

# *Foriston Matters*



*Spring 97*



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

*No 57*

*35p*

# Editorial

What a wealth of places we do have to partake of morning coffee.

We can go to the hotel, we can venture into the hall ( during the summer months ), chat with the ladies and sample their home baking, we can peruse the antiques across the road in the Old Smiddy whilst enjoying a cuppa, we can ( very shortly ) visit the new cafe next to the Old Post Office or we can tootle up the Glen a few miles and discover a wealth of lovely crafts whilst tucking into a snack along with the coffee. Spoilt for choice we are !!

I've been generating the "Moriston Matters" now for six years, this being my 26th edition, yet thankfully I still enjoy doing it, contrary to what most people may think !!

What I don't enjoy is nagging people for articles - it's lovely when members of the community contribute items for inclusion entirely off their own bat without any prompting. No wonder many residents of the Glen would make themselves scarce when former editor, the late Margaret Fraser, was seen approaching - in her day the magazine was bi-monthly - at least I only have four issues to fill !!

If you have anything to fill up my pages with then please send it to:

The Editor, "The Old Well",  
Dalchreichart, Glenmoriston,  
Inverness-shire. IV3 6YJ.  
Tel: 01320 340205.

P.S. I'm afraid you can't fax me any more as the lightning storm we had back in March blew up the fax machine !! Apparently fax machines are very susceptible to lightning but you can purchase an anti-lightning device for your machine so fax owners beware, you have been warned !!

P.P.S. A subscription to the magazine can be obtained by sending £2 to the editor at the above address which will guarantee four editions of "Moriston Matters" being delivered to your door.

# Church News

MOVING HOUSE - something which is dreaded by many - yet which others seem to thoroughly enjoy. What is it that makes some fear leaving their home, and others have constantly itchy feet ? Is it something to do with our makeup ? ( the adventurous type or the steady type ). Is it to do with our family circumstances ? ( as a single man moving was easy - now with five children.....) Is it to do with the reasons for the move ? ( redundancy forces the sale of one house - where promotion involves a change of city and house ).

This will be our fourth house in as many years - and I can say that none of us in the Manse family are particularly fond of moving - yet there is something good to which we must look forward. We have the prospect of leaving the now familiar surroundings of the old Manse with our lovely neighbours - and that is sad - YET - we look forward to a brand new house - starting again from scratch - and that is exciting.

I wonder what it is that keeps so many people back from seeking and finding a new - eternal - home ? Could it be that many folks are quite happy in their temporary homes in these old bodies of ours ? Is it possible that some folks don't even know that a new and eternal home is a possibility ? One thing is certain, each one of us will have something eternal when we cast off these old bodies - and NOW is the time to be thinking about our new home. Of course, every house move involves change - something of the unknown - but the new home which God offers is infinitely better than anything we may experience here !

Rev. Hugh Watt.

There are services in Dalchreichart School at 3pm on the first Sunday of each month and at 10.30 am and 6 pm every Sunday in Drumnadrochit. You are very welcome at all of these services.

# *Dulchreichard School*

## SHOULD ANIMALS BE USED FOR EXPERIMENTS ?

A lively debate took place in the school on Thursday 20th March and we thought you would like to read some of our opinions.

YES - I think animals should be used. If they are not well or are ill you should use them because it isn't fair on animals who are well. If you use animals who are well they will never be able to go back to the wild.

Isla Bisset P.5

YES - I think animals should be used when rabbits, hamsters, are in great pain and are very ill. Rats should be used more because they are not really a pet and they do make diseases spread a lot. They would be caught and used for experiments to cure all different illnesses and diseases. Many people have illnesses from rats. I think rats should be experimented on most.

Nicola Curley P.5

YES - I think animals should be used for experiments because an animal has a chance of having more than one baby and a human hasn't. There are lots of animals in the wild. If you experiment on a baby human there might not be another one.

Michael Curley P.3

NO - I do not think because 1) they don't want to be locked up for all their lives. 2) they should be let out in the wild and be free. 3) I think they are wild animals. 4) you would be very cruel to do it.

Duncan Greer P.4

NO - I don't think animals should be used for experiments because animals have rights just like human beings and they also have feelings. Experimenting on animals is just like experimenting on humans. Every animals have special abilitys like for instant dogs have their noses for guides. Experimenting on them would take them away from their own kind and they could die or become extinct. In years to come animals could become very few because of human fascination for experimenting. Animals like hamsters, giney pigs, rabbits, mice and rats have rights to live and not be experimented on.

Cassie McEwan P.5

NO - I don't think so because they need the medicine for people and not for animals so if it works on animals it might not work on people. It is a shame to keep sheep, rats, rabbits, hamsters, guinnie pigs in laboratories. How would you feel ? You wouldn't would you. You would get kept in their hands forever and ever and never get out.

Vickie Common P.5

NO - I don't think animals should be used. If you experiment on the animals it may react better on treatment but may be no good on humans so it would be a pointless experiment. You are being crule because the animals have no say in it. I think volunteers should be tested. It is not fair because the animals are trapped in metal cages all day long. The animals have as much right to live as humans and not to have needles jabbed into them all the time. The animals have free lives NOT to be kept locked up all the time. Laboratories are not their homes. Freedom is !

Amy Bisset P.6

NO - I don't think animals should be used for experiments because animals don't have their say in life. If they could talk no one would listen to them. Animals need freedom. They shouldn't stay in cages. Animals are living creatures. Okay, it saves other peoples lives but it can also kill another. What if one of the animals reacts to the experiment, it would be a pointless operation and each animal has to go through the pain of having all these tests done. Animals don't belong in cages, they belong in the wild.

Katie Common P.7

Towards the end of March Dulchreichard School Board held a Whist Drive up in the school to raise funds. Although the turnout wasn't high ( 3 tables ), the fun factor was, with plenty of good natured banter. The children which accompanied the adults were entertained with videos and computer games while baby Keith Bisset just slept right through the whole proceedings !

Prize Winners were :

1st Lady - Isobel Bisset ( Brian's Mum ! )

2nd Lady - Leslie Bisset

1st Man - Sandy Greig

2nd Man - Colin Gourlay

Ladies Booby - Isobel Greig

Gents Booby - Davy McEwan

Longest Sitting - Davy McEwan

The School Board wishes to thank those who donated raffle prizes, to the "baby-sitters"; Jennifer Thompson and Claire McEwan and to everybody who came and helped make the night a success. Hopefully this evening will become a regular item on the calendar.

# Memories of the Glen

The following article, written by Lea MacNally, was found in an old "Scotland's Magazine - the Magazine of the Scottish Tourist Board" of October 1969. Part 2 will appear in the next issue.

## GLENMORISTON ON THE HIGHWAY WINDING WEST

Glenmoriston, the glen of the River moriston, is just like one of the many Highland Glens rich alike in scenery and wildlife and with abundant historic background to add to this. It is also one of the main routes to Kyle of Lochalsh and Skye and, by next year when the bottleneck of Strome Ferry becomes redundant with the opening of the new road around Loch Carron it will also afford a popular route to the scenic northwest coast of Ross-shire.

Many travellers from the south, to Kyle and Skye, who come in via Spean Bridge, miss the attractive glen altogether because of the alternative route up Glengarry and over the hill, dividing the two glens, into the upper reaches of Glenmoriston at Bunloyne. This Glengarry route turns off the main Fort William to Inverness road about 7 miles before Fort Augustus whereas the Glenmoriston route lies 6 miles beyond Fort Augustus, and therefore needs knowledge of its attraction to provide incentive for the motorist to do the extra mileage. The Glengarry route is also attractive with some very fine views, as one climbs up the hill shoulder from loch garry and looks west along the birch fringed loch to the high, fanged peaks of Kingie, Quoich and Barnsdale. To the motorist who has taken this route, once however, I would say try, next time, the longer mileage, through Fort Augustus and along Loch Ness-side, to the alternative route westward, of Glenmoriston. Most people will consider it well worth it.

From where one branches left at Invermoriston the road up Glenmoriston follows and crosses and recrosses the River Moriston so that one is always conscious of its company, at times in the tree-fringed, stony, shallow reaches, at others flowing in constricting rocky gorges and, above and below Torgoyle in meandering loops, winding through the green of arable land.

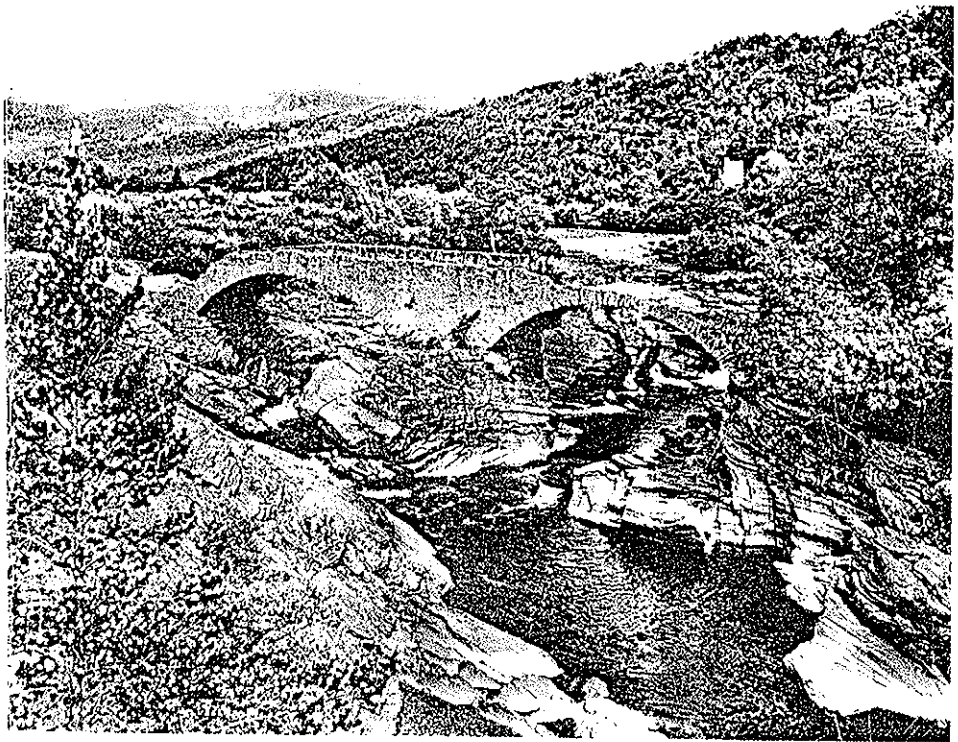
This road, which I cycled on as a youth, is improved in width and in safety for the motorist but has, for me, lost some of its character in the straightening out of its winding loops and of its hump backed, stone parapeted bridges. When I recall it first there were some very fine natural oaks on the north side in the vicinity of Blaridh and the felling of many of these to be supplanted by the drabness of regimented conifers has left me with a sense of loss. However, while there are extensive stretches of forestry Commission and private coniferous plantings in the stretch of the glen on both sides of the road these are, whether by fortunate accident or clearsighted design, so interspersed with natural birch as to lend attraction, where attraction is often entirely lacking. Roe deer existed in the natural oakwoods of Glenmoriston and no doubt will continue to do so in the young coniferous plantings for as these plantings have mushroomed throughout the Highlands so have the roe deer mushroomed with them, finding it at least in the early stages of their growth, ideal conditions of shelter and feed.

Pine martens are also on the increase in the area, while Japanese sika deer are present in, as yet, small numbers. Red deer, of course, inhabit the higher ground and, probably increasingly, small pockets are becoming "woodland" species once more in some of the older unfenced forests. Wildcat and fox, if seldom seen, are always present. Only last spring a wildcat was ambitious, and able enough, to make off with a turkey from a house in lower Glenmoriston, which led to its downfall when it came back for another free meal.



Below Dundreggan hydro-electric dam, in itself hardly a thing of beauty, lies probably the most scenic gorge in the river, a series of rock-constricted cascades, white water in striking contrast to glistening black rock, fringed by Scots fir and elegant birches to round off the scene.

Above the dam the river broadens into a broad locham-like stretch and thereafter enters its "tamest" stretch wherein it meanders in wide loops over pastoral flats to Torgoyle bridge, while above this bridge the same pastoral nature of this stretch of the glen is maintained, with the scattered houses of Dalchreichart across the strath on the north side of the glen, while the birch and conifers clothe the south side.



Looking west, up river past The Old Bridge at Invermoriston to the scrub covered hills of the Invermoriston Forest.

# Witty Ditty's

Sometime when you're feeling important,  
Sometime when your ego's in bloom,  
Sometime when you take it for granted  
You're the best qualified chap in the room,  
Sometime when you feel that your going  
Would leave an unfillable hole,  
Just follow these simple instructions  
And see how they humble your soul.

Take a bucket and fill it with water,  
Put your hand in it up to the wrist,  
Pull it out - and the hole that remains  
Is the measure of how you'll be missed.

You can splash all you please when you enter,  
You may churn up the water galore,  
But stop and you'll find in a moment,  
That it looks just the same as before.

The moral of this is quite simple:  
Do always the best you can,  
Be proud of yourself, but remember -  
There is no indispensable man !

There are only two things to worry about,  
Either you are well or you are sick,  
If you are well, then there is nothing to worry  
about,  
But if you are sick there are two things to worry  
about,  
Either you will get well or you will die,  
If you get well there is nothing to worry about,  
If you die there are only two things to worry about,  
Either you will go to heaven or hell,  
If you go to heaven there is nothing to worry about,  
But if you go to hell,  
You'll be so busy shaking hands with friends,  
You won't have time to worry !

# *Pony Club*

The spring season is well and truly upon us. The reason I know this is that literally everything is covered in horse hair. It gets up your nose, in your mouth, in the scones dough, they float on top of your soup and sink to the bottom of your chicken vindaloo, they're on the carpet, in the car, on all your clothes and in your bed ! Thankfully it only lasts for a month or so !!

However both girls enjoyed Easter camp with the Pony Club although Katie ended up riding a friend's pony as her pony, Casey, upon learning of the imminence of Easter activity, decided that she had a terribly sore foot and couldn't possibly go ! Thankfully she ( Casey ) seems to have sorted herself out and she completed her first cross-country of the season, only her second ever, still in one piece, ending up with a very creditable 7th. Vickie and her pony, Sammy, were 4th in the 10 and under age group, in only her second cross-country as well. Katie took over the ride on Sammy up at the Ross-shire Pony Club's Hunter Trials as it is a much bigger course and came away with another piece of silverware for the mantlepiece which we were delighted about. She headed a very strong class of 10 and never put a foot ( or hoof ) wrong.

Alan and Betty Draper are looking for a good home for their two skewbald shetland ponies, Tom and Jerry. Because the ponies have been together from birth, Betty stressed that they would like them to stay as a pair and does not want them to be split up. They don't require much grazing ( that's the ponies, not Alan and Betty ! ) but they do need committment so if you have, or have access to, a small patch of grazing and the time readily available then please contact Alan or Betty on 351313.

# *Glenmoriston S.W.R.I.*

The winter session started in November with a demonstration of flower arranging by Jacqui MacDonald from Fort Augustus. In December Mairi Dymond stood in for a speaker who cancelled late in the month. Everyone enjoyed learning about colour co-ordination and our thanks to Mairi for coming to our rescue.

January saw us down at the Coffee House for our annual Christmas/New Year dinner and Hamish was up to his usual good standard.

In February the talk was on geneology so now we know how to find out our ancestors ( or maybe not ! ).

At the next meeting we will elect our new committee for the coming 97/98 season and may I take this opportunity to thank June and Nellie and my stand-in, Leslie, for the work of this past session. The 96/97 session finishes off with a dinner at the Glenmoriston Arms Hotel.

Our thanks to Neil and Carol Scott for the use of the lounge at the hotel for our meetings.

Isobel Anthony ( President )

## *Recipe Page*

### A RECIPE FOR HAPPINESS

4 cups of love  
2 spoons of hope  
2 cups of loyalty  
4 quarts of faith  
1 cup of friendship  
1 barrel of laughter  
3 cups of forgiveness  
2 spoons of tenderness

Take love and loyalty, mix thoroughly with faith. Blend it with tenderness, forgiveness and understanding. Add friendship and hope. Sprinkle abundantly with laughter. Bake it with sunshine, and serve daily in generous helpings.

# Local Quiz

This years Community Quiz was organised again by the Friends of the Telford Centre and held on the 17th and 24th of March at the Telford Centre, Fort Augustus.

16 teams entered, including the Glenmoriston team of Simon MacLellan, Ann Harris, Alex Harris and Sheila Lumb. Congratulations go to this group on reaching and winning the final against the Fort Augustus Lunch Club team. This was a reversal of last years final result.

Glenmoriston scores were:

Round 1	Glenmoriston	24	v	Invergarry Hotel	22
Round 2	Glenmoriston	26	v	Garry Bar	10
Semi-final	Glenmoriston	19	v	Foyers Village	17
Final	GLENMORISTON	24	v	F.A. Lunch Club	20

# Local News

Residents of Dalchreichart have been treated to a lovely new noticeboard courtesy of David Andrews. The original one, made by Charles Kemp, had suffered badly by the elements and so David took it upon himself to replace and upgrade the board so anyone with a notice - you know where to stick it !

Congratulations to the SFA team of Richard Jarvis and Alan & Heather Smart upon winning the Glenmoriston Arms Quaich at the conclusion of the quiz season. The Thursday quiz nights will resume again in October so you have a few months to be brushing up on your general knowledge.

Best wishes to our local champion athlete, Steven Smith, as he leaves the Glen to join the Royal Engineers as a trainee vehicle mechanic. Steven wishes to acknowledge the help and support he received from his parents and his sponsor, Buzz, and also the encouragement he obtained from Glenurquhart High School during his years there. As a way of expressing his thanks to the school, Steven has presented a perpetual trophy to be awarded to the best long-jumper at the end of every school year.

# *Kilchuimen Academy*

Pupils at Kilchuimen Academy in Fort Augustus entered into the spirit and tradition of Burns with a concert for young and old in the school. From the piping in of the haggis, the toe-tapping turns of the accordion and fiddle players, the haunting lilts of the Burns melodies, and the hilarious interpretations of Holy Willie's Prayer and Tam o' Shanter, the concert was not only a celebration of Robert Burns' life works, but a timely reminder of the talent which still exists in Scotland today.

The afternoon concert was enjoyed by young and old, although admittedly the bard's 18th century turn of phrase may have been lost on the pre-school members of the audience.

Local dignitaries Charles Kennedy MP and Councillor Paddy Paterson were also in attendance to bring a definite air of celebrity status to the proceedings. Mr Kennedy seemed to enjoy his break from Parliamentary pressures and commented later that it was very good to see the country's traditions were still being kept alive.

After thanking his constituents for the warm welcome and display of talent the MP for Ross, Cromarty and Skye gave the audience a taste of his own poetic talent in an ode which he titled "The Alternative Palimentary Selkik Grace";

"Some hae seats they cannae keep;  
An' some nae seats, but want it.  
But we wi' seats, if we do keep  
For that the Lord be thankit."

The photo shows Mr Kennedy, (centre), along with some of the pupils namely Thomas Grant (second left) and Archie Maclellan with the chefs hat toasting the haggis with iron bru !



## *Obituary*

The Glen lost one of its oldest inhabitants when Miss Margaret Campbell aged 90 died on Friday 17th January 1997. Margaret was born at Ardencaple Home Farm, Seil Island, By Oban and lived in Mountain View, Achnaconeran, until 1995 when poor health forced her to leave her beloved croft to take up residence at Delniesmuir Nursing Home, by Nairn, until her death.

She was the only daughter of the late Gilbert and Joan Campbell and sister of the late Archie and Angus Campbell, who all moved to Achnaconeran about 60 years ago from Dumfriesshire.

Along with her good friend Mrs Cathie MacDonald, she took an active part in the S.W.R.I. during their younger years and was the longest serving member of Glenmoriston Church. Although a very private person Margaret was always willing to participate in all activities of the Church and her home baking was much enjoyed by all who joined in the various events. Her contribution to the Glenmoriston Community and Church will be remembered by all who knew her.

## *Glenmoriston Village Hall*

Glenmoriston Village Hall committee ran a reasonably successful jumble sale at the Memorial Hall in Fort Augustus on the 26th April. Although there was a lot of articles unsold, the hall fund was boosted by approx. £240. The committee would like to thank all those who helped out with both the organisation and on the day itself.

# Local News

WELCOME to Russ and Becky Watson who have moved into No. 9 Riverside Park along with their daughter, Kerry.

WELCOME to Neil MacDonald, the ambulance driver, and his family who have moved into No. 5 Riverside Park.

WELCOME to David and Julie Webster who, along with their daughters Keren and Amy, have moved into Giusaichean, Kevin and Trudi's ex-house !

BEST WISHES to Kevin and Trudi Hodson and the twins as they leave to make a new life in the Lake District.

BEST WISHES to Duncan MacDonell as he is transferred to hospital in Invergordon from Inverness after suffering a stroke.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Saturday 1st June : Plant/Cake Sale at the Village Hall. Donations most welcome.

Sunday 9th August : Summer Fun Day at Riverside Park.

WANTED : helpers and bakers for the Teas/Coffees held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the hall. These coffee mornings proved extremely successful and very profitable last year.