

1994

- Jan 4 **Golden anniversary** - Rev Alick Macauley, Duke Street, Fochabers has been a minister in the Church of Scotland for 50 years. He was ordained in 1944. He served in the Royal Navy during WWII. He came to the parish of Bellie, Fochabers, in 1959, He retired in 1981 but since that time has done locum work, preaching in the North Church on several occasions. To mark the golden anniversary of his ministry the Women's Guild of the North Church invited him and his wife to a Guild party where a cake had been baked in his honour. A photograph shows Marie Drummond, Guild president, May Macauley, Rev Macauley and North Church minister Rev Bill Taylor.
- Lodge Gordon's 589** – The newly appointed RWM of Lodge Gordons 589 is George Wilson.
- A letter fae a homesick Portgordon exile** - A letter is found on page 11 from Mrs Annie Mary Stewart (Reid) in which she reminisces on days gone by in her native village.
- Book Review** - The 'Farmer's Diary' Volume 2 written by Charlie Allan is reviewed by Michael Watt. The book costs £12.50
- 'Look back to the Past'** - This was again compiled by Matt Shortt of B. D. F. H. S.
- Jan 11 **Workers Education Association** - The first venture by the Workers Education Association in Buckie, a 10 week discussion group for women which took place last term in Lady Cathcart School was well received by those who took part. It will start up again on Wednesday January 19 when the group's members would like to see more women joining.
- Jan 18 **Smoke Gets in your Eyes** - The customers had to be evacuated from the Commercial Hotel on Buckie's High Street when fire spread to the bar.
- Our stuff will be in it** - This is what the pupils of Primary 6 and 7 at Findochty Primary School will be saying. The manager of the 'Buckie Drifter' has received a box containing cuttings, photographs and a wealth of information about people and the area in 1994 which they intend will be put in the capsule that is to be laid in the foundations of the Heritage Centre and not to be opened until the year 2094 – a hundred years hence.
- One Hundred and Five Years Young** - Rita Donn, formerly of Cullen who has been a resident of Netherha Home in Buckie for some time celebrated her 105th birthday last week. Relatives flew in from Canada to be with her on the day. Councillor Gordon McDonald brought her a bouquet of flowers from Grampian Regional Council. She also received a telegram from the Queen, the second as she received one when she reached 100.

There should be no more circuses on Merson Park - This is what Councillor Bill Jappy is to propose on the grounds that the last circus made such a mess of the playing surface that it could not be used for football for a number of weeks after.

Probus Club - The speaker at the December meeting of Buckie and District Probus Club was Hamish Watt who described himself as an ex MP, ex rector of Aberdeen University, ex (almost) farmer, journalist and raconteur. He told a lot of stories from his past and very varied life, which was highly entertaining.

Team from the past - This is found on page 13 and shows Buckie Spurs with manager Sandy McQueen. Players named are - George Scott, Sandy Middleton, Alfie Bremner, Bob Souter, Grant Bruce, Doddie Andrews, Kenny Cowie, James Murray, Oglivie Dawson, John Davy Flett and Ritchie Clark. (The team would have played around the early 1950's.)

Jan 25

Vandalism in the cemetery - A group of young boys was seen smashing glass memorial globes in Burnside Cemetery at Rathven. Some of them were over 60 years old.

Milne's Primary School, Fochabers - Just when it was thought that the battle had been won as far as local people were concerned and that the old Milne's High School would be converted and made suitable as a modern day Primary School the Labour and Liberal/Democrats on Grampian Region are not sure that they are to allow this, the feeling being that it will cost more than a brand new school and not entirely suitable.

Another eating out place - Cullen Restaurant is now open at 5 Seafield Street

Advert – Hair Design, 3 Bank Street, and Buckie. Special offers including Perms at 1993 prices.

Junior Football - Buckie Rovers beat Burghead Thistle by four goals to three. Two of the Rovers three goals were scored by former Thistle player Alan Forbes who had been signed from Forres Mechanics at a substantial fee. In his report A. L. Nath mentioned that the Rovers had lost the services of David 'Pecos' Mackay and Alex McGettrick who had moved to Portgordon.

Rovers team was - Brindle, Murdoch, Christie, B. Geddes, Forbes, P. Geddes (Mackie), Johnston, Tallis, Smith, Pirie (Gault), and Slater.

Junior Football - Portgordon United drew one goal apiece with RAF Lossiemouth. The Portgordon team was – Erskine, Shewan, Morrison, D. Mackay, Farquhar (Clark), Nicol, Reid, Gardiner, A. McGettrick, G. McKay (Geddes) and Lappin.

Book Review – Isabel Harrison reviewed the book of poems titled 'A Heilan Mixture' written by Doug Shewan, Mosstodloch and published by M.D. C. The book costs £3.

'Look Back to the Past' - This was once again compiled by Matt Shortt, given as a member of Buckie District Fishing Heritage Society.

Feb 1

A start made on the railway cutting infill – Work has begun on the £70,000 scheme to infill the cutting from Cluny Terrace to West Street.

New Nursing Home takes shape - A photograph in the 'Advertiser' shows the nursing home being built on High Street just beyond the Linzee Gordon Park. When completed and occupied in May it will provide fifty jobs for Buckie. This is the biggest building project that has taken place in Buckie during the past seven years and is costing £650,000.

The people behind the scheme are local businessman Ronald Taylor and the doctors in the Benreay Medical Group.

To open Buckie Drifter Maritime Centre - It is reported that the new Heritage Centre will be opened by Magnus Magnusson, broadcaster and historian, on June 16.

Rotary Speaker. The speaker at the latest meeting of Buckie Rotary Club was fellow member John Craig who spoke on the construction of violins. He is presently following a course of instruction on violin making at Moray College in Elgin. (John Craig was formerly Chairman of the Friends of Seafield Hospital.)

The Candy Box, 17 West Church Street, presently owned by the Johnston family (Banffshire Advertiser) suffered from bad flooding causing it to be closed for a while has now been reopened.

Moray Enterprise Trust is set to launch a series of new initiatives aimed at helping local businesses in a variety of ways, Buckie man Ronald Taylor is Chief Executive of Moray Enterprise Trust.

Northern Lights pub changes hands. The proprietor for the past five years Cecil Roy is seen in a photograph receiving a presentation from some of the customers.

The Buckie Christmas Lights escaped almost unscathed this year at the hands of the vandals in contrast to last year. This was the good news told by the press officer Mark Duncan, of Buckie Chamber of Commerce at their annual general meeting last week. The office bearers appointed were as follows – Chairman – John Duncan; vice chairman- Stuart Scott; secretary-Alistair Farquhar; treasurer- Kenny Anderson; minute secretary – Marie Mair and press secretary-Mark Duncan.

Probus Club – The speaker at the recent lunch meeting of Buckie and District Probus Club was Len Hall (Deskford) a retired lecturer in engineering at Moray College in Elgin who gave a demonstration on the making of walking sticks and shepherd's crooks, a hobby that he had followed for many years.

Local Conservative group hold a Burns Supper - This took place in the Marine Hotel where the guest of honour was Michael Hirst, Chairman of the Conservative Party in Scotland. The Address to the Haggis was given by Allan Dean local Conservative Party organiser. A photograph shows the above two men also David Anderson, Portknockie, secretary.

Former 'Sparkie' has new position - Buckie man Ray Murray who served his time as an electrician before entering the teaching profession in 1968 and who has been Deputy Principal of Banff and Buchan College has been appointed Principal of Thurso College, replacing Jack Donald, a Cullen man (married to Elizabeth Young, late of Arradoul Mains), who is retiring to live in Buckie. (Ray later retired to live in Fordyce)

They also held Burns Suppers - Arradoul WRI, Deskford Community and Buckie Round Table.

'Look back to the Past' - This was compiled this week by Lynn Macdonald, Buckie Training Centre.

Feb 8

The Wanderer has returned - Bill Forbes has returned to his home in Fochabers after his tenth solo African safari and is already planning his next He hitch-hiked 5000 miles from Capetown to the Congo then to Kenya and back to Capetown. He had, unfortunately, to curtail his trip after first suffering from a robbery and then falling foul of an African bug. .

Netherha Home extension opened - The honour of opened an extensive extension to Netherha Nursing Home was given to resident James McIntosh known better as 'Tosh' who pulled the string to unveil a plaque to mark the occasion.

The extension cost £435,000 and includes six new single bedrooms, all with ensuite facilities, a residents lounge, bathroom and new laundry. Because of the increasing desire for more privacy there are now more single rooms throughout.

The building contractors were Robertson's of Elgin.

The new officer in charge is Fiona Stephen who was previously deputy officer in charge. Irene Grant the previous Officer in charge has been promoted and is now one of 6 Inspectors employed by Grampian Region

Former Enzie minister dies - Rev Donald 'Donnie' McDonald, a native of Inverness who was Church of Scotland minister of the Enzie Parish from 1972 till 1980, died at Stratford on Avon where his daughter lives.

Mr McDonald became a minister when he was fifty previous to this he was an official with the Automobile Association

Friends of Seafield Hospital - Apart from the members of the committee and invited guest Mr John Craig a past chairman of the 'Friends' and Sister Paddy McGruer representing the hospital staff only two interested members of the public were present at the AGM despite efforts to encourage more people to attend.

Mr Craig gave a talk and showed slides on the Health Council of which he is a member. Office bearers appointed were :- Chairman- Joey Bowie; treasurer- Adrian Mummery; secretary- Allan Fraser; committee – Sandra Duthie, Mame Brown, Jean Fettes, Edith Mummery, Janet Schluter and Ann Innes.

Feb 15

Milne's Primary School, Fochabers pressure group can rest on their laurels as last week they finally convinced Grampian Region Council, as they have done twice already, that their proposal was the right one, to have the 'new' Primary School incorporated in the former High School which is a listed building. The 'Advertiser reporter' asked how many times have you to win before you can claim a victory.

Advert – Grapevine, 37 East Church Street, Buckie. Young fashions just arrived.

Banffshire/Kronach (Germany) Exchange -This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Banffshire-Kronach exchange. The Twinning Committee are to produce a booklet covering those years.

Mrs Stewart nee Reid (late of Portgordon) writes another letter - This is found on page 6

Isabel Harrison writes a poem about war-time Portgordon on the same page.

Grampian Region gets no recognition - Despite giving £100,000 to the Buckie Drifter Maritime Heritage Centre Grampian Region were missed out when a sheet showing all who had sponsored or given grants towards the project. On the sheet were Moray District Council, Moray Badenoch and Strathspey Enterprise Company, Scottish Tourist Board Scottish Natural Heritage.

This was brought out by Councillor Gordon McDonald of Grampian Region who felt that the Region had been snubbed. He mentioned that the Region had also given the 'Drifter' the site when they could not have afforded to get one elsewhere in Buckie.

This led to a great number of letters going backwards and forwards between Co. McDonald and Councillor L Eddie Aldridge Convener of Moray District Council, with others coming in on either side.

Book reviewed - Co. Hugh Munro reviewed the book entitled 'The Declaration of Arbroath 1320, written by James Adam.

Book reviewed – Dr Sandy Silberg reviewed the booklet entitled Moray Choral Union, written by Graham Wiseman.

Feb 22

BCK 100 LTD – A group of some active some retired fishermen, fish-sellers and other businessmen have come together to form a venture capital company to assist local people to buy boats which would otherwise be sold elsewhere and therefore lost to the north east economy.

Known as BCK100 Ltd., the company has appointed a board of directors drawn from the coastal area from Nairn to Macduff to launch this project. The secretaries appointed

by the directors are the firm of Anton's Solicitors in Buckie. Euan Chisholm a partner in Anton's, explained the rationale behind the setting up of this new company to the 'Advertiser'. The aim of BCK100 Ltd is to try to reverse the pattern of boats being sold out of the area and to keep control of local fishing boats in the local community. 'It is in the best interests of local businesses that the fishing fleet in the area remains active and profitable', he said,

Buckie boat sinks in the Pentland Firth - The four man crew of the Buckie – registered fishing boat , the Leandel, arrived home safely on Friday afternoon after being rescued from the freezing water of the Pentland Firth by the Kirkwall lifeboat when their boat took water and sank.

The crew were Skipper was James Thomson 84 Milton Drive, his father in law Bert Johnston, 54 Douglas Crescent, John Orton, 60 Well Road and Raymond Gardiner, 14 Cathedral Street, all Buckie.

The 'Leandel' was the first boat that Mr Thomson had skippered and belonged to Caley Fisheries in Aberdeen. The vessel was built in France in 1980 and was formerly the Aberdeen registered 'Adventure'. When James took her over last year he had her converted from a beamer to a stern trawler.

A fisherman's ganzey wanted - Moray District Council are to create tableaux in the Buckie Library the centre piece of which will be a model of Peter Anson seen at work at his desk as part of a display of his paintings. He was known to dress in the clothes of a fisherman and to make the model authentic it is intended to dress it the same. To do this they require a fishermen's ganzey with a forty inch chest. (The model was a fixture in the library up until late in the year 2005 when it was removed when the library was being refurbished. Anson's pictures and other features were removed at the same time and up until March 2006 had still not been returned. The official line was that they were being refurbished.)

Councillor Aldridge replies - The convener of Moray District Council had a letter in the 'Advertiser' in which he was highly critical at the comments made the previous week by Councillor McDonald, who he accused of point scoring. Councillor McDonald had now received a note of an apology from the manager of the Buckie 'Drifter' regarding the omission of Grampian Region from the list of sponsors for the 'Drifter'.

Extension to Grampian Country Pork - Planning application was made for a two storey extension at the factory at Buckpool.

Chief Executive to resign - Mr Les Morgan, Chief Executive with Moray District Council is to resign in order to take on a more lucrative job.

Mar 1

Death of local businessman - The death took place of the founder and proprietor of Moray Seafoods , Mr Charles Eckersley OBE. He died at his home, The Paddock, Arradoul last Tuesday night. He was 67 and had been fighting against ill health for a number of years.

A full report on his career is given in this edition.

Moray District Council official suspended - Peter Aitken, Director of Leisure and Libraries with Moray District Council has been suspended from duty. He was ordered out of the Council's headquarters in Elgin after last Wednesday's meeting of the Leisure and Libraries committee. The decision to suspend Mr Aitken was taken by the Chief Executive Les Morgan who will be leaving the Council shortly to join Telematics Company in Forres.

The manager of the Leisure Centre in Elgin has also been suspended.

***** **Hamilton's the End** – Thursday was a sad day for Buckie when the last business was transacted in the yard of Hamilton Brothers, Engineers. Having failed to find a buyer for the company as a going concern Receivers Peat Marwick authorised the sale of the assets and a roup was held.

Mar 8 **Fishermen hauled to safety** - Two young Buckie fishermen, Alan Davidson, 49 East Church Street and George Clark, 43 Brodie Avenue were air-lifted by helicopter out of a life-raft amidst heavy seas and strong winds after the Fraserburgh registered trawler 'Hebron' of which they formed part of the crew, filled with water and sank 45 miles off Lerwick last Wednesday. At the time the boat had 100 boxes of good fish on board.

Is Buckie to have another supermarket? There is some reason for believing that Shopright, a supermarket, may be taking over the bus garage presently situated on Moray District land on East Cathcart Street. The land was originally leased to Wm Alexander and Sons bus proprietor, at an annual rent, by Buckie Town Council, later taken over by 'Stagecoach'. If 'Stagecoach' accepts the terms offered by 'Shopright' Knights Real Estate will open discussions with Moray District Council for the purchase of the land. (A supermarket was eventually built on the site but was owned by the firm of 'Lidl'.)

They moved - John and Alison Smith who had the 'Vegetable Corner', in the Buckie Market in the former Cluny Hotel annex, moved into the shop at 5 High Street.

Mar 15 **Tulips from Deskford.** The Dutch Flower Garden which has been created on a croft in the Deskford area by a Dutch couple opened for the season at the weekend.

Note It was in 1594 that the first tulips bloomed in Holland being taken there as bulbs by Carolus Casius an Austrian botanist who brought them from their native soil in Turkey.

Buckie Speakers' Club - The members ended a successful season with a 'do' in the Marine Hotel. Officials elected for 1994/1995 are – President- Michael Watt; vice president – John Hall; secretary – Brian Wilkinson; treasurer- Sandy Sutherland; social secretary and educational director – Bruce McLaren.

The Buckie Market - (publicity report) There is a nice variety of stalls all under the overall control of Hazel Spalding and her father. The stalls sell – jeans, cards, shoes, kids wear, pet food, jewellery, Walker's shortbread, bedding, groceries, sweets, leggings, photo frames, tools, toys, videos, vegetables, tatties and fruit. The market is open on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am till 5pm. Guaranteed low prices.

Closing Down sale – Denim Plus – 38-40 East Church Street; Grapevine – 37 East Church Street and Reid and Gordon- 39 East Church Street.

Major BB's parade - The annual Banff Battalion BB parade was held in Buckie. A photograph shows the boys of both the 1st and 2nd Buckie Boys Brigade as they march through the town.

Thistle 'A' 1954/55 – A photograph shows members of the team together with their names - Jimmy Ritchie, Sandy Marshall, R. Milne, Lennie Marshall, George 'G. I' Innes, Andy Morrison, George Flett, Jimmy Murray (Linesman from Portgordon), Andrew Slater, Willie Allan, George Cormack, Kits Geddes and Doddie Andrews.

Mar 22

Lily celebrates her 100th birthday - Lily Banks, formerly of Pathhead Cottage, Clochan, later of Milton Drive, Buckie, who has been a patient in Spynie Hospital, Elgin, for the past three years recently celebrated her 100th birthday surrounded by some friends. Mr and Mrs Shepherd, Thorneybank Farm, Clochan, former neighbours and Mr and Mrs Wink Milne, Rathven. Mrs Milne was formerly Lily's home help. Miss Banks was a native of Drummuir where her father was a blacksmith. She and her sister, both unmarried, moved to the Enzie in 1944. She won many prizes at Keith Show for needlework both as a member of Drummuir and later Enzie WRI.

Break in at Merson Park - The recently opened pavilion at Merson Park, built for Buckie Rovers F.C. and other teams using the other ground, was broken into last week when a window was smashed. There is very little kept in the building and the only items missing were a few Mars bars. President of the club, Sonny Johnston, deplored the action, saying that it was an unnecessary expense for the club who had to pay to have the damage repaired.

Councillors letters and others - The letter campaign that began when Councillor Macdonald of Grampian Region took exception to the Region being missed out as sponsors of the 'Drifter' continues in this edition. Co. Macdonald got more grist for his mill when he read of the suspensions etc at Moray District Council. Local Tories got in on the act to castigate Mr Macdonald., with David Anderson, secretary of the local group and Allan Dean, local party organiser both taking up cudgels.

Mar 29 *****

The launch of the Buckie Initiative - A photograph shows John Duncan, chairman of Buckie Chamber of Commerce and Councillor Gordon McDonald Grampian Regional Council Economic Development and Planning Convener as they join forces to launch the 'Buckie Initiative'.

New Nightclub to open in Buckie - 'A new concept in dance 8 till late' at the ACE of Clubs, High Street, Buckie, (in building formerly occupied by 'Tutti Frutti' continental bar) to open on Friday 1st April. New refurbished premises with a new sound system and spectacular laser lighting providing the ultimate nightclub atmosphere. T. F. Developments Ltd. David Boyd, licensee is a director.

Vandals go on a window smashing campaign- The windows of shops and offices in the centre area of Buckie have suffered of late at the hands of vandals. During last weekend it was the turn of High Street to be targeted. John Duncan Chairman of Buckie Chamber of commerce said that Buckie is fast becoming known as a home of hooligans and thugs much to the detriment of the attraction of the town.

Another letter on the McDonald versus Aldridge saga - This week Allan Fraser secretary of Buckie Community Council came out in support of Councillor McDonald who he felt was a victim of character assassination. In a political sense, said Mr Fraser, he and Councillor McDonald were on opposite sides of the fence but he had come to know Councillor McDonald as a man of his word and as far as the community council was concerned seen to be a most conscientious worker on behalf of the area.

April 5

Gallant rescue in vain - Iainston pensioner, 84 year old William Cowie Green died in his home at Blantyre Terrace, Iainston from smoke inhalation despite the valiant efforts of two shipyard workers, James Gordon and Alex Fulton to save him. He was already dead by the time the two men pulled him from his smoke-filled house just yards from the shipyard gates of Messrs Jones. Despite this the two were praised by senior police and fire brigade officers for their actions.

Accident claims the life of young fisherman - Marc Slorach, 24 Land Street, Buckpool, the 17 year old son of Brian and Christine Slorach, died as a result of severe injuries to the body. Marc was a member of the crew of the Buckie fishing vessel, 'Ambassador' and while the boat was in the harbour was helping to winch off a net when the rope snapped and he was hit in the abdomen by the pulley. Death was almost instantaneous.

The 'Ambassador' is one of the Swedish vessels bought recently by local fishermen for fishing deep water off the North West coast. The skipper is Peter Smith who spoke of Marc as being a keen young fisherman whose ambition was to do well in the industry.

More windows broken- The mindless activity of breaking shop windows etc. by vandals continued at the weekend, with premises on West Church Street being attacked. The 'Advertiser' had five windows broken.

School leavers and employment - Only 30% of eligible school leavers in Moray last year took up employment, the lowest in Grampian. The jobs most favoured were – sales, factory work, clerical and building. Over 20% went on to higher education.

Visit of the ‘Golden Hinde’ - A full-scale reconstruction of Sir Francis Drake’s ship the ‘Golden Hinde’ will be in Aberdeen harbour on Tuesday April 19, entering the harbour with cannons firing and the crew dressed in period clothes.

More letters - The ‘Advertiser’ this week carried two letters written in support of Councillor McDonald, one by Donald Barr and another by Kevin McKay, both known to be avid SNP stalwarts.

April 12

Fish landings at Buckie - Last week the landings from 25 boats were the best of the year so far. Landed were – 128 boxes of white fish, 364 boxes of prawns, 334 boxes of shrimps and 368 bags of clams.

Last visit to Kingsmills - Buckie Thistle won the last game played between the two teams Inverness Thistle and the Jags at Kingsmills, Inverness. Inverness Thistle were joining the Caley to become Caledonian Thistle and leaving the Highland League. The score was 1-3. Bill Lobban was the reporter as he had been for some time past.

Book review - Isabel Harrison did a review of the book of poems written by Ian Middleton, Arradoul, entitled ‘Better a Grin Nor a Greet’ The new book published by the author sells at £6. There is photograph of the Ian on page 13.

Arradoul WRI choir - There is a photograph of the choir in this edition, they will be representing Banffshire in the Scottish Finals at Wick on 23 April. The choir won the right to go through to the final by winning the Banffshire heat of the competition when they beat the combined choirs of Rothiemay, Cornhill and Grange in the King Edward Memorial Hall recently.

April 19

Another fishing boat crew rescued - The Banff-registered ‘Arnisdale’ became stuck fast on rocks, close by the nuclear power station at Dounreay in Caithness, early on Wednesday morning, with her crew forced to abandon ship and await rescue, after it holed by the pounding on the rocks it was receiving.

The crew were – Skipper David Addison, 11 Victoria Street, Cullen who had been in charge of the vessel for two years, Norman Booth, 1 Oldmill Court, Garden Lane, Robert Phimister, Jun. 13 Oglivie Park, Cullen and Stuart Campbell, 10 Sterlochy Street, Findochty, were rescued by the coastguards putting lines aboard. The crew were taken to Dounreay Medical Centre and treated for shock and exposure.

The Round Table - The newly installed office bearers of Buckie and District Round Table are President – Bill Jaffrey, vice chairman – Alistair Farquhar, who is also treasurer and secretary- Stuart Scott. The past president was Kenny Gunn.

£500 donation - This was given to the Buckie Drifter Fishing Heritage Centre by the Buckie Maltings. The money will be used to create an exhibit which will include bunk beds and a ‘donkey’s breakfast’. (The following was copied as written and was later said to be wrong.) The ‘donkey’s breakfast or chaff bed was used by both fishermen on board drifters and by women working at the herring stations in Shetland.

The sea blanket or tyke to cover the chaff bed has already been made by Alex 'Paddy' Cowie and his wife Peggy of the Seatown.

April 26

The Two -Storey extension given the go ahead - The Grampian Country Pork factory at Buckpool can be extended Moray District Council planning and development committee has decided, but following objections from residents along the route taken by many lorries travelling to and from the factory the council will be monitoring traffic levels. The River Purification Board will also be keeping watch on developments to ensure that there is no pollution from sewers.

A donkey's breakfast correction - The caff bed was not synonymous with the; donkey's breakfast' as was said the previous week – they were entirely different. . 'The caff bed was a tyke (the cover) filled with oat grain chaff while the 'donkey's breakfast' was a straw mattress measuring 6 feet by 3 feet covered with Hessian. I bought one from an Aberdeen ships chandler for 5/- (25p) in the 1930's when I went trawling from Aberdeen.' The writer of the letter - James Slater, Portsoy.

Book review by Beryl Sankey - She reviewed a book written by Rev James Thomson, minister of the Episcopal Church in Buckie entitled 'Cast Out of the Ark '

Chaumers and bothies - In an article written on page 18 Allan Fraser tells how the two are not synonymous. Men living in chaumers on farms in the north east received their food in the farm-house kitchen while those in bothies made their own. The latter was uncommon in the north east.

May 3

A visit by the 'Reaper' a 'Fifie' - It has been promised that the Fifie built in 1902 and restored and now owned by the Scottish Fisheries Museum in Anstruther will pay a visit to Buckie to coincide with the official opening of the 'Drifter' Maritime Centre . The Reaper is sailed regularly by club members of the Anstruther Museum.

A time capsule - A capsule containing a variety of artefacts and information is to be buried under the floor of the entrance area of the 'Drifter' Heritage Centre. If the museum is still standing in 2094 the trustees have permission to open the capsule to see how we lived on Buckie in the 'dark ages'.

Further donations - The 'Drifter' Museum has received two other major donations. £100 was received from Regency Oil while Moray District Councillors agreed to give a grant of £4,286 from Buckie Common good Fund to pay for CCTV.

More than just a loyal servant - Alex Matthews, a native of Portgordon, has retired after working for 50 years with Buckie Shipyards. Alex of 38 Samson Avenue was foreman plater.

Book review by Rev James Thomson – 'The Good Charities Guide' (£2 .99) National Anti Vivisection Society.

First trip to Grantown - Buckie Rovers made their first ever trip to Grantown to play newcomers Strathspey Thistle. The Rovers won by two clear goals while the scribe, A. L. Nath waxed eloquently on the attractiveness of the countryside on the trip there and back.

May 10

SNP rising high - In the District elections the SNP captured 8 of the nine seats that were up for grabs.

The last chapter - The serial 'The Oil Rig off the Mucks' written by Spike came to an end in this edition of the 'Advertiser' after 34 instalments.

New houses at Mains of Buckie - Planning application has been made for the erection of two dwelling houses with garages at Mains of Buckie.

Buckie sodger gets chaired out - L/Cpl Alex Jappy is seen in a photograph being 'chaired out' at Brookes Barracks, Berlin, by his comrades after 22 year's service with the Gordon Highlanders. He will do the remaining months of his time in the UK before returning to Civvy Street back home in Buckie.

'Drifter' time capsule - A photograph shows the capsule, which contains artefacts and information, being placed under the floor of the entrance hall of the Drifter Maritime Heritage Centre. Present were Councillors Jappy and Longmore, Moray District Council, Trustees of the Centre, Liz Ritchie, manager of the 'Drifter' and Ken Dickson, Clerk of Works.

Situations vacant. The following personnel were required for the 'Drifter' Centre: - Catering assistants (2), Part/time cook, Cook, Shop assistant/cashier and Part/time clerical.

Thistle Player of the Year - Goalkeeper Alex Innes was voted this year's Player of Year by the fans, through gaining most points, and as such was awarded the *Banffshire Advertiser* trophy.

The Thistle won their last game of season 1993/94 - They beat Peterhead away by the only goal of the game.

The Thistle team was – Amaria, G. Keith, Bruce, Begg (Small), Taylor, Still, Gibson, McPherson, Clark, Galbraith (Sutherland).

May 17

'Peter Rawn Sails Again' the first chapter of a new serial by Spike is found in this edition.

Rovers lose last league game of season - They were beaten by five goals to three by Nairn St Ninian's at the Showground, Nairn.

The Rovers' team was – Brindle, R. Smith, Gault, Stewart, Forbes, Geddes, Tyson, M. Smith, Johnston, Gordon and Duthie. Subs – D. Taylor (Forres) and Sinclair.

The North League was won by Deveronside with the Rovers in fourth place. Burghead were bottom.

May 24

A long time in harness - A Buckie-born Canon, the oldest active Roman Catholic priest in Scotland, Canon John Lewis McWilliam has reached the age of **90**. He is still active in his parish of Huntly and Lumsden. (He was a member of the McWilliam family who were bakers and coal merchants in the town.)

New housing for Drybridge - OPA has been made for two housing sites at Drybridge.

A letter written by A. F is found in this edition. – In this he speaks of the discourteous way he was treated by Moray District Council Estate Department with respect to an area of land he was told he was to get as a garden off Sutherland Street. The money he had spent in preparing the ground, done in good faith, was never repaid.

May 31

Portgordon singer - Morag Aitken, 6a Richmond Place, Portgordon is to compete in the finals of the Scottish Seniors Talent Competition. In order to win a place in the finals to be held at Airdrie Morag had to win the Moray District heat of the contest in the Elgin Town Hall last week, which she did and collected a prize of £100. She sang two songs – ‘Danny Boy’ and ‘If I can Help Somebody’ accompanied on the piano by a friend Heather Runcie, Buckie.

June 7

Supermarket gets the green light - Buckie should soon be getting a new discount food store – Shoprite. After hearing the arguments for and against the siting of the store the planning and development committee of Moray District Council agreed to the development taking place.

Guides awarded top awards - Patrol Leaders Mary McPherson and Liza Rennie of the 1st Buckie Girl Guides received the highest honour that Guides can receive - the Baden-Powell Award - from District Commissioner for Buckie and Portessie Mrs Janet Benson.

Book review by Isabel Harrison ‘Teach Yourself Doric’ by Douglas Kynoch (£4.95)

Morag came third – The Portgordon woman Morag Aitken who took part in the finals of the Scottish Seniors Talent Competition came third. She sang the same two songs that she had sung in Elgin and was again accompanied by Heather Runcie. To come third was considered quite an achievement as she was competing against experienced singers most of whom had won many medals and this was only her first attempt.

The Craigmint Bridge - A court action is to be raised by Moray District Council over the closure of the Craigmint Bridge by the land owner who after taking advice from a firm of structural engineers declared the bridge to be unsafe. The landowner, who

lives in Letterfourie House, had a barbed wire entanglement put across the roadway leading to the bridge thus inhibiting access.

The Rovers lose last game of season 1993/94. This was in the semi final of the Gordon Williamson Cup against Kinloss who won by five goals to one.

The Rovers' team was – Brindle, Stuart, Christie, Innes, Forbes, Campbell, Duthie (B. Geddes), P. Geddes (Slater), Johnston, Smith and Gault.

Old school photograph - A photograph on page 14 shows Mrs Reaper's class of 1921 at Buckie Public School. All 46, repeat 46, pupils are named. Did she keep a collie to help control them all?

Advert - McLean's Coach and Garage Services - West End Garage, Arradoul – open 7 days.

Another 'Drifter' donation - The family of John Duncan Construction, Homes and Gardens shop etc., etc., gave a donation of £1,000 to the 'Drifter'.

June 14

Buckie High extension - Approval has been given for an extension to the science block at Buckie Community High School. The contractor is to be Gordon Forbes (Elgin) Ltd.

Cargoes in and out at Buckie Harbour - A cargo of 1.5000.52 tonnes of wheat was exported to Derry in Northern Ireland. A cargo of malting barley weighing 601.94 tonnes came in from Kings Lynn while 473.46 tonnes of the same commodity was exported to Hamburg.

Buckie Rovers held their annual 'do' - A photo shows all those who received awards - The Players Player of the Year was Gary Johnston (Keith); Young Player of the Year was Jason Gault (Elgin); Committee Player of the Year was Jim Pirie (Portknockie), Alan Forbes won the 'Miss of the Season' award while the Newlands Shield awarded to the person or persons who it was felt had done the most for the Rovers over the past year. This year it was awarded to four ladies – Chrissie Sinclair, Froya Rossvoll, Teresa Innes and Kris Hamilton. Brian Murdoch (Keith) and Keith Sinclair received awards for 25 years association with junior football.

Congratulations to the 'Drifter' on its opening - A number of local firms had adverts in this edition offering congratulations on the opening of the Buckie Drifter Maritime Heritage Centre.

Guest speaker at the Rotary Club - The speaker was former Rotarian Peter Bruce who recalled his experiences of 'D' Day, 6th June 1944 and the days immediately after. A member of the Medical Corps he landed on the beach of Normandy the following day. He related some of his experiences from that point on until the war ended in May the following year at Bremmerhaven, Germany. .

June 21

The Buckie 'Drifter' is open. "An exciting, significant and unique attraction, a tremendous amenity for Moray District and a platform for tourism development in the Buckie area" This is how Councillor Tom Howe, chairman of the Buckie Drifter Trust, sees the Buckie Drifter Heritage Centre, which was opened a few minutes after 11.30am on Thursday 16 June by Magnus Magnusson chairman of the Scottish Natural Heritage. Prior to Mr Magnusson turning the key and opening the centre it was blessed and dedicated by Rev Eric Foggitt, minister of Buckie South and West Church while Peter Bruce chairman of Buckie District Fishing Heritage Society presented Tom Howe with a painting of a drifter for display in the Centre. The painting by Peter himself depicts the boat shown in the 'Drifter' publicity material. **See page 1 and page 8.**

Death of former provost of Buckie - The death took place in Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin on Friday of Edward Falconer Douglas, known to all as 'Eddie' a former provost of the burgh. He was 86.

Planning application has been made to build a new house on land adjacent to Marula Lodge, St Helena Brae. (Built for, and largely by David Campbell, mason, himself) A. F. Did all the taping work throughout? The house was up for sale in February 2006.)

Rathven Kirk Praise Service - The celebration Praise Service in Rathven Parish Church on Sunday June 26 will herald the beginning of the celebrations of the church's 200th anniversary. Choirs from other churches in the area have been invited to take part.

A photograph shows Rev Rosemary Gomez, minister of Rathven and Enzie parishes standing beside a stained glass window in Rathven Church dedicated to Wm. Geddes and installed in 1908. There are five such windows in the church dedicated to memory of former parishioners.

A brief history of the church is to be found on page 5.

Buckie Rovers' annual general meeting. This was held in the Town House where reports on the season just completed were given by the president Sonny Johnston and joint managers, Graeme Tallis and Dennis Clark. On the absence of Treasurer Mrs Chrissie Sinclair, Dennis Clark went over what was a very clear and concise set of accounts. He said how it had cost the club £11, 000.32 to put a team on the park during the past season. A sum of this magnitude, he said, had to be earned and required a lot of effort from all those connected with the club.

Office bearers appointed for season 1994/95. President- Sonny Johnston; vice president- Mike Matthews; secretary – vacant; treasurer- vacant; team managers – Graeme Tallis and Dennis Clark; coach/trainer Spencer Lyon. Committee Gary Innes and Ed Collie.

Keith and Chrissie Sinclair had both voiced their willingness to carry on as secretary and treasurer respectively if that was agreed by those present. With no other nominations it was agreed to co-opt both at the first meeting of the new session.

A notable absentee from the Rovers committee was Allan Fraser who had been elected secretary at the previous AGM. He had resigned in mid season on a matter of principal over the arrangements to open the pavilion. He was present, however, at the meeting and wrote the report.

June 28

Acts of vandalism continue - Vandals went on the rampage in Buckie over the weekend causing damage to residential property throughout the town. A total of 8 houses had their windows smashed along with five cars and a telephone box in a spate of destruction.

Lifeboat Gala was a success - Despite opposition from a number of other events taking place in the local area on Saturday, and a dull start to the day, the annual Buckie Lifeboat Gala was a great success and very well attended.

Three small fishing boats, 'Fisher Lad', 'Beryl' and 'King' took people on a trip around the Mucks. This an innovation this year proved extremely popular with continuous queues all day.

Obituary to the late Edward F. Douglas is found on page 3.

Advert – Murray Anderson, Electrical Contractor- 01542 – 835

Gordonsburgh shop changes hands - Sheila's General Store, Gordonsburgh. Has changed hands and Sally would like to thank all customers over the past few years for their custom and wish new own owners Libby and Gill every success.

Harbour Guides - The 'Drifter' is advertising for paid guides to do the Harbour Tours. Ideally the manager is looking for people who can talk about fish and fishing, to speak with a local tongue and have a cheerful disposition.

The 'Drifter' has already had several school parties pay a visit - two came from Keith, one from Banff, two from Elgin, one from Cullen. In addition two disabled groups were entertained, one from Keith and one from Banchory.

July 5

Jones Shipyard welcome order of new boat - Jones are to build a 24 metre steel fishing boat for the partnership of James Thain, Philip Buchan of Peterhead and P & J Johnston of Aberdeen .

Gordon Highlanders get Freedom of Moray - The Gordon Highlanders marched through the crowded streets of Keith with bayonets fixed after they were awarded the Freedom of Moray by the convener of Moray District Council Edward Aldridge at an impressive ceremony held in the Seafield Park. This could, however, be the last ceremony in which the Gordons take part as they are due to be amalgamated with the Queens Own Highlanders later this year.

Advert – Bargain Box, 36 East Church Street has a large selection of clothing for Ladies, Gents and Youths in stock.

Advert - 'Kids Stuff '5a Cluny Square (above the TSB) Toys of all kinds for outdoors and cuddly toys for inside.

Round Table Gala - This was held in the Victoria Park. The weather was fine and there was a healthy crowd with the sum of £2150 being realised.

Bill ends his last trek - Bill Forbes 'The Lightning Barber' and intrepid African explorer died at the age of 84. He was taken ill with a bug when last in Africa and had not enjoyed the best of health since returning prematurely from his tenth and last safari about Christmas time last year.

Bill had two quotes that he was fond of repeating - 'Africa, relentless, fascinating, merciless, in laying bare the weakness and strength of man.'

'Those who have drunk the waters of Africa must need return after many days to quench their thirst.'

Former Police Inspector dies - Frank Anderson, a native of Mulben (like myself) where he served his time as a joiner, retired from the Police as Inspector at Buckie in 1978 died last week at the age of 81.

On retiring from the Police he became, perhaps naturally, a traveller for Riddoch of Rothiemay, the Wood Merchants. Later he was to become an SNP councillor with Moray District Council and played a major part in having the Pot O' Linn, a dangerous pool of water, filled in and grassed over. He was largely responsible for the rebirth of Buckie and District Flower Show, which had been in abeyance for many years. He was himself a good and keen gardener.

His wife died a number of years before and he is survived by his son Raymond an Executive with the Rover Car organisation.

I knew Frank fairly well through the Rifle Club and Flower Show and found him to be a very nice, quiet and most unassuming man. - A. F.

For Wembley Horse Show - Cammie Hendry and his daughter Colleen of Rathburn Farm, Brankumleys have both qualified for this year's horse show at Wembley, London. Colleen now 17 and a pupil at Buckie Community High School and who hopes to go to college to do Business Studies, has qualified for Wembley each year since she was 13.

Jessaline gains a long service award. - Mrs Jessaline Clark, Merson Street, Buckpool received a long service award, as a member of Arradoul Rural for forty years, and a certificate from Charlotte Forbes, President and Chairman of the Banffshire Federation.

July 12 **Bureaucracy goes mad so read the headline.** The powerful hands of the E. U Commissioners bearing down on the UK government reach even the most intimate parts of our lives. This was brought home with a vengeance to Cullen Street cleaner Steve Findlay when he was confronted with a Moray District Council official ordering him to either obtain a licence for the pet cemetery in Cullen or dismantle it. (The

licence was to cost around £60.) When this became known Steve was flooded with messages of support from people in Cullen and further afield. What harm could there be in burying pets in a plot of rough ground otherwise unused? **There is more to the story on page 1.**

Rotary Club of Buckie - The new president is Alex Fowler who took over from Dennis Scott.

She returned after fifty years - A Norwegian visitor to Buckie last week had not been in Scotland since she left Buckie in 1946 and the age of 7. Aase Hansen has been staying with Charlotte McIntosh at 40 Cameron Drive. Her father Magna Hansen lodged with Charlotte's mother Maggie McKenzie in Findlater Street for four and a half years during World War II while working at the Norwegian shipyard in the town and the families had kept in touch.

Retiral sale - Peter Slater, Gents Outfitter, 65 West Church Street, is to retire. Suits, jackets and trousers all at ½ prices with 25% off all regular stock.

Advert – Versatile Windows Co. Ltd. Deskford, urgently require time served joiners or experienced window installers. Apply to Colin Miller.

Ziggy's Night Club, Commercial Road now under new management. John, Billy and Barbara would like to welcome customers old and new.

Dux of Buckie High School - The Dux of Buckie Community High School is John Legge, son of Charles and Teresa. In addition to the Miller medal he also won the John Stephen Memorial Prize for Maths. This was handed over by Mr Ian Stephen son of Mr John Stephen who taught Maths at Buckie High for many years.

The Winners of the Fishing Heritage Shields - David Wood and Marianne Thain, pupils at Buckie Community High School, two pupils following a history course, were this year's winners of the Fishing Heritage Shields.

Latest sponsor of the 'Drifter' - Inchgower Distillery gave the sum of £300 to be used to purchase display boards for the stairs telling the Buckie story. They also gave a number of barrels.

MDC official to be reinstated - Peter Aitken, director of leisure and libraries is to be reinstated in his post following a period of suspension while allegations into mismanagement are investigated. He has, however, been given a final written warning, this being recorded on his file.

Parklands Nursing Home - This edition of the 'Advertiser' carries an article written about Parklands Private Nursing Home, built on the High Street on the outskirts of Buckie, which is to be open to residents for the first time on Monday July 18. The matron/manager is Mary Patrick, who has worked in South Africa for the past sixteen

years in an environment similar to Parklands. She has a degree in Psychology and Archaeology.

July 19 **Yacht Rally** - The Round Britain Yacht Rally came to Buckie for the second time and for the second time the day of arrival was calm so none of the day-time arrivals on Thursday arrived under sail.

Kenfresh owner dies – The death has occurred after a long illness of Kenneth McKenzie Smith, Cruachan, St Peter's Road, Buckpool, who was the proprietor of Kenfresh, fish processing and retailing business on Low Street. He was 53. He was skipper of the fishing boat 'Atomic Star' previously sailing as mate on the 'Anina', both boats being owned by Leon Arens. He bought the 'Shalimar' and renamed her 'Jacqueline' after his daughter; unfortunately this was lost in 1982 although all the crew were saved.

July 26 **Peter Fair – It remained dry.** The reporter of the day told the old story of how it had been in days gone by when it was first a market selling sheep, cattle, later horses and all kinds of things and when men women and boys were signed up for the harvest ending with a fair. Now, as was said, it is all about amusements – the bigger the better though the old fashioned dodgems were said to be still popular.

Assistant rector retires - Alisdair Gray retired after 12 years at Buckie High School.

Venture Scouts – A Venture Scout unit has been established in Buckie on a permanent basis after a three month trial period.

The Venture Scout leader is Ken Matthews with Shaun Scott as his assistant. There are at present a dozen members who have a whole programme already mapped out.

Church minister leaves - American Dale Winters minister of the Church of Christ on West Church Street for 11 years leaves Buckie today for Canada where he is to undertake a year's study after which he is to take up a post in Germany.

Advert - The Quaich, Fochabers, a small restaurant. This became a popular place with Isobel and me from around 2003 onwards for our Sunday lunch.

Player of the Year - A photograph shows Michael Munro of Buckpool who keeps goal for Deveronside Junior Football Club, Banff and who was voted their Player of the Year. He was formerly with Buckie Rovers.

Aug 2 **Stock Clearance Sale** - Bill and Eleanor of Hunter and Pirie, the Electrical shop on East Church are to retire.

Lifeboat station – The new lifeboat station which was promised to Buckie three years ago should be ready for use in February of next year. Work started yesterday on demolishing the present asbestos shed in readiness for the brand new building which will occupy the same site.

The new building of two storeys in height will contain a crew room, office, assembly room, workshop, toilets, and showers. It was initially estimated to cost £170,000 but undoubtedly this will increase.

Buckie Bourach - The Town House hall was packed for an event unique in the annals of Buckie - a Buckie Bourach - music, song, story –telling, poetry and dance.

The show was put together by 20 local people including Isabel Harrison who wrote a poem especially for the Bourach as did George Herd, Findochty.

The evening ended with a splendid new version of the hymn ‘Let the Lower Lights be Burning’.

Football - In a friendly match before the opening of the new season Buckie Thistle beat Aberdeen Lads Club, a junior outfit, by six goals to nil.

The Thistle team was Innes, Girling, Bruce, Mathieson, Mann, I. McPherson, Ord (J. Matheson), Sutherland, Robertson and Gibson.

Aug 9 **Dolphins in the Moray Firth** - The number of sightings of dolphins in the Moray Firth have been greater than last year at this time, according to the Friends of Moray Firth Dolphins.

Norwegian couple pay a visit - A Norwegian couple who spent time in Buckie during the Second World War are over here for the first time since 1946.

Svere and Astaug Silden are staying with Ulaf and Jeannie Huldal at 5 Samson Avenue. It is the first time that the two men had met since they saw each other briefly on the Normandy beaches during the ‘D’ Day landings.

Highland League Elgin City 3 Buckie Thistle 0 The Jags were brought down to earth in their first ‘real’ game of the season after scoring six goals against the Lads Club and five against Forres Thistle in two friendlies.

Two ‘famous’ ‘Cullen’ men - Filomena Selbie a native of Cullen though now staying in Inverness tells the story on **page 13** of ‘Charlie the Hermit’ and also Tony Hetherington the man who built the ‘Giant Steps’ between the harbour at Cullen and Sunnyside . He spent 400 hours of dangerous work manhandling huge boulders into position.

Parklands Nursing Home, High Street, Buckie, was officially opened on Wednesday by Councillor Eddie Aldridge, Convener of Moray District Council.

Thistle’s new captures - Mark Girling, ex Huntly; Jason Begg, ex Forres; Colin Henderson, ex Rothies.

Junior Football - Buckie Rovers 1 Bishopmill United 1. The Rovers had a number of new faces in their line-up. John Riddoch, ex Buckpool Victoria, Derek Burnett and Paul Gordon ex Banff Rovers; Jack Wright an Englishman who had moved into the area;

Davie Gordon from Keith who was with the Rovers on a previous occasion and Murray Laing also from Buckpool Victoria.

Jason Gault, formerly with the Rovers was in the Bish side.

Aug 23

Bert has ‘green fingers ‘ Bert Dawson Land Street, Buckpool won the Baldwin Memorial Cup for most points at Deskford Show for the 20th time. Jessie Reid, Arradoul took the Rosebowl awarded to the lady exhibitor with most points.

Minister to leave Buckie - Rev James Thomson, the outspoken minister of All Saints Church in Buckie and St John the Baptist Church in Portsoy is to retire and leave Buckie. He will be remembered for his services for animals and also as the writer of books against vivisection

Portgordon man is now a doctor - Rodney Farquhar, youngest son of Jack and Janet Farquhar, 28 Crown Street, Portgordon has gained a PhD in Petroleum Engineering at Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh. Rodney is a former pupil of Portgordon Primary School and Buckie High; he had already graduated from Strathclyde University with a BSc (Hons.)

Junior football - Portgordon 0 Buckie Rovers 2 (L) Portgordon United had no less than seven former Rovers’ players in their side, namely – Brindle, Campbell, Morrison, Slater, Nicol, Lappin and McGettrick.

Aug 30

Buckie and District Flower Show - there were 800 entries. The joint winners of the Taylor Trophy awarded to the exhibitor gaining most points were Jeff Duguid, Portgordon and Bob Jack, Forres.

New minister at All Saints - Rev Jeremy Paisley, formerly a solicitor in Aberdeen, is to be the minister of All Saints Episcopal Church in Buckie, replacing Rev. James Thomson.

Sept 6

Jones Buckie Shipyard’s new boat - On Saturday Linda the wife of the skipper Robert Mitchell performed the naming ceremony on Jones Buckie Shipyard of the fishing boat ‘Mizpah’ and it only awaits a suitable high tide to allow her to take the water.

The hull of the ‘Mizpah’ was built in Norway for a party who had intended to have a boat built but this fell through and it ended up in Sweden where it was found by Robert Mitchell, Macduff and partners who had it towed across the North Sea to Buckie to Jones, Shipyard where it has been completed.

The ‘Mizpah’ is 27 metres in length, 8 metres in breadth and 4.9metres in depth. Its four bladed propellers are driven by a Deutz TBD 620V8 diesel engine designed for 1.244hp at 1.500rpm. She can carry 54,000litres of fuel oil, 1.000 litres of lubricating oil and 8000 litres of drinking water.

The name ‘Mizpah’ comes from the Old Testament in the Bible and means ‘May the Lord watch over us when we are apart’ Robert as a young fisherman was a member of

the crew when his father's boat sank and he was one of six rescued by an Aberdeen trawler.

The Fochabers by-pass - A firm of consultants have been engaged to do a feasibility study of alternative routes, north and south of the village. Most local residents appear to prefer the north route though there is a strong lobby for the south route which would not do anything to spoil access to the area around the lake etc.

Sue Ryder shop opened in Buckie in 1990. This was mentioned when the woman who had been manager since it opened, Mrs Sandra Lee resigned as she and her husband Harry were moving back down south nearer their family. Harry an ex professional football goalkeeper was heavily involved with football in the area since arriving in the area some years before at Welfare League level and with Buckie Thistle Youths. They lived on Main Street

Portgordon United 5 RAF Lossiemouth 2 (L) Stevie Mackie, ex Rovers scored after only three minutes of play, latching on to a through ball from 'Pecos' Mackay.

Look Back to the Past - This was compiled in this issue by Mike Goddard of the Buckie Training Centre.

Sept 13

Water, water everywhere! The worst thunderstorm for many years hit the Buckie area on Thursday when it teemed down with rain for two hours leading to flooding in different parts of the town, notably High Street, Ianstown and Buckpool. The Golf Clubhouse at Buckpool was flooded as was the shop on Rathburn Street, Ianstown. The Clubhouse appears always to be vulnerable to flooding whenever there is really heavy rain, the water sweeping in off the adjacent roadway.

Buckie painter's work will be on display - The work of a Buckie decorator will be displayed for all to admire for many years to come at a prominent site in Banff when the replica of the Mercat Cross is completed on the Plainstones.

Tom Hillocks, whose father started the painter and decorator's business in Buckie in 1926 was commissioned to tincture the capital and cross which has been constructed as true to the original as possible. Tom has recently completed work for Historic Scotland on panels at Gordonstoun School and on ceilings at Duff House during its current restoration. **A full report on the project is given on page 3 together with photographs.**

Look Back to the Past - Matt Short was once more the compiler of the article in this issue writing under the heading of Buckie District Fishing Heritage Society.

Sept 20

Oh if only they could flush it awa' Portgordon residents complain of the obnoxious smell coming wafting towards them off the beach. They blame raw the problem on raw sewage coming back on shore from the sewer pipes. Moray District Council officials describe it as natural phenomena.

Birth of a new regiment – The Highlanders - On Wednesday Telford's Bridge over the Spey at Craigellachie formed the backdrop for the final meeting of the Gordon Highlanders and the Queen's Own Highlanders (The latter an amalgamation of the Cameron Highlanders and the Seaforth Highlanders that took place at an earlier time.) when the regiments paraded for the last time on their traditional recruiting grounds before meeting at the 'border'.

The two regiments joined to form The Highlanders. **A report of the occasion together with photographs is given on page 3.**

Now open - AGL's unisex hairdressing salon at 31 West Church Street formerly Peta Hair Fashion.

Planning application to erect a Tyre Service Station/MOT Test Station/ Tyre storage and car wash at McLaren's Brae. (For Joe West.)

Sept 27

Judo Club disbanded - The Portknockie Club which had 51 youngsters in membership became 'homeless' after Grampian Regional Council removed their meeting place a Horsa hut which stood in the playground of Portknockie Primary School is no more. The hut had been their home for a number of years. It was claimed that the space was needed for car parking and also that the hut had reached such a state that it was dangerous.

Cullen pet cemetery - The powers that be have decided that the pet's cemetery located on a waste piece of ground to the east of Cullen harbour needs a licence and planning permission if it is to continue to be used as a memorial burying place for the deceased animal friends of local people. That is the decision of Moray District Council conveyed in a letter to Steve Findlay who has been interring pets with simple memorial stones to mark their graves on a small hillock near the foreshore for the past couple of years.

The cost of a licence is currently £200. Mr Findlay is determined to carry on the work and he has received a lot of support from the people of Cullen. Mary Jannetta of the Paper Shop on the Square and Bill Shepherd of the Grant Arms are organising a scheme to which those who support Steve can donate money towards the cost of the licence.

The Buckie 'Drifter' help for the blind - Liz Ritchie, manager of the Buckie Drifter Heritage Centre, has introduced a measure to help visually impaired people. This is a tape which has been made by a disabled group in England and which she hopes will make it easier for those with this disability to access information.

The 'Drifter' receives a donation - This is a large framed photograph of the fishing boat 'Handsome' BCK 1 that was built at Kingstown at the mouth of the Spey. A historical account of the boat was also given by the Murray family.

Oct 4

To play for Scotland - Local boy Mark Slater, High Street, has been chosen to play for the Scotland U16 football team to play Israel. He is the only player from the north of Scotland to be picked. Mark has already played for Scotland, at his age group, against Falkirk Youth side when they won by five goals to two.

One in 50,000. Graham Lappin, a young mason with Wm. Douglas and Sons, Builders, Buckie is now the proud owner of a Mazda 121 SLX 1000, his raffle ticket being picked out of 50,000 others. Graham bought five £1 tickets from his mother Margaret who was selling the tickets on behalf of the Highland Hospice.

Oct 11 **in the 'Scottish'** - Buckie Thistle qualified for the Scottish Cup after a long absence when two goals scored by Ronnie Smith were enough to beat Brora Rangers and take the Jags into the semi-final of the Qualifying Cup and book a place in the national competition.

Thistle Exhibition - An exhibition of Buckie Thistle memorabilia from 1903 till 1980 will be on show in the Buckie library from the 13 till 28 of October. The exhibition has been arranged by Easton Thain, Thistle historian and programme editor. The material has been loaned by former players and supporters and should recall memories to all those with an interest in the 'Green and Whites'.

Oct 18 **Banffshire Churches,** the title of a new book by Donald Findlay of Banffshire Field Club costing £2.50, is reviewed by Brian Wilkinson.

Down at fence number one - It was a quick ending to the aspirations of both Buckie Rovers and Portgordon United in the first round of the OVD Scottish Junior Cup. Lochgelly beat the Rovers by two goals to nil while Portgordon at home to Hall Russell's went out by five clear goals.

Of interest - Hall Russell's had five subs on the bench, the first time this had been seen with three of the subs playing a part in the game. Portgordon had only two. The report of the game was penned by A. L. Nath.

Keith Sinclair and Teresa Innes wrote up the report on the Rovers' match. Keith doing the first half and Teresa the second as **Keith played the whole of the second half** after taking over from the injured Johnston.

Oct 25 **'The Salt Wound' a play** - The 7.84 Theatre Group Scotland are to put on a performance of the play, 'The Salt Wound' in the Fishermen's Hall. This is a modern tragedy set in a small fishing community that sees a family torn apart by their different attitudes to the sea. It is full of mythical resonances. An incisive exposition of the conflict between industry and society – the story of a woman who challenges the traditions and politics of a small community.

Shrimp fishing - A Danish boat was among the fishing boats that landed shrimps at Buckie last week as Moray Seafoods started a shrimp line. It is expected that up to six other Danish boats will arrive within the next week or so.

Blood donor honoured - Peter Slater the well known local tailor and outfitter was presented with a Caithness paper weight by Aberdeen District Council at a ceremony in Aberdeen. This was in recognition of giving 75 pints of blood at donor session in

Buckie over the years. Since the presentation Peter has given a further pint of blood and is on his way to make the century.

The guest speaker at the even a consultant vascular surgeon at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary had praise for all blood donors and especially those present who had given so much.

Boats to be scrapped - It was reported that 18 Grampian –based boats have been accepted for decommissioning in this second year of the scheme and will be scrapped. All together 158 UK boats will share the £8.9 million given to owners this time round.

New name for shop - As from Tuesday 1st November Erskine's Ironmongers on East Church Street incorporating Post Office Counters will trade under the name of The Trading Post.

Buckie Cricket Club - ended the 1994 season on a high note winning the Macallan North of Scotland League Championship for the second consecutive year and the Bank of Scotland Knock Out Cup for the third time in a row.

Wicket keeper Bill Flett won the League's David Main Trophy for his prowess behind the stumps and Johnny Corsie holds the D. A. McArthur Trophy for Man of the Match in the Knock Out final

Nov 1

Grampian Regional Council - Councillor Gordon McDonald an officer with HM Customs and Excise has been given 6 months leave of absence as he fits in to his new position as Convener of Grampian Regional Council

The end of the road - Peter Slater, Gent's Outfitter and Tailor, 65 West Church Street is to retire with his shop set to close this Saturday. Peter tried to sell the business as a going concern but there were no takers. **A report on Peter's working life is given on page five.** He started his working life in Hepworth's Gents Tailors on East Church Street, with Willie Scorgie as manager, before going to Edinburgh for a ten year spell then returning to Buckie to take over as manager of Hepworth's before starting on his own account.

Rover's big score - Buckie Rovers beat RAF Lossiemouth by nine clear goals at the RAF station. A. L. Nath in his report said that it was the biggest score for the Rovers that he had ever witnessed although he had seen this number going against the Rovers in a best forgotten game against Deveronside at Buckie.

A crowded dance hall - A photograph said to be taken in the early 1950's at a Saturday night dance in the Fishermen's Hall shows all the lads apart from two girls crowded at the 'men's end' of the hall.

An answer to the smell - Decaying seaweed is the principal cause of the obnoxious odours emanating from the sea at Portgordon although localised deposits of sewage were visible in the same area. This was the conclusion arrived at by Aberdeen University following an investigation made by a team from there on September 7th.

Planning application - Grampian Country Pork factory have made application to erect a loading bay extension and also a gate house.

The Buckie 'Drifter' At the close of the first season of Buckie Drifter Maritime Heritage Centre the staff made a presentation to Doreen Cass, 38 Linn Crescent, Buckie for the amount of volunteer work she had put in since it opened. The manager Liz Ritchie has hopes that more guides like Doreen will volunteer their services when the Centre re-opens next year.

Poem titled 'Time to Remember, written by David Grant is found on page 8 and column 6. It is dedicated those who did not return from the war.

Letter from Canada - Another letter from Mrs Anne Mary Stewart now Reid, Ontario, Canada is also found on page 8. She always recalls things from her childhood growing up in Portgordon. This is a short one.

He scored on his debut - The Rovers had Mark Pennie of Forres in their side against Strathspey Thistle at Grantown and marked his debut with a goal in a 1-3 win.

New book entitled Moray Firth Ships and Trade by Ian Hustwick costing £12.95 is reviewed by Peter Bruce. The book tells about shipbuilding at the mouth of the Spey before going on to give a historical report of three of the larger ships that were built.

A successful Quiz Evening - Allan Fraser, secretary of the Friends of Seafield Hospital wrote a report on a Quiz Evening which proved to be very successful. (Now very popular but this would appear to have been the first to be held in Buckie.)

Look Back to the Past - Matt Shortt is now the regular compiler of the *Look Back to the Past* articles with the appendage of the Heritage Society now dispensed with.

From the High School Notes - The 7.84 Theatre Group delivered a catch of culture to the Fishermen's Hall on Wednesday 2 November. The 'Salt Wound' was a powerful and emotional play about the hardships of a fishing family divided by their love and hate of the sea. The play was particularly relevant to our community and the conflicting emotions of the family members were excellently portrayed by the actors.

Last chapter - Spike wrote finish to his serial 'Peter **Rawn Sails Again**' after 26 chapters in this edition of the B. A.

Nov 15

First Chapter - Spike began a new serial this week with the title – '**Black Booie's Treasure**'.

A cairn or plaque - John Murray, 12 Wallace Avenue a former member of the Gordon Highlanders has suggested that a cairn or a plaque should be erected at the old bridge over the River Spey at Craigellachie to commemorate the occasion of the amalgamation

of the two regiments the Gordon Highlanders and the Queen's Own Highlanders earlier this year to form the new regiment – The Highlanders.

They had their picture taken - A good clear photograph on page 19 shows women packing barrels of herring. The owner of the photograph, a Cullen man, asks if anyone can say where the photograph was taken and name some of the people shown.

Nov 22

Buckie Community Council - After a lapse of over 12 months Buckie has once again a functioning community council. The only four members who put forward their names last year - Allan Fraser, Derek Horrobin, Alexander 'Sandy' Stewart and James Smith and who were councillors the last time round are again to the fore being joined by James Cannell, Zafar Ali, Morag Smith, Kevin McKay and Roy Shepherd. A total of nine members for 12 seats. .

I'm leaving – Liz Ritchie, manager of the Buckie Drifter Maritime Heritage Centre tendered her resignation much to the amazement of Councillor Tom Howe of Moray District Council Chairman of the Trust with responsibility for the Centre. Ms Ritchie, a Glaswegian, had already left Buckie and returned home.

In her letter of resignation she said that now that the Centre was up and running, with 10,000 visitors passing through the doors, she felt that it was time to move on to new challenges. Since the Centre was closed for the winter she felt it was the best time to go and give the Trust time to find a replacement.

Most of the artefacts to be found in the 'Drifter' were the result of Liz's searching around and appealing for the items she wanted to make the exhibitions truly representative of the era of the steam drifter.

One of the last duties performed by Ms Ritchie as manager was to accept a donation of £4,400 from Mr Bill Cowie of the Bank of Scotland. The donation will buy two 'Walkman' cassettes and 20 units to take visitors on unaccompanied tours through the Centre and lifeboat, one for visually impaired people and one for children.

We ken fa they a' were and far the picter Wis teen- Maggie Barrie and Peggy Murray were able to name all the women seen packing barrels of herring in a photograph the previous week, the location of the fishcuring premises and the two men also seen.

The premises were those of the Association Fish Curers which was located on Commercial Road next to Barclays, Slaters and Plumbers. The two men were George 'Dod' Reid, foreman and Walter 'Wattie' Taylor, cooper.

One of the women by the name of Flett had the 'T' name 'Surge'

Nov 29

A new Surgery is wanted - The local doctors opt for a new purpose built surgery, with a site at Highfield Road being favoured.

Accident leads to death of young Buckie man - Ian Mavor an engineering draughtsman with A. Forsyth and Son of Rothes died in the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow 11 days after receiving serious injuries when he fell down a stair at a Paper Works in Irvine, Ayrshire where the firm was doing work.

Ian was the son of John and Christine Mavor, 10 Anton Street Buckpool and served his time as an engineer with Hamilton Brothers in Buckie. A married man he lived with his wife Donna in Craigellachie.

And on Sunday now too - From December 1 people in Scotland will be allowed to buy alcoholic drinks and take them home on Sundays between the hours of 12.30 and 10pm and bring Scotland into line with England and Wales.

Buckie's 'new' library The official opening of Buckie's 'new' library was performed last Tuesday evening by Councillor Margaret Davidson vice chairman of the Council's Leisure and Libraries Committee. The building has been refurbished with a selection of Peter Anson's pictures on display together with a model of the artist/author sitting at his desk.

Dec 6

Buckie Community Council - Morag Smith who had put herself forward for the community council resigned before the first meeting took place. Perhaps she had second thoughts after realising she was to be the only female member.

There was tie for the position of chairman between Roy Shepherd and Derek Horrobin with the latter being appointed on the toss of a coin by Alistair Fanning of Moray District Council who opened the meeting. Vice chairman- James Cannell; secretary/treasurer – Allan Fraser, after it was agreed that this should be a dual position.

Roy Shepherd proposed that a donation of £350 should be given to the Christmas Lights Committee. This was agreed unanimously. Mr Shepherd will represent the community council on the community Education Committee.

No mortuary at Seafield Hospital - Findochty Community Council had asked if the mortuary which once existed at the hospital might be reinstated but this was turned down by Moray Health Services.

Advert - - Mr C – Chip Bar, 20 St Paul Street, open 7 days a week.

Have you any rats? A photograph of the new Buckie Community Council appears on page 5 of this edition.

Buckie Travel Club - The speaker at their recent meeting was Eileen Smith who gave a talk on her recent visit to the USA illustrating this by a selection slides which were excellent both in detail and with vivid colours.

Another letter from Annie Stewart nee Reid in Canada is found on page 15. She tells how her daughter attending an art class was asked to explain why all her paintings had to do with the sea and fishermen. She told how this was her heritage being descended from a fishing family in Portgordon, Scotland. She was astounded when the teacher told her how she too was from Portgordon. Her name was Bessie Stronach, a sister of George Stronach GC. (In March 2006 Alex Matthews, Buckie, told me that this was his aunt but she was now dead.)

A book review - Isabel Harrison reviews - 'A Fine Toon' Stronach Vol. 3. By Norman Harper. – published by Stronach Media Ltd and priced at £7.95.

2nd Buckie Boys Brigade (attached to the Methodist Church) - A photograph shows the two sections Company and junior receiving five-a-side football strips from Jeffrey Cowie on behalf of Innes's Taxis. The leaders Anne Dalgarno and Roy Sinken were present.

Dec 13 **A better choice of site** - Ian Moir (a Maths teacher at Keith but resident in Buckie) in a letter suggested that the new doctor's surgery would be better sited at Seafield Hospital, stating that this would be likely to ensure the continuance of Seafield Hospital as a Cottage Hospital with a range of services and departments and to which specialists would continue to come to consult and not be reduced to a geriatric unit which could be sold off. (It didn't happen but much of what he predicted came to pass, as a number of consultants did stop coming to Buckie meaning that people of all ages were forced to travel to Elgin to attend such as Eye Clinics, with all the problems this was likely to incur. A. F. Looking back from 2006.)

Dec 20 **A boat launch from Jones Buckie Shipyard** - 'The fishing boat 'Crystal River' BF 32 built for Bruce Robertson, Portknockie, was launched on Thursday, December 15th. The 'Crystal River' is the second of two fishing boats constructed at the yard this year, the other being the 'Mizpah'.
Work at the yard is about to start on two orders for 24 metre boats, one for a Buckie skipper and the other for one from Peterhead.
The new 'Crystal River' has been built to replace Skipper Robertson's former boat of the same name.
She is steel hulled measuring 20.8 metres in length with a breadth of 7.5 metres and a draft of 4.2 metres. She has a displacement of 262 tonnes.
The Tunbridge Propulsion propeller is driven by a Deutz TBD 604 BL 6 engine generating 866hp at 1.800 rpm.
For auxiliary power the 'Crystal River' has two Gardner DT 250's each of 200Kw in parallel.

Councillor not to seek re-election - Councillor Longmore has decided not to seek re-election when the shadow election is held in April and will finish when the Moray District Council comes to an end. He has stated that he has a business to attend to and feels that he can't do justice to both. Another reason, however, might be that since he and Gordon McDonald are both SNP supporters this would leave the field open for him.

Rovers lose to Deveronside AGAIN - As far as A. L. Nath was concerned the Banff team continued to be the Rovers bogey team. The score was 2-1 for the 'Side'. The Rovers had two new faces in their line up – John Strachan from Forres and Stuart Donald from Dufftown. (The latter, a fireman in Elgin, was in the Bishopmill side that beat the Rovers at Merson in a league game in March 2006.)

Dec 27 **High Rank for Buckie Freemason** - Buckie man Bill Legge, a retired plasterer, of Lodge Gordon 589 has been appointed to the position of Provincial Grand Master of

Banffshire after many years service to the Masonic movement. The appointment was made by Lord Burton Grand Master Mason of Scotland in the Buckie Masonic Club. He joined the lodge in November 21 1962 and held the position of Master from 1969-1971 and from 1978 to 1979. As a member of the Provincial Grand Lodge he held several offices. For five years he was Director of Ceremonies for Thomas Buchan McKechnie and last year he was Provincial Senior Warden. He has also been Installing Master carrying out installations throughout Banffshire. Having taken over as Provincial Grand Master from James Davidson of St James, Macduff Lodge 653 Bill Told the 'Advertiser': "I am certainly looking forward to carrying out the duties for the next five years. "

Former Portgordon woman writes from Canada - The 'Advertiser' received an other letter from Mrs Annie Stewart in which once again she recounts some of her memories of Portgordon she knew as a child. She speaks of the 'cadger' the fish sellers who came round the streets. **This is found on page 7**

Book review - Brian Wilkinson gives an appraisal of the book entitled – 'Buckie in Old Picture Postcards' by Eric Simpson. The book was published by the European Library Zaltbommer, Netherlands and costs £9.95.

A poem is found on page 14 column 6. The title is 'The Aul Kirk (Rathven) and was written by George Findlay. A short poem but neat and interesting to read.