

Invermoriston Matters



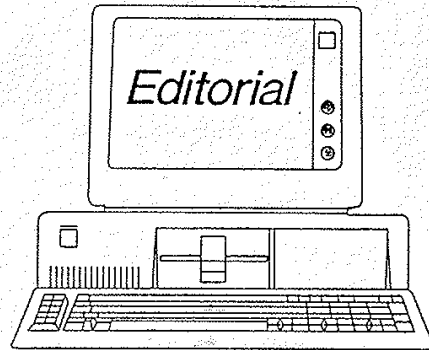
Winter 94



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

No 48

35p



A very happy and hopefully prosperous 1995 to you all !!

After a rather wet and dismal Christmas we were treated to a "white" New Year. It was lovely. The children (and some adults) managed to get in some serious sledging to get rid of the xmas pudding tum and the mince pie thigh !!

One wonders what 1995 will bring to the Glen. With no fewer than four new houses in construction, the village hall's future in the balance, the promise of a car park, the demise of two out of the three craft shops in the village, (Linda Nairn has opened a shop in Beauly and the Jones's next door have decided to call it a day with their craft shop) the hotel and the cafe at Redburn up for sale, it's all change.

Included in this edition is a recipe I found in a book which, even if you have no interest in fruit cakes whatsoever , it is worth a read anyway !!

If you have anything which you think is worth a read then please send or fax it to;

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

Letters to the Editor

I received a letter from probably our furthest away readers of the magazine who had a stay at the Old Manse in Invermoriston last year.

Dear Lesley,

Thank you very much for the copies of Moriston Matters. I received both the Summer and Autumn editions, enjoyed them thoroughly and passed them on to the other members of the family. We are all "homesick" for the Glen and all our friends in Invermoriston. The place touched our whole family very deeply. My husband, Nick, and I hope to come back again soon but first we have to make a trip to Canada to see our son, Woody and his wife, Patti. After six and a half years of marriage, their first child is due in March. You don't really have to count to know this child was conceived at the Old Manse !! Tell Katie we enjoyed her contribution to the "Moriston Matters" too.

Best Regards,

Ginny Webster, New Mexico, U.S.A.

Poets Corner

The following poem found in the Scots magazine may help to explain why I do what I do on a Friday and/or Saturday night !!

THE DANCING NIGHT

I'm driving through a howling gale,
Through icy roads and showers o' hail.
You might jalouse my arm I'm chancing,
Going fifty miles to country dancing.
But when the hall hoves into sight
And aa inside is warm and bright
Wi fiddle and piano dirling
And ilka dancer blithley birling,
When layers o' winter clothes we're shedding
As we form sets for "Mairi's wedding"
Or glide into "Kendoon Strathspey",
Or jig the cantie hours away
Uplifted by the music's beat,
Oor hearts as lightsome as oor feet
An faces wreathed in friendly smiles,
For nights like this - what's fifty miles ?

Glenmoriston S.W.R.I.

The "Rural" now meets on the first Tuesday in the month in the Glenmoriston Arms Hotel. The meetings held in October and November were very well attended and we managed to get together a committee and also put forward ideas for a syllabus for the rest of the session. In December Ken Anthony came along to give us a slide show on the National Parks of America. This was enjoyed by us all very much. It gave us some idea of the vastness and the variety of countryside that one can come across while visiting the "States". In January we will be having our "Xmas" dinner in the Hotel - what better place to have our annual dinner ! In February Anne Robertson from Fort Augustus will be demonstrating and telling us all about Aromatherapy. You will be very welcome to come along and join us each month. See you there !! Isobel Anthony.

Sewing for pleasure

The members of the club are still enjoying our evenings of busy needles. Yes, busy needles - we have some knitting and then there's cross-stitching or tapestry. The needles are all getting quite blunt with all the work they are doing. Come along, join us and see for yourself. If you can't do, or think you can't do the above that's no problem - we'll soon show you how it's done. Now, if any of you have hidden talents, how about coming along and joining us and maybe showing us some tips in your craft. Meetings are held every Monday night from 7.30pm - 9.30pm in Dulchreichard school. Come along and join our stitchable group !! Isobel Anthony.

Whist Club

The Whist Club meets every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm in the residents lounge of the Hotel. They are desperate for new members to come along and save the Club from the dreaded curse of the Glen - lack of support !

It is a fun night of cards, not taken at all seriously, with plenty of prizes to be won and friends to be made. All you have to bring is a pencil !

Local News

At the beginning of January the senior citizens of the Glen were treated to a superb meal and an evening of entertainment at the Hotel. Thirty four of our "old folk" were wined, dined and serenaded. The star line up included John Grant on the "box", Ann and Archie MacArthur from Fort Augustus with their guitars and fine voices, Isobel Service from Invergarry who sang some lovely Gaelic songs and Derek McFarland with the skirl o' the pipes ! A good turnout of not-quite-so-senior members of the community ensured a fine night was had by all !! A big thank-you to all the musicians, to the Hotel for their hospitality and to the organisers, Christine MacDonald and Anne Girvan.

Local Success

Congratulations to young Michael Curley (5), Bhlaraidh, who was a prize winner in one of the many competitions organised by the Inverness Libraries Children's Book Fortnight which attracted over 1000 entrants in Inverness district alone. The book fortnight is organised at libraries throughout Highland region as well as on the council's various mobile library services and is designed to encourage youngsters to read more books. Competitors also took part in drawing competitions, a snail colour-in and a nature quiz.

Dulchreichard School

The Dulchreichard Primary School's Christmas concert went very well. It was a big success. It had a big turnout and we raised £33 for the Highland Hospice. We started by telling the Christmas story with some new carols. After that we continued with our play "THE TOYS WHO DIDN'T LIKE CHRISTMAS". Afterwards when the play was over we all helped serve tea and biscuits. All the decorations were taken down and the tree was removed from the hall. The adults talked a lot and the school children helped take the chairs away and tidy up. At the end everyone left but everyone there had a good time.

Recipe Page

THE BEST FRUIT CAKE EVER !!

1 cup butter
1 cup sugar
4 large eggs
1 cup dried fruit
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp salt
1 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup nuts
1 or 2 quarts whisky

Before you start, sample the whisky to check for quality. Good isn't it ?

Now go ahead. Select a large mixing bowl, measuring cup etc.

Check the whisky again, as it must be just right. To be sure to be sure the whisky is of the highest quality, pour 1 level cup into a glass and drink it as fast as you can. Repeat.

With an electric mixer, beat 1 cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add 1 teaspoon of thugar and beat again.

Meanwhile make sure the whisky is of the finest quality. Cry another tup, open second quart if necessary.

Add 2 arge legs, 2 cups of fried druit and beat till high. If druit gets struck in beaters, just pry it loose with a drewscriver.

Sample the whisky again, checking for tonsicicity, then sift two cups of salt or anything, it doesn't really matter.

Sample the whisky again. Sift 1/2 pint of lemon juice. Fold in chopped butter and strained nuts. Add 1 babblespoon of brown thugar, or whatever colour you fancy, and mix well. Grease oven and turn cake pan to 350 F. Now pour whole mess into the coven and ake.

Check the whisky and go to bed !!

Who's Who

Taming a wild and windy hillside may not be everyone's idea of a good time but it is a task retired pipeline superintendant Ian Common has undertaken with great enthusiasm. After 29 busy years with BP Chemicals, Ian last year gave up responsibility for overseeing the 32 mile Mossmorran to Grangemouth ethane and ethylene pipelines and the Scottish section of the Wilton to Grangemouth pipeline.

Retirement brought no fears of empty days with nothing to do - his problem seems to be finding enough hours in his days for all he wants to do. These are no taking-it-easy chores but real sweat-on-the-brow labours of love. His major project is creating a garden out of the Dalchreichart hillside but also on his list of things to do are dry stone dyking, country dancing and caravanning.

The horticulture in the Highlands is a long term project which began before he hung up his hard hat. His parents retiring to Glenmoriston 26 years ago first introduced him to the place and having had holidays there on many occasions they felt it was a place they would like to retire to, the "they" being Ian and his wife Betty.

So a few years ago, when a piece of land near his mother's home became available Ian bought it. The ground had been the site of the old kennels on the estate so they demolished the kennels and built a house. However, choosing a name posed a bit of a problem.

The Gaelic for kennels translates as the dog house so they couldn't have that !! Before 1945 the hill was covered in alder trees so they decided to call the house "Cnoc Fearna", which means hill of alders.

However, it is not going to be all work and no play in retirement. Ian, who has danced at the last three Edinburgh Military Tattoos as a member of the East Stirlingshire branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, is planning to keep on his toes and has made contact with various groups in the area.

Who's Who

If Ian's luck over the last few months holds out he should be in for a very happy retirement. There was the Tattoo in July/August followed by a holiday in Turkey, they sold their house in Grangemouth quickly with the moving date they wanted and to round it off Ian won a car in the BP car draw in September. He puts it all down to the Turkish Aladdin lamp he bought on holiday !!

Happy Retirement !!

Editor's Note - If you know of anyone else who could be "introduced" (or even re-introduced for those of you who have been here for some time) into the community in the above way then please let your pen do the talking.

Sponsorship in the Glen

Locating and negotiating sponsorship for any activity is usually a difficult exercise fraught with frustration and disappointment, particularly in the current economic climate of cut-backs and tightly controlled budgets. The world of sport is no exception.

STEVEN SMITH has found himself exactly in this situation. With the ever increasing cost of kit for his track & field events and additional family commitments in their new home, Steven decided to try and get sponsorship from outside. I obtained the addresses of the major sports shoe manufacturers: Nike, Reebok, Adidas, etc and he wrote to these and local companies such as Morrison Construction.

However, this is where the frustration and disappointment sets in. Steven received no reply whatsoever from any of the shoe manufacturers and after a promising initial response, he was turned down by Morrisons at the final hurdle (pardon the pun !) the company board meeting.

Sponsorship in the Glen

I had already discussed the subject of Steven's sponsorship at some length with his mother, Christina and I offered that whatever kit or funds he was able to obtain (or not, as the case may be), I would make up the difference towards the cost of his expenses for 1995. Needless to say, I didn't reveal this to Steven until he had fully explored all the other options ! As we now know, I am his sole sponsor for the forthcoming season.

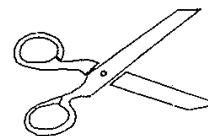
Over the past few years, as many of you will be aware, I have spent much of my leisure time staying with Geoff & Christina and family at Dalchreichart, a part of the world that I have quickly come to know and love. I was therefore keen to seize the opportunity of Steven's sponsorship for his sport as an expression of my gratitude and appreciation for their hospitality (and that of all their friends).

In September last year, I was pleased to be able to support Steven and his team from the Inverness Harriers at the MacDonald's Young Athlete's League Competition Finals at Birmingham. He did well in the long jump, despite being placed against older boys in the age group for this event. I hope that my encouragement will help him to be able to represent his club and Scotland again at similar events this year.

Finally, I hear you ask, what do I get out of this ?

Well, I don't think the A.A.A. will let me put my name on his tee shirt, but if he does well then I will be pleased to have been a small part in his success. If not, he will get my boot up his backside !!

G. W. Buzzacott,
Flitwick,
Bedfordshire.



HAIRDRESSING

by DOREEN

Tel 0320 340214

Dulchreichard School

At the end of term we had our school party. We played lots of games but my favourite was strip the willow. On Wednesday we had our school dinner. We had turkey and stuffing and a choice of puddings, cheese cake or cloutie dumpling. On the last day of school we took down the pictures and took them home.

Amy Bisset P.4

I was in the living room and mum came in and she saw me and asked me what are you thinking. I said I am thinking about the poor people in Bosnia.

Duncan Greer P.2

One Saturday in November Archie, Anne, Graham, Caroline and my brothers and I went to the pictures to see a film called Junior. Archie's dad took us in the van. We got £5 to spend on sweets. Before we went to Safeway to buy juice and sweets. The film was ok but not very exciting. After the film we went to a fish and chip shop. I got a cheese burger and a can of coca-cola. It was very good then we went home. Thank you to the people who organized it.

Graham Taylor P.7

The Glen party was a success. There were a lot of games but my favourite was ladders. You have to get a number and when that number is called you run to the bottom and run back to your place and thanks to all the people who helped. They made a good treasure hunt and party for us.

Katie Common P.5

On Boxing day my whole family went to see a pantomime at Eden Court. It was called Snow White and it was very good. The queen was very good.

Vickie Common P.3

Dulchreichard School

In the dark and in the snow.
Up and down the snowmen go.
In every garden I can see
a snowman smiling up at me.

Nicola Curley P.3

Kilchuimen Academy

Illustrations from the pen of Henry Cruickshank, Loch Ness Cottage of two poems written by another pupil which were prize winners in a W. H. Smith young writers competition. The poems and hopefully Henry's illustrations will be published in an anthology of work by young writers.



Poets Corner

Heavenly Father, look down on us, your humble tourist servants, who are doomed to travel this earth, taking photographs, mailing postcards, buying souvenirs and walking around in drip-dry underwear.

We beseech You, Oh Lord, to see that our plane is not hi-jacked, our luggage is not lost and our overweight baggage goes unnoticed. Protect us from surly and unscrupulous taxi-drivers, avaricious porters and unlicensed English-speaking guides.

Give us this day divine guidance in the selection of our hotels, that we may find our reservations honoured, our rooms made up and the hot water running from the correct tap if at all. We pray that the telephone works, that the operator speaks our tongue and that there is no telegram waiting from our children which would force us to cancel the rest of our trip.

Lead us, Dear Lord, to good inexpensive restaurants where the food is superb, the waiters friendly and the wine included in the price of the meal. Give us the wisdom to tip correctly in currencies we do not understand. Forgive us for undertipping out of ignorance and overtipping out of fear. Make the natives love us for what we are and not for what they can screw out of us.

Grant us the strength to visit the museums, cathedrals, palaces and castles listed as "musts" in guidebooks, and if per chance we skip a historic monument to take a nap after lunch, have mercy on us, for our flesh is weak.

FOR HUSBANDS ONLY

Dear God, keep our wives from shopping sprees and protect them from bargains which they neither need nor can afford. Lead them not into temptation for they know not what they do.

Poets Corner

FOR WIVES ONLY

Almighty Father, keep our husbands from looking at foreign women and comparing them with us. Save them from making fools of themselves in cafes and nightclubs. Above all please do not forgive them their trespasses for they know exactly what they do.

TOGETHER

And when our voyage is over and we return to our loved ones, grant us the favour of finding a willing audience for our movies and a sympathetic ear for our stories, so that our lives as tourists shall not have been in vain.

AMEN

That prayer was found in a Grangemouth church magazine last year and sent in by Betty Common, Dalchreichart.

Obituary

It brought great sadness to the Glen to hear of Meggie's sudden death. She was a very popular member of the community with young and old and will be greatly missed.

Meggie came to the Glen in 1960 when her parents came to the Home Farm where her late father was farm manager. She married Peter Stoddart in 1964 and their daughter, Tricia was born in 1967. Her grandson Stuart was born last October, just four weeks before she died.

Meggie worked in Invermoriston school for 20 years and took a great interest in all the children who passed through it. She also took a very active part in village activities especially WRI and any local plays which she thoroughly enjoyed.

S.G.

Obituary

On the evening of the 9th of January, Andrew Ferguson died suddenly at his home at 1 Riverside Park. The funeral service was attended by many friends and relatives, the number of which proved too great for the church, its hall and even the grounds to accommodate.

Andrew, the second son of Neil and Maureen Ferguson, Fort Augustus, lived with Joanna in Invermoriston for nearly two years, moving there with Anna, their daughter and being recently joined by Craig, their second child.

Andrew first worked in the Glen for Alan MacDonell in his coal yard where he earned the reputation of being a very fit and hard worker. When his father Neil was in need of a hand in his business working on the widening of the Dalchreichart road, he downed his coal bags and joined him. Andrew was a common sight on the road during the contract and rarely without his characteristic grin and a wave for anyone he saw.

He was a keen sportsman when time would allow, playing shinty for Glengarry and, latterly, Boleskin teams. His character was very evident on the shinty pitch as he used to play with tremendous determination and courage. Andrew was never called by his proper name on the pitch, it being replaced by "The Ferg". The name was also used by many of his friends off the pitch as well.

His other hobby was cars and what he could do to them. Andrew was often to be found under the bonnet of his own or somebody else's car, willing to tackle every problem with great enthusiasm.

Andrew "The Ferg" will be sadly missed by us all and our deepest sympathy goes to his parents Neil and Maureen and to Joanna, Anna and Craig. N.R.

Community Council

At the last meeting of the Fort Augustus/Glenmoriston Community Council back in November a new committee was elected with Tommy Girvan being re-elected as chairman. Other points of interest were:-

INVERMORISTON SCHOOL - Mr. Mackenzie, the regional councillor reported that the H.R.C. have had difficulty in determining who owned the superior title of the land. At present the superior has been traced and an attempt is being made to buy out the title. If any community based groups are interested in acquiring the former school for community use, then now is the time to make your case.

TORGOYLE BRIDGE - The draft for the upgrade of the A887 Torgoyle Bridge is due shortly and is proposed for the programme in the period 1996-99.

Save our Hall !!

There is to be a meeting for all those interested in the future of our village hall on the 27th February. At present there is no hall committee as no one was prepared to get involved. It would be a very great shame if the village lost its hall having already had the school closed and the church sold off to a private buyer. Although the hall isn't used very much, the few times that it is put to use are important. There are a few options that could be taken;

- (1) Close the hall and do without one.
- (2) Carry on fundraising and keep the old hall going until such time that a replacement one could be built.
- (3) Purchase Invermoriston School and use that as the village hall.

Please come along to the meeting, air your views, voice your criticism, perhaps lend your support -

After all, it is your hall !!

Local News

CONGRATULATIONS to Eddie and Tina Grant on the birth of their son, David back in December.

CONGRATULATIONS to Nicola Grant and James Henderson on the birth of their daughter, Alysha, also born in December.

CONGRATULATIONS to Dianne Tait, Levishe, who passed her driving test.

WELCOME to Debbie Billington and Ricky Linton who have moved into Myrtle Cottage, Dalchreichart.

WELCOME to Brian and Sheena Furie who have moved into Tigh-Na-Euan (which used to be Weeford which used to be Rose Cottage !!)

BEST WISHES to Mrs Gunn, Torgoyle Crescent, Claire McEwan, Dalcattaig and Mike Webster Redburn Cafe, all of whom have had a stay in hospital recently.

BEST WISHES to Mr and Mrs Thompson and their son, John, who had a short stay in Dalchreichart last year. They have taken over the Richmond Hotel and cafe in Fort Augustus.

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