

*M*orriston *Matters*



Winter 97



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

No 60

35p

Editorial

Phew !! Nearly got this edition out on time but not quite !! However you know what they say - Better late than not getting it produced at all and you are getting your money's worth this time !

Perhaps you may have been taking bets as to why the Christmas Tree had a change of locality this festive season. The tree was always placed outside the original post office on the Kyle road and continued to be sited there even when the post office closed. However with the hall now being one of the very few parts of the community left it was felt that putting the tree there might be more suitable. Also it is now visible to passers-by on the main road and, more importantly, to Sheila from her living-room window !

If you were wondering what had happened to the Senior Citizens party, I have it on good authority that the event will be taking place, possibly towards the end of February when the hotel re-opens so you havn't been forgotten about although there is a shortage of funds; anyone got any good ideas ?

I'm sure many of you will have been following the sad story of the demise of Inverwick Farm in the papers - How not to gain friends and influence people ! Duncan's daughter, Mary, has shared some of her own thoughts with the magazine and I have included some of the correspondence which the Highland news received on the subject as well.

On a brighter note, the Glen is buzzing with the news of the grant from the Millenium Commission for the replacement hall. Lets hope the Hall Committee hit no more snags and encounter no more obstacles in their path to completing their dream.

If you have a dream that you would like to share then please jot it down and send it to;

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

Local News

Katie Common made her debut playing the fiddle at the Dingwall Accordion and Fiddle Club held in the National Hotel in Dingwall back in December. She, along with her father on box and Jock Fraser from Inverness on piano, performed a waltz set followed by a march with great confidence (in fact Allan made more mistakes than she did !)

The Glenrowan Cafe is scheduled to reopen at the beginning of March with a revamped menu and some new faces behind the counter !!

On Tuesday 16th December the children of Dulchreichard Primary School treated parents and friends to an afternoon of Christmas carols, recitations from the nativity story and some lovely solo signing. Also on the program was some excellent fiddle, cello and recorder playing. The audience were then extremely well fed and watered. Many thanks to Ms MacDonald and her eight pupils.

There was a flurry of excitement in the village one frosty morning back in November. Simon the Post, having just dragged himself out of bed and away from Sheila (or should that be the other way round ?) ventured out to begin his round only to find the space, where his beloved post van should have been, devoid of the aforementioned object. Someone or something had hi-jacked his postvan !

Luckily the missing vehicle was discovered abandoned later in the day beyond Cluanie, with an empty diesel tank, before Simon had completed his round in his borrowed post van. Thankfully for Simon it wasn't a sackable-and-here's-your-P45 offence, just a rap-on-the-knuckles-and-don't-let-it-happen-again one !! The person most put out, however, was Sheila as apparently the would-be thief totally disregarded her Citroen 2CV, complete with open door and key in the ignition for the ever so slightly conspicuous red post van. He'd obviously forgotten his balaclava, (the essential pre-requisite for all 2CV drivers !!)

Local News

Mum, Dad and I went to Luton by plane. It was fun. Buzz met us and took us to his house. The next day we left at 6am to go 60 miles to meet Michelle and James at Daphne's. We got there at 8.15am. Then we went to see Steven's parade which was very good. He was very smart in his uniform. We went back and had loads of food at Daphne's. I played with her cats and a very big tree which was in her garden. We came back with Steven on the plane and had a good Christmas and New Year.

Kirsteen Smith P.6

Green Fingers

On Wednesday 21st January our class at Kilchuimen Primary School were awarded the Keep Scotland Beautiful prize after getting through to the final of the Bank of Scotland Beautiful Scotland in Bloom contest.

We have called ourselves the "Nessie Gnomes" and we have taken an unused piece of our playing field and made a rectangle for vegetables and a circle for flowers. We sell the extra plants from our garden to raise funds.

Provost Sellar presented the "Nessie-Gnomes" with £50 and a certificate which says we are runners up in Scotland in bloom. This brings our bank balance to £100 so we have decided to buy our own wheelbarrow so that we don't have to keep borrowing the janitors !

I would like to thank the minister, Mr. Moses, for all his help with our garden and also Mrs. Johnstone, our headteacher and Mrs. Mackay, our class teacher.

Duncan Greer - Head Gardener.

The Highland Clearances ?

It is with great sadness that I write of the demolition of Inverwick farmhouse and steadings on Hogmanay 1997, so soon after my father's death in September 1997.

My father lived and breathed for Inverwick Farm since he arrived there from Brinacory, Morar in 1942. His parents both died while living at Inverwick and his brothers and sisters married and went their own ways. There has been four generations of the same MacDonell family in Inverwick, but if you take a walk in the older part of the cemetery you will see that there were MacDonells in Inverwick back in the 1700's and, ironically, the christian name on the memorial is Duncan.

I have wonderful childhood memories of myself and my brother Allan growing up at Inverwick; fishing, cycling, working on the farm etc. It was a safe and idyllic place for any child to be brought up. Those memories, no one can take from me, not even the estate landlord Poul Johansen and his factor, Anne Girvan, who, between them, saw fit to have Inverwick house and steadings demolished without even awaiting to see if they were being granted demolition permission.

My father and brother endured many stressful years at Inverwick since Poul Johansen bought over the Glenmoriston Estate in 1988. They were continually hounded by both Mr. Johansen and Anne Girvan who were desperate to re-gain the Inverwick lease.

In his later years my father told quite a few locals that he would not even leave the farm to go to the village shop and he would sit in Inverwick house with the doors locked in the afternoon. People who knew my father will also know that the pressure of this situation changed him over the past few years of his life and he hardly left Inverwick at all.

He suffered a stroke on 2nd April 1997 shortly after his 80th birthday and was taken from Inverwick by ambulance to hospital where he later died on 24th September 1997. He never saw his beloved Inverwick again.

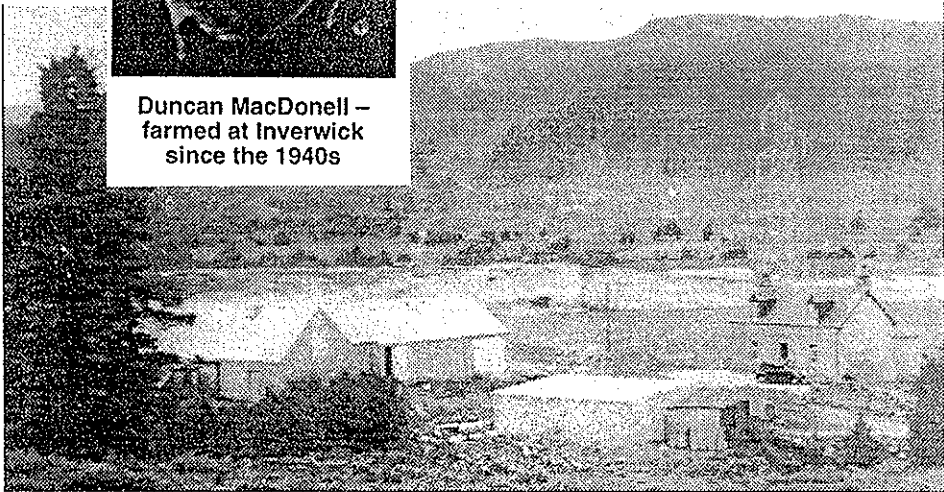
I think the whole system is wrong that foreign businessmen like Poul Johansen can buy up Scottish estates and then ride rough-shod through the Glen, destroying our older buildings of character, when they are the very people in a financial position to be able to restore old properties like Inverwick farm house and steadings to their original glory.

As my father often said himself, "We are back to the days of the Highland Clearances now in the 1990's"

Mary Greer.



Duncan MacDonell –
farmed at Inverwick
since the 1940s



Inverwick Farm and the farmhouse (right) which was bulldozed on Hogmanay

The following is a copy of a letter sent to the "Highland News" from George Macdonald, Inverness which appeared the week following Mary's story concerning the harsh treatment of the occupants of Inverwick.

The editorial (24th January) quite rightly highlighted the cavalier action of Poul Johansen, the Danish landowner in Glenmoriston. There are quite a number of these wealthy Danes purchasing tracts of land and all things that go with it in this district - Strathconnon etc.

The irony of this is that Denmark has the strictest land use policies in Europe. No outsider is allowed to purchase land in their country. Even the non-danish purchaser of a modest farm has to prove many years of good farming husbandry in their country of origin before making a deal.

Denmark is a small independent country within the confines of the European Union, with a population similar to that of Scotland and retains a vast amount of sovereignty to make such land use rules a possibility. This belies the myth that an independent Scotland would have scant sovereignty in Europe. At present 90% of our sovereignty is swallowed up by Westminster right down to local level, but with independence that would be ours to use as we thought fit.

To accept the selling of public land in Scotland is absurd and demeaning to the population as a whole. Land is the bedrock of equality, for national ownership of land makes it impossible for a society of lord and serf.

Half of Scotland is owned by just 500 people. More than 50 major Scottish estates are in foreign hands and hundreds more smaller land holdings have overseas owners. Many of those foreign buyers of land register their purchase in the name of offshore companies to keep their identity secret. This is particularly true in the Highlands, which seems to have become the playground of the rich and famous.

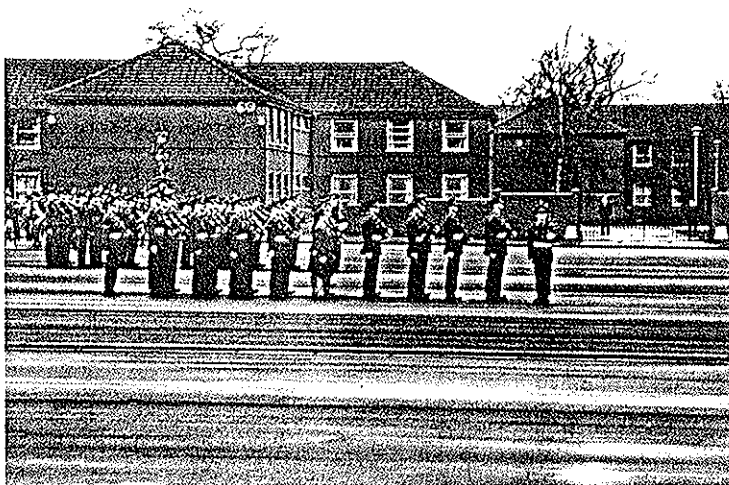
What to do about this sordid sell-out of our country? New Labour's devolved parliament quite literally can do not a thing, being under control of their London Masters. However, there is a way - the only way. And that is through an independent Scottish Parliament and bring us up in line with Denmark and all the other small nations of the European Union.

Local Success

On Friday 20th December 1997 on a cold and misty morning we arrived at Rowcroft Barracks, Arbofield for Steven's passing out parade.

The parade started at 10.00am with three left hand 'markers' marching onto the parade ground. The first 'marker' on was Steven, sorry, Corporal Smith !

In the distance we could hear the pipe band and the brass band playing "The Atholl Highlanders" as they approached the ground. We could see the three platoons marching behind. The platoons marched on to the parade ground to the sound of "The Bugle Horn" and marched up to their individual 'marker'.



(Steven is on the extreme right of the picture)

Then the shouting started ! What a voice !! He certainly got our attention although we couldn't understand a word of it but we had our very own translator in Geoff as he had been there, done that and got his very own t-shirt !!

The bands playing during the inspection were a godsend as they fairly got the feet tapping and the circulation flowing back into numb fingers and toes. They seemed to be playing in stereo throughout the parade ground.

The platoons then went into a quick march. This was first class marching; not a foot or arm swing out of place. As they marched past Lieutenant General Sir S. Cowan K.C.B. C.B.E. (who did the inspection), the shouting started again: eyes right, salute, eyes front ! Once the platoons were back in position they received a blessing from the padre then they marched off to "Going Home" and "Auld Lang Syne". The minute all 98 apprentice trainees were off the ground and through the gates we heard a huge roar and all 98 hats were tossed into the air !!

The whole parade took two hours so by the end of it we were all ready for a hot cup of tea and a warm place to sit. Steven joined us and took us for a tour of the exhibition depicting all that the apprentices have done so far and what they can still do whilst in the army. We also met officers and friends that Steven has made.

Once Steven signed out we all went back to Tony and Daphne Harris's home which was only 14 miles away. Their generous hospitality rounded off a day our family and Buzz will always remember.

We are both proud of Steven and all that he has achieved in such a short time and are sure that there will be a lot more to come.

Christina and Geoff.



Ladies Shinty

On the 18th January a bus load of intrepid shinty players headed for the first ever ladies indoor shinty tournament which took place in Lochgilphead. 12 teams from Strathglass (2), Glengarry (3), Oban (2), Strathclyde University (1) and the hosts Lochgilphead (4) battled it out for the beautiful silver trophy donated by the Scottish band Capercaillie who sponsored the event.

Glengarry Gals A team won the event in spectacular form without losing a match, beating Lochgilphead 6 - 2 in the final.

The top goal scorer of the tournament was Lesley Common playing for the winning finalists whilst Rachel MacDonell played extremely well in goals for Glengarry's C team.

The president of the Camanach Association was in attendance which was gratifying as he was able to witness first hand the exciting play and quality teamwork and skill which makes the ladies game equally as exhilarating as the mens, albeit not as rough or potentially dangerous. Perhaps now the idea of ladies playing shinty won't be met with such derision and scorn.





Training for the ladies team takes place on wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm in Invergarry hall and they are always on the lookout for new players. Children are made most welcome too. Why not come along and give it a try. It's a great way of burning off all those excess christmas calories !!

Due to the fact that the teams are so widely spread out the expenses for travelling to matches and tournaments are quite hefty and so the ladies are currently looking for a sponsor to help them out with their finances.

For further information about ladies shinty or training or if anyone feels they would like to invest some capital in the best ladies shinty team in Scotland at an up-and-coming sport then please telephone Catherine Cameron on 01809 501289.

Crossroads

The Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme was introduced to Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston in 1993.

This service is directed towards people who are in a caring role, otherwise known as "carers". Looking after someone day after day can be very stressful and tiresome, both mentally and physically. A break away from caring can make all the difference to one's well-being and ability to cope.

The responsibility of the Crossroads Care Attendants is to stay with the client until the carer gets back from a break. Care Attendants are trained for this service.

The committee of the friends of Crossroads Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston hold a fundraising event each year and all the money raised in this area is spent in this area.

Carers living locally who feel they would benefit from this service or want more information about it should contact the Medical Centre at Fort Augustus on 01320 366216 or contact the Crossroads co-ordinator, Susan Lay, at Balachulish on 01855 811201.

Obituary

The Glen was saddened by the death of Margaret Buell just before Christmas. Margaret, along with her husband, the Reverend Bart Buell, were frequent and welcome visitors to the Glen, both for ministerial duties and community ones. The Rev. Buell was minister for the linked parishes of Urquhart and Glenmoriston from May 1980 until his retirement in March 1995 when he and Margaret left Drumnadrochit to live at Cradlehall in Inverness.

Our sympathies go to Bart and the rest of his family.

Moriston Matters Trophy

The recipient of the Moriston Matters Trophy for 1997 was Elma Johnstone, Dalcattaig who was nominated for the immense amount of time and effort that she has unstintingly given to obtaining funds for the new village hall, for securing a car park, for organising fundraising activities, to name but a few.

Others who were nominated were: (in no special order) Colin Gourlay, the entire Hall Committee, Ian Common, Lesley Common (even though she was ineligible, being a past holder of the trophy), Ricky Linton, Tony Johnstone and Clare Levings.

Congratulations to all those, but especially to Elma.

Community Council

Glenmoriston is well represented on the committee of the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council by Tony Johnstone and Mike Allen both of Dalcattaig and by Tommy Girvan, Tomchrasky. The council meets normally on the last Thursday of the month in the Memorial Hall in Fort Augustus unless otherwise stated and anyone is welcome to attend these meetings.

The Pony Express

The Pony Express once again bounded through Dalchreichart just before Christmas, delivering cards with a smile and a fleeting wave of a hoof. The majority of residents took up the offer of "posties on horseback" and I'm sure they would all like to thank Katie and Vickie Common and their willing four legged friends, Casey and Toto, for their efforts.

P.S. The ponies enjoyed their carrots, thank you very much !

The Final Fling

The last social event to be held in the hall was at Halloween, October 31st. The children, fresh from their tour of the houses, guising and gathering their goodies, paraded before the judges and the audience. After much deliberation 1st prize was awarded to Stewart Atkins who was a fearsome and bloodied Dracula. 2nd was Vickie Common as Dick Whittington with Isla Bisset as his/her faithful cat. Weaving her spells into 3rd place was Cassie McEwan as a fiesty witch.

Next came the judging of the turnip lanterns by Steve Henshaw. Isla Bisset emerged as the winner with her kilted turnip.

The children were then treated to a variety of games including ducking for apples and eating doughnuts off a string whilst getting covered in sugar !

Colin Gourlay must still be the undisputed king of the "flinging the coin at the whisky bottle". He appears to know every hump and bump of the notoriously uneven floor but I wonder how he will fare when there are no knots on the finely tuned and polished floor of the new hall !!

The highlight of the evening should have been the nostalgic auction of the old piano however people weren't exactly queuing up to make a bid but eventually, after a bit of haggling, Jeff Dymond volunteered to take away the old joanna and even paid £10 for the priviledge to do so !

Ian and Barbara Taylor of Redburn tearooms donated one of their beautiful wooden clocks for the raffle but it was deemed too valuable just for that purpose so it was auctioned off as well. We really missed the auctioning skills of Alistair MacIntosh, formerly of Levishe. However £30 was realised from this.

Glenmoriston Village Hall

As I'm sure everyone will be aware, the new hall is now a reality with the Millenium Commission's grant of 123,559 towards its construction. Demolition of the existing hall is destined to begin on Monday 2nd February and if everything goes according to plan then building should hopefully begin in April/May 1998 for 24 weeks and by September or October of this year we should be in possession of a superb new hall.

PROJECT	COSTS	VAT	TOTAL
Construction	207,000		207,000
Fitting Out	14,600	2,556	17,156
Professional Fees	19,542	3,420	22,962
TOTAL COSTS	241,142	5,975	247,118

The plans for the new hall can be viewed at the Post Office.

At the AGM held on the 12th November the following committee was elected.

Chairman : Ian Common
Vice-Chairman : Brian Furey
Secretary : Margaret Allen
Treasurer : Tony Johnstone

Committee : Alan Draper, Jeff Dymond, Peter Giddy,
Mavis House, Elma Johnstone, Gordon
Jones, Clare Levings, Pat MacDonald,
Simon MacLellan, Elaine Wolfendon.

Representative for
Badminton Club : Heather Smart

Representative for
Children's Committee : Jean Curley

There is a bottle in the village shop to collect money to enable the Youth Club to purchase a pool table for use in the hall so any spare change you may have would be gratefully received.

Church News

What would be your reaction if you came to pick up your post one morning and discovered in it a cheque for £125,000.00 ?

Instinctively you would imagine it was a mistake - it was Millennium funding for the new hall in Invermoriston - or maybe a cheque for £1.25 which had too many nothings printed on it in error ! But you read the cheque again - and it is made out to you - it seems to be a bona fide source. It doesn't appear to be a mistake - the covering letter spells out that it is indeed £125,00.00 ! How do you feel ? What is the first thing you do when you discover that you have come into money ?

Would you be wise to go and spend it before it is in the bank ? Would you be wise to invest it and live off the income until you decide what might be the best use of it ? Will you make lots of friends in the pub for the first few months by picking up the tabs each night ? Will you be selfish or selfless with this windfall ?

Some people wonder why it is that the Christian faith is still alive after 2000 years - and the answer is that it comes to people as even better news than a financial windfall. At very best, the only thing you can do with money is to spend it - and once it is spent it is spent. But the Gospel (the good news) of the Christian faith is that riches beyond counting are on offer - and treasures which cannot run out, or rust or decay.

Are you intrigued by these solid joys and lasting treasures ? Then why not come along to Church and find out more ? We have services 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.

Childrens Committee

Glenmoriston Children's Committee, as usual at this time of year, has been busy. First off was the bonfire night back in November. For once nearly everything went according to plan. It was a bit damp but not as wet as last year. We had a hugh bonfire, courtesy of the coal yard which, in my estimation, was even bigger than the one in Bught Park, Inverness. Many thanks to Bruce Lindsay's coal yard for all the pallets and for the brawn to build the bonfire !

The fireworks were superb as ever. I can't compare our fireworks with those of Inverness though as they have vast amounts of capital for their display. However I do think we put on a show which rates amongst the best for miles around. Grateful thanks to Allan Common and Billy Greer for their pyrotechnic capabilities.

And as for the catering staff ! What a vast array of goodies were available. The only slight problem was the lack of illumination at the barbeque. Poor Colin and I had to rely on size and memory to decide upon a burgers readiness for the roll ! Alas not all burgers came under such scrutiny and we apologise for the odd "rare" one. We haven't had a bill from Raigmore as yet !

Now all we need to brush up on is matching the number of burgers ready at any one time to the size of the queue waiting for them. Always it seems if there is an over abundance of one then there is a scarcity of the other and vice versa ! As I've said year after year after year; Oh well, perhaps we'll get it right next time !

Many thanks to all the dinner ladies and Colin who volunteered his culinary services after watching countless episodes of "Can't cook Won't cook" on the telly during breaktime at the fishfarm ! 80 was collected in the bucket to go towards firework expenses for which we are very grateful.

On Saturday 20th December the children of the Glen once again (and hopefully for the very last time) trooped down the road to Fort Augustus for their Christmas party. This year they were in for a special treat. James Muschate from the Old Post Office in Invermoriston offered his services as gamesmaster. What delight as he produced new game after new game. He had them eating bars of chocolate (or trying to) with a fork and knife, wrapping each other up as mummies in toilet roll (at least they now know how Tutankhamen felt !) and collecting various articles of clothing from their own team and several unsuspecting parents ! (I lost my belt and my shoelace but I drew the line at taking my socks off !!)

As usual there was an abundance of good food and drink along with a small raffle. Guest of honour was Santa who arrived laden with parcels which he cheerfully dispensed to the eagerly awaiting children.

Armed with ballons, presents and full tummies the 26 party-goers headed home tired but happy. Many many thanks to James, to Jean Curley who ably assisted him and for her extremely underpaid secretarial skills, to Mary Greer for all her help and hard work as my treasurer and to the many parents and friends who helped make the party and the other activities throughout the year a success. Here's to the next party in our very own hall !

L.C.

Thank You

On Friday 19th December 1997 all P.7 to 6th year went to the cinema. First of all we went to Safeway to get something to eat then we went to the cinema. We went to see James Bond's new movie, "Tomorrow Never Dies". It was really good. After that we went to the fish and chip shop to get something to eat. (I had a bag of chips) It was a really good night and the film was great. I would like to say thankyou to the Children's Committee for taking us.

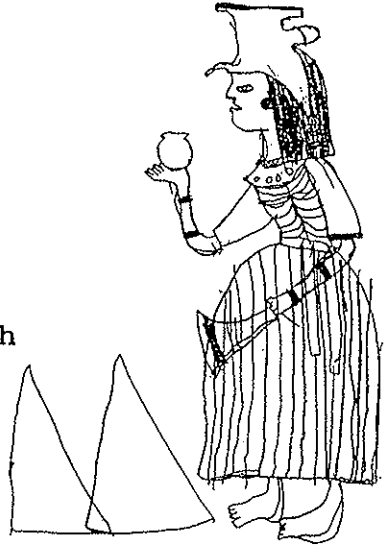
Amy Bisset P.7

Dulchreichard School

This term one of the projects that the children are studying is the History of the Ancient Egyptians.

Egypt is a very very very hot place. The tombs were full of scary mummies. The mummies were pharohs who were dead. The Egypt people put herbs and spices in the bodies of the Pharohs. A boy called Tutankhamen was a king at age 9 and died at age 20. The Egypt people lived in North Africa. The Egypt people had to wear loose clothes. Pharoh bodies were made into mummies.

Kerri McEwan P.3



Egypt is in the north of the African continent. It is very hot in Egypt like a desert. The Egyptians wear loose light clothes usually made of linen. Cosmetics are very valuable to the Egyptians. The Egyptians wrap a dead priest or king in linen. After they have taken the guts and insides out then they put oils and spices in their place. The Egyptians call it mummyfying. Once the priests or pharohs are mummyfied then they put make-up on the dead bodies faces (very bright colours) then they place them in their tomb. Spells are written on bandages to send them to the next world safely. Kings or Pharohs are treated like God in their temples. Tutankhamen, the boy king, was nine years old when he became king. He sadly died when he was only 20 years old. His body was preserved as a mummy then put in his tomb. His tomb was opened in 1922. The tomb was filled with 5000 of his precious belongings like a gold mask. The tomb was visited by people to see him as a mummy.

Vickie Common P.6

MUMMY CONVERSATION

In a dark tomb in the desert in Egypt two mummies started to stir.

- MUMMY 1: I'm so stiff. I've been in this tomb for three thousand years. Oy ! You ! (the mummy said and banged the other tomb with his hand) Come on boney.
- MUMMY 2: Oh what's happening? I hope I'm not being opened to the public !
- MUMMY 1: Don't be stupid. It's me !! Do you want to chat ?
- MUMMY 2: Sure !
- MUMMY 1: I've got some gossip. I heard that the mummy Tuten Khamean's tomb was opened and I think we should go scare some chickens.
- MUMMY 2: No, that's boring! We'll do that in another 2000 years.
- MUMMY 1: Ok. Lets talk about how we died. I died when I was minding my own business at the water well when suddenly this stupid ram ramed me over and I fell down the well and drowned. And d'you know it was two days when the first person spotted me and raised my body.
- MUMMY 2 : Well, I died of poison by one of my greedy servants. I was just having my dinner and the next thing I knew I was dead. That's why my tongue is sticking out.
- MUMMY 1: I wondered why it was sticking out. I thought it was a dislocated mouth. Ha! Ha!
- MUMMY 2: Well its about time we hit that bony old tomb sack again.
- MUMMY 1: Oh lets have some bubbly.
- MUMMY 2: Sure !!
- Their conversation went on well into the night and they drank 10 bottles of bubbly and they went back to sleep about 3am. They were ready to raise in another 4000 years.
- MUMMY 1: See you soon. Good luck good bones. Merry
& sleeping. Bye !
- MUMMY 2:
And they shut their tombs and turned out the lights and went to sleep !

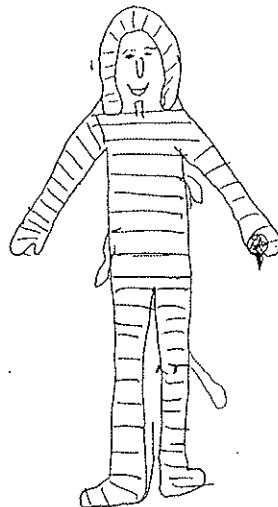
One day I went to Egypt to see the tomb but when we got there a tomb was open and it said who are you and why are you here ? I said I came to see the tombs. It said why? Because I was astonished of you and your thing too. Then I went to touch him. He went to sleep again and I shut the door of the tomb.



Kirsteen Smith P.6

THE POP STAR MUMMY

I went to a tomb in Egypt. I was looking at all the things and suddenly the coffin top jerked open and there was a mummy ! I was afraid but I went closer anyway and then with absolutely no warning came a voice which sang "La la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la " Then its eyes opened and scared the living daylights out of me ! Then it sang, "When you're feeling sad and low" "What", I said sounding surprised. Then the mummy burst into song, "We will take you where you want to go". Suddenly white rays came down and I saw mummy shadows dancing. When they'd finished they bowed and I started clapping. After that I plucked up enough courage to ask "Why did you do that ? ". The mummy replied, "When people came to look at my stuff people sang 'Spice up your life' so we decided to impress them". "It was good", I said. Well thats why we wanted to stay for ...Goodbye. Then suddenly they disappeared and the coffin lid shut and I went home.



Cassie McEwan P.6

Witty Ditty's

The following was found in a book of after dinner stories called "Pass the Port".

A secretary agreed to work late with her boss and when they had finished work, offered to drop him off at his home in her car.

On the way home he offered to buy her a meal, which she accepted. They also had a couple of bottles of wine and quite spontaneously, for they were not having an affair, ended up in her flat and in bed. Time passed quickly and, too late, they realised that his wife would need, for that hour, an extremely good explanation for his lateness.

He asked his secretary for, and got, a piece of chalk. Arriving home, his irate wife was waiting.

"And where do you think you've been ?"

"Well, actually," he replied, "I was working late with my secretary, I took her for a meal, one thing led to another and we ended up in bed in her flat."

The wife screamed, "You liar! You've been playing darts with the boys. You've still got the piece of chalk behind your ear."

The next little ditty is an alternative to the original words for Flower of Scotland - apologies to the Corries !

O burns of Scotland,
Shall we not see your like again,
In pipe and culvert,
Dispensed from No. 10,
Then filter-bedded,
And brewed and bottled,
To send to Scotland,
Tae drink again.

The raffle itself was full of donations of various bottles, edible goodies and handcrafted items from the two stallholders on the night, Jeff Dymond with his deer horn ware and Steve Henshaw from the Clog shop as well as others.

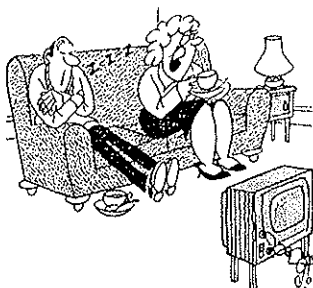
Entertainment for the evening was provided by The Doghouse Ceilidh Band comprising of Allan Common, Neil Robertson, Calum Stewart from Invergarry, Johnathon Henderson from Fort Augustus and Katie Common.

The committee would like to thank everyone who gave their services for the night, to the judges of the childrens competitions, to all who contributed raffle prizes, to all who helped with the teas, the games organising, the manning of the door and the stalls but mostly to all those who came along to conclude the history of the old hall in style. A final total of 488 was raised.

Witty Ditty's

Some it's-a-bit-late-now advice for married ladies !

Men before they are married will lie awake for ages just thinking and pondering about something poignant that you've said. Men after marriage will fall asleep before you've finished saying it !!



"Then she had the cheek to say I
was a bore!"

A LITTLE POEM

When you're sad, snuggle up.
When you're bad, own up.
When you're wrong, speak up
And when you're right, belt up !

Local News

WELCOME to Hylton Garriock who has moved into Hill Cottage, Invermoriston.

WELCOME to Cathy MacDonald from Falkirk who has done a "house-swap" with Russ and Becky Watson who lived at No. 9 Riverside Park, Invermoriston.

WELCOME to Hugh and Caren Mynne who have come from Ireland and, more recently, from Munlochry to stay in the cottage next door to Jeff Dymond at Aultsaigh. Hugh is a psychotherapist and spiritual healer whilst Caren is an artist.

GOOD LUCK to Alan (Benny) MacDonell and Susan Cowen as they move out of Riverside Park and up to Strathpeffer.

CONGRATULATIONS to Amanda Youngman, daughter of Tom & Julia Pratt, Creag-nan-Eun, Invermoriston, on the birth of her daughter Holly Chantelle.

CONGRATULATIONS to Alan and Betty Draper on the birth of yet another grandchild. Teresa and Paul Draper, who now run Arduthie, Hotel in Crieff, have added Lewis to their list of offspring !

DATES FOR THE DIARY: Sunday 24th May - Plant sale in car park. Contributions required please. Orders taken for bedding plants.
Tel: Elma (351203) or Clare (351254)