

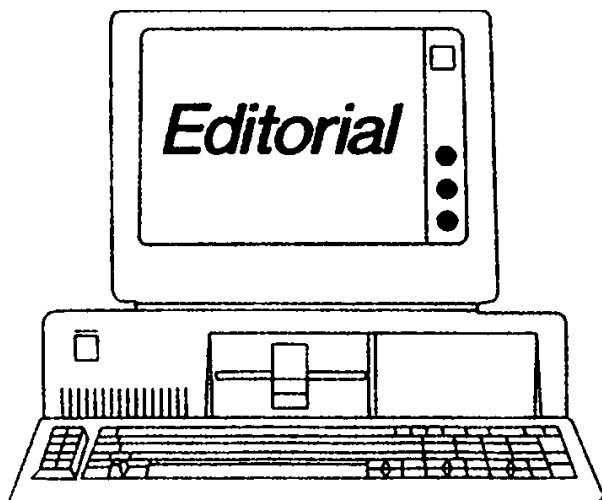
***Foriston
Matters***  ***Spring 95***



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

No 49

35p



Spring really is my favourite season. Bulbs gently and apprehensively poke their tiny little shoots through the cold ground hoping they don't get nipped by a late frost.

What a difference a little drop of sunshine makes too. Getting out into the garden, going for a walk or even just hanging out the washing with the sun on your back can be so therapeutic after the long, dark winter months.

Rev. Buell has contributed to the magazine for the last time in his role as parish minister but hopefully he will have time off from his new job of "officially retired person" to commit some more of his thoughts to paper !

It was nice also to hear from Mrs Jessie Baxter from Aberdeen again. This time she has shared some of her botanical memories of Dalcattaig with us.

If you have any memories you think are worth sharing then please send or fax them to;



The Editor, Moriston Matters,
The Old Well, Dalchreichart,
Glenmoriston, Invernessshire.
IV3 6YJ Tel: 01320 340205.

Local News

On the 27th January 11 year old Caroline Kennedy from Dundreggan Farm was horrifically injured in a road accident after stepping off the school bus at the farm's road end. She suffered two broken legs, head injuries and other cuts and bruises. Thanks to the quick thinking and expertise of a passer-by her life was saved. She spent two weeks in intensive care with one leg in traction. Gradually her power of speech returned and she was transferred to the Rowan ward. After a great deal of pain, sweat, tears and hard work she is now walking with the aid of crutches. It's almost like learning to walk all over again. If she continues to make such good progress then hopefully it won't be long before she can come home. Caroline is pictured below with "ROWAN", the collie pup named after the children's ward, who has been helping to raise funds for the ward at the hospital.



Caroline has been in hospital since January because she had a very bad leg injury. It was so bad that two bones in her leg were broken. But now it is much better and she's in a wheelchair. She can stand up and walk without anything. She really has almost recovered. We're really looking forward for her coming back to school.

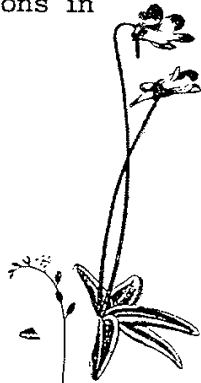
Cassie McEwan P.3

Memories of the Glen

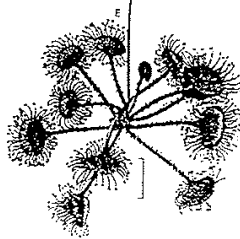
Last year my husband and I spent a memorable week with Matthew and Ann Douglas at Dalcattaig. This reminded me of something I wrote for "Moriston Matters" in 1978. I think it might still be of interest in 1995.

About half a century ago my idea of heaven was the Dalcattaig Road. There I had my first lessons in botany from my mother and my Aunt Jenny.

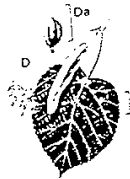
Dalcattaig Road was a veritable treasure trove of botanical lore, which I have never forgotten. My ten-year old imagination was disgusted by the 'behavior' of the Common Butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*), which looked like a beautiful pale green star-fish, but it could literally eat insects by rolling its leaves inwards. The flowers of this plant resembled fragile delicate violets.



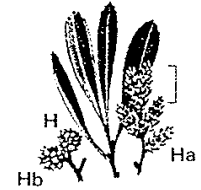
Almost as repulsive to me was Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*) with its rosette of stalked yellowish green leaves, covered with sticky red hairs. These very hairs were capable of turning inwards to trap and 'digest' unsuspecting insects.



But Dalcattaig Road was not all violence. In a corner of "Johnnie's Field" (Bridge-end) grew the beautiful Butterfly Orchid (*Platanthera bifolia*). This orchid has a wonderful perfume which I don't believe Monsieur Christian Dior could copy. I wonder if he could create the haunting perfume of the lime blossoms (*Tilia europaea*) on a damp August evening - well, not the lime blossoms at the Bridge End of Dalcattaig Road !



I must not forget the nostalgically beautiful aroma of Bog Myrtle (*Myrica gale*), resinous and fragrant with its long orange male catkins and short red female catkins, each on separate plants.



On this wonderful road grew the most delicious early brambles. We called them "pointers" because the first ones grew and ripened on the end of the stem. Near Wester Dalcattaig grew a large Bird Cherry tree (*Prunus padus*). In our young minds this tree was unique ! It's black pea-sized fruits were not nearly as bitter as the usual Bird Cherry fruits. My aunt, my sisters and I made a special pilgrimage each year to sample these delights.



In addition Dalcattaig Road introduced me to Bog-Cotton, Bog Asphodel, Lousewort, Eyebright, Juniper, Orchids, Sedges, Chickweed Wintergreen, Primroses, Wild Hyacinths and many others.

Thank you for the opportunity to be nostalgic and I hope my memories may give pleasure to others.

J.S.B.

P.S. Last year we missed the red briar rose which grew in the garden of a ruined cottage, (Angus McGruer's). I am happy to confess that we took a cutting which is now doing well in our garden !!



Save our Hall

At the end of February an extraordinary General meeting was held in Glenmoriston Arms Hotel to discuss the future (if it actually has one) of the village hall. Twenty four people responded to the plea-for-help letter that was circulated round the Glen and a new committee was formed.

Chairman : Tommy Girvan
Vice-Chairman : Jeff Dymond
Secretary : Mairi Dymond & Margaret Allen
Treasurer : Simon MacLelland

Committee Members : Pat MacDonald
Dave McEwan
Alan Draper
Shona Robertson
Gordon Jones
Ian Common

All the people present agreed that -

a) there was absolutely no point whatsoever in trying to rejuvenate or reinstate the existing hall.

b) The suggestion to use Invermoriston school was abandoned due to the cost of making it suitable for all activities. In addition the grants required to assist refurbishment would be unavailable.

c) The best course of action was to build a new replacement hall which catered for all the communities needs. The terms and conditions of the feu for the present hall site are being reviewed in an initial step towards a replacement building.

At present the hall fund stands at £16560.47. This healthy balance is mainly due to the efforts of all who have helped at previous gala days and other fundraising activities. Hopefully this momentum can be kept alive and kicking.

Local News

A mention must be made about Margaret Allen's contribution to the funds with her weekly plant sales which were very popular.

A vote of thanks goes out to Christine Whitehead for her services as treasurer. In fact, a very hearty thank you really must go to all those who have previously served on the Hall committee - generally a very thankless task.

TO ALL GARDENERS (EXPERIENCED & ASPIRING)

Thanks to all who gave and to all who bought. The plant stall outside the Village Hall last Spring raised over £200 for funds.

It's range may not have been exactly wide (those who requested pansies were continually disappointed and I did hear it whispered that some of the plants may have better answered to the name "weeds" !) but it did have the virtue of providing locally tried and tested specimens - together with plenty of green wisdom from the growers. Most people, I think, (and that certainly includes me) were well satisfied with an inexpensive way of stocking their gardens.

Is it worth continuing ? Certainly better planned and possibly as part of a wider gardening interest ? If you think it is, would you join me at the Hotel on Wednesday 19th April at 7.00pm or contact me at home (351250)
Margaret Allen

Village Hall Committee Meeting to follow at 8.30pm also at the Hotel. All welcome.

Local Success

As many of you will be aware from hearing him play in the Tavern, (usually accompanied by Neil, Gary and Shona Robertson), Allan Common and his trusty accordion (or 'box' as it is affectionately known), can set your feet tapping with his rollicking reels, your hands clapping with his jaunty jigs and your body swaying with his wonderful waltzes !

Over the past year or so he has been entertaining the Old Tyme dance class down at Kilmallie, Fort William but just recently he has branched out into the heady world of the Accordion and Fiddle Club scene. His first public performance was at the Fort William A & F Club back in January where he received a tremendous reception. Next came Dingwall and another fine performance. February saw him back at Fort William, this time being accompanied by a young lady, Laura Gibbons from Corpach, on the flute. His debut at the Inverness A & F Club was also in February. On each of these occasions he has had much praise of his playing which in turn boosts his confidence even further. (Robbie Shepherd and 'Take the Floor' - Watch out!)

These A & F Club nights are open to all and are held as follows:-

Fort William - Railway Club - First Tuesday of Month
Dingwall - National Hotel - First Wednesday of Month
Inverness - Drummoissie Hotel - Third Monday of Month

In the A & F Clubs monthly magazine, "The Box and Fiddle" , the following formed part of the report from the Dingwall Club;

"In February Allan Common came along from Invermoriston. Allan is probably better known as a regular attender and participant at old tyme dances. On this occasion he proved he can play the accordion as well as he can dance"

Praise indeed as he is a regular Fred Astaire on the dance floor !!

Let there always be a tune in his head, wind in his bellows and suppleness in his fingers !!



Allan playing down at Kilmallie alongside Jimmy Smith and Willie MacAskill from Fort William and Jock Fraser, Inverness.

Pony Club

The ponies obviously haven't heard that spring is in the air as they haven't made even the slightest effort to try to shed their shaggy winter coats. Easter camp for Katie and Vickie's ponies, Casey and Sammy was first on the event calender at the beginning of April. This was Vickie's first Pony Club experience and she coped in true Harvey Smith style ! She passed her 'D' Test which is the first of the Pony Club efficiency certificates. Katie did well to pass her Riding and Road Safety Test. Her next event is a cross-country at Dochfour so hopefully, hoofs crossed, Sammy will be on good form that day !!
Tam, the girl's first pony, has been sold and is now eating his head off and getting fat on the lush spring grass somewhere in Perthshire !!

Both sets of Shetland ponies have survived the wintry weather and will be looking forward to a change of diet from boring old hay !!

Dulchreichard School

Just before Christmas all the children from class three upwards wrote a letter to a penpal in Denmark and we received replies. Amy, Katie and I have two penpals. The school they go to is called Houborg school. My penpals names are Frederik and Morton and they are eleven years old.

At school we are doing a project on the European Community or the EC. We all know a bit about each country. We can all speak a little bit of French too. Ms MacDonald teaches us the French every morning. Next Tuesday, Christian a French teacher from France is coming to teach us and see how well we speak French too.

Graham Taylor P.7

In spring the flowers grow. Spring is warm and it is fun. Spring is very near Easter. The birds have stopped hibernating.

Vickie Common P.3

S pring approaching
P etals growing
R abbitts hopping
I n the fields
N ature waking
G rowing nature - every day of the year.



Katie Common P.5

Winter is gone Spring is hear
Your flowers will be there soon
And very colourful too !
Soon your garden will be like a rainbow in the sky
And you will be bursting with pride !



Graham Taylor P.7

Glenmoriston S.W.R.I.

The 1st session of the SWRI finished on Tuesday 11th April with a jewellery demonstration by Lorraine Johnstone. As a 1st session it was a bit problematic at times with some teething troubles as we went along from month to month, making up the agenda as we went along. The main thing was at least everyone seemed to enjoy it and we look forward to a much more organised session next winter. The committee remains the same for the coming year and we have a list of activities that the committee will go through and make up next sessions agenda before it restarts.

Throughout the winter we've had a slide show, aromatherapy, glassblowing, an Xmas dinner and the above jewellery demonstration.

A small gift was presented to Mrs Betty Draper in appreciation of allowing us the use of the Glenmoriston Arms Hotel for our venue.

Our new winter session starts on Tuesday October 3rd 1995 - New members most welcome.

Isobel Anthony

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



Church News

6 Towerhill Place,
Cradlehall,
Inverness.

At the beginning of March the Rev. Bart Buell bid a fond farewell to the Glen when he held his final service of worship at Dulchreichard School. The tiny schoolroom was packed and the congregation were treated to a lovely spread of tea, sandwiches and cakes afterwards.

Rev. Buell and his wife, Margaret, moved to Drumnadrochit 15 years ago from Edinburgh. At that time the late Rev. Peter Fraser had just retired and left the Glen to live in Kiltarlity and the Glenmoriston Church was to be linked with Urquhart parish.

The following is an extract taken from a report of the Service of Linkage which appeared in the June 1980 edition of the magazine.....

" On Tuesday 27th May the service of Linkage, Ordination and Induction took place at Kilmore Church, Urquhart, when a large representation from Glenmoriston were present at this special occasion. The Linkage was a historic and somewhat sad occasion for Glenmoriston as it meant that we were finally saying goodbye to the sole charge of the Rev. Peter Fraser, and joining with the congregation of Urquhart to form a new dual charge under the ministry of the Rev. Bart Buell. Following the ceremony of linkage, the ordination and induction of the Rev. Buell took place, conducted by the Moderator of the Inverness Presbytery, the Rev. Tom Swanston, and ministers and elders of the presbytery.

Perhaps the highlight of the evening was the robing of the Rev. Buell by Mrs Michael, an incident not without humour as she struggled to place the hood over the head of "the Gentle Giant". She eventually made it.

On Sunday 1st June a large congregation gathered in the church to hear the introductory service conducted by the Rev. James Philip of Edinburgh, in which he welcomed the Rev. Buell to the service of God in the parish of Glenmoriston and hoped that his stay would be a long and happy one. "

Retirement has overtaken us and that also means that 'flitting' has overtaken us as well. Most of you will know all about that: Where did we put that ? and days later we find it in a box at the bottom of the pile. I'm afraid it's a bit like that with finding time to write something for the spring edition of Moriston Matters !

However may I say something about Easter and its meaning by telling a short anecdote. An avowed ?? unbeliever challenged a believer in Jesus Christ to a debate about the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. The unbeliever insisted that the debate take place in front of a large church congregation. The unbeliever had his say for about an hour setting out the reasons why the resurrection could not have happened. The believer was then given three (!) minutes to prove his point. He turned to the large congregation and said in a strong, clear, confident voice: "Christ is risen !" and the congregation replied as one man in a clear confident voice; "He is risen indeed !"

Could we reply like that and mean it ?

The worship services with Sunday School continue to be held in Dulchreichard Primary School the first Sunday of each month at 3pm. Weekly services are held in Drumnadrochit on Sundays at 10.30 am and 6.00 pm. Please come along. You are most welcome.

May God bless you.

Bart Buell.



Local Success

Last year Mike Allen from Dalcattaig completed his marathon walk along Britain's watershed from Land's End to Cape Wrath. (i.e. not crossing any natural running water)

The original intention was to complete the walk, which began at Easter 1988, within the first six months but Mike has been plagued by injury and hampered by lack of finance. 1994 was the toughest section - from Rannoch Moor to Cape Wrath, but at least it was home territory - for all the ups and downs, quite literally !

So fortunately transport assistance from his wife Margaret and others enabled the walk to be completed in short stints with lengthy breaks in between.

Reaching the Great Glen on May 27th was the first hurdle, enlivened by a surprise picnic laid on by the Robertsons ! From there to Cluanie was sponsored in aid of the Village Hall: thanks to all sponsors even though it took most of June to finish - what with weather and other interruptions. Thereafter it was bits and bobs northwards via rendezvous near Achnasheen, Ullapool, Inchnadamph and Durness to reach Cape Wrath on 2nd October.

It's a remarkable walk including some remote country:

From Ben Alder Forest to Knoydart, where the watershed is only 2 miles from the West Coast.

From Kintail to the Fannichs, where it was decided that future camping out was to be avoided: the curse of the midges !

From Beinn Dearg, near where a golden eagle soared away from within a few feet, to Ben More Assynt - catching a glorious day with the end in sight.

From Ben More across Sutherland wilderness via Foinaven to Cape Wrath.

Thank goodness there was plenty of time in 1994 to finish, because Highland weather can vary from the sublime to the ridiculous, and some of the ridiculous could be avoided ! Even so there were some wet and windy days at high level, like traversing the South Cluanie ridge on June 27th with Margaret, but overall it's been quite an experience !!

Local News

The "Friends of the Telford Centre" organised this years quiz which was held in the Telford Centre, Fort Augustus. The first round matches were played on 27th March and the final rounds played on 3rd April. The Glenmoriston team, represented by Ann Harris, Sharon Harris, Simon MacLelland and Ian Common, won their first round match convincingly, but fell in the next round after an exciting match with the Garry Bar, which ended in a tie-breaker. The Fort Augustus Lunch Club played well throughout and were worthy winners. Ian Common at least had the consolation of winning a raffle prize each night !

The Glenmoriston team always gives a good account of themselves - perhaps next year will see their name back on the trophy. In the meantime I can have a rest from compiling the questions - anyone want the job of quizmaster ???!

Ken Anthony.

1ST ROUND

F.A. Badminton Club	24	v	Invergarry Hotel	4
Police	29	V	Fort Augustus Village	27 *
Fort Augustus WRI	16	V	Garry Bar	25
Foyers Village	16	V	Glenurquhart Com Ass.	24
Telford Centre	20	V	F.A. Lunch Club	21
Playgroup	17	V	Glenurquhart Girls	21
Glenmoriston	24	V	Community Council	10

2ND ROUND

F.A. Badminton Club	17	V	Glenurquhart Com Ass.	24
Glenmoriston	24	V	Garry Bar	27 *
Glenurquhart Girls	17	V	F.A. Lunch Club	26

Bye : Police

SEMI-FINALS

Police	21	V	Glenurquhart Com Ass.	20
Garry Bar	19	V	F.A. Lunch Club	23

FINAL

Police	17	V	F.A. Lunch Club	24
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(* denotes after tie-break)

Local News

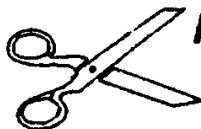
GOOD LUCK to Vince, Dianne, Vincent and Vanessa Tait as they leave to take up a new keeping post on Kinvechie Estate near Carrbridge.

WELCOME to Dennis, Tina and baby Jasmine Pyman who have bought Ivy Cottage, Dundreggan and are currently doing some pretty major renovations. Ivy Cottage hasn't been lived in properly for about 23 years since Dougie Fraser died in 1972. It's nice that the old house has found a family before it became too derilict and the only solution would have been the bulldozer !

FOOTBALL TRAINING - In Kilchuimen Academy, Fort Augustus on Friday evenings. Primary boys and girls are from 5.30 till 6.30 and secondary from 6.45 till 8pm.

QUIZ NIGHT - Every Thursday at 9.00pm in the Tavern. Either come along yourself and join a team or bring a team of four.

SEWING CLUB - Every Monday evening at 7.30pm in Dulchreichard School.



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Tel 01320 340214

Ladies, Gents

and Children