

Reference copy

# Moriston Matters



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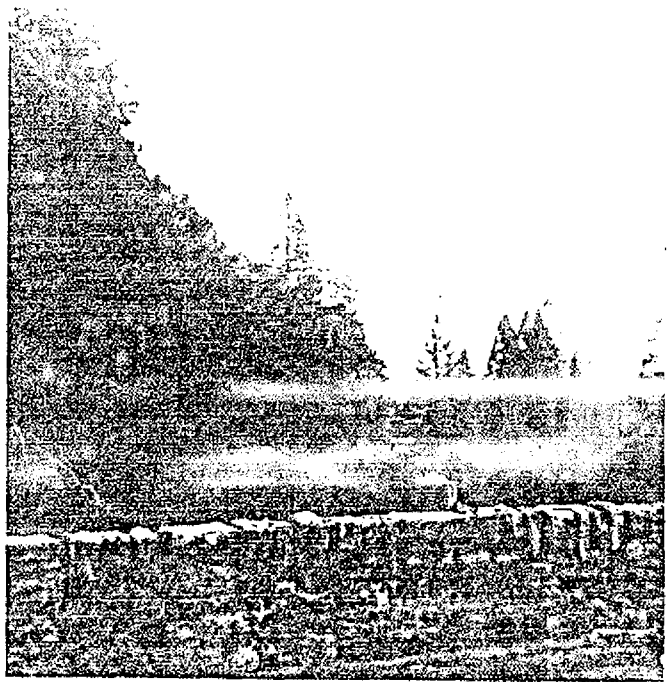
## FORESTRY SEE HOW THEY GROW

It seems rather strange that foresters in this locality are competing directly with Canadian and American foresters to produce timber from trees of the same species. The two major species at present being felled around Invermoriston and in the Great Glen forests, for processing in the sawmill at Kilmallie, are Douglas fir and Sitka spruce.

The former, from western North America, mainly British Columbia, Washington and Oregon, is imported as Oregon or Columbian pine. David Douglas, one of several famous Scottish botanical explorers, introduced it into this country in 1827.

Sitka spruce, which has a wide distribution, extending in a coastal strip from Alaska down to northern California, was introduced by Douglas in 1831, although it was discovered by Menzies in 1792.

When the Forestry Commission began operations in the early 1920's the foresters inspected



THE FALLS WOOD - Photo - M.G.

the private tree collections in the policy woods and gardens of the major landowners to see if any conifer species, other than our native Scots pine, was growing well under local conditions.

# EDITORIAL

This issue is unfortunately somewhat late. Two things are presently operating to prevent "Moriston Matters" coming out with its reasonable promptness of the past few years. There is first of all the departure of Mrs. Fraser. Secondly, there is the fact that some schools tend now to hold their diets of examinations throughout the session, paced according to the logical needs of years, rather than have the more traditional event of holding exams for the entire school at the one time. This new approach is more educationally sound, of course, but it does mean that correcting and related work comes up more often - and at awkward times: when "Moriston Matters" is coming towards its time of issue, for instance.

But we are gradually adjusting to new conditions, and the next two issues at least should be more on schedule. Meantime, tribute is paid to Mrs Fraser for becoming a commuter in the interests of the cause, and to the others involved for their efforts (Lynda and Allan Nairn, Christine MacDonald, Margaret Gillies and Mary Macdonell).

We thank Mr. H. Sherriffs, Fort Augustus for kindly making available the minutes of the Community Council, which were very helpful, and apologise for having to hold them so long.

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## Success Story



INVERMORISTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Photo - M.G.  
SCHOOL PARENTS' ACTION GROUP.

The battle is over, the dust has settled and Invermoriston has kept its school. On behalf of all the parents and pre-school parents I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who helped during our successful campaign. To all who assisted in getting the petition so well supported, to Christine for her efforts in photocopying all our letters, to Lynda, the chief poster maker, to Pat MacDonald for chairing the public meeting, to Alastair MacKenzie, Paddy Paterson, Mr Everett and Rev. Bart Bue for their support both in and out of the council chamber, and finally to Mrs Nicholson for her support and advice to the chief scribe -  
THANK YOU ONE AND ALL.

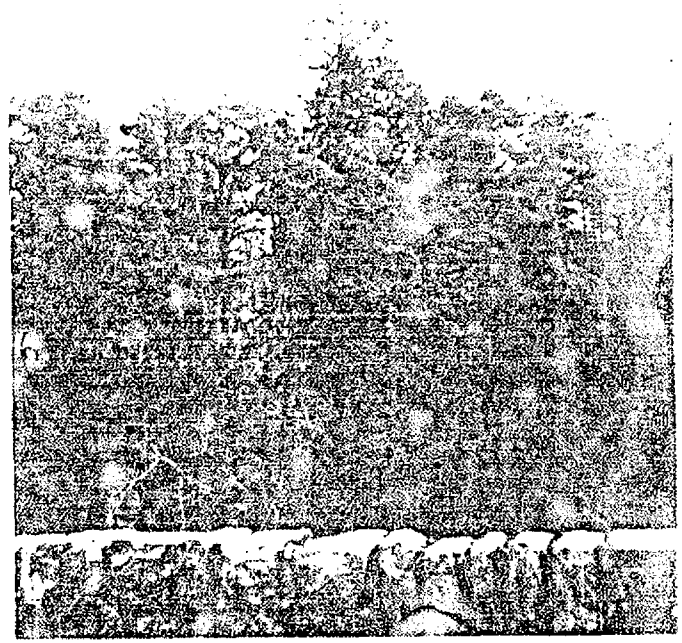
D.R.T.

Lord Lovat had planted Sitka spruce behind what is now the Inchnacardoch Lodge Hotel, and there are fine examples of Douglas fir in the Falls Wood in Invermoriston. Some of the tallest trees in the British Isles are contained in Reelig Glen, a Forestry Commission wood near Moniack Castle, the tallest of which is now 193 ft.

Both of these species enjoy the high rainfall and humidity found in this area and it has been proved recently that Sitka spruce operates most efficiently on dull days and puts up the shutters when the skies are blue and cloud-free. This district's rainfall of between 40 and 60 inches per annum, is very similar to that of the native areas of both trees and they thrive on the deep, loamy soils of the lower valley slopes.

We owe a great deal to the pioneer foresters of the 1920s and the 1930s who had the foresight to use unfamiliar species to establish quite large areas of what are now fine forests. Comparisons of species have been carried out by the Forestry Commission's Research Division who have run an out-station at Fort Augustus for many years. Seeds from many sites in North America have been used to compare rates of growth. By good chance or amazing foresight the early seed sources for both species have proved difficult to improve on and Sitka spruce from Queen Charlotte Isle, British Columbia, and Douglas fir from low and mid-elevation sites in Oregon are still our first choices.

Logs from both species provide the bulk of the raw material now going to the sawmill at Kilmallie, where it is converted into



THE FALLS WOOD with DOUGLAS FIR in the foreground. Photo - M.C.

constructional timber and marketed in direct competition with imported material of the same species. The locally produced logs, which can be seen as they travel at regular intervals down the Dalcattaig Road, are of a very high quality.

As a high proportion of our local felling is of saw-log size the recent modernisation of the mill at Kilmallie, at a cost of £4,000,000, enables us to take an optimistic view of the future.

T.C.B.

# WORK OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

This article is an attempt to convey something of the work of Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council. It follows an earlier article ("Moriston Matters" No. 19. June 1980) which, it might be remembered, extensively reproduced parts of the Council's Constitution and Standing Orders.

This survey has been based on the Community Council's minutes over the year or so from its inaugural meeting on the 8th July, 1977. The volume of business conducted in that year was considerable, giving us ample material to work from, but at the same time creating a problem.

The problem was: how best to show, quantitatively and qualitatively, the work of the Council without having to give an unpalatable chronological survey of meeting-to-meeting business.

Our solution was to look at the business conducted and attempt to convey its total community relevance through first of all classifying it into several areas of community concern in such a way that readers might then, in synthesising the classifications, appreciate what the Council has done, and can do.

We attempt to classify the work of Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council under the following five main headings:

1. Public amenities, utilities, etc.
2. The wider environment.
3. Health and Welfare.

## 4. 'Single Causes'

## 5. Special Arisings.

The work of the Council cannot, of course, be rigidly demarcated into these or any other classifications what is attempted in so doing is to see the role of this new institution in sociologically meaningful and sociologically coherent terms.

It is made clear and emphasised at the outset that no attempt has been made to assess and evaluate the success or otherwise of the Community Council of this area; this will be the subject of a future article.

So to the first of our classifications.

### 1. Public Amenities, Utilities, Etc.,

This, as might be expected, took up a great deal of the Council's business over the period. The following were some of the items raised, deliberated on and pursued through the available channels. (We have excluded a few relevant items and transferred them to a later section, as will be explained and, hopefully, appreciated):

The Children's Play Area at Fort Augustus - its use and abuse when let; the surface of the A82 at Port Clair; maintenance of the Memorial Hall at Fort Augustus (which had been handed over to Inverness District Council to run, but over which the Community Council attempted, unsuccessfully as it happened, to exercise some direct control

by trying to become as a body the agency responsible, to Inverness District Council, for its day-to-day running); the public toilets in Fort Augustus Car Park, which the IDC were attempting to close during the winter months; the desirability of a footpath from the Pier at Invermoriston to the Shop Corner; the sale of Forestry Commission houses (to local buyers, if possible); the need for a Public Telephone Kiosk at Riverside Park; the need to overhaul the Riggs and Bunoich Sewage Systems; the need for a footpath from Jenkins Park to Fort Augustus village; the condition of Markethill Cemetery; painted 'messages' on public property; the delay in switching on the street lighting at Riverside Park; the poor quality of the telephone service since the switch over to STD; delays to road traffic caused by the Canal Bridge System; the need for street lighting for Bruach Dubh and the installation of a fire hydrant there; the need to widen the road at Culzean and to surface the lay-by; and the lack of visibility at the junction of the exit from Riverside Park and the main road.

## 2. The Wider Environment.

Turning now to the wider environment, moving from 'bread and butter' cares to the no less important ones that may be subsumed by terms such as 'ecology' 'conservation', etc., we see that the Council concerned itself with such things as the following: the lay-by at Inchnacardoch Bay (which the Council subsequently was able to lease nominally from the Forestry Commission for the community's leisure use); the noise made by the passage of Royal Naval craft on Loch Ness; the pollution of Loch Ness by the dumping of litter etc;

indiscriminate tree-planting on Glendoe Estate; the custodianship and restoration of the Old Road Bridge over the Oich; repairs to the Old Bridge at Ceannacroc, of some historical value; and the restoration and upkeep of the famous footprints in Glenmoriston. In addition, various "Keep Britain Tidy"- type projects were drawn to the attention of the Council, in which it decided, however, not to participate because of its limited resources.

## 3. Health and Welfare.

It may seem eccentric to differentiate in function between the Community Council's concern and intervention in this area and that which we have called "Public Amenities, etc."; but it should be noted, we think, that the Council devoted its time and energies to the needs of the ill, the disabled and the elderly as well as to the healthy, expressing the desirability of its wishes being consulted on the appointment of a new doctor; making representations over the curtailment of surgery hours; helping to arrange attendants to accompany ambulances to hospital under certain circumstances; distributing information on concessions and benefits available to various categories; taking over, if need be, from the DC the maintenance of gardens for the elderly and disabled; discussing proposals for sheltered housing and an Old Folks' Home in Fort Augustus.

## 4. 'Individual Causes'

This is a most important part of the work of the Community Council. The minutes of the Council Meeting of Wednesday, 13th December, 1978 record that the Office Bearers had considered the Draft Code of Practice for Community Councils and recommended it in principle

with the reservation that Community Councils should not be discouraged from taking up cases with the District Council Officials on behalf of individuals. (underlining, the writer's). And at the very outset of its existence, the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council took up, with some vigour, the case of a mobile trader who used the car park at Fort Augustus for trading purposes and on whom notice had been served by the IDC. More recently, the Community Council helped in the Pat MacDonald, the Pier v Esso campaign.

But by "Individual Causes" we mean something more, though not less important, than the taking up of individual cases. We include also any form of action on the part of the Council which requires to become extended - which becomes in effect a kind of mini-campaign. The distinction between this and other more routine - because more tractable, possibly - action is not perhaps easy to hold clear, but there were, for example, over the period under review, two issues on which the Community Council's efforts were protracted and sustained, and which, along with the cases of the two individuals outlined above, may be cited as the kind of concerted, extended form of action a Community Council is able to mount. These two were the Council's efforts to help the people of Dalchreichart in trying to get a public water supply and the people of Invermoriston in getting improved television reception.

##### 5. Special Arisings.

The tragic death of the late Dr. Buchanan serves as an example

of this category, when the Council organized the collection of a Memorial Fund in its own area of jurisdiction, liaised with Glengarry in its collection, co-ordinated the fund and finally assumed control of the projector bought for the use of the community from the fund.

Our survey of this period of the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council's work has been essentially descriptive. That is we have taken a look at what actually happened and attempted to construct a kind of model from the data. Perhaps, finally, we can now remind ourselves of the Council's remit:

"The objects of the Council shall be to ascertain, co-ordinate and express to Inverness District Council and the Highland Regional Council, Statutory Boards and other Public Bodies the views of the Community which it represents, in relation to matters for which those Authorities and/or Bodies are responsible, and to take such action in the interests of the Community as appears to its members to be desirable and practicable."

Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council held a meeting in Fort Augustus School on Monday, 30th March. Two new members were co-opted on to the Council from the top end of the Glen, Mr. E.G. Grant, The Schoolhouse and Mr. T.D. Girvan, Tomchrasky.

Road flooding at Dalchreichart was discussed and a letter was sent to the Regional Council on the matter.

A grant of £50 was donated by the Community Council to the Great Glen Youth Association to help Youth Clubs with travel expenses.

The next meeting is to be held in May.

T.D.G.

Some years ago - when Daniel was barman - a young student, Ian McAulay came to assist in the bar. From Aberdeen, he subsequently became a primary teacher and went to teach in the Shetlands. Recently he sent us the magazine of the school, Mossbank Primary, near Sullom Voe, he is presently teaching in. This is a brand new school, built to serve the new 'oil' community at Sullom Voe.

We print below a representative selection of the pupils' writing.

I like Mossbank, and I hate it.  
I like the beaches and I like  
going for strolls around it  
finding out new things. The  
thing I hate about Mossbank  
is the houses and the way they  
are. The state the place is  
in. Our house was built over  
a stream which would be nice to  
see. I think more people  
should care about it. The  
place is dull and untidy and  
needs cleaning up. I think  
they should make a Union to  
care for Mossbank.

(Girl - Primary 4)

Mossbank is a big place and has  
a church and a hall. It is  
very messy. There is a pub  
and a shop. The road is too  
narrow. I like all the lambs  
because they come right up to  
you. I hate all the mad drivers  
because they knock down the  
sheep.

(Boy - Primary 4)

THE NIGHT MOONRISE CAT.

At night,  
When it is late,  
And the moon is full,  
The 'CAT' is about.  
Arching its back,  
Creeping and crouching,  
Screeching and biting,  
Crying.  
Blood thirsty,  
That's what it is.  
EVIL.  
The magical, mystical, hypnotic eyes.  
The demon in its body,  
Waiting to catch anything that moves.  
The drooling mouth,  
Adds up to EVIL.

(Girl - Primary 7)

My favourite programme is Playschool  
because it shows you how to make  
things.

(Girl - Primary 3)

My worst programme is Playschool  
because it is posh.

(Boy - Primary 5)

Snowflakes are patterns falling from the sky,  
It is pretty passing my eyes,  
It is sparkling white,  
The horrid thing about snow,  
Is when it has to go.

(Girl - Primary 4)

The sky is blue, with grey clouds between.  
The sea is blue with a bit of green,  
The island is white,  
White like a dead Polar bear.

(Boy - Primary 7)

#### WHAT IS BLACK?

Black is a blackberry hung on a bush,  
Black are the slates on our roof,  
Black was the dog who raided our bucket,  
Black was my mum's mood when she saw it.

(Girl - Primary 4)

My mum has curly hair,  
Has blue eyes,  
And smokes a lot.  
She works at the school  
As a cook.  
She works at home,  
As a cook, a cleaner and a landlady.

My mum is many things,  
But most of all  
She cares.

(Girl - Primary 7)

#### ADULTS SHOUT.

Stewart!  
Get your tea!  
Stop playing those records  
We're listening to the T.V.  
Stop firing that spud gun at the dog!  
No buts, just do it!  
Tidy your room!  
I SAID TIDY IT!  
BED!!  
NO READING!

Ain't life terrible,  
Who wants to be young?

(Boy - Primary 7)



# Moriston Matters

## Prize for creative writing

### FAIRY SPRING.

Once upon a time at the end of winter a Fairy called Spring woke up. She was very tired. She said, "I must get up and make the countryside look beautiful". So the fairy got up. She said, "Right! I will go to my paint pot and mix blue and yellow to make green for the grass and leaves". After Fairy Spring had done that, she went to the mother sheep and told them that it was warm and they could have their lambs. She shook the squirrels until they woke up. Then she called to all of the birds to come back from the far-off lands. She told the toads and frogs to lay their spawn. Last of all, she told the farmers to sow their oats. When all was done, she went back to sleep for another year.

CLAIRE TOMLIN (6).

### THOUGHTS OF A CENSUS CHAUFFEUR.

East and West and North and South  
The Messengers go forth  
To reach all People of our Land  
For their potential Worth,  
Their Worth to Queen and Country,  
and Their Worth for One Another  
As Parents, Children, Uncles Aunts,  
Each Sister and each Brother.

When David thought to make his  
count

He chose his Men of War  
His might and glory to advance  
To Nations near and far.  
The grim uncertainties of Life  
'Fore God he clean forgot -  
Down came the noisome pestilence  
And paralysed the lot.

The mighty Roman Emperor  
Called all his tax to pay;  
From Sea to Sea he ruled the World

That counted in his Day.  
More than he ever dreamed about  
His efforts brought to view -  
The Babe of richer, redder Blood  
Than ever his was blue.

In course of Time, as Nature goes  
The Babe emerged a Man,  
His eyes beyond all other eyes  
All Nature learned to scan.  
The very sparrows have their worth.  
He bids us all believe,  
The lilies of the field, behold  
Their beauty they receive.

Why then, Oh why, He pleads with us,  
All people of the Land,  
Why then, Oh why, will you not see  
And why not understand!  
You all have your peculiar Worth,  
And duty without end  
To pledge your Love and Loyalty  
To great Creation's Friend.

P.F.

## CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

### A.G.M.

Another "first" for me as new minister here in Glenmoriston was the Annual General Meeting of the Congregation.

This happened on the very wet evening of Thursday 19th March. I had been told that not many folk turned up for this occasion. But there were actually fourteen from Glenmoriston including myself and then ten folk came over from Urquhart Congregation in Drumnadrochit. So that made us a happy twenty-four strong, and we didn't feel so lonely after all. It was the first time I had seen the interior of the church entirely lit at night. It was quite beautiful and provided not a "business-like" atmosphere so much as a happy and informal one.

I presided and Mr Magnus Marr, Clerk to the Board, read the minutes of the last A.G.M. Mr David Tracy, Treasurer, gave the Financial Report. Despite the hard work and sincere efforts of many, the Church is currently in debt about £500. This includes the debt carried over from the end of 1980. (Our average Sunday attendance is about 15 adults and the average offering for a Sunday is something like £12. The situation is quite serious. So, members and adherents, please note!)

In consultation with the Session and Board it was agreed that I announce at the A.G.M. that, from April to June inclusive on the first Sunday of the month, a United Service would be held on a trial basis in Dalchreichart School at 3 p.m. So that means that on the first Sunday of April, May and June there will be no service in Glenmoriston Church at 12.15 p.m., but in Dalchreichart. Any wishing trans-

port to the United Service, which includes Sunday School, should be at the Church by 2.30 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month. This arrangement will be reviewed after three months. Otherwise, services will be held at the normal time of 12.15 p.m. each Sunday in Glenmoriston Church.

After the business of the evening had finished the Woman's Guild provided a delicious and abundant tea in the vestibule. We finished the evening by my showing some slides of my home state of Montana.

May God help us to be good caretakers of all that He has entrusted to us.

Have a blessed and happy Easter. "He is risen! He is risen, indeed!"

F.B.B.

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER.

The World Day of Prayer Service, held as usual on the first Friday of March, had for its theme this year "The Earth is the Lord's" prepared by American Indian women. It was a theme to which we in Glenmoriston could easily relate and several people at the end remarked on how much they had enjoyed it. Mrs Buell was the leader with Anne and Margaret Girvan as readers, Mrs Fraser giving the address and Mrs Tomlin at the organ, and it was a pleasure to have the older children from Dalchreichart School present. There was a cup of tea afterwards in the vestibule and the company dispersed feeling that it had been a refreshing afternoon.

————— ○ ○ ○ —————

DARTS LEAGUE.

Dalchreichart School are holding a Bring & Buy Sale on Wednesday, 10th June, at 2 p.m. when they will be grateful for support from their friends up and down the Glen.

Along with Mrs Nicholson and Invermoriston School we are planning a trip round Loch Ness on Friday, 19th June, hoping to call at Abriachan Museum, Pringle's Woollen Mills and Inverfarigaig Forest Centre. Adults will be welcome to join the party and can apply to either school for details.

M.C.G.

————— ○ ○ ○ —————

BADMINTON CLUB.

On Saturday, 7th March, the Glenmoriston Badminton Club entertained their Fort Augustus counterparts in a friendly match in the local hall. Unfortunately, the limitations of the local hall did not help the local team, who, in a close match, lost all their games bar one! Well done Bob and Peter (in the men's doubles) for preventing a white-wash! Still a good night was had by all, and at the close of the proceedings, club chairman, Bob Watson, thanked the Fort Augustus Club for providing us with a good evening's play.

Big thanks are due to Margaret Smart for having the hall ready for us and to Margaret, Anne and Wendy for providing such excellent half time fare.

It is hoped a return match will be arranged for the end of the month. Watch this space for further developments.

D.R.T.

Inchnacardoch Lodge Hotel was once again host for the Glenalbyn Darts League finals on Friday evening, 20th March. During the evening about 60 players and supporters cheered on the teams. There were a lot of very close matches and high scoring throughout the evening. Mr. Peter Woolley presented prizes to Letterfinlay team for being first in the league throughout the season, and to a Foyers team member for the best singles and Foyers team for the four in a team competition. Morag McColl (Cluanie) took the trophy for the Ladies singles. Well done, Morag! The Invermoriston team would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr and Mrs Anderson for being such great hosts to our team during the season and also thanks to June and Dougie behind the bar. We would never have made it to the third position without you all!

Final positions in League:-

- 1 - Swan and Cygnet
- 2 - Foyers.
- 3 - Invermoriston
- 4 - Invergarry
- 5 - Inchnacardoch
- 6 - British Legion
- 7 - Cluanie
- 8 - Lovat Arms.

The final night of the Annie Fraser Trophy and the Duncan Grant Shield took place in the public bar on the night of Saturday, 18th April. There were a few other games being played earlier, but in the final Neil Robertson beat Duncan Stoddart in a very close game indeed for the Shield and he then went on to beat Margaret Smart and took the cup as well. Very good playing Neil, well done!

M.Mc.D.

# PRIZE FOR YOUNG REPORTAGE

On Monday, the 16th of March, Judith Watson, Marlene MacRae, Fida McAdams, Robert Flavell, Andrew Gordon, Michael Smurthwaite and myself all went to Loch Duich Primary School for swimming lessons. The portable swimming pool was in a classroom. It was about 12 feet in diameter. On Monday, Mrs. [redacted] the swimming teacher, came in the pool with waders on. The next four days she stood outside the pool and told us what to do. We had rubber rings and polystyrene boards to keep us afloat. The boards were white and the rings were red and white and blue and white. Just about every day we were in the pool for about 30 to 45 minutes. I think the swimming lessons were brilliant.

JOHN McDONELL (10).

## S.W.R.I

Meeting 9th March; owing to transport difficulties Mrs MacRae, the Lancôme Consultant, was unable to come but we hope to see her in the near future. Mrs Wendy Tomlin kindly gave an interesting demonstration on spinning and dyeing wool. The raffle was won by Miss E. Watson and a very enjoyable tea was provided and served by Mrs. A. Bell, Mrs. M.E. Fraser, Mrs. B. MacDonald and Miss C. MacDonald.

Glenmoriston S.W.R.I. are holding a Jumble/Bring & Buy Sale on Thursday, 25th June, at 7 p.m. in the Village Hall. Please contact members if items require to be collected. Hope you will be able to attend.

A Whist Drive in aid of the Scottish Council for Spastics was held in the Hall on 23rd March the the results were:-

Ladies 1st - Mrs. M. McDonell.  
" 2nd - Mrs. M.E. Fraser.  
" Travelling - Mrs. Wootton.  
" Booby - Miss. I. Stoddart.

Gents 1st - Miss. C. MacDonald.  
" 2nd - Mrs. J. Steele.  
" Travelling - Mrs. M. Nicholson.  
" Booby - Mr. A. MacKintosh.

Alistair also won the raffle, a bottle of sherry. The final sum of £35.25 was raised to be sent to the spastics Council and we would like to thank everyone who sent donations.

K.W.

## WOMAN'S GUILD.

The president, Mrs Buell, led the Bible study meeting on Thursday, March 5th.

As an introduction a film strip was shown which illustrated how three families had been helped in a very positive way by regular Bible reading.

The subject chosen for the readings and the discussion which followed was the life of Mary of Magdala.

N.N.B.

## S.N.P.

Readers might like to know that the local branch of the party has been reconstituted. Anyone wishing to join please contact Mrs Nicholson at the Schoolhouse or Dave Tracy at Aultsaigh.

Members and non-members might like to make a note of the following. MRS WINNIE EWING, Euro M.P. for the Highlands and Islands, is to speak in the Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus, on Friday, May 22nd.

D.R.T.

# IN MEMORIAM

## JOHN GIBBON.

John Gibbon, whose tragic death at the end of February was briefly reported in the last issue, grew up at Rudhaban, and after leaving Fort Augustus School worked for a time as an apprentice mechanic. He was one of the squad on the contract held by Sutherland to realign the road at the Post Office. He left the Glen for a time and on his return joined the Forestry Commission in January 1979 where he became proficient in the use of the chainsaw, skyline winch and timber forwarder - skills which he tackled in a cheerful and willing manner.

His biggest asset, though, was his sense of humour, for even in times of stress he would find a witty remark to match the situation. In an ever-depressing world a sense of humour is a great thing. John had it, and with his going, a void has been left. I am sure I speak for all his colleagues and friends when I say it was a pleasure knowing and working with him.

D.R.T.

## JOHN VASS.

Another of our local worthies has passed on, and it is with regret I record the death of John Vass. Fully 30 years in Invermoriston, he came to be Forestry horseman at Port Clair forest and after a year or two purchased his own horse. John, his horse, Beaute, and big collie dog, Fred, became quite a common sight as they journeyed to John's work in the woods. A native of Rogart, which he left in early manhood, he first worked at farmwork on a farm in Easter Ross, then took over a croft at Culnakirk before

coming to live at Dalcattaig. A lover of horses, he was a decent-living man who died as quietly as he had lived and is buried in his native Rogart.

J. INNES.

## MRS MARION MACDONALD.

Mrs Marion MacDonald who died on 18th March lived latterly in Strathoich, Fort Augustus, but always retained warm memories of her stay at Torgoyle where she kept a lovely garden. Since the death of her husband, Duncan, some years ago, she was less able to get about, but appreciated visits from her friends for whom she had a warm-hearted affection, although her indignation could be fiercely aroused by anything she considered to be an injustice. However, with the passing of the years these strong feelings mellowed. Her love of animals was well known and they were her constant companions. With her passing one more link with the old Highland families and a way of life has gone - a way of life that nonetheless remains, woven into the fabric of the community.

## MRS MILDRED RUTHERFORD.

We are sorry to report also, so soon after her having come to stay among us, the death of Mrs. Mildred Rutherford on March 29th. She appreciated the beauty of her surroundings and the friendship of the people and was preparing to play her part in the Woman's Guild and in other ways when illness overtook her. We are grateful for having known her.

# *in brief*

We are pleased to hear of the safe arrival of Emma Jane daughter of John & Marion Rule, born on 10th March, and of Claire Mary, daughter of Allan & Christine McDonnell, born on 23rd March, also of Robert Charles, son of David & Anne Tracy on 5th April.

Congratulations and best wishes to Duncan Stoddart & Fiona MacMillan who were married on March 6th and now live in Kintail, and to Colin Mackenzie & Wendy Johnstone who were married on April 4th and now live in Inverness.

Somewhat belatedly but none the less warmly we offer best wishes on his retirement to Jocky Grant who left the staff of the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board in January after more than 21 years' service and was presented with a camera.

We welcome to the community Mr Alistair Gillies and his wife Mary along with their children David and Anne Marie. He has come to be the new manager of Achlach Estate.

## *in Memoriam (ctd)*

With memories of their short April stay in the Glen, Mrs Chris Sharp and her son, Derek, wish to extend grateful thanks to all the friends and neighbours of Chris for their warm friendship and kindness which surely is and always will be a measure of the high regard held for Chris in the Glen.

Special thanks to Pat MacDonald for taking on all the arrangements for the Committal and for

his support and guidance, to Nellie Sey for her generous hospitality and thoughtfulness in giving of her time to introduce us to the people Chris knew, also to the Church of Scotland Ministers, The Reverends' Peter Fraser and Bart Buell who conducted the service for the return of Chris to the Glen, which was his wish.

MAJORIE SHARP.

### A MESSAGE TO OUR FRIENDS.

How many times Chris spoke of his Glen !  
I had only visual pictures of it then,  
In those happy Summer days I couldn't envisage  
I would be making a Spring Pilgrimage.

Yes, I took Chris home to his last resting place,  
Though a very sad mission, I found some solace-  
In his Friends' wonderful welcome and warm Sincerity-  
The Beauty of Invermoriston-and in The Glen - tranquility.

My visit to Chris's home wasn't as we had planned,  
We had hoped he would be holding my hand.  
Now though many miles in distance keep us apart  
In that dear little Scottish Glen I have left my heart.

Love from

Marjorie Sharp.