

Reference copy

Moriston Matters



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Please don't leave litter

On Thursday, 10th May, Invermoriston School picked up litter all the way down from the school to the hall.

We gathered 12 bags of litter. We went in pairs, Yvonne and Iona, Cameron and Colin, Gary and Ruairaidh, Robert, Catherine and Brodie, Tricia and myself.

Kirsteen.

I think it is ridiculous how people throw away rubbish. If all the citizens of this village worked together, it would make it a nice place. I think people take paper for granted these days. Here is a list of the things we picked up:

- cans
- bottles
- cardboard
- paper
- a boot
- a bit of a wheel
- a pair of old trousers
- some metal strips
- plastic

and all together we collected 12 BAGS OF REFUSE.

Cameron.

COAST TO COAST

We take this opportunity of reminding our readers of "Coast to Coast" (Apologies to the B.B.C.) overland walk from the Beaulie Firth to Kyle of Lochalsh proposed in the last issue of "Moriston Matters".

If any others - young or old - are interested, we would be grateful if they could make themselves known, so that some rough planning could be made - dates, routes, etc.

If young people are interested, then the proposed route could be modified considerably to accommodate them. Those around the 12-13 age group would not normally, for example, be expected to undertake more than 7-8 miles hill-walking per day, and could complete a stage.

It has been suggested too that there could be sponsoring, the T.V.Club being the obvious candidate. This could be discussed if participants were known....OVER TO YOU!

In this issue, which incidentally marks the second anniversary of "Moriston Matters", we open a new "space" called, with some originality, we hope, "PRINT-IN". We have invited "controversial" articles before now, but this is the first time we have had the opportunity of giving space to an issue (not controversial in its locality, of course) which arouses controversy at large - the pros and cons of maintaining or closing smaller schools.

We do not necessarily look for articles which deal with raging controversy, but we will gladly provide space to accommodate points of view on matters relating to the community or communities, and wider issues.

We point out, however, that the views expressed in "Print-in" may not necessarily represent the views of "Moriston Matters". This is not to say that we are "fence-sitters"; it means that we see our task primarily as reflecting the community in all its aspects. And we are conscious of the importance of "balance". For example, as far as the current "Print-in" is concerned, we will invite the elected members of the appropriate committee to give any opposing or different point of view, and we invite all views, opposed or in agreement from any who would like to comment.

We take this opportunity of the litter-clearing efforts of Invermoriston School of reminding our Glenmoriston readers that we will award this summer (as we hope we can do annually) a "prize" for a worthy act of "Young Citizenship", if nominated by "neutral" adults

"...Tourists come to see Scotland, so people should keep Scotland tidy...."

Patricia.

"People should not drop litter on the ground because it makes a mess of the countryside..."

Ruaraidh.

"We can stop litter in Scotland and make it far cleaner than it is just now...."

Gary.

"I think it is ridiculous the way people throw away their litter in hoards. You look around and think, Where did all this litter come from? The people who throw it down think, Oh, well, it's only a small bit of paper, but gradually it all mounts up.... The funny thing was we found most of the litter near the shop which has four litter bins!"

Yvonne.

"....I have seen waste paper baskets with litter lying around them...."

Kirsteen.

"We did pick lots of rubbish and we had cans, lots of paper and crisp packets and chocolate papers..."

Catherine.

"We did pick lots of rubbish and we had coke and lots of crisps".

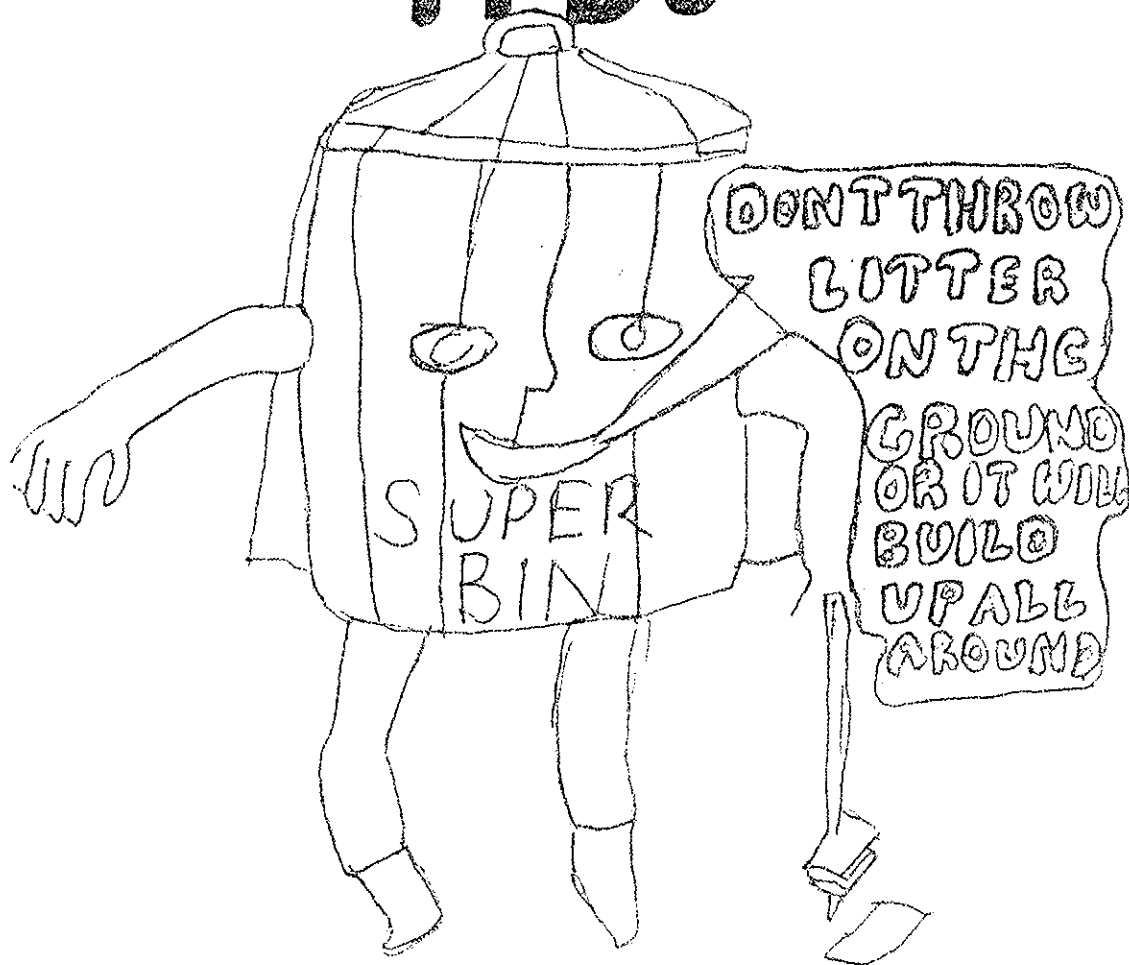
Brodie.

"....The rubbish is messy..."

Robert.

Here is the poster that won for Colin 2nd. prize in the S.W.R.I. competition.

KEEP INVERMORISTON TIDY



Colin.

The Moriston Matters

PRIZE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S WRITING

Oh, my! I'm lost... what will become of me?....I'll starve.. I'll be killed and eaten by a wild animal... my mistresses will be calling... I won't have that big, juicy bone Maria and Rita promised... I wish I was at home sitting by the fire...I know, I'll bark....no, I won't! I'm too far away....I suppose it's my own fault....that rabbit is running home....that bird is flying home....look at that snail - the lucky blighter.... I wish I was home scoffing my meat and slurping my tea.... I'll pretend I'm at home eat-

ing my bone and drinking my tea.... slurp....chomp.... chomp....I feel better alreadyslurp....chomp....gnash.... chomp....chomp....yummy....now I've filled my tummy...hee! hee!....I'm a poet and I don't know it....ha!ha!.....I try to cheer myself up, but it's no good....I think I'll try to sleep.... wassat?....woofwoof....It's my mistresseswoof....woof....thank goodness they've found me.... I'm so glad....Goodnight, everybody and everything.

AMANDA GRANGE (12)

THE BIG FIRE

The Invermoriston fire broke out one Monday in May 1942. It raged up the hill opposite the church for 3 days and nights. I went down there with a squad of men from our headquarters in the Millbuie Forest in the Black Isle on the Wednesday when it was practically over. We arrived in Invermoriston in the afternoon and were entertained by the locals in the village hall, which had been turned into a NAAFI for the occasion. We were all fed first, and in the evening some musicians arrived and we had a good-going dance before setting off for the fire and relieving those who had been out all day. We set out about 3 o'clock and trudged over that hill all

night, damping down odd patches that were still smouldering. We were helped somewhat in that it started to drizzle sometime during the night and by the time we came down in the morning, soaked and smoke-blackened, the rain had started in earnest. We all had breakfast again in the hall and as there was no more fear for the fire we got on the lorries and went back home, along with those who had been waiting to take over. I came off at Cruivend as on that Thursday I had to go to my grandmother's funeral from Raillick.

D.J.N. (BEAULY).

the historical glen

THE RE-OPENING OF THE HALL

5.

The second part of the ceilidh held in Glenmoriston Public Hall on the evening of the 31st March to mark the re-opening of the Hall took the form of a "THIS IS YOUR LIFE" of the Hall itself. It was, of course, modelled on the television programme, but only loosely so. However, there was nothing 'loose' about the way in which the presenter of the programme, Mr Hamish MacDonald, Fort Augustus (but of strong Glenmoriston connection) admirably handled the material, letting history slip back and rolling it forwards again.

The purpose of this programme was, in a modest way, to give some idea of the history of the Hall's half-century or so of existence, featuring, as far as possible, personalities. It was stressed that of course those who very kindly consented to taking part were representative, for many and various were they who, over the years, played parts in the Hall's continued functioning as a focal point in the community.

In calling forwards Pat MacDonald, The Pier, Jimmy MacEwan, Inverness, and formerly of Port Clair and The Pier, and Stanley Grant, Inverness and once of Craighan, Hamish MacDonald explained the link between past and present, for they are the sons of three of the Hall's founder-members, Donald MacDonald (Danny the Pier), Jimmy MacEwan, Forester and A.D. Grant, Factor, respectively. These three imparted their own interesting and diverting memories of different aspects of Hall life.

Since the Hall began its life, Mr MacDonald went on,

it had been famed for its cheerfulness and hospitality; and to represent all those who had provided this last, the many "tea ladies", he called on Kate Stoddart, Riverside Park, who, as she was escorted towards the stage, was heard to say protestingly that she had to 'see to the tea' for this very evening. But forwards she came, and explained how these early tea ladies had to be literally "drawers of water", for they had to go to St. Columba's Well for it.

Mrs Mary Kennedy, Kiltarlity, the Rev. Peter Fraser's sister, was asked by Hamish to be the next representative. Those whom she represented were, and continue to be, an essential part of Glenmoriston community life, the persons who come into the place and who, if they do not stay, yet sojourn to contribute a great deal. Mary Kennedy was sure, she revealed, that she must have attended the opening dance in the Hall back in '28, for then she had been helping Mrs MacDonald, The Pier, (at a time when Pat was "then a good little boy.") And she recounted how Ronnie would give her 2/- to go to a dance (it was 2/- then - for ladies, but 2/6 for men!) and how Danny, who was "on the door" would wave her in. So she had her 2/- and her dance.

But the Hall was not, of course, used for dances alone. As the years rolled on various activities were catered for. In 1931, a Glenmoriston Social Club was formed. It had to

THE HALL cont'd

provide its own coal and paraffin. In that year, too, the Fort Augustus Branch of the Bank of Scotland started using the Hall for the convenience of its Glenmoriston customers, and the W.R.I. was formed. In 1934, the Woman's Guild began to make use of the Hall, and the Roman Catholic Church introduced worship. A choral class was meeting once a week in 1937... At this point Mr MacDonald interrupted his narrative to convey the good wishes to the Hall and all concerned of Mr Jack Mackenzie and to hand over a personal message from him to Pat the Pier. Jack Mackenzie, now in Liberton Hospital, Edinburgh, is the son of a former Headmistress of Invermoriston School, a previous Headmaster of which, Mr Pollock, had been one of the Hall's founding members.

Then, the narrative being resumed, came the outbreak of World War 2, and the Hall was in action in another way. From 1940 onwards it was used by the Home Guard and the Barrier Guard as a base for exercises. Then there broke out the "great fire" that ravaged the plantations of Sron-na-Muic - and there came a "voice" from the past. This was the recorded voice of the Rev. Duncan M. Turner, the Rev. Peter Fraser's predecessor. Mr Turner on being contacted was delighted to renew his association with the Glen by sending a taped message, which, in a highly entertaining and instructive way, dwelt mainly on the part the Hall played in fighting the forest fire. A dance, Petronella, brought this first part of the programme to an end.

The second part of the programme took as a focal point the "Coronation Day" of the present monarch, in June 1953, a day when the Hall witnessed the Glen's celebrations in the neighbouring field, where Sports were held, and on a site near the Old Bridge, where a bonfire was lit. A Grand Dance was held in the Hall, and that night the Hall was thronged; indeed, rather than miss out on the celebrations, many parents took their very young children with them.

It was during this era (from the post-war years throughout the fifties to the early sixties) that electricity was installed in the Hall, the "County" water supply was put in, extensions in the form of toilets and a ladies' cloakroom were made and redecorating took place.

Now Mr MacDonald invited a number of people to represent that lively and crowded period. First, Mr. J.E. Grant, Laird of Glenmoriston - Mr Grant, who came to stay in the village in the early fifties, was elected to the Hall Committee in 1956, of which he held the Chairmanship from 1962 to 1975. He spoke of the Hall and its activities, and the people concerned, with warmth.

The next 'item' must have revived many memories. Hamish called upon the Rev. Mr. Fraser to present to the Hall Chairman, Pat the Pier, a framed photograph (by Mr Bill Owen) of the late William Macdonald, The Smithy. "Willack the Smith", as he was popularly known, typifies a line of conscientious and faithful Hall-keepers. He was first

appointed Hall-keeper in 1952 and "reigned" until 1964. But even before his appointment the Hall minutes record that in the periods when the services of a Hall-keeper could not, for one reason or another, be had, "Willack" had been "exercising a most helpful oversight in the Hall". In accepting the photograph Pat debated aloud the various places in the Hall where to "put him".

In lively, nostalgic reminiscence, which included an impromptu rendering of the once-famous "Hydro" song, Mr Ted Murdoch, the next personality, recreated the excitement, the "life", the glamour all those associated with Hydro works and camps brought to the social life of the Glen and the Hall. Ted was warmly applauded.

Finally, in this part 2 of the programme, another well-known and popular personality, Mr Freddie Service, came forward. With Freddie we were coming towards the modern age. But when he lived in the Glen and attended the Hall's dances and activities, cars were not so thick on the ground and Freddie provided an invaluable 'service' in driving Pat's buses to and from neighbouring dances - when there was no dance in the Hall, that is. Freddie spoke of the good times all had experienced at that time. A quickstep brought this part of the programme to an end.

In the beginning of the next part of the programme Mr Hamish MacDonald referred to the "Television Age of Glenmoriston". During this period the Hall was used extensively for dances to help fund the 'piping-in' of T.V. reception to the Glen, and the first sets were

installed in 1965. But before the coming of the 'little screen' there was the work of the Highlands & Islands Film Guild. The Guild seems to have come to the Hall to show films as early as during the immediate pre-war years; but it certainly began showing box-office films regularly from 1951 onwards - many will recall Victor Gall, the "film-man". To represent the gratitude of the Glen to the Guild, Hamish called on a well-known personality and ex-hall-keeper, Mr Hamish MacMillan. "Hamish", said Hamish MacDonald, "is like myself - shy". This, not the first of Hamish's many apt asides, almost brought the Hall down!

A landmark in the life of the Hall, the BBC "On Tour" which was very successfully staged there in June 1965, was then mentioned.

And then there were the first discos to grace the Hall, organised by Helen Fraser, using her own equipment and assisted by Margaret Smart, Ronnie MacDonald, The Pier, Douglas, one of Daniel's 'holiday' barmen, and others.

But the main part of this section of the programme was devoted, of course, to the efforts that had gone into bringing the Hall to the condition the evening's re-opening ceilidh marked. It had been hoped, Mr MacDonald explained, that Mr Ian Grant of Glenmoriston Estates Ltd, whose father, Mr John, had served on the Hall Committee for many years, being in turn Chairman and Secretary, and who himself is a member of the Hall Committee and a trustee,

would have been present to give some idea of the recent efforts which had culminated in the Hall's extension and renovation. Unfortunately, owing to travel delay, Mr Grant could not be present, but Mr Gordon Cowie, the local Forestry Commission District Officer, a member of the Hall Committee and trustee, deputised and concisely explained the various steps that had been taken.

Hamish MacDonald now called on Allan Nairn to represent the many recent incomers to the Glen, who continue to play parts in its activities and life. Allan is a member of the Hall Committee, but his main task was to give some idea of the recent Kyle - Invermoriston sponsored walk, undertaken in aid of the Hall funds, which raised the sum of over £800. Allan was joined by his fellow-walkers, Margaret Smart, Margaret Ferguson and Duncan MacDonald, and a cheque was handed over. Margaret Smart is the current "Willack the Smith" and she and many others had worked hard to get the Hall shipshape for this evening. To represent those "many others" Mr MacDonald asked Peter Stoddart and Jimmy Service, who are never "far away" when the Hall needs attention, to come forward, along with Mrs Anne Douglas, the present Hall Secretary.

The very last part of the programme looked forward towards the future. Three young people of the place, Patricia Stoddart, Neil Robertson and Alison McDonnell, each representing/different age group, delivered a composite message. Hamish

MacDonald read it out:

"The young people of Glenmoriston are by no means uninterested in their Hall and indeed some of them willingly helped to get things ready for tonight. The primary children when asked what they would like expressed the feeling that they were somewhat left out. Adults had the W.R.I. and other meetings, older children had discos, but there was nothing specially for them. They would like a Youth Club specially for the under 13's. The difficulties of running such for a small number were pointed out, but they still held out for their own show! Secondary scholars also want a Youth Club on Friday nights - but their ideas are more elaborate. They also suggest discos for school children only, and opportunities for badminton practice, for some of them have badminton in school.

When we come to those who have left school the picture changes. Many of them leave the Glen for further education or to find employment and so there is what amounts to a population gap at this stage. They enjoy, of course, coming home at weekends and holidays, but their day-to-day interests lie in the community where they live. Does this have a bearing on the groups already mentioned? Are these the people who would naturally help to keep the younger groups' activities going? Is it often the people who have enjoyed a Youth Group themselves who are most willing to help those coming after them to enjoy one too? And so perhaps the cry from this group is for employment opportunities, a deep and long-felt want in this community and others like it."

This was an appropriate and fitting way to end such a programme. For a few moments the Hall became the microcosm of the wider arena and its problems - the generation gap, the problem of willing participation in community projects of finance, of unemployment, of depopulation.

Councillor Alastair MacKenzie of the Highland Region was present and replied to this. He commended highly the evening's entertainment; but to the young people's 'message' the gist of his reply was that those concerned were more than willing to help - provided people showed evidence of being willing to help themselves. To which there is no reply - in words.

Hamish MacDonald thanked all those concerned in making the programme such a success, and especially thanked Mrs Fraser, the Manse, for her work 'behind the scenes'. The Rev. Peter Fraser proposed a comprehensive vote of thanks to the artists and all others who had contributed to the programme, and after the last waltz everyone joined in Auld Lang Syne. Then Kate Stoddart and the other "tea ladies" served tea and biscuits in the new annexe and people had an opportunity to mingle, renewing old acquaintances, until close on midnight when the Hall was left with its memories of the past and its hopes for the future.

P.S. - The chorus from the "Hydro Song".

Sure, by Affric and by Garry and by Moriston we'll go,
Building generating stations left and right,
And on battlefields where Highland lads fought the frenzied foe
Shining pylons will commemorate the site.

and P.P.S. - A special verse composed for the occasion of the ceillidh:

There were Campbells at Dundreggan, McDonells
 at Inverwick,
There were Frasers at Torgoyle and in the
 village too,
There were Stoddarts and MacPhersons, not
 forgetting Grants forbye,
But we'll all remember Annie's Bar and sigh.

The solution to the cryptic crossword in the last issue is;

T	T	T	T
U	U	U	U
B	B	B	B
E	E	E	E

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any one time be found in the Bar.

But there was one reservation. Which is perhaps really a compliment. It was found, from the very fullest experience, that Old Farm - like the good Malt whisky - must be treated with the utmost respect. An unwise quantity was not to be taken lightly. But "it would be a beautiful dinner-table drink", said one person. Indeed, Mr Harold MacMillan, the ex-Prime Minister is said, for one, to cultivate Scotch Malts as both an apéritif and an after-dinner liqueur.

The very name MacMillan leads us, of course, to one of Glenmoriston's most authoritative palates - Mr Alec MacMillan. But Alec, surely, must have had tongue in cheek when he said of Old Farm: "It's too strong," and he elaborated on this: "A few of these and a bottle of beer, and I would be flat on my back". Must be some stuff!

We have, we see, referred to Mr Harold MacMillan and to Mr Alec MacMillan - perhaps journalistic freedom will allow us to relate a little story not immediately connected with Old Farm; but at the same time, not entirely unconnected, given Old Farm's tradition and lineage.

The little story goes thus. From time to time Mr Alec MacMillan claims some relationship with Mr Harold MacMillan. The precise degree of relationship depends on the stage the evening has reached - it can vary from a 42nd cousinship to full identification. Well, some years ago, a visitor to the Glen remarked in the bar one evening that that afternoon while on a sightseeing visit to the summer-house he had met with the Prime Minister

himself, with whom he had a very interesting conversation. The locals, of course, immediately tumbled to the real identity of the "Prime Minister" and - such is the courtesy to be found in Glenmoriston and these airts, a courtesy extended to visitor and resident alike - tried gently to put this meeting with the "Prime Minister" into some kind of perspective. But the visitor wasn't to be disillusioned so easily. The gentleman said he was the Prime Minister..... and there was a facial resemblance..... and he had a moustache....and he was wearing plus fours. But still, given time, the locals might have persuaded the visitor otherwise..... were it not for one piece of overwhelming evidence. The gentleman I met, insisted the visitor, was the Prime Minister because there was a patch on his plus fours.

And this happened, note, in the days before Old Farm. Now, with this "stuff" that's "too strong" being available, we all wait with bated breath!

Moriston Matters now took Glenmoriston Old Farm further afield. We concentrated on a selection of personages who, while they would not lay claim to being connoisseurs of whisky, have come to a recognition of good whisky.

Mr.M.Paterson was the first subject. He lives in Hamilton at present, but hails from Aberdeenshire, hinterland of the heart of Scotch Whisky, Speyside. Which was evident from his first response: "Ah! You can smell the heather in this" And a few appreciative sips later: "There's definitely a taste of the good burn trout in this one". Mr Paterson relished the high malt content in Old Farm.

Mr. D. Murray, Bothwell, Lanarkshire, blanched when he tried Old Farm first, as is his custom with whisky, neat. When he added a judicious measure of water - a feature of the good whisky is that it can "take" water - he found it "quite acceptable". When in the next dram he had got this crucially important relationship between water and whisky right, Mr Murray became quite enthusiastic about the properties of Old Farm.

We approached Mr. K. Robertson, Larkhall, Lanarkshire, next. He is orientated more towards the malt which is easy on the palate, being basically a consumer of de luxe blends and not inexpensive wines, and "Old Farm", he felt initially, was a "bit burny" and "somewhat abrasive". But

he did volunteer to sample another dram on this first occasion; and what is more, he took another measure on a following occasion which happened to arise, at the end of which his verdict had veered a little. "It grows on you", he concluded. This kind of delayed appreciation was a marked feature of Old Farm we found.

It had been intended to invite a few more subjects to sample Old Farm, but unhappily by this time the current supply had become exhausted.... Well, after all, it would hardly be appropriate if oneself did not join in a dram with invited guests!



A. B. C. OF KILRAVOCK.

A's for "All's well that ends well" and All right,
 B is for Boys who go bump in the night,
 C is for Christine and Charlie and Catherine,
 D is for Dawn who is also called Caroline,
 E's for Excited - none more so than Spot,
 F is for Football - we played it a lot,
 G is for Girls - the jam on the cake,
 H is Hot Soup which Paul's mother did make,
 I's for Inspection - beds empty? and full,
 J's for the Jaunt that took us off school,
 K's for Kilravock, a wonderful place,
 L's for Lorraine and the Laird full of grace,
 M's Mrs Fraser who thought she knew all,
 N is for Neil, strong, gentle and tall,
 O is for Offerings that helped us to pay,
 P is for Paul and Putting to play,
 Q's for Queen Mary of gladness and gloom,
 R's for Miss Rose who showed us her Room,
 S is for Shaun and Shona and Song,
 T's Table Tennis to rival Hong Kong,
 U is for Umbrage that no-one did show,
 V is for Violence we don't want to know,
 W is Willie, and Worship together,
 X is for Love in all kinds of weather,
 Y is for Youth in heart, hand and head,
 Z is for Zebedee - Time now for bed!

PRINT-IN

GLENURQUHART SECONDARY SCHOOL.

14

The now rather hackneyed Education Committee proposal of closure of this school, mooted three times in the last twelve years was once again foiled by concerted local community action during the past two months.

The proposal by the Education Committee was occasioned by the unfortunate death of the Headmaster, Mr Campbell, and the Committee's need to make a decision about the appointment of a new head and the terms of the appointment, if indeed there should be one at all.

To be fair, the Director of Education called a public meeting to discuss the matter on Thursday, 8th March, in Blairbeg Hall, at which he painted a rosy picture of the "opportunities" available at Charleston Comprehensive School which he stated was a preferable alternative to keeping Glenurquhart School open. Now, as Charleston is a new school in Inverness, the one on the way to Balnafettack, the local parents in Drumnadrochit felt strongly that it did not make sense to bus 56 children at a cost of £7,168 per year from Drumnadrochit, 37 children from Cannich and 13 from Glenmoriston to be hostelled at Dalneigh Hostel costing £31,900 when there was a perfectly good school in the village. There are many social and community reasons which were strongly stated, of even more importance than the financial one; the need for a growing young community to have its own school, to encourage the pupils to take a real interest in their local area and have a lasting affection which would help them to stay and prosper in its continuance after leaving school. Many

parents objected strongly to the idea of their 12-year old children forcibly sent away from home to board out. The public observed that since 1970 Glenurquhart School has been consistently kept short of finance, maintenance and encouragement by the Dept. of Education and this looked deliberate, in order to run the school down, then close it.

The school staff were qualified and keen to maintain and extend the scope of the school, which offers 17 subjects at 'O' grade. The pupils can only take 3!, so it compares very favourably with any Inverness school, and the academic achievements of its pupils going on to University and further education are better than those of any other school in the area. The continued stumbling block is that the Education Committee have repeatedly refused to provide additional science accommodation which would enable all pupils to take all their "H" grades, instead of as at present being able to take only languages and humanities and having to go elsewhere in their 6th year for "H" grade sciences.

The Education Committee were roundly criticised about the disrepair, lack of facilities, shabby classrooms, poor hygiene and working conditions for pupils and staff alike.

It was resolved unanimously to press for the continuance of the school and its refurbishment by the 300 or so at the meeting. The Director was left in no doubt of the community's wishes at the end of an enthusiastic and determined meeting. Later, on 14th March, the 18 members of the Secondary School Council

met Mr. D. Sutherland (Divisional Education Officer) at a special meeting and once again expressed the identical points in considerably more detail and unanimously passed the same resolution as at the public meeting.

Three days later, on Friday, 16th March, the Education Committee unanimously voted to accept the parents' and public's wishes and recommended the Finance Committee to allocate funds and re-examine the needs of Glenurquhart Secondary School with a view to refurbishing in the near future.

So again it must be noted that if public opinion is concerted and based on sound argument Official Bodies find it very

15.
hard to resist, - after all they are there to serve the public and its best interests, not to propagate their own pet policies.

M.A.T.
Vice-Chairman,
Sec. School Council.

P.S.
The parental ballot (questionnaire) results for those who did not see them in the press were:

.86 for the school at Glenurquhart.

0 for the school in Inverness.

95% vote in favour of Glenurquhart School!

From The Churches

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

Annual
General Meeting.

This took place in the church on April 17th with a representative attendance. Guests for the evening were the Rev. John and Mrs Campbell and Mr and Mrs Tom Barr of Urquhart. Mr Campbell addressed the meeting and Mr Barr showed the film of the Church of South India entitled "The Lotus and the Cross". The usual reports were submitted of Congregational Life and Work in 1978. It was noted that Sunday offerings had been added to by generous donations. "Success" stories were of the Woman's Guild Flower Festival, the Youth Group based on the Manse and the Children's Church at Bunloynne. Mrs Sey, Mrs K. Tomlin and Mr Gordon Cowie were re-elected to the Congregational Board. Mr Leslie Ward, F.C.A., the Congregational auditor for fourteen years,

FREE CHURCH COMMUNION.

The Free Church in Fort Augustus had their Communion season from the 10th to the 14th of May.

On Thursday the services were conducted by Rev. William Scott, minister of Duthil and Dores, whom they had last year at this time. The service on Friday was taken by the minister.

On Saturday the preacher was Rev. D. Ferguson, Strathpeffer, whose father was minister at Fort Augustus for a period of about ten years. Mr Ferguson also preached on Sabbath and on Monday. His theme during the period was based on the word "Peace", and the services of both Rev. Scott and Rev. Ferguson were very much appreciated.

The weather was quite favourable and representatives from the three congregations managed to attend the services, which were greatly enjoyed. J.F.

intimated that he would now like to relinquish this work. In thanking Mr Ward for his diligence the Rev. Peter Fraser recalled that he had also given five years as the Congregation's organist, during which he had never missed a weekly service.

Mr James Ewen Grant of Glenmoriston thanked the ladies who added to the enjoyment of the evening by serving tea.

The Rev. John Campbell pronounced the Benediction.

P.F.

WHAT POLLY DOES.

- Polly is my cat.
- Polly goes after a mouse.
- Polly goes under the curtains.
- Polly goes on the window.
- Polly likes dinner.
- Polly goes under Bill's bed.
- Polly sleeps on Bill's bed.
- Polly goes in the lobby.
- Polly tears the wallpaper.
- Polly goes outside.
- Polly jumps over the gate.
- Polly smiles at Fluffy, Tina's cat.

MICHAEL SMURTHWAITE.

The Moriston Matters

prize for young reportage

OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Every Sunday at quarter to four Claire and myself are picked up by Mr and Mrs Fraser and taken up to Torgoyle Lodge to pick Amanda and Glenn Grange up. Then off we go up to the croft under the White Mountains of Bunloyne. There we meet Mr and Mrs MacRae with Laura, Marlene and Hazel. Quite often Fiona McAdams is there too.

When we get into the house Mr MacRae takes our coats and gives us a chair to sit on. To help the Church, on the table is a little collection box and I think our highest amount was £1.80.

We always start off with a hymn. Next of all Mr Fraser tells us stories about Jesus, when he was small and when he was older, and he also tells us about his disciples. When he has told the story he shows

us all a picture of it.

Then Mrs Fraser takes over. She asks us which song we would like to sing and we usually say, "Mr Noah". It is about the rain and the animals and also the beautiful rainbow of many colours. We have many other favourites, like "Sing Hosanna" and "Praise Him". Quite often there is a treat for us and it is either painting, modelling or drawing.

The Sunday school goes on to five o'clock and then we are driven home by Mr and Mrs Fraser. Last Sunday Mrs Grange very kindly took the Sunday school in her house because Mr and Mrs MacRae were ill.

We are very lucky to have this Sunday school.

Karen Y. Tomlin (11).

INVERMORISTON SCHOOL.

The Summer term began with a school roll of only 11 pupils. Always a short term this one was especially welcome to all the children for its several extra holidays; two because of Elections on 3rd May and 7th June, and one closure because of a Primary Teachers' In-service course held on 14th May at Fort Augustus.

On May 11th an exhibition and sale of Children's Books was organised in the school by Mrs Lough of the Inverness Children's Book Club, when parents and children were able to see for themselves the vast and excellent range of books now available.

After taking part in the S.W.R.I. (Inverness-shire Federation) Anti-Litter Poster Competition for which Colin MacDonald won 2nd Prize, the children were prompted to make an even more practical anti-litter contribution and collected several sacks of rubbish from the area between the school and the Hall. Much litter still remains, however, which Primary children could not possibly tackle - so over now to the older age-groups in the community!

Events we look forward to are the Sports (date yet to be fixed) and the Summer Outing with Dalchreichart School to Kincaig Wild Life Park on Thursday, 14th June, when we hope as many parents and friends as possible will join us.

Several children will be taking instruction in Cycling Proficiency this term from Constable Campbell and we wish them success in their forthcoming test.

M.L.N.

MOTHERS' AND TODDLERS' GROUP. 17.

Our meeting at Dalchreichart School on Friday 11th May was taken over by a Book Club from which we purchased several books for the Group's Library that our young members enjoy. We served refreshments to all who came and it was a break from school work for the scholars and Mrs Grant.

On Monday, 14th May, there was a meeting for all mothers of the Group to discuss the summer meetings. These were agreed to be held at the central position of Bhlaraidh Gun Club as last year's meetings were so well attended. It is hoped that Mothers and Toddlers from Invermoriston will make a special effort to join us there from the first Friday in July. Make a note in your diary - 6th July - Gun Club.

It is also hoped that the Pla Group will have good weather for the picnic which we are endeavouring to hold this summer, and a good turn out of Mothers at our meetings will enable us to finalise location and transport.

Please support your playgroup by attending the meetings at 2 p.m. every Friday.

S.W.R.I. C.G.

The April Meeting, held on Monday 2nd April, saw our return to the Village Hall, where the new Committee Room proved both comfortable and convenient. Dr. A. J. Bennet came to speak about Health Foods and traced the development of health and diet throughout history. After he explained how and why we should all eat less, tea and cakes, etc, were enjoyed by all, nevertheless! The competition for the best Hygiene Tip was won by Mrs. Cowie. Mrs Tomlin was 2nd

and Mrs Sey 3rd.

The business meeting and our last this session was held on Monday, 7th May, when Mrs Nicholson was elected president. Mrs Churchill from Glenuarquhart demonstrated how best to put in a zip, as well as giving many valuable tips for good dressmaking results.

The competition, a flower arrangement in a margarine tub, was won by Mrs.K.Tomlin, with Mrs.P.Fraser 2nd, and Shona Robertson 3rd. The overall winner of the competitions this session for the silver teaspoon was Miss.C.MacDonald.

At the Group Rally held in Drumnadrochit we came 2nd equal with Glengarry in the Housewives' Competitions and, therefore, share the possession of the Tile presented by the Dutch Ladies, two years ago, for six months each.

At the Federation Arts and Crafts Exhibition we entered about 30 items, gaining 2 Gold stars, 5 Silver and 3 Blue. Here also Colin MacDonald won 2nd prize for his 'Anti-litter' Poster. Congratulations, Colin!

Congratulations also to Mrs. M.Tomlin, for, as we go to press, we learn that in the recent Federation Housewives' Tests, where she won two 1st class and three 2nd class certificates, she has also been awarded the Housewives' Cup for the best marks in the baking section.

K.W.

FORT AUGUSTUS SCHOOL.

Fort Augustus School Sports will be held on Tuesday, June 19th, weather permitting, or on Thursday 21st, at 1.45 p.m. and Mr Everett extends a cordial invitation to all parents and friends to be present.

WOMAN'S GUILD.

18.

After the business at the A.G.M. of the Woman's Guild on April 4th, young John Urquhart from Stratherrick, who is a keen supporter of the Tear Fund, showed a film-strip "More Precious than Gold", which tells the story of water and the troubles of peoples when they have too little or too much. It came as a shock to us to learn that only 15% of the world's population enjoy piped water.

Now we are looking forward to entertaining a bus-load of patients from Craig Dunain Hospital to afternoon tea in the Hall on May 30th.

K.T.

KILRAVOCK.

On Thursday 3rd May we set off at 12.30 p.m. We stopped at Drumnadrochit to pick Shaun and Paul up. We then went on to Culloden where we saw a film on "The 45". We had a look around and then went on to Kilravock. We unpacked our things and played table-tennis and then we had our tea. Afterwards we played more table-tennis and darts. We had a disco. Then we had a cup of tea and went to bed. The next day we went to the shop and Mr Miller came to visit us. Mr Miller is the Croy minister. We were shown around Kilravock Castle by Miss Rose. There we played putting, tennis and squash. Some of us went for a walk. We had lunch about 2 o'clock and arrived home about half past four.

L.S.S.

IN MEMORIAM

DONNIE MACDONALD.

19.

A correspondent has sent the following appreciation:

Dr. John G. Sclater, F.R.C.P.

The late Dr. John G. Sclater was a well-known consultant physician in Edinburgh, and had studied in America, Germany and Sweden.

At the time of his retirement he was Senior Consultant Physician to the Eastern General Hospital and an acknowledged authority on the rheumatic diseases.

I was privileged to be one of the guests at his retirement dinner and presentation given him by the City of Edinburgh. The eminent medical guests attending, many of whom had passed through his hands as students, after acknowledging his skills, spoke eloquently of his humanity and love of his fellowman, which they had attempted to carry with them during their own careers.

The many patients whom he treated in hospital beds, in clinics, or in their own homes found in John Sclater the un-failing kindness and understanding that characterised his entire life.

F.K. (NORFOLK).

The sudden death in Academy Street, Inverness, on April 16th of Donald J. MacDonald of Milton of Ness-side - Donnie MacDonald as he was known to a wide circle of friends - removed from the scene one of the first and most encouraging supporters of "Moriston Matters". With an intimate knowledge of the Dalchreichart area, stemming from his visits in the 20's and 30's to Balnacarn Farm, he had a fund of stories of people and places that was always available to fill in the background of life in the Glen which retained a warm place in his affections despite his subsequent residence in Kirkhill and Inverness. His grandfather grew up on the southern side of Loch Cluanie at a place called Duineach Mhor, and moved from there to Corrie Dho. His father subsequently rented Balnacarn from Sir George Cooper of Ceannacroc and he spent many happy holidays there.

His generous practical help at a time when the magazine was struggling to get off the ground was very valuable. We shall miss his fatherly oversight and would offer Mrs MacDonald our sincere sympathy.

SPRING-TIME CUCKOO.

Cuckoo! Cuckoo!
How-do-you-do!
I am the cuckoo
Who comes in the spring,
All over the glen
You hear my song ring.

I'm lazy, and lay
In other birds' nests,
But all the birds say
My song is the best!

JUDITH WATSON (10).

in brief

Congratulations and best wishes to Allan McDonell and Christine Thomson who were married on April 21st.

We welcome to the community Mr and Mrs Harry Stevenson who have come to live in the Shop Flats beside their daughter, Mrs Shepherd.

....also Mr and Mrs Thomas Bolan who have come to the Youth Hostel for the 1979 season.

....also Mr Daniel Niccolls and his young bride Lorraine who have come to be chef and receptionist at Glenmoriston Arms Hotel.

We wish farewell to Mrs Morag MacPherson who is about to go to Drumnadrochit where she will be nearer Sheena and Sandra and we hope she will be very happy.

We offer congratulations to Peter Kemp who has successfully completed the Fish Farming Course at Inverness Technical College.

The collection taken by Mr. J.E. Grant of Glenmoriston & Mrs Sey for the Red Cross Society amounted to £26.62 & all contributors are warmly thanked.

for sale

Reel to reel tape recorder.
Pye (Cambridge). 8-track, 2-speed. Includes tape counter and pause button.

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