

The Original

Moriston
Matters



Autumn 05



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

No 70

40p

Dear Readers

Welcome to our 5th edition of The Original Moriston Matters. We, on the editorial team, are delighted with the steady increase in sales, from 86, first issue, 95, 2nd issue, 100, 3rd issue to 120, 4th issue.

We thank all of you all who bought a copy for yourselves, or to send to friends or family. We would also like to give a special thank you to the Village Shop, and the Glenmoriston Hotel & Tavern, for providing us with outlets for sale to the public. Our thanks also to Lee at the Tavern for being such an enthusiastic and successful sales lady.

The Original Moriston Matters is a community Newsletter and as the sales indicate, the community seems to like it. What the editorial team would like is more input from YOU the readers. The newsletter will not flourish if contributions always come from the same few people. We need greater variety and interest. So come on !! Have you got a good story to tell ? some reflections on life ? An amusing anecdote ? some historical information ? No?! well maybe you can write poems, limericks, or produce word games and puzzles? Have you a hobby, an overriding passion in life i.e. old cars, football, natural history, whatever ! you could share with others. So come on residents of Invermoriston and Glenmoriston, put pen to paper and amaze us with your multiple skills.

All, with no exception, could write a letter to tell us what is wrong with the Original Moriston Matters even, hopefully, what is right with it.

We really would like to hear from YOU (though not all at once). And YOU and HIM and HER and THEM and EVERYBODY.

Editorial Team

Elaine

Mave

Margaret

Sylvia

We thank the sender of the E-Mail pointing out the proximity of the children's page and an article containing some very modest but "bad language". We accept the criticism and acknowledge that we are all relatively new to our editorial jobs and have a lot to learn.

We would appreciate full names on any correspondence or articles for publication.

Sylvia Andrews - Editor

June 2005

Dear Hall committee

We just happened to visit your village and found out about your
"THE EMPERORS OPERA"

CONGRATULATIONS !!!

What a wonderful production it was, AND We love the CELLO.

It was a treat for us visiting your beautiful country

Sincerely Robert and Katherine Boulder, Colorado, USA

It's good to get such positive feed back on an event in the hall. We are glad you enjoyed the performance of "the Emperors Opera" and that it helped to make your holiday such a wonderful one. Thank you for taking the trouble to write to us all the way from the USA. Editor

Readers ! - Did Robert and Katherine stay with you ? If so perhaps you could give us their surname.

Sponsored Paint A small bunch of locals had a very different weekend on Saturday 10th September. They were doing a sponsored paint, a "Go Wild" event for the Born Free Foundation on Eilean Ban, the island made famous by Gavin Maxwell. The group left for Skye in the morning and returned a few happy hours later at tea-time. Not only were the views lovely, but the island was a great place to paint!



Roughly £265.00 was raised by the group for the Born Free Foundation.. A big thank you to those who took part. Catriona Knott

Music in Glenmoriston

August 11th saw another visit to the Village Hall of the Blazin' Fiddles. We knew it would be good but would it be well supported? It was in the holiday season but would the tourists come? Should we put out tables as well as chairs to give a more relaxed atmosphere...but really to make the Hall seem less empty! There was no need to worry. At 7.30 they - you-were steaming in and by 8 more chairs had to be found and the Hall was packed.

From the moment the players sounded the first note we knew we were in for a feast of music - toe-tapping fast, incredible skill and tangible enjoyment. The many numbers; some solo, some recently composed, some tranquil and most traditional with increasing speed and mounting crescendo swept us into to one enraptured whole. We applauded and applauded and applauded.

Another thoroughly successful visit from this rightly popular group, who came to Glenmoriston after playing in the London Proms. At last it had to end. They sent everyone home with a tune in their heads.

The last musical event of the Glenmoriston Musical season will be a visit by the Tchaikovsky String Quartet from Moscow. We will be delighted to welcome back Vitaly Mironov who brought us the Moscow Chamber Orchestra in May 2002.

They gave a most successful concert. This time it will be a smaller group but one which will give us another chance to hear Russian and other classical music played in the uniquely Russian way and sweep us into the spirit of that great nation.

**COME AND JOIN US IN A RUSSIAN MUSICAL
EVENING ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25th (note date) AT
8PM IN GLENMORISTON VILLAGE HALL.**

There's no accounting for Computers

I have long cherished the idea of having a little painting studio in my garden. I found just what I was looking for in a D.I. Y. Catalogue in the form of a small wooden summerhouse kit. I also discovered that items up to £400 were charged £20 extra for delivery, but that shipment was free for anything over this amount. I foresaw a slight problem, as the price of my kit was £399.00

I duly phoned the D.I. Y. company to place my order, and the following conversation ensued between myself (me) and a salesman (him).

Me: Can the delivery charge be waived or can I pay an extra £1.00 and get it free?

Him: No, you have to pay the extra £20, I'm afraid - it's the computers
You see.....

Me: Well can I buy another small item to bring it up to the £400.00

Him: Yes - what would you like?

Me: I'll have one of those nice terracotta flower pots.

Him: Sorry, but we don't deliver those; you have to buy them in the store.

Me: Well, what do you suggest?

Him: Well, what would you like?

Me: Nothing really-just suggest something.

Him: What about an extra door-knob for £2.38?

Me: O.K. that'll do-just what I've always wanted.

Him: Right, that'll cost a total of £401.38.

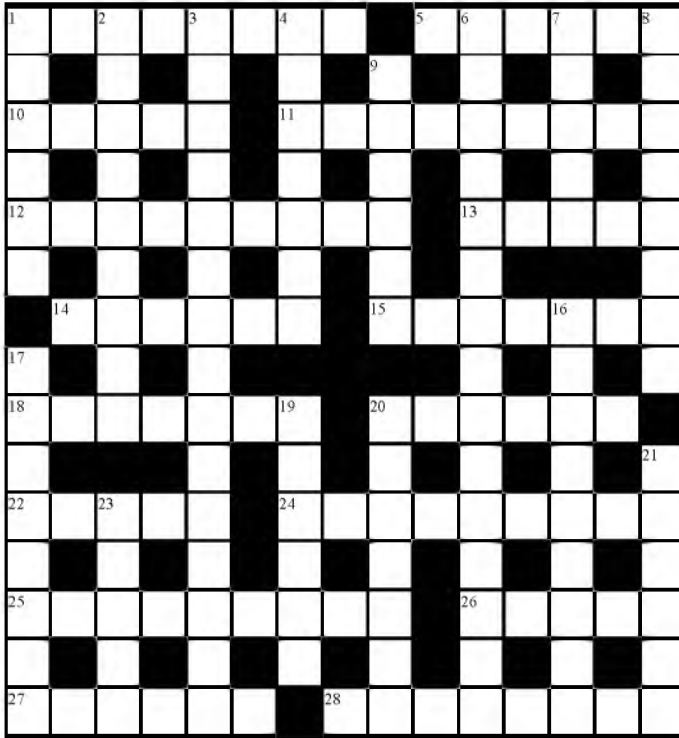
Me: Good. When will they be delivered?

Him: The kit will take 21 working days, but the knob will arrive sooner.

Me: Oh goody!..... Hey, wait a minute - do you mean to say that in order to save me £20.00 delivery charge you have to send out two vehicles with these two items?

Him: Well, er, yes -you see, it's the computers.....

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Established. (8)
5. Sad. (6)
10. Animal. (5)
11. Call. (9)
12. Height. (9)
13. Happening. (5)
14. Dishes. (6)
15. Player. (7)
18. Substitute. (7)
20. Irrigates. (6)
22. Puppets. (5)
24. Being. (9)
25. Positive. (9)
26. Empties. (5)
27. Pastry. (6)
28. Communications. (8)

DOWN

1. Idler. (6)
2. Canopies. (9)
3. Attributes. (15)
4. Debuts. (7)
6. Agents. (15)
7. Sphere. (5)
8. Animal. (8)
9. Organs. (6)
16. Rearing. (9)
17. Created. (8)
19. Team. (6)
20. Instrument. (7)
21. Animals. (6)
23. Cloth. (5)

Here are the solutions to the Crossword in our June Newsletter.
I'm sorry to say no one got the whole thing correct.
Try the one on the page opposite, Alan informs me that it's not too difficult.

Across: 1. ill in bed 5. petals 9. anagram. 10. aloft 11. impugners
12. escape 13. duvet 16. theft 18. seraph 2. L a i r guitar 22. epoxy
24. tother 25. demeaned.

Down: 1. iceman 2. lapdogs 3. nightmare 4. ebbside 6. airiest 7. semisoft
8. hopped 14. vertebrae 15. broadest 16. tartest 17. tithes 18.
sardine 19. pronoun 20. myriad

CRYPTIC WORD QUIZ

Solve the following cryptic clues. The initial letters of your answers should spell the name of a famous Scotsman.

1. Celebrity hunter (8,4)
2. Nudges the Spanish with fiddlesticks (6)
3. Warnings from US city surrounded by weapons (6)
4. Tidy net contains note (4)
5. Flower is a winner without gas (7)
6. Shuffle, deal or get a frightening experience (6)
7. Material found in US and GB fashion capitals (5)
8. Information gathered from every direction (4)
9. Electricity added to young love causes decay (7)
10. Vegetables from ceramic exhibits at gallery (8)
11. Frightened? - Cry out! (6)

Name of Scotsman: - - - - / - - - - - - - -

Please try our crossword or cryptic word quiz, you never know you might get your name in print; we will announce the winners in our next newsletter.

Children's Page

Here's a nice easy riddle for you kids. Come on, send in your answers, & the first correct one opened will receive a mystery prize!

The letter that's first you'll discover in FISH,
My second's in DINNER & also in DISH;
My third's not in RAIN, but you'll find it in DEW,
My fourth is in PADDLE but not in CANOE.
My fifth is in GIRL, but is absent in BOY
My sixth is a letter you'll find in ENJOY.
And now, from the clues which are found in this **riddle**,
Discover the answer - you'll find it's a

.....
Answers to Mave Ersu - Aim Fairdean, Invermoriston.
Don't forget, Name, Address, and Age.

Boy Cop (At Large)

The Story so far: Jake's ambition is to become a Crime Detective like his father. He is in his dad's office when the phone rings. Determined to become involved, he pretends to go home, but hides outside. Then he hears a scream.....

Episode 3 (conclusion)

Boy Cop (At large)

Jake's body numbed at the sound of that scream. Jake's legs failed to move forward. After a few seconds a faint banging could be heard. Jake's legs at last, obeyed. He rushed up to find a group of roughly ten armed police officers. In their midst, his forgotten father. The thumping grew until.. .CRASH! The door fell down! Jake saw a dim and horrible looking room. A faint light glowed from the light fitting, once pink flowery wallpaper now hung in shreds around the bare grey walls. An old fireplace and painting were the only signs of care and love for the now grim room. But they just seemed to add to the gloom which the room held.

Jake stood and took it all in. His eyes fell on a shabby looking man; his hair was down to his waist and was matted and dirty. There was a grey lump in the corner. The man held a gun, pointing at the lump said, "She's not dead....not yet!"

She was the one Jake had heard scream. The armed police charged. Jake heard gun shots. The light went out, it was pitch black. Jake hit the floor and made his way to the girl in the corner. All around him he could hear shouts and gun shots. His hands fell on something soft and warm. It moaned. He started to drag the body to the door. Thump! Bang! The sounds filled the room. At last a door handle. He pulled at it opening the door. A bright light burned into the room showing all. The untidy man was on the floor. There was a bullet hole in his leg. The police who had been wearing bullet proof vests were all ok. The girl opened her eyes, screamed at seeing a body and then fainted.

At the police station Jake was being told off by his dad, "You could have been killed!" "Yeah I know, but I had to get her out of there," replied Jake. "Well you did help I suppose.. .But never do that again!"

Jake took his bike down to the park. The sun was shining. He threw a stone in to the river. A shadow fell on him. It was the girl from the flat, the one he had rescued.

"Hi, I want to thank you for what you did earlier; it was very brave of you. Are you ok?" "Yeah I'm good. Say do you fancy a drink? I could do with one right now."

THE END.

CATRIONA KNOTT

Fair Trade

As a shopper who loves a bargain, I find it difficult to buy Fair Trade produce, simply because it is appreciably more expensive. I'm trying hard to remember that my extra 70p or £1 means the small producer of tea, coffee, sugar, cocoa, fruit etc is paid an amount on which (s)he can better provide for a family. Without this support (s)he is likely to be very vulnerable to market forces, which can deprive families of adequate food, health care and education.

We welcome Sue and Paul Hudson to the Glen and are delighted that, besides cheerfully maintaining Glenmoriston Stores as a very important facility and social centre, they are hoping to continue to sell Fair Trade tea, coffee and biscuits. (And who knows, even expand?) It would be very helpful to them, if everyone who supports their effort to do this could let them know which variety / strength of product they would buy and Sue and Paul can use their limited shelf space effectively.

Please support this initiative if you can; consider it as a donation going directly to the poorest workers in the World.

Margaret Allen

School buses are for public use

A very frequent grumble is the infrequency of buses in this area and, in particular, in the early morning and late evening. For the latter, we can offer little help at the moment but we are currently investigating the use that can be made of school buses. Rapson's, who run these, have confirmed that they are public service buses and that anyone may use them. They have now sent timetables for the Glenmoriston - Fort Augustus run and we include these in this publication. Residents up Glenmoriston can get to Invermoriston in time for the 8.30 bus to Inverness or to Fort Augustus for 9am. If anyone decides to test this out, the editors would love to hear from you.

Loch Ness Express

For those who have never (or not for a long time) been on a boat on Loch Ness, you can now go the length of the Loch from Fort Augustus to Dochfour and return for £25. AND THAT IS NOT ALL.... your fare on this new and subsidised service includes a bus from Dochfour into Inverness bus station and return four hours later. Departure from the Fort is 11.30 am (be there 15 mins early if possible) and return 17.50pm. So why not leave your car in Fort Augustus, (or Invermoriston and take the 10.20 bus!) and take the leisurely and environmentally sound route? Oh, if you are fortunate enough to be 60+ you can travel ABSOUTELY FREE (with travel card). Contact: 0800 3286426 or view at www.lochnessexpress.com

Library

Living in a "remote rural community" with spectacular views, clean air, quiet nights, etc, does have its down side when it comes to services. Lack of library this side of Inverness has been mentioned as one drawback but there is now a public lending library in the High School at Drumnadrochit and a Library Van visits the Glen every fortnight... The latter carries a small but wide, frequently changed, selection of books and the very obliging Librarian will get in requests and will also return books taken out in Inverness or the High School. The Van makes 9 stops here on alternate Mondays but, please note, like so much here, its existence is fragile and wider use would help to keep it operating.

LIBRARY VAN STOPS: Redburn at 12 noon;
Dalchreichart: : old school layby: 12.25pm; notice board: 12.40
Torgoyle: 2.10pm; Ivy Cottage: 2.35; Dundreggan: 3.pm
Invermoriston: Old PO: 3.30; Riverside: 3.55; Car Park ; 4.10

DATES for 2005: Oct 10 and 24; Nov 7 and 21; Dec 5 and 19.

Loch Ness Gun Club

Not everyone will be aware that we have an international sporting facility in Invermoriston: but that is exactly what Loch Ness Gun Club is. David Gillies, Commonwealth Games finalist, has responded to our request for information with the following.

The Gun Club has been in existence for over 35 years and has been at its present site at Bhlaraidh for almost 30. It has gone from a single layout to an Olympic-standard all weather facility. 2005 has been its busiest season to date, with 3 Scottish Championships, 1 Home International Tournament and in July, the British Open Championship. These events were in addition to the normal calendar, which has an event on most weekends, along with club practices on Wednesday evenings during the summer months. It also contributes largely to the local economy, with the British Open Championship alone estimated at over £250,000 and local charities also regularly benefit from the Club's generosity.

Membership approaches 100 but we are always looking for new members both young and old. (Annual fee for adults is £15.00 and, for under 18s and over 65s only £5.00) If you have never tried clay pigeon shooting, why not book a lesson (01320 340341 or ingc@hotmail.co.uk You can also view at www.lochnessgunclub.co.uk If you are passing and see the gates open please call in, we'd love to see as many as possible and show you around. Traditionally, we are closed in October for stalking but will be open most Saturdays from November. The annual Festive Charity Shoot is on 24th December, so please come along, buy a raffle ticket and enjoy the shooting and Hogmanay Bottle Shoot is on - guess - 31st December.

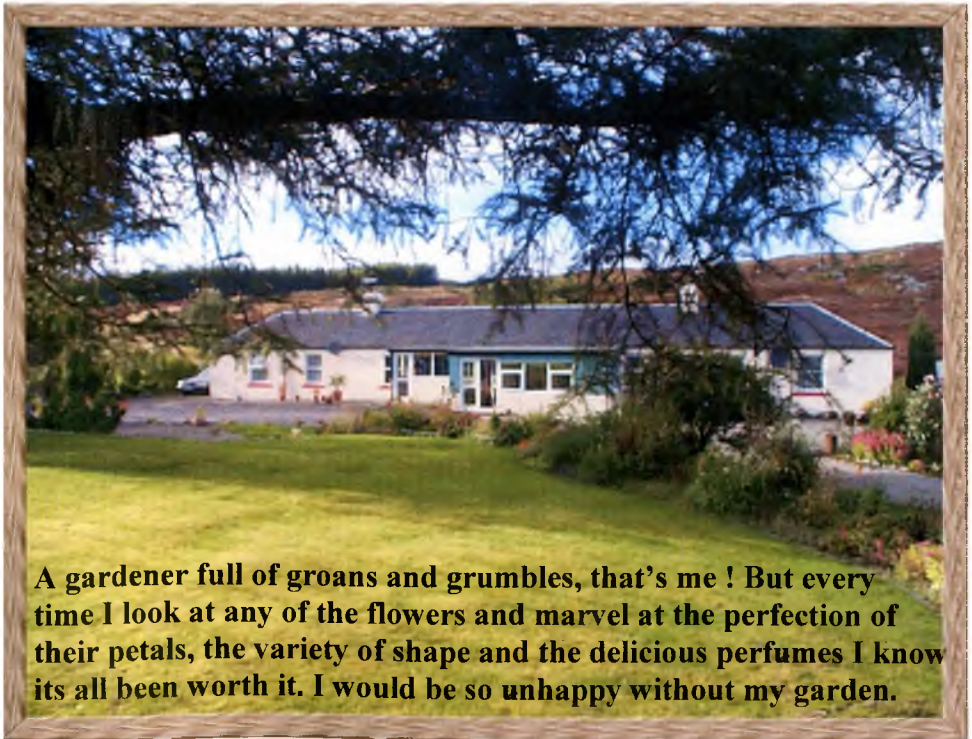
Editorial extra In addition to his skilled handling of Quiz Teams in the Tavern (Thurs at 9pm) and immaculate score-keeping, Derek MacFarlane also used to keep the score at major events at the Gun Club. But this year international rules decreed that computers should be used. A computer and 2 operatives were duly dispatched for the British Open and at the close of the competition they set to work to compute the scores. The crowd waited - and waited. It is rumoured that some went off to get an evening meal but still there was no declaration. Some 3 hours passed before the winners could be announced. Derek used to have the results in 20 minutes.

Garden Thoughts

It's September and my garden thoughts are now turning towards preparations for winter in the garden, but first some reflection on the summer. Well, it hasn't been a bad Summer, I suppose, a fair bit of sunshine and mostly warm. I wonder if it is just me, or a trait of gardeners generally to have never found growing conditions quite right.

My list of complaints starts with the heavy frosts in late May that stripped Acers, Beeches and Larches of their new growth. It took 2 or 3 months for these trees to replace their foliage and look their best, and the larches never did fully recover. They were not helped by the lack of water. Yes! Hard to believe but we've had a bit of a drought up here in Dalchreichart. That's my second grumble. The third is the wind ! We do seem to have had a lot of very strong winds that have bent and broken some plants and left poppies and daisies lying on the ground.

Now we are in September and soon frost will be my enemy and I will be struggling to take the cuttings and collect seeds, and take inside tender plants before they get frosted to death.



A gardener full of groans and grumbles, that's me ! But every time I look at any of the flowers and marvel at the perfection of their petals, the variety of shape and the delicious perfumes I know its all been worth it. I would be so unhappy without my garden.

Spelling and Grammar!!!

The editorial team is well aware that when it comes to proof-reading, we leave a lot to be desired. We offer the following as an explanation for our sometimes wayward efforts.

Four all who Reed and right

We'll begin with a box. And the plural is boxes; but the plural of ox became oxen not oxes.

One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese, yet the plural of moose should never be meese.

You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice; yet the plural of house is houses not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men, why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?

If I spoke of my foot and show you my feet, and I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?

If one tooth and a whole set are teeth, why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then one may be that and three would be those, yet hat in the plural would never be hose. And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.

We speak of a brother and also of brethren, but though we say mother, we never say methren.

Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him, but imagine the feminine she shis and shim.

Let's face it, English is a crazy language -- and proof-readers must always be forgiven!!!!

Thanks to Errol Levings for drawing this to **our attention**.

The Great(ish) Dog Rescue

Ignore what you may have read in the P&J the following is straight from "the Horse's Mouth" (in this case, eyewitness and intrepid River Moriston Adviser Mike Adams)

A family is walking their dog, (rotund, ageing, Spaniel-type) along the path in Falls Wood about 100m downstream from the Summer House. At the highest point of the cliff (c.20m) where rock is overhanging and loose the dog falls in!

A passer-by scrambles down to the rescue; hanging onto branches on the way (a very bad idea) gets stuck at the bottom but happily remains uninjured. 999 is dialled and Dave and Alec from Fort Augustus coastguard turn up. The Coastguard Cliff Rescue Team is summoned. To establish contact with the fallen hero and administer any first aid which might be required. Mike abseils down to the river. He finds the dog distressed and with an apparently broken leg and the man okay apart from a few scratches. With the water barely a metre deep, it would have been easy to cross the river and walk out to the road from the opposite side - but the Team was on its way and there's the injured dog.....

After an hour, the rescue team arrives and sets up a winch. A chap is sent down to fetch the man, who is winched up, then sent back for the dog who is popped unceremoniously into a sack! Mike nips across the river, walks a few metres downstream along the bank and nips back across to rejoin the coastguard team, who enjoy a cup of tea at Smithy Cottage.

The dog happily reunited with its family, is taken off to the vets. The would-be rescuer has disappeared. There's a definite moral to this story - but we'll leave you to work it out.

Stop Press: Katie Morag

Mull Theatre's "Katie Morag" cannot be allowed to pass without mention. Billed as a musical play for all the family, it more than lived up to our expectations of this excellent company. The sets changed before our eyes from ferry boat to Post Office, from stable to croft to haunted castle - and sometimes back again! Katie Morag looked and behaved as if she'd stepped out of the books and jumped up and down with the excitement of a 9 year old; Granny Island was solid and resourceful in her Wellington boots, while Granny Mainland wore her posh hat and high heels and regaled us with her Morningside accent; the American cousins were utterly realistic as two of today's sub-teens with their dismay at Struay's limitations (no mobile reception, no DVD's etc).

From unpromising beginnings, friendship between the children blossomed as they followed clues, craftily placed by the adults to an unexpected treasure. Excellent acting, laughs, scary bits and lively song and dance kept us all entertained, from pre-school to pensioner;

We would like to say thank you to our publisher, David Andrews, who gives his time and the materials for Moriston Matters free, charging only for photocopying. (One issue, he even refused to take that.)

As a result we have made a profit on four editions of £112.40 for us to use to benefit the community in some way. David's photocopier is now obsolete and vulnerable when new parts are needed. We have therefore decided at the moment to hold the profits raised, against future publishing costs.

Any comments on this or any other part of the newsletter please email at Elaine.minshull@btinternet.com