

***Foriston***  
***Matters***  ***Autumn 94***



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

*No 47*

*35p*



What glorious Autumn weather (although when I look out of the window at this precise moment it is coming down cats and dogs !!) but it has been lovely, especially for the childrens autumn tattie-picking holiday. I don't suppose many of the children around here realise that was the original intention of a holiday at this time of year. I can remember the thrill of actually earning some money of my very own albeit for some jolly hard work but it was worth it. However those hard earned wages never seemed to last very long in your pocket !!

The caption competition in the last issue didn't encourage large volumes of entries - quite the reverse - absolutely none !! So I am awarding the prize to myself for my own very amusing captions ( Well, I laughed !! )

We had quite a good response to our subscription offer in the last issue, about 40 replies. Anyone wishing to take out a yearly subscription please send two pounds along with your name and address to the Editor and we will guarantee to deliver to your home the next four issues of Moriston Matters.

Please, please keep your stories, pictures and reports coming in as, without you, we would have no magazine. You can also fax your articles to us now at the same number.

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

## Church News

This evening my wife and I were watching the TV serial, 'The World at War'. The feature of this particular programme was the terrible loss of life and destruction of the Allied sea/supply lines caused largely by the German submarines ( the deadly 'U-Boats' )

What struck me was the vast number of strong, young men who died in their hundreds each time a ship went down. These men were sons, husbands, fathers, sweethearts from communities like ours - as the monuments show. One is tempted to think what an absolute and utter waste of precious lives. But then, if these men had not been doing their job - being where they were supposed to - the war would not likely have been won. And our lives and situations could well have been quite different. These men were ordinary folk like us, but determined and somehow galvanised into courageous and sacrificial service, which often meant that they lay down their lives.

"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."

In a sense that is true of those who died for their country. But it is supremely true of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who lay down his life for us in our sin and rebellion, so that we might be set free from sin's destroying power to become true children of the living God.

REMEMBER, LEST WE FORGET!

Remembrance Day Service will be held on Sunday 13th November at 10.55am at the Glenmoriston Memorial, followed by a short worship in the Glenmoriston Arms Hotel, conducted by the Rev. Jack Selfridge. Also, a monthly worship service is held the first Sunday of each month at 3pm in Dulchreichard School. Sunday School runs concurrently.

Please come ! You are most welcome !

F. B. Buell, Minister for Urquhart  
& Glenmoriston Church of Scotland, Drumnadrochit.

# Childrens Committee

On Saturday 1st October Glenmoriston Children's Committee held a sponsored bike ride in aid of funds for the children's Christmas activities. Normally our fundraising would have taken the form of a sale of work and auction but Dulchreichard Primary school board had held one just a few weeks earlier and so we decided that two Sales in such a short space of time would have been stretching peoples pockets and goodwill just a little bit too far !

The idea of a bike ride came from our much overworked secretary, Claire McEwan, who was often to be seen pedalling furiously DOWN the Glen. With little or no organisation 22 riders gathered at Cluanie Dam on a damp and drizzly Autumn morning eagerly awaiting the off. Groups of four or five were set off at a time but gradually everybody settled down at their own pace.

Riders ranged from kids in their early teens to Pat McDonald in his very late teens !! Full marks go to him for his effort. Hopefully his achievement will encourage others in future years. Bikes varied from the top of the range mountain bikes complete with umpteen gears, state of the art gel saddles and road tyres to an antique Triumph bike which Granny Grant used to ride, complete with no gears and no fancy bits !! It just goes to show that they made things to last in those days !! Oblivious to all the abuse and jeering that the old bike received, it, along with its rider, appeared at the finish with dignity, somewhat slower than everybody else but that was only because they were keeping Pat company !! (honest). Next year that black bike will be up with the best of them, you wait and see !!

Davy McEwan opted to drive the lead car and Ian Common brought up the rear, ready with the whip for any flagging cyclists !! Shona Robertson was at the ready with the first aid kit and kiss of life for anyone who needed it ( Luckily for Shona nobody did !! ) and, along with her mum and Janet Robertson, kept everybody going with energy-producing glucose sweets. The riders were all well supported at various stages of the journey and were very nearly joined by Ewan Grant on his quad bike !!

On arrival at Invermoriston, some 17 miles later, the exhausted cyclists were revived by hot soup and rolls ( and, in a few cases, a stiff dram !! ) very kindly provided by the hotel ( the soup not the dram !! )

At the last count we have managed to raise a magnificent sum in excess of 800 and we are indebted to all the riders, their sponsors, to Davy, Ian and Shona, to the Hotel and to anyone else who helped to make this our most successful fundraising effort ever.

Riders and times were as follows:-

Henry Cruickshank, Invermoriston	- 51 Minutes
Stevie Gilchrist, Fort Augustus	- 1 hr 01 Minutes
Simon MacLellan, Glenmoriston	- 1 hr 01 Minutes
Graham MacLellan, Glenmoriston	- 1 hr 03 Minutes
Paul Draper, Invermoriston	- 1 hr 04 Minutes
Archie MacLellan, Glenmoriston	- 1 hr 07 Minutes
Darren McEwan, Invermoriston	- 1 hr 09 Minutes
Steven Smith, Glenmoriston	- 1 hr 09 Minutes
Claire McEwan, Invermoriston	- 1 hr 10 Minutes
Bill Robertson, Invermoriston	- 1 hr 16 Minutes
Christopher Steele, Invermoriston	- 1 hr 17 Minutes
Anne MacLellan, Glenmoriston	- 1 hr 18 Minutes
David Bevan, Invermoriston	- 1 hr 18 Minutes
Calum Grant, Glenmoriston	- 1 hr 24 Minutes
Michelle Webster, Glenmoriston	- 1 hr 24 Minutes
Christine Whitehead, Invermoriston	- 1 hr 24 Minutes
Mhari Dymond, Invermoriston	- 1 hr 24 Minutes
Gemma McLeod, Fort Augustus	- 1 hr 26 Minutes
Tony Saunders, Fort Augustus	- 1 hr 43 Minutes
Jim Anderson, Glenmoriston	- 1 hr 43 Minutes
Lesley Common, Glenmoriston	- 1 hr 43 Minutes
Pat MacDonald, Invermoriston	- 1 hr 46 Minutes

# Childrens Committee

Saturday November 5th dawned wet and miserable and we all feared the worst. However, by mid-morning it had cleared up sufficiently to allow the bonfire-building squad of Ian, Allan and Lesley Common, Billy Greer and Willie Archibald, ably assisted by Errol and Claire Levings from the chalet park, to set about their task.

Our thanks go to them for their help.

By night-fall the rain had stopped and the remaining dampness did nothing to deter at least 100 bonfire-goers. They all ( give or take a few of the very wee ones ! ) enjoyed a spectacular display of fireworks and were well warmed by the searing heat from the bonfire. Thanks to Allan and Ian again for their pyrotechnic performance !!

Thankfully this year we had no technical hitches with the barbeque. We reverted back to ye olde barbeque, fashioned in the dim and distant past by Alistair MacIntosh and Norman McLeod, and it was just great. No gas getting frozen, no blockages, no barbeques falling over, just well cooked, great tasting veni-burgers ( shame about the onions !! Stand upwind of anyone who came into contact with even a single one !!) The hot-dogs, tea, hot-chocolate, crisps and soft drinks went down a treat too.

Towards the end of the evening when the crowd was thinning and the long-suffering catering staff were getting bleary-eyed from the smoke and wanting to down their tongs and pack up their charcoal, an enterprising young man was heard to enquire if the burgers were now going for a song ?

"Yes", was the reply, "We're giving them away free now "

"Ah well, in that case", said the young man, "I'll have two !! "

Needless to say the young lady who last year was conned into thinking she was sinking her teeth into a lovely juicy BEEF burger and not a venison-couldn't-possibly-eat-the-stuff-burger, didn't come this year !! Perhaps it was just all too much for her last year !!

Our thanks go to all the helpers who sliced rolls, prised cheese slices apart, dished out the severe wind-inducing onions ( enough to power a windmill farm for a week !! ) and eagerly accepted the money. Although this was not a fundraising event we managed to take in approx 100 which included donations. Thank you to Christina for going round with the donation box. We are also indebted to Martin Girvan for the use of his trailer for storage and for the transport to and from the gun club of the rubbish bins and the barbeque.

All in all the evening was a great success and, although we cannot compete with the likes of the display in Inverness, I think we did ourselves proud. We even had a few visitors from as far afield as Fort William !! Word must be getting around !!

# Dulchreichard School

Dulchreichard Primary School board held a very successful sale of work back in September. All the usual stalls were there and there was a good turnout of parents, friends and local residents. There was a huge raffle with far too many prize winners to list here but the other lucky recipients of prizes were:

Treasure Hunt : Graham Taylor and Steven Smith  
Guess the Sweets : Bill Robertson  
Guess the no. of cake cases : Shona Robertson  
Pick-a-Card : Whisky - Maureen Webster  
: Chocolates - Patti MacDonald

The School Board would like to express their thanks to all those who donated raffle prizes, to those who donated items for the stalls and to all those who helped on the night. A total of approximately £400 was raised.

# Historical Glen

## The Roderick MacKenzie Cairn

This cairn stands near to the confluence of the Doe with the Moriston, on the left hand side of the Invermoriston/Kyle road (A887) some 13 miles south west of the village of Invermoriston. It is about 9 foot high, but seems higher since it's situated on a little knoll. The cairn is approached by 5 firmly set concrete steps followed by two more of cemented pebbles which enable one to read the inscription on the stone slab set into the side without cranning one's neck too much.

AT THIS SPOT IN 1746 DIED RODERICK MACKENZIE, AN OFFICER IN THE ARMY OF PRINCE CHARLES EDWARD STUART OF THE SAME SIZE AND SIMILAR RESEMBLANCE TO HIS ROYAL PRINCE WHEN SURPRISED AND OVERPOWERED BY THE TROOPS OF THE DUKE OF CUMBERLAND. GALLANTLY DIED IN ATTEMPTING TO SAVE HIS FUGITIVE LEADER FROM FURTHER PURSUIT.

The cairn is mainly constructed in dry-stane fashion - and there have been many stones added over the years by tourists - but there has been an attempt in more recent times to render the construction more permanent by cementing the larger, more crucial stones into place. It has been on site no doubt since MacKenzie's death but has been constantly falling into disrepair, although saved from complete ruin through the efforts of local roadmen.

At present the memorial is technically the responsibility of the Forestry Commission since it stands right on the eastern corner of their Achlain block. This was purchased in 1950 and planted in 1952 - at which times and since, the Commission's workmen have tidied up the area around the cairn.

More major repairs to the cairn, including the improvement of access by the addition of steps, were carried out in the mid-fifties when the A887 was being improved by the contractors W.J. Watson Ltd. but the biggest and most important effort was made in 1967. The spark for this action seems to have been an American woman tourist of MacKenzie descent who visited Glenmoriston in 1966 and was appalled at the state of the cairn.

She wrote to the late Iain Cameron Taylor, historian to the National Trust for Scotland, offering to help financially in a scheme for restoration.

Mr Taylor was able to contact several interested parties and, with donations from the 1745 Association and the National Trust, a restoration programme was set in hand. Permission was obtained from the Forestry Commission and in March 1967, members of the Clan MacKenzie Association from Inverness opened the campaign with a reconnaissance trip. By the end of that month the task of rebuilding the cairn had been completed.

The grave lies on the other side of the road, near the river, and is reached by a little path. There is a little wooden cross at it's head with the legend R. M. - 1746. This cross has been replaced by Inverness Field Club.

It is interesting to note that Father Odo Blundell of Fort Augustus Abbey, writing in 1913 (in "Glen Albyn" - which he published anonymously in 1914 - printed by the Abbey Press) states that "quite recently a sword, doubtless MacKenzie's was dug up beside it (i.e. the cairn)"

The Clan MacKenzie Association maintain the balance of the subscribed monies as a Memorial Fund for further maintenance to the cairn.

Roderick MacKenzie is described as a young gentleman of a respectable family possibly related to the MacKenzies of Ardloch. He was brought up in Edinburgh where his father had a jeweller's business. Records suggest that he was apprenticed to a different craft and indeed he may not have finished his apprenticeship before the Jacobite army occupied Edinburgh in September 1745. MacKenzie volunteered and became an officer in Lord Elcho's Troop of the Prince's Life Guards. He was present at Culloden, taking part in the heroic covering action which permitted much of the right wing of the Jacobite army to retire in safety.

After Culloden MacKenzie took to the hills and lived on the run for 3 months, fearing to return to Edinburgh where his widowed mother and two sisters lived, because his presence might prejudice their lives.

## Childrens Committee

On Saturday 29th October Glenmoriston Children's Committee held a slightly premature Fancy Dress Hallowe'en Party. All, or very nearly all, of the children entered into the spirit of things and got dressed up. There were witches and devils and ghosts and goulies. There was an xmas present, a fairy, scarecrows and animals but the winners were:-

Best Hallowe'en Costume - Eva Turner  
1st Primary School - Katie Common : Scarecrow  
2nd Primary School - Kirsteen Smith : Indian Princess  
1st Pre-school - Iona Greer - Egyptian Mummy  
2nd Pre-school - Sian Curley - Minnie Mouse

However the main intention of this party was to gather in all the treasure that the children had been sponsored to collect. Quite a few of them had managed to obtain every item on the list and full marks to them !!

Each child was presented with a goody bag for his or her efforts. The pictures were then judged.

Prize winners were as follows:

Best "Witchy" Picture - Sarah Turner  
Best Pre-school Picture - Jonathon Draper : Crocodile  
Best Primary Pictures - Graham Turner: Football  
- Katie Common : Horse Riding

One of the items for collection on the primary school children's list was a vegetable that looked like an animal. There were some quite good ones of these and some very dubious ones too !!

Prize Winners were:

1st - Duncan Greer - A turnip elephant  
2nd - John Thomson - A potato hedgehog

After all the prizes had been given the children enjoyed ducking-for-apples, passing-the-parcel and eating-the-marshmallow-out-of-a-bowl-of-rice-krispies without-using-your-hands !! Tea was then served followed by more games and singing.

One tale has it that while on the run. MacKenzie, who knew about his physical similarity to the prince, showed himself several times to parties of Redcoats, counting on his fitness and agility to survive. Whatever happened, he was cornered and shot in Glenmoriston and with his dying breath told the soldiers, "You have killed your Prince!" The soldiers cut off his head and took it back to Fort Augustus to claim the reward of 30,000.

MacDonald of Kingsburgh, the future father-in-law of Flora MacDonald, who was then a prisoner at the Fort refused to identify the head of the Prince unless it was "alive and on his shoulders".

Another story is that the Jacobite prisoners at the Fort deliberately mislead the military authorities by falsely identifying the head and the head had to be taken to London before the trick was discovered. Whichever tale is true, the death of Roderick MacKenzie in the last days of July 1746 caused a slackening in the intensity of the military search for the fugitive Prince and provided an essential link in the chain of circumstances which allowed the Prince to escape.

(An extract from the article written by H. Fraser MacKenzie, Drumnadrochit, which appeared in the February 1981 edition of the magazine.)

## Sewing Club

The club re-started again in September with a dinner in the Glenmoriston Arms.

This being the 3rd season we have had we are pleased to see the numbers of members slowly growing.

The club meets every Monday night of the school year in Dulchreichard school at 7.30pm. By rights we really should start calling ourselves something else like the busy fingers club as we now have a few members who bring along knitting and some quilting has been known to have been done too. ! If you like to partake of sewing, knitting, embroidery or any other similar activities and would like some friendly chatter and exchange of ideas then do come along and join us.

Isobel Anthony

Our thanks go to our judges, Pat and Donella MacDonald, to all who helped and to all the children for dressing up.

An amount of 183 was raised by the sponsored treasure hunt which brings our grand total for the two fundraising events over the magic figure of 1000 !!

A great big thank you to everybody who made this possible.

## *Local Success*

Although Steven Smith, Dalchreichart, our local star athlete, was out of action for quite a few months this season he did manage to obtain some good results. His first event was Glenurquhart school sports back in June where he broke the school record for long jump with 5m 53cm. In the overall event he was the school champion. He also received a Certificate of Achievement in Physical Education which he was very pleased about.

In September he went to Birmingham with Inverness Harriers representing Scotland for the 2nd time. In the under 17 long jump he jumped 5m 24cm which took him into 5th place making him the fifth best long jumper in Britain for his age group.

He is now concentrating on keeping fit at home over the winter months before training in earnest begins in Inverness around March/April time.

As with so many sportsmen and women, Steven is beginning to find competing at national level is an expensive business. His travelling expenses to and from Inverness for training and his equipment costs are really mounting up and so he has been forced to look for a sponsor to enable him to further his sporting career. If anyone feels they would like to sponsor Steven and help him with his athletics then please get in contact with him on 0320 340277.

## *Glenmoriston S.W.R.I.*

After a lapse of a good few years, the Glenmoriston Scottish Women's Rural Institute was re-started in October. The response from the ladies of the Glen was very good and in November 2nd we elected a committee and the members put forward ideas for the monthly meetings which the committee will now try to follow through.

In December Ken Anthony will be giving us a slide show on some of the National Parks of America that we have visited. In January we hope to have a trip to either Moniack Winery or Balnain House with supper included. In February we hope Anne Robertson will come along and give us a talk and demonstration on aromatherapy.

If anything of the above interests you please come along and join us on the first Tuesday of the month. Watch for the poster at the village shop. You'll be made very welcome. The venue for the meetings is the Glenmoriston Arms Hotel. Mr & Mrs Draper have kindly allowed us the use of the residents lounge and make us a welcoming cup of tea or coffee which is very refreshing after all the talking that goes on. Our thanks to them for giving us such a comfortable venue for our meetings.

Isobel Anthony

## *Dulchreichard School*



The new pupils at Dulchreichard Primary School from left to right are Michael Curley, Vincent Tait and Stewart Atkins.

# Dulchreichard School

The subject of this terms project for primary 3 - 7 is "The Fifties"

## "HEADLINES FROM THE FIFTIES"

### ELVIS HAS HIS MARCHING ORDERS

Elvis Presley has been called up for his compulsory military service. The king of rock 'n' roll has had his hair cut short. He can no longer wear his pink jackets and eye make-up now that he is in the army. His fans will now just have to content themselves with his old records until he finishes his service.

Katie Common P.5

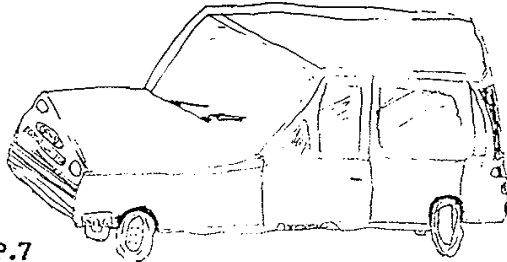


Caroline Kennedy

### BRITAINS NEWEST CAR

In Britain all the sellers are getting the mini. It is becoming to get more fashionable. It is called the baby car. It is good for young drivers and old drivers too. The price is very good. You will like it.

Graham Taylor P.7



### YOUNG PEOPLE RIDE SCOOTERS

All over the street theres scooters going on the road. Men and women ride scooters because they are cheaper than cars. They are also fun to ride and people get to work quicker than waiting for trams.

John Thomson P.4

PRESS AND JOURNAL 2/6/1953

### QUEEN CROWNED

On June 2nd 1953 a new queen was crowned. Elizabeth the daughter of King George VI and Queen Mother. Elizabeth was crowned a few hours ago at Westminster Abbey. There was street party and singing and dancing. What a happy day this is for Britain. At Westminster Abbey there were thousands of people waiting outside to salute their new Queen as she emerged smiling from that beautiful Abbey. Today our new Queen must be a bit sad, she must remember her father who died not so long ago. With the new Queen were her husband the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of Cornwall, her young daughter Princess Anne, the Queen Mother and her sister Princess Margaret. Later jet fighters of the RAF flew overhead to salute their newly crowned Queen. What a day this is for Britain.

Caroline Kennedy P.7

### EVERYBODY LOVES COCA-COLA - COCA-COLA FLOWS BRITAIN

In Britain people are beginning to go crazy about a new drink from American called coca-cola. It is a fizzy drink best served cold with ice. Restaurants and cafes everywhere are now serving it to customers. People always ask for it now preferring it to milk, tea and coffee. Even little ones like coca-cola.

Cassie McEwan P.3



Katie Common P.5



Isla Bisset P.3



# Local News

**HAPPY RETIREMENT** to Donella MacDonald after 20 years of teaching at Kilchuimen Academy, Fort Augustus.

**WELCOME** to Errol and Clare Levings who, along with their children, Peter, Alistair and Christopher, have come to live and run the Chalet Park in Invermoriston.

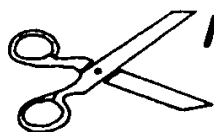
**WELCOME** at long last to Ian and Betty Common who have come to take up residence in their house in Dalchreichart.  
No more Commons please !!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Willie and Tricia Archibald, Riverside, on the birth of their first child, Stewart.

**SEWING CLUB** - Every Monday evening at 7.30pm in Dulchreichard Primary School. For more information contact Isobel Anthony Tel. 340227.

**QUIZ NIGHT** - Every Thursday evening at 9pm in the Tavern. Come on your own or bring a team of four. All welcome.

**WHIST CLUB** - Every Wednesday evening at 7.30 pm in the hotel's residents lounge. Beginners especially welcome.



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