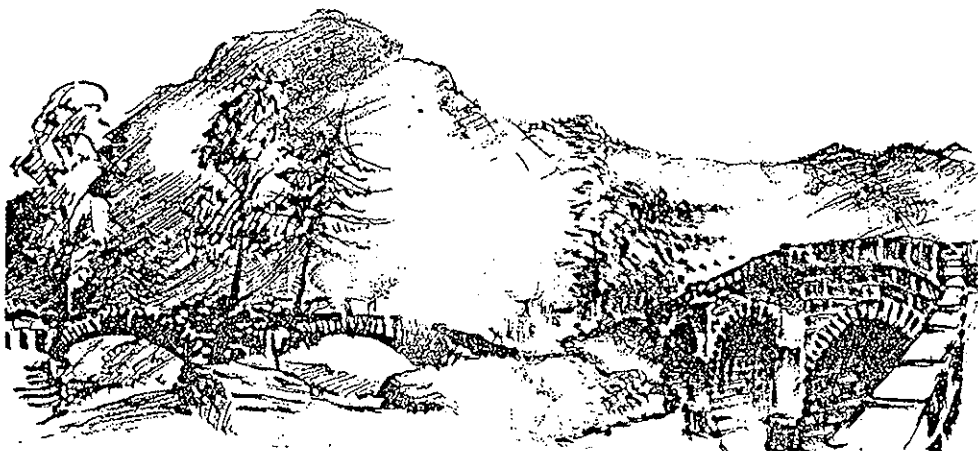


Morriston Matters



Autumn 96



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

No 55

35p

Editorial

Autumn is one of my favourite times of the year - the hectic summer is nearly over. Gone is the panic of forgetting to water the hanging baskets and deadheading the pansies, the ponies are allowed to be scruffy instead of immaculate. I can look forward to cosy evenings beside the fire catching up on all the odd jobs, paperwork and mending that get put aside during the summer. I can look forward to soups and steam puddings instead of lettuce leaves and ice cream (not so good for the waistline but there's all those big baggy sweaters to cover up the evidence !)

It was lovely to see a revival of that rare commodity, community spirit, at the Ceilidh. What a lovely surprise when I arrived at the Hall to find it lively, busy and bristling with excitement (unfortunately I believe this was caused by the prospect of possibly being £500 richer by the end of the evening and not by the thought of my dancing skills !!) However it's not often there is a shortage of seating in our old hall - there's life in the old dog yet !

I received a nice letter from Joan, a care assistant in the Delniesmuir Nursing Home where Miss Margaret Campbell now resides telling me that she is quite settled there and is very happy. Most of the time Margaret enjoys good health and gets along well with everyone. Thankfully she hasn't lost her very wry sense of humour and still enjoys a good laugh, keeping all the staff on their toes ! She enjoys reading the magazine, hearing about familiar people and places.

If you know of anyone who perhaps used to live in or have connections with the Glen and you think they would be interested in receiving the magazine then just drop me a line along with £2 - a subscription would make a good Christmas present !

All material for publishing should be addressed to:
The Editor, "Moriston Matters",
The Old Well, Dalchreichart,
Glenmoriston, Inverness-shire,
IV3 6YJ Tel. or Fax. 01320 340205.

Local News

"Moriston Matters" has presented a lovely shield to the residents of the Glen which is to be awarded to the person or persons who, in the opinion of those residents and readers of the magazine, has contributed the most to the community over the past year or who deserves some special commendation.

Voting slips have been distributed to all households and recipients of the magazine, for their nominations which should be returned to the Editor by the 1st December.



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Glenmoriston Village Hall

The fundraising efforts of 1996 came to a climax with the draw for the Grand Raffle taking place during a Ceilidh held in the Hall at the beginning of October. Entertainment was of a very high standard throughout the evening beginning with Mrs Everett and her merry troupe of dancers, both young and not so young ! Cassie McEwan and Lesley Common were joined by young ladies from Fort Augustus, Invergarry, Whitebridge and Drumnadrochit.

Thomas Grant from Invermoriston showed his competence on the fiddle with a fine tune.

Brian Thompson, the new owner of the Smithy in Invermoriston, along with Angus Grant from Kiltarlity had the toes tapping and a few dancing to the jaunty sound of their guitar and accordion.

The multi-talented Henderson family from Fort Augustus displayed their various skills with Jacqueline on the bagpipes, Jonathon on accordian and fiddle and lastly the duo of Peter and Aimee, both on fiddle, whose harmonies blended particularly well. Jonathon also joined in with the main musical attraction of the evening, namely "The Doghouse Ceilidh Band plus the Kennel Maid" alias Allan Common on accordian, Neil Robertson on guitar and the "Kennel Maid", Alison Reid from Dingwall on fiddle. They provided excellent music both for listening to and for dancing with a fine selection of jigs, reels, marches and waltzes with a few slow airs thrown in for good measure. Both Allan and Alison are regular players at local accordian and fiddle clubs.

However, for some, the main highlight of the evening was the draw for the raffle. Derek MacFarland announced the imminent start of the draw on the pipes. There were 36 prizes in total with 14 of those staying in the Glen. (a full list of all the prizewinners can be obtained from the Editor)

Glenmoriston Village Hall

The prizewinners were:

£500 - John Grant, Dundreggan
£100 - Mr & Mrs Walker, Redburn
Wine - Tony Johnstone, Dalcattaig
Wine - John Grant, Dundreggan
Wine - Hamish Munroe, Achnaconeran
FC T-Shirt - Mr & Mrs Walker, Redburn
FC T-Shirt - Anne-Marie Gillies, Achlain
Cuddley Toy - Alan Smart, Invermoriston
Malt Whisky - Derek MacFarland, Dalcattaig
Speciality Tea - Mr. St. John Hattersley, Port Clair
Coffee Machine - Kim Edwards, Inchmore
Elderflower Vinegar - Freddy Brownlee, Redburn
Dinner for 2 at the Hotel - Mike Allen, Dalcattaig
Great Glen Water Park Voucher - Graham MacLellan

All prizes were very kindly donated by:

Mr D. Andrews, Dalchreichart	The Bothy Bite FA
British Waterways, FA	Mr Cattier, Achlain
The Coffee House, FA	COOP Society Ltd
Mrs A. Douglas, Dalcattaig	The Emporium FA
Forestry Commission	Fort Augustus Abbey
Glenmoriston Arms Hotel	Glen Service Station FA
Gondolier Restaurant FA	Mrs C. Grant Bhlaraidh
Great Glen Water Park	Hydro Electric
Imrays FA	Invermoriston Holiday Chalets
Invergarry Hotel	Mr P. Johansen, Invermoriston
Mrs D. Jones, Dalchreichart	Lifestyle Stores FA
Loch Ness Caravan Park	Lovat Arms Hotel FA
The MacAskills	The Riding Centre FA
M.V. Royal Scot FA	Safeway Stores Inverness
Thistle Stop, Invergarry	Alan Draper

The Committee would very much like to thank all those who very generously donated prizes, all of the entertainers, all those who helped in any way to make the night a success and last, but very definitely not least, everybody who came through the door, who, I'm sure, had a very enjoyable evenings entertainment.

Glenmoriston Village Hall

The bank balance has improved substantially with the fundraising efforts of this year. The raffle took in approx. £2,440, the bar realised £275 and £400 was taken at the door which along with the other activities gives a total for 1996 so far of £7,235. The home baking and coffee mornings which were run throughout the summer contributed a princely sum of £1367.15 to the fund - quite an achievement.

The committee again wishes to express their gratitude to all those involved whether as bakers, craft item makers, articles for sale donators, helpers at the hall or, the main ingredient, the customers. This activity was truly a great success and was enjoyed not only by those who sampled the wonderful home baking but by those who took turns to man (or woman) the stall. It was agreed that it was a very good method of catching up with all the news and meeting new people whilst at the same time doing some good for the community.

Witty Ditty

WHO IS COLOURED ?

When I was born I was BLACK,
When I grew up I was BLACK.
When I get hot I am BLACK,
When I get cold I am BLACK.
When I get sick I am BLACK,
When I die I am BLACK.

When you are born you are PINK,
When you grow up you are WHITE.
When you get hot you go RED,
When you get cold you go BLUE.
When you get sick you go PURPLE,
When you die you go GREEN.

BUT yet you have the cheek to call me coloured !

Pony Club

By the look of the ever-thickening woolly winter coats on the ponies, summer is definitely over.

We have had quite a good season apart from Casey and her foot problems ! Both girls attended Pony Club Camp which they thoroughly enjoyed. It wasn't quite so pleasurable on my pocket though, for as well as the actual fees for the camp, the girls managed to loose a rug and one of Vickie's not-even-a-fortnight-old trainers amongst other minor bits and bobs. Oh well, as long as THEY enjoyed it !

The Black Isle show was our most illustrious outing. Vickie won her First Ridden class on Sammy then went on to take the Championship winning two trophies. He has now been either champion or reserve champion for the last five years - not a bad achievement. Katie won her Working Hunter Pony class, also on Sammy, to add a further piece of silverware to the mantelpiece.

I myself aquired another pony during the summer, ostensibly to replace 'Mouse', who is currently for sale but is still eating her head off in the field. The new boy is a lovely chestnut Welsh Section B two-year old called Aytounhill Fanfare or Pharaoh for short. He is showing great promise having had three outings this year winning a good class at Turriff show and being second on the other two occasions.

Katie completed 3 one-day-events (dressage, cross-country and showjumping) being in the ribbons in every one. She also passed her 'C' test, the next stage of thr Pony Club's continual assessment.

Vickie competed in her very first cross-country event at the end of September. My heart was in my mouth as she set off and I had visions of the pair of them getting lost on the moor or, worse still, Sammy coming home alone but she surprised us all by taking 1st place ahead of seven others. Not bad for her first attempt !

The Big Bike Ride

Having been informed by the weathermen that we were in for a weekend of severe precipitation, the enthusiasm for the Big Cycle Ride had diminished along with a good many participants. However, in keeping with tradition, the aforementioned so-called experts were wrong again and the intrepid cyclists enjoyed a warm and relatively dry day.

The primary school children which, bar one, were all from Dalchreichart Primary School (what happened to all those children who go to Fort Augustus - we were collecting for your party too you know). They had to pedal 5 miles down the Dalcattaig Road to earn their sponsorship money. There were no casualties and only a couple of "chains-off". Between them they managed to raise £ 225.85 with Duncan and Iona Greer winning the prize for collecting the most sponsorship money; £ 50. All the participants, including Sian Curley (3), who cycled part of the way, were awarded a medal courtesy of "Moriston Matters" who sponsored both bike rides this year.

After a brief shower, which wakened up some of the cyclists, the 14 adults and secondary school pupils braved the elements and took off down the hill at Cluanie Dam. Joining the "seniors" this year were 3 youngsters, Amy Bisset and Katie & Vickie Common. All three completed the course in a perfectly respectable time proving just how easy the cycle can be.

The ride now has two very distinct divisions to it - the serious element who are going for fast times and medals and where there is quite strong rivalry - (will anyone ever beat Henry down the road ?) and the not so serious element who enjoy a much more leisurely pace but still arrive at the end (I was going to say "arrive at the bottom" but that's usually a sore point !)

Both types of riders are very much welcomed and it would be nice to see more of the latter next year. It really is a very pleasant way of spending a Sunday afternoon, honest !!

Gold, Silver and Bronze medals were awarded to Henry, Neil and Billy, all who improved their times from last year: Henry by 1 min 8 secs, Neil by 11 mins 3 secs and Billy by 8 mins 57 secs. Billy was also embarassingly awarded the prize for being the most senior rider. The prize for the most money collected went to Lesley who enticed £137 away from people, all of whom live out of the Glen. People at dances were noted to be heading for the toilets when she was seen getting out her green sponsor sheet !!

Grateful thanks go to everybody who helped out on the day; to Neil and Carol Scott who once again provided the heart warming plate of soup and crusty bread at the finish; to Claire McEwan for driving the front warning car; to Angus Kennedy for bringing up the rear; to Willie Archibald for transporting all the bikes; to the drivers who transported all the bikers; to Mattieu Curley for first aid cover (thats the second year running it just so happens he was on call - next year it's on the bike for him !); to the time keepers; to Forest Enterprise for the use of their roads and tracks; to all those who sponsored the cyclists or donated money and finally to all the riders for taking part and raising a very tidy sum. The seniors managed to collect £421.20 which, along with the juniors total of £225.85 and some very generous donations, brings the total to £687.

Times were as follows :

Henry Cruickshank	47 mins 55 secs	*
Neil Robertson	49 mins 22 secs	*
Billy Greer	52 mins 25 secs	*
Chris Cayton	54 mins 54 secs	
Archie MacLellan	58 mins 07 secs	*
Darren McEwan	1 hour 01 mins 50 secs	*
Dave McEwan	1 hour 09 mins 48 secs	
Alistair Norton	1 hour 11 mins 10 secs	
Graham Taylor	1 hour 16 mins 12 secs	
Lisa Bullock	1 hour 16 mins 18 secs	
Peter Levings	1 hour 18 mins 15 secs	
Caroline Kennedy	1 hour 23 mins 44 secs	*
Lesley Common	1 hour 28 mins 43 secs	
Jamie Scott	1 hour 32 mins 15 secs	

* Those marked with an asterisk improved their times from last year.

Local Success

As the summer athletics season draws to a close I can reflect on a successful years running and jumping in a new age group, venturing into new events as the triple jump and the pentathlon and an increase in silverware for Mum to polish !

Saturday July 13th - I travelled to Wishaw where I was 3rd in the long jump with 5.93m.

Sunday August 11th - Not my best day ever but was 4th in the 100m in a time of 12.4 secs, 4th in the 200m in 24.9 secs and 3rd in the triple jump at only my second attempt with a jump of 11.24m.

Saturday 31st August - Glenurquhart Games was, like last year, a great day for me. I received the A. C. McKell cup for the most points in the under 16 group, the Buntait cup for the long jump and in the afternoon, competing against the men in the long jump, I was 3rd.

Inverness Harriers Club Championships - placings as follows;

Triple Jump	- 1st	: 11.55 m
High Jump	- 2nd	: 1.4 m
200m	- 1st	: 25.3 secs
400m	- 1st	: 56.7 secs
Long Jump	- 1st	: 5.74 m
100m	- 1st	: 12.0 secs

Pentathlon - 2nd Overall

Shot	2nd
100m	1st
800m	1st
Long Jump	1st

At the Harriers presentations on the 20th September I was very proud to be awarded the Post Office Cup (2nd year running) for the most outstanding long jumper under-17 in Scotland and the Sprint Championship.

I am now into my winter training and will be competing in some cross-country events over the next few months.

Again I would very much like to thank my main sponsor, Buzz, for all his help, financial and otherwise, throughout a rather expensive season ! Also thanks go to my Mum and Dad for getting up at ridiculous hours in the morning on their days off to ferry me back and forward to events. They have clocked up an impressive 6,007 miles just doing that !

My thanks as well to 'Moriston Matters' for its continued coverage.

I am extremely grateful to everyone for their support and committment - I couldn't carry on without it !

Steven Smith

Local Success

I started the season well with 9th position in the first race of the Scottish National Series at Aberdeen, a long tough course but one that I like. After that it went, literally, downhill and, unfortunately, my worst race was at Invermoriston where I had high hopes of doing very well.

I still managed to finish 17th position overall in the Series which was not too bad for my first year in the Junior category. I intend to train hard over the winter to try and improve upon this next year, as I know I can do better.

The races where I was successful were the longer point to point ones; finishing 4th in the Glen Affric to Fort Augustus race (55 miles) and 3rd in the Kingussie to Loch Morlich race (38 miles). There is still a race from Fort William to Fort Augustus still to come.

Henry Cruickshank,
Loch Ness Cottage.

N.B. Henry improved his time in the sponsored Bike Ride from Cluanie Dam to Invermoriston by 68 secs (see bike ride report)

Memories of the Glen

Today Grandma, Hannah and I all went to the Black Isle Show at Muir of Ord. We arrived there at about 10.45am. It was £2 for the car, £2 for Hannah and me and £4 for Grandma so altogether it cost us £10 to get in !

Firstly we went to the plant stall and flower exhibition. I tried to keep Grandma away from it but that was extremely hard ! I liked it in the flower exhibition because the children of one or two of the schools in Muir of Ord had made miniture gardens, decorated wellies, animals out of food and flower arranging. We looked around the show. I nearly bought a pair of tartan trousers but Grandma said that she would buy them for either my birthday or Christmas, I haven't made my mind up yet. I took some pictures of some horses and cattle. Before lunch we looked at the left hand side of the show. After we had done that we went back to the car for lunch. For lunch I had a cup of hot chocolate and egg and cress sandwiches, for pudding I had a Kit-Kat. Then we looked at the right side of the show. Firstly we went into the R.S.P.B. tent and I did a childrens quiz to win a book about birds and an adults quiz to win some money I think. After we had been in there we went into the craft fair and Hannah had a leather wristband with Pulp written on it. Up in the far corner of the craft fair was a stall selling shellfish and of course I was over there like a shot and bought a tub of mussels to eat. Then we found a candy floss stall and Hannah and I had a stick each but I could not finish mine because it was too big so I had to throw the last bit in the bin because Grandma did not like it and Hannah was full. Then we went to the Lakeland Plastics tent and it was absolutly packed, you could hardly move. Then it started to rain, I had two goes on a stall on which you could win a big Tigger or Winnie-the-Pooh. But I did not win. On the way out Grandma bought us all an ice-cream and then we went home. I had a lovely day.

Holly Smith (Age 10)

Grand-daughter of Tony & Elma Johnstone, Dalcattaig

Church News

One of the striking features of Invermoriston in these days has been a large target board outside the Hall. It is not (we hope) a target for pistol practise or catapults, but rather a financial target for fund-raising. Many people are encouraged to contribute when they see the target coming steadily closer. Not just those in the surrounding area, but others are invited to see what has already been achieved, and the hope is that others will also catch the vision and come on board.

This would also be true in a whole variety of different ventures. When a company is doing well, people will buy shares in it - and the more people that buy shares, the higher go the share prices - and this attracts further buyers. Or on the culinary front, if you know that a restaurant is always fully booked, it will be an incentive for you to book up and go and take in the exquisite ambiance. Equally, if you are wandering along the street looking for an eating place and you look in the window and find that every table is empty, you are likely (if you're anything like my wife) to pass on quickly to another establishment.

Now, it may surprise you, but this same rule applies in some measure to Churches also. If you go into a large Church with a small number in the congregation - and they are scattered all over the building, it won't encourage you to come back. Equally, if you come into a Church which is well filled - people jostling for seats - the singing is rousing, you might be encouraged to return. You imagine that this doesn't happen in Churches ? Well, actually it does. Indeed in the Church in Drumnadrochit any Sunday at 10.30am you might be surprised at how popular Sunday Worship is here. I reckon that if you gave it a go, you might want to come back !

There are services in Dulchreichard Primary School at 3pm on the first Sunday of each month.

Rev. Hugh Watt, Urquhart Church Manse.

Folk Lore

The Prologue to the Wholly Unlikely Story of ANGELINA

The appearance of the Telford Centre does not suggest a scenario for a story of the para-normal. It has no turrets, no mullioned windows set in massive stone walls. Nothing looks as though it is liable to go 'bump' in the night, and beneath its tranquil exterior, there are no rumours of horrific murders way back in the Telford History. We must think not so much of the modern building (circa 1988), but rather more of the environment in which it stands.

The centre was built to provide care and accommodation for elderly or lonely or neglected persons. It must have been purely fortuitous that its foundations were laid close to the remains of a medieval Convent, with its own private graveyard. There are, also, stony relics of a tunnel, an underground walk-way between the Convent and the nearby Benedictine Abbey. The purpose of the tunnel must have been to provide unobtrusive communication between the two institutions; when the emotions are thus involved, one finds intrigue, plot and counterplot and, perhaps, murder as well. So it seems that although the original intention was far removed from the weird and spooky, the Telford Centre has quite a sizeable potential as a venue for strange happenings.

Some time ago I availed myself of the services of the Centre to help me through a period of emotional imbalance following a personal crisis. Amongst the residents, there were several whose behavior was noticeably odd; such as the one who spent a lot of time walking - apparently aimlessly - either in Fort Augustus during the day, or along the corridors of the Telford Centre at night. As one might expect, this person was deemed to be responsible for ALL the unexplained noises we heard. I am unwilling to accept this facile solution, particularly in the face of accumulating evidence, as an alternative is available and is more likely to be true.

As you now know something of her background, and how the story came to be written, allow me to tell you about Angelina, and please remember during your reading, that every word is true - it is only when you see the words strung together, that you may start to have doubts about it.

ANGELINA - 500 YEARS ON

It was in the month of May 1390 that Angus McTarff and his wife, Angela, established their first home in the forest near to the hamlet we know as Fort Augustus.

Angus was a high-class joiner; the house he built was one of the finest for miles around. Angela McTarff was equally esteemed as a seamstress; should you need an elegant outfit for a special occasion, you would come to Angela for it. Between them, Angus and Angela were doing very well, and before long, to enhance their happiness, Angela presented to Angus and the world, a daughter. To commemorate the baby's christening, the proud parents commissioned the best artist in Scotland to paint a picture of their house, and for several years, the entrance hall of Tarff Place was graced by the artist's work in prime position on the wall facing the front door.

Then, tragedy struck the McTarff family. A fire destroyed the house and took the lives of Angus and Angela. Miraculously, the picture in the hall was spared and suffered no damage. The daughter, teen-age Angelina was away from home at the time and so escaped the fire but she suffered grievously from the mental devastation that marked her return. She was heart-broken and unconsolable, spending all her days and most of her nights wandering, refusing to believe that her parents were not to be found - somewhere.

Fearing for her sanity, friends urged her to seek help and advice from the Mother Superior of the nearby Convent. Mother O'Godiva received her very kindly and suggested that it would be easier to help her to overcome her loss if she were to join the Order and make her home with the other Sisters. After much thought this is what she decided to do, and so far as we know, she had only one further contact with the outside world during the rest of her life. This was in the person of the artist who painted the picture of Tarff Place. He came to ask her permission to paint the site of the house, now overgrown with shrubs and grass, so that it may hang on her wall in company with the first one. Apparently this was done, but for many years the art world lost sight of the two pictures until they mysteriously turned up at the Telford centre shortly after the building was erected. They now hang, side by side, in one of the dining rooms, where they arouse a lot of interest: Visitors tend to ask "What do they mean, and what is the story behind them ? "

Well - now you know; partly, for that is not the end of it.

(Angelina continues in the next edition)

Obituary

Earlier this year Norman Bullock lost his will to live and tragically took his own life. Before he died he completed the above story and also his autobiography entitled "The Ultimate Enigma". Both are interesting, amusing and often very touching.

Norman was born 84 years ago in Grimsby. He was not expected to live.

Extract from "The Ultimate Enigma"

"I was found to have abdominal tuberculosis. For children of my age in the early part of the 20th century that was virtually a death sentence. "Forget about school - take him to live in the country - and feed him up", said the doctor, who must have known that "country" and "lots of food" would not have had the slightest effect on my chances of living or dying. As it happens I lived."

After discarding the notion of being a professional musician, he had various jobs in hospitals and laboratories in England and the West Indies before settling down in his birthplace and setting up his own successful chiropody practise which he ran for 30 years right up to the time his wife died.

Extract from "The Ultimate Enigma"

"When she died the practice died with her as I had not the heart to keep it alive. It was during this period of total depression following her death that I sold or gave away everything and moved up to Scotland. If she were still here I might feel differently about my situation and my surroundings, but I cannot look through the Briarbank windows and see the variable moods of Loch Ness without a bitter conviction that, had I been able to do more to help her when she needed me most desperately, she might be here to look at the Loch with me and enjoy it and, perhaps, love it, together. I hate it."

During the four and a half years Norman lived in Scotland the one thing which improved his outlook on life was meeting Joan Gunn who lived then at Torgoyle. Friendship and and a great love of music were just a few of the things they shared but Joan's health was deteriorating and she died in December 1995, leaving Norman alone once more.

Extract from "The Ultimate Enigma"

"I do not know what I shall do now; life has become empty. It was empty after I lost my wife, but at that time the future offered some hope, which grew stronger when Joan came along. Now, there is no hope. If I were a religious man, I should be grateful for having enjoyed the love of two good women, and I suppose, in a way, I am grateful, but that is not enough to fill the void where my heart used to be."

Perhaps that last paragraph says it all and why he did what he did.

He is survived by his son, Michael.

TV Club

At a sparsely attended AGM held at the Schoolhouse on 31st August the Committee which had been elected at the EGM on 13th June remained in office, apart from Christina Smith who expressed a wish to stand down, and was replaced by Isobel Anthony.

I am sure all members will join with me in thanking Christina for her valuable contribution to the club, having served as a Committee member and Secretary for several years.

The AGM also endorsed the principle of one property, one vote, and the Committee is now actively considering ways and means of implementing this.

The Treasurer presented and explained the accounts, and the meeting agreed the subscription for the year of £ 20 per household which is now due. This should provide sufficient funds to enable upkeep of our equipment up the hill, insurance, and hopefully enough to cover the cost of replacing the cable which is now very old, and will in any case be displaced when the new road is built.

It might be appropriate at this point to remind members of how our Club came into being. Fifteen years ago some of the then residents of the Glen (led by Norman Harris, sadly no longer with us, who also made a substantial financial contribution) got together for the purpose of obtaining the necessary equipment to ensure that members of the community could enjoy colour television reception in their houses. The inaugural meeting was attended by twenty persons. After this meeting, dedicated members worked avidly to obtain planning permission, seek a suitable site, apply for grants, get Home Office and BBC permission etc. etc.. and it is because of the efforts of these founder members that we are now all able to enjoy our television viewing. If any member wishes to see evidence of the amount of work that went into this Club at the beginning, I can supply it from the mountains of correspondence I have in my possession.

The original members of the Club paid for the initial installation, and there were far fewer of them then - less than 20 households, as against 49 today; we should be grateful for their pioneering.

Finally, please remember that for every household that does not pay, all the rest of us, including the unemployed and senior citizens, pay EXTRA; so please send your subscription to the Treasurer NOW. A receipt will be issued; for those in financial difficulty payment by installments will be perfectly acceptable.

Peter Giddy (Sec)

Country talk

Well, was it last year's long hot summer or last winter's extremely cold spell (who didn't have burst pipes ?) that wiped out a substantial proportion of the Gorse in the Highlands ? And why just the Gorse ? Why didn't the Juniper suffer, or the Broom, Holly, Hawthorn and many treasured garden shrubs ? Evidence of the destruction is plain wherever one travels. It's a complete mystery to me - perhaps Someone up there isn't too keen on kissing !!

Thank goodness for the recent rain. We were beginning to think the hill above us was drying out and we would lose our water supply. For the first time in many months our burn, and others nearby, have been in spate, and the Dundreggan Dam gates have been opened, letting enough water cascading down river to enable tourists (as well as us) to enjoy once again the spectacle of the Invermoriston falls. Talking of waterfalls, I recently found a marvellous book in James Thin's: "The Waterfalls of Scotland"; only £ 7.99, published by the Aberdeen University Press. I never knew there were so many waterfalls about. Foyers and Plodda are well enough known, but are you aware of Divach, Corrimoney, Knockie, Tarff and Allt Ladaidh ? They are all not too far away and certainly well worth a visit, particularly after a day or two of rain.

Peter Giddy.

Local News

BEST WISHES to Ian and Barbara Taylor as they take over Redburn Tearooms. Emphasis has switched from food to crafts but teas, coffees, home baking and light snacks are still available.

BEST WISHES to Ricky Linton, Dalchreichart, as he becomes the new proprietor of the village shop.

GOOD LUCK to Lou & June Curzon and Vic Wilson as they move to Norfolk.

QUIZ NIGHT - In the Tavern on Thursday evenings at 9pm. Come yourself or bring a team of 4

BADMINTON - In the Hall on Tuesday evenings at 8pm

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Friday 2nd November - Children's Halloween Party in the hall from 6pm - 8pm

Friday 2nd November - Dance in the Hall from 9pm - 1am with the "Doghouse Ceilidh Band" and "Juniper Hill".

Tuesday 5th Nov - Bonfire Night 6.30pm Riverside Park. Barbeque & Fireworks

Wed 20th Nov - Glenmoriston Village Hall AGM plus Cheese & Wine - 7.30pm

Wed 27th Nov - Pre-Christmas Craft Demonstration & Sales evening at the Hall - 7.30pm till 11pm. Admission £1 to include a glass of wine and a mince pie.