

1995

Jan 3 **Financial help** - Two Buckie firms have been included in a deal which sees grants given from the European Union and the UK government for food processors and associated services. They are Grampian Country Pork at Buckpool and 'Mair's Fish'. The former will be getting £347,259 towards its major extension programme, which is underway and the latter will receive £25,145 towards the modernisation of the processing plant which has recently been completed.

The last call by the stork on Christmas Day - Bethanay has the honour of being the last baby to be born on Christmas Day in Seafield Hospital before the maternity unit closes down. She is also the first baby to be born on Christmas Day at Seafield Hospital since 1986. She is seen in a photograph on the front page of the 'Advertiser' with her mum Roseleen McGowan and brothers Alexander, John and Jason. Roseleen was given a layette of baby clothes by Ms Eunice Boylan who wanted to say 'thanks' in a practical way to the staff of the maternity unit who helped her convalesce when she was a patient there.

To some it'll never be in a good place - The recent removal of the bus stop on East Church Street from outside the Bank of Scotland to outside Summerfield the chemist has been the subject of complaints. (In 2005 it was moved again some five yards further west.)

Book Review - A new book entitled 'Tales from the Dressing Room' written by Alan Duguid was reviewed by Peter Reid. It is published by Sports Event Management and costs £4.99.

Fish landings - Just the one boat landed in Buckie last week. This was the 'Cardanel' with 13 bags of clams.

The Lawtie Trust building - A photograph shows scaffolding around the property Lawtie Trust on South Deskford Street, Cullen, which is undergoing renovation.

Jan 10 **Discount store for Buckie** - Buckie could be leading the way in the north east for a European grocery discount chain which is in the process of extending its network of branches in Scotland. The site of the derelict bus garage in East Church Street has been earmarked for the store planned by LIDL (UK) GmbH, a German company with shops throughout the continent. The company began opening stores in central Scotland a few years ago and is now looking to extend into the north and north east. (A new LIDL store was to open in Elgin in 2006 while the Buckie store plans to move into the more spacious site that was formerly the Town Council burgh yard. It did and opened in 2007.)

Now a Young Leader - A photograph shows Sarah Ritchie of the 1st Buckie Guides receiving her Young Leader's Certificate from Divisional Commissioner Mrs Margaret Bruce.

Advert - 25% off all clothing at Cherula's, 33 West Church Street.

75 Years up and still going strong. - The Royal Bank of Scotland recently celebrated their 75th year of having a presence in Buckie. The bank opened in Buckie on December 17 1919

with premises at 12 East Church Street. The joint managers were Augustus Lowe and James Lorimer who were partners in a local firm of solicitors.

Two members of the bank staff were killed during WWII.

In 1959 the Royal Bank of Scotland amalgamated with the National Commercial Bank of Scotland which had an office in Buckie from 1914 till 1955.

During the 1920's the town of Buckie was in a depressed state following the withdrawal of government aid to fishermen. There was only one steam drifter built in the local area from 1919 till 1930 and many fishermen went trawling or seine netting.

The sad end of the line - Nine Buckie boats are to be scrapped under the latest round of decommissioning grants. Many familiar boat names will be missing from the 'fishing focuses' this year. One of these is the 'Dalma'. Skipper Peter Jorgensen took his 35 year old trawler to Peterhead for breaking up. She left on her last ever trip on Wednesday.

Scottish Cup - Buckie Thistle lost at home to Berwick Rangers by four goals to one in the second round of the Tennents Scottish Cup.

Jan 17 **Portknockie Judo Club** - The Judo Club that took the decision to fold after what had been their meeting place, a Horsa hut in the playground of the local primary school has been reformed with the George Mair once again as instructor. They are to meet in the general purposes room of the school. Councillor Joe Wilson said how the wheel had come full circle as the room in the school had been on offer from the start.

In cricket terms one hundred and six not out Rita Donn celebrated her **106th birthday** quietly with friends and relations, last Wednesday, in Netherha Residential Home. This has been her home for a number of years. A cake was specially baked for the occasion while she received a bouquet of flowers from Grampian Regional Council delivered by the convener Councillor Gordon McDonald.

Advert – (George) Scott Building Services – 6 Stripeside – Roughcasting, Slabbing, House Pointing, Extensions etc.

Jan 24 **Big Cats** -People for some time past, and from different parts of Britain ,have reported seeing animals of a cat type but much larger than a domestic or wild cat and last week Howard Samuel, Puttingbrae, Drybridge when travelling from Fochabers home saw a large black cat-like animal cross the A98 in front of him near the 'White Gates', around ½ a mile east of Fochabers. He described it as being a big as a panther. Other sightings of similar animals were reported from the Cullen, Deskford and Broadley localities.

Fishing boat preservation Group - A large group of people attended a second meeting in the Town House called by Joe Reid, a native of Buckie now living at Slackhead, and Ian Sutherland of Wick.

It was decided to form an organisation to be called Moray Firth and North East Scotland Traditional Fishing Boat Preservation Trust and to apply for charitable status.

The officials and committee elected was – Chairman - Joe Reid, secretary - Ian Sutherland, Treasurer J. G. Addison, and Cullen. Trustees – Peter Duncan, Peterhead, A. Slater, Portsoy and H. D. Reid, Portknockie.

Committee – Isabel Harrison, Peter Bruce and Alex Cowie all Buckie, G. A. Duncan, Peterhead, Sinclair Young, Portsoy, Alex Cowie, Portgordon, ? McPherson, Portsoy, Alan Burgess, Drybridge. And A. McLeod, Cullen.

The aim of the Trust is the preservation of a fishing boat which would be turned into a floating museum at a Moray Firth port.

The objectives of the group is to obtain a vessel or vessels for retention in original state and seaworthy condition; to supplement shore-side and heritage centres; to man the vessel or vessels with suitably qualified persons and to equip them with approved rig and fishing gear.; to ‘farm out’ vessels as required to all participating ports for regular visits, special events etc and to use vessels for educational projects.

‘Old Folks Home’ planning application has been made for the erection of ‘Extra Care Housing’ for the elderly at Linn Avenue. The complex to contain 15 flat-lets and communal facilities.

The Cullen Burn - Not only those living in close vicinity but also those who chose to cross the wooden bridge spanning the burn on their way to the beach or golf course describe what used to be a fairly picturesque scene now as nothing more than an eye-sore. Instead of the water flowing freely out to sea it has become dammed up behind a barrier of stones and debris and has formed a lagoon of stagnant water which is not only lapping the bridge but has overflowed the ground belonging to householders whose homes back on to the burn. The septic tank belonging to one home-owner claims that it is now under water.

Buckie Chamber of Commerce - The officials have been re-elected en bloc. Chairman – John Duncan, vice chairman – Stuart Scott, Secretary Alistair Farquhar minute secretary – Marie Mair, press officer – Mark Duncan. In his address the chairman was critical of the lack of support for the Christmas Lights from some members of the business fraternity.

Jan 31 **A ‘sea-view’ path** - The provision of a footpath for the benefit of visitors and locals to allow them to walk along the sea front behind Thomson’s Boatyard etc., etc., is now on the cards. The community council were told that this could be created as part of the contract underway for a seawall from Baron Street to the harbour at Marine Place.

Possible pupil reunion - Two former pupils of Enzie Public School, Mabel Thain and Ellie Wood are asking all those who were formerly pupils at the school to get in contact with them as they propose that a reunion be held in the former school building some time this year.

The new doctor’s surgery - The members of Buckie Community Council were in general opposed to the siting of the new surgery on Highfield Road and were of the opinion that a better site would be on the unfilled railway cutting. This, it was said, was far more central and accessible to more people, near buses, shops, offices and importantly chemists.

Playing at home - Violinist Diane Merson- Jones as Diane Merson was born and brought up in Buckie and will be playing in her home town on Monday Feb 6 as a member of Glasgow Viennese Swings.

She received her early music teaching from her father Stephen Merson before attending St Mary's Music School in Edinburgh and at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Feb 7 **New manager at the 'Drifter'** - A manager has been appointed to succeed Liz Ritchie at the Buckie Drifter Maritime Heritage Centre. Lucy Leith was appointed last week after being interviewed by the Drifter Trust along with two other applicants who had been short-listed for the post.

Lucy spent the first three years of her life in Portgordon before her parents moved away. She was educated at St Denis and Cramby School going on to gain an MA (Hons.) degree in the History of Art at Edinburgh University. She has a Masters Degree in Education and Psychology and is a past tutor for the Open College of Arts. Her present post is as Development Officer at the North East of Scotland Trust in Kintyre. Her husband is a native of Fordyce.

Youth Club - The Portknockie Youth Club which has been in abeyance since last Easter has been reformed. Sufficient adult volunteers have now come forward to allow the club to start up again.

Seen on the Enzie Brae - Kevin Bain, 15 Mill Crescent, Buckie saw a big black cat on the Enzie Brae early one morning while driving from Buckie to Keith. The animal was black about 30 inches long and stood 18 inches high. He said it couldn't be mistaken for a domestic cat being much bigger.

The Craigmin Bridge - The dispute over access to the Craigmin Bridge near Drybridge is to go to court.

A case is to be drafted to declare the bridge a Right of Way. If successful this will force the owner to have the bridge opened at least for pedestrians. The bridge had been closed to all for over three years with a barricade erected across it.

Open again but new use - The shop at 65 West Church previously occupied by Peter Slater, Gents Outfitter, has been opened by J & I Services trading in stationery, electrical telephones, car phones, alarms and security lights.

The Buckie Market - Formerly on Cluny Square is now at 37 West Church Street next to Cherula's clothes shop. It will reopen on Thursday 9 February with all the usual stalls.

The Buckie 'Drifter' and the audio tapes - The tapes were produced by an English firm engaged by the former manager Liz Ritchie. The accent they chose to use as authentic Buckie was that of people in Inverness.

Friends of Seafield Hospital and Community Patients - At the annual general meeting held in the hospital last week members were pleased to welcome three new people – Nan Clark, Dot Astrakhan and Jessica Hassler who joined Jean Fettes, Edith Mummery, Anne Innes, Janet

Schleuter, Sandra Duthie and Betty Smith on the committee. The following officials were returned enbloc – Chairman – Joey Bowie, Secretary Allan Fraser, treasurer- Adrian Mummery.

Duff House, Banff reopens to the public on April 26 as a outstation of the National Galleries of Scotland after undergoing conservation and restoration for the past 6 years. **A report is given on page 7.**

The Scout Post (Christmas mail) raised the sum of £2,667.10p. Mrs B. Jordan, secretary, thanked everyone who had made use of the Scout Post and said they were interested to know if anyone had any ideas how it might be improved.

Harbour Log - Last week 29 local boats and two Danish boats, the Blue Sky and Kamos landed their catches at Buckie harbour last week. The Danish boats landed 220 boxes of shrimps while the local boats put ashore 482 boxes of white fish, 335 boxes of prawns and 81 bags of scallops.

Advert – Ian Smith, car valet service.

Feb 14 **We're nae for it** - The idea of a footpath along the seawall from Marine Place to the east end of Baron Street is not welcomed at all by the owners of adjacent properties with both Lewis Paterson of Cluny Fish and Alex Thomson of Thomson Boatyard speaking out against it. Mr Paterson spoke of his premises having already been broken into and feared this more should the path be made. He said the harbour area was becoming more **like a safari park – full of white elephants.**

Scot's Language Group - At the recent meeting members were invited to read their own poetry or prose or anything they just happened to like. Isabel Harrison read 'Hairy Tatties', Grace Morrison read the last part of 'Sunset Song' chosen for its rhythm as well as language. Hazel Addison then read three of her own poems which were considered to be hilariously funny. Janella Wilson then, with tongue in cheek, read the piece 'And God Created Scotland'.

Garage and car sale room on High Street - Regency Car Sales who have had premises on Marine Place for a long time have been given the green light for their proposal.

Fifty Year's on at Dallachy - On Thursday February 9th officers of the RAF, Royal Australian Air Force, Royal New Zealand Air Force and Canadian Air Force past and present met at the Memorial at Bogmoor to commemorate their comrades who died on 'Black Friday 50 years before. On Friday February 9th 1945 ten RAF Dallachy Strike Wing aeroplanes were shot down over Forde Fjord in Norway whilst attacking German shipping. On that day alone 17 members of the Allied Air Forces stationed at Dallachy died in battle. **A report together with photographs can be found on page 5.**

Proposed Enzie School reunion - The two ladies who came up with the idea, Mabel Thain, Clochan and Ellie Wood, Slackhead, Enzie have since the proposal was first advertised received sufficient enquiries that a re-union of former pupils now looks likely to take place.

A meeting to take the project further will take place in Clochan Community Hall on February 24 when all those interested are invited to attend.

A rare cargo - A cargo of granite blocks and cobbles arrived in Buckie from Portugal last week. Some of the material will be used in the pedestrianisation of Elgin town centre, at Dalwhinnie, Stirling and Aberdeen.

Feb 21 **Round Table on T.V.** A new series of the programme 'Top Club' starts on Grampian T.V. This week the first two teams of the competition see Buckie and District Round Table in opposition to Rattray Bowling Club. The Buckie team is Bill Jaffrey, captain, Stuart Scott and Albert Phimister.

Your feet will be kept dry - Both Portknockie and Findochty Community Councils have been pushing for a long time to have paths laid alongside the road from each village to Hillhead Cemetery and they are pleased to know that this has been accepted by Grampian Regional Council with work about to begin very shortly.

Advert in rhyme - Mackie Grant who has a carpet and furniture store on Low Street wrote a few lines of doggerel this week to advertise his shop. He entitles it 'The Carpet Chant'

In support of the path - The 'Advertiser' carried two letters this week in support of the proposed path along the sea wall. Peter Slater of the Fishing Heritage Society described what visitors and others would be able to see from this vantage point, listing - the sea itself - our heritage, wildlife, birds and animals, also sea traffic. He suggested that in addition seats might be provided.

A lucky find - Jim Petrie, a slater from Lossiemouth meantime working on the roof of the former West Church which is being converted into flats by Wm. Douglas and Sons, Contractors, Buckie, found ½ a dozen slates with numbers written on them as if by the hand of Providence. At lunch time Jim went across the road to the 'Candy Box' (a sweetie shop owned by the 'Advertiser' people at the time) and entered the numbers he had found on a lottery ticket. He didn't win the jackpot as might have been imagined but was £60 better for a bit of inspiration.

Feb 28 **Carpenter now a college graduate** - Richard Peebles (39) 9 Hendry Terrace, Buckie has passed his BSc (Open) with the Open University. James a former carpenter and shipwright with Thomson's Boatyard turned to the oil industry when the shipyard closed down and has worked offshore for the past six years as a steward.

He left the school with only a few 'O' Grades which didn't include Maths which he admits he didn't understand too well but found the subject much easier with books out of the local library which encouraged him to apply to do a course with the Open University. Being offshore gave him the opportunity to study easier and it has paid off. He is to remain offshore at present but if anything comes up that he is now qualified to tackle he aims to give it a go.

Portknockie butcher signs off - Andrew Harper who has been in business in Portknockie as a butcher for the past 12 years has sold out to partners - Graeme Whyte and Dave Gordon.

Highfield Road it is - The new medical centre in Buckie to replace Benreay Surgery is to be built on Highfield Road because it is the nearest suitable site to the town centre that was available. This was the message which representatives of the Benreay Practice conveyed to the members of Buckie Community Council at their February meeting.

The path along the sea -wall at Low Street - The letters for and against were discussed at the February meeting of the community council. It was made clear that the path would only be provided as part of the other work taking place in that area – the new sea-wall and the placement of rock armoury.

For sale - ‘The Birches’ at Slackhead, Enzie, was advertised for sale at £69,500. It was bought at this time by Kevin and Pauline Fraser.

Scots Language Group - Bill Copland read ‘Aul Days and New at Fusslebrae while George Hay, Portessie sang ‘It’s Lonely at Nicht in the Bothy’’. Hazel Addison read her poem the ‘Spider’s Webb’ and Isabel Harrison ‘First Day at School’.

Mar 7 **The Heritage Society** - One of the less heralded visitor attractions in Buckie and certainly one of the most interesting is housed in the former caretaker’s cottage behind the Town House. But for members of Buckie District Fishing Heritage the cottage which has served them in the past is now giving them headaches - it is far too small.

On Friday members of the committee met with Gordon McDonald, Convener of Grampian Regional Council and councillor for the Buckie area to show him the problems they are encountering and to explore the possibility of getting financial assistance to extend the premises. **(In 2006 planning application had been submitted for this.)**

Portknockie man lost at sea - Dennis Murray, 6 Mair Street, Portknockie died in the seas off St Kilda when the fishing boat ‘Aeolus’ of which he was a member of the crew, sank after hitting rocks.

The four other members Ian Bowie, 44 Blantyre Street, Cullen, James Rhind, 232 Seatown, Cullen, Alexander Ross, 6 Victoria Street, Cullen and Findlay Ross, 4 Park Street, Portknockie, managed to get into the lifeboat before the boat went down but Dennis was swept away.

The four survivors were picked up by the Stornoway helicopter after being on the raft for nearly four hours. The body of Mr Murray was found by another boat nine hours after the ‘Aeolus’ had gone down.

Dennis played an active part in the community of Portknockie, being a member of the local community council besides taking an interest in other things.

He is survived by his wife Pearl, a son, David and two daughters, Denise and Jackie.

The Round Table - Buckie and District Round Table lost out in the competition ‘Top Club’ to Rattray Bowling club but did win £125 from the sponsors Hydro Electric which is to be given to the Meningitis Trust.

‘Ode to a Butcher’- This was the title of a piece of doggerel written by a woman who was present at the retiral ‘do’ for Andrew Harper who had been a butcher in Portknockie for the past 12 years. **See page 19**

Mar 14 **Buckie Tourist Centre** - A row broke out last week over the decision of Moray Tourist Board not to open the tourist information centres in Cullen, Buckie and Lossiemouth. The decision taken at the Board’s executive committee meeting on Tuesday brought an immediate reaction from local councillors which resulted in the plan being altered later in the week. The centres in Buckie and Cullen for which an advert for staff had already been placed will now be open for the summer.

Buckie Speaker’s Club - The officials elected for the coming session are as follows: - President – John Hall; vice president - George Campbell; secretary, Brian Wilkinson; treasurer, Sandy Sutherland; educational director, Bruce McLaren; social secretary, Michael Watt - the retiring president.

Mar 21 **No challenge** - Councillor Bill Jappy was returned unopposed in the shadow elections due to take place on April 6.

Advert - Hairdresser and Beautician – Mobile Service started – call Sally on Clochan 850???

Pastry Shop - 50 West Church Streets – New Look - Good Old Home Baking

The Moray Firth and North East of Scotland Traditional Fishing Boat Preservation Trust - The newly set up organisation has been faced with a major problem. They thought that it would be possible to obtain a fishing boat that had been commissioned for scrap which they could then work on to create a working museum, this, however, is not allowed under the laws pertaining to the de-commissioning of boats. **See page 5.**

Book review - Isabel Harrison was given the opportunity to review the book written by Allan A. Ross entitled ‘To Freedom Born’. The contents are items of poetry and prose written in Doric and published by Business like Publishing at £3.95.

Days of Yore - This edition of the ‘Advertiser’ contains two letters from Portgordon exile Annie Mary Reid, nee Stewart who lives in Scarborough, Ontario, Canada. In the first one she speaks of the views across the sea from the mouth of the Gollachy Burn or as she calls the site ‘Munro’s Briggie’ a popular meeting place for young folk in days gone by. In the second one she speaks of the various cairts that used to come round the village selling their wares

SNP officials appointed – Convener – Kevin McKay; vice convener, Bill Jappy; secretary, Ian Hamilton; treasurer, Margaret Manson; organiser and membership secretary, Gordon McDonald; press officer, Hugh Munro; committee – Tom Prescott, Roy Shepherd and David McKay.

Mar 28 **Am selling nae mair breed** - John Reid, Bread-van man, has retired. He had been a van driver since 1948 starting first with Tom Paterson, Grocer, High Street and continuing through until

1964. He worked then with some other stores until deciding in 1980 to start on his own account as a bread van man buying his bread and cakes from Forrest, Bakers. He has now reached the age of 77 and due to ill health has been forced to give it up.

He received an engraved watch from Gladys Forest, a barometer from family and staff, while his wife received a floral arrangement. John said that he was more than delighted with the all that he had received as he hadn't been an employee.

Buckie Language Group - Four pupils from Buckie Community High School were present at the recent meeting of Buckie Language Group, each of whom had won awards for the poems they had written in a Grampian Regional Schools competition.

Karen O'Mahoney read 'The Night of the Storm'; Neil Campbell' The Furry Splob; Darren McKay 'Jekyll and Hyde Monologue; Susan Paterson 'Ma Thistle'

Susan's poem is given below –

Fit's a Thistle?

Purple and Green

A unique tartan

O' sun and field

O' bird an' loch

O' shine an' steel

O' bleed an' war

O' History!

Triumph, a Thistle? Ye may ask!

It's spurtin' oot wi' pride a' o'er

A've bin a o'wer the place!

A've seen muckle gulls an' the hairst!

A've hid ma days, gweed an' scunnert!

An' a've learnt the hard wye!

A ken ma elders weel enough!

An' there's nithin a like mair

Than tae bla'

A come fae a toon ca'ed Buckie!

A jine in wi' ma THISTLE, saying,

“Am prood tae be Scots!”

Am scunnert wi' it 'a 'n am packin' ma bag- Moray's Head of Tourism, Anne Burgess tendered her resignation following the furore over the proposal to too pen the Buckie and Cullen information centres for the coming season. (The decision to close them was rescinded following strong protests by Councillors Jappy and Wilson.)

Closing down sale - Three shops all belonging to the one company are to close, namely Denim Plus, Grapevine and Reid and Gordon at 36 to 39 East Church Street.

Apr 4. **We'll move the seaweed** - The seaweed on the beach at Portgordon credited for the stench over the past few summers is to be removed. Councillor McDonald convinced Grampian Regional Council that this would make a big difference.

The 'Drifter' is open for the season - The Buckie Drifter Maritime Heritage Centre opened its doors on Saturday for its first full season. Ready to greet its first day visitors was new manager Lucy Leith who had arranged for them to be welcomed by pipe and fiddle music played by John Stevenson and Paul Anderson.

Retired cooper John Burnett demonstrated the craft of barrel making.

Among those on hand to explain their work were members of Buckie District Fishing Heritage Society which has a display inside.

The Centre will be open until October 29 from 10am till 6pm from Monday till Saturday and on Sundays from 12 noon till 6pm.

The admission charge is £2.50 for adults and £1.00 for children and OAP's. A Family ticket costs £7. Local residents can take advantage of special offers. The restaurant is open daily to which access can be made without paying an entrance fee.

North Church Guild – Buckie North Church Woman's Guild celebrated its centenary in March and in recognition of this the evening service in the church on Sunday March 19 took the form of a Thanksgiving Service conducted by members of the Guild.

The Guild was formed in 1895 when there were 33 members, today in 1995 the membership is 87.

A centenary dinner was held in the hall on March 27 when President, Mrs Marie Drummond welcomed a party of 100 and Rev Bill Taylor, minister, proposed a toast to the Guild.

The cake specially baked to mark the occasion was cut by Mr Taylor and Mrs Drummond.

The Kirk Session presented the Guild with a suitably inscribed adjustable lectern, complete with light. Various members read extracts from the minutes from former meetings over the years.

The evening ended with the Doxology and the Benediction.

Artists from the 'Paraffin City' - At Easter, Portgordon Art Group will put on their first ever exhibition.

April 11 **'Tartan Chappies' come out on top** - The Scottish National Party swept to power in the new Moray single tier authority, taking 13 of the 18 seats. Among those elected were :- Rathford – Margo Howe; Buckie East - Gordon McDonald; Lennox- Tom Howe and Buckie West – Bill Jappy.

Buckie Thistle 'Player of the Year' Goalkeeper Alex Innes was chosen Thistle 'Player of the Year' and winner of the Banffshire Advertiser Trophy for the second year running. This was handed over by Bill Lobban who writes the reports of the Thistle games in the local paper.

***** **Norwegian King visits Buckie** - A photograph reproduced in this edition of the 'Advertiser' shows King Haakon of Norway when he paid a visit to Buckie in July 10 1943. The photograph was taken by photographer Ali Mohammed at Strathlene Hotel following a lunch given in the King's honour by Buckie Town Council. All those in the picture are named including Chief Constable of Banffshire G. I. Strath and Provost Merson of Buckie.

April 18 **100 not out** - Cullen woman Elizabeth Lyall reached the grand old age of 100 on April 11 and celebrated reaching this milestone with a party attended by friends and relatives in the Wakefield Home in Cullen.

She was born in Buckie the youngest of a family of 8 and, as was common practice, stayed at home to look after her parents. After they both died she moved to England to join the Shrewsburgh School for Boys where she stayed until she retired and moved back north to Cullen.

The smell disna come fae seaweed - Councillor Bill Jappy has said that he is not convinced that the obnoxious smell at Portgordon is due to seaweed. "I grew up near the shore in Buckpool and well know the smell of 'tangles'. The smell is more likely to come from sewage."

It's a ower for him; he's ploored his last furra - A photograph on page 8 shows yours truly (Allan Fraser) receiving gifts on his retirement from Buckie Community High School after a 21 year teaching career in the Geography Department. Seen in the photograph is Ian MacPherson, PT Geography and Chris Sugden, Rector, also a Geography graduate.

Boys' Brigade Inspection - The 2nd Company Buckie Boys' Brigade held their annual inspection in the Methodist Church Hall last week when the Inspecting Officer was Kenny Cowie. His wife Nora handed out the various awards.

April 25 **Portknockie Gala Queen** - Lucy Stewart, 7 Church Street was chosen as this year's Gala Queen, which is to take place on Saturday July 1.

It's jist in the road noo and its nae bonny - The ramp outside the former Buckie Post Office on East Church Street should be removed as it is now just an obstacle. That is the opinion of Buckie Community Council after giving the matter much consideration at their April meeting. It is ugly and unnecessary said Kevin McKay. This view was supported by Roy Shepherd. (Despite this it was still there in 2008.)

Advert - Frank James – The Godfather of Carpets - Cluny Square (former Cluny Hotel annex) open on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. (Fraserburgh Warehouse, 1 Broadsea Road.)

Grand opening - The TOYBOX, 17 High Street, Buckie (formerly occupied by the café restaurant 'Tutti Frutti' and before this Liptons.) will open on Saturday 29th April.

Advert - Nemat Tandoori Restaurant and Take Away, 52 West Church Street. They were announcing that they had recently been awarded a roll of honour of 5 stars by the Master Chef association.

Advert - Libby's Store, 17 Rathburn Street. "We have reopened after extensive refurbishment and now carry many new lines with fresh flowers coming soon." (A chip shop was opened later but the whole complex closed down around 2004 with the shop made part of the dwelling house and the chip shop itself a garage.)

Findochty Wanderers A photograph shows a football team (though reproduction is not good) from Findochty who playing in the late 1940's early 1950's who claimed they never lost a game.

May 2 **Buckie harbour area** - The harbour area in Buckie is one of seven industrial areas in Moray which are visible from a main road and which are defined as having 'some parts which have become neglected or unsightly and are in need of upgrading' The definition was coined by Moray District Council. (In April 2006 Moray Council provided £15,000 for a feasibility study of the area and I was one of the people from the area who were invited to walk with the consultants along with former skippers and others who knew the history of the area. Into the summer of 2008 and still not improvements have been made.)

Planning application has been made for work at Rook Craig. This to involve the infilling of the existing slipways at the former Thomson's Boatyard, provide footways and railings to the rear of the seawall.

Churches celebrate union of 25 years - The 25th anniversary of the merging of the Buckie South and West churches will be commemorated in style on Wednesday May 10.

The 8foot circular stained glass window, which was a feature of the West Church has been carefully restored at Hatton of Fintray and the unveiling will form the centre piece of the anniversary celebrations. It is hoped to have some of the members of the Hendry family present who originally installed the window in 1930.

Dr Gordon Pringle, local GP will take part in the service.

Harbour log - 11 boats landed 1,014 boxes of white fish, 69 boxes of prawns, 651 boxes of shrimps and 126 bags of scallops at Buckie harbour last week. The boats were - Peter Martin (Danish), Tjeerd Jacoba, Defiant, Rose of Sharon, Liberty, Kestrel, Moray Endeavour, Caledonia, Altair and Intrepid.

May 9 **He was a member of the 'Forgotten Army'** - The salute at the 50 year anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe May 8 1945) parade organised by the Royal British Legion was taken by Bert Samuel. For Bert, however, May 8 1945 was just another day in the war for him and for many others. On that day he was a member of the 'Fighting Black Cats' serving with the Royal Artillery who were part of the 17 Indian Division and was deeply involved in a battle with the Japanese in Burma on that day. Bert said, however, that he was flattered and grateful to be given the honour.

A new boss and new convener - The new Chief Executive of Moray Council is Tony Connell. A photograph shows him being welcomed by Gordon McDonald who has been appointed convener of the Moray Council.

Findochty Wanderers - A second photograph appears in this edition of the successful Findochty juvenile football team, the Wanderers, who played in the local Juvenile League in the late 1940's and into the 1950's. Unfortunately the reproduction is very poor as all the players are named this week. The photograph shows the team being awarded with the Angus McDonald Cup by Angus McDonald himself with the date given being 1948/49. The manager of the team was Eric Golding.

May 16 **The VE anniversary beacon at Buckpool** - Allan Fraser and Isabel Harrison both had letters printed in this edition deploring the action and criticising the people who took the decision to

set the beacon alight at Buckpool harbour an hour and a half before the agreed time when those for whom it mattered the most were not present. Those who were present in the main were children who were likely to know little about it. The adults present, a Moray Councillor and representative of the British Legion, together with the BBC people, said they decided to set it alight early as the children were getting cold.

May 23 **Dangerous speedsters on Main Street** - The speed that some cars travel along Main Street in Buckpool is causing concern to residents, especially those whose children who have to cross the road to get to the play park.

A fete at the hospital - The Friends of Seafield Hospital are to hold a fete in the grounds of the hospital on Saturday August 19.

Fishing Heritage Museum - The latest donation received by the museum is a lovely sextant in a wooden box given by Lydia Flett, widow of David Flett former owner and skipper of the MB Seaforth. It was handed over by his grandson Christopher who, when he was a pupil at Buckie High School, won the Society Shield for local history. Christopher was dux of the High School and is now studying medicine at Edinburgh University.

For sale – Fabric Attractions, 46 West Church (corner of Pringle Street). (Some will remember it as Pearson's the chemist.) It was taken over as a hairdresser and named 'Cutting Corner'

Norwegians in Britain - The question is asked did any women and children who came across the North Sea in 1940 when escaping from the Germans in their homeland arrive in Britain by barrel because the boats couldn't get near enough the shore. A person in Beith had heard the story and was seeking verification. (No answer was given but one would tend to think that this was a Jackanory.)

May 30 **Isla was on the radio but few heard her** - For the past two weeks a programme featuring local lass Isla St Clair has been broadcast on BBC radio but according to Isla herself, hardly anyone she had spoken to when home here on holiday has heard it. The programme titled - 'Tatties and Herrin' will be on the radio for a further four weeks on Wednesday evenings on Radio 2 from 9pm till 9.30pm In story and song Isla recalls the farming and fishing communities over the past 200years or more. **A photograph in the 'Advertiser' shows her speaking to fisherman Gary Scott.**

Advert - Libby's Store, Rathburn Street, Gordonsburgh. A real community store. Besides selling all the commodities you would expect to find in a general store Libby Gilbert is now serving food of all kinds, from sandwiches to hot food like soup and stovies. In addition the shop is an agency for dry-cleaning.

Local business to close - Flemings Fairleads who have been in business in Buckie for ten years is to close now that the owner John Fleming has decided to retire. The firm manufactured seine net rollers trawl sheaves, and hanging blocks for the fishing industry. The business has been sold to one of his sub contractors.

John Fleming came to Buckie from Tynemouth in 1983 as manager of an English firm and two years later bought the firm over. He and his wife have been living in Portknockie but have now bought a house in Garmouth.

The Harbour Tours, popular with visitors over the past few years, may not go ahead this year due to a shortage of cash. The tours were run and paid for initially by Moray District Council but were taken over by Buckie Drifter Trust when the Centre opened.

One of the principal places of interest was the fishmarket but the activity here now is poor following the last round of decommissioning meaning that far fewer boats are landing fish.

Gone to the dogs - Cammie Hendry and his family have for some time been successful exhibitors in the horse world as far afield as the Horse of the Year Show in London, they have now entered the doggy world where already they have been very successful showing off their dogs.

Harbour log - Six Danish boats – Kornbak, Blue Sky, Peter Martin, Michael George, Aggersoe and Katrina Baatz and British boats – Arcane, Cleopatra, Tjeerd Jacoba, Cardanel, Defiant, Angus Rose, Moray Endeavour, Intrepid, Altair, Argo, Ben More, Zephyrus, Britannia, Kedana, Rival and Providence landed at Buckie last week 851 boxes of white fish, 223 boxes of prawns, 3064 boxes of shrimps and 518 bags of scallops.

The Lyric Group – Buckie Lyric Group put on a production of Alice in Wonderland in the Fishermen's Hall last week.

June 6 **the Turner Pavilion** - A photograph shows Mrs Bunty Turner nee McGill being presented with a bouquet of flowers by Kenny Anderson of Buckie Thistle Boys Club after she had officially named the clubhouse at Merson Park. – Turner Pavilion. (The building was originally the farmhouse of Seafield Farm and later the 19th hole of Buckpool Golf Club) It was taken over by Buckpool Amateur Boxing Club with which her husband Sammy Turner had a long association and spent many hours helping to keep the building wind and water-tight. He also helped a lot with the Boys Club, after they entered into an association with the Boxing Club to use the building for changing purposes. When Sammy died the boxing club folded and the Boys Club fell heir to the building and decided as a mark of respect to Sammy decided to name it after him. A sign was painted to this effect by Ed Lamont whose son Duncan who plays for the Boy's Club and is seen with the board.

Another change to the 'Advertiser' Since it first came into being the local paper has changed in shape etc at different times and as from the next edition on June 13 it will have changed again. It will be in tabloid form, slightly smaller with seven columns on each page instead of six.

The Fishing Heritage AGM - Hugh Patience, former manager of the local office of MDM fish salesmen etc before he retired, was the invited guest speaker at the annual general meeting of Buckie District Fishing Heritage Society when his subject was the growth of the fishing industry in the Rathven parish through the 18th and 19th century.

The chairman Peter Bruce said that the Cottage Museum was now open from Monday till Friday from 10am till 12 noon in the morning and from 2 till 4pm in the afternoon. On Saturday from 10am till 12 noon.

Peter said that under its new manager the Buckie Drifter Maritime Heritage Centre was increasing its appeal to visitors and the Society would be giving it every help that it could.

The officials appointed were – Chairman – Peter Bruce; vice-chairman – Willie Mair; treasurer- Bessie Murray; secretary – vacant; assistant secretaries – Hugh Patience and Jim Merson; curator - Albert Cowie; video officer – John Rennie; photography officer – Alistair Coull; gallery officers Isabel Harrison and Margaret Bruce.

They were both well known - Two Buckie men who were well known in the town died last week, one was Bruce Birnie who had a long association with Buckie Cricket Club, a cooper to trade, elder of the North Church for 50 years and former superintendent of the Sunday school.

The other George P. Hendry, Dentist. George, one of three brothers, the other Alex and Ian, began life as an apprentice with his father's joinery business on Land Street before leaving to study dentistry in Edinburgh where he graduated in 1931. He served as a dentist in Lerwick for a year before coming back to Buckie and 'setting up shop' in the Cluny House on High Street. After serving with the Royal Dental Corps during the WWII he returned to Cluny House before moving to West Church Street in 1965. He took an interest in cricket and also bowls.

Note - The West Church merged with the South Church in 1970.

What do old 'Tablers' do when they grow too aul? There is a club for old 'Tablers' who must retire when they reach the age of 40, it is called 'The 41 Club' It could be that one could be set up in Buckie. Anyone interested should contact Stuart Scott.

Were you in the Buckie Brownies in 1935/36? A photograph in this edition of the 'Advertiser' shows the Brownie Pack together with their leaders and all named only the reproduction is very poor.

June 13 **A day to remember** - Tuesday was a historic day in the annals of Buckie harbour when a passenger cruise ship paid a visit for the first time since time immemorial. The TS Balmoral entered the harbour at 12.25pm from Fraserburgh via Macduff. Local passengers joined the boat for its onward journey to Inverness. Among them being 90 year old Bob Rennie accompanied by his granddaughter Deborah Murray. On Wednesday some passengers took the longer voyage to Stonehaven although the sea was quite rough. For this reason the boat didn't call in at the Macduff but did so at the Broch.

Buckie fish firm bought over - Cox Seafoods on March Road has become part of the Ian Anderson Group of Companies, owners of the largest salmon processors in the north, 'Strathaird'. The move is seen by the directors of both companies as being to their mutual advantage with the Buckie firm's white fish trade complementing the salmon and trout products of Strathaird.

RAF Freedom March - Buckie will form the centre of attraction for the military this coming Friday when officers and men and women of RAF Lossiemouth will exercise their Freedom of Moray, given in 1992, and March through the town.

One of the reasons for the RAF choosing Buckie for the parade is the close relationship which has built up over the years between the base's search and rescue squadron and Buckie Lifeboat.

Planning application has been made to sub divide the Howf at Findochty and alter the Yacht Club to form a Yacht Club and Harbourmaster's room.

June 20 **Guard of Honour** - A photograph on the front page of the 'Advertiser' (poor) shown the RAF Guard of Honour lined up on West Church Street as the Colour Party marches past.

Boat building crises - read the headline. John Richardson, Managing Director of Jones Buckie Shipyard said that the number of boat-building yards in Scotland had decreased from 8 in 1992 to five three years later. Two of those are in Grampian at Macduff and Buckie. "We need support to keep boat-building and repairs going", he said, "we offer high quality work but we need support."

Visit by the Moderator - The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland RT Rev James Harkness paid a visit to Moray Presbytery. He is to be in Buckie on Friday with the 'Drifter' one of the places he aims to visit.

Cluny Primary to lose both Headmaster and Assistant - James Findlay headmaster and Grace Morrison, Assistant Head are both to retire at the end of the term. They are seen in this edition of the 'Advertiser' receiving gifts at the annual general meeting of the school's Parent/Teacher Association from John Cushine and Janis Simpson.

More photographs taken during the RAF Day - These are to be found on page 6. It was a lovely day. One of the photographs shows nine Tornados passing directly over the saluting base at precisely one o'clock.

Buckie harbour tours will go ahead - - There had been fears that they would not go ahead because of the lack of finance. Moray Tourist Board failed to come up with the £1000 shortfall, with the Leisure and Libraries likewise. Councillor Bill Jappy however was able to get £1000 transferred from the Policy and Resources Committee to the Drifter Maritime Trust so that the tours could continue.

Great chance for Buckie young footballer - Buckie youth Andrew Mathieson, 36 Inward Road signed a two year contract as a full time professional with First Division side Dundee. An apprentice plumber with No 1 Electrical he will have completed his apprenticeship before he moves to Dundee.

Commercial Hotel, Buckie - This old established hotel has re-opened under new ownership.

Helped by Buckie Common Good Fund - The Lyric Theatre Group has been given £1000 from Buckie Common Good Fund. This will be used to repair the roof of the Lyric Hall on Low Street.

Dinna break it up or give it away - The local community council have made a plea that the metal bridge spanning the railway cutting between West Street and West Carlton Terrace be kept in Buckie when it is removed before the cutting is filled in. It has been suggested that it could be used to span the Buckie Burn at the Winding Walks or further up stream.

Planning application (outline) for the erection of a dwelling house at Edendale, Barhill Road, and Buckpool. (It was never built.)

Book on sale - 'Bonnie Portsoy – A Village History' by James Slater - £5.95.

The Moderator of the Church of Scotland during his visit to Buckie paid a visit to the South Church where he met Rev Eric Foggitt. Other places visited were the Buckie 'Drifter' and Moray Seafoods.

Good running by Cullen lad - Jonathan Cowie, Cullen, a senior pupil at Buckie Community High School won the Scottish 1.500 metre championships race at Grangemouth in the 15-17 years age group with a time of 4mins. 9.3 secs. This was his third Scottish title, winning the others in cross country events.

July 4 **Where to put the sewage treatment plant** - A meeting took place in the High School to discuss the merits and disadvantages of each of the sites that had been earmarked for the sewage treatment plant. Possible sites identified are at Strathlene, Inchgower, two sites on March Road and one at Carnoch Wood. Although many were in favour of the site at Carnoch Wood, I included. I had had the privilege of visiting two sewage treatment plants in England, one at Crediton in Devon and another at Lyme Regis in Dorset and felt that there was much to commend the site in the wood. Despite this the site opposite the Buckie Maltings on March Road was the one that was ultimately chosen.

Head gets piped out - On his last day in charge at Cluny Primary School Jim Findlay, Cullen, was piped out of the school by Peter Morrice, one of the pupils. He was given a fishing rod and equipment by the children so that he could follow one of his hobbies. He was also presented with Hi-fi equipment by the staff.

James graduated from Aberdeen University in 1954 with an MA degree before doing his N.S. with the Seaforth Highlanders during which he served in Egypt and Gibraltar.

Top pupils at Buckie High - Elizabeth Rennie and Susan Paterson were joint duxes of Buckie Community High School.

July 11 **'Drifter' receives donation** - The Bank of Scotland gave the 'Drifter' a donation of £5.400 to pay for audio tour equipment to help visitors who are visually impaired or hard of hearing and for the Bank of Scotland the 'Drifter' provided an ideal location to entertain 80 guests as part of the bank's centenary celebrations.

Planning application - Application has been made for permission to change the use of the disused fish salesmen's office, chandlery and workshop/store to form sales and display area for education, commercial and marine computer systems with ancillary training and support at 27C Commercial Road.

Badges for blood donors - Gold badges were given to James Leslie, 23 Hendry Terrace and Iris Morrison, 49 Well Road for giving of their 50th pint of blood at the recent Blood Donor session in Buckie. Eight others received silver badges for giving 25 pints.

Enzie School reunion - Former pupils from all over Britain have accepted an invitation to attend a reunion to take place in Clochan Community Hall of former pupils of Enzie (Public) Junior Secondary School on Friday 21 July at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Mabel Thain, Ellie Wood and Sydney McIntosh or Peter Thain, Lennox Bar, Portgordon. A free bus will run from Mosstodloch via Fochabers and Buckie via Portgordon. There will be a licensed buffet.

July 18 **Fa wist it said there's aye win' in Buckie?** For the third year in succession calm weather made it necessary for most of the yachts in the Round Britain Yacht Rally to have their motors running when they arrived in Buckie on Thursday and Friday.

Local horsewoman dies of injuries - Ann Sutherland, nee Grant, died following an accident at New Deer Show on Saturday. The accident occurred when a horse bolted and collided with a two wheeled gig on which Ann was the groom to the driver John Strathdee. She died in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary Intensive Care Department on Sunday night. Ann was a cook at Portgordon Primary School and also helped with the luncheon club. She was a daughter of George and Ina Grant, 35 Inward Road, Buckie and late of Easter Bogs farm in the Enzie. A married woman she and her husband James lived at Walkerstrough Farm, Forgie, Mulben.

Teacher lays down her chalk - Margaret Smith, West Cathcart Street, Buckie retired from teaching after 36 years. She began her teaching career at Lady Cathcart but spent most of her time at Buckie High Primary Department later to be called Cluny Primary. She received a gold watch and leather purse from the children of the school and a garden seat from the staff.

The path and the 'iron briggie' - Allan Fraser has a letter in this week's edition of the 'Advertiser' to say that he agreed with what a previous letter writer had said the previous week as what might be done with the 'iron briggie'. He said that he had raised the matter at the June meeting of the community council. He went on to say that if there was a will to reinstate the path up the side of the Buckie Burn towards the farm of Mill of Buckie and then put the bridge across the burn as near to the farm as possible it would make for a good circular walk and further if the proposed new medical centre proposed for Highfield Road came to fruition it would provide an ideal link for people coming from the Netherha Road, Letterfourie Road and other parts of Buckpool.

Married in her own kirk - Rev Rosemary Gomez, Church minister of Rathven and Enzie was married to Bill Legge of Bogside Farm, in her own church.

July 25 **Teen at the School Reunion** - A photograph on the front page of this edition of the B. A. Shows former pupils of Enzie Public School taken at the reunion.

Library Exhibition - A small Gordon Highlanders exhibition was on show in the Buckie library this week. A photograph shows Ronald Shand who served with the Gordons during WWII. taken at the exhibition.

Body found in the harbour - The body of Bill Stephen, fish merchant, of 6 George Street, Portessie who had been missing since June 6th was discovered by divers working near the main cargo pier in the harbour on Thursday afternoon. They found a car with the body of Mr Stephen inside. On the day he went missing he left home intending to go to Whitehills to buy fish but what happened and why he finished up in the harbour is still a mystery.

Another letter from Annie Mary Stewart, Canada, late of Portgordon - In this letter she asks where all the old fishermen have gone that she could remember from days gone by. She speaks of those who walked to and fro near the 'auld bar', others near to the Temperance Hotel and still others near to Dick Campbell's wee shop. She suggested that 'some have gaen sodgering far fae their hame', others resting place in the bosom of the sea, their first love, or God's little acre, a peaceful cemetery overlooking the sea. What did they yarn about? Was it big shots of herring- silver darlings, the merits of different drifters, with their eyes forever scanning the horizon.

The Rovers AGM (report written by Allan Fraser) At this time he wasn't a member of the committee resigning on a matter of principle. He re-joined the following year. Officials - President Jake Robertson (Moravian Garage); vice chairman – unfilled ; secretary – Keith Sinclair; treasurer- Chrissie Sinclair. Committee – Malcolm Smith, Spencer Lyon. Brian and Eileen Murdoch, Gary and Teresa Innes and George Mair.

Aug 1 **More trouble at the shipyards** - What could be another body-blow to Buckie's staggering economy came on Friday afternoon when the employees of the local shipyard (Jones and Herd and Mackenzie joined together some time before) were called together to be told that the yard had gone into Receivership. The yard currently has two boats under construction – one of them due to be launched later this month- and others in for repair. Herd and Mackenzie Ltd and sister yard Jones Buckie Shipyard Ltd. presently employ around 150 persons.

Entertained by the Heritage Group - An audience of over 100 were entertained in Cullen Town Hall last week by members of Cullen, Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group as they gave a discourse on the work they have been doing and the research they had been undertaking over the past year. Isobel Gray was the compere. Arnold Pirie, Portknockie gave a talk on Cullen as a holiday centre; John Meneer, Deskford, told how strict had been the Church of Scotland in days gone by, elaborating on the theme with examples, Eddie Anderson, Portknockie read some poems written by local poets; Nett Weakly

, Deskford, talked about the crofts in Deskford and the Hill of Maud; Len Hall also of Deskford described some of the places members had visited, locally and further afield. Local places being the Limekilns at Deskford and the tile works at Tochineal.

John Rennie showed slides and video recording of the local area.

Peter Fair - The reporter of the day said how it was dry most of the time but much of his report was given over to interviews with different show people and descriptions of the large and very expensive modern pleasure equipment. There are also a number of photographs with the people in them named.

The school reunion at Clochan - Allan Fraser, himself a former pupil, writes a report on the recent reunion of former pupils at Enzie Public School that took place in the Clochan Community Hall (the new name for the building). earlier in the month, **This is found on page 8.**

A photograph in the paper shows the two ladies who were the prime movers in organising a reunion, Miss Mabel Thain, Clochan and Mrs Ellie Wood, Slackhead with the last head teacher at Clochan, Mrs Margaret Johnston.

As his contribution towards the reunion he wrote a booklet in which he told the story of Enzie Public School from the day it opened in 1882 until it closed in the 1960's. This is based on the Log Books that each head teacher was duty bound to fill in and found in the archives of the school stored in Aberdeen.

Book review - Allan Fraser reviews the book written by Hamish Watt, titled Country Ways and Bygone Days. (Published by Aberdeen Journals) Cost £10.95.

Advert – The Spar Foodmarket, East Church Street, Buckie – Colleen Hendry and Jean Milton.

Aug 8 **Receivers act quickly at Jones' Buckie Shipyard.** The Receivers were called in last Friday to take over the management of the yard and on Tuesday they announced that the work on the two boats under construction would cease immediately and the 55 employees working on them were handed their redundancy notices and told to leave the yard.

At present the yard is still open for repairs and refits but what is to happen to the two boats is not yet certain though it is understood talks would have to take place with those who ordered the boats. The Receivers said that it was not a viable proposition to continue to complete them.

Boy rescued at Portessie - Six year old Carl Cowie, 58 Douglas Crescent was saved from drowning in the sea off Great Eastern Road, Portessie this week by Karl Nilsen who has a home near the sea. Mr Nilsen said that since they built the sea wall it can be dangerous to play there and children would be much safer off the sands at Strathlene.

Blairstone Cottage, Enzie for sale - (An old building and at one time was used as a school. Mr Douglas Currie lived there for a number of years.) It is a listed building and consent is being sought to extend the house and replace the garage.

The former Church of Scotland, Broadley. This is a listed building. Permission has been sought to remove the pews, organ, and lamps on the pulpit and the bell. (I am happy to say

that the pews were not removed, with regard to the other things I wouldn't know. I remember attending the church as a teenager while my sister Violet was married within it. I have been present at a number of services associated with the cremation of a person and feel that the old pews add a certain dignity to the occasion that might have been missing had everything been modernised. A. F.)

National Condom Week - an event that would have been unthinkable even 20 years before. It has now been recognised that the common condom or even the coloured, flavoured and square-shaped version is the only contraceptive which offers some protection against unwanted pregnancies and the HIV virus as well as the other sexually transmitted diseases and cervical cancer.

A display stand has been in Dr Grays' Hospital in Elgin for the past week.

The VC as a batsman - In a letter to the 'Advertiser' Gordon Packman speaks of Harold Larwood the Notts. County and England fast bowler, renowned for his body line bowling, whose death had just been reported, before going on to tell a tale. He says that sometime between the two wars an Army Select cricket team played against the one day match champions Notts., when it happened that the Army were a man short and Buckie man George McIntosh VC, who was later to become janitor of the High School happened to be on hand and was drafted in. By his own admission McIntosh said that he had little knowledge of the game but in the last 15 to 20 minutes, as last man in, he somehow managed to hit two boundaries, a feat of some note against a bowler of Larwood's stature, and greatly added to the Army score.

This years Aqua Princess - Shelley Flett was chosen as this years Aqua Princess in a competition held at the Swimming Pool. The runner up was Pauline Forbes. She is seen in a photograph receiving the award from Councillor Bill Jappy.

When Buckie had a Fever Hospital- Bob Jamieson gave a talk to his fellow Rotarians on the former Fever Hospital. **His report is given on page 13 of this edition of the 'Advertiser'.**

He says that looking through past copies of the *Banffshire Advertiser* he found that the first mention of the Hospital was in 1885.

This says how the hospital provided near the shore between Nether Buckie and Portgordon instead of being reserved exclusively for infectious cases was being used for other purposes by the Parochial Board, even as a Poor House.

He mentioned that a note in the paper of 1892 said how boats that were affected with cholera had to anchor a mile off shore to the north of the Yardie. From here any patients were conveyed from the boats to the hospital on the beach?

In 1893 the Town Council were inviting estimates for the reconstruction of the Cholera Hospital. In September 1899 the advantages of flush toilets and running water was being recognised and in September 1899 discussion took place regarding providing water and a W.C. at the hospital. In January 1902 the cost of piping water to the hospital and the construction of lavatory accommodation, according to the burgh surveyor was to cost £146.

In September 1916 Buckie Town Council agreed to make alterations and repairs to the hospital. In 1921 the Town Council received a letter from the Board of Health asking that the Council open the building for patients suffering from smallpox. Extensions were to be

made to cope with the additional patients but it seems that these were never carried out and in time the building closed its doors to all those suffering from infectious diseases and it lay unoccupied for a long time. It was used as a dwelling house during WWII, (Beach Cottage) with a family by the name of Taylor living there and much later it was occupied by a family named Campbell. They were the last with the building being demolished in 1967.

Aug 15 **No synthetic turf sports pitch for Buckie** - Buckie has lost the battle to have a new synthetic turf sports pitch. A majority of Moray District Councillors voted that the special surface sports pitch, for which an award is available from the Scottish Sports Council, should be sited at Westerton Road in Keith. (In 2008 Moray Council who took over from the District Council, agreed that a synthetic turf sports pitch would be constructed with work about to start in July.)

Yet another firm goes down - The news that Versatile Windows Ltd, Deskford had gone down with the Receivers called in came with something of a shock to many, especially following so quickly on the heels of the pay-offs at the shipyard. All 31 employees of Versatile Windows, including directors, were declared redundant last week. A spokesperson for the liquidators told the 'Advertiser' that the level of debt which the firm had got into was 'very significant.'

And the sad tale of unemployment continues - All work on repairs at Jones' shipyard stopped with another 23 employees made redundant leaving only 27 people now employed in the twin yards.

Fisher lad who became a professor - The death took place at Broughty Ferry of Professor Alex Mair at the age of 82. His death brings to an end a remarkable story and career of a Portknockie 'fisher loon' who went on to play an important part in the development of occupational and public health medicine. He left the school at the age of 14 to work on his father's boat. He later worked with Richard Irvine and Sons before entering Aberdeen University as a mature student having been helped in his studies for the entrance examination by his sister Vida who still resides in the family home 'Rose Villa' on High Street. **A fuller account can be found in this edition.**

The horses take pride of place - The photos taken at Keith Show are all of horse types, Clydesdale, hunter class ponies and Shetland except for one showing A. F. the secretary of Buckie Community Council and representative on the Moray Crime Prevention Panel. He is seen helping out at their stand at the Show.

Junior football - Buckie Rovers were beaten by three goals to two by Lossiemouth United at Lossiemouth in the first game of the new season. The Rovers team was – Riddoch, Strachan, Duthie, Tallis ('Toby' Burgess), Gordon, Burnett, Wood, Innes, Pennie (Munro), Farquhar and Pele Paterson. Subs – Neil Sinclair and Ulek.

The Lifeboat Gala - Adam Robertson who plays one of the principal roles in staging the annual gala said that it was probably the most successful gala that had been run in support of the RNLI with over £4000 being raised.

Flower Festival - Buckie North Church Women's Guild celebrated their centenary with a Flower Festival in the church. **A number of pictures and a full report are given on page 16;** unfortunately the reproduction of the photographs is not all that good.

Aug 22 **Their next school will be far away** - Two members of Milne's High School staff and also two pupils will not be present when the schools re-open at the start of the coming term. They will in fact have set sail on the long journey to New Zealand in their 31' '6" Dupor-39 yacht 'Heijira'. The family are John and Dianne Beetham and their sons James and Andrew. Both Mr Beetham and the two boys are natives of New Zealand but Mrs Beetham is English. They have been over in Britain for a number of years most recently staying in Portknockie but have decided to return 'down under'.

Road to the 'dump' closed temporarily - People are advised that the road to Buckie Refuse Transfer Station at Gollachy will be closed to the public from Monday 4th till Friday 29th September for essential maintenance.

Housing and roads - Proposed development of 71 house plots and associated roads etc and details of 21 house (plots 101-121) at High Street.

Building at Parklands - Planning application is made for the erection of two semi detached houses on site 1 Parklands, Mill of Buckie.

New bus service - Elgin-Buckie- Banff – Aberdeen commencing Monday 21st August 1995 when a revised timetable will come into operation. The bus service number is 305.

Keswick in Buckie - The greatest number of visitors yet attended the Keswick in Buckie Convention recently. All the services took place in the Methodist Church on Pringle Street.

Good name of the town slurred - The headlines in a national newspaper referring to Buckfast wine as 'Buckie' is not good for the image of the town was the reaction of manager of Buckie's Marine Hotel, John Spencer when he saw references to 'Buckie Beasts' and calls to 'Ban Buckie' on the front of Thursday's 'Daily Record' and its stable companion the 'Daily Mirror', which read 'It's time to ban lethal Buckie'.

(The term 'Buckie Beasts' referred to two men, from the Glasgow area who were charged with murder, the crime being committed when they were high after drinking Buckfast wine'.

Busy business in Buckie (glad news for a change) The Buckie yard of A. Forsyth and Son (Roths) based in the former Hamilton Brothers premises on Commercial Road have been busy over the past few weeks with more than 20 staff employed on fulfilling a £1.5 million contract.

They have been constructing a series of large-sized tanks for the Bridgewater Paper Company of Ellesmore Port. The tanks will be dispatched to their destination by sea.

Lifeboat House is opened On a wet Saturday morning many people gathered at the east end of Buckie harbour to witness the official opening of the new Buckie Lifeboat Station and its

handing over to the RNLI. The ribbon to formally open the building was cut by the Hon Mrs Henry Douglas Home

Three fowk would like to own the shipyards - Three bids have been made for the combined Jones Buckie and Herd and Mackenzie shipyards and each is being considered at the moment by the Receivers. It appears that the Spanish threat has been removed.

An interesting boat in the harbour - The 200 ton, 112 feet long former whaler 'Ocean Defender' now owned by 'Earthkind' was in Buckie harbour over the weekend to support the activities arranged by the Friends of the Moray Firth Dolphins.

The 'Earthkind' combines research with rescue operations and educational visits, she is currently engaged on a study to record the dolphin population in the Moray Firth .

How big were the tanks? Photographs on **page 5** show pictures taken of the large tanks produced by Forsyth's of Rothes in Buckie as they were transported along Commercial Road to the harbour side and hoisted on board the 'Eileen Dubh' The tanks measure 8.2 metres in diameter.

The Q E 2 visits Invergordon - The largest ship ever to pass between the Sutors into the Cromarty Firth will do so on Monday September 4 1995. The vessel will be the Cunard Line's famous flag-ship, QE2. The ship will reach its anchoring point at 11.00am where it will remain until it sets sail again at 7.30pm. A programme of entertainment will take place all day long.

Advert - Livingstone's Quality Clothes, East Church Street.

Sept 5 **'Nurse Flo' opens the hospital fete** - Miss Smith of 9 Craigenroan Place, Portessie, known to many simply as 'Nurse Flo' spent 33 years in service in Buckie, Portknockie and Cullen as a District Nurse, Sister and Health Visitor and who knew every mother and child in the area for two generations did the honours at Seafield Hospital fete, organised by the Friends of the Hospital, when she opened proceedings. She said that she hoped that all had come with full purses and would return with them empty as every penny gathered was destined to go to a good cause. (The fete raised over £2000.)

You will never get the Buckie Burn put in a culvert - The cost of a culvert for the Buckie Burn between the former putting green and Bridgend would cost somewhere between a million and million and a half pounds said Councillor Bill Jappy to Buckie Community Council this week. To completely infill the valley then and landscape the area would cost up to £4million so it is a non starter. "We won't stop people dumping rubbish in the burn but to spend £4 million to do so is just not on." History tells us that the idea of a culvert was not a new one and was suggested many years before. A. F.

Car smash claims the life of young Buckie driver - Buckie teenager 17 year old Ross Finnie of 1 Duguid Street was killed and two people taken to A.R. I. following a head-on crash on the A98 1 mile east of Fochabers around 10.30pm last Wednesday evening. Finnie was driving a Ford Escort when he collided with a bakery van.

Obituary - An obituary to Bill 'Beel' Dalgarno is to be found on page 12. It was written by A. F. based on a summing up of Beel's life by Graeme Gerrard at his funeral service in St Peter's Church last week.

Sept 12 **Shipyards in new hands** - The new owners of the twin Jones' and Herd and Mackenzie boatyards are Lithgows Ltd a Scottish company who are expanding their on-going marine division. They already own yards for building and repair purposes at Campbelltown, Stornoway and in the Shetland Isles and with this recent purchase gives them a toe-hold in the north east. The joint shipyards will now be operating under the title Buckie Shipyards Ltd. Grampian Regional Council has agreed to make available a job-creation grant of £1000 per job up to a maximum of £50,000 and also give a rent free period of one year for the Herdie's site, which will cost £1600.

Fochabers people feel it was worth it - After a long struggle to convince Grampian Regional Council, the people of Fochabers celebrated the victory of their campaign to retain the original Milne's Free School building and convert it into a 'new' Primary School rather than have it demolished and have a completely new school built on the site.

It was exactly 150 years to the day that the original foundation stone of the building was laid and to commemorate this special anniversary the pupils of the school and representatives from the Action Committee dressed in period clothes and took part in an historical re-enactment of the event with a march up the High Street.

Crash claims another victim - A Buckie schoolgirl who was involved in the crash that claimed the life of another teenager died in A.R. I. last Wednesday.

Sally Smith (17) 4 McNaughton Avenue had been in a coma since the accident which killed Ross Finnie the driver of the car in which she was a passenger. Sally was a sixth year pupil at Buckie Community High School and a senior prefect.

A poem is found on page 6 - This was written by Hazel L. R. Addison and is titled 'The Spider's Web'.

Deskford Flower Show - Bert Dawson, Land Street, Buckie, was unable through ill-health to exhibit at Deskford Flower Show this year and as such had to relinquish his hold on the Baldwin Trophy which he had won each year since it was first donated to the Deskford Horticultural Society twenty years before. The successful new holder is Colin Chichen, Turriff.

Sept 19 **Devasting Floods!** - so said the headline in the 'Advertiser' this week - Torrential rain brought chaos all over the Buckie area causing record flooding and widespread destruction. (I was working in the office at the time and helped to collect the information but had no hand in the spelling of the headline. A.F.)

Findochty was particularly badly hit. On Tuesday morning after a constant downpour throughout the night some areas of the town looked as if an earthquake had struck - roads were broken up and buckled out of shapes with pipes in numerous places sticking up out of the ground.

The Tynet Burn over-flowed its banks to rush into the Mill House Hotel with the water depth in the dining room reaching to a height of 3 feet six inches and causing damage between £20-£30,000.

Fochabers fowk march again - Over 200 people carrying banners marched up the High Street of Fochabers

The banners read – “We’ve waited 25 years and want a By-Pass Now” (Little did they know that 13 years later nothing tangible had been done on the ground with the by-pass as far ahead as ever. The majority of Fochabers people want the by-pass to go to the north of the village which means passing through land belonging to the owners of Gordon Castle and they had still to give permission in May 2006.) (Test boring along the route was being taken in June 2008, so it seems at long last progress was being made.)

Pictures of the devastation - This edition of the ‘Advertiser’ carries a number of pictures showing the damage done by the flood water both in the built up areas and in the countryside.

Buckie and District Flower Show - The overall winner at Buckie and District Flower Show this year was Ian Macdonald of Duffus. After being absent from the Show circuit on account of illness Ian returned to Buckie to lift the major prize – the Taylor Trophy – awarded to the exhibitor achieving the most points.

There were 700 entries, slightly down on the number for the previous year.

Sept 26 **Will there be two Health Centres in Buckie?** - Dr Jim Tuckerman had never hidden his preference for a GP practice to be established in close proximity to Seafield Hospital and will not be moving with the colleagues in the Group Practice to the new health centre to be built at Highfield Road. He has decided to break away and set up on his own and has been having discussions with the Health Authorities about moving to Seafield Hospital.

The ‘Iren Briggie’ has gone - The former Great North of Scotland Railway footbridge that spanned the coast line at the end of Railway Terrace has gone. And with it any hopes of saving it for the town. Buckie Community Council had been trying to persuade Moray District Council to use the bridge elsewhere in Buckie, possibly to restore the footpath over the burn at Mill of Buckie.(Many people will retain memories of the bridge for various reasons as I have though I’m not saying what these are.)

Book review - Brian Wilkinson, news reporter for the ‘Advertiser’, gives his own views on a new railway book, something right up Brian’s street being a former railway official and retaining an avid interest in the subject of railways. The book - ‘Cock O’ the North’ by A. G. Murdoch and priced at £3.50. This, he said, was the fourth little book of black and white railway photographs that Sandy had published.

Fochabers Flower Show - There were 1000 entries at this year’s show with the principal winner being Colin Chinchin, Turriff.

Buckie Cat Show - There were 82 entries at this year's Cat Show held in the Fishermen's Hall last Saturday. The standard of the entries was high according to the judges. The main winners came from Buckie, Fraserburgh and Inverness.

Oct 3 **Three fishermen brothers rescued** - Among the crew of a trawler which smashed on to rocks near Lochinver harbour on Wednesday were three Cowie brothers from Buckie. The relief skipper of the 'Scotia' Stewart Cowie, 3 East Carlton Terrace and his brothers, George 'Dod', Cluny Terrace and James 46 Cameron Crescent were rescued by the Lochinver lifeboat, together with two other crewmen, Allan Innes and William Stewart, both of Lossiemouth.

The engine cut out and the anchor failed to hold in the heavy seas and the 'Scotia' began to drift on to the rocks.

They looked at Dallachy - The directors of Norboard, owners of the timber processing plant at Dalcross near Inverness visited the former airfield at Dallachy near Spey Bay to assess its suitability for the construction of building a plant there. Norboard is increasing its export and needs to expand its facilities.

Oct 10 **Buckie skipper honoured** - A Buckie skipper has been honoured by the Shipwrecked Mariner's Society

For his skill in rescuing five members of the fishing boat 'Heather Bloom' last December. Peter Smith received his award, a solid silver goblet, from the Admiral of the Fleet Lord Levin at a ceremony in the Fishmonger's Hall, London Bridge, which he attended with his wife Winnifred. See page 5 for a fuller account.

Oct 17 **'Doddie' calls it a day** - George 'Doddie' McKay, 13 St Paul Street, retired after serving for 21 years as mechanic with Wm. & I. Cruickshank, Lemonade Manufacturers. He was presented with a cheque from the management and his colleagues with the firm while his wife Georgia received a bouquet.

Office to close - Alliance and Leicester Building Society are to close their Buckie office.

The first of many - Detailed permission for the first 21 of the 69 houses which are scheduled for the site east of Buckie High Street has been agreed in principle by Moray District Council planning and development committee. The developer of the scheme is Stewart Milne Homes, Aberdeen with the area lying adjacent to High Street and McWilliam Crescent and between existing houses and the new Regency Garage. The second phase will take the new housing as far east as the existing electricity sub-station bounded on one side by the town boundary and on the other by the former railway embankment.

Historical note - The HMS Herpa, a patrol boat tried to enter Buckie harbour at low tide and in heavy seas on January 2 1918 (a report was given in the 'Advertiser' edition of January 10 1918) when she struck rocks. The crew were all rescued by rocket appliance. The wreck which has lain outside the harbour since that time with the whole outline being seen from the west wall of the harbour, has given up some of its cargo before being buried completely under the big stones being put down to protect the new wall. Last Tuesday

part of the wrecked boat was lifted by diggers and divers found two 19” shells and a box of bullets. The RN bomb disposal squad took the ammunition away.

Buckie Rovers collect a cup - The Rovers won the Robertson Cup when they beat Forres Thistle by five goals to one at Mosset Park, Forres on Tuesday evening. The Rovers’ team was – Brindle, Strachan, Sinclair, Gordon, Burnett, Duthie, Wood, Tallis, Mackie (Paterson), Johnston (Riddoch), Innes (Pennie).

A ‘logo’ has been designed - The new Moray Council has approved a ‘logo’ which was designed by Moray District Council graphic designer, John Gaynor. It is to be shown publicly this week.

‘Black Booie’s Treasure’ The serial written by ‘Spike’ came to an end this week at chapter 49. A new one will begin next week.

Oct 24 **We will curb their speed** - Action to reduce the likelihood of vehicles speeding past their houses was promised to the residents of Main Street and Great Western Road at a well-attended meeting held in the lounge of the Harbour Bar last week. Councillor Gordon McDonald accepted the petition signed by 172 residents of the area. Almost everyone that was approached were in agreement that something out to be done.

‘Robbie Rawn – Special Agent - The name of a new serial by Spike begins this week with Chapter 1. .

Another boat is lost - ‘The Moray Adventurer’ owned by Moray Seafoods and on its first voyage after undergoing an extensive refit had to be abandoned by the crew when she was blown on to rocks on the uninhabited island of Rona 45 miles from Lewis early on Friday morning. The crew of four Jim Innes, Station Road, Portessie, Alistair Jamieson, Cluny Terrace, James Clark, Blantyre Crescent and Nicky Simpson, Banff Street, launched the life raft from which they managed to clamber on to the rocks. Nicky was swept off the life raft by the high seas but was able to cling to a rock and save himself. They were all rescued by the Stornoway helicopter. The crew returned to Rona on Saturday in an attempt to refloat the vessel but their efforts were to prove in vain and the ‘Moray Adventurer’ has been written off.

Methodists commissioned - Pauline Newman and Robbie Grant were commissioned in the local Methodist Church on Sunday. This is an office of ministry which is open to any lay preacher who is a member of the Methodist Church.

The new Moray ‘logo’ on show - Page five of the ‘Advertiser’ carried a photograph of the new ‘logo’ designed for the single tier Moray Authority which takes over in April. It is intended to represent the geographical position of Moray within Scotland and the different aspects of Moray – thistles, whisky and forestry. It looks much better in colour – a combination of greens, blues and mauves topped off by a tow of triangles, thistle or whisky glasses.

Advert - Mid season sale at Denim Plus and Grapevine, East Church Street, Buckie and the Square, Huntly.

Oct 31 **Flower Bulb Centre to close** - The Dutch Flower Bulb Garden Centre at Deskford that opened three years before by Dutch businessman Arnoud Kwint has seen its last summer. Arnoud has decided to cut his losses and cease to promote the sale of bulbs. The reason given was that there were not enough visitors to meet the high operational costs.

Convener again - Gordon McDonald the last convener of Grampian Regional Council and the first convener of the single tier Moray Council is to take over as convener of the Region now until the end of March next year, his second term in office.

She struck it rich - A Buckie granny, no name was given, won £108,621 to scoop the national bingo prize at the Playhouse, Buckie on Friday evening.

Buckie harbour was busy - Five cargo boats last week brought in a mixture of cargoes. Three came in carrying malt, two from Germany and one from the Netherlands. One came of from Great Yarmouth with sugar beet in pellet form on board while a cargo of soya came in from Rotterdam. Each one left empty.

The Buckie 'Drifter' - The 'Drifter' closes on October 31 for the season and will re-open on April 1. It will also open on a day to day basis for organised groups. The restaurant can also be booked on this day.

From December 1 the restaurant can be booked for Christmas parties and functions on any day with a Lunch menu of £9.50 and a Dinner menu of £15.95.

July and August saw the biggest attendances in the region of 1500 with the average for other months being 1000. The highlights had been when local organisations made use of the 'Drifter' for their functions. "Now we've got the 'Drifter' let's make use of it", Lucy said. "It's not going to go away. It's there for the benefit of Buckie so we should all be concerned with attracting people to visit it.

For sale - Cluny Hotel – offers over £89,000 expected. Building contains lounge bar, dining room, 6 letting bedrooms (all ensuite), plus owners 2 bedroom accommodation

Nov 7 **Move for clothing shop** - 'Grapevine' is moving from 37 to 39 East Church Street into premises previously known as Reid and Gordon.

Boys' Brigade companies 1st and 2nd Buckie - Photographs on page three show both companies as they parade after their enrolment for 1995/96

The Lawtie Buildings, Cullen - Page 5 carries a report on the restoration of the Lawtie Trust houses in Cullen. Alice Lawtie Slater, 93, of Portknockie a direct descendent of the Lawtie family who bequeathed the houses was asked to officially open the restored buildings. A photograph shows her putting the finishing touches to a new plaque.

The Fishing scene - Last week 28 fishing boats landed 1504 boxes of fish, 561 boxes of prawns and 1115 bags of clams at Buckie last week.

The boats were – Willem, Moray Explorer, Cardanel, Defiant, Clarinda H, Mallanja, Ben More, Tjeerd Jacoba, Rival, Aquila, Hope, Melita, Moray Endurance, Kestrel, Angus Rose, Peter Martin, Heathery Brae, Zephyr, Intrepid, Sardijs, Aspire, Monadliath, Aztec, Aquinis, Pisces, Kedana, Emmanuel and Vigilant.

Nov 14 **Name change** - The new name of the Buckpool Chip Shop is Mac's Chip Bar, formerly it was Mr C's.

The Christmas Lights - The Festive Lights in Buckie formerly the responsibility of Buckie Chamber of Commerce have been taken over by a separate committee. John Duncan remains as chairman with Alistair Farquhar as secretary. Kenny Anderson as treasurer. Graham Cormack, Frank Slater, Mark Duncan and Roy Shepherd are members of the committee.

Crossroads Restaurant, 9 West Church Street - will open on Friday and Saturday evenings from 7. till 9.30. Last bookings at 9pm. Bring your own wine or beer. The first opening date will be Friday 17 November. Three course meal £15. with coffee and mints inclusive.

Nov 21 **Society gets cash aid** - Buckie District Fishing Heritage Society received the sum of £120 from Grampian Regional Council Small Grants Scheme

Portknockie poet - A Portknockie nurse Annabel Taylor, 5 Reidhaven Street, who has been composing poems on Christian themes for the past five years, has had her fifth composition published in an anthology of verse. Her poem, "After the Cross" has been accepted for publication in Island Moods and Reflections, the latest book from the Poetry Institute of the British Institute.

Annabel is a member of the Portknockie Church of Scotland and works as an auxiliary nurse at the Muirton Wing of Seafield Hospital.

The theme of "After the Cross" is the feelings of the Disciples after Jesus was taken from them.

After the Cross they were empty
After the Cross they were sad
After the Cross it was finished
For Jesus was all that they had.
Now he had gone and left them
Now they were full of despair
Now they had gone to the tomb
And found there was nobody there
Now they could see what he'd taught them
Now they understood what he said
Now their Lord had risen
Jesus was no longer dead
Now he had gone to the Father
Just as he told them he would
We may join him

Just as he said we could
Now we must come in Repentance
And seek to be pardoned from sin
Now we must open our hearts
And let the Lord Jesus come in.

Annabel Taylor, Portknockie
1995

Schooldays at Findochty - A photograph shows form 3 of Findochty Primary School taken a few days before the school was burned down in 1934. The site is now occupied by the bowling green with the pavilion where the shelter shed, seen in the picture, was sited. The teacher was Miss Findlay. The pupils are all named beginning at the back with John H. Anderson. (Johnnie Hughes)

Nov 28 **Buckie Lyric Theatre Group** are to present "Puss in Boots" in the Fishermen's Hall on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 6th till 8th December.

Country Dance stalwart honoured - Jean Mair, 11 Bryson Crescent, Craigbo was honoured by members of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society at their annual dance held in the Fishermen's Hall where music was played by the Colin Dewar Trio. Ms Mair was president from 1962 until 1969 and had two stints as secretary/treasurer retiring after 15 years.

Managing Director leaves - Grampian Country Pork have parted company with its managing director, Willie Gordon who had been with the firm since it began in Buckie in 1986. "It is an internal matter," said Mike Stephen head of the Grampian Country Pork Group and of no interest to the 'Press.'

Dec 5 **The Christmas Carnival** - The switching of Buckie Christmas Carnival to Saturday pleased most of the shopkeepers with in the main an increase in sales. Might have been even better had the weather been more kind.

Church Minister to move - Findochty and Portknockie Church of Scotland are to lose their minister Rev Bill Ross who is moving to take over the church of Alvie and Insh in the Kingussie-Aviemore area.

The year 1996 will be big in Fochabers - Not only will the village be celebrating the 150 year anniversary of the opening of Milne's Free School but also Speyfest, the first Fochabers Pan Celtic Festival will be held.

Young footballer puts one step on the ladder to fame - Mark Slater a pupil at Buckie High School has been selected for the Under 18 Scottish Football squad. He plays for the school and also turns out for Buckie Thistle in the Highland League.

Dec 12 **Buckie office receives an honour** – The Buckie office of the Inland Revenue is one of 20 public services organisations in Scotland to win a 1995 Charter Mark for excellence in customer service.
Two members of staff, Margaret Kennedy from Fochabers and Stuart Thain, Iainstown were in London on Monday of last week to collect the award from the Prime Minister, RT Hon, John Major.

They voted this way - At a public meeting to discuss which of the two sites should be chosen for the Moray East Waste Water Treatment Plant those present were given the opportunity to fill in a questionnaire choosing between the March Road site or South Scotstown. 68% voted for March Road with 32% for South Scotstown.

St Andrew's Day - Millbank Primary School was one of few in this area which celebrated St Andrews Day. A concert was put on for pupils and parents with musicians and singers taking part.

They paid a visit - Three members of Buckie District Fishing Heritage Society visited Fochabers Thursday Club to recall the days of the herring drifters with some vintage film. After the film show members were treated to Doric verse readings.
The members present were – Peter Bruce, Albert Cowie and Isabel Harrison.

Rescuer to be honoured - Karl Nielson, Great Eastern Road, Portessie is to be awarded the Royal Human Society's resuscitation certificate for saving the life of Buckie youngster, Carl Cowie, in July last year.
Carl was playing with some friends on the rocks adjacent to Great Eastern Road when he slipped into the water. He was seen by Mr Nielson who dived in and brought him ashore to provide artificial respiration till the ambulance arrived.

Dec 19 **March Road site accepted** - Grampian Regional Council's water services committee has accepted the recommendation of the departments officers and plumped for the Moray sewage treatment works to be located at Buckie's March Road industrial site.

Cluny Primary new head appointed - The new head-teacher of Cluny Primary School is to be Kathleen Blacklaw, the former head of St Thomas' Primary School in Keith. She will be taking up the appointment in the New Year when she returns from maternity leave.

Former church offered for sale - A local church which is being offered for sale is one of the buildings high-lighted in the December issue of the Scottish Civic Trusts Buildings at Risk Bulletin.
The former Enzie Parish Church at Broadley was built in 1886 to the design of Marshall Mackenzie of Matthews and Mackenzie, Aberdeen. It is described as Gothic, built of rubble with tooled ashlar dressing.
The suggested use is given as recreational. It is in good condition and is being offered for sale or lease with vacant possession.

Planning application - Moravian Motors, High Street, propose to build a new petrol filling station, shop, petrol interceptor and septic tank.

Planning application - build and operate new waste water treatment plant at March Road.

Freedom of Moray - Moray District Council is to confer its highest honour on its convener, Councillor Eddie Aldridge by granting him the Freedom of Moray. He has been a councillor since Moray District Council was formed 20 years ago and is destined to be its last convener. He represents Speyside as an Independent.

Junior football - Buckie Rovers drew three goals apiece with near neighbours Portgordon United in their recent game.

The Rovers team was – Riddoch, Sinclair, Tallis(Pennie), Burnett, Gordon, Wood, Tyson, Gault, Slater, Johnston, Munro (Brindle), Subs – Strachan, Goldie.

Portgordon – McKay, McGettrick (Coull), Chisholm, Reid (Morrison), R. Smith, Lyon, Clark, Matheson, Bruce, Thain, M. Smith. Subs – Innes, Dean.

Dec 27 **You are not Watchdogs** - The use by some newspapers of the term ‘watchdog’ has been criticised by the Chief Executive of the new Moray Council. Tony Connell told Buckie Community Council that community councils weren’t set up to monitor the performance of local authorities but to act in a complementary role.

It is unfortunate that the role of community councils has not been spelt out properly the Chief Executive stated, when he addressed the local community council at their December meeting. The point of setting up community councils was not for them to be another tier of local government. The Moray Council would like to see them as complementary bodies not watchdogs. The watchdog role is played by the electors when they come to vote for their representatives.

Broadley Church is sold - Christies of Fochabers have bought the former Enzie South Church of Scotland and surrounding land amounting to five acres and have plans to turn the building into a service chapel, crematorium and garden of remembrance.

The first time the Thistle played Wick Academy in Caithness - Allan Fraser writes an article in which he tells the story of the first time that Buckie Thistle travelled to Caithness to play Wick Academy in the first round of the Qualifying Cup on Saturday September 6 1913. The team and officials crossed the Moray Firth to Wick by the drifter Darda. **See page 12**

Book review – Peter Bruce gives his views on the book titled ‘One Foot in the Sea’ written by Bob Smith. And published by John Donald at £8.95. As Peter explains the book was first printed in 1991 but such has been the take up that it was required to be reprinted. The theme is a look at places and their famous sons or daughters as the author travelled from Stonehaven round the coast to the Moray Firth

Book review - Brian Wilkinson looks at a new book ‘ The Highland League Quiz Book’, compiled by Ally Walker and published by Thistle Press Inch at £4.50.
