

2002

Jan 1 **About wild boars in the Buckie district** - Around fifty jobs are soon to be created for the locals with the opening of a wild boar factory in the Buckie area.

Mr Andrew Ashcroft , an ex gourmet chef who has lived at Arradoul House for four years began breeding wild boars when he found the meat difficult to source in his days of food preparation.

The £1.2 million processing plant , which is to be funded on a part loan grant basis, has been able to access substantial European funds due to its environmentally friendly nature. (This didn't happen, unfortunately as we were to learn later.)

Santa brought a baby - A baby, named Emma weighing in at 8lbs 15ozs, was born to Portgordon couple Pauline and Graham Strachan 43 Gordon Street at Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin on Christmas Day.

B. A. Chief Reporter Jayne Chisholm has replaced John Rutter who has moved to Edinburgh and the Evening Express. She lives at Drybridge with her husband and four children. She is a native of South Wales where she began writing for the South Wales Argus in 1993 as a columnist , reviewer and Agony Aunt.

Flower Show stalwart dies - Gordon Low , died on 25th December. He was well known in the Buckie area for his good humour, hard work and involvement in the community. He was for many years manager of Hilton Farm on the outskirts of Buckie before moving into the town on retirement. He, along with his wife Jessie, was founder members of the Buckie and District Flower Show when it was resurrected a number of years ago. He was an enthusiastic exhibitor and also acted as Show Manager.

He did his National Service in the Black Watch and was wounded while on active service in Korea.

Gone but fondly remembered - On page 9 Allan Fraser writes of his sadness at seeing the long-standing cairn on the summit of the Bin Hill reduced to rubble and is full of criticism for the perpetrators of the act.

Jan 8 **He had a great love of the Clydesdales** - Jimmy Bennett who died last week in his 60's was well known for his love of Clydesdale horses. He saved up and bought a number of them, including a stallion , which he showed at Keith Show and numerous others throughout the north east. He kept them at Walkerdale and the Den Farm near Fochabers .

Buckie Rovers won their first game of 2002 when they beat RAF Lossiemouth by two goals to one at Merson Park.

Jan 15 **Missing man's body found** - The body of Buckie man, Edwin Morrison was found by a relative at the mouth of the river Spey. Mr Morrison , aged 58, was last seen by his wife at 11.30am on the 2nd January and his car was later found abandoned near the Spey. A former lorry driver with Gleaner Oils he suffered from a serious heart condition.

Butcher dies - Charles ‘Charlie’ Stewart a butcher in the town for many years died last week. He was born at Easter Gollachy, where his father farmed land now part of Buckpool Golf Course, in 1917. Leaving school at the age of 14 to become an apprentice butcher with his father in his shop next to the Cluny Hotel door on High Street (now part of Pozzi’s). During World War II he served with the Gordon Highlanders in a number of war spheres including France, North Africa and Italy. After the war he returned to the butcher trade and moved his shop from High Street to 10 West Church Street into which was formerly Fowler’s tea shop in 1972.

He was a founder member of Buckpool Golf Course and retained a great interest in the sport.

The cairn that once stood on top of the Bin - Following the exposition for the removal of the age-old cairn on the summit of the Bin Hill with the Rotary Club of Buckie being the perpetrators Allan Fraser had a second letter printed in the ‘Advertiser’. The Rotary Club were of the opinion that because of a few scribbles on the sides etc of the cairn their members decided that it was an eyesore and given permission to have it removed by the Seafield Estates and replace it with a totty, less than three feet high (absolutely useless for sheltering behind) stone-built block on which a direction finder had been placed.

Jan 22 **An excellent money raiser -** Local man Kenny Nicol has again succeeded in raising a vast sum of money for the children of the area with his Buckie Christmas Kids (BCK) charity events. The appeal has been running for a number of years and was started up by Kenny himself in the Thistle Bar. With the help of others a variety of events have been held including dances and coffee mornings.

Chosen as cadet for Lord Lieutenant - Buckie boy Michael Widdrington has been chosen to be the cadet for Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire, Mr James McPherson during Princess Anne’s visit to the town on Thursday 24 January 2002 when she will officially open the wards of the newly refurbished part of Seafield Hospital.

Needed a reporter - J & M Publishers Ltd., require a reporter to supplement the editorial staff. He or she must be enthusiastic, competent and literate.

The fishing scene - Last week eleven boats came in to Buckie harbour to unload their catches. The catch in total was 746 boxes of white fish, 90 boxes of prawns and 973 bags of scallops. The boats were Golden Eagle, Surina, Emily Jane, Shemariah, Mayflower, Jasper, Kestrel, Nordic Prince, Victory, Kemara and Tjeerd Jacoba.

Jan 29 **Royal visit -** Princess Anne’s visit to Buckie last week was the first Royal visit to the town for around twenty years when the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh last visited. The ‘Advertiser’ was full of photographs taken of places where Princess Anne paid a call including, of course the hospital, but also the Lifeboat Station and the ‘Buckie Drifter’.

The Lampie Hoose – Portgordon - A photograph shows a paraffin lamp being lit to mark the opening of Portgordon new Resource Centre – The Lampie Hoose on the square.

A new chapter has begun in the life of Portgordon's redundant library building. The library closed by Moray Council in 1997 in a round of cut-backs is to reopen its doors as a community resource centre.

- Feb 5 **Fochabers by-pass** - "The wheels are now very much in motion for the Fochabers by-pass after many years of conflicting opposition and many local people are delighted with the news" (Copying this note down in November 2006 one must say that it would seem that the wheels must have fallen off the chariot with no progress having been made. A. F.)

The question was asked. If the First World War or Great War ended in November 1918 why 1919 is given on War Memorials? The answer given was that though it is true that the First World War between Germany and Britain with her allies ended in November 1918 there were still battles raging in different parts of the world. A truce was signed in November 1918 but it was not until the 28 June 1919 that the Treaty of Versailles was signed in the beautiful ballroom, of Versailles Palace to officially end the war. Many soldiers did not return home until well into 1919.

Princess Anne's visit - Allan Fraser added his tuppence to a letter that had been written by a nine year old girl, Janie Murray, who was most disappointed that after standing for a long time in cold and damp weather to see Princess Anne she never looked their way or spoke to anyone. See page 12. Allan Fraser said that the princess had spent a considerable amount of time in some places, such the 'Drifter' (I was there.) and blame should be put upon those who rushed her from here to there. Janie had said it was all a waste of time but Allan added that perhaps not all together as he knew of some little girls who were given new shoes and skirts for the occasion so it wasn't all for nothing as they thought.

It maks a difference if yi hinna got the Doric - The 'Advertiser' reporter who checked over the Rovers' football report written by A. L. Nath changed the spelling of a word and hence the meaning of the phrase. The scribe had written a strong wind had **spilt** the game which had been changed to **split** the game thinking that it was a spelling error. **Des mak a difference, you must agree.**

- Feb 12 **Cullen Town Hall** - A Deed of Lease is in its final stages to affirm that Moray Council will retain ownership of Cullen Town Hall with a local committee leasing the building with the responsibility for its day to day running and any minor repairs to the hall. The Council will continue to be responsible for any major expenses.
The Town Hall saga has been going on for two years now since Moray Council threatened to make cut-backs by closing four halls in Moray, justifying the closure of Cullen Town Hall by its loss of £3.000 per annum.

Help required carrying on the work - Local man Kenny Nicol managed to raise the sum of £6000 though his Buckie Christmas Kids (BCK) appeals in 2001 with events such as coffee mornings and dances etc. He is now working offshore and as such does not have the same time as he had formerly. For this reason he is asking for assistance to continue the work.

Feb 19 **Buckie Community Council** - The first meeting of the new Buckie Community Council took place in the Town House. Derek Horrobin who has been chairman for some years now was returned to the chair with Allan Fraser as secretary/treasurer and James Smith as assistant chairman. Other members are – Joe Mackay, Rev Mark Bentham and Brian Wilkinson.

Bridge over the Buckie Burn - There was some good news for Buckie at the Moray Council Budget Review meeting last week as funding was awarded to replace the footbridge over the Buckie Burn that used to link Buckpool to Buckie and was much used by school pupils going to and from the school.

Feb 26 **Maynes of Buckie** - The family run Buckie bus company Maynes Coaches have recently scooped the prestigious award for the best medium-sized (16-30) vehicles category coach companies in Britain and came runner-up in the overall category at the recent ceremony in Birmingham.

We are now on the web - Buckie Library gets internet friendly - Free internet and e-mail access is now available in Buckie Library along with 7 other places throughout Moray.

Buckie artist to hold exhibition - The highly acclaimed Buckie-born artist Faye Phimister is soon to be displaying her work in a first ever major UK exhibition titled 'Fragments' to be held in Aberdeen , her first place of study.

'Advertiser 'reporter to jump from a great height - Wendy Clerihew is to do a parachute jump in aid of charity.

Mar 5 **New Bobby** - The new sergeant at Buckie Police Station is Stuart Wright who has been sergeant at Keith for the past five years. He began his police career in Buckie in 1979 where he stayed for three years.

New minister for Buckie South and West Church linked with Enzie - Rev John Hegarty (60) who is meantime minister at Cupar is to be inducted on Thursday March 21

The Drop in Centre has shifted - The Buckie Drop-In Centre previously situated at the rear of the Red Cross Shop on West Church Street has recently re-located to the Baptist Church hall on Cluny Terrace.

SNP AGM - At the annual general meeting of the local branch of the Scottish National Party Roy Shepherd a party activist since the 1950's was made the first Honorary President. Office bearers appointed for 2002 were – Gordon McDonald, Convener; Linda McDonald, vice convener; Sarah Henderson, secretary; Louisa Thain, treasurer; Margaret Hamilton, organiser; Ian Hamilton , organiser, Membership secretary – Colin Shepherd; Donald Morrison – Press Officer.

Mar 12 **HMI Education report** - Buckie Community High School received a very good report by HM Inspectors of Education following a critique in November 2001 as part of a national sample of secondary education.

Buckie Thistle - Alan Scott, Buckie Thistle manager for the past four years has threatened to resign if various issues (not disclosed to the public) are not swiftly attended to by the committee, which he described as not being in good shape.

Mar 19 **Change of name** - Buckie and District Cancer Group formerly known as Buckie Cancer Link recently held its inaugural meeting since the retirement of Mrs Bella Cowie who started up the local Cancer branch.

The fishing scene - Last week six boats brought in 32 boxes of white fish and 403 bags of scallops. The boats were – Kestrel, Crystal River, Kelly, Aspire, Zephyr and Golden Eagle.

Mar 26 **Her design was chosen** - Leanne Grant a 2nd year pupil at Buckie Community High School had a stained glass window she designed accepted and set up at the entrance to the Dolphin Exhibition at the Moray Wildlife Centre at Tugnet. This will be officially opened by TV personality and conservationist Michaela Strachan.

The production of the stained glass window was part of a project in Art in conjunction with the Wild Life Centre overseen by teacher Tom Kennedy.

Leanne was presented with a number of prizes for her design, including beautifully illustrated dolphin book and dolphin merchandise.

New minister takes up his post at last - - A new minister Rev. John Hegarty has finally been appointed to Buckie South and West Church, linked with Enzie. After a wait of 18months with the official induction taking place last Thursday.

On the staff of the ‘Advertiser’ - Keith lad Tommy Smith, an MA graduate in English of Aberdeen University, (1995) has been working on the *Banffshire Advertiser* for the past six weeks. Apart from his university degree he took a course at Robert Gordons University in Publishing Studies.

Apr 2 **New Police Station** - A new custom built Police Station has been completed on Seafield Street, Cullen and is now in use.

Open for the season - The ‘Buckie Drifter’ has opened its doors again for the season and boasts many new and varied things to interest all age groups.

A new exhibition has been set up at ground level with the herring barrels and ‘coopers’ that used to be located in the Fishing Heritage Museum adjoining the Library on Cluny Place. This had to be removed to make way when computer equipment was installed due to lack of space.

Apr 9 **The Queen Mother dies** - - A note of sympathy, a copy of which appeared on the front page of the ‘Advertiser’ was sent by the Lord Lieutenant James McPherson to the Royal family on behalf of the people of Banffshire, following the death the previous day of the Queen Mother.

A big one – didn’t get away this time - Mair’s the fish merchants, Buckie recently sold their largest ever fish in their entire 25 years of trading.

The 16 stone halibut , six foot long, was landed by the ‘Audacious’ in Lochinver then shipped to the Mansfield Hotel in Elgin being bought by the proprietor. The hotel chef later carved the big fish into 250 pieces.

They were both well known - Two people well known in the local community died within the past week. Ruby Hughson ‘Nurse Ruby’ was the founder of the Buckie Lyric Theatre Group and closely with it up until her death. She died at her home Gowanbrae St Peter’s Road on 30 March.

James Slater, 57, assistant harbourmaster and former skipper of the fishing boat Aries also passed away last week. He was a son of Peter and Nellie Slater, Main Street, Buckie and went to sea as a boy with his father on the family boat the ‘Fame’.

Apr 16 **Mrs Ewing MSP admitted to hospital** - Moray MSP Mrs Margaret Ewing has today (Tuesday) entered hospital in Edinburgh fro breast cancer surgery.

Apr 23 **Buckie Community Council** - Two new members were co-opted on to Buckie Community Council at the April meeting. They were Zafar Ali, a former member, a James Grieve, filling the west ward but still leaving four spaces on the east ward.

She jumped for charity - Trainee reporter with J & M Publishing, Wendy Clerihew of Knockando did a parachute jump for charity and later **described how it felt in a report on page 6**. She raised £423.50 for Aberlour Child Care Trust.

They went overseas - Twenty members of Buckie and District Pipe Band have recently returned from another successful and highly enjoyable trip to the Netherlands.

Apr 23 **Last game for Colin** - Colin Nicol was made captain of Buckie Rovers for the game against Fochabers at the Playing Fields, Fochabers, on Saturday to mark his severance from the club. He may be unaware that he made his debut for the Rovers against the same opposition, for whom he later played, back in August 1985 when he replaced Keith Sinclair in a high scoring game in which the Rovers ended up being beaten by nine goals to five.

For the record the Rovers team was – Redford, Taylor, G. Innes, Muir (J. Innes). Shewan, Sutherland (Henderson), Mackie, Sinclair (Nicol), Scott and Reid.

The Rovers were able to turn the tables on this occasion winning by six goals to two. The Rovers’ team was – Barron, Stewart, Nicol (M. Shewan), Cowie, Mowat (Miller), Lyon, Matheson, Farquhar, J. Shewan, Costello. Sub Sinclair.

Apr 30 **The late Alex ‘Paddy’ Cowie** - An obituary in this edition was written by his daughter Margaret Tong ‘Oor Margit’, California for her dad is to be found on page 6. Alex, known to many of his friends as ‘Paddy’ died in Seafield Hospital on April 20 2002 aged 88. He was a member and a regular attendee at the Heritage Museum where he enjoyed a crack with some of the other members. He wrote well and some of his stories from the past , included in the Heritage Newsletter were well worth reading. He enjoyed his football and at an advanced age would make his way over to Merson Park from the Seatown to see the Rovers play.

The Friendship Club - The first meeting of the Friendship Club took place recently and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. It was set up for local people to come along and simply make friends and enjoy themselves.

The Probus Club - Buckie and District Probus Club held their annual general meeting in the Cluny Hotel earlier in the month. The new President is Stan Smith, Ianstown, a retired stationer; John Watt, a retired policeman is vice president. The secretary, Bob Jamieson and treasurer Hugh Patience agreed to continue as did the auditor, Ian Stephen. The committee members are - Ian Jamieson, Eddy Gray, John Legge and the past president George Fleming, retired Farm Manager.

Management duo resign - Months after it was revealed that he was unsettled at the club Buckie Thistle boss Alan Scott has resigned from his position at Victoria Park along with assistant Billy Anderson.

May 7 **Citizen of the Year** - Local man Kenny Nicol was recently presented with Buckie's Citizen of the Year Award during a coffee morning in the North Church Hall which he organised himself in aid of Buckie Christmas Kids (BCK).

Fochabers By-Pass - An information gathering exercise was recently carried out around Fochabers and Mosstodloch as part of the Scottish Executive ongoing by-pass plans.

Buckie Choral Union - For their annual Spring Concert, Buckie Choral Union performed Rossini 'Petite Messe Solenelle' in St Peter's Church. Enhanced by the setting and music by the new organ its sound was greatly advanced by the warm acoustics.

The ACF - the Buckie Platoon Army Cadet Force recently received a certificate to acknowledge the hard work they put into Buckie Round Table Christmas Grocery Campaign. Seen in a photograph making the presentation to Junior Cadet Stacey Salmond was Round Table Chairman Alistair Farquhar.

Buckie Lyric Theatre Group - is soon to be showing its latest performance 'Annie' an adaptation of the well-known film in memory of the late Ruby Hughson 'Nurse Ruby' who founded the group 25 years ago and sadly passed away on 30th March this year.

Derby game Buckie Rovers v Portgordon. The Rovers won by four goals to two. The Rovers' team was – Barron, Stewart, Costello, Shewan, Brockie, Mowat. Lyon, Cowie, Farquhar(Smith), Duthie (Mair), Sinclair. Portgordon – Hutchison, Cormack, Innes, Smith, Coull, Campbell, Lamont, Imlach (Clark), Fielding, Farquhar, Forbes. Subs – Mitchell, King, Thain and Gordon. (In 2006 Duncan Lamont was playing for Fochabers with Malcolm Fielding playing for the Rovers, 'Scammers' Smith though not playing had been on the bench for the Rovers. Steve Lyon was with Islavale while Jimmy Shewan was playing regularly with Buckie Thistle. None of the others, in either team, were still involved.)

May 14

Buckie Thistle - Two new members have joined the board of Buckie Thistle Football Club. They are brothers Mark and Murray Duncan of the Duncan Group of companies which include Duncan Construction, Planwell and Red Seal Roofing.

Local poet has her poem published. Hazel Addison, a native of Tarland but who has lived in Buckie for forty six years with her husband who is a joiner has been busy selecting the best of her poems she has composed over the years to compile her first book 'Scraipins Fae The Howe', a collection of Doric pieces which was recently published in Turriff. Hazel has had a number of her poems published in papers and magazines but this is the first time that she has put some in book form.

Buckie Thistle won their last game of the season when they beat Keith at Victoria Park by two goals to nil. **Guesting in goal** for the Thistle was ex Rovers and Deveronside 'keeper **Mike Munro** while Kyle Macauley , a young striker from Fochabers , came on as a substitute and scored one of the goals.

Note - *When the Rovers were stuck for a keeper on the 4th November 2006 Mike, an oilman on leave, put back on the gloves and helped them to a victory over Whitehills. Kyle Macauley, a professional footballer with Aberdeen was on the bench for the Dons on the same day against Motherwell.*

The Thistle team against Keith was – Munro, Bruce (Smith), Catto, Davidson, Reid, Milne(Macauley), Rowley, Stephen, Green, Thomson (Rattray), Craik, Subs – McPherson, Duncan.

Buckie Cricket Club are shown in a photograph at the start of the new cricket season. The players are – Bill Jaffrey, Graeme Hepburn, Colin Thomson, Sean Macdonald, Gerry Cross, Willie Findlay, Stuart Plant, John Orten, John Corsie, Bill Flett, Eddie Corsie.

May 21

Bridge over the Buckie Burn - Work has begun on replacing the footpath bridges over the Buckie Burn which were washed away during high spates on the burn several years ago. Funds were earmarked for replacing a bridge at a recent meeting of Moray Council at a cost of £10,000 for the scheme, however two of the old bridges are to be replaced with two new structures.

Is Enzie Rural doomed to come to an end? - Disappointment was felt at the annual general meeting of Enzie WRI as only six members were willing to continue when the new season starts in September. As seven members are required to form a committee it was decided that unless more people came forward it will be the end of Enzie WRI. Nancy Wood gave her number for any interested persons to ring regarding putting their names forward.

An old name in the building trade to disappear - All employees of PDQ Holdings W. Douglas and Sons & C-View Windows with the exception of two who are assisting the Receivers have been paid off. The Receivers are trying to sell C-View Windows Limited and five sites that belonged to W. Douglas and Sons. Ltd.

The fishing scene - Last week four boats , the Golden Eagle, Vela, Nordic Prince and Harvest Moon landed 860 boxes of fish and 10 bags of clams at Buckie harbour.

Kyle Macauley, the 16 year old young Fochabers footballer who had been training with Buckie Thistle, has signed professional forms for Derby County the English 1st Division side.

May 28

Buckie Thistle - The new manager of Buckie Thistle is Kevin Will, a former player and assistant manager with the club and more recently co-manager of Huntly F.C.

She was on ‘Big Brother’ Buckie woman Lynne Moncrieff was one of the contestants on the TV programme ‘Big Brother’. She was the first to be voted off by the viewing public and her fellow competitors.

He arrived in Buckie after escaping from the Germans - Otto Thorensen, who first arrived in Buckie in 1940 when he and other escaped from Norway when it was overrun by the Germans. He married a local girl, Mary Mair in July 1942 and remained in Buckie for 60 years.

He was a cadet with a Norwegian shipping Line before the war and worked his way up to become a captain in 1946. he won a number of medals and awards during his time as a captain the most being the Knights Cross First Class of the Order of St Olav, the highest award possible for a Norwegian citizen to gain for bravery and seamanship skills. He died last week leaving his wife Mary and two children, a boy and a girl.

June 4

Appointed Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire - Mr Alan McIntosh of Kintail, West Church Street, Buckie, Principal Teacher of Guidance at Milne's High School. Fochabers and Captain of the 1st Buckie Company Boys' Brigade for many years has been appointed Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire along with Mrs Patricia Seligman of Turriff.

Buckie Thistle - At the annual general meeting the new executive committee appointed was as follows - Mark Duncan, President; Ian Clark, vice President; Andrew Smith, secretary ; Paul Munch, treasurer; Commercial manager – Alistair Miller; Murray Duncan and Garry Farquhar, financial advisers.

Buckie Thistle - Graeme Grant was named as the Banffshire Adviser –Player of the Year; Players' Player of the Year and Programme Players' Player of the Year Michael Rae; The Social Club's Player of the Year and Supporters' Player of the Year – Michael Rae.

June 11

The fishing scene - Last week 6 boats came in to Buckie harbour to land their catches . They were - Mak Siccar, Kestrel, Providence, Golden West, Staronia and Wavecrest. The total landings were – 267 boxes of fish, 30 boxes of prawns and 304 bags of scallops.

Buckie Swimming Pool - Appointments made - John Addison is now Assistant Facilities Officer with David Addison Senior Leisure Assistant. The two brothers have both worked at the pool since 1975.

John will have a say on how five other pools in Moray are ran.

June 18 **The foul deed has been done** - The Rotary Club of Buckie recently completed the viewfinder on the summit of the Bin Hill. The small stone feature , not three feet high, with a view-finder on top has replaced the large cairn that had stood on the same site for many, many years. The report said that many people would be delighted though I would suggest many others, including yours truly, would have a different opinion.

Portessie Gala Queen - Chosen as the Gala Queen for the year 2002 at a recent disco by Dougal and Moira Simpson of the Ice Cream Cabin was Rosanna Garden aged 11 with Rachel Simpson aged 9 as Princess.

Buckie Thistle - Three new players will be at Victoria Park this season - Richard Bowman, goalkeeper from Rothes, utility man Greig Pirie from Hermes, Aberdeen Junior club and Mark Wood, from Islavale. Two have left, Scott Anderson and Graeme Grant while Stephen Bruce has gone to America.

June 25 **Gulls are a menace** - The number of herring gulls who now nest on flat roofs and around chimney pots have in recent years continued to grow forsaking their traditional nesting places such as on hill tops which have more and more become planted with trees. Many residents in the town have been complaining recently about the aggressive nature of the gulls when they are protecting their young swooping down on passers by alarming to all especially children and the elderly. Many people have resorted to putting netting wire around their chimneys but the gulls quickly find alternative places to build their nests.

Portknockie lady and former teacher celebrates her 100th birthday - Miss Alice Slater known to most people as Allie celebrated her 100th birthday this week and received the customary telegram from the Queen. Miss Slater a graduate of Aberdeen University was a retired teacher and taught both English and Latin first at Keith Grammar and later at Buckie High School where she remained for many years.

Buckie Community Council - There was no meeting this month as only two of the members turned up . One who did was the secretary Allan Fraser who to date had only missed one meeting in all his long year's service.

Buckie Pipe Band went to France to the town of Bezu Sint Eloi, 44 kms North West of Paris to play during their fete weekend. The band was invited over to France by a former Buckie woman by the name of Minty who is married and lives in this gown.

July 2 **Buckie District Fishing Heritage Museum is open** again for the summer season with a plea going out for more volunteers to help man the centre. Anyone who does volunteer would not be expected to man the museum on his or her own but would double-bank with someone who had experience in what is required. The opening hours are from 10am till 12noon and from 2pm till 4pm Monday to Friday and from 10am till 12 noon on Saturday.

Friends of Seafield Hospital and Community Patients have just held their annual general meeting and although they have enough members to fill the offices of chairman, secretary and treasurer they would dearly like for more volunteers to come forward to help them continue the

work that the Friends have been doing over the years. In the report of the AGM information is given what the money raised over the years had been used for all to enhance the quality of life of all patients both within the hospital proper and in the community.

July 9

The wild boar project appears to have come to an abrupt end. The 400 wild boar have all bee removed from the Deer Park Forest near Arradoul after their owner Andrew Ashcroft, of Arradoul House, pulled out of the Scottish Organic Producers Association . The boars had been placed in the forest as an experiment in organic woodland management and was intended to rep many benefits for the taxpayer, the local community in terms of jobs as well as Mr Ashcroft and the Forestry Commission . The Forestry Commission manager of the area said that with Mr Ashcroft removing himself from the Association there was no way that the project could continue.

Canada Day at Dallachy - Canada Day was marked this year as it has been for some years at Dallachy War Memorial at Bogmoor with representatives from various groups including the Buckie Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Staff members retire - Two long serving members of the teaching staff at Buckie Community High School retired at the end of the school year. They are John Cowie who taught Technical subjects for 30 years and Mrs Frances Forbes of the Maths department who had been Assistant Principal Teacher since 1969.

Minister to move - Methodist Church Minister Rev Andrew Webb, his wife Sarah and sons Joseph and Samuel are leaving Buckie for Kendal in the Lake District. The family came to Buckie in 1997 and Rev Webb was minister for the Methodist congregations in Portgordon and Banff as well as Buckie and in Kendal he will have charge of five Methodist Churches.

The Fishing scene - Last week 19 boats made landing at Buckie harbour, the largest number for some considerable time. The boats were – Amazon, Intrepid, Southards, Adele, Alexandra, Promise, Stardust, Golden Eagle, Shekinah, Wave Crest, Adaptable, Enterprise, Rival, Mizpah, Kelly, Zephyr, Majestic III, Monadliath and Vela. Between them they put ashore – 589 boxes of white fish, 600 boxes of prawns and 473 bags of clams.

A clever loon – The Dux and winner of the Miller Medal of Buckie Community High School this year is Carson Aitken whose father Ray is PT, Religious Education in the school

Buckie Rovers F. C. At the annual general meeting office bearers appointed for the coming year were as follows - President Dr Jim Tuckerman; vice President – Alan Strachan; secretary/treasurer – Dave Roberts. Dr Tuckerman was president of the club back in 1986 and was prevailed upon to once again take over the reins. '*Following the resignation of Manager George Wright and coach Graeme Roy last month*' (A statement with which I couldn't agree as to my mind they were forced out and although I was a member of the committee was not consulted,) the Rovers have fixed up Graeme Tallis and Jackie Reid from Keith as a new management team. Jackie Reid was formerly the manager of Deveronside. In addition there will be a coaching team of Jim McAllister, Colin Nicol and David 'Parro' Findlay. Committee members Allan Fraser, Sonny Johnston, Gary Innes and Teresa Innes.

New signings for Buckie Thistle - Matthew Gairns from Huntly, part of a swop deal which saw veteran striker Brian Thomson return to the Strathbogie side, Richard Bowman, a goalkeeper, from Rothes, Greig Pirie from Hermes, Scott Taylor from Banks of Dee. He was formerly with Cove Rangers.

July 16 **Moray Desktop Publishing Training Project**, based upstairs in the Town House, currently have training places available for those who are unemployed and are living in rurally excluded areas of Moray.

Young members - Buckie Community Council have announced the names of two youngsters who will join them at their meetings. They are Roy Petersen and Rachel Turner, both senior pupils at Buckie Community High School who will be the voice for youngsters in Buckie.

They cut a cake - A photograph shows Willie and Jessie Mair as they cut a cake to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary presented to them by committee members of the Fishing Heritage Museum of which Willie is the chairman and Jessie a member of the committee. **This is found on page 3 along with a report on the couple.**

Buckie Thistle's new signings - A photograph shows the new players who have been signed by the Thistle and in the line up are two local loons Mark Wood who was signed from Islavale and Jamie Shewan from the Rovers.

July 23 **Buckie is to have a new lifeboat** - A Severen class lifeboat costing £1.8 million is presently being built at DML Plymouth, Devon and next year will replace the present Arum class lifeboat 'Charles Brown', which has been on station since 1984. **See the report on the front page.**

Friends to hold an EGM - The Friends of Seafield Hospital and Community Patients are to hold an emergency general meeting in the hospital on Wednesday 24 July in the hope of finding new members. There is a real danger that the organisation will fold if more people do not come forward and are prepared to become office members.

Will your anchor hold? Two local oilmen, Ronnie Morrison and Edwin Devlin salvaged a large anchor from the beach near the Yardie where it had lain for 46 years. It came off the once proud three-masted wooden ship Prince Louis that came to grief on the rocks at this point when being towed round to Buckpool harbour to be broken up and had to be set on fire where she lay.

The report on the front page tells how the two men set about rescuing the anchor, got it ashore and delivered to the Heritage Museum where it now lies as an interesting artefact.

Bridge over the Buckie Burn - A photograph on page 2 shows the new bridge that has been erected over the Buckie Burn. It is much used by school pupils from parts of Buckpool as they go to and fro the Cluny and High Schools.

Obituary for John Hinde is found in this edition. John who died recently served for thirty years with the Royal Air Force was married to Findochty woman Betty. He was an eminent hill walker and mountaineer and whilst in the RAF led the Mountain Rescue Team for many years.

New Co-ordinator - Gwen Snow has been appointed co-ordinator of the Solid Rock Youth Café on East Church Street.

Now open - A new leather superstore with the largest selection of quality leather suites in Scotland has opened at 11 to 14 Marine Place.

Shields presented to High School pupils - A photograph in this edition shows Mr Joe Mackay, a member of Buckie Community Council handing over the Community Council Millennium shield to Mhairi while Willie Mair, Chairman and Mrs Jean Taylor of the Fishing Heritage Museum hand over the two Heritage shields to Andrew Duncan for the best local History essay and to Lauren Taylor for Best Endeavour in History.

Thistle put one over the Auld Enemy - In a pre-season friendly match Buckie Thistle beat Elgin City, now in the Third Division, by three goals to one.

Peter Fair - The local paper reported that large crowds had attended the Fair in each of the three days in which it was open. The organisers claimed that it was bigger and better with a much improved layout. The weather kept fairly good throughout.

Vandalism at Portgordon and Buckpool - Considerable damage was done to the surface of the bowling green in Portgordon over the weekend when benches and other items were dumped on the grass. In addition a number of deep holes were dug on the surface. Over in Buckpool goal post were removed from Merson Park and found lying on Merson Street.

Buckie wedding - The wedding took place last week of Emma Martin and Kris O'Mahoney. Kevin Fraser was best man.

'Teenz Fellowship' a new group called 'Teenz Fellowship' are to meet on Sunday evenings in the Church of Christ Hall (side entrance of Pringle Street). The 'Fellowship' is open to all age groups attending Buckie Community High School. The first meeting will take place on Sunday 18 August.

Lifeboat Gala - Though the room to hold the Gala is much reduced now due to safety rules and regulations with the close proximity to the harbour out of bounds it was still considered to have been a success with people turning out to offer their support. The weather which was not of the best early on improved greatly as the day wore on. Money rose amounted to £1700, not including the raffle, which was considerably up on last year's figure of £1200. To have the Lifeboat Open Day at the same time was an innovation and appears to have paid off.

The Rotary Club of Buckie - A photograph in this edition shows Immediate Past President Davie Wood handing over the jewel to his successor Jim Farquhar as new member, and second lady to join the Club Marie McDonald attending her first Rotary meeting looks on.

The fishing scene - Last week eleven boats landed their catches at Buckie harbour. They were – Southards, Shekinah, Intrepid, Amazon, Beryl, Kelly, Golden West, Kemara, Rival, Pisces and Clarness.

Aug 6 **Bus depot to close** - Buckie bus depot on March Road is to close on Sunday August 18th, The closure has been one of the options investigated by operators Stagecoach Bluebird since they bid unsuccessfully for local school contracts.

More vandalism in Portgordon - The floral train with engine and carriages sited on the former railway track through the village were all upset over the weekend with the plants and compost strewn about.

Obituary for the late Emil Wojcik - This is found [on page 5](#). Emil , a former Polish ex-serviceman was one of the most well known personalities in the town. He was 81.

He began very well - Mark Wood the former Rovers and Islavale player score four goals in the first league match of the season when Buckie beat Rothes by six goals to one. Jamie Shewan who played for the Rovers the previous season also scored.

Aug 13 **The Gull problem** - Because of the number of complaints registered by householders Moray Council are studying various measures that could be employed to try to decrease the number of herring gulls that now nest in places such as Buckie, Lossiemouth and Elgin. These might involve culling the number of gulls, removal of their eggs and nests, disturbance of the birds, denying bird's access to food or proofing properties against gulls. One measure that was seen to be used was the removal of nests around chimney pots of council housing.

Salvation Army Officer - The new Salvation Army officer in Buckie is Captain Elizabeth Pritchard who originally came from Northern Ireland.

Commemorative windows - A local artist Moragh McDonald of Ianstown recently unveiled a set of stain glass windows at Spey Bay village hall which commemorate the life of past chairman of the hall committee Steve 'Pep' Paterson, farmer, who led the hall committee until his tragic death at Buckie harbour 18 months ago.

The windows show a scene from Spey Bay with the hills in the back ground, the old railway bridge and two birds flying over. Ms Mc Donald felt that the birds flying, free and easy, across the landscape summed up the character of Mr Paterson. It took her a whole month from start to finish to first design and then produce the windows.

Aug 20 **Gardeners make it a habit** - For the fifth year running Mr and Mrs Bert Newlands of 18 Letterfourie Road were winners of the Best Council House garden in Buckie. Isobel Cowie, 24 Letterfourie Road was second with Mr and Mrs Grant, 24 Harbour Street, third. In Cullen Mr and Mrs Addison, 14 Queen's Drive won the competition for the 8th time. Mrs Eleanor Aitken, 22 Victoria Street was second.

Baker's shop opened - Ashers the bakers who have been in business for 125 years and have shops in Elgin, Forres, Nairn, Inverness and Aviemore have opened a branch shop at 3 High Street.

The Friendship Club – The recently formed Friendship Club is running at a loss and is in danger of folding if it is unable to increase its membership.

Aug 27 **Church likely to close** - The Deskford Church of Scotland is in a poor state of repair and due to the substantial sum of money that would be required to overhaul the building it would appear as though the church will close in the near future.

Closing down - 'M' 14 High Street, Buckie, a clothing shop that caters for the very young up to about their early teens is to close and is having a closing down sale.

Cullen lose a butcher's shop - John Paterson and his wife Sheila who have been in business in Cullen as butchers for the past 29 years closed the shop for the last time on Saturday.

Sept 3 **He is good at the baking** - Richard Low, Banff, whose parents the late Gordon and Jessie Low who were founder members of Buckie Flower Show took three prizes in the Baking and Confectionery section at the recent Buckie Flower Show, only the second time this has been done at Buckie.

Richard a highly skilled chef who retired from showing six years ago decided to enter this year as attribute to his dad who was so much involved with the Show and who died this year.

Doctor has a book published - Dr Walker a GP at Ardach Health Centre has had a book published with the title – 'Consulting with NLP' the book attempts to explain the importance of building good relationships of trust over the years with patients and helps doctors to put across information in a way that people can understand it.

Opening at Marine Place - The shop at 16a has been taken over by Discount Carpets who advertise that they have a huge selection in stock at all prices.

Early death of former postman - Paul Kozlowski, a native of Elgin, married and living in Buckie for some years where he was Delivery Manager with the Royal Mail died on Saturday 24 August at the age of 49. He had been ill for some time.

The fishing scene - Last week thirteen boats came into Buckie harbour to land their catches. Together they put ashore – 1360 boxes of white fish, 178 boxes of prawns and 319 bags of scallops.

The boats were Aquarius, Nordic Prince, Adele, Golden Eagle, Kelly, Onward, Copius, Vela, Wavecrest, Mak Siccar, Zephyr, Osprey and Clarness.

A poem is found on page 12 and columns 3-5. It was written by Jon Dee and titled 'Drybridge Barn Dance' (We learn in a later edition via letter from Helen Burnett in East Kilbride that it

was written by her father John ‘Jock’ D. McLennan who was manager of McGruther and Marshals, Builders Merchant’s store in Buckie up until his death in 1967.)

Buckie Flower Show - The number of entries at 540 was well up on the previous year though some sections suffered from the adverse weather conditions earlier in the year.

Sept 10 **An ordination in the North Church -** During a ceremony last week in the North Church, Buckie Margaret King of Fochabers was ordained as a Deacon. In the past women were commissioned rather than being ordained but the change took place as there was a realisation within the church that the type of ministry carried out by a Deacon is not less important than that carried out by an ordained minister.

Sept 17 **You needn’t call then -** Ardach Health Centre will be closed between 12.30 and 2pm on the last Thursday of each month starting 26 September 2002 for the purpose of training. The door will be locked with only emergency services with the Duty Doctor.

Buckie ‘Teenz Fellowship’ - The newly formed Christian Group in Buckie is going from strength to strength. The organisation was the brainchild of Rev Andria Benzie Church of Christ who started up the group to give youngsters of 12 to 15 years the opportunity to examine issues and see ways in which they relate to Christianity.

A poem is found on page 10 and columns 1-3. Written by J. M. Cae it is title ‘The Enzie’

Junior football - Buckie Rovers 1 Hermes (Aberdeen) 0 Rollstud Regional Cup Preliminary Round. Barron, Mowat, Brockie, Low, Innes, Lyon, Costello, M. Shewan, Farquhar (Cowie), Matheson, Findlay (Slater), Subs – Nicol, McIntosh, Belcher.

Sept 24 **Buckie 10K -** This year there were 170 entrants for the annual Buckie 10K. A nice touch was the new Emil Wojcik Trophy in remembrance of the well known local man who passed away this year and whose business Louis Chip Shop are the main sponsors of the event.

The first male past the winning post was Frankie Barton of Keith and District Athletics Club now a veteran with a time of 32.090 minutes; 2nd was Callum Davidson, Aberdeen Amateur Athletics Club whose time was 32,160minutes.

Kyle Cowie at 14 years of age ran the race in a time of 38.380 minutes - a tremendous achievement for someone so young. For the organisers to cover them Kyle was allowed to run but was not insured.

First female over the line was - Jane Barker of Moray Road Runners who came in at 27th with a time of 38.080minutes. Second was Maureen Mackie, Banff, whose time was 41.470 minutes. Some runners were sponsored with the sum of £600 being raised for charity.

Oct 1 **Wind Farms -** The proposal by the Forestry Commission to erect a Wind Farm on the summit of Aultmore was the main subject being discussed by both Buckie and Arradoul and Rathven Community Councils following on an exhibition held in the Town House a week or so before. There were letters in the local paper on the subject against the proposal.

A poem is found on page 15 and columns one and two - It is titled 'Buckie in the Twenties' 'Not author's name is given.

Oct 8 **OVD Scottish Junior Cup** - 1st Round - Buckie Rovers 0 Forth Wanderers 3 (The Rovers never lost Lang!)

Oct 15 **A big grant** - Buckie Shipyard Ltd. Is to benefit from a cash injection of £1.5 million to fund a major new development safeguarding at least 50 full time jobs. (The work when completed allowed the shipyard to handle the repair and refurbishment of lifeboats. A special machine lifts the lifeboat out of the water and carries it across the main road to a purpose built shed on the south side.)

Last day of business – 'M' 14 High Street, Buckie will close down on Saturday November 2. All stock must go ½ price sale.

Oct 22 **By-pass protestor battles on** - A protestor against the north route for the Fochabers by pass continues to have a grievance against the plans and is now questioning the effect which the revision made recently to the original plans may mean for the village.

Opening announcement - A new shop called 'Attitude' is to open at 10 East Church Street on Monday 28 October – nail bar, body art, tanning studio – Angela Thomson, HNC Nail Technician - Lisa Cowie, HND Beauty Therapist.

***** **Former Thistle football player dies** - The death was announced of Martin Buchan who played in the highly successful Thistle teams through the 1950's. He died on Monday 14 October aged 78. A report is given on page 5.

They gave lots of blood - A photograph shows four local men who have each given 50 pints of blood all of which could be used. They are Alexander Innes, David Hendry, Gordon Cowie and David Whyte. They all recently attended a presentation in Aberdeen where they were given awards in recognition of the amount of blood given over the years.

Like manna from heaven - A seagull dropped a garfish , similar to a sand eel, at the feet of John Anderson, former fisherman and regular letter contributor to the 'Advertiser'. John explained that they are less common in the sea here but more so off East Anglia and as cook on boats had often eaten them

A poem is found on page 12 and columns 1-2. It was written by Helen Wood, Yardie. Title - Ode to Local Traffic Problems.

A poem is found on page 14 columns 2-6. This was written by late Alex Sutherland better known as Alex 'Sid' of Findochty. The title – 'Depressed Rhymes of the Times'.

Oct 29 **The Fochabers by-pass** - There was a mixed response to the latest exhibition of maps etc showing details and effects of the revisions to the original plan. There had always been a fair

number opposed to the north route though the majority of villagers probably were for this route as opposed to one to the south.

A poem (short) is found on page 5 and column 5. Written by D. Rothwell and titled ‘The Poppy’. It was handed in to the ‘Advertiser’ by Hazel Mair of the Royal British Legion, Buckie Branch, who said that she always had it pinned up at Remembrance Time.

Nov 5 **The fishing scene -** 26 boats (a considerable number at this time) landed 788 boxes of white fish, 90 boxes of prawns and 481 bags of scallops at Buckie harbour last week. The boats were – Nordic Prince, Clarness, Oceana, Shekinah, Golden Eagle, Osprey, Two Boys, Jasper, Pisces, Kestrel, Kelly, Wavecrest, Shimanda, Tjeerd Jacoba, Boy Bryan, Sea Reaper, Shalgar, Majestic III, Onward, Tranquillity, Loyal Friend, Shalimar, Kate Elizabeth and Voyager.

Buckie Bobbie on bikes - A photograph shows PC Diane Webster on one of the new bikes to be used by Bobbies to patrol the area.

The Friendship Club is to hold a Scots Night in the Marine Hotel on Saturday 23 November. On the programme will be the Alison Munro dancers and the Moray Minstrels.

Buckie Rovers 2 Forfar West End 3 (A.E.T) in the NCR Inter Regional Cup 2nd Round.

Nov 12 **Mighty inferno** - The hall and a considerable part of the St Andrews Hotel was destroyed by fire on Saturday night. A number of foreign workers who have been guests in the hotel had to get out quickly and many lost a lot of their belongings in the blaze.

Portknockie girl received the plaudits - Buckie Community High School pupil Paula Hedley of Portknockie produced a fine performance at the Science and Parliament 2002 conference in Edinburgh last week. Paula chosen to represent the pupils of Scotland gave a polished performance in her power point presentation on the subject of career choice.

New firm starts up in Buckie - A new window manufacturing and installation company Moray Firth Windows have opened its doors for business and leased a building at Douglas Centre on Marchmont Crescent, formerly the ‘Bulb’ factory.

Nov 19 **Two men charged** - Two local men have been charged with attempted murder and setting fire to the St Andrews Hotel in a racially motivated incident. (Their names are given on front page.) It is believed that they had been acting in a racial manner towards Portuguese and Brazilian guests who had been staying in the hotel shortly before the fire was discovered.

Museum receive a cash award - Buckie District Fishing Heritage Museum were awarded a substantial cash injection from the National Lottery ‘Awards for All’ programme. The grant of £3000 will be used to upgrade all the current computer equipment and will involve the purchase of new and more efficient computers and printers.

Missing person - Mrs Patricia Duncan, of Main Street, Buckpool has been missing from her home since the early hours of Saturday 16 November. She is 57.

A look-out and view finder over looking the village of Findochty and the Moray Firth is virtually complete and has already been used by members of the public using the path along the cliff tops from Findochty to Portknockie. The view-point was the brainchild of the local group Friends of the Moray Firth Dolphins, especially their co-ordinator Peter MacDonald.

Nov 26 **Nae news -----**Felt that there was little worth noting in this edition of the B.A.

Dec 3 **Still no sign of missing woman** - The police are still baffled by the disappearance of local woman Mrs Patricia Duncan. Specialised divers have done an extensive search of Buckie harbour to no avail while her husband and family have distributed 100 posters throughout Moray, while police, coastguards and an RAF helicopter have all been involved in the search.

Youths charged with vandalism - Six Portessie and Findochty youths aged between 10 and 14 have been charged with £2.500 damage inflicted at Portessie Primary School on Saturday 23 November. A further two are still being questioned.

Language Group - The Buckie Scots Language Group recently started up again for the winter months. The chairman, Grace Morrison has an exciting programme in store for the months ahead. The organisation, which meets in the lounge of Buckie Community High School, has been in existence for six years.

Lord Lieutenant retires - Mr James McPherson Esq. CBE, Banff, who has held the post of Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire for the past 16 years, has retired.

The new Lord Lieutenant is Mrs Clare Russell, 58, of Ballindalloch Castle on Speyside. She was appointed Deputy Lord Lieutenant in 1991 and Vice Lieutenant in 1998. Buckie has two Deputy Lord Lieutenants – John Fowlie, retired teacher and Hon. Secretary of Buckie Lifeboat and Alan McIntosh, who teaches at Milne's High School in Fochabers, and is Captain of 1st Buckie Company of Boys' Brigade.

Damage by rabbits - Allan Fraser, as secretary of Buckie Community Council, has a letter printed in this edition of the 'Advertiser' following complaints received from people who had found that floral tributes left behind at Burnside Cemetery in Rathven were quickly torn to shred by rampaging rabbits. The council had come up with the idea of producing light weight cages that people might borrow and choose to erect over their wreaths until such time as the flowers withered, and had put the idea forward to Moray Council for their consideration.

Memorabilia Exhibition - Buckie Lyric Theatre Group, which has been in existence for 40 year, held a fund- raising memorabilia exhibition recently in the Fishermen's Hall that drew people from a long distance away to look through the gathered material. Among the items of memorabilia was a staggering amount of costumes, props, photographs and footage collected over the years. A photograph shows two stalwarts of the Group, Liz Imlach and Keith Mackay cutting a cake baked for the occasion.

Dec 10 **We've been going for 40 years** - Peter Reid, Plumbers and Heating Engineers of 23 to 27 High Street took a big part of a page in the 'Advertiser' to advertise his gigantic 40 years anniversary sale.

He stepped down - an occasion for a celebration - - Bill Smith retired after 26 years as treasurer of Buckie and District Trust Bus Company and at the same time the group purchased their fourth new bus since the organisation started out.

The Buckie 'Drifter' has been holding shopping evenings for the locals in the run up to Christmas to provide a service for the people of Buckie and District outwith the traditional tourist season. A group of children from Portessie Primary School were present during last week's late night shopping evening to sing carols. Cluny Primary School choir will be entertaining shoppers tonight from 6 pm to 6.30pm. The shop will be open from 5.30pm until 8pm.

Dec 17 **Local singer is successful** - - Sine MacDonald of Buckie recently got through an audition with flying colours to perform a solo with the Scottish Ballet in their current show – 'The Snowman'. Sine will be singing 'Walking in the Air' written by Howard Blake who also wrote the music for the ballet. Sine, a former pupil of Buckie Community High School and who people have often heard her sing solo in the North Church, is a 4th year music student at Napier College in Edinburgh.

Minister to leave - the minister of Buckie Church of Christ for the past three and a half years, Rev Andria Benzie is leaving to return to England and continue her ministry. She is likely too to return to University to study Psychology.

Death of former sea captain - The death took place last week of Captain William McRae, a native of Greenock who was married to the late Joyce Morrison. Captain McRae joined the Merchant Navy at a young age and worked his way up through the ranks to Captain and ultimately Senior Captain. Due to his late wife's long illness he became actively involved with the Carers' Club. He was a member and past President of the Probus Club, curator of Buckie District Fishing Heritage Museum and a member of the British Legion. He is survived by his daughter Morag.

Buckie Lyric Theatre Group gave a performance last week on three evenings of the pantomime 'The New Adventures of Peter Pan' written by Liz Imlach.

Dec 24 **They crossed the Channel** - Pipers Robbie Innes and Rab Taylor paid their own fares recently to travel to Bezu St. Eloi, Normandy, France to play at a St Andrew's Night ceilidh.

Dec 31 **A donation of a Christmas tree** - Buckpool Harbour Committee Group and local residents were delighted recently to receive the donation of a tall Christmas tree complete with lights from Grampian Country Pork factory.

Paddy says Goodbye - Seafield Hospital recently said goodbye to one of its longest serving members of staff, Nurse Co-ordinator Paddy McGruer, a post she had held since 1989. Paddy

began her nursing career as an auxiliary nurse in A.R. I. in 1964 and after finishing her nurse's training moved to Chalmers Hospital in Banff. She came to Seafield in 1968 and after numerous jobs within the hospital was appointed Nurse Co-ordinator. Paddy is married to Jimmy and lives in Cullen, their daughter Susan is married and lives in Edinburgh.

A most interested spectator at the presentation was Paddy's aunt Mary who a week before her 103rd birthday travelled north to be present at her niece's big day. She was given a rousing sounding of a Happy Birthday.

A long, long, labour of love - A photograph shows Colin Mark a former teacher at Millbank Primary School with the Gaelic-English dictionary he has compiled after 20 years of research. From the Peterhead area Colin is not a native Gaelic speaker but his interest in the Gaelic language was stimulated through his love of hill-walking and discovery of so many Gaelic names that he set himself the task of finding out which each one meant. Because the dictionary is of limited interest he found great difficulty in getting anyone to publish the book which sells at £125 and is likely to only to be found in universities and libraries.