

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

No 65

40p

Editorial

Well, it's finally happened. The Glenmoriston Millenium Hall was officially opened on April 16th 1999 and is now in full use. The turnout on the night was tremendous with people crawling out of the woodwork for the very special occasion. There were residents, past residents, locals and visitors, all eager to be a part of THE event of 1999. It was lovely to hear the sound of music, the clinking of glasses and the popping of champagne corks, all symbolizing the end of several years of hard labour by many, many people who gave their time, money, blood, sweat and tears to finally turn the dream into reality; to give the Glen a focal point once more; to give the people of the Glen a base from which to learn, to socialise, to teach and to enjoy. The hall itself did everyone proud. There were a few technical hitches but nothing that can't or hasn't been sorted out. Three cheers for the Hall Committees, past, present and future !! The Editor, The Old Well, Dalchreichart, Glenmoriston, Inverness-shire. IV63 7YJ. Tel: (01320) 340205.

P.S. I apologise for the tardiness of this edition. This was due to technical problems outwith my control - David was away on holiday and he wanted to be present during the printing of this issue on the new photocopier !!

Situations vacant

Due to events in my private life over the last few months I feel I no longer have the heart to continue to produce "Moriston Matters". As you can well imagine the job requires time, dedication and considerable effort, none of which I can provide any more - if I do something I like to give it 100% - therefore the post of Editor is now vacant.

In June 1977, the first issue of "Glenmoriston News & Views" (which was subsequently to become "Moriston Matters") was produced. It was begun in response to the official suggestion that villages should mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee by some effort that would be of benefit to the Community. At that time, a number of incomer families, some of them refurbishing old croft houses, were settling in Glenmoriston, and to help the population (just on 300) integrate a community magazine was launched. 31 editions were published, the last one being in February 1983. In those days the magazine was bi-monthly but, eight years later in February 1991 when I resurected it, publication was cut to four

editions per annum. Now, 34 editions later, I have come to the end of the road.

I am indebted to David and Sylvia Andrews for their help, support and encouragement over the past eight years. Not only did they provide the resources for the production of the magazine i.e. computers, photocopiers, paper etc but also a proof-reading service, a collating, folding and stapelling service and a tossing around ideas service - all invaluable tools for a busy newspaper editor !

I would also like to thank all past contributors and to apologise if I harrassed you for material. After all I was only doing my job! My thanks also to those business outlets who tirelessly sold copies in their premises.

I hope somebody somewhere feels the same as I used to about the magazine in that it would be a great shame for it to slide into oblivion once more. After all we have so much to write about now with the new hall.

If anyone feels they would like to take on this unpaid labour of love then please do get in touch. I will try to give as much help as I can. There is a possiblity that the photocopier belonging to the hall would be available for production so the job requirements would simply be access to a word processor, some spare time and an interest in the happenings of the Glen, historically and up-to-date.

Poet 's Corner

The following words may be of comfort to those who have had to or may have to, put a treasured pet to sleep. I wish I had seen them when I had to deal with Sammy, one of my ponies.

If it should be that I grow frail and weak
And pain should keep me from my sleep,
Then you must do what must be done,
For this last battle can't be won.

You will be sad, I understand,
Don't let your grief then stay your hand,
For this day, more than all the rest,
Your love and friendship stands the test.

We've had so many happy years,
What is to come can hold no fears.
Would you want me to suffer ?
So When the time comes, please let me go.

take me where my needs they'll tend,
Only stay with me to the end,
And hold me firm and speak to me.
Until my eyes no longer see.

I know in time that you will see It is a kindness that you do to me, Although my tail its last has waved, From pain and suffering I have been saved.

Do not greive it should be you Who must decide this thing to do - We've been so close, we two these years, Don't let your heart hold any tears.

Glenmoriston Indoor Bowling Club

In the Spring of 1998 a steering committee was formed from a group of people interested in having an indoor bowling club in the new hall. At that time an application for a grant of money to the T.S.B. for buying new equipment for the club had been made by the Millenium Hall Committee and, if partly or wholly successful, could mean indoor bowling for the people of the Glen next season. The first five members of the steering committee i.e. Alan & Fran Middleton, Isabel Anthony, Matthew Douglas and Brian Furie - decided to go ahead and do what had to be done in the hope that indoor bowling would be a reality. But at that time, the new hall was hoped to be completed by late November.

After various meetings over the ensuing months, much had been accomplished. We had a constitution in the name of the Glenmoriston Indoor Bowling Club. We became an affiliated member of the Sports Council and our treasurer, Isobel, had opened a Girobank account in the club's name.

From dialogue with other bowling clubs, we acquired copies of the rules of play. An enrolment fee of £ 5 per member was agreed with an annual subscription of £10.

In early Autumn we learned to our delight that the application for a grant from the T.S.B. had been awarded in full. From that grant we were able to order:

2 carpets 40ft x 9ft; 2 pairs of mats; 2 jacks and 5 sets of bowls. The club was now a reality and no longer a possibility ! We booked 2 sessions weekly for when the new hall opened in April, both for Monday - an afternoon session from 2-4 pm and an evening session from 7-10pm.

To date, 29 people have expressed a desire to join and many of these have already enrolled. With two carpets, numbers unfortunately will have to be restricted at the beginning until we see how many wish to play in the afternoon and/or evening. Eight people can play (2 teams of 4) on each carpet for 1 set of 10 games (known as "ends"). Therefore a maximum of 16 people can play on both carpets at the one time. 16 other people can then

play on both carpets in the 2nd half of the session. Therefore 32 people is the maximum number per session. As we have yet to discover how many wish to play in the afternoons and/or evening sessions, we have decided, at present, to restrict the numbers of members to 40. But this number could be increased if the enthusiasm of members led to their desiring a 3rd session per week. Also it is hoped that by the end of the year, we may be able to buy a 3rd carpet from membership fees, fund raising and/or a successful application to the Sports Council.

To this end the present committee has called for an AGM for Monday 26th April at 7pm so that members can express their opinions and views on the future running of their club. Some may wish to continue playing through the summer, possibly one session per week. Other indoor clubs have now finished this present season and closed this past week. If it's feasible we may continue through the summer. But only the members can decide and arrange these future activities. A new committee will be formed on the 26th to represent the views of the members. As the club is run for the members by the members, we are hoping for a big turnout so that the views can be expressed and acted upon.

The first meeting of the club is on Monday 19th April. Each session costs £1 - where else could you get several hours of enjoyment for a pound ? - and that includes tea/coffee and biscuits !!

Last week 14 members from our Glen accepted an invitation to go along for a friendly match with the members of Drumnadrochit Indoor Bowling Club. As they knew many of us had never bowled a bowl before, it was to be an evening of instruction as well as the practical skills of playing. The advice cheerfully and kindly given to those of us who had never played before was received in kind by us. We were also the recipients of more hospitality by the lavish refreshments laid on for us by the club. We all had a great evening out and are now hoping to return the hospitality next season when we will host the next freindly match.

Here's hoping that indoor bowling will be a feature in the area for years to come in our magnificent new hall !!

Brian Furie (Secretary)

EXCLUSIVE TO THIS AREA

Glenmoriston Old Farm Scotch Whisky

On sale now

at

GLENMORISTON STORES

Invermoriston



Glenmoriston Millennium Hall

Friday 16th April was a very special day in Glenmoriston's 1999 calendar. The Glenmoriston Millennium Hall was finally opened after many months of waiting and many years of tireless fundraising.

Approximately 175 people flooded through the doors to get a view of what will hopefully become the heart and soul of the village. There were some very special guests present which included Mrs Ford who had attended the 1st opening of the old hall back in 1928 and Rebecca MacDonald who should have been present on that occasion back in 1928 but was indisposed.

The lads and lasses from the 237 Field Squadron T.A. Royal Engineers from RAF Lossiemouth who played a major role in the creation of the hall by constructing the car park, a pre-requisite to getting the hall in the first place, came back to help celebrate its opening.

Jennifer Isles from the Millennium Commission in London who has been involved from the very start was there along with John Farquhar Munroe, and Charles Kennedy MP who performed the actual

opening ceremony and was presented with a beautiful tartan clock from Graineag Crafts, Glenmoriston, as a special reminder of the occasion.

The music was supplied by "Hurley Burley", one of whose members, Shona Robertson, has very definite connections with the Glen. Other entertainment was provided by Eilidh Davis from Invergarry on the clarsach, Katie & Vickie Common, Amy Bisset and Cassie McEwan on their fiddles, Alistair Levings on the piano and a special mention must go to young Stewart Atkins who bravely danced his fling and swords amongst an audience milling about on the floor, many of whom, rather rudely, didn't even notice he was there. Well done Stewart !

A big thank you must surely go to all those ladies (and gents) who provided the sumptuous buffet, the table was literally groaning with food from sandwiches to quiches, dips and things to Millenium cake (specially baked by Ann Douglas) and much more. Everybody was treated to a complementary glass of fizz with which to drink the continued good health of the hall and all who sail in her ! (a few were sailing by the end of the evening !)

Pat MacDonald unveiled a plaque commemorating the opening which will be on permanent display in the hall and also ceremoniously cut the cake. Raffles were drawn, lucky number programs were drawn and the guests danced till the early hours.

Saturday afternoon belonged to the newly formed clubs; each one proudly presenting what they had to offer in the way of sport, rest and/or relaxation. The evening was turned over to the younger members of the community with a disco for all ages. Unfortunately another similar function was being held in Drum the same night so that kept the numbers down. However a good time was had by all.

On Sunday an inter-denominational church service of dedication was held by the Episcopalian minister from Foyers. Around forty people went along with Father Francis Davidson from Fort Augustus in attendance too.

The following Monday saw the hall in full swing with the first night for the clubs being held. The diary is as follows:

Monday : Bowling - Brian Furie 351237

Tuesday : Badminton - Heather Smart 351268

Wednesday : Martial Arts/Self Defence - 366700

Thursday : Afternoon - Arts & Crafts - 351287

Friday : Youth Group - Jean Curley - 351278

Also Camera Club 1st Tuesday of Month - 351201 Moriston Movers

Walking Group - 351283

Th Hall is also available for booking weddings, birthday parties & dances - contact Margaret 351228

The First Thirteen Miles

On the 13th March 1999, I, along with four thousand, four hundred and forty five others (joggers, runners, athletes, loonies, basket-cases, people who have absolutely nothing better to do on a Sunday morning) lined up at the start of the 17th running of the Reading Half Marathon. It was a glorious sunny day with a slight breeze which kept it from being too hot.

The 13.2 mile route was lined with spectators clapping and cheering every runner along; bands played, children clattered pots and pans with wooden spoons (and anything else they could get their hands on); volunteers dished out thousands of paper cups filled with sap-replenishing water. There is definitely a technique to drinking whilst on the run and that is to form the lip of the paper cup into a spout thus enabling you to direct the contents of the cup into the mouth as opposed to getting the majority of the contents anywhere but in your mouth as is normally the case ! These thousands of paper cups present not only a potential soaking hazard to the runner but also a potential slippery surface hazard as each runner tries in vain to avoid standing on discarded cups and going A over T for the next few hundred yards past each watering station. The sponge stations were equally as bad - it was like being in some giant bath once the plug had been taken out ! What did they do with all those thousands of sponges afterwards ? The residents round about will be well supplied for car and window washing for the next ten years at least. However, when I reached the sponge station, I felt as if I wasn't really in need of a sponge to wipe my sweating brow as it had taken me so long to work out the drinking technique that I had actually, in effect, had a sponge down each time I had tried to have a drink !! I'm glad there were no school janitors around that day to tell me to pick up my litter.)

There were first-aiders every so often holding out gloved fingers liberally smeared in friction-reducing Vaseline to relieve nipple soreness (and chaffing in any other delicate places - a distance runners nightmare !!)

There were runners dressed in all sorts of attire - I saw Batman and Robin, two nuns and a posse of policemen complete with helmets and truncheons but my greatest admiration was reserved for one man who ran the whole race pushing his severely handicapped daughter in a wheelchair which had supermarket trolley front wheels - you know the kind I mean - wheels that go anywhere but in the direction you are pushing ! That man deserved more than just his medal and banana for finishing.

In the end I finished the race in two thousand, four hundred and

sixteenth position but in under two hours which had been my ambition. I duly collected my commemorative medal, banana and goody bag and headed to the pub for a well-earned prawn sandwich and a pint!! Having been thoroughly nagged by my brother to take part in this race I was really quite nervous at the start, not knowing what to expect or whether I would be able to complete the distance. This in turn had an adverse effect on my bladder but with about 20 toilets for over 4,000 runners I didn't have much chance of seeing the inside of one and, not having the convenient relieving mechanism of my male counterparts, could not just head for the nearest fence, tree or lamp post. I had to use mind over bladder and convince myself that I didn't need ! However, in the end, I actually quite enjoyed it, especially going through the finish and I believe I am now hooked 1 Skye in June here I come - (perhaps the men use sheep in Skye due to the lack of lamp posts !)

They always say the first 13 miles is the worst !!

Lesley Common

Kilchuimen School

On Wednesday 3rd February I joined the Lochaber Swimming Club in Fort William. The following Sunday I swam 800m which is equal to 32 lengths of the swimming pool. My time for this was 21 minutes. I also swam the butterfly stroke for 1 length of the pool and the back stroke for 5 lengths. Every month we have a gala and compete against each other to try and win the Stewart Cup and once a year there is a presentation in the Alexandra Hotel in Fort William. The instructors at the club say that I am doing extremely well and I hope to go on and do some competitive swimming later on.

Duncan Greer P.6

Primary 6/7 are doing a project about Egypt this term. It really is a lot of work but we are enjoying it. Our trip to the cinema was part of the project as the film was called, "Prince of Egypt". The story of Moses.

La Scala was the cinema we went to (on Friday 5th March). It was all changed inside, it looked nice. A photographer was there to take some photos for the newspaper.

Everyone was fine on the bus. I sat at the back with Hollie, Neil, Duncan and Findlay. Some of our parents came with us along with Miss Donaldson, Mrs Jonstone and Mrs MacDonald. I give this film 9/10.

Nicola Curley P.7

For the past six weeks we have been learning step dancing. A lady called Caroline Reagh was teaching us and Mrs Everett helped as well. It was quite hard. We danced in groups. We showed it to the whole primary school and we watched all the other classes.
Kerry Kennedy & Emma MacDonald P.6

Harry Potter is a book that you can't put down ! Harry Potter is a wizard and he doesn't know it. He ends up going to Hogwarts school of witchcraft and wizardry. He learns to play Quidditch and goes on some of the best adventures with his friends Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger. Its for all ages even though it only says 9-11 on the book 1 So hurry up and buy it NOW!
Recommended by Amy Webster P.5

Snowdrops opening, Ploughed fields, Rabbits jumping, In the garden, Narcissus nodding, Gardeners busy, Pottering in the garden, Opening flowers, End of winter, Spring is here !
James Muschate P.5



Find the following words in our spring wordsearch - LAMBS, GOOD FRIDAY, ROLLING EGGS, BOILED EGGS, TOMB, EASTER BUNNY, SPRING, JESUS.
Stewart Atkins and Michael Curley P.5

Dulchreichard School

In China, people believed until recently that a large family was blessed but the population was growing too quickly and since the 70's it is the law that there is one child per couple but....if the first born child is a girl the parents can try for another child. Because a family can only have one child the child is nicknamed, by other people, the little Emperor because they are often spoilt. Until recently people in China did not have luxuries like a television or even a washing machine because they

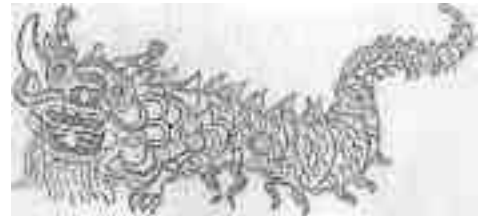
are too poor to buy them. Houses in China are usually made out of mud, bricks or wood but mainly bricks or mud because wood is scarce in cities.

Cassie McEwan P.7

In China they just have one day off. When people have enough money they can buy a television. They are glued to the television. When they go to the park it is crowded. They can visit a local sight. Young people listen to pop music. All Chinese enjoy sports. Some people exercise Tai Ji. In teahouses people come and have tea and play cards. Some villagers don't have enough money to buy a lot of toys.

Kerri McEwan P.3

The Dragon boat festival was held because the people remembered the wise man who jumped into



the river.

Joe McEwan P.2

One of the most famous sights in China is the great wall which stretches 4,000 kilometres across the Northern China.

Sarah Scott P.4

Last night there was a bombing raid on Hengyang. Buildings and sampans were destroyed. People were killed by the Japanese bullets. Hengyang soldiers were killed as well. Shops and furniture went up in flames as the blaze took hold. Buildings were wrapped in flames. The air on the water was so hot a

sampan burst into flames.

James McKay P. 6



The Dragon Boat race is celebrated by all in different ways on the fifth day of the fifth month near midsummer's day. It is celebrated with wine to drive the evil spirits away. There is a battle. Boats sink, people drown but nobody saves them because the water Gods have chosen them to die. Some people say that the dragons are fighting in the clouds and bring rain. The boats are said to be magic and they bring rain in the summer. If not there is a drought and many people die from the famine and starve. This explanation is believed by most. There was once a time when China was made up of tiny little kingdoms and Qu Yuan was a poet in the land of Qu. Qu Yuan once tried to give King Qu advice but King Qu did not accept this advice. Qu Yuan was horrified and drowned himself in the Mi-Lo river. People pushed out boats to save him but were too late. Now it is said that Qu Yuan's ghost said to fishermen, "Wrap my rice in silk and tie it with coloured ribbon so the water spirits don't eat it". The race is celebrated with Tsung-tzu which are rice dumplings boiled in leaves. The Dragon Boat Race is celebrated in competitive spirit.

Vickie Common P.7

Arts & Crafts Club

The Arts and Crafts Club was created five months ago in Clare Leving's living room, as the Hall had not been completed for use at the time. Every meeting has always been interesting, knowledgeable and fun; members improving their skills from each other's experiences like cross-stitching and patchwork. Sometimes demonstrations took place from items which members had completed in the past, like how to cover a carton box with cotton material to make it more attractive for use. Or how to make paper flowers like poinsettia's for Christmas decorations. Some members started with cross-stitching for the first time getting help from other members on how to do it, or what kind of

wooden frame would be needed for the item they were doing. One member started with a table cloth, never having done one before, and completed it a few weeks ago. How lovely it was for all of us to see her succeeding.

The club also decided to have some needlecraft magazines delivered on a three monthly basis, such as cross-stitch - needlepoint - canvas work - ribbon work - needle lace and many, many things more.

There will be two more meetings held at the hall before the club stops for the season. The dates are as follows:

Thursday afternoons on the 22nd and 29th April from 1.30pm till 3.30pm.

The next meeting after the summer break is on Thursday 30th September at 1.30pm.

As a topic for that date it has been suggested to start a painting course for oil painting or watercolour. For the ones who are interested it is advised to bring their own material and equipment at first until the club sees how everything develops. More information regarding that matter will be given shortly before the club starts again in the Autumn.

So if you are interested in joining the Arts & Craft Club why don't you come along and see what members are doing on a Thursday afternoon ? Or for further information get in contact with Isabel Anthony at the Post Office or Ulrike Gray on 351287.

For now the Arts & Crafts Club wishes everybody well and a warm and sunny summer.

(Perhaps they could paint us one if the real thing doesn't materialize !! - Ed)

Moriston Matters Trophy

Enclosed with this edition of the magazine should be your voting slip for last year's recipient of the Moriston Matters Trophy. I actually have a confession to make in that I had forgotten all about the trophy until the 1997 winner, Elma Johnstone, reminded me that she still had it sitting on her mantelpiece and was getting tired of polishing it ! This voting should have been completed at the back end of last year but, as they say, better late than never!!

The trophy is to be awarded to the person or person's who, in the opinion of the residents of the Glen and readers of the magazine, has contributed the most to the community during that year or who deserves special commendation.

As I have said in the past it is sometimes difficult to single out just one person out of the many who are worthy of

recommendation but it gives everyone a chance to say a special thank-you to someone they think has acted beyond the call of duty.

Past winners Lesley Common in 1996 and Elma in 1997 are ineligible for nomination.

Please use your vote despite the circumstances regarding the future of the magazine - Use it or lose it !!

Church News

Spring time is lovely isn't it? Those who have gardens are particularly keen to see if and where the bulbs will come up this year. I have to say that I am anything but green-fingered and I am always amazed if anything at all grows after my planting it. There is something very gratifying for anyone who plants and then sees the plants poke up through the ground and finally come into flower. We take a certain pride in seeing the fruits of our labours - and if the colours on the packets match what eventually grows, then we can also be proud of our wonderful colour schemes - the whites and purples and yellows all in equal proportions. However, we know that we can't take all the credit - with the best care in the world, some bulbs just don't grow (or in my case MOST bulbs) - and the reason is that some bulbs are better than others - the seedsman is also partly responsible for our success. But even the seedsman is not entirely responsible for 100% success with his bulbs - there are factors which he is unable to identify which make some bulbs grow into large and colourful plants - and others, although they may look identical in the bulb stage, grow into puny little plants.

And what is true of plants can be true of many things in life - our children, for one. How is it that we may bring up three children in an identical way - and two turn out to be wonderful people - and the third may turn out to be a terror, in and out of prison ?

In any of our lives there are days when everything seems to go well - and other days when everything which can go wrong goes wrong ! How come ? I have no definite answer to that question, but what I do have is something which is very solid in this changing world - and I am not speaking about my Volkswagen !

When I can't be certain about the day, or my friends, or even my family, I have an unchanging God Who never waivers. Have you something solid upon which to build your life in these uncertain days ? Maybe you should come along to Church to find out about this Rock & Anchor ?

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.

Thank you

A big thankyou to all at Dalchreichart and Glenmoriston for their cards of sympathy following the death of my father.

Mrs N. Rankin, New House, Dalchreichart.

Community Quiz

This year's quiz was held recently at the Telford Centre, Fort Augustus and resulted in a close series of matches before the GLENMORISTON team emerged victorious. Congratulations to them on being the first team to win the shield for the third time.

Team members Simon MacLellan, Ann Harris, Sheila Lumb and Liz Jones were in good form, and had to be, in the semi-final which was a hard fought "local derby" against the DAMBUSTERS team from Dundreggan; the Glenmoriston team winning by one point.

In the final against the GLEN 4 from Drumnadrochit, victory was easier than expected.

My thanks to all those who entered and supported the event.
Ken Anthony.

Local News

WELCOME to Mia and Nigel Robbins who have moved into Myrtle Cottage, Dalchreichart.

Dates for your Diary: *****

Wednesday 19th May - Glenmoriston Camera Club proudly presents "The Big Glens of the Western Highlands", - a slide show by Ken Anthony - in the Hall from 8pm till 10pm. Admission (which includes refreshments) is £2.00 with 50p for under 12's.

Sunday May 23rd - Plant Sale in the Hall from 2pm till 4pm. All contributions of plants and/or plant pots will be most gratefully received. Enquiries to Sylvia Andrews on 340253 or Margaret Alien on 351228.

Moriston Movers Walking Group Dates:

6th June - Cameron Country - Loch Arkaig 18th July - Nevis Gorge/
Steall Waterfall 15th August - Corie-Ardair 19th September -
Falls of Glomach