

1999

Jan 5 **New School Code** - The staff and pupils of Buckie Community High School are beginning the new year with a new school code which has been researched and modified over the past few months, with a very forward looking attitude. Rather than laying down rule after rule to create a large list of restrictions staff and pupils have based the new code around three main areas of respect, which are appropriate to staff, pupils and parents alike. **Full report is given on page one**

Buckie loses an eminent citizen. Francis Lawrence, (67) a native of Whitehills died at his home on Cameron Crescent last week. He was very active in the fishing industry holding different posts in ruling bodies, a prominent member of the local branch of the Conservative Party, and an elder of the North Church. **An obituary is given on page 3**

Former Postmaster dies - Alexander Cowie Lobban, retired Head Postmaster of Buckie and Turriff died at his home in Ianstown. He was 81. All together he gave 46 years of service to the Post Office. He served as an office-bearer in many organisations including the Royal British Legion, Rotary Club, Speakers Club and the Freemasons being a Pastmaster of Lodge Gordons 589.

An obituary is to be found on page 5.

The 'Advertiser' requires a reporter to replace Brian Wilkinson who has retired after a number of years in the job.

Look back to the Past - This is still being compiled by James Thomson.

Jan 12 **the making of 'Cullen Skink'** - Five ladies from Cullen and Buckie will be appearing on BBC 2 show 'The Food and Drink Programme'. Michael Barry and film crew travelled to the Seafield Arms Hotel, Cullen on Tuesday January 5 to film four experts cooking the internationally famous local dish 'Cullen Skink'. As well as demonstrating how to cook the dish the four local ladies were also judged on their efforts by Gareth Eddy the chef of the Seafield Arms Hotel, John Fowlie, of Buckie and Jackie Mair of Mair's Fish, also in Buckie. A photograph on page 1 shows the participants - Bertha Niven, Mary Addison, Margaret Innes, Sandra Taylor and Rhonda Strathearn.

'Intricate Designs' 'A young Buckie couple are in business producing pictures made of wood. 'Intricate Designs' of 31A West Church Street have just completed their latest commission which is a picture of Ardach Health Centre.

A photograph shows Maggi and George Dawson with Practice Manager Anne Sim as they hang the picture on a wall of the Centre.

Maggi is the only one in Scotland and perhaps the British Isles to do this type of art. She is prepared to do all kind of commissions with prices ranging from £8 to £80.

Advert - Hair Flair, Ladies and Gents Hairdressers, 74 East Church Street.

Jan 19 **The end of a long road** - Buckie's oldest resident by far Rita Donn died in Netherha Nursing Home, Buckie on Sunday aged **110 years**.

Founder member retires - Colin Macrae, a founder member of United Fish Selling Ltd in 1982, serving as Managing Director and Chairman until 1995, has retired aged 65. He lives in Fochabers with his wife Lena.

Keswick Weekend - A speaker at the Keswick in Buckie Convention Weekend was Rev Douglas Hutcheon a native of Fochabers who attended Enzie Public School when his father worked at Leitcheston Farm and later Buckie High School. His wife is a native of Buckie. They have four of a family.

'Flu Outbreak - A major outbreak of 'flu has affected many people in Buckie, surrounding villages and rural areas with old and young being struck down. Dr Gordon Pringle, GP, Ardach Medical Centre stressed that it should not be seen as an epidemic.

Children enjoy snow of the wintry spell - This edition of the 'Advertiser' carries a number of photographs showing children playing amongst the snow that fell during the recent wintry spell. One taken in the Queen's Park shows a number of 'sledgers' - Sarah McKinley, Kris Mann, Matthew Boyle, Rachel Goodall and Holly Goodall with Sarah's dad David McKinley looking on.

Advert - 'Cutting Corners' Ladies and Gents Hairdressers, 46 West Church Street.

Jan 26 **Unemployment looms** - - A major blow to the employment situation in Buckie came with the news that Strathaird Salmon has announced plans to close its local processing plant on March Road, Buckie, which presently employs a staff of 58. The company made the announcement at 11.00am last Friday with the staff being informed that a phased shut-down will see the end of the operation by July this year.

Buckie - what does the word mean? A person living in Waterbury, Connecticut, USA whose surname is Buckie recently wrote to the history department of Buckie Community High School hoping that they would be able to provide the answer. Roddy Manson PT of History decided that the person most likely to be able to do so would be a former colleague retired Geography teacher and avid amateur historian Allan Fraser. **What Allan gave as the answer is to be found on page 3.**

The Fishing Scene - From 17 boats the week before only three came in last week to land their catches. They were the Delightful, Zephyr and Bunillidh. The total landings comprised - 90 boxes of white fish, 3 boxes of prawns and 40 bags of scallops.

**** **For the first time no fish prices were provided by the Fishermen's Fish Selling Company.**

Red Cross shop- Mr Kevin McKay, McKenzie Road, Buckpool who was recently awarded a Red Cross Award for his action in saving the life of Shaun McGregor when he dragged him from a blazing car last year was invited to cut the ribbon to open a Red Cross shop on West Church Street.

Following on the rescue Kevin had been nominated for the Red Cross Care in Crises Awards first at regional level in Glasgow then in London at national level at a ceremony hosted by Angela Rippon, former TV News announcer.

Thanks - Secretary Allan Fraser, on behalf of his colleagues in Buckie Community Council, wrote a letter of thanks to all those who were responsible for this year's festive lights. The workers who gave of their time not only to erect the lights and the firms who had supplied the equipment. The lights were quite spectacular.

Feb 2 **Found in the Broadley Kirk** - A jar containing a number of artefacts including newspapers of 1887, the year the Kirk was opened, also coins of the realm and other articles including the ministers name, names of the elders and the number on the

Communion Roll, were found by masons working on alterations being made to turn the former south Church of Scotland into a crematorium .

The artefacts were found in a large jar, similar to a sweetie jar, and sealed with lead in what appeared to have been the foundation stone in which a hole had been bored. The paper, unfortunately, was in a poor state of preservation See **a fuller report in B. A. of February 2 1999.**

Cullen Skink Competition - On Tuesday January 5 1998 a Cullen Skink making competition took place in the Seafield Hotel, Cullen in which five local ladies showed their skill at making this soup delicacy.

The five were Rhonda Strathearn, Cullen, Margaret Innes, Cullen, Bertha Niven, Buckie, Sandra Taylor, Cullen and Mary Addison, Cullen.

The eventual winner was Mary Addison, with Bertha Niven as runner-up. **A photograph of the two ladies is found on page nine.**

Top swimmer - Alana Duncan, 13, of Pringle Street, Buckie a member of Buckie Amateur Swimming Club took part in the Stirling Junior Open Swimming Competition held on Saturday.

She won gold medals in a number of events - 200 IM, the 100 Fly; the Brs and the 100 B/C. She also won silver medals in the 100 metres F/C and in the 200 F/C. In addition she won the Trophy for Best Girl for the second year in a row and helped Buckie to come third in the girl's competition out of the 51 clubs taking part.

'**Childhood Days**' - a poem written by Edward Mitchell is found on **page 13 columns 4/5**

Thistle footballer breaks the record - One of the most legendary Buckie Thistle players of all time created history for himself on Saturday by becoming officially the all time record holder for appearances in competitive matches. At Fort William on Saturday Alan 'Micky' McPherson played his 567th competitive game for Buckie Thistle, in so doing he overtook a record that had lasted for 60 years . The previous record holder was Norman 'Blimey' Wood who played in goal for the Thistle from 1922 till 1939 when he was called up to the Services. It was definitely known that he had played 510 games , perhaps even 560 if he played all the 56 games in question so Micky had to play 567 to make sure that the record was his. **See page 14 for the full report written by Easton Thain 'Jagsman' who has been writing the reports of the Thistle games.**

Feb 9 **Big funeral** - Over five hundred people paid their last respects to Tom Morrow at a service of Thanksgiving in the Baptist Church on 30th January. The former bank manager of the Clydesdale Bank, a native of Aberdeen, retired in 1981.

The fishing scene - Six boats called into Buckie to land their catches last week . The total catch comprised - 110 boxes of white fish, 155 boxes of prawns and 227 bags of scallops. The boats were - Caledonia, Honeybourne III, Defiant, Pisces, Rival and Caroline Dawn.

Fish prices were not available when going to press.

Expansion for TV shop - R.S. Cruickshank And Co. have now taken over number 30 West Church Street, next door and now have a larger display area with all kinds of electrical appliances , TV's, camcorders etc. etc.

Feb 16 **The fishing scene** - The inclement weather over the past week ensured that no boats put to sea thus no fish were landed at Buckie harbour.

The Fishing Heritage Museum - Buckie District Fishing Heritage Museum applied some time ago to the Moray Council for financial assistance towards the upgrading of the museum premises .

A meeting of the Technical and Leisure Services Committee on 9th April considered the proposal that the museum would lease or buy the premises at the 'Cottage' attached to the Town House , West, Buckie on Cluny Place with a view to demolishing the existing building and replacing it with a new visitor centre. The authority has said, however, they have no plans for the demolition of the property. What the Building Control Officers of the Council have reported is the need for essential work in respect of health and safety and so forth the cost of will cost £3000. The Museum had applied for financial assistance to the tune of £3000 to pay for this. The Committee was given the support of local councillors who passed the proposal and awarded the £3000 financial costs.

For sale 17 West Church Street - The most recent occupiers of this shop on West Church Street which had seen a lot of different activities taking place within were the Johnston family of the Banffshire Advertiser who carried it on as a sweetie shop under the title of 'The Candy Box '. They have now put it on the market.

Norwegians in Buckie - Allan Fraser as secretary of the Fishing Heritage Museum had a letter in the local paper after he had received a letter from Trond Herlopen in Norway . His father had been in Buckie some time during the early years of World War II and in his letter he asked if anyone could supply the answers to a number of questions which he posed. . (As late as 2006 some people were still interested in finding out more about the Norwegians who spent the war years from 1940 until 1945 here. One being Dr Desmond Cormack whose father was a Norwegian.)

Feb 23 **Fund gatherer** - Buckie fisherman Mark Mair has raised £10.000 for 202 Search and Rescue Squadron at RAF Lossiemouth. The fund-raising is part of a happy association Mark has had with the quadroon over the past 7 years.

Wartime recalled - A photograph in this edition of the 'Banffshire Advertiser' shows the Norwegian fishing boat 'JASBEK ' on the Norwegian slip at Buckie during World War II. The skipper was Peder Lars who spent the war years fishing from Buckie. The picture came from Colin Macrae late of United Fishselling.

Meeting off on account of illness - There was no community council last week, since due to illness and other reasons there were insufficient members present to form a quorum. Those present, however, did take the time to discuss the questions on a quiz sheet prepared by the secretary Allan Fraser based on features and events of the local area. The prize is a mammoth-sized box of chocolate that cost £19.99 and donated by kind local benefactor Gordon Packman. All the proceeds from the quiz will go towards the Millennium Fund.

Mar 2 **End of an era** - Moray Council have bought the large derelict building at Thomson's Boatyard on Baron Street from Mr Thomson. It will be demolished though at the moment there are no plans in the pipeline for the use of the land. (The land was used for temporary offices around 2002/3 when the new sewage system was constructed from Portgordon to Buckie, since that time the land has been lying vacant. In 2006 plans were drawn up for some kind of college on the land.)

Mar 9 **The fishing scene** - Last week 12 boats came in to land their catches at Buckie harbour. This comprised 976 boxes of white fish, 245 boxes of prawns, 750 boxes of shrimps and 56 bags of scallops.

The boats were – Crystal River, Atlantic, Falcon, Copious, Rainbow, Clupea, Providing Star, Kestrel, Caroline Dawn, Moray Endeavour, Seagull and Bunillidh. Once again no fish prices were given.

Who left the tabernacle? A brand new tabernacle was left outside the Heritage Museum on Cluny Place. A tabernacle is a special piece of metal that was bolted on to a ship's deck to hold the mast. The Heritage have plans to set it up on concrete and install a mast or log to represent this. (Allan Fraser, secretary, dug a hole and had it filled with concrete and made contact with the Forestry Commission who provided a seven foot tall part of a tree. This he collected from the Fochabers' Woods with his friend Jimmy Sutherland, a joiner, who helped him to bolt on the tabernacle and fix the 'mast'.)

King of Norway pays a visit - A photograph on page 16 shows a picture taken at Strathlene House Hotel, Buckie, in 1943 when King Haakon, of Norway along with his entourage visited Buckie. All persons in the photograph are named including Provost Merson of Buckie.. Mention is made of the Norwegian Consul which was in Kintrea on East Church Street, in 1999 the home of Pat and Marie Drummond.

Mar 16 **Changes at Buckie harbour** - Buckie harbour area is set to get a one million pound boost which could potentially transform the town's fortunes. The slip is to be extended, the winch and cradle is to be replaced with much larger equipment and the harbour dredged in the shipyard area. Work will provide a facility which should attract many larger vessels to Buckie for repair.

Wanted - Bricklayers are required by Wm. Douglas and Sons Ltd, March Road, Industrial Estate, Buckie.

New Chief Executive - The new Chief Executive of the Moray Council is Mr Brian Stewart who will take up his duties in May. At the moment he is still Chief Executive of the West Isles Council.

His/her conscience bothered them - Mr Chris Sugden, Rector of Buckie Community High School received a £50 donation from a mystery window breaker. A note accompanying the money said how the window had been broken with a snowball in 1949 so there was no DP2 nor detention. The money will be put in the school funds and used for the benefit of all the pupils. Mr Sugden said how the writer had shown a positive attitude and a fine example to the youngsters at school today. He said if the mystery donor was to make themselves known he would be pleased to give them a guided tour of the school.

Advert - Coffee and Cream, East Church Street, Buckie.

Mar 23 **Former High School pupil wins art prizes** - Faye Phimister, a former pupil at Buckie Community High School and meantime a student at Gray's School of Art in Aberdeen has been awarded two very prestigious prizes for her work. Faye's drawings and paintings are heavily influenced by her Buckie childhood and upbringing in that they reflect the various scenes around the town; she paints strongly-evoking harbour scenes, the shipyards, fishing life in the town and indeed the whole gamut of the fishing heritage which is her own heritage. **See front page.**

A change of face - Face-lifts have been the order of the day for a number of locals, not people, that is, but businesses. They have benefited from the Buckie Property Frontage Improvement Scheme which has been set up to assist with the external improvement of commercial properties within the Buckie Initiative Area.

Three such properties are shown in this edition of the *'Banffshire Advertiser'*. are BCK Ship's Painters on Commercial Road, Gent -elle Ladies and Gents Outfitters on Cluny Square and Kingfisher Marine Services again on Commercial Road?

Female footballer - A young Fochabers girl Kelly Gordon, 17, who attends Milne's High School has been representing Scotland in France this weekend in a pair of football boots and a national team strip.

A current member of Cove Ladies team, she has played for Elgin Ladies and she trains with Forres under 16 Boys team. She has had trials for Scotland in the past but this season is the first time that she has actually donned the Scotland strip.

Postscript - In the game Scotland lost by two goals to nil to the French under 18 ladies team.

Did You Know? (A new column) Early last century when fishing boats heeled over while under sail a lot of water could be shipped on board. As each person had their own place in the boat it fell to the man in the midships to bale out.

The duty fell first to the man on the leeward side and then once the boat tacked on the weather side, Other crew members were not very keen to help out and the boat could be at risk of completely filling before they would lend a hand.

These hardy chieftains went to sea bare-footed in their open boat. They wore canvas trousers and a 'fear-nothing' coat. Their under clothes were of wool and knitted by their wives.

The usual diet was barley bannocks, a roasted haddock, and a pint of kale soup and sometimes for a treat, an onion.

This was in the days of long-lining when men did not stay at sea over night.

Mar 30 **Findochty caravan site** - Moira and Dennis Main, a local couple from Findochty have purchased Findochty Caravan Site from Moray Council. The Council recently bought the Superiority of the site from Seafield Estates.

The Moray Tartan - A new tartan titled the Moray Tartan has been woven at the Isla Mill in Keith and registered as the official tartan of Moray Council. The colours in the new tartan are dark blue to represent the Moray Firth; light blue for the river Spey and all the other rivers that flow through Moray; green indicative of the agricultural heritage of the land and the checks in amber and salmon to represent the fish and the whisky both of which are symbols of Moray's heritage.

The fishing scene - There were no fish, prawns, shrimps or scallops landed at Buckie harbour last week.

Apr 6 **Nil worth noting**

Apr 13 **Aid for refugees** - The recent enforced exodus of Albanian Kosovans from the war-torn former Yugoslav province of Kosovo and the horrendous pictures and eye-witness testimony of genocide by the Serb military have galvanised charities in this country into a united effort to send humanitarian aid to the beleaguered refugees.

The charity 'No Frontiers' has been appealing, along with many others, for donations of all kinds from British citizens and 'Kwik-Fit' the vehicle component and spares company has set up collection points at its depots around the country.

Notice - The Inner Wheel Club of Buckie and Ardach Health Centre ask that you give goods of all kinds to help the refugees in Kosovo. A list of the kind of things required was given. The collecting point is North Church Hall. Organisers – Mae Summerfield, Elsie Jamieson and Anne Gerrard.

The fishing scene - Seven boats came in to Buckie harbour last week to discharge their catches; this comprised – 343 boxes of white fish, 193 boxes of prawns and 9 boxes of shrimps together with 67 bags of scallops. The boats were – Stroma Isle, Kestrel, Caroline Dawn, Providing Star, Pisces, Rival and Deeside.

Apr 20 **Grant offered** - - The group in Portessie concerned with the restoration of the public hall have been made an offer of £95,000 by the Scottish Office towards the project. However, it is not yet time to pop the champagne corks. The end of the road has not yet been reached in the quest for the £560,000 (Is this figure correct, I wonder.) Needed to bring the hall up to standard. Portessie was faced with the task of finding 50% of the £560,000 total. **See full report on page one.**

Now open - 'M' Quality Childrenswear at 14 High Street, Buckie.

Advert - Buckie's favourite Indian cuisine at Nemat Tandoori Restaurant, and Take Away, 52 West Church Street, Buckie

Portknockie chooses Millennium Princess - Emma Addison (11) 3 Blantyre Place was chosen as Portknockie's Millennium Princess at a disco in the McBoyle Hall. This was the first event in the forthcoming Millennium Celebrations.

Community Council wins a prize - Buckie Community Council won third prize – a cheque for £100 – in the recent Community Groups Achievement Award Competition run by Moray Council for the excellence of its presentation and submission. The prize was gained for its contribution to two tourist guides produced and which it distributed throughout the area. For the compilation of a quiz the proceeds of which were allocated to the local Millennium Fund and the fact that the community council were instrumental in organising and convening two Millennium meetings.

Apr 27 **The 'Captain Scott' bell** - A photograph in this edition of the *'Banffshire Advertiser'* shows some members of the Buckie District Fishing Heritage Museum together with Mr John MacKenzie former director of Herd and MacKenzie shipyard in Buckie. On the table in front of the party is the brass bell of the schooner the 'Captain Scott', built by the yard in 1971. The Heritage members are Frank Macleod, treasurer, Peter Bruce, curator, Peter Flett, committee member and Hugh Patience, vice chairman.

Their next production - Buckie Lyric Company re to present 'The Sound of Music' in the Fishermen's Hall on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 28, 29 and 30th April.

Buckie Quines' Club has been awarded the sum of £200 from the interest accruing in the Buckie Common Good Fund, subject to approval. The money will go towards helping to pay the cost of organising a weekend camp at Banchory. The club with a membership of approximately 30 teenage girls meets in the Lady Cathcart School building once per week and forms part of the Community Education Network in Buckie. The girls themselves have contributed substantially towards the cost of the weekend.

The Millennium Grant - Buckie is to receive the sum of £8.300 as its share of the Millennium Grant representing one pound for each head of the population of 8300.

May 4 **Retired teacher reaches her 90th birthday** - Annie Clark known simply as Miss Clark to many, a retired school teacher, has just celebrated her 90th birthday. She spent 43 years teaching at Lady Cathcart Primary School beginning in 1929 and continuing through until 1972.

The CCTV cameras - The front page of the local paper carried a report on the CCTV cameras which were erected in the centre of Buckie on May 25 a year ago. The report was full of praise for the cameras, claiming that their presence had made a big difference to the amount of crime that was committed in the central area. (Seven years on some people would question just how effective they are since in August 2006 the windows of the North Church were being broken by stones, while big flower tubs on Cluny Square, in full view of the cameras, were upturned and the flowers spilt)

Fordyce and its Coat of Arms - The Fordyce Community Association who, some time before, made representations to the authorities for the restoration of the village's Coat of Arms have been successful. It will receive the Letters Patent from a representative of the Lord Lyon during a ceremony in the village on Monday 10th May when it will be received into the safe keeping of the Community Association. A flag bearing the new Coat of Arms will be raised on the newly restored Fordyce Castle.

Honoured for long service - After serving for 38 years on Buckie Lifeboat Guild Meta Murray has been awarded the Gold Badge in recognition of her long service. She has retired from the Guild which has now ceased to exist. Now in her 80's she will receive the badge from the Duke of Kent at the Barbican, London, on 27 May.

May 11 **Fish factory changes hands** - The fish factory on March Road, Buckie occupied for some time by Strathaird Salmon has been sold to Lawson's of Speyside who will move into the premises next month. All the plant currently used for processing salmon is being transferred to Strathaird's factory in Inverness and will be replaced with meat cutting and processing machinery by Lawson's. David Lawson and his father Francis Lawson formerly Chief Executive of Lawson's of Dyce acquired the business of Stewart's of Buckie in October 1997 and changed the name to Lawson's of Speyside.

SNP suffer electoral blow - The Moray Local Authority Election held on the same day as the Scottish Parliamentary Election witnessed the demise and virtual wipe out of the former SNP administration..

For the Independents standing in this election the dramatic reversal of fortunes for the SNP has brought victory and it is not unconceivable that a loose coalition of Independents will form the administration. Among those who failed to be elected was former convenor of Moray Council Gordon McDonald. Those elected to serve in Buckie are Bill Jappy (Independent) Buckie West; Sinclair Longmore (Independent) Buckie East and Findochty; John Leslie (Scottish Labour Party) Buckie Central.

The Six Harbour Walk from Portsoy to Buckie, a distance of 15 miles, was completed on Sunday 2 May with 100 walkers taking part. The walk as always was organised by the

Rotary Club of Buckie. It is aimed through pledges cast to raise the sum of £5,500 before expenses have been met.

Did you know? Another story from the files tells of the actions of the 'Press-Gangs' who went around gathering men for the Navy. So effective were they that there were very few spare working men around. **See page 4, column 3.**

New Moray Councillor - Arthur Coutts, Independent, for the Innes ward. (He became convenor of Moray Council in 2004 or 2005.)

**** **History was made all over Scotland on Thursday May 6.** Moray's share of the action came in the Constituency election count held in the Town Hall, Elgin. The vote was to elect the first Scottish Parliament in over 300 years and first democratic Scottish Parliament ever. Mrs Margaret Ewing (SNP) was declared MSP for Moray giving her a dual mandate for both the Scottish Parliament and Westminster with a majority of 4,129 in a 57% turnout.

"It was that siiiiiiiiiize" Ashley Goodbrand, skipper of the seine net fishing boat 'Ptarmigan' caught a monster halibut measuring five feet in length. His wife runs the Station Hotel in Portsoy and the fish was divided into between 70 to 80 portions and all eaten within one week. Ashley said that it had been ten years since he had seen a fish of this size in Scottish waters adding that nature takes care of quotas as nature goes in cycles. He reckoned that the fish had been between 25 and 30 years of age.

'Buckie Loons' - This is the title given to a **short poem** by a lady pensioner who signs herself by the initials C. M. In the poem, found on **page 18, columns 3 and 4** she takes a critical look at their antics.

May 18 **Fordyce gets its new Coat of Arms** - The front page is taken up with a report on this historic occasion, the handing over of the new Coat of Arms to the village of Fordyce. The new flag was hoisted high up on Fordyce Castle the home of Mr and Mrs Robert Crabbe who have restored the property.

Obituary for Ian Middleton - The funeral service of a well-known local man, who was a poet, a humorist, a songwriter and a supporter of the Doric language - 'The Mither Tongue', was held on Saturday morning in the North Church, Buckie and conducted by Rev Charlie Birnie, of Fraserburgh.

The packed church heard how Ian Middleton of Arradoul had overcome disability, 34 years in a wheelchair, following an accident at work when he was a young man, to lead a fruitful and productive life, a life that touched the lives of many others in so many different ways, but who died at an early age in his early sixties to be missed by all who knew him and cherished his memory. **See page 3.**

May 25 **Major race win for Fochabers postie** - A long distance runner and member of Keith and District Athletic Club, Simon Pride, a postman in Fochabers, won the International Amateur Athletics Federation 100km World Championship 1999 in Chavanges -en-Paillers in France.

Science Week - Buckie Community High School Science Week passed off to great acclaim by all who attended it. On Wednesday the programme peaked as pupils and members of the public sat in beautiful weather to watch a falconry display.

'Promoted to Glory' Buckie lost a well-known character last week with the death at the age of 86 of John Cowie better known to many as 'Johnnie Coupie' or those who grew up during World War II as 'Johnnie Home Guard'

Buckie residents old and young will remember him as the cheerful whistling baker, later road sweeper who made Buckie and the Salvation Army his life. Born and brought up in Buckie he served as a Lieutenant in the Home Guard during the war. He and his wife Sally Ann carried on a general and licensed grocery shop at his house on New Street for many years.

Did you know? This week the writer speaks of how during the 17th and 18th centuries men from the west

coast and Skye would walk all the way to Moray to seek work during the herring season. They carried their clothes in the traditional way in a bundle tied to a stick over their shoulder. They spoke nothing but the Gaelic. Since jobs were not all that plentiful fights often broke out between local men and the strangers. The wages given were low but readily desired since it was the only ready cash earned. They only stayed as long as the herring lasted when they would retrace their steps homewards.

The keeper was the top man, three times - - Martin Dunbar who played in goal for Buckie Thistle during the season lifted all the trophies awarded at the end of the season bash -Thistle Player of the Year and recipient of the Banffshire Advertiser Trophy, The Programme Player of the Year and the Social Club's Player of the year.

June 1 **Police to prioritise offences** - In Buckie these are to be - Under age drinking; cycling on pavements and cycling after dark without lights; speeding by drivers on certain roads. (In 2008 these offences were still too common with cycling without light and on pavements now worse than ever it was.)

Changes to pedestrian crossings - The changes made to the zebra crossings on High Street and East and West Church Street done to make it safer for both pedestrians and drivers alike appeared not to suit everyone as could be gathered from a letter to the local paper would indicate. (Some people, however, had reason to be thankful for the changes, the writer of these notes included, as it saved him from a nasty accident when crossing the one on West Church Street one day.)

A new man at the helm - The reporter for the '*Banffshire Advertiser*' is now Andrew Saunders.

June 8 **Former pupils hold reunion** - Pupils who were in class 2a at Buckie High School in 1948/49 held a reunion recently with no less than 38 people turning up coming from as far afield as California. The organisers were Kathryn Duncan, Hazel Flett and John Fowlie. E-mails and faxes were received from three people in Australia - Peggy Addison (Cowie), Rebecca Bremner (Reid) and Sheena MacLeod (May).

For Buckie Swimming Pool - Moray Council have been awarded £152,000 of Lottery Cash from the Lottery Sports Fund. The money, 50% of the total required, will be used to provide a new fitness facility, new reception area and enhanced changing accommodation at Buckie Swimming Pool.

Slochie Gala - Portessie Public Hall committee are to hold a Slochie Gala on Saturday 12 June. In the late 1940's and fifties the Slochie Gala was a popular event.

Drumhead Service The Royal British Legion (Scotland) Banffshire Zone is to hold a Drumhead Service in the Victoria Park, Buckie on Sunday 13 June.

Billy Graham convert dies - Raymond Cowie, a local man and a former shipyard carpenter who became a minister in the Baptist Church after attending a Billy Graham meeting in 1955 died in Lerwick at the age of 63.

Garage proprietor dies - Sandy Wood, proprietor of Millbank Garage on High Street, Buckie died on 19th May, he had suffered from ill health for three years. Sandy, a member of a large family, served his time as a blacksmith with his father at Glenbarry. He moved to the smiddy at the Bauds in the late 1930's and as the horse trade decreased following the war he moved into the motor trade. He later purchased and developed the Millbank Garage in Buckie. He was an elder of the North Church, member of the Rotary Club and a keen angler on the Tay and Spey.

Rain we've had plenty of it - It was another blank weekend on the trot for Buckie cricketers with rain preventing play in both games down for decision.

Look Back to the Past - This is still being compiled by James Thomson.

June 15 **MBE for local GP** - Buckie man Dr Sandy Silberg who lives with his wife at Ashvale, Midmar, Street, Buckie was made an MBE in the Honours List this past week although he confesses he has no idea who may have nominated him for the honour.

New group established - Buckpool Harbour Community Group was set up following a well attended public meeting held in the Star Inn with a 10 strong committee. Marie Buchan Community Agent played a major part in calling the meeting and encouraging interest

'**The Absent Voter**' is the title of a short poem by Lorna Campbell found on page 11 and column 2

'**Wallies and Wateries**' is the title given to another short poem found on page 13, columns 2 and 3. It was written by Isabel Harrison.

**** **Season ends on a high note** - Buckie Rovers won the Matthew Cup at Banff on Saturday June 12th when they beat Forres Thistle by three goals to two. **Note the late date**

**** The game marked the end of the line for the management team of Dennis Clark and Graeme Tallis

The Rovers' team was-Barron, Nicol, Grant, Cruickshank, Shewan, Chisholm, Farquhar (Morrison), Wood, Graham, Duthie and Slater (Tallis).

June 22 **Gold medallists** - Well-known local swimmers. Ross Stewart (13) and Alana Duncan (12) both received gold medals in the Scottish National Age Group Championships held in Glasgow from 10 to 13 June.

The fishing scene - Last week 8 fishing vessels came in to Buckie harbour to land their catches. This comprised - 413 boxes of white fish, 305 boxes of prawns and 88 bags of scallops. No prices were available when going to press.
The boats were - Caroline Dawn, Bunillidh, Seagull, Kestrel, Aeolus, Voyager, Rival and Pisces,

June 29 **Okay under cover** - Heavy rain was in danger of washing out the Slochie Gala but the organisers got the use of the Fish market where a good time was had by all and the sum of between £850 and £900 clear being made towards the cost of repairs to the hall.

First anniversary - The harpmakers workshop in Fordyce has had its first anniversary and to celebrate this an Open Day was held giving lessons on wood carving, sculpture, pottery, jigsaw and fretwork.

July 6 **New Baptist Minister** - A Buckie congregation witnessed and celebrated the ordination and induction of its pastor recently when Rev Douglas J. Hutcheon, Superintendent of the Baptist Union of Scotland officiated at the service in the Baptist Church for Rev Mark Bentham.

Boys' Champion dies - The death took place of Jack Farquhar, Arramoor, Arradoul at the early age of 47. Jack was well known for his work behind the scenes for the Buckie Boys Football Club and also Buckpool Boxing Club.

Centre officially opened - Ardach Health Centre was officially opened this week with 12 year old Kirsty McKay of Cluny Primary School, who won a competition set, being one of the people who cut the ribbon to open the centre. William Beattie, Hanover Court also took part in cutting the ribbon due to his long service with the NHS and voluntary work since his retirement. The Ardach Centre was seven years in the pipeline.

Leader announces his retirement - Gordon Mackie, Cub and Scout Leader of the Buckie troop for 25 years has retired. One of his major initiatives was the Scout Post which over the years has gathered a large amount of money towards Scout funds; another was the construction of bird tables for old folk's homes.

Major facelift - St Peter's Church is meantime undergoing major repairs costing £800,000, nearly half of which has been given by the National Lottery. A further £290,000 came from Historic Scotland and the remainder by the parish and donations with £17,000 still needed to pay the bill. Apart from picking and pointing the whole of the outside of the church and presbytery the whole roof has been checked over with repairs done where necessary plus other work.

Forty year's service to education - Eddie Jagger, Depute Rector at Buckie High School for the past 24 years retired at the end of the summer term. Altogether he has spent 40 years in the teaching profession.

The fishing scene - Last week 10 boats made landings at Buckie harbour. They were - Shalimar, Sovereign, Coral Strand, Seagull, Altair, Caroline Dawn, Bunillidh, Moray Endeavour, Monadliath and Aeolus. Between them they landed 354 boxes of white fish, 191 boxes of prawns, 1036 boxes of shrimps and 146 bags of scallops.

July 13 **Nurse Flo** - A well known local lady passed away recently in her 87th year and was buried on Friday after a funeral service in the Methodist Church, Portessie. Florence Smith late of 9 Craigenroan Place, Portessie, was known affectionately by all who knew her as Nurse Flo.

'Hairy Corner' - The Buckie Rotary Club had as their guest speaker last Monday former teacher Allan Fraser who chose to talk on features of Buckie and events in the history of the town.

A clever quine - The Dux of Buckie Community High School and winner of the Miller Medal is fifth year pupil, Gemma Currie.

Did You Know? In his column this week the writer tells how smuggling was big business in this part of the Moray Firth coast in the early 19th century. Gin came ashore in 8 gallon casks while snuff was being manufactured in Buckpool without being detected. Salt on which government duty had to be levied was smuggled inland by the fishwives who had it secreted among their fish in their creels. They would often be stopped by the Excise men who made them tip out their load of fish which of course spilled the salt which, it was said, was often seen in little heaps along the roadside.

July 20 **The Victoria Bridge** - A week or two before an article in the '*Advertiser*' told of how the Victoria Bridge had once fallen down. In this edition Allan Fraser writes to say that what had been written wasn't entirely correct. He explained that the bridge was only in the process of being built when there came a wild night of wind and sleet which blew the scaffolding down together with the bricks of the newly formed arches. He added that a further problem was discovered to something like level with the roads on either side.

July 27 **Peter Fair** - The recent heavy rains, so characteristic of July in the Buckie area, had resulted in the stance for Peter Fair to be again little more than a morass with memories still fresh of 1998 when it had been a drenched affair with hundreds of tons of hard core being driven in to provide a hard base for the heavy machinery. This year once again it was necessary to take in 190 tonnes of hard core with several bales of straw spread on top to soak up the water and make it a little better for people walking about. A meeting is to take place between the show people and the Seafield Estates, off whom they lease the ground, to see about proper drainage. The question is who is to be left to pick up the bill?

Buckie Initiative - Mandy Holmes as Project Manager has plans to create a signage display at Inchgower with shrubs, flowers and features such as small boats, horse carts and implements and is looking for keen gardening volunteers to help make the thing a reality and later to tend it. (In the end all that was got for the site was a former horse cart with a construction of a boat with sails produced by Moray Council at the Toll Bar junction. Three volunteers offered their services - Allan Fraser and Mrs and Mrs Harry Ewen. The cart disappeared in 2005 when it more or less fell to pieces, as did the feature at the Toll Bar. In 2003 John Duncan, Construction, offered a small boat which was sited at the Toll Bar and which up until this year, 2006 has been planted with flowers provided by Moray Council and tended by Allan himself.. In 2006 he received a lot of petunias and fuchsias from Frank Slater of Slater Sports to add to the display. In 2007 a person, unnamed, crashed into the boat demolishing it so that it had to be removed.

He won at Buckpool - A photograph in this edition of the '*Advertiser*'. shows golfer Paul Lawrie, the Aberdeenshire golfer who recently (1999) scooped the British Open Championship at Carnoustie, when he won the Moray Seafoods golf competition at Buckpool Golf Course in 1987. **See page 5.**

Aug. 3 **The Regina Caelis** - A photograph shows the schooner arriving at Buckie harbour after being towed from Kirkwall and being helped in by the Benbelo and a tug. The schooner, (which was still anchored in the harbour in the summer of 2006,) is Austrian-owned and registered in Gibraltar has sustained damage to her keel and rudder and will be repaired by the Buckie Shipyard.

Senior football - Buckie Thistle opened their league programme with a three goals to nil victory over Fort William. The scribe, Easton Thain described the Thistle play as being an improvement on that of the previous year as much related to the inclusion of a number of new players as anything. The team was – Rae, Grant(Cormie), Lamberton, Anderson, McPherson, Rattray (Mair), Duncan, Stephen, Green (Bridgeford), Scott and Cormack.

Aug 10 **Things look rosier** - An upturn in Buckie's employment fortunes would appear to be on the cards as the smoked salmon company, Lossie Seafoods of Lossiemouth make preparations to relocate to the town, in the vanguard of a big recruitment drive to secure more staff to operate the larger premises in Buckie. The two businesses, Lawsons of Speyside and Lossie Seafoods though entirely separate will be sharing the same premises on March Road.

The Fishing Heritage – Buckie District Fishing Heritage Museum is still awaiting its promised 21 year lease of the premises behind the Town House, formerly the caretaker's house and known to the organisation as 'The Cottage', from Moray Council, and its members cannot access the £3000 grant from Buckie Common Good Fund, awarded some time ago for refurbishment, until the lease becomes a reality.

'Kindness Personified' is the title of a poem written by Isabel Harrison in which she praises the generosity of McWilliam the bakers who at one time had their premises on High Street at the junction with East Cathcart Street. This is found on page 5 and columns 3 and 4.

A 'best seller' – The book titled 'More Heritage Tales' produced by the members of the Cullen and Deskford Heritage Group has been selling very well. This is the second book that they have had published.

The Peter Fair stance - In a further piece written about the problems associated with poor drainage fears were expressed that should the fair be shifted from its present site that this could well mark the end of Peter Fair. In answer to this Allan Fraser, who has written a booklet on Peter Fairs of the past, says on page 12 how the site of the fair has already been shifted four times in the past and still continued to flourish, going on to name each one of the sites. He suggests that there would be no need to move very far from the present site, with a much better site across the road, though obviously this would mean the land required permanently under pasture.

Up and Running - Buckpool Harbour Group is now up and running after a good turn out by local residents to recent meetings with a committee being formed. The committee members are - James Newland (Chair); Maria Innes (Vice-Chair); Lorna Patel and Lorraine Grant (Joint Secretaries); Moira Homewood (Treasurer).

The 'Mary May' - Recently this former fishing boat was in Buckie harbour where it aroused a lot of interest, with a piece being written about the craft in the local paper. In this edition of the 'Advertiser' an Edinburgh man writes to give more information about the boat. She was built by Forbes of Sandhaven in 1949 her name being changed a number of times. **See page 13.**

Junior Football – Buckie Rovers won their first game of the season away to Bishopmill United, winning by three goals to nil. This was a good start for the new management team of George Wright and Spencer Lyon. There was also a fair number of new faces in the team which read – Innes, Costello, Brockie, Cruickshank, Matheson (Cormack), Nicol,

Davidson(Mowatt), Shewan, Graham (Farquhar), Wood and Fielding Subs – Morrison and Wojcik (G.K)

Costello and Brockie were both only 16 years old while Stephen Innes in goal had helped the Rovers out a few times during the past season. Malcolm Fielding played for the Rovers previously before moving up to Buckie Thistle. Richard Cormack came from Welfare League football while Michael Davidson was formerly with Portgordon. Finally James Matheson is on loan from Buckie Thistle and still recovering from a bad leg break.

Aug 17 **Lifeboat Gala** - The annual Buckie Lifeboat Gala held on Saturday past drew the usual large crowd with all the many attractions finding favour with young and old.

Aug 24 **New face at High School** - Delia Thornton has been appointed the new Depute Rector at Buckie Community High School. She was formerly at Hazelhead Academy in Aberdeen where she was Assistant Rector. She has three grown up children and has bought a house in the local area. She replaces Eddie Jagger who retired at the end of the summer term.

Buckie 1st - This is the name of a new retail group that has started up in Buckie its aim being to encourage local businesses and traders to co-operate and work together for the greater benefit of all. They have planned their first event – The Christmas Cracker – a re-working of the former Christmas Carnival which was in its time very successful. The Chairman is Dougal Simpson; vice chairman Malcolm Smith of Gent-elle with David Robertson, Pozzi, as treasurer.

Jolly Good Show - A report is given about Flower Shows held in Buckie over the years . In 1894 when the Show was held in the Volunteer Hall (now the Thistle Social Club) there were 1164 entries.

Lawson Place - The new complex built between Barfield Road and Netherha Road built on the site of a former sand hole and later a block of houses which appeared to sink was to be opened today 24 August by Councillor Bill Jappy. The complex consisting of 17 houses was named after James 'Jimmy' Lawson a former Town Councillor who died in 1970. The complex was completed in June 1998 and was built due to close cooperation between the Margaret Blackwood Housing Association, Scottish Homes (Grampian Office) and Moray Council (Housing and Social Work) Described as a 'Very Special Housing Development' it received a prestigious award from a senior officer of Grampian Police. There are 7 houses for wheelchair users; four for people suffering from real immobility, four for older people and two for general housing needs.

"The bus for Portgordon is leaving right now " – Many people still around in 2006 will remember those words being said by dance band leader Bill Geddes, a farmer from Tynet, as the time drew near for the end of a night's dancing in the Fishermen's Hall. He would often add a minute or two later with: "The bus for Portgordon has just left". Bill died on Thursday 19 August at his home in Upper Dallachy. He was 91. Many a hurl home did I get from him on a Monday night following the dance.

Aug 31 **The fishing scene** - Last week nine boats came in to land their catches at Buckie harbour. All told this comprised – 959 boxes of white fish, 194 boxes of prawns and 159 bags of scallops. The boats were – Deeside, Caroline Dawn, Copious, Lynn Marie, Kestrel, Zephyr, Monadliath, Boy Leslie and Pisces.

Funder Finder - Moray Badenoch and Strathspey Enterprise Co. Ltd forwarded a grant of £332.85 for the purchase of a Finder Funder package and the relevant books to Buckie Community Council under whose auspices the programme will run. Access to the programme will be free to local groups although a license fee of £58.75 covers use of the programme. The programme should be of great help to groups looking for the likely sources they could approach for financial help for their project. **See front page of the B. A.**

Portknockie Millennium Time Capsule - A photograph in this edition of the B. A. shows Mrs Margaret Ewing and her husband Fergus together with members of Portknockie Millennium Committee at the burial site of the Millennium capsule.

Advert - Denim Plus – Grapevine, 40 East Church Street – Gigantic Clearance Sale.

Cullen native has book published - A native of Cullen and a graduate of Aberdeen University Lorna Ferguson has had her first book 'The Chase' published. For the past 15 years she has been Head of English at a tutorial college in Oxford where she lives with her husband and two young sons.

Sept 7 **Improvements at Buckie Shipyard** - Work which was begun in the spring of this year at Buckie Shipyard at a cost of one million pounds have just been completed. The work entailed an enlargement of the slip with a new winch and cradle to enable the yard to tackle work on larger vessels and haul them on the slip.

Sept 14 **Buckie Initiative** held their first annual general meeting in the Buckie Drifter with an audience of thirty persons being present who heard of the achievements of the body over the past year. These include improvements to and expansion of shops and businesses also environmental improvements such as the steps to the harbour from East Church Street. **Firms which received help in any way are all listed on page one and include John Duncan Construction.**

Poem for Scotland - A man who spent many years of his childhood in Fochabers when his father was a farm worker in the area, Scott Martin has written a poem which is to be hung in the Scottish Parliament. His poem was chosen by a panel of poets out of a large number of entrants. He also received a cheque for £500.

These boats changed hands and names - The 'Serene', built as the 'Amaranth' by Jones in 1980 and the 'Bunillidh' built by Herd and MacKenzie in 1984. has been renamed the 'Achieve'. Both boats will be fishing on the west coast.

Fireman receives presentation - Fire Officer at Buckie Dennis Stead is seen in a photograph receiving a presentation at the Fire Station from his fellow firemen. He served for 31 years with the Fire Service and has retired on account of ill health. He received a bad back injury while attending a fire in Elgin on July 5th last year when he fell through a roof and has been off work ever since.

Buckie Flower Show - The Show attracted a total of 790 entries. Most points achieved over all were by Ian Wilson, Shearer Avenue, and Buckie, who took the Taylor Trophy.

Sept 21 **Best Council House Garden** - Mr and Mrs Bert Newlands, Letterfourie Road, won the Quaich and bottle of Inchgower Whisky for winning the competition for the best Council

House Garden. The R/Up was 83 year old Charlie McKay, Scott Terrace, who has been a winner of the competition several times in the past.

Long time servant to the Baptist Church - Murial McLean, 76, of Letterfourie Road died in Seafield Hospital last week. A native of Musselburgh she married a Baptist minister. She played the organ in the Baptist Church, Buckie for 17 years.

Sept 28 **A Royal Visitor** - Buckie welcomed its first royal visitor for many years when the Duke of Kent visited the local Lifeboat Station last Tuesday.

In his role as president of the RNLI the Duke was met at the station by the crew and Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire James MacPherson. Deputy Lord Lieutenant John Fowlie, who is secretary of Buckie RNLI, was also present as was Alex Fowler president of the branch.

Probus Club - The guest speaker at the latest lunch meeting of Buckie and District Probus Club was Ian Marr an antique shop proprietor from Beaulieu in Inverness-shire.

What is an antique? Mr Marr went on to explain. It must be moveable; it must be man-made and over 100 years old. There are millions of things which could be classed as such so that those who deal in antiques tend to specialise.

To be of value an antique must have a certain quality, be in good condition while rarity adds to its value. Having an authentic history is another in an item's favour and likely to push up its value.

The Christmas Dinner's been paid for - Buckie Old People's Dinner Committee are pleased to have received £700 towards the annual dinner which will take place in the Fishermen's Hall. The money as usual came from the Buckie Common Good Fund, administered by the Moray Council.

Medals for Primary School Children - Buckie Community Council at their September meeting discussed the idea of providing Millennium Medals to all the Primary School pupils at the schools in Buckie to mark the event. The number of pupils calculated as being near the 800 and it was agreed to set aside £3000 from the £8000 given by Moray Council for the purchase of the medals with whatever was left from this something tangible would be provided for the High School.

The remainder of the £5000 to be shared amongst the organisations that have applied for a share.

Advert - Classics and Casuals - Quality Menswear end of season sale 74A, East Church Street.

Two strange events recalled - A native of Findochty, Bert Mitchell, a retired chemist now living in Maidenhead, told of a strange event that took place in 1920 when the bay at Sunnycraig was so full of fish that everyone from the east end of the village including women and children removed their footwear and waded into the water to pick up the fish quite literally by hand. This was a godsend to people who were often scraping hard to get something to eat.

He explained that silt or whitebait were being pursued by mackerel which in turn were being closely followed by cod and various other fish types which soon were all floundering in the shallows at the edge of the beach.

Mr Mitchell also mentioned how in the early 1930 the Northern Lights or Aurora Borealis had appeared spectacularly over the Banffshire coast.

Oct 5 **The Fishing Heritage Museum** closed on Saturday for the season with it being reported that this year had seen a downturn in the number of visitors who had called. It was

decided to go ahead with a reprint of the book by Dr Cramond - 'The Church and Churchyard of Rathven', also another book which holds the names and history of every drifter ever built from Portgordon to Cullen; with thoughts being given to the printing of a special newsletter to mark the Millennium.

Over the year a lot of artefacts have been handed in including a working model of a fishing boat given by Mrs Knox of Fyvie whose father built the model when an employee of the Clydesdale Bank in Buckie.

Oct 12 **Honour for Cullen bowler** - Willie Cook a member of Cullen Bowling Club since 1969 has been given the honour of managing the Scottish Bowling Team, the current world champions, and his new position has afforded him the opportunity to travel to Australia recently and South Africa in the near future .

Postie retires - Myron Paterson, retired last week after 27 year's service with the Post Office. He said that he will now have more time to concentrate on his calling as a Pastor of the Riverside Church which meets in the Town House.

You can join us - Lossie Seafoods have invited Orkney Seafoods to share their factory on March Road. The business of the Orkney firm is the processing and smoking of salmon from their own farms. Their own premises in Orkney were burnt down by fire earlier this year and have since then been operating from temporary accommodation. They have taken on six new employees in Buckie and find that the move to Buckie is suiting them well.

The fishing scene - Last week nine boats brought in 292 boxes of white fish, 71 boxes of prawns and 224 bags of scallops.

The boats were - Nordic Prince, Coral Strand, Caroline Dawn, Green Pastures, Zephyr, Lynn Marie, Monadliath, Azalia and Sea Otter.

Did you know? Up to as late as the mid 18th century houses were not built in rows but in an ad hoc fashion as is seen in Sandend. They had no windows of glass but had wooden shutters which were closed to keep out the wind and rain. When they were closed the only light came via the hole in the roof through which smoke left, since there were no chimneys. The houses were all thatched with straw and the random lay-out of the houses reduced the funnelling effect of the wind and helped to stop the thatch from blowing away. Oars and pieces of wood were placed on top of the thatch and tied down with rope.

Instead of stepping up to enter a house as is normal practice today then you stepped down since the inside floor of sand was lower than the ground outside.

The low doors were fastened with a 'sneck' which was a small piece of wood fastened to the inside of the door with a tow which passed through a staple on the door post.

Thieves could quietly withdraw the 'sneck' to gain entry to the house attracting the title of 'Auld Sneck Drawer' a term which came to be used for any crafty person. **This is found on page 13**

'Change in the Air' a story for Halloween written by Lorna Campbell is **found on page 13.**

From Annie M Reid (nee Stewart) , Ontario , Canada - In this letter she refers to the Yardie becoming a Conservation area . She said how her grandfather Jimmy Pum, lived at number 43 Yardie and that she could remember at the age of four going with him to buy tobacco at Johnny Mitchell's shop in Bridge Place later taken over by Davidson's. Next door to the shop her daughter was born twenty years later. She said how almost on the doorstep of her grandfather's house was Geordie Milton's stable where he was known to often fall asleep with his horse Susan when he had had too much to drink.

Her mother worked at the kippering and she could even yet at the age of 82 remember some of the locals – Leeb Pum, Kate Kinnaird, Jimmy Gollie and D Carrot, all 'T' names.

An odd fish - Allan Fraser writes a letter after learning of a sea lamprey being caught off the west coast. He mentions that the sea lamprey was a fish of tropical seas but had likely hitched a lift on a whale or some other larger fish going northwards on the Gulf Stream. It was rare to find one at this latitude but it was even rarer when one was landed at Buckie on 3rd September 1909. The sea lamprey on this occasion had got itself attached to a haddock boat which had to be beached before the fish could be removed. It measured three feet in length, eel-like with a large sucker mouth with which it takes a grip of anything. An enterprising person put the fish in a box and had it on Cluny Square where he charged a penny for a look.

Oct 19 **From Spey Bay to Buckpool** - An extension of the Speyside Way from Spey Bay to Buckpool was officially opened today by Jennifer Shaw, Chairman of the Technical and Leisure Services Committee of Moray Council.

A photograph on the front page of the 'Advertiser' shows Buckpool couple Muriel and Danny Fearn standing beside the Scottish Heritage map and information board at Buckpool Harbour Park, the end of the new leg.

We're sick and tired o those - Buckpool residents are becoming increasingly angry about gangs of youths who roam about the streets after dark doing damage to property and generally irritating people.

A commemorative concert - A capacity audience filled the Longmore Hall, Keith recently when the local TMSA organised a concert/ceilidh in commemoration of the life and work of north east poet Ian Middleton, Arradoul, who died earlier this year. A number of Ian's poems were read and much appreciated by those present, while other artistes had their own way of showing respect to his memory. The money raised at the event will be used to buy a special pressure relief mattress for Buckie Community Nurses with the remainder being given to Moray Youth.

Scaffold clad - A photograph shows the massive amount of scaffolding belonging to Hall and Tawse, Aberdeen, covering the west face of St Peter's Church, which is meanwhile undergoing extensive restoration work, part of which entails the picking and pointing of all the stonework. The mortar mix has to be of a certain red to pink colour to blend in with the red sandstone with which the church was built. The sand for this, itself red in colour was taken from Fifeshire.

Doric saying with art - Buckie Community High School art department have been working on Doric sayings supplied by art teacher Tom Kennedy who has been gathering these for many years.

The task of the art classes was to decide what the sayings meant and then put their interpretation on to paper with a work of art.

Local poet Isabel Harrison was asked along to judge which of the finished paintings she felt was best. First was Alana Duncan of 2R2 who chose 'Guid claes and door keys let you in' Alana felt that if you went for an interview you were well advised to take time to dress well and this could work in your favour in letting you in or getting the job. Second was Lynda Riddoch of 2G1 who chose 'Lock yer door and keep your neighbours honest' Third was Ian Addison of 2S2 whose Doric saying was 'Tell the truth and shame the deil'

Other sayings with which pupils chose to create their art work were: 'Silent dogs also bite'; 'Slow fires mak sweet meat'; 'Wrinkles are painted with the brush of experience'; 'A

stumble helps you right yer fa'; Wee stanes nae big hills trip the unwary'; 'Its nae darkness that pits oot the candle'.

Probus Club - The guests at the October lunch meeting of Buckie and District Probus Club were musicians James Alexander and friend Robin Stewart who worked together to give an appreciation of the musical work of William Marshall the Fochabers-born composer of fiddle music. **Some of the tunes that were played and a fuller account of the meeting are given on page 8**

Oct 26 **Gifted to the Buckie Drifter** - Councillor Bill Jappy is seen in a photograph in this edition of the 'Advertiser' receiving a model of the 'Vital Spark', a Clyde puffer, from Mrs Joanne Cowley of Derby. It was constructed by her late husband Stephen who died of bowel cancer recently and wished that his model would be gifted to the Buckie Drifter. The boat was fully equipped even down to biscuits on the table in the galley and a ship's cat.

The end of her 'working' days - Janet McRae retired last Friday after working in the office of F.A.L Propellers for 25 years. She received a dress watch and a basket of flowers from management and staff.

'Life and Work of William Marshall (1748-1833)' is the title of a book written by Moyra Sutherland, nee Cowie, a native of Portgordon who lives in Inverness, on the Fochabers-born composer of fiddle music .

The Fishermen's Coal and Funeral Benefit Society of Portknockie - On **page 15** Allan Fraser gives information on the Society which was in existence at the beginning of the last century.

Nov 2 **What they are doing with their Millennium money** - The Portknockie Millennium Group are to purchase 500 china mugs, 250 of which will be handed out to every child in the village between the age of 0 and 16 and every baby born in the year 2000 while the rest of the mugs will be on sale in the shops.

Nov 9 **We are to get a By-Pass** - Fochabers residents and all who travel through the village on the A96 have been celebrating the green light for the by-pass for the village announced last week. **(What happened? As late as September 2006 they were no further ahead with the by-pass neither to the north or south of the village.)**

Grand organ may find a new home - St Peter's Church congregation are optimistic that they will soon have a magnificent organ, valued at £1 million, from the now closed Fort Augustus Abbey, which closed early this year, installed. Father Eddie Traynor, parish priest, said that they had been offered the organ at a very reasonable price. He described the sound made by the organ as simply magnificent

Community Council have pleasure of handing out Millennium money- £1000 was given to both the Christmas Lights Committee and Buckie 1st who are staging the Christmas cracker. John Duncan and Dougal Simpson respectively collected the money for the above organisations.

The following organisations received £500 each – Buckie and District Flower Show per John Grant, President; Buckie Rovers Football Club per Keith Sinclair, secretary; Buckie District Fishing Heritage Museum per Hugh Patience vice president; South and West Church per Gordon Pirie and 1st Buckie Boys' Brigade per Alan McIntosh, captain of the company.

Dates and times when the medallions will be presented to all the primary school children (880) were worked out with the head teachers of each school.

'Far's Ma Sheddie?' This is the title given to a poem written by Mrs Barbara Banks. **It is found on page 7 and column 4.** It refers to the small green shed which used to stand on the Putting Green on Queen Street where during the summer a person took up residence within it and handed out clubs and balls. Mrs Banks' daughter, Erica had spent two years doing this and the title given to the poem is the words she uttered the first time she saw the park after being absent from the town for some time.

Nov 16 **The Remembrance Day Parade** - John Fowlie, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire, who did his National Service with the Paratroop Regiment, took the salute at the march past of veteran and others at the annual Buckie Remembrance Day parade held on Sunday past.

A hall for Drybridge? - A sketch drawn by Drybridge resident, John Tasker, in this edition shows an artist's impression of the hall that might be built at Drybridge in a space just beyond the former railway bridge on the approach to the hamlet. The style of architecture he explained borrowed from local buildings, the existing smiddy and the former railway station. **(There was considerable enthusiasm for the venture with site being seen as ideal but sadly it never got off the ground and in 2006 space was now occupied by a dwelling house .**

The Heritage Museum - Buckie District Fishing Heritage Museum has brought out a reprint of Dr William Cramond's book 'The Church and Churchyard of Rathven' first published in 1885. It was reprinted in 1930 by the Banffshire Advertiser. (I still remember well the laborious task I had of proof reading the pages written in Latin. - A. F.)

It wasn't our fault - Following complaints received about the way in which the community council handed out the Millennium cheques to the different organisations the secretary of the Council, Allan Fraser, put the matter straight through a letter in the *Advertiser*. He said the whole affair had been hijacked by a photographer from the Northern Scot newspaper, who he felt spoilt the whole affair.

Nov 23 **The Shoebox Appeal** - Over 900 shoebox parcels have been handed in to the Baptist Church Hall for the Blythwood Care by the people of Buckie and area. Eric Smith a member of the Baptist Church and one of the committee members, described local folk as being 'absolutely fantastic'.

The fishing scene - Last week 8 boats landed 289 boxes of white fish, 150 boxes of prawns and 33 bags of scallops. The boats were : Homeland, Caroline Dawn, Rival, Pisces, Lynn Marie, Adele, Dalriada and Nordic Prince.

Radio Buckie - At 2 o'clock on a Wednesday afternoon in February 1975 a new name in broadcasting took to the air for the very first time.

The station known initially as Radio Buckie later Community Radio HBS Buckie broadcast to Seafield Hospital by GPO landline from Cluny Annex of Buckie High School.

An enthusiastic team of staff and pupils led by Jeff Jones PT Chemistry, produced a wide range of professionally produced programmes ranging from music and chat to news and outside broadcasts featuring acts such as the 'Corries'.

One of the founder members Keith G. Fraser, 77 Buckie Road, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, would like to make contact with other from the early years with a view to arranging a

reunion in 2000 . **(This did take place in the Old Coach House Hotel better known to many as 'The Com' and was declared by all to have been a great night.)**

Nov 30 **They want to build hooses far they eence tae build boats** - A planning application by Buckie Shipyard was received by Moray Council last week. The outline planning application is for a change of use of land at Blantyre Terrace (Jones' Shipyard) from commercial to residential will be dealt with the Community Planning Department in the first or second month of next year and if passed in no way binds either the Council or applicants to any course of action. **(In mid September 2006 the Shipyard again tendered a planning application. Some things take time some others take longer!)**

Solid Rock an interdenominational group affiliated to the Church of Scotland but with members from other churches in the area, including the Salvation Army, hope to get the go-ahead to restore a neglected Buckie public building on East Church Street into a much needed youth centre. (This was formerly occupied by Buckie Town Council.)

Solid Rock have already £70,000 funding in place for the purchase of the building from the Church of Scotland Board of Responsibility. The Rotary Club of Buckie has pledged enough money to pay the running costs for three years.

The organisation has made application for £15,000 from the Scottish Executive to pay for start-up renovating and adapting the building for its new use.

(Prominent behind the setting up of the Rock Sold Centre was Mrs Jacqui Foggitt wife of the minister of the South and West Church also the Captain and his wife of the Salvation Army in Findochty when they all left the area it meant a big loss of adult helpers and it seems as if this was the beginning of the end. The café closed either at the end of 2005 or early in 2006.)

A big ship comes in - The longest vessel to use the new slip at Buckie Shipyard the 'Torrent' of London was up on the slip to have its propeller replaced with a new one by F.A. L. The 'Torrent' weighed 850 tonnes, and measured 64 metres in length with a beam of 11 metres.

The 'Christmas Cracker' The *Advertiser* carried a lot of **special adverts** by shops inserted in connection with Buckie 1st 'Christmas Cracker'.

Décor Scene . 31 West Church Street; The Candy Box, 17 West Church Street; Lister Mac (Chemist), 7 West Church Street; Robertson's (Fordyce), Ltd., 13 High Street; Precious Gifts, 27 East Church Street; Oberon Saddlery, 68 West Church Street; Cottage Flowers, 7 West Cathcart Street; J. P. Pozzi, 4-8 High Street; W. F. Johnston and Son, 13-15 West Church Street; Buckie Furniture Centre , 45 West Church Street; Ice Cream Cabin, 17 East Church Street; Classics & Casuals, 6 East Church Street (temp .location); R. S. Cruickshank and Co. 30-32 West Church Street; W. S. Taylor (Chemist), 1 High Street and St Andrews Square; Kids Corner, Baby's and Children's Wear, 33 High Street; Jamieson's Radio and TV, 47 West Church Street; The Trading Post (Ironmonger etc.) 26 East Church Street; May's Flowers, 20 West Church Street; Bliss, 50 East Church Street, Underwear, Hosiery, Nightwear; Gent -elle, 19 Cluny Square; M Clothes for Boys and Girls 0-14, 14 High Street; Libby's Larder, Rathburn Street, Gordonsburgh.

'Natures Choral Union' is the title of a poem found on page **10, column 1**, written by Mary Poynton of Portgordon

New Station Officer - The new Station Officer at of Buckie Fire Station is Dougie Annand who has been acting as Temporary Station Officer since November 1998. He has been 13 years in the Fire Service and runs his own electrical business in Buckie.

The fishing scene - With 15 boats coming in to land their catches at Buckie last week this was the largest number for some considerable time. Amongst the landings were a number of bins of cockles.

The landings comprised – 355 boxes of white fish, 460 boxes of prawns, 400 bags of clams and **27 bins of cockles.**

The boats were: Thorsten J, Tjeerd Jacoba, Falcon, Caroline Dawn, Avoca, Surina, Kelly, Zephyr, Deeside, Enterprise, Agalitie, Imperial, Pisces, Monadliath and Rival.

Dec 7 **Buckie 1st Christmas Cracker** opened on Saturday with Santa arriving by helicopter at the Linzee Gordon Park where a large crowd had gathered to watch the spectacle of Father Christmas being flown into the town not by reindeer and sleigh but by courtesy of the RAF. It was such a pity that it had to be spoilt by the weather – rain.

Buckie Swimming Pool – Work has begun on the new fitness facility, new reception area and enhanced changing accommodation at Buckie Swimming Pool, financed by a £152,000 grant from the Scottish Sports Council Lottery Sports Fund.

It should be better - Two wet summers made the site where Peter Fair has been held for the past 115 years little more than a quagmire requiring hundreds of lorry loads of quarry material to be brought in to try to stabilise the ground for the heavy machinery and also make it reasonably dry underfoot for the fair-goers. All this has had to be paid for by the organisers and represented a big outlay. Following the fair this year they had made contact with Seafield Estates off whom they lease the land to see if they would contribute to the cost of putting in proper drainage to run off the excess water rather than let it collect as it has been doing.

Seafield Estates have now agreed to meet the cost of the drainage and have also confirmed an extension of the Fair Fair's licence. This has given the organisers confidence to improve the state of the roads through the site.

Drybridge Community Association has made a very positive start with their first fund-raising event – a Christmas Fair in the WRI Hall at Arradoul which raised the sum of £700.

New shop to open - Grants of Buckie are to open a new shop at 16 Low Street on Friday 10 December selling furniture, carpets and beds.

For the lonely - Buckie Salvation Army will this Christmas once again play host to those who will be by themselves on Christmas Day and would care to join with them for a meal and entertainment. All is given free thanks to the generosity of local businesses.

St Ninian's , Newlands of Tynet - Mass was recorded in the Post Reformation RC Church at the Newlands of Tynet by Father Eddie Traynor, Parish Priest of St Gregory's , Preshome, St Peter's, Buckie and St Ninian's at Tynet. The service was recorded for TV.

The local paper carries a report on page 20 on the history of the church which dates from 1757 and is described by Peter Anson, author and artist as the 'Banffshire Bethlehem.

Dec 14 **Grampian Country Pork** will be shedding jobs at their factory in Buckie unless there is assistance to support the beleaguered pig industry. This was the blunt warning given by the Chairman of Grampian Country Food Group to the Scottish Parliament.

Buckie Choral Union receive new material – **On page nine** of this edition of the 'Advertiser' one can find a carol written by poet Mary Poynton of Crown Terrace

Portgordon called 'Peace on Earth'. On the same page is also found a musical composition with words called 'An Incarnation Hymn' and 'Edelweiss' both by Robert Owen, 22 Netherton Terrace, Findochty. The three pieces of work will be sung by Buckie Choral Union as part of Christmas Celebration.

A Christmas tree for Portgordon - It is believed that this will be the first time that a Christmas tree will have been set up in the village according to the oldest resident. It will be set alight on Sunday 12 December.

Dec 21 **Wed for 60 years.** John and Margaret Fordyce are seen in a photograph cutting a cake at their Diamond Wedding celebrations held in the Commercial Hotel (Old Coachhouse Hotel) last week. The couple were neighbours of ours on Sutherland Street for a number of years.

'A Hymn for Christmas Day' is the title of a poem found on page 7 and column 4. Author unknown.

War-time hero dies - The death has been announced of Portgordon-born Merchant Navy hero and George Cross holder George Stronach. He died on 10 December at his home at Acharacle on the west coast.

His father was a blacksmith and his family moved from Portgordon to Stynie Cottages, Mosstodloch when he was young and he first attended Balnacoul School and later Milne's Institution (as the senior school in Fochabers was then called) before joining the Merchant Navy and working his way up to become an officer.

The George Cross is the highest accolade that can be awarded to a civilian in war-time and was awarded to George Stronach for deeds of gallantry while his ship was in Tripoli in 1942. A stone was erected to George Stronach near the War Memorial at Mosstodloch and unveiled by his nephew Alex Matthews, Craigbo, Buckie and his sister from Keith.

Christmas wishes from advertisers - Graham and Staff, Mace Shop, St Andrews Square, Buckpool, Alex, Margaret and Staff, 'Everyday Fresh' 29 West Church Street. Homes and Gardens, Georgie, Ian and Staff, 25 West Church Street. The Fry Inn, East Church Street, Les and Staff. Hang Hing, Chinese Takeaway, Tai Fong and Family 55 West Church Street. Moravian Motors, Jake Robertson and Staff. Stuart and Hazel, Jamieson's Radio and TV, 477 West Church Street. Cutting Corner, Ladies and Gents Hairdressers, 46 West Church Street, Hazel, Kirsty, Pauline Helen and Staff. Highland Garage- Robbie, Pattie, Jamie and Susan. Pastry Shop, 50 West Church Street. Ronnie, Joyce and Staff. Archibald Garage. Michael Burnett. Yvonne's, 29 West Church Street. Cluny Auctions, Cluny Terrace, John and? Ferguson. R. S. Cruickshank and Co. Bob, Myra, Robert, Alan and Staff, 30 and 32 West Church Street.

'Millennium Mayhem' was the name given to the performance by Buckie Lyric Company, it was written and produced by Liz Imlach.

'Grease' was performed by pupils and staff of Buckie Community High School. A note in the paper written by producer Mrs Kathleen Scott, (English teacher) thanked those who attended the show for their tremendous support and the positive audience reaction.

Dec 28 **Floral display at the Toll Bar** - The front page carries a photograph of the feature erected at the Toll Bar junction by Moray Council gardeners for Buckie Initiative. Taken looking on are the members of the public who have volunteered to tend both this feature and also the one at Inchgower - Mrs and Mrs Harry Ewen and Allan Fraser who is seen accompanied by his two granddaughters, Kerri and Laurie Fraser.

The money to pay for the work came from Leader II funding.

A **letter from 82 year old Mrs Annie Mary Reid nee Stewart** of Scarborough, Ontario, Canada. In this latest letter from Mrs Reid found on **page 4 and column 6** she takes us back to Hogmanay, as children enjoyed it, when she was growing up in Portgordon. She goes on to give her interpretation of the word Hogmanay. From research she had found that the second part of the word came from 'manai' meaning the 'numberer' or the moon, which biblically changes the months (Psalm c 1V) moon worshippers of a male diety, the Lord Moon or Man of the Moon. The word 'hog' was a festival, or feast, thus the Chaldees spread a feast to their God always on the last night of the year, although there was a time difference.