

*The Original*

**M**oriston  
**Matters**



*No 71*



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

*2006 Issue 1*

*50p*

# Editorial

Dear Readers

The editorial committee of Moriston Matters wish you a "Happy New Year" and welcome you to the first Moriston Matters of 2006. The Christmas to New Year period sees many activities in the Village Hall, enhanced by the Christmas tree and its decorations. We thank the Forestry Commission for generously supplying the tree. The Hall hosts the Carol Concert, the Children's Party, The Hogmanay Ceilidh, the Senior Citizens' Dinner and various club celebrations. A lot of pleasure is given to a lot of people in the village.

We at Moriston Matters would like to give thanks, on behalf of everybody, to all those who take the time and trouble to organise these events, to the Hall Committee, those residents who help by setting up the stage, putting out the chairs, decorating the hall and the tree, bake cakes, make sandwiches and otherwise provide food and drinks. Last but not least, thanks to those who take on the less rewarding jobs of clearing up afterwards and cleaning the toilets.

## A Big **THANK YOU** To You All

Thanks in particular to Sandy Greig who organises the Hogmanay event and distributes the profits to the various village groups. This year the family event netted £1600 pounds which has been passed on to the following Village organisations.

Senior Citizens Committee	£400	Childrens Committee	£400
Bowling Club	£200	Badminton Club	£200
Sports Club	£100	TV Club	£100
Heritage Group	£100	Hall Committee	£100

### **Thank You SANDY**

There have been some changes to the editorial group. We would like to say thank you to Julia Pratt, who has helped us put together this issue. We have, sadly, to say farewell to Elaine, whose other commitments make it difficult to continue with Moriston Matters. Elaine has been the most important member of the group, being the only one with the computer

skills to change our sketchy layouts into neatly typed and presented pages ready for copying. Thank you for all your efforts Elaine, we shall miss you. Fortunately we have been very lucky to have found volunteer replacements in the shape of Heather and Alan Smart, welcome aboard.

You will also notice that the price of the magazine has gone up to 50p. This is because the cost of copying has risen this year. We hope you will still feel that you get value for your money.

In my last editorial I exhorted you to make some contribution to the magazine. I am pleased to say that we have had a few; but can you manage more next time please. The next issue is planned for June so get thinking and writing.

Sylvia Andrews

Contact any of us listed below

Mave	351 326	Margaret	351 228
Sylvia	340 253	Heather	351268

Letter received by the Editor

*Dear Moriston Matters*

*I write to say how lovely it has been to see the tubs of flowers on the bridge at Invermoriston this year. They have looked lovely in the summer months and I notice that they have now been replanted for the winter. Maybe we should think about entering Scotland in Bloom as both the hotel and hall have baskets of flowers too! A positive knock on effect of the tubs is that it has stopped dangerous parking on the bridge. Often in the past, visiting cars who didn't seem to notice the car park, or were too lazy to use it would just pull off the road into the indents on either side of the bridge causing an obstruction, so not only do they look lovely, but they perform a safety function as well.*

*Yours Faithfully*

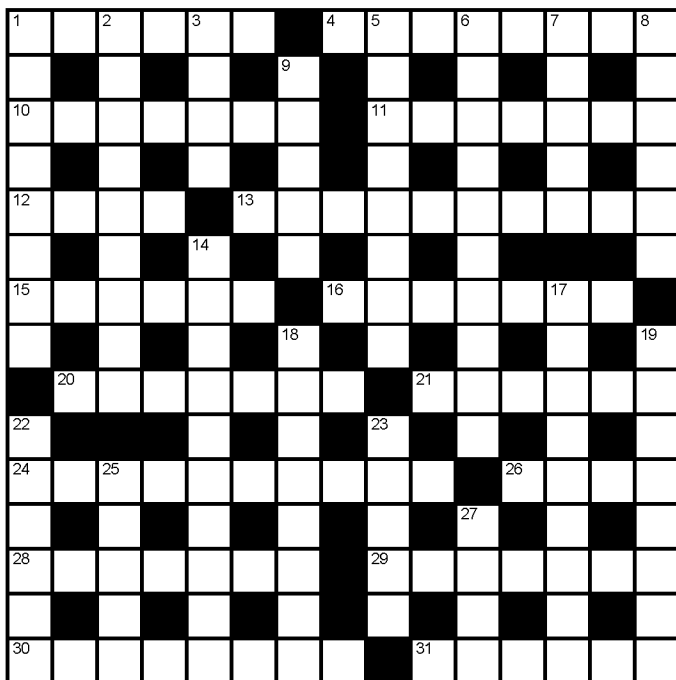
*Susan Swallow, Falls House*

Dear Susan

Thank you for your letter. The tubs of flowers around the village did, indeed, look well throughout the summer, and we thank their provider. I think a lot more effort on the part of the village would be needed before we could consider entering "Scotland in Bloom". It's a lovely thought though.

Sylvia Andrews

# Cryptic Crossword



## Across

- 1** Last mother-in-law. (6)  
**4** Helped one out after the deviant infiltrated. (8)  
**10** See 15 Across.  
**11** Chase off an avenger. (7)  
**12** Without Queen's backing a song would be dull. (4)  
**13** Segregated to those who like to tinker. (10)  
**15 & 10** Across. Hard to get out?...it just needs one tug! (6,7)

**16** Attribute of a copier. (7)

**20 & 7** Down. Singer who had the first British world tour. (7,5)

**21 & 31** Across. Predisposed to boating but not at all like 9 down. (6,6)

**24** The best time to use the main current. (4,6)

**26** Book about the past and future. (4)

**28** Doilies to adore. (7)

**29** If there's woodworm around, it will find this plant. (7)

**30** Take a payment up front and where to do it. (8)

**31** See 21 Across and 9 Down.

## Down

**1** Set off for school in good time. (8)

- 2 Where you might find Romania is.....isn't. (4,5)  
 3 Spills the beans about scrambled eggs having it. (4)  
 5 Turn off when a singer gets a couple of notes wrong?...No, quite the opposite. (8)  
 6 He does rave about eating out, albeit selectively. (10)  
 7 See 20 Across.  
 8 Tufty's home on board ship is considered swish. (6)  
 9 & 31 Across. Predisposed to boating, but not at all like 21 across. (5,6)  
 14 Brushing in brushing out. (10)  
 17 Grew to arouse when bedded. (9)  
 18 Tissue ready wrapped in cloth. (8)  
 19 What you shouldn't have done when told to watch the birdie. (8)  
 22 The gold believer. (6)  
 23 Does this rocker aspire to be a Rolling Stone? (5)  
 25 What you might see at the midnight hour has the right to be sinister. (5)  
 27 A toasting includes it, maybe. (4)



Send your completed crossword to Alan Smart, Halfpenny Cottage  
 Invermoriston by 31st March 2006.

The winner of the Autumn 05 crossword was Mave Ersu, Am Fairdean,  
 Invermoriston. The solution is given below

**Across:** 1 launched. 5 tragic. 10 zebra. 11 telephone. 12 elevation. 13 event.  
 14 plates. 15 sweeper. 18 reserve. 20 waters. 22 dolls. 24 existence  
 25 confident. 26 voids. 27 danish. 28 messages

**Down:** 1 lazier. 2 umbrella. 3 characteristics. 4 entries. 6 representatives. 7 globe.  
 9 glands. 16 parenting. 17 produced. 19 eleven. 20 whistle. 21 beasts. 23 linen.

# Ménage à Trois Maritime

## *Part 1 Getting to know her*

We first met her at Dochgarroch Lock in the summer of 2005, my friend and I. She was only 25 at the time, diminutive, fairly shapely in a stubby, 1980s sort of way, but all her parts were in the right place and in working order, albeit somewhat careworn and shabby. It certainly wasn't love at first sight which persuaded us to enter this triadic union, neither was it pity for the neglect that she had been subjected to in recent years, nor was it that her service was to be purchased at a bargain price. . . . . She was a costly little package despite all the frills and accoutrements presented by those involved in trying to pass her on to a new courtship with two ageing would-be sailor boys! She proved to be irresistible and soon a deal was done and we were the proud owners of our own yacht! *Sea Spray* is her name.

But she was in Dochgarroch and we are in Glenmoriston. Can we find a place to keep her nearby in the manner to which she has been accustomed? The old Invermoriston Pier? Too exposed! Alongside in Fort Augustus. Too expensive! Inchnacardoch Bay? Maybe! But she will need a mooring which means heavy weights on the loch bed, chain, warps, buoys, swivels, enough depth of water for her 2'6" draft, a tender to get aboard! What have we let ourselves in for? What do we do now?

What we did was we found the marine equivalent of a Good Samaritan! A local businessman with an enormous amount of local knowledge and an interest in sailing on Loch Ness, who offered and gave all the help and advice we could possibly have needed even to enlisting his own friends in the construction and laying down of a mooring for *Sea Spray*. This involved a large tractor tyre, shackles and chain, a cement mixer, copious amounts of concrete, a large yacht trailer and a 25 ton mobile crane. (He just happens to keep one in his front garden!)

And how much did all this help cost us? Precisely nothing!

Having loaded the mooring onto the trailer it was driven to the slipway at Inchnacardoch, immersed and then suspended between two rowing boats lashed together with cross beams, paddled out to the mooring area and at a given signal the lashings were cut and the mooring, chain, shackle and all sank to the bottom in five feet of water with just the marker buoy visible on the surface. A successful operation all round and a debt of gratitude to be recognized.

So, two inexperienced, would be sailors have paid a substantial sum of money for a diminutive, well-worn, albeit seaworthy boat which is at one end of Loch Ness while the mooring is at the other. What next? What do our respective spouses think of our affair? Will they want to learn to sail, are they keen to get aboard and become willing crew members? Find out by reading the next chapter "*Bucket and chuck it*" in the next issue of Moriston Matters.

The Ancient Mariner

## Handy Help

Handy Help was formed by an idea of Peter Yair, a resident of the village of Dalchreichart. For some years Peter has been helping local elderly people with little jobs in their homes and giving help and advice where needed.

This service is to assist elderly persons in the general area with small maintenance jobs within their homes and to give any advice and assistance that may be required.

This service is free of charge and only parts or replacements will be charged for. This in no way is set to deprive local tradesmen of their livelihood.

Recently Peter has been joined by Larry, another resident of Dalchreichart.

If you require any help or know someone who does, please contact:-  
Angie and Pete on 01320 340 275 or  
Maureen and Larry 01320 340 356

## Secondhand infants

SIR – Tesco now advertises “baby changing and recycling”. What an exciting and innovative world we live in.

**Greg Dunningham**  
Swindon

Glenmoriston and Fort Augustus are not being quite as adventurous as this but how about accepting a challenge to find a better home than the wheelie for our rubbish? 10% of it? 50, 90% of it? How much COULD we reroute?

Do you enjoy car boot or jumble sales? Find peeking into skips irresistible? One idea is to have a “Bring and Take” weekend, perhaps every 3 months. Unwanted household items, surplus DIY stuff etc., can be brought to a designated area and ..... taken away by new owners! (Council support would be sought to remove the remnants on the Monday.)

Do you make good use of your garden rubbish? Do you suspect composting might be rewarding? Or can't wait to get rid of it all? The answer might be a compost box (or 2 or 3) for interested households, together with some expert advice, or it might be a composting centre. There the refuse from many gardens could all be tidily sorted and dealt with locally, rather than being expensively transported away. Spin-offs would be compost and mulch available locally and potential local employment. This is being looked into.

Where do the contents of the recycling bins go? Who decides what can be recycled? Why are there no bins for plastic and cardboard? How much of our Council Tax goes on transporting waste about? If you've ever asked questions like these, perhaps you might like to join a very new group that's trying to find out. If you don't want to wait for the June edition of Moriston Matters (or the Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council newsletter in April), to hear more **look out for posters advertising future events.**

The word to look out for is .....RECYCLING.



In addition to the recycling bins at Invermoriston car park, it has come to our notice that some other items are being quietly recycled locally – so quietly that most people haven't heard about them! West End Garage acts as a collection point for furniture for Blythswood; spectacles and used stamps are collected by the Kirk in Fort Augustus; Kilchuimen School is a collection point for the plastic tops from milk cartons (green **and** blue). If anyone has difficulty getting to these places, the editors will be glad to help and would like to know from anyone else finding a home for any other unwanted items.

## The Bin Thing

One look in our wheelie bins and we can see  
They're not as full as they used to be.  
The village containers are making their mark  
In the Millennium Hall car park.

Cans and glass bottles, paper and clothes,  
Catalogues, yellow pages – all of those,  
People from all around calling in  
To play their part in recycling.

A lot of interest has been shown  
By folks who visit the recycling zone.  
Get rid of those slippers, that old nightgown –  
I'll just pop them in on my way into town!

It doesn't require a separate run –  
Recycling rubbish can be fun –  
Locals, committees, awareness are part  
Of the way forward, so let's make a start.

What is the best that we can do?  
It's up to the residents – that's me and you.  
It's easy to do and we all hold the key  
To preserving the Earth for humanity.

## Cryptic Word Quiz

When you have solved the clues (answers to be written in please ),  
scramble all the initial letters to find the name of a Scottish tradition.

- 1 Speedily go into the final leg round the track (7).....
- 2 Pointer gets right into a line-up (5).....
- 3 Latin cat destroyed in pond (8).....
- 4 Endless stain - horrid family! (7).....
- 5 Investigation out of a thousand and one people (11).....
- 6 People regroup less quietly to run away (5).....
- 7 Directions - black & white - are noticed (6).....
- 8 Gets one pound back inside for vital organs (7).....
- 9 Trash for a beggar (7).....
- 10 Make an effort to move north - it's bliss! (6).....
- 11 Camping for a purpose (6).....
- 12 Mint mine blows up close at hand (8).....
- 13 Identification for unfeeling queen (6).....
- 14 Spied unadorned cake (7).....
- 15 Sum for conveyor (7).....
- 16 Is giant sure to reform & make a special mark? (9).....
- 17 Board expert plane (7).....
- 18 North country measurement reveals crime  
investigation headquarters (8,4).....
- 19 Animal loses London Transport in scattered glitter (5).....
- 20 Ill-fitting, they say, in France (8).....
- 21 It gets moving if craft is arranged (7).....

Solution: \_\_\_\_\_ (FOUR WORDS)

Answers to Mave Ersu, Am Fairdean, Invermoriston, IV63 7YA. by  
31.3.06

Last edition's winner was Alan Smart who wins a free copy of this issue.

## Children's Corner

Here's another little riddle for you to try. Name, address and age to Mave Ersu (Am Fairdean, Invermoriston) by 31st March, please.

My first is in stone, but isn't in wood,  
My second's in naughty, but isn't in good.  
My third is in ink and it's also in paint,  
My fourth's not in devil - you'll find it in saint.  
My fifth is in plaything and also in toy,  
My sixth is in girl - you won't find it in boy.  
My seventh's in penny but never in pound -  
My whole is a flower which in Scotland is found.

What am I? .....

The winner of last edition's riddle was Roisin Adams, aged 8.

Well done, Roisin! The mystery word was **FIDDLE**.

Here is a sad but beautiful little poem:

### Dying World

The dying sun rises again,  
The breathless moon departs,  
The ebbing tide slowly creeps forward,  
As time ticks slowly by.  
The sweet chirping of birds dies  
At the roar of the machines.

Catriona Knott

# G.L.E.N. NEWS

Remember the PAN group that over the past few years has brought a very varied programme of music and drama to the hall? That group has been taken over by GLEN (Glenmoriston Local Entertainment Network) who will still promote music and drama but will also offer various other general family entertainment throughout the year.

So far the diary of events is shaping up quite nicely and to date we have the following events scheduled, so put the dates in your diary and watch the various notice boards for further information.

Feb 25<sup>th</sup> Jesleppi & guests – Music provided by the local youthband of Michael Curley, Ali Levings & Simon MacLellan.  
Open to everyone but specifically teenagers and the young at heart! There will be soft drinks and crisps for sale.

March 11<sup>th</sup> Jazz and Supper – back by popular demand the excellent Inverness based jazz group The Ness River Rhythm Kings.

April 8<sup>th</sup> Official opening of St Columba's Well (Heritage Group) followed with light refreshment in the hall. There will be a DVD of the opening of the Millennium Hall in 1999 to watch. It's worth coming along just to see how we were 7 years ago!

June 2<sup>nd</sup> Merlewood Ensemble

September provisional – Family cycle/walk. Adult drama.

October Oktoberfest with typical food, drink and music!

Nov 11<sup>th</sup> Craft Fayre

Nov 25<sup>th</sup> A St. Andrew's ceilidh with supper.

We hope you agree that it is an exciting year ahead. If you have any suggestions for events or would like to do something with the backing of GLEN please make your suggestions known to any one of us – after all it is your Hall. Jean Curley, Mave Ersu, Clare Levings, Elaine Minshull, Karon Parker, Judy Poore and Patrick Ungless.

# Hall News

Another year has passed in the life of the Hall, marked by the AGM on 24<sup>th</sup> November. It was good to see 10 members of the community in attendance who joined the Committee for wine and cheese after the meeting.

Sadly Julie and Simon Lewins moved away to start another life in Cornwall just before the AGM and this has meant their resignation as Chairman and Minute Secretary. Margaret Allen also resigned as PAN representative.

The Committee is pleased to welcome Pat Tate, who has agreed to serve as Minute Secretary, and Alan Draper representing the Over 60s Committee. As nobody offered themselves for election as Chairperson, this office remains unfilled. If anyone would like to join the Hall Committee they would be very welcome; just contact any of the members.

Minutes and reports of the AGM and all Committee meetings are available in the Hall lobby and are also available for download on our web site at [www.glenmoristonhall.org.uk](http://www.glenmoristonhall.org.uk)

The Carol Service attracted its usual high attendance and the Hogmanay dance seems to be more popular every year. Thanks are due once again to Sandy Greig and his assistants for their excellent organisation and for donations to the Hall and other Community groups.

A significant event to note is the Maggie's Monster Bike and Hike which for the third year will use the Hall as a major staging post and we will again be offering our hospitality to several hundred hungry walkers on the 29<sup>th</sup> April. Anyone who would like to help with this please let Cherry Duncan know.

Our annual Lite Bites season is scheduled to take place as usual during July and August - exact dates still to be finalised

Regular clubs continue with Bowls on Monday afternoon and evening, Badminton on Tuesday and Scottish Country Dancing on Wednesday. Sadly the Youth Club is again having to cease owing to lack of support. So Thursday and Friday evenings are available if anybody would like to start a new community group or club. Hall hire rates have not changed for some years and represent excellent value for money, especially the Meeting Room which is available free to community Groups.

In April this year it will be 7 years since the opening of the new Hall and to mark the anniversary the Heritage Group and the Hall Committee invites everyone to come to the Hall on 8<sup>th</sup> April and join them in a bit of social nostalgia.

There will be a video on show with footage shot at the opening of the Hall and the Heritage group plans the official opening of St Columba's Well.

We would also like to stage a small exhibition of photographs of Hall activities over the years, including the old Hall. So if anyone has any photos from Hall events in the past that they would be prepared to share, please let us know. Contact Pat Ungless on 351353. More details of this event closer to the date.

Hall Committee contacts:

Secretary	C. Duncan	351230	Treasurer	P. Ungless	351353
Caretaker	E. Levings	351254	GLEN	C. Levings	351254
Badminton	H. Smart	351268	Bowls	B. Draper	351313
Over 60's	A. Draper	351313	Dalchreichart	P. Haynes	340227
Minute Sec.	P. Tate	351379	Member	T. Archibald	

## Garden Thoughts

"Brr", "Ugh", "Yuk" spring instantly to mind. It's either freezing or raining, blowing a gale or "murking". Let's light the fire and read a good book. Oh yes! and a cup of tea and a couple of ginger biccies would be good, or what about a glass of wine and a packet of crisps? I'm easy to please, really! But gardening! No!

It took ages to remove leaves from grass and paths, for the wind would blow them away again before you picked up the pile, or the rain soaked them before you could sweep them (Here in all fairness, I should point out that this chore is largely delegated to the under-gardener, my husband.) Eventually a dozen or so black bags were filled, but there are still large quantities of leaves trapped on the flowerbeds. Ah well! leaf-mould for the next year.

I did start clearing away the dead stuff and digging up the weeds and grass from the flower beds, but then the rain stopped me. The ground froze, the inclination vanished, and a very small portion of my garden is in good order. I'll start again in a month or so.

On the plus side, the snowdrops are poking through and I can actually see white in the buds. The daffodils are about one inch high and short sword-like leaves are appearing here and there, crocus? muscari? I'll wait and see. Meanwhile, where's that book? And put the kettle on - - - - - .

## The John Muir Award

Looking for challenge & adventure?  
Want to explore a wild area? Want to  
gain some new knowledge and skills?  
Want to share experiences with  
friends? Then read on...



Our local Heritage Group are looking to support a group of local young people from 8-18 in working towards a John Muir Award.

The John Muir Award aims to encourage people to **Discover, Explore, Conserve** and **Share** wild places. There are three levels of Award, Discoverer, Explorer and Conserver, similar to the Duke of Edinburgh Award structure. Each level of the Award requires participants to discover, explore, conserve and share a wild place.

**Discovering** involves finding out & learning about the place you've chosen – and experiencing and enjoying it too. **Exploring** involves really tuning into your wild place, by walking, camping or canoeing for example. **Conserving** means taking some responsibility for your wild place and doing something to help it – planting trees or making a nature trail, providing nest boxes, clearing pollution for example. **Sharing** means telling others in some way about what you've done and why.

The great thing about the Award is that the group decides where they want to discover, how they want to explore it, what they want to do to conserve it, and how to share their experiences! The John Muir Award programmes I've been involved in before have always been great fun and have made a real difference.

Interested? Contact Mike Adams on 01320 351280, or look out for posters on the local boards with a date for a get together to find out more. We'll need at least four young people to make it work, so get involved! And remember, it's YOU who decides what to do!

The John Muir Award is part of the John Muir Trust, a registered charity.