

Reference copy.

Moriston Matters



PRICE 10P

NO 16 DECEMBER 1979

On the evening of Thursday 16th November, the Youth Club had its first meeting and was very well attended by the younger members of the community. In future all meetings will take place on TUESDAY EVENINGS.

Almost all the boys and girls of the village were present, but it was noticed that none of the children from higher up the Glen were present. Perhaps some of the parents will be able to arrange transport to bring them down in the future.

However, the evening went along pretty well with ball games and badminton in the main hall, and table tennis with Mr Fraser as coach in the Committee room.

Mrs Margaret Johnson showed her paces with the badminton racket, taking on what seemed to be an endless line-up on the other side of the net. It must have been very therapeutic for her as she complained of sore muscles the next day. Well done, Margaret.

Iain Mackenzie got the boys going towards the end with football which raised the temperature of the hall in no time at all. The temperature

fell rapidly however, when one over-enthusiastic member caused a draught by creating a rather large, albeit artistically shaped, hole in one of the windows. This hiccup will be corrected as soon as possible, won't it J.....?

Whilst this little battle was in progress the girls were happily dancing the night away in the Committee room which served as a venue for a mini disco. The music for this was provided by their own records played on a record player kindly brought along by Lorraine Service.

The Club hopes to be able to obtain a record player in the near future.

We were all feeling our way a little and one or two problems did arise, but with patience and organisation we hope that these will be ironed out quickly. Unfortunately some of the younger members got pushed out a bit, mainly because of the lack of space in the hall and everyone expecting to be able to do 'their own thing' all the time. This was discussed by all present and it was agreed that everyone would take their turn with the facilities available.

editorial

We must thank and pay tribute to John Smart, The Pole, for yet another very interesting and informative account of work and life in bygone Glenmoriston. We would welcome more of this 'social and economic history' kind of contribution written or told by those who were closely involved in the actual area of experience.

We would remind readers that, if there is an odd moment or two to be got in the press of the seasonal activities of the next few weeks we would welcome

some discussion and/or transmitted, in any way, suggestions as to how "Moriston Matters" may continue to be produced in the future.

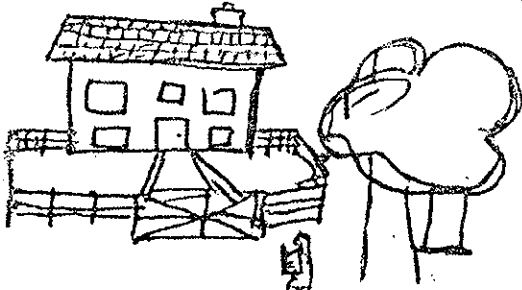
A warm and much deserved thanks again, to those who have been involved in producing the magazine: Mrs Fraser, Allan Nairn and his stand-in, Mike Tomlin, Christine MacDonald and the Glenmoriston Estates Office staff and those who have made premises available for distribution.

To all readers seasonal greetings, happiness and prosperity in 1980, and hundreds of ideas for contributions to "Moriston Matters".

Ed.

Good cheer and thanks to you too Duncan.

It's The Moriston Matters.

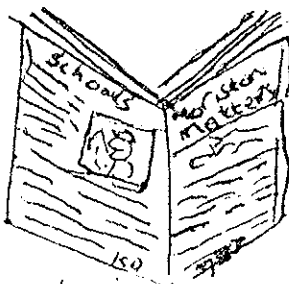


Published by Moriston Matters.
Correspondence to:-
Invermoriston Manse,
Glenmoriston,
Inverness-shire.

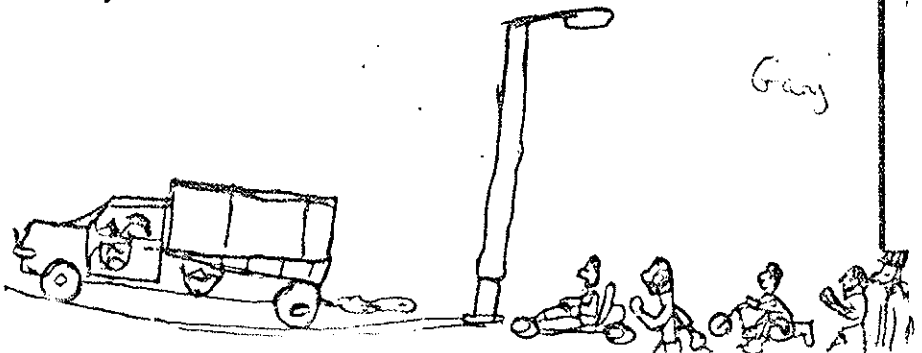
Telephone: Glenmoriston 51216.

Willy is out with something,
I wonder what it is?
It's full of interesting
pages. AND POEMS

What's the rush? The Moriston Matters
is on sale now! Go and get
one!



drawing by Gary



Gary

- ?. How do you like teaching?
- A. Well, teaching is a very demanding career; it can also be a very rewarding and satisfying occupation.
- ?. How does Invermoriston School compare with your last school?
- A. Every school has its own characteristics, the buildings, and surroundings and the facilities available within the school, the attitudes of children and parents all combine to make each school distinctive. Invermoriston is very different to the larger city school where I taught previously and where education facilities were much more available.
- ?. What do you think about the cuts in education?
- A. If cuts are necessary there are obviously some spheres within the education system which are less essential than others. Personally, I think that with all the new-found wealth from North Sea oil Scottish schools should not be facing cuts at this time, but I'm very concerned that Highland Region which is already far behind compared with most of the rest of Scotland in providing educational resources with its heavy burden of transport and hostel costs, etc, will once again be so hard hit by cuts that all hope of improvement will vanish for a time. As yet I don't know exactly how we will be affected.
- ?. How do the children you teach now, compare with the ones when you first started teaching?
- A. It's hard to make comparisons because, as I mentioned before, the children from each area tend to react to school slightly differently, depending on the nature of the school itself and the surroundings and so on, and I did start teaching again in a suburban school, but all children, no matter from which area they come, require the same understanding and firm guidance to develop each individual's potential, but I think the children nowadays are ready to express themselves more freely and to discover and investigate for themselves and also to be more creative.
- ?. Is there anything you would like to see changed in the education system and if so what?
- A. Well, no education system is perfect whether it's based on the European concept of success by merit in a fiercely competitive examination or whether the system is based on the aim of providing something for every pupil like our comprehensive system. In the former system some pupils fall by the wayside and there's seldom an ideal palliative for these failures. On the other hand some pupils do require the stimulus of competition to bring the best out in them and examinations and certificates can provide this; but I think there's a strong case for extending educational provision for the more gifted children, while at the same time, increasing the remedial service where it is required and I would also like to see expanding pre-school education.

4 The Historical Glen.

In the last article I entered into "Moriston Matters" I referred to the horse-drawn vehicles that used to travel by stages from Inverness to Glenmoriston. One of these horses at a later date was owned by Sime, the Wood Merchant for a short time, and then by Wm. Rose & Son, the Bobbin Mill at Blarie (the mill was situated where the hydro houses stand today) where I was employed working the same horse. His name was Guildie, a very good working horse, wise and good-natured, as were also some of the other horses at Blarie Mill, Dick, a Canadian horse, and Star, a lovely steel-grey animal and others. Guildie and I along with others dragged in tons and tons of birch wood into the mill from ever so far up the hill above Blarie, across Blarie Burn, where we built a bridge. All I had to do with Guildie was to fasten his dragging equipment on to a good-sized birch tree, and let him go. Should the drag stick, he would manoeuvre this way and that until it got clear, and then carry on to his destination at the mill.

At that time a Mr Peter MacDonald from Achnaconeran used to take contracts with his horse at Blarie. I worked with him. He was a fine man to work with and good to his horse. He used to carry an axe with him when dragging wood, and would always trim the edges of the tree to make it easier for the horse.

He also carted in wood from round about, and with the rest of us we carted away tons of bobbins, shavings or "chips" as we called them, and sawdust down to Invermoriston Pier, and stacked them up there ready for

MacBrayne's steamer to take them away, the bobbins to MacGregor and Balfour, Dundee for the jute mills at Calcutta when they were finished and polished. The "chips" and sawdust, very good for curing fish, went to the fish curers. Sometimes we used to get a sample of their kippers. They were just delicious.

Guildie and I with the rest carted in wood to the mill from all over Invermoriston. I remember when dragging wood along at Rhuban through the old Norway spruce plantation that was there before the present one. It was a lovely plantation with great shelter from the rain. We used to feed the horses there at mid-day. Guildie, who was getting on in years, would lie down after his feed and take a rest like ourselves.

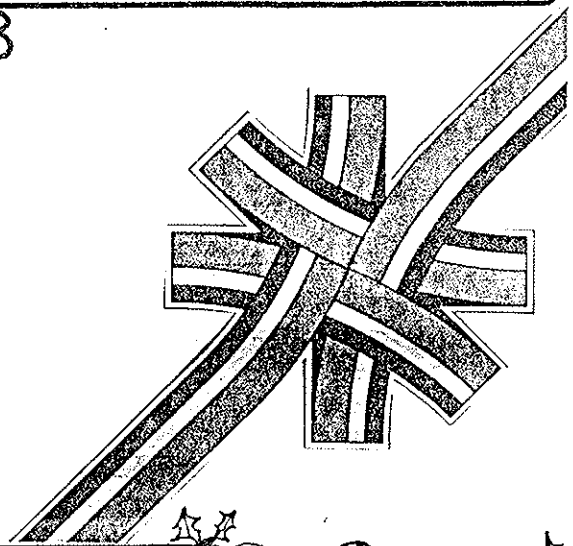
Before working the horses I was employed in the mill, which was quite a going concern in these days. Quite a few were employed there. There were five circular saws, a long travelling bench for cutting boards and posts, etc, a cross-cutting saw outside for sizing the wood to go into the mill, where there were three benches for cutting the wood into the required size for making the bobbins. There was a most useful man-operated crane for lifting the wood to the cross-cut saw. Then there was the boring machine for boring the blocks after coming from the saws. Then the turning or ruffing machine, as we called it, for shaping out the bobbin. It was a bit dangerous when working it, as occasionally a bobbin would break and fly out. We had to wear a steel net guard over our faces. We all took our turn at these machines. There came a great deal of

shavings from the ruffing machine, which dropped on to a travelling belt which took them across the burn to be burned, that is when they were not required for the fish curers. Everything, of course, was driven by water power, a huge turbine having been installed there previously. The waste wood that came from the mill was really attractive, interesting, pleasant to handle and made excellent firewood, for which there was always a demand, the crofters coming in with their horses and carts. Before stopping time, I think it was 5.30, we all had to take

our turn to carry the huge bags of bobbins upstairs to the drying loft, where they were dried, picked, counted and bagged for transport. We were all experts at sewing bags at that time, between the bobbins, chips and sawdust bags! I learned in those days that a horse is a timid animal, and responds well to plenty kindness.

Things have changed dramatically since these days, but it is good to know that there is One who changeth not, who is the same, yesterday, today and forever.

D.J.S.



For her work Shona has been awarded

THE MORISTON MATTERS

prize for young reportage

See Page 3.



ANGLERS' MEMORIAL, FASACH,
INVERMORISTON.

This memorial may be found on a steep bank, overlooking Loch Ness about a mile past the Allt Saigh Youth Hostel (on the Invermoriston side). Although clearly visible from a boat on the loch, it is not easily found from the road (the A82 Inverness/Fort William road) since it is situated some 30 yards below it and screened from it by a dense undergrowth of bracken, bramble and hazel.

The simplest way to find the memorial - a red granite cross about 3 feet high set in a boulder of local stone - is to continue past Allt Saigh until you come to Fasach, which is a green field guarded by a large iron gate. You must then retrace your steps eastwards along the grass verge to the first milestone; thereupon, turn and walk 84 paces to the West. At this point you must walk resolutely down the bank towards the loch where you will find the memorial.

It bears the following inscription in white lettering of remarkable clarity considering that over 70 years have passed since its erection.

SACRED
TO
THE MEMORY
OF
JOHN J. HINSELWOOD, GLASGOW
AND HIS BOATMAN
DUNCAN MACDONELL
LIVISHIE, INVERMORISTON,
WHO
WERE DROWNED
BY THE
CAPSIZING
OF THEIR BOAT
IN A SQUALL
OFF THIS POINT
ON 18th. FEB
1905.



From the Memorial Stone looking towards the tragic spot.

PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED BY MR.
MACKENZIE, TAKEN BY MR.T.
JAMIESON.

AND THE SEA
GAVE UP THE DEAD
WHICH WERE IN IT
REV XX 13.

The tragedy occurred on Saturday 18th February 1905, during a fishing trip which went drastically wrong.

For a few days the weather had been unpleasant with high Northerly winds and flurries of snow which had affected not only Loch Ness-side but many parts

of the Central Highlands. This did not, however, deter Mr John Hinshelwood, a Glaswegian staying on holiday at the Invermoriston Hotel, who had decided that despite the inclement weather he would troll around the mouth of the river Moriston and up the bank as far as Fasach. This had been his practice - unsuccessfully - for a number of days previously.

Hinshelwood, a 48 year old bachelor whose father was a substantial Glasgow business man owning a large fleet of omnibuses, was a typical sporting gent of the era. Head of the Atlas Express Parcel Co. and a fine golfer, he was also a devotee of field sports and it was his custom to arrive in Invermoriston at various times each year to avail himself of the fishing.

That Saturday, in a virtual gale, Hinshelwood, Duncan Macdonell, his boatman, and his ghillie, Donald Macdonald, a native of Innis-Ewen in Invermoriston, set out. The boat had not gone far when the wind which Hinshelwood had speculated might be falling actually began to increase. They were fine as long as they kept close to the shore but, in order to round Fasach Point, they had to head out towards the middle of the loch. There at a spot 50 yards from the shore they were struck by a fierce gust of wind which heeled them into the path of a large wave. The combination caused the boat to capsize.

The three men were tossed out of the boat, whereupon Hinshelwood, a strong swimmer, struck out for the shore. For a time he appeared to be doing well but he was hampered by a heavy overcoat and boots as well as the heavy waves and he soon sank from view.

The two boatmen, more astutely, clung to the keel of the overturned boat and in this manner were carried quite a distance from the spot where they originally capsized.

They were growing weaker in the high waves, however, and presently Macdonell was washed away by one of them. His companion, Macdonald, turned round in time to see him lose his grip and slip beneath the surface leaving only his cap floating. Macdonell was thirty and unmarried. An experienced boatman used to estate work all his days, he had served for a number of years in the Lovat Scouts.

Donald Macdonald continued to cling to the keel and was eventually washed ashore in an exhausted condition about half a mile from the point where the incident occurred.

In an extremely weak condition he crawled up the steep bank to the public road where he was found in a semi-conscious state and taken to a nearby house, where, upon recovering, he raised the alarm. Search parties were sent out later on Saturday and all day Sunday but attempts to recover the bodies with grappling irons proved fruitless. All that was recovered were two fishing rods belonging to Hinshelwood found at a spot near to where the boat capsized. A further attempt to recover the remains was made by a diver later in the week but that too was in vain although a fishing basket which was identified by Macdonald as being in the boat was found floating on the surface near the shore at Fasach.

3 cont. from previous page.

True to the traditions of Loch Ness the bodies never were recovered, hence the text from Revelation on the memorial.

H. FRASER MACKENZIE,
'Inchgowan'
Balmacaan Road,
Drumadrochit.

P.S. Mr Mackenzie, and we are sure many readers, would like to know more about this tragedy. Who raised the monument? When? Was a service of dedication held on the spot at some time? Who, if anyone, is responsible for it now? Etc. We invite such information, which will be passed to Mr.H.F.MacKenzie and published here.

Ed.



GLENURQUHART SEC.SCHOOL P.T.A.

The Parent Teacher Association which was formed last month held its first function at the Primary School hall, Drumnadrochit, on Friday 30th November. It was a very relaxed and friendly occasion starting with a display and sale of skiing equipment for the newly formed ski club members, followed by a sale of cakes and candy made by parents, to raise funds for the school minibus which it is hoped we can purchase eventually. The quality and quantity of the home baking was superb and the produce raised a deserved £40.00. A very practical and helpful innovation was that many teachers were present to discuss with parents, over coffee and biscuits which were provided, any aspect of school and pupil progress in an informal way. Many parents appreciated this consultation very much and we thank the staff for their time and tact. All in all a most constructive, friendly and enjoyable start to what we hope will be a flourishing association.

M.A.T.

DR.BUCHANAN MEMORIAL PROJECTOR.

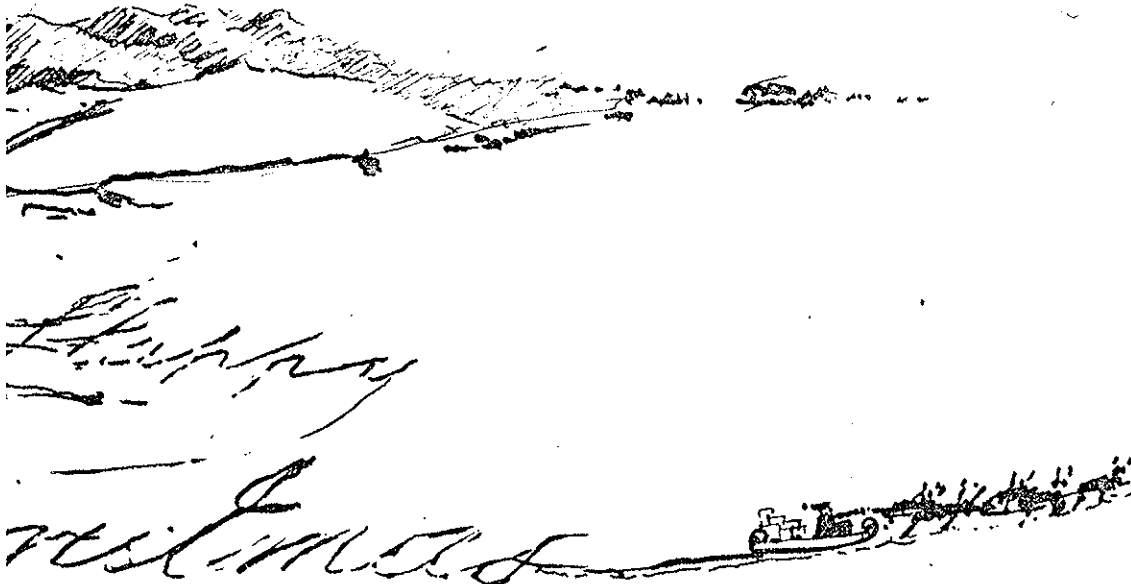
The Dr.Buchanan Memorial projector has now been procured and the Community Council has made the following arrangements for its use.

The projector is to be kept at Fort Augustus School and can be booked through the secretary of the Community Council (Mr.R.A. Everett).

Any group in the Glenmoriston/Fort Augustus/Glengarry area may borrow it without charge on giving two weeks' notice, provided it is not used for a money-making function, in which case the fee would be £1. An application by an individual would have to be approved by the office-bearers of the Community Council.

A panel of projectionists is to be trained to operate it, one at least of whom (hopefully) will live in Glenmoriston, and they will be entitled to expenses incurred in attending a function. It is hoped that a teacher from each of the schools will also be trained so that the school-children can benefit.

G.M.C.



The Moriston Matters

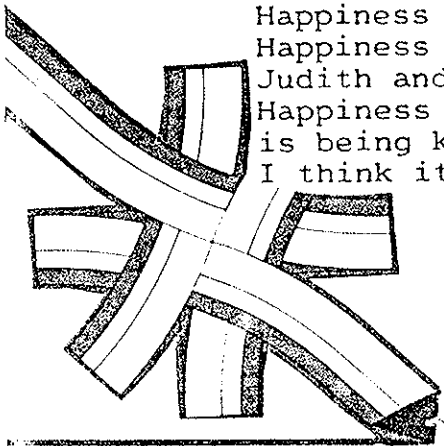
Prize for creative writing

Regarding the prize for 'Creative Writing', the topic this month was assigned: entries, a poem or piece of prose or story had to begin with the words, "Happiness is...."

The entry judged to be the best was that submitted by Marlene MacRae. Of the two other entries printed here, readers will no doubt agree that John McDonell's expresses sentiments particularly appropriate at this season.

Happiness is playing with friends,
Happiness is getting pens and pencils.
Happiness is playing with dolls.
Happiness is writing.
Happiness is going to school and drawing.
Happiness is playing with Fiona and Claire and
Judith and Laura. Happiness is being nice.
Happiness is being kind and good. Happiness
is being kind and liking each other.....
I think it is nice to be happy.

MARLENE MACRAE (7)



Happiness is playing with dolls and changing them, putting on pretty frocks and shoes, buying new coats and frocks for them. I am happy playing with my dolls. I am happy when I put them to bed. I comb their hair twice a day. I bath them two days a week. I think my dolls are happy. And so am I happy too.

FIONA MACADAMS (8)

Happiness is eating. When I eat macaroni, semolina, tapioca, peaches, bacon and egg flan, roast potatoes, pineapple sponge and other things I like I am happy. I am happy when I eat because it fills my tummy. I am happy when I sit down to a big plate of mutton, roast potatoes, apple sauce and gravy because that is my favourite dinner.

I THINK THERE IS NOTHING BETTER TO DO THAN TO EAT.

JOHN MCDONELL (7)

And a more serious member of the community decided
to contribute to "Happiness is - - - - -"

"HAPPINESS IS - - - - -"

Happiness is to have an Outlook,
An answer to "What kind of place is this?"
And how, what for, and why we are set here,
And what we are to be and think and do,
And how we are to cope with what could be;
An answer on which surely to rely
For all this life, whatever came before
And what might be expected afterwards.

Happiness is to find the echo of this answer
Returning live from depth of kindred spirits,
A brother-sisterhood, a Family —
"Behold my Brother, Sister and my Mother".
What left? No other Name than simply, Father.
What could be better than a Father's House
With nothing forced upon responsive Children
Called to become their many coloured best!

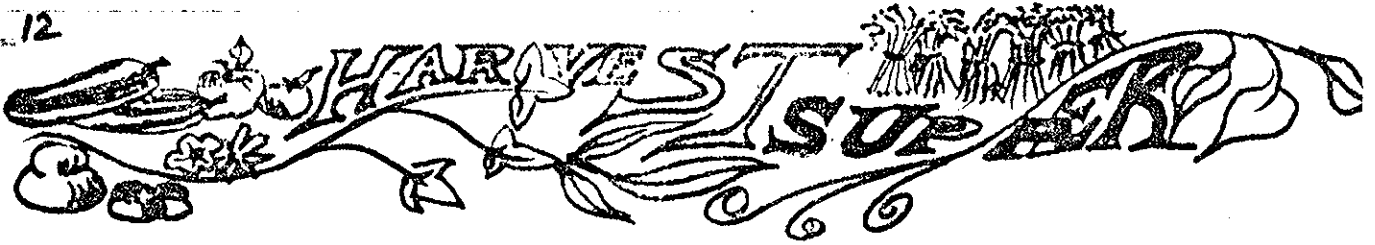
Happiness is to have a rock foundation
On which to sit or stand or walk or run,
On which to cry or laugh or sing or play,
On which to rise and strive and overcome
Whatever is that ought not so to be.
Happiness is from one who overcame
And ever does and ever will in Those
Who humbly kneel and follow in the Way.

P.F.

BADMINTON CLUB

The revived Badminton Club has met
on two Saturday evenings in December
and is proving a success, but there
is room for still more support.
Come along from 7-10 pm with
suitable shoes, and 10p, and join
in the fun.

P. MacD.



HARVEST SUPPER.

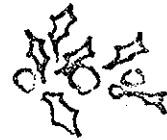
This year the Harvest Supper was held on Tuesday 20th November in Dalchreichart School in aid of Glenmoriston Church of Scotland funds. Although it was a cold evening there was a warm atmosphere as friends from the top and bottom of the glen gathered and sat down to enjoy the evening. After a delightful supper was served by the ladies, the lights were turned out and the Doctor Buchanan Memorial Projector was set up under the careful and knowledgeable hands of Mr Kemp. The first film was called "The History of British Food" and described how British food has been influenced throughout the centuries by the Romans, and now today by the Indians and Chinese, and also how our food has improved in quality and variety. There were many mouth-watering dishes shown and it was an eye-opener and delight to watch the chefs in top British hotels producing gourmet dishes.

The second film was called "Harvest" and it related to the first film to a certain extent. It explained how farming has improved through the years and how the British farmer is one of the most advanced in the world today. One of the most interesting scenes of the film to the agricultural and non-agricultural members of the audience was the harvesting of

all the various grains and vegetables and the machines involved. There were also some scenic views of the British countryside.

The evening was brought to a close by the Rev. Peter Fraser who after prayer, thanked all those people who had helped to make the evening a success, also all the people who came along. With all the donations received the church benefited by £53.00.

A.M.M.G.



CHURCH NEWS CONTINUED FROM P.13

part is thankful and reverent response, with all we have and are. With every First Day of the Week there is the all-pervading Remembrance: "He rose again, He rose again, on this glad day". We can dry our eyes, let His wonderful Peace take control and go forward.

The Glenmoriston Congregation will miss the presence of Mr and Mrs Reid, Achlain, and Mr and Mrs Gordon Cowie and their three young children - Robbie, Karen and Katryne. Mr Cowie served as a member of the Congregational Board and Treasurer of the Weekly Freewill Offering Scheme.

P.F.

CHURCH NEWS

13

REMEMBRANCE.

Since last writing five great Services of Remembrance have quickly followed one another.

1. With Dr. Winifred Bailey we remembered the constant command of the Lord of the Church repeated in every version of the Gospel: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature". And "all the world" begins for us, just here.
2. On the last Sunday of October, rather late because it has been that kind of year, we remembered the Harvest and Harvesters of

Woman's Guild.

In October the Woman's Guild had a most interesting evening when Dr. Rory Laidlay, then just finishing a year's assistantship with Dr. Sutherland in Drumnadrochit, gave a talk, illustrated with coloured slides, on the Yemen, a strange and mysterious corner of South Arabia. He also showed us many fascinating and very unusual articles in common usage there, such as a communal water-filtered smoking pipe, the veil and flowing black drape worn by the Moslem women, a voluminous wrap, a prayer-mat, gaudy little dresses for young girls, and many pictures of the people, the land and their buildings.

Dr. Laidlay, who is a second cousin of Mr Grant of Glenmoriston, had spent several years working with other Church of Scotland missionaries at a hospital in Radaa, but he was happy to tell us that it was now being run very competently by Arab staff.

K. T.

the World and the Provision made through their labours. We remembered that we have never been really hungry with no provision made and we prayed for the Grace to help in every possible way to make this true for the whole world, realising that the cause of much want is just the disobedient selfishness of those who close eyes and ears to the needs of others.

3. On the first Sunday of November, we remembered the constant command of the Lord of the Church: "This do in remembrance of Me". We prayed - not because we are worthy - but that we might receive Grace, because we believe it is the way for real people in the world and, as He has told us, beyond; because we believe it to be the will of the great Creator Father.
4. On the second Sunday of November, we remembered at the War Memorial and in the Church. Few, if any, would agree with all that happened in the Great Wars of our century. But this is the way by which we have come. We remembered those who paid the price - who for our Tomorrow gave their Today. There are no more moving Memorials on earth than those raised to the memory of those young men and women. We tried to obey the command: "Look unto the rock when ye are hewn and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged", acknowledging the Higher Presence.
5. On the fourth Sunday of November we remembered through Infant Baptism that we owe everything from the beginning to God and His Grace and Love. God has freely given and our

14 SWRI.

On Monday, 15th October, we had our first meeting of the season with Mr Kemp as guest speaker. He gave an interesting talk about 40 years in teaching, highlighting the difference between Scottish and English schools. The competition memory game arranged by Mr Kemp was won jointly by Mrs.K.Watson and Mrs.P.Fraser.

On Monday, 29th October, we were hostesses to the Central Group Inter-Institute Quiz and were winners again, thanks to our team, Mrs.P.Fraser, Mrs.M.Nicholson, Mrs.M.Tomlin and Mrs.K.Watson. The teams competing were: Fort Augustus, Drumnadrochit, Glenmoriston, Upper Glenurquhart and Dochgarroch. Miss Beaton, Fort Augustus was quizmaster with Miss Thomson as scorer, and Mrs.B. Murray presented a silver quaich, which will be contested for each year.

Mr and Mrs MacRitchie of Highland Lilliums were our speakers on Monday, 12th November, when they gave an interesting talk on gardening,

INVERMORISTON T.V. CLUB.

Another dance was held in the Village Hall on Friday, 16th November. Unfortunately, owing to the high cost of the band (£85) and the hall rental (£12.50) we did not make a profit on this.

Mr Craft is busy working on our "Colour". It is hoped that we will have this soon. The official estimate is £2,700 and we hope to receive 50% of this from the H.I.D.B. who have been approached for a grant. We still have to raise somewhere in the region of £700/800. It is necessary to raise this money as soon as possible. A loan can be arranged with the bank until such time as the money can be

followed by slides of many different shrubs and flowers. The competition, something made from cones, judged by Mr and Mrs MacRitchie was won by Mrs.M.Tomlin.

Our annual charity whist was held on Monday, 19th November, in aid of the National Association for the Deaf, from which they will benefit by £30.00 the net proceeds of the evening, including donations. Many thanks to all who contributed in any way. Mr.P.Stoddart was cardmaster and Mrs.M. Shepherd presented the prizes to:

Ladies:

1. Mrs.P.Stoddart; 2. Mrs.K. Tomlin; Travelling, Mrs.P. Fraser; Consolation, Mrs.L. Service.

Gents:

1. P.MacDonald, Alltisaigh; 2. Mrs Sey; Travelling, J.Morrison; Consolation, Trisha Stoddart.

The raffle was won by Shona Robertson.

L.H.S.



raised but this would mean paying 21% interest.

Any ideas?

It is hoped to call a public meeting very soon so that everything can be explained (hopefully!!) and several points discussed. Please come when this is announced. THE COMMITTEE CAN ONLY REPRESENT YOUR INTERESTS IF YOU SUPPORT THEM.

M.J.

Hall News.

In Memoriam.

15

The Annual General Meeting of the Hall was held on Tuesday, 13th November.

Apart from last year's committee only two members of the community put in an appearance. This was rather disappointing as we felt more people might have come along to acquaint themselves with the past year's business regarding the new extension and renovations, which have now been almost completed. The treasurer, the Rev.P.Fraser, issued balance sheets and everybody was delighted that we still had a healthy bank account after having paid all accounts in connection with the rebuilding programme. There are several suggestions for further improvements and this money is being kept for them.

Mr Pat MacDonald kindly consented to remain as Chairman for another year, with the Rev.P. Fraser as Treasurer and Mrs Douglas as Secretary. The Committee members are: Morag Ferguson, A.Fraser, Mrs.P. Fraser, Mr.I.Grant, Mr.Jas. E. Grant, A.Nairn, J.Service, P.Stoddart and R.Watson.

A.F.D.

Congratulations to Pat on topping the poll in the Community Council elections! He is now the vice-chairman of the Council (Mr. Sherriffs being chairman) & other elected members are Ian Grant & Norman MacLeod. At the last meeting of the Council Bob Watson was made a co-opted member.

Hedges Worthington-Eyre, of Tailor's Croft, Invermoriston, died suddenly on 22nd October, in hospital in London, following a heart attack, aged 80. Born the youngest of 7 children in Dun Laoghaire, Republic of Ireland, he went to Trinity College, Dublin, and was well-known for his love of athletics; he ran in the Olympic Games in Antwerp in the 1920's and was in the College Hockey Team. He was then in Burma, working with elephants in the teak forests, but returned to England at the outbreak of the war to join the Royal Artillery. After the war he was stationed with the RASC, British Army of the Rhine in Germany, where he remained until retiring to Tailor's Croft. After the death of his wife Betty (née Buttar of Coupar Angus, Perthshire), he either lived with his son, Roland, Chartered Accountant on the Isle of Islay, or with his daughter, Wendy, in London, where he was at the time of his sudden death, being quite fit and athletic right until the end, in spite of a touch of arthritis. He is sadly missed by Wendy, Roland and Fernando, who will continue to go to the Tailor's Croft as often as possible, to look after the place, see their friends and keep memories alive. Mr Eyre will be missed in the village too where his erect figure as he walked down to the shop for his messages and up the hill again was a familiar sight for a number of years. His deafness was a handicap, cutting him off in a measure from other people, but we believe that he derived much quiet enjoyment from his stay in the community.

in brief

There may be two or three spare theatre seats for the pantomime matinee on Thursday, 20th December. Anyone wishing to go should contact either Mrs Grant or Mrs Nicholson. Seats cost £3.50 for adults, £1.50 for Senior Citizens and £1.50 for children.

There will also be seats available on the bus (fare 75p.) for anyone wishing to visit Invernes for the afternoon. The bus will leave Invermoriston School at 1 p.m. and leave Eden Court for the return journey at approximately 4.45 p.m.

Again in this issue we must say farewell to a number of our fellow-residents who are now making their homes elsewhere.

At the end of October Jim and Marie Reid, and with them Brian on his spells of leave, left Achlain to live permanently in their cottage at Inchberry, nr. Fochabers.

In the middle of November Gordon and Liz Cowie, with Robbie, Karen and Katryne, left on his promotion as Assistant Conservator for the West of Scotland with the Forestry Commission and they are now living in Blanefield.

At the end of November Chris Sharp left to live beside his recently widowed sister in Berkshire.

Then Danny and Lorraine Niccoll left after a short but pleasant stay in the village for St. Andrews.

And as this issue comes out Andy and Liz Aiken with Robert and Elizabeth are packing up for their move to a new job in Brora.

We remember the several contributions they have made to the community and wish them all well in their new spheres.

Roy and Betty Gibbon and John have made a less drastic move from Rudhaban to Tor Bheag - where we hope they are happily settled in.

On the other side of the balance we have gained Mrs Margaret Shepherd from Perth and her son, James, who has joined his brother at the Hotel, and Mr and Mrs. McLean with Alan and Calum who live at the Youth Hostel - which now includes 'Loch Ness' in its title, thus commending itself still more to visitors from other parts - where Mrs McLean is the warden. They come from Alexandria; and David Gellatly from Aberdeen-shire, who is on the staff of the fish farm.

We welcome them all and would also offer our congratulations to Tony and Jane Talbot on the birth of their daughter, Jenny, on October 18th.

Her family and friends are all pleased to see Frances Grant home on holiday from New Zealand and wish her a happy stay.

THE EARL HAIG FUND.

This year's poppy collection was by Invermoriston School. We raised £18.92. We thank all who contributed and we hope that the war-disabled will benefit from it. The collectors were Mrs Nicholson, Gary, Kirsteen, Yvonne and Cameron.

CAMERON JOHNSON
Reporter for
Invermoriston School.

The Poppy Day Collection in the Dalchreichart area realised £18.86.