

Reference copy.

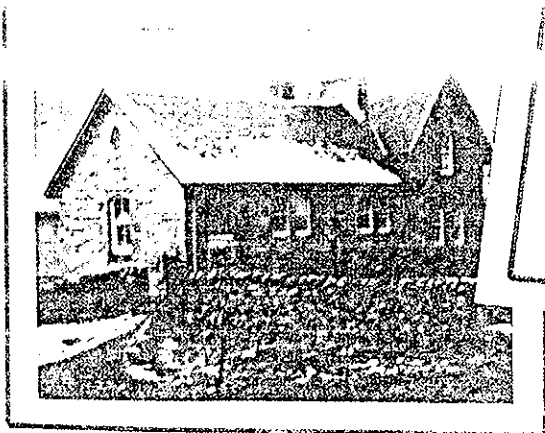
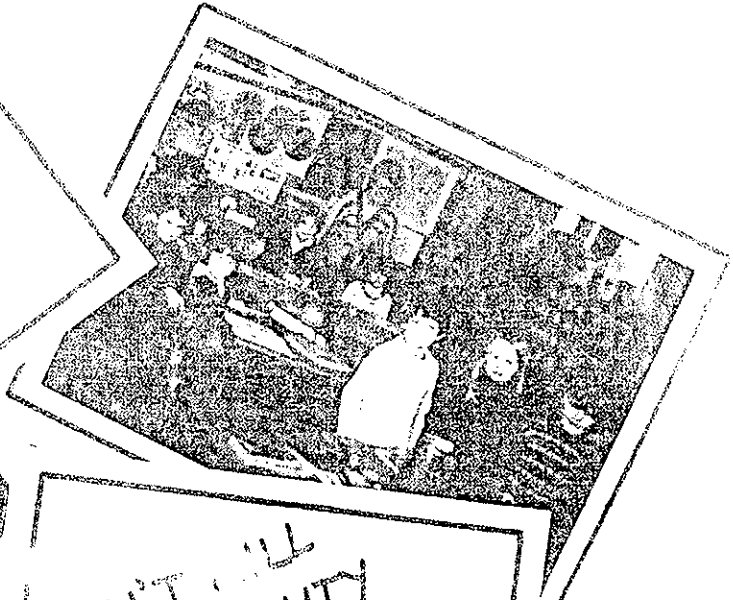
Moriston Matters



PRICE 10P

NO. 23 FEBRUARY 1981

SAVE
OUR SCHOOL
— STOP
HIGHLAND
CLEARANCES!



DON'T SELL
A COMMUNITY
FOR £1,500!

20 MILES
A DAY IS
TOO FAR FOR
WEE ONES!

Full story -
centre pages

EDITORIAL

On the proposal to close Invermoriston Primary School, albeit perhaps temporarily, we make three points.

First, the claim of the Inverness Division that the pupils would not be educationally disadvantaged in being transferred to Fort Augustus School because in the main children benefit from a larger set-up where there is more incentive to make an effort, should be scrutinised very carefully. It all depends, as one person pointed out at the meeting in the school, what you mean by

or "advantaged". Certainly there is some validity in saying that children can benefit from being educationally in larger numbers, but only in certain things - in P.E. and Music, for example, when larger numbers can allow scope for team games and full choral singing. In an ideal world there is an optimal size of class or group. And so on. But these possible benefits cannot outweigh the total educational (using the word in its widest sense) advantages to be gained from the kind of seminal education that is possible in a community school in a community blessed with a strong sense of community identity and in which the school is still very much focal. In saying this, we do not in any way call to question the quality of education available in Fort Augustus School. And how on earth can the converse, implicit in the statement of the Inverness Division representative, be true: that because a school roll be small there must be less incentive for pupils to make an effort? Anyway, at present the pupils of Invermoriston School do benefit, at just

the right age, from being educated in a larger set-up, when in the natural course of things they transfer to secondary education. Really, on this point, all we can say is that the Inverness Division's rather bland assurance, containing a statement so extremely "blanket", so very generalised, begging so many questions and therefore so misleading, smacks somewhat of the desire to hoodwink.

Second, there is the question of bussing young children on a busy main road. No one, fortunately, can question the care taken, by all concerned anywhere in the country, over the conveying of children to and from school, but if you begin to bus pupils on a

you must increase the danger to limb and life. Okay, if as in some parts of Scotland there is no choice, but if the possible financial saving, as it seems in the case of Invermoriston School, is very little, then the decision to close must be a very careful one.

And third, the Region's statement that closures are to be possibly temporary should be treated with a great deal of healthy scepticism. Administrators notoriously become afflicted with the compulsion to rationalise; become addicted to drawing final, conclusive lines under their neat and tidy answers. Once closed, which we trust will not be the case, it is doubtful if Invermoriston Primary School would ever be re-opened.

The Highland Regional Council is under an overwhelming obligation to do their sums again - financially AND MORALLY.

THE MORRISTON MATTERS

prize for young reportage

On Friday, 9th January, films were shown in the committee room in the Hall. With the help of Mr Watson as projectionist we settled down to watch what were two excellent films.

The first was called "The Intelligence Men", with the main characters played by Morecambe and Wise. They managed to get themselves into some funny situations.

After the second reel Mr Tracy, Mrs Nairn, Mrs Tomlin and Mrs Watson distributed coke and hot sausage rolls. While we were all eating the ladies went through and made tea for the adults, while Mr Tracy and Mr Watson set up the next reel. The lights went off and everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Everyone was rolling about with laughter as Morecambe and Wise got into some more sticky situations. Lovely ladies and weird men got Morecambe and Wise completely flummoxed.

As that reel came to an end Mr Watson needed a rest. Winding the film mostly by hand (the

projector had a fault in the winding system) is a tiring job. Everyone then settled down to watch the last part of "The Intelligence Men". It was just as funny and we all had sore sides when it finished.

Then the ladies and Mr Tracy laid out some lovely refreshments, e.g. lemon and orange drinks, cake, sponge cakes, stackers and peanuts.

When Mr Watson was ready we settled down to watch "Futtocks End", which was, I think, the most popular. The main character was Ronnie Barker. Although there were no words spoken, it was very good, with mumbles, groans and signs.

There was one reel left to go and by eleven o'clock everybody was heading home.

We'd like to thank the Children's Committee for all the work they put into the very enjoyable night.

KAREN TOMLIN (13).

YOUTH CLUB

A meeting of the Great Glen Association of Youth Clubs was held at Blairbeg Hall, Drum., on the 4th February. The aim of the Association is to develop co-operation and co-ordination of the young people of places within the Great Glen area - Kilmorack, Kiltarlity, Cannich, Drumnadrochit, Invermoriston and Fort Augustus.

It was agreed that a series of competitions would be held and hopefully would engage children in the following games:-

5-a-side football,
badminton,
table tennis,
pool,
uni hoc.

Venues were decided for 5-a-side football (Cannich, Sat. 28th Feb.) and badminton (Blairbeg Hall, Drum; 14th March). Details for the others will be decided at the next meeting as these will be affected by 'O'-grade examinations

cont. on p.11.

the historical glen

MONUMENTS



Photo by Mr. George Shepherd, Glenurquhart.

THE RODERICK MACKENZIE CAIRN.

This cairn stands near to the confluence of the Doe with the Criston, on the left hand side of the Invermoriston/Kyle road (A887) some 13 miles south west of the village of Invermoriston. It is about 9 foot high, but seems higher since it is situated on a little knoll. The cairn is approached by 5 firmly set concrete steps followed by a row more of cemented pebbles which enable one to read the inscription on the stone slab set into the side without craning one's neck too much.

AT THIS SPOT IN 1746 DIED

RODERICK MACKENZIE

AN OFFICER IN THE ARMY OF PRINCE CHARLES EDWARD STUART OF THE SAME SIZE AND SIMILAR RESEMBLANCE TO HIS ROYAL PRINCE WHEN SURPRISED AND OVERPOWERED BY THE TROOPS OF THE DUKE OF CUMBERLAND. GALLANTLY DIED IN ATTEMPTING TO SAVE HIS FUGITIVE LEADER FROM FURTHER PURSUIT.

The cairn is mainly constructed in dry-stane fashion - and there have been many stones added over the years by tourists - but there has been an attempt in more recent times to render the construction more permanent by cementing the larger, more

crucial stones into place. It has been on site no doubt since MacKenzie's actual death but has been constantly falling into disrepair, although saved from complete ruin through the efforts of local roadmen.

At present the memorial is technically the responsibility of the Forestry Commission since it stands right on the eastern corner of their Achlain block. This was purchased in 1950 and planted in 1952 - at which times and since, the Commission's workmen have tidied up the area round the cairn.

More major repairs to the cairn, including the improvement of access by the addition of steps, were carried out in the mid-fifties when the A887 was being improved by the contractors W.J. Watson Ltd, but the biggest and most important effort was made in 1967. The spark for this action seems to have been an American woman tourist of MacKenzie descent who visited Glenmoriston in 1966 and was appalled at the state of the cairn. She wrote to the late Iain Cameron Taylor, historian to the National Trust for Scotland, offering to help financially in a scheme for restoration. Mr Taylor was able to contact several interested parties and, with donations from the 1745 Association and the National Trust, a restoration programme was set in hand. Permission was obtained from the Forestry Commission and in March 1967, members of the Clan MacKenzie Association from Inverness opened the campaign with a reconnaissance trip. By the end of that month the task of rebuilding the cairn had been completed. The grave lies on the other side of the road, near the river, and is reached by a little path. There is a little wooden cross at its head with the legend R.M. - 1746.

This cross has been replaced by Inverness Field Club.

It is interesting to note that Father Odo Blundell of Fort Augustus Abbey, writing in 1913 (in "Glen Albyn" - which he published anonymously in 1914 - printed by the Abbey Press) states that "quite recently a sword, doubtless MacKenzie's, was dug up beside it (i.e. the cairn)".

The Clan MacKenzie Association maintain the balance of the subscribed monies as a Memorial Fund for further maintenance to the cairn.

Roderick MacKenzie is described as a young gentleman of a respectable family possibly related to the MacKenzies of Ardloch. He was brought up in Edinburgh where his father had a jeweller's business. Records suggest that he was apprenticed to a different craft and indeed he may not have finished his apprenticeship before the Jacobite army occupied Edinburgh in September 1745. MacKenzie volunteered and became an officer in Lord Elcho's Troop of the Prince's Life Guards. He was present at Culloden, taking part in the heroic covering action which permitted much of the right wing of the Jacobite army to retire in safety.

After Culloden MacKenzie took to the hills and lived on the run for 3 months, fearing to return to Edinburgh where his widowed mother and two sisters lived, because his presence might prejudice their lives.

One tale has it that while on the run, MacKenzie, who knew about his physical similarity to the Prince, showed himself several times to parties of Redcoats, counting on his fitness and agility to survive. Whatever happened, he was cornered and shot in Glenmoriston

6.

and with his dying breath told the soldiers, "You have killed your Prince!" The soldiers cut off his head and took it back to Fort Augustus to claim the reward of £30,000.

MacDonald of Kingsburgh, the future father-in-law of Flora MacDonald, who was then a prisoner at the Fort refused to identify the head of the Prince unless it was "alive and on his shoulders".

Another story is that the Jacobite prisoners at the Fort deliberately misled the military authorities by falsely identifying the head and the head had to be taken to London before the trick was discovered. Whichever tale is true, the death of Roderick MacKenzie in the last days of July 1746 caused a slackening in the intensity of the military search for the fugitive Prince and provided an essential link in the chain of circumstances which allowed the Prince to make his escape.

One interesting puzzle still remains with respect to this cairn and that concerns the identity of the person who added to the original cairn the inscribed stone slab.

According to the late Iain Cameron Taylor in a private communication to the author, this stone was placed in the cairn by the Rev. John Anthony Macrae, B.A. at some date just prior to 1914. A graduate of Oxford, Rev. Macrae held various charges in Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow before being translated to Redgorton in Perthshire in 1946 where he died some 8 years later in October 1954. Rev. Macrae's son was well known for many years in the Inverness area as the journalist and author Kenneth A. Macrae (Coinneach Mor) who wrote

"Highland Doorstep" and a number of other books of local history.

The author would be grateful to any native of Glenmoriston who would be able to confirm or otherwise whether the Rev. Macrae did place the stone in the cairn and, more interestingly, what his connection with the cairn of Roderick MacKenzie was.

H. FRASER MACKENZIE, DRUMNADROCHIT.

GLENURQUHART

SCHOOL COUNCIL.

At the School Council meeting held on 22nd Jan., we appointed Rev. B. Buell in place of Rev. J. Campbell, who has retired - we thank him for many years of help concerning this council and the school.

The condition of Balnain School was discussed and we had sent a sub-committee to visit and report. Generally conditions were good and only a few items - all minor repairs - were noted.

Blairbeg Hall was discussed at length as the Headmaster, Mr Maxwell, felt that the hall did not come up to the requirements for P.E. classes - lack of room, no specialist facilities and inappropriate flooring, toilet and washing facilities inappropriate for school class use were the main drawbacks. The school should have had these facilities on site years ago and a resolution had been sent asking for better P.E. facilities from our last meeting. No comment has yet been received from the Education Authority.

A delegation will be visiting Fort Augustus Sec. School to investigate possibilities of combined activities that might

Moriston Matters

Prize for creative writing

I saw a swirl of colours. Red, green, blue, orange and yellow. Black now. The colours disappeared. I realised I was in a garden. It was beautiful! I pulled myself together and looked around me. Large flowers of exotic colours! Numerous, strange flowers of a smaller size bordered the flagstone path on which I was standing. It was as if my ears had been blocked because I was suddenly aware of faint but merry music and as it came nearer I saw there was a small man (maybe a leprechaun) coming towards me playing on an accordion.

I stood looking at him until there was about five feet between us. He stopped. My stare turned to his instrument, which I now noticed was decorated with small pearly stones. I looked back at the little man (who I was sure was a leprechaun) and saw he was wearing a fawn

tunic drawn around the waist by a black cord, stripy socks, brown strapped sandals and on top of a mop of straw-like hair there was a bright red peaked hat.

I forced myself to speak and managed to stammer, "H...Hello. Please, could you tell me where I am?"

"My, you're a tall lass, aren't you?" he said in a deep voice. "You're in the 'Land of Tarkaan' and I'm Tirian the Tuner", he explained. "Who are you?" "I'm Ju....Oh!" 'Tirian the Tuner' and the 'Land of Tarkaan' faded away. Blackness!

"Judith!" exclaimed my sister. "You've been out for nearly five minutes. You shouldn't be so careless when you're climbing those trees!"

JUDITH WATSON.

SCHOOL COUNCIL cont.

be of mutual benefit such as sports fixtures, use of special areas in both schools, etc. Transport and distance of course will be the main difficulties but it is hoped there will be areas of benefit for both schools.

Educational budget was a topical and important item that took a long while to unravel but it transpires that the modernisation and refurbishment of the school over a 4-year plan will have to be extended as the planned re-modelling of the original stone-built block for this year will have to be put forward - only partially though. A sum of £34,000 is to be spent on re-wiring and associated works in that block in preparation for

the later refurbishment. As financial resources are so tight we are very thankful this major investment will take place although disappointed that the full development as planned is a backward step in terms of a completion date.

Morale and teaching are at a higher level now than for many years, due mainly to the improvements in conditions and facilities generated by the new block which is increasingly proving its worth. It is vital that we keep the momentum of improvement going by our continued support and vigilance and we look forward to a rewarding and developing year for all involved.

M.A.T.

THE FIGHT FOR OUR

A meeting of parents of school and pre-school children in the area was held in Invermoriston School on Thursday 29th January under the chairmanship of MR.A.W. MACKENZIE, the Regional Councillor. Most of the children were represented by one or both parents, and an ever-increasing number of the public filled the back of the room as they arrived for the meeting advertized to take place immediately after the parents' meeting. On entering the classroom all passed three silent former pupils proclaiming their message on placards - "SAVE OUR SCHOOL - STOP HIGHLAND CLEARANCES". "20 MILES A DAY IS TOO FAR FOR WEE ONES". "DON'T KILL A COMMUNITY FOR £1,500".

Mr MacKenzie introduced MR.MURDO GILLIES, the Assistant Divisional Education Officer, who stressed that he was present not to make proposals, but to hear the parents' comments on the suggestion that to meet part of the 3% cut imposed by the Government on all Regional Education Committee budgets for 1981-82 (in the case of the Highland Region - £973,000), seventeen primary schools, including Invermoriston, and one secondary department should be temporarily closed. This, it was reckoned, would save £240,000. The Fort Augustus School Council had already been consulted and had decided to oppose the closure. All relevant opinions expressed were to be presented to a meeting of the Education Committee on March, 18th.

A breakdown of the £1,500 estimated in the case of Invermoriston School revealed that the biggest aspects of the saving would be in Property Costs (£1,724) and School Meals (£1,250) and that additional costs for the extra transport involved in taking the

children to Fort Augustus would be about £1,280. At this point one of the parents asked whether, if they were all willing to provide their children with packed lunches and dispense with the School Meals service, the saving would not be enough to justify the school being kept open, and Mr Gillies took note of this idea.

One of the criteria used in deciding to suggest closing a school was that the alternative educational provision should not be of a lesser quality than the pupils already enjoyed, and Mr Gillies explained in answer to several questions that, in the main, children benefited from a larger set-up where there was more incentive for them to make an effort, although he conceded that some children, on the other hand, benefited from being the only one in a class. When asked next why, if the educational advantage was so clear, the closure was to be only temporary, he replied that maybe, if at some future date after closure the reopening of the school was proposed, the parents would turn out to protest at that!

Points were made about the number of very young children on the roll and the expected intake in Primary I next session, and the expected building project which it was hoped would attract more families and increase the roll still further. But it was unlikely that young families would be attracted if they were told there was no school. Why speak about the evils of the Highland Clearances and then perpetrate more of them?

Questions were asked about the details of the arrangements that would be made for the children's transport, bearing in mind the

R VILLAGE SCHOOL

different starting and stopping times for the various departments of Fort Augustus school, and Mr Gillies replied that he had not gone into these aspects of the suggestion in detail or it might justifiably be claimed that he was presenting the parents with a fait accompli,

but similar problems had arisen in other parts of the Highland Region and suitable arrangements been made to overcome them. Children in other localities were travelling twenty miles a day, but he agreed that the fact that other children were doing it was not an argument for Invermoriston children to do it.

The suggestion was made that there could perhaps be cuts at the top of the administration instead of at the end where small schools meant so much to communities, and Mr Gillies replied that one job had already disappeared and another change was in the pipeline, and that administrators were necessary - to receive complaints and attend to them, among other things.

It was claimed that parents are ultimately responsible for the education of their children, and if they are dissatisfied that should surely be taken into account, and Mr Gillies accepted this, but pointed out once again that if children would not be educationally disadvantaged in the main they are better in bigger numbers. To which came the reply that it was very hard to judge "educationally disadvantaged". The further point was made that children gain enormously from going to school in their own village, and the village of Invermoriston is very closely identified with its school.

On an individual vote being

taken every parent expressed himself/herself as being against the closure. This concluded the parents' meeting and Mr MacKenzie thanked Mr Gillies for the helpful way he had conducted it.

PAT MACDONALD then took the chair at the public meeting and expressed pleasure at seeing so many people present since the issue before them was one of the most serious that had faced the community for some time, and after reports of the meeting of the Education Committee on December 23rd the Parents' Action Group had lost no time in raising the standard against the proposed closure. He welcomed Mr MacKenzie and Mr Gillies who had stayed on, and also MR EVERETT and PADDY PATERSON.

Pat invited Mr MacKenzie to speak and he said that he was against the closure for many of the reasons already stated, but he was also Chairman of the Planning Committee and a member of the Regional Development Council, and from those points of view too he could not support the closure.

Paddy Paterson, the District Councillor, on being asked for his views, said that there did not seem to be much case for closing the school, and the case against the closure, as made out in the course of the evening, was far stronger. The idea perhaps looked all right on paper, but in the light of the children's welfare it was not a good idea. He thought a mistake had been made, and asked that wisdom should take it from there.

Mr Everett, on being called upon for his opinion, pointed out that he was wearing three hats that evening. Speaking as a private individual he said he was totally opposed to the closure. A school

was the centre of a community. Take away the school and the community dies. Speaking as the headmaster of Fort Augustus School he said he stood to gain by the transfer of the pupils and Mrs Nicholson and he promised that in such an event there would be no slipping of educational standards. Transport could be arranged to suit different timetables and young children would be supervised at all times of the school day. But he said that here too he must oppose the closure. If it was Invermoriston School today it would be Fort Augustus tomorrow, and he made

the point that parents by whose choice children bypass the local school jeopardise that local school. Speaking as secretary of Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council he reported that at the meeting a couple of nights previously the Community Council had been 100% opposed to the closure of Invermoriston.

In answer to a question about possible further cuts reducing the teacher/pupil ratio he explained how Fort Augustus Primary School was fortunate in that the services of the specialist teachers provided for the Secondary School were available for it also. On the other hand, Invermoriston might find that the travelling teachers at present provided for it were withdrawn.

To the question, "If the people could raise £1,500 would you keep the school open?" and Mrs Nicholson's comment that the children had wanted to hold a sponsored walk to raise money for their school, Mr MacKenzie replied, "I think we would have to say, 'These people must really want their school'". Further points were made about the safety of the children travelling the extra mileage on the road; and about the cost of rehabilitating the building supposing it was

closed and came to be reopened; and about the change in the rate of saving asked by the government from 3% to 2½%, but here Mr MacKenzie said it was not yet decided to what sections of the community this relief should be applied.

Mr Everett further stated that if the population did increase after the school had been closed for a year or two parents of Invermoriston children who had reached the last stages of their primary education would possibly be unwilling to transfer them again.

A plea was made that since in the case of Invermoriston the arguments seemed to be largely spurious, the extra costs of transport more or less offsetting the estimated savings, especially if the parents were willing to give their children packed lunches, Invermoriston should be considered on its own merits when the collected opinions were under discussion at the meeting of the Education Committee in March, and an assurance was given that each school would have its own report considered separately.

The value of the quality of life and the identity of the children experienced in a village community as opposed to that in large concentrations of people was stressed by yet another speaker who said that there was no point in having a nation where people had Higher Leaving Certificates and no employment and where vandalism cut across a right way of life.

MR BUELL spoke of the sense of demoralisation that comes to a community of the size of Invermoriston - to children, teacher and parents - when it loses its school.

MR FRASER told how the District Council had decided to back the

parents. He referred to Invermoriston's central position on the map and the fact that the school had been going for 100 years. Man does not live by bread alone and the school had propagated the word of God all that time.

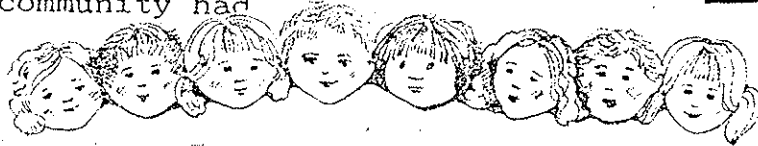
On the call of the chairman for a show of hands the meeting was unanimous that the school should not be closed.

In conclusion, MRS. NICHOLSON said she was pleased to see that so many people had turned out - new residents, old residents and natives. The community had

stated its case not less firmly, though less stridently, than some places and a petition signed by nearly everybody would be presented to the Education Committee. Pat thanked Mr Gillies for waiting for the public meeting and DAVID TRACY thanked the chairman.

Everyone was thereafter invited to wait for a cup of tea served by MEGGIE and her helpers, and the tenseness of the early part of the meeting relaxed in a spirit of community friendship.

STAFF REPORTER.



YOUTH CLUB cont. from p.3.

A day trip to Aviemore will be organised by the Association for 30th May. The cost will be in the region of £1.50 for transport (this will be fixed at a later date) plus a packed lunch (supplied by parents) and adequate spending money. Those interested please give names to Youth Leader before March 10th.

The Inverness Youth Organisation will be attempting to organise a trip to Belgium this year. Details cannot be given as yet, but the cost for 2 weeks will be in the region of £130. The aim of the visit is to get behind the tourist facade and see how the other half live as it were. Accommodation will be good but not Star Hotel rating, using Belgian hostels which by accounts given by Mike Wallace (Inverness Community Education) are as good as many British hotels. A member of the Belgian Youth movement will be in attendance at all times in case of emergency. The minimum age limit is 16 years. This sounds very good value. Those interested give names to Bob Watson.

A disco will be held to raise funds for the Association on March 20th in Blairbeg Hall, Drumnadrochit. Those interested will please give their names to Bob Watson who will organise a minibus if numbers are sufficient.

BOB WATSON.

There was a happy conclusion to Fortrose's break-in at the Filling Station on Saturday 25th January when a considerable sum of money and a quantity of goods were stolen. Thanks to the quick-wittedness of the police when they stopped a vehicle near Glasgow for a random spot-check and found the men in it could not account for the contents the culprits were apprehended and later brought to justice for this and other offences. This is specially good news for Moriston Matters because the sum of money included the takings from the sale of the magazine and the Filling Station is one of our best outlets.

CHRISTMAS TIME

12
When the last issue came out we were in the midst of the activity and peace, the comings and goings of the Christmas and New Year season and a few of the special events were reported. There were others worthy of note.

The Children's Party in the Hall was one of the smallest we have known, but as reported elsewhere there are fewer children in the Glen just now. That did not mean there was any less enthusiasm for the games, the food or Santa's visit. Santa was told that next year David Tracy would be in charge of the Children's Committee and would see that everything was in order for his visit, and John MacRae took due note of this.

A band of carol-singers braved the night on Tuesday, December 23rd, and sang from Bhlaraidh to Dalchreichart before the fine drizzle had turned to steady rain and forced them to abandon the last small part of their intended route. They were grateful to all who provided stops for refreshment and warmth on the way, to Pat who gave transport and to Margaret Ferguson who drove it, and Shelter was grateful for the £13.30 collected for them.

The Senior Citizens' Party in Inchnacardoch Lodge Hotel was a very warm and friendly occasion on December 30th when a company of about twenty-five sat down to a delicious meal and then took part in a programme of games and music (provided by Mr. Mrs. Wilson from Kirkhill and our own Margaret MacRae) and dancing. A sombre note was struck when just at the end news came of the death of Jimmy Steele. All however, joined in thanking Mr and Mrs Anderson for their

kindness, and parted having greatly enjoyed being in each other's company.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

At the Church service preceding Christmas, the children of the Sunday Schools joined together to act out the Nativity scene. Joseph and Mary, the three wise men and the shepherds were all dressed accordingly and the children sang two stories about the Nativity with the help of the older girls. The children enjoyed it so much it was decided to repeat it the following week at Dalchreichart at the carol service. Once again, the children acted it out beautifully despite most of them being rather under the weather with heavy colds.

M.S.G.

In common with other villages in the area Invermoriston was again provided by the District Council with a Christmas Tree over the festive season, and this year we were pleased to note that the bulbs were left (more or less) intact until Twelfth Night. But after that, before the men were able to come to remove the tree, the vandals struck and the cable was torn down and the bulbs were smashed and now lie littering the grass. We deplore this senseless destruction.

In the same connection we would tell anyone inconvenienced by the lack of a telephone directory in the kiosk that the last several supplied have been found soon afterwards ripped in half. (We seem to remember seeing this 'feat' used as a test of strength on a T.V. programme.) It is to be hoped, but is hardly likely, that those responsible and not the innocent public will find themselves in difficulties when they wish to look up a number urgently.

CHURCH NEWS

13.

I hadn't been in the Church of Scotland as a Candidate for the Ministry very long before I heard someone mention "The Quinquennial". Upon inquiry I found out that it refers to a five-yearly inspection, by the Presbytery, of a Church of Scotland Congregation. Little did I dream that our Congregation here in Glenmoriston, as well as in Urquhart (Drumnadrochit), would be up for this in January and February respectively.

On December 8th ('80) the Convener of the Presbytery Property Maintenance Committee and a member of the Committee together with the Rev. Peter Fraser, Mr Magnus Marr, Clerk to the Board, and I, inspected the Manse, the Church and the grounds.

That was only the beginning. On Thursday evening the 8th of January the Session, the Board and I gathered at Invermoriston House with the kind permission of Mr James Ewen Grant of Glenmoriston. We met the Quinquennial Visitors. These were two ministers from Inverness with two elders. The meeting was divided into three interviews: the first with myself, the second with the Session and the third with the Board. We finished at 11.30 p.m. well and truly "visited", having been asked many questions regarding such matters as membership, finance, etc, for each of the past five years.

This was quite an exercise, happily broken, however, by supper, which Mr Grant graciously provided. It was an exercise thrust upon us from outside. It served to make us look back and reflect, to take stock of the present and to plan for the future. Not an easy exercise, but a good one.

God is great at thrusting upon us exercises which make us look back take stock and plan for the future. That is His way of making us pull up our socks and sift our values and goals.

All the best for 1981.

F. B. BUELL.

WOMAN'S GUILD.

In December Glenmoriston Guild joined the ladies of Urquhart Guild when the Group "Ichthus" from Inverness presented the Christmas story in song, dialogue and film. This was very enjoyable yet thought-provoking, and was followed by a cup of tea served with Christmas fare.

With "How shall we care?" as the theme it was most appropriate that the speaker on Thursday, January 3th, was Mrs MacPherson, the headmistress of Balnacraig School for mentally handicapped children in Inverness.

Some of the problems and many of the joys of working with these children were described at the meeting by a speaker who is obviously very enthusiastic about her work.

A question-time brought an informal ending to the evening and the Guild President, Mrs Buell, who had earlier introduced the speaker, then expressed our thanks.

At the Social Responsibility meeting on February 4th, Mrs Buell reminded us of the Church of Scotland's concern for society, which takes the very practical form of providing homes for the aged, children's homes and material help for needy members of the community, and which requires our constant support.

Church News cont.

A challenging film-strip was shown, with Mrs Nicholson as the projectionist, which compared the lives, and even the life expectancy, of people in such areas as the Upper Volta region of West Africa with our own way of life.

N.N.B.

The World Day of Prayer Service prepared this year by American Indian women on the theme 'The Earth is the Lord's' will be held in the church at Invermoriston on Friday, 6th March at 2.15 p.m. and a warm invitation is extended to all to join in it.

RENEWAL IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.

There will be a Day of Renewal in Fort Augustus Secondary School on Saturday, 25th April, 10 a.m. - 12 noon, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. We hope to have Father Lawrence Brasil, Dundee and Mr James Rennie Newport to speak to us. Those of us who constantly feel the need of Spiritual Renewal find these days very helpful and stimulating. People find it worthwhile to travel long distances to be present and we would love to welcome more 'locals' to share these days.

M.S.

Fort Augustus.

SWRI

Our thanks to all who turned out on a cold, snowy night (12th January) to see "The Bridal Path" and "Futtock's End". Thanks are also due to Bob Watson for giving his services as projectionist, and to the ladies of the committee who provided and served tea, etc. The raffle, a box of groceries, was won by Mrs. T. Fraser.

Four members of Glenmoriston Institute were invited to attend Fort Augustus Institute's Diamond Jubilee celebrations on 23rd January. Along with guests from other neighbouring institutes they sat down to a delicious meal in a festive hall, the decorations emphasising the W.R.I. colours and the diamond theme. After Mrs Barbara Murray, the president, had described some of the early days of the Institute and expressed thanks for the good wishes they had received, the company were entertained to a review in

dance of the six decades since 1921 with an energetic cast under the enthusiastic leadership of Mrs Everett, and everyone being invited to take part in a dance characteristic of each of the periods. We would add our congratulations and good wishes to Fort Augustus Institute on having reached this milestone in their history.

At the meeting on 9th February, Mrs Lorraine MacLean from Glenurquhart, at short notice because of the unfortunate absence through illness of Mr Geoffrey Gill, gave an informative and entertaining talk on "The Meaning of Names" both surnames and christian names.

A welcome cup of tea, etc, was served by members and the competitions were won by Mrs. W. Tomlin (something made from feathers) and Mrs. C. MacDonald (a bowl of bulbs) and the raffle by Betty MacDonald.

K.W.

IN MEMORIAM

The Glen entered 1981 under the shadow of the deaths of two of its native citizens - James Steele and Catherine Fraser.

Jimmy Steele, who died on December 30th, grew up at the foot of Sron na Muic - at Woodpark. He worked hard all his life - at his employment during the day, and in his own time to improve Woodpark where he had the satisfaction of seeing a humble croft house transformed into a comfortable home for his family, and latterly the erection of a modern bungalow alongside it. His appetite for work sometimes made him seem a hard man, but the other side of his nature shone through in the garden of flowers he created from what was little more than a hillside. The colourful display throughout the summer months has given pleasure to many a passer-by, as did his outdoor Christmas tree decked with coloured bulbs long before the District Council thought of providing one. To a man of such activity illness and enforced idleness must have been hard

to bear, but he faced it courageously, and to Jess and Raymond, Gordon and Lorna and their families who stood by him so well we offer our deep sympathy.

Kitty Fraser, as we all knew her, came from the other end of the Glen, from the Keeper's house at Ceannacroc where her father, Tom, was employed in the early years of the century. Later he retired to West Dalcattaig and some years after his death she moved with her mother and brother, Willie, to Darroch View in the Street, whence Kitty moved, less than a year ago, to a single person's house in Balmacaan Road, Drumadrochit, where she was very

happy. She trained as a tailor in Inverness and this was reflected in the neatness of her dress at all times. She devoted herself to looking after her mother and Willie until their deaths, and will be remembered for her quiet and unobtrusive ways. She died on December 31st and to her cousins in Inverness and elsewhere we extend our sympathy.

Former pupils and friends of Dalchreichart School will be sad to learn of the death of Mrs Christina B. Bryce at her home in Scourie on 17th January. Mrs Bryce was head teacher in Dalchreichart School from 1953 to 1964 and at that time much Hydro construction work was going on, so with the influx of personnel, Dalchreichart was a two-teacher school. Not many of the pupils of that period remain in the Glen but those who do, and those who remember, will recall the high standard set by Mrs Bryce both in and out of school. And those who were her neighbours, to whom she was a kind and generous person, will mourn her passing.

S. INNES

Mrs Sue Fish wishes to thank all who were so kind to her brother, the late Chris Sharp during the years he lived in the Glen and also all who sent her letters of sympathy at the time of his death.

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

Telephone: Glenmoriston 51216.

in brief

Thanksgiving
What a great evening everyone had at the Glenorriston Buffet and dance hall at Inchnacardoch Lodge Hotel on Friday, 20th Oct.

At 7.30 John Martin arrived with his first busful of guests and from then until 2.30 a.m. everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the evening was rounded off with delicious mugs of hot soup to send us singing into the night!

The music was great to dance to, the buffet provided was generous and delicious and it goes without saying! - young and old from up and down the Glen - was very good!

I'm sure everyone who went would like to offer thanks to the following for helping to make the evening such a success.

Firstly, Christine and Reg who did all the organising; Alan and Valerie Anderson for being such welcoming hosts; Hamish and Mary MacKay and their helpers for an excellent buffet; Hamish, Willie and Davy for keeping us on our toes all night with a great variety of dance music; John Martin for his luxurious taxi-ing; Dougie and June for their stamina behind the bar! - and to all the 'behind the scene helpers' - many thanks.

There were plenty of opportunities to win prizes and the following were the lucky winners:

Lucky Ticket Numbers:-

Janet Kennedy,
Betty MacDonald,
Selena Ferguson.

Elimination Waltz:

Peter Stoddart & Mary Macdonell.

Annual Dinner
Ainstair Smart & Paul etc.

This was a care and very successful opportunity for 30 friends from up and down the Glen to get together socially - how about making it an annual event?

L.F.

FESTIVE SHOOT.

34 guns took part in a mixed DTL, Ball Trap and Olympic Trench Shoot which took place at the end of December. The prizes were very good with a variety of gifts, whisky, wine, etc. The prize-giving was held in the Inchnacardoch Lodge Hotel as the days are so short at that time of year. A ceilidh was held afterwards to finish off a very successful day. The Gun Club would like to thank all those who donated such good prizes.

D.M.S.

Congratulations to Rachel Booth on her performance with the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland which was broadcast from the Usher Hall, Edinburgh, on BBC 1 on Sunday, January 4th.

....and to Wilson Girvan and his mate on finishing in fifth place overall in the Snowman Rally.

As this issue comes out the community has been stunned by the tragic accident to John Gibbon. We offer our deepest sympathy to his parents and hope to write more fully in the next issue.