



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

No 58

35p

Editorial

We have Henmania on the television, rainmania in the skies, armymania in the village and housemania in Dalchreichart! This quiet, leafy cul-de-sac currently has no fewer than four houses in various stages of construction.

The face of Invermoriston is subtly changing too. The arrival of the army to create the car park adjacent to the existing hall which will serve not just the future new hall but the whole community (as well as a few gardens which benefited from an injection of topsoil from the site!) Although there have always been good reasons for visitors to the village to stop and tarry awhile, (hopefully spending more than just a penny) there have not been the facilities (parking facilities as opposed to Shanks of Barrhead ones!) to do so. Now this new car park should benefit all local businesses.

It will be a pleasant relief when we can drive unhampered by stop/go signs, uninhibited by traffic lights and unrestricted by various other obstructions up and down the Glen. I can barely remember a time when there wasn't rocks tumbling down or roads being dug up adding sometimes as much as ten minutes to your journey time.

However, grumbling apart, many of these changes and bones of contentions are good for the Glen in the long run and we should really be pleased despite the inconvenience.

If you have anything to grumble about or to be pleased about then please send it to:

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A subscription to the magazine may be obtained by sending £2 to the Editor at the above address which will guarantee the next four issues of "Moriston Matters" to be delivered to your door.

Glenmoriston Village Hall

FUND RAISING

- 1) The plant sale held on Sunday 1st June was a tremendous success with 2430 raised. Many thanks go to all the contributors, helpers and buyers! Please could all solid seed trays be returned to Elma as they were bought for the hall and will be used next year.
- 2) The response to the referendum on whether the community did in fact want a village hall was an impressive 75% in favour. The condition of the hall limits what can be held there so in lieu of any 'major' events this year and as a final thrust to our target, a 1 a week scheme was suggested and is now in operation. To date £ 2,200 has been generously pledged both by households and individuals so again many thanks to all those. It isn't too late to be included in this scheme and if anyone would like to, please ring any committee member or contact the Treasurer, Tony Johnstone.
- 3) Thank you to all those who have responded to our appeal for bakers or helpers for the proposed coffee mornings 25 volunteers this year which is great. These will begin on July 15th (to let the army vacate the hall!) and, because of the support, will run every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for approximately 10 weeks or until we run out of customers or energy! Those who have offered to help should have heard from us by now and if there is anyone reading this who would be able to help after all, we (Elma, Clare or Julia) would love to hear from you.
- 4) The Fun Day proposed for August has been cancelled.

1) The car park in Invermoriston was at last started on the 14th June thanks to 237 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers from Lossiemouth. They will be billeted in the hall for two weeks and will do what they can in that time.

This is really marvellous news because a new hall couldn't have been used until there were car parking facilities, so that obstacle will be no more.

- 2) A new village hall is within reach now. We are in the 3rd and final round of the Millennium Commission and are due to be inspected by them shortly. We should know by the end of this year if any money will be granted to us by them. We are also in the 1st round of C21 which is a subsidiary of the millennium specifically set up to fund village halls in RURAL Scotland.
- 3) We received £2090 from the Lottery Grant for Small Claims fund which was used to purchase various catering equipment namely cutlery, crockery, a soup kettle and an aqua-vac.

It's a Small World!

I had a letter from Molly Common, Ian's cousin Raymond's wife, from Hythe in Kent. Raymond, who had been admitted to hospital recently for a knee replacement, was a patient in a local BUPA hospital. On hearing the attractive northern accent, Molly got speaking to the nurse who asked her to guess where she originated from. Molly suggested the Inverness area. Then, being a regular reader of Moriston Matters (which we send to them), she said could it be Glenmoriston ? It turned out the nurse was Hannah Girvan who was born at Ceannacroc. She has a daughter, Aileen, who attends Ashford School for Girls where Bob Common's (Molly and Ray's son) daughters are also pupils. Hannah was delighted to read some of the MM which Molly then passed on to her.

Isn't it a small world?

Dulchreichard School

POEMS ABOUT SUMMERTIME

Sunshine on the water.
All the drinks are cool.
All the sea is salty.
All the birds sing too.
All the children are paddling.
At last the sun shines through.



Kerri McEwan P.2

In the sunshine, the bees are about All the ponds are nearly dried out. In the sunshine the sky is so blue, All the flowers are all popped through There are two bowls of fruit But instead I want to go down the chute!



Vickie Common P.5

Summer sea a bright, bright blue,
Sun screen on me like a creamy glue.
Ice lollies cool, soft drinks fizzy
All in a cool box while the sea creeps closer.
All having fun on the beach
making messes with our feet.
Mum tanning, sun calming
Making sandcastles while the sun shines on.

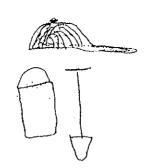
Cassie McEwan P.5

Summer is fun.
You can play
with a ball.
Drink juice with a straw.
I put sunglasses on
and sun cream too.
It's summer
and the sun is strong.



Kirsteen Smith P.5

Mum's lying in the sun While we're having fun. Dad eats
Lots of sweets.
We play
On the sandy Bay.
Cooling breezes,
Make baby sneezes.
We ride home
and we groan.
The funs away
'till another day.



Michael Curley P.3

I'm up to my ankles in a deep deep blue.
The sea is sparkling and my ice-cream melts too.
Summer laughter goes on and on.
Continuous fun flows on.
As the day draws on I grow thirsty.
The salt makes me worse.

Mum says it's time to go. Pack it all up!

Amy Bisset P.6

I see
the sand.
Sun is
shining.
Paddling
in water.
Bringout
the ball.
Now I am
thirsty
for fizzy
drinks.
Mum said
put on
suncream.

Isla Bisset P.5

Summer sun go for a run.
Summer sky go for a dive.
Summer sun lets have some fun.
Summer lollies melt to the ground.
Summer palm trees, lovely pansies.
Summer breeze, lets sneeze!

Nicola Curley P.5





Historical Glen

Here is the concluding part of Lea MacNally's article entitled "Glenmoriston: on the Highway Winding West" which appeared in a 1969 edition of the Scottish Tourist Board's publication "Scotland's Magazine"

Through Glenmoriston, in his wanderings after Culloden, came Prince Charles Edward Stuart and the succour which the "seven" men of Glenmoriston afforded him has gone down in history. With 30,000 on his head these penniless, masterless men chose rather to risk death by sheltering and feeding him for almost three weeks while Government soldiery ravaged the glens in looking for him and anyone else unfortuate enough to have been "out" in the '45. They swore a dire oath of allegiance "That their backs should be to God and their faces to the devil; that all the curses the Scriptures did pronounce might come upon them and all their posterity if they did not stand firm to help the prince in his greatest danger."

They brought him, in his concealing cave, whisky and mutton, butter and cheese, though bread they could not procure; venison from a stag they shot and beef from an ox they slaughtered. It is said they even got much needed clothing for him by dint of shooting servants who were carrying officer's baggage.

Nor was this all the devotion Prince Charles aroused in Glenmoriston for as one leaves the pastoral stretch of the glen and approaches Ceannacrox where the road again bridges the river, a cairn on the left of the road marks the spot where Roderick MacKenzie was killed in mistake for the Prince. The inscription on the cairn reads "At this spot in 1746 died Roderick MacKenzie, an officer in the army of Prince Charles Edward Stuart, of the same size and similar resemblance to his royal prince when surrounded and overpowered by the troops of the Duke of Cumberland gallantly died in attempting to save his fugitive leader from further pursuit". The actual grave is below the road, opposite the cairn and bears a stone with the date July 1746.

The character of the cairn has not been improved of late years by the addition, however well-meant, of the round and river washed stones, presumably by visitors, which contrast very badly with the dignity of the grey rocks of the older cairn.

Ceannacrox itself means the "knoll of the heads". Tradition has it, that here, a party of Clan Cameron in retreat from battle, taking with them seven Gordon prisoners, found them such a drag on their flight that, pitilessly, they beheaded them all on "the knoll of the heads".

Beyond Ceannacrox the glen becomes rugged and almost treeless. One last little tree-clad gem of rocky cascades is afforded at Bunloyne where the river branches, and the road from Glengarry winds down to join Glenmoriston. That little, dumpy black, white-shirt fronted bird of the Highland burns, the dipper rests here. I found its football-sized nest of the river-moss tucked in below a rock overhang close to the water.

There is, one must admit, little scenic attraction in the stretch of the glen which follows. The wide, fast new road does not lend itself leisurely to landscape-admiring motoring anyway, at any rate in these days when so many drivers seem only imbued with the desire to get from A - Z as quickly, and at times, as dangerously as possible. For the lack of attraction on this stretch the hydro electric board must bear some responsibility for in raising Loch Clevanie they flooded the good bottom land and rendered what was an attractive enough loch into a long and rather dreary expanse of water. Both scenic attraction and winter-keep for stock and deer have suffered in the march of "progress".

At the far end of Loch Clevanie, Clevanie Inn is still a welcoming hostelry for the motorist and a focal point for the scattered inhabitants of the area. A branch road, going left just before one reaches the inn, marks what was the old main Clevanie road over to Glengarry via Tamsdoun, now submerged and blocked by the raising of Loch Lyne. This road went through Clevanie deer forest, once a "royal chase" and still one of the best forests in Scotland for the quality of its deer.

Beyond Clevanie the hills shut in as one approaches Shiel with the steeps of Rintoul rising on the north side and the hardly less steep but greenest hills of Shiel rising on the south side. At the lonely house of Jimmy Grant here, a certain well-known character rejoicing in the sobriquet of Dopey will accept any and all largesse from whoever will stop to feed him, from potato crisps, through Cadbury's chocolate, to cigarette ends and, as I can personally vouch for, ham sandwiches. I should perhaps explain that Dopey is not an itinerant tramp but a red deer stag, royal of head and of gentle but unashamedly greedy disposition who knows on just what side his bread is buttered.

In the narrowness of this last bit of glen before it finally loses itself around Loch Duich there was fought the abortive "battle of the Spaniards" in 1719. A force of Jacobites which included a contingent of Spanish troops, held the pass in an extremely strong position but were out-manouvered and defeated by Government troops. It may be that the Spaniards had little stomach for fighting in such a wild and alien place, known forever after as the Pass of the Spaniards.

Suitable enough this last steep rocky face of Rintoul is peopled by wild goats, hersute of coat and satanic of aspect. In high summer when the flood of tourism is in full spate these goats are likely to be as high on the summer grazings as to remain unsuspected but in late winter and early spring they may be seen, particularly towards evening, down near to road level.

For the traveller who enjoys contrasting scenery, historic background and the anticipation of fleeting glimpses of wild life, of pine marten, wildgoat, deer and eagle, Glenmoriston will amply repay a visit, quite apart from it's more mundanr role as one of the main highways to the "magic west".

Obituary

Marjory Stoddart, better known as Madge, was born at Port Clair, Invermoriston on the 21st September 1941. Madge spent most of her early years in the care of the nuns at Rosewell, Edinburgh. When her father died in 1962 she came home to live with her mother at Riverside Park and, when her mother died, her sister Margaret Gillies looked after her. When Margaret died she lived with Peter and Meggie who gave her the best they could give. Latterly, after Meggies death, Peter and Patricia cared for her.

Marjory lived for dancing especially Scottish Country Dancing. Her other loves were playing ludo, listening to Daniel O'Donnell and going to the Telford Centre on the bus.

Marge was loved by all who knew her but especially by Patricia's son, Stuart, whom she adored, and she was always willing to do anything she could if asked.

In the latter months when Madge became ill she was still very popular judging by the amount of family and friends who visited her in hospital and Highview nursing home.

The family would like to thank everybody for their kindness towards Madge over the years.

A Fond Farewell

Since I've come into school I've learnt a lot. I never knew how to add, take away or do decimals but I know it all now. I've done a lot with this school. I've been to Landmark and Kingussie Museum, Dunrobin Castle, Little Marco's and the Gondolas in Fort William and the Clan Donald Centre on my school trips. I have enjoyed working at this school and I'll never forget it. Now I'm looking forward to going to Glenurquhart Secondary School after the summer holidays.

Pony Club

It is with very great sadness that the "Pony Club" in this issue takes the form of an obituary.

On the 15th June, my beautiful little palomino pony, Dundreggan Samuel Whiskers or Sammy to all his friends, had to be put to sleep. He was suffering from a little understood disease called grass sickness which is, at present, unpreventable and uncurable.

He was truly the ultimate perfect pony and was so admired and envied everywhere he went. This year alone he won three championships, taking both the ridden championship and the working hunter championship at the same show (a very unusual acheivement), won a turnout class, won two dressage classes, won a cross-country, won two sashes, four trophies and umpteen rosettes and we had only just started the season!

He was born at Dundreggan 9 years ago and from that day up until his last he proved to be the perfect gentleman. Both Katie and Vickie came up through all the lead rein and first ridden classes on him and he taught them almost as much as they taught him.

Vickie says he was her best friend which I suppose he was. He never argued with her, he always played the games she wanted to play, he invariably let her be the boss and never minded if she didn't share her sweeties out fairly!

He will be so sorely missed by us all and we will never ever find another pony like him. He was one of a very special kind and we all loved him very much.





Seven-a-Side Football

Local children Simon MacLellan, Alistair Levings and Cassie McEwan are involved with the Fort Augustus & District Primary football teams. Duncan MacCormick has been coaching the children for the last few years and has, through his determination, secured a place in the establishing Inverness Soccer Sevens League.

The aim of the soccer sevens is to allow children to express themselves in terms of skill without the pressures to win at all costs with emphasis put on skill and teamwork rather than scores. This is rewarded at the end of each game by the presentation of "green cards" issued for the players showing the best skills and effort during a match. This is an S.F.A initiative intended to improve the Scottish game.

The Fort Augustus & District primary 4/5 and 6/7 teams have been formed to give the kids an opporunity to show their skills and perhaps even impress coaches at a higher playing level. The players, both boys and girls, are now coached by Duncan assisted by Dave & Darren McEwan and Archie Henderson. Training is open to any primary 4-7 children and is held in the Kilchuimen school field every Friday between 4:30pm and 5:30pm for primary 4/5 and 5:30pm to 6:30pm for primary 6/7. The current teams boast players from Stratherrick, Invergarry, Tomdoun, Invermoriston and Fort Augustus. The coaches involved have attended certificate courses run by the S.F.A. ranging from E up to C level.

Both teams have acquitted themselves well and shown that with committment and hard work they are not too far behind other more experienced teams in their first competitive season. They have applied much of the coaching they have had to good effect in most of the games although they have not as yet had the results they merit.

We have been travelling to places like Kirkhill, Drumnadrochit and Inverness to fulfil fixtures taking up to 22 team members plus parent support. We are always looking for assistance with support, transport and coaching and would be happy for anyone to come forward with any offers. Please contact Duncan on (01320) 366552.

Anyone wishing to experience good entertainment should come along to these matches. Half the fixtures are in Kilchuimen School and are well worth seeing, particularly the passing game the children display.

D. McEwan.

Witty Ditty

IF I HAD MY CHILD TO RAISE OVER AGAIN

If I had my child to raise all over again, I'd build self-esteem first, and the house later. I'd finger paint more, and point the finger less. I would do less correcting and more connecting. I'd take my eyes off my watch, and watch with my eves.

I would care to know less and know to care more.

I'd take more hikes and fly more kites.

I'd stop playing seriously, and seriously play.

I would run through more fields and gaze at more stars.

I'd do more hugging and less tugging.

I'd see the oak tree in the acorn more often.

I would be firm less often, and affirm much more.

I'd model less about the love of power,

And more about the power of love.



Loch Ness Gun Club

Last year was a busy year for the club. We hosted a Scottish Championship, an International with Britain and Ireland's top shooters competing for their countries and a British Team Selection Shoot which helped pick the Commonwealth team for all home countries along with our usual full calendar!!

We thought we would have a quiet year this year but we have been awarded as many shoots again. Obviously the Glenmoriston midges were not enough to keep the shooters away!!

We have already had three shoots so far this year and are getting ready for some major shoots in the summer. We are again hosting the Scottish Championships for Olympic Trench and a British Team selection shoot, one of only six to be held in Britain

We are again hosting some charity shoots this year starting with the Not Forgotten Association in July. We will also be organising a shoot for the Glenmoriston Hall Appeal and the Senior Citizens Christmas Party.

If any of you have B & Bs, guest houses, chalets etc. please send me your details as there are a lot of shooters looking for accommodation.

Unfortunately we have had to stop using under 16 year olds for trapping as there are new safety regulations. I would therefore like to mention three local trappers who have had to give up trapping because of this: Calum Grant, David Bevan and Christopher Steele. They worked extremely hard for the club in 1996 and I would like to thank them for all their hard work over the last few years. Our fourth trapper was Steven Smith who has just left for the army. The Committee and members wish him all the best for the future. I am sure he will have even earlier starts on a Saturday morning now !! As you can see we now have a shortage of trappers so if you would like to earn a bit of extra money just give me a phone.

I would like to close by inviting you all to call in at the club any time when you see the gate open. If you would like to come on a Wednesday night during the summer or a Saturday when there is a shoot on you can enjoy a cup of tea, coffee and an assortment of biscuits and cakes. However the chances of a quiet, peaceful cup of coffee are very slim !! Seriously though why not come in and see the ground. I promise the members will not bite!!

Please send your accommodation details to:

David Gillies, Achlain, Glenmoriston. Inverness-shire. IV3 6YN. Tel: 01320 340224

Local Success

The Glen Rowan Highland Fayre tea room / restaurant is now well and truly open and is fast becomming THE place to go for an enjoyable meal. One satisfied customer remarked upon the roast beef, served on a Sunday as part of the traditional Sunday lunch, as being by far the best she had ever tasted.

Mike and Claire Watson, who came to live in Invermoriston (in fact just next door to the cafe) some 18 months ago decided, rightly, that there was a need for such a business venture in the village. They have transformed what was an unattractive piece of land to the right of the Old Post Office, directly under the church on the main road, into a very eyecatching hostelry. The cafe specialises in home cooked fayre with soup, salads, freshly baked bagettes, fish, sea-food, roasts, mouth watering sweets, cakes and pastries which, along with a newly acquired table licence, can be enjoyed anytime between 10.30am and 9.00pm seven days a week.







Local News

During the early part of the year, Dr.Ian Farmer, Mattieu Curley and Neil Robertson ran a series of two resuscitation classes for interested people from Fort Augustus, Invergarry, Invermoriston and the surrounding districts (all three giving up their own free time in order to instruct those who attended). These classes were held in the surgery in Fort Augustus.

The first night of the classes dealt primarily with C.P.R. or Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation as it is more formally known. Most people will be familiar with the concept of this from watching television (it does seem to be on the box in some form or another every night!). The second night concentrated on dealing with choking victims, putting casualties into the recovery position and more practice at carrying out C.P.R. The overall response to these classes was overwhelming and it was with regret that not everyone who was interested in attending managed to be taught although it is hoped to resume these classes some time later in the year.

Dulchreichard School

On a damp, drizzly, misty morning back in June Dulchreichard Primary School held their sports day at Riverside Park. With only nine pupils of varying ages, handicapping is the only method of trying to even out the abilities. However it often doesn't give a true indication of any athletic talent of the children or parents! If the other parents had got their way I would have been handicapped right out of the field!

Back to the sports day - According to my score sheet - Cassie McEwan was the overall winner with 25 points, Isla Bisset was second with 22 points and Katie Common third with 17 points. These three tender young athletes, along with Vickie Common, formed the team which represented the school at the Inter-School sports in Inverness back in May.

The team was at an instant disadvantage as the event is specifically aimed at teams composed of pupils in primaries 6 and 7. Only having two pupils which came into this category, one of which was otherwise occupied that day, the school had to call on three primary five pupils. Even with this handicap the team put up a very commendable performance.

Katie was 2nd in her 80 metres, Cassie was 4th in the 150 metres, Isla was 3rd in the high jump (a good effort considering she was nearly half the size of the other competitors!) and Vickie was 4th in her long jump. The team did very well in the relay, only just being pipped at the post for first place. Although no trophies or medals came home that day the four intrepid sportswomen deserve a pat on the back for all their exertions.

At the end of June the annual five-a-side football tournament was held at Kilchuimen Academy. The young inexperienced team were without any match practice and two other members who had sloped off to the Highland Show! However they flew the flag for Dulchreichard and although they didn't make the final, they didn't disgrace themselves either. The team comprised Cassie, Isla, Amy Bisset and Nicola & Michael Curley.

The home side of Kilchuimen "A" were the eventual winners of the tournament with a 2 - 0 win in the final over Invergarry.

The summer term at school is always a busy one with various activities going on. This year the school trip took the children to the newly refurbished Landmark centre in Carrbridge which they all enjoyed throughly. One of the new attractions is a water slide



Poets Corner

Perhaps readers will know the following poem, sent in by Audrey Kemp, Dalchreichart, in a slightly different tongue! (The author of the poem, who hails from Crieff, sends his sincere apologies to Edward Lear!)

The houlet and baudrons pit oot tae sea,
As green as the kail was their boat:
They took a whang cheese and a routh o' bawbees
Rowed up in a five pund note.
The houlet keeked at the starns above,
And sang tae a wee guitar,
"O' Baudrons, my lass, o' Baudrons, my love,
Whit a richt bonnie quine ye are,
Ye are,

Ye are! Whit a richt bonnie quine ye are! "

Baudrons said tae the bird, "Fegs, Houlet, my lad, As sweet's the lintie ye sing!
Oh! Let's be mairryet; o'er lang hae we tairryet:
But whit shall we dae for a ring?"
They sailed awaa, for a year, jist the twa,
Tae the land whaur the bong tree grows;
And there in the wood a gruntie-pig stood,
Wi a ring at the end o' his nose,

His nose,

Wi a ring at the end o' his nose.

"Hey, Pig, are ye willin tae sell for a shillin Yer ring? ", Said the pig, "Whit wey nae?" They took it awaa and were mairryet anaa By the bubbly-jock up on the brae. They dined on haggis and champit taties Which they ate wi a gey fremmit spoon; Then ae luif in ae cleuk, in a sandy neuk, They danced by the licht o' the moon,

The moon,

They danced by the licht o' the moon.

Church News

I don't know if you know about a disease which is common among ministers. It is called indispensibilitis. Latin scholars will have clocked immediately that the -itis ending indicates inflammation - and the first part of the word lets us know that one of our commonest complaints is an inflated sense of our own importance! We sometimes imagine that the Church - not to mention the community - would just crumble around us if we were not here!

I believe I have been saved, in some measure, from this terrible disease - not least because I am only too aware of the many talented people around me here in Glenmoriston and Glenurquhart. It would be difficult for me to think I am indispensible here - for there are so many people who contribute to the life of our church community. There is a weekly ladies' Bible study - I have never even attended this (well, I'm not a lady). The equally successful Holiday Clubs (for children) in the summer months are also run by very gifted individuals - and I take a supporting role. Add to that the fact that I am all too aware of my own shortcomings - and you'll see why I am less likely to be smiten by the ministers' malaise.

Now I call this a clerical ailment, but it can be true in almost any walk of life - imagining that the whole enterprise depends upon us and our efforts. Some of us need to be taken out of action for a while (say by illness) to see that the ship will stay afloat without us. The problem is that many of us have such an inflated view of ourselves. Jesus asked his disciples to follow His example - then He got down and washed their feet. Jesus would not allow His disciples to have too high a view of themselves - they were enabled to see that without Jesus they were entirely hopeless.

The same is true today. Those who are without God and without Christ are without hope. They may hold out some vain hope of winning the lottery - but they have no real hope. Those who find Christ also find real hope - and not just for this life - but for the life to come.

Local News

- CONGRATULATIONS to Steven Smith on his engagement to Lisa Roy from Drumnadrochit on the 22nd April. Steven has now taken up his apprenticeship with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in Reading where he has been recently promoted to Junior Lance Corporal.
- CONGRATULATIONS to Peter Levings on becoming the Kilchuimen Academy junior sports champion and for acheiving a second place in the javelin at the inter-school sports in Inverness. Congratulations also to Graham Taylor for gaining a 1st, two 2nd's and a silver thistle award from Glenurquhart school sports.
- DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: Teas and Coffees start at the Hall on Tuesday 15th July from 11am 4pm approx.
- SUNDAY WORSHIP Services are at 10.30 am and 6 pm every Sunday in Drumnadrochit and on the first Sunday of every month in Dulchreichard School.