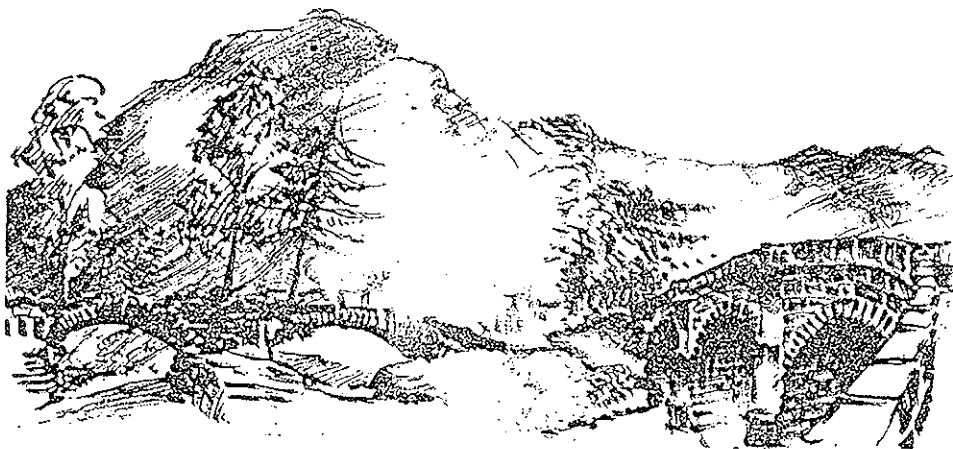


Moriston Matters



Spring 96



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

No 53

35p

Editorial

Spring is here at last, albeit rather later than advertised (the same could be said for this edition of the magazine) but better late than

The Easter Sunday Funday was such a success, mainly due to the weather, but it was so nice to see so many families there. I think the majority of the Glen turned out for the occasion. It would be lovely to think that there could be more of these type of events which really bring the community together.

Residents at the top of the Glen are eagerly awaiting further developments in the final stretch of the A887 to be upgraded, the replacement of Torgoyle Bridge. The diggers have been digging their test holes and leaving a trail of orange pegs behind them.

Thanks go to Peter Giddy for his thought-provoking article on map references. I'm sure he would very much like feedback from it if anyone can help.

It is much appreciated to be passed articles for the magazine without first having to ask for them. It makes my job easier, seem more worth while and hopefully makes the final product more interesting for you to read.

If you have any stories, pictures or articles which you think will do any of the above three things then please send them to:



The Editor, Moriston Matters,
The Old Well, Dalchreichart,
Glenmoriston, Inverness-shire.
IV3 6YJ. Tel. or Fax. 01320 340205.



Annual subscriptions to "Moriston Matters" can be obtained by sending £2 to the Editor at the address above which guarantees four issues of the magazine delivered to your door.

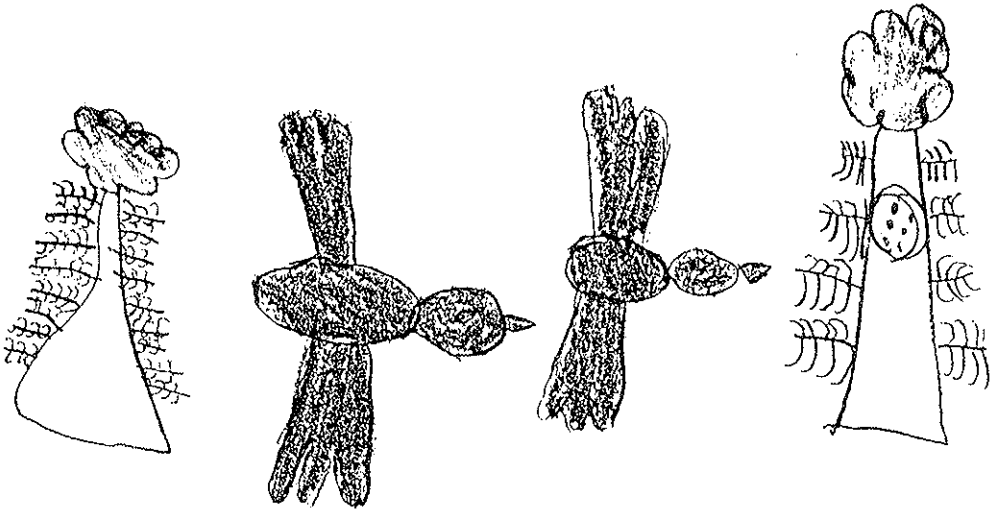
Dulchreichard School

In the spring I feel wonderful. Buds are shooting through. Trees are growing, animals are being born. I love the rain and the sun and the colours. It makes me feel really happy. I can do more at night because the days are getting longer and the nights are getting smaller. I love spring.

Cassie McEwan P.4

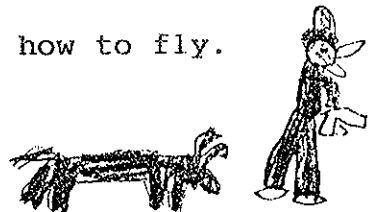
In March if it goes in like a lion it will go out like a lamb. Spring is a lovely season of the year. The daffodils start peeping up from the ground. The lambs start leaping for joy, deer run and rabbits jump over the bushes. More children play. It's my favourite time of the year.

Vickie Common P.4



Mother Owl teaches her babies how to fly.

Kerri McEwan P.1



Church News

Just a few lines to say that a new minister has been installed in the Glen. I wanted to write to tell you who I am and a bit about myself.

My name is Hugh Watt and I have just come from ten years ministering in the Lockwood Parish Church in Glasgow - the home of my birth.

My wife, Ann, and I have been married for nearly 14 years and have amassed 5 children in that time - four girls and a boy.

All of us are happily settling to this very new life in the highlands and finding our niches in a whole host of ways. We are very excited at the prospect of ministering in Glenmoriston and Glenurquhart in the years that lie ahead.

I am not a complete stranger to this area having conducted three services at Invermoriston Parish Church and held one service up at Dulchreichard school a long time ago in July 1983.

In the past I have been involved in a variety of different kinds of ministry - with young folks running holiday clubs and Crusader classes; with the rootless community in Glasgow's Lodging House Mission; with gangs in a folk club in Aberdeen; with prisoners in Barlinnie Prison as a chaplain there; and with students in the colleges and universities.

On the social front, I enjoy a night out with my wife (what parent doesn't ?); I have had a couple of fun years in Glasgow's Minerva Club (amateur production of musicals); I've also enjoyed knocking a squash ball around a court.

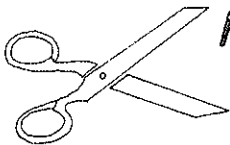
My greatest joy, and reason for being here is to speak about Someone who has become very precious to me. This Person has changed my life - indeed has given me a reason for living - and I would not want selfishly to enjoy Him all for myself - I want to share Him.

Church News

If you come along to Dulchreichard School at 3pm on the first Sunday of each month - or to Drumnadrochit every Sunday 10.30 am and 6.00 pm I'll maybe get the opportunity of introducing my Friend to you. You can bring your children - we have creche and Sunday School at 10.30 am.



Rev. Watt (left) was welcomed to Inverness Presytery by Rev. Fraser Stewart, Moderator.



HAIRDRESSING

by **DOREEN**

Tel 01320 340214

**Ladies, Gents
and Children**

The Fire, the Knickers & the Washing Machine

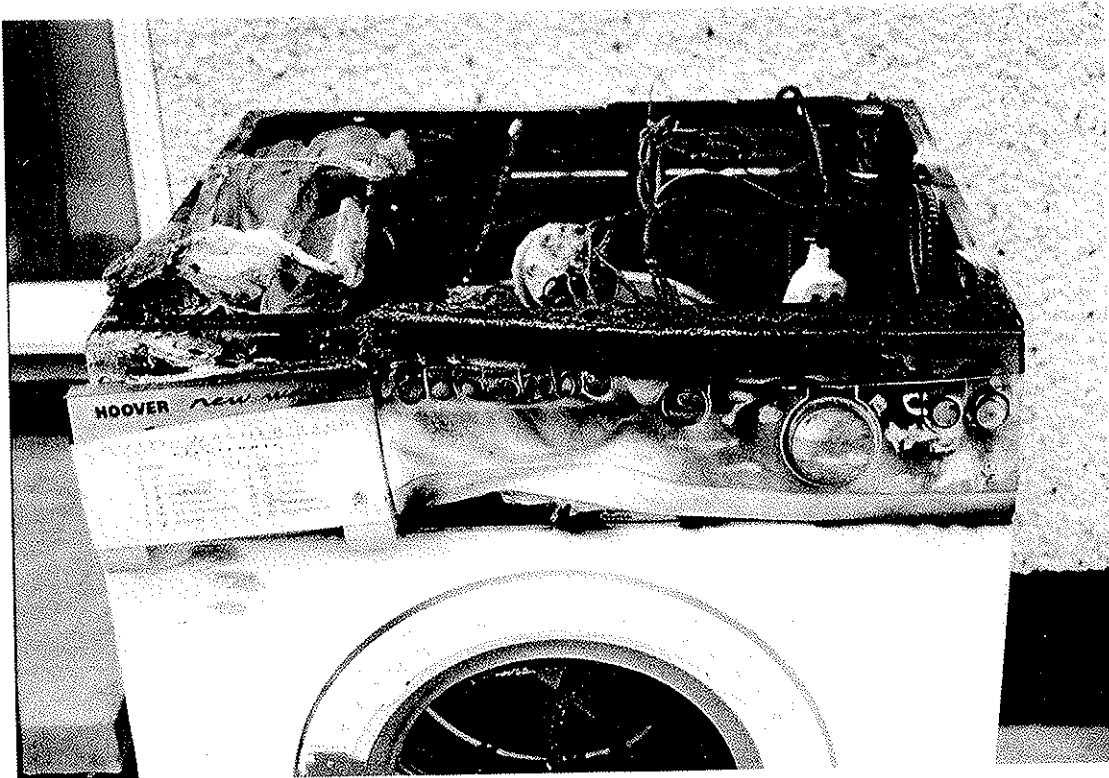
It's not often anyone gets much excitement from a washing machine but Sunday 24th March was a red (perhaps that should be flame red) letter day for my machine.

It was on it's third load of the morning which was not an unusual occurrence when I noticed it was leaking. Well, leaking might be a little too tame really. More like gushing I'd say. Anyway, there was copious amounts of water where there shouldn't have been i.e. on the floor. I said a wee sweary and started to mop up when I noticed a glow inside the machine. I hurriedly switched off at the mains and had another look. Yes, it was definitely glowing. Allan was away that day but his father was working nearby so I gave him a shout. He came with a pained "What on earth has she done this time" look on his face but when he saw the "glow" had accelerated into a "flame" he too moved up a gear. We opened the door to save the "doby" (washing or laundry to most of us). Thankfully it hadn't ignited but now I know the meaning of red-hot knickers - mine were just that ! (Allan says such things have been known in the past but we'll not go into that just now). So, back to the story. Ian and I, by this time, had tears streaming down our faces (from the dense, black toxic fumes and not from the red-hot knickers) and were coughing and spluttering but we separated the machine from its water intakes and hacked through the waste pipe with a bread knife for want of a hack saw. We then literally tipped the now very-definitely-on-fire washing machine out of the back door. It took a good few buckets of water to quench the flames and we were left with a molten mass of plastic which was once a washing machine. You wouldn't have thought there was much to burn in a washing machine - mostly metal you would have thought but believe me there was plenty of flammable material. What a mess and what a fright it gave us. How many of you put on your washing and go out, or go to bed ? That the washing will be completed satisfactorily when you return or when you get up is taken for granted. Finding your knickers on fire, your room full of smoke and your washing machine unrecognizable just doesn't come in to it !

The Fire, the Knickers & the Washing Machine

HOWEVER before you all get rid of your machines and return to the wash board or hitch up your skirts and head for the river, Hoover assure me that this was an extremely rare event, the machine being full of safety devices intended to stop this type of accident occurring and the cause of the blaze will be thoroughly investigated and any design faults fully rectified. In the meantime I look forward to a new carpet, fresh varnish and emulsion and a brand newwashing machine !!!!!!! (and underwear at the regulation temperature !!)

Lesley Common.



What's in a Map Reference

The 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey map of Invermoriston currently available claims to have been compiled from surveys between 1967 and 1974, and revised for selected changes in 1978; an older one I have of Glenmoriston is compiled from surveys dated 1965-67, and revised for significant changes in 1977. One wonders what selected and significant mean ! Some of the features shown on these maps are intriguing. Let us take a short trip around and look at them. Invermoriston village first.

We start at the old pier shown on the map. There is certainly not much of it left now; what boats called in and what cargo and passengers did they bring ? Was it in use in 1978 ?

Just north of the pier and on the same side of the road the map shows "Pol Sta", possibly on the site of Pier Cottage, a little south of Tigh Na Bruach. In the absence of further information in the conventional signs section of the map, I assume that "Pol Sta" is a Police Station. If so, was it in operation in 1978, or did the cartographers consider a change of use not worth "selecting" ?

On the opposite side (west) of the road, slightly nearer to Invermoriston, was a garage; was this a motor repair shop, a petrol filling station, or what ? And a little further north on the same side sheep were apparently washed !

Moving towards the village, St. Columba's well (did he visit Invermoriston after he saw off the monster ?) is marked on the map but it is not clear exactly where it is sited - perhaps in the old graveyard ?

Dundreggan dam was almost certainly built by then, but the river shown on the map looks wide and deep, and waterfalls cascade some way below the bridge.

What's in a Map Reference

Continuing to the junction (A82 / A887) and turning right towards Inverness, a little way past the hotel there are obvious remains of a petrol filling station on the right of the road; this the map ignores. Further on, on the north side of the road between Invermoriston House and Home farm and possibly where Guisaichean Guest House now is, there apparently were kennels; were these boarding kennels or breeding kennels ? The milestone beyond Pole Cottage is still standing but like the one at the junction the lettering cannot be read.

Retracing our steps and taking the road to Skye we find the hotel, church, Post Office, school and Riverside Park all shown. Sadly, both the school and the church no longer fulfil their original purposes, the last service in the latter being held on Sunday, 23rd August, 1992 and the school being closed in the summer of the same year. When did the Post Office move to its present location ?

Moving up the glen from Invermoriston, we note that the milestone indicated near Levishie has disappeared. Further on, the Glenmoriston map indicates a footbridge across the river about a mile below the dam; what was this built for, and how long ago was it still in use ?

Travelling towards Torgoyle it seems not much has changed. The footprints cairn is shown on the map (do they remain a tourist attraction now they've been vandalised ?) The Post Office at Dalchreichart is also shown, but since the revision was in 1977 and the Post Office only closed in 1978 we'll forgive the mapmakers ! However, at that time, as confirmed in Moriston Matters of April, 1991, the PO at Inchmore was no more - but it is clearly marked; another insignificant change ?

If any residents have memories of any of the above, I should be pleased to hear from them.

Peter Giddy,
Redwing Cottage,
Redburn

Pony Club

The 1996 season got underway as usual with the three day non-residential Easter camp for both pony and rider at Dunain Croy, just this side of Inverness. Unfortunately Katie's pony, Casey, decided against doing hard work in any shape or form and developed a limp ! Katie however still attended the course albeit on foot. Vickie's pony, Sammy, had to undergo the rigorous three day workout and he, along with Katie, attended their first cross-country of the year on Saturday 12th, gaining a creditable 7th place. She improved up to 4th place at the next event held by the Ross-shire Pony Club at Contin, riding a brilliant clear round and has another one cross-country to go. Now that she is 11 she has moved up a group which means the courses are longer, the jumps higher and there are more of them !

Vickie is pictured below (far left) during a break from the activities at camp along with some of the other forty four equine enthusiasts who attended camp this year.



Local Quiz

The Friends of the Telford centre at Fort Augustus were pleased to host the quiz again this year. Sixteen teams entered and most games were clearly contested.

The "Glenmoriston" Team (Ann Harris, Sharon Harris, Sheila Lumb and Simon MacLellan) battled through to the final before losing to the "Fort Augustus Lunch Club", who retain the trophy they won last year.

The "Glenmoriston WRI" team (Margaret Anderson, June MacFarland, Sheila MacLellan and Lorna Service) fell in the first round.

"Invermoriston" (represented by Tom Kane, Christine Whitehead and Alan and Heather Smart) looked like doing well after a flawless first round win when they didn't drop a point against the "Playgroup" team. However they lost a close quarter-final against "Glenurquhart Community Association".

Let's hope one of the Glen Teams comes through to win next year - though as quizmaster I am officially impartial !

Ken Anthony, Dalchreichart

SCORES: Quarter-finals

F.A. Bowling Club	26 v Telford Centre	24 *
F.A. Lunch Club	22 v Glenurquhart Girls	19
Glenurquhart Comm.Assoc	23 v Invermoriston	19
Glenmoriston	20 v Invergarry Hotel	15

Semi-finals

F.A. Bowling Club	23 v F.A. Lunch Club	24 *
Glenurquhart Comm.Assoc	22 v Glenmoriston	24 *

Final

F.A. Lunch Club	23 v Glenmoriston	16
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* denotes tie-break decider

Glenmoriston Village Hall

Easter Day was celebrated in the sun-soaked Glen by a "Sunday Funday". Highlight of the day was the ladies V Gents football match (see report further on). There was also the very well supported Duck Race (over 500 ducks were sold), an egg painting and rolling competition and a car boot sale which offered a diverse range of goods from home baking to knitted scarecrows to a wide selection of household goods with a few recipe books thrown in for good measure.

To satisfy the hunger and thirst of the large crowd Ian Common and his merry band of helpers kept the barbeque well stocked with venison and veggie burgers. The gremlins had been interfering with the generator which put paid to the teas and coffees but with the weather being as it was, the cold drinks were what was required anyway.

The winners in the Duck Race were:

- 1st - £ 50 Mr & Mrs Brown, visitors to Caravan Park
- 2nd - £ 25 Eileen Walker, Fyfie Castle
- 3rd - £ 15 Mr & Mrs Taylor, visitors to Caravan Park

The Committee would like to give a very big vote of thanks to everybody who helped out on the day, helped to sell ducks, organised the various events, to all those who attended and enjoyed a super family day out and whose generosity helped boost the Hall funds by over £ 500.

The new hall committee have been progressing with leaps and bounds towards the provision of a new hall for the community. They have approached both the Millenium fund and the National Lottery for funding, have contacted architects who have been involved with other similar projects and have visited halls in other areas, namely Kincaig, Kirkhill, Torridon and Portree. The updated and revamped constitution has been approved by the Trustees of the hall, namely Ian Grant and the Rev. Hugh F. Watt, Church of Scotland Minister for the area who lives in Drumnadrochit.

Glenmoriston Village Hall

Minutes of the meetings of the hall Committee can now be viewed at the shop by any member of the public interested in the progress of the hall.

Much work has been carried out round about the hall itself by various members of the committee, ably assisted by some of the younger members of the community, clearing away all the debris, brambles, bushes, boats and the odd bedstead complete with wash-hand basin !

Copies of the Recipe Book below can be obtained from Tony and Elma Johnstone, Ar Dhachaidh, Dalcattaig, Invermoriston, from the shop, from the Chalet Park or from the Editor.

Glenmoriston Goodies



A Collection of Recipes
from the
Residents of the Glen

Proceeds in aid of the New Village Hall

£2

The Big Football Match

The highlight of the Glenmoriston sporting calendar took place in brilliant sunshine on probably the hottest day of the year as part of the Easter Sunday fundraising extravaganza.

The Stags (ha ha) of the Glens took on the genteel (and the not so genteel !!) ladies at a game of footby or rugbyball (a cross between football, rugby and a word rhyming with Georgy, Porgy !!) Rather more players than is generally stipulated took to the pitch in a variety of sporting attire. There were at least a couple of players of slightly dubious gender - Wilhelmina Greer was giving his, sorry her, new, very becoming blond hairdo its first public outing and was obviously at the head of the queue when the mammary glands were being distributed !!

Donnie MacCormick from Fort Augustus risked his footballing reputation in order to referee the match but he coped admirably with the task, was totally biased towards the fairer sex and even helped out with his feet when the occasion arose.

There were some sparkling performances by the Gazza's of Glenmoriston. Brian Bisset was outstanding on the wing (when he was standing), Davy McEwan a knockout in the air (and in the mirror), Neil Robertson superb on the ground (which he was all too frequently), Simon MacLellan sound in defence (and in de bushes), Geoff Mudditt solid in tackling (and in body), and Kevin Hodson a daredevil in midfield (and in the pub), not to mention Darren McEwan (who frequently showed his father the correct way to play football).

Amongst the women only Heather Smart looked as if she had ever kicked a football before ! Most were far more interested in getting torn into the half-time refreshments. Lesley Common spent far too much time on the ground with the majority of the male team piled on top and still came out with a smile on her face !

The Big Football Match

Mary Greer blasted numerous penalties, obtained for all types of imaginary fouls (including some manhandling of the opposing team, not that they objected), past the quivering goalie (who was only quivering at the thought of the very large bribe he had just been offered NOT to save any goals).

When the final whistle came at the end of the nail-biting match, the teams were neck and neck on 4 goals apiece and a sudden death penalty shootout was declared to find the winners. Needless to say the ladies ended up on top (which is as it should be) but the game itself finished on very friendly terms with both sides exchanging kisses, t-shirts and phone numbers. Only a few of the men actually cried over their defeat which was quite surprising considering how they love to be severely beaten by a gaggle of giggling girls !!

Thanks to Janet Robertson for providing the delicious liquid refreshments at half time which dulled the pain in the shins, brought a healthy glow to the cheeks and in the stomach but doubled the number of balls on the pitch (it didn't make it any easier to connect with the ball though !!)

A great time was had by all - thanks to everyone who took part and Ralgex is very good for taking away all the aches and pains !!



Local Success

At the end of last season I received the Post Office Cup from Inverness Harriers for the most outstanding under-16 long jumper in Scotland which I was extremely pleased about and which ended the year on a very proud note.

Life may be quite a bit tougher this season as I am now in the under-17 age group but I have been training all winter with my new coach, Mel Fowler, who has taught me a great deal in the last few months. I now have my own personal training program which he has produced for me.

I went to Kelvin Hall on Thursday 29th February for the indoor championships and was placed 4th in the 200m, 4th in the 100m and 4th in the long jump. I'm not particularly fond of indoor sport but was pleased with my placings.

I was invited to Pitreavie in Fife for a days coaching on March 17th but was unable to attend due to the weather. However I made up for that by having two days of coaching with Dinkar Sabnis, sponsored by Hydro-Electric, at the beginning of April which were very interesting.

The first event of the season proper was held in Inverness on 13th April. I entered two events; the 100m and the long jump and was 1st in both.

On Sunday 21st I was in Aberdeen for the MacDonalds Young Athlete's league for Inverness Harriers. Unfortunately I was disqualified in the relay for coming out of my lane but was 3rd in the 200m.

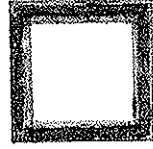
I would like to say a special thank you to Geoff Buzzacott for sponsoring me again this year and also to Mel Fowler for taking a serious interest in my sport.

Steven Smith.

Witty Ditty's

This also appeared in the Saltwood Parish Magazine.
(The minister down there in Kent must have a very
good sense of humour or else he doesn't buy the
magazine !!

Hold this page close to you
and blow on the square.



If it turns green call your doctor,
If it turns brown call your dentist,
If it turns purple call your psychiatrist,
If it turns red call your bank manager,
If it turns black call your undertaker,
IF IT REMAINS THE SAME COLOUR

you are in good health and there is no reason
why you should not be in church on Sunday !!

Four Generations

It can't happen very often that four generations of
the same family live within a stones throw of one
another but the Common family below do just that.
If anyone else has an interesting family picture
then please share it with us.

Back: Ian (61), Allan (34)
Katie (11), Grannie (86), Vickie (8)



I'd Come to Church but.....

A for the Aunt I'm expecting to tea,
B for the Bed where I'd much rather be.
C for the Car wanting a wash and a shine,
D for the Dinner that must be on time.
E for the extremes, either too high or too low,
F for my Feelings which I try not to show.
G for the Garden which needs lots of care,
H for the Hoeing that I must do there.
I for the Incense, we don't need at all,
J the Jokes by the vicar, they're beginning to pall
K for the Kneeling, it tires me so much,
L for the Language that's all double Dutch.
M for the Money, they always want more,
N is for nodding off, I try not to snore.
O for the Overtime that's double on Sunday,
P for the Plans for my day off on Monday.
Q for Queer noises, it must be the Choir,
R for the Reader whose diction is dire.
S for the Sermon, nothing new does it bring,
T for the Tunes that no one can sing.
U for Unfriendly, there's nowhere to sit,
V for the Vicar whom I don't like a bit.
W for weather, always windy and wet,
X for eXcuses, I've another one yet.
Y for the Yells from the babies at the back
Z is for Zeal, oh dear, yes I know that's what I
lack !

The above appeared in a local Parish Church magazine from Saltwood, Hythe in Kent, sent to me by Ian Common's cousin who lives there.

What's the Answer ?

I hate answering machines. Call me old fashioned but I still prefer talking to a human being. However, even I couldn't resist this recording:

"The answering machine is on holiday. This is the refrigerator speaking. If you leave a message slowly and clearly, I will write it down and stick it on myself with one of those little magnets."

What is the best "answer" you have ever heard ?

Local Success

Allan Common and Neil Robertson alias "The Dog House Band", (when asked why the unusual name, Neil replied, " thats where I generally am if anyone is looking for me and I'm not in the pub !) played their first proper ceilidh in Invergarry Hall back in March. Aply assisted by sister Shona, Calum Stewart from Invergarry and Sheila Peters from Inverness, they entertained a good crowd and had them all up dancing. The Band also had support from other local artists. The evening proved so popular that another one was suggested for sometime during the summer so watch out for that.

Allan was also in the line-up at a dance organised by the Kilmallie Old-Time Dance Club held in the Caol Community Centre in aid of the Dunblane Appeal Fund. On stage alongside him was well-known band leader from Inverness, Jock Fraser and Jim MacCallum, Willie Godzman and Jackie Henderson, all from Fort William. Allan and Jock took turn about leading the impromptu band and the ensuing sound would have made Robbie Shepherd proud !

Local Quiz

The Quiz nights, held in the Tavern on a Thursday night ended with the Glenmoriston Arms Hotel Quaich being awarded to the "SFA" team which comprised of Alan and Heather Smart & Richard and Gina Jarvis. The very popular evenings entertainment will resume in October which gives all you budding quiz-goers plenty of time to rustle up a team of four and brush up on your general knowledge.

Local News

Neil and Carol Scott have recently opened up a craft centre and picture gallery in the Hotel. On show will be pictures by local artists and on sale, tasteful souvenirs and gifts, many using both Loch Ness Tartan and Isle of Skye Tartan. Also on offer will be a new line in Glenmoriston Arms Hotel chocolates. (Mmmmmn !)

Local News

WELCOME to Sherwood and Faith Shea who have taken over the management of Cluanie Hotel. Sherwood, whose family were originally from Brora, and whose C.V. boasts having been chef to the Duke and Duchess of Aragon in Spain aboard their royal yacht, assures me that they will be offering the same high standard of cuisine using fresh and home grown produce as we have come to expect.

BEST WISHES to Janet and Neil Robertson who have moved into their new house, "Ericht".

WELCOME BACK to Alan (Benny) MacDonell who, after a brief stay in Strathpeffer, has returned to the Glen to live in Neil's now vacant house in Riverside Park.

GOOD LUCK to Danny and Alma Stoddart who have left Cluanie Inn for the bright lights of Inverness.

BADMINTON - Tuesday 8pm, Village Hall, all welcome.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY :

Sunday June 9th - The Hall Committee are holding a Plant and Home Baking Stall in the Village Hall between 2pm and 4pm and would very much like donations of the same and/or offers of help. The person to contact for information is Claire Levings on 351254.

Sunday 7th July - Moray Firth Cycling Club (as part of the Scottish Cycle Union Series) at Invermoriston Playing Fields. Details to follow.

All proceeds from the above events towards the Glenmoriston Village Hall fund.