

# ***For*** ***M******iston*** ***Matters***



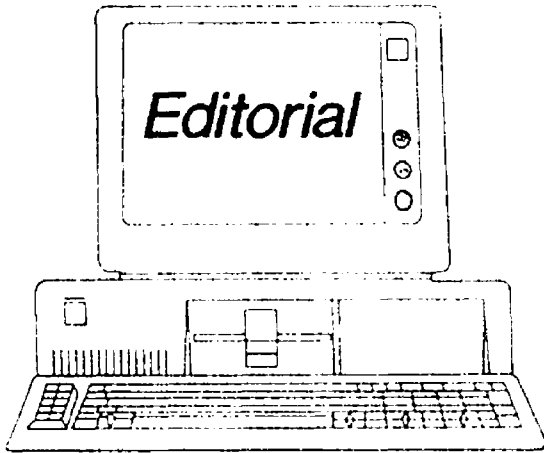
***Autumn 91***



***A Community newsletter  
serving the residents & visitors  
of Invermoriston and Glenmoriston***

***No 35***

***30p***



Welcome to the new look 'Moriston Matters'. I must admit though that all the credit must go to my new technical consultant ( as he likes to be called ) David Andrews of Lizard Cottage, Dalchreichart, whose expertise and equipment have enabled us to produce and print the magazine totally in the Glen. David has worked jolly hard to produce a text which was pleasing to the eye and easy to read, so I sincerely hope that there will be no more problems with reading the print ! I would also like to thank David's wife, Sylvia, who has taken on the unerring task of proof-reading the text so now I have no excuse for spelling mistakes and grammar errors ! Well, Autumn is definitely upon us now. The flowers are fading, the stags are roaring and there is a definite nip in the air.

In this and subsequent editions, prizes are to be awarded for young people's work whether it be stories, reporting, drawing, photographs or poems. All material submitted will be assessed by somebody outside the magazine. So come on all you budding Shakespeares, David Baileys, Enid Blytons or Picassos - Lets see what you can do.

Our next issue will be in January so we take this opportunity to wish everybody ( albeit a little early ) a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year !

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# *View from the Hills*

Not everyone realises how well Glenmoriston is located for providing easy access to many of Scotland's finest mountain ranges and for hillwalking in general. Any visitor interested in outdoor activities would find that by car, approx time to

Glen Shiel and Kintail	30 min.
Glen Affric and Strathfarrar	60 min.
Ben Nevis range inc. Aonach Mor	60 min.
Glencoe	75 min.
Creag Meagaidh (Glen Spean)	75 min.
Skye	90 min.
Aviemore and Cairngorms	90 min.

These are just a few of the more popular areas which are almost on our doorstep. There are plenty more remote rewarding areas worth visiting such as Loch Hourne, Loch Quoich and Loch Arkaig. The "Rough Bounds" of Knoydart are accessible from these points. I would recommend something closer to home for the inexperienced hillwalker. The variable Scottish climate can change an easy walk along a broad ridge into something akin to a battle for survival ! Many hillwalkers get caught by the 'bug' to climb Scotland's 3000ft peaks as shown in "Munro's Tables". There are 277 listed. As if that were not enough, a further list, called "Corbetts" shows 221 mountains between 2500ft and 3000ft. Sufficient for most lifetimes !

A couple of weeks ago I reached a personal milestone when I climbed my 200th Munro. This involved a walk-in and out from Linn of Dee, near Braemar, of 24 miles to reach the summit of Cairn Toul, 4241ft, which makes it Scotland's fourth highest mountain. Naturally a small celebration was called for, after descending of course !

The problem in trying to complete the list is that the hills left become the remote ones and take a bit of organising. Unfortunately the weatherman can't always be relied upon to play his part.

There are many rewarding walks in our own area, for example the Military Road from Glenmoriston to Fort Augustus, approx 6 miles. Also, the 4 mile walk from Dorusduain near Loch Duich to the Falls of Glomach. Level walks include following the Caledonian Canal south from Fort Augustus and numerous not too strenuous forestry tracks near Invermoriston which gives pleasant views over Loch Ness.

Ken Anthony, Dalchreichart.

# Pony Club



1991 show season has drawn to a close and still the coveted championship has eluded us. However we did manage three reserve championships at Dornoch Show, Black Isle and Lochaber. Katie had a field day at Lochaber show collecting three trophies in all. She collected another by winning the Lead rein class at Dornoch. Let's hope we have similar success next year when Vickie enters serious competition on Tam and Katie takes up the ride on our home-bred young pony, Samuel Whiskers.

Casey, fingers crossed, is in foal and we hope everything will go well for her when she foals next May.

Eilidh Nairn's pony, Sheik, has moved on to pastures new in Glenurquhart.

Sheila MacLennan has done an excellent job in getting some weight on her grey horse, Freckles. It's always more difficult with an older horse. Now you can't see her for dust on the roads and tracks in and around Dalchreichart.

So now, as the winter draws near, we'll have to shake the moths out of the ponies New Zealand rugs, think about getting the hay in and reflect on a very successful year.



## York Visit

Last month, two of the Glen's most active senior citizens had a most enjoyable trip to York and the surrounding area. Granny Common and Mrs Dorothy Reeves set off from the Telford Centre at 7am on Thursday morning along with eight other adventurers from the centre and arrived in York at 5 pm. Cheap, cheerful but very comfortable accommodation was had at Fairfax House, one of the halls of residence for York university.

Among the many buildings of interest in York, they visited York Minster, Bronte Parsonage museum and Castle Howard; a stately Home which boasts a superb costume gallery displaying original period costumes. They also had a tour of the Yorkshire Dales with the highlight being a very tasty visit to Harry Ramsden's world famous fish and chip shop ! They arrived home on Monday afternoon, tired but glad to have made the trip.

# *A Local Success Story*

Since my first shoot in July 1986, where I won an ornamental duck, I have been addicted to clay target shooting. In the first few years I only shot local shoots where I won a few prizes. Then in 1988 I entered the Scottish Open DTL Championship held at Loch Ness Gun Club. Unfortunately I did not get into the junior team that year but it gave me a lot of experience and determination to do better next year. So in 1989 at Kippen Gun Club I managed to get into the Scottish Junior Shooting Team. That year we were International Junior Champions, the first time ever. In 1990 I was Scottish Junior Champion which I won at the championships in Ayr. That year we shot at Bywell in England and were International Junior Champions again and were joint World Junior champions with Canada with a record breaking score which got us into the Guinness book of records. This year I again got into the team at the Scottish Championships again held in Ayr and I went to Ireland to shoot. Unfortunately we were third this year but I managed to be British Junior runner-up. I have also won numerous trophies and shields over the last few years including two I have had for five years in succession. I have to practise at least once a week during the season which involves shooting 50 targets. I practise mostly at LNGC. I shoot an average of 20 hundred target events and numerous local shoots.

I would like to thank LNGC for their help and assistance since I started shooting. I would also like to thank Ronnie Ross, Eddy Grant and Duncan MacDonell for their encouragement over the last few years. I would especially like to thank my parents for their help financially and their continuing support at shoots etc. Without their help I do not think I would have been able to shoot internationally.

David Gillies.



# Folk Lore

The following extract was taken from an article which appeared in an old magazine called 'The Celtic Monthly' dated December 1894 and which ran from 1892 to 1917. It was written by Mr William Mackay.

"Folk-lore before the days of the School-master and the Men, must have bulked largely in the everyday life of the inhabitants of Urquhart and Glenmoriston. Until within the last 25 years, the people spent the winter evenings around some favourite fireside, where tales were told, poems recited, songs sung, and riddles propounded—the head of the house employing himself the while in making a creel, or whittling into shape a wooden ladle or some other article of domestic utility; and the good-wife in plying the distaff, or gently driving the spinning-wheel. A great and sudden change – and in some aspects a regrettable one – has, however, taken place. The ancient institution of the ceilidh ( pronounced kaily and meaning a fireside social gathering ) which nurtured good fellowship and good feeling, has all but disappeared. The penny newspaper has taken the place of the tale and the song.

And so the ancient lore was allowed to decay and no new seanachies (Poets) arise so as to take the place of the old as they, one after another, disappear into the unknown. It is proposed to deal briefly in this article with that branch of folklore which may be placed under the heading of the Supernatural.

The HAGS and GOBLINS that haunted certain localities were much dreaded. The worst of these was CAILLEACH A' CHRATHAICH, the Hag of the Craach – a wild and mountainous district lying between Corrimony and the Braes of Glenmoriston. This being rejoiced in the death of men, the Macmillans being especially the objects of her fierce malice.

As Cailleach a' Chrathaich, who was last seen by a member of the Clan Macdougall who is now dead, but whose son still lives in the Parish, was the enemy of the Macmillans, so CAILLEACH ALLT-AN-DUNAIN was the enemy of the Macdougalls and Macdonalds.

CAILLEACH ALLT-SAIGH was a female goblin of an amiable disposition, who did what she could to protect people from the malice of Cailleach Allt-an-Dunain, by warning them of her malicious projects; and similar services were rendered to intended victims of Cailleach a' Chrathaich by a gentle spirit who inhabited CRAGAN-NA-CAILLICH, near Tornashee.

The mountain stretch at Corri-Dho which is known as Tigh-Mor-na-Seilg - the Great House of the Hunting - was the haunt of a male goblin known as DAIBHIDH (David), and of a female spirit named Mor. These two strongly objected as to the right which the Glen-Urquhart tenantry had of grazing their cattle in summer on the sheilings of Corri-Dho, and they were repeatedly seen driving away the Glen Urquhart flocks. At last Daibhidh was so thoroughly roused that he pulled a great fir tree up by the roots, and with the assistance of Mor, chased the Urquhart men and their bestial for many miles, until he sent them over the Glenmoriston march beyond Achnagoneran. Daibhidh's words on the occasion are still remembered:-

""Sleams'Doire-Dhamh, a's Doire-Dhaibhidh,  
"S Boirisgidh bhuidh nan alltan  
"S Ceann-a-chnoc mhor le fiodh 's le 'fasaich-  
A bhodaichibh dubh, dubh, daithte, togaibh oirbh!"  
"Mine are Doire-Dhamh and Doire-Dhaibhidh,  
And yellow Boirisgidh of the streams,  
And wide Ceanacroc, with its woods and pasturages-  
Ye black and singed carles, take yourselves away! "

And the Urquharts carles did take themselves away, and never again showed face in Corrie-Dho.

Another one, not quite so harmless was LAR BHAN CHOIRE-DHO - the White Mare of Corri-Dho. The White Mare was for generations the cause of much trouble to the farmers of Urquhart and Glenmoriston; for if they let loose a horse anywhere within the wide bounds of the Parish, it was almost certain to make off and seek her society. At least the people of both glens met and resolved to endeavour to destroy her. A large number of the boldest and swiftest among them accordingly formed a ring around her usual haunts, and gradually closed in upon her until she had apparently no way of escape. One of them, Alasdair Cutach (Alexander the Short), a member of the Clann Iain Chaoil of Glenmoriston, was bold enough to seize her by the tail. He had cause to repent. The mare rushed furiously through the crowd, dragging behind her the wretched Alasdair, who, to his horror, found himself unable to let go the tail. On, on she flew, followed by the fleetest of her would-be capturers, until, after a run of many miles, she came to Ruigh an t-Slochdain Duibh, in the mountain region between Achnagoneran and Urquhart. There she and Alasdair disappeared. Next day his mangled corpse was found on the moor. She has never been seen since."

# Club News

The Whist starts up again on Wednesday 2nd October and subsequent Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm in the Glenmoriston Arms Tavern. If you enjoy a game of cards then please come along and join us. We welcome 'beginners' as well as cardsharps like Jackie and Alistair(!) and we always have a most enjoyable night.

The Badminton Club meets on Tuesday nights at 7pm and also, starting soon, on Sunday evenings as well. Both beginners and regular players are catered for and racquets can be provided.

The Youth Club is already in full swing again. It runs from 7pm until 9pm every Thursday evening and membership is available to all from primary 1 up to the age of 18. The annual fees are £10 per child or £20 per family and that covers everything apart from special trips and outings. Non-members can attend club nights at a cost of £1 per night.

Friday 4th October - Cheese and Wine Ceilidh - Invermoriston Hall 8pm

Friday 1st November - Fancy Dress Halloween Dance ! - Watch for posters !

# Local News

WELCOME to Ray and Ann Berry who have moved into Redburn from Milton Keynes.

WELCOME to Ian Dudgeon and Heike Arends who are in the process of building a house at Redburn but who are temporarily living at Bhlaraidh.

CONGRATULATIONS to Eddie Grant and Tina Pocock who were married on the 28th of September.

CONGRATULATIONS to Alison and Peter Wilson, formerly of Bhlaraidh, who have just had little girl called Christina, a sister for Annette and John.



# Invermoriston School

These stories were written by the children in primaries 2, 3, 4 and 5 and are based on food which is their project this term. The ideas behind their pictures and stories come from "Yum! Food"

Mrs Fraser, Invermoriston school.

One sunny day it was my birthday and Christopher, Kimberly and Scott were there and the party was in the garden. I liked my birthday. Then Tina came in and took Kimberly home and Christopher stayed the weekend. When I got back I said to Mum that the food was scurmis yumish !

Calum Grant.

One wet morning I went out for picnic. We had cake and biscuits and sandwiches. They got soft so we went indoors.

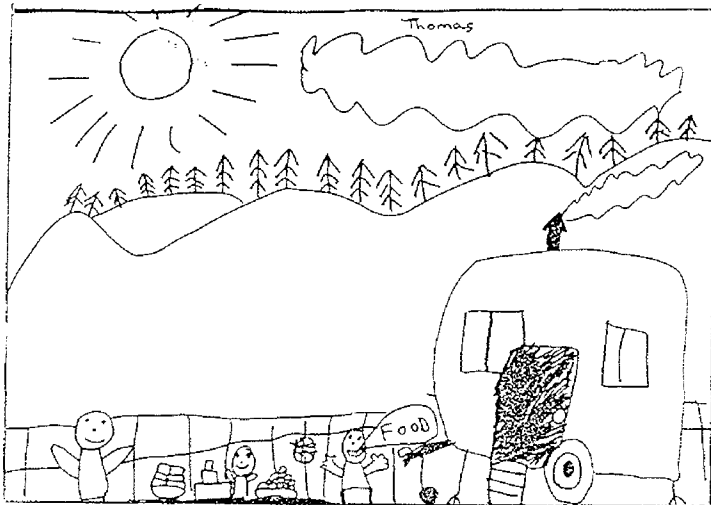
Emma Hewitt

It was my Mums wedding in the church in Fort Augustus. The taxi was going home and I was in the hall eating cakes and biscuits. They were yum.

Martin Hewitt

Flour is soft and it tiklys my fingers  
and it is lumpe too and I like it  
because is tiklys my fingers and it is  
rune if I mix it with water and it feels soft

Eva



# Dulchreichard School

## AUTUMN

The leaves are turning orange, so that means it's Autumn. It makes me think of Winter. Soon ALL the trees will be ORANGE. Very soon it will be winter, and then Christmas. Soon the trees will be bare. I wish it was still summer.

Michelle MacLeod P.5

## YOUTH CLUB

On Friday 27th the Youth club is arranging a visit to the Scottish youth football match against Italy in Inverness. So far four people are going to the football match. Hopefully there will be a lot more wanting to go to it. These are some of the matches that Scotland will have to play: Scotland v Italy, Scotland v Belgium and Scotland v Netherlands.

Darren McEwan P.5

## VIOLINS

Miss Swanson is our violins teacher. Darren, Anne, Michelle, Archie, Caroline, and Stephen are getting taught. We are getting our violins and bows on Thursday.

Anne MacLellan P.5

## LOCAL NEWS

Last month two new houses went up in Dulchreichard. The houses belong to Mrs Bisset's mum and Dad and Mr Common's mum and Dad. The houses might be completed by the end of December. Three months ago the houses went on the water supply the work the workmen were doing for a year. We will be happy when the school goes on the water. We will not run out in the summer.

Stephen Smith P.7

## CATERPILLARS

After the summer holidays we got caterpillars from Mr Cooper. They are called Indian Moon Moths. Two have spun their cocoon. We feed them hawthorn. We keep them in a container. When they're in their cocoons you don't feed them.

Alasdair Norton P.5

And a final modest few words.....!!!!

I won three trophies at a Pony show and they are going into the cabinet.

Katie Common P.2

# Dulchreichard School

The summer holidays are now well in the past and the new session started with a roll of 9 pupils - Amy has joined us in P.1. We are fortunate enough this year to be able to purchase a lot of new equipment and textbooks, including a set of children's encyclopaedia, a full xylophone and a playground climbing frame. The classroom has also been carpeted and equipped with a new teacher's desk so we look forward to a cosy, exciting and productive year ahead. Miss Swanson, strings' instructor, has joined the staff and takes two very enthusiastic groups of children each Thursday afternoon. So we look forward to melodic tunes from the children at future ceilidhs.

The School Board is holding a cheese and wine ceilidh in Invermoriston Hall on Friday 4th October to which all are welcome. The following Friday, school closes for a fortnights October holiday - both pupils and teachers alike amaze at how quickly the terms fly past.

Mrs. Farndell

## PROJECT

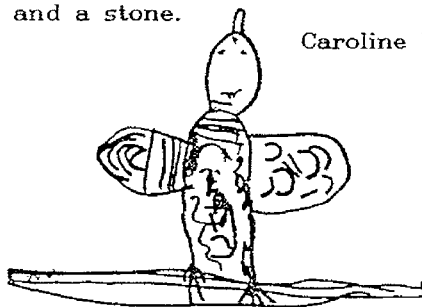
Last year our project was about the 50's. We have done many different projects like FARMS, SPACE, and the 50's. This tear we are doing WATER. I like this project. We have been doing a lot of things. We tried to think of thing that would float and things that will sink.

Archie Maclellan P.7

## WATER

Our school is doing something about water. I like what we are doing about water. We did a floating and sinking experiment. I took in some wood and a stone.

Caroline Kennedy P.4



My • pet • bird • has  
flown • away • AMY

# Loch Ness Gun Club

Casual walkers on the hills above Loch Ness could have been forgiven for believing a ferocious gun battle was being fought out in Glenmoriston most of last week.

Dozens of shotguns fired almost non stop during daylight hours between Tuesday morning and Saturday afternoon as crack shots from Scotland, England, Ireland, Wales and the Isle of Man battled for places in the World Clay Pigeon Shooting Championships in Australia and next year's Olympic Games. Loch Ness Gun Club chairman Martin Girvan revealed that the opportunity to host the sport's most important qualifying rounds was a great boost for the club which is reputed to have the finest site in Europe.

The club, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, is situated in an old quarry with the ranges pointing at a tree clad hillside rising 1000ft from the quarry bottom.

"We use orange coloured targets and the beauty of the site is that you can see them moving from the time they leave the trap until the moment you shoot them," explained Mr. Girvan. "The experts who have been here all week are taking part in the hardest discipline - the Olympic Trench which involves the clays being released at various angles and moving at twice the speed of the easier disciplines such as Down the Line.

Mr Girvan added that while Clay Pigeon Shooting was still not classed as a spectator sport, the influx of participants from throughout Britain was good for the North. "These people all have to be housed and fed so it's good business for this part of the Highlands," he said.

Former chairman Mr Ronnie Ross was a founder member of the Loch Ness Gun Club when it was established in 1966 and along with a strong team of enthusiastic volunteers spent months creating a site out of a wilderness.

"It took a long time to fill in the quarry's holes, gaps and crannies with over 2000 tonnes of materials and over the years we've worked hard to bring it up to Olympic standard", Mr Ross explained. However, for marksmen to reach such a standard they need to practise four or five evenings a week for several years - and the sport's not a cheap one.

"It probably costs £3000-£5000 per annum to reach the top standard if you count all the cartridges and everything else that's involved," Mr Ross added. "But many of us are content to work away at a much lower level and we've got members from all walks of life, although quite a few are farmers."

N.Nicholson, Inverness Courier

# Loch Ness Gun Club

The official opening of LNGC's Olympic Trench layouts took place at Bhlaraidh on the 6th June 1981. The ceremony was carried out by the European Champion, Peter Croft from London. There was a good turnout of shooters and spectators. A shoot was held to mark the opening and the European champion showed his ability by winning with 95 ex 100. Second was Allan Bell and third was Martin Girvan. The picture is of the opening ceremony:

3rd Left : Paddy Paterson, District Councillor.

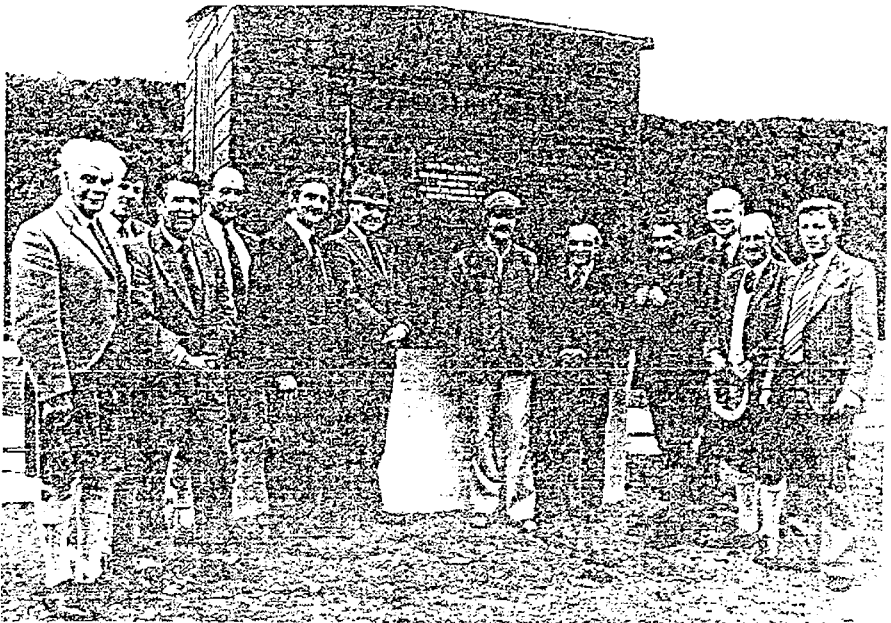
4th Left : Ronnie Ross, Club Chairman.

7th Left : Peter Croft.

10th Left : Ian Grant of Glenmoriston Estates Ltd.

11th Left : Peter Low, Club President.

The others are representatives of the various bodies who helped build and finance the layouts.



# Gala Day

## COUNTDOWN TO GALA

By Thursday night the toilets were still in Mallaig and needed repairing, we couldn't locate the 'ducks' anywhere and there were problems with the tents - WE were beginning to PANIC !

Friday night was setting up night and it couldn't have rained any harder if it had tried. Tents had to go up, bunting had to be hung, the field required to be fenced off, the ducks, having been eventually located at Roybridge, had to be checked and counted and the midges were ferociously biting! To top it all, the river was running so high and fast that there was the distinct possibility that it wouldn't be safe for the mountain bikers to cross through. The entrance to the field has turned into a mass of welly-boot sucking off mud and Davy's precious football pitch was beginning to resemble a scrambler track !

## GALA DAY

Saturday dawned wet and miserably stayed that way until mid-afternoon. A slight lapse saw us forgetting to cover the dancing platform. Had the girls gone ahead with their display, it would have been more like skating rather than Highland dancing ! Sorry Girls ! Water was dripping down our necks as we tried to cook the venison burgers and we were desperately trying to dry off the bouncy castle ! However despite the rain we had a great display of dog agility, sheep shearing and wood sawing. The mountain bike race was very well supported and they did manage to get through the river after all. The argo rides were a great attraction and the new sport of argo racing over an obstacle course was great fun. The dance at night had a tremendous atmosphere and the burgers went down a treat there too. All in all, apart from the weather and a few disagreeable characters, we had a successful day and managed to raise in excess of £1600.

The committee would like to heartily thank all those who helped both on the day and beforehand and hopefully next year we should manage to iron out our little problems !

# Gala Day Results

Here is a breakdown of where our profits went

	This Year	Last Year
Raffle	£390	£850
Duck Race	£325	£390
B-B-Q	£240	£350
Admission	£275	£335
Bouncy Castle	£40	£105
Cake & Candy	£90	£160
Dance	£320	£215
Teddy Bears	£10	£40
Bike Race	£55	£40

The Prize winners were as follows:

Argo Race	1st - Ian and Shorty, Fort Augustus 2nd - Donald MacDonald and Neil Robertson
Duck Race	1st - Anna Hughes 2nd - Kirsten MacLean FA 3rd - Lawrence Court FA
Lucky Program	Lorna MacRae FA
Log Cutting	Men - Allan Common and Brian Bisset Women - Shona Robertson and Maggie Smart

## Raffle Prizes:

- 1st - £100 - Leah Carr, Inverness
- 2nd - £50 - Calum McKinnis, Aberdeen
- 3rd - £25 - John Petrie, FA
- 4th - Ship in Bottle - Martin Girvan
- 5th - Meal at Glenmoriston Arms - Clog and Craft shop
- 6th - Meal at Inchnacardoch - Alan and Betty Draper
- 7th - Champagne - Darren McEwan
- 8th - £15 Garage Voucher - Ms Gordon, 22 JP, FA
- 9th - £10 M&S Voucher - Mrs Braham, Wiltshire
- 10th - Grocery Hamper - Peter and Sheila Giddy
- 11th - Motorist Hamper - Dave Malin, The Old Manse
- 12th - Travel Rug - Hamish, Coffee House, FA
- 13th - Gloves and Hat - Ewan Maxwell, Drumsmittal
- 14th - Hairdryer - Michael Hunter, Invergarry
- 15th - 2 Bags of Coal - Peter and Sheila Giddy
- 16th - 2 Pictures - Clog and Craft shop

## LEGS CROSSED AFTER WATER SUPPLY DRIES UP

More than 150 lunchtime customers at a Loch Ness side hotel were warned not to drink too much water with their meals yesterday - their nearest working toilet lay six miles away. Likewise, Invermoriston locals and schoolchildren had to keep their legs crossed for two hours after a failure in the local water supply. But, according to hotelier Mr Alan Draper, it's all par for the course for those living and visiting the southern end of Loch Ness, served by what he rates a totally inadequate system. Yesterday's failure was the fifth this month. Two weeks ago, there were four shutdowns in five days. Mr Draper, who owns the Glenmoriston Arms, said: "I can't count the number of people we have had to turn away over the past three years since I took the hotel over because of the water problem. It's really embarrassing having to tell customers not to use the toilets. Sometimes we have to send buckets of water up from the local burn to people's rooms so they can flush their loos. And if the system breaks down during dinner or lunchtime, food preparation becomes a joke. "But it is not just the hotel that is affected. Mr Draper said that the supply was also cut off to 16 holiday chalets, a caravan park and the local primary school. Now he and the rest of the community have come to the end of their patience. "For years now, we have been told the problem is in hand. In March I was even assured that the water stoppages would never happen again. I now intend to write to my solicitors to see if there is any pressure we can bring to bear on Highland Regional Council's water and sewerage department to get the problem solved." But according to Mr. Jim Johnstone, senior deputy director of water and sewerage, everything possible is being done to get the problem solved.

He said: "Unfortunately, the problems being suffered at Invermoriston are really just inherent with the particular two-pump system operating there. The water is first pumped from Loch Ness to a filtration plant, then pumped up to a holding tank, which supplies the community through a gravity feed. But there are problems if the two pumps get out of phase, then all sorts of difficulties start to happen, and that's what has gone wrong with the Invermoriston system. But we have in the past few months spent £10,000 replacing the first-stage pumps and carrying out temporary work on the second stage. Over the next few months, we will be spending a further £25,000 replacing the second-stage pumps. Once that's done, the problem should be solved once and for all. Until then, all we can do is to ask the people of Invermoriston to bear with us."

PRESS AND JOURNAL, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27th, 1991