

Invermoriston
Matters



Autumn 95



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

No 51

35p

Editorial

If the weather wasn't already our most popular topic of conversation this summer would have made it so. What more can I say that hasn't already been said apart from the fact that it didn't see fit to wait until our one major fundraising event of the year was past before it broke! The poor wet bedraggled cyclists !!

However the long hot summer didn't suit everybody. Gardeners complained of brown bare patches on their lawns, farmers bemoaned the fact that their grass wasn't growing, both for hay and for animals, everybody including the ponies got sunburned, the tar melted, the burns dried up, the clegs got hungry, but the petunias, which can't stand the rain, were wonderful !! What a pity there wasn't enough enthusiasm for the Community Council's Garden competition. Judging had to be cancelled....and I was really looking forward to my debut as adjudicator !!

This is the 51st edition of the magazine and it heralds the start of a new production team. David Andrews after having been involved in the last 15 issues has decided to hang up his ruler, stapler and guillotine for the quiet life away from the turmoil of the tabloid press! Henceforth the complete process from hasty scribblings on the back of crisp packets to the highly polished finished article will be performed by various members of the Common family (What a talented bunch we are !!) And so I hope you will be tolerant of any mistakes and errors that we make !!!

Please keep the articles of interest coming in and who knows, in the next edition the star of the magazine could be YOU !!

Please send or fax them to: The Editor, The Old Well, Dalchreichart, Glenmoriston, Inverness-shire. IV3 6YJ. Tel. or Fax. 01320 340205

Subscriptions to the magazine can be obtained by sending your name and address along with £2 to the Editor which will guarantee the next four issues delivered to your door.

Glenmoriston S.W.R.I.

The winter session of the Glenmoriston SWRI resumed at the beginning of October with a Bring and Buy auction, which was quite a success. The Institute meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month in the lounge of the Glenmoriston Arms Hotel. The new owners, Carol and Neil Scott, have very kindly offered the lounge plus coffee and tea to the Institute free of charge to help our funds. This generous offer was gratefully accepted by the Institute with many thanks.

We have a varied programme for the winter and anyone wishing to join us just come along and you will be warmly welcomed. Notices of each meeting will be posted in the Invermoriston Shop noticeboard about a week beforehand.

Isobel Anthony

Sewing Club

The Sewing Club has unfortunately been disbanded this winter due to a lack of new members. I.A.

Does Your House Need Decorating ?

Mary Greer



Tel. 01320 351327



Wallpaper / Painting

Competitive prices & highly recommended results

The Big Bike Ride

Sunday 3rd September dawned damp, misty and miserable and looked set to stay that way. However it wasn't enough to dampen the enthusiastic spirits of Glenmoriston's wacky racers !!

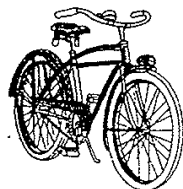
Dick Dastardly alias Kevin Hodson complete in his boiler suit, wellies, sou-wester and welding goggles must have been under the misapprehension that there was a fancy dress element to the bike ride !! Keep on taking the tablets Kev !!

Dick's sidekick Muttley, feebly disguised as Neil Robertson, doggy peddled at a fearsome rate of reef knots to finish in a very respectable time, almost as quick as the ambulance on a call out !

The Ant Hill Mob otherwise known as the Maclellans were reduced from four last year to just two this year, namely Anne and Archie.

Penelope Pitstop and her trusty antique bike bravely defied the sceptics, ignored the tittering and totally disregarded the facetious wisecracks about the suitability of such a contraption by completing the 17 miles without the aid of brakes, gears or breathing apparatus.

Twenty six riders took part; most were tired and hungry when they reached the finish, many had "Halfords" tattooed across their rears, a few had lost contact with that said part of their anatomy but each and everyone was glad that they completed the course. None more so than young Caroline Kennedy who not so many months ago was feared may never walk again. She bravely cycled the full 17 miles and deserves special congratulations .



Grateful thanks go to everybody who helped out on the day; To Neil and Carol Scott for providing the riders with a nourishing and most welcome plate of soup at the finish, to Angus Kennedy for being the front warning car, to Betty Common for being the rear warning car, to Ian Common for transport of the bikes, to all the drivers who transported bikers up to the start, for Mattieu Curley for first aid cover which thankfully wasn't required, to the timekeepers, to Forest Enterprise for the use of their roads and tracks, to all those who sponsored the cyclists and lastly to all the riders for taking part and getting that vital sponsorship.

Special thanks to Henry Cruickshank for showing us all how it can be done !!

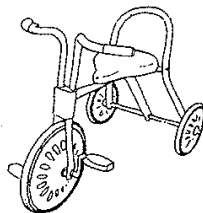
Times were as follows:

	Hrs	Min	Secs
Henry Cruickshank		49	03
Donnie Lamont		56	31
Paul Draper	1	00	15
Neil Robertson	1	00	25
Billy Greer	1	01	22
Darren McEwan	1	03	36
Colin Gourley	1	06	07
Archie MacLellan	1	06	33
Davy McEwan	1	09	04
Steven Smith	1	11	16
Kevin Hodson	1	11	23
Calum Grant	1	12	55
Leonard Grant	1	13	11
Jamie Taylor	1	13	24
Graham Taylor	1	13	25
Kim Munslow	1	15	47
Lesley Common	1	15	47
Peter Levings	1	15	50
Anne MacLellan	1	15	51
Gordon Steele	1	17	23
Christopher Steele	1	19	21
Brian Furie	1	24	07
Ian Common	1	24	11
Geoff Mudditt	1	26	47
Michelle Webster	1	27	40
Caroline Kennedy	1	27	43

The day started with the primary school age bikers who along with some robust adults took to the forestry track at the end of the Dalcattaig road. The plan was that they should set off in groups of about 3 or 4 but when the signal to start was given they all stampeded headlong down the track in a cloud of dust ! There was only one casualty and that was Katie's bike chain so she had to finish the ride on her mothers infamous black maria !

The exact distance travelled was a little dubious as some of the riders took a wrong turning along the way and others went way past the turning point but nevertheless the times were:

Cassie McEwan	32 mins
Isla Bisset	33 mins
Duncan Greer	36 mins
Amy Bisset	36 mins
Katie Common	36 mins
Vickie Common	36 mins
Alistair Levings	36 mins
Nicola Curley	37 mins
Simon MacLellan	37 mins
Rachael MacDonell	38 mins
Iona Greer	40 mins
Kirsteen Smith	40 mins
Michael Curley	45 mins



A total of £255.00 was raised by these 13 young riders together with the sum raised so far from the seniors which stands just now at £462.72 plus the very generous donations received gives us a grand total of £767.72 and there's more to come !!

A great big thank you to one and all !!



Local Success

Since the beginning of August Steven Smith has continued his winning ways with success after success in his athletics.

On the 6th August he went to Glasgow where he was awarded the title of Scottish Young Athletic Champion Under 15 for performances of long jump (5.52m), 200m (24.08 secs) and 100m (11.09 secs).

At the Glenurquhart Games on the 26th August he received the A.C. McKell Cup for the most points under 16, Kenneth MacKay Cup for 1st High Jump and the Buntait Cup for 1st Long Jump. He also entered the under 20 800m and won a £10 gift voucher and a gold medal. Not bad for one day !

Monday 25th September saw Steven presented with the Post Office Cup at the Lochardil Hotel for being the most outstanding under 16 long jumper in Scotland. Receiving this trophy certainly rounded off the 1995 season for him.

Now it's down to winter training and he hopes to continue to attend Inverness Harriers at least once a week. He is also training for the schools under 17 cross-country team which will also boost his fitness for long jump and sprint events in 1996.

Steven would like to express his grateful thanks to the following people for all their help and support which enabled him achieve so much this year :-

To Charlie Forbes for coaching him, Gerald Buzzacott for supplying the incentive as well as all his sports equipment, his Mum and Dad for all their encouragement and help with the transport to and from meetings, training sessions and events, and to Moriston Matters for all its promotion and reportage.

He nows holds the following titles: Scottish Schools Champion, Scottish Young Athletes Champion, SAF Junior Champion, Glenurquhart Games overall winner and the Cross-country under 14 Champion. He won 4 trophies, 1 shield and 1 Honour Shield, had 28 first places, 3 seconds and 1 third !! What a fantastic season and all the very best for another one next

The Rescue

Only a phone call away, the knight in shining armour was at the ready. (Well, not exactly in shining armour, more like a pair of orange overalls) And as she and the little black and white cat waited anxiously, it was not the galloping hooves of a gaily caparisoned charger they heard pounding down the road but the cheerful chug of a scarlet ride on mower with a loaded trailer on the back.

No need for a magic wand, every necessity was there from heavy gloves in case of scratches to a net for trapping the wilful cat. And a pickaxe and spade which his owner hoped was not for burying Peekay who had been on the turf roof of the wooden house without food or drink and for the last part of his roof sit (what was he protesting about ?) in the full sun on top of the tall stone chimney from which he could not steel himself to jump down.

The cat's owner, white hair flying, retired into the house while the rescuer sped up his ladder and within two shakes of a lamb's tail the cause of the trouble was safely netted, brought down and released. Without a meow of thanks the terrified cat took refuge under the caravan where he stayed for two hours until he had recovered his equanimity.

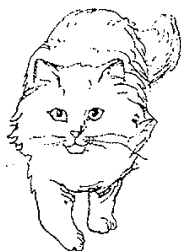
As the noble hero chugged away to prepare for his part that afternoon in the Edinburgh Tattoo, having rescued not the proverbial fair damsel but a cross and ungrateful cat, Sir Galahad lightly remarked,

" Another chapter for my autobiography."

"And another for my cat saga," thought the grateful recipient of his kindness.



Many thanks,
Ian Common
from Audrey Kemp.



Local News

During the school holidays Katie and Vickie Common along with their cousin Christopher and friends Amy and Isla Bisset held a Bring and Buy sale at Dalchreichart. They managed to raise the sum of £25 which it was decided should be donated to the Highland Hospice. This is a copy of the letter they received.

" On behalf of Highland Hospice, I would like to thank all the children - Katie, Vickie, Amy, Isla and Christopher - for their recent donation of £25.00 raised through their sale of work. We very much appreciate this support and I have enclosed a receipt for your retention.

It is most heartening to see young people getting actively involved in supporting the Hospice. In the eight years since we cared for our first patient, many improvements have been made to the services Highland Hospice provides. Still, today, further developments are under discussion. Plans are being made for the redevelopment of the Day Hospice - increasing the provision of much valued symptom management and respite care - and we are also looking at ways of extending the work of the Hospice into the smaller communities of the Highlands.

We constantly aim to offer palliative care services of the highest quality and the support of everyone in the Highlands, young and old, is essential if we are to achieve this.

Thanks once again.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Leaver
Fundraising Manager.



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(01463) 243132

Pony Club

Katie and Vickie have had a tremendous season with their ponies. First off was Dornoch show where Vickie won her lead rein class on Sammy then went on to be reserve champion beating 12 other class winners. She then continued her winning streak by heading her working hunter class and again was reserve champion in that section. Not only that but she collected two trophies for her troubles. Katie rode Casey, Sammy's mother, at her first real show and did very well. In fact mother and son competed against each other in an in-hand class and she came out on top !

Turriff show came next but it was on home ground at the Black Isle show where Vickie and Sammy were outstanding. She won her class but this time went one better to take the championship for small ridden ponies along with another two trophies. (Allan will have to do some major structural reinforcements to the mantelpiece to cope with all this silverware !)

Katie was representing the Inverness Pony Club in the mounted games competition in the main ring, her first time in a Pony Club team. The team did very well to be 3rd considering neither Katie nor Sammy had ever done some of the games. Sammy was, however, less than enthusiastic about the flappy plastic sacks and the balloons !

Perth show saw Katie win two of her classes on Sammy but it was at Keith show where it was her turn for glory. She won her 1st Ridden class then stood reserve champion.

Action then switched from the style and elegance of the show ring to the rough and tumble of the one day events (dressage, cross-country and showjumping) Katie's first one was at Forres with the Moray & Nairn Pony Club and at the end of the dressage she was lying 3rd. However it was such a hot day that she took pity on Sammy and didnt push him across country, thereby incurring time penalties, dropping them down the line. However at Inverness a fortnight later, the weather had broken and she showed no such leniency, going hell for leather over the cross country and winning the event. Quite an achievement ! Both Katie and Sammy have really grown in confidence this year and the season isn't over yet !!

All in a Day's Work

7.15am Time to start the day. Into work and it's all systems go ! Breakfasts safely over and guests check out over the next couple of hours. Its funny how people always want in depth conversations about Malt Whisky when they pay their bills. I wonder where they were last night when I was around until midnight ?

Being a hotelier one develops odd skills e.g. How to map read (somebody has to direct guests to their next stop). Thats the easy bit. Guests could be French, German, Italian, Dutch to name just a few. Lots of hand signals and plenty of good humour surmounts most problems.

10am. "Do you serve coffee?" I leave my cereal and slice of toast. "Yes, Madam, please take a seat. Is that coffee for two?"

"No ! One tea and one chocolate". It's going to be typical sort of day.

Lunches come and go. "Imagine that lady thinking she could bring her Jack Russell terrier into the dining room. There's no way that was a guide dog !"

"No dear ! I thought you were very diplomatic, not a bit rude"

Its time to go home for the afternoon and zap through the commercials. We don't have time to watch them. I do hope it rains then I won't need to do any gardening.

6.30pm. Its back to work. Non stop until around 9pm. Time for our own dinner then a chance to chat with guests and locals. Some new faces and some welcome returns. Fit in the last of the bookwork and it's after midnight. Who's turn is it to walk the dog ? I am bed.

And now it's over. I can get up late if I want; do the garden, go shopping, walk the dog, practice golf. Do I miss Hotel life ?

I think I do - just a little bit.

Betty Draper

Dulchreichard School

IF I WAS AS SMALL AS A MATCH.....

If I was as small as a match I'd go into space in a rocket and bring down all the aliens. I imagine the aliens to be from Mars and have razor sharp teeth and a gray day body with pink arms. The aliens would tell us how to get up into space and make it part of earth. If the aliens could make magic they'd give evryone a home and a ROCKET....AND MAKE me bigger !!

Katie Common P.6

If I was as small as a match I'd sneak round the world. No one would see me because I am as fast as a bullet. I meet lots of creatures and they are all kind. When I am round the world in France someone sees me and they almost stand on me. I break a leg and step in a puddle but I can't swim! I almost drown but suddenly a lady almost stands on me and that would be the end of me. She takes me home. She fixes my leg and gives me food then she sets me free I grow big again. I like being a match but it's better being myself.

Cassie McEwan P.4

If I was as small as a match I'd get squashed by a dog. I won't get up because I am squashed on the floor. A mouse would think I'm a bit of cheese and eat me. And I am too small.

Isla Bisset P.4

If I was as small as a match I'd go outside and play on the grass and slide down it. But I have to be careful because the dog might eat me up and I will be in his stomach and I won't be able to get out. But I've got to be even more careful because I might get lost and never get out and thats whats dangerous.

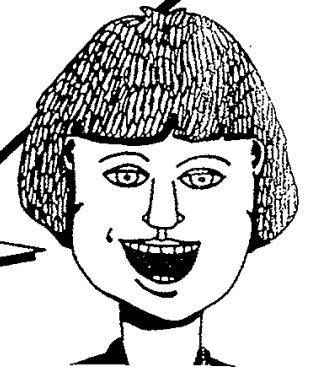
Vickie Common P.4

If I was as a match I'd be a very sneaky person. I would jump on to planes and Ships but I would have to be careful Somebody might stand on me. I would meet little peple like me. I'd be as fast as a bullet, would ride dogs and sit on cats tails. I would find birds feathers and fly but when I got tired I would sit on big birds. I'd like to be a match.

by

Amy

Amy Bisset P.5



Local Success

This was my fourth and last year racing in the Youth category (under 16's). Next year I will be a junior (16-18) which I will prefer as the races are longer, 15 miles (3 laps) as opposed to 5-9 miles (1-2 laps). I entered five out of the six Scottish Cycling Union Mountain Bike Series. (I had to miss one as I fell off my bike and gashed my knee badly)

The courses are usually a mixture of forest tracks, rough paths and fields. I do not think I did as well as I could have done, but still came 11th overall.

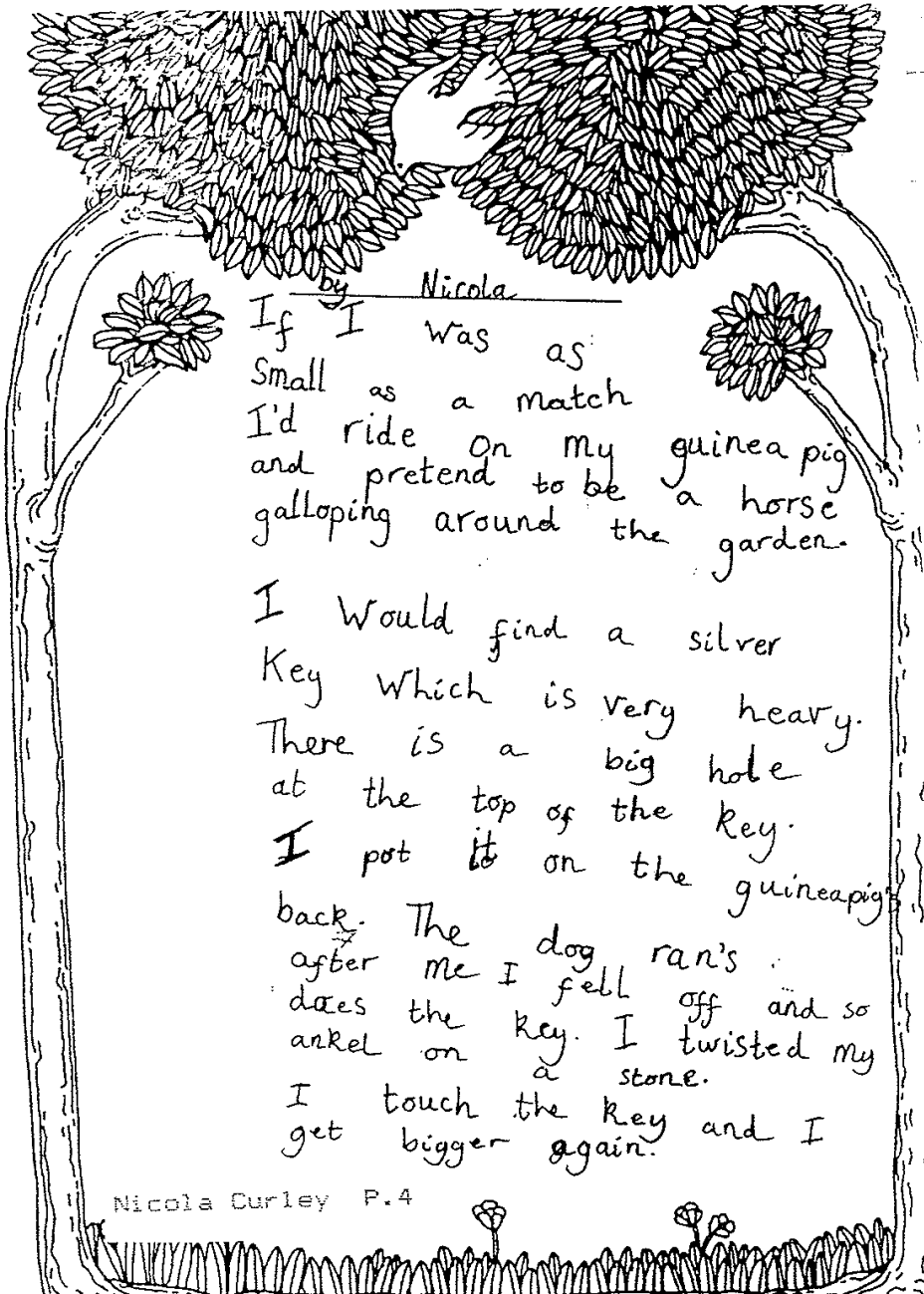
My best results were 2nd Youth in the Aberdeen and District Championships and 4th (no categories) in the Glen Affric to Fort Augustus race (55 miles)

One of the worst things, besides getting nervous before the race, is that since most of the races are in the South of Scotland one often has to get up at 5am to get there in time. It is a shame many of the smaller local races have disappeared.



An Early Start !

Henry Cruickshank.



by Nicola
If I was as
Small as a match
I'd ride on my guinea pig
and pretend to be a horse
galloping around the garden.

I would find a silver
Key which is very heavy.
There is a big hole
at the top of the key.
I put it on the guineapig's

back. The dog ran's
after me I fell off and so
does the key. I twisted my
ankle on a stone.
I touch the key and I
get bigger again.

Nicola Curley P.4

The following letter is from Ray and Molly Common, Ian's cousin, who after many visits to the Glen felt the urge to put pen to paper and make a comparison to their little village of Saltwood, near Hythe in Kent.

"Reading 'Moriston Matters' gives an interesting insight into life in the Glen and finds us comparing with that in this corner of Southeast England.

As in most small communities our social life tends to centre around the Church and School and in the recent holidays the children enjoyed activity days in the nearby Country Park and swimming and sailing in the sea at Hythe.

Saltwood village has a Scout Troop, now boys AND girls, which were more adventurous and spent ten days camping in Luxemburg.

The Notice Board outside of the Village Hall keeps us informed of "forthcoming" and regular attractions. Whist Drives, Bowling, W.I. meetings, Village Society etc. and the Hall is available for weddings and other receptions.

The village has a number of visitors who are attracted by the Village Green, the Pub and the historic castle from which the knights rode on their infamous journey to Canterbury Cathedral where they murdered Thomas a Becket.

Sadly the Tearoom has closed and the closure of the Village Store is imminent but we hope that the Post Office/Newsagent and Butcher will be able to continue.

We have a frequent bus service to the Hythe High Street and to Canterbury and Folkstone. Ferries to the French ports from Folkstone, Dover and Ramsgate and now, of course, the Channel Tunnel.

We are certainly most favourably situated enjoying so many amenities right on our own doorstep for which you have to travel so far afield but how can you compare these with the grandeur of your mountains and those himalayan poppies which we can enjoy only on your beautiful calendars.

The following was found in a Kent local Parish magazine.

THOUGHTS FROM THE ALLOTMENT FOR ROGATION

Plant four rows of peas:

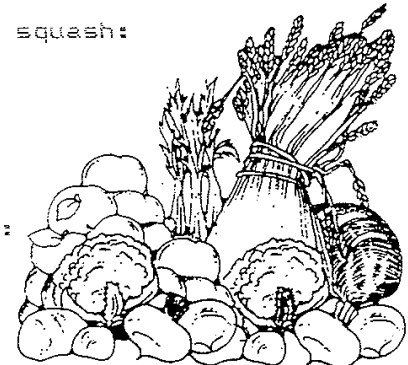
Preparedness
Promptness
Perseverance and
Prayer

Then plant three rows of squash:

Squash gossip
Squash criticism
Squash indifference

Add five rows of lettuce:

Let us be faithful
Let us be unselfish
Let us be loyal
Let us be truthful and
Let us love one another.



But no garden is complete with out turnips:

Turn up to meetings
Turn up with a smile
Turn up new ideas
Turn up with real determination.

Club News

The Childrens Committee held it's AGM on the 17th August in the Hotel. Five parents out of a possible twenty eight plus found the time and commitment to attend. The new committee is as follows:

Chairperson : Lesley Common
Secretary : Jean Curley
Treasurer : Mary-Francis Greer
Committee : Claie McEwan & Sheila MacLellan

Dalchreichart T.V. Club's AGM was held in the school on September 15th. Again there was a poor turnout of members but their new office bearers are:

Chairperson : Christina Smith
Secretary : Peter Giddy
Treasurer : Alex Harris
Committee : Sharon Harris & Ian Common
Technical Consultant : Edward Lumb

At the AGM of the Invermoriston T.V. Club the following people were elected:

Chairman : Alan Draper
Vice Chairman : Pat MacDonald
Sec/Treasurer : Andrew Cruickshank
Committee : Hugh MacAskill, Errol Levings, Ann Douglas, Alan Smart & Davy McEwan

!!!!!!!!!!!! FOUND !!!!!!!!!!!!!

On the riverbank between Redburn and Dundreggan a DAIWA autocast fishing reel, serial no. R6 1655.
To collect please telephone the editor.

School News

The new term at Dulchreichard School saw Iona Greer, Riverside Park and Kerri McEwan, Dalcattaig start on their education whilst at Kilchuimen Academy, Fort Augustus Kathleen Maclellan, (the last but not least of the MacLellan children to start school. That must be something of a record to have five children all attending the same school) Sarah Scott, Glenmoriston Arms Hotel and Jonathon Draper all took their first tentative steps on the road to knowledge.

Poets Corner

This poem was written by Elizabeth-Ann Johnston, Ian & Betty Common's daughter after one of her visits to the Glen following a long and traumatic period of ill-health.

The Glen was green,
The gardens afresh,
The sun did shine,
The waters ran sparce.
The deer were running
high on their heels.
A wonderful week
Everyone was so cheery.
Before I came up I felt so alone
At the end of the day a warm and calm feeling,
I felt I was part of the community.
Thanks to you all, I'll be back very soon.

E.A.J.

Obituary

The community was saddened by the death of Lyn Kane back in September. Tom and Lyn along with their children Steven and Susan came to the Glen back in 1980 from Cumbernauld. Lyn's active life was tragically cut short by a stroke seven years ago but she bravely battled on and regularly attended the whist club and quiz nights. Our sympathy goes to Tom, to Steven in New Zealand and to Susan in California.

Local News

WELCOME to Neil and Carol Scott from Stratford-upon-Avon who along with their children James (13) and Sarah (4) have taken over the ownership of the hotel. We wish them every success.

BEST WISHES to Alan and Betty Draper on their retirement after more than 15 years in the hotel trade.

CONGRATULATIONS to Tony and Jill Wyatt, Redburn on the birth of Robbie on the 25th August, a brother for Josie.

CONGRATULATIONS to Douglas and Kirsteen MacKenzie, Dalcattaig, on the safe arrival of their son Matthew.

CONGRATULATIONS to Leonard Grant, Riverside for his butchery skills which have won him an all expenses study trip to Calais, France in November.

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

BADMINTON - Every Tuesday evening at 8pm in the hall. Beginners and children welcome.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY : Sunday 5th November - Bonfire & Fireworks at Riverside Park

Dulchreichard School Board
hold their Sale of Work on
Friday 17th November.