

Moriston
Matters



Spring 94



*A Community newsletter
serving the Residents & Visitors
of Invermoriston and Glenmoriston*

No 45

35p

Editorial

Can this be spring at last ??

Or is it just a brief respite from the winter which started last October ??

What a long winter it has been - according to one local resident, apparently the longest one he can recall, when it comes to feeding animals.

However, despite all the rain, sleet, snow and cold winds, there is some evidence of growth which in itself is a remedy for winter depression. It is amazing what the sun does for morale. I was in the local garden centre recently and it was fairly buzzing with anticipation of the new seasons gardening.

Work has also started on the new crop of houses at Invermoriston. It's interesting to see the changes each time you pass by. What a hive of industry our little community is.

Six figure telephone numbers have arrived and a 40 mph speed limit between Riverside Park and the Hotel but no pavement at Dalchreichart or car park at Invermoriston as yet but we wait with baited breath.....

I am very glad to see that the senior citizens eventually got their party - See report further on.

If spring has injected any enthusiasm into your pen then please send the results to:

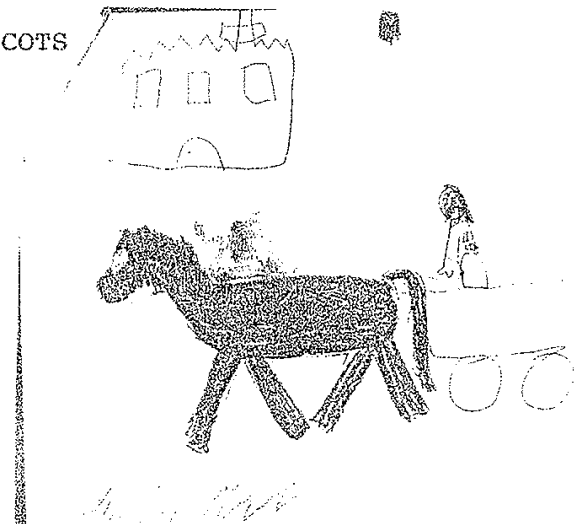
The Editor, The Old Well,
Dalchreichart, Glenmoriston,
Inverness-shire, IV3 6YJ.
Tel: 0320 340205.

!! STOP PRESS !!

We have just learnt of the death of Mrs Margaret Fraser, wife of the late Rev. Peter Fraser, and we extend our sympathy to her family and friends. A tribute to her life and good works will appear in a further issue.

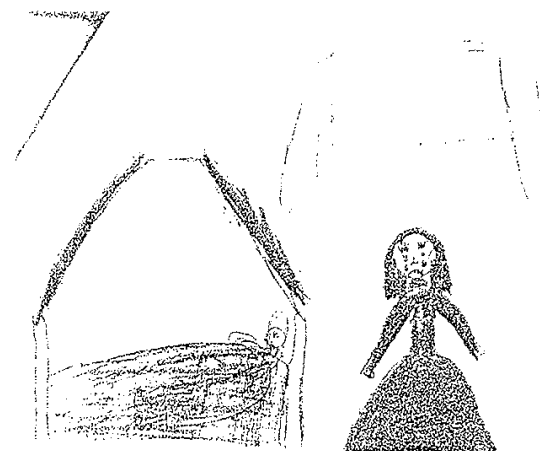
Dalchreichard School

MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS



Mary travelled around her country to see her people in Scotland and she was happy.

Vickie Common P.2



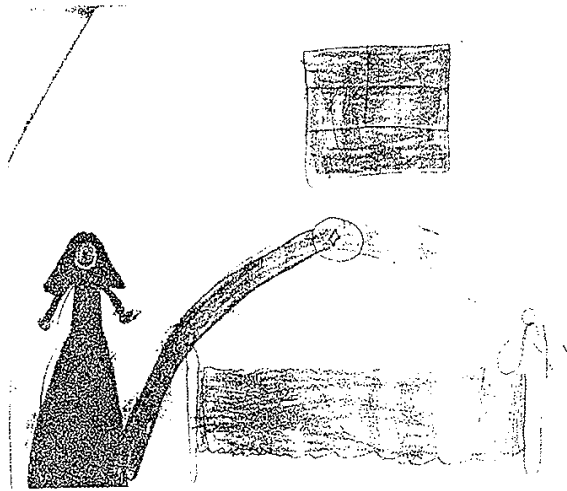
Mary was very very sad when her mother died. When Mary was in France she was very happy because there were children to play with.

Cassie McEwan P.2

Dulchreichard School

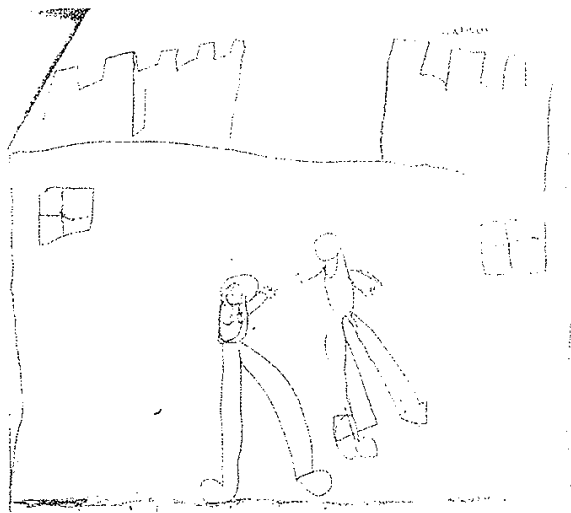
All of a sudden all of them heard a bang. It was a bomb and Henry Darnley was killed.

Nicola Curley P.2



David Rizzio got murdered because people were jealous. They did not want David Rizzio to be the Queen's friend.

Simon MacLellan P.2



Historical Glen

See how many of these old scottish words you recognise - many are still in frequent use today.

AIBLINS: perhaps	JIMP: short, slender
ANEUCH: enough	KEEK: glance, peep
BAULD: brave, impetuous	LAITIS: manners
BAWD: a hare	LEUCH: laugh
BIDE: remain, dwell	LOUP: leap
BOB: dance	MANTIE: a cloak
BOGILL: a ghost	MAUN: must
BRICHT: bright	MINNIE: mother
BUSKIT: clothed	MUCKLE: big, much
CADDIE: servant lad, ragamuffin	NEB: a nose
CALLAN: a boy, a lad	PEESWEEP: a lapwing
CANTY: merry, contented	PHRASE: a fuss
CLEEK: hook	PUDDOCK: a frog
CUIT: an ankle	QUEAN: a girl
DAFFIN: dallying	QUHAIR: where
DAUR: dare	QUINE: a girl
DICHT: wipe	RAFFEL: doeskin
DORTY: sulky, haughty	RANT: a reel, a revel
DOWFF: dull	REDD: clean up
DOWIE: dejected	SCUNNER: aversion, hate
DRINGING: monotonous	SHIRRA: sheriff
DROUTHY: dry, thirsty	SIC: such
ETTLIE: attempt	SILLER: silver, money
FAIN: glad	SKIRL: shriek, scream
FAN: when	SODGER: soldier
FASH: worry, trouble	SONSY: plump
FRAISE: fuss	SOOPLE: supple
FUTTRAT: weasel	STOOKS: sheaves of corn
GIE: give	TAE: to
HELLICATE: wild, rambustious	UNCO: strange
HINMOST: final, hindmost	WAD: would
HYNE: to a distance	WAE: sad
ILK: each, every	WHAUP: a curlew
JALOUSE: imagine, suspect	WIMPLE: ripple

Whist Club

Attendance has been good at the whist club, which finished for the season at the end of March with the usual prize giving and raffle and we have been able to donate £50 to the Old Folks Committee.

In particular the players wish to thank Betty and Alan Draper for their kind hospitality and Jerry, their barman, who makes a rare cup of tea !

Sadly we miss Lesley Common and also Alison and Alistair MacIntosh, to whom we wish a long and happy retirement, (Alistair and Alison that is, not Lesley !!) and we appeal for new members who will be warmly welcomed in the Autumn. Television can't compete with the great atmosphere and entertainment at our Wednesday evening whists - Do come !

Grace Marshall

(I would like to say a big thank you to everybody for their good wishes and the M & S voucher that I was given. It's nice to be missed !! - Lesley)

Summer Bedding Plants
For borders, containers and
hanging baskets, available soon

Marigold, Calendula, Cornflower,
Pansy, Nasturtium, Livingstone Daisy
Cineraria, Nemesis, Godetia and others

Lesley Common
'The Old Well'
Dalchreichart
Glenmoriston
0320 340205



Local News

Back in March the senior citizens of Invermoriston and Glenmoriston were treated to their annual party, albeit rather later than usual. Around 25 of our "old folks" attended along with some of the slightly younger members of the community. Guests included Father Andrew and Mr Allan from the Free Church in Drumnadrochit. Alistair and Alison MacIntosh came out of retirement in Inverness for the occasion which was nice !! After a lovely meal in the hotel the revellers were entertained by John Grant with his accordian, Shona Robertson with her lovely voice, Derek Macfarland with his pipes and Donald MacIntosh with his humour and his song. I'm sure everyone that was there would like to extend a big thank you to Alan and Betty Draper for their hospitality, to Christine MacDonald and Anne Girvan for their organisation and to all those who made donations. A fun night was had by all !!

Pony Club

Its been a long and hard winter for the ponies and it's still not over. This time last year they were shedding their winter coats like mad. Understandably this year they are considerably loathe to let go of their winter woollies !!

Katie and her pony, Sammy, were due to attend Easter Camp with the pony club during the holidays but he went lame and so she had to use Vickie's pony who wasn't too terribly impressed with it all !! He never was very keen on hard work !! However Katie enjoyed herself which was far more important.

Both girls are looking forward to the first show at the end of May.

Poets Corner

THE MOOSIE'S PRAYER

A pare wee kirk moose a' forlorn
It's furry coat fair sairly worn
Sank doon upon it's bony knees
And prayed - for just a wee bit cheese.

The tears ran doon it's wee thin cheeks
But nane could hear the saddest squeaks
That drifted on the cauld night air
Till whiles it couldnae pray nae mair.

Syne daylight cam. the kirk bells rang
The doors swung open wi' a bang
Communion Day had come oan by
Wi' wine and plates o' breed piled high.

The wee moose lay as still as daith
And watched it a' wi' baited braith
Then thocht - if I keep awfu' quate
A bit might just fa' aff a plate.

And so it gazed as roond they went
Then jist as tho 'twas heaven sent
Whit landed richt upon its heed
But twa lumps o' communion breed!

The staff o' life lay on the flair
In answer tae the moosie's prayer
While in her pew, wee Granny Broon
Had spied the twa' bits drappin doon.

Thocht she - that breed looks awfu' dry
So, coupit ower some wine forbye
Wee moosie darted oot fair quick
And sooked it up in yae big lick.

It fairly stoated up the aisle
Wearin' sic a boozy smile
Tho' breed's no cheese, thought oor wee boozer
A beggar cannae be a chooser!

The folk stopped signin', fair aghast
Tae see a drunken moose walk past
A lump o' breed clamped in its paws
The ither jammed atween its jaws.

The organist fell off his chair
The meenister could only stare
Tae see this drunken, sinfu' moose
Cavortin' in his sacred hoose.

At last it staggered up the nave
Then turned - giel sic a happy wave
"I ken noo when it's time tae pray
I'll dae it on Communion Day"!!

M. MacArthur.

This poem who sent in by Betty Common who saw it in her church magazine in Grangemouth. It had appeared in a slightly different form in a previous Scots magazine.

Crossroads

The A.G.M. was held in the Telford Centre on the 21st February 1994. The new committee for the year 94/95 is as follows:-

Dr. Farmer	(President)
Nurse M. MacDonald	(Secretary)
Mrs M. Ferguson	(Treasurer)
Miss M. Veitch	
Dr. Weldon	
Mrs Donaldson	

Anyone wishing to contact "Crossroads" can do so at Fort Augustus 366216 (Surgery) or

Mrs S. Lay
Breaklet House
Ballachullish
Argyll
PA39 4JG
Tel. 08552-201

I wish to thank everyone in Glenmoriston for their support during 1993 and for the fundraising of £370 from this area.
Isobel Anthony

Historical Glen

The Witches of Ceannacroc Bridge

Once upon a time when the second King Charles was on the throne a poor tailor was making his way on foot from Inverness to Kintail. In those days when trade was slack at home tailors would travel from the towns to look for work in the country.

Our tailor had been walking all day and as evening came on he found himself at Ceannacroc in Glenmoriston. He was weary and footsore and his pack felt heavier at every step. He stopped at the bridge to lay down his pack. At the end of the bridge was a small cottage and he decided to seek shelter there for the night. He went up to the doorway and a very old woman came in answer to his call. She said he was welcome to pass the night with her and her two sisters and to share their meagre fare. They gave him brose and milk and he went to his bed which was at one end of the cottage. At the foot of the bed was an old fashioned wooden box. The tailor was very tired and no sooner had he lain down than he was asleep. In the middle of the night he heard a sound at the box and saw one of the old women take something out of it and go away. Before he had time to wonder what she was doing one of the others came in quietly and went through the same performance. When the third one had done the same and gone out with something in her hand he decided to find out what they were up to. He rose and crept after the third sister and saw her standing beside the glowing embers of the peat fire in the middle of the cottage holding a red woollen bonnet. In those days Highland cottages had no fireplaces or chimneys and the smoke just went up through a hole in the thatched roof.

The old woman then placed the bonnet on her head, raised her arm and said in a clear voice, "OFF TO LONDON" and disappeared up the smoke hole.

The tailor found he was alone in the cottage. He went back to the wooden box and found there was one red bonnet there. He took it out, went back to the fire and put it on his head. He hesitated for a minute or two then raised his arm and said boldly, "OFF TO LONDON"

He found himself in a large cellar containing more bottles of wine than he knew existed. And who should be there, quaffing wine, but the three sisters. They seemed in no way surprised to see him and invited him to join in their carousel. They told him that this was St. James Palace and that the King kept the best cellar in London. It must have been near dawn when the sisters, one after another, donned their bonnets, cried "BACK TO GLENMORISTON" and vanished. The tailor was by this time enjoying himself thoroughly and decided to crack a last bottle before following their example. He had not finished it when he heard the sound of marching feet and a corporal and three other soldiers burst in on him and arrested him. He was charged with breaking into the royal palace and stealing the King's wine. When he told them how he got there he was charged with witchcraft as well. Not long after he was tried, convicted and condemned to death.

Early one morning he was taken from prison to Tyburn to be hanged. When the noose was placed around his neck the officer in charge asked him if he had anything to confess to the priest. "No", answered the tailor. The officer then asked him if he had any last request to make. The tailor suddenly thought of the bonnet. "Yes", he said, "I have an old red bonnet which I would like to wear for the last time". His request was granted and no sooner had it touched his head than he cried "BACK TO GLENMORISTON", and before the eyes of the bloodthirsty London crowd he vanished into thin air.

And there he found himself, sitting on the parapet of Ceannacroc bridge on a fine summer morning at about two minutes past eight, with a piece of rope round his neck and his pack beside him. He saw smoke rising from the sisters' cottage but decided not to renew his acquaintance with them. And so, shouldering his pack, he stepped out for Kintail.

I have not heard this story for a number of years but I have tried to set it down as I remember it. A similar story is also told about a carpenter in Kintail. He started off looking for a piece of wood for a particular purpose and ended up with a suitable piece from the scaffold.

John T. Barron.

The pupils at Dulchreichard School have recently been investigating "Living in Tudor Times" as their project. Here is some of their work.

KING HENRY VIII

King Henry had six wives. The first wife was Catherine of Aragon. The other wives were Anne Boleyn, Jane Seymour, Anne of Cleves, Katherine Howard and Catherine Parr. Henry was 18 when he became king. His hobbies were hunting, horse-riding and music. He also liked sailing. The people thought he was going to be a good king but he turned out to be a horrible person. He divorced or beheaded most of his wives. And he wasn't a very good king. There is a rhyme: divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived. He died in 1547. Catherine Parr lived on after he died.

Katie Common P.5

Katherine Howard died because Henry didn't like her and she wasn't a good wife.

Kirsteen Smith P.2



Amy Bissett P.3

Tribute to Rev. Peter Fraser

Where two or three are gathered together

Just over twenty years ago I attended the smallest church service I shall probably ever attend. It was a glorious afternoon, one of those still, warm summer Sundays, one remembers as part of one's youth. The West Highland hills were that lovely purple/green colour, peculiar to heather not quite in full bloom. The church was the tiny classroom of the old school at Dalchreichart. The pews were desks and the minister, the late Rev. Peter Fraser, had travelled from Invermoriston. What had brought us there ? - thirteen people from different walks of life, the kilted laird, a teenage couple in holiday clothes, a city girl with way-out hair style and green eye shadow. Was it the music ? There was none, except thirteen unaccompanied human voices not always on key singing with sincerity Psalm 121, "I to the hills will lift mine eyes". Was it the weather which sometimes drives a bored holidaymaker into church for an hours shelter ? No, it couldn't be, for it was a glorious day. Was it a well known television preacher ? No, the minister hadn't been made famous on the television screen. Every age in man's seven ages was represented. Different stratas of society were there, from the landed gentleman to the folk who still managed to wrest a living in the Glen.

I will try to answer my own questions. So much is said of a general drift away from God and religion but I feel that we were all in that shabby old school to hear a simple sincere man who had a message for the "two or three who had gathered together in His Name".

J.S.B.

A service is still held in Dulchreichard School on the first Sunday of the month at 3 o'clock and a Sunday School is run concurrently. Everybody is welcome.

Local Quiz

The annual quiz, previously run by the Fort Augustus/Glenmoriston Community Council was passed over to the "Friends of the Telford Centre" to organize. The first round matches were held on 28th February and the final rounds played to a finish on 7th March. Current holders of the trophy, the Glenmoriston team, represented by Simon MacLelland, Ann Harris, Jim and Margaret Anderson, started as one of the favourites. They battled through to the semi-finals before falling. Tommy Girvan and Pat MacDonald were in the Community Council team which also reached the semi-final. The Invermoriston team of Christine Whitehead, Susan Cowan, Mairi Dymond and Dennis Gell unfortunately went out in the first round. This years winner was the Glenurquhart Community Association team who overcame the Fort Augustus Lunch Club in the final. The ties were played at the Telford centre and the event was voted a success, which was a relief to yours truly, as I had the job of organizing the questions and shared the duties of quizmaster with Hamish MacDonald. Some rumblings of discontent were heard for the more difficult questions, however what is hard for one person can be easy to the next and vice-versa. Next year let's hope a team from the Glen can capture the trophy from Glenurquhart.

Ken Anthony

1st Round

British Legion	9	v	F.A. Community Council	12
Boleskine Bowling	18	v	Invermoriston	13
Playgroup 'A'	9	v	Glenurquhart Comm. Assoc.	18
Glenurquhart Bowling	11	v	Telford Centre	16
Playgroup 'B'	13	v	Glenmoriston	14
Glenurquhart Girls	12	v	Fort Augustus W.R.I.	13
Police	10	v	Fort Augustus Lunch Club	18

BYE : Fort Augustus Caravan Park

2nd Round

Community Council	16	v	Boleskine Bowling Club	15
Glenurquhart Comm. A	18	v	Telford Centre	17
Glenmoriston	19	v	Fort Augustus W.R.I.	18
Fort Aug. Lunch Club	24	v	F.A. Caravan Park	11

Semi-Finals

Community Council	12	v	Glenurquhart Comm. Ass.	21
Glenmoriston	15	v	F.A. Lunch Club	18

Final

Glenurquhart Comm. Ass.	22	v	F.A. Lunch Club	20
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Dulchreichard School

DATE : 8th February 1587

This is a sad day. The stunning Mary Queen of Scots has been executed. It was an ever so sad event but there was a very strange thing. The beheader took two blows to cut off Mary's head. It was a beautiful morning but this act of cruelty spoilt this lovely day for the whole of the country of Scotland. Before the beheading, Mary bid a fond and sad farewell to her servants. A blind fold was tied round Mary's eyes as she placed her head upon the block. There was a great gasp from the crowd as Mary's head fell to the floor. The beheader held it up and said, "and shall perish all traitors". She wore a red undergarment so the blood would not show. When they came to collect her dead body they found her little highland terrier up her skirts.

Caroline Kennedy P.6



Local News

- GLENMORISTON GALA DAY - To be held on Saturday 13th August.
- FOOTBALL TRAINING - In Kilchuimin School, Fort Augustus on Fridays at 5.30pm beginning 15th April. This is open for boys and girls from Primary 1 to 7.
- QUIZ NIGHT - Every Thursday at 9.00pm in the Tavern. Either come along yourself and join a team or bring a team of four.
- BADMINTON - Every Tuesday at 8.00pm in the Hall. All standards of player welcome.
- SEWING CLUB - Every Monday evening at 7.30pm in Dulchreichard School.

BEST WISHES to Dr. Tennant in his retirement and also to his replacement, Dr. Rachael Weldon.

WELCOME to Vince and Diane Tait and their children, Vincent and Vanessa who have come to stay at Levishe. Vince, who has taken over as headkeeper from Alistair MacIntosh who retired at the end of February, must be settling in well as he caught one of the first salmon of the season off the Moriston.

INVERMORISTON TV CLUB - Office Bearers;
Chairman : Alan Draper
Vice-Chairman : Pat MacDonald
Secretary/Treasurer : Andrew Cruickshank
Committee : Ken Craft
 Dave McEwan
 Lou Curzon
 Margaret Allen
 Mr. MacKaskill

We offer our sympathy to Derek and June Macfarland, Redpark on the very sad death of her mother recently. Our thoughts are with you both.