

Moriston **Matters**



Autumn 92



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

No 39

30p



Autumn is well and truly with us once more. The magical colours of the trees and bracken are often breathtaking especially when the sun shines on them (a rare occurrence just lately !).

Another rare species this year was the 'tourist' ! Everyone reported business down on previous years although we did manage to sell quite a few of our tour-magazine packs entitled 'A Year in the Glen' which were aimed at the passing trade.

This edition of the magazine seems to be crammed with success stories from up and down the Glen. It's good to hear of everyone's achievements, young and old !

It was nice to hear from Mrs Baxter in Aberdeen again and she has shared some more of her memories with us.

The next few months will be busy with preparations for Halloween, Guy Fawkes and Christmas but hopefully everyone will continue to produce material for the next edition which will be out in January.

Please send your articles to; The Editor, The Old Well,
Dalcreichart, Glenmoriston,
Inverness-shire, IV3 6YJ.
Tel: 0320 40205.

Local Success

Back in August Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council held a garden competition. Open to all, this informal competition produced some local winners.

1st Best Flower Garden - Lesley Common
1st Vegetable Garden - Mrs Saddler F.A.
1st = Newcomers - Jackie Mackenzie & Mrs Hearn's F.A.
1st Childrens Garden - Katie and Vickie Common
Best Garden Overall - Lesley Common

The winners were presented with their prizes at a meeting of the Community Council in September at Fort Augustus.

Congratulations to all the winners !!

Congratulations go to Michelle Smith (15), Dalchreichart, who had her first two pieces of newspaper reportage printed in the Highland News. One of her articles concerned the rather delicate subject of the blocking of layby and parking spaces in the Glen. Apparently nobody is admitting where the boulders and piles of gravel came from or how they got there ! Michelle showed her journalistic talents during her work experience placement with the newspaper. She has even been offered a part-time job with them, however she intends to complete her studies at school before doing a one year course in journalism at Napier College in Edinburgh.

FIREWOOD



FOR
SALE



Blocked or Split
Allan Common

Tel: 0320 40205

Gala Day

As the feelings of panic subside, we now have an opportunity to reflect on this year's Gala. The date was Saturday 15th August, the venue Riverside Park playing field. Having congratulated ourselves for having all but completed the preparations by 10.00pm on Friday night, we arrived early on Saturday to find three tents partially collapsed and a good gusty wind blowing. This problem was fairly quickly sorted by the squad from Riverside. The weather, as has now become typical, was drizzly all day, although it did not dampen the enthusiasm and pleasure of the occasion.

The brightly coloured stalls of the badminton club certainly added flair this year, the bike race gave its usual excitement and the ducks, well, they were late again! Dancers entertained the visitors and locals alike, then a mock battle by the Fiery Cross excited the gathered throng. Peter and Alec showed how quickly they can cut firewood in the cross-cut saw competition but Shona and Lesley proved that the ladies are equally as good both in the sawing and the language that goes with it ! Shorty and Chris (FA) proved they were the fastest and most agile in the field together with Colin and Mark in the Argo race. Sheep shearing, barbeque, beer tent, and horse rides kept everyone occupied throughout the afternoon.

The best appearance of the day came from the beautiful Gala Queen (Jennifer MacDonald) who through all the rain managed to keep smiling and selling vast quantities of raffle tickets. Didn't Kevin look good in the duck costume (OK for next year Kev ?) All in all the day was a great success and it was topped off by a super dance to Sound Affair. The whole days events raised approx £1,800 which will go towards the Hall funds.

We would like to thank all participants in this years Gala. There was tremendous physical and financial support given to the committee throughout the day. Many many thanks to all the community involved in making this a social and financial success. A big thank you also goes out to all sponsors and donators - without your support the gala would not take place. Roll on 1993 !

Argo Race Winners ~ Shorty and Chris & Colin and Mark

Cross-Cut Saw - 1st Alec and Peter
2nd Tommy and Norman
3rd Benny and John
Ladies Shona and Lesley

Golf Winner 1st Daniel Clark, Fort Augustus

Treasure Island 1st Cluanie Inn
2nd Richard Jarvis
3rd Scamp, Glensheil

Duck Race 1st C. MacKenzie c/o Riverside (524)
2nd D. Macintosh, F. Commission (267)
3rd S. MacLellan, Torgoyle (119)

Prize Draw

£100	A. Terns, Aberdeen
Dinner (2) at Cluanie	J. Robertson, Invermoriston
Salmon	A. MacLellan, Glenmoriston
Rug	B. Johnston, Ft Augustus
Bottle Vodka	J. Dymond, Invermoriston
Dinner (2) G. M. Arms	Mr. MacAskill, Invermoriston
Woollen Jersey	E. Williams, Inverness
Bottle Wine	C. Cruickshank, Inverness
Motor Oil	D. Ferguson, Ft Augustus
Bottle Wine	John, Cluanie Inn
Bottle Wine	S. Campbell, S. Kessock
Mystery Prize	F. Stoddart, Cluanie Inn
Body Shop Basket	Madgie Stoddart, Invermoriston
Box Chocolates	Mr. Evans, Walsall
Personal Stereo	D. Greer, Invermoriston
Woollen Jersey	E. Pirrie, Glasgow
Bottle Wine	A. Johnstone, Drumnadrochit
1/2 bot Whisky	Mr & Mrs MacFarland, Invermoriston
Box Shortbread	A. Campbell, Fort William
£10 Butcher Voucher	K. MacPherson, Marine Harvest
Riding at Garry Goulach	K. Beattie, Culloden
Bottle Wine	Sian Drochit No. 6
Bottle Wine	J. Ross, Lewiston
Dinner (2) Garry Castle	H. MacKenzie, South Laggan
Flower Basket	Karen, Caol
Bottle Wine	J. Baker, Ft Augustus.

Any prize winner that has not received their prize please contact D. McEwan 0320-51305 for details on how to collect it.

Club News

INVERMORISTON ANGLERS

D. Gell, N & J Robertson, S. Robertson, T. Robertson, C. Whitehead, W. Smeaton, C. Gourlay and K & T. Hodson.

A sea fishing trip to the Pentland Firth, Scrabster was organised from the Tavern by Dennis Gell in July after having been cancelled due to bad weather in June.

Ten people attended and the weather couldn't have been more perfect - calm seas and sunshine, much to the relief of the women who were prepared with plenty of sea-sickness tablets and 'sea-bands'. The skipper congratulated us on not being ill which he said was unusual as at least one person was normally.

Plenty of fish were caught - ling, mackerel, cole fish and cod. Dennis won the heaviest fish prize. Trudi and Christine both caught dabs and Kevin had a surprise catch of an octopus who wasn't too impressed at being caught !

The day was rounded off by an enjoyable meal (not fish !) and plenty of refreshments !

Anyone interested in forming an angling club please contact Kevin Hodson (0320 51201)

Invergarry Hotel A.F.C.

Another season over, the sum total of points gained was four and the prospect of relegation was realised. Despite the turmoil earlier in the season - losing players through injury and suspension - we did manage to complete all our fixtures. The bright points in the season were signing a few younger talented boys from the immediate locality - (Mark McLeod, Glen Grange and Alex Berry) and from the neighbouring villages. These boys should at least ensure the continuation of the team for future years and perhaps with experience behind them, bring the team future success. Our last success was in 1985 when we won the third division cup final.

D.M.

Local News

Broadcaster Jimmie MacGregor (pictured centre) exchanged the studio for the saddle and scissors when he helped cut the tape to open formally the Invermoriston section of the Great Glen Cycleroute back in the summer.

The first sections of the cycle route were opened in May and more will follow as Forest Enterprise - the arm of the Forestry Commission responsible for the management of forests and woods - opens up further sections of the cycle route it is creating on forest roads and tracks, mostly on land it owns parallel to the A82.

The cycle route will eventually run the entire length of the Fort William - Inverness road, leading both cyclists and walkers through forests with huge trees, young woodlands, open glades and by spectacular waterfalls.



Dulchreichard School

The new term at Dulchreichard saw a large increase in the roll of pupils, partly because of the demise of Invermoriston Primary School and also due to the biggest intake of Primary 1 pupils (8) for a long time. This brings the total number of pupils to 19.

Here is a selection of the childrens work.....

AUTUMN

Autumn is the birds flying south
Autumn is the colour changing trees
Autumn is the squirrels collecting nuts
Autumn is the red rowan berries
Autumn is the clocks going back
Autumn is Guy Fawkes burning
Autumn is the Premier League starting
Autumn is so LOVELY
Darren McEwan P.7

Autumn brings lovely colours,
Reds, yellows, oranges and brown,
Fallen leaves crackling under your feet,
Autumn brings happiness and fun
 Guy Fawkes and Hallowe'en
Autumn brings hibernation for some animals,
Autumn brings dark nights,
Television, reading books and early nights in bed.
Michelle McLeod P.7

Autumn is a time when the leaves fall off the trees and then the wind comes and blows them up into the sky. Then down they scamper to the ground. Each creature that I know who has a home in this forest keeps nice and warm under the leaves.
Eva Turner P.5

Autumn is wind blowing loose leaves off the trees
Autumn is flocks of birds flying south and the squirrels
Autumn is clocks going backwards
Autumn bonfires and sizzling sausages and dressing up for hallowe'en
Autumn is collecting conkers and putting them on a string
Autumn is Celtic winning the cup HURRAH
Alasdair Norton P.7

Autumn is lovely colours,
Red, yellow, brown and orange.
Autumn is leaves falling
Crunchy and brown.
Autumn is birds going
to sunny warm places.
Autumn is dead flowers
withered and dry.
Autumn is football
cheering people and team flags.
Autumn is clocks going back
an extra hour in bed.
Autumn is Guy Fawkes night
bonfires and fireworks.
Autumn is ghosts at Hallowe'en
howling and screeching.
Autumn is EXCITING.
Anne MacLellan P.7

HEDGEHOGS

Hedgehogs are little animals. They are brown. Their spines are made of strong hair. They have very good hearing and eyesight and smell. They are noisy and they make a snuttly sound. Hedgehogs can swim if they need to and they roll into a ball if they sense danger.
Katie Common P.3

Hedgehogs go to sleep in the winter from October till April. Cars can kill hedgehogs.
Fay Wakefield P.2

Hedgehogs like to eat worms. They also like snakes but they don't get poisoned.
Amy Bisset P.2

Church News

The last service of worship was held in Glenmoriston church on Sunday 23rd August 1992 by F.B. Buell, Minister incumbent. The church was full with well over 40 people, many of whom had travelled from far afield to share in the historic service and relive some of the memories the church held for them.

The following is a potted history and summary of a few interesting details regarding the Parish of Glenmoriston.

In about the year 1620 a Rev Alexander Grant was elected as second protestant minister of Urquhart and Glenmoriston. Finding the old pre-reformation churches in ruins and the people without places of worship, he at once took steps to have a church erected at Kilmore and another at Glenmoriston. The Glenmoriston fabric, however, fell into utter ruin before the end of the century. The district of Glenmoriston was in a state of ecclesiastical desolation for many years after the reformation. It had no clergy-man of its own and the parish minister paid it an occasional visit. The first attempt at improvement was made in 1676, when Mr Robert Monro was appointed minister in Glenmoriston and Abertariff. He died about 1698 and thereafter no special effort appeared to have been made to supply the spiritual wants of the district until 1725 when Mr Alexander MacBean, a missionary employed by the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge, preached there for four weeks. Next year Mr. Thomas Montford was appointed Catechist in Glenmoriston and Abertariff. And after the admission of Rev. William Garden as minister to United Parishes of Urquhart and Glenmoriston, Mr Montford was ordained and promoted to be missionary preacher. He soon gave up that appointment but since his time Glenmoriston has been pretty regularly supplied at the expense of the Royal Bounty Committee. Until 1811 the missionary preacher resided at Fort Augustus and had Abertariff and Glenmoriston under his charge. In that year the committee agreed to establish a separate mission in Glenmoriston and to pay a salary of £60 a year, the proprietor furnishing him with a place of meeting, a dwelling house and other allowances. He preached alternately at Invermoriston and in the upper part of the Glen in comfortable meeting houses in both places.

Both Gaelic and English were preached in the different places of worship. The people were regular in their attendance at divine services and the number of communicants in the mid 1800's in the established church was 108. (Population in 1811 - 689, 1821 - 608, 1831 - 559)

Glenmoriston continued as a separate mission until 1891 when it was elected into a Parish Quod Sacra. The old building was demolished in 1912 and a new church was built in 1913 (though it wasn't opened for worship until 1915) by Mrs Morrison of Grant of Glenmoriston family in memory of her husband. [Some of the construction documents were on view - Church construction cost - £2,796.8.1. Austrian Oak chairs cost 12/6 each handmade - 60 cost £37.10]

When the foundation stone was laid, when the church was finished or was first worshipped in is not clear in the available records. There were about 20 names on the communion role in 1925 with about 50 adherents. The first minister of the newly erected parish was the Rev. Archibald MacNeill 1881 - 1929 (38 years) then Ewan MacKenzie 1930 - 1934 (4 years), Archibald C. MacColl 1934 - 1939 (5 years), Duncan M. Turner 1939 - 1949 (10 years) and Peter Fraser 1949 - 1980 (31 years).

The first child baptised in the new church was the son of John and Ethel Grant, master tailor, Cuinacarn. The fifth child to be baptised was their daughter, Jessie on 14/09/1919.

The history of this church has come a full circle as far as its status is concerned. It was disjoined in 1891 and erected as Parish Quod Sacra. It now returns to be part of the united parish of Urquhart and Glenmoriston after 100 years. Glenmoriston District remains with approximately 100 families - the opportunities remain - the challenge is before us under God to sustain a witness to Jesus Christ in this place as part of a larger parish.

Pony Club

Another busy season has come to a close and a very successful one it has been too. We managed four reserve championships at Dornoch, Black Isle, Grantown and Lochaber with three different ponies which was very gratifying and at long last we achieved the elusive tricolour ! Tam collected the red, white and blue championship rosette at Grantown much to our delight. Mouse, the foal, rewarded us again with good wins especially at Black Isle where she very narrowly missed the 'Best Foal' award. We are really looking forward to showing her as a yearling next year.

With Sheila MacLellan having sold her two ponies and Hannah MacDonald's pony also up for sale, the equine population has been drastically cut from its high of a couple of years ago when there were at least 12 ponies in the Glen.

With winter fast approaching its time to look out the rugs, buy in the hay and gaze up at that red, white and blue rosette !

I went to Pony Club Camp for five days. It was good fun. It was at Dochfour. In my group were Fiona, Britt, Michelle, Jennifer and me.

We went into the water. There were lots of other ponies there. The ponies stayed in a big barn. It was very good fun. We were doing some jumping.

Katie Common

Historical

Washing Day - 1931 Style

It is a bright sunny morning in July 1931. I know it is going to be a wonderful day - for the children anyway.

It had been decided the previous evening that if the weather continued fine it would be "washing day at the river". I couldn't sleep. I was so excited. Oh, the joy of this simple outing ! Fully automatic washing machines and tumble dryers don't add magic to washing day !

After breakfast my grandmother, my mother, my aunt, my sisters and I make our way to the River Moriston laden with wooden wash tubs, zinc baths, a huge black pot and THE WASHING ! Our special outdoor laundry was under an old ash tree under which the grass was like velvet. Nearer the river my aunt, my sisters and I soon had a good fire going to boil the water in the big black pot. In no time Granny and mother were busy among the soap suds. The scent of the "soft-soap" used for washing blended with the wood smoke smell of the fire. The second pot of water would soon be ready.

Sometimes blankets were to be washed and the childrens services were required. We'd take off our socks and sandals and dance about in the tubs of warm soapy water, squeezing the blankets with our feet until granny said they were ready for the "second water" and finally for rinsing. We were really busy then carrying the baths full of soft river water back and fore to the busy ladies. The "whites" had to be bleached by spreading them on the grass or on near-by hazel bushes.

In all this activity we did make time for a break, usually when we were waiting for the pot to boil. The grown-ups had a cup of tea and we children had milk or Creamola Foam and a Rich-Tea or Abernethy biscuit.

We went home (about 200 yards) for dinner. How Granny and Mother produced a meal after all their hard work, I know not. The dishes washed, we were back at the river again, tidying up and raking out the fire. The "laundry" had to be left as we found it, beautiful, peaceful and litter-free !

J.S.B.

Loch Ness Gun Club

Loch Ness Gun Club hosted around 15 shoots this year including the Scottish DTL Championships. At this event Ann Marie Gunes and Martin Girvan were capped in the junior team - the first time for both of them - and had to prepare for the DTL International at Wales in July.

Club Secretary, Judi Smith, gained a place in the Ladies Team, Captain of the Ladies Team and also became Scottish Ladies DTL Champion. Again she had to travel to Wales where she also won the Scottish Ladies High Gun Trophy. The Junior and Ladies Teams were 3rd, the main team 4th.

At Olympic trench, Willie Lamont gained a place in the Scottish team. The International took place in Kippen, near Stirling, where the Scots won.



Local Success

B.P. Thistle Awards - Athletics

During the summer term, the upper primary school pupils of Dulchreichard were involved in the B.P. Thistle Awards Scheme.

This is where children, and adults, attempt to gain as many points as they can in individual track and field athletic events. The younger you are, the less points you need to gain an award.

The awards come at four levels:-

- BLUE** - where you require 5 or 6 events to reach your points target.
- BRONZE** - where you reach your target in 4 events.
- SILVER** - where you reach your target in 3 events.
- GOLD** - the top level, where you attain your personal total in only 2 events - 1 track and 1 field.

The pupils of Dulchreichard who were successful in achieving Thistle Awards were as follows:-

Stephen Smith - gained 2 **SILVER** Awards
(80m, 100m, 200m, LJ, HJ & Standing Long Jump)

Darren McEwan - gained 1 **SILVER** Award
(100m, Shot Putt & Standing Long Jump)

Anne MacLellan - gained the top level, a **GOLD** Award as a result of her performance in the High Jump in the Interschool sports in May 1992

Congratulations to these pupils and hopefully next year will see more Certificates and Awards for the school.

Julie Wilson.

Local News

CONGRATULATIONS to Alexander and Sharon Harris
(Ballintombuie) who got married on
15th August in Wigan.

CONGRATULATIONS to Russell and Dawn Webster (Redburn)
who got married on 14th August in
Cleveland.

CONGRATULATIONS to George and Julia Wilson (nee Grant)
who got married in Inverness on 26th
September.

WELCOME to Mr and Mrs Jones who have moved into
No.4 Torgoyle Crescent, Dalchreichart.

GOODDBYE to Tommy, Eileen, Kachael and Ami Gibson
who had a brier stay in Bhlaraidh whilst
their house was being built in Fort
Augustus.

WHIST will resume on 7th October in the
Glenmoriston Arms Tavern at 7.30pm.
Everyone is welcome whether you can play
or not - its a fun night out !

CONGRATULATIONS to Michelle Webster, Fiona Norton
Michelle McLeod, Anne MacLellan,
Katie Common, Amy Bisset, Cassie McEwan,
Nicola Curley, Isla Bisset and Vickie
Common who all passed their dance exams in
Highland, Ballet, Stage and Tap which they
took back in September.
All are members of Mrs Everett's School
of Dance in Fort Augustus.

Redburn



Schöller ice cream

available in 5 litre tubs

10 different flavours

offered at wholesale price

ring 40215 for details