

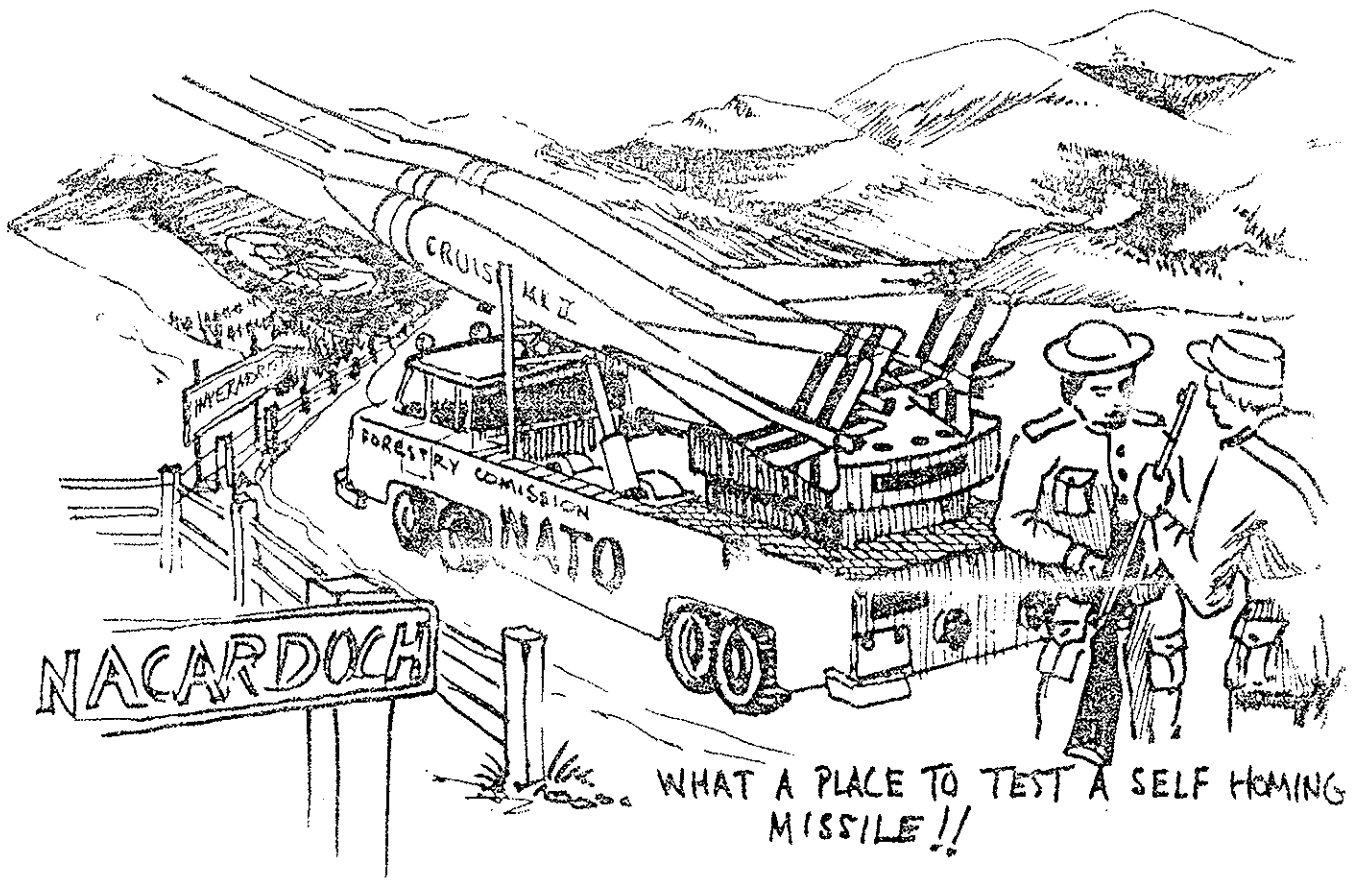
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# Moriston Matters



PRICE 10p.

No. 22 December 1980.



We have all heard of the famous INVERGRAW GROUSE BEATERS and their various and varied exploits. Well, the time has now come to turn the spotlight on the GLENMORISTON DARTS PLAYERS and their various and varied exploits.

But unfortunately it has come to pass that these

## 2. EDITORIAL

Our thanks to Mr Brian of the S.S.P.C.A. for his full reply to our article on fox hunting and to J.D. for his most interesting and forceful article. The editor, while appreciating the strength of their views, recognising the validity of some of them and acknowledging the justness of some of the criticism of the particular article, stays largely unrepentant. Mr Russell Johnston, the M.P. for the constituency, has been invited to give his views on fox hunting ( and blood sports) for the magazine. He, however, in deference to the workload an M.P. has, was asked to reply at his leisure. We will wait to see if Mr Johnston does take up our invitation, but if he doesn't we will reply in a later issue to the above - mentioned articles. CONT. P.5.

DARTS CONTINUED.  
worthy and doughty ladies and gentlemen who are the GLENMORISTON DARTS PLAYERS do not any longer display their various and varied exploits in their own wee neck of the woods. They do not, in other words, any longer play at 'home'.

There has been, you see, what premier Harold MacMillan (no relation to your other MacMillan ... at least not usually, although, mind you, it has been known.... but that's another story) used to call "a little local difficulty".

And this "little local difficulty" concerning the GLENMORISTON DARTS PLAYERS is as follows. The GLENMORISTON DARTS PLAYERS when performing at home were finding it inconvenient and distracting to play in the public bar of the Glenmoriston Arms Hotel because the darts board was positioned too near the door. Representations were duly made and further representations were more duly

made to have the board re-sited - alas to no avail. So the upshot of it was that in true INVERGRAW GROUSE BEATERS STYLE the GLENMORISTON DARTS PLAYERS upped and left. Now they play their 'home' matches in Inchnacardoch Lodge Hotel, Fort August us.

Ex-Captain of the GLENMORISTON DARTS PLAYERS, Maggie Smart, said: "We are very disappointed this had to happen, but thank heavens for Inchnacardoch".

The GLENMORISTON DARTS PLAYERS play as a team in the Glen Albyn Darts League. A fuller report of their season's flows and ebbs will appear in a later issue, but to date they have played 6 matches, won 3, drawn 1 and lost 2. Whatever else may upset their equilibrium, their voluntary exile does not seem unduly to have done so.

And who are these GLENMORISTON DARTS PLAYERS, now rivals in fame of the INVERGRAW GROUSE BEATERS? Here they stand:

WILLIE BELL,  
PATTY MACDONALD,  
MARY MACDONELL,  
ALLAN NAIRN,  
WILLIE ROBERTSON,  
JOHN SMART,  
MAGGIE SMART,  
WILLIE SMEATON.

A worthy clientele, that could - not rival, but outdo - the INVERGRAW GROUSE BEATERS. At darts, of course!

STAFF REPORTER

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# FOX HUNTING

3.

The following is a reply from the Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to the article printed in the last issue.

"Dear Sir,

In your November issue you criticised my Society for the attitude it adopts to fox hunting and me for writing as I did to Judith Watson. My letter to her was much on the same lines as those which I have written to some adults who have criticised the Society for its attitude to fox hunting.

May I say exactly what is the Society's policy about this. The Scottish S.P.C.A. is not pro fox hunting but it does accept the fact that, while many people disapprove of all forms of hunting and the taking of wild life by any method, many other sincere supporters of the animal welfare movement do themselves take part in one or more field sports. So the Society leaves the decision whether to participate to personal judgment

This allows it to concentrate on the larger issues of animal protection on which there is general agreement. This policy was endorsed by its members at the Society's Annual General Meeting last April. Those of our members who are against field sports are, of course, free also to join any organisation whose aims or views on these issues are similar to theirs.

In your criticism you suggest that country people may well have a deeper awareness of the relationship between man and the animal world than people

like me. Perhaps - but what about so many country people who live, for example, in the Borders and who take part in fox hunting? Do they have no such awareness?

You then go on to compare, at length, not just the relative suffering involved in the various methods of killing foxes, but the motives of those who kill them. Does the fox suffer any more if the hunting of it is accompanied by certain rituals? Does the fox or other animal caught in a snare suffer any less because the reasons for setting it are deemed respectable? How often does the farmer or crofter examine his snares? Does he always follow up and kill foxes which he may have wounded?

Among Scottish S.P.C.A. members are people with widely differing views and with quite different priorities. But together they make it possible for the Society to maintain its corps of Inspectors throughout its area, to teach young people the need to care for animals and to continue campaigning for better conditions for all animals - farm animals and pets as well as wild animals.

Let us not doubt the sincerity of those whose views do not coincide with ours, but remember the things which unite us and our common aims.

Yours faithfully,

(sgd.) G.F.S. Brian

Secretary.

To the Editor, Moriston Matters.

Dear Sir,

It was with interest that I read the letters of Judith Watson, Primary 6, Dalchreichart School and the Secretary of the S.S.P.C.A. Both letters were well presented, clear and concise.

The Editor of your paper gave his comments in a clouded manner. He put forth arguments for and against fox hunting in its various forms and gave reasons such as protecting livestock. Unfortunately it was clouded with emotive issues which spoiled good argument and reasoning.

My main comment is about the emotive phrase "poor innocent foxes?" as used in the editor's last paragraph. All animals are innocent in human terms. In animal terms, the fox is not "innocent" but rather the villain of the piece. He kills for pleasure. Has the Editor seen a hen house of twenty hens killed by a fox for pleasure? or has the Editor seen five or six lambs killed for pleasure?

Perhaps some humans do get enjoyment out of hunting "poor innocent foxes", but I think that game, poultry and livestock rearers will be more thankful for a dead fox than a live one.

The word 'RABIES' conjures up one of the more dreadful diseases in the world today and foxes are the main carriers of the disease. God help us if rabies ever gets a foothold in this country, especially those "poor innocent" people in towns where foxes have learned to adapt and live by foraging in household dustbins. There's many a time I have seen foxes in the centre of Glasgow on nightshift. The fox parades Maryhill Road in Glasgow more openly than he does in Glenmoriston.

Left alone, without hunting in its various forms, the fox would reach plague proportions as the rabbits did in the 1950's and that alone would be reason enough to justify severe controlling of their numbers. I would rather see a fox killed by a pack of hounds than using a virus which causes a prolonged distasteful death as used in rabbit control by the Government.

The television documentary which showed a fox being maimed by hounds did not give the full facts. The huntsmen of properly constituted packs will normally shoot the fox to ensure a minimum of suffering caused by the hounds, and more packs are using "trails" of false scent for the hounds to follow with the kill being a sack coated with aniseed scent.

The S.S.P.C.A. do a grand job and obviously cannot condone or disapprove of traditional sports unless unnecessary suffering is caused. There are more domestic animals caused suffering at their owner's hands than foxes at the jaws of the hounds.

May I take this opportunity in congratulating the staff of Moriston Matters on a well appointed paper.

Yours,

J.D. (Fort Augustus)

THE EDITOR WILL REPLY AT A  
FUTURE DATE (SEE EDITORIAL).

# EDITORIAL

ctd.

We are glad that of late "Moriston Matters" has been arousing some written comment. We take this opportunity of thanking J.D. for the kind remarks at the end of his article.

Could we have, please, articles for the next issue by the end of January.

To all members of the community an enjoyable festive season, a happy and rewarding year ahead and an excess of inspiration for contributions to magazines, not thinking of any one in particular

## T.V.CLUB.

To date, it has cost approximately £3,000 to renew the system, of which £1,000 is outstanding. The club is entitled to a further £450 from the H.I.D.B., leaving £500 to be raised.

The committee has decided, in order to meet the deficit, the annual maintenance fee shall be raised to £4.00 plus £2.00 towards the cost of our new system, making a total subscription this year of £6.00.

This will help to clear some of the outstanding bills, but we still need to raise more money - the club needs money for on-going maintenance of the system.

M.J.

## SCHOOL SWIMMING.

5.

Our weekly visits to Inverness Baths have now come to an end. Although the water temperature of late has caused a few sharp intakes of breath, the visits have been greatly enjoyed and well worthwhile.

Our thanks go to all the parents who made the programme possible by their willingness to supervise and help the little ones both in the water and at the pondside. We would like to thank Mr Everett for his co-operation in sharing transport, and everyone who contributed to the cost by supporting our fund-raising sale earlier this term.

## EARL HAIG FUND - 'POPPY' COLLECTION.

The sum raised was £18.75. Many thanks to all who contributed and to our young collectors and their parents.

M.L.N.

Mrs. Grant reports that the sum raised in Dalchreichart was £16.09 for which thanks are also due to collectors & contributors alike.

## BONFIRE NIGHT.

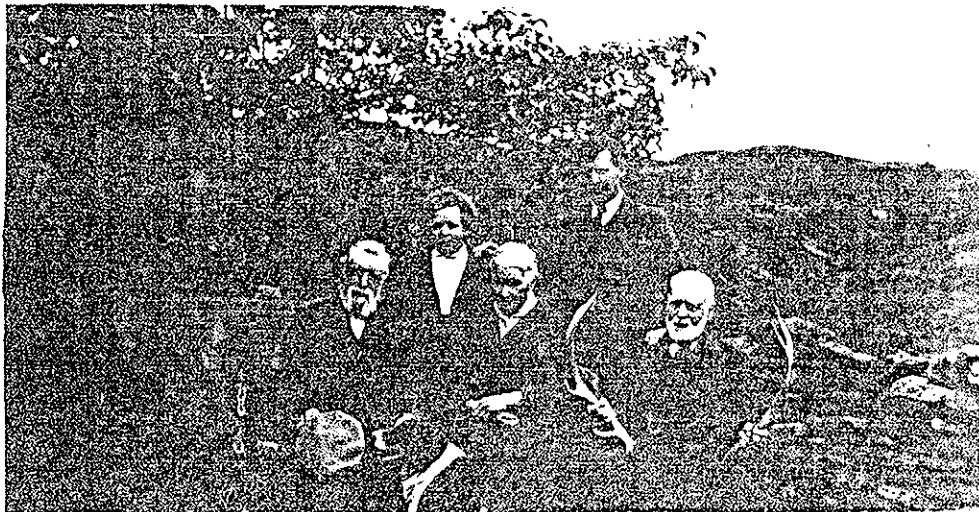
On November 5th a bonfire built by some of the people of the village on the low-lying ground above the bridge was lit by Bob Watson after an awful lot of bother, but soon the flames were soaring upwards and enveloping the handsome guy made by Lynda Nairn. Fireworks were provided by the Youth Club and parents and also by visitors in a neighbouring chalet who entered into the spirit of the occasion. There was a large gathering of spectators who enjoyed soup, sausages, baked potatoes and sandwiches provided by a willing backup team of mothers, and the chill of the evening was soon forgotten in the warmth of the surroundings.

S.L.R.

THE OLD GLEN IN PICTURES



Brig-Gen Sirocold and his three daughters, Elizabeth, Tracy and Diana at Levishie Lodge in 1916, with headkeeper, Peter MacMillan.



Peter and Mrs Fullarton, Sandy and Mrs Hutcheson and Robert Allison.



Mrs Peter MacMillan, Miss Margaret MacKenzie (The Pole), Mrs Fullarton (York) and Mrs Ross (Dalcataig).

Mrs Rafford and two boys with Mr and Mrs Peter MacMillan and Hamish.

Col. Stewart and Peter MacMillan.



8.

# The Moriston Matters

## Prize for creative writing

### THE THREE KNOCKS.

"I think it's really weird", said David one Sunday morning at breakfast. Mum and Dad were silent, but I knew that in themselves they were worried. Every Monday morning since just after Christmas it had happened. So as it was now the 20th January we had begun to get a bit sick of being awakened at 2.00 a.m. by three loud knocks. I thought it was similar to the Ardachy ghost case!

I had overheard Mum and Dad talking after we had been awoken that morning. "We'll have to get to the bottom of this before it gets any worse", he had complained. All day there was a glum silence among the four of us. As usual David and I had to go to bed at half past nine that evening.

Everyone was asleep but me, at quarter to two on Monday morning. I had put my alarm clock in a towel and stuffed it under my pillow. David had gone normally to his room and was asleep.

At one minute to two I removed the muffled clock from under my pillow and turned it off before it rang. 2.00 a.m. came. Knock!

Knock! Knock! The knocks were at my bedroom door! As well as this, to my horror, the door opened.

I took an alge of courage. I bounded out of bed, grabbed hold of the door knob and flung myself out into the hall. The moonlight was casting an eerie glow in the hall. A dark shadow had just reached David's bedroom door. In its great hurry it tripped and made an awful chaos falling. I reached the groaning 'thing' and found it was clothed in a cloak of black nylon with a hood that covered the face.

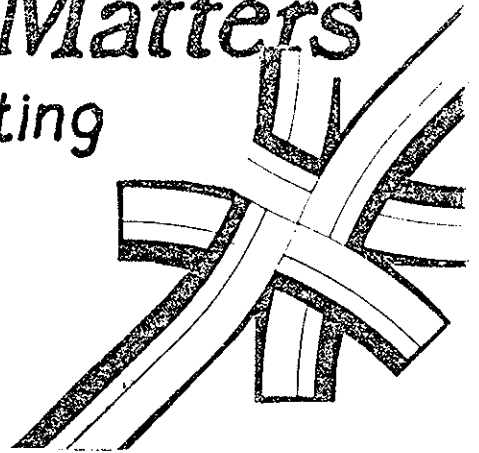
The noise had woken Mum and Dad. They came through and Dad switched on the hall light so I took the hood off, what now appeared to be, a person. I saw a bruised but familiar face. It was my brother, David!! "David!" exclaimed my mother.

"You little trickster!" said my father looking very angry. I kept silent.

In the morning, before school, David was given a good dressing-down. Of course he never did it again, but I forgave him because I took it as a good joke!

JUDITH WATSON (11)

AND A CONSOLATION PRIZE TO LAURA MACRAE (SEE NEXT PAGE)





# CHURCH NEWS

Among the interesting and international assortment of colleagues with whom we worked in Japan as missionaries from 1959-68 was an elderly Swiss German-speaking lady. She had worked in China for twelve years prior to coming to Japan in the early '50's. One of the qualities so characteristic of her ways was joy. She was always rejoicing.

She worked in a town about 20 miles from us and so we occasionally got together to chat and exchange notes about our work. One afternoon in December she started to reminisce about Christmases which she had known, as a missionary in China.

She told how as a young woman she was being escorted from one town to another in China by a male colleague and his young son. They were walking through quite lonely and dangerous country. (There were many bandits in the area.) Night was falling and they were beginning to get anxious about where they would sleep. They finally found an old broken down building of sorts which served to keep off the elements, and settled down for the night.

That night happened to be Christmas Eve. And so of course the young man was anxious to know what his father would give him for his Christmas. The father had said that he would give him something which was the best that he had. The right moment came and the father produced a small, beautiful, red, rubber ball. The boy was delighted - filled with joy through receiving the best that the father had.

Our Swiss friend told us that that Christmas meant more to her than all others she had known. It was such a simple expression of love in giving and joy in receiving: like the love of God in giving us his only Son and the joy that comes to all those who receive Him.

A very happy Christmas to all of you. Join us at the Church for Christmas service on the 25th December at 11.30 a.m. or at Dalchreichart School on Sunday 28th December for a Carol Service.

F.B.B.

## VISIT

On Sunday, Nov.30th the congregation at Invermoriston were happy to welcome Dr John A. Phillips from Mulanje Hospital, Malawi, to the morning service. He spoke to the children about how he had solved two problems - the bush babies knocking avocado pears off his tree and sending them thudding down his tin roof during the night and waking him up, and the constant need of more protein for the

undernourished children who were admitted with various illnesses from which recovery was more difficult than it need have been, due to their state of malnutrition. He now asked his gardener to gather the pears before the bush babies were able to knock them down and as they are one of the few fruits containing fat, they make a welcome addition to the children's diet. He spoke to the adults about the close

## CONSOLATION

### PRIZE

#### A GHOST STORY.

It was dark. All was still. Suddenly I heard a noise. I thought it was a ghost. It is a ghost, I said. It came down the stairs. It chased me out of the door and it chased me into the forest. I tripped up. The ghost ran and ran. It got me. It took me to the ghost forest and showed me all its ghost friends. It was scary. A green ghost took me to a big cage. I did not like it because I was going in the cage, but the ghost did not want to put me in. He let me go. I ran and I ran. I got in the door and went upstairs and went back to bed and went to sleep. But I was really sleeping all the time because I had a dream.

LAURA MACRAE (7).

#### HALLOWE'EN.

I was a devel at Hallowe'en. I made funny noises. I made my mask at school. I wore mummy's hat and her black skirt hanging from my neck. I had my duffel coat on. Mr and Mrs Macloud were frightened. I got millions of nuts and two pengwin biscuits. I still have some nuts left. It was scarey on Hallowe'en.

CLAIRE TOMLIN (6).

Dear Santa,

Please will you bring me a gun and cowboy hat to catch the Indians. Will you bring me a carchase game and a Evel Knevel at Xmis. I will clen the chimney and I will put a botel of whiscky by the Xmis tree for you. The reindeer will get carrots.

Love

from

Evan

XXX

#### CHRISTMAS EVE.

Tic, tic, the clock's struck ten,  
The stockings are hung up  
For it's Christmas again.  
Plop, plop, plop, the snow falls outside.  
But the night's stillness is broken  
By a loud laugh inside.  
An old man walks in, dressed in red and white.  
This is Santa Claus  
Whose laugh disturbed the night.  
As he goes I hear him say,  
"Back to Greenland, it will soon be day". ALAN MCLEAN.

## VISIT (CONT.)

link that exists between the spiritual and physical aspects of healing and how the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian is slowly coming to realize this. Theological students spend part of their training at the hospital and Dr. Phillips gives talks to ministers' conferences on this subject. It is God who gives healing and traditional western medicine is not the only channel through which he chooses to let that healing flow.

Dr. Phillips was on a fortnight's visit to the Presbytery of Inverness where he has many friends who wish him well on his next tour of duty.

### WOMAN'S GUILD.

The challenge of presenting Christianity to the people of Hokkaido, the Northern islands of Japan, was very clearly conveyed to the meeting of the Guild on November 13th by our minister's wife, Mrs Buell.

With the aid of slides we were taken into a contrasting world of breathtaking natural beauty and densely populated built-up areas.

A recording of traditional Japanese folk-songs sung by a choir of schoolgirls, and a projectionist, Mrs Buell's daughter Susan, who was wearing an authentic embroidered silk kimono, contributed to make it a truly Japanese evening.

N.N.B.

## PHENOMENON

While driving along the southwest end of Loch Ness on a frosty forenoon in October I noticed what at first appeared to be a low cloud at the other end of the loch. But it appeared very dark and flat and not like the other general grey misty clouds about - and yet one doesn't normally see any of the shore at the opposite end, twenty-four miles away. It turned out to be a mirage of Torr Point. The light rays passing from the cold frosty atmosphere were refracted on meeting the warmer air rising from the surface of the loch and so the image of the land, which was usually out of sight round the curve of the earth's surface from the shore at Fort Augustus, was bent up into view. Another interesting feature of the scenery was that the shores up the sides of the loch appeared to be overhanging the water due to a similar refraction of the light rays.

This interesting phenomenon illustrates for us in our northern climate how travellers in the desert are deceived by the appearance of an oasis where in fact they find none.

M.E.F.

# S.W.R.I.

Central Group Inter-Institute Quiz held once again in Glenmoriston Hall was won by the Upper Glenurquhart team. Thanks are due to all concerned who helped towards a pleasant evening.

At the meeting held on 10th November Mrs Taylor came from Craig Phadraig Hospital for the Handicapped, Inverness and gave a very interesting and entertaining talk, illustrated by slides. The competition, judged by Mrs Taylor, was a decorated cake of soap and the winner was Shona Robertson with Mrs MacKintosh second and Mrs Nicholson third. All entries were then donated to the Hospital for which Mrs Taylor expressed her grateful thanks. Tea was served, the raffle drawn and won by June Robertson.

A Whist Drive in aid of funds was held on 24th November, and the results were:-

Ladies

- 1st - Mrs. K. Tomlin
- 2nd - Morag Ferguson
- Cons. - Patricia Stoddart
- Trav. - Patricia Stoddart

Gents:

- 1st - Alistair MacKintosh
- 2nd - Mrs Nicholson (acting)
- Cons. - David Tracy
- Trav. - Alistair MacKintosh

Tea was served by committee members and the raffle was won by Jackie Mackenzie, who also acted as cardmaster.

On December 8th Mrs Mabel MacLeod gave a comprehensive demonstration of Festive Fare, producing a great variety of appetising dishes with the help of the new cooker in the hall kitchen. One of the recipes which she brought home from Canada recently is given below. She was thanked by Mrs Nicholson and many of those present enjoyed the goodies at home. The competition for mincemeat was won by Mrs. W. Tomlin.

CARROT CAKE.

- 4 oz. grated carrot
- 2 ripe bananas mashed
- 5 oz. soft brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 8 oz. S.R. flour
- 2 oz. walnuts
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 pt. Salad oil.

Mix all the above ingredients together and bake for 1 1/4 hrs. at 350° F or 180° C.

Topping.

- 3 oz. Soft Margarine
- 3 oz. Cream Cheese
- 6 oz. Icing sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon Vanilla Essence

Decorate with walnuts.

K.W.

# IN MEMORIAM

# HALL

13.

It is with regret that we report the deaths of two recent residents in the Glen. On October 28th Mr Morling died after a very short illness at his daughter's (Mrs Morris) home in Alligin at the age of 89. He was, as he would have wished, active and rational to the end and we have nothing but pleasant memories of his stay among us - always friendly and interested in and appreciative of what was going on around him. Beu's care and attention to him during his latter years and the home provided by her and Tony meant much to him and we offer our sympathy in the sense of loss they and their family must feel after his sudden passing.

News came on November 10th that Chris Sharp had died suddenly in his sleep the previous night at his new home near Reading. He is remembered as a skilled craftsman in his home and garden, and the lectern in Invermoriston Church stands as a lasting memorial to his artistry and ability. When he took over the driving of the school car for Dalchreichart he carried out his duties faithfully in all kinds of Glen weather and soon established himself as the friend of all the children who showed their appreciation of this by their parting gifts to him. Although resident for the comparatively short space of six years he found great contentment in the Glen and expressed the wish that his ashes be brought to Clachan Mhercheird. To those who miss him most we extend our sympathy.

The A.G.M. of the Hall took place on Friday, November 14th with the usual small attendance of the faithful, and Pat presiding. A satisfactory financial report was presented although it was noted that several items proposed as part of the renovation scheme - notably the floor of the main hall and the front doorstep - are still to be attended to and money is in hand to pay for these. Two places where the new roof appears to be letting in water were examined and steps are to be taken to deal with this.

The new committee was then appointed - Arkle Fraser succeeds Pat as Chairman. Pat was thanked for having successfully piloted the committee through 6 years of often tricky negotiations in connection with the building of the new extension. Anne Douglas continues as secretary, Mike Gilboy is the new treasurer. The other members are - James E. Grant, Ian Grant, Pat, Allan Nairn, Peter Stoddart, David Tracy, Bob Watson and Christine MacDonald (representing the W.R.I.). It is hoped that Bart Buell will accept the office of Trustee, as parish minister of Glenmoriston, in succession to Peter Fraser. It is now up to the people of the Glen to support this committee in its efforts to administer the Hall for the community.

A.D.

Articles, reports, etc, for the February issue (to be printed, hopefully, mid-February) should be in the hands of Margaret Fraser or Margaret Gillies by the end of January, please.

# THE MORRISTON MATTERS

## prize for young reportage

for several interesting reports.

### PANTOMIME.

On Friday the 12th of December Invermoriston School went to Eden Court to see the Pantomime Aladdin. Aladdin's mother was called Widow Twanky. She and her friend Wishee-Washee ran a laundry. They were both very funny. Near the beginning of the pantomime she came in pushing a pram, which had a police light on it. Wishee-Washee had a hat with a pig-tail on it. He kept on wearing it the wrong way round, and we had to shout "hats!".

ALAN MCLEAN.

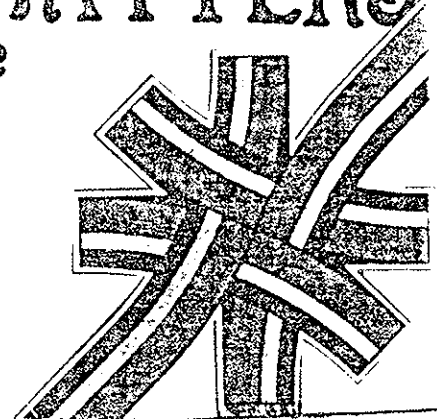
### EDEN COURT - PANTOMIME.

Dalchreichart and Invermoriston Schools were joined by some younger brothers and sisters, parents and friends on their annual visit to the Pantomime 'Aladdin' on Friday 12th December.

There was an anxious moment or two at the start of the outing when it was found that the bus had mistakenly gone up the Glen instead of meeting its passengers at Invermoriston. A couple of hasty telephone calls and a hair-raising car chase back up the Glen in pursuit of the bus solved the problem, and we were soon on our way.

On our arrival only a few minutes late (we found the curtain had been held for us) we were quickly ushered to our seats and settled down to enjoy an excellent pantomime which was a well blended mixture of all the essential ingredients for the children's enjoyment - music, magic, colour, spectacle, imagination, participation and fun.

M.L.N.



### SLIMLINE CLUB.

The Slimline Club and their friends had an outing on Nov. 11th to Inverness. After an excellent meal at the Bishop's Table in Eden Court the party attended the Val Doonican Show which they thoroughly enjoyed. A few of the ladies went backstage after the show to meet him for a quick peck, and it was late when they arrived back in Invermoriston, but they were nonetheless in good voice themselves with Morag cheer leader and a full supporting bus, and all are determined to have another night out as soon as possible.

S.J.

## in brief

Best wishes to Hamish and Mollie who are now settled in their new home in Evan Barron Road

....and a welcome to the community to Mr and Mrs Houlsby who have come to live at Bhlaraidh.

Congratulations to Invergarry Shinty Team who reached the top of the 4th Division in November, but unfortunately they did not manage to win the cup, ending up in third place.