My late Grandfather, Matthew Gibson, often told my brother and I funny stories about when he was young and worked in the Toome Eel Fishery. During his late teens he was employed as a 'Night watch man'. This entailed setting out on a small life boat late at night or early morning onto the Lough to try and catch poachers.

One particular night a heavy fog descended and my Granda and his friend Robert Henry McDonald were trapped for 3 whole nights! They had no food, just water. He told me they kept their spirits up by telling jokes and ghost stories!

When the fog eventually lifted they descovered that they were only a few metres from shore the whole time by Grunt's Bay!! Not only that, but they were met by a stunned search party who had just packed up to go home, as they had been declared 'perished'. Two very lucky men!

Granda Malt on the left.

Name & telephon

Rhonda Hutchinson (daughter of Matthew Gibson)

Pupil Name & class: Heidi Hutchinson P7.

School & Town: Moneymore Primary school, Moneymore.