

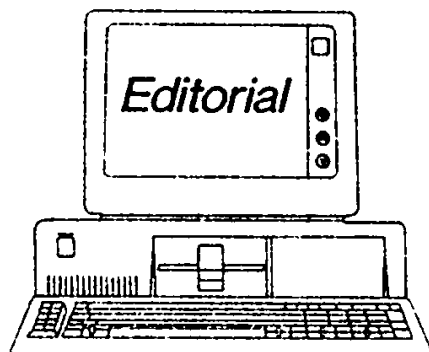
Foriston
Matters  ***Winter 93***



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

No 44

35p



Obituaries

MRS CATHY MACDONALD died at her home in Achnaconeran after a long illness only six months after her husband Donald. She lived most of her life there, where she brought up her family in the good old tradition of highland hospitality. Achnaconeran may seem a remote little community but many people found their way there over the years and she will be sadly missed by many friends.

THE REV. PETER FRASER M.A. B.D. died peacefully at his home in Kiltarlity in his 80th year. He was parish minister in Glenmoriston from 1949 till he retired in 1979. After his retirement he continued to take an active interest in Glenmoriston matters.

He was educated in Culburnie, Beaully and Inverness Royal Academy and after graduating from Edinburgh University ministered in Edinburgh and in Ghana before coming to Glenmoriston where he presided over a very busy and rapidly changing community.

In the early 50s he became County Councillor for Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston where he took a special interest in education. On the reorganisation of local government he joined the District Council where his remit was Housing. After retiring to his native Kiltarlity he took over as district councillor for Kiltarlity and Kirkhill.

The Reverend Peter, as he was popularly known, served the people of Glenmoriston and the surrounding area for more than thirty years, not only as parish minister and councillor but as a good friend, counsellor and comforter to all. His many friends will commiserate with Mrs. Fraser, Helen and William. He will be sadly missed.

A very happy and prosperous 1994 to you all !!

This issue is tinged with sadness as we reflect on the life of one of the magazines most talented contributors; The Rev. Peter Fraser. As you will all probably be aware Peter Fraser died at the end of 1993. His poetry was always so full of feeling and insight, sometimes humorous, sometimes sad but always a joy to read and no issue was complete without some words from him. We had plenty of material to choose from and hopefully you will enjoy what we have chosen.

We, along with the rest of the Glen, extend our sympathy to Mrs Fraser and her family.

One article missing from the magazine this time is a report on the Old Folks treat. This is purely because there hasn't been one ! Since Alistair MacIntosh and Jerry Johnston intimated last year that they could no longer organise the event, nobody has taken up the challenge. There is some money available but not enough so come on somebody - pick up the gauntlet and give our senior citizens something to look forward to. If anyone is interested then please contact Christine MacDonald (51202)

If you have anything you would like others to know about then please send it to:

**The Editor, The Old Well,
Dalchreichart, Glenmoriston,
Inverness-shire. IV3 6YJ.
Tel. 0320 40205.**

Childrens Committee

The run up to Christmas is always a busy time for the Childrens Committee. It started off with the Annual Fireworks display, Bonfire and Barbeque held at Riverside Park. The firework display and bonfire, as in previous years, was tremendous - The barbeque, as in previous years, was a disaster !! The gas barbeque, very kindly lent to us by Mr T. Girvan, Ceannacroc wasn't working to it's full capacity even with the pre-cooking of the burgers. Eventually we had to get another barbeque and were able to satisfy some appetites but we lost a lot of business unfortunately. The ingredients of the burgers, which were very kindly donated, was kept a closely guarded secret which we found out later was a very good plan. One young lady was heard to remark that not even wild horses would get her to eat venison - eugh horrible stuff !! Little did she know that the burger upon which she was happily munching was indeed made from that 'horrible stuff' !! She did later concede that the burgers were actually very good (once you eventually got one !!) Our thanks to all the bonfire builders, to those who let off the fireworks, manned the barbeque and loaned us their equipment. We also managed to take in £45 in donations which was gratefully received.

The Sale of Work was next. It was very well attended with quite a few 'new faces' from in and around the Glen which was nice. We had all the usual stalls plus some new ones and our Grand Auction which was very successful. Our thanks go to all who helped out behind the scenes and a special thank you to Alistair MacIntosh for his auctioneering. (There's a job for him at the Mart on a Tuesday when he retires !!) We managed to raise in excess of £450 which was great.

In December the younger children (birth to primary 6) had their party in the village hall. It proved to be an eventful one with a water pipe burst and a power cut ! However the kids thought it was great playing pass the parcel by candlelight !! Santa paid them a visit and had a parcel for everybody. He arrived by police car having been found weaving in and out of the white lines in the middle of the road after a particularly liquid lunch at the Hotel !!.....(only joking !!)

Our grateful thanks go to him, all the parents for supplying the food, Simon and Christina for organising the games, Davy McEwan for fixing the burst and Peter Stoddart for fixing the lights !!

The elder children, primary 7 upwards, were taken to the pictures to see either Aladdin or the Adams Family Values. They were then treated to their supper in the chip shop! Our thanks to those who donated transport and kept an eye on the troops.

It wasn't an easy year for our much depleted committee but between Claire and myself we managed to cope (I think !!) My thanks go to her for her dedication. I hope this year we will get a little more support from other parents in the Glen.

Lastly we have to thank the Whist Club for their very kind donation of £100 which was a great boost to our funds.

L.C.

CHILDMINDER
(Registered)
Short or Long Term
Claire McEwan
Tel: 0320 51305

Local News

Before the close of the last school term the children of Dulchreichard school gave us a smashing performance of 'The Snowman's Christmas' in Glenmoriston Village Hall. These 11 children who, apart from three, are all under seven, did extremely well. There was a violin recital from Caroline Kennedy and her teacher Mrs Campbell. There were readings from the 'Christmas Story' and some lovely singing. Our thanks to all concerned for a very enjoyable afternoon.

Pat MacDonald was presented with his retirement gifts from the Community to mark his 40 years in the School Taxi Service. Claire McEwan was presented with a flower arrangement for her unenviable task of fundraising with Webb Ivory !! There was then a huge raffle for funds for the school. The prizes were mostly donated by parents and members of staff and over £100 was raised. There was also a collection taken for Dr. Barnardo's. It was very pleasing to see such a good turnout of parents and friends despite the appalling weather.

Thank You

Pat MacDonald wishes to thank everybody who contributed to his presentation. The picture occupies pride of place in my living room. Donella's flowers still flourish but the Macallan unfortunately seems to have evaporated. I hope to buy something more permanent with the extra money to remind us of your kindness, support, forbearance and help when problems arose. Special thanks also to my drivers who helped me maintain an accident free record through good roads and bad. Thanks also to the children - from those who have long left school to those who performed so well on the day.

TV Club

Early December saw strange happenings around Dalchreichart as the TV Club's new Receiving and Re-transmission equipment was installed. Part of the scheme was for members to have new aerials and their TV equipment tuned to the new channel frequencies that were to be used.

It was a difficult exercise to co-ordinate and members were very accomodating in assisting the Aerial Scan staff to complete the installation.

The results show a great improvement of picture quality on all four channels. There is however one ongoing problem of interference. It is not quite as bad as the worst level of before but when it occurs it is naturally irritating to the members who have invested a hundred pounds each for the new system.

The interference problem requires the source to be identified and then corrective action to be taken. The atrocious weather we have had since the installation has prevented the tracking down of the interference source. This will be done as soon as we have favourable weather conditions. The action to remove the interference can then be taken.

The Inverness Courier published an article about the new system and with it the photograph below showing

Rebecca MacDonald, Grant Harris (left) and club chairman Allan Common (right) and two of Aerial Scan's staff.



Tribute to Rev. Peter Fraser

MAN AND FROST

YOU.....FROST

So pinch all my extremities.
You pinch my ears
And freeze my toes
Nip all my fingers
Redden the point of my nose;
My feet you sometimes turn to stones
And chill the very marrow of my bones.
You take vengeance on all my new inventions
And interfere with all my good intentions.

You so absorb my time
You and your glinty rime.

Do you remember how you took Ben Loyne
And made it into a huge iceberg,
Flashing your icy darts at Mitchell's men
And drove them streaming down the Glen
For refuge in Buckie, Banff or Keith
And other spots to still their chattering teeth,
Their plans and pipes a broken mass behind;
Others their lodgings in the Glen to find
In frail human homes - like match boxes
Against the mighty snowy Hills ?

What if you were to win against those limbs,
To freeze them hard and then to lay them low !
The sun anew would rise and shine and glow
And chase you headlong from the lovely scene
To splash the Glen again with Gold and Green,
And thanks to Him who made both me and You
Where hills are purple and the Sky is blue.

I shall be with the SUN.

(P.F. - Moriston Matters No. 11 February 1979)

Tribute to Rev. Peter Fraser

WHEN JAMES SET OFF INTO THE WORLD

I pass by Fort Augustus
Where the mountains rise around,
The Loch lies deep and still below,
The wavelets scarcely sound,
The green trees clothe the lower slopes,
They rise straight and serene,
The ever-changing cloud-flecked sky
Arches the beauteous scene;

The cattle graze upon the plain
Whiling away each hour
Chimed forth in sunshine as in rain
From Abbey's hoary tower:
I pass by Inchnacardoch Road
And think, "I've time to spare";
I slaken speed and turn my head,
Then know -- he isn't there.

I need to know he happy goes
Upon his destined way;
I need to know that for him flows
Life that will ever stay.
If he takes his, I'll take my road
And from it will not shirk,
For God will help to bear the load
We carry in his work.

(P.F. - M.M: No.7 June 1978 - For all parents)

Thanksgiving and Confession

For us all, of course, "The End of an Era" means the beginning of a new lap of the Road. Let us bring to it the best and highest that we can and it will prepare us for the next, and so on. The nearer we live to the Best One we know, the nearer we shall be drawn to each other. Many of our troubles begin with misunderstanding through lack of time, fairly, to see the other point of view. Here is the Confession part of this article. The Best One I know has bidden me say "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." We are right to have dreams and hopes. If in any way at any time these have been spoiled by us, please forgive. Someone has said that every good thought you have ever had can be brought to its fulfilment.

Tribute to Rev. Peter Fraser

Thankfully remembering and not forgetting any good thing, let us allow ourselves to be braced for the new days.

Go, lean upon the work,
The work you have to do;
For God is in the work,
And God loves YOU !

May his blessing be with you all for ever.

An extract from Peter Fraser's farewell article for the magazine No. 19 June 1980 after his retirement.

The following was part of a tribute paid by J.D. Michael, Glenurquhart which appeared in magazine No. 18 April 1980.

REV. PETER FRASER, M.A., B.D.

Fanellan, Culburnie, Beauly, Inverness, Edinburgh reads almost like a fairy tale. A contemporary at school described him as a guileless lad, who never quarrelled and tried to see the good in everyone. A remarkable tribute. He had a habit of being kind to those, for whom Christ died, who were less fortunate than others in society; one of the reasons he befriended Africans who were not as acceptable as some in Edinburgh in the thirties. Glenmoriston in 1949, when Peter and Margaret with William and Helen (James was to join the family the following year) arrived there, was in the throes of both Hydro-electric and Forestry development and Peter was not only Parish minister, but chaplain to the work force - over 800 - under the Rev. John MacIntyre, the first Industrial Chaplain appointed by the Church of Scotland. Peter as resident in the Glen was instrumental in such integration as was possible between the Glen and the workers. Engineers now scattered all over the world, who had worked on the Cluanie and Loyne Dams, the Dundreggan Dam or the Levishie scheme, still ask about the Rev. Peter. He was the friend of all - A true and faithful servant of his master.

J.D.M.(Glenurquhart)

Poets Corner

At Burns nights much attention is focused on the haggis but what about its inseparable partner - the turnip ? Lochinvar, another poet, has decided to remedy this matter.

TAE A NEEP

Fair fu' your honest, sauncy face
The haggis may take pride o' place,
But ne'er a word is said in praise
O' its poor neighbour.
That sits ignored on a' the plates
Unsung, unfavoured.

Sad neep that never merits mention,
Though no' from any ill intention.
Just treated like a mere extension
O' any dish.
But for that slight let's seek redemption,
For that's the wish.

Some say you're only fit for cattle,
Enough to put you on your mettle
But rise, old friend, in fighting fettle,
To stake your claim.
Let them hear your sabre rattle,
For place in fame.

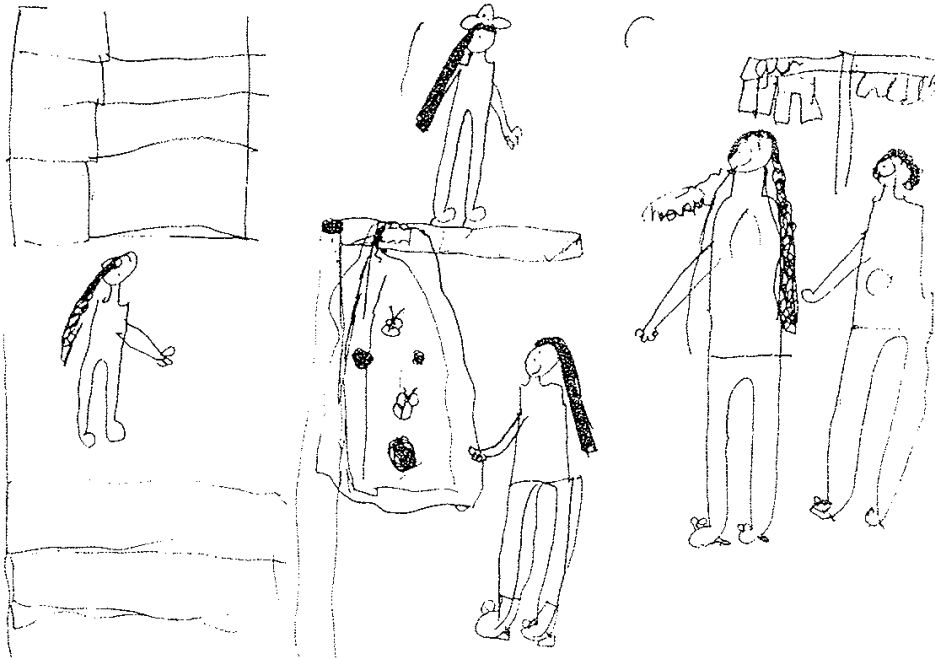
'tis true despite your shrivelled skin,
When peeled you are pure gold within,
And worthy to be kith and kin,
To finest fare.
So if some scoff and cause chagrin,
Let them beware.

Yet there's a moral in these lines,
'tis not the looks or form devine,
That will stand the test o' time,
But honest heart.
For in this field you are sublime.
You stand apart.

(This poem appeared in the Scottish Farmer magazine and seemed quite appropriate for this time of year !)

Dulchreichard School

EMBARASSING MOMENTS



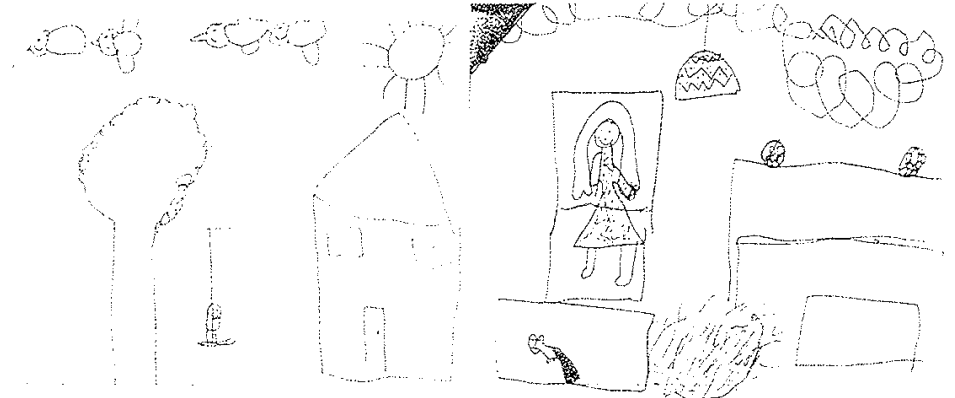
One night when I was shopping in Littlewoods I was embarrassed when a lady saw me looking at ladies clothes. I was looking for a skirt for Mummy. The lady went away. I felt embarrassed because I thought the lady was laughing behind my back.

Amy Bisset P.3

I was embarrassed when my skirt flew up in the town! I was very embarrassed when it happened. It was a black silk skirt. My favourite dress. I was just going into Mothercare when it happened. I was going into Mothercare to buy Vickie her present. It was some pyjamas with morning on them. They were blue and white. A lot of people were watching me which made me even more embarrassed. I shall never forget that moment.

Katie Common P.4

Dulchreichard School



When I was swinging on the swing the wood snapped and I was embarrassed.

Simon MacLellan P.2

I was embarrassed when I sat on Daddys chair instead

of the table chair

Vickie Common P.3



I thought I was going to sit on Daddys chair but I sat on the table chair and everyone laughed.

It was embarrassing because I sat on someones knee and everyone laughed.

Castle Brown P.5

School News

Highland News Group, week ending December 11, 1995

Schools in focus extra!



Back to school! For those who enjoyed our ever-popular photo series spotlighting the Primary 1 classes at local schools, here's a bonus — two more pictures from locations we were unable to cover during our feature earlier this term. Above are pupils in Primary 1 at Kilchuimen, Fort Augustus, and below are youngsters from Dulchreichard in Glenmoriston.



Back to School !!

Above are pupils in Primary 1 at Kilchuimen, Fort Augustus. Can you spot Emma MacDonald, Emma Turner and Rebecca Draper? Below are youngsters at Dulchreichard Primary school. Unfortunately when the photo was taken the Kennedy sisters, Caroline and Kerry (Primary 1) were absent so Duncan Greer stood out at the front to be the only pupil in Dulchreichard.

Local News

The usual War memorial service at Invermoriston was conducted by Mr. J. Selfridge. A service afterwards was held in the Glenmoriston Arms Hotel thanks to the hospitality of Mr. Alan Draper. An interesting feature was the laying of a wreath on behalf of his nephew who lives in Dorset, in memory of Duncan MacDonald who was killed in action in 1918. The Rev. Peter Fraser continuing his interest in the Glen used to take this service for many years after his retirement.

The Whist Club finished in December with its usual end-of-season flourish. We had a good turnout and there was Christmas cake and prizes galore. We were able to donate £100 to the Childrens Committee. All the players would like to express their thanks to Alan and Betty Draper for having us and putting up with our sometimes rowdy behaviour !!

Unfortunately, due to my dancing commitments, I am unable to continue running the weekly nights of card sharpening but thankfully Grace Marshall and Nan Grant have offered to take over where I left off so I hope you will continue to give them the same support as you gave me. I thoroughly enjoyed my 'years in office' and hopefully when my social calendar has a gap in it I shall pay a return visit !!

FIREWOOD



FOR
SALE



Blocked or Split Allan Common

Tel: 0320 40205

Local News

- INVERMORISTON T.V. CLUB A.G.M.** - to be held in the Glenmoriston Arms Hotel on Monday 31st January when it is hoped to elect a new committee and discuss the possibility of improving the system.
- WHIST CLUB** - Every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm in the Hotel. All welcome, players or not.
- SEWING CLUB** - Every Monday evening at 7.30pm in Dulchreichard School. Tel Isobel Anthony (40227) for details.
- BADMINTON** - Every Tuesday at 8.00pm in the Hall. All Standards of players are welcome.
- QUIZ NIGHT** - Every Thursday at 9.00pm in the Tavern. Either come along yourself and join a team or bring a team of four.
- CONGRATULATIONS** to the dancers of the Everett School of Dance who passed their exams in December. They were Kerri MacEwan, Isla Bisset, Nicola Curley, Cassie MacEwan, Amy Bisset, Anne MacLellan and Michelle Webster.
- BEST WISHES** to Alistair MacIntosh as he continues on his road to recovery after his accident and time in hospital. We would also like to wish both him and Alison all the best for his retirement in February. It will be the Glens loss when they move to their house in Inverness.
- CONGRATULATIONS** to Jennifer MacDonald (18) who, along with fellow student, Valerie, reached the regional final of the Nestle Foodservice catering competition. They then had to compete against 3 other colleges in Glasgow for a place in the grand final in London in March. Unfortunately Motherwell scooped the honours this time but it was highly commendable and good experience for Jen and Val. Both girls are catering students at Inverness College.