

1998

Jan 6 **New minister at Cullen** - Rev Melvyn Wood, a native of Portsoy, has taken over the post as minister of the Cullen and Deskford parishes. His first charge on leaving Aberdeen University was Clark's Memorial Church in Largs, Ayrshire where he has been for the past 15 years. He had no thought of moving but when on holiday in the area saw the advert for a minister at Cullen and decided to apply.

Jan 13 **The Shop known as START** - A small haberdashery and Craft store was opened on January 8 at 33 West Church Street, by Moray Council. The shop known as START (Special Training and Retail Trading) was the initial project by Moray Outreach which has finally come into being and is designed to help those in the community with learning difficulties.

Can there be many older? Rita Donn, a native of Cullen and believed to be the oldest woman living in Britain today is still resident in the area she was born in and currently lives in Netherha Nursing Home in Buckie celebrated her 109th birthday on Sunday January 11th.

A report on the changes she has seen during her lifetime is given on page 1.

(The oldest man in the UK lives in Laurencekirk.)

Letterfourie Granary - A grant of £50,000 has been received for the restoration of Letterfourie Granary though the likely cost of the work will be in the region of £100,000. The building belongs to the North East of Scotland Preservation Trust and is meantime in ruins. **See report on page 3.**

Residential Children's Home - Plans are being put forward by Moray Council this week for the erection of a Residential Children's Home in Buckie. The new home will be situated on an area of rough, unused ground in Land Street, between St Andrews Square and Anton Street. It will be one and a half storey's high with five bedrooms all with ensuite facilities.

On the ground floor there will be a kitchen, lounge and a general purpose room together with a lounge/emergency disabled person's bedroom.

There will be accommodation for four people aged from 12 to 16.

We will have a Community Council - Members of the community of Findochty are determined not to be ignored by the Moray Council and are equally determined to form a community council.

Since September 1997 the village has been without a local council and many of the residents blame this on the lack of sufficient advertising and notification by Moray Council.

Now in order to form a new community council the residents have to submit a petition to Moray Council with the names of 21 residents of the village stipulating that they want a community council to represent the town.

Jan 20 **Isabel Harrison writes** – a short poem in this edition of the B. A. with the title – ‘Wir Ain Buckie Paper’.

Jan 27 **Cluny Square cleared of shrubbery** - Moray Council workmen this past week removed all the shrubs and bushes that had been planted on the North West quadrant of the Square. The reason given was that it would tidy up an area that was being destroyed by late night revellers who hid among the bushes and used them for doing the toilet.

The area will not be used for additional parking but the ground will be planted out with bedding plants.

Look Back to the Past - This week it was compiled by Balloch Trust Trainees.

Feb 3 **A change in policy** a change in the policy of the RNLI to award other members of the crew with Vellum Parchment in recognition of the part they played in a rescue which took place thirty years ago. On February 21 1968 the Buckie lifeboat and its crew took part in a rescue at the mouth of the River Spey which ultimately resulted in the coxswain George Jappy being awarded the Royal Naval Lifeboat (RNLI) Bronze Medal and Vellum Parchment for his skill and courage during the rescue which saved the lives of the six crew members of the stricken vessel Mistletoe. Now when the coxswain receives a

medal it is the policy of the RNLI to award the other crew members with an equivalent badge, whether gold, silver or bronze.

As a result of this change in policy last Sunday February 1, the remaining crew members and representatives of those who passed away were awarded their bronze badges at an award ceremony which was held in the Lifeboat Station.

Of the original crew from the Buckie lifeboat only three were able to attend the award ceremony, Roddy Davidson, Jimmy Murray and Jimmy Roy.

The badge for Jack Cole, mechanic, was awarded to his son Ian, Mrs Barbara Hodge collected the badge for her father Alex Slater, Bert Jappy collected the badge for his brother the late George Jappy. The other two members Jim Coull and Bob Knox were unable to attend the ceremony. **See page 1**

Long service at Inchgower - Sandy Thain, Mill Crescent, Buckie, retired from Inchgower Distillery, where he was production supervisor, after 37 years. A baker to trade, serving his time with Fowler's, he began work at Inchgower on January 1 1961.

He received a suitably inscribed gold watch from the company, Grand Metropolitan Guinness, who now own the plant. The distillery originally belonged to Wilson before it was bought by Buckie Town Council who in turn sold it to Arthur Bells and Sons, Perth then United Distillers.

The Portessie Public Hall - The plan to restore Portessie Public Hall was given a boost last week when Moray Council approved an application from the hall committee for financial help to move forward. **See report on page 7.**

Gold for young Buckie swimmer - Eleven year old Alana Duncan. South Pringle Street collected four gold medals at the Stirling Junior Open Swimming Meeting held on January 24 and 25th. She won her gold medals in the 100 metre front crawl; 100 metre backstroke; 100m breaststroke and 200metre medley. She also achieved fourth place in the 200metre front crawl and was awarded the trophy for the best less than 12 years old at the meeting.

A total of 47 clubs from across Scotland were present at the meeting and this was the first time that Alana has competed in this event.

Friends of Seafield Hospital - At their annual general meeting held in the hospital the following officials were appointed for session 1998/99.

Chairman – Joey Bowie; vice chairman – Sister Paddy McGruer; treasurer – Mrs Catherine Burnett; secretary – Mrs Sybil Grant; Committee – Shona Mair, Eileen Smith, Suzanne O'Connor, Valerie O'Connor and Betty Gauld.

The fishing scene - Last week 22 boats landed 1683 boxes of white fish, 449 boxes of prawns, 500 boxes of shrimps and 652 bags of scallops.

Look Back to the Past - This was again compiled by James Thomson.

Feb 10

She went aground on the Mucks – A cargo vessel laden with animal feeding pellets went aground on the West Mucks after leaving Buckie harbour on Friday. Despite efforts to pull her off by the fishing boat 'Aurora' she was held fast until high tide on Saturday morning until hauled off by a tug from Invergordon with, as was found later, very little damage being done to the vessel. After an inspection she was able to continue on her way to Belfast. The B. A. had lots of photographs of the vessel.

The fishing scene - There was a big reduction in the number of boats that landed at Buckie last week compared to the week previous... The seven boats – Shalimar, Elegant, Crystal Tide, Incentive, Tjeerd Jacoba, Kestrel and Amoria put ashore 509 boxes of white fish, 56 boxes of prawns and 114 bags of scallops.

Feb 17

He was a pioneer in Radio and TV - The death took place of Radio and TV pioneer Mr Wm. 'Bill' Davidson of Cullen at the age of 86. He was also a keen amateur photographer and members of the Cullen Heritage Group. **See report on page 1.**

New manager at the Buckie 'Drifter' - He is Mr David Williamson, a native of Middleton, near Manchester who served for 29 years in the Royal Navy. **See page 3.**

RWM of Lodge Richmond - Billy McGoldrick was installed as RWM of Lodge Richmond 1137, Portgordon.

Feb 24 **Awarded the Long Service Medal** - Geddes Wood, who has served for 35 years in the Coastguard, was awarded the Long Service Medal and Clasp. He is Auxiliary in Charge of Buckie Coastguard Station.

Perhaps of interest to others - At the January meeting of Buckie Community Council it was agreed that the local library be asked if they would permit the community council to leave some items of material received that could be of interest to other members of the community.

Why are they being allowed? When local organisations have to ask to put up notices advising events taking place with permission not always given outside traders seem to be able to do at will. It was decided to ask why?

Mar 3 **Flooding again at Cullen** - The residents of the Seatown in Cullen near the outlet of the Cullen Burn were once again victims when due to a rapid thaw the height of the burn rose and overflowed its banks to pour into the houses.

Did it sink? The last chapter, number 26, of the serial 'The Cruise of the Mothball' is found in this edition.

Two have lucky escape - Two Buckie men Colin Lambert and Gary Thain were fortunate to escape with their lives after the car they had been sitting in at the east end of the Buckie harbour was caught by a huge wave which picked it up like a toy to dump it in the harbour. As the car sank in the water the two were able to extricate themselves and rise to the surface where they were helped ashore.

Presentation for former nurse - Mrs Marian Murray was the guest of honour at her retiral presentation party held in the Marine Hotel recently. She retired after nearly forty years in the nursing service. She began her training at the City Hospital in Aberdeen in 1959. After qualifying in 1963 she spent two years in Glasgow. From 1965 to 1966 she did part one of Midwifery Training. In 1966 she took up a post as Staff Nurse at Seafield Hospital. She took the second part of the Midwifery Course in 1972 and in 1973 she began nursing in the Maternity Unit at Seafield Hospital where she was to remain for many years latterly as Sister-in-charge. When the Maternity Unit closed at Seafield in 1966 she transferred to Maryhill Hospital in Elgin where she was a senior midwife until she retired. She received a breadmaker, money and a poem from friends and colleagues, present staff in Elgin and Buckie; a crystal bowl from GP's and tokens from Moray Health Trust.

An opening for someone - Hairdressers business for sale in Portgordon.

Denim Plus, 38-40 East Church Street - Despite closing down notices they are still operating. Shirts at £3.99 and £4.99 with Jeans at £9.99.

Mar 10 **A new serial by Spike begins in this edition** - 'The Horror on the Hill'

Buckie District Fishing Heritage Museum - The committee hope to knock down the cottage they have on lease from Moray Council and build new premises in its place to enable them to expand their research work. Ian Bruce, an architect, son of the chairman Peter Bruce has been drawing up plans and helping the museum in different ways. **See report on page 5.**

Face-lift for restaurant - The Nemat Tandoori Restaurant at 52 West Church Street, belonging to Nemat Ali has been fully refurbished.

The Broadley Crematorium - Objections are still been voiced regarding the establishment of a crematorium in the former Church of Scotland Church at Broadley by businessman Gordon Christie of Christies (Fochabers). They mainly now centre on the road closure and the opening of a new one to the village.

Mar 17 **Cullen Viaduct** - The Cullen viaduct which has been redundant for the past 30 years is to get a face lift and a new lease of life with £50,000 worth of local and European funding. The viaduct was built to carry trains in the 1880's by the Great North of Scotland Railway Company but it is to be renovated to form part of the Moray section of the new national cycle route around the country. The plan is to tarmac the old railway line to create a cycle route and coastal footpath, which it is hoped will increase tourism.

Mar 24 **A reply to the minister's letter** - Allan Fraser writes in answer to a letter that was printed in the local paper the previous week by Rev Eric Foggitt, minister of the South and West Church in which he was critical of the police for as, he said, spending a disproportionate time chasing up those who cycle without lights and on the pavements of the town to the exclusion of other crimes. Allan Fraser, who is the secretary of the community council, said that it had been they who had raised the subject and who have also spoken out about some of the other crimes the minister had spoken of. The police have said that crime of all kinds receives their attention

Mar 31 **Meeting with Planning Officials** - Residents of Buckie had the opportunity last week of meeting with members of Moray Council Planning Department to discuss the Buckie Local Development Plan. Similar meetings took place in all the other places in Moray. **See page 1**

CCTV – The CCTV cameras were being erected in Buckie this week. A photograph showed the engineers working on a camera at the junction of High Street with East Cathcart Street. Other cameras are to be set up on Cluny Square and at the junction of Pringle Street with West Church Street.

Advert - Livingstone's 36 East Church Street – Visit our newly refurbished shop all named clothing - Caterpillar, Watson's, Pod, Kangle, Fred Perry, Brass Monkey, Georgio, Dickens and Brown and Heavy. Coming soon Chilly Pepper, Girl's fashions.

A letter from Annie M Reid (nee Stewart) 5 Brockley Drive, Scarborough Ontario, Canada “ On looking at the ‘non iron’ labels on clothes and shirts etc took my memory back to the days when we used a box iron and heater since Portgordon didn't even have gas.

The triangular chunk of pig iron with a hole in the base was thrust into the heart of the fire until red hot then the poker was inserted into the hole, the lump dropped into a steel box affair and the lid dropped down. Washday, usually a Monday, occupied the whole day, heating water, boiling clothes, scrubbing over a board, bleaching and drying. Our drier was a clothes line pushed up with a stretcher – long lath with a notch at the head to hold on to the line. Talk about Third World countries we were primitive in many ways. We carried our water in a rooser (watering can) from the street pump until the advent of cold water outside tap which froze in the winter.

In my mother's day blankets were washed by tramping in a tub by bare feet. Father's white shirt had to be boiled before Sunday, Naptha soap, clensil and elbow grease, a wooden tub with two lugs on four legged sand was our washing machine. The final spin for want of a wringer was our hands.

But we were always clean and presentable with the tang of the sweet sea air perfuming the washing.

The Buckie Drifter - Residents of Buckie are invited to take a free trip round the Buckie Drifter Maritime Heritage Centre when the doors open for the season this weekend.

The tea room is now under new management and serving new low cost menu.

When open on Saturday April 4th on display will be an exhibition of paintings on the ‘Drifter’ theme by local artist George Campbell, retired school teacher from Portknockie who has spent a lifetime at sea or near it and so influencing his painting.

April 7 **Banffshire Field Club** - Five members from Cullen and Portknockie Heritage Group each gave talks on a variety of subjects to Banffshire Field Club at their meeting on Saturday last.

A weekend to long remember - Joyce Findlay retired from Moray Seafoods on Friday after working for 27 years, beginning there on April 26 1971. She worked her way up to factory manager. As a farewell present the Eckersley family provided her with a trip to London to see a West End show, something that she had always wanted.

On Friday along with a companion she will fly from Aberdeen to Heathrow where they will be met by a limousine which will take them to Bedford Hotel on Russell Square where they will stay for three nights. On Saturday they will have seats in the front stalls of Her Majesty's Theatre to see the 'Phantom of the Opera.' On Sunday they will have a full day of sight-seeing on a tour of London - lunch cruise on the Thames a visit to St Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London. Joyce will have no shortage of money with spending money also being included in the treat. From the staff Joyce received a colour TV and a garden seat.

They ended the season with a win - Buckie Thistle won their last game of the season when they beat Lossiemouth by four goals to two at Grant Park.

The Thistle team was – Dunbar, Low, Lamberton, G. Grant (Davidson), Matheson, McPherson (Fielding), D'Arcy, Murray, Graham, Will and I. Grant.

Town Crier and Bill Poster - On page 18 there is a photograph of James 'Jimmy' Bowie grandfather of Barbara Bowie, 29 Anton Street who during the 1920's was Town Crier and Bill Poster. He was a painter by trade and also an artist and bucket maker. He used to go down to 'Herdies' shipyard to get handles fitted. Barbara had one of his paintings, done in oil, for a long time.

April 14

Major fire at furniture shop - A well established business in Buckie town centre was left gutted by fire on Friday. The Buckie Furniture on West Church Street suffered extensive smoke and fire damage during the blaze which claimed much of the stock belonging to Mr Nemat Ali.

A lucky escape - A lorry driver had a lucky escape from major injuries when his lorry went off the road at the Cullen Bay Hotel corner and plunged down a steep incline. The accident took place at 12,40am when the lorry laden with fish was heading down the brae towards Cullen. The driver, Kenneth McKenzie of Dyce was not thought to be seriously hurt.

Buckie woman reaches the age of 103. Miss Elizabeth Lyall, who resides in the Wakefield Nursing Home in Cullen, reached her 103rd birthday on Saturday though she was unable to celebrate it. She was born in Buckie the youngest of a family of eight and worked for many years as housekeeper at Acute Girl's School in Shropshire before returning to Buckie on retiral. She has been in Wakefield for the past five years.

New cross for St Peter's Church - A brand new cross has been erected on St Peter's Church after the old one was smashed to pieces after it blew down in a gale. The old one was installed in 1857 and over the years water had found its way in to cracks which through the action of freeze/thaw had become progressively wider weakening the whole. When it was blown down by the wind it did damage to the roof which had to be repaired.

The new cross was made by John Robertson, Portgordon who formed a new one from a single piece of stone after he had collected all the fragments of the old one to give him a guide. **A description of the work is given on page three.** Instead of building a scaffold to reach the point where the cross was to be re-erected would have been very expensive so instead the cross together with men and materials were hoisted up to the job, which proved tricky owing to a breeze that was blowing at the time.

Advert - Hair Flair, 74a East Church Street.

Chess Club - A new Chess Club has begun in Buckie. Members meet every Tuesday from 7.00 till 9.00pm in Buckie Community Centre.

April 21

Major Grant for harbour improvements - The people of Buckie have been given a little over £1 million to spend on developments to improve the harbour area over the next year. The money has come

from Europe, Moray Badenoch and Strathspey Enterprises and Moray Council with £900,000 already on the table. **See page 1.**

Gifted to Cullen - Lord Seafield proprietor of Seafield Estates has offered the area known as the Gravel Pit on the east outskirts of Cullen as an outright gift to the people of Cullen. The new came in a letter sent to Stephen Leeman of Kings Solicitors by Andrew Norval, Factor for the Seafield Estates.

It should be a 'hooley' they are coming fae a' the airts - Final arrangements have now been made for a re-union of ex Buckie High School pupils of the early 1950's era. Around 30 ex pupils are expected to turn up at the Marine Hotel at the request of Linda Gordon to make it an evening to remember, coming from Alaska, California, London, Cambridge, Lancashire, Essex, Kinross, Aberdeen, Dollar, Forres and Buckie while Linda herself stays near Oldham

April 28

The late Dr Sandy Lawrence - An obituary is found written on page 2.

Fishing scene – Four fishing boats last week landed at Buckie 88 boxes of white fish, 45 boxes of prawns and 126 bags of scallops.

At the 'Buckie Drifter' - In a photograph Isabel Harrison is seen telling a fishy story to a party of school children from Skene Square Primary School in Aberdeen who came by coach to Buckie to learn about the fishing industry. They watched nets being made at Sinclair Nets, looked at the boats in the harbour, had a guided tour of Buckie Shipyard and were shown over the 'Doctors' lifeboat.

Portgordon United 2 Fochabers 1 - This was the final of the Tom Gordon Cup played at Pinefield. This was the one and only trophy won by Portgordon during their short spell in the 'juniors'. A report on the game was written by A. L. Nath (Allan Fraser) Portgordon had only two local lads in their side, Gordon Bowie, Spey Bay, in goal and Alex McGettrick, Elgin, a striker, the rest were all from Inverness apart from Roger Coull, Portgordon, who was on the bench.

The Fochabers' team was – Munro, Inkson, Christie, Masson, Younie, Cameron, Donnelly, Slater, Inkson, Gauld, Grassick. Subs J. Smith (used) and G. Smith. The most of them were from Fochabers.

Buckie Thistle award's night - The Player of the Year was Martin Dunbar (keeper); Player's Player of the Year – James Matheson who was also voted Player of the Year by the Social Club. Alan MacPherson was the Thistle Review Player of the Year.

A prize donation - Buckie District Fishing Heritage Museum have been given an original hand made model of a local fishing boat to add to their growing collection of museum pieces. It was made by Andrew Anderson of Fraserburgh and is a model of the 'Gratitude' BCK 252, a clinker built scaffie built in Portknockie in 1898 and registered in Banff.

The scaffie didn't have a deck, this allowing the boat to carry more fish but Mr Anderson decked his model. In his time he has built over 20 models during the past 11 years, with two going out to New Zealand, a model of the 'Minnihaha' is in Wick while a zulu model of a sailing drifter is housed in Bressuire, France which is twinned with Fraserburgh.

He has made five models for the Fraserburgh Heritage Museum due to open shortly.

Buckie District Fishing Heritage Museum has a card index system which holds details of all boats built since the early 1800's

May 5

Plans for safer crossing - Moray Council are proposing to introduce peninsulas to narrow the pedestrian crossings around Cluny Square. The proposals would see the pavements at the crossings in East and West Church Street and High Street extended out into the road to reduce the distance pedestrians have to walk.

Well known local man dies - An obituary appears in this edition for Ian Duncan of Barfield Road, Buckpool an Area Sales Manager with Gleaner Oils in Elgin. Ian was well known in the town being a member of different organisations. He was an elder of the North Church for 37 years, Sunday School teacher and Superintendent, a member of the Speakers Club where he was an accomplished speaker with a

superb sense of humour. He was a keen bowler and an accomplished musician who could play a number of instruments. All together he was respected as a sportsman and a gentleman.

Will the Community Council become modernised? There is a chance that Buckie Community Council may receive the gift of a computer from Moray Council. Councillor Gordon McDonald said that they were presently upgrading their computers and he would check out if one of the old ones could be given to the community council. The secretary, Allan Fraser, had made contact with Reboot in Forres but it would seem that a second-hand one could cost £100. He stressed that with a computer it would make his job as secretary much easier than doing everything on the typewriter.

Can you spare two hours a month? - There are presently six vacancies on Buckie Community Council and nominations are invited from electors in respective wards.

They were 'a' there - A report is given on page 5 of those who attended a reunion of pupils of 1A who began their secondary education at Buckie High School in August 1950. This was held in the Marine Hotel.

The germ of the idea grew from a chance meeting of John Duthie and Linda Gordon in Lancashire where they both live. Linda made contact with two members of the class still living in Buckie, Helen Sandison (nee Campbell) and Catherine Fowlie (nee Flett) leading to invites being sent to places all round the world.

A highlight of the reunion was a tour round the High School which most of them left over forty five years before.

A move is planned - The Building Services Direct Labour Organisation (DLO) currently located in the Highland Yard on East Cathcart Street is to be transferred to March Road in either May or June next year. Moray Council see the site on East Cathcart as prime and aim to sell it (It was bought by Lidl Supermarket in 2006 who planned to move from their present site in the town to this larger one.)

You did well. The people of Moray have been thanked by Moray Council for their co-operation over the last few months that saw the smooth transition from the former sack system of refuse collection to the new wheeled bin refuse collection service.

May 12

Rovers Sportsman's Dinner - Buckie Rovers held a Sportsman's Dinner in the Ugie Hotel, Keith arranged by Robbie Mackay of which he is a sponsor. The speakers were Jim Leishman manager of Livingstone, former world boxing champion John Conteh and former Glasgow Rangers, Manchester City and Leeds United striker Derek Parlane. The three are seen in a photograph on the front page with Keith Sinclair, Rovers' secretary

Buckie Thistle annual general meeting - The Thistle had to appoint a new president, secretary and treasurer when Murray Thain, George Jappy and Paul Munch, respectively intimated their intention to resign.

Those appointed were President - Raymond Cardno; vice president - George Jappy; Secretary Bill Lobban and treasurer- Ann Cardno. A total of six retiring committee members were returned enbloc.

The fishing scene - Seven fishing boats last week landed 365 boxes of white fish, 24 boxes of prawns, 318 bags of clams and 380 boxes of shrimps. The boats were Heathery Brae, Providing Star, Blue Sky (Danish), Kestrel, Aspire, Moray Explorer and Tjeerd Jacoba. Fish prices were supplied by Fishermen's Fishselling Company.

Ye'll get nae mair drink here - Photographs on page 12 of this edition of the B. A. show workmen as they demolish the Athole Inn, (spelling may vary) a former tavern on Seaview Terrace at the junction with Cathedral Street. The Inn was built in 1863 but was destined to have a short life of less than forty years, the last occupant going broke in the late 1890's and leaving for Glasgow. He was later charged with deserting his wife and four children. The pub was on the ground floor with houses above.

May 19 **Butcher's shop closes** - Jocky Jamieson, Butcher, Findochty was advertising that due to ill health he aimed to close his shop on 30 May 1998. (Jocky recovered well and was still working as a butcher with Kenny Thomsen on West Church Street in the summer of 2006 when this was typed up – change that to read 2008)

The Girl Guides 80th birthday - The 1st Buckie Guides were first registered in April 1918. They were invested by Mrs Gordon –Duff, Drummuir, and their captain was Miss Scorgie. During 1918 the guides did war service and were given a war service badge for gathering moss for dressings. Sometimes the moss was covered by ice which had to be hacked off before it could be gathered. It was later taken to Inchgower Distillery where it was dried on racks.

A photograph shows a cake being cut at the celebrations to mark their 80th birthday. In the photograph are Margaret Cook ex captain, Guide Guider, Margaret Bruce who took over in 1964; Assistant Guider Jan Chisholm; Assistant Guider Sarah Ritchie and the last enrolled Guide Lindsay Walker.

May 26 **Good reason for celebrating** - The Portessie Public hall Committee are this week celebrating over the news that PESCA have awarded them £91, 250 funding towards the project

New doctors - Two new doctors Bernard Walsh and Kathleen Schrader will be joining the staff of Benreay Practice when it moves into the new Ardach Centre for Health.

Do you know what a 'Rat Bike 'is? I thought not. A note in the local paper said how a motor bike a 'Rat Bike' had been stolen from an address in Buckpool. The person was desperately keen to have it returned or learn something about its whereabouts since they had built the bike from bits and pieces and as such was known as a 'Rat Bike'.

June 2 **The Oxhill Walk** - A new nature walk which will be of benefit to local people as well as visitors to the area was officially opened last week. The ten acre reserve includes native trees, a pond a bridge and a specially created paddock for a pair of Highland cattle. Oxhill Walk offers all an easy opportunity to enjoy the countryside and see a thriving wildlife area. There is a car park while a pathway makes the nature trail an ideal place for both children and the elderly... It was created in an area previously unused centred around the Burn of Tynet three and a half miles east of Fochabers and a mile south of Clochan adjacent to the B9016 Portgordon to Keith road at the start of the climb up the Enzie Braes.

The Clochan Gala - The tenth Clochan Gala will take place on Sunday June 14 from 2pm till 4.30pm.

Mural for the Millennium - A new mural for the Millennium has been erected on the west gable site of Buckie Community High School which (the report said) will be visible to all who enter Buckie on the Portgordon road.

The design of the mural was a joint venture between the pupils of Buckie Community High School and Mawenzi Secondary School in Tanzania and is symbolic of moving into the new century in a spirit of unity.

A fuller report including the local businesses that played a part in the project can be found on page 7
The text on the part of the mural produced by Buckie pupils was composed by local poet Isabel Harrison and reads –As bairns we niver moant about haein nout tae dee. Ye played till the sun drappit intae the sea, an ye watchit wi awe sic golden majesty.

June 9 **Buckie Initiative** - Moray Council have agreed to set up a Buckie Initiative and will recruit a Project Executive to oversee the development of the Harbour Area.

Portgordon 200th anniversary - The villagers of Portgordon turned out in force to hear a letter from the Queen read out at the final event of their 200th anniversary celebration recently.

The letter was read out by the Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire James McPherson who had been invited to unveil the commemorative stone and bury a time capsule.

The time capsule contained a copy of the Portgordon School roll, photographs of the babies born in Portgordon during the year, a grocery account, a book about the history of the village, which was written by Peter Reid and a variety of the coins in circulation last year.

Details recording the position of the capsule and its contents are being kept in the Buckie Library, Portgordon School and with the Portgordon Heritage Group.

Buckie Travel Club held their annual general meeting in the Town House last week. Those elected to serve for the coming year were as follows – President – Mrs Elaine Pirie; secretary – Miss Margaret Reid; joint Treasurers Mrs Ena Thain and Mrs Alison Campbell; Committee – Miss Anne Bruce, Mrs Elsie Jamieson, Miss Sandra Addison and Mrs Mary King.

Enzie WRI held their annual general meeting in the Community Hall (formerly Enzie Public School) with the following people being elected to serve for session 1998/1999 – President – Ellie Wood; vice president – Isobel Simpson, secretary – Annette Critchley; treasurer – Wendy Crosby. Committee members – Elsie Mair, Kim Morrison and Chris Hennan.

Strathlene Golf Club are to revive their Gala this year.

CCTV switch on - The CCTV in Buckie, Forres and Elgin will be officially switched on at a ceremony in Elgin Town Hall on Wednesday June 10th.

Football World Cup 1998 - (Advert) Watch the World Cup 1998 opening ceremony and match live at the Marine Hotel on their 48 inch television on Wednesday 10th June. Happy Hour prices during all England and Scottish matches.

The Cullen Granite Pit - The people of Cullen have responded to Lord Seafield's offer to donate the Granite Pit to the community with a resounding 'Yes'. In a survey held in the town 110 people voted to accept the offer with not a single vote against.

A performance of the musical 'Oliver' was given by the Buckie Lyric Theatre Group in the Fisherman's Hall on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday last week.

June 16

Findochty Community Council - A new community council has been formed at Findochty. Anne Coull was appointed chair with Elizabeth Campbell as vice chair; Margaret Lees as secretary and Christine Campbell as treasurer. Other members of the council are – Mirabelle Booth, James Bremner, Hamish Lees and Dennis Main.

Cycling on pavements - After Buckie Community Council decided to send a complaint about Posties cycling on the pavements to Royal Mail and the Police this was met with some scorn by some people in the town with a letter written and a poem. The poem titled 'Ode to a Postie' is found on page 13 and on columns 3 and 4. This was written by 'The Bard' 12 McKenzie Road.

Look Back to the Past - James Thomson has been doing the compilation of the article for some time past. (Seen in a report from June 21 1973 that the former meal mill at Bridge of Tynet was to open as a hotel the following week.)

June 23

Long service recognised - Former Buckie Community Councillor Sandy Stewart has been presented with a plaque and a wrist watch as a mark of appreciation for his long service to the council and the town. The presentation was made in Forres, where he now stays, by the current chairman of B. C. C. Derek Horrobin and his wife Jean. Sandy was a founder member of Buckie Community Council in 1977 and remained an enthusiastic member for the next 20 years ultimately becoming chairman.

To meet the Queen - Buckie resident Joey Bowie has been invited to attend a Party at Buckingham Palace in the presence of the Queen and Prince Phillip. Joey has accepted the invitation and will be accompanied by her daughter Fiona Bruce.

The invitation came through the National Health Service who asked each area to put forward names of people they thought worthy to be considered to attend the Garden Party.

Joey has been involved with 'The Friends of Seafield Hospital' since its inception in 1990 and has been chairman since 1991

Local Rurals celebrate - Rathven WRI held a party to celebrate their 80th birthday. The president, Mrs June Milne welcomed members past and present, also guests.

Arradoul WRI also celebrated their 80th birthday, the two being established in the same year. President Mrs Isobel Eckersley welcomed members past and present also guests who included National Chairman Shirley Wallace and President of Banffshire Federation Mrs Maisie Bruce. Both officials were also present at the Rathven party.

Slochie quines hold a reunion - A poem entitled 'A Slochie Reunion', written by Rose Smith ex Chapel Street now Fort William, to mark the homecoming of June Simpson and her sister Margaret Ralph after a period of 34 years to visit their sister Jean Montcrief is found in this edition. There was to be a gathering of Slochie quines of the same age.

BB's Fiftieth anniversary - The 2nd Buckie Company Boys Brigade celebrated their 50th anniversary. **A report is given on page 16.** Pictures which accompany the report are extremely poor.

June 30

The 'Victory' (BCK16) - A new fishing boat sailed into Buckie harbour last week. She is the 33 metre twin registered trawler, 'Victory' belonging to Buckie skipper Peter Smith in part ownership with Scottish International of Aberdeen

The Victory (BCK 16) carries 120,000 litres of fuel to drive a 3606 Caterpillar engine which produces 1725 hp to give a top speed of 12 knots. She will carry her 10 man crew out into the deep waters off the north and west of Scotland, trawling to a depth of 700 fathoms. **A fuller report is found on page 1.**

Gala Day - Buckie Lyric Theatre Group is to hold a Gala Day in the Ian Johnston Park on Sunday 5th July.

Grant for Art Class - Portgordon Art Group have been awarded a grant of £4109 from the National Lottery Charities Board.

Clochachan Gala attracted a very good turn out to celebrate its tenth anniversary recently and even the weather behaved itself keeping dry though a brisk wind made it feel distinctly chilly. The gala was opened by Mame Brown a leading light in getting the former Enzie Public School made into a Community Centre. The compere was Jeff Jones.

Gala Queen - This year Buckpool Golf Club chose as their Gala Queen Miss Zoe Farquhar, 48 St Peter's Road with the Gala Princess Miss Jaime Riddoch, 126 Milton Drive.

High School Dux - The Dux of Buckie Community High School and winner of the Miller Medal this year is Christopher Brien, Hay Street, and Buckpool.

Advert - Denim Plus, East Church Street,

July 7 ***

Cricket Pavilion opened - The new cricket pavilion in Linzee Gordon Park was officially opened last week though the building was completed in April. A representative from the National Charities Board and Buff Hardie of 'Scotland the what' fame were present to see Mrs Edith Lawrence cut an ice-cream cake to mark the occasion. Mrs Lawrence is the wife of the late Dr Sandy Lawrence who was long associated with the cricket club. **A report is given on page 1.**

The fishing scene - Last weeks 15 boats landed 347 boxes of white fish, 522 boxes of prawns and 688 bags of clams. The boats were - Rival, Defiant, Seagull, Heathery Brae, Kedana, Incentive, Falcon, Bunillidh, Cardanel, Sapphire Stone, Kelly, Aspire, Constancy, Monadliath and Providing Star.

Sunday School teachers retire - Bill Reid and Jeannie Cowie retired as Sunday School teachers in the Methodist Church, Buckie. Jeannie completed 60 years with Bill 40 to complete 100 years between them.

Buckie Community Council - Three new members joined the council at their June meeting. They were Zafar Ali, Kevin McKay and Alan Taylor. The three had all previously been members. A fourth newcomer Joseph Mackay will be welcomed in August when the next meeting will take place.

High School teacher retires - Mr Norman Mitchell retired from Buckie Community High School at the end of the summer term. He joined the staff in 1972 as Principal Teacher of Business Studies. During his 26 years at Buckie High Mr Mitchell has produced 20 pupils who went on to become Business Studies teachers and now teach in schools throughout Scotland. At his presentation Mr Ed Jagger, Depute Rector, described Mr Mitchell as being very reserved, highly efficient, successful and professional in everything that he did.

July 14 **The late Charles Shearer** - George McKenzie, late rector of Buckie High School, writes on page one an obituary for the late Charles Shearer who died the previous week. Apart from running the draper and clothier shop on East Church Street, that was begun by his grandfather, he was also most active in a great number of organisations including the Town Council. **(The shop was closed in 1982.)**

July 21 **Banff Highland Gathering** - The lawn in front of Duff House, Banff, is to be the setting for a Highland Gathering, the first in the area for many years.

Mementoes from Oman - Buckie District Fishing Heritage Museum have been given a number of mementoes concerning a Buckie- built sailing ship which is now used to train seamen in the Sheikdom of Oman in the Middle East.

The ship is now known as RNOV Shabab Oman which was built by Herd and MacKenzie as the Captain Scott and the museum has been given a shield, a medallion and a picture to add to their collection. The mementoes were donated by George 'Bodge' Murray who received them while he was in Oman on holiday. **A report is given on page 9 also a photograph showing museum members Mrs Margaret Bruce and Mrs Isabel Harrison.**

More members join the Rovers - Buckie Rovers have been successful in gaining more committee members. The new members are – Messrs – Alan Strachan, Jim McAllister, George Davidson, Gary Wiseman, Zafar Ali and Mrs Jess Duthie.

Twenty players have been signed to date who will be playing in a new strip sponsored by R & J Properties, Keith.

July 28 **A weet weet,weet Peter Fair** - It was not surprising that Peter Fair was wet as this was in common with a miserable summer with far more than a share of rain. The long periods of rain had turned the site into a quagmire with massive puddles everywhere creating great problems for the showmen and machines. Co-organiser Edward Percival described the conditions as being the worst he had ever seen. They had brought in three to four hundred loads of hard core from Bogend quarry to make roads and John Duncan, farmer Rannachy used his tractor to move some of the equipment while an ex Army Military recovery vehicle with a winch was also employed.

Mr Cowley said that not only had Peter Fair been something of a disaster as a result of the weather but their last five events had also been washed out with no subsidies. Their takings at Peter Fair were down by 80% and wouldn't absorb the expenses incurred which meant that a lot of money had been lost.

Spey Bay Hall – On Saturday a large crowd turned out from the community of Spey Bay and surrounding area to see the official opening of the new community hall. Mrs Grace Mitchell, longest serving member of the community association at 36 years cut the ribbon. (The original hall underwent extension and other modifications.)

Gala Days suffer - Both the Buckpool Golf Club Gala and that of the Lifeboat, which took place on Saturday 18th July, were badly hit by rain.

Thistle is trounced - In a friendly game against Livingstone that took place at Victoria Park the home side lost by eight clear goals.

Scribe Bill Lobban said that it should be worth putting a big bet on Jim Leishman's side to take the 2nd division title. He was full of admiration for the players in the team.

Have you any photographs? Allan Fraser, secretary of Buckie Rovers had a request in the local paper for the loan of photographs showing Buckie Rovers as he hoped to compile a book about the team. (Nae deen yet in 2008 - somethings tak a lot of time.)

Can they be the chosen people? Miraculously the sun shone on Saturday for the Findochty Gala making it the warmest and sunniest day so far this summer.

August 4

Fight for survival - A sailing holiday turned to a fight for survival for two Buckie men last week when their yacht hit a rock in thick fog and begun to sink. One of them was left desperately clinging to a ledge watching helplessly as his friend was swept away to his death. Company director Albert Wilson and his cousin Bill Flett, a crewman on board the local fishing boat, 'Delightful' was on a sailing holiday to Wick. They were on the twin-misted ketch 'North Anna' a 40 foot yacht that Albert bought last year. She was moored at Findochty from where the men sailed last Monday.

A report is given on page 1.

No goals at Victoria Park - Buckie Thistle drew with Fort William in a no scoring game. The Thistle team was Dunbar, Cormie, Rattray, Lamberton, Matheson (I. Grant), Murray, D'Arcy, McPherson, Green, Bruce (Will), G. Grant (Graham).

Crewman dies as boat capsizes - One man died and another had to be taken to hospital suffering from hypothermia after the two man prawn fishing vessel 'Constancy' BCK391 sank off Buckie. The men John Wood of Mussleburgh and George Nisbet of Tranent had been in the cabin when the boat had gone over on her side and George Nisbet was lost.

The Keswick in Buckie Convention - has proved to be so successful that it has outgrown its original meeting place - the Methodist Church - so to accommodate the influx of people the venue has been moved to the North Church which can hold between 700 and 800 people. The Convention has been held annually in the Methodist Church each year since it first began 11 years ago.

A poem is found on page 12 and columns 5 and 6 - This has been titled 'In Loving Memory' of James Flett 'Yankie' Findochty also his nephew, George Flett,13, who were both lost off the fishing boat 'Amazon' The poem was written by A. F.

Aug 11

Rovers start well - Buckie Rovers won their first game of season 1998/1999 when they beat local rivals, Portgordon United at Portgordon by two goals to one. The Rovers' team was - Innes, Burnett, Christie(Cruickshank),, Duthie, Shewan, Chisholm, Franklyn, Wood, Grant, McLean and Tyson (Sinclair). Subs - Nicol, Lyon. New signings - Alan Grant, Andy McLean, Andy Franklyn and Graham Tyson. With Stewart McKay out injured his place between the sticks was taken by Stewart Innes who plays for Cullen in the Welfare League.

Closing -Down Sale - Everything must go - Hunter and Pirie . 31-33 East Church Street.

Aug 18

Big cat seen again - A black panther-like animal was sighted just outside Findochty last week near to 'The Muir', home of Duncan and Rosalind Woodham who both saw it. Mrs Woodham described the animal as having a round face like a cat, not pointed like a dog. The couple keep collies and said how this animal was much bigger and powerful looking with a long back and a bushy tail as long as its body.

Fochabers - Speyfest - is sure to prove as successful as ever with every ticket for the concert and ceilidh at the weekend sold by Thursday.

BB's Enrolment Day - The annual enrolment of boys for 2nd Buckie Boys Brigade will take place in the Methodist Church Hall on Friday 21st August from 7pm till 8pm.

Aug 25 **Fishing scene** - Last week 12 boats called in to Buckie harbour to land their catches . The boats were – Kestrel, Lynn Marie, Defiant, Kelly, Pisces, Bunillidh, Heathery Brae, Aspire, Falcon, Zephyr, Monadliath and Equality. All together they landed 631 boxes of white fish, 243 boxes of prawns and 445 bags of scallops.

Fish prices were supplied by Fishermen Fishselling Company.

Buckie Flower Show - A short passage was written in this week's 'Advertiser' as a means of bringing to the attention of those interested that this year's show was to take place in the Fishermen's Hall on Saturday 29 August.

Sept 1 **Moray Council and proposed traffic measures** - The proposals by Moray Council to stop heavy vehicles using the Station Brae (Slaughterhouse Brae) and surrounding streets in Buckpool (Land Street and James Street) could pose a threat to bus services in the area . The service that would suffer is the 305 Elgin to Macduff which could affect people living in Portgordon and the upper parts of Buckpool. One suggestion was that the bus would travel up St Peter's Road and go via Arradoul and so missing out Portgordon.

Chief Executive under examination - Moray Council are set to hold a disciplinary hearing with the full council later this month to decide the fate of their Chief Executive Tony Connell.

He was suspended on full pay from his £6,000 a month job on April 23 following allegations of expenses irregularities.

The Scots Language Group is to hold their first meeting of the winter on Tuesday 8 September in the Community Lounge of Buckie Community High School. Everybody interested will be most welcome.

Path proposed - Moray Council are to create a public footpath from Portgordon to Spey Bay.

Closing Down sale - Glad Rags/Pick a Flick , 30 West Church Street.

Do you know what the following words mean ? A calvie's lug; a clay davie ; a coatie.

A 'calvie's lug' is a name given to the grain in wood that often forms behind a knot and takes on the shape of a calf's ear.

A 'clay davy' is not an agricultural worker but rather it is the name given to a type of trowel used by such as a mason for certain types of jobs.

A 'coatie' may refer to petticoats in some parts of Aberdeen but in Buckie it is a corruption of 'gutta percha' or rubber used to make sandshoes.

The words were all discussed at the recent meeting of the Scots Language Group.

Sept 8 **Buckie Flower Show** - A report on this annual event was given on the front page. Despite the atrocious weather during the summer months there were 900 entries, 'most surprising but pleasing,' said the organisers.

Deskford Flower Show celebrated their 99th anniversary with an increase in the number of entries over the previous year.

Sept 15 **Fishermen rescued** - Three local fishermen were rescued after their Buckie-registered clam boat 'Cardanel' sank off the Norfolk coast on Sunday . Buckpool man David Mair, son David and David senior's brother in law Andrew Robertson were airlifted from a life raft after the 'Cardanel' sank after taking in water in a force 9 gale.

Sept 22 **We don't like the proposals** - Buckie Community Council have stated their opposition to the plans proposed by Moray Council to close certain streets in Buckpool to vehicles over a certain weight since it was felt that this would simply force heavy lorries to use other routes as such the Yardie and Main Street. They would dearly love to see a road built from Arradoul to the Grampian Pork factory as the

chairman said it could be money well spent. The considerable number of people employed at the factory was an important prop to the economy of the area and if a road was to be built it could mean the factory continuing to operate as opposed to closing up shop because of the hassle.

We've no money for you – but - Moray Council are not to provide any financial help for the up-grading of Portessie Public hall but have agreed to approach the Scottish Office to seek a grant to help those concerned .

Retiral Notice - Jamieson – Radio and TV, 45 West Church Street. 'After 61 years of business started by our late father Robert M. Jamieson from October 1 1998 Bob and Ian wish to announce their retirement. The business will continue as before under the new ownership of Stuart, our employee for the last 16 years, and his wife Hazel.

We thank our many customers over the years in which we saw as a two way partnership and trust that Stuart and Hazel will receive the same measure of custom and wish them every success.

The Buckie Drifter has maintained its performance over the past year despite being without a manager during part of the visitor season in 1997. Moray Council have supported the Buckie Drifter to the tune of £56,000 in the current financial year.

Numbers interested shows typical apathy - Only 8 people turned up to a meeting called by the community council in the Town House on Thursday evening to discuss plans to celebrate the Millennium in Buckie

The fate of the Chief Executive - Moray Councillors decided by 8 votes to four to terminate the employment of Tony Connell, Chief Executive, with immediate effect but with three months notice. He was found guilty of gross misconduct and dismissed said Chairman Tom Howe, other councillors would claim that he was bought off and resigned.

Benreay Medical Practice is to move to their new premises in the Ardach Health Centre, Highfield Road, next Monday. All GP services will be transferred and the Ardach Centre will also open with a Pharmacy run by Normac.

The official opening will take place in the New Year.

More waste for Dallachy - Moray Council agreed at a meeting to transfer the disposal of butcher waste from Murcar in Aberdeen to its own landfill at Dallachy with first disposals due to begin last week.

The fishing scene - Last week 15 boats came in to Buckie harbour to land their catches. This comprised in total- 678 boxes of fish, 236 boxes of prawns and 502 bags of scallops.

The boats were Defiant, Kestrel, Sapphire Stone, Egalitie, Tjeerd Jacoba, Providing Star, Kedana, Lynn Marie, Monadliath, Aspire, Zephyr, Deeside, Rival, Kelly and Bunillidh.

Fish prices were supplied by Fishermen Fishselling Company.

Glass by Design - Traditional and Contemporary styles for home or company premises – windows, doors, fanlights and mirrors. For samples and ideas contact Ed Lamont on Buckie xxx229

Book Review – Farmers Diary Vol. V by Charlie Allan titled 'The Last Laugh' Published by Ardo Publishing and priced at £12, 95

Oct 6

Bus routes and shelters - Moray Council has issued details of plans to re-introduce a number of bus routes throughout the region that have been cancelled over the past few years. Two of these services are school runs in Buckie and Keith. Money too has become available and earmarked for the installation of seven additional bus shelters.

Deskford family suffer third tragedy - Alan Simpson died as a result of injuries sustained in a head on crash with another vehicle on the Grantown to Aberlour road near the Advie War memorial last Wednesday.

His wife Rosie died ten years ago while waiting for a live transplant operation, then a few years later Martin a son died at age of 15.

Mr Simpson is survived by his other son Craig a pupil at Keith Grammar School who is being looked after by his late mother's parents in Berryhillock

Oct 13 **The fishing scene** - Last week 16 fishing boats came in to Buckie harbour to land their catches. In total this comprised – 1003 boxes of white fish, 213 boxes of prawns and 457 bags of scallops.

The boats were – Falcon, Lynn Marie, Providing Star, Heathery Brae, Defiant, Bonnylea, Zephyr, Monadliath, Ardel, Rival, Egalitie, Leslie, Aspire, Kelly, Nordic Prince and Pisces.

Buckie Swimming Pool face lift - The sum of £3000, 000 is to be spent upgrading Buckie Swimming Pool. Among the changes that are to take place include a fitness suite, extensions to the south end and links to Buckie Community High School

Oct 20 **Fochabers and the bypass** - Residents of Fochabers emerged optimistic regarding an early start to the construction of a by-pass after Transport Minister Calum MacDonald took a trip through the village to see for himself the volume of traffic (Sadly for them in 2006, when this was written, they were still waiting.)

No chemist rota - There will be no Buckie Chemist Rota shown in the *Banffshire Advertiser* until further notice. This follows the withdrawal of funding from the Health Board.

A full dispensing service is still available on local holiday Mondays and Wednesday afternoons at Normac Pharmacy in Ardach Health Centre.

It is emphasised that this is a temporary measure and it is likely that some form of rota will be created in future.

Club for Kids - A Junior Club is to be held in the Salvation Army Hall at 14 New Street on Wednesday evenings from 6.30 to 8.00pm...

The club will be open to children between the ages of 8 to 11 and will cost 30p which will cover cost of juice etc.

The club proposes to commence on Wednesday 28 October and it would be preferred if a parent, guardian or responsible adult would go along the first evening to give information. This will safeguard the youngsters.

Advert – Denim Plus/Grapevine 38-40 East Church Street. New stock arriving daily.

Women's Federation - Mrs Janet Murray welcomed members and extended a welcome to Mrs M. Duncan, Keith to the first meeting of the new session.

Closure of museum - Buckie District Fishing Heritage Museum closed on Saturday for the winter and will re-open again in the first week of June 1999. Over the summer around 1000 visitors called. Peter Bruce, curator, will open the museum to anyone who has travelled a long distance to find it closed.

Change to bus service – As from 19 October a revised town bus service will take patients to and from Ardach Medical Centre. The service will form a loop starting at East Church Street and will take in Ardach and Seafield Hospital.

Oct 27 **Rewarded for his action** - Kevin McKay, a local taxi owner who played an important part in the rescue of Shaun McGregor after his car had crashed and burst into flames some months back, has received an award for his bravery. After being nominated by John Rumbles, one of his employees Kevin learned that he had been successful and was to be given an award 'Care in Crisis' and travelled to Glasgow to receive it.

New man at the Mill - The new owner of the Mill House Hotel, Tynet is George Haines, a native of Dublin who previously had a hotel in Tipperary. The hotel boasts 15 rooms for guests all ensuite. He intends to do a number of alterations to the premises.

AGM of the Buckie Disabled Club - Officials elected – Chairman – Malcolm Thain, vice chairman – Barry Brewin, secretary – Bill Reid, treasurer – Lorraine Brewin. Committee - June Reid, Margaret Reid, Jeannie Murray and Willie Murray.

Nov 3

Girl Go-Getters - Four Buckie youths with a real sense of girl power have recently completed a local project that could see them win a holiday of a lifetime. The Munch Bunch made up of four members from Buckie junior Youth Club took on the challenge of renovating and decorating the Turner Pavilion, home of Buckie Thistle Boys Club as part of the BP/Youth Youth Club Scotland Gruff Kids Challenge. The members Alan Wright, Shona Sclater, Jenna Tallis and Kerry Montcrieff had a strict time limit of just six weeks in which to complete the project which took in everything from digging up old floor tiles to plumbing and electrical tasks.

The girls all aged 13 also held several fund raising events to help cover their costs. The group received £500 grant from the Scottish Co-op and £50 from Scottish Hydro Electric as well as a further boost from Forward Scotland's Small Project Grant Fund of £500.

The girls added to this the sum of £500 they had raised themselves through running youth discos, a stovies night and a baking stall among other things.

End of the line - After five years at Denturamics and with over 30 years working in Buckie, dental technician Roy Shepherd spent his final day at work last week. He received a set of golf clubs from Colin his son and also his employer and he hopes to play more golf in the days ahead.

Roy who is well known in the town came to Buckie from Deeside in 1957 to work with dentist brothers Graham and Lorimer Hendry then with G. P and J. Hendry for 28 years before starting with his son in 1993.

He is a past master of Lodge Craigenroan, secretary of the Buckie branch of the SNP and an active member of the local community council.

AGM of Buckie Group Riding for the Disabled - President – Mrs Hazel McKay, treasurer – Mrs Pat Eckersley, secretary – Mrs Naomi Moir.

Health Centre opens its doors - Ardach Medical Health Centre opened its doors to the public on Saturday giving many visitors their chance to see through the building for the first time.

Nov 10

Remembrance Services took place at the War Memorial on Cluny Square, Buckie, on Sunday as they did in all the villages in the area, marking as they did the 80th anniversary of the ending of World War I. A service also took place at Bellie Cemetery and at the Dallachy Memorial at Bogmoor.

Crematorium given the go-ahead - Controversial plans for the transformation of the disused Enzie Church of Scotland at Broadly in the Enzie into a crematorium were given the go-ahead last week and new owner of the property Gordon Christie (Christie (Fochabers) Ltd hopes to have the facility in operation within the next six months.

One killed and four injured. A car accident on the Cullen to Buckie road, the A98, near the Bauds Garage led to the death of Lee Smith, 22, of King Edward Terrace, Portknockie while Roy McKay, 19, Firthview King Edward Terrace, Portknockie received extensive injuries that saw him flown by helicopter to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. His sister Julie, 21, was moved to Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin with leg and head injuries. Also in Dr Gray's is Michael Coull, 22, Buckie suffering from chest injuries and Karen Gordon, 23, also of Buckie who received injuries to her head and hands.

Heritage Museum C.M. - The coffee morning held in the North Church Hall on Saturday raised the sum of £345. There were Christmas Cards for sale showing pictures of boats and local views.

Narrow defeat for the Rovers - Buckie Rovers went out of this year's OVD Scottish Junior Cup in the second round by the odd goal in seven to Bankfoot Athletic.

The Rover's team was – Barron, Tallis (Nicol), Christie, Burnett, Shewan (Duthie), Chisholm, Franklyn, Wood, Slater, Farquhar (McLean), Grant. Subs Cruickshank and Lyon.

Nov 17

Rotary mark their 40th year - The Rotary Club of Buckie celebrated their 40th year anniversary with a special dinner to mark the event. Buckie Rotary Club was formed in 1958, being started through sponsorship from Keith Rotary Club.

Christie (Fochabers) Ltd. – As part of a major restructuring of its business Christies (Fochabers) Ltd. is set to put its four florist shops on the market along with the Spey Bay Hotel and golf complex. The shops are in Elgin, Keith, Buckie and Forres.

Former Rover's player and keen golfer - Raymie Reid, 61, of Great Western Road, Buckpool, a contracts manager with Marley Roofing Division for Inverness where he started forty years ago collapsed and died while playing golf with a friend Alex Thomson on Saturday morning, on the Buckpool Golf Course. This was a regular weekend game between the two. Alex said Raymie had just collapsed as he struck the ball on the 16th green.

He was an honorary member of Buckpool Golf Club in recognition of the work he did in raising money for the building of the new clubhouse.

Raymie was a member of the Rover's team who came up from the Welfare League to join the then Morayshire Juniors in season 1961/62 and is remembered as a stylish and enthusiastic player and no mean goal scorer.

He is survived by his wife June and two children Alan and Ray.

Buckie Initiative appointment - Mandy Holmes, who has connections with Buckie, her grandfather Knud Jorgensen being the skipper of the fishing boat 'Dalma', formerly property manager with Coats Viyella PLC has taken on the role of project officer for Buckie Initiative.

She explained, "The Initiative is aimed at developing and diversifying the economic base of the community as well as improving the quality of life for local residents."

Second death following Bauds accident - Roy McKay, Portknockie badly injured in a car accident on the A98 earlier this month, Saturday 7th November, died on Sunday in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. The others involved including his sister Julie, Michael Coull and Karen Gordon have all been discharged from hospital.

Advert – Livingstone's, 36 East Church Street, 'where fashion clothing costs less'

New name new venue - Malcolm Smith who formerly traded at 68 West Church Street under the banner of 'Menswear' has moved to Cluny Square where he has a change of name, now called **Gent elle** and is selling Ladies, Gents and children's clothing.

Nov 24

I've had enough – 'Malcolm Murray handed in his resignation as manager of Buckie Thistle to the president Raymond Cardno in the wake of another humbling defeat at the hands of Clach.' (The opening paragraph in a report by the Thistle scribes Bill Lobban.

He continued by saying 'The letter came as a bolt from the blue but followed a lean spell for the Jags of taking only five points from their last ten games'

Malcolm had been in charge at Victoria Park for two and half seasons. .

Cargo trade - Five cargo boats came in to Buckie harbour last week four cargoes came in, two of salt and two of barley with two going out both animal feeding pellets, a by-product of the whisky industry.

Malcolm's swansong - Buckie Thistle lost by four goals to one at home to Cove Rangers in what was to prove to be Malcolm Murray's last game as manager.

Team – Dunbar, Low, Lamberton, Cormie, Matheson, Rattray, G. Grant, Murray (Bruce), Green, McPherson and I. Grant.

Dec 1

New manager for the Thistle - Alan Scott, Banff, who played for Buckie Thistle in the late 70's was elected to the post of manager last Wednesday evening.

The girls did well - Two girl teams from Buckie Junior Youth club reached the final of BP Gruff Kids Challenge. They were short listed in a Scotland wide entry of over 100.

One team, its members aged between 10 and 11, won the second prize of £100 of Argo vouchers each for their project, the renovation of the Turner Pavilion, home of Buckie Thistle Boys Club in Buckpool.

The second team, again all girls, though not included in the cash prizes received a trophy for their project which involved the creation of a garden for two special needs men. They laid small stones and slabs, planted herbs and shrubs and built an arch and installed a barbecue and garden seat. The project was completed during five weeks of their summer holidays. **See report on page 3**

Advert – Gent Menswear, 68 West Church Street, last two days of sale, nothing above £25, everything must go.

Buckie Lyric Theatre Group is to present Aladdin and Princess of Pekin

The B. A. has a new reporter - He is Andrew Saunders (42) who lives near Culsalmond. Formerly a psychiatric nurse he took an English degree at Aberdeen University following this with several journalism modules at an Aberdeen College. He recently spent six months teaching English in the Czech Republic.

Harbour Log - Twenty boats came into Buckie harbour last week to land their catches. This comprised in total 469 boxes of fish, 265 boxes of prawns and 349 bags of clams.

The boats were – Adventure, Moray Endeavour, Aeolus, Minch Hunter, Tjeerd Jacoba, Bunillidh, Defiant, Egalitie, Adele, Lynn Marie, Heathery Brae, Delightful, Monadliath, Surina, Sapphire Stone, Ardelle, Zephyr, Kelly, Pisces and Rival.

Dec 8

Fire tragedy - Aileen Geddes (39) the sole occupant of a top flat at Campbell House in Cullen's North Deskford Street, died following a fire at the flat on 29th November.

New pulpit Bible at Cullen - The Old Church of Cullen received a new pulpit Bible presented by Rev. Professor Wm. D. McHardy DD a member of the congregation to the minister Rev Melvyn Wood during the service last Sunday in what is traditionally known as Bible Sunday.

Grant for restoration - The old granary at Letterfourie, Drybridge has received planning consent from Moray Council for its restoration. The initial phase of the renovation of the historic Grade B listed building can now commence and will entail the removal of some parts which have collapsed, re-slating, fitting of new sash and casement windows and doors, harling and the installation of rain water pipes and soakaways.

The Buckie Drifter has stopped its weekend open services until February 12th when it will reopen for weekends only. Full service will resume in April 1999.

Anyone seeking to purchase Christmas Cards will be able to do so by ringing the front bell for admittance between 9 and 4 from Monday to Friday.

Dec 22

Thistle player breaks leg - Jim Matheson a player with Buckie Thistle suffered a double fracture of the tibia during the Aberdeenshire League game against Peterhead on Monday evening 14 December. He was removed to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary but is now home in Buckpool.

Nae jist a 'lavvy' but a first class 'Loo' - The toilet convenience on Newlands Lane staffed by Hazel Stewart, Maureen Duncan and Kate Longmore received a top award in the 'Loo of the Yea' Award 1998/99. There were 1000 entries and the judges travelled the length and breadth of the country inspecting them all.

Spike's serial 'Horror of the Hill. The last chapter was written in this edition, number 42.

Buckie Scout Post reached a staggering **30,620** cards, an all time record. The Scouts hope to have raised **£3000** which will be used for group activities throughout the year.

‘Have You Got a Light Boy?’ The community council are to ask Moray Council if they will install a light on the former railway bridge over the Buckie Burn between Union Terrace and Gordon Street. The path across the bridge is used by a lot of people who complain about it being very dark.

A clever loon - Trevor Jappy, whose parents live at Scott Terrace, a former pupil of Buckie High School, has gained a PhD in Isotope Geo Chemistry. He is a graduate of Aberdeen University where he received an Honours Degree in Research Geology, a MSC in Research Chemistry and a Diploma in Information Technology at R.G.I.T. He was formerly employed in the oil industry but is now a Research Fellow at Dundee University in the Civil Engineering Department.

Dec 29

Let there be light! – A letter writer to the B. A. complains of the need for lights at each of the road ends leading into Buckie. This was again brought up by the community council in 2005 without success. To comply with the wishes of members of the public the issue was raised yet again in 2007 but as on previous occasions found it impossible to convince the powers that be.

New serial - The first chapter of a new serial by Spike titled ‘Death **at Linzee Gordon Park**’ appears in this edition