

*The Original*

**M**oriston  
**Matters**



*Autumn 04*



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

*No 67*

*50p*

## *Editorial Page*

How time flies, it seems only days since we were putting together the summer edition of the revived Original Moriston Matters and here we are again having taxed the combined " old grey matter" with our autumn offering.

We were all delighted at the response to the summer edition (measured by copies sold) and the "team" would like to express their thanks for your support, long may it continue.

We hope that all our readers found items of interest in the magazine or maybe some of you have ideas on what might be of interest to include in future editions. If so why not contact one of us, we are after all a magazine for the community and would love to hear your news, views and/or opinions. One small reminder here, there is still time to send in your cryptic word quiz solution as I for one am desperate to know the famous name.

Summer, or what has passed for summer, seems to have been rain and more rain, but I hope you managed to combat the weather and otherwise had a pleasant and enjoyable time and that you are all fighting fit and ready to take part in some of the many activities that the Glen has to offer.

## *The Editorial Team*



# Letter to the Editors

Dear Editor

Congratulations to you and your "A" team for its first edition of the Original Moriston Matters. Love its insight into gardening - how about some tips - what to do now?

Look forward to the next edition - any chance of there being one before the end of the year?

Clare

Dear Clare

Thank you for your kind words. Is it ESP or just Moriston magic in the air? Whatever, as we received your letter, plans were well under way for an October edition!

Gardening tips? None of us is qualified, but is there anybody out there...?

The Editors

To help Clare, air your views, etc, contact: [minshull@lochness.ws](mailto:minshull@lochness.ws) or 351283;351326;351228; 340221; 340253

**STOP PRESS!!**



## **SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

On 24<sup>1</sup> September Glenmoriston Millennium Hall was the venue for a truly memorable concert given by the strings of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra as part of their tour of the Highlands. Under the directorship of violinist Alexander Janiczek, they give a thrilling performance of works by Grieg, Sibelius, Haydn, Britten and Mendelssohn. Having visited us two years in succession, it is to be hoped that this world-renowned orchestra now has Invermoriston well and truly on its list of desirable venues.

## **Updates from your Highland Councillor**

**Margaret Davidson.**

### **Planning for Millennium Wind farm**

The modified application for the wind farm in Glenmoriston is now in. Copies of the planning application can be seen at the usual places.. The Closing date for responses from the public is 8<sup>th</sup> October. Those who submitted letters in response to the first application will all be contacted.

The applicants hope the application can be dealt with by the Highland Council Planning, Development Europe and Tourism Committee before the end of the year.

Meanwhile I will be talking with the Community Council to discuss any further public consultation.

I will be holding surgeries in Fort Augustus; Invermoriston and Dalchriecart in October, watch the Inverness Courier and local notice boards.

### **Scottish and Southern Energy.**

We will be starting a liaison group with S and SE about the Glendoe Development very soon. It is important we keep on top of these large firms when such large projects affect us. I am also determined to get the best deals for Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston, maximise the benefits for the local economy and minimise the negative impacts.

### **Dalchreichart School**

I have asked that the public meeting for consultation on the closure of the school takes place at Dalchreichart School and Kilchuimen.

Watch the local notice boards and Inverness Courier.

### **Glenmoriston Land Use Partnership**

It is more than a year since the partnership last met. I think it would be a good time to revisit that work and get some path construction and further way - marking started.

Anyone who wishes to join the group should talk to Tommy Girvan, the Chairman, Ken Knott or me.

## **Inverwick.**

After careful negotiations it will be recommended to Highland Council that the Inverwick road remains adopted. The gate will remain, as there is stock in the fields from time to time, and they cannot be allowed to stray onto the trunk road, but I hope eventually it will be replaced by a cattle grid. In addition there will be substantial vegetation clearance from the junction.

## **Affordable Housing**

Goodness me, this is the topic that had most response from my last newsletter.

As I said, I intend to first call together a working group to look at the issue for Invermoriston, Glenmoriston and Dalchreichart. I will leave this until Oct/Nov. When we have framed up the work necessary to take this forward I will get more information out. Any one with an interest in joining, do get in touch.

What I would ask you to remember is that most young people and many long-term resident older people have huge difficulty accessing the housing market. Low cost housing is one way this can be done. It can be homes built for rent, shared ownership (where the buyer owns some of the equity in the house, usually 25 or 50% low-cost serviced plots and Rural Home Ownership Grants and Gro-grants (a subsidy paid to a building contractor to lower the selling price)

It is also possible to have a local allocation Policy, which gives extra points to people with strong local connections.

From this year onwards, it will be possible to make use of some new legislation called the "Title Conditions Act" This means that any investment in housing for low cost ownership is not lost, but that the subsidy or the home remain in public ownership when the resident wishes to realise their equity and move on. With the declining birth rates the escalating price of housing and Highland wages well below the national average we owe it to this generation to help them into homes and save their schools and services.

Margaret Davidson. Abriachan Nurseries; Loch Ness Side; Inverness IV3 8LA. Tel: 01460 861424 mobile 07818015689 e-mail Margaret.Davidson.cllr@highland.gov.uk

# Cookery Consultancy

We are indebted to Cherry Duncan for two desserts well-worth practising for the festive season: one requiring a certain amount of skill and dedication; the other needing only a bit of forethought with the shopping and about 15 mins to assemble.

## MERINGUE MINT TERRINE CAKE (serves 4)

1/2 pint double cream

2 oz caster sugar

1 teaspoonful vanilla essence

4 crushed meringue nests

1x200g packet of bitter mints, sliced (or regular mint creams if preferred)

Raspberries, mint sprigs, or what you fancy to decorate

Lightly oil a 2lb loaf tin and line with cling film.

Whip cream, sugar and vanilla essence until just peaking softly.

Fold in crushed meringues and choc mints.

Spoon into prepared tin, level the surface and freeze for 3 hours until hard.

When required, turn out, slice thickly, arrange on plates and decorate.

Yum!

## MOCHA ROULADE

2-tablespoons cocoa powder 1-

tablespoon coffee granules

3 tablespoons hot water

4 medium eggs (separated)

6 oz caster sugar

1/2 pint double cream, whipped

5-tablespoons cranberry sauce

Grated chocolate, split almonds (or whatever) to decorate

Grease and line a 9x13 inch swiss roll tin.

In a large mixing bowl dissolve the cocoa and coffee in the hot water.

Add the egg yolks and caster sugar and whisk until thick and pale.

Whisk the egg whites until stiff and gently fold into the cocoa mixture.

Bake for 25 to 30 minutes at 180 degrees or gas mark 4.

When cooked, cover with a damp tea towel to cool.

Lightly dust a sheet of greaseproof paper with caster sugar and turn the cold roulade onto it.

Spread with 2/3 of the cream and then the cranberry sauce, (and, here comes the difficult bit) GENTLY ROLL UP.

Transfer to a serving dish, lightly dust with icing sugar and decorate.

Cherry says the roulade can be frozen for up to 3 months at this point - IF you have that much will power!

## **A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

On this date, Glenmoriston Senior Citizens Committee are holding a fund raising Ceilidh in our village hall. Our own local group "The Hurly Burly" Will provide the music. As everyone knows this means a wide selection of dances to suit all tastes.

We are hoping for a large turnout of locals to enable us to give all our Senior Citizens a New Year Party to remember in early January.

Ticket prices are still to be fixed and there will be concessions for over 60;s. More details will be announced later. **Remember the date please**

## **ARE YOU OVER 60?**

Invitations to our Senior Citizens party can be fraught with problems. Who are now over 60? Yoga, Bowling, eating well, etc- all help to make a person look fitter and younger. Help us get it right. When invitations are sent out in December please let us know if we missed anyone.

Remember it is not an old folks party, it is a party for mature guests, so help us make this our best evening yet and remember without YOU it cannot happen

# **The Scottish Ambulance Service in your area: Fort Augustus, Glenmoriston and Glengarry**

In this article I will try to give a history of my involvement with the service and how it came to be based in this area originally. I have tried in the past to trace the exact dates but there appear to be no records in existence giving this information. What I have has been gleaned from local people.

The first Ambulances to be based in the area were put in place in the middle '50s to cover the workers on the Moriston Hydro schemes. These Ambulances were, as far as I know, supplied by the Ambulance Service but manned by men from the camps who had jobs that allowed them to be off site for a couple of hours when required. The first community Ambulance was put in place in Fort Augustus sometime around the middle '60s as a direct result of a fatal accident, in the straight mile south of the village, involving a bus which crashed in snow and ice. Six people lost their lives in this incident. Ambulances responding from Inverness and Fort William took well over an hour to arrive on the scene because of road conditions. Whether the Ambulance came because of in service initiative or public pressure, I have been unable to ascertain.

The Fort Augustus Ambulance was classed as a Contract Ambulance between 1964-66? and 1989, very common in rural areas of the country until about ten years ago. This meant that the operator, usually a local garage with a few staff, would be paid normally by the mile travelled. From my experience, the contract would never have been very rewarding in the monetary sense, whoever had the contract needed a second source of income.

The contract was taken on by Mr Hugh Grant proprietor of West End Garage, Fort Augustus, who ran the service with staff and latterly his son and sometimes myself, until Hugh took ill in the autumn of 1976 and felt he no longer needed the stress of being called from bed at ungodly hours of the night.



Myself, my wife Anne, daughter Kirsteen and Mother-in-law bought Richmond House in November 1970 before moving to Dalcataig to build Burnside at the top of the road in February 1976. At that time I was working on the maintenance side of Glenmoriston Estate. In December 1976 Dr Buchanan, our GP at the time, asking if I would be interested in taking on the Ambulance, as none of the local businesses had shown any interest, approached me. After much thought and talks with the Chief Ambulance Officer, I decided to take it on. The Ambulance became based at Invermoriston on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 1977 and I have been with it ever since. First as a contractor, on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with only a few days a year off, until it was adopted as a full time Service Ambulance in October 1989 when Matthieu Curley and myself were the successful applicants for the two posts being funded at that time.

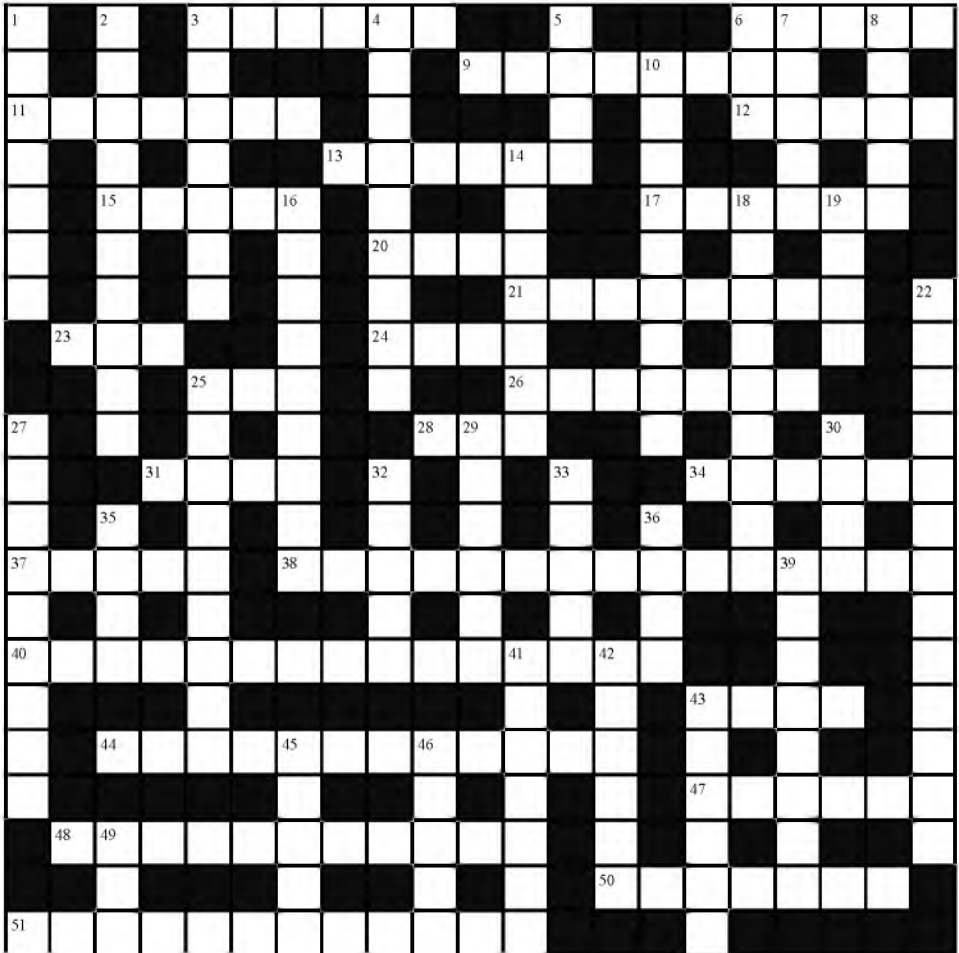
Being a full time station made a huge difference. It meant regular hours and holiday entitlement. Although there were two of us it still meant being single manned for all but three 8 hour periods in a 10 day shift and when one took leave the other had to cover his shift as well as his own. During 1991-2 Matt Curley trained to be a helicopter crew for the new service operating out of Dalcross Airport. Although the helicopter was fully funded by the Scottish Office the crews operated on a volunteer basis. During the same period he successfully studied for and completed his Paramedic training. In late 1991 funding was made available to further reduce single manning throughout the Highlands and a third post was allocated. In January 1992 my daughter Kirsteen was sent to train in Newcastle. In April 1992 Neil Robertson started training in Glasgow as more funding became available. This effectively ended single manning, although with no relief, we still covered each other's holidays.

In July 1995, we got our relief, Neil MacDonald, who stayed with us until Christmas 2002 when he started working at Kyle of Lochalsh, by which time Simon MacLellan, who had been our postman, was already at training college and started on station here in February 2003. This year Neil Robertson successfully completed his Paramedic training which gives us a paramedic crew on each shift. I should like to point out that the commitment needed to study for and pass the paramedic course is very high and quite stressful.

MATTHEW DOUGLAS

# Can You Do It?

A free copy of the next Original Moriston Matters will be given for each correct solution received by Mave Ersu (See her address on centre pages.)



**NB - Clues 30 and 32 are correct**

**The solution to the Crossword will be published in the next issue.**

## Across

- 3 Chesty hack. (6)
- 6 Beg to be uncaged. (5)
- 9 Something with which to tempt the hunger striker. (4,4)
- 11 Vanity case? (7)
- 12 & 19 Down. Not whoppers to whistle about that is. (5,4)
- 13 The accomplishments achieved when you idle away time on board. (6)
- 15 Same old stories repeated over and over.....and over. (5)
- 17 Clumsy like Popeye. (6)
- 20 Tragic change of mood. (4)
- 21 It'll be as stormy as a day on 14<sup>th</sup> July. (8)
- 23 Beg or Bug. (3)
- 24 Hear about the bird. (4)
- 25 Stalwart Ollie. (5)
- 26 Dipping it in the sauce has a certain attraction. (7)
- 28 Begin agonising about the past. (3)
- 31 & 3 Down - The best jazz musician or the laziest? (4,7)
- 34 Regretted sounding stoned. (6)
- 37 Channel the gold out of Austria. (5)
- 38 Is it what the cowboys do when they pretend to make up with the Indians? (3,2,1,5,4)
- 40 What the archaeologist has to look forward to is a matter of conjecture. (7,2,2,4)
- 43 Spike replaces the absent salesmen. (4)
- 44 Progressive PR, (5,7)
- 47 Follow follows tool setter. (3,3)
- 48 If. (2,3,4,2)
- 50 The mechanism of rumour. (7)
- 51 A handsome sum. (1,6,5)

## Down

- 1 .....(3,4)
- 2 Raise the rafters with conflicting facial expressions. (10)
- 3 See 31 across.
- 4 Fine good looking fish. (5-4)
- 5 Pass around the vipers. (4)
- 6 In what manner or way at the present time, being any of a group of colours between red and yellow In hue that are medium to low in lightness, .....(3)
- 7 Specifically unplanned. (2,3)
- 8 Just manage to overtake. (3,2)
- 10 Creative bench Evita sits back on. (9)
- 14 Stack, sack, oh.....back attack. (7)
- 16 What one did in self defence when cornered? (7,2)
- 18 The patience of a saint, St Alfrida for example. (9)
- 19 See 12 Across.
- 22 Fine legs, maybe, maybe not. (5,8)
- 25 Unwrought iron. (9)
- 27 Start.....the second change? (5,4)
- 29 The ricochet of a good weapon. (6)
- 30 Chemical analysis reveals this bond is in glass. (4)
- 32 Chemical analysis reveals this bond is in glass. (5)
- 33 See 49 Down. (5)
- 35 Lords and ladies started a rumour. (4)
- 36 The Army & Navy Stores water container. (4)
- 39 Conifers make them. (3,5)
- 41 Porridge breakfast? (4-3)
- 42 Varying in stature. 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> to.....(6)
- 43 The preserve of the beaver. (6)
- 45 Black battle of the Boyne. (5)
- 46 Many a translated language. (5) 49 Before long its 10% more than 33 Down. (3)

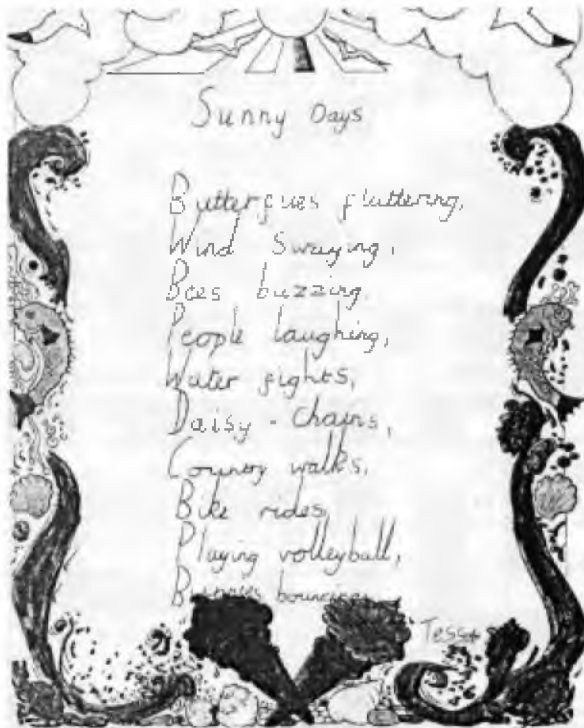
## Hi Kids!

Welcome again to your page. Don't forget we need your stories and ideas to help us with your section.

## The Storm.

The Storm  
As the Sky darkens,  
The first drops fall  
The waves crash on the islands.  
People run into tents, hop into cars and jog into houses.  
Cows hug together,  
Boats bob up and down.  
But we know we're safe inside our home.

**Catriona Knott**



**Tessa**

**Kilchuimen School**

# CORNER

## WORD SEARCH

G	L	B	E	A	R	X	Q	P	S	L	X
A	B	D	C	D	Y	E	F	P	Q	G	H
I	A	J	Q	L	L	L	O	M	U	N	O
B	P	Q	Q	R	F	I	S	H	I	S	T
U	V	S	W	G	R	X	Y	Z	R	A	B
C	L	D	G	E	E	P	O	M	R	I	J
T	K	A	L	M	T	P	O	Q	E	R	S
T	T	U	V	W	T	X	Y	Z	L	B	C
S	D	E	F	G	U	H	B	I	R	D	I
J	K	O	F	P	B	Q	R	S	T	U	V
W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	X	D	E	F	G
D	R	A	G	O	N	F	L	Y	H	I	J

### COUNTRYSIDE WORDS

FOX, FISH, BEAR, SQUIRREL, BUTTERFLY, BIRD,  
DRAGONFLY, STAG. (Charlie, P4.)

Your answers, with name and address, to Mave Ersu,  
Am Fairdean, Invermoriston, IV63 7YA, by 15<sup>th</sup>  
January, 2005. A bar of chocolate will be awarded for  
each correct solution

# Hall Matters

Sept/Oct is the time when regular clubs restart their activities, with an enthusiasm nourished by a summer of abstinence. Details of many can be seen below but I'd like to mention here that Scottish Dancing would recommence on Thursdays (7.30-9.30) from Sept 23 until its Christmas Party on Dec 16. Also restarting, after the half-term break will be the Youth Club. From 7 - 9 on Friday evenings.

This has been another good year for Hall activities and finances. Although well used, there are many occasions when one or both areas are free and the cost for most community usage is just £3 per hour for the small hall and £4 for the large and £5.50 for the whole. It may have been observed that these are the same prices as were charged at the Hall's opening four years ago and that they have not risen with inflation, despite an apparent absence of fund-raising. I say apparent, because, of course, these regular Hall hire charges could not cover the annual costs of maintenance, let alone any capital costs.

We are able to spend fairly freely on items we see a need for (e.g. have you spotted the new signage over the porch? and we now have behind-stage lighting), because we are gaining a reputation for .. CATERING. A growing number of people are realising that by giving their time to bake, make soup or prepare and serve they are enabling us to say "yes" three or four times a year to groups who want to hire the Hall for conferences - or fund-raising events like Maggies. This year, together with the very successful Lite Bites, (which made a profit of peanuts short of £2,000), approximately £3,000 has been raised. A great big "THANK YOU" to all.

So, you see that helping to keep a thriving centre for this community doesn't have to involve joining a Committee BUT your opportunity to do just that comes around every year. This year it's Monday, 29 November. That's AGM time. It will follow its usual format of meeting at 8pm, followed by wine and cheese. We are always looking for new blood to prevent things going stale but mainly we see our role as keeping things in good order for any public or private events that are wanted. If you have any practical skills such as DIY, gardening, catering, account keeping, note taking and a bit of time, do consider joining. Margaret Alien 351228

# Promoters of Arts Network (PAN to you)

A DATE TO REMEMBER: THE FIFTH OF NOVEMBER. We are recognising the contribution made to the Glen by the Millennium Commission and marking the weekend of its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday with a visit from Mull Theatre. This prestigious Company is coming, complete with 6 actors, 2 stage technicians and REAL SCENERY to bring us their dramatic interpretation of R L Stevenson's "JEKYLL & HYDE", a tale of horror and an insight into the workings of the human psyche.

As a complete contrast, negotiations are ongoing to bring to the Glen its first professional PANTOMIME in January. Watch the notice boards!

## ACTIVITIES IN THE HALL

### Glenmoriston Indoor Bowling Club

Fancy an enjoyable afternoon (or evening) out? A couple of hours of convivial company? Some excitement? A little despair! Some gentle competition? We have the very thing for you! Come along to the village hall and join us.

Monday afternoon - 2.00-4.00 pm

Monday evening - 7.30 - 9.30 pm

The Club has been meeting for five years now and is lively and well attended. We do not play in any leagues but do have occasional friendly matches against our nearest neighbouring teams. We do run our own club competitions so you have a chance to exercise your competitive spirit.

It doesn't matter if you have never played before, you'll soon learn! The only equipment you need is a pair of flat-soled shoes. We have sets of bowls that you can use, so come along!

**P.S.** If you're young (or youngish) and have muscles you will be extra welcome for putting mats out (and back in)

We also have tea and biscuits, what more could you want.

**Sylvia Andrews**

## Yoga Classes

Need to learn to relax? Wish to feel more supple. Then why not try our Yoga Class, which started only 3 week ago.

Because Yoga is non competitive, don't worry if you've not exercised for a long time, you only do what you can do.

**We meet on a Wednesday Evening. 7.30 - 9.00 p m**

**Please wear loose clothing and bring a yoga/exercise mat.**

For more details Tel: 01320351283

## Glenmoriston Painting Class

Are you keen on drawing/painting? Are you free on Tuesdays from 2.30 to 4.30p.m? The class runs for ten weeks before Christmas, beginning on the 12<sup>th</sup> October, and for a further ten-week term in the spring of 2005. This is a thriving and enthusiastic club, working in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere under the guidance of our tutor, David Gerrard. Charges are £3.00 per session attended or £24.00 for ten weeks in advance. If you are interested in joining us, please contact **Mave Ersu. On 351326**

## Glenmoriston Arts & Crafts Club

Craft Club is an informal Group, we meet on a Wednesday 3.00 - 5.00p.m. Do you have an interest in needlepoint, cross-stitch, card making, patchwork or any type of Craftwork? You may find yourself trying something for the first time or showing others a new craft, we are all encouraging and keen to learn. Please come along and join us.

### *Craft Fayre*

Come along to the Millennium Hall on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October

**10.0 - 4.00 p.m**

All your Christmas Shopping for Family and friends

Refreshments served throughout the day.

Lots of great local crafts to be bought.



## Glenmoriston Badminton Club

There has been a Badminton Club in Invermoriston more or less since the original hall was built and the club continued to play there until the hall's unfortunate demise in 1997. Interestingly, the Badminton Club was actually the last club to use the old hall, even in its dilapidated state. Members then became actively involved in raising money for the new hall in a variety of ways, alongside the Hall Committee, notably spending many hours making and painting the side-shows for the gala days.

The old hall had a few quirks which made the game quite interesting - lobs had to be delicately guided through the rafters or you lost the point and sometimes the shuttle too!; the outside wall of the hall and the front of the stage formed the outer edges of the court which made playing back court shots positively dangerous! Whilst clearing out under the stage (where only the really brave ever ventured!) we found an old dirty box which had "Badminton" painted on it, and had obviously been used in an earlier life to store equipment. Deciding to keep a tradition alive, the box was patched up, stained, padlock added, and is still in use by the club today.

In recent years we have had a couple of visits from some "old-timers" who used to play in the old hall :

Ted Murdoch, one of the "Hydro" engineers that worked on the Glen schemes, popped in to have a chat about how they used to come down from the camps to play badminton.

Pat "the Pier" turned up a couple of years ago to show us how it should be done (yes, only 2 years ago!)- although the deft touch was still evident, the footwork left a bit to be desired and he ended up flat on his back - the end of a promising comeback!

Since the new hall opened in 1999, we have become the envy of all the other local badminton groups, having great facilities to play in. Currently we get between 4 and 10 folks turning up most weeks from Invermoriston, Drumnadrochit and Fort Augustus. We have developed friendly relations with the Drum, club and some of them turn up the odd week to visit us; likewise a few members of our club go through to join them at either the Legion Hall or occasionally at the excellent new facilities at Glenurquhart school.

The club meets at the hall on **Tuesday nights from 8 - 10p.m.**,  
starts on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2004**,  
costs £1.50 per session

and normally runs through until the end of June.

It is an informal night, we play mixed doubles, all abilities welcome, dress is casual (trainers, track bottoms, jeans or shorts), racquets and feather shuttles are provided.

Hope to see both new and old faces when we start up.

## Tribute to Ian Common

On Monday June 21st the Community said goodbye and paid their last respects to Ian Common at his funeral service at Fort Augustus and subsequent burial at Dalchreichart.

Most of the many who attended, then went to the Glenmoriston Millennium Hall at the invitation of Ian and his family giving them an opportunity to reflect on the life of an exceptional man.

The venue was an appropriate one for someone who had given so much time and effort to help bring this hall into being. It is a small consolation to think that as Ian struggled with his illness he could still get pleasure from knowing that the Millennium Hall was being well used by the community.

The Community in Invermoriston and Glenmoriston has much to thank Ian for since the day that his mother (known in my time as Granny Common or Isabel to friends) and his father came to live in Dalchreichart in 1967.

His father died in 1972 And that left Ian to help his mother from his base at Grangemouth. This necessitated many weekend trips for such projects as installing a local water supply via a dammed reservoir and a piped supply to his mothers house and the other nearby local houses.

That system supplied water till 1991 when the public supply became available.

In 1990 his son Allan had a house shell built adjacent to his gran (Isabel Common) and Ian was there to help him as much as he could to equip the house and sort out the garden. The first time I met Ian he was pushing a wheelbarrow as I looked over the fence of Lizart Cottage.

Ian retired from work in 1994 and had a house built adjacent to his son and mothers houses. He and his wife Betty came to live there in the September and despite many personal projects Ian joined in local community activities. Ian was determined to give back something of himself to repay the enjoyment and strength he had drawn from spending time in Glenmoriston. This he did firstly through his church activity at Fort Augustus where he became an Elder.

The most important activity for the community however proved to be his work on the Hall Committee. He worked as a committee member and finally as Chairman while the funding for the new Hall was achieved and the Hall built. His good natured way with people helped many times as problems

arose with this major Community Project. During this period he still found time to develop a superb vegetable garden and lan's neighbours could vouch for the quality of the produce that he shared with them. The dry stone wall around the house that lan built single handedly slowly took shape, many times did we see lan on his dumper truck climbing the hill behind us and then, later on reversing down the hill with a huge pile of large stones for the next section. Then in complete contrast he and Betty would be off to Edinburgh to help train the dancers for the Edinburgh Tattoo.

Just as these personal and community projects were coming to fruition with the prospect of enjoying them in the next phase of lan's retirement he was diagnosed as having Parkinson's disease. Typically lan battled to live as full a life as possible for example with the Bowling, the Highland dancing at the Hall, and Later the invalid buggy. Sadly it was decided that lan and Betty should move to Beaulieu and it was there that lan finally left us all and I write this tribute.

I would like finally to say to Betty and her family that lan had the respect and affection of this community in life and thoroughly deserved it. If any of us achieve even half of what lan did in his life we will have done well.

**David Andrews.**

### **Church Services**

There seems to have been quite a lot of changes to the small community of Glenmoriston recently.

Newcomers will, no doubt, have noticed that we do not have a working church in the village. What they may not know, however, is that regular church services are held in the Millennium Hall.

The Glen and Village are part of the parish of Glen Urquhart and Glenmoriston, which is centred in Drumnadrochit, where the parish priest, the Rev Hugh Watt is based. On the first Sunday of every month at 3.00pm the Rev Watt (or a visiting minister) comes to our village hall and conducts a Church of Scotland service in the small meeting room.

Newcomers to the Glen, and established residents, would be very welcome at these services.

**Sylvia Andrews**

## Gardening (?) in Glenmoriston

We were not going to have a garden when we first came to the Glen. The little white house in its setting of green grass, the burn running along side and the view seemed enough. By 1990 our minds had changed. We were leaving our Oxfordshire garden, which after twenty-five years was almost as we wanted it and we had so many favourite plants which we just couldn't leave behind; the marvellous red oriental poppy which had originally come, in the 1920s, from a garden in Fife; the escallonia which had come from my home in Hampshire; the wild orchids 'rescued' by young boys 'as the plants were going to be buried under a collapsing quarry bank'. So we made a refugee bed where these plants, with many others, grew happily for a year or so and were sufficiently undisturbed for a sandpiper to nest among them.

A garden came into being. First a fence to keep off the grazing animals, sheep, deer and cattle. A hedge to break the wind. A shape to be designed from the heap of imported soil - and drainage. A JCB scooped out two valleys in the slope and placed huge rocks in strategic places. An underground drainage channel was piped towards the bog. The bog, natural and with marsh marigolds and rushes, was precious. Wild gardens were in fashion and here we had the potential for making a real bog garden. The builders were not allowed to dump the spoil from their excavations in the bog - much to their amazement. Some people said 'Oh! Plant gunnera, skunk cabbage, make a pond, have water lilies'. We did none of this. Over the past fourteen years we have managed what was already there. The rushes have been regularly strimmed so the marsh marigolds have spread and spread. Ragged Robin, originally from a tray of seedlings, makes a pink haze in June. The creamy heads of meadow sweet fill the summer air with heavy scent and the rather rare marsh cinquefoil, with its chocolate coloured flowers and brown fruits, rather like hard strawberries, now dominates large parts of the bog. Bog bean flowers where once we did try to have a shallow pond. A stow-away plant from Oxfordshire, *Ranunculus lingua*, with large clear yellow buttercup flowers, has spread throughout the wetter parts.

At first we meant to have only native plants in the bog but the temptation was too great. Irises of various kinds are now planted along the edges near the garden proper; pheasant eye narcissus grows between the fritillaries and the rushes. Cultivated blueberries may bring us a few fruit in the autumn and Himalayan primulas have seeded in. Dog-wood and willows with coloured winter twigs have joined the native birch, willows and bog myrtle, all of which were almost invisible before we fenced out the grazers. Oh yes! There is a more conventional garden on each side of the bog. Perhaps you will hear more of that in a later issue.

**Judy Poore, August 2004**



*Drawing by Judy*

## *In Praise of the National Health Service*

My day started like any other, but by the end of it I fully appreciated our Health Service.

My appointment at the Doctors was for 12.30p.m. and during my drive from Invermoriston to Fort Augustus my breathing due to Asthma was slowing getting worse, by the time I reached the surgery I felt very ill.

My appointment was with Dr Skeogh and the staff on reception could see I was in distress. From nowhere both District Nurses approached me immediately. Not only did they administer much needed drugs but tried to reassure me that everything would be fine, as you know if you suffer from Asthma the worst thing you can do is panic.

It was then decided by Dr Skeogh that hospital would be the best place so that my condition could be assessed better.

Not long after I was being taken by ambulance by Neil and Kirsteen **who** again were very kind and helpful throughout the whole journey.

Finally I was in hospital for 5 days and cannot fault both the medical treatment and the care, which was given to me during my stay.

So a **THANKYOU** to everyone, where would we be without you.

Elaine Minshull  
Dundreggan.



## **Feis Ghlinn Albainn**

Ever fancied taking up the fiddle, beating the drum, blowing the whistle or having a good blether! With Feis Ghlinn Albainn you can do just that!

Feis Ghlinn Albainn was set up following the successful Summer School Programme, which provided a week of traditional music, as well as outdoor activities to pupils in the local area during the holidays. The summer School Programme was funded from the New Opportunity Fund for three years and it was felt that a way should be found to build on those foundations and look at other means to sustain the programme.

The lack of traditional music tuition in the local area was highlighted and the idea took off! The Feis offers an opportunity for children and adults to learn Fiddle, Whistle, Bodhran, Guitar, Accordion, Chanter and also conversational Gaelic and Gaelic song.

We became a member of Feisean Nan Gaihdeal, widely recognised as one of the most successful community arts initiatives in Scotland.

We offer evening classes in blocks of six weeks, held in Kilchuimen Academy and Primary school three times a year. In 2005 we will be running a weeklong summer programme of traditional music for school pupils, continuing the good work of The Summer School, and we are in the early stages of planning an adult weekend workshop, more details will be available soon.

In July this year we held a fundraising concert in Glenmoriston Millennium Hall featuring some of the Highlands' best-known artists. The concert was very well attended and we plan to have another next year.

So whether you are 8 or 80, whatever your ability, why not come along to the next block of classes?

For further information please contact

**Sharon Fraser 01809 501451 or  
Christine Pinkerton 01320 366476**

## Congratulations: -

Go to three lasses, who were brought up and went to school in the Glen.

Two of them have married this summer. Very best wishes for their future happiness go to Michele Smith, who came back to Dalchriecart for her wedding and to Jennifer Macdonald from Achnarconeran, who was married in Inverness and will shortly be moving to Cyprus to live.

And a resounding, "Well done!" (even as we dig deep into our pockets for our sponsorship!) to Connie "The Post" Macdonald, who has shed a fantastic 28 lbs and added around £1,000 to "Plan UK" and its Bolivian health centre project.

## Partnership for Rural Inverness and Nairn

This small but effective and user-friendly offshoot of Inverness and Nairn Enterprise held a seminar on Biodiversity in Glenmoriston Hall in September. PRIN's purpose is to inspire and help local groups to carry out projects **they** see as important; i.e. a bottom up approach to public spending and, moreover one which strives to act **with** other agencies such as Natural Heritage Scotland and Health Services, rather than in a parallel universe.

Support can be advice on set-up, running etc, but is mainly financial, grants being available particularly for Biodiversity, Environmental and Heritage matters. To encourage the uptake, PRIN has been carrying out something called Community Participatory Assignments (referred to, as you might guess, as CPAs). Although you might be inclined to switch off at such a name, do have a second thought when a CPA comes to Fort Augustus in October.

**Summer edition: 84 copies sold**