

*The Original*

**M**oriston  
**Matters**



*February 05*



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

*No 68*

*40p*

# **Editorial Page**

**A very happy and healthy 2005 to you all**

In spite of the long queues and that frantic last minute shop for at least one present you had forgotten to buy, we the team hope you had a wonderful festive season.

While you all have been enjoying yourselves the team have been out and about looking for that last piece of news to fill this addition of Moriston Matters. Hope you enjoy the results.

This will be our third edition and we hope there will be many more but remember the magazine is yours, without your interest, be it either a contribution to the magazine or by purchasing one, then there would be no magazine needed, so please tell us what you like or dislike about it.

Finally we are now in the winter season (as if you needed reminding), this is the time to remember our elderly residents of the Glen. So if there is someone near you who is elderly, why not call just to see if they are OK I'm sure they will appreciate it.

Any contributions or comments on this addition and future additions please contact

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# Letters to the Editor



The following letter was received from Iain Duncan, Burnside, Dalcaitig.  
Dear Editor.

Did you see Jekyll and Hyde on the 5<sup>th</sup> November in the Glenmoriston Hall? Then if you didn't you missed a superb performance by Mull Theatre. A top quality cast of six actors, well five actors and one actress, backed up by a single yet clever set and some first class lighting, portrayed nine characters in this gripping and very clever adaptation of the R.L. Stevenson classic story. They created a very tense and, at times, a sombre and almost menacing atmosphere which was picked up by the near capacity audience. Even though I know the story well I found myself becoming more and more involved with what was happening on stage and had no problems with "the willing suspension of disbelief".

Yes, a fine evening's entertainment and to whoever was responsible for bringing this to Glenmoriston may I say "Thank you, please bring us more theatre and especially Mull Theatre."

Response from Pan

Thank YOU for taking your time to write. We are working on the programme for this year and, if all goes according to initial plans, we shall be seeing Mull Theatre in the Glen again this year. They are not touring in 2005 with a purely adult drama but are putting their energies into a full-scale family production of "Katy Morag", based on the Hebridean stories, of Mairi Hedderwick. If you can't borrow a child to bring with you, come anyway: adults will find much to enjoy. Expected end of September.

We have also booked "**The Emperor's Opera**" by another excellent Scottish Company, Bench Tours, in early June. Set in the foyer of a Hotel somewhere in Eastern Europe, this contemporary farce has the search for identity in the new Europe as a theme, as well as the eagerly anticipated new opera.

**To: the Editor, Glenmoriston Matters**

**From: the Facilitator in charge of Mitigating the Deleterious Effects Of  
Weather Systems (F M DEWS)**

Dear Editor Person.

It as come to my attention as a result of the Community Survey that certain inhabitants of Glenmoriston have lodged complaints about the weather.

It will be to their advantage to know that certain inclement parts of Scotland are now eligible to apply to the Beneficent lottery Distributors for large sums of money to be allocated - in a new set of initiatives- to provide buffer systems between the weather and citizens.

Suggestions are called for suitable appliances, for example along the lines of:

A Bush (USA) shield to cover the Glen in a plastic zone.

A Glenable (as opposed to a Global) fan to be located at the western end of the Glen, say between Cluannie and Ceannacroc to take pre-emptive action to divert the clouds and midges elsewhere.

A Borehole to release the bounteous supply of igneous heat below our feet.

Other suggestions most welcome, especially with details of their application and positioning - preferably before the next issue of this magazine. Maybe it will be possible to issue a consultation paper leading to a participatory community debate with the objective of generating visionary strategy and formalising an approach to obtaining a grant for climatic amelioration.

Yours hopefully,

FMDews. J. U. P.

The Editor humbly admits to lacking the qualifications necessary to answer this request but strongly urges those with a technological bent to respond.

# Partnership for Rural Inverness & Nairn

Following on from the last issue of Moriston Matters, many of us now know what a CPA is i.e. people bringing round a questionnaire which asked us to rate Glenmoriston from 0-10. That wasn't too difficult but then came the tricky bit: we had to think why we hadn't given it 0 (i.e. all the good things about the Glen) and why we hadn't given it 10 (i.e. all the bad things). Printed resumes gave a flavour of what people said and a fuller list is available and of particular interest to those who must try to improve the locality in the light of our criticisms and suggestions: i.e. our Community Council.

Research like this is useful, giving a chance for opinions to be aired and for Councillors to hear what changes people would like and what they would like to remain untouched. People being individuals and none more so than in Glenmoriston quite a few items on the **hate** list were balanced by identical ones on the love list: more street lighting as against appreciation of low light pollution; more for tourists to do as against too many tourists; no affordable housing as against more houses for young people and families; build more amenities as against not wanting to spoil the beauty and peace or disturb the wildlife.

So, not always clear in which direction the Community Council should aim to move and it does appear rather a tall order to expect any action on some points. Indeed it might gently be suggested to those who cited midges, weather, isolation, distance from work, poor TV reception and the small number of shops as problems, that life in a Highland Glen is not for them? Also, providing more and cheaper petrol stations and eating places or a NHS dentist or stopping power cuts are surely beyond the remit of our Community Council?

High on the list of priorities is more activities for youngsters. Coincidentally, at the very time the questionnaire was being brought round, one member of the Glen, who has held together a very popular Youth Club for primary age children for 5 years, was struggling to find people willing to help and that Club has had to close. (Hopefully, only temporally. See inside back page) Highland Council Youth Worker, Sally Tattum, will be approached for advice and practical assistance in hopefully starting up something new. Local help will be an essential element, however.

Recycling of a variety of waste products has been asked for and bins are in fact, scheduled to arrive shortly in Invermoriston car park. Although excellent in theory, the potential for mess is also there and this, together with litter left in lay-bys and along the bum between the shop and old Smithy is a matter to be addressed. The Community Council can assert some pressure but perhaps there is some place for local action.

Opening up of blocked rights of way and some new walking routes, together with repair/rehabilitation of ancient monuments, were also matters of concern. First steps have already been taken with the re-formation of Glenmoriston Heritage Group. If these matters are of interest to you or if you simply want to share local research into the historical background of the area, contact Mike Alien on 351228 or watch the notice boards for details of meetings.

Transport remains a thorny problem with bus timetables so difficult to change and a very small customer base. The Community Council is looking into the possibility of more use being made of the school bus runs but anything more would require volunteer commitment, e.g. to own and run a local minibus, (as Strathnairn has done) or arrange a rota of private cars.

The big questions of hydro power, windfarms and giant pylons remain with us. Keeping up-to-date and trying to exert the right pressure for the optimum good of the whole Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston area are huge matters for the Community Council.

At the moment the Glendoe Scheme has been rescheduled and will have little direct effect on Glenmoriston, except for the construction traffic, which will be travelling along the A82 between Inverness and Fort Augustus.

The public Planning Meeting for Achlane **Estates** windfarms will be **held** at the Millennium Hall on April 7

Watch the notice board. Decisions on **pylon** lines **are still pending**.

Many of our hopes and fears are being looked at in one way or another and there are many instances of strong communal action being effective. This is particularly true when residents oppose something they see as spoiling the area, e.g. mobile phone masts, giant pylons, windfarms; but it also happens in ways which promote community. A few residents in Dalchreichart tried just that with a pre Christmas party in the old School; another group are pulling together a big fund-raising effort for the tsunami disaster victims; and the PAN group, the Committees for the TV Club, the over 60s the Children and the Village Hall all put a lot of effort into giving our strung-out Glen, a focus. Nick, Hazel and Dave at the Hotel put on events to tempt us to come out and enjoy ourselves and George and Caroline at the Shop provide us not only with the necessities of life but a place to meet our neighbours.

Of course, normal acts of neighbourliness go on all the time (many mentioned this in the questionnaire) and many individuals do small often unnoticed bits to keep our Glen pleasant, but some people still feel isolated, some regret there is little to do, that more help is needed for the elderly, more family fun events are needed, the grass needs cutting in the car park, a flower garden would be nice at the end etc. etc. Two questions occur to me and I'm going to stick my head over the parapet and ask them: are we appreciating what is being done and making use of what we do have? And if we made a resolution to take action when we see a need, would all the gaps in the wish list be filled?

**Margaret Alien.**

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## Hall Matters

After a busier than usual December and January, (which saw 3 dances, 2 parties, Carol Service, Burns Supper, fiddle concert and pantomime), things are getting back to normal - almost. There is one big event to come-the grand fund-raising event for the tsunami disaster victims on February 5<sup>th</sup> which may already have taken place by the time of publication. 3 clubs have already restarted : Bowls on Monday at 2 pm and 7 pm, Badminton on Tuesday at 8pm (usual days and times); and Scottish Dance now on WEDNESDAY at 7.30pm. The craft club is in abeyance at the moment but it is hoped to arrange a number of craft master classes. Watch for posters.

# A 'Crabbit Old Woman'

This poem was found by the Nursing staff whilst going through the possessions of a patient who had died the day before.

What do you see nurses, what do you see? What are you thinking when you are looking at me.

A Crabbit old woman, not very wise. Uncertain of habit, with far-away eyes?

Who dribbles her food and makes no reply when you say in a loud voice - " I do wish you'd try " .

Who seems not to notice the things that you do, and forever is losing a stocking or shoe.

Who unresisting or not, lets you do as you will, with bathing and feeding, the long day to fill.

Is that what you're thinking, is that what you see? Then open your eyes - nurse, you are not looking at me.

I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still; as I move at you're bidding, as I eat at your will.

I'm a small child often with a father and mother, brothers and sisters who love one another.

A young girl of sixteen with wings on her feet, dreaming that soon now a lover she'll meet;

A bride soon at twenty - my heart gives a leap, remembering the vows that I promised to keep;

At twenty-five now I have young of my own, who need me to build a secure, happy home;

A woman of thirty, my young now grow fast, bound to each other with ties that should last;

At forty my young sons will soon be all gone, but my man stays beside me to see I don't mourn;

At fifty once more babies play round my knee, again we know children my loved one and me.

Dark days upon me, my husband is dead. I look at the future I shudder with dread. For my young are all busy rearing young of their own and I think of the years and the love that, I've known.



I'm an old woman now and nature is cruel- 'Tis her jest to make old age look like a fool.

The body it crumbles, grace and vigour depart. There is now a stone where I once had a heart.

But inside this old carcass a young girl still dwells, and now and again my battered heart swells.

I remember the joys, I remember the pain and I'm loving and living life all over again.

I think of the years all too few-gone too fast and accept the stark fact that nothing can last.

So open your eyes, nurses, open and see, not a Crabbit old woman, look closer - **SEE ME**

## The Extension

When Leslie and Vince bought their house,  
Vince remarked, it's too small for a mouse!

An extension I'll build,  
For that gap must be filled,  
To satisfy me and my spouse!

So he got out his ladder straightway.  
And slogged on the job every day,  
The house grew and grew,  
But poor Leslie, she knew  
That he'd not get it finished by May

So Leslie just watched the house grow,  
As she sat on the patio below,  
At last he cried, "Done! -  
It's too late for the sun,  
But it's finished in time for the snow!"

Hi, Kids here's your very own slot  
in Moriston Matters! Do keep  
sending in your contributions  
stories, poems, pictures - whatever  
& see your bit (and your name) in print  
(Phone Mave on 351326

# CHILDRENS CORNER



*This is me – Josie Wyatt, P.7.*

My name is Josie Wyatt and I am 10 years old. I live in Glenmoriston next to the Redburn cafe. My birthday is the 19<sup>th</sup> of September and I have a forest as part of my garden. I am in P.7.

My mum is a maths teacher in the secondary school. Her name is Jill Wyatt. My dad works on the canal as a lock keeper. He opens up the gates on the canal to let the boats go through. His name is Tony Wyatt. Both of my parents come from England. I have one brother and one sister. My brother is Robbie (or Robert) Wyatt. He is 9 and mad about computers. My sister is 5 and is called Melanie Wyatt. I am the oldest child in the family including all of my cousins I know. My best friends are Catriona Knott, Iona Hounsom, Stephenie Sutton, Jenny Grey, Martha Carr and Christina Stephenson. I have known Christina the longest and Stephanie the shortest but really I know them all very well. I just enjoy hanging out with them and chatting to them about lots of things.

My favourite food is salad and I hate macaroni cheese and haggis. Chocolate is my favourite thing that's sweet with nuts coming close behind. My friends think I'm mad that I like vegetables and not mince. I like the bands Busted and Mcfly but I'm not sure about rappers and the likes of that. I'm not into running or anything and prefer playing my music but I do like swimming, abseiling and riding my bike.

My Hobbies include reading, playing musical instruments and making lunch. My favourite author is Meg Cabot who writes the princess diaries. Another book I enjoyed was Bridget Jones's diary. I play the brodhran, the penny whistle and the recorder. I am best at the brodhran and I am going to lessons on Monday here. Making the lunch may sound strange but I enjoy it and it's good practice for when I'm older. I'm also going to cooking classes on Tuesdays.

My ambition is to be a dog breeder because I love animals and the dog is my favourite. I have a pet called Kerry who is half blind and very old. Kerry is a tri-coloured collie, which is one of the types I want to breed. I think my strengths in school are maths and writing because my mum is a maths teacher and I just love to write. I think my main weakness in school is problem solving because I find it very difficult. I always try to do my problem but sometimes it's too hard and sometimes I make mistakes with my writing and maths.

## **BOY COP! (AT LARGE!)**

Jake entered the police building looking for his Father. Jake was ten years old and his dad was a policeman. Jake loved watching his father at work. Jake wanted to be a policeman when he was grown-up. "Jake? Is that you? I've told you not to come here while I'm working."

"Yeah I know dad. can I look at the case files?"

"Whatever, just don't bother me."

Jake opened the drawer of the files and picked his favourite one out, The Citizen. Jake found a chair and got to work reading the small writing. Just then the phone rang. Jake's father jumped up and picked up the phone, it was a distress call.

To be continued     **By Catriona Knott.**

At the time of going to press Jack Drum Arts' production of Red Riding Hood will have taken place, in the Millennium Hall. The Pan team would like to take this opportunity to thank the children at Kilchuimen School Fort Augustus for helping us with our publicity. We have enjoyed the colourful display of posters in the Hall. Three winners from our poster competition were awarded with free tickets for the performance. Thank you also to the Head Teacher and the Art Teacher.

# Living at Alltsaigh

We came here 15yrs ago, created a garden to fit in with the surrounding environment (wild and disorderly!). It continues to be an interesting and time-consuming project but it has in the main been a case of, if it flourishes, let it stay. This seems to work.

The mixture of shrubs, perennials, herbs and wild flowers and vegetables provides a haven for an abundance of wildlife. We have the resident birds blackbirds, chaffinches (various), great tits, bluetits, coaltits, robins, dunnocks, wrens, hoodie crow nests up the back. Sparrow hawk pays occasional visits; we photographed a young one, sat on the bird-table roof. Tawny owls at night; woodpecker - early spring onwards; great grey heron performs his majestic flight up the burn. The buzzards - you hear them before you see them. They perform an aerial ballet early spring, before pairing off to their individual nest-sites.

Others seen frequently - tree-creepers, wagtails (grey and pied). Thrushes from early February. Wood warblers, tree pippits, gold crest siskins - flocks in early spring. Pipistrelle bats are about on warm evenings; occasionally one is found inside, if the door is left open!

Various insects - bumble bees, wild bees, wasps, spiders, demoiselles, dragonflies and many varieties of butterflies. We had an influx of butterflies on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2003. Mid-afternoon they descended. There were Painted Ladies, Red Admirals and a great many Peacock butterflies, which have become quite rare. We took photos of these, as we couldn't believe our eyes. Bumblebees, meanwhile, were gathering on the flowering cherries. I Counted 22 bees and a few small ones.

We have newts in the pond, frogs and toads in the garden. An occasional lizard and many slow worms (legless lizards) Wood mice and voles in the bank, and weasel nests in the old wall. We have moles - we photographed them above ground, when they were starting their excavations.

The red squirrel is a regular visitor. It is amazing to watch them gather hazelnuts - they "fly" in and out with such speed and accuracy. We have photos of a young one feeding with the birds outside the back door.

The pine marten is another regular visitor. Over the years we have watched and photographed them. They raise their young, move on, and leave the young ones to take over. The female teaches the young ones where to find food in order to survive. Father has been given his marching orders as soon as the young are weaned.

We feel very privileged to live her in this beautiful area. The changing seasons never cease to amaze. There are many visitors who pass by, walking or cycling the Great Glen. These young folk come from far and wide. They appreciate the Highlands and Scotland in general, and are not looking for McDonald's or Disneyland. They even cope with the wet and - THE MIDGES! But then-the Highlands wouldn't be the same without them, would they?

**Lillian Gell**

**NESS RIVER RHYTHM KINGS**  
**Glenmoriston Millennium Hall**

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 05

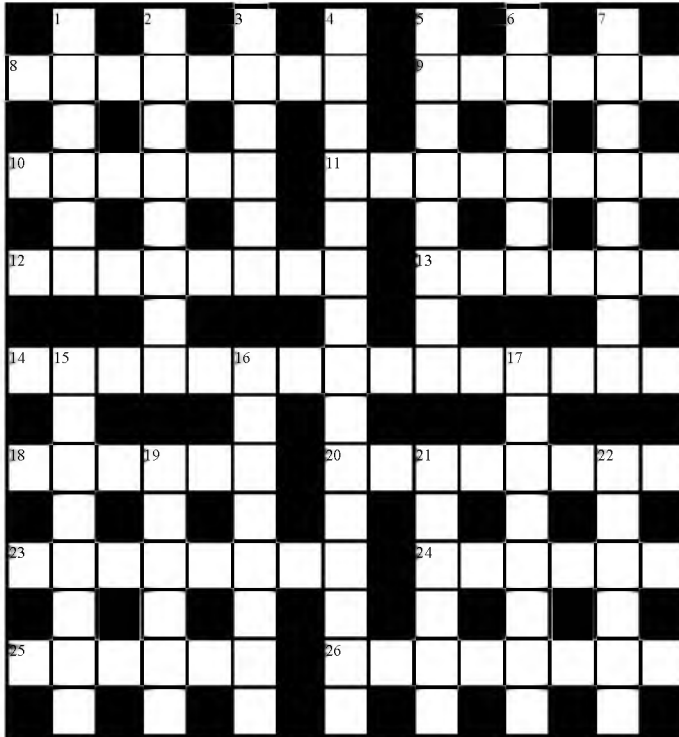
Food in the style of the Southern States of America

Tickets £10.00 including Food.

**Keep this date in your diary.**

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

EACH OF THE 26 ANSWERS BEGINS WITH A DIFFERENT LETTER . USE THE ANSWERS TO THE GIVEN CLUES TO START COMPLETING THE REMAINING CLUES



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

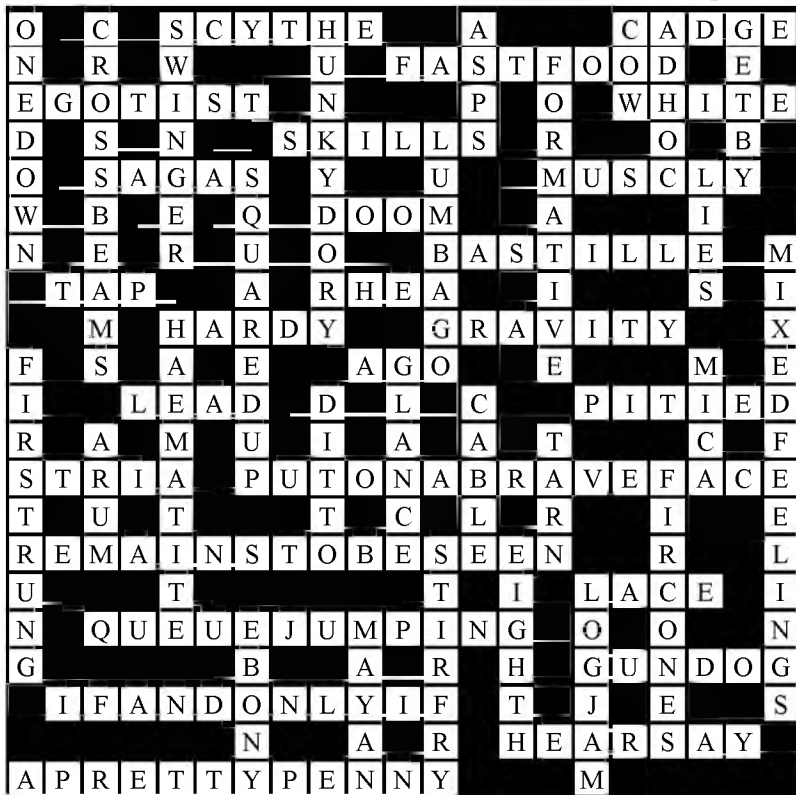
**A C R O S S**

8	17	13	5	5						(8)								
9	22	9	11	17	7	1					(6)							
10	15	2	26	5	11						(6)							
11	22	7	1	21	7	11	2	17	2	7	26	11	(8)					
12	11	24	5	17	22	8							(8)					
13	1	5	18	20	15								(6)					
14	O	F		N	O		B	L	O	O	D	S	T	R	E	A	M	ANAGRAM (5,4,1,5)
18	21	5	13	2	15													(6)
20	5	26	17	13	20	26	22	5										(8)
23	W	A	R		K	I	T	E	S									ANAGRAM (5-3)
24	13	5	1	20	13	24												(6)
25	20	13	20	14														(6)
26	8	7	24	9	1													(8)

**D O W N**

1	2	26	17	5	19	5	13	11											(6)	
2	2	26	11	2	26	9	20	17	2	7	26								(8)	
3	11	7	22	2	20	15		19	13	7	9	21							(3,3)	
4	11	5	20	11	7	26	20	15		20	18	7	13	26	1	5	26	17	11	(4,11)
5	E	L	A	T	I	O	N													(8)
6	22	20	21	2	17	20	15		7	16		22	13	7	20	17	2	20	(6)	
7	7	26	5		5	2	19	8	17	8		26	5	19	13	7				(8)
15	5	11	22	20	21	5	11													(8)
16	11	8	5	5	17															(8)
17	14	7	17	8	5	13	11													(8)
19	16	5	15	15	7	23														(6)
21	3	20	14	14	2	26	19													(6)
22	1	7	11	17		20	17	17	13	20	22	17	2	12	5					(6)

## Answers to Crossword in Autumn 04 Magazine



Sadly No one got this completely correct, although several were very close.

So no free editions of Moriston Matters this time.

Hope this doesn't stop you all trying Alan's Latest offering.

## Solution to cryptic Word Quiz (Summer 04)

- |                |                     |                  |
|----------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. ANSWER      | 6. EVERGREEN        | 11. SHOOTINGSTAR |
| 2. ROSEMARY    | 7. ONE-ARMED BANDIT | 12. THINKING     |
| 3. SELECT      | 8. OTTER            | 13. MADRIGALS    |
| 4. T.S.ELIOT   | 9. MONSOON          | 14. IRELAND      |
| 5. ROCK GARDEN | 10. NESTLING        | 15. TOENAIL      |

Famous Name MORISTON MATTERS

First correct entry and recipient of a free copy of Moriston Matters is Alan Smart



## *Cookery Corner*

### *John Minshuir's Nut Roast with stuffing*

A sixth of a cup/30g/1oz of vegan margarine

2 sticks of celery finely chopped

1 medium leek, finely chopped

1 and a half cups of hot water

1 teaspoon of yeast extract (marmite, vegemite etc.)

3 cups/550g/16oz of ground cashew nuts (or other nuts of your choice

almonds work well too)

2 tablespoons of soya flour

2 teaspoons of fresh herbs - winter savour is great (1tsp dried)

3 cups/160g/6oz of white bread crumbs

Seasalt and pepper to taste.

Sage and onion stuffing.

Melt the margarine (in a large pan for mixing) and cook the celery and leek in it for a few minutes. Mix the yeast extract into the hot water and add this to the leek and celery. Stir in the soya flour, nuts, herbs, breadcrumbs and salt and pepper and mix well. Allow to cool slightly while you grease a loaf tin. Place half the nut roast mixture in the tin and press down well-then add the sage and onion stuffing (pressing down well again) and place the rest of the nut roast mixture on top.

Bake in the oven for about 40 minutes at 180/360 then turn out of the tin and slice.

This goes down well with **our carnivorous guests.**

# Musical events from PAN

Three concerts of widely differing music are planned for this year and the first is a trad jazz evening on 5<sup>th</sup> March 05. The very popular Ness **River Rhythm Kings** will be on stage, while some of the versatile PAN people will be in the kitchen preparing food with the genuine taste of the Southern States. So you can wine and dine and enjoy the music - and feel like you're in New Orleans!

**Tickets £10.00 including meal**

Five years after they last appeared, we are hoping to see a return of the **Blazin' Fiddles**. Negotiations are at an early stage but expect them in July/August.

Finally, for our classical devotees, we are continuing with our reputation for internationally recognised musicians, when we welcome **Moscow's Tchaikovsky Quartet** on November 24

On waking up the next day the writers of the ditty below wished they had not handed it in. **But too late!**

## **Drunken Dalcattaig Ditty**

West Dalcattaig were having a party

The neighbours were soon feeling hearty

They tried to make rhymes

# Youth club

As you are aware by now, the club has come to a temporary halt. I have decided to give up running the club. This has been planned for some time and during this time I have made it known that my finishing would mean someone taking over from me if the club was to be continued.

The club is well used and the kids seem to enjoy what they do when they come along. Well equipped the club offers the following activities; basketball, indoor ball games, table tennis, snooker, craftwork and music. Parents on the whole are great supporters of the club and most help on the rota during each term.

As I am not a youth worker the club is run on a voluntary basis. There is I know a pay structure, which is available through the Culture and Leisure Department of the Highland Council. This would be looked into should this be an incentive to take the club on.

The club is insured through the association per year and is currently covered until the end of June when the club would usually finish for the summer. All relevant events that the association runs are posted out on a regular basis therefore giving the club plenty of opportunity to meet other youngsters from various areas.

A meeting will be held to put any new adult members forward or as a very last resort to fold the club.

**Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 7.00pm. Invermoriston Hall.**

Jean Curley  
Secretary.

From Editorial Team Moriston Matters.

We would like to take this opportunity on behalf of Glennioriston Community to thank Jean for the Syears commitment she has given to the youth club. We would ask any adult interested in carrying on with the good work to contact us and we will pass your name to Jean.

## Information sought about the History Of the Summer House / Falls Wood

Although there is no news on those responsible for the fire, which seriously damaged the summerhouse in Falls Wood, there is definite hope for its reinstatement. Glen Lodge Estate is planning to have this graceful little building repaired and to include an information plaque at the site. If you know anything at all about its history, could you please contact the editors of the Heritage Group or Glenmoriston Lodge Estate direct.

**THE PAINTING CLASS** is hoping to continue this spring, though our numbers are rather low at present, and we need a few new recruits to make our weekly meetings viable under the Highland Council scheme. So if -there's anyone out there with artistic inclinations, do get in touch - we need you!

**Contact Mave Ersu 351326**

### **Over 60s dinner & dance**

Yet another successful party held at the Millennium Hall. On behalf of the village we send special thanks to Alan, Christina, Christine and John for organising this event.

Special thanks also to Paul Draper for his expertise in the Kitchen along with all the girls on tables. And, not forgetting Allan Common and Jonathan Henderson of The Worthies, who kept us entertained all evening. Thanks again everyone.

### **Final Note**

We sold 95 copies of our Autumn 04 Issue - Than you all for your support