

Moriston Matters



Autumn 97



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

No 59

35p

Editorial

As the summer draws to a close, the leaves go through their spectacular colour change, the stags start to roar and we get ready for long winter nights by the fireside, we can reflect on quite a few changes in the Glen over the past months, not least of which was the severe flooding which took place between Invermoriston junction and Levishe. The village appeared on the news on TV and locals enjoyed relative stardom, albeit brief, as they were interviewed for the various reports.

Worst hit were the Hotel and Tavern, Mike and Clare's house next door to the Highland Fayre Restaurant, the Old Post Office, the Shop and the old school. The Hotel suffered damage to the kitchens at the back and the road which runs up past the back door was washed away along with the bridge between the Hotel and the Tavern.

Highland Fayre lost a lot of stock as the storeroom cum garage was damaged, the newly formed car park needs to be redone and the entire ground floor of Mike's house was flooded although the cafe itself was undamaged. The ground floor of the Old Post Office suffered the same fate.

The shop will need to renew the post office and the back part of the shop which, along with the extension and the garage, suffered damage. This was the second time in 8 months that the shop has been under water.

The road was opened after a couple of days but the debris that remained can still be seen and the memories of that night will be slow to fade.

If you have any special memories of the night in question or any other events past or present then please send them to:

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

Local News

I received the following letter from Andrew Leaver, the fundraising manager of Highland Hospice.

Dear Mrs Common,

On behalf of the Highland Hospice, I would like to thank you for your recent donation of £20.00, which your children (Katie and Vickie, along with their cousin Christopher and Amy & Isla Bisset) raised at a Garden Sale. We very much appreciate this support.

In April 1996, we launched an Appeal to raise £1,000,000 to fund the establishment of a Community Resource Centre for Specialist Palliative Care in the Highlands. The centre will provide facilities for the Hospice to expand its range of community-based services throughout the course of the patient's illness. I am glad to be able to say that our appeal total now exceeds £940,000, and with the continued support of the Highland public we are confident of reaching our target in time for our 10th Anniversary in December 1997.

Meanwhile, of course, we continue to provide our existing range of services including in-patient care, day hospice and breavement support. The donation you have made has been vital in allowing us to provide these much valued services.

Thank you again for your continued support of the Hospice. "

Local Success

After a very busy and successful summer season Highland Fayre Tearooms have switched to their winter opening hours. The cafe will be open every day but restricted to Friday and Saturday nights only unless by prior arrangement. Sunday's very popular Roast Lunch is still available and bookings are now being taken for Christmas Parties and Christmas lunches.

Moriston Matters Trophy

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

The response last year wasn't very encouraging although it is very difficult to single out just one person. However, with so many to choose from, I hope that more people get some sort of recognition for all their good work in the community.

Last year the trophy was awarded to Lesley Common which makes her ineligible to be nominated again this year.

Enclosed with this magazine should be your voting slip - please use it !



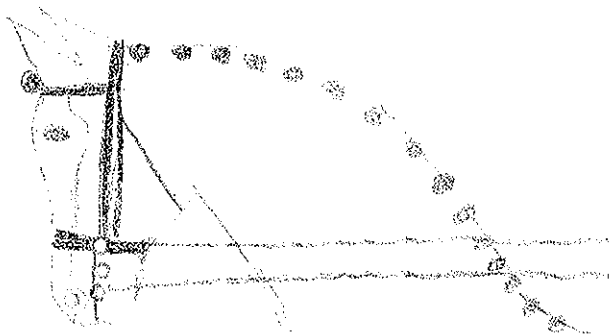
Pony Club

The latter part of the summer for the children and their ponies was a bit strained as we were still coming to terms with the loss of Sammy back in June. However we did venture out to a few shows and events but it was very evident that something was missing - there just wasn't the same enthusiasm.

We were given a couple of ponies on loan; one on short term loan (Tasha) upon which Vickie completed her first One Day Event. Although she didn't win, she completed the dressage, cross-country and show jumping in good style. The other pony (Toto) is here for some schooling over the winter so Vickie can do some of the jumping clinics and indoor showjumping on him.

Katie didn't start off the season too well with her pony, Casey, but she made up for it laterly. One of the highlights was winning her Working Hunter Pony class at the Black Isle show which ironically Sammy, (Casey's son), won last year so that was really gratifying. The other highlight was at the North Cup, competed for at the One Day Event in Inverness. This competition is held by different pony clubs each year and this year it was the turn of our own club to be the hosts. Katie was in the winning Inverness-shire Pony Club team and shares in the lovely trophy. The team are pictured opposite. (Katie is pictured on the far right)

There has been another addition to the equine population in the glen. Leslie Bisset has purchased a nice palomino Welsh Cob called Megan to keep the two shetland ponies, Bramble and Peat, in order !



Local Success

My results in the Scottish National Series races (junior category) were disappointing this year, generally finishing about 12th - 16th position which is hardly any improvement over last year. When I wrote a report this time last year, I said I would do better in 1997 - I hope it may actually come true in 1998 !

I did manage to perform well in the longer point-to-point races (no age categories) 6th in the Four Forests of Fochabers (39 miles), 7th in the Corrieyarrack Challenge (43 miles) - my time being 17 minutes behind the winner ; a professional cyclist - and 3rd in the Strathspey Shenanigan (36 miles). It was a shame that the Glen Affric to Fort Augustus race was cancelled due to the flood damage. The Fort to Fort race is still to come.

My friend Ruari Watt from Fort William, who won the Scottish Junior Series, says I ought to ride 20 - 30 miles before starting the Scottish Series races - I might then do better !!

Henry Cruickshank

Editor's note : If these are the type of distances Henry is used to then he wouldn't have even been warmed up cycling down from Cluanie Hotel !

Dulchreichard School

This term we have been reading "Goodnight Mister Tom". Young Willie Beech is evacuated to the country as Britain stands on the brink of the Second World War. A sad, deprived child, he slowly begins to flourish under the care of old Tom Oakley - but his new found happiness is shattered by a summons from his mother back in London.

The children wrote poems to describe being back in London.

However, the story does have a happy ending when William is adopted by Mister Tom.

Willie's Poem

In the darkest lane,
I live in pain.
The journey home,
I write this poem.
Under the staircase
It is always dark.
Being beaten
I am always dreading.
But Mister Tom he eases the pain
And gets rid of all the strain.

Vickie Common P.6

I miss you Mister Tom very much.
My mum is hitting me very hard.
She is well, she wanted to
Discipline me because you
Weren't disciplining me.
I want to stay with you.
Please get me, please Mr. Tom.

Kirsteen Smith P.6

The home that I will stay,
The mother that I betrayed,
The smelly home not like a dome
In pain all day long.

In a staircase all alone,
Second thoughts of going home.
With the cuts upon my legs,
With scars, bruises, shock and dread.

I really miss the loving home,
Of the caring person Mister Tom.
Staying with him made me feel,
How love can really be revealed.

Cassie McEwan P.6

Here I am again
on this train.
The clack clack
of it again.
What will she
think of me.
Here I am again
in this home
With Mother
so dreaded.
Lying on the floor,
my body in pain.
The next thing I know
I'm in the cupboard.
All alone, oh so alone
I lie here bleeding.
I lie here dreaming
of Mister Tom.
Then all I know
I'm calling out
in pain, "Mr Tom".
I hate this bible zone
I want to go home !

Amy Bisset P.7



The Big Bike Ride

It was a perfect day for a cycle ride - dry, no wind, not too hot, just right. The day started with the pre-school and primary school children's ride over a five mile course at Dalcattaig. Numbers were significantly down on last year due to many of the children either tackling the 17 mile ride or joining in with the sponsored walk. In fact four bikers headed off surrounded by as many if not more parents, brothers, sisters or those just wanting to limber up for the afternoon's session !



Nearly all of them completed the course. Wee Sian Curley on her little bike complete with stabilisers found the rough forestry tracks just too much but she bravely completed all the tarmac sections of the ride so full marks to her. The eventual winner, and winner of the Les Webster Schools Trophy, was Cassie McEwan.



At one o'clock at least ten walkers were deposited at Dundreggan Dam to begin their 5 mile journey down the road. This new innovation proved very popular and we hope to include it again next year, The walk lasted approximately one and a half hours and most adults felt they could easily have done more. There was a special prize for the oldest, sorry, the most senior walker and this was awarded to Elma Johnstone, Dalcattaig, but she wasn't letting on just how senior she was !

The cavalcade of cars, vans and bikes then headed on up to Cluanie Dam and dropped off 18 cyclists before finally transporting the two intrepid extremely-serious bikers all the way to Cluanie Hotel for their 25 mile marathon cycle. These two, Henry Cruickshank and Neil Robertson devoured these extra eight miles in jig-time, managing to finish before some of the not-so-serious cyclists !

There were no accidents, no technical hitches or breakdowns; just good clean fun and a few numb bums by the end of the day !! Everyone then piled into the hotel for soup, the odd wee dram and a blether.

Winner of the Lock Inn Local Trophy and gold medal for the fastest time over the 17 mile course went to Billy Greer who unfortunately had to give up his oldest cyclist title which went to Ian Common instead ! Runner-up and silver medal went to Archie MacLellan who just pipped his father into bronze medal position.

Winner of the Brian Clark Junior Trophy for the best performance by an under 14 year old on the same course was Simon MacLellan Jnr. Unfortunately there was a slight mix up with too many cooks spoiling the timekeepers concentration and Vickie Common was inadvertently awarded the trophy on the day but it was subsequently sorted out with no tears !

The winner of the Water Park Trophy and gold medal for the best time over the full 25 miles was Henry Cruickshank with Neil a very worthy runner-up. He gets the silver medal to add to his silver of last year.



All the trophies were originally donated for the Glenmoriston Mountain Bike Races which aren't held now so it seemed a sensible idea to put them to good use once more. My thanks to Jeff Dymond for routing them all out.

The trophies will be presented at the Glenmoriston Village Hall's Final Fling on the 31st October in the hall.

The prize for raising the most money was won by Kirsteen Smith for the juniors who collected a massive £166.00 and to Lesley Common for the not-so-juniors who coerced £135.80 from poor (well they were after she had been at them) unsuspecting people !

Again, as in previous years, her old and trusty bike had to endure the now legendary derogatory comments concerning its suitability for the task but this year it waived aside all doubting Thomases' and trundled down the road a damn sight faster than many of the expensive mountain bikes which goes to prove they built things to last in the olden days (I'm talking about the bike not the rider !)

All in all we managed to raise a staggering £1104.70 which way exceeds both our expectations and our past records so on behalf of the committee I would like to give a very big thank you to the following people: To Neil and Carol Scott for providing the much needed soup and crusty bread at the finish, to Tony Johnstone and Jim Anderson for doing the timekeeping, to Willie Archibald and Ian Common for transporting the bikes, to Davy McEwan and Brian Bisset for driving the support cars, to everyone who sponsored anyone and finally, and most importantly, to all the cyclists and walkers for taking part.

Times were as follows:

Billy Greer		48 mins	00 secs	*
Archie MacLellan		54 mins	00 secs	*
Simon MacLellan		54 mins	30 secs	
Lesley Common		55 mins	25 secs	*
Darren McEwan	1 hour	00 mins	10 secs	*
Chris Steele	1 hour	01 mins	00 secs	
Simon MacLellan	1 hour	10 mins	20 secs	
Kit Slater	1 hour	11 mins	20 secs	
David Bevan	1 hour	14 mins	00 secs	
Amy Bisset	1 hour	14 mins	30 secs	
Vickie Common	1 hour	17 mins	00 secs	
Rachel MacDonell	1 hour	17 mins	30 secs	
Ian Common	1 hour	18 mins	00 secs	
Duncan Greer	1 hour	19 mins	00 secs	
Isla Bisset	1 hour	19 mins	00 secs	
Kirsteen Smith	1 hour	22 mins	30 secs	
Elaine Wolfenden	1 hour	30 mins	00 secs	
Nicola Curley	1 hour	31 mins	00 secs	
Henry Cruickshank	1 hour	02 mins	00 secs	
Neil Robertson	1 hour	16 mins	00 secs	

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

Glenmoriston Village Hall

The following is a brief summary of the state of play concerning the hall.

COFFEE MORNINGS - For the second year running it was decided to provide teas, coffees and home baking during the summer. The start had to be delayed slightly due to the Royal Engineers being billeted in the hall during the formation of the car park. However a very good response from the Ladies of the Glen meant that they could open 3 days a week from 11am until 4pm which more than made up for the delay.

Also present this year were Paul and Margaret from the Balmacaan Walled Garden in Drumnadrochit with their organic produce to sell, of which we got a percentage. We received 20% of all sales of deer horn craft supplied by Jeff Dymond as well so many thanks to all of them.

These stalls plus the the coffee mornings realised £1,700 so a very big thank you is due to all members of the "team".

21st CENTURY HALLS FOR SCOTLAND GRANT - The Millennium Commission gave the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations £7 million to assist a minimum of 70 rural halls in Scotland and we registered our interest immediately in December 1996. On the 29th September this year we were advised that we had been UNSUCCESSFUL this time but could apply again in March 1998. On the 16th October the Committee managed to confront the SCVO Project Officer with the assessment report. The Committee's extreme disappointment was noted and, after a heated discussion, were advised where we had lost "brownie points" on what we thought to be irrelevant points. It is considered that a new application will gain the extra points needed to obtain a grant.

EMERGENCY - August the 14th brought 5 inches of rain over Invermoriston and terrible flooding. The Secretary was alerted at 8pm and called out at 11pm to open the hall for stranded visitors. The WRVS took over, providing tea, coffee, snacks and bedding for all concerned. An illustrious end for the old hall.

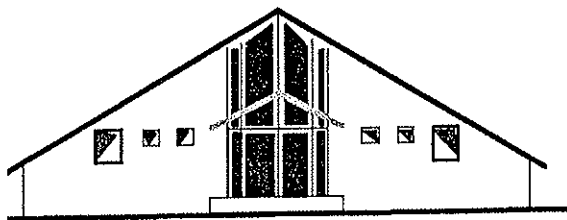
RSPB TALK - This most enjoyable evening raised £104.

MORAY FIRTH CYCLE CLUB - paid a visit to the hall for soup and sandwiches on their annual trip round this area which boosted the coffers by £80.

THE OLD HALL - A council inspection in June advised that restrictions had to be made in using the hall. This will result in the closure of the hall after the AGM because insurance cover cannot be obtained. Not bad for a 71 year old !

Details of all events, in date order plus the minutes of all meetings throughout the year are available if anyone is interested.

Once again the committee would ask for your continued support to provide what we hope will be more a Community Centre than simply a Village Hall.



Glenmoriston Public Hall - New Design

***(Recognised as a Charity in
Scotland - SCO 24745)***

Poets Corner

Desperately seeking a home in which to stay,
Boris and Hazel's masters are moving away.
After living in the Highlands for quite a few years,
Boris feels leaving would bring him to tears.
Moving to the City doesn't really appeal,
So Boris would ask you to cut him a deal.
Cars and bright lights to Boris' dismay
Would probably scare him or make him run away.
Loving and friendly, this big ginger Tom
Would like you to help him, and Hazel his mom.
So if you like cats and could love two more,
Ring Sharon Harris or knock on her door.

For more details on this excellent opportunity to own two tip top cats as seen on the Kit-e-Kat advert please phone 01320 340315.

TV Club

This year's Annual General Meeting was very sparsely attended. Could this be because reception is now so good that there is nothing to complain about ?

For the first time the new one household / one vote system, agreed at the previous AGM, was operated successfully.

The Treasurer presented the Accounts and recommended that the annual subscription remain at £20, as this would ensure that sufficient funds would be available when the cable needed to be replaced; this was agreed. There was some discussion on what action to take in respect of those members who refuse to pay their subscription, and whom the paying members therefore subsidize. It was agreed that they be publicly named if still failing to pay after a final warning.

Members at the meeting expressed their sorrow at the passing of Ted Lumb, and wished to put on record their appreciation of his valuable contribution to the Club.

The present Committee, being willing to continue in office and there being no other nominations, were unanimously re-elected.

Church News

I am writing this article with the sun streaming through the Manse windows on a glorious autumn day. Modern windows both protect against the cold (double glazing) and let through the maximum light (crystal clear glass). You will know that older windows tend to be poorer at providing warmth and light - but the old stained glass windows do provide something which is lacking in many modern windows - namely pictures !

The interesting thing about stained glass windows is that, during the day anyway, they look like nothing from the outside ! You will pass churches and see only black glass and it may look exceptionally dull. However, as soon as you step inside the Church, a beautiful bright multicolour picture streams into the building with the help of the sun.

The Christian faith is something like this. Many only ever see Christianity from the outside and it looks oh-so-dull and boring. However, if you were to step in faith into the Christian family, you would discover a wonderful experience would open up to you. You can remain outside the Church and criticise it and its members, or you can come in and find out what it is that has drawn countless millions from every background and creed throughout the centuries to give their lives over to the living God.

If you do so the Church will not change - but your perception of things may change dramatically as you discover, for yourself, the Light of God streaming into your life.

Why not come along to Church to see things from the inside ?

Services are at 10.30 am and 6 pm every Sunday in Drumnadrochit and on the first Sunday of every month in Dulchreichard School at 3 pm.

Rev. Hugh Watt.

Loch Ness Gun Club

Since the last edition of Moriston Matters we have been extremely busy at the club. June saw us hosting a British Team Selection Shoot. We had some of Britain's top shooters attending. The accommodation, good food, facilities and scenery of the Glen and surrounding area has helped us to secure this shoot over the last number of years. Along with our other normal shoots we hosted the Scottish Olympic trench Championships in August which went very well. On the same weekend we organised the clay shooting at the Highland Field Sports Fair at Moy Hall near Tomatin. We had in excess of 900 entries over the weekend. This unfortunatue clash had the club committee fully stretched with a few, including the author, on the point of breakdown !!

We have only two shoots left for 1997. The first is on the 8th November which is our 50 DTL Trophy shoot. All locals are welcome with the chance of winning some silverware. There is a trophy for best local junior so if there are any under 18's wanting a shot why not come along. The last shoot of the year is our famous festive shoot where the proceeds are given to charity.

It is with deep sadness and regret that I write of the passing of Duncan MacDonell. He has been a member of the club since its beginning over 25 years ago. Duncan supported the club right up to the time of his stroke and was looking forward to the 1997 season of shoots. He was always a familiar sight at all our competitions and practices. The Club has lost a stalwart of shooting and he will be sorely missed for his contributions to the club and his help to the committee. The membership as a whole will miss "Old Duncan of Inverwick". On behalf of Loch Ness Gun Club I send my deepest sympathy to his family.

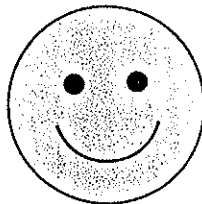
On a personal note Duncan has been a major influence in my shooting career. He and my father started me shooting at the age of 12. He was with me when I won my first prize in 1986 and when I started shooting for Scotland he travelled with me hundreds of miles throughout Scotland.

He did not stop there. He accompanied me to major competitions and Internationals in England, Wales and even managed to get to Dublin, Ireland. He really enjoyed the social side of shooting especially the banquets where the drams had the habit of flowing very fast ! In June of this year I won the Scottish ABT Grand Prix and took the trophies to show Duncan. Although he could not talk you could see that he wished he was there shooting. I wish to dedicate that win to him as a token of my thanks for his advice and support over the last number of years. I just hope there is a shooting ground where he is now; if not I am sure he will soon make one. Duncan was also closely involved in other aspects of my life and it is a great privilege for me to have known him and classed him as a very close friend. He will be sadly missed by my family and I.

David Gillies, Achlain.

Witty Ditty

It's wondrous what a hug can do;
A hug can cheer when you are blue.
A hug can say "I love you so"
Or, "Gee, I hate to see you go".
A hug is "Welcome back again"
And "Great to see you, where've you been?"
A hug can sooth a small child's pain,
And bring a rainbow after rain.
The Hug ! There's just no doubt about it
We scarcely would survive without it !.
A hug delights and warms and charms;
It must be why God gave us arms.
Hugs are great for Dads and Mothers,
Sweet for sisters, swell for brothers.
And chances are your favourite Aunts
Love them more than potted plants.
Kittens crave them, puppies love them,
Heads of state are not above them.
A hug can break the language barrier,
And make your travels so much merrier.
No need to fret about your store of 'em
The more you give the more there is of 'em.
So stretch those arms without delay
AND GIVE SOMEONE A HUG TODAY !



Local News

CONGRATULATIONS to Sam Toy, Primrose Bay on his National Commendation Award for his success in co-ordinating community based projects to improve the environment across Scotland.

GOOD LUCK to Archie MacLellan as he heads off for Inverness to take up a course on Professional Cookery at Inverness College.

GOOD LUCK also to Graham MacLellan as he heads off in the opposite direction to Napier College in Edinburgh to study Civil Engineering.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY :

FRIDAY 31st OCTOBER - The Final Fling in the Hall.

TUESDAY 4th NOVEMBER - A meeting will be held at the Service Point, Oich Road, Fort Augustus at 7.30 pm to explore the possibilities of forming a Fort Augustus Outdoor Bowling Club. Why not go along and give your views and listen to the view of like minded folk. Your opinions would be welcomed.

WEDNESDAY 5th NOVEMBER - Bonfire night at Riverside Park at 6.30 pm. Bonfire, fireworks, barbeque, sparklers, the lot. Everybody most welcome but please leave pets and fireworks at home !

WEDNESDAY 12th NOVEMBER - Glenmoriston Village Hall AGM - All Welcome.

QUIZ NIGHTS IN THE TAVERN - will resume as and when the flood repairs are complete in the Tavern and also if the demand for the brain-teasing fun nights is still apparent.

Local News

BEST WISHES to Dave and Samantha Bulmer from the Old Post Office who have departed to live in Drumnadrochit.

WELCOME to Danny and Morag Muschate who, along with their son James, have come to make the Old Post Office their home.

WELCOME to Mrs MacQuillan, (who, I am reliably informed, is Sandra Steele's sister), and her two sons Brendan and Connor who have taken up residence in Pier Cottage.

WELCOME to Eddie and Morag Scott, parents of Neil Scott from the hotel, as they begin a new chapter of their life at Balnagowan Cottage, The Street, Invermoriston.

WELCOME to Mave Ersu who, after a brief stay next door to Jeff Dymond, has transferred her kit and caboodle to "Fairdean" which is the new house between Simon MacLellan and Alan Smart.

CONGRATULATIONS to Douglas and Kirsteen MacKenzie on the birth of their daughter Sarah Anne, a sister for Matthew.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mike and Clare from the Highland Fayre tearooms on the early arrival of their daughter Iona, a sister this time for Sandy. After a slightly shaky start, both mother and daughter are doing well.