

INVER'S MILLENIUM HISTORY

Compiled by

The Pupils of Inver Primary School

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INVER'S MILLENNIUM

2000 YEARS OF HISTORY IN ONE BOOK

Above my desk in the wee corner of my garage that until recently I used as an office there is only one photograph, and that is one of Inver Primary School.

When I eventually get my office in the new Scottish Parliament building at Holyrood, I know that this picture will be hanging there - looking out at me to remind me of the community that I have had the honour to represent (wearing various hats) for the last thirteen years.

It is as simple as this: Inver has always been a pleasure - and I take some pride in all that we have been able to do together for the village over the years. Environment improvements, new play equipment and the village hall - to name but three areas where Inver has come forward - above all else this has had everything to do with Inver's outstanding community spirit.

Over the years Inver has faced many problems (including, most horrifically, the cholera epidemic) but in the end the village has survived and prospered. In telling the history of the village, the pupils of Inver Primary School tell a moving and brave tale - a tale that will speak to people far and wide.

It gives me very great pleasure to have been asked to write the introduction to this remarkable project, one which has involved a lot of hard work over the years. The pupils and staff of Inver Primary School - and indeed everyone else who has lent a hand - are to be congratulated.

In future this history will have pride of place beside my picture of the school!

Jamie Stone MSP
14th December 1999

Introduction

Beauty, they say, lies in the eye of the beholder and I'm sure history does to a great extent as well. So what follows is the 'beholding' of the history of the village of Inver and the immediate area, as seen through the eyes of the pupils, both past and present.

To begin with we would like to acknowledge all the help we have received from so many people, especially those from the village, some sadly now gone, who have kindly lent pictures and shared stories. There are too many to mention by name but without their support there would have been no book! Thanks are due, as well, to those who took time to fill in our Millennium Census and to our distributors and collectors - Geoff King, Fiona Murray, June Ripley and Sylvia Dieguno.

We must also recognise the help received, on and off the computer, from the school secretary, Mary Sleith, who with husband working in Singapore, has had to learn many new computing skills to keep up with our demands!

We would also like to thank Dr James Skinner and David Alston who have shared their research with us and Estelle Quick of Tain Museum for opening up the record books. The Archivists of both Inverness and Edinburgh for digging up some interesting facts and giving us permission to print them and the librarian in the Reference section of Inverness Library for locating the Census records for us. The staff of Inverness Courier deserve a thank you too for allowing us to look through their old papers and Captain McKeown from RAF Tain for some excellent photographs.

Finally we would like to thank you for buying this book and supporting the school and we trust you will enjoy your voyage through Inver's past.

References

The following books and publications have been used by the pupils in gathering information. Due to the difficulty of numbering each reference in the narrative of the book a general list is supplied. However, if anyone wishes to know where specific pieces of information came from, please contact the school.

Scenes and Legends Hugh Miller
Down to The Sea Jessie Macdonald, Ann Gordon
Ross And Cromarty - A Historical Guide . . . DrDavid Alston
This Noble Harbour Dr M. Ash
Tarbat - Easter RossA. Fraser, F. Munro
Calendar of Fearn 1471-1667 I. B. Cowan
Old Ross-shire and Scotland W. MacGill
100 Years of Military Survey Ordnance Survey
Transactions of the Inverness Scientific and Field Club Volume VI ... Inverness Courier
Ross-shire Journal
Press and Journal
Statistical Accounts of the Parish of Tain and Tarbat
Scottish Records Office - Pitcalnie Estate Papers
Scottish Records Office - Papers on Evacuation
Tain Museum - Cadboll Estate Records
Inverness Reference Library - Census of Tain and Tarbat 1841 and 1851
Inver Primary School Log Books
A Note to Inver Primary School from Graham Thompson

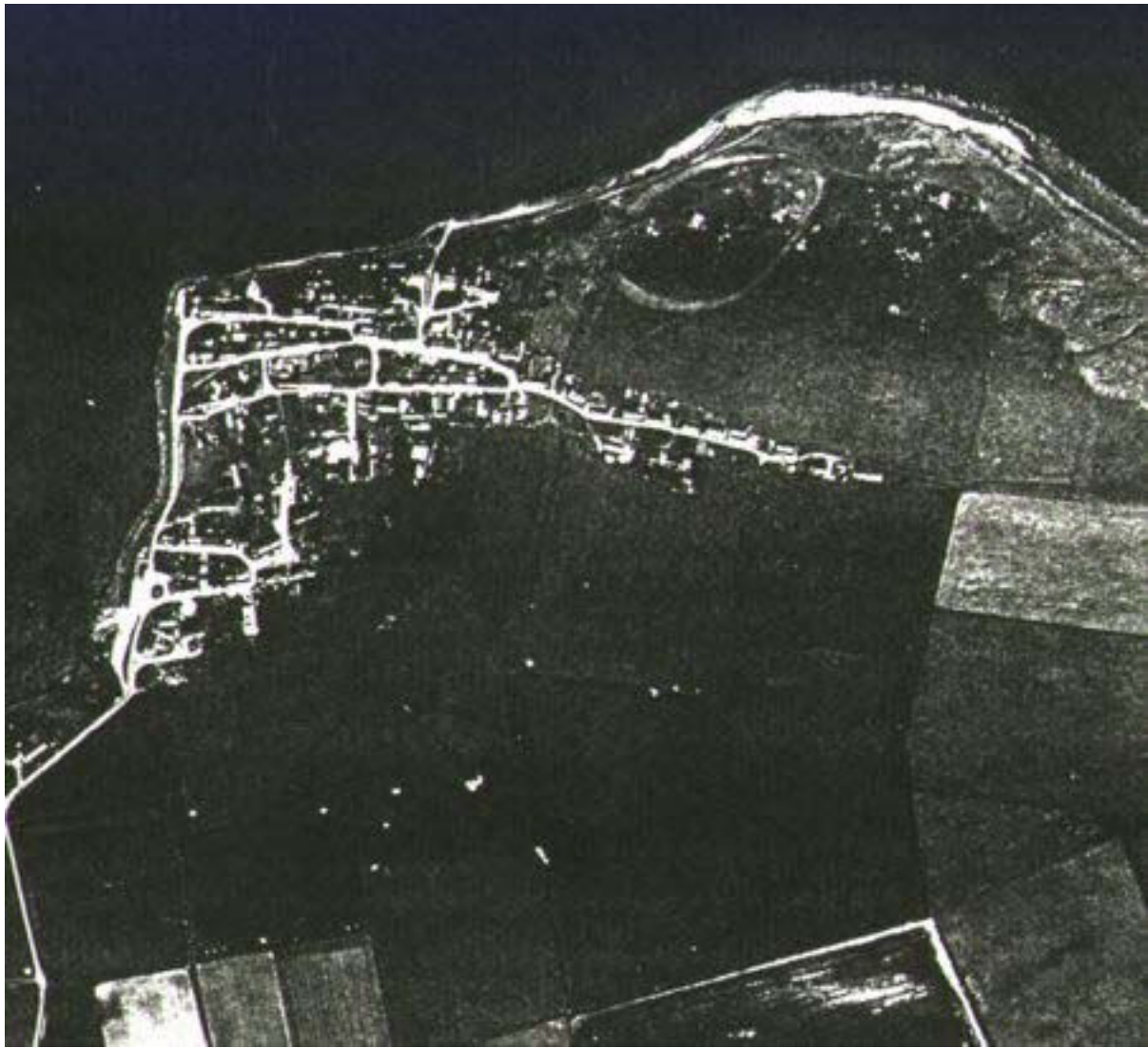
Early Visitors to Inver; the Fishertown of Inver



The first people to visit this part of the world would have been the people that are called The Hunter Gatherers. They lived around the coast of Scotland for short periods of time before moving on when their food ran out. They travelled around the coast because inland areas were covered in dense pine forests.

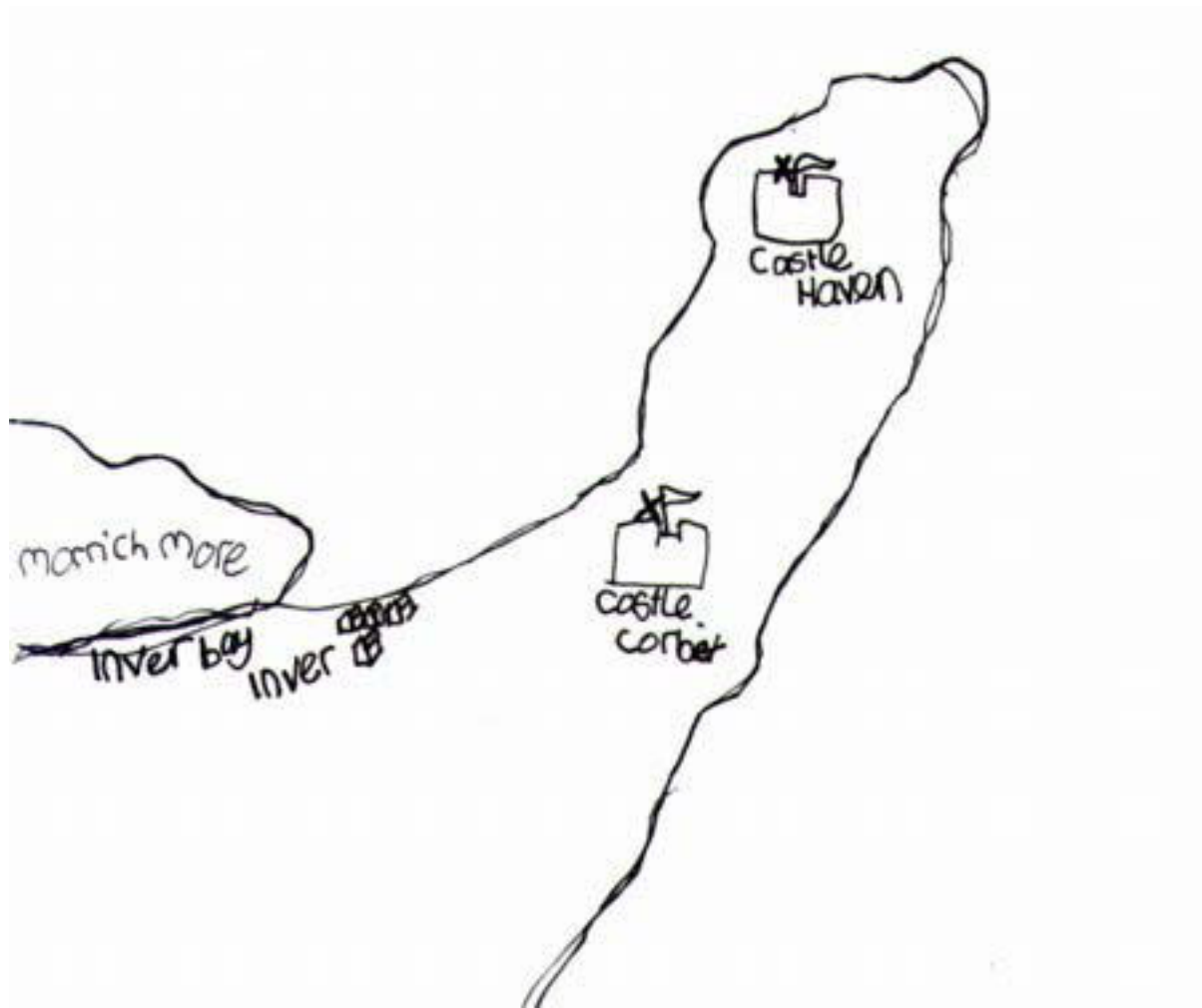
As well as hunting for animals they would have eaten fish and collected birds' eggs and berries, which is why they are called Hunter Gatherers. They made items out of wood and used bone, flint and animal skins to make tools, clothing and shelter.

Did you know pieces of chert (little bits of stone like flint) from stone tools have been found at the Cuthill Links near the Dornoch Bridge? There was so much found it looks like they may have been making tools for other people. Old flint workings may also have been found on the Morrish. Old shell middens have been found at Balchladaich along the shore towards Portmahomack. This means there was quite a bit of prehistoric activity going on around Inver long, long ago.



Although we thought to begin with the nearest Neolithic site to us was at the Morrich we have discovered circular markings on an aerial picture given to us by the R.A.F. These marks are beside where the old chapel of St. John could have been and beside the Cholera stone and graveyard. We thought the marks might be fake but an archaeologist came down to look at the photo and the site. He said that there was definitely something under the ground and he thought the circular mark was too big to be connected to the chapel so he is going to carry out more investigations. We may even get a dig at the site and we may find something that was there even before the Picts!! The nearest chambered cairn to us is at Morangie forest and this is where early people used to bury their dead.

There are also the remains of old forts and duns at Castlehaven and Castle Corbett nearby.



The first farmers in Ross-shire came North in search of new land to farm on. They came in boats, with sheep, cattle, goats and seeds. They grew crops and wheat to make bread and beer. One animal they would have found, which had been tamed already by the Hunters Gathers hundreds of years before, was the dog.

After the Neolithic age came the Bronze age. The nearest Bronze Age site to us is at Balnabruach outside Portmahomack. For when the sewers were being replaced they found a stone kist. This was how the Bronze age people buried their dead. The Bronze age is so called because the people used Bronze. After the Bronze age came the Celts, then the Picts. The nearest Pictish settlement to us is Portmahomack but there is also Pictish stones at Shandwick, Edderton and Nigg.



The Shandwick Stone before restoration.

However, Martin Carver, the professor carrying out the dig at Portmahomack, has said that his guess was Inver could have been a fishing place or a landing place for goods and animals for the Picts. Inver would have been a good place for the Picts because there are lots of shellfish and wild birds.

After the Picts came the Vikings. Our nearest Viking neighbours were maybe as close as Skinnerton!

"Boll" is part of the Viking word for a farmstead and Estate of Arboll or Arkboll, as it was first known, lies next to Inver in what was once the Parish of Fearn. Tarbat and Fearn parish split at the Reformation. Arboll, at one time, was one large estate and part of the feu-lands of Fearn Abbey. The Abbot of Fearn, Donald Dunoon, divided it up on the 12th of October 1535 into three parts so that

he could give his son William a part of it. The other parts were given to John Dunoon of Davidston and John Corbet of Easter Ard.

The part known as Wester Arbol is not where Wester Arbol is today. It is now what we call Skinnerton. The name Skinnerton is quite new. Only maybe a few hundred years old. We can be sure of this because the site of the chapel of St John is recorded, in different sources, as in Wester Arbol lying next to the boundary with the Parish of Tain and the fishertown of Inver.

Older people of the village still remember the area next to the cholera graveyard being called Chapel Brae and seeing large red sandstone blocks there. Unfortunately, there is nothing to be seen today. The stones have probably been used over the years by the local people to build and repair their houses. The chapel could date from as early as the 1200's.

There is also a chapel site at Newton, the foundations of which can still quite clearly be seen. We don't know why two chapel sites should be so close together. Possibly one is just older than the other.



A stone from Newton Chapel showing a relief pattern. It looks like it could be a 'fleur de lys'



From a different angle.

However, there are other chapel sites in the Parish of Tarbat and quite a few of these sites seem to be connected to small burial grounds. So another possibility is that these chapels were not places of worship, they were only used for holding mass in before burying the dead.

The Fisher Town of Inver

As we have noted already the earliest of peoples passed this way feasting on the rich cockle beds and bird life that existed between Inver and the Morrich. Later Picts and Vikings also walked around these shores - but the million dollar question is: When did the fisher town of Inver begin? The answer is unfortunately locked in the depths of time but one can hazard a guess to try and unlock the puzzle.

Fish was a necessary part of the diet of the early churches because on Fridays they only ate fish. This meant that the church had to have somewhere to get the fish from. So places like Balintore were founded as fishing ports. People from Balintore caught the fish for Fearn Abbey.

Due to the extensive mud flats beside Tain, Inver was the only suitable place in the Parish for landing fish and the village is always referred to in the Statistical Accounts "as the provider of fish for Tain and the surrounding areas"

Therefore, one wonders could it possibly be that the origins of the fishing town of Inver were linked to that of the beginnings of Tain as a religious centre in the 1200s. Or, if as has been suggested by Rev. G. Brequet of the Scientific and Field Society, the name Tain is a corruption of the Viking word Ting or Thing - which signified their meeting place or place of council - then maybe Inver was the landing place for Viking fish!!

Another possibility was that the first fishers were linked to Lochsline Castle, for in the past Inver is often referred to as Inver of Lochsline or Inver of Lochslyne.

It was the right of landowners to put fishers with boats along their shores so as to catch and provide fish for themselves. The landowner would provide the fisher with a boat, a piece of ground to build his house on and a 'rig, a plot of land to grow oats or pease on'. They would also allow the fisher to keep some of his catch. In return the fisher was, more or less, the property of the landowner and was forbidden to fish for anyone else. He was also at his beck and call to work in his fields or to repair his bridges or roads whenever he wished.

As late as 1795 Statute Labour was still required of the fishers and W. Macgill in 'Old Ross-shire and Scotland as seen in Tain and Balnagown Accounts' records 29 men from Inver as available for Statute Labour.

This right to put fishers along the coasts was not without its difficulties as can be seen from the letter sent by Mr Macleod, Younger of Geanies, to Mrs Ross, Pitcalny, in 1791. The letter is also interesting in that it gives a glimpse into the conditions that fishers, such as those in Arbol and Inver, lived in at that time.

The letter is reproduced with permission from Scottish Archives, Edinburgh, from the Pitcalnie Estate papers, Scottish Records Office GD 199.

"For many years past, probably a hundred, the family of Pitcalny have assumed a right of keeping fish boats and building houses for the fishers upon the property of Easter Arbol. From whom, for what consideration, or when, this privilege was granted them does not now appear, either to the

Lady, or to the proprietor of E. Arbol. The family of Pitcalny have been in use to have two boats with their crews there. Of late it is proposed by the Lady to erect houses for the third crew and to put a third boat in the harbour. This idea alarmed the proprietor of E. Arbol who saw very clearly that if that was allowed to pass unnoticed that that privilege might be extended indefinitely, the consequences of which might prove very fatal to his interest. He therefore was resolved to put a stop to any further proceedings until the Lady made her man of business look thro her papers and find out the extent of this privilege.

This proprietor of Easter Arbol has many good reasons for wishing that this matter were cleared up. His tenants complain of the bad neighbourhood of these fishers, who have of late got flocks of poultry and herds of swine that are very destructive to their corns and green ground. These temporary huts of theirs seldom last above one year as they are built of a sandy fuel which cannot hold out against the blast of above one season, and what is most alarming to him they do not attempt not to cut fuel and divot both for their rebuilding and reparation out of what he looks upon as a most valuable part of his property, the Links of Inver. These are the grievances which he is at present threatened with, and which he cannot allow to go on without apparently ruining his estate there. The Lady may be informed that they have been in use of these encroachments, but he must beg leave to observe that that will never be found a satisfactory title to any court of law without some title to found upon. This is the point the Lady must enquire into, as if the matter cannot be cleared up in that manner he must put of self defence raise a declarator of property to ascertain what is his and what her right.

It was mentioned above that what gave rise to privilege was not well known to either party, it may not be improper here to mention what tradition says with respect to it in case anything of that nature may occur to the Ladies doer in his researches. It is said that many years ago there was an agreement made by the proprietor of the two Arbolls should allow the Proprietor of Wester Arbol the privilege of two boats with ground to build houses for their crews provided he in return sent all his corn to the others mill upon outsucken multure. Whether this story has any foundation in fact cannot be said unless it appear from some writing."

In 1678, Sir George Mackenzie complains of one Robert Gray of Arbol and others who were building 'small fisher houses and bothies ' on the lands of Lochsline and Inver.

Whatever may be the origins of the fishing village of Inver, the place is recorded on both the earliest of land maps and sea charts of the area. In Timothy Pont's Land Map, circa 1590, it is called 'Innur' and on Captain Greenville Collins Sea Chart, circa 1690, it is marked 'Enver '. Which leads us quite nicely on to the question as to where exactly Inver is or was situated? Within the village there is a tradition amongst some of the villagers that there is an 'Old Inver' along the shore and that during the course of time the village had moved.

Johnny Skinner records in his writings:

"The present Inver is not the original squatters' village. In the days of the clearances it was nearer Portmahomack where grass covered foundations still remain." And, sure enough if one walks along

the shore and across the Alt to behind the sand dunes, under Lower Arbol, you will find the remains and foundations of about nine houses covered in grass.



Picture showing the foundations of the houses along the shore.

There are many tales and stories as to why the village had moved. One tells of the shifting of the sand until it becomes impossible for the fishers to land their boats so they moved their houses, stone by stone, along the shore to a better spot for landing their catches. Another connects it to the cholera, saying that the people burnt their houses and moved to a new area so as to avoid the disease, or because so many perished in the dunes around the village they moved because they believed the dunes were haunted.

However, the best tale of all is of the 'Bodachan Baird' by Johnny Skinner and retold here by the children.

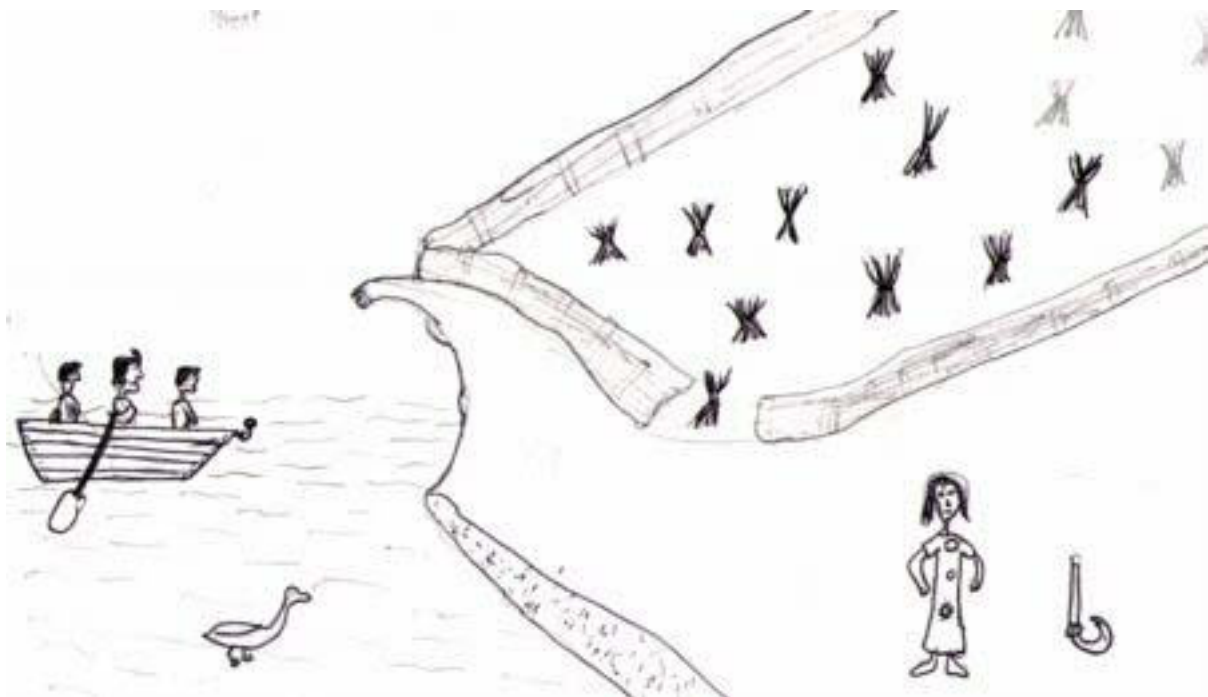
The Bodachan Baird

Many, many years ago before you or I were born Inver used to be nearer Tarbat than Tain, away along the shore. In the olden days people used boats to travel in and the Dornoch Firth used to be packed with fishing boats and ships. Often sailors would come ashore and take young boys to work on the ships and they would never see their mothers again. The sailors would make them scrub, clean and collect fresh water. The women would fight for their children but could never win against the sailors.

Once in the harvest time, when the men were cutting peat up at Bogbain, the women saw a ship coming. It anchored in the bay. They knew that they were there to snatch their children. The woman wondered why they were coming in the day because usually they came at night. However, sometimes the captain would be forced to send what was left of his men to get some young boys to do all the horrible jobs on the ship.

The women saw the ship anchoring and sailors coming in rowing boats to the shore. The women sent a boy to fetch the men at Bogbain. The women armed themselves with sickles, knives, pots, pans and anything they could lay their hands on. When the sailors landed on the beach the woman gave them such a beating that you could hear their cries as far away as Tain .

The sailors ran to their boats as fast as they could. One man was separated from his crew and was left to face the angry women alone. He was a short, stumpy man, so he didn't stand much chance. He tried to run inland but saw the men coming towards him so he ran for the sea, but the women wouldn't let him go and they dragged him to a cave and sliced part of his face off with a sickle then left him to die.



Somehow he survived his injuries and lived in the cave only to come out at night to catch shellfish and set rabbit snares. He would hide behind walls and scare children as they walked past. This gave him the name BODACHAN BAIRD which meant the 'old man of the dykes.' Eventually he was killed in a sand storm which filled his cave with sand. The people thought they had seen the last of their unfriendly neighbour until one night, a lady was coming home from her sister's house when she came face to face with his ghost. The people of the village decided they would have to move because they weren't going to live with a ghost.

But what of the truth?

If you study Roy's Military Map of 1760 you can see clearly that there were fisher houses at Inver AND along the shore behind the dunes at Arboll. Two separate fishertowns existing together indicate that Inver is where it has always been and a separate community lived along the shore. However, that begs the question what ever happened to that community of 'Little Arboll ' as it was known? The answer lies in the introduction of the Census for Tarbat in 1851:

"In this district is situated, on the western boundary, the village of Inver, the inhabitants of which all engage in the fishing. Being connected with the village is a small cemetery situated somewhat to the East in which are interred those of the inhabitants who suffered by the plague which ravaged in 1832 and which left only about one or two families. The village is now in a thriving state. The North shore is a fine sandy beach pregnant with shellfish and the collecting of which for market a few of the inhabitants earn a livelihood.

About a mile further East is the site of the ancient fishing village of Little Arboll, but owing to the rising importance of Portmahomack the inhabitants emigrated thither so that a few roofless houses point out the place that was. Some of the finest lands in the parish lie in the district, the soil for the most part is black mould, clay bottom and in some places a sandy loam, fossil shells are to be met with in abundance...."

Roy's Military Map



Roy's Military Map of Inver

This is a map of Inver and its surroundings just after the Jacobite Rebellion with Bonnie Prince Charlie. The English wanted a map of Scotland so they could trace where people were running off to. Two civilians from Scotland, William Roy (later Major General William Roy) and Paul Sandby, the artist, were involved in the map which was put together in the summer months and drawn up from field note books and sketches in Edinburgh during the winter.

Roy was born on the 4th of May 1726 and served in the war for seven years (1756-1763) and thereafter devoted his private professional life to the promotion of a military map of Great Britain. Roy was a very skilful engineer and was presented with the Royal Society's Medal for Science.

Simply, the people moved away either to Portmahomack or Inver because of the new harbour at Portmahomack.

There was, we must conclude, never an Old Inver as such along the shore. However, there is truth in Johnny's writings, for when his mother's people, who were Mackays, were cleared from the land for sheep, they built houses of divots along the shore by the 'Alt ' before settling in Inver. This was often the way with the clearance people. They built temporary accommodation before settling elsewhere and the remains of such houses soon disappeared. No doubt there were others as well as Johnny's forebears, for although the village population was halved by the cholera in 1832 , only nine years later, in the Census of 1841, there were over two hundred souls in the village.

This clearance connection has been maintained over the years with men from the village going to Helmsdale for their wives and during the evacuation of the village many people chose to go to Embo where it would seem many clearance people also settled at the same time. Some older people in Inver can still trace their Grandparents to Embo. The Inver/Embo connection lives on, for when the Swedish houses were put up in Embo they were called Inver View!



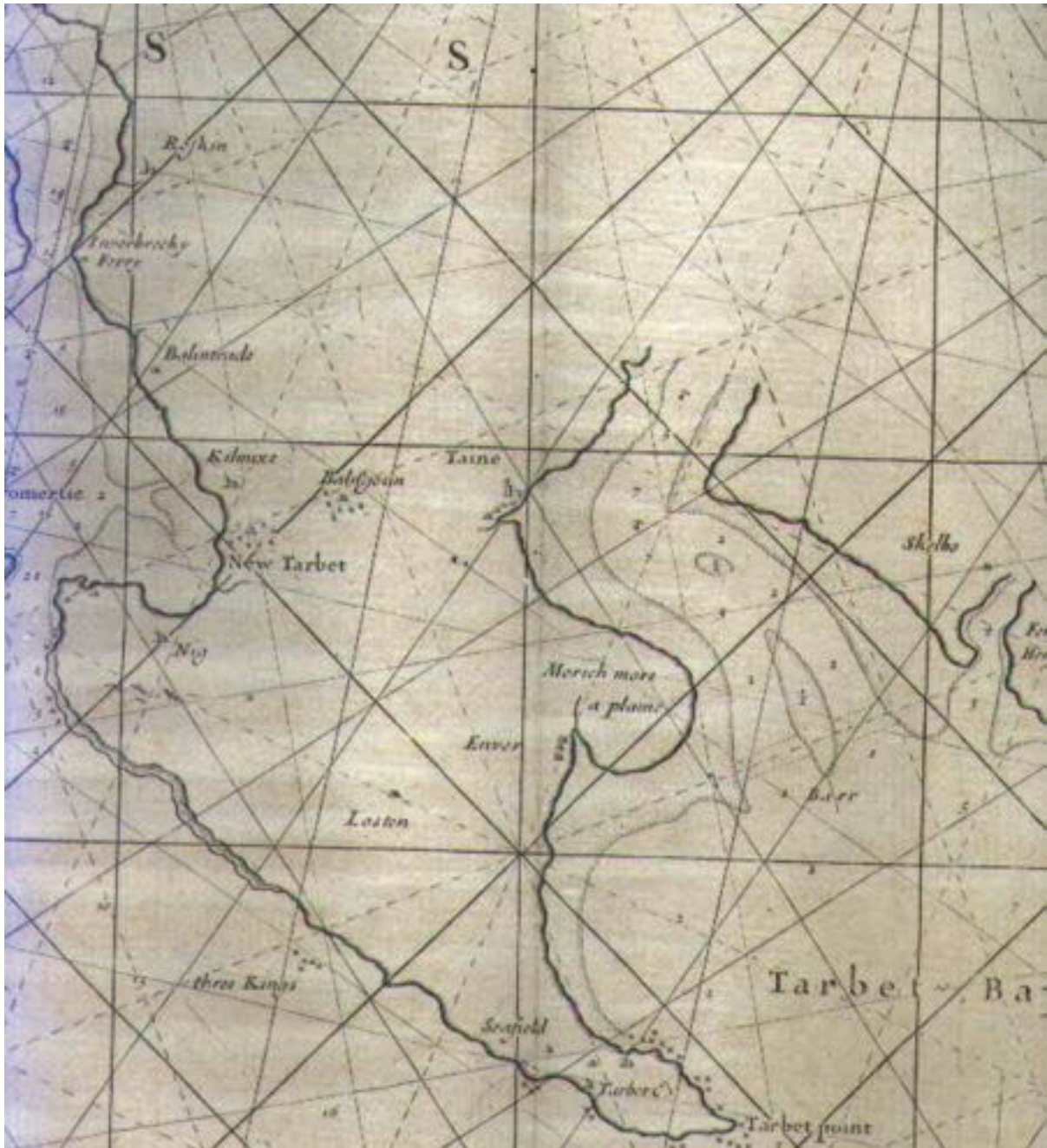
Pictures of the old hall at Inver (top)



New Street, provided by Tain Museum.



King Charles the II got Captain Greenville Collins to sail around Britain and to chart it for him. He made Britain's first coastal chart. It is interesting to see Inver clearly marked on it whilst other fishing towns are missing. It may be because Inver was closely connected to Tain. The map is dedicated to Lord Tarbat otherwise known as the Earl of Cromarty.



Map of 1600.

At one time there were eight or nine wells in Inver and they were often named after the person on whose ground the well was, for example there was Charlie's well. Everyone had their favourite well, which they used.

Before running water came to the village in the 1950s there used to be a pump, which was not without its problems. A gentleman of the village used to collect 1d from everyone to help maintain the pump but some of the locals suspected he just made the washers himself out of an old piece of rubber. A letter eventually had to be written complaining to the Cadboll Estate requesting that something be done about it.



Mrs R Spence using Shore Street pump in 1940.

Cadboll Estate Office.
Invergordon. 12 January 1911.

Dear Sir,

Referring to our conversation at Inver on Tuesday, I quite sympathize with the lack of a water supply but I can only agree to repair the pump and put it in working order on condition that a certain number of the Inhabitants - not less than six - bind themselves to protect the pump from damage in future, and as a practical guarantee deposit a sum of Three pounds with me to meet the cost of any further damage.

An extract from a letter giving Cadboll Estates reply.
Below a translation.

12th January, 1911

'Dear Sir,

Referring to our conversation at Inver on Tuesday, I quite sympathize with the lack of a water supply but I can only agree to repair the pump and put it in working order on condition that a certain number of the Inhabitants - not less than six - bind themselves to protect the pump from damage in future, and as a practical guarantee deposit a sum of Three pounds with me to meet the cost of any further damage.'

Some more interesting bills from the past. The first account is from the plumber to fit and supply an entire house with new plumbing including sink all for the handsome price of £19.15s.0d.(under £20).

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ROSS AND CROMARTY

WATER DEPARTMENT

Application No. 131/52

To Mr. John Ross,
9 New Street,
Inver, PEARN,

I hereby acknowledge receipt of the sum of Five Pounds,
fifteen Shillings, Sterling, (£ 5 : 15 : -) being payment for
the work of making a 1/2-ins. connection to the Council's water
main and for laying a 1/2-ins. x 18 g. communication pipe
complete with frostcock, brick eye and toby cover between the main
and the end of the supply pipe.

J. Peat
County Water Engineer,
DINGWALL.

Date 29th April, 1952.



Sketch of Inver pre 1878, showing the position of the wells.

A roof over our heads;

A lot of houses in Inver are two hundred or more years old. All the houses were thatched, and this meant, because the roofs were heavy, that the walls had to be thick and the building had to be narrow to support it. The walls were made from round stones, cemented together with soft, white clay, which was found in many clay-pits around the area. Every family in Inver had their own clay-pit that they used. During renovations couch grass has even been found packed into the walls of the houses and then clayed over.

Floors were also made of clay, but this time it was grey clay, which set quicker and harder. Clay floors were also easy to clean, as all they needed was a sprinkle of sand and a good brushing. Some Inver houses still had their clay floors right up until the eighties.

Timber came from local woodland and was worked with the adze, except for couples, which were only bark-shaped. Sometimes, if they were lucky, good pieces of timber could be found on the shore having been washed overboard from boats. The couples were fixed right into the wall. There were no ceilings so you could hang nets, lines and creels. You could also hang fish up to dry. Later they used split sacks to cover the room in between the thatch and themselves.

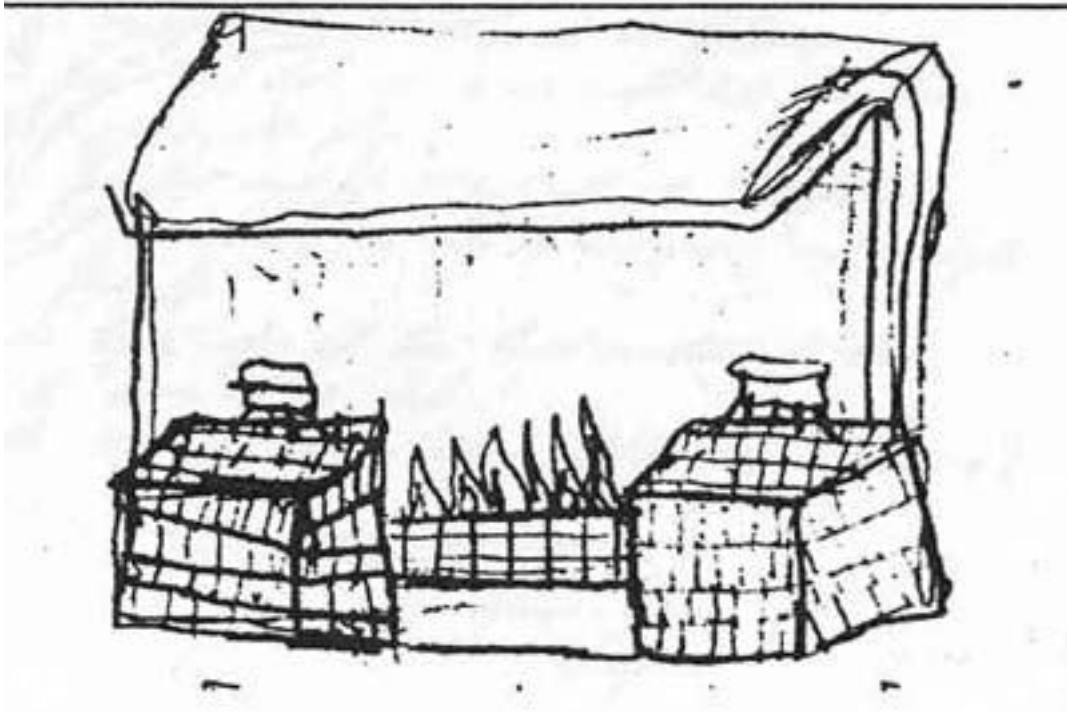
Most men could thatch themselves. First, in thatching you had to lay planks from one couple to another then long bundles of grass were layered on the roof, working upwards. Alistair Munro's grandfather was the thatcher for the village and 'Shop Bruce' was the last thatcher.



Mrs Ross and friend with Murdo, Ian and Dixon along the shore with the 'hurlie' going to collect ' bent' for thatching the house.

Most houses just had three rooms, a living room, which was the kitchen as well, a closet and a best room. A passage usually ran the length of the house.

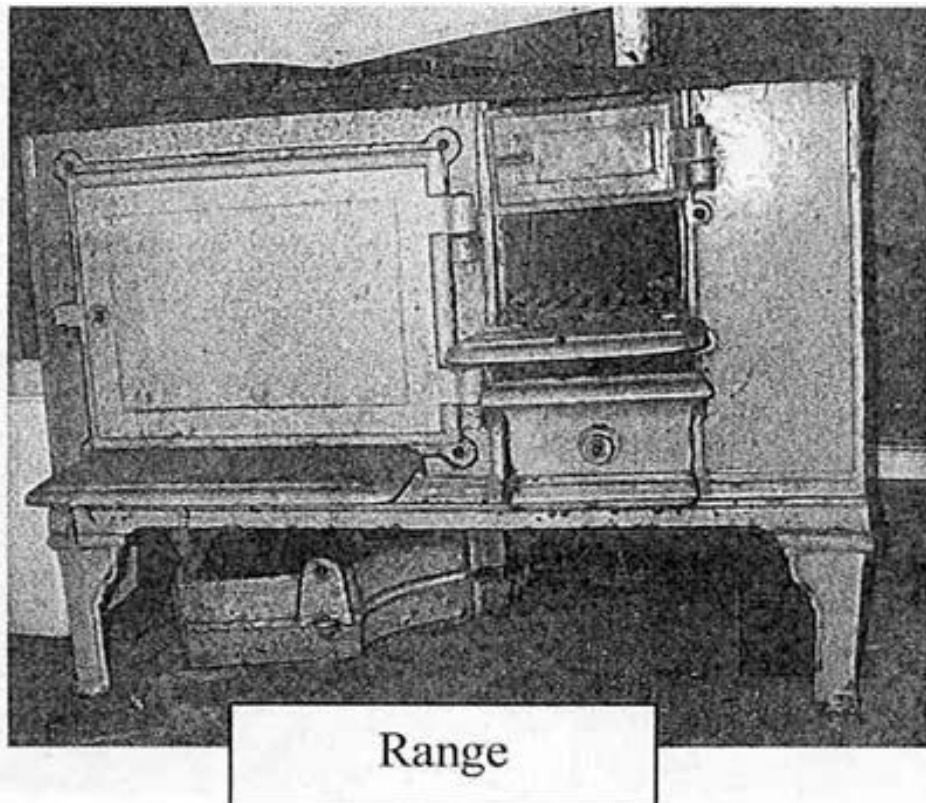
The chimney jutted out from against the inner wall, and the fireplace was on the floor and was surrounded on two sides with two hobs of rough stone and clay. There was a wooden beam across the chimney where the chain and crook hung, so you could cook with your girdle. If you looked up the chimney you could see the sky. Some houses in Inver still had the big open fire and wooden chimney in the thirties before the outbreak of war.



Pupil's drawing of a fireplace. They were quite hard work and messy, but doesn't it look nice and cosy!

How we used to cook

Below a range used before the village got electricity and the electric cooker. It had an oven, hot plates on top, could heat water and best of all it kept the kitchen lovely and warm. Most winter days there would be a 'grand' pot of Scotch broth keeping warm. Don't know what health inspectors would make of that today, but I can't remember anybody complaining coming in from work to a warm kitchen and a hot plate of broth!





Women from the village all dressed in their Sunday best for a WRI outing. They were all of course great cooks and bakers.

Pre 1950 Recipes

Queen cakes

9ozs SR Flour
6ozs Margarine
6ozs Sugar
2ozs Sultanas
2 Eggs
Pinch of Salt
3tbs Milk

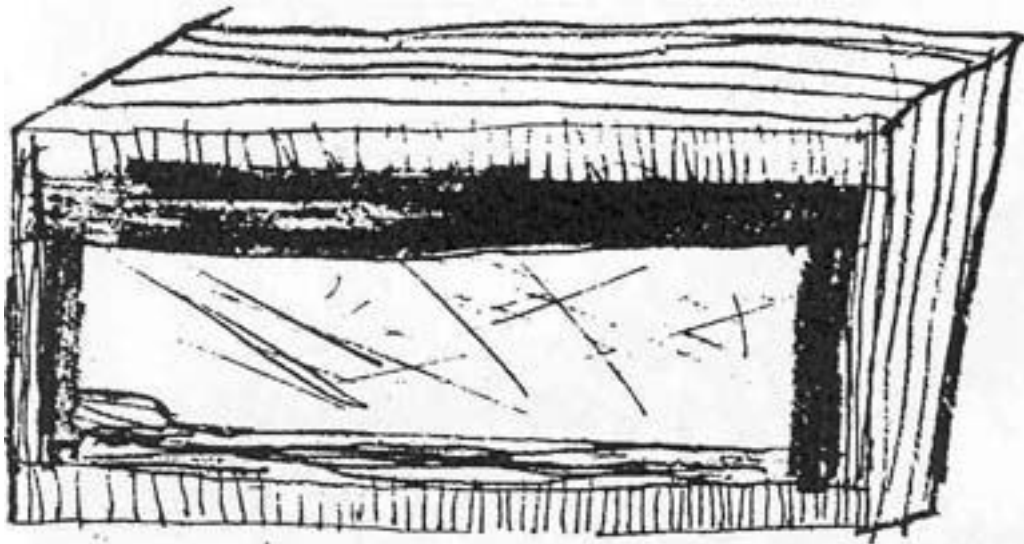
Cream margarine and sugar. Beat eggs & milk add along with flour & fruit to the creamed mixture, mix well.

Bake in moderate oven for 20-25 mins.

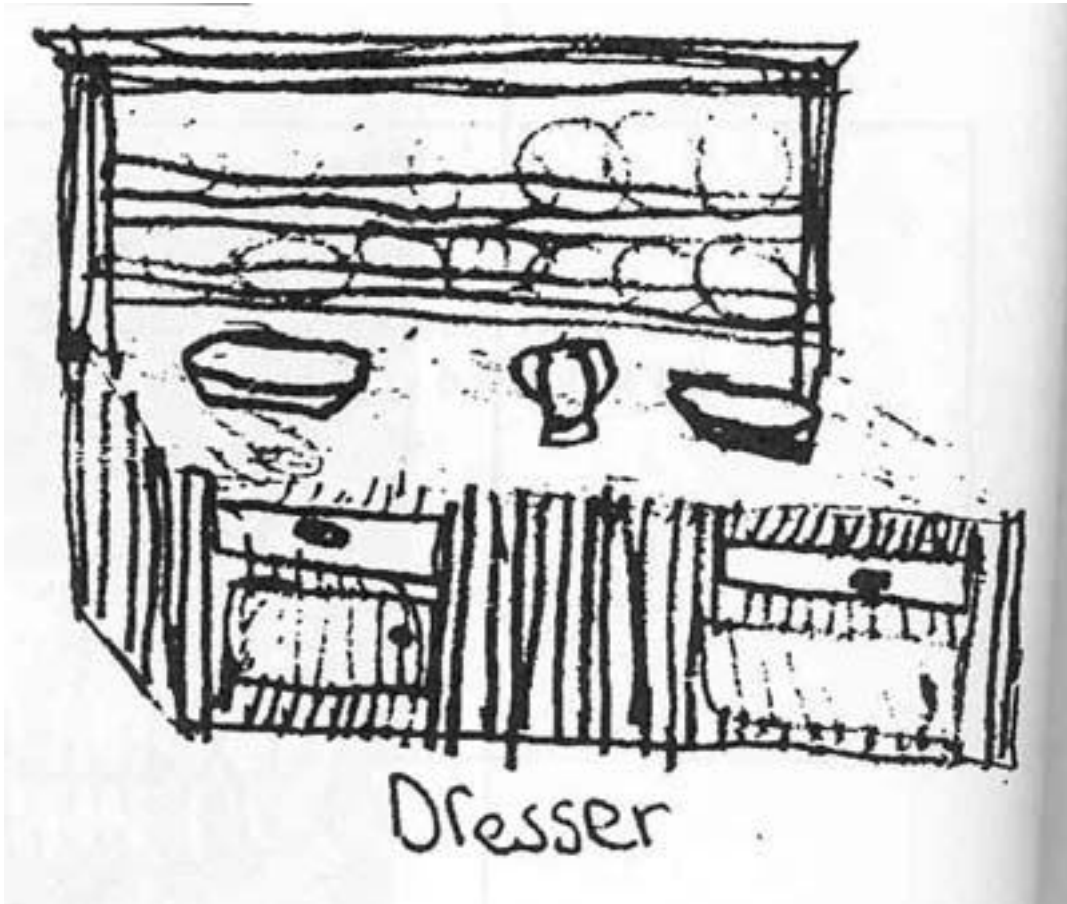
Collops of Canned Meat

1 can of meat (any kind)
1tbs cooking fat
1 onion, sliced
1tbs flour
1 beef cube, dissolved in 1pt hot water
2tbs mushroom ketchup
salt & pepper

Cut meat into cubes, melt fat in a saucepan. Add onion and flour and fry until brown. Add stock, ketchup & seasoning. Stir until mixture boils. Add meat and simmer in gravy over a low heat for about 30 mins.



Box bed

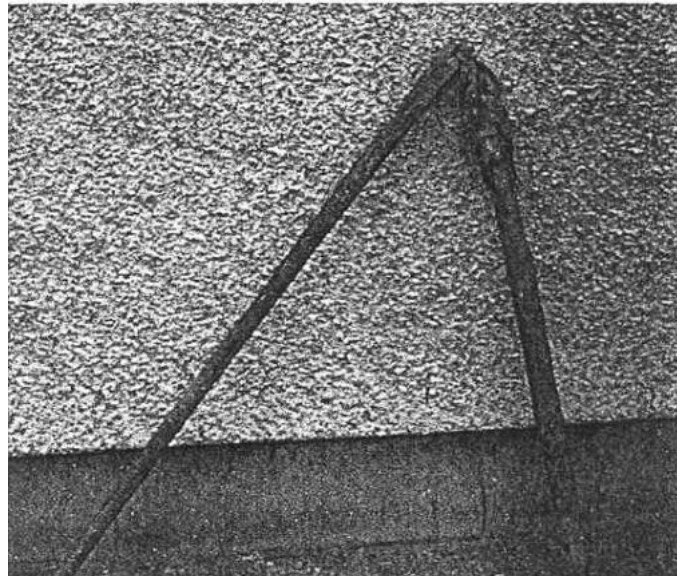


Dresser

Pupil's sketches of items usually found in most kitchens before the war.

Div Ye Mind!

Long before the invention of the thrashing mill, the flail had been used in Highlands of Scotland for centuries to thrash corn but Alastair Munro remembers the flail being used in Inver only 50 years ago. Donnie Wilson and 'himself ' must have been about twelve at the time. The sheaf was placed in the middle and one of them with Walter Ross worked in time, one bringing the flail down whilst the other held his flail up. This continued until the grain had been beaten out of the chaff. They then took the corn down to the shore and tossed it up in the air. The wind would blow the chaff away. This was done to keep them going until the steam mill would arrive. Once the corn was winnowed and cleaned it was taken to Wallace and Fraser in Tain.



A flail

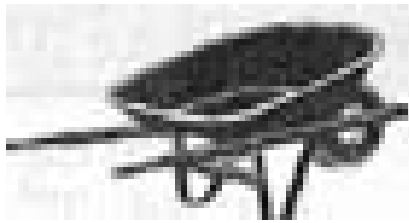


Steam mill arriving at Summerton.

The story is also told of a man in Skinnerton who was going to flail some of his corn inside his shed but there was not enough room. The roof was too low. The solution was simple... he dug a hole in the floor!



Not everyone in Inver could even afford a flail; there was one old lady who used to just knock a handful of corn over and over the end of a wheel barrow.



Sugar 4
Tea 1 1/2
Butter 10
Fat 4 1/2
Cheese 6 1/2
Biscuits
Flour 1 -
1-lb Porridge Oats 4
Milk 1 -
Nestle's 6
Biscuits 4
6-11
Paid

Granny's weekly shopping list

1917
 August
 11th August sausages 1.45
 Small bread 600 1 5
 1 lb Tea . 3 3
 1 lb sugar . 5 7¹/₂
 5 lb Ham @ 2¹/₂ . 10
 Mustard 3 . . 3
 2 lb Butter 5¹/₂ 5
 12 loaves 6 6
 4 lb Jam 3

 2.18.7¹/₂
 Jam off 3

 2.15.7¹/₂
 Bal on 2.27.10

1917 Sunday School Picnic
 goodies.....

Hat Race Boys 7-9	
1st Aluk Mackay	6
2nd Willie Mackay	4
3rd Hugh F + Sam Mackay	2
<u>High Jump over 10 Boys</u>	
Alex Skinner	1st 6
Johnie Skinner	2nd 4
John Skinner	3rd 2
<u>High Jump under 10 Boys</u>	
Walter Ross	1st 6
Tommie Skinner	2nd 4
Hugh F. McKay	3rd 2
<u>Skipping Race Girls</u>	
Annie McKay	1st 6
Nellie Ross	2nd 4
Mary Beattie	3rd 2
<u>Flower Race</u>	
Alex Skinner	1st 6
Sam Skinner	2nd 4
Jessie Fraser & Mary Blair	3rd 2
<u>Team Race</u>	
Wm Skinner	10
Jessie & McKay	2
<u>Three legged Race Boys & Girls</u>	
1st Sam & Mary Beattie	33
2nd Nellie & Hugh F McKay	
3rd John Skinner & Nellie Ross	
<u>Three legged Race Men & Girls</u>	
duff	6
Graham Skinner	4
	2

....and the races, who won and what they won. They actually won money. 1st 6d. 2nd 4d. & 3rd 2d. Does anybody know the 'Flower Race'?

Inver's Livelihood - The Sea;

According to the Statistical Account of 1792, in Inver there used to be 4 boats and 24 men, who lived wholly on the money they got from selling fish to the people of Tain.

Strangers dreaded the Gizen Briggs because, even at high tide there was only a thin channel, and it still is only a thin channel between Ross and Sutherland. A few ships and boats got wrecked on the Gizen Briggs. Inver was the closest that fishing boats could come to Tain but when a strong easterly or northerly wind blew it even was hard for the people of Inver to put to sea.

The main fish that in 1792 were sold were flounder, skate, cod and most of all, haddock. Haddock was plentiful in 1772 but twenty years later, in 1792, it was much scarcer. In 1772 you could buy 20 haddock for 1 penny, but in 1792, you could only buy 1 haddock for 1 penny. The same went for any other type of fish at that time. Strangely the haddock grew larger from 1772-1792.

A lot of shellfish were eaten in 1783, because there was a scarcity of bread at that time and it kept the people alive. This kind of fishing was known as whitefishing. Lines with hooks were used to catch these fish. Even later on when the people of Inver became involved in herring fishing after the herring fishing season was finished they went back to whitefishing.

The main job for the fishermen was getting their lines ready. Everyone in the family would have helped in some way or other. His wife baited the line and the children would crack open the mussels or dig for the lug worms out on the mud flats beside the village for the bait. Sometimes they even missed school because they went to help their dads by going to get the bait. They would also arrive late at school because they had been collecting bait.

Extract from the school log book:

"The weather was cold and frosty. 'Lug' gathering interferes with the attendance when the weather is suitable for 'line' fishing."

Firstly, they would sit on a chair and 'unratch' the line and put lots of . clean bait on it. It took about two hours to bait and clean the line because the line had hundreds of hooks on it. It was a very hard job to do in the winter time because they were working in the water and there were no electric fires. In the summer time all the baiting and cleaning of the line was done outside which must have been much better because they could see what they were doing.



Baiting the line.

Before the fishermen would go to sea they would always check to see what the weather was like. They would tap on the glass of the barometer and see where the arrow would go. The barometer was on the gable end of 11 Main Street.

They had to get their 'piece' ready the night before they were planning to go out to sea because they had to leave at midnight or dawn. It would all depend on what the tide was like. They usually would take cheese and big oat cakes. They called the oatcakes 'aran corce' the Gaelic for oatcake.

In common with other fishing villages in the area, it is still remembered that the women had to carry the men out to their boats so that they would not get wet before setting out.

When they came back from the fishing they would divide up the fish amongst the crew. One man would stand with his back to the rest. The men would divide the fish into even bundles and one of the crew would point to a bundle and ask in the Gaelic "Co tha seo?" 'Whose is this?' The man with his back turned would then name someone from the crew and that would be his fish to take home.



Taking flounders from the line after a successful day's fishing.

Inver people sold fish in Tain right up until the twentieth century and at one time it was a shilling a basinful.



Lorna MacEhern with her cousin Sir Robert Baird at the back door of the manse buying fish from Annie and Johnnie Skinner from Inver in 1934

Mackay was the name of Inver's boat builders. They built the wooden zulu style boat. These boats were beautifully made by top-notch craftsmen but with the coming of engine driven boats it spelt the end for sailing boats and for the boat builders as the channel at Inver was not deep enough for the new boats. The boats at Inver were launched at the back of Shore St. where the concrete ramp is today. Inver also had its own sail maker.



The vice used by the Inver boat builder.





Different kinds of fishing boats used by fisherman long ago.



Annie and Johnnie Skinner with horse and cart getting ready to go to Tain to sell fish.

Herring Fishing

Many different kinds of fishing have taken place from Inver over the years including fishing for herring during the 1800s. The herring dominated their lives. It involved the whole family from the youngest to the oldest. Husbands and sons would be away days, weeks and months fishing. Their wives would follow the progress of the herring down the coast as they were engaged in gutting and packing and the children would miss school because they had to go too.

The herring arrived along the local coastline in the summer months of June, July and August. The men of Inver not only fished around their own shores for herring. The late Jessie Mackay remembered her grandfather talking of sailing to Barra and the school log records them setting off, not only to Barra but Fraserburgh, Peterhead and Yarmouth.



Inver women at either Wick or Yarmouth packing the herring barrels

It was not only the men that followed the herring. The women and girls went too. They travelled to Shetland in the North and as far as Yarmouth in the South. Special trains were laid on to take the crews, which were made up of of two gutters and a packer. It was cold hard work and the gutters had strips of cloth wrapped around their fingers to stop them getting cut.

It is still remembered that before the season started a man would come along and after agreeing terms of pay with them would give them the 'yarlass', which was in the early 1900 s was one shilling. This meant that they were booked for the season.

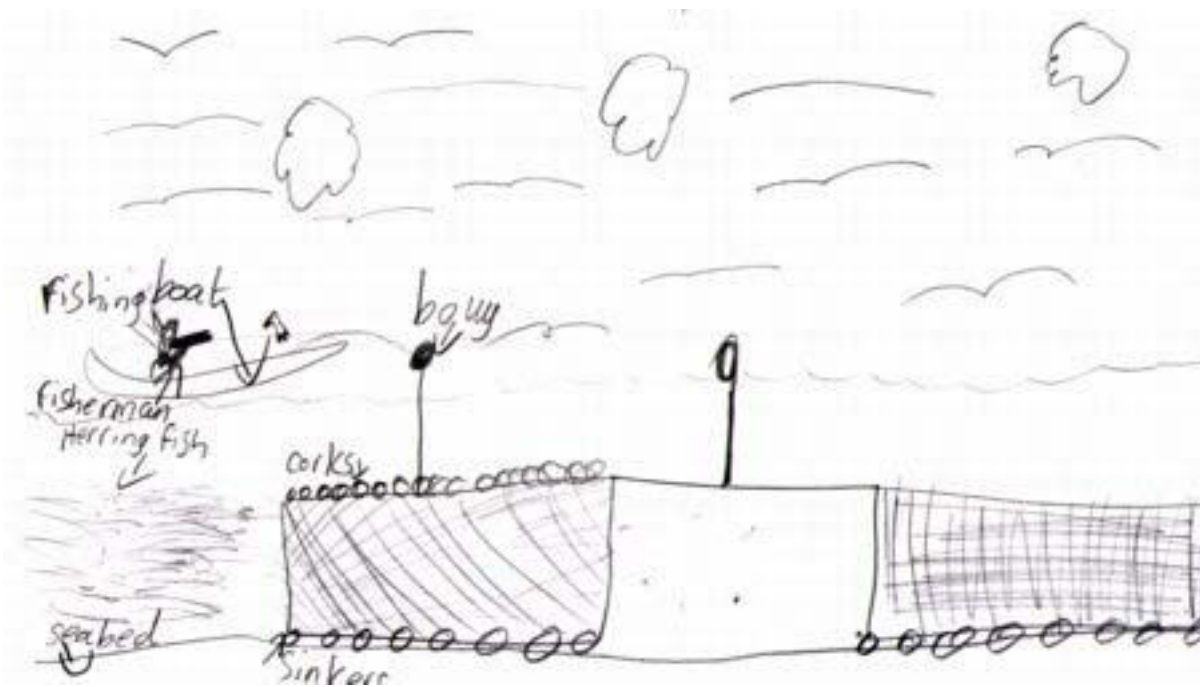


Women wrapping cloth around their fingers.

The men worked from quite large boats, thirty to fifty feet long. They would take everything they needed to allow them stay away from home for one day or for up to two or three months.

A herring boat would have nets called drifts. They had from sixteen to twenty six nets in a boat. Each drift net was ninety six feet long by twenty four feet deep. The top of each net was made from strong rope which went through square cork with holes in the middle. They called this the 'cork-baulk'. At the bottom there was thinner rope with more corks and sinkers this was the 'ground baulk'. These floats and sinkers kept the net upright in the water. The rope on top of each net was four foot longer than the net, this was so that it could be tied to the next net until all the nets were joined together and were in the water. Between every net on this piece of rope there was a buoy which floated up on the surface of the water and helped to keep the net up. The bottom of the net lay on the bottom of the sea bed and the top of the net floated in the water. The length of rope attached to the buoy varied according to how deep the water was. Long ago the buoys were inflated sheep or dog skins. The men had to live and sleep in the boats with all the nets until they reached the place where the herring were. Once they had reached the fishing grounds they would take the mast down and prepare to start putting the nets overboard at the back of the boat. Two men did this whilst the other two would row the boat. Once the net was shot they would wait and watch, drifting along with the net as if it were an anchor. What they were looking and waiting for was to see the

buoys start to sink. This meant that the herring were swimming into the net and pulling it down. On taking in the net if the catch was good they would head for the nearest port, if not then they would shoot the net again.



Pupil's drawing of fishermen shooting the net.

At the height of the herring fishing in 1881 and again in 1885 there were eighty five fishermen living at Inver. It is also said that at one time eighty boats left Inver for the fishing. Local people still remember that there was herring fishing up until the outbreak of the First World War.

During the war Nellie Haddow's father would buy herring from the men and then go through to Invergordon to sell it to the fleet anchored there. Willie her brother would rise at four o'clock in the morning and take him to Fearn station by horse and cart, gig or anything he could use. He would then have to come back in time for school and after school was over he would have to go back to the station to pick him up. Tain was the traditional place for the people to go to sell their fish. After the war they were not allowed to fish for herring and caught haddock and flounders instead. The last fishing boat sailing from Inver was about fifty five years ago.

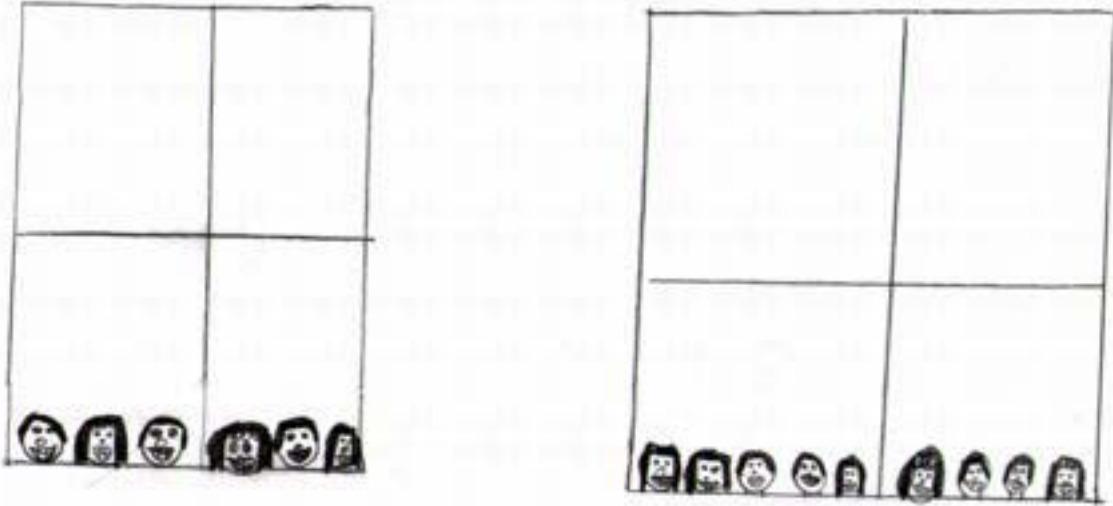


Inver's last fishing boat



Donnie Wilson and Alistair Munro watching Markie salting and gutting herring.

Fishing was not without its dangers. Nellie Haddow vividly remembers that one day, over eighty years ago, there was a terrible storm. Her own father had been off selling fish that day and that night the boats had not returned and all the wives of the fishermen met in her father's house to wait and watch, but the boats did not come. The next day the women were all lined up along the banks again waiting and watching, looking for the boats coming in. Johnny 'Merron's' boat the 'Yongee' or the Blue Boat, as it was known, came in first. Nellie recalls the school master allowing them to stand on their seats to watch the boats coming in. They were not allowed outside but the sense of privilege of being allowed to stand on the seats to watch remained with Nellie all her days.



Pupil's drawing of the schoolchildren watching for boats to return.

All the boats returned safely home, for on finding the wind against them and in the midst of a raging storm the fishermen had taken shelter at Embo. One boat took five days to return as it had dragged anchor and had been blown out to sea. All were not so fortunate. Jessie Mackay recalled that her Granny, who came from Embo, lost her father and two brothers when their boat went down.

And, centuries before, in 1730s the Tain Presbytery Minutes records a tragedy where one at least, if not eight, fishers from Arboll were drowned. The people of Inver and Tain seemed quite happy to help themselves to the spoils of shipwreck without it bothering their consciences too much!

Amsterdame of Amsterdame

In MacGill's 'Old Ross-shire and Scotland' taken from The Balnagown Estate Papers there is an interesting remark found about the fishers of Inver of Lochslyne! During the year 1657, a boat called 'Amsterdame of Amsterdame' had sunk on the Morrich. Fishermen from Inver and Tain stole the goods with the magistrates knowing about it. The people from Tain were caught, but the people from Inver got away because they were too fast. Cromwell's troopers came galloping across the Morrich after the men. They chased them to Tain and got the goods back. The magistrates of Tain wrote complaining that the troopers were too rough!

Inver School

In 1696 it was required by law that landowners should provide a school in every parish with the minister and the landowners choosing a suitable person to teach at the school. The landowners then had to provide a house for the school and money to pay the schoolmaster's salary. The pupils were also expected to pay differing fees according to the subjects they studied. Schools were eventually established at Tarbat and Tain but nothing in Inver.

It wasn't until the formation of the SSPCK, The Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge, that anything was done about teaching the children of Inver. The organisation was set up in 1709 as a charitable institution to teach the children of poorer communities the basics of education and the importance of the scriptures in daily living.

The first SSPCK schoolmaster in 1767 was a David Munro but he didn't stay long as he felt his salary wasn't enough to keep him. However, with more money becoming available, they were able to employ David Ross in 1778. In the 1792 Statistical Account it is recorded:-

"The teacher is allowed 12 l. (£) per annum from the Society, and is furnished by the parish with a house, a garden and a cow's grass. About 30 scholars attend him. "

A request had previously been made to the trustees of Cadboll's estate to build a house/ school for the teacher in 1778 on a piece of bare land " to the west of the fisher town by the seaside."

The next master was Kenneth Ross who taught about 60 children at the school. He was followed by Duncan McNaughton from 1812 -1824. He left, it is recorded, because he was not particularly liked by the fishers of Tain. The people of Inver would have been known as such because they provided the fish for Tain. A report to the society in 1824 reveals that there were "only eight in attendance whereas there had been seventy during winter, nineteen of whom could read Gaelic, after being able to read the English Bible" The house and schoolhouse are declared not to be in good repair and the grass for the cow and the garden are not 'attached'.

Another society which took an interest in the education of the poor, at that time, was the Gaelic Society and in 1837 the Parish of Tain Statistical Account states:

"The Society school has been established chiefly for the behoof of the poor of the village of Inver, which is wholly a Gaelic population, and which is, besides, at an impracticable distance from the town. "

Although the school was situated in what is now the Church of Scotland Meeting House, it was then owned by the Free Church of Scotland congregation in Tain, who also supported the teacher and provided a house for him.

In 1872, The Education (Scotland) Act was passed which made it compulsory for all children to attend school and school boards were set up to run the schools in accordance with the act.

The new school board took over from the SSPCK in 1874. However, the school continued to remain at the Meeting House until the present school building was erected and moved into in 1878. Mr

John Munro, the master with the SSPCK at the time, continued as the headmaster of the new public school. The Free Church congregation of Tain allowed the new school board free use of the building and continued use of the house for the master until the new school was built by George Gordon from Bonar Bridge.

On the day of opening, the first of October 1878 at 1pm, the children, all waving little flags, were marched from the Meeting House to the new school. There they were greeted by the school board and a group of invited guests consisting of the ladies and gentlemen from the area. It was declared a half-holiday so that parents could attend as well.

This must have been a very welcome move considering the complaints made regarding the state of repair to the Meeting House.

Being at school then must have been for the hardiest of pupils only. The first school log book tells of there being no windows, a leaking roof and the seats being so far and few between that children had to take it in turns to sit down. To quote the Headmaster of the day, Mr John Munro, "it was cold and comfortless". Eventually he refused to open the school until some windows were put in!



Inver Meeting House in 1998 with windows and a waterproof roof.

The reading only gets worse, for not only were the children being taught in a cold, draughty building but they were not likely to escape for long holidays as these were in short supply . In 1874 the first recorded holidays were from the 30th of July until the 26th of August, barely three weeks - and that was it ! - until the New Year. Potato holidays were not introduced until 1914 . At least there were two New Year holidays, January the first and Old New Year's Day on the twelfth. Of course, December the 25th was school as usual. There was no Santa Claus in the Highlands then. However, Inver was well ahead of the times, for in 1885 the school was closed by the Head, Mr Mr Alexander McGillivray, for Christmas but such a luxury was not to be enjoyed for long because the new Headmaster Mr Donald Matheson in 1891 had everyone back in again. Life was like that then. The Head Teacher had real power !

On one occasion, the Headmaster postponed the summer holidays because the children weren't up to scratch for the inspector's examinations. To make matters worse, the pupils also had to put up with the School Board who could also change holidays at the drop of a hat. In 1887, for Queen

Victoria's Silver Jubilee, the schools were all closed on the Friday as a public holiday but the School Board wanted everyone then to come in on the Saturday instead! Needless to say only twelve turned up.

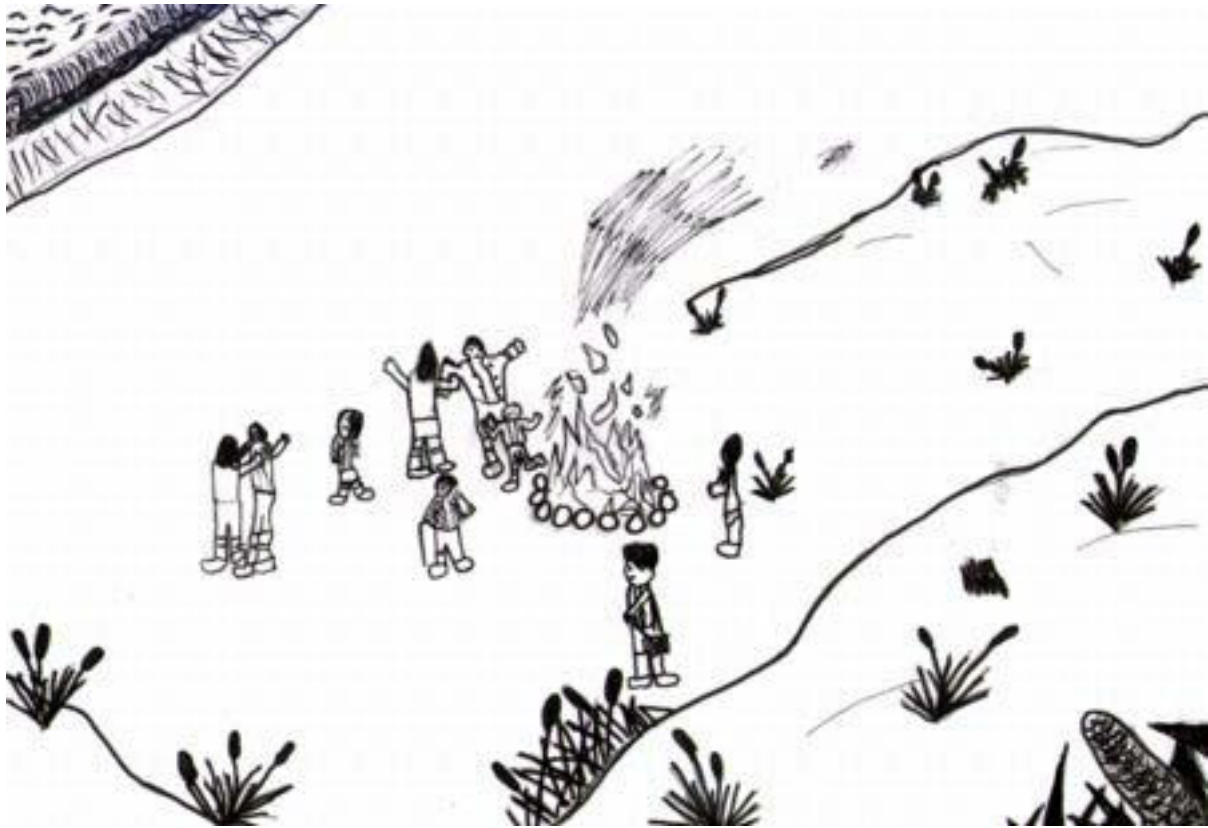
Despite all this there was one area where the Inver children did manage to gain some extra days and that was over the Communion Seasons, school being closed from the Wednesday to the following Tuesday, and because the village was in both the Tarbat and Tain parish they had time off for both. And if you lived up the Newton way you were even more fortunate in that you were off for the Fearn Communion as well.

It is little wonder, with there being so little official time off school that attendance was very poor with only a half, or even a quarter of the children on the roll coming to school at times. Also children were just too useful to send to school. The school log books record the following as being some of the chores they had to engage in. There was sea ware to be collected for their small plots, potato beds to be made ready, potatoes to be planted, weeded and lifted, turnips to be thinned, sticks to be collected for the firewood, rabbits to be snared and shell fish to be gathered. In the Spring time real money was to be made collecting Golden Plover eggs and selling them to the local shop for one shilling a dozen. These were then sent to London, whether to be eaten, added to collections or made into paint (as has been suggested) is not recorded. Country children were often used as beaters and were nowhere to be seen at haymaking or at the harvest. A harvest holiday was introduced in the mid 1800's at the end of August and the beginning of September to help alleviate this problem.

Occasionally it is noted that they were just "allowed to lie on" in the mornings - no wonder - they were probably exhausted!

Necessary work wasn't the only reason for absenteeism though. The log records the children being "off with the cold from dancing outside in February under the open sky." It's a marvel it wasn't pneumonia they caught. The "Inverites" must have been keen on the dancing because in the October of the previous year, the Headmaster complained:

"Home lessons are not well attended to, many children spend the entire evening in recreation which takes the form of dancing, the young lads and girls likewise joining in. Thus the whole village is frequently one big dancing school held in the open air in some sheltered nook."



He goes on to protest that the children didn't appear until 10 o'clock after Religious Instruction was over, and then they would begin to "drop in". I suppose if you've been up all night dancing, then Religious Instruction is the last thing you feel like the next morning!

There was an obvious struggle to get the youngsters to come to school and to get their parents to send them. Frequently the "Reverend Mr Grant" from Tain had to visit the village and extol the virtues of education to which they all gave hearty consent - but did nothing about. In a number of cases the default officer had to prosecute parents for not sending their children to school.

By January 1881 the lack of schooling had become a concern to the older lads of the village. Therefore they, along with their parents, approached the Headmaster asking him to open an evening school. Eighteen enrolled and by the following January there were twenty coming along and they were so keen that they pleaded with the Headmaster not to stop at 9.30 pm but to keep on going with the lesson.

With Inver's livelihood coming from the sea, the main reason for children being absent was the fishing. When it was the season for whitefishing the boys were kept off school to collect bait. They then had to help bait the lines and later after a day's fishing they had to "unratch" the lines ready to begin the process of baiting again.

In May 1881, five boats left for the fishing grounds off Barra and consequently the boys had to stay off school to look after the ponies. The girls were also needed, for when the women walked to Tain to sell their fish or went to Portmahomack to the herring fishing they had to stay at home to look after the younger bairns. When they went further afield to Helmsdale, Peterhead or Fraserburgh the whole family went too!

On one occasion, the Headmaster was so desperate to keep the girls for the Inspection (for teachers were paid by the number of children present at these inspections and by how well they did) that he persuaded their parents not to take them away to the herring but to leave them in school for the inspection on condition that he would put them to Fearn to catch the train south after the visit. The School Log Book doesn't say who paid for the train fares !

Travelling to these far flung places, although exciting for the children, it wasn't without its dangers. In 1884 an epidemic of measles hit the village and one hundred of the children went down with it and the school was closed for nearly a year. The Headmaster attributes it to the children being away at Peterhead and bringing the measles back with them and he states "they shouldn't be allowed to go".

School log entry Oct 29 1884:

"The most of the children are now fairly recovering from the measles, with the exception of the youngest and some of the age of 14 & 18. It has reduced the children immensely. The teacher's own boy was almost despaired of. The trouble however did not turn out so fatal as was dreaded at first. It may be noted that within the space of two days upwards of one hundred children in the Village, and in the immediate neighbourhood got unwell with it. The disease had some symptoms never, to the recollection of any hereabout, observed in connection with any kind of measles ever before, it must have been a foreign kind and undoubtedly, it must have come here from Peterhead, and the custom of allowing children of school age go there, at the time of the Fishing should not in the future be allowed, by the school Board and the Tain Authorities, for it is dangerous to the whole children of the Parish and the neighbouring Parishes."

Disease and epidemics were very much part of life and frequently deaths are recorded and with whooping cough, flu and diphtheria regular occurrences the school was often closed for two or three months at a time. Two of the Headmaster's own children died from diphtheria but by far the worst epidemic must have been the scarlet fever of October 1874 which "carried away 26 children, nineteen of them being boys but the first to die was an Ellon Fraser".

It was certainly a hard existence in those days. On more than one occasion the weather was so bad that the boats couldn't get out to sea for long periods and so there were no boots or adequate clothing for the children to come to school. In March 1883 the Headmaster, Donald MacKay provided some of the children with food and clothing and when the weather was stormy he kept them overnight at school because they couldn't get home. Despite the rose tinted glasses that cause us to remember the long hot summers of the past, the weather then was really no better than today, with fires having to be lit in the school room in June.

But life wasn't all hardship. There was always the school trip to look forward to. As early as 1881 there was an outing to Invergordon Castle courtesy of "Cadboll himself" where the children were treated in a princely fashion. They also went to the cattle show in Tain or in the early 1900's to a matinee of the Brass Band "Besses O' The Barn Band". There was a free gift tea (whatever that was?) and of course in 1953 an outing to the picture house for the Coronation.

There is plenty of information in the school log books dealing with the learning or lack of it. The pages are littered with inspector's reports who seem to take great delight in fault finding. A typical example being -

October 19 1883:

"Summary of the Inspector's Report on the School - In Reading, Handwriting and Spelling, very creditable proficiency is shown in this school. The Arithmetic of the Junior Standard is also, except Notation, deserving of credit : but in these classes the Reading lessons are not explained with adequate intelligence or readiness, a result clearly due to the defective methods in class instruction. In the senior classes, History and Geography are very fully and accurately known and the corresponding grant is recommended with pleasure; but flagrant deficiency is observable in the Arithmetic exercise. No pupil in the Sixth Standard and only two out of thirteen in the Fourth Standard could solve even one question. Improvement in this branch is accordingly imperatively required and until effected Specific subjects should not be attempted. Some effort should also be made to counteract the tendency to copying and incessant talk. Gaelic songs are well sung, and the industrial work is again of exceptional merit. The school Board should provide a few materials for this department."

Obviously the copying wasn't of too much concern to the teacher as the new Headmaster eight years later complains of there being a great tendency to whisper and copy - no doubt he sorted it out! !

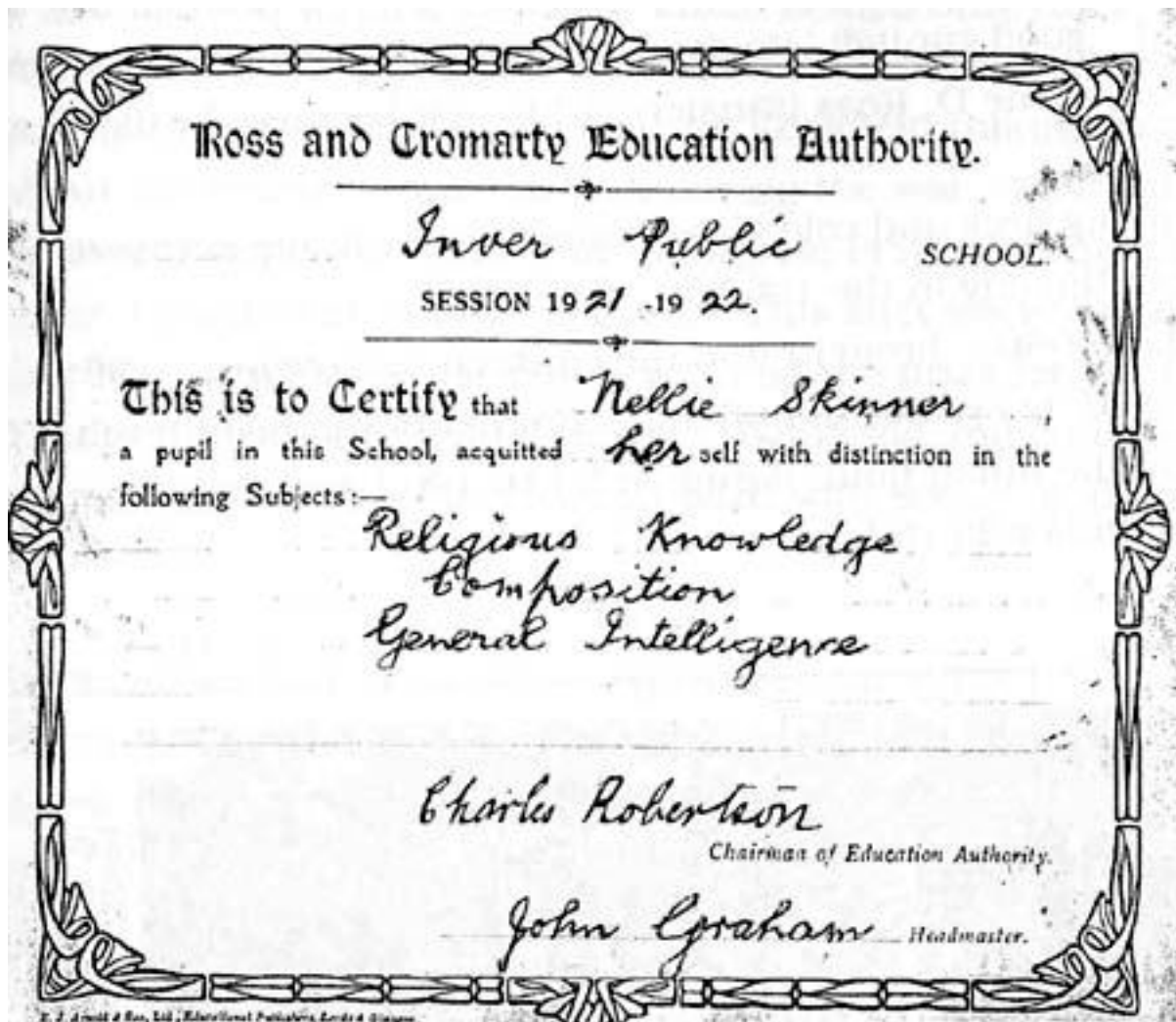
It is the unannounced, surprise visits of the inspectors that often bring the really interesting facets of school life into view:

"Thirteen girls and four boys who were absent were marked present. The registers had not been summed for 11 and a half days. A paid Monitor was enrolled as a pupil and had his attendances regularly marked - two lads, pupils, were working as Monitors instead of prosecuting their own studies. The offices were very dirty. The gates leading to the boys' office was off and sheep seemed to be in the habit of occupying the office at night. A pig was quartered in the soil pit of the offices and the stench was abominable."

The office, one must surmise, was the toilet and the pit an early open septic tank but the stench we cannot presume to be the pig or the sheep because even today at the end of the 20th Century only those with a limited sense of smell would brave the boys' toilets! What the offices contained is not clear but "pails" were introduced in 1917 and flushing toilets were introduced in royal style in 1953!

Before running water was introduced, between 1940 and 1941, all the water for the school had to be carried up to the school from wells in the village a half a mile away. To make ink, the boys (never the girls it is remembered) were sent to the burn near the entrance to the village with huge brown bottles to collect water in and mix up into ink.

But to return to the academics - the inspectors' reports constantly point out the slowness of the junior classes and the backwardness of the children.



Children who had done very well were awarded a certificate.

However, it must be remembered in those days when children came to school they were taught in a foreign language - namely English. In the 1800's Gaelic was the native tongue of the villagers and there was no English spoken by the children until they came into the school environment. By 1933 it was recorded that there were no Gaelic speakers left in the village.

As well as the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic being taught, subjects such as Euclid, Latin and Analysis were also taught, with needlecraft for the girls and gardening for the boys. The boys worked in pairs and had a plot in the school garden - the produce was enjoyed by the Head Teacher!

Though many children left early to go into service or to the fishing some were considered 'good enough' to go on to Tain Royal Academy before they reached fourteen. One D. Ross transferred himself because he didn't win a school prize.

Apart from smoking fires and cold classrooms boat building seems to have been the order of the day in the 1960s.



Tom Stewart and his boat builders

Began in October 1960 - brought into the canteen in November 1961 because of the cold ('very useful building' comments the head teacher) - launched during the lunch hour of August 24th 1962 and finally made watertight on October 26th!



May Ross taking Murdo and Ian Ross to school. Spot the slate!

Inspectors were not the only visitors to the school. The ladies of Arbol called with sewing materials and, still better, cakes for the children. In 1909 James Coates of Paisley Cotton manufacturer fame presented the school with a large bookcase, one hundred books and one hundred school bags for the children. He also provided such items for other schools in the area at the time.

There was one visitor in 1969, however, that left the teachers rather embarrassed. The local minister of the day arrived for his usual visit but with an unusually dressed companion. Adorned with tri cornered hat, frilly blouse, tailcoat, breeches and splendid buckled shoes the pupils immediately recognised the visitor as a famous T.V. celebrity of the day and on being asked by the teacher as to who the gentleman was burst out, "Captain Pugwash of course!" No doubt the Moderator of the Church of Scotland has been called many things in his day - but a comic pirate?!

In 1974 television reporters and acoustic experts were in school to record the level of aircraft noise but the head teacher of the day, Stroma Riungu, records that, "unfortunately, it was an exceptionally quiet day" (unlike the 7th of March 1983 when a jaguar jet crash landed only three quarters of a mile from the school building.). Television cameras were back in school again in 1994 to record Finlay Munro, Rockfield, talking to the children about the evacuation of the area during the war. That was also the year the pupils carried out a successful Enterprise Project selling over 1,000 copies of their Evacuation of Inver booklet. This success was built upon the following year with the senior pupils winning the prize for the best enterprise project in primary schools for the Highlands and Islands. This time they filmed and produced a video compiled with scenes and songs from the local area. [See 'Inver Evacuation']

Over its one hundred and twenty five year history the school has seen twenty different head teachers, one hundred and eighty five pupils and many many changes to the physical building, daily timetable and curriculum. What with Information Technology, Foreign Languages, Personal Social and Moral Education, Environmental Studies, School Ethos Indicators, Audits, School Development Plans, the Raising of Standards and Achievement and Quality Assurance the school of today would be almost unrecognisable to the first teachers and pupils of the 1800's. Also over the years the school roll has fluctuated from up to one hundred children in the 1800 s to only nineteen in the early nineties. This has brought with it the inevitable threats of closure but all these have been successfully fought off by successive generations of parents and hopefully with a new extension promised for the year 2000 the school will be around for quite a few years yet.

Inver's Head Teachers 1874 to the present:

Head Teacher	Date took up post	in post
John Munro	1874	3 years
Donald MacKay	1877	7 years
Alex. McGillivray	1885	6 years
Donald Matheson	1891	13 years
David Murray	1904	7 years
John MacKay	1911	2 years
Kenneth A. Matheson	1913	1 year (died 1914)
John Graham	1914	15 years
J. H. Ross	1929	2 months
Margaret Ross	1929	15 years
N. Macdonald	1944	2 years
H. J. Mackenzie	1946	Temporary head
T. Campbell	1946	8 years
Tom Stewart	1954	16 years
Stroma Riungu	1970	5 years
Stan MacKenzie	1975	3 years
John Niven	1978	6 years
David Vass	1984	4 years
Francis Wood	1988	3 years
Katherine De Jonckheere	1991	present

Trying to avoid the belt must have been very difficult.

If you were unfortunate enough to have had to go to Arbol in the morning for the milk by the time you reached school the dew would have wet your boots sufficiently to take off the polish and merit you the strap. Boot inspections were a regular occurrence with one headmaster. He was also inclined to belt the children for talking Gaelic in school. Others were known to belt for incorrect spelling.



A school concert from yesterday.



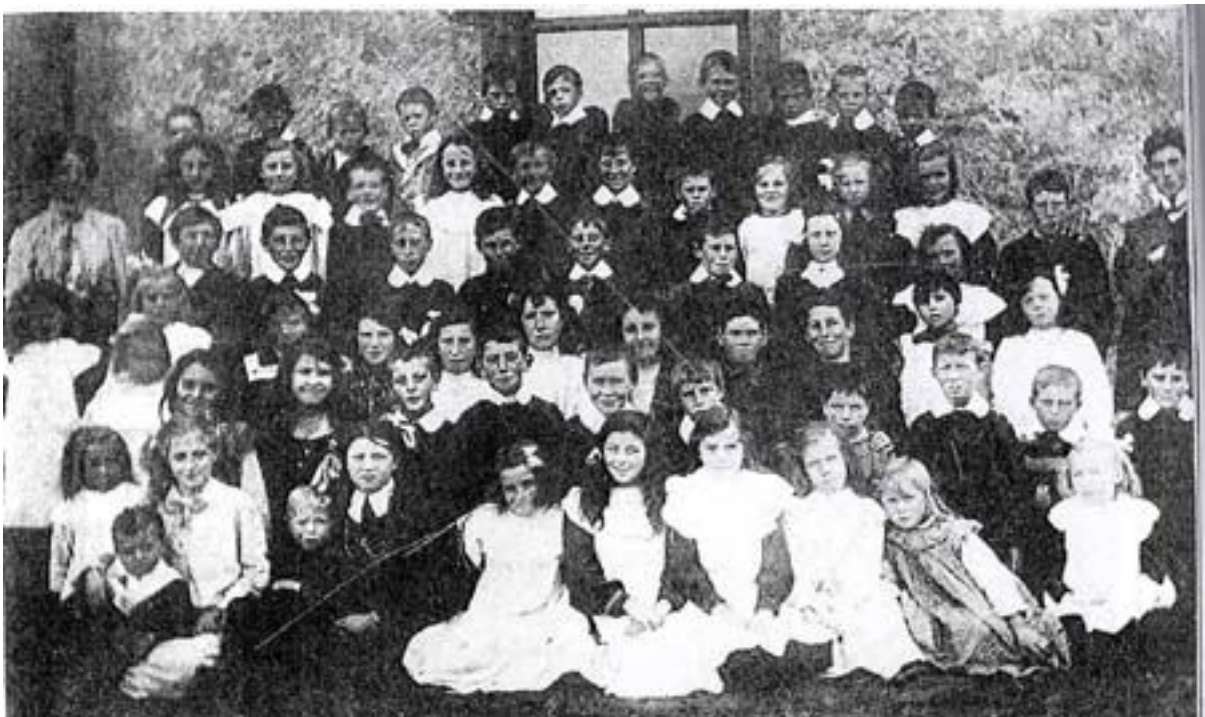
A school concert from yesterday.

School Groups Down Through The Years



A very early school picture taken in the late 1800's. The headmaster at that time was Mr Alexander McGillivray.

Due to limited space the names of individual pupils in the following pictures have not been given, but lists containing most of the pupils can be obtained from the school.



David Murray/John Mackay in 1910/1911



Miss Ross in 1930's



Mr John Graham and class 1920 approx.



Miss Ross in 1929



Mr and Mrs T. Campbell 1953



Mr Tom Stewart 1959



Mrs Stroma Ruingu, Head Teacher in 1974



John Niven, Head Teacher in 1981



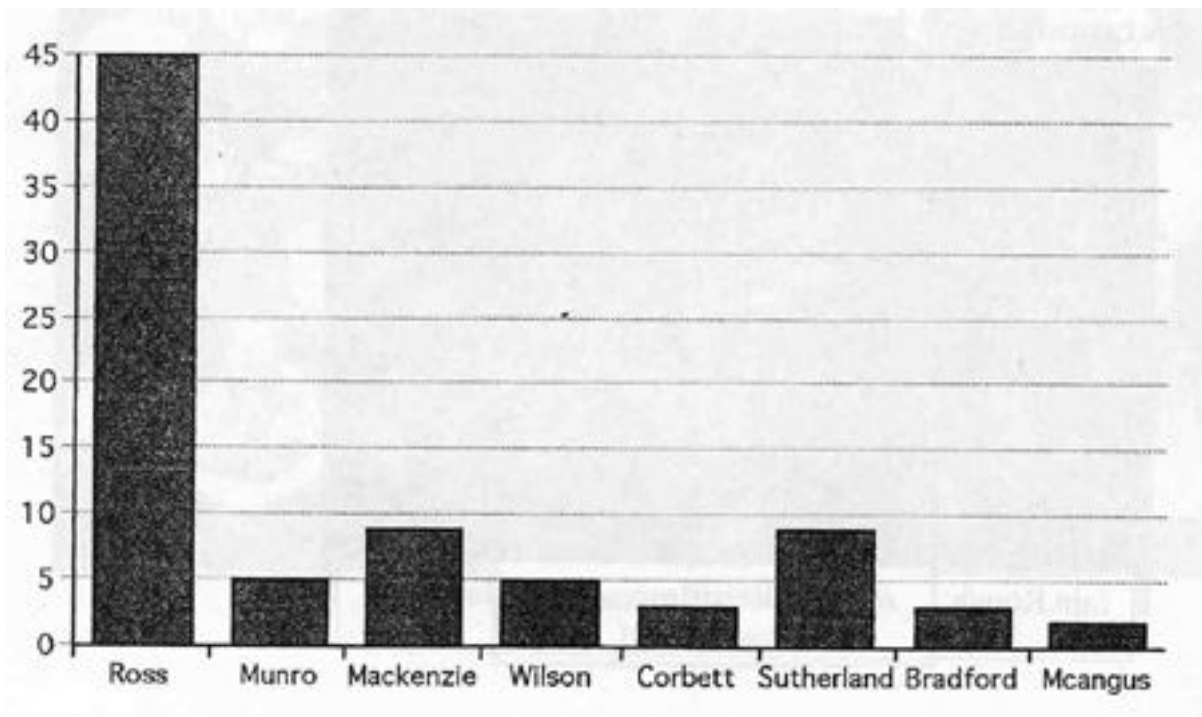
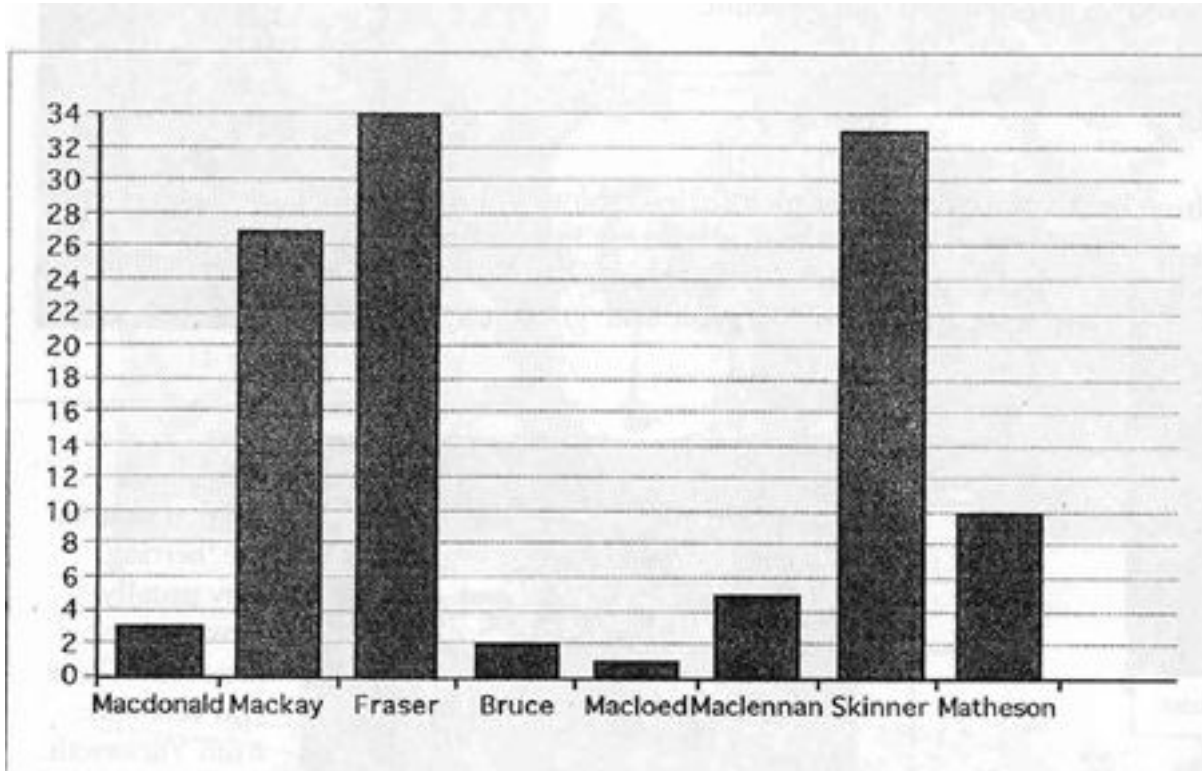
Frances Wood, Head Teacher in 1991



Katherine De Jonckheere, Head Teacher in 1999

Pupils in School in 1885

The following are two graphs of the names of all the pupils at school in the year 1885. No surprise as to which names appear the most often Skinner, Ross, Fraser and Mackay.



Miscellaneous Page

You never know what may end up as part of our heritage! In Tain Museum you will find the following item from Inver.



Private Samuel Skinner was captured by Germans in 1945 and put into a prisoner of war camp and when he was released the Russians gave him a pair of Long Johns, that was all he got. He was the first of the locals to get back. His Long Johns were made of cotton and calico and today they are preserved in - you've guessed it - Tain Museum.

No refrigerators back in the olden days. The picture(below) shows in the back ground the fish 'curing'. Many locals can remember this along with the 'blue bottles' swarming over them! The fish still got eaten.



Libby and Sandy Ross



When the women went to the 'herring' , they usually brought back presents. These two vases are from Yarmouth.



This year's primary one entrants, the last this century.

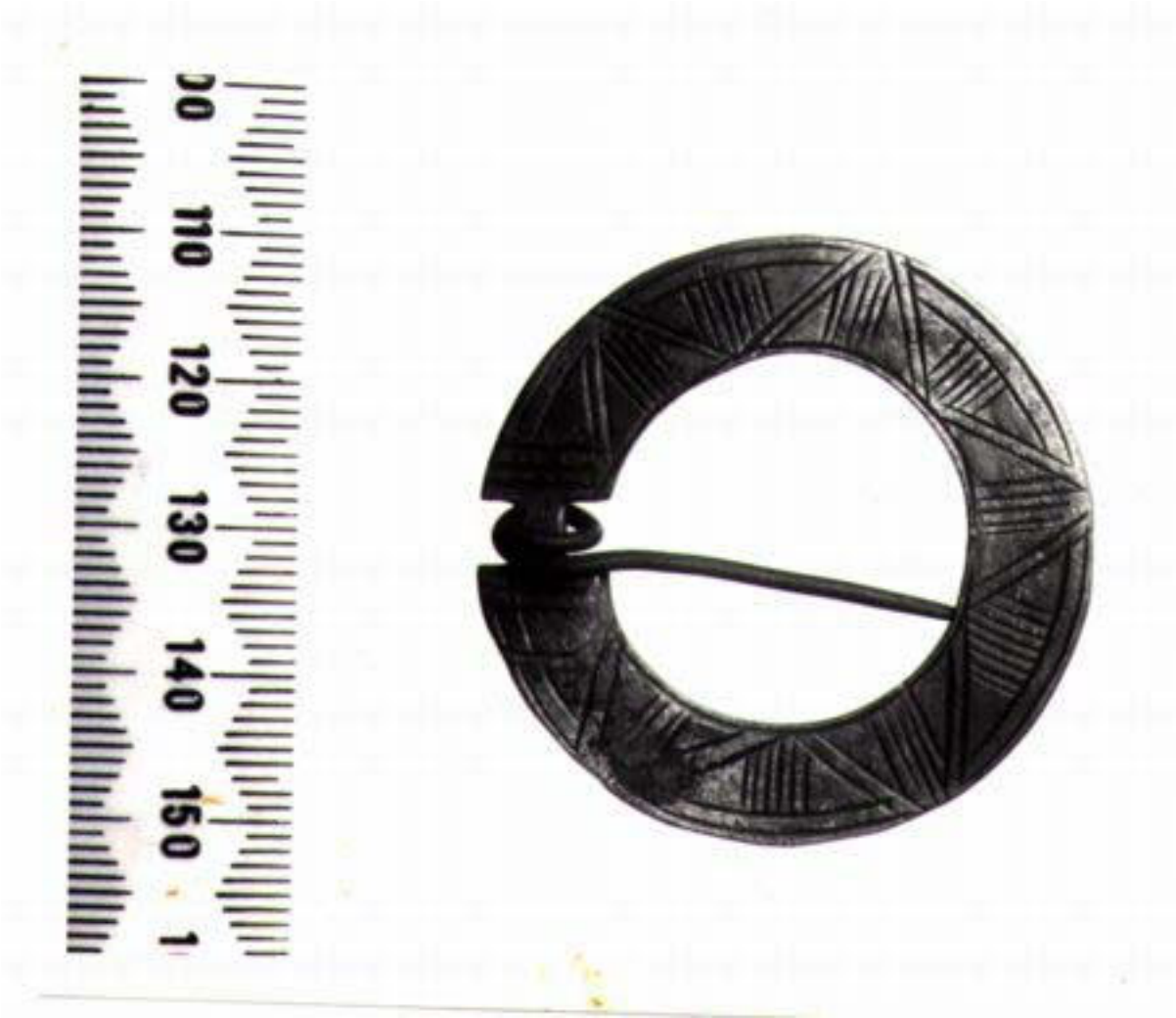
Iain Rough;

Alasdair Robertson;

Jodie Chapman.

Highland Ring Brooch

This ring brooch was found in the garden of Charlie and Mary Dillon and dates from the 17th or 18th Century. Ring brooches similar to this one have been worn in Scotland as early as the 13th to 14th century.



Thatch the dog

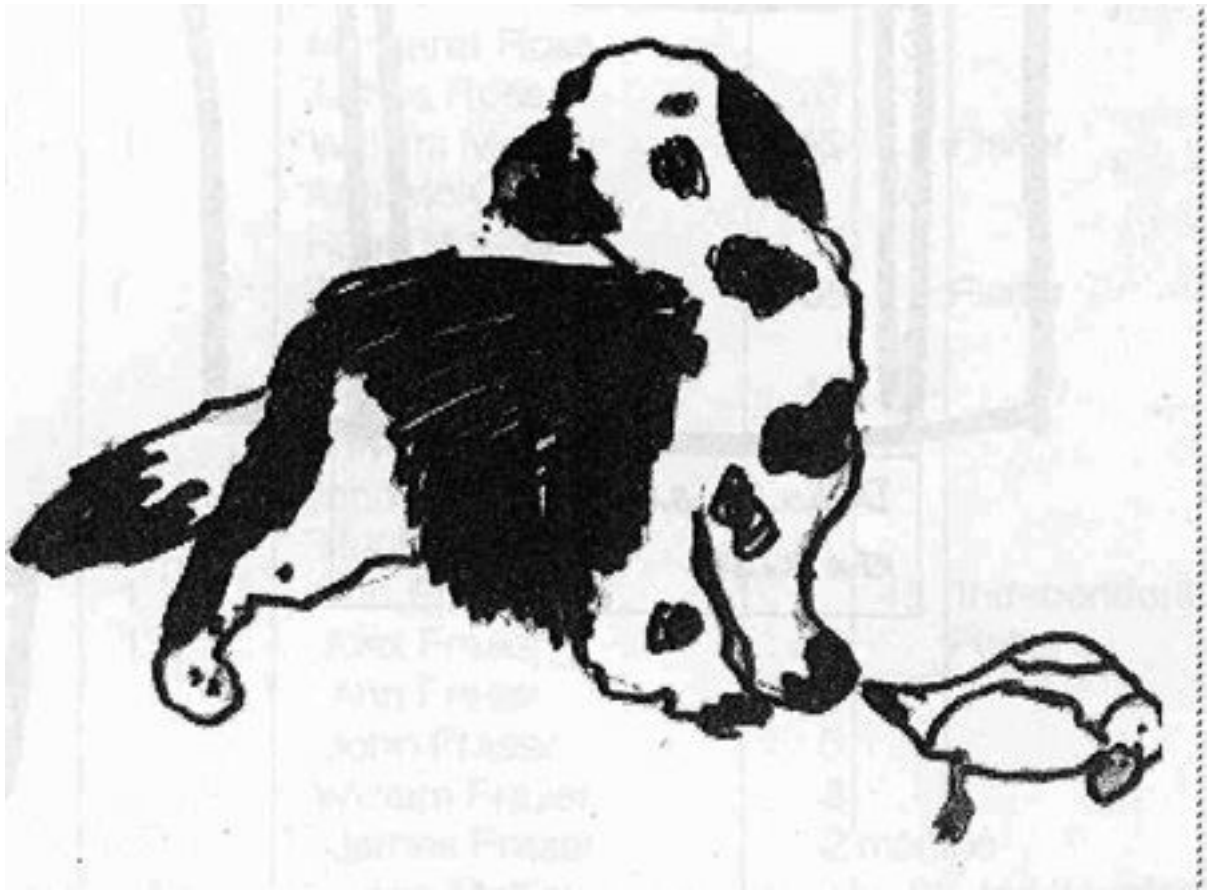
Thatch the dog and his owner lived by themselves in an old house near the Dornoch Firth, a piece of water that splits Sutherland from Ross-shire and what a beautiful stretch of water it was.

One wet, stormy night Johnny brought back a tiny, 7 week-old puppy in his arms. He had taken it back from a mansion house a few miles away. Just as they entered the house a bit of thatched roof fell on the dog's head, so he was named Thatch.

A dog means a lot to his owner. He's a great pal and Thatch often went hunting along the shore with his owner. They liked hunting ducks and geese. There were lots of of them along the shore. Thatch was great at retrieving and a great help in winter.

One time when Thatch was just over a year old, Thatch and his owner were out wild duck hunting at the mouth of a river on a stormy night in November. Thatch was sent to retrieve a duck that had fallen some distance away in the water. Thatch had also seen the duck falling and did not need to be told to dive into the icy water to search for the duck. It was getting dark at the time and Johnny realised he had made a big mistake. To make matters worse there was a strong current at the time and a high tide. He watched Thatch till he was out of sight. Then he went home heartbroken and mad at himself. Suddenly he heard a bark. It was Thatch, with the duck in the middle of the floor, blood dripping from his nose.

Thatch died May 1961.

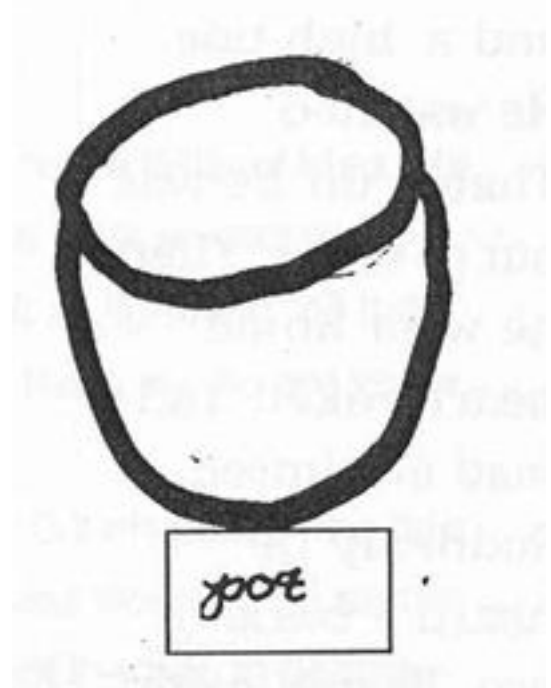
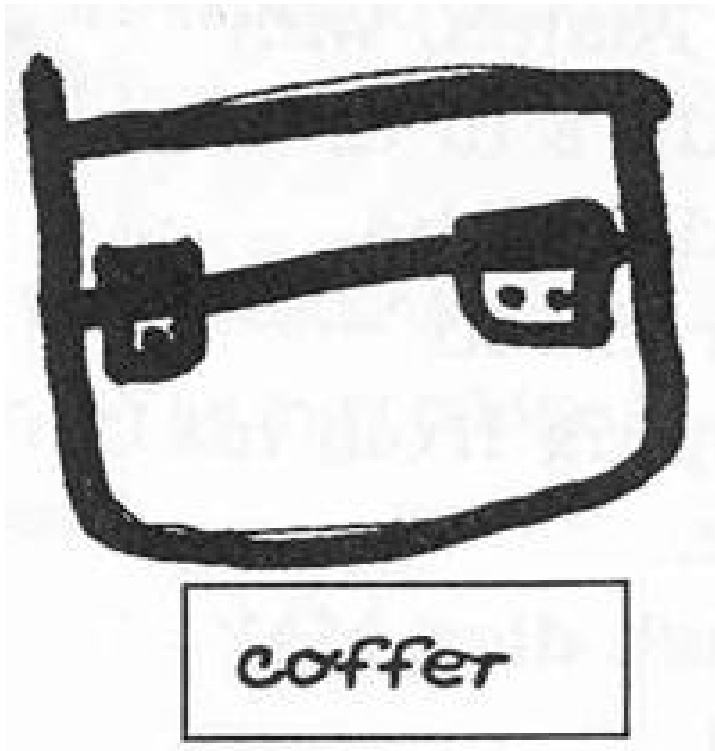


A pupil's drawing of Thatch with the duck.

Donald Moir

The following extract from MacGill's 'Old Ross-shire and Scotland' lets us see just how poor some people in Inver were hundreds of years ago:

"On 20th of January 1694 - Donald Moir died - he left: Greitt Kist..4 Merks - Litill coffer ..13s 4d- and a pot 4.. merks A cow.. 10 lib - stirk.. £4 6s 8d - a horse.. 10 lib. There was in the house 3 merks money. Apparently he slept on the kist, sat on the coffer and cooked everything in the pot."



Cholera

Fisherman from the south of Britain brought cholera to Wick in July 1832.

When the first two patients died boat men from the south spread rumours about the doctor who was a Dr E Alison from Edinburgh. They told the people Dr Alison had poisoned his patients. The mob stormed the hospital destroying all the beds and most of the windows. Dr Alison fled out of Wick back to Edinburgh.

By August cholera rapidly spread over the county killing many people. When people died the families often didn't want to lift the bodies in case they got the disease. In one town there was no one to put the corpse of a woman into a coffin so they got two drunken men to lift the body for them. Another drunken man carried the body to the grave but the man let the coffin slip off his back and on to the ground.

Fishermen from Prestonpans on the Firth of Forth arrived at Helmsdale and during the journey one of the crew had died of cholera but they didn't tell anybody. It is said a young healthy woman whilst washing the clothes of of the Prestonpans crew was amongst the first to die. She was seized with violent cramps whilst washing the clothes.

Eventually the disease spread to Inver.

Extract from the Inverness Courier Sept 5th 1832:

'The former stations of the pestilence Portmahomack, Balintore, Helmsdale, Embo and Co are now clear of the contagion but it has alas broken out in the small fishing village of Inver near Tain with a virulence hitherto unexplained in this country. Inver is not supposed to contain more than 30 families or from 120 to 130 souls yet in the scanty population there have been 90 cases of cholera and 41 deaths.

The manner in which the pestilence was introduced is not well known. The most satisfactory account we can learn is that the fishermen when they fled from the herring fishing left the clothes which at the time they had on their boats, where they remained such a length of time exposed to the elements that their owners thought they might safely take them home. This was accordingly done and on that very night the disease made its appearance and at once assumed the most fearful aspect. This occurred on the evening of Wednesday last. Great numbers were seized and before the accounts reached Tain the following morning four cases terminated fatally. On Thursday evening twelve were dead and before Friday evening the deaths amounted to seventeen. Medical assistance was sent as soon as possible. Dr MacGlashan from Edinburgh, whose services were engaged some time ago by the Board of Health, hastened to the spot but unfortunately before he had been any length of time there when he himself was seized. He was succeeded by Dr Munro from Tain."

The mortality now became so great it was impossible to procure coffins for the dead. With that dispatch that the urgency of the case required eleven were buried without shroud or coffin, six in one grave and five in another.

On Saturday nineteen coffins were sent out of Tain, some of them for immediate use and the rest to be in readiness. On Monday very few of them remained.

At first alarm many of the poor people fled to the woods in the neighbourhood and shortly another nine families went off to the Morrish Mhor and to an extensive tract of sandy hillocks about a mile and a half from their houses, where we regret to add two or three persons were taken ill. So intent were they on escaping that they carried nothing away with them and some of the poor women snatched up their children in a state of nudity and has thus ended their lives. As soon as this destitute state became known in Tain an abundance of food and other necessities were sent to them. The carters of the town volunteered their services and drove down brushwood for fuel and for constructing temporary huts. The brushwood was given gratuitously from the estate of Tarlogie. The gentlemen of Tain exerted themselves on this occasion in the most laudable manner. No deaths have occurred among those who fled up to Monday afternoon when Dr Munro's report on arrival was as follows: Deaths 41. Recoveries only 7. Remaining 9. Total cases in five days 57.

Drs MacAndie and Evans visited the place also and we learn some of the medical gentlemen gave it as their opinion that they never saw cholera wear a more formidable appearance than at this village.

Great quantities of tar are daily burnt and we are told that even some of the houses are set on fire by their owners to operate as a preventative of contagion.

Hugh Miller the famous geologist from Cromarty writes of the cholera and its effect on Inver in his book Scenes and Legends. His account of the disease is much more dramatic:

"In the villages of Ross the disease assumed a more terrible aspect than it had yet presented in any part of Britain . In the little village of Portmahomack one-fifth of the inhabitants were swept away: in the still smaller village of Inver, one-half. So abject was the poverty of the people that in some instances there was not a candle in any house in the whole village; and when the disease seized on the inmates in the middle of the night-time, they had to grapple in darkness with its fierce agonies and mortal terrors, and their friends, in the vain attempt to assist them, had to grope round their beds. The infection spread with frightful rapidity. At Inver, though the population did much exceed a hundred persons, eleven bodies were committed to the earth, without shroud or coffin, in one day. Many of the survivors fled from the village, and took shelter, some in the woods, some among the hollows of an extensive tract of sand-hills. But the pest followed them to their hiding places, and they expired in the open air. Whole families were found lying on their cottage floor. In one instance, an infant, the only survivor, lay grovelling on the body of its mother - the sole mourner in a charnel house of the pestilence. Rows of cottages, entirely divested of inhabitants, were set on fire and burned to the ground."



Tain managed to stay clear of the cholera having sworn-in some Chelsea pensioners as constables to guard every entrance to Tain with instructions not to let any one in from the infected districts. The town small debt court was cancelled and the magistrates postponed the Lamass market. The poor of the place missed getting fish to eat.

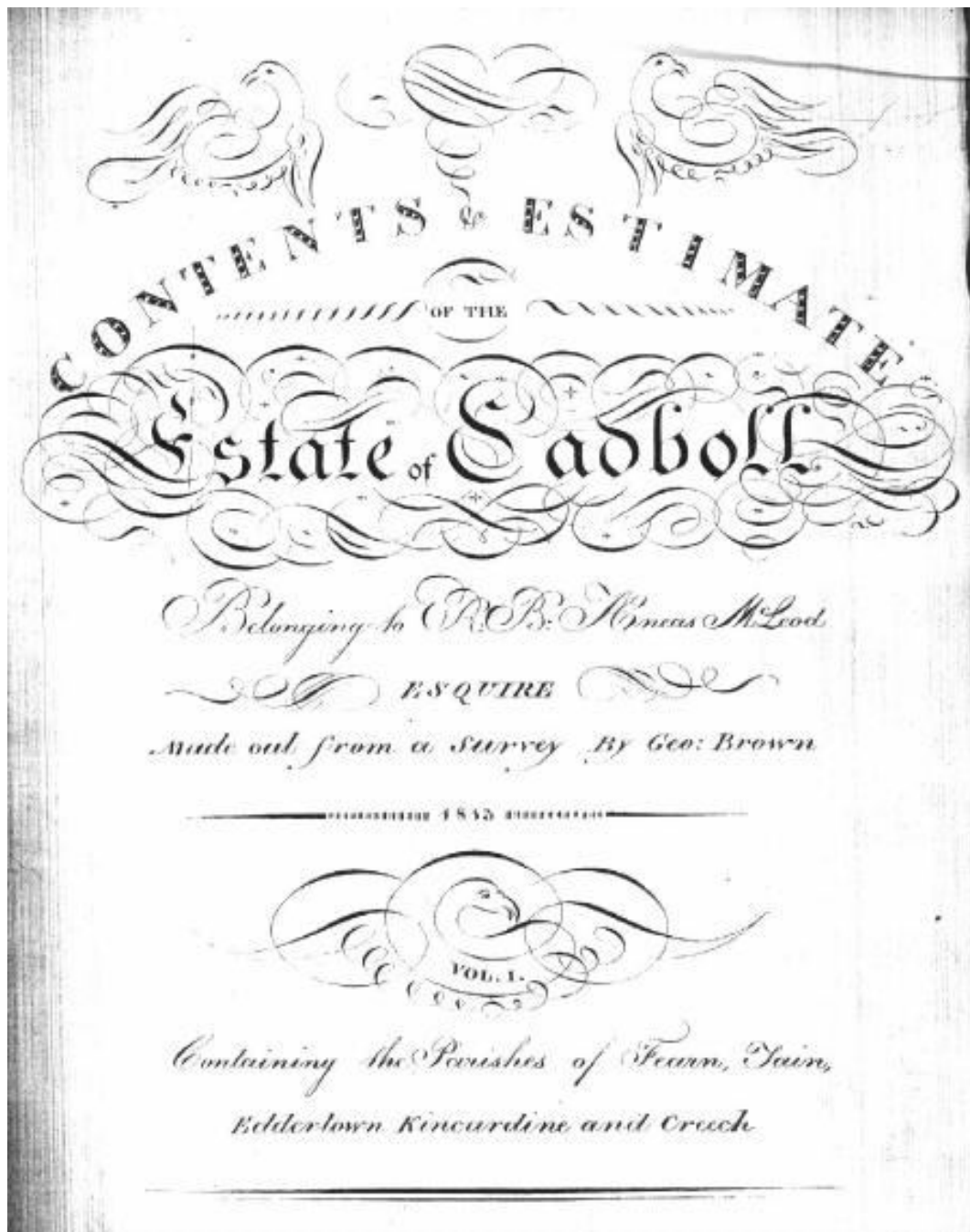
A few days later the paper reported about the situation at Inver:-

'that the total number of cases may now be stated safely at one hundred and the deaths up to fifty three with very few cases remaining. The families of the Morrish Mor have returned to their homes, but we learn that three or four cases occurred among them after getting home which terminated fatally.'

In the 1851 census it records only one or two families surviving the cholera.

Eventually the village recovered over the years but people have never forgotten the outbreak of 'THE CHOLERA.' There is a special stone along the shore beside the village and a rose garden where the victims of the disease were buried.

Cadboll Estate



Estate Valuations

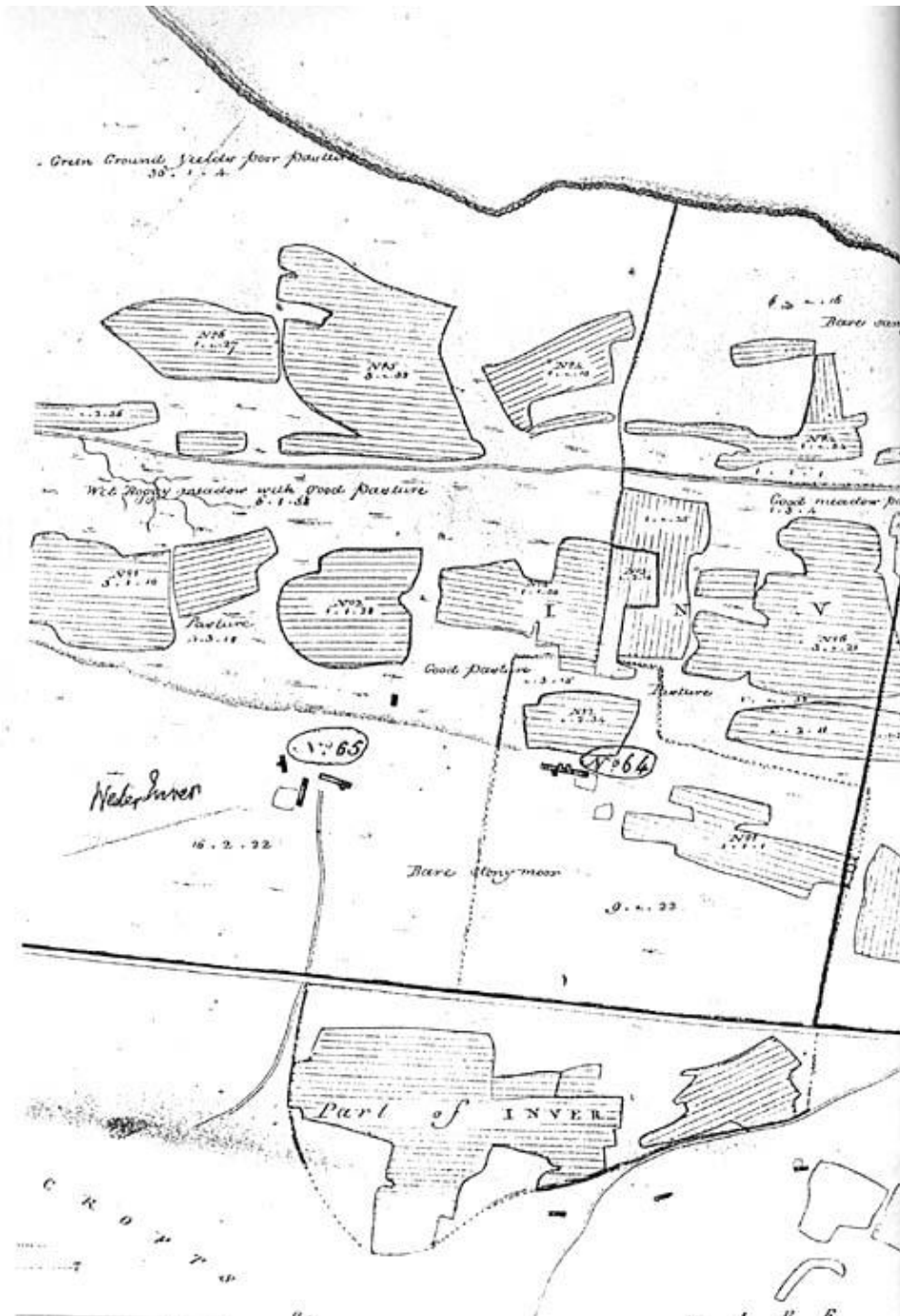
On the following pages is a copy of the map drawn for Cadboll Estate in 1813. It shows the main crofts and fishers' houses. This has been copied from a map obtained by the late Charlie Dillon for Inver Hall and we have reproduced it along with the matching records with kind permission from Tain Museum. The numbers beside the record match those circled on the map and indicate the size of the piece of ground, its quality and its value.

These are followed by valuations for Inver in 1945/46.

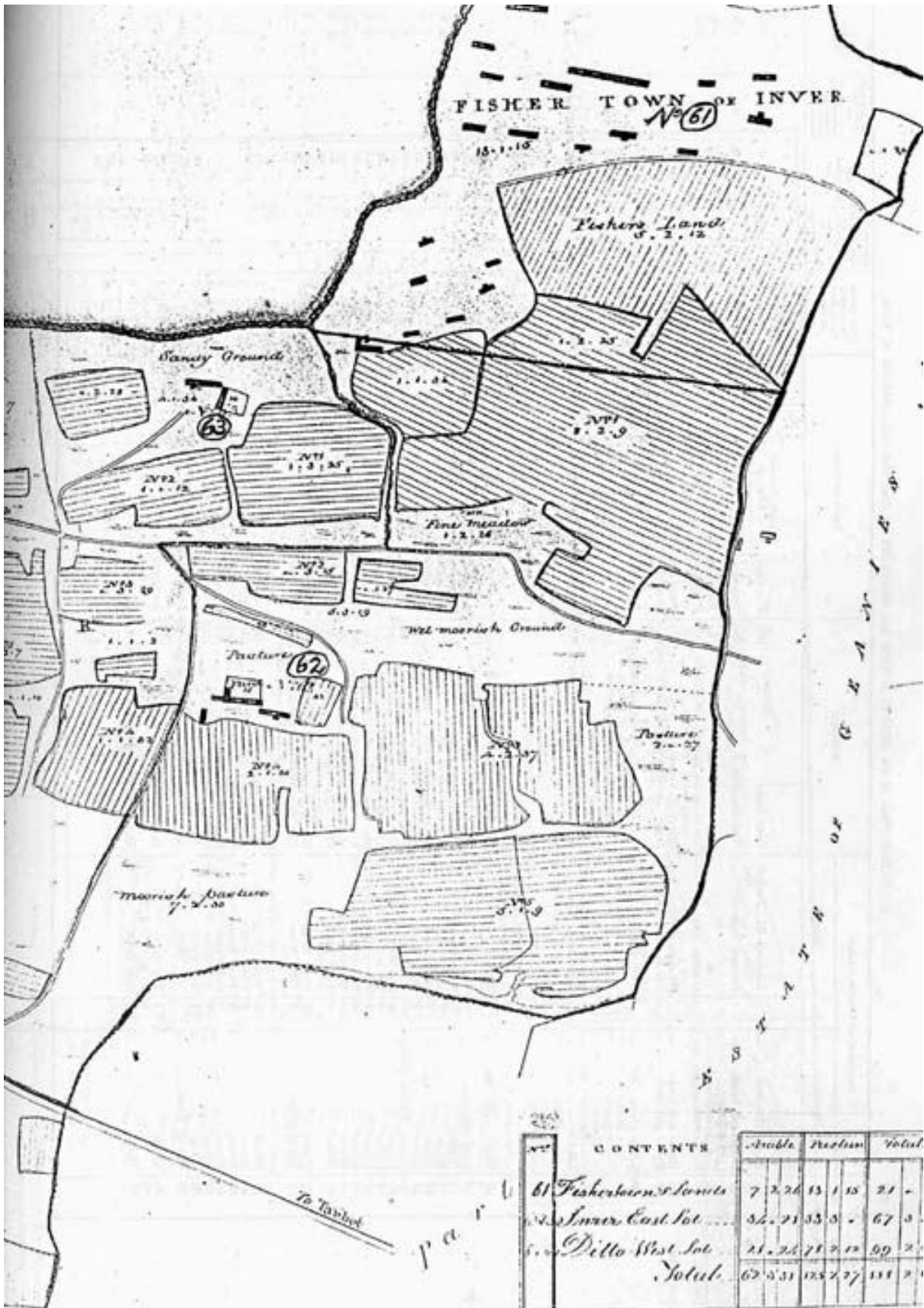
39

Parish of Tain

	Acres	Downed	Roll of Acres	Value
<i>Inver Robert Reff Tenant</i>				
1 Poor sandy land with some patches	8	2	9	20 £ 9 11
2 Croft Du and two small Crofts adjo.	1	1	22	30 £ 2 1 7
3 Pretty good land called Allister Kinch	4	2	37	50 £ 7 1 11
4 Sandy soil called Khun Poyalla mu	2	2	22	30 £ 3 19 1
5 Light soil called Syna Lennack	5	1	9	30 £ 7 19 2
Yard at the houses			15	6
<i>Sum of Arable land</i>				222 2 3 4
Two meadow pasture adjoining S. 1	1	2	26	20 £ 1 13 3
Good pasture between S. 3 & the ditch	5	3	19	
Moorish ditto between S. 4 & the marshy ground	2		77	5 £ 2
Moor and pasture adjoining S. 4 & S. 5	7		230	2 £ 15 4
<i>Sum of pasture</i>				17 1 22
<i>Total</i>				240 16 £ 35 7 6
<i>East Lot of Inver according to the new arrangement</i>				
	Arable	Pasture	Total	Estimate
62 East possession of Inver	21	9	17	122 38 181 33 4 5
64 Part of the Fisher Lands	1	13	4	1 13 4 1 18
63 Part of this possession	11	1	113	3 11 25 15 16 3 10
64 Part of this ditto		11	4	2 2 7 2 3 21 10 11
<i>Total</i>				34 21 33 3 67 32 15 17 2



Wester Inver showing crofts No. 64 and 65.



Eastern part of the estate showing crofts No. 62 and 63 and the fishertown of Inver at the top right.

39
Parish of Tain

No. of Crops in Place		Acres	Homestead	Road or Ditch	Water
62	Inver Robert Ross Tenant				
1	Poor sandy land with some patches				
1	1/2 of past. adjoining yr Fishers land	8 2 9			20 9 11
2	Croft Doo and two small Crofts adjo.	1 1 22			30 2 1 7
3	Pretty good land called Allister Kinch	4 2 3 7			30 7 1 11
4	Sandy soil called Khun Poyalla call	2 2 2 2			30 3 19 1
5	Light soil called Tynna Lennacke	6 1 9			30 7 19 2
	Yard at the houses	15			6
	Sum of Arable land	22 2 3 1			
	One meadow pasture adjoining S. 1	1 2 26			20 1 13 3
	Good pasture between S. 3 & the ditch S	3 1 9			
	Moorish ditto between S. 4 & the marshes	2 2 7			30 2 2
	Moor and pasture adjoining S. 4 & S. 5	7 2 30			70 15 4
	Sum of pasture	17 1 22			
	Total	40 16			357 6
East Lot of Inver according					
to the new arrangement					
		Arable	Pasture	Total	Estimate
62	East possession of Inver	21 9 17	122 38	131 23 4 5	
63	Part of the Fisher Lands	1 13 4		1 13 4 11 8	
63	Part of this possession	11 1 11	13 3 11	25 15 16 3 10	
64	Part of this ditto	2 11 4	2 2 7	2 32 1 10 11	
	Total	34 21 33 3	67 32 1	67 32 1 5 17 2	

Parish of Tain

1781
1802
Plan

Acres Measure Rate in Pence Returnable

	Acres	Measure	Rate in Pence	Returnable
Tain John Mannie				
1	Is very poor land lying near the houses	1 3 25	20	1 18 1
2	Two poor sandy Crofts near do	1 3	20	1 15
3	Little poor sandy soil	3 29	30	1 7 11
4	Light sandy soil	1 1 32	30	2 3 6
5	Little ditto	3 2 19	30	5 8 6
6	Pretty good light land Cont ^d	5 3 39	30	7 17 3
7	Part of this land containing yard at the houses	1 3 9	20	1 7
		<u>10</u>		<u>4</u>
	Sum of arable land	16 33		
	Bare sandy ground about the houses	4 1 34	20	8 11
	Pasture about N ^o 3 1 4	1 1 2	40	5 10
	Good meadow pasture adjoining N ^o 3 4 6	2 3 4	40	11 1
	Pretty good pasture adjoining N ^o 5	1 3 2		
	moor ground about N ^o 7	6 2 6	10	6 6
	Waste ground	1		
	Sum of pasture &c	16 1 37		
	Total	32 2 30		£ 23 13 7

31

Parish of Tain

10000
Penny
Value

	Acres	M	R	F	Rate per Acre	Estimate
64 Inver Hugh Keph						
1 Thin poor land east of the house	1	1	1			} 15 £ 2 6
2 Poor land north of ditto	2	5				
3 Ditto north of the last	2	1				
4 Ditto north side of the drain	1	2	2			20/ 1 12 7
5 Light sand soil called Crait na Lair, lying south of the Lair road & in the Parish of Tearn	5	2	3			20/ 5 14 4
Sum of Arable land	9	3	2	5		
Bare sandy ground about	8	3	3		1/	8 2
Pasture at No 2	3	1	6			4
Hard bare moor ground north of the road	9	2	2		1/	9 1
Ditto south of ditto in the Parish of Tearn	1	2	1	3		5 8
Sum of pasture	7	2	3	3		
Total	32	2	2	8		£ 10 19 10

Parish of Sain

1794

Sticks Measure Rate
per Ratable
acre

<i>Inver</i> <i>Collin Gair</i>			
1 So pretty good land called <i>Sauvaticke</i>	3	110	
2 Poor sandy land containing	1	128	} 26
3 Light land	1	130	
4 Poor light land north of the drain	1	10	
5 Ditto north of ditto	3	38	} 15
6 Ditto ditto of do	1	223	
Sum of Arable land	12	119	
Bare sandy ground in all the between the drain & the tide mark	30	14	} 1
Good past. along the south side of the drain boggy in some places	6	138	} 5
Pasture about 1/2 1/2 1/2	4	18	} 1
Hard and bare moor ground	16	222	} 16
Sum of pasture	55	58	12
Total	70	221	L. 18 12 3

Sum 12 0 8

Cadboll Estate Valuation

246

VALUATION ROLL of the COUNTY of ROSS and CROMARTY for Year 1945-1946.—PARISH of TAIN.

No.	Description and Situation of Subject		Proprietor	Tenant and Occupier	Gross Annual Value being Yearly Rent or Value	Deduction from Gross Annual Value for acre-Improve-ments, etc.		Net Annual Value	Markings under 19 & 1906, V. Ch. 49	Relievable Value
	Description	No.				Situation	Class			
40	House and land	...	Balcherry Rd., Fendom, Tain.	Peter Smith ... (63)	Brought forward ...	£ s. d. 3020 10 0		£ s. 3 8	A	£ s. 2540 0
41	Croft and house, Journeys End.	...	Fendom, Tain	Wm. Urquhart ... (31)	Proprietor ...	14 0 0		14 0	A	1 15
42	Land, Roadside	...	do.	do.	Proprietor ...	5 0 0		5 0	A	0 10
43	House and land	...	Fendom, Tain	Mrs Margaret, wife of John Walker, Balcherry Road, Fendom ... (13)	Proprietrix ...	6 10 0		6 15	A	0 15
44	House and land	...	Draxfoot, Fendom, Tain	George Newlands ... (14)	Proprietor ...	26 0 0		26 0	A	3 5
45	House and land	...	Fendom Hill, Tain	James Shearer, farmer, North Balkeith (5)	Proprietor ...	10 10 0		10 10	A	1 5
46	Land	...	Inver, Fearn	Mrs. Margaret Munro, Ferrindonald, Tain, and Trustees of the late William John Munro, per Mackenzie & Cormack, solicitors, Tain ... (16)	John Matheson, 1 Hill Street, Inver ...	6 10 0		6 10	A	0 15
47	Do.	...	do.	do.	do.	1 16 8		1 15	A	0 5
48	Land	...	Summertown, Fearn	Colin Malcolm Mackenzie, Farmer (17)	Proprietor ...	10 0 0		10 0	A	2 0
INVER VILLAGE, Fearn.										
49	House, Inver Inn	1	Shop Street	William Macrae, hotelkeeper, Inver, by Fearn ... (18)	Proprietor ...	9 10 0		—		9 10
50	Shop (licensed)	1	do.	do.	Proprietor ...	0 10 0		—		0 10
51	House	2	Shop Street	Walter Fraser, labourer ... (19)	Proprietor ...	2 0 0		—		2 0
52	House	3	Shop Street	Mrs Annie Ross ... (20)	Proprietrix ...	2 0 0		—		2 0
53	House	4	Shop Street	James Mackay ... (21)	Proprietors ...	2 0 0		—		2 0
54	House	5	Shop Street	Maggie Fraser ... (22)	Proprietrix ...	2 0 0		—		2 0
55	House, Tanera Cottage	1	Hill Street	John Matheson ... (23)	Proprietor ...	6 0 0		—		6 0
56	House	2	Hill Street	Mrs. Helen Davies ... (24)	Proprietrix ...	2 0 0		—		2 0
57	House	3	Hill Street	Alex. Ross, trapper ... (25)	Proprietor ...	2 0 0		—		2 0
58	House	4	Hill Street	Mrs Jessie, wife of John Mackay (26)	Proprietrix ...	2 0 0		—		2 0
59	House	5	Hill Street	Alex. Skinner, address unknown (27)	Uninhabitable ...	—		—		—
60	House	6	Hill Street	Mrs Isabella Fraser Mackay ... (28)	Proprietrix ...	2 0 0		—		2 0
61	House	1	Front Street	Mrs. Julia MacIntosh, wife of John MacIntosh ... (29)	Proprietrix ...	2 0 0		—		2 0
62	House	3	Front Street	Mrs. Catherine Ross, widow ... (30)	Proprietrix ...	1 0 0		—		1 0
63	Site of house	3	Front Street	Mrs Margaret Munro, Ferrindonald, Tain, per Mackenzie & Cormack, solicitors, Tain ... (16)	Unoccupied ...	—		—		—
64	House	4	Front Street	John Skinner ... (32)	Proprietor ...	2 0 0		—		2 0
65	House	5	Front Street	Mrs Margaret Skinner ... (33)	Proprietrix ...	2 0 0		—		2 0
66	House	6	Front Street	William Ross ... (34)	Proprietor ...	2 0 0		—		2 0
67	House	1	New Street	Kenneth Ross, labourer ... (35)	Proprietor ...	2 0 0		—		2 0
68	House	2	New Street	Thomas Skinner ... (36)	Proprietor ...	2 0 0		—		2 0
69	House	3	New Street	Alexander Mackay ... (37)	Proprietor ...	2 0 0		—		2 0
70	Site of House	...	New Street	Johan Mackay, c/o Robertson, 12 Madras Street, Inverness ... (38)	Unoccupied ...	—		—		—
71	House	5	New Street	Roderick Mackenzie, painter ... (39)	Proprietor ...	2 0 0		—		2 0
72	Do.	6	do.	do.	Business ...	—		—		—
73	Shop	7	New Street	Hugh Mackay, merchant ... (40)	Proprietor ...	2 0 0		—		2 0
Forward						3770 16 8				2617 0

VALUATION ROLL OF THE COUNTY OF ROSS AND CROMARTY for Year 1914-1915.—PARISH OF TAIN.

No.	Description and Situation of Subject		Proprietor	Tenant and Occupier	Gross Annual Value being Yearly Rent or Value	Deductions from Gross Annual Value for amount of Rates, &c.	Net Annual Value	Markings under Sec. 2 of Act, 1891	Rateable Value	No.
	Description	Situation								
Inver Village—continued.										
				Brought forward	£ 3770	s. 16	d. 8		£ 2817	0
74	House	8 New Street	Hugh Mackay, merchant—continued	Proprietor	2	0	0		2	0
75	House	9 New Street	John Ross, fisherman (41)	Proprietor	2	0	0		2	0
76	House	10 New Street	Mrs William Mackay, widow, per John Fraser, 14 Main Street, Inver (42)	May Munro	5	0	0		5	0
77	House	11 New Street	Mrs Margaret Mackay (43)	Walter Mackay, labourer	1	0	0		1	0
78	House	12 New Street	John Skinner, fisherman (44)	Proprietor	2	0	0		2	0
79	House	13 New Street	James Mackay (45)	Proprietor	2	10	0		2	10
80	House	14 New Street	Mrs Jessie Fraser (46)	Proprietrix	2	0	0		2	0
81	Land	New Street	Mrs. Margaret Munro, Ferrindonald, Tain, and Trustees of the late W. J. Munro, per Mackenzie & Cormack, solicitors, Tain (10)	Andrew Mackay	10	0	0	10 0	1 5	81
82	House	15 New Street	William McKay, labourer (90)	Proprietor	2	0	0		2	0
83	House	1 Main Street	Kenneth Fraser, address unknown (47)	Ruinous	2	0	0		2	0
84	House	2 Main Street	Kenneth Fraser (48)	Proprietor	2	0	0		2	0
85	House	3 Main Street	Hugh Mackay (49)	Proprietor	2	0	0		2	0
86	House	4 Main Street	Mrs. Jessie Urquhart or Ross (50)	Proprietrix	2	0	0		2	0
87	House	5 Main Street	Mrs. May Ross (51)	Proprietrix	2	0	0		2	0
88	House	6 Main Street	James Ross, fisher (52)	Proprietor	4	0	0		4	0
89	House	7 Main Street	Mary Skinner (53)	Proprietrix	2	0	0		2	0
90	House	8 Main Street	William John Wilson, labourer (54)	Proprietor	2	0	0		2	0
91	House	9 Main Street	Mrs Nellie Cowie or Skinner (55)	Proprietrix	2	0	0		2	0
92	House	10 Main Street	Kenneth Fraser, fisher (56)	Proprietor	2	0	0		2	0
93	House	11 Main Street	Charles Beattie, warden (57)	Proprietor	1	10	0		1	10
94	House	12 Main Street	Mrs Lucy Mackay, widow (58)	Proprietrix	2	0	0		2	0
95	House	14 Main Street	John Fraser (60)	Proprietor	2	0	0		2	0
96	House	15 Main Street	Alex. Ross (61)	Proprietor	1	10	0		1	10
97	House	16 Main Street	Jessie Mackay (59)	Proprietrix	2	0	0		2	0
98	House	17 Main Street	James Skinner, labourer (62)	Proprietor	2	0	0		2	0
99	Site of house	1 Shore Street	Alexander Ross, 3 Hill Street (25)	Vacant	2	0	0		2	0
100	House	2 Shore Street	Alexander Ross (64)	Proprietor	2	0	0		2	0
101	House	3 Shore Street	Isabella Ross (65)	Proprietrix	5	0	0		5	0
102	House	4 Shore Street	John Skinner, 10 Victoria Square, Inverness (66)	William Ross	2	0	0		2	0
103	House	5 Shore Street	Mrs Mary, wife of Wm. McAle (67)	Proprietrix	2	0	0		2	0
104	House	7 Shore Street	Dinah Ross (68)	Proprietrix	2	0	0		2	0
105	House	8 Shore Street	Reps. of Mrs. Helen Ross, address unknown (69)	Uninhabitable						
106	House	9 Shore Street	James Ross, labourer (70)	Proprietor	2	0	0		2	0
107	House	10 Shore Street	Angus Sutherland (71)	Proprietor	2	0	0		2	0
108	House	11 Shore Street	Thomas Skinner (72)	Proprietor	2	0	0		2	0
109	House	12 Shore Street	James Mackay, labourer (73)	Proprietor	2	0	0		2	0
110	House	13 Shore Street	Bethia H. Davies, 78 Welbeck Road, West Harrow, Middlesex (74)	Empty	2	0	0		2	0
111	House	14 Shore Street	John McKennie, mason (75)	Proprietor	2	0	0		2	0
112	Recreation Hall	Inver	Inver Recreation Club, per Walter Ross, 9 New Street, Inver (76)	Proprietors	4	0	0		4	0
113	Farm (part of)	Morangie and Chisholm's Croft	Hugh Gunn, Farmer (116)	Proprietor	278	16	9	278 17	34 5	113
114	House	Morangie, Tain	do	Hugh Matheson, grieve (I.O.)						114
115	Do.	do.	do	John Corbett, ploughman (I.O.)						115
116	Do.	do.	do	Frank Sangster, labourer (I.O.)						116
				Forward	4133	8	5		2981	0

The Old Shop

One of the most important shops in Inver used to be at 6 Main Street. It started in the 1890 s by James Ross known as 'Jimsie'. The shop was called Ross & Co.

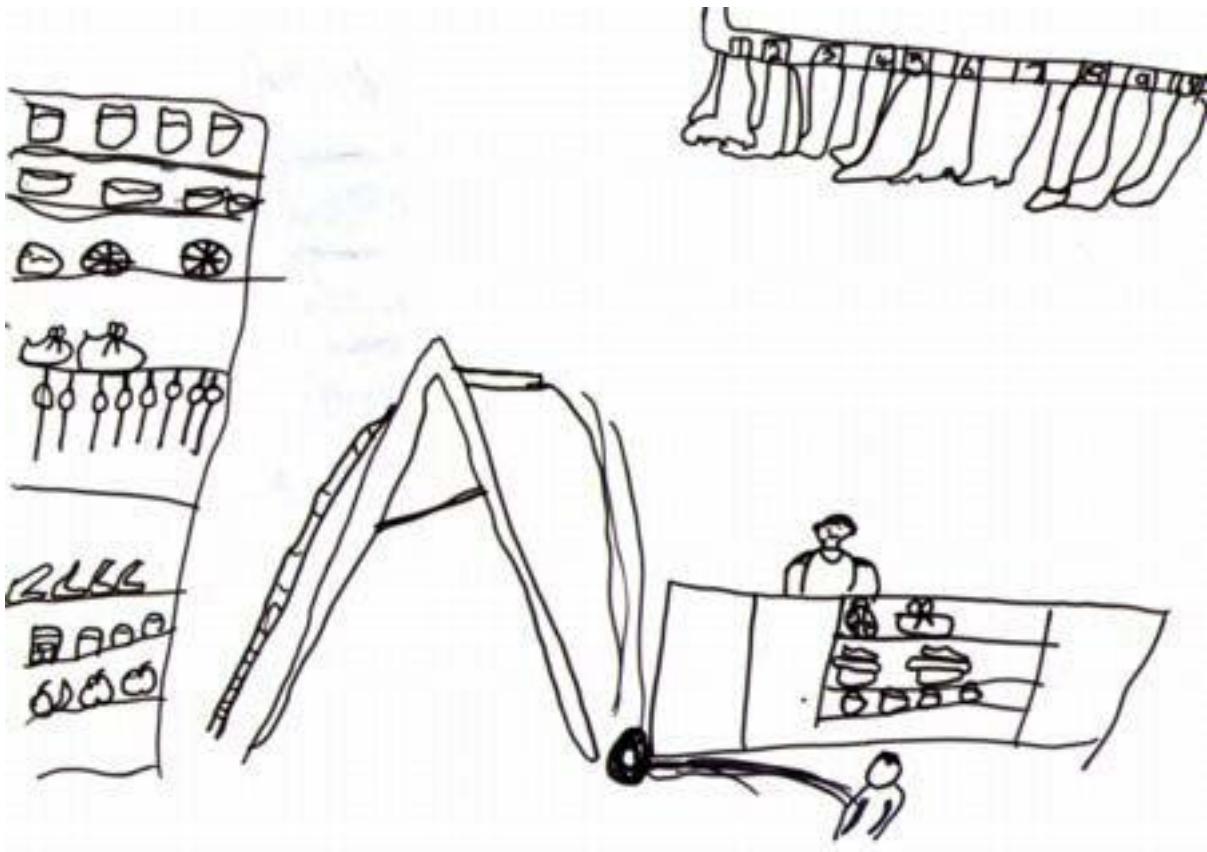
The shop was a long building with two store rooms, a small kitchen and a toilet for the staff. There were lots of shelves behind the counter which was used for storage and there were some buildings at the back used for more storage. There was a post box at the front window.

As well as sweets and biscuits they sold wellie boots, paint, clothes, household items and food. In fact, they sold almost everything. They got their goods from wholesalers who sent out sale reps. The invoice included shows supplies coming from Glasgow. However, some goods came from Ross's, the shop-owner in Balintore. People still remember the personal touch in the shop.

When you would buy your cheese it was cut from a big block and wrapped in buttered paper to keep it fresh.



Tea was sold in packets with the shop address and phone number on the packet.



One funny thing that happened was when Walter Ross was painting the ceiling of the shop behind the counter a Mr Murray came in for tobacco as he had run out. Walter came down leaving the tin of paint balancing on the ladder. The tin of paint fell on to the counter and splattered over everything, including Mr Murray. Mr Murray got his tobacco but how did he explain the paint stains to his wife?

Another story is about a customer Mr Walter Ross was serving. It was near closing time on a Saturday night, so it was quite busy with everybody wanting to go home. Eventually he got around to adding the last of the customer's bills. When he was doing this the customer told Mr Ross to count in the price of two tomatoes. Now, Mr Ross couldn't recall serving the tomatoes to the customer and said so. "Oh!" the customer said, "I ate them while I was waiting."

On another occasion when Jessie Mackay was left looking after the shop someone came for paraffin and a certain gentleman said he would go and get it for the person to save Jessie going. The Good Samaritan, however, forgot to turn off the paraffin tap and gallons were lost and the place smelt for weeks but it did keep everybody off the 'fags' for a while.

In its day Inver had various shops but none so strange as the one where one of the local women sold bread. She opened up shop in her living room by placing a board across some chairs, setting bread on it and selling it.

Morrich More

Across the bay from Inver lies the Morrigh Mhor as it used to be known. However over the years, not only has the name changed but so has how the Morrigh looks. It does not look the same as it used to because over the centuries the sea has eaten away at the land on the side nearest to Tain.

In 1900, old people could still remember the Morrigh with green grass and tree trunks growing where the sea was. Some people believe that there was once a forest growing there.

There is an old story told that once a massive storm blew in from the North Sea, or German Ocean as it was called then, and lots of the farm land was covered in by sand in one night. Even in 1900, people could remember entire farms being swept away.

Tain itself lost lands to the North of the town. During a Geological Survey in 1899 Hugh Miller, Jnr, recorded that the Links, where once the militia trained, had all but vanished and that in about the year 1694, cultivated land in the district was overwhelmed in a single night. Also it is said there was once a hill called Paul McTyre's Hill but it is now covered in water. People around in 1792 could remember living in houses in 1782 that were now under sandbanks.

As well as the Morrigh shrinking it is also growing. If you look at the aerial photograph you can see it looks wrinkly where the sand that has been taken from the Tain side has been laid down over the years making the Morrigh longer and longer. This year the Smit Land and Marine had to shift tons of sand from their road so as to build their new pipeline. The sand was actually given to the RAF to build up one of their targets which was being washed away over the years. First they had to get permission from Scottish Natural Heritage because the Morrigh is a protected area. They said they could have the sand because it had come from there years and years before. This maybe explains why old maps showing Inver make it look as if it is farther along the shore than it is today. It is the Morrigh that is growing and not that Inver has been moving.

Over the years the Morrigh has been used for grazing sheep, cattle and ponies. People still remember going to the Morrigh to round up the ponies and the sound of their hooves running though the village.

One lady from the village remembers that only 55 years ago, farmers with horses could be seen coming up from the Morrigh with divots for their tattie pits. It was a great sight to see all those horses and carts. Farmers from outwith the area always came to Inver and went across to the Morrigh. They would stop on the way home for a pint at the Inn and then the young fellows would have 'divot' fights with the locals.

A photograph of locals rounding up the wild ponies on the Morrigh featured in the Daily Record and Mail on Thursday July 30th 1936. It says the ponies were to be sent South to market.

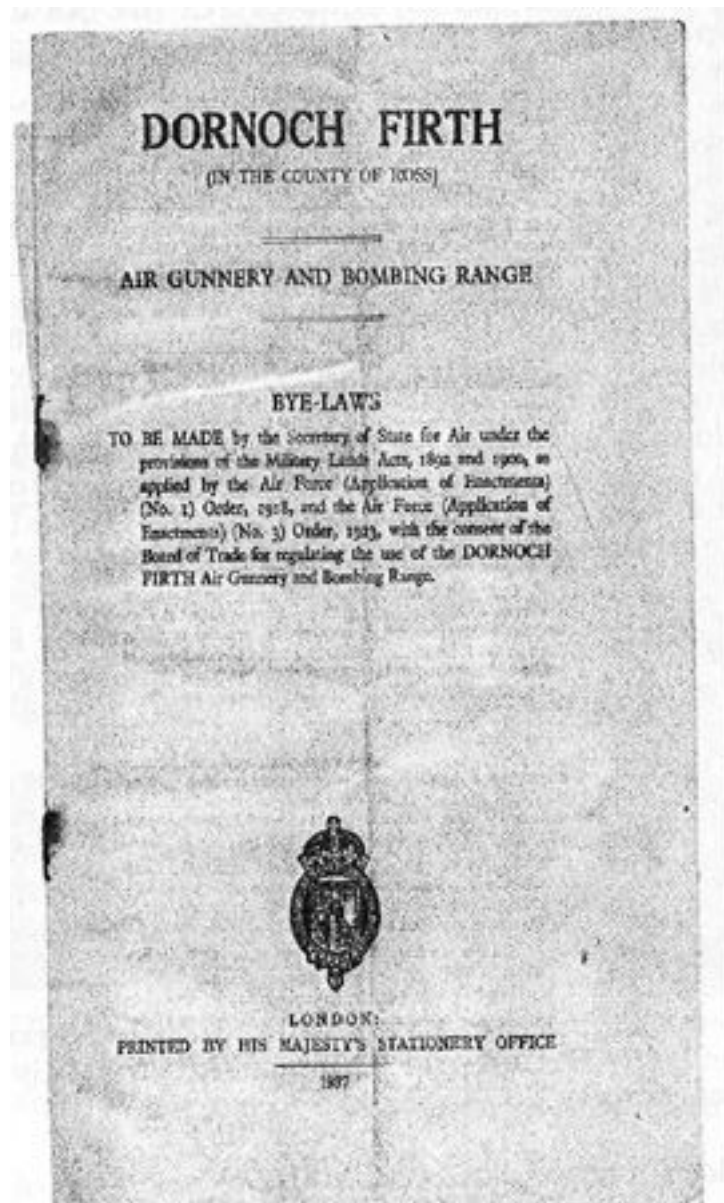
The local people would go to the Morrigh to collect 'yallachan' whin-sticks for their fires and return carrying huge bundles on their backs. The roots of the whin bush burnt well too.

There was in the past a dispute as to who could use the Morrigh and at one point the people of Tain ploughed it and fenced it off. The people of Inver were not to be put off by that and went and

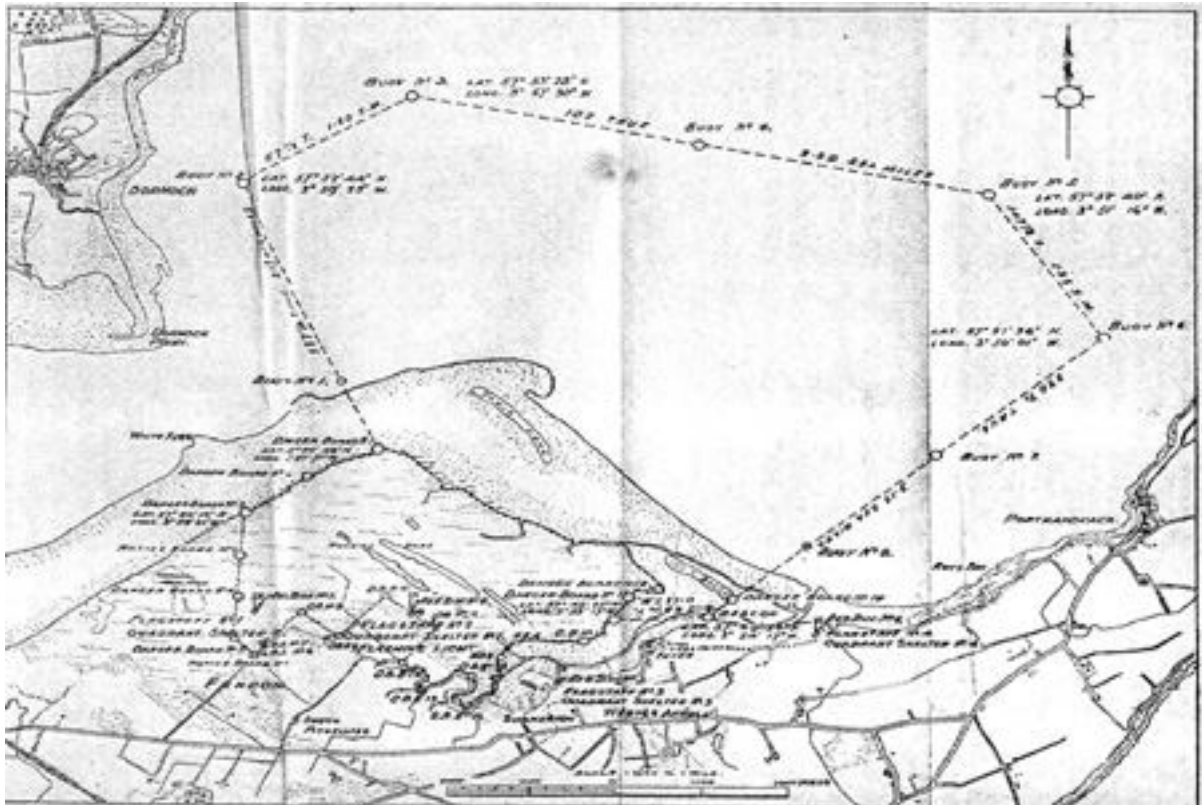
removed the fences! In the past the Morrish was used by the travelling people for camping on, especially one group from Lochaber.

Over the years, the Morrish was used as a camp site for the Territorial Army and it was somewhere that the local people would take time to visit to see the soldiers parading. Some even came out from Tain to watch these part-time soldiers. Many local men from Inver joined the Territorials because it provided a small income and a wonderful excuse to get away from the usual daily routine. However, when war broke out it meant they were the first to be called upon to join the regular army.

In 1937 the government purchased the area for a gunnery range. The site of the range still exists today and cannot be altered as it is now classified as a listed building.



The 1937 document for the purchase of the land as a gunnery range.



Original map showing proposed gunnery range.

On the 16th of September 1941 the airfield at RAF Tain was opened under Bomber Command and in 1943 passed into the control of Coastal Command and the submarine hunters.

In the sixties, the airfield was sold off and the Morrich section kept as an area for target practice for the airmen from Lossiemouth and Kinloss.

By the seventies the Ministry of Defence was planning to use it as an artillery range again but the villagers of Inver were none too happy with the idea of live ammunition flying around the Morrich and the increased noise. This led to many protests and the rallying cry of 'Let Inver Live', which came from the words written on the Cholera Stone, being heard. As well being heard, this slogan was also painted on the old buildings at the drome and made the headlines in the Press & Journal on Tuesday April 18, 1972. Eventually they won the day and no live ammunition was or is used on the Morrich.



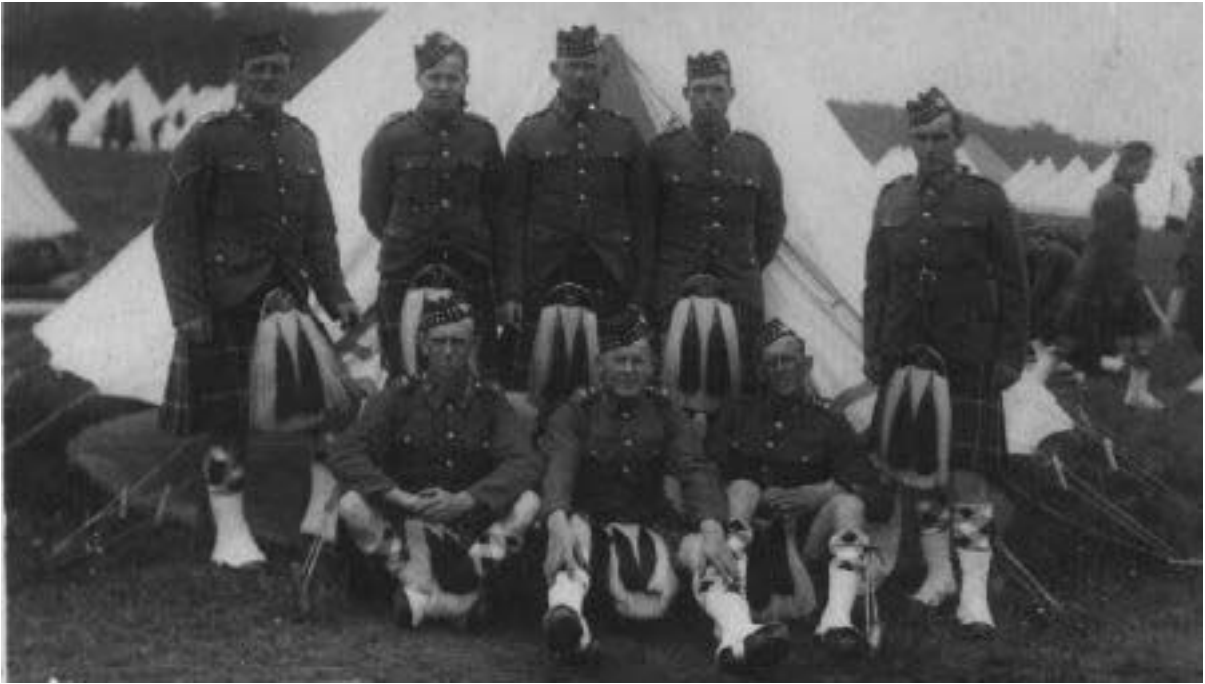
Protesters on the march

Today the RAF base still plays a vital role in training the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) aircraft pilots. High explosives are never seen there but it is constantly bombarded by passing aircraft from RAF Kinloss and Lossiemouth. It is the busiest airfield in the North of Scotland but it never sees a domestic flight and has a disused runway system.

However, it is used by the rescue helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth to refuel sometimes and occasionally very important visitors to the area have been known to land there by helicopter as well.

For five days a week, and sometimes at night, NATO air pilots from throughout Europe and America come and bomb the Morrigh. A staff of 30 monitor the base in which 30-40 aircraft bomb per day. RAF Lossiemouth and Kinloss work very closely with RAF Tain to ensure maximum safety at the busy airbase. Although many planes fly over the busy airspace, no recent accidents have been reported.

The aircraft that fly around bombing the base are Tornados, Jaguars, Harriers and F-15's. The helicopters are Chinooks, Wessex and Puma.



Local soldiers camped at the Morrish.

The Secret Life of the Morrich More

No, NATO have not been involved in undercover activities at the Morrich but sitting on Inver's doorstep is one of the quickest growing landscapes in Britain with its exclusive wildlife and hidden fauna.

Many think of the Morrich as no more than a bombing range but in 1974 it was made into a Site of Special Scientific Interest by the Conservancy Council because of its international importance as a habitat for both animals and plants.

The Morrich is an area of about 1,402 hectares with a landscape that includes freshwater and salt water lochans, small islands and extensive sand dunes, which are home to many resident animals, like the otter, buzzard and wild cat, as well as visitors, such as the short-eared owl, osprey and snow bunting.



One rather angry wildcat caught in a trap set by the RAF for foxes.

Despite, or maybe we should say because of, the presence of the RAF the animal and plant life has flourished undisturbed by human interference. For, being a restricted area, no one is allowed to 'wander' around the Morrich. (that is unless you are a sheep!). The actual bombing itself is precise and only affects about fifty acres, so giving the wildlife ample room to flourish. Shelducks nest in old rabbit burrows. Seals, both common and grey, bask in the summer sunshine on the tidal islands.

Visiting wildfowl and resident swans feed on the mudflats. Thrift and sea pinks grow happily on the salty sand marshes. Lyme grass and marram grass colonise shifting sand dunes. Britain's largest area of wild juniper grows undisturbed. Where? - Nowhere else other than on our own Morrich More.



A tidy buzzard cleans up some old wire the RAF have left lying around and uses it as nest building material.

The Gizen Briggs

Along at the edge of the Morrich you will find the The Gizen Briggs which is a stretch of sandy bank heading out from the Morrich towards Dornoch. It is mostly covered by water when the tide is in but when the tide is out the two banks look as if they are going to meet like a bridge. Indeed in the Statistical Account of 1837 the minister recalls that there was the tradition that 'it was at one time possible to effect a passage over it at low water upon foot, by means of a plank thrown across the channel'.

In 1900 a local minister was told by some of the older inhabitants that the banks were so close together that you could pass a parcel over to someone who had waded out from the other shore by climbing a tree and using a stick.

One older member of the village remembers her mother telling her the old tale of how the place got its name Gizen Briggs which means 'leaky bridges'. This is the story, it is called The Fairies Of The Gizen Briggs.

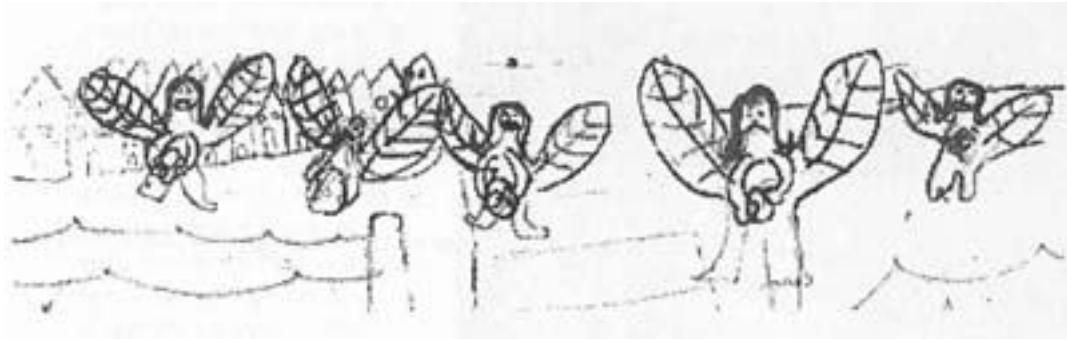
In the North of Scotland there is a place near Tongue where the Mackay chieftains were the Lords of the country. One of these Lords, the Lord of Reay, lived in a beautiful place with blue lochs and purple moors .

There was also a beautiful lady who lived right across the water from him. The Lord of Reay wanted someone to build a bridge across the water so that he could go and see her but the fairies in the Reay country were not bridge builders. They sent him to the local witch but she couldn't help either. She told him to try the witch at Tarbat, Stine Bheag. So the chief sent his messenger, Angus Mackay, in.

It was a long way to walk but he made it shorter by taking a short cut. He walked to the Dornoch point and crossed the Firth to the Whiteness sands on the Morrich by boat. Then he walked the rest of the way to Tarbat Ness where he found the old witch sitting looking very dirty and talking to the sea and the stars.

Now the witch asked why should she help the Lord of Reay because his ancestors had never done her any good. Then she remembered one of them had been kind to her so the witch went in the back of the house and came back out with a box. The box was covered in heather and tied with long bits of grass. She warned him, " Now man of Reay, if you look to see what is in this box you will regret the day you were born. "

Angus left the house and on his way he felt sure there was something moving inside the box. Once he got further away from the witch he felt a lot braver. By the time he got to his boat at the Whiteness sands he wasn't frightened by what the witch said any more. So he cut the grass which was around the box and then poked his finger in to make a little hole to have a peep at what was inside. Angus got the fright of his life because out through the hole flew thousands of little tiny fairies.



They went all over Angus. How he wished he hadn't opened the box.

The fairies pulled his hair and danced all over him. In fact they were really hurting him. He tried to pick them off but he couldn't. They pulled at him all the more and cried, "We want work! Give us work! We are the working fairies of Stein Beag. "

Angus had to think fast to try and get rid of the fairies. Now the first thing you see looking West from the Morrich is Tain Hill so, quick as a flash, he told the fairies to go and take all the heather off Tain Hill but Angus didn't realise just how fast fairies work. Before he could get into his boat they were back pulling and tugging at him and screaming. "We want work! Give us work! We are the working fairies of Stein Beag. "

Angus looked at the water lapping against his boat and across to Dornoch. He had a brilliant idea. He told the fairies that they had to build a bridge across to Dornoch so that he could walk across to Dornoch without getting his feet wet and it must be made out of sand. As quick as lightning all the little fairies flew away and Angus made his escape but what he told the Lord of Reay we do not know.

The fairies worked hard and soon their bridge was made. How proud they felt! But oh dear! The tide was coming in and it swept all their hard work away. No matter how hard the fairies worked, no matter how many sand bricks they made, twice every day there was the ebb and flow of the tide to destroy their work.

This happened ever so long ago but the fairies are still there today working as hard as ever for their master, Angus Mackay, and if you listen you can hear them moaning and crying as their bridge is being swept away or you can hear their funny, little laughter as they build it again.

RAF Tain





Modern helicopters using the range today. Photographs kindly supplied by RAF Tain.



This picture shows ground crew collecting a parachute after an exercise.

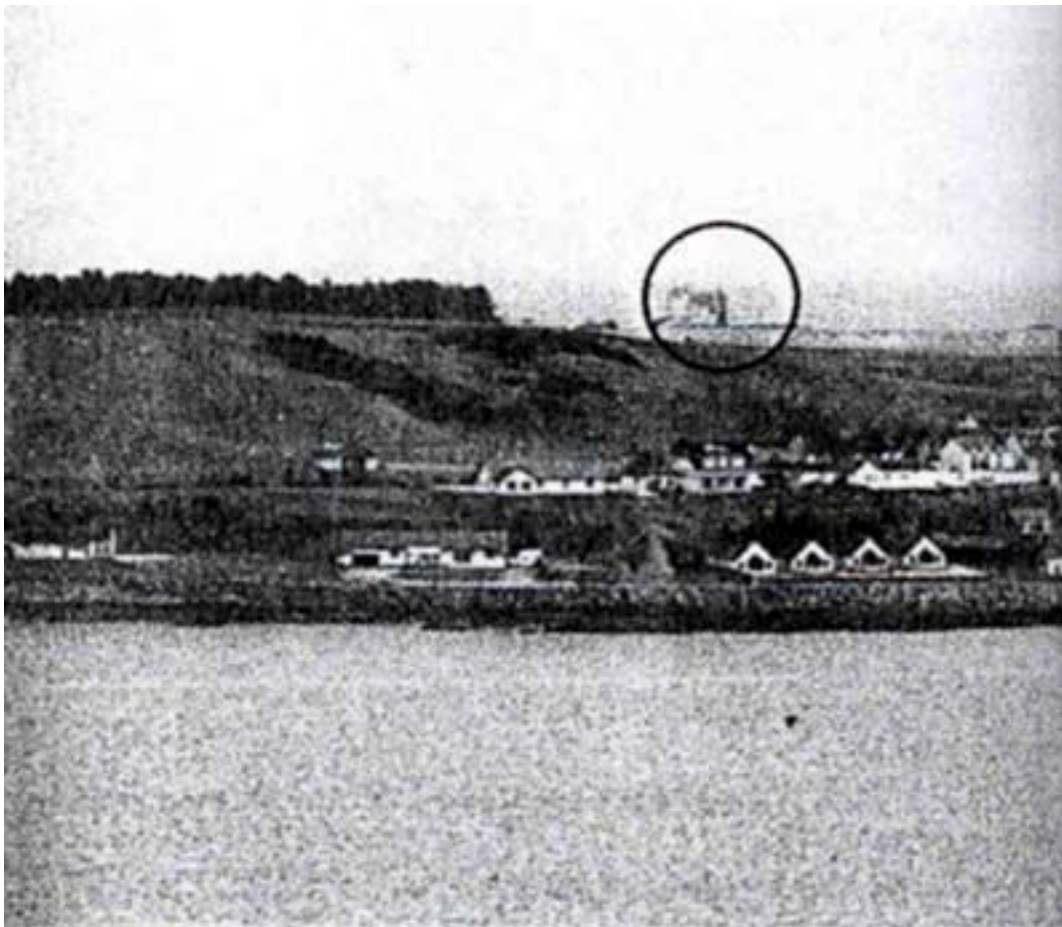
More aerial photographs taken by pilots. These are used for training other pilots to help them recognise local landmarks.



Fearn Aerodrome



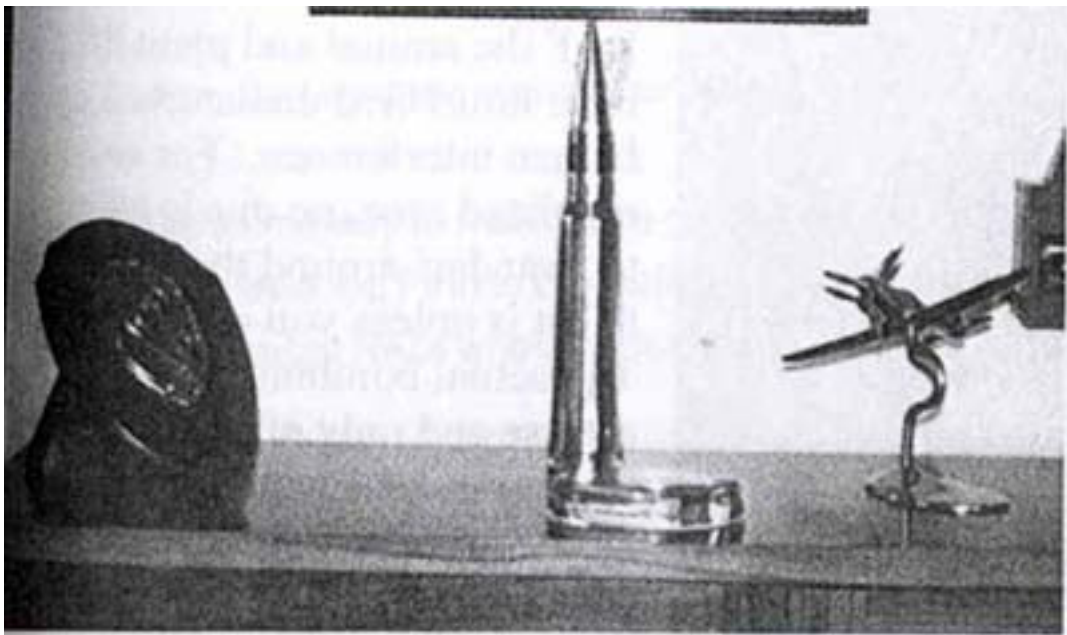
Tarbatness Lighthouse. Photographs kindly supplied by RAF Tain.



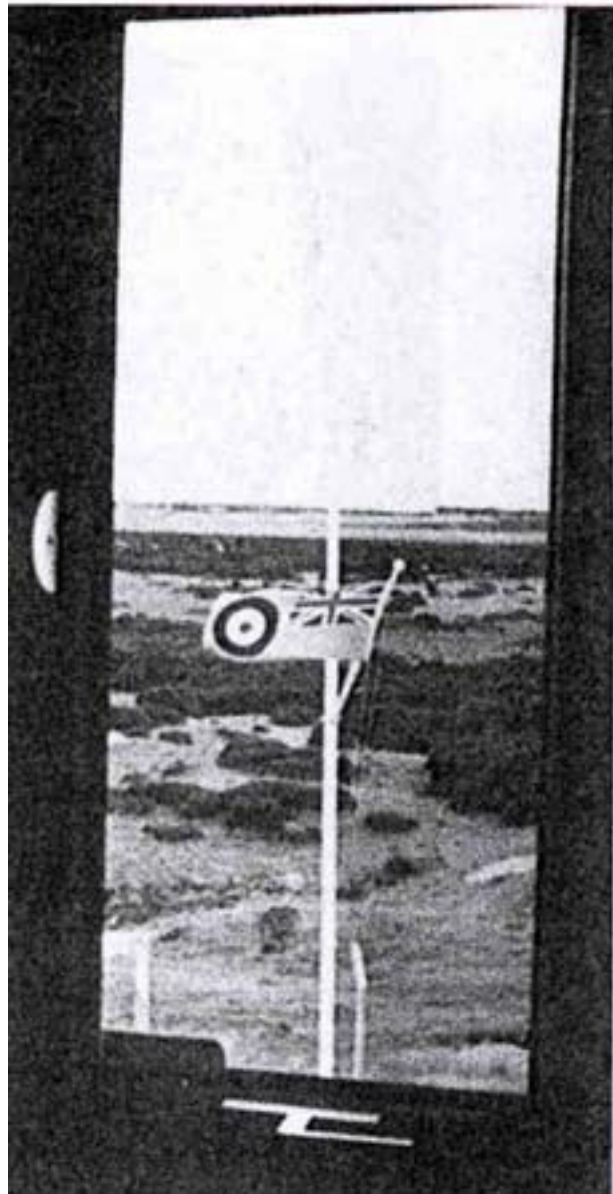
East end of Portmahomack with Ballone Castle in the background.



Aerial Photograph of the 'new' tower with Inver in the background (top left hand corner). Photographs kindly supplied by RAF Tain.

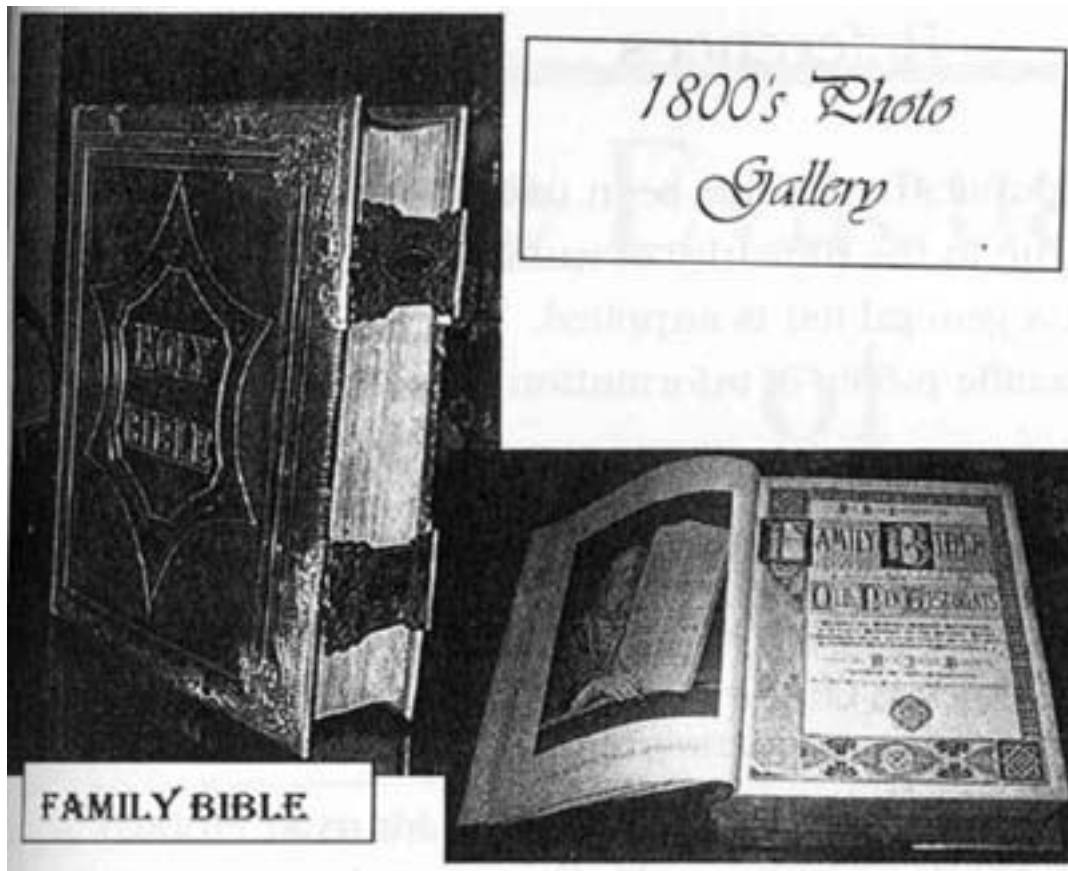


An inside photograph from the tower showing some RAF memorabilia.



A view from the tower window. Flying the RAF insignia. Photographs kindly supplied by RAF Tain.

1800s photo gallery





Pilgrims
Progress





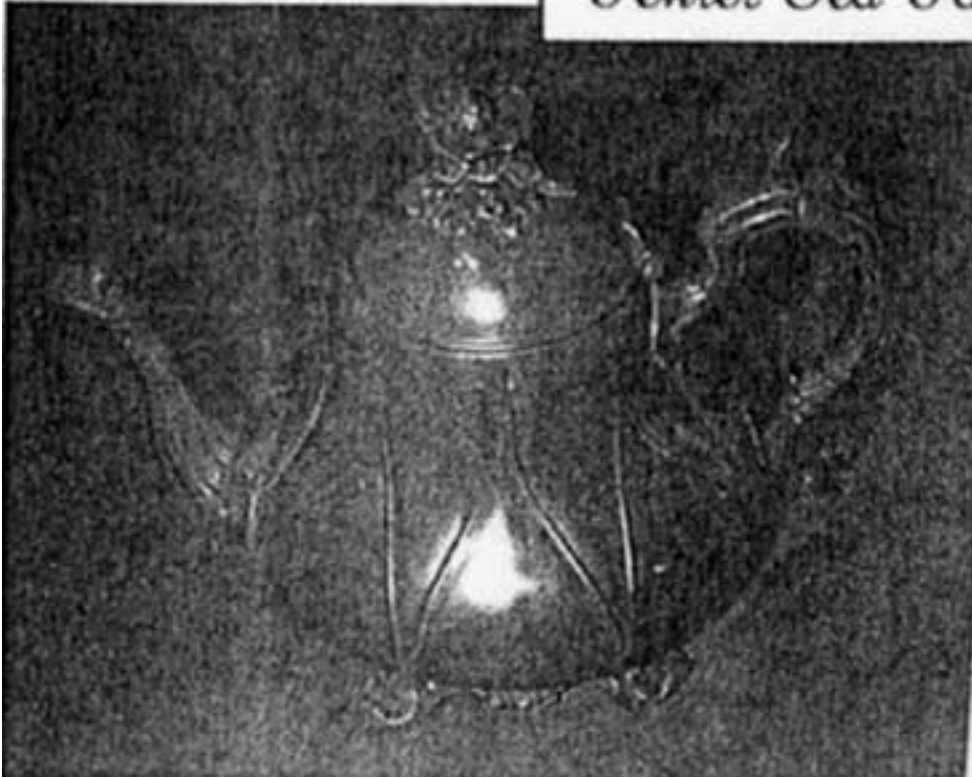
Scales for sweets.







Pewter Tea Pot



Census – Parishes of Tain and Tarbat

Parish of Tain Census 1841

The village of Inver situate in the North Eastern extremity of the Parish of Tain without the Royalty and Parliamentary boundries of the Burgh.

Place Here insert name of Village, Street, Square, Close, Court, etc.	Houses		Name and surname of each person who abode in each house on night of 6th June Name & Surname	M	F	If born in Scotland and whether in county or else where	
	uninhabited	inhabited					
INVER	1		David Munro	35		Fisherman	
			Lily Munro		25		
			John Munro	months			
			Donald Munro	25		Sp Deal	
			Ann Munro		35		
			Margaret Munro		10		
			David Munro	8			
			Ann Ross		40M		
			Mary McKay		35		
			1	James Reid	35		Sp Dealer
			1	Ann Ross		40	
				Mary McKay		35	
			1	James Reid	35		Sp Dealer
				Margaret Reid		30	
				John Seller	20		Mill Wright
				John Urquhart	18		Ap Millwright
			1	Isabella Ross		35	
				Helen		15	
				Margaret Ross		13	
				Jamer Ross	10		
			1	William McKay	35		Fisher
				Isabella McKay		35	
				William McKay	15		
				Ann McKay		10	
				John McKay	8		
				Hugh McKay	1		
			1	Ann Fraser		45	Independent
			1	Alex Fraser	35		Fisher
				Ann Fraser		35	
				John Fraser	5		
	William Fraser	3					
	James Fraser	2 mths					
1	Ann McKay		35	Independent			

Parish of Tain Census 1841

The village of Inver situate in the North Eastern extremity of the Parish of Tain without the Royalty and Parliamentary boundries of the Burgh.

	Ann McKay		15	
	Kenneth McKay	20		Fisher
	Johan Mckay		20	
	Isabella Cumming		40	F.S.(fish seller)
1	William McKay	30		Fisher
	Isabella McKay		25	
	William McKay	10		
	Isabella McKay		5	
	Donald McKay	3		
	Ann		1	
1	William Skinner	20		Fisher
	Margaret Skinner		25	
	Janet Skinner		2	
	Janet Ross		45	Independent
	Margaret Ross		15	
	Martha Ross		10	
1	John Ross	8		
	Janet McKay		55	Independent
1	William Ross	20		Fisher
	Mary Ross		20	
	James Ross	9 mths		
1	William Skinner	20		Fisher
	Isabella Skinner		20	
	Christian Skinner		9mths	
1	Alex Ross	30		Fisher
	Margaret Ross		25	
	Martha Ross		12	
	William Ross	2		
1	John Skinner	30		Fisher
	Margaret Skinner		30	
	Christian Skinner		10	
	Isabella Skinner		5	
	Alexander Skinner	3		
	Margaret Skinner		1	
1	Thomas Fraser	45		Fisher
	Ann Fraser		40	
	Walter Fraser	15		
	James Fraser	10		
	Thomas Fraser	7		
	Norman	3		
	Ann Fraser		1	
1	Alexander Corbett	20		
	Isabella Corbett		5	

Parish of Tain Census 1841

The village of Inver situate in the North Eastern extremity of the Parish of Tain without the Royalty and Parliamentary boundries of the Burgh.

	Janet Ross		40	F.S.	
1	John Skinner	25		Fisher	
	Helen Skinner		24		
	Janet Skinner		4		
	Helen		3		
	Christian		1 mth		
	Christian Ross		15	F.S.	
1	James Ross	25		Fisher	
	Mary McKay		25		
	Mary McKay		6		
	James McKay	4			
	Martha		1		
	Catharine		10	F.S.	
1	William Ross	30		Fisher	G
	Margaret Ross		25		G
	Alexander Ross	7			G
	Donald Ross	3			G
	Isabella		9mths		G
	Margaret Ross		15	F.S.	G

Parish of Tain Census 1841 cont.

Place	Houses	Name and surname of each person who abode in each house on night of 6th June	M	F	If born in Scotland and whether in county or else where
Here insert name of Village, Street, Square, Close, Court, etc.	uninhabited inhabited	Name & Surname			
	1	John Skinner	35		Fisher
		Helen Skinner		30	
		Janet Skinner		10	
		Martha Skinner		8	
		Alexander Skinner	7		
		Helen		5	
		Margaret Skinner		4	
		John Skinner	9mths		
	1	Alexander McKay	45		Fisher
		Margaret McKay		40	
		William McKay	15		
		John Mckay	13		
		Alexander McKay	10		
	1	Peter Skinner	20		Fisher
		Ann Skinner		15	
	1	Alex. Ross	20		
		Willina Ross		15	
		Janet Ross		4	
		Isabella Ross		15	H.S.
	1	William Skinner	20		Fisher
		Isabella Skinner		20	
		Christian Skinner		9mths	
	1	William Ross	20		Fisher
		Mary			
		James	9 mths		
		Isabella Ross		15	F.S.
		Janet Ross		45	Indp.
		Martha Ross		15	
		Mary Ross		13	
		John Ross	10		
	1	John Ross	30		
		Catharine Ross		30	
		James Ross	4		
		Margaret Ross		2	
		Christian Ross		15	F.S.
	1	John Fraser	35		Fisher
		Mary Fraser		35	
		John Fraser	15		
		Duncan Fraser	10		
		Hugh Fraser	7		
		Alexander Fraser	5		
		Peter Fraser	1		
	1	Alexander Bruce	35		Fisher

Parish of Tain Census 1841 cont.

	Isabella Bruce		25		
	Margaret Bruce		14		
	Jane Bruce		12		
	Christian Bruce		10		
	Janet Bruce		3		
	John Bruce	9 mths			
1	Alex. McKay	70		Fisher	
	Janet McKay		60		
	Helen McKay		15		
	Janet McKay		9		
1	William McKay	40		Fisher	
	Ann McKay		30		
	Donald McKay	10			
	John McKay	4			
	William Mckay	3			
	Alexander McKay	1			
1	Alexander Fraser	35		Fisher	
	Margaret Fraser		35		
	Janet Fraser		12		
	Thomas Fraser	10			
	Sophia Fraser		4		
	Margaret Fraser		3		
	Donald Fraser	1			
	Thomas Fraser	15		M.S.	
1	Alexander McKay	41		Fisher	
	Jane McKay		25		
	Donald McKay	13			
	Mary McKay		11		
	Ann McKay		8		
	Christian McKay		4		
	John McKay	1 mnth			
1	James McKay	30		Fisher	
	Eliz. McKay		25		
	Donald McKay	4			
	Henry McKay	1			
	Catharine Ross		20	F.S.	
1	John Ross	20		Fisher	
	Helen Ross		25		
	Isabella Ross		3		
1	James Ross	25		Fisher	
	Margaret Ross		30		
	James Ross	8			
	Alexander Ross	4			
	Isabella Ross		2		
1	Robert McKay	60		Ind.	No
	Nina McKay		35		No
	Catharine McKay		8		
1	Alexander Fraser	45		(Melwright) sic	
	Alexander Fraser	15		Ap. Do.	

Parish of Tain Census 1841 cont.

	John Fraser	12	Ap. Do.
1	Helen Duff		40 Ind.
	Alex. Fraser	20	
	Janet Fraser		16
	Ann Fraser		14
	John Fraser	10	
	Isabella Fraser		8
	Donald Fraser	5	
1	James Fraser	40	Fisher
	Margaret Fraser		25
	Janet Fraser		3
	Isabella Fraser		1
	Elsbeth Duff		45 Y.S.Servant
1	David Ross	35	Fisher
	Isabella Ross		40
	Mary Ross		15
	Alexa Ross		12
1	Alexander Corbett	20	Ind.
	Margaret Corbett		20
1	Lily Munro		60 Ind.
1	Catharine Munro		55 Ind.
	Ann Fife		28 Ind.
	N. Kn.	1	

Census Tarbat 1841

So much of the Parish of Tarbat lies between the old distillery and the Village of Inver. This district includes the village of Balnabruich, Little Arboll and Balnaskirach.

Extract detailing those living in Inver:-

Place Here insert name of Village, Street, Square, Close, Court, etc.	Houses	Name and surname of each person who abode in each house on night of 6th June	M	F	If born in Scotland and whether in county or elsewhere
	uninhabited inhabited	Name & Surname			
	1	David Bruce John Bruce Hugh Bruce Catherine Bruce	35 2 2mths		Tailor
	1	Thomas McCulloch Margaret McCulloch Mary McCulloch Donald McCulloch Margaret McCulloch William McCulloch	56 9 3	20 40 11 7	Farmer
	1	Robert McKenzie Margaret McKenzie John McKenzie Margaret McKenzie Janet McKenzie Christy McKenzie	40 15 4	40 5 6	Mason
	1	Alex. Skinner Ann Skinner Helen Skinner Martha Skinner Alex. Skinner Mary Skinner Christian Skinner Hugh Skinner	35 5 11mth	35 14 10 5 4	Fisher
	1	Janet McKay Sophia Skinner Janet Skinner Katrina Skinner		35 10 8 6	Ind.
	1	Alexander McKay Janet McKay Alexander Fraser Jane Fraser James McKay	20 24 1	20 18	Fisher
	1	John McKay Ann McKay ? McKay Alex. McKay Ann McKay	30 3 3	25 13	Fisher F.S.

Census Tarbat 1841

So much of the Parish of Tarbat lies between the old distillery and the Village of Inver. This district includes the village of Balnabruich, Little Arbol and Balnaskirach.

Extract detailing those living in Inver:-

1	Hugh McKay	15	Fisher
	Peggy McKay		30
1	Walter Cumming	40	Fisher
	Ann Cumming		5
	Peggy McKay		24
	Jess Duff		14
	Isabella Duff		30
1	Ann McKay		40 Ind.
	Alex. McKay	12	
	Mary McKay		9
1	John Bruce	40	Fisher
	Margaret Bruce		13
	Johan Bruce		12
	Donald Bruce	7	
	Walter Bruce	5	
	Margaret Bruce		30 F.S.
1	Alexander Corbett	53	Farmer
	Janet Corbet		49
	John Corbet	16	
	Samson? Corbet	14	
	Isabella Corbet		10
	Don Corbet	5	
1	James Bremner	29	Cartwright
	Christy Bremner		25
	Alex. Bremner	2	
	William Bremner	10mth	
	Wm. Corbett	20	Taylor
	Ann Corbet		2
1	David Fraser	40	Ag/Lab.
	Ann Fraser		3
	? Fraser		19
	John Fraser	17	
	Don Fraser	13	
	Wm. Fraser	10	
	Jane Fraser		5
1	David Skinner	30	Shoemaker
	Margaret Skinner		25
	Margaret Skinner		3
	Walter Skinner	3	
	George Skinner	1	
	Alex. Ross	20	
1	John Skinner	35	Farmer
	Alexandrina Skinner		35

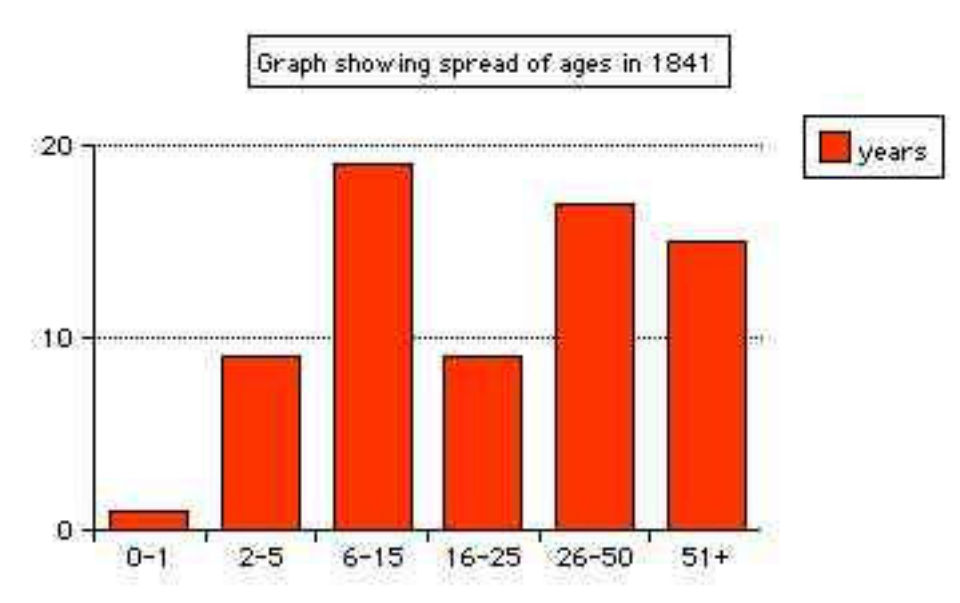
Census Tarbat 1841

So much of the Parish of Tarbat lies between the old distillery and the Village of Inver. This district includes the village of Balnabruich, Little Arboll and Balnaskirach.

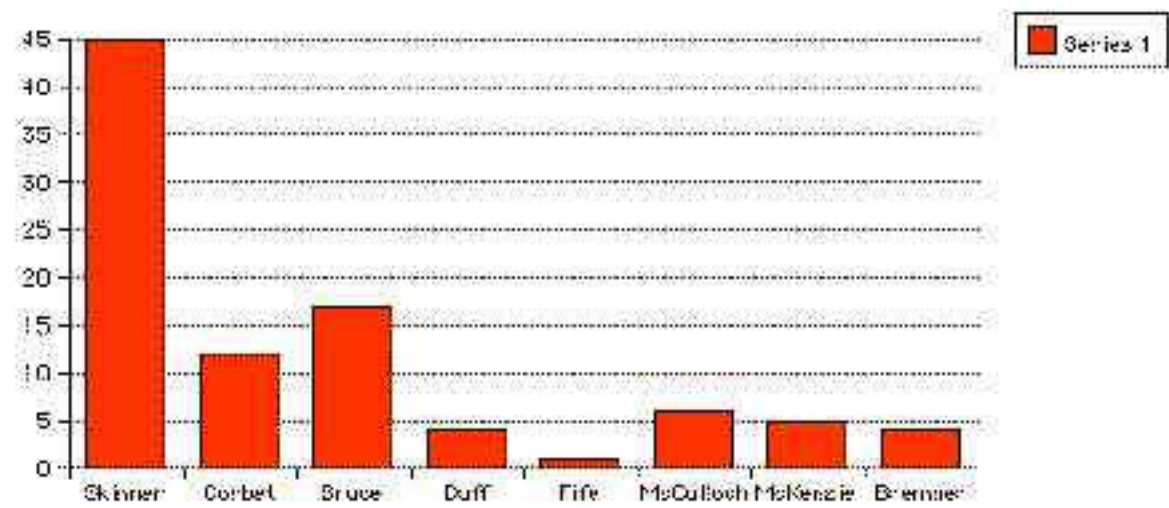
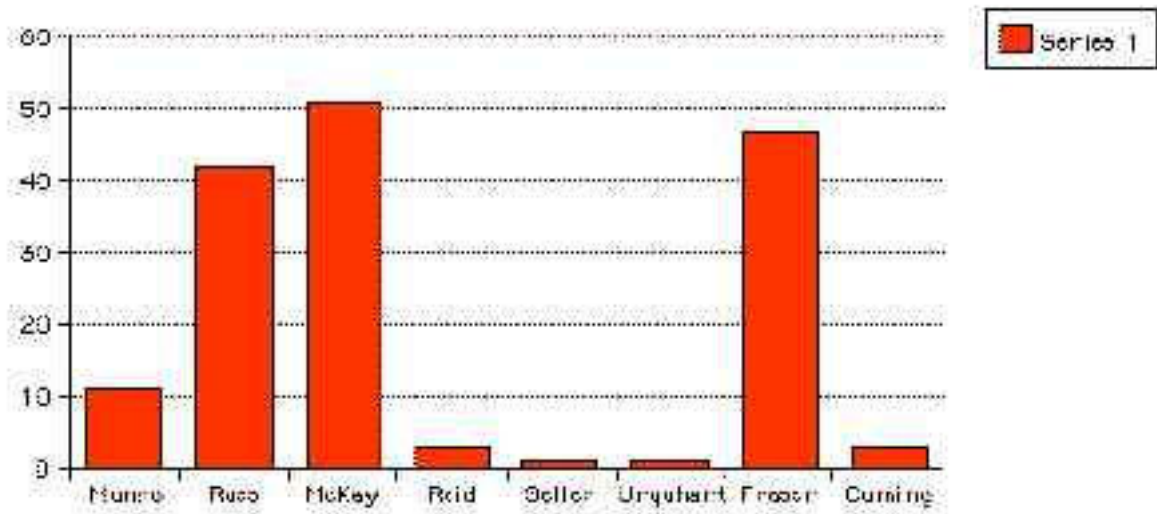
Extract detailing those living in Inver:-

Jess Skinner		10	
Christy Skinner		10	
Walter Skinner	8		Ap.Shoemaker
Alexandrina Skinner		2	
Ann Skinner		4mths	
John Skinner	4mths		
John Munro	52		Farmer
Christy Munro		54	

GRAPHS

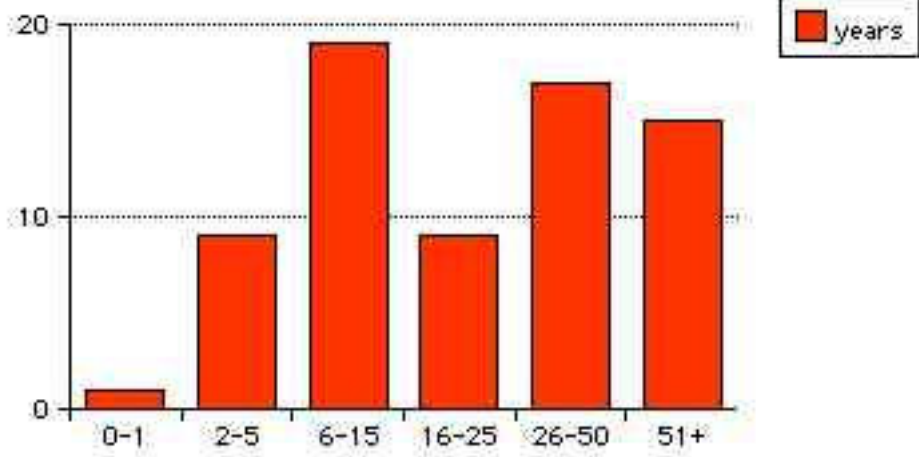


This graph shows how many people there were and their ages in 1841



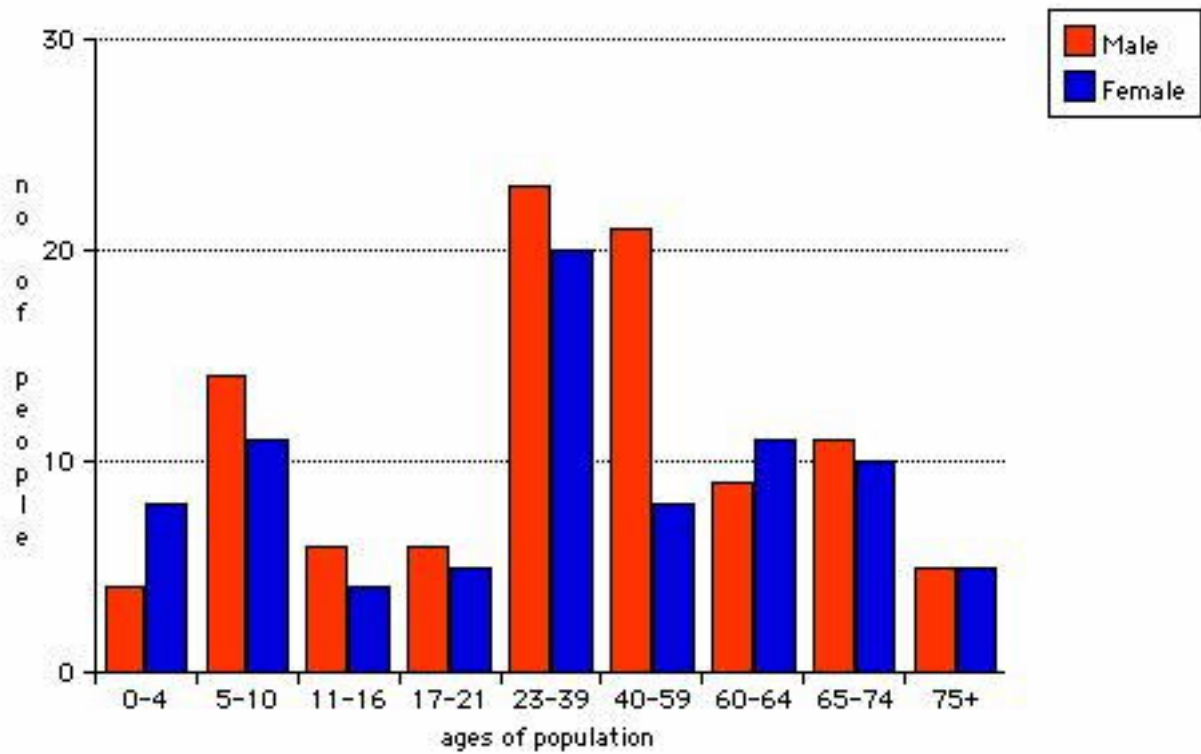
These two graphs show the most common surnames in Inver during the 1841 Census

Graph showing spread of ages in 1841

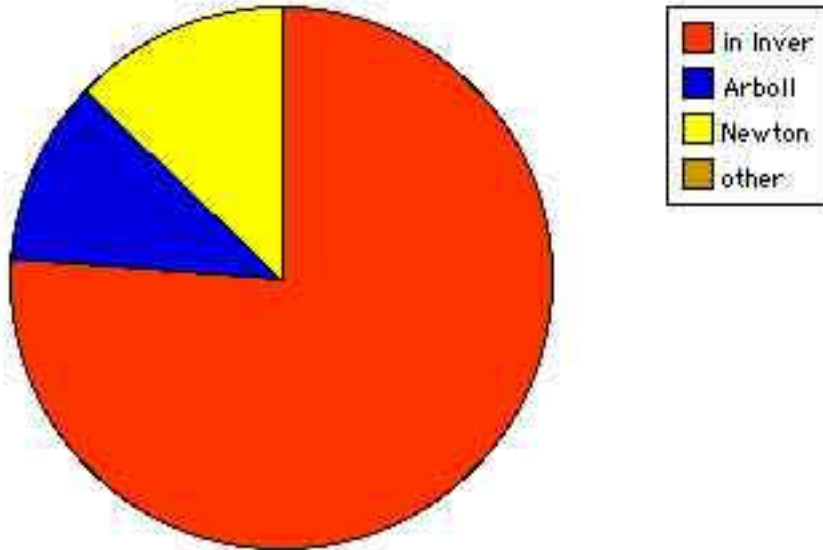


Results of Millennium Census

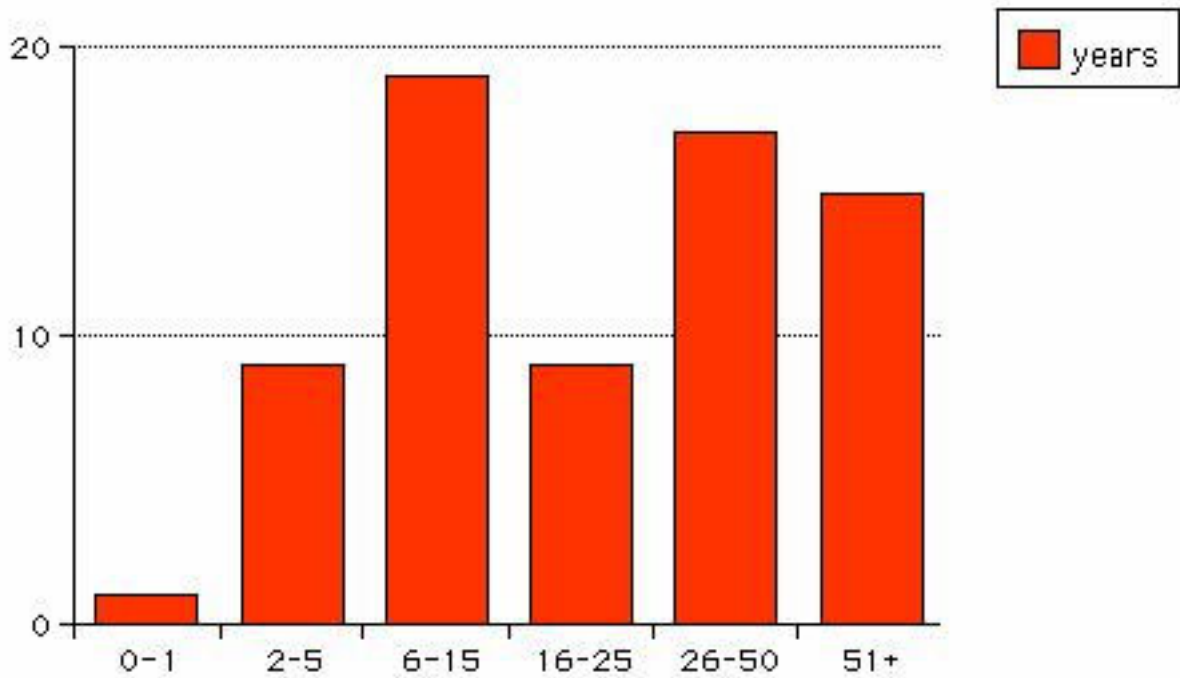
As part of our Millennium project we put 120 questionnaires around the village and local area to find out about people's lifestyles and views today. We had 69 returned.



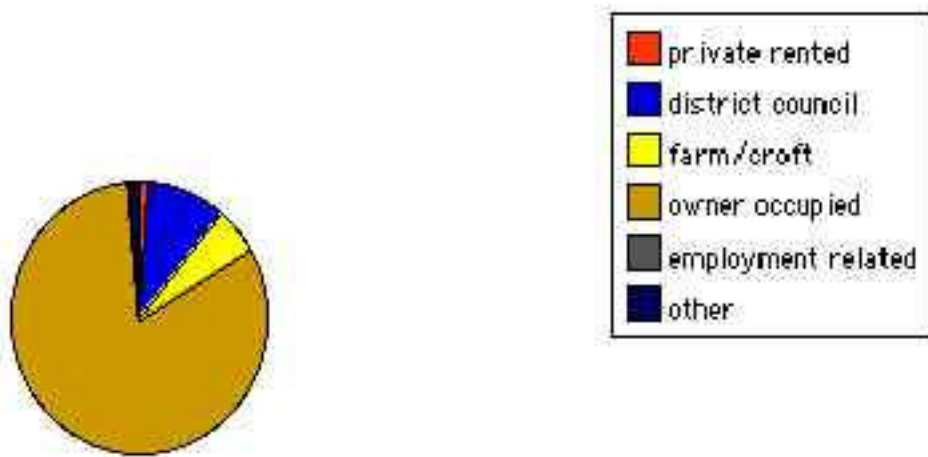
The first question was to see what different age groups were living in the area. The graph shows a good spread across the age groups



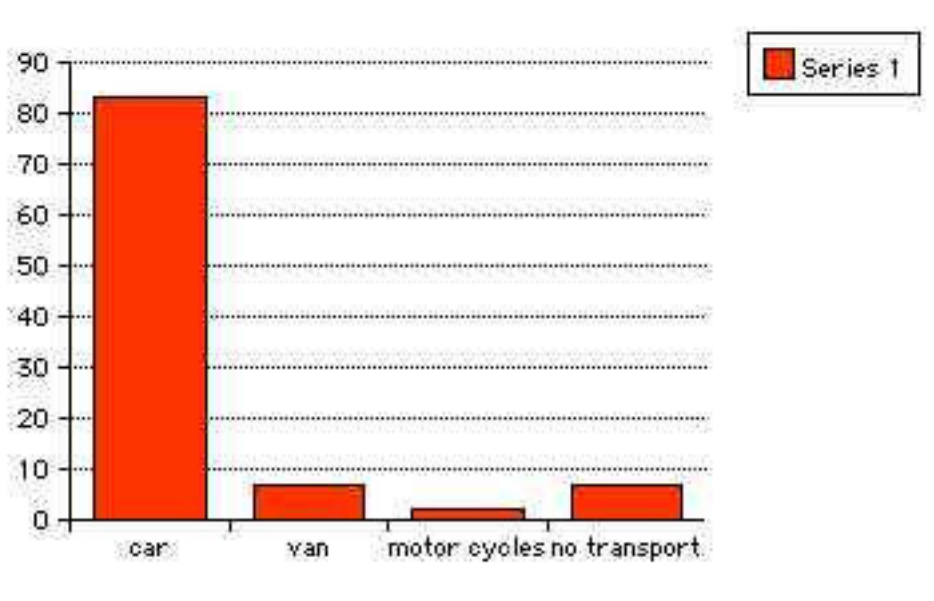
This pie chart shows where most people live.



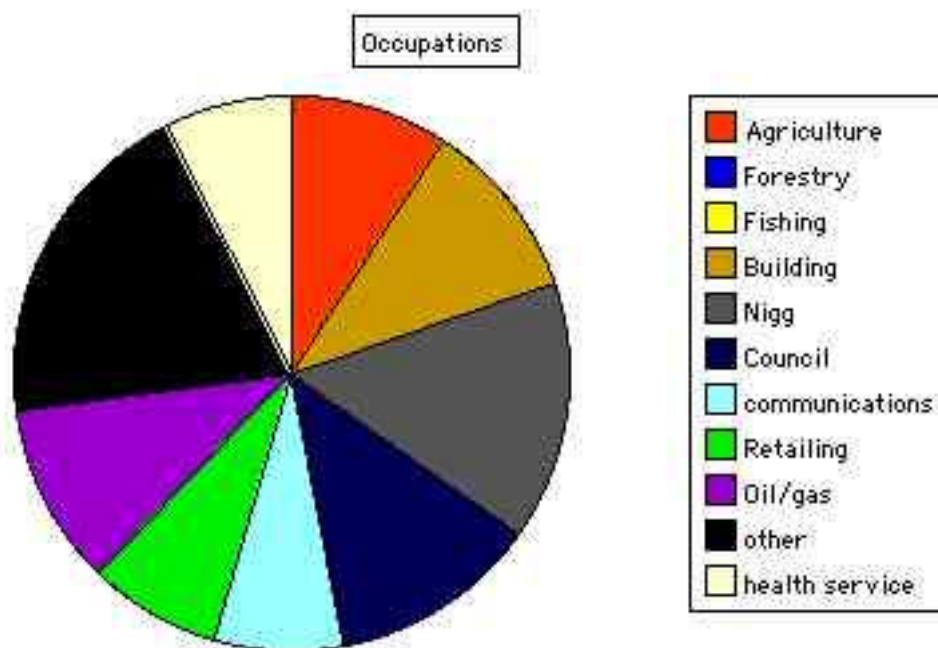
This graph shows how long people have lived in the area.



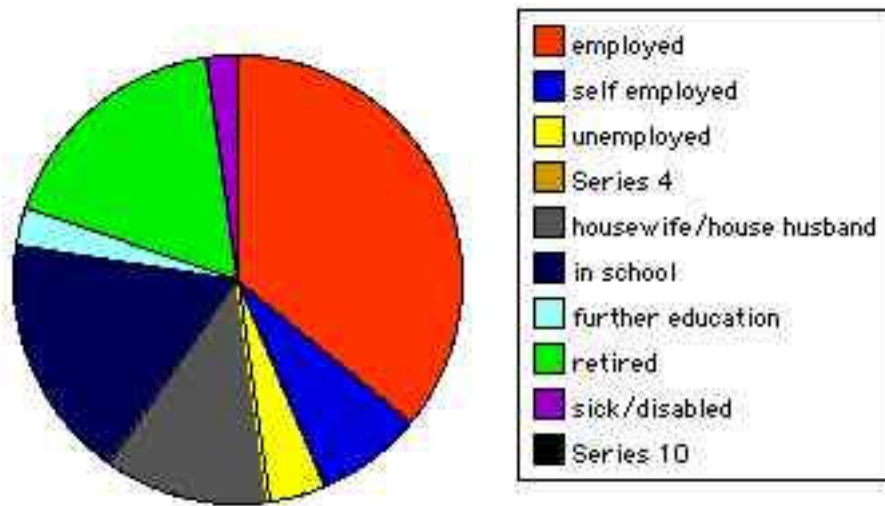
This pie chart shows that most people in Inver own their houses.



This graph shows that most of the people in the area have cars.

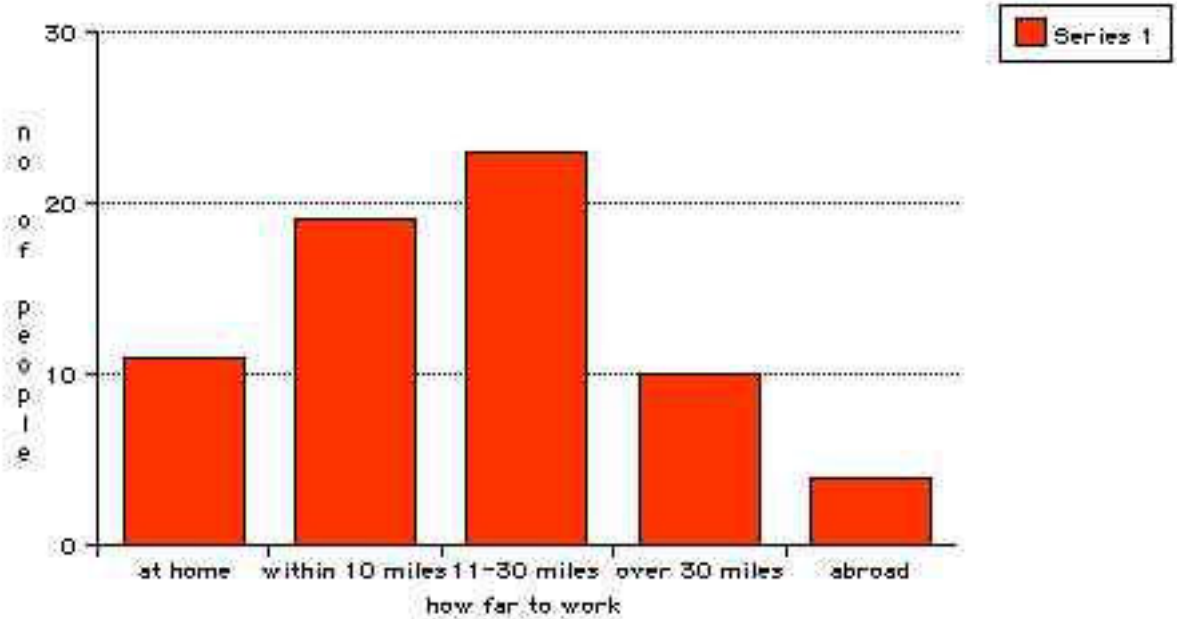


This pie chart shows the different types of employment in the area. It is interesting to see that there are no fishers now.



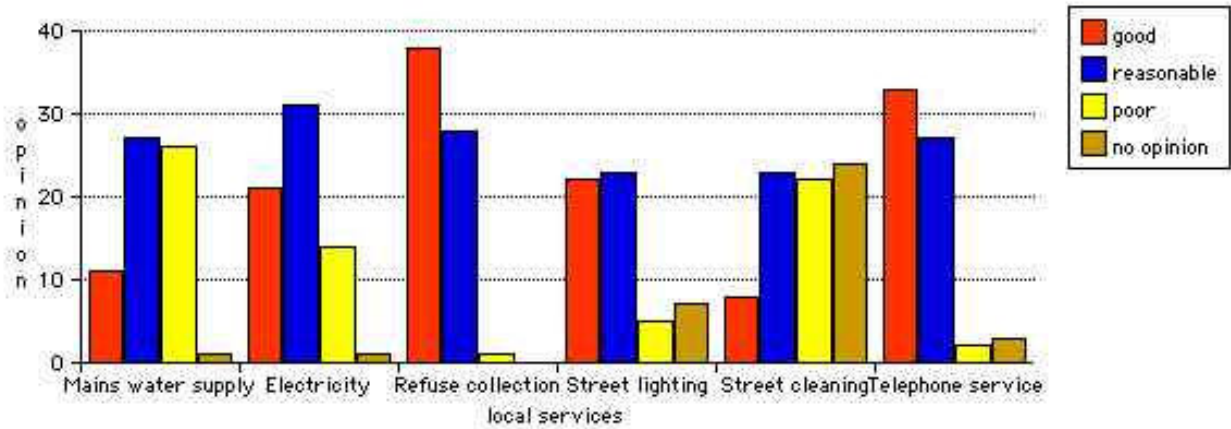
This pie chart shows how people are employed in the area.

People were asked how far they had to travel to work

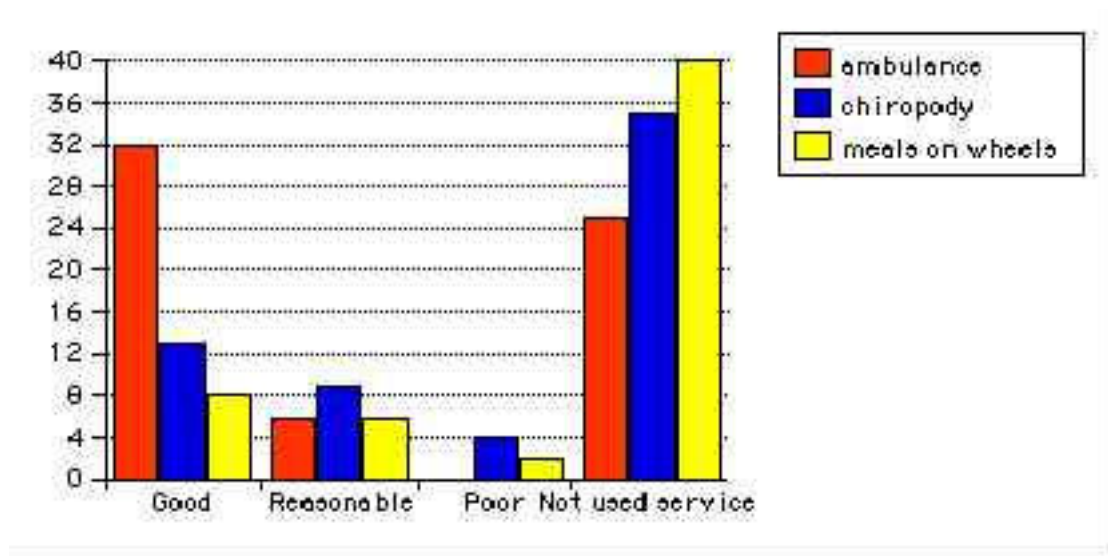


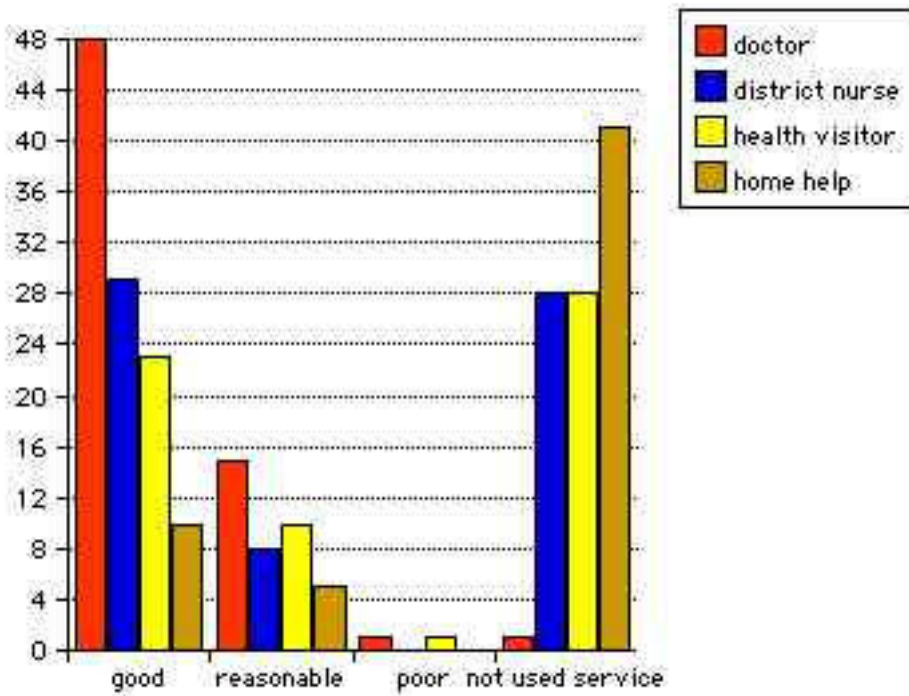
This graph shows that quite a lot of people have a lot of travelling to do to get to their work

Everyone was asked what they felt about the local services.

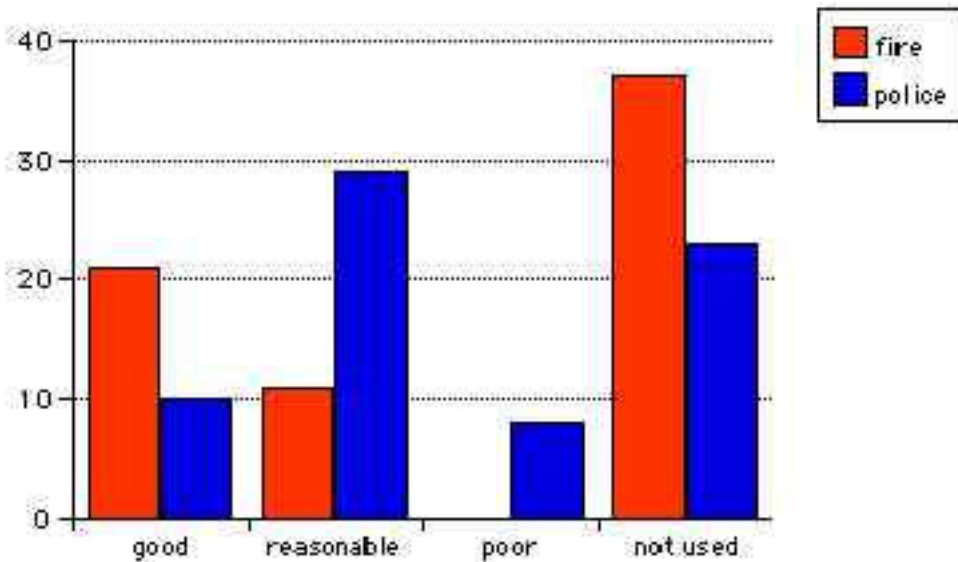


Most people thought that the water supply was poor.

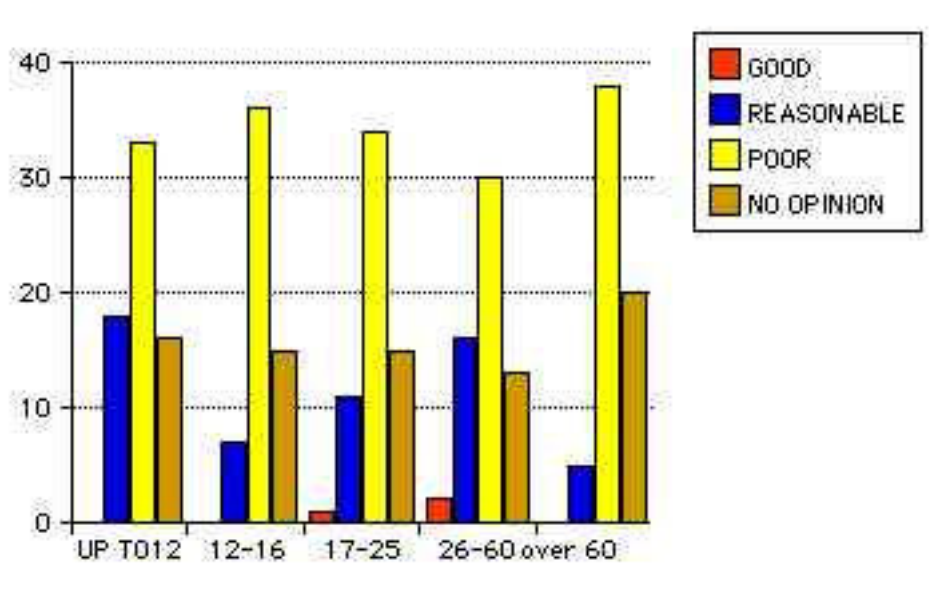




Their opinions of the health services were also asked for. Most people think that the doctor is the best.

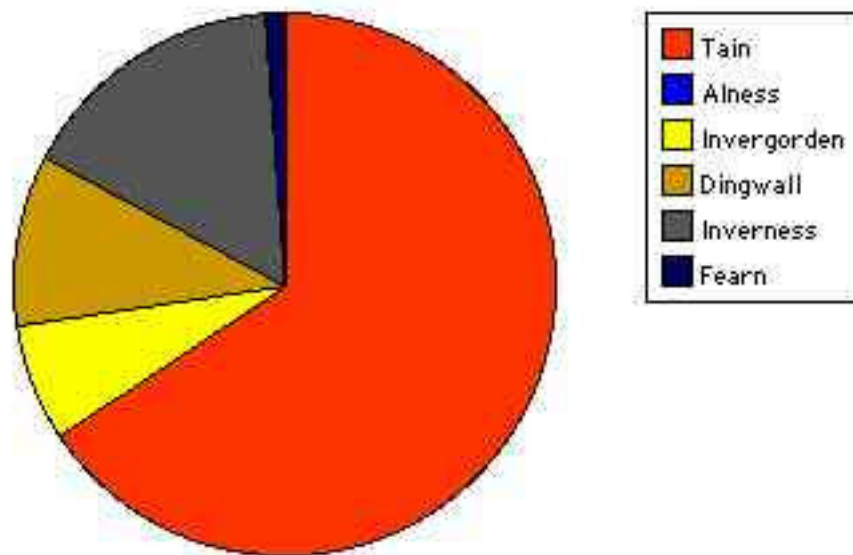


People were asked what they thought of the fire and police services.



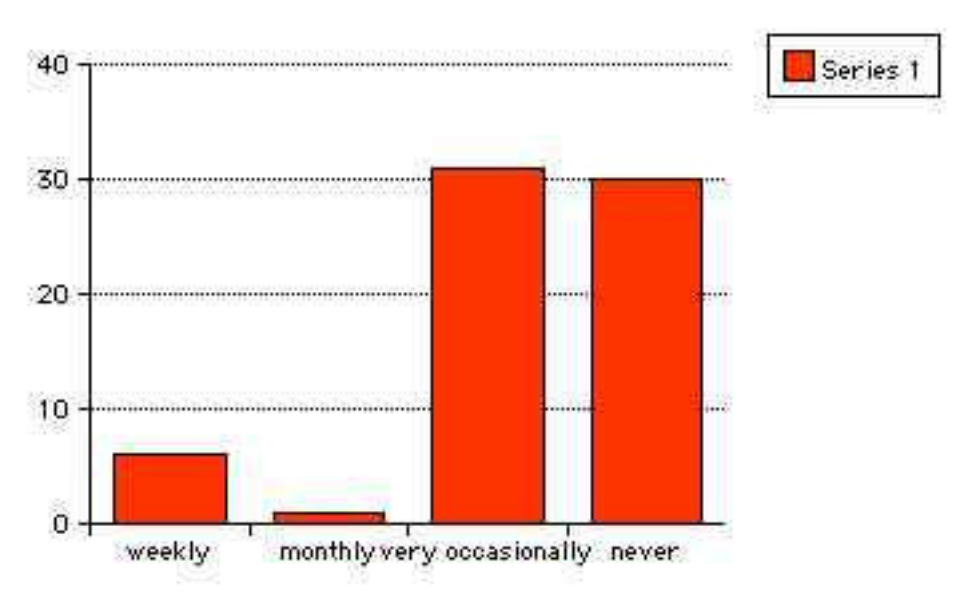
People were asked what they thought of the facilities provided for the different age groups in the area.

Where do people shop?

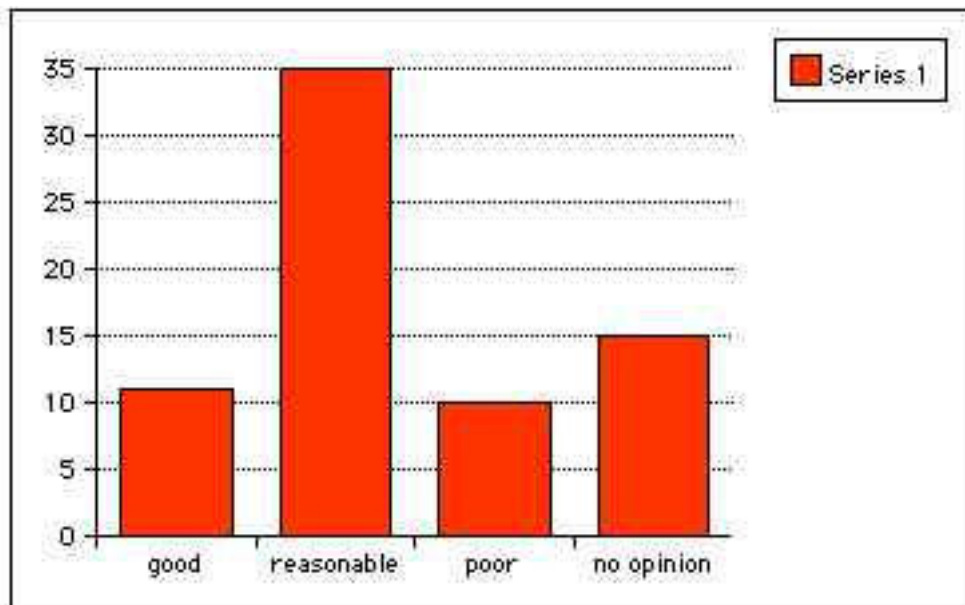


Most people from the area shop in Tain

How often do people shop in the village?

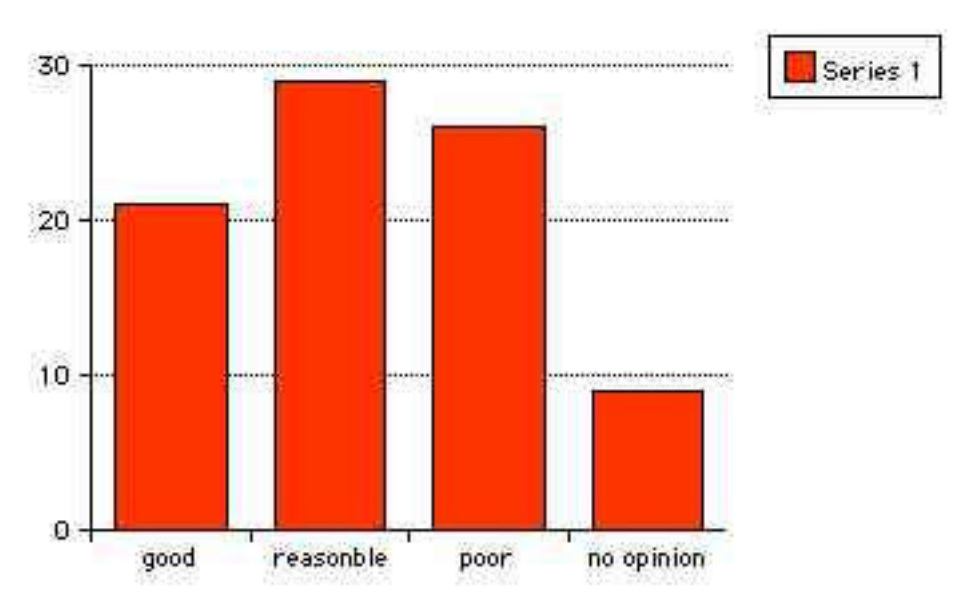


Most people only visit the small shop at the inn very occasionally.

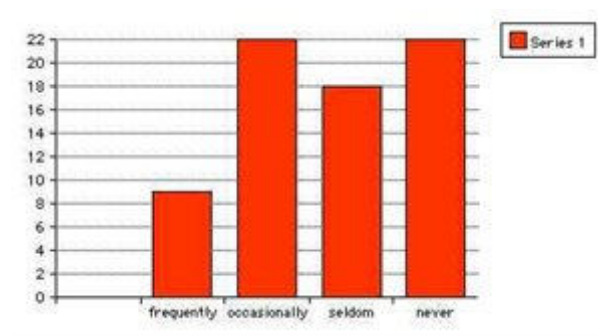


Most people think that the service provided by the community council is reasonable.

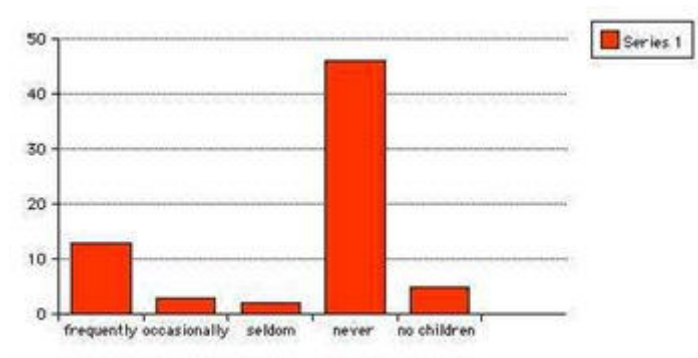
People were asked what they thought of the service provided by the local councillor



People were asked how often they went to church

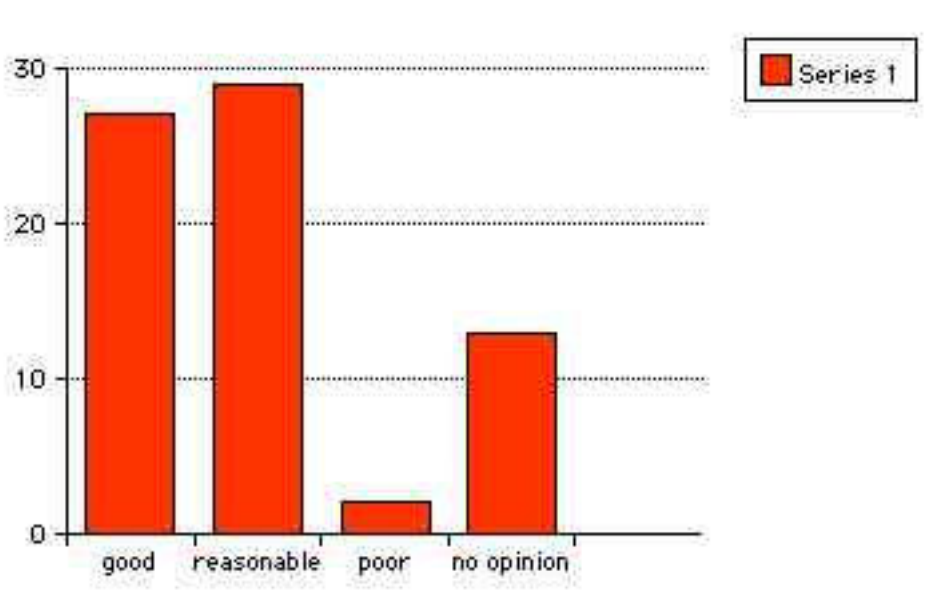


Children were asked how often they went to Sunday School



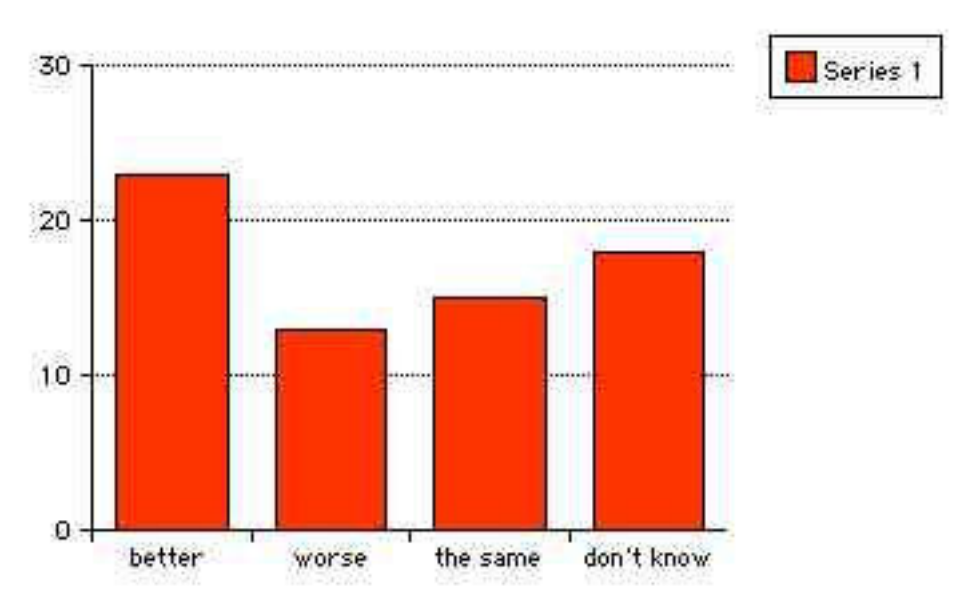
Most children never go to Sunday School

Everyone was asked what they thought of the services provided by the local churches.



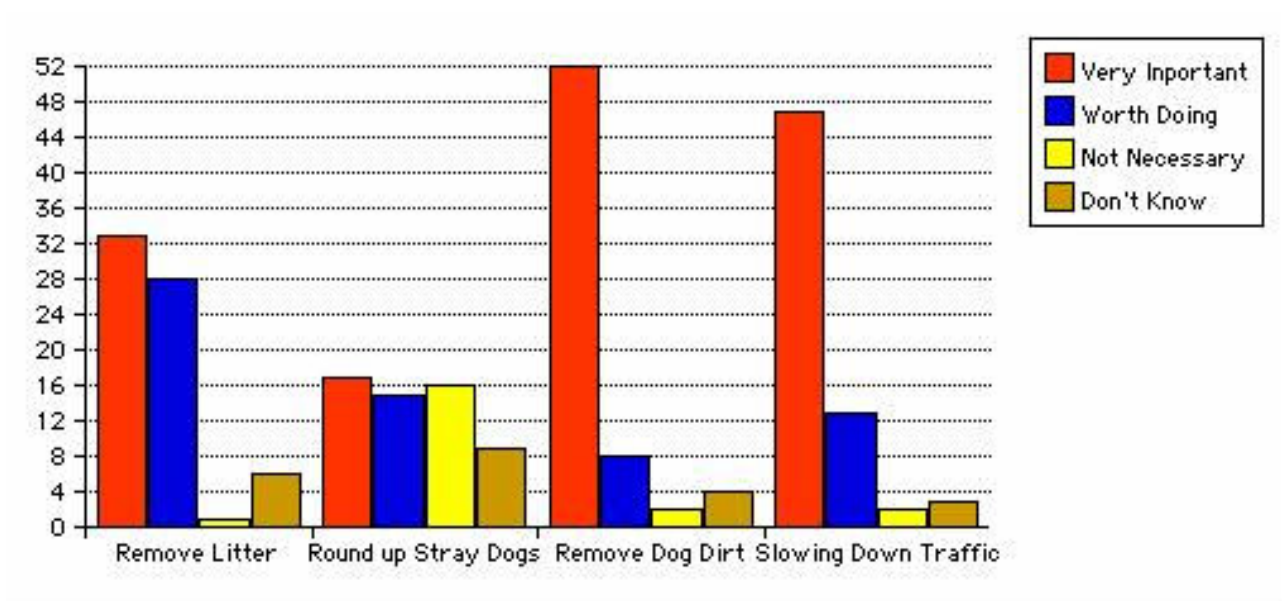
One comment was made about the need for street work and more evangelism in the village.

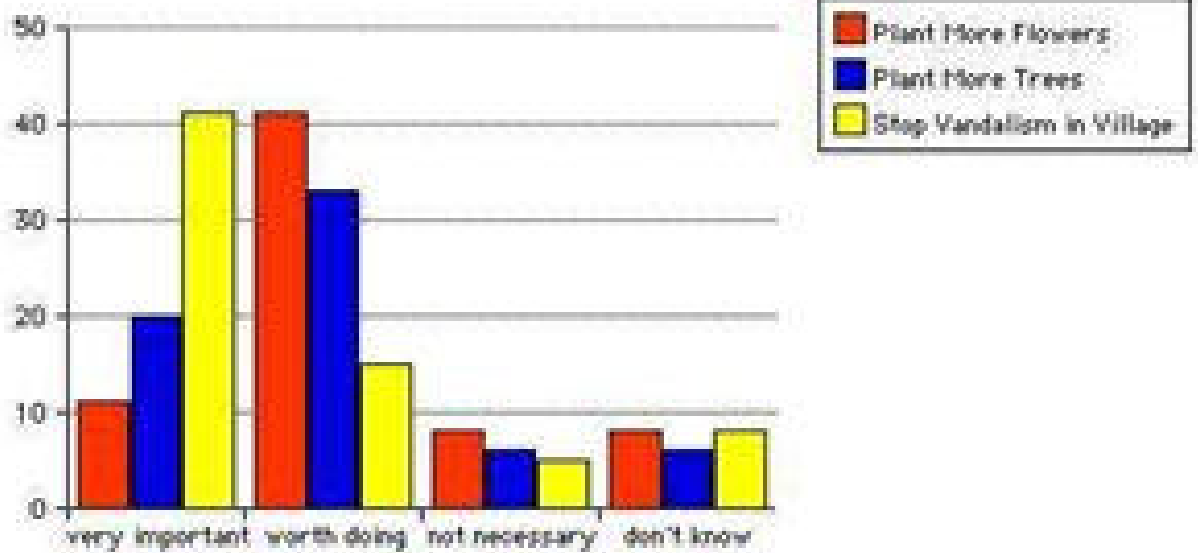
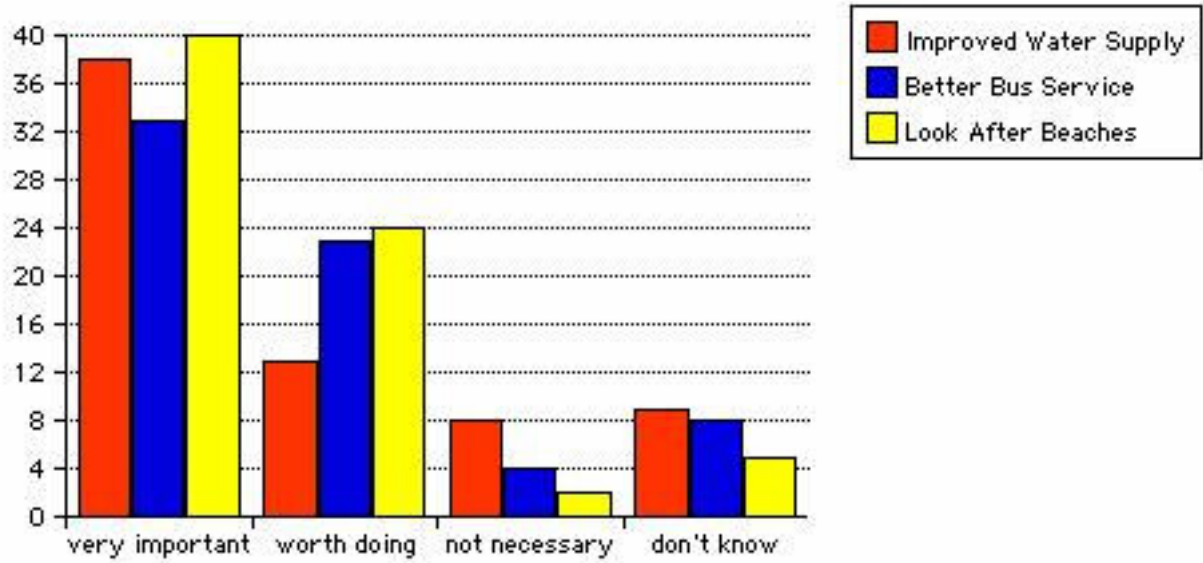
People were asked about they thought of the quality of life now compared with the past.

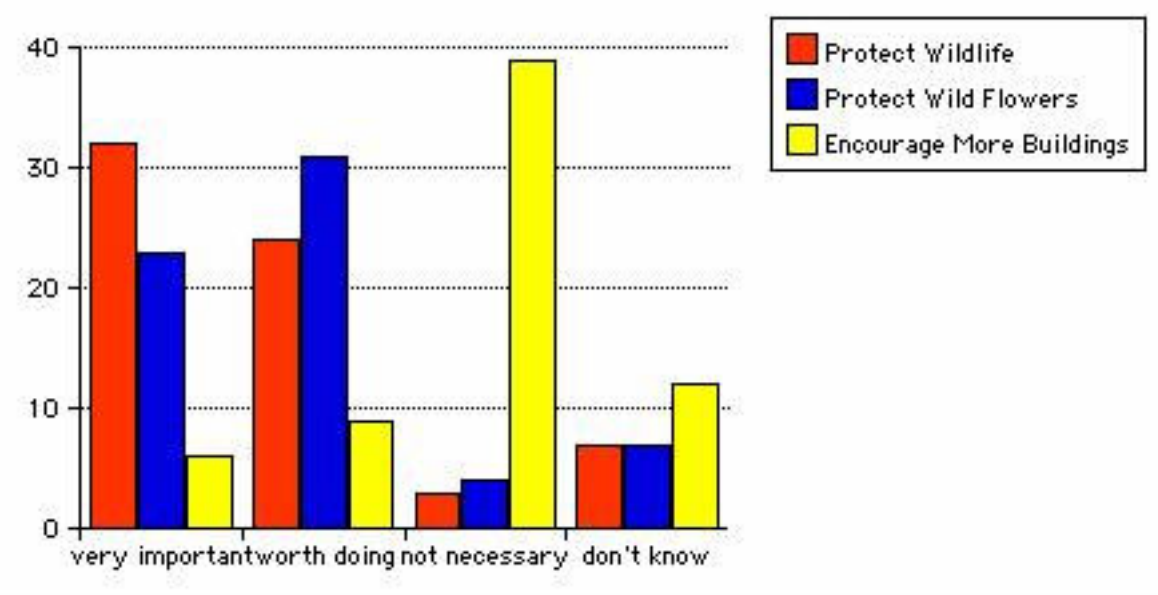
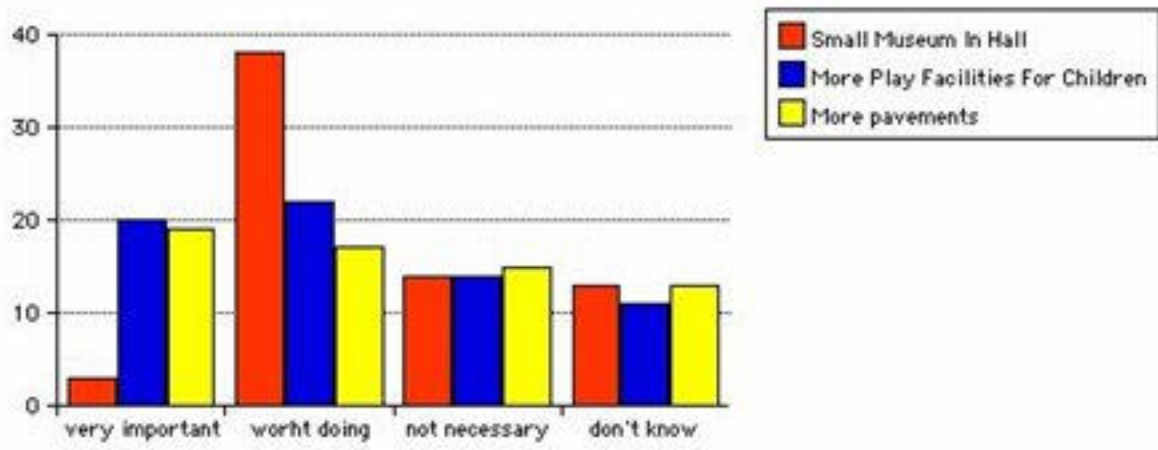


One of the comments made about the quality of life, 'The quality of life fluctuates in conjunction with the amount of families having people in employment, which affects the whole area in general.'

People were asked what they felt was important and worthwhile doing to improve their local area.







Everyone was asked what they thought was a problem in the local environment.

Dog mess and sewage on the beach seem to be issues of major environmental concern. However, comments were made about:-

Dog noise in certain areas of the village.

Sheep dirt at the school and on the football pitch.

The smell of silage spraying lingering on washing.

Litter on the football pitch.

Noisy neighbours.

Aircraft being very noisy.

