

## 2000

Jan 4 **Moray Council Chief Executive to leave** - The Moray Council has agreed to differ with its suspended Chief Executive and will allow him to leave its employment to take up a position in England. The move has not come as any great surprise to those who have been keeping an eye on affairs. Mr Stewart who moved to Moray from the Western Isles had only been Chief Executive for a short time, being suspended for a matter of months. Until the position of Chief Executive is filled the work will be carried on by acting Chief Executives Alistair Keddie and Ms Karen Williams.

**Salvation Army , Christmas Day lunch** - This proved to be the success it has always been - a day to remember by those who were present.

**Banffshire Field Club - (see page 7)** Mrs Phyllis Goodall gave a talk on names on the landscape of the Cabrach. This being based on a project carried out by Professor Nicolaisen at Aberdeen University. Most of the upland places and water course were Gaelic names filtered through north east Scots pronunciation and the English phonetic spelling of the map-makers e.g. Ardwell, Belcherrie and Craigline.

On the other hand Scots/English names appear in Upper Howbog and Broomknowes attached to marshy hollows or bare windswept ridges- not just descriptive of the topography like the Gaelic predecessors but they put a subtle emphasis on the less than attractive nature of the terrain when it comes to prospective agricultural usage as Professor Nicolaisen suggests.

It is interesting, said Mrs Goodall that more of the Scots/English names of buildings in the Cabrach have disappeared than have the Gaelic ones.

Jan 11 **View reinstated** - For the first time in a generation people in Fochabers looking from the Square have an uninterrupted view of the attractive frontage of Gordon Chapel at the end of Duke Street. The view has been blocked for many years by an unsightly toilet block/bus shelter until it was demolished this summer. In addition to the recovered view the area where the block stood has received a face-lift.

**A rather special baby** - A New Year's Day and Millennium present arrived for a Findochty couple. Dalma and Daryn Jappy, Reidhaven Crescent, who were delighted to discover that little Chelsea was to make her appearance in the world a mite earlier than predicted and a little boy, Marc (7) was thrilled that all the excitement of the festive season was far from being over when his baby sister arrived at 6.15am on New Year's Day at Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin, weighing in at 6lbs 9oz. The little girl was the first born in Moray in the New Year and the hospital staff gave her a teddy bear, a little suit and a beautifully inscribed nursery rhymes book with her name and all her details on it.

**Advert** - The Linen Basket, 61 West Church Street (formerly known as Smith's Sports) were holding a sale.

**Buckpool celebrates** - Buckpool celebrated the advent of the New Year and the new millennium with a fireworks display at the Boys Club Hall (Turner Pavilion) at Merson Park followed by a sing along with Andy Layton James.

**Ging oot and dee something** - In a letter to the editor Allan Fraser takes issue with a previous letter writer who complained that Buckie never does anything. He mentioned a number of organisations such as the Friends of Seafield Hospital, Buckie District Fishing

Heritage Museum, Buckie and District Flower Show, all who did a lot of work and were ever looking for volunteers to help out. He ended by saying dinna wait for ithers tae dee a' thing, tak aff yer jacket and gees a shuv.

**Far they wint wrang and fit's needed** - James Newlands in a letter on page 12 refers back to a poem that had been printed the previous week and put forward what had been done wrongly in the past going on to say what he felt was needed before Buckie became a ghost town or at best just a place where you slept all night. **See both on page 12**

**'A Walk on the Wild Side'** is the title given to a short story written for the Millennium by Lorna Campbell (reporter). **It is to be found on page 13.**

Jan 18 **A new lease of life for Benreay on the cards** - The former doctor's surgery on Seaview Place that has been subjected to considerable vandalism since being vacated by doctors and other staff, who moved to the new Ardach Health Centre on Highfield Road, may soon have a face lift and a new lease of life if plans for its future go through. Hanover (Scotland) Housing Association Limited is currently in negotiation with Grant (Construction) Elgin Ltd, owners of the property, regarding the acquisition and its conversion into flats.

**Lodge Gordon's No. 589** - Kenneth Lawtie was recently installed as Rt. Worshipful Master of Lodge Gordons No. 589 by IPM Malcolm Reid.

**What's in a name?** - Allan Fraser writes an article on 'Tee' names. This is found on page 9

**A short poem 'Finechty' is to be found on page 12**

We're just and we're honest  
We're happy and we're free  
There's nae fowk like us  
In the hale country.  
We've wir ain Finechty hairber  
Wir ain Toon Hall  
Wir ain Salvation Army  
And wir ain Stroup wall!!

A copy of the poem, requested by someone, was provided by the volunteers of the Heritage Museum.

**Karl forwards his views** - Karl Fraser who now lives in Leith Walk, Edinburgh and who describes himself as an exile and football enthusiast bemoans the loss of yet two more teams from the Highland League after Ross County, the Caley and Inverness Thistle now Elgin City and Peterhead and feels that the winner of the Highland League today will have achieved much less than those in days of yore. The loss of Elgin City would be felt by Thistle supporters, like himself, who enjoyed nothing better than watching tussles between the two old rivals, more so if the Jags should come out on top. He was of the opinion that for a number of reasons Elgin City would find the going hard but wished them all the best. (Karl's predictions have been proved correct with Elgin City never yet managing to get beyond the Third Division and in season 2006/07 had still to win a game by the last week of September, losing 8 games on the trot. Brian Irvine ex Aberdeen F.C. was the manager at the time.)

Jan 25 **Legion stalwart dies** - The death took place on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January in Seafield Hospital of Mrs Alice Chalmers, 14 Bryson Crescent, Craigbo. She was a well known and highly

respected member of the Royal British Legion (Buckie branch) and had served on a number of other organisations including the community council, the OAP Association. She served in WRNS during World War II.

**The building of the Preshome Chapel** - In an article **found on page 10** a description is given of the building of St Gregory's R.C. Chapel at Preshome, Clochan. The church was opened in 1779 when Mr Reid was parish priest. He kept a diary of every stage of its construction, including the names of all the workmen involved. The 'diary' was 'discovered' by Ian Bryce of Aberdeen who had it typed up. A copy came into the hands of Allan Fraser who was responsible for having it printed in the '*Banffshire Advertiser*'.

**A poem by Edward Mitchell is found on page 12, columns 6/7**

**Isla St Clair and a fund-raising cassette** - Isla St Clair, the Findochty-born singer is one of a number of stars who have contributed to a new fund-raising cassette, titled - "A Sang Fae North East Scotland"

**Installed as master of Craigenroan Lodge** - The newly installed Rt. Worshipful Master of Lodge Craigenroan is Jimmy Gunn, Junior, of Portgordon. The installation was performed by Malcolm Reid Past Master of Lodge Gordons No. 589.

Feb 1 **Findochty's Millennium baby** - Chelsea Jappy, infant daughter of Dalma and Daryn Jappy received a beautiful gold bracelet inscribed with her name in a case with a small plaque which reads, Findochty Millennium Baby 01-01-00. This was presented to the parents by the treasurer of Findochty Community Council Christine Campbell. Vice chairman of the council said: "It's from all the folk in Findochty to mark the special occasion of Chelsea's birth. It's something she'll be able to keep."

**Museum may be forced to move** - Buckie District Fishing Heritage Museum may have to relocate in the future to premises in the Buckie Drifter that are more able to accommodate the vast collection of artefacts and items of local interest. There is no disguising the fact that Moray Council would like the Museum to move to the 'Drifter' and so encourage a greater number of visitors to call there. The majority of the members of the Heritage are less than keen on the move, being of the opinion that their identity could be lost, also there is the question of volunteers working with those that are paid.

**Electrical shop to become a café** - Plans have been put forward to change the former electrical shop long time occupied by Hunter and Pirie on East Church Street into a bakery outlet and restaurant.

**Sic a din!** The pilot of a tornado aeroplane from RAF Lossiemouth who caused a tremendous bang when he broke the sound barrier over the Moray Firth last week may well be reprimanded. The pilot who is due to leave the services to become a pilot with a civilian airline may have seen the supersonic bang as something of a leaving prank, it has been reported.

**Rovers now in a purple and white ensemble** - Buckie Rovers whose traditional strip has been white hence the nickname the 'Lilywhites' are now playing in a strip of purple with white trim. The new outfit was donated by Scotscoup the Bookies and was handed over to captain Mark Wood by John Russell, director. The Rovers' side are all local this year and presently sit proudly at top of the league. The manager is George Wright with the trainer being former keeper, Graeme Roy.

Feb 8 **Now the boss** - Alistair Keddie, Depute Chief Executive for Finance and IT at Moray Council for the past four years has been appointed Chief Executive by members of the Council

**The history of Episcopacy in our area** - The following notes were taken from an article found on page 14 of this edition of the *'Advertiser'*. Mention is made of an Episcopal Church, following the Reformation, being built on the banks of the Buckie Burn on the old road that went past Arradoul. This was said to have been burned down by Cumberland's troops in 1745. The site of the church is disputed by Rev Jeremy Paisey, who was minister of the church in the 1990's and into the new millennium, and who had done a lot of research on the subject. He is of the opinion that it was much nearer to the church at Rathven, a mile away to the east. A second church was built much nearer Arradoul and close by 'Arradoul House'. The original house was built by the laird of Cairnfield for his daughter who married the then minister in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**What you may not know about whisky – the 'Water of Life'** - 2% of whisky produced evaporates – known as the 'Angel's Share.'

A dram can apply only to a measure of Scots whisky and the size depends entirely on the generosity of the pourer.

The 'cup o' kindness' referred to in Burns' 'Auld Lang Syne' is whisky – the spirit of friendship.

The French drink more Scotch in a month than Cognac in a year.

If it is not distilled and matured in Scotland whisky cannot be called 'Scotch'.

Feb 15 **An injection of new blood** - The Cubs in Buckie received a welcome injection of new blood last week with the integration of the Cullen pack and their leader into the Buckie pack. This marks the end of the Cub pack in Cullen for the time, at least.

Michael Higgins who took over as Buckie leader in August last year from Gordon Mackie welcomed the new arrivals for their investiture at the Scout Hall in Newlands Lane last week.

Mr Higgins said: "We now have up to 25 boys and girls attending now and we are looking forward in to the future with optimism."

**'Tee' names** - Some time before Allan Fraser wrote an article on the 'Tee' names that were used amongst the fishing fraternity in the area from Portgordon to Cullen. A Mr R. C. Findlay (Hooker) of Fife wrote to the *'Advertiser'* to ask why the surname Findlay had been omitted, this being by far the most common surname in Cullen in the past. He provided a list of the 'Tee' names that were used by Findlays to distinguish one from the other. Mr Fraser also added more 'Tee' names that he had come across since the first article was printed.

**Book review** - Lorna Campbell who had been working as a reporter with the *'Advertiser'* as a reporter for some time in this edition reviews a new book that has just been published called – 'Stertin Oot in Scots' **This is found on page 11.**

**A poem is found on page 11**, columns 3 and 4 titled 'The Lang Lie In'

**Station celebrates its 'Silver' anniversary** – 'Buckie Radio' or if you prefer its original title 'Radio Buckie' was 25 years old yesterday, the 14<sup>th</sup> February. It first opened on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1975 and has been a beacon on the air ever since.

Feb 22 **Local footballer to be International Manager** - George Cowie, a native of Findochty, former professional footballer with West Ham and Heart of Midlothian has been appointed

International Manager and coach of the Solomon Isles, South Pacific football side. George who has been involved in football in Australia for the past three years has signed a two year contract.

**Buckie District Fishing Heritage Museum** - The officials and committee members elected to serve for session 1999/2000 are as follows - Chairman - Willie Mair; vice chairman - Hugh Patience; secretary - Allan Fraser ; treasurer- Frank Macleod; photographic officers - Alistair Coull and Walter Flett.

Committee members - Margaret Bruce, Alex Cowie, Peter B. Flett, David Mair, Elsie Murray, Ron Stewart, Jean Taylor, Peter Bruce, Jeannie B. Cowie, Isabel Harrison, Jessie Mair, James Slater and Sandy Sutherland.

The Heritage Museum have had published a Millennium Issue of the Heritage News and it will soon be available for purchase by the general public. It contains a number of articles and photographs.

**BABS - New bus service for the disabled** - A new bus service is to begin operating in the Buckie area on Monday 28 February and is being launched to provide transport for those who because of disability are unable to use the normal Bluebird buses. The new innovative scheme, names BABS (Dial a Bus Scheme) will enable customers to telephone in advance and arrange to be uplifted and dropped off at their own doors by any of the services.

Feb 29 **You can watch for free** - People who are over 75 years of age will receive free TV licenses when the concession comes into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2000.

**A change of compiler** - James Thomson who has performed the work of finding the material for the page 'Look Back to the Past' in the 'Advertiser' for a considerable time was missing in this edition with his place being taken by Gary Madgwich.

Mar 7 **Forsyth's (Roths)** - A local company has just completed the first part of a major oil and gas related contract for Kvaerner Oil and Gas and has secured the employment of its workforce, numbering around 250 throughout all its component companies with another 20 to 30 jobs to be created in the longer term with recruitment presently taking place.

Forsyth's (Roths) who now occupy the former Hamilton Brothers, Engineers premises on Commercial Road won the major contract against fierce international companies for the supply of Kvaerner Oil and Gas of Croydon of 100tonnes tanks and vessels for the Huida Statoil EPC Platform Topsides Project.

A photograph on page one of the 'Advertiser' shows the size of the vessels being manufactured with another taken showing it aboard the Dutch cargo vessel 'Geertje'. Other photographs appear on page 4.

**Mony a Mickle Maks a Muckle** - The title chosen by the editor for an article written by Allan Fraser in which he lists some features of the past in Buckie.

**Local artist has an exhibition** - Fiona Bruce, nee Bowie, of Letterfourie Road is exhibiting some of her fine paintings in the Ardach Health Centre and art lovers will be able to view her work for some time.

**The fishing scene** - Six fishing boats last week landed 547 boxes of fish at Buckie harbour also 133 bags of scallops. The boats were - Crystal River, Onward, Nordic Prince, Deeside, Kelly and Tjeerd Jacoba.

**He has reached the figure of 600** – Alan 'Mickey' McPherson reached his 600<sup>th</sup> competitive appearance for Buckie Thistle in his 17 years with the club when he turned out against Rothes last week. He received a number of presents from the President Ray Cardno, from James Newlands of the Supporters Club and others. He was clapped on to the park by both sets of players and supporters of both clubs.

Mar 14 **Buckie boat sinks and breaks up** - The Buckie boat, 'Boy Leslie' BCK1, skipper Robert Mair, sank as it was leaving Gairloch and was smashed into pieces against the rocks. The skipper stayed aboard the vessel for some time as he tries to get a rope attached to another vessel to pull him clear but it was a vain attempt and eventually he had to scramble on to the rocks to safety as she turned turtle and began to break up. The 'Boy Leslie', originally called the 'Kedana' was built by 'Tappies' in 1970. Mr Mair has been unfortunate losing a second boat, five years ago his previous boat, the 'Zephrus' was also lost.

**Flag with Coat of Arms for Cullen** - Cullen has received its new flag bearing the Coat of Arms of the Royal Burgh which was granted Royal Burgh status by King William the Lion of Scotland between 1189 and 1198. The flag bears the Latin motto – For Ever and Ever, being a popular choice.

**Look Back to the Past** - James Thomson who had been missing as the compiler for a week or two being abroad on holiday was back in his position this week.

Mar 21 **Croft house to be demolished.** The last house on Great Western Road, Buckpool, which had been the dwelling house of a croft and occupied by Ian Paterson and his family for many years though unoccupied for some time past, is to be demolished after Grampian Country Park was given this permission. They are to construct a car park on the space.

**The 'Buckie Drifter'** has become the first museum in Moray to attain a prestigious national registration mark. **See report on page 4.** The manager Mr David Williamson said that they had been working towards achieving this over the past three years.

**Boys Brigade parade** - Photographs in this edition of the 'Advertiser' shows the 2<sup>nd</sup> Company Buckie Boys Brigade followed by Portessie Battalion Boys Brigade also the 1<sup>st</sup> Buckie Boys Brigade in the annual parade of the Banffshire Battalions. The salute was taken by George C. Smith a former officer in the 1<sup>st</sup> Company, associated with the South and West Church.

**Look Back to the Past** – compiler Gary Madgwich.

Mar 28 **The end of the line** - The Buckie Initiative has been wound down with funding having ceased and Mandy Holmes having moved to a new position with the local LEC (Moray Badenoch and Strathspey Enterprises). A new initiative, however, has been set up, which although it has a less broad remit than the Buckie Initiative should go some way to helping rejuvenate town centres in four Moray towns, Buckie, Keith, Lossiemouth and Elgin. There is a kitty of £160,000 to be split four ways giving £40,000 to be spent in each town. Mark Cross, a Planning Officer with Moray Council is to act as Chairman and liaison officer for each of the groups, consisting of volunteers, set up in each of the four towns.

**Friday Club winds up** - The Friday Club for the Disabled is to close down at the end of March after being in existence for 28 years. The reason for the end is due to a lack of members. In the late 1980's the number of members was up to 30 but recently it was as low as four or five, less than the number of helpers.

**Look Back to the Past** - This was compiled this week by Mark Findlay.

**The fishing scene** - Last week thirteen boats called in to Buckie harbour to land their catches. This comprised in total – 475 boxes of white fish, 240 boxes of prawns, 553 boxes of shrimps and 793 bags of scallops.

The boats were – Atlantic, Kelly, Monadliath, Aspire, Copious, Deeside, Tjeerd Jacoba, Clupea, Caroline Dawn, Rival, Pisces and Falcon.

April 4 **Good news on the shipbuilding front** - Buckie shipyard received orders for three new boats at the Fishing Exhibition held in Glasgow last week.

Two of the boats will be 16.7metres in length with the third being 17.6metres. The three will be powered by Caterpillar engines with the shorter ones having Perkins auxiliary engines and the longer a Volvo engine.

April 11 **A step nearer** - The Drybridge hall that has been proposed to be built on an open space just beyond the former railway bridge leading towards the settlement came a step nearer with outline planning application having been made.

The last fund-raising function by the Community Association was a Spring Fete held in the Community Hall at Clochan on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April which was followed by a dance.

**Millennium Medals for this year's babies** - Buckie babies born in Millennium Year will receive a medal courtesy of the community council when they are registered and living in the town. The community council will also give medals to babies who were born this year but before this announcement was made. The medals will be the same as those given to all the Primary School pupils.

**Highland League Football** - Elgin City 0 Buckie Thistle 2. Ninety-one years of Jags and City derbies came quietly to a close at Boroughbriggs, Elgin, on Saturday. Everyone had hoped that the last Highland League clash between the two great rivals would be a typical match of thrills, spills and controversies, sadly this was not the case.

April 18 **Young Cullen man killed** - David Bruce Main, 12 Cathay Terrace, Cullen died as a result of a motor vehicle accident on the A98 Cullen to Portsoy road on Wednesday 12 April. He was on his way to visit his girl friend in Portsoy when he went off the road.

**A distinguished man** - One of Cullen's most distinguished sons has gone with the passing of Rev. Professor Wm. Duff McHardy CBE. D. Phil. DD. MA.

**Former footballer** - Tommy Lawson died at his home 17 Linn Crescent after a long illness. He played for Fochabers in the Moray Junior League before moving up to the Highland League with Buckie Thistle in the 1950's and later with Rothes. He served his apprenticeship as a slater and joined Marley Tiles in 1964 with who he remained for 33 years becoming Technical Sales Rep. in the Aberdeen area before retiring through ill health. He was a keen golfer and played at Strathlene. He leaves his wife Betty and two children, Gordon and Anne.

April 25 **Do you fancy a get-the- gether** - Billy McGoldrick spent only one season with Rosemount, an Aberdeen junior club but enjoyed a reunion of former players so much that he felt that a reunion of past Rovers' players could be similarly enjoyed – a shared meal, a drink or two and good old blether of past times.

Billy who played for both Buckie Thistle and Rothes in the Highland League played for Buckie Rovers from 1968 to 1970 and went on to become an official of the club, advised those who shared his idea to give him a call.

**The end of her stint** - Edna Legge received jewellery, a jewellery voucher and flowers from staff and former colleagues at Seafield Hospital and Ardach when she retired recently as senior clerical officer at Seafield Hospital after 35 years.

May 2 **On the web** – The '*Banffshire Advertiser*' goes live on the Internet on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May - <http://www.banffshireadvertiser>.

**They went abroad** - Buckie and District Pipe Band spent a busy weekend in the Netherlands. Their hosts paid all costs apart from travel and also did fund-raising for the band when they were there.

This was the first time that the band had been abroad and it was their first outing in their royal blue jackets which proved a big hit with the band members themselves and also the Dutch public.

**Weet wither causes problems.** Heavy rain that persisted over three days caused considerable flooding in different parts of Buckie. A photograph shows the Linzee Gordon Park looking like a lake. Householders on Steinbeck Road saw their gardens under water as it seeped through the walls on to their property. This occurs whenever there is prolonged rain. Considerable damage was done elsewhere, especially at Drybridge, Oran and where the bridge crosses the Burn of Cairnfield part of the roadway was washed away. At Drybridge large stones put in the Letter Burn to help stop the burn overflowing its banks were moved away.

**Buckie Rotary AGM** - The officials appointed to serve for year 200/01 were President – Bill Davidson; senior vice president – David Wood; vice president – Jim Farquhar; secretary Alex Fowler; treasurer – Ali Simpson.

May 9 **A bonny day for a new event** - A brand new venture for Buckie reaped the benefit of the first real warm and sunny weather of early summer on Saturday when a crowd of people turned out to support the first Buckie Seafoods Fayre launched in conjunction with the Speyside Whisky Festival 2000 event. It was held in and around the harbour and in the fishmarket. The organisers were Stewart Buchannan, Kevin McKay and Dougal Simpson. **See on page one what was all there. There are also a number of photographs.**

**The Fishing Heritage** - Buckie District Fishing Heritage Museum will very shortly sign a lease with Moray Council which will safeguard the future of the Cottage as the home for the fishing museum. Chairman of the group Willie Mair revealed the news at the AGM. The Heritage, he said, had agreed to accept the terms of the lease and it was returned to Moray Council for signing.

May 16 **New reporter at the 'Advertiser'** - Nathaniel Anderson, who prefers to be called Nat, a native of Fordyce who has been working in Huntly and Keith on the sister papers of the '*Advertiser*' has now joined Lorna Campbell on the Buckie editorial team. He replaces George Boardman who has moved to the *Banffshire Journal*.

**Advert** – Come see the Young Ladies fashions at the Grapevine 40 East Church Street. Pedal pushers with draw string bottoms; black bell bottom trousers.

**The fishing scene** - Six boats landed 280 boxes of white fish, 120 boxes of prawns and 304 bags of scallops. The boats were - Aspire, Monadliath, Zephyr, Caroline Dawn, Deeside and Rival.

**St Peter's Church - major renovations** - The main contractor are Hall and Tawse an Aberdeen firm with a branch in Elgin. The site foreman Mike McLauchlan explained to a reporter from the 'Advertiser'; that in previous renovation work red-coloured cement had been used to point repairs on the stone work. Rain water had seeped in behind the cement and remained there to the detriment of the stone, which began to erode. This time when all the stone work will be attended to the gaps between the stones will be raked back and pointed with lime as it was originally with red sand from Fife being mixed with the lime to give a good match. Lime is far more porous than cement and any water that does seem in will not gather but quickly dry up.

When asked where the red stone had come from Mike was unable to say. He said that there was a lot of Red sandstone in the Turriff area and also in the Black Isle but this was some distance away when transports over land was by horse and cart. He was of the opinion that it could have come in by sea .

He said that a new stone cross was to be made to replace the wooden one that was rotten. A specialist firm from Aberdeenshire was to do repairs to the stain glass windows, while the slater department of Forsyth's of Rothes were to check all the slates and roof timbers. **For a fuller report see page 10.**

May 23 **Vandals strike twice** - Archibald's Garage, Barhill Road, proprietor Eddie Malcolm, suffered from the work of vandals twice on the same evening , smashing windows on the showroom , stealing radio cassettes and charity collection boxes besides doing damage to parked cars. It is reckoned the damage done would amount to £3000.

**St Peter's Church - the stonework** - Allan Fraser in a letter to this edition of the 'Advertiser' referred to the site foreman not knowing where the stone had come from, he said that it had been documented that it came from Tarwathie (south of Buckie). Having said that Allan went further to say that a lot of the same stone was used in the building of houses in Portgordon , this being dug out at low tide east and west of the harbour. He described it as a poor building material, extremely vulnerable to erosion, falling down behind the lath and plaster and building up behind the skirting to cause damp. Having served his time as a plasterer he had often had the job of clearing the loose material away. (When typing this up in 2006 Allan would have said that he was coming round to the idea of the stone coming in from sea, from the Black Isle area, as he had looked in the vicinity of Tarwathie and had still to discover where the amount of rock required could have been quarried. On the question of stone coming in by sea it is known that the present South and West Church was taken to Buckie by this means and around the same time. The next question is when so much sandstone was being taken to such as Buckie from Hopeman why would they have gone as far as the Black Isle for Red Sandstone when they were already using Hopeman stone in different parts of St Peter's.)

**'Look Back to the Past'** - This is now being done each week by Bill Skene.

May 30 **Mair hale watter and damage deen** - - Another weekend of heavy rain increased the amount of damage done to the roadway at the bridge over the Burn of Cairnfield with the road closed to traffic at present.

**Can we carry on ?** A Buckie charity group, Friends of Seafield and Community Patients that has raised more than £40,000 in the past nine years is facing an uncertain future

unless more people become involved in its work. The annual general meeting held recently was poorly attended.

**Probus Club officials appointed** - President – Jim Reid; vice president – George Fleming; secretary Bob Jamieson, treasurer, Hugh Patience. Committee – John Fowlie, John Smith, Arnold Pirie and Past President Jim Findlay.

**A grand reunion** - More than 150 former pupils gathered recently in the Marine Hotel for the reunion of the class that began their secondary education at Buckie High School in 1972. The number that attended far exceeded the expectations of the organisers with a number of those attending coming in from overseas. Tentative plans were made for another reunion perhaps in 2010.

**Probus Club guest speakers** - The members of Buckie and District Probus Club have recently enjoyed talks given Mrs Grace Morrison, formerly Assistant Headteacher at Cluny Primary and Mr Joe Sutherland, an American, who has been pastor of the Church of Christ (West Church Street), for the past few years. **A good report on both speeches is given on page 9 and is worth reading.**

**A car as a parting gift** - Dougie Forbes, who retired recently as a mechanic at Archibald's Garage on Barhill Road received a new Citroen Saxa from his late employers Edwin and Elma Malcolm as a retiral present. He is seen in a photograph at the presentation. A second photograph on the same page was taken at the garage in 1951 on the week that Dougie started working as an apprentice mechanic. Others in the photograph are Bob Archibald, senior, Bob Archibald, junior, John Geddes, apprentice, Elky (Alex) Clark, engineer/mechanic and Dougie Forbes.

**Advert** – Denim Plus – Grapevine – 38-40 East Church Street.

**The SNP choose their candidate** - The SNP has officially adopted a Moray journalist as the prospective candidate for Moray in the next UK General Election. Angus Robertson was based in Vienna for seven years as a foreign affairs and diplomatic correspondent for leading broadcasters including the BBC.

June 6 **The Women's Federation** - The end of an era has arrived for a venerable local institution with the news that the Women's Federation, formerly the Women's Gas Federation is set to be disbanded.

At the May AGM of the group the issue of falling numbers was raised and at a subsequent extraordinary committee meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> June it was decided to disband the group.

The group was originally established by the Gas Board as a vehicle for education when gas was a novel source of power and heat.

However, following gas privatisation, the group continued under their new name but in recent years the numbers of members had fallen dramatically with only 26 remaining so as Mrs Janet Murray, President, said it was not practicable to continue. The closing date has still to be decided.

**Another step along the road** - Drybridge Community Association have received notification that outline planning consent for a proposed Community Hall at Drybridge has granted by Moray Council.

**Player of the Year Awards** - Buckie Rovers F.C. handed out the awards to the following players - Young Player of the Year – David Mowat; Manager's Player of the Year - Jason Brockie; Committee's Player of the Year and Player's Player of the Year – Mark Wood.

**The season ends badly** - The Rovers were beaten by four goals to one against Forres Thistle in the Final of the Morayshire Trophy. The team was – Wojcik, Mowat, Brockie, Matheson, Cormack (Nicol) , J Shewan, Lyon, McRae, Wood, Slater, Costello (Fielding), Subs. M. Shewan, M. Graham.

June 20 **Building application has them worried** - A planning application submitted by Buckie Shipyards Limited for a change of use at the former Jones Shipyard site to residential housing has sparked off concern amongst Ianstown's residents. **Report on page 1. (The subject was still under discussion in September 2006.)**

**Four of the Heritage crew** - A photograph shows members of the Fishing Heritage as they prepare to put the sign back up. They are Allan Fraser, Peter Bruce, Willie Mair and Alistair Coull. The Fishing Heritage Museum, popularly known as 'The Cottage' will open its doors a fraction later than in the season than usual following a process of refurbishment that had to be carried out for health and safety reasons. **In the report on page three a detailed account is given of what was done.**

**Local artist writes about David West** - An article found on page 5 tells how Cullen artist Duncan Wood is about to publish a book about David West of Lossiemouth - 1868-1936 – whose work is much sought after. (My mother was given a picture by David West by my sister Violet many years ago, perhaps in the early 1950's, who told her how it would become more valuable as the years went by. )

**The Rathburn Hotel** - Formerly the residence of Alexander Archibald, one time Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire, on March Road, a well known Buckie landmark could be set for a £500,000 face lift if outline planning permission is granted. PDQ Holding Ltd, an Edinburgh based development company with strong local connections have lodged an application with Moray Council for outline planning consent to convert the former hotel into a dwelling house, erect two further dwellings to the east of the hotel in the former garden and six flats to the west of the hotel. (The complete planned project never took place although the building was bought and changed back into a dwelling house in 2005 by a local man.)

**The 'Buckie Drifter'** – Open every day admission £2.75- concession and children £1.75. Come along to the Buckie Drifter and experience the past. Buckie Drifter Maritime Heritage Centre, Freuchny Road, Buckie. AB56 1TT

June 27 **A new 'Bobby' in charge** - The new Police Inspector at Buckie is Doug McKenzie, formerly sergeant at Forres. He is a native of Lochcarron on the west coast.

**New pilot boat for Buckie** - Buckie harbour has a new pilot boat. the 'Pioneer' first registered in Harwich. It was taken home to Buckie by sea by Assistant Harbourmaster James Slater and two crewmen, Kenny Farquhar and William Phimister. Since there is no accommodation on board the vessel, stops were made at Grimsby, Shields and Arbroath. It is not a new boat but was built in 1988. It has two Volvo 2367 heavy duty engines. It is 44 feet long and bigger than the last one.

The former pilot boat was 25 years old and though still here has reached the end of its life as a pilot vessel.

The pilot boat requires three of a crew – one to steer, one on deck and the pilot. either the Harbourmaster or his Assistant. The function of the pilot boat is to reconnoitre with the large cargo vessels that may be entering the port.

**Buckie and District Round Table** held a Buffet Dance in the Marine Hotel to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its inaugural meeting. Marie Johnston, widow of the late Ian Johnston one of the founder members, together with Andy Buchan chairman of the local organisation cut the celebratory cake.

July 4 **Moray Council say no to Tourist Office** - Buckie Community Council were not at all pleased that their request to have a temporary tourist office, in the form of a portacabin, sited on Cluny Square was turned down.

Councillor John Leslie said that Moray Council did not have the necessary funds to sustain such an investment and because they had been unable to hire a portacabin from their expected source. Much disappointment was shown by the members of the Fishing Heritage at this decision as two ladies from Portgordon had volunteered to man the office

**American church minister to return home** - Pastor Joe Sutherland, formerly a psychotherapist in the States, and his wife Sue who have been in Buckie since 1995 when Joe took over as pastor of the Church of Christ on West Church Street, are to return to their home in Colorado on 27 July. **See a full page article on page 5.**

**The Windy Walks – a disaster area** - Pictures on page 10 of this edition of the 'Advertiser' show the present state of the 'Windy Walks' in the valley of the Buckie Burn. This was formerly a picturesque and popular area with many people, including parties of pupils from the High School. Now because of damage done by the burn when in high flood and on different occasions together with the reluctance of Moray Council to take measures to both repair and prevent damage in the future the place has become little more than an eyesore. Parts of the paths have been eroded away and the whole area overgrown. The community council have tried hard to get the Council to spend money to restore the area to how it was when first laid out but with no success. **See page 10**

**The Rovers need your help** - A. L. Nath long time scribe and committee member of Buckie Rovers F. C. made a heart-felt plea and invitation to the public of Buckie to come and help the club who continue to suffer from the lack of people prepared to become committed. The AGM is to take place in the Town House on 4 July. (So few people attended the annual general meeting in July 2006 that the meeting had to be abandoned with it being assumed that those who had been members of the committee the previous year would carry on. Dr Jim Tuckerman as president and Dave Roberts secretary/treasurer. Committee - Gary and Teresa Innes, Sonny Johnston and Allan Fraser. Team manager Keith Ingram with assistant David Robertson.

**This year's 'cleverest' loon** - the Dux of Buckie Community High School was Ian Wilson who in a photograph is seen being congratulated by Frieda Morrison. former pupil of the school and radio and television personality. Ian is a son of George and Jean Wilson, James Street, Buckpool.

**Buckie Rovers** - The committee and officials elected for season 2000/2001 - President Robbie McKay (Keith), vice chairman Alan Strachan, Secretary Keith Sinclair, treasurer, Chrissie Sinclair, Team manager – George Wright, coach – Graeme Roy. Committee – Stephen McIntosh, Ian Wood, Gary Wiseman, Graeme Roy and Allan Fraser.

July 15 **Pupils of the 'sixties'** - A Buckie High School pupils reunion of the 1968 era took place in the Fishermen's Hall. Some teachers also came along to see and speak to the former pupils with mixed emotions.

**Her days at the 'chalk-face are deen** - Anne Bruce head teacher at Portgordon for 12 years is seen receiving farewell gifts from Sarah Gordon and David Jack of P7 and Courtney Scott, Nursery.

**Bus times are to change** - The 395 Town Service though Buckie is to be reduced to once every hour and not every ½ hour as at present.

**Bonny floers at the Toll Bar** - A photograph on page 10 shows Dot and Harry Ewen along with Allan Fraser the three volunteers who look after the floral display at the Toll Bar junction and also the cart at Inchgower Distillery. The flowers were provided by Moray Council Horticultural Department.

**Jags beat the 'Blue Tooners'** - Buckie Thistle beat Peterhead by two goals to one in the first friendly match of the season.

The team was - Rae (Wojcik), Grant (Low), Lamberton, Anderson (Matheson), McPherson, Rattray (Davidson), Duncan (Thom), Rowley (Hulse), Green (Stewart), Mile, Bruce (Craig).

July 25 **Jim Leask former player, manager and President of Buckie Thistle died last Thursday.** He signed for the Thistle in 1946 from Buckie Rovers along with five other players. Jim was member of the very successful combine of the early 1950' He was to be connected with the Thistle for close on 50 years. **See the report on page 3.**

**The Paterson twins** - Twin sisters Coleen and Susan Paterson former pupils of Buckie Community High School graduated with first class honours, each winning class prizes as well. Proud Mum Irene, a lone parent, lives at 17 Hendry Terrace. (I am chuffed to say that I taught both mum and daughters and found them all to be extremely pleasant girls - A.F.)

Coleen graduated from Robert Gordon's University with a 1<sup>st</sup> in Business Studies and also was awarded

The Hughes Christiansen Prize for the Best Honours Graduate, collecting a sponsorship from Shell UK for her final year.

Susan graduated from Glasgow Caledonian University with 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours in Marketing and Commerce and won the Chartered Institute of Marketing Prize.

Both girls have found jobs in Insurance, Coleen will be starting with Standard Life in Edinburgh as a Graduate Human Resources trainee and Susan with Scottish Amicable as an IS Developer in its computer section.

Susan received the highest mark ever awarded at the University in the subject she studied.

Before starting work Coleen has the pleasure of a trip to Japan on the Thomas Glover Scholarship.

At High School Coleen was Head Prefect while Susan was Dux.

Aug 1 **Moray Council are not happy with the 'Drifter'** - Visitor numbers at the Buckie Drifter have fallen this year. The 'Drifter', it was reported, has maintained high standards with respect to its staff and overall facilities but it has fallen short in relation to providing improvements in the area of visitor experience.

Financial support by Moray Council was in the region of £62,000 but it is the number of visitors that have visited the 'Drifter' that is causing concern.

**Buckie Leisure Centre** - The rechristened Buckie Swimming Pool now Buckie Leisure Centre was officially opened last week by Moray Council convener, Councillor Eddie Aldridge. The alterations cost £440,000

**More on the 'Windy Walks'** - This edition of the 'Advertiser' carries a further piece on the 'Windy Walks' by the Buckie Burn described by local resident George Campbell, in an interview, as a 'Wilderness'. Mr Campbell said that he had approached both Moray Councillors and members of the local community council to try to get some money to replace the path network and cut back the wild vegetation. He spoke about money being wasted by Buckie Initiative tarding up some old buildings when they could spend some in the valley of the burn. **See the report on page 3.**

**Ancient Endowment to be restored** - - The Ancient Endowment at Cullen Old Kirk began by Robert the Bruce and only stopped in 1975 with the re-organisation of local government is to be restored. This was agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee of Moray Council. **See the report on page 7.**

**Peter Fair** - This year it stayed more or less dry over the three day fair while the work done during the winter months when lorry loads of hard core was driven in provided dry conditions underfoot.

**Changes at Baxter's of Speyside-** Audrey Baxter have been appointed Chairman and Chief Executive of the Baxter Group of Companies, taking over from her father Gordon.

Aug 8 **Netherha' Home** - The offer by the Parklands Group for Netherha Home has been accepted by Moray Council who hope to save half a million pounds per annum when it finally concludes a deal that has been in the pipeline for some time.

Aug 15 **Boys' Football** - The future of the Buckie Thistle Boys' Club is in crisis due to a lack of support from adult volunteers.

**Advert** - Brown's Chip Shop, 17 Rathburn Street.

**Advert** - 'Ragamuffin' a new bistro is opening on Thursday 17 August at 26 Low Street, Buckie.

**A second Seafood Fayre** - Buckie will play host to its second Seafood Fayre next year building on the success of this year's inaugural event. The date set is 5th May. Chairman Stewart Buchannan promised that the next one will be bigger and better than this year's one.

**In uniform** - From the start of term 2000/01 session pupils at Buckie Community High School will be encouraged to wear a definitive school uniform in black and white with the school badge prominent on most of the articles of clothing. The decision to adopt a school uniform was agreed by teachers, parents, and the school council. The uniform will be black and white - black trousers or skirts for girls with white for shirts and polo shirts. Ties should also be worn.

**Death of former teacher** - The death took place last week as a result of cancer of Alfie Milne. He was born in Portgordon in 1927 and served his time as a joiner in a local shipyard. He was called up to the RAF in 1945. He married his wife Sheena in 1953. He started training to become a Technical Teacher in 1958 graduating in 1961. He taught for five years at Hopeman before moving to Buckie High where he eventually became PT of Leisure. He retired though ill health in 1985 though he was able to do some relief work. He was a keen golfer and snooker player. He is survived by his wife and son Eddie.

**Buckie Rovers** - The Rovers won their first game of the new season, beating Burghead Thistle by four goals to two at Merson Park. The team was – Munro, Nicol, Brockie, Costello, Cormack (Fielding), J. Shewan, Mowat, M. Shewan, Farquhar (McRae), West, Sinclair (Smith), Sub. Collie.

**Highland League** - Buckie Thistle 1 Rothes 0. The Thistle team was – Rae, Grant (Thom), Lamberton, Anderson, McPherson, Rattray, Duncan (A. Matheson), Milne, Stewart (Rowley), Bruce, Craik. Subs – J. Matheson, Davidson.

Aug 22 **100 not out** - Mrs Jessie Ann Slater, Pultney Street, Portknockie celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**A new boat** - The Robertson's of Portknockie, brothers Bruce and Neil, have taken delivery of their brand new trawler, the Danish-built 29 metre 'Crystal River' Bruce's sons Ewen and Alan are also in the eleven man crew. The top speed of the new vessel is 12.8 knots. The main engine is a MAR 8m20 delivering 1349 hp. The 'Crystal River' is owned by Bruce Robertson and partners and the agents are Buckie Inshore Fishselling Company.

**New features at St Peter's Church** - A niche for a statue high up on the east gable of St Peter's R. C. Church and empty since the church was built has now been filled with a wooden statue of St Peter. The other new feature is a magnificent new tapestry now hanging in the church. It is testimony to the hard work, creativity and hard work of hundreds of church members across the Diocese. **Pictures of both the statue and the tapestry are to be found on page 7.**

Aug 29 **Flower Festival** - Buckie North Church will hold its Flower Festival this weekend.

**Memories of the Norwegian Escapees** - A London-based Norwegian journalist Trygve Sorvaag is keen to learn of memories people still may retain of the Norwegians who escaped from Norway in the early years of World War II and took up residence in Buckie.

Sept 5 **Big job about to start** - Patients at Seafeld Hospital is being moved this weekend in preparation for the £1.3 million refurbishment plan due to start this autumn.

**Death of former Fire Chief** - George 'Doddie' McKay died last week at the age of 69. Doddie of St Paul Street, Buckpool spent 28 years in the Fire Service retiring in 1987 as Station Officer. He did his National Service in the RAF serving abroad in Egypt and Malta. He was a motor mechanic to trade, serving his time with Mutch in Keith. He is survived by his wife Georgie and two children, a boy and a girl.

**Buckie Flower Show** - The number of entries at 840 was up on that of the previous year. The exhibitor gaining most points and awarded the Taylor Trophy was Mr Ian Wilson of Shearer Avenue, Buckie. Ian had now won the major trophy a number of times.

**Local minister on the move** - The minister of Buckie South and West Church Rev Eric Foggitt is leaving Buckie to take up a charge at Dunbar Church, near Edinburgh. Two of his children attend school in Edinburgh. He has been nine years in Buckie

**Nurse retires** - Janice Dawson left Seafeld Hospital last Friday after over 26 years service in the hospital. She has been Ward Sister for the past nine years.

**Rovers receive a donation** - Buckie Rovers F.C. received a new set of training tops from the Nemat Tandoori Restaurant on West Church Street. The tops were handed over by Zafar Ali, son of the owner.

Sept 12 **A rarity in local waters** - A huge basking shark was seen off Findochty by Fred Murray of Portgordon who was sailing alone at the time. He reckoned that the fish was around 20 feet long, slightly shorter than his boat. Basking sharks are harmless and feed only on plankton. They are extremely rare on the east coast. (One was seen off Lossiemouth in the first week of October 2006.)

**Book Review** - A new book has been written titled 'The Portnochy Papers' by Disney Kerr alias Jimmy Brown, formerly a worker at Inverurie Loco Works and Postmaster in Portsoy for some years.

**Major event at Preshome** - Preshome R. C. Church, near Clochan (Buckie) hosted the first major event inside its old walls since the church celebrated its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary 12 years ago. School children and priests came from all over the north of Scotland to take part in a Diocesan Vocations Mass conducted by Bishop Mario Conti. The mass was to celebrate the quaternary of the Scots College in Rome where for 400 years Scots have gone to be trained before entering the priesthood. Preshome is the historical centre of the Catholic faith in the north east and during the times of persecution; 300 years ago, priests were trained at Preshome and sent out to other parts of Scotland.

Sept 19 **Petrol shortage** - A photograph in this edition shows cars lined up nose to tail from the top of McLaren's Brae and up Harbour Street to Joe Dawson's garage as Petrol Panic hits Buckie.

Buckie, however, escaped the worst excesses of last week's petrol panic and local filling stations were rarely if ever empty even at the height of the nation-wide crises. Only two garages had to put up empty signs for a short time during a week when blockades crippled most of the country.

Other headings - Business right on the brink e.g. Maynes Coaches were faced with problems further south.

Essential services stayed secure - police and ambulances had sufficient fuel to enable them to keep going.

Seeing red over diesel.

**Fancy a job?** The 'Advertiser' is looking for a trainee reporter.

**Coffee Morning** - Buckie District Fishing Heritage Museum are to hold a coffee morning in the North Church Hall this Saturday. Admission 75p.

**New cemetery at Cullen** - A new cemetery at Cullen was consecrated at the weekend. It was named Cullen and Deskford Parish Cemetery and created by Moray Council to replace the existing Cullen Cemetery which is almost full and the one at Deskford which is likely to be full by 2015.

The service was conducted by Parish minister Rev Melvyn Wood. Other local ministers from Buckie and elsewhere were also present.

**New system for tracing truancy at the High School** - Buckie Community High School have introduced a new phone-master system to help track pupils absent from school. An American idea with a computer and dedicated phone line at its heart. It is believed to be that Buckie Community High School is the first school in Britain to install it.

**The Harbour Bar, 83 Main Street, Buckpool,** is under new management the new owners are partners Keith, Mark and Dale Winchester, Keith, better known as the north east's top traditional musicians. The bar has been refurbished throughout though the old counter has been retained and the coloured floor cleaned up.

**The Fishing Heritage** - A photograph on page 9 shows some members of the Fishing Heritage and visitors taken at the Cottage as they gathered to meet with Norwegian journalist Trygve Sorvaag who is writing a story about Buckie's Wartime Norwegians.

Sept 26 **Local man killed in accident at work** - Dennis Murray a well known local golfer died after an accident at work on Saturday. A steel erector with a local firm he fell 30 feet from scaffolding at Dalcross outside Inverness.

**A Road Race in Buckie** - This Sunday's inaugural (not really correct) 10K road race in Buckie is guaranteed success thanks to the large number of runners who have registered in advance ensuring a real spectacle.

**'Knocker' Citizen of the Year** - The first person to receive an award after being chosen as Portknockie's Citizen of the Year was Gertie Craib.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Buckie Boys' Brigade** - The formal ending of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Buckie Boys' Brigade will be marked by the laying down of the colours at a Thanksgiving Service in Buckie Methodist Church on Sunday October 8. A lack of leaders and falling numbers forced the Company to take the difficult decision earlier in the summer and the Company has therefore not restarted this autumn. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Company Boys' Brigade has been in existence for 50 years. The minister Rev Andrew Webb will take the service with the good things that the Company has achieved over the years being stressed rather than dwelling on the fact that it will be no more.

**The fishing scene** - Last week a total of 19 boats came into Buckie harbour to land their catches. All together they landed 753 boxes of white fish, 329 boxes of prawns and 143 bags of scallops.

The boats were - Crystal River, Copious, Aventure, Osprey, Astral, and Three Sisters. Star of Annan, Voyager, Fair Dawn, Discovery, Golden Promise, Rival, Splendour, Pisces and Marelann. The Star of Anna, Aventure and Astral landed twice.

**Buckie Rovers** - A photograph shows the players who will be representing Buckie Rovers this season - namely - Jason Brockie, Alasdair Macrae, Colin Nicol, Brendan Belcher, Richard Cormack, James Shewan, Mike Shewan, Craig Sinclair, Michael Smith, Andrew Farquhar, Steven Lyon, Philip West, David Mowat and John Costello. Also shown is George Wright, manager.

**It will look odd but** The name that will be emblazoned across the front of the Thistle shirts this season will be Keith Builders Merchant. The company's name was drawn out of a hat that contained a number of other prospective sponsors.

Oct 3 **Race was big success** - The first 10 k race held in Buckie for a number of years (not the inaugural one that was previously reported) was a huge success for the organisers and competitors. There were 180 runners.

The winner was world champion ultra distance runner Simon Pride the Fochabers postman who ended the race with a time of 30m 55secs. Second was Alan Reid a minute or so behind. with Calum Davidson of Aberdeen third. Simon Pride who had run in South Wales

on Saturday said that he didn't normally run again a day later but did so on this occasion seeing that it was a new race.

The first lady home was Marie Duthie, Fraserburgh with a time of 39.38 secs. coming in two minutes ahead of Dawn Hardie of Mosstodloch.

**The Old Coach House Hotel** (better known to the auld yins as the Commercial) has new owners. They are Billy and Wendy Benson from Dungannon, in county Tyrone.

**Clearance sale** - W. F. Johnston and Sons - 13-15 West Church Street are to hold a clearance sale - prior to refurbishment. It starts today Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

Oct 10 **The parents are not amused** - Portgordon Primary is to lose one of its teachers leaving parents quite outraged. **The report was written by George Boardman**

**What a bloody mess** - The residents living on Great Western Road Buckpool were faced with a most unholy mess when drains which run from the nearby Grampian Country Pork Factory became choked and masses of blood spewed up on to the roadway. It took several hours before workmen from NOSWA were able to clear away the blockage. The nearby householders said that this hadn't been the first time that this had happened and they were quite sick of the mess while the stink was quite abominable.

**The cook has retired** - Mrs Flo Shand, Chapelford Farm, Clochan retired on Friday as cook supervisor at Millbank Primary School. Mrs Shand had been 25 years at the school, starting there when it first opened.

Oct 17 **Top post for Buckie man** - A Buckie man has achieved new heights in a career that has taken him from Buckie High School to university, the army and now to the top of the insurance profession.

Dr Sandy Scott was appointed Director General of the Chartered Insurance Institute last month. He is the son of Sandy Scott, a janitor at Cluny Primary School for many years and his widow Jean, a former language teacher, who now lives in Burnside Court.

On leaving school Sandy joined the Army Medical Corps and graduated in medicine from Aberdeen University. He spent ten years in the Army serving all over the world including Northern Ireland reaching the rank of Major. On leaving the Army he embarked on a Commercial career which has now taken him to this new position.

**Advert** - Homechoice Wallcovering, 31 Commercial Road, Mammoth Sale, everything must go.

**Farewell to 2nd Buckie Boys' Brigade** - A Thanksgiving Service took place on Sunday in the Methodist Church, Buckie led by Rev Andrew Webb to mark the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Buckie Boys' Brigade and the lowering of the colours.

Many former officers and boys came along to **witness what was a rather sad event.**

Among those present were the last joint captains, Ian Dalgarno, and Roy Simkin, Anchor Boy's Leaders Wilma Smith and Glynis Milne, Graeme Cormack, junior section and Captain John McConnachie 1990-92. Others were Alex Bruce, Cullen who joined the 2nd Boys' Brigade as a Life Boy and worked his way up through the ranks to become an officer. Also there was Captain Alex Ferguson.

Captain Simkin said it was a sad occasion, the end of an era.

Both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd Companies Buckie Boys' Brigade were formed in 1947 with the 2<sup>nd</sup> under Buckie Methodist minister of the time, Rev. A. Mirrelees and Mr Duncan a teacher at the High School.

Miss Jeannie Bowie Cowie, one of the original leaders served for 18 years with the Life Boys and too described it as a sad occasion but said that one was never sure some time in the future the company may be reformed.

**Sportsman's Dinner** - Jim Watt, former world champion boxer was one of the speakers at Buckie Rovers Sportsman's dinner held in the Ugie Hotel, Keith, and last week. Other speakers were comic Stan Boardman, and sports writer with the Scotsman newspaper Craig Veitch. Over 130 people attended the dinner where approximately £2,500 was raised from club funds from an auction held during the dinner. Robbie McKay, owner of the Hotel is presently president of the Rovers.

Oct 24 **Things for the bairns** - The Ian Johnston Park in Buckie is in line for £50,000 of play equipment and surfacing. The paddling pool which has been empty for some time is to be filled in.

**Produced in Buckie** - The first three units of a multi-million pound oil contract were shipped out from Buckie harbour last week. This first phase of the engineering project has secured jobs in the Forsyth group and a second phase making more modules is due to start in six weeks according to Robin Jones, the group marketing manager.

**Silver anniversary** - Buckie Thistle Social Club are to record their 25th anniversary of the founding of the club with a buffet dance on Saturday October 28. The first bar manager was Norman Willox from the Knock and his Buckie-born wife Sandra. A pint of special on the first night cost 40p.

**Gordon Castle (Fochabers)** - The remnant of the original castle built in the Bog of Gight, north of Fochabers in the 15<sup>th</sup> century to replace an even older castle has come up for rent after remaining in the same family for five centuries. The property is available at £1000 per month with a further £1000 monthly for the upkeep of the grounds. The castle is currently owned by General Gordon Lennox who has a separate house on the estate he has three sons but they are all grown up with their own families.

The castle which is only about a third of the original structure has ten bedrooms, a grand entrance hall, reception hall, drawing room, dining room, sitting room, library, two kitchens and six bathrooms. Much of this area was originally the servant's quarters.

Gordon Castle was held by the Gordon family from 1449 until 1939 when it and the estate were sold to the Crown in lieu of death duties. It was used to accommodate troops during World War II when its conditions deteriorated.

It was bought back in 1953 by General Gordon -Lennox to turn it back into a family home. A large part of the castle, was however, demolished later in the 1950's with the stones used in the building of Glenlaterach Reservoir south of Elgin. Large scale renovations took place in the remaining part in 1965.

**The 'Nordic Prince'** - Surely a good name for the new boat Jan Huldal, a second generation Norwegian, has had built since it was built in Norway. The 'Nordic Prince' BCK18 replaces a boat of the same name which he has sold to a Norwegian. It is a 33 feet longliner and carries a crew of ten including the skipper.

He intends to concentrate on landing fresh fish although the new boat has a facility for part freezing.

**The 'Windy Walks'** Buckie Community Council have hopes that some of the European money allocated to Buckie will be used to upgrade the land around the Buckie Burn with a reinstatement of the 'Windy Walks and a new bridge to link Buckpool to Buckie. The chairman of the council said that he would like to see an effort made to capitalise on the

attraction of the valley of the Buckie Burn from the area known as the 'Windy Walks' to the mouth of the burn at Bridgend.

**A new reporter** - The Banffshire Advertiser recently welcomed a new member of staff in reporter Lindsey King. Lindsey (20) lives in Huntly and attended college in Aberdeen for two years studying Communications. She will be working between the different papers in the group.

**Where did the stone come from** - An article appears on page 15 of this edition concerning the type of stone that was used in the construction of St Peter's R. C. Church and also the likely location from where it came. This is based on information provided by former geography teacher and amateur historian Allan Fraser. (When I gave this information in 2000 I fully believed that the stone had been quarried at Tarwathie over two miles to the south of Buckie, giving my reasons for saying so, since that time, however, I am now more inclined to believe that it could well have come in by sea from the Black Isle as was suggested by the mason in charge of the refurbishment of the church. Large deposits of Old Red Sandstone are found in this area. The geologist Hugh Miller, Cromarty, is associated with this rock type.)

**Thistle sign a potential goal-scorer** - Buckie Thistle have signed Brian Thomson who was a vital cog for Huntly in the mid to late 1990's when he was banging in goals in great numbers helping the team to great success. He has been with Fraserburgh of late. Hopefully he will improve on the goal-scoring front for Buckie who have also signed Stuart Reid, from Dyce Juniors.

Oct 31 **Early death for former Rovers' player** - Alan Milne, (40) a native of the Deskford area who played for Buckie Rovers in the early 1980's collapsed and died after returning from holiday with his wife and young daughter. Alan kept himself fit and neither smoked nor drank. He played for Deveronside and Islavale with who he was most recently on the coaching staff.

**The Portgordon teacher position** - The parents of pupils at Portgordon Primary have failed in their attempt to retain the five teachers at the school. Moray Council Education Department said that the numbers on the school roll did not justify five teachers.

**Closing down** - The shop at 74a East Church Street that catered for men and youth's wear and called Classics and Casuals is to close down.

**A new tune for a late friend** - Mary Poynton, Portgordon, poet and composer of hymns wrote the words to a tune as a tribute for her friend Marjory Imlah who was her accompanist at all the concerts she gave, Marjory, she said, had always asked her to write religious words to the tune 'The Dark Island' so I decided to do it in her memory. Mary was singing and reading some of her poems to an appreciative audience of 80 pensioners in Buckie Town House Hall, last Thursday afternoon.

**A new pastor for Buckie church** - The new pastor of the Church of Christ on West Church Street is Andrea Benzie who has been officiating since August. Andrea is studying at Aberdeen University where she is in her final year of a Bachelor of Theology and hopes to graduate in the summer.. Her husband Ian is from Buckie while she is from Wales. She replaces Rev Joe Sutherland and his wife Sue who retired in July and returned to the USA.

**Cullen Primary School** - (My first school in 1935, only it was the old one on Seafield Street now the Community Centre.) A new Head teacher has been appointed - Moyra Hendry.

**In support of St Peter's Primary School** - A new support group for St Peter's School in Buckie has started up. The first target for the 'Friends of St Peter's' is the purchase of playground equipment. The 'Friends' have been formed to replace the school's Parent/Teacher Association, which lacked enough support to continue, according to a spokesperson.

**The 'Lilywhites' again** - Buckie Rovers the junior football combine received a new strip in the traditional white colour from builder's merchants Travis Perkins... It was handed over to Captain Jamie Shewan by Hamish Auchinachie local manager.

Nov 7 **Church group in financial trouble** - A church group with its roots in Cullen and Buckie has had its assets seized after falling into serious debt. It has been revealed after a creditor's meeting that The Word of Life (International) Church owes more than £160,000. One of their principal assets is the property on St Andrew's Square, formerly part of the St Andrew's Hotel.

The function rooms of the hotel were acquired in controversial circumstances by the Beacon Fellowship, the forerunner of The Word of Life Church, from the then owner of the hotel Ernie Anderson who later tried to claim it back.

**Innovation at Buckie Shipyard** - Later this month steel hulls, manufactured in Russia, are to be shipped across the North Sea to Buckie for building two new twin-rig trawlers at Buckie Shipyard as the company combats the problems caused by the strong British pound and continuing on a programme of steady expansion.

**Stuart Scott** - The town of Buckie has lost one of its hardest working personalities with the death of Stuart Scott who passed away on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 13 St Peter's Road. He had a high profile on many local committees, including being chairman of the local Chamber of Commerce and also the Round Table. An Aberdonian and chef by profession he came to Buckie when his wife Kathryn was appointed Assistant Principal Teacher of English at Buckie Community High School.

**The Red Cross** - The British Red Cross officially opened their new Buckie Centre last Wednesday November 1<sup>st</sup>. The Centre is part of the existing Red Cross shop at 39 West Church Street... Mrs Nannie Coull who has been connected with the Red Cross for 47 years cut the ribbon.

Nov 14 **Remembrance Day Services** - One of the largest turnouts for many years gathered on High Street and around Cluny Square for the parade and Remembrance Day Service held on Sunday morning. John R. Stewart, Chairman of the British Legion was Parade Commander. The Last Post and Reveille were sounded on the bugle by Michael Widdrington of 1<sup>st</sup> Buckie Company of the Boys Brigade. Pipe Major Ian Flaws of the Buckie Pipe Band played the lament 'The Floopers of the Forest'. Similar services took place at Cullen, Findochty Portknockie, Fochabers, and Bellie Churchyard and at the Dallachy War Memorial at Bogmoor.

**A start has been made** - The builders, Hall and Tawse, Elgin, have commenced working at Seafield Hospital on the £1.3 million refurbishment of the building. Twenty patients have been moved to Portsoy with the remainder in the Muirton Unit. The project will see the culmination of nine years work at Seafield Hospital where already £1.4 million has been

spent on the Muirton Unit, outpatients and physiotherapy departments, kitchen and boiler room.

**Buckie Town Centre Initiative** - Over £16.000 is to be spent on new notice boards, cycle racks, seating, finger posting signs, railings and floodlighting.

**Are you any good with a pencil?** The *Banffshire Advertiser* is looking for a new Chief Reporter.

**War –time friends meet** - Mr Jimmy Thomson, a former Principal Teacher of Guidance and member of the Technical Department at Buckie Community High School was a pilot during World War II. Earlier this year he put a notice in *Delete* asking if any of his old mob were still around and if so to get in touch with him. He was fortunate to be put in touch with his former co-pilot Douglas Bragg who lives in Devon. Jimmy travelled south to meet him for the first time in over 55 years.

Nov 21 **Buckie saleroom makes the news** - The owner of Cluny Auctions, John Ferguson, decided earlier this year to put his business on the Internet and has now been rewarded for his foresight. The sale room record was smashed last week when a pair of nineteenth century English tea tables went for over £20.000, more than treble the price the auctioneer had anticipated. Bids were coming in from Ireland and America as well as many places in the U.K. Mr Ferguson said that he was truly amazed and thought that it was very unlikely that he would ever experience the like again.

**Toll Bar danger spot** - Another accident took place at the Toll Bar Junction on the A98 to add to its reputation as one of the worst, if not the worst, accident black spot in Moray.

**Yvonne wins a national award** - Buckie Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, Yvonne Duncan, has been presented with a national award for her outstanding contribution for the work of Neighbourhood Watches in the area.

**Findochty Salvation Army** celebrated their arrival in the village 116 years ago with a weekend of special events. Husband and wife Richard and Sandra Welch were also celebrating their two years in Findochty. They were both promoted from Lieutenant to Captains this summer.

**Portknockie folk celebrated** the official opening of the new youth club in Church Street last week as a result the S. O. M. Y 2 GO the Youth Club now really have somewhere to go and somewhere very good at that.

**He has played 500 times** - Alan 'Mickey' McPherson made his 500<sup>th</sup> appearance for the Thistle on Saturday in the game at McKessack Park against Rothes, where the game ended in a draw of one goal each.

The Thistle team was - Rae, Grant Davidson (Stewart), Anderson, McPherson, Rattray, Rowley, Stephen, Thomson (Duncan), Bruce (Reid), Craik. Subs. J. Matheson, Lamberton.

**We now have wir ain tartan** - Buckie is one of the first towns to have its very own tartan. The Buckie and district tartan is available in kilts, ties and other gift ideas. The tartan is available from Brenda Mair, Portknockie and also from Gent Elle on Cluny Square. Brenda is a trained kilt maker having served her time at the kilt school in Keith.

**Christmas Lights** - The Buckie Christmas lights were switched on this year by two eight year old boys, Kurt Grant and William Mair.

**Advert** - The Anchor Bar and Stars Lounge are to reopen soon after extensive refurbishment - the bar on 4 December and the lounge on the 9<sup>th</sup>. The owners are Sheena and Billy.

**He was good wi his hands** - Alan Robertson of Portknockie a school leaver of Buckie Community High School returned to the school to receive an award after coming second in the National Craft Competition and picked up a cheque for £150 for his prize-winning coffee table. Alan was only one of four Scottish pupils to reach the finals. This is the third year in succession that a pupil of Buckie Community High School has made the finals. Three years ago the candidate came fourth, the next year third and now second. The Technical Department have high hopes of coming first in 2001.

Andrew is not, however, to become a joiner, or any kind of woodworker as he is training to be a fisherman and in time will become a member of the crew of his father's new boat, the Crystal River. The table will though have pride of place in his mum's lounge, Andrew said. John Steele P.T. Technical Department described Alan as a talented lad and the table including the turned legs were all his own work.

**'Memories are Made of This'** is the name of a new book produced by the people of Fochabers and included in the 56 pages are recollections of old Fochabers in the form of articles and poems written by residents and visitors. One of the contributors is Dickie Grant who is seen holding copies of the book. Dickie who ran a haulage business in the village first came to Fochabers in 1940 though he left for a spell when he ran the Lennox Bar in Portgordon. He is a native of Buckie where he served his time as a watchmaker.

**Advert** - Denim Plus -Grapevine, 38-40 East Church Street are **to close down** at the end of December when all stock will be cleared. The shop is for sale or lease.

**Rovers beat their bogey side** - Buckie Rovers beat Deveronside by one goal to nil despite the pessimism of their scribe A. L. Nath. The 'Side were at home and sitting comfortably at top of the league.

The Rovers were represented by the following - Belcher, Costello, Brockie, Cruickshank, Cormack, J. Shewan, Lyon, A. Farquhar, Sinclair, Fielding (M. Shewan), Smith (Nicol), and Sub - Rigby. The whole team were Buckie loons. The goal was scored by A. Farquhar off a Lyon cross.

**Supporters foot the bill** - The newly revived Buckie Thistle Supporters Club have already done their bit to help the club by contributing £1000 towards the transfer of top striker Brian Thomson to Buckie.

Dec 5 **Football team from 'Down Under'** Malcolm Cowie who emigrated to New Zealand 14 years ago after being a P.E. teacher in Moray for a number of years is now President of New Zealand Football Association is returning to this area with the New Zealand under 18 football side who are to play a Scottish under 18 side in a friendly match at Princess Royal Park on Sunday 10 December. The match end in a victory for Scotland by two goals to nil... The scorers were Brighton of Rangers and Craig Reid East Stirling. Malcolm, like his brother Willie, played for Buckie and Keith and also had short spells with Rangers and Southampton.

Dec 12 **The 'Christmas Cracker' Carnival** - Santa arrived by helicopter at Linzee Gordon Park. The weather was good and Dougal Simpson Chairman of Buckie 1<sup>s,t</sup> organisers of the event, declared it to have been a brilliant day for everyone involved with everything going as was hoped for.

**From Russia to Scotland** - Two boat hulls which will in time be converted into fishing vessels arrived safely in Buckie harbour last week following a rather epic journey across a rough North Sea, Their journey began from the Russian port of St Petersburg where they were constructed. The work of completing the two fishing vessels is worth £1 million to the Buckie shipyard.

**Local priest lands in hospital** – Father Eddie Traynor parish priest of St Peter’s, Buckie while on a visit to Rome took ill and was taken to hospital.

**‘Steam Drifters Recalled’** is the name given to a new book compiled by David Mair, Campbell Smith, David Williamson and Joseph ‘Joe’ Reid. The book describes the history of every drifter owned or registered in the area from Portgordon to Portsoy.

Dec 19 **New department at Buckie Community High School** - A new unit for pupils with special needs was opened last week.

**New Sewage Treatment Plant** - Moray Council voted by 9 to 6 in favour of locating the new Sewage Treatment Plant at March Road over the alternative possible site at Carnoch Wood. Councillors Leslie and Jappy voted for Carnoch Wood.

New sewage pipes will be laid from Portgordon in the west to Cullen in the east to the treatment plant with an outfall at Strathlene. The cost of the whole scheme is approximately £20 million.

Councillor Jappy said two positives arising out of the new sewage scheme are that it will create some short term jobs and cleaner beaches.

**Poem** – A short poem written by Greta Murray is to be found on page 8 and columns six and seven.

**New shop opened** - The premises at 27a West Church Street occupied for a long time by Antonio Jannetta and then by his family and known as the Central Soda Fountain is now a music shop known as ‘Sonus’ owner Charles Grant. The shop stocks music to suit all music lovers – CD’s, cassettes, records etc. (In the year 2002 it changed hands again and was opened as a Indian Fast Food, Take Away )

**Big day in the Church** - On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rt. Rev Dr Andrew R. C. McLellan, made a historic visit to Buckie to preach a sermon to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Buckie South and West Church.

Dec 26 **First in Scotland** – A local accountants has recently seen one of its trainees come first in the whole of Scotland in a special accountancy exam. Elaine Milne, of Portsoy, has been training with Ritson’s Accountants of Buckie since she graduated from Robert Gordons University with BA Hons. In Accountancy and Finance in 1998.

**An employee of the Community Council** - With the secretary Allan Fraser admitting to having an increasing hearing problem it was agreed to advertise for someone to take the minutes. On Tuesday of last week Wilma Fredrickson started her first session.

**Citizen of the Year** - Buckie Community Council has introduced a Citizen of the Year Award and are hoping that as many people as possible are going to put their votes forward for the individuals or groups of their choice. A form to complete will be found in the local paper.

