

For Moriston Matters



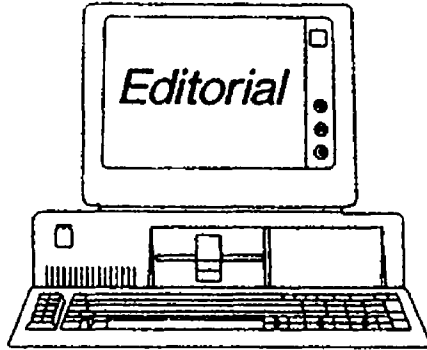
Winter 92



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

No 40

30p



HAPPY NEW YEAR !!

1993 has come in raging with snows, blizzards, gales and floods, the worst for a good few years. Lets hope the weather calms down soon. It was quite an effort to get into production for this issue of the magazine after all the festivities. However once a start is made, it's not so bad.

I can't wait until the last traces of snow disappear so that we can see the first signs of the aconites, crocuses and snowdrops. The garden has been bleak for what seems such a long time that it will be such a welcome sight to see some spring colour return.

I received another letter from our regular contributor, Mrs Baxter in Aberdeen. Upon reading the article about the History of the Church in the Autumn 1992 issue, she informed me that she had been baptised by the Rev. MacNeil in 1919 and married by the Rev. Turner in 1948. It is nice to hear follow ups to the stories that feature in the magazine.

Everyone was saddened by the deaths of two of the Glen's oldest residents, Donald MacDonald of Achnaconeran and Norman Harris of Balintombuie, Dalchreichart. Our sympathies go to both families.

The next issue is due out in April so please send your articles to;

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Obituary

Donald MacDonald, Achnaconeran, died at Raigmore Hospital on the 17th January. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. The large number who attended his funeral service in the Abbey Church and who stood at the graveside at Invermoriston is a measure of his popularity. Many friends gathered from far and near to pay their last respects.

Donald was born at Achnaconeran 85 years ago, the youngest of a large family. He spent most of his life there on the family croft which has been a family home for many generations. There, might be found a true Highland welcome and real old fashioned Highland Hospitality. A better neighbour would be hard to find. Donald also worked with the Forestry Commission, an occupation which dovetailed with crofting to everybodys' benefit from the early twenties until recent "rationalisation".

When "Donly Mysie" was born there, there were a dozen families living at Achnaconeran. At least four were Donald MacDonalds, so to distinguish them, a nickname was necessary. Granny's name was Maisie. Others were the Hamishes, the Archies and the Drovers. At Invermoriston at that time were Dannie Bahn, Dannie the Pier and later Dan the Bobby, all Donald MacDonald. Donly was the last survivor of these.

Donald was a quiet unassuming highland gentleman but many will remember his quiet humour and ready hospitality at his home 'up the hill'. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Cathie and family, Christine, Patty, Alastair and Brian. Also to his sisters, Bella and Teenie and to his grandchildren.

The sum of over £200 was collected at the funeral in aid of Cancer Research.

P.M.D.

Childrens Committee

The run up to Christmas is always a busy time. First off, we held our annual bonfire and fireworks display. Luckily the weather held out apart from the strong wind. There was a good turnout and everybody, apart from a few little ones, enjoyed the tremendous fireworks display. Our thanks to all those who helped.

The next fundraising event was the Ceilidh. Although the attendance was very poor, the entertainment certainly wasn't ! The school children sang a collection of songs, Mrs Everett's dancers performed their highland flings and sword dances, Ann McArthur from Fort Augustus delighted everybody with her lovely voice and guitar playing, Mr. Macfarland gave us a great selection of tunes on the bagpipes and John Grant who kept the dancing going inbetween times. We are very grateful to all performers and all those who gave up their time to help.

Following on closely on the Ceilidh's heels came the ever popular Sale of Work and Auction. All the usual stalls and attractions were there although, this year, Santa was too busy to attend.

The Prize Winners were as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Salmon - Nancy McLeod | Guess the no. of sweets - |
| Coal - Katie Common | Irene Brownlee |
| Selection Box - R. Clark, F.A. | |
| Champagne - Freddie Brownlee | |
| Hamper - Alison MacIntosh | |
| Sherry - Darren McEwan | Guess weight of Xmas Pud - |
| Wine - Sheila MacLellan | Jackie MacKenzie |
| Pictures - Allan Common | |
| Biscuits - Geoff Mudditt | |
| Shortbread - Nancy McLeod | Nessie's Prize - |
| Coal - M. Girvan | Simon MacLellan |
| Shortbread - Vickie Common | |
| Wine - Sarah MacKenzie | |
| Wine - Jim Anderson | Bottle of Malt Whisky - |
| Wine - Geoff Mudditt | Leonard Grant |
| Teddy - Jackie MacKenzie | Glasses - Les Webster, F.A. |

Many thanks to Alistair MacIntosh for his expert auctioneering (I'm sure he must have been one in a previous life !) and to everybody else who lent a hand on the night. Approximately £320 was raised.

Finally came the children's party and teenagers outing. The majority of the children attended the party and had a great time with plenty of games and goodies to eat and drink (thanks to all parents who provided). Simon MacLellan made an excellent job of the games (not an easy task !) and who, along with the more energetic adults present, entertained the children very well. Luckily Santa was able to make a quick visit to the party and had parcels for all. Also, upon digging deep into the pockets of his red coat, he came across some chocolate coins which were much appreciated by both children and parents (although the latter might have preferred the real McCoy at that time of year !).

Thanks to the Marine Harvest for the use of the generator, Allan Common for the Christmas tree and everybody else involved.

The teenagers had their visit to the cinema in Inverness. 19 went, taken in various vehicles. Our thanks go to all drivers.

So that brings the years activities to a close and the committee can breath a huge sigh of relief !!

Obituary

Norman Harris died peacefully at Raigmore Hospital on Sunday 31st January aged 90. Mr Harris moved to Balintombuie, Dalchreichart in 1968 with his wife Joesephine who died in 1989. He, along with his son, Grant, founded Balintombuie Deer Farm. He was also responsible for the formation of the Dalchreichart T.V. Club.

He is survived by his sister Kay, 96, who lives in Edinburgh, and by his sons, Anthony and Grant, and their families, to whom we extend our sincere condolences.

Club News

SEWING FOR PLEASURE

Since October last year a group of ladies from the 'Glen' have been meeting on Tuesday evenings in Dulchreichard School producing items of sewing and embroidery for Christmas presents, also pictures in tapestry and cross-stitch, personal cards for all occasions in cross-stitch and enjoying themselves in exchanging ideas, tips and also encouraging the beginners in this type of hobby.

If any other ladies are interested in this and would like to come along, a welcome awaits you there, whether you are an expert or beginner. This session started on Tuesday 19th January and will go on for another 10 weeks. Please phone Isobel Anthony (40227) if you feel you would like to join our merry band. (Fee is £1 per night which includes a cuppa !)

BADMINTON

The Badminton Club resumed play after the Xmas break. Anyone wanting a game, whether beginner or expert, should go along to the hall every Tuesday evening at 8.00pm.

WHIST

The 1992 session ended with its usual flourish. The raffle was enormous with too many winners by far to mention but the points winners were: 1st Alec Grant, 2nd Nan Grant, and 3rd Lesley Common. Alf Timcke had the distinction of not only holding the record for the highest score but also for the lowest score as well ! Everybody went home with a prize and a great time was had by all. Our grateful thanks as always to Alan and Betty Draper for their hospitality. We have now moved up to the residents lounge in the Hotel for our regular Wednesday night sessions and are very comfortable so why not come along and join us.

TV Club

At a packed meeting of the Club held in the schoolhouse on the 16th November last, the chairman (Allan Common) told members that there was an opportunity to enjoy really good television reception. But it would cost !

The Engineer, (Norman MacLeod), advised that the present aerial system was ageing, and would have to be replaced at a minimum cost of £1,000 simply to maintain the existing poor quality picture. The Committee decided, therefore, to ask a firm who specializes in installing professional equipment similar to that which the BBC uses, for a quote. For around £6,500, they said, they could guarantee satellite standard reception throughout, and even beyond, the current catchment area.

Members were told that this would amount to a contribution of around £50 per household; any new households brought in as a result of extending the catchment area would be invited to suscribe the £50 joining fee in line with existing members.

The Treasurer (Grant Harris) pointed out that until now the expenses of the club, mainly insurance and electricity charges, had been met from income arising from the accumulated balances emanating from the existing members' £50 contribution. In future, an annual subscription may be necessary.

The meeting agreed by a large majority to go ahead with the proposal, subject to the Committee carrying out further research and putting the case to another general meeting of the members.

Since that meeting, the Secretary (Peter Giddy) has visited and consulted with the Treasurer of a similar group to ours (at Balquidder) which has had a new system installed by the same firm, and confirms that reception is superb. He also learned that each member in that group needed a new household aerial, which cost £50.

The present situation is that the Committee is awaiting reponse to the grants applications to various bodies before calling the next meeting.

The way it was !

MEMO TO ALL THOSE BORN BEFORE 1940

WE ARE SURVIVORS

- CONSIDER THE CHANGES WE HAVE WITNESSED:

We were born before television, before penicillin, before polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic contact lenses, frisbees and the Pill.

We were born before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams, and ball point pens. Before panty hose, dish washers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners drip dry clothes and before men walked on the moon.

We got married first, and then lived together - how quaint can you be ?

In our time wardrobes were for clothes, not for housing bank managers. Bunnies were small rabbits and Beetles were not Volkswagons. Designer Jeans were scheming girls named Jean or Jeanne, and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along well with our parents and relations.

We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent, and outer space was the back row of the local Cinema.

We were before house husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and commuter marriages. We were before day care centres, group therapy and nursing homes. We had never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yoghurt, yuppies and guys wearing earrings. For us, time sharing meant togetherness - not computers or condominiums, a chip meant something to eat, "hardware" meant hardware and "software" wasn't even a word.

In 1940 "Made in Japan" meant junk and the term "making out" referred to how you did in your exams. Pizzas, Macdonalds and instant coffee were unheard of.

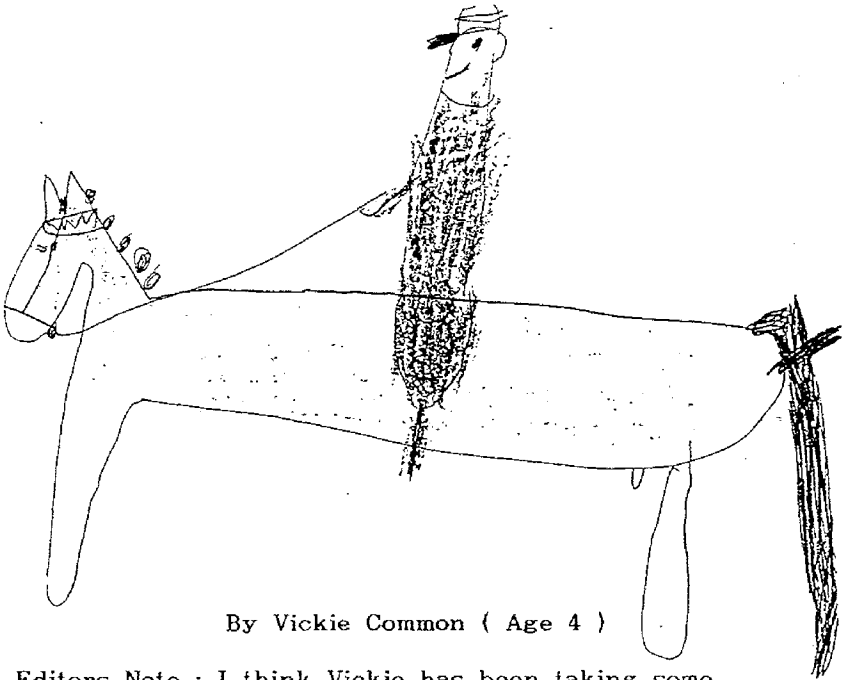
In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, Grass was mowed, Coke was fuel and Pot was something you cooked in. Rock music was a Grandma's lullaby and AIDS were helpers in the Boss's office.

We hit the scene when Woolworths was a sixpenny store where you bought things for pennies and "threepenny bits". For a penny you could ride home on a tram, make a 'phone call, buy a Nestles chocolate bar or enough stamps to post a letter or two postcards. You could buy a new Ford for less than a hundred pounds and could afford to run it for an annual tax of £10, and petrol at a mere few pence a gallon. (What's this stuff called diesel ?)

We were certainly not before the difference between the sexes was discovered but we were surely before the sex change; we made do with what we had. We were the last generation that was so dumb as to think you needed a husband to have a baby.

No wonder we are confused and there is a generation gap today.

BUT WE SURVIVED - What better reason to celebrate ?



Editors Note : I think Vickie has been taking some Anatomy lessons !!

Bird Talk

One of the more pleasant features of cold winter weather is that more birds are attracted to the garden to look for food put out by us humans. Have you noticed how, as soon as a bag of peanuts is hung, a half dozen or more greenfinches find it, whereas minutes before there wasn't a bird in sight ?

Another visitor seen much more frequently during this cold weather is the Dunnock. He's been seen scavenging beneath the birch tree, picking up seeds dropped from the feeder above; he doesn't seem to mind a human presence at the window watching him.

Then the Robin, commonly assumed to be very tame and one of man's best friends. But in Dundreggan he is very shy indeed; at least, in our garden he seems to be the most timid visitor to the bird table, darting only when it's not too crowded, and when no humans are present.

The Coal Tit, on the other hand is the tamest of all, at least at this time of year. I have actually been replenishing the food at the bird table when a Coal Tit has come up and almost taken food from my hand. Great Tits, too, have snatched food from within inches of my boot while I've been stocking their larder up above. All the Tits are great acrobats, swinging with the wind on a string of monkey nuts to extract the kernels.

One very common British bird, but not often seen hereabouts, is the Blackbird. One did come when the snow lay thick on the ground, but he only stayed long enough just to pick up a scrap or two.

Perhaps the most numerous bird around here is the Chaffinch - or do there seem more of them because they are gregarious, and almost always seen in groups of a dozen or more ? They, too, are very agile and quite adept at searching out titbits.

P. Giddy. Redwing Cottage, Redburn.

Editor's Note - (Perhaps I have 'stolen' Peter's Robin
as there is always one in attendance when
I am working at the stable at Redburn !)

Saltire award in Glenmoriston



A new house in Glenmoriston has won a coveted 1992 Saltire Society Housing Design Commendation.

Lodge House, Balnacarn, Dalchreichart took an award in a new category introduced this year - Category C, New Housing in Rural Areas.

The section has been introduced to highlight the problem created by indiscriminate developments out of keeping with their environment.

The owners of the pagoda-like building, Mr & Mrs Duncan Poore, had wanted to develop a guest suite with garaging and other accommodation. The result was their award winning home.

"The guest wing" says the Saltire Society, "with its pyramidal form echoes the traditional Victorian deer larder. In the opinion of the panel, it provides an exciting and compact suite for guests, which takes full advantage of this beautiful site with its views across the River Moriston."

The 1992 Saltire Society's Housing Design Awards relate to work completed last year, and the total number of entries this year was 62 - approximately 7% down on the previous years. The new category attracted 14 entries.

Local News

CONGRATULATIONS to Davy and Claire McEwan on the birth of their son, Joe Michael on 14th October 1992. He weighed in at a healthy 7lbs 8oz and took only 29 minutes to make his appearance !! Darren, Cassie and Kerri are delighted with their new little brother.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mattieu and Jean Curley on the safe arrival of their daughter Sian Margaret (pronounced Shan) on 10th November 1992. She weighed 7lbs 12oz and is a lovely little sister for Nicola and Michael.

GOOD LUCK to Lou and June Curzon who took over Glenmoriston Village Shop at the back end of last year. Locals will remember Reg, Lou's brother, who served the Glen as Postie for a number of years.

WELCOME to Mike and Cathy Toms who have bought the Stevens' house at Redburn, originally owned by Kit Tomlin. For the meantime it will be used as a holiday home but they do have plans to make it their permanent home.

WELL DONE to the dancers of Glenmoriston who, along with the other members of Mrs Everett's School of Dance in Fort Augustus, managed to raise approx £200 by holding a sponsored disco in aid of funds for the forthcoming pantomime "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" which will take place in April. Those taking part were Vickie Common, Katie Common, Michelle McLeod, Anne MacLellan, Fiona Norton and Michelle Webster.

Glenmoriston Church of Scotland has been sold to Mr. Veitch. Although living in Ayrshire, he has ties with this area; his sister is the district nurse in Invergarry.