

# moriston offers



Winter Edition 2003 Number 68

## Huge Wind Power Station proposed for Glenmoriston

Windfarm developers RDC along with sister company West Coast Energy are proposing to build a huge windfarm consisting of at least 21 turbines on the hill between Glenmoriston and Fort Augustus. The land on which the turbines are to be built is the property of Achlain Estate and Aberchalder Estate. The turbines will be owned and operated by Falck Renewables, a subsidiary of an Italian multinational registered in Milan.

According to West Coast Energy's project manager Peter Barker, the turbines will be 115 metres tall (380 feet). This is 60ft taller than Big Ben with each blade the size of Nelson's Column. The wind turbines will be clearly seen from Fort Augustus, Glenmoriston, Cluanie, Glengarry and the south side of Loch Ness. Local residents are expressing concerns that not only could the wind power station mar the landscape of the Loch Ness area - a worldwide destination for tourists - but damage local tourism, businesses and property prices for no real gain. This is one of five windfarm proposals for the Loch Ness area alone.

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### INSIDE . . . .

**BLETHER**  
Editor's Words.....3

**NEW LOCH NESS**  
Monsters.....4

**NEWSROUND**  
Local Services.....6

**GOLDRUSH**  
Wind Bonanza.....8

**VILLAGE HALL**  
Happenings.....19

**COUNCILLOR'S**  
Column.....24

**GARDENING**.....29

**CROSSWORD**..30

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# BLETHER

Following several requests and the momentous windfarm proposal, we have decided to issue another edition of the Moriston Matters community magazine. The last edition was in Autumn 1999.

Just after that we bought the Redburn Cafe and we have, apart from two short breaks for a holiday, been working seven days a week. This is in addition to running our original Web Design business.

As you can imagine, this made it impossible to continue to publish Moriston Matters and although we tried hard to find someone else to take it on, no-one was forthcoming. Recently, Elaine from Dundreggan has offered her valuable help and it has made this edition possible. We are still seeking an editor, but we feel very strongly indeed that anyone taking on the magazine should be completely independent from other organisations and committees in the glen. So if you fancy the job, please contact us. The details are in the right hand column of this page.

The magazine has existed intermittently since the 1970s and in spite of the gaps in publication, there is always the website at [www.moriston.com](http://www.moriston.com) where articles and information will continue to be published.

Having spoken to many people in the glen regarding the proposed windfarm, the overall impression that I have been given is that more information is needed. Although the development company RDC has conducted a roadshow and sent leaflets to everybody, it is very much in their interests that the windfarm goes ahead so their information is hardly independent. Therefore I will devote a large part of this edition of Moriston Matters to trying to bridge that gap as well as putting the other points of view.

This windfarm is biggest thing to happen to this glen and Fort Augustus for many years. We must have our say - it is our community after all.



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Moriston Matters is a local magazine serving the residents and the visitors of Glenmoriston, Invermoriston by Loch Ness and district.

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It is published on a not-for-profit basis and its purpose is to provide a means of communication and interchange of news and ideas within our community.

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# The New Loch Ness Monsters

Today is a beautiful day. The deep blue sky glows above the gold of the autumn birches. Silence, except for the rustle of a gentle breeze in the aspen trees. You can see for miles, and as you wander closer to the river Moriston, the occasional splash of a leaping trout, or was it a salmon?

Glenmoriston, the road to the isles just by Loch Ness is considered by many the most beautiful of the Scottish glens. Tourists from all over the world return here because of the glen's unique aura of peace. I know because I speak to them frequently.

Glenmoriston is a special place in the hearts of all who have experienced it. From America to Australia, from the Netherlands to Namibia this place, Glenmoriston, they tell me, holds the spirit of Scotland.

In the early 1930's, the traveller H. V. Morton wrote: "Fifteen miles of beauty lie between hills. They are called Glenmoriston. There is dark Loch Cluanic, there are scraggy deer forests, then the glen seems suddenly to peal with laughter as the road dives into thick birch woods alive with rabbits. ....what a perfect glen this is."

Finally over spectacular waterfalls the river Moriston tumbles into Loch Ness. Glenmoriston starts

on the banks of Loch Ness and runs parallel to the Great Glen, Loch Ness and the Caledonian Canal for the first nine miles or so before it peels off westward towards the Five Sisters of Kintail – some of the most popular of the Munroes – and on to the mystical Eilan Donan Castle and the road to Skye.

The 400 metres high hill between Glenmoriston and Loch Ness is a treat to climb. It isn't difficult as the ancient drover's road crosses it here, but from the top you can see across Loch Ness, Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston. The rush of energy, of spirit that you feel at the splendour of that view, perhaps the best in the highlands of Scotland, sustains and renews you. We are of the earth and the earth has little to show more incredible than this.

For thousands of years the wild birds, the eagles who hover here have been a part of this landscape. A landscape that people cross the world to see and feel for themselves.

But that is today. And that was so for the millions of yesterdays that created this beauty. Tomorrow it will be gone. It is proposed that this very place be industrialised with more than twenty 380 foot high, 115 metre structures made of concrete and steel. Roads will be torn through the heather and the bedrock broken

and filled with concrete as huge vehicles bring these, the new Loch Ness monsters to destroy this landscape perhaps for ever.

If the local or national government of the area received planning requests to build twenty or more buildings bigger than the London Park Lane Hilton here, they would have laughed. Structures that dwarf Big Ben and Nelson's Column – it must be a joke.

But no, it is no joke. It is real and has just been submitted for planning permission. These monsters are wind turbines. Thus in their blind dogmatic scramble for the profits of renewable energy the people behind this wanton destruction of one of Britain's, even Europe's finest landscapes can think only of the profits involved.

It must be the profits. After all, it can't be the electricity. These wind turbines are notorious for being intermittent and produce energy only approximately a third of the time. And anyway, Glenmoriston alone already produces approximately 5 percent of Scotland's energy needs in the underground hydro power stations already there. Good energy, renewable energy achieved with no visible damage to the environment and not even seen by the passing tourists.

If it isn't the profits that are motivating them then the only

explanation left is vandalism, and surely our politicians are not vandals....

Windpower has developed from an idea to an obsession. Scotland is already more than self sufficient in energy without any huge windfarms. In fact it exports power to England. So why is it that there are applications for more than three hundred of these monster windfarms across Scotland, five of them around Loch Ness?

Loch Ness has very little industry and is sustained largely by tourism. Loch Ness is probably the most famous lake in the world and more than four million people visit the area every year. It isn't to find the Loch Ness monster, although everyone casts an eye over the sullen beauty of the loch from time to time. No, it is to gasp at the extraordinary scenery and participate in the breathtaking landscape. To walk, to climb or just to wander through a place that nature has built out of gargantuan proportions and of incredible beauty.

To destroy this landscape, part of the world's heritage, is, in my opinion, a crime. It is a crime that is about to be committed for short term greed and political expediency.

At least five windfarms are proposed for the Loch Ness area alone. Do we need them?

If you have a voice, now is the time to raise that voice.

# NEWS ROUND

## Essential Local Services Under Threat

It has recently been revealed that two essential services to this community may be under threat.

Our out-of-hours doctor service will cease to exist in December of next year if NHS plans go ahead. Already in Drumnadrochit and the surrounding area the community is unable to call out a doctor outwith normal surgery hours. The options available in cases of need are:- call the ambulance or drive to Dingwall to see a doctor. Our local doctors are dismayed at this prospect and envisage loss of lives as a result, but receive **no payment** for being on call or attending emergencies out of hours.

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November a meeting was called between representatives of Highland Council, the School Boards of Kilchuimen Academy and Kilchuimen Primary School and the Community Council to discuss the future of the Academy.

This meeting was prompted by the decline in school rolls nationally and the very overcrowded conditions in the Primary School.

Options for the future were outlined as:- 1, The status quo – and fight for investment for necessary improvements. 2. Reduce provision at the Academy to S1-4 or S1-2. 3. A phased transfer of all pupils to Glen Urquhart High School (Options 2 & 3 would allow the Primary School to utilise the space freed up from the Secondary School, but would still require a large investment to convert this space).

Glen Urquhart High School was built to hold a far greater number of pupils than its current roll or predicted figures for that area, and filling some of this spare capacity with Kilchuimen Academy pupils is a much cheaper option for Highland Council than providing Fort Augustus with the educational accommodation it

needs within the village. The disadvantages for Primary and Secondary pupils, parents and the community as a whole, however, are clear, and it is Highland Council policy that any changes will only happen if the community wants them.

## Windfarm Planning Application Lodged

The wind power station developers RDC have lodged their planning application for the Glenmoriston/Fort Augustus Windfarm (Millenium Windfarm) with Highland Council Planning Dept. It was lodged on the 28th November 2003 and you have the statutory 28 days to object - although council sources tell us this may be extended slightly because of the Christmas/New Year holiday. It is important to place objections promptly, however. Objections should be sent to:

Mr Bill Hepburn, Planning & Development Services, Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX.

The application, maps, photos and environmental study can be viewed at Redburn Cafe, Glenmoriston; The Service Point, Fort Augustus and the Post Office Invergarry.

## New Community Council Elected

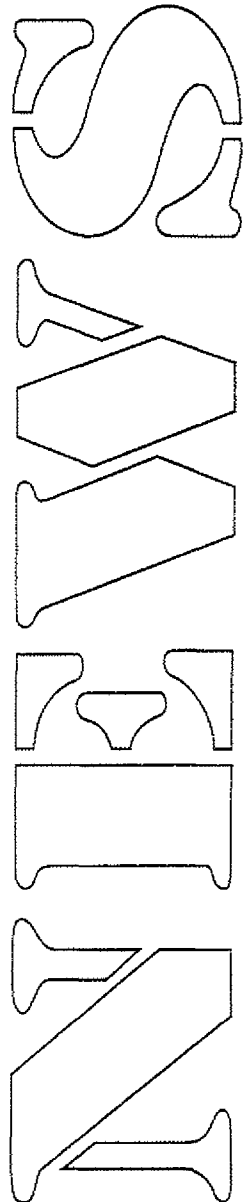
The elction results for the community council are now in. Your new community councillors are:

Matthew Douglas; Iain Farmer; Thomas Girvan; George Henderson; Kenneth Knott; Donald J MacDonald; Dierdre MacKinnon; Iain MacKnocher; Patrick Patterson and Adrian Varwell.

The next community council meeting will be on the 11th December when a chairman will be chosen.

*Moriston Matters - Winter 2003*

# NEWS ROUND



# GOLDRUSH

## The Windfarm Bonanza

I am asked time and time again: "If what they say about windfarms is true, why would anybody ever consider investing money in them? Especially foreign multinationals who have probably never even heard of our lovely glen. How come there is this scramble to erect windfarms all over the country? If the electricity that they supply is intermittent and miniscule compared with a regular power station, why would people spend so much on these huge turbines?"

Actually the answer is very simple. It isn't only about the electricity they generate for the grid, what makes them so profitable to erect and for international banks to invest in them is something else entirely.

That something else is what is globally known by several curious acronyms: TRECs, RECs, ROCs or simply Green Certificates. The UK version is the ROC: Renewable Obligation Certificate. That puts us between a ROC and a hard place I'm afraid because this is what makes windfarms in particular the source of the latest goldrush.

So let me explain from the beginning. Most people assume that wind turbines are designed to

generate electricity – well so they are and this electricity is sold on the local grid for whatever the going rate is – around 3 pence per kWh or 30 pounds per MWh.

That is one product. The wind turbine actually generates a second product – this product is the ROC which has a value of its own in addition to the electricity sold to the grid. Think of it as two distinct products being produced by the windfarm both of which have a marketable value.

How does this work? Well the ROC is part of the government's plan to increase the use of renewable energy used and generated in the UK in line with Kyoto and other agreements. Non-renewable energy producers, coal, gas etc are now obligated to supply 3 percent of all of the energy they sell as coming from a renewable source. To do this they can buy a Hydro Dam or a Windfarm and hope it constitutes 3 percent of their sales. Most of the time it doesn't come close so the government fines them so much per kWh. The other way is to buy ROCs from renewable energy producers to the amount of MWh they are short. So there is a market for ROCs right away. But it isn't the only one.



So how does a ROC get issued. It works like this: OFGEM, the government's energy regulator is the issuing body. When a windfarm or whatever is built they register with OFGEM and OFGEM then comes along and inspects the facility to see that the output metering is correct etc. Then as electricity is generated (and sold on to the local grid for cash) every MWh generated creates one ROC. Thus each ROC is worth 1MWh (or 1000 kWh depending how you count these things.)

Every ROC generated is kept on OFGEM's register of ROCs – its database. These ROCs can then be used by power companies to offset their 3 percent fines (a percentage that rises every year until 2015) or they can be sold on the open market through a growing network of traders. How much are they worth? Well in the last auction (yes they are auctioned too) the average price was about £67 per ROC or per MWh. And this is for the NEXT year's generation – future generation. Thus if you add together the sales from the local grid mentioned above – approx £30 per MWh PLUS £67 per ROC you get every Megawatt-hour turned out by a windfarm being worth getting on for £100.

So let's do a few sums. If we have one 2.2 MW turbine putting out just 1MWh for 12 hours a day (25 percent rated capacity) it earns around

*Moriston Matters - Winter 2003*

£1200. If we multiply that by 365 days in the year we get £438,000 or getting on for half a million quid – and that is just very conservative output on one turbine. Multiply that by say 30 turbines in the average windfarm and we have over £13,000,000 or thirteen million pounds per annum. If you own ten windfarms.....over say 20 years we start getting into big numbers like two and a half billion green ones. And that's about the closest industrial wind power stations come to being green.....

Of course you have the capital costs of buying and erecting the things and a pittance in comparison on maintenance, but look at the rewards. How much do they pay the landowners? Not a lot in fact, and the communities get say £30,000 a year.

So perhaps you can see why banks and investment houses are scrambling to get a slice of the action. Right now trading markets are being set up world wide to deal in Green certificates and the EU is jumping firmly on the bandwagon. The price for Green certificates is on the rise and who knows what they will be worth ten years down the road when even more stringent carbon emission penalties are imposed.

Lovely jubbly as someone frequently says, and less than a third of the bonanza comes from actually generating electricity.

# MPs, MSPs and Councillors please do not be misled?

By Jim Hampson

## Onshore Wind Energy

The first step is to bridge the divide between those who care about the scenic beauty of our countryside and those who care about our planet. In most other debates we are the same people. On-shore wind will contribute so little to reduce global warming that it should not even be on the radar screen for a debate on land based wind energy. On shore wind will totally ruin our landscape. Scotland is already a net exporter of electricity some of it from hydroelectricity the best alternate energy resource. The development of hydroelectricity was postponed by our forefathers until its impact on the environment could be reduced through height restrictions including the creation of underground power stations. It is a pity that they could not still be with us to stop the decimation of one of the world's best landscapes.....

Let those of us who care about the planet and the countryside join forces to stop those who are in this market purely for financial gain. Please attempt to quantify these financial gains for yourselves. Simply estimate the hours when ample wind is available and the efficiency and knowing that this is

more expensive than conventional electricity and carries a premium you can quickly see that this is financially driven and the environmental factors are extremely shallow.

The government's white paper on energy is far from balanced as it focuses primarily on the issues concerning the energy involved in electricity generation. Only one third of the energy used in the UK is for this purpose. Thirty five per cent of energy is used in transport with only a small part of that by electricity. In this context the contribution of land based wind farms can be easily misconstrued. The future contribution from land based wind farms is likely to be about 1.5% of the energy involved in electricity generation or 0.5% of the UK's total energy. Land based wind energy does little to offset global warming by fossil fuels. Considering the size of the UK, the contribution to a reduction in the world's global warming is so insignificant that it should be disregarded. Land based wind energy is simply about making money and destroying the countryside in the process. It is best that readers do their own estimates and draw their own conclusions

It is clear that in almost all cases wind turbines provide a threat to the countryside.

**Primary Energy Demand UK 2002:** Nuclear 9%, Coal, 15%, Gas 39%, Oil 35% and Other 2% Onshore Wind is part of the 2%.

**Electricity Generation UK 2002.:** Nuclear 23%, Coal 32%, Oil 4%, Gas 38% and Renewables 3% Onshore wind is part of the renewables.

The above information illustrates that for the government to focus only on energy used in generating electricity means that they give wind energy a higher profile than it deserves as an energy contributor. Some may take the view that any contribution to reduction in emissions should be seized however small. We do however have a number of better alternative choices including reduction of the energy used in transport, through the use of better thermal insulation for more efficient home heating, through better insulation, the use of solar panels and so on. None of these blight the landscape but neither do they produce the rich pickings that wind energy produces for the developers and landowners.

Wind energy affects neither the nuclear debate nor the mix of traditional energy generation since

wind energy cannot be relied upon for meeting peaks and has to be backed up by traditional sources of generation. This duplication of plant generates more emissions in its manufacture and is counter productive in terms of global warming.

Land based wind energy in a country the size of Scotland will do so little to mitigate global warming that energy companies portraying this as a meaningful advantage are misleading opinion..

It is a no win situation for the planet and for the countryside and a win win situation for landowners, developers and energy companies. The government has allowed itself to be misled by being influenced by those advisors who also stand to gain commercially from this and similar initiatives

It is now time for MSP's and Councillors to read up on these matters and form their own independent opinions. Part of the education must be on scale and for people to really understand what a 120 metre high structure will look like bearing in mind 165 metre ones are already in development. The differences caused by party political influences is small compared to the continued affect on our countryside. So let us simply vote in the future only for those who will pledge to stop this ruination of our land

# Reasons for objecting

By Ann Berry

For those of you who want to object to the wind farm I have tried, with the help of a well-seasoned objector, to put together the outline of an objection which will give you the basis for your objection. Of course there may be other points which you might want to raise especially after you have seen or read the Environmental Impact Assessment which accompanies the application and can be seen at Redburn Café or the Fort Augustus Service Point. Objections should be sent to:

Mr Bill Hepburn, Planning and Development Services, Highland Council  
Glenurquhart Road Inverness IV3 5NX.

Dear Sir,

I wish to object to the Glenmoriston 'Millennium' wind farm application for the following reasons:

1. The benefits of this development are minimal, therefore there is no justification for a departure from the Local Plan. When the Plan was discussed with this community no mention was made of an **Industrial development** in this area.
2. **The visual impact cannot be justified or mitigated.** This is an area of natural beauty on the main scenic route between Loch Ness and the Isle of Skye. Two of the most visited areas in Scotland. The EIA states "6.93 There are two areas of Great Landscape Value within the study area, located to the east and west extremes of the study area. 6.94 There are two proposed Areas of Great Landscape Value within the study area, these as yet have not been finalised by the Highland Council."
3. **The visual impact of 21 turbines 115 metres high is unacceptable.**
4. This application does not meet the criteria set out in NPPG6 which states that: "**developments should not be permitted where they would have a significant long term detrimental impact on the amenity of people living nearby, where the impact cannot be mitigated satisfactorily**"
5. **Serious effect on tourism.** The VisitScotland survey undertaken in 2002 stated that 26% of tourists would not return to an area where there were turbines. The Scottish Executive Mori poll states 20% will not return. Businesses become unviable when this amount of

business is lost. Tourism is the biggest employer in the Highland region 27.9% (Highland Council census 1999) In the area affected by this visual impact the figures are higher. This **development would definitely cause the loss of jobs**. Most visitors to the area are touring around to see the scenery. **Coach and car passengers do not come to look at turbines.**

6. **Serious effect on house prices.** Savilles survey showed at least 25% reduction for houses which could see a wind farm. People move to this area because of the scenery. There are no other facilities here e.g. schools, shops, and very few employment opportunities. Over the last decade this area has started to grow due to the building of new homes. Each new home provides employment for skilled craftsmen in this remote community. **The visual impact of this development would not only reduce the value of the present homes, most of which will be facing onto the development but it would negate any further development in the area and the number of people living here permanently is likely to decline.**
7. **This development, in association with the others targeted for this area, will result in an unacceptable industrial build-up in our countryside.** It will also open the door for an extension which would mean more turbines. There are already 300 to 350 applications in Scotland (SNH source). The Energy Minister expects only 10% of these to be denied. **The number of these applications are already too high. It would turn Scotland's countryside into an industrialised landscape.**
8. 6.79 of the EIA states "Consultation with Highland Council identified Millennium Wind Farm as having potential cumulative visibility with the following proposed wind farm developments listed below: Corriemoile, Garve proposal, Dunmaglass, Strathnairn – proposal Far, Tomatin – approved." **This cumulative visual impact is unacceptable**
9. There will be up to 18 turbines visible from the A887. Some of these will only be partially seen which is the worst scenario for safety purposes (SNH). This road already has a high rate of accidents, several being fatal. **(2 accidents in one day last July)**. Anything which diverts drivers' attention should be avoided. **The most visual impact is near single track road. This is a recipe for disaster.**

10. **The excavations (borrow pits, turbine foundations) will undoubtedly affect the water table and associated risk to water catchment areas. There have already been landslides in this area.**
11. **Risks to endangered species.** Numerous raptors are seen in this area. It is already known that **wind turbines kill raptors**. This development would be the cause deaths to protected species such as the golden eagle. **Golden plovers and black grouse are known to be breeding here. (EIA). These birds should not have their habitats disturbed.** The EIA admits that the survey would have been better if carried out in April. There should be a survey carried out this coming spring when birds are breeding before an application is approved which could disturbed protected species.
12. Bats are present in the glen and it is known that **wind turbines kill bats**, another protected species. (David Bellamy, environmentalist) There was no environmental impact assessment carried out during the evening hours.
13. **Unacceptable damage to peat bogs and moorland which are CO2 sinks.** In particular there is montane heath which can be considered scarce or rare on a local, regional and national scale in Scotland. Juniper conifers are also present. These are the most difficult conifer to germinate and their habit should be protected. ([www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk)). **7.19 EIA states there is alpine bearberry *Arctostaphylos alpinus* a nationally scarce species.** Therefore this area should be protected.
14. There is scientific evidence to show that wind turbines produce more noise than the "computer based predictions" used by the developers and quoted in PAN45. The glen acts as a funnel for noise. One baying deer several kilometres away sounds as though it is close by. **The noise from 21 turbines would be accumulative and funnel down the glen to the residents.**
15. Any community fund provided would not compensate for the loss of jobs in the tourist industry, devaluation of property, loss of a quality landscape and the noise created.

This is an individual letter and I do wish to be kept informed of events.

Yours faithfully...

# Wind turbines and rural tourism

A 'Views of Scotland' Report

Tourism is, by any reckoning, a crucial contributor to the Scottish economy and accounted for over eight per cent of employment in 2000. In 2001, over 19 million tourists stayed more than 78 million nights in Scotland, spent over £4 billion and supported around 193,000 jobs.

A little over a year ago, VISITSCOTLAND published a 190-page report, Investigation into the Potential Impact of Wind Turbines on Tourism in Scotland, which included what appears to be a well-conducted survey that showed visitors to be less enthusiastic about turbines than was perhaps expected. It contradicted the findings of an earlier poll commissioned by the British Wind Energy Association and the Scottish Renewables Forum.

Four out of five of the visitors interviewed said they came to Scotland for the beautiful scenery and almost all said they valued the chance to see unspoiled nature;

More than half agreed that wind-power sites spoiled the look of the countryside, saying that one of their main attractions is the fact that they are few and far between;

Over a quarter said they would

avoid parts of the countryside with wind developments;

Heading the list of things that most detracted from a visit to the country were electricity pylons and mobile phone masts followed closely by wind turbines and telephone poles. (It is not clear if respondents were aware, when questioned, of the height of wind turbines.)

The Executive publicly welcomed the report as a useful contribution to the debate and promptly forgot about it.

Since the survey was published the number of sites has increased dramatically.

No-one appears to have made any attempt to gauge the economic effect that a proliferation of wind turbines might have on tourism. VIEWS OF SCOTLAND researchers have therefore analysed Area Tourist Board data for 2001 (the most recent available) in the light of the survey.

Since tourists tend to visit both town and country, it can be difficult to gauge the relative importance of the rural sector. We counted holidaymakers only but excluded visitors to Edinburgh and Glasgow,

where there are no site proposals. We excluded visitors attending conferences, staying with relatives, etc. (We had to omit Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides as compatible data are not available. Clearly, however, tourism is important for these areas.)

We then took the proportion of these holidaymakers whose activity was 'walking two miles or more,' i.e. tourists involved in specifically rural activities as opposed to those merely visiting attractions located in the countryside.

Fifteen per cent of those surveyed by VISITSCOTLAND answered categorically that they would steer clear of an area with a wind development. Nationally, this would result in the loss of over 3,750 tourist-related jobs, 430,000 trips and over £80 million in revenue.

A further ten per cent said they would be 'less likely' to return to the Scottish countryside if the number of wind-power sites increased. If these are included, the figures rise to over 6,250 jobs, 780,000 trips and nearly £140 million in lost revenue.

These losses do not include the self-employed or those working in the grey economy.

VIEWES OF SCOTLAND claims only to have made a preliminary analysis of the problem on a national scale.

It accepts that there will be

regional variations, that popular, designated areas will be less affected and that UK visitors especially may tend to be diverted rather than displaced. It agrees that wind-power sites are not all equally intrusive. But we also feel that some Area Tourist Boards are perhaps overly sanguine on the issue. It is self-evident that the determinant for site selection is not tourism loss but proximity to the grid.

Our figures are conservative. VISITSCOTLAND 'activity holidays' reports suggest double the number of visits to rural areas. However, some visitors may have been included in more than one report and revenue data are not separated into rural and urban spend.

Despite a promised 'Renewable Energy' employment boom – for which there are no firm forecasts – these job losses would be, by any reckoning, a serious blow to an industry which, despite falling visitor numbers over the last four years, increases in relative importance as manufacturing continues to decline.

The Scottish Executive has generally been quite dismissive of what is surely a real risk to an already fragile rural economy.

It also downplays criticism of the cumulative environmental and ecological effect of what is effectively Westminster's wind-



power policy. It appears indifferent to academic and industry concerns about the engineering viability and social risk of what informed opinion sees as an over-reliance on wind power. (Seminal reports have suggested that wind-power's contribution to overall UK CO2 emissions will be minimal at best and might even be negative.)

The Executive sees wind power only in political and commercial terms, striving as it does to meet 60 percent or more of renewable energy 'targets' for England over the next decade.

It does not publish a full list of proposed sites. (The VIEWS OF SCOTLAND sites database and map has been compiled with the help of residents in the regions. It is accurate but probably not comprehensive.)

The Executive's record on testing public acceptability of wind development is also poor. Eight months ago it was forced to withdraw its flagship survey Public Attitudes

Towards Wind Farms in Scotland when VIEWS OF SCOTLAND pointed out fatal sampling errors. A new survey, originally promised for last spring, has yet to be published.

A senior Scottish National Heritage manager has called for a national wind-power strategy to be drawn up to cope with the proliferation of proposed developments. While supporting this, VIEWS OF SCOTLAND believes the Executive should also call a moratorium on approving and building wind-power sites until it has a coherent energy policy for Scotland. The first step towards this would be the commissioning of a comparative environmental audit for all forms of electricity generation by independent experts.

In the meantime, the future for employment in rural tourism continues to look bleak.

A 'Views of Scotland' Report  
[www.viewsofscotland.org](http://www.viewsofscotland.org)  
[www.wind-farm.org](http://www.wind-farm.org)

## **The Redburn Cafe**

Wishing all our customers a Merry Christmas and Happy Hogmanay.

**Open Daily 10am to 5pm**

(Closed 25th & 26th December and 1st & 2nd January)

The Redburn Cafe is a Scottish Executive Public Internet Access Point with low cost internet access for all.

## **Court Ruling Means Turbine Noise Trial**

In an article in the North West Evening mail by Clair Darragh on October 24th, it is reported that a group of Furness residents have been granted the right to fight their case in court. It is also reported that the residents of Askam, Ireleth and Marton have been campaigning for four years against the noise from the Old Park Windfarm at Ireleth. They claim that their quality of life has been adversely affected.

The residents want the court to impose a nuisance order on the windfarm operator Windprospect and the windfarm owner - Powergen Renewables - under the Environmental Protection Act.

Both the owner and operator of the windfarm could face a fine of up to £50,000 if the trial goes against them.

The district judge decided that there was a case to answer and Powergen Renewables and Windprospect will face a criminal trial next year on January 12th 2004 at South Lakeland Magistrates Court in Kendal.

Now what was that about windfarms hardly making any noise?

*"It's not a green form of energy, it's chopping birds up, it's chopping bats up and it is ruining a lot of people's lifestyles."*

**Professor David Bellamy.**

## **GLENMORISTON INDOOR BOWLING CLUB**

The Indoor Bowling Club meet every Monday afternoon from 2pm-4pm Summer and Winter. Evening sessions are held every Monday evening from 7.30pm to 9.30pm from 6th October to mid April.

Meetings are held in the Glenmoriston Millennium Hall.

New members are always welcome. Why not try a game this Winter? (first meeting is free of charge). Bowls are supplied, and the aim is friendly competition combined with a good evening out amongst friends.

**Call Betty Draper on 01320 351313**

# GLENMORISTON MILLENNIUM HALL

The new Hall was opened in April 1999 by Charles Kennedy and Pat (the Pier) Macdonald: in good time to welcome in the new millennium. The opening night was speedily arranged by an exhausted committee, still reeling from overseeing the planning, tendering, re-tendering, building, equipping, reporting to grant givers and arranging payments for the new Hall.

The Glen responded magnificently and the new (and larger) Hall was packed. Derek MacFarland marked the opening ceremony in the only way possible: with his pipes, and the excellent dance music was provided by Hurly-Burly, Shona Robertson and Sheila Peters.

Some astonishment was expressed at the "enormous" (I put this in inverted commas because it was the lowest priced project of the Millennium Commission) cost of £246,000 and doubts that it would be much used. This fear was unfounded. It has been and continues to be well-used - but not, perhaps, in the way some would see as being relevant to them.

Perhaps letters to the editor could be one way of correcting this?

## What does regularly happen?

Indoor bowling, Painting, Badminton, Art & Craft, Yoga, Scottish Country and Ceilidh Dancing and Youth Club are all well-established and run on a weekly basis by their own members.

Some annual events have already become semi-established and are well-attended. The Salvation Army and the Ecumenical Church Group arrange the Carol Service. The Hogmanay Ceilidh has been the inspiration of Sandy Greig, who, with a small group of helpers has built up a reputation for this event. The Over-60s Dinner Dance (to which "youngsters" of all ages up to 59 are also welcome for a very modest price) has been very much appreciated the last two years and made possible by the Over-60s Committee. The Scottish Dance Group hosts an annual dance in April, to which all are welcome, but, be warned, it is only for those who like to do more dancing than drinking! For the last 2 years, Highland Council have hired the Hall for part of the Canal Ceilidh Trail.

## Music and Theatre.

There has been an attempt to see whether sufficient interest exists in the Glen to have a range of music

and theatre brought to the doorstep at affordable prices. A group, calling themselves "PAN", (not because of any similarity to Pan's People, but standing for Promoters of Arts Network, a Highland-wide group) have been bringing a wide variety of high standard entertainment to the Hall over the last two and a half years. Neon strip lighting and badminton court markings present a décor challenge, which they have tried hard to overcome with uplighters and standard lamps, screens and tartan table cloths; cushions for the not-exactly-easy chairs are in the pipeline. The potential for socialising is seen to be of major importance and a full bar or glasses of wine are always available.

Financially, the programmes have been possible because grants have been awarded to cover the deficit between ticket and refreshment sales and performance costs. However, with some notable exceptions: (Scottish/Celtic music, national orchestras and children's theatre), there doesn't seem to be as much interest this year as previously.

If the thought of turning out to a concert or play in the hall on a Winter's evening seems less inviting than staying home in front of fire and telly, perhaps you could reflect on the difference between mince and tatties and a new recipe you're trying for the first time. .... Don't

you need both?

To entice you to try a new dish, how about Mae West? She will be appearing in the Hall in February, complete with colourful regalia, one liners and innuendo. But we'll be able to see behind the stage too, the woman behind the act: the mother, sister, lover.

**Lite Bites.** Many give their time and talents over a six-week period in the Summer to make possible the only fund-raising event for the Hall. The serving of homemade soup, sandwiches and baking is increasingly well-patronised and this year made a profit of almost £2,000. Backed by such things as the sale of bric-a-brac and the raffle of a print from Brian Clarkson, this almost certainly means that the ongoing costs of running the Hall can be met without either increasing hiring charges or dipping into reserves.

Which brings me finally to saying a word about ..... the Hall Committee. Although, as individuals, many members are active in the events which take place in the Hall, the Committee as such does not plan a programme. It sees the premises are maintained and the bills are paid but offers the facility for interested people to set up whatever they choose. As you see from the above, quite a few people have taken the opportunity. If somebody else hasn't organised an

activity that you would like, do please consider getting it going yourself. The whole Hall is unused most weekends and often during the daytime. You certainly don't have to join the Committee to get involved in what happens in the Hall.

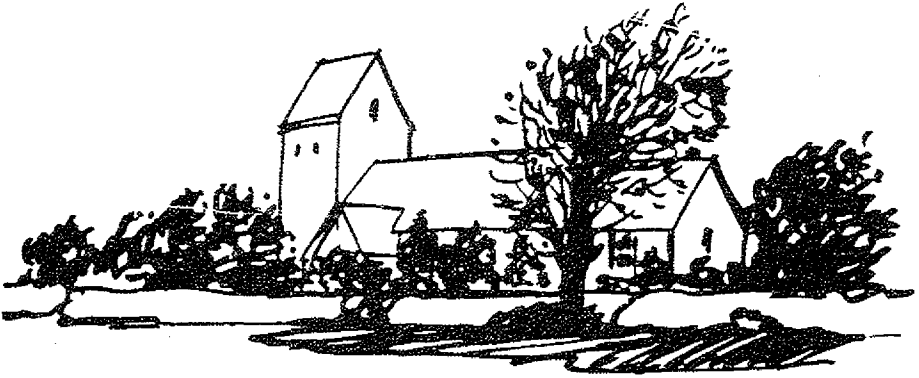
Before closing, I would like to underline how fortunate the Glen has been in those who have so far held the office of chairman in the new hall. Ian Common was the first, who so efficiently oversaw the planning and building of the Hall and with such humour presided over and maintained the impetus at the often tense and occasionally disputatious committee meetings. When increasing ill health and, hopefully, a sense of a job well done, led to his retirement, Jeff Dymond was prepared to step in. Jeff had had a long involvement with hall matters, having more than ten years previously begun, with a small group of friends, to fund-raise seriously for a better facility, raising a sum of money which made possible the successful grant applications of 1997/8. Judith Poore took over from Jeff, after a year on the committee, during which she was the prime mover in getting acoustic panelling installed. (The original plans included panelling but this had to be removed, along with many other features, when the first tenders came in too high.) The

incisiveness and efficiency shown in this matter has continued through her three years in the chair and, together with a tactful and quietly encouraging approach, has led to productive business meetings and the benefit generally of the Hall. She now feels it is time for her to retire and make way for someone new. The new chairman, following the November AGM is Simon Lewins.

The thanks of all of us go to these people, who have been prepared to take on the "top job" but, of course they are only the tip of the pyramid of folks who are giving and have given sterling service to the community over the decades. This is an appeal to all those who have been involved in the past and have lost touch because, maybe, they felt overburdened or under-appreciated or it wasn't "for them" anymore or just needed a change: consider the Hall yours and make use of it; join those who run it if you have a few spare hours a month or some fresh ideas for it. If you would like more information, contact the secretary, Margaret Allen, 01320 351228.

#### **Future events:**

December 13th: Grand Craft Fayre  
December 17th: Carol Service  
December 31st: Hogmanay Dance  
January 10th: Over 60s Dinner/  
Dance  
February 27th: "Mae West"



## From the Parish Minister

It is great to see *Moriston Matters* back in print again. I'm sure we are all appreciative of the hard work that goes into the gathering of articles, collating, printing, stapling and distribution. Why are we grateful? Surely, because it keeps us informed of what is going on in our community.

We like to keep informed. Good communication is as important in a community as it is in an organisation. The better informed we are, the more we know and the more we may be able to do to both help and enjoy our community. We may hear of an activity in which we would take pleasure, or we may hear of a need which we feel able to meet. Yes, communication is a wonderful thing.

Now, some readers, while delighted at this means of communication opening once again, may also wonder from time to time

why it is that our Creator seems so poor at communicating with His creation. Or to put it another way, "Why does God not speak to people nowadays?" The evidence all around us seems to suggest God's silence – whether it be international events in the Middle East or Iraq – or the situation closer to home in Northern Ireland and the daily horrors of which we read in the daily newspapers. Is God silent – or is He there at all?

I want to suggest that the problem, if there be one, is not one of God's poor communication. On the contrary, it is our reception that is poor. I am told there are some very fine radio programmes these days, but none of the radios in our house lick up any signal, so we cannot sit at home and listen to the fine output over the airwaves.

The fact is that God is speaking all the time to us. He speaks of His

beauty in the created world. When we look at the wonderful scenery amongst which we are privileged to live we often say how lucky we are, but rarely do we acknowledge Who it was that made this magnificent landscape. God is speaking through the hills and glens.

God also speaks more personally to us in our sense of right and wrong. From where does that sense of morality come? Is it all learned from our parents? No, we have planted in us (albeit very blunted in some people's lives) a conscience – and that conscience was planted by God – a good and moral God.

And that raises the question – well, if God is such a good and moral God – why all the wickedness in the world. Well, actually, all this wickedness and its effects (which are many) are also part of God's communication with us. He wants us to acknowledge wickedness for what it is – namely, life lived without reference to Him. All wickedness stems from a disregard for God, and our world suffers as a result.

Very depressing, you say? And so it would be if it were not for God's supreme means of communication – namely the sending of His Son to speak to us – and the written record of the coming of Jesus (the Bible tells us of God's plan to send Jesus- the Old Testament, and of the event and

what followed it – the New Testament).

You say that all happened a very long time ago – God coming to speak to people in Palestine. And so it was, but the God Who spoke through Jesus' words then, still speaks to people through Jesus' words today. God communicates very clearly to anyone who will listen. Time to get tuned in.

Rev. Hugh Watt

## Parish Church Services

The Church of Scotland Services have changed venue since the last edition of *Moriston Matters*. We now meet in the Invermoriston Millennium Hall on the first Sunday of each month at 3pm. This service is for the whole community and all are welcome – of all ages. We have a Sunday Club each month for the children and throughout the year we have occasional special services. On the first Sunday of October we have a Harvest Thanksgiving Family Service, and on the Sunday prior to Christmas we have a Christmas Family Service. We have been encouraged at the larger attendances in Invermoriston and will welcome all newcomers. Do put the dates in your diary for 3 pm on the first Sunday of each month.



It is going to be a busy and interesting winter.

Our minds will be occupied with issues such as Renewable Energy....wind farms and hydro schemes, access and land issues and who knows, even a bit of enjoyment.

## **WIND ENERGY**

As I write West Coast Energy has arranged public displays at Dalchriecart, Invermoriston, Fort Augustus and Invergarry.

Following the displays it is likely their planning application will be lodged.

That means that the time for public consultation will be with us.

I intend to hold a series of surgeries throughout November and you may choose to come along and give me your views. I will also do my best to speak to as many of you

as possible on an individual basis.

I expect the Community Council will deal with the application some time during November/December and that is another forum for you to have your views heard.

Watch local newspapers and notice boards for the dates of meetings.

The detailed planning application papers will be available at Highland Council headquarters and at the Service Point in Fort Augustus.

As ever with any planning application, letters from individuals are very important and whether you are in favour of the application or against, I urge you to make your views known.

## **OTHER SCHEMES.**

I very much enjoyed the evening at Invermoriston Millennium Hall when Sir Martin Holdgate took us through an evening of discussion on renewable energy and helped us to see the bigger picture and our place in it.

There were some issues to follow up arising from the evening the community council and I will take that on board.

If anyone would like a copy of Martin Holdgate's summing up, I would be happy to copy them one. Meanwhile the Glendoe application makes its way through the system. My understanding is that we are still waiting on a traffic impact study



and more environmental evaluation, taking particular account of the bird populations affected and disposal of spoil. It is unlikely that the application will come to Planning committee before February next year.

For your interest, there is another application lodged by Innogy using some of the same headwaters as Scottish and Southern Electric for the Glendoe application.

In addition there are at 3 other small hydro schemes proposed along South Loch Ness.

The other element of this is what does the community gain?

I saw with Interest news items about the engineers from 50 years ago visiting the schemes they planned and built.

It is a good time to reflect on the legacy in Highlands have had as a legacy of these great hydro schemes. There were jobs at the time, but what else?

I am aware that many of you would like to see some direct local link from any new energy schemes, be that cheaper electricity or a scheme to fund energy saving measures in local communities. Along with the Community Council and indeed the added weight of Stratherrick Community Council I will be taking forward background meetings to explore our options.

As a member of Highland Council planning committee I will  
*Moriston Matters - Winter 2003*

not be involved in negotiations with an applicant, but can help to prepare our thoughts.

All of this does not take away from the basic premise.

Yes we all support Renewable Energy, but are these the right schemes in the right place.

I'll hear from many of you about that over the next few months.

## **ACCESS ISSUES**

A good few of you attended the meetings facilitated by Ken Knott of Forest Enterprise when we discussed land use and access issues.

One of the outcomes was areas identified where we can improve public access. I hope that we can make progress over the winter and make some funding applications to enable the work to go ahead.

We have a Glenmoriston Land Use Partnership to take forward the ideas. Anyone with an interest in joining us, let me know.

## **HERITAGE**

There are so many sites of great heritage worth around Invermoriston and the Glen and I am constantly concerned that no preservation or interpretation work is underway. There is little hope of Historic Scotland or Highland Council organising anything. They increasingly see their role as facilitator, which means we have to help ourselves. If the active heritage

group or any other members of the community wish to take projects forward, get in touch with me and we will see what can be done.

We need to shoulder some of the planning and funding application work and get things moving.

## **COMMUNITY LEARNING.**

Invermoriston Millennium Hall committee have a good programme of events and recreation activities in the village. They do very well.

But how about using Dalchriecart School Building? We could use it more as a community meeting place. Has anyone an interest in Computer courses e.g. Introduction to the internet and e-mail courses? Art classes?

Let me know if there is a demand and I can see what can be organised.

Margaret Davidson  
Highland Councillor  
Loch Ness West.

Abriachan Nurseries; Loch Ness  
Side; Inverness IV3 8LA

Tel/Fax 01463 861424

e-mail:

[margaret.davidson.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.davidson.cllr@highland.gov.uk)

We would like to offer our condolences on the sad death of Lee Cormac of Invermoriston who died on 25th November aged 16 years after a long illness. He leaves a mother, Caroline and brother Jordan.

## **Glenmoriston Painting Class**

The fifth season started on Tuesday 14th October. The class takes place in the Glenmoriston Hall meeting room every Tuesday 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

The current session runs for ten weeks up to Christmas and then there is another ten week session in the Spring of 2004.

This is a thriving and enthusiastic club working under the guidance of our talented and resourceful tutor, David Gerrard.

If you are interested in joining us then please contact Mave Ersu on 01320 351326

## **MASSIVE CRAFT FAYRE**

**SATURDAY  
13th DECEMBER**

**10am - 4pm**

**INVERMORISTON HALL**

Support local Craft Producers  
and buy your gifts here.

# INVERMORISTON RENEWABLE ENERGY DEBATE

In July of this year there was a general debate on renewable energy in the hall in Invermoriston chaired by Sir Martin Holdgate. We haven't space here for the whole summing up but have included the most relevant part of the summary.

The chairman states:

"Perhaps the most important thing we will take away from this evening is the central role of social considerations. Many speakers insisted on the need for social equity.

Points made included:

1. Any benefits paid to the community should be channelled back into the enhancement of energy efficiency and especially the alleviation of energy poverty. (*Does this mean low energy light bulbs for everyone? – There is already help available in the form of grants for insulation, central heating etc for those who cannot afford it. Editor*)

2. Local elected Councils were the ones to decide how to spend the money.

3. The economics of renewables were not being evaluated correctly. Renewable electricity would cost around 8p a unit as against current market prices of 3p to 4p, making schemes inherently uncompetitive.

Who would pay for the back-up capacity and connections costs?

*(We understand that the taxpayer will have to bear the cost of the necessary grid upgrade. – Editor)*

4. It was uncertain how many jobs would be created by the development of renewables, given that most of the equipment would come from outside Scotland.

*(We are told the proposed Glenmoriston development of 21 turbines will create 2 'virtual' jobs, whereas the Skye development of 30 turbines will create 2 part-time jobs!)*

5. How could the impact on the tourist industry be quantified and injected into the process of social judgement? (*The VisitScotland survey carried out last year stated 26% of visitors would not return to an area were there are turbines. The Scottish Executive Mori poll predicted 20%*)

6. How would the wider impact on 'Joe Public' be taken into account? (*It is essential that if you want to object you contact you MSP, MP, Highland Councillor and Community Councillor in order to be heard. The silent majority is heard by no one.*)

Finally, the meeting seemed in no doubt of the value of discussions like the one held this evening. It had been conducted in a fair, open and mutually respectful atmosphere. Points made included:

1. People want to be involved in the debate over developments that affect the place they live in, or places to which they are attached. All 'stakeholders' must feel they have had an opportunity to have their say.

2. The public needs information. A route map through the administrative jungle of policies, strategies, schemes, development control regulations EIAs and so on is badly needed. Councils have a responsibility to inform their electorates.

3. Non-governmental organizations and concerned individuals must be made to feel that their views are valued and listened to.

4. Ministers and the Scottish Executive need to be sensitive to public concerns and to make sure that proposed major policies are debated openly before final decisions are taken.

This is particularly the case with energy developments where schemes with a capacity of over 50mw by-pass normal planning processes and are considered by the Energy Minister – who must consult local authorities but who gives them

only a very short period for response.”

Since this meeting Murdo Fraser MSP managed to have a motion heard in the Scottish Executive asking for a moratorium on all windfarm planning applications until a proper strategy could be worked out. Despite there being more contributions to the Scottish Executive online forum than on any other subject – Murdo Fraser was unsuccessful.

What was interesting is that some MSPs are under the misconception that 80% of planning application in Scotland will be turned down. They were in fact corrected by the Energy Minister that although 80% were turned down in England only 10% will be denied in Scotland.

Please see the map of planning applications already submitted/proposed on the Views of Scotland site or [www.wind-farm.org](http://www.wind-farm.org). if you want to see exactly what is planned for Scotland.

The latest map does not take into account the 500 turbines proposed for Mull and the Ardnamurchan peninsular.

More information on windfarms and their effects on people and communities can be found at:

**[www.wind-farm.org](http://www.wind-farm.org)**

There is also a forum where wind farm topics can be discussed as well as many articles on the subject.



# The Gardening Page

By Sylvia Andrews

A telephone call. A conversation. A suggestion made to me: "You could write an article for *Moriston Matters*, Sylvia. Something to do with gardening, may be give us some hints and tips."

My heart sank, words won't come, help! Only experts give tips on how to do it, and I'm not one.

All that was a couple of weeks ago and I've calmed down now, thought about it and decided if I can't do 'Hints and Tips' I could do 'Reflections and Thoughts' on gardening.

Those of you have lived hereabouts for all your lives will have met and solved a lot of the problems. For me, an incomer from the soft South, gardening in Dalchreichart came as quite a shock.

From my very first day (well, second) I had a lesson to learn. The furniture arrived with, amongst other things, a large number of pots with small cuttings of some of my favourite plants. Having things like furniture and pots and pans to sort out, the plants got consigned to a paved area at the back, "Its June the 6th" I think, "they will be alright out there for a day or two."

Wrong! A frosty night and 90% of them dead as dodos.

You will all know about the "rocks," and to think I actually had to buy rockery stones for my "Down South" rockery. I was dreaming about earth moving rocks, there's just a small stone here I'll

get that out no bother! - I'll need the big fork! - I'll need the spade! - I'll need my Husband! We'll need the six foot jemmy! — We'll need some logs and bricks for pivots! - Two Tonnes later we have lifted that small stone. The sense of triumph quite makes up for the effort.

Then there's the shortness of the growing season. July and August seem to be reliably without frost (so far). The year I thought to grow runner beans we had a heavy frost on June 21st, that did them no good at all. Very early September has been known to kill off all the plants in pots and baskets before I've had time to take cuttings.

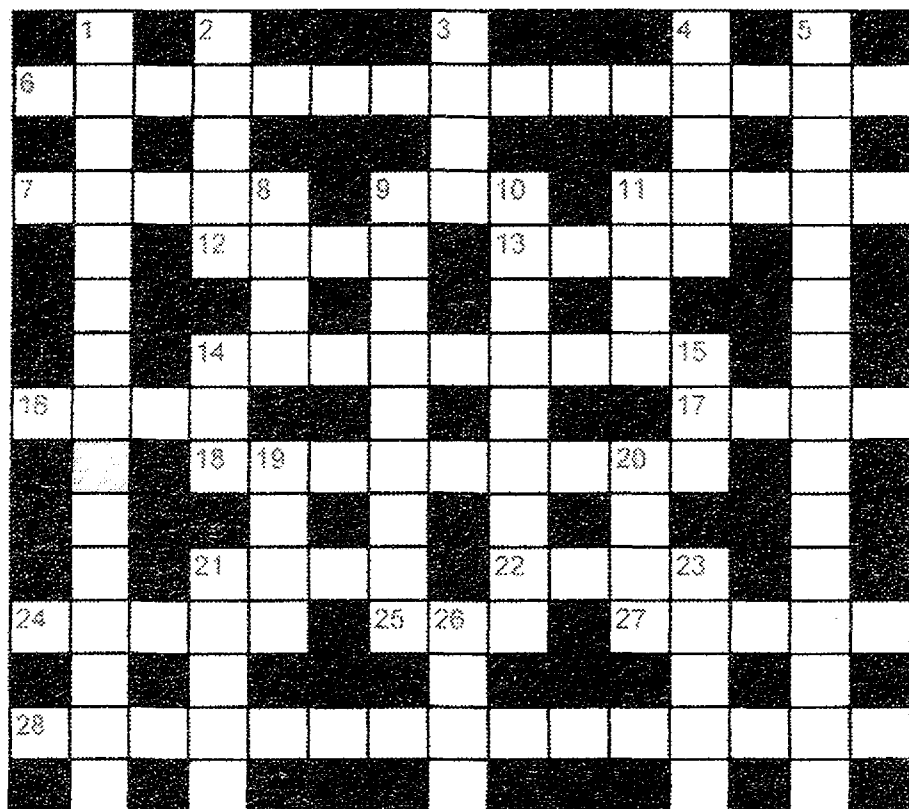
This year I have had a real triumph. I've managed two ripe and three semi-ripe tomatoes, on plants in the garden! Being pessimistic, I've now put them into the greenhouse, in the hope that all the green ones left will ripen.

Despite all the problems there is nowhere that I would rather be than in my garden, It's in such a lovely place. I look up from my weeding and see mountains (often snow capped) and forests and miles and miles of beautiful sky. Its quiet and peaceful, The occasional friendly neighbour and visitor to chat to over the fence, two dogs to keep me company and somewhere or the other a busy husband.

Life in the garden is good!

The one helpful hint I feel perfectly qualified to offer is

"Enjoy your Gardening"



## ACROSS

- 6 Pathname of .& co. (6.5.4)  
 7 A Britt? (5)  
 9 See 11 down  
 11 Flower of Scotland. (5)  
 12 It's but a smashed urn. (4)  
 13 Sign of extreme feminism? (4)  
 14 Substitute 19 down. (9)  
 16 I hear we are not so big. (4)  
 17 Could *one* be 23 down? (4)  
 18 Refuse to drink. (5.4)  
 21 See 24 across.  
 22 Back us for a fight. (4)  
 24 & 21 A U-turn on prestige. (5.4)

25 Down some alcoholic drink initially. (3)

27 Before and behind an abbot. (5)

28 Pay for a psychiatric wing for one second. (11.4)

## DOWN

1 Rosacea, anaemia and cyanosis are standard symptoms. (3.5.3.4)

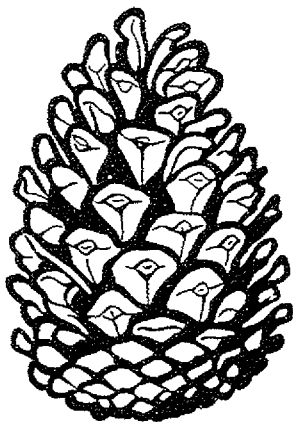
2 Perseveres to exhibit Constable's art. (5)

3 Forfeit unfit for a swimmer. (4)

4 Tough meat, not cooked right through. (5)

- 5 Worry..fret..work may do it  
..believe me! (4.2.4.3.2)
- 8 A king to a count. (4)
- 9 Reverend Spooner begs to visit  
the coast. (9)
- 10 Acting secretary in mid  
sentence. (5.4)
- 11&9 across Proving ground for a  
trial marriage? (4.3)
- 14 Was it inundated, with  
passengers but not a single cabin  
available? (3)
- 15 Tackle from  
behind..curiosity..large ungulate.  
(3)
- 19 Tidy 14 across. (4)
- 20 Type of 9 across for those  
seriously affected? (4)
- 21 He's an expert in brief undies.  
(5)
- 23 Pleased with oneself for being  
prominent. (5)
- 26 Grassy bits sawn off. (4)

Thanks to Alan and Heather Smart  
for the crossword.



## Scottish Dance Group

We meet every Thursday from 7.30 to 9.30 pm in the village hall and are very fortunate to have two excellent teachers in Sheila Peters and Margaret Hill. Sheila, (whom most people know as one half of Hurly Burly and, recently, as a near-resident ceilidh presenter at the Hotel, playing her accordion together with either Shona Robertson or Jim Donaldson), teaches primarily ceilidh dances.

Yes, exactly those dances she plays for in the Hotel and you've wished you knew!

Margaret teaches mainly country dances and must often despair at the messes we get into, even though we might have remembered moves reasonably well the week before.

Its great exercise and very enjoyable and anyone wanting to try it would be given a warm welcome.

The group will be hosting a weekend in April, dancing to the music of Gordon Shand's Scottish Dance Band. Friday the 2nd will be country dancing and Saturday old time ceilidh dancing. You'll be hearing more nearer the time.

More info 01320 351228

# Glenmoriston Arms Hotel

"What's on in December?"

**Friday 5th of December.** (Hurly Burly from 9.30 pm in the Hotel)

Playing again in the Hotel after the success of the first time they have played we would like to proudly introduce Hurly Burly, with their excellent mix of Scottish Country Dancing. This is as ever free admission to everyone so come along & join us.

**Sunday 7th of December.** We are closed this evening for our Staff Party, we apologise in advance for any inconvenience it may cause. We believe that we deserve it!!!!

**Christmas Eve.** Christmas Eve, we will be open all day until 12.30am in order to see in the Big Day. The Tavern will be closed. The Hotel Bar though will have a great atmosphere as ever it should be a really good time. You are all welcome.

**Christmas Day.** In the day the Hotel & Tavern is closed, but in the evening after 6pm we are having a party just for the local community & friends. With a buffet & a punch...and free admission the only thing you must do to gain admission is to either sing a song, tell a joke, a tale or do a dance.....and that's everyone without exception.

**Boxing Day** The Hotel will be open as usual for Drinks.

**Friday 28th of December.** (Sheila Peters & Jim Donaldson in the Hotel)  
A little bit of light entertainment between the big dates, we have playing in the Hotel Sheila Peters of Hurly Burly & Jim Donaldson. Having played twice before in the Hotel they always go down well, your friends and families are more than welcome.

**Hogmanay the 31st of December**

We will be open as Normal from 11am to 10pm, when the Hotel will join the Village Hall in their Hogmanay celebration, after bringing in the New Year, all will be welcome back at the Hotel, where the celebrations will continue..  
Nik, Hazel & All of us at The Glenmoriston Arms.

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