

1996

- Jan 3 **Street will remain open** - The proposal to close off the north end of Sutherland Street in Buckpool, which was included in a package of traffic measures in Buckie promoted by Grampian Regional Council's transport and roads committee in February 1964 has been dropped.
- We dinna fancy it** - The proposal to turn the Grade B listed Enzie South Church into a crematorium, which was reported in last week's 'Advertiser' has met with opposition from the residents of Broadley a settlement near to which the church is situated. The Broadley Committee made up of most of the people who live in the hamlet and on neighbouring farms have discussed the plans as outlined by Gordon Christie of Christies (Fochabers) Ltd and its members are not happy with them.
- He didn't get the job** - The current Director of Leisure and Libraries with Moray District Council failed to get a similar job with the new Moray Council. Peter Aitken, who lives in Portgordon, was one of five candidates interviewed by a panel of 7 councillors. The successful candidate is Rodney Stone who is meantime Chief Leisure Manager with Midlothian District Council. He will take over responsibility for swimming pools, libraries and museums and for sports development. Both Robert Stewart Director of Planning and Mike Martin Director of Community Services have been appointed to similar posts with the new Council.
- 'The Wonder of Christmas'** - The various groups in Buckie North Church joined together before Christmas to put on a display of scenes created by members. This season the theme was 'The Wonder of Christmas'. Photographs in the 'Advertiser' show Elsie Murray and Elizabeth Taylor as they depict 'The Star'; Mary Moffat and Bessie Murray, 'The Glory' and Margaret Cooke and Margaret Geddes, 'The Shepherds'. (Unfortunately the reproduction is poor.)
- Lodge Gordon's Installation** - Bill Lobban was installed as the Worshipful Master of Lodge Gordon 589. The Installing Marshall was Provincial Grand Master, Bill Legge.
- Snow** - Councillor Sinclair Longmore complained that though the pavements in both Keith and Elgin were cleared following the recent heavy fall of snow those in Buckie were not.
- The Community Council are not 'Watchdogs'** In a letter to the 'Advertiser' Allan Fraser, the secretary of Buckie Community Council said that he was in full agreement with the sentiments expressed by the Chief Executive when he attended the December meeting of the Council. They didn't waste time monitoring the local councillors and had no need to do so. The community council was too busy doing what it was elected to do, seeing for them or listening to members of the who passed on things that required be doing or improving.
- Jan 9 **Honour for Buckie painter** - A Buckie painter and decorator, Bill Hillocks, whose specialist skills in period restoration work have landed him contracts with Historic Scotland has been rewarded in the New Year's Honours List with an MBE. **A report is given on page 1**

Buckie newest fish and chip shop opens today - Libby's Larder next door to Libby's Store at 15-17 Rathburn Street, Gordonsburgh.

Grants for skippers - Two Buckie skippers have received grants from the EU in the latest round of awards under the Financial Inst for Fisheries Guidance. Alistair Reid and his partner have been awarded £4,450 towards work on their boat 'Rival' while Leslie Findlay and his partners have been awarded £6,835 for improvements to the 'Solan'.

For Sale or Lease - Crossroads Restaurant, West Church Street – offers over £18,000. Seating for 30. All furnishings, equipments, crockery, cutlery etc, etc included in the sale.

And so they a' geed hame - There were no fish landings nor cargo boats in Buckie harbour.

Jan 16 **A native of Findochty receives an award** - Among those receiving awards in the New Year's Honours list was Jean Kidd of Glasgow who was awarded the MBE. Jean Kidd is the former Jean Olson of Findochty, the daughter of the late James W. Olson MBE who was the headmaster of Findochty School for 25 years.

The big Black Cat is seen again - Ian Shewan of Crown Street. Portgordon was waiting for the bus at the 'top of the brae' at 1.30pm last Wednesday afternoon when he saw this large black animal in the field to the south of the houses. He watched it for some time before it disappeared among the thicker marsh vegetation.

Rev Bill Taylor is to retire - The retirement of Rev Bill Taylor brings to an end a ministerial career that begun just over 11 years ago and was spent wholly in the service of one congregation, that of the North Church, in Buckie. He was a teacher of classics from 1956 until 1983, latterly as a Principal Teacher, when he gave it up to train as a teacher. **A report is given on page 3**

She keeps on going - Cullen's Grand Old Lady, Rita Donn celebrated her 107th birthday on Friday. She spent the day quietly with friends in Netherha' Nursing Home where she has been a resident now for a number of years. She received a telegram from the Queen and spoke on the phone to her daughter in Canada.

Car parks - The proposal for car parks to be constructed on parts of the infilled railway cutting alongside Carlton Terrace has been approved by Grampian Regional Council transport and roads committee. The road junctions at Gordon Street and West Carlton Terrace will also be widened.

Dinna try to be funny - stick to the facts - A. L. Nath, the scribe who pens reports on the football game in which the Rovers are involved was taken to task by the editor of the 'Advertiser' when his attempts to be jocular were not received in that spirit by folk living near the football field in Portgordon

Neil Sinclair played his last game for the Rovers in this game against the local club before leaving to join the RAF.

Jan 23 **We dinna like far yer pittin it** - Buckie Community Council are to lodge an objection to the sewage treatment plant being built at March Road. It was felt that the land proposed for the building of the plant had been scheduled for industrial purposes and a better use could have been found for it. The secretary, Allan Fraser, who was a member of a party who travelled south to see sewage plants in Devon and Dorset said how he was surprised that there was no smell coming off either but was still of a mind that the one here should be built at Scotstown. (Since the sewage farm has been built at March Road many complaints have been raised about the obnoxious smells emanating from it. It has to be said that in 2008, up until July, due obviously to modifications to the plant no complaints have been heard.)

More jobs at the Slip - Prospects in Buckie Shipyard continue to improve with another four joiners being taken on after the New Year holiday. This brings the work force up to 55. and the dozen who were previously on temporary contracts are now on full ones.

Promotion for Buckie girl - Avril Mair was recently promoted and is now the youngest magazine editor in the UK. Avril a former pupil of Buckie High School is a daughter of William and Irene Mair, 7 William Street, Buckpool. She left the school seven years ago to attend Edinburgh where she graduated with an MA in English Literature. During her student years she free lanced for I D an entertainments magazine and on graduating was invited to join the company as assistant editor and last year was appointed editor.

Bar couple call it a day - Jim and Kay Moir have retired after 13 years as mine hosts of the Anchor Bar. The new owners are Peter and Dalma.

A. L. Nath to change his ways - To recap the scribe that weekly pens a few lines to describe the play of Buckie Rovers was taken to task by the editor for some remarks the previous week which did not go down well and was asked to stick to facts, He opened this week - He who pays the piper calls the tune - fair enough. An improvement on the quality of the write-up is called for. Future reports will carry no attempt at humour, included as they have been merely to enliven what might at times be considered fairly dull, unpalatable fare, a bit like putting sugar on your porridge.

In the best Dickensian fashion act, facts and only facts are to be the order of the day.

Fact number one it was bitterly cold in Nairn and all self respecting brass monkeys had taken heed of the weather flash and stayed safely indoors. (It is hard to keep a good man down and although they took the stick to him, and refused to print his opening preamble on later occasions he was still labouring on in his own style 2008 and doing his best to raise a smile.)

The fishing scene at Buckie - Last week 26 boats landed 1,541 boxes of white fish, 308 boxes of prawns and 718 bags of clams.

The boats were all named with the prices being supplied by Richard Irvin & Sons.

Jan 30 **She was back** - The MV Eilean Dubh E made a return visit to Buckie last week with another large deck cargo. A 90 tonne six bladed propeller for a container ship. The reason for coming into Buckie in this occasion was that the chocks holding the propeller had moved due to stormy

seas 100 miles off Peterhead and Buckie was the nearest port to enter to effect repairs. The cargo was loaded at Birkenhead with the ship on its way to Denmark
The last time the Eilean Dubh E was in Buckie was to pick up the bulkiest cargo ever to leave the port, a gigantic cylindrical tank built by Forsyth of Rothes in Buckie.

‘Tatties ‘N Herrin - A series of traditional workshops for local schools on the theme of tatties ‘n herrin will be taking place in the Drifter Maritime Centre.

Retiral presentation - Rev Bill Taylor retiral as minister of Buckie North Church was marked by a presentation to his wife and himself. The congregation presented Bill with a compact disc player, video recorder and a specially commissioned silver bowl engraved with a text from the Bible while Elizabeth was given a leather hand bag, gloves and a bouquet. The couple also received a cheque, handed over by Session Clerk Stewart Benson.

Buckie born Bobbie retires - Inspector Jim Clark, whose childhood home was at Seaview Road, Buckpool retired from Grampian Police after 30 years service. Jim played football for Buckie Thistle in his younger days and was also a Police Internationalist. One of his last, if not his last task, was to organise the security for Prince Charles who was in the area to mark the official opening of the water extraction project from the River Spey near Fochabers.

Another visitor attraction is on the cards - Another visitor attraction could be established at Fochabers if Grampian Regional Council can be persuaded that it will be financially viable. The Council has been asked to put up £100,000 into the setting up of a Wood Experience Centre to be situated near the Winding Walks outside Fochabers.

There wis nae fitba! – Snow and frost caused all Saturday local football games to be postponed.

Scots Language Group - At the annual general meeting of Buckie Scots Language Group two members of the committee resigned. They were the chairman Isabel Harrison and treasurer Ian Middleton. Grace Morrison allowed herself to be persuaded to take on the post of chairman, Hazel Addison as treasurer with John Grant continuing as entertainments manager and Howard Samuel as secretary.

Poem – title – ‘Life upon Our Little Hill’ by a ‘White Settler’ (somewhere near Drybridge) this is. Found on page 15 column 1.

Feb 6 **Advert** – Bayview Hotel and Restaurant, 57 Seafield Street, Cullen, Opening Saturday 10 February for bar suppers and dinners. Sunday lunches by bookings only. Props. Alex and Anne Mair.

Letter from Annie M. Reid (late of Portgordon) - She speaks of the term ‘Surfing the net’ and what this would have meant to her during her childhood. She goes on to speak of the difference between those of her early days and those of her grandchildren. The game that they used to play such as – hoist the flaggie, smuggle the jiggle, double rope skipping, buttony (each with a small bag of buttons), one two three a leery, ball bouncing, singing games – broken bridges, or the good ship sails through the Eeely, Ally o, The boys had their own games, knifey, ticketies,

marbles, clay ones with maybe an odd glassie. Now it's all computer games, faxes and e-mails. Stop the world she says I want to get off.

The new Regency Garage - The opening of the new purpose-built, state of the art, showroom and garage in High Street sees Regency Garage belonging to the Milne family, leading the way for local motorists into the new century

Top Shop - A Buckie toy shop which only opened last April (on the site of the former Lipton shop on High Street later the café bar Tutti Frutti) has quickly made its mark by being chosen as the Scottish Toy Shop of the year, 1995. Owner of the 'Toy Box' George Duncan, who together with his wife owns a newspaper shop etc., in Keith, was at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London when the award was announced at a dinner arranged by the British Association of Toy Retailers, which was attended by 600.

Feb 13 **The 'Mattie' closure at Seafield Hospital** - The chances of future generations being able to lay claims to a BCK pedigree, born in Buckie, has diminished with the closure of the maternity unit at Seafield Hospital.

The last baby to be born at Buckie Maternity Annex was Greg, the son of Diane Hutchison who had herself been a midwife some ten years ago. Greg was born on February 2nd., he however was not able to be present for the ceremony on closure day, the star of the show was Adam Murray who although born to Marianne in Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin on the previous Thursday had been transferred with his mum to Seafield for the week-end. Adam thus had the honour of being the last baby to leave the 'Mattie' on the very day of its closure.

No, we are not to give you the money - Grampian Regional Council have pulled the rug from under the proposal to set up a Grampian Wood Experience Centre at the 'Winding Walks' outside Fochabers.

We have a site for your house - Home Options at the Stewart Milne site in Buckie.

Awards for long service - Long service certificates were presented at Buckie North Church to members of the congregation who had served their fellows for over 30 years. Those who have been members of the Kirk Session for that length of time were – Stewart Benson, Billy Booth, Joseph Coull, Bob Cruickshank, Ian Duncan, Gordon Forsyth, Sandy Lawrence, John Murray, Peter Slater, Ian Stephen, Bill Thain and Sandy Wilson. Congregational Board members for over 30 years – Isobel Geddes, Nan Redford and Nellie Slater.

Long serving members of the church choir – Margaret Cook, John Cormack, Margaret Mitchell, Ian Moffat, Mary Moffat and Bessie Murray. Kathryn Cowie received a certificate for 21 years service with the Sunday School. The awards were presented by Rev Bill Taylor.

Photograph of George I. McIntosh VC - Visitors to Buckie Library now have a reminder of the gallantry of one of its best known citizens George Imlach McIntosh who was awarded the Victoria Cross for capturing a German machine gun post during the 3rd battle of Ypres in 1917. At a ceremony in the library on Thursday a large black and white photograph, which has been in store for several years, was formally handed over to George's daughter, Grace who in turn passed it on to the library for permanent display. The picture shows Pte. George McIntosh, of

the Gordon Highlanders, is decorated with the VC by King George V in Ibrox Park, Glasgow in September 1917. (A report on the life of George McIntosh was handed over to the library and to Mr Edward Jagger Depute Rector at Buckie Community High School. While doing research in 2006 Allan Fraser read what had been written and found that a considerable part of his life had been missed out. Some time before he had been loaned Mr McIntosh's discharge papers from the RAF and was able to write a far fuller biography. He gave a copy of this to the Librarian in Buckie in May 2006 to replace the one that they had been given initially. He also intended to give a copy to the High School. A copy is to be found in the Fishing Heritage Centre.)

Feb 20 **The Fochabers By-pass** - The Scottish Office has revealed what action it has in store for the Fochabers by-pass last week when it took the wraps off the latest route options for the long awaited project. Campaigners were *unanimous* in their choice that the Fochabers by-pass must be dual carriageway along the northern route. (As is reported but there was still a considerable body who would like to see the by-pass going to the south of the village to by-pass Mosstodloch too.)

Auchenhalrig - Planning application was lodged to extend a barn to form a dwelling house.

Closing down - S. & R. Anderson, Wallpaper and Paint shop at 14 East Church Street.

A name change - The Friends of Seafield Hospital, in recognition of their expanding role of providing assistance to patients in the community other than in the hospital itself, have decided to add to their title. They will now be known as the Friends of Seafield Hospital and Community Patients. At the annual general meeting three ladies intimated their decision to resign – Edith Mummery, Jean Fettes and Sandra Duthie. Four new ladies, however, have agreed to join the committee; they are – Betty Gauld, Susanne O'Connor, Nellie Johnston and Eileen Smith. Joey Bowie agreed to continue as chairman, Allan Fraser as secretary and Adrian Mummery as treasurer. **A report on the activities over the past year is given on page 6.**

Cottage given a grant - Letterfourie Garden Cottage is to receive a grant of £25,000 from the Historic Buildings of Scotland to be spent on improvements.

Night Club for sale - Ziggy's Night Club on Commercial Road is for sale. Price expected in the region of £60,000.

Feb 27 **A reprieve** - Cullen Fire Station has been reprieved along with other retained fire stations in Grampian which were on a list of possible closures to be considered by the new Grampian Fire Board.

Something to bear in mind - "Better to sit silent and look foolish than to open the mouth and leave no doubt." Bill Beattie MBE who was brought up in the Cabrach early last century told of the life in this remote area then. The aforementioned saying was a favourite one of the headmaster of the Lower Cabrach School. For secondary education Bill and his peers had to cycle ten miles to Dufftown where they had to stay all week.

Sutherland Street - The plans to close off the north end of Sutherland Street, Buckpool to vehicular traffic are back on the agenda. When these were originally proposed as part of a package of traffic management schemes for Buckie it was discovered that a piece of ground which would be needed for a turning point had been sold.

Look Back to the Past - Two new compilers – Donald Cowie and Gordon Russell. It wasn't said what had happened to Matt Short who had been doing the work for a long time.

Book Review – Allan Fraser had the task of reviewing a new book 'The Story of Crofting in Scotland' by Douglas Willis published by John Donald at £9.50.

'Walk the Barratt Way' – Barratt Shoes opening in March (presumably in Buckie) two shop assistants required – 12 hours plus (afternoons). Apply to Box number.

Mar 5 **in memory** – Isla and Christine the two daughters of Zetta Sinclair were present together with grandchildren in the Queen Street Rose Garden to witness a seat being set up and a tree planted in her memory.

Zetta's ashes were scattered under the roots before the tree was planted. Isla sang a song that had been written by her mother. **A report of the event is given on page 1**

What the money will be used for - Sue and Bill Hemmings who live in Letterfourie Garden Cottage **tell on page 5** what the £25,000 grant from Historic Scotland. Built in 1770 the cottage consists of an orangery with adjoining cottages on either side. The cottage currently being occupied was rebuilt in the 1930's.

We are closing down - Hunter and Pirie, Electricians and Electrical Goods, East Church Street was advertising a Retiral Sale.

Reminded of a bad 'come doon'.- Keith Sinclair wrote the report on the Rovers' match this week, saying in his opening preamble - "Thankfully I had got my wires crossed, it wasn't that A.L. Nath had kicked the bucket but rather that a bucket had kicked him or rather collapsed under his weight leaving him dumped unceremoniously in a heap thereby putting him out of the game, so to speak, leaving me to put on the scribbler's mantle, albeit reluctantly. I trust that A. L. Nath will recover quickly as this is too much like hard work.

Mar 12 **Girl Guides 'Thinking Day'** - The first Guides 'Thinking Day' 'on the Air' to be held in Moray was such a success that the Young Leaders who made the arrangements can't wait to do it again. Around 150 people called into Moray Micros in the Enzie between 10 o'clock on Saturday morning and five the following afternoon. Originally the radio station was to be set up at the Guide Hut in Buckie but they had a problem with the aerial so Dennis Scott and his wife Eileen both radio 'hams' invited them up to their place and also arranged for the girls to be given a special call-sign – GB4 BYL. The two together with Bill Cecil and George Grant both also 'hams' kept the sets on the air the whole period. The girls were able to speak to people throughout the UK, Canada, America, Turkey, Czechoslovakia, France and Germany and even made contact with a boat somewhere at sea. Those girls doing French and German at the school were able to practice the language.

Portessie hero receives his award - This edition of the 'Advertiser' has a report of the presentation and photograph of Karl Nielsen who received the Royal Human Society Resuscitation Certificate not only for rescuing youngster, Carl Cowie from the sea off Great Eastern Road, Portessie, on July 31st last year but also applied artificial respiration to bring him round before the ambulance arrived. The certificate was handed over by Councillor Eddie Aldridge, Convener, of Moray District Council.

Another shop to close - Fabric Attractions, 46 West Church Street was advertising a closing down sale.

The Broadley Kirk - Planning application was made by Christies (Fochabers) Ltd to set up a crematorium in the former kirk at Broadley ;form gardens of remembrance; close part of the existing public road and form a new section.

Mar 19 **This came as a shock to G. R. C.** - Moray District Council planning and development committee threw out the application for a sewage treatment plant at Mach Road. (Eventually, however, agreement was reached and the plant was built there.)

The Dunblane School shooting tragedy - Following the shooting tragedy at Dunblane Primary School, which resulted in the deaths of a teacher and a number of pupils Allan Fraser as secretary of Buckie Community Council was invited to send a letter of condolence to the Council in Dunblane conveying the heart-felt sympathy of the people of Buckie. The headmaster of the school, Mr Ronald Taylor was a former pupil of Buckie High School. (His grand parents lived for a long time in a cottage adjacent to the meal mill at Bridge of Tynet where knew the family well.)

Mar 26 **Houses for sale** - Stewart Milne the Aberdeenshire housebuilder had a whole page advert in this edition of the 'Advertiser' telling of how the firm were building houses for sale on a brand new development called 'The Maltings' on the east side of High Street

Barber to be a minister - Peter Lees, hairdresser, 31 West Church Street is to be ordained into the Priesthood of the Scottish Episcopal Church on Palm Sunday March 31st at Banff. He has been studying for the past 5½ years to this end.

April 2 **Vandalism** - The breaking of shop windows and doing wilful damage to cars seems to be in fashion these days for young people who cannot find anything positive or productive to occupy their time. Findochty seems to have been particularly badly hit with windows being broken in the Town Hall, Mace Store and Listermac Chemist, while a car owner on Mackenzie Street had a coping stone thrown through his windscreen and another damaged on Cliff Street.

The word Banffshire - The *Banffshire Advertiser* shares one thing in common with Her Majesty the Queen neither are willing to let the historic name of Banffshire fade out. The Queen has given her blessing to the continuation of the post of Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire. Lord Lieutenants are the personal representative of the monarch.

A boat order – the first – The first major new- build order for Buckie Shipyards since the former Jones' Boatyard was taken out of Receivership has been gained by the yard's present company Lithgows. The company has won an order to design and build a new passenger and car ferry for Caledonian MacBrayne. Once built it is planned to operate between Lochaline and Finish on the Isle of Mull. The shipping company is looking to have it ready in time for the 1997 summer season. The new ship will be made to carry 150 passengers and 24 cars or a combination of commercial vehicles and cars.

A poem is found on page 16, columns 5/6 and 7. This is titled **Buckie** and was written by E. Mitchell.

April 9 **“Weel May the Boatie Row”** - Allan Fraser, who was secretary for a number of years, writes a brief history of Buckie Rovers F. C, which carries the former motto of the town on the club crest.

Councillor steps down - Sinclair Longmore resigned from Moray District Council at the change over to The Moray Council at the beginning of the month and left the door open for Councillor Gordon McDonald to take over.

Cheap fares for the ‘Wrinklies’ - Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and the Moray Council have jointly agreed to retain the Concession Travel Scheme which allows the elderly and disabled to travel at reduced fares on bus and rail services.

From April 1 all those to which the scheme applies will continue to be able to travel by bus for a maximum single fare of 10p and by rail at a fifth of the normal, single, return or saver fare.

The annual charge remains at £5.

April 16 **One hundred and one not out** - Elizabeth Lyall celebrated her 101st birthday on Thursday in Wakefield Nursing Home, Cullen. She was born in Buckie and worked for many years in England before returning north to live in Cullen.

Buckie Speakers Club - The officials elected for the session 1996/1997 were as follows - President – George Campbell; vice president – Bruce McLaren; secretary – Gordon Mackie; treasurer- Adrian Bell; education officer – Bruce McLaren; social secretary – Gavin Barclay.

At the Ladies Night to end the session for the summer Sandy Sutherland was awarded the trophy given for the most promising speaker among the new members. The new trophy was donated by Stewart Benson and titled the President's Trophy.

‘Player of the Year’ – The Thistle player voted ‘Player of the Year’ and awarded the *Banffshire Advertiser* trophy was Ian Bruce. This was handed over by Bill Lobban chief sport's reporter with the paper.

April 23 **Fochabers F.C. face a crisis** - The future of junior football in Fochabers is in jeopardy with a crisis meeting scheduled to take place in the Grant Arms. The problem has arisen through the lack of people interested enough to become members of the committee required to run the team. ***Fortunately enough people came forward to form a working committee and enable the team to continue.*** (Fochabers F. C. was still functioning quite successfully in 2006 with every sign that

they would continue. The team won the 2nd Division League title in season 2006/2007 before going into abeyance for a year. They are to rejoin the league in August 2008.)

Doc steps down - Dr Sandy Silberg retired after 22 years as chairman with Buckie Choral Union, as he said, "to allow a younger person to take over."

Book review by Brian Wilkinson - 'The Dahn's Awa' – a collection of poems, 30 in all, by George Herd of Findochty.

April 30 **Mosstodloch residents give their views** - In an exercise mounted by the local Conservative Party, in which the people of Mosstodloch were invited to fill in a questionnaire, the questions of which were related to the proposed by-pass all but one person was in favour of a by pass and most people were in favour of this **passing to the south of the village**.

The last day - April 30 1996 marked the last day in Hunter and Pirie's shop on East Church Street for Bill Pirie and his wife Eleanor who are retiring from business, which is being taken over by their son Hunter. (This was said but it didn't happen in fact the property was taken over by Forrest, Baker, Portsoy who opened the premises as a restaurant 'Emmas', with bread also for sale.)

The shop opened in 1959 when Bill Pirie and his father-in-law Sammy Hunter took over the cycle and radio business of Barclay located in the shop premises. While Sammy looked after the shop and administration Bill was in charge of the electrical contracting side which employed four electricians and two apprentices.

Bill told of how much of their earlier work was the installation of generators on farms throughout the local area and saw him mixing concrete at 7am for the foundations then in the evening travelling to near Laurencekirk to collect the generator.

Warden retires - Mrs Helen Pirie nee Brockie retired after eight and a half years as warden of the sheltered ho housing scheme on Wallace Avenue.

Look Back to the Past - After a spell when Donald Cowie and Gordon Russell compiled the notes Matt Shortt was back in charge in this edition

May 7 **The Cullen Pet Cemetery** – Steve Findlay's pet cemetery at Cullen has become not only a local amenity but a world-wide cause-celebre, but just when Steve thought that he was being left in peace to get on with it he has received a demand for £75 annual licence fee from a new government department. Unless the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency can be persuaded to drop their demand for an annual payment Steve has said that he will have to consider giving up. He said, "I've paid £250 for third party insurance out of my own pocket and also pay a small amount to Seafield Estates for lease of the ground. I thought I had a licence in perpetuity."

Not an everyday event now - Another milestone in the long history of shipbuilding in Buckie was reached on Saturday May 4 when shortly after 12.30pm the 'Copious' slid down the slipway into Buckie harbour.

The first new boat to be launched from the yards since they were taken out of receivership by Lithgows last September and renamed Buckie Shipyards.

The 'Copious' BF237 is the third boat owned by the McKay family of Portsoy to bear the name 'Copious' and the third to be built at 'Herdies' yard.

A twin-rig trawler measuring in length overall 24.3 metres, 7.9 metres in breadth and 4.73 in depth is powered by a Deutz 637 Kw (866hp) engine. The fish room has a capacity of approximately 130 cubic metres. There is accommodation for ten men though the normal crew will be from 6-8.

The boat was launched and named by Mrs Margaret McKay, wife of Wm McKay senior.

May 14 **Change at the top** - Buckie Thistle manager for the past eight years Bob Summers resigned from the post. Malcolm Murray has been appointed player/manager.

Bob's resignation comes after the club's annual general meeting when some of the changes and composition to the board were not to his liking.

Car crash claims the life of young Buckie fisherman- Leslie Mair, 23 died on Thursday night when the car he was driving left the A942 road at Culane, Portknockie, and crashed into a dyke.

Leslie who lived with his brother Robert 'Brown' Mair at 12 Blairdaff, Street, and Buckie was alone in the vehicle at the time.

He was a crewman aboard 'Brown's boat' the Zephyrus which only returned to port after being on look out duties round an oil rig.

Word discredited - The word 'Spastic' is to officially discard as it has been turned into a term of abuse instead of referring to an actual disability. The Scottish Council for Spastics has now changed its name to Capability Scotland.

Look back to the Past - This was again compiled by Donald Cowie and Gordon Russell this week.

The fishing scene - Fifteen boats landed 567 boxes of white fish, 103 boxes of prawns, 36 boxes of shrimps and 450 bags of clams.

May 21 **we are for the northern route** - Moray Council has thrown its weight behind a northern by-pass for Fochabers.

Doric – Anglo- Saxon and Inferior - This was the title of a talk given by Hugh Munro to the Rotarians and is reproduced in this edition. **Some interesting comments and worth reading again.**

Moray Council appoint a ranger – A ranger has been appointed by Moray Council whose special responsibility is the care and protection of the coastline. In conjunction with the Scottish National heritage and existing Speyside Way Ranger, Doug Hawkes aims to provide a service to conserve and enhance the natural environment of the coast and to promote public accessibility and enjoyment of the area by both the local public and visitors.

New 'Double Glazing' company - C'View Windows is new company manufacturing doors, windows and conservatories at the former 'Bulb Factory' on March Road. The manager is

Colin Miller late of Versatile Windows, Deskford. It is a division of the long established building firm Wm. Douglas and Sons.

Mrs Annie Stewart nee Stewart of Ontario, Canada writes - 'For Whom the Bell Tolls.' Have bells all gone the way of the dinosaur? She asks. I remember how every Sunday evening the Free Church bell in Portgordon tolled at 6.45 to call the faithful and a few of us youngsters to evening service.

And before steps were built we climbed the face of the brae or hurried up the 'Banny Ready' to school. In winter with sometimes icy conditions first grades slithered and slid and often broke our slate and scaly as with chilblained fingers and legs we barely made it before the bell would stop ringing at 9 o'clock.

In grade five (sorry class 5) the boy whose desk was next to the bell rope was a VIP when he got the nod from the teacher at 3.45. The odd time Miss Fleming punished us for the ensuing clatter by making us sit quietly for half a minute.

The wee shoppies all had their jingling bell to summon the owners from whatever he or she was doing. It must have been frustrating for a halfpenny worth of sweets.

Woe betides those houses that had a door bell since a favourite prank was to press the bell and run before the irate householder answered.

One important person was the bell man whom we in the 'Paraffin City' had to import from Buckpool. At different stops in the street he proclaimed loudly any event, chiefly a funeral.

During the war the church bells were silent; they presaged an invasion of our island. I was in Portsmouth on VE Day when they again rang out in joyous, careless abandon.

I live next door to a small church which has no bell and never hear a church bell chime anymore.

Matt was back doing his Look Back to the Past article

May 28 **Term Day. The day would be well remembered as such by older folk** It was a day when flittings in both country and town were common. Farm workers if they hidna been socht tae bide (re-engaged for another six months) would attend the feen markets in places locally like Keith and Cullen in the hope that they would be teen on by some ither fairmer. They weren't always, if their ill reputation had gone before them and as such they might have to return the following day to what was known as the 'Rascal Fair'.

Grandiose plans for Strathlene - The front page of the '*Advertiser*' this week carried a sketch of a proposed restaurant, changing rooms and toilets to be built at the swimming pool at Strathlene which is to be brought back into play. Incorporated in the scheme is to be two children's paddling pools sheltered from the winds by the 6 metre high building. The project is the brain-child of John Duncan, Contractor.

***** **Seafield Hospital and the Norwegian escapees** - Page 8 of this edition carries a letter from Mrs C. M. Boyd of Northallerton, Yorkshire who says how during World War II she together with Matron Miss Lumsden were the two trained SRN, SCM, General and Midwifery staff at Seafield Hospital. They were helped by two young nurses during the night and three during the day. She goes on to tell how the hospital would be warned by Mr John Gordon, Poor

Inspector to expect a number of Norwegian refugees who had arrived in Scotland via the 'Shetland Bus'.. **It is worth taking a copy for the Heritage Newsletter.**

Branch shop to open - The Pastry Shop will open at 3 Commercial Road, Portknockie on 3 June. This is a branch of the Pastry Shop, in Buckie.

Buckie Thistle in season 1912/13 - An item in the *Evening Express* that told of the finding of an old copy of the paper in the Masonic Hall, Banff which spoke of a football game between Aberdeen F.C. and Buckie Thistle caught the eye of Allan Fraser. In an article he gives a fuller account of the game, together with the Thistle team and also an account of the Jags experiences that season.

June 4 **Buckie boat goes down** - The 'Zephyrus' BCK 269, a 75 foot long steel built boat, built in Aberdeen in 1961, a type of inshore trawler known in Aberdeen as 'Sputnik' and owned by Alex Murray of Buckie for 15 years, sank 90 miles east of Peterhead while guarding an oil rig. The skipper Robert. 'Brown' Mair and crew members his brother Andrew and Jake Imlach were all rescued.

Welfare League football - Buckie United won the Buckie and District Welfare league with Portsoy as runners up. The United collected 40 points from the 16 games played.

Book Review – by Len Hall - 'Grampian's Past - Its Archaeology from the Air' by Ian Shepherd and Moira Greig. Grampian Regional Council.

Look Back to the Past – Matt Shortt

June 11 **The Wizard of Oz** - Buckie Lyric Theatre gained great acclaim for the professionalism shown in their latest production - '*The Wizard of Oz.*'

June 18 **The fishing scene** - Fourteen boats landed 575 boxes of fish, two of prawns, 2,990 shrimps and 565 bags of clams.

Buckie tops the Vandals League - This sad report was given by Police Sergeant Allan McBey at a recent meeting of the Moray Crime Prevention Panel held in Elgin, leading all the other larger towns. This being said there had been a considerable fall overall in the rate of vandalism.

Book Review – by Hugh Munro – 'The Scots School Dictionary' by Isobel Mcleod and Pauline Cairn.

June 25 **They are still to pay** - Moray Council agreed to continue to give grants to community councils for working expenses. This amounted to £170 plus one penny for each person on the electoral roll in the area covered by the Council. Cullen received £186 with Buckie £235.

No Tourist Office - Buckie Community Council were resigned to the fact that there was not to be a Tourist Caravan sited on Cluny Square this year as there had been now for a number of summers but it was decided that they would write and ask why.

July 2 **An American in Buckie** - Joe Sutherland retired from his old profession and turned to religion. He accepted an invitation to become minister at the Church of Christ on West Church Street sold his house and all the furnishings and crossed the 'Pond'. **A report is given on page 5.**

Off to Lourdes - Fourteen members of St Peter's Youth Club, aged from 13 to 17 are on their way to Lourdes to assist the pilgrims. They left on Saturday morning accompanied by Father Eddie Traynor and 7 adults.

We're rale bonny noo This might well have been said by those living on East and West Carlton Terrace. The centre of Buckie is looking better now that the landscaping of a further section of the infilled railway cutting has been carried out. Together with the provision of more car parks, which will allow off the road parking to people attending the Fishermen's Hall, the Town House and the Methodist Church

Rovers' stalwart dies - The man whose name became synonymous with Buckie Rovers F.C. throughout the 1970's and into the 1980's died in Seafeld Hospital on Friday morning. Norman Taylor was 81 and suffered from a debilitating illness for some years. **A full report is given on page 9.**

A Poem is found on page 13 columns 3 and 4 - It is entitled 'A Country Moussie' and was written by Wendy Mclean, Redburn, and Drybridge.

Look Back to the Past - Matt Shortt was helped this week by Alfie Cruickshank.

July 9 **Mill jobs available** - The Isla Bank Mill Ltd, Woollen Manufacturers Station Road, Keith, are looking for experienced staff. Those required are – Weavers, Knotting Machinists, Supercop Winders, Loom Tuners/ Supervisors and Darner.

Buckie shown up in a bad light as a wilful and dangerous act of vandalism becomes known- A new couple, the man a doctor on the rigs who took up residence in a house on Mill Crescent hung up two sheets on the clothes line before going to bed awoke to find that they had both been set alight and destroyed. Stephen Davidson was extremely disappointed and said had there been a wind the blankets could well have blown against the house and started off a bigger fire. He is offering a reward of £100 for any information.

Headteacher retires - The Headteacher at the Special Education Unit at Buckie Community High School, Mrs Sandra Smart, retired at the end of the term. She is seen in a photograph receiving a number of gifts from staff, pupils and parents.

He spoke at a Rural meeting - Allan Fraser, former Geography teacher at Buckie High School and amateur local history enthusiast was the guest speaker at the June meeting of Arradoul WRI

where he gave an interesting talk on the Enzie both as it was originally stretching from Cullen to Fochabers and in more modern times from Arradoul to beyond Tynet.

Mature student - Hugh Patience who retired as manager of the M.D. M. office in Buckie has been studying at Aberdeen University. He obtained a Level One pass for his research into Fishing and Fisherfolk for studies last year. He has followed this with a Level 2 pass on the Nineteenth Century Herring Boom in North East Scotland. These two grades give him 7 credits towards an undergraduate degree.

July 16 **Opening announcement** - Hazel Crane and her husband Laurie have opened as Ladies and Gents Hairstylists at 46 West Church Street. Appropriately enough they have called their new shop 'Cutting Corner' as it is situated at the junction with North Pringle Street.

Isabel 'pens' again - A short poem by Isabel Harrison is to be found on page 8, column 4.

The Fishing Scene - 19 boats brought into Buckie harbour last week – 368 boxes of white fish, 607 boxes of prawns and 453 bags of clams.

A clever loon - The Dux of Buckie Community High School and winner of the Miller Medal this year is Michael Cormack. Michael came first in Maths, Chemistry and Physics.

July 23 **The Lifeboat Gala was held on Saturday** - The event was blessed with glorious weather. Adam Robertson principal organiser said how the crowd were slow to gather but as the day wore on the numbers grew considerably giving good reason for hoping that the 'take-in' would be of a substantial size. He said how he was a little disappointed that fewer local firms than had been hoped took up space in the Fishmarket. A good number of firms from much further afield were present. For one day in the year at least full use was made of the market. Buckie District Fishing Heritage Society had a stall at the Gala with the following having their picture taken – John Rennie, Peter Bruce, Isabel Harrison, Margaret Bruce and Jeannie B. Cowie.

Tommy Hillocks MBE - A photograph shows local painter Tommy Hillocks who received his MBE at Hollyrood Palace, Edinburgh on July 4 from HM the Queen. He was accompanied by his wife Ann and daughters Isobel and Sandra.

Cash from the Common Good Fund - A photograph shows Councillor Gordon McDonald, Convener of Moray Council as he hands over a cheque for £2000 to Buckie Thistle Boys Club to help with travel expenses to Denmark where they are to go to take part in the Dana Cup Tournament.

July 30 **Peter Fair** - The reporter tried his best to say something new about Peter Fair that hasn't been said on countless times before – a hard job. He did mention that the crowd appeared to be smaller on the Friday, the 'real' day but suggested that this was due to the fact that it was now spread over three days from Wednesday to Friday. It was dry. A lot of photographs were taken.

Fishing Heritage Society - Although the Heritage Cottage is bursting at the seams with the collection of artefacts, documents, photographs and pictures, in the hands of the Buckie District Fishing Heritage Society members are still looking for more.

The Society decided some time ago to get a larger purpose-built centre to house its ever-growing collection and has submitted an outline planning application for a building to be located close to the present cottage on part of the infill of the former railway cutting.

In a new development to raise funds for the future development of the Society chairman Peter Bruce has had some of his paintings laser copied and put on display to the public in the local library. These will sell for £20 each. The original paintings have been commissioned over the years by various people, all of whom have consented to copies being made and sold in aid of the Society. **See page 3**

‘Death at Hairy Corner’ The last chapter in this serial by Spike is to be found in this edition.

Aug 6 **Terror at Victoria Park’** - This is the name of the new serial to be written by Spike, the first paragraph appearing in this edition.

‘Needful Things ‘ is the name of a shop just opened at 39 West Church Street. Second-hand Household Goods bought and sold.

He built a car - Buckie man Jack Grant. 60 St Peter’s Road has designed and built a car almost from scratch. A coach builder to trade he began three years ago with the chassis from a scrap Renault 5. He got the original idea from a car kit magazine published in 1993 but modified this greatly as he went along. He had to purchase such things as windscreens etc. but he made the bodywork from aluminium and wood. He has painted it bright red and aims to enter it at motor shows in the cars from kits class. Back in the early 1980’s Jack built a boat in his back garden again over a period of three years and had it launched in 1984.

Signed for the Rovers - Phil Gordon, Jimmy Brindle, Derek Burnett, Graeme Tallis, Graham Tyson, Jason Gault, Mark Wood, William Farquhar, Malcolm Munro, Stevie Mackie, Neil Duthie, Gary Innes, Eddy Campbell, Mike Slater and Richard ‘Pogo’ Paterson. These all played for the Rovers the previous season. Newcomers – Colin Nicol and Mark Chisholm ex Portgordon and Robbie Cruickshank, ex Deveronside Youth team. The management hope that they will also have the services of George Alex Cowie for a short spell until he leaves for Australia.

The Fishing scene - 29 boats came in to land their catches at Buckie last week. The total catch was 936 boxes of white fish; 1254 boxes of prawns and 220 bags of scallops. The boats were - Onward, Girl Ann, Bunillidh, Defiant, Guide Me, Angus Rose, Astra, Armani, Aspire, Sheilona, Choice, Heathery Brae, Shimanda, Lynn Marie, Sapphire Stone, Cardanel, Seagull, Incentive, Kedana, Regent Bird, Melita, Emmanuel, Voyager, Intrepid, Fragrant Rose, Rival, Amoria, Kestrel and Pisces. (**Changed days.** The above list was typed up on May 24 2006 and the week before only two boats came into Buckie to land their catches.)

Now open – DC Auto Valet – Cars, Caravans, Hotels and House carpets cleaned. House walls and roofs pressure washed. Blairdaff Street.

Cullen Craft Fair - The ninth annual Arts, Crafts and Hobbies Fair was officially opened in Cullen Town Hall on Saturday by the Earl of Seafield, who was introduced by the chairman of the Royal Burgh of Cullen and Deskford Community Council, Mike Marshall.

Aug 13 **He lost his life on the hills** - A Buckie Assistant Venture Scout Leader, Shaun Ross (25) of 49 Yardie was killed while on a hill walking expedition in Wester Ross. He was a married man with a son 13 months old.

Buckie Thistle 0 Peterhead 4 - (Highland League Cup) First game of the season. Dunbar, Ogston (Lyon), Lamberton, Matheson, Henderson, Murray, R. Smith, McPherson, Begg, Corser, E. Smith (Lumsden).

Death of hotelier - Bruce Sharp who moved to Buckie in 1991 with his wife Pat and family to take over the Highlander Hotel on West Church Street was found dead by the police in his car at 12.15pm last Thursday close to the picnic spot and look out near Drybridge.

Aug 20 **Acts of wilful damage continue** - Moray Councillors and members of the community council met on Cluny Square on Saturday morning to view the mess following a night of vandalism. Flower beds were destroyed, flowers scattered everywhere, hanging baskets pulled down and flower displays outside private residences torn apart. Calls are to be made for security cameras to be installed as a priority measure and also a ban on drinking alcohol in public places.

Former Community Councillor graduates - Lorna Forbes (nee Watson) who was a member of Buckie Community Council before she moved to Aberdeen recently graduated from Aberdeen with a MA (Hons) degree in Sociology. She has since re-married and is now Lorna Baxter and has had two more children. She now lives in Inverurie.

New superstore - Buckie's new store is rising on the site of the former Alexander's Garage on East Cathcart Street. The new store is being built by Robertson's of Elgin for LIDL, a German company that is rapidly expanding in the UK.

The company already have stores in 7 European countries - France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Belgium and Germany. They opened their first store in the UK in 1994 and now have 90 scattered throughout the UK when the one in Buckie opens in November it will be the 14th in Scotland.

A token of respect - Prior to the Rovers versus Burghead Thistle match on Saturday a minutes silence was observed to mark the passing of two Rovers' stalwarts, Norman Taylor and linesman Sandy Thomson, Cullen. Both died during the close season. It was appropriate that Jimmy Grant, Burghead, President of the Scottish Junior Football Association should be present as the two men gave a lot to junior football over the years.

Aug 27 **More on the dole** - Buckie's unemployment rate stood at 9.3% at the end of July, closing the gap on Forres 11.8%, as the area's highest.

Community Council are in agreement - Moray Council will get the full support of Buckie Community Council in any moves it makes to get the drinking of alcohol in public places banned and also the installation of closed circuit television cameras on the streets of Buckie.

More boats to be scrapped - Letters were going out last week to the successful applicants for decommissioning grants in this year's fishing boat reduction programme. Out of 167 UK boats which will be scrapped under the scheme 56 are from Scotland. 261 applications were submitted, 89 from Scotland, five being from the owners of Buckie boats.

Not an everyday occurrence - Deveronside 0 Buckie Rovers 1 (Semi/Final Robertson Cup.)
Advert – Nemat Tandoori, 52 West Church Street.

The Portessie Public Hall - known to many older 'Slochites' as the 'Fishermen's Hall' has presented a forlorn sight for a good many years, the bowling fraternity were the last to use it five years ago and even then it was becoming very dilapidated.

Two of the villagers who are active in a group who want to see the hall repaired and put to good use and who are trying to drum up sufficient interest so that a committee can be formed are Gillian Bailey and Lesley Campbell. **See report on pages 1 and 2.** (They were successful in the end in achieving their aim, a much improved hall being re-opened in 2005, but that's another story.)

They would have been proud - Jason Taylor, Macduff, a grandson of the late Ernie and Violet Taylor of St Peter's Road graduated with a BSc (Hons.) in Genetics from Edinburgh University. He is to go to London to study for a Doctorate.

A new doctor set up - Starting on September 16 the GP's in Seafield (Hospital), Benreay and Cullen will join their opposite numbers in the Banff area to provide a new service linked with the GDOCS in Aberdeen. The full particulars of how this will operate were to be given in the next edition of the 'Advertiser'.

He was champ at Buckie - A relative newcomer to Flower Shows, Ian Wilson of Duthie Place, Buckie, has followed up his success at the Keith Show with his vegetables by winning three trophies at Buckie and District Flower Show. Ian took the Taylor Trophy awarded to the exhibitor who gains the most points in all sections apart from Fuchsia and Leeks.

Sept 3 **He signed for the Thistle** - 21 year old Andy Matheson a native of Buckie signed for Buckie Thistle this week from Dundee. He was first spotted by George Alex Cowie when he was manager of Forres Mechanics and later transferred to Dundee. (In May 2006 Andy, who later played for the Rovers before returning to play for Forres, signed again for the Thistle.)

Closing down sale - Denim Plus, East Church Street, is to start a closing down sale on 4 September. The reduction on the goods range from 20 to 50%.

A poem is found on page 16 columns 5/6 - This is entitled 'The Auld Range' and was written by Wendy McLean, Redburn, Drybridge. (It is worth taking a copy.)

A poem is found on page 17 columns 3/4 - This is entitled 'The Days of Alexander's (buses) A former bus inspector with Alexander's , Jimmy Tweedie, now living in Altrincham composed this poem which he calls 'Stop the Bus' (The poem will appeal to those who travelled a lot on the buses in days of yore and who remember the clippies.)

Look Back to the Past was compiled this week by Matt Shortt, Alfie Cruickshank, Marina Campbell and Bill Flett.

Sept 10 **The first time** - For the first time since the post was created a Deputy Prime Minister of the UK has visited Moray in his official capacity. Michael Heseltine chose to come here to speak to local businessmen and to encourage Conservative Party workers in the run up to the General Election. The deputy Prime Minister was in the visitors' centre at Baxter's of Speyside in Fochabers on Friday evening attending first a reception and later a dinner where he spoke of the parties policies as they affect Scotland and discussed local issues with those present.

Caravan Rally - The north-east Centre Caravan Club held a very successful rally in the Linzee Gordon Park on Saturday August 3rd. Councillor Bill Jappy welcomed the visitors to the rally and wished them a pleasant weekend in the town and area. There were 83 caravans with 30 of them coming from the Netherlands.

A buffet social was held in the Town House Hall of Friday evening.

Local hotels and restaurants advertise themselves - St Andrews, Buckie, Cullen Bay Hotel, Cullen, Rathburn Hotel, Buckie, Ugie House Hotel, Keith, Bayview Hotel and Restaurant, Cullen, Commercial Hotel, Buckie.

Grampian Doctors - A whole page advertisement gave information on the new set up.

Sept 17 **He makes a habit of winning prizes** - Ian Wilson of Sharmain, Duthie Place, Buckie is not only a champion gardener as his success at Keith Show and Buckie Flower Show spelt out he has also been winning prizes with his 1974 Vauxhall Victor car which he bought when it was a year old. He won no less than nine trophies at various rallies during the summer months. Unlike so many others who show off their vehicles at rallies and transport them there Ian drives his motor to wherever he wishes to go.

Linn Coort, Linn Avenue - Buckie's new 'Very Sheltered Housing' complex has been accepting tenants since July 8 this year and 12 of the apartments have now been taken up. Three bed-sitting rooms are vacant and anyone who is considering taking one should contact the manager May Munro.

Art exhibition - An exhibition of pictures by two professional artists who moved to the north east from Birmingham area 18 months ago will be housed in the 'Buckie Drifter' at least until the end of the month. The two artists are Bob Williams and Maxine Stanford.

Buckie Cat Show - The ninth Buckie Cat Show attracted an entry of 83 cats that were competing for 33 trophies which were on offer.

A poem is found on page 18 - Written by Wendy McLean of Redburn, Drybridge who gave her short poem the title of 'A Country Bumpkin'.

Sept 24 **Not really for a roller blading and BMX area** - In general the members of Buckie Community Council were not in favour of money being spent on the provision of a roller-blading and BMX cycle area in Buckie.

Members spoke of the money (£3,000) that had been spent on the provision of a BMX area over on March Road which went out of use very quickly. Councillor Gordon McDonald, Convener of Moray Council said that if Moray Council were to provide an area with concrete ramps etc., they left themselves open to be sued should an accident occur. Councillor Roy Shepherd said that he agreed in the main with what had been said but felt that it would be a means of keeping kids off the streets.

Champion gardeners - Robert and Lillian Stronach, 18 Redburn Drive won the competition for best kept garden by a Moray Council tenant. This is the second year running that the couple have won the competition and in fact have been placed seven times out of the eight years in which the competition has been running.

Oct 1 **Teacher retires** - Staff at Buckie Community High School gathered last week to bid farewell to John Fowlie who had been on the staff at the school for 18 years. All together he had taught for 34 years. Prior to coming to Buckie he was PT of PE at Keith Grammar School. Besides teaching PE at Buckie he was also a Principal Teacher of Guidance. John actually retired before the end of the summer term.

The fishing scene - Last week a total of 28 boats landed 892 boxes of white fish, 621 boxes of prawns and 611 bags of scallops.

Advert - Tom Duguid, Painter and Decorator.

A joint affair - Two Buckie football clubs hit the jackpot last week when they launched a joint lottery-style fund-raising initiative.

Any enmities which may have developed between the Buckie Thistle and Buckie Rovers have certainly been put to rest and now the clubs are hoping that they will score with 'Own Goal'.

Jags President, Murray Thain is confident that the venture will prove to be a complete success while Malcolm Smith a member of the Rovers' management committee is equally enthusiastic and is looking forward to the prospect of closer collaboration between the two clubs both on and off the field.

Moravian Garage - A new large shop is meantime being built at the Moravian Garage on High Street with an advert in the local paper for staff.

Oct 8 **Back having a dig** - A team from the Department of Archaeology of the National Museums of Scotland has returned for the third time to investigate an area in the Deskford valley where the famous carnyx was found 180 years ago. The artefact, a Pictish war horn, was found by a workman some six feet below the ground surface when digging a trench for a drain.

Oct 15 **Victoria Cross up for sale** - The VC won by George I. McIntosh of Buckie during World War I has been put up for sale by his daughter Grace and will be auctioned by Spink and Son in London on Wednesday November 6.

The curator of the Gordon Highlander Museum in Aberdeen, Stuart Allan is anxious for the medal to stay in this area, ideally in the museum but the museum hasn't the funds to bid the amount which it is expected to fetch and has issued an appeal for contributions to allow for a successful bid to be mounted. A donation of £500 was agreed by Moray Council policy and resources committee at their meeting last week; This will only be paid if the museum is successful in obtaining the medal.

The catalogue has suggested a figure in the region of £18,000 to £22,000 but this could be lower depending on whether other VC are up for auction.

Common Good Fund - Buckie Cricket Club received a grant of £2,000 from the local Common Good Fund towards the construction of their new pavilion.

New Medical Centre - Planning application has been made for the construction of a new medical centre at Highfield Road.

Plans for 'Hairy Corner' - Outline planning application has been made for the demolition of one disused house and the erection of three terraced houses at 14 Bridgend.

Bank to close - The Bank of Scotland is to close its Portknockie branch.

***** **A poem is found on page 15, columns 6/7** - It is titled 'Buckie Names' and was written by Edward Mitchell. **It is worth taking a copy for a future Heritage Newsletter.**

Book review by Hugh A. Patience - The title is 'The Ring Net Fishermen' of the Clyde estuary. Written by Angus Martin, himself a fisherman, it costs £12.95.

A short poem is found on page 17 columns 2/3 - Written by Wendy McLean, Redburn, Drybridge, she has titled it 'A Hoosie on the Hill'

Book review by Brian Wilkinson - The book is titled 'The Speyside Line' (Published by the Great North of Scotland Railway Association at £4.50)

Oct 22 **Buckie Christmas Carnival** - The Carnival which had been a feature of the festive season for almost a decade is in grave danger of being abandoned because of lack of interest. Only 8 businesses were represented at a meeting last week called by the Buckie Traders Carnival Committee to set up a new committee to arrange this year's event. This although 80 businesses had been circulated.

Advert - Cherulas, 39 West Church Street, massive stock clearance.

The 'Own Goal' lottery - The first winner of the top prize in the joint Buckie Thistle/ Buckie Rovers sweep 'Own Goal' was Peter Farquhar who received a cheque for £2,350

Isabel Harrison - a short poem - This is found on page 12 and is titled 'Advice to Emma Bonino' in the poem Isabel is taking a snipe at the Italian woman who is in charge of the EU Fishing Policy.

Childhood ditties - On the same page John H. Anderson of Findochty recounts some of the ditties that he remembered his mother saying when he was young.

Oct 29 **Buckie Inshore Fishselling Company** opened an office on the north east quadrant of Cluny Square. The shop was built and first used by W. T. McGarth 'Billy' Ironmonger among other things, later by different hairdressers, as a Dress Shop, Fish Shop, and Insurance Office.

Christmas Carnival - This was only saved when Buckie and District Round Table offered to help with the arranging.

Nov 5 **The 'Drifter' a success** - The Buckie Maritime Heritage Centre has closed its doors on another summer season which has seen the number of visitors passing through increasing by 4,500, a third more than the previous year.
"This was particularly noticeable in July and August", said Councillor McDonald,.... "we have had a very successful season and have achieved a sound financial footing, which will enable potential growth in the future."

The Swiss Cottage or as we called it 'The Reid Hoosie' on the A98 has been bought by Christies (Fochabers) Ltd who intend to turn it into a holiday home for visitors - **See the report on page 7** (This has never happened and in July 2008 stands empty and quite forlorn as it has done for many a year past.)

A clever quine - A Buckie student has been awarded a PhD after studying for 7 years at Aberdeen University. Claire Wood, daughter of Ian and Hazel Wood, 103 High Street first graduated in 1992 with a double first in Microbiology and Genetics and also won a prestigious award.

Nov 12 **Remembrance Day** - A bright and sunny day, though chilly, brought out a bigger crowd than the previous year to the Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial on Cluny Square. Wreaths were laid as normal by the Royal British Legion, Red Cross, Moray Council, Community Council, the T.A. and the Army Cadets.

The McIntosh VC - The Victoria Cross won by George Imlach McIntosh during World War I was sold to an anonymous buyer for the sum of £36,800, a far higher sum than had been estimated and away beyond the finance of the Gordon Highlanders Museum in Aberdeen.

The Portessie Hall - A crowd of 60 local people, together with local Moray Councillors, attended the Extraordinary General meeting of Portessie Public Hall at which a committee was elected and proposals for bringing the dilapidated hall back into use was discussed. Members of the steering group are – Gillian Bailey, Rosella Smith, Dick Smith, Fiona Bain, Fiona Newlands, Graeme Newlands, Lesley Campbell and Christine Murray.

A committee of 14 was elected the officials being - Chairman – Gillian Bailey, vice chairman Lesley Campbell, secretary- Rosella Smith, treasurers – Bob Mackie and Eck Mackay.

Nov 19 **Long service trio** - James Leslie and his twin brother John together with Gordon Pirie have each been in the 1st Buckie Boys' Brigade for 40 years. They started as boys and worked through the ranks to become officers.

Advert - Portgordon Tool Hire - Tools for every purpose – electrical hand tools – tipping truck and trailer for hire. Phone Buckie 835.....

Champion local horsewoman - Colleen Hendry of Brankumleys Farm, Buckie is the Champion British Lady Driver of Hackneys following her success at the Northern Hackney Show held at Harrogate recently.

Advert – Glad Rags, 30 West Church Street - For that unusual gift– crazy clocks, church candles, cuddly toys, winter woollies, and just in cheeky chocolates and chocolate body paint with free brush.

Closing down sale - 'Second Chance' – 3 East High Street, Portgordon.

Nov 26 **Hear this** - The route for the proposed Fochabers by-pass has been established, it will take the northern route which has been reserved for it for many years. This announcement came from the Secretary of State during Scottish Question Time in the House of Commons on Tuesday of last week (How come then that we are no further ahead in May 2006, almost ten years later. (One reason is that not everybody is for the north route including the person over whose ground it would be laid.) (The first positive steps were being made in June 2008 with test boring taking along the line of route.)

A new reporter in the Advertiser – Laura Gartside. She had two articles in this edition under her name.

Only one was chosen - Neil Duthie, who plays for Buckie Rovers, was the only North Section junior player chosen to play for the North against Tayside. Normally Neil plays in midfield but here was picked at full-back, nevertheless he scored the only goal for his side that was beaten 2-1 and was judged 'Man of the Match'.

Advert – Gordon Smith, Builder. Buckie – 834.....

More rhymes - George Herd, Findochty, contributed - 'Me and Ma Grannie and a great lot mair' And Mackerel skies wi mare's tails, mak lofty ships carry low sails. A sign of windy weather his father had said.

Advert – Livingstones, East Church Street - Clothing and Footwear.

Dec 3 **Young cook has winning style** - Fourteen year old Isla Jappy a third year pupil at Buckie Community High School of 8 Craigbo Terrace, Portessie took second place out of 12 UK

finalists in the 'Cook Against the Clock' competition sponsored by DuPont. Over 1000 entries were received. Each contestant had 20 minutes to produce a meal for two with ingredients costing no more than £4. Isla chose her own recipe – Strathlene Salmon Kiora with vegetable baskets...

Apart from receiving gifts for her the school also received a number of items. **The report is given on page one**

Look Back to the Past - James Thomson joined Matt Shortt and Marina Campbell as compilers of the columns.

Some advertisers in this edition - Needful Things – 39 West Church Street; Cherulas, 33 West Church Street; Everyday Fresh, 29 West Church Street; Glad Rags, 30 West Church Street; Candy Box, 17 West Church Street; Décor Scene, 31 West Church Street; Yvonne's, 29 West Church Street; R. S. Cruickshank, 32 West Church Street; Livingstone Clothing, 36 East Church Street. W. F. Johnston, 13-15 West Church Street; Gents, 68 West Church Street; Listermac Pharmacies, 7 West Church Street; Woodstyle, 37 West Church Street, Prints, kits, canvases etc.; J & I services, Telephones, Mobile phones, CB radios, etc., etc., 65 West Church Street; Homes and Gardens, 25 West Church Street. Kenny Thomsen, Butcher, 10 West Church Street; Hang Hing, Chinese Take –Out, 55 West Church Street.

Dec 10 **Buckie Christmas Carnival** - The weather behaved itself on Saturday for the Carnival. There were a larger number of people on the street and in the shops than is normal. In retrospect to begin the Carnival at 10'clock was a bit early as it caught many people, including shop staff off guard.

The Portessie Hall - Seafield Estates superiors of the ground have offered the site of the hall for free to the committee on certain conditions.

She didn't stay long - Laura Gartside appears to have gone with no articles under her names this past two weeks.

Christmas dinner - The congregation of Buckie Salvation Army is again inviting people who will otherwise be on their own on Christmas Day- for whatever reason - to join with them at the New Street Hall on Christmas Day for dinner.

Blairstone Cottage, Enzie for sale. This was occupied for a long time by Mr Douglas Currie. The blurb said how it was in the final stages of extensive modernisation with an asking price of £47,000.

Dec 17 **Book review by Brian Wilkinson** - 'Buckie in Old Postcards Volume 2' compiled by Eric Simpson. (European Library, the Netherlands - £9.95.)

Dec 24 **New branch formed** - A Buckie branch of FAL has been formed. The meeting in the Marine Hotel called by the Fishermen's Association Limited with a view to forming a branch met with success.

Advert - Libby's Store, Rathburn Street, Gordonsburgh – Open Christmas and New Year at the following times - Christmas Day – 10am till 1pm; Boxing Day – 10am till 1pm; New Year's Day – 10am till 1pm; January 2 – 10am till 1pm; Friday 3 January – 8am till 7pm.

A farmer at heart - Allan Fraser took exception to what had been written in a caption to a photograph that appeared in the previous week's 'Advertiser' taken at Mill of Rathven. He explained that what was shown was a harvest scene (not a hay-stack) with a stack or ruck builder about to top out and setting the last sheaf in place. The photograph also shows an almost empty cart, pulled by a horse, with the forker still aboard. He told a little more about 'leading' and stack or ruck building **See letter on page 17**

Dec 31 **'Do-up' for Old Folks' Home-** Struan, the Abbeyfield Society Home in Buckie has been completely refurbished and residents are now enjoying a much more modern environment.

The end of a long shift - Jean Flett retired after 42 years in the office at the shipyard of Herd and Mackenzie. During her time she had seen the firm launch 176 boats of various kinds including the Captain Scott. The only two members of staff left with the firm who were there when she started are Jim Farquhar, the companies Repair and Refit Director and shipwright Bill Rainie.