



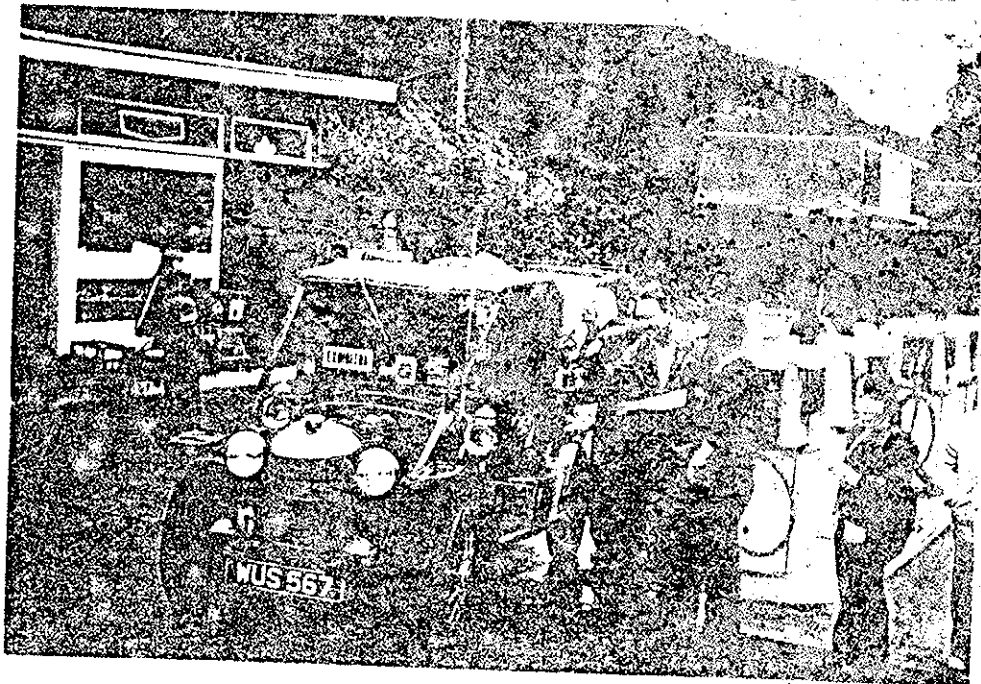
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# Moriston Matters

PRICE 10p

NO 17 FEBRUARY 1980

## IT HAS BECOME A LOCAL INSTITUTION



Pat the Pier's Filling Station with Sron-na-Muic in the background and in the foreground a generation of well-known personalities.

(Photos supplied by Margaret Gillies. Story - page 3)

## 2 *editorial*

Rationalisation is the name of the game these days, and we in "Moriston Matters" have decided to get on this bandwagon and try and make our deadlines for sending in copy more easily remembered. In future, we suggest that all copy - articles, reports, information, ads., etc., etc. - be delivered by the end of the following months: January, March, May, July, September and November. We will then aim for publication by the middle of the next month in each case. But we have the capacity and facilities for getting in late copy, 'stop press' news, should this be necessary.

As a community magazine we must deplore strongly the erosion of community life at the hands of so-called rationalisation. We have already given space to the campaign to prevent Glenurquhart Secondary School being closed. Fortunately the people of Glenurquhart are as spirited fighters off the shinty field as on. It is difficult to understand the official mind that even contemplated and mooted the closing of a school with the traditions and academic output of a school like Glenurquhart Secondary, within a vigorous, community-minded area such as Glenurquhart is. But the sobering fact is that its closure was actively contemplated - for, apparently, narrowly economic reasons.

And now Glenmoriston is experiencing the threat of the clinic-axe of rationalisation. What Mr Keith's words (see page 3) "...we maintain that the closure of Inver would have little or minimal effect on the community..." illustrate is the seemingly unbridgeable gulf between the panoramic mind of the multinational giant and life in a

small culturally viable community, the people in which have strong loyalties and have a strong sense of identity with the community. We do not advocate "parish pumpery" by any means, nor are the people of Glenmoriston (or any other small community) parochial, but the closure of any well- and long-established institution is bound to have more than a "little or minimal effect on the community". There is the fundamental question of people's livelihoods and there is the fact that village institutions evolve to be a strength and source of sane values beyond their basic functions. The purely and narrowly economic rationalisation is hideous in its poverty.

We confess to no knowledge of the legal requirements in the closing of a petrol station, and little knowledge of economics, but we find something chilling about Esso's legal obligations to fill in the tanks. One could see the force of this if it had been finally established that a petrol station would never again be used as a petrol station. But suppose another company were willing to supply the tanks - then surely it would be common-sense for Esso to transfer the entire premises to a buyer willing to continue the business. Expressing the intention of neutralising a service without apparently considering a reasonable alternative seems to be a needless destruction of a resource. Or, are we being naive?

The next "creative" assignment is a story or poem which illustrates a favourite colour.

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Correspondence to:-  
Invermoriston Manse,  
Glenmoriston,  
Inverness-shire.

Telephone: Glenmoriston 51216.

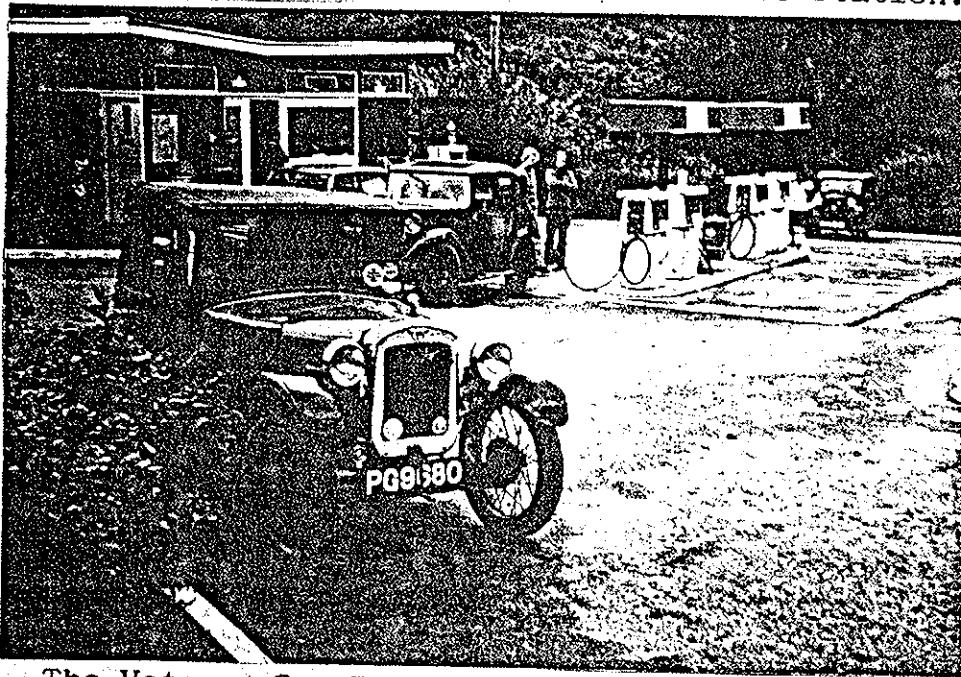
# INVER SERVICE

As is widely known now, in December, 1979, Esso, after about 90 years of trading with Peter MacDonald & Sons of Glenmoriston, decided to close the Inver Service Station. The closure will take place on the 30th Sept., 1980 and not June as earlier reported in the press.

The community of Glenmoriston, and further afield, were considerably dismayed by the news, as much, and indeed more, by how it would affect Pat MacDonald

planning permission now has been applied.

On the 7th February, a meeting took place in Inverness between Mr Keith, Esso's Regional Manager in Scotland, and officials of the H.I.D.B., the Highland Regional Council and the Inverness District Council. But it seems that Esso have not budged from their decision to close the Inver Service Station.



The Veteran Car Rally, 1974, when competitors used Inver Service Station for topping up.

and his business as by the physical inconvenience and extra expense the closure would mean, and a petition was organised and universally supported.

Pat MacDonald, in his fight to reverse Esso's decision, has contacted Mr Russell Johnston, M.P. for Inverness-shire, the Highlands and Islands Development Board, the Highland Regional Council and the Inverness District Council, and has received from them a significant measure of support. Pat has also secured from Glenmoriston Estates Ltd., a site on which to build an alternative station, for which

"Moriston Matters" contacted Mr Keith, and having explained the general function of the magazine, requested an answer to a few specific questions and invited him to make any other comment he wished. Mr Keith replied at some length.

We asked him first if he would like to make any comment on "how a huge company looks on local communities". We print his reply in full:

"With the Inver Service Station situation focused on Esso Petroleum Company, in relation to our rationalisation policy, the judgement over what is or

4 is not newsworthy in the media is not our decision.

After 92 years of trading in the U.K., we are indeed conscious of the needs of the local communities and we consider that our attitude is both sensible and responsible. There are over 50 oil companies in the U.K. and of these, there are only three or four operating in rural areas.

Our company, despite our size, is part of most local communities and that is a relationship we try to maintain.

We have an identified association with the retail trade and we cannot escape the market pressures upon us and every other company, whether it is retailing petrol, groceries, ironmongery or providing any of the myriad needs of a community. The whole market place is changing and as it is our firm intention to remain as retailers, we have to recognise the changes and move with the market".

Mr Keith then went on to explain Esso's view of the economics of the situation: basically that, "in the ever changing market of petrol retailing.... it is better to have a limited number of strong rural outlets capable of surviving rather than a large number of weak ones". Mr Keith next volunteered a question, and answer, of his own. We publish these in full:

"What effect would the closure of Inver Service Station have on the surrounding community? Again we consider this very carefully and we maintain that the closure of Inver would have little or minimal effect on the community because of the availability of petrol at other locations in the area. Those who buy petrol at Inver are obviously motorists and therefore

mobile outwith the immediate vicinity of Inver".

Finally, we raised with Mr Keith the question of the intention of Esso, as reported in the press, to move the pumps and "fill in" the tanks before the site and premises were placed on the market. We explained that this puzzled many people, and put the question: "Does it (moving the pumps and filling in the tanks) not smack of a "dog in the manger" attitude? We publish Mr Keith's reply in full:

"As far as filling in the tanks are concerned - that is actually a legal requirement when a service is being closed down".

#### STOP PRESS

The Community Council at its meeting on 19th Feb took up Pat's case and pledged its full support in his efforts to come to terms with the situation.

#### BADMINTON.

Badminton is being played weekly either on Saturdays or Mondays as the Hall is available. We need more recruits - experience unnecessary. Adults pay 30p and children 10p.

P. MacD.

#### GAELIC FOR BEGINNERS.

A Gaelic class is held by Mrs Mairead MacKay every Thursday at 7.30 p.m. in Fort Augustus School. In addition to the language, a little of the history and culture of the Gaelic speaking people is included.

Glenmoriston is already well represented by five enthusiastic learners and anyone else interested in joining the group would be very welcome.

# FESTIVE SEASON COUNTRY DIARY

Have you ever been asked by some visitor from one of the more populated parts of the world, where it may appear that numbers make for a full life, who perhaps fondly imagines that his presence along with that of others of his kind is making up for a serious deficiency in the quality of life in a community such as ours - "What do you do here in the winter?"

A look at the Glenmoriston timetable for the five weeks or so covering Christmas and New Year might prove an eye-opener. Of course, not everyone was involved in every activity, but it is doubtful if anyone found himself caught up by none of them.

To start the ball rolling, the Woman's Guild held their party in Invermoriston House on December 11th when there were games and carol-singing with special guests from among the Senior Citizens who live alone.

The following Saturday the Loch Ness Gun Club held a festive shoot at Bhlaraidh, with a very successful ceilidh in the hotel afterwards.

The Mothers' and Toddlers' Group held a delightful party in Dalchreichart School on the afternoon of December 20th, what time the primary scholars of the Glen along with many of their adult friends went to the Pantomime in Eden Court. In the evening there were School Dances in both Fort Augustus and Glenurquhart for the secondary scholars. Other school functions were a Carol Concert in Fort Augustus, a Nativity Play in Invermoriston, a special Christmast Service in Dalchreichart and an entertaining Film Show in Glenurquhart.

On the Saturday before Christmas there was The Party in the Hall. Numbers of children are down this year, but everyone co-operated in making it enjoyable for all concerned - not least our old friend, Santa, who made a special visit from the other side of the loch for the afternoon - and it went with a swing.

The usual Christmas Services were held by the Church of Scotland and the Abbey congregations, with this year the addition of a friendly cup of tea after the Dalchreichart Carol Service; and on the evening of December 26th a small band of carol-singers made their way from Alltisaigh to the Pier on a cold, but reasonably dry night. They were generously received all along the route and were especially grateful for the warmth and refreshment provided by Sheena Paterson which fortified them just when they were beginning to flag. When the evening wound up at Riverside Park it was found that over £18 had been collected for SHELTER, who have very gratefully acknowledged this sum.

At the end of that week the Senior Citizens' Party was held in the Hotel when Mr and Mrs Shepherd provided an appetizing buffet supper. The programme included a Nativity Play called "The Christmas that disappeared" presented by the Manse Youth Group and showing in a present day setting how Christ and what he stands for must be central to our celebrations and enjoyment. At one point anyone looking in might have thought it was a fancy-dress party, but that

was only one of the games.  
A week later the Estate Party  
was also held in the Hotel.

The following week saw an unexpected, but none the less enjoyable and entertaining visit of the Whisper and Shout Puppets who presented the story of Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves to a spell-bound audience in the Hall; and the next night it was the turn of the Secondary Scholars to be the guests of the Children's Committee to go to The Babes in the Wood at Eden Court.

And last but not least on January 14th, the WRI had a Film Night instead of a party when they and their friends were richly entertained by "Rockets Galore".

## FEBRUARY

O February Fill-the-dyke  
None other month to you is like.  
If you would ask me to opine,  
Not February - but Feminine.  
You are supposed to start the Spring,  
Instead, you snow like anything;  
You are supposed to let things grow,  
Why must you then conceal them so?  
Why can't you simply play things straight  
Like other months - just twenty-eight?  
But when we think that all is fine  
Then lo! we're told you're twenty-nine,  
And just to finish off our pleasure  
You rub it in with ruthless measure,  
Leap at that day with rare elan  
And pounce in conquest: "You're my man".  
When other months pursued their line  
You up and chose Saint Valentine!  
Out here I must make my confession,  
You've melted to make one concession  
To show you're human and no beast.  
O February - you talk the least.

And now I've no more time to spare;  
Time to sign off - but I won't dare!

Add to all these 'formal' activities family gatherings and outings, visits home from our sons and daughters who have left the Glen, first-footing and other jollifications, and any enquiring outsider must surely be convinced that there is never a dull moment. Let him think too of all the hard work willingly given by very many people in the preparation for these events and he will realize something of the peculiar quality of "Life in the Glen".

M.E.F.

### SOME COMMENTS ON THE EDEN COURT PANTOMIME - "BABES IN THE WOOD".

"I liked the fairy putting leaves over the babes in the wood"

"The fairy had no wings... she was more like a queen - I didn't like her"

"I liked the dog. I could have gone on the stage and cuddled him"

"I liked the villain - he was horrible"

"I was scared of the villain (the green man)"

"It was good fun hissing at the villain"

"Why did they make the villain good at the end?"

"Didn't like the "Daisy-Daisy" song. It was cissy and soppy - all right for girls"

"The wedding could have been longer. Should have had a meal and a dance."

# Fort Augustus secondary

## SCHOOLS COUNCIL.

A meeting of Fort Augustus Schools Council took place on Tuesday, 15th January in Fort Augustus Secondary School. The main items discussed were the Education Budget for 1980/81; re-affirmation of the role of Fort Augustus as a 4-year Comprehensive School; a review of the Schools Council Scheme; and the confirmation of holiday dates for 1980/81.

The main holidays for Fort Augustus and Invermoriston Schools are as follows:

### Schools open:

Wed. 20th August, 1980.

Mon. 5th January, 1981.

Mon. 20th April, 1981.

### Schools Close:

Fri. 19th December, 1980.

Fri. 3rd April, 1981.

Fri. 3rd July, 1981.

The May Day holiday will be Monday 4th May and it is proposed that the 2 remaining casual days will be added to the Friday preceding the October week's break and the Monday immediately following. It was agreed that the October break would most likely be the first week of October, providing this coincides with the decision of the rest of Inverness District Schools Councils.

Proposals for a review of the Schools Councils Scheme were on the whole approved. It was felt, however, that District Councillors should have some voice on educational matters, and that more recognition should be given locally to the effectiveness and value of our

Schools Council which has the <sup>7</sup> power to approach the Education Authority directly on <sup>matters of</sup> educational concern. Among changes approved was the clause which states that "A member ceasing to be qualified for eligibility for appointment to membership of a Schools Council thereupon ceases to hold that membership".

The Education Authority's proposals for cuts in the Education Budget were made known, prior to final approval by the Regional Council. School transport is not to be affected, the bulk of saving is expected to be made in the School Meals Service and provision of free milk. Notice has already been given of the statutory increase in school meals prices imposed by the Government, but this will probably be followed by a further substantial increase by the Regional Authority, and by reducing the numbers who may presently be eligible for free or cheaper meals. It was felt by the Council that those in most need would be hardest hit and that any substantial increase in prices would result in falling demand. It was pointed out, however, that cuts must be made and it was better to prune existing services such as these than to have reductions in school staffing levels and consequently in educational standards. School Improvement budgets will also be cut.

During the discussion on Fort Augustus Secondary School the Headmaster and Staff were congratulated on the school's past O-grade examination successes, which in many cases were above average. It was agreed to defer further discussion on the transfer of pupils for H-grade courses in Inverness to a future meeting.

M.L.N.

## GLENURQUHART SECONDARY SCHOOL.

A series of meetings has been held in December and January between the Schools Council, Glenurquhart Community Council and the Education Authority, to discuss the feasibility and priorities of rebuilding at the school. Detailed plans and costs were submitted by the Regional Architect's Dept., amounting to the provision of 2 new science labs, geography room and maths room in demountable form, which are being built on site at the moment, foundations and services being already complete. After this initial phase, attention will be given to refurbishment and a complete overhaul of the original stone-built school in 1980-81, with new toilet blocks being added. The programme will then move on to the provision of a new craft block, which will be a purpose-built permanent building following on in 1981-82, we hope! Then there will be a complete rebuild of the canteen/dining area and needlework/cookery rooms, with a car park, improved access, and an all-weather playground and improved staff facilities. The staff have moved from the 'tin hut' into the schoolhouse temporarily. The hut has been removed and the headmaster's office is now in the schoolhouse.

The whole scheme will cost an estimated £300,000 at today's prices and could be finished if all goes well by 1985. Let us hope so, as the need has been great for many years past. A great deal of credit must go to the whole community who prodded and insisted on these improvements and have followed up the campaign well through their various councils and officers.

It seems appropriate to mention here that Mr Maxwell and his staff have contributed a great deal in making the Education Dept. aware of curriculum deficiencies and opportunities missed because of sub-standard facilities.

There is a quiet air of optimism these days at the school. Things are happening again, it is busier and happier than for many a year. Just take a look at the weekly newsletter, a very worthy innovation! Support the book sale and send in any spare books, comics and novels you may have for the

BOOK SALE - 7.00 p.m. - 28TH FEBRUARY.

Come and pick up some bargains, wonderful winter evening reading and the funds will all go to the school's mini-bus appeal, a very good cause.

M.A.T.

P.S. Any books you have can be taken in by the children at Glenurquhart School or sent to me at Redburn, if that is more convenient. Thanks.

## DALCHREICHART AND INVERMORISTON.

On Wednesday, 13th February, a team from the two Glenmoriston schools took part in the first round of the Northern Constabulary's "Top of the Form" contest against Glenurquhart Primary. Glenurquhart won, the final score of 56 - 39 not really reflecting the wide general knowledge displayed by Glenmoriston, who lost only because they were 'beaten to the draw' in the open rounds. The children enjoyed the experience and were very hospitably entertained by their Glenurquhart counterparts.

M.L.N.



CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

Last article under this heading told of several great acts of Remembrance in which we were engaged. I hope it did not give the impression that we looked back too much. It was not so intended. The present of course is extremely important - "Now is the day of salvation" - "This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it". And we must have reasonable regard for the future. In their respective attitudes to Christmas which was to follow almost immediately upon where the last article left off, the Christian Denominations have their different approaches. All make use of the name - "Immanuel", which means God present with us - then, now and in time to come. We followed our lines of celebration. In one of the largest attendances of the year we held our Service with Carols in Dalchreichart School and welcomed the proposal that we should take a leaf out of the Books of the early Church by holding a simple little Love Feast at the end of the service. With those who take delight in welcoming Immanuel on Christmas Eve we did that in the Church with an increasing attendance. With those for whom Christmas Day includes Morning Worship, we did that - with almost as many people as on the previous evening. On a suitable evening we joined with members of other denominations singing carols and gathering some £18 in aid of Shelter. In the Church we took leave of the OLD YEAR and welcomed the NEW.

And now as this is being written, there is a great hush. The Glen is mantled in white. The atmosphere is crisp with frost. As one of our readers has put it: "All our gardens look the same". Attendances in Church Worship have been minimal. What is the most loving and truly respectful thing to write?

Deep down - deeper down than the deepest snow in those gardens - we are the same. The seeds and roots of Eternity are there - not without fierce attack upon them. May the "many-splendoured" Thing be allowed to emerge, even more than it has been in the past. May it be allowed to emerge NOW - unsmothered. And through those who are to come, may it have a wonderful and endless future.

P.F.

On Thursday, 20th December, Invermoriston and Dalchreichart Schools all went to see the pantomime, "Babes in the Wood" at Eden Court. It started at 2.15 p.m. and ended at 4.30 p.m. We had good fun singing songs and shouting, "Shut that gate!"

When we came in my mum went and got two programmes. If there was a child with you, you got a lucky dip. My mum got a small lolly, a chew and a tangerine. On the programme there was a competition. It said you had to make up what Demon Alcohol was saying, because he was catching the babes and the policeman was catching him, so I put, "Let go of me you devilish policeman", and I have sent it away. Altogether, I think we all had a good time.

KIRSTEEN.

## PERSONALITY-Joe Flavell

Not many will now remember Bobby Flavell, the very talented and skilful footballer who played for Airdrie, Hearts and Scotland in the fifties, the era of such "greats" as Jimmy Mason and Billy Steele. Bobby Flavell was one of the "Bogota" footballers, those who sought to find their fortunes in South American football. This did not find favour with the authorities and but for this Bobby Flavell would undoubtedly have played many more times at International level.

A cousin of Bobby Flavell, Mr Joseph Flavell, has been living in Invermoriston, with his wife Joyce and son Robert, at the Gardens where he is gardener to Mr James E. Grant, since 1977.

Joe's footballing pedigree is of the purest; he was born and brought up in one of Scotland's most famous hotbeds of Junior Football, Blackridge in West Lothian, in July, 1931. His father, Nicol, was a well-known footballer, and Joe himself showed fair promise. But although he played for such legendary Junior teams as Bathgate Thistle and Linlithgow Rose and had a trial for Hearts, he did not quite make the grade as a top-class player. Still football continued to play a major role in his life. During his army career, which began when he joined the Seaforth Highlanders in 1949, he played for his battalion and was selected to play for Scottish

### Foxton's successful young footballers



This season has been a very successful one for the Foxton Junior Football Club. They are the Runners-up in the South Cambs League, having lost only two games.

Pictured above this enterprising team were also the finalist in the League's Cup Match, but lost to the Cambridge Hornets Football Club in the final game.

Because of the club's success a special Disco was held at Foxton Village Hall recently, which was attended by about 140 people. During the evening members of the team were presented with medals in appreciation of their fine efforts during the season. Photo: J Cox.



Corporal Joe Flavell, of the Queen's Own Highlanders, at present stationed at Dreghorn Camp, spends a lot of his spare time travelling around youth clubs throughout the Lothians, giving sound advice on the art of weight-lifting, at which he is an expert. Joe is an ex-East of Scotland weight-lifting champion and holder of Scottish and county titles. Among his other activities is the running of a dance band, in which he plays the drums. Married, with one boy, he is at present travelling in married quarters at Dreghorn.

Command against the Royal Navy. Then on his demob in 1970 when he worked at Trinity College, Cambridge, as a gardener, he trained and coached a local football team in the Cambridgeshire under-18 League, the Foxton Gunners, and took them on to win the Cambridge Challenge Cup, the Pye Challenge Cup and the Cambridgeshire League. Joe also became involved in Schools football in the course of his next post as Head Caretaker at Whittles Ford J.S. School, Cambridge.

But football is only one of Joe's sporting interests. During his early career in the army, when he was a Physical Training Instructor at Fort George, he began to dabble in weight-lifting. This dabbling progressed to the extent that he won the East of Scotland Weight-lifting championship, going on to hold many Scottish and County weight-lifting records. While stationed at Redford Barracks, Corporal

Flavell devoted a lot of his spare time to travelling around Youth Clubs throughout the Lothians, imparting the benefit of his expert weight-lifting advice.

Joe also pulled for his battalion's Tug-of-War team, played the drums in the Fort George Depot Pipe Band, and in later years found the time to form his own dance band in which, of course, he played the drums. Finally his interests ran to the Scout Movement, in which at one point in his career he was Scoutmaster of the 27th West Lothian Scout Group.

Joe's contact with the army is still alive as at present he is Sergeant/Instructor 1st Cadet Battalion Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforths and Camerons) instructing in map-reading, weapons and drill with the Beaully Platoon, some of whose members are working towards the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards Scheme.

# Woman's Guild

## WOMAN'S GUILD.

Two events were held in December. On Wednesday, 5th a talk, illustrated by slides, was given by the organizers of Shelter, represented by Dr. Richardson and Mr McNeill of Fort William. Town pictures of the all too familiar failure of mass housing schemes, now vandalized and falling into a limbo of neglect, the despair of authorities with diminishing funds available, were somewhat daunting and depressing and left the audience with a sense of gigantic problems which seem insoluble, yet which Shelter is so courageously attempting to alleviate by personal contact with those families caught in the housing trap.

## **DARTS**

The 1st November saw the start of yet another Darts League. Both Cluanie and Glenmoriston started with reasonable results. Luckily weather hasn't affected fixtures too badly yet, although with present conditions one or two games may be cancelled.

The Auld Enemies met for the first time at Cluanie. The final score read, Cluanie 7 Glenmoriston 5. However, the tables were turned when Glenmoriston played hosts, beating Cluanie 8 - 4. Glenmoriston are lying 4th in the League, whereas Cluanie are not doing quite as well, lying only 5th!

J.C.

The second event at Invermoriston House in the form of the Christmas Party was calculated to raise our spirits. Wined and dined/and feasted, the company enjoyed games and carol-singing and departed only after cups of tea and shortbread had been served. Together with members' own guests senior citizens living alone had been invited and were made very welcome. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and the Committee once again are to be congratulated on the organisation of a very successful party, and thanks are also due to Mr James Grant for allowing the hospitality of his home.

In January the Rev. Peter Fraser conducted a Bible Study session, during the course of which he kindly presented each member of his audience with a booklet of daily reading and meditation, compiled by William R. Mackay, J.P., B.Sc. retired chaplain, Inverness Hospitals. It is called 'In Time of Need' and there was never a greater need for a source of self-help and discipline than now.

K.T.

## **YOUTH CLUB**

On Tuesday nights we have a Youth Club from 7 - 9 p.m. for the primary pupils and from 9 - 10 p.m. for the secondary pupils. The big ones can come at 7 p.m. if they like. We have a tuck-shop and we play netball and handball, and Mr Watson made a table-tennis table. The price is only 10p - very good value, I think. All are welcome.

CAMERON JOHNSON.

# TV CLUB.

Since the last issue most of us have had "a taste of colour". Some areas of the village are better than others, but it is hoped that various adjustments and improvements can be made to the system. This cannot be done without money - the Club is short of this, so we - the tele-viewing hopefuls - are going to have to raise some!!

## SPONSORED WALK

Here are some preliminary details about the sponsored walk in aid of the T.V. Club funds.

1. This is to be a MAJOR PROJECT: the TARGET is £1,000.
2. THE ROUTE: from the CROSSROADS at INVERMORISTON up the GLEN to BUNLOYNE road, to INVERGARRY and thence back to the CROSSROADS at INVERMORISTON. This is a distance of a good FORTY miles, perhaps a bit more.
3. It is hoped to hold this walk during the Easter holidays.
4. A likely time of leaving is 07.00, arriving back about NINE O'CLOCK.

It is hoped that several fit and enthusiastic members of the community will take part.

Walkers will take part in the walk at their own risk. It is pointed out particularly that neither the T.V. Club nor the organisers of the walk can hold themselves responsible for the safety of any who on the day of the walk are under sixteen years of age.

Duncan and Maggie are hoping to organise a sponsored walk to be held sometime at Easter when Allan is home - Details will be advertised shortly. Please sponsor this generously.

A Disco was held in the village hall on Friday, 25th January in aid of Club funds, with disastrous results. The profit made from this is not enough to cover serious damage to the committee room at the back of the Hall - done by mindless vandals.

M.R.J.

The Community Council hoped to hold its next meeting in Glenmoriston, but has not been able to find a suitable date when the Hall was free. This meeting will, therefore, be held in Fort Augustus on Monday 14th April at 7.30 p.m. and is open to the public.

Thursday 28th Feb: Blairbeg Hall Glenurquhart P.T.A. presents a Question Panel Game "A Matter of Opinion" at 8 p.m. Children's Book Sale at 7.15 p.m. Adult Book Sale at approx. 9 p.m. P.T.A. Open Forum 7.15 p.m. Tea & Biscuits.

### LIVING IN THE SNOW.

I am a fox and I live in a den up in the hills at Dalchreichart. I am brown and I kill sheep. When I kill sheep I eat them. I live by myself. I have to watch for keepers and farmers in case they shoot me. I go to people's houses to try to steal hens and chickens. It is winter now and it is cold.

ANDREW GORDON.

# THE MORISTON MATTERS

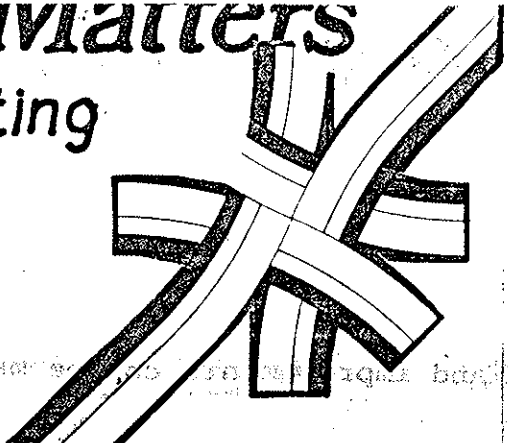
## Prize for creative writing

WEREWOLF.

Silence reigned in the house; all was quiet except the wind howling outside.

There was one lonely man in a huge old house. "What was that?", thought the man. "Only the wolves howling outside", he said to himself. "Wolves!", he said, sitting up. "They're extinct"....It must be my imagination, he thought.

Suddenly an unmistakable howl came from outside. It WAS a wolf and it was uncomfortably close. Then suddenly a bang came from the huge oak door. Building up his courage he went to investigate. He opened the door. No one was in sight. That terrified him. He went back to bed very troubled indeed.



Suddenly a huge crash came, and a howl immediately followed. The man was numb with terror. He heard footsteps on the hall downstairs, and then on the stairs. And then all at once they stopped outside his door!

The next day he was found lying dead on the floor, murdered. No one knows who murdered him. But we do, don't we?

YVONNE.

# THE MORISTON MATTERS

## prize for young reportage

"TOP OF THE FORM" QUIZ.


On Wednesday, 13th February, Glenmoriston Team went to compete against Glenurquhart Team. In our team were Judith Watson, Yvonne Service, Cameron Johnson and myself. Reserves were Gary Robertson and Alan McLean. After the competition there was orange juice and chocolate biscuits for the team. We went out to play after that.

Glenurquhart team won and now they go and play Daviot.

Yvonne and I made friends with three girls in primary seven. Their names are Ruth, Hazel and Lorraine. The score was 56 to Glenurquhart and 39 to us. Glenurquhart drew away from us in the open rounds. We enjoyed it though.

KIRSTEEN.

SEE ALSO  
PAGE 9.



On Friday, 21st December, Invermoriston School held their annual Nativity Play. The collection we held went towards Scottish Spastics. Altogether we made £4.03.

The Christmas story was told in verse and mime interspersed with carols and readings.

We were very pleased to welcome all who came.

KIRSTEEN.

# In Memoriam.

MRS HODDIE GRAY.

MRS MASON.

The whole of the Glenmoriston community and many other friends further afield were saddened to learn of the death on January 27th of Mrs Rebecca Swan.

Although she by no means always enjoyed good health she never complained and she was always busy. Two young assistant teachers in Invermoriston School testified to her kindness and the hospitality of her home when they lodged with her in Riverside Park, where indeed many visitors from far and near found a warm welcome. Although she was born in Glenmoriston - the site of the house at Dalchreichart is now marked by a screen of lilac bushes - her father (the Carronach) moved back to Lochcarron where she grew up, and then she returned to the Glen as a side-school teacher for the MacPherson family at Ceannacroc. After some years in the Borders she came back to Glenmoriston nearly thirty years ago when George and she were among the first occupants of Torgoyle Crescent. Wherever she lived her sweet and <sup>sun</sup>assuming nature endeared her to a wide circle of friends, as was evident from the large gathering at the Free Church and Invermoriston Cemetery for her funeral. To George and the other relatives we offer much sympathy.

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We regret to record also the deaths of two former members of the community.

Mrs Margaret Mason died in Northumbria at the end of November. She had been fighting illness since the summer, but had been able to spend a holiday in Drumnadrochit in August when she saw several old friends. Of a retiring disposition she devoted herself during her stay at Gobhar Sgiathach to the welfare of her husband and Susan, along with looking after the large garden and catering for holiday visitors, forsaking all thoughts of the career she could have carved for herself in medicine.

Mrs Christina Ann (Hoddie) Gray, who died on January 20th, was a native of the Glen, having spent her early years at Birch Cottage (now Woodlands) which was built by her father. She became a teacher and after her marriage to Mr James (Hoddie) Gray, the keeper, she was the gracious and hospitable mistress of Inchmore for many years. To her fell the pleasant task of re-opening Dalchreichart School on April 14th, 1953, after it had been closed for 6½ years. There were 12 pupils on the roll, and it is interesting to note that the then Director of Education, Dr. J. A. McLean, visited the homes of all these children to tell them personally of the re-opening and what transport arrangements would be made. After a few months, however, Mrs Gray moved to Clunas School, where she remained until she retired and moved to Inverness, where she was always keen for news from anyone she met from the Glen.

We would extend our sympathy to all those who miss them most.

# in brief

Inverness District Council this year put Invermoriston on a similar footing to the other centres of population in its landward area and provided a Christmas Tree for the festive season. It was set up on what was deemed a suitable site technically - on the grassy area in front of the Post Office, and indeed midway between the Council houses and the Shop Corner - but it may not have been so suitable geographically, for the tree was soon blown over. However, we do not always have such strong winds and the men came and righted it again before the switch-on date. But alas! the cheerful coloured bulbs gradually disappeared until even before Twelfth Night, there were only four left. Several were found, some of them smashed, on the roadside down to the shop.

There are various opinions about Christmas Trees and there are various opinions about the workings of the District Council, but destruction is not the best way of registering disagreement, and where it is the expression of vandalism it is totally to be deplored. We trust that Invermoriston will not suffer the disgrace of such conduct.



We are all sorry to hear that the Rev. Peter and Mrs Margaret Fraser are leaving the village shortly. It is proposed, therefore, to give them a token of the Community's appreciation of their hard work during nearly three decades and all those wishing to contribute are asked to send their donations to the Bank of Scotland, Fort Augustus, by 31st March 1980.

We are glad to see some of the empty houses in the community filling up again and would welcome:-

Mr Alistair MacKintosh, the new under-keeper at Levishie, who has come from Brora with his wife, Alison and daughter, Caroline....

....Mr William Bell and his wife, Alison, who have moved from Invergarry to the Forestry Houses at Alltisaigh.....

....and Mr Gordon Phimister from Dornoch, now at Port Clair with his wife, Alison.

A hat-trick from the Alisons!

### Congratulations to:

Caroline Kemp on graduating M.A. in Social Sciences at Aberdeen University.

Glenmoriston Estates annual party was held in the Glenmoriston Arms Hotel on Saturday 5th January when a convivial evening was enjoyed by all present. A very good buffet supper was provided - dancing to the music of Mr Callum Munro was spurred on by our Master of Ceremonies, Mr Daniel Stoddart. A vote of thanks to Mr Ian Grant was given by Mr Robert Shepherd.

o-----o

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