemy' for the flower, Wood Anemone.

Mr. Pollock belonged to the Lowlands, but he was truly loved in the Highlands. As we think about him the word 'personality' keeps recurring. He belonged to an earlier Scotland, when character seemed to be painted with a broader brush. Whenever his former pupils meet the conversation often veers

towards their old teacher, and they recall instances of his pawky humour, discuss his eccentricities, and savour again some of his bon-mots. There are those in memory who have a measure of immortality and one such was Mr. Pollock. The mould from which he came has been broken; we shall not see his like again.

A.M.



# Schools

## INVERMORISTON.

Dalchreichart and Invermoriston Schools hope to make a trip to Kyle of Lochalsh, seeing Eilan Donan Castle en route, on the 21st. of June. It is hoped to be able to take some parents and friends, depending on the number of seats available on the bus. We hope the good weather will still be with us. Invermoriston School hope to hold their Sports Day in the next week or so, depending on the availability of the field.

G.A.B.M.

## GLENURQUHART.

The senior pupils of Glenurquhart S. S. School hope to give a concert in Blairbeg Hall including a performance of 'Ernie's Incredible Illucinations', a Comedy by Alan Ayekboun, on June 28th. at 7.30p.m. and will be pleased to have support from all their friends.

F. G

## DALCHREICHART.

The summer term at Dalchreichart Primary opened with eleven pupils. The only new one, Michael Smurthwai' has adapted well to his new environment. The attendance has been adversely affected by an outbreak of whooping-cough, the first epidemic in ten years.

We hope to make our annual excursion in conjunction with Invermoriston School to Eilan Donan Castle and Kyle of Lochalsh on the 21st. of June, and will be keeping our fingers crossed for our usual luck weatherwise.

We plan to have our sportsday and presentation of prizes on Thursday 29th. June, at 2 p.m., and all interested are warmly invited to attend.

## ,PLAYGROUP.

Playgroup meetings will be held during the school holidays in the Gun Club hut at Bhlaraidh, on Friday afternoons at 2.00 p.m. All welcome.

M.G.

# Brain Teaser

Below are 15 statements about the players of a certain soccer team. From these statements it is possible to work out what position in the team each player fills.

- (a) James, Parks and Dale, as well as the inside right and outside right, are bachelors.
- (b) Smith and the three half-backs play golf together in their free time.
- (c) Swift is taller than any of the five forwards, but he is shorter than the right full-back.
- (d) Burns dislikes the left half-back.
- (e) The centre-half is captain of the team.
- (f) Gardiner, Jones and the two full-backs have all had tempting offers to go to Italy; but Dale, who has been there, has persuaded all four of them to turn the offers down.
- (g) The goalkeeper and the centre-forward each have two children by their present wives.
- (h) Swift has been married longer than either of the two married half-backs; the left-back was married a week ago.
- (i) The centre half-back is divorcing his wife.
- (j) Gardiner and Rakes are not forwards; Rakes is vice-captain of the team.
- (k) The left-back is engaged to Swift's sister; Dale and the right half-back are each engaged to be married. Meanwhile Dale is staying with the inside left and his wife.
- (l) Smith and Evans both have wives who are good cooks.
- (m) James and Parks never play in a left position; James is a better kicker than the right half-back.
- (n) The captain has to keep an eye on Burns and the five forwards who all tend to drink too much.
- (o) Evans has scored more goals than the centre-forward, and Robinson has scored more than the outside right.

## Notes;

1. The positions are: goalkeeper; right full-back; left full-back; right half-back; centre half-back; left half-back; outside right; inside right; centre forward; inside left; outside left.
2. The best way of solving this puzzle is to use a grid as shown on the next page<sup>3</sup>. Thus, from statement (a) one knows that James is neither the inside right nor the outside right. So, as shown in the accompanying grid, against 'James' mark '0' in the appropriate squares. And so on. When you are able to identify the position a player fills mark 'X' in the appropriate square.  
(Solution in next issue.)

# Activities

WOMAN'S GUILD.

W.R.I.

At the end of April Mrs. Fraser and Mrs. Sey were delegates to the Annual Meetings of the Woman's Guild in Edinburgh and found them most stimulating.

The new session for the branch began in May with an interesting account of the Red Cross Society and its work given by Miss C. Dixon-Carter who described the many forms of helpful service, not covered by the Welfare State, which that body finds for its members. Perhaps this encouraged those who heard it to give to the collection in the Glen the following week with a more realistic understanding. Later in the month some of the members and their friends enjoyed an evening out at the Norman Maclean Show. Although there will be a break in the monthly meetings during the summer the members do not intend to be idle, and we are planning another Flower Festival to be held in the church during the last week of July.

The W.R.I. heard an Article Talk on Skin Care by Mrs. A. Dickson of Hearn who made her points persuasively and not without humour. The competition was for the best use of 20g. of wool and was won by Mrs. Fraser's small teddy bear. At the May meeting some of the members showed their skills -- with Mrs. Cowie's beautiful examples of tattering and Mrs. K. Tomlin explaining how to do it; Mrs. K. Tomlin demonstrating crochet; and Mrs. Watson making decorative knitting seem so easy. All this was very interesting. The competition was for a jar of marmalade and was won by Mrs. Morris, and this made her and Mrs. Watson winners of silver teaspoons as they were equal with the highest number of points for the session. At the beginning of the session it had been suggested from headquarters that branches might hold a sponsored Slim-in, the proceeds of which would go to the Queen's Silver Jubilee Fund. None of the members, however, had been willing to be the guinea-pig and so at this meeting a sale of plants and cuttings was held and the proceeds duly sent off. And so we came to the end of another session. But the new committee with Mrs. Tilford as the new president are already planning busily for the next one, which will open with a film-show on October 2nd, when we hope to welcome several new members.



## SHINTY.

I play for the Invergarry Shinty Team in the age-groups of under-14 and under-17 year olds. The cups we are playing for at the moment are the Robertson Cup and the Cameron Cup. Our position in the leagues so far is rather touchy as our greatest rivals, Glenurquhart, are close on our heels in the under-14's and are beating us in the under-17's. The Invergarry Shinty Team is not a very new team, although there was a full not long ago when there weren't very many youngsters to play. I think that the game is very good for the young folk and it keeps them occupied instead of turning to vandalism for something to do.

N.R.

# From The Churches

## CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

Two events come to mind. On Thursday, 20th. April, a most enjoyable outing took place of the Youth Group who gather in the Manse on Thursday evenings to the Granary, the youth centre at Kilravock Castle, now run as a Christian guest-house, near Croy. Three cars with drivers were happily involved. While fierce table-tennis took place indoors, where no-one could topple the supremacy of Driver Tomlin, a game of hide-and-peek in the Castle grounds provided, we hope, just the right amount of 'sporting with Amaryllis in the shade'. Thanks are due to Driver Lorna Service and Mrs. Fraser who meanwhile prepared the appetising supper for which all were ready.

Sunday, June 4th. saw the presentation by members of the Woman's Guild of an inscribed Flower Stand in memory of Mrs. E. Margaret Grant of Glenmoriston who lived, worked hard and worshipped and bore her Christian witness to all among and around us for exactly six years to the hour. Her zeal for her adopted church will always be remembered by those who experienced it, as also her love of flowers and all living creatures. Presenting the Flower Stand were Mrs. Fraser, president, Mrs. Marr, vice-president, who also read the lessons and Mrs. Tomlin, secretary. The offering was taken by Mrs. Service and Mrs. Tilford, past and present treasurers respectively.

P.F.

## FREE CHURCH.

The Free Church had their Communion Season in Fort Augustus from Thursday, the 11th. day of May, until Monday, the 15th. of May.

The services on Thursday were conducted by the Rev. John Macleod M.A., Senior Minister of Gairloch, who is now retired and lives in Inverness. On Friday the service in the evening was taken by the Minister. On Saturday the service was conducted by the Rev. William B. Scott who has recently returned from the Peruvian Mission Field and now has the combined charges of Duthil, Moy, Daviot, Stratherrick and Dores. The Communion Service on Sabbath was conducted by Mr. Scott and also the service in the evening. Mr. Donald MacDonald, one of the Fort William elders, assisted at the Communion Service and also helped to lead the praise along with Mr. D.J. Smart. Mr. MacDonald also went to the Manse and joined in the Fellowship there.

The Thanksgiving Service was on Monday evening and was also conducted by the Rev. W.B. Scott, after which he took his leave and was thanked for his most enjoyable services.

J.F.



# *in memoriam*

Willie Archie.

The Glen lost one of its oldest Senior Citizens with the death on April 15th. of Willie Archie MacDonald. But for all his eighty-eight years Willie was one of our youngest Senior Citizens at heart, and his sprightly figure on the road and his twinkling smile will be much missed. He was born in Achnacran in the days when there were twelve houses occupied there, and went to Invermoriston School when there were seventy or eighty pupils on the roll, and when New Year's Daysaw a special shinty match between the great rival teams of Achnacran and Invermoriston. After seeing service in the First World War, where two of his brothers, Duncan and Charlie, were killed and where he himself was wounded, he joined the Forestry Commission and served them well until he retired in 1955; and he enjoyed gardening as long as he was able. His cheerful personality made him popular with a wide circle of neighbours and friends, and much sympathy has been extended to Annie, and Duncan, and Donnie with his family in their bereavement.

Mrs. Taylor.

We are sorry to record the sudden death in a road accident of Mrs. Ethel Taylor who helped her husband to run the shop before they moved to Invergarry some years ago. We remember her cheerful manner and her talents for recitation and singing which brought pleasure to many a social occasion. We offer our sympathy to her husband and to Ronald and his family.

Mr. John Grant.

With regret we report the death on April 22nd. of Mr. John Augustus Grant. Mr. John, as he was affectionately known, was the third son of Admiral Sir Heathcoat Grant. He worked in London until 1924, and then abroad until 1951 when he came home to the Glen where he carried out the duties of factor of Glenmoriston Estates for about twenty years. That period saw many interesting changes in the life of the community, among the most notable being the coming of the Hydro-Electricity Scheme and the attendant benefit of electricity in our houses; the building of the first Council houses in Invermoriston and with them the introduction of a piped water supply for most of the village; and the opening out of tourist facilities in the Glen and the building of the first holiday chalets. In all these developments, as in everything to do with the welfare of the Glen and its people, Mr. John was keenly interested. After he went to live in Drumnadrochit he still paid frequent visits, and his ability to ask by name for absent members of the various families was remarkable. Many people have said how much they enjoyed his recent article in Moriston Matters, and water-colour painting was another hobby of his retirement days. To Mrs. Grant and Ian and Peter and the other members of his family we offer sincere sympathy.

FOR ALL PARENTS.

WHEN JAMES SET OFF INTO THE WORLD.

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I pass by Fort Augustus  
Where the mountains rise around,  
The Loch lies deep and still below,  
The wavelets scarcely sound,  
The green trees clothe the lower slopes,  
They rise straight and serene,  
The ever-changing cloud-flecked sky  
Arches the beauteous scene;

The cattle graze upon the plain  
Whiling away each hour  
Chimed forth in sunshine as in rain  
From Abbey's hoary tower:

I pass by Inchnacardoch Road  
And think, 'I've time to spare';  
I slacken speed and turn my head,  
Then know -- he isn't there.

I need to know he happy goes  
Upon his destined way;  
I need to know that for him flows  
Life that will ever stay.  
If he takes his, I'll take my road  
And from it will not shirk,  
For God will help to bear the load  
We carry in his work.

P.F.

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3

# recipes

BUTTERSCOTCH TART.

**Pastry case:**

4 oz. plain flour  
2 oz. margarine  
Salt  
Water

Bake blind.

**Filling:**

1 teacup brown sugar  
4 level tbsps. flour  
4 tbsps. water  
1 teacup milk  
2 ozs. butter  
1 teasp. vanilla  
1 egg

To make filling: Mix sugar and flour, blend with the water. Boil milk and pour over. Add butter and mix well. Cook slowly until thick. Remove from heat, add vanilla and egg yolk. Pour into pastry case. Top with meringue made from egg white and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  oz. sugar. Brown in a slow oven.

T.R.

# Introducing .....

## SUMMER SCHOOL.

This summer, between 17th. July and 7th. August, there will be a new venture at the Abbey: a summer school for teaching English to foreign students. Thirty-three students are coming, of whom 21 are Swiss, 9 German, 2 French and 1 Belgian. They are all between 14 and 19 years old, and about one-third of them are girls.

They will have a varied programme of study, open-air activities and social life. On four mornings of each week they will have language classes in small groups. They will have these afternoons free for some kind of out-door sport, such as tennis, swimming, hill-walking, fishing, boating and maybe even golf.

It must be admitted that they are all extremely interested in Loch Ness and the stories about its monster. Their three-week stay should give them a sporting chance of seeing it!

## SILVERSMITHING.

The Smithy which is at present undergoing modernisation is eventually to become a complete working unit. It will involve not only the manufacture of modern but also of traditional jewellery which will be sold in the adjoining shop along with jewellery from the sister companies, Dust Jewellery and Norman Grant. As far as I know most of the jewellery is of a totally new concept. This was brought about by the amalgamation of Mr. Norman Grant D.A. and Mr. Ian Grant (not related), two patrons of the silversmithing arts. Hopefully we will have

Once a week they will have a full-day excursion around the glens to appreciate our scenery and to visit local points of interest, such as hydro-electric schemes, woollen-mills and so on.

In the evenings they may have an entirely free time or have a talk and discussion on some aspect of British life and culture, or enjoy listening to Scottish songs and dance-music.

In general, one could say that after all this they will have had maximum exposure to spoken English during their stay here. Let us hope that the weather will be favourable, so that they will have a happy and memorable time in the Highlands.

The organiser and director of the school is Father Andrew McKillop of the Abbey.

enough room in the Smithy to, run our successful business and also a small school in silversmithing for those people interested in making jewellery or silversmithing. Not being a great literary genius, I hope that this small piece of information has enlightened you a little. We hope to be fully operational by the end of June/middle of July, and any queries about jewellery or silversmithing will be gladly accepted; also, commissions for one-off pieces will be welcome, which the smiths will be more than happy to undertake.

R. D. MACKIE

# in brief

## WELCOME - - -

Newcomers to the Glen - to all of whom we offer a welcome with the hope that they will be happy in the community - are Miss Anne Horsfall who is housekeeper to Mr. Grant of Glenmoriston; Mr. and Mrs. Cameron, with Stephen, Ann and Alec, who have come to Allt-saigh; Mr. Robin Mackie and Mr. Bill Bedford who have both come to work in Glenmoriston Gold and Silversmiths; also Karen Smurthwaite and Michael. We are pleased to note too that Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kemp and Caroline and Peter, after commuting for some time, now have their home at Easter Dalchreichart.

## WELL DONE !

Congratulations to MARTIN GIRVAN on becoming Captain of the Scottish Down-the-Line Clay Pigeon Shooting Team this year.

## COMING.

On Thursday, 22nd. June, beginning at 8.00p.m. the Glenmoriston Arms Hotel are holding another FOLK NITE when the artiste will be ANDY RAMAGLI whose visits are always popular.

## BEST WISHES - - -

Mrs. McNab, following on her recent illness, from which she has made a good recovery, has gone to live with her daughter in Dornoch. She hopes soon, however, to join the residents of Oversteps House, a Senior Citizens' Home run by the Church of Scotland in Dornoch, where we trust she will settle down happily.

## THANKS !

Mr. J. E. Grant of Glenmoriston and Mrs. Sey thank all those who contributed to the recent Red Cross collection. The total sent to the funds was £26.67.

The collectors are grateful to announce that the contributions to Christian Aid to date amount to £72.00.

IN AID OF PLAYGROUP FUNDS

**COFFEE AFTERNOON**

**SAT. JULY 15**

**AT 2:00PM**

**IN**

**GLENMORISTON**

**VILLAGE HALL**

**ENTRANCE 20p**

**(INC. COFFEE)**

**CAKE · CANDY ·**

**BRING + BUY**

**RAFFLE ETC.**

PLEASE BRING

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO POTTERY OR TORCOYLE LODGE