

1997

Jan 7 **MBE for Buckie skipper** - Alistair Reid, Con-Amore, Cliff Terrace, a fishing boat owner and skipper also a board member of the Scottish Fishermen's Producer Organisation for the past 20 years and chairman for the past 3 has had his services to the industry recognised with the award of the MBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours List.

MBE for Cullen man - Kenny Stewart of 10 South Deskford Street who has served the community well for over 32 years as a member of Cullen Fire Brigade was awarded the MBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours List. Mr Stewart retired last year from the Fire Service where he held the position of Sub-officer in charge of Cullen Fire Station for the past 12 years. He is well known in the community for his radio and TV rental business which he started up in 1964 besides doing electrical work. He stopped this around 12 years ago to concentrate on radio and TV.

Cullen minister moves - Rev Alex McPherson left Cullen on Monday of this week to take over the parish of Drymen in Stirlingshire. He had been minister of the Cullen and Deskford Church of Scotland for the past nine and a half years. He took a keen interest in the Keswick in Buckie weeks, latterly serving as secretary of the organisation.

Cricket Club receives cash boost - Buckie Cricket Club received a grant of £29,500 to be used in the construction of the new pavilion in the Linzee Gordon Park. The new pavilion will include changing rooms, toilets, showers and a scoreboard.

Jan 14 **Laid off** - With the closure of one of the white fish and filleting lines at Strathaird Seafoods Buckie factory 33 employees have lost their jobs.

***** **Cullen's grand old lady reaches 108** - On Saturday Rita Donn, Cullen's grand old lady, celebrated her 108th birthday at Netherha Home, Buckie with some relatives and friends. She received telegrams from HM Queen; Secretary of State for Social Services, Peter Lilley and great granddaughter Mavis in Canada. She also received cards from James MacPherson, Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire; Councillor Bill Jappy, Buckie West and Cullen Pensioner's Club. She also received a bouquet from her daughter Maggie and grandson James.

Change at the Buckie Library - Sheila Campbell moved from Buckie to Elgin as Principal Librarian Central Support Services with Ian Leith, a native of Wick, taking over as Senior Librarian for the Buckie area.

Keith By-Pass - The route for the Keith by-pass has been approved though like the by-pass at Fochabers no time scale has been given when work will commence. The new road, a single carriageway measuring 4.5kms, is planned to leave the A96 at a point near to the turn off for Buckie, pass close by the Keith Show ground to join the A96 again at Tarnash. There will be climbing lanes in two sections to allow overtaking. Two bridges will require to be built, one over the River Isla and another over the A95 and railway.

** **A poem is found on page 6, columns 4/5** - Entitled 'A Council Tax-Payer's Lament' written by 'A Slochie Wifie'.

Skipper sustains injuries - John Flett a married man of 16 St Peter's Road, Buckpool and skipper of the local fishing boat, 'Moray Explorer', had both his legs broken when fishing gear fell on him as the boat was making its way back to Buckie. When a signal was sent for assistance the lifeboat was launched and met the boat some 12 miles offshore where members of the lifeboat went aboard the vessel to render first-aid. When the boat

arrived in the harbour Mr Flett was attended by Dr Pringle before being taken to Dr Gary's Hospital in Elgin.

Masonic Installation - Bill Lobban was installed as Worshipful Master of Lodge Gordon 589.

Jan 21 **A rare event** - The head girl at Milne's High School in Fochabers has become only the second female to pass the football referee's course in Moray and she's looking forward to progressing as far as she can up the referee's ladder. Justin Jones from Clochan was one of a class of nine males and one 14 year old boy from Elgin on the course that took place at RAF Lossiemouth. She expects to get a call to first referee school games before moving on to the juniors. She will be moving on to University in Aberdeen soon and hopes that she will get some games there on a Saturday to manage for which she will get paid and help her finances.

Found drowned in Buckie harbour - The body of 25 year old Mark Simmers, a student of Hazelbank, Craigbo Terrace was discovered by divers in Buckie harbour at 2pm on Monday afternoon. He was last seen on Low Street, Buckie on Saturday evening and was reported missing by his parents on Sunday.

Advert - Finechty (sic) Chip Shop now open at Station Road.

**** **Mrs Annie Reid writes from Canada** - In this her latest communication she tells of how in her young days she believed that Tannachy House on the outskirts of Portgordon was reputed to have been haunted with a ghost story being told.

Book review by Grace Morrison and John Grant - 'A Doric Dictionary' compiled by Douglas Kynoch (Scottish Cultural Press) £5.99.

Jan 28 **The Buckie Burn is a 'dump'** - The local community council was again discussing the dreadful state of the Buckie Burn caused by the amount of all kinds of rubbish that is dumped into it. Over the years the lower reaches of the Burn, north of the Victoria Bridge, has become polluted with waste material of all kinds. A photograph, included with the report, shows the hideous mess of papers etc., on the banks of the burn adjacent to Union Terrace.

Chemist to retire - Bill and Mae Summerfield who have been in business at 9 East Church Street, Buckie for the past 21 years are to retire on Saturday 1st February. The business of W. Summerfield and Co. Ltd has been disposed of to Normac Pharmacy Services Ltd.

More to the drowning tragedy - Mark Simmers whose body was found in Buckie harbour last week was an Honours Graduate of an Ayrshire college in Recreation and Leisure Management. He had been on the look out for a job and was playing football for Portgordon United in the North Juniors League and had played on Saturday against Islavale. The police have said how there were no suspicious circumstances but rather that it was a tragic accident.

Unemployment soars - There are more on the dole in Buckie, the figure being 543 or 8.4% of the insured population.

Look Back to the Past - This was compiled this week by James Thomson and Marina Campbell with Matt Shortt being missing.

Feb 4 **Outstanding achievement** - A Buckie 6th year student, Colin Mair of Portknockie made two new crystals as part of his sixth year course in Chemistry at Buckie Community High School. The rector, Chris Sugden, said "For a school student to make one chemical new to science is as unlikely as a first year pupil being chosen to play football for Scotland in the World Cup, to have made two is an outstanding achievement."

Colin adds his name to distinguished Roll of Honour of Buckie High School pupils who have made chemical compounds new to science. The Roll started with James Findlay of Cullen in 1980, followed by Graham Farquhar, Buckie, Alison Bruce, Cullen and Martin Cowie, Portessie.

Friends of Seafield Hospital and Community Patients - At the annual general meeting held in the hospital last week Joey Bowie, chairman in her report on the past year gave the reasons for altering the title of the organisation in that there were now more patients in the wider community requiring the kind of help the Friends can provide. She went on to speak of the sad loss over the past year of two members of the committee. First, she said, had been Janice Schleuter who died last year after suffering ill health for some time. She was always one who could always find time to help. In January Adrian Mummery also died in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary after a prolonged illness. Adrian was a New Zealander who came to Britain with his wife Edith when she wished to return home. Joey described him as a quiet but very pleasant man and an extremely able and meticulous treasurer.

The election of office bearers - Both Joey Bowie and Allan Fraser agreed to continue as chairman and secretary respectively with the work of treasurer being shared between them. The previous committee members also agreed to continue – Nan Clark, Betty Gauld, Nellie Johnston, Elaine Smith and Lisa Wood. A new lady, Susan Anderson offered her services and was accepted gladly.

Feb 11 **A very good innings** - Alan 'Mickey' McPherson marked 500 appearances in the Thistle colours on Saturday. An appreciation and history of the playing career of Alan McPherson to date is given on page 16 by Thistle football scribe Bill Lobban.

(Alan ended his Highland career with Forres Mechanics where he played for two seasons before stepping down to the juniors and playing for Islavale in season 2005/2006. and again in 2007/08)

Postage rates – The Post Office said that the first class postage would remain at 26 pence and 2nd class 20p respectively at least until April 1998.

Advert – Cullen Restaurant, 7 Seafield Street, and Cullen Home Baking and Cooking. Good variety menu. New Take Away menu.

** **Are you any good with the pencil?** The '*Banffshire Advertiser*' requires an experienced Chief Reporter. (Brian Wilkinson was to leave.)

The 'Rovers Return' - ran by Buckie Rovers F. C. 1st prize -£500; 2nd prize- £250; third prize - £100; 4th prize -£50 with five prizes of £10.

"Owing to dwindling numbers participating in the sweep it has been decided that it is no longer viable to continue with the lottery – 'Rovers Return' with the draw on February being the last one. Thank you all very much for your support over the years."

Feb 18 **Inspectors pleased** - Buckie Community High School was given a good report by HM Inspectors. (I was a member of the staff when they made the initial inspection in 1995 – A.F.)

Feb 25 **Buckie likely to have CCTV** - Business people in Buckie have rallied round wonderfully in support of the Moray CCTV scheme. This was told by Zafar Ali to his fellow members at the February meeting of Buckie Community Council as he reported back from the meeting of Moray CCTV Community Liaison Group which he attended on Monday of last week. He said that the pledges from Buckie towards the capital costs of the scheme had amounted £9.500 and help to meet the annual running costs another £4.250 had been pledged.

The plan envisages nine cameras in Elgin town centre and five in each of Forres and Buckie. **A report is given on page 1.**

Would you like to be a fireman? Buckie Fire Station is looking for retained recruits. The rewards are - a Retaining fee of £1,557 per annum; Turn Out fee of £11.53 per hour; Attendance fee of £6.26 per hour; Training Night fee of £10.12 per hour; Pre-arranged attendance fee of £5.14 per hour.

Tourist Booklet - Buckie Community Council tried to get all the community councils from Cullen to Portgordon to join with them in compiling a joint tourist brochure but got no support so took the decision to do one on their own.

Deserved congratulations - At the February meeting of the community council, secretary, Allan Fraser congratulated Sandy Stewart for completing 20 years as a member of Buckie Community Council. He was, he said, the only person at the inaugural meeting of Buckie Community Council to have remained a member ever since. Fellow members joined with Mr Fraser in giving Mr Stewart a deserved round of applause.

Mar 4 **Improvements at Strathlene** - A photograph (albeit a poor reproduction) shows Kevin McKay and Allan Fraser two members of Buckie Community Council admiring the improvements that Moray Council have made at Strathlene. A new fence has been erected bordering the road on the seaward side, a number of seats have been installed while the road has been re-surfaced.

We are 200 years old – The village of Portgordon is 200 years old this year having been founded by the Fourth Duke of Gordon in 1797. (There were two settlements at this part of the Moray Firth coast before this - Gollachy Village on the east and the Seatown of Tannachy on the west. The founding of Port Gordon or Portgordon between the two and around the harbour joined the three parts to form the one unit.)

To mark the anniversary a committee has been formed, the 'Portgordon 200 Committee' and a range of events, drawing in the whole community, is being organised culminating in the now traditional Guy Fawkes Night bonfire and fireworks display at the harbour.

Mar 11 **What it means** - The Welsh word 'Hiraeth' heard in the famous Welsh song – 'When You Come Home Again to Wales' has no literal translation in English but perhaps the Scots come close with 'Hamewith' - **a sense of place.**

'The Friends of Seafield are crumbling' – This was said by Joey Bowie sadly as she addressed the latest meeting of the Friends of Seafield Hospital and Community Patients. 'With no secretary and no treasurer we desperately need people to come forward to volunteer their help before the organisation ceases to exist. The problems were compounded with the death of the treasurer Adrian Mummery in January and the recent resignation of Secretary Allan Fraser', she said.

Look Back to the Past - James Thomson who has been compiling the column in company with Martina Campbell this past few weeks did it on his own this week.

** **A short poem is found on page 14 columns 6/7** - It is entitled 'The Cat from Arradoul'.
Written by Diane Duncan.

Mar 18 **You can be on the Internet** - Buckie businesses are being invited to place an advert on the Internet's World Wide Web enabling them and their products and services to reach a global market. Moray Micro Computing is preparing a directory of businesses and companies in the Buckie area. A free advert will be offered to each of them and it is hoped that everybody will gain something from this venture.

CCTV in Buckie - The prospect of Close Circuit TV came ever closer with the visit of the CCTV Roadshow to the town recently. This was set up on Cluny Square and everyone interested was invited to have a look and see what the cameras show will once set up in the various parts of the town centre.

The number of boats landing at Buckie keeps decreasing - Last week 15 boats called in to land their catches, a year or so before this was in the upper twenties. (In the last week of May 2006 four boats landed at Buckie, this being the average number now.) The total catch comprised – 1351 boxes of white fish, 214 boxes of prawns and 824 bags of scallops. The boats were – Crystal River, Intrepid, Aspire, Angus Rose, Copious, Falcon, Tjeerd Jacoba, Amoria, Moray Explorer, Rival, Gardener, Choice, Providing Star, Pisces and Monadliath.

Soup and Sweet lunches are to be served on Saturday 22 March in the Word of Life Centre 8 St Andrews Square. All welcome.

Spike's serial 'Terror at Victoria Park' - Although 'Spike' had been dead for some time his writings are still being published in the local paper. The last chapter of this serial appears in this edition.

Mar 25 **Spike's serial - 'Son of Rawn'** - The first chapter of this new serial appears in this edition.

Strathlene Golf Course - The members of the club took a decision to go ahead and buy the course. The official statement is – The ownership of Strathlene Golf Club is being invested in its members after an offer to buy it was accepted by Moray Council. The purchase is being assisted financially by a loan from the Royal and Ancient Golf Club.

A former pupil of Clochan School - An author who spent her childhood in Ivy Cottage near Enzie Cross Roads and who attended Enzie Public School at Clochan will be in Buckie on Saturday March 29 to sign copies of her recently published autobiography. Ellen Robertson (nee Austin) came to the Enzie area, near Buckie, as a foster child in 1936 when she was 2 and stayed for 13 years before moving to Glasgow after her foster mother was taken seriously ill. **Her book is entitled Sappy Souracks and Burnt Sugar.**

To the rescue – Carl Schleuter, whose late wife was a committee member, has taken on the task of secretary of the Friends of Seafield while the financial affairs, in the meantime, will be looked after by chairman Joey Bowie and Nursing Sister Paddy McGruer.

** **A letter from Mrs Annie Stewart in Canada** - This is found on page 6 and is entitled 'Tales of a Fisherman'.

The 'Buckie Drifter' - It will open for the summer season on March 28. The display mounted by Portgordon Heritage Group to celebrate the village's 200th anniversary will be on show in the 'Drifter' from May 2nd.

April 1 **Unemployment in Buckie** - There has been a sharp drop in those out of work. The number of registered unemployed in the Buckie travel to work area fell by no less than 110 in February according to figures released by Moray Council. This brought the number on the register down to 399, a rate of 7.4% of the insured population.

Mrs Ethel Brown JP 1906-1997 - A well known personality in the local area known widely as Mrs Grant Brown died on Sunday March 16. She was born in Keith and attended Keith Grammar School before training as a teacher in Aberdeen and on graduation taught in Portgordon.

She was married to Grant Brown in 1939 and on his departure to the RAF gave up teaching to run his ironmonger's shop on East Church Street. She was a member of many organisations, including both the OAP's and WRI in Portgordon, Buckie Senior Citizens and the Townswomen's Guild. She was elected an honorary member of a number of organisations.

Music was her beloved pastime and she enjoyed conducting choirs.

** **A poem is found on page 12 and columns 3 and 4-** this is entitled – ‘The Compassionate Deil Come to Save Ye’ it was written by Colin Bain.

**** **Two budding artists** - A photograph on page 12 (a not too bad reproduction) shows Kirsty Knight, Slackend and Kerri Fraser, Clochan, (my granddaughter) both pupils at Portgordon Primary School as they make a start on a drawing competition as part of the Bi-centenary celebrations.

April 8 **‘Buckie Bears** ‘ Local mother Nild Sadler 21 High Street briefly brought fame to the town when her locally made Teddy Bears won 1st prize in a national competition which was held in London two weeks ago.

A big boat for a wee port - One of the longest, certainly the widest, boats ever to be built in Buckie, the ‘Loch Aline’ slipped from the former ‘Herdies’ shed at Buckie Shipyard into the harbour on Friday. The superstructure and wheelhouse will be fitted out in the open and she will be ready for sea trials in May. The Caledonian MacBrayne ferry will ply between Lochaline and Fishnish with vehicles and passengers.

April 15 **Buckie Speakers Club** - The officials appointed to serve for season 1997/1998 are – President – Bruce McLaren; vice president – Alan Paine; secretary – Gordon Mackie; treasurer – Adrian Bell; educational secretary – Alan Paine; social secretary – Gavin Barclay.

He retired - George Smith, Assistant Rector retired at the end of the spring term. A photograph shows Ian Cole PT Guidance handing over a retirement gift.

He retired – Derek Henderson who served for a number of years as a janitor at Buckie High School before becoming Welfare Officer for Moray in 1978, a job which saw him act as liaison officer between schools and parents, retired at the end of the spring term. He is seen receiving a retirement gift from Depute Rector Eddie Jagger.

** **What is Cullen Skink – what are the ingredients?** This was asked by someone on page 12 of this edition

April 22 **Ferry is named** - Despite a cold day of drizzle there was a good attendance at the official naming ceremony of the drive on drive off ferry ‘Loch Aline’ now nearing completion by Buckie Shipyard.

Jill Rankine, wife of Rear Admiral Rankine, chairman of the shipbuilding firm, is seen cutting the tape prior to naming the vessel.

A blessing and prayers were given by Reverend Booth, Church of Scotland minister.

Lawson Place - A new development off Barfield Road in Buckpool was named Lawson Place after a man who served for many years on Buckie Town Council. (In the report it says that Mr Lawson was the only Buckie Councillor not to have a street named after him. This is not correct. A few names come to mind – Webster, McGarth, Burnett, McIntosh, Jappy, Tuxworth, Masson, and there are others.)

She retired - Sylvia Reid, senior teacher, who taught in the Home Economics Department at Buckie Community High School, has retired. She is seen receiving a retiral gift from Linzi Hill, Head of the Home Economics Department.

Musician of the Year - Vocalist Leyonee Forbes, Maryhill Farm, Drybridge, was the winner of the school's young Musician of the Year. The competition which was sponsored by Buckie Rotary Club and the Bank of Scotland judged Leyonee the best out of 12 competitors for the award.

Signing her name - Author Ellen Robertson is seen in the shop 'Bookworms' on East Church Street signing copies of her book Sappy Souracks and Burnt Sugar.

The 'Friends' now have a treasurer - Mrs Katherine Burnett has agreed to become treasurer of the Friends of Seafield Hospital and Community Patients.

** **The origins of Cullen Skink** - John H. Anderson, Findochty, gives the answers on **page 15**.

Apr. 29 **He retired** - A photograph (for a change the reproduction is quite good)) shows Brian Wilkinson as he completes his last day as Chief Reporter with the '*Banffshire Advertiser*' after seven and half years in the post. Brian, a native of Kettering in Northamptonshire was a railway management official for many years. **A report is given on page 5**

Dallachy War Memorial and Anzac Day - An Australian, Group Captain Peter Ilberry, made a sentimental return to Dallachy and the War Memorial at Bogmoor which he unveiled five years before. The occasion was the Anzac Day ceremony which took place on Friday April 25 when he raised the flag of the RAAF. The memorial was erected by the local community, helped by grants from elsewhere, in honour of more than seventy young Commonwealth fliers, mostly from Australia and New Zealand, who lost their lives on bombing missions from RAF Dallachy. The biggest death toll took place on Friday (Black Friday) February 9th 1945 only three months before the end of the war during a raid on German shipping in the Norwegian fjords.

Maynes of Buckie - The coach operating business of Maynes of Buckie is to celebrate fifty years in business. It was first established in 1947 by James Mayne, the business converting to coaches after two successful years as a local taxi car hire and limousine service. **See write up and description of the events which are to take place on their Open Day on page 7.**

Buckie Round Table held its traditional Bin Hill Walk on Tuesday April 22, which was well attended by members and their families. It was a lovely night for a walk but cold at the top and all were glad of the shelter provided by the big cairn at the top. (Such a pity that Buckie Rotary Club felt it necessary to have it removed some years later and replace it with a 'peerie' direction finder.)

The Fishing scene - 16 boats landed 549 boxes of fish, 210 boxes of prawns and 450 bags of scallops.

Player of the Year - Paul Lamberton was voted Thistle 'Player of the Year' by the fans. He is seen receiving the '*Banffshire Advertiser*' Trophy from reporter Bill Lobban.

Sandy's Carpets - A new shop by this name opened in Keith at 81 Mid Street. (The firm came to Buckie in 2003 or 2004 taking over the shop at 13 High Street long occupied by Robertson's (Fordyce) and before that by Sutherlands.)

Probus Club officials for 1997/98 President – Alan Merson; vice president – Bill McRae; secretary – Allan Fraser; treasurer - Bert Samuel; auditor- Ian Stephen. Committee – David Porter, Jim Findlay, and Bill Common.

May 6 **SNP re-take Moray** - Margaret Ewing was returned as MP for Moray with a 5,560 majority over Andrew Findlay, Conservative.

Move for local headmaster - Lindsay Matheson who has been rector of Milne's High School for 12 years is to move as head of Madras College, St Andrews, Fife.

They got the name wrong - A photograph taken at the Victoria Bowling Green showing Mrs Jo Johnston bowling the first jack of the season has it described as Buckpool Victoria Bowling Club., when it should be Buckie.

May 13 **Heritage Tales** - Last Saturday the Memorial Hall in Cullen was the venue for the launch of the locally written, produced and published book entitled 'Heritage Tales', a compendium of stories from the local vicinity originated and composed by members of Cullen, Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group.

Lost at sea - Neil Wood (20) of Portknockie was lost overboard from the Buckie-registered vessel 'Aurora' on Sunday May 4 whilst fishing 200 miles off the west coast of Scotland. The skipper David Main, Buckie, said that the boat was struck by a freak wave that swept Neil overboard and swamped the engine room immobilising the engines hence they were unable to send out any signals from the boat.

Buckie Lyric Theatre Group - Their recent production was 'Oklahoma', which they presented in the Fishermen's Hall on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of last week. Playing a leading part in the production was Liz Imlach and Keith McKay.

We don't want 'Wheelie Bins' - This was the feeling of the members of Findochty Community Council. They intended to make the feeling known to the Chief Executive of Moray Council.

May 20 **The battle has been lost** - Despite a spirited campaign the villagers of Clochan, Broadly and Cowfurrach have lost the fight to prevent a disused church from being turned into a crematorium. The Scottish Office has given the go ahead to local businessman Gordon Christie (Christies, Fochabers) to convert Enzie South Church, near Buckie, into a crematorium.

Linn Coort, Linn Avenue - Margaret Ewing MP, officially opened the completed Sheltered Housing complex of Linn Coort, Linn Avenue, Buckie, on Friday May 16.

** **Cullen Skink** - The '*Banffshire Advertiser*' received another letter about the delicacy 'Cullen Skink'. This is found on page 13. The writer also included a recipe for Skink Soup.

Buckie Christmas Carnival share out - The sum of £2, 763, 73 which was raised at the Christmas Carnival was distributed to 20 different organisations throughout the town in sums ranging from £70 to £200

May 27 **Honours Board at the High School** - A board was unveiled at Buckie Community High School on Friday 24 May. This was an Honours Board to recognise the achievements of some of the pupils of the school past and present in the field of Chemistry.

She made a 'Boar's Head' - To commemorate the 150 anniversary of the founding of Milne's High School Fochabers a special presentation was made to the school by head girl Justine Jones to the rector Lindsay Matheson who accepted it on behalf of the school. This was a bronze cast shaped into a boar's head and suitably mounted on a shield for display purposes. A boar's head is the emblem of the High School. The cast was made by Justine as part of her Chemistry studies and was helped in the completion by the technicians in the school.

Now open - The Harbour Fish Shop at 27 Commercial Road.

June 3 **Prawn Cottage for sale** - The property at 30 Main Street, now a house, was formerly a chip shop and later was used by the 'Ingin Johnnies' (French onion sellers) when they used to come over to Britain, in the autumn when they would cycle around the local area selling their onions. (The property was first built as a Rope and Sail-making establishment. Following this Downie had the premises as an Ironmonger before part of it became a chip shop ran by Charles Grant or better known as 'Charlie Peak'. .)

They won but didn't play! - Buckie Thistle scored a victory over a rival team without kicking a ball when they were awarded compensation from their opponents who failed to turn up to play a match.

Buckie Thistle travelled to Lochaber last February to play a Highland League match against Fort William but they didn't turn up. They failed to carry out an inspection of Claggan Park before 8.00am per the book and before contacting Buckie Thistle at 9.30 by which time the team had already left on the journey. Fort William was ordered by the Highland League committee to pay Buckie Thistle £190 for considerable inconvenience.

A Clochan quine - Mary Robertson nee Grant who was brought up at Enzie Station House during the 1940's recently graduated BA Honours in English from the Open University. Mary who has lived in London for many years studied at a college in Middlesex but chose to graduate in Edinburgh where some members of her family stay. (I kent the family well.)

Pipped at the post - Buckie Rovers lost at Keith to Islavale by two goals to nil who take the league title with the Rovers as runners-up. The Rovers' team was Gary Watt, Cruickshank (Munro), Pennie, McDonald, Nicol, Chisholm, Duthie (C. Sinclair), Tallis (Tyson), Mackie, Farquhar and Wood. Subs- Lyon and Belcher G.K.

June 10 **Death of local architect** - Alexander Wilson (83) Burnside House, Queen Street has died. He was born in Aberdeen and attended the Grammar School before attending Gray's School of Art where he studied architecture. During the war he served with Royal Engineers in India and Burma reaching the rank of captain.

He moved from Northern Ireland to become County Architect and Planning Officer with Banff County Council in 1956.

He took a keen interest in community affairs being a founder member of Buckie Community Council, member of Buckie Rotary, a founder member of Buckie and District Probus Club and a member of the Royal British Legion

Reunion at Deskford - On Saturday former pupils of Deskford Primary School held their first reunion since the school closed in July 1970. There was a crowd in excess of 170 which included three former teachers, Isobel Jaffray, Margaret Innes and Elsie Clark. The oldest former pupil there was 91 year old Margaret Wilcox nee Weir.

Fishing Heritage AGM - At the recent annual general meeting of Buckie District Fishing Heritage Society 21 members were elected to the committee. President – Peter Bruce; vice president – Willie Mair; treasurer – Frank Macleod; curator – Peter Bruce.

Two members resigned from the committee – Albert Cowie who has been curator and John Rennie photographic officer. Four new committee members were elected – Elsie Murray, Campbell Smith, R. Flett and Frank Macleod.

June 17 **Now open** – Auchentae Farm Shop - bedding plants, perennials and herbs.

June 24 **The Victoria Bridge** - The gradual deterioration in the masonry of the Victoria Bridge was one of the issues raised at the meeting of Buckie Community Council on Tuesday 17 June. The holes between the blocks of granite were such that a ruler could be pushed through the gaps said member Sandy Stewart.

(Part of the report on the matter published on the front page of the Banffshire Advertiser following the meeting is a figment of the imagination and bears little semblance to reality. A.F.)

Buckie man to help organise Moscow Games - James Murray, a native of Buckie who lives in Dufftown is to help organise Highland Games planned to take place at the Spartak Stadium in Moscow. Jimmy Murray formerly of St Elmo, East Church Street, who served his time as an engineer with the shipyard of Herd and Mackenzie has been a teacher of Technical Subjects for many years.

The Fishing Scene - Twenty four boats landed 821 boxes of white fish, 980 boxes of prawns and 446 bags of scallops at Buckie last week. The boats were –Defiant, Falcon, Cardanel, Elizabeth Rose, Choice, Silver Cloud, Fragrant Rose, Glenfarg, Flowing Stream, Amoria, Bunillidh, Kookaburra, Kestrel, Lauralena, Elegant, Rival, Aspire, Moray Explorer, Star of Hope, Venture, Seagull, Cardanell, Voyager and Cowrie Bay.

The fish prices were provided by the Fishermen's Fishselling Company.

Still going - Loads of new stock in at Denim Plus, 38-40 and Grapevine, 39 East Church Street.

The unemployment picture - Unemployment in Moray continues to drop. During the month of May the unemployment figure fell by 117 making it the lowest unemployment total since 1990.

Buckie Rovers AGM - As usual the turnout was poor with the reporter suggesting that it might have been held in a telephone kiosk. Spencer Lyon was appointed main coach with help from David McKay and Alfie Morrison. Other office bearers – President – vacant – vice president – Alan Strachan; secretary – Keith Sinclair; treasurer – vacant. Chrissie Sinclair who had occupied the position for a number of years intimated her intention of giving it up.

Committee members – Peter Smith, Eileen Murdoch, Brian Ross and Chrissie Sinclair. Allan Fraser who had resigned the previous year as secretary of the club on personal grounds agreed to return as a member of the committee.

Mrs Sinclair as treasurer said how the introduction of the National Lottery had led to the demise of the monthly draw the ‘Rovers Return’ which had been a bad blow to the club and was largely instrumental in leading to a loss on the year’s working of £2450.

July 1 **A new Community bus** - Buckie & District Trust Fund, a committee run by members of the local community have raised a staggering sum of £30,000 plus over the past few years in order to be able to purchase a new Community Bus.

A clever loon - The dux of Buckie Community School and winner of the Miller Medal this year is Stuart Innes.

A photograph from the past - This shows the last boat to be launched from Herd and Mackenzie’s yard in Findochty afloat for the first time. The picture was taken in 1933 and the boat is the ‘Courage’. The ‘Courage’ was a Fifie powered by a 30-40hp Petters engine and built for the Robertson family to replace their steam drifter ‘Cowie’. The picture was lent by Peter Flett, Cliff Street.

July 8 **A richt doonpour** - Torrential (note the word, some of my family thought it funny that I should have chosen this word to describe the rain that fell at Bridgenorth in one of my first letters home after joining the RAF in 1950) and sustained rainfall last Monday caused massive destruction and damage throughout the county of Moray making it the worst hit area in the whole of the British Isles, the reporter of the time said. The Mill Hotel at Tynet was badly flooded when the Tynet Burn overflowed its banks. Banff and Buchan Nurseries at Deskford was also badly hit. Dennis Stead Station Officer at Buckie Fire Station said that the flooding was the worst he had seen over the past 29 years.

‘Struan’ Abbeyfield House, Cluny Square was officially re-opened on Wednesday July 16 by Banffshire Lord Lieutenant James McPherson following extensive refurbishment. The nursing home for elderly people was first opened in Buckie in 1973.

Christian Aid - The money collected in Buckie and District for Christian Aid amounted to £8,460.14.

Coffee Morning - £263.15; Car Wash - £96.25; Soup and Sweet lunches - £2,345.67; Auction - £1,112.16; House to house collection - £1,791.60; Sponsored Walk - £1,054.50; Christmas Appeal - £169.32; Donations - £625.31; Bank interest - £2.18

Clochach Gala scores for sun - After receiving a dreadful weather forecast the sun came out to continue a run of successive summery Clochach Galas on June 14. The gala was opened by Dr Winnie Ewing Highland MEP.

Teachers retire - Two local teachers in local primary schools retired at the end of the summer term - Mrs Agnes Garden who was at Cluny and Mrs Dylis Jappy at Portknockie.

July 15 **The Craibstone Limekilns** – Berryhillock, Deskford is the subject of a new book launched at Cullen on July 3 written by Nick Brown and is based on a collection of Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Groups. The limekilns, here like elsewhere burnt limestone for farmers, builders and plasterers for many years.

Portgordon Bi-Centennial Celebrations - Page five of this edition record the various events that took place in the village between June 27 and July 8 to mark an important date in the history of the village. One of the prime organisers described the complete event as

being 'a tremendous success'. A hearty vote of thanks must go to organisers and the countless number of volunteers who helped to make it so.

Success for local horseman - Cammie Hendry won a first prize and the Supreme Championship in the Hackney Horse Driving event at the Great Yorkshire Show at Harrogate – one of the largest shows of its kind in England. He is believed to be the first Scotsman to do so.

With his hackney stallion Appleton Bay Duke he won first prize in the Hackney Horse Driving Class then went on to win the Supreme Hackney Driving Championship.

Nurse retires - Mrs Sheila Cathcart, North High Street, Buckie retired after 25 years as an auxiliary nurse at a Buckie Community High School. She is seen receiving a gift from the rector Chris Sugden.

The most for a long time - 44 boats came in to Buckie harbour last week to land 2036 boxes of white fish, 1998 boxes of prawns and 641 bags of scallops.

The boats were – Flowing Stream, Fragrant Rose, Karona, Stroma Isle, Choice, Coastal Pioneer, Realm, Kedana, Tjeerd Jacoba, Alice Wood, Pisces, Alex Watt, Astra, Copious, Crystal Tide, Defiant, Amoria, Serena, Sophie Louise, Seagull, Constancy, Kim-David, Star of Peace, Helsa-Risager, Dayspring, Bunillidh, Ability, Silver Cloud, Voyager, Arcane, Heathery Brae, Beverley Ann, Elegant, Southward, Paramount, Glenfarg, Incentive, Girl Irene, Rachel Jane, Sapphire Stone, Aspire, Juno and Rival.

Advert - Stephen Wilson, Plasterer, and Portknockie. All kinds of plaster and cement work including cornice work, new and repairs.

** **A letter from Annie Reid (nee Stewart) Canada - This is found on page 12.** She says how she is now 80 years old but still retains fond memories of Portgordon, the place of her birth.

July 22 **Lifeboat Gala Day** - Over £3000 was raised at the RNLI Gala Day held on Saturday July 12. The event was blessed with a glorious sunny afternoon which did much to increase the numbers who were present. The gala coincided with the Moray Firth stage of the biennial Round Britain Yacht Rally with 13 yachts in the harbour. They spent several days in the harbour and were an added attraction.

Buckie Registrar retires - Joan Mair who has been Registrar in Buckie for the past 28 years retired.

July 29 **Peter Fair** - The reporter had his usual front page story on the fair, describing the crowd which seemed to be as large as ever despite the unsettled and inclement weather. There were 19 major rides, only one less than the previous year.

The Portessie Hall - A sketch in this edition of the B. A. Shows how the hall should look once complete. The restoration efforts are now well advanced with the plans on view to the public. The committee are continuing to apply for funding from all available sources.

The Marine Hotel, Buckie, has changed hands. Michael Petrie and Adrian Bell, two businessmen from Keith are the new owners. They plan major changes in the hotel with regard to entertainment and cuisine.

Friendly football match - Buckie Thistle played their first friendly of the season against East Stirlingshire with the score being two all. The Thistle team was – Dunbar, Corser,

Mutch (Grant), Cormie, Matheson, Lamberton, D'Arcy (Clark), Murray (Trialist), McPherson, Will (Bruce) and Duthie.

The newcomers were Neil Duthie, ex Buckie Rovers, Kevin Will, ex Keith and John Mutch ex Lossiemouth and Elgin City.

Buckie Rotary Club - The new president is George Grant, who is seen receiving the chain of office from past president Ally Simpson.

Aug. 5 **St. Peter's receives a major award** - The Heritage Lottery Fund announced an award of £390,700 to St Peter's R.C. Church in Buckie towards the restoration of the church and adjoining house.

St Peter's Church which took six years to build was first opened in 1857 by the Rt... Rev. Bishop Kyle of Preshome, Clochan and is reputed to have cost £3.800 originally. The first resident priest was Father Wm Clapperton, a native of Fochabers.

Further alterations were made in 1906 and 1907 when Father McIntosh, was the parish priest. He was of the opinion that the church required embellishing and enlarging.

St Peter's was intended to be a cathedral the reason why it has twin spires, but financial and political considerations decided that Aberdeen would be the preferred site for a cathedral and so St Peter's became a normal church. (This is copied word for word from the report in the paper. And perhaps not correct in every detail.)

Former Buckie Burgh Surveyor retires - Ron Stewart retired after 37 years with Buckie Town Council, Moray District Council and Moray Council. A Falkirk man he came to Buckie in 1971 from Oban as Burgh Surveyor. After the demise of the Town Council he was latterly employed as a Housing Surveyor in Community Services.

The Thistle's first 'real' match of the season - Elgin City 0 Buckie Thistle 0 H/L The Thistle team was – Dunbar, Cormie, Lamberton, Corser, Mutch, Grant, D'Arcy, Murray (Bruce), McPherson, Will (Clark), Duthie.

Aug 12 **Boat hits breakwater** - The fishing boat 'Intrepid' BCK 101 hit the breakwater at the approaches to Buckie harbour on Friday morning in foggy weather and sank.

Methodist Church minister leaves - The Rev Paul and Mrs Carron Jackson, Minister of the Buckie and Portgordon Methodist Churches for the past five years have left Buckie for St Helier, Jersey in the Channel Islands.

Speyfest 97 Fochabers held from Thursday Aug 7 to Sunday August 10 proved to be an outstanding success in every way.

Junior football - Both the Rovers and Deveronside teams showed many changes from the line-ups one had come to know. Deveronside had for long proved to be a bogey side to the Rovers but on this occasion the 'Lily Whites' won by four goals to two.

The Rovers' team was Wilson, Low (Morrison), Chisholm, Cruickshank, Shewan, Lyon, Burnett, Nicol, Wood (Cardno), Fielding and Pennie. Subs – Munro and Belcher.

Aug 19 **The 6000th edition of the Banffshire Advertiser.** The first copy being printed on November 17 1881. **A report is given on the front page.**

Buckie's Past in Motion - (Video of Peter Fair 1950-1960s) re-issued at £10.00 and on sale at J and M Publishing and the Candy Box. All proceeds to Benreay General Equipment Fund.

Advert - Scallywags – Hair Salon, 3 Commercial Road, Portknockie is to open on Tuesday 19 August. Proprietor Jackie Murray.

Another minister on the move - Rev Rosemary Legge, minister of Enzie with Rathven for the past five years is leaving to take over the parish of Aberchirder. Rev Legge trained and took an honours degree in Civil Engineering.

Aug 26 **No room on the bus** - School pupils from Portessie and Rathven were left behind at the close of the school day when they were stopped getting on to buses. This arose as a result of a dispute over school bus funding.

Open Afternoon - Dr Tuckerman had an open invitation in the paper to all patients to an Open Afternoon at Seafeld Medical Centre on Thursday 28 August from 3.00pm till 5.00pm.

Advert - Creative Ceramics - 36 James Street, Buckpool, proprietors Liz Knight and Pauline Fraser.

New priest at All Saints - A good crowd gathered in All Saints Episcopal Church on Thursday August 21 to witness the licensing of Rev. Jeremy Mark Paisey as their new Priest in Charge.

Deskford Flower Show - Glorious weather on Saturday August 16 was welcomed by exhibitors and visitors alike to the 98th consecutive Deskford Flower Show.

She celebrated her 100th birthday - Mary Erskine who originally hails from Dumblane but who came to Buckie with her husband in 1941 when he became employed at the shipyard later returned to the town on reaching retiring age celebrated her 100th birthday in Parklands Nursing Home on August 23.

Young local poet - A third year Buckie Community High School pupil Lindsay Hedgeley, Low Street, Buckie, has had a poem accepted for publication in a new book of poems. A keen and active writer she will see her poem appear in a book of poetry to be sold throughout the UK. The publishers say that her poem is of a high standard of merit.

More on the story of the fishing boat ‘Courage’ - The ‘Courage’ was the last boat to be built at the Herd and Mackenzie shipyard in Findochty but not to replace the drifter ‘Conie’ by the Robertson family in 1932 but in addition to.

The ‘Conie’ was registered ‘Conie’ but the name was misspelt and should have been spelt ‘Connie’, a girl’s name. She was also built by H & M and launched in September 7 1907.

(John Anderson of Findochty explained that it was a question of economics. The family had wished to have a boat built to fish inshore and which could land their catches at Portknockie. They would also probably be using half drift nets as was common in the Firth of Forth where the Fifie was common.)

The Zulu, Fifie and Scuffle were all fishing boats, each with a different hull shape. All would be either sail or engined and all could be a drifter. A drifter was a fishing boat fishing for herring with a ‘drift’ net so there could be a zulu drifter, scaffie drifter and so on.

Sept 2 **Sudden death of Flower Show enthusiast** - Jeff Duguid, 53, a founder member and official of Buckie and District Flower Show who lived in Portgordon, collapsed and died in the North Church Hall on Friday evening while delivering his exhibits for this year’s show, which was to take place the following day.

When the Flower Show was resurrected in 1983 after being in abeyance for many years he was appointed Show Manager.

He was a most enthusiastic exhibitor and helped by his wife Christine and daughter took many prizes over the years.

A joiner to trade he was a Clerk of Works with Grampian Regional Council but was forced to retire a year or two before on account of ill health.

Car accident claims the life of Princess Diana - Princess Diana died as a result of a motor accident in Paris on Sunday morning. Also killed at the same time were boy-friend Dodi Fayed and an unnamed chauffeur. The car which the latter was driving crashed when being chased at high speed through the streets of Paris by Parisian paparazzi.

Notice - The Grapevine, 39 East Church Street, Buckie will close in September due to a change in tenancy

Retirement Sale - Musicmatters (formerly known as Cecil and Harvey) on East Church Street next to the Post Office is to close with all stock and fittings being sold. The proprietor Mike Harvey is to retire.

Best of all - The overall winner with most points at the Buckie Flower Show held on Saturday was Ian Wilson, Duthie Place, Buckie who took the Taylor Trophy.

Library to close - Notice has been given that the Portgordon Library is to be closed at the end of September and replaced by a mobile service much to the consternation of local residents.

Buckie Rovers and goalkeepers - The club has been ringing the changes as regards goalkeepers this season. A week or so back a Wood was in goal then a Wilson and in the game played on 30th August it was the turn of 15 year old lad by the name of Tremlett to occupy the position between the sticks.

The last anew - 'The last chapter of this serial 'Son of Rawn' written by 'Spike' ended in this edition of the 'Advertiser'.

Among the graduates this year was - James Cowie, 25 Anton Street (Phyllis Thomson's loon) who graduated from Wimbledon School of Art with an Honours Degree in Theatre Design and Technical Arts interpretation after four years of study. He was hoping to get a job in the film industry.

Sept 9

Where did everyone go? - Buckie was a ghost town on Saturday September 6th with many people normally out and about at home glued to the TV to watch the funeral of the 'People's Princess' Diana Princess of Wales. The funeral was one of the largest state occasions ever seen in living memory and compared with that of Lord Mountbatten and Winston Churchill.

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Of local interest one of the police motor cyclists who escorted the hearse through the streets of London was Constable Alisdair Thain (47) of the Metropolitan Police Special Escort Group who is a native of Findochty.

Amazing scenes on Saturday - A photograph taken at the Toll Bar junction on Saturday morning showed the roads completely devoid of traffic while only one car was seen in the Lidl Supermarket car park.

Buckie Flower Show - The 14th successive Flower Show held for the first time in the North Church Hall, because the Fishermen's Hall had been previously booked, was a success. **The names of the main prize winners are given on page 13.**

Arradoul FC - (Originally known as Arradoul Youth Club) appears in a photograph in this edition. It was taken in 1959 during a season when they were very successful. That season the club won the Duncan Cup, Ferguson Shield, County Cup and League Cup and were runners/up in the League and the St Valery Trophy.

Seen in the photograph are – G. Kay, President, J. Thomson, J. Paterson, Raymie Reid, A. Milne, R. Taylor, G. Robertson, C. Milne, committee, J. Bruce, D. Murray, C. Sutherland, E. Cormack. G. Robertson, W. Murray and J. Campbell, trainer.

Former star sings in Portgordon church - Barbara Law (nee Duff), former famous opera singer who has sang in the La Scala Opera House in Milan sang in the Methodist Church Portgordon on Sunday evening. Mrs Margaret Bowie of the Methodist Church said how they were delighted that Mrs Law had agreed to return to sing for them as she had a very busy programme and had already sang for them on two occasions before.

Creative Ceramics at 36 James Street are to celebrate their 2nd anniversary on Saturday 13th September with an Open Day from 10am till 5pm. There will be a 10% reduction on all purchases, a free raffle, Special Offers and a display of Glass Work.

Death of former teacher - A former PT of Maths at Portree High School and later at Milne's High School in Fochabers, George Scott died in Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin last week. He was 81.

His father was a fisherman and one of the crew of the fishing boat 'Loyal' lost in 1920 when it got into difficulties coming into Buckie harbour.

A graduate of Aberdeen University in Maths and Physics he retired to Buckie in 1981 and lived on Well Road.

Advert - Nemat Tandoori Restaurant, 52 West Church Street.

A new story for you - The first chapter of a brand new serial by 'Spike' appears in this edition of the 'Advertiser'. It is entitled – 'The Cruise of the Mothball'.

Yes – Yes - The people of Scotland have decided that they want to have their own parliament and they want one that has control over the issue of Tax-raising. An average of 80% of the voters wanted their own parliament and 65% wanted one that had control over the tax situation in Scotland.

Moray result – For – 24.822 (87.19%) Against – 12.122 (32.81%) There was a 57.51 turnout.

Are we being sold short ? Findochty people are far from happy to learn that their caravan site has been sold for £8,000 to a private individual.

Many have reason to believe that Seafield Estate sold the piece of land to the Provost Magistrates and councillors of the burgh of Findochty for the development of a caravan site.

The above were 'members of the community' so presumably the land was sold to them for and behalf of the community and people of Findochty. To date no indication has been forthcoming that the rights to this piece of land were ever given, sold, transferred or let to Grampian Regional Council, Moray District Council or Moray Council yet for years past these bodies have received the proceeds from the site which it would appear belongs to the people of Findochty.

Can they do this? Did they have the title to the land which they sold for £8.000? **A fuller report is given on page 3**

A bottle floated a long way - A bottle holding a note was thrown overboard from a fishing boat 80 miles north of the Butt of Lewis four and a half years ago by fisherman Fraser Smith who had been asked to do so by his sister Kaye, Haig Street, Portknockie. Recently the bottle was picked up on the shore of the island of Vestvogoy, part of the Lofoten Islands 800 miles away from where it had been thrown in the sea. .. The note inside, though faded and almost unreadable was read by the finder and his wife who wrote her a note back to let her know that it had been found. There is no way of telling whether the bottle had taken all this time to reach its resting spot floating on the sea or had come ashore some time before but in a remote spot and hadn't been found till then.

New Facility at Dr Gray's - A new dedicated Mental Health facility was officially opened at Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin on Friday September 12th.

Jimmy put in a long shift - Jimmy Sinclair who spent 49 years service as a plumber with the same firm, though it had been bought over twice, retired on Friday. He began his apprenticeship with John Barclay in 1948 and finished his time with Number 1 Electrical who now own the firm. He is seen in a photograph receiving a gift cheque from proprietor Murray Thain. Jimmy's time as a plumber was broken when he spent two years on National Service with the Cameron Highlanders in Germany and Korea.

Sept 23 **Grant for the Spey Bay Hall** - The hall which was built in the 1930's is to be renovated and improvements made to the surroundings after the committee responsible for the hall were successful in gaining a grant of £124,713 from the National Lotteries Charities Board .

Chip Shop changes hands - Max Chip Shop at 20 St Paul's Street, Buckpool has a new owner . It has been taken over by Brian Christie.

Excellent win for disabled Buckie woman - Mrs June Reid, Great Western Road , Buckpool, who suffers quite severely from arthritis won first prize in the National Hobby Ceramic Show which was held in London from September 5 to September 7th June who has received training at Creative Ceramics on James Street entered her exhibit two ducks into one of the 15 categories and won first prize, receiving a very prestigious and much sought after Teddy Award, the first one ever in the UK. Entrance to the show was organised by Liz Knight and Pauline Fraser who own Creative Ceramics. The shop had several exhibits in the show and came second in five categories with one first with also a best in the group. **See report on page 11.**

Sept 30 **No Community Council now** - Insufficient names were put forward at Cullen and Findochty before the closing date and so both Cullen with Deskford and Findochty community councils will cease to exist.

Cullen had only one nomination for 9 vacancies with Findochty having 3 nominations for the 8 vacancies.

At Buckie there were only six nominations for the 12 seats but at least here the community council will continue to function.

Seems more than odd - There will be no community council in Cullen but following a meeting in the Three Kings a new group calling themselves the Cullen Community Projects Group has been formed. The chairman is Alistair Wilson with Isobel Addison as secretary. The constitution allows for a committee of 14 members and already 10 places have been filled.

Oct 7 **Club suffers from financial cut-backs** - The Teddy Bear Club is the latest group to suffer from Moray Council financial cut-backs. The club serves young children in the area who suffer from physical, mental and social disabilities. . There are six such groups in the area all who have seen their total allowance of grants more than halved from £20,000 to £9,000.

‘ Sloch’ Planning Application - (Portessie Public Hall) to demolish part of extension, upgrade the hall and build new two storey complex with kitchen, store, toilets and coffee shop etc.

New Methodist Church minister - Rev Matthew Webb began his tenure as minister of Buckie and Portgordon Methodist Churches on September 5. He came to Buckie along with his wife and two sons from Birmingham.

Advert - Buckie and District Funeral Services- The Chapel, Seafield Street, Cullen and Rest Room at 10 Station Road, Portessie.. The firm had been in business for four years.

First meeting of Fishermen’s Association - The Fishermen’s Association Ltd (FAL) held a meeting in the Marine Hotel on Monday September 15 1997, their first since being formed in 1996.

Advert – Beauty Matters , 12A Cluny Terrace. Facials, Eye Treatment, Waxing, Nails etc.

Oct 14 **The Cullen Viaduct – a new use** - Plans are afoot by Moray Council to convert the Cullen Viaduct into a cycle route and footpath and they are proposing to apply to the European Community for financial help in getting the scheme underway.

A fiery end to old pavilion - The wooden pavilion at the Linzee Gordon Park which has been used by the cricket club for many years was purposely set ablaze last week by the fire brigade to make way for the construction of a new building.

The structure, a former woodsman’s shed in Deskford, was bought in 1963 for £300, how old it was then is unknown. It has suffered badly at the hands of vandals in recent times and is now quite dangerous. It has been estimated that the new building will cost £75,000.

First advert of its type - The Cullen joiners are advertising hardwood and laminated flooring at £14.99 square metre. (This became very much the ‘in-thing’)

Oct 21 **The Buckpool Harbour** - This was one of the issues raised at the latest meeting of the community council. The former harbour was still being used as a rubbish dump with the grass much over-grown and very untidy – not a pretty sight.

The first turf has been cut - A local development costing £1 million was officially began on Tuesday October 14 when a group of doctors from Benreay Medical Centre, Bill Jaffrey, Angus Gallacher, Gordon Pringle and Louis Walker cut the first turf on the site where the new ‘Ardach’ Medical Centre is to be built. The new centre on Highfield Road will cover an area of 1 hectare of land and contain in excess of 40 individual rooms.

A plan of the new building is given on page 1.

Buckie Community Council - The first meeting of the new community council took place on Tuesday evening of last week with Mr Fanning of Moray Council Legal Department occupying the chair for the preliminaries of appointing a chairman and other

officials . The new chairman is Derek Horrobin, vice chairman- James Smith, secretary/treasurer- Allan Fraser. Committee members Brian Wilkinson, Roy Shepherd and Mrs Gillian Bailey.

Mrs Bailey agreed to represent the community council at Community Education meetings, Allan Fraser at Crime Prevention meetings, Brian Wilkinson on the Harbour Advisory Board.

Buckie Baptist Church has a new minister - The new Pastor is Mark Bentham, 36, a stalwart of the recent Keswick in Buckie. He is a native of Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland and came to Scotland in 1984 after completing his training as a civil engineer and worked with the Forestry Commission until he resigned in 1995 to become a minister. He is the first pastor the church has had for the past 6/7 years. He is a married man, his wife Sally and two children live in the manse on West Cathcart Street.

Why remove the flowers so early? – This was the question asked by Allan Fraser in a letter to the Advertiser in which he said that it seemed such a pity that the flowers in the bed in front of St Peter's Church which were still in full bloom and presenting a glorious sight should have been torn out and dumped. The pelargonium was especially pretty, he said.

Oct 28 **New residential development** - A start has been made on the residential development for physically, disabled and elderly people just off Netherha Road. The scheme will cost £750,000 and will consist of 17 dwellings. Being built for the Margaret Blackwood Housing Association it will be on two levels and provide accommodation for 2, 3,4 and 6 person groups of residents.

Boys' Brigade - The 1st Buckie Company Boys' Brigade are this year celebrating their 50th anniversary having been formed in 1947 by the late James Duncan Physics teacher at Buckie High School.

A memorabilia weekend has been arranged to take place in the North Church hall on November 22 and 23.

The original company of Boys' Brigade was formed on October 4th 1883 by Wm Alex Smith an ex army officer who ran the Brigade along military lines.

Nov 4 **To slow the speed of traffic down** - Moray Council, have agreed to allocate £10,000 for traffic calming measures which will be set up and installed in the Great Western Road and Main Street area of the town. They were persuaded to do this following a number of meetings by residents of the area and with the support of the Moray Councillor for the area Bill Jappy.

A mammoth effort - Pat Esson, a local lady organised and run a coffee morning in the North Church hall on August and raised the sum of £844 for the Myasthenia Gravis Association for research care and education into the very rare and incurable disease. Pat is herself a sufferer of the disease and although incurable it is controlled with modern drugs of today.

A very successful Portgordon student - Catriona Beedie (23) of Portgordon graduated from Glasgow University with a degree in Veterinary Medicine and Surgery and achieved some of the highest marks recorded in the subject for several years. She won the award for the Most Distinguished Student for 1997/98 in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, coming first in a class of 80 who all passed.

She amassed a remarkable collection of prizes and awards during her studies years. She was educated at Portgordon Primary and Buckie High School. **See page 8.**

Advert - Alford Restaurant, 2 Regent Square, and Fife- Keith. Superb catering and 'white tablecloths'.

The fishing scene - Last week 22 boats came in to Buckie harbour to discharge their catches. The total landings comprised – 2028 boxes of white fish, 302 boxes of prawns and 638 bags of scallops.

The boats were – Copious, Tjeerd Jacoba, Avoca, Faithful Friend, Falcon, Cardanel, Kestrel, Heathery Brae, Aspire, Saint Kevene, Lynn Marie, Defiant, Moray Explorer, Moray Endeavour, Zephyr, Monadliath, Delightful, Bunillidh, Surina, Incentive, Choice and Green Pasture.

Boys' Brigade - Photographs on page 18 show both the 1st and 2nd companies Buckie Boys' Brigade on parade led by their bugle bands.

Shopkeepers put up the shutters - Pat and Tom Butchart, who have ran the Post Office on Great Eastern Road, Portessie for 29 years have retired. The shop is now closed.

Nov 11 **A book on Portgordon.** A photograph shows Peter Reid of Portgordon signing copies of the book he has written titled Portgordon – The Life and Times of a Village.

Peter is presently in his final year of his PhD Studies at Robert Gordon University where he is studying history and development of libraries within country houses in the UK.

The book was written to coincide with the 200 year celebration of the village since its formation.

Denim Plus - The shop at 38-40 East Church Street which has been advertising that it was to close down for a long time is now advertising 'Just In' and a list of articles - Ladies, Men and Youth's Outfitters.

Nov 18 **Storage shed** - A large storage shed costing £385,000 is to be built on the infill site at the western end of Buckie harbour.

Ploughing match - On Saturday November 22 in a field close to Paul's Malt on March Road Fordyce Ploughing Association will be holding their annual ploughing match and demonstration. The event is 80 years old and the nearest it has ever been to Buckie.

Buckie and District Round Table is mounting a recruitment campaign in an effort to try and increase their numbers. Any male person between the ages of 18 and 40 is welcome to attend a meeting to see if they like what they see and hear.

Boat launch - The MV 'Solan' BCK 195 was launched at Macduff shipyard for Cullen Skipper, Leslie Findlay on Friday November 15. The new vessel is 80 feet long overall and is the third vessel to bear the name 'Solan' This one cost £1million. The boat will work with a crew of nine though there will only be six aboard at the one time the other three being on leave. **Page three gives more particulars.**

New entertainment centre - Club HQ, a new entertainment centre opened its doors for the first time last Friday November 14th to bring a new lease of life into the town; situated at 44 Commercial Road, opposite the lifeboat station, it was originally a night club known as Ziggy's.

Advert – Grant's of Buckie, 9 Cluny Square extensive range of three piece suites, carpets and beds.

Busy on the cargo front - Six cargo boats were in Buckie harbour at some time during the week - Imports were – malting barley from Germany and Roeppy in Denmark also soya from Ghent, Belgium.

The exports were three cargoes of animal feeding pellets destined for Waterford, Bruges and Norkopping in Sweden.

Nov 25 **Buckie man a film star** - Laurie Crane, 37, of East Church Street who is a professional diver worked as a safety diver on the making of the £120million film 'Titanic'

On the Internet - The renowned collection of paintings by Peter Anson, author and painter that were donated to Buckie Town Council in the early 1970's are now to receive mass exposure through the Internet, one of first of its kind in the north east.

By horse and by tractor - Photographs on page 11 show in one a pair of horse pulling a plough and in the other a tractor doing the same. They were both taken at the recent ploughing match held in a field near the March Road.

Dec 2 **Portgordon Mace shop wins an award** - The shop on Station Road, Portgordon has been named as the North Region's Silver Award winner in the Robert Wiseman's Dairies Neighbourhood Shop of the Year Final.

Forty-four years at the chalk-face - Buckie man James Murray retired on November 7 one of the longest serving members on the staff of Speyside High School. James Murray served his time as a marine engineer before entering the teaching profession.

Jist a fair score - RAF Lossie 1 Buckie Rovers 10. The Rovers's team was – Mackay, Low (Munro), Christie, Cruickshank, (Wood), Shewan, Chisholm, Cardno, Tallis (Nicol), Fielding, Burnett, and Pennie. Sub – Morrison.

Dec 9 **Anyone for tennis?** - Cullen is to introduce tennis after a break of 20 years. Cullen Bowling and Tennis Club are to restore the tennis courts to the town for the use of the local community, visitors, and tourists and any other interested parties.

** **Joint meeting** - A meeting recently took place between representatives of Buckie District Fishing Heritage Museum and the Buckie Drifter. The meeting was chaired by Mr Hugh Patience who sits on the committee of both organisations.

The aim of the meeting was to see if there was any possibility of the two organisations merging in the future for the benefit not only of the organisations but for the members of the local community, tourists and visitors.

Mr Alistair Campbell, manager of Leisure and Libraries with Moray Council said: "The Drifter is not fulfilling its potential as a tourist attraction because of the lack of knowledge on the part of the people running it, stemming from the reluctance of the Board members from the start to involve people with the necessary expertise. The Drifter and the Heritage Museum should come together and encourage more tourists to visit both museums"

Mr Patience said that they should wait and see what developments might occur once the new manager was in place in January 1998.

Rovers take the Morayshire Cup at Forres - Nairn St Ninian's 1 Buckie Rovers 2. The game was marred when Robbie Cruickshank of the Rovers suffered a broken leg. Nicky Low was voted Man of the Match. he had one of his best games to date.

The Rovers were represented by – McKay, Low, Cruickshank (Farquhar), Chisholm, Shewan, Christie (Wood), Cardno, Tallis, Fielding, Bartlett (Nicol), Subs – Munro and Pennie.

Citroen dealership - Archibald's Garage on Bar hill Road became a main dealer for Citroen cars on December 1. Proprietor – Eddy Malcolm.

Dec 16 **Councillor resigns** - Veteran councillor for Buckie west ward, Bill Jappy resigned from the SNP after being suspended from the party for holding a series of talks with the minority Independent and Labour groups within the Council. He said how he had become disillusioned with the political squabbles going on to say that his chief concern was for his constituents, the people who had voted him in.

Advert – Boogie Woogie, 45 Regent Street, Fife Keith, Handicrafts gifts at affordable prices, woolly jumpers, silk scarves etc.

Proposed developments at Strathlene - The erection of a tearoom/shop, manager's house and provide recreational facilities of a slipway at Strathlene, Great Eastern Road.

Advertisers on West Church Street - May's Flowers, number 20; R. S. Cruickshank and Co. Radio and TV, number 32; Moneywise, Insurance, Mortgages etc., at 21; W. F. Johnston and Son, 13-15, Hummel, Wedgewood, Portmeiron; G. Gent, Menswear, number 68; Woodstyle, Tapestry, Canvases and Kits etc., number 37; Needful Things, at 39; Candybox at 17; Decorscene, Wallpaper, Paint, Hardware, Pets, Accessories, DIY, 31; Yvonne's, Haberdashery etc., etc. 29. Glad Rags (Clothing), number 30. Pick a Flick/Glad Rags video shop at number 30; Jamieson's Radio and TV number 43; Cutting Corner, Hairdressers, at 48 and the Pastry Shop at number 50.

Dec 23 **Pay-offs at the slip** - Twenty men has been paid off from Buckie Shipyard. Six were paid off earlier in the month with 14 more on Friday 19th, leaving approximately 50 staff and workers. The management said that they hoped that the lay-off would only be temporary and should more work be obtained will all be re-employed.

We have a Christmas Tree - A Christmas tree has been set up adjacent to the Town Hall in Findochty, the first for many years.

The team played their part. – Portgordon United. did their best to add to the bi-centenary celebrations when they beat Buckie Rovers by three goals to one in the last game played in the 200 anniversary year, sadly there was not one 'Coorse Gordonie' in the team to savour the victory. The players were all from Inverness apart from Alex McGettrick from Elgin.

Would you welcome a class re-union ? Linda Gordon of Glengarth Uppermill, Oldham, Lancashire had a letter in the local paper to say that she was keen to organise a reunion of the members of class 1A who like her began their senior education at Buckie High School in session 1950/51 and invited all others of the same mind to contact her or Catherine Fowlie (nee Flett) Titness Street, Buckie.

Dec 30 **'Wheelie Bins'** - Moray Council are to implement a wheeled bin method of refuse collection for all households in the New Year.

Margaret strikes lucky - The winner of the Safeway Supermarket Christmas Hamper was Mrs Margaret Ewen of Sutherland Street, in Buckpool. She and her husband Jimmy collected the hamper on Christmas Eve. The papers shows a nice photograph of the couple. Mr and Mrs Ewen have four of a family, three sons and one daughter and 8 grandchildren.

Buckie loon is a governor of Robert Gordon's University - Keith Fraser (39) a former pupil of Buckie High School has just been appointed a Governor of Robert Gordon's University, Aberdeen, representing the university staff.

Keith after leaving the High School worked in the Clydesdale Bank for several years before leaving and attending Robert Gordon's where he took a BA degree in Librarianship. He was later employed at North Berwick High School and Broughton College as a librarian. He returned to Robert Gordon's to do a Post Graduate degree in Management Studies and since 1990 has been Librarian in charge of Marshland Library, a branch of R. G. U. he lives at Bridge of Don with his wife Andrea and two children, Alice and Stephen. His parents, Isobel and Allan Fraser live at 21 Sutherland Street, Buckie.

A farcical situation - Allan Fraser recently watched a match between Portgordon United and Fochabers and wrote a letter to the local paper to say what he thought about it. All the players on both sides, including the substitutes, apart from one, not to mention the two managers, were all from Inverness, which he felt was a farcical situation.

