

1983

Jan 4 **The 'Advertiser' takes a look forward and back** - In February Thorn Lighting paid off 56 workers to reduce the workforce to 215. Mr Charles Brown, manager, said that there were no signs of improvements and the most that they could forward to was for the factory to continue at its present level.

The FMA owned Herd & Mackenzie shipyard paid off 16 workers, of all trades, at the beginning of December to reduce the workforce to 76. The firm was presently working on a 75-foot seiner/trawler but had no further orders. Ian Sinclair, manager said that they would need another two orders to retain the same size of workforce over the next 18 months.

Jones' Shipyard do not have a boat to build at present but with repairs they are just able to tick over and are hopeful of receiving an order in the near future.

The electrical firm of Thain and Davidson were considerably more upbeat when they were approached. During the past year the firm had won and started work on several major contracts including the electrical installation of a 60-bed unit at Montfield Hospital in Lerwick costing £300,000. They also gained a £100,000 contract for electrification of a new bulk fuel installation at RAF Kinloss. Brian Davidson who became the sole owner of the firm in July said that during the year they had been able to take on five apprentices since we are fairly well off for work and it is fine to have been able to provide some employment.

"We still can't complain about the volume of work we have there is more available but firms have to get out and look for it.

I think that the reason why Thain and Davidson has fared better than some other firms in the construction industry is that we are prepared to go anywhere to get work and take on jobs even though the profit margins are keen. I am reasonably confident about next year provided we continue to work hard.

Once a contract is secured we have to look to the material suppliers for support and also the work force for commitment, if we get this then I think that we will be able to keep the work force at its present level of 60 or even increase it."

Both managers of the maltings at Portgordon and Buckie seemed relatively happy about the year that had gone and looked forward with confidence to the year ahead. At Portgordon the manager said that they had had a fairly successful year despite the depressed state of the Speyside distilling industry. A comment made at Buckie was that the local barley was very good indeed- of a high quality.

Stewart Hamilton, spokesman for Hamilton Brothers Engineers, did not have many words of good cheer. "Last year was not a good year", he said. "There just isn't the a lot of money in steel just now. We still have jobs going on and are receiving a lot of enquiries but prices are very poor and I can see little improvement in the near future."

Fish processors, Cox Fish and Moray Seafoods both reported that 1982 had been a fairly good year.

Mr Mackay speaking for Cox Fish said they had diversified into the frozen fish market where there was a growing demand. They had taken on 20 more workers at the fish processing plant and also 12 at the neighbouring freezer plant.

Charles Eckersley said that his firm had had a very hectic and fruitful year producing and selling more fish products than ever before and had been able to expand with white fish processing and smoking facilities now being installed. They had a work force of 177 and with plans for further expansion it was hoped to employ a further 50 more. Future plans involved the building of a ¾ million pound production hall and cold store with a capacity of 1500 tonnes.

Death of former Joinery firm boss and hotel owner. George Campbell, owner of the St Andrews Hotel along with his son George and former Master Joiner died at his home 2 Sutherland Crescent on Thursday morning. He was 65. He is survived by his wife Edith and sons George and Jimmy who is involved with electrical work in Los Angeles.

Jan 11 **Death of Buckie's oldest citizen** - Mrs Anna Lobban died peacefully in Seafield Hospital on Wednesday at the ripe old age of **105**.

She celebrated her birthday on September 21st last year at the hospital where she has been a resident since June.

She lived at Rock House, East Church Street, the Shipwrecked Mariners Society's Home for ten years until it closed down in June.

Band to increase in size - The local dance band, 'Good 'N Country' are to extend their line up to five. Since their formation as a trio in 1979 there have been some personnel changes and they have become a four piece, comprising, Robbie Petrie (vocals), Peter McKay (bass, piano, organ, sax and backing vocals) James Alexander (organ, fiddle, accordion and rhythm guitar), Bill Murray (drums). They are now to add another member, Elgin-based lead guitarist Nat Fraser. (He gained notoriety in 2002 when he was found guilty of murdering his wife and disposing of her body. He was given a life sentence at the High Court in Edinburgh.)

The 'Low School' building offered for sale - The former school building which in recent times has only been occupied by the music department of Buckie High School is being offered for sale. The first part facing West Church Street was built in 1875 with an extension in 1904. Considerable internal alterations took place in 1949 and 1950. (My plasterer's toolbox is made from the wood of an old blackboard. I had it made for me before being called up in March 1950 when the joiners in Broadley. Mitchell and Green charged me £5 even though I had supplied the wood.)

Buckie Rovers open the new year with a bang - They beat Forres Thistle by **nine clear goals**. Neil 'Cropper' Murray scored four while Alan Milne had a hat trick. The team was - Roy, Coull, Sinclair, R. Smith, Ewen, Sellar, Milne, Cowie, Murray, M. Smith and Reid. Subs. Findlay and B. Mair.

Buckie Thistle beat Portgordon F. C. by 11 goals to 1 in a friendly match. Playing for Portgordon were - Boyne (Mackie), Ewen, A. Shewan, Thomson, Douglas, Farquhar (Gardner), Wm. McIntosh, Thain (Morrison), I. Shewan (J. McIntosh), Milne.

Portgordon gives donation - To show that they harboured no ill feeling after the severe trouncing the Portgordon officials gave Buckie Thistle £50 towards 'Save Buckie Thistle Appeal Fund'. A photograph shows the presentation-taking place as officials from both clubs look on.

Changes at Victoria Park - Buckie Thistle are now under the control of the Leslie twins, John and James as Alex 'Bomber' Thomson has returned to his role of physiotherapist, his period as manager ended at the beginning of the winter break and he imitated that he did not want to continue in that position.

Jan 18 **Winter Sales now on** - Firth Furnishers, 33-37 West Church Street. Fashion House, 17 East Church Street. Peter G. Slater, 65 West Church Street, 25% off men and youth's suits, jackets, blousons, anoraks. James Annand, Ironmongers, 104-108 Mid Street, Keith. George Robertson, Drapers, Cullen. Hay's Ideal Homewares, 25 West Church Street. Alex J. Slater, House Furnishers, 23-25 East Church Street. John Sandison, Drapers, 22 East Church Street. Ritchie's (R and M. Hay) 72 - 74 East Church Street. Norma's 18 East Church Street, Ladies' Fashions and Men's Wear. Baby Shop, Portknockie. T. M. Jack, 37 East Church Street.

Buckie and District Flower Show - At the recent meeting called to discuss the possibility of holding a Flower Show in Buckie in 1984 a committee of 23 members was appointed. A talk was given by officials from Keith Horticultural Society. Councillor Frank Anderson who has been the leading light behind the proposal to hold a Buckie Flower Show was appointed chairman.

Jan 25 **Good news for Jones' Shipyard** - Jones' Shipyard last week announced that they had secured a boat order that would keep 70 people employed until late autumn. General manager, John Richardson, said that a Buckie based skipper had placed an order for a 75-foot seine net fishing vessel, which will be powered by a 500hp Deutz diesel engine and will have full deck shelter.

Ladies dress shop changes hands - A. G. Robertson, trading as a Ladies Outfitter at 39 West Church Street for the past 14 years (following Alex and Clara Hay) have sold their business to Mrs Christine Slorach and Mrs Mary Gardiner who will open on 3rd February under the new name of Woman In Mind.

Coffee mornings - Tickets now cost 35p. (In March 2003 the cost of a coffee morning ticket had risen to £1 although the organisers of one to be held on 5th April for the Cats Protection League in the Episcopal Church hall had kept the cost of their ticket at 80p.)

Buckie Thistle appoint a new manager - Buckie Thistle have appointed former Huntly player, and current Thistle defender, Dave Watson, as player manager for the rest of the season. The club has been managerless since the start of November when John Fitzgerald resigned. Tommy Wilson, the former Elgin City player whom Watson replaced in the Thistle line-up has been freed.

Highland League football - Lossiemouth 1 Buckie Thistle 1
Mitchell, Thain, Mason, Watson, Forbes, Murray, Nicol, Scott, Reid, Cowie, Anderson(D. Pirie), Sub. R. Pirie. (The goalkeeper was listed as Castle but one thinks this was an error as Mitchell was the regular keeper at this time)

Feb 1 **For hire** - Rocky Rhythm Roadshow, large professional Stereo Disco, available for hire. Phone Buckie 315xx

Advert - New taxi business - J. R. Taxis, Buckie 3345x All cars radio controlled, insured fully comprehensive. (This could have been Jake Robertson of Moravian who previously had a taxi business and offered all his cars for sale.)

Common Fisheries Policy Settled at last - so read the headline of an article found on page 7.

Service at Preshome Church - Around 80 people made their way to Preshome Church near Clochan on Wednesday evening for the recording of a special service, which will be broadcast on BBC Radio Scotland on Sunday 6th February. Canon David Keith of St Peter's Buckie and Preshome RC Churches took the service. He also gave a short history on the church. (The report written by the Advertiser reporter isn't all together correct.)

Feb 8 **Storms Batter Moray Coastal Communities** - this was the heading on the front page of the 'Advertiser'. Part of the report spoke of storm, which took place on Tuesday February 1st, was the worst for many years. (The 'Great Storm' took place, the worst within living memory took place thirty years before, almost to a day, on January 31st 1953) A number of photographs are shown both on the front page and on page 9, taken at Portgordon and Cullen.

Moray Seafoods given green light. A major development by the fish-processing firm of Charles Eckersley has been given the go ahead by Moray District Council. This will change the face of Low Street, on the seaward side, considerably.

Flower Show preparations now well under way - Local solicitor, Wilma Leslie has been appointed treasurer with Allan Fraser, Buckie High School, Geography teacher, secretary and Jeff Duguid, a Clerk of Works with Grampian regional Council as Show Manager.

Chairman thanked members of the committee for the sterling work they had done on the search for trophies and folk to take on the various tasks. (Mr Douglas Currie, Blairstone, Enzie, was prominent in this field.)

Mr Anderson said that because of the interest that had been shown in the proposed Model Boat section it had been decided to make it competitive. Mr James Anderson, Chairman of Moray District Council has agreed to open the show with his wife handing over the trophies.

A sub committee has been set up to draw up the show schedule with a help from that of the Keith Show of the previous year.

A women's committee was set up to with one of their functions being the raising of funds. The first event taking place on Saturday with a coffee morning to take place in the Episcopal Church Hall .

Advert - Peter G. Slater, Gent's Outfitter, 65 West Church Street, winter sale is continuing with all stock now being reduced by 15%

Burns Suppers were held at Arradoul by the WRI by the Buckie and District Round Table and Portsoy Bowling Club. W. J. Cowie, former college lecturer and sometime editor of the Banffshire Advertiser addressed the haggis and gave the Immortal Memory at Arradoul. He also gave quite different talk on Burns to the Portsoy Bowling Club.

Taxi firms - There were no less than seven taxi firms in Buckie at this time, namely - Hay's Taxis, Thistle Taxis, Innes Taxis, Longmore Taxis, M & B Taxis and the newest firm J. R. (I may have said this before but never mind, when my youngest son, Karl, was born in late December 1965 there weren't any taxis to be had. I got a car from Donaldson's Garage drove it myself to the hospital to bring my wife and baby home and was charged the same as if it had been a regular taxi hire.)

Bonny pictures - Three photographs in the 'Advertiser' show the valley of the Buckie Burn after a heavy fall of snow. They would be worth printing again if they could be found. (February 15 1983)

Turned down - Moray District Council turned down the appeal made by Buckie Thistle for cash aid of £15,000 from the Common Good Fund to help the club pay off debts of £35,000. After Councillors Anderson and Cole had reported that they had found that the majority of ratepayers did not approve of the club receiving that amount of money from the Common Good Fund other members were unanimous in turning the appeal down. Les Douglas vice chairman and leader of the Save Buckie Thistle group said that he felt that both the councillors views were personal ones, Councillor Anderson came back to say that this wasn't the case. (I believe the councillors were quite right, the money in the Common Good Fund was never meant to be used to bail out firms/clubs that got into a mess through bad management.)

On transfer list - Centre-half, Alan Forbes was placed on the transfer list at his own request. It was felt that he had been restless for some time and this was affecting his play. Forbes was signed from Deveronvale three seasons before for the sum of £1500. He is a first class player and it is likely that he will be moving on fairly quickly.

Birth rate falls - While the population of Grampian has increased by 7% over the past six years the number of children being born has fallen by 4%.

Advert - Ian W. Gordon, Motor Body Repairs and Repainting Specialist. Industrial Estate, Mosstodloch.

Advert - J. Sandison (Campbells) Joiners and Funeral Undertakers, Railway Terrace, Buckie.

Inter City Express Coach Travel with Stagecoach - Daily Service to Glasgow, Edinburgh, Birmingham and London. Far from Aberdeen to London - £10. Stagecoach - Friarton Road, Perth.

An interview - Buckie builders, Wm. Douglas and Sons are looking forward to the rest of the year with considerable optimism. This was what they told the 'Advertiser' reporter who spoke to them last week.

One of the reasons for the optimism is their £600,000 private housing development at Kinloss which they have just received planning permission and intend to start within the next two months.

The scheme will involve the conversion of the old manse into a block of three flats and the construction of 20 houses in the glebe land.

Links were severed with the Edinburgh based builders, Anchor Construction in August last year and the firm is now under the control of directors, Edward Douglas, Junior, and Surveyor, George Duthie and one other shareholder.

22 Feb **Good news** - Thomson's Boatyard have gained their first fishing boat order in two years. In December 1980 the yard's owner Willie Thomson was forced to make the 35 men labour force redundant due to lack of orders. Since then Mr Thomson together with his son Alex have kept the office open and the yard's machines in working order in readiness for the day on which boatbuilding work is restarted. According to Mr Thomson that day is not far off. They have received an order for a 75-foot trawler from a Buckie skipper who does not wish to be named at this stage. The wood has been ordered and should be here by the beginning of next month when building work can begin. Two joiners started on Monday at the Low Street premises and their first job of work will be to repair the storm damage and making the yard ready.

Once the wood does arrive in two to three week's time a start can be made to the building of the trawler when the firm should be able to take on a minimum of thirty men. Mr Thomson fully expects to get all the qualified tradesmen he requires locally, saying that there are plenty good men in the area who are presently not working.

He continued by saying that negotiations had been taking place regarding the building of another trawler of a similar size with the contract almost at a point of being secured.

With the settlement of the Common Market Fisheries Policy British fishermen have more confidence now to go out and order new boats, he said.

At Jones' Shipyard - Employment for the remainder of the year is now guaranteed for the 70 strong work force at Jones' Shipyard. John Richardson said that an order had been secured from a Portsoy skipper, George Mair and partners, George Smith and MDM Fishselling Company for an 80 feet seiner trawler.

Combined with the order received at the end of January for a 75' seine net fishing vessel from a Buckie skipper the latest order means that the yard now has in excess of £1million worth of work on its books at present. Mr Richardson said that they would be taking on one or two men, though it wouldn't be that many, but importantly the jobs in hand mean that employment is secured for the yard's labour force for at least 8 months.

Death of Master Joiner - The senior partner in the Buckie Joinery firm of R. Slorach and Sons, Mr Robert Slorach died at his home at Robelle, Tynet aged 70. The firm owned the Portessie firm previously owned by Wm. Geddes and Sons which Mr Slorach senior bought in the early 1950's. he went into semi-retirement three years ago.

He enjoyed salmon fishing and grouse shooting and was a founder member of Buckie Rotary Club.

Morven Stores, Seatown will be open on Sundays from 10am till 5pm for paraffin, coal, gas and all kinds of groceries.

Latest extension at Moray Seafoods - A new staff canteen was opened at Moray Seafoods last week, the latest stage in the expansion of the Buckie fish processing firm. The new canteen, which cost in the region of £10,000, the only work's canteen in Moray is intended to have a dual purpose.

It will serve nutritious meals substantially cheaper to the staff than elsewhere and according to Mr Charles Eckersley should be seen as another indication of the firm's policy of making working conditions for the people who work here as attractive as possible.

The canteen is part of a major new investment programme, which includes our processing plant, and the kitchen will be used to develop new ways of preparing our products for cooking.

Advert - Crooksmill, Keith. P. A. Allan. Oatmiller, and Feed Merchant. Stockist of Bosh Silcock feeds. RHM Pegus -horse food and others. Feeds mixed to your requirements.

Mar 1 **The roof of the North Church Hall** - Last week saw the launch of an appeal fund to meet the cost of replacing the roof of the North Church Hall. The gale force winds which hit the area on February 1st caused considerable damage to the roof of the building tearing away great chunks of felt from the seaward side of the roof. With the use of polythene and ropes the building was made more or less water-tight but it was known that this could only be a temporary measure.

The roof could have been again covered with felt as it was in 1956 or it could be clad with steel sheeting. It was decided that the later was the best option with John Duncan Construction doing the job. The cost of the work is estimated to be around £5000, this would include the temporary work that was done and also the additional joinery work required for the steel roof.

Tragic death of Spey Bay man - Mr Willbar 'Bill' Brown a slater with the Crown Estates died at his home at 15 Nether Dallachy, Spey Bay on Sunday after being crushed below the car he was working on in his back garden. He was fitting an exhaust to his Triumph 2000 when it rolled off the blocks it was resting on pinning him beneath.

His wife Ina discovered him lying under the car when she went to call him for his dinner at 12,30. She rushed off to get help and seven men were able to lift the car off Mr Brown and Dr Farrell, Fochabers was called but he was found to be dead. He leaves a widow and five of a family. He was 55.

Notice - a Disco in aid of Save Buckie Thistle Appeal Fund is to take place in the Cluny Hotel by kind permission of the manager on Saturday 5th March from 8 until 12. Music to be supplied by Sonic. Strictly over 18 years of age with proof of age required. Admission £1.50. doors closed at 10.30.

Thistle player for Hearts - Malcolm Murray, Buckie Thistle's 18 year old midfield player looks set to join Edinburgh football club, Heart of Midlothian in a deal that will bring some much needed cash to Victoria Park.

Following a successful week's trial Malcolm returned north to turn out for Buckie on Saturday. He left again yesterday for a further week's trial.

Buckie and District Flower Show - A 28 strong committee set up in January with the aim of staging Buckie's first Flower Show since 1928 have been receiving great support from the business community and also the general public.

A recent coffee morning held by the ten strong ladies section raised the sum of £410. They received help for members of other women's organisations in the town, which was much appreciated.

Change of owner - The new owner of the St Andrews Hotel is Aberdeen man Ed Anderson, a former oil man, who took over from the Campbell family on March 1st.

Presentation to members of the Campbell family - A photograph shows Fiona Campbell and her husband George receiving a gifts on their leaving the St Andrews Hotel. Mrs Edith Campbell, also received a parting gift.

The Campbells, ran the hotel, for eight years, since 1975 when George took the business in partnership with his late father of the same name. They did a lot of alterations to both the hotel and the adjoining hall and the hotel really blossomed while under their control.

George and Fiona are to take a holiday in Canada with friends but further to that they have no immediate plans for the future. (As it turned out the couple decided to remain in Canada.)

Mar 8 **Versatile Windows** - The Deskford double-glazing company to continue success story. The firm was began in 1975 by two local joiners, Colin Miller and Bill Paterson who went into partnership and started to operate from a cottage in Berryhilllock,

Deskford by doing glazing work and making aluminium windows. In 1977 the pair moved their operations to the old Deskford dance hall and then a year ago as the firm continued to expand to part of Deskford Public School. The firm now employs forty tradesmen, labourers, salesmen and office staff and a measure of how the company's growth has accelerated in the past couple of years that the present workforce is double that of a year ago. Seven of the men employed work at a factory opened six months ago at Keith where aluminium doors, patio doors and window frames are made. Colin Miller, one of the partners told the 'Advertiser' that at the moment they had £5000,000 worth of work on their hands.

The future looks very good for the firm, at the moment and Bill Paterson said that the firm was growing at such a pace that they were finding it difficult to cope.

(It just shows, however, that one never knows what's round the corner for the firm was fated to go out of business around ten years later. As such they shared the same fate as two other firms that seemed to be well established, Thain and Davidson, Electricians and Wm. Douglas and Sons, Builders when a similar story was written about them in the local paper in 1983, none of them lasting into the new century.)

Save Buckie Thistle Appeal concert - Isla St Clair is to appear in concert along with friends of Buckie Thistle in a concert to take place in the Town Hall, Elgin on Monday 28 March. Mayne's will be running buses to the event reserve your seats now.

Netherha Home is to get its first 'make over' with new electrical wiring and paint since it was built in 1953. The residents have been decamped elsewhere in Moray at Elgin, Forres and Lossiemouth until the job is finished. (Back in 1983 the term 'make over' must have only been introduced now in the year 2003, 'make over' and 'sleep over' are common expressions, and there are likely to be others.)

Save the Jags concert - Full details are given on page seven of this edition.

Kinloss beat Buckie Rovers by four goals to two. The RAF lads had one Trevor Forster in their side I remember him as being a good player. The Rovers side was - Roy, Coull, Sinclair, M. Smith, Sellar, Lyon, Milne, Cowie, Murray, Henderson, Reid. Subs. Ewen, R. Smith.

Rovers draw with the Thistle - Scoring five goals apiece the Rovers showed that they were as good as their Highland League counterparts. Alan Reid (Dubs) had two goals, as had Neil Murray (Cropper). Johnny Cowie had the other one.

Mar 15 **Given electric chairs** - Two disabled Buckie people were presented with the latest in electric wheelchairs at a social evening held by Buckie and District Disabled Club on Tuesday night in St Peter's RC School. Members of associated clubs attended the evening held during National Disabled Week from Keith, Elgin and Forres.

Last year's president, Douglas Sutherland handed over the chairs to club members, Mrs Elsie Murray 14 Pringle Street and Mrs Daisy Pirie, 24 Netherha Road. The cost of the two chairs, £1,100 was raised with the help of donations from local clubs.

The village has a library again - After an absence of 13 years Fochabers has a public library once again. Last Tuesday the village's book lovers had their first look at the library on the High Street. It cost £24,000 to buy and convert the property and a further £42,000 to stock it with books etc.

Death of Buckie skipper - Fifty two year old James Smith 'Strachan' took ill while fishing in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea on board his boat, 'Julie Ann'. He died on board a Norwegian helicopter enroute to the hospital in Stavanger, Norway.

Junior football - Caberfeidh 2 Buckie Rovers 3. The Rovers' team was - Roy, Sinclair, Sellar, Ewen, M. Mair, Lyon (Innes), Milne, R. Smith, J. Cowie, M. Smith, C. Henderson, Subs. B. Mair. Spencer Lyon broke his leg during the match. (It was said that he would be likely to be out of the game for a month but I believe he never

played in a competitive match again – the injury bringing an end to his football career.)

Highland League football - Rothes 2 Buckie Thistle 3 - The Thistle team was – Mitchell, Thain, Masson, Watson, Nicol, Neil Scott, D. Pirie, R. Pirie, Reid, Cowie, Anderson. Subs. Bain, McPherson. (Mickey McPherson was still playing for Buckie at the end of season 2002/2003) Alan Forbes who had played at centre half for the Thistle returned to his old club Deveronvale.

Advert - Sutherland's Electrics, 36 Seaview Road. Competitive Rates. 24 hour service.

Advert - The Miracle Maestro is here, the most talked about car of the year. See it at Archibald's Garage.

Edinburgh Bird Watchers Club centred on Kingussie came to Buckie to see a very rare specimen of an Icelandic duck. Over a dozen examples of eider duck were observed feeding in the brackish water at the mouth of the Gollachy Burn. The club leader informed the 'Advertiser' that this bird is about the size of an ordinary duck, being 7-8 lbs. in weight. The head and back of the male are white with a black crown. The plumage of the female it was pointed out is reddish brown spotted with black with two distinctive white bands on the wings. The bird's nests are lined with a large quantity of soft down that the female plucks from her breast. The feathers with their warmth and elasticity are in great demand for filling downies and bed coverlets and the authorities jealously guard the nesting places in Iceland and Greenland.

Mar 22 **Disco dance** - Buckpool Golf Club Squash Section is to hold a Disco dance on Saturday 26 March from 7.30 till 10.30pm. Music to be provided by Johnny and the Copycats (My Dear Watson) Tickets £1.50.

Teenage Disco - Buckie Rovers are to hold a Teenage Disco in the Community Centre on Saturday 26 March from 7.30 till 10.30pm Dance competitions. Tickets 80p,

Over 18 Disco - Thorn City Breakers Club are holding an over 18 disco dance in the Cluny Hotel on Saturday 26 March. Tickets cost £1 and admittance will be by ticket only. Right of Admission reserved.

Wanted for new Garden Centre opened at Huntly - Manager/ess and assistant manager/ess.

Advert - Sandison's Joiner Services. Railway Terrace. For all types of joinery work. Traditional housing, alterations, timber frame house kits assembled to your specification.

Mar 29 **Offer accepted conditionally** - The Buckie building firm of Messrs Wm. Douglas and Sons have had their offer for the former school building ('Low School' latterly used only by the Music Department of Buckie High School) given that planning permission is for the property to be turned into 18 flats.

Workers difficult to find - A Buckie shipyard finds itself in an uncommon position at a time of high unemployment in not being able to find enough workmen. For the past month Jones' Shipyard have been searching for shipwright/carpenters newspaper adverts have been used and every job centre in Scotland has been notified of the vacancies but these steps have generated a very limited response.

We're looking for around 8 shipwright/carpenters but they're proving difficult to find said John Richardson, General Manager and we have only managed to start two, one of them coming from Wick.

A major factor in the scarcity of skilled men has been the restarting of work at Thomson's Shipyard, most skilled men who were unemployed have gone to work there while a number have gone offshore in the oil industry and seem happy to stay there.

Dates on buildings - In a letter to the 'Advertiser' Bill Cowie the former History Lecturer and sometime editor of the local paper spoke of the two dates 1812 and 1837 that he had noticed on buildings on Bowies Lane. He spoke of the name Cluny Park being shown on an OS map of 1904. The park he said was in the ownership of the Cluny Estate up until 1934 when the then laird Charles A. Linzee Gordon together with his daughter Mrs Burkinyoung decided to make a gift of the park to the town. The official handing over took place on 10 July 1935. When the name was changed from Cluny Park to the Linzee Gordon Park. in honour of the donor. The area had however for over 40 years previously been used by the inhabitants of Buckie as a recreational ground on an informal basis.

Mr Cowie goes on to say that the stone memorial and drinking fountain opposite the entrance is almost certainly one which was erected to honour the fallen in the South African Boer War, adding: 'I have a letter of 1949 from John L. McNaughton, the town clerk in which he refers to it as the South African War Memorial'. (I would have to say that both men are wrong. The memorial was erected to Lady Cathcart and paid for by subscription when part of the money raised was sent home from exiles in South Africa. This information was gleaned from the pages of the Banffshire Advertiser of the time. Not everybody was pleased with the design of the memorial with one writer to the local paper describing it as a mongrel.)

BHS top speaker - Fifth year pupil, Kenny Boyle was the winner of this year's Speech Making title and was presented with the Buckie Speakers' Club Trophy by John Watt, Club President. Other speakers who received distinction were Colin Reid, Pauline Patient, Kathleen Keen and Elaine Cowie. Fourteen speaker took part from class four and class five.

Kenny Boyle's speech was titled 'The Yawn Chorus' a humorous dissertation on the failings of breakfast TV and its presenters.

Elaine Cowie and Kate Keen of class five received certificates of distinction as did Pauline Patient and Colin Reid of class four.

The Bobbies Ball - A crowd of 150 were present at this year's Police Ball held this year in the Cluny Hotel on Friday 18 March. Music was provided by the Don Grant Trio.

Thistle secretary resigns - George Jappy secretary of Buckie Thistle has resigned for personal reasons. He is a DHSS official in Elgin and has held the post of secretary for three years. The new secretary is Paul Munch a Postal Officer who is presently secretary of Buckie and District Welfare League.

Buckie Seamen's Memorial opens this weekend at the start of summer time.

Apr 5 **Church organ** - The organ of the South and West Church, first built 80 years ago has been restored by David Looseley of Stirling. The work involved the individual cleaning of 600-7000 pipes and the renewal of the organ connecting actions. The cost was £6.000, the sum being raised through a direct approach to the congregation and through various fund-raising events involving church goers of all ages.

New name - The firm previously known as Firth Furnishers will in future be trading under the name of Buckie Furniture Centre and operating from 45 West Church Street, formerly the property occupied by the Baby Boutique.

Advert - Hair Flair - Ladies and Girls Styling. Open for appointments on Thursday and Friday. Elma Wilkins. Buckie 3396x Tradewinds, 1 Great Western Road.

Advert - J. R. Taxis - Why not call for our bronze Audi?

Concert - The Save Buckie Thistle Appeal concert held in Elgin Town Hall last Monday evening proved to be a resounding success. TV star Isla St Clair, singer and song writer, Drew McCulloch and the cream of the performing talent from the local area combined to provide an evening of great entertainment for the audience of 700.

The percentage of Buckie folk in the audience seemed to be low for an event of this kind but those who stayed away missed out on an evening to be long remembered. The show raised £1,250 for the fund and Appeal chairman, Les Douglas declared himself delighted with this amount.

Those appearing were - Whisky Galore a four piece folk group, Colin Campbell, Mosstodloch farmer, with music and humour. Peter McKay, piano, James Alexander on fiddle. Charles McKay, co-ordinator also sang two songs, Rowan Tree and Here's Tae the Tartan accompanied by Peter McKay. Ian McConnachie, comedian; Unity a Buckie Folk Group; Merson Grant, Magician. Instrumentalists, Ian Lyon and Drew McCulloch and singer Isla St Clair.

12 Apr **A new local band** - The local paper reporter wrote that success seems to be assured for new local band - 'The Hole In The Wall Gang'. (How long did they last for?) The following members of the group- Guitarist and vocalist - Ian Lyon, keyboard men Alex S... and Doug Moir, drummer Sandy Thain and vocalist Alison Archibald are all from Buckie while Mike Bruce and Pat Ironside, guitarists, are from Banff.

Fishermen's Hall - The Fishermen's Hall is open again after considerable alterations to the inside as shown in the photographs in this edition. Before and after pictures show that the balcony has been removed. A spokesperson for Moray District Council said that it is important to stress that the job is only part finished although the hall is usable.

Advert - Wm. Hay, Joinery Contractor. No job too small. Phone Buckie 3247xy

Grand opening sale at the new Buckie Furniture Centre, 45 West Church Street.

Apr 19 **Planning applications** - George Iannetta has made application to change the shop and café into sweet and shop with four ancillary amusement machines.

Annual stocktaking sale - R. J. Erskine, Ironmonger, 26 East Church Street.

Buckie Rovers became League Champions for although they have still two games to play they are in an unassailable position. They have gone one better than the previous year when they were only pipped at the post the previous season by Nairn St Ninian when they took the title on goal average. During the season the team scored 70 goals and only dropped six points .

Advert - Highland Decorators - The Master Craftsmen - Painters and Decorators . Free estimates given - competitive terms. Contact Norman McGregor, 5 East Cathcart Street.

Apr 26 **The Fry Inn, 19 West Church Street** - As from 1st May 1983 the Fry Inn will cease trading at the above address and will re-open at 6-8 East Church Street (opposite Mackays) on 9th May and will still be known as The Fry Inn. The reason why we are moving is to provide a better service , an extended menu and a higher standard of hygiene. The tea-room will still operate in its present form throughout.

To lease - Shop at 19 West Church Street.

Buckie Rovers title winning squad - A photograph is found on page 8. The names are - Gary Innes, Neil Murray, Alan Milne, Malcolm Mair, Alan Reid, John Cowie (Player/manager), Alistair Ewen, Captain, Stuart Slater, Michael Smith, Spencer Lyon, on crutches, Sandy Thomson (linesman), David Findlay, David Sellar, Keith Sinclair with son Neil, Craig Henderson, Ian Coull and Ronnie Smith.

A second photograph in this edition shows Ali Ewen receiving the North League (West) Championship Trophy from League President, Jimmy Grant, Burghead after Saturday's game in which the Rovers beat Burghead Thistle by 6 goals to two AET in the Tom Gordon Trophy. The game was switched to Forest Park after the Linzee Gordon Park was unplayable.

The new £1 coin was launched on Thursday of last week, 21 April 1983.

He's out an your'e in - David Myles, the Banffshire MP last week failed in a bid to win the Conservative Party candidature for the new Moray constituency. He was defeated in a secret ballot by his friend and parliamentary colleague, Alex Pollock.

Nostalgic Disco - Thorn City Breaker' Club over 18 are to hold a Nostalgic Disco with music of the 50' and sixties being played. The disco will take place in the Cluny Hotel on Saturday 30 April from 8 until 11.45pm. Tickets cost £1. Right of admission reserved

Garden Centre to open - The King George V Garden Centre and Restaurant on the edge of the A96 at Huntly is to open on Sunday 1st May.

They became Queen's Guides - Seen accepting their certificates from Mrs Linda Duncan, Moray Guide Commissioner is 15 Shirley Cowie and 16 year old Helen McKenzie. District Commissioners, Miss Isobel Gray and Mrs Margaret Bruce were also present.

May 3 **The Logie Steps** - A photograph showed the damage that was done by vandals who sought to disrupt the rebuilding of the Logie Steps between Low Street and East Church Street.

Not an end they would have liked - Buckie Thistle ended season 1982/83 in inglorious fashion when they went down by a score of four goals to nothing to Elgin City at Borough Briggs. Not a result that the Jags supporters would have relished - to lose to the Auld Enemy.

The Thistle team was - Mitchell, Thain, Masson, R. Pirie, Nicol, Scott(Bain), D. Pirie, Ewen, Reid, McPherson, and Anderson.

Note - Ali Ewen, the Rovers captain and centre half played his first trial game for the Thistle, operating in mid-field.

Unbeaten in away games - Although the Rovers could only draw with Islavale at Keith on Saturday they remain unbeaten away from home this season. The team was - Roy, Coull, Sinclair, Sellar, Ewen, Innes, M. Smith, R. Smith, A. Milne, A. Reid and J. Cowie. Subs. Slater and Mair.

(Playing in the 'Vale team were Jimmy Brindle, 'keeper, Brian Murdoch, Brian Geddes and Ian Morrison all who later played for the Rovers.)

According to the scribe of the day, Bruce Smith, the Rovers had performed well in the league but performed poorly in cup competitions in comparisons .

Killed in S.A. James Gordon , son of the later George 'Doddie' Gordon and a native of Buckie was reported to have been killed in a motor accident in South Africa on 28 April 1983.

First of many perhaps - Last week saw the visit to Buckie by a vessel which there are high hopes will be the first of many of its kind. On Tuesday morning the 220' Glasgow-registered oil supply vessel, Stirling Osprey arrived in Buckie harbour number three basin to take on board four steel frames constructed at the adjacent engineering yard of Hamilton Brothers.

High School young scientist - High School pupil, Rodney Farquhar, 17 of 28 Crown Street, Portgordon has come up with a greenhouse heating system that could be of considerable use to gardeners - a plastic incinerator, cheap and easy to make. To overcome the dangerous smoke that can be emitted from certain types of plastic this can be overcome by the use of lime. It is recognised that there are some dangerous types of PVC thus it is best to stay clear of them. Plastics are both essential and a nuisance to modern society it is because they are long lasting that their disposal becomes a nuisance. A lot of energy, however, is stored in plastic for example a used

fertiliser bag as used by farmers gives out the same amount of heat as a single bar electric fire switched on for an hour.

When he leaves school Rodney hopes to study mining and petroleum engineering at Strathclyde University.

May 10 **Jones' Shipyard receive another order** - Mr John Richardson, General Manager of Jones' shipyard, Buckie reported that the firm had recently had an order placed for a new fishing vessel. This takes the firm's order book to three in recent times.

The new boat, a 75' dual-purpose fishing vessel is to be built for a Buckie partnership operating through shipping agents, John Brown and Son. The only problem the firm is facing at the moment is the shortage of carpenters.

Spar Supermarket - A note read that the Spar Supermarket at 16 St Paul Street was now to remain open until 8pm. Sma watter fin they are noo opens a twinty fower oors. (2003) Fowk sufferin fae insomnia jist gang for a wanner aroon the aisles an hae a blether WI faiver they meet - the drink section ahm telt is a favrit place.

Are ee tired o supermarket shoppin? Then there is a Betterway says the advert. Simply pick up your phone and order and this will be delivered to your door. All top brands and fresh quality - 2-3000 lines. Prices to match or beat Superstores. Pay only on delivery. We deliver anywhere in the Buckie area. Save money, time, petrol and your back. Phone Huntly 38938.

The Fry Inn is now open at 6 East Church Street. Frying from 12 o'clock daily. Mr Craib proprietor of the Fry Inn would like to apologise to customers for any inconvenience caused during the changeover and hopes to earn their continued support.

May 17 **Things look brighter at Thorn lighting** (naturally) There are signs that the gloom which has enveloped the Thorn Lighting factory in Buckie for the past three years is beginning to lift. On Friday Mr Charles Brown could inform the 'Advertiser' that as a result of an upturn in business the labour force had been increased. In April this year the number of workers had dropped to 193 from a total of 370 in May 1980. He refused to be overly optimistic that the bad times were past but did say that one or two people had been taken on to replace people that had left.

Advert - Thistle Taxis phone 3390xy

No grant for Buckie builders - Wm. Douglas and Sons are to receive no grant to convert the former 'Low School' into 31 flats.

Buckie District Welfare League - The teams playing in the league in 1983 are - Portsoy, Cullen, Buckpool Vics., Macduff, Portgordon, Portknockie, Thistle Athletic, Whitehills and St Marnans (Foggieloa).

Closing down sale - There are huge reductions on all stock at the General Drapery Store, 51 West Church Street that is to close down.

May 24 **Orders for fishing boats** - Herd & Mackenzie shipyard have received orders for two fishing boats. One is for a Helmsdale skipper, David Cowie, in partnership with his brother Kenneth for a 62' wooden hulled seiner costing £400,000. It will be ready by March 1984.

They received financial assistance from the HIDB and the Sea Fish Industry Authority. They intend to fish from Helmsdale and Lossiemouth for white fish.

The other order received of a similar value is for a Geordie fishing family who spotted a H & M boat in Blyth liked the look of her and decided when they came to have a new boat built they would come up to Scotland to Herd and Mackenzie to place an order. The new vessel a 58 feet long wooden seiner/trawler is for George Dawson of Seahouses.

The work force of Herd & Mackenzie, including office staff, now amounts to 100 a rise of 24 since the end of last year. Ian Sinclair, General Manager said to the 'Advertiser' that the firm had taken on quite a number of labourers and a few carpenters.

Mr Sinclair said, "Some people attribute the new confidence in the fishing industry as being the result of the settlement of a Common Market Fisheries Policy but I'm not sure if that is the reason. It could be that since inflation and interest rates have dropped as low as they are ever likely to skippers feel that it is a good time to buy."

Buckie Rovers - In their last game of the season against Lossiemouth United the Rovers won by the only goal of the game scored by Keith Sinclair from the spot.

The Rovers' team was - Roy, Coull, Sellar, Innes, Ewen, Sinclair, R. Smith, D. Farquhar, A. Milne, A. Reid, J. Cowie, Subs. Slater and Henderson.

Malcolm Murray - The teenage former Buckie Thistle player has been signed on a year's contract by Heart of Midlothian Football Club with a one year option.

Thistle committee meeting - Jim Leask presided over the first meeting last Tuesday of Buckie Thistle Football Club committee which was formed at the AGM in the Town House on 29th April. He welcomed two new members, David Wood, Chip Bar, St Paul Street, Buckpool and Alistair Jamieson, Douglas Crescent.

The 'One-Nighters' are still on the go - Victory House Sales of wool, towels, quilts, duvets, curtains etc. etc. will take place in the Cluny Hotel on Monday and Tuesday 30 and 31st May. Beehive Cash and Carry, Kirkcaldy.

May 31 **Opening announcement** - The Paint (Mrs B. Smith) will open at 20 Seaview Road on Monday 6th June.

New Timbers Suite - The St Andrews Hall has all been refurbished and titled 'Timbers'. The opening night is Friday 3 June when a disco will take place from 8pm until 1am. A further disco will take place on the Sunday.

In the big advert in the local paper people were told what they should not wear if they hoped to gain admission - no leather jackets, motor cycle style, no denim or bomber jackets, no faded jeans, no training shoes. Door charges on Friday night to be £1.50 with £2 after 10pm. And no entry after 10.15. On Sunday admittance cost £1.25 with £2 after 10pm and no entry after 10.15. No pass outs. Stewards in attendance. Right of Admission Reserved. Positively no one under 18 allowed into the hall.

Rovers lose the play off for the Lovie Shield - Buckie Rovers were beaten by 7 clear goals by Sunnybank, a very strong Aberdeen side, in the Regional play off for the Lovie Shield which matches the League Champions of the East and West leagues of the North Section. This was the last game of the season.

The Rovers' team was - Roy, Coull, Sellar, Innes, Ewen, Sinclair, M. Smith, R. Smith, A. Milne, Cowie, Reid. Subs. Henderson, Slater.

"The new Vauxhall Nova is a real thoroughbred" See it at Regency Car Sales.

June 7 **He fell over the Victoria Bridge** - Alexander Wright, 47, a native of Paisley though he had been living in Buckie at 4 Gordon Street for some time, died of injuries he sustained after falling from the parapet of the Victoria Bridge down to the bed of the burn. The report in the local paper said that some years ago a young soldier on leave died when he too fell over the parapet. (A number of people have died falling over the banks of the burn, as we have found from past copies of the Banffshire Advertiser. A man and also a woman on her way to sell fish were killed near Mill of Buckie farm; a man fell over the cliffs above Duncan's Sawmill while a woman slipped on the ice near Union Terrace and plunged over the bank to her death. On the other hand, before the bridge was built, a navvy who was working on the coast railway fell over the bank in the dark when he had had a little too much to drink but survived to climb up again in the morning.)

Notice - Medical Group Practice - Benreay Surgery Buckie. Prescriptions as from Tuesday 14 June all telephone requirements for prescriptions should be made by ringing 33311 after 10.30 am daily from Monday to Saturday.

June 14 **The new Banffshire MP** - Banffshire folk will have a new face as their representative in Parliament for the next five years. Voting in the election for the new Tory constituency followed the national trend and Alex Pollock was returned with a comfortable majority of 1,713 over Hamish Watt, SNP, who came second. Alex Pollock is an advocate

New plans - Plans have been submitted for a change of use of the former High School ('Low School') to amenity housing for the elderly including units for physically handicapped at West Church Street/Pringle Street. The building was recently bought by Wm. Douglas and Sons with Grampian Regional Council accepting their offer of £21,000 conditional on the builders receiving planning permission and obtaining improvement grants for a scheme to turn the building into a block of 31 flats.

Champion swimmer - Eleven year old Lorraine Phimister dominated the girls swimming event at the North District Age Groups Swimming Championships held in Aberdeen by gaining no less than four gold medals. She came first in her age group in the backstroke, butterfly, front crawl and medley.

Footballer returns - Findochty professional footballer, George Cowie, returned to Scotland this week and signed for the Edinburgh side, Hearts.

The former Buckie Rovers player was given a free transfer from West Ham, the London club who he has been with since 197, signing apprentice professional forms just after his 16th birthday.

Unfortunately he was never able to establish himself in the first team though the manager rated him highly as a midfield player. George wanted first team football and persuaded his boss to let him go if a Scottish team showed an interest, hence the move to Hearts.

One day traders - We still haven't seen the end of the one day traders who one might feel did much to hasten the end and closure of a number of long established shops in the town.

Ramzan of Buckhaven in Fife are to be in the Cluny Hotel on Monday 20 June when they will be selling a wide range of things.

Want a taxi? You have a good choice - Hays, Innes, Longmore, M&B and Thistle.

June 21 **The Rathburn Hotel** - The Rathburn Hotel, formerly called Rathburn House the home of James Archibald, former provost of Buckie and Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire on March Road and which has been a hotel since just after WWII, has reopened after three months hard work by the new proprietors, Derek and Marie Coutts.

Under new management - The Taj Machal, formerly called Jon's Place, 29 Yuill Avenue an Indian 'Carry-Out' the only one in Buckie, is under new management. European dishes also served.

Now open - Frances, Hairdresser, 10 Cluny Terrace. Phone number 3249x

Another one day wonder - Northern Carpets, Aberdeen are to hold a carpet sale in the Cluny Hotel on Saturday 25 June.

June 28 **They were successful** - The Buckie building firm, Wm. Douglas and Sons have been successful on obtaining grant aid for the conversion of the building on West Church Street that formerly housed Buckie High School Music Department into a number of flats.

Advert - No 1 Motor repair and armature winding service, The Bank, 52 Low Street. Repairs, rewinds, overhauls etc. etc. Competitive prices. 24 hour service. (Was

this the beginning of No1 Electrical Services (Murray Thain) that became a fairly big concern and was still in business in 2003 ?)

Cullen F.C . and their new pavilion - A photograph on page five shows Eddie Aldrige of Moray District Council handing over the keys to the new premises to club president, George Wright.

They share the title - Two pupils came first this year at Buckie High School to claim the title of Dux of the school and each were presented with the Miller Medal and shared the Lessel prize. The two pupils are Iain Murray and Kenny Boyle.

July 5 **A new venture** - The business of T. R. Bass, Ironmongers and Hardware Merchants, 31-33 Seafield Street, Cullen has been bought by Versatile Windows, Deskford who are to concentrate on the sale there of all kinds of windows.

Haddock restrictions - As from Sunday July 3rd 1983 the amount of haddock that can be landed any working week of seven days from ICES Areas N (North Sea) and VIA (West of Scotland) will be reduced from 30cwts. per member of the crew to 27 cwts. per member including the master of the vessel.

July 12**The lease expiry issue** - The front page story in this edition is concerned with the lease expiry issue between two families living in Portknockie and the Seafield Estates. Seafield Estates informed a woman of 91 years that the lease on the land on which her house stood was due for expiry at Whitsun. The letter said that by law the Estate was duly bound to pay £150 in compensation for her house. It is believed there will be over 100 properties in a similar situation.

For sale - Arradoul Smith and two semi-detached cottages at Easterton.

RNLI GALA QUEEN - Heather Johnston, the Bow, Buckpool, was chosen as this year's RNLI Gala Queen, Jackie Smith came second and Morag McDonald third. Though there will be no RNLI Gala Day this year the girls will attend several separate functions over the next 12 months including Keith Show where the RNLI are to have a stand within the Texaco stand.

July 19 **Awarded gold medal** - Buckie man, Douglas Lamb, 32 Mill crescent has been awarded a Blood Donor gold medal for giving 50 pints of blood over a period of 26 years.

Seafield Estates hit back - Seafield Estates took exception to the criticism directed at them the previous week in the local paper over the way that they have handled the 99 year leases on land owned by them on which private houses stand.

A couple in Findochty, living at 1 Chapel Street have been asked to pay £15,425 for the land on which their house stands while the woman of 91 in Portknockie has been asked to pay £6,250 for the land on which her house stands.

The Findochty man involved said that the lawyer had not informed him of the lease requirements when he bought the house. The estate factor said that all householders with lease agreements with the estates had been offered the opportunity of taking a feu charter between the years 1954 and 1959, some had not heeded this for a variety of reasons.

New Rotary president - A photograph on page five shows Ian Thain being handed the badge of office as president of Buckie Rotary Club by the retiring president, John McLean.

A hale page advert - Interzipa Ltd took up a whole page in the local paper this week to advertise their sale that is to take place in the Cluny Hotel on Wednesday and Thursday 20 and 21 July.

He opened new premises - A. G. Cross who formerly traded from Commercial Road has opened a new furniture store at 8-9 Cluny Terrace. The first auction will take place there shortly. New and good second hand furniture on sale.

The effort proved worthwhile - The ladies of the committee of the new Buckie and District Flower Show held a very successful 'coffee morning' in the Episcopal Church hall on Saturday 9th July and were pleased to raise the sum of £256 towards funds.

Summer sales - Norma's summer sale of Menswear starts on Thursday. Reductions in denims, trousers, jackets, shirts, and T shirts. A summer sale of Ladies Fashions is NOW ON.

Peter Slater, 65 West Church Street has 1/3 off a wide selection of men's 2pc suits and 3pc suits. Generous reductions are offered on casual, velvet and sports jackets, 1/2 sleeve casual shirts and knitwear. Other bargains.

General Drapery Store - Huge reductions in summer sale at 51 West Church Street.

July 26 **Peter Fair - The weather on Thursday and Friday last week was just too hot** according to veteran showman, Mr Jack Hammond who for the last 62 years has been involved with Peter Fair in some capacity. "We've been fairly busy but there's no comparison with last year," he said on Friday evening.

"1982 was the busiest year I've ever experienced and I've been coming here since I was 10.."

I put the reason for the poor attendance purely and simply down to the heat. People are more inclined to go to the beach or to the parks in this kind of weather. People talk about the recession but last year there was just as much unemployment"

Not everybody agreed with his sentiments, however, unemployment was seen as a major factor in the lower crowds.

Knock on effect of a rise in profits felt - A considerable rise in the profits of Thorn EMI Lighting has had a knock on effect in the factory at Buckie. Since the lowest point in April of this year when the nadir was reached and the labour force reached the low figure of 193 there has been a slight increase and this now stands at 203. Mr Charles Brown said that there would be a further increase when a new line in lamp manufacture begins in August.

He said, "One new production line has already been transferred to our factory and a further one is expected to come north in September so the future of the plant looks hopeful but I can give no guarantees yet".

An auction sale (roup) - The first auction sale for over 20 years is to be held at 8-9 Cluny Terrace on Thursday 28 July commencing at 6.30pm. Up for sale are - furniture, bedding, cookers, freezers, thermal jackets, motor cars and a van.

The firm is going well- jobs for some lucky lads - Brian Davidson boss of the firm Thain and Davidson

Electrical Contractors has told the 'Advertiser' that they have been awarded several major contracts and are about to start five apprentices.

Photographs taken at Peter Fair are found on page 7.

Champs of the Welfare League - Portgordon United F.C. won this year's Buckie and District Welfare League. The Commercial Shield, which goes to the winners, was handed over to the club captain, Sandy Ewen, by League President, Eric Geddes.

Annual sale - Hunter and Pirie Electricians and Radio and TV dealers 31-33 East Church Street are holding their annual sale. 15% is offered off all stock, radio, TV's, video and Hi-Fi.

Ritchie's Summer Sale - 72-74 East Church Street. 15-50% off selected stock.

Aug 2 **To attempt a mammoth feat** - At the age of 73 a well-known character in the local area is to attempt a feat that most men 1/3 of his age would balk at. Retired barber, Bill Forbes 'The Lightning Barber' who for 35 years had premises on Cluny Square (now occupied by the bar 'The Pub in the Square') and from 1973 till 1980 had a shop on Baron Street, is to attempt the 5000 mile walk downstream from the source of the River Nile. The journey has not been undertaken for 121 years.

150th anniversary marked - 19 priests gathered from the RC Diocese of Aberdeen gathered at Preshome RC Church on July 18th July to mark the 150th anniversary of its founding of the priests Friendly Society at that location. Priests from as far apart as Stonehaven and Kirkwall joined with Canon David Keith, the priest at Preshome in a concelebrated mass in the morning and the company later adjourned for a meal in the Mill Restaurant and Motel at Tynet.

A picture taken during the ceremony **shows the beautiful interior of the church.** This is to be found on page 5.

Buckie Rovers F.C. have begun training for the new season. They have signed Andrew Bain who has been reinstated from Buckie Thistle. Buckie Thistle are showing an interest in Alistair Ewen, the Rovers centre half and captain who played a game for the Thistle at the end of last season. Manager, Johnny Cowie hopes to sign some players now that the Welfare League season is finished.

Sale at Bridal Fashions, 7 St Andrews Square (next to the hotel)

Aug 9 **The 99 year lease controversy still continues.** Report on the front page.

'Standard Grades' to be new name for school examinations - The new awards which will replace the 'O' Grades in 1986 will be known as 'Standard Grades', so said George Younger MP, Secretary of State for Scotland.

Buckie Thistle will have three new players on their books and the possibility of landing a fourth when they play their first league game against the Clach this week. Twenty two year old Eric Shearer has been signed from Inverurie Locos. He plays at centre half. Donald Smith who was with Peterhead last season is a striker while Ally Link who recently returned to Aberdeen after a three year spell in Australian soccer is a mid-field player. The Thistle is hopeful of signing Ally Ewen from Buckie Rovers.

Buckie Rovers beat Turriff United by four goals to one in a friendly match at the Linzee Gordon Park. They had three trialists from Portgordon United, David Farquhar, George Gardiner and Steven Mackie.

Friendly match - Buckie Thistle 6 Parkvale 1 Mitchell, Thain (Ewen), Mason, R. Pirie, Shearer, Anderson, Reid, Link, Smith, D. Pirie (Scott), Nicol.

Newspapermen play football - On Sunday afternoon a team of 'footballers' drawn from the Banffshire Weeklies will play a team from the Northern Scot. The 'Advertiser' has supplied five players.

Proceeds from the match will go towards the National Association for Colitis and Crohn's Disease which funds research aimed at finding a cure for these severe and disabling forms of bowel disease. The kick off will take place at 3pm and spectators are more than welcome. The sponsor who guesses the correct time of the first goal will receive a 40oz bottle of whisky generously given by Ernie Anderson, Proprietor of the St Andrews Hotel. The next nearest will receive a ¼ bottle of vodka provided by Alfie Morrison of the Thistle Bar.

The football scribes raised £430 for Colitis and Crohn's Disease Research. The team from the Northern Scot won by three goals to one.

Aug 16 **Dancing is popular** - No less than four sets of dancing classes is advertised in this edition. The teachers are - Colinne Smith, Mona Grant, Jean McIntosh and Mary Reid. The last mentioned will be teaching ballroom dancing in the Episcopal Church Hall with

the others teaching Highland Dancing and tap. Colinne Smith and Mona Grant are to hold their classes in the Town House while Jean McIntosh will be in the Commercial Hotel hall.

Are you up for the Show? - Buckie & District Open Flower Show will take place in the Fishermen's Hall on Saturday 27 August 1983. The show will be open to the public from 2 until 5pm. There are 17 different sections and 230 classes. 28 trophies have been donated and there will be £300 in prize money to be won. Schedules may be obtained from the secretary, Allan A. Fraser, 21 Sutherland Street, phone number 8328xy.

Flower Show trophies - A photograph on page three shows the Buckie Flower Show President, Mr Frank Anderson surrounded by some of the trophies that have been donated to the show. A report on the forthcoming show is also given, saying that this will be the first flower show in Buckie for over 50 years.

Death of Buckie tailor - Alex Esson a partner in the firm Alex Esson, Tailors and Outfitters which traded on Cluny Square up until 1979 died this week he was 82. He served his time as a tailor with his father. At one time Esson's employed 20 tailors.

A strange craft to pay a visit - It is reported that a strange craft is to visit Buckie this week. It is a jet propelled water motor bike. Lt. Phillip Figgins Royal Marines is at present involved in an attempt to circumnavigate the British mainland. He intends to stop overnight at Buckie before leaving for the 113 nautical mile journey to Thurso via Nairn, Cromarty, Helmsdale and Wick.

He is backed up by land-based back up team of five marines and two vehicles carrying all the necessary equipment and spares including a standby wet bike and a Gemini plus outboard launch.

Not a good start - Buckie Thistle lost their opening game of season 1983/84 to Inverness Clach in Inverness by three goals to two. The Thistle team was - Mitchell, Thain, Mason, R. Pirie, E. Shearer, Link, Nicol, McPherson, (D. Pirie), Reid, Smith, Anderson. Youngster, Mickey McPherson scored with a screamer of a shot, the scribe described it as a glorious goal. In their next game the Thistle beat Lossiemouth by six clear goals.

Aug 23 **Buckie boatbuilders fear for the future** read the headline on page one of the 'Advertiser'. None of the six applications made for grant aid by interests with Buckie connections were successful. No EEC aid was to be given.

Many folk were disappointed - The jet propelled water bike didn't come into Buckie, instead Lt. Figgins made the long trip from Fraserburgh to Inverness in one haul. Because of high winds and bad weather and the fact that he was running out of time in being back at base from Inverness he aimed to go down the Caledonian Canal to return to Portsmouth by August 28. The trip round Britain was sponsored and set to raise money for Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

New book on the fishing industry - A new book on the fishing industry is to be published next month written by Dr Paul Thomson, University of Essex. The book is to be called 'Living The Fishing'.

In the book he attempts to answer the question - Why have some fishing communities survived to thrive today while so many have died out.

He has drawn on 150 life story interviews with men and women from the Scottish and English fishing communities, including some from this area.

Dr Thomson has been invited to come to Buckie by the Community Council to talk about his researches.

Football - Both the Thistle and the Rovers began the season in great scoring form. During the past week they have played Rothes twice to score 12 goals with only one against. The previous Saturday they put 7 goals past Lossiemouth. To score 19 goals in three game is good shooting.

The Rovers too, started the season well. They beat the Kinloss 'hoodoo' to win the Robertson Cup semi-final tie from the penalty spot by four goals to three after the match, with extra time added, had ended 6-6.

Aug 30 **Notice** - Buckie Community Council "Living the Fishing". Dr Paul Thomson of the University of Essex will talk about his research into the fishing way of life in the Cluny Hotel on Wednesday 31 August at 7.30pm All welcome.

Buckie Speakers' Club - Members are reminded that the new session will commence on Thursday September 1st in the Cluny Hotel at 7.25pm. Prospective members welcome.

Notice - Election of members to serve on Buckie Community Council. Application for nominations are invited. A similar notice called upon people to serve on the Arradoul and Rathven Community Council

*** **Buckie and District Flower Show** - The first Show to be held in Buckie for fifty years was a spectacular success with 1600 entries. The local paper carried a number of photographs. One taken looking down on the staging shows the abundance of exhibits in all the various sections. Another shows the prizewinners including Bob Dawson who took the Banffshire Advertiser Shield awarded to the exhibitor gaining most points overall. Bob had already come first this year at Deskford and Portsoy. A third photograph shows the three principal office bearers - Frank Anderson, President, Wilma Leslie, treasurer and Allan Fraser, secretary.

Portknockie Aberdeen Supporters Club - There had been fears some time back that the club was to fold since there had been a fairly dramatic fall off in numbers but this didn't happen and the annual general meeting was held on the 18th of August in the pavilion at McLeod Park. The officials were returned en bloc being - Chairman, Stuart Murray, vice chairman, John Mair, secretary, Euan Chisholm and treasurer, Mrs Avril Murray.

The club had had a successful season and as such it had been able to peg fares for home matches. It is intended to run buses to home games on Saturdays and selected away games and mid week.

At a meeting of the recently formed Association of Aberdeen FC Supporters Clubs, held at Portknockie, Mr Chisholm was again elected Chairman.

Sept 6 **The new mannie** - Rev David Shawcross is the new Methodist minister at Findochty, Portknockie and Whitehills.

Buckie & District Birdwatchers Club is to resume its meetings on Wednesday October 5. Club secretary is Mrs Shortt, 4 Grant Street, Cullen. A number of speakers have been arranged for over the coming months.

The school building is to re-open - An annex of Moray College of Education is to be opened at the former Lady Cathcart Primary School building on High Street. Courses are to be provided by the college which are aimed primarily at unemployed people in the area.

Built in 1869 as a girl's school the building was used as an annex by Cluny Primary in the early 1970's. After then lying vacant for three years it was taken over by Millbank School in 1977 to cope with an upsurge in the roll and its classrooms were in use until July this year. Now it will be used to educate adults.

Buckie Thistle squad picture. A photograph on page 9 shows the players that took the club into the semi-finals of the Tennants Highland League Cup. Ally Link, Eric Shearer, Ray Pirie, Robbie Nicol, (Captain), Gary Mitchell, David Reid, Neil Cowie, Neil Scott, Alan Thain, Les Masson, Derek Anderson, David Pirie and Alistair Ewen.

Death of Miss Ella Rattray - A founder member of Buckie Community Council and its secretary from 1979 until 1981. Miss Rattray died in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary last week.

She was appointed a lecturer in Secretarial Studies at Moray College of Education in 1974.

Buckie Boys League (Football) - The top team this season was the Wanderers. The other teams were United, Dynamos, City, Albion and Swifts.

Sept 13 **Boat launch** - It was something of a rare occurrence nowadays when the **Hazelmere II BCK83** took to the water on Friday afternoon. The new vessel costing £500,000 has been built for Mr Bruce More who is a part owner together with James McKenzie, Elgin. A third partner is Arthur Duthie and Co Ltd Lossiemouth. The Hazelmere II measures 75 feet long by 20.6 feet broad. She is wooden built with a transom stern and with a ¾ shelter deck fitted. She is to be powered by a caterpillar diesel engine and a Volvo auxiliary.

** **New Department** - A new department started at Buckie High School at the beginning of the summer term, that of Modern Studies. The head of department is Laurie Easton who moved to Buckie from Forres Academy.

Buckie Community Council - The final meeting of the session of Buckie Community Council may well have turned out to be the last ever warned the outgoing chairman, Rev Fred Coutts. If six people do not offer themselves for election by 12 noon this Thursday the 15th September then Buckie Community Council will go out of existence. Each community council has a life span of two years there upon the council stands down and elections are held. The Buckie Community Council has been assumed as having a full strength of 12 members but this figure has never been reached and candidates have never had to fight an election. Rev Coutts has resigned to take up new duties as Moderator of Moray Presbytery and the recent death of Miss Ella Rattray has led to this present crises.

What has Buckie Community Council been able to achieve? A good article was written on the subject and is found on page 7.

Opening announcement - The Coffee and Cream (Tea Shoppe) is to open at 7 West Church Street on Friday 16th September. Home baking and fresh cream, produce served by trolley in olde world surroundings.

Thistle outclassed in Highland League Cup Final - They were beaten by Keith at Borough Briggs, Elgin on Saturday. As the scribe said Buckie failed to show the flair and aggression that they had shown in previous rounds against Peterhead and Inverness Caley. Keith were the more stylish and experienced side and deserved to win.

Advert - Milton Brothers, Highland Yard, Freuchny Lane, Panel Beating and Paint Spraying.

Sept 20 **Nominations galore for Buckie Community Council** - No less than 15 nominations for the 12 places on Buckie Community Council had been received when nominations closed at noon on Thursday. This means that there will be an election in one of the wards for the first time in Buckie council's history. A surprise candidate is Hamish Watt who served for five years as MP for Banffshire until 1979 on behalf of the SNP. Of the new candidates several have SNP connections. There were originally 10 nominees for the six seats. Past members who offered their services again are Mrs Janet Benson, 10 Cross Lane, Derek Horrobin, 3 Cross Lane, Charles McKay, Westfield, Duguid Street and Alexander Wilson, Burnside House, Queen Street but Charles McKay withdrew his nomination. At the final meeting he said that because of business commitments on nights of meetings he would stand down if sufficient candidates came forward.

The new candidates are - Allan Fraser, 21 Sutherland Street, Mrs Frances Geddes, 6 Dunbar Street, Wm. Jappy, 2 Cooper Street and Hamish Watt, 21 Steinbeck Road. In the east ward five people stood for six seats so all are declared elected. Retiring

councillors, John Burnett, Rome Villa, 68A East Church Street, Ray Cardno, Millbank House, Well Road and Mrs Elsie Jamieson, 47 East Church Street.. The new councillors are Mrs Alice Cumming 28 Well Road and Roy Shepherd, 68 Well Road.

Wallace Avenue to have a face lift - Work is to begin immediately on an 18 month scheme to transform the council blackspot Wallace Avenue.

To stop erosion - The sum of £7,770 is to be spent on repairing and preventing further damage at the Yardie from erosion by the sea, For a distance of forty yards rock armoury is to be placed, This is seen as the most suitable form of protection.

Buckie's bonniest council gairdens - Charles McKay, 13 Scott Terrace won the Buckie competition for the best kept council garden for the second year in a row. The Buckie competition dates back to 1978 and is sponsored by Bells Scotch Whisky. The handsome rosebowl was presented to Mr McKay and his wife by the manager of Inchgower Distillery, Mr Ronald Fetch.

Jim Laing, c/o 3 Linn Crescent came 2nd and George Craib, 30 Douglas Crescent, 3rd. A picture of the winners is to be found on page 7.

Though not a prize-winner this time Mrs Reid, 34 Well Road was highly commended for her garden.

Buckpool Victoria – photograph – Buckpool Victoria were R/Up in the Buckie Welfare League to Portgordon this year and are shown with the only trophy they won – The Maitland Cup. The names of the players and officials are given in the photograph.

Fochabers beat the Rovers - Buckie Rovers were beaten by four goals to three by Fochabers whom they met at the Playing Fields Fochabers, for the first time in close on twenty years. The Speysiders returned to the North Juniors this season.

Versatile Shop - In the shop at 31 to 33 Seafield Street opened by the firm of Versatile Windows, Deskford there is a great range of mirrors of all kinds – French, Italian, dressing table, wardrobe, splash-back, brilliant and many others.

Sept 27 **So We Heard** – a rare contribution by Peter Dick.

West ward candidates - The west ward candidates for election to Buckie Community Council are - Mrs Janet Benson, Mrs Frances Geddes, Bill Jappy, Derek Horrobin, Allan Fraser, Alex Stewart, Hamish Watt and Sandy Wilson.

For sale – (Cordiners Garage on High Street) Modern Garage premises with Ford Retail Dealership. Showroom, Offices, Workshop, Parts Department Canopied petrol forecourt. (Their last advert was in the edition of 20 September – the reason for selling was to do with losing a main dealership with Ford. Cordiners went to Inverness.)

Thorn Lighting workers receive presentation A photograph on page 8 shows the workers of thorn Lighting who received long service awards at a function in the Mill Hotel, at Tynet. They were James Mitchell, Mrs Annie Findlay, Miss Meg Cowie, Mrs Emily Moran and Marshall Wilson.

They won the Robertson Cup - Buckie Rovers beat Caberfeidh at Kynoch Park to take the Robertson Cup, which was played for by the top four teams at the end of the previous season.

The Rovers' team was – Roy, Coull, Stewart, McDonald, Sellar, R. Smith, A. Milne, Cowie, Reid, M. Smith, Henderson, Subs. Sinclair, and Innes.

Clearance Sale - Fashion House , 17 East Church Street.

Oct 4 **Bill Forbes on safari** - The front page tells how Bill Forbes the man one known as 'The Lightning Barber' because of the speed at which he could cut your hair. Was almost ready to set out on his planned African journey to the source of the River Nile. My

sister, Violet (Vi) a teacher in the Lewisham School, Harare, Zimbabwe, had been telling her grade four class how an old man from the same village where her Mum lived in Scotland (Fochabers) was about to start on a long journey. All the 24 pupils sent Bill letters wishing him good luck. One such letter was printed on the front page of the 'Advertiser' it starts - Dear Mr Forbes. Mrs Ewen, our teacher told us about you and the adventures you have already had and the one you are planning to go on now. Violet had also told the children about Bill running the eight miles from his home to his shop in Buckie each day. This was mentioned in one of the letters.

Poor turnout - Only 6.6 % of the electorate bothered to or the community council - The result was as follows with number of votes given for each candidate - Hamish Watt (SNP) 114; Mrs Janet Benson * 105; Sandy Wilson 104*; Sandy Stewart 97; Allan Fraser 96; Bill Jappy (SNP) 80; Frances Geddes (SNP) 70 U/S Derek Horrobin 42* (U/S)

SNP = Scottish National Party * = Sitting councillor U/S = Unsuccessful

It jist nae fair on wir ain fowk - A Wallpaper and Paint monster sale will take place in the Cluny Hotel on Thursday 6 October. The ither week it wis carpets they were selling. Ging awa back tae Aiberdeen you Fair City Decorators. Like we eest tae say yir nae fair nor richt like a Darkies left airim.

Aye girnin bit - Fish landings in Scotland last year (1982) were the highest for nine years.

Advert - BCK Electrical Services - Eddie Duthie 3448x.

The local Liberals - A new branch of the Moray Liberal Party has been organised in Buckie - Chair - Mrs Jean Anderson, Secretary - Mrs McKell, Treasurer - Mrs Jessie Laurie.

Didn't he do well ? Mike Smith 'Scammers', (still turning out on occasion for the Rovers in season 2002/0) scored all five goals when they beat Bishopmill at Borough Briggs, Elgin on Saturday by five goals to three. Mike has scored 15 goals this season to date.

Oct 11 **Opening soon** - A new shop will open soon at 17 East Church Street. - **Options** - leading chain store seconds - babies, children and ladies' wear.

The 'Go-Ahead' The Green Light has been given for the third and final stage in the renovation of the Fishermen's Hall.

Buckie Thistle had trialist, Gary Stephen, Banks of Dee, the Aberdeen junior side, in their line up against the Broch on Saturday where they won by four goals to three. Stephen scored the winning goal.

A return to earlier times - For the first time since World War II the Buckie engineering firm of Hamilton Bros. are engaged in producing steelwork for the boat-building industry. At present workmen at the firm's yard on Commercial Road is just completing a 10 tonne steel wheelhouse casing for Thomson's boatyard. The wheelhouse is for the 75' trawler, which saw a restart of work at Thomson's yard in February this year.

Thank you - Buckie and District Flower Show had a thank you note in the local paper following their recent very successful Show. They thanked all those who had donated trophies, or sponsored the Show in any way. Thanks were also extended to the may exhibitors and to the general public who had shown an interest.

Tombola night - The Flower Show committee are to hold a Tombola Evening in the Fishermen's Hall on Thursday 20 October in aid of funds. The winner of the Star Game will receive a 12" B/W portable TV. A further prize for a Line will be a steam iron. Tickets cost 50p. Please bring cup.

Oct 18 **Five new Queen's Guides** - Five members of the Buckie Girl Guides have been awarded with their Queen's Award certificates. They are Karen Sutherland, Pauline Slater, Lynne Sandison, Donna Lobban and Audrey Summerfield. The awards were presented by Moray Guide Commissioner, Mrs L. Duncan.

This will be the last of such presentations since from 1st September the Queen's Guide ceases to be part of the Guide Programme. Replacing it will be the Baden Powell Trefoil which Guides can work for from the age of 13. Ranger Guides, the 16-18 year old section will still be able to work for the Queen's Award.

The girls are all Patrol Leaders. Lynne and Donna are now members of the 1st Buckie Ranger Guides.

Fit noo? A big sale of Watches, clocks jewellery and other things is to take place in the Cluny Hotel on October 21. H. Smith & Co. fae somewye doon sooth.

A kind donation - Thain and Davidson Electrical Contractors donated five electric heaters for the hut used by lifeboat members for changing in before going out to sea and for storing their gear.

The heaters are of the Thermitube convector type and are controlled by a thermostat, they will, therefore, maintain whatever temperature is required by the station hut 24 hours a day. The firm not only donated the heaters but also the labour to install them. A photograph of the hut is shown on page 11 along with the report.

Advert - A new shop has opened at 19 West Church Street (formerly the Fry Inn) it is called 'Pitstop', Here you will get points, plugs, batteries, anti freeze de-icer and many other car accessories. Motorcraft batteries from £15 inc. VAT.

Oct 25 **Bill Forbes returns home," beaten but not unbowed"** says the report on the front page of the 'Advertiser'. He was attacked and robbed of much of his money and decided that discretion was the better part of valour and returned home. He was obviously most disappointed that the journey that he felt he was more than able to complete should have been brought to sorry end by a bunch of thugs. He was fortunate to escape with his life.

The 'Sally Ann' celebrates - This weekend the Salvation Army celebrates its 95th anniversary. On Saturday evening, in the Army's hall on New Street a musical programme is being provided by the Salvation Army choir from Findochty to mark the occasion.

Buckie Community Council - At the first meeting of the newly elected Buckie Community Council the vice chairman of the last community council, Alex Stewart defeated the chairman of the second last community council, Alex Wilson in a ballot for the post by six votes to five. Allan Fraser was appointed vice chairman in preference to John Burnett on the casting vote of the new chairman. Other appointments made were Mr Wilson as treasurer with Mrs Elsie Jamieson being re-elected as secretary.

To re-enter the recording business The community council is to re-enter the recording business and market a specially commissioned cassette that highlights the town's fishing heritage. This follows the unqualified success of the Buckie 81 cassette, produced over two years ago that sold over 600 copies and made a profit of just under £200.

After some delay a master tape of the cassette, first mooted a year ago was reported now to be ready. The tape is to be entitled, 'The Shore of Buckie'.

Flower Show AGM - The committee were returned enbloc - viz. - President - Frank Anderson, vice president - Alex Stewart, secretary - Allan Fraser, assistant secretary, Duncan Jamieson, treasurer, Wilma Leslie.

Miss Leslie reported that the total income had been £950.30 with an outlay of £700. Mr Anderson in his address said to have broken even would have been an achievement but to make a profit gives great encouragement for the staging of next year's Show. He thanked the committee for their support and also the generosity of the business fraternity and the general public.

The new Peugeot 205 - Jeff Jones, High School teacher, and Moray Firth Radio presenter had a trial run in the new Peugeot 205 lent to him by the Millbank Garage. At £3895 he felt that it offered good value for the money.

Nov 1 **Committee in the offing** - The leaseholders on the Seafield Estate affected by the recent decision of the estate to foreclose on certain householders are to attempt to set up a solidarity group.

For sale - The Morven Stores on Cluny Terrace.

PT English at BHS retires - Bill Ettles a native of Keith, PT of English at Buckie High School retired on 26 October received a cheque from his colleagues handed over by Mr George McKenzie, Rector. Mr Ettles graduated from Aberdeen University in 1941 with a joint Honours MA degree in English and History. He was later commissioned in the Royal Navy where he served throughout the rest of the war. Following the war he taught for ten years before entering the family business to return to teaching when the business was sold and became PT at Buckie in 1969. The small presentation ceremony took place in the school.

Lennox Community Council - At their first meeting the following appointments were made - Chairman - Jeff Jones, Clochan, vice chairman - Dr Cameron, Fochabers, secretary, Thomas Brander, Nether Dallachy, treasurer, John Birnie, Fochabers.

Castle Grant is sold - The Earl of Seafield has sold the ancestral home of the Clan Grant, near Grantown.

Cullen House was bought by an English property developer last year who now envisages turning the building, together with certain outbuildings, into a series of homes. The mansion house which was the ancestral home of the Oglivies and Grants for four centuries has not been lived in since 1975 and was beginning to fall into disrepair.

It was built as a series of towers dating from the 13th to the 19th century with new parts being added as the need arose leading to a very irregular plan with the building never more than one room deep.

Something not unlike a village street was created with each tower having an entrance and a staircase and a very thick wall. **A full report is given on page 1**

Shades of the West - A 14-year old boy appeared in private in Elgin on Friday in connection with an incident involving a shotgun at Buckie High School the previous day. The boy appeared on a Breach of Peace charge an offence relating to the possession of a shotgun.

St Andrews Hotel - News Flash - The Amazing Hurricane Satellite is now installed in the Timbers Suite after a four-month wait on delivery. We are now pleased to announce that the very latest and much sought after disco light sensation in Europe has been installed in your favourite disco hall.

Cullen House - Douglas Estate Agents, Cluny Square, and Buckie were the selling agents for the apartments in Cullen House.

The Chip Inn - Milton Drive - had a large advert in this edition of the 'Advertiser'.

Strathlene Hotel is to be converted - After being closed for two years to the public Strathlene Hotel is being converted into four self-contained houses. The name will revert to the original that of Strathlene House.

Built at the end of the 19th century (Actually it was only extended then since there was a building there before that since it served as a seaside holiday home for W.G. Bryson who was factor for the Seafield Estates at Grantown.) it is situated in an idyllic setting only yards from the sea shore with uninterrupted views over the Moray Firth to the Caithness Hills.

Thirty percent of the building is being pulled down (This was only rooms that were built by Buckie Town Council in the years prior to the war when it was council property.) but according to the developers the principal idea is to ensure that the original Victorian character is not lost. Each dwelling will be extensively renovated and modernised to a very high standard and include a 30 year wood preservation guarantee, gas central heating, double glazing, rewiring and re-plumbing a spokesman said.

Together with the lodge at the entrance to the House the building is being offered for sale by property agents, Douglas Estate Agents, Buckie. A photograph of Strathlene House accompanies the report.

**** Advert** - Slater Sports now have in stock Roller Boots at sizes from 1 to 5. At £14.99 and from 6-10 at £17.50. Large wheels, metal undercarriage suede boots.

Are your tyres legal? A new tough tyre law was introduced on 1st November - Any bald patch can mean persecution. Remember your license will be endorsed for each tyre that doesn't conform to the new regulation. You must have at least 1mm of tread on 75% of the tyre tread width and visible tread on the rest.

Nov 15 **Remembrance Sunday services were all well attended.** Reports given on the front page.

Wallace Avenue facelift underway - Report and picture on page 5.

Advert - New lease of life for the 'Penny Shop' The properties number 9 to number 11 West Church Street have all been renovated and are now occupied by Alice Main, Chemist, The Coffee and Cream Restaurant and The Bookshop. .

Both the restaurant and bookshop had large adverts in the paper. The Bookshop was described as the British International Bookshop, stocking new books, hard backs and specialist. Second hand paper backs exchange scheme.

Smokescreen blown away. The Methodist minister Rev David Shawcross did a lot of research into the situation regarding the lease issue between householders and Seafield Estate and was able to clear away a lot of the smokescreen that was clouding the issue. **A report is given on page 10.**

Photograph of Buckpool Victoria - This was taken at their annual Dinner and Dance held in the Marine Hotel. John Coull was chosen as Player of the Year.

Pay off at Cox Fish Plant - Twelve workers lost their jobs as a result of the shortage of fish being landed at north east ports.

Nov 22 **Opening announcement** - Fabric Attractions is to open at 46 West Church Street on 24 November.

Portgordon United F.C. photograph. This was taken at their annual end of season 'do' John McIntosh was voted 'Player of the Year'

A generous gift - Les Douglas of Douglas Estate Agents presented Buckie Thistle with two complete sets of jerseys, shorts, socks and 16 pairs of boots. Costing around £800.

Rovers go down to Forres Thistle - When they lost away to the Thistle by three goals to nil the scribe of the day described the Rovers as playing their worst football for many a day. The team was Roy, B. Farquhar, Kevin Stewart, A. McDonald, Coull, R. Smith, Sellar, Milne, Reid, Murray and M. Smith. Subs Donald and Innes.

***** The Rovers have designed a new club crest** - They have adopted part of the crest of the old Buckie Town Council combined with a football to give a new image to the club. A report is given on page 12 written by the secretary, Bruce Smith. A sketch of the new badge is also shown.

Buckie Welfare Society hold their AGM - As has been the practice for a number of years now it was decided to distribute a sum of money amongst a number of organisations in the town. This year it was to be £450. Since it was started the distribution scheme in 1965 a total sum of £8000 has been shared out. This year the grants ranged from £15 as in the case of the Buckie District Hospital Broadcasting Service to £50 to the Buckie OAP Association.

Nov 29 **Your paper will cost more** - As from next week the Banffshire Advertiser will cost 15p. this has been forced due to an increase in production costs.

Christmas Lights in Buckie - The Youth Training Scheme - Cullen Workshop team are to provide a more extensive Christmas Lighting display in Buckie this year compared to last.

Last year a squad of unemployed youngsters under the control of MSC supervisor, Derek Horrobin came in for widespread praise for their efforts that produced Buckie's biggest festive display for many years. This year Mr Horrobin and his four lads have received the go ahead from Buckie Community Council and are to extend the display, which will festoon along the buildings in the south east corner of Cluny Square.

Portknockie Queen's Guide - Elaine Weir became Portknockie's second Queen's guide when she received her Queen's Guide Certificate from Mrs L. Duncan, County Commissioner.

Gaelic Club formed - The members are to meet in Buckie Community Centre from 7 till 9pm every Monday evening till the New Year after this meetings will take place in the Lady Cathcart School. The club intend to offer a book and cassette containing a learning programme for non Gaelic speakers.

Advert - Alba Video - 30 West Church Street. (The former Gas Showroom)

The cassette 'Shore of Buckie' It was said that the new cassette gives a vivid sound picture. It was produced by Rev Fred Coutts for Buckie Community Council.

Dec 6 **The Buckie Lifeboat** - The Royal National Lifeboat Institution last week gave their Buckie station a boost when they announced that the present vessel the Laura Moncur now over 20 years old is to be replaced by a brand new 52 feet long Arum class boat.

The £350,000 cost of the replacement has been met by Cambridge businessman David Robinson who provided a similar boat for the Penlee station after the 1981 tragedy there. His offer to provide a second lifeboat was made earlier this year and it is to be named the Charles Brown after a late friend and colleague with whom Mr Robinson often made fishing trips to the River Spey.

(On Friday 9 May 2003 a new lifeboat to replace the 'Charles Brown' arrived home in Buckie.)

**** **For sale** - The flat at 11A West Church Street is for sale. This recently renovated and completely modernised first floor flat has been finished to a very high standard with the best quality materials used. The flat consists of a lounge kitchen/diner, bathroom two double bedrooms, private walled garden and has a 30-year guarantee against woodworm. (Kevin stayed here for a number of years. One might question the description of the workmanship.)

Findochty Water Sports Club formed - A total of 33 interested people attended a public meeting in the Rathburn House Hotel, Buckie on the evening of 30th November. John Fowlie was appointed chairman, Ron Billing secretary and Willie Milne, treasurer.

Buckie Angling Club re-formed - The Buckie Angling Club, which has been in abeyance for some years, has been reformed. A steering committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Dr George McKay with the aim of drawing up a draft constitution.

The Cullen Viaduct - The Cullen viaduct could become part of the Speyside Way. The Countryside Commission is investigating the extension of the hiker's route from Upper Speyside to Speybay along the Banffshire coast to Cullen.

Big one-day sale in the Marine Hotel of a great variety of things from tools of all kinds, radios, watches to clothes of all descriptions. M.Z. Kham, Dundee.

Advert - Music Matter (formerly Cecil and Harvey) next door to the Post Office at 42-44 East Church Street Hammond organs at £775 and £999.

The Mossat Shop, Kildrummy Alford. 'Hate Christmas Shopping?' 'Like Eating Out?' Solve your problems, pay us a visit. Good food and terrific ideas.

Dec 13 **For sale** The house in Portknockie at 7 Victoria Street the home of a 91 year old woman, her son and daughter that they were forced to leave after being unable to pay the £6,000 the Seafield Estate required of them has been put on the market. The trio were rehoused by Moray District Council after they were made homeless. Rev David Shawcross fiercely criticised the putting of the house on the market by the estate.

A photograph of the property is shown in this edition.

Property change of use being considered - 1 St Peter's Terrace (Redburn House) more recently a boarding house and earlier a bank and house has been bought by the Langstane Housing Association who are considering converting the property into single person's accommodation. (This was done with a large extension built on at the rear.)

Another shop for Cammie - Cameron Hendry opened his latest store this week at 5 Gordon Square, Portgordon. He already has shops at 103 Milton Drive, 52 West Church Street and 18b East Church Street.

Help given - Local authority and NESDA help to ensure the future of the Thorn Lighting plant in Buckie.

Buckie Thistle release David Pirie - The Portknockie Chartered surveyor, David Pirie has been given his release by Buckie thistle after a year and a half and has signed for Turriff United. He scored two goals on his debut. The 25-year-old player first signed for Buckie in 1975 when Willie Cowie was in charge. He then stayed for two seasons before moving to Ellen United for one season. He then spent four years with Deveronvale before returning to Buckie. (After leaving Turriff he was for a long time a regular with Deveronside and had the occasional game for the Banff junior side in 2003.)

Dec 20 **Bill Forbes to meet the Royal Geographical Society** - The 74 year old retired barber, Bill Forbes of Fochabers has been invited by the Royal Geographical Society top expedition planner to meet him in London at their Kensington headquarters. Bill has made three safaris to Africa - one was a 19 000 mile tour undertaken 25 years ago in an old car following the routes taken in the 19th century by David Livingstone and Stanley. The second saw him make a 300 mile trek across the Sahara desert in 1980 and this year a well-publicised attempt to travel 5000 miles from the source of the River Nile to the sea which ended when he was attacked and robbed by bandits near the Uganda border before he was able to reach the source of the river. In 1984 he plans to walk from the source of the River Niger to the sea.

Mrs V. Ewen's school class in Harare, Zimbabwe have sent 24 illustrated letters to Bill and his wife in Fochabers thanking them for the pencils and other items that they had sent. In one of the letters a pupil had mentioned that Bill's picture had been put up on the classrooms Christmas Tree. One pupil, 8 year old Faul Nenzou said that when you were going to find the source of the Nile Mrs Ewen (Violet, my sister) marked the places you were going to stop at on the map. I hope you have a Merry Christmas and that you do well on your next African adventure.

A scary experience - The 14 year old schoolboy who admitted breaking the peace by breaking into the rector's room at Buckie High School and pointing a gun at him after he had shown that it was loaded, was put on a year's probation by the sheriff who heard the case in private.

Advert - Bob Sutherland, The Family Butcher, 32 St Peter's Road. At the FMC Christmas Sale held in Forres in a joint venture, Buckie butchers, Norman Morrison and Bob Sutherland successfully bid for the champion beef carcass and a 1st prize light heifer. Bob supplies meat to the St Andrew's Hotel, Mr C's Restaurant and three Spar Shops.

Fall in the birth rate - There was a drop of 4% in Scotland's birth rate between 1981 and 1982. The upward trend seen in 1977 reached a peak in 1981.

Rovers given a cash grant - Buckie Rovers, the junior football club, have received grant aid of £6,000 towards the provision of an enclosed field at Merson Park, subject to the approval of the award by the full District Council. Bruce Smith, secretary said that the club was obviously delighted with the news.

The Christmas Lights - The Christmas Lights around Cluny Square in Buckie were switched on on Thursday by the two daughters of MSC supervisor Derek Horrobin, Alexia and Samantha in recognition of the major role he has played in providing a substantial seasonal display in the town this year and last.

Dec 28 **Windfall for Posties** - Seventeen Buckie Post Office workers shared the sum of £67,211 they won on Vernon's Football Pool.

Sales - Norma's, 18 East Church Street - Ladies Fashion Sale begins on 29 December. Buckie Furniture Centre, 45 West Church Street, sale now on. Robertson's Great Annual Sale - 13-17 High Street.

Advert - Options, 17 East Church Street - Expanding range of babies and children's clothes, perfects from top names.

Advert - Alistair Milton and Son, Painters and Decorators.